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Historical, Cultural and Architectural Review of The Travnik



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Article History

Received: 5 June, 2024

Revised: 26 July, 2024

Accepted: 3 August, 2024

Published: 4 August, 2024

How to Cite

Ahmet Hadrovic. (2024). "Historical, Cultural and Architectural Review of The Travnik". *Sumerianz Journal of Scientific Research*. Vol. 7, No. 3, pp. 20-33.

Abstract

Travnik is a town located on the Lasva river in the central part of Bosnia and Herzegovina, about 90 km west of Sarajevo. In the area of today's Travnik, on the Lašva river, the prehistoric Illyrian people and then the ancient Romans panned gold here. Preserved material traces and historiographical sources about Travnik bear witness to the long historical continuity of people's lives in this area. Artifacts over 7,000 years old were found in the river valleys of Bila and Lasva (locality Nebo, Han Bila and Crkvine, Turbe). The settlements belonged to the "Butmir cultural group" and as an archaeological subgroup of monuments. In the Bila valley, a somewhat older Neolithic settlement of the 'Kakan culture group' was discovered, which was destroyed by river erosion, and in Alihodža traces of the Eneolithic settlement of the 'Vucedol culture' were found'. In written sources, the parish of Lasva is mentioned for the first time (1244) in the list of bishop's sermons, and then (1380) in the letter of the Bosnian king Stjepan Tvrtko I (1338-1391) to Hrvoj Vukcic Hrvatinić (1350-1416), in which he appoints him as grand duke and presents mu Bila, Trebeus and Lupnica in Lasva parish. There are several versions about the origin of the name Travnik. According to one of them, the city got its name from the spacious pastures and the word 'grass', while according to the other version, the name originated from the medieval pre-Ottoman fortress where the clerk collected the 'herbal tax'. The town was first mentioned under the name Travnik (1463) in connection with the events related to the collapse of the Bosnian kingdom.

Keywords: Bosnia and Herzegovina; Travnik; Synergy of natural environment; Social environment and man.

1. Introduction

Travnik is a city (with about 15,344 inhabitants, 2013) [1] located on the Lasva river in the central part of Bosnia and Herzegovina, about 90 km west of Sarajevo (Geographic coordinates: 44°13'34.93"N, 17°40'12.07"E, Elevation: 508 m), (Figure 1).

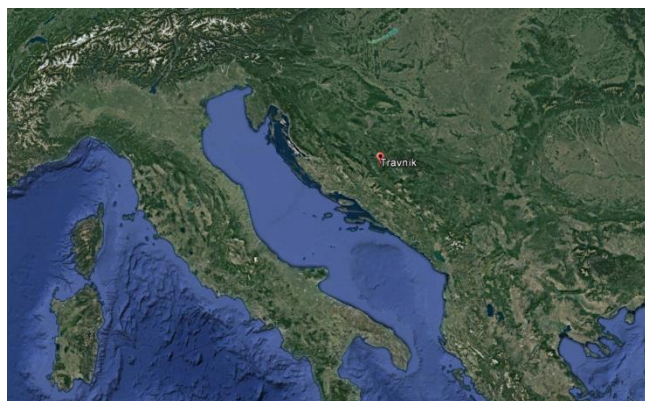


Figure-1. Travnik city in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Location
Source: Google Earth, Accessed: December 17, 2023.

In the area of today's Travnik, on the Lasva river, the prehistoric Illyrian people and then the ancient Romans panned gold here. Preserved material traces and historiographical sources about Travnik bear witness to the long historical continuity of people's lives in this area. Artifacts over 7,000 years old were found in the river valleys of Bila and Lasva (locality Nebo, Han Bila and Crkvine, Turbe). The settlements belonged to the 'Butmir cultural group' and as an archaeological subgroup of monuments. In the Bila valley, a slightly older Neolithic settlement of the 'Kakan cultural group' was discovered, which was destroyed by river erosion, and in Alihodža traces of the Eneolithic settlement of the 'Vučedol culture' were found [2]. In written sources, the parish of Lašva is mentioned for the first time (1244) in the list of bishop's sermons [3], and then (1380) in the letter of the Bosnian king Stjepan Tvrtko I (1338-1391) to Hrvoj Vukčić Hrvatinić (1350-1416) in which he is appointed as a great duke and gives him Bila, Trebeuša and Lupnica in Lašva parish [4]. There are several versions about the origin of the name Travnik. According to one of them, the city got its name from the spacious pastures and the word 'grass', while according to the other version, the name originated from the medieval pre-Ottoman fortress where the clerk collected the 'herbal tax'. The town was first mentioned under the name Travnik (1463) in connection with the events related to the collapse of the Bosnian kingdom. This is how Dursun-beg, a companion of Sultan Mehmed II the Conqueror (1432-1481) in his campaign to Bosnia, named this city. After the Ottomans conquered Bosnia, Travnik developed as a trade and craft center, and in the period (1686-1850) it became the seat of the Bosnian Vizier. France opened its embassy in Travnik (1806), and Austria-Hungary immediately followed (1807). These years are known in professional literature and in literature [5].

as 'Consular Times'. With the arrival (1878) of the Austro-Hungarian administration in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Travnik developed in everything according to the patterns of Western European culture. The following were built: match factory (1901), tobacco factories (1893), wood processing company "Ugar" in Turbet (1912), railway (1893), hydropower station (1906), post office, banks, the first fire department in Bosnia and Herzegovina (1879), urban developments are carried out, especially after the great fire (1903), the Great Archbishop's High School in Travnik is founded (1882), the new building of the Elchi Ibrahim Pasha Madrasah is built (1893), school buildings are erected on Čabruša, Fučićeva an endowment near the Orthodox church, the Trade School in Donja Carsija, the monastery and school of the nuns of Milosrdnica, the District Office building, the Officer's Home building, the Hotel Vlastic... After the end (1918) of the First World War, Travnik became part of the newly formed Kingdom of SHS, and since then it shares history of complete Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The goal of the author's frequent visits to Travnik was to get to know the city 'on the spot' and through their analysis (through 'cabinet work') to contribute to the author's theory of 'Architecturally Defined Space (ADS)' [6-25].

2. Methodology

The paper is organized according to the methodology of comprehensive analysis and synthesis developed by the author in his book: [16]. Defining Architectural Space on the Model of the Oriental Style CityHouse in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo and Macedonia, Booksurge, LLC, North Charleston, SC, USA.

According to this methodology, architecture (Architecturally Defined Space) is treated as a system consisting of four basic elements: Environment, Man, Boundaries and Perspectives. Among these elements there is an interaction that results in synergy, i.e. the final appearance of architecture. This methodology does not leave aside any influence on architecture, and all influences are "readable" from its appearance.

3. Natural Resources and Sights

Travnik has an oceanic climate. Precipitation occurs during all months of the year. The average annual temperature for Travnik is 29°C. The dry season lasts 157 days a year with an average humidity of 79% and a UV index of 3 [26] (Figures 2, 3).

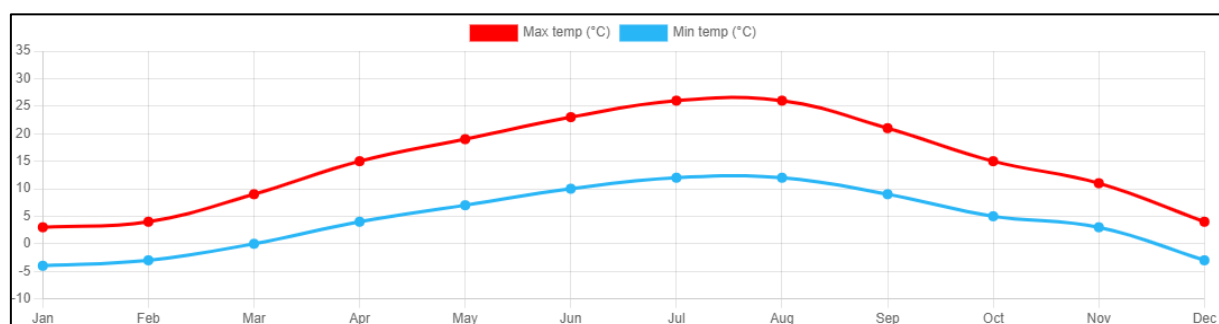


Figure-2. Average maximum temperature (red) and minimum temperature (blue) for Travnik

Source: The climate of Travnik and the best time to travel

<https://www.besttravelmonths.com/bosnia-and-herzegovina/travnik-239552/>

Accessed: December 17, 2023.

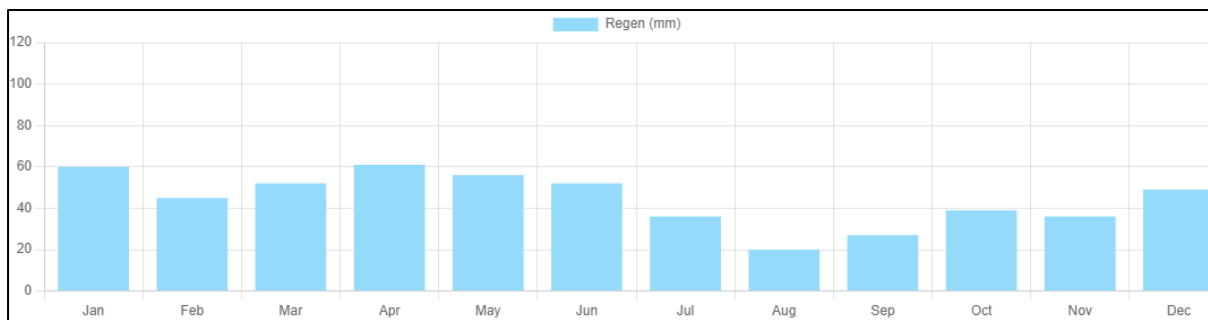


Figure-3. Average monthly rainfall for Travnik

Source: The climate of Travnik and the best time to travel
<https://www.besttravelmonths.com/bosnia-and-herzegovina/travnik-239552/>
 Accessed: December 17, 2023.

One of the greatest treasures of Travnik are its waters. The Lasva river is the main watercourse, with a total length of 52 km. the source of Lasva is under the mountain Vlasic, and it is formed by the merging of Karaulska Lasva and Komarska Lasva. Several of its tributaries flow into Lasva: Hendek and Sumece in the city itself, Bila, Grlonica, Prala, Lupnica, Kruscica, Vranička Rijeka and Kozica. There are a large number of rich sources of drinking water on the outskirts of the city. The second major natural resource of the municipality of Travnik is the forests, and the third is the fertile fields along the Lasva river and its tributaries. Of particular importance are the spacious pastures, especially those on the Vlasic mountain. The Vlasic mountain in its entirety is the greatest natural resource of the city of Travnik, which from the earliest times until today has provided the basis for people's lives, from animal husbandry to modern tourism and various forms of recreation (Figure 4).



Vlasic in winter



Center with hotels on the Vlasic mountain



Vlasic in the summer



Figure-4. Mountain Vlasic near Travnik

Source: <http://nap.ba/new/vijest.php?id=6269>, Accessed: December 17, 2023.

Source: <https://dnevni-list.ba/vlasic-i-dalje-topzimska-destinacija-u-srednjoj-bosni/>, Accessed: December 17, 2023.

Source: <http://bih-x.info/sportski-turizam-u-srednjojbosni-privlaci-sve-veci-broj-gostiju/vlasicturizam/>, Accessed: December 17, 2023.

Source: <https://www.dinarskogorje.com/vlascaroni263.html>, Accessed: December 17, 2023.

'Plava voda' ('Blue water') in Travnik is a locality below the town-fortress of Travnik, on the right side of the Sarajevo-Travnik road, at the very entrance to the town of Travnik. The central place of this locality is occupied by a source of water, 'Plava voda'. Due to its abundance (about $0.70 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$), the extraordinary beauty of the stream from its source to the mouth of the Lašva river, the city-fort whose contours are outlined high up to the sky, this place is particularly attractive to people, both to the residents of Travnik and its surroundings, and for passers-by and visitors from all parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina and beyond who visit it with a targeted intention. This place has long possessed the power of Genius Loci. Nobel laureate Ivo Andric describes it as such in the novel 'Travnicka hronika' (1945). Lutva's coffee house (tavern), a place where people gather, a place for conversation, rest, discussion about history, about man, about the meaning of life (...) exists today with the same mental strength as before (Figure 5).



Figure-5. 'Plava voda' ('Blue water') in Travnik

Source: Author (September 25, 2009)

3.1. Architectural Cultural and Historical Heritage

The rich history of Travnik can be read through a wide array of cultural and historical heritage, from prehistory to the present day. The Travnica fortress was built before the arrival of the Ottomans, probably during the time of the Bosnian king Tvrtko II Kotromanic (ca. 1380-1443) or King Stjepan Ostoja (?-1418), in order to defend the city from the coming invaders (Figure 6).



View of the city from the fortress

Figure-6. Fortress in Travnik

Source: http://preporodtravnik.ba/media/Divan_51_flip/htmlversion/indexs.html, Accessed: December 17, 2023.

Source: <https://www.klix.ba/vijesti/bih/travnickatvrjava-ljepotica-iznad-vezirskog-grada-sveprimamljivija-za-turiste/140413015> Accessed: December 17, 2023.

The Sulejmanija (Colorful) mosque in Travnik is a specific mosque in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The mosque was built (1757) by Vizier Camil Ahmed-aga, and the people called it Camilija. The mosque burned down in a fire (1815), so the Bosnian Vizier Sulejman Pasha Skopljak built a new mosque in its place, named Sulejmanija after him. At this mosque, the ground floor is arranged as a bezistan (with shops whose windows are oriented towards the surrounding square). On the floor of the mosque is the main prayer area, which is accessed by a stone staircase on the northwest side of the mosque. The mosque also has a mahvil, which can be accessed from the entrance hall of the mosque, where shoe storage is organized. Although in front of the very entrance to the mosque, a very generous stream (the Blue Water tributary) flows from the side of the mosque, visible from the surrounding square, a fountain has been erected that captivates with its name (Ruhija), its original antiquity and beauty. The fountain has three rich sources of drinking water. There is a stone slab on the side of the building of the fountain (the original stone slab is kept in the Selimija mosque after the fire of the Čamilija mosque), (Figure 7). On the plaque, there is an inscription carved in beautiful Arabic Nesh-script, which, translated into Bosnian, reads: "In paradise there is a source of Selsebil (Qur'an, Dehr, 18). Benefactor Suleiman Ruhija Cehaja Muhammed Pasha Silahdar. Year 1184" [27].



Figure-7. The Sulejmanija (Colorful) mosque in Travnik

Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/53/%C5%A0arena_d%C5%BEamija.jpg, Accessed: December 17, 2023.

Source: Author (August 12, 2011)

There is another fountain in Travnik, in all respects similar to the Ruhija fountain next to the Sulejmanija (Scarlet) mosque. It is a hair-fountain located between the turbet of Vizier Perišan Mustafa Pasha and the turbet with three graves: the girl Fatima, Vizier Hafiz Ali Dzelaludin Pasha and Grand Vizier Abdulah Pasha Muhsinovic [28]. Today's fountain next to Turbet under a lime tree is an (attempted) reconstruction of the fountain made in 1976, according to a photo of the fountain from 1905 (Figure 8).



Figure-8. Today's fountain next to Turbet under a lime tree

Source: Author (August 12, 2011)

The mosque was originally built (1757) by the Bosnian Vizier Mehmed Pasha Kukavica (1872) on the site of today's Hadza Ali Bey Mosque in Travnik. Today, this mosque is best known for having the only sundial in Bosnia and Herzegovina (made in 1866). This mosque (located in Gornja Carsija, unlike the Lower Carsija where Suleimanija or the Colorful Mosque is located) with a clock tower from the 18th century, a fountain on the entrance facade, at the very corner of the mosque along the widened sidewalk, a cemetery and luxuriant trees on its southwest on the other side, it represents an extraordinary architectural-urbanistic composition, and with the turbets under the linden and ash, a wider whole that has the power of Genius Loci in Travnik [28]. The fountain in front of the Hadzi Ali-bey mosque in Travnik, in its original design (1872), stood at the left entrance to the mosque until 1949. As a result of the sudden demolition of the clock tower (1973), there was serious damage to the fountain, on which, until then, there was an original plaque with an inscription in a beautiful nesh-talik script (Figure 9).



Figure-9. Hadzi Ali-beg's mosque

Source: Author (August 12, 2011)

Along the Sarajevo-Travnik-Jajce-Bihac road, on the right, in front of the entrance to Travnik, there is a tekke, and in front of it, oriented towards the outside world and life, is a public fountain (Figure 10). Not only by its spatial relationship to the object of the tekke, but also by the inscription carved into the white marble slab, we conclude that this fountain is an integral part of the spatial and mental composition of the tekke:

THIRSTY TRAVELER
ARE YOU WONDERING
WHY ARE YOU HERE
WHERE ARE YOU FROM
WHERE ARE YOU GOING
2001



Figure-10. Tekke with a public fountain in front of the entrance to Travnik from the direction of Sarajevo

Source: Author (August 12, 2011)

In the inner courtyard of the monastery in Guca Gora near Travnik, there is a fountain that was built in honor of the 800th anniversary of the birth of St. Francis (1182-1982). The Franciscans came (from Doc near Travnik) to Guca Gora at the beginning of the eighteenth century, where they built their house. The church in Guča Gora was built near the end of the administration of the Ottoman Empire in Bosnia and Herzegovina (1856-1857). The monastery housed (1883-1900) the seminary of the Bosnian Franciscan Province (Figure 11).



Memorial fountain (on the occasion of 800 years since the birth of St. Francis, 1182-1982), courtyard of the monastery in Guča Gora, Travnik

Figure-11. Franciscan monastery in Guča Gora

Source: <https://www.klix.ba/vijesti/bih/samostan-izupa-guca-gora-mjesto-duboke-vjere-i-mirao-kojem-su-pisali-andric-jukic/160325069>
Accessed: December 17, 2023.

Source: Author (January 8, 2012)

The house of the Korkut family in Travnik is located in Donje Osoje street in the old part of Travnik, on the right bank of the Lašva river. It was built in the middle of the 19th century. The house primarily belongs to an oriental-type town house. Typical of the classic type of Bosnian chardaklia houses in central Bosnia, this house in its vertical plan has a basement, ground floor and first floor, access to the first floor via an external single-legged wooden staircase ('basamak') with a divanhana, and an extremely steep and voluminous roof covered with shingles. What defines the house of the Korkut family as an oriental-type town house is, looking at its architectural physiognomy from the outside, the doxat on the ground floor and on the first floor, and the interior arrangement of the main veranda with a built-in wall battery-musander (Figure 12).



Korkut family house in Travnik





Figure-12. Gallery of houses in Travnik (old part of town, Osoje settlement)

Source: Author (May 1, 2016; June 25, 2016)

Parish Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Doc near Travnik. The foundation stone for this three-nave church was laid (1853) during the Ottoman administration in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the church was completed in 1854 (Figure 13).



Figure-13. Parish Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Doc near Travnik

Source: <http://nedjelja.ba/hr/iz-zivota/reportaza/zupau-docu-kraj-travnika-majka-svih-crkavalasvanske-doline/2628>
Accessed: December 17, 2023.

The Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is located near the bridge on the Lašva River in the center of Travnik. The building was built (1854) towards the end of the Ottoman administration in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The icons on the walls of the nave of the church were painted (1927-1940) by Roman Petrovic (Figure 14).



Figure-14. Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/21/Travnik_pravoslavna_crkva.jpg, Accessed: December 17, 2023.

The Great Archbishop's High School in Travnik was built (1882) during the Austro-Hungarian administration in Bosnia and Herzegovina, according to the project of Josip pl. Vancas. Today, this building houses the Archbishop's Seminary and the "Petar Barbalic" Catholic School Center (Figure 15).

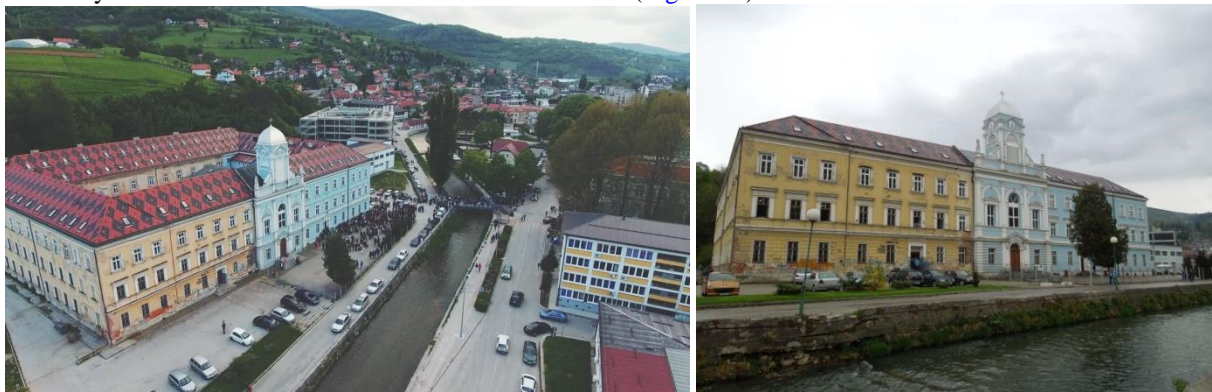


Figure-15. The Great Archbishop's High School in Travnik

Source: <http://istinomjer.ba/srednjoskolski-centartravnik-brojna-neispunjena-obecanja/>, Accessed: December 17, 2023.

Source: <http://www.sjemenistetrvnik.info/galerija/misa-zahvalnica-zacasnog-slugu-bozjega-petra-barbarica>, Accessed: December 17, 2023.

The building for the district office and court in Travnik was built (1891) in Gornja Mahala, in the pseudo-Moorish style, and expanded in 1900. The building of the district office also houses the Land Office, which was established for the district of Travnik in 1893 after a cadastral survey of the land was carried out. The decorative values of the building bear elements of the pseudo-Moorish style, and in terms of construction, the building was designed according to the elements of the local architectural tradition. The building is a one-story rectangular building covered with a four-pitched roof. On the facade there is a two-tone strip ornament of yellow and orange. The ornament was made by painting the facade so that it resembles the method of alternative arrangement of stone, which was a practice in North Africa (Figure 16).



Figure-16. District Office Building (Now Municipal Court)

Source: <http://travnik-grad.info/opcinski-sud-travnikpresudio-vratiti-zgradu-gimnazijevrhbosanskoj-nadbiskupiji/>
 Accessed: December 17, 2023.

The first Elchi Ibrahim Pasha madrasa was built (1705) during the Ottoman administration in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Her vekif was Elči-Ibrahim-pasha, one of the viziers who dined in Travnik. This building was demolished (1892) and a new madrasa building was built in its place (1893) during the Austro-Hungarian administration in Bosnia and Herzegovina, according to the project of the architect Ćiril Iveković (1864-1933), (Figure 17).

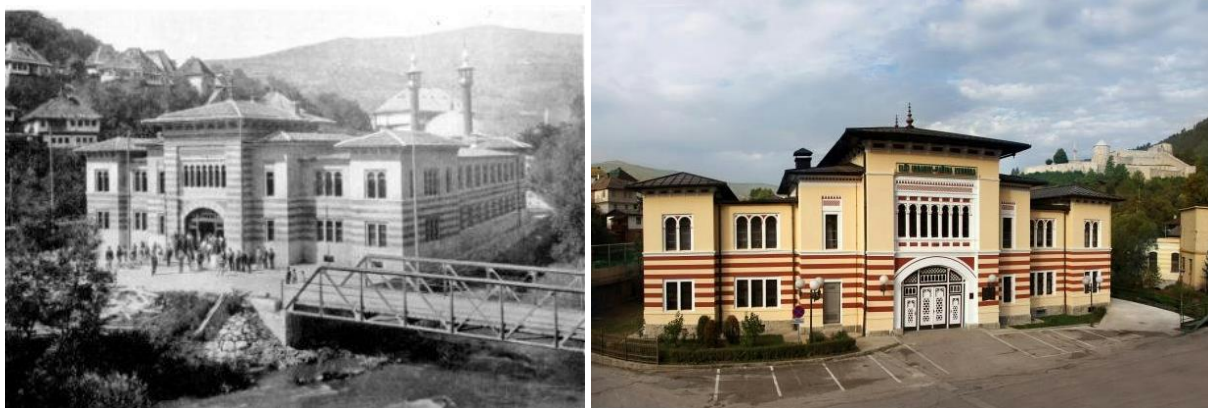


Figure-17. Elchi Ibrahim Pasha's madrasa

Source: <http://www.elfeth.ba/2017/03/24/predstavljamo-elciibrahim-pasina-medresa-tri-stoljeca-uodgojno-obrazovnoj-misiji-dio/>
 Accessed: December 17, 2023.

Source: https://bs.wikipedia.org/wiki/El%C4%8Di_Ibrahim-pa%C5%A1ina_medresa, Accessed: December 17, 2023.



Figure-18. Match factory. The factory was built (1901) during the Austro-Hungarian administration in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Source: <http://spagosmail.blogspot.com/2016/03/sibica-nekada-svakodnevna-danas-skoro.html>, Accessed: December 17, 2023.

Source: <http://www.atvbl.com/travnicka-tvornicajedina-na-balkanu-proizvodi-sibice-foto>, Accessed: December 17, 2023.

Music school in Travnik. The facility was built (1903) in the center of Travnik, opposite the Orthodox Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary. The construction of the building was financed by the married couple Gavriilo and Jovanka Fufić. From the construction of the building until the beginning of the Second World War, a Serbian elementary school operated in it under the auspices of the Church Municipality of Travnik. Since 1923, the "Serbian People's Home" has operated in the building, and since 1931, the "Women's Vocational School. The building was handed over (1978) to the use of the "Travnik Elementary Music Education School" [28] (Figure 19).



Figure-19. Music school in Travnik

Source: https://www.eskole.ba/osnovna_muzicka_travnik, Accessed: December 17, 2023.

The Varoska mosque in Travnik, or the Hadza-Hasanagina mosque, is one of the oldest mosques built in the inner core of the city of Travnik, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and it is assumed that it was built immediately after the mosque in the Stari grad fortress. The Varoska mosque was built in the first decades of the 16th century. It was built of tufa with a steep roof covered with shingles and a wooden minaret. In the great fire that broke out in 1903, the Varoska mosque also perished, of which only the walls remained. The renovation of the mosque was already initiated in 1906 by Ziba-hanuma Kopicic, a woman from Travnik, who built a new building in the pseudo-Moorish style according to the project of the architect Milos Milosevic. After the renovation, it got a multi-colored facade that is reminiscent of the alternating construction of stone and brick characteristic of the Islamic architecture of the Maghreb. The mosque also received an unusual dome in the shape of a bulb, modeled on buildings of Mughal architecture in India (Figure 20).



Figure-20. Varoska mosque in Travnik. The mosque was built (1906) during the Austro-Hungarian administration

Source: <https://www.radiosarajevo.ba/metromahala teme/provedena-arheoloska-istrazivanje-udvoristu-varoske-dzamijske-utrnika/268481#lg=1&slide=0>, Accessed: December 17, 2023.

Source: <https://www.klix.ba/vijesti/bih/druganaistarija-dzamijske-utrnika-u-travniku-u-zavrnoj-fazirestauracije-oronula-fasada-dobila-novisjaj/170913035>, Accessed: December 17, 2023.

The native museum of Travnik was founded (1950) during the FNRJ. The building of today's museum was built in 1975. The fund of the museum contains eighty thousand exhibits (Figure 21).



Figure-21. Native Museum Travnik

Source: http://muzejtravnik.ba/wpcontent/uploads/2010/10/Muzej_Travnik.jpg, Accessed: December 17, 2023.

4. Conclusion

Travnik City is an old town that possesses an extremely huge historical 'embodied energy', a rich natural environment and a wide array of cultural and historical heritage. Numerous visits to this city and its immediate surroundings (especially the Vlasici mountain and Plava voda) were extremely stimulating for the author in his scientific work, especially for the study of 'big architectural themes': 'water and man', 'bioclimatic architecture', 'architecture in context', 'network of architectural paths' and the most complex topic 'Defining Architectural Space (ADS)'.

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