

## Historic Data on the Edifice

The Church of the Holy Savior (Sveti Spas) is among the most important cultural monuments of Skopje. It is located in the Old Town district, east of the Skopje fortress, and is part of the complex where the tomb of the Macedonian revolutionary Goce Delchev is situated.

The church has a three-aisle basilica plan. The central aisle is vaulted, while the side aisles have a flat board construction. A gallery is erected to the west. The floor level is approximately 2 m. below the ground level, and the edifice is sunken in relation to the surrounding area. During work undertaken in the church in 1963-64, fresco paintings were discovered on the south wall, dating back to the 16th and 17th centuries.

The church acquired its present-day appearance in the 19th century. The iconostasis was finished in 1824, while some of the Despotic icons (the large icons on either side of the Royal Doors) were completed in 1867.

The Church of the Holy Savior is especially important because it houses beautiful woodcarvings, the iconostasis, the bishop's throne, the analogion (the reading desk), the choir stands, and proskynetaria (the icon display stand).

This iconostasis is considered one of the most beautiful works of the Western Macedonian Mijak woodcarvers. The iconostasis is 10 m. in length and corresponds to the size of the three aisles. The height is 4.5 m., while the central part, where the iconostasis is adorned with a Crucifix is 7 m. high.

The iconostasis is comprised of five parts, all linked horizontally and vertically to the woodcarving. The woodcarving of the iconostasis is in the deep-relief cut technique, with astonishing details. The iconostasis, the analogion, the proskynetaria, and choir stands are all works of the Mijak woodcarving group of Petre Filipovich Garkata; evidence of this includes an inscription and a scene with the artists' portraits.