

Six Urban Villas in Sarajevo by Architect Ahmet Hadrovic

Ahmet Hadrovic

Faculty of Architecture, University of Sarajevo, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Email address: hadrovic.ahmet@gmail.com, ahmet.hadrovic@af.unsa.ba

Abstract— When Bosnia and Herzegovina became an independent state (March 1.1992.), and especially after the end of the 1992 – 1995 war, Sarajevo, being the capital city, became a center of foreign embassies, branch offices of international institutions and companies. Construction of villas (and residence houses of ambassadors) takes an important place in the intensive post-war construction process. The Author has been given several opportunities to design villas, and most of them were built.

Keywords— urban villas, Sarajevo, architect Ahmet Hadrovic.

I. INTRODUCTION

For the evaluation of the architectural work of the architect Ahmet Hadrovic¹, we cite excerpts from the reviews of Prof. Dr. Borut Juvanec, full professor at the Faculty of Architecture, University of Ljubljana, and Prof. Dr. Zorica Blaževska, full professor at the Faculty of Architecture, University “St. Cyril and Methodius” in Skopje, books: Hadrovic, A. (2012), *100+ most interesting architectural realizations*, Sarajevo, Avicena [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6]:

... “The most important thing is that the author himself puts the relationship with clients first - professionalism and quality of the solution, the architecture and performance are self-evident. Professor Hadrovic states: “In the process of designing residential buildings, the designer is in the closest and most sincere relationship with the client, who is more or less open to the designer, as he is keenly interested in a solution that will frame his chosen lifestyle. Thus, the client chooses the designer, primarily on the recommendation of others, for whom the architect has already designed. This way of working requires from the designer, not only professionalism, but above all tolerance towards clients, where he acts as a family member - which, of course, decides for himself. Such an attitude is not only professional, but above all humane, mainly because it requires knowledge of the client and his way of life in the environment in which he has chosen. The role of the architect is mostly of an advisory nature, but in the end it guarantees a quality result: life in a built environment, designed by the architect. Human relationship with the client, as well as knowledge are key elements that the architect must incorporate into his project in order to bring the client to the final destination - a satisfied user. The professional attitude of the architect is necessary in everything, the future client leads, from idea to realization,

¹ Besides designing new buildings, the Author also did many addition designs of the existing individual residential buildings and their reconstruction into villas.

through the choice of materials and forms, to the economic parameters that the client can afford - in time and space. At the same time, it is not unimportant, the architect also sometimes takes the client into new frames and offers him solutions that change his life and raise the quality of his housing culture”².

... “The creative path of Professor Hadrovic, an architect who preserved and developed the anthropometric and regional characteristics of architecture, is truly specific and exciting. Climbing the ladder of academic hierarchy from the position of assistant full professor at the Faculty of Architecture in Sarajevo, in addition to pedagogical and scientific activities, he intensively realized himself as a creator of architecture, through numerous aspects of its definition.

In the rich treasury of his oeuvre, architectural realizations with a wide range of program diversity and spatial-form manifestations have been recorded.

Driven by curiosity and a desire to seek answers to completely different problems, programs and contexts, Hadrovic’s creative work will develop from family houses and apartment buildings, through collective housing and catering facilities, public facilities in education, culture, administration, to industrial and sacral buildings and memorials”³.

II. THE AHMETSPAHIC M. VILLA, ILIDZA NEAR SARAJEVO (2008)

The M. Ahmetspahic villa (today it is the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan) is located in Ilidza, near Sarajevo, along the main road which connects Sarajevo and Ilidza, across the Energoinvest compound in Stup (geographical coordinates: 43°50'13.10"N, 18°19'02.79"E, Elevation: 502 m). Even though the house is considered a villa, it has been designed as a business and residential structure⁴, ground floor being used as business unit (restaurant), and upper floor and loft as residential space. One part of the basement serves business purposes, and the other is a part of the residential unit.

² Excerpt from the review Prof. Dr. Borut Juvanec, full professor at the Faculty of Architecture, University of Ljubljana, books: Hadrovic, A. (2012), *100+ most interesting architectural realizations*, Sarajevo, Avicena.

³ Excerpt from the review Prof. Dr. Zorica Blaževska, full professor at the Faculty of Architecture, University „St. Cyril and Methodius” in Skopje, books: Hadrovic, A. (2012), *100+ most interesting architectural realizations*, Sarajevo, Avicena.

⁴ It was designed in such a manner as to easily be converted into ambassador residence, with a reception room on the ground floor.



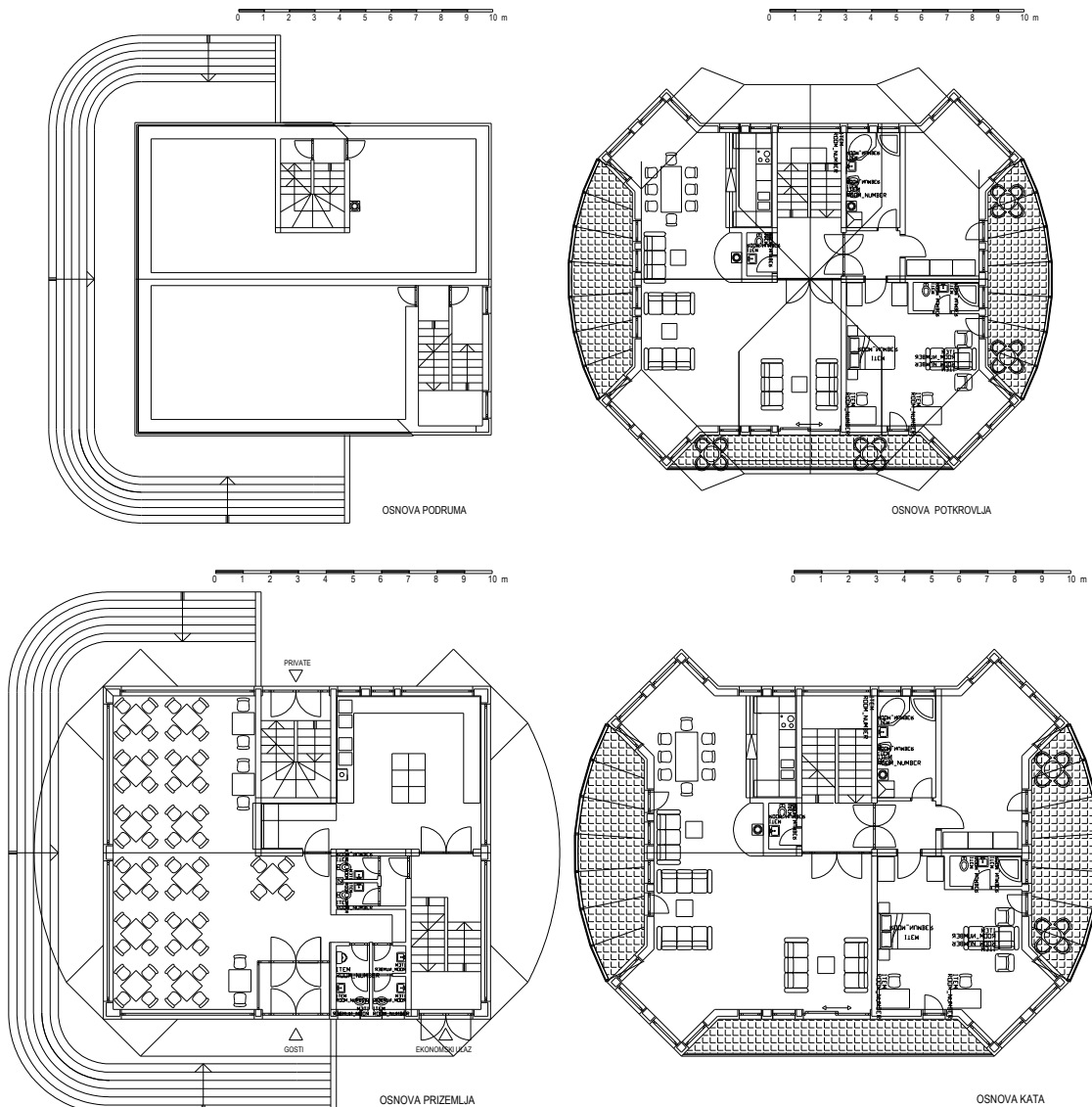
Figure 1. The M. Ahmetpahic villa (today it is the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan), Ilidza near Sarajevo (2008). Map Google Earth: Accessed 5/14/2022

Residential units are separated, with a possibility to have the big apartment (on one floor) converted into two smaller ones (Figures 1-3).

III. EMBASSY OF THE STATE OF QATAR IN SARAJEVO (2002-2008)

Embassy of the State of Qatar at Bosnia and Herzegovina is located in Kosevsko brdo, on top of the hill (geographical coordinates: 43°52'0049"N, 18°24'24.62"E, Elevation: 596 m), with a spectacular panoramic view. The house was therefore designed with this panoramic view in mind.

The house was designed as to satisfy the energy efficiency requirements; its shape is based on the Socrates' house (the house opens towards south, and narrows towards north). There is a glazed loggia on the northern façade, which acts as a buffer area. All exterior walls have excellent thermal insulation (Figures 4-6).



a) Floor plans



b) Façades

Figure 2. The M. Ahmetpahić villa, Ilidza near Sarajevo (2008). Drawings

Source: Author (2008)



Figure 3. The M. Ahmetpahić villa (today it is the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan), Ilidza near Sarajevo (2008). Photos
Source: https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/p/AF1QipMb-1Ch80jDNfatiLcIE-SVT31yqyQ_xZ3ti2_e=h720, Accessed: 3.19.2019.



Figure 4. Embassy of the State of Qatar at Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo (2002-2008). Map
Google Earth: Accessed 5/14/2022

IV. THE S. DEUMIC VILLA, SARAJEVO (1996-1998)

The S. Deumic villa is located in the Hamdije Kresevljakovica Street (geographical coordinates: 43°51'80.37"N, 18°25'17.43"E, Elevation: 542 m), near the Cumurija mosque and Faculty of Political Sciences. It is a typical city style villa, facing the street, with a relatively large backyard and garden. Its side façades are joined to other buildings, forming a street frontage.

The S. Deumic was designed as a residential and business building, whose ground floor was intended for business units and other two floors for living purposes (there is no basement, which was not a good decision, given the location⁵). Two separate business units can be organized on the ground floor, which are, besides facing the main street, also oriented

⁵ Since the house is inserted between two existing ones, which do not have basements either, the price of building one in this house was very high to this investor, so he decided not to build it.

towards the backyard landscape. Each floor can be used as separate living area (Figures 7-9). The street facing façade reflects the time, investor and designer, but the southward

facing one (overlooking the garden) is warm, with large balconies exposed to the sun.

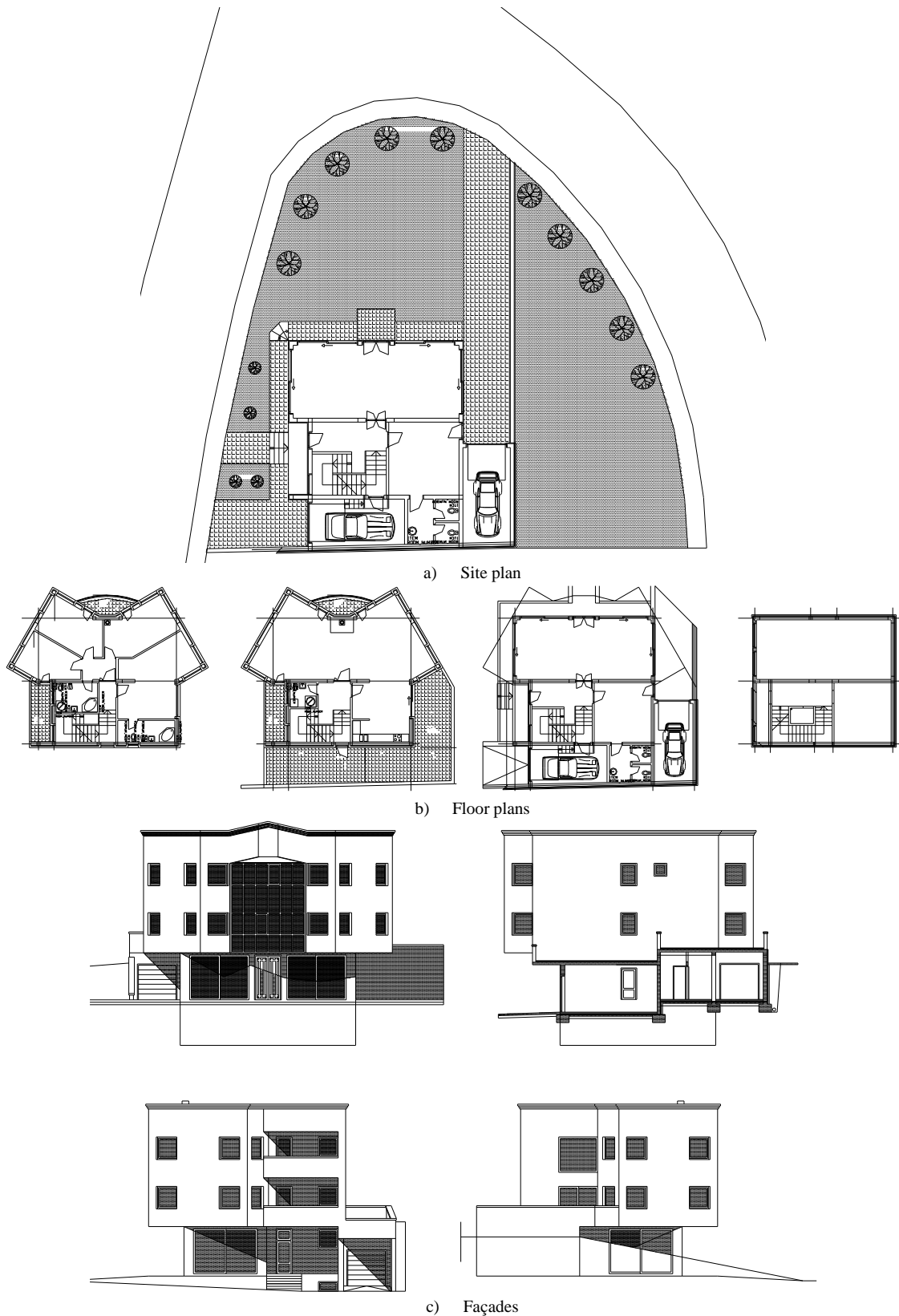


Figure 5. Embassy of the State of Qatar at Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo (2002-2008). Drawings

Source: Author (2008)

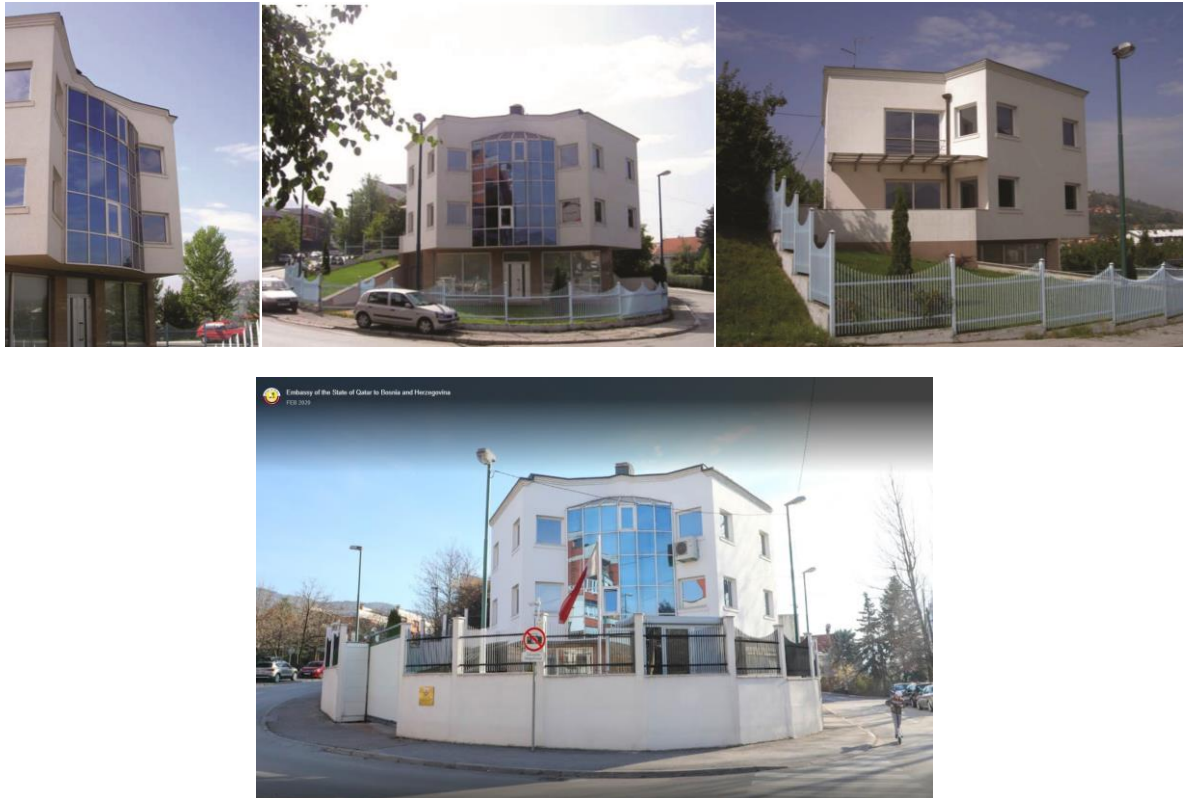


Figure 6. Embassy of the State of Qatar at Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo (2002-2008). Photographs

Source: Author (2008), above

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Figure 7. The S. Deumic house, Sarajevo (1996-1998). Map Google Earth: Accessed 5/14/2022

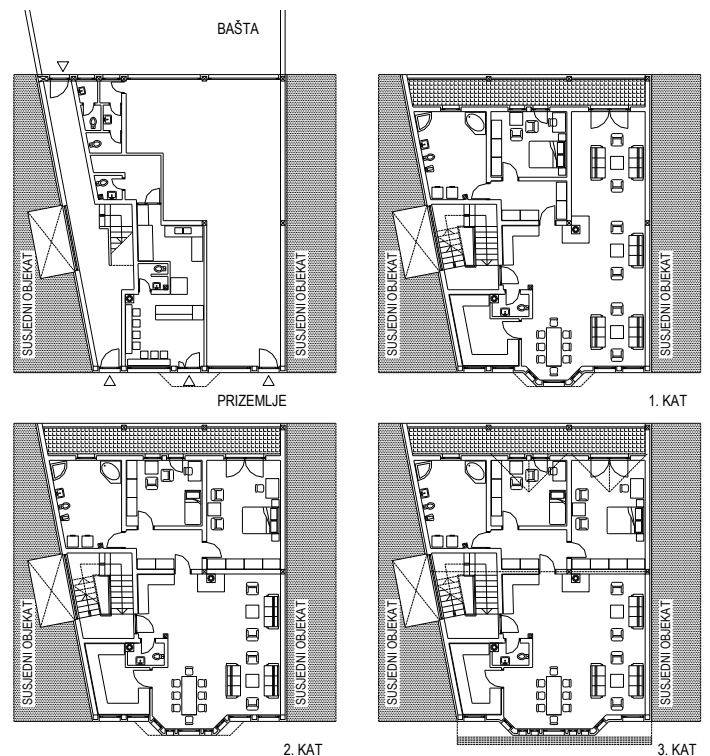


Figure 8. The S. Deumic villa, Sarajevo (1996-1998). Drawings Source: Author (1996-1998)



a)



b)

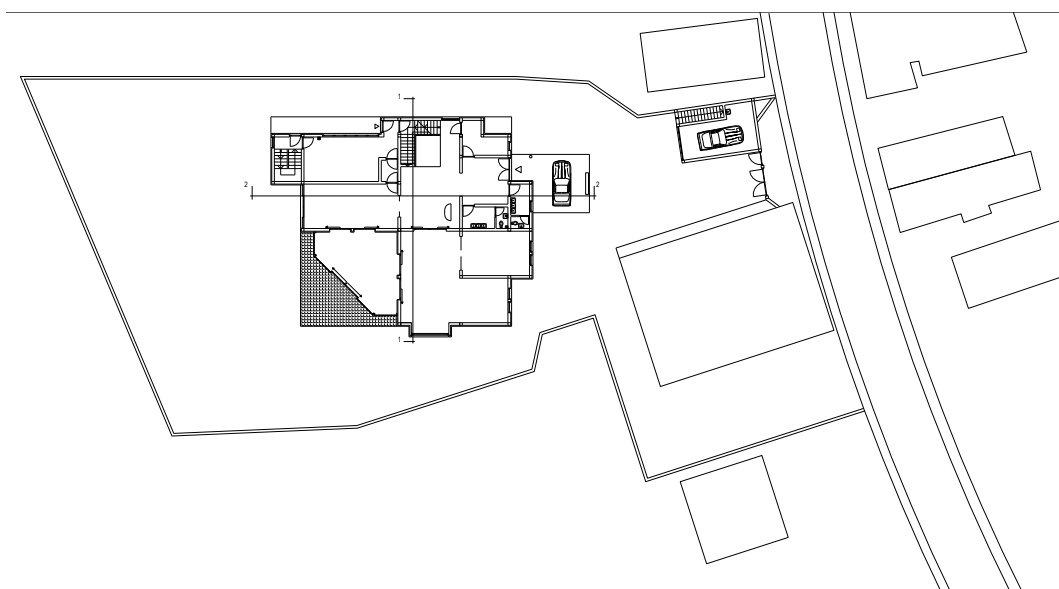
Figure 9. The S. Deumic villa, Sarajevo (1996-1998). Photographs
Source: Author (1996-1998)

V. RESIDENCE OF THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, SARAJEVO (2009)

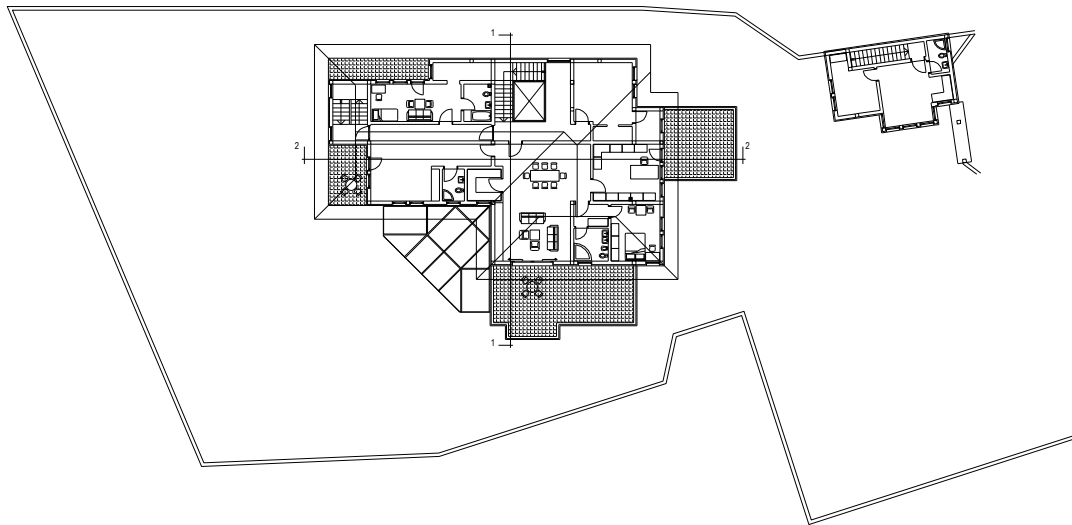
Residence of the Japanese Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina is located in Hotonj, along the Sarajevo – Vogosca road (geographical coordinates: 43°53'17.96"N, 18°22'42.66"E, Elevation: 572 m). The Embassy of Japan requested a design for this residence (according to the preset scheme regarding facilities and size of all Japanese embassies around the world). The design project was presented to the Ambassador of Japan on several occasions, and approved thereupon. (Figures 10-12).



Figure 10. Residence of the Japanese Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo (2009). Map
Google Earth: Accessed 5/14/2022



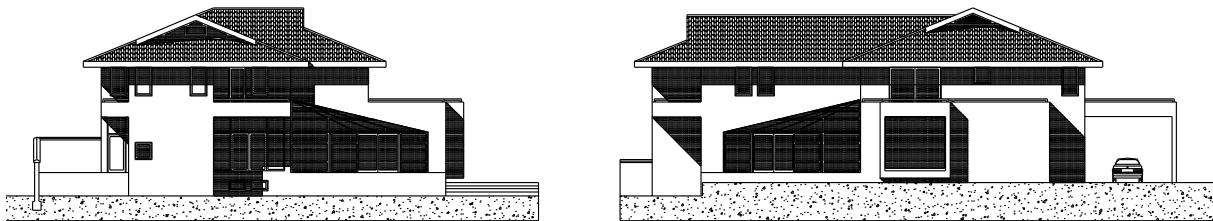
a) Ground floor plan



b) First floor plan



c) Cross section



d) Façades

Figure 11. Residence of the Japanese Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo (2009). Drawings

Source: Author (2009)



a)



b)



c)



d)

Figure 12. Residence of the Japanese Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo (2009). Photographs

Source: Author (2009)



Figure 13. The Kovaci villa, Kovaci (Ilidza near Sarajevo, 2002). Map Google Earth: Accessed 5/14/2022

VI. THE KOVACI VILLA, KOVACI (ILIDZA NEAR SARAJEVO, 2002)

The Kovaci villa is located in the Kovaci neighborhood, beneath Igman, between Hrasnica and Stojcevac (geographical coordinates: 43°48'27.84"N, 18°17'52.81"E, Elevation: 504 m). This location is exclusive by all characteristics, with strict

building requirements, because it is in close vicinity of a water-protected zone of the spring of Bacevo and Bosna.

The owner is a business man who lives and works abroad and who occasionally, together with his family, lives here in this villa (Figures 13-15).

The parcel on which the house is built is relatively large, and the owner still needs to cultivate the entire garden.

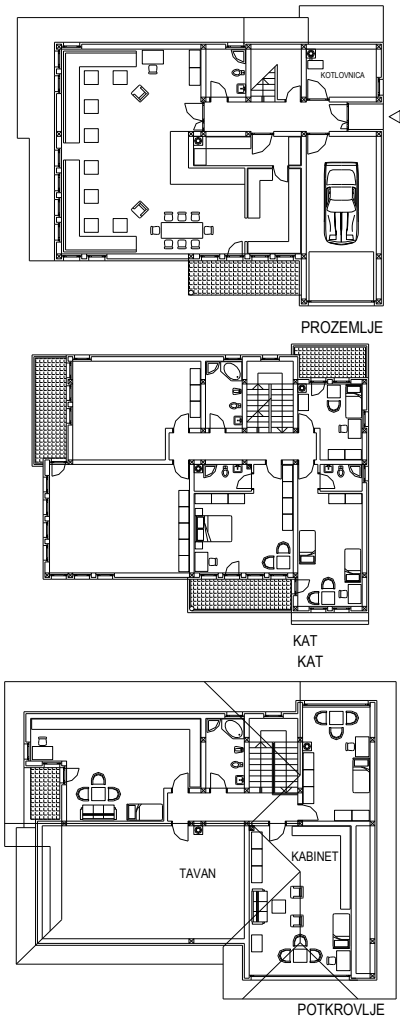


Figure 14. The Kovaci villa, Kovaci (Ilidza near Sarajevo, 2002). Drawings Source: Author (2002)



a)



b)



c)

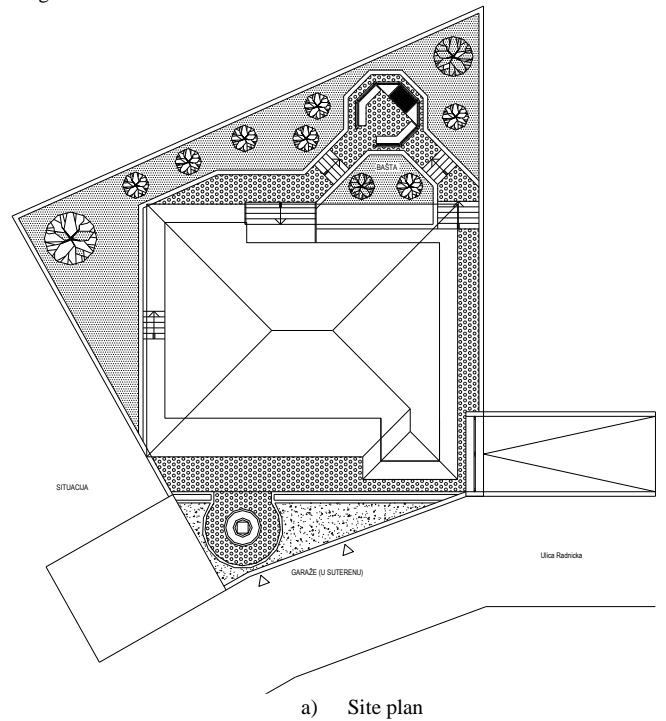


d)

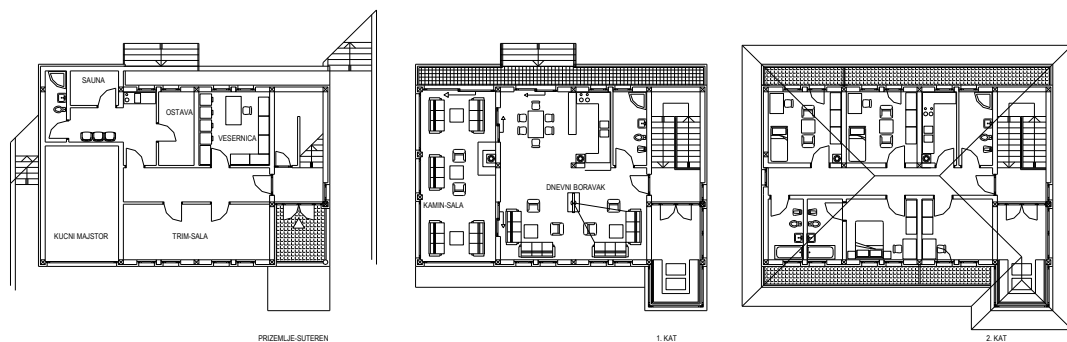
Figure 15. The Kovaci villa, Kovaci (Iidza near Sarajevo, 2002). Photographs
Source: Author (2002)



Figure 16. The S. Druskic villa, Sarajevo (2008). Map
Google Earth: Accessed 5/14/2022



a) Site plan



b) Floor plans

Figure 17. The S. Druskic villa, Sarajevo (2008). Drawings

Source: Author (2008)

VII. THE S. DRUSKIC VILLA, SARAJEVO (2008)

The S. Druskic villa (today it is the embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria) is a typical city style villa, on one side overlooking the street, and on the other the garden and back yard (geographical coordinates: 43°50'58.00"N, 18°24'05.17"E, Elevation: 542 m).

The owner built this house for renting purpose to diplomats and business people. Accessible basement floor (with a garage with several parking lots), possibility to organize different amenities (fire place room, fitness room, sauna, large living room, numerous rooms and bathrooms, inner garden with a fountain, greenery and gazebo) are predispositions which have made this villa a residence for foreign diplomats ever since it was built (Figures 16-18).

[4] Hadrovic, A. (2007), *Defining Architectural Space on the Model of the Oriental Style City House in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo and Macedonia*, Booksurge, LLC, North Charleston, SC, USA

[5] Hadrovic, A. (2010). *Research study on Architecture and Overview of the Architect's Experience*, Sarajevo, Acta Architectonica et Urbanistica, Arhitektonski fakultet Univerziteta u Sarajevu

[6] Hadrovic, A. (2014). *Water and man in autoshtonous symbiosis in Bosnia and Herzegovina*, Sarajevo, Avicena



a)



b)

Figure 18. The S. Druskic villa, Sarajevo (2008). Photographs Source: Author (2008)

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- [3] Hadrovic, A. (2018), *Arhitektura u crtezima i slikama / Architecture in drawings and paintings*, Arhitektonski fakultet Univerziteta u Sarajevu