



THE FORM OF
THE HOUSE IN RURAL
SETTLEMENTS IN
MACEDONIA

PETAR NAMICEV
EKATERINA NAMICEVA

NARODNO NEIMARSTVO VIII

TRADITIONAL ARCHITECTURE VIII

Petar Namicev

Ekaterina Namiceva

The form of the house in rural settlements in Macedonia

SKOPJE, 2014

Petar Namicev, Ekaterina Namiceva

The form of the house in rural settlements in Macedonia from 19th and early 20th century

Autor of the text: Petar Namicev, Ekaterina Namiceva

Drawings: Petar Namicev

Reviewers: Mirce Kokalevski PhD

Melanija Sherdenkovska PhD

Translation: Nada Andonovska

Design and lay-out: Mihail Namicev

Editor: Petar Namicev

Print by: 2 Avgust, Shtip

Copies: 100

Introduction

The material in this publication is intended for general interested public, students, professionals which dealing with the study of architectural form and all lovers of traditional architecture .

This paper presents a set of presentation materials that are implemented as a research projects, in the given areas in the rural part of Macedonia. There are presented a major historic rural cores of village houses of Macedonia.

This material will allow consideration of the architectural form of the village house of the Macedonia of the 19th century and early 20th century, a period in which it reaches the most creative form. Besides the basic features of the house from this period, as external form, spatial layout and program content in the main body are given basic characteristics of interior decoration and furniture .

Through the provided drawings were made in ink on paper in the period 1998 - 2012 year, includes all basic types of houses open or closed, house type -Chardaklija, tower houses, broders houses, mountain houses, external decoration and so on. The material in this publication aims to present a picture of the shape of the village house and its basic characteristic traits. The best examples are covered houses that reflect the real image of the village from this period. I hope that this material will complement expert in the field of architecture, literature that is in there's interest.

Content

Introduction	5
Village house in Macedonia.....	7
I Cottages	23
House from Maleshevo region.....	43
II Ground floor house	47
House – na kled -pondila	49
Village house in Kratovo region	51
House from Kumanovo region	61
III High house - chardaklija	62
IV Tower - house in	78
House from Struga region	82
House from Reka region	88
V Brother house	100
VI Houses of complex type.....	103
Bibliography	115

Village house in Macedonia

Traditional architecture composes important part of the Macedonian cultural heritage, particularly the one from the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century. Due to the position in the central part of the Balkans Macedonia was subject to various cultural influences, which brought about emergence of great number of diverse typological solutions of houses. This book have followed the development of Macedonian vernacular houses from the earliest dwellings, their transformation regarding to the structural – architectural aspect, concerning the genesis, typology, ethnology and terminology.

In discussing the genesis of vernacular house a point should be made to the evolution of two parallel cultural and historic forms of dwellings, starting with their basic form to developed architectural structure. This phenomenon has been observed even in the recent field researches. In exploring the reasons for existence of two parallel cultural manifestations in this domain, it could be inferred that they are due to the very slow, even imperceptible changes in every sphere of life of Macedonian people during the Turkish rule throughout a very long period of over five centuries. The highly conservative Turkish establishment was one of the reasons for preservation of traditional features of the Macedonian village community. This observation shows that the status of Macedonian peasants did not change significantly. The extremely long continuation of these circumstances in the community has consequently been reflected in the appearance of the vernacular house and subsidiary structures to such an extent that they have become living archaeology of the genesis of the vernacular architecture. Nevertheless, it should not be expected that any community could have endured without any change for a period of over five centuries. Analyzing attentively a great number of architectural structures, we could infer that changes did occur, despite the very slow progress of processes. In that sense, certain historic assumptions can be presented concerning the genesis of vernacular dwelling, though merely in cases when there is doubtless evidence in the sources or particular examples have been preserved till the present day. Concerning the written sources,

some fragmentary data on dwellings have been preserved in the works of travel-writers from the span of the 16th to the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century. Critical survey of these data has shown that for the travel-writers, who mainly came from other cultural regions of Europe, most of the architectural structures in the Balkans were rather strange and hard to understand. On the other hand, the interest of the ones that came from west European countries was related with the so-called "eastern issue" and the efforts for elimination of the presence of Turks at the gate of Europe. For this reason their attitude to Turkish-Balkan culture was often subjective and negatively determined at front. These arguments could not be fully accepted, since it is well known that in those same periods there were similar architectural structures in European villages, as well. In that sense, we are facing the issue of methodological inconsistency concerning comparisons of cultural, social and ambience aspects of different architectural structures: rich with poor, urban with vernacular, mountain houses with the ones in plains, mainland dwellings with Mediterranean ones, Central European with the Balkan ones, etc. Critical approach and analyses of data from travel-writings and their comparison with the one obtained from sources and field-researches lead to the conclusion in the Macedonian cultural area there were established traditional architectural forms adjusted to the natural landscape, society, economic circumstances, cultural and popular views, family and village community organization and many other factors.

Important factor that influenced the genesis of Macedonian vernacular house is the personal contribution of talented anonymous and known Macedonian construction-masters, whose works laid the foundation for development of traditional architecture. Similarly to all the other spheres of traditional creation and folklore, in this domain, as well, certain values and accomplishments in architecture arising from individual efforts of gifted native architects became known through a long process of improvement in construction and aesthetics till the moment when convincing and recognizable cultural property was created to identify symbolically with the ethnic culture of specific ethnic area, ethnic region or the entire ethnic territory as cultural sphere. In that sense we could discuss the genesis of rural dwelling starting with the primary attempts for providing dry and protected space in one room, the so-called kukja (house) with a hearth in the middle, by digging-in a hole and covering it with vegetation. To this stage also belong the original dwellings built of earth and wooden poles, as well as the structures consisting of one room for people and domestic animals, which were built by connecting plain construction elements on flat surface. All other later solutions could be considered subsequent stages in the development of vernacular house. In that sense, we could point out the addition of premises in the rear part of the house (klet, pondila), as well as expansion of dwellings horizontally and vertically.

At the beginning of the 20th century there were straw huts as temporary dwellings of shepherds. These single-level dwellings were made of stone or bondruk – wooden framing, with poarch- trem and chardak (west part of Slavishte). According to the building material used for the walls they were called pletenica, similarly to the ground floor houses of the type pozemki, nadzemnica (Debarska Zupa), koliba (cottage) on the ground (Azot), -zemicki, pozemicki, podzemlicka (Struski Drimkol), old house, kucista, pozemnicki, nadzemnica, old house on one floor (Milesevo), covered with straw, with thatched walls, the roof consisting of curved beams, due to which they were called -kukja na krivo and could be seen till the end of the 19th century (Radovisko Pole, the Dojran region). These houses mostly consisted of one room and the only partition made of branches appeared for the purpose of separating the space for the livestock. The terms used for that space were koliba (cottage), by analogy mountain stock-breeding cottages, as well as pondila and klet. The existence of thatched houses or the ones of adobe in Macedonia has been recorded towards the end of the 19th century, which does not mean they did not exist earlier, alongside with the other types of structures. One-partite houses in mountain areas were called- kukja nadzemnica (above-ground house) with kukja with hearth and kled (Debarski Drimkol, Ohrodsko Pole). The central part of the space was called sretkukji. Besides pondila, one partite houses also had -kukja, which was called – soa, sovl'k or soal'k.

One-partite houses were made of untreated stone. These ground-floor structures without partitions were covered with rye straw or with stone slabs – plocena bila (Mariovo). Zemunik (pantry) was most often dug-in under the surface of pondila (stable). Basic type of house in this region was two-partite house, separated in the middle with a long beam, s.c. dolno bilo. The upper part where people lived was called tlanik and dolen kraj, and the part for cattle – pondila. The empty space under the hearth was called podognishte. On the right of the hearth was the man's storey and the women's storey was on the left.

The room with hearth known as kukja emerged as basic premise in all house types. The so-called kukja was multi-functional space, used as living room, for cooking, lightening, working, sleeping, as well as for organizing family festivities and performing various ritual activities. Kukja was divided in the part for the family – sofa and for the cattle pod-sofa.

It has been observed that, like many other words with variable philological and ethnological meaning, the terms kukja started to be used for a complex structure with subsidiary premises.

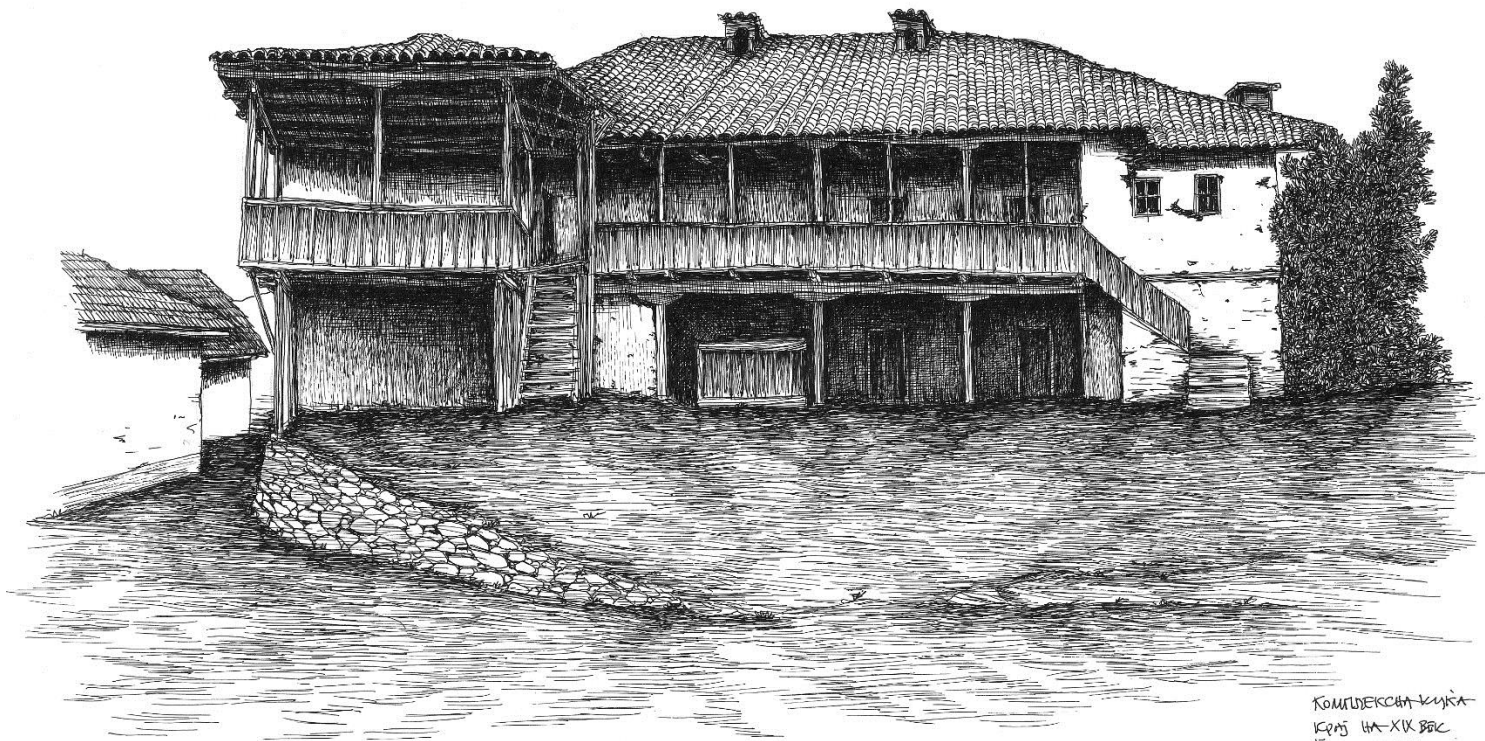
At the time when domestic animals were bred in the same space where people used to live or the space was divided only with portable partition (traditional terms: pondila, govedarnik, volovarnik), this concept shows a system of values which was of existential meaning for the family community. The following stage involved the physical separation of the space for cattle by including kled (pantry or room for sheep and goats) within the dwelling, which was dug in the steep terrain and was called kukja na kled (house on kled). In cases when pondila was incorporated under the house, this type of house was called kukja na pondila. In Zegligovo small rooms were built besides the trem – porch in the front façade of ground floor houses. These rooms were called saldrnchinja or tremchiki. They got the name due to the vicinity of the trem. In cases when house was dug-in and supported on wooden pillars, it was called kukja na direci (the Kicevo region).

The space of the house was enlarged by addition of premises like trem, chardak (upper storey porch), odaja for sleeping, odaja for visitors, etc. In this way dwellings evolved by enhancing their symbolic, spatial, functional and structural characteristics. Expansion of space in horizontal line was directed to the brightest side, where there was sun and light during most of the day.

Expanded more-partite polski houses had ajat in front of them. Namely, up to three rooms used to be built beside the house, including small odajche, kilerche and cellar (Zegligovo). In Debarski Drimkol ground floor houses were enlarged by partition of the main room into govedarnik and lower house (mesarnik), or by further addition of other premises – odaja for visitors, in which case govedarnik acquired the function of bedroom – odajka for sleeping, whereas konak or konakche were added on the outside.

Trem and chardak were areas used for passage from the outer to the interior space. These premises allowed communication in every level. In accordance with the climate and social circumstances these premises were transformed into partly closed room – teliz, which formed visual and spatial protection by vertically set boards pardii (Debarski Drimkol).

In the mid-19th century there was prevalence of houses comprising ground-floor and upper storey in some ethnic areas. In valleys they were built of adobe and in mountains of stone. In the central part of the Balkan Peninsula the so-called Upper Vardar two-storied house – chardaklija was predominant along the upper course of the Vardar river, in the Polog Valley, in Porece, Prespa, Zegligovo and the Skopje region. These houses were built of stone. In the ground floor they had spacious kukja with hearth,



КОМДЕКЧА-КЪЯ
КРАЙ НА XIX ВЕК
ЛОТЯНЕ ТЪТЪСКО
2006. П. ПАВЛИЧЕВ

be eliminated and new elements added. This was a way of gradual evolution of native masons relying strongly on the tradition in the technique of construction.

The essence of vernacular architecture lies in the initial form of simple structure to which the diversity of expression and autochthonous shapes add some new values, although not necessarily involving advanced technique of construction, precision in forms or considerable investments. Peasants used to build to satisfy their modest needs, without any intention of confirming their status in community. This was the case till the end of the 19th century, when building started of houses which surpassed the basic needs of a family.

Alongside with the existence of houses showing simple architectural and aesthetic values, structures were also build to provide greater extent of comfort to families of higher living standards, i.e., to owners from higher ranks of Turkish officers. Towards the end of the 19th century more comfortable houses started to be built also by Macedonian land owners, who would increase their wealth in the local market or by working abroad. We could conclude that at certain stage in the development of the earliest house forms there were also dwellings of several stories showing high architectural and aesthetic values, meaning that for certain period there was parallel existence of cultures from different social classes. Cultural differences in the domain of architecture and housing also emerged from the local traditions, economic activities of population, social and economic status, location of settlements in the space and the local landscape, etc. Different building materials were applied, as well as diverse techniques and modes of construction depending on the geography of the terrain or whether the ethnic area was safe for living. Based on the considered conditions and factors we could conclude that the observed chronological development from the earliest to the most advanced architectural forms is merely conditional, in which the influence should be taken into consideration of the historic and social circumstances, as well as the parallel existence of diverse forms of dwellings.

Another aspect should be also emphasized. That is the ability of structures for adjusting to man's needs and measures. Structures are composed of local features, related with their own land, expressing in the best possible way the spirit of people and their concept of solving architectural forms.

Besides the constituted characteristic types of houses among which the dominated ones are the ground floor houses, houses with floor, brotherly houses and tower houses, which developed in the framework of certain social and economic conditions and in certain ethno-cultural context, a special place is given to the work of the local constructors and their memories for the architecture and the construction. The Macedonian village house could be defined as an authentic value in the Macedonian popular work in specific cultural and historic conditions and social structure of the Macedonian village in the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century. At same time the Macedonian village house followed through the all phases of its technical, social and spiritual development is a perception of the space, the craftsman's skills, the human ambience of the interior and the exterior, the ecological and ergo logical values.

Bibliography

Волињец Р. - Село Битуше - Стара архитектура, нејзините вредности и перспективен развој, Стара селска архитектура, заштита и ревитализација, Дебар, 1972, 53-64.

Кировска И. - Сместата на декорацијата во македонското градителство од 19 век, Републички Завод за заштита на спомениците на културата, Скопје, 1999.

Којиќ Б. - Стара градска и сеоска архитектура у Србији, Просвета, Београд, 1949.

Намичев П.- Народната архитектура во Реканското подрачје од 19 и почетокот на 20 век, Музеј на Македонија, Скопје, 2000.

Намичев П.- Селската куќа во Македонија, Народно неимарство 6, УЗКНС, Скопје, 2009

Намичев П.- Пијанец, Народната архитектура од 19 и почетокот на 20 век, Народно неимарство 2, Музеј на Македонија, Скопје 2002.

Намичев П. - Малешево, народната архитектура од 19 и почетокот на 20 век, Народно неимарство 1, Музеј на Македонија, Скопје, 1998.

Намичев П.-Развојот на селската куќа во Македонија, Народно неимарство 4, Музеј на Македонија, Скопје, 2007

Петровиќ Д.- Народна архитектура, дократи и чардаци, Београд, 1955.

Светиева А.- Резбани таваници , долапи и врати во Македонија, Македонски фолклор, Скопје,1986.

Томовски С.- Македонска народна архитектура, Скопје, 1960.

Томовски К.- Населби и народна архитектура, Етнологија на Македонците, МАНУ, Скопје, 1996, 81-118.

CIP - Каталогизација во публикација

Национална и универзитетска библиотека "Св. Климент Охридски", Скопје

728.6(497.7)"18/19"

NAMIČEV, Petar

The form of the house in rural settlements in Macedonia : from
19th and early 20th cenury / Petar Namičev, Ekaterina Namičeva. -
Skopje : P. Namičev, 2014. - 115 стр. : илустр. ; 30 см

Библиграфија; стр. 115

ISBN 978-608-65654-0-4

1. Namičeva, Ekaterina [автор]

а) Станбена архитектура - Селска куќа - Македонија - 19-20в.

COBISS.MK-ID 95467530

