

# Godusa Settlement Near Visoko City: Life in A Sustainable Way

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**Abstract**—The Godusa settlement (geographical coordinates: 43°55'58.59"N, 18°09'57.67"E, altitude: 520 m) is located in the gentle valley of the Godusica river, about 6.7 km south of the town of Visoko. The valley is about 3 km long and about 1.10 km wide, with extensions of about 1.10 km in its southern part. The main natural resources of the settlement are: water (Godusica river and several streams), fields, meadows and pastures, forests and stone. The proximity of Visoko, one of the oldest and most important cities in the entire history of Bosnia and Herzegovina, along with natural resources, have made Godusa a place for a good and promising life since the Middle Ages. In the Godusa settlement near Visoko, people have been processing wood for centuries. They make various objects from wood, such as chibuke, pipes, flutes, key rings, chess boards. The objects are mainly made of maple, ash, plum and cherry wood. A very popular craft in a long time ago was the making of combs from ox horns, but this craft is on the verge of extinction due to the modernization of life. In Godusa, only one man now makes these combs and finishes the craft of combing with him. In cooperation with the Visoko Homeland Museum, an Ethno Room was opened in Godusa, which contains original old tools used for woodworking, as well as other exhibits characteristic of the area.

**Keywords**— Godusa, Visoko, water, tradition, cultural and historical heritage.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The Godusa settlement (geographical coordinates: 43°55'58.59"N, 18°09'57.67"E, altitude: 520 m) is located in the gentle valley of the Godusica river, about 6.7 km south of the town of Visoko and about 16 km northwest of Sarajevo (Figure 1). The valley is about 3 km long and about 1.10 km wide, with extensions of about 1.10 km in its southern part.

According to the 2013 census, there were 466 inhabitants in Godusa, which is more than the population (429) according to the 1991 census. The entire population is ethnic Bosniaks.

The Visoko city, as a municipal center, is directly connected to the highway by the European route E73 (highway A1) which connects it directly with Zenica and Sarajevo, and then continues on the road M17. It is connected with other places by the regional road R443 (Visoko - Kiseljak - Kresevo - Tarcin). It is located next to the Samac-Sarajevo railway.

As Godusa is located within the town of Visoko, the center of the first state of Bosnia, one of the oldest settlements in Bosnia, it is a good example of a study based on the Author's theory of Architecturally Defined Space (ADS) consisting of four basic elements: Environment, Man, Boundaries and Perspectives.



Fig. 1. Godusa settlement near Visoko. Location  
Source: Google Earth: Accessed (6.23.2022)

## 1. Environment

We consider the environment as any potential possibility in the space in which a person can realize his existence<sup>[1]</sup>.

When we speak of the environment, we do not mean only those givens „in themselves“ provided by nature; we also mean all the results of human work and presence in a certain place: built settlements, cultivated terrains, infrastructure, and cultural tradition, socio-economic relations, forms of consciousness (philosophy, science, religion, morality ).

Different environments place different demands on the architecturally defined space, which results in a practically unlimited number of aspects in which it can occur. The environment is a fundamental feature of Architecturally Defined Space (ADS). As a complex expression of human battle, architecture is at the same time a strictly defined empirical phenomenon that is always realized in a concrete natural environment in which it should survive as a physical structure, resistant to more or less aggressive natural influences. In doing so, many inputs of the social environment to architecture give the characteristics of a particular society in the historical-temporal context.

### 1.1. Natural environment

When we talk about the natural environment, we mean "not artificial, but the visible part of the world that we can perceive with our senses" [2]. The term "nature" refers to all physical phenomena, from the microscopic to the macroscopic, from matter and energy to the universe. Architecturally defined spaces (architectures) are always realized in a particular natural environment, implying the interdependence between nature and architecture, and between architecture and nature. This interdependence can be so obvious that architecture (constructed objects) is reminiscent of living natural organisms that are symbiotic with their natural environment. The constructed environment (building) can be imposed on the natural environment by its artificiality and is clearly a "foreign body" in a particular natural environment. From the very beginning of his existence on

Earth, humans, like other creatures in nature, have built shelters using only materials found in the field to best understand the natural environment in question. I did.

Figures 2-7 present the key climatic parameters in Visoko (ie in the Godusa settlement).

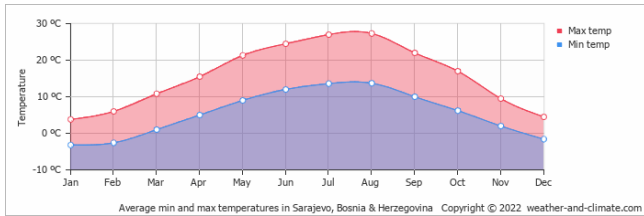


Fig. 2. The mean minimum and maximum temperatures over the year in Visoko

Source: Climate in Visoko, Bosnia & Herzegovina, <https://weather-and-climate.com/average-monthly-Rainfall-Temperature-Sunshine,visoko-ba,Bosnia-Herzegovina>. Accessed (June 24, 2022)

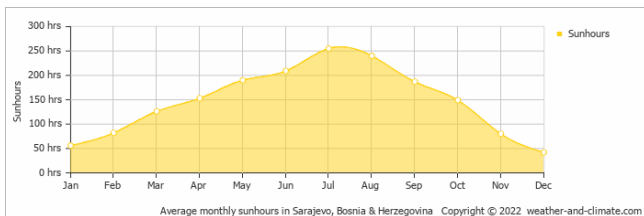


Fig. 3. The average monthly total hours of sunshine over the year

Source: Climate in Visoko, Bosnia & Herzegovina, <https://weather-and-climate.com/average-monthly-Rainfall-Temperature-Sunshine,visoko-ba,Bosnia-Herzegovina>. Accessed (June 24, 2022)

The main natural resources of Godusa are water (numerous springs, the Godusica river and several smaller streams), arable land (fields and meadows), pastures, forests and changing quarries where stone is used as a building material (Figures 8-15). There are also clay deposits from which pottery is made and bricks and baked bricks are made, as a building material.

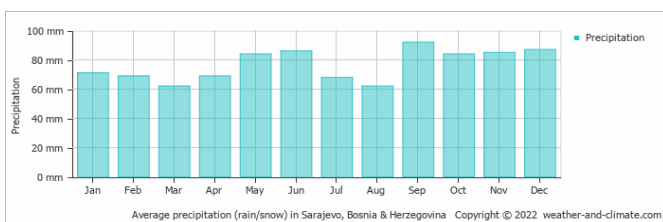


Fig. 4. The mean monthly precipitation over the year, including rain, snow, hail etc.

Source: Climate in Visoko, Bosnia & Herzegovina, <https://weather-and-climate.com/average-monthly-Rainfall-Temperature-Sunshine,visoko-ba,Bosnia-Herzegovina>. Accessed (June 24, 2022)

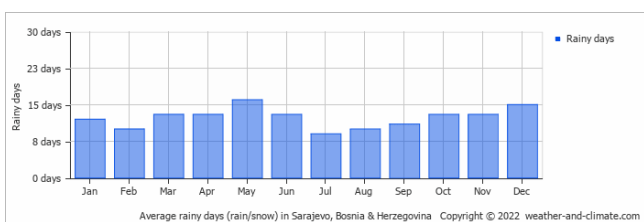


Fig. 5. The average number of days each month with rain, snow, hail etc.

Source: Climate in Visoko, Bosnia & Herzegovina, <https://weather-and-climate.com/average-monthly-Rainfall-Temperature-Sunshine,visoko-ba,Bosnia-Herzegovina>. Accessed (June 24, 2022)

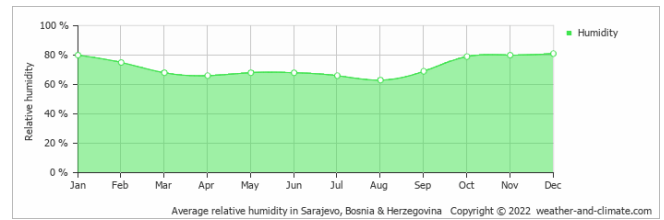


Fig. 6. The mean monthly relative humidity over the year

Source: Climate in Visoko, Bosnia & Herzegovina, <https://weather-and-climate.com/average-monthly-Rainfall-Temperature-Sunshine,visoko-ba,Bosnia-Herzegovina>. Accessed (June 24, 2022)

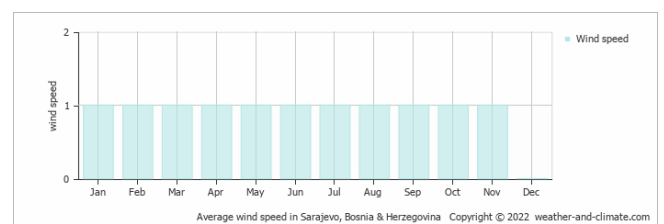


Fig. 7. The mean monthly wind speed over the year (in meters per second)

Source: Climate in Visoko, Bosnia & Herzegovina, <https://weather-and-climate.com/average-monthly-Rainfall-Temperature-Sunshine,visoko-ba,Bosnia-Herzegovina>. Accessed (June 24, 2022)

Orchards are man-made natural resources (Figure 14). A variety of fruits, processed into various types of marmalades, dried and canned in the form of “pickles”, is an important part of the diet of the inhabitants of Godusa.



Fig. 8. View of Godusa from the Rajcici hamlet  
Source: Author (4.15.2017)



Fig. 9. View of Godusa from the direction of the Vela village (Municipality of Ilidza, Sarajevo)  
Source: Author (4.15.2017)





Left: A stream, a right tributary of the river Godusica, flows through the settlement  
Right: The river Godusica flows through the settlement of the same name  
Fig. 10. Watercourses in the Godusa settlement

Source: Author (4.15.2017)



Fig. 11. The confluence of the Gorusica river and the Fojnica river  
Source: Author (4.15.2017)



Fig. 12. Fertile fields along the Godusica river  
Source: Author (4.15.2017)





Fig. 13. Meadows, fields and orchards in Godusa

Source: Author (4.15.2017)



Fig. 14. Orchards in bloom in Godusa

Source: Author (4.15.2017)



Fig. 15. View from the Old Mosque in Godusa to the Rajcici hamlet

Source: Author (4.15.2017)

## 1.2. Social environment

The social environment (society) shares a group of individuals engaged in more or less lasting social interactions, or the same geographical or social territory, and is usually the subject of the same political authority and general cultural expectations. It is a large social group. Society is characterized by a pattern of relationships (social relationships) between individuals who share a unique culture or institution. A particular society can be described as the sum of such relationships between its members. In the social sciences, larger societies often exhibit a pattern of stratification [3] or subgroup domination. Society builds patterns of behavior by considering certain behaviors and speech as acceptable or unacceptable. These patterns of behavior in a particular society are called social norms. Society and its norms can change slowly and constantly. At the same time as co-operatives, society can enable its members to benefit in ways that are not possible on an individual basis. In this way,

individual and social (community) services can be distinguished and often duplicated. Societies can also consist of like-minded individuals who are dominated by their own norms and values within a dominant and broader society. This is sometimes referred to as subculture, a term widely used in criminology. In a broader sense, especially within structuralist ideas, society can be represented by an economic, social, industrial, or cultural infrastructure composed of diverse aggregates of individuals. In this respect, society can mean an objective relationship with the physical world or other people, not an individual or "other people" outside the known social environment. Society generally deals with the fact that an individual as an autonomous entity has fairly limited resources.

There are no direct historical sources about the Godusa settlement (except for the Old Mosque in Godusa). However, as this settlement is located near the town of Visoko, we will use data on Visoko and its surroundings to present the history of the settlement of Godusa. Due to the fertile valley through which two rivers flow, Bosna and Fojnička rivers, the area around the town of Visoko was inhabited in prehistory [4]. Neolithic settlements were found on the banks of rivers in places such as Arnautovići, Donje Mostre, Okoliste, Zbilje, Ginje, Dvor. In the time around 4800 B.C. in the entire area of the Visoko basin there could have been about 3500 inhabitants, which makes an average population density of 31 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>. The area is one of the largest settlements found in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as shown by the materials found, the production of movable archaeological material and the number of houses discovered by the survey. The settlement was closed and protected by five trenches. The sequence of living continued well into the metal age. Significant Iron Age sites are Hadzici - Gradina hill, Kopaci, Malo Cajno, Zbilje, Mokronoge, Vratnica and Porječani. Most of Bosnia was inhabited by Desitiati, who belonged to the Central Bosnian Bronze and Iron Age cultural group. With the Metal Age, when the population was increasingly retreating to the slope areas, there was a Gradac hillfort in Gunjace (Mokronog area) in the Mostran area. Mokronoska gradina had a diameter of 300x100 meters.

In Mostri, there is an important ancient site for the Visoko area, which is located along the Zimašnica stream, the Svibe site [5]. The found finds, such as the foundations of buildings, stone, plaster, tiles and bricks, as well as fragments of frescoes and paintings of provincial workmanship, indicate ancient settlement activity and agglomeration. With the strengthening of the centers in the area of Ilidža, Visnjica near Kiseljak and Breza, the area of Visoko, and especially the area of Mostar, became the crossroads of the main Roman roads. Ancient settlement activity was also recorded in the somewhat northern locality of Crkvina, which is located in the wider area of Mokronog.

Traces of Roman buildings were found in Arnautovići on the site of the medieval Mila as well as in the retaining walls of the medieval ban and royal Bosnian church, and they consist of parts of the wall and parts of the roof tiles. The same is the case with the medieval fortress on Visocica, where older Roman and Illyrian traces were found. Northeast of

Mokronog Gradac is the locality Gradina in Seoca, whose higher and southern elevation is called Veliki grad. Vaclav Radimsky (1890) and later Ivo Bojanovski (1978) determined that it was the ruins of a smaller Roman fortress with a watchtower [6]. Today's area of Visočko polje is assumed to have been the nucleus in the development of the medieval state in Bosnia mentioned by Emperor Constantine Porphyrogenitus [7] in the 10th century, while it was still under Croatian or Serbian rule. The surroundings of Visoko, the medieval parish of Bosna, are among the most important for the creation of the country of Bosnia, which included several surrounding parishes. The settlement located in Visoko field and its surroundings has long been called Bosnia, which represented the oldest and narrowest content of the term Bosnia as a territorial-political community [8].

The town of Visoki on the hill Grad is first mentioned on September 1, 1355, when Ban Tvrtko I Kotromanic (1338-1391) issued a charter to the people of Dubrovnik confirming their rights and privileges [9]. Visoko was under the direct feudal rule of Kotromanic. The towns of Visoki, Podvisoki, Mile, Biskupici and Mostre were one of the centers of former medieval Bosnia. The first king in Bosnia, Tvrtko I Kotromanic, was crowned, and he was buried in the church in Mila, where the Franciscan monastery was located, and they were also the place where the break of the state parliament was held. Visoki Fortress protected the suburbs of Podvisoki, which was one of the earliest examples of a medieval urban environment in Bosnia. In Moštri, there was a house of Christians, where the Bosnian Church [10] performed its public affairs and had a university of the Bosnian religious organization. In Biskupici there was a church built by the first local ban, Kulin (ruled 1180-1204). Remains of plaques from the Church of the Bosnian Kulina Ban have been preserved (Figure 16).



Fig. 16. A plaque from the Bosnian Church of Kulin Ban found in Biskupici (today Muhašinovici) near Visoko. The tablet is dated to 1195  
Source: Kulin. Croatian encyclopedia, online edition. Lexicographic Institute Miroslav Krleža, 2021.  
<http://www.enciklopedija.hr/Natuknica.aspx?ID=34526>. Accessed: 24. 6. 2022.

With the arrival of the Ottomans, Visoko began to take on an urban form. Very little is known about the first decades of Visoko's development after the Ottoman occupation. The oldest known source in which Visoko is mentioned as part of

the Ottoman territory is the vakufnama of Isa-beg Hranusic (ruled 1454-1463) from 1462 [11]. Visočka nahija included today's municipalities and towns: Visoko, Breza, Busovaca, Fojnica, Ilijas, Kiseljak, Kresevo and Vares. From a medieval town, Visoko will grow into an Ottoman-type settlement. In 1477, Ajas-pasha built a hamam, a mekteb, a waterworks, a bridge on the river Bosna and Madrasa, and founded a waqf and tekke of the Naqshbandi order, which still exists today. The mosque is not mentioned in the waqf, but we know from a source from 1704 that there was an Ajas-pasha mosque that was demolished by Eugene of Savoy. The new buildings formed the initial urban core, the economic center of the new settlement that is being created in the area of the medieval square. In the middle of the bazaar, which is still located in the same place, there was a sebilj. In terms of urban planning, Ottoman Visoko was divided into a craft and trade part - the bazaar and the mahala, and the residential part of the city. The residential part of the city provided a pleasant image with lush, green gardens. As the seat of the nahija, it was first part of the kadiluk Bobovac (1463 - before 1470), and then part of the kadiluk Sarajevo until 1851, when it became an independent kadiluk [12]. In Visoko, 14% of the Muslim population was recorded in 1485, 5% in 1489, 38% in 1516, and 1528/1530. 60% in 1540, 78% in 1540, and 93% in 1570. By the end of the 16th century, it made up the absolute majority, which would not change significantly until the collapse of the Ottoman Empire.

*Architectural cultural and historical heritage:* The old town of Visoki was a medieval royal castle built during the 14th century on top of the hill Visočica (213 meters high) overlooking the town of Visoko (Geographic coordinates: 43°58'35.98"N, 18°10'34.85"E, elevation: 767 m), (Figure 17). The town was first mentioned on September 1, 1355 in the charter „in castro nostro Visoka vocatum“ written by the King of Bosnia Tvrtko I Kotromanic (1338-1391) while he was a young ban. The city was abandoned before 1503 because it is not mentioned in the Turkish-Hungarian treaty of that year. The primary function of the old town of Visoko was defensive, but also a place where many medieval Bosnian rulers wrote various documents and charters. The entrance to the castle is on the southwest side, with two lookouts. The Old Town of Visoki was declared a National Monument of Bosnia and Herzegovina (March 2, 2004).



Fig. 17. Old town Visoki  
Source: Author (10.11.2014)



The Old mosque in Godusa is located on a hill (Figure 18), above the settlement of Godusa, on the watershed towards the settlement of Kralupi (Geographical coordinates: 43°55'50.40"N, 18°10'37.14"E, elevation: 661 m). Together with the harem, it was declared a national monument of Bosnia and Herzegovina (April 17, 2019). The mosque in Godusa was built in 1565/1566. year, at a time when Bosnia and Herzegovina was part of the Ottoman Empire. The walls of the mosque are made of stone. The roof is four-pitched (now) covered with tiles. Above the entrance of the mosque was an inscription that does not exist today. The minaret of the mosque is low, circular in base. The windows are rectangular

in size, with railings. Around the mosque is a harem with specifically small nišan tombstones that are still active. There used to be an hourglass in the harem that showed the exact time. According to certain legends, it is believed that the Sarajevo road, through which goods were transported, passed through this area during the Ottoman era. A Turkish inn was located nearby, and the mosque served for a long time as a place of prayer for travelers and the surrounding population. During the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina (1992-1995), although it was on the front lines, it suffered minor damage.



Fig. 18. Old mosque in Godusa

Source: Author (4.15.2017)

## 2. Man

Space gains meaning only if it stands in some relation to man. This relationship ranges from the relations of already known dimensions of space, through those that are perceived, to those that are currently beyond the reach of the human imagination. In other words, man is a being on the road, a being who constantly learns, a being of open possibilities<sup>[1]</sup>.

Many sites in Visoko and its surroundings testify to the presence of man in this area since prehistory (around 4800 BC). From then until today, the man of this area has survived a turbulent history and was on the path of powerful conquerors<sup>[15, 16]</sup><sup>1</sup>. In ancient times, most of Bosnia (where Visoko and its

surroundings formed its core) was inhabited by the Illyrian tribe Desitijati who belonged to the Central Bosnian cultural group of the Bronze and Iron Ages.

Throughout its long and turbulent history, the population of this area has genetically mixed with people from other parts of the world, received and given various cultural values, and profiled itself as „multicultural“ and „multiconfessional“ and „open to all sides“. Over time, the people of this area have honed the skill of „living from what is available“, turning natural resources into products needed by „all people“. Today, the saying „like Visocak“ has become established in Bosnia, referring to a man (such as Visocak) who is able to „break steam out of everything“ (Figure 19).

<sup>1</sup> The history of Bosnia and Herzegovina can be traced through the following periods: Prehistoric period (Paleolithic 12000-7500, Neolithic 7500-4000 BC, Bronze Age 3300-700 BC, Iron Age 700-400 BC), Ancient period, Illyrian Hellenism (300-27 BC), Celts (4th century BC), Romans (3rd century BC-3rd century), Western Roman Empire (395-475), Goths (493-535), The Origin of the Bosnian State (7th-10th Centuries), Eastern Roman Empire (476-), Foreign Conquerors, Serbs (931-960), Croats (968), Byzantium (1019),

Hungarians (1102-1135), Bosnia as banovina (1154-1163), Bosnia as a kingdom (1353-1463), Ottoman period (1463-1878), Period of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy (1878-1918), Kingdom of SCS (1918-1929), Kingdom of Yugoslavia (1929-1941), Age NDH (1941-1945), FNRJ, SFRJ („Tito's Yugoslavia“, 1943-1991), Bosnia and Herzegovina (1992-1995-).





Fig. 19. Traditional crafts in the settlement of Godusa, carpentry and pottery  
Source:

Author (4.8.2017)

<https://www.klix.ba/vijesti/bih/cibucari-uvijek-imaju-posla-najbolji-majstor-za-frule-bio-gluhonijem/131126054>, Accessed (June 25, 2017)

### 3. Boundaries

Boundaries are places in an environment where the found states are controlled in compliance with all man's concrete needs. States are all those discovered and undiscovered phenomena in space affecting man in a stimulating or degrading way. Boundaries, therefore, have a task to enable the selection of impacts. In architectural sense, they enclose, but they also integrate man in the states of an environment. Speaking about architecture, experiences always refer to the wall, roof and foundations, i.e. physical barriers set up suitable for the influencing conditions in the experience of life on Earth [1].

The Boundaries of the Godusa settlement can be threatened from the level of settlements, through the levels of neighborhoods (smaller residential areas), the level of households (individual house complexes) to the level of physical structure of individual architectural objects. Each of these boundary levels reflects complex relationships: man-natural environment, man-social environment, man-individual-man-individual (Figures 20-24). Thus, all the above levels of boundaries can be understood as a solution of a

mathematical problem whose premises are set in the Environment and Man.



Fig. 20. Typical agglomeration of physical structures („rural households“) in Godusa (Rajcici hamlet, 43°55'53.61"N, 18°09'25.72"E)

Source:

Google Earth: Accessed (6.24.2017), above

Source: Author (4.8.2017), below



Fig. 21. Traditional households in Godusa

Source: Author (4.15.2017)





boundaries) which will guarantti the affirmation and enrichment of man <sup>[1]</sup>.



Fig. 22 Typical houses in the vicinity of Visoko (19th century)  
Source: Author (6.18.2017)



Fig. 25. Public fountains in Godusa  
Source: Author (4.15.2017)

Even today, most households in the settlement of Godusa live in a way of combining old patterns of life (engaging in agriculture, fruit growing and livestock) and working in various companies in the town of Visoko (Figure 26).



Left: The new mosque in Godusa  
Right: business premises, public fountain, bus stop  
Fig. 23. Center of Godusa settlement

Source: Author (4.15.2017)



Fig. 26. One typical household in Godusa (hamlet Racici)  
Source: Author (4.15.2017)



Left: Four-grade elementary school in Godusa  
Right: Grocery store in Godusa

Fig. 24. Objects of the social standard in Godusa  
Source: Author (4.15.2017)

One of the most successful examples of sustainable human life is the construction and operation of a well-maintained mill for grinding grain on the Godusica river (geographical coordinates: 43°56'26.99"N, 18°10'13.85"E, altitude: 486 m), which is part of a wider estate households - growing cereals (Figure 27).

Some people, in accordance with the patterns of modern life, have started various types of wider business, and a good example is a coca-laying farm (geographical coordinates: 43°56'16.48"N, 18°10'21.57"E, altitude: 533 m), (Figure 28).



As it has already been said, the settlement of Godusa abounds in sources of drinking water. The inhabitants of this settlement, in accordance with their religion and general view of the world, built a large number of public fountains and thus water widely available to themselves and casual passers-by <sup>[17, 18, 19]</sup> (Figure 25).

#### 4. Perspectives

In the architecturally defining space (ADS) we established its components; to be able to judge past architecture and predict (advocate) its future, we have to bear in mind a certain concept which would win recognition for those dimensions of all the tree components (environment, man,





Fig. 28: Modern coca-laying farm in Godusa

Source:  
 Google Earth  
<https://visoko.ba/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/godusa-put-4.jpg>. Accessed 6.25.2022.



A special form of connecting tradition and modern life in the settlement of Goduša are mass events, ie gathering of people, where the bullfight – “Bosnian bullfight” is a good example (geographical coordinates: 43°56'07.84"N, 18°09'44.82"E, altitude: 573 m). These are, in their content, complex social manifestations where bullfighting is just a good occasion, and socializing people, trade and general entertainment are their main essence (Figure 29).



Fig. 29. Bullfight (“Bosnian bullfight“) in Godusa and the monument to „Jelenko“ - the bull bull

Source: <https://visoko.co.ba/mjestani-goduse-podigli-spomenik-biku-koji-je-proslavio-godusu-jelenkov-pocasni-krug/> Accessed 6.27.2022.



Staying in nature, seeing the wide panorama of the Godusa settlement and socializing were the reasons for arranging the lookout above the Rajcici hamlet (geographical coordinates: 43°56'00.83"N, 18°09'23.59"E, altitude: 698 m), (Figure 30).



Fig. 30. Lookout tower in Godusa (above the hamlet of Rajcici)  
 Source: Author (4.8.2017)



Fig. 27. The owner of the mill on the river Godusica is Sead Rizvo  
 Source: Author (4.8.2017)

## II. CONCLUSION

The existence of abundant natural resources, as is the case with the Godusa settlement near Visoko, has generated the life of people in the past, it maintains it today with promising prospects in the future. The social environment can be either stimulating or depressing in relation to the natural environment. In the case of the Godusa settlement, the social environment has changed throughout history, with individual localities of the settlement and already built architectural structures changing their significance. Thus, for example, the Old Mosque in Godusa has lost its “use value” in relation to the time of its construction (1565/1566), but in recent times (since 2019) it has become a national monument of Bosnia and Herzegovina and thus its “embodied energy”. generates the life of present and future generations of the inhabitants of the Godusa settlement. Once widely stagnant extensive livestock farming has been replaced by intensive animal husbandry (such as the modern coca-laying farm with a capacity of 300,000 pieces). Renovation of mills (which used to be a large number on the Godusica river), such as the modern mill “Kod Vuka” (“At Wolf”), has not only a “mental” dimension, but is a relatively lucrative business, as people, regardless of how “modern times” lived, eager for the origins of clean and healthy food produced in the traditional way.

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