

The Bobovica Village on The Visocica Mountain

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Abstract

Citation: Hadrovic A. The Bobovica Village on The Visocica Mountain. SEE J Archit Des. 2023 Mar 19; 2023:10069. <http://doi.org/10.3889/seejad.2023.10069>

Key words: Bobovica village; Visocica mountain; Rakitnica river; Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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Received: 02-Feb-2023; **Revised:** 07-Mar-2023; **Accepted:** 08-Mar-2023; **Published:** 19-Mar-2023

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Competing Interests: The author have declared that no competing interests exist.

The Bobovica village is located on the northern slopes of the Visocica mountain (Geographic coordinates: 43°38'27.83"N, 18°13'47.60"E, elevation: 1306). It belongs to the municipality of Trnovo, and it is 17.6 km away from Trnovo by air. The main resources of the village are its geographical position on the slopes of Visocica (on which there are extensive pastures), a lot of arable land, a wealth of sources of drinking water, the proximity of the Rakitnica river (whose power was traditionally used to operate water mills) and good traffic connections with other villages on the Bjelašnica plateau. The Bobovica village was burned down in the 1992-1995 war, with rarely preserved traditional structures. After the war, new houses were built, in new locations and next to the ruins of old houses. At the same time, the newly built buildings sometimes follow the patterns of traditional architecture, but, as a rule, they are made with a modern disposition, design and materialization. After the war, some facilities were built that did not exist before.

According to the theory of Architecturally Defined Space (ADS) developed by the Author in 1987, the village of Bobovica will be observed in this paper as a system through consideration of its four basic elements: Environment, Man, Boundaries and Perspectives. The simultaneous presentation of these elements will establish their mutual cause-and-effect relationship and will not leave out anything that is important for the formation of the image of this space.

Introduction

The Bobovica village is located on the northern slopes of the Visocica mountain (Geographic coordinates: 43°38'27.83"N, 18°13'47.60"E, elevation: 1306), (Figures 1).



Figure 1: Left) The Bobovica village, Location Source: https://visitmycountry.net/bosnia_herzegovina/bh/index.php/turizam/27-vmc/geografija, [Accessed: 11.19.2022], and Right) Google Earth [Accessed: 11.19.2022]

It belongs to the municipality of Trnovo, and it is 17.6 km away from Trnovo by air. 57 inhabitants [1] live in the Bobovica village today, which is significantly less than in 1991 (100), 1981 (175) [2] and 1971 (327) [3, 4]. The reason for such pronounced depopulation of villages is the great geopolitical and social changes on a global scale, within the former SFRY and Bosnia and Herzegovina [5]. The main resources of the

village are its geographical position on the slopes of Visocica (on which there are extensive pastures), a lot of arable land, a wealth of sources of drinking water, the proximity of the Rakitnica river (whose power was traditionally used to operate water mills) and good traffic connections with other villages on the plateau. Bjelašnice (Figure 2).

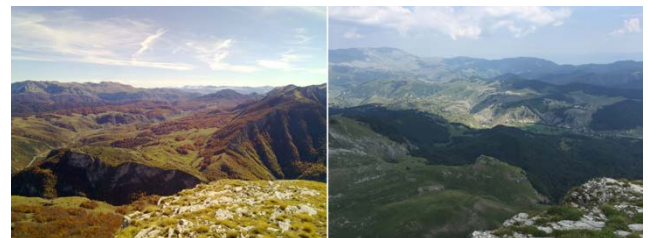


Figure 2: Left) View of the Bobovica village from Obalj, and Right) View from Visocica

The Bobovica village was burned down in the 1992-1995 war, with rarely preserved traditional structures. After the war, new houses were built, in new locations and next to the ruins of old houses. At the same time, the newly built buildings sometimes follow the patterns of traditional architecture, but, as a

rule, they are made with a modern disposition, design and materialization. After the war, some facilities were built that did not exist before.

According to the theory of Architecturally Defined Space (ADS) developed by the Author in 1987, the village of Bobovica will be observed in this paper as a system through consideration of its four basic elements: Environment, Man, Boundaries and Perspectives [6]. The simultaneous presentation of these elements will establish their mutual cause-and-effect relationship and will not leave out anything that is important for the formation of the image of this space (Figure 3).



Figure 3: The Bobovica village (in the distance is the Ozimine village and the Treskavica mountain)

Environment

By 'environment' we mean every possibility in the space in which man can realize his existence [6].

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 [6] ...

January, like December, in Bobovica, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, is a winter month with an average temperature that varies between 1.6 °C and -5.2°C. Average relative humidity in January is 90%. In Bobovica, it rains 7.8 days during January and regularly accumulates up to 80 mm (3.15") of precipitation. Throughout the year, Bobovica in Bosnia and Herzegovina has 166.4 rainy days, and 892 mm (35.12") of precipitation accumulates. The months with snowfall in Bobovica, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, are from January to June, from September to December. January is the month with the most snowfall. It snows on 18.9 days and accumulates 569 mm (22.4") of snow. Average day length in January in Bobovica is 9 hours and 22 minutes. Average sunshine in January is 4.4

hours. With an average maximum UV index of 1, January is the month with the lowest UV index. A UV index of 2 and below symbolizes a low health threat from exposure to the sun's UV rays for ordinary individuals [4].

April is a fresh spring month in Bobovica, with an average temperature varying between 2.7°C and 12.5°C. In April, the average high temperature rises from an icy 6.5°C in March to a cool 12.5°C. In April, the average low temperature in Bobovica is 2.7°C. In April, the average relative humidity is 78%. In April, it rains 15.9 days in Bobovica. In the whole of April, 69 mm (2.72") of precipitation is collected. From January to June, from September to December are the months with snowfall. In April, the average day length in Bobovica is 13 hours and 27 minutes. In Bobovica, the average sunshine in April is 9.1 hours. In April, the average daily maximum of the UV index in Bobovica is 3. An assessment of the UV index from 3 to 5 represents a medium danger to the health of the average person from exposure to the sun's UV rays [4]. July in Bobovica is a warm summer month, with an average temperature varying between 24°C and 10.4°C. In July, the average high temperature is mostly the same as in June - a moderately hot 24°C. In July, the average low temperature in Bobovica in Bosnia and Herzegovina is 10.4°C. The average relative humidity in July in Bobovica is 72%. In July, it rains 17.9 days in Bobovica. During the whole of July, 70 mm (2.76") of precipitation falls. July and August are snow-free months. The average day length in July in Bobovica is 15 hours and 4 minutes. In July, the average sunshine in Bobovica is 11 hours. From June to August, with an average maximum UV index of 5, are the months with the highest UV index [4]. October, like September, is a moderate autumn month in Bobovica, with an average temperature ranging between 4.4°C and 13.9°C. In October, the average high temperature drops from a pleasant 19.4°C in September to a mild 13.9°C. The average low temperature in Bobovica in Bosnia and Herzegovina is 4.4°C. In Bobovica, the average relative humidity in October is 80%. As a rule, 54 mm (2.13") of precipitation accumulates in Bobovica during 12.1 precipitation days. January to June, September to December are the months with snowfall in Bobovica. Snow falls in Bobovica on 4.6 days, with the usual accumulated 113 mm (4.45") of snow. In October, the average day length is 11 hours and 1 minute. In October, the average sunshine in Bobovica is 6.8 hours. In Bobovica, the average maximum daily UV index in October is 2 [4].

The main resources of the village are its geographical position on the slopes of Visocica (on which there are extensive pastures), a lot of arable land, a wealth of sources of drinking water, the proximity of the Rakitnica river (whose power was traditionally used to operate water mills) and good traffic connections with other villages on the plateau. Bjelašnice (Figure 4, and Figure 5).



Figure 4: The Bobovica village; a) Pastures north of the village, b) Sheep barn in the middle of the pasture, c) Sheep barn near the village, d) A barn for sheep in the pasture, e) The central public fountain in the village, and f) Fountain by the access road to the village



Figure 5: The Bobovica village; Upleft) The slopes of Visocica, Upright) Meadows with a view of the Rakitnica canyon, Downleft) Public ('hair') fountain by the access road to the village, and Downright) Fields and levadas with a view of the coast

Social environment

By Social environment we mean everything that man has created and that separates him from the world of other living beings [6]. It includes both physical structures (various material, more or less ordered

products of their activity) and the immaterial world that we know with the intellect (science, philosophy, religion, law, morality) through an ordered system of abstract symbols (letters, signs) [6].

Today's households are modern, similar to households in other parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina. People in the Bobovica village today, as a rule, have their houses in the city (Sarajevo, Hrasnica, Hadzici, Pazarić) where they live a city life, where they work and educate their children. Some of them go to the countryside in the summer to cultivate the land (mainly sowing potatoes, onions, carrots, parsley and less often peppers and tomatoes), collect medicinal plants and forest fruits, and raise livestock. They have adequate means for transportation, food and other necessities. Of great importance in the lives of the inhabitants of the village of Bobovica is the religious gathering, where, in addition to the religious content, it is extremely important to get to know each other individually, communicate and socialize, both in mosques and in open spaces. The weekly collective prayer is the Juma prayer on Fridays, and the seasonal gathering is a prayer and ceremony in honor of the birth of the Prophet Muhammad, s.a.w.s. ('mevlud') [7, 8, 9].

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 himself is trying to decipher within his limits, within the limits of the Earth and the limits of the Universe [6].

Boundaries: architecture as a framework of life

Boundaries are those places in the environment where the situations encountered are controlled according to very specific human needs. Conditions are all those discovered and undiscovered phenomena in space that have a stimulating or degrading effect on humans. Boundaries, 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 [6].

Houses in the Bobovica village are placed

close together, and cattle barns and other auxiliary facilities are located next to each of them [10, 11, 12, 13, 14]. In the middle of the village is the main public fountain with a watering place for livestock, a mosque and the village cemetery. Along the road that connects the village with the main communication Sabici-Sinanovici, there are several public ('hair') fountains, which shows how much this content is respected by the people of this village. In addition, these public fountains are well-distributed public watering places for livestock.

The Bobovica village was burned down in the 1992-1995 war, with rarely preserved traditional structures. After the war, new houses were built, in new locations and next to the ruins of old houses. At the same time, the newly built buildings sometimes follow the patterns of traditional architecture, but, as a rule, they are made with contemporary disposition, design and materialization (Figure 6, and Figure 7).



Figure 6: The Bobovica village - restored old structures of buildings



Figure 7: Bobovica village - new houses built on the walls of (demolished) traditional houses

After the war, some facilities were built that did not exist before (Figure 8).



Figure 8: Left) Public fountain, mosque and cemetery in the Bobovica village, and Right) A new house with a property in Bobovica, next to Tusilacki potok (Tusilacki stream)

Conclusion (Perspectives)

By the term 'Perspective' (in the framework of the theory of Architecturally Defined Space) we mean „that dynamic relationship that connects now-future, existing-possible, realized-desired“ [6].

The 'natural environment' is more or less constant in the Bobovica village, while the 'social environment' and man are flexible categories whose content changes faster. The natural and social environment of the Bobovica village will continue to be a prerequisite for the life of people according to their traditional patterns. The introduction of modern communication systems (mobile telephony, Internet) will tie them into the 'global world' where they will be part of it. Hiking, visiting the Rakitnica river canyon, visiting cultural and historical monuments (students of all educational levels) are activities that will not bring direct material benefit to the inhabitants of the Bobovica village, but will certainly contribute to its promotion at the international level, which, in the end, will also bring economic benefit. The Bobovica village will continue to be a precious resource for the people of Sarajevo, where, according to their needs, they will have space for meetings in a wide range of needs - suitable for people who live in the city (Figure 9).

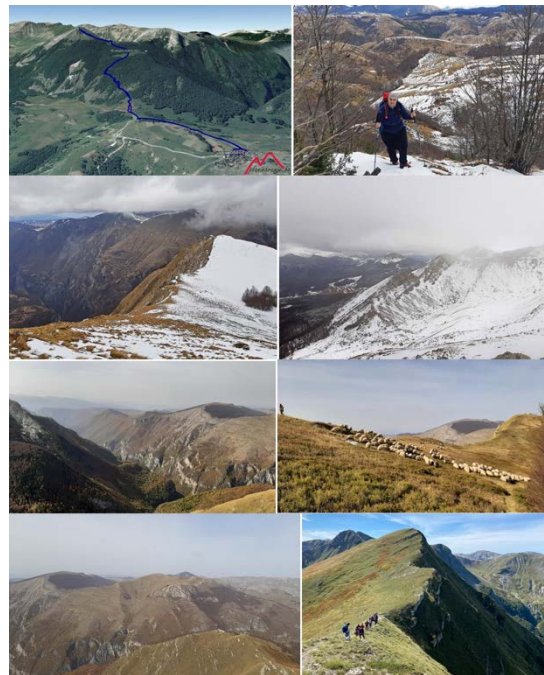


Figure 9: Hiking in Bobovica village; Source: <https://www.facebook.com/Planinarenje.ba/posts/2773955179361963/>, [Accessed: 12.26.2022]; <https://www.wikiloc.com/hiking-trails/bobovica-drstva-malo-i-veliko-brdo-117148090/photo-75142515>, [Accessed: 12.26.2022]; <https://putovanjazapet.com/planinarenje-visocicom-grebenom-domagije/>, [Accessed: 12.26.2022]

Today, mostly elderly people live in the Bobovica village, and their children and grandchildren have houses, mostly in Sarajevo. Individuals come there in

the summer to raise cattle and cultivate the land. A modern playground for children and youth was built in the village (Figure 10).



Figure 10: Bobovica village - newly built structures

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