



Two examples of Bosnian Chardaklia house in Maglaj

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Abstract

Maglaj is a town with about 6,099 inhabitants located on the banks of the Bosna River, in central Bosnia and Herzegovina. Traces of the presence of people in this area date back to the Neolithic (localities Kraljevina and Kraljicino guvno near Novi Seher). Remains of ancient Roman fortifications were found in several locations in the municipality of Maglaj, among which is the location of Gradina in the Bakotic village, above the right bank of the Bosna river. Remains of the ancient Roman road were found on the route Osva-Ravna-Kosovo. A large number of preserved stećak necropolises testify to the life of people during the Middle Ages in this area. The Maglaj fortress was built in the 14th century on a magmatic rock that slopes steeply towards the riverbed of Bosnia, from which there is a wide and deep view all around. The power over this fort alternated between the Bosnian and Hungarian kings. The Ottomans first appeared in this area (1415) as allies of the Bosnian rulers in their fight against the Hungarians, and then (1426) as invaders. Maglaj is mentioned for the first time in Ottoman sources ('defters') in 1485. The Ottomans remained in Maglaj until (1878) the Austro-Hungarian occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The geographical and political position of Maglaj (on the main Bosnian-Herzegovinian traffic line along the Bosna River) reflects the cultural and historical heritage of Maglaj. Some individual architectural objects as well as construction units were declared national monuments of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which made them the 'embodied energy' of current and future generations of the city of Maglaj. Such are the objects of the Bosnian Chardaklia House of, the Dzonlic family and the Uzeirbegovic family.

Keywords: Maglaj, Dzonlic family, Uzeirbegovic family, Bosnian Chardaklia house.

1. Introduction

Maglaj is a town with about 6099 inhabitants^[1] located on the banks of the Bosna River, in central Bosnia and Herzegovina (Geographic coordinates: 44°32'37.73"N, 18°06'08.15"E, Elevation: 208 m). Traces of the presence of people in this area date back to the Neolithic (localities Kraljevina and Kraljicino guvno near Novi Seher). Remains of ancient Roman fortifications were found in several locations in the municipality of Maglaj, among which is the location of Gradina in the Bakotic village, above the right bank of the Bosna river. Remains of the ancient Roman road were found on the route Osva-Ravna-Kosovo. A large number of preserved stećak necropolises testify to the life of people during the Middle Ages in this area. The Maglaj fortress was built in the 14th century on a magmatic rock that slopes steeply towards the riverbed of Bosnia, from which there is a wide and deep view all around. The power over this fort alternated between the Bosnian and Hungarian kings. The Ottomans first appeared in this area (1415) as allies of the Bosnian rulers in their fight against the Hungarians, and then (1426) as invaders. Maglaj is mentioned for the first time in Ottoman sources (defters) in 1485. The Ottomans remained in Maglaj until (1878) the Austro-Hungarian occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (which is described by the famous writer, a Maglajli by birth, Edhem Mulabdic (1862-1954) in his novel 'Zeleno busenje').

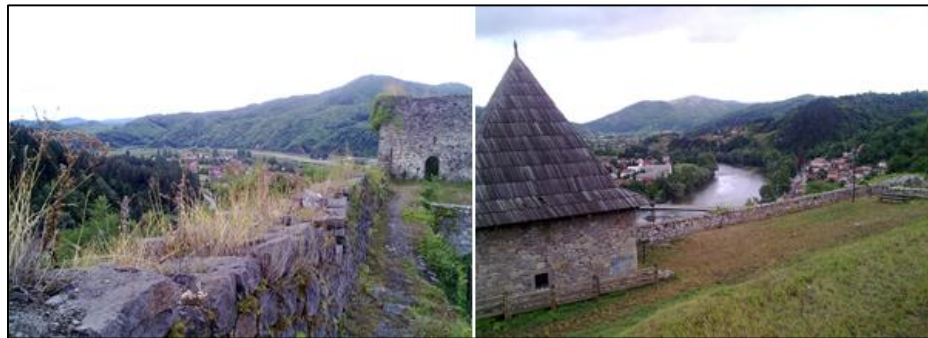
The old town Maglaj (Fortress Town) is located in Gradina, on a magmatic rock that falls steeply on the right bank of the Bosna River. According to the shape of the city-fort, it can be concluded that the city-fort was built at the time (end of the 14th and beginning of the 15th century) when wars were fought on the territory of Bosnia between the Hungarian king Sigismund and the Bosnian kings and nobles. The first indirect mention of the town of Maglaj ("to the famous army on Lisnica") is related to the charter issued by the Bosnian king Stjepan Ostoja (January 15, 1399) to the people of Dubrovnik^[1, 2]. The first direct mention of the Maglaj town is related to the charter issued by the Hungarian king Sigismund (September 16, 1408) under Maglaj ("sub castro nostro Maglay"), which means that at that time Maglaj was

in the possession of the Hungarians. The Ottomans occupied Maglaj in 1476, which remained under their rule until (1878) the Austro-Hungarian occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Figures 1,2,3,4,5,6).

The geographical and political position of Maglaj (on the main Bosnian-Herzegovinian traffic line along the Bosna River) reflects the cultural and historical heritage of Maglaj. Some individual architectural objects as well as construction units were declared national monuments of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which made them the 'embodied energy' of current and future generations of the Maglaj city^[11,12]. Such are the objects of the Bosnian Chardaklia House, the Dzonlic family and the Uzeirbgovic family.



Access to the Old Town Maglaj (left) and the walls and tower of the Old Town in the western vestibule of the fortress (right)



Views of the surroundings from the fortress



The clock tower inside the walls of the Old Town Maglaj



Source: Author (7.25.2011.)

Fig 1: The Old Town Maglaj



View of the old part of Maglaj from the Maglaj fortress



Source: Author (7.25.2011.)

Fig 2: The Old Town Maglaj



View of the old part of Maglaj from the Maglaj fortress (left) and the Kalavun Jusuf Pasha (Kursumlija) mosque (right)



View of the Popzranovic family house from the Dzonlic family house



Source: Author (7.18.2016.)

Entrance door to the ground floor and basement of the Popzranovic family house

Fig 3: The Popzranovic family house¹ located next to the outer walls of the medieval fortress of Maglaj



Source: Author (7.18.2016.)

Staircase ('basamac') ground-floor (left) and wooden ceiling (shishe) in the divanhana area (right)

Fig 4: Some individual objects in the urban fabric of the old part of the Maglaj city (House in Brace Basic Street)

¹ The author was given access to this building (7.18.2016.) by its current owner, Mr. Asim Popzranovic (born in 1957.).



Source: Author (7.18.2016.)

Fig 5: Delibeg's Inn in 2016



Sources: Google Earth: Accessed: November 23, 2022

Fig 6: Fog. Locations of two Bosnian Chardaklia Houses presented in this paper

2. The Dzonlic family house in Maglaj

The Dzonlic family house in Maglaj is located in the old part of the town (Geographic coordinates: 44°32'41.36"N, 18°06'14.11"E, Elevation: 203 m), on the south-eastern exposure, from where there is a view towards the medieval

fortified town of Maglaj, the larger to the part of the Maglaj town formed during the Ottoman Empire, and to the new part of the Maglaj town on the left bank of the Bosna river (Figure 7). The house was built at the end of the 19th century^[2, 3, 4].



Sources: Google Earth: Accessed: November 23, 2022

Fig 7: The Dzonlic family house in Maglaj. Location

2.1 Spatial-form characteristics of the house

The Dzonlic family house in Maglaj, according to its disposition, design, construction and materialization, belongs to the oriental-type city house in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with certain specificities of the house in Maglaj [5]. It is developed vertically through the basement ('magaza'), ground floor and first floor (Figure 8).

The presentation of this house as a 'Bosnian Chardaklia House' came from the fact that this house has many elements of the Bosnian Chardaklia House of the central type that we meet in the Bosnian Krajina, and in the northern and northeastern parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina [6,7,8,9,10]. In addition, in terms of the mutual relationship between the ground floor and floor plans, the Dzonlic family house in Maglaj has some similarities with the Dusper family house in Kraljeva Sutjeska [7], since its ground floor and first floor

have the characteristics of a three-tract Bosnian Chardaklia House, and the basement of a two-tract house, while the spatial-constructive tracts the ground floor and first floor occupy an orthogonal position in relation to the basement tract (Figure 8). The main volume of the house follows the space that, like a tower, extends through all floors. There are sanitary facilities in this area and, considering its visibility, it seems that the intention was to make this content of the house visible from the outside. We also see sanitary facilities arranged in this way in the Uzeirbegovic family house in Maglaj, on the right bank of the Bosna River. This solution is reminiscent of the solution of the 'postavkak' space in the Bugilovic family house in Gornja Tuzla, the solution of the 'water supply' ('vodnica') in the house in Krajina, and the annex in the Korajlic family house in Hrvatinovici near Tesanj [7, 8, 9, 10].



Source: Author (Drawing, 2016)

Fig 8: The Dzonlic family house in Maglaj. Disposition

There is a storage room in the basement of the house. Thick walls made of large pieces of processed stone ensure a stable microclimate of the space throughout the year (Figures 8,12,13). Such a carefully constructed wall was done mainly in an effort to make the entire house look rich, strong and noticeable from various viewpoints of Maglaj. Great attention was paid to the openings in the basement, the doors with an accented stone edge in a light color, and the windows where the wooden frames, in addition to being constructive, also have a visible aesthetic dimension (Figures 12, 13). On the ground floor of the house, which has the characteristics of the disposition of the 'bosnian three-tract chardaklia house', in its central tract, a spacious living room

with a staircase to the first floor is organized, and in the other two tracts there are rooms. On the southeast side, a unique volume of the sanitary block was created (Figure 8). On all four sides of the house, the first floor is overhanging the contour of the ground floor by about 80 cm. In addition to the fact that the usable surface area of the floor was increased in this way, the house received the characteristics of 'special' solutions, reminiscent of the solutions of medieval towers (Figures 9, 10, 11, 12, 13). The roof of the house is hipped. Although the covering is a tile, its height and voluminousness are relatively large, which shows an obvious memory of the roofs of the Old Maglaj houses (Figures 9, 10).



Source: Author (7.18.2016.)

Fig 9: Dzonlic family house in Maglaj. View from the southeast (left) and view from the east (right)



Source: Author (7.18.2016.)

Fig 10: Dzonlic family house in Maglaj. The view from the medieval fortress of Maglaj (left) and the view from the Dzonlic family house towards the Maglaj medieval fortress and the clock tower



Fig 11: Dzonlic family house in Maglaj. Construction and materialization

The physical structure of the building, spatially and constructively, emphasizes the strength of the Dzonlic family

as well as the mastery of its builders
Source: Author (7.18.2016.)

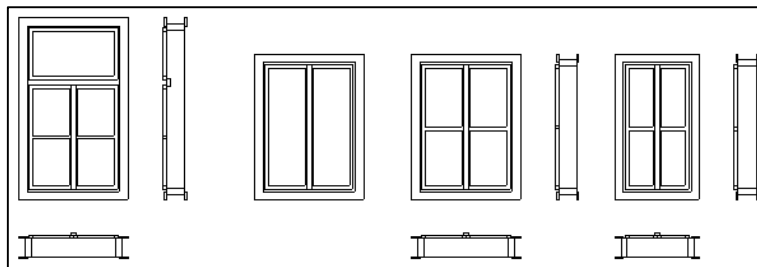


Fig 12: Dzonlic family house in Maglaj. The basement wall is built of finely worked stone, with the entrance to the basement being particularly emphasized



Source: Author (7.18.2016.)

Fig 13: Dzonlic family house in Maglaj. Spatial-shape characteristics of the house



Source: Author (Drawing, 2016.)

Fig 14: Dzonlic family house in Maglaj. Different window designs



Source: Author (7.18.2016.)

Fig 15: Dzonlic family house in Maglaj. A row of windows on the first floor reflect the high demands of the homeowner's residential culture

3. The Uzeirbegovic family house in Maglaj

The Uzeirbegovic family house in Maglaj ('Uzeirbegovic

konak') is a residential building of the rich Maglaj family Uzeirbegovic, built by Salih-beg Uzeirbegovic around 1875, in the bazaar of the old town of Maglaj², on the right bank of

² The author visited this house on 7.18.2016. He was assisted in filming the object by the following gentlemen: Jasna Hajrulahović, B.Sc. Eng. arch., employee of the Urban Planning Service of Maglaj and Hajrulahović Fuad,

B.Sc. Eng. arch., head of the Urban Planning Department of Maglaj Municipality.

the Bosna river (Geographic coordinates: 44°32'50.49"N, 18° 06' 15.92" E, Elevation: 175 m), (Figures 16,17) ^[11,12].



Sources: Google Earth: Accessed: November 23, 2022

Fig 16: Dzonlic family house in Maglaj. Location



View of the house from the west (from the bridge over the Bosna River)



View of the house from the southwest direction (left) and view of the house from the east direction (right)



Source: Author (7.18.2016.)
View of the house from the northeast

Fig 17: Dzonlic family house in Maglaj

3.1 Spatial-form characteristics of the house

The Uzeirbegovic family house in Maglaj ('Uzeirbegovic konak') is primarily an oriental-type city house, with the specifics of a 'Maglaj house'. However, according to the disposition of its horizontal plans, it belongs to the type of central solution of the Bosnian Chardaklia House. The house is vertically developed through the basement ('magaza'), ground floor and first floor (Figures 17, 18). In accordance with the time of construction (that is, the overall synergy of the natural and social environment) [5], the Uzeirbegovic family house in Maglaj possesses the characteristics of Ottoman-Oriental and Austrian-Western European architecture (neoclassicism), (Figure 17).

The basement is developed only under part of the contour of the ground floor. Unlike most house solutions of the 'bosnian chardaklia house' type, in this house the basement is accessed from the house, from the ground floor level, and not from the outside. Here, among other things, the influence of Austrian-Western European architecture is evident. In addition, the internal two-legged staircase connects all horizontal plans vertically (Figure 18). The walls of the basement are made of finely processed stone blocks, and their thickness is 80-90 cm.

The ground floor level is accessed from the main street of the Maglaj Old Town (now Mustajbeg Uzeirbegovic Street), through the entrance on the western facade of the house, which was designed with the visible influence of Western

European (neoclassical) architecture. The exact volume of the floor, which is left to the space, on all four sides outside the contour of the ground floor, is the solution of many houses of the bosnian chardaklia type, especially in the area of northern and northeastern Bosnia, Bosnian Krajina, and in Dobož and Tesanj. From the entrance on the ground floor, you can access the hall ('hayat') with a staircase and a corridor that connects the main body of the house with the annex on the northeast side of the house, where the sanitary facilities are arranged. Four rooms ('halvat') are accessed from the hall. An internal two-legged staircase leads to the first floor, which in everything follows the layout of the ground floor. The surface of the floor is significantly increased compared to the surface of the ground floor, since its contour is cantilevered (by 60 cm) into the space, outside the contour of the ground floor (Figures 17, 18).

The 'hayat' on the ground floor corresponds to the 'divanhana' space on the first floor, and the 'halvats' on the ground floor correspond to the 'chardaks' on the first floor. Next to the two porches oriented to the east, there are narrow rooms ('kileri') in which there are furnaces for heating the entire house (Figure 18). In the annex, on the north side of the floor, there is a sanitary block.

The roof of the house has a medium slope (about 45°) and a 'pepper-tile' cover. The eaves of the roof are emphasized (1 m), which further emphasize the volume of the floor (Figure 17).



Source: Author (Drawing, 2016)

Fig 18: Dzonlic family house in Maglaj. Disposition

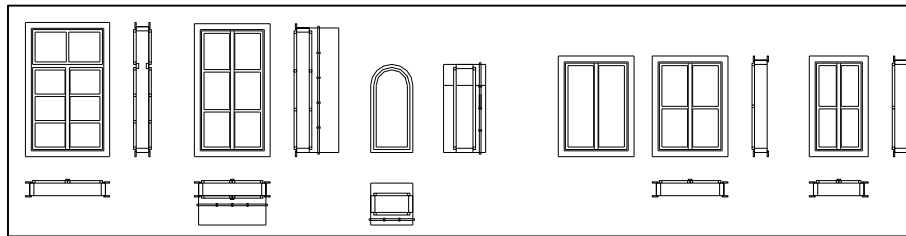
The design of all elements of the opening was made under the visible influence of the Western European architectural tradition (Figure 19). However, the dense row of windows on

the first floor is a tradition of the bosnian chardaklia house (Figure 20, below).



Source: Author (7.18.2016.)

Fig 19: The design of the entrance door is influenced by the Western European architectural tradition



Various window design solutions



The windows on the ground floor are emphasized with profiled stone frames (left) and the windows on the walls of the rooms ('halvats') on the ground floor are designed in accordance with the Ottoman-Oriental tradition (right)



Source: Author (7.18.2016.)

Fig 20: Dzonlic family house in Maglaj. Windows

The windows on the first floor were designed under the influence of the Western European architectural tradition, but their composition is in the spirit of the Ottoman-Oriental architectural tradition.

4. Conclusion

The Dzonlic family house in Maglaj has a stable physical structure and is used to its full capacity as a modern residential building. Due to its historical-architectural and ambient values, this house should be included in the list of national monuments of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as a number of other individual buildings in the Old Town Maglaj, built during the Ottoman Empire in the suburbs of the medieval fortress. It is impossible to imagine the city of Maglaj without this house, as well as without a number of other houses in the city of Maglaj built during the administration of the Ottoman Empire, since they form a mosaic of its urban-historical being^[11, 12].

The Uzeirbegovic family house in Maglaj ('Uzeirbegovic konak') has its place in the image of the Maglaj city and in the memory of generations of its citizens. The inclusion of this house in the list of national monuments of Bosnia and

Herzegovina confirmed its architectural, historical and ambient values. Today, this house is owned by the Maglaj Municipality (that is, the House of Culture) where, after the renovation of the physical structure of the house (with the financial support of the EU), it is being arranged for a museum.

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