Housing Facilities Construction with Accessories and Architecture Construction of Mills in Anamorava over the Centuries

Riza Fazliu

Housing facilities

It is very important the impact of occasional invaders' invasion in architecture buildings in the region of Anamorava.Influences came by land trade, which were numerous in this region, so it is likely that these effects came through the Morava River, mentionedfrom the very ancient Greek and Roman period with the name Margus, and most likely this river was navigable for boats and small ships which besides others might have been a connection with the castles of this area,especially with Binça castle and that of Pogragja.The first effects appeared in Anamorava, and later they reached even mountainous villages. Housing facilities through the centuries in it constituted some changed elements in architecture, but the elements of indigenous workmanship factor of Anamorava do not miss and were present in every field of construction. The impact of the external architecture, which was expressed by invaders, is combined with the impact of the internal Albanian native craftsmen.

Wooden houses

These facilities were more prevalent in the upper Morava.This is understandable in this part of Anamorava since it lies directly near the Karadag Mountains where the quantity of wood was abundant and widely used serving as raw material for building houses. The phrase, *made of wood*, can be understood that in foreground during construction, it was usedwood which was processed depending on the area where it would be used. Part of the basis of these objects was from the stone dedicated to construction for numerous reasons. Covering material of these houses was straw, and in some cases even leaves of trees and various plants. Houses with straw covering, ferns, leaves of trees were built extensively in this part of Kosovo and were used construction techniques to cover such houses that first was placed the main joist of the house called the basic axltree in which were placed the beams of the house, axletreesthen thin trees placed in the horizontal partswhich were used as essential covering part. Covering was first of rey straw that was longer and stronger than that of wheat. Straw was placed on at a distance of 25 to 30 cm on the whole of covering, thus settling of straw with such distance created a whole network of straw which was pressed very well, and served as basement to the second covering part of the house dependently on the terrain and other specifications. House covering was carried out with plants called ferny plant with small leaves and branches of trees, etc.[1]

[1] Kosovo once and today (group of authors) 1973, Culture, p. 313.
For such construction technique we interviewed Ibush Sylë Memishi, born on 15. 03. 1925 Karadak Depce, Gjilan, respectively Mahala Lafetve who personally has been a carpenter during his youth and has personally built more houses such as in his native village and surrounding villages. He told us that the houses in this area were built from the Middle Ages and antiquity they found up in the interwar period as well as after World War II. The interview was conducted on 10. 03.2015. Depce as a region where villages were part 9, until after World War II was part of Gnjilane municipality or part of the then Zhegër. In 1948, at the initiative of the former government of Yugoslavia these villages were taken by narrowing the border of the Gjilan cadastral zone, respectively it was exactly at Livadhi I shehrit (town's medadow) or the village Muçibabë near Preshevo from Zhegra and given to the Presheva municipality.

Houses of bars

This kind of construction was widespread in Anamorava. The poles were prepared well in advance and were dedicated to masonry. First was done wall woofing of the building, and then dyed with mud mixed with straw chaff.X Architectures of these facilities were based stone, while the wall woofing is extremely interesting and represented weaving of poles, where the natural shape of a turn was in artistic form.

The Morava Houses

This type of objects, which otherwise is called twin home, was quite disperced on the level of the Morava region. The houses also consisted of two or three rooms, which had a special destination. Characteristic of this type of housing was that from its front side can be seen the number of rooms. The architecture of this kind was very interesting, so the impact of this type of houses was spread in some neighboring countries, such as Serbia, Bulgaria etc. Houses of this type continued to be built for centuries, while building material and architectural experience were being improved. Morava houses contained in themselves the heating room and another one, whereas richer families also made larger guest rooms. Depending on the increase of the family there could be added an extra room. This way they were called double houses. Besides this type of houses there were also houses of other Morava type. These houses were identical to those of the previous type, but the difference lay in its annex which was dedicated to cattle, it means the increased part for cattle. Construction of such type was widespread especially in the upper Morava and in the surrounding areas. Characteristic of this type was an extra part dedicated tocattles; however all of them were similar to bungalow. Upper Morava as the initiator of the type of house, or colonial house, was full of houses of this type. One floor houses otherwise were called Vardar home. The architecture of this type of housing was similar type of Moravian houses but the next characteristic was that cattle were placed in the ground floor. A typical example of such is undoubtedly the house of Haji Ahmet's house in the village of Goden, the municipality of Viti, which, as shown by local residents is built between 1880-1900[2], ie during the Ottoman period and luckily this building has been conserved up to nowadays. We visited it to find that this object was a very rare buildin which in itself carries much precious architectural value and as such should be preserved by institutions as part of the cultural heritage of Anamorava. The building until some years ago was in excellent condition but now it is seriously threatened by weather condition, particularly after 2010. As a result of the harsh winter of that year the house's roof collapsed. During the visit there were made some photos and taken measurements of the building which will be presented in this paper. It has dimensions of 800X800 cm. Its ground floor served for keeping the livestock and its entrance hooked up in the middle of the house with dimensionsof about 160x120 cm. On the right side of the door of the ground floor there were floor stairs. Above the staircase there was located corridor with wooden terrasa (divane) as it was called in the jargon of that time, certainly influenced by the Ottoman language and culture, with dimensions of about 400X200 cm. In the right part of terrace there is a small part of the house, physically separated by walls between which served as the site for placement of different things related to the men's room. Their dimensions were about 300x200 cm and characteristic of this part of the house is the outside forefront which is interwoven with twigs painted instep.ie, mud from the interior which gives the house in question features a unique dwelling place with all construction elements which were characteristics of this area. There are teoo large rooms in these houses; one men's room with dimensions about 500X 400cm and 500X300 cm.

[2] Hull - called straw mixed with mud afflicted as solid material.
Information about the house in question is ensured by Deliu Metush Rahim, a resident of the village of Goden. The information in question had been saved by his father.

On the right there was the men's room which had a fireplace in the middle of the room and shelves for the introduction of moldings and other necessary things for guests and window overlooking the main road which served also for orientation and observation towers.

Another smaller room for women and children serve as a cite for resting during the day when there were guests, also it served as a sleeping place whene there were no guests in the house. Next I would like to present the physical condition of the facility in this relation because the picture presented earlier is made in the summer of 2010. As stated above, the winter of that year was severe and snow damaged the roof of that house. In the present situation this rare object of cultural heritage is being threatened by collapse of the roof. I would like my work to serve as an appeal to local institutions of culture centre to repair the roof of this house, because with a little investment this building would be preserved for future generations. This picture is made now, i.e. here itshows the current state of the object in which the roof is covered with dry twigs and now damaged by snow.

It often occurs at such homes that livestock floor was split with family members, mainly the families with large number of members, such a situation was imposed. During subsequent periods, especially after the World War I therewas evolved the techniques of house construction in this region of Kosovo. It is worth to say that far more animals were left in the house not with people, but they were placed in separate buildings which were built as courtyard outbuildings. The material used for construction of houses in this period was the same: stones, wood and clay, but houses built of stones now were mostly two-storey and four-room ones, two rooms down and two upstairs, staircase made of wood and were situated in the middle of corridor connected the low with upper storey. As stated above, the basic material for their building was stone and wood, but it depended on the district or village.[3]

[3] Used as the base material

During subsequent periods, especially after World War II, when Kosovar families and those of Anamorava expanded the model were built homes called fourfold.[4] This model of houses was spread more and more in this area because of their construction techniques which was easier than the two-storey houses, on the other hand they had rooms as many as the as the two-storey houses. Such a model had four rooms separated by two with a corridor in the middle, and at the end there were two bathrooms and another facility to put different items. Such houses are found everywhere in this part of Kosovo and many of them are still habitable.
Construction material was the same for all types of houses and their construction and organization required a great workmanship. Organization of facility operation was very precise and economic. Regardless of the different types of objects built over the centuries XIV - XVII and architecture specifications changed during that period. There are cases of combined types of houses. Important role in building facilities with exceptional architecture was based on economic status of the family head and the family positition and role with rule authorities of that time.

Additional elements of constructing yard

According to the edition elements of constructing yardthere was visible the social status and economic basis of the family. It can also distinguish which activity is most prevalent in the family. In cases where the family was occupied in farming came to the course construction of ancillary facilities that were used for the preservation of livestock products, if preferred agriculture, then there were built facilities to accommodate tools and agricultural products. Period XIV - XVII characterized with a number of additional facilities of the yard. These buildings based on form and material change between them depending on the purpose. Construction materials for building these facilities were ancillary to yard - unbacked bricks, hewn stone and wood. Additional yard constructions in the area were numerous places of livestock, especially in the mountainous region of Anamorava. But the buildings that belonged to the plowing category were in the plane area of the Morava. Buildings intended for storage or deployment of farming cultures in particular were built through alcove built facilities. Barns made of wooden rods and covered with straw. Additional buildings of the yard served for placing animal feed. Roosts (henhouses) were made in most cases from willows rods or any other timber type, and placed at an angle of yard. Dedicated buildings plowing fields, such as bins and silos, in most cases around the court were made with a ranking highly associated with each other. It is quite important to note that the work of the bins and containers in Anamorava is known especially in the district of Kamenica and were known throughout Kosovo. Leman dominated in wide yard leads to haystack in the middle served to thresh crops. Yard's large doors, among which was a small door opening - backdoor, usually were made with willow rods and wooden lever. Yard[5] hich was usually covered with stone slabs had protective function. Drinking water was supplied from well in open court, which in most cases was walled up with stones carved in different ways and with vertical depth. Circular ark or corner worked of slate or wooden planks. All these cultural assets were material indigenous capital of Anamorava, because they were worked by our ancestors. Through these cultures there was showed a mastery of medieval architecture based on Albanian thinking skill for survival in different areas which in some segments has been followed to this day.

[4] There were Villages built in fields Constructed with ground bricks by some construction Experts Who Called this technique Qerpiq (grounf brick) Traces of houses with such material found throughout Anamorava especially in villages of flat Viti as Sodovinë of Jerlive Sodovinë of Çerkezve, Slatina, etc. From Serbian: Three bedrooms houseWhile in most villages of Anamorava, stone was used as the basic material. While in most villages Anamorava stone.

[5] Avlia- surrounding wall of the backyards

If we make a comparison with the past, we see that the differences are very evident at best, despite this, however cultural values of medieval population of Anamorava should not be abandoned, because this culture is the product of today but with the base of stone construction material. All these cultural assets of Anamorava were indigenous capital, because they were designed and workedby our ancestors.

Through these cultures shows a mastery of medieval architecture is a meriy of Albanian thinking skill for survival in different areas which, in some segments is followed until today. If we make a comparison with the past, we see that the differences are very evident at best, despite this, however there still exist cultural values of medieval population of Anamorava. They should not be left in margine, because the today's culture is the product of the past.

Architecture of Milling

Or masonry of mills in most cases was built with stones. Stone then presented as the main material in the construction of mills. While water is the initiating mechanism mill. These two elements of nature represent the foundation of the mill work. Crude stone was used in natural shape, while being carved it was given an artistic shape. Forms for masonry stones were different in shape. Obviously outdoor stone appears in a rough shape, so the artistic processing was specialized by master anamoravas who performed all the work of the stone material. Apart form stone walls arouses curiosity connection and arrangement of stones. Ties of stones required a special master, so that the wall be stronger and more stable. So even today are faced mill walls which have not been active for a long time and have experienced many undesirable effects. It is worth mentioning the stone as the natural state, which was found free in nature, by being carved it was turned into artistic shape through which it was introduced intellectual ability, artistic and professional undertaking of professionals while incarving it according to the needs of construction or destinations anticipated. The whole object of the mill is a very interesting architecture ormechanism inside the mill. Besides functional side it itself seems to contain a force which is manifested through the construction material by being used. Inside the mill within its interior is also presented the various artistic form. This presented a number of elements in the field of sculpture, which became artistic forms, for the sake of building mills. An exhibition of sculptural forms inside the mill makes us realize that parts were related to one another, whereas, on the other hand, each of performing its assigned function. It is very important to note the work of craftsmen who with dignity used the natural forms and carved them in diferent shape by giving them an artistisx spirit. All this material culture, created by human mind and hand many mills, Anamorava presents a very interesting architecture and sculpture from the medieval period, where Anamoravas craftsmen were able to exploit the good of nature giving them artistic shapes and forms and putting them in function.

Mechanism and Mill Construction

It is quite an interesting operation of mills given the time from when exist. Mills constitute in itself a simple mechanism, but functional to work on the material of a type of wood that resists moisture. This kind of mechanism, which put in function the mill mechanism, consisting of several parts of which each of them had special importance of function, but we must not forget and leave aside the artistic aspect. These mechanisms were entirely dedicated solely to the smooth functioning of the mills that were widespread in the territory of Anamorava. The work of these mechanisms was not easy, because it required a high professional experience which mainly passed on from generation to generation. Each element of these mechanisms performs its function, for that reason every work was divided between masters, because in case of breakdown a halp was needed. To be able to start work on its own mill there should have been completed some functional elements, without which there could not be carried any activity at the mill. The elements were functionally connected with each other. The number of main elements of the mill was as follows: Stone, circuit, fillers, kneading trough, basket, kutlica, çakatalla and tube.

Grinding stone–was in a circle (ring) shaped, bur was not shped in Anamorava. In the region of Anamorava mills usually had two stones - one over the other. Before the stones were used the mill stone has to be hammered in order to set up brisky teeth for the purpose of better grain milling. The mill stone sustainibility also depended on the work of the mill, but typically they could not be used for more two or three consecutive years. Setting the stone in the right place was very hard work and required more manpower, because the stone was significant. Regarding the rotation of the stone, so the speed of grinding is quite interesting that his work entirely depended on the capacity of the water that flows into the trough of the mill, it means that as large as the capacity of the water is the faster rotatain will be.

Circular-X naming of this mechanism comes from the word circulation. According to this, the circular rotates based on some wooden pedals which rotate along with the axe, normally being in contact with water. Water that comes out with pressure through the wooden tube foreceablly presses pedals by putting them in function. The circular is made out of dhe wood namedCarre "("oak"), because this kind of wood is very sustainable againstmoisture.

Cifuni[6] (no equivalence in English) - is the working mechanism which allows grains to foll one by one from the chest into the mills stones to be milled.

Mill's chest–made of thick planks of wood and had a square shape. Mill's chest is placed close the grinding millsstone. Mill's chest boards are made of planks of Carrie (oak), because this wood is strong and moisture resistant.

A four angle wooden chest-it was used to keep flour in it for a certain time. This wooden chest mainly is made of wooden planks and sometimes from withes. Mill's wooden chest of Anamorave was made by artisans of Karadak and Gollak areas.

Grain chest – it is grain holder over the grinding stone from where grains fall into the hole of grinding stone. It is known as process of grinding. The chest is made of strong wooden planks or plaited sticks. The chest has a box shape with narrow open end at the low part through which grains fall into the stone grinding hole.

Metal runway items – a binding with the grain chest, and are situated on the low part of the chest. Mainly it is made of metal and serves to prevent grain fall in big amount into the hole of grinding stone.

A wooden narrow plank of 30 cm (noname in English) binded with the the grain chest through a spang that touches the upper surface of the grinding stone while grinding grain. It presses the metal runway item to let grain fall. It is made by special artisans.

A large wooden groove – it is placed vertically outside the mill and serves to provide the huge circular with water in order to make the grinding mill stone rotate. Mainly it is made of oak because it is moisture resistant.
The groove is worked with ax by special artisans and it takes longe time to shape it.
Normally, it is between 20 and 30 meters long, and there is needed a huge number of people to place it on the proper place.[7] After it is placed on the proper place there are needed strong wooden planks to cover the carved parts in order to prevent water from outpouring.

Mills mainly were built close to rivers just for the sake the water flow is not too long. There were cases when the water flow was 2 km long. Mills wer built of stones in order to better resist water.

[6] Circuit - is a mechanism of the mill, which comprises several sheet which under pressure of water pushes circuit rotation

[7] Carri is a kind of wood that resists water better

Stones were worked or engraved with a special masonary purpose. Mill inside contained an operational plan for mechanism, while roof was covered with simple tiles, sometimes slate, and there were times when mills were covered with straw or fern. During the mill's construction there was of high importance of setting up a long channel through which the river water gets into groove.

Millstones - except water mills in some villages of Anamorava there were also operating millstone. Millstones were made by highlanders, who during their work showed sofisticated mastery and perfect technique of the time. Millstones were placed in a special place within a house, and were used to grind small quantities of grain. Millstones usually were made by combining materials, respectively of wood and metal. In most cases millstones were borrowed from other families, and in rare cases they also were transferred from one village to another.Mainly millstones were used in specific cases when there was no road safety to a normal water mill due to bad weather conditions or any possible revenge of families of that time.

Parts of millstones in one aspect were similar to those of water mills, except some other parts dedicated to millstones only. The main difference was that all the millstone pieces were of smaller size. Operation or putting it into circulation was not subject of water, but by human power, ie by turning the special handle.

All other parts of the millstone and its elements contained many artistic elements. Appropriate mechanisms were made with special care based on mindsand hands of specialized craftsmen, where special attention was paid to both functional elements and artistic ones.

Referencat

1. 'Restaurimi i Xhamisë së Hadumit' CHWB Kosovo Office, report series No. 10/2007
2. F. Drançolli. Rrenimi i kullës shqiptare.
3. A. Meksi. Arkitektura e xhamive të Shqipërisë. Uegen Tiranë 2007.
4. I. Rexha, Monumentet e Kosovës' IMMK, Prishtinë 2004.
5. H. Islami: Studime demografike, 100 vjet të zhvillimit demografik të Kosovës, Prishtinë, 2005.