



Mapping cultural heritage sights with potential for adaptive re-use: Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina



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[illegible]

1. Former Headquarter of The Yugoslav People's Army Mostar
2. Fire Tower
3. The Old Mostar Railway Station ("Ćiro")
4. Tabhana (Headquarter of Ottoman leather industry)
5. Madrasa (type of religious school or college for the study of the religion of Islam)
6. High School for Music
7. University's Library
8. Partisan Memorial Cemetery
9. Heating plant



Introduction

Many sites in the City of Mostar are seeking for potential adaptation and reconstruction. Main reason for this, underlies in the fact of mass destruction during War in 90's. It was very hard for our team to narrow down the selection out of all mapped sites to only 3.

Hearby we would like to briefly describe some of the sites numerated from 4 to 9.

For example:

Tabhana was built in the mid 16th century. It served as headquarter of leather industry. Nowadays, most of the craft workshops are neglected and out of use. Having in mind that this site is located in the heart of the Old Town in Mostar, we think that it could be used as a place for cultural events (e.g. concerts, art workshops and exhibitions, ..)



University's Library

This site was built in 1901 and initially it was a home of former Mayor Mujaga Komadina. Devastated in the War, it stands proudly in the city's most famous promenade. It's former glory needs to be restored and we propose that it should be used as a Youth Center.



Former Headquarter of The Yugoslav People's Army Mostar

Original purpose of the site:

This site was originally built in 1885 and it served as Headquarter of Austro-Hungarian military officers. Later, in Ex Republic of Yugoslavia, it became Headquarter of The Yugoslav People's Army. During last few decades of Ex Republic, within site was famous restaurant and it was known as a place where many youngsters would gather.



Current use:

Nowadays, this site is partly used for sports and recreational content, but major part of building was devastated during War in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Potential adaptive re-use:

Having in mind site's location (nearby Old Town), this building could be used for various cultural activities (concerts, art exhibitions, ..) as well as for touristic capacities.



Fire Tower

Original purpose of the site:

Austro-Hungarian Empire left behind several buildings in Mostar, which are still among the most important in this city. The Fire Tower, which still looks almost the same today, was built in 1901. The Voluntary Fire Brigade of Mostar celebrated 21 years of work and existence that year. This is the third Bosnian-Herzegovinian fire brigade, still working and existing. The first tower was made of wood and it was located in Biscevica Street. The current tower served its purpose until the beginning of the war.

Current use:

In the premises of the Fire Tower there is still an office and a small classroom for staff training. One part of the site is rented to a bookstore.



Potential adaptive re-use:

Fire Tower could be used as one of the tourist sights in Mostar and Museum of Firefighting.



The Old Mostar Railway Station ("Ćiro")

Original purpose of the site:

The Old Mostar Railway Station ("Ćiro") was built from August 27, 1884 to June 13, 1885, when the 42.4 km long railway section from the Metkovic (Croatia) to Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina) was opened to traffic. The first train on a test run passed on April 12, 1885 from Mostar to the port of Metkovic. The reception building of the Mostar Railway Station housed the railway administration and the railway archive until the beginning of 1992, when the building was set on fire during the war. In the area of the Railway Station, there was a workshop for repairs of locomotives, wagons and combustion plants, as well as a parking place for locomotives. The day when the last "Ćiro" train roared through Mostar was on November 5, 1965.



Current use:

Since 90's, this building is sadly devastated and in no longer of usage.



Potential adaptive re-use:

This site could be transformed into Technical Museum.

Conclusion

It is our obligation to preserve cultural heritage sites because they testify to the values of a certain time-period and they complete our identity. There are many benefits for the local community:

- visual identity of the City would finally meet it's former glory
- growing already existing touristic capacities
- improvement of a citizen's lifestyles through cultural activities
- healthier environment (because re-adaptation would meet all essential environmental standards)



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