

Miroslav Malinović
Arhitektonsko-građevinsko-geodetski fakultet
Univerziteta u Banjoj Luci
*Faculty of Architecture, Civil Engineering
And Geodesy, University of Banja Luka*
E-mail: miroslav.malinovic@aggf.unibl.org

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The architecture of the Franciscan convent and the parish church of Saint John the Baptist in Kraljeva Sutjeska

Summary

The paper conducts an in-depth investigation into the architectural significance of the Franciscan convent and church of Saint John the Baptist in Kraljeva Sutjeska, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The primary objective is to provide comprehensive insights into architectural aspects, including the historical context and current state of this culturally and historically significant site. Notably, this site played a pivotal role within not only the local community but the broader cultural landscape of Bosnia and Herzegovina – sharing the royal seat of the Medieval Bosnian rulers with neighbouring Bobovac and being one of only three Franciscan convents that outlived Great Turkish War (1683-1699).

Over the centuries, the architectural layers of this site have undergone multiple alterations and demolitions, with the earliest documented modifications dating back to the early XIV century. Presently, the complex stands as one of the largest within the OFM Bosna Argentina, comprising a convent building initially finalised in 1892 under the architectural guidance of Johann Holz and a parish church completed in 1908, designed by architect Josip Vancaš. This study is anchored in a multifaceted research approach encompassing the convent's archival records, thoroughly analysing pertinent literature in published sources and meticulous on-site investigations.

The research findings unearth many historical insights, comprehensively understanding the site's evolution and enduring architectural significance. Furthermore, this investigation underscores the challenges of heritage protection and preservation efforts, particularly in the context of a place with such diverse historical and architectural strata. This scientific inquiry contributes to the broader body of knowledge concerning historical and architectural studies while highlighting the pressing need for sustained and vigilant measures to safeguard and preserve this invaluable cultural and architectural heritage for future generations.

Keywords: Kraljeva Sutjeska; Franciscans; architecture; Bosna Argentina; Josip Vancaš.