

OTTOMAN HOUSES IN ANATOLIA AND THE BALKANS

Ottoman houses in Anatolia and the Balkans are situated in the areas, which were the part of the Ottoman Empire during many centuries and where the Ottoman centralized legal system was applied. These houses belonged to Muslims and Christians, who were local landowners, merchants, and craftsmen. Design of the houses reflects the statute and lifestyle of their owners. Most of the preserved houses originate from the 17th century until the transition of the 19th to the 20th century. They are multi-storeyed houses, which have some external and internal features. It is typical that they have overlapping upper storey to the sides, which are buttressed by wooden braces. Most frequently their ground floor is walled from stones and the upper floors have wooden, half-timbered frame with the filling of unburnt bricks. The ground floor was used as a service area and on the upper floors there are habitable rooms. These rooms were divided into the male and the female-family section, they could be also divided according to the seasons into the rooms for the winter living and for the summer living. Specific feature of the rooms in Ottoman houses is multifunctionality.