

PROTECTED URBAN AREAS IN AZUGA

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Abstract

Our paper presents an excerpt from the study of the delimitation of protected area in the city Azuga as part of the general urban plan (PUG) we are currently developing. Azuga – a new settlement developed in the XIX-th century is located in the far north of the county Prahova, and in the proximity of Baiului mountains (also called Gârbova Mountains) - part of the Curvature Carpathians, situated in their west part and in the proximity of Sinaia, – town of the summer royal residence. This territorial context has determined the urban function of the locality, in the past industrial and tourist town, today - especially a holiday resort. The purpose of this study was to establish both the protected areas for the monuments registered in the List of Historical Monuments of Prahova County and the delimitation of a territory in which most of the edifices with specific architecture of the locality have been identified and preserve the style of the buildings of vacationer from the beginning of the XX-th century. Our study is original and it is the first of this kind made for the city of Azuga.

Rezumat

Lucrarea noastră prezintă fragmente din studiul privind constituirea unei zone protejate în orașul Azuga, ca parte a planului urbanistic general (PUG) pe care îl dezvoltăm în prezent. Azuga - o așezare nouă dezvoltată în secolul al XIX-lea, este situat în nordul extrem al județului Prahova și în vecinătatea Munților Baiului (numiți și Munții Gârbova) - parte a Carpaților de Curbură, situați în partea lor de vest și în apropierea orașului Sinaia, orașul reședinței regale de vară. Acest context teritorial a determinat funcția urbană a localității, în trecut oraș industrial și turistic, azi – mai ales stațiune de vacanță. Scopul acestui studiu a fost atât stabilirea zonelor protejate pentru monumentele înscrise în Lista Monumentelor Istorice ale județului Prahova, cât și delimitarea unui teritoriu în care au fost identificate majoritatea edificiilor cu arhitectura specifică localității și care păstrează stilul clădirilor de vilegiatură de la începutul secolului al XX-lea. Studiul nostru este original și este primul de acest gen realizat pentru orașul Azuga.

Keywords: protected area, urban identity, typology of buildings, representative architecture, industrial heritage, collective memory.

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1.Introduction.

Our paper presents an excerpt from the protected area study elaborated in the department of Urban Planning of the Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning of TU/Cluj-Napoca , in collaboration with specialists from SC Experiment SA, for the city of Azuga - as part of the general urban plan (PUG), with reference to the urban identity of the anthropic landscape .

The objectives of the study are to identify the particular values of the cultural patrimony of the city of Azuga, as important component of the quality of life of its inhabitants.

2. Context and short history

Founded in 1830 as a village called "Between Prahova“, in 1881 - with the inauguration of the rail station, the settlement changed its name in "Azuga“ and was declared town in 1948. The territorial context has determined the urban function of the locality, in the past industrial and tourist town, today - especially a holiday resort. The city of Azuga is situated in mountainous relief, mostly covered by forests (located in the far north of the county Prahova, and in the proximity of Baiului mountains, also called Gârbova Mountains - part of the Curvature Carpathians), and in the vicinity of the summer royal residence from Sinaia town [1].

Today Azuga is part of the chain of mountain resorts in Prahova valley. Demographic evolution shows a relative fluctuation of the population, with a sharp decline over the last decade: in 1924, Azuga had a population of 2105 inhabitants, in 1936- 3753 inhabitants, in 2002 – 5213 and in 2012 – 4289 inhabitants.



Figure 1. Aerial view - Azuga [2].

2. The studies for the protected area

To begin with, we need to clarify some considerations that have structured our approach.

In establishing the protected built area, of particular value, the most difficult issue is to determinate the value categories.

Another aspect that is often questionable is the general historical approach - often the need for customization the specificity of each settlement inclined towards capitalizing on the ancient or medieval values, which are preferred as "certain" elements of identity and value. From this point of view, the city of Azuga is a different example, because it's built "historical heritage" belongs "only" to the XIX-th century.

We consider that a simple protection of isolated buildings or monuments has more museum-specific features than identity.

For this reason we propose the typological and structural analysis, type of analysis whose outcome, purpose and aim is to establish the relationship between city and architecture, considering architectural objects dependent on a higher logic, on dialectical relations between them and the different levels of urban.

We consider the right approach of the city as a whole. Each building is component part of the anthropic landscape, has a specificity, diversity being a pleasant feature of an urban structure, preferred to a monotonous order.

3. Historical Monuments List

According to the updated Historical Monuments List, the annex to the Order of the Minister of Culture no. 2.828 / 2015, the following historical monuments (according to the adjacent tables) are representative and therefore ranked as monuments for the city of Azuga.

Some necessary explanations:

- the list of historical monuments is made by counties.
- from a structural point of view, monuments are grouped into four categories, depending on their nature :
 - I. Monuments of archeology
 - II. Architectural monuments
 - III. Public monuments
 - IV. Memorial and funeral monuments.
- from a value point of view, the list of historical monuments includes the following categories:
 - Category A - monuments of national interest
 - Category B - monuments of local interest



Figure 2. Location of historical monuments in Azuga [3].

The architectural monuments proposed in the list above represent rural and urban dwellings specific to the second half of the 19th century, buildings that are mostly privately owned.

An important memorial monument is the cemetery of the heroes fallen in the battles of the First World War, situated at 1 km distance in the north of the city.

Regarding these classified architectural monuments, any intervention requires the opinion of the national commission of monuments, interventions allowed are: restoration, conservation, rehabilitation and refunctionalisation of buildings.

In the analyses made in situ, we noticed the great diversity of some residential buildings, other than those classified. Like those on the list of monuments, for the most part, these dwellings are private property and are generally in an advanced state of degradation due to the poor maintenance possibilities of those who live there, they have a strong identity character, a specificity that relates to the collective memory of each place. We decided to expand the list of architectural monuments in Azuga with buildings that create the so charming character of the city, perfectly suited to the landscape and its scale. The dwelling house best represents man, his identity and his ideal[4].

MONUMENTE ISTORICE CLASATE

II – MONUMENTE, ANSAMBLURI ȘI SITURI DE ARHITECTURĂ

Nr. poz.	Cod LMI 2010	Denumire	Adresă	Datare
347	PH-II-m-B-16313	Casa, azi birouri A.D.P.	Str. Brândușei nr 1	sf. sec XIX
348	PH-II-m-B-16314	Casa Lucian Marcu – tip rural	Str. Clăbucet nr 2A	înc. sec XX
349	PH-II-m-B-16315	Casa Petre Tibeică – tip rural	Str. Clăbucet nr 10	înc. sec XX
350	PH-II-m-B-16316	Casa cu parter comercial Ion Vasilescu – stil 1900	Str. Independenței nr 11	cca. 1910
351	PH-II-m-B-16317	Casa cu parter comercial Ion Taraș – stil 1900	Str. Independenței nr 13	înc. sec XX
352	PH-II-m-B-16318	Casă – stil baroc ardelenesc	Str. Independenței nr 22	1890
353	PH-II-m-B-16319	Casa cu prăvălie, azi casă parohială – stil neoclasic	Str. Independenței nr 27	înc. sec XX
354	PH-II-m-B-16320	Cășeria lui Ghimbășanu, azi locuință	Str. Muncii nr 29	1878
355	PH-II-m-B-16321	Casa Ion Seu – tip rural	Str. Parcului nr 9	înc. sec XX
356	PH-II-m-B-16322	Casa Nicolae Irimia – tip rural	Str. Parcului nr 15	înc. sec XX

conf. LMI 2010

IV – MONUMENTE MEMORIALE / FUNERARE

Nr. poz.	Cod LMI 2010	Denumire	Adresă	Datare
1002	PH-IV-a-A-16881	Cimitirul Eroilor din primul război mondial (1916-1918)	Pe DN1, la cca 1 km la nord față de localitate	1920

conf. LMI 2010



Figure 3. General view – dwellings in the center of city Azuga (authors photo)

Monuments of architecture proposed for classification are considered specific to the structure of the city and to the architecture of the local dwelling.

The following dwellings located along the main streets that cross the city - 7 on Victoria Street, along national road DN1 and 8 on Independentei Street, continuing with Rîțivoiului street - along the communal road that crosses the city from east to west and several other dwellings located on the south-facing slope of the city, parallel to the Azuga Valley and with an exceptional panorama to Mount Caraiman.



Figure 4. General view – dwellings on south-facing slope of the city in Azuga (<http://www.roturism-info.ro/orase/judetul-prahova/statiuni-montane/azuga.html>)



Figure 5. Prince Nicolas Hospital – general view – historical image.[5]

At the same time, we enlarged the list of proposed architectural monuments with the Prince Nicolae hospital, realized in the years 1911-1914, with the orthodox church, the general school built in 1912, the city library (1930), some administrative buildings belonging to the former industrial premises of the glass, chamotte, cloth, champagne and beer factories and the railway station. We found also some small and enchanting pieces of urban furniture that scores the history of the town (e.g. the royal bench).



Figure 6. The royal bench and the stone fountain (authors photos).

The 7 monuments in the tabel below are proposed to complet the list of public monuments that must be preserved: 4 of them commemorates heroes of wars of independence and defense of the homeland, 2 are objects of urban furniture(bench and fountain), one is a power transformer station.

MONUMENTE DE FOR PUBLIC PROPUSE PT. CLASARE

Simbol	Denumire	Adresă	Datare
A	Monumentul eroilor din Războiul de Independență compania VIII Dorobanți	Str.Victoriei nr.54 (în fața Bisericii Ortodoxe)	1905
B	Monumentul Ecaterina Teodoroiu	str. Ritivoiului nr. 9	1936
C	Crucea de „la Geanone”	DN 1 / Str. Victoriei nr. 7A (lângă	1824
D	Monumentul eroilor Reg. 4 Ilfov19	la poalele muntelui	1921
E	Fântâna de piatră (inginer Nestor	DN1/ str. Victoriei nr. 32	1905
F	Banca regală	DN1	
G	Electrica	str. Victoriei nr. 61,	

Confom Studiu de peisaj 2011

This was the first step in developing the study of the protected area, establishing the building which we propose to keep.



Figure 8. Analysis of urban districts – Azuga/ detail plan from figure 7.



Figure 9. Analysis of places of identification (yellow circles shows the main nodes - arrows mark valuable perspectives, illustrated in the accompanying photos [7] .

4. Typological and structural analysis

We have deepened the theoretical understanding of the fingerprints left by the transformation of the built frame and used it as a practical tool specific to the morphological approach of the space, studying the repetition, typing and articulation aspects of the specific fields created - urban fabric, urban form, the visible framework, the coherence or lack of coherence of some building rules, expressing cultural or social codes. Therefore we proposed a typological and structural analysis, resumed in the different districts – of great variety, in order to allow the capitalization of local, specific identities, which can create, based on the memory of the place and the collective memory, those necessary customizations that help a community to identify himself through a built-in framework. This type of analysis aims to establish the relationship between the city and the its buildings, in the idea that the architectural objects are dependent on a higher logic, the dialectical relations between them and the different levels of the city - in our case the relief, the urban function and the urban tissue.

5. Protected areas proposed for the city of Azuga.

The protected zones that propose our study to be ranked, aims to preserve the urban identity of Azuga and above all, especially, the representative architecture for different types of habitation, historically and socially structured. The result of the study of establishing the protected area in the city of Azuga is summarized in the synthetic plan below:

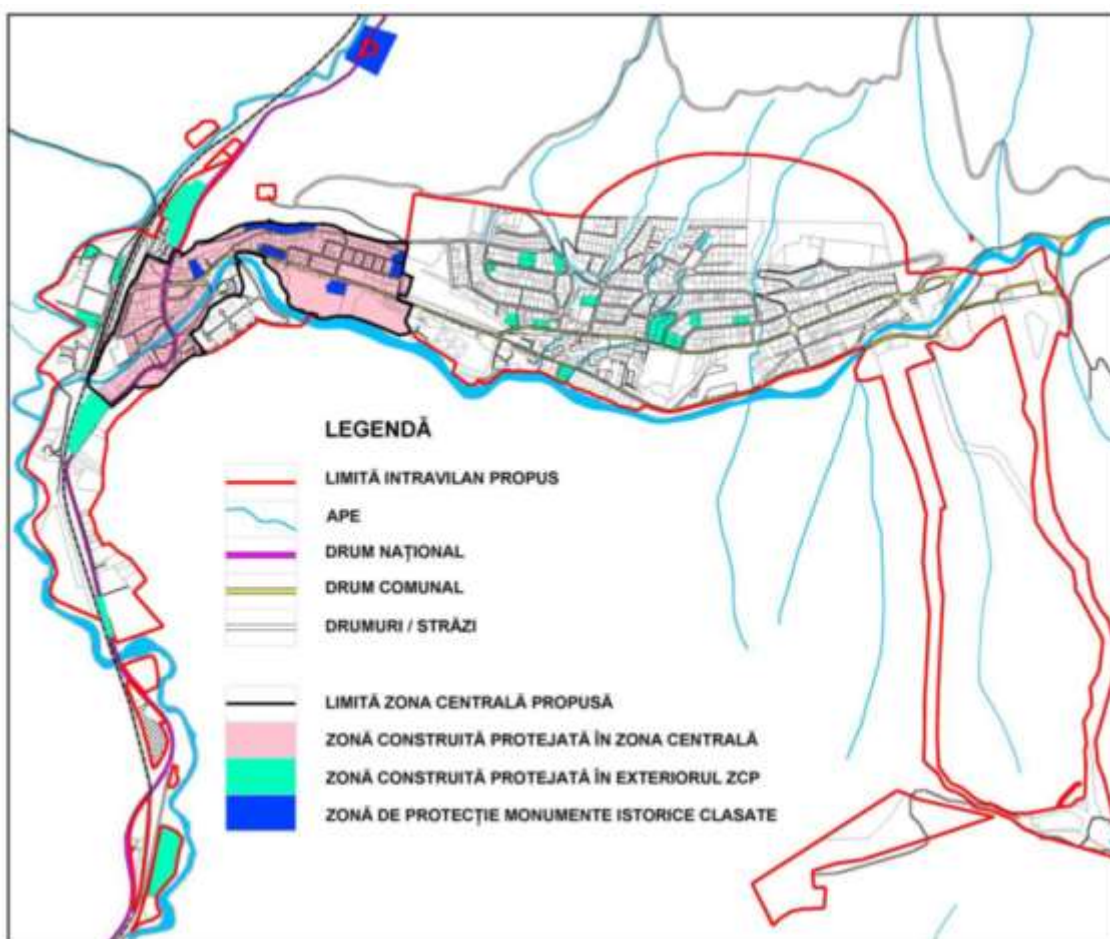


Figure 10. Protected urban areas – Azuga. In blue the classified historical monuments and their protected areas in the central protected zone (in pink), in green - the proposed monuments and their

protected areas, in red the urban perimeter [8].

These zones are being established with building ban :

- until obtaining approval of Ministry of Culture MCPN , classified / proposed / monuments and environmental protection areas as defined by this PUG:
- until the elaboration of the specialized projects for the proposed traffic routes;
- until the elaboration of the ZUP- s for parcels and accesses, on the lands delimited on diagonal hatching.

We ask ourselves therewith how far the city's last identity is a viable option for the inhabitants of Azuga. Industrial development no longer characterizes this city, although it has structured its formation.

What lasts is the special relationship with the surrounding landscape. This relationship provides a permanent way of life, and a way of building that protection proposals assert. Tourism is / seems to be the safest solution for the future of the city.

6. Conclusions.

Our study proposes an important extension of the list of protected historical monuments established by law for the city of Azuga. The proposal can become basis for Azuga's future urban development and future preservation of the identity, if appropriate administrative decisions will be taken[9].

In fact, there will be found appropriate measures? The main issues that will be raised will be probably from an economic point of view. Given the decrease of the population of the city and implicitly of the active population, preservation and restoration of some buildings in poor condition seem to be rather unfeasible. Some of the historical monuments already classified - individual dwellings - have already been modified by owners who were not aware of the value of the building they live in.

The industrial heritage, abandoned and damaged, is in process of extinction, the accessible grounds of the industrial premises are located along the main access road to the ski slopes and therefor bought by investors interested in the development of dense housing - apartment blocks - or hotels. But so will be many jobs, and opportunities for better life for the inhabitants of Azuga.

Real architectural values and identity buildings can disappear from day to day.

We put in questions the relation between last urban identity and its duration in present .

The answer – the future belongs to the decisions of city administration, who must choose between desires, possibilities and opportunities.

7. References.

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