

## NOTATKI NAUKOWE

*Predrag Milošević*

### EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRYSIDE IN TRANSITION – CASE STUDY OF SERBIA

Modern Serbian village, in the form of bulk or dense settlements, its architecture, constructive materials, spatial layout, functions and ways of exploitation of the soil, vary to some extent in some parts of the country. Natural conditions, time of occurrence, type of farm (if still there), and social structure – all these factors affect rural development and landscape change. All changes in the way of cultivation and function of villages affected the development of construction zones, which were redesigned and rebuilt over many years – not always to the benefit of cultural heritage. The evidence that urbanization can be seen in the Serbian countryside (as in other European countries) are considered in this work, with necessary illustrations. In the process of continuous change, attention should focus on preserving the identity of places and forms of developmental events. Initiated projects are focused on development and reconstruction of infrastructure and preservation of cultural heritage. Awareness of cultural values of Serbian villages and landscapes as subjects of a kind of historical colonization has been shaped during long-term transformation.

**Key words:** *rural development and landscape, restoration and revitalization of the village, cultural heritage, historical colonization of the landscape*

#### 1. Introduction

It is relatively easy to see the big differences between landscapes in various Serbian regions (for example – regions of Banat, Zlatibor, Pčinja, and Nišava). Passing pretty small country of Serbia, it is possible to notice a beautiful reconstructed village houses and a variety of host buildings since the time of the Turkish and Austro-Hungary Empire, south or north of the Sava and Danube respectively, with roofs covered with straw or tiles in earthen or wooden construction. Unlike those, at the same time it is possible to notice still a considerable number of dilapidated, neglected rural buildings in all parts of the country, especially in those less developed.



Photo 1. Divčibare, Western Serbia.  
Serbian beautiful scenery and ski resorts in fast development  
Source: R. Bogdanović (2007)

In the course of many years of destruction of Yugoslavia and now when Serbia is probably happily independent, the differences between its northern and southern, western and eastern areas remain noticeable. They, of course, neither can nor should disappear.

But this does not apply to differences in the degree of preservation and promotion of the village and the landscape as such, whatever the types of both concerned.



Photo 2. Maljen Mountain, Western Serbia.  
Attractive environment with modern residential and  
host buildings set along the roads, like in the city  
Source: [www.valjevo.org.yu](http://www.valjevo.org.yu)



Photo 3. The landscape in Zlatibor, Western Serbia.  
The beauty of total natural harmony

Source: P. Milošević (2007)

Photos of all: the developed, less developed and still underdeveloped parts of the country are proof that the process of transformation of Serbian villages and landscapes in this or that degree and measure started almost everywhere. But it was actually never interrupted. Traveling around Serbia, wherever within its borders, even not very attentive observer may notice a huge stress in any part of its space. That is of course connected with the constant and of rapid modernization and reconstruction of the country, which does not always lead to results which we all can be proud, not only in terms of expressiveness of Serbian and other cultural heritage available. Evidence of urbanization of Serbian villages and the landscape are visible to the naked eye. Built were and still are being built: shopping malls and service centers, public buildings, small, medium and large houses, sometimes whole housing complexes, similar and sometimes identical to those urban.

As in other European countries, the colonization of rural areas took place under the influence of factors such as natural environment, historical background, forms of social organization and production, and more.

The process of choosing the way of settling stays in relation with the story of human kind from its very beginning, when we were completely subordinate to nature – our living environment – with all its attributes.



Photo 4. Zlatibor, Western Serbia. New rural homes for rent to tourists within their almost urban environment up on the mountain plateau

Source: P. Milošević (2007)



Photo 5. Zlatibor, Western Serbia. Private apartments for rent to tourists, in a villa similar to many that are recently built in the cities

Source: P. Milošević (2007)

Selecting sites for colonization depended on the natural environment. Forms and structural elements of residential dwellings and buildings on the farm were required in connection with the old customs, traditions and local capabilities. This is related to churches and other religious buildings as well, built from local materials always.

Now the relations between man and his settlements changed in many ways, and on the basis of transformation in many fields. Among the reasons were technical achievements and undoubted progress in this sphere, as well as new possibilities in relation to all available constructive elements and urbanization, which is considered a complex process of transformation that leads to the development and growing importance of cities, and at the expense of other kinds of settlement for a man.

Serbia is a country with two autonomous provinces and 29 districts. According encyclopedia definition, the village is a settlement with a rural structure, with the agricultural colonization, production and social structure. Previously it was dominated by agriculture. People were focused on the farm and had a small croft with a house and garden with dwellings and buildings for storage and support work on the farm. Now the situation in the countryside and landscape stays middle on the way to the radical change, especially in terms of activities of the rural population. Typical individual agriculture still occurs in its familiar form. However, most individual farmers recently treated cultivation of soil as a seasonal work, working simultaneously in the city or some other non-agricultural sectors.



Photo 6. Zlatibor, Western Serbia. Private apartments for rent to tourists, within the ski resort, built on the model of traditional architecture

Source: P. Milošević (2007)

Agriculture as such is done in Serbia today, mostly in the form of highly specialized farms on a large number of hectares, which is the legacy of socialism. But when it comes to smaller individual farms, many buildings in such farms, which were originally used in agricultural activities as such, are now strictly accustomed to residential purposes.

The term „Serb village” cannot be defined in an explicit way as a village where most of the population earns for living by plant cultivation and animal husbandry, because the things now are just not quite so. Modern Serbian village, its architecture, constructive materials, spatial layout, function and manner of exploitation are very different in different regions of the country. Natural conditions, time of maturation, the type of conducting agricultural activities (if it still exists somewhere), and social structure – all these factors affect the development of the country.



Photo 7. Zlatibor, Western Serbia. Private hotel type apartments for rent to tourists, similar to many buildings in mountainous parts of the country but in the cities as well

Source: P. Milošević (2007)

Any changes in the way of carrying out agricultural activities and functions of the village are reflected in the development of the built areas, which are raised and harmonized over many years – not always in favor of cultural heritage, and rural architecture and landscape are also a national heritage. Typically, a Serb village (by encyclopedia definition) consists of residential buildings, host building and arable land. A variety of options for arranging the buildings – one opposite the other, or facing the fields and roads – create a distinctive spatial pattern of each village. The Serbian village is individual or group settlement, characterized by traditional forms and types. In the past, people in rural areas were supported by agriculture. Social structure consisted of farmers, those who reside there and the owners of small workshops that are not owned their own land. As a result of urbanization of the country, industrialization and socio-economic changes that occurred during the last more than sixty years, rural areas are still inhabited by those who are not themselves farmers.



Strangely enough, the number of people who decide to make their second home a village house, still increases. The rural structure becomes so similar to its urban counterpart. Urban civilization (the complete technical infrastructure, computers, Internet) is reached in the rural landscape.



Photo 8. Zlatibor, Western Serbia. The interior of a private rental apartment intended for tourists, equipped according to the latest requirements of a comfortable residence

Source: P. Milošević (2007)

The process of urbanization in the Serbian countryside takes place in spatial, architectural, constructive, economic and social terms. Spatial leads to the design and architectural changes, for example – creating large urban zones in rural areas. The main economic change is increasing the number of non-farmers and those employed outside agriculture, in cities and across the country. The social meaning lies in the growing prevalence of urban life among the villagers. Various factors – including economic, cultural, ethical, functional, and social and technical (usually constructive) possibilities – have shaped the modern Serbian landscape.

Centennial historical processes have contributed to the creation of the oldest forms of Serbian landscape. Depending on the level of conglomeration it is possible to extract condensed and dispersed colonization.

## **2. Historical and genetic forms of Serbian landscape**

The oldest – and most common – form of dense colonization is that of the type of squares and streets, the so-called „plain”. „Rounded” form – a multi-square village with individual farm plots, arranged in the form of range – usually around the square – closes nicely tailored, closed ring. This is a very old type of Slavic defense of the village, where the central square was the place where they kept cattle during the night (just in this way, once the old West Slavs established the first village from which eventually emerged today a major German city, Berlin with a central square in place of today's square before the entrance to the Old Museum by architect Schinkel). Type of villages „with more Road”, set in a sort of „a skeleton” made of a number of roads with irregular directions, is quite common. Such villages were created mainly in the areas without or with little woods, and their main functions were commercial.



Photo 9. Zlatibor, Western Serbia. The interior of a private restaurant that serves traditional food, equipped according to the latest requirements of catering

Source: P. Milošević (2007)



This is also one of the oldest types throughout Europe, which occurs in the entire belt of fertile soil from France, through Germany and Italy, all the way to Poland, Ukraine and Russia, and Serbia and Bulgaria. The type of a „one way” village, with condense construction on the sides of the road, highly associated with physiographic factors, is also worth mentioning. Linear settlements usually are placed along the river or river valley. In such cases the court is organized in a straight line, one beside the other. Access roads begin at the entrance of the plot and lead the host to the buildings and fields. Density of built area in the Serbian landscape is different in different regions. Very large density is typical for the villages in the areas south of the Sava and Danube, and between the Drina and Morava, unlike areas north of the Sava and Danube in Vojvodina, where the density of the development of the landscape is relatively low. Host courtyards and buildings are also different. It is possible to distinguish various forms of built rural areas, the size of villages and their character, position of buildings to each other, the division of functions among the buildings, number of floors and the number of individual buildings within a host yard, constructive elements, etc.



Photo 10. Kosmaj Mountain, village and hotel Babe, Central Serbia.

Just outside Belgrade, a two million metropolis, for one to rest  
the heart and soul, that still deserves more contribution,  
upgrading and regulation

Source: R. Bogdanović (2007)



Photo 11. Grabovica village near Gornji Milanovac, Central Serbia. Rural home „Villa Melody”, owned by Živanka and Ivan Ivanović. Rural Tourism in Serbia is well on the road, and it should be much better supported

Source: Politika Green Pages, 71 (19.06.2007)

Types most often of host yards are: „two sides”, „three sides”, and „four sides”, according to the number of sides on which certain buildings are erected. In the case of a host yard with a number of buildings, they are grouped together according to their functions. It is possible to notice significant architectural differences within the same type of a host yards in different parts of the country. Type of constructive materials used in the Serbian countryside is especially worth attention. It is very widespread building of houses for living, and host buildings and churches in rural so-called „bon druk” – system (wooden construction fulfilled with tiles or brick). Red brick and ceramics, made in local workshops were also very common. This type of a host yards and organization units, and construction materials, were typical especially for some parts of the country south of the Sava and Danube.



Photo 12. Mokra Gora (West Mountain) village at the foot and the village-town Mečavnik (Snowstorm) up the hill to the right, with the Orthodox Church in the axis of the main street and other buildings thereto, Western Serbia. An excellent example of how one person's inspiration embodies the general benefit of all in the Serbian countryside

Source: M. Zelenković



Photo 13. Mokra Gora, village-town Mečavnik, Western Serbia. Conception and realization of a great Serbian film director Emir Nemanja Kusturica, which is still happily developing

Source: M. Zelenković

Currently such facilities will be subject to restoration, renovation or restructuring, in modern, very accessible materials (such as new ceramic or stone slabs, window and door frames of wood or PVC). Some of the buildings presented here are more than century old. They were subjected to modernization and functional changes (original animal and workshop parts of the farm converted into a part for housing, unfinished attic adapted to housing, additional natural lighting for individual rooms, complete replacement of windows and doors, and roof-tiles, improvement of architectural details, adding a terrace to residential area on the floor, which is often not actually fit into the whole architectural concept). Dispersed colonization, i.e. settlement, is particularly widespread in Šumadija and some other areas south of the Sava and Danube, on the principle of „one village – one house”. It is possible to differentiate its two types: solitary farms very distant from one another and dispersed villages of family type. Specific aspects of single colonies, which consist of a single host yard with several buildings, occur sporadically in many parts of Serbia. The most common type of Serbian villages, like in the rest of Europe, is a mixed one. Several separate settlements arranged by relatively disheveled form one to the other, also called the „village” and has a church, school, regional office, etc. One sometimes encounters the so-called „enclosed village type”. There are also various other forms of regulated and unregulated, but still beautiful villages. Specific aspects of single colonies, which consist of a single host yard with several buildings, occur sporadically in many parts of Serbia.



Photo 14. The landscape with dispersed village near Nova Varoš, South-Western Serbia. The beauty that stops one's breathing

Source: *Three Unique Days in Nova Varoš*, USAID (2007)





Photo 15. Outside Nova Varoš, South-Western Serbia.  
An old craftsman who does not give up easily, considering  
his duty to help the old crafts survive

Source: *Three Unique Days in Nova Varoš*, USAID (2007)

### 3. Mass migration from rural to urban areas

After the Second World War cities entered a period of rapid development. Some economic „boom” spurred the increase in the number of population. Rural areas are simultaneously started to lose its attraction. The villagers were massively leaving their homes in search of work in cities and rural communities are weakened.

So many Serbian villages remained first with all the older and older population, and eventually without inhabitants. But such a situation recently slowly begins to change. In some rural areas the population increases. The reasons are many. Although the population of Serbia – basically for economic reasons – are still exposed to urbanization, one may also notice its return to rural areas, especially in the last few years, since the country is again facing rapid development, due to the abandonment of the socialist delusion (which particularly cost villages and the villagers, everywhere in the middle and east Europe) and its final opening to the world around us. Many build their second homes – only to residential purposes – or buy an abandoned farm and brought it to residential or residential and some repair or similar service purpose. Economic crisis, which lasted twenty years and is only now passing away, has caused continuous destruction of abandoned buildings and infrastructure. Now before all of us, especially the residents of Serbian village, stays the challenge of restoration of Serbian villages and landscape.



Photo 16. Outside Nova Varoš, South-Western Serbia.  
 Almost deserted village household and two monastery  
 Orthodox Church buildings in a peaceful and quiet Serbian landscape  
 Source: *Three Unique Days in Nova Varoš*, USAID (2007)



Photo 17. Ostružnica village outside Belgrade, Central Serbia.  
 Near the metropolis, the river Sava and two intersecting  
 European highways, with houses and properties that belong  
 to the village, but to the city as well  
 Source: P. Milošević (2006)



There is a trend of „return to roots” in Serbia, long present in countries of the European Union. Living in small settlements and close relationship between people is increasingly promoted. Deadbeat employees (working people) are beginning to return to their homes.

#### 4. Important changes in rural demographics

In contemporary Serbia, migration from villages to cities is decreasing. All the more things are going the reverse, and some will be more so. Rural demographics are changing from year to year. We should expect that the population of the village increases, as the country is entering the era of progress which we hope irrevocably comes.



Photo 18. The village, South–West Serbia. Rural household as the basic unit of every system supports the sustainable development of Serbian villages and landscapes

Source: *This Way Serbia – Tourist and Cultural and Historical Guide through Serbia*, Belgrade (2006)

People who work in city settle and build houses in villages, to use them all year round or at least during one part of the year. But in rural areas there are still economic and social problems.

It is still possible to notice a significant reduction in status and level of agricultural activities, as well as hard competition among the non-agricultural services, by contrast.

We now may expect quite a number of projects supported by European Union to renew Serbian villages and landscape. They would be focused on reconstruction in housing and infrastructure areas, the protection of architectural heritage and tourism development (the so-called agriculture-tourism).

The aim of such projects is a limitation of undesirable intervention in the local landscape and its protection. A kind of village-museums has long been available in Serbia too – for example Museum Staro Selo (Old Village) in Sirogojno designed by architect Ranko Findrik – that has become a tourist attraction.



Photo 19. Raft nearby the confluence of the Sava and Danube, in the midst of Belgrade, Central Serbia. Catering bait, an ex ample which could serve the many who have Serbian landscape in their heart and soul, especially if they are close to two great rivers

Source: *This Way Serbia – Tourist and Cultural and Historical Guide through Serbia*, Belgrade (2006)

Since the beginning of the last decade of the twentieth century, one can note a very slow increase of population density, especially in western parts of Central Serbia. Changing ways of living in the countryside is also quite conspicuous. For a growing number of people in Serbia, village and rural landscape is the perfect place to be, not only for vacation, but for life. The distance between the rural home and the workplace is no longer as insurmountable as it was before, all thanks to the very modern roads, the development of motorization, new media,



Photo 20. Rajačke Pimnice near Negotin, Eastern Serbia. 300 of these buildings located outside the village and near vineyards are erected only to be lived in while at works in the vineyards. Example of what does not exist anywhere else in the Balkans, but not sufficiently well known and visited

Source: *This Way Serbia – Tourist and cultural and historical guide through Serbia*, Belgrade (2006)

mass communications, mobile telephony, Internet and so on. Benefits of urban living are no longer as numerous as in the near past, and the values of living in the village increase. Opinions about the problems of population of Serbian villages and landscapes are very diverse. There are people who themselves cannot imagine living outside the city. But on the other hand, many of them say that rural areas actually have a magnetic force, ensuring silence and isolation from street noise.

## **5. Village cottages as second houses – second home in the countryside**

In Serbia, as in many other European and non-European countries, many people live simultaneously in multiple places – for reasons of work, and sometimes recreation. Residents of Serbia until these days still use to build cottages in villages and countryside, according to standards equal to those in the city. Any such decisions is easier to make thanks to the possibility of more affordable building lots in villages, and the fact that the length of working time was in the meantime substantially reduced, with the increase in the number of free days for employees.



Photo 21. Tiganjica Restaurant at Carska Bara Village, near Zrenjanin, Banat, Northern Serbia–Vojvodina. Almost abandoned rural home that turned out to be the picture of one of the most famous Serbian painters of the realist, that simply cries out to its return to full life, even if slightly different than it originally was

Source: *This Way Serbia – Tourism and Cultural History Guide through Serbia*, Belgrade (2006)

At the same time, there was a developmental leaps in the field of machinery, the possibilities to reduce the number of employees in the workplace, as well as developments in the economy that are not directly related to the place of work, which all together led to changes in conditions of living and work for a good part of the population. Number of Serbian villages strictly residential in character increases every day. The reason is precisely the „second homes” that are still rising, as well as restoration of old ones – for a better recreation of the people of



the middle class standing (holidays and weekends). The number of such houses is growing from year to year and such a trend will continue for some time.

People with high incomes and long work experience are particularly interested in life in the village, as elsewhere in Europe and the developed parts of the world. They usually emphasize the benefits of immediate environment, environmental quality, beauty; the landscape is very close to nature, tranquility, peace and different vacation options, compared to the city.



Photo 22. Old windmill near Sombor in North-West of Bačka, Northern Serbia–Vojvodina. Another in a series of beautiful places in our beautiful country, for all those who value life, loves themselves but the world around them as well

Source: *This Way Serbia – Tourist and Cultural and Historical Guide through Serbia*, Belgrade (2006)

The serious problem of Serbian villages and landscapes (identical to that in the rest of Europe) is the aging of their population. The share of older people in

the total population is increasing, thanks among other things, the return of retired people to villages and regions from which they came to cities long ago – but immigration of young, active people would be primarily desirable. Overpopulation of cities and the high cost of housing is also the reason for migration to the villages. Differences between the northern and western parts of the country, on one side and the south and east, on the other side, are relatively significant. The result of mentioned migration is a deep change of the function of the rural landscape and its general appearance (re-urbanization). This at the same time is the main reason for increasing the number of typical more enclosed farms.

## 6. Eco- and biodynamic farms

In the near future, especially in agricultural villages, the main emphasis should be placed on the development of environmental and bio-dynamic farming. Modern Serbian agriculture still cannot be described as highly effective, even it generally manages to provide self-sufficiency in production for the whole nation, and export of its products is quite substantial. Arable land covers a huge part of total area of the country.



Photo 23. Salaš (Farm) 84 outside Novi Sad in Bačka, Northern Serbia–Vojvodina. A perfect place for a holiday not only for business people, very close to the European Highway Corridor No 10. Vojvodina-type old farm converted into a very small hotel of very high luxury class, all the best of a domestic atmosphere so characteristic for this part of the country

Source: *This Way Serbia – Tourist and Cultural and Historical Guide through Serbia*, Belgrade (2006)





Photo 24. The landscape outside Knić, Central Serbia–Šumadija. Mountain ranges, fertile plains, lake, hills with orchards, Serbian two uprisings' past and hosts, all in one place Whiting for more visitors and guests attention

Source: *This Way Serbia – Tourist and Cultural and Historical Guide through Serbia*, Belgrade (2006)

Main crops are: wheat, corn, sugar beet, sunflowers, potatoes and beans, whose production in Serbia is among the most successful in Europe. There are a large number of vineyards in almost all parts of the country, except in the mountains of Western and South-Western Serbia, as well as orchards (apples, plums, etc.). Strong emphasis is placed on the development of livestock (pigs, cattle, poultry, sheep and horses).

After privatization, which still is not quite complete, in Serbia there are still many farms larger than 50 hectares that are state-owned through enterprises. Family farms that are less than 10 hectares, the existence of which socialist system never questioned, still exist, though sometimes with new ownership.

Private farms larger than 50 hectares are now available in Serbia too, but they are normally not family farms. In such cases there is no single family that supports itself working on the land, performing agriculture activities on the spot only. It is noted that the number of host structures on farms which are transformed into residential units has increased significantly. There are an increasing number of young people who are interested in buying old buildings to be renovated for them, but one can see the newly constructed houses as well – usually not too high, with large gardens, modern look and with full comfort – no different from a completely modern city residence.



Photo 25. Vuk Stefanović Karadžić's house in the village of Tršić outside Loznica, Western Serbia. One of the first examples of valid renewal of urban and rural architectural heritage in Serbia and Yugoslavia in the past century

Source: *This Way Serbia – Tourist and Cultural and Historical Guide through Serbia*, Belgrade (2006)



Photo 26. Sopotnica, nearby the railway line from Belgrade across the mountains down to the Adriatic, Western Serbia. Twenty houses scattered on the mountain slopes, foggy views, all without the end

Source: *This Way Serbia – Tourist and Cultural and Historical Guide through Serbia*, Belgrade (2006)

## 7. Twilight of traditional rural professions

Most of contemporary villagers in Serbia are not employed in agriculture than in other sectors, mainly in neighboring towns and big cities. Professions such as: blacksmiths, millers, carpenters, and common farmers, like many others, are all in the Serbian village of fewer members. And in the rural landscape the number of workshops along the roads, tire services, gas stations increases.

Rural landscape often characterize particular social relations (i.e. neighborhood), strict structure and norms (customs, folklore, holidays, etc.), as well as architecture, clothing, food and more. With the onset of industrialization, groups of people non-active in agriculture accepted the work in rural areas as a way to earn money.



Photo 27. Landscape with Vlasina Lake, South-Eastern Serbia. Ice cold mountain waters reserved by human hand among the mountains, in a royal blue lake on which shores until now tourism has not caught a stronger root

Source: *This Way Serbia – Tourist and Cultural and Historical Guide through Serbia*, Belgrade (2006)



Photo 28. The landscape in Stara Planina (Old Mountain), Eastern Serbia. Like many other from America's Rocky Mountains to the Russian Baycal Range, but uniquely ours. Future ski resort of the highest rank

Source: *This Way Serbia – Tourist and Cultural and Historical Guide through Serbia*, Belgrade (2006)

Many permanent jobs are created thanks to the accommodation of small firms in rural areas. Farms that are maintained only through agriculture are now almost a rarity. The village and the rural landscape become recently places for living of mainly those who are not farmers.

During several years of transformation, respect to cultural values of the villages and rural landscapes was created. That awareness is still shaping, as well as the historical form of a settlement area.

Most of those involved in it tries – as it is a part of some „restoration of villages and rural landscape”, which the state actually still does not have but it must be prepared as soon as possible – to protect cultural property from the degradation and even collapse. Traces of cultural and national heritage are, of course, in rural architecture too. Particularly worthy of protection are villages that have centuries long history. Their number in Serbia is not small at all.

## 8. Conclusions

Generally, the state of Serbian villages and landscapes cannot be considered good enough. The Serbian village is, despite everything that hit it and that it continues to handle, yet dynamic and modern, although its full infrastructure is in many cases still missing.



Photo 29. Tara Mountain, Western Serbia. Exclusive apartments „Zeleni čardaci” („Green Old Houses”), located in the middle of coniferous forests, built exclusively of wood and completely in harmony with the natural environment, and with full comfort for its guests

Source: *This Way Serbia – Tourist and Cultural and Historical Guide through Serbia*, Belgrade (2006)



Photo 30. Surčin outside Belgrade, Central Serbia.  
One of the new houses, no different from some in a „more urban”  
part of the metropolis, for example in Voždovac

Source: P. Milošević (2006)

Roads are getting better, and highways. The same one can say for transportation, communication of all kinds and full technical infrastructure. It can be assumed that it will not take much time to the villagers to enjoy the benefits of all necessary services that are available to residents or regular Serbian towns and cities.

Serbian landscape is still largely „urban”. The main reasons for the increasing popularity of rural areas are quiet environment, tranquility, contact with nature, less vulnerability to violence and easy access to everything the city has to offer.



Photo 31. Surčin outside Belgrade, Central Serbia.  
Street in the village-town which becomes fast part of the metropolis,  
but now in quite a new way: almost without losing their own, rural benefits

Source: P. Milošević (2006)





Photo 32. Surčin outside Belgrade, Central Serbia.  
Inside a home, no less comfortable than the most advanced in any city  
Source: P. Milošević (2006)



Photo 33. Hotel Serbia – Brka, Srebrno jezero  
(Silver Lake) outside Veliko Gradište, Eastern Serbia.  
This privately owned hotel is as yet the only sign of a great  
revival of tourism in underdeveloped region close to the capital  
Source: [www.srbija/brka.co.yu](http://www.srbija/brka.co.yu)



That should be further and more encouraged. Changes in the Serbian countryside, which can be considered a result of rapid urbanization, are actually the typical attributes of modernity. At present the impact of towns and cities in the rural landscape and life style of villagers is still growing. But that may reverse very soon.

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## ŚRODKOWOEUROPEJSKA WIEŚ W DOBIE TRANSFORMACJI. PRZYKŁAD SERBII

Współczesna wieś serbska jest zróżnicowana pod względem gęstości osadnictwa, funkcji, układu przestrzennego, materiałów używanych do budowy, sposobu użytkowania ziemi. Warunki naturalne, czas powstania, typ gospodarstw (o ile jeszcze funkcjonują na danym obszarze) i struktura społeczna – czynniki te wpływają na rozwój obszarów wiejskich i przemiany krajobrazu. Zmiany w sposobie gospodarowania i funkcjach wsi wpłynęły na przemiany architektury zabudowań wiejskich, które były przebudowywane na przestrzeni lat – nie zawsze z korzyścią dla zachowania dziedzictwa kulturowego.

W niniejszym artykule zaprezentowano dowody na postępujące procesy urbanizacji na serbskiej wsi (tak jak i w innych europejskich krajach) wraz z odpowiednim materiałem ilustracyjnym. W procesie ciągłych przemian i rozwoju, uwaga powinna być

skupiona na zachowaniu tożsamości miejsc i form. W tym celu zainicjowane zostały pewne projekty ukierunkowane na rozwój i odbudowę infrastruktury i ochronę dziedzictwa kulturowego. Zdaniem autora świadomość wartości kulturowej serbskiej wsi i krajobrazu wiejskiego, jako efekt historycznej kolonizacji, była ukształtowana w trakcie długiego procesu transformacji.

**Słowa kluczowe:** *rozwój obszarów wiejskich i krajobrazu, odnowa i rewitalizacja wsi, dziedzictwo kulturowe, historyczna kolonizacja krajobrazu*

Predrag Milošević, PhD Eng Architect, Full Professor at Union  
Department of Architecture  
Faculty of Building Management, Nikola Tesla University, Belgrade, Serbia