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**Book Review**

Güssün Güneş

*Marmara University, Istanbul, Turkey*  
*e-mail: gussun.gunes@marmara.edu.tr*

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***Restoration of Mosques in Bosnia and Herzegovina***  
***by Halit Eren, Amir Pašić, and Aida Idrizbegović Zgonić***

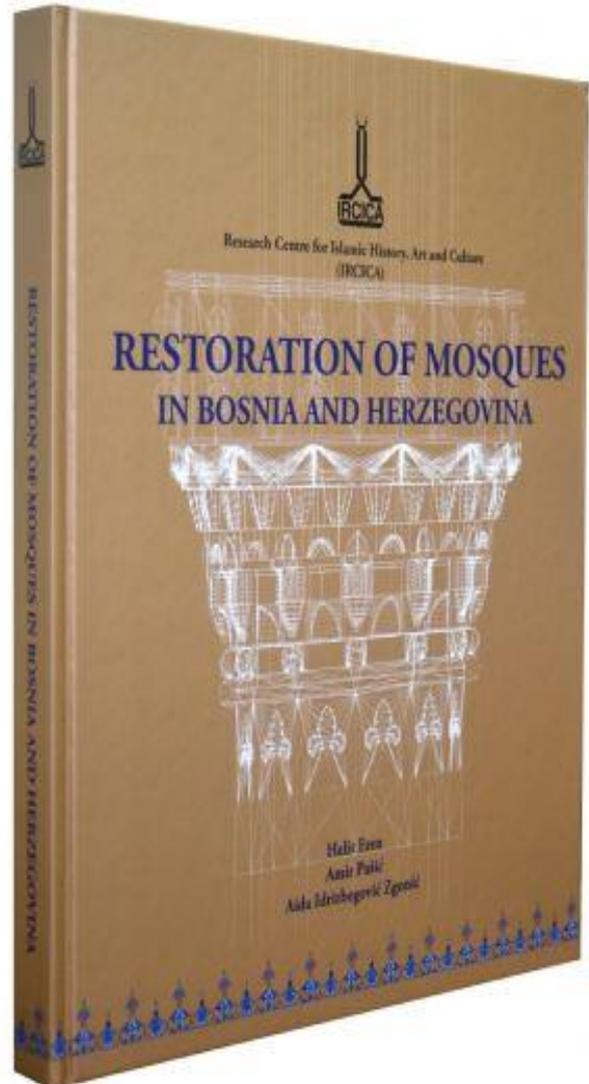
*Turkey, 2013*

*207 pages*

*ISBN 9789290632542*

Cities, houses, monuments, and most of the architectural buildings are literary heritage of the countries. This book discuss the preserving and restoring historical heritage and architecture in the Balkans especially many Ottoman era mosques. All activities on restoration of Islamic heritage in this project were organized and develop by Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) Istanbul, under leadership of its director general and following by Dr. Halit Eren program for reconstruction of Bosnia and Herzegovina during the period between 1994 and 2010.

Bosnia and Herzegovina which has been on UNESCO's World Heritage List is the colorful cultural life nurtured for centuries has embellished the country with marvelous structures. Mosques, churches and synagogues, houses, schools, and markets of Bosnia and Herzegovina symbolize the spirit of multicultural unity which has been the essence of the Bosnian identity for centuries. Communities of Orthodox, Catholic and Judaic faith lived together in peace with Muslims but nationalistic ideas managed to influence millions of people, and banned the communities from carrying this code into the civilized World of the last decade of the 20th century. Restoration of Mosques in Bosnia and Herzegovina is about centuries-old heritage gratuitously destroyed in the aggression on Bosnia and Herzegovina between the dates of 1992-1995 and successful restoration projects of the key monumental structures, five mosques Neziraga Mosque in Mostar, Sevri Hadži Hasan Mosque in Mostar, Karadžozbeg Mosque in Mostar, Hadži Alija Mosque in Počitelj, and Aladža Mosque in Foča. During the aggression, mosques were main targets and had a powerful symbolic value, which is an accumulation of cultural memory. Five elaborated mosques represent two basic single units types of the Ottoman mosques were built in the most prosperous



period of the Ottoman state presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina between 1550 and 1625. These mosques were intentionally destroyed by aggressors aiming to eradicate four centuries existence of very significant Islamic urban heritage of Mostar, Foča and Počitelj. Architecturally five elaborated mosques represent two basic single unit types of the Ottoman mosques, domed and hipped roofed mosques. A single unit dome mosque with the porch roofed by three small cupolas and one stone minaret adjoining the central cube: the Karadžobeg Mosque in Mostar (1577), the Hasan Nazir or Aladža Mosque in Foča (1550/1), Hadži Alija or Sisman Ibrahim Pasa Mosque in Počitelj (1562/3). Second type of unit mosque covered with hip roofs and one stone minaret adjoining the central cube; Neziraga Mosque (1550) and the Sevir Hadži Hasan Mosque (1622) in Mostar. The reconstruction of these mosques signifies the rebuilding of place identity and common memory which is essential after massive destruction. The book is very well produced, with a good appendices, transcription and large number of Bosnian words. They are names of Bosnian places, person, institutions or common nouns used to denote various aspect of lifestyle specific to Bosnian. All the Bosnian words in the book are written in the latin alphabet of the Bosnian language. It is beautifully illustrated drawing of muqarnas of the Neziraga Mosque minaret on the cover page illustration. Colour photographs, clear and informative good shots taken during survey colour illustrations, maps, plans. The projects plays on important role by means of education, technical expertise, process involving data collection, analysis, site documentation, conservation projects preparation, operation and implementation. Restoration and reconstruction data are cover (Donor, Project manager, Survey, Muqarnas Restitution design, Implementation design, structural design, Restoration consultant, Supervision at the site, Interior decoration, Contractors, Chief of stone mason, Implementation, Opening of the mosque.

### **References**

IRCICA Publications (2015). *Restoration of Mosques in Bosnia and Herzegovina*. Retrieved November 3, 2015, from <http://www.ircica.org/restoration-of-mosques-in-bosnia-and-herzegovina/irc956.aspx>