

THE BALKANS



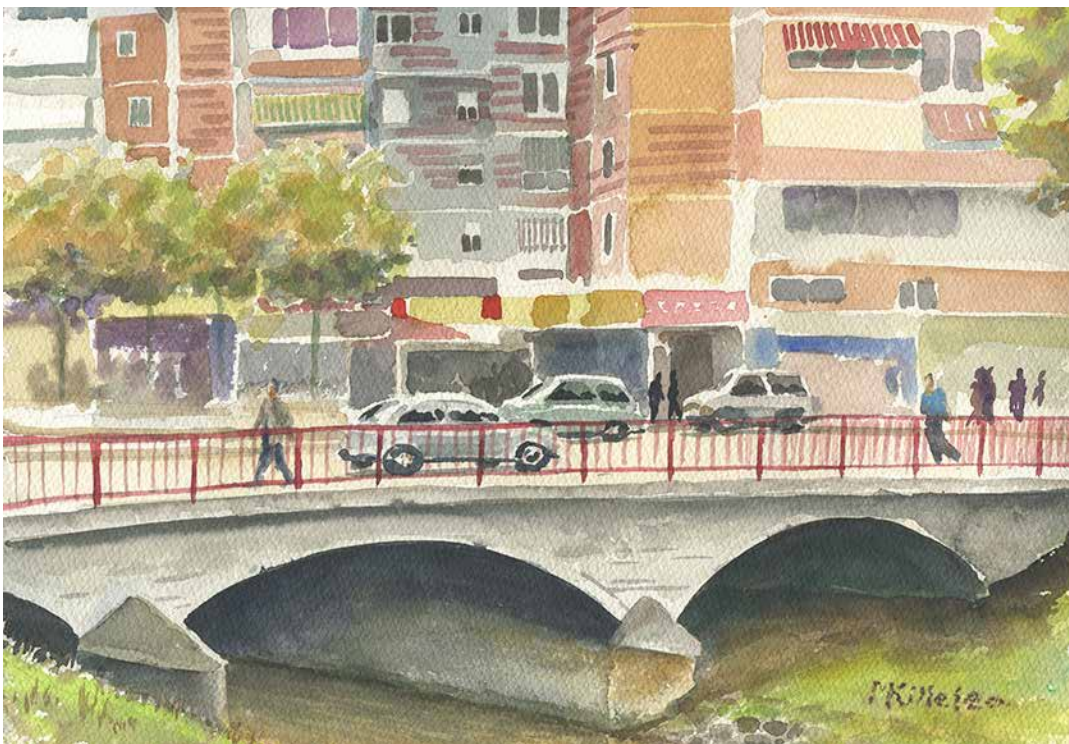
Answering the call to prayer at Gazi Husrev Bey Mosque in **Sarajevo**, Bosnia

Beyond the sectarian strife and a political landscape that's been in conflict since before the Middle Ages, there exists a land of beauty and peace.



ALBANIA

Rain puddles reflect merchant stalls in a **Tirana** marketplace where the bleating of live goats for sale mixes with chatter over fruits and vegetables.



The Tabakeve Bridge in **Tirana** which once supported medieval traffic, today deals with considerably more pedestrians and vehicles than in those long ago years.

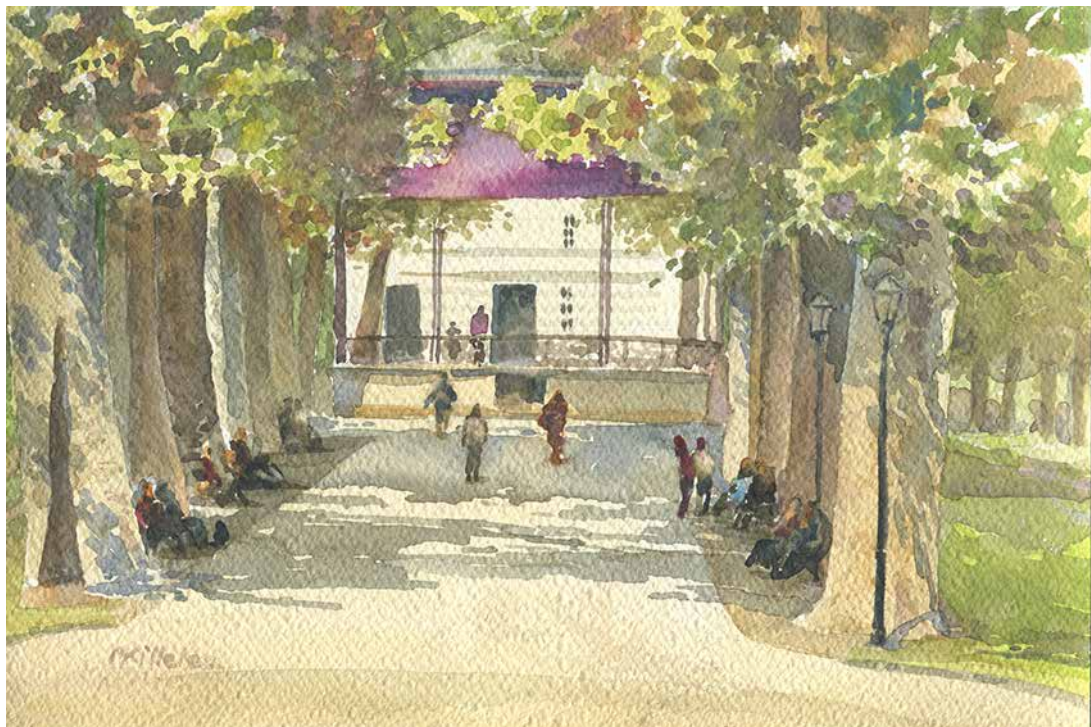
CROATIA

Most of the Balkans have had human settlements since pre-Roman times and suffered under the ebb and flow of conquering armies. The medieval walls and buildings of **Dubrovnik** were severely damaged most recently during the 1992 to 1995 war, but its indomitable spirit plus international contributions returned the city to the major Adriatic attraction it previously was. Today, fishing boats and pleasure craft in its harbor rest securely behind massive stone fortifications and its designation as a World Heritage Site.



A broad isle of plane-trees point to the music pavilion in central **Zagreb's** Zrinjevac Square. It's a serene green-space where people, picnics, flowers and fountains coexist.

(below) The quiet one street farming village of **Karanac** sits among vast vineyards first planted by the Romans. Sunrise brightens a yard where overnight guest rooms overlook old stone barns.



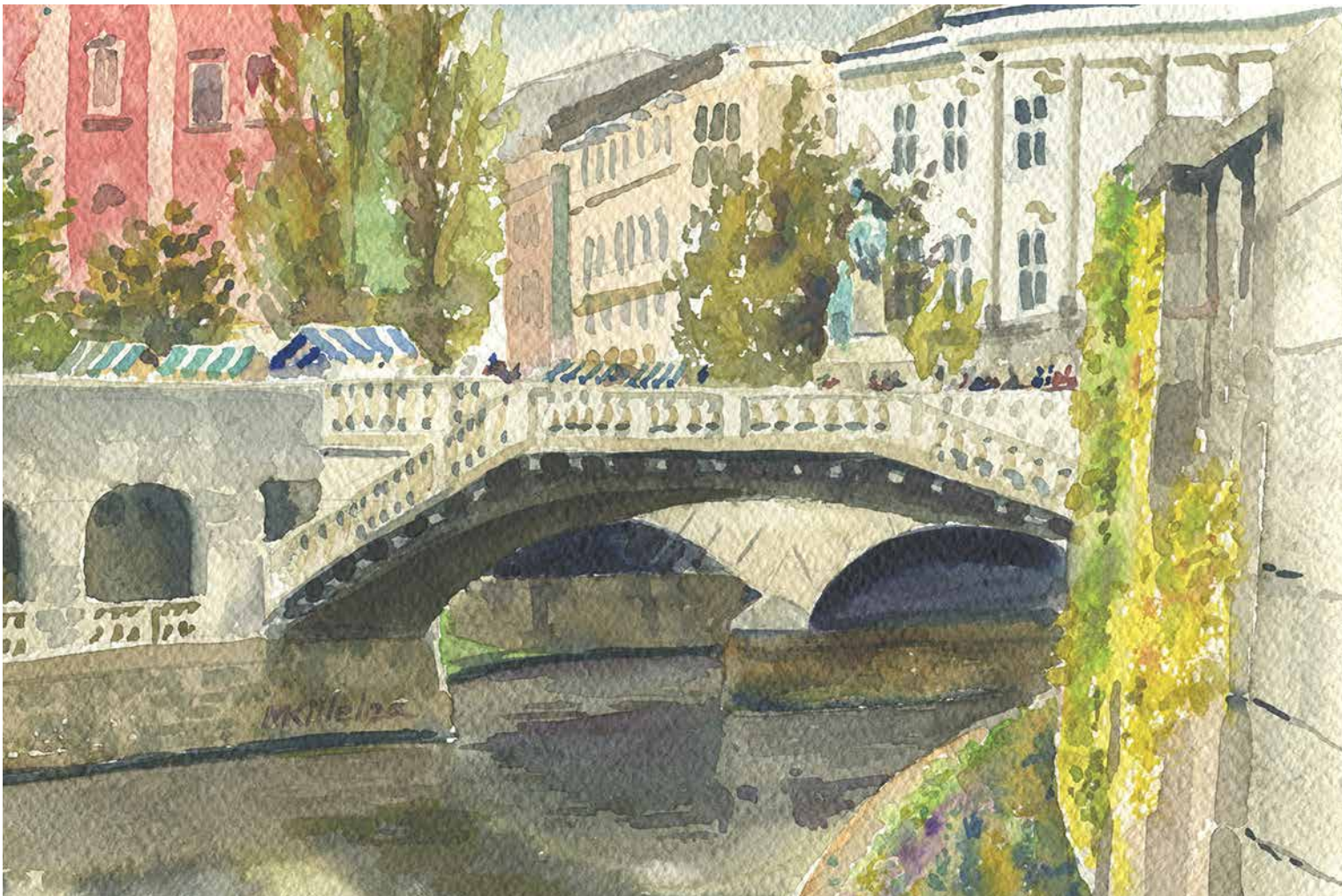
CROATIA





Waves lap at the seawall in **Lovran** along Croatia's Dalmatian Coast. Palm trees and a Mediterranean climate call to mind its Italian influence.

SLOVENIA



The Triple Bridge in **Ljubljana** carries pedestrians over the Ljubljanica River to Prešernov trg Square, a communal gathering place and impromptu entertainment center for citizens and visitors alike.



The Roman walled city of **Kotor**, shouldered into a mountain and facing the sea, dates from at least 168 BC. Its secluded location on the beautiful Bay of Kotor has made it a magnet for tourists and a challenge for the fit.

MONTENEGRO



In the spring of 2014, Mike and Kathy Killelea traveled through much of the Balkan peninsula, an area called by many names over the centuries. It was a quick snapshot of a beautiful countryside long torn by ethnic and political divisions that now revels in peace and emerging prosperity. It was a wonderful place to paint.

art@killelear.com - www.killelear.com