

Conservation of Ferhadija Mosque
Wall Paintings

Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina

Architects	Cultural Heritage Without Borders Bosnia and Herzegovina Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina
Client	Majlis of Islamic Community Sarajevo
Commission	2011
Design	2011 – 2012
Construction	2012 – 2013
Occupancy	2013
Site	949 m ²
Ground Floor	134 m ²
Total Floor	134 m ²
Costs	USD 116,363
Programme	An important survivor of Sarajevo’s Islamic architecture, the mosque was targeted in the 1992-95 Bosnian War and further compromised by self-initiated subsequent restoration attempts. This new conservation project, informed by meticulous research, set out to preserve and reversibly retouch not only the original 16th- and 18th-century murals, but also fragments of 19 th -century decorative schemes and other markers witnessing the building’s and area’s history, such as signatures of past muezzins or foreign soldiers. Technical conservation was carried out by experts using authentic, traditional materials. Community engagement spread knowledge about this part of local cultural heritage, with volunteers, students, hobbyists and craftsmen trained and employed on the scheme’s implementation. The mosque remained open throughout, with an area reserved for prayers.
Building Type	Religious Facilities
2019 Award Cycle	4826.BOS



Entrance porch before



Entrance porch after

Conservation and restoration of wall paintings Ferhadija mosque



The wall decoration has been restored after detailed research of its metamorphosis through the centuries. Following current conservational theory, original aspects of 16th and 18th century paintings are preserved and integrated with retouches, absolutely respecting the originals, while traces of the decoration from the 19th century have been left in fragments, as a witness to aesthetic changes. The technical conservation of the underlying structure was undertaken using traditional materials, reproducing authentic materials, without additional synthetic consolidants. Furthermore, the integration and reconstruction of decoration has been realized through the utilization of a traditional technology employing a strengthened lime-based tempera, while reversible retouch has been undertaken using water-based paints



Dome view
before restoration



Dome view
after restoration

Conservation of wall paintings of Ferhadija mosque

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decorative layers * originals from 16th century * 18th century * educational platform * young heritage professionals, volunteers, students...

