

Museum of Vernacular Architecture of Western Serbia and Eastern Bosnia and Herzegovina: Courtyards of Mountain Villages and Villages of the Lower Course of the Rivers

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Abstract

The aim of the paper is the Museum of Vernacular Architecture of the Central Balkans. The paper presents two units in the Museum. In this paper, a courtyard of mountain villages, and a courtyard of villages in the valley of the river basin, is shown. The presented structures illustrate the development of the construction and organization of buildings. The courtyard of the mountain villages consists of a house, two vajats, two magaza, two kačara, a car canopy, the furnace, and the barn. Courtyard villages of the lower course of the river are illustrated by a house, three vajats, two magaza, two kačara, a furnace, a canopy for cars, a plum drier and a furnace. Each of the buildings is described through the organization, structure, method of construction and the role of the facility in the functioning of the rural family.

Key words: traditional architecture, the Balkans, arhitectural heritage

Introduction

The national architecture of the central Balkans, formed in the 19th and 20th centuries, is an important part of cultural heritage. Therefore, it is necessary to take measures to preserve and present the remaining examples of objects and architectural knowledge as soon as possible. A part of the research published by the author in domestic and foreign scientific periodicals points to this (Kuzović, 1996; Kuzović, 1996/1997; Kuzović, 2012a; Kuzović, 2012b; Kuzović, 2012v; Kuzović, 2013a; Kuzović, 2013b; Kuzović, 2013v; Kuzović, 2013g; Kuzović, 2014a; Kuzović, 2014b; Kuzović, 2015a; Kuzović, 2015b; Kuzović, 2016; Kuzović and Krsmanović, 2013; Kuzović and Stojnić, 2013; Kuzović and Stojnić, 2015; Kuzović and Stojnić, 2015).

Literature, related to the vernacular architecture of the central Balkans, created during the 19th and 20th centuries, is limited: Ljuba Pavlović (Pavlović, 1925; 1930), Stojan Obradović (Obradović, 1858), Feliks Kanic (Kanic, 1985), Jovan Cvijić (Cvijić, 1931), and Dragiša Pantelić (Pantelić, 1936). The aforementioned publications do not deal with the vernacular architecture. The most important research of vernacular architecture in the 20th century has been made by: Branislav Kojić (Kojić, 1949, 1941), Aleksandar Deroko (Deroko, 1968, 1964), Jovan Krunic (Krunic, 1983), Ranko Findrik (Findrik, 1995, 1998), Božidar Krstanović (Krstanović, 2000), Blagota Pešić (Pešić, 1991, 1988), Milan Karanović (Karanović, 1927), Muhamed Kadić (Kadić, 1967), Špiro Soldo (Soldo, 1932) and Hamdija Kreševljaković (Kreševljaković, 1957). The material for the Museum of Vernacular Architecture was collected during 1995-2005, 2013. The aim of the paper is to present two courtyards (houses and auxiliary objects) which represent the southern part of the region covered by the Museum. The aim of this paper is to define spatial units, characteristic types and buildings.

Documentation

The concept of the Museum

The Museum of Vernacular Architecture of the central part of the Balkans consists of a central complex (with four courtyards), and four independent units (cabins, watermills, specific building solutions, commercial buildings / old crafts). This paper will present the material / the proposal of two courtyards: a) a rural household in the mountainous region, b) a rural household in the valley of the western Morava River. The paper contains photos taken in the central part of western Serbia only.

Households of herdsmen and livestock (Povlen Mountain)

The houses are registered on Povlen Mountain in western Serbia. The house illustrates a rural household (from the beginning of the 20th century) of stockbreeder and husbandman. The following objects are planned in the courtyard: a two-part house, two “vajats”, corn basket, granary, “magaza”, “kačara”, dryer for plums, oven and stables (Figure 1).



Fig. 1, 2. A courtyard plotted perpendicular to the contour land lines (village Makovište) / House covered with wooden tiles (village Makovište)

The house is composed of two parts with a cellar ("na ćelici"). The organization of the house is two-part (living room and bedroom). The house's foundation is trimmed stone. The basement door is double-winged, with a stone vault and threshold. The floor in the basement is composed of soil. The corpus of the house consists of two parts: a part made of logs at the corners connected by the connection "na ćert" (living room) and a part of the wooden skeleton (bedroom). As the length between the corners of the house is large, on the shorter side, vertical wooden pillars (4-5) are placed. Between the pillars the space is filled with thick wooden boards. At the half of the height of the corpus is a horizontal belt for stiffening. The other half of the corpus is made in a wooden skeleton. The space between the skeleton elements is filled with split wooden scaffolds. The wall, on both sides, is covered by the clay mixed with chopped straw. Windows (one or two) are exclusively on the narrow side of the house. The roof is covered with wooden shingles. Shingles (made in oak) form imitates rounded clay tiles (Figure 2).

Vajats illustrate two ways of constructing the corpus of a building. Differences between the two are in the foundation and organization.

The first example has the foundation made of single stones and the other case is with the basement. The first example of the craft is located on four stones, the corpus is made of wooden skeleton (pillars and beams), filled with horizontal thick planks (connected "*na unizu*"). In the middle of the corpus is a horizontal belt for stiffening. The second example is on the high stone wall. The corpus of the building is made in a skeleton (solid wood). The roof cover comprises wooden shingles done in two different ways: ("*na utor*" and "*na preklop*") (Figures 3, 4).



Fig. 3, 4. The vajat on a corner based stones / Vajat with the cellar

Magaza is a storage facility for cereals. Two objects of this type are planned in the courtyard. Both examples are on the foundations of single stones (without a basement). The first example is a single room building, whose corpus is made of wood-skeleton, with a filling of horizontal thick boards, and the door on the corner. The ceiling is coated in wood ("*šašovci*"). The roof comprises clay tiles. Another example is the building with a corpus made of logs ("*na unizu*"), without ceiling. The roof is covered with wooden shingles (Figures 5, 6).



Fig. 5, 6. Magaza covered with clay tiles (village Makovište) / Magaza covered with wooden shingles (village Makovište)

Kačara is the largest commercial facility in the courtyard. It consists of one room, with large double doors (for bringing brandy vessels). The corpus, on the foundation of quarried stone, is made of thick horizontal boards. Because of its large length, the facade has two columns. The roof is covered with clay tiles (Figures 7, 8).



Fig. 7, 8. *Kačara* (village Mionica) / *Ambar* (village Godečevo)

Ambar is a grain storage facility, with deep covered porch. It is based on stone singles beneath the corners of the building. The building's corpus is made of horizontal planks (connected “*na unizu*”). The entrance to the building is through the door on the gable. The roof is covered with wooden shingles (Figure 8).

The corn basket is constructed constructively in a wooden skeleton (floor and roof are connected with double columns). The facade is filled with wooden planks. The roof is covered with clay tiles.

The fence is (made of “*prošća*”) made of split wooden elements stuck in the ground (about 20 cm) and connected at the top with 10-12 rows of twisted branches.



Fig. 9, 10. Canopy for cars along with a canopy for plum vessels (village Godečevo) / Furnace (village Godečevo)

The car canopy is a skeleton structure (pillars and beams) on the stone soles foundations. The roof is covered with clay tiles (Figure 9).

The furnace is made of stone. The construction is made of wooden material - a skeleton with mats (stiffening). The furnace and the space in front are covered with a clay tile roof (Figure 10).

The rural house in the valley of larger rivers

The courtyard represents rural family household dealing mainly with the production of cereals and fruits. It consists of a house, two *vajats*, the granary, a corn basket, two "magaza", two "kačara", and a stable.

House („polubrvnara – polučatmara“), without cellar, with three rooms: living room and two bedrooms. They have a stone foundation, built in lime mortar. The building's corpus consists of two parts: a) thick horizontal boards, and b) a wooden skeleton. The second part of the building was built in a wood-skeleton with filling in adobe bricks. The top beam connects two parts of the building (wooden and skeleton) into one whole. Surface treatment of walls is lime mortar. The roof is covered with clay tiles (Figure 11).



Fig. 11. House (village Mionica)

The vajat is presented through three buildings that illustrate the most common solutions of the corpus. The first case is based on four corner stones, with a wooden skeleton filled with horizontal planks. The second example is based on angular stones. The corpus of the building is from piles connected at the corners "na unizu".

Clay tiles cover the roof. The third example of vajats has large dimensions, and rectangular base. It is based on corner stones beneath the corners of the building. The corpus is made in a skeleton with a fill of horizontal planks. The roof covering is made of clay tiles (Figures 12, 13).



Fig. 12, 13. Vajat in planks "na unizu" (village of Brajkovići) / Vajat in planks "na čert" (village Mionica)

The magaza is a building that consists of one room and a porch. Within the room there are two rows of grain crates. On the opposite side of the door is a shelf on which flour is kept. The magaza is placed on striped foundation stone. The corpus of the building is made in a wooden skeleton with a fill of a pile. The porch is on columns with a "sash" fence. The roof covering is clay tiles (Figure 15).



Fig. 14, 15. Vajat with skeleton and filling of planks connected "na unizu" (village Brajkovići) / Magaza with porch (village Mionica).

The kačara is represented by two ways of how a building can be organized and constructed. The first example is an object that consists of one room intended for storing huts and casks, one rest room during work, and a porch on the corner of the building. The building is based on the stone foundation of the corners.

The corpus of the building is partly made of horizontal logs (connected to "na unizu") and the other part in the "bondruk". The roof covering is a clay tile. Another example of the *kačara* consists of one large room and a tram which extends over the entire width of the building. The corpus is entirely made of horizontal wooden planks connected „na čert“. The porch is made of wooden pillars on stone foundations. The roof is covered with clay tiles (Figures 16, 17).



Fig. 16, 17. *Kačara* (village Subjel) / *Kačara* (village Brajkovići)

The barn is a pile-shaped building connected to corners by „na čert“ with four rooms for grain, and a roof covered with clay tiles (Figure 18).

The corn basket is a building with a corpus made of two horizontal belts which are connected with three pairs of columns. The space between the belts is in a twist of wires. Roof cover is pepper tiles (Figure 19).

The furnace is made on stone bedding in a clay mortar. The roof is supported on a wooden skeleton, covered with pepper tiles. *The fence* of the courtyard is from vertical columns and horizontal cleaved wooden pieces ("vrljika").



Fig. 18, 19. *The barn* (village Varda) / *The corn basket* (village Mionica)

Conclusion

Mountain areas as well as the areas near the river and river valley, capture the largest part of the Museum. The aforementioned courtyards will be presented in several groups / courtyards (representing several characteristic subgroups). All building units within a single courtyard will be from similar area, respectively, there will be no mixing of units from different areas, (regardless of the fact that they are from the same characteristic spatial areas). Each courtyard contains a central building (house), several vajats (“vajat”), two magazas (“magaza”), one kačara (“kačara”), a storage building for corn on the cob, and a grain storage facility. The courtyards are enclosed by a characteristic fence and a specific courtyard gate. The paper contains photos taken in the central part of western Serbia only.

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Origin of figures: Figures 1-19. Author

Музеј вернакуларне архитектуре западне Србије и источне
Босне и Херцеговине: окућнице планинских села
и села доњег тока река

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Сажетак

Предмет рада је Музеј вернакуларне архитектуре централног Балкана. Рад излаже две подцјелине у Музеју. У овом раду су приказане окућнице планинских села, као и окућнице села у долини слива ријека. Приказани објекти илуструју развој конструкције и организације зграда. Окућницу планинских села сачињавају кућа, два вајата, двије магазе, двије качаре, надстрешница за кола, амбар и фуруна. Окућницу села доњег тока ријека чине кућа, три вајата, двије магазе, двије качаре, фуруна, надстрешница за кола и сушара за шљиву. Сваки од објеката је описан кроз организацију, структуру, начин изградње и улогу објекта у функционисању сеоске породице.

Кључне ријечи: традиционална архитектура Србије, Балкан, архитектонско наслеђе

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