

I. IDENTIFICATION DATA

Thesis title:	The Historical Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina: Preservation of a Modernist Gem in Sarajevo
Author's name:	Verda Mesihović
Type of thesis :	master
Faculty/Institute:	Faculty of Architecture (FA)
Department:	Department of Architectural Heritage Conservation
Thesis supervisor:	doc. Ing. arch. Tomáš Efler
Supervisor's department:	Department of Architectural Heritage Conservation

II. EVALUATION OF INDIVIDUAL CRITERIA

Assignment <i>How demanding was the assigned project?</i>	challenging
The building of the Historical Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina is located in the capital city - Sarajevo. The building has been damaged during the 1992-95 siege of Sarajevo and never properly restored. In November 2012, the Museum building was declared a national monument of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The goal of the project was to propose a vision of revitalization of the Historical Museum and its adjacent surrounding, find solutions for better use of space and a sustainable function for the future, and at the same time to preserve and enhance its architectural qualities and historical value. The building complex consists of exhibition halls, a floor with a central exhibition space, and an inner garden, a plateau, the administrative part of the building, depots and workshops. There were discussions about expansion of the Museum for many years and the needs for that grow, as the number of exhibits and valuables of the Museum grows. The existing spaces are over the full capacity and many functional areas of different purpose became inadequate storage areas. The main task of the master thesis was to preserve the existing building and its appearance with provision of additional spaces required for proper functioning of the Museum, with minimal impact on the original architectural qualities of the building.	
Fulfilment of assignment <i>How well does the thesis fulfil the assigned task? Have the primary goals been achieved? Which assigned tasks have been incompletely covered, and which parts of the thesis are overextended? Justify your answer.</i>	fulfilled
Please insert your comments here.	
Activity and independence when creating final thesis <i>Assess whether the student had a positive approach, whether the time limits were met, whether the conception was regularly consulted and whether the student was well prepared for the consultations. Assess the student's ability to work independently.</i>	B - very good.
Please insert your commentary.	
Technical level <i>Is the thesis technically sound? How well did the student employ expertise in his/her field of study? Does the student explain clearly what he/she has done?</i>	B - very good.
Please insert your comments here.	
Formal level and language level, scope of thesis <i>Are formalisms and notations used properly? Is the thesis organized in a logical way? Is the thesis sufficiently extensive? Is the thesis well-presented? Is the language clear and understandable? Is the English satisfactory?</i>	B - very good.
Please insert your comments here.	

Selection of sources, citation correctness

B - very good.

Does the thesis make adequate reference to earlier work on the topic? Was the selection of sources adequate? Is the student's original work clearly distinguished from earlier work in the field? Do the bibliographic citations meet the standards?

Please insert your comments here.

Additional commentary and evaluation (optional)

Comment on the overall quality of the thesis, its novelty and its impact on the field, its strengths and weaknesses, the utility of the solution that is presented, the theoretical/formal level, the student's skillfulness, etc.

I highly appreciate the work of the graduate student on an individual assignment from her native country, both during the study of the object of the historical museum in Sarajevo and analytical preparation in broader historical and contemporary contexts, and during the actual design of optimal variants of conceptual, functional and architectural solutions according to operational and spatial requirements and demands museum, with awareness of the value of the original architectural concept and preservation of important artistic details.

The initial situation is not easy, as the assignment from the museum is not clearly formulated, the possibility of obtaining sufficient funds for the future renovation of the museum is uncertain. Currently, the preparation process is a generous proposal for the new building of the ARS AEVI art gallery in the immediate vicinity of the historical museum, led by the prestigious architectural firm Renzo Piano, and the author responds to this plan by partially modifying the diploma project. Further modification proposals aim at harmonizing the interests of all institutions in the space being addressed and optimizing the modification of adjacent public spaces, including traffic solutions, parking and preparations for organizing social gatherings.

III. OVERALL EVALUATION, QUESTIONS FOR THE PRESENTATION AND DEFENSE OF THE THESIS, SUGGESTED GRADE

Summarize your opinion on the thesis and explain your final grading.

The final design of the graduate represents a dignified solution to the rehabilitation of this building, which represents high-quality post-war architecture in the area of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the 2nd half of the 20th century and I believe that it will be an important stimulus for further practical steps leading to the real restoration and dignified presentation of this neglected gem of modern architecture in Sarajevo as a memento of wartime events, especially in the current geopolitical threat of the Third World War.

The grade that I award for the thesis is **B - very good.**

Date: **25.1.2025**

Signature:

Tomáš Efler