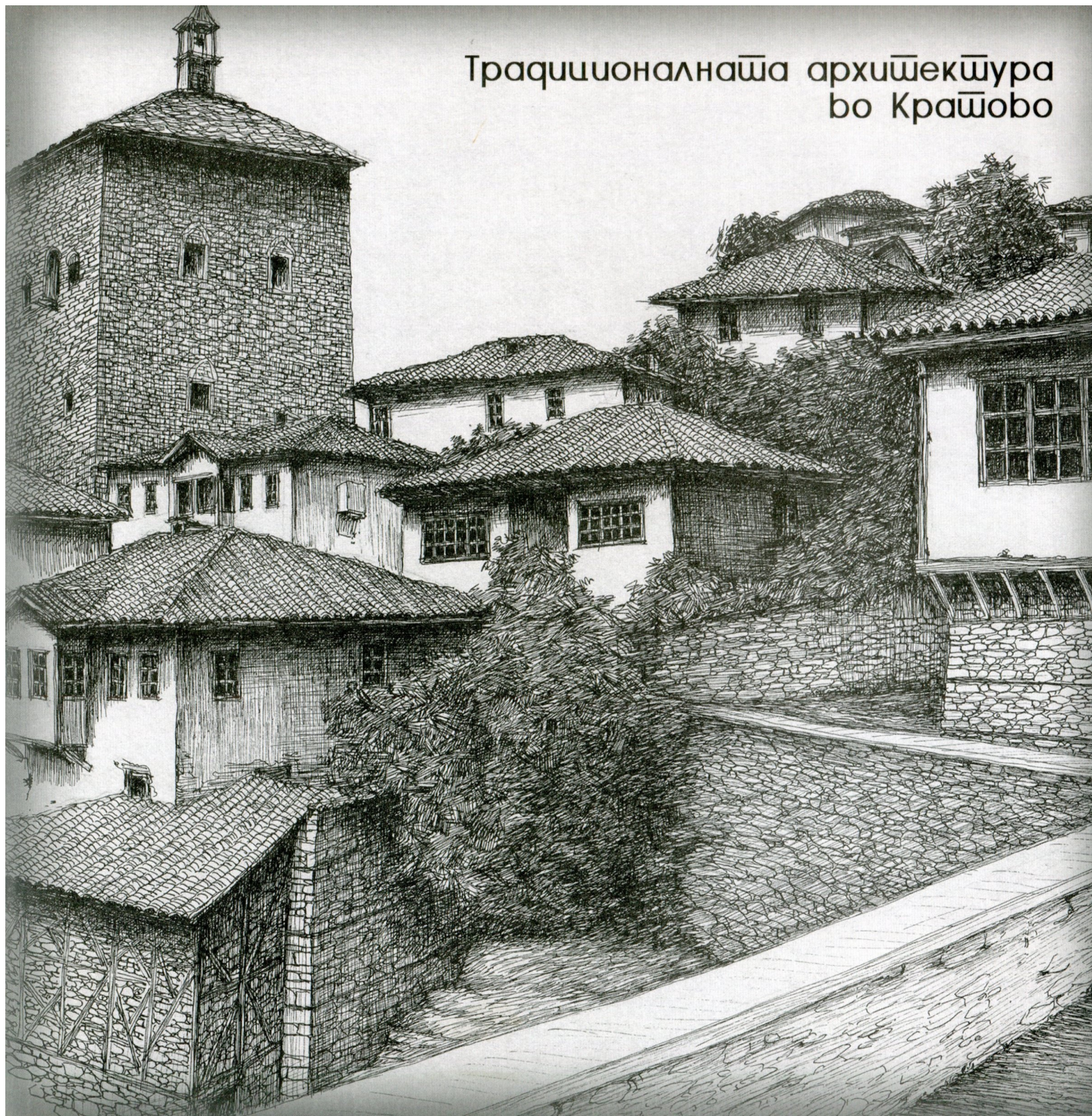


Традиционална архитектура  
во Кра̀ново



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## Traditional architecture in Kratovo

Traditional Macedonian town house in Kratovo, reached the peak of its development in the 19th century, when the most beautiful folklore structures were built.

Throughout centuries towns in Macedonia developed in certain social, economic and cultural conditions, particularly in the time of the Ottoman rule created solid basis for forming the urban *structure of towns*.

The intense growth of crafts and trade brought about increasing of the economic power of the Christian population. Christians started to build houses of higher life standards and improved functional and aesthetic solutions. The evolution of economic and social life in town in this period resulted in more intense construction activities. Dwelling structure was the basic element in shaping of the town panorama. Central space of the town heart was the bazaar, which was also its economic centre.

The urban house underwent the influence of the connection between the European and Balkan cities, which created a relationship of prestige and so the bazaar and the economically powerful families started incorporating contemporary and modern elements in the traditional city house. The urban house placed in crowded urban core, on a steep area, by a river, created a recognizable form of the old-urban house of the XIX c, reflection of the wealth of the city bourgeoisie of merchants and craftsmen. On the one hand the family house had wide balconies, its dimensions were proportionally embedded on the steep area, and on the other hand it was complexly adjusted to the street urban culture. The urban house in Kratovo has its own architectural, folklore and ethnical values.