



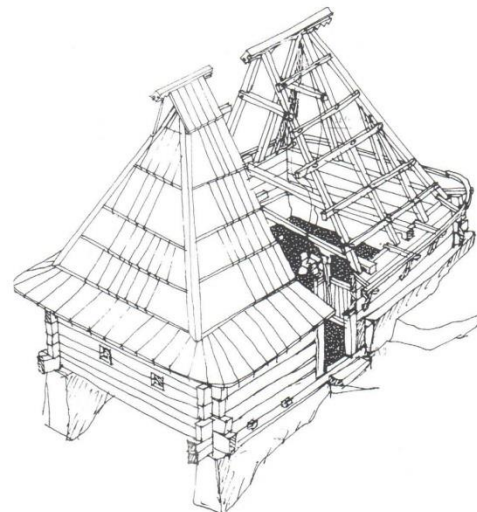
Dinaric house in Montenegro: Formation, duration over time and typological features

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The Dinaric House, as a separate type, contains all the necessary elements for such a qualification. It was named after an area where it has been used for more than half a millennium. Therefore, it is a Dinaric Mountains area in the western Balkans, and is thus present in the northern parts of Montenegro. It is present in Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as Serbia, where it is met in variations resulting from the use of local materials but nonetheless remains there in the borders of a defined typology. It is a village home which represents the core of a household that includes auxiliary facilities. Due to transformations through the initial stages of development, and in order to create the most appropriate response to functional and climatic characteristics, this house has received a recognizable spatial scheme and architectural expression.



These are the elements that have been singled out as special type that is different from the entire known house types by now defined. The Dinaric House, as a unique type, has been a point of interest of scientific circles since the nineteenth century. Thus, at the behest of the Vienna Academy of Sciences, R. Meringer, a professor at the University of Vienna at the time, has visited twice (1897 and 1898) the Dinaric area of Bosnia and Herzegovina (then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire). He noticed all the important types of the Dinaric House and published the results of the research. This prompted additional research and Jovan Cvijic emerged, touring the entire Dinaric area. In his observations the Dinaric House was shown with all its characteristics.

The study in this paper narrows down the perception of the Dinaric house to the area of present-day Montenegro in order to show its unique specifications which are the result of, first of all, the localized materials and conditions. In the area that is covered by this paper, there is not a unique way of building, which led to an architectural expression that always bears a certain Genius loci. It should be noted that the dimensions of this house and the range of used materials, as in all similar situations, were a reflection of the economic power of the owner. It is interesting that in such circumstances, this house retains the same typical layout, number and disposition of rooms, which makes it consistent in one area over a long period of time. In this way, the Dinaric House is the best witness to a persistent lifestyle that has lasted unchanged for a very long time.

