



Bosnian chardaklia house: The mulalic family house in Doboj

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Abstract

'The bosnian chardaklia' house occupies a prominent place in the wide variety of architectural programs of the traditional architecture of Bosnia and Herzegovina. With regard to its spatial organization, construction, materialization and equipment of its interior spaces, the Bosnian čardaklija house is the most authentic expression of the natural and social environment of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the complex phenomenon of its man and his primary social community - the family.

The Mulalic family house in Doboj is located on almost flat ground in the center of the city of Doboj (Geographic coordinates: 44°44'03.17"N, 18°05'02.51"E, Elevation: 150 m).

The house was built at the end of the 19th century (probably 1890). Near the house are two important buildings in Doboj, the Mosque of Donje Mahala Trnjak and the Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (1896). Since its construction until today, the house has undergone reconstructions and adaptations. The house is divided vertically into two separate residential units. The Commission for the Preservation of National Monuments of Bosnia and Herzegovina declared the Mulalic family house in Doboj a national monument of Bosnia and Herzegovina in its Decision of March 11, 2011.

Keywords: Bosnian Chardaklia House, Doboj, Mulalic family

1. Introduction

'The Bosnian chardaklia house' occupies a prominent place in the wide variety of architectural programs of the traditional architecture of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Considering its spatial organization, construction, materialization and equipment of its interior spaces, the Bosnian čardaklija house is the most authentic expression of the natural and social environment of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the complex phenomenon of its man and his primary social community-family^[1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6].

The Mulalic family house is located in the center of the Doboj city on a slightly sloping terrain (Geographic coordinates: 44°44'03.17"N, 18°05'02.51"E, Elevation: 150 m), (Figures 1,2). The house was built at the end of the 19th century (probably 1890). The house was built by a member of the Džananović family, and before the end of the First World War, Hasib-bey Efedija Džananović sold the house to the brothers Emin and Mustafa Mulalic in order to finance the education of his son, who enrolled in medical studies in Vienna. During the period between the two world wars, the house remained in the ownership of the Mulalic family, but in 1934 it was divided into two functional parts between the heirs. Near the house are two important buildings in Doboj, the Mosque of Donje Mahala Trnjak and the Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (1896). Since its construction until today, the house has undergone reconstructions and adaptations. The house is divided vertically into two separate residential units^[1].

¹ The author visited this house on July 27, 2016. Džiha (Mehmed) Mulalic, born in 1944, the owner of the northeastern half of the house, and Branislav (Milan) Prepelac, born in 1961, a retired policeman from Doboj, helped him with the architectural recording of the house.

The Commission for the Preservation of National Monuments of Bosnia and Herzegovina by its Decision no. 7.3-2.3-77/2011-13, dated March 11, 2011, declared the house of the Mulalic family in Doboj a national monument of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The decision was published in the „Official Gazette of Bosnia and Herzegovina“, number 53/11.

According to its horizontal plans, the Mulalic family house in Doboj belongs to the type of three- tracts Bosnian cardaklia house, which is vertically developed through the ground floor and first floor (Figure 3). By presenting the physical structure

of a Bosnian chardaklia house, we learn many details about the social environment in which the house was created, about the man for whom the house was built and about the people who built it [7, 8, 9, 10].



Sources: <https://slidetodoc.com/regionalna-podjela-bosne-i-hercegovine-geografske-regije-bosne/>, Accessed 8/9/2022, (left)

Fig 1: The Mulalic family house in Doboj. Location Google Earth: Accessed 8/9/2022 (right)



Source: Author (July 27, 2016)

Fig 2: The Mulalic family house in Doboj. Left: view of the house from the east. Right: view of the house from the garden, from the northeast

2. Spatial-shape characteristics of the house

The Mulalic family house in Doboj primarily belongs to the oriental-type city house in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Equally, this house, considering its spatial disposition and overall architectural physiognomy, can be treated as a Bosnian chardaklia house (Figures 2, 3).

Substantial (only 15 cm), but still noticeable, letting the contour of the floor into the space, beyond the contour of the ground floor, is associated with the design of čardakli houses in the north and northeast of Bosnia, and with houses in the Bosnian Krajina [3, 4, 5].

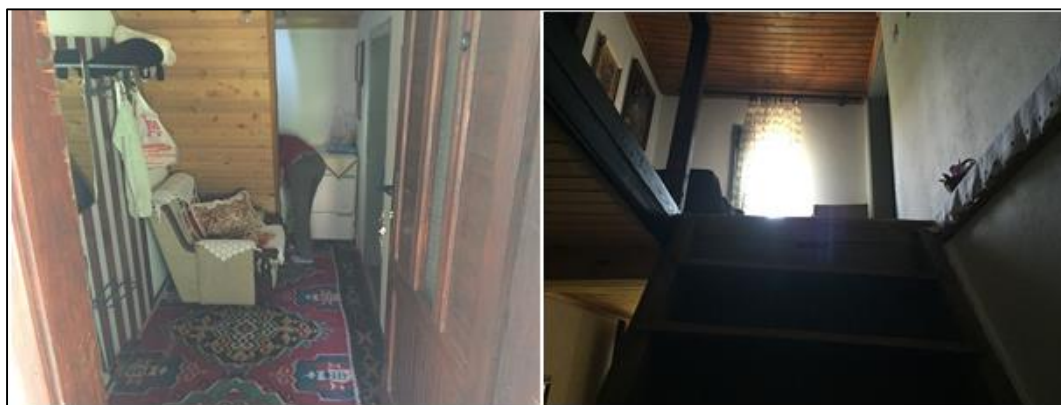
The central tract of the horizontal plans of the house, ground floor and first floor, is a narrow space solved, similar to the

classic solutions of the Bosnian chardaklia house, as a horizontal communication in which there is also a one-legged staircase that vertically connects the ground floor with the first floor (Figures 3, 4, 5). The other two tracts have two rooms each (on the ground floor) and two verandas each (on the first floor). In the central section of the base floor there is a divanhana with a staircase. From the living room you can access the chardaks, two in each of the other two tracts of the base of the floor. In one of the reconstructions, next to both residential units, next to the main body of the house, only on the ground floor level, an annex was added, in which the entrance and bathroom were arranged.



Source: Author (Drawings 2016)

Fig 3: The Mulalic family house in Dobož. Disposition



Source: Author (July 27, 2016)

Fig 4: The Mulalic family house in Dobož. Left: added annex in the northern part of the house and entrance lot with bathroom. Right: view of the divanhana area from the staircase



Fig 5: The Mulalic family house in Doboj. Left: view of the staircase from the divanhana direction. Right: divanhana; the relatively narrow space is arranged in such a way that it seems as if it is much larger than it objectively is
 Source: Author (July 27, 2016)

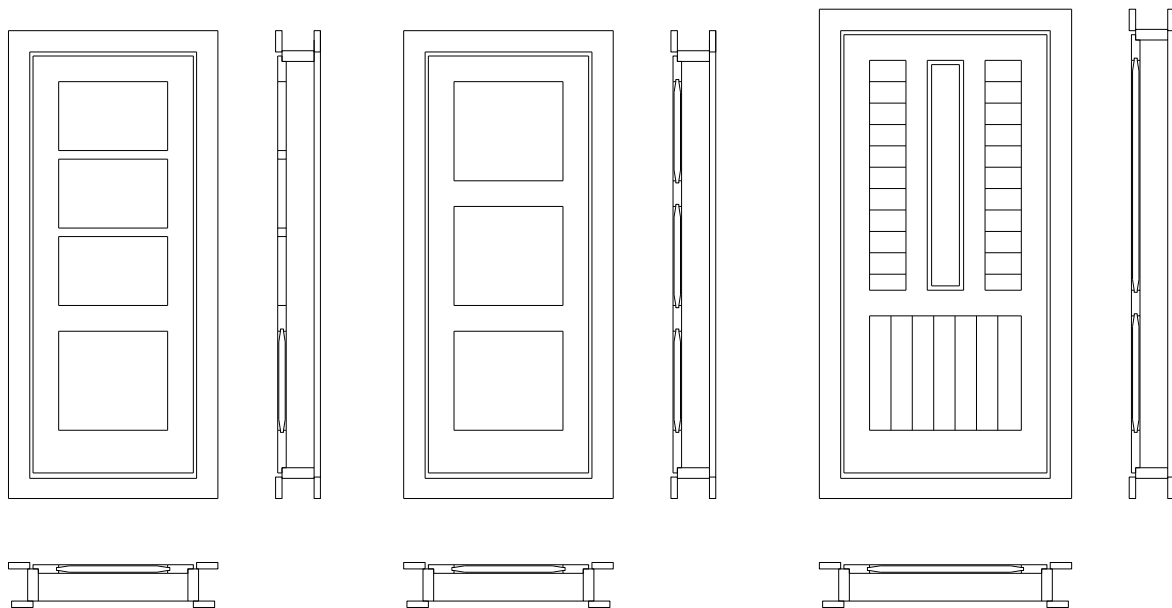
3. Construction and materialization

The foundations of the house are made of semi-finished stone that protrudes about 30 cm above the ground like a plinth. Within the contour of the foundation, a concrete slab was recently installed in the floor on the ground, on which the floor ('brodski pod') was applied as an obligation. The walls, both on the ground floor and on the first floor, are made of a wooden skeleton ('bondruk') with adobe filling. The thickness of the walls on the ground floor is 20 cm, and on the first floor 15 cm. The inter-flor structures, ground-floor and floor-attic, are made of wooden beams with the addition of clay filler with the addition of straw and chaff sawdust, in order to

improve their acoustic and thermal insulation. The roof structure is made of wood, according to the principle of 'rafters with crossbars' ('rogovi sa raspinjacom'). The roof of the house is hipped, with a medium slope (about 45°), covered with pepper tiles (Figure 2).

4. Doors and windows

Most of the original elements of openings, doors and windows have been replaced, so that today the building has original solutions and solutions from different eras (Figures 6-9).



Source: Author (Drawings, 2016)

Fig 6: The Mulalic family house in Doboj. Different door designs

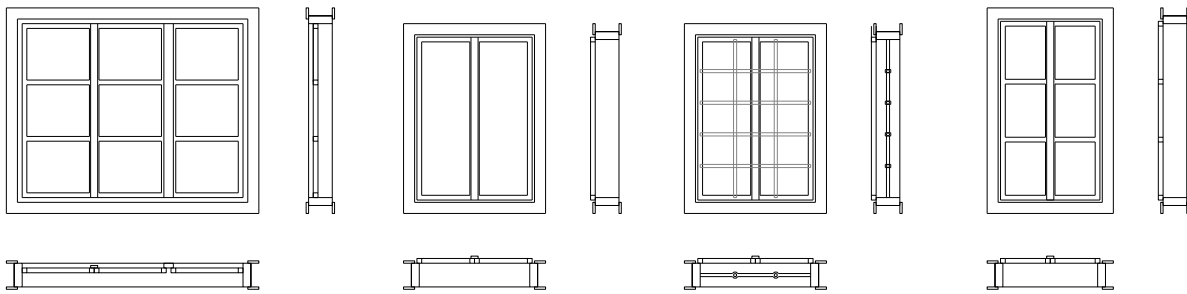


Source: Author (July 27, 2016)

Fig 7: The Mulalic family house in Doboj. Doors on the rooms

The windows on the ground floor have, on the inside, protective iron gratings ('demiri'), and on the outside shutters ('shkure') made of solid wood (Figure 9, 9-left). In addition

to physical protection, wooden shutters provide additional thermal and acoustic insulation of windows [11].



Source: Author (Drawings, 2016)

Fig 8: The Mulalic family house in Doboj. Different window designs



Source: Author (July 27, 2016)

Fig 9: The Mulalic family house in Doboj. Left: window in the room (ground floor). Right: view through the window on the veranda towards the garden

5. Surface treatment

Surface treatment (floors, walls and ceilings) is according to the usual pattern of the Bosnian chardaklia house. Floor coverings are made of massive wooden planks ('ship floor'/'brodski pod') on which 'mats' are added - Bosnian rugs,

woven woolen and cloth strips ('struke', 'zātke', 'trulje'), (Figures 10-18). The external and internal wall surfaces are plastered and whitewashed with milk of lime. The ceilings are made of wooden lining ('shishe'), in a more or less decorative way (Figures 10, 13).



Source: Author (July 27, 2016)

Fig 10: The Mulalic family house in Doboj. Left: view from the divanhana through the open door of one of the chardak. Right: view from the chardak through the open door to the divanhana area



Source: Author (July 27, 2016)

Fig 11: The Mulalic family house in Doboj. Left: view from the divanhana on the east side of the house through the open door to the divanhana area. Right: Bosnian carpet is the floor covering in almost all rooms



Source: Author (July 27, 2016)

Fig 12: The Mulalic family house in Doboj. Left: decorating a room in the northern part of the house. Right: A wooden ceiling in a room with a large amount of lime milk appears to be plastered



Source: Author (July 27, 2016)

Fig 13: The Mulalic family house in Doboj. Left: wooden ceiling in one of the chardaks (west side of the house). Right: wooden paneling in the ceiling of the second chardak (east side of the house)



Source: Author (July 27, 2016)

Fig 14: The Mulalic family house in Doboj. Floor covering in the divanhana. The rug is made by weaving, where the base is made of cotton, and the weft is made of strips of canvas. There are several names for this mat: 'zātka', 'trulja', 'drolja'...

6. Space equipment

All the rooms of the house are richly equipped with furniture and useful items according to the design of the 1980s. At the same time, the furniture and 'every free place' in the space of

the house are decorated with hand embroidery of special artistic value, which gives the space a special elegance (Figures 15-18).



Source: Author (July 27, 2016)

Fig 15: The Mulalic family house in Doboj. Left: detail of the arrangement of one shelf ('rafe') in the part of the staircase. Right: a room decorated as a living room



Source: Author (July 27, 2016)

Fig 16: The Mulalic family house in Doboj. Left: solid fuel stove next to the chimney that was built in one of the many reconstructions of the house. Right: decorating one of the chardaks



Source: Author (July 27, 2016)

Fig 17: The Mulalic family house in Dobož. Arrangement of the chardak on the east side of the house



Source: Author (July 27, 2016)

Fig 18: The Mulalic family house in Dobož. Left: arrangement of one of the chardaks. Right: newly built annex with bathroom

7. Conclusion

The Mulalic family house in Dobož is still used as a residential building. The physical body of the building has been preserved, the house is maintained at an extremely high technical, functional and aesthetic level. Its status as a national monument of Bosnia and Herzegovina is an additional support for its physical stability.

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