

Three Buildings in Bascarsija in Sarajevo by Architect Ahmet Hadrovic

*Ahmet Hadrovic

Faculty of Architecture, University of Sarajevo, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Email address: hadrovic.ahmet@gmail.com, ahmet.hadrovic@af.unsa.ba

Abstract— Sarajevo is the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It was founded by Isa-bey Ishakovic (1439-1470) in the middle of the 15th century, the second sandzak-bey of the Bosnian sandzak, a province that was part of the then Ottoman Empire. Isa-bey Ishakovic built several of his endowments, among which are the Emperor's Mosque (the mosque he dedicated to Sultan Mehmed Fatih, 1457) and the bridge over the Miljacka River (the Emperor's Bridge). He dedicated these endowments to Bosnia and the Bosnian people in his will (vakufnam from 1462). The city got its name from Isa-bey's palace (saray) (Saray ovasi – field below the palace). After Isa-bey Ishakovic, the new governors continued the construction of many large architectural structures: Gazi Husrev-bey (1480-1541), Muslihuddin Cekrekci-pasha, Rustem-pasha Hrvatinic (around 1500-1561), Serif Topal Osman Pasha (1804-1874) and Hafiz Ahmed Pasha (the last Ottoman governor in Bosnia, 1878-1878). During the Ottoman administration, Sarajevo was built according to the patterns of an Oriental-Ottoman city: in the plain, next to the Miljacka river, public buildings were built (mosques, madrasas, bezistans, inns and caravanserais, imaret, crafts and trade shops (ducani). Around the bazaar (in the case of Sarajevo on the slopes of the 'natural amphitheater') residential districts-mahalas were built. The aim of this work is: to acquaint the wider professional-scientific public with Bascarija, 'the pearl of the architectural and cultural heritage of Sarajevo and Bosnia and Herzegovina', and to present the contribution of the author of this work to the 'generation of life in Bascarija'.

Keywords— Sarajevo, Bascarsija, "Balić" Inn, "M" Coffee-pastry shop, "Sarajevo brewery restaurant" ("Public kitchen of the Steri Grad Sarajevo Municipality").

I. INTRODUCTION

Sarajevo is the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It was founded by Isa-bey Ishakovic (1439-1470) in the middle of the 15th century, the second sandzak-bey of the Bosnian sandzak, a province that was part of the then Ottoman Empire. Isa-bey Ishakovic built several of his endowments, among which are the Emperor's Mosque (the mosque he dedicated to Sultan Mehmed Fatih, 1457) and the bridge over the Miljacka river (the Emperor's Bridge). He dedicated these endowments to Bosnia and the Bosnian people in his will (vakufnam from 1462). The city got its name from Isa-bey's palace (saray) (Saray ovasi – field below the palace). After Isa-bey Ishakovic, the new governors continued the construction of many large architectural structures: Gazi Husrev-bey (1480-1541), Muslihuddin Cekrekci-pasha, Rustem-pasha Hrvatinic (around 1500-1561), Serif Topal Osman Pasha (1804-1874) and Hafiz Ahmed Pasha (the last Ottoman governor in Bosnia, 1878-1878). During the Ottoman administration, Sarajevo was built according to the patterns of an Oriental-Ottoman city: in

the plain, next to the Miljacka river, public buildings were built (mosques, madrasas, bezistans, inns and caravanserais, imaret, crafts and trade shops (ducani). Around the bazaar (in the case of Sarajevo on the slopes of the 'natural amphitheater') residential districts-mahalas were built (Figures 1,2,3). Bascarsija has been a symbol of the Sarajevo city since its inception and has shared a turbulent history with it. One of the most difficult historical events for Sarajevo and its Bascarsija happened on October 23, 1697, when Prince Eugene of Savoy (Prince Eugene Francis of Savoy-Carignano or Carignano, 1663-1736) led the army of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy in an attack on Sarajevo and burned it to the ground. After the Savoy attack, according to the writings of the Franciscans, about thirty thousand mostly rural and suburban population remained¹.

Bašćaršija is a 'big topic' in all spheres of life in the city of Sarajevo and Bosnia and Herzegovina as a whole, from its foundation to the present day. Many authors wrote about her [1,2,3], and she was the inspiration for the great literary works of writers from Bosnia and Herzegovina (Ivo Andrić, Mehmed-Mesa Selimović) [4,5].

A large number of documentary films were made about Bascarsija, and it was the setting of famous feature films (Walter Defends Sarajevo (1972, director Hajrudin Krvavac), Azra (1988, director Mirza Idrizovic), The Smell of Quinces (1982, director Mirza Idrizovic), Love and rage (1978, director Bakir Tanovic)).

In the tumultuous history of Bosnia and Herzegovina (which Bascarsija also experienced), there was a period when the complete demolition of Bascarsija was considered (1942, the time of the Independent State of Croatia), advocated by well-known architects (Dusan Grabrijan and Juraj Neidhardt). At the same time, Dusan Grabrijan (1899-1952), architect and professor at the High School of Construction in Sarajevo, studies and writes many articles and books about Sarajevo, its urbanism, neighborhoods and individual buildings. At the same time, he highlights their timeless values² [6,7].

¹ „That was the end of his penetration into the Turkish empire, but also the end of the development of the flourishing city of Sarajevo. Sarajevo was burned, the population of all faiths fled or was killed or taken into slavery. The city never fully recovered from that blow nor did it reach its old level of wealth and beauty. Together with the Empress who founded it, Sarajevo fell into a lethargy of slow decay at the beginning of the 17th century“.

Ivo Andrić, March 15, 1975

² Passing through the bazaar, we have to come to know that it is a small, low, tame bazaar - a bazaar within human reach with low and small shops, which flickers with its roof tiles towards the sky, with one-story inns above these low shops and with numerous domes and cupolas, minarets and apple trees and those pear-shaped endings on top of the minaret - it changes its

After the Second World War, there was no strong feeling in architecture for the preservation of architectural cultural and historical heritage. “In our country, after the end of the (Second World) War, there was a rather pronounced tendency to consider that which was splendid, monumental and solid in terms of material and construction, chiseled and decorated, as the only thing of value, and that everything else was not even left to the ravages of time, but, on the contrary, to remove it as soon as possible. That this attitude was wrong, I think it is quite clear today. For us and future generations, because we want witnesses to the truth, monuments of splendor and wealth are equally important; knowledge and art, as well as those who tell us about misery and trouble, ignorance and clumsiness - about economic and cultural superstructure, as well as about the struggle for bare life and survival. Because, finally, the entire history of our peoples, and even of all humanity, is nothing but a desperate struggle of man with man and man with nature, a fight with dragons and lions (it is not by chance that the concept of the Republic of Venice and Great Britain is tied to the idea of a lion) and, if from such a struggle, a nation finally emerges as a winner, then, surely, the truth about its centuries-old struggle should not be ashamed, not lied and not beautified, but it should be consciously and proudly, without shyness, shown completely naked” [2].

In the changed historical circumstances (the new SFRY state, 1945-1992), when Bosnia and Herzegovina was one of the six equal constituent republics of the SFRY (the republic of three equal nations - (then) Muslims, Croats and Serbs), the historical significance of Bascarsija was noticed - especially for the identity of Muslims (since 1993, Bosniaks), so we went in the direction of its protection. The leader of such an idea was the architect-professor Juraj Neidhart (1901-1979), who

physiognomy from day to day. The old tile, that essentially local roof, is increasingly being replaced by industrial tiles, which are more ugly than beautiful. The man in that store increasingly moves from a squatting position to a standing position, from a raised floor to a chair, and in connection with that, everything changes: the equipment and the appearance of the stores themselves. And these little shops are increasingly being closed with some glazed mercantile carpentry - and today it is all already confused with each other, so in a few more years, Baščaršija will also look like a barn. (Grabrijan, D. Article published in *Jugoslavenski list*: dated June 30, 1940) [3]

...If we look at Sarajevo from Trebevic, we see two formations: the eastern and the western city - next to the city. The eastern town is made up of houses among the gardens, low, lovely, tame houses - the monotony is interrupted here and there by the domes and minarets of mosques, i.e. one stacked formation like a slate of stone. Everything here is beautifully, homogeneously held together: a reflection of a settled culture. Right next to that city, there is another, western part of the city, which is chaotic, fragmented, without order and scale, except for one route and one disposition: a quay and a camp - traces of an early civilization! There are people in Western Europe who say: If you want to go to the Orient, then go to Sarajevo! Sarajevo is a city that offers, in addition to the allure of the Orient, European comfort. What is comfort here, and what is the charm of the Orient?

Indians persistently ask: what did the English bring us besides the toilet? Is it comfort? A Westerner is attracted here by the phenomenon we call architecture - but there is architecture in other places as well. So where does this one differ from the others? It's nothing, say the local people, it's all the work of dundjer masters, without special preparation and culture - perhaps a reflection of some other cultural center, far outside that city - a provincial phenomenon, neglected today in a dilapidated state. (Grabrijan, D. The article was published in 1940 in “*Novi Behar*”, year XIII, No. 2-3, under the title “Architecture within human reach”)[3].

created (1972-1975) the “Regulatory plan for rehabilitation, restoration and revitalization of Baščaršija” in Sarajevo.

Designing in Bascarsija, in an extremely 'sensitive urban fabric', is a great challenge and honor for every architect [8,9]. The author of this paper had this opportunity and presents here his three projects-architectural realizations: “Balic” Inn, “M” Coffee-pastry shop and “Sarajevo Brewery Restaurant” (“Public kitchen of the Steri Grad Sarajevo Municipality”) [10,11,12].



Figure 1. Plan of the Sarajevo bazaar (1882)

Source: <http://www.arhivsa.ba/wordpress/?tag=karte>, Accessed: August 27, 2022

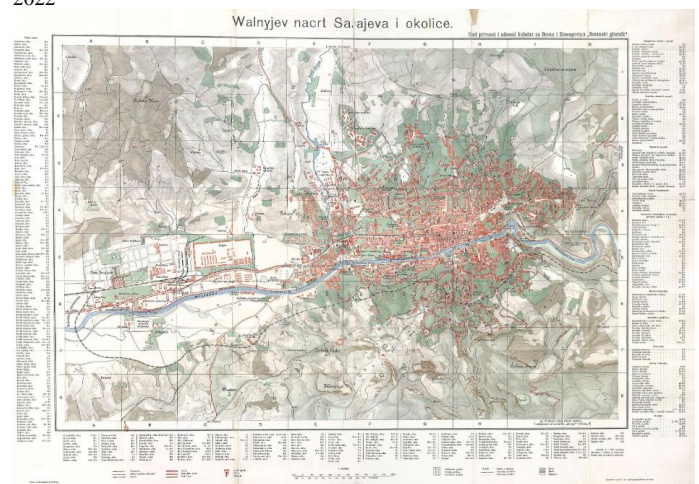


Figure 2. Plan of Sarajevo (1908)

Source: <http://www.arhivsa.ba/wordpress/?tag=karte>, Accessed: August 27, 2022

II. “BALIC” INN IN BASCARSIIJA, SARAJEVO (2002)

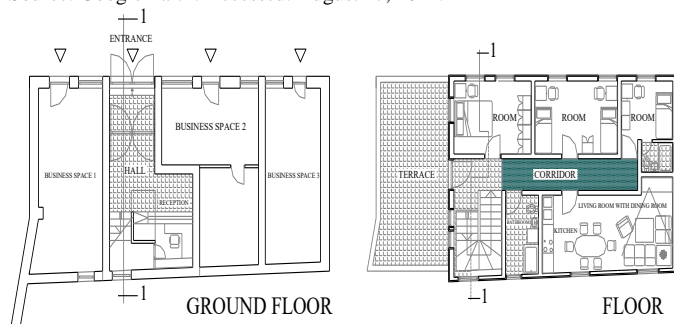
Lodgings (inns, hostels) are those architectural programs that reflect the exceptional flexibility of their owners that, if necessary, in a very short period of time, with minimal disposal interventions, they can change the purpose of the built space. One of the basic prerequisites for implementing this kind of 'business philosophy' is the fact that the built space has a very attractive location (with a high turnover of people).

The “Balic” hostel is located in the old part of Sarajevo, in Bascarsija (Geographic coordinates: 43°51'37.77"N, 18°25'54.05"E, Elevation: 553 m). In this part of Sarajevo, there are a large number of lodgings (boarding houses), which is understandable, since it is very attractive for tourists. On the site of this lodging there was once a commercial and residential building (craft shops on the ground floor and an apartment on the first floor). During the war (1992-1995) the building was destroyed, and in its post-war reconstruction, the new owner (and in accordance with the Regulatory Plan of Bascarsija) renovated and reconstructed the building, with business premises remaining on the ground floor, while overnight accommodation was organized on the first floor (as 'derivative' to the earlier function of housing).

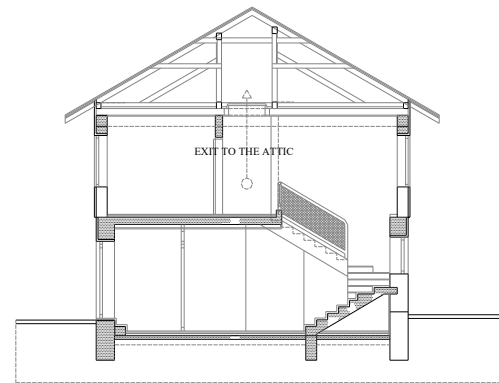
In the adaptation and reconstruction of the building, its physical dimensions and previous appearance were kept to the utmost precision³, while a new inter-floor (reinforced concrete) structure was made, new opening elements (wooden frames with thermal insulating glass), exterior walls made of brick blocks with thermal insulation, new roof structure, modern installations (Figures 3,4,5).



Figure 3. “Balic” Inn in Bascarsija, Sarajevo (2002). Location
Source: Google Earth: Accessed: August 27, 2022.



³ According to the urban planning conditions for the renovation of this building, a maximum deviation of 10 cm was allowed in the height of the roof, for example.



SECTION 1-1

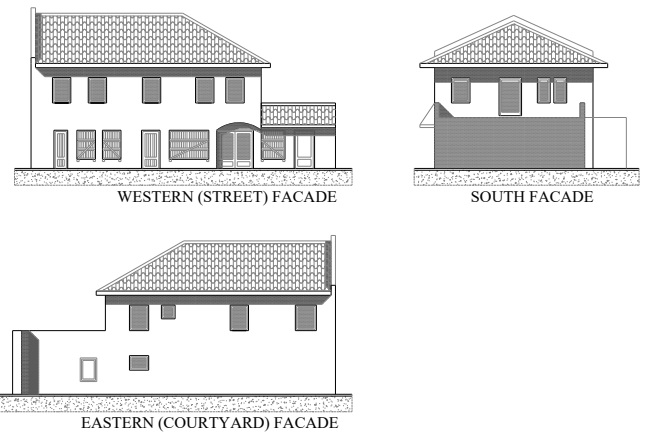


Figure 4. “Balic” Inn in Bascarsija, Sarajevo (2002). Drawings
Source: Author (Project, 2002)



Figure 5. “Balic” Inn in Bascarsija, Sarajevo (2002).
Source: Author (April 14, 2012)

III. “M” COFFEE-PASTRY SHOP IN BASCARSIIJA, SARAJEVO (2000)

The “M” Coffee-pastry shop is located in the center of the Bascarsija urban fabric in Sarajevo (Geographic coordinates: 43°51'32.42"N, 18°25'55.52"E, Elevation: 548 m). It was always sensitive to design any content in this part of Sarajevo, since the demands of profit and the demands of urban regulation were in conflict with each other.

The building of the cafe-pastry shop was the result of urban conditions in terms of its dimensions, external appearance and materialization, while its interior was the result of the designer's vision of this content, coordinated with his investor (Figures 6, 7, 8).

Interiors are the 'most unstable architectural programs' that change most frequently, following the trends from big European cities.

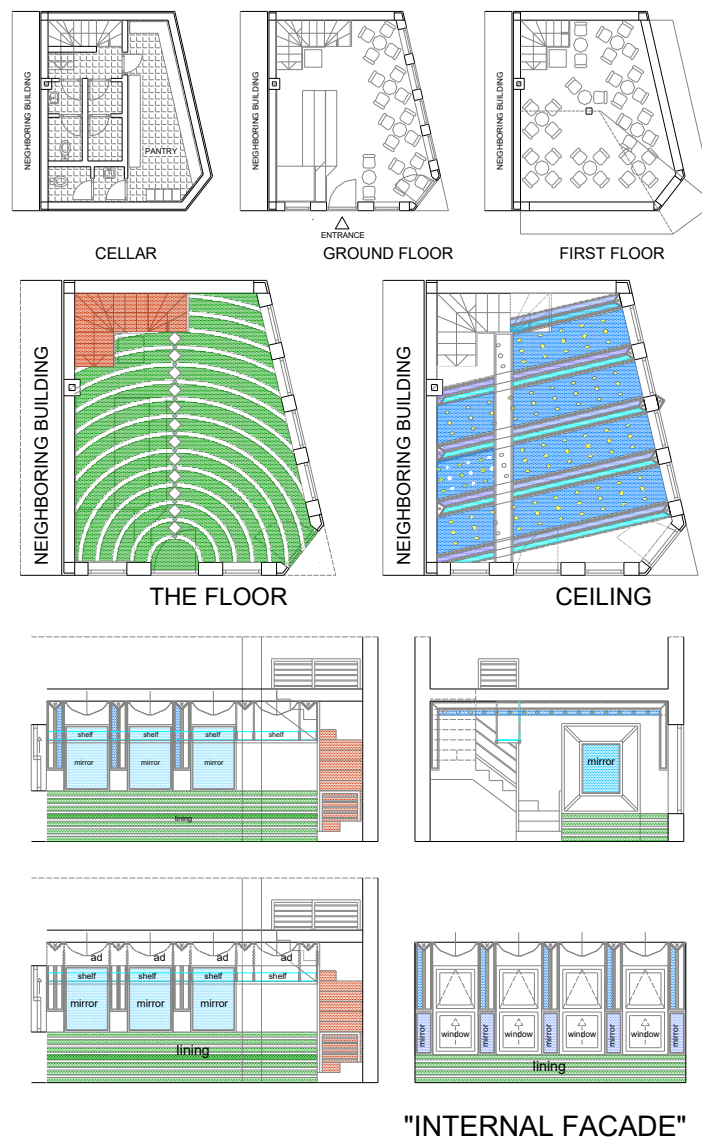
In the case of the “M” Coffee-pastry shop, the architect could have less influence on the external appearance of the building (due to the given urban conditions), but he tried to give the interior an 'identity' through the design of the internal surfaces

(floor, ceiling, walls, equipment). Mirrors were used a lot to achieve the impression of a 'kaleidoscope', to make the space seem larger than it actually is. Also, subtle lighting (LED) was used to emphasize certain points in the space.



Figure 6. “M” Coffee-pastry shop in Bascarsija, Sarajevo (2000). Location

Source: Google Earth: Accessed: August 27, 2022.



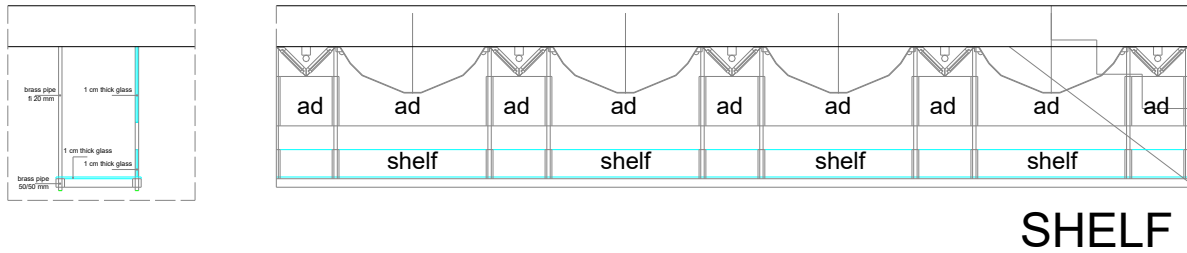


Figure 7. “M” Coffee-pastry shop in Bascarsija, Sarajevo (2000). Drawings
Source: Author (Project, 2000)



this building remains in the function of the public kitchen, and the reconstructed floor is in the function of the “Sarajevo Brewery Office”.

From the establishment of the public kitchen until today, this building (its function, especially its staff) has become one of the symbols of the humanity of the Sarajevo city, where many companies and individuals gladly donate their financial resources and food (Figures 9, 10, 11). It is particularly interesting that children from Sarajevo secondary schools occasionally volunteer at this institution.



Figure 8. Coffee-pastry shop “M” in Bascarsija, Sarajevo (2000).
Source: Author (June 8, 2012)



Figure 9. “Sarajevo Brewery Restaurant” (“The Steri Grad Sarajevo Municipality public kitchen”) in Bascarsija, Sarajevo (2003). Location
Source: Google Earth: Accessed: August 27, 2022.

IV. “SARAJEVO BREWERY RESTAURANT” (“THE STERI GRAD SARAJEVO MUNICIPALITY PUBLIC KITCHEN”, 2003)

“Sarajevo Brewery Restaurant” (“The Steri Grad Sarajevo Municipality public kitchen”) is located in Halaci Street, in the center of the Bascarsija urban fabric in Sarajevo (Geographic coordinates: 43°51'31.56"N, 18°25'51.22"E, Elevation: 548 m). On March 27, 1992., “The Steri Grad Sarajevo Municipality Public kitchen” started operating in Since that date, this day is celebrated as the Day of this kitchen.

The project presented here envisaged the reconstruction of the building (which originally dates from the 16th century) in which the National Kitchen is located and its adaptation into a modern restaurant. However, to this day, the ground floor of

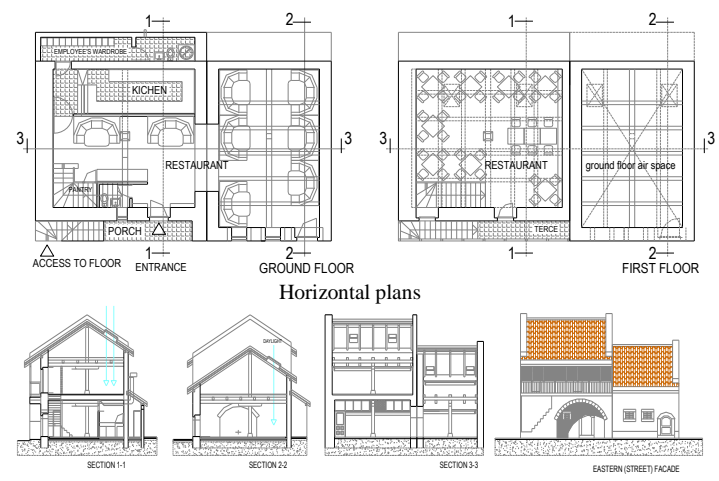


Figure 10. “Sarajevo Brewery Restaurant” (“The Steri Grad Sarajevo Municipality public kitchen”) in Bascarsija, Sarajevo (2003). Drawings
Source: Author (Project, 2003)



Figure 11. "The Steri Grad Sarajevo Municipality public kitchen" in Bascarsija, Sarajevo

Sources:
<https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/p/AF1QipM71VOVM6fBzp-CHqsAV7q2FQM8YVscpNsHY2Sg=h720>, Accessed: August 27, 2022.

<https://www.facebook.com/narodnakuhinjastarigrad/photos/pcb.2771848773110797/2771848336444174>, Accessed: August 27, 2022.

<https://bs-ba.facebook.com/narodnakuhinjastarigrad/photos/a.1533660800262940/2586444981651178/?type=1&theater>

Accessed: August 27, 2022.

<https://www.2gimnazija.edu.ba/en/vijesti/item/36-volontiranje-u-narodnoj-kuhinji-stari-grad>, Accessed: August 27, 2022.

V. CONCLUSION

Bascarsija is a business district in the city of Sarajevo that was founded in the middle of the 15th century by Isa-bey Ishakovic (1439-1470), the second governor (sandzak-bey) in the Bosnian sandzak (part of the then Ottoman Empire). The peak of Bascarsija's progress was in the 16th century, during the governor (sandzak-bey) Gazi Husrev-bey (1480-1541). During the past six centuries of its stormy history, Bascarsija grew, lived intensively, but survived several fires and almost complete destruction. However, it was always renewed, slower or faster, and thus showed its vitality, the vitality of the Sarajevo city and the state of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Three examples of architectural structures in Bascarsija, designed by the author of this paper, represent the Author's contribution to the 'generation of life in Bascarsija' [10].

REFERENCES

- [1] Skaric, V. (1937). Sarajevo and its surroundings from the earliest times to the Austro-Hungarian occupation, Publication of the municipality of the city of Sarajevo, Sarajevo, p. 272 (in Serbian)
- [2] Celic, Dz. (1954). Monuments of Culture and Urban Planing; some Experiences and Observations, Our Antiquities II (in Bosnian)
- [3] Celic, Dz. (1970). Grabrijan and Sarajevo, Contributions to the study of the history of Sarajevo, Vol. III, vol. III, Sarajevo, pp. 51, 131 (in Bosnian)
- [4] Andric, I. (1945). Miss (Gospodica), novel, (in Serbian)
- [5] Selimovic, M. (1966-1970), Fortress (Tvrdava), novel, (in Bosnian)
- [6] Grabrijan, D., Neidhardt, J. (1957). The architecture of Bosnia and the way to modern times, The State Publishing House of Slovenia, Sarajevo (in Serbian-Croatian)
- [7] Grabrijan, D. (1984). The Bosnian Oriental Architecture in Sarajevo, DDU Universum, Ljubljana
- [8] Regulatory plan "Bascarsija" and its corrections, Official Gazette of the Canton of Sarajevo no. 31/2007, Institute for Planning of Sarajevo Canton, Sarajevo. Accessed: August 27, 2022
- [9] The historic city area - Sarajevo Bazaar is declared a national monument of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Decision No.: 07.3-2.3-59/14-23, April 2, 2014, Sarajevo
 Accessed: August 28, 2022 (in Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian)
- [10] Hadrovic, A. (2007). Defining Architecrural Space on the Model of the Oriental Style City House in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo and Macedonia, Booksurge, LLC, North Charleston, SC, USA, pp. 9, 14-15 + 16-18.
- [11] Hadrovic, A. (2012). 100+ most interesting architectural realizations, Sarajevo, Avicena
- [12] Ahmet Hadrovic, "Graphic Design Cover Books by Professor Ahmet Hadrovic," International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research and Publications (IJMRAP), Volume 4, Issue 12, pp. 69-86, 2022.
<http://ijmrp.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/IJMRAP-V4N12P91Y22.pdf>
 Accessed: August 27, 2022