

# A Reconstruction of a House from the Early Mediaeval Settlement of Virovitica-Kiškorija jug

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# Rekonstrukcija kuće iz ranosrednjovjekovnog naselja Virovitica-Kiškorija jug

## *A Reconstruction of a House from the Early Mediaeval Settlement of Virovitica-Kiškorija jug*

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*U kontinentalnoj Hrvatskoj, pa i na širem hrvatskom prostoru, istraženost ranosrednjovjekovnih ruralnih sredina u početnim je stadijima. Taj je horizont loše očuvan, uvelike uništen suvremenom intenzivnom poljoprivrednom obradom zemljišta. Velik doprinos poznavanju oblika ranosrednjovjekovnih kuća dala su novija velika zaštitna istraživanja na trasama cesta. I ta su istraživanja potvrdila konstataciju o slaboj očuvanosti ranosrednjovjekovnog horizonta na prostoru sjeverne Hrvatske – svega je nekoliko objekata očuvano u tolikoj mjeri da im se može rekonstruirati način gradnje.*

*U radu se donosi prijedlog rekonstrukcije ranosrednjovjekovne kuće s lokaliteta Kiškorija jug kod Virovitice. Objekt pripada tipu poluukopanih jednodostornih kuća s dva nosiva stupa i glinenom peći kružne ili ovalne osnove u uglu i datiran je u razdoblje od kraja 8. pa sve do kraja 9. stoljeća.*

*Ključne riječi: Virovitica, jednodostorna kuća, 8. stoljeće, 9. stoljeće, rekonstrukcija*

*The state of research on early mediaeval rural areas in continental Croatia, as well as elsewhere in Croatia, is only in the incipient stage. This horizon is poorly preserved and largely destroyed by modern intensive farming practices. Recent large-scale salvage investigations on motorway routes greatly contributed to the knowledge about the form of early mediaeval houses. These investigations corroborated the statement about the poor preservation of the early mediaeval horizon in northern Croatia – only a couple of structures were sufficiently preserved to allow a reconstruction of the method of their construction.*

*In this paper we put forward a reconstruction of an early mediaeval house from the Kiškorija jug site near Virovitica. The structure belongs to the type of semi-sunken single-room houses with two supporting posts and a clay stove of circular or oval plan in a corner. It is dated to the period between the end of the 8th and the end of the 9th century.*

*Key words: Virovitica, single-room house, 8th century, 9th century, reconstruction*

Posljednjih se godina na području sjeverne Hrvatske intenziviralo istraživanje ranosrednjovjekovnih naselja te se počela popunjavati dosad vrlo maglovita slika o životu ranosrednjovjekovne seoske zajednice. Ciljana sustavna arheološka istraživanja ranosrednjovjekovnih naselja koprivničke Podravine (Sekelj Ivančan 2010) uvelike su pridonijela popunjavanju te slike, a značajne promjene u stanju istraženosti ranog srednjeg vijeka kontinentalne Hrvatske dala su najnovija zaštitna istraživanja na trasama cesta i autocesta na području varaždinske (Bekić 2009) i virovitičke Podravine (Ložnjak Dizdar 2007: 65; Jelinčić 2006a; 2006b; 2007: 29, 32–33; Sekelj Ivančan, Tkalčec 2008) kao i zaštitna istraživanja na području Slavonije čija je obrada i objelodanjivanje rezultata u tijeku (Filipec et al. 2009).

Unatoč u posljednje vrijeme povećanom broju istraženih objekata, tek pojedini od njih pružaju dostatne elemente na osnovi kojih se može promišljati o njihovim oblicima. Dosadašnja skromnija saznanja o ranosrednjovjekovnim

The investigations of early mediaeval settlements in northern Croatia have intensified in recent years, and consequently, the hitherto rather hazy picture of life of early mediaeval rural society is increasingly becoming clear. The targeted systematic investigations of early mediaeval settlements in the Podravina region around Koprivnica (Sekelj Ivančan 2010) significantly contributed to complementing that picture, and substantial advances in the level of research on the Middle Ages of continental Croatia were brought about by the latest salvage investigations on motorway and road routes in the Podravina region around Varaždin (Bekić 2009) and Virovitica (Ložnjak Dizdar 2007: 65; Jelinčić 2006a; 2006b; 2007: 29, 32–33; Sekelj Ivančan, Tkalčec 2008), as well as salvage investigations in the Slavonia region, the analysis and publication of which are in progress (Filipec et al. 2009).

Although the number of investigated structures has of recent been on the rise, only few among them offer enough elements on which to base considerations of their form.

stambenim objektima na području hrvatskog Međuriječja s jedne strane izravna su posljedica malog broja poduzetih ciljanih istraživanja, ali možda ponajviše specifične slabe očuvanosti tog sloja na našem području. Naime, razvidno je kako su svi istraženi objekti očuvani tek u svojim donjim dijelovima, te im većini nije niti moguće odrediti izvorni oblik, odnosno tlocrt.

Najnovija arheološka istraživanja pobudila su u nama zanimanje možemo li pojedine arheološki istražene cjeline pokušati opredijeliti u određene tipove stambenih prostora, karakteristične za razdoblje ranog srednjeg vijeka na širem prostoru nama susjednih zemalja, gdje je stanje istraženosti na zavidno višoj razini (Nekuda 2004; Šalkovský 2001; 2006). Stoga je ovom prigodom izdvojen jedan od rijetko relativno dobro u tlocrtu očuvanih objekata, arheološka cjelina SJ 1241/1242 s lokaliteta *Kiškorija jug*, otkrivena 2005. godine prigodom zaštitnih arheoloških radova na trasi ceste zapadne obilaznice grada Virovitice.<sup>1</sup> Na blago povišenoj terasi u nizinskom okružju uz vodotok istraženo je antičko ruralno naselje iz razdoblja od 2. do sredine 5. stoljeća, a među antičkim ostacima prepoznati su ostaci naselja iz kasnijeg, srednjovjekovnog razdoblja (Jelinčić 2006a; 2006b; 2007).<sup>2</sup> Od 1150 objekata tek ih je 27 na temelju nalaza datirano u rani srednji vijek. Ranosrednjovjekovno je naselje obrađeno i objavljeno, no tom prigodom rad nije bio usmjeren na detaljnije sagledavanje struktura i načina gradnje stambenih i drugih objekata (Sekelj Ivančan, Tkalčec 2008).

Srednjovjekovni se nalazi rasprostiru na istraženoj površini trase ceste u dužini od 300 metara. Na temelju detaljne analize keramičkog materijala, potkrijepljene apsolutnim datacijama, vremenski su opredijeljeni u dva osnovna horizonta: I – stariji iz kraja 8. i 9. stoljeća te mlađi koji se dijeli na horizont IIa – kraj 9. i početak 10. stoljeća i na horizont IIb – druga trećina 10. stoljeća. Od svih u srednji vijek opredijeljenih cjelina tek se tri mogu s većom sigurnošću pripisati stambenim objektima, a samo je jedna očuvana u tolikoj mjeri da nam daje elemente za tipološko određenje (Sekelj Ivančan, Tkalčec 2008: 116, Fig. 4, Fig. 6). Na osnovi ranije objavljene analize keramike te analogija s ulomcima keramičkih posuda iz objekata apsolutno datiranih radiokarbonskim ispitivanjima, zaključeno je da kuća pripada prvom horizontu naselja, odnosno da potječe iz razdoblja od kraja 8. do kraja 9. stoljeća (Sekelj Ivančan, Tkalčec 2008: 115–116).

Ostaci kuće očuvani su u njenim donjim dijelovima, odnosno očuvano je desetak centimetara zapune, u najdubljim dijelovima maksimalno dvadeset centimetara (sl. 1).<sup>3</sup> Najveće dimenzije nepravilno očuvanog tlocrta kuće iznose 4,45 x 4,40 m, u onome obliku u kojem ih se arheološki na terenu uspjelo definirati. Unutar gabarita objekta ističu se dva ukopa (promjera 50–55 cm) za veće stupove koji

1 Istraživanja je vodila dr. sc. Kristina Jelinčić iz Instituta za arheologiju kojoj zahvaljujemo na ustupanju srednjovjekovnih nalaza za objavu.

2 Članak posvećujemo dragoj kolegici, našoj nekadašnjoj „cimerici“, znanstvenoj savjetnici dr. sc. Dunji Glogović povodom njenog 65. rođendana.

3 Terenska oznaka objekta – stratigrafska jedinica SJ 1241/1242, peč – SJ 2031/1, dva manja stupa – SJ 2219/2220 i SJ 1243/1244, dva veća stupa SJ 2221/2222 i SJ 2223/2224. Objekt se nalazi u kvadrantu H/I 27 (Sekelj Ivančan, Tkalčec 2008: 117, Fig. 5b).

The previous modest knowledge about early mediaeval residential structures in the area between the Drava, Sava and Danube rivers in Croatia is a direct consequence of the fact that, on the one hand, only a few targeted investigations were undertaken so far, and on the other is probably largely due to the fact that this specific horizon in our territory is poorly preserved. It is obvious that all the investigated structures were preserved only in the lower part, and in most cases it is impossible to determine their original shape, that is, their ground plan.

The latest archaeological investigations inspired us to attempt to attribute certain contexts that were investigated archaeologically to specific types of residential spaces, characteristic for the early mediaeval period in the wider area consisting of countries contiguous to Croatia, where the state of research is at a significantly higher level (Nekuda 2004; Šalkovský 2001; 2006). We have therefore selected in this occasion one of the rare structures with a relatively well preserved ground plan, the archaeological context SU 1241/1242 from the *Kiškorija jug* site, discovered in 2005 during the salvage archaeological works on the route of the western by-pass of the town of Virovitica.<sup>1</sup> A rural settlement from antiquity, dated from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the mid-5<sup>th</sup> cent. AD, was investigated on a slightly elevated terrace in a lowland environment next to a watercourse. The remains of a later, mediaeval settlement were identified among the ancient remains (Jelinčić 2006a; 2006b; 2007).<sup>2</sup> Only 27 out of the total of 1150 features were dated to the Early Middle Ages based on the finds. The early mediaeval settlement was analyzed and published, but on that occasion the focus was not on a detailed analysis of the construction and methods of building of residential and other structures (Sekelj Ivančan, Tkalčec 2008).

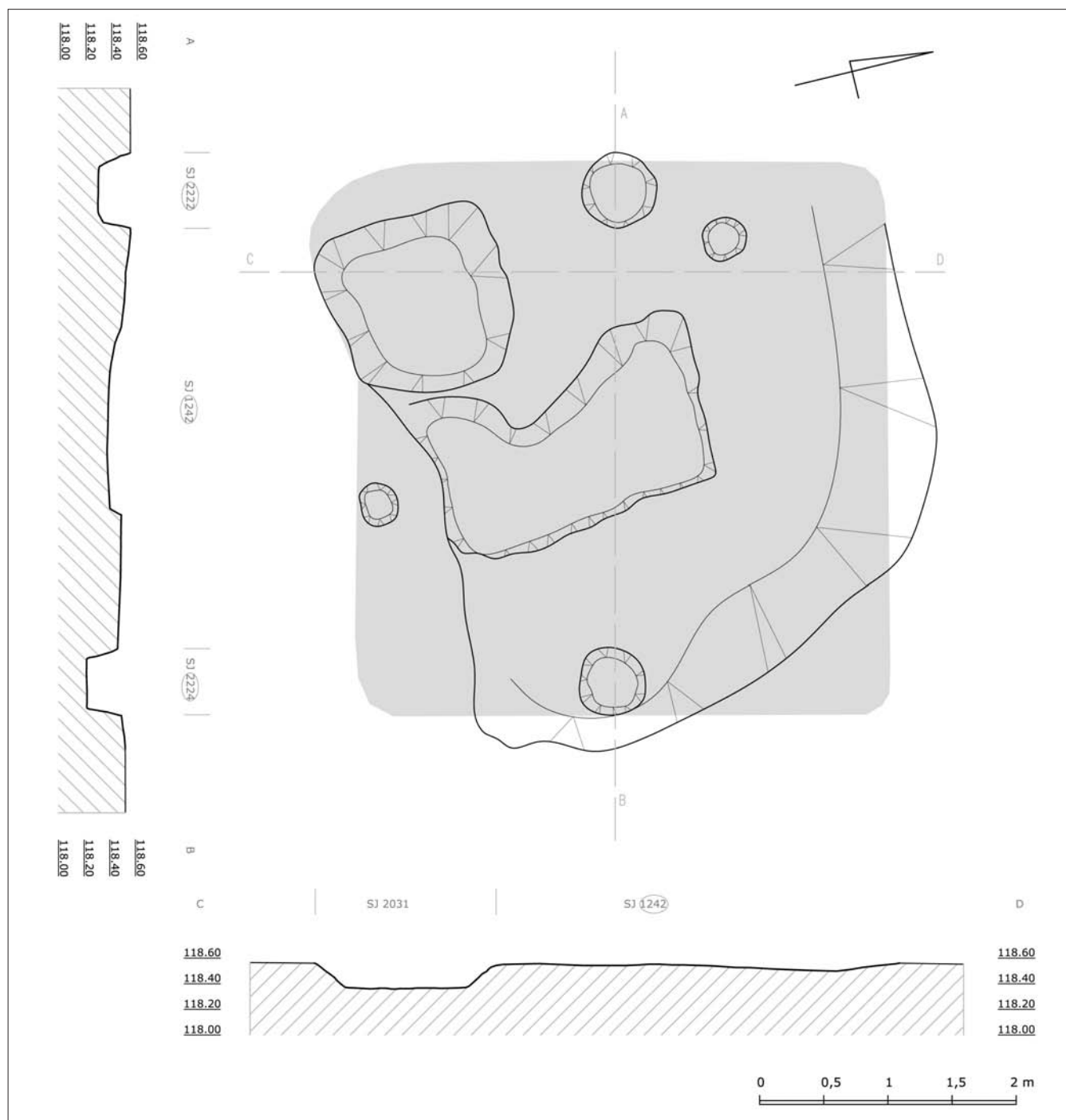
The mediaeval finds are distributed over the investigated surface of the road route in the length of 300 metres. Based on the detailed analysis of the pottery assemblage, substantiated by absolute dates, they were attributed to two basic chronological horizons: I – older, from the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> and from the 9<sup>th</sup> century, and a younger one, subdivided into horizon IIa – the end of the 9<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of the 10<sup>th</sup> century, and IIb – the second third of the 10<sup>th</sup> century. Only three out of all the contexts attributed to the mediaeval period can be interpreted as residential structures with a greater certainty, but only one of those is preserved sufficiently well to give us elements for a typological determination (Sekelj Ivančan, Tkalčec 2008: 116, Fig. 4, Fig. 6). Based on the previously published pottery analysis and on the analogies with the shards of pottery vessels from the structures absolutely dated by the radiocarbon method, it was concluded that the house belongs to the first horizon of the settlement, that is, to the period from the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> to the end of the 9<sup>th</sup> century (Sekelj Ivančan, Tkalčec 2008: 115–116).

The remains of the house were preserved only in the lower portions, that is, only around ten centimetres of the fill were preserved, up to the maximum of twenty centimetres in the deepest parts (Fig. 1).<sup>3</sup> The maximum dimensions of

1 The investigations were managed by Dr. Kristina Jelinčić from the Institute of Archaeology, whom we thank for the permission to publish the mediaeval finds.

2 We dedicate this paper to our dear colleague and former "room-mate", the scientific advisor Dr. Dunja Glogović, on the occasion of her 65<sup>th</sup> birthday.

3 The field mark of the structure – context SU 1241/1242, stove – SU 2031/1,



Sl. 1 Virovitica – Kiškorija jug, kuća SJ 1242 (sivo – prijedlog izvornog izgleda tlocrta kuće) (crtež: Kristina Turkalj)

Fig. 1 Virovitica-Kiškorija jug, house SU 1242 (grey – reconstruction of the original appearance of the ground plan of the house) (drawing: Kristina Turkalj)

se nalaze na međusobnoj udaljenosti od 3,90 m. Osim njih evidentirani su i tragovi ukopa dvaju manjih stupova (promjera 30–33 cm), međusobno udaljeni 3,40 m. Niti na jednom mjestu nije bilo očuvanih tragova drvene ili nabijene zemljane podnice. U jugozapadnom uglu objekta nalazila se velika nakupina komada crvene zapečene zemlje i crne gorevine koja se rasprostirala u promjeru od 1,40 m. Ustanovljeno je da se radi o urušenoj jednostavnoj glinenoj peći čiji su gornji dijelovi uništeni poljoprivrednom obradom zemljišta. Na jugoistočnom dijelu urušene peći, među komadima zapečene zemlje pronađen je korodirani željezni

the inaccurately preserved ground plan of the house are 4.45 x 4.40 m, at least this is the shape that we were able to determine archaeologically. Two cuts (with a diameter of 50–55 cm) for larger posts 3.90 m from each other are conspicuous within the structure. In addition to these, we documented the traces of cuts of two smaller posts (30–33 cm in diameter) lying 3.40 m from each other. At no place within the structure did we find any preserved trace of a floor, whether of timber or of pressed earth. A sizeable pi-

two smaller posts – SU 2219/2220 and SU 1243/1244, two larger posts SU 2221/2222 and SU 2223/2224. The structure is positioned in square H/I 27 (Sekelj Ivančan, Tkalčec 2008: 117, Fig. 5b).

predmet, vjerojatno motika.<sup>4</sup> U zapuni kuće pronađen je iznimno mali broj keramičkih ulomaka, od kojih je na osnovi fakture procijenjen minimalni broj od četiri do pet posuda. Nalaza životinjskih kostiju nije bilo. Izostanak ili mali broj nalaza životinjskih kostiju bio je zamijećen i u drugim, srednjovjekovnim i antičkim, cjelinama što valja povezati kako sa slabom očuvanošću ostataka objekata tako i s neočuvanošću kostiju uslijed kiselosti tla. Po čitavoj površini objekta pronađeno je mnoštvo lijepa koji ukazuje na to da su stijene kuće bile omazane blatom.

Sagledavši arheološki istraženu cjelinu sa svim njezinim elementima, moguće je iznijeti prijedlog rekonstrukcije njenog izvornog oblika (sl. 2). Kuća je bila četvrtastog oblika tlocrta, blago ukopana ispod okolne hodne površine.<sup>5</sup> Po jedan duboko ukopani stup na sredini svakog zabatnog zida činio je nosivu osnovu krovne konstrukcije. Krov na dvije vode vjerojatno je bio nisko spušten te je sezao gotovo do samoga tla, kako je to uobičajeno u tome razdoblju. Zidovi kuće zasigurno su bili građeni od drvene konstrukcije omazane blatom, a krov je vjerojatno bio prekriven slamom. Za pretpostaviti je da su se zidovi kuće dijelom dizali i iznad okolne hodne površine, kako je to predloženo za kuće 9. i 10. stoljeća na prostoru Slovačke i drugdje (Šalkovský 2002: 116, 118, Obr. 2., Obr. 3.). Stijene zidova objekta podizalo se u onolikoj mjeri koliko je bilo potrebno za slobodno kretanje unutar objekta, u njegovome središnjem dijelu. Na osnovi pronalaska dva masivna nosiva stupa dali smo prijedlog rekonstrukcije virovitičke kuće čije strane krovišta naliježu na bočne, blago uzdignute drvene zidove, što se čini vjerojatnijim za objekt koji većom površinom i nosivom konstrukcijom ukazuje na razvijeniji stambeni objekt od onih manjih jednostavnih šatorastih kuća čija krovna konstrukcija (bez nosivih zabatnih stupova) neposredno naliježe na tlo, bez istaknutih bočnih stijenci zidova. U posljednje vrijeme javile su se i nove interpretacije u vezi s drugačijim rješenjem odnosa između stijene kuće i krovišta, no valja istaknuti da su se ti prijedlozi odnosili uglavnom na kvadratom manje objekte. Pretpostavka je da je krovište, koje se spuštalo do samoga tla, natkrivalo znatno širi prostor od ukopa kuće, te da je taj povišeni i vrlo skućeni prostor bio korišten za spavanje, za skladištenje i spremanje raznih kućanskih predmeta (Sabján 2002: 320–321, Fig. 1, Fig. 2; Balínt et al. 2003: 386–388).

Površina virovitičke kuće u očuvanom, nepravilnom obliku u kojem je arheološki iskopana iznosi oko 15 m<sup>2</sup>. Njeni su rubni dijelovi na pojedinim mjestima bili razvučeni ralom uslijed intenzivne poljoprivredne obrade tla, dok na drugim dijelovima nisu niti očuvani. Razmatrajući odnos osi koju čine nosivi zabatni stupovi i ugaone peći, predložena je rekonstrukcija objekta kao jednodostorne kuće četvrtaste osnove tlocrta s peći u uglu čija konstrukcija blago izlazi iz pravilnog tlocrta kuće. Rekonstruirana kuća time poprima površinu od oko 18 m<sup>2</sup> te prema tome ona pripada većim jednodostornim poluukopanim kućama na slavenskom

le of burnt red earth and black burnt matter stretching in the diameter of 1.40 m was documented in the southwestern corner of the structure. It was established that the feature represented a collapsed simple clay stove whose upper portions were destroyed by farming. A corroded iron object, presumably a hoe, was found among the pieces of burnt clay in the southeastern part of the collapsed stove.<sup>4</sup> The fill of the house yielded an exceptionally small number of ceramic fragments, which were assessed based on the fabric as belonging to a minimum number of four to five vessels. No animal bones were found. The lack of, or a very small number of animal bones was observed also in the other–mediaeval or ancient–contexts, which is presumably related with the poor preservation of the structural remains as well as with the disappearance of bones due to the acidity of the soil. Large quantities of daub discovered over the entire surface of the structure show that the house walls were daubed with mud.

After a comprehensive consideration of the archaeologically investigated context with all its elements, we can put forward a reconstruction of its original appearance (Fig. 2). The house had a rectangular ground plan and it was slightly dug into the surrounding walking surface.<sup>5</sup> A deeply dug post in the centre of either pediment wall provided support for the roof construction. Its gable roof in all likelihood descended quite low, reaching almost to the ground, as was the rule in that period. The walls were built of timber daubed with mud, and the roof was probably thatched. The house walls presumably partly reached above the surrounding walking surface, as was proposed for the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> century houses in Slovakia and elsewhere (Šalkovský 2002: 116, 118, Obr. 2., Obr. 3.). It was customary to build the walls of the structure to the height that allowed free movement within–the central part of–the interior. Based on the discovery of the two massive ridge–beam bearing uprights in the house from Virovitica we put forward a reconstruction in which the rafters are supported on wall–plates resting on side rows of short posts. We consider this a more plausible solution for a structure whose broad surface and load–bearing system point to a more advanced residential structure when compared with smaller and simpler tent–like houses whose roof construction (lacking the ridge supports) is set directly into the ground, while the side walls are absent altogether. New interpretations have recently appeared advocating an alternative solution for the relationship between the walls and the roof, although it must be stressed that these proposals referred mostly to structures of smaller size. The argument is that the roof, which descended directly to the ground, covered a much wider space than the actual cut of the house, and that this raised and very constricted space was used for sleeping, as well as for storing and keeping various household objects (Sabján 2002: 320–321, Fig. 1, Fig. 2; Balínt et al. 2003: 386–388).

The size of the Virovitica house in its preserved, irregular shape in which it was excavated archaeologically is around 15 m<sup>2</sup>. Its edges were at places spread out by a plough due to intensive farming, while at others were completely obliterated. Having considered the relationship of the axis

4 Predmet se, zbog izuzetne korodiranosti, nalazi u dugotrajnom procesu odsoljavanja.

5 O točnoj dubini njenog ukopa (koja u zatečenom stanju iznosi do 20 cm) ne možemo govoriti jer sloj srednjovjekovnog humusa nije očuvan.

4 The object has been subjected to extended desalination due to its extremely corroded state.

5 We cannot discuss the exact depth of the cut (the maximum depth documented in the investigation was 20 cm) because the mediaeval humus layer was not preserved.



Sl. 2 Virovitica – Kiškorija jug, rekonstrukcija jednodoborne kuće SJ 1242 (crtež: Miljenko Gregl)  
 Fig. 2 Virovitica-Kiškorija jug, a reconstruction of single-room house SJ 1242 (drawing: Miljenko Gregl)

prostoru. Naime, površina stambenog prostora kuća na području Slovačke, Moravske i sjeverne Mađarske kreće se od 4 do 22 m<sup>2</sup>, s time da najveći broj objekata zaprima prostor od 7 do 11 m<sup>2</sup>. Za ostala slavenska područja prosječna kvadratura kuća iznosi 12 do 15 m<sup>2</sup>. U jugoistočnoj i istočnoj zoni slavenskog prostora evidentiran je najveći broj poluukopanih kuća s dva potporna stupa kvadrature od 9 do 12 m<sup>2</sup>, iako postoje primjeri i površinom većih objekata (Šalkovský 2001: 25, 44, Abb. 18: 2). Na području srednjeg Podunavlja površinom najvećim objektima pripadaju tipovi kuća s više potpornih stupova u konstrukciji stijena objekta (Ruttkay 2002: 271). Za naše krajeve u dosadašnjim sintezama nedostaju podaci te su nam u tom smislu rezultati istraživanja kod Virovitice od izuzetna značaja.

Zabatnu os kuće koju čini linija između dva nosiva stupa valja povezati i s organizacijom ulaza u objekt te promišljenim postavljanjem izvora topline na ono mjesto na kojem će peč pružati maksimalnu učinkovitost. Stoga za virovitičku kuću ulaz možemo pretpostaviti na strani nasuprotnoj izvoru topline, kao što je to uobičajeno u stambenim objektima pripadajućeg razdoblja (Takács 2002: 285). Takav položaj ulaza s istoka odgovara i potrebi izbjegavanja otvaranja kuće na sjevernoj, hladnoći izloženoj strani.

U slavenskom svijetu evidentirani su stambeni objekti bez izvora topline, pri čemu su peći ili ognjišta te vatrišta bila postavljena izvan samoga objekta. U slučajevima kada se izvor topline, a ujedno i mjesto na kojem se priprema i podgrijavala hrana, nalazio unutar stambenog prostora, razlikujemo otvorena ognjišta te različite konstrukcije peći od kamena ili gline. Otvoreno ognjište je, uz to što je obnašalo funkciju izvora neposredne topline i mjesta za pri-

connecting the gable posts and the corner stoves, we put forward a reconstruction of the structure as a single-room house of rectangular plan with a stove in the corner that slightly projects from the regular layout of the house. The space covered by the house reconstructed in this manner amounts to around 18 m<sup>2</sup>, categorizing it as belonging to a group of larger single-room semi-sunken houses in the Slavic world. The size of the residential space of the houses in the territory of Slovakia, Moravia and northern Hungary ranges between 4 and 22 m<sup>2</sup>, with most structures covering between 7 and 11 m<sup>2</sup>. The average size of the houses in the other Slavic areas is between 12 and 15 m<sup>2</sup>. In the southeastern and eastern zones of the Slavic world the largest number of semi-sunken houses with two support posts covered the surface between 9 and 12 m<sup>2</sup>, although larger structures are also known (Šalkovský 2001: 25, 44, Abb. 18: 2). The largest structures in the central Danubian Basin belong to the types that feature several load-bearing uprights forming the side walls (Ruttkay 2002: 271). The syntheses published hitherto in Croatia are lacking in details, so the results of the investigations near Virovitica are in that sense of exceptional importance.

The gable axis of the house, consisting of the line connecting the two central support posts, should also be considered in the light of the organization of the entrance to the structure, as well as with a thought-out placement of a heat source at the position providing maximum efficiency. We can therefore hypothesize that the position for the entrance to the Virovitica house was at the side opposite the heat source, as was usual for the residential structures of the observed period (Takács 2002: 285). Such a position of the entrance from the north corresponds also to the desire to avoid opening the house on the northern side, exposed to

premanje hrane, ujedno i osvjetljavalo unutrašnjost prostora. Peći su, pak, iako su davale manje svjetla (vjerojatno kroz otvor ložišta), u drugim aspektima, izuzetno značajnima u svakodnevnom životu ondašnjeg stanovništva, bile znatno funkcionalnije. Osobito su u tom smislu veliku prednost imale glinene peći, jer je glina materijal koji dobro akumulira toplinu, te poput današnjih kamina, omogućava dugotrajno održavanje topline.<sup>6</sup> Kao što je spomenuto, ostaci velike količine komada zapečene zemlje u blagom udubljenju u jugozapadnom uglu virovitičke kuće govore nam o postojanju glinene peći kružne ili ovalne osnove, a za pretpostaviti je da je njen gornji, oranjem uništen dio bio formiran u obliku kupole. Taj oblik peći odgovara brojnim primjerima peći, postavljanima u raznim tipovima ranosrednjovjekovnih kuća (Šalkovský 2001: 94, Abb. 52: 10). Na osnovi ispupčenosti njenog oblika te specifičnoj udaljenosti od linije zabatne osi kuće, za pretpostaviti je da je peć dijelom u vidu manje niše izlazila izvan gabarita kvadratičnog tlocrta kuće na njenome jugozapadnome uglu te bi time bila slična primjerima peći kakvi su otkriveni u ranosrednjovjekovnom slavenskom svijetu (Šalkovský 2001: 100–101, Abb. 53: 5, 8, 9) ili iz kasnijeg vremena u Mađarskoj (Kovács 2001: 439–440, 1. kép., 2. a-b kép.; Gömöri 2002: 169, 133. kép.; Herold 2004: 92, Zeichnung 11, Haus A11), a ima i primjera gdje peć izlazi izvan gabarita tlocrta objekta samo na jednoj strani dok se na drugoj uklapa u ravninu stijene zida kao što je slučaj i s virovitičkom kućom (Zoll-Adamikowa et al. 2007: 205, Ryc. VI. 81).

Što se tiče unutarnje organizacije prostora, pouzdaniji podaci o unutrašnjosti jednodostornih kuća ne postoje, no zasigurno su bile opremljene drvenim namještajem te organskim pokrivalima koji su podove i zidove štitali od hladnoće. S obzirom na unutrašnji izgled prostora, postavlja se pitanje možemo li poziciju dva manja stupa u virovitičkoj kući dovesti u neki odnos s peći, postojanjem nekog namještaja ili možda čak nekim naknadnim popravcima kuće. Ne treba isključiti niti mogućnost da pripadaju starijem antičkom naselju. Uočljivo je da ne obnašaju funkciju potpornih stupova te, ukoliko pretpostavimo da su srednjovjekovni, valja ih drugačije tumačiti. Naime, nije neuobičajeno prostor ispred i iznad peći ili ognjišta koristiti za sušenje voća, termalnu pripremu različitih sirovina za svakodnevne potrebe, oštavljenih životinjskih koža i slično (Šalkovský 2001: 95). O postojanju sušione ispred peći postoje pretpostavke i na drugim lokalitetima na kojima se susreću tragovi manjih i srednje velikih rupa od stupova ali, za razliku od našeg slučaja, najčešće u razmaku od oko 1 m, koji se uglavnom poklapa i sa širinom same peći (Kuna, Profantová 2005: 114).

Na temelju svega iznesenoga virovitička kuća, prema dimenzijama i četvrtastom obliku te ostalim osnovnim utvrđenim elementima – dva nosiva stupa i peć u uglu, pripada jednostavnim jednodostornim kućama kakve Peter Šalkovský u svojoj sveobuhvatnoj tipologiji kategorizira u

6 Na ovom mjestu zanimljivo je spomenuti i promišljanja, koja potvrdu nalaze i u etnografskim izvorima, da su kuhinjske keramičke posude bile čuvane oko same peći te su, za vrijeme kada nisu služile za pripremanje hrane, mogle služiti i kao dodatni izvori za zagrijavanje prostora (Šalkovský 2001: 110, Abb. 58).

the cold.

There is documented evidence in the Slavic world of residential structures without a heat source, with stoves or hearths and fireplaces situated outside the structure. In those cases when the heat source—and at the same time the place where food was prepared and heated—was inside the living space, we distinguish between open hearths and various constructed stoves of stone or clay. Open hearths, besides serving as a source of heat and a place for preparing food, at the same time illuminated the interior. Stoves, on the other hand, while giving less light (presumably through the stoke-hole), were far more functional in other aspects of exceptional importance in the everyday life of the local population. Clay stoves were particularly advantageous in that respect, since clay is an excellent heat accumulator and, like present-day fireplaces, maintains heat for a long time.<sup>6</sup> As already mentioned, the remains of many large chunks of burnt earth in the gentle depression in the southwestern corner of the Virovitica house speak to us of the existence of a clay stove of circular or oval plan, whose upper part, destroyed by ploughing, was presumably domed. This shape corresponds to numerous examples of stoves placed into various types of early mediaeval houses (Šalkovský 2001: 94, Abb. 52: 10). Based on its protruding form and the specific distance from the line of the gable axis of the house, it can be surmised that the stove partly escaped the rectangular perimeter of the house plan in its southwestern corner in the form of a small niche, which would make it similar to the examples of stoves discovered in the early mediaeval Slavic world (Šalkovský 2001: 100–101, Abb. 53: 5, 8, 9), or from a later period in Hungary (Kovács 2001: 439–440, 1. kép., 2. a-b kép.; Gömöri 2002: 169, 133. kép.; Herold 2004: 92, Zeichnung 11, Haus A11). There are also examples where the stove protrudes from the perimeter of the structure only on one side, whereas on the other it fits into the plane of the house wall, like in the case of the Virovitica house (Zoll-Adamikowa et al. 2007: 205, Ryc. VI. 81).

With regard to the organization of the interior space, although we have no reliable information about the interior of single-room houses, they must have been furnished with timber furniture and organic covers that protected the floors and walls from the cold. Taking into consideration the interior appearance of the space, a question is raised whether the position of the two smaller posts in the Virovitica house can be associated with the stove, with some pieces of furniture, or perhaps even with some later repairs of the house. The possibility that they belong to the older settlement from antiquity also cannot be excluded. They obviously did not serve as load-bearing posts and, if we presume that they are mediaeval, we have to look for an alternative interpretation. It is not unusual to use the space in front and above the stove or hearth for drying fruit, for a thermal preparation of diverse raw materials for everyday needs, for tanned animal hides and so on (Šalkovský 2001: 95). There are indications of drying racks in front of stoves also at other sites, in the form of traces of small to medium-sized post holes but, unlike our case, these were set around a metre apart, which generally corresponds to the width of the stove itself (Kuna, Profantová 2005: 114).

Based on everything that was said here, the Virovitica

6 It would be interesting to mention here the observations—corroborated by ethnographic sources—that kitchenware was stored around the stove itself and that, when not used for preparing food, these vessels may have served as additional sources of heat for the space (Šalkovský 2001: 110, Abb. 58).

jednu od inačica tipa *1Ba2* s dva potporna stupa (Šalkovský 2001: 32–33, 126, Karte 4; Abb. 9:3, 7; Abb. 60: A). Na primjeru slovačke tipologije razvidno je kako je upravo taj tip poluukopane jednodostorne kuće, jedne od inačica tipa II prema Mateju Ruttkayu, najzastupljeniji u 9. i 10. stoljeću, a da se od svoje pojave u 6./7. stoljeću pa sve do 12./13. stoljeća pojavljuje uz tip I (poluukopane kuće bez potpornih stupova) kao najzastupljeniji od ukupnih pet tipova u ranosrednjovjekovnim naseljima (Ruttkay 2002: 270, Abb. 3).

Na kraju valja spomenuti da je na osnovi rasporeda ostalih objekata na lokalitetu razvidno da se na položaju *Kiškorija jug* nalazilo ranosrednjovjekovno otvoreno naselje raštrkanog tipa koje je egzistiralo od kraja 8. pa sve do kraja 10. stoljeća (Sekelj Ivančan, Tkalčec 2008: 117, Fig. 5a, Fig. 5b). O prostornoj organizaciji sela na osnovi očuvanih ostataka ne možemo puno više reći, možemo tek konstatirati da je u slučaju naše kuće ona zabatom, tj. ulazom na istočnoj strani orijentirana prema potoku koji je u ono vrijeme tekao nešto niže, istočnije od kuće.

Na području kontinentalne Hrvatske, u do sada objavljenoj literaturi, jednodostornim kućama s dva nosiva stupa možemo pripisati još jedino objekt s lokaliteta *Torčec–Prečno pole I* kod Koprivnice, pri čemu je konstrukciju tog objekta nosio jedan duboko a drugi pliće ukopani stup (Sekelj Ivančan 2009: 72, 73, sl. 1, sl. 2). Spomenuta kuća, međutim, nije bila opremljena peći već je imala otvoreno ognjište. Prigodom analize i obrade nalaza i nalazišta ustanovljeno je da taj objekt br. 35 potječe s kraja 8. i iz 9. stoljeća te da je sjeo na krušnu peć iz još starijeg razdoblja (Sekelj Ivančan 2010). Ostali lokaliteti s kojih potječu istraženi ranosrednjovjekovni stambeni objekti, istovremeni virovitičkome, nemaju nalaze ovog tipa kuće. Na lokalitetu *Varaždin – Brezje 1* pronađena je poluukopana kuća sa središnjim stupom i ognjištem (Bekić 2009: 208, 210, sl. 2), a u *Starim Perkovcima – Debeloj šumi* poluukopana izdužena kuća s polukružno oblikovanim krovom od šiblja i još jedna poluukopana kuća izdužena oblika s drvenom konstrukcijom šatorastog tipa, s dva nosiva stupa i trećim stupom koji je nosio krilo vrata (Filipec et al. 2009: 21, 32–35). Iz navedenog je vidljivo kako na prostoru sjeverne Hrvatske malobrojne arheološki otkrivene ranosrednjovjekovne kuće, iako istovremene, pripadaju različitim tipovima kuća kakvi se grade tijekom više stoljeća ranog srednjeg vijeka. Već samim početkom razdoblja ranog srednjeg vijeka prisutni su različiti tipovi gradnje s brojnim inačicama koji počivaju na još starijim tradicijama, a distinkcije se očituju tek u pojačanoj učestalosti njihove pojave u užim vremenskim isječcima unutar ranog srednjeg vijeka. Pa je tako tip kuće kojem pripada virovitička kuća na slavenskom prostoru prisutan tijekom čitavog ranog srednjeg vijeka s najučestalijom pojavnošću u 9. i 10. stoljeću, upravo razdoblju u čiji prvi dio možemo dobro uklopiti i egzistenciju naše kuće. Određene pravilnosti u rasprostranjenosti pojedinih tipova kuća prema njihovom obliku i dimenzijama možemo donekle slijediti prema zemljopisnim odrednicama, međutim razvidno je da one nerijetko paralelno egzistiraju kroz čitav rani srednji vijek. Jednostavnost, odnosno složenost gradnje objekata kao i njihove dimenzije tijekom ranog srednjeg vijeka ne

house, by virtue of its dimensions and rectangular form as well as other basic documented elements—two support posts and the stove in the corner—belongs to simple single-room houses categorized by Peter Šalkovský in his comprehensive typology as one of the variants of type *1Ba2* with two support posts (Šalkovský 2001: 32–33, 126, Karte 4; Abb. 9:3, 7; Abb. 60: A). It is evident from the example of the Slovakian typology that precisely this type of semi-sunken single-room house, one of the variants of type II after Matej Ruttkay, is the most common in the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> centuries, and that from its appearance in the 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> century until the 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> century appears along type I (semi-sunken houses without support posts) as the most common of the total of five types in early mediaeval settlements (Ruttkay 2002: 270, Abb. 3).

We should mention at the end that the layout of the remaining structures at *Kiškorija jug* makes it clear that this was a site of an early mediaeval open settlement of dispersed type that existed between the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> century up until the end of the 10<sup>th</sup> century (Sekelj Ivančan, Tkalčec 2008: 117, Fig. 5a, Fig. 5b). We cannot say much more about the spatial organization of the village based on the preserved remains, we can only state that in the case of our house, its gable, i.e. the entrance on the east, is oriented towards the stream that at that time ran somewhat below, i.e. to the east of the house.

The only other structure in continental Croatia that can be attributed to single-room houses with two support posts based on the hitherto published literature was discovered at the *Torčec-Prečno Pole 1* site near Koprivnica. One of these support posts was dug deep into the ground, while the other was shallow (Sekelj Ivančan 2009: 72, 73, sl. 1, sl. 2). This house, however, did not feature a stove – it had an open hearth instead. It was ascertained in the analysis of the finds and the site that this structure—no. 35—belongs to the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> and to the 9<sup>th</sup> century, and that it superimposed on a bread oven from an even earlier period (Sekelj Ivančan 2010). Other sites that yielded early mediaeval residential structures contemporary with the Virovitica house do not feature the finds of this house type. A semi-sunken house with a central post and a hearth was found at the *Varaždin – Brezje 1* site (Bekić 2009: 208, 210, sl. 2), while the site of *Stari Jankovci – Debeli Šuma* produced a semi-sunken elongated house with a semicircular thatch roof, and another elongated semi-sunken house with timber construction of tent-like type, with two support posts and a third post that carried the door leaf (Filipec et al. 2009: 21, 32–35). It is manifest from what was said that the few archaeologically discovered early mediaeval houses in northern Croatia, albeit contemporaneous, belong to different house types, built during several centuries of the Early Middle Ages. Already at the beginning of the early mediaeval period different types of construction were known, with many variants drawing from even older traditions, with distinctions manifested only in their intensified occurrence in narrower segments of time within the early mediaeval period. The house type to which the Virovitica house belongs is thus present in the Slavic world throughout entire Early Middle Ages, reaching its heyday in the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> centuries, precisely the period into whose first part we can adequately fit the existence of our house. Certain regularities in the distribution of specific house types by their form and size can be tracked to a degree by geographic features, although it is evident that these types often exist in parallel throughout entire Early



predstavljaju nužno užu kronološko-tipološku odrednicu, već su više odraz prilagođavanja gradnje specifičnim potrebama stanovništva, njihovim graditeljskim mogućnostima i prirodnim resursima okoline.

Jednostavni poluukopani oblici jednodprostornih stambenih zdanja javljaju se još i u vremenima razvijenog srednjeg vijeka da bi u kasnom srednjem vijeku postepeno gotovo u potpunosti prevladao tip nadzemnih kuća. Kuće iz 13. i kasnijih stoljeća mahom već poprimaju tlocrte koji se sastoje od triju prostorija, a njihov se razvoj može pratiti upravo od jednostavnih jednodprostornih kuća, karakterističnih za rani srednji vijek.

Middle Ages. The simple or complex workmanship of house building, as well as their size during the Early Middle Ages should not necessarily be considered as narrower chronological-typological factors – rather, they reflect the adjustments in construction to specific requirements of the population, their constructional skills and the natural resources of the environment.

Simple semi-sunken forms of single-room residential structures continue into the High Middle Ages, but in the Late Middle Ages the above-ground house type has gradually—and almost completely—taken over. Houses in the 13<sup>th</sup> and subsequent centuries by and large adopt ground plans consisting of three rooms, whose development can be traced precisely from the simple single-room houses characteristic for the Early Middle Ages.

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