



Figures 1-4: The best examples of urban gardening in inner yards in Belgrade, Serbia



Figures 5-7: Positive examples of green balconies and terraces in Belgrade

## URBAN GARDENS IN SERBIA

### GENERAL INFORMATION > presence, concentration,...

1. Urban gardening in Serbia **exists**, but it is underdeveloped and in “**traditional**” manner.
2. There are some **new projects and incentives**, but it is strongly related to individual and enthusiastic approach (*Figures 8-11*).
3. Considering the issue of urban densities in Serbian cities, the **concentration** of urban gardening falls by the rise of density.
4. Urban gardens are more connected with **flower planting** than to urban agriculture (vegetables, fruits and aromatic herbs).

### TYPES AND SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

The **types of urban gardens** differ greatly from city core to suburbs (*Table 1*):

1. **Green terraces and balconies** are often (*figures 5-7*). They are exclusive type of urban gardens in inner city cores with high densities;
2. **Green inner yards** are mostly developed in outer parts of city centres (*Figures 1-4*);
3. Open urban blocks (“**superblocks**”) are with **spacious green areas**, but without appropriate design and identity;
4. **Outer urban and suburban areas** are with huge private plots, closed by fences. The case in suburban areas can be linked with **urban agriculture** (gardens + orchards + small farms).
5. **Green walls** are extremely rare and usually related to old buildings. **Green roofs** don’t exist in Serbia.





**Figures 8-11:** New approaches > First Belgrade garden community “Baštalište” (8-9) and “Guerrilla Gardeners” movement (10-11)

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### CONCLUSIONS - SOCIAL ASPECT

1. Urban gardens are usually **small and mutually unconnected**.
2. The **design** of urban gardens is often **simple**. This is probably influenced by general approach in landscape architecture in Serbian public parks (simple and conservative). In contrary, some examples are quite unique and innovative.
3. **Simple urban furniture** for socialization is often in urban gardens. The facilities for some kinds of sport (for example, table tennis) can be also found in some cases.
4. Nevertheless, **Social aspects** of urban gardening are evident, but they are related to **daylight hours**.
5. **Green terraces and balconies** are very popular type for the events in small groups during summer time (Serbia has good climate conditions for them).

### CONCLUSIONS - SECURITY ASPECT

1. Public urban gardens are often in **bad state**. This is especially visible in the gardens in inner yards. This issue certainly influences to **general perception** that urban gardens aren't safe places.
2. Generally, comparing with city streets and squares, urban gardens **aren't seen as safe places**. Therefore, the tendency of the use of low vegetation is being introduced now.



**Table 1:** Urban gardening through urban transect