

# “Aquareumal Apartment Complex” in Fojnica by Architect Ahmet Hadrovic

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**Abstract**— “Aquareumal Apartment Complex” in Fojnica was built (2007) based on the business idea of the then management of “Hotel Reumal” in Fojnica with the aim of building an apartment complex in the private ownership of its future users. The idea is based on the existing large resource, “Hotel Reumal”, which is a famous spa and health center in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the wider region. “Aquareumal Apartment Complex” is, in fact, a functional ‘extension’ of “Hotel Reumal” and, considering the popularity of the hotel, it was expected that there would be great interest from potential buyers of the apartments, and thus the success of this project. The author of this work (and designer of the “Aquareumal Apartment Complex”) was invited to do the project, and the project task was done by the management of the “Hotel Reumal”. It was necessary to design 70-80 apartments of different sizes and, necessarily, with the possibility of their ‘merging’ into larger apartments, or their ‘division’ into smaller apartments. Each apartment should have at least one parking space, and an additional parking lot is planned (for the needs of apartment owners and their guests). Considering the available location (slope of southern exposure with a relatively large slope), the settlement was conceived as a ‘street’ that follows the isohypse of the terrain, i.e. a traditional ‘mahala’ in Bosnian-Herzegovinian cities. “Aquareumal Apartment Complex” is about 45 km from Sarajevo, and about 48 km from the winter sports and recreation center “Vlašić”.

**Keywords**— “Aquareumal Apartment Complex”, Fojnica, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Designing the “Aquareumal Apartment Complex” in Fojnica for the Author was, apart from a professional challenge, based on a strong ‘psychological charge’. Namely, in Fojnica stands one of the oldest architectural-cultural-historical monuments, the Hadrovića mosque, which was built by an autochthonous resident, Mustafa Hadr, in 958 A.H., or 1551 A.D. The name of the Hadrovici street, preserved from the beginning until today, reminds us of the founder and his descendants.

“Aquareumal Apartment Complex” is located in Fojnica (geographical coordinates: 43°57’51.19”N, 17°54’09.64”E, altitude: 601 m). Fojnica is located about 45 km west of Sarajevo, in the Dragača and Fojnica rivers, tributaries of the Bosna River, the most important river in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Fojnica is a town in central Bosnia and is also a balneological spa. The water is rich in hydrocarbonate-sulfate-calcium-sodium, and rich in rare microelements such as lithium, strontium, rubidium... From the ancient Romans to the present, this health resort improves health and well-being. “Aquareumal Apartment Complex” in Fojnica is the result of the synergy of Environment, People and Perspectives, the

fundamental elements of Architecturally Defined Space (ADS) <sup>[1]</sup>.

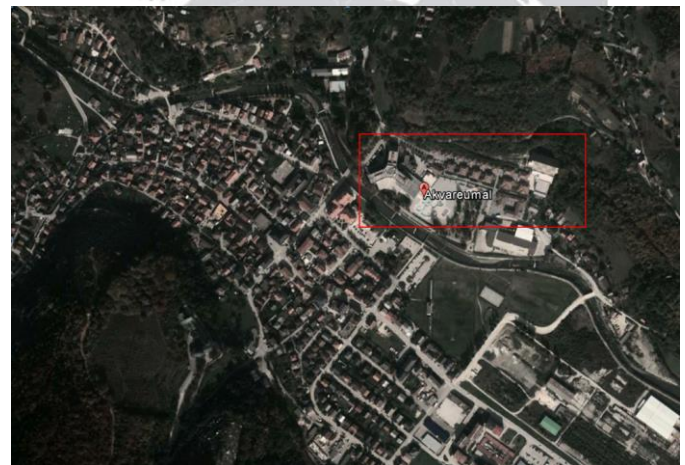


Figure 1. Aquareumal Apartment Complex, Fojnica (2007). Location

Source:

Left: [https://visitmycountry.net/bosnia\\_herzegovina/bh/index.php/turizam/27-vmc/geografija](https://visitmycountry.net/bosnia_herzegovina/bh/index.php/turizam/27-vmc/geografija), Accessed: 7.16.2022.

Right: Google Earth, Accessed 7/21/2022

## II. ENVIRONMENT

By ‘environment’ we mean any possibility in space in which man can realize his existence. The environment, along with Man, Boundaries and Perspectives, is a fundamental component of Architecturally Defined Space (ADS) <sup>[1,2]</sup>. In the case of the “Aquareumal Apartment Complex” in Fojnica, the Environment is not only an input for defining the Borders (architecture), but an integral part of it to such an extent that

its architecture cannot even be experienced without 'experiencing the Environment', directly - on the spot.

*Natural environment*

The natural environment is more or less a given reality that man can preserve, change or destroy (change) to the extent that it becomes a 'new natural reality'. These changes, as a rule, on the other side of long-term human needs, are rarely beneficial, both in the short and long term [1].

The most important natural resources (elements of the natural environment) of the municipality of Fojnica are: mountains (pastures and fields, 46% of the total area of the municipality, of which 10% are fields, 20% are plateaus and 16% are pastures), forests, many water sources and watercourses where the Prokosko Lake and Kozica River Waterfalls are the most significant.

Prokosko Lake is of glacial origin and is located on the Vranica mountain (at 1636 meters above sea level). That is why it belongs to a group of lakes that are popularly called - 'Gorske oci' ('Mountain eyes'). It is 22 km from Fojnica. There is still an endemic amphibian in the lake - Raizer's newt (*Triturus alpestris reiseri*), which lives in a large number of localities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In addition to newts, numerous other plant and animal species can be found in and around the lake. Around the lake are numerous shepherd's huts, made of wood, grouped into katuns (shepherd settlements). Many residents of the huts surrounding the lake come here in the spring and summer months to herd cattle, pick fruits such as blueberries or raspberries and make cheese. Some even rent out their huts to tourists [3,4] (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Prokosko Lake

Source: Author (11.7.2015.)



Figure 3. Monument commemorating the martyrdom (September 17, 1997) of 12 people from the OHR and the United Nations at Prokosko Lake  
Source: Author (11.7.2015.)

The Kozica river is the central watercourse, the 'backbone' of the valley, in the shaping of which it itself participated. The general geographical position of the area, the relief and geology, the climate (abundant precipitation during the year, especially abundant snowfall) enable the creation of a large number of permanent springs that end up in the Kozica river in the form of more or less abundant streams. From its source (about 1400 m above sea level) to the mouth of the Lasva river (about 380 m above sea level), over a length of about 25 km, it overcomes a height difference of about 1020 m. Given this fact, and the fact that its bed partly made up of relatively stable dolomite and schist rocks, the Kozica river has enormous energy potential (Figures 4, 5) [5]. The Kozica River, with its energy potential, was one of the most important inputs for the formation of settlements and the life of people in its valley [5].



Figure 4. Waterfalls of the Kozica river near Fojnica

Source: Author (4.10.2011)



Figure 5. Remains of slag from iron ore smelting by the waterfalls of the Kozica river near the Dragacici village, near Fojnica

Source: Author (4.10.2011)

*Social environment*

The social environment represents everything that man has created and what sets him apart from the world of other living beings. It includes both physical structures (various material, more or less ordered products of one's activity), as well as the immaterial world that we know through the intellect (science, philosophy, religion, law, morality) through an ordered system of abstract symbols (letters, signs) [1]. Society is the most general term that binds all products of human activity,

<sup>1</sup> Arif (Bajro) Vukovic provides the following data on the number of mills in the Kozica river valley:

- Kozica village: 6 water mills on the Kozica river,
- Vukeljici village: 3 mills on the Kozica river,
- The Zivcici village: 7 mills on the Trisnica stream,
- The Dragacici village: two mills and two stupas on the Kozica river,
- Botun village: 3 mills,
- The Rizvici village: several mills.

whereby we call its material part the social base, and the immaterial part the social superstructure.

The toponym 'Fojnica' is reminiscent of a multitude of similar toponyms in the wider Mediterranean region<sup>2</sup>, which points to the conclusion that Fojnica in Bosnia and Herzegovina belonged to the same cultural-civilization circle, that is, that its foundation dates back to the ancient period. Fojnica became a part of the Roman Empire at the end of the 1st century AD, when Bosnia and Herzegovina as a whole<sup>3</sup>.

Fojnica attracted the ancient Romans with its mineral wealth and abundant deposits of thermal and mineral water. The development of mining<sup>4</sup> in the Fojnica region (especially the production of gold and silver) initiated the creation and development of cities. Fojnica, as an urban settlement, developed intensively in the thirties of the 15th century, when a 'colony'-settlement of Dubrovnik people, the most developed in all of Bosnia<sup>5</sup>, was established in it. At the same time, Fojnica became the place where Bosnian rulers minted coins, and until the arrival of the Ottomans, it was considered the most developed settlement in Bosnia<sup>6</sup>.

From later Ottoman sources<sup>7</sup> we learn that other trades were developed in Fojnica (in addition to silver and gold processing trades)<sup>8</sup>: tailoring, baking, shoemaking, butchery, leather tanning, furrier... Fojnica was an open-type settlement with a square as its nucleus<sup>9</sup> [6].

<sup>2</sup> Phoenice, Phoinike, Phoinikus, Phoenikon, Phoiniks, Phoenicus... (all according to: Phoenicians, Greek: Phoiniki - Φοινίκη).

<sup>3</sup> Coins of the Greek colonies of Apollonius and Dyrachius, coins of Philip and Alexander of Macedonia (4th century BC), coins of Roman emperors dating from the 1st century AD were found in Fojnica. until the 4th century (Augustus, Tiberius, Claudius, Nero, Vespasian, Trajan, Hadrian, Constantine the Great, Valentinian, Gratian...); numerous copies of this coin are still kept in the Franciscan monastery in Fojnica.

In addition, famous monuments of the culture of ancient Rome found in the Fojnica region are: a statue of the Egyptian goddess Isis, a statue of the god Atos, a statue of the god Liber, jewelry in the form of a medallion (on which the goddess of hunting Diana or the god Hermes - patron of commerce are depicted).

<sup>4</sup> The beginning of mining in the Fojnica region is linked to the arrival of the German Saxon miners (who are the oldest ethnic group in Fojnica), to Ban Stjepan II Kotromanjic (ruled from 1320 to 1353). The oldest known silver mine in central Bosnia is Ostruznica near Fojnica. At the same time (1349), silver merchants from Dubrovnik are also mentioned in Ostruznica. In the 14th century, the Franciscans came to Bosnia; the construction of the church and the Franciscan monastery in Fojnica also took place at this time. This monastery, until today, will have a huge significance for the culture in Bosnia and Herzegovina as a whole.

<sup>5</sup> „And the fact that in some parts of central Bosnia - around Fojnica, Kreševo, Visoko, Kakanj and Zenica - we found a relatively lower density of stećaks has its own reason. These are mining and trade centers where there were a lot of foreign people - people from Dubrovnik, Saxons and others, where city urban environments were created, which means that the custom of carving and placing stećaks was less applied, and that there was more destruction than in other regions“. Beslagić, S., Stećci-culture and art, p. 68.

<sup>6</sup> At that time, Srebrenica was the only larger settlement in Bosnia.

<sup>7</sup> According to the defter (from 1468), Fojnica had 329 households and 20 unmarried people.

<sup>8</sup> In the Rizvici village there is a locality (a hill above the new mosque) called Zlatarnica, and the locals pass on the tradition that gold was minted there. (This information was given to the author by the current resident of Rizvici, Omer Huskic (1957)).

<sup>9</sup> „The oldest preserved object of public importance is certainly the Musafirhana. Due to the fact that it was built in the first urban nucleus, in the Atik Mahal (30-40 m northwest of the mosque), and due to its purpose, as

Bosnian Queen Katarina sought refuge from the Ottomans in Kozograd, the royal summer residence in the mountains near Fojnica at the time, before heading to Rome.

With the arrival of the Ottomans (due to the new geopolitical situation and the nature of the Ottoman Empire), Fojnica loses its importance that it had in the 15th century<sup>10</sup>.

During the 19th century, educational institutions were opened in Fojnica (schools for the Muslim population and public schools for the Catholic population) [6]. Since August 17, 1878, Fojnica has been under Austro-Hungarian administration; although a new government was established, the existing administrative-territorial division was maintained [6].

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well as its architecture, it was probably built when the mosque was, certainly in the second half of the 16th century. It is not known who raised it. It is known that musafirhanas, dervish coves and lodgings, as gathering points for residents, often represented the earliest buildings erected in the formation of urban settlements in the Ottoman period. It served a social, communal and cultural purpose: as an inn and accommodation for travelers and pilgrims, but also as a shelter and residence for dervishes before the construction of the tekke near the Čaršija Mosque. At the end of the 19th century, the Salihagić family settled in it, so it was called Salihagića musafirhana“ (Handžić, A. in the monograph: A group of authors (1987), Fojnica through the ages (monograph), Assembly of the Municipality of Fojnica, V. Maslesa, Sarajevo, p. 80.

By the way, the first modest place of worship (masjid) was built by a local man, an autochthonous resident of the town, Mustafa Hadr, in 958 A.H., or 1551 AD. The name of the street Hadrovici, preserved from the beginning until today, reminds us of the founder and his descendants. The census from 1604 records the mentioned place of worship as a mosque, under the name Atik (old) mosque. Today's inscription above the entrance to the mosque shows that the building was renovated in 1820 and that the renovation was led by Sirri-baba, the sheikh of the tekke in Oglavak.

<sup>10</sup> In 1604, Fojnica had only 144 houses, including the newly formed Muslim congregation (the first Muslim households in Fojnica were recorded in 1485, only seven houses). Despite the new socio-political circumstances, Fojnica became famous for the administrations of the Ottoman Empire for the Ahdnama (Order) that Sultan Mehmed II (El Fatih) granted to the Bosnian Franciscans:

„I am Sultan Mehmed Khan, let it be known to everyone, from the common people in general as well as to the departments, this is my ruling charter, by which I pay great attention to the Bosnian priests, and I command: there must be no interference or pressure on the aforementioned and theirs, let them settle in their places of worship, and both from my exalted side, so from my viziers, nor from my subordinates (slaves), nor from my subjects - rajas nor from all the population of my entire state mentioned above, no one may interfere in their affairs or attack them, nor insult or harm them nor their lives, their possessions (property) nor their places of worship. They are also allowed to bring people from abroad, especially to my country. Therefore, I issue to the aforementioned my supreme command in which I devote my care and attention to them, and I swear by a heavy oath: Creator and lord of the earth and the heavens, with seven musafs with the great messenger of God (Muhammad) and with 124,000 prophets and with the sword that I give to this what is written, no one's face should be opposed as long as these (Franciscans) serve me and are obedient to my commandment“.

Written on May 28, 1463, on the border of Milodraž

FATIH SULTAN MEHMED

The contemporary story of Ahdnama is also interesting. During the war (1992-1995), Mr. Edhem (Ramiz) Pasic, an official in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, presented a copy of the Ahdnama to the Turkish ambassador in Bosnia and Herzegovina (in Fojnica). The Turkish ambassador presented that Agreement to the then US President Clinton, who, realizing its size and significance, ordered the bombing of Serbian combat forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which accelerated the peace negotiations (which ended with the Camp David Peace Agreement). (This information was given to the author by Omer Huskic (1957), a Rizvici resident).

For the Austro-Hungarian administrations, Fojnica and its surroundings did not experience the economic prosperity experienced by those cities that were affected by industrialization and new traffic possibilities; soon the found iron maidans and numerous smaller forges stopped working (which from the time of the Saxons in the 15th century until the arrival of the Austro-Hungarian administration ensured the existence of the numerous population of the Fojnica region) [6].

All the latent riches of the Fojnica region came to full expression in the period after the Second World War (from 1945); forest wealth begins to be intensively exploited, and modern industrial processing of wood (up to the level of final products such as furniture, for example) becomes the backbone of economic development. In addition, the textile and graphic industry and water resources (thermal and mineral water) give a strong impetus to the overall prosperity of Fojnica and it becomes a medium-developed municipality of Bosnia and Herzegovina [6].

The most important resources of the social environment in Fojnica are: Medieval towns-fortresses Kozograd and Kastela (Figure 6), Franciscan monastery (Figures 7, 8), Hadrovic mosque (Figure 9), Musafirhana (Figure 10), autochthonous-vernacular Bosnian houses (Figures 11-13) [7], Charter of Sultan Mehmed Fatih, May 28, 1463, Milodrazje, (Figure 14), Tekke in Vukeljici (Figure 15), Three turbets next to Tekke in Vukeljici (Figure 16), Tekke in Zivcici, Tekke in Oglavak, a compartment for the production of charcoal (Figure 17) [6].



Figure 8. Sculptural composition 'The Last Dinner' in front of the Franciscan monastery in Fojnica (In the background you can see the "Aquareumal Apartment Complex")

Source: Author (4.19.2014)



Figure 9. Hadrovic mosque in Fojnica (1551)

Source: Author (2.21.2016)



Figure 6. The medieval Kastela fortress

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FVSpjGJRO8U>, Accessed: 19.07.2022.



Figure 10. Musafirhana in Fojnica

Source: Author (7.29.2016)



Figure 7. Franciscan monastery in Fojnica

Source: Author (9.21.2007), Saima Hadrovic (9.21.2007)



Figure 11. An old Bosnian house in the Rizvici village near Fojnica

Source: Author (4.10.2011)



Figure 12. An old Bosnian house in the Vladici village near Fojnica  
Source: Author (4.10.2011)



Figure 13. Bosnian Chardaklia House in Majdan near Fojnica  
Source: Author (4.10.2011)



Figure 14. Sultan Mehmed El Fatih mosque in Milodrazje near Fojnica  
Source: Author (4.17.2011)



Figure 15. Tekke (Tekija) in Vukeljici near Fojnica  
Source: Author (4.10.2011)

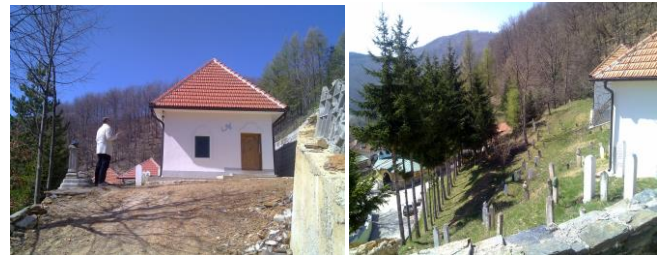


Figure 16. Three turbets with a cemetery next to the tekke in Vukeljici near Fojnica  
Source: Author (4.10.2011)



Figure 17. Charcoal production pit in the village of Zivcici near Fojnica  
Source: Author (4.11.2011)

### III. MAN

The municipality of Fojnica, from the aspect of administrative and political structure, belongs to the Central Bosnian Canton. The area of the municipality is 299.98 km<sup>2</sup>, while the total number of inhabitants (according to the 2013 census) is 12,356 inhabitants (where Bosniaks participate with 61.44 % and Croats with 29.65 %) [8,12]. According to these data, the average population density is 41.19 inhabitants / km<sup>2</sup>.

The man here has no ambition to adjust the world according to his imagined projects and needs, to create a history in which he will be celebrated and great; his primary preoccupation is life; being transitory, he tries to arrange it as fully as possible, which means: entering into unity with the richness and beauty of nature, with the richness and beauty of other people's lives, to live moderately, healthily and spiritually as richly as possible, to leave behind childbirth and some permanent work on the well-being of all people. Rarely does any area in Bosnia and Herzegovina have such a concentration of 'holy places' as Fojnica (Franciscan Monastery, Hadrovića Mosque, Sultan Mehmed II El Fatih

Mosque, two tekkes in Vukeljici, tekke in Zivcici, tekke in Oglavak). As an indicator of the 'friendly relationship between man and nature', there is a large number of public (hair) and memorial fountains in Fojnica and its surroundings (Figure 17).



Figure 18. The memorial fountain along the Vukeljici-Kozica-Majdan road (left) and the public (central village) fountain in the Majdan village (right). Source: Prof. dr Faruk Mekic (8.21.2010.)

#### IV. BOUNDARIES

“Aquareumal Apartment Complex“ in Fojnica was designed and constructed as a place of residence for guests (and permanent residents) in conditions of a very high level of housing and ambient standards. The location of the settlement (slope with southern exposure, below which is a plain with the Dragača river) is extraordinary and provides opportunities for developing both the settlement and its individual buildings according to the principles of bioclimatic architecture [9,10].

The 'backbone' of the settlement is its street, which follows the contour of the terrain. Some buildings are located on both sides of the street (Figure 18). At the same time, the buildings on the upper side of the street are partly dug into the slope, while the buildings on the lower side of the street are 'developed down the slope' with their vertical disposition. The project task required the design of 'houses' with the possibility of creating apartments (apartments) of different square footage (from the level of ordinary one-room apartments to the level of a villa) [11]. In the design itself (both of the settlement as a whole and of individual buildings), the author consciously tried to achieve the atmosphere of the mahala of Bosnian cities (and even villages), for the reason that the mahala offers the ambience of a human scale and the atmosphere of the neighborhood (neighborhood) and, to a certain extent, the equality of people (Figures 19-30). As a contribution to the intimate atmosphere of 'your own home', some houses were given their own names: 'Terra', 'Flamma', 'Aeris' and 'Aqua'. This foreshadows a complete return to nature (Figures 19-32).

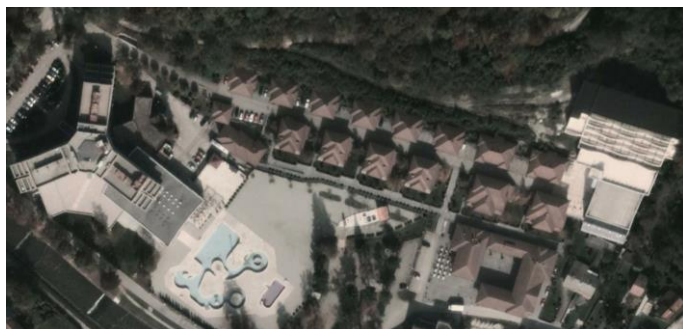


Figure 19. “Aquareumal Apartment Complex” in Fojnica. The site Source: Google Earth, Accessed 7/22/2022

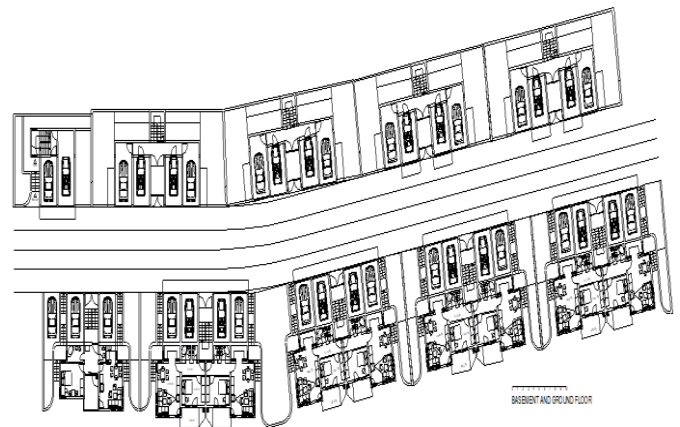


Figure 20. “Aquareumal Apartment Complex” Fojnica. The basement and ground floor of the entire settlement Source: Author (The project, 2006)

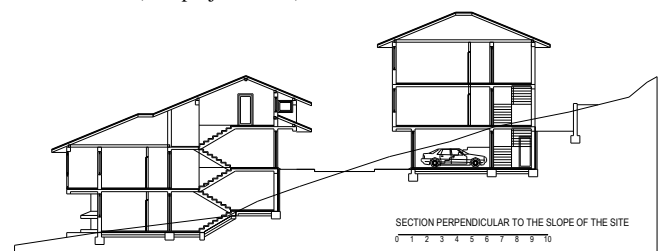


Figure 21. Section through the slope of the location Source: Author (The project, 2006)

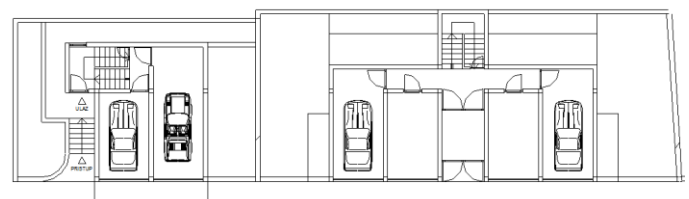


Figure 22. Basement (Houses type 1 and 2) Source: Author (The project, 2006)



Figure 23. South facade (Houses type 1 and 2) Source: Author (The project, 2006)

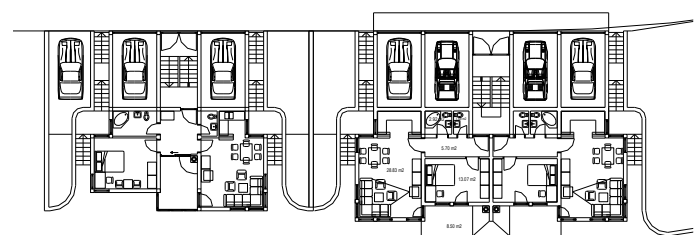


Figure 24. Ground floor (Houses type 3 and 4) Source: Author (The project, 2006)

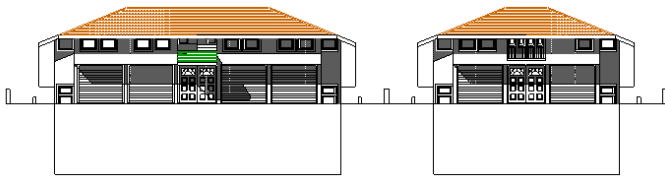


Figure 25. North (street) facade (Houses type 4 and 3)

Source: Author (The project, 2006)



Figure 26. South facade (Houses type 3 and 4)

Source: Author (The project, 2006)

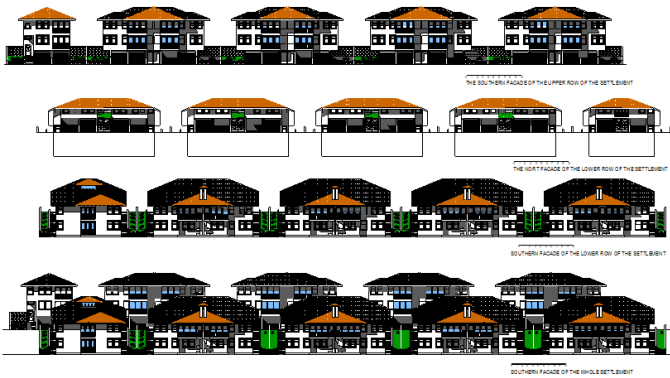


Figure 27. “Aquareumal Apartment Complex” Fojnica. Facades

Source: Author (The project, 2006)



Figure 28. View of the “Aquareumal Apartment Complex” from the Franciscan monastery

Source: Author (9.21.2007)

“Aquareumal Apartment Complex“ is an ideal place for individual and family vacation and recreation, a place for work and creativity, scientific and business communication, and also has many years of experience in organizing 'team building programs', a special type of active vacation intended for employees and business partners successful companies and organizations with the purpose of encouraging the collective spirit, and for receptions, parties and socializing, maybe for romance... Next to the settlement are swimming pools (as part of the “Reumal Hotel“) that use the far-famed Fojnica thermal

water, with a temperature of 27 degrees Celsius, which is filtered according to the DIN standard. Wellness massages under canopies, a beach volleyball court, table tennis tables, children's electric cars and buggies, playgrounds with slides, swings and see-saws, the sailboat 'Victoria', along with gastronomic specialties, pizzeria, open bars with exotic food are available to every visitor. cocktails, a weekly program of animation, sports, concerts and cultural and artistic events. The 'Wellness Center' offers a large selection of treatments, various relaxing procedures and activities.



Figure 29. “Aquareumal Apartment Complex” Fojnica. View of the internal street (East-West)

Source: Author (9.21.2007), Lejla Hadrovic (9.21.2007)



Figure 30. “Aquareumal Apartment Complex” Fojnica. View of the internal street (West-East)

Source: Author (9.21.2007)



Figure 31. “Aquareumal Apartment Complex” Fojnica. View from the right bank of the river Fojnica (at night)

Source:

<https://www.facebook.com/aquareumalfojnica/photos/a.292543477499235/620337434719836/>, Accessed 7/21/2022



Figure 32. Interior of one of the apartments

Source:

<https://www.facebook.com/aquareumalfojnica/photos/a.292543477499235/620337434719836/>, Accessed 7/21/2022

## V. CONCLUSION

“Aquareumal Apartment Complex” is the result of a rich natural and social environment and the people of the city of Fojnica and its surroundings. Along with the preservation of the natural environment, the social environment will be enriched over time, and man will generate his new values. The sustainability of one region can become an example of achieving sustainability in other areas, and all together a precious heritage of humanity as a whole <sup>[11, 12]</sup>. There is a lot of symbolism in the 'pictures' that the author observed in Fojnica and its surroundings: the inhabitants of the Kozica river valley, for example, perceive the tekija in Vukeljići (that is, the practice of tasawf and zikr - especially the expression of respect and love for Allah) as the very essence of people's lives in this valley. Geographically and physically, the tekija in Vukeljići occupies the highest point (elevation) of all buildings erected by man in the Kozica river valley.

A few years ago, Prof. dr. Cazim Hdzimejlic (descendant of Sheikh Hadza Mejli-baba), at the end of the Kozica river valley, in Kacuni, built a new tekke and a modern polyclinic.

“Aquareumal Apartment Complex”, apart from its commercial dimension, will eventually become part of the architectural cultural and historical heritage and thus enrich the social environment of Fojnica.

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