

cultural property. At the same time, they began negotiations with the local community and the municipality of Pale about a possible investment in the restoration of the building. The experts of the Institute carried out an investigation. They traced the history of the monument, paying special attention to the most important phases of construction. The task was not just a constructive rehabilitation, restoration and adaptation of the property. It had to be done in a way that would best express its value without compromising its character. The project was also to be used as a training exercise. It was necessary to take into account that Cekovića house and the town of Pale are tourist attractions situated between Jahorina, an important winter centre, and Sarajevo. In cooperation with the local community, the needs of local organizations and citizens were sought. After comprehensive surveys, it was decided that the owner would give part of the building to the local community to be used as a museum and gallery (Figure 3).

Traditional building techniques and materials were used in the restoration and conservation of this house, as the intention was to adapt the building to a new use with minimal intervention (Figures 4 & 5). The total usable basement area was 54.85 m², which was not sufficient for the proposed future needs. The clear height of the northern part was from 1.70 to 2.00 m. To take full advantage of the basement area, it was necessary to widen a part of the basement. This was done by underpinning the northern, eastern and western basement walls, which made it possible to install proper waterproofing and increase the usable area by another 65.80 m². This created enough space for an exhibition area of Art Colony Pale and for a coffee shop, washrooms and a storage boiler. In the central part of the basement there was a 1.30 metre-wide corridor. Its position and size meant it could not be used for exhibition purposes. However, perforating the corridor walls allowed alternating niches to be built on both sides. This allowed the use of both sides of the interior walls for exhibition purposes.

The existing layout of the ground or first floor was not suitable for hosting the museum, so it was relocated to the entrance hall. This has improved access. Storage areas and conservation workshops are located in the attic. Originally, the plan was to establish the Museum of the Metropolitan of Dabar-Bosnia. Subsequently a decision was made to display exhibits of the Cekovic family legacy in part of the museum, which would testify to the culture and lifestyle of society of the nineteenth century. The decision took a whole year, which shows that the process of deciding on architectural heritage is a long one. The project planning and design of museum exhibits were carried out and implemented in 2010. The Serbian Orthodox Church provided funding for this project. Exhibits in the museum include a series of paintings done by famous artists of the late nineteenth and the first half of the twentieth century, icons from the church in Nišići that was damaged in the war, and valuable furniture and items for everyday use (Figure 6).