Great Hammām, Priština

The hammām is located north west of the Mehmet II al-Fāṭih Mosque and is an essential part of the ensemble built around the mosque. It was probably built in the 16th century.

The space between the mosque and the Hammām is a popular meeting place for elderly men in spring and summer.

Description

There are encroachments on the site by a modern building, which had closed the original entrance.

The hammām has been out of use for some time and is in a very dilapidated state. The actual entrance to the building is through the heated hall.

Function and form of the Hammām:

The use of the hammāms in the performance of the major ablution explains why it has always been considered as one of the essential amenities of a Muslim city, gradually assimilated as a sort of annex to the mosque, while the social life of the whole quarter revolved around it. Muslims went to the hammām for relaxation, following established rules laws of hygiene.

The layout of a classical hammām finds its origin in the Roman apodyterium, the frigidarium, the tepidarium and the calidarium.

Present condition

The walls are built of semi-dressed stone covered with plaster inside and outside. The stone appears deteriorated and disintegrated. Plaster exists only in a very few areas and is largely detached.
Rainwater infiltration and plant roots are largely spread, and the mortar joints are empty. New constructions surround the hammām built with brick, cement mortar and R.C. salt efflorescence area have checked in many places.

The building requires an architectural documentation, structural assessment, and then a diagnostic study.

**Estimated costs**

A cost estimate for rehabilitation is very difficult to make without a complete architectural documentation, structural assessment and a diagnostic study; it may be about € 500,000.
Sinan Pasha Mosque, Prizren

The native Albanian vizier from Prizren founded this great mosque either in 1009H./1600 A.D. or 1016H./1608 A.D.

Description

The mosque stands on a high level overlooking the main street in the historic city. It became with its huge dome and elegant minaret one of the dominant architectural features of Prizren. A medrese once belonged to it.

The mosque has a square plan about 14 x 14m covered by a dome with a projecting mihrāb area 4.1 x 4.5m covered by a half dome. The dome is resting on the walls; wall thickness is 1.65 m.

Ayverdi - Ottoman Architectural Works in Europe, 1981
The transition from the square plan of the praying hall to the circular plan of the dome is formed by squinches in the corner formed by six stalactites rows.

In the 19th century the internal space of the mosque is plastered and decorated with painted landscapes, floral pattern and acanthus motives.

The dome apex is decorated with colored painting in different motives which encircled a Qur‘ân verse (Sure 2, verse 255).

Seven windows in three rows are arranged in each side of the lower cubic structure; two rectangular in first row, three pointed arched windows in the second row and two pointed arched windows in the third one. At the top of the wall, in the transition zone, is a pointed arched window. In the lower zone of the praying hall dome, eight small pointed arched windows are arranged.
The dome, the half dome and the four corners of the cubic structure are covered with lead.

The marble minbar is decorated by painting with floral motives and has a wooden handrail. The deep recessed mihrāb with its engaged half columns has a stalactite hood and also painted. The mihrāb’s spandrels are also decorated with bas-relieved floral motives.

The mosque still preserves its original stone flooring as well as the podium and the carpentry works.

The traditional portico has been demolished in 1939. It consisted of four pillars carrying arches supporting small domes; traces still can be seen in the site.

The elegant minaret is 43.5m high and consists of a high stool; the first high storey ended with a balcony, and a second short storey crowned by the typical conical structure covered by lead. The minaret is plastered from outside since some years ago.

**Present condition**

Due to rain water infiltration through the roof of the praying hall and the mihrāb area, plaster has detached, fallen down, and some original painting has been lost. Wall plaster has detached too, making visible the wall construction in brick and dressed stone alternately. In some places rubble stones can be noticed. Stones of the facades have suffered from physical and chemical weathering.

**Recommended measures**

The porch could be reconstructed according to old photos and the traces of the domes, as well as the remaining parts of the porch pillars. The new plaster on the minaret surface should be removed. Internal painted plaster should be consolidated.

The building should be well documented before beginning any restoration and conservation works.

**Estimated costs**

Architectural documentation, structure assessment, diagnostic study and conservation work: € 293.000
Sinan Pasha Mosque, North West façade (2003)

Sinan Pasha Mosque, South East façade (2003)


Sinan Pasha Mosque, Upper window detail, reused stone from a Church pillar (2003)
Sinan Pasha Mosque, coloured painted spandrels
*Muhamed Shukriu Prizren I Lashtë, Prizren 2001*

Sinan Pasha Mosque
*Muhamed Shukriu Prizren I Lashtë, Prizren 2001*
Sinan Pasha Mosque, Mihrāb details
(2003)

Sinan Pasha Mosque, Mihrāb hood
Muhamed Shukriu Prizren I Lashtë, Prizren 2001

Sinan Pasha Mosque, Minbar
Muhamed Shukriu Prizren I Lashtë, Prizren 2001
Sinan Pasha Mosque – podium, 2000
*Architectural and Urban Heritage Prizren, KOSOVO, 2001*

Sinan Pasha Mosque, Podium with floral decorations (2003)
Column details
Muhamed Shukriu Prizren I Lashtë, Prizren 2001
Hammām Mehmet Pasha (The Great Hammām), Prizren

The bath was founded by Gazi Mehmet Pasha, the Sanjak Bey of Iskenderiya / Shkoder probably in 1573-4 A.D. together with the distinguished architectural ensemble which includes a large domed mosque that later became known as the Bayrakli mosque, a high school (medrese), a primary school (maktab), a library and a mausoleum (türbe) for the founder.

All these buildings still exist today. The hammām is about 150m away from the mosque.

According to the historic inscription plate above one of the two entrances, the building is restored in 1249H./1833-4 A.D.

The text of the inscription reads:

1- The restoration of this charity was ordered by the Sanjaki, Governor of the city of Prizren.

2- Mahmut Pasha and his brother Amīn Pasha sons of Tāhir Pasha 1249H./1833-4 A.D.

Description

The building is a double bath: one half for men and the other one for women, separated with a special entrance for each. It has the same internal different spaces: area for taking off clothes, warm area, heated area with different small washing rooms.

The heated area has vaults and small domes covered by lead sheets while the undressing area has domes covered by tiles.

The building is constructed from rubble stones and hydraulic lime. The internal wall surfaces are plastered. Nowadays the building is used as a museum.

Recommended measures

The building should be architecturally documented. Dampness caused by rainwater infiltration can be noticed; roof covering should be repaired. Wall joints are empty and need to be repointed. Floorings need repair.

A detailed diagnostic study is needed before reusing the building for its original function if possible; missing elements should be furnished.

Estimated costs

An architectural documentation, structural assessment and a complete diagnostic study must be established before a cost estimate can be proposed.
Architectural and Urban Heritage Prizren, KOSOVO, 2001
Separate entrances for men and women
*Architectural and Urban Heritage Prizren, KOSOVO, 2001*

Men’s section – warm air inlet and basin
*Architectural and Urban Heritage Prizren, KOSOVO, 2001*