



Water and man: White water near gorazde

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Article Info

ISSN (online): 2582-7138

Volume: 03

Issue: 05

September-October 2022

Received: 29-09-2022

Accepted: 01-10-2022

Page No: 499-506

Abstract

The „BIJELE VODE“ complex („WHITE WATERS“) is located in the Gorazde municipality (Geographical coordinates: 43°43'39.61"N, 18°55'06.90"E, elevation: 985). It is about 20 km from the Gorazde town, and about 70 km from Sarajevo. Gorazde is the seat of the municipality and the Bosnian-Podrinje canton, located in the eastern part of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Its location along the course of the Drina river, geomorphology and other characteristics of the natural environment have shaped a very favorable climate (Cfb climate type according to the Köppen climate classification - foothill moderately continental). Huge natural resources (fertile soil along the Drina, the wealth of forests with everything that the forest as an ecosystem carries, many sources of drinking water, smaller and larger watercourses) attracted people back in prehistoric times, where they realized their existence. The valley of the Drina river represented, in a certain way, a natural communication from the Adriatic Sea to the Sava. As the Drina was the 'border of worlds' (between the Eastern and Western Roman Empires), the settlements along its course (Foca, Gorazde, Visegrad, Zvornik...) had a special geostrategic significance, both along its course and in many transversal contacts Bosnia - Serbia. Gorazde was thus located on the famous 'Drina road' ('Via Drine'), which connected the Adriatic Sea with Srebrenica and Serbia.

Keywords: Gorazde, white waters, sustainability

1. Introduction

The „BIJELE VODE“ complex („WHITE WATERS“) is located in the Gorazde municipality (Geographical coordinates: 43°43'39.61"N, 18°55'06.90"E, elevation: 985). It is about 20 km from Gorazde, and about 70 km from Sarajevo (Figure 1). Gorazde is the seat of the municipality and the Bosnian-Podrinje canton, located in the eastern part of Bosnia and Herzegovina. 20897 inhabitants live in the city^[1].



Source: https://visitmycountry.net/bosnia_herzegovina/bh/index.php/turizam/27-vmc/geografija, Accessed: 7.31.2022., left Google Earth: Accessed: 7.31.2022., right

Fig 1: The „BIJELE VODE“ Complex („WHITE WATERS“). Location

In this paper, the author deals with the topic of 'sustainability'. In this sense, he visited the entire area of Bosnia and Herzegovina and collected rich material, which he incorporated for the most part into his books ^[2, 3] and scientific works.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is an extremely complex area in terms of the natural and social environment and its population. The three most numerous ethnic groups (Bosniaks, Serbs and Croats) live here, and thanks to its rich history, numerous people of different origins: Jews, Germans, Poles, Czechs, Italians, Hungarians... The composition of the population changed over time, but remained material and spiritual traces of their life in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The complexity of Bosnia and Herzegovina is also visible in its architecture. Hence, for elaborating on the topic of sustainability (in this work using the example of the village of Idbar), the most suitable scientific methodology ^[4] was the most suitable, which is covered in his book: Hadrovic, A. (2007). Defining Architectural Space on the Model of the Oriental Style CityHouse in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo and Macedonia, Booksurge, LLC, North Charleston, SC, USA.

The goal of this work is to present one of the most interesting projects in the municipality of Goražde that illustrates the relationship of man to the natural environment, and, in accordance with his understanding of the social environment,

the creation of a business that brings benefits to the individual and society while simultaneously respecting and preserving the natural environment as a common good of all humanity.

2. Environment

By 'environment' we mean every possibility in the space in which man can realize his existence ^[4].

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, flora and fauna, available soil, climate ^[4].

Water is one of the greatest assets of Goražde. Along the Drina river, the backbone of Goražde and the wider region, there are many larger and smaller watercourses in the wider spatial coverage of Goražde. We list the main rivers and their tributaries (Figures 2, 3): Kolunska river (with tributaries: Mazlinska river, Korijen, Ljaljicki potok), Kosovska river, Osanica (with tributaries: Bahovski potok, Raskovica potok), Starac, Oglezevska river, Odska river, Podhranski potok, Spile, Praca (with tributaries: Dragosin, Vincica, Cemernica). Along with all the benefits (and occasional misfortunes) that these rivers bring to people, their hydropower potential should also be emphasized.



Source: <https://gorazde.ba/>, Accessed: 7.31.2022. Author: (8.1.2011., 11.9.2012.)

Fig 2: The Goražde town on the Drina river



Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Z0OaqOa0OU>, Accessed: 7.31.2022.

<https://hamdocamo.wordpress.com/2017/06/11/rijeka-praca-je-rijeka-u-bosni-i-hercegovine/>, Accessed: 8.1.2022.

Fig 3: The Osanica river at its confluence with the Drina river (left) and the Praca river in its canyon (right)

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 ^[4]. 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) ^[4]. Huge natural resources (fertile soil along the Drina, the wealth of forests with everything that the forest as an ecosystem carries, many sources of drinking water, smaller and larger watercourses) attracted people back in prehistoric times, where they realized their existence. Archeological excavations have found the remains of settlements and useful objects that were created by people already in the early Neolithic in the localities: Popov Do, Zupcici and Podhranjen.

One of the most important cultural events in the history of Gorazde is the establishment of a printing house (1529), the first in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The printing house was founded by Bozidar Gorazdanin, the abbot of the monastery of St. George near Gorazde. The monastery is the endowment of Herceg Stjepan Vukcic Kosaca. The monastery is an extremely important place of spiritual life in Podrinje and its spiritual center, since its construction (1447).

Today, Gorazde is the seat of Podrinje-Bosnia Canton with a very diverse industrial production: production and trade of chemicals and incendiaries, production of mining capsules, electrodetonators and detonators, production of sports, hunting and commercial ammunition, production of machines, tools and fasteners, production of protective equipment, boats and their parts, production of clothing and protective equipment, production of tools and parts from non-ferrous metals and plastics, production of flour and bakery products, construction activities, wood processing...

History of Gorazde. From the time of the administration of the Roman Empire, there are remains of settlements in the localities: Sopotnica, Zidine (Kopaci). In written historical sources, Gorazde was mentioned for the first time in 1379, in connection with a caravan that transported salt to a certain Vlach (from the Kosace family) in Gorazde.

Good communication connections, position on the road that

connects many natural and created goods (Adriatic Sea with salt, Bosnian hinterland with ores and fruit, Serbia with grain...), generated the appearance of many traders in Gorazde during the 14th and 15th centuries. Gorazde is first mentioned in written sources in 1376. The Drina area included the parishes: Bistrica, Govza, Osanica, Gorazde, Pribud and Piva. The Kosace village also belonged to Osanica parish ^[5]. Merchant families in Gorazde are known from this period: Zlatarici, Novakovici, Ljubavici, Veseokovici... In the Middle Ages, Gorazde belonged to the Kosaca nobility.

Gorazde fell under the administration of the Ottoman Empire in 1463. It had the status of nahija of Focan kadiluk. At that time (14th-15th century), Foca was a šehar and a very important craft and trade center in the entire Balkans. Throughout the entire period of Ottoman administration, Gorazde had no significant administrative significance. It was a transit center, a crossroads of important roads. It had the status of a kasaba.

The architectural, cultural and historical heritage of Gorazde.

It is interesting that Gorazde did not have a city-fort, despite its enormous importance. This fact can be explained by the existence of fortress-cities in its vicinity, along the course of the Drina river: the Samobor fortress-city on the right bank of the Drina river (about 15 kilometers downstream from Gorazde), near today's Ustiprača (property of Herceg Stjepan Vukcic Kosaca, 1404-1466), Visegrad (on the right bank of the Drina river), Vratar above the river Zepa (left bank of the Drina river), Kuslat above the mouth of the Jadar in the Drinjaca (about four kilometers from the mouth of the Drinjaca in the Drina), Kula Grad Zvornik (on the left bank of the Drina). The richness of life in the Middle Ages in Gorazde and its surroundings is evidenced by many stećak necropolises: Gorsic polje in the village of Hrancici, the Kosace village (with as many as 355 stećaks) ^[6], (Figure 4).



Source: <https://gorazdeportal.com/bh-bлаго-355-stecaka-u-srcu-podrucja-vlastelinskog-roda-kosaca/>, Accessed: 7.31.2022.
<https://www.klix.ba/vijesti/bih/gorazde-ucenici-i-studenti-iz-cijeje-bih-ce-uciti-o-steccima-u-gorsic-polju/141216166>, Accessed: 7.31.2022.

Fig 4: Stećak Necropolis in Kosace village (left) and Gorsic field near Gorazde (right)

A significant cultural event in the history of Gorazde is the establishment of a printing house (1529), the first in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The printing house was founded by Bozidar Gorazdanin, the abbot of the monastery of St. George near Gorazde. The monastery is the endowment of Herceg

Stjepan Vukcic Kosaca (Figure 5). The monastery (about 8.5 km from the „BIJELE VODE“ complex as the crow flies) is an extremely important place of spiritual life in Podrinje and its spiritual center, since its construction (1447).



Source: <https://www.glassrpske.com/lat/drustvo/panorama/novo-gorazde-akademsko-vece-9-jula/287788>, Accessed: 8.1.2022.

Fig 5: Manastir Sv. Djordja (St. George Monastery) near Gorazde

In the Sijercici village near Gorazde (about 5 km from the “BIJELE VODE” complex), there are two closed turbets belonging to the Sijerčić family (Figure 6). Sinan-beg Sijercic (died 1826), the founder of the mosque in Gorazde, is buried in the turbet, which the people call Gornji, which is located right next to the fence that separates the harem area from the village road. The upper turbet has a hexagonal base and is made mainly of limestone. Originally, the turbet was plastered with lime mortar. The dimensions of the sides of the turbet are approximately 2.80 meters, and the thickness of the walls is about 60 cm. The entrance door is rectangular and its

dimensions are: width about 70 cm, height 1.70 meters. The door ends in the form of a semicircular arch. Stone jambs and lintels are not visible because they are plastered [7]. Sijercici, father and son, are buried in Donje turbe (Lower turbe) [8]. This turbet also has a hexagonal base and is covered with a wooden roof with sheet metal as a roof covering. The original covering was shingles. The side dimensions of the turbet are approximately 2.80 meters. The thickness of the walls is an average of 70 cm. In the harem around the turbet, there are about thirty smaller niches, mostly made of local sandstone ('miljevina').



Source: Author (8.11.2011.)



Fig 6: Sijercic turbets in the Sijercici village near Gorazde

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. The term 'man' is a huge question, the essence of which he himself tries to decipher within his limits, within the limits of the Earth and the limits of the Universe [4]. Together with the rest of the living world, it participates in the process of circulation of matter and energy in nature, sharing the same fate with it, being born and dying against its will. Endowed with reason, will and feelings, he is the only one in the living world who can discover the given laws of the organization of nature.

The works of these people are woven into the overall

'embodied energy' of this city. A large number of exceptional people were born, lived and worked in Goražde, whose work became 'embodied energy' that will encourage future generations of Goražde to great achievements. Among them are: Isak Samokovlija (1889-1955) - doctor and writer, Radoslav-Rade Jovanovic (1928-1986) - poet and composer of Bosnian sevdalinka, 'Zona Isklucenja' - Bosnian rock group...

4. Boundaries: architecture as a framework of life

Boundaries are those places in the environment where the situations encountered are controlled according to very specific human needs. Conditions are all those discovered and undiscovered phenomena in space that have a stimulating or degrading effect on humans. Borders, therefore, have the

task of enabling the selection of influences. In an architectural sense, they enclose, but also include a person in the conditions of a certain environment [4].

One of the novelties in the Gorazdan region is a business based on water as a resource. The best example is the Sports and Recreation Center “BIJELE VODE” (“WHITE WATERS”) near Gorazde (Figure 7). It is a complex (designed by an individual) that provides accommodation (vacation) services in a healthy, rich, original environment of exceptional natural beauty in all four seasons. The locality itself got its name from the natural water that has been called “White Waters” since time immemorial.

Within The “BIJELE VODE” Sports and Recreational Center there are bungalows with family apartments and individual modern rooms, a restaurant, several differently decorated canopies with fireplaces, kitchens and grills, a hunting room...

In the huge open space, there are modern sports fields for indoor football, basketball, tennis, volleyball...

Several outdoor swimming pools designed in the contours of

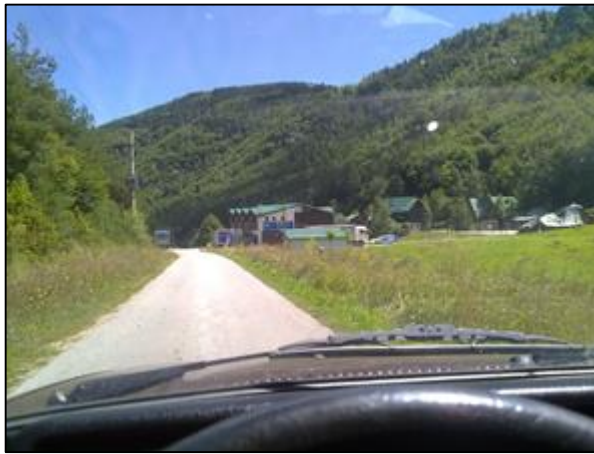
organic forms are an extraordinary event on spacious landscaped lawns. Watercourses meander through the complex, and wooden bridges, as part of the walking paths, give the atmosphere of the complex a touch of naturalness.

An integral part of this sports and recreation center are the ski slopes, in the immediate vicinity of the bungalow.

The “BIJELE VODE” (“white waters”) complex is located not far from the Sarajevo-Pale-Praca-Hrenovica-Bare-Gorazde road. It is surrounded by forest and vast areas of meadows and pastures.

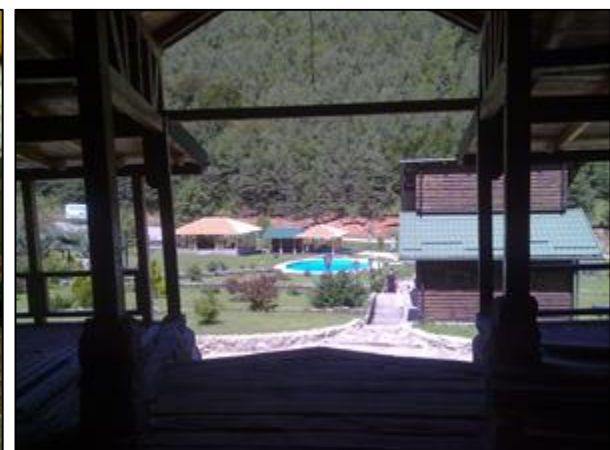
Although it does not belong to the sports and recreation center, the “Bijele vode” hunting club complements this center.

A modern high-quality water bottling plant is part of the “BIJELE VODE” Sports and Recreational Center. Complexes such as the “BIJELE VODE” Sports and Recreational Center are the best example of how we should treat the riches that nature has gifted to Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Access to the „BIJELE VODE“ complex









Source: Author (8.11.2011.)

Fig 7: BIJELE VODE “complex near Gorazde

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“^[4]. The emergence of a settlement (hamlet, village) or architectural-engineering structure is never accidental, but rather the result of a synergy between the natural and social environment-man^[4]. Today, Gorazde is the seat of Podrinje-Bosnia Canton with a very diverse industrial production: production and trade of chemicals and incendiaries, production of mining capsules, electrodetonators and detonators, production of sports, hunting and commercial ammunition, production of machines, tools and fasteners, production of protective equipment, boats and their parts, production of clothing and protective equipment, production of tools and parts from non-ferrous metals and plastics, production of flour and bakery products, construction activities, wood processing... Gorazde is known as one of the cities in Bosnia and Herzegovina where a large number of successful, mainly manufacturing companies operate. The metal industry dominates, and a large number are engaged in dedicated, i.e. military, industry. The largest company in Gorazde, according to total revenues and profits (in 2017), is Unis Ginex. The company Bekto Precisa is in second place in terms of revenue, the ammunition manufacturer Pobjeda Technology (PTG) is in third place. The majority owner of PTG is the American Grasso Holdings inc. In fourth place is Prevent Gorazde, in fifth place is the explosives manufacturer Pobjeda Rudet, in sixth place is Emka Bosnia, a daughter company of the German company Emka. In seventh place is Prevent Components, in eighth place is the retail company Lepenica Company, in ninth place is Okac (which deals with construction and sale of building materials), and in tenth place is Prevent Safety. The leader in terms of the number of employees in this city is Prevent Gorazde with 977 employees.

Such a wide range of economic activities engages the entire working-age population of Gorazde and the surrounding area. This ensures a good standard of people and open perspectives of the city of Gorazde.

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