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Enhancing of Heritage Awareness and
Sustainability of Built Environment in Architectural and Urban Design Higher Education


HERSUS

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## TITLE

Review: Best Practices In Educating Sustainability and Heritage

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HERSUS

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ITALY-IUAV

CYPRUS-UCY

GREECE-AUTH

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sspala
$X$
Vladan Djokić
Aleksandra Milovanović
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## IDENTIFICATION


Information about the location $\times$ Historic centre

Address
X Bulevar Vojvode Bojovića 11000 Belgrade, Serbia

Country/Region
X Serbia / Belgrade Metropolitan Region

Coordinates
(GIS: ETRS89/Google Maps: WGS84)
$\times$ Long $=20.44784020^{\circ}$
Lat $=44.82733520^{\circ}$
City size
$X$ The Capital
Website
X https://kulanebojsa.rs
Accessibility
$\times$ Public building
Public visits
$X$ Yes
Category
X Architectural project
Reuse (adaptive)
Restoration / Reconstruction

Deliberative and participatory planning $\times$ No

Current use
$\times$ Museum and Cultural Center


Figure 1. Location map
Authors of the case study report


Figure 2. Nebojša Tower

Year (period) of the project renovation/ restoration
$\times 2011$
Area of the building $\left(\mathrm{m}^{2}\right)$
X 800m²

## Current owner

$\times$ public: City of Belgrade
Architects
X Dejan Miljković. Jovan Mitrović mr Branko Pavić

## Other designers / engineers

$\times$ Representatives from the Faculty of Architecture - University of Belgrade and Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments of Serbia

## Other agents

$X$ The city of Belgrade, Secretariat for Culture, Republic of Serbia - Ministry of Culture, Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Belgrade, Archaeological Institute, Project for Belgrade Fortress, History Museum of Serbia, Construction Company "KOTO", Nature Protection of Serbia, Institute for Nature Protection, Institute of Water Management "Jaroslav Černi", PE "Zelenilo Belgrade", Public Water Management Company "Srbijavode", Secretariat for Traffic, Traffic Institute CIP, PE Electric power industry of Serbia, "PMC Inženjering d.o.o., LOPICIC \& LOPICIC architectural office

Developer
$\times$ The project was realized with the cofunding of important bodies of the Greek Republic and the Republic of Serbia and it was carried out under the responsibility of the European Centre for Byzantine and Post Byzantine Monuments, and the city of Belgrade.

Building contractor
$X$ Supervision: Public Body "Belgrade Fortress, consultants: Alpha MENTOR Ltd.
Cost of the project/execution time X 2.694.193,93€ (2007-2011, second phase not completed)

Previous studies (Ex. Archaeological, historical, structural, materials, etc.)
$\times$ Archaeological excavations, restoration, and conservation projects

## KEY FEATURES

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## Remarkable attributes/ <br> Singularities/Specific Values

- strategically important position and relation to the historical monument of the Belgrade Fortress
- a significant monument and witness of history, both in cultural (multicultural) and archeological manner
- authentic built structure and typology


## Scope of application/necessity of the project:

- Conservation-restoration works and construction of new parts in order to provide conditions for accommodation of visitors
- Landscape design of the environment
- Development of infrastructure for a permanent exhibition in the Tower


# HISTORY OF THE BUILDING/SITE <br> /////////////////////////////////////////// 

Original use
$\times$ Military

## HISTORIC USES

The Nebojša Tower (Tower) is a part of a wider monumental complex - the Belgrade Fortress - built on the strategically important position on the confluence of European rivers Sava and Danube in Belgrade city which represents a unique museum of Belgrade's past. The Tower is one of the few better preserved medieval buildings within Belgrade Fortress. It was built in 1456 within the framework of extensive fortifications construction, which was undertaken to rebuild the destroyed and damaged city fortifications. It belongs to the oldest type of early artillery cannon towers which represents a significant architectural and construction achievement of that period on the territory of the city of Belgrade. It was built for the purpose of the city defense and, in a broader sense, was part of the defense system - the wall of Christianity which successfully stopped Osman empire incursions towards the center of Europe for decades. Centuries later, when it lost its former military significance, it was turned into a dungeon.

## CONSTRUCTION PERIOD

Initially built in 1456 (destroyed and rebuilt several times throughout history 1521,1690 , 1717-1739, 1960-1961)

## SUMMARY OF MAJOR FUNCTIONAL AND STRUCTURAL CHANGES / YEAR OF INTERVENTION

Activities on the restoration of the Tower began in June 2009 including: (1) Conservation and restoration activities and construction of new infrastructure in order to provide conditions for accommodation of visitors, (2) landscaping for visitors'
access, (3) development of infrastructure for a permanent exhibition in Tower, and (4) preparation of full information material for the Tower promotion as a new center of cultural tourism in the wider Balkans.

## ARCHITECTS / AGENTS

Anonym

## PHYSICAL CONDITION BEFORE RESTORATION / RENOVATION

Although the Tower was destroyed and reconstructed throughout history, it was in well-preserved physical condition before restoration, with smaller cracks at the exteriror level and severe mechanical damages and material obsolescence at the interior level. The adjoining Riverside rampart and Fortress Water Gate were physically endangered and exposed to flooding and sloughing.


Figure 3. Nebojša Tower before the interventions https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=730518

## STATUS OF PROTECTION

The Belgrade Fortress has been listed for the first time in 1946 (Decision no. 1108), under the jurisdiction of the Department for the Protection of Cultural Monuments of the National Republic of Serbia which was a part of the Art Museum. The next decision has been provided by the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments of the City of Belgrade in 1965 (Decision no. 290/4), while the highest level of protection was declared in 1979 when the Belgrade Fortress became cultural monument of outstanding value at the national level (Official Gazette of Republic of Serbia, no. 17/79).


Figure 4. Surway drawings
Based on Popović, M. (2007)

## GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING BEFORE ITS RENOVATION/ RESTORATION

The previous conservational and archaeological research [1-2] allowed insight into Tower original appearance ( 25 m heigh, a regular eight-angular bases with a diameter of about 8.5 m , wall thickness 2.90-3 m). The outer envelope was built of relatively regular carvings of locally available soft limestone. The Tower interior walls were built of broken, hewn stone with brick fragments, while their face was drawn. The Tower foundation is based on a massive compact square slab ( $14.50 \times 14.50 \mathrm{~m}$, about 2 m thick). The Tower was divided by wooden mezzanine structures including ground floor and four additional floors (or probably originally five). The floor height was $4-4.30 \mathrm{~m}$. The Tower belongs to the oldest type of early artillery high towers.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

## ||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||

## DESIGN PROJECT IDEA FOR THE RENOVATION / RESTORATION

The project aimed to include the monumental heritage into contemporary living, which means not only the restoration of the monuments themselves but also the adaptive reuse through introduction of new contents that are appropriate to the significance of the Belgrade Fortress.

The initial design goals were [3]: (1) preservation of an abandoned Tower and partially destroyed Tower complex in the historical center of Belgrade, at the Belgrade Fortress, (2) prevention of even more serious damage of this important medieval building, and (3) setting up adequate space for a memorial to the Greek patriot Riga of Fere.
The restoration was carried out through three design perspectives: (1) to provide a logical connection of the Tower with
the immediate environment and give an access plateau in order to attract visitors, (2) to provide technical and technological conditions for the building to be resilient to external influencing factors, and (3) to reuse the Tower and to design extension in the form of a multifunctional hall, envisioned as a new functional benchmark on the city map. The restoration and adaptive reuse of the Tower complex meant primarily securing the physical structure stability protecting it from the external influencing factors, and reprogramming the space into a spatial framework for organizing different cultural programs and projects.

According to the initial plan for the project realization, in addition to the restoration and adaptive reuse of the Tower, the formation of the extension of the Tower within Riverside rampart was also planned, in two phases. At the first phase, the design envisioned additional content indispensable for the functioning of the Tower: entrance hall, information point, visitors wardrobe and sanitary block (cca. $150 \mathrm{~m}^{2}$ ). The second phase aw the formation of the Riverside rampart's interior with temporary exhibition space and event hal (cca. $650 \mathrm{~m}^{2}$ ). However, up to date, only the first phase of the Tower extension has been realized.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE CHANGES AND ADDITIONS

Restoration (spatial rehabilitation) and adaptive reuse (functional reprogramming) of the Tower were carried out according to the previously stated design perspectives both on the urban and architectural level. The explanation of the suggested changes and additions will be presented only about the built phase of the project.

Urban level - Restoration and extension of Nebojša Tower towards reconnecting it in an overall urban silhouettes of the Belgrade Fortress.

Within the initial stage of the design process, the authors of the project recognized that it is necessary to provide an access plateau and an entrance hall with an information desk for entering into the museum exhibition space in order to provide effectiveness in the future functioning of the Tower. The restoration of the entrance hall was planned for the section of the Riverside rampart immediately next to the Tower. By testing different solutions based primarily on the technical and technological aspects, it was recognized that it is impossible to provide the rampart's stability and enable access to the Tower by partial reconstruction.


Figure 5. Sections before and after the interventions. https://dejanmiljkovic.rs/sr/

Accordingly, the removal of the entire soil fill between the walls of the rampart was realized. In this way, construction of a continual river channel made of impervious concrete has been realized, which has been contributed to neutralizing the external negative factors, stabilizing the walls of the Riverside rampart, and forming a new space for the purpose of the multifunctional hall. The construction of the multifunctional entrance hall enabled a direct link to the Tower. The general design approach was based on an intention to preserve the authentic appearance of the Tower and rampart in a comprehensive silhouette of Belgrade Fortress. In that sense, the intervention in the form of longitudinal lanterns based on mimicry was implemented on the roof of the multifunctional hall that enabled natural insolation and airing of the interior.Architectural level - Adaptive reuse of Tower as a new city exhibition space The space of the Tower in those spatial contours and capacities that have been inherited throughout history has been functionally converted into an exhibition space. Exhibitions are organized on four levels with several themes: History of Tower, Riga of Fere Memorial, First Serbian Uprising, and Serbia and Greece as newly liberated European countries. In the architectural programming of the exhibition concept, the authors proposed the construction of four platforms connected by a staircase. Design of space and construction solution treated the space of the Tower as a monument of extraordinary cultural and historical importance and in accordance with the conditions of conservation.

## BUILDING MATERIALS

The general idea was to use concrete and glass, as materials whose neutrality will least endanger the authentic elements of the Tower and Riverside rampart both in color and in texture. A concrete-steel structure was built inside the Riverside rampart and a concrete slab was poured below the floor level inside the Tower. The levels of the floors on the steel structure were reinstalled in the Tower, and a new staircase was designed. Underfloor heating has been
installed on the ground floor of the building, enabling the use of the building throughout the year. A steel ship door was installed at the building entrance in a new concrete structure, which should provide its complete protection in case of large flood waters.



Figure 6. Plan Tower complex with entrance zone, multifunctional hall and exhibition space in Tower. https://dejanmiljkovic.rs/sr/


Figure 7. Interior of the Enterence Hall and Exhibition Tower. Authors of the case study


Figure 8. Interior of the Enterence Hall and Exhibition Tower. Authors of the case study

## PROJECT IN RELATION TO THE SUSTAINABILITY

Social aspect:
It is particularly important to single out the program aspect of the solution to reuse space in its original capacities and spatial frameworks and its conversion into a public function, which enriches the cultural offer at the city level without the construction of new facilities.

Economic aspect:
It is worth mentioning that the project was financed from various funds from different countries. However, the various sociopolitical contextual factors affected the realization of the second phase.

Environmental aspect:
The use of in-situ materials such as stone and brick and its coherent combination with contemporary materials such as concrete
and glass have enabled the optimization of environmental impacts of building materials, but also contributed to the positive aspects when it comes to the energy efficiency of building in terms of insulation, insolation, and ventilation of building. One of the project's leading challenges is its resilience in relation to possible flooding, which was achieved by building a specific system of funding and a specific solution of the entrance zone.

## SPECIAL METHODS OR TECHNIQUES USED IN THE PROJECT WHICH REFLECT THE SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

Institutional aspect - the cooperation of professionals in different domains (architectural design, structural engineering, archaeology, restoration, protection of monuments and history) is positively evaluated as well as the cooperation of public and private sector, which contributed to the integral perception of problems and potentials in the design process and realization of the final design. Technical-technological aspect - intensive conservation-restoration activities have enabled maximum preservation of the existing condition, as well as the implementation of authentic materials and their combination with modern materials that contribute to the energy efficiency of the building.

DIGITAL DATA EMPLOYED FOR THE DOCUMENTATION (3D SCANNING, PHOTOGRAMMETRY, ETC.)
$\times \mathrm{N} / \mathrm{A}$

TOOLS/TECHNOLOGIES USED FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW USE
$\times \mathrm{N} / \mathrm{A}$


Figure 9. Guest lectures in organization of UB-FA Authors of the case study

## DISSEMINATION / PROMOTION ACTIVITIES (WORKSHOPS, CONGRESS, PUBLICATIONS, PRIZES)

Nominations:
2013 Nomination for the European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture - Mies van der Rohe Award, authors Miljković, D., Mitrović, J., Pavić, B.
Awards:
2012. Grand Prix for the constructed building (Kula Nebojša at the Belgrade Fortress, Belgrade) at the XXXIV Salon of Architecture in Belgrade, authors Miljković, D., Mitrović, J., Pavić, B.
2011. Award of the Society of Belgrade Architects for the Architectural Event of the Year (Nebojsa Tower at the Belgrade Fortress, Belgrade) authors Miljković, D., Mitrović, J., Pavić, B.

## REFERENCES

[1] Popović, M. (2007). Kula Nebojša da delom priobalnog bedema i vodenom kapijom II. Nasleđe 8: 9-28.
[2] Marijanović Vujović, G. (1970). Pristaništa Beogradskog grada. Saopštenja Zavoda za zaštitu spomenika kulture grada Beograda 11: 22-25.
[3] Lučić Todosić, I. (2020). Proizvodnja zajedničkog kulturnog nasleđa: Kula Nebojša. Beograd - novi simboli u srednjovekovnoj kuli. Anthropology Magazine 20 (1): 299-318.

ACADEMIC WORKS / STUDENTS RELATED PROJECTS / PUBLICATIONS

# OTHER SIMILAR PROJECTS AS A REFERENCE 

Gianluca Gelmini's Attentive Restoration of the Medieval Torre Del Borgo
Via Vittorio Villa, 24040 Canonica d'Adda BG, Italy
Completed in 2015

## REFERENCE TO WORLDWIDE EXAMPLES

A parallel can be made in the approach to allocate public funds to restore and reuse the desolated medieval building and to engage native architects for the renovation and extension. Additionally, regarding materialization, both architects decided no to compete with the original structure, but to implement necessary conservation works on stability carefully, upgrade infrastructure and use contemporary materials as a method for preserving the structural and visual integrity of the original buildings and walls. Last, but not least, both projects introduce new uses (museum and cultural centre, and public library) with rich public space, hence, providing visitors a unique experience of the historical times and events.

For more information visit
httos://projects.archiexpo.com/project-27637.htm

