



Bosnian chardaklia house: The kovacevic family house in vrazici near celic

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Abstract

Vrazici is a populated place in the Celic municipality, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with 1256 inhabitants. The settlement is located on the Majevisa mountain. In the south of Vrazici flows the Sibosnica river with its famous waterfall called 'Braná'. In 2010, the ecological association "Eko-Zeleni" ("Eco-Green") of the Tuzla Canton declared Vrazice an eco-village in the Tuzla Canton. One of the peculiarities of the Vrazic region is the medieval Bogomil necropolis ('mramorje') and old cemeteries known as 'Hungarian cemeteries', which show the continuity of the population of this area since before the arrival of the Ottomans. In Vrazici, there is also a 'stecak' in a field called 'Do', on which a text is written in Bosnian that speaks of a feudal lord who was buried there. In the Vrazici cemeteries there are also very old sights from the time of the Ottomans.

The Kovacevic family house in Vrazici near Celic is located on a slope with southeast exposure (Geographic coordinates: 44°44'23.09"N, 18°44'53.34"E, Elevation: 280 m). The house was built in the middle of the 20th century by Omer Kovacevic. According to the layout of the horizontal plan, the Kovacevic family house in Vrazici near Celic belongs to the type of three-section Bosnian Chardaklia House, which is vertically developed through the basement, ground floor and first floor.

Keywords: Vrazici, Kovacevic family, Bosnian Chardaklia House

1. Introduction

Vrazici is a populated place in the Celic municipality, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with 1,256 inhabitants ^[1]. The settlement is located on the Majevisa mountain. In the south of Vrazici flows the Sibosnica River with its famous waterfall called 'Braná'. In 2010, the ecological association "Eko-Zeleni" of the Tuzla Canton declared Vrazici an eco-village in the Tuzla Canton. One of the peculiarities of the Vrazici region is the medieval Bogomil necropolis ('mramorje') and old cemeteries known as 'Hungarian cemeteries', which show the continuity of the population of this area since before the arrival of the Ottomans. In the Vrazici cemeteries there are also very old sights from the time of the Ottomans. In Vrazici, there is also a 'stecak' in a field called 'Do', on which there is a text written in Bosnian that speaks of a feudal lord who was buried there (Figure 1).

The Kovacevic family house in Vrazici near Celic is located on a slope with southeast exposure (Geographic coordinates: 44°44'23.09"N, 18°44'53.34"E, Elevation: 280 m), (Figures 2,3,4). The house was built in the middle of the 20th century by Omer ef. Kovacevic ^[1].

Spatial-form characteristics of the house

According to the layout of the horizontal plan, the Kovacevic family house in Vrazici near Celic belongs to the type of three-section Bosnian Chardaklia House, which is vertically developed through the basement, ground floor and first floor (Figure 5).

¹ The author visited this house on July 19, 2016. A neighbor and friend of the Kovacevic family, Mr. Jusuf (Ohro) Kocic (born in 1941), gave him an insight into the building and information about the building and the Kovacevic family.

In relation to the classical solutions of this type of chardaklia [2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7], at the house of the Kovacevic family in Vrazici near Celic, we notice several novelties:

- Instead of the usual access to the central tract of the ground floor, in this house the access is in the first spatial-constructive tract,
- Half of the surface of the middle tract of the base is arranged as a communication surface, both horizontally and vertically. At the same time, the one-legged wooden

staircase ('basamaci'), although completely located in the central tract, is accessed from the first, access tract.

- The space of the 'house' ('kuca'), instead of the usual way of being located on the ground floor, is arranged on the first floor (Figure 5).

There are still such cases in Bosnia and Herzegovina [4, 6, 7]. The basement is developed in two tracts, below the contour of the ground floor (Figure 5).



Fig 1: Medieval Bogumil tombstone ('stecak') in Vrazici (left), 'Hungarian cemetery' (middle) and Ottoman cemetery (right) <http://vrazici.blogspot.com/>, Accessed: 11.27.2022. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=purUS7T9EMk>, Accessed: 11.27.2022.

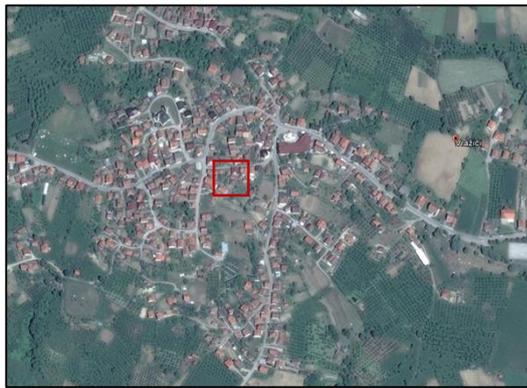


Fig 2: The Kovacevic family house in Vrazici. Location Source: Google Earth. Accessed: November 22, 2022.



Source: Author (7.19.2016.)

Fig 3: The Kovacevic family house in Vrazici near Celic. Looking at the house from the southeast direction (left) and from the southeast direction (right)



Source: Author (7.19.2016.)

Fig 4: The Kovacevic family house in Vrazici near Celic. View of the house from the northeast (left) and the entrance porch at the entrance to the house (right)



Source: Author (Drawing, 2017)

Fig 5: The Kovacevic family house in Vrazici near Celic. Disposition

The area of the access tract on the ground floor is arranged as a living room, on the ground (since the basement is not arranged in this tract). From this space there is access to the hall, in the central tract, and from it to two rooms, one of which is the 'big room' (Figures 5,6). From the living room, a single-legged wooden staircase leads to the space on the first floor, first to the divanhan, and from it to the area of the 'kuca' ('mutvak') and to three chardaks, one of which is a 'big chardak' (Figures 5,6,7).



Source: Author (7.19.2016.)

Fig 6: The Kovacevic family house in Vrazici near Celic. Staircase ground floor-floor ('basamaci')



Source: Author (7.19.2016.)

Fig 7: The Kovacevic family house in Vrazici near Celic. The area of the 'kuca' ('mutvak') on the first floor (left) and the divanhana area on the first floor of the house (right)



Source: Author (7.19.2016.)

Fig 8: The Kovacevic family house in Vrazici near Celic. The area of the 'big chardak' on the first floor of the house (left) and the area of the 'small chardak' (right)



Source: Author (7.19.2016.)

Fig 9: The Kovacevic family house in Vrazici near Celic. Ladder for exiting the attic space (in the 'house', i.e. in the kitchen/'mutvak')

2. Construction and materialization

The walls of the basement of the house are made of semi-finished stone, 70-80 cm thick (Figure 10). On the top of the wall, strong oak beams ('wedding beams') were placed, into

which the columns, columns and beams of the wooden skeleton-construction of the ground floor wall were attached. The walls of the ground floor and first floor are made of a wooden skeleton ('bondruk') with adobe blocks filling (Figures 3, 10).



Source: Author (7.19.2016.)

Fig 10: The Kovacevic family house in Vrazici near Celic. Basement and ground floor walls (due to roof damage, precipitation destroys the physical structure of the house)

The roof of the house has a medium slope (about 45°), with a construction of the type 'rafters with spanner'. The roof covering is 'pepper-tile' (Figure 11).

The wooden elements of the roof structure are permanently smoked, since the chimneys from the stoves in the rooms and attics, and the chimney from the 'kuca' ('mutvak') area on the first floor, were brought into the attic space (Figures 5, 11).



Source: Author (7.19.2016.)

Fig 11: The Kovacevic family house in Vrazici near Celic. Roof construction

3. Surface treatment

All wall surfaces, both external and internal, were plastered

with clay mortar and finally painted with 'white lime milk' (Figures 3,4,12,13,14). The ceilings are made of wooden beams with one layer of thick wooden floors that are finely finished both in the bottom view (ceiling) and in the floor surface (Figures 12,13,14,15). Later, visible ceiling surfaces were painted with oil paint in various shades, while the ceiling in the large conservatory was kept in a 'natural design' (Figure 14).



Source: Author (7.19.2016.)

Fig 12: The Kovacevic family house in Vrazici near Celic. The living room area in the ground floor access tract (left) and the ground floor-ceiling structure in the ground floor living room area (right)



Source: Author (7.19.2016.)

Fig 13: The Kovacevic family house in Vrazici near Celic. The ground-floor ceiling structure in the 'big room', on the ground floor (left) and the wooden ceiling in the 'big room', on the ground floor (you can see part of the hamamdzik covering in the corner and the flue in the ceiling structure)



Source: Author (7.19.2016.)

Fig 14: The Kovacevic family house in Vrazici near Celic. Wooden ceiling in the "big chardak"

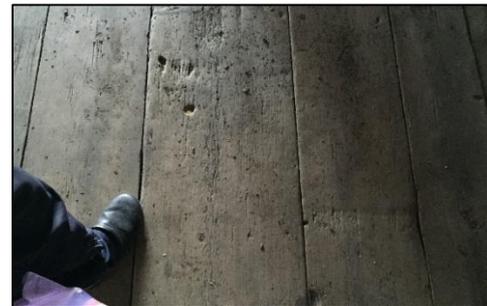
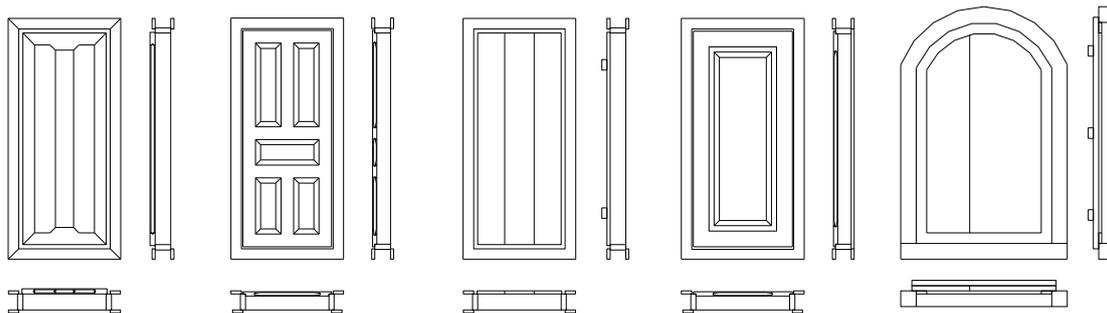


Fig 15: The Kovacevic family house in Vrazici near Celic. Massive wooden floors in the floor of one part of the 'kuca' ('mutvak')

4. Doors and windows

The elements of the opening, according to their design, come from different time periods. Some are archaic, and some are in accordance with the time of construction of the house (Figures 16,17,18,19,20).

Most likely, some of them were taken from an older barn that was in this same place, before the construction of this house.



Source: Author (Drawing, 2017)

Fig 16: The Kovacevic family house in Vrazici near Celic. A variety of door designs



Source: Author (7.19.2016.)

Fig 17: The Kovacevic family house in Vrazici near Celic. Basement door. The design of the door is archaic, and the arch in the stone wall is a sign of the higher aesthetic level of the house (left).

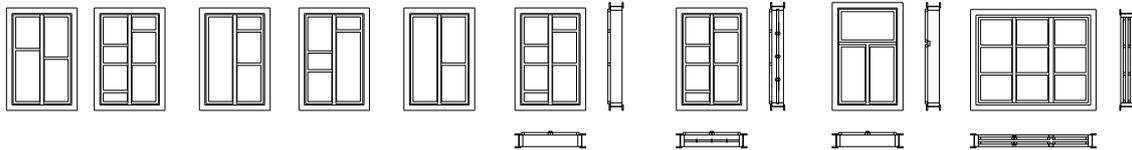
A new lock and holder were installed on the door of the old design and design (right)



Source: Author (7.19.2016.)

Fig 18: The Kovacevic family house in Vrazici near Celic. The door to the room (left) and the door to the 'kuca' ('mutvak') and small chardak (right)

The windows are double, double-hung and triple-hung, glazed with single glass. The window design follows the design patterns of the 1950s (Figures 19, 20).



Source: Author (Drawing, 2017)

Fig 19: The Kovacevic family house in Vrazici near Celic. Different window designs



Source: Author (7.19.2016.)

Fig 20: The Kovacevic family house in Vrazici near Celic. Windows in the living room (left) and window in the bedroom (right)

5. Specific elements of home equipment

The elements of the equipment of the Kovacevic family house in Vrazici are the same as are generally found in Bosnian Chardaklia Houses [4,5].

Small bathrooms ('banjica') have a particularly important place in the equipment of all the main rooms (rooms and chardaks), which are the result of the general view of man on the world (which is based on the religion of Islam) and high hygiene standards (Figure 21).



Source: Author (7.19.2016.)

Fig 21: The Kovacevic family house in Vrazici near Celic. Room with spa ('banjica'), ground floor

Room heating solutions are also interesting; the brick stove ('furuna') is one of the three parts of the part ('banjica', 'furuna' and 'duskluk') built into the wall of a closet ('musandera') located in a large room on the ground floor level (Figures 5,21).

From this stove, an asbestos pipe leads the smoke to the proctor of the attic, where this pipe is the heating element in the room above, on the floor level (Figure 22).



Source: Author (7.19.2016.)

Fig 22: The Kovacevic family house in Vrazici near Celic. The place of penetration of the flue duct in the ceiling structure of the ground floor-floor

6. Conclusion

The physical body of the Kovacevic family house in Vrazici near Celic is more or less preserved. However, the roof covering is damaged in two or three places, from where rain and snow attack the structure of the building and seriously destroy it, since the main building materials of the house are wood and adobe. The house has great architectural and historical-ambient values, as a transitional solution from the classic Bosnian Chardaklia House type to houses with modern layouts.

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