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The historical town Ljubuski

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Abstract

The Ljubuski city (with about 4,500 inhabitants) is located in the south of Bosnia and Herzegovina, distant by road from Mostar 36 km, Makarska 55 km, Split 120 km, Trebinje 120 km, Dubrovnik 130 km and Sarajevo 170 km (Geographic coordinates: 43°12'07.83 "N, 17°32'53.88"E, elevation: 177). Traces of material culture bear witness to the settlement of this area since prehistoric times when its inhabitants were the Illyrians, the Daorsi tribe, who were suppressed by the warlike Ardijes and Delmatians. Artifacts of material culture are preserved in the museum of the Humac monastery, which was founded in 1884, while burial stone mounds and fortified fortifications are still visible in the open space on the site.

Keywords: Ljubuski Old Town, Bosnia and Herzegovina

1. Introduction

Ljubuski is a city (with about 4500 inhabitants)^[1] located in the south of Bosnia and Herzegovina, distant by road from Mostar 36 km, Makarska 55 km, Split 120 km, Trebinje 120 km, Dubrovnik 130 km and Sarajevo 170 km (Geographic coordinates: 43°12'07.83 "N, 17°32'53.88"E, elevation: 177), (Figure 1). Traces of material culture bear witness to the settlement of this area since prehistoric times when its inhabitants were the Illyrians, the Daorsi tribe, who were suppressed by the warlike Ardijes and Delmatians. Artifacts of material culture are preserved in the museum of the Humac monastery, which was founded in 1884, while burial stone mounds and fortified fortifications are still visible in the open space on the site.



Source: https://visitmycountry.net/bosnia_herzegovina/bh/index.php/turizam/27-vmc/geografija, Accessed: 11.19.2022., left

Fig 1: Ljubuski Old Town. Location
Google Earth: Accessed: 11.19.2022, right

2. Environment

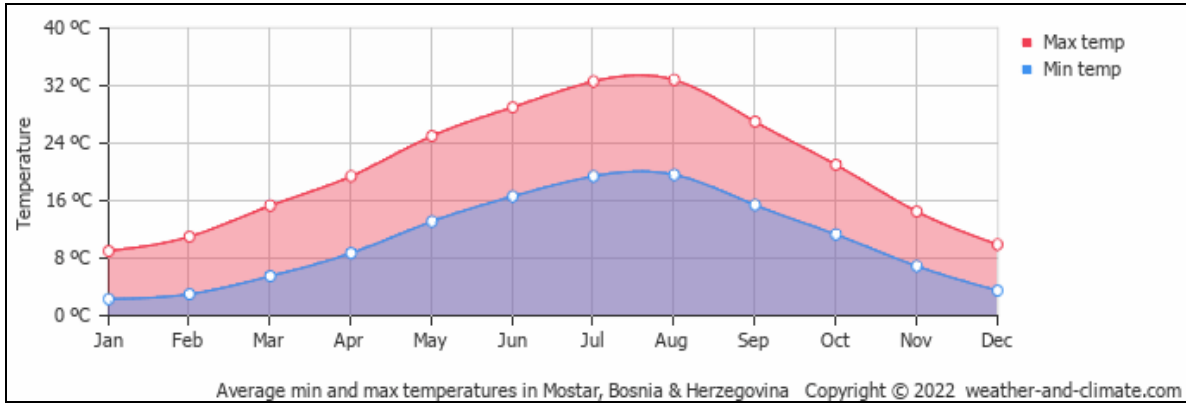
By 'environment' we mean every possibility in the space in which man can realize his existence [2].

2.1 Natural environment

By natural environment, we mean all those features that nature gave, and on which man (mostly) did not exert his

influence: geographical location, geomorphology, watercourses and reservoirs, plant and animal life, available soil, climate [2].

Ljubuški has a moderate Mediterranean climate (Figures 2,3,4,5,6) [3]. Mean minimum and maximum temperatures during the year shown in Figure 2.



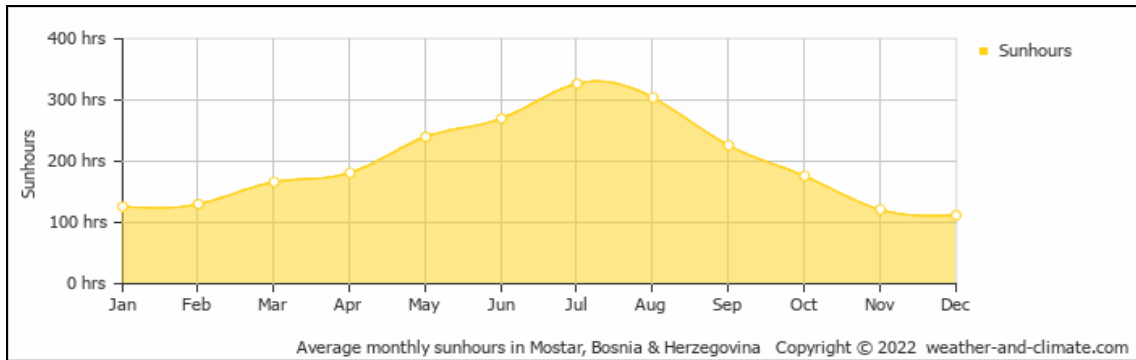
Source: Climate in Ljubuski, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Fig 2: Mean minimum and maximum temperatures during

<https://weather-and-climate.com/average-monthly-Rainfall-Temperature-Sunshine,ljubuski-ba,Bosnia-Herzegovina>, Accessed: 12.16.2022.

The months May, June, September and October have a nice average temperature. On average, the warmest month(s) are June, July and August. On average, the warmest month is August with 33 °C. On average, the coolest month is January

with 9 °C. The average annual maximum temperature is: 21 °C. The average annual minimum temperature is: 10 °C. The average monthly total hours of sunshine over the year (Figure 3).

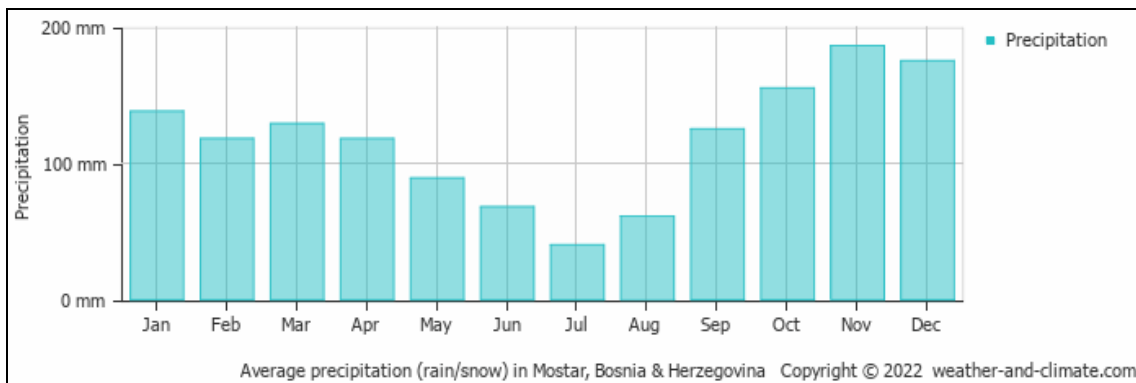


Source: Climate in Ljubuski, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Fig 3: The average monthly total hours of sunshine over the year

<https://weather-and-climate.com/average-monthly-Rainfall-Temperature-Sunshine,ljubuski-ba,Bosnia-Herzegovina>, Accessed: 12.16.2022.

The mean monthly precipitation over the year, including rain, snow and hail (Figure 4).

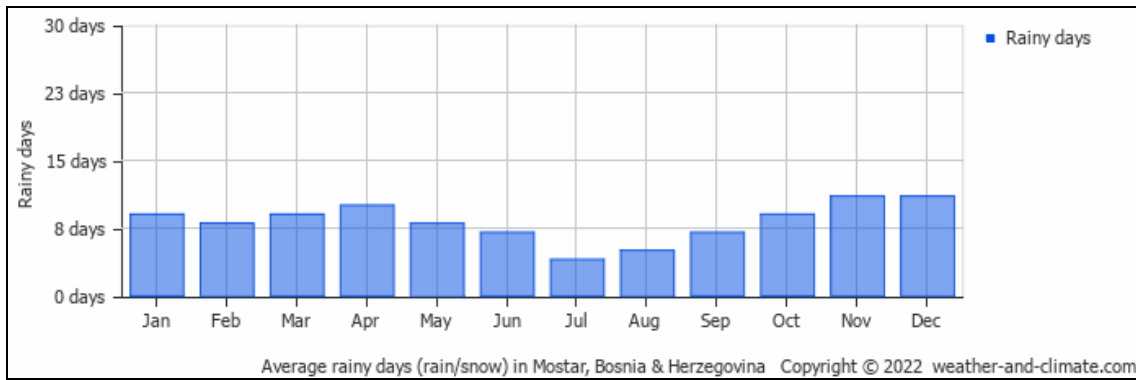


Source: Climate in Ljubuski, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Fig 4: The mean monthly precipitation over the year, including rain, snow, hail

<https://weather-and-climate.com/average-monthly-Rainfall-Temperature-Sunshine,ljubuski-ba,Bosnia-Herzegovina>, Accessed: 12.16.2022.

The average number of days each month with rain, snow and hail (Figure 5).

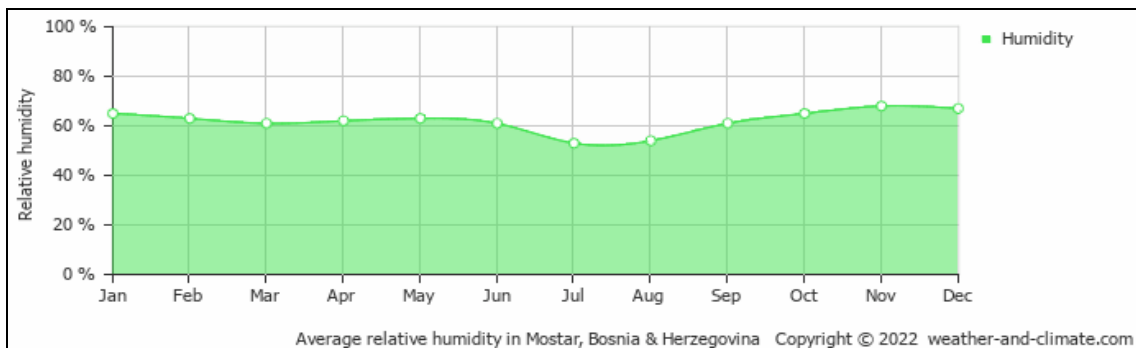


Source: Climate in Ljubuski, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Fig 5: The average number of days each month with rain, snow, hail

<https://weather-and-climate.com/average-monthly-Rainfall-Temperature-Sunshine.ljubuski-ba,Bosnia-Herzegovina>, Accessed: 12.16.2022.

The mean monthly relative humidity over the year (Figure 6).



Source: Climate in Ljubuski, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Fig 6: The mean monthly relative humidity over the year

<https://weather-and-climate.com/average-monthly-Rainfall-Temperature-Sunshine.ljubuski-ba,Bosnia-Herzegovina>, Accessed: 12.16.2022.

The area of Ljubuski is extremely rich in water (bountiful springs and watercourses), (Figures 7,8,25) which, in combination with karst fields (with the possibility of their irrigation) and a moderate Mediterranean climate, provides the basis for agriculture: the cultivation of cereals (including

rice), vegetables, southern and European fruits, tobacco, vines [4]... The most significant watercourse in the area of Ljubuski is the river Tihaljina (that is, Mlade or Trebizat) with the fascinating waterfalls of Kravica and Kocus (Figure 7).



Source: Author (7.23.2011.)

Fig 7: Kravica waterfall



Source: Author (7.23.2011.)

Fig 8: Source Klobuk

The most significant lowlands are Ljubusko polje (Ljubusko field), Veljacko polje (Veljacko field), Vitinsko polje (Vitinsko field), Rastok and Beris (Figure 9). Due to its good connection with the main road and rail corridor of Bosnia and

Herzegovina that leads from Posavina, through Sarajevo and further along the Neretva river to the Adriatic Sea, Ljubuski has exceptional advantages to include all its goods in the near and far market [4].



Source: <http://ljubusaci.com/2014/10/26/pirinacljubusak/>, Accessed: 12.17.2022.

Fig 9: Fields in Ljubuski

https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/p/AF1QipMTCTP5jVivyf9tuVNrSghS4OO_MTsD1MWbjqTr=h720, Accessed: 12.17.2022.

2.2. Social environment

By Social environment we mean everything that man has created and that separates him from the world of other living beings [2]. It includes both physical structures (various material, more or less ordered products of their activity) and the immaterial world that we know with the intellect (science, philosophy, religion, law, morality) through an ordered system of abstract symbols (letters, signs) [2].

History of Old Town Ljubuski. The ancient Romans came to this area in the 3rd century B.C. and by the 1st century, after a series of wars, conquered the Illyrians. In the Roman administrative system, the area of Ljubuski was part of the Maronite Convent with Narona (today Vid near Metkovic) as its capital. During the six centuries of Roman rule, a number of traces of material culture remained in this area. The settlement of Bigeste was a way station on the military road Salona (today's Solin)-Narona (today's Vid). The Pagus Scunasticus settlement (in the area of Mostarska vrata) was built by Roman military veterans who, as a sign of gratitude for the land granted to them, erected a monument to the Roman emperor Tiberius (42 B.C.-37). On Humac, near today's Franciscan monastery, in the locality of Gracine, the remains of a Roman military complex - Bigesta with the remains of a bathhouse with a sauna - were excavated. Remains of early Christian basilicas were also found in Vojnici, Vitina, Crni Grmo and Proboj [4, 5, 6].

Slavs have been coming to this area since the beginning of

the 7th century. Many 'stecak' necropolises date from the Middle Ages, as many as 45 localities with a total of around 600 stecak specimens. The most famous stecak necropolises are located in the localities of Studenci, Klobuk, Bijaca, Zvirici, Grab, Veljaci and Hardomilje. In 14.-15. century, a fort was built on top of Buturovice. At the end of the 14th century, the village of Veljaci was mentioned, which the Bosnian king Stjepan Dabisa (?-1395) gave to his daughter Stana. Ljubuski was first mentioned in written documents in 1444 under the name Lubussa when it had a suburb with a church.

The Ottomans occupied this area in 1472 and strengthened their position by building and strengthening the fort they found. Soon they built their first mosque here (1558), whose vakif (benefactor) was Nesuh-aga Vucjakovic. Ljubuski then administratively belonged to the 'Imotski kadiluk', until 1718, after which it itself received the status of 'kadiluk'.

The Austro-Hungarian army led by General Jovanović entered Ljubuski on August 2, 1878. years. During the Austro-Hungarian administration, the foundations of viticulture and tobacco cultivation were laid in Ljubuski. Roads, bridges, administrative buildings, a church and a monastery were built, and Ljubuski polje was rehabilitated and a cadastre was organized.

After the end of the First World War (1918), Ljubuski became part of the newly established Kingdom of SHS and the Kingdom of Yugoslavia (1918-1929-1941). At the beginning of the Second World War, Ljubuski was part of the

NDH, in the parish of Hum, and after 1945, until 1992, it was part of the new Yugoslav state, FNRJ/SFRJ. After 1992, Ljubuski was part of the independent state of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Architectural cultural and historical heritage. Throughout the rich history of Ljubuski, where the Illyrians, the ancient Romans, the Slavs, the Ottoman Empire, the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy and the Yugoslav state formations alternated, traces of material culture overlapped each other, which in their totality make up the enormous embodied energy of the modern city of Ljubuški (Figures 10-17). The most numerous group of prehistoric sites in Herzegovina consists of tombstones called tumuli (heaps, mounds or mounds). Burial tumuli were erected in honor of one or more deceased, in places favorable for their construction and performance of funeral rituals (Figure 10). The dimensions of the tumulus range from a few meters to 30 m in diameter at the base, which can be circular, elliptical or irregular in shape. After choosing a favorable place for erecting a tumulus, a stone burial structure was built in the form of a cist ('chest'), with two longitudinal and two transverse sides of stone slabs. The average size of the stone cists is 100 x 45 cm, inside which the remains of the deceased were laid in a crouched ('hocker') position. Sometimes there can be several people in the burial cist of a tumulus, and sometimes the burial cist can be empty, which is dedicated to a person of a certain prehistoric community whose remains have not been found ('cenotaph'). The oldest tumuli in Herzegovina come from the Eneolithic period (3500-2300 B.C.).



Source: https://arheohercegovina.com/2013/08/23/devastacije-lokaliteta-i-dio/dsc_8233/, Accessed: 12.20.2022.

Fig 10: Tumulus near Ljubuski



Source: Author (7.23.2011.)

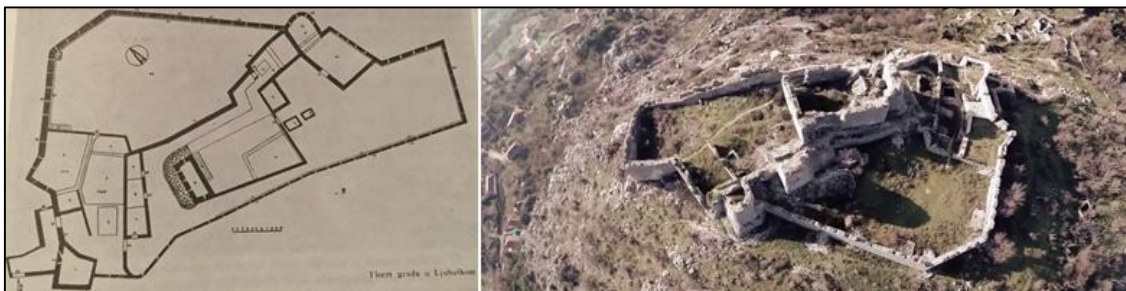
Fig 11: View from the Old Town Ljuboski to the new part of the town in the plain

Early Christian basilica in Doci. The basilica was built (4th century) during the reign of ancient Rome in this area (Figure 12).



Fig 12: The remains of the early Christian basilica in Doci
<http://medjugorje.info/medjugorje/index.php/hr/o-medugorju/okolna-mjesta/ljubuski>, Accessed: 6.10.2018.

The old town Ljubuski. The medieval fortress-city was built in the middle of the 15th century on Butorovica hill above the present-day town of Ljubuški. The city is dominated by the massive tower of Herceguša (tower of Herceg Stjepan Vukčić Kosaca). Four water cisterns (cisterns), a guardhouse, a granary, bakeries and gunpowder mills were built within the city-fort. The Ottomans expanded and additionally fortified this city-fort after they conquered it (1463). Control over this city-fortress passed from one lord to another (Bosnian rulers and Hungarians) until the Ottomans definitively occupied it in 1503, where they remained until his death (1835), (Figures 13, 14, 15).



Source: Kresevljakovic, H. (1991). Selected works, book II, Veselin Maslesa, Sarajevo (in Croatian)

Fig 13: Old Town Ljubuski



Fig 14: Tower of Herceg Stjepan Vukčić Kosaca in the Old Town Ljubuski
<http://herzegovina.travel/blog/listings/stari-grad-ljubuski/>
<http://nasatv.ba/pripema-se-dokumentacija-obnove-kule-ljubuskom/>
<http://medjugorje.info/medjugorje/index.php/hr/o-medjugorju/okolna-mjesta/ljubuski>
 Accessed: 6.10.2018.



Fig 15: Tower of Herceg Stjepan Vukčić Kosaca in the Old Town Ljubuski
<http://ljubusaci.com/2021/09/12/tvrđava-hercega-stjepana-u-ljubuskom/>
<https://www.ljportal.com/price-mostar-hercegovinu-stari-grad-ljubuski-10844/>
<https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/p/AF1QipP7QtUbrarFH77SoX0KdBy2gcCT3n0ekRIeD-8X=h720>, Accessed: 11.22.2022.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8HIXIfGsEyc>
<https://herzegovina.in/videostari-grad-ljubuski-uskoro-u-novom-ruhu/>

The Humacka plate ('Humacka ploča') dates from the 10th or 11th century. It has dimensions of 65 x 60 x 15 cm and an inscription in the Old Bosnian language written in Bosnian script. This plaque was built (1867) into the wall of the

Church of St. Anne in the Franciscan monastery on Humac near Ljubuski, from where it was taken out (1958) and exhibited in the monastery museum (Figure 16).

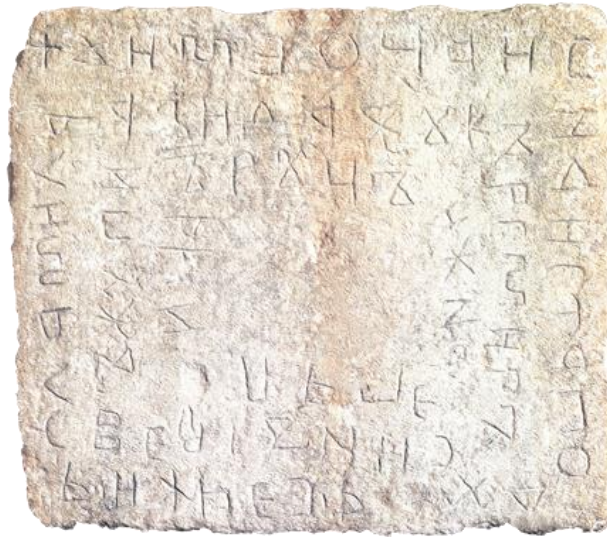
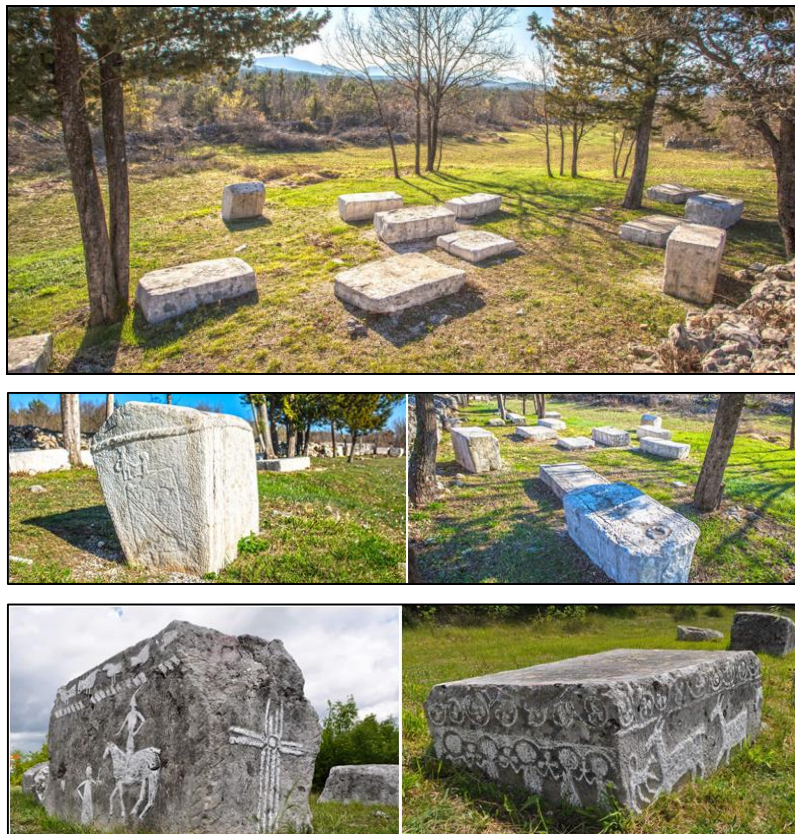


Fig 16: The Humacka plate ('Humacka ploca')

<http://www.hkv.hr/izdvojeno/vaiprilozi/ostalo/prilozi-graana/24874-m-nosichumacka-ploca.html>, Accessed: 12.17.2022.

In the vicinity of Ljubuski, there are 7 necropolises with a total of 214 stecaks, of which: slabs 88, chests 78, chests with pedestals 1, sarcophagi 9 and slabs and chests that are not individually described 48 examples [7, 8]. Of the 176 tombstones described, half are slabs, half are chests, while sarcophagi are relatively few, but they are artistically decorated with better quality than the others (Figure 17). Out of 176 examples, 81 are decorated, of which 33 with the symbol of the cross, which was especially evident in Gornji Studenci. Decorative motifs on necropolises with stećci from the Ljubus region are as follows: shield motif with sword,

oyster symbol, human figures with decoration, twisted rope and ribbons, crescent moon, rosettes, trefoil tendrils, wheel, spiral motif, hunting scenes, falcon symbol and tournament. Several stone workshops were active in this area as bearers of different influences. It is not the same workshop of the craftsmen who made the monuments at the necropolis in Gornji Studenci and those who worked on the 'Gračine' necropolis in Bijaca, Zvirici and Przine. Most of the monuments belong to the 14th and 15th centuries, some examples, however, could have been created much earlier, perhaps even in the 12th century.



Source: <https://kravica.ba/stecci-u-ljubuskom/>, Accesssd: 12.16.2022.

Fig 17: Stećci u okolici Ljubuškog

<https://stecakmap.info/nekropola/pod-sekulanom/#Pod%20Sekulanom>, Accesssd: 12.16.2022.



Source: Author (7.23.2011.)

Fig 19: Public fountain 'Zabljak' in Ljubuski

Across the street from the Nesuh-aga Vuckovic mosque (which was built in 1559), in the Old Town Ljubuski, stands a public fountain without any inscription, leaning against a strong stone wall.

This public fountain is a sublimated expression of the concept of a fountain: accessible to all people passing by on the street, unobtrusive, nameless, without written messages - it is a pure purpose (Figure 20).



Source: Author (7.23.2011.)

Fig 20: Public fountain next to the Nuh-age Vuckovic mosque in the Old Town Ljubuski

Growing and processing of tobacco was very important in the past in the area of Ljubuski and carried almost the entire economy. In addition to the economic importance, the social dimension of tobacco production is also very important, as tobacco has been the main source of income for many families for many years. All members of the family participated in its cultivation and production, both those able to work, as well as children and the elderly, and many families in the entire municipality and the surrounding area made a living from tobacco cultivation. At the end of the 20th century, there was stagnation, and in the 21st century, the complete shutdown of tobacco production in Herzegovina. The tobacco station complex in the Ljubuski town (Tabak Einlöseami) was built since 1880 in several stages for the needs of tobacco processing. At the time, 11 buildings were located on the southern outskirts of the city of Ljubuski. In the Austro-Hungarian phase, five pavilion buildings were built - warehouses for tobacco, further classification and processing, one administrative building and one residential

building with several apartments for the accommodation of officials (Figure 21).



Fig 21: Tabak Einlöseami (Tobacco Purchase Station) in Ljubuski (1900)

<https://poskok.info/da-nam-monica-ne-dolaziu-opcinu-pokretanje-postupka-proglasenjaopcine-gradom/>, Accessed: 6.10.2018.



Fig 22: Municipal building in Ljubuski (built during the Austro-Hungarian administration)
<https://ljubuski.net/22896-program-obiljezavanja-dana-opcine-ljubuski>, Accessed: 12.17.2022.



Fig 23: Today's Ljubuski city
<https://www.vecernji.ba/vijesti/ljubuski-oazahercegovine-1187073>, Accessed: 6.10.2018.

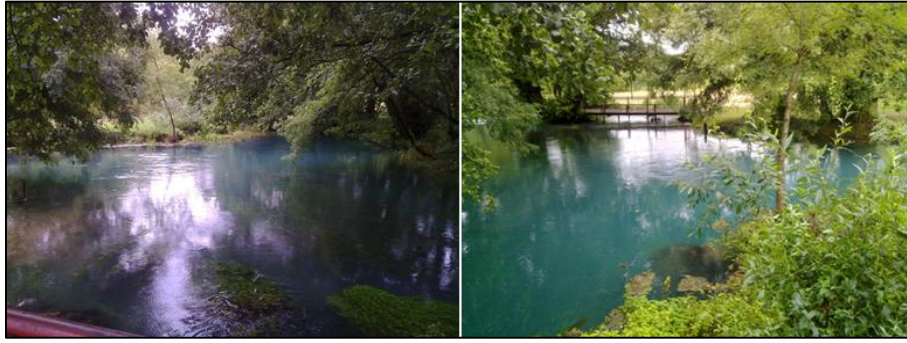




Source: Author (7.23.2011.)

Fig 24: Public fountain next to the Nesuh-aga Vucjakovic mosque in the Old Town Ljubuski





Source: Author (7.23.2011.)

Fig 25: The Old Town Ljubuski. Architectural structures



Source: <https://balkandiskurs.com/2022/07/29/revitalizacija-hercegovackog-duhana/>, Accessed: 12.17.2022.

Fig 26: Tobacco Museum in Ljubuski (arranged in the former Tabak Einlöseami building)

5. Conclusion (Perspectives)

By the term 'Perspective' (in the framework of the theory of Architecturally Defined Space) we mean „that dynamic relationship that connects now-future, existing-possible, realized-desired“^[2].

Ljubuski is located in the south of Bosnia and Herzegovina and is located on important roads to Mostar (36 km), Makarska (55 km), Split (120 km), Dubrovnik (130 km) and Sarajevo (170 km). The city area covers an area of 292.7 km², and the city area extends from the top of the Buturovice mountains to the Ljubusko polje (Ljubusko field) towards the Trebizat river. In addition to the famous Karst relief of Herzegovina, Ljubuski has several fertile fields. The most famous are Ljubusko, Veljacko, Vitinsko, Rastok and Beris, which is washed by the river Trebizat. Of the many tributaries, which make the Ljubuska area the richest in water in all of Herzegovina, it is worth mentioning the Vriostica, which springs up in Vitina, and the Studencica, which springs up in Studenci and waters the Studenacko polje (Studenacko field). In the city, there are about 10,000 ha of pasture and about 16,000 ha of forest, mainly deciduous trees: oak, hornbeam, ash, chub, dogwood and karst bushes. The highest mountain peak in the area of the city is the 959-meter-high Vrlosinj, from which you can see the Adriatic Sea.

The geopolitical position (proximity to the Adriatic Sea and orientation to the rich traffic infrastructure in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia), moderate Mediterranean climate (with 2300 hours of sunshine a year), rich natural resources (water, arable fields, pastures, forests) open wide perspectives for the Ljubuski city prosperous life.

The Old Town Ljubuski is a rich cultural and architectural

heritage of today's city of Ljubuski, which confirms the continuity of life in this area. A good way to 'activate' that legacy, or its 'embodied energy', is the first tobacco museum in the region and at the same time the restaurant "Tabak" in Ljubuski, which opened on May 1, 2022. The museum is located in a former tobacco factory that no longer operates as factory, but which still has the entire plant and machines (Figures 21,26).

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