

TECHNICAL BRIEF



The bell tower, also known as Kamban Pirg, is situated in the eastern part of the monastery complex – east of the church and south of the St Sava tower. At the time of its inception this was a defensive tower situated in front of the monastery walls. Over time it lost its defensive function and its usage changed. There are six floors, that over time have been used as:

- Cellar – not used
- Ground floor – storage
- 1st & 2nd floor – living quarters
- 3rd floor – chapel of St Stefan
- 4th floor – belfry

Prior to the catastrophic fire of March 2004, in which the bell tower was not seriously damaged, a safety review was carried out, showing that time, damp and earthquake damage had taken their toll. The review identified the need for major reparations if it was to find a new purpose. Works were partially started after the fire with a view to providing temporary accommodation for the brotherhood.

Up to now the following works have been completed:

- Reinforcement of the structure with three cement platforms with structural steel; injection of the main stone walls with cement; framing of the tower with rust-proof iron rings.
- Construction of a storage facility in the cellar
- Water supply and sanitary facilities brought in to the ground floor
- Reconstruction of the cells on the 1st & 2nd floors
- Restoration and injection of the frescoes in the chapel

So far all the work has been completed up to the belfry. In the belfry there is a need to reconstruct the roof frame and the roof cover itself. Included in this phase would be the reconstruction of the wooden frame supporting the bells. The urgency of this work is due to the stone roof tiles having lost their function due to the atmospheric moisture – i.e. salt water. The wooden structure is in a very bad state, as can be seen in the following photos.

Ref.	Statement of Work	Cost
1	Scaffolding – to cover the tower to protect it during the work	€3553.12
2	Frame to support the bells	€1200.00
3	Removal of stone tiles & possible recycling of the same	€644.23
4	Deconstruction of the roof frame	€3500.00
5	Reconstruction/ reinforcement of supporting walls	€450.00
6	Construction of the wooden roof frame and roof lining	€12,184.12
7	Construction of the wooden bell supports	€223.52
8	Lead works relating to the roof	€69.92
9	Waterproofing of the roof construction	€49.28
10	Covering of the roof with 3 layers of stone tiles	€352.55
11	Removal of scaffolding	€3553.12
	TOTAL	€39,489.86

PICTURE 1 – VIEW OF THE BELL TOWER’S ROOF



PICTURE 2 – BELL SUPPORTING STRUCTURE



PICTURE 3 – DAMAGE TO THE WOODEN STRUCTURE CAUSED BY DAMP



PICTURE 4 – DAMAGE TO THE WOODEN STRUCTURE – STRUT AFFECTED BY DAMP

