

The Bazaar of Korca

Country or territory:

ALBANIA

Name of organisation

compiling the information:

Institute of Monuments of Culture

Contact name:

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Name and address of building(s) or site:

THE BAZAAR OF KORCA

Inventory reference number(s):

940

Building type(s):

Architectural ensemble; commercial buildings

Main date(s):

19th century

Current use(s):

Significance:

The bazaar of Korca is amongst the most valuable buildings of this type, and not only in Albanian territory. The bazaar dates back to the second half of the 19th century and constitutes a very important feature of the urban environment. This building is a testimony to the importance of the tradesmen and craftsmen who, at that time, influenced the economic and social context of the country. The bazaar is divided in clearly distinct units. The squares play the role of centers, surrounded by two or three-storey buildings. Fifteen inns existed at that time, out of which only nine are preserved. In 1879, the bazaar was nearly destroyed by fire but was reconstructed to its formal glory. For many years, works have not been undertaken causing a difficult technical situation. Restoration works had been undertaken in 1984 and 1988-89. Presently, necessary technical data for the preparation of a restoration project is available.

Categories of significance:

Of outstanding national importance

The building has been listed as a monument of first category.

Categories of ownership or interest:

It is both a private and a State property.

Documentation and bibliographic references:

Documentation

There is a complete written, graphical, and technical/economical documentation in the archives of Institute of Monuments of Culture.

Bibliography

1. E. Riza; *A survey of the architecture of the city of Korca*, 3/1972
2. P. Thomo; *Urban and architectural features of the city of Korca*, Monumentet magazine, 15-16, 1977
3. P. Thomo; *Historical and architectural survey on Bazaar of Korca*, Albanian Ethnography, 13.
4. E. Riza; *Bazaar ensembles and their restorations*, Monumentet magazine, 15-16, 1977
5. P. Thomo; *Urban development of the city of Korca during second half of 19th century and first half of 20th century*, Albanian Ethnography, 15/1986
6. K. Kallamata; *On the restoration of Korca's bazaar*, Monuments
7. *The History of Albanian Architectur*", 1979.

Condition:

Poor: there are damages to the roof, walls, plaster, doors, windows, terraces, decorating iron elements, etc.

Risk:

Risk is linked to the lack of funds for maintenance and the occupation. The number of owners continuously increases. There are also problems related to the ownership.

Condition risk:

Slow decay, solution not implemented.

Technical assessments and costing:

There is need for full restoration works on the walls, roofs, plaster, architectonic elements and stone pathways. Approximate cost: 4 000 000 EUR.

Ownership:

Most of the buildings are private but there are problems with the legal ownership.

Occupation:

Most of the buildings are regularly uses by the owners or other occupants.

Management:

The Institute of Monuments of Culture is responsible for the management, the administration of funds and supervision of the restoration works

Summary:

The bazaar of Korca is amongst the most valuable buildings of this type, and not only in Albanian territory. The bazaar dates back to the second half of the 19th century and constitutes a very important feature of the urban environment. This building is a testimony to the importance of the tradesmen and craftsmen who, at that time, influenced the economic and social context of the country. The bazaar is divided in clearly distinct units. The squares play the role of centers, surrounded by two or three-storey buildings. Fifteen inns existed at the time, out of which only nine are preserved. In 1879, the bazaar was nearly destroyed by fire but it was reconstructed to its previous glory. For many years, works have not been undertaken causing a difficult technical situation. Restoration works were undertaken in 1984 and 1988-89. Presently, necessary technical data for the preparation of a restoration project is available.

The state of conservation is poor.

The priority level for intervention is *high*.

Sign. and date:

Arch. Shpresa Prifti

10.03.2004