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Two Buildings of Health Standard in Sarajevo by Architect Ahmet Hadrovic

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Abstract

The siege of Sarajevo was one of the longest sieges in the history of modern warfare and the longest siege of the capital ever. It lasted 44 months, from April 5, 1992 to February 29, 1996 (or 1425 days). (The siege of Leningrad, today's Petersburg, lasted from September 8, 1941 to January 27, 1944, i.e., 872 days). An average of 329 missiles were fired at the city of Sarajevo per day. In total, about 50,000 tons of artillery shells were fired at the city. After the end of the war (December 14, 1995), a period of reconstruction and construction began in Sarajevo and

throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the general enthusiasm of the people. The author of this work (as a young architect at the time) worked on a number of projects (over 250) in a wide variety of architectural programs. The author presented some of these projects publicly in several works published in international journals. In this work, the Author presents his two architectural realizations, which are small architectural structures, but extremely significant considering the circumstances in which they were realized.

Keywords: Multipurpose facility in Kobilja glava settlement in Sarajevo, Infirmary with pharmacy Sedrenik settlement

Introduction

The siege of Sarajevo was one of the longest sieges in the history of modern warfare and the longest siege of the capital ever. It lasted 44 months, from April 5, 1992 to February 29, 1996 ^[1, 2] (or 1425 days). (The siege of Leningrad, today's Petersburg, lasted from September 8, 1941 to January 27, 1944, i.e., 872 days). An average of 329 missiles were fired at the city of Sarajevo per day. In total, about 50,000 tons of artillery shells were fired at the city. The parties in the conflict were the Army of the Republic of Srpska (which surrounded the city with 18,000 reservists) and the Army of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina (and the HVO Sarajevo) which defended the city, as well as various paramilitary units from both sides. During the siege, the city was almost completely cut off from the rest of the country, and the shortage of food, electricity, gas, medicine and water was a constant in the life of the people of the besieged city.

After the end of the war (December 14, 1995), a period of reconstruction and construction began in Sarajevo and throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the general enthusiasm of the people. The author of this work (as a young architect at the time) worked on a number of projects (over 250) in a wide variety of architectural programs. Some of these projects were publicly presented by the author in several papers published in international journals ^[3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11]. In this work, the Author presents his two architectural realizations, which are small architectural structures, but extremely significant considering the circumstances and places in which they were realized.

The Post office, infirmary, pharmacy and housing in Kobilja glava settlement, Vogošća municipality, Sarajevo (1997)

The village of Kobilja glava is located on the border between the municipalities of Centar Sarajevo and Vogošća, so in everyday life this settlement is called the 'North Gate of Sarajevo' (Geographical coordinates: 43°52'54.12"N, 18°23'02.82"E, elevation: 641). It is 3.5 km (by air) from the center of Sarajevo and the center of Vogošće.

Thanks to its location (on the edge of the Bosna River Valley - the backbone of Bosnia and Herzegovina), one of the most important roads connecting Sarajevo with the rest of Bosnia and Herzegovina (the Bosna River Valley) and road branches to Tuzla and Vares - the center of mining and metal industry passed through here. near the Sarajevo Valley (where the Neolithic 'Butmir culture' was developed), the Kobilja Glava settlement was a good place to live. Here there was an inn (which corresponds to a modern hotel), "first of the Čito family, and then of the Vrago family from Sarajevo. Han stopped working in 1942. The old inn was demolished in 1926 and a new one was built in the same place (...) but as a residential building. It was built by Hajrija, daughter of Osman Vrage, married to Lando. Hasan Čauš was the innkeeper of that han for a long time" ^[12]. "Here there was a tower in which there were two floors above the ground floor. It was not covered with hellebore, but in its

place was a wooden ceiling with a thick charge of up to 50 cm. As far as is known, it first belonged to the Duranović family, and it was bought from them around 1860 by Hadži Mehmed Delalić, and after his death (1922) it passed to his grandson Halid, son of Muhamedov”^[13].

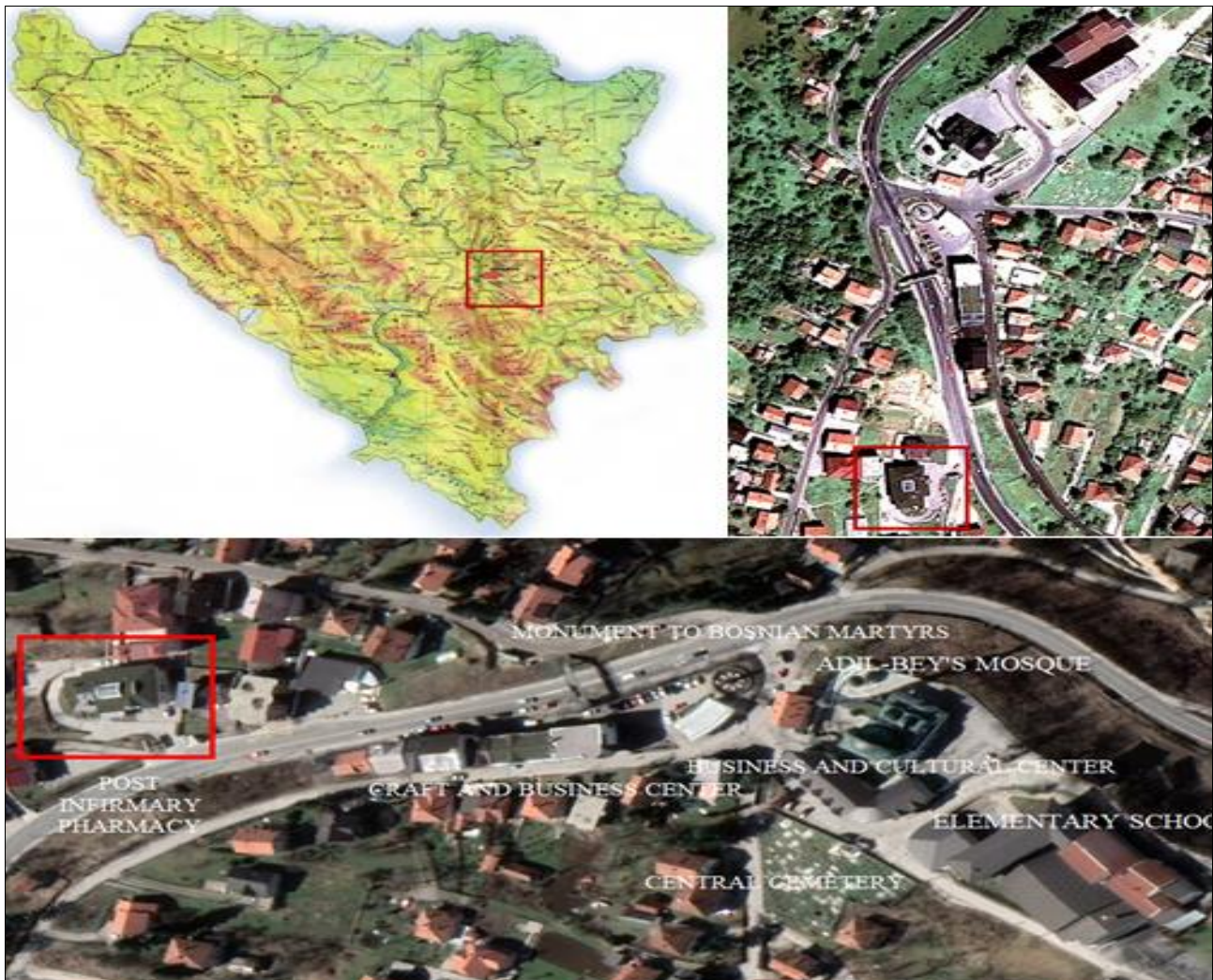
During the 1992-1995 war, the front lines were at the very edge of the Kobilja glava settlement (only 600 meters away), which exposed the settlement to permanent shelling and sniping. Hence, the end of the war brought great relief to the inhabitants of Kobilja Glava settlement and a huge desire to rebuild the destroyed physical structures as soon as possible and build new facilities. Thanks to the great enthusiasm of the authorities of the Vogošća municipality and the enormous help of donors from around the world, the renovation and new construction gained great momentum, and the author of this work, as a (then) young architect, had a lot of work to do. The author first completed the urban planning project of the Kobilja Glava settlement center, where new facilities are planned: an eight-grade primary school (on the site of the former four-grade school) with a gymnasium and a building for extended stay of children, a craft and business center (Dom culture, a small department store, two bakeries, Butcher's shop, Dentist's office, Shop with business offices, Hotel), Adil-bey's mosque (on the site of a pre-war smaller mosque that was completely demolished during the war), Fashion and business center

next to Adil-bey's mosque (youth center, kindergarten and guest apartment -'musfirhana', several shops and service shops, a bank branch), the central square with the Bosnian Martyrs' Monument, the arrangement of the local cemetery...), (Fig 1, 2, 3). All individual objects were designed by the Author of this paper and all were realized, except for the hotel (the future client of the project died in the meantime).

The architectural building that we present in this paper ('Post office, ambulance, pharmacy and apartments') is one of the newly built architectural facilities in the settlement Kobilja glava (Fig 4, 5). After the end of the war, the settlement of Kobilja glava was extremely attractive for the immigration of new residents, so there was an increase in the number of inhabitants (which is rare in Bosnia and Herzegovina) compared to previous censuses. Thus, according to the 2013 census, 3,092 inhabitants were recorded in the settlement of Kobilja glava^[14], which is more than according to the 1991 census (3,019)^[15], the 1981 census (1,820)^[16] and the 1971 census (774)^[17].

From the establishment of the service and then the facilities of the post office until today, the post office has been a symbol of the state, its integrity, efficiency, promptness, omnipresence...

As a rule, the post office, similar to the bank, was located in the strict center of the city (that is, the settlement in general).



Sources: <https://slidetodoc.com/regionalna-podjela-bosne-i-hercegovine-geografske-regije-bosne/>, Accessed 8/14/2022, (left)
 Google Earth: Accessed 8/14/2022 (right)

Fig 1: The Post office, infirmary, pharmacy and housing in xKobilja glava settlement, Vogošća municipality, Sarajevo (1997). Location



Source: Vladimir Obradovic (July 24, 2017)

Fig 2: Elementary school, Adil Bey's Mosque with the Cultural and Business Center and the central cemetery in the settlement of Kobilja glava



Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8tNX5WCxoCQ>, Accessed: August 15, 2022.

Fig 3: The Center of Kobilja glava settlement: Primary school, Adil Beg Mosque with Cultural and Business Center, Central cemetery in Kobilja glava settlement, Central Square with a monument to Bosnian martyrs, Crafts and Business Center

The facility 'Post office, clinic, pharmacy and housing' is located in Kobilja Glava settlement, Vogošća municipality (Geographical coordinates: 43°52'54.12"N, 18°23'02.82"E, elevation: 641), (Fig 1). These facilities were a response to the growing needs of the inhabitants of the settlement, which underwent a major expansion after the end of the war (1992-1995).

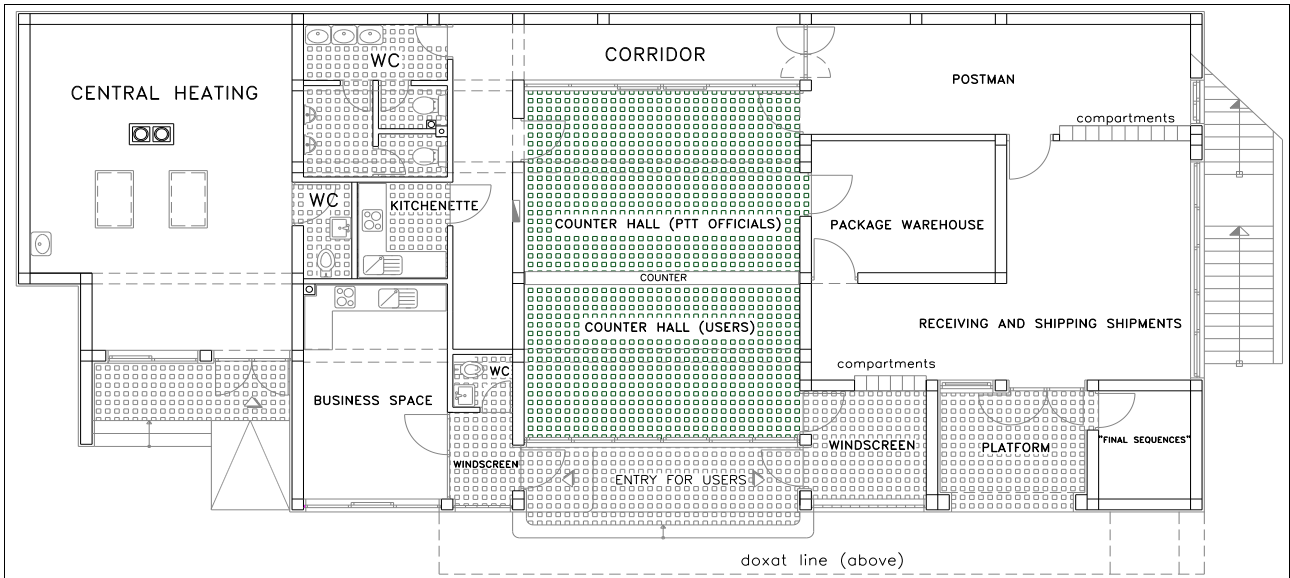
The location of the building was, from a geological point of view¹, extremely unfavorable, but its position in the general urban context was exactly ideal for this settlement. The geological disadvantage of the location proved to be an advantage, because it 'preserved' the location from the construction (of the fragmented physical structures of

individual residential buildings) until the time when it will meet much wider general social needs.

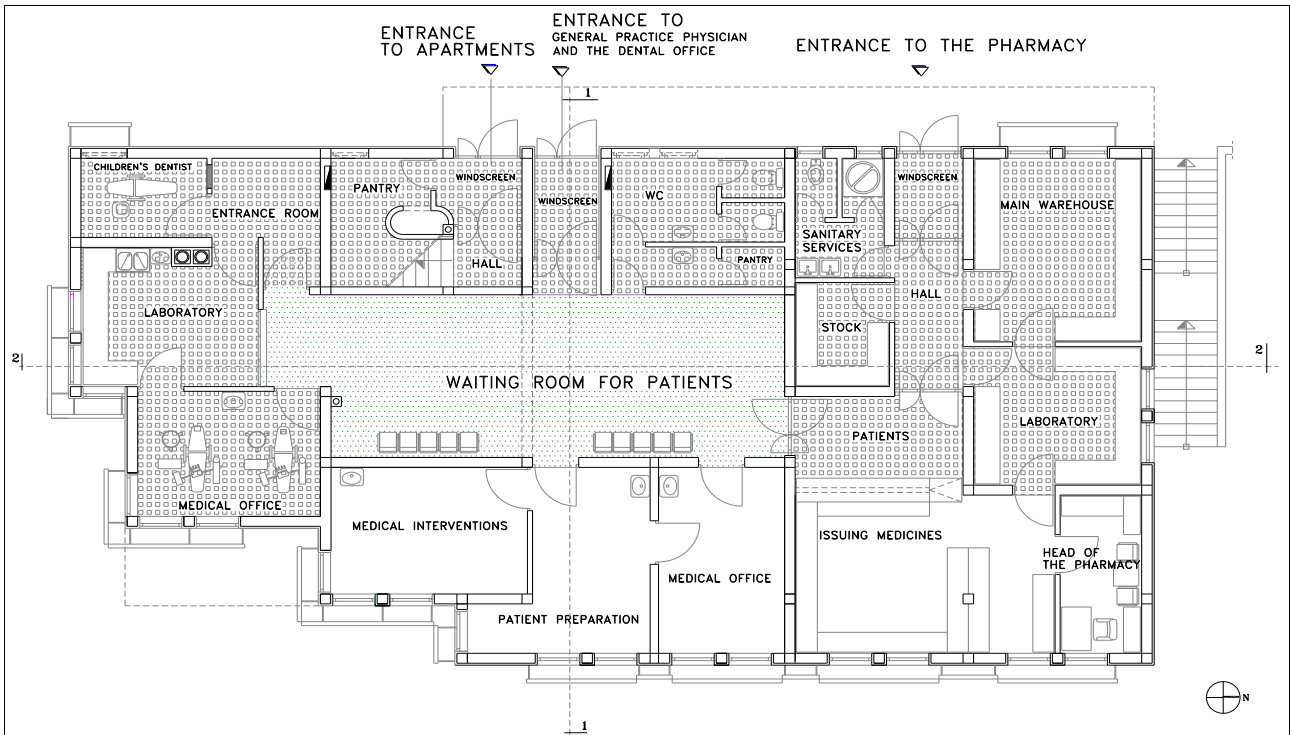
In the basement of this building, a modern post office, one independent office space and space for central heating of the building were built, while on the ground floor there is an organized clinic and a pharmacy. Three modern apartments were built in the attic of the building (Fig 4).

The author designed the entire building as a 'larger residential building in the village'. At the same time, the tympanum on the street (main) facade symbolically indicates that it is not an 'ordinary house', but a building with important social contents (which the post office, clinic and pharmacy are) (Fig 4, 5). The building is characterized by an atrium located in the center of gravity of the horizontal plan, through which natural lighting is introduced and natural ventilation is provided (important principles of 'bioclimatic architecture')^[3, 4].

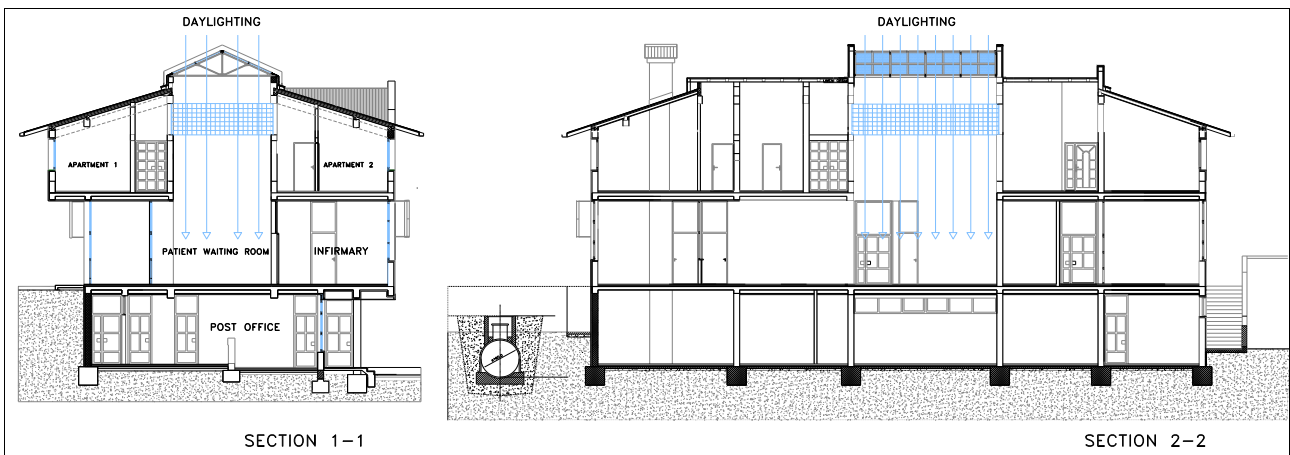
¹ It is a classic landslide where the load-bearing soil is at a depth of 7 m. In this case, the sliding plane follows the slope of the terrain, which means that any incision in the terrain results in the terrain sliding above the incision. With the construction of this building, the wider area between Alipašina Street (Sarajevo-Tuzla highway) and Kobilja Glava Street was rehabilitated. This renovation made possible the simpler and cheaper subsequent construction of individual residential buildings.



Basement



Ground floor



Sections



Source: Author (Drawings, 1997)

Facades

Fig 4: The Post office, infirmary, pharmacy and housing in Kobilja glava settlement, Vogošća municipality, Sarajevo (1997). Drawings



Left: post office; **Right:** waiting room next to the infirmary (in the atrium of the building)



Source: Author (June 14, 2012)

Left: Dental office; In the middle: Nurse next to the dental office; Right: Pharmacy

Fig 5: The Post office, infirmary, pharmacy and housing in Kobilja glava settlement, Vogošća municipality, Sarajevo (1997)

Infirmary with pharmacy Sedrenik settlement, Sarajevo (2002)

One of the innovations in the health care system in Bosnia and Herzegovina, introduced after the 1992-1995 war, is family health care, which, among other things, resulted in the construction of clinics (and pharmacies) at the level of local communities^[18]². The location of the building is in the center of gravity of the Sedrenik settlement, from where the mahal streets branch off from the main street that connects this estate with the city (Geographical coordinates: 43°52'22.95"N, 18°25'59.39"E, elevation: 721), (Fig 6).

The settlement of Sedrenik was generated after World War II, with particular intensity after the war in 1992-1995. They are mostly people from Eastern Bosnia and Sandžak (the territory of today's Serbia and Montenegro). Previously, this was an area with meadows and a large number of water sources and fountains^[19]. Due to its proximity to the city center of Sarajevo (about 1.5 km as the crow flies), the Sedrenik area was a favorite excursion spot for Sarajevo citizens^[19].

The facility consists of two functional units, an outpatient clinic and a pharmacy. At the same time, the pharmacy is oriented towards the street and the small square, while the

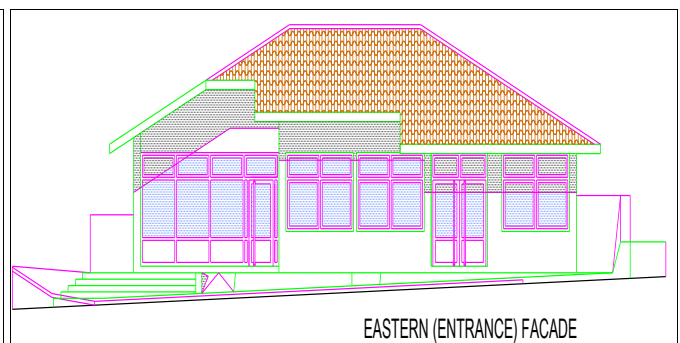
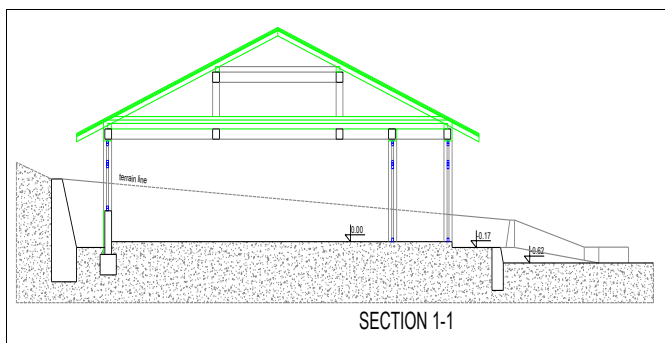
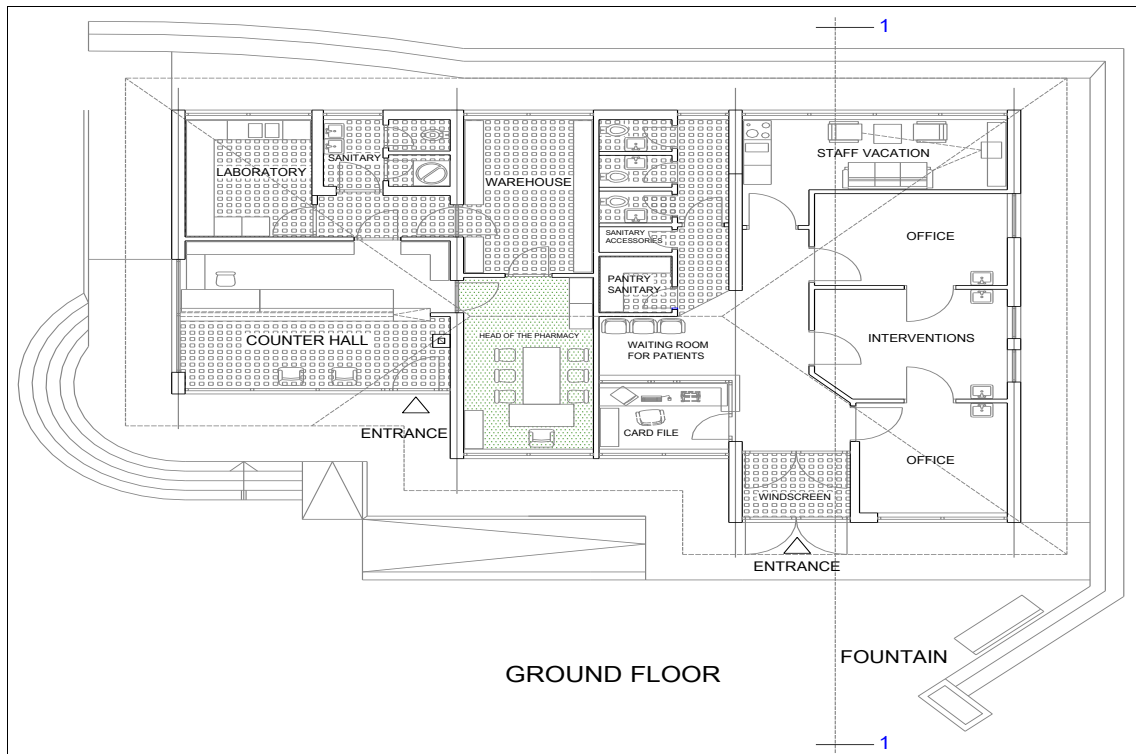
clinic is in the 'quieter' part of the building, oriented towards the square and the back of the building (Fig 6, 7, 8). The pharmacy was built according to the already established standards of the company 'Apoteke Sarajevo' ('Sarajevo Pharmacies'), and the clinic according to the project assignment of the Ministry of Health of the Canton of Sarajevo.



Sources: Google Earth: Accessed 8/15/2022 (right)

Fig 6: Infirmary with pharmacy Sedrenik settlement, Sarajevo (2002). Location

² „Local administration units, in accordance with established rights and obligations, ensure conditions for health care in their area“. (Article 4). Law on Health Care, Official Gazette of FBiH, year XVII-Number 46, 2010.



Source: Author (Drawings, 2002)

Fig 7: Infirmary with pharmacy Sedrenik settlement, Sarajevo (2002). Drawings



Source: Author (April 10, 2011)

Fig 8: Infirmary with pharmacy Sedrenik settlement, Sarajevo (2002)

Conclusion

The two architectural buildings presented in this paper, viewed in the context of 'natural' and 'social environment' [20], are extremely significant for the standard of the residents of the local communities where they were built.

These are small physical structures, but their contents are of elementary importance for ensuring the health of the local population. The facilities 'Post office, infirmary, pharmacy and housing' in the Kobilja glava settlement are part of a mosaic of newly built architectural features that earned the

settlement the epithet 'a settlement with all the facilities needed by its inhabitants, which can rarely be found in a smaller geographical area'.

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