ARCHITECTURAL VALUES AS AN INDICATOR OF DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL TOURISM IN SKOPSKA CRNA GORA REGION

Vladimir Karanakov¹, Gjorgi Gruevski², Vladimir Koljozov³, Zoran Trposki⁴
Faculty of Design and Technologies of Furniture and Interior, Skopje, Macedonia
karanakov@fdtme.ukim.edu.mk, gruevski@fdtme.ukim.edu.mk, koljozov@fdtme.ukim.edu.mk, trposki@fdtme.ukim.edu.mk

ABSTRACT

The motive for such a survey was valorization and categorization of architectural heritage in some rural areas in Macedonia located near the major urban areas and the possibility of sustainable spatial development and improvement of rural areas through action such as architecture, urbanism, spatial planning, environmental protection, development of civil society and the development of rural tourism.

For this purpose we analyzed three rural sections and villages in mountain of Skopska Crna Gora near City of Skopje. The locations were chosen because they are located adjacent to larger city such as Skopje and thus have the potential for development of rural tourism.

Tourism provides an opportunity to travel and meet the cultural - recreational needs of people. Tourism development can affect raising awareness about respecting the diversity in cultures and lifestyles in different environments.

The scientific goal of the project is to educate and raise awareness about the preservation of rural areas, development of ecological awareness and the development of organic farming and healthy lifestyle.

Key words: rural tourism, architecture, ecology

1. SKOPSKA CRNA GORA VILLAGES LJUBANC, KUCEVISTE, POBOZHJE – MORPHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF THE SITE

Villages of Mount Skopska Crna Gora belong to the hilly countryside. The houses are well adapted to the terrain, in order to better exploit the benefits of nature.

- All villages are in southern and southeastern exposure, which provides permanent excellent insolation.
- They mainly belong to the villages of compact type that defines a compact rural structure, resulting not only because of the field conditions, but also for the common defense and land use

¹ Professor Vladimir Karanakov, Ph.D., Faculty of Design and Technologies of Furniture and Interior, Skopje, Macedonia, e-mail: karanakov@fdtme.ukim.edu.mk
² Associate professor Gjorgi Gruevski, Ph.D., Faculty of Design and Technologies of Furniture and Interior, Skopje, Macedonia, e-mail: gruevski@fdtme.ukim.edu.mk
³ Professor Vladimir Koljozov, Ph.D., Faculty of Design and Technologies of Furniture and Interior, Skopje, Macedonia, e-mail: koljozov@fdtme.ukim.edu.mk
⁴ Professor Zoran Trposki; Ph.D., Faculty of Design and Technologies of Furniture and Interior, Skopje, Macedonia, e-mail: trposki@fdtme.ukim.edu.mk
for processing. The buildings follow the terrain allowing each other good sunny view on the Skopje valley. The narrow streets offer many visual surprises on every corner.
- The villages are divided in neighborhoods that bear the names of some indigenous families or named location (upper, lower ...)
- The center of the village is the focus of events and sit-ins, as well as rural “shop”, which, each for itself a special center of influence and assembly. Villages represent the most direct expression of the life and work of the peasant, in terms of extensive management.

Skopska Crna Gora is a relatively small area in the region of north-western part of Skopje valley. The area by altitude can be divided into mountain and valley. The villages are mainly located around numerous medieval monasteries and churches. They were held so tightly packed due to the temples, but managed to keep the monasteries during the long Ottoman occupation. Residents in Skopska Crna Gora represent a distinct ethnic group of Skopje valley. From the 1963/64 year in traffic road Skopje-Kuceviste was released and today regular bus line 61 is the connection with Skopje, which is enabled quality access to the area.

2. GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, LOCATION AND STRUCTURE OF THE COUNTRYSIDE

Skopska Crna Gora has twelve villages. Several of these villages lie on the border between mountain and valley, including: Ljubanci Pobozhje and Kuceviste. These villages are compact type. Streets and lanes are surrounded by houses. They all have their own special features, landmarks and characteristics, yet form an architectural tissue with the same architectural specification.
The largest village in the area of Skopska Crna Gora is the village Kuceviste. The houses are rising at an altitude of 530 to 620 meters. It has a very favorable position: Lying in the middle of the area despite the source of Kuchevishka river.
This morphological limit allows people to use the forest region of grasslands and mountains, and the agricultural area in the valley. Drinking water is obtained through the five fountains. Kuceviste is a village of compact type. It is elongated from north towards south. North old part of the village is very compact. Kuceviste is divided into neighborhoods that carry names by main families. Place of the post office represents the center of the village. Besides the post office, Kuceviste has a hospital, primary school, local community and various service facilities. City of Skopje is 15 km away from the village. It goes to suburban bus no. 61. The village has a large church of Presentation of St. Mary, popularly known as Saint Spas. The village has about 3167 inhabitants residing in 850 houses.
Pobozhje village also known as Pobuzhje is a part of the municipality Cucer - Sandevo, on the southwest slopes at the foot of Skopska Crna Gora at an altitude of 588 meters. Pobozhje are located 20 km north of the City of Skopje and the village is located on the road leading from the villages Chuher and Kuceviste to villages, Tanusevci and the border with Kosovo. The population is located in a favorable economic position, because you can use various natural amenities. North, as a mountainside forest zone. Southern suitable for agriculture and vineyards. In the vicinity lies the village Kuceviste the southwest and the east village Ljubanci. Residents of Pobozhje are served with water from the source Peralishte, which rises in the middle of the village. Pobozhje also belongs to the compact type village. It is divided into: upper, middle and lower neighborhood. In every neighborhood the houses of some families form a separate group. Peralishte space is called a center of the village. There are 139 households or 591 inhabitants. It goes to suburban bus # 61. There is a monastery dedicated to the Virgin Mary and the church of St. Petka. Through the village runs Poboshka river which according to research is one of the rivers from the slopes of Skopska Crna Gora which took water ancient aqueduct of Skopje. Northeast of Pobozhje with southern exposure to Skopje is situated Pobozhje weekend settlement with more than 170 houses.
Ljubanci village is hilly village which lies on the southern slopes in the foothills of Skopska Crna Gora at an altitude of 749 meters. Ljubanci is 18 km away north of the City of Skopje. It leads to a paved road and a regular suburban bus lines No.47. Site covers 24.1 km2 rises over the mountain of...
Skopska Crna Gora to the municipality Lipkovo, and the forests cover 1166 ha, 627 ha of pastures and farmland of 546 Ha. Ljubanska river run through the village, which is a tributary from occurring Serava. Neighbouring villages are Pobozhje on the west and Ljuboten on the east, which is connected with an asphalt road. Above the village Ljubanci in the forest area next to the monastery of St. Nicholas, is a children resort „Strahil Andasarov” which today works as homeless shelter. In the village works primary school „Goce Delchev” and there is a church „St. Mother”. Ljubanci is also compact type of village. There are nine neighborhoods, which are named after the main families. The village has about 930 inhabitants residing in 350 houses.

The climate of Skopska Crna Gora due to the closure of the north, is mainly the same climate of the City of Skopje. It is a modified Mediterranean region. Of course, this applies to the foot of Skopska Crna Gora and lowland south of it. Typical is long and wet autumn, which sometimes continues until December. Winters are cold with average January temperature below 0°C, while summers are hot with average July temperature of 24°C.

3. CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL HERITAGE OF SKOPSKA CRNA GORA

Cultural and historical heritage is one of the most important factors for the development of rural tourism in the villages of SCG. This area has large number of sacred objects, dating even from the Middle Ages. We will mention the most important:

- Monastery St. Archangels near the village. Kuceviste - 14th century
- Monastery St. Virgin near the village. Pobozhje - end of the 14th and cleaning. 15th century
- Monastery St. Nicholas at the village. Ljubanci - mid-19th century
- Monastery St. Nikita in the village. Gornjani - 13th century

The monastery „St. Archangels” dedicated to St. Archangel Michael and Gabriel, is located 3 kilometers northwest from the village Kuceviste, in the picturesque valley of the Kuchevishka river. In the small oak forest near the village Pobozhje is the monastery complex „St. Mother”. Around the church are complexes which are in fairly good condition. Otherwise, the monastery has no written documents and historical sources of the time it is raised. According to icons and frescoes should be the period of the 19th century. It is with open arcs that prevented the demolition of the old church, which is incorporated into the new. The church is painted by painters distinctive in style and time in most churches in this region. Because of the almost monastic complex commercial matters and it represents an excellent opportunity for walking, hiking, spiritual peace and escaping the heat in Skopje. According to local stories monastery of “St. Nicholas” near the village of Ljubanci was built in the mid 19th century as a consequence of a vision in a dream of peasant Boyko Raev, which is referred to as its founder. In the construction which lasted from 1849 by 1858, their contributions on personal labor and goods offered villagers of Ljubanci, whereas that they traditionally nurtured especially respect for this saint. Testimony of a Byzantine church in the village dedicated to “St. Nicholas” from the 14th century. The iconostasis of the monastery church is made by the famous Macedonian painter Dico Zograf. functioned as an air bath for suffering from tuberculosis. From 1998 it was restored as a convent. In the present time, three nuns live in the monastery.

It is worth mentioning that this region is one of the masterpieces of medieval sacramal architecture and frescoes, monastery church “St. Nikita” in the village of Gornjani, painted by the famous medieval painters Michael and Eutychius.

4. TYPOLOGICAL AND SPATIAL - FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS OF OBJECTS
The houses in the analyzed villages in SCG bear the hallmarks of the region. Climatic factors, topography of the terrain, and the traditional building heritage, define the final form and function facilities. All buildings are built of local materials as stone, wood and soil. Ground parts are made of stone, while in the upper floor (floors) dominates wood framework and mud plaster. In the ground floor are economy spaces, and upstairs are family residential spaces, the "house", the rooms "odai" and the balcony "cardak" as the dominant space as both functional and aesthetic. In some of the buildings the balcony is boldly knocked away from the main volume of the facade, the other is leaning and forming porch below it. Balcony dominates in the shaping of objects and is found in variants of placement (in front, angular, central, in whole facade ...)
"House" as the primary family unit is located on the first floor and it always contains the fireplace in it. It is the place where food is prepared, where the people eat, where they sleep in cold winter nights, so it is a multipurpose room. The movable furniture is used as needed. Immovable furniture is traditional,: cupboards, stalls, chests. Other areas that are found on the upper floor are the rooms. The tables presented below are analyzed landmarks and their specifics.

---

**Figure 1. Analysis of Spatial Organization Chardak (Balcony) and the Main room "KUKJA"**

5. POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL TOURISM
There are a good potentials for development of rural tourism in some villages of Skopska Crna Gora. By preservation of old Macedonian tradition, there are also a number of natural and anthropogenic elements, clean and peaceful environment, local roads lead to villages that can be reached by private car and by public transport (buses) which operate directly to these places. Development of rural tourism in these villages in Skopska Crna Gora will enumerate the following suggestions:

- Maintenance of already existing road infrastructure for easier and better access to these villages. Positive is that there are already bus lines (the transportation center) which travel directly to these places.

- As one of the most important priorities is the improvement of road infrastructure in the villages (asphalt right to the houses and disabling channels along the path that rapidly ruins the existing road).

- Categorization of the potential objects, which in the future would be accommodation for tourists and visitors and their reconstruction in a traditional style. According to analyzed plans of the objects, it is clear that the ground level with some interventions is appropriate for reception, kitchen and a common place, and upper levels as rooms for the guests. Open or closed balcony (chardak) is usually connecting space in front of the rooms, and offers nice view on the countryside. All of the objects have courtyards that should be transformed in nice gardens with local flowering and tools.

- Training of the population that plans to deal with tourism, ie the issue of accommodation and other services that would satisfy the needs of tourists. Such training should be: courses for foreign languages, communication skills, short courses for tourism and hospitality etc.

- Establishing of associations at the municipal level (Cucer - Sandevo and Butel) for these villages, which would be associated with crafts, catering, commerce and so on. These associations will improve their work through organized meetings with the municipality.

- Enrichment of rural areas with different types of animation activities by the local population. It would be: preparing traditional meals, presentations of growing vegetables and fruits, breeding of domestic animals, riding horses, collecting berries, walks through the mountain slopes, mountain biking, demonstrations of weaving and embroidery of costumes, making vessels of clay and so on.

- For a better acquaintance with rural mountain Skopska Crna Gora, can be used and specific marketing activity. These would be: placing billboards along roads, border crossings and bus stations with landscapes of mountain Skopska Crna Gora, distribution of advertising leaflets at airports, bus stations and border crossings, making videos for rural tourism in the country, making the internet countries that would have information on rural tourism in the Republic of Macedonia (which are the places, the accessibility, types of accommodation, both natural and anthropogenic elements, actions linked to the place, history, etc.), participation in international tourism fairs and more. Travel agencies can make animation programs to visit the rural areas, that is, organizing travel arrangements for domestic and foreign tourists.

- The successful development of rural tourism in some villages in Skopska Crna Gora who would work throughout the year, natives should organize events throughout the year, or festivals, sports events and so on.

6. VALORIZATION

In the tables show bellow we can determine whether there are real opportunities for development of rural tourism. They are presented and assessed certain key values that are one of the main indicators that clearly define the opportunity for development of rural tourism.

Table 1: Valorization of indicators in some villages of Skopska Crna Gora
### Table 1: Evaluation Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cultural values</th>
<th>Quality of space</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Historical</td>
<td>Quality of drinking water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artistic</td>
<td>Quality of public infrastructure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architectural</td>
<td>Quality of air</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wealth of content</td>
<td>Quality of information exchange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Quality of road infrastructure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Quality of the organization of housing and neighborhood</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*LEGEND: 1 Insufficient  2-Sufficient  3 Good  4 Very good  5 Excellent*

The evaluation criteria is performed through five grades of which the weakest marked with the word insufficient, while the highest is excellent.

### 7. REFERENCES

1. Волињец Радомир, Ентериерот во старата македонска куќа, Зборник бр. 3, Архитектонски факултет, 1979 год.
2. Намичев Петар, Селската куќа во Македонија, Скопје, 2009 год.
3. Проф. Д-р. Каранаков Владимир, „Архитектурата на старата куќа во Лазарополе“, Скопје, 1999 год.
4. Стојановски Бојко, Љубанци и скопското црногорие, Скопје, 1994 год.
5. Хаџиевска – Алексиевска Јасмина, Мерки, антропоморфност и модуларни пропорции куј старата македонска куќа, Скопје, 1985 год.