



Oriental style city house in bosnia and herzegovina: The avdagic family house in foca

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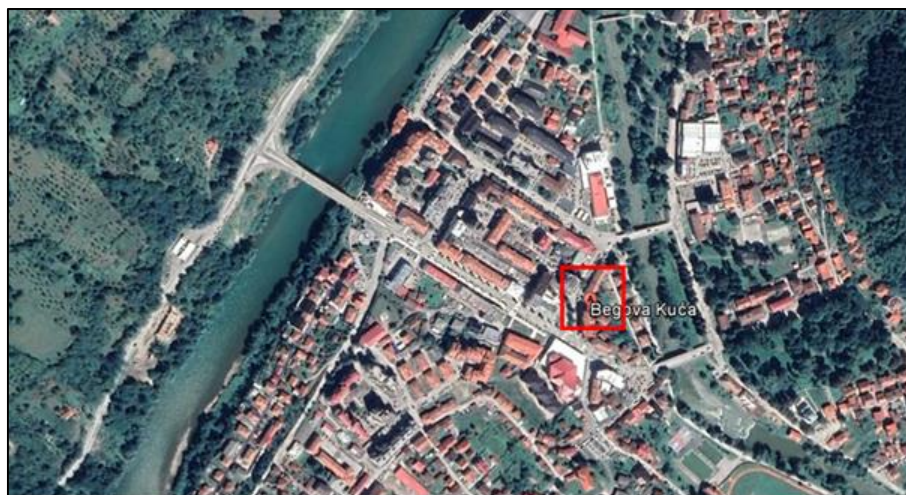
Abstract

The Avdagic family house (The Idriz-beg Avdagic house, generally known as 'Beg's house') is located in the former Ortakolo mahale in Foca, in the center of the Foca city (Geographic coordinates: 43°30'23.96"N, 18°46'34.72"E, Elevation: 399 m). It was built in the middle of the 18th century. It was adapted after the Second World War, and in the 1960s it was placed under protection. The famous Avdagic family from Foca was very rich. Avdagica Luka near the Foca town is well-known, where, during the time of the former SFRY, after the nationalization of the land, the large wood-industrial complex SIP „Maglic“ was built.

Keywords: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Foca, The Avdagic family house

1. Introduction

The Avdagic family house is located in the former Ortakolo mahale of in Foca (Figure 1). In general, the houses in Foca represent a separate and characteristic architectural style, which relies more on the Byzantine-Aegean house type in North Macedonia (and the house type in Adapazara, Turkey) [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7], but on the forms of oriental-type city houses in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Figures 2,3). Although the house of wealthy owners, it is not spatially divided into an intimate family part ('haremluk') and a public part ('selamluk'). The inner yard ('avlija') is surrounded by a high wall, made partly of crushed stone (the lower part of the wall) and partly of adobe. The wall is covered with a gable roof covered with ceramic tiles (Figures 3,8).



Source: Google Earth. Pristupljeno: 28. Maj 2023.

Fig 1: The Avdagic family house in Foca. Location



Source (left): A. Hadrovic (Drawings, 1984) according to a photo from: Deroko, A. (1964). National architecture, book II, National book, Belgrade

Source (in the middle): A. Hadrovic (Drawings, 1984) according to the photo in: Volinjec, R. and Aleksijeva, J. (1982). Proceedings of the Faculty of Architecture in Skopje, 5/82, Skopje

Source (right): <https://sothebysrealty.gr/properties/auberge/>. Accessed: May 7, 2023.

Fig 2: Left: House in Adapazar, Asia Minor, Turkey. In the middle: House in Krusevo, North Macedonia. Right: a house in Northern Greece



Source: Author (June 9, 2023.)

Fig 3: The Avdagic family house in Foca

2. Spatial-form characteristics of the house

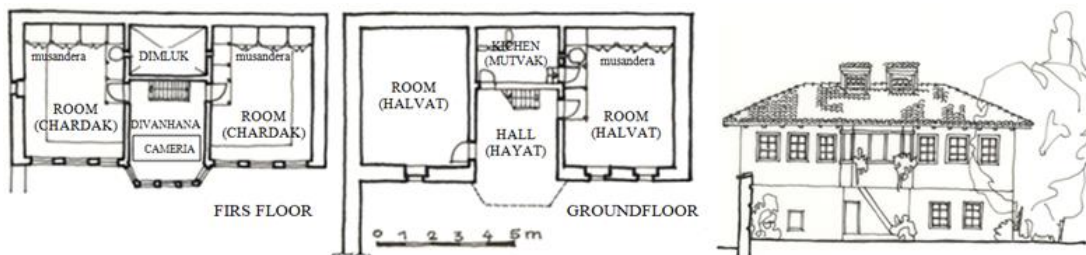
The Avdagic family house in Foca is developed in a vertical plan through the basement ('magaza'), ground floor and first floor. The basement is a large storeroom where more durable food items, tools for the garden and household maintenance

are stored.

On the ground floor of the Avdagic family house in Foca, there are two rooms for staying in the winter period ('halvat') and rooms intended for economic needs, a kitchen with an open fireplace ('mutvak'). On the first floor there are two large rooms ('chardaks') intended for living in the summer period. In the contours of the kitchen on the ground floor, on the first floor, there is an open area for smoke removal ('dimluk').

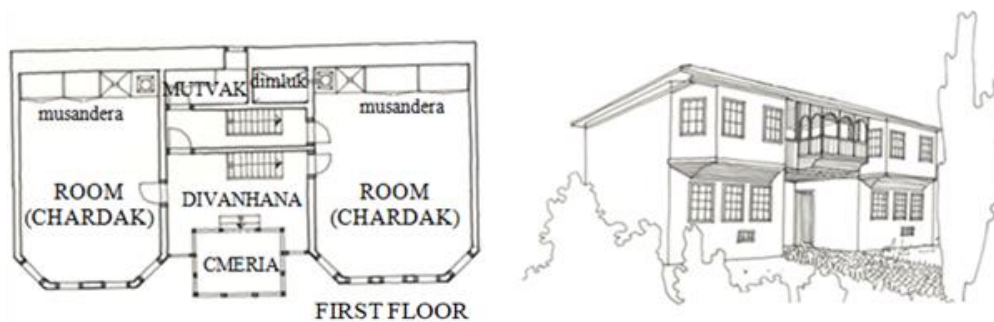
A characteristic element in the disposition of the Avdagic family house in Foca is the entrance open hall ('hayat') from which all rooms on the ground floor are accessed. There is also a wooden staircase ('basamaci') that leads to the first floor [5] (Figures 4,5,6,7). We can see this characteristic in the layout of the house in the oriental-type town house in Mostar (houses of the Kajtaz, Bisevic and Muslibegovic families, for example) [5].

On the first floor, in the contours of the entrance hall on the ground floor ('hayat'), there is a hall area, which is called 'divanhana'. In addition to being a communication surface, the divanhana is a space for being in closer contact with nature (Figures 7,8).



Source: A. Hadrovic (Drawings, 1984) according to a photo from: Kojic, Dj. B. (1949). Old town and village architecture in Serbia, Prosveta, Belgrade

Fig 4: House in Foca. Ground floor, first floor and entrance facade



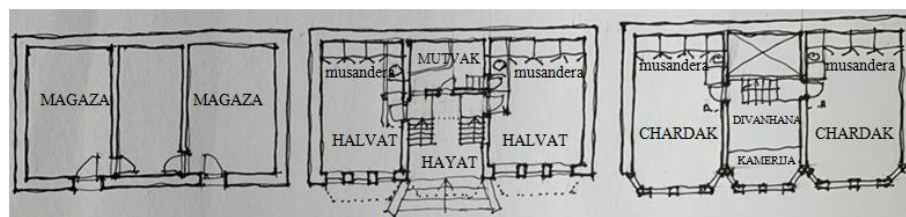
Source: A. Hadrovic (Drawings, 1984) according to photographs from: Bejtica, A. (1956). History and art of Foca on the Drina, Our Antiquities, book III/56, Sarajevo (in Bosnian)

Fig 5: The Ceca family house in Gornji Polje in Foca. First floor and perspective view



Source: A. Hadrovic (Drawings, 1984) according to photographs from: Bejtic, A. (1956). History and art of Foca on the Drina, Our Antiquities, book III/56, Sarajevo (in Bosnian)

Fig 6: The Dzonlagic family house in Musluk mahale in Foca. Perspective view



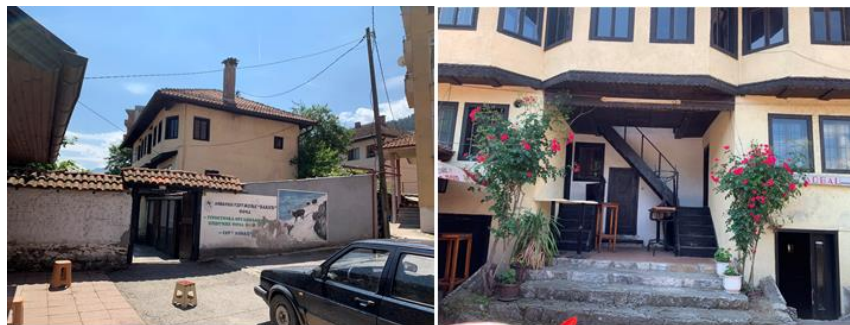
BASEMENT

GROUND FLOOR

FIRST FLOOR

Source: A. Hadrovic (Drawings, 2023)

Fig 7: The Avdagic family house in Foca. Horizontal house plans



Source: Author (June 9, 2023.)

Fig 8: The Avdagic family house in Foca. Today's situation

3. Construction and materialization

The basic building materials from which the house was built are stone, adobe and wood. The walls of the ground floor and the back wall of the house on the first floor, about 60 cm thick, are made of adobe. The walls of the floor are made of a wooden skeleton ('bondruk') with adobe filling. The interfloor structures is made of wooden beams with a

floor covering of wooden boards and a ceiling made of finely processed wooden boards ('shishe'), (Figures 9,10,11) [8]. The entrance hall on the ground floor of the house ('hayat') is paved with stone slabs, which corresponds to its function as a very busy area. The space under the wooden staircase is used as a storage room, where there are shelves for storing copper dishes, jugs and water tubs, for example.



Source: Author (June 9, 2023.)

Fig 9: The Avdagic family house in Foca. Wooden ceiling ('shishe') in the ground floor hall ('hayat')



Source: Author (June 9, 2023.)

Fig 10: The Avdagic family house in Foca. Wooden ceiling ('shishe') in the floor hall ('divanhana')



Source: Author (June 9, 2023.)

Fig 11: The Avdagic family house in Foca. Wooden ceiling ('shishe') in the upstairs room ('chardak')

4. Doors and windows

Access from the street to the inner yard of the house ('avlija') is highlighted by a canopy. The doors at the gate are made of wood, they are massive and double-winged (Figure 12). The door to the basement ('magaza') is made of thick wooden boards, in a rustic design.



Source: Author (June 9, 2023.)

Fig 12: The Avdagic family house in Foca. Entrance gate to the courtyard of the house

The interior doors are made of wood, and their design with extremely rich wood carving emphasizes the human need for beauty (Figures 13,14,15,16).



Source: Author (June 9, 2023.)

Fig 13: The Avdagic family house in Foca. Door on the kitchen, on the ground floor ('mutvak')



Source: Author (June 9, 2023.)

Fig 14: The Avdagic family house in Foca. The door to the room ('halvat') on the ground floor and the window to the kitchen ('mutvak')



Source: Author (June 9, 2023.)

Fig 15: The Avdagic family house in Foca. The door to the room ('halvat') on the ground floor



Source: Author (June 9, 2023.)

Fig 16: The Avdagic family house in Foca. Doors on rooms ('chardaks') on the first floor

All windows in the house are single, double-hung, with single glazing. The windows on the ground floor have mechanical

protection from a grid made of wrought iron (Figures 17,18).



Source: Author (June 9, 2023.)

Fig 17: The Avdagic family house in Foca. Windows on the ground floor



Source: Author (June 9, 2023.)

Fig 18: The Avdagic family house in Foca. Windows at floor level

5. Specific elements of home equipment

The only prominent piece of furniture in the main living quarters ('halvats' on the ground floor and 'chardaks' on the first floor) is a sitting sofa ('minderluk') placed against the wall along the window (to ensure a view to the outside). The rest of the space is free, clean and covered with colorful Bosnian carpets, so the space seems even more spacious than it really is. Along the wall opposite the windows is a 'three-part battery' ('musandera'), with compartments for storing bedding ('dusekluk'), a spa ('hamamdzik') and a stove for heating the water needed for the spa. This battery is made of wood and is richly decorated with wood carvings (Figure 19). By activating the equipment located in the 'musandera', the multipurpose space of the 'halvat' and 'chardaksa' is transformed into a bedroom or a dining room, for example. The kitchen ('mutvak') in the Avdagic family house in Foca, located on the ground floor of the house, does not have a separate chimney; the role of smoke extraction is played by the open space through which the smoke from the hearth rises into the attic space. In the envelope of the roof, openings for smoke removal ('badze') are arranged. In the corner of the mutvak is a low open hearth behind which is a rotating console - a 'crane' ('chain/'verige') on which a kettle for cooking food is hung and lifted over the fire by a crane. For the preparation of other types of food (various types of pies, rice with pieces of meat, for example) it is prepared in the plane of the open hearth, under the 'sac and peka'. Dry meat, various types of cheese and some types of stone fruit (walnuts, hazelnuts) are stored in the attic, which is constantly being smoked out.



Source: Author (June 9, 2023.)

Fig 19: The Avdagic family house in Foca. Wall niches ('dulaf') in one chardak (with rich wood carving)

6. Conclusion

The oriental-type town houses in Foča represent a separate and characteristic architectural style, which relies more on the Byzantine-Aegean house type in North Macedonia (and the house type in Adapazara, Turkey, for example), than on the forms of the oriental-type town house in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Although the house of wealthy owners, it is not spatially divided into an intimate family part ('haremluk') and a public part ('selamluk'). The inner yard ('avlija') is surrounded by a high wall, made partly of crushed stone (the lower part of the wall) and partly of adobe. The wall is covered with a gable roof covered with ceramic tiles. The Avdagic family house in Foca is the most representative example of an oriental-type town house in Foča. After the war (1992-1995), the Avdagic family house was taken over by a hunting company from Foca. In the basement of the house today there is a coffee bar with a garden arranged in the courtyard of the house.

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