



Received: 08-08-2022

Accepted: 18-09-2022

International Journal of Advanced Multidisciplinary Research and Studies

ISSN: 2583-049X

“Kogo” Coffee-Bar and “Brazil” Coffee-Bar in Sarajevo by Architect Ahmet Hadrovic

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Abstract

Coffee-bars are those architectural programs that have always reflected a simplified ('zipped') image of a society. They are mostly located in the center of a city, at extremely frequent points of the 'strictly pedestrian zone of the city core'. As such, cafes themselves became the 'genius loci' of a city. Since the end of the 1970s, one of the hallmarks of social life in Sarajevo has been coffee shops, symbols of the urbanization of Sarajevo and the orientation of young people towards 'Western values'. Each social group had its favorite place, and some, like the old 'Cactus', were visited by everyone. Before or after 'Kaktus', cafes 'Dedan', 'Kod Piketa', 'Lola', 'Estrada', 'BB', 'Parkusa', 'Sloga', 'Koliba', 'CDA'... The advantage of living in pre-war Sarajevo was

that each faculty had its own student club: 'KUK' (at the Faculty of Medicine), 'AG' (at the Faculty of Architecture and Civil Engineering), 'Index' (at the Faculty of Law), 'Stelex' (at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering) and cafes at the Faculty of Philosophy, the Faculty of Political Sciences... In these clubs there were often gigs where demo bands usually played, but also some more famous ones. The author of this paper, as an architecture student, visited some of the mentioned cafes. Later, as an architect, he was lucky enough to design several cafes. Here he presents two famous cafe-bars in Sarajevo, through the design of which he experienced the 'spirit of the city of Sarajevo' in the best way.

Keywords: Coffee-bars in Sarajevo, “Kogo” Coffee-bar, “Brazil” Coffee-bar

1. Introduction

Coffee-bars are those architectural programs that have always reflected a simplified ('zipped') image of a society. They are mostly located in the center of a city, at extremely frequent points of the 'strictly pedestrian zone of the city core'. As such, cafes themselves became the 'genius loci' of a city^[1]. Since the end of the 1970s, one of the hallmarks of social life in Sarajevo has been coffee shops, symbols of the urbanization of Sarajevo and the orientation of young people towards 'Western values'. Each social group had its favorite place, and some, like the old 'Cactus', were visited by everyone. Before or after 'Kaktus', cafes 'Dedan', 'Kod Piketa', 'Lola', 'Estrada', 'BB', 'Parkusa', 'Sloga', 'Koliba', 'CDA'... The advantage of living in pre-war Sarajevo was that each faculty had its own student club: 'KUK' (at the Faculty of Medicine), 'AG' (at the Faculty of Architecture and Civil Engineering), 'Index' (at the Faculty of Law), 'Stelex' (at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering) and cafes at the Faculty of Philosophy, the Faculty of Political Sciences... In these clubs there were often gigs where demo bands usually played, but also some more famous ones. Rockers mostly came to those clubs. People came to 'Kaktus', because there were concerts almost every night. Demo bands usually played, but there were also the beginnings of bands like 'No smoking', 'Plavi orkestar', 'Valentino'... Before the war (1992-1995) a move from 'Piramide' (on Mejtas), via 'Bugatti' to 'S.O.S.' became very popular. Across the street from 'Dom Ljubica Ivezić' was the popular tavern 'Miris dunja'. Also, the 'Theatre' was always popular, as was the 'Red Gallery'. The 'Clou Jazz Club' has always been popular. All these places were particularly popular for three or four years, and then they simply disappeared.

It is believed that the first tavern in Western Europe was opened in Sarajevo (1534), somewhere around Bentbaša, right after the appearance of the first tavern in Istanbul. As for cafes and coffee-bars in the form in which we know them today, it is believed that the first such facility was 'Evergreen', opposite the Town Hall. Later 'Gong' appeared. The first coffee bar was 'Lisac'. Until then, the 'Park' tavern held the primacy of the city's largest meeting place, and with the opening of 'Lisac', night outs took on a new form. From 'Parkusa' one went to 'Lisac', and from 'Lisac' to 'Stari sat', which worked only at night, until the last guest. 'Nava', 'Bene' and 'Davor' were also popular.

The most permanent cafe in Sarajevo is 'S.O.S.' in Gabela Street (which was renovated by its owner Mustafa Susic on December 26, 1980, and has not stopped working since then).

This paper presents two coffee bars by the author of the paper, through whose design, among the large number of projects that the author did in the period of reconstruction of Sarajevo after the war (1992-1995), published books and scientific works in which he 'perceives the new time' [2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10].

2. “KOGO” Coffee-bar (1998)

“Kogo” Coffee-bar is located in Dalmatinska street, next to the building of department store "Zema", directly next to “Brazil” Coffee (Geographic coordinates: 43°51'32.73"N, 18°25'13.76"E, Elevation: 544 m) which was built later (Fig 1).

The 'Kogo' Coffee-bar is vertically developed through the ground floor and first floor. On the ground floor, there is a main area for guests with a cafe-bar kitchen, sanitary facilities (separate for staff and guests), a storage room and a large open terrace for guests. The first floor is decorated as a restaurant with a large open terrace. Food and drinks are delivered from the kitchen on the ground floor to the restaurant on the first floor via a small service elevator (Fig 2, 3, 4). It is interesting that the owners of the 'Kogo' Coffee-bar introduced strict rules of 'dressing' for restaurant guests, wanting to make the restaurant a cafe that is 'under the feet' of all passers-by.

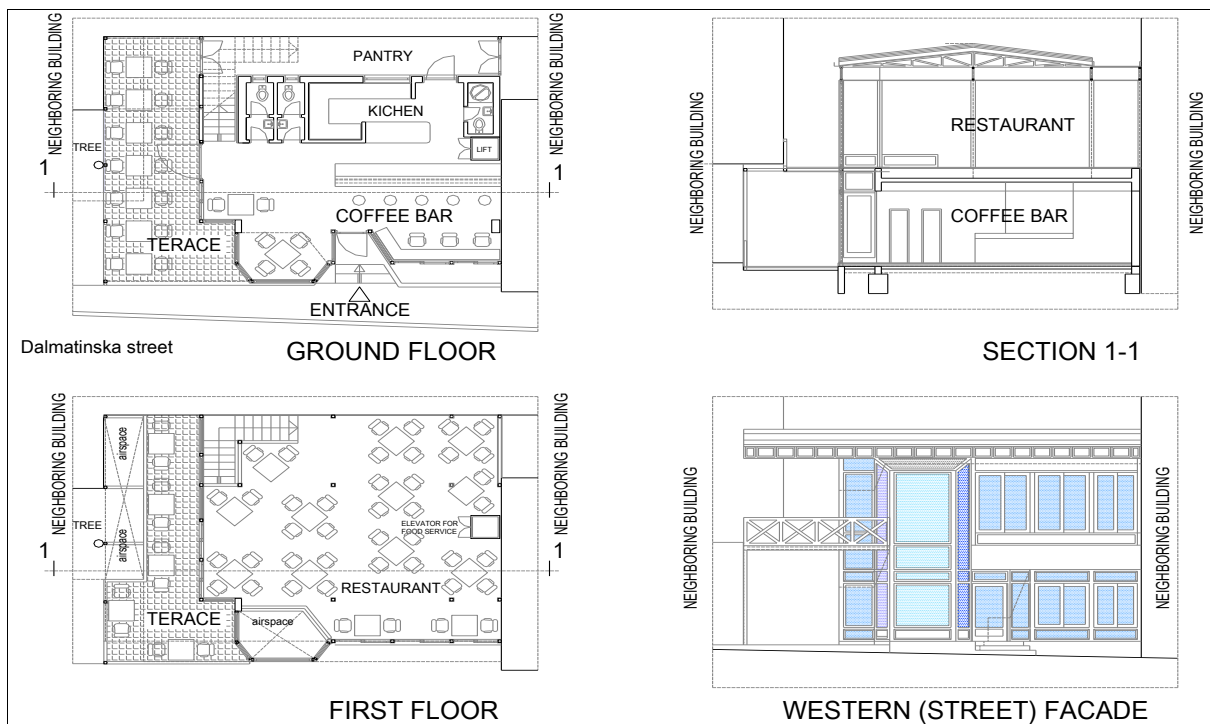
Unlike the “Brazil” Coffee-bar, in the “Kogo” Coffee-bar there was a noticeable effort to emphasize wood in the materialization. The exterior fence area was made as a

wood-glass curtain with portals that could be opened ('sliding portals'), the floors are made of wood, furniture...) [The owners of 'Kogo' Coffee-bar (the Bukvic brothers) insisted on the idea that 'wood dominates'. All works related to wood were arranged by the famous Sarajevo carpentry 'Zlatko Curic']. It is interesting that both cafes had 'their own guests', who liked the atmosphere of that particular cafe.



Source: Google Earth: Accessed: 8.24.2022.

Fig 1: “Kogo” Coffee-bar, Sarajevo (1997-1998). Location



Source: Author (Project, 1997)

Fig 2: “Kogo” Coffee-bar, Sarajevo (1997-1998). Project



Source: Author (September 20, 2010), left
<https://restaurantguru.com/Kogo-Sarajevo#gallery>, Accessed: August 29, 2022., right

Fig 3: “Kogo” Coffee-bar, Sarajevo (1998)



Source: <https://restaurantguru.com/Kogo-Sarajevo#gallery>, Accessed: August 29, 2022.

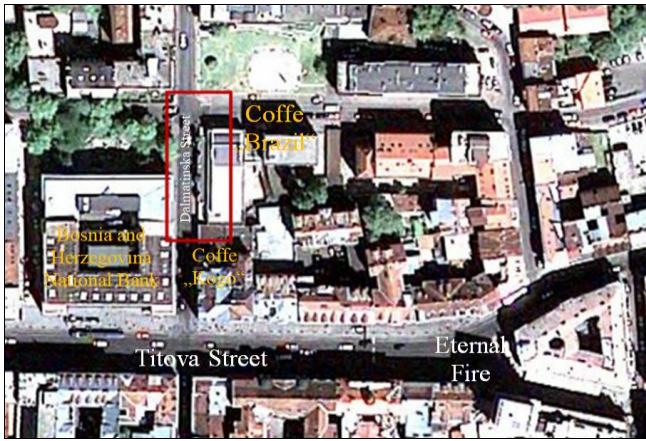
Fig 4: “Kogo” Coffee-bar, Sarajevo. Interior

3. “Brazil” Coffee-bar (1998-1999)

The location of the “Brazil” Coffee-bar is one of the most exclusive locations in Sarajevo for this type of content: it is located in the very center of the city (at the beginning of Dalmatinska Street, about twenty meters from the promenade on Titova Street, opposite the building of the Central (formerly National) Bank of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in near the site 'eternal fire' (Geographic coordinates: 43°51'33.84"N, 18°25'13.75"E, Elevation: 545 m), (Fig 5).

Designing the building at this location (next to the office building of the well-known construction company 'G.P.

Bosna', right next to the street) was extremely complicated, especially since there was a row of four apple trees there. However, all the limitations in the design have turned into advantages through the project and the building. The cafe building is 'stretched' along the street (toilets, bar and storage are located in the back, next to the building of the company 'G.P. Bosna'), so that all places, all positions in the cafe were 'main'. Jablan (latin: *Populus nigra*) trees were 'drawn' into the building, which made the atmosphere inside the building more natural. The building itself (with a suspended facade and thermal insulating glass) was designed as a 'high tech' of its time (Fig 6, 7).



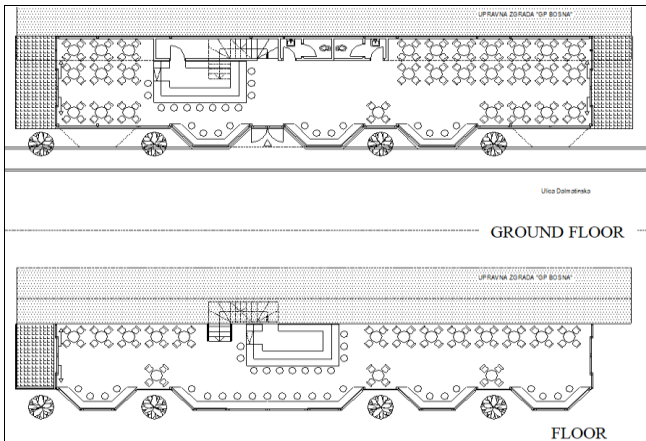
Google Earth: Accessed: 8.24.2022.

Fig 5: “Brazil” Coffee-bar, Sarajevo (1998-1999). Location



Source: Author (August 10, 2008)

Fig 7: “Brazil” Coffee-bar, Sarajevo. Original solution (1998-1999). In the picture on the right, you can see “Kogo” Coffee-bar

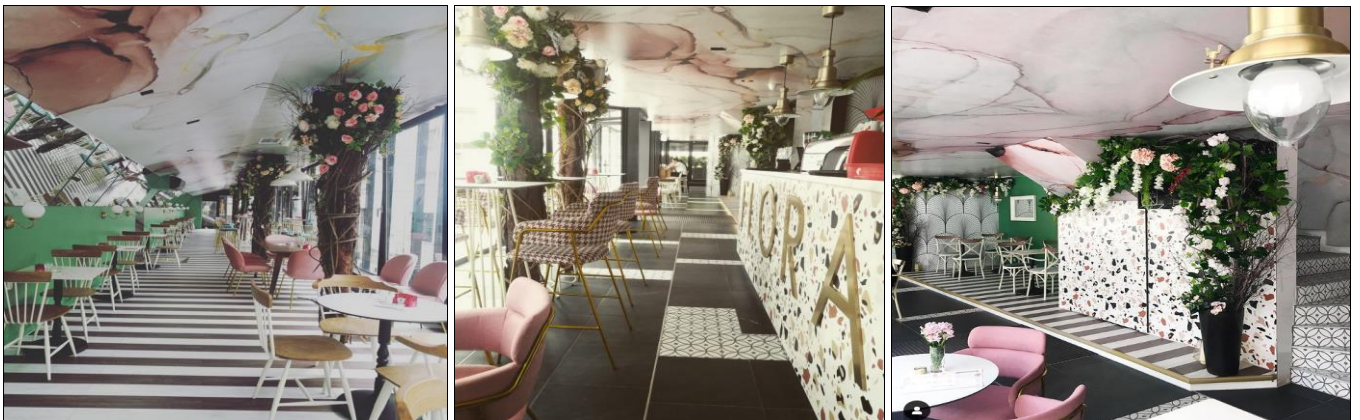


Source: Author (Project, 1998)

Fig 6: “Brazil” Coffee-bar, Sarajevo (1998-1999). Project

During 2019, the owner of the “Brazil” Coffee-bar ordered a project to redesign the building (without consulting the author of the original solution of the “Brazil” Coffee-bar), with the basic goal 'to increase the usable surface area by six new tables, i.e., 24 seats'.

The new design completely reversed the basic idea of 'incorporating the new structure into nature and the found urban environment and drawing nature into the new architectural structure' by removing four jablan (*Populus nigra*) trees. The irony is that these trees were 'compensated' with plastic models in the interior. The original name of the “Brazil” coffee-bar was changed to the “Flora” Coffee-bar, which was 'supported' by the decoration of the interior of the coffee 'rich arrangement of greenery made of plastic' (Fig 8).



Source: <https://bonjour.ba/cafe-restoran-flora-sarajevo-studio-kota>, Accessed: August 29, 2022

Fig 8: “Flora” Coffee-bar, Sarajevo. Reconstruction and interior (2019)

At the beginning of 2021, the “Flora” Coffe-bar (formerly “Brazil” Coffee-bar) got a new owner and was remodeled

into the “Pop’s Caffè & Food” Coffe-Restaurant (Fig 9).



Source: <http://www.klix.ba/lifestyle/dugo-ocekivani-pop-s-caffe-food-konacno-je-stigao-u-sarajevo/210222084>, Accessed: August 29, 2022.

Fig 9: Pop’s Caffè & Food “Coffee-Restaurant, Sarajevo (February 2021)”

4. Conclusion

Coffee-bars are those architectural programs that have always reflected a simplified ('zipped') image of a society. They are mostly located in the center of a city, at extremely frequent points of the 'strictly pedestrian zone of the city core'. As such, cafes themselves became the 'genius loci' of a city. The author of this paper, as an architecture student, visited some of Sarajevo's cafes and thus was part of the 'new generation oriented towards the values of Western culture'. Later, as an architect, he was lucky enough to design several Caffe's where, through their overall design, he promoted the idea of 'High-tech' and 'bioclimatic architecture'. However, with the change in social consciousness (where liberal capitalism prevailed), architecture was subjected to this consciousness and practice. In this sense, a great irony is evident: the original solution of the “Brazil” Coffee-bar was designed with the idea of 'fitting the architectural structure into the natural environment and the found urban environment and drawing nature into the architecture', where four existing apple trees were preserved and incorporated into the architectural structure. Here, the Author (who, as a professor at the Faculty of Architecture in Sarajevo, introduced the subject 'Bioclimatic Architecture' into the curriculum of architecture studies) promoted the 'idea of bioclimatic architecture' in his design. The later owners of the “Brazil Coffee-bar worked and lived with the 'idea of achieving as much profit as possible', so they cut down four jablan (*Populus nigra*) trees and thus 'increased the usable area of their Coffee-Restaurant with four new tables (16 seats)'. At the same time, they did not contact the author of the original solution of the “Brazil” Coffee-bar (the author of this paper), regarding 'copyright protection'. After all, this was a regular case in the practice of rebuilding Sarajevo after the war (1992-1995)¹.

This paper, among other things, has documentary value, which testifies to the time of great social transition in Sarajevo, from the end of the war (1992-1995) to the present day^[1].

¹ The same thing happened with the „UNITC“ office buildings by architect Ivan Straus, the „ZETRA“ Olympic Hall by architects Dusan Djapa and Lidumil Alikaljic, for example.

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