



Vladana Petrović, University of Niš, s.vladana@gmail.com
Nataša Petković Grozdanović, University of Niš, natasapetkovic83@gmail.com
Hristina Krstić, University of Niš, hristinaa@hotmail.com
Branislava Stoilković, University of Niš, branislava.p.stoilkovic@gmail.com
Milica Živković, University of Niš, milicaclassroom@gmail.com

SPATIAL-FUNCTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF SALON APARTMENT IN SERBIA

Abstract

The salon apartment is a residential typology that developed in Serbia from the middle of the 19th century until the beginning of the Second World War. The spatial-functional organization of the salon apartment is characterized by typological characteristics such as: division of space into two zones, salon, central room, pass-through dining room, etc. These characteristics have been developed according to oriental and western European influences. The paper will investigate the development, organization and typology of salon apartments in Serbia.

Keywords: salon apartment, salon, central room, pass-through dining room

ПРОСТОРНО-ФУНКЦИОНАЛНИ РАЗВОЈ САЛОНСКОГ СТАНА У СРБИЈИ

Сажетак

Салонски стан представља стамбену типологију која се у Србији развијала од средине 19. века до почетка Другог светског рата. Просторно-функционалну организацију салонског стана карактеришу типолошке карактеристике као што су: подела простора на две зоне, салон, централна просторија, пролазна трпезарија и др. Наведене карактеристике су развијане према оријенталним и западноевропским утицајима. У раду ће бити истраживан развој, организација и типологија салонског стана у Србији.

Keywords: салонски стан, салон, централна просторија, пролазна трпезарија

1. INTRODUCTION

The spatial-functional organization of the "apartment with a salon" is a housing organization whose implementation in Serbia first started in the 19th century. The development of this housing typology began together with the adoption of new economic, social and social norms, which were established after the liberation from the Turks. By rejecting oriental influences and adopting Western European housing models, new spatial patterns were transferred, which led to the functional development of the salon apartment. As a functional model, it was used in Serbia until the beginning of the Second World War, but after the establishment of new social conditions after the war, only some of its elements were implemented. The paper investigates the development and typology of the spatial-functional organization of a salon apartment in Serbia.

2. DEVELOPMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SALON APARTMENT

In Serbian housing architecture, the development of functional organization of the apartment, according to theoretical and professional considerations, began in the 19th century and is based on the spatial development of apartments in Europe with simultaneous oriental influences. The housing typology that appeared in the 19th century and whose development continued until the middle of the 20th century, is characterized by certain established patterns of spatial organization that were transferred from Western European housing models. Almost the same principle of spatial organization was applied in France, Germany, Austria (Figure 1). This typological model is characterized by the following functional characteristics: design of the salon, central rooms as the core of the apartment, separation of the household zone from the main/residential zone of the apartment.



Figure 1. (a,b,c). Salon apartments in Berlin, Paris and Stockholm

a) Residential building in Berlin (1893), Alfred Messel 24 Kurfürstendamm, Berlin

b) Rent building in Paris (1900), Alfred Fasquelle Avenue des Champs-Élysées, Paris

c) Rent building in Stockholm (1894–96) A. Johansson

(Source (a,b): Klahr D. (2011) *Luxury Apartments with a Tenement Heart*. *The Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 70(3):290-307,

c) <https://journal.eahn.org/articles/10.5334/ah.343/>)

The original functional characteristics of the apartment in Serbia, according to B. Nestorović, was based on the central plan of the organization, in which the central position was occupied by a room, defined as the core of the apartment, while all other main and auxiliary rooms were grouped around the central room. In its initial phase of development in Serbia, the central room had the function of an entrance space, i.e. a hall from which all other rooms were accessed. In the later period of development, the entrance hall evolved into a centrally designed dining room (Figure 2).

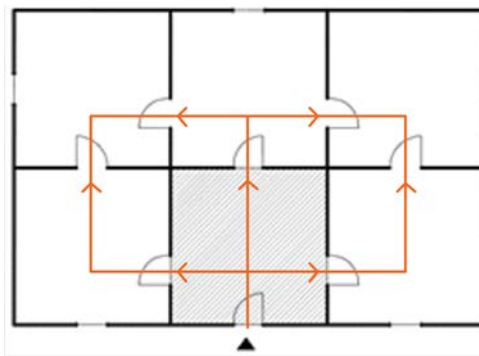


Figure 2. Central plan of spatial organization

New developmental changes took place in the middle of the 19th century, when a new spatial characteristic called a salon began to appear in the functional organization of the apartment. In the Western European housing typology, the spatial-functional concept of apartments designed with a "European salon" is related to France and Italy, from where it was further transferred to other countries [1]. According to *D. Alfrević*, "the term salon was first used in France around the middle of the 17th century (1664) and originates from the Italian word *sala*, which means a large reception area in Italian villas. Although the term is most often associated with literary gatherings that were characteristic of French bourgeois society, it is generally accepted that salons have been in use since the early 16th century (in Italy) until the mid-19th century (in France). In a narrower sense, the term is related to a representative space that serves for sitting, gathering and receiving guests in a residential space"[2]. The emergence of the salon, as a representative space for the reception of guests in the residential architecture of the XIX and XX centuries, defined the characteristic spatial and functional organization of the living space called the salon apartment.

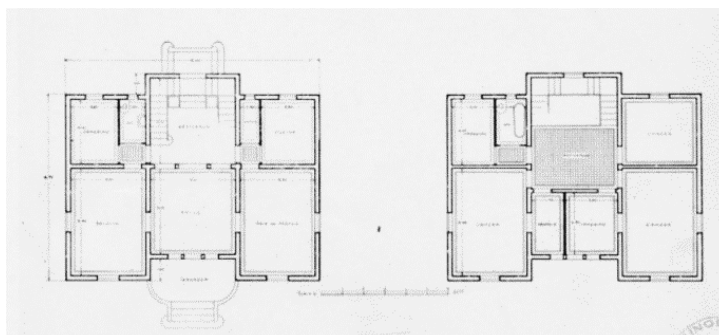


Figure 3. Plan of an Italian villa of 19th century with the designed salon and central spatial organization plan (Source: <https://amshistorica.unibo.it/164>)

In the architecture in Serbia, the salon design began being applied at the time of the creation of the new bourgeois class that emerged after the liberation from the Turks. The adoption of European housing models has led to the transfer and development of the spatial Western European concept of housing which includes a salon in its spatial structure. As a spatial concept, it was transferred at the end of the 19th century by Serbian architects educated at Western European universities. The design of the salon was a characteristic of the housing organization of family houses, and later apartments of the upper bourgeois class up to the Second World War. In parallel with the European characteristics, the spatial-functional development of the apartment was influenced by the oriental housing models. According to oriental-Turkish influences, the basis of development was the central space for receiving guests, called *the sofa*, which in traditional oriental culture served as a gathering place for men. The central room is the core of the apartment and was defined as a "Turkish salon or sofa", which, unlike the Western concept, had an introverted gathering function for the reception and enjoyment of hosts and guests and was exclusively for gathering men (Figure 4) [2]. In the newly formed bourgeoisie, the function of the salon in its initial form was traditionally influenced by the introverted function of the Turkish sofa, and then, taking over the function of European salons, it became a space for socializing of intellectually compatible participants, men and women.

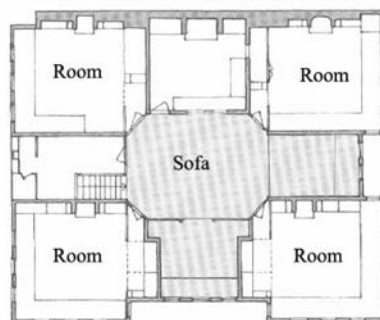


Figure 4. Plan of the oriental house with the "sofa" as a centrally designed room which served as a center for entertaining guests (Source: Güleç, S. A., Canan, F., & Korumaz, M. (2006). Analysis of the units contributing climate comfort conditions in outdoor spaces in Turkish traditional architecture. In PLEA 2006 Conference. pp. 103-110).

One of the most significant changes in the functional organization of the salon apartment in Serbia, occurred in the period between the two world wars. During this period, the central room, which has the function of an entrance hall and the main communication, was transformed into a centrally designed dining room. The positioning of the dining room in the center of the apartment, in the function of extended communication, was taken over from the Berlin structure of apartments from the 19th century, which is why it was called the "Berlin Room" (Figure 5). The "Berlin Room" was a central space that connected the salon rooms with bedrooms, utility rooms and service rooms, which were usually designed in the wing of the apartment facing the courtyard. This room functioned as a spacious hallway and as a dining room where the family gathered. As a spatial concept, it became common in the concept of the bourgeois apartment in the early 19th century because new bourgeois ideals were created through it - informal social interaction and close family ties. When the wave of immigrants came to Berlin in the mid-19th century, the city underwent an urban transformation with the construction of multi-storey, rented apartment buildings. In the rush of Berlin construction, the municipal officer Gustav Assmann, made a series of designs that would serve as guides for the design of apartments of the lower and middle Berlin social class. However, these designs did not have a new typology developed, but represented a reduced version of the bourgeois apartment. As part of the apartments designed for the lower strata of society, the *Berlin Room* remained the core of the apartment, becoming an instrument of a conservative social reform and was considered the last trace of premodern German family life [3]. The structure of the apartment with the Berlin room was developed as a typology of apartments throughout Europe, but the *Berlin Room* in its form appeared in Serbia only after the First World War. As a functional concept, it was very important for its capacity to maximize the use of narrow building plots. Also, the side courtyard wings could be designed without closed skylights, which was in accordance with the regulations of the time [4].

In the professional literature, the term "*Belgrade apartment*" is defined in a large number of contemporary literature for the organizational scheme of housing applied in the interwar period, which includes a salon and a centrally designed dining room. However, as a typological organization, it was not exclusively related to Belgrade, but had its application throughout Europe.

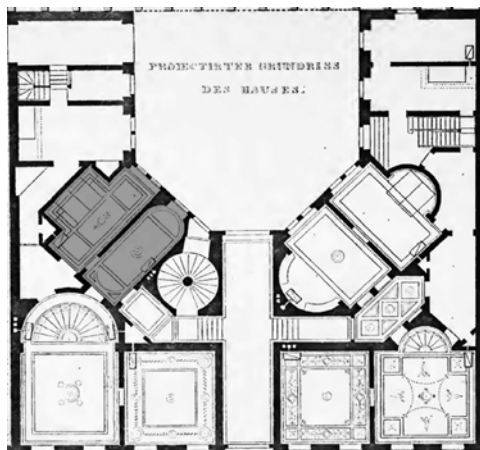


Figure 5. Floor plan of a residential building from Berlin with a designed "Berlin room" (beginning of 19th century) (Source: Rousset, I. (2017). *The Berlin Room. The Journal of Architecture*, 22(7), pp. 1202–1229)

At the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, another significant change took place in the housing organization and the way of living. The emergence of water supply and sewerage in the cities led to the design of a new group of rooms, sanitary rooms, toilets and bathrooms, which represented a significant spatial development and improvement of housing. The created sanitary rooms in the apartment were at the same time grouped as a group of rooms with utilities. In the spatial organization, there was a development of the plan with a series of smaller and larger rooms that were differentiated by size. In addition to rooms and kitchens, there were pantries, bathrooms, hallways, side entrances, so that it has the simple layout with rooms of similar dimensions, the living space became distinctly divided into groups of rooms for living and service. From that moment, a new type of apartment evolving to this day was created.

2.1. TYPES OF FUNCTIONAL ORGANIZATION OF SALON APARTMENT

The functional concept of the salon apartment, from its appearance in our environment, until the end of its application as a unique typology, is characterized by established spatial patterns, which according to *M. Bajlon and D. Mecanov*, can be reduced to three basic types of organization:

- Central;
- Longitudinal;
- Combined [5,6] .

These types of organization of the housing unit are directly related to urban conditions, i.e., according to the disposition of the designed building in the urban block. According to *A. Keković*, the classification of structures according to the following typology can be performed:

- Freestanding buildings;
- Semi-detached buildings;
- Interpolated buildings which can be divided into:
 - a) narrow street front interpolations,
 - b) wide street front interpolations;
- Buildings on the corner of an urban block [7].

2.1.1. Central plan of organization of the salon apartment

The central plan is based on a spatial housing organization, according to which the central position is occupied by a pass-through dining room. According to the position of the central room, other main rooms are grouped. Auxiliary rooms are grouped within the auxiliary block. The following subtypes can be observed within this type:

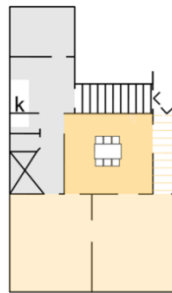


Figure 6. Schematic representation of the first type of central organization of the apartment (Author's review according to the source: Bajlon, M. (1980). Apartment in Belgrade. Postgraduate Studies, Course - Housing Materials, Volume 54. Belgrade: Faculty of Architecture, University of Belgrade, pg. 6-9)

2.1.2. Longitudinal plan of organization of the salon apartment

This organization of the salon apartment is based on the linear organization of the space, according to which the main and auxiliary zones of the apartment are connected by a linear connection. This approach to the organization was characteristic in the design of interpolated buildings on narrow building plots and was a very commonly used type. In the organizational scheme, the functional pattern of the salon apartment with a centrally designed dining room has been retained. The living quarters are designed towards the street, while the household zone is connected to the dining room and positioned towards the yard. The main and auxiliary entrances to the residential zones are separated. The main zone was accessed from the main staircase, while the auxiliary zone was accessed via a terrace or a specially designed staircase (Scheme 4).

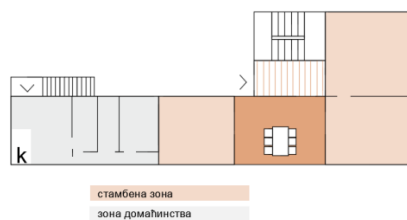


Figure 7. Schematic representation of the longitudinal organization of the apartment (Author's review according to the source: Bajlon, M. (1980). Apartment in Belgrade. Postgraduate Studies, Course - Housing Materials, Volume 54. Belgrade: Faculty of Architecture, University of Belgrade, pg. 6-9)

2.1.3. Combined plan of organization

The combined plan for the organization of a salon apartment is the third type of organization based on a combination of all the above mentioned elements. As a functional concept, it was most often applied to free-standing buildings or interpolations with a wide façade front, where there was a potential for a larger development of the living space. It is characterized by a centrally designed dining room with the function of the main communication, while the living room and other living areas are developed and grouped around the central room (Scheme 5).

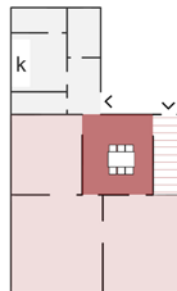


Figure 8. Presentation of the combined type of salon apartment organization (Author's review according to the source: Bajlon, M. (1980). Apartment in Belgrade. Postgraduate Studies, Course - Housing Materials, Volume 54. Belgrade: Faculty of Architecture, University of Belgrade, pg. 6-9)

3. SPATIAL-FUNCTIONAL ORGANIZATION OF THE SALON APARTMENT

The spatial-functional organization of the salon apartment space is based on the monocentric organization, which includes grouping the rooms around the central room, which originally represented the entrance space - hall and which was directly connected to the salon as the most representative room in the apartment. The structure of salon apartments is characterized by its "established patterns of organization" [8], which include (Figure 29):

- Clear division of the apartment space into two functional zones, residential/main and service zone
- The main zone includes: central room/dining room, salon, rest rooms, cabinet;
- Auxiliary zone includes auxiliary rooms: kitchen, pantry, service room, or maid's room, storage and sanitary facilities;
- The service zone is functionally separated from the main zone of the apartment and designed towards the yard;
- Designed two entrances to the apartment, the main and service;
- The main entrance leads to the residential area. It was used for apartment owners and guests;
- The service entrance leads to the household area. It is physically separated from the main zone and used as a service entrance;
- The connection of the central room with the service zone was realized through the designed annex;
- The central room is the main entrance area from which all other rooms are accessed. With its position, it divides the space into main and auxiliary zones;
- European salon model, is a state room for entertaining guests. In daily activities, it assumed the function of the living room.
- Bedrooms belong to the group of intimate rooms. They are designed towards the street and interconnected. The bedrooms are entered from the central room.
- The kitchen is designed as a separate room and positioned in the service area;
- The pantry is designed next to the kitchen, in the apartments of a larger structure, two pantries are designed;
- The preparation room appeared as a space in front of the entrance to the dining room in order to prepare for laying the table. In the preparation room were accessories for laying the dining table
- The "Maiden's Room" figured as a room for the service staff of the family; it is designed within the service zone and is directly connected to the kitchen;
- The toilet and the bathroom formed a sanitary block, connected by a hallway with other rooms. The toilet was functionally separated from the bathroom;
- The laundry room was most often positioned in the attic and with access to the roof terrace where the laundry was dried [9]

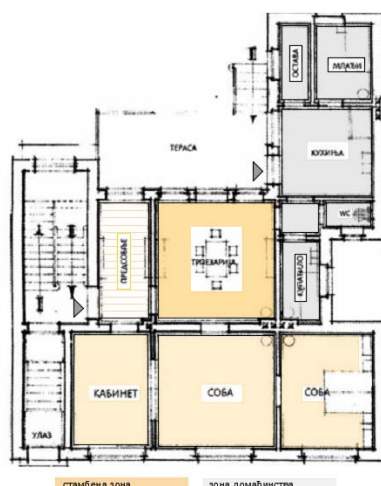


Figure 9. *Spatial-functional concept of a salon apartment in the interwar period - Osvald Repić Building (1933), Borivoja Gojkovića 4, Niš, arch. Julian Djupon (Source: Keković, A. (2009). Residential architecture of Niš in the Moderna movement between the two world wars (Doctoral dissertation, University of Niš, Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture). Pg.78-79)*

In the development phase, between the two world wars, the central room took over the function of a centrally positioned dining room, which also became the main communication in the apartment, directly connected to the living room and bedrooms and connected to the kitchen block via the annex. With its position, the central dining room took over the primary function of gathering the family at the dining table, while at the same time it became the main communication in the apartment. Two types of salon apartment organizations can be distinguished in their development in the Serbian environment. The first type, which represents the first form of a salon apartment, which appeared in the 19th century and whose organization, in addition to the position of the salon, is characterized by a designed central space with the basic function as a reception space and communication. The second type of the salon apartment is a more developed functional concept, which appeared after WWI. It is characterized by the development of the central room in which the dining room is formed as the main center of family gathering and the retained function of the main communication. With this type, the entrance space is moved and reduced to the "hallway" function.

In both models, the structure of the salon apartment is based on a clear expression of social and spatial division: owners and services, guests and users, daily and festive activities. The mentioned characteristics are reflected in the strict division of the apartment into two zones: the residential-main zone and the service zone. At the same time, the residential zone includes state and intimate rooms of the residents, which, as a rule, are positioned towards the street (salon, bedrooms, cabinets). In the household zone or auxiliary zone, service rooms are grouped (kitchen, pantry, storage, preparation room, maiden's room) and in a later development, a sanitary block. The group of auxiliary rooms is oriented towards the yard and with a designed separate entrance. [9]

4. CONCLUSION

The development of the spatial structure of the salon apartment in Serbia represents the continuity of the development of the structure of European, bourgeois apartments from the 18th and 19th centuries with simultaneous oriental and European influences. According to oriental-Turkish influences, the basis of development was the sofa as a central space for receiving guests, that is, in traditional oriental culture, as a space for gathering men. With the creation of a new bourgeois class after the liberation from the Turks, there is a transfer and development of the spatial, Western European concept of the apartment, which contains a salon in its spatial structure. In the newly formed Serbian bourgeois class, the salon function in its initial form was traditionally influenced by the introverted Turkish sofa function, and then, taking over the function of European salons, it became a space for socializing of intellectually compatible participants, men and women. From the mentioned influences originated the spatial-functional organization of space, which in its structure contains a salon and is called the salon apartment.

The functional characteristic of the salon apartment is based on a monocentric organization, which involves grouping the rooms around the central room, which originally represented the entrance

space - hall and which was directly connected to the salon as the most representative room in the apartment. In its later phase of development, between the two world wars, the central room took over the function of a centrally positioned dining room, which also became the main communication in the apartment, directly connected to the living room and bedrooms and connected to the kitchen block. With its position, the central dining room took over the primary function of gathering the family at the dining table, while at the same time it became the main communication in the apartment. With the advent of water supply and sewerage, a new group of rooms, toilets and bathrooms was designed, which represented a significant spatial development and improvement of housing. By creating sanitary rooms in the apartment as a group of rooms with utilities, there is a tendency to concentrate them. In the functional organization, the plan is developed with a series of smaller and larger rooms. In addition to the rooms and kitchen, there is a pantry, bathroom, hallways, side entrances, so that the apartment becomes distinctly divided into groups of rooms for living and service. From this moment, a new type of apartment was created that has been evolving to this day. The disposition in the urban block was an important typological characteristic of residential buildings that influenced the organizational scheme of the apartment. The classification of multi-family buildings, designed in relation to the disposition in the urban block can be performed on the following types

- Freestanding buildings;
- Semi-detached buildings;
- Interpolated buildings divided into:
 - Narrow street front interpolations
 - Wide street front interpolations;
- Buildings on the corner of an urban block.

From the previously mentioned urban conditions, originated the functional organization of the salon apartment, which can be defined as three basic types of organization whose characteristics are based on the position of the building in an urban block, and defined by the shape of the plot:

- central type;
- longitudinal type;
- combined type.

The development of the functional concept of the salon apartment was interrupted in 1941. Post-war conditions of construction imposed new ways and models of housing, of which only certain elements of salon apartments continued to be implemented [9]

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