

## Introduction

We have got only few relics from the history of Monor Jewish community. But memory keeps the past in the present. Unfortunately the cemetery is the only place for the people living in Monor where they can remember their family, friends and relatives, where they can keep their traditions, connections alive. The task of this study-plan is – focusing on the cemetery – to watch the past and then to create a future-scheme, with the help of which heritage of the Monor Jewish community can integrate in life of the town in harmony, giving respect to the ancients, making a way to the growing generation.

## The cemetery in the life of the town, in its green-surface system.

The cemetery can be visited from street Bajcsy Zsilinszky, there are also two other cemeteries of the town in the neighbourhood. Though we are speaking about green-surface places, only the Jewish cemetery has got a bigger green cover. There are a lot of trees and grass which make atmosphere of forest cemeteries. Peace of the cemetery – walking about 20-25 minutes from the centre of the town – is complete, big traffic, noise don't disturb it..Frequency of graves on the area is rare, mainly near the fence, so you can't see fullness of graves, which is really oppressive in some other cemeteries and which can disturb the street scenery

## Present status.

Gate of wire fence is simple, area near the fence and the ditch are covered by good-condition grass. You can see there old, big robinia trees, bushes can only be found near the fence, making together natural border and hiding the real function of the area. On the whole area the scenery of extensive preserved grass is typical. Graves are placed in one end of the cemetery, but there can be also numerous sink-in graves. The situation of graves is unmethodical, you can see them appearing from the grass. Everybody can see that the surface is bumpy. Most of the plants are robinia trees, but there are some evergreens and pine-trees, too. The old trees have got pleasant shade, but there are too many trees together and they are too lanky and leaves-free. There are lots of turions and disturbing logs of the cut trees. There are lots of graves from 19<sup>th</sup> century, state of them is bad, in lack of protection and maintenance is showing declining tendency. These graves are usually sink-in or broken. The monument of Martyrs is in similar condition and inconspicuous.

Monor, reconstruction of Jewish cemetery – GARDEN-BUILDING STUDY-PLAN – Tünde Kiss  
designer of gardens and view

The cemetery is poor of buildings and furnishings which are aesthetic for visitors and necessary for use. There is rather far a usable concrete-ringed (dug) well, but it can't be used as a scooping well or a drinking fountain, design of it is characterless. There are only few and no-conception placed benches in different condition. The overall picture presents a spontaneously made territory without an overall area-organizing concept, but also shows goodwill, intending to do the best.

### Concept of garden building

We imagined a cemetery garden where Jewish traditions can be integrated with local characteristics and this will determine how to design and use it. Regarding the future of the cemetery the following expectations and demands were worked up:

- Overall graves renovation with the help of experts.
- To organize a usable, maintainable area, suitable for people to spend time there.
- To emphasize the gate and the street front with consideration of aspects of the town scenery.
- To handle the plants in health aspect, to cut the sick trees and which risk the graves.
- To plant vegetation, well-arranged, dignified, building the inner area structure and befitting for cemetery-use.
- To create harmonic and uniform cemetery buildings, monuments, furnishings which help use of cemetery.
- The organizing principle of the garden model world and the components is the biblical ornamentation and the reconcilable local characteristics of the cemetery culture.

### Structure of the area

Form of the cemetery is long, apart from the north-east splay. Our task is to prevent break up of the narrow area and to make a connection between the two parts– also in their present condition they are very different – regarding frequency of graves and trees. We plan to emphasize also the entrance gate, making a stressed structure axis. These goals need a central square, the answer will be the 'Hósen square'. Composition of it reminds the high-priest hósen. Symbol of remembrance of the 12 tribes gives worthy frame to deposit memory stones ('Names') of Holocaust Monor victims. The lying, frost-resistant and carved stone blocks would rise from the inner parts of the raster cover. The monument of Martyrs is in the neighbourhood. The square and the main way make possible to hold commemorations and ceremonies in civilized way and also cars can go on it.

Monor, reconstruction of Jewish cemetery – GARDEN-BUILDING STUDY-PLAN – Tünde Kiss  
designer of gardens and view

The menora well – situated in the gate of the part of more graves – and its surrounding have got a central role. Three almond-trees - in Hebrew watching trees – guard over the square. Shape of the menora well is stele - depending on the perfection of the stone-carving - forms of menora and flowers of almond can be seen. Square parcel assignment for the new graves will be done with placing of 4 carved wooden posts as symbols. Wooden posts would go by traditions of usual grave-posts, Jewish symbols would be preferred in wood-carving.

### Application of materials

#### *Covers*

Small size and small traffic of the area allow that only the entrance way and the square Hósen get rigid cover, on which cars can go. In selection of material important aspect was that traditional building material of Monor is brick. We suggest choosing of good quality (frost-resistant) brick with raster assignment. The raster strips would be built from bricks set on edge, and the inner fields with disposing-way of fishbone shape. Surrounding of the menora well needs covered surface because of water use. The cover – showing river-side atmosphere – would be built from selected big pebbles put in concrete. With use of variety of different sizes and colours, figuration can be made, in this way a David-star will make a frame around the hexagonal well-basin. Brick is used also here, pebble cover has got a brick edge around, in the mentioned way.

#### *Buildings. Garden furnishings*

Uniform appearance of the buildings can be achieved with individual design. In work-up of the fence, the memorial plaque, the concrete-ringed well (to be renovated), the benches, the waste bins the mentioned carved pattern of the grave-post return. The wooden plank is a material, applicable beside the wooden post. Considering the region has got lots of robinia trees, it's evident that we chose it as material of wood. This kind of wood has got good characteristics which can be increased with staining treatment. It's advisable to employ a local craftsman to make the carved furniture. For decorative carving of the wooden things you can find a lot of ideas in biblical ornamentation and in the old cemetery art. The memorial stones of 'Names' and the menora well would be carved from frost-resistant limestone. It would be advisable to agree in uniform material-use of the future gravestones. Though in Monor the traditional stele-style gravestones of Jewish cemeteries is not typical – considering the old stones of the present cemetery – harmonic overall picture could be created with determining of intervals of material- or size.

Monor, reconstruction of Jewish cemetery – GARDEN-BUILDING STUDY-PLAN – Tünde Kiss  
designer of gardens and view

### Status of vegetation, use of vegetation

According to the ideas first of all native species of plant – corresponding to the plant-geographic conditions – will be planted, with addition of known biblical plants. We don't think fortunate to use plants which are foreign here, mainly those ones which are different from the local plants' demands and looks. We suggest using of linden-tree or ash tree alongside the street front of the cemetery. View of the neighbouring glasshouse is disadvantageous, here we suggest planting of narrow –crown, pillar-style trees because of little space. Some plane-trees grow on the old and new parcelled areas as a symbol of forever-life, a solitaire organism. We suggest planting of hedges to hide visually the neighbouring ground-plots alongside the fence and to cover the compost pile place, too. It's worth using of pine-needle and broad-leaved species – covering whole year – like yew tree, haw, common privet and box-tree. This last one will make low level of plant labyrinth around renovation and around the square of menorah well. We plan use of perennial flowers in the central part of the area. Planting in of the arched slope, following the line of cover leading to the square Hósen is useful also in order of the soil cohesion as well as plays important role in neat reception of the visitors. In order the longside axis of the area can be emphasized, medium-high flower strips follow the grassed walkway. We suggest creating „the fields” with using of 2-3 colours and combination of some species so that it won't make gaudy effect. It can be noble look to apply consistently e.g. colours of priest clothes, white, sky-blue, crimson red. Bulbs of crocus can be planted into grass, they flower early spring, being different from the homogeneous grass, and later they can be cut together with grass.

### Continuing

We hope the study-plan will start dialogue on town, community level, which will lead to cogency and acceptance of planning permission. Detailed work-up of the final concept will be done in the frame of working drawing/plan. The present plan is suitable for pre-agreements, competitions, resource research. You can think over steps, stages, necessary for realization.

Tünde Kiss designer of garden and view  
Budapest, 15-03-2005.