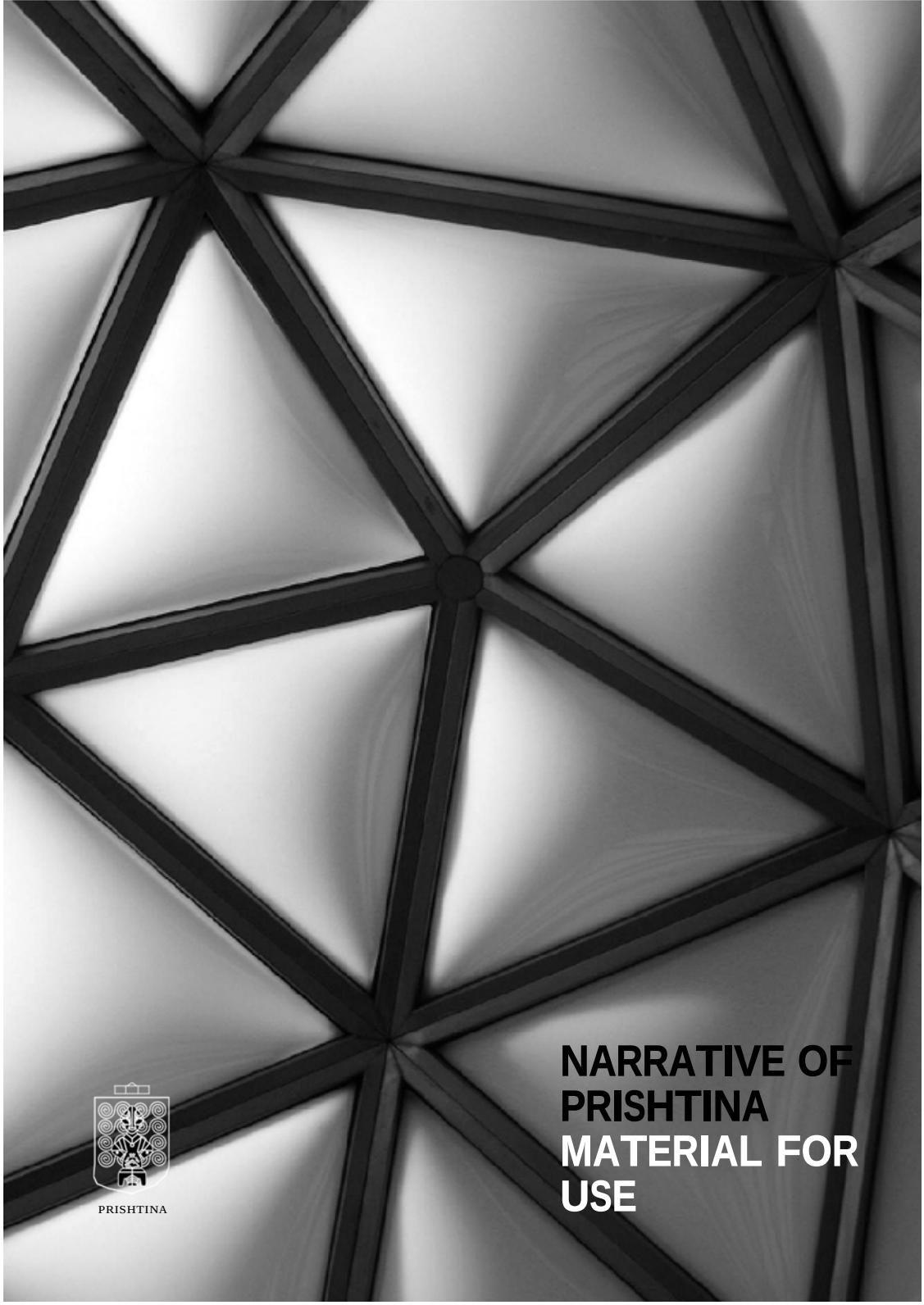


NARRATIVE OF PRISHTINA MATERIAL FOR USE

PRISHTINA



The Clock Tower was built in the 19th century.

NARRATIVE OF PRISHTINA

Concise History of Prishtina



Pristina has about 460 thousand inhabitants at the district level.


KIRAÇA

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PRISHTINA

This publication is compiled in order to summarize the main information related to the history of the city of Prishtina. The materials are collected by a working team appointed by the Municipality of Prishtina in 2018 and are organized chronologically. Some of the most characteristic data are singled out as pieces of information at the end. The narrative is the basis for use in the information materials of the Municipality of Prishtina in the area of tourism, culture and others. Pictures in this publication are open copyrighted and may be used and replicated by anyone. All materials in this document are open to the public for copying, reuse and publication.

A brief history of Prishtina

Early history and etymology

The surrounding of Prishtina, as an area in the central part of the Balkans Peninsula, has traces of habitation since the Neolithic period. The ancient city of Ulpiana is located in the vicinity of Prishtina, which was founded in the IInd century and was inhabited until 518 when it was abandoned after a devastating earthquake. The Orthodox Church founded in 1321, in the ruins of a church of the VIth century is located in the settlement of Gracanica in the vicinity of Prishtina. Marble tiles with Latin inscriptions can also be seen on the foundations of this church.

There is no consensus among linguists about the etymology of Prishtina, although some hypotheses have been published.

14th to 17th century

The first historical document, which mentions Prishtina by name, dates back to 1342, when the Byzantine Emperor, Jan VI Kantakouzenos, described Prishtina as a "fenced village without walls". In the Middle Ages, the city had been part of various rulers; Byzantine and Serbian kingdoms and principalities, including those of Stefan Milutin, Stefan Urosh III, Stefan Dusan, Stefan Urosh V and Vuk Brankovic. Prishtina has fallen under Ottoman occupation since the Battle of Kosovo in 1389, a battle fought in Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje, about 5 kilometres from the city centre.

The Battle of Kosovo marks the end of Serbian rule in Kosovo and, in general, the fall of the Byzantine period in these areas. The Balkans coalition consisted of

Serbs, Bulgarians, Bosniaks, Albanians and Romanians, lost the battle against the Ottoman army. Kosovo - and the whole Balkans - came under long Ottoman rule until 1912. Prishtina, during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, experienced economic prosperity. Its position near the mines of Novoberdo and Stanterg made Prishtina develop as an important trade and handicraft centre. Records show that there was also a Ragusan colony in the city. The first data that appear in 1477, in the Ottoman Defter, describe Prishtina as a settlement with 9 neighbourhoods and 351 houses. In the Defter of 1570, included in the Morava suburb of the Vuçiterna Sanjhak, Prishtina is described as a small Ottoman town with 11 Muslim and 9 Christian neighbourhoods.

The oldest building in Prishtina is the Stone Mosque dedicated to Sultan Bayezid I, construction of which began in the late fourteenth century when the city was still ruled by the vassal Brankovic family. It is probably the oldest surviving mosque in the Balkans to this day.

Immediately after the Battle of Kosovo in 1389, Jildirim Bayezid, in the name of the triumphant victory of the Turkish army, laid the foundation stone of this mosque, while the final works were undertaken by Sultan Mehmed II Fatih. Citizens referred to this mosque with other names as well such as 'Sager Mosque', 'Muradija Mosque', 'Çarshi Mosque' and 'Tash Mosque'. Prishtina as a city during the Ottoman period is also known for the important market in the city centre, which served for residents, but also for visitors passing by, serving as a good link

between weaver traders and those from abroad. Despite a large number of inhabitants, except for public buildings, most residential buildings are built of soil and have one or two floors. Some of them can still be seen nowadays in the old city centre. The Ottoman period recognizes the development of the city through various constructions mainly religious, but also other public ones. Hammams, mosques, water-taps, streets, hostels and bazaars were built during this period.

In 1461, the "King's Mosque" was built, which is dedicated to Sultan Mehmet Fatih. It was built by order of Sultan Mehmet Fatih II - the Conqueror, who is known for the conquest of Istanbul by the Byzantines. During the Austro-Turkish wars in the late 17th century, this mosque was converted into a Jesuit Catholic church. Pjetër Bogdani, one of the most prominent Albanian personalities of the period, was buried here. With a force of about 6,000 members, Pjetër Bogdani, also supported by the Austro-Hungarian forces, had liberated the city from the Ottomans in the late seventeenth century. Bogdani died as a result of the mortar that had left a large part of the city devastated. After the defeat of the Austrians in 1690, Bogdan's remains were exhumed and thrown into the street by the Turkish army, and its former function was reinstated to the building.

The famous Turkish traveller, Evlia Çelebi, visited Prishtina in 1660, describing it as a settlement with 2060 houses, all with large courtyards, gardens and vineyards; with bazaar, madrasas, schools and tekkes of dervishes; with fountains and healing water; and 11 hostels.



Among the first pictures of the city at the beginning of the 20th century.

In the Bazaar, according to him, is the Hammam of Sultan Mehmet the Conqueror, which has become a place of pilgrimage, due to its healing power. Prishtina had 300 shops that were considered insufficient for a city of this size. Meanwhile, the people says Çelebi, were generous and hospitable, offering every night a feast for the guests.

18th and 19th century

Serving as a centre of trade, the international fair of goods was held in Pristina, for a period during the XVIII-XIX centuries, where traders from around the world have been visitors and traded. Meanwhile, in the XIXth century, the first museum was opened in the house of Emin Gjiku, where private exhibits of the family are exhibited.

In the last years of the Ottoman occupation, Prishtina had lost its importance as a city but had military significance. The Austro-Hungarian diplomat and albanologist, Johann Georg von Hahn, who visited Prishtina in 1858, describes it as the largest military centre after Manastir, with many soldiers carrying weapons.

During the 19th century, Jashar Pasha, the local leader, built a mosque known today as the Jashar Pasha Mosque. Also, the Clock Tower, 26 meters high, was built.

From 1883 to 1897, Prishtina became the capital of the Vilayet of Kosovo. At this time, as in the whole empire, the first influences of European architecture are noticed. The cantonment (today the Museum of Kosovo), built in 1884, brought a new spirit to the architecture of the city. The building was erected according to the project worked on in the Military Office in Graz, as a building for the Ottoman garrison staff.

While the traditional architecture for the city's residential buildings consisted mainly of two-story buildings made of clay bricks, in the 19th century new taller buildings began, with stronger bricks and higher heights. Among the best examples of this architecture is the house that served as the first Albanian school in 1908, built shortly before 1880.

Another building with European influence in architecture is the former consulate, also built in the late 19th century.

Prishtina, in 1874, built the first train station, a facility built by the British.

According to some records, the train connecting Thessaloniki with Mitrovica was not initially well-received by locals, often attacking it. But then, with the advent of goods and new opportunities for trade, the citizens of Prishtina have demanded that stations are added and new lines are made.

20th and 21st century

In 1912, Prishtina was liberated from Ottoman occupation through forces led by Hasan Prishtina. In the same year, it was occupied by Serbian forces. In 1915, it was briefly placed under Bulgarian occupation, until 1918, when French forces returned it to the occupation of the Yugoslav Kingdom. This period is followed by an intensive program of Serbian colonization which is followed by the alienation of the properties of the Albanian population. These policies have brought a wave of the influx of Albanians from Prishtina, creating an Albanian diaspora in Turkey that still continues to be there.

In 1941, Italy included Prishtina as part of its occupation within its military campaign during World War II (WW II). During this period, Prishtina became part of Albania occupied by Italy. And then, for a short time until liberation, also by Germany.

On the eve of the end of World War II, Kosovo Albanians organized themselves militarily and politically. At the end of 1943 and the beginning of 1944, the Bujan Conference was convened, where one of the agreed points was the right of Kosovo Albanians to self-determination.

Despite the will of the Albanian communist side, Kosovo remained part of Yugoslavia. Kosovo with the first Constitution of the People's Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, adopted on 31 January 1946, was defined as an autonomous territorial-administrative unit within Serbia called the ‘Autonomous Region of Kosovo and Metohija’. Under this constitution, Kosovo Albanians were not equally treated with the other peoples of Yugoslavia.

The period after WW II is known for the major demographic and urban changes in the city. The return of the city under Yugoslav domination results in new dynamics in relation to the citizens of Pristina. This is especially reflected in the Albanian population of the city. The new situation created by the actions taken especially by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Yugoslavia led by Aleksandar Rankovic, among others, encouraged the new displacement of Albanians in Turkey through an interstate agreement between Turkey and Yugoslavia.

Prishtina was declared the capital of Kosovo in 1947. With the 1953 city plan, it became a ‘modern’ city of 50,000 inhabitants, on the ruins of the old city. During the '50s to the '70s, under the motto "destroy the old and build the new", parts of the city neighbourhoods were demolished, including the old city bazaar, to build residential, administrative, health, school buildings, squares and monuments.

In the name of building the new socialist city, numerous civic houses and hostels were demolished. The first block of modern residential buildings is built on these foundations in 1948. Then the Old Bazaar was demolished, on which were built the building of the Municipality of Prishtina, the Assembly of Kosovo and 'Brotherhood and Unity' Square, today Adem Jashari Square; the Llokaqi mosque was demolished along with the houses of this neighbourhood, where later hotel 'Iliria' was built, today a private hotel; the small Catholic church in Zahir Pajaziti Square was demolished; the only city synagogue inside the bazaar was demolished; the bazaar hammam, which was located where the Kosovo Parliament is located today, was demolished, while the foundations of that hammam are still visible today.

Most of the old neighbourhoods, along with the old city structure, have been lost. There is only a part left in the old city centre with some alleys and streets. Fragments of former neighbourhoods today are some of the monuments: Residential house - Luan Rudi (Kodak building); Residential house - Ismajl Sahatqiu (Old House); Residential house - Musli Hoxha (lawyer's house - opposite of the OSCE); Residential house - Mirnije Lleshi and some of the hundred-year-old civic houses in Tophane neighbourhood (former - Divanjolli) and Vellusha neighbourhood. Traces of the Llokaq mosque are the fountain of this mosque, discovered while paving "Mother Teresa" Boulevard in 2012-2013. Now the fountain is an asset protected under the

name 'Water-Tap' in Ibrahim Rugova Square. In 1988, the Prishtevka and Vellusha rivers of Prishtina were covered and concreted.

Demonstrations of 1968

The spirit of change that was reigning around the world brings to Prishtina the first political demonstrations organized in the city — although they were widespread throughout Kosovo. Due to the policies that treated the Albanian population differently from the other peoples of Yugoslavia, there was a growing demand for self-government and more rights. These demands were also presented in rallies and debates organized by Albanians. In November 1968, student demonstrations erupted with demands for education, university, and equal rights with the other peoples of Yugoslavia. After the attempt to suppress the demonstrators, the protest escalated with one protester killed, several injured and many arrested.

The demonstration, however, had fundamental effects on Yugoslavia's constitutional changes. The following year, the first amendments began to be adopted, which lasted until 1971, which would then lead to the adoption of the Kosovo Constitution of 1974. The most important issue for the Albanians of Kosovo, Macedonia and Montenegro was the establishment of the University of Prishtina in 1970. The Albanian language was made official by the 1974 Constitution and Kosovo institutions used bilingualism - Albanian and Serbian.

Due to the closure of the border between Yugoslavia and Albania, Prishtina was the unofficial capital of the Albanians in Yugoslavia.

February 1974 marks the establishment of Kosovo's autonomy under Serbia, with almost the same status as a Republic, while Prishtina was the capital. In the same year, the Press Palace was opened in Prishtina, as a strengthening of the daily newspaper in Albanian, "Rilindja", which would be a promoter of the social and political development of Albanians. The name Metohija for Kosovo was abolished and the difference in numbers between Albanians and Serbs in administration, judiciary, etc. was reduced.

The ‘70s are known in Yugoslavia as the most progressive years, when Kosovo was beginning to see progress, albeit slow, economically and politically. However, this period was short, as the early ‘80s brought about tensions of economic and political inequalities.

1981 demonstrations

On 11 March 1981, a spontaneous reaction started in Prishtina, namely in the student centre, from students who were protesting against the harsh conditions in the dormitories. This reaction turned into a nationwide demonstration responded to brutally and violently by the police.

On 30 March, in Prishtina, students began boycotting classes as a continuation of the reactions, and on 1 April, students resumed demonstration by marching on the main



The Ethnological Museum in Prishtina is one of the most visited facilities by foreign and Albanian tourists.



streets of Prishtina. Successive reactions with almost the same level as the 11-26 March demonstration took place throughout April until the end of May. The demonstration was dispersed with a large intervention by police forces. According to official records at the time, 9 people were killed and 15 injured during these demonstrations, while many others were brutally beaten and tortured. Demands for more rights continued later on as well through protests and the miners' strike in February '89. In the same year, in the Assembly of Kosovo in Prishtina under a police siege, the autonomy of Kosovo was abolished, being again placed under the direct influence of the Republic of Serbia.

Members of various illegal groups operating at least since the mid-50s, known as the Illegal Movement were also among the organizers of the protests. According to Yugoslav sources, after the 1981 demonstrations, at least 617 Albanians were charged with irredentist and nationalist activities, 89% of whom were sentenced from 1 to 15 years in prison.

The ‘90s and the beginnings of political pluralism in Prishtina

Kosovo's autonomy was abolished in 1989. During this period, Albanian intellectuals formed the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK) party, led by Ibrahim Rugova in Prishtina. On 2 July 1990, the members of the Kosovo Assembly, gathered in front of the building of the Kosovo Assembly,

as they were not allowed to enter the relevant hall, adopted the Constitutional Declaration on the independence of Kosovo from Serbia and the proclamation of Kosovo as a Republic within Yugoslavia. The Milosevic regime that was installed in Kosovo abolished all state institutions, firing all Albanian employees, closing the University of Prishtina in the Albanian language, closing secondary schools and some primary schools for Albanian pupils and students, firing the Albanian staff in Radio Television of Prishtina (RTP). This period marks the establishment of the so-called "parallel system" as peaceful resistance to the segregation that was imposed. Under this system, health and educational institutions were transferred to the private homes of Albanians, while Radio Television of Albania provided two hours of parallel RTP program in Albanian, a program which Albanians in Kosovo were watching via satellite dishes.

Until the late '90s, most neighbourhoods in the city of Prishtina had white satellite dishes on the balconies and roofs of Albanian homes, thus marking the city ethnically. In Prishtina alone, over 7,000 names of streets, schools and institutions have been changed and replaced by names from Serbian history. In this wave, busts and memorials were changed and also replaced by memorials of political and religious personalities of Serbian history. Ethnic segregation was also appearing in the city organization. Albanians were also excluded from sports clubs and stadiums, creating the need for the establishment of parallel leagues in all sports disciplines,

with matches played in meadows and improvised areas. Being excluded from hospitals and clinics, improvised houses and facilities were turned into medical clinics to serve the Albanian population.

With the new political and economic situation, the Albanian diaspora takes on a new economic and political role for the citizens of Kosovo. In the aggravated economic situation, in order to ensure survival, humanitarian and financial aid was collected, especially through the 3% tax collected in the parallel system, where the diaspora made the greatest contribution. In 1991, between 26 and 30 September, in an internationally unrecognized referendum, a decision was made on Kosovo's independence and sovereignty. This resulted in the constitution of a Government under the leadership of the Democratic League of Kosovo, which Government, due to the political situation, but also with the aim of lobbying for the Albanian cause in the world, was forced to leave Kosovo. That prompted this Government to be known as 'Government in Exile'.

In 1997, students of the University of Prishtina had started their preparations for a massive peaceful protest demanding the right to education in school and university facilities in Kosovo. The protest was preceded by a series of walks in the city boulevard. This part - today's square from Grand Hotel to the Government building, known as the

'Boulevard', was the most frequented avenue in the '70s. On 1 October 1997, the date when the university semester begins, students dressed in white shirts gathered in the Velania neighbourhood to protest peacefully. This neighbourhood, in the years of the parallel system, was among the neighbourhoods that had made available many houses to the faculties of the University of Prishtina for lectures. The Serbian army violently intervened against the peaceful protesters and in an attempt to disperse it, injuring and arresting many students, including its organizers.

The demonstrations were covered by many international media, increasing public attention to the situation in Kosovo. The peaceful movement, which was the ideology that characterized this decade, turned women and students into active peaceful movements. In 1996, women were organized against the murder of student Armend Daci, who was killed by a Serbian civilian sniper on his way home. The 'March of Bread' in 1998 is remembered when intellectual women, gender equality activists, women from the LDK Women's Forum and other citizens marched from Prishtina with bread in hand to send food to women and children of displaced persons from their homes in Drenica. This event took place after the massacre on 5, 6 and 7 March 1998 against the Jashari family in Prekaz, Drenica. The protesting and humanitarian march of women was stopped in Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje by Serbian police, forcing women to turn back.

1998/1999 War Period

After almost a decade of peaceful resistance through the parallel system, at the end of 1997 and more intensively in 1998, operations began by the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), which conducted sporadic guerrilla warfare. Following the failure of an internationally mediated peace agreement in Rambouillet, France, between Serb and Albanian representatives, NATO forces launched airstrikes on 24 March 1999 against Serbia-Montenegro demanding an end to the killing and repression of the Albanian people in Kosovo.

During the NATO bombing campaign, Serbian forces intensified attacks and violence against the Albanian civilian population in Kosovo, killing thousands and displacing some 1 million Albanians, mostly to Albania and Macedonia. At the time, Prishtina, according to media reports, looked like a ghost town. Albanian citizens who had remained in some neighbourhoods where there were also Serbs, the Serbian police had given green cards to prove that they are from Prishtina. There is no exact figure for the number of Prishtina residents who left their city in this period. After the signing of the Kumanovo Agreement on 9 June between NATO and the Serbian state, Serbian forces began to withdraw from Kosovo and the Kosovo Albanian people to return to their homes. Two days later, on 11 June, Serbian forces would finally leave Prishtina and on 12 June from all over Kosovo, marking a new political and social period for the entire population.

Post-1999 and independence

After the liberation, Prishtina remained the capital of Kosovo as an international protectorate led by a United Nations mission in Kosovo called the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). The protectorate lasted until 2008 when Kosovo declared independence.

It has been immediately recognized by the USA, Great Britain, France, Germany and Italy, thus starting the country's journey as an independent state. Since 1999, Prishtina has seen major changes in infrastructure and organization. Due to the growing demand for the urban influx, new neighbourhoods have been created, while many old inhabited neighbourhoods with houses have been reorganized into neighbourhoods with multi-store buildings.

Institutional vacuum and lack of security led to illegal constructions and superstructures flourishing in all parts of the city. In 2000, Rexhep Luci, Director of the Spatial Planning Department in the Municipality of Prishtina, was assassinated after allegedly ordering the demolition of a hotel being built without a construction permit.

The Urban Development Plan, as the most important city planning document since the post-war period, was approved in 2013, stabilizing the wave of new constructions that were taking place in the city. Several new neighbourhoods have been built and are under construction ever since.

Ottoman and Pre-Ottoman period



Clock Tower

In the historical centre of Prishtina, there is a Clock Tower built in the XIXth century - one of the most important monuments of utilitarian architecture in the city. The hexagonal base structure, with full stone and brick materials on the body, ending with the lead in the roof, rises to a height of 26 meters, dominating the historic buildings around it. There are circular stairs inside with stone slabs with a thickness of 3 cm, while in the part of the structure built of bricks, the stairs are made of wood, which shows that this part was built later. The characteristic of this Clock Tower was the old bell that was located inside it. The Turks took this bell during their wars in Moldavia and Wallachia as war booty and brought it to the Clock Tower in Vushtrria, which by the order of Jashar Pasha was later brought to the Clock Tower in the city of Prishtina. The bell was decorated with a large number of beech-like ornaments and had a Romanian inscription from 1764 by Duke Jan Moldovan, with 2 cm long letters that stretched across the entire surface of the bell. In 2001, the Clock Tower bell was stolen and replaced by KFOR troops by an electrical mechanism.

Grand Hammam

The Grand Hammam dates back to the 15th century and is one of the oldest and most representative monuments of Prishtina's cultural heritage. It is located very close

to other important monuments in the old part of the city and was once the basic part of the King's Mosque complex, which together with the hammam was built by Sultan Mehmet II Fatih. According to legend, it is said that Sultan Mehmet II Fatih ordered all the workers working on the construction of the King's mosque to take baths in the hammam on daily basis. This facility was built as a "Couple Hammam" which means it was used by women and men at the same time. The building consisted of a central anteroom, a transitional heating space and a bathroom with a water storage boiler, which was covered by 18 domes.

A special feature of this hammam are these domes, which have holes placed in them that allow light to penetrate inside the space. Heating in the hammam is done through steam in hypocausts placed under the marble floor. The hammam has been used for generations by Prishtina residents for cleansing and relaxation and there was often food and tea inside.

In the case of wedding, the bride was prepared inside the hammam and the whole process was accompanied by music. The Hammam has not been operating as such since 1960. Over the years it has undergone many changes as a result of carelessness and negligence and nowadays it continues to remain unused. Despite this, for many citizens, the Grand Hammam continues to remain one of the most beautiful memories of the capital.

The picture on the left: Clock Tower. The bell of this tower has been from Romania and according to records dates back to the 18th century.
In 1999, after the war in Kosovo, it was stolen. We still do not know where it is nowadays.

Small Hammam

Today only the ruins of the old Hammam remained, which disappeared during successive waves of urban construction after World War II. It used to be located near the Bazaar Mosque. Its ruins were discovered during the construction of the present Government Building and are considered important exhibits of early Ottoman urban architecture. It is said that this hammam was built in the 15th century, at the same time as the large hammam of the city. The characteristic of this hammam was the way of supplying the necessary water for the bathroom when it is known that at that time there was no water supply. It is assumed that the water was brought from the Gërmia forest, through canals, while the central heating was provided through a charcoal 'heater'. The interior of this hammam was oriental style, dominated by fountains (kurnet) with special aluminium or copper plates. In the central part of the lobby of the 'Small Hammam' was the fountain with a number of springs, which created a refreshing effect, while around the fountain itself there were wooden drawers, in which there were soft drinks, cold for the users of the bathroom. There were also cases when the grooms on the eve of the wedding, through appropriate ceremonies and bathing, marked the event among friends with music and joy.

Mosque of Sultan Mehmet

The Mosque of Sultan Mehmet Fatih II, also known as the King's Mosque or the



The Historic Centre of Prishtina, despite the degradation, continues to preserve the old contours of the city

Grand Mosque is located in the core of the old city of Prishtina, close to other cultural heritage monuments. It was built by order of Sultan Mehmet Fatih II - the Conqueror. According to the Arabic inscription above the entrance portal, the mosque was built in 1461. During the Austro-Turkish wars in the late 17th century, this mosque was converted into a Catholic Church. Pjetër Bogdani, one of the earliest Albanian writers, was buried here. After the defeat by Austrians in 1690, Bogdan's remains were exhumed and thrown into the street by the Turkish army and reinstated its former function to the building. During World War II, the German army made several interventions inside the mosque. This is seen from the painting of the broken cross over the entrance gate. Characteristic of this mosque are the walls about 180 cm thick

and its dome which is known as the largest in the Balkans Peninsula. For the artistic values of this building, the wooden mahvili decorated with stalactites in the shape of a frieze and geometric ornaments stands out. The interior generally dominates with varied colour paintings with plant motifs in the al-seco technique.

This monument has undergone a series of repair interventions, among which it is worth mentioning the restoration of 1682/83 - during the rule of Sultan Mehmed IV, as well as the repair interventions after the 1955earthquake. Since the time when this monument was declared under the protection of the state (1953) by the Provincial Institute for the Protection of Monuments, the mosque was in poor condition, therefore during 1955 and 1990 the same institution carried out partial conservation interventions of a rescuing nature. The last conservation of the building was done in 2010 by TIKA (Turkish Agency for Cooperation and Coordination). The mosque along with its courtyard, today is a focal point for community gatherings. In the courtyard of the mosque, there is a large fountain with 14 spring pipes, built at a later stage than the mosque itself.

Once upon a time, in this courtyard were some tombs of Islamic believers with special merits.

Jashar Pasha Mosque

Jashar Pasha Mosque is the latest mosque built in the historic area of Prishtina. According to written records, the construction of this mosque dates back to the XVth century, while its appearance mainly dates from the XIXth century, more precisely 1834. This coincides with the time when Jashar Pasha, as a wealthy citizen of Prishtina and Governor of Skopje, financed the implementation of radical repairs of this mosque and since then the mosque bears the name of Jashar Pasha Mosque.

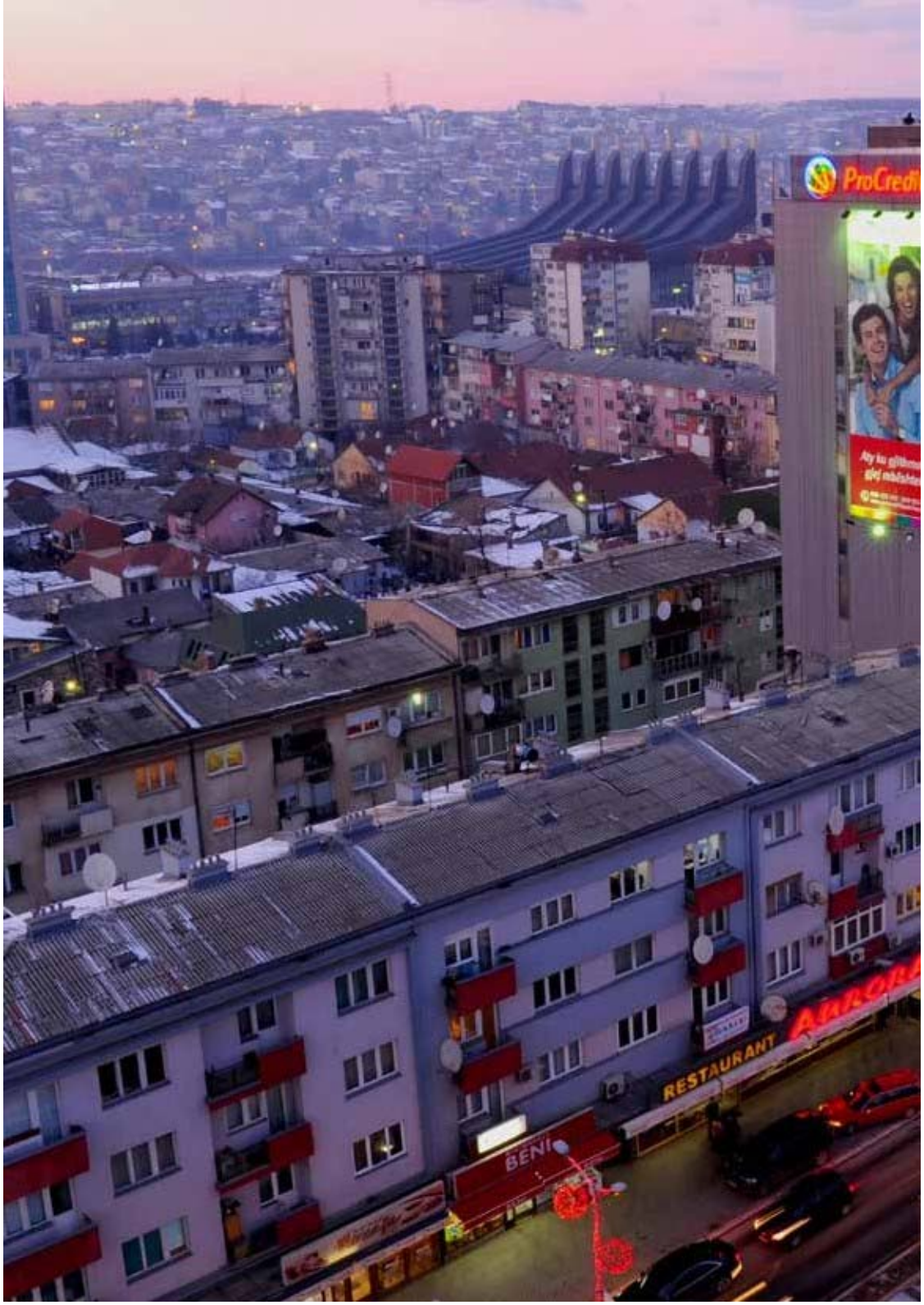
The building has a square planimetry, with a stone structure of the one-dome type, with an open wooden portico and a stone minaret. The interior presents a unique space illuminated through windows arranged in levels, with painted walls and composed of mahvil, mimber and mihrab. The facade of the entrance and the wooden ceiling of the porch are also decorated with plant motifs. The hexagonal minaret located next to the mosque has sculptural decoration at the bottom and has the elegant sharaf placed at the top. After the damage it had for a while, this mosque was restored in 2016 by TIKA.



The oldest building in Prishtina. The year when construction began is believed to be 1382.

Bazaar Mosque

The Bazaar Mosque, at the same time the oldest building that exists today in Prishtina, marks the beginning of the centre of the old city. In the past, this mosque was located in front of the covered bazaar that Prishtina once had. Immediately after the Battle of Kosovo in 1389, Yildirim Bayezid, in the name of the victory of the Turkish army, laid the foundation stone of this mosque, while the final works were undertaken by Sultan Mehmed II Fatih. Citizens also referred to this mosque by other names such as ‘Sager Mosque’, ‘Muradija Mosque’, ‘Çarshi Mosque’ and ‘Tash Mosque’.


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Prishtina is the most populated city in Kosovo.

The square-based mosque is one-dimensional, with minarets built entirely of stone. The minaret is in fact the main feature of this mosque, which for the fact that it is built entirely of stone, distinguishes it from others. The mosque is bordered by a very narrow courtyard at its entrance, under the minaret itself, there was also the grave of 4 fighters who fell in the Battle of Kosovo. The interior space is illuminated by windows arranged in different levels with a pronounced rhythm, the wall surfaces are decorated by mural paintings with plant motifs, oriental of that time. Over time, the mosque inside, outside and in its surroundings has undergone repair interventions and transformations, which have affected its visual integrity, while its minaret remains untransformed from its original form.

Llap Mosque

Llap Mosque, also known as the Ramdanija Mosque, is located in the northern peripheral part of the old city centre of Prishtina. According to the documents found so far, it is said that the Llap Mosque was built in 1470. However, in 1996 a marble plate was found in the courtyard of the mosque, which leads to another date of construction (Hijri 959, i.e. 1551 of our era). According to an anonymous traveller, it is said that the mosque was initially started to be built as a church. When construction of the minaret began, Catholics demolished it twice overnight.

The mosque continuously functioned as a place of worship and prayer until 1999, when it was burned down and then abandoned.

Llap Mosque also has a courtyard with surrounding walls to the north and west, as well as a fountain for "ablution" - purification before the prayer ritual. The rectangular-based structure has walls built of carved sandstone and covered with mortar. The minaret was built in the same way. The interior of the mosque is characterized by colourful murals, dominated by floral motifs. During the restoration in 1980, the mosque has undergone some changes in its exterior, interior and courtyard. During 2009-2010, the mosque was conserved, which was radically damaged by the recent war in Kosovo. During this conservation, many original elements were returned to the monument.

City Fountain

The city fountain is located in the complex of old Prishtina, specifically in the courtyard of the Bazaar Mosque. This fountain decorated with marble is the only public building of its kind in Prishtina that has survived to this day. Based on the type of construction and decoration of marble, it can be said that the fountain was built in the late seventeenth or early eighteenth century. Customs have conditioned Islamic architecture to build fountains in the centre of public spaces, close to other religious buildings. In the past, dozens of similar public fountains have been scattered throughout the city.



The city fountain dates back to the 15th century.

Muslim believers have used the fountain for ablution, while some citizens of Pristina have used it for drinking water. The water in this fountain a decade ago and more has come from the springs of Gërmia, by underground pipes. Today the fountain is supplied with water from the water supply of the city of Prishtina. Water flows from the fountain to the concrete slab, which is surrounded by 6 marble tiles 77 cm high and 80 cm wide. The tiles are decorated with rosettes and other decorations. The fountain has preserved only a part of its authenticity. There are holes in the middle of each marble tiles, which show that in the past the fountain had a wider development, but the raising of the road level has covered other parts of it.



Emin Gjiku Complex.

Emin Gjiku residential complex

The ensemble "Emin Gjiku", owned by the famous Gjinolli family, was built in the early 19th century. The name comes from the nickname of Emin Gjinolli, "little man", or in Turkish Eminçik, which later became Emin Gjik, from which the complex takes its name. This ensemble consists of two large courtyards: the entrance courtyard with stable and stone building and the inner courtyard, in which the family house, the guest house and the servants' house are located. Until 1990, this complex was used as a Museum of Nature, while since 2003 the complex functions as an Ethnological Museum, which contains various collections of movable and spiritual cultural heritage.

The stone building, restored there in 1960, is the only building that survived the destruction of the Old Bazaar. It is a one-storey building covered with a stone roof, once a blacksmith shop, currently a centre of contemporary art called "Station". The yards are surrounded by high walls, built of adobe and wooden hats. Houses and stables reflect the architectural harmony of proportions and architectural elements. During different periods of time, the complex has undergone numerous changes as a result of the change of the function. But as a whole, the "Emin Gjiku" complex remains one of the best examples of civic houses of the early nineteenth century.

In September 2006, Emin Gjiku opened as a museum, an integral part of the Museum of Kosovo with an ethnological exhibition that explains life in Kosovo in ethnological terms during the XVIII-XIX centuries.

Former Academy of Sciences and Arts

The dwelling house - the former Academy of Sciences and Arts, dates back to the 19th century and represents a rare example of the old civic architecture of the dwelling. The records show that the house was one of the many hostels in Prishtina, owned by Tefik Rushit Mirashi and the Domaniku family.
During 1964-1965 due to the danger and great damage, this house was completely reconstructed with new material, where two separate units of houses have become as a whole.

In addition, some changes have been made in the function due to its adaptation from the primary function of the residential house to office space.

The premises of this building over a period of time have been used by the Academy of Sciences and Arts of Kosovo, and today are used as office spaces by the Association of Political Prisoners. The structure of the building with a rectangular base has massive walls with a thickness of 38 cm, built of solid brick, except for two parts of the wall, which are made of raw stone. The ground floor is closed from both streets and the lighting is enabled from the yard. The construction of the porch rests on six authentic pillars placed on concrete pillars, which have the wooden cushion above. The first floor has six spaces that have direct access from the porch. The construction between the floors is bondruk with porous brick filling. Characteristics of this house are also the wooden shutters, placed on the windows with wooden frames.

Modern period

Nation and nationality

After WW II, in 1948, contacts with Albania were severed as a result of the severance of Yugoslavia-Albania relations resulting in major changes for Prishtina as the capital. Albanians in Kosovo were recognized as a minority without rights as other nations and nationalities. With the Constitution of 7 April 1963, the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia (FPRY) became the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY), while Kosovo was recognized as the Autonomous

Socialist Province (ASP). Albanians from the notion of ‘national minority’ were defined by this Constitution as ‘nationality’.

Veil

During this period, two campaigns of particular importance were organized by the Women's Anti-Fascist Front (WAF). Emerging from the national liberation war against fascism and the Yugoslav communist party, the WAF aimed at educating and emancipating women. Efforts to achieve these goals were made through a campaign to remove the veil and organize literacy courses. The WAF also published its own press, the Bulletin and later the magazine "Agimi", the articles of which promoted the liberation of women through the removal of the veil, the education of women, then advice for new mothers and household advice. These two campaigns, organized in parallel, met with resistance from different strata of society, especially the most religious groups. On 21 March 1950, a law was passed banning the veil or any covering of the face.

Illegality of Kosovo

Responsible for organizing the demonstrations in the ‘60s were considered to be members of various illegal groups operating at least since the mid-50s, known as the Illegal Movement. The political program of this movement, which operated in groups of usually three members, varied depending on the circumstances of the time.

While the program initially called for the right to self-determination, in the ‘80s, the main demand was for the Republic of Kosovo and calls against the Yugoslav and then Serbian oppression and discrimination imposed on Albanians. Illegal activity, in addition to organizing demonstrations, meant writing slogans, preparing leaflets with national informative and emancipatory articles. In the city of Prishtina, they were distributed in streets and alleys. Police targeted political activists of these groups, who were under surveillance and persecution. Former members of the Illegal Movement and former political prisoners, explain that the escape from the police sometimes happened by passing over the roofs of houses or small doors of the courtyards in the old part of the city, but also hiding in the city cemetery.



The new terminal of Prishtina Airport was built in 2009.

Russians at Prishtina Airport

On 12 June 1999, NATO troops entered Prishtina. But an event that happened in those days was the landing of Russian special forces at Prishtina Airport, where according to the British newspaper "The Guardian", about 200 Russian soldiers blocked Prishtina Airport and with the arrival of the first contingent of NATO troops in Prishtina, led by British soldiers and numbering around 800, tensions began between the parties that could take the crisis to a whole new level, from an Albanian-Serbian war to another world war. After an official silence, Kremlin finally acknowledged that this contingent of Russian troops had been

sent in counter-response to NATO decisions not to include Russia as an integral part of peacekeepers in Kosovo. The crisis was averted even though there were sporadic tensions between the two sides: the British and the Russians, so Prishtina Airport was handed over to the British contingent and NATO.

Museum of Kosovo

The eclectic monumental building "Museum of Kosovo" is located in the historic area of the city of Pristina. The building was erected in 1885/86 according to the project worked on in the Military Office in Graz, as a building for the Ottoman garrison staff.



The National Museum is exhibited in the last building of the 19th century, which was built by the Ottoman State, in the style of Austrian buildings of the time.

Until 1975, the building was used as the headquarters of the military command during the regime of the former SFRY for the region of Prishtina. Since 1980, this building has been used as a Museum of Kosovo. The planimetry of the building is rectangular built with construction materials such as stone, brick, wood and marble. The roof has been rebuilt and belongs to the "mansard" type covered with "modern" tiles. The front part of the building is accentuated with a uniform rhythm of openings and accentuated symmetrical one-sided stairs, with semi-arched planimetry leading from the ground floor to the first floor. In the courtyard of the museum once existed the Old Clock Tower. The Museum of Kosovo as an institution was established in 1949.

From 2018, the Museum includes the permanent exhibition collection with an extensive collection of the country's cultural heritage, with archaeological pavilion exhibits — from the Neolithic period to the 2008 Declaration of Independence.

University Campus

The University of Prishtina was established by the Law on the Establishment of the University of Prishtina, which was approved by the Assembly of the Socialist Province of Kosovo on 18 November 1969. The establishment of the University of Prishtina was a historic event for the people of Kosovo, as well as for the entire Albanian nation. All these changes were naturally reflected also in urban and architectural developments, especially in its capital, Prishtina.

The Constituent Assembly of the University of Prishtina was held on 13 February 1970, and two days later, on 15 February 1970, the solemn meeting of the Assembly was held and exactly this date was declared the Day of the University of Prishtina. The following newly established faculties based in Prishtina were part of the University of Prishtina: the Faculty of Philosophy, the Faculty of Law and Economics, the Technical Faculty and the Faculty of Medicine. Now the University of Prishtina has 17 faculties, of which 14 are academic faculties, while 3 are faculties of applied sciences.

In the building of the Rectorate of the University of Prishtina, university work has been organized and all rectors have served since its founding in 1970.

Grand Hotel

“Grand” Hotel Prishtina, a five-star category A hotel, is the first hotel of its kind, not only in Prishtina but also in all Kosovo. At the time of its opening in April 1978, it was the most modern hotel with the largest capacity at that time in Prishtina. Hotel "Unioni" and Hotel "Bozhuri" were hotels that already operated in Prishtina, but not of the size of "Grand" Hotel Prishtina. With its volume and position, it represents one of the most characteristic reference points of Prishtina, without which, the silhouette of Prishtina would have not been the same. It is one of the most important works of the first Albanian architect in Kosovo, Bashkim Fehmiu. The silhouette of the building, the organization and the composition of its masses, give the general physiognomy of this part of the city a new dimension. ‘Grand’ as the citizens refer to the building, reflects the modern socialist architecture of the ‘70s-’80s, just like most of the buildings in the centre of Prishtina. Meetings of different political and cultural levels and end-of-year holidays or other cultural and entertainment events have taken place in its luxurious facilities. It has also served and still serves as a meeting place in the square in front of it: "We meet at Grand".

National Theatre of Kosovo

Initially called the Regional People's Theatre and then the Provincial People's Theatre was established by decision of the Assembly of the former Socialist Autonomous Province of Kosovo in October 1946 in Prizren.

Kosovo National Theater Building.





Prishtina at night.

This was the first professional theatrical institution in Kosovo after the Second World War. A few months after its establishment, this theatre moved to the capital of Kosovo, Prishtina. The first performances of this theatre were mainly prepared by talented amateur artists, enthusiasts and idealists, assisted by professional artists from other parts of the former Yugoslavia, while in the '60s, its ensemble was enriched by new professional staff.

On 7 May 1949, with the play "Finger in front of the nose" (Prst pred nosom) by playwright Jozho Horvat, the Theatre in Prishtina was solemnly opened. The repertoire of this theatre is built on numerous texts of national, world and former Yugoslav dramaturgy. The performances of this theatre, which have been presented in various festivals of national and international character in the former Yugoslavia, have been highly praised by the critics of the time and have been honoured with various artistic awards. Thus, for example, in 1967, the play "Erveheja" by director Muharrem Qena was awarded the Best Director Award at the Yugoslav Drama Festival "Sterijino Pozorje". In addition to performances in the Albanian language, there were also performances in the Serbian language. Especially after 1981 onwards, this theatre operated under severe political pressure from the Yugoslav communist system and regime.

In 1990, the violent administration that was installed at this time under Milosevic's regime expelled many Albanian artists from

the theatre.

Kosovo Ballet

The first Kosovo Ballet troupe was established in 1972. The first dancers of this troupe were educated at the Ballet High School in Skopje, under the direction of Tatjana Petkovska. Initially, 25 dancers graduated from this school (6 females, 19 males). Kosovo Ballet was established under the auspicious of the National Theatre of Kosovo. Among the first dancers were Ahmet Brahimaj, Rrustem Selca, Elez Nikçi, Asma Mulla, Jonuz Beqiraj, Hysen Podrimçaku, Rrustem Bajrami, Isa Bajraktari, Gani Shala. The first director of the ballet troupe was appointed Abdurrahman Nokshiqi.

National Library

One of the most important works of the '70s in Prishtina is the National Library of Kosovo, designed by Croatian architect Andrea Mutnjakovic. This Library crowned the insofar librarian activity in Prishtina and Kosovo generally.

The first central library institution in Kosovo was established in Prizren in December 1944. In 1947, the Regional Library moved to Prishtina. In 1952, the activity of the Library was stopped and the funds were transferred to the city library "Miladin Popovic" "in Prishtina. In 1956, the KAKM Library Centre was established, which had administrative operations, while by the decision of the Provincial Council, in 1961, the regional libraries were established. This is done after the issuance of the Law on Libraries by the People's Republic (PR) of Serbia, by which the political-territorial units are obliged to designate the mother libraries. This library started working with the staff of the Library Centre, which ceased operations in 1962.

In 1970, the Provincial People's Library was renamed the People's and University Library. Due to the increasing demands for the capacity of the library, a decision is made to build a new building. The construction of the National Library became part of the Social Plan for the Development of the Socialist Autonomous Province (SAP) of Kosovo during 1971-1975. The building began construction in August 1974 and was completed in September 1981. On 15 May 1975, the foundation stone of the Library building was laid.

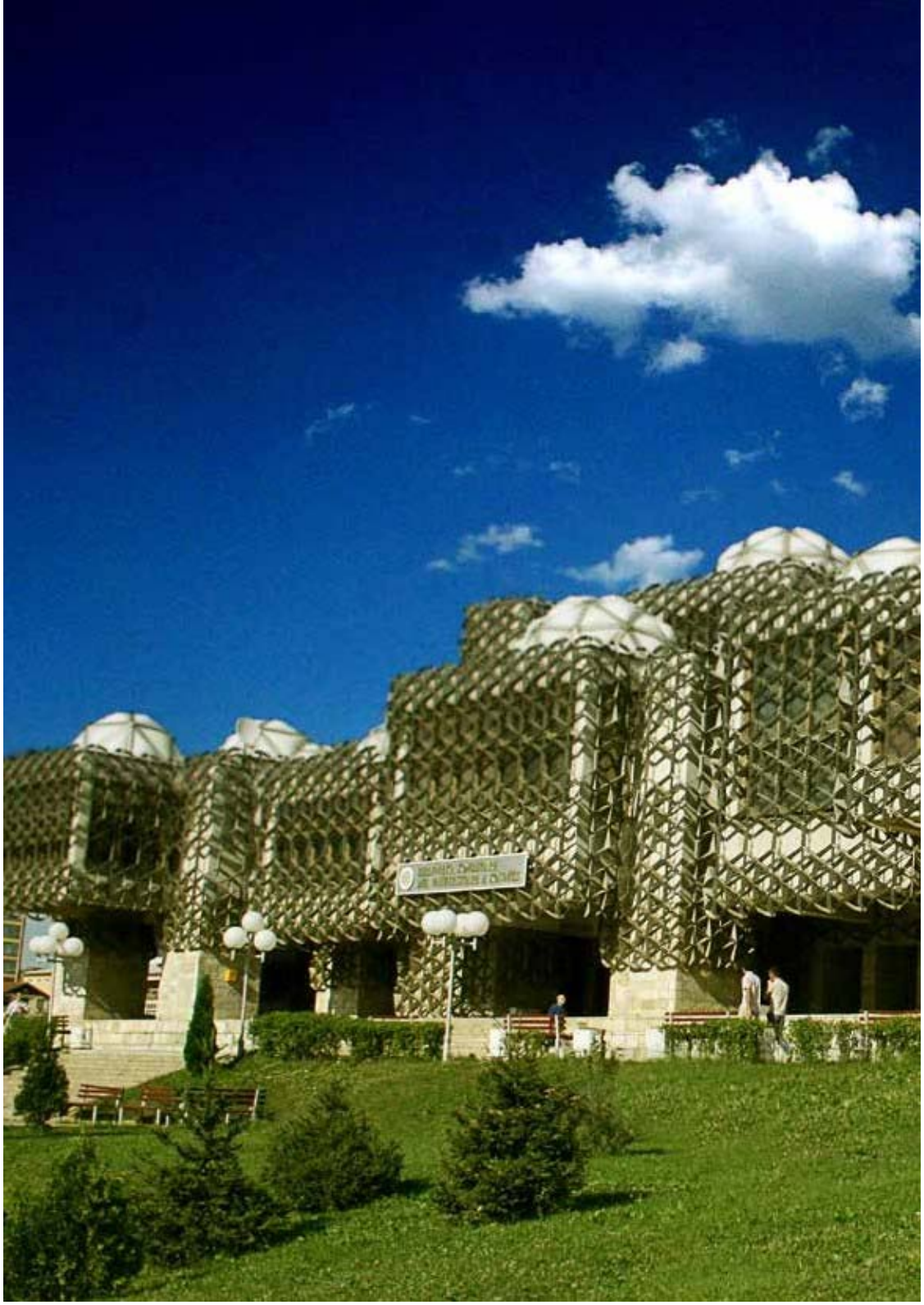
In 1975, the Assembly of the SAP of Kosovo issued the Law on the Construction of the People's and University Library of Kosovo in Prishtina, and in 1982 the library moved to the new building, designed by the Croatian architect Andrija Mutnjakovic.

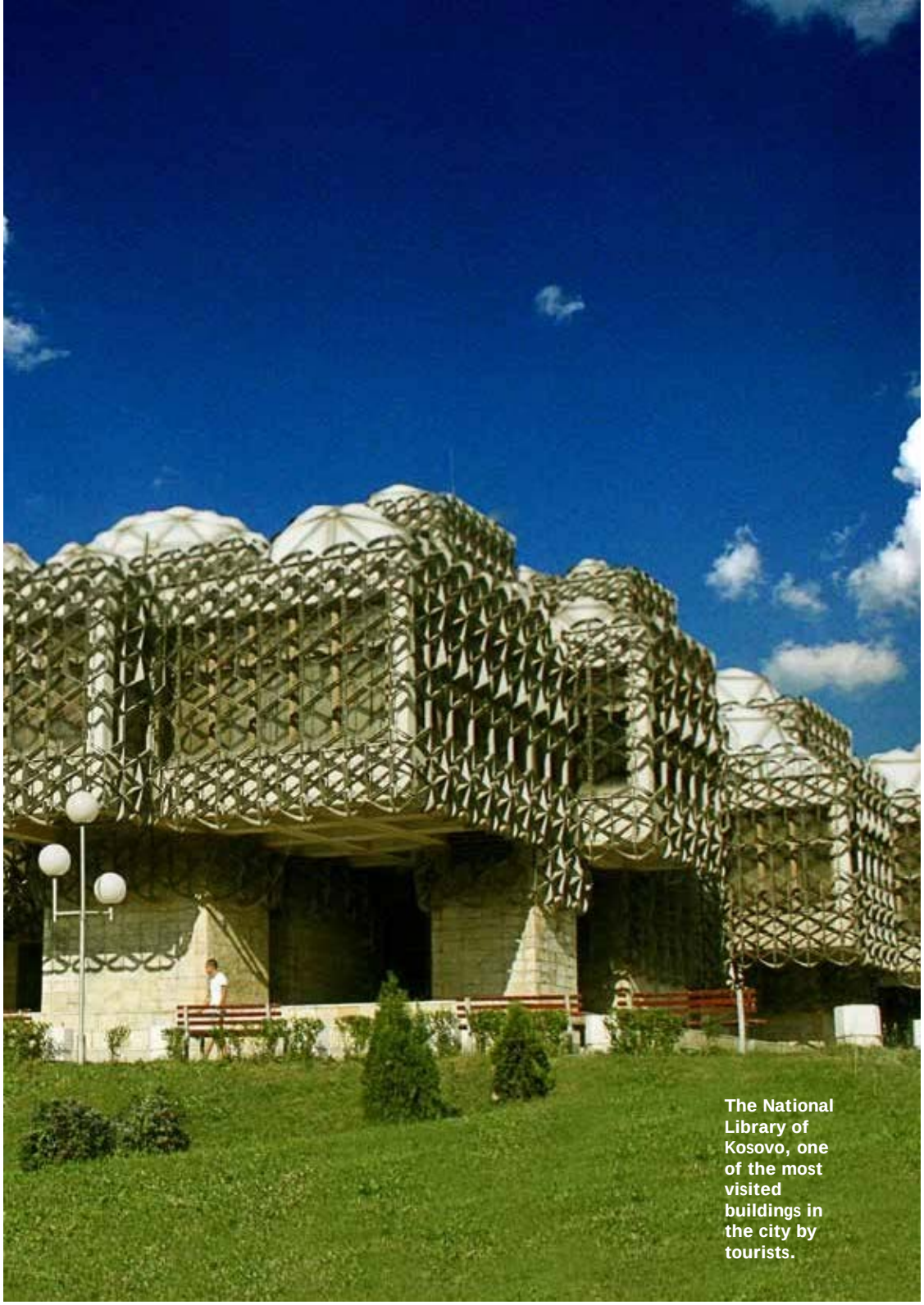
This facility has zenithal windows in the form of domes (a total of 73 domes), reading rooms for users with 600 seats (periodical hall and reading rooms for researchers). The National Library of Kosovo is foreseen according to the conceptual urban solution - University Centre in Prishtina, developed by the Institute for Urbanism and Design, Prishtina, October 1971, with the main designer Architect Bashkim Fehmiu. The obligations and proposals arising from this plan were taken into consideration only by the Croatian architect Andrija Mutnjakovi, during the design of the University Library, which is in fact the only building built based on the urban plan of Professor Bashkim Fehmiu.

The Library currently has seven departments: 1. Department of Processing Librarian Material with Relevant Services, 2. Department of Special Collections; 3. Department of Bibliography; 4. Department of Research and Development of Librarian activity; 5. Department of Information and Librarian Services; 6. Department of Resources and Computer Services, and 7. Department of Administration.

Art Gallery

The Art Gallery of Kosovo was established in 1979 as a cultural institution for the presentation of visual art and the preservation and collection of the most valuable works. The establishment of this institution became a necessity, especially after the establishment of educational and





The National Library of Kosovo, one of the most visited buildings in the city by tourists.



Mr. Chat.

art institutions such as "High School of Art" in Peja in 1949, "High Pedagogical School" in Prishtina, and the establishment of the Academy of Arts in 1973. According to records, this building, which now serves as the Art Gallery, was built around 1935 and, initially, served as the cantonment of the former Yugoslav army. From 1955 the building functioned as a Library until 1981 when the new building of the National Library was built. From 1982 the building served for the Museum of the Revolution, until 1995 when it was adapted once again for the function of the Art Gallery. For these 39 years of activity, this institution has organized nearly 500 exhibitions in the country and abroad. November Salon has been one of the most important events of figurative art in Kosovo.

'Hivzi Sylejmani' Library

This library started working in February 1945, with a fund of 1,300 books in Albanian and Serbian, as well as a fund of wartime leaflets and brochures. After ceasing the operation of the Library Centre in 1953, the library collection fund was added to this library and until 1956 it played the role of Library Centre for the entire territory of Kosovo. Within this period the Library has expanded the network of libraries outside Prishtina.

KosovaFilm

This institution was established by the Assembly of Kosovo in 1969 for the purpose of producing, playing and distributing movies. The first director of KosovaFilm was Abdurrahman Shala. KosovaFilm has produced 9 feature movies. The first movie in the Albanian language produced by KosovaFilm, "When spring is late", directed by Ekrem Kyeziu, is based on the diary of Fadil Hoxha during his time as leader of the Kosovo partisans. Among the most famous movies in Albanian as productions of KosovaFilm are the movies "Proka" and "Guardians of the Mist" directed by Isa Qosja.

Rock music in the '60s and '70s

Rock music in Kosovo begins in the '60s. Prishtina and Mitrovica were the two centres of this music in Kosovo. The rock bands of the '60s in Prishtina were: AVI Modestët, AVI Bozhurët, AVI Tandem, AVI Kodex. Bands of the 1970s: AVI Kodex, AVI Autost-op.

Rock bands of the '80s

The trend of rock music continued into the '80s. The main groups of those years on the stage of Prishtina were: "Gjurmët", "403", "Lindja", "Minatori".

GJURMËT - The band was established in 1981 and had five members. The vocalist of the group was Migjen Kelmendi, Armando Gjini on piano, Tomor Kurshumliu on bass guitar, Petrit Riza on drums and Bekim Dyla on guitar. Songs: "What does makeup taste like", "In Prishtina", "Lying on the couch",

"I thought everything ends without you", etc.

403 - Mentor Gjurgjiali, Fatmir Zajmi and Naim Osmani were the three friends who established the band 403 in 1981. Shortly after, they were joined by vocalist Hektor Gjurgjiali, Arben Godanca on guitar and Veton Orana on synthesizer. Songs "Bohemian", "Memory", "Will it return", "Index" etc.

LINDJA - The band Lindja was formed in 1983, by Luan Osmani, Fatos Berisha and Afrim Maloku. Songs: "Night", "A flower garden", "Reptile", "But we do it", "They do not make a sound", "Tower" etc.

MINATORI - Formed in the 80s by Naser Gjinovci and Mufail Limani. Songs: "I love you as much as Kosovo", "Apples with sorbet", "Good journey". "As if you were a dream".

Bands and other artists of Prishtina: Fillimi i fundit, Ilirët, BB Poqi, Bankrot, Vizio-net e thyera, Moneyfest, Violeta Rexhepagiq, Iliriana Riza, Trio Rona, Smisao Mašte, Paš ad etc.

The Collegium Cantorum Choir

It was established during the early ‘60s initially as a semi-professional choir.



Under the leadership of Mark Kaçinari and later Gjergj Kaçinari, the Collegium Cantorum played a major role in shaping and artistic education of Kosovo Albanians. From the beginning, the choir has played important part of

world and Albanian music (mass, madrigal, cantata, requiem, etc.). This choir has also played an important role in the work of the Prishtina Radio-Television Choir.

Shota Ensemble

The national ensemble of songs and dances "Shota" was established on 30 September 1964, as a State Ensemble, by decision of the former Assembly of the Autonomous Province of Kosovo.

Rilindja

The daily 'Rilindja' was first published on 12 February 1945 in Prizren and is the first Albanian newspaper in the former Yugoslavia. The newspaper is printed at the State Printing House in Prizren from issue 1 to 60. Issue 61 of the newspaper is published and printed in Prishtina at the Provincial Printing House of the Popular Front. Initially, it had a weekly edition with only four pages until 27 June 1948, when it started to be published twice a week, on Sundays and Thursdays. Then, from November 1958, the daily newspaper started to be published on daily basis (it was not published only on Friday). From 1964 it was published every day in 20 standard pages, while on Saturdays and during holidays in 24-32 pages. The newspaper "Rilindja" functioned as an "independent body of the Socialist League of the working people of Kosovo", under the umbrella of the Press Palace of the same name where all the literary, scientific and school works and children's literature of that time were published.

Jeta e Re

It is a bi-monthly literary magazine, which was published within the OPGBG "Rilindja" in Prishtina. The first issue of this magazine was published in July 1949, at the initiative of Esad Mekuli, who was its first editor-in-chief. It is the longest-running magazine in the history of the Albanian periodicals. The responsible director was Zekrija Rexha. The magazine is still being published.

Kosovarja

This magazine was first published in 1971. The focus of "Kosovarja" were all topics related to the health of women and children, the social and political life of urban women and those in rural areas. "Kosovarja" aimed at the emancipation of women and men in Kosovo. This magazine presented successful profiles of Kosovo women - researchers, artists, athletes, factory workers, etc., trying to project Yugoslav socialist modernism. For several years the magazine had a legal advice section for readers. On the last pages, it also gave tips on cooking and home decoration. In the '90s, "Kosovarja" changed the content. The topics that made up this magazine like most magazines in that period, were the serious political events and the repression by the regime. From the mid-90s, "Kosovarja" with private owners is oriented towards the world of show-biz, but trying to focus again on successful women in Kosovo.

Magazines in Kosovo

"Përparimi" was a magazine that aimed to publish scientific papers.

Other magazines were: "Fjala", "Pionieri", "GEP","Shkëndija", "Thumbi".

Kosovo Chords

This festival of light (entertainment) song started in 1969-1970 in Kino Rinia

Youth sings

This entertainment song (rock) festival started in 1974.

BOOM

This festival started in 1982. 3 to 4 editions of the Boom festival have been held.

Prishtina's music scene

This festival was organized by the composer Zeqirja Ballata during the '80s.

Culture funding:

Self-Governing Community of Interest (SGCI) for education and culture of the Municipality of Prishtina has been responsible for financing the cultural and artistic associations of the Municipality of Prishtina. Initially, the bands of the city have recorded free of charge in the studio of Radio Television of Prishtina (RTP) in Veternik and then in the studio of Radio Prishtina. The distribution and sale of the tapes was done by RTP production.

Palace of Youth and Sports

In the urban context, the recreational

sports centre, now the Palace of Youth and Sports with the size and number of public activities that take place in it represents a complex public space closed and open, vibrant throughout the day for the city through trade in the ground floor area.

In 1974 the competition for the Recreational Sports Centre "Boro and Ramiz" was opened in Prishtina. Six offices were invited. Two of them had withdrawn from the competition. In November 1974, the jury decided to award the first prize to the Research and Design Institute "DOM" from Sarajevo, with a team led by Zivorad Jankovic, Halid Muhasilovic and Espek Sretko. The team was also invited to develop implementation projects.

In the jury's decision, it read as follows: The 11-member jury unanimously decided that the first prize should be given to the "DOM" Research and Design Institute from Sarajevo and it should be awarded 80,000 dinars. In Prishtina on 04.11.1974.

The basic urban concept of the recreational sports centre, according to the authors, has been the creation of a functional spatial complex including the Republic Square, now "Zahir Pajaziti" Square, the square in front of the Universal Hall, the Small Hall, the Youth House and the indoor pool. The project is harmoniously composed of all the buildings of Republic Square. In relation to the road, the Youth House is in the foreground. The indoor pool, which was never built, was located in the quietest part of the location, but in the centre of the outdoor sports area.

The project envisages a warm connection between the indoor pool and the Sports Hall. The internal traffic network in the complex enables easy access of vehicles to all buildings and smooth movement of pedestrians within the complex. The concentration of all service spaces in a tract between the universal hall and the small hall has enabled the separate movement between the public and the athletes.

The de-levelling of the entrances to the sports halls and the public has enabled the design of wide foyers which can be used for various exhibitions. The spaces of the shopping centre, garages, and warehouses under the entrance plateau increase the value of the use of the building and with this, the content of the former Republic Square is linked with the Sports Centre.

Dodona Theatre

Dodona Theatre was established on 12 November 1986 as a youth, children and puppet theatre "by decision of the Working Community of the Municipal Assembly of Prishtina". Rabije Bajrami, Musa Ramadani, Ismajl Ymeri, Melihate Qena, Nuredin Loxha, Sherafedin Hoxha, Anton Çetta, Fadil Hysaj, Fahri Beqiri and others contributed to its establishment. 'Dodona' started working in May 1987 with the premiere of the play "The forest belongs to everyone" by Shapi Grabovci, directed by Borislav Mrkshiqi and assistant director Ismail Ymeri. The show took place at the Palace of Youth, being rerun a hundred times and was seen by 141,077 children.

The four-year work with actors of the director, playwright and theatrologist from Zagreb, Borislav Mrksic, was continued by the actress Melihate Qena. The work of this theatre made a turn in the performing art in Kosovo, inspiring young viewers into professional performers as adults.

In 1992, the theatre was located in a building on the street 'Xhavit Mitrovica' known as Mahalla Çiklik, which had been the recording space and then the boxing club. The building has been renovated and adapted for a theatre. The performances of this theatre started the work in two stages: in the morning for children and the in the evening for adults, where mainly the performer students played. In 1992, the theatre was named and is known only as "Dodona" Theatre. The first performance given in this theatre in the new building was the performance of 'Picrraku)' (Karel Novak), directed by Melihate Qena, while on the evening stage the first premiere was the play 'Zoological Story' (Edward Elbee) directed by Faruk Begolli. The play 'Professor, I am a talent rather than a joke', given earlier in the former popular theatre, continued to be staged in 'Dodona'. Until the installation of violent Serbian measures, 'Dodona' was led by Enver Petrovci. In the circumstances of the parallel education system, "Dodona" Theatre was transformed into an alternative space for the Faculty of Arts – Branch of Dramatic Arts, camouflaging the student exams and other performances by the compulsory Serbian director. As this was not always possible, the shows were often cancelled by this director on

the pretence that they had nationalist content. Most of the performances in "Dodona" were staged with very little budget or no budget at all. However, the performances and plays of this theatre were awarded several times at theatre festivals in Albania. "Dodona" for a decade of the parallel system, was among the only alternatives to cultural life in Kosovo. After the 1999 war, "Dodona" continued its work with performances on two stages, under the leadership of Faruk Begolli. In addition to performances, 'Dodona' has also welcomed other art exhibitions: such as photographs, paintings, etc.

Archaeological Ulpiana

Ulpiana, or otherwise 'Municipium Ulpiana' and 'Justiniana Secunda', was a Roman city in the area originating as of the end of the 2nd century, which reached its greatest development in the period between the 3rd and 4th centuries. During this period, the city had the epithet Municipum Ulpiana Splendissima - the Municipality of Magnificent or Excellent Ulpiana, characterized by straight road networks, orthogonal system, water supply, residential buildings and public, sacred, secular and utilitarian buildings, especially during the reign of Emperor Justinian in the 6th century, a time when it was renamed to Justiniana Secunda.

During the Roman period, geographically, Ulpiana was one of the main centres of gravity communications between Constantinople and Rome, due to its position near the intersection of the roads connecting

the Adriatic Sea with the Aegean Sea and indirectly with the Black Sea, also thanks to its position close to the intersection of Via Lissus-Naissus and Scupi roads.



Hotel Union.

Hotel Union

It was built in 1927 under the supervision of Austrian architect Andija Kremer. The style of the building was influenced by the European architecture of the time, containing elements of neo-renaissance and neo-baroque. The building, which is located near the Old Bazaar of Prishtina, was usually frequented by visiting merchants. It was originally named "Skanderbeg Hotel". Inside the building is a mosaic wall of artist Jakup Ferri, created in 2010.

Pristina in brief

Parallel System

The parallel system included the extension of a parallel government in Kosovo starting from education, health to sports. Kosovo in this period boycotted Serbian institutions, following only those of the newly created parallel system, which had governance in exile. It began in the 1990s after the abolition of the Constitution and the Autonomy of Kosovo, and meant, among other things, the relocation of institutions from public school buildings to the premises of private homes of citizens. Apart from the government and the Assembly, Albanians were excluded from all public spaces: from Radio Television of Prishtina, as a public institution, from stadiums and sports facilities, from universities, high schools and many primary

schools, and from all public enterprises.

Hence, Albanians began to gather in private homes learning from personal library books, in difficult conditions, without blackboards, chairs and tables. Among the only public buildings used only by Albanians was the 'Xhevdet Doda' school, which was not used by Serbs because it was older and damaged. This school is known for educating some very successful generations of Albanian students during the time of the parallel education system who after the war helped a lot in state-building.

Under the conditions of the parallel system of organization, the Albanians were forced to declare the Republic of Kosovo as an independent state, recognized only by Albania. This political entity organized governance through government in exile, with a 3% tax collected from the diaspora and all citizens who somehow found work. Meadows and makeshift premises were used for parallel sports leagues, while café bars played the main role of public facilities where cultural life was organized.



Government Building, formerly Bank of Kosovo.

Exhibitions and performances were usually organized in café bars.

Government Building

This building was formerly known as the Bank of Kosovo and was designed by architects Milan Tomic and Milan Pavlovic. It was built in the '80s, and at that time was the tallest building in the city. The initial plan was for two identical buildings to be built next to each other, but this plan was never implemented. The building was bombed during the Kosovo war in 1999 and later renovated, losing the elegance and beauty it had once.

Pubs and bars

Pubs and bars constitute a big part of the lifestyle in Prishtina. Entire streets are dedicated and crowded with pubs and bars. Kafenetë e Rakisë (café bars serving brandy locally known as Rakia) and Kafet e Vogla (small café bars) are among the most famous and busiest streets of Prishtina. Favourite drinks in these café bars are traditional rakia and beers. In addition to drinks, these places also offer a variety of food services: fast food or traditional food.

Bill Clinton Statue

In 2009, a statue of former President of the United States Bill Clinton was made by sculptor Izeir Mustafa. The statue was made to honour the President for his assistance and role during the 1999 war in Kosovo.

The length of the sculpture is about 3 meters and in his left hand, the President holds the "Honoris Causa" gratitude given to him by the University of Prishtina. The statue is located in the square named after President Bill Clinton.

Cathedral

The bell tower of the Cathedral "Mother Teresa" is one of the tallest buildings in Prishtina. Its position and height offer a stunning view of Prishtina, from all four sides. From this position, some of the most interesting parts of the city can be seen, such as the campus of the University of Prishtina, the western part of the city from where the sunset is followed and on the other sides other tall buildings of the city can be seen. Since 2014, visitors can climb the tower and enjoy a rare view of Prishtina.

Historic Centre

The Historic Centre of Prishtina or the Historic Area of Prishtina includes a large number of cultural heritage sites and are located in the oldest part of the city of Prishtina that once had the role of the core of the city. All the activities of social, administrative, economic, craft, political, cultural and educational life are developed in this part. The city bazaar, hammam, hostels, shops, mosques, individual houses and the clock tower were the elements that formed the nucleus of old Prishtina. Today this part is protected as the Centre or Historic Area of Prishtina.

Museum of Independence

The building was initially the main office of the Association of Writers of Kosovo, while on 17 February 2018 it was transformed into the Museum "House of Independence of Kosovo - Dr. Ibrahim Rugova". The building also served as the office of Dr. Ibrahim Rugova, while in 2004 he had proposed that this house be turned into a museum that would show and symbolize the path of Kosovo's independence.

Night life

The variety of places and activities in Prishtina, in recent years, has transformed Prishtina into the main centre for nightlife in Kosovo.

Premises and nightclubs start to be frequented in the afternoon and often stay open until the early hours of the morning.



Prishtina has also become one of the strongest centres for organizing electronic music, rock and hip-hop parties. Also, music and film festivals are organized in Prishtina, which have activities that are organized also during the evening, be they movie screenings or organizing concerts.

Modernist architecture

Modernist architecture in Prishtina began to thrive after 1945 and continued until the 1990s. Buildings of this style of architecture are mainly characterized by industrial construction engineering to enable the construction of larger and stronger buildings with materials such as concrete, glass, iron, etc.

In Prishtina, buildings that have been built with this spirit and architectural style are National Library, Palace of Youth and Sports (former Boro and Ramiz), Radio Kosova, 'Rilindja' Printing House, KEDS Building, PTK Building, former Hotel Union et. Also, with the same style of architecture are planned and built neighbourhoods such as Dardania, Ulpiana, Bregu i Diellit, etc.

Station & Boxing Club

It is one of the few exhibiting spaces and fewer galleries in the city. It is located in the part of the old town, in one of the buildings protected by law. Space also possesses the Museum of American Art, which is a small exhibition dedicated to American art. The station exhibits local and international artists.

Lambda Lambda Lambda

It is an international gallery of contemporary art located in Prishtina. Space provides artists, professionals, and audiences with an intimate and informal environment that is conducive to experimentation, discussion, and learning. Lambda Lambda Lambda was founded in 2014 and aims to strengthen dialogue between local and international artists.



Hapësira Motrat

Motrat is a contemporary art gallery that opened in March 2017. Located on the first floor of the 'Trembelat' design and advertising studio. Founded as a non-governmental organization, 'Motrat' aims to support local artists by organizing their first personal exhibition. It is open from 9:00 to 18:00 from Monday to Friday.

Bear Sanctuary



Bear Sanctuary in Badovs, 15 kilometres from Prishtina.

Bear Sanctuary Prishtina is a national park in Kosovo located near the city of Prishtina. For many years, there was no law against keeping brown bears in Kosovo. All privately kept bears lived in small cages across restaurants. They were born mainly in the forests of Kosovo or Albania and were abducted from their mothers by animal traders. As restaurant bears, they had to attract customers and thus their owners benefited. In November 2010, when it became illegal to keep bears privately, the need for a national sanctuary emerged as a new home for bears rescued from captivity.



The large Roundabout at the entrance to the city, in 'Lakrishte' neighbourhood .

Sanctuary Bear Prishtina was founded in 2013 by 'Four Paws Austria' in cooperation with KFOR, the City of Prishtina, the Ministry of Environment of Kosovo, and the law firm 'Franke & Partner'. The Sanctuary offers suitable accommodation for all restaurant bears, with large enclosures resembling the natural habitat of bears.

Stone House

The Stone House, also known as the "synagogue" is the only building that has survived in the Old Bazaar in Prishtina. What once belonged to the Jewish Municipality of Prishtina and served as a blacksmith shop, at a time was also used as a Synagogue.

The building, which originally had a stone roof, as one of the only buildings built with durable materials, was physically dismantled in the 1960s and moved from the Old Bazaar to the Emin Gjiku complex. World-renowned architect Ron Arad is currently working on a project that will turn the building into Kosovo's Jewish heritage and an interfaith centre.

Domaniku House

Built in the 19th century, the Domaniku House served as one of the many hostels in the old centre of Prishtina. The House influenced by the Ottoman urban architecture of that time, due to its degradation had to be completely rebuilt during the mid-'60s.

However, during reconstruction, the important parts of the building were changed: entrance and place of stairs, in some parts of the building material, was changed from wood and plaster into concrete, typology and general architectural elements remained the same.

Church of St. Nicholas

It is the only remaining Orthodox Church in Prishtina, which was built in the 19th century by the stonemasons of Dibra, a town in western Macedonia known for its artisans and architects.

The church was known for its iconostases that were destroyed during the 2004 riots. At the end of the 19th century, the first Serbian school was opened in Prishtina, on the premises of this church.

Freedom Monument

It was designed by the Serbian sculptor Miodrag Zivkovic in 1957 and was built in 1959. The Brotherhood and Unity Monument was built during a time when major social and architectural changes happened in the capital of Kosovo. The Yugoslav authorities brought a new spirit of modernism and brutalism, which was manifested through architecture. According to the author, the monument symbolizes the unity of different ethnicities living in Prishtina at that time.

Radio Kosovo Building

Radio Kosova Building is one of the most representative examples of twentieth-century modernist architecture in Prishtina. The building was designed in 1982 and built several years later. It was designed by the state studio "Slovenia Projekt" from Ljubljana, and the chairperson of the working team was the architect Franz Richter.

Kosovo Assembly

Located above the old bazaar of Prishtina, the building was originally designed by Serbian architect Bogdan Nestorovic in 1948. It was later adapted and redesigned by the famous Croatian Architect Juraj Neidhardt in 1960. Neidhardt born in Zagreb, spending most of his life in Sarajeva, graduated from the Vienna School of Architecture and worked in Le Corbusier office in Paris during 1932 and 1936. In recent years, the building has undergone many modifications, especially in the parliament hall, on the east and south facades.

Elektrokosova

It was designed in 1977 by Serbian architect Dragan Kovacevic from the state studio "Invest Biro" which has designed a considerable number of projects in Prishtina. Impressed by its appearance, residents began to call the building "Lepa Brena", which was a famous singer of that time.

Kurrizi Complex

It is the largest residential and commercial complex of its kind in Kosovo. The project was greatly influenced by the architectural and urban theories of the ‘70s and ’80s, which divides the complex into three levels. The ground level has a closed trade route and parallel to that of a tunnel where vehicles are physically separated from pedestrians, the second level has a wide boulevard that stretches for almost 400 meters and also has shops lined up on one side and the residential level that rises above the boulevard.

There was an urban myth in Pristina that the complex should have stretched up to "Bregu i Diellit" neighbourhood, but because of the 1981 riots, plans were cancelled. Kurrizi was designed by the state studio “Zagreb Plan” and the design team was led by Drazen Jankovic and Darko Kozjak.

Newborn Monument

It is a typographic sculpture that has marked the Independence Day of Kosovo on 17 February 2008, the day on which it was placed in front of the Palace of Youth and Sports.

The work on the monument lasted for 10 consecutive days non-stop in order to be completed for the date of independence. Initially, the colour of the letters was yellow, but traditionally the colour of the letters change every 17 February. The dimensions of the monument are 3 meters high, 24 meters long, and 0.9 meters thick, and its weight is about 9 tons.

National Theatre of Kosovo

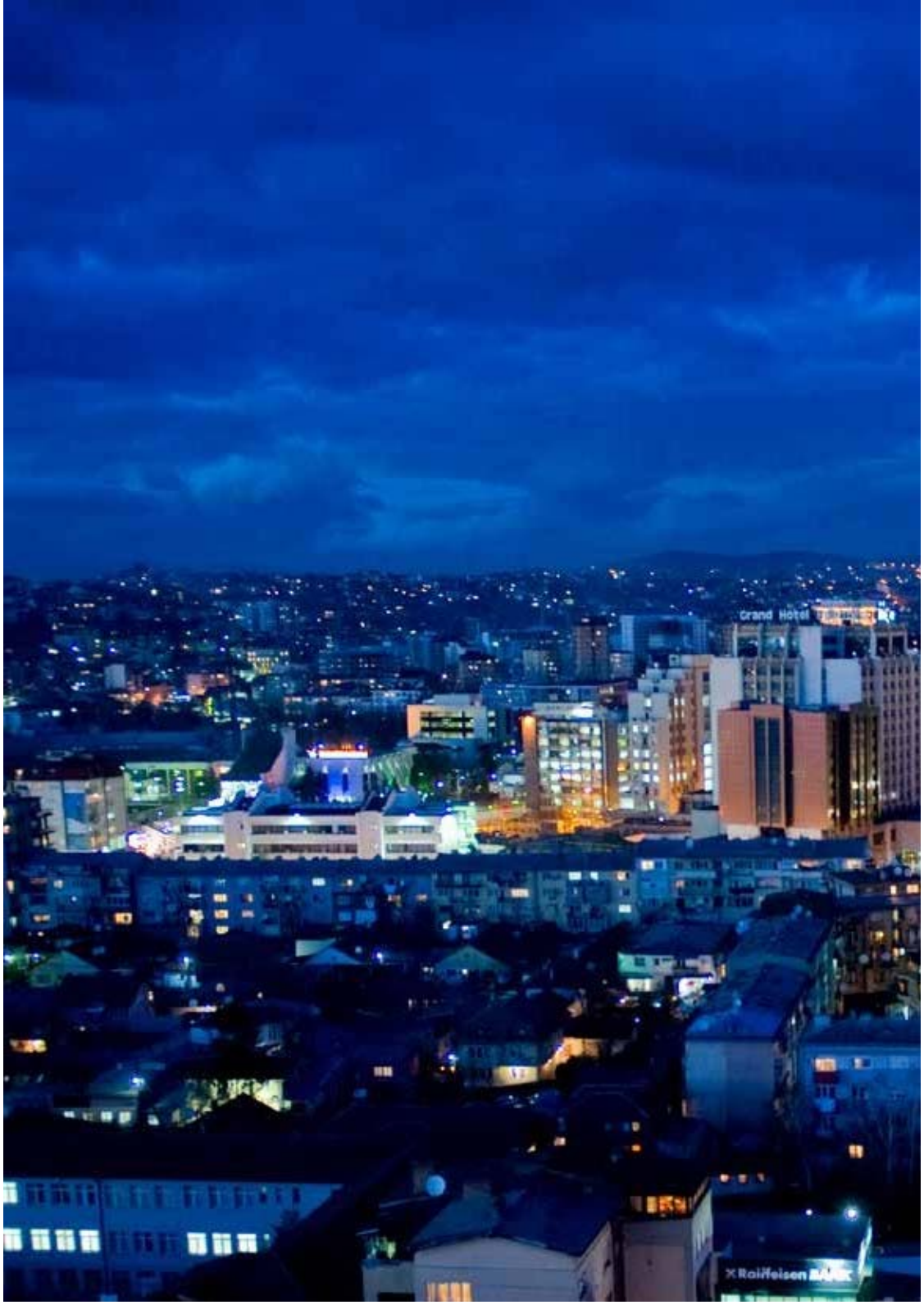
The National Theatre of Kosovo was established by a Decision of the Assembly of the Socialist Autonomous Province of Kosovo in October 1946 in Prizren and was initially called the Regional People's Theatre and then the Provincial People's Theatre. This is the first professional theatrical institution in Kosovo after the Second World War. A few months after its founding, the Provincial People's Theatre moved to the Kosovo capital, Pristina. Until 1989, this theatre has performed over 400 premieres with about 10,000 repeated performances, which were followed by over 3,300,000 spectators. In 1999, the theatre was renamed the National Theatre of Kosovo and continues its activities with the support of the Ministry of Culture, Youth, and Sports.

Central Bank of Kosovo

The Central Bank of Kosovo is located in a typical institutional building on Garibaldi Street in Prishtina, behind the Grand Hotel. This characteristic modernist building was built in the ‘80s. In 2016, a request was made to add another floor to this building, but it was rejected by municipal officers.

ODA Theatre

ODA independent theatre in Prishtina, Kosovo was established in late 2002. At first, the ODA Theatre did not have a permanent space for its activities, with its first project performed on a leased facility, it was later transformed and became the facility that has served as a residence of this theatre for a decade. Initially, the theatre building was a bowling club, and then it was transformed into a discotheque, and later on into a theatre with flexible use for various performances, suitable for a range of events from the smallest and most intimate, to those for big events.


Grand Hotel
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