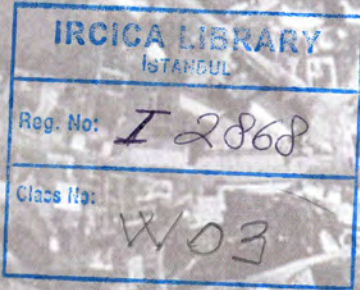




Old Bridge Area,  
after rehabilitation, July 2004

# REHABILITATION OF THE OLD CITY OF **MOSTAR**



The reconstruction and revitalization project focused on five intermingling components:

- (1) Mostar 2004 Program
- (2) Old City preservation and development plan
- (3) Rehabilitation of the Historic Neighborhoods
- (4) Restoration of selected buildings
- (5) Rebuilding of the Old Bridge complex



Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture  
(IRCICA) Istanbul  
[ircica@ircica.org](mailto:ircica@ircica.org)  
<http://ircica.org>

Old City Center, after destruction, 1994

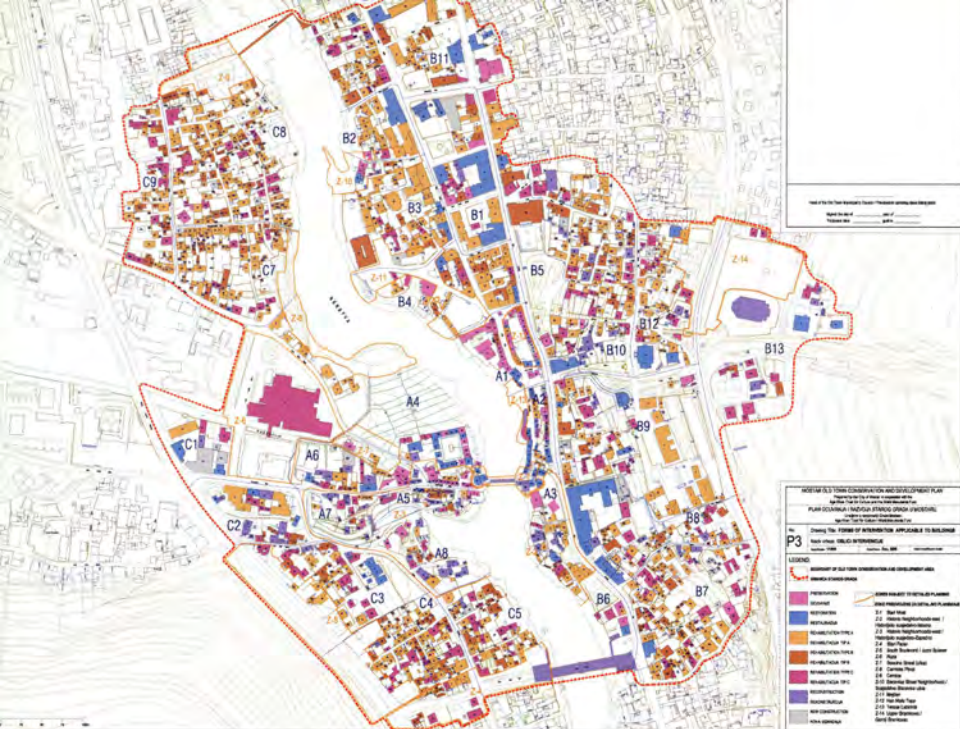


# MOSTAR 2004

A PILOT PROJECT FOR REBUILDING OF MULTICULTURAL BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
Organized by: Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA)

Sponsored by Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA), UNESCO Paris; the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute for Technology, Cambridge, MA; The Aga Khan Trust for Culture-Aga Khan Award for Architecture, Geneva; Metropolitan Municipality of the Greater Istanbul, American Society of Architectural Historians, World Monuments Fund, New York; Yildiz Technical University Istanbul

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**2** The Master plan of the Old City of Mostar, together with preparation of the key elements for the Strategic development plan for the urban area of Mostar for establishment of the urban governing system and establishment of the self-sustainable economic system for the area.

**Historic City Strategic Development Plan** The creation of both a quality database and the widest possible consensus are in continuous development. Special attention was paid to the following key sectors: (a) Transport infrastructure (b) City infrastructure; (c) Urban planning and restructuring of existing institutions, (d) Balancing of public uses; (e) Development of housing.

Old City Master Plan was prepared by AKTC&WMF during the period between July 1998 and January 2001, and after it went to the public hearing, was approved by the Old City Municipality Council on May 10, 2001. (Official Gazette of the Old City Municipality of the City of Mostar, No1. May 2001).

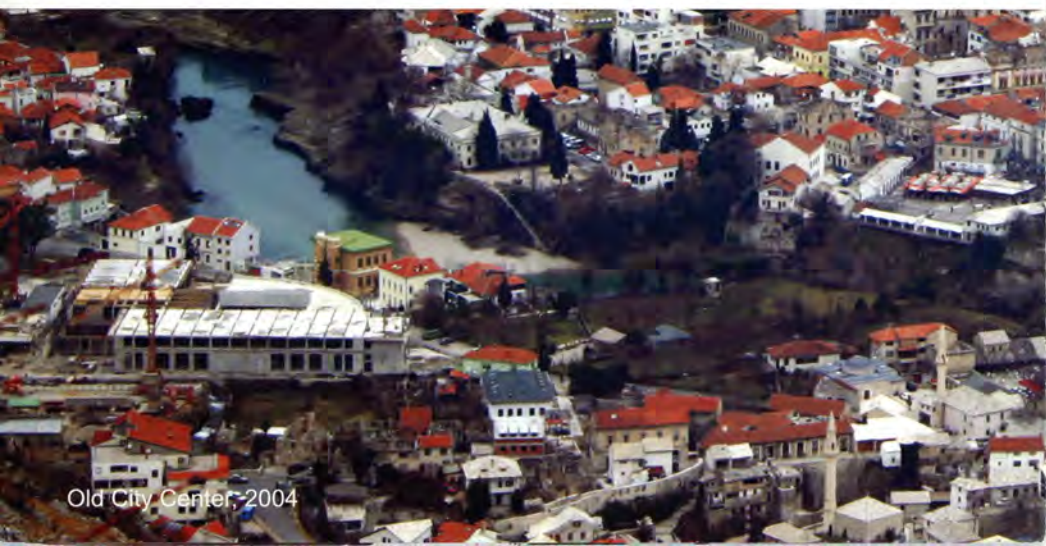
Zone A is part of the city, known as the Old City that has preserved its overall integrity and should be subject of strict control by approved Master plan.

Zone B covers a part of the City with less urban and architectural integrity, but still is recognized as unique urban system and as such seeks for coordinated interventions.

Zone C covers the rest of the area within the 1918 boundaries. This zone has already experienced great changes, only keeping a few valuable urban elements.

**The Old City of Mostar** Protected as a national monument. Commission to Preserve National Monuments of Bosnia and Herzegovina designated 22 properties up to now. The Provisional List of National Monuments, issued in November 2002, contains forty buildings or sites with monumental characters in the city area of Mostar.

**Old City Agency**, specialized for conservation and development with a full control over a given area with resources and professional staff, was established by decision of the City council of Mostar on December 29, 2004 to preserve the living historic areas.

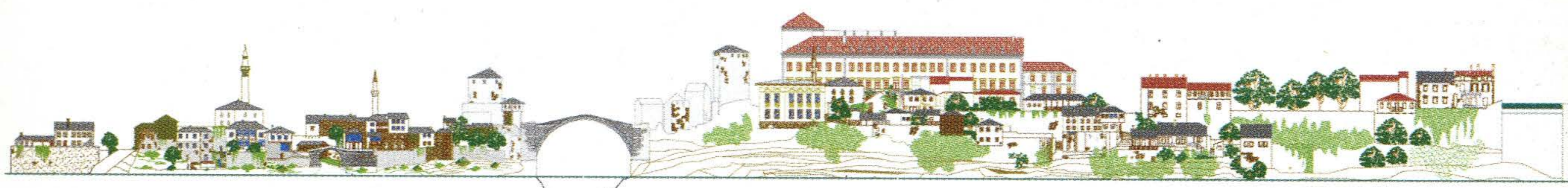




Prijecka Čaršija,  
before restoration, 2002



Prijecka Čaršija, after  
restoration, 2004



Historic Neighborhoods Facades Rehabilitation Proposal, 2000

**3** The historic neighborhoods of Mostar, are in substantial transformation. This is the result of interventions by group of private owners who, while rebuilding their homes damaged during the 1992-1994 war, modify and expand the buildings to such an extent that the traditional features are mostly lost.

This process was rapidly and irreversibly changing the character of some of the most valuable and sensitive areas of the city, particularly those near the Old Bridge. The AKTC/WMF team was prepared and implemented the Action Plan for the rehabilitation of the Historic Neighborhoods of the Old Bridge on both side of the Neretva River, including monuments, commercial and dwelling complexes, and communal infrastructures.

Preparation phase was completed in December 1999, and implementation was started with three pilot projects in November 1998, and then was enlarged every coming year. The project is carried out by the AKTC/WMF local office in Mostar. The total costs of these actions were estimated to be \$3,000,000 US, including both direct and indirect intervention.

Interventions and proposals are specifically tailored to: (a) individual buildings and plots for which differentiated criteria of intervention have been identified; (b) groups of buildings, including their immediate context, for which interventions will be permitted only after a project for the entire ensemble has been approved; (c) public domain areas, including open spaces such as streets, squares, riverbanks, canals, etc., as well as infrastructure projects.

These interventions and proposals constituted the basis of the comprehensive action plan for the neighborhoods presently being finalized, including the identification of implementation modalities for individual houses, groups of structures, and public domain areas. More specifically, the implementation modalities include: (a) ownership acquisition by the municipality, and subsequent restoration and re-use; (b) improvement through design assistance and small grants; (c) investments in upgrading of public domain, and (d) corrective interventions in critical townscape points.





Karadžozbeg Mosque,  
After restoration, IRCICA 2004



Neziraga Mosque,  
after restoration, IRCICA 1999

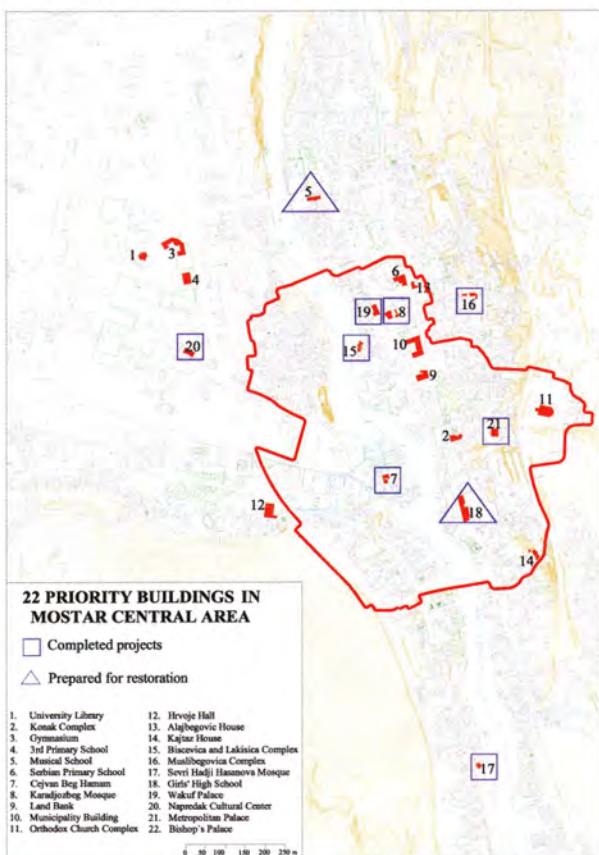
## 4 The Old City of Mostar Protected as a national monument. The Provisional List of National Monuments, issued in November 2002, contains forty buildings or sites with monumental characters in the city area of Mostar.

The AKTC&WMF, IRCICA and UNESCO teams had elaborated twenty-one damaged monuments and historic buildings in central Mostar, on both the Eastern and Western sides of the city. The selection includes public buildings and private structures.

Together these buildings document the influences and cultures which contributed to the development of the city over time, and today they represent the endangered legacy of its past.

These structures are also potential poles of attraction providing important opportunities for economic growth and neighborhood revitalization in the future re-organization of the city.

Until end of 2004, nine buildings were successfully completed (3, 7, 8, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21).



Napredak Cultural Center,  
after restoration, AKTC/WMF  
and World Bank, 2005



Mušibegović House,  
after restoration, AKTC/WMF 2005



Old Bridge Area,  
after destruction, 1993

**5** The Stari Most (Old Bridge), built in 1566, represents one of the building miracles of 16th-century Europe, the crowning achievement of an extraordinarily creative era of Islamic culture. The Old Bridge is the most beautiful expression of the Bosnian productive co-existence.

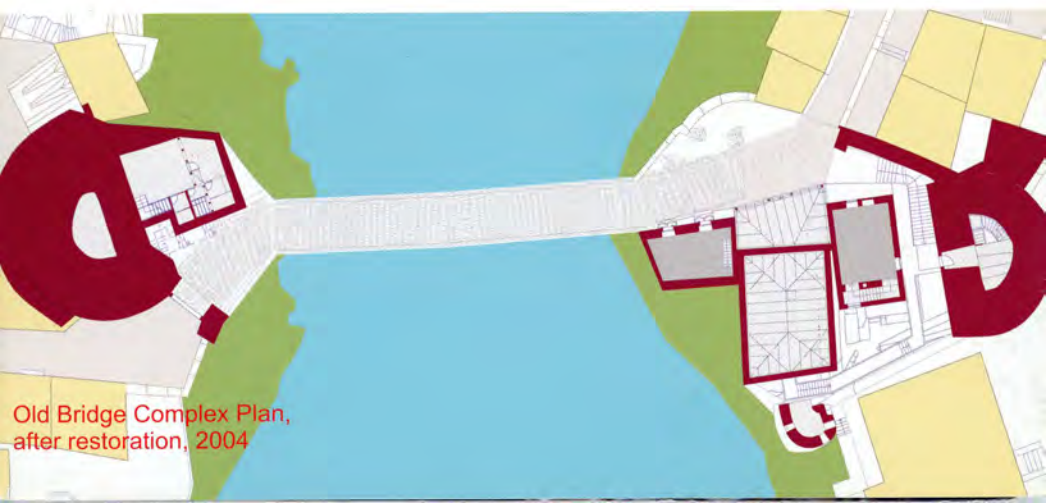
It is crucial to emphasize that the “Old Bridge” includes not only the vault of 28.7 meters span; its complex is composed of three towers, two mosques and several other structures. The vault—a miracle of 16th century technology—is the most dominant part, with extraordinary symbolic significance.

The destruction of the Old Bridge, on November 9, 1993, symbolizes the war tragedy more than any single event. Rebuilding of the bridge presents main cultural and political task for citizens and the government of multi ethnic society.

The Campaign for the Rebuilding of the Old Bridge internationally was launched by IRCICA during the World Economic Forum in Davos, February 1996, with a concept developed through the Mostar 2004 Project: the Old Bridge should be rebuilt on the basis of a shared contribution of many donors. This idea started to be operational through the Foundation for the Reconstruction of the Old Bridge and Old City established on July 2, 1997 with H.E. Alija Izetbegović, president of Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as a leader.

Between August and November 21, 1997 operation of taking out parts of the destroyed Old Bridge from the river was completed by the International Stabilization forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina (SFOR). Later, from 1998, the City of Mostar is carrying out this project through The Project Coordination Unit using the World Bank loan of \$ 4 US millions, and \$ 6,6 US millions donations provided by Turkey, Italy, Netherlands, Croatia. The complete project is under the scientific supervision of the UNESCO’s International Committee of Experts established on November 1, 1998.

Data and documents collected in the last forty years has represented very solid base for the project. Rebuilding of the Bridge complex has began in 2000, and was completed in July 23, 2004. Numerous institutions, companies, and individuals were involved in the process. It is necessary to mention following: General Engineering Florence, Yapı Merkezi Istanbul, LGA Nuremberg, Er-Bu Ankara, ŽGP Sarajevo, Gradjevinar-Fajić Mostar, Kara-Drvo Kiseljak, Omega Inzinjering Dubrovnik, and Infinitinet Mostar.



Old Bridge Complex Plan,  
after restoration, 2004