

IRCICA's MOSTAR 2004

HISTORIC RECONSTRUCTION OF  
THE NEZIRAGA MOSQUE COMPLEX IN MOSTAR



*The project is made possible by the generous donation of  
H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan Al-Qassimi, the Ruler of Sharjah*



## HISTORIC RECONSTRUCTION OF



*Site in 1908*

The mosque was built in 1550. The mosque's foundation charter has not been saved. One can conclude that at that time Neziraga was a well-to-do person, and the folk tradition has it that he was the son in law of the highly respected Vučjaković family, which has a housing complex across the street. The mosque has been closed down in 1932, and it was completely torn down in 1950.

*H.H. Sheikh Dr. Qassimi and Professor İhsanoğlu:  
Discussion about reconstruction, June 30, 1994*



Neziraga Mosque is located at the Spile, a sub-zone of the historic city core of Mostar, situated on the plateau above the Kriva Čuprija bridge across the Radobolja River, a tributary of Neretva, and 150 meters far from the Old Bridge.

On the plateau nothing has been constructed after the demolition, but the complete lower part, of the mosque was preserved.

*Site before reconstruction, Spring 1998*



H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan Al-Qassimi, the Ruler of Sharjah, is an academican with the title of doctor of history, and the author of the many books. He is involved in charitable deeds, as well as supporting knowledge and education.

He established several centers, which undertake works of charity worldwide. He has exerted invaluable efforts to help people of Bosnia and Herzegovina during the war.

## THE NEZIRAGA MOSQUE COMPLEX IN MOSTAR



*Site after excavation, September 1998*



*Site during reconstruction, June 1999*



The mosque complex consists of the mosque, a courtyard, a mekteb, an abdesthane, a courtyard and a cemetery.

The mosque has a square plan with one side having the length of 10.20 meters, and the walls are 1.05 meters wide. It has a porch with stone sofas, which are 4.40 meters wide and 9.40 meters long. The porch rests against 12 wooden columns.

The minaret, which is 27 meters high, and a mimber were built from the tenelija stone with unique decorations. The ceiling and the gallery were constructed with the pinewood elements.

The mekteb consists of two rooms on the upper floor as well as two rooms on the ground floor.

The roofs of all buildings are covered with stone slates.

Historic reconstruction of the mosque has been realized with full respect to all facts, which resulted from the archaeological excavation and visual and written documents. These facts formed the basis of the restitution design.

Intervention presents a combination of the restoration of key elements of the complex, the reconstruction and new design with historic reminiscence.

Original materials and technology were used wherever possible. All contemporary facilities were applied to give people the maximum quality of use.

Reg. No: **I 1858**

Class. No:

**W07**

**NEZIRAGA MOSQUE COMPLEX IN MOSTAR  
RESTORATION AND RECONSTRUCTION DATA**

**Donor**

H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan al-Qassimi, the Ruler of Sharjah

**Organization responsible for the whole project**

Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) Istanbul  
Professor Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Director General  
Professor Dr. Amir Pašić, Project Manager

**Archeological survey and restitution design (August-December 1998)**

Professor Dr. Zeynep Ahunbay  
Professor Dr. Amir Pašić

**Type of intervention:** Historic reconstruction, restoration, reconstruction and a new design with historic reminiscence

**Implementation design (January-March 1999)**

Institute for Preservation of Cultural Heritage, Mostar

Chief Architect: Zijad Demirović,  
Director

Architects: Ekrem Dizdar and Omer Šahić

Structural Design: Salko Kolukčija

Infrastructural Design: Enver Oručević

**Local administration**

Foundation *Stari Mostar* Mostar  
Mustafa Delić, Director



*IRCICA and the Institute for design team*

**Construction (April-August, 1999)**

*Građevinar-Fajić* Mostar, Arif Fajić, Director and

*Kara-Drvo* Kiseljak, Omer Karaahmet, Director

Muqarnas restitution: M. Fatin Uluengin

Caligraphic inscriptions: Hasan Çelebi

**Supervision**

(at the site) Esved Dugalić and Omer Šahić

Professor Dr. Zeynep Ahunbay

Professor Dr. Amir Pašić

**Cost of the project:** approximately 500000 USD

**Opening of the mosque:** Friday, September 10, 1999