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RESEARCH PROJECT

**NINETEENTH-CENTURY ARCHITECTURE OF TBILISI AS A REFLECTION OF
CULTURAL AND SOCIAL HISTORY OF THE CITY**

**SARAJEVO STUDY TRIP REPORT
(23-30 October, 2008)**

In the framework of the research project supported by FaRiG, I organized study trip to Sarajevo from 23 to 30 October 2008. The purpose of study trip in Sarajevo was to fulfill comparative study, which aimed to analyze how the confessional and ethnic diversity during the nineteenth century was reflected in architecture and urban development.

Sarajevo represents a particular case since during the nineteenth century first it constituted the part of the Ottoman empire and then it became the part of the of Austro-Hungarian Empire. In 1878, the Berlin Congress entrusted the administration over Bosnia to the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Bosnia's new status caused the transformation of Sarajevo from Ottoman city into a European city.

New public administration changed the city's social and urban life. Division of the city into 106 mahalas was replaced by introducing 6 city districts. New urban planning and modernized public transport system emerged with the new government. Numerous public buildings were erected. Next to the old city, the new quarters were developed and consequently the city borders dramatically expanded.

While being in Sarajevo, I explored both old Ottoman neighborhoods and new districts designed during Austro-Hungarian rule. Old ottoman houses are quite well preserved in Sarajevo despite the recent wars in Bosnia and I have had possibility to study tens of houses in old districts of the city. Typical characteristics of old houses of Sarajevo are plain white facades with patterns of dark timber frames and pyramidal roofs.

In order to explore whole structures and interiors of typical Ottoman houses, I have visited Museums of Zvrzo's and Despic's houses. First one is a sample of oriental-Bosnian residential architecture, with divided men's and women's sections. The second one, Despic's house reflects the lifestyle of orthodox Serbian mid-class family and represents the mixture of oriental and European architecture, where old parts of building are enclosed within Neo-Classical facades.



Typical Ottoman house in Sarajevo

After studying the nineteenth-century architecture in Sarajevo as well as in Baku and Salonica, I can conclude that though residential houses in the Balkans and in the Caucasus have similarities in many aspects, each cultural region has its own individual peculiarities. Lifestyle and religion defined the structures and appearance of dwellings. Sarajevo houses with established closed structures were far longer preserved during the nineteenth century than in Tbilisi. Tbilisian houses were more open to each other and toward streets as well, and actually Tbilisian houses with big balconies and little bridges, which connected several buildings, were parts of public space.

I have also explored numerous public buildings built after 1878. On the whole, they fall into the general line of the late nineteenth-century European architecture. As the main local peculiarity, a special interest in Moorish style can be mentioned. One of the distinguished edifices is the City Hall, which is one of the best examples of the Moorish revival in Europe.



New Medrese is a sample of Pseudo Moorish style in Sarajevo.

I have also studied some nineteenth-century religious buildings, in which Sarajevo is particularly rich. Mosques, orthodox, catholic and protestant churches, and synagogues vividly reflect the multiconfessional cosmopolitan spirit of the nineteenth century city.

While being in Sarajevo I bought following books:

- *Sarajevo, The Tourist-Historic Guide* (Sarajevo: 2005) (KM 18.00)
- Magbul Skoro, *Greetings from Sarajevo* (Sarajevo:2005) (KM 148.00)
- Bublin Mehmed, *Sarajevo througout the History – from a Neolithic Settlement to a Metropolis*, (Sarajevo: 2008) (KM 59.00)

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

For Sarajevo trip I spent GBP 870.00

Visa fee: Euro 31.00 = GBP 25.00

Air tickets: GEL 1037.00 = GBP 399.00

Accommodation: Euro 204.00= GBP 165.00

Daily allowance: Euro 240.00 = GBP 194.00

Books: KM 225.00 = GBP 87.00