

MEDIEVAL TOWN- FORTRESS OF ZVECAN

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Ružica Božović

University of Prishtina, Faculty of Technical Sciences, Kosovska Mitrovica, Serbia

Abstract. *This paper is concerned with phenomenon of medieval town- fortress of Zvecan through examining (1) the town planning and spatial organization within the town, (2) its physical structure, (3) conception of medieval design and construction of Zvecan, (4) medieval instinct for correlation of shapes within the town and correlation of Zvecan and its surrounding, (5) comparison of Zvecan with medieval towns in the region and beyond. This medieval town as a whole was the expression of medieval characteristics with its spatial organization and with its own individuality. Zvecan emerged from the then contemporary circumstances and necessities. This research is focused toward finding construction principles of medieval town Zvecan which are timeless and unique to all town constructions.*

Key words: *Zvecan, medieval, spatial organization, physical structure, correlation, principles.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Medieval town was a kind of an ornament of human art put into a magnificent environment of nature art; we can say it is a precious stone of medieval age, located between gems of all times. (Sarineen, 1972). Phenomenon of medieval town is a direct ancestor of today's city, it is the subject of study of various disciplines, both from the field of natural and humanistic sciences and there is an obvious difference between the standpoint and goals of the research, as well as method diversity and manner of results presentation. Finding its scientific basis in these fields (architecture, construction, sociology, geography, economy, technology) of research in domain of spatial and urban planning, they have accessed the term "town" from different aspects, which marked both theoretical and methodological basis of the profession. Medieval town was observed in the sense of a spatial unit and a physical whole, so that the focus of planning was on physical and spatial characteristics, such as the case is with Zvecan.

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Corresponding author: Ruzica Bozovic, University of Prishtina, Faculty of Technical Sciences, Kosovska Mitrovica, Serbia
E-mail: ruzica.bozovic@pr.ac.rs



Fig. 1 Zvecan's position¹

Zvecan is considered to be one of the oldest towns of Serbian medieval state. Having in mind the importance of its geographic and strategic position (Figure 1), as well as the significance of events that took place in the town or nearby, its ruins represent an interesting monument of medieval culture (Figure 2). Through the history of Middle Ages, the town of Zvecan undoubtedly had a turbulent history, but it remains unknown and insufficiently explored.



Fig. 2 Fortress of Zvecan²

¹ Source: <http://sr.wikipedia.org/sr/> Retrieved February 20, 2015

² Source: http://sr.wikipedia.org/sr Retrieved February 20, 2015

2. HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF TOWN FOUNDATION

Zvecan is a significant Serbian medieval town and a fortress in Kosovo and Metohija, nearby the settlement bearing the same name, north from Kosovska Mitrovica, which is considered one of the strongest fortifications of the Nemanjics' state (Figure 3). Zvecan is close to the confluence of Sitnica into Ibar, located at the top of extinguished volcano cone, which is at the height of about 800m above the Ibar river. From the towers of Zvecan fortress one can see the Ibar gorge, Kopaonik, Rogozna and Kosovo plain and when the day is sunny, one can also see a part of Metohija, bordered with snow-white top of Sar mountain. Due to its position on the rocky conical elevation, the fortress of Zvecan dominates the valley where important caravan routes once intersected and they lead to Kosovo and Metohija in the south, the Ibar for the Morava valley in the north and to Bosnia in the west, in order to later serve for the protection of mines in Trepca, as well. It is not known when the fortress of Zvecan was built, because there are data on the existence of the fortress that date back to prehistory and antique period. Many rulers have ruled Zvecan, but it is mentioned for the first time in border fights of the Serbs and Byzantines in Kosovo Polje between 1091 and 1094. In 1093 Zvecan was a borderline fortification of Vukan, prefect of Raska /the end of 11th century/ who started his forays on Kosovo, which was then a part of Byzantium, from here and precisely in Zvecan he started peace talks with the emperor of Byzantium, Alexius I Comnenus. The fortress of Zvecan falls under Serbian administration in 1170, after the Battle on Pantine. There is a record that Stefan Nemanja, after defeating Byzantium in 1170, ordered for the service to be held in Saint George Church in Zvecan for the favorable outcome of the battle.

Zvecan, as a strategic fortification of the XII century had an extraordinary importance in the struggle to expand the Serbian state under the Nemanjic dynasty rule. The fortress was restructured for defense from possible attacks from Byzantium. The town and the fortress as of early started to be used for the needs of Serbian rulers as summer houses or administrative centers, as well as dungeons for ousted rulers and traders, primarily those from Dubrovnik and Saxon ore miners. Byzantium writers who dealt with descriptions of struggles between Byzantium and Hungary did not pay much attention to Zvecan at the time, which as a significant military stronghold also kept an important position for forays of the Serbian military in the south towards Kosovo and Metohija.

The first serious restoration of fortifications on the Ibar and the Sitnica, as it is known, was performed by great prefect of Raska, Stefan Nemanja, who in the struggle against Byzantium, after the death of Manuel I Comnenus in 1180, occupied the areas in the east between Morava and Sofia with Vranje, Kosovo and Metohija, and then Zeta and coastal towns: Kotor, Bar and Ulcinj. Zvecan, during Nemanja's government and after him, in all actions in the struggle for southern parts, including Kosovo, had a key position as a stronghold. In Zvecan, not only Nemanja raised buildings, but he also frequently stayed there. Great prefect Stefan Nemanja, coming from Ras to fight Byzantium army near Pantina close to Zvecan, has won. This victory made him even stronger in his government on Kosovo and Metohija. Then Kosovo and Metohija become a part of the Serbian state. Continuous expansion of Serbian country caused Zvecan to lose its character and significance as a borderline military stronghold.



Fig. 3 Borders of Serbian country at the age of Nemanja and Stefan the First-Crowned³

In the period from the end of XII to XIV century, during the ascent of medieval Serbia, Zvecan kept its significance as a castle of governors and prelates. In the fortress of Zvecan, on 11th of November 1331, the Holy King Stefan Decanski has ended his life. The son of tsar Dusan, King Uros assigned Zvecan to the leader Musa, son-in-law of Prince Lazar. Prince Vojislav Vojinović /around 1355 – 1363/ in 1363 forced him to hand Zvecan over to him as a replacement for Brvenik on the Ibar, so since that time it is owned by him, i.e. by his heir great prefect Nikola Altomanovic /1366 – 1373/, after which the town of Zvecan becomes a part of Vuk Brankovic's country. Turks took over the government of the fortress of Zvecan, shortly after the Battle of Kosovo /1389./, so there was a continuous military crew in the fortress until the 18th century, when the city was abandoned and left to the ravages of time. The town of Zvecan was abandoned in the 17th century and during Austrian penetration to Balkan Peninsula, at the end of 17th century, it once again had Ottoman crew that remained there until 1689 when the Austrian army, aided by rebelled Serbians, reached Skopje, guided by colonel Pikolomini. They have conquered Banjska but Zvecan remained unconquered due to its position. In the journal of messenger from Dubrovnik in 1792, when he travelled to Constantinople, passing through Zvecan, it was recorded that the town was deserted. There is some information on the appearance of Zvecan in XIX century from the records of famous travel writers who showed a lot of interest in its ruins. It is interesting that they called Zvecan the king's town – castle and say that there was a royal palace based on which one could think that the city represented one of the castles of Nemanjic dynasty. However, according to the available archeological data, Zvecan could hardly be among those towns in which our governors regularly or occasionally stayed and thus they had their castles there. If Zvecan was really a royal town in this aspect, we would probably have had some information about it from the sources. Opinions on court's character of the town have started in relation to confinement of Stefan Decanski and possibly the news on Constantinus burial on Zvecan.

In the beginning of previous century, Branislav Nusic, former Serbian consul in Pristina, visiting Zvecan, has recorded a few interesting pieces of data. According to his records,

³ Source: Златковић М.(2007), *Стари град Звечан*, Грамис, Рашка, стр.25

the church in the town had been demolished at the command of Yusuf bey, commander of Mitrovica garrison and the stone from the fortress of Zvecan served for the construction of Cherkessian houses and barracks in Mitrovica.

Unfamiliar archeological research and conservatory works were carried out in the period from 1957 to 1960. Today, the town of Zvecan is mostly in ruins, but based on a few towers that remained and remains of rampart at the top of a lonely knap, we can still visualize its past grandeur. The fortress of Zvecan in 1990 is declared to be a monument of culture of exceptional significance and it is under the protection of the Republic of Serbia. The fortress of Zvecan is one of the oldest fortifications in the Balkans.

3. HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF TOWN DEVELOPMENT AND ANALYSIS OF SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY OF ZVECAN

Medieval town of Zvecan is a fortress that consists of three units: Uptown (at the very top of the hill), Downtown (built somewhat down the hill) and Suburb (built on southern slopes at the foot of the hill) (Figure 4). Although situated on different heights, all three fortifications were in a constructive relationship representing a single strategic unit. By its concept and form, the fortress met all the conditions of the defense of the time.

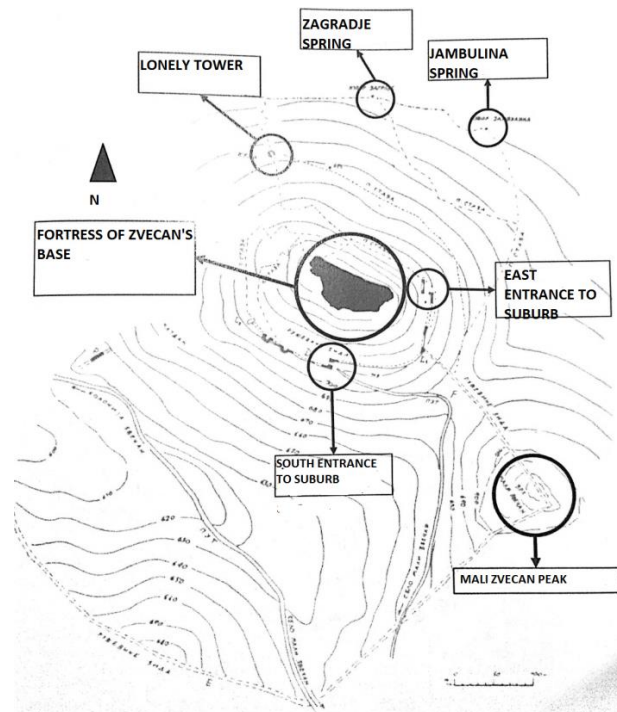


Fig. 4 Layout of the Zvecan complex fortress⁴

⁴ Source: Златковић М. (2007), *Стари град Звечан*, Грамис, Рашка, стр.51

The fortress has an ellipse shape of its floor plan, dimensions 125x48m. Transverse wall divides it into higher and lower level, Uptown and Downtown. The Uptown contains remains of buildings of various uses. One of them is the orthodox church of Saint George that has a shape of an elongated single-nave basilica, built with alternating courses of stone and brick with a basis in the form of a embedded cross, smaller altar apse on south-east and greater parvis on north-west side.

The main octagonal tower „donzon“ as well as buildings of unknown use in Turkish period were turned into a cistern with two wells for water, and they were also situated in the upper part of the town. The upper part of the town was best preserved, although in ruins, presumably because of the most work that was done in the upper part since it was the seat of the governor and the master.

In Downtown there is also a building whose purpose is unknown and a water cistern. The suburb of the medieval town on the southern slopes contains the remains of a tower, as well as two buildings of unknown purpose that are nearby the springs „Jambulina“ and „Zagradje“, outside the town walls (Figure 5).

Only a little is left of the stone wall that once encircled the suburb, of the remains and fragments, there are only white stripes of small rocks and mortar, as well as the remains of the foundation of the downtown walls.

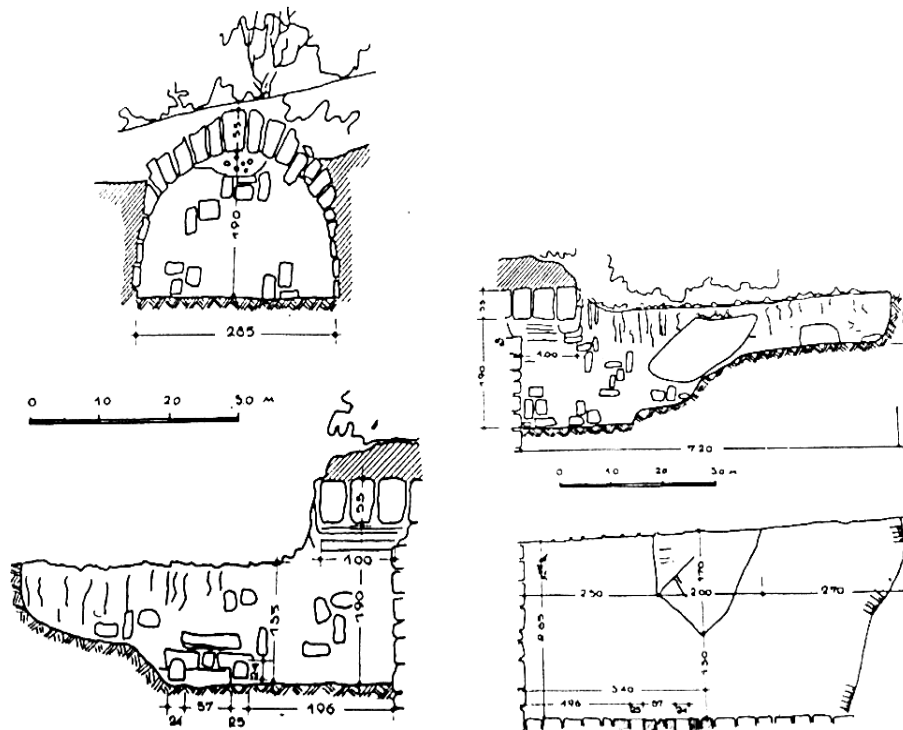


Fig. 5 Drawing of the building above the spring „Jambulina“ (I.Zdravković-1957)⁵

⁵ Source: Златковић М.(2007), *Стари град Звечан*, Грамис, Рашка, стр.69

The fortification of Zvecan, both as a town and a fortress, gradually developed and spread, mostly towards the plains. The town served as a borderline fortification of the Serbian state. Following the ground configuration, the wall alongside the hill made a curve towards the south and thus it came to the top of the hill towards the entrances of today's village Mali Zvecan and there it was connected to the main part of the town of Zvecan. In that part, in suburbs there was a prominent part of the town, i.e. square (Zdravković, 1975). There were artisan workshops of different professions that flourished at the time of Milutin Nemanjic (1282-1321), i.e. at the time when "Trepca" as a mining settlement became one of the most important economic centers of medieval Serbia. The town was fortified with five towers that served as watchtowers (Figure 6).

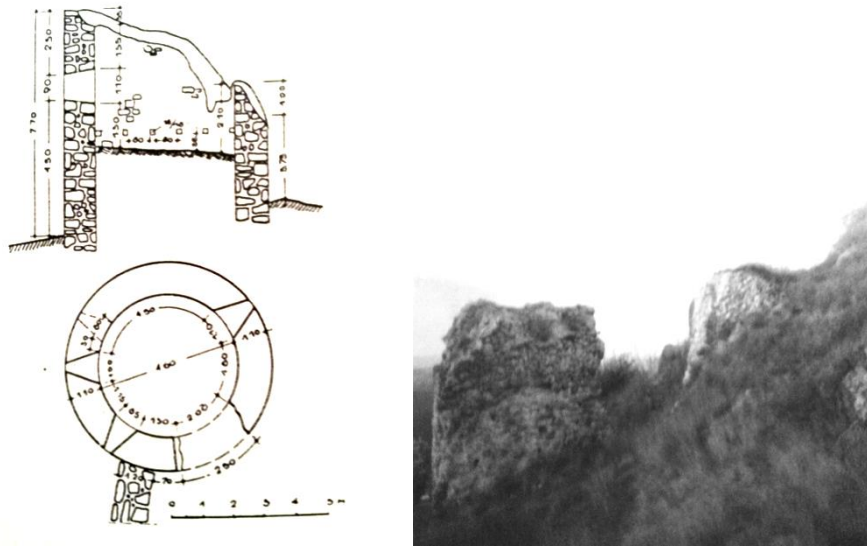


Fig. 6 Drawing of layout and cross-section of a standalone tower (I. Zdravković-1957) and the view⁶

There were only a few accesses to the town that led to the gates and that had an architectural significance, through which you could enter the town. Another "secret passage" was found, an exit through which you could get to the spring from the inside of the town in order to obtain water in case of a siege (Figure 7).

The historical analysis has shown that social order of the time has conditioned the construction and architectural formation of medieval fortress of Zvecan. In the spirit of mutual inspiration between physical formation and social order, spatial organization of Zvecan was designed and that concept was a guidance through entire "urban-architectural" development of the town.

The idea of safety was not an original invention of medieval architect-planners. The need for protection and safety dates back to the cave people and the time of the first cottages built. Every preceding period to the Middle Ages saw the design of the system of the streets and town, so they could serve for military purposes (Sarinen, 1972).

⁶ Source: Златковић М.(2007), *Стари град Звечан*, Грамис, Рашка, стр.69

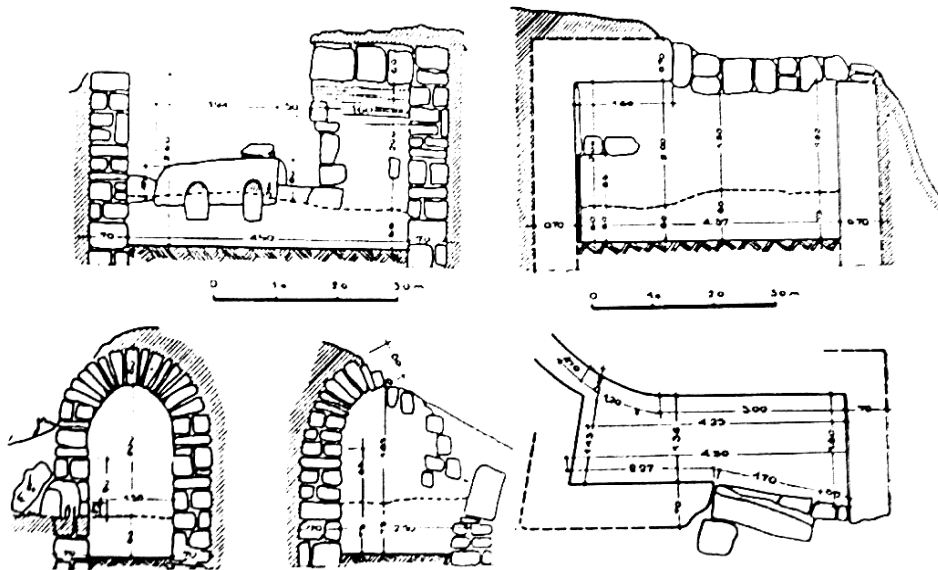


Fig. 7 Drawing of a secret passage near the spring „Zagradje“⁷

This was also the case with this medieval town. In overall spatial organization of Zvečan, all physical structures had a certain position, significance, disposition that would depend on overall planning concept, natural position, content and function of the building.

4. PHYSICAL STRUCTURE OF THE TOWN

The professional team from Federal Institute for Culture Monuments Protection carried out the examination on the town – fortress of Zvečan in 1957 and it determined which buildings constituted its physical structure.

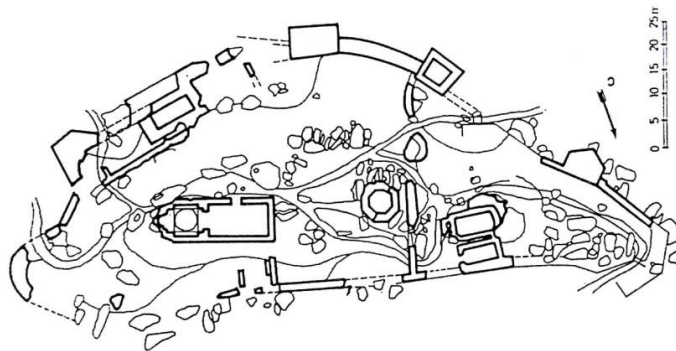


Fig. 8 Citadel basis (I. Zdravković, 1957.)⁸

⁷ Source: Златковић М.(2007), *Стари град Звечан*, Грамис, Рашка, стр.67

The citadel of Zvečan (Figure 8) is today also the most preserved part of the town, although it is ruined. It was the center of magnificent building of this fortification. Below uptown from south-east and north side, there was a big massive protection zone of stone walls and defense towers. Below this protection wall, there was the third part of the city which was the biggest according to the space.

The Church of Saint George is a single-nave building, with a very long parvis in relation to the nave. Measured from the outside, the church's dimensions are 8.20m wide and 21.60m long. Parvis of the church served as a hall for convocations and there are some assumptions that it once represented a court palace with ground floor and a storey (Figure 9,10).

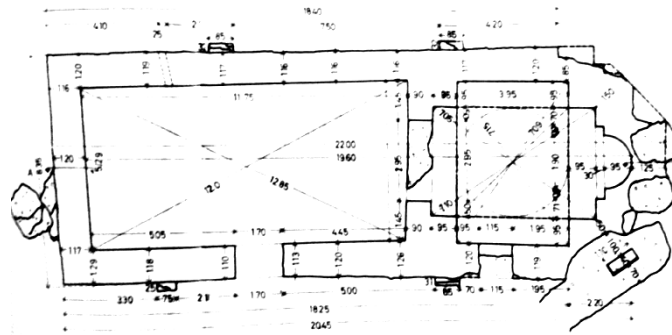


Fig. 9 Drawing of the excavated foundation of the Saint George's Church – works of 1957.⁹



Fig. 10 Overview of the excavated foundation of the St George's Church of 1957¹⁰

It is assumed that there are foundations of the palace next to the church, at the highest plateau of the fortress, alongside entire hill on which the fortress is situated. It is also

⁸ Source: Златковић М.(2007), *Стари град Звечан*, Грамис, Рашка, стр.52

⁹ Source: Златковић М.(2007), *Стари град Звечан*, Грамис, Рашка, стр.70

¹⁰ Source: Златковић М.(2007), *Стари град Звечан*, Грамис, Рашка, стр.70

determined that there are foundations of the usual *donzon*, with the difference that the main tower is not of round but of octagonal layout. The discovered foundations have the octagonal shape from inside, while from the outside we still do not know whether *donzon* was of a round shape or octagonal as the inside (Figure 11).

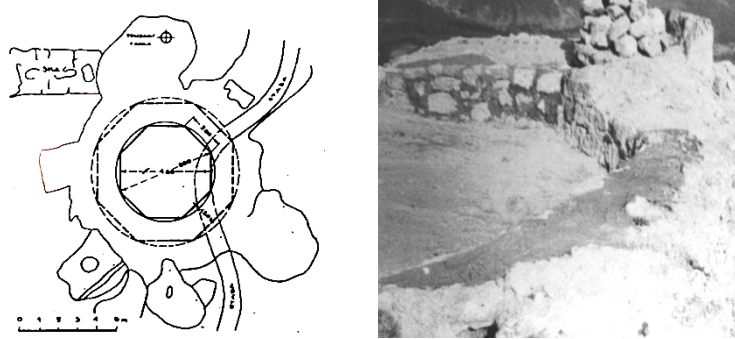


Fig. 11 Drawing of *donzon* layout and the view from the south-east – works from 1957.¹¹

The sides of the octagon are 2.00m long and the wall was probably 1.20m thick. *Donzon* is a high building that was made of a house meant for the defense. The rule was that this tower had no doors in the ground floor but only on the storey. This door was reached through outside wooden stairs or wooden bridge. You could reach the ground floor from the storey, from the inside. It was a frequent case that below the tower there was a well or water cistern (Figure 12).

Two rooms in south-eastern side of the town that do not exist anymore that are mentioned in the studies were most probably water cisterns. Below the town there was another building that is mentioned as *Zagradje*.

The town had many other buildings of various purposes. The room shaped as a well, diameter about 5m, height 10m observed from the outside. This building that can be seen today had a role to protect the town entrance.

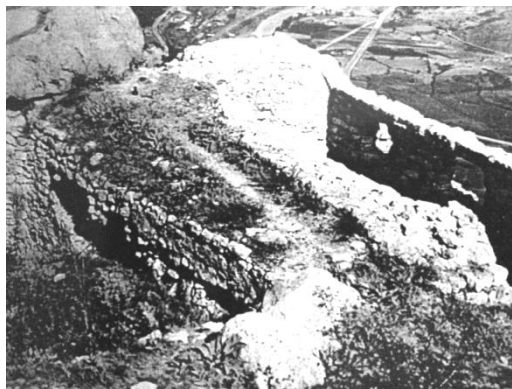


Fig. 12 Two buildings in northern part of citadel that most probably served as water cisterns¹²

¹¹ Source: Златковић М.(2007), *Стари град Звечан*, Грамис, Рашка, стр.69

The physical structure of the town cannot be taken as a constructed world of crystals, dead world of shapes, empty shell or composition model. It is a living moving lee of the human existence. The town is not a goal or finiteness by itself, but it is a means in social community service and the characteristic of urban phenomenon is in that the town functions are clearly expressed in its constructed forms (Radović, 2003). Numerous analyses of archeologists state that the physical structure of the fortress of Zvečan is of a free form and that it was developed freely and spontaneously. Already cited Eliel Saarinen, nostalgically speaks about physical structures of medieval towns that were not planned in a manner that planning and urban projecting is seen today, in the sense of three-dimensional structures. Forms of physical structures of Zvečan show all the value of direct spatial expression of content and functional features of urban form.

5. CONCEPT OF MEDIEVAL DESIGNING AND CONSTRUCTION OF ZVEČAN

Medieval design of Zvečan primarily referred to spatial concept of the fortification, conditioned by life circumstances of the time. According to Ranko Radovic, non-planned, spontaneous forms of towns and physical structures are most frequently a direct reflection of the living processes, direct construction enterprise for the environment to be formed according to variable interests of human community (2003). Zvečan had a closed concept of space primarily due to safety and intimate closeness of that limited space. It had its own design and expressive order. The fact itself is a sufficient reason for this town to be considered pretty good example of construction sensitivity and spirit in which towns and cities should be raised, and not make them cold banal products such as the towns are today. Medieval constructors have reached a genuine architectural atmosphere of satisfaction in their town (Saarinen, 1972). By reconstruction of the image of Zvečan fortification in my imagination, I reach the conclusion that its interior offered a shelter and safety to its citizens by its closeness and good organization and security.

Conception of space is closely related to life circumstances, which leads us to the conclusion that different ages and races had their own specific concepts of space. Today, it is strived towards openness and unlimited distances, while the mind of middle ages strived towards intimate closeness of a limited space. Rooms of the buildings in middle ages had poor light and ventilation in narrow streets, which does not comply with today's concept of the town.

Archeological studies of 1958 enabled the architectural recording and study of the most important remains of fortification, church and other buildings remains, which created a reliable basis for further detailed studies.

Constructors of the time erected their buildings in order to meet spatial demands both from the outside and the inside. Each building fitted into the fortification complex as a kind of a small rock in a mosaic. Protective walls were made of massive stone and main supports were natural rocks because of which they remained preserved until today (Figure 13). Towers, and buildings in the uptown were made of finely dressed stone, nicely finished and pointed (Deroko 1934).

¹² Source: Златковић М.(2007), *Стари град Звечан*, Грамис, Рашка, стр.65



Fig. 13 Wall surface of the citadel's bastion on south-east part and remains of suburb walls¹³

In almost all buildings there are still oak beams that served as scaffolding or for connecting instead of today's concrete beams (Figure14). Design of buildings was in accordance with medieval circumstances and local life circumstances and materials that existed nearby.

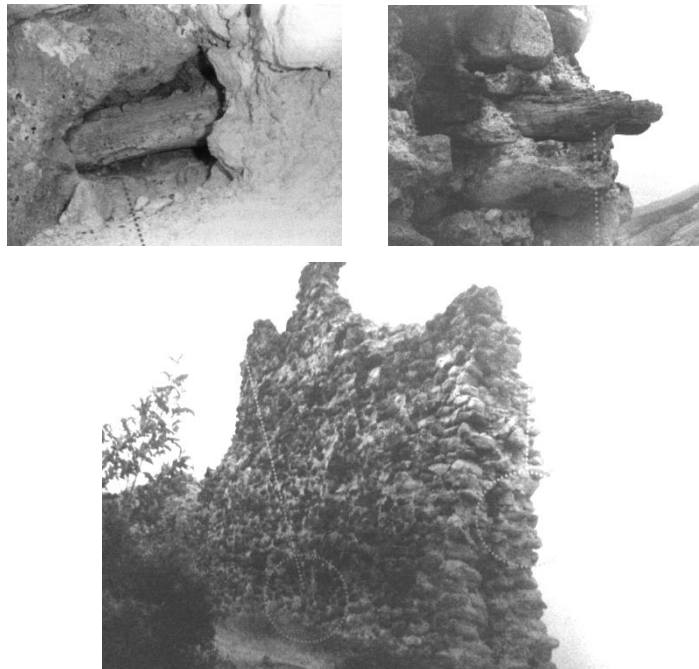


Fig. 14 A record of Downtown west wall remains where one can see oak beams¹⁴

Medieval towns, including Zvecan, lacked the most elementary sanitary devices. Medieval street system (paths and extensions) in Zvecan is not particularly familiar, but it is believed

¹³ Source: Златковић М.(2007), *Стари град Звечан*, Грамис, Рашка, стр.66

¹⁴ Source: Златковић М.(2007), *Стари град Звечан*, Грамис, Рашка, стр.48

that street networks in medieval towns are mostly confusing. Generally known fact for medieval towns is that street system is familiar only to the citizens of the town and that foreigners have trouble to manage in it. They have rarely visited the towns and if they did, it was obviously that they did this with hostile intentions. Medieval ages were cruel and full of danger of frequent enemy intrusions, streets of the town were a battle field, full of attacks and counterattacks. For this reason, street networks were made to confuse, i.e. preserve and protect.

6. MEDIEVAL INSTINCT FOR CORRELATION OF FORMS IN THE TOWN AND BETWEEN THE TOWN OF ZVECAN AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Medieval town of Zvecan with its physical structure and its mutual correlation of forms as an artificial phenomenon in natural environment forms one comprehensive totality, *a place* that is in harmony with local circumstances has a special identity.

The instinct for correlation was a natural gift that made a genius of the profession from the constructor in middle ages. He instinctively felt as the towns cannot successfully be built of any number of lovely buildings except if those buildings are not mutually connected, in a proper relationship between themselves, just like in nature some landscape can be rather beautiful only because of the trees, bushes and plants as extraordinary samples, if individual and collective parts are not mutually harmonized in their beauty (Sarinen, 1972).

In middle ages, a proper mutual relationship of architectural shapes was instinctively accomplished. This proper mutual relationship was also a part of medieval town, in the same way as the relations of landscapes in the nature. Human creative instinct of the time was inspired by the same direction of correlation that exists in nature and thus medieval towns with a lot of examples of architectural forms correlation excite us.

Since middle ages until today, the instinct for correlation has become stronger and faded away. Many people today believe that the town is "beautiful" if there are a lot of interesting facilities in it. Beauty of the town from any time period reflects in a kind of relationship that those architectural forms mutually have and the kind of correlation they have with the environment. Idea and style of unity are required for acquiring real correlation of forms when developing and building the towns.

Visiting medieval fortress of Zvecan, as well as observing the photos of existing condition, there is a moment when you can observe the cooperation between man and nature. The medieval constructor of Zvecan includes in himself the tendency towards form correlation not only for architectural shapes, but also according to forms in nature. Natural beauty and selection of the terrain for placement and building of this town was a decisive factor in manner of planning so that the town could be placed into its real environment.

Construction of towns in medieval times appeared to be rather diverse in many forms, their correlation and conception in space. Medieval towns discover a certain general tendency of mass correlation, formation of squares and streets. This tendency can be observed in basic idea of forming the town of Zvecan. It was manifested in clear guidelines of development towards organic correlation, both the whole and peculiarities.

It is assumed that this organic correlation has originated from instinctive sensitivity of constructors and it could not be favored by later generations as a theoretic formula for practical use. Mostly preserved medieval towns in which it exists today, emit the spirit and harmony, unlike the majority of newly-constructed towns that are unpleasant both physically and spiritually.

Camillo Sitte, Viennese architect dealt with the principles of constructing classical and medieval towns with the aim to discover the mechanism of fundamental laws from the construction of these towns. Its manner of research as such was different from usual approach to things. Sitte was explicit in relationship between man's architecture and nature's architecture and his first remarks referred to ancient Greek and Italian landscapes where the towns were placed and erected so that they could breathe in the same beauty of the landscape. The towns should inspire man's sense in the way he is inspired by the acts from the nature. He studied artistic quality of towns construction because at that time they were erected exclusively to provide protection and safety to their citizens. In his research, he found three principles in the examples of other towns, which can also be applied to medieval town of Zvečan which is the subject of this paper. Sitte stressed informal nature of the classical and medieval construction of towns. He stressed the coherent mechanism of towns that was reached by proper correlation of the construction units. And the third, he stressed that formation of squares and streets in the town is classified among organic closed spaces.

7. COMPARISON OF THE TOWN OF ZVEČAN AND MEDIEVAL TOWNS IN THE REGION AND WIDER

A great part of our medieval history is related to old cities. Today in Serbia there are remains of about 30 medieval towns and fortifications. According to Aleksandar Deroko, in the aspect of system and shape they were all similar, because they were exposed to attacks by the same weapons and they also had available the same cold weapons for defense. All those means and such manner of struggle conditioned, on one hand, the position of medieval town, and on the other hand, its form and appearance. Serbia has both mountains and plains. In the mountain, the towns were placed on the most hardly accessible rocks and cliffs so that the attacker would have trouble to climb and those military machines would have trouble throwing rocks upwards. The unfavorable aspect of such positions was lack of water in those terrains. Similar to Zvečan is Maglic. Maglic is on the right bank of the Ibar River, about 16km south from Kraljevo. It is set on a narrow plateau of the rocky cliff that dominates the environment.

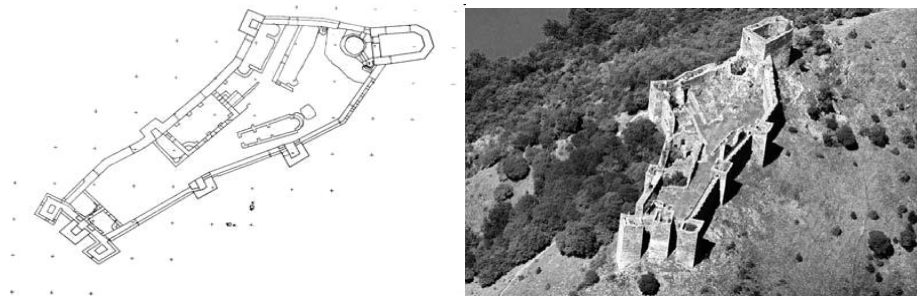


Fig. 15 Medieval town of Maglic, (base of the fortress and top view)¹⁵

¹⁵ Source: http://www.vggs.rs/gradjevinski_odsek/predmeti_ispiti/urbanizam1/predavanje_13-14/urb1-5_kratka_istorija_grada3 Retrieved April 13, 2015

Maglic was probably erected in XII century, the same as Zvečan. The base of the fortress is in the shape of elongated polygon (Figure15). From three sides it is encircled by the river and on the east side, through the rock, there was a trench. The fortification has seven mass towers and donjon tower that was the residence of the master. Massive walls, 2 meters thick, with strong towers make a unique defensive system, which protected the access to Ibar gorge. At the top of the bastion, there were enclosed tracks for walking. Maglic was a significant stronghold for the defense of Zica and Studenica monasteries.

The same as Zvečan and Maglic, Golubac is also a monumental fortress at the right bank of Danube, at the entrance to the Djerdap gorge (Figure16). It is not known who and when erected it, but it was mentioned for the first time in 1335. In addition to the fact that it was erected on a high rock, on steep cliffs, it changed its masters many times. It was a part of prince Lazar's country (although according to some sources Serbia owned only the surroundings of the town), and after the Battle of Kosovo it was first occupied by the Turks and then by the Hungarians. In 1403 they gave it to despot Stefan and the contract provided for it to be returned to the Hungarians after the despot's death (1423), together with Belgrade. However, for unknown reasons, the town was handed over to the Turks. Since then, until 1867, the town of Golubac was mostly in their possession.

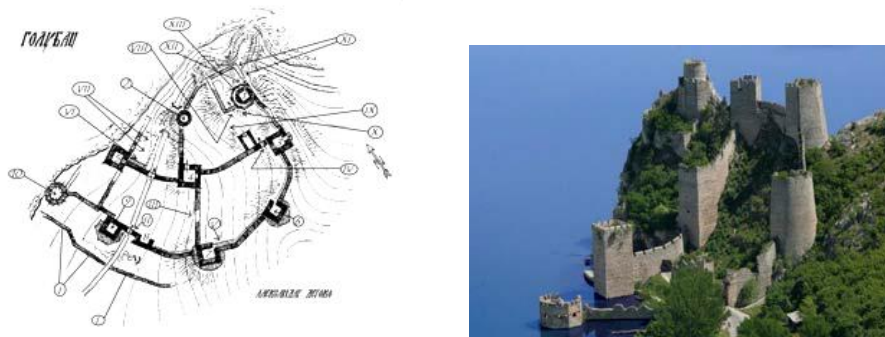


Fig. 16 Medieval town of Golubac, (layout of the fortress and top view) ¹⁶

By comparison of position, spatial dimensions and fortification floor plan, as well as their development through history, medieval towns in Serbia mostly had an informal concept with identical physical structure and proper correlation of relations between buildings.

Medieval towns in Europe were built in the spirit of proper correlation and their buildings were grouped in many ways among which we cannot find two that are the same. Before the beginning of formal construction of medieval towns, there were no stereotype formulas that could prevent creative freedom in construction of spatial plans of towns. Each development of the town came from local circumstances and psychology of its population. The example of Acropolis can show us the law of creative expression which featured the freedom of creation.

¹⁶ Source: http://www.vggs.rs/gradjevinski_odsek/predmeti_ispiti/urbanizam1/predavanje_13-14/urb1-5_kratka_istorija_grada3 Retrieved mart 6, 2015

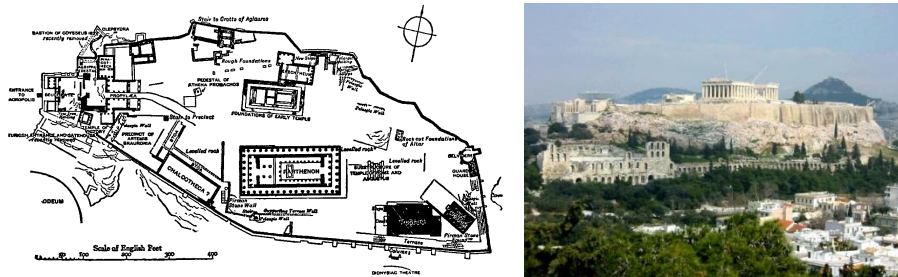


Fig. 17 Acropolis – Athens (base, appearance)¹⁷

Within Acropolis, there are four main buildings: Propylaea, Parthenon, Erechtheon and Palade Athens statue. All these four buildings were constructed in the period of Pericle, for a rather short time and historically speaking, not one of these buildings had such a formal relation with other buildings. In this case, regardless of the Greek creative perfection, where formality was considered a virtue of planning, you can feel instinctive creative expression. Similarity with medieval towns in Serbia is obvious.

8. CONCLUSION

The town of Zvečan in all architectural contents represents a genuine creation – phenomenon from medieval century and it is the expression of its time and people. In other words, each building was designed according to expression principle, which demanded freedom in creation and could not as such be chained by sterile formality doctrine.

This medieval town as a whole was the expression of middle ages' features in their spatial organization with own individuality where correlation of shapes in the town, as well as town and nature was an imperative of fundamental principles. Zvečan was raised from contemporary circumstances and needs of the time.

As for the spatial moment, we must understand in the same organic manner the construction of building and rooms in it, which clearly shows the architectural problem and it is accessed in that manner, by the architectural principle of organic order.

Principles of building medieval town Zvečan are constituent, inherent part of the nature of things, they are inherent to the very nature of things and can serve as the guide in town construction rules, both today and in the future.

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¹⁷ Source: <https://www.google.rs/search?q=akropolj+atina+plan+ilustration&rlz=1C1PRFC> Retrieved may18, 2015

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SREDNJOVEKOVNI GRAD – TVRĐAVA ZVEČAN

U ovom radu se obrađuje fenomen srednjovekovni grad – tvrđava Zvečan kroz razmatranje pitanja (1) plana grada i prostorne organizacije u njemu, (2) šta čini njegovu fizičku strukturu, (3) koncepcije srednjovekovnog dizajniranja i izgradnje Zvečana, (4) srednjovekovnog instikta za korelaciju oblika u gradu i grada Zvečana i njegove okoline. Ovaj srednjovekovni grad kao celina bio je izraz osobina srednjeg veka u svojoj prostornoj organizaciji sa vlastitom individualnošću. Zvečan je iznikao iz ondašnjih savremenih prilika i potreba. U ovom istraživanju napori su usmereni ka pronalaženju principa izgradnje srednjovekovnog grada Zvečana koji su sastavni , inherentni deo prirode stvari od pamtiveka i koji vrede pod svim vremenskim i prostornim okolnostima izgradnje gradova uopšte.

Ključne reči: *Zvečan, srednji vek, grad, prostorna organizacija, fizička struktura, korelacija, principi.*