Rapid industrialization, the accelerated rhythm of everyday life and the decrease of collective life quality have intensified more as the society moves towards faster informational and technological systems putting the landscape is in a delicate position. Therefore, the actual landscape comprises all existent past or possible images and it is under the imperative of evolution law, from landscape of intervention at micro and urban scale of to the evolving landscape at macro-scale, maintained by human societies from economic, political and socio-cultural reasons.

This book aims to strengthen the knowledge base dealing with landscape in all its components: the green space and the built landscape as material part, but also the immaterial landscape of conserved traditions. We included both scales, the territory and the detail, landscape urbanism and landscape architecture, planning and design, with a slight overrepresentation of the macro-scale.

We differentiate ourselves from numerous books dealing with cultural landscape and have chosen instead sustainable and resilient landscapes as a response to environmental challenges posed by the transformation of living ways in the twenty-first century. Cultural landscapes are past and present shaped by man and nature, while with sustainable we aim to a look to the future, emphasised also by the focus on the ‘project’ (‘Entwurf’ in German): planning and design. Resilience instead aims to include the cultural dimension. Resilience planning aims at a sustainable response to environmental challenges. Resilient communities shall be built, and here we find the man–nature interaction of the cultural landscape.

The book is containing research articles which contain a critical view to landscape architecture and landscape urbanism practice and can as well help practitioners to question their methods in today’s world where the planner is the moderator between numerous disciplines dealing from the historical background to the design of the future and the communication to users. In a next volume, we will highlight also our approach to education and teaching by research.

The book brings 17 chapters dealing with first with landscape archetypes, defining cultural landscape as identity of the community shaping it as first two cross-topic parts. The next parts are dealing landscape in a transition from the natural landscape to the landscape of buildings and open spaces defined by them: ecological landscape, transition landscape of urban peripheries, urban gardens as detailed view, urban landscape and public space. The aims of the editors were
to select contributions describing various ‘scapes’ and do not restrict the book on one specific scale. The idea behind this approach was, that a great variety of ways describe the presence of landscape in our lives and complexity of approaches are needed to understand the present state and future changes in landscape. The authors are experts with various backgrounds in the field of architecture, urbanism, geography, ecology, history of art, communication science. This multidisciplinary approach allowed the coverage of landscape-related issues from various aspects.

For the part title, we first gave a described category of ‘scape’, then we selected some keywords common to the chapters in the part, and finally a ‘finality’ related to envisaged conservation or intervention. The parts go from first the abstract, then the nature in itself until the mineral city.

The first part of the book is the introduction to the topic seen from the point of view of more disciplines. The last part of the book draws the conclusions by establishing the connections between the chapters. There are numerous links between them, while the division into parts reveals grouping. The parts contain usually two chapters, at most three. The part II of the book is focused on the philosophic approach and describes symbols in understanding and conceiving landscape. It contains two chapters, making the transition to the parts to follow and approaches expressions of immaterial landscape. The part III contains three chapters on the topic of (re)discovering memory and identity in landscape. Two chapters are dealing with interpreting historical and contemporary photography, respectively. The part IV, which covers the technical side of the book, deals with the transformation of the natural landscape, the forest, through human activity, not necessarily directed to the creation of the urban settlements with which the following parts deal. The part V deals with the so-called ‘Zwischenstadt’ (in German “city in between”)—the area between urban and rural. The city is separated from the ‘land’ today, and the following parts deal with how to gain access to items from this wide landscape in the city again. The chapters till now dealt with rural, agricultural, forest landscape, and from here on the built substance intervenes. This ‘scape’ of the urban periphery needs new values to be associated with it to gain a (new) landscape character. The part VI goes in detail as compared to the macro-scale dealt with so far. It depicts the relationship between the house and the garden in three chapters. Architects and landscape architects cooperated in history in associating plants with buildings, and today we have innovative ways of even incorporating the plant in the building with green walls. These are only a way of creating green in crowded urban areas, other ways, of (pocket) parks are explored. The part VII is again at the larger scale, this time of the city. It focuses on ‘circulation’ which has been one of the zones of the city stipulated by the Athens Charter and seen equal to more surface described one as those associated to other functions. One of the chapters deals with the routes of pedestrian circulation, which might be informal and different from the street network and reflect the perception of the image of the city in landmarks and connected elements as described initially in the decoding of landscape in the part II. The second chapter deals with the street network for motorised or non-motorised circulation and how this can get garden elements. Both deal with mobility, as mean for perceiving and defining landscape
in investigation of the user or with intervention on mobility policies to make them environmentally more sustainable. The closing group of three chapters deals with the mineral part of landscape: the open space (‘Freiräume’ in German “free spaces”). It features an interview which brings us back to the philosophic view introduced at the beginning, an overview of the application of approaches from seminal books in urban regeneration and finally communicating messages through media landscape, when the facade becomes the public space as before the facade became the garden: the vertical public space.

Landscape architecture is a new profession which emerged from planting design when the concept of ‘cultural landscape’ was defined. One chapter of the book is the result of a project showing the beginnings of the profession in Austria—it was in the interwar period and it featured strong participation of women, a rare fact at that time. But it was the Hungarian Mihály Mócsényi, Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe Awardee, the highest distinction of the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA), in 2012 who defined the contribution of architecture to making landscape architecture what it is, in contrast with the view, which we still give account of in our book, landscape of pure nature. To cite the motivation of the Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe award, in 1968 he [Mihály Mócsényi] officially defined landscape as ‘cultural product’ and defined landscape as ‘humanized nature’. This established the basis of landscape architecture and planning in Hungary as an integrative and ecological approach—a revolutionary change from the former the purely geographical landscape approach. For this reason he studied also architecture in addition to his basic studies.

Our book features mostly contributions of architects from the “Ion Mincu” University of Architecture and Urbanism teaching landscape, among other disciplines related to landscape, and is another contribution from Eastern Europe. It appears on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of landscape urbanism teaching at the “Ion Mincu” University of Architecture and Urbanism. Those graduating from the “Ion Mincu” University of Architecture and Urbanism in the study directions led by Cerasella Crăciun are not landscape architects or landscape engineers but landscape urbanists (‘urbanist peisagist’ in Romanian). Because today a new term is emerging, that of ‘landscape urbanism’ a term by Peter Connolly from 1994, a theory of urban planning aiming to organise the cities’ landscape instead of designing its buildings. We included this view in our book by looking, increasingly towards the end, more to the cities’ landscape than to the ‘humanised nature’ of the rural, agricultural and forest landscape. We look forward for further collaboration, through collaborations initiated by Maria Bostenaru Dan, with the university where the first view on landscape architecture, today spread in the whole world, initiated.

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