The focus of this paper is environmental experience and reconnection with nature in architecture. The paper starts with the statement of Paul Shaperd that the gardens are perfect human habitat and that their peculiarities measure the unique experience of each society as it confronted nature. Based on this, paper deals with the allotment garden (AG) as the concept of harmonization between architecture and nature. According to the current shift in architectural paradigm: from the tectonic to the climatic, from the visible to the invisible dimensions and to more ecological and cultural sensitive architecture, we believe that architecture can learn much from the garden. AG is viewed as an archive of concepts regarding nature and climate, people’s relation to it, and the ambiance of the culture and the everyday live. AG is viewed as a usable art object that uses both natural and artificial materials. In line with this assumption, the term environmental art in this paper is used to refer to artwork in which the artist actively engages with the environment and space. The paper research aspects of environmental art as a method to contemplate, observe and perceive architectural and natural space, but environmental art is also assumed as a possible tool for implementation above-mentioned aspects of allotment gardens in process of architectural design. Space is not considered as a passive layer around the subject, but it is treated as an integral part of the artwork. In compliance with these environmental experience as an active knowledge oriented toward environment and also atmosphere of the space are analysed as very important aspects in design process. The paper concludes by stressing the importance of the need for interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches and methodologies in architecture to assess the new sustainable concept of nature in architecture.

Keywords: allotment garden, environmental art, architectural design, nature