Several Houses by Architect Ahmet Hadrovic

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Abstract— Having your own home is one of the most important symbols of human existence. It is a symbol of the personality of the individual and the collective personality of the basic human community - the family. The author of this paper was lucky enough to design a large number of luxury villas in Sarajevo and a large number of family houses and holiday homes (weekend houses) in Sarajevo and a number of Bosnian towns and villages. Each of these projects is a story in itself, and they are connected by the author's unique design approach: to provide a man-individual and his family with a comfortable space to live and to confirm their identity. In some designs of villas and houses, the author emphasizes the "memory of the past" so that the client feels a connection with his ancestors and the space where he was born and where he grew up. In other designs, however, the author wanted to show the framework of life of "modern, urban man and his family".

Keywords— Holiday houses (weekend houses), family houses, personal identity, living comfort.

I. INTRODUCTION

During a design process a designer must always be in a good relationship with their clients. Clients are usually open-minded towards designer’s ideas, because their interest is to have a living space which will be framed in such a manner as to fit their needs (culture of living). Therefore, clients are the ones who choose designers, usually according to recommendations of other individuals to whom a certain designer had designed their home. The aforementioned circumstances require not only professional attitude towards their profession, but also patience with clients. Based on the Author’s experience, patience in a certain design project (as well as during construction) always results in positive outcomes, and the designer is then given an opportunity to become a member of the client’s family, but only to the extent he determined

When designing multi-residential buildings a designer usually communicates more with investors (who are usually not the users of the referenced residential units). Investors usually request a certain number of residential units of different sizes (according to market value), almost always requiring that smaller units be left with a possibility to be connected into a bigger one (both horizontally and vertically), and that bigger units can be separated into several individual apartments, that rooms can be adjoined to another unit. During construction of such structures a specific client usually communicates his requests to a designer as to the layout of residential units.

“Creative work of professor Hadrovic, architect who has preserved and developed anthropometric and regional characteristics of architecture, is truly specific and exciting. While climbing up the academic hierarchy from a teaching assistant to full time professor at the Faculty of Architecture in Sarajevo, and apart from his academic and scientific career, he also proved himself as a creator of architecture through different aspects. His creative work includes architectural realizations manifested through different design projects and ideas.

Diverse subjects, efforts, strategies and actions can be noticed in his rich architectural opus. Architectural style of Ahmet Hadrovic is a critical redefinition of the modern architectural approach and his personal interpretation of the Bosnian architectural particularities.

The presented realizations, regardless of their context, urban or rural, built or natural environment, all reflect a certain beauty due to the existence of their inner life.

The simple formal and wordless articulation of contemporary architecture in his works is given a new utterance inspired by multiple means of expression.

On the one hand, too dynamic for the architecture community, and on the other hand accepted and understandable by an ordinary man, Architect Hadrovic has been usually hired as a creator of many individual family houses. And a house design, as a basis of architecture, and constant and present in every time period, space and culture, has served him as a laboratory for his architectural research. A house design both gives a particular form to the living space of its residents and portrays their living culture. Such small and “everyday” architecture is determined by its social dimensions, social conditions, local tradition, available resources and its form and function[1].

1. Holiday Houses (Weekend Houses)

According to the Author, a holiday house is not the same as a weekend house. Holiday houses are built by business people, university professors and “men of action”, who use them in different periods (of day, week, month or year) according to their mood and need in order to have a quiet time to finish a certain work for example. On the other hand, weekend houses are built by people of all professions (and even by those who are having poor financial standing), and which are occupied usually at the end of a work week to rest and stay while performing some agricultural work. The owner of this house is a business man who works in Sarajevo. Steady business with a tradition of several decades created a man who wishes to turn to nature, to a house which will provide a townhouse comfort, believing he had earned that opportunity through his own work.

1 Excerpt from the review Prof. Dr. Zorica Blazevska, 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.

This specific holiday house is something like a residence in nature, where the owner can come whenever he wishes, depending on the dynamics of his life biorhythm.

The Z. Memic holiday house in Osenik near Sarajevo, (geographical coordinates: 43°47'58.21''N, 18°06'10.29''E, Elevation: 661 m), (Figures 1-3) is, similar to the Socrates house, open towards the south, and closed towards the north. Its boundaries (floor on the ground, external walls, roof, and openings) are materialized in such a manner as to achieve the lowest energy transfer coefficient possible [1].

1.1. The Z. Memic holiday house in Osenik near Sarajevo

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1.2. The S. Druskic holiday house, Cevljianovici near Sarajevo

The owner of this house is a businessman (who runs a hotel in Sarajevo). He was looking for a place for his holiday house near Sarajevo and found it in a peaceful nature, with a creek running through his estate.

Regarding its layout, the house has all the characteristics of a townhouse (large living room with a fireplace, kitchen and dining room, several bedrooms and an office, and more than one bathroom). The entire estate borders a small river.
Ljubina (Figures 4-7). One part of the parcel (northern part, between the small river and the road to Podgajevo) is called “natural woods” (natural grown trees which form a forest without human interventions). Another part of the estate (south from the house, along the road to Podgajevo) is covered in an orchard, and a swimming pool on the flat, sunny part of the parcel. As for the remaining part, the owner plans to build a traditional watermill for grinding corn on the western part of the parcel, on the river Ljubina.

The S. Druskić estate is located along the Cevljanovic – Podgajevo road (geographical coordinates: 44°02’42.07”N, 18°28’06.77”E, Elevation: 776 m), from which the estate can be reached by foot or car. As a part of the estate, right next to the gate, there is a paved surface designated for parking of more than one car (for the family and guests).

1.3. The F. Mekić holiday house, Kaćuni near Busovaca

This house owner is a university professor, educator and science worker. His professional orientation (forestry, ecology, natural environment in its broadest sense) developed in him a feeling for and understanding of the following concepts: organic architecture, bioclimatic architecture, architecture that fits the environment and man…

The Author of this house design did not have any difficulties in convincing the owner that his house should be “energy efficient, in a friendly and symbiotic relation to the environment, not overemphasized in relation to the surrounding built environment”.

The house is built (geographical coordinates: 44°04’12.32”N, 17°56’05.44”E, Elevation: 436 m) without disturbing the natural environment, paying particular attention to the horizontal and vertical layout of the F. Mekić holiday house, Kaćuni near Busovača (application of double-skin façade as a kind of a buffer zone), the materialization of the boundaries (better thermal insulation of the ground slab, roof, and top-quality openings), (Figures 8-10).

The Author describes this project by using terms like “organic architecture, bioclimatic architecture, custom architecture that satisfies human and natural requirements”, etc. And indeed, this architecture is created to fit the man...
Architect Hadrovic developed a particular feeling when it comes to housing issues. To Robert Venturi, contradiction, even the contrast between interior and exterior (space) is an important feature of architecture. Contradiction and complexity are subjects also seen in the work of Hadrovic, especially expressed in the contrast of horizontal plans in relation to vertical plans of his houses, usually resulting in their exciting perception. Sometimes rectangular shapes are placed above circular plans, whereas at other times strict rectangular floor plans are bases for expressive and dynamic roofs (the Dz. Dragolj house, S&H house, M. Mulic House). Even though there will be those who will say that the presented houses are not beautiful, it must be said that their users had only one idea in mind, one desire, and that is to have their own home, simple, intimate, warm and peaceful in a long-desired ideal world”.

2.1. The Dz. Dragolj house, Sarajevo

The Dz. Dragolj house is located above the Jewish cemetery in Sarajevo (geographical coordinates: 43°50'55.94"N, 18°24'33.88"E, Elevation: 648 m), overlooking the city (Figures 11-13). Its owners chose this place because of the sense of continuity (the family house in which they grew up was there, overlooking Sarajevo, as part of their being).

Despite the very crowded location and vertical layout of the structure, this is a typical Sarajevo townhouse, built on a sloped lot (with a garage, basement storage rooms, living room on the ground floor in contact with the garden, and loft with bedrooms).

Figure 11. The Dz. Dragolj house, Sarajevo (2002). Map

Figure 12. The Dz. Dragolj house, Sarajevo (2002). Drawings

2.2. The E. Hadrovic house, Vogosca, Sarajevo

The fall of the Former Yugoslav Republic and 1992 – 1995 war in Bosnia and Herzegovina brought about a territorial reorganization, by which the Olovo municipality, in an unnatural manner, became an administrative unit of the Zenica-Doboj Canton.

This violation of natural laws is also seen in the fact that many residents of Olovo (especially those from villages from the Krivaja river valley) moved to Sarajevo (and rarely Tuzla), where they built their new houses, or purchased apartments.

However, they did not sell their houses in the Olovo municipality, but they continued to use them as their “principal habitats”, whereas the properties in Sarajevo were used mostly by their children (students) while studying, and later on, when starting their own lives.
The E. Hadrovic house in Vogosca was built because of the aforementioned reasons, even though its owners have a house in Hadre and work in Olovo.

The house in Vogosca (more precisely Orahov brijeg, geographical coordinates: 43°53'42.24"N, 18°23'18.42"E, Elevation: 645 m), the same as the one in Hadre, in its basement floor has a workshop (the owner is a locksmith), while the ground floor and loft are used for living. The house is built on a south-exposed slope overlooking Trebevic and Hum (Figures 14-16).

Figure 14. The E. Hadrovic house, Vogosca (2007). Map

Figure 15. The E. Hadrovic house, Vogosca (2007). Drawings

Figure 16. The E. Hadrovic house, Vogosca (2007). Photographs (5.21.2022.)

2.3. The S&H Alihodzic house, Olovo

The S&H Alihodzic house is located on a very attractive location in Olovo (geographical coordinates: 44°07’02.20”N, 18°35’00.59”E, Elevation: 574 m), defined by the famous Mato’s curve on the Sarajevo – Olovo – Tuzla highway, at the very entrance to Olovo. The terrain on which the house is built is slightly sloped, facing southeast. The house is designed to serve both residential and business purpose. Its ground floor can be used for business (e.g. a café), while the first floor and loft are residential rooms (Figures 17-19).

The house, by its layout and general design, looks like a traditional house found in this area (so called dimalucara – chardak house). It is interesting that the Author, after this house was built, was engaged in other three or four projects of the same kind, with requests of his clients to “have the house looking exactly the same as the S&M Alihodzic house in Olovo”.

Figure 17. The S&H Alihodzic house, Olovo (1988). Map

Figure 18. The S&H Alihodzic house, Olovo (1988). Photographs

Figure 19. The S&H Alihodzic house, Olovo (1988). Photographs

4 One was built in Konjic, two in Semizovac – Krivoglavi, whereas several houses were built in Olovo without the Author’s permission.

2.4. The A. Hasanspahic house, Sarajevo

The A. Hasanspahic house is a typical townhouse, designed and built according to the traditional house style found in Sarajevo neighborhoods.

It is located on an exclusive location – Skenderija (geographical coordinates: 43°51’15.38”N, 18°25’11.82”E, Elevation: 544 m), near the Skenderija Sport, Culture and Business Center, the FBiH Parliament building, embassies, faculties, etc.

However, the very location is not quite favorable in terms of geology and geodesy (steep slope prone to sliding, facing north).

This house is designed as a residential and business structure. The requests were that every floor (two floors and loft) be built as separate residential units5 (Figures 20-22).

5 The investor built this house for renting because the location is excellent, with a possibility to let it to one, two or three separate tenants.

2.5. The A&E Hujic house, Sarajevo (2008)

This house is owned by a modern family (young couple with one child at the moment), who wanted a house with a
garden in the center of all activities, but also in a private atmosphere that only a detached house can provide.

The house is located in the Sarajevo (geographical coordinates: 43°50'53.79"N, 18°23'46.77"E, Elevation: 549 m) neighborhood called Vraca, on a slight slope with a panoramic view of Sarajevo (Figures 23-25).

2.6. The I. Velic house, Rakitnica, the Bjelasnica plateau (2009)

The I. Velic house is located in Rakitnica, the vast plateau of Bjelasnica (geographical coordinates: 43°39'29.84"N, 18°16'42.34"E, Elevation: 1179 m). On its eastern side the lot borders a small river – right tributary of the Rakitnica River, famous for its canyon (which starts just a few meters from the village, downstream the Rakitnica River, to the point where Rakitnica flows into Neretva).

The climate here is known for its long and cold winters with plenty of snow, and short and warm summers. Spring and autumn seasons are characterized by rain and strong (usually southern) winds.

The house is owned by a modern family (successful business people) whose roots originate in the Rakitnica village.

It is a townhouse. However, certain amenities surrounding the house (traditional watermill for corn grinding) and roof shape for example make a strong connection between the owner of the house and the nature around it, as well as with their cultural tradition and memories. It is interesting that the owner’s plans involved transforming the watermill into a small hydroelectric power plant, and construction of a swimming pool on a flat part of the lot for family and guests to enjoy the scenery and rest. (Figures 26-28).
2.7. The I. Kopic house, Cunista on Krivaja (1988)

The I. Kopic house is located in Cunista, on an abundant and attractive location, defined by the Olovo – Zavidovići road and river Krivaja (geographical coordinates: 44°12'35.03"N, 18°30'02.15"E, Elevation: 463 m). The vast plain faces southward, and Krivaja River and Konjuh Mountain on the north.

The owner of the house works in Olovo, so the house has the characteristics of a town house, but includes the elements which connect it with its natural surrounding (ground floor loggia and a gazebo built above Krivaja). The house is not in the immediate vicinity of the river because of the floods⁷ (Figures 29-31).

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⁶ This design, with slight alterations, (due to locations), has been used for construction of a significant number of houses.

⁷ The designer was warned about this problem, and he calculated the ground floor level with this information in mind.
2.8. The S. Jarovic house, Ilidza near Sarajevo (1999)

The owner of this house lives and works in Germany. It was built in an exclusive part of Ilidža near Sarajevo (Lužani) as a residence (geographical coordinates: 43°49'42.86"N, 18°18'02.65"E, Elevation: 498 m), either for personal needs or renting. The garage is at the basement level, as well as a room for the heating system (and air conditioning system). The high ground floor is intended to serve as a living room, whereas other rooms with bathrooms are located in the loft.

There is also a cardak in the loft, a special type of a living room, with a spectacular panoramic view of the surroundings. (Figures 32-34).


The S. Konakovic house is located in Uljesici, Vogosca (geographical coordinates: 43°53'45.78"N, 18°21'07.25"E, Elevation: 515 m), which location is considered an exclusive residential area in Vogosca, a town that had an intensive industrial development before the 1992 – 1995 war, and one of the wealthiest municipalities in the former SFRY.

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1 When this house was built, the market was very favorable for this type of luxury houses (foreign diplomats, foreign company representatives, etc.).
It is town house with a business unit in its ground floor, living room on the first floor, and other rooms in the loft. The owners, who wanted a close contact with the nature surrounding the house, requested more than one balcony in the house (Figures 35-37).

Figure 35. The S. Konakovic house, Vogosca (1997). Map

Figure 36. The S. Konakovic house, Vogosca (1997). Drawings

Figure 37. The S. Konakovic house, Vogosca (1997). Photographs

2.10. The E&E Lekic house in Semizovac near Sarajevo (2002)

The E&E Lekic house in Semizovac is more a holiday house than a usual family house. However, bearing in mind its frequent use (the owners are business people whose place of residence is in Sarajevo), its layout and facilities, it is presented here as a family house. The location (geographical coordinates: 43°57'22.34"N, 18°21'14.01"E, Elevation: 540 m) is very exclusive: vicinity of Sarajevo (the house is located along the Sarajevo – Tuzla highway), river Ljubina right next to the lot, nature (forests and hunting areas, villages where healthy food is produced).

It is a townhouse, and as such it reflects its owners – business people, whereas its semi-open space (loggia, view of the Ljubina river) reminds the observer of traditional Bosnian houses – chardaklia (which can be found in the surrounding villages), (Figures 38-40).

Figure 38. The E&E Lekic house, Semizovac near Sarajevo (2002). Map

Figure 39. The E & E Lekic house, Semizovac near Sarajevo (2002). Drawings

Figure 40. The E&E Lekic house, Semizovac near Sarajevo (2002). Photographs
2.11. The M. Basic house in Sarajevo (2000)

The M. Basic house is a typical family house, located in Vraca neighborhood in Sarajevo, right next to the city bypass (geographical coordinates: 43°50'50.52''N, 18°23'46.42''E, Elevation: 560 m).

The M. Basic house is a residential and business structure, whose basement (floor facing the bypass) is converted into business units (at the moment this space is used as auto parts store, carwash and vulcanization shop), whereas the other floors (ground floor, first floor and loft) are intended for living. The owner requested that the ground floor can be converted into business units as well, and that the upper floor and loft can house several separate residential units (in case of renting it), (Figures 41-43).

2.12. The M. Mulic house, Ilidza near Sarajevo

The M. Mulic house in Ilidza is located in an elite residential area called Luzani (geographical coordinates: 43°49'42.38''N, 18°18'01.17''E, Elevation: 498 m), across the S. Jarovic and S.Radonic houses. Given its layout, usable area and general appearance, this house could be categorized as villa.

It is a residential and business building, with two garage lots in the basement floor, business unit on the ground floor, and residential area on the first floor and loft.

Similar to the S. Jarovic house, this house also has a certain kind of “super loft”, a spacious room for reception purposes (family gatherings in special occasions), with a spectacular panoramic view of the surroundings. (Figures 44-46).
II. CONCLUSION

From the aspect of architecture (art of construction) a house is a design which with its space and materialization and overall relation towards natural and social environment reflects its owner: his wealth, social status, philosophy, religion, moral, etc. In short, a house is a metaphor of man [3].

The history of Bosnia and Herzegovina is made of different stories, which started all of a sudden and ended in the same manner, stories that are controversial, with multiple meanings and interpreted differently by those who tried to make them have sense [4, 5, 6, 7]. Bosnia lies between east and west, north and south, that is, between different worlds and people, with its own recognizable identity. The nature in Bosnia has in one small area everything that in other parts of the world is given only in portions. Here we can see wild forests, rocky steppes with no water, large plateaus and many hills, then abundant water springs, hot water springs, etc. Besides that, Bosnian hills are full of all kinds of ores, which occasionally emerges onto the surface by itself. For about 5 or 6 hour of driving from the south to the north (and vice versa) one passes from summer to spring and to winter, and then again to spring; views of the sea will suddenly be replaced with views of large fields, whereas those views will then be replaced with rocky hills, and then forests and pastures, then green river valleys, and finally – endless plains. Going through Bosnia from the east to west, one must pass many mountains between which different rivers flow, where each river represents a kind of a threshold one must pass, after which a change and new things expect him.

Unprepared visitor shall be confused by seeing BiH in such a manner, whereas another would be thrilled.

Many people have passed through Bosnia and Herzegovina, by having entered by force or by having been forced out. All of them would take some of its wealth, whereas they would leave their traces. Newcomers would demolish what those before them had built in order to leave a mark. That is how the things were happening here, and they are still happening in a similar manner.

The author of this paper “unraveled the secret of Bosnia and Herzegovina” through a large number of published books and scientific papers [8, 9, 10, 11]. This work is in the same series where Bosnia and Herzegovina is presented through the house - the framework of human life.

REFERENCES
