



Hidden Commons in Maria's Yard Sarajevo

1885...1899...2013..2015...

The building of Marijin dvor (Marienhof / 'Maria's Yard') is one the most significant examples of the austro-hungarian (central-european) palace in Sarajevo. It was built in stages between 1885 and 1899 as a residential and commercial building in the form of a closed four-sided block.

Inside, hidden stands the biggest and the most beautiful courtyard in the city, commonly called Marindvorsko (Maria's Yard). Few years ago, the main entrance into the yard was locked and since then it has been used very rarely and exclusively by inhabitants.

In 2013, by accident, two organizations rediscovered this place and decided to intervene and explore how it can become more than it is, a more common place.

Extended involvement with this community managed to bring renewed attention for this forgotten commons and to make a unique bench, as a symbolic mark of the value of this space for the whole city and with an effective use of scaling a monument of this very space.