



The zunova village in the krivaja river valley

Ahmet Hadrovic

Faculty of Architecture, University of Sarajevo, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

* Corresponding Author: **Ahmet Hadrovic**

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Abstract

The Zunova village (Geographic coordinates: 44°10'24.17"N, 18°33'33.08"E, Elevation 626 m) is located on the right side of the Krivaja river, at the foot of Veliki Kabun and Bijeli vrh. The village is 1.4 km from Solun on the Krivaja river, and 5.5 km from Olovo (by air). The area of the village is bordered on its western side by the Krivaja river, on the eastern side by the slopes of Veliki Kabun and Bijeli vrh, on the northern side by the area of the Bukov Do village, and on the southern side by the area of the Recica village. According to the 2013 census, 168 inhabitants lived in Zunova, which is significantly less than the number of inhabitants (298), according to the 1991 census. Until the 1992-1995 war, in addition to Bosniaks, one Serbian family (Micic family, 3 households) lived in Zunova, with a total of 10 members. Most of the Serbs emigrated, while a few of them remained during the war.

Keywords: Krivaja river, Kriva Rijeka, The Zunova village, water, fields, orchards, forest

1. Introduction

The Zunova village (Geographic coordinates: 44°10'24.17"N, 18°33'33.08"E, Elevation 626 m) is located on the right side of the Krivaja river, at the foot of Veliki Kabun and Bijelo vrh (Figures 1-4). The village is 1.4 km from Solun on the Krivaja river, and 5.5 km from Olovo (by air). The area of the village is bordered on its western side by the Krivaja river, on the eastern side by the slopes of Veliki Kabun and Bijeli vrh, on the northern side by the area of the Bukov Do village, and on the southern side by the area of the Recica village. According to the 2013 census, 168 inhabitants lived in Zunova, which is significantly less than the number of inhabitants (298), according to the 1991 census^[1,2]. Until the 1992-1995 war, in addition to Bosniaks, one Serbian family (the Micic family, 3 households)^[1] lived in Zunova, with a total of 10 members. Most of the Serbs emigrated, while a few of them remained during the war. At first glance, the geographical position of Zunova is not well chosen: the village is located in a valley that stretches in the east-west direction, along the Zunovski stream, which is closed and 'obscured' by elevated slopes from both the north and the south. However, if you look at the wider context and natural environment, the location of the Zunova village was chosen carefully, logically and effectively. Namely, in the village there is a source of drinking water and a steady Zunovski stream, which are the basic prerequisites for life in the village. Mills for grinding grain were built on the Zunovski stream. Directly next to the houses, in the Zunova village, fruit gardens and vegetable gardens were arranged. In this way, the wide areas of the Zunovo area were left for the arrangement of fields and meadows, since, in the earlier-traditional way of life, agriculture was the main occupation of the people. Today, in changed social circumstances, the old Zunova village has almost died out, all future new households are mostly built in Dugi Selo. Dugo Selo (Long Village) is a new settlement created by the extension of the Zunova village and Bukov Do. It is located on the right bank of the Krivaja river (Geographic coordinates: 44°10'15.20"N, 18°32'46.26"E, Elevation 530 m), along the pedestrian bridge on the Krivaja river in Solun-Zunova (Figure 2).

¹ The author of this paper heard from Ibrahim-Ibra Kljajic (1913-1993) the story of Milan Micic, a Serb, resident of Zunova. When it became known about a possible Ustasha attack, the family of Ibrahim-ibra Kljajic hid one child (Milan) in their house and told the attackers that it was 'their child'. This great gesture of people of one religion and nation towards people of another religion and nation is one of the noblest events that happened in Kriva Rijeka during World War II. Later, Milan Micic respected Ibrahim Kljajic as his 'brother', and Ibrahim had a place of honor at the table during the celebration of Milan's baptismal glory (of course, with the attention and respect of Ibrahim as a Muslim and the restrictions required by Islam).

The settlement began to form in the 1970s ^[2], when younger people from Zunova and Bukovo Do started to establish their own family households. The village is 0.2 to 1 km from Solun, and 5.8 km from Olovo (by air). The area of the village

is bordered on its western side by the Krivaja river, on the eastern side by the area of the Zunova village, on the northern side by the area of the Bukov Do village, and on the southern side by Kamenita luka.

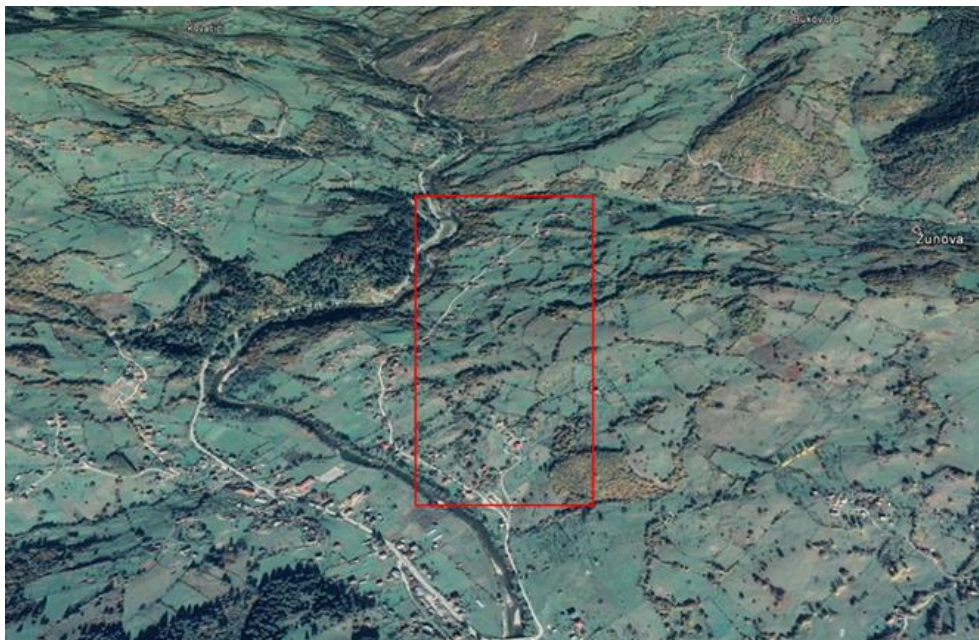


Left: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/88/Bosnia_and_Herzegovina_in_Europe.svg,

Accessed: August 11, 2023

Right: Google Earth, Accessed: September 7, 2023.

Fig 1: The Zunova village. Location



Source: Google Earth, Accessed: September 7, 2023.

Fig 2: Dugo Selo (Long Village). Location

² The first house in this settlement was built by Memija (Mehmed) Pasic, on a plateau on the meadow of the Pasic estate. Then they followed with the construction of their houses: Alija (Hrustem) Kljajic, Bego Hasanspahic, Hamid Muftic (on the dowry of his wife from the Hasanspahic family), Taib Kopic (on the dowry of his wife from the Hasanspahic family), Safet (Ibrahim) Kljajic, Mujo (Ismet) Hasanspahic, Ramo (Ibrahim) Kljajic, Sabit Pasic, Mujo (Ramo) Pasic, Kemal (Ramo) Pasic, Ibrahim (Ramo) Kljajic, Akif (Cazim) Hasanspahic, Edin (Edhem) Hasanspahic, Hasan (Ibrahim) Kljajic, Zuhdija Kljajic, Avdo (Ramo) Kljajic, Safer (Mehmed-Memo) Hasanspahic, Ibrahim-Brajcin Hasanspahic, Hasan Hasanspahic, Avdo

(Uzeir) Hasanspahic, Mustafa (Hasan) Hasanspahic, Fehim (Musan) Hasanspahic, Mujo (Hrustem) Kljajic, Redzo (Ramo) Kljajic, Samid Hasanspahic, Osman (Ahmo) Hasanspahic, Fahrudin (Ahmo) Hasanspahic, Pasaga (Zaim) Hasanspahic, Ramiz Hasanspahic, Fehim (Ismet) Hasanspahic...

Kazafer (Mehmed-Memo) Hasanspahic built a house in Memina port, on the right bank of the Krivaja river (opposite Vasva Colakovic's restaurant). Due to the unorganized road to the house, from Dugo Selo, he built a suspension bridge about 100 meters downstream from Banje, and thus ensured access to the property from the Olovo-Zavidovici regional road.



Source: Author (May 20, 2020)

Fig 3: View of Zunovi from the Hadrovsko cemetery (Brijestovi locality)



Source: Author (May 20, 2020)

Fig 4; View of Hadre and Glavicno from Zunova

2. Environment

By environment we mean every potential possibility in the space in which man can realize his existence^[3]. When we talk about the Environment, we don't mean only those givens 'in themselves' created by nature; here we mean all the results of human work and presence in a certain place: built settlements, cultivated terrain, infrastructure and cultural tradition, socio-economic relations, forms of consciousness (philosophy, science, religion, morality...). sDifferent environments place different demands on an architecturally defined space, which results in a practically unlimited number of aspects in which it can appear. The environment is a fundamental feature of an architecturally defined space (ADS). As a complex expression of human struggle,

architecture is also a strictly defined empirical phenomenon that is always realized in a concrete natural environment in which it must survive as a physical structure, resistant to more or less aggressive natural influences. At the same time, many inputs from the social environment give architecture the characteristics of a specific society in a historical-temporal context.

2.1. Natural environment

By 'natural environment' we mean all those features provided by nature, on which man (mostly) has not achieved his influence: geographical location, geomorphology, watercourses and water reservoirs, flora and fauna, available soil, climate^[3].

The main resources of the Zunove village are: the Zunovski stream (Figure 5), the abundance of sources of drinking water (Figure 6), a suitable microclimate (the protection of the village from the wind is especially important, which favors fruit growing), gardens and orchards in the immediate vicinity of the houses (Figure 7), fields and meadows (Figure 8), pastures (Figure 9), private and state forests.

The Zunovski potok (Zunovski stream) is plentiful throughout the year, and its hydropower has traditionally been used to drive watermills. In recent times, two smaller

ponds have been arranged along the Zunovski stream. On the slopes of Kabun and Bijeli vrh, above the Zunova village, there are several sources of drinking water from where households are supplied with water through an organized water supply system. In the village itself, there are several water sources with public fountains and watering holes for cattle. Since the Zunova village was built along the Zunovski stream, that stream was a watering place for the stork in every part of the village.



Source: Author (May 20, 2020)

Fig 5: Zunovski stream

Public fountain and watering hole for livestock in Zunova (at the fork in the road to the Bukov Do village)



Source: Author (May 20, 2020)

Fig 6: Public fountains in the Zunova village



Source: Author (May 20, 2020)

Fig 7: Gardens and orchards right next to the houses in the Zunova village



Source: Author (May 20, 2020)

Fig 8: Fields and meadows in the Zunova village



Source: Author (May 20, 2020)

Fig 9: Pastures in the Zunova village

2.2. Social environment

The social environment (society) is a group of individuals involved in a more or less permanent social interaction or large social group sharing the same geographic or social territory, usually subject to the same political authorities and dominant cultural expectations. Societies are characterized by patterns of relationships (social relations) among individuals who share a characteristic culture and institutions. A given society can be described as the sum of such

relationships between its constituent members. In the social sciences, the larger society often shows patterns of stratification or dominance in subgroups^[3].

The area of Dugo Selo has had its own character, 'genius loci', since ancient times, which is confirmed by the medieval necropolises of the peasants on the hill above Krivaja, on the estate of the Hasanspahic family (Figure 10) and on the Radjevac hill^[4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13] (Figure 10).



Source: Author (May 17, 2020)

Fig 10: Stecak necropolis on the estate of the Hasanspahic family in Dugo Selo

The second stećak necropolis is located on the Radjevac hill above the row of houses of the Hasanspahić family (houses of Fehim, Ramiz, Osman and Fahrudin Hasanspahić). In this

necropolis, the stećci are more visible and are decorated with ornaments carved into the stone (Figure 11).



Source: Author (May 17, 2020)

Fig 11: Stećak necropolis on the Radjevac hill in Dugo Selo

Similar to other villages in Kriva Rijeka, mutual help of people (moba) is a tradition and a great social and individual human value. 'Moba' is still practiced today, especially when building houses, stables and important buildings (Figure 12). The Zunova village is known for its tradition of skilled construction workers, both in traditional wood construction (masters-dundjers) and in modern construction. In the Zunova village at one time there were at least two 'construction teams', one consisting of craftsmen from the Hasanspahić family³, and the other from the Pasic family⁴. In addition to builders, the Zunova village always had good carpenters and blacksmiths, who worked in lead companies but also in home practice.



Source: Author (May 20, 2020)

Fig 12: 'Moba' on the construction of a new stable in Zunova

In Dugo Selo, its inhabitants cultivate hospitality, as inherited from their ancestors (Figure 13).



Source: Mejra Kljajić (May 17, 2020)

Fig 13: The author at lunch (at sister Mejra) in Dugi Selo

Residents of the Dugo Selo remember and practice many homemaking skills, which they give to their loved ones as a sign of special attention (Figure 14).



Source: Author (May 17, 2020)

Fig 14: Handmade gift for a grandson (The author's sister Mejra from Dugo Selo visiting her son in Olovo)

3. Man

Space acquires meaning only if it stands in some relation to man. This relationship ranges from the relations of the already known dimensions of space, through those that can be sensed, to those that are currently beyond the reach of human imagination. In other words, man is a being on the way, a being that continuously learns, a being of open possibilities^[3]. Similar to other villages in Kriva Rijeka, the able-bodied people of the Zunova village, in addition to farming, worked in companies in the Olovo municipality, mainly at Sawmills and in Forestry.

Hazim (Camil) Pasic from the Zunova village is the first young man in Kriva Rijeka to receive a college education in the 1960s. From then until today, the young people of the Zunova village are massively educated, and most of them graduate from various faculties, mainly at the universities in Sarajevo and Tuzla: law, natural sciences, medicine, technology, philosophy, dentistry, economics, the faculty of political science... Most of them, after finishing college and employment, they stay in the cities (Sarajevo and Tuzla, mostly), and come to the countryside only to visit their parents and on vacation.

The new householders in Dugi Selo, being (mostly) born in the 1950s, had modern jobs: teachers in an elementary school in Solun, trained artisans at a lead sawmill, in Construction and Forestry, and in companies in Sarajevo. Their children are mostly educated (most with university education)⁵.

The Kljajic family (first of all, Hrustem Kljajic, and later his sons) have always been known for their propensity for business. Hrustem, as a rich man, raised large herds of cattle and sheep, and before winter he prepared serious quantities of dried meat and sold them, mainly in Olovo, Kladanj and Zivinice. His son Mujo, as a professional butcher, continued that business. In addition, Mujo arranged a very pleasant place for rest, on the right bank of Krivajava, across from Banje. He also built a suspension bridge to the Banje, and the Banje uses thermal mineral water for a small pool at its rest area (which is also open to guests).

³ So, for example, the family house of the father of the author of this work was built by masters from 'the Hasanspahić team' (Cazim and Ahmo, who were (occasionally) joined by Rasim Pasic). These craftsmen also made the carpentry on the house. Hajraga Hasanspahić (Cazim's son) made a wooden cutting board and a decorative wooden wardrobe-wardrobe for the family house of the author's father. The furniture is still kept in the family house, while the original windows (from 1966) were replaced with new ones (2007).

⁴ The team of builders Pasic consisted of: Mehmed, Camil and Rasim.

- ⁵ Asif (Bego) Hasanspahić graduated from the Faculty of Technology in Tuzla and worked at the company „Hidrotehnika“ Kladanj,
- Kazafer Alkadić graduated from the Faculty of Sports in Sarajevo and is now a teacher at the Mixed High School „Musa Cazim Catic“ in Olovo,

- Adisa Delic (née Kljajic), daughter of Hasan and Mejra Kljajic, graduated from the Faculty of Economics in Tuzla, where she also received her doctorate. Now she is a full professor at that faculty (and as a visiting professor at several universities in Bosnia and Herzegovina),
- Mirnesa (Pasaga) Hasanspahić graduated from the Faculty of Medicine in Sarajevo and now works at the Health Center Olovo,
- Damir (Samid) Hasanspahić graduated from the Faculty of Science and Mathematics at the University of Sarajevo, Department of Mathematics. He is now a senior assistant at the Faculty of Civil Engineering at the University of Sarajevo.

4. Boundaries: architecture as a framework of life

Boundaries are places in an environment where the found states are controlled in compliance with all man's concrete needs. States are all those discovered and undiscovered phenomena in space affecting man in a stimulating or degrading way. Boundaries, therefore, have a task to enable the selection of impacts. In an architectural sense, they enclose, but they also integrate man in the states of an environment. Speaking about architecture, experiences always refer to the wall, roof and foundations, i.e. physical barriers set up suitable for the influencing conditions in the experience of life on Earth ^[3].

The range of architectural programs in the Zunova village is in everything the same as in the other villages of Kriva Rijeka: family houses (with secondary buildings in the courtyard - summer kitchen and woodshed), stables for large and small livestock, household facilities (basket, barn, dryers for fruit). The disposition, construction, materialization and architectural design follows the general trends in Kriva Rijeka where, as in other villages of Kriva Rijeka, some 'architectural periods' can be observed: construction immediately after World War II, construction in the 1960s, and construction in the 1980s year to date ^[6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13].

The first phase of construction (immediately after the Second World War) is characterized by a strong reliance on the traditional architecture of Kriva Rijeka, where wood dominates the materialization of architectural objects, while stone was used to a limited extent in those places of the physical structure of the object where wood could not be used (the foundations of the house and stables, walls of basements/storerooms of houses, for example). The pre-war Bosnian chardaklia houses are reconstructed and adapted, where the fundamental change is the abolition of the open space of the living room ('house'/'kuca'), that is, the formation of the attic of the house, which is not spatially connected with the living room. In addition to this change, the replacement of the roof covering followed - the traditional wooden shingles were replaced by tiles.

The next construction phase dates back to the 1960s (Figures 15,16). In the arrangement of the houses, one can see the effort to preserve the spirit of the Bosnian chardaklia house: a spacious living room, 'along one half of the house', rooms accessed from the living room, 'chardaks among the rafters' with 'darkrooms' on the sides of the chardaks. The 'divanhana', i.e. a large balcony on the attic floor, appears as a particularly prominent architectural and design accent of the house.



Source: Author (May 20, 2020)

Fig 15: Houses of the Micic family in Zunova





Source: Author (May 20, 2020)

Fig 16: Houses in the Zunova village built in the 1960s

Since the 1980s, houses have been built according to the project (Figure 17). Most often, these were some catalog solutions of family houses, or solutions that house owners 'brought' from the side, from urban and suburban areas in

Bosnia and Herzegovina. In this phase, houses are built from modern materials (reinforced concrete, brick blocks and slag-concrete, all types of bricks, whereby, in the beginning, facade bricks were particularly popular).



Household of Nuraga (Mehmed) Pasic





Vacation house on Ibrahim Muftic's estate in Zunova
Source: Author (May 20, 2020)

Fig 17: Houses in the Zunova village built in the 1980s until today

Cattle barns are, after houses, the most important physical structures in the Zunova village. They are located near the

host's house and along the road, due to their servicing (Figure 18).



Source: Author (May 20, 2020)

Fig 18: Stables and auxiliary buildings in the Zunova village

As younger and by all accounts modern people, the new hosts

in Dugo Selo remember and follow all the traditional values

of their parents and distant ancestors. This is confirmed, among other things, by the construction of a watermill on Zunovski stream, where during the war (1992-1995) grain

was milled for this settlement and other settlements in Kriva Rijeka (Figure 19).



Source: Author (May 17, 2020)

Fig 19: War watermill (1992-1995) on the Zunovski stream in Dugo Selo (Built by Safet Kljajic)

The Masjid in the Zunova village was built (2019) with a donation from Mrs. Najla Ali Abdullah from the UAE, who paid her funds through the organization Sharjah Charity International. The Masjid was named after its donor (Figure 20). In Zunova, there was a masjid (known as the “School in

Zunova”) where religious instruction was attended by children from a large number of villages in Krive Rijeka. A stone commemorative plaque to the martyrs of the 1992-1995 war from Zunova was placed on the entrance facade of the mosque.



Source: Author (May 20, 2020)

Fig 20: Masjid in the Zunova village

Similar to some villages in Kriva Rijeka, in the Zunova village there are several cemeteries that are in a row, one next

to the other, lined up along the road from Dugi Selo to Zunova (Figure 21).





Source: Author (May 20, 2020)

Fig 21: Cemetery in the Zunova village

5. Conclusion

The existence of relatively generous natural resources in the Zunova village near Olovo generated people's life in the past, and sustains it today with promising prospects in the future. The continuity of life in this village is evidenced by the medieval stecak necropolises. In the case of the Zunova village, the social environment has changed throughout history, with individual localities of the settlement and already built architectural structures changing their significance. With the arrival of the Austro-Hungarian administration in Bosnia and Herzegovina, after the construction of the narrow-gauge railway Zavidovici - Olovo - Han Pijesak - Kusace (it was put into traffic on June 10, 1902 for freight traffic, and for passenger traffic in 1919), first of all, the inhabitants Zunova got closer and closer to that railway and the Krivaja river. After the war (1992-1995), there was a change in the social system in Bosnia and Herzegovina, where the system of self-management (and social property) was replaced by capitalism. In that process, many social enterprises were 'privatized', after which many of them failed. Such was the situation in the municipality of Olovo, where the former companies, „SIP Stupčanica“ above all, employed the largest part of the working-age population - failed. Similar to other parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina (and other countries of the Western Balkans), an increasing number of young people graduate from university and stay to work and live in cities. Despite the natural resources, the number of people who stay in the Zunova village is small. Thanks to the fact that the Zunova village is located along the regional road Olovo-Zavidovici, that it has the river Krivaja (on which rafting regattas have been held in the last few years) and that it is only 37 km from Sarajevo (by air), the Zunova village today lives as 'residential settlement' where people come for weekend and annual vacations and where they use the fields and orchards that their ancestors planted.

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