

THE BOSNIAN CHARDAKLIA HOUSE: THE HAMIDOVIC FAMILY HOUSE IN DZAFICI NEAR KALESIJA

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Abstract

The Bosnian chardaklia house occupies a prominent place in the wide variety of architectural programs of the traditional architecture of Bosnia and Herzegovina. With regard to its spatial organization, construction, materialization and equipment of its interior spaces, the Bosnian chardaklia house is the most authentic expression of the natural and social environment of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the complex phenomenon of its man and his primary social community - the family. The Hamidovic family house in Dzafici near Kalesija is located on a slope with southeast exposure, at the top of the village, with wide views towards the village and the vast Sprecan field/Sprecansko polje (Geographic coordinates: 44°28'27.03"N, 18°45'24.15"E, Elevation: 334 m). The house was built in its original form at the end of the 19th century by Muharem (Alija) Hamidovic. The house was reconstructed (in 2010) by Mr. Rasim (Mesan) Hamidovic, Muharem's grandson, preserving the entire basement floor.

Keywords: Bosnian Chardaklia House, Dzafici, Kalesija, Hamidovic family.

INTRODUCTION

The Bosnian chardaklia house occupies a prominent place in the wide variety of architectural programs of the traditional architecture of Bosnia and Herzegovina. With regard to its spatial organization, construction, materialization and equipment of its interior spaces, the Bosnian chardaklia house is the most authentic expression of the natural and social environment of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the complex phenomenon of its man and his primary social community-family^[1,2,3,4,5]. The Hamidovic family house in Dzafici near Kalesija is located on a slope with southeast exposure, at the top of the village, with wide views towards the village and the vast Sprecan field/Sprecansko polje (Geographic coordinates: 44°28'27.03"N, 18°45'24.15"E, Elevation: 334 m), (Figures 1,2,3). The house was built in its original form at the end of the 19th century by Muharem (Alije) Hamidovic. The house was reconstructed (in 2010) by Mr. Rasim (Mesana) Hamidovic, Muharem's grandson, preserving the entire basement floor¹. By presenting the physical structure of a Bosnian chardaklia house, we learn many details about the social environment in which the house was created, about the man for whom the house was built and about the people who built it^[6,7,8,9].



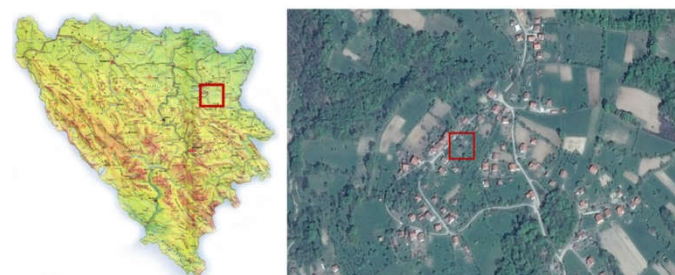
Source: Author (August 5 2016)

Figure 2. The Hamidovic family house in Dzafici near Kalesija. Left: view of the house from the north. Right: view of the house from the west



Source: Author (August 5. 2016)

Figure 3. The Hamidovic family house in Dzafici near Kalesija. Left: view of the house from the southeast. Right: view of the house from the east



Sources: <https://slidetodoc.com/regionalna-podjela-bosne-i-hercegovine-geografске-regije-bosne/>, Accessed 8/9/2022, (left)
Google Earth: Accessed 8/9/2022 (right)

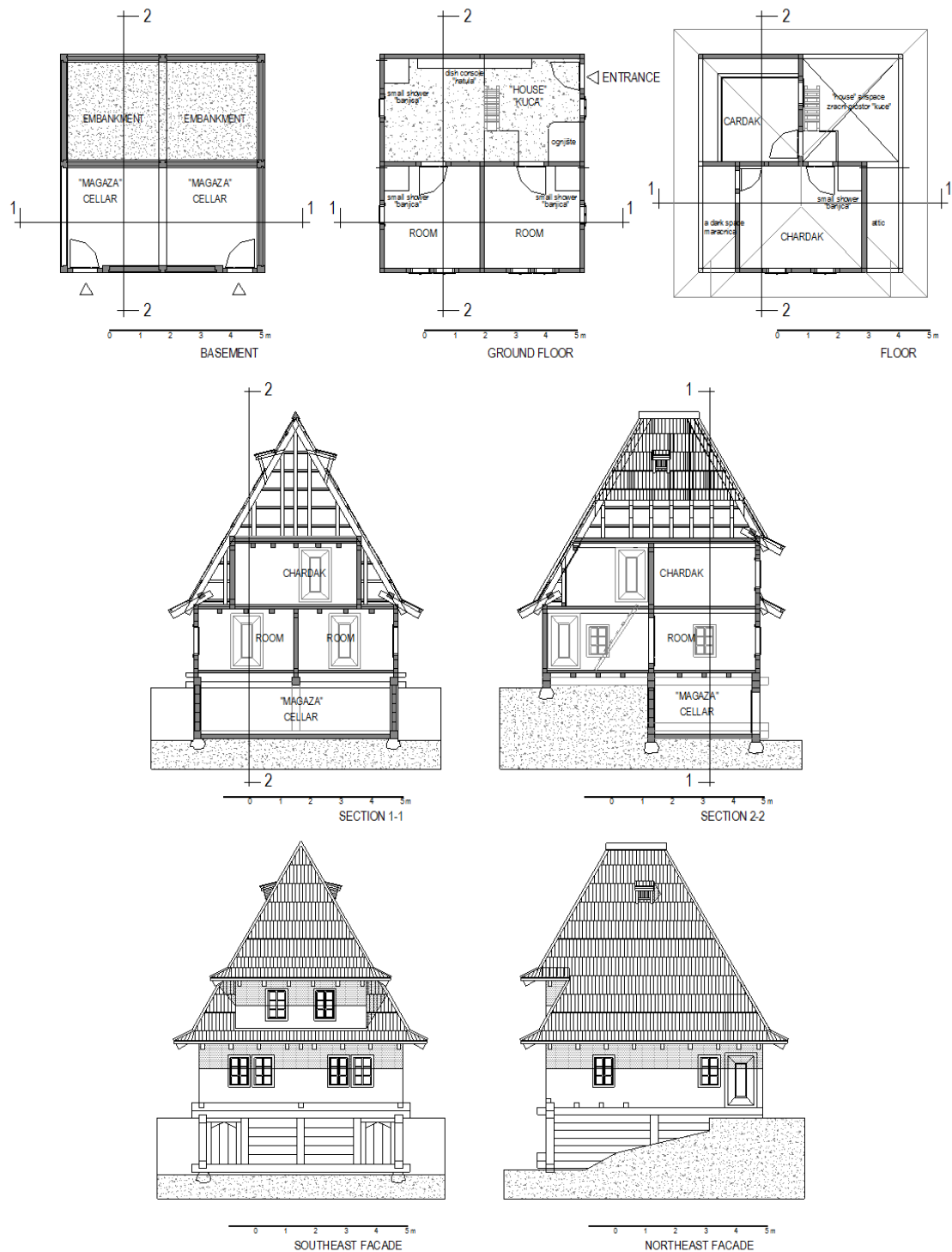
Figure 1. The Hamidovic family house in Dzafici near Kalesija. Location

¹ The author visited this house and recorded it in detail on August 5 and 6, 2016. The current owner of the house, Mr. Rasim (Mesan) Hamidovic, gave him information about the house, the Hamidovic family and the Dzafici village, as well as help in architectural measurements.

Spatial-shape characteristics of the house

According to its horizontal plan, the Hamidovic family house in Dzafici near Kalesija belongs to the type of 'two-story a Bosnian chardaklia house' with is vertically developed through the basement, ground floor and first floor^[3,4] (Figure 4).

As already mentioned, the house of the Hamidovic family in Dzafici near Kalesija 'has two lives': the 'first life' refers to the time from its original construction (end of the 19th century) to its reconstruction (2010), and its 'second life' - from its reconstruction (2010) until today. This paper will present its spatial structure from both periods.



Source: Author (Drowing 2016)

Figure 4. The Hamidovic family house in Dzafici near Kalesija. Disposition (original solution)

The original solution of the house². The specificity of the Hamidovic family house in Dzafici near Kalesija is that it is completely built of wood, except for the foundations made of stacked stones on which the oak beams are placed³ (Figure 15).

² During the Author's visit to the Hamidovic family house in Dzafici near Kalesija, the owner of the house (Mr. Rasim Hamidovic) helped him to reconstruct the original layout of the house, based on the current state of the house, 'working drawings' were made on site.

³ Similar examples of houses that can be seen in Bosnia and Herzegovina are the Camdzic family house in Puracic near Lukavac, the Ejubovic family house in the Poljice village near Lukavac, the Trumic family house in the Zivcici village near Zivinice...

The basement ('storehouse'/'magaza') is built of oak logs in a way that is often encountered in the construction of houses in the Bosnian Krajina. In the tract of the horizontal plan of the ground floor, which lies on the ground, a 'house' with a fireplace and a spa is arranged in the corner opposite the fireplace. From this space, a ladder climbs to the floor level, where there is a chardak ('chardak among the rafters') and one room (corresponding to today's attic) intended for guests and as a household storage. We encounter a reduced 'house'-chardak communication (reduced to a ladder that can be moved), in the Bosnian chardaklija house in the Lukomir and Cuhovici villages.



Source: Author (Drawings, 2016)

Figure 5. The Hamidovic family house in Dzafici near Kalesija. Disposition (after reconstruction)

In the second section of the horizontal ground floor plan, above the basement level, there are two rooms. New condition of the house. The current owner of the Hamidovic family house in Dzafici near Kalesija, during the reconstruction of the 'old house', removed part of its physical structure up to the basement-ground floor mezzanine structure, and then built a new structure, from the ground floor to the roof.

In the part of the ground floor, he made an extension of the ground floor plan, where he arranged the entrance to the house, the bathroom and the kitchen (Figure 5). In the construction of the ground floor and attic of the 'new house', he followed the solution of the 'old house', with the fact that instead of the earlier ladder used to climb up to the chardak, he made a new staircase that was comfortable for communication (Figures 5,6-14).



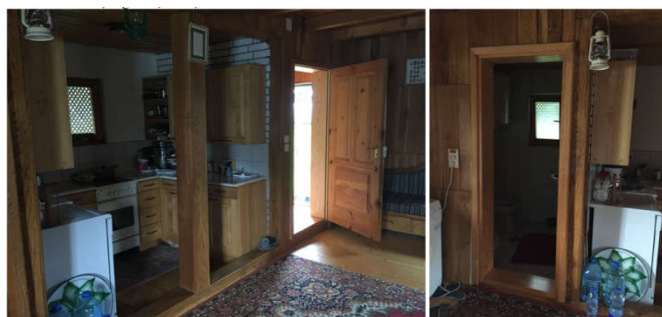
Source: Author (August 6, 2016)

Figure 6. The Hamidovic family house in Dzafici near Kalesija. Left: the memory of the former, original 'house' can be read in the new daybook. Right: in the place where there used to be an open hearth with tripod seating, in the 'new house' there is a fireplace with modern seating



Source: Author (August 6, 2016), left
Source: Rasim Hamidovic (August 6, 2016), right

Figure 9. Above: one of the rooms is decorated as a separate part of the living room, similar to the former room of the owner of the house, where special receptions and conversations were organized in a particularly intimate setting ('baskaluk'). Bottom left: the owner of the house, Mr. Rasim Hamidovic. Bottom right: Author visiting Mr. Hamidovic



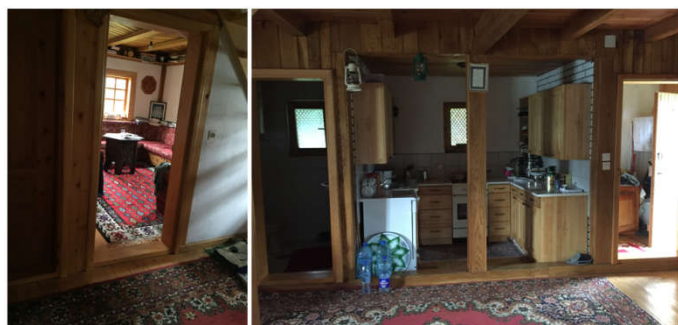
Source: Author (August 6, 2016)

Figure 7. The Hamidovic family house in Dzafici near Kalesija. Left: during the renovation of the house, the base of the former room of the 'house' was extended on the side where there was a wall of logs on which there was a console (hatula) and racks for dishes. In the extended part of the base, with the memory of the old 'hatula', a modern kitchen is arranged. Right: in the place where a modest spa used to be, a modern bathroom has been arranged



Source: Author (August 6, 2016)

Figure 10. Left: as today's owner of the house (as a child) lived in the 'old house', he got to know and understood its space well as a framework for life, so superficiality and 'literal quoting of the old' was avoided during the renovation of that house. Right: view from the room ('baskaluka') to the living room area (former 'house')



Source: Author (August 6, 2016)

Figure 8. Left: from the living room, through the open door, you can see the interior of one of the rooms. Right: In the place where the wall of the 'house' of wooden logs once stood, today there are contents of the same purpose, but modernly articulated



Source: Author (August 6, 2016)

Figure 11. Left: some souvenirs in the space are 'zipped representations' of their real, life meaning. Right: view of the staircase from the attic towards the living room



Source: Author (August 6, 2016)

Figure 12. In the place where a modest gallery once stood (which was climbed by a ladder), today there is a gallery with a comfortable staircase. Both the former and the present gallery, the ladder and the staircase are made of wood



In the place where the open hearth stood in the 'old house', he installed a modern fireplace in which, if necessary, water for central heating is heated. He arranged the former 'chardak among the horns' ('chardak medju rogovima') as a modern

attic, where he closed the former air space of the 'house'-attic and thereby also converted part of the 'old attic' into an attic (Figures 5, 13, 14).



Source: Author (August 6, 2016)

Figure 13. In the place of the former chardak, a modern chardak has been arranged, which completely, unobtrusively, has preserved the memory of the old chardak



Source: Author (August 6, 2016)

Figure 14. In the place where there used to be a chardak for guests and a household pantry, today there is a modernly decorated dormitory

Construction and materialization

In the construction of the Hamidovic family's house (both the 'old' house and the 'new' house), wood, as a building material, came to its full expression: it was used to build the walls of the basement, the wooden skeleton ('bondruk') of the walls of the ground floor and first floor, inter-floor structure, roof structure and roof covering-shingles (Figures 3,15).

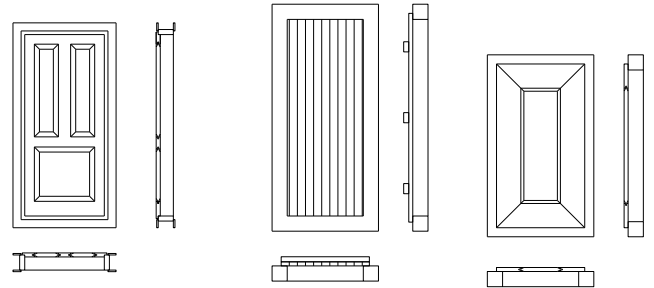


Source: Author (August 6, 2016)

Figure 15. Left: basement foundation and wall (preserved original structure). Right: The inter-floor construction of the renovated house follows its original solutions

Doors and windows

During the reconstruction of the Hamidovic family house, the only original opening elements that were kept were the entrance doors in the basement (Figure 17. left). Other opening elements, both doors and windows, are new, designed and made according to the design of the original opening elements.



Source: Author (Drawings, 2016)

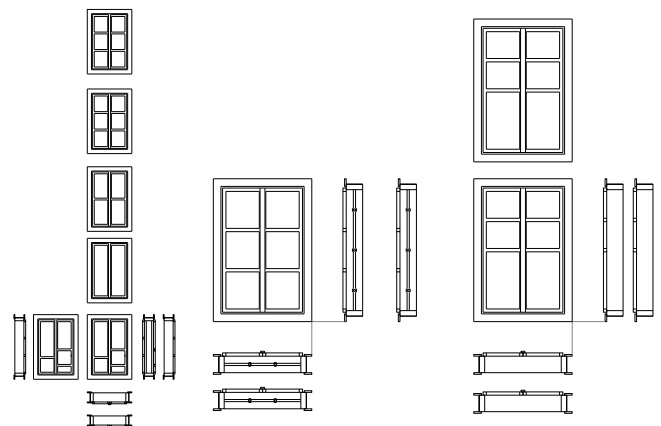
Figure 16. The design of the new door follows the design of the original solutions



Source: Author (August 6, 2016)

Figure 17. The original door in the basement (left) and the new door in one of the rooms (right). The new door is of top technical performance

The difference between the 'new' and 'old' windows is in their glazing: the 'old' windows had single glazing, and the 'new' windows – double, in the form of 'thermopan' glazing [10] (Figures 18, 19).



Source: Author (Drawings, 2016)

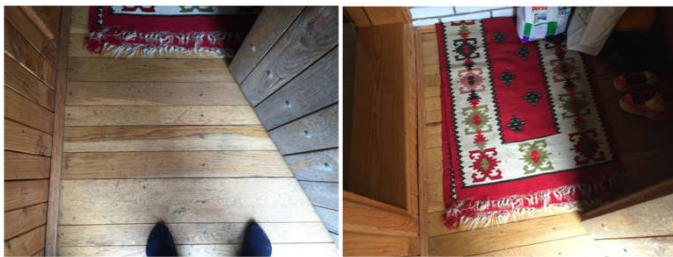
Figure 18. Design of old (left) and new windows (right)



Figure 19. Design of new windows. Always, in all epochs, through the window one 'looked at the world'

Surface treatment

During the reconstruction of the Hamidovic family house, the solutions of the original design of the house from the end of the 19th century were followed in everything, with the fact that the new solutions were made much more 'sophisticated' [10]. The floors are made of wood, covered with Bosnian carpets, larger or smaller (Figure 20). The walls are painted white, where the contrast between the white wall surfaces and the dark color of the wood comes to the fore (Figure 21). The ceilings are made of wood, according to the original design of the 'old' house (Figure 21).



Source: Author (August 6, 2016)

Figure 20. Left: oak floor at the entrance to the house. Right: A small Bosnian rug ('serdzada') on the floor of the entrance hall, in front of the entrance to the living room (the former 'house')



Source: Author (August 6, 2016)

Figure 21. Left: the processing of the surfaces of the space is according to human standards. All elements are new and old at the same time. It is a solution with universal and timeless values. Right: wooden ceiling and shelf with useful objects of lasting value

Space equipment

The equipment of the space supports its purpose and way of using it. All the equipment of the Hamidovic family 'new house' is a modern version of the equipment of the 'old house'. Some elements of the equipment of the old house have been

kept as 'souvenirs', such as the place for the baby before it 'walked' ('dubak'), while some elements are new, in accordance with the modern needs of life (portable computer - 'laptop'), (Figure 22).



Source: Author (August 6, 2016)

Figure 22. A stand for babies before they could walk ('dubak'), prayer mat ('serdzada'), portable computer..., elements that tie time into a continuum, and give an answer to the question 'what is life?'

Conclusion

The Hamidovic family house in the Dzafici village near Kalesija, after it has been renovated, is used for the residence of its owner, for the reception of guests and friends with their longer or shorter stay, and as a space where summer art colonies are held. The object is 04.10.2015. proclaimed "Museum of Bosnian Antiquities - Rasim Muminovic House". The owner of this house is a highly educated person, a businessman (owner of a company that deals with primary and final processing of wood), a man who travels a lot with the intention of getting to know other people and their cultures... By getting to know people and their cultures (Mr. Hamidovic served for several years in Germany), the owner of this house got to know better (that is, he became aware of) himself, the people he belongs to, his culture and his country. The Hamidovic family house in Dzafici near Kalesija is a good example of the relationship to architectural and cultural heritage. This relationship is based on respect and preservation of tradition and its 'revival' in accordance with the needs of modern life (Figures 23, 24).



Source: Author (August 6, 2016)

Figure 23. The Hamidovic family house in Dzafici generates new values of life with its energy



Source: <https://kalesijske-novine.com/09/u-dzaficima-kod-kalesije-odrzana-6-likovna-kolonija-dzafici-2016-ucestvovalo-20-slikara/>
<https://ba.n1info.com/kultura/a461148-10-jubilarna-umjetnicka-kolonija-andquotdzafici-2020andquot-cuvati-vise-svoju-povijest/>

Figure 24. The Hamidovic family house in Dzafici near Kalesija as a contemporary art colony

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