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## The Konjic City in Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Ahmet Hadrovic**

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

\* Corresponding Author: **Ahmet Hadrovic**

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### Abstract

The Konjic city is located at the mouth of the Tresanica river in the Neretva river, in the central part of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Numerous archaeological finds confirm the presence of people in this area since the Neolithic. According to the most significant Neolithic site in the Lisicici village near Konjic, the entire Neolithic culture of this area is called the 'Lisicicka Group'. Remains of the ancient Roman culture were found in the area of the municipality of Konjic. Thus, archaeologist Karl Pratsch found (in 1897) the archaeological site 'Konjicki Mitrej', a shrine dedicated to the god Mithras, on Repovica hill in Konjic. The cult of worshiping the god Mithras (the sun god) was brought here by ancient Roman war veterans after their campaign in Persia. Konjic is mentioned for the first time (June 16, 1382) in a report from the Republic of Dubrovnik. In the Middle Ages, the town of Konjic belonged to two different feudal districts, the King's Land (Bosnia) and the Land of Duke Stjepan Vukcic Kosaca (Herzegovina). According to written sources, the Herzegovinian part of Konjic became part of the Ottoman Empire in 1465, and the Bosnian part in 1466, where they remained until (1878) the Austro-Hungarian occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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### 1. Introduction

The Konjic city (with about 10,732 inhabitants, 2013) <sup>[1]</sup> is located at the mouth of the Tresanica river in Neretva river, in the central part of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Geographical coordinates: 43°39'04.44"N, 17°57'45.65"E, elevation: 276 m), (Figure 1). Numerous archaeological finds confirm the presence of people in this area since the Neolithic. According to the most important Neolithic site in the Lisicici village near Konjic, the entire Neolithic culture of this area is called the 'Lisicicka group'. Remains of the ancient Roman culture were found in the area of the municipality of Konjic. Thus, archaeologist Karl Pratsch found (in 1897) the archaeological site 'Konjicki Mitrej', a shrine dedicated to the god Mithras, on Repovica hill in Konjic. The cult of worshiping the god Mithras (the sun god) was brought here by ancient Roman war veterans after their campaign in Persia. A similar site can be found in Lisicici. Konjic is mentioned for the first time (June 16, 1382) in a report from the Republic of Dubrovnik. In the Middle Ages, the town of Konjic belonged to two different feudal districts, the King's Land (Bosnia) and the Land of Duke Stjepan Vukcic Kosaca (Herzegovina). According to written sources, the Herzegovinian part of Konjic became part of the Ottoman Empire in 1465, and the Bosnian part in 1466, where they remained until (1878) the Austro-Hungarian occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. After the end of the First World War (1918), Konjic became a part of the newly founded Kingdom of Yugoslavia, then the Kingdom of Yugoslavia (1929-1941), NDH/ISC (1941-1945), FNRJ/SFRY (1945-1992), and independent Bosnia and Herzegovina (since 1992. year).



Source: Google Earth: Accessed: December 6, 2024.

**Fig 1:** The Konjic city in Bosnia and Herzegovina. 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 materials, which he incorporated for the most part into his books and scientific works [2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13, 14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28,29,30]. In this sense, the Author visited the entire area of Bosnia and Herzegovina and collected rich material. 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 theme of sustainability (in this work using the example of the historical city of Jajce), the most suitable scientific methodology [2] was the one that was 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.

## 2. Environment

By 'environment' we mean every possibility in the space in which man can realize his existence [2].

### 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 [2]. The biggest and most important natural resource of Konjica is water, which appears here through a multitude of smaller and larger springs, rivers and lakes. The abundance of water is the result of the existence of the high mountain Prenj, which, given its geographical position, is a huge 'natural catcher' of water and snow. The Neretva River is the most important watercourse in Konjic and one of the most important rivers in all of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Figures 2, 3). Of the total length of this karst river (230 km),

its larger part (208 km) flows through Bosnia and Herzegovina and a smaller part (22 km) through Croatia. From the geographical-hydrographic aspect, three parts of the Neretva River can be distinguished, the Upper, the Middle and the Lower Neretva. Upper Neretva (which includes a wide area with numerous springs and tributaries, with a series of mountain lakes on the Treskavica and Zelengora plains, which are outside the municipality of Konjic, the artificial Jablanicko lake and mountains and forests with their flora and fauna). The Upper Neretva has class I water purity and is probably the water in the world (7-8 °C in the summer months). The Middle Neretva includes its course and catchment area from Konjic to Pocitelj, and the Lower Neretva from Pocitelj to its confluence with the Adriatic Sea. The Rakitnica River is the main tributary of the Neretva (Figure 4). This river is known for its inaccessible 26 km long canyon, which stretches between the Bjelašnica and Visočica mountains. Along the canyon, at a height of 800 m above the river, there is a hiking trail, from the mouth of Rakitnica in Neretva to the Lukomir village. This village, arranged at an altitude of almost 1500 m, is the only remaining semi-nomadic settlement in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Boračko jezero is a glacial lake located at the foot of the Prenj mountain. The greatest length of the lake is 786 m, the greatest width is 402 m, the greatest depth is 17 m. The surface of the lake is 0.26 km<sup>2</sup>. The volume of the lake is 2.5 million m<sup>3</sup> of water. The bright green water of this lake is transparent to a depth of 8.3 m. The highest water temperature of the lake is (25 °C) in August, and the lowest (about 0 °C) in February. Boracko lake gets its water from the Boračko stream and from numerous surrounding springs. Water from the lake flows through the Sistica stream, which after a short course (6 km) falls through a gorge with a 30 m high waterfall into the Neretva river (Figure 5). Lake Blata is located near the Blaca village on the mountain Bjelasnica, 20 km away from the Konjic city. The greatest length of the lake is 400 m, the greatest width is 150 m and the depth is 4 m. The water temperature of the lake is up to 22 °C, while during the winter the surface of the water freezes and the lake is covered with snow. The lake is surrounded by pastures (Figure 6). Lake Jablanica is an artificial lake created (1953) by the construction of an arch dam on the Neretva, 5 km

upstream from Jablanica, whose height is 80 m. The maximum length of the lake is 30 km and the depth is from 70 to 80 m (with water level fluctuations of up to 25 m). The maximum area of the lake is 1440 ha. There are 13 species of fish in the lake's ecosystem, the most abundant of which are: trout, grayling, scraper, carp, white chub, pijurica and babushka (Figure 7). Prenj is a mountain massif situated in the central part of the Dinarides, surrounded by natural and

artificial lakes (Boracko, Jablanicko, Grabovacko and Salakovacko) and rivers, Neretva, Ljuta, Neretvica, Bijela and Drezanka (Figure 8). Prenj starts from Glavaticevo on the Neretva and extends to Bijelo Polje near Mostar. It is surrounded by the mountains Visocica, Bjelasnica, Bitovnja, Cvrsnica, Velez and Crvanj. In addition to Konjic, at its foot are the Mostar and Jablanica cities.



Source: <https://toureedoo.com/tour/neretva-riverrafting/>, Accessed: January 29, 2026

Source: <https://mostarski.info/vrelo-bune-bunski-kanali/>, Accessed: January 29, 2026

**Fig 2:** Left: Rafting on the Neretva river. Right: Bunski canal in the Neretva river canyon



**Part of the Neretva river canyon known as 'Skakala'**

Source: [https://www.tripadvisor.com/LocationPhotoDirectLink-g1931691-d2329201-i47475043-Neretva\\_Rafting\\_Plaza\\_Dzajica\\_buk-Konjic\\_Herzegovina\\_Neretva\\_Canton.html](https://www.tripadvisor.com/LocationPhotoDirectLink-g1931691-d2329201-i47475043-Neretva_Rafting_Plaza_Dzajica_buk-Konjic_Herzegovina_Neretva_Canton.html), Accessed: January 29, 2026

Source: [http://www.troutangler.com/the\\_river\\_neretva](http://www.troutangler.com/the_river_neretva), Accessed: January 29, 2026

**Fig 3:** Neretva river



Source: [http://ba.geoview.info/kanjon\\_rakitnice\\_ostro,21620655p](http://ba.geoview.info/kanjon_rakitnice_ostro,21620655p), Accessed: January 29, 2026

**Fig 4:** Rakitnica river canyon



Source: <http://pkbalkan.org/wpcontent/uploads/2017/01/slika-20-Bora%C4%8Dko-jezero.jpg>, Accessed: January 29, 2026

**Fig 5:** Boracko lake



Source: <https://24sedam.com/kulturni-pejzazblatacko-jezero/>, Accessed: January 29, 2026

**Fig 6:** Blatacko lake



Source: <http://www.fuzip.gov.ba/vijest/informacija-ohidrolokom-stanju-u-akumulaciji-jablanikojezero-186>, Accessed: January 29, 2026

**Fig 7:** Jablanicko lake



Source: <https://www.hit-booker.com/listings/prenj/>, Accessed: January 29, 2026



**Fig 8:** Mountain Prenj

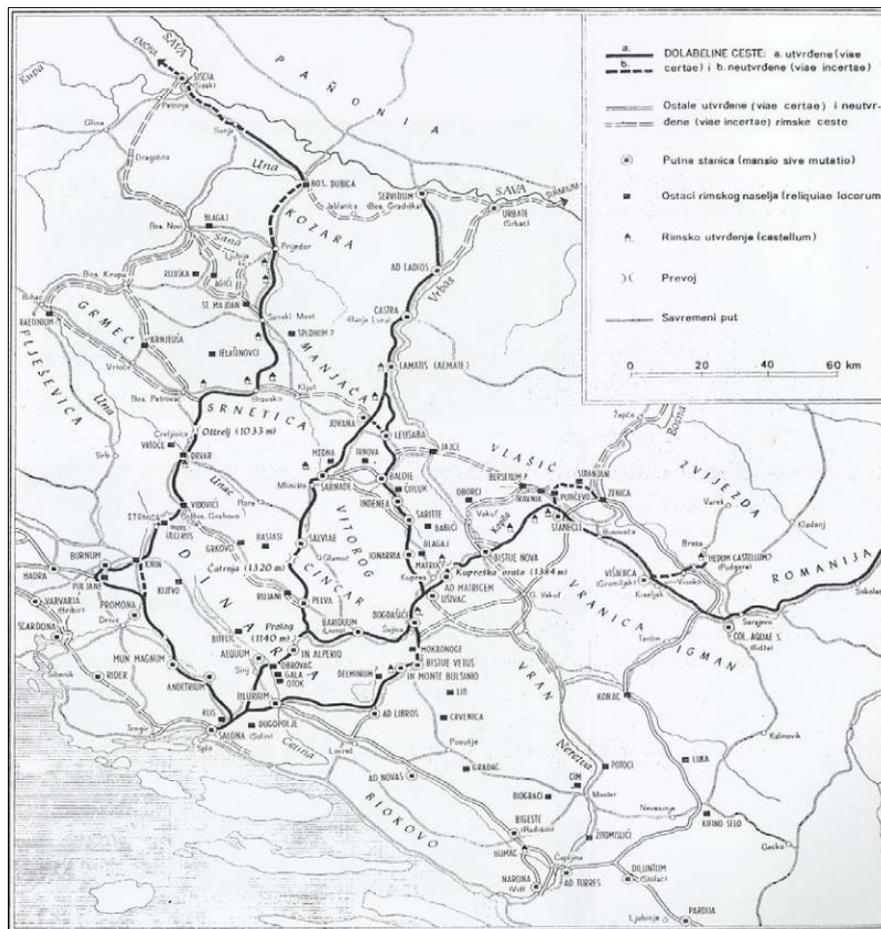
## 2.2. Social environment

By 'Social environment' we mean everything that man has created and that separates him from the world of other living beings <sup>[2]</sup>. It also includes physical structures (various material, more or less organized products of their activity) and the immaterial world that we know with the intellect (science, philosophy, religion, law, morality) through an

organized system of abstract symbols (letters, signs) <sup>[2]</sup>. The history of Bosnia and Herzegovina can be traced through the following periods: Prehistoric Era (Paleolithic 12000-7500, Neolithic 7500-4000 BC, Bronze Age 3300-700 BC, Iron Age 700-400 BC), Ancient Period, Illyrian Hellenism (300-27 BC), Celts (4th century BC), Romans (3rd century BC-3rd century), Western Roman Empire (395-475), Goths (493-

535), Origin of the Bosnian state (7th-10th century), Eastern Roman Empire (476-), Foreign invaders, Serbs (931-960), Croats (968), Byzantium (1019), Hungarians (1102-1135), Bosnia as a banovina (1154-1163), Bosnia as a kingdom (1353-1463), Ottoman period (1463-1878), Period of Austro-Hungarian Monarchy (1878-1918), Kingdom of SHS (1918-1929), Kingdom of Yugoslavia (1929-1941), NDH era (1941-1945), FNRJ, SFRJ ("Tito's Yugoslavia", 1943-1991), Independent Bosnia and Herzegovina (1992-1995-). Many peoples passed through Bosnia and Herzegovina, entering it by force, and being expelled from it by force. All of them took part of her wealth and left their traces. New arrivals, as a rule, demolished what their predecessors had built, erecting their signs of existence on those ruins. So until today. Without forgetting or neglecting the rich prehistoric heritage of Bosnia and Herzegovina, we can trace the complete course of urbanization in Bosnia and Herzegovina since the arrival of the Romans in these areas. Their conquests lasted a long time, from the 3rd century BC to 78 BC, since the resistance of the local population (Illyrians) was extremely tough. Bosnia and Herzegovina was interesting for the Romans because of the deposits of ores and as a bridge to Posavina and Podunavlja. Three important Roman roads passed through here: the first connected Salona (Solin) with Sirmium (Mitrovica) via western Bosnia. From Salona, the road went to today's Citluk, and from here to Pelva (Listane) in the Livanja field. From Pelva, the road through Salvia on Glamocko polje led to Sarnaclaa (spring of Sana) and on to Leusabae (Podraznica); via Lamatris the road

led to Castraa (Banjaluka) and further via Finesaa (Laktasi) to Servitio (Gradiška) on the Sava. The Sava was further sailed to Sirmium. Another route led from Salona through central Bosnia to the Drina, and from here to Sirmium. More famous places on this road were: Tilurio (Trilj on Cetina), Libros (Vidoš on Livanjsko polje), Bistua Vetus (on Eminovo polje), Matrix (probably today's Gornji Vakuf), Bistua Nova (Krupa near Gojnica), Stanecli (Blažuj), Argentaria (probably Srebrenica). Branches separated from this cardinal direction: from Sarajevo Field to the east via Aleva (probably Rogatica) to Sapua (Pljevlja). The second branch branched off towards Konjic, and the third via Busovaca to Travnik, and further via Jajce and Jezera, to the main road of Salona - Servitio. The third route led from Salona and further in the direction of Novas (Runovici) – Fusciana (Tihaljina) – Trebizat valley – Bigesta (Ljubuski) – Naronas (Vid) near the Neretva river. From here the road led to Scodraa (Skadra) and Dyrrachi (Durrës), where it caught the famous military road "Via Egnatia" that went to Thessaloniki and Constantinople. We mention these roads due to the fact that they will remain the main backbone around which the urbanization of Bosnia Herzegovina will take place until today. Those places in Bosnia and Herzegovina that had the status of municipia and colonia during the time of the Romans should be highlighted. Municipalities were cities with a wide degree of autonomy and, as far as we know, they were: Dalminium (Duvno), Bistuae Nova (Kitez), Bistuae Vetus (at the source of Rama), Pelva (on Livanja polje), Splonum, Stanecli (Visnjica near Kiseljak).



Source: Bojanovski, Ivo (1974). Dolabela's road system in the Roman province of Dalmatia, ANU B&H, Works, XLVII, CBI 2, Sarajevo (In SH-HS)

Fig 9: Overview map of ancient-Roman roads in today's Bosnia and Herzegovina

### 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 who continuously learns, a being of open possibilities. The term 'man' is a huge question, the essence of which he is trying to decipher within his own limits, within the limits of the Earth and the limits of the Universe [2]. 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 transition from one historical period to another in Bosnia and Herzegovina was, as a rule, dramatic, where the 'new victors and masters' tried to disparage the previous masters and erase as much as possible the traces of their culture and existence. The Neolithic site of Lisičići is located about 1 km from the present-day settlement of Lisicici and 7 km from the

town of Konjic. The locality is situated on the fields of 'Cisevina', which now lie below the level of the Jablanica lake [31]. The Neolithic settlement in Lisicici was discovered at the beginning of the 1950s by the surface collection of materials by the archaeologist Pavao Andjelic (1920–1985), which was the reason for carrying out protective research immediately before the construction of the dam and submergence of the site [31]. The Lisicici site was investigated on three occasions: in 1952, 1953 and 1954 [31]. The significance of the imprint of the Celtic ethnic element on the native Illyrians is found in the valley of the river Neretva [32]. That the Illyrians and Celts were really mixed in the Neretva valley and that they lived there for a long time is proven by archaeological finds near Vrdolje and in Celebići near Konjic [33], where gray late-Celtic pottery was found, as well as names on gravestones from Ostrozac, Homolje, Glavaticevo and Lisicici [34] which belong to around 200 BC. Also, individual toponymy and hydronymy indicate the presence of the Celts in these areas at one time and are indisputably confirmed through the equestrian names Grusca and Turisova Voda, as well as the hydronymic origin of the name of the river Neretva itself (Figure 10).



**Source:** Patsch, Karlo (1902). Roman places in the equestrian district, Gazette of the National Museum in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Year 14, St. 3, July-December 1902. (In SH-HS)

**Fig 10:** A tombstone from Ostrozac near Konjic that testifies to the Celtic influence of the Romanized population of the upper Neretva. Inscription on the plate: “D(is) M(anibus). Aelis Rufo et Tattuiae, def(unctae) ann(or)um LX, P(ublius) Ael(ius) Verus parentibus p(osuit)”

Konjic is a city with an extremely rich cultural and historical heritage that accompanies man from the Neolithic age to the present day. Architecture has an important place in this heritage. 'The Konjicki Mitrej' is an archaeological site near Konjice where the remains of the foundations of a rectangular sanctuary (9 x 6 m) are located, which consisted of one room, a cella or a crypt. A limestone slab (dimensions 59 x 42.5 x

10 cm) with a relief on both sides was found at this location. One relief shows the god Mithras killing a bull. In this locality, the remains of an altar were found with the inscription: S(oli) I (nvicto) M(ithrae) V/E/TUR (ius) LUCIUS V(otum) S(olvit), (Translation: Vow to the Invincible Sun of Mitra-Lucia Venturi do) [35] (Figure 11).

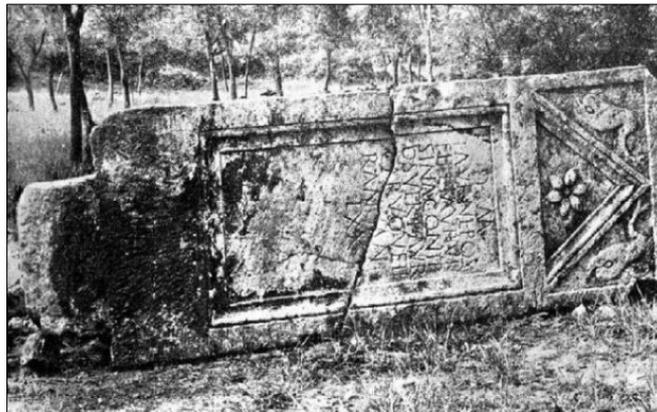


**Source:** Patsch, Karlo (1902). Roman places in the equestrian district, Gazette of the National Museum in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Year 14, St. 3, July-December 1902.

**Fig 11:** Left: the god Mithras kills a bull. Right: Feast

More significant Roman settlements developed in Konjic, Madeskovci, Polje, Celebici, Lisicici and Ostrozac. Not only due to its traffic location, but also according to the findings, it seems that the administrative and political center of the parish (civitas) was in Konjic. Despite the fact that traces of intensive Romanization are very present in the entire area, perhaps the richest in all of Bosnia and Herzegovina, there is no confirmation of the municipal status of Konjic and its

territorial community. Among the discovered archaeological remains from the period of ancient Rome in Konjic is the stele of the veteran Tito Aurelius Karvo (ILJug I, 89 = ILJug III, 1744), found in Donji Selo near Konjic from the second half of the 3rd century, with the inscription: D(is) M( anibus) / T(itus) Aur(elius) Nepos / Fil(ius) et Aur(elia) Ur/sina con(iunx) t(estamento) p5/osuer(unt) T(ito) Aur(elio) / Carvo vete/rano an(norum) / LXX (Figure 12).



**Source:** <http://www.anubih.ba/godisnjak/god41/Pages%20from%20Godisnjak%201-6.pdf>, Accessed: January 29, 2026

**Fig 12:** Tombstone of the veteran Tito Aurelija Karvo found in Donji Selo near Konjic (second half of the 3rd century)

According to previous research, the area of Konjic Municipality - with 3,018 registered monuments - belongs to the territories with the largest number of stecaks in Bosnia and Herzegovina. According to the form of construction, crates are the most numerous, while gables and slabs are almost equally represented. The method of grouping stecaks enables important historical phenomena, processes and relationships to be monitored and documented in the field. Centers of former cult and political communities can be

reliably killed by the placement of large necropolises. Also, according to the location of the medium-sized necropolis, the development processes of the so-called clan villages, while the reflection of intense feudalization and social differentiation is followed in the case of smaller groups, i.e. when certain families no longer intermingle with their neighbors, but separate and create family necropolises (Figure 13).



Source: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/221028294190043309/>, Accessed: January 29, 2026

**Fig 13:** One of the many stećak necropolises in Konjic

#### 4. Boundaries

'Boundaries' are those places in the environment where the conditions 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 <sup>[2]</sup>.

The Carshi (Junuz-Caus) mosque was built (before 1579) by Junuz-Caus as his endowment, which can also be seen in the Ottoman list (defter) of the Herzegovinian Sandzak from 1585. According to the tarikh (inscription) above the entrance portal, the mosque was renovated (1623) by a certain Ibrahim, son of Hadzi-Abdija<sup>[36]</sup>. The mosque is a one-room building with a hipped sloping roof and a spacious porch with a sloping roof characteristic of Ottoman mosques in Herzegovina (Figure 14).



Source: <http://www.mojdzemat.com/dzemat-carsijakonjic/>, Accessed: January 29, 2026

**Fig 14:** The Carshi (Junuz-Caus) mosque in Konjic

Surkovic's (Odzakovic's) tower in Odzaci near Konjic. The exact time of construction of this tower is not known, but by analyzing similar examples written in detail by Hamdija Kresevljakovic <sup>[37]</sup>, the time of construction of this tower can

be determined between the 16th and 17th centuries. This is one of the rare examples of towers in Bosnia and Herzegovina that kept their original appearance and purpose <sup>[38]</sup> until the war (1992-1995) (Figure 15).



Source: <https://www.konjic.ba/ba/opcinakonjic/nacionalni-spomenici.html>, Accessed: January 29, 2026

**Fig 15:** Surkovic's (Odzakovic's) tower in Odzaci near Konjic

The Stone bridge ('Kamena cuprija') in Konjic <sup>[39]</sup> is one of the most beautiful bridges that were built in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the administration of the Ottoman Empire, with its military appearance at first glance reminiscent of the Arslanagic bridge in Trebinje. The bridge was built (1682) during the reign of Sultan Mehmed IV (1642 – 1693). However, there are no reliable written traces about the foundation of the bridge, while only traditions remain among the people. The English travel writer and architect Arthur John Ewans, passing through Konjic, wrote the following about the Stone Bridge: "Across the river known as the Neretva, by a long, beautiful stone bridge, the most beautiful of all seen so far. several houses on the Bosnian coast are connected to Konjic on opposite side" <sup>[40]</sup>. The bridge (after the last renovation, in 2009) is 86.20 m long and 5.35 m wide. The stone fence ('korkaluk') is 1 m high and 25

cm wide. The level of the bridge rises, symmetrically from the banks towards the middle of the bridge, and this profile is followed successively by the spans of the bridge arches, three arches each on the left and right sides in relation to the middle of the bridge. The vaults have a broken arch profile, with the span of the vaults ranging from 6.72 m to 13.56 m. The vaults are supported on five pillars in the river bed and on the coastal retaining walls. The cross-section of the pillars is typical for stone bridges of the Ottoman period: a triangular profile in the upstream part of the pillar and a polygonal profile on the downstream side of the pillar, which means that the length of the pillar is significantly greater than the width of the walking plane of the bridge, so they seem like buttresses. In the middle of the bridge is a discreet accent in the form of a portal on which there is a plaque with information from the history of the bridge (Figure 16).



Source: <http://www.nap.ba/new/vijest.php?id=36422>, Accessed: January 29, 2026

**Fig 16:** The Stone bridge ('Kamena cuprija') in Konjic

The Kozic family house is located in the Jesenik village, on the northern edge of the municipality of Konjic, 20 km from Buturovic-Polje and 42 km from the town of Konjic. The house was built at the end of the 18th century. In its original design, the house of the Kozic family belonged to the type of two-track chardaklia with geographical-ambient features of the house-chardaklia in the region of Upper Herzegovina <sup>[41]</sup>. Similar examples of this type of house can still be found

today in the village of Gorani near Buturovic-Polje. The village was developed on the steep slopes of Mount Zec, which rise from the bed of the Neretvica River, with southern and eastern exposure. Although the altitude of the village is quite high (about 1100 m), the climate is favorable, where agriculture, fruit growing and animal husbandry are the main occupations of the people (Figure 17).



Source: Author (October 8, 2016)

**Fig 17:** The Kozic family house in the Jesenik village near Konjic

Church of St. Basil the Great. The church was built (1886) in the first decade of Austro-Hungarian rule in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The external dimensions of the base of the church are 18 x 9 m. The church has a large semicircular apse on the east side and two smaller apses on the north and south

sides. The belfry of the square-shaped church was built above the chancel area with a roof in water-liquoche. During the war (1992-1995), the iconostasis of the church with icons was destroyed<sup>[42]</sup> (Figure 18).



Source: <http://www.dw.com/bs/bo/C5%BEi%C4%87-u-konjicu/a-16502394>, Accessed: January 29, 2026

**Fig 18:** Church of St. Basil the Great

The house known as Trnka's Tower in Argud belongs to the Upper Herzegovinian type of country one-story houses with a hearth located next to the outer wall<sup>[43]</sup>. The house was built (at the end of the 19th century) by a certain Fejzi (Fejzo)

Spahija, and its builders were craftsmen from Dalmatia. The stone slabs for making the roof of the house were brought from the locality of Krstac, above the place of Doljani on the Bjelimić plateau (Figure 19).



*Source:* <https://www.bhputovanja.ba/bs/atrakcije/fejzibeg-platio-a-gradili-dalmatinci/163>, Accessed: January 29, 2026

**Fig 19:** The house known as Trnka's Tower in Argud near Konjic

The Church of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul in Borci was built (1896) during the Austro-Hungarian administration in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The church is a one-nave building whose base dimensions are 11 x 7.05 m. The bell tower of the

church has a square base of 2.9 x 2.9 m[44]. The village of Borci is located in the municipality of Konjic, 10 km away from the town of Konjic, at the eastern foot of Mount Borašnica (Figure 20).



*Source:* <http://srbiubih.com/srpska-opstina-konjic/>, Accessed: January 29, 2026

**Fig 20:** The Church of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul in Borci near Konjic

Franciscan monastery with the Church of St. John the Baptist monastery consists of buildings: the independent Church of St. John the Baptist, an independent building, three auxiliary buildings and movable heritage. The church was built (1909) during the Austro-Hungarian administration in Bosnia and

Herzegovina, according to (much modified) project of the architect Josip Vancas. The building of today's monastery was built (1940) during the Kingdom of Yugoslavia <sup>[45]</sup> (Figure 21).

**Source:**

<http://zurnalizam.blogspot.com/2017/03/svetista-i-zupe-sv-ivana-krstitelja.html>, Accessed: January 29, 2026

**Fig 21:** Franciscan monastery with the Church of St. John the Baptist in Konjic

The Gorani settlement is located at the foot of the Hum (or Ilina) hill, on the way to the Celinska mountain, the unexplored Hladna pećina, the remains of a Roman settlement (area about 1 ha), several stećak necropolises and

the Hadzi-Sahman mosque. The village has preserved houses, up to 300 years old<sup>[47]</sup>. It is particularly interesting that almost all the inhabitants of the village of Gorani are engaged in the cultivation of onions 'wholesale' (Figure 22).





Source: Author (August 4, 2016.)

**Fig 22:** The natural and historical area of the Gorani settlement near Konjic

The Repovacka mosque in Konjic was built (1579) during the Ottoman administration in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as evidenced by the endowment kept in the Gazi Husrev Bey library in Sarajevo. During the Austro-Hungarian administration (1878-1918), the mosque building was turned into a warehouse, only to be renovated (1924) during the Kingdom of SHS. During the Second World War, the Germans turned this mosque into a warehouse again, which also happened after the end of the war, with the fact that the harem of the mosque was turned into a cattle market. The mosque was renovated in 1990. The damage that the mosque suffered from shelling during the war (1992-1995) was repaired after the war<sup>[48]</sup> (Figure 23).

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Source: Author (June 5, 2011.)

**Fig 23:** Repovačka mosque in Konjic

The Lukomir village near Konjic is about 50 km from Sarajevo and is located on the cliff of the Rakitnica river canyon at an altitude of 1472 m, between two mountain peaks - Lovnica and Obalje. The inhabitants of this village used to spend the whole year in the village, and in the last decades

only during the summer period, when they are engaged in animal husbandry and agriculture. Recently, the village has begun to offer various tourist services (eco-food, refreshments and overnight stays)<sup>[49]</sup> (Figure 24).



Source: Author (July 1, 2012)



**Fig 24:** The Lukomir village near Konjic

The Tekijska (Muhamed-Mehmed-Causeva) mosque was built between 1622 and 1648. Ali-pasha Rizvanbegovic (1783-1851) renovated (1848) this mosque. During Austro-Hungarian rule, the Austrians stripped the lead sheet from her turret (and used it to make ammunition). The mosque was rebuilt (1922) during the Kingdom of SHS, only to be

damaged in the bombing (1944) during the Second World War. During the war (1992-1995), the mosque suffered twenty direct shell hits, in the minaret, dome and walls. The mosque was rebuilt after the war. A Halvetian tekija was built next to the mosque, which gave it its name<sup>[50]</sup> (Figure 25).



Source: <http://www.mojdzemat.com/dzemat-tekijskadzamija-konjic/>, Accessed: January 29, 2026

**Fig 25:** The Tekijska (Muhamed-Mehmed-Causeva) mosque in Konjic

In the period (1953-1979), an atomic bunker was built in Konjic (Military facility of the Army War Command (ARK/D-0)) with 611 m<sup>2</sup>, which was buried 300 m into the mountain. The bunker was built by the government of Yugoslavia at the time to house Josip Broz Tito and the state leadership in the event of a nuclear war<sup>[51]</sup>. There is an

important ammunition factory in the town of Konjic (founded in the former SFRY). Bearing in mind the good traffic connections of Mostar (to Sarajevo and the Adriatic Sea) by road and railway, this factory had an exceptional strategic-political and economic significance (Figure 26).



Source: <http://www.atlantskainicijativa.org/bos/index.php/newsletters/1054-titov-nuklearnibunker.html>, Accessed: January 29, 2026

**Fig 26:** Military object Army War Command (ARK/D-0)

When you approach the Lukomir village by a macadam road across the spacious Dugi polje, in the wide expanse of the field it is difficult to see a public fountain with a watering hole for livestock. Before we get to the fountain and take a close look at it, we will be amazed that it exists at all (and we will immediately set ourselves the task of finding an

explanation in the scientific and professional literature). At the same time, looking at the vast expanse of pastures (where hundreds of sheep and cattle can still be seen today), we conclude that the existence of a fountain and watering place for cattle is a blessing, without which these large pastures would have no meaning (Figure 27).



Source: Author (November 20, 2011)



**Fig 27:** Left: Fountain on Dugi polje near Lukomir. Right: A fountain near the Lukomir village in Bjelasnica

“Konjic woodcarving” is the cultural heritage of woodcarving, an artistic craft with a long tradition in the town of Konjic. Wood carvings, which include furniture, sophisticated interiors and small decorative items, stand out for their distinctive hand-carved motifs and overall visual identity. Carving is an integral part of the culture of the local community, a measure of the beauty and comfort of the home interior, and a tradition that creates a sense of community and belonging. It plays an important role at the level of the local community in Konjic, but also throughout the country, including in diaspora communities. It is also an economically

sustainable, socially inclusive and ecologically sustainable craft practiced by different ethnic groups and which serves as an instrument of dialogue and cooperation. The craft is widespread among the inhabitants of Konjic, and the owners of family woodcarving workshops are most responsible for preserving the element, training woodworking students and popularizing the craft. Knowledge and skills are transferred primarily through the training of newcomers in workshops, as well as through intergenerational transmission within the family (Figure 28).



Source: <https://www.dnevno.ba/vijesti/konjicko-drvorezbarstvo-upisano-u-unesco-115875/>, Accessed: January 29, 2026

Source: <https://www.dominfo.ba/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/drvorezbarstvo-konjic.jpg>, Accessed: January 29, 2026

**Fig 28:** Konjic woodcarving

## 5. Conclusion

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“ [2]. 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 [2]. Konjic is a city with extremely rich natural resources (water, forests,

cultivated land and pastures). This was the basis for the settlement and life of people in this area, from prehistory to the present day. The cultural and historical heritage of the city of Konjic is probably the richest of all the cities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Architecture has an important place in this heritage. 'The Konjicki Mitrej' is an archaeological site near Konjice where the remains of the foundations of a rectangular sanctuary (9 x 6 m) are located, which consisted of one room, a cella or a crypt. A limestone slab (dimensions 59 x 42.5 x

10 cm) with a relief on both sides was found at this location. One relief shows the god Mithras killing a bull. In this locality, the remains of an altar were found with the inscription: S(oli) I (nvicto) M(ithrae) V/E/TUR (ius) LUCIUS V(otum) S(olvit), (Translation: Vow to the Invincible Sun of Mitra-Lucia Venturi do). Today, Konjic is particularly famous for wood carving, with a long tradition. For this reason, 'Equestrian woodcarving' as an intangible world heritage was entered on the UNESCO list of intangible world heritage in Europe in 2017, as another element from Bosnia and Herzegovina entered on the UNESCO „Representative list of the intangible cultural heritage of mankind“ [52].

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