

DOCUMENTATION AND RESTORATION OF THE OTTOMAN MONUMENTS IN FLORINA

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ABSTRACT

This paper concerns the historical and structural aspects, and the proposed restoration of the three remaining late-ottoman monuments in the town of Florina. These are the ottoman bath, part of a minaret and part of a defensive tower (kule). The presentation includes the historical data, the analysis of the typology and construction of the monuments, the building phases, the determination of their dating, the description of their pathology and, finally, the restoration proposal.

INTRODUCTION

Florina is a town in north-western Greece, which remained under Turkish domination up to the beginning of the 20th century (1912), like most of the areas in Macedonia. At that time, the town had seven mosques, evenly distributed within its fabric, two baths (*hamam*) and two defensive towers (*kule*). The majority of these buildings were demolished in the course of the 20th century. Today, what remains is the ottoman bath, part of a minaret of one of the mosques and part of a defensive tower, which are the object of this paper.

THE OTTOMAN BATH

Historical data

The ottoman bath is situated near the bank of the river Sakoulevas, on the western side of Dikeosinis Square, on Aristotelous Street. According to Evliya Çelembi, who visited Florina in the second half of the 17th century (circa 1661), the town had two baths, one of which was probably byzantine (and is described as a very pleasant and ancient bath, which was constructed before the domination of the town by the Turks). [1] Çelembi, does not mention the second bath, which was built during the Turkish domination and was less important than the Byzantine one. This bath was

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in function until 1958 [2], together with an adjacent, one-storey building of the beginning of the 20th century, which accommodated the changing rooms. During the past 50 years, the adjacent building sustained gradual damages, which lead to its degradation, and its recent (2008) demolition during works performed by the 16th E.B.A.



Figure 1: Ottoman bath. N view



Figure 2: Ottoman bath. W view

Description of the monument

The bath has a central part with rectangular plan (660 x 495 cm), which included the hot space and the boiler. The hot space is covered with a hemispherical dome (external dimensions 345 x 348 cm and total height of 462 cm) constructed with fired-clay bricks, which has 11 lighting openings (two concentric with 5 openings each and one central opening). The dome is supported by four squinches. On three of the walls, there are water sources, whereas on the south-eastern (SE) one, there is a large domed recess, which may have been the original entrance to the bath. Smaller recesses exist also on the NW and NE walls. On the SW wall, which separates the hot space from the boiler, there is a small opening at a height of 127 cm from the ground, which was used for the inspection of the water level. The deposit of the boiler has a rectangular plan (interior dimensions of 106 x 348 cm), sloped roof and reduced height (175 – 200 cm). Beneath the floor of the hot space, there is a hypocaust, while below the boiler, there is a furnace. On the external, SW wall, there was a space from which the furnace was supplied with wood. At the lower part of the wall, a semi-circular, 75-cm high opening leading to the furnace can still be seen.

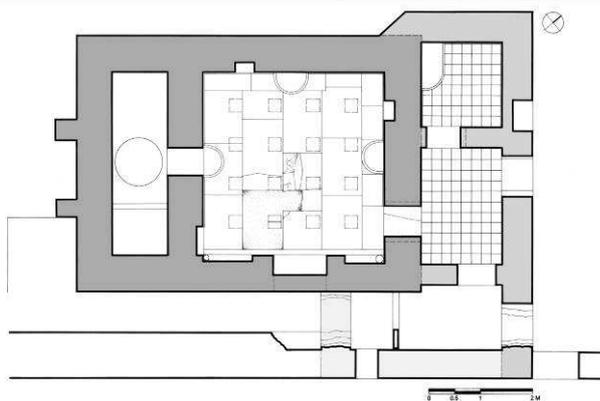


Figure 3: Ottoman bath. Plan

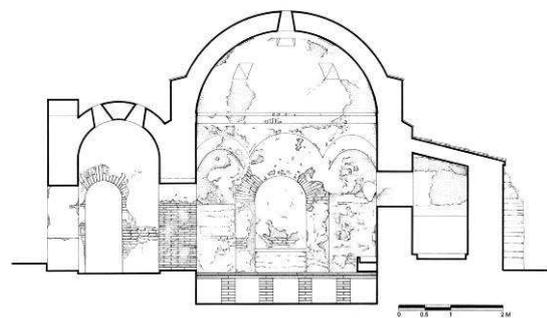


Figure 4: Ottoman bath. Section

On the NE side of the main core, there are two additional spaces, an individual bath (interior dimensions of 150 x 160 cm and maximum height of 284 cm) and an antechamber (interior dimensions of 153 x 220 cm and maximum height of 292 cm) with an arched roof with 3 and 5 lighting openings, respectively. On the east corner, there is another space covered with a more recent flat roof (interior dimensions of 290 x 122 cm and height of 200 cm). Today, the entrance to

the hot space is through the antechamber (NE façade), while there was a second entrance on the east corner, which was built up and today is partially destroyed.

Construction materials and building techniques

The walls of the bath are constructed with local chiselled and field stones, fired-clay bricks and lime mortar. The external side of the walls is constructed with continuous stonework with cut cornerstones, which is discontinued by a thin zone of bricks at a height of 73 to 75 cm from the ground, which conceals hidden timber ties with transversal wooden elements (*klapes*) placed at 73-cm intervals. The internal side of the walls of the hot space, which are exposed to extreme conditions of heat and humidity, is formed with fire-clay bricks up to a height of 120 to 140 cm from the floor. After this height, the construction is formed with stone up to the base of the dome. The SW wall is also characterized by mixed construction, because of the existence of the boiler. The walls of the main core are 72-cm-thick, while in the additional spaces (individual bath and antechamber) the external walls have a thickness of 60 cm and the interior walls of 42 cm.

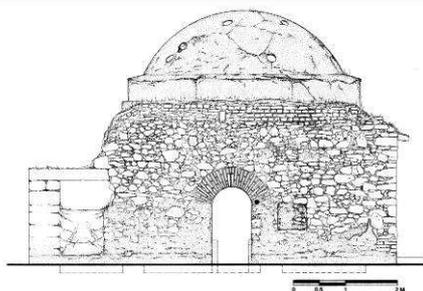


Figure 5: Ottoman bath. NE facade

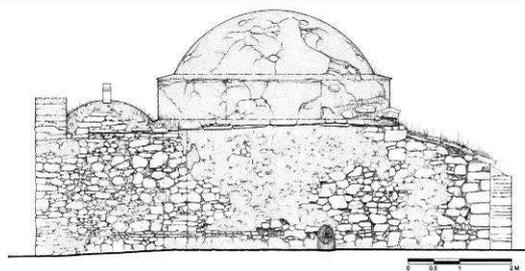


Figure 6: Ottoman bath. NW facade

The dome of the hot space is constructed with fired-clay bricks laid at consequent rings facing one common centre (the centre of the hemisphere) and is typical of the Ottoman period. The construction of the perimeter at the origin of the dome is also achieved with bricks placed vertically. The four squinches, which support the dome, are also made of bricks placed at a radius relative to the centres of the small arches. The domed cover of the additional spaces is also formed with fired-clay bricks, placed concentrically in relation to the tracing centre. The floor of the hot space is formed by 12 large marble slabs, with a mean dimension of 73.5 cm, which are placed over a second layer of slabs that is supported on the sixteen, 25 by 25 cm pillars of the hypocaust. The pillars are placed at regular distances of 48.5 cm (axial distances of 73.5 cm). On the contrary, the floor of the additional spaces is formed with concrete, traced in a way to mimic ceramic tiles with dimensions 19 by 19 cm. The openings (doors) of the bath are arched and formed by fired-clay bricks, while after the addition of the individual bath and the antechamber their width was reduced with the building of an additional layer of bricks, probably to reduce the thermal losses of the hot space. The bath was initially covered with slate, similar to other areas of continental Greece (e.g. Epirus), which today remains visible only on the lower parts of the arched roof because of the later covering with cement mortar. The coverings of the rest of the spaces (boiler, antechamber and individual bath) preserve many of the original slates. Finally, the secondary space at the eastern corner is covered with a reinforced concrete flat roof.

Building phases, dating and typology

The ottoman bath has three easily discernable building phases, which cover a period of three centuries. The core of the bath can be dated, according to its typology (see also [3]) and the measuring system of its construction (9 by 6.75 cubits with a length of 73.4 cm, mentioned by Ibn

Ma'rif for the period 1569-74), at the end of the 16th or the beginning of the 17th century [4]. This is in agreement with the mention of the bath by Evliya Çelembi (1661), with the interior morphological elements (arches, squinches and dome) and the careful construction of the external stonework (chiselled stones and cut cornerstones). The transversal timber frame-work (*klapes*) are also placed at approximately 73-cm intervals, whereas the fired-clay bricks used in the interior side of the walls and the dome have dimensions of 23 x 11.5 x 4 cm, equal to the 1/3 of the 73.4-cm cubit. To this core, the individual bath and the antechamber were added during the 18th century, according to the cubit in use (76.4 cm) (see also [4]). The SE part may have also included an individual bath, with an orthogonal plan and domed cover, which was destroyed later. During the 19th century, the walls of the SE part were altered, while in the beginning of the 20th century, a one-storey building, which accommodated the changing rooms, was constructed adjacent to the main, NE façade of the bath.

The typology of the central core of the bath is similar to this of baths with small dimensions, which include one hot space and a boiler, like the baths of Ancient Corinth, Kastelorizo Castle and Pisona Basilikon (see also [3]). The addition of the rest of the spaces alters the typology, with the plan now being similar to this of the bath of Apollonia in Lake Bolbi, Langadas (see also [3]).

Pathology

The structural problems of the bath are mainly concentrated in its NE façade (partial demolition of the wall and the second entrance in the eastern corner) and in the eastern part of the additional spaces (possible collapse of the reinforced concrete roof and demolition of the wall). In the interior spaces, the renderings are severely damaged, and there is a serious erosion of parts of the walls. In the NE interior façade, this erosion is particularly evident in the upper part of the wall, whereas, at its base, parts of the original joint-fillings and rendering layers are preserved. In the NW interior façade, the most serious erosion is observed in the additional spaces, while in the central core a large part of the initial renderings is preserved. The SW façade is characterised by severe erosion of the renderings and the structural parts made of fired-clay bricks. Finally, the SE façade, which is protected by an improvised cover, is well-preserved.

The exterior side of the dome has sustained severe damages (replacement and covering of slate with cement rendering) and has problems of cracks, dampness and vegetation. In the interior, there is detached rendering on many parts of the walls, especially in the hot space. In the lower zone of the SE and SW side, as well as in an intermediate zone of the NW and the NE side, the problems of erosion are particularly evident, while in many parts the fired-clay bricks are also severely eroded. The dome presents problems of dampness and vertical cracks on its western side. Finally, part of the marble floor has been destroyed, as a result of a contemporary violation, revealing the construction of the hypocaust. The individual bath and the antechamber present far less damages, which mainly involve detached renderings.

Restoration proposal

For the Ottoman bath, fixing works, such as replacement of eroded parts, reconstruction of the destroyed parts and fixing of the original mortars, are proposed. Furthermore, the rebuilding of parts of the monument, which can safely complete its image, is suggested. This includes:

- The rebuilding of the partially demolished eastern corner of the NE façade and the restoration of the second entrance to the bath with a similar morphology and construction to the central entrance, as well as the joint-filling of the stonework and the fixing of the remaining mortars at its lower part.

- The completion or the replacement of the eroded parts (fired-clay bricks and stones) of the NW façade, the joint-filling of the stonework and the fixing of the remaining originals mortars, some of which can be dated back to 17th century.
- On the rear, SW façade, the replacement of eroded parts (mortars and bricks), the joint-filling and fixing of the stonework and the partial reconstruction of the furnace that was used to heat the water in the boiler.
- The SE façade, due to its very good state, requires only deep cleansing and local fixing of the stonework.
- The deep cleansing of the cement mortar of the dome of the hot space, the replacement of eroded slate and the full restoration of the initial form and construction.
- In the interior of the bath, the deep cleansing and replacement of eroded mortars and bricks, the fixing and completion of renderings and, in selected parts (connection of the squinch with the wall and dome origin at the NE side) the preservation of parts without rendering in order to demonstrate the structural system of the monument.

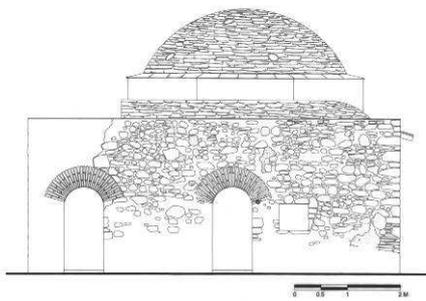


Figure 7: Ottoman bath. Proposal - NE facade

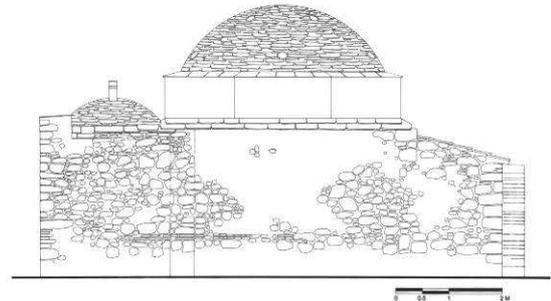


Figure 8: Ottoman bath. Proposal - NW facade

The restoration proposal includes the reconstruction of the destroyed parts that can complete the image of the monument (completion of the eastern corner and the second entrance), the restoration of the slate dome covering, the replacement of the concrete flat roof with a light-weight wooden construction and the restoration of the marble floor. It also includes the replacement of eroded parts as mortars, fired-clay bricks, and stone work.

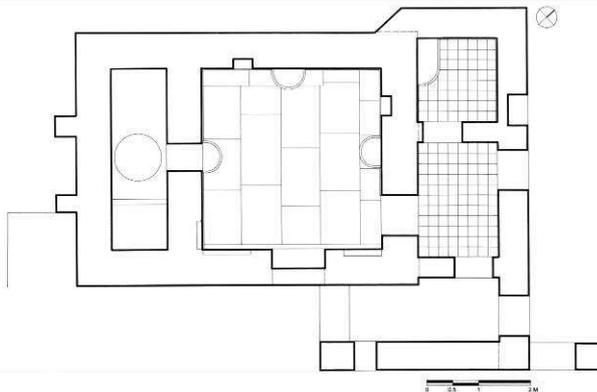


Figure 9: Ottoman bath. Proposal - Plan

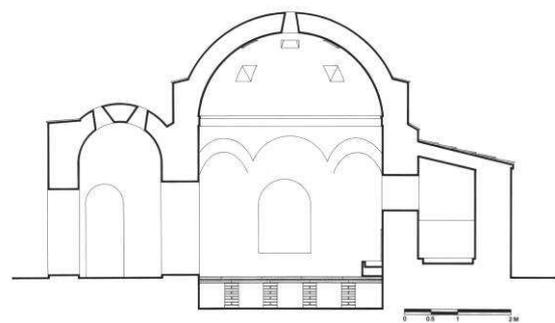


Figure 10: Ottoman bath. Proposal - Section

Concerning the floor, the completion and the restoration of the marble floor of the hot space with marble slabs of similar origin and composition is proposed. Furthermore, an archaeological research should be initialized in the individual bath and the antechamber in order to reveal and restore their original floor. If the original floor has been destroyed, a new floor made of unglazed ceramic tiles 19x19 cm is proposed at the original level (7 to 10 cm lower than the existing one). Finally, an archaeological research is also necessary in the NE auxiliary space in order to investigate the existence of an original (stone) floor. If no floor is found, the floor can be covered

with unglazed ceramic tiles, similar to the individual bath and the antechamber, in order to restore the possible initial plan that may have included a second individual bath.

After its restoration, the Ottoman bath can function as a museum, in combination with educational programs. In the interior photos of the hypocaust construction and architectural drawings can be exhibited in order to clarify its function to the visitors.

THE MINARET

Historical data

The minaret belonged to the mosque of the market (Çarsi Cami or Yakosu Bey), one of the seven of the town, which served the whole market quarter, and is today situated on Papakonstantinou Neretis Street. According to Evliya Çelembi, the mosque “which is situated in the market is frequented by many believers”. [1] The building islets also included a dervish teke of the Halveti Order [1], its guest-house, a madrasah and a dervish mausoleum, built around the inner courtyard of the mosque [5]. The mosque had a minaret with a height exceeding 15 m, which was adjacent to the building. During the years 1953-54, both the mosque and the upper part of the minaret were demolished. [5].



Figure 11: Minaret. NE view



Figure 12: Minaret. W view



Figure 13: Minaret. S view

Description of the monument

The minaret has a hexagonal, odd-angled plan, which is inscribed in a rectangle with dimensions 500x462 cm. The entrance is situated at its eastern part, which was adjacent to the mosque. Inside there is a circular staircase with a diameter of 152 cm, which lead to the upper part. The remaining upper part is a truncated cone, which was the base of the main part of the minaret. In the southern façade there is a small opening at a height of 340 cm from the ground level.

Construction materials and building techniques

The base is constructed with a brick-enclosed system of three rows and two columns of fired-clay bricks encircling stones. Each zone of bricks has a height of 19 cm and the zones are placed at 38-cm intervals. There are a total of six zones of fired-clay bricks, with a larger one in the upper part that includes six rows of bricks, and six zones of stonework in between. The total height of the base is 380 cm. The stone work is constructed with river stones, strong mortar and is rendered in such a way as to mimic a rectangular brick-enclosed system. The preliminary archaeological research revealed that the base of the monument is formed by a hexagonal stone foundation that does not protrude from the plan tracing. Further and more thorough archaeological research is

necessary in order to define the depth of the foundations, as well as traces of the foundations and the beginning of the walls of the adjacent mosque.

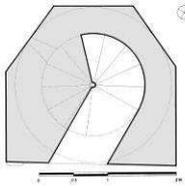


Figure 14: Minaret. Plan

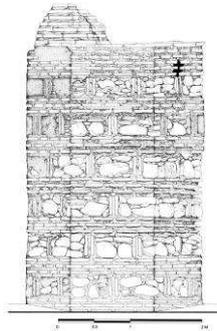


Figure 15: Minaret. SW facade

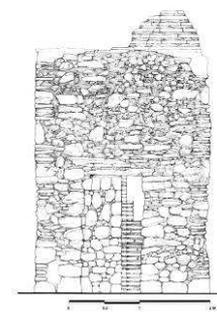


Figure 16: Minaret. NE facade

The upper part of the entrance to the minaret is formed by a single, large slate. The interior walls are formed by simple field stone work. The construction of the staircase is achieved with a mixed construction system that includes four layers of fired-clay bricks and steps made of stone slabs. In this case, the preliminary archaeological research revealed a stone floor at the beginning of the staircase. The upper part of the stairs is built with advancing slate. The truncated cone (base of the upper part) is constructed with consecutive layers of fired-clay bricks, which are placed in a revolving way, and form the ceiling of the staircase towards the upper part that today does not exist.

Building phases, dating and typology

The morphological elements of the minaret (brick-enclosed system) bring to mind earlier monuments of the period from the 15th to the 17th century. In Berati, Albania, similar morphology is observed in the minarets of the old mosque inside the castle (15th c.), the Royal Mosque (15th c.) and the Kursunlu Cami (16th c.) (see also [6]). In Greece, a similar brick-enclosed system exists in the Faik Pasha Cami in Arta (15th c.), in Alatzá Imaret in Thessaloniki (15th c.) and the Cincirli Cami (15th c.) (see also [7]). Nevertheless, the morphology of the mosque (rectangular building with hip roof and rectangular openings with upper course windows), as depicted in earlier photos, and the construction of the minaret (pseudo brick-enclosed system, where the rendering conceals a non-chiselled stone work) directly infer to a more recent building of the 18th century. This observation is supported by the fact that the construction of the minaret is based on the metric system of the 76.4 cm cubit (the external and internal diameters of the cone are equal to 3 and 2 cubits, respectively, the grid of the brick-enclosed system is equal to ½ cubit, and the dimensions of the fired clay bricks are 25.5x25.5x4 cm, equal to 1/3 of the cubit), which is mentioned by Baron de Tott for the period of Mustafa III reign (1757-1774) . (see also [4])

Pathology

The minaret, despite the destruction of its upper part, does not present problems related with the structural ability. Nevertheless, the renders and the walls (mortars and fired-clay bricks) of the SW part (S and W façade) are severely eroded due to their exposure to weather conditions. The walls of the facades are damaged, apart from the base, where there is vegetation, apart from NW part, which is preserved in a very good state, presenting only mildly damaged renderings, especially in the parts where the minaret was adjacent to the mosque. Apart from the above, the fact that the upper part is destroyed and uncovered causes problems of dampness, vegetation and severe erosion, due to the extreme weather conditions that prevail in Florina throughout the most part of

the year. The staircase present damages in the stone slabs and the fired-clay bricks due to cracks and erosion.

Restoration proposal

For the minaret, fixing works, such as replacement of eroded parts, reconstruction of the destroyed parts of the brick-enclosed system (fired-clay bricks and mortars), are proposed. The reconstruction can be carried out with bricks that may be found during the full-scale archaeological research, or with new bricks of similar composition and dimensions (25.5 x 25.5 x 4 cm). The initial form of the rendering of the brick-enclosed system is proposed for all five facades, after the analysis of the chemical composition of the existing, initial renderings. For the eastern façade, which was adjacent to the mosque, the fixing of the stonework with joint-filling is suggested. Finally, the partial reconstruction of the base of the upper part of the minaret with the use of fired-clay bricks of appropriate dimensions, as well as the completion of the destroyed staircase steps, are proposed.

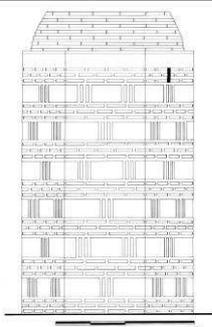


Figure 17: Minaret. SW façade. Proposal

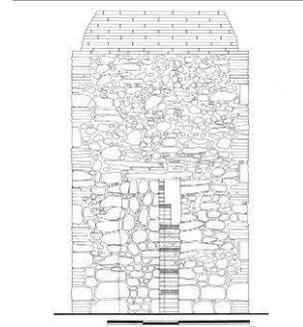


Figure 18: Minaret. NE façade. Proposal

The partial reconstruction of the stone floor at the base of the staircase of the minaret is proposed. It is possible that the future, full-scale archaeological research may reveal the continuance of this floor towards the mosque. In this case, sections and a full-scale excavation may be required in order to bring to light the possible remnants of the mosque, namely its floor, its walls and its foundations.

THE DEFENSIVE TOWER - KULE

Historical data

The defensive tower is close to the river bank, on Eleftherias Avenue. A large 19th century hayat house was built adjacent to the kule. On its southern side, there was another house of the 2nd half of the 19th century, which today remains severely altered. It is not known when the upper part of the tower was demolished and the building was covered with a new tile roof. During the 20th century, the building was used as a storage space by the inhabitants of the near-by houses, but its existence remained concealed. In 1985, part of the tower was destroyed during the demolition of nearby houses for the erection of a new multi-storeyed building, and its interior was revealed. [8]

Description of the monument

The kule has a square plan with exterior dimensions of 680x682 cm, interior dimensions of 484x475 cm and internal diagonal of 680 cm. The entrance to the space is located at the centre of the SE façade. On its upper part, there is an arch, which bore an inscription. The interior space has a height of 475 cm and as a dome cover, which is supported by four squinches. In this way, eight

pointed islamic arches are formed. At the eastern corner, there is an elevated staircase that led to the upper storey that today does not exist. On the external, NE façade, there is a fireplace at a height corresponding to the upper storey of the adjacent hayat house, while at the upper part there is a built-up door, which may have led to an open balcony, and part of a small window.



Figure 19: Kule. SE view



Figure 20: Kule. NW view

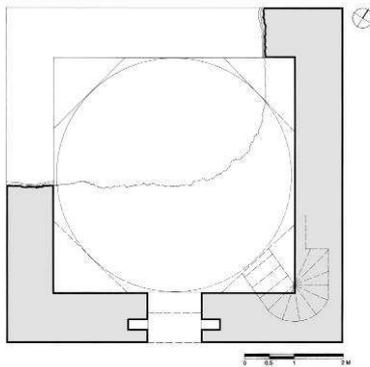


Figure 21: Kule. Plan

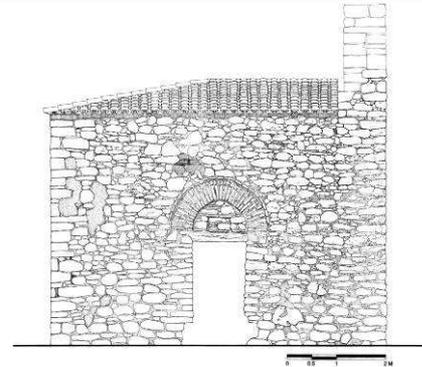


Figure 22: Kule. SE facade

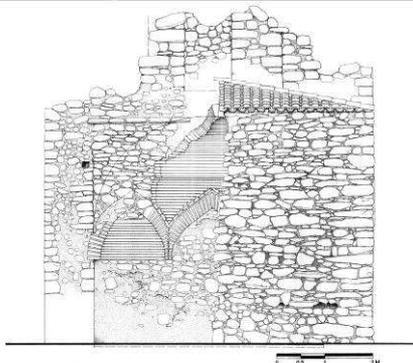


Figure 23: Kule. SW facade

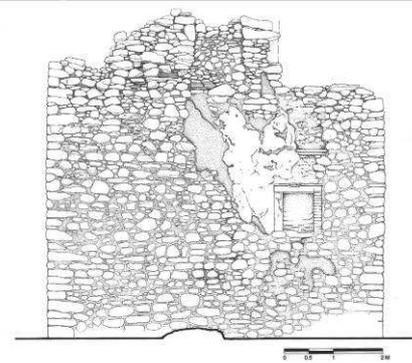


Figure 24: Kule. NE facade

Similar defensive towers can be found during the 18th century in the estates of wealthy land-owners in many areas of the Balkan Peninsula. (see also [9, 10]) Many of these, especially in Kratovo, had three or four storeys with domed roofs with squinches or folded surfaces at their origin. Their openings were placed at the upper levels, had small size and islamic arches over their lintels. In many cases, there was a balcony with a small door on the upper storey. These defensive towers were constructed with stone and had a roof made of slate.

Construction materials and building techniques

The walls of the kule are built with river stones with strong lime mortar and two layers of rendering (clay-mortar and lime-mortar) in the interior. The walls of the lower level have increased

depth equal to 98-104 cm. In the interior of the walls, there are hidden horizontal timber ties at 3-m intervals. The entrance is formed in the exterior façade with a horizontal wooden lintel and semi-circular arch made of fired-clay bricks, while in the interior, there is a pointed arch. The preliminary archaeological research revealed a wooden doorstep of similar dimensions with the lintel. In the interior space, the construction of the four squinches and the eight pointed islamic arches includes fired-clay bricks placed concentrically relative to two centres of tracing per arch. The hemispheric dome is constructed of fired-clay bricks placed at consequent rings facing one common centre (the centre of the hemisphere). The void between the dome and the walls is filled with small river stones and ceramic tiles (moulded construction). The dome is covered with Byzantine ceramic tiles. The construction of the internal staircase leading to the upper storey includes stone parts, while its ceiling is formed with advancing stone slabs.

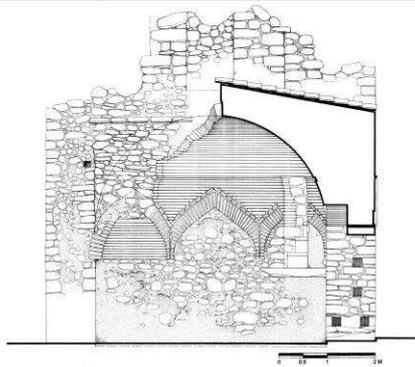


Figure 25: Kule. Section

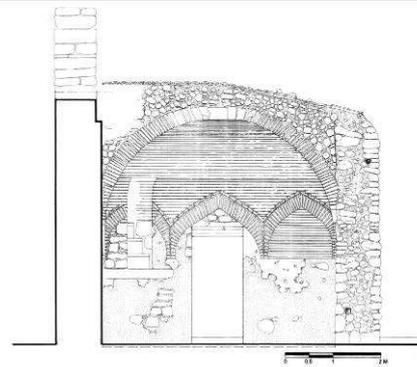


Figure 26: Kule. Section

Concerning the possible existence of a floor in the interior, it should be noted that the preliminary archaeological research revealed ceramic tiles from the destroyed part of the dome, as well as diagonally placed ceramic slabs with dimensions 23x29x2 cm, at the immediate vicinity of the staircase. In every case, a full-scale archaeological research is necessary in order to reveal a possible floor and contribute to its restoration.

Building phases, dating and typology

The kule initially had a second storey of which only part of the eastern façade that includes a closed opening, the end of the staircase and a second smaller opening, are preserved. The morphology of the monument (pointed Islamic arches with four tracing centres) infer to earlier ottoman monuments of the 16th and 17th century (see also [7]). Nevertheless, its construction (stonework with river stones and use of timber ties) suggest a more recent building of the 18th century. Apart from the above, the tracing and the construction of the kule (external dimensions equal to 9 cubits and distance between the timber ties equal to 4 cubits) is based on the metric system of the architect's cubit (mimar arşin) of 75,8 cm, which was declared as the imperial measuring unit during the years 1794-5 by Selim III. (see also [4]) Consequently, its construction can be relatively safely placed in the end of the 18th or the beginning of the 19th century. Finally, its typology (orthogonal plan with one single entrance) is typical of the defensive residence towers constructed during the ottoman period.

Pathology

The kule presents serious structural problems, which are due to the destruction of its western corner and part of the dome. In the main, SE façade, the damages include the erosion of the stonework over the arch of the entrance, where the internal, hidden, stone frame-work can be seen,

as well as at the base of the door. In this façade, as well as in the remaining part of the SW façade, the renderings have been almost fully destroyed. The NE façade is relatively well-preserved, especially concerning its lower part, where a large part of the initial joint-fillings can be seen, while its upper part presents erosion of the stonework (destruction of mortars and joint-fillings), as well as serious problems of dampness and vegetation. In the area of the external fire-place and above it, a large part of the initial layers of rendering (clay-mortars and lime-mortars) is preserved. In the interior space, there are detached renderings, especially of the final layer, whereas in the dome, many of the fired-clay bricks are eroded. The interior staircase bears damages in its stone stairs. Finally, most of the hidden timber ties in the interior of the walls have been destroyed.

Restoration proposal

For the defensive tower, fixing works, such as replacement of eroded parts, reconstruction of the destroyed parts and fixing of the original mortars, are proposed. Furthermore, the rebuilding of parts of the monument, which can safely complete its image, is suggested.

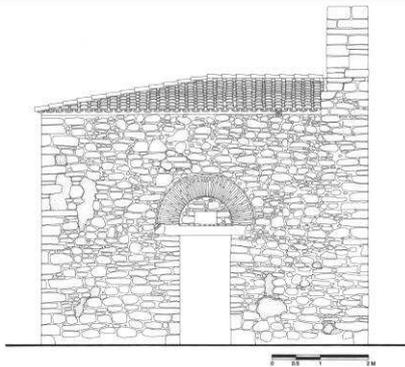


Figure 27: Kule. SE façade. Proposal

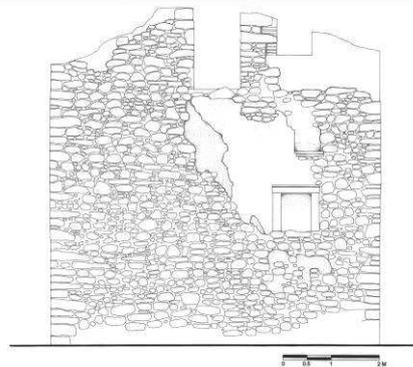


Figure 28: Kule. NE façade. Proposal

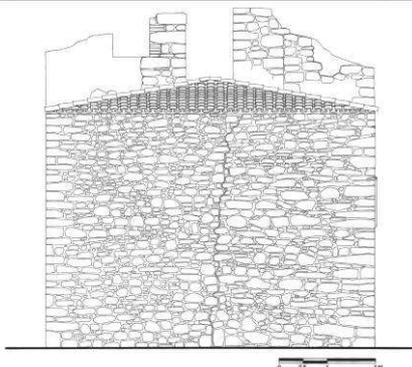


Figure 29: Kule. SW façade. Proposal

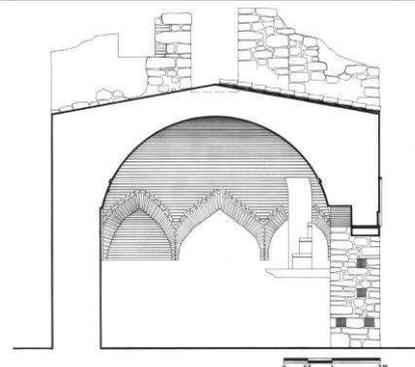


Figure 30: Kule. Section. Proposal

The restoration proposal includes:

- The fixing of the demolished part of the SE, main façade, the addition of fired-clay bricks in order to complete the semi-circular arch over the lintel and, finally, the joint-filling of the stonework.
- The rebuilding of the upper part of the NE façade in order to partially restore the original opening and window and make reference to the original form of the monument, which had two or three storeys. Apart from the above, fixing of eroded parts and joint-filling are also proposed, while it is possible that in-situ research may reveal the need of grouts in the interior of the wall.
- The fixing and joint-filling of the partially demolished SW façade and its rebuilding, together with the western corner and the NW façade, up to the existing roof in order to complete the

image of the monument. The rebuilding can be carried out with local field and/or river stones, with the same building pattern and joint dimensions. Between the remaining parts and the new ones, there will be a narrow, 1-cm-thick expansion joint, which is necessary in order to separate and signalise the contemporary intervention.

- The full restoration of the demolished dome in order to complete the image of the monument, but, most important, to protect its interior from weather conditions and to ensure its structural ability. The rebuilding of the dome can be done partly with the fired-clay bricks that have fallen inside the monument and partly with new bricks of similar composition and dimensions (26 x 26 x 3,5 cm and 26 x 13 x 3,5 cm).
- The rendering of the interior walls up to the origin of the squinches and the dome, in order to protect the stonework and restore the original image of the monument.

The interior space of the kule can function as a museum because of its originality and intricate morphology (white surfaces, pointed arches, vault with squinches with non-rendered fired-clay bricks) in combination with the special design, harmony and symbolism of the space.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Today, the state of all three monuments requires, prior to any proposal for their architectural and morphological restoration, to ensure the existing state and prevent further damage. For this reason, immediate saving actions are proposed. These include the support of the parts that may fall down and the protection from the rainwater that erodes the walls. The proposals of architectural and morphological restoration are based on the particularities of each monument relative to its integrity. In this context, the main goal of the proposal is to complete the image of each monument based on the concrete evidence that came to light from the survey and documentation, the historical research and the preliminary in-situ archaeological research. Furthermore, the proposal seeks to distinguish and bring forward the different historical phases, especially concerning materials and building techniques. Finally, the proposal aims at ensuring the structural ability of each monument.

CONCLUSIONS

The urban fabric of all historic towns and cities constitutes a palimpsest that records their successive historical phases, and in this way informs and educates their inhabitants and visitors on issues of history, culture, etc. For this reason, it is imperative to preserve and restore the fragments of this history, however small, insignificant or destroyed they are. The documentation and restoration of the three remaining Ottoman monuments of Florina is a step towards this direction, a way to bring to light the not so old Ottoman history of the city and reconcile it with its earlier and more recent historical and architectural phases.

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