



## The Konjuh Mountain in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Living in a Sustainable Way

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### Abstract

The Konjuh Mountain is located in the northeastern part of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The mountain is bordered by: the Seona, Turija, Litva and Oskova rivers in the north, the Gostelja river and the main Sarajevo-Tuzla road in the northeast, and the Krivaja river in the south and west. Together with the Ozren, Javor and Javornik mountains, Konjuh forms part of a chain of marginal (higher) mountains which, together with Trebavac and Majevisa, represent the transition of the Dinaric mountain system into the vast Pannonian plain. The average height of the mountain is 1000 meters. Above that height rise the peaks: Suplji Javor (1157 m), Vina Kruska (1088 m), Suho Drvlje (1206 m), Zidine (1180 m), Brezina (1120 m), Vrh Konjuha (1328 m) and Bandijerka, the peak of Javorje (1261 m), Bijeli Vrh (1272 m) and Zeciji Rat (1275 m) on the southwest ridge Smolin. This work is part of the series „Mountains in Bosnia and Herzegovina: life in a sustainable way“002E.

**Keywords:** Konjuh Mountain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Synergy of natural environment, social environment and man

### 1. Introduction

The Konjuh Mountain is located in the northeastern part of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The mountain is bordered by: the Seona, Turija, Litva and Oskova rivers in the north, the Gostelja river and the Sarajevo-Tuzla main road in the northeast, and the Krivaja river in the south and west (Figures 1-5). Together with the Ozren, Javor and Javornik mountains, Konjuh forms part of a chain of marginal (higher) mountains which, together with Trebavac and Majevisa, represent the transition of the Dinaric mountain system into the vast Pannonian plain. The average height of the mountain is 1000 meters. Above that height rise the peaks: Suplji Javor (1157 m), Vina Kruska (1088 m), Suho Drvlje (1206 m), Zidine (1180 m), Brezina (1120 m), Vrh Konjuha (1328 m) and Bandijerka, the peak of Javorje (1261 m), Bijeli Vrh (1272 m) and Zeciji Rat (1275 m) on the southwest ridge Smolin. This work is part of the series, „Mountains in Bosnia and Herzegovina: life in a sustainable way“. Since at the beginning of the 21st century the topic of sustainable development became particularly relevant (in architecture and in all other disciplines), the author participated in numerous international scientific conferences and symposia with his works related to Bosnia and Herzegovina<sup>[1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17]</sup>. He covered the topic of bioclimatic architecture in several of his books<sup>[18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24]</sup>.





Source: Google Earth, Accessed: January 12, 2025.

**Fig 1:** Geographical location of the Konjuh Mountain in Bosnia and Herzegovina



**Fig 2:** Geographical location of the Konjuh Mountain in Bosnia and Herzegovina

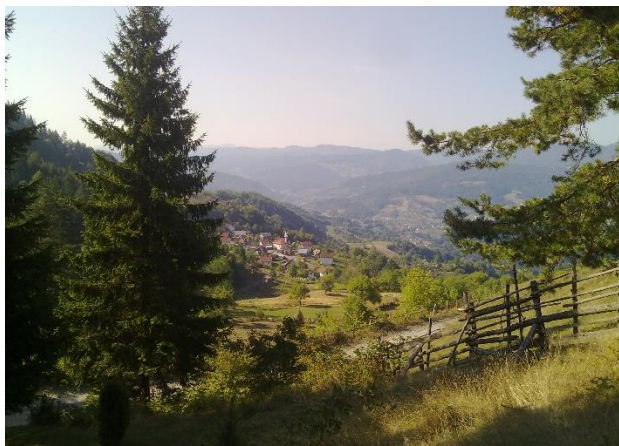
Source: [https://41338573-213201863863258730.preview.editmysite.com/uploads/4/1/3/3/41338573/konjuh-sarajevo\\_orig.jpg](https://41338573-213201863863258730.preview.editmysite.com/uploads/4/1/3/3/41338573/konjuh-sarajevo_orig.jpg)  
 Accessed: January 12, 2025.





**Fig 3:** View of the Zvijezda mountain from Bijeli Vrh (Konjuh)

**Source:** Author (September 2, 2015)



**Fig 4:** View from the slopes of Bijeli Vrh (Konjuh) to the Zvijezda Mountain and the Krivaja river valley. In the foreground is the Bukov Do village

**Source:** Author (September 2, 2015)



**Fig 5:** View from the slopes of Bijeli Vrh (Konjuh) to the Zvijezda Mountain and the Krivaja river valley

**Source:** Author (September 2, 2015)

## 2. Environment

By 'environment' we mean every possibility in the space in which man can realize his existence <sup>[18]</sup>.

### 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 <sup>[18]</sup>. Banovici, the town and seat of the municipality, is situated at the foot of the Konjuh Mountain. This town is, first of all, known for its brown coal mine. The whole region is rich in water. The Litva river flows through Banovici, whose tributaries are the Radina and Draganja rivers. Along the road Banovici-Ribnica in recent times (especially after the 1992-1995 war) a large number of fountains were built, the sources of which are more or less generous and are located near the fountains or further from the road, on the slopes of Konjuh (Figures 6,7). Most of the fountains have inscriptions applied to them, which explicitly state information: who erected the fountain, in whose memory the fountain was erected, and the year the fountain was erected. The inscription shows that most fountains were erected as 'hajr' (or 'hajr', i.e. a good deed)<sup>1</sup>. Elsewhere on the Konjuh Mountain, especially near villages and along roads, many fountains were built (Figures 7-17).



**Fig 6:** Two hair fountains along the Banovici-Ribnica-Zavidovici road

**Source:** Author (August 13, 2011)



**Fig 7:** Left: hair fountain along the Banovici-Ribnica-Zavidovici road. Right: the fountain in the village of Brateljevići (near Kladnje), along the road to Djevojacka pecina

**Source:** Author (August 13, 2011; August 3, 2011)

<sup>1</sup> Doing good deeds is the privilege of the best people: „And those who believe and do good deeds - they are truly the best creatures“. „Their reward awaits them with their Lord - gardens of Eden through which rivers will flow, in which they

will dwell forever and ever, Allah will be pleased with them, and they will be pleased with Him. It will be for the one who fears his Lord“. Qur'an, Al-Bayyin 7.





**Fig 8:** Left: Public fountain along the Brateljevici - Djevojacka pecina road. Right: Public fountain along the Kladanj-Brateljevici-Muska voda road

**Source:** Author (August 3, 2011)



**Fig 9:** Left: fountain by the Hotel Muska voda - source of Muska voda road. Right: fountain near Paucko jezero (Pauc's Lake), the Konjuh Mountain

**Source:** Author (August 3, 2011)



**Fig 10:** Public fountain along the Kladanj-Brateljevici-Muska voda road

**Source:** Author (August 3, 2011)



**Fig 11:** Source of "Muska voda" ("Male water")

**Source:** Author (August 3, 2011)



**Fig 12:** The fountain "Salihivo korito" ("Salih's trough") on Bijeli Vrh

**Source:** Author (September 1, 2016)



**Fig 13:** Fountain on the slopes of Bijeli Vrh (above the Bukov Do village)

**Source:** Author (September 2, 2015)



**Fig 14:** Fountain with drinking water at the Hambarista site on the slopes of Bijeli Vrh

**Source:** Author (September 2, 2015)





**Fig 15:** Fountain with drinking water on the slopes of Bijeli Vrh

**Source:** Author (September 2, 2015)



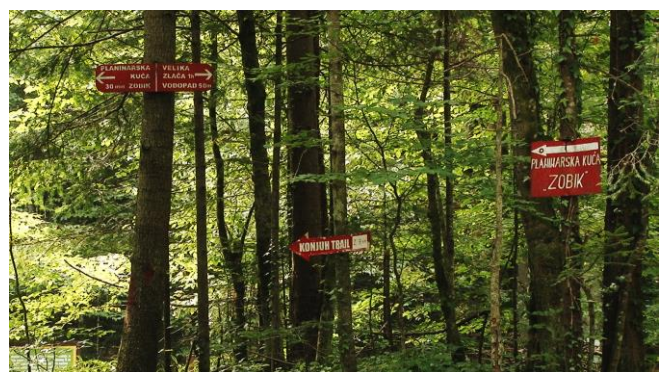
**Fig 18:** Pine forest on Bijeli Vrh (Konjuh)

**Source:** Author (September 2, 2015)



**Fig 16:** Left: Public fountain (Sheh-Avdija's fountain), Bukov Do village on the Krivaja river. Right: Public (village) fountain (Milankovici near Olovo)

**Source:** Author (April 16, 2011; April 30, 2012)



**Fig 19:** Beech forest on the Konjuh Mountain

**Source:** <https://rtvbk.ba/zlaca-na-konjuhu-omiljeno-izletiste-stanovnika-sjeveroistocne-bosne/>, Accessed: January 12, 2025.



**Fig 17:** Left: Hair (memorial) of the Kurtalic Mirsudin fountain in Stosnice on the Krivaja river, along the Vozuca-Zavidovici road. Right: Hair-fountain near Kovaci on the Krivaja river, along the Vozuca-Zavidovici road

**Source:** Author (May 26, 2013)

The Konjuh Mountain is covered with dense forest communities dominated by conifers (pine, fir and spruce), beech, maple and, to a lesser extent, oak. A rare and medicinal lincura (*Gentiana lutea*) grows on the mountain, which is protected and endangered on this mountain. In the forests of Konjuha, you can find brown bear, roe deer, wild boar, wolf, fox, squirrel, grouse, and trout and crayfish in the streams and rivers. Of the snakes living on the mountain, the viper, sharka, white-eared snake, then the green lizard and the salamander live (Figures 18, 19, 20).



**Fig 20:** Plant life on the Konjuh Mountain

**Source:** <https://trail.viadinarica.com/en/point/landscape-conservation-area/konjuh-protected-landscape/15369706/#caml=8hk,32es7i,7br7rn,0,0&dmlb=1>, Accessed: January 12 in 2025

**Source:** <https://visitbih.ba/en/protected-landscape-konjuh-green-oasis-ideal-for-relaxation-and-enjoyment/>, Accessed: January 12, 2025.

The Drinjaca river rises at the foot of the Konjuh Mountain, then flows through a landscape rich in dense black and white pine forest, then across the plain and through the straits it reaches Kladanj, where it is the backbone of its urban matrix. The part of its course from the hotel “Muska voda” (“Male



water”) to Kladanj is particularly attractive (Figure 21). Its clean water is the habitat of brown trout, grayling, and crayfish, and the surrounding areas (meadows and forests) abound with medicinal herbs and forest fruits (where the areas with blueberries are unusually spacious and rich). One of the reasons for the attractiveness of the area in the upper reaches of the Drinjaca river is the multitude of sources of particularly healthy water, of which “Muska voda” (“Male water”) is the most famous. In addition to the Drinjaca river, there are a large number of small rivers and streams on the Konjuh Mountain (Figures 22, 23).



**Fig 21:** Left: Drinjaca river (upper course, around the Muska voda area). Right: “Stanovi” waterfall

**Source:** Author (August 3, 2011)

**Source:** <https://rtvtk.ba/zlaca-na-konjuhu-omiljeno-izletiste-stanovnika-sjeveroistocne-bosne/>, Accessed: January 12, 2025.



**Fig 22:** Left: Bebrostica river. Right: Borovnica river

**Source:**

[https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/p/AF1QipOrhoRIz2XSpRUIRHnG-pwitFILag\\_hDfQeC7Uy=h720](https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/p/AF1QipOrhoRIz2XSpRUIRHnG-pwitFILag_hDfQeC7Uy=h720), Accessed: January 12, 2025.

**Source:**

<https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/p/AF1QipPVfAfdJ8hPSfixv0XW0N8ItUNfzJDmLCRdSU2x=h720>, Accessed: January 12, 2025.



**Fig 23:** Left: Mala Zlaca river. Right: Krabinja river

**Source:** <https://www.dinarskogorje.com/konjuh.html>, Accessed: January 12, 2025.

**Source:** <https://rtvtk.ba/zlaca-na-konjuhu-omiljeno-izletiste-stanovnika-sjeveroistocne-bosne/>, Accessed: January 12, 2025.

Paucko jezero (Pauc's Lake, named after the nearby Pauc village, Kladanj Municipality) is a natural water reservoir fed by several streams with a more or less constant flow. The lake is 150 m long, 60 m wide, while its depth is between 3 and 4 m. The accumulation also has a natural outflow of water so that the water in the lake circulates, but not intensively. The lake is situated in a dense forest (nearby residents also call it 'Mountain Eye'). Its shores are overgrown with aquatic and pond vegetation, while its water is home to fish (carp, carp, tench, whiting, pike, bream, bream, trout, babushka and

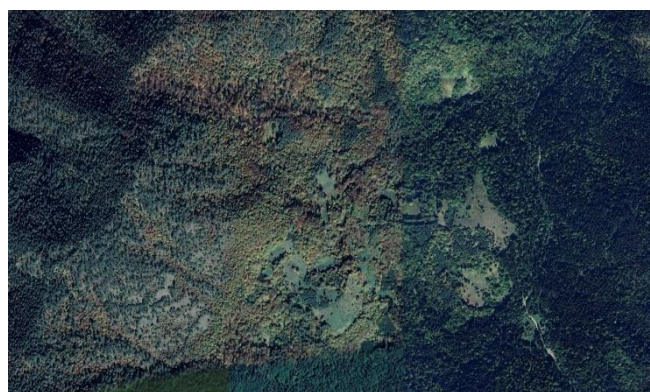
kostro), crabs, frogs, and snakes (Figure 24).



**Fig 24:** Paucko jezero ('Mountain eye')

**Source:** Author (August 3, 2011)

In the upper reaches of the Drinjaca river, on the slopes of Konjuh, dense pine forests alternate with extensive forest pastures. Some of them (Bebrove, Drinjace-Luke) were meadows where most of the hay was collected for livestock feeding, on which many villages were oriented: Tuholj, Pauc, Brateljevici, Milankovici, Bukov Do). At the end of the 20th and beginning of the 21st century, the area along the upper reaches of the Drinjaca river attracted permanent residents and those who only spend weekends and vacations here (Figure 25).



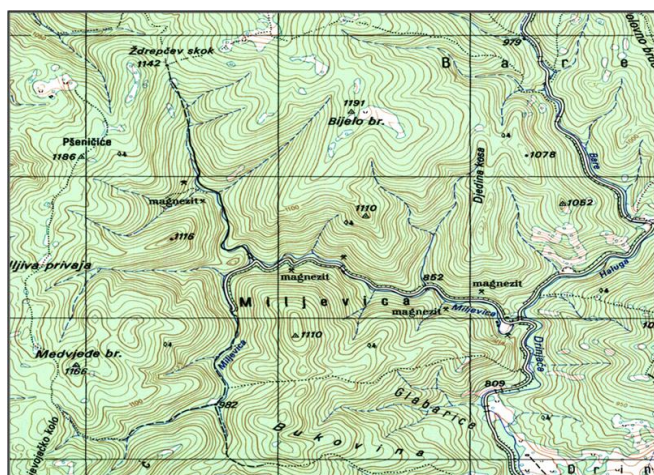
**Fig 25:** The once wide expanses of meadows (Bebrovina) on the Konjuh Mountain are now overgrown with forest

**Source:** Google Earth. Accessed: January 12, 2025.

The only open and contoured magnesite deposit in Bosnia and Herzegovina is located 17 km from the main road Sarajevo-Tuzla near Kladanj. Before the war, approximately 36,000 tons of raw separated magnesite of various granulates were produced annually in this mine, which was used in the



production process of “Vatrostalna” Zenica. The total estimated balance reserves of magnesite in this area at 20% exploration are about 1.7 million tons (of which about 81,000 tons fall on category A reserves). Magnesite, as a non-metallic mineral raw material, according to its basic characteristics, has today a significant application in the ceramic industry, construction, chemical and pharmaceutical industry, and especially in the industry of refractory materials. High-quality magnesite ore is located on the southeastern part of the Konjuh mountain, where the magnesite deposit is concentrated in three mining areas: the Miljevica magnesite ore mining area, the Haluge magnesite ore mining area and the Drinjača magnesite ore mining area. In the area of Kladnje, magnesite ore was exploited by the company Rudnik magnesite “Konjuh”. This mine has been inactive since 1992. With the signed Agreement on business and technical cooperation between “Rudnik nemetala Kladanj” (“Kladanj non-metal mine”) and “Rudar” Tuzla and the Agreement on the transfer of the Concession Agreement on the exploitation of magnesite at the “Konjuh” deposit in the Kladanj Municipality, the Mine of nonmetal magnesite is starting to work again after 22 years. After obtaining the concession in 2014, revitalization, preparatory works for exploitation and exploitation itself since 2016 have been carried out in the past period (Figure 26).



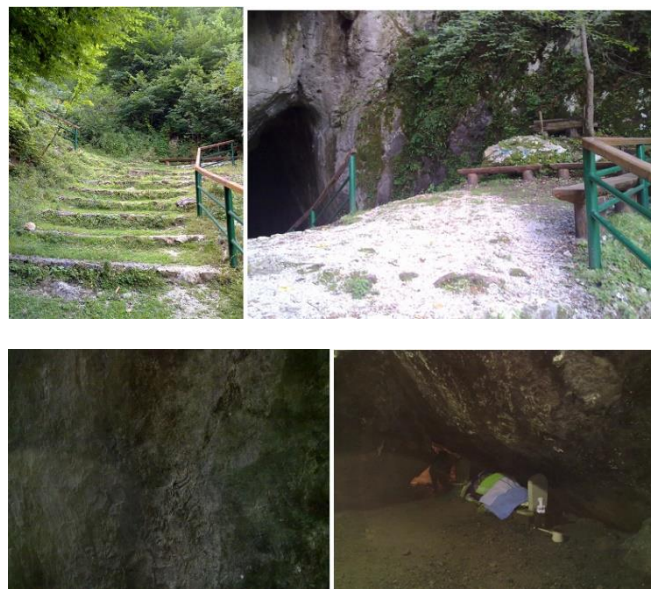
**Fig 26:** Konjuh magnesite mine

**Source:** <https://www.rudar.ba/index.php/rudnik-magnesita-kladanj>. Accessed: January 12, 2025.

## 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. It includes both physical structures (various material, more or less ordered products of their activities) and the immaterial world that we know with the intellect (science, philosophy, religion, law, morality) through an ordered system of abstract symbols (letters, signs) [18]. Next to the Djevojacka Cave near Brateljevici (the Kladanj

Municipality) there is an arranged area where a traditional outdoor prayer ('dova') is held every year. There are many places like this in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Almost as a rule, the prayer is held at the place of some trace of material culture from the past of Bosnia and Herzegovina (necropolis of stecaks, a grave with a tombstone...), at the site of an extremely valuable natural asset (a yew tree, for example, a steady source of drinking water, a watercourse in a rich natural environment...), (Figure 27).



**Fig 27:** Djevojacka cave near the Brateljevici village

**Source:** Author (August 3, 2011)

Bebravska cave near the Brateljevici village belongs to the group of sinking caves (its entrance is located at 882 meters above sea level). The total length of the cave corridors examined so far, including the final gallery, is approximately 500 meters. The cave has cave decorations throughout its area - stalagmites and stalactites of different shapes (ball, roller, prismatic and irregular). The special wealth and attraction of the cave is the spring water, that is, the stream, which flows along its entire length (Figure 28).



**Fig 28:** Bebravska cave near the Brateljevici village

**Source:** <https://trail.viadinarica.com/bs/point/pecina/pecina-bebrava/21822660/#caml=7ps,32kmfi,7bacyi,0,0>, Accessed: January 12, 2024.



In the Plahovici village near Kladanj, there is a cave called 'Tito's cave'. It is located in the heart of Hrasnik. It is surrounded by Baba's Rock and Gradina, and faces towards Drinjaca. This is the cave in which, during the National Liberation War in June 1943, Supreme Commander Tito stayed during the fight for the liberation of Kladanj and other places in eastern Bosnia. During Tito's stay in the cave, the locals of Plahovici brought Tito and his entourage lunch every day. They were Meho Cavkunovic, Mujo Mazalovic and twelve-year-old Asim Sirco, who brought Tito fresh milk every morning. Muja was later caught by the Germans with the documentation of the partisan guide and shot. Members of the NLW Supreme Staff, the Executive Board of the AVNOY, the British Military Mission and the poet Vladimir Nazor were with Tito in Plahovici (Figure 29).



**Fig 29:** Tito's cave in the Plahovici village near Kladanj

**Source:** <https://balkans.aljazeera.net/teme/2023/6/29/kladanjci-cuvaju-uspomene-na-tita-siniju-za-kojom-je-sjedio-i-tanjire-iz-kojih-je-ate>

**Accessed:** January 13, 2024.

In the locality "Dobra voda" ("Good water") on the Konjuh Mountain, near Kladanj, there are remains of the Roman road that was built in the 1st century and led from the Karaula pass over the slopes of Konjuh to Kladanj. In the era of the Roman Empire, this road had, in addition to military, economic significance. Next to the road there are springs that were resting places at that time. About three kilometers from the found remains, this road stretches towards Olovo, which was already a mining center during the Roman Empire. The locality with the remains of the Roman road is already today, and in the hustle and bustle it will be even more, a significant tourist 'pearl' (Figure 30).



**Fig 30:** Roman road on the Konjuh Mountain (Kladanj's area)

**Source:** [https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Metaljka-cleaned-Roman-road-photo-M-Imamovic\\_fig5\\_359153270](https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Metaljka-cleaned-Roman-road-photo-M-Imamovic_fig5_359153270)

**Accessed:** January 12, 2024.

In the territory of Kladanj Municipality, there are 53 sites of medieval stećak necropolises with (so far) 436 stećaks, of which 52 are decorated. Kladanj stecci belong to one of the four stone workshops that operated in eastern Bosnia, which, judging by some of the common characteristics of the stecci, was located between Kladanj, Olovo and Ilijas. According to decorative motifs, inscriptions and the appearance of upright stećaks (pillars), it can be concluded that these stećaks date from the period between the 14th and 16th centuries. The stećak necropolis in the Olovci village near Kladanj lies on a sloping terrain that slopes slightly towards the road. It occupies an area of 24.5 x 14 m (Figure 31). The necropolis consists of eighteen stećaks, of which there are twelve gables, five chests and one column. All stećaks are well processed [25]. They are oriented in the west-east direction, in rows. The exception is one gabled house and two boxes, oriented in the north-south direction. Three gables are decorated, and one has an inscription. Olovci necropolis, Kladanj Municipality, is on the list of 28 medieval stećak necropolises that were declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2016 [26].



**Fig 31:** Medieval stećak necropolis in the Olovci village near Kladanj

**Source:**

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=2781644255404699&set=pcb.2781648518737606>, Accessed: January 13, 2024.

At the foot of the Djevojačka's cave, in the meadow next to the Bukovica river, every year in August, a mass gathering of people takes place for outdoor prayer. Prayer has been a tradition since the arrival of the Ottomans in this area, and it has 'mental connections' with the Djevojačka's cave itself, which confirms the continuity of people's lives in this area (Figure 32).



**Fig 32:** 'Doviste' (space for prayer in the open space) near Djevojačka cave

**Source:** Author (August 3, 2011)

**Source:** <https://preporod.info/bs/article/55284/tradicionalna-dova-kod-djevojacke-pecine-25-augusta>, Accessed: January 13, 2024.

Until recently, outdoor prayers ('dova') were also held in other localities on the Konjuh Mountain. The Milankovici and Vukotici villages, located on the southern slopes of the Konjuh Mountain up to the Krivaja river, held their prayers at the top of Kruskovica, and the Bukov Do, Zunova and Recica villages at the Bijeli Vrh (Figure 33).





**Fig 33:** The glade on Bijeli Vrh (musalla, place of outdoor prayer - 'rain prayers')

**Source:** Author (September 2, 2015)

In the Tuholj village, on the eastern slopes of the Konjuh Mountain, there is an Old Wooden Mosque. No inscription ('tarih') has been preserved on the mosque, and there is no reliable information about the time of the mosque's construction. Considering the architecture of the Old Mosque and the fact that the oldest legible nišan is dated 1804, it can be assumed that the mosque was built at the end of the 18th century, and represents one of the rare preserved examples of wooden mosques in Bosnia and Herzegovina. According to the spatial organization, the Old Wooden Mosque in Tuholj belongs to the type of wooden mosques with a front gallery (mahfil), an open entrance porch, a steep hipped roof and a wooden minaret. In the area of the mosque, in addition to contemporary rugs, there are also five woolen, hand-woven rugs. The rugs are in good condition, without damage, and were probably made in the second half of the 20th century. Next to the mosque there is also an old cemetery (cemetery) which is still active<sup>[27]</sup>. Although there are several dozen old niches, the inscriptions on them are damaged, and inscriptions and relief decorations could only be identified on two (Figure 34).



**Fig 34:** The old mosque in the Tuholj village near Kladanj

**Source:** <https://cdn.radiosrebrenik.ba/Dzamija-za-web.jpg>, Accessed: January 13, 2024.

Kursumlija (Hadzi Bali-bey's) mosque in Kladanj is the only preserved under-domed mosque from the oldest Ottoman period in the whole of northeastern Bosnia. The fountain next to Hadzi Bali-bey's mosque (Kursumlija) in Kladanj (1544/1545) is one of the most beautiful fountains in all of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which in its relationship to the sacred (religious) and public (plural) best expresses the essence of the psychological and philosophical profile of the Bosnian man (Figure 35).



**Fig 35:** Kursumlija (Hadzi Bali-bey's) mosque in Kladanj

**Source:** Author (August 3, 2011)

In the Plahovici village near Kladanj, not far from Tito's cave, there is still a house where Josip Broz Tito stayed (from July 1 to 15, 1943) with the Supreme Headquarters of the National Liberation War (NLW). Today it is the "Memorial House", a historical monument of this region and a tourist destination (Figure 36). The house is owned by Mujo Mazalovic.



**Fig 36:** The house in the Plahovici village near Kladanj where Josip Broz Tito stayed with the Supreme Headquarters of NLW in 1943.

**Source:** <https://balkans.aljazeera.net/teme/2023/6/29/kladanjci-cuvaju-uspomene-na-tita-siniju-za-kojom-je-sjedio-i-tanjire-iz-kojih-je-ate>  
Accessed: January 13, 2024.

### 3. Man

Space acquires meaning only if it stands in some relation to man. This relationship ranges from the relationships 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 who continuously learns, a being of open possibilities. The term 'man' is a huge question, the essence of which he himself tries to decipher within his own limits, within the limits of the Earth and the limits of the Universe<sup>[18]</sup>. The Konjuh Mountain is the 'common denominator' in the lives of the people who live on it, on its slopes and at its foot. Because the Konjuh Mountain, with its resources, ensures the livelihood of people, who meet on the mountain through various jobs (cutting forests, mining, pitching, mowing meadows, herding livestock), who communicate via Konjuh by 'taking shortcuts' from one end of the mountain to the other, visiting relatives and friends, Konjuh unites the wide space where people live and forms their mentality and psychology. One of the activities of life that connected people was the 'expulsion of cattle' to the pastures of the Konjuh Mountain, which took place during the summer months,



when the plowing and sowing of grain was finished. Cattle on the mountain were usually guarded by two or three shepherds who lived in log cabins, and the cattle were gathered in pens. It was a demanding job since the cattle were often attacked by bears. The Konjuh Mountain creates especially intense connections between the people living in the Krivaja river valley and the people living on its northern and northeastern slopes. Konjuh is associated with a legend about the spring 'Mutni bunar' ('Muddy well') on the top of Kruskovica above the Milankovici village. Namely, it is a source of water at the place where the outdoor prayer ('dova') is held. The well had 'cosmic power', so great that if it gets muddy - it will soon rain. Only an extremely pious woman could and was allowed to muddy the well, such as a certain Rahima from the Milankovici village in the 1970s, who, among other things, fasted for three months of the year (Rajab, Shaban and Ramadan/رجب وشعبان ورمضان).

#### 4. Boundaries

'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 the architectural sense, they enclose, but also include a person in the conditions of a certain environment<sup>[18]</sup>. There are no permanent settlements on the Konjuh Mountain itself; settlements are located on its slopes and at its foot. The main towns connected to the Konjuh mountain are Kladanj, Banovici, Olovo and Zivinice (Figures 37, 38). On the southwestern slopes of Konjuh, towards the Krivaja river, are the Recica, Zunova, Bukov Do, Milankovici, Vukotici, Magulica and Kamensko villages, which are within the administrative framework of the Olovo municipality. On the northwestern edge of the Konjuh Mountain are the Ribnica, Zeljeva, Repnik and Visca villages. On the northeastern slopes of the Konjuh Mountain are the Brateljevici, Pauc, Tuholj, Suljici, Sarici, Goletici, Olovci, Brdijelji, Kovacici, Konjevici and Plahovici villages (Figures 39, 40, 41).



**Fig 37:** Left: Kladanj. Right: Banovici

**Source:** <https://visittk.ba/services/kladanj/>, Accessed: January 13, 2024.

**Source:**

[https://banovici.gov.ba/page/234/?option=com\\_user&view=login&return=aHR0cDovL3d3dy5vcGNpbmEtYmFub3ZpY2kuY29tLmJhL2RvY21hbi9jYXRfdmlddy8xMjktamF2bmUtbnFiYXZrZSS5odG1s](https://banovici.gov.ba/page/234/?option=com_user&view=login&return=aHR0cDovL3d3dy5vcGNpbmEtYmFub3ZpY2kuY29tLmJhL2RvY21hbi9jYXRfdmlddy8xMjktamF2bmUtbnFiYXZrZSS5odG1s), Accessed: January 13 in 2024



**Fig 38:** Left: Zivinice. Right: Olovo

**Source:** <https://balkantransfer.com/destinations/zivinice>, Accessed: January 13, 2024.

**Source:**

[https://stock.adobe.com/search?k=olovo&asset\\_id=398934694](https://stock.adobe.com/search?k=olovo&asset_id=398934694), Accessed: January 13, 2024.





**Fig 39:** The Tuholj and Pauc villages

**Source:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=liWrYMSPPcM>, Accessed: January 13, 2024.



**Fig 40:** The Goletici village

**Source:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=liWrYMSPPcM>, Accessed: January 13, 2024.



**Fig 41:** The Brateljevici village

**Source:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n7-mndsIBmI>, Accessed: January 13, 2024.

## 5. Conclusion (Perspectives)

By the term 'perspectives' in the framework of the theory of architecturally defined space (ADS), we mean „that dynamic relationship that connects now - future, existing - possible, achieved – desired“<sup>[18]</sup>. The Konjuh Mountain is a huge geographical area, which is tied to the wealth of forests, water, meadows and pastures. The drawings in the Djevojacka cave near the Brateljevici village bear witness to the presence of people in this area since the Paleolithic era. The preserved remains of ancient Roman stone-paved roads testify to the importance of this area on the approach from prehistory to the new era, and the medieval necropolis of stećak speaks of the intensity of life in the Middle Ages. The

tradition of holding mass gatherings of people outdoors and performing prayers is a tradition that dates back to the beginning of the presence of the Ottoman Empire in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The natural resources of the Konjuh mountain were used according to socio-economic relations in every historical epoch. Today, these resources are the basis for the development of tourism and the arrangement of facilities for the accommodation and recreation of visitors. At the top of Kabuni, an 'observation tower' was once built, from which there is a wide view of the peaks of Konjuh, the valley of the Krivaja river, the Nisici Plateau (towards Sarajevo) and the Zvijezda Mountain. The observation post was used to detect possible fires and report to the central office in Olovo (Figure 42).



**Fig 42:** The author at the observatory on Kabuni (Konjuh)

**Source:** Hasan Kljajic, forester (September 2, 2015)

The Konjuh Mountain is extremely rich in various wild animals (bear, chamois, wolf, grouse, marten...), so hunting was both business and recreation. Above the Bukov Do village, on the slopes of Bijeli Vrh, the hunting house was built as a place for rest and recreation for hunters. There are frequent hunters from Sarajevo and Tuzla (Figure 43).



**Fig 43:** The Hunting house “Forest Castle” in Hambarišta locality on the slopes of Bijeli Vrh

**Source:** Author (September 2, 2015)

The “Muska voda” (“Male water”) locality along the Drinjaca river, about 11 km from the center of Kladanj, is a



well-known picnic spot for residents of Kladanj, the surrounding villages and the entire region of the city of Tuzla. "Men's water" was most popular during the 1960s, when "Men's water" was bottled and sold as an aphrodisiac for men. In this locality there was a restaurant with lodging, and recently a tourist center was built with expanded capacities for accommodation, sports and recreation. This center is a favorite place for the preparation of sports teams of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Figure 44).



**Fig 44:** Hotel and sports center "Muška voda" ("Men's water") on the Konjuh Mountain

**Source:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jfenun8K7zU>, Accessed: January 12, 2025.

Throughout the Konjuh Mountain, especially along the rivers and streams, hotels, restaurants and open areas for recreation are being built in recent times (Figure 45) and mountain lodges are being built (Figure 46).



**Fig 45:** Excursion resort and hotel "Zlaca" in Konjuh

**Source:** <https://rtvbk.ba/zlaca-na-konjuhu-omiljeno-izletiste-stanovnika-sjeveroistocne-bosne/>, Accessed: January 12, 2025.



**Fig 46:** Left: mountain house "Zobik". Right: mountain lodge "Javorje"

**Source:** <https://gdjeizaci.ba/rezultat/izletiste-zobik/>, Accessed: January 12, 2025.

**Source:** <https://lh5.googleusercontent.com/p/AF1QipMFdK4cNlj90R54wcjhyfpGxzsp4o-mNNwEqmD=h720>, Accessed: January 12, 2025.

Ethno Avlija Mackovac is located near Banovici along the Oskova river. The ethno village is arranged as a typical rural settlement with bosnian chardaklija houses, mills, workshops and other supporting facilities. Several thousand authentic

old objects that were used in the household also contribute to this atmosphere. Here, traditional bosnian dishes are prepared and served directly from the open hearth. Within the ethnic village is a native museum that contains over 30,000 exhibits. There are objects for everyday use made of copper, silver, wood and ceramics. There are also handicrafts - embroideries and tapestries, and the over 1,600 old books, documents and records that make up the over 200-year-old collection are certainly worthy of attention (Figure 47).



**Fig 47:** Ethno Avlija Mackovac

**Source:** <https://turizambanovici.ba/category/turisticke-destinacije/etno-avlija-mackovac/>, Accessed: January 12, 2025.

On September 27, 2017, based on the initiative of hiking associations, nature lovers and the proposal of the Government of Tuzla Canton, the Assembly of Tuzla Canton adopted amendments to the Law on the declaration of part of the Konjuh mountain area as a protected landscape „Konjuh“. The said Law defined three protection zones, the division of which was influenced by the number and arrangement of the area's natural values. The first protected zone (zone A) covers an area of 2411.42 ha, and is subject to the strictest protection regime. The second protected zone (zone B) has an area of 5093.70 ha. The third protected zone (zone C) with an area of 511.49 ha. This area is almost completely covered by forest ecosystems that contain numerous natural values and phenomena. Built-up areas occupy only 0.4% of the total area. The area covers two catchment areas - the catchment area of the Oskova river in the north, and the catchment area of the Drinjaca river in the south.

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