

**TRADICIJSKO GRADITELJSTVO OTOKA HVARA – NASELJA I ARHITEKTURA
SREDIŠNJEG DIJELA OTOKA**

**VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE OF ISLAND HVAR – SETTLEMENTS AND
ARCHITECTURE OF CENTRAL PART OF ISLAND**

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CONTENTS

1. PROSLOV
2. UVOD
 - 2.1. Jadranski otoci – bogato naslijeđe tradicijskog graditeljstva
 - 2.2. Iskustva suvremene zaštite ruralnog graditeljstva u Europi
 - 2.3. Zaštita ruralnog graditeljstva u Hrvatskoj
 - 2.4. Zaštita sela otoka Hvara
 - 2.5. Otok Hvar u prostornim i urbanističkim planovima
 - 2.6. Prirodni uvjeti otoka Hvara
 - 2.7. Povijesni razvoj otoka Hvara
 - 2.8. Pučanstvo središnjeg dijela otoka Hvara
3. GRADITELJSTVO SREDIŠNJEG DIJELA OTOKA HVARA
 - 3.1. Razvoj i izgradnja središnjeg dijela otoka Hvara
 - 3.2. Grad Galešnik
 - 3.3. Razvoj naselja
 - 3.4. Položaj naselja
 - 3.5. Oblik naselja
 - 3.6. Prometnice – ceste i putovi
 - 3.7. Kretanje obitelji
 - 3.8. Sadržaji naselja
 - 3.9. Stambeno-gospodarske cjeline
 - 3.10. Opskrba vodom
 - 3.11. Trgovi
4. NASELJA SREDIŠNJEG DIJELA OTOKA HVARA
 - 4.1. Jelsa
 - 4.2. Vrisnik
 - 4.3. Pitve
 - 4.4. Vrh
 - 4.5. Humac
 - 4.6. Dolac
 - 4.7. Vela Prapatna
 - 4.8. Mala Prapatna
 - 4.9. Zavala
 - 4.10. Gromin Dolac
5. ZAKLJUČAK
6. ZAGLAVAK
7. BILJEŠKE
8. LITERATURA
9. SUMMARY
10. BILJEŠKA O AUTORICI

SUMMARY

The area of the Adriatic island of Hvar in Croatia, privileged by being detached, makes it possible to consider the continuous activity of man from prehistory till today. The examined area of the island – the central part of it – has offered its prehistoric inhabitants shelter in caves located on the mountain slopes. Antiquity, coming by the sea, organized areas in bays and along borders of nearby fertile fields. Middle Ages, time of insecurity, demanded places of defence and shelter, and so made the inhabitants to move inland. They returned to the land along sea-side only in the 19th and 20th century.

This analysis of the building continuity in the central part of the island of Hvar represents the analysis of specific geographic unit inhabited since Neolithic. This is a research into the building continuity, the rhythm of inhabiting, the building structure and morphogenesis, with the aim to examine each inhabited segment of the central part of island.

Architecture has always been the art for the benefit of one's intention. The purposefulness of building interventions is researched from the range of habitations, shelters to the landscape organization and communication for the sake of production. We have to pay attention to the creativity of man in vernacular building. Examining the entire logics of the development of building bring to the elements which should be fixed: the occupation and organisation of the area.

The space of Croatia in its heterogeneousness had a common rhythm in researches and in treatments of traditional building activity. During the time the studied space itself changes, goes to ruins and disappears.

This analysis of traditional building activity makes it possible to consider life, work and buildings as they unfold. It would not be possible without an architectural plan of the space under discussion. The architectural value of the vernacular space lies in its local colour. It is indispensable to be inspired with the tradition. In this way we are approaching the way of protection of European rural areas.

All rural and urban settled areas of the island are distinguished by their own natural facilities and inward dislocation and all are predominantly constructed out of local materials. The architecture is characterised by a sense of measure and provide a wonderful example of natural and human coordination. All settled areas are groups which express the social soul of their inhabitants. Therefore there is no conflict between the rural and the urban, each village is a small town and every town is a large village.

The island of Hvar, beside its natural morphological and botanical landscape, which is almost unrivaled in its beauty, has specific antropogenius, agrarian, rural and urban landscape created by generations of people who have lived on the island through centuries.

The central part of the island of Hvar is the place selected for this study because it is substantially and formatively suitable for "in situ" analysis without which this research would not be possible. In the context of settlement exploration the

following themes were analysed: history, development, communications structure, family life, buildings and areas of characteristic and specific purposes.

Archeological findings on the island of Hvar belong to prehistoric times, antiquity and early Middle Ages, covering the chronological period from 3500 BC to 12th Century A.D. On a relatively unapproachable and narrow space the continuity of living and work can be established. The analysed archeological locations are *Grapčeva špilja*, *Tor* and *Galešnik*.

The shepherd settlement VRH is a secondary village, al-dom (the other home – temporarily inhabited) of the village Vrisnik. It is located on an island plain. The village is situated near the junction of the roads of island. It is made up of three separated residential-farmsteads and of two families.

PITVE are a primary village made up of two parts of different date of origin and of interspace with a few public building. GORNJE PITVE is a village of rural character, of an emphasized mimicry with a land. DONJE PITVE is a village with buildings influenced by the town architecture and organised around a hill as a compact, prominent agglomeration.

ZAVALA is one of the village of the south coast of the island. It is partly a primary village (permanently inhabited) and partly a secondary (temporary inhabited) village, an al-dom (the other home) of the village Pitve. Zavala is organised at the end of two transverse north-south roads. The village is organised without a nucleus and with an array of residential-farmsteads. Besides the traditional architecture the village has the tower from the 17th century and a summer house from the 19th century.

GROMIN DOLAC is a secondary (temporary inhabited) village on the south coast of the island. It arose with the development of north agglomeration which gradually expanded towards the sea. The village is organised as an assembly of residential-farmsteads of six families organised in ten different estates. There is a building of a specific purpose, the Machiedo tower. To the east of the village there is a small stone house, an example of vernacular architecture. About 500 m from the harbour of Gromin Dolac is another building of specific purpose, the house Radonić-Budić, a Renaissance farm-house of the 16th century. There is also an area of specific purpose a shepherd settlement MORIČA BAD 300 m away from the sea and 1,5 km from the harbour of Gromin Dolac.

JELSA is a village on the island north coast which was mentioned in the Hvar Statut already at 1331. It is a primary habitation organised around five squares and consists of two basic agglomerations: *Vela Banda* on the south coast and *Mala Banda* on the north coast. The village began to develop in the 15th century and was at its peak of development in the 19th century when the harbour was built. Jelsa is located on a junction of roads of island.

VRISNIK, a primary village, is organised as an urban entity and its population satisfies its needs for life and work in this centre even today. The location of this town is satisfactory in terms of the environment. It is located in an area where there is enough water, rather unusual for an island. For more than two centuries the population of Vrisnik has had a secondary habitations in others parts of island. Vrisnik's secondary habitations: Humac, Vela and Mala Prapatna and Dolac are organised with a lower standard of living and without public facilities.

HUMAC is mentioned in the 17th century as a Vrisnik's colony. In the 19th century it was organised with a few smaller farmsteads. In the 20th century there was a new building activity and a church was built too.

PRAPATNA is a settled area on the territory of archeological finding from antique and of ruins of houses from the 15th and 16th century. Prapatna is constructed out of three autonomous groups of houses: Vela Prapatna on the seashore, Dolac in a nearby fertile valley and Mala Prapatna on the top of a hill above the Vela Prapatna's bay.

The characteristic of the form of the central part of the island Hvar are shown in the following comparative analysis of all villages (Vrh, Pitve, Zavala, Gromin Dolac, Jelsa, Vrisnik, Humac, Mala Prapatna, Vela Prapatna and Dolac): the historical development of the central part of island, the development of villages, the layout of villages, the form of villages, buildings of characteristic and specific purpose and areas of specific purpose.

The urban elementary law is set up on the occupation and the organisation of an area and not on the chronological development of that area. The analysis of the continuity of building bring out the comprehension of the spatial creation in which tradition, experience and spatial possibilities are perfectly connected. The spatial unity of an anthropogenic landscape has persisted till the moment when the continuity was interrupted and experience and tradition has given way to modernity. With the development of a modern technology the sensibility of the restituted relations is tempted for the first time in thousands of years.

The area of island of Hvar is in times of possible great interventions. In those new interventions this analysis would function correctively in the sense of respecting a traditional architecture and of safeguarding tradition in new circumstances of its continuity.

Observation on traditional architecture imposed by literature is full of questions, but it seems that those are a pseudo-question. The answer to the question of the destiny of traditional building activity certainly can not be found in the relation with architecture as such, but in a joint relation with the population. Traditional architecture – invented architecture – will exist as long as the autochthonic population does, and with its decrease, all that will remain will be the scenery.