



Oriental style city house in bosnia and herzegovina: The gavrkapetanovic family house in pocitelj near mostar

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Abstract

The Gavrankapetanovic family house is a complex located in Pocitelj, Capljina municipality (Geographic coordinates: 43°08'03.20"N, 17°43'53.44"E, elevation: 36). The complex was built during the 16th and 17th centuries, and consists of two smaller and one larger building, divided into a public part ('selamluk') and an intimate family part ('haremluk'). The elements of oriental architecture are the fenced inner courtyard ('avlija'), the layout of the horizontal and vertical plan, with halls on the ground floor and on the first floor ('hayat', 'divanhana'), hipped roof, windows with a sharp arch in densely placed rows. By the middle of the 19th century, the Gavrankapetanovic family house was abandoned and falling into disrepair, which is why a project to turn it into an art colony was launched in 1961 in order to preserve and restore the building. This was completed in 1975, with the central building converted into accommodation for artists.

Keywords: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Pocitelj, the Gavrankapetanovic family house

1. Introduction

The Pocitelj old town is situated on the left bank of the Neretva River, along the main road Sarajevo-Mostar-Metkovic, about 30 km from Mostar and about 5 km from Capljina (Figure 1). In the Middle Ages, Pocitelj was the administrative center of the parish of Dubrava. The builder ^[1, 2, 3, 4] of the fortified Pocitelj town (1383) was (most likely) the Bosnian king Stjepan Tvrtko I (1338-1391, in power 1353-1377). The city's fortifications were extended until the 18th century, during the reign of the Ottoman Empire. Pocitelj was mentioned for the first time in 1444 in the charters of the Aragonese King Alfonso V (Alfons the Magnanimous, 1396-1458) and the Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, Frederick III (1415-1493) ^[1]. In the period (1463-1471), Pocitelj was under the administration of Hungary, and from 1471 it fell under the administration of the Ottoman Empire, until 1878, when it fell under the administration of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. Pocitelj was (1782-1879) the seat of the Pocitelj Kadiluk and (1713-1835) the seat of the Pocitelj Captaincy ^[1]. Seen as a whole, the city of Pocitelj is a unique urban-architectural entity, a city-amphitheatre under the open sky²⁴². The largest part of the physical structure of Pocitelj was acquired during the rule of the Ottoman Empire, when the city acquired the features of the oriental-Ottoman morphology with a differentiated public part (bazaar) and residential-private part (mahal). The bazaar consisted of: Sisman Ibrahim Pasha Mosque (also known as Hadzi Alija Mosque, built in 1563), Sisman Ibrahim Pasha Madrasah (before 1664), Clock Tower (before 1664), Sisman Ibrahim Pasha Khan (1665), hammam (before 1664) ^[3]. The residential part of the guard consists of houses placed on the slope of the natural amphitheater where each of them has a smaller or larger courtyard and garden. The Gavrankapetanovic family house was the only one with a differentiated public ('selamluk') and family-intimate ('haremluk') part of the residential complex. This house was built in the late 17th or early 18th century. After serious reconstruction and adaptation (1975), this building was converted into an Art Colony.

The main natural resource of the Pocitelj town is its position in the natural amphitheater of karst and the Neretva river ^[5] (Figures 2, 3, 4). The position in the natural amphitheater offered the city, since its foundation, the possibility of protection from attackers, which was additionally ensured by defensive walls and towers.

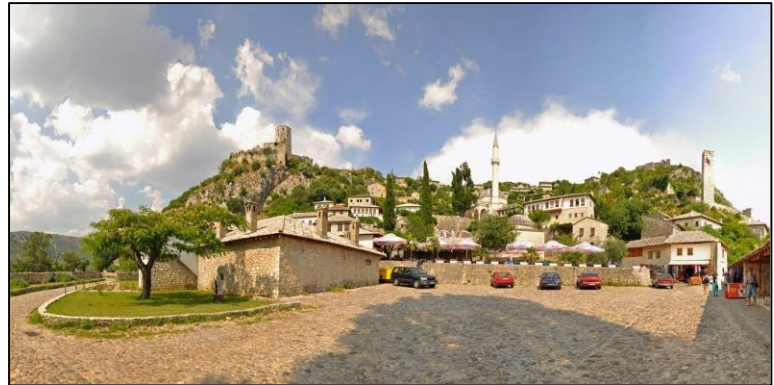
The Neretva river was the natural connection of the city with the settlements downstream down the Neretva, all the way to the Adriatic Sea. Moreover, there is evidence that ships from the Adriatic Sea sailed along the Neretva all the way to Pocitelj, where the port was. Important buildings built in Pocitelj (mosque, madrasa, hammam and inn) made the settlement a center of trade, a bazaar of a wider agrarian area outside the walls of Pocitelj. Today, the cultural and historical

heritage is the main reason for the arrival of people (curios, tourists, students and scientists), which is what some of its inhabitants live off. Since Pocitelj is located on the main road that connects Bosnia and Herzegovina with the Adriatic Sea, even today people from the surroundings of Počitelj bring their products here (fruits, vegetables, honey, tobacco) and sell them to passers-by.



Source: Google Earth. Accessed: June 8, 2023.

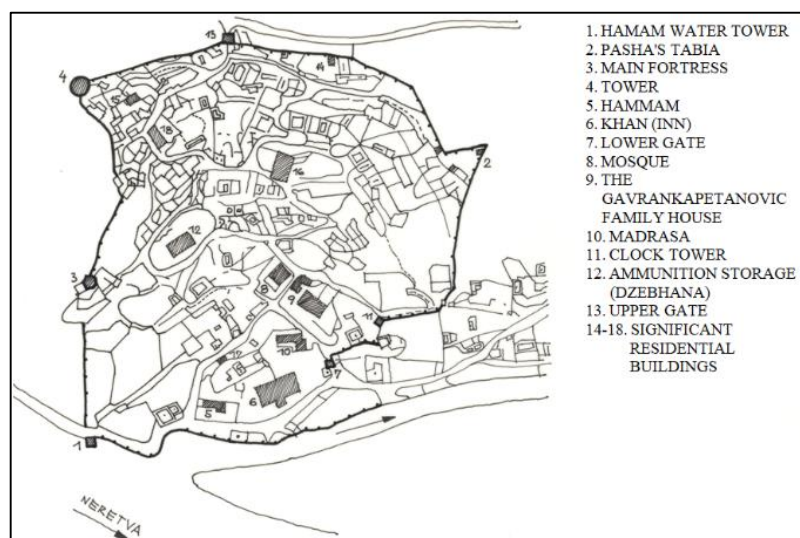
Fig 1: The Gavrankapetanovic family House in Pocitelj. Location



Source: <https://forum.klix.ba/bosansko-hercegovackeuvrde-stari-gradovi-itd-t59072.html>, Accessed: June 8, 2023.

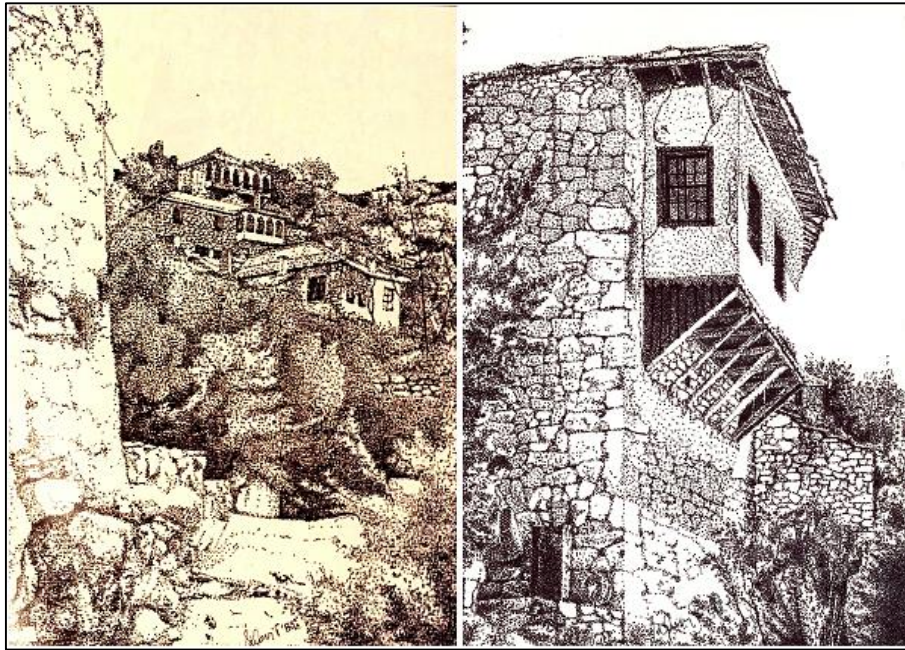
Source: <http://jeff2015.blogspot.com/2015/03/pocitelj-bosnia-and-herzegovinaanother.html>, Accessed: June 8, 2023.

Fig 2: Pocitelj on the Neretva river



Source: Celic, Dz. (1960). Pocitelj on the Neretva, Our Antiquities No. VII, Sarajevo (in Bosnian)

Fig 3: Pocitelj on the Neretva river. The Situation



Source: Ahmet Hadrovic (Drawings, 1983)

Fig 4: Pocitelj on the Neretva river

2. Spatial-form characteristics of the house

The Gavrankapetanovic family house in Pocitelj has a differentiated public ('selamluk') and intimate family part ('haremluk'). From the street there is access to the inner courtyard ('avlija') of the public part, and from here to the inner courtyard ('avlija') of the intimate-family part (Figures 5,6,7,8). The public part of the house complex is vertically developed through the ground floor and the first and second floors. On the ground floor of the public part are storerooms ('magaza'); on the floor of the public part there is one large room ('halvat') and a storage room ('hudjera'). On the second

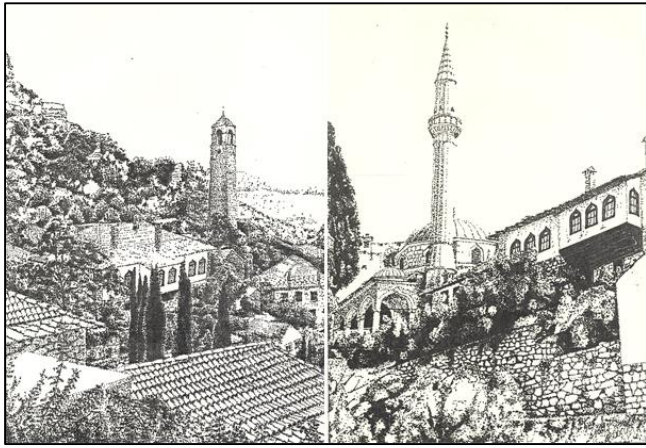
floor of the public part, there are two rooms, 'large and small chardak', and a kitchen ('mutvak'), which is accessed from the courtyard of the intimate and family part of the house complex, while on the second floor there are decorated rooms ('chardaks') [6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11].

On the ground floor of the intimate and family part of the complex ('haremluk') there is an access hall ('hayat') and five rooms ('halvats'). From the hall, a wooden staircase ('basamaci') leads to the hall on the first floor ('divanhana'), from which access is given to five rooms (chardaks).



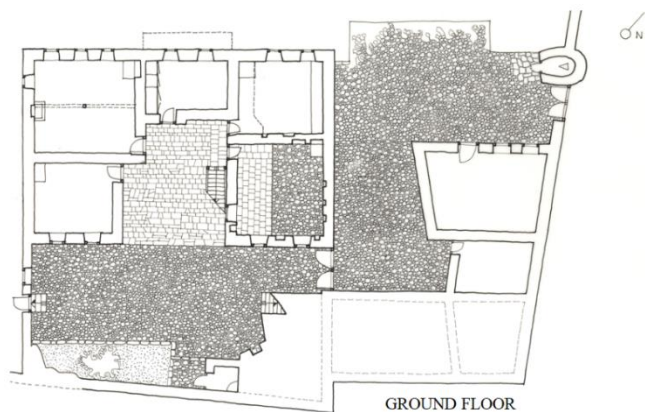
Source: https://interprojekt.ba/en/?page_id=50, Accessed: June 8, 2023

Fig 5: The Gavrankapetanovic family house in Pocitelj



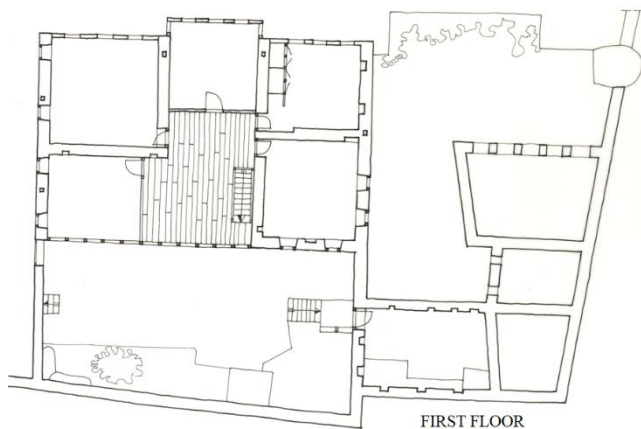
Source: Ahmet Hadrovic (Drawings, 1983)

Fig 6: The Gavrankapetanovic family house in Pocitelj



Source: Celic, Dz. (1960). Pocitelj on the Neretva, Our Antiquities No. VII, Sarajevo (in Bosnian)

Fig 7: The Gavrankapetanovic family house in Pocitelj. Ground Floor



Source: Celic, Dz. (1960). Pocitelj on the Neretva, Our Antiquities No. VII, Sarajevo (in Bosnian)

Fig 8: The Gavrankapetanovic family house in Pocitelj. First Floor

3. Construction and materialization

Most of the walls of the house, both external and internal, are made of stone, 50-70 cm thick. Only the walls of the

conservatory facing the Neretva river (and Pocitelj bazaar), the wall of the divanhana and one chardak facing the courtyard, are made of a wooden skeleton with stone filling (Figure 5). The interfloor structures are made of wooden beams that support the floor covering of thick wooden boards and the rafter made of finely processed wooden boards ('shishe'), (Figure 9). The four-pipe roof has a wooden structure and a covering of stone slabs (Figure 5).



Source: <https://radiosarajevo.ba/metromahala/kultura/tresnjeva-nedjelja-privukla-mnogobrojne-umjetnike-u-pocitelj/302067#>
Accessed: June 10, 2023.

Fig 9: The Gavrankapetanovic family house in Pocitelj. Art gallery

4. Doors and windows

The door at the access gate from the street to the courtyard of the public part of the complex is a double-winged, wooden, rustic design. The door on the ground floor of the public part of the house complex is similar (Figure 10).



Source: <https://kalesijski.ba/u-dragulju-hercegovine-vrijeme-kada-stoji-pocitelj-je-vjecna-inspiracija-umjetnicima/>
Accessed: June 8, 2023.

Fig 10: The Gavrankapetanovic family house in Pocitelj. Left: entrance gate. Right: the door on the ground floor of the public part of the house complex

All windows in the public part of the house have a rectangular profile, made of wood, single-hung. The windows on the floor of the public part of the house complex are two-part, where the lower part of the window sash opens by sliding vertically upwards ('surma windows').

The windows on the ground floor of the intimate family part of the house have a rectangular profile, while the windows on the first floor have a sharp, spiral arch^[8]. The windows on the ground floor have mechanical protection from a grid made of wrought iron (Figure 11).



Source: <https://avaz.ba/vijesti/kolumne/736177/safet-zec-patriota-sa-stavom>, Accessed: June 10, 2023.

Source: Ahmet Hadrovic (Drawing, 1985)

Fig 11: The Gavrankapetanovic family House in Pocitelj. Windows

5. Specific elements of home equipment

As the house of the Gavrankapetanović family changed its purpose already in the 1960s (it was converted into an art colony), and was seriously devastated during the war (1992-1995), no artifacts of its original interior decoration and equipment have been preserved. However, according to preserved archival material^[7, 8], it can be seen that the house of the Gavrankapetanović family in Počitelj had similar elements of interior design as the houses of the Kajtaz and Biscevic families in Mostar^[7, 8].

6. Conclusion (Perspectives)

The Commission for the Preservation of National Monuments of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with its Decision No. 01-278/02 of January 21, 2003, declared the historic city area of Počitelj a national monument of Bosnia and Herzegovina^[12].

The inn in Pocitelj was built around 1665. It belonged to the type of one-room inn formed around a central space for housing horses. The external dimensions of the inn were 28 x 13 m. The inn building was renovated at the end of the 20th century, when the inn was converted into a restaurant (Figure 12).



Source: http://www.bosna-ihercegovina.eu/destinacija_stolac-i-pocitelj_8, Accessed: June 8, 2023.

Source: <https://www.han-pocitelj.com/>, Accessed: June 8, 2023.

Fig 12: Sisman Ibrahim Pasha Inn. Inn adapted into a restaurant

The renovation of the Gavrankapetanovic family house began in 2002. The house was adapted with the primary function of

“Art Colony”, but other manifestations are also held there (“Cherry Week”, for example), (Figures 13, 14).



Source: <https://prezi.com/dhrj8xf1ohkb/pocitelj/?frame=c76daad81704ad3aad78352168d3c634f5afbdea>, Accessed: June 10, 2023.

Source: <https://prezi.com/dhrj8xf1ohkb/pocitelj/?frame=af9f961d4745efca336a51d095528ebd7280f914>, Accessed: June 10, 2023.

Source: <https://upoznajtesvijetokonas.com/2020/11/05/pocitelj-sjaj-koji-blijedi-za-ratni-kulturocid-odgovorno-je-ratno-a-za-poratni-poratno-rukovodstvo-na-svim-razinama-vlasti/>, Accessed: June 10, 2023.

Fig 13: The Gavrankapetanovic family house in Pocitelj. Art colony and venue for “Cherry Week” events



Source: <https://visitbih.ba/safet-zec-pocitelj-je-moja-ludost/>, Accessed: June 10, 2023.

Fig 14: The Gavrankapetanovic family house in Pocitelj. Academic painter Safet Zec in his studio in The Gavrankapetanovic family house in Pocitelj

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12. Commission for the Preservation of National Monuments of Bosnia and Herzegovina http://old.kons.gov.ba/main.php?id_struct=6&lang=1&action=view&id=780 Accessed: June 8, 2023.