

Type of Project:	Foster Housing	Country:	Kosovo
Approach:	Contracted works	Realisation: Year:	2004
Project name:	Foster Homes in Socanica	Version	1
		Date:	2004



Initial Situation, Context

The lack of space for socially vulnerable persons remains a major problem in Kosovo. This concerns mainly elderly people, and people still living in Temporary Community Shelters, TCS (Temporary Community Shelters is the name for collective centres in Kosovo). According to the assessment of the humanitarian needs done by the Co-of in September 2002, there are 4000 persons living in 51 TCS.

The objective of the HA/SHA operations remains the improvement of general living conditions by setting up the necessary technical and social infrastructure framework. In all this, construction plays a major role: the rebuilding of houses for the most vulnerable population, the refurbishment of apartment blocks for social cases and the construction of social institutions such as semi-protected apartments, foster homes, etc.

Goals, Beneficiaries:

The aim of this project is to host 5 to 10 elderly persons and 1 foster family, who are actually living in collective centres in Northern Kosovo. (Leposavic Municipality)

Approach:

The project consists in the construction of one apartment building, in Socanica, Leposavic Municipality, in northern Mitrovica. The project is similar to the project already implemented in Mali-Zvecan.

The building shall contain 1 apartment with 3 rooms for the host family, 5 single room apartments (One or two persons per room) for the elderly people and one common room.

The total surface of the building is estimated to 280 m².

The foster family is selected among vulnerable families from a collective centre and will benefit from a full apartment instead of one room and get social help according to their situation.

The beneficiaries are living from the social assistance, as they are all elderly people and social cases.

Partner(s):

The following partners participated in this programme:

- FOR, (Federal Office for Refugees) for the financing of the project.
- The UNHCR as the agency in charge of refugees.
- The UNMIK administration in Northern Mitrovica.
- The Municipal department of reconstruction and planning, and the cadastre department.



- The architect Vlada Radulovic in Mitrovica for project and for supervision.
- The contractor Megaron for the construction works.

Implementation/Results:

Construction of the new buildings on a Municipal owned land in Socanica (Leposavic Municipality).

- The programme was implemented by a local contractor.
- The selection of the contractor was made on tender.
- The work consists in construction of 1 building with a covered terrace.
- Payments to the contractor were made according to the work progress.

Constructions:

Year 2004. The construction is traditional with blocks and concrete horizontal and vertical beams and pillars, with thermo-insulated façade, wooden roof structure covered with clay tiles. Windows are of wood with thermopan glass. The floors are covered with ceramic tiles in the corridors and bathrooms, with wooden planks in the rooms. The walls are plastered and painted. The building is connected to the water, canalizations, and electricity networks and equipped with lightning conductor.

Cost, Financing:

Financed by FOR.

Total cost: € 105'169 (CHF 157'753'50).

Studies € 24'500, Building works € 98'061 Furniture € 3'608 Divers bank charges € 1'000.

Problems/Constraints:

Generally, the main difficulty for this project, as well as for all project in the Northern part of Mitrovica, is that I could only go there alone. I could not, for security reasons, send one of my architects, nor ask the architect from Mitrovica to come to Pristina. The same is valid with the contractor. Over that, the telephone connection is not easy or impossible from Pristina with numbers starting with 064. (Northern Mitrovica) Furthermore, some documents have to be translated in Albanian and in Serbian or from Serbian and I do not have the staff to do it in Pristina. I was helped for that by the architect and by one field officer from the UNHCR. The main problem was the electricity supply. We had to link the buildings with the existing transformer about 450 meters away. This was the reason for some extra works. The works were completed on October 19th 2004.

Lessons Learned: What was useful in the approach?

The existence of a similar program implemented last year in Zvecan was a good experience.

Lessons learned: What should be done different next time?

Even when the building owner (Municipality) is asked in time, the connection of the building to the infrastructure, (in this case electricity) is delayed. Mainly due to the payment of the connection taxes.

Preconditions and Limitations for this approach:

- Close Cooperation with local Authorities. (Major, Cadastre, Urbanism, etc.)
- Construction Office with administrative and technical capacity to implement the project.

Evaluations:

Next year, a practical evaluation can be obtained through visits and from the UNHCR office in Mitrovica.

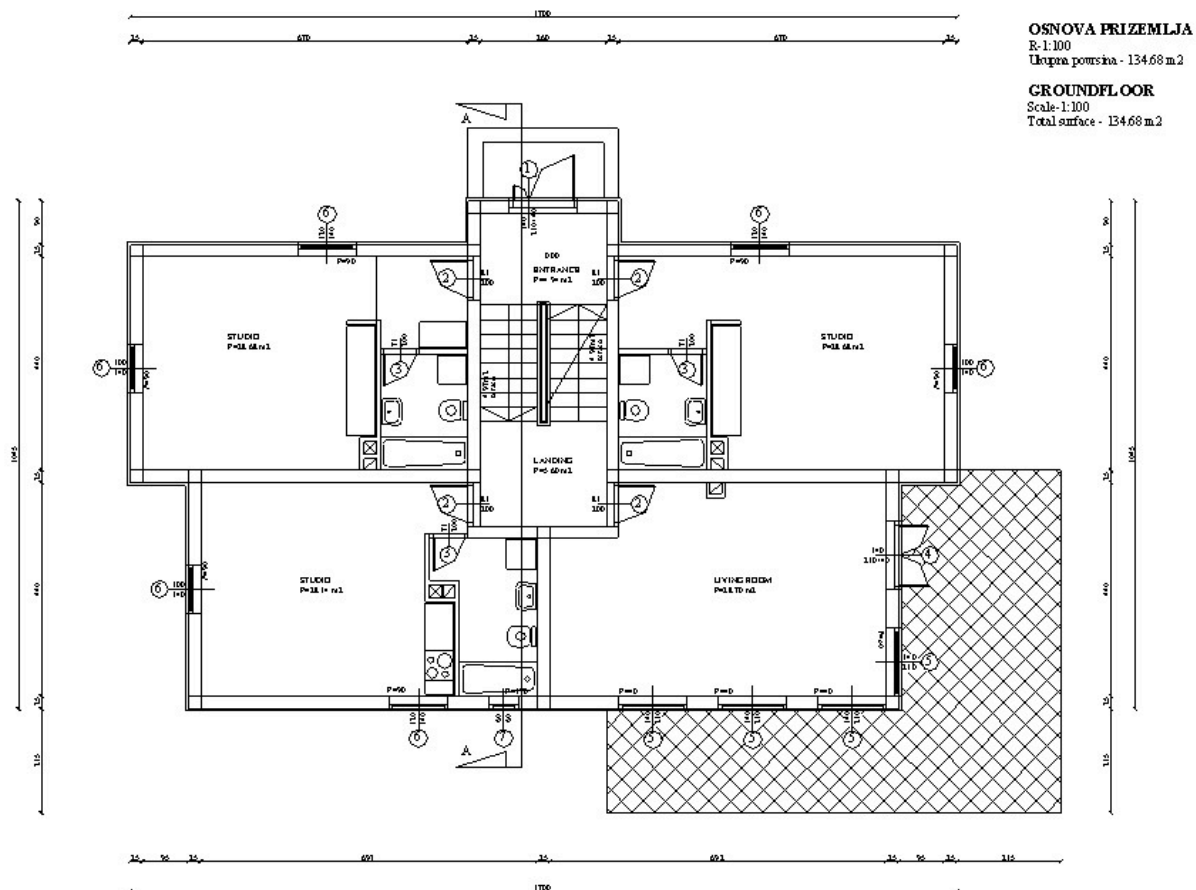
For further information:

Recommended Contacts:	Coof Pristina
Recommended Institutions:	SDC/SHA, desk Europe +CIS
Recommended books/reports:	SDC/SHA Fact Sheet June 2002: "The Swiss Contribution"
Relevant other projects (links):	Similar SDC/SHA Projects in Kosovo.

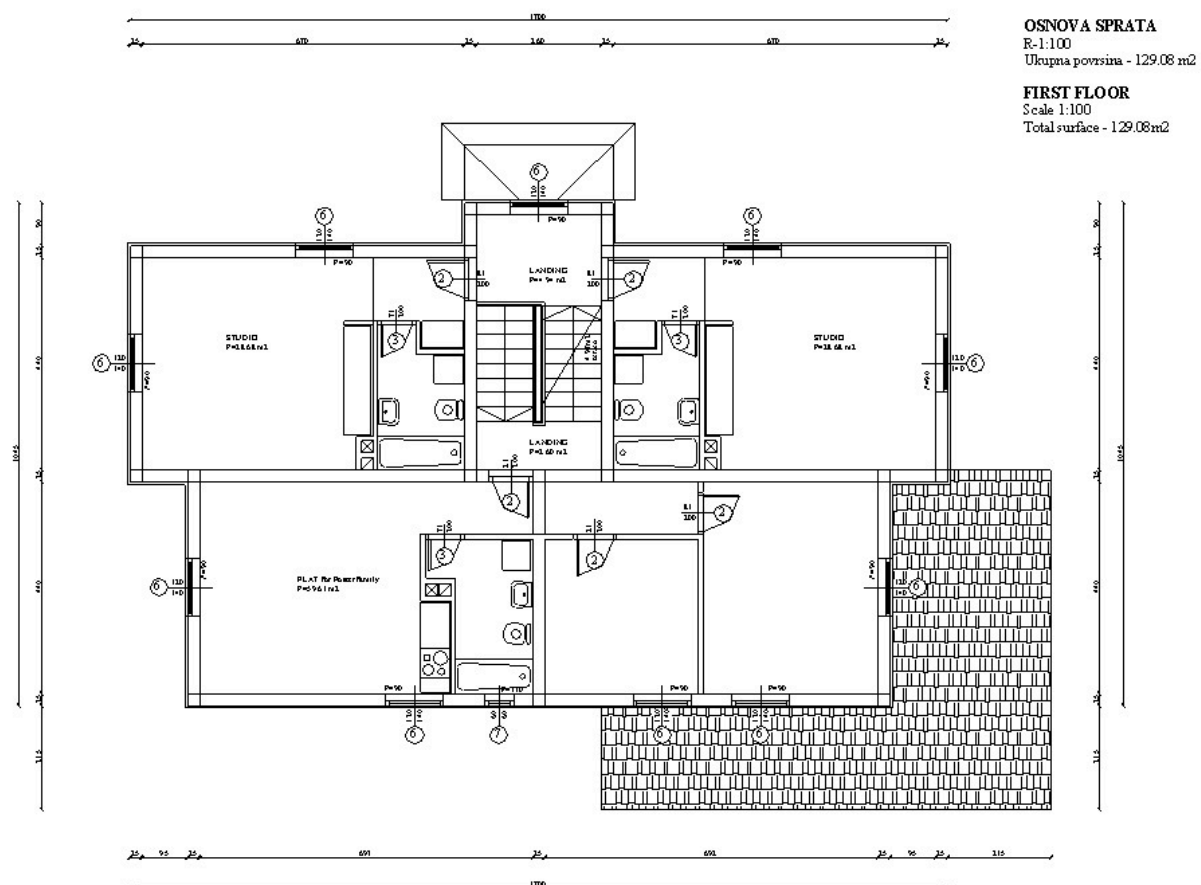
Annex: (technical drawings, schemata) see page: 3

Plan of the project

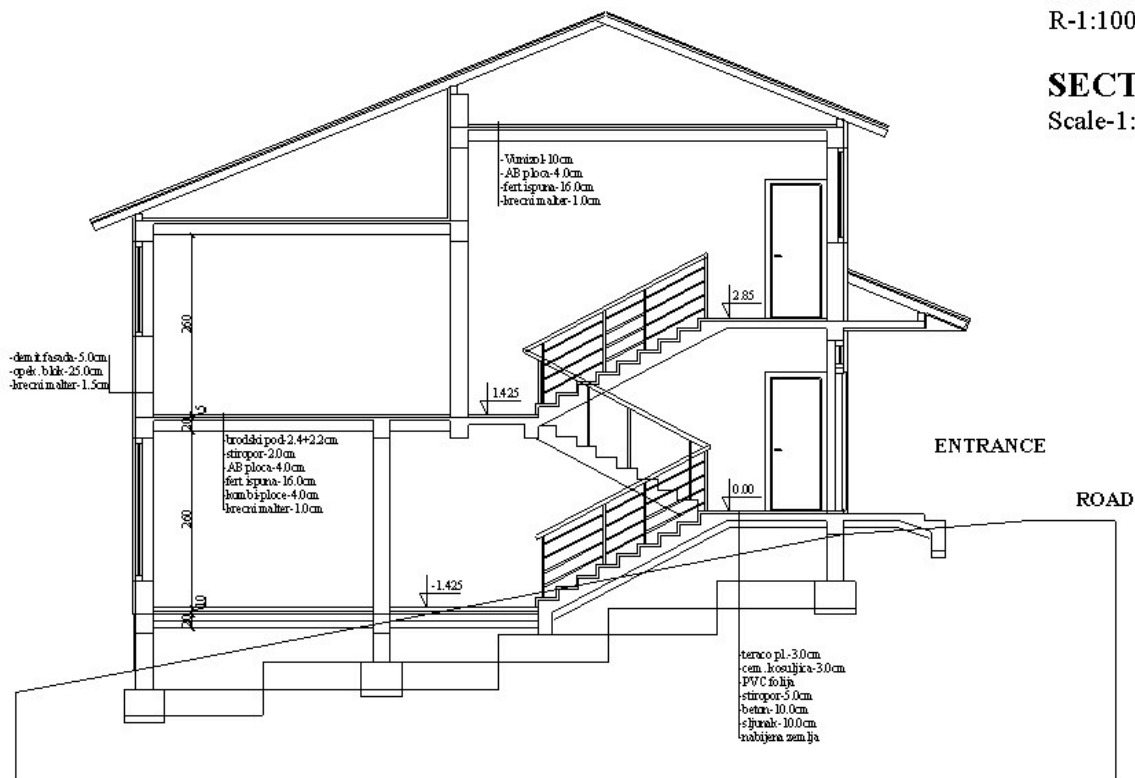
Ground floor



First floor



Plan of the project
Section



Facade



WEST FACADE