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Musafirhana in Fojnica

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Abstract

The lodging house (Musafirhana) in Fojnica (Salihagica house) is located in the city center, on the right bank of the river Scona, near the Atik (Hadrovic) mosque built in 1570 (Geographic coordinates: 43°57'51.33"N, 17°53'39.09"E, Elevation: 599 m). The exact time of construction of this house is not known, but it can be indirectly concluded that the building was built in the middle of the 19th century, since its builders were the brothers Muhamed-aga, Mehmed-aga and Mahmut-aga Salihagic, sons (or grandsons) of Salih-aga Iskrac who participated in the Dubic War (1788-1791). Musafirhana (Turkish: misafirhane; musafir/muzafer = traveler, intender, guest; Persian: hāne = house) is a building in the Muslim world where travelers-intentors or

guests are provided with free overnight accommodation and food. In the Bosnian Franciscans, there was also one room intended for Muslim travelers-intentions. It was a specially fenced room. It hosted both a man and a horse if he came with him. Each guest was entitled to three free days of stay and was never allowed to stay there again. The rule was valid for all social classes. Musafirhana had a kitchen for guests. The space for women was separate. There was also a Turkish bath.

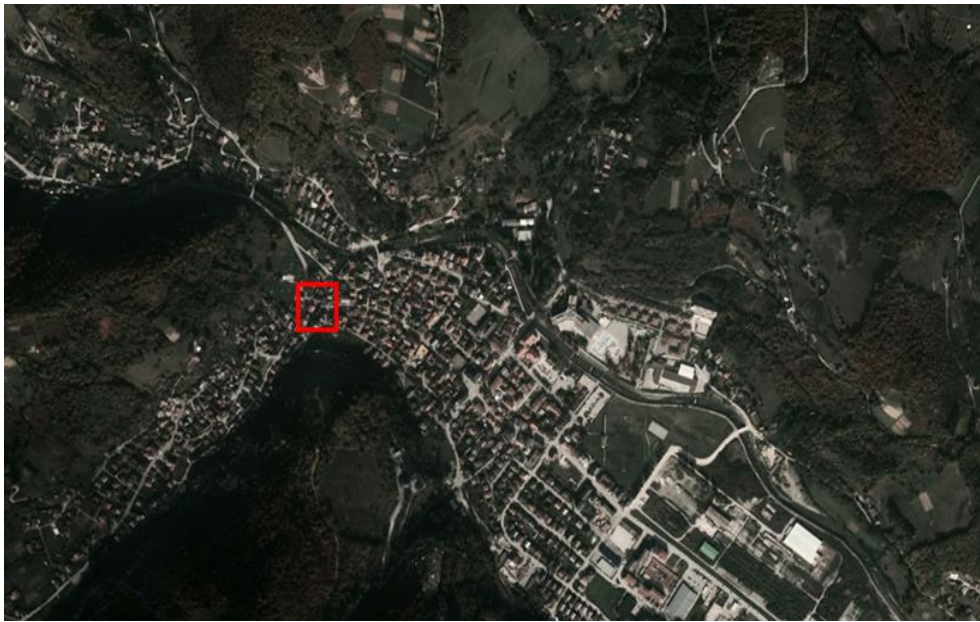
Due to its exceptional architectural-historical and ambient values, this building, along with the Franciscan monastery and the Atik (Hadrovic) mosque, over time became one of the symbols of the Fojnica neighborhood.

Keywords: Fojnica, Musafirhana, Bosnian Chardaklia House, Architectural Heritage

1. Introduction

The lodging house (Musafirhana) in Fojnica (Salihagica house) is located in the city center, on the right bank of the river Scona, near the Atik (Hadrovic) mosque built in 1570 (Geographic coordinates: 43°57'51.33"N, 17°53'39.09"E, Elevation: 599 m), (Fig 1, 2). The exact time of construction of this house is not known, but it can be indirectly concluded that the building was built in the middle of the 19th century, since its builders were the brothers Muhamed-aga, Mehmed-aga and Mahmut-aga Salihagic, sons (or grandsons) of Salih-aga Iskrac who participated in the Dubic War (1788-1791)¹. Musafirhana (Turkish: misafirhane; musafir/muzafer = traveler, intender, guest; Persian: hāne = house) is a building in the Muslim world where travelers-intentors or guests are provided with free overnight accommodation and food. In the Bosnian Franciscans, there was also one room intended for Muslim travelers-intentions. It was a specially fenced room. It hosted both a man and a horse if he came with him. Each guest was entitled to three free days of stay and was never allowed to stay there again. The rule was valid for all social classes. Musafirhana had a kitchen for guests. The space for women was separate. In Musafirhana, there was also a Turkish bath ('hamamdzik') in the 'big porch', as one of the three parts of the wall battery ('musandere') (Fig 3). Due to its exceptional architectural-historical and ambient values, this building, along with the Franciscan monastery and the Atik (Hadrovic) mosque, over time became one of the symbols of the town of Fojnica^[1].

¹ The author visited this building on several occasions, over a long period of time (for the purposes of working on his scientific papers). He carried out a precise recording of the building on 7/29/2016, and was assisted by Mr. Elmedin Karahmet, one of the current owners of the building.



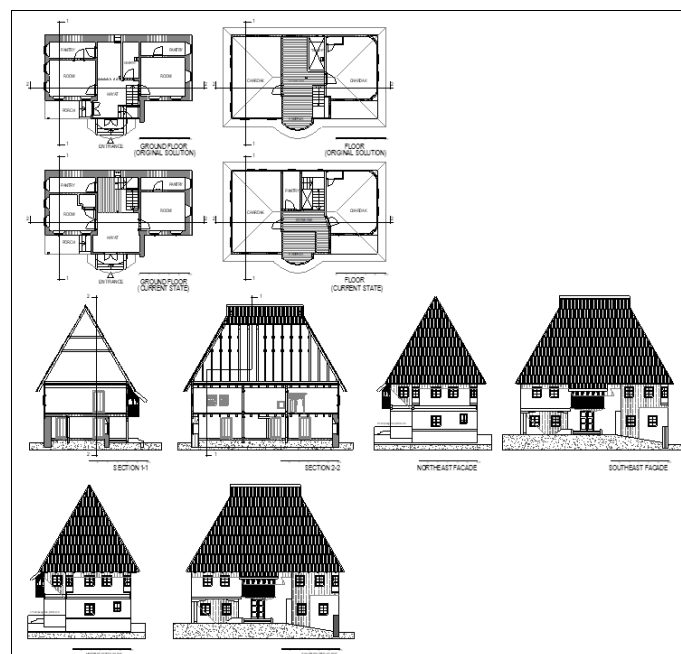
Sources: Google Earth: Accessed: November 23, 2022

Fig 1: Musafirhana in Fojnica. Location



Source: Author (7.29.2016.)

Fig 2: Musafirhana in Fojnica. View of the house from the main street in Fojnica, from the northeast direction (left) and view of the house from the north direction (right)



Source: Author (Drawing, 2017)

Fig 3: Musafirhana in Fojnica. Diposition

2. Spatial-form characteristics of the house

According to the disposition of its horizontal plans, Musafirhana in Fojnica (Salihagica house) belongs to the type of three-section Bosnian Chardaklia House, which is developed in the vertical plan through the ground floor and first floor [2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7] (Fig 3).

The house has a relatively large yard with an orchard, which is surrounded by thick stone walls, while the outer wall of the ground floor of the house, oriented to the northwest, touches the main street of the town of Fojnica along its entire length. The courtyard is accessed from the main entrance, 'Bosanska Street', through an accented entrance ('kanate').

On the ground floor of the house, on its southeast side, there is an entrance porch with an access staircase from two directions, southeast and southwest. From the porch, you can access the relatively spacious living room, arranged in the central section of the ground floor (Fig 3, 4).

In the hayat of the house, similar to the classic solutions of the Bosnian Chardaklia House, there was an open fireplace with a staircase to the upper floor (Fig 3, 5).

It should be noted that the original disposition of the house was changed in one of the many reconstructions, but there was no change in the external dimensions or its architectural physiognomy (Fig 3).



Source: Author (7.29.2016.)

Fig 4: Musafirhana in Fojnica. Entrance porch (view from the southwest direction)



Source: Author (7.29.2016.)

Fig 5: Musafirhana in Fojnica. The space of the hall ('hayat') with a staircase on the ground floor

In the two end tracts of the base of the ground floor, rooms were arranged, each of them having a storage room (Fig 3, 6).

A two-legged staircase (in the shape of the letter "L") leads to the first floor, and to the 'divanhana' room, which occupies the entire area of the central section of the base of the floor. On the southeast side of the base of the floor, the divanhana is completely left in the space over the contour of the ground floor (about 110 cm) and thus covers the access staircase at the entrance to the ground floor (Fig 3, 8).

In the interior of the house, the floor of the divanhana part with the doxat ('kamerija') is raised by about 20 cm compared to the floor of the rest of the divanhana (communication), which emphasizes its role as a place for rest with a view of the courtyard (Fig 3, 8).

From the living room there is access to two large verandas, one each in the two end tracts of the base of the floor (Fig 3, 8, 9).

A part of the former 'musandera' is still preserved in the garden facing the street (Fig 9).



Source: Author (7.29.2016.)

Fig 6: Musafirhana in Fojnica. Storage room on the ground floor

It is interesting that the right angles formed by the wall facing the street and the walls perpendicular to it were cut on the porch in the northeastern part of the house, which the builder wanted to achieve aesthetic effects (Fig 2).

This kind of shaping of the conservatory volume, in itself, is not a novelty, especially in an oriental-type city house in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but it is a novelty that the conservatories are not exactly left over the contour of the ground floor, so cutting their corners results in the appearance of a 'roof' on the corners of the ground floor.

With regard to the choice of materials at that time, the 'roofs' created in this way were 'problematic spots' on the building, where atmospheric conditions (rain, snow) and the process of vapor diffusion had their unfavorable influence.



Source: Author (7.29.2016.)

Fig 7: Musafirhana in Fojnica. View from the staircase to the living room area (left) and view from the living room area to the staircase (right)



Source: Author (7.29.2016.)

Fig 8: Musafirhana in Fojnica. Part of the divanhana ('kamerija') with a doxate overhang above the entrance to the ground floor (left) and a porch in the southwestern part of the floor (right)



Source: Author (7.29.2016.)

Fig 9: Musafirhana in Fojnica. Chardak facing the street

3. Construction and materialization

The walls of the ground floor are made of tufa stone about 70 cm thick, which is based on 80 cm thick foundations made of limestone stone. The walls of the floor are made of wooden skeleton ('bondruk') with an adobe infill (Fig 3, 10, 11).

The roof of the house is hipped, with a large slope (about 55-60°), covered with shingles. Shingles were a relatively stable covering as long as they were permanently exposed to smoke from an open hearth (Fig 3, 10). Shingles rapidly decay after the cessation of burning in an open hearth.

One of the most impressive architectural and design details on the house is the unusually large eaves on the southeast side of the roof, where the builder did not follow the broken contour of the base of the floor, but reduced it to a pure rectangle (Fig 10).



Source: Author (7.29.2016.)

Fig 10: Musafirhana u Fojnici. Spatial-structural assembly of the house (left) and roof eaves (right)



Source: Author (7.29.2016.)

Fig 11: Musafirhana in Fojnica. Detail of the constructive assembly of the house

Ceiling structures on all levels are made of wooden beams with wooden floors. Some ceilings are made with wooden paneling ('shihe'), some are plastered, while some have a combination of (decorative) paneling and plastered surfaces (Fig 12-17).



Source: Author (7.29.2016.)

Fig 12: Musafirhana in Fojnica. The ground-floor ceiling structure above the entrance porch (left) and the ground-floor ceiling structure in the area of the hayrack (right)



Source: Author (7.29.2016.)

Fig 13: Musafirhana in Fojnica. Ceiling structure ground floor-floor in the corridor of the room on the ground floor



Source: Author (7.29.2016.)

Fig 14: Musafirhana in Fojnica. Wooden ceiling in the divanhana area



Source: Author (7.29.2016.)

Fig 15: Musafirhana in Fojnica. View into the roof area from the divanhana area (left) and exit to the attic area (right)



Source: Author (7.29.2016.)

Fig 16: Musafirhana in Fojnica. Ceiling in the chardak facing the street (left) and ceiling in the 'kamerija' (right)

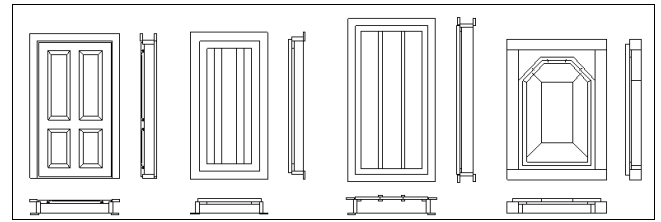


Source: Author (7.29.2016.)

Fig 17: Musafirhana in Fojnica. Ceiling in the attic in the southwest part of the floor

4. Doors and windows

The doors and windows on the house are of different designs. The original doors have been preserved, while most of the newer versions are made according to the original design (Fig 18-21).



Source: Author (Drawing, 2016.)

Fig 18: Musafirhana in Fojnica. Door design



Source: Author (7.29.2016.)

Fig 19: Musafirhana in Fojnica. Entrance door to the house (the result of one of the many reconstructions of the building)



Source: Author (7.29.2016.)

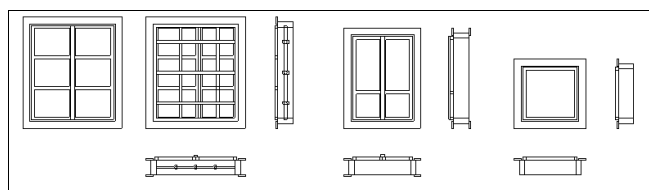
Fig 20: Musafirhana in Fojnica. Preserved original door on the storage room on the ground floor (left) and door, new design modeled on the original (right)



Source: Author (7.29.2016.)

Fig 21: Musafirhana in Fojnica. Doors on the chardak. Imitation of an archaic design in a new version of the door

The windows have been preserved in their original design (Fig 22, 23). The windows on the ground floor are built into the perforations of the thick stone walls.



Source: Author (Drawing, 2016.)

Fig 22: Musafirhana in Fojnica. Window design

On the outside, the windows are rectangular, and on the inside, the perforations in the wall are vaulted with a shallow vault (arch) whose contours follow the form of a traditional Ottoman arch (Fig 23). The windows on the ground floor have physical protection from a lattice made of wrought iron ('demiri'), while the windows on the first floor have a lattice made of red slats ('musebak'), (Fig 23).

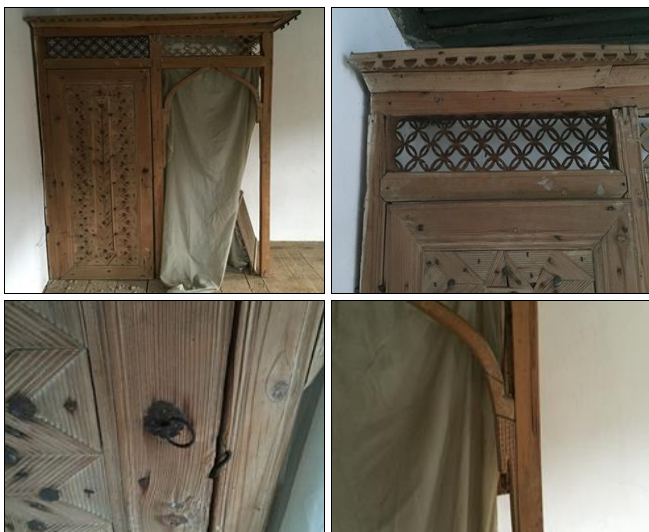


Source: Author (7.29.2016.)

Fig 23: Musafirhana in Fojnica. Windows in the room on the ground floor (left) and window in the chardak facing the street (right)

5. Specific elements of home equipment

In Musafirhana, some original examples of equipment have been preserved. One of the examples is the preserved part of the wardrobe ('musandera') done at a very high artistic level (Fig 24).



Source: Author (7.29.2016.)

Fig 24: Musafirhana in Fojnica. Preserved original musandera in the chardak facing the street

Also, a decorative rosette in the ceiling of the large chardak has been preserved, made of wood modeled after the traditional oriental-Ottoman pattern ('arabesque'). The decorative railing on the staircase in the divanhana area is of recent manufacture, based on the original design (Fig 25).



Source: Author (7.29.2016.)

Fig 25: Musafirhana in Fojnica. The view from the large chardak on the sofa (left) and detail of the wood carving in the ceiling of the large chardak (right)

6. Conclusion

Musafirhana in Fojnica (Salihagica konak), viewed as a whole, has a relatively well-preserved physical structure, but some of its elements have been seriously devastated. The building has an ideal location in the city fabric, it has a memory of the place ('genius loci'), a rich narrow location (a garden with an orchard...). With a creative approach to the reconstruction of the building (with compliance with all instructions prescribed by the system of protection of the building as a national monument of Bosnia and Herzegovina), this building can become an extremely attractive place, not only within the city of Fojnica, but also in Bosnia and Herzegovina as a whole (Fig 26).



Source: Author (7.29.2016.)

Fig 26: Musafirhana in Fojnica. A spacious courtyard and an orchard next to the building are the huge potential of the house located in the very center (old city center) of Fojnica

7. References

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