

Bosnian Chardaklia House: The Bugilovic Family House in Gornja Tuzla

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Abstract— In the wide variety of architectural programs of the traditional architecture of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Bosnian Chardaklia House occupies a prominent place. With regard to its spatial organization, construction, materialization and equipment of its interior spaces, the Bosnian Chardaklia House is the most authentic expression of the natural and social environment of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the complex phenomenon of its man and his primary social community - the family. Built from natural materials taken on site, carefully situated in the natural environment, designed according to the conditions of the natural environment, this house is an example of bioclimatic architecture. In the wide range of her architectural-spatial solutions, her most developed type anticipates the “family in its growth and development“, from numerous “nuclear“ families to several families “under one roof“ derived from the nuclear family. The Bugilovic family house in Gornja Tuzla, in terms of its spatial organization and equipment, is a transitional form of the Bosnian čardaklia house towards an oriental-type city house in Bosnia and Herzegovina, just as Gornja Tuzla is a transition from a rural to an urban settlement.

Keywords— Bosnian Chardaklia House, Gornja Tuzla, Bugilovic family.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Bosnian Chardaklia House is, above all, the house of rich people in the countryside. On the one hand, it is firmly rooted in the tradition of folk architecture, but it also has elements of a town house as a transitional form from purely folk architecture to a town house solution that shows the influences of other, often geographically distant cultures and solutions.

Abdulaziz Bugilovic's house is located in the center of Gornja Tuzla, near the Hadzi Iskender (Carsijska) mosque (built in 1500) and the “Gornja Tuzla” elementary school building (geographical coordinates: 44°33'25.66"N, 18°45'40.05"E, Elevation: 325 m). The house has a relatively spacious yard and garden. Gornja Tuzla is an old settlement located 10 km northeast of the city of Tuzla, on the road Tuzla-Lopare-Celic-Brcko (Figure 1). There is evidence of the existence of prehistoric Vinča culture in Gornja Tuzla as early as 5200 AD ^[1]. Today's city of Tuzla was first granted city status (in 1477) by the then ruling Ottoman Empire. Tuzla Kadiluk was founded in 1573 with its headquarters in Gornja Tuzla. In the middle of the 17th century, the seat of the kadiluk was transferred to Donja Tuzla ^[2]. Gornja Tuzla was part of the Zvornik Sandzak in the Bosnian Vilayet of the Ottoman Empire. Around 1884, Austria-Hungary began exploiting salt in Gornja Tuzla, Simin Han and Donja Tuzla ^[3].

The house he designed and built, in which he lives in the complexity of his entire being, is the most concrete tangible image of a man, his family, and the immediate and wider community in which he lives. By getting to know the Bosnian Chardaklia House, one can get to know those dimensions of the Bosnian human being that are not directly written about here ^[1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13].

The Bugilovic family house in Gornja Tuzla was built during the administration of the Ottoman Empire in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in the second half of the 19th century¹ (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Bugilovic family house in Gornja Tuzla. Location Source:

<https://slidetodoc.com/regionalna-podjela-bosne-i-hercegovine-geografske-regije-bosne/> (left)
Google Earth: Accessed 7/3/2022 (right)

¹ The author visited this house on 7/9/2016. The host and informant was the owner of the house, Mrs. Zejneba (née Gutic) Bugilovic (born 1930).



Left: View of the house from the northeast
Right: Doksat divanhana facing the garden



View of the house from the garden

Figure 2. Bugilovic family house in Gornja Tuzla. Exterior

Source: Author (7.9.2016.)

II. SPATIAL-SHAPE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE HOUSE

Due to its location in the urban fabric of Gornja Tuzla, layout and equipment, the Bugilovic family house belongs to the oriental-type city house in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In this paper, it is discussed because of its overall physiognomy, which is similar to many chardaklia houses in the region of Tuzla, Srebrenik, Brcko and beyond (Tesanj, Northwest Bosnia...).

The Bugilovic family house in Gornja Tuzla is vertically developed through the ground floor and first floor. On the ground floor of the house, there is an entrance (hall) with a staircase to the first floor, a room marked as “house” (“kuca”), two rooms (pantries) and a subsequently built part with sanitary facilities.

The contours of the floor of the house are left outside on three sides (about 60 cm) in relation to the contour of the ground floor. Doksats are a feature of oriental-type townhouses in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but this kind of floor letting is a feature of many chardaklia houses in Bosnia and Herzegovina, especially in the Bosnian Krajina, in North and North-Eastern Bosnia^[14].

On the first floor of the house, there are three large chardaks, a room that the owner of the house calls the kitchen, and an added space (which the owner calls the “postavak”) with a pantry and sanitary facilities. Between the two conservatories there is a room for burning and heating the whole house (“culhan”), open to the attic (Figure 3).

All three main chardaks have built-in batteries in the wall, musanders, characteristic of an oriental-type city house. Each of the musanders in the Bugilovic family house has a bathroom (“hamamdzik”), furuna and linen closet (“dusekluk”), (Figure 3).

In the central part of the base of the floor there is a spacious communication to which all the rooms are oriented. The owner of the house calls the part of this space oriented towards the street “upper divanhana”, and the part oriented

towards the garden – “lower divanhana”. The lower divanhana is today organized as a contemporary dining room with a permanent setting of a large dining table with chairs.

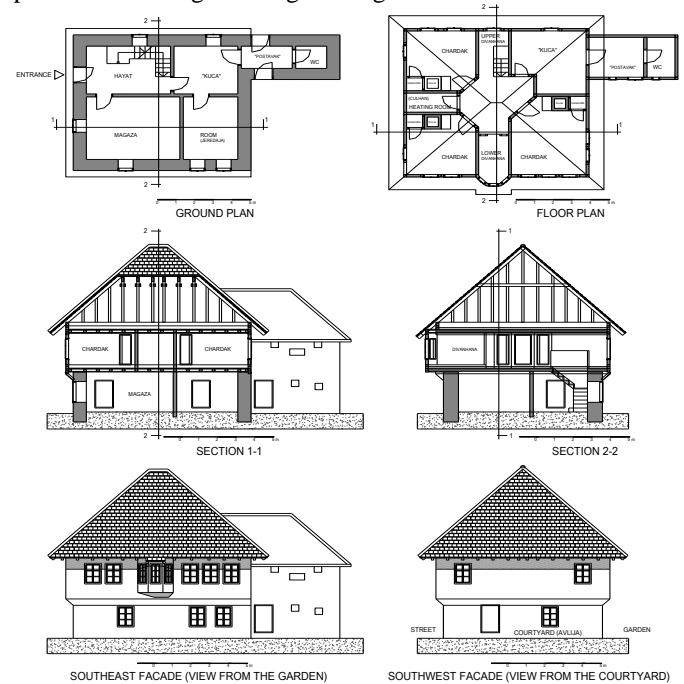


Figure 3. The Bugilovic family house in Gornja Tuzla. Disposition

Source: Author (Drawing, 2016.)

III. CONSTRUCTION AND MATERIALIZATION

The foundations of the house are made of raw stone. The walls of the ground floor are made of adobe about 80 cm thick, with stiffeners made of wooden beams (hatula), (Figure 4). The walls of the floor are made of a wooden skeleton (“bondruk”) with adobe filling. The surfaces of the walls, external and internal, were plastered and painted with milk of lime, and in some rooms blue pigment was added to the milk of lime (Figures 4, 5, 9-14). The roof is high (which is one of the characteristics of the Bosnian Chardaklia House) with a wooden structure and a covering made of old roof tiles (“biber crijep”). The ceiling constructions (ground-floor and first-floor) are made of wooden beams (at a distance of about 80 cm) and floors (boards 5-7 cm thick). At the same time, the beams and floors of the ground-floor are roughly processed (hewing), while the beams and ceiling of the floor-attic are finely processed, with decorative profiling in contact between the two floors (Figure 4).



Left: Construction ground-floor (visible from the woodshed on the ground floor)

Right: Wooden ceiling (“shishe”) floor-attic

Figure 4. Ceiling structures

Source: Author (7.9.2016.)

The ground floor-floor staircase is basically designed in an “L” shape, and is constructed of wood. Special attention was paid to the design of the staircase fence (Figure 5).



Figure 5. Wooden staircase (basamaci) and divanhana facing the street
Source: Author (7.9.2016.)

IV. DOORS AND WINDOWS

The construction of the door is basically simple: the door wings are made of boards (about 5 cm thick) that connect three or four beams (“crossbars”/“prečke”), from the inside of the room where the door is located. At the same time, the master's effort to “make the door beautiful” is noticeable, where a “glorious arch” is made on its door jamb (Figures 6,7,8), and an arch and other carving decorations are applied to the door leaf.



Left: The door at the entrance to the ground floor directly from the street
In the middle and on the right: The door at the entrance from the courtyard to the hayat (ground floor)

Figure 6. Door design

Source: Author (7.9.2016.)

The window design is different, according to the location of the room within the house. All windows are single-hung, single-hung or double-hung, with single glazing. The window sashes are divided into several windows, for safety in the

event of glass breakage. The windows on the ground floor are protected by iron bars (“demiri”), (Figure 9), and on the first floor by wooden bars (Figure 11). Some windows on the ground floor have a net (“musebak”) made of wooden slats (Figure 9).



Figure 7. Door to the chardaks

Source: Author (7.9.2016.)



Figure 8. Superior craftsmanship in the production of doors on verandas
Source: Author (7.9.2016.)



Figure 9. Windows on the ground floor

Source: Author (7.9.2016.)



Figure 10. Windows on the first floor

Source: Author (7.9.2016.)



Figure 11. Windows on the porch and divanhana facing the garden

Source: Author (7.9.2016.)

V. SURFACE TREATMENT

The general characteristic of the Bosnian Chardaklia House is that the wall, ceiling and floor surfaces of its rooms are “clean” and “simple”. The wall surfaces are (as a rule) painted with white milk of lime, the ceilings are in the natural color of the wood, and the floors are covered with handmade “Bosnian carpets” made of wool. However, the Bugilovic family house in Gornja Tuzla deviates from this rule, and the reason for this is its longevity (150 years). Namely, over time, a lot of “decorative equipment” was bought (floor and wall rugs-serjada, decorative embroidery on canvas, various useful items...) that bear witness to different eras, different people and their “contributions to the enrichment of the house”. In order to expose all these “contributions”, the standard equipment of the rooms of the house (musandera, for example) is simply “buried” with decorative equipment (Figures 12,13, 15-22).



Figure 12. Wooden ceiling (“shishe”) and wooden shelf (“rafa”) in the chardaks

Source: Author (7.9.2016.)

The side views of the cantilevered volumes of the floor are covered in wooden paneling (similar to the ceilings in chardaks), and the edges of the doxstat are decorated with carved “wooden lace” (Figure 14).



Figure 13. Carpet on the floor, serjada on the mindlerluk

Source: Author (7.9.2016.)

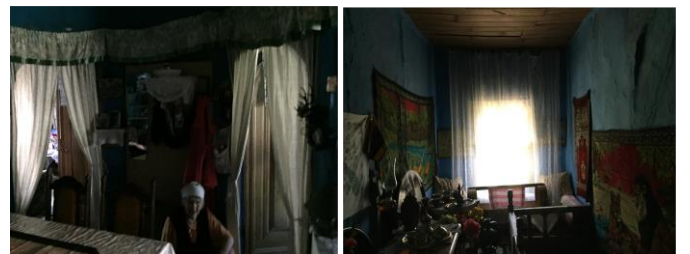


Figure 14. Decorative cornice made of profiled boards, a border that emphasizes the transition from the ground floor to the first floor

Source: Author (7.9.2016.)

VI. SPACE EQUIPMENT

Divanhanes, traditionally spaces for rest with a view of the street or the garden, in the Bugilovic family house have been given the role of a contemporary dining room (Figure 15).



Left: Lower divanhana (“Donja divanhana”) has been converted into a dining room

Right: Divanhana facing the street (“upper divanhana”)

Figure 15. Divanhanes

Source: Author (7.9.2016.)



Figure 16. Bathing niche (“hamadzik”) in the large chardak
Source: Author (7.9.2016.)



Figure 20. Kitchen (“mutvak”)
Source: Author (7.9.2016.)



Figure 17. Brick oven with ceramic “pots” in the large chardak
Source: Author (7.9.2016.)



Figure 21. Hand embroidery decorates many furniture elements (kitchen)
Source: Author (7.9.2016.)



Left: Musandera in one of the chardak
Right: Masonry oven with ceramic “pots” in the large chardak (part of the musandera)
Figure 18. Wall battery - musandera
Source: Author (7.9.2016.)



Figure 22. Hand embroidery all over
Source: Author (7.9.2016.)



Figure 19. Niche in the wall (“dulaf”) in the area of the staircase and divanhana facing the street
Source: Author (7.9.2016.)

VII. CURRENT CONDITION AND PURPOSE OF THE HOUSE

The Bugilovic family house in Gornja Tuzla is in relatively good physical condition today. The owner of the house, Mrs. Bugilovic (née Gutic) Zejneba (1930), and occasionally her adult children (who live abroad with their families) live in it. As the house is about 150 years old, in which people always lived comfortably and richly (according to general social conditions), it is overcrowded with equipment and things to such an extent that its true spatial architectural qualities are hidden.

Over time, this house became an informal family museum. Since the house undoubtedly has great architectural and historical value, it should be formally protected as a national monument of Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Figure 23. Sanitary facilities in the annex of the house (locally called “postavak”)

Source: Author (7.9.2016.)

VIII. CONCLUSION

When an architectural building survives 150 years of its existence in turbulent social conditions (Ottoman Empire-Austro-Hungarian Monarchy-Kingdom of Yugoslavia-Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia-Sovereign Bosnia and Herzegovina) where the transition from one phase to another was marked by wars, then such a building deserves to be the subject of scientific review.

The Bugilovic family house is an example of a traditional Bosnian Chardaklia House and an example of bioclimatic architecture. In accordance with the natural and social environment, this house is an example of a richer version of the Bosnian Chardaklia House, which has some characteristics suitable for an oriental-type town house. Here, the divanhana is a closed space with the function of a dining room.

Features of the bioclimatic architecture of this house are:

- Construction and materialization of the house, where traditional construction methods and many years of experience are used and the use of all materials from the immediate natural environment. In this way, this house looks like a “natural environment created by man” [15];
- Ensuring comfort in the house (in all seasons) is achieved by adequately designing the house, materializing its envelope and using energy from the immediate environment (firewood, beeswax candles or sheep fat - before introducing electricity into the house) [16];
- Recycling of generated waste in the house. All human food scraps are fed to domestic animals, while other types of waste are used as firewood (wooden scraps in the production of household tools, for example);

- Using rainwater to maintain the hygiene of people and premises;
- Thanks to its relatively stable physical structure, the house is still in use;
- “Embodied spiritual energy of house” (memory of childhood, parents and relatives, precious events) relaxes people and makes them especially convinced of their loyalty to their ancestors. The arrangement of material artifacts from different time periods made the Bugilovic family house o a “family museum”.

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