A REVIEW OF AGRITOURISM DESIGN: THE ROLE OF ARCHITECTURE

A THESIS SUBMITTED TO

THE FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE AND ENGINEERING

OF

EPOKA UNIVERSITY

BY

SARA SULA

IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS

FOR

THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE

IN

ARCHITECTURE

JUNE, 2024

Approval sheet of the Thesis

This is to certify that we have read this thesis entitled **"A review of agritourism design: The role of architecture"** and that in our opinion it is fully adequate, in scope and quality, as a thesis forthe degree of Master of Science.

_____

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Edmond Manahasa
Head of Department
Date: 06, 20, 2024

Examining Committee Members:

Dr. Amanda Tërpo	(Architecture)	_____
Dr. Ina Dervishi	(Architecture)	_____
Dr. Joana Dhiamandi	(Architecture)	_____

I hereby declare that all information in this document has been obtained and presented in accordance with academic rules and ethical conduct. I also declare that, as required by these rules and conduct, I have fully cited and referenced allmaterial and results that are not original to this work.

Name Surname: Sara Sula

Signature: _____

ABSTRACT

ARCHITECTURE SHAPING AGRITOURISM DESIGN: UNVEILING STRATEGIES (CASE STUDIES)

Sula, Sara

M.Sc., Department of Architecture

Supervisor: Dr. Amanda Terpo

This thesis, “Architecture Shaping Agritourism Design: Unveiling Strategies (Case Studies),” investigates the significance of architecture in agritourism development. This research examines case studies of numerous agritourism initiatives to show how better architectural designs can enhance the merging of tourism and agriculture, so fostering sustainable rural development.

.

This study demonstrates how design influences the use, aesthetic appeal, and sustainability of agritourism facilities by looking at architecture, farming, and tourism. Through a study of successful cases, the results highlight the important architectural methods that are essential for maintaining rural economies, promoting ecologically friendly practices, and protecting rural cultural heritage.

.

The results have demonstrated that well-designed architecture not only supports agricultural activities efficiently but also improves tourist experiences, which in turn boosts tourism. These findings will be helpful to planners creating rural communities, architects designing farm structures, and policymakers operating in the agritourism industry. Because of this, this study provides a variety of recommendations aimed at regulators, architects, and agrotourism entrepreneurs, based on ideas that would enable them to uphold their traditions while embracing innovation and environmental

friendliness.

In conclusion, this study extends our comprehension about agricultural land use by arguing that it needs to be conceived with four main urban component types in mind.

Keywords: *Architecture, Agriculture Europe, Tourism, Set of Suggestions, Case Study Analysis*

ABSTRAKT

DIZAJNI I AGRITURIZMIT NISUR NGA ARKITEKTURA: STRATEGJI TE ZHVILLIMIT (RASTE STUDIMORE)

Sara Sula

Master Shkencor, Departamenti i Arkitetktures

Udhëheqësi: Dr. Amanda Terpo

Kjo Kjo tezë, "Arkitektura në formësimin e dizajnit të agroturizmit: Strategjitë e zbulimit (studime të rasteve)," heton rëndësinë e arkitekturës në zhvillimin e agroturizmit. Ky hulumtim shqyrton rastet e studimeve të iniciativave të shumta agroturistike për të treguar sesi dizajnet më të mira arkitekturore mund të përmirësojnë bashkimin e turizmit dhe bujqësisë, duke nxitur kështu zhvillimin e qëndrueshëm rural.

Ky studim tregon se si dizajni ndikon në përdorimin, tërheqjen estetike dhe qëndrueshmërinë e objekteve të agroturizmit duke parë arkitekturën, bujqësinë dhe turizmin. Përmes një studimi të rasteve të suksesshme, rezultatet nxjerrin në pah metodat e rëndësishme arkitekturore që janë thelbësore për ruajtjen e ekonomive rurale, promovimin e praktikave ekologjikisht miqësore dhe mbrojtjen e trashëgimisë kulturore rurale.

Rezultatet kanë treguar se arkitektura e mirë-projektuar jo vetëm që mbështet në mënyrë efikase aktivitetet bujqësore, por gjithashtu përmirëson përvojat turistike, e cila nga ana tjetër nxit turizmin. Këto gjetje do të jenë të dobishme për planifikuesit që krijojnë komunitete rurale, arkitektët që projektojnë strukturat e fermave dhe politikëbërësit që operojnë në industrinë e agroturizmit. Për shkak të kësaj, ky studim ofron një sërë rekomandimesh që synojnë rregullatorët, arkitektët dhe sipërmarrësit e agroturizmit, bazuar në idetë që do t'u mundësonin atyre të mbështesin traditat e tyre duke përqafuar inovacionin dhe mirëdashjen mjedisore.

Si përfundim, ky studim zgjeron të kuptuarit tonë për përdorimin e tokës bujqësore duke argumentuar se ajo duhet të konceptohet duke pasur parasysh katër lloje kryesore përbërëse urbane.

Fjalët kyçe: Arkitekturë, Bujqësi Evropë, Turizëm, Grup Sugjerimesh, Analizë Rasti Studimi

To my family, whose support and encouragement have been a continuous source of strength through all this journey. To my professors and supervisor, whose guidance and inspiration shaped my academic pursuits. Lastly, to all of those that believe in the power of architecture, creating a better sustainable world.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

At this juncture, I want to take advantage of it and appreciate everyone who has given me a hand or has walked with me throughout my whole process of writing this thesis, titled “Architectural Shaping Agritourism Design: Revealing Strategies (Case Studies).”

Firstly, I would like to express deep gratitude to Amanda Terpo, for her expertise as well as patience and comments that have been supportive. The direction that you gave has influenced its directions and depths in this research.

In addition, my family demonstrated unconditional love towards me; they provided an amazing support system that went further than their expectations of what I could do.

Also, I wish to appreciate the entire faculty and staff at EPOKA University especially Department of Architecture. They created an enabling environment for studying whereby they made available the necessary resources for my research work.

Finally, I would like to give special thanks to all agritourism entrepreneurs/architects who consented to be interviewed. Consequently, you allowed your experiences to be represented thus making it more meaningful on my investigation.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT 3

ABSTRAKT 5

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 7

TABLE OF CONTENTS 8

LIST OF TABLES 11

LIST OF FIGURES 11

1 CHAPTER 1: THESIS MOTIVATION 12

1.1 Research Objective 13

1.2 Research Question 14

1.3 Thesis Organization 14

2 CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW 15

2.1 The concept of Agritourism 15

2.1.1 Agritourism Definitions 16

2.1.2 Characteristics of Agritourism 17

2.1.3 Agrotourism and rural landscapes 19

2.1.4 Agricultural Activities and Experiences 20

2.1.5 The tourist and Agrotourism 21

2.1.6 Experience and Activities 23

2.1.7 The role of Architecture in Tourism 24

2.1.8 Architecture, Design and Tourism 26

2.1.9 Theoretical review of the role of architecture in tourist experience 27

2.1.10 Architecture and the principles of place making in design 29

2.1.11 Architect's role and contribution in agritourism design and development .31

2.1.12 Successful examples of farm-to-table agritourism design 32

3 CHAPTER 3: METHODOLOGY 43

3.1 Research Approach 43

3.2 In - depth Case Studies Analyses 44
3.3 Qualitative Data Analyses of Case Studies 50
4 CHAPTER 4: AGRITOURISM IN ALBANIA 51
4.1 Overview of Agritourism in Albania 51
4.2 Socio-economic factors of Agrotourism in Albania 52
4.3 The role of agrotourism in development (see spatial plan of Albania) 53
4.4 Policy and Regulatory Framework of agrotourism in Albania (legislation analyses) 56
4.5 Agritourism experiences in Albania 57
5 CHAPTER 5: CASE STUDIES 58
5.1 Selection of agritourism case studies 58
5.2 The Sustainability of Architecture 58
5.2.1 The Principles of Sustainability of Architecture 59
5.3 Sustainability in Integration with Natural Environments 61
5.4 The Environmental Impact of Conventional Building Materials 61
5.5 Sustainable Alternatives in Green Building 61
5.5.1 The Shift Towards Green Materials 62
5.6 Key Practices in Green Building 62
5.7 Case Studies 63
5.7.1 Mrizi i Zanave 63
5.7.2 Kulla Hupi 67
5.7.3 Hylli i Drites 70
5.7.4 Farm Sotira 73
5.7.5 Logu i Harushave 77
5.8 Vernacular architecture in agritourism design 82
5.9 Traditional building techniques 82
5.10 User-Centered Design 82
5.11 Architectural features 83

5.12 Design Guidance for Farm to Table Agriculture building in Albania.....86
6 CHAPTER 6: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS 88
6.1 Conclusions and Recommendations for Case Studies: 88
6.2 Other Conclusions and recommendations based on Literature Review.....91
7 REFERENCES.....95

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Design Guidance for Farm to Table Agriculture building in Albania 86

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Characteristics of Agritourism 17
Figure 2: Agritourism Obstacles (Dwyer, Lee, & Chen, 2019) 22
Figure 3: Evolution of the farm to table movement 25
Figure 4: Architecture and tourism 26
Figure 5: Motives of visiting a cultural site 27
Figure 6: Architect's role in an agritourism establishment 31
Figure 7: Systemic Agritourism planning 32
Figure 8: Program orientation, structures and materials 33
Figure 9: Sustainable program 34
Figure 10: Social and economic participation 35
Figure 11: Upper floor plan 36
Figure 12: Lower level plan 37
Figure 13: Roof plan 37
Figure 14: South West Elevation 38
Figure 15: North West Elevation 38
Figure 16: North East Elevation 38
Figure 17: South East Elevation 38
Figure 18: Case Study objective scheme 40
Figure 19: Methodology approach 43
Figure 20: Approaches of the Case study analysis 44
Figure 21: Site Layout and Land Use Planning 44
Figure 22: Architectural Design and Building Materials 45
Figure 23: Itegration of cultural and Traditional elements 45
Figure 24: Sustainability Practices 46
Figure 25: Economic and Social Impacts 46
Figure 26: Concept of Sustainability (Chansomsak & Vale, 2018) 59
Figure 27: Sustainable Design Approach (Syam, Wisdianti, Sajar, & Bahri, 2023) 61
Figure 28: Green Building Concept 63
Figure 29: Mrizi I Zanave Architecture (Mrizi i Zanave, 2024) 63
Figure 30: Mrizi i Zanave Views (Mrizi i Zanave, 2024) 64
Figure 31: Mrizi i Zanave Map Location (Mrizi i Zanave, 2024) 65
Figure 32: Kulla Hupi (Hotelmix, 2024) 67
Figure 33: Kulla Hupi Map Location (Hotelmix, 2024) 68
Figure 34: Hylli I Drites Views (Hylli i Drites, 2024) 70
Figure 35: Hylli I Drites (Hylli i Drites, 2024) 71
Figure 36: Farm Sotira Views (Farm Sotira, 2024) 74
Figure 37: Farm Sotira Map Location (Farm Sotira, 2024) 75
Figure 38:Logu i Harshave View (Logu i Harushave, 2024) 78
Figure 39: Logu I Harushave Map Location (Logu i Harushave, 2024) 79

1 CHAPTER 1: THESIS MOTIVATION

One of the largest economic sectors overall is tourism, and for a variety of reasons, its importance is only growing. Significant changes have been brought about in the global tourist exercise supply as a result of this development. While traditional definitions of tourism typically focus on leisure activities, the field has evolved over time to include several contemporary offices motivated by unmet demand. Nowadays, health, education, sports, religion, shopping, and trade are all essential components of tourism, fueled by the globalization of knowledge and advancements in travel options.

The revealing shifting trends in travelers' mental states, noting a decline in consistency and an increasing desire for lively events focused on traditional ways of life, culture, and the natural world have become more obvois. These trends underscore the effects of tourism on the economy, society, and environment, emphasizing the need for workable progress to reduce natural corruption (Uzun, 2013).

Tourism is a fundamental engine of economic growth, particularly in developing countries. To protect resources and assure long-term viability, practical arrangements must be made at the international, national, and local levels. Due to the prevalence of all-inclusive event concepts, mass tourism has negatively impacted local businesspeople by limiting passenger connection with the community. This has increased interest in sustainable tourism strategies that emphasize interactions with nature (Özçatalbaş, Mansurogly, & Ceylan, 2018).

By utilizing shared resources like mountains, forests, and beaches, elective tourism connects tourism and development while providing underutilized employment opportunities for rural areas. Country ranges' social and ecological riches is tapped into by country tourism, including agritourism. Agritourism, which is particularly prominent in countries like Greece, Spain, and Italy, promotes national economies while advancing territorial advancement (Cohen, 1987).

Traveler preferences have clearly shifted in recent years in favor of experiences that highlight culture, nature, and traditional ways of living. This change highlights the significance of sustainable development in the industry, as do the effects of tourism on the economy, society, and environment.

Furthermore, the need for alternative tourism—which includes agritourism—offers a chance to diversify the tourism industry and give rural communities new sources of income. However, there are risks to natural resources and the industry's long-term survival associated with the unplanned growth of agritourism ventures.

The goal of this thesis is to offer a thorough understanding of how design principles can support

the sustainability and profitability of agritourism endeavors by examining the convergence of architecture, agriculture, and tourism. By means of examining case studies and scrutinizing extant literature, the research endeavors to discern optimal methodologies and provide suggestions for policymakers, architects, and agritourism stakeholders.

The theory is driven by the belief that careful architectural design can significantly influence how agritourism develops in the future, foster economic expansion, conserve cultural legacy, and protect the environment for future generations.

1.1 Research Objective

In the framework of agritourism endeavors, this thesis aims to investigate the mutually beneficial link between architecture, agriculture, and tourism, with a particular emphasis on discovering architectural principles that promote sustainability and success. The study specifically attempts to:

- Examine how best practices in architecture might integrate tourism and agriculture to promote sustainable development in rural areas.
- Analyze existing literature and case studies to understand the key factors influencing the design and implementation of successful agritourism ventures.
- Determine the best practices for agritourism architectural design, taking into account elements such building materials, site layout, and cultural integration.
- Based on the research, give recommendations to stakeholders in agritourism, architects, and legislators in an effort to encourage the use of sustainable design principles in next agritourism initiatives.
- Offer a set of recommendations based on the case studies and literature review, providing useful direction for integrating sustainable design techniques in agritourism endeavors.

The goal of this research is to further knowledge of how architecture influences the viability and profitability of agritourism endeavors, which will ultimately aid in the creation of more resilient and environmentally responsible rural tourism projects.

.

1.2 Research Question

How can architectural design principles be leveraged to enhance the sustainability and success of agritourism ventures, and what are the best practices and recommendations for policymakers, architects, and agritourism stakeholders to foster the integration of agriculture, tourism, and architecture in rural development initiatives?

1.3 Thesis Organization

This thesis's background section covers its fundamental ideas and a survey of the literature on the importance of architecture in agritourism design, with a particular emphasis on Albania and its capital, Tirana. After outlining the goals, motivation, and study questions, a thorough literature analysis on agritourism and the contribution of architecture to bettering visitor experiences is presented. In order to collect data, the methodology makes use of case studies, qualitative interviews, and on-site observations. The results go beyond policy frameworks, the incorporation of sustainable architectural methods, and the socioeconomic effects of agritourism. The thesis ends with suggestions for enhancing agritourism via creative design and environmentally friendly methods, backed by thorough examinations of certain Albanian locations.

2 CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 The concept of Agritourism

In order to promote sustainable development in rural areas, agritourism has emerged as a significant and active sector of the tourism industry. It combines aspects of agriculture, tourism, and rural living. Despite the fact that agritourism benefits farmers and nearby communities on an economic and social level, starting and running these businesses can be difficult owing to a lack of specific knowledge and experience. This thesis looks into the need for an all-encompassing agritourism growth model, highlighting important elements including infrastructure constraints, seasonality, and the requirement for supportive regulatory frameworks. Through the implementation of a strategic strategy, agritourism possesses the capacity to seamlessly include tourism activities and significantly enhance sustainable rural development by maximizing multiple factors associated with internal and external system dynamics (Barbieri, 2020).

Notwithstanding these difficulties, agritourism offers special chances to lessen socioeconomic divides in rural communities. However, as many rural communities have a skeptical view of agritourism, resistance from those who follow traditional traditions can be a major challenge. Travel Experience is becoming increasingly popular worldwide, particularly in developed nations where individuals value deep and thought-provoking encounters over material possessions. (Philip, Hunter, & Blackstock, 2009).

The popularity of agritourism is rising as farmers look to expand their businesses and increase revenue. The combination of tourism and agriculture creates new opportunities for income generation, but it also presents possible operational and regulatory difficulties for agritourism enterprises. Agritourism, which is defined as activities carried out for amusement or education on working farms and agricultural environments, has grown significantly in the last ten years. Legislation enacted in Italy in 1985 made agritourism a regulated activity, following the decline in profitability of small-scale farming between the 1950s and 1970s. Similar programs have since been inspired by the Italian model and have increased farm incomes and created jobs in rural regions throughout the European Union (Kron, 2017).

In order to avoid the summer heat, city people would travel to visit farming relatives in the late 1800s, which is when agritourism first emerged in the United

States. The introduction of cars in the 1920s increased its allure, and it kept growing until the middle of the 20th century, adding nostalgic experiences and attractions like horseback riding and petting zoos. Farm vacations, bed and breakfasts, and commercial farm tours gained popularity in the 1980s and 1990s. There is still a lot of desire today for the peaceful, slower-paced farm experience. But a big obstacle to modern rural recreation is the generational divide between people who grew up farming and the general public (Sandt, 2018).

2.1.1 Agritourism Definitions

To attract tourists to farms, ranches, or other agricultural operations for both educational and recreational purposes, agricultural production and processing are combined with tourism, a phenomenon known as agritourism. In addition to introducing tourists to rural and regional areas and showcasing unique regional qualities, this kind of commercial activity gives farmers or company owners another source of income.

Agritourism can provide a range of experiences or products that link travelers with agricultural products, people, or locations. Four key components should be included in any definition of agritourism: the combination of tourism and agriculture; the public's attraction to agricultural sites; the goal of increasing farm income; and the provision of recreational, entertainment, and/or educational experiences for visitors..

The term "agritourism" is often used interchangeably with other terms such as "agri-tourism," "agrotourism," "farm tourism," "agricultural tourism," and "agritainment". Researchers in tourism and recreation fields use various labels, including "agritourism" (Colton & Bissix, 2005; Lobo, et al., 1999; McGehee & Kim, 2004; Phillip & Blackstock, 2010), "agri-tourism" (Hegarty & Przezborska, 2005; McGehee & Kim, 2004; USDA, 2007), "agricultural tourism" (Veeck, Che, & Veeck, 2006), "agrotourism" (Kizos & Iosifides, 2007; Lobo, et al., 1999); "farm tourism"((Busby & Rendle, 2000; Ilbery, Bowler, Clark, Crockett, & Shaw, 1998); and "agritainment" (McKenzie & Wysocki, 2002; Kime, Harper, Hancharick, Becker, & Harsh, n.d.; Wicks & Merrett, 2003).

Some studies also use the term "rural tourism" to refer to agritourism (Briedenhann & Wickens, 2004; Fleischer & Pizam, 1997; Sharpley, 2002; Tanrivermis & Sanli, 2007; Wilson, Fesenmaier, Fesenmaier, & Van Es, 2001) and acknowledge label confusion between these activities (Busby & Rendle, 2000; Kizos

& Iosifides, 2007). However, recent distinctions clarify that rural tourism is a broader category encompassing a variety of activities, such as nature tourism and eco-tourism, as long as they occur in a rural setting (Colton & Bissix, 2005; Hegarty & Przezborska, 2005; Kizos & Iosifides, 2007; McGehee & Kim, 2004) . Additionally, agricultural settings visited for recreational purposes may not always be confined to rural areas due to urban sprawl.

2.1.2 Characteristics of Agritourism

Situated at the confluence of agriculture and tourism, agritourism has emerged as a vital component in rural development tactics, particularly in European contexts. This combination of tourism and agriculture is a major global trend in rural development methods. This section reviews the literature to highlight the fundamental elements of agritourism, laying the groundwork for understanding its intricate nature and effects on rural communities and economies (WTO, 2001).

Figure 1: Characteristics of Agritourism

- **Integration of Agricultural Activities and Tourist Experiences**: Essentially, agritourism combines tourism activities with agricultural endeavors, allowing visitors to engage in farm-based activities like making cheese, harvesting fruit, and tending to animals. These interactive experiences provide a thorough grasp of rural life and agricultural processes.
- **Celebration of Rural Culture and Heritage**: Agritourism is vital to the promotion of rural culture and history because it provides authentic experiences with local customs, cuisine, and handicrafts. By presenting

indigenous knowledge and cultural customs, it protects and enhances rural identity and fosters a sense of communal pride.

- **Sustainable Practices and Environmental Conservation**: Sustainability, which emphasizes resource management and environmental responsibility, is a crucial aspect of agritourism. Environmentally friendly practices, like organic farming, trash reduction, and the use of renewable energy sources, are often used by agritourism firms to reduce their negative environmental effects and support conservation efforts.
- **Economic Diversification and Community Empowerment**: In rural communities, agritourism stimulates economic diversification by providing employment possibilities and additional revenue streams outside of traditional agriculture. It encourages small enterprises and entrepreneurship, boosting rural economies and enabling communities to thrive.
- **Enhanced Visitor Engagement and Experiences**: Agritourism provides a variety of interactive experiences, from farm tours and tastings to hands-on workshops and agritourism events. These immersive activities foster deeper connections between visitors and the rural landscape, enhancing their appreciation for agricultural traditions and local culture.
- **Collaboration and Partnerships**: Collaboration between farmers, travel agencies, and regional stakeholders is common in agritourism. These collaborations enable the creation of novel agritourism offerings and experiences by combining resources and collective knowledge to produce significant and unforgettable tourist experiences.
- **Policy Support and Institutional Frameworks**: Robust institutional frameworks and effective governmental support are necessary for agritourism to flourish sustainably. Governments and organizations are essential in promoting the growth of agritourism and guaranteeing its sustainability over the long run by providing fiscal support, regulatory incentives, and capacity-building programs (Barbieri & Valdivia, 2010).

This literature review integrates ideas from various sources to offer a thorough grasp of the

essential elements of agritourism and its function in rural development. Policymakers, practitioners, and stakeholders who want to use agritourism to boost vibrant communities and sustainable rural economies must understand these qualities.

2.1.3 Agrotourism and rural landscapes

Rural communities have faced many difficulties recently, such as changes in agricultural practices and urban expansion. Rural tourism has been a potent tool for reviving these areas. This pattern is visible not only in established nations like France, Japan, and Australia, but also in developing nations like China, Romania, and Mexico. It is well known that rural tourism has the power to promote socioeconomic growth, protect cultural traditions, preserve historical sites, and preserve natural resources. The significance of rural tourism was highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic, as it provided vital support to both local and domestic populations amid the disruption of international travel. (Slavič & Schmitz, 2013)

A wide variety of natural and cultural features, such as landscapes, infrastructure, and cultural events, entice travelers to rural areas. The significance of cultural integration in rural tourism has grown, since it can improve visitor experiences by showcasing beloved landscapes, customs, and folklore in addition to the natural beauty of the area. Additionally, it fosters the cooperative creation of new goods, services, expertise, and knowledge, fusing traditional components with modern offerings. (Brandth, 2011).

Nonetheless, there are several obstacles in the way of a successful cultural integration in rural tourism. Previous initiatives have also resulted in unexpected repercussions that have caused irreparable harm, such as the deterioration of traditional cultures and natural resources. Cultural tourism activities in Bali, for instance, have threatened local cultures and community identity by encroaching upon sacred locations and indigenous rites. In a similar vein, mismanaged pursuits such as trophy hunting in Pakistan's Khunjerab National Park have upended ecosystems and intensified confrontations between people and wildlife, jeopardizing conservation initiatives and affecting local lives.

Moreover, some attempts at cultural blending have unintentionally harmed natural areas and cultural heritage. Development initiatives in China's Xiagei Hot Spring caused the unique geological landscape to be destroyed. In the meantime, the rise in tourists has led to more vandalism and disruptions in the property market in places like Fjaðrárgljúfur in Iceland.

Strategies like community-led tourism and integrated rural tourism have been put forth in response to these difficulties. These strategies seek to give local communities more control over the administration and planning of sustainable tourism. They place a strong emphasis on coordinating cultural integration with environmental care, heritage protection, and territorial development (Errington, A. , 1994).

Even though cultural integration in rural tourism has been shown to have advantages, it is important to recognize that successful examples only make up a small portion of the overall situation. Therefore, it is still crucial to empower local people and manage conflicting stakeholder interests in order to make sure that attempts to integrate culture positively impact rural development and sustainability.

2.1.4 Agricultural Activities and Experiences

The existing literature on agritourism predominantly consists of individual case studies, lacking comprehensive international comparisons. Drawing evidence from nine countries (UK, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Croatia, Slovenia, and Ireland), two overarching trends in agritourism development have been identified:

1. **Prevalence of Small-Scale and Dispersed Agritourism Businesses**: Small-scale, dispersed companies, usually run by members of farm families on active agricultural holdings, characterize the modern agritourism landscape. These businesses stress providing guests with genuine, farm-based experiences and frequently target niche audiences.
2. **Progressive Separation from Agricultural Activities**: On the other hand, some agritourism enterprises appear to be moving more and more away from conventional farming practices. These businesses are strategically putting themselves in the tourist industry and catering to customer demand with niche goods and services. This strategy frequently results in more focused tourism, with companies aiming to attract local, regional, national, or even foreign customers (Ferrari & Rambonilaza, 2009).

These opposing tendencies in the growth of agritourism differ not just in terms of magnitude, attitudes, expectations, and organizational structures, but also in how each affects rural communities and landscapes. In June 2012, at the worldwide Smart conference on agritourism

in Medana, Slovenia, empirical surveys were carried out, and the results showed that the agritourism industry encompasses a wide range of case studies and hybrid scenarios and structures (Tseng, Wang, Shen, & Chung, 2023).

Agritourism is a valuable means for families to diversify their sources of income and preserve their agricultural history, even if it is still seen as a fringe activity in both the tourism and agricultural sectors. It provides a lifeline to impoverished rural regions while safeguarding local and familial legacies. In addition to helping to preserve cultural and family legacy, agritourism offers chances for.

2.1.5 The tourist and Agrotourism

Agritourism stimulates economic growth and improves the standard of living for communities by acting as a catalyst in rural areas. By dining at farm-to-table establishments, buying locally made goods, and engaging in agritourism activities, tourists support the local economy. Local companies, craftspeople, and farmers gain from these monetary contributions, which help to maintain operations and promote economic expansion.

The existence of agritourism destinations draws visitors to rural areas, increasing revenue for small-scale farmers and generating employment opportunities in allied industries including tourism, hospitality, and agriculture. This cooperative strategy raises household incomes while lowering unemployment rates. Additionally, the increase in tourists frequently calls for the construction of lodging facilities and other infrastructure, which boosts connection and economic activity in remote areas. These upgrades not only improve (Dwyer, Lee, & Chen, 2019). This diversification contributes to a stable economic foundation that supports ongoing community growth.

From an architectural perspective, the layout and design of agritourism locations are essential to optimizing these financial gains. Creating areas that support the local economy and preserve the region's natural and cultural history, architects can skillfully incorporate agritourism establishments into rural landscapes. Farm-to-table eateries showcasing regional produce, eco-friendly lodgings that mesh well with the environment, and adaptable areas that support leisure and education functions are a few examples of design tactics. Architects are essential in promoting economic growth, enhancing rural communities' quality of life, and bolstering the resilience and vibrancy of local economies through the strategic planning and execution of agritourism projects (Dwyer, Lee, & Chen, 2019).

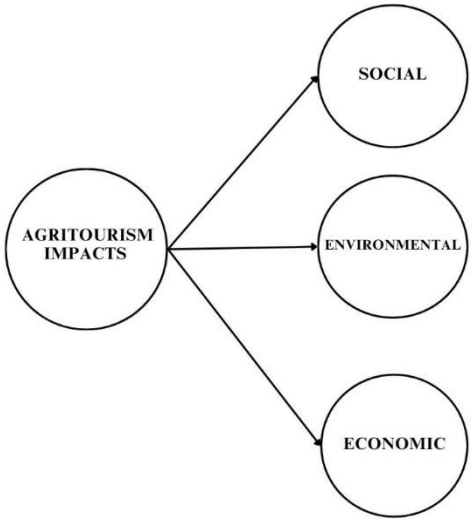


Figure 2: Agritourism Obstacles (Dwyer, Lee, & Chen, 2019)

A study called Farm Tourism across Europe (Slavič & Schmitz, 2013, p. 10) found several common characteristics of farm tourism in selected European countries.

(1) Across all the case study areas, the impact of agritourism on the broader tourist market is relatively small, whether assessed by total revenue, the number of farm tourism properties, or the number of overnight stays. Despite ongoing financial challenges, a report from Wales (Talbot, 2012) provides some hope. The steady tourist demand, consistent expenditure, and supportive government strategies indicate that there are still viable opportunities in tourism and leisure development.

(2) The laws that regulate agricultural tourism differ greatly throughout the nations that were investigated; Belgium, for example, has relatively permissive laws, whereas Slovenia has more stringent regulations. Due to this variability, agricultural tourism does not have an official definition or unified concept throughout the EU.

(3) The necessity for consistent farming revenue, making the best use of current farm resources, and the need for social connection and participation are common reasons for starting farm tourism businesses.

(4) Surveyed farm tourism companies stated that it was difficult to strike a balance between agritourism and their main sources of revenue, which could include farming or other forms of diversification. As a result, countries like France and Belgium have developed travel options like self-catering "gîtes" flats, which call for less direct communication with the farming family.

(5) Every farm tourism operator acknowledged the constant shifts in visitor preferences and stressed the significance of adjusting to emerging patterns.
(6) The market for farm tourism has grown as a result of the introduction of new communication technologies, especially web portals and centralized reservation systems. Farmers are aware of the advantages—such as better occupancy rates and visitor numbers—but they are also aware of the disadvantages, which include varying demand, service charges, and visitors' lack of experience with farm-specific tourism.
(7) Farm tourism was often cited as having considerable advantages over other forms of tourism because to its uniqueness, genuineness, charm, and personal engagement.
(8) Another important factor cited for the growth of farm tourism was the close connection to nature. Nonetheless, significant differences exist amongst the nations that were surveyed. Participants in the Smart conference talked about areas including Apulia, Croatia, Massif Central, Saarland, Slovenia, Wales, Wallonia, and western Ireland that are comparatively underrepresented in the agricultural sector (Talbot, 2012). Understanding these distinct traits and patterns is crucial to comprehending the situation of farm tourism activities today (Talbot, 2012).

2.1.6 Experience and Activities

Xavier (2022) suggests that consumers are attracted to various levels of experience based on their interaction with the environment. They categorize consumer experiences into four primary types: entertainment, education, aesthetics, and escape.

1. **Entertainment Experience**: Participation in events and activities provided at the location, whether active or passive, is included in this category. Viewers may take pleasure in engaging in shows or activities that spark their curiosity and make them feel happy and excited.
2. **Education Experience**: Visitors actively participate in programs meant to teach new abilities and information. Their creativity is piqued and new ideas around the consumption of destination goods and services are encouraged by this kind of encounter.
3. **Aesthetic Experience**: Here, guests engage in passive environmental immersion at the venue. They take in and analyze the visual elements of

their environment, losing themselves completely in the visceral and affective encounter.

4. **Escape Experience**: Travelers completely engross themselves in the experiences they have, temporarily forgetting about their regular worries. As a result, they are able to escape the mundane parts of daily life and experience a sense of freedom.
5. **Experience Value** This is the value that is thought to have been gained from an event, which is defined by a deep sense of spiritual fulfillment and the formation of enduring memories. The post-experience evaluation and this sense of value are strongly related. When it comes to agricultural pursuits, the value of the agricultural experience includes the enjoyable and unforgettable experiences that guests have when engaging in farming, harvesting, food tasting, guided tours, DIY projects, social gatherings, educational seminars, agritourism, and being fully immersed in rural life.
6. In Taiwanese farmers' markets, for example, tourists mostly interact with rural life, building trust and partnerships between tourists and small-scale farmers. Through reciprocal exchanges between farmers and the local rural culture, these marketplaces help consumers learn about agronomy, farming practices, and food production. These kinds of exchanges pique tourists' curiosity about farmers' markets and help to create unique experiences. (Tseng, Wang, Shen, & Chung, 2023).

   Research by (Ali Shah, Rajper, Ali Ghumro, & Wahab Mahar, 2018) indicates a positive relationship between experience and experience value, with experience value further influencing satisfaction levels. The customer experience, characterized by human interaction, emotional connection, and memorable enjoyment, also contributes to the overall experience value.

2.1.7 The role of Architecture in Tourism

Growing American dissatisfaction with manufactured foods—which they saw as tasteless and unreliable—led to the emergence of the farm-to-table movement in the 1960s and 1970s. This unhappiness served as fuel for a movement that gained traction in the 1970s and was epitomized by the opening of Chez Panisse in California. Chez Panisse, which Alice Waters founded, is

widely recognized for having invented the farm-to-table movement and for being a pivotal point in the shift in culinary methods toward using fresh, locally produced products.

Once a small, niche movement, farm-to-table has gradually gained traction, attracting the attention of an increasing number of eateries, lodging establishments, architects, and developers keen to incorporate its tenets into their projects. This shift is indicative of a larger shift in consumer tastes toward more sustainably produced and healthier food options (Scerri, Edwards, & Foley, 2018).

Figure 3: Evolution of the farm to table movement

Restaurants and hotels that embrace the farm-to-table philosophy not only achieve improved financial performance but also make a positive impact on environmental sustainability. Research indicates that more than 75% of consumers are willing to pay extra for locally sourced food, highlighting the economic feasibility of this approach. By sourcing ingredients locally, establishments reduce their carbon footprint by minimizing transportation distances. This practice not only supports local farmers and producers but also ensures that customers receive fresher, higher-quality ingredients.

Farm-to-table operations offer substantial environmental benefits. Food that is transported over shorter distances produces fewer emissions and a smaller carbon footprint overall. Furthermore, sourcing locally supports local ecosystems and farmland preservation while also boosting regional agricultural economies. Businesses that cultivate their own farming operations or work with nearby farmers can significantly reduce the environmental effects of long supply chains.

Moreover, the farm-to-table movement fosters a stronger bond between food producers and customers. As a result of this link, diners are better informed about the provenance and production processes of their food, which promotes transparency and confidence. The movement improves the dining experience by providing dishes made with fresh, locally sourced ingredients, which frequently translates into better taste and nutritional benefits for customers (Tseng, Wang, Shen, & Chung, 2023).

Figure 4: Architecture and tourism

Developers, architects, and designers are essential in this setting because they are key players in creating environments that are representative of the farm-to-table movement. Their function is crucial in promoting a stronger bond between customers and food that is obtained locally. These specialists can actively encourage sustainability throughout their projects by creating environments that pay tribute to regional cuisine and culture. This entails incorporating into their architecture elements like as urban farms, green roofs, and spaces devoted to neighborhood markets and community gardens.

In conclusion, the farm-to-table movement has grown to be a major force in the hospitality sector, stemming from a historical quest for healthier food. It promotes using ingredients that are acquired locally and sustainability. The company's continuous growth is fueled by customer demand for more transparent and healthful dining options in addition to its established environmental advantages. Developers, architects, and designers work together to create spaces that honor local culture and preserve sustainability ideals, which is essential to reaching the movement's full potential. (Scerri, Edwards, & Foley, 2018).

2.1.8 Architecture, Design and Tourism

There are several key factors that attract people to visit architectural sites, creating a rich tourist experience. In a study by Poria, Butler and Airey (2004), the motivations for visiting cultural heritage sites, including architectural sites, are categorized into three main groups:

1) emotional experience, 2) learning history, and 3) recreational experience.

The first group encompasses motives related to experiencing the place on an emotional level. The second group includes the desire to learn about the history and culture associated with the site. The third group of motives pertains to visiting the site for recreational purposes, unrelated to the content presented.

Figure 5: Motives of visiting a cultural site

When it comes to architecture, tourists frequently seek out real, unusual, escapist, or breathtaking experiences. These reasons may fall into any of the three groups. For instance, some tourists might have a deep emotional connection to a specific architectural location, giving it a sense of significance. Some people may visit architectural sites as part of their leisure activities and enjoy the recreational elements. In addition, some people are driven to investigate a site's architectural history and contextual backdrop out of pure curiosity.

Scerri, Edwards and Foley (2018) implies that visitors' personal beliefs, emotions, and the distinctive backgrounds they carry with them all have an impact on why they visit cultural and historical sites. As a result, the kind of motivation—whether emotional, recreational, or educational—depends greatly on the viewpoint and circumstances of each visitor.

2.1.9 Theoretical review of the role of architecture in tourist experience

The significance of architecture in the urban spatial structure is crucial as it imbues locations with specific characteristics that create a distinct feeling of place. The purpose of these iconic sites is to draw tourists by acting as centers of interest and experiences.

2.1.9.1 Social Impacts

- **Community** From an architectural perspective, creating agritourism spaces has the potential to improve rural communities' sense of community, exchange of cultures, and general quality of life. Architects are essential in developing inclusive and sustainable environments that support these advantages.
- **Agritourism** involves locals in many facets of its business, providing a crucial platform for community empowerment and engagement. Locals can exhibit their goods, abilities, and cultural history through programs like farmers' markets and artisan showcases. By actively participating,

they preserve ancient customs and create extra revenue prospects while also promoting a sense of pride and ownership in their land and cultural identity.

- **Cultural exchange** is another important advantage of agritourism, as guests become fully immersed in regional customs by learning how to make traditional dishes or engaging in farming activities. Through these exchanges, local culture is preserved and made more meaningful for visitors, who also benefit from it.
- **The economic benefits** generated by agritourism contribute to enhancing the quality of life in rural areas, enabling improved access to healthcare, education, and infrastructure. Architects can support this by designing agritourism spaces that attract investment in local infrastructure, such as roads and utilities, thereby elevating the overall standard of living within the region.
- **Social cohesion** and community are bolstered by agritourism programs that bring local companies, tourists, and citizens together. A common feeling of identity and belonging is fostered among participants through social interaction and cultural exchange that is offered by agritourism-themed community events and festivals
- Agritourism offers training programs, workshops, and guided tours that are beneficial to both visitors and locals, providing a platform for education and skill development. Architects have the ability to create environments that support these learning opportunities, encouraging community members to pursue lifelong learning and professional development.
- In conclusion, architects can have a major impact on social cohesion, economic development, cultural preservation, and community empowerment in rural communities through the design of agritourism venues. Through the creation of spaces that honor regional history and provide learning opportunities, architects are essential in advancing equitable and sustainable development through the agritourism industry. (Wielenga, 2021).

2.1.10 Architecture and the principles of place making in design

Essential elements for creating successful public spaces:

1. **Community Expertise**: Start by determining the assets and strengths of the community. Locals provide important viewpoints by understanding important concerns and offering historical insights. Including them at the outset encourages a feeling of project ownership.
2. **Create a Place, Not Just a Design**: It takes more than just beautiful design to turn an abandoned area into a lively gathering spot. In order to establish a welcoming space that encourages community engagement, include architectural components like seats, planting, and pedestrian flow control
3. **Collaborate with Partners**: Partnerships with neighborhood organizations, museums, schools, and other stakeholders are beneficial for successful public spaces. These partnerships offer vital resources and assistance for efficiently organizing and carrying out the project.
4. **Observe and Learn**: Monitor how people use public spaces to identify effective elements and areas needing improvement. Continuous observation allows for the space to evolve over time based on community needs and preferences.
5. **Have a Vision**: Create a vision that embodies the goals of the community, emphasizing comfort, activity, and a happy atmosphere. The area ought to inspire pride and turn into a popular destination for locals to congregate.
6. **Start Small**: Start with easy, transient improvements like patio furniture, outside cafes, murals, or community gardens. These inexpensive interventions can make a big difference, and they can be improved in response to community input.
7. **Encourage Interaction:** components of design that promote social interaction. For example, installing rubbish bins, coffee carts, and benches in strategic locations can encourage people to engage naturally while using the area.
8. **Overcome Obstacles**: Anticipate obstacles, as creating vibrant public

spaces may not traditionally fall under public or private sector responsibilities. Start with incremental improvements to demonstrate the value of creating community-centered places and overcome initial resistance.

By focusing on these principles, public spaces can be transformed into dynamic, community-centered places that foster interaction and pride (Carrier & Schalliol, 2020)

2.1.11 Architect's role and contribution in agritourism design and development

Through the creation of environments that encourage the use of sustainably produced, organic, and locally sourced food, architects play a critical role in furthering the farm-to-table movement. Thanks to their experience, they can design spaces that help people interact with farmers, their food, and customers, which helps people understand sustainable practices better. Creating eateries with open kitchens so patrons can see the food being prepared is a smart design choice. This openness improves the dining experience by showcasing the sourcing and preparation of food and fostering a sense of trust and connection. Furthermore, food production areas like greenhouses, rooftop gardens, and vertical farms can be included straight into building designs by architects.

Architects are not only responsible for creating sustainable dining venues; they also design buildings that incorporate eco-friendly materials and make use of renewable energy sources, such as solar or wind power. By reducing carbon footprints and conserving natural resources, these methods support the farm-to-table movement's environmental objectives. Additionally, architects are essential in the design of public areas like gardens and markets that act as centers for bringing together local farmers and customers. These areas boost neighborhood economies, encourage community involvement, and improve the feeling of place and standard of living.

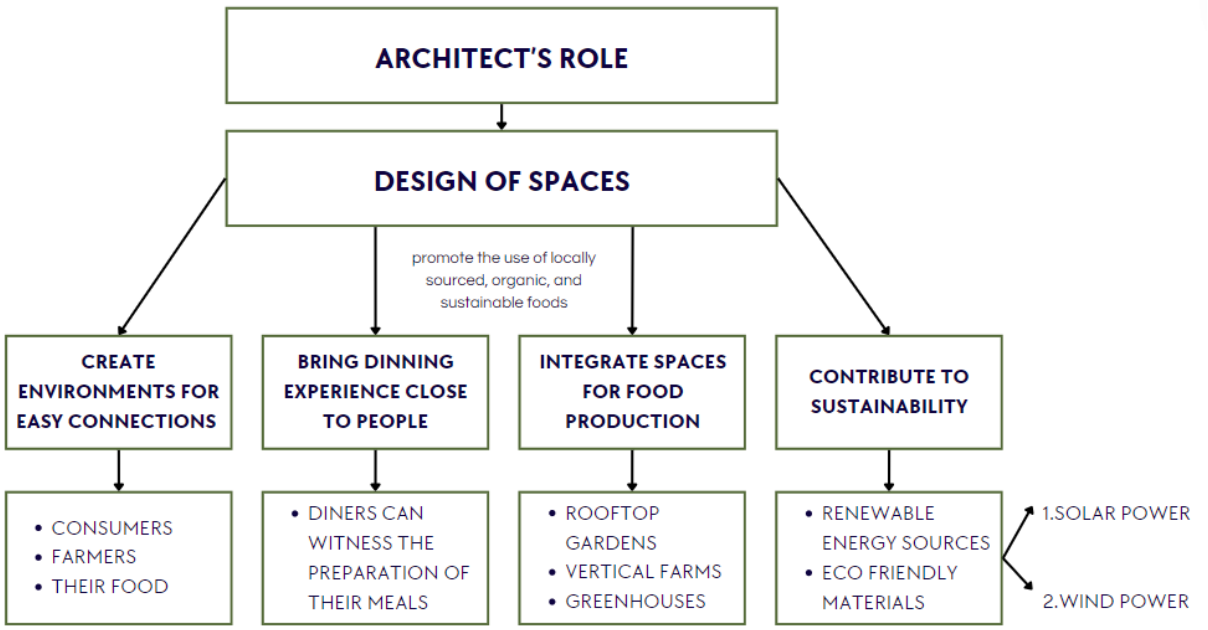


Figure 6: Architect's role in an agritourism establishment

Architects actively promote the farm-to-table concept by putting a focus on local food

production, sustainability, and community involvement through careful and creative design approaches. In addition to improving the overall eating experience, their contributions support larger social and environmental goals. To further improve the farm-to-table experience, architects also contribute to the movement by choosing materials and creating goods that honor the principles of sustainable and local food production (Gkoltsiou, 2012).

2.1.12 Successful examples of farm-to-table agritourism design

2.1.12.1 Systemic Agro-Tourism

Overview: Overview: Carlos Bartesaghi Koc's systemic agritourism project was awarded the Award of Merit in the 2009 URBAN-SOS Competition. This innovative approach to agricultural tourism integrates urban and rural attractions within post-colonial Latin-American cities, specifically targeting the Chili River Borders.

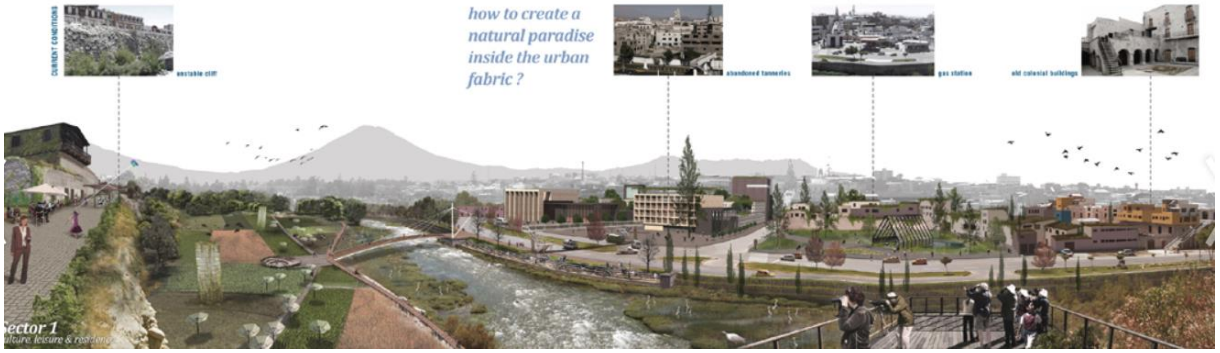


Figure 7: Systemic Agritourism planning

Key Highlights:

1. **Sustainable Design**:

- The masterplan emphasizes merging urban and rural tourist attractions to mitigate the impacts of urban sprawl on the river basin and surrounding countryside.
- Sustainable tourism practices are prioritized to enhance local habitats rather than disrupt them.

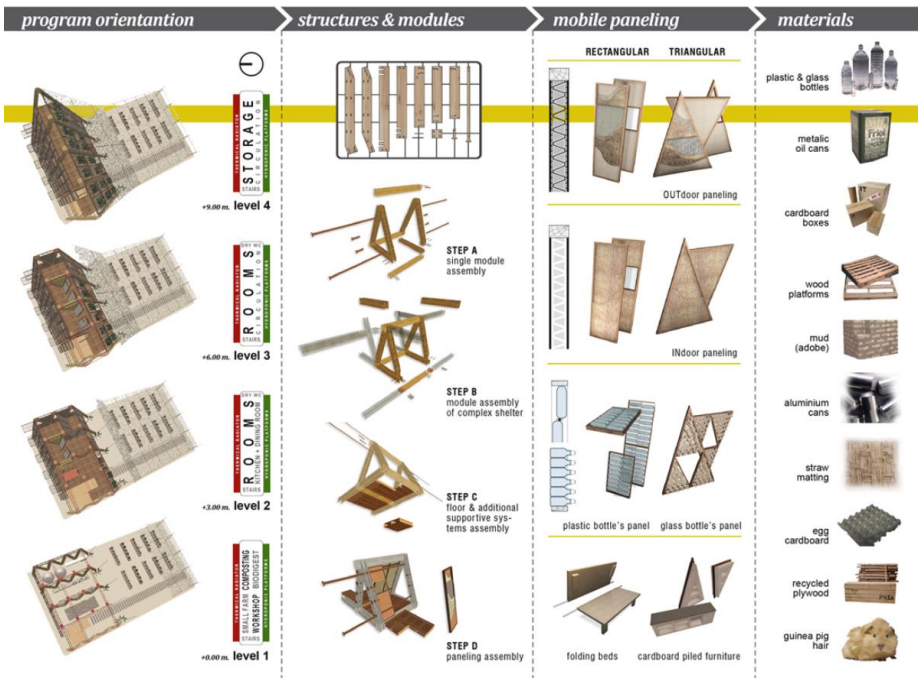


Figure 8: Program orientation, structures and materials

2. **Innovative Features:**

- Hostels in Crops: Accommodations are integrated within cultivated fields, enriching the tourist experience while preserving the rural landscape.
- Use of Recycled Materials: Buildings are constructed using recycled materials to promote environmental sustainability.
- Interactive Farming: Tourists are engaged in farming activities, promoting environmental awareness and facilitating skills transfer.

3. **Community Involvement:**

- The project commenced with participatory sessions involving stakeholders, farmers, and local residents to develop a comprehensive Landscape Plan and Land-Use Plan.
- An extensive network of pedestrian and bicycling paths promotes connectivity and encourages sustainable modes of transport.

4. **Environmental Restoration:**

- Revitalization efforts include natural slabs, rocks, and vegetation along both riverbanks to attract diverse flora and fauna.
- Abandoned tanneries are repurposed into cultural and community spaces, featuring attractions such as a post-industrial museum and restaurants serving local cuisine.

5. **Sustainable Infrastructure:**

- Introduction of a "Biomass Station" to replace traditional gas stations, offering activities such as composting, biogas processing, and solar energy production.
- Restoration of old slums and colonial houses near the river for residential use, contributing to sustainable urban development.

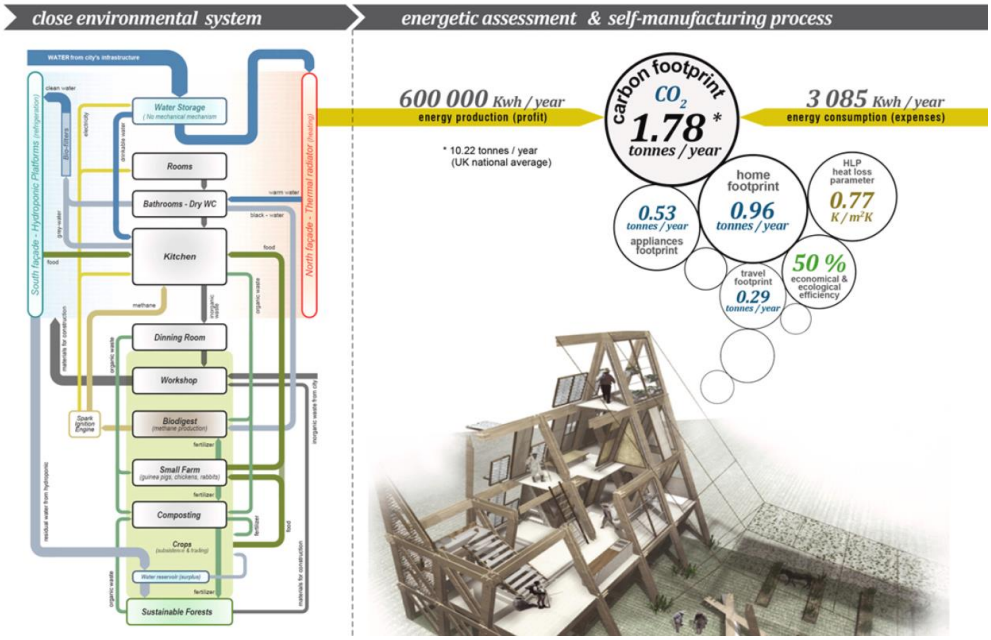


Figure 9: Sustainable program

6. **Self-manufactured Shelters:**

- Collaborative shelters in the production and accommodation sectors foster cooperative efforts between farmers and tourists.
- Intelligent façades enhance indoor comfort and operational efficiency in these shelters.

7. **Fractal Architecture:**

- The design incorporates fractals, utilizing patterns and randomness to efficiently organize materials and spaces at various scales, from insulation to complex urban layouts.

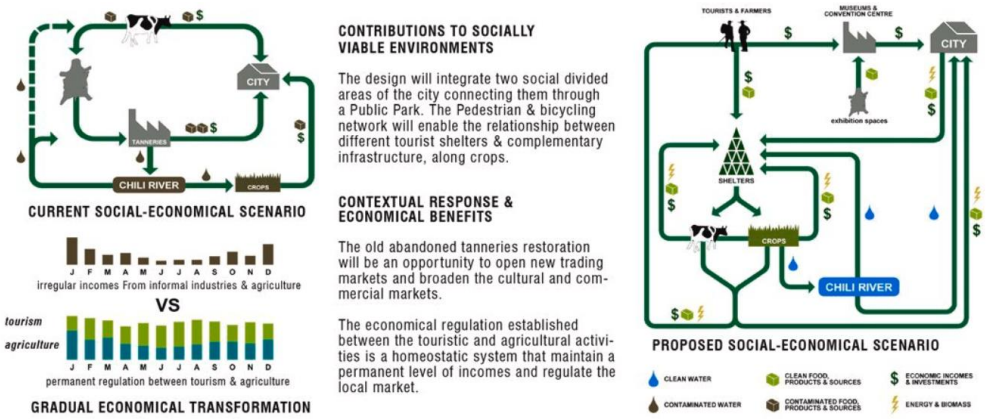


Figure 10: Social and economic participation

In order to provide a peaceful and interesting visitor experience, Carlos Bartesaghi Koc integrated environmental, social, and economic factors into his systematic agritourism design, which is an excellent example of sustainable architectural methods. The project functions as a model for upcoming agritourism ventures due to its emphasis on sustainability, community involvement, and innovative infrastructure. (Bartesaghi-Koc, 2010).

2.1.12.1.1 Pe no Monte - Rural Tourism

Location and Setting: The Monte Novo da Cruz is a gently undulating 10 acre property on the Alentejo Coast. Notable characteristics comprise a tall tree canopy around the southeast and an abundance of flora close to a southwest stream. Atop a high point, the focal point is an ancient rural structure with a house, a tiny annex, a stone well, oak trees, and a few fruit plants.

Project Goals: The main challenges were:

- Preserving the original house's prominence.
- Maintaining formal and material simplicity.
- Enhancing the site's natural features.
- Accommodating a new rural tourism program.

Design Approach: The design creates a dialogue between old and new buildings, integrating them smoothly into the landscape. The intervention occurs on two levels:

Upper Level:

- **Restoration and Expansion:** The existing building is restored and expanded for the owners' residence.

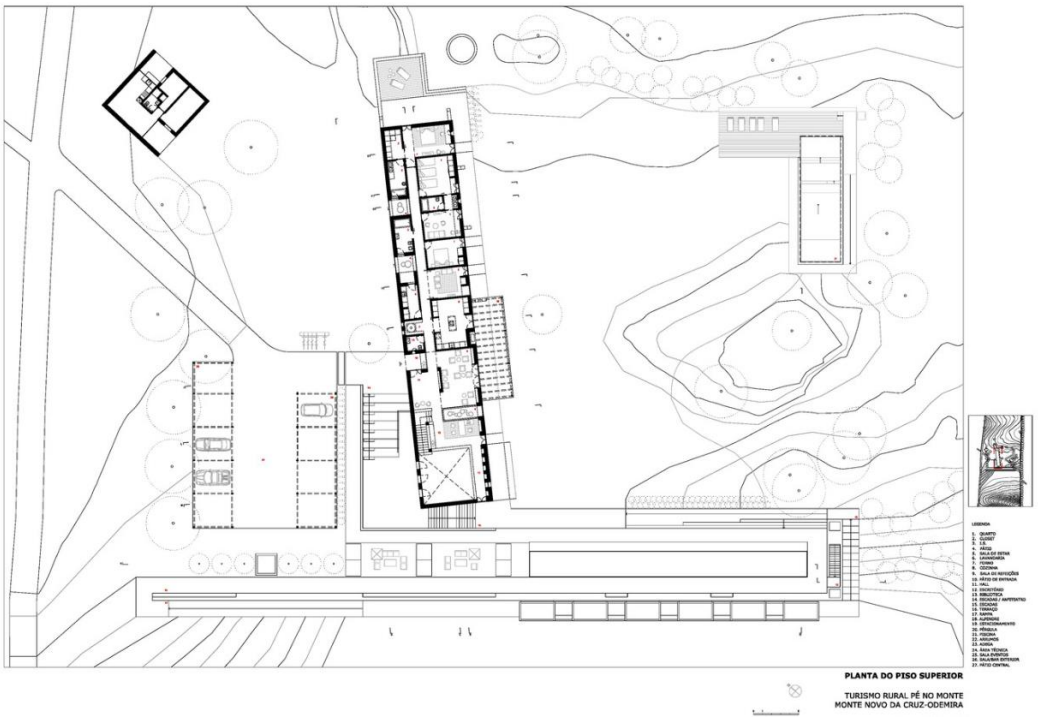


Figure 11: Upper floor plan

- **Preservation:** Respecting the original architecture's structure and typology.
- **Modern Adaptation:** Adapting the house to contemporary uses.
- **Planimetric Composition:** Sequential spaces culminating in a double-height common lounge with a central fireplace.
- **Functional Layout:**
    - **Northwest Side:** Main entrance, bathrooms, laundry, pantry, and small garden courtyards for natural light and ventilation.
    - **Southeast Side:** Living areas, bedrooms, kitchen, office, and library overlooking the garden and pool, with thick outer walls incorporating fixed furniture.

Lower Level:

- **New Building:** An independent structure adapting to the site's topography, using the slope to separate owners' and guests' areas.

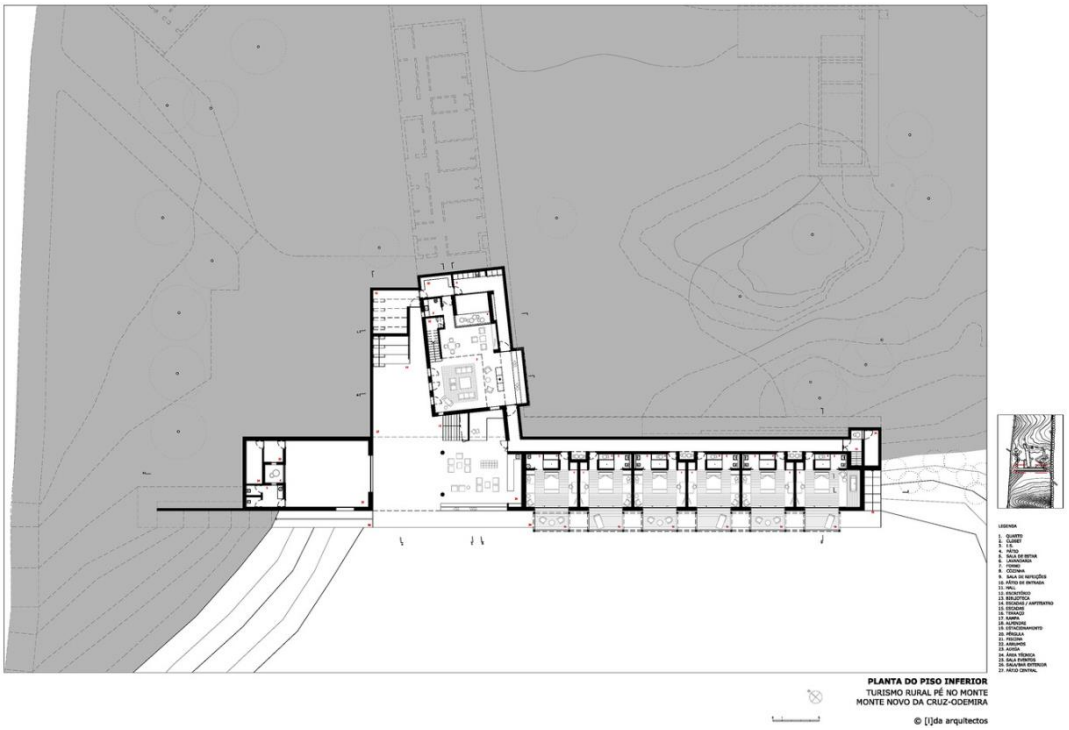


Figure 12: Lower level plan

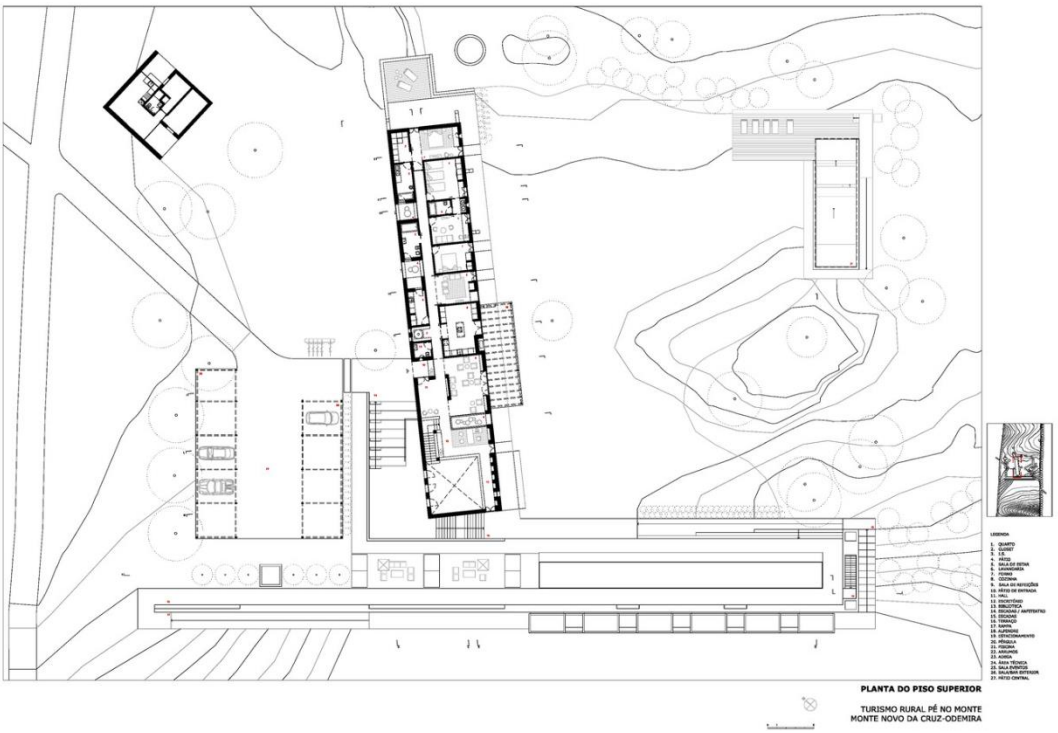


Figure 13: Roof plan

- **Design Features:**
  - **Long, Half-Buried Volume:** Perpendicular to the tree line, maintaining the house's scale and reinforcing vegetation verticality.
  - **Wide Opening and Pergola:** A unique façade with wide openings framing landscape views and a pergola for sunlight control and privacy

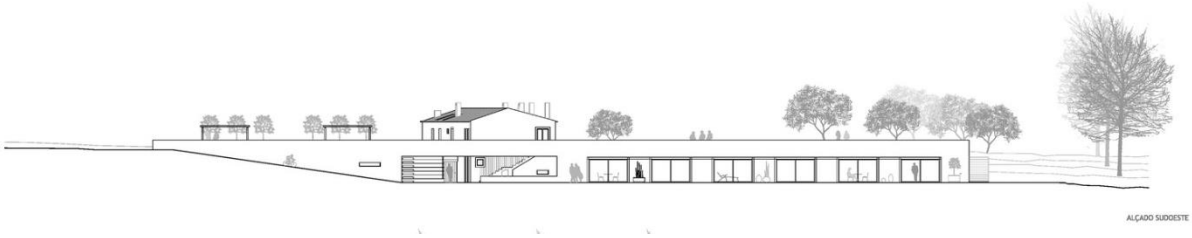


Figure 14: South West Elevation

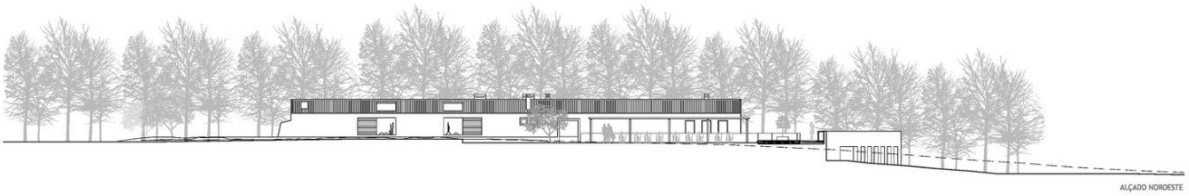


Figure 15: North West Elevation

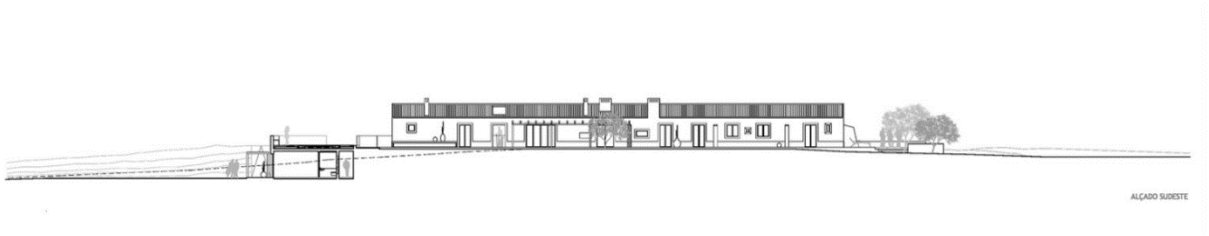


Figure 17: South East Elevation

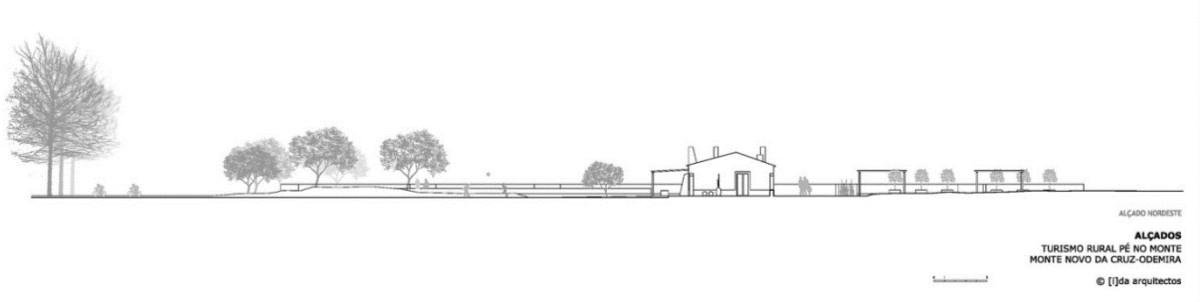


Figure 16: North East Elevation

- **Terrace Visibility:** At arrival, only the terrace with seating areas is visible, while private accommodations and common areas (multipurpose room, outdoor living area with bar) are below.
- **Access:** Via a long corridor with an exposed concrete wall and skylights.

Central Courtyard:

- **Connecting Element:** The heart of the complex, organizing distribution and access.
- **Features:** Staircase/auditorium leading to the upper level and oversized vertical

windows revealing the common lounge's amplitude.

Caretaker's House:

- **Design:** A small square house (8.40x8.40m) marking the complex entrance with blind white walls leading to the central courtyard.
- **Orientation:** Shaded entry courtyards providing visibility to the owners' house entrance, vegetable garden, and parking.

Architectural Style and Agritourism Benefits:

1. **Integration with Nature:**
    - **Contextual Design:** The project integrates buildings with the landscape, preserving natural features and enhancing environmental harmony.
    - **Use of Topography:** Adapting structures to the terrain minimizes visual impact and maximizes landscape interaction.
2. **Sustainability:**
    - **Material Use:** Incorporating traditional materials and sustainable practices, including the use of thick walls for natural insulation and energy efficiency.
    - **Light and Ventilation:** Natural lighting and ventilation through strategically placed courtyards and skylights.
3. **Functional and Aesthetic Harmony:**
    - **Dialogue Between Old and New:** The contrast and merge between existing and new structures create a balanced transition from past to present.
    - **User Experience:** Thoughtful placement of living and common areas ensures functionality and comfort for guests and owners.
4. **Community and Tourism Integration:**
    - **Cultural Preservation:** Respecting and enhancing the historical and cultural context of the original structure.
    - **Tourism Appeal:** Creating an attractive and immersive experience for tourists, promoting sustainable rural tourism.

Conclusion: Pe no Monte exemplifies an ideal agritourism building by blending architectural preservation, sustainable practices, and functional design to create a harmonious and engaging tourist destination (Kastenholz & Figueiredo, 2014).

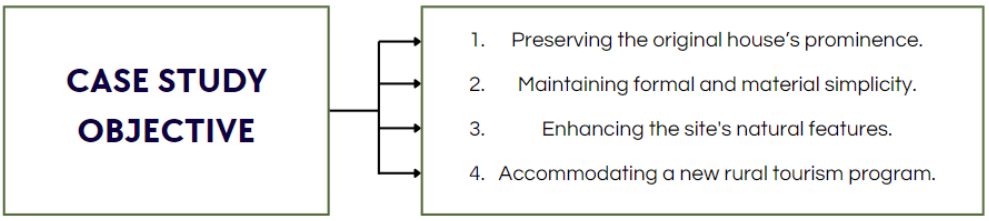


Figure 18: Case Study objective scheme

2.1.12.2 Tekelioğlu Village Rural Tourism Development Project

Overview of Manisa City and Salihli District: Tekelioğlu Village is situated in the Salihli District of Manisa, a city in the Aegean Region of Turkey known for its Mediterranean climate and agricultural output. With a population of more than 1.26 million, Manisa's economy is primarily based on agriculture, with significant production of cotton, tobacco, cherries, and seedless raisins. Manisa has a lot of potential for tourism growth outside of agriculture because of its historical, cultural, and natural resources, which include thermal springs and medieval ruins.

Salihli District Overview

With a population of roughly 149,151, Salihli District is located 74 kilometers from Manisa City and is bisected by the E96 Uşak-İzmir road and the Izmir-Uşak-Afyon railway. The district has a diversified economy that includes trade, industry, and agriculture. Cotton, olives, fruits, vegetables, tobacco, and seedless raisins are important agricultural goods. Salihli has a significant historical legacy as well because it is home to the ruins of the Lydian and Sardes civilizations. Moreover, the district's geothermal resources are being utilized to support the growth of tourism.

Tekelioğlu Village Profile

Within the Salihli District, Tekelioğlu Village is home to 376 people and has 115 dwellings. The main source of income for the community is organic farming, which yields olives, wheat, barley, and sesame. Since 1985, a German business has provided backing for this agricultural endeavor. In spite of its agricultural output, young migration brought on by a lack of work prospects is causing the village's population to decline.

To sum up, Tekelioğlu Village offers a special example of incorporating architectural design into rural revival efforts because of its rich agricultural legacy and potential for sustainable development. By addressing concerns like youth migration and economic diversification, the village's livability and economic resilience could be improved by deliberate architectural

interventions.

Rural Tourism Development Project: The project aims to boost rural tourism and economic development in Tekelioğlu Village. Key elements include:

1. **Education Programs:**
    - Conducted for villagers on local food culture, packaging, handicrafts, and festival activities.
    - High participation, focusing on improving commercial skills and understanding the project's benefits.
2. **Festival and Infrastructure:**
    - Organized by the Manisa City Agriculture Administration with support from local authorities.
    - Nine new WCs constructed, and village center and school garden prepared for the festival.
    - The festival, held in April 2007, attracted 250 participants from nearby cities.
3. **Cooperative Establishment:**
    - Villagers formed the Limited Tekelioğlu Village Agricultural Development Cooperative to enhance revenue through collective efforts.
    - A Rural Tourism Development Organization was established to manage the project, create necessary relationships, and promote the initiative.

Architectural and Design Merits for Agritourism:

1. **Integration with Local Environment:**
    - The project respects and enhances the village's existing architectural and natural features.
    - New constructions, like WCs and festival infrastructure, are designed to blend seamlessly with the village's rural aesthetic.
2. **Sustainability and Local Materials:**
    - Emphasis on using local, sustainable materials for new buildings and restorations.
    - Focus on preserving the village's traditional architectural style, contributing to a cohesive rural tourism experience.

3. **Community-Centric Design:**
    - Education and cooperative initiatives ensure that villagers are integral to the project, fostering a sense of ownership and involvement.
    - Facilities like the primary school's garden and central village area are repurposed to serve both tourism and community needs.

Conclusion: A prime example of agritourism architecture is the Tekelioğlu Village Rural Tourism Development Project. This project actively involves the local population in both design and implementation, integrating new improvements with traditional rural aesthetics in a seamless manner. Sustainability is also given top priority. This all-encompassing strategy not only increases the village's tourism appeal but also promotes regional economic development and protects cultural assets (Tarihi, 2016).

3 CHAPTER 3: METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Approach

This master's thesis' methodological approach is well thought out to investigate the relationship between architecture, agriculture, and tourism with a particular emphasis on agritourism. Detailed case studies, qualitative interviews, qualitative data analysis of interview data, and software analyses are some of the main elements of the study strategy. All of these techniques work together to collect comprehensive, contextual data that will help guide the study's conclusions and suggestions.

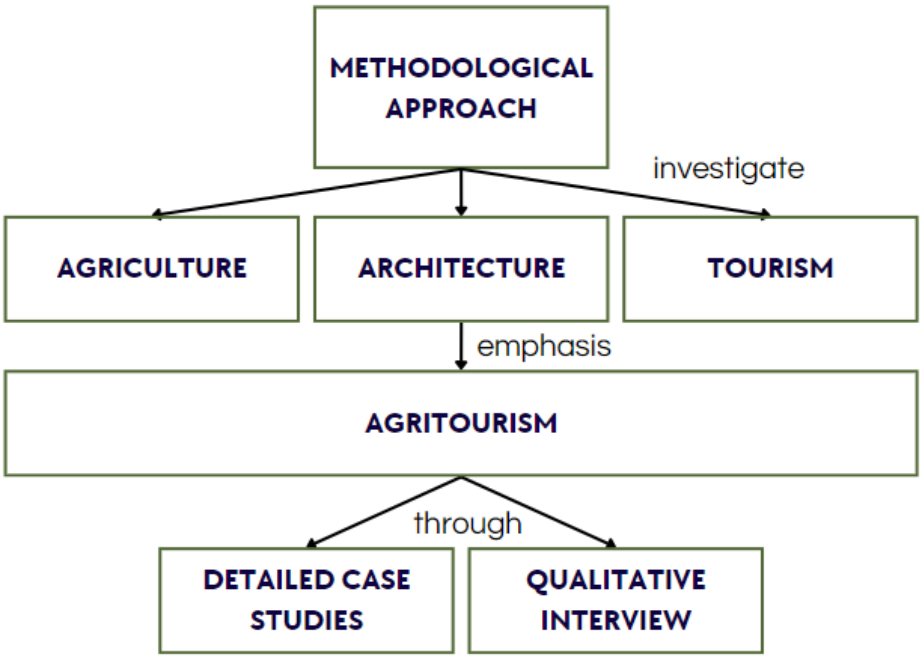


Figure 19: Methodology approach

This methodological technique combines the use of desk research, interviews, and questionnaires with primary data collecting from primary sources and secondary sources. Albanian agritourism establishments are the main subject of attention. Visitors and locals participate in the study, which gathers qualitative data via questionnaires and interviews to investigate potential, problems, and attitudes around agritourism. Interviews with architects with experience in both design and construction will take place.

A literature review will also be included in the methodology. In order to help create a sustainable agritourism model that is appropriate for the region, this research attempts to give a greater understanding of agritourism in Albania. The objective is to create a comprehensive and organized agritourism model with pertinent laws and guidelines.

3.2 In - depth Case Studies Analyses

The research technique is based on a thorough analysis of well chosen case studies of agritourism endeavors. These case studies were selected due to their notable incorporation of sustainable architecture design, cultural and geographical significance, and observable influence on rural development. To clarify the precise design ideas used, operational dynamics, and socioeconomic and environmental results, each case study is thoroughly examined.

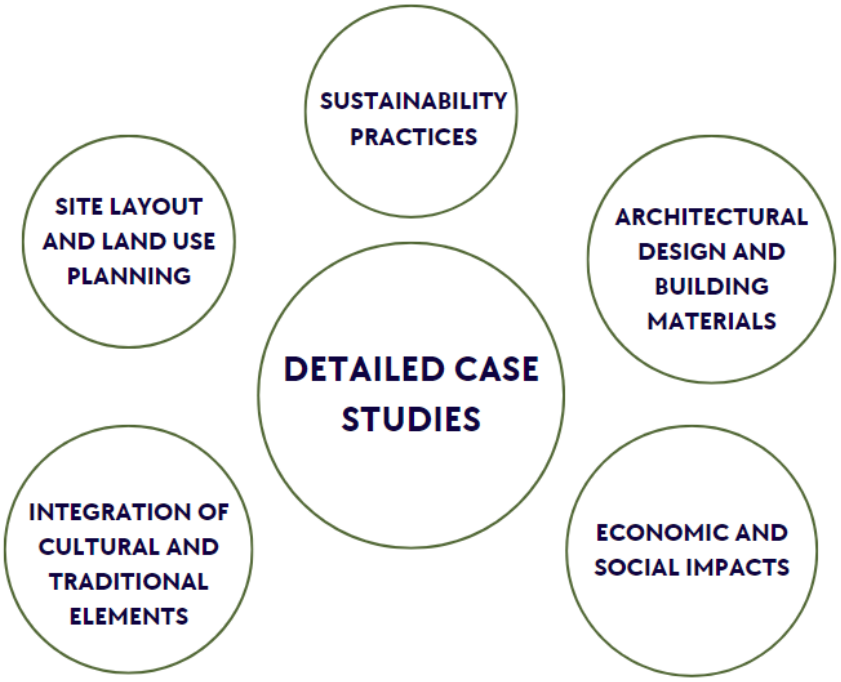


Figure 20: Approaches of the Case study analysis

The analysis of each case study encompasses several critical aspects:

- **Site Layout and Land Use Planning**: This entails analyzing the agritourism site's physical layout design and use, with an emphasis on functional zoning, spatial organization, and landscape integration.

Figure 21: Site Layout and Land Use Planning

- **Architectural Design and Building Materials**: To determine how the buildings contribute to sustainability and cultural authenticity, an analysis is conducted of their architectural style, material selection, construction methods, and overall aesthetics.

Figure 22: Architectural Design and Building Materials

- **Integration of Cultural and Traditional Elements**: The analysis assesses the extent to which local cultural and traditional elements are incorporated into the architectural design and the overall visitor experience.

Figure 23: Itegration of cultural and Traditional elements

- **Sustainability Practices**: An assessment of the sustainability initiatives put in place, such as the utilization of renewable resources, energy-efficient systems, water conservation methods, and waste management procedures, is part of this.

Figure 24: Sustainability Practices

- **Economic and Social Impacts**: In this thesis, the social and economic effects of the project are assessed, including community involvement and cultural preservation, as well as the economic advantages to the local community, such as job creation and revenue generation.

Figure 25: Economic and Social Impacts

By looking at these factors, the study seeks to offer a thorough grasp of how agritourism businesses can be planned and run sustainably, enhancing the local community and the environment.

3.3 100 Villages Project in Albania

A cornerstone of this research methodology is the comprehensive analysis of Albania's 100 Villages Project. Launched in 2018, this ambitious government initiative represents a concerted effort to revitalize rural areas through sustainable tourism development, with a particular emphasis on agritourism. The project offers a unique and invaluable opportunity to study the complex interplay between architecture, agriculture, and tourism within a structured,

nationwide context.

Key aspects of incorporating the 100 Villages Project into the methodology include:

1. Policy Analysis:
    - Conduct an in-depth examination of the policies and guidelines set forth by the project, with a specific focus on those related to architectural design and agritourism development.
    - Analyze the legal framework supporting the project, including any new laws or amendments made to facilitate its implementation.
    - Evaluate the alignment of project policies with national and international sustainable development goals.
    - Investigate the decision-making processes involved in policy formulation and implementation within the project.
2. Project Selection:
    - Identify specific villages within the project that have implemented agritourism initiatives, with a particular focus on those featuring notable architectural interventions.
    - Develop a set of criteria for village selection, considering factors such as geographical diversity, level of agritourism development, and variety of architectural approaches.
    - Create a database of selected villages, documenting their characteristics, agritourism offerings, and architectural features.
    - Conduct preliminary site visits to refine the selection and ensure a representative sample for in-depth study.
3. Comparative Analysis:
    - Compare the approaches and outcomes of agritourism developments within the 100 Villages Project to other initiatives outside the project scope, both within Albania and in neighboring countries.
    - Analyze the differences in planning, implementation, and outcomes between government-led projects (like the 100 Villages Project) and privately initiated agritourism ventures.
    - Evaluate the scalability and replicability of successful approaches identified within the project.

- Conduct a cost-benefit analysis comparing the 100 Villages Project interventions with other rural development strategies.

4. Stakeholder Engagement:
    - Interview a diverse range of stakeholders involved in or affected by the 100 Villages Project, including:
        - Government officials at national, regional, and local levels
        - Local community members, including farmers, business owners, and residents
        - Tourists who have visited project sites
        - Architects and planners involved in project design and implementation
        - NGOs and international organizations supporting the project
    - Develop structured interview protocols to ensure consistency across stakeholder groups.
    - Conduct focus groups with local communities to gather collective insights and perspectives.
    - Implement surveys to collect quantitative data on stakeholder satisfaction and perceived impact.
5. Architectural Assessment:
    - Evaluate the architectural interventions implemented as part of the project, focusing on:
        - Integration with local architectural traditions and vernacular styles
        - Support for agritourism activities and rural livelihoods
        - Contribution to sustainable rural development and environmental conservation
        - Adaptation to local climate conditions and use of sustainable materials
        - Accessibility and inclusivity in design
    - Develop a set of criteria for assessing the quality and effectiveness of architectural interventions.
    - Conduct detailed architectural surveys and documentation of selected sites.
    - Analyze the relationship between architectural design and the success of agritourism initiatives.
6. Economic Impact Assessment:
    - Analyze the economic effects of the 100 Villages Project on local communities, including:

        - Changes in employment rates and income levels
        - Development of new businesses and expansion of existing ones
        - Shifts in land use and property values
        - Impact on local agricultural production and marketing
    - Conduct a cost-benefit analysis of the project's investments in relation to economic outcomes.
    - Evaluate the project's contribution to reducing rural-urban migration.
7. Environmental Sustainability Analysis:
    - Assess the environmental impact of agritourism development within the project, including:
        - Changes in land use and biodiversity
        - Water and energy consumption patterns
        - Waste management practices
        - Carbon footprint of tourism activities
    - Evaluate the effectiveness of environmental conservation measures implemented as part of the project.
    - Analyze the balance between tourism development and environmental protection.
8. Cultural Heritage Preservation:
    - Examine how the 100 Villages Project addresses the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage, including:
        - Conservation of historic buildings and monuments
        - Revitalization of traditional crafts and practices
        - Promotion of local customs, festivals, and gastronomy
    - Assess the impact of agritourism development on local cultural identity and social structures.
9. Infrastructure Development Analysis:
    - Evaluate the infrastructure improvements implemented as part of the project, such as:
        - Transportation networks (roads, public transit)
        - Water supply and sanitation systems
        - Telecommunications and internet connectivity
        - Public spaces and community facilities

- Analyze how these infrastructure developments support agritourism and overall rural development.

10. Long-term Sustainability and Scalability:
    - Assess the long-term viability of the agritourism initiatives developed under the 100 Villages Project.
    - Identify key success factors and potential challenges for sustaining the project's impact beyond the initial implementation phase.
    - Explore possibilities for scaling up successful approaches to other rural areas in Albania and beyond.

This comprehensive analysis of the 100 Villages Project will provide invaluable insights into large-scale, government-led efforts to promote agritourism and sustainable rural development through architectural interventions. By examining this project from multiple angles - policy, economics, architecture, culture, and environment - the research will contribute to a holistic understanding of the potential and challenges of such initiatives. The findings will not only inform future rural development strategies in Albania but also offer valuable lessons for similar projects in other countries facing rural decline and seeking to leverage agritourism for sustainable development.

3.4 Qualitative Data Analyses of Case Studies

This thesis uses a multifaceted qualitative research methodology to investigate in detail how architectural design might improve the sustainability and profitability of agritourism endeavors. In-depth case studies, on-site observations, and software-aided data analysis are all integrated in this study to find best practices and offer useful advice to agritourism industry stakeholders. This thorough process guarantees that the conclusions are grounded in actual events and enhanced by the viewpoints of a wide variety of stakeholders. The ultimate objective is to support the growth of rural tourism projects that are more resilient and environmentally responsible.

Thematic analysis is used to methodically examine the qualitative information obtained from the interviews. The result of this analysis process will be a set of recommendations and guidelines meant to enhance architectural practices.

4 CHAPTER 4: AGRITOURISM IN ALBANIA

4.1 Overview of Agritourism in Albania

Rural development in Albania faces numerous challenges due to various factors (Besra, 2018). Despite some improvements in rural infrastructure, these areas have experienced a decline in traditional agriculture and economic activities (Nagy & B., 2017). Additionally, rural regions in Albania are grappling with demographic issues, notably depopulation, which has significant human and environmental costs ((AASF), 2019). Since the political and economic transition that began in the 1990s, there has been a notable migration from rural to urban areas in Albania (Sulaj & Themelko, 2015). According to the most recent census data from 2011, 53.5% of people live in urban regions compared to 46.5% in rural areas, marking the first time that the urban population has exceeded the rural population.

This rural-to-urban migration has impacted the development of agritourism in Albania (Nagy & B., 2017). Though sustainable agritourism farms have only recently gained traction, agritourism is now seen as a promising tool for encouraging rural development. However, the expansion of the rural tourist industry, particularly agritourism, has been impeded by land fragmentation and a lack of investment (Lerman, 2001). As a result, the growth of this industry is mostly dependent on private initiatives from farmers and agricultural investments made through a nationwide network of agritourism farms. There are more than 300 agritourism farms in Albania, most of them being in the country's north and center.

Albania's agritourism industry has grown significantly in the last several years. By making the most of already-existing resources and offering extra services like housing and recreational opportunities on farms, agritourism increases agricultural revenue. For Albania to experience sustainable growth and social development, agriculture is essential. 43 new agritourism businesses and 34 guesthouses were registered in 2018 alone, demonstrating the industry's explosive growth. The number of guesthouses and 97 new agritourism units that were established in the nation between 2014 and 2018 significantly increased the potential for agritourism and rural tourism.((AASF), 2019).

A large portion of Albania's population lives in rural areas—up to 46%, according to ((AASF))—and Many people in Albania rely on agriculture for their livelihoods, making the success of agricultural ventures critical for rural development. Agritourism is a technique to efficiently integrate agricultural and tourism, so providing a pathway for rural development.

Tourism has a considerable economic potential. Despite being relatively new—the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development only listed 28 certified organizations in 2021—agritourism is becoming more and more acknowledged as a potential response to problems including diminishing agricultural income.

In addition to improving health and protecting picturesque rural environments, agritourism satisfies tourists' need for genuine experiences and draws tourists to these regions. Agritourism is essential to the economy because it offers social and cultural advantages, such as teaching people about bio-food products, food security, the importance of agriculture to the country's economy, and general well-being. At first, agritourism was centered on a few areas: the North Alps (Vermosh, Theth, and Valbona in Shkoder and Kukes counties), the Korca district (Dardhe, Voskopoje, and Lezhe), and the southern parts (Vlora, Saranda, and Gjirokastra). But agritourism has recently spread throughout Albania, with significant locations close to Lezhe, Durres, and Tirana.

Agritourism is clearly present, even in spite of the paucity of thorough statistics and the scarcity of current data from government agencies such as INSTAT and the Ministry of Tourism and Environment (MTM). The northern regions (Theth and Valbonë), the Korca region (Dardhe, Voskopoje, and Vithkuq), as well as Berat and Kukës, are home to the majority of hostels. The distribution of agritourism units is more even, however the most prosperous operations are found in Tirana, Durrës, and Lezhë. The majority of agritourism establishments are "farm-to-table" eateries with a small number of overnight accommodations. Albania's economy still heavily depends on the tourist sector, with rural travel playing an ever-more-important role in it.

In several regions of Albania, rural populations have grown to rely on rural tourism as a major source of revenue throughout the previous ten years (UNWTO, 2017). The Albanian government's "100 Villages" initiative aims to create a successful model for integrated rural development, promoting agro-businesses' growth and direction across the country.

4.2 Socio-economic factors of Agrotourism in Albania

Travelers' decisions can be greatly influenced by a number of factors, including behavioral economics, social influences, and emotional concerns. Because of its "seclusion," agritourism provided a unique benefit during the COVID-19 pandemic. These agritourism farms, which are frequently located far from major cities and encircled by farmland and forests, have become

popular substitutes for hotels, which are known for accommodating huge numbers of visitors and were viewed as less secure by travelers during the pandemic. As a result, a lot of customers changed their vacation schedules and chose to stay at agritourism farms.

The threat posed by the pandemic affected both tourists and service providers, forcing agritourism farm owners to adjust to the new situation by following stringent hygienic and safety regulations. Since every agritourism farm works in a distinct natural and cultural setting, the owners faced a great deal of difficulty in deciding what safety measures to take. These modifications were essential to preserving agritourism's appeal and safety in these historically unusual circumstances.

4.3 The role of agrotourism in development (see spatial plan of Albania)

Albania has ideal geographic and meteorological characteristics for tourism, especially agritourism and rural tourism. Albania is a small country in Southeast Europe that occupies the southwest corner of the Balkan Peninsula. It has a population of around three million and a land area of about 28,700 square kilometers. Its entire border is 1094 kilometers long, made up of 657 km of land borders, 73 km of lake borders, 48 km of river borders, and 316 km of coastline. Albania borders the Mediterranean Sea to the west and southwest, with the Adriatic Sea bordering Italy and the Ionian Sea bordering Greece. It also shares borders with Montenegro to the north, Kosovo to the northeast, Macedonia to the east, and Greece to the south.

With a Mediterranean climate marked by high summer temperatures and low winter temperatures, the country's geography is primarily mountainous. Albania is split up into three main areas:

- **Coastal Albania**: A long, narrow strip between 10 and 30 km wide along the coast, bordering both the Adriatic and Ionian Seas.
- **Northeastern Albania**: The inland region north of the Shkumbin River, bordering Montenegro, Kosovo, and Macedonia.
- **Southeastern Albania**: The inland region south of the Shkumbin River, bordering Macedonia and Greece, and including Lake Ohrid and Lake Prespa.

Because of these favorable circumstances, the Albanian government has decided to support rural tourism as a way to stimulate local economies, generate jobs, and spur development. Albania's tourist industry is starting to focus more on rural tourism, which offers chances for small towns and rural areas with mountains, hills, rivers, lakes, and farms. Through the analysis

of interviews and case studies, this study seeks to portray the current state of rural tourism, evaluates current tourist strategies and efforts, and compiles extensive data on the subject. The government is working to provide new opportunities for rural towns around the nation by incorporating rural tourism into the larger tourism industry.

Two major national initiatives, with a 2020 deadline, have been put into place in Albania with the goal of directly and indirectly promoting the development of rural areas. The National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI) 2015-2020 is the first of these plans. A crucial section of this plan, which addresses the main issue of guaranteeing balanced development throughout the nation's diverse areas, is devoted to regional development. By establishing an efficient framework for regional planning and development, the goal is to improve Albania's development's cohesiveness in relation to other EU nations.

Key Issues Highlighted in the NSDI Strategy

1. **Uneven Development**: There is significant disparity in development across different regions, municipalities, and communes within Albania, as well as between rural and urban areas. Coastal and mountainous areas, in particular, face uneven development. This discrepancy is further exacerbated by migration patterns, both internal and external, leading to overpopulation in some developed areas and depopulation in others. This imbalance results in the inefficient utilization of infrastructure and services, such as schools, healthcare centers, roads, and water supply systems.
2. **Incomplete Policy Framework and Capacity Constraints**: For the current policy framework to manage regional growth successfully, more consolidation is needed. Furthermore, while regional administrations now have minimal authority when it comes to managing regional development, they must be strengthened. The link between strategic planning and implementation at the municipal, regional, and national levels is still poor, and regional administrations lack adequate project management skills.

In the agriculture and rural development subchapter of the NSDI, several challenges are outlined:

- **Enhancing Competitiveness**: There is a need to improve the competitiveness of Albanian agriculture and agro-processing sectors in national, regional, and global markets.
- **Land Consolidation**: Efforts must be made to enhance farm sizes through land consolidation and the development of land markets.
- **Technology and Innovation Transfer**: Improving the technology and innovation transfer system via extension services is crucial.
- **Sustainable Infrastructure Development**: Infrastructure in agriculture needs further improvement to ensure the sustainable use and management of natural resources, and to mitigate the impacts of climate change.
- **Diversification of Rural Activities**: Enhancing basic and recreational services and diversifying income-generating activities in rural areas are necessary to support rural livelihoods.

The second important strategy is the growth of the tourism industry, which has recently made a substantial economic contribution to Albania because of investments in infrastructure and raised standards of service. In 2016, the tourist industry's direct GDP contribution was 8.4%, and in 2017, it is expected to rise to 5.2%. When indirect effects are taken into account, the GDP contribution of tourism was 26%, and by 2017, it is predicted to increase by 5.3%. 267,000 jobs (23.9%) and 85,500 jobs (7.7% of all employment) were indirectly supported by tourism in 2016. Furthermore, 56.1% of Albania's overall export earnings came from visitor exports in 2016.

These policies demonstrate the Albanian government's dedication to developing agritourism and rural tourism as part of a larger initiative to strengthen the national economy, increase job opportunities, and guarantee balanced regional development. In order to build sustainable development models, it is important to integrate tourism and agriculture, which is why developing infrastructure and services in rural regions, consolidating land, and increasing agricultural competitiveness are all important goals. Through the utilization of its strategic location, natural beauty, and cultural legacy, Albania hopes to establish prosperous, sustainable rural communities that make a major contribution to the country's overall development.

4.4 Policy and Regulatory Framework of agrotourism in Albania (legislation analyses)

To encourage rural development, the Albanian government has made great progress in regulating and advancing agritourism. Since agritourism farms were first run informally, there was a lack of official statistics. In order to address this, the Ministry of Tourism and Environment established an Evaluation Commission and defined agritourism in accordance with the Tourism Law by a Ministerial council resolution. In order to formalize a previously unorganized industry, this commission manages applications from farmers and investors looking to launch agritourism businesses.

Through the Integrated Program for Rural Development-100 villages (IPRD) from 2018 to 2020, the National Strategy for Rural Development 2014-2020 was further improved. The three main objectives of this effort, which focused on 100 villages, were to build an Albanian agritourism network, a network of traditional product incubators, and a network of brands and retailers selling Albanian and traditional goods. The implementation of IPRD is overseen by the National Agency for Territory Planning (NATP), which emphasizes the critical role that agritourism plays in accomplishing these goals.

Nonetheless, there are a number of issues with Albania's present agritourism legislative and regulatory structure:

- There is a lack of dedicated legislation specifically tailored to agritourism, impeding its development and formalization.
- Uncertainty persists regarding which ministry holds jurisdiction over agritourism development, potentially leading to bureaucratic hurdles.
- Both central and local governments lack specialized structures dedicated solely to agritourism development, hindering coordinated efforts.
- Specific incentives aimed at fostering collaboration and networking among agritourism farms and other rural stakeholders are insufficiently defined and implemented.

In order to fully realize the potential of agritourism as a driver of rural development in Albania, it is imperative to tackle these obstacles. Encouraging agritourism growth can be achieved by offering targeted incentives, strengthening institutional capacity, and clarifying the legislative framework. This would help promote sustainable rural development throughout Albania.

4.5 Agritourism experiences in Albania

Agritourism has become a thriving part of the country's tourism business in recent years. Adventurers venturing into Albanian agritourism can partake in customary farming methods, relish in organic farm-to-table cuisine, and encounter the authentic warmth of regional farmers. Through direct interaction, guests can develop strong bonds with Albania's agricultural history and unspoiled natural settings. Rolling hills, vineyards, olive orchards, and quaint villages make up the picturesque countryside, which offers a serene backdrop for these pursuits that promotes both enrichment and relaxation.

In addition to helping visitors appreciate Albania's rich cultural and historical heritage, agritourism makes a substantial economic contribution to the region and encourages sustainable development in rural regions. This special fusion of the grandeur of nature.

5 CHAPTER 5: CASE STUDIES

5.1 Selection of agritourism case studies

In order to maximize the efficacy of creating an agritourism model and policies, I have chosen four unique agritourism locations in Albania. These choices reflect a variety of national architectural styles, agricultural practices, and geographic locales. To ensure a broad understanding of Albanian agritourism, a range of sizes, amenities, and tourist experiences have been included in the selection of case studies. This method makes it possible to conduct a thorough analysis that takes into account the wide variety of situations and practices seen in Albania's agritourism industry.

5.2 The Sustainability of Architecture

Nowadays, there is a growing interest in sustainable architecture, especially in light of growing urban density and dwindling green area availability. The urgent need to switch to renewable energy sources emphasizes how important sustainability is becoming to architectural practices. A growing emphasis in contemporary design processes is on the harmonious integration of structures with their surrounding settings.

Archipelagos' architectural legacy provides important insights on sustainable practices. Numerous architectural styles have been influenced by the rich cultural tapestry and varied natural surroundings found in these countries (Manurung, 2014).

Various definitions exist for sustainable architecture. James Steele defines it as architecture that meets current needs while safeguarding the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. These needs are contextual and community-specific, best defined by the communities themselves.

The Oxford Architectural Dictionary's James Stevens Curl and Susan Wilson define sustainable architecture as plans that use the least amount of energy, need little upkeep, and steer clear of problems like inadequate insulation and overuse of glass.

The environment has been severely harmed by the overuse of natural resources, endangering the ability of the planet to support human life. A balanced approach to environmental, social, and economic aspects is the goal of sustainable development. To attain sustainable development that works, these three areas must grow at the same time and in tandem: promoting economic prosperity, protecting against unfavorable effects of development, and improving social well-being.

The diagram below illustrates how sustainable development relies on these interconnected and mutually reinforcing sectors.

Figure 26: Concept of Sustainability (Chansomsak & Vale, 2018)

5.2.1 The Principles of Sustainability of Architecture

According to the Brundtland Commission, also known as the World Commission on Environment and Development, sustainable architecture adheres to five fundamental principles:

1. **Energy Efficiency:** To reduce its need on electrical illumination, sustainable design makes the most of natural sunshine for daylighting. In order to maintain pleasant indoor temperatures, strategies include using natural ventilation systems rather than artificial air conditioning, harvesting rainwater for household use, and improving air circulation during the day, which is especially helpful in tropical countries like Indonesia.
2. **Land Use Efficiency:** Effective land use is essential, supporting the preservation of parks and green areas alongside construction projects. In order to optimize greenery, this idea promotes compact, integrated architectural designs that include elements like hanging gardens, roof gardens, and vertical green walls. In order to create a harmonic link between buildings and their natural surroundings and improve living situations, existing vegetation is incorporated into designs.
3. **Material Efficiency:** In order to reduce its negative environmental effects, sustainable design encourages the use of discarded and recycled

materials. Reusing materials remaining from past projects and making use of readily available but underutilized resources, like wood, are two examples of how to drastically minimize waste. This method encourages creative material reuse and advances sustainable building techniques.

4. **Innovative Technologies and Materials:** Buildings may produce energy on their own in a sustainable manner by utilizing renewable energy sources including solar, wind, and water power. Adopting quickly growing, renewable materials like bamboo increases material innovation and cost-effectiveness. By reducing reliance on non-renewable resources, these methods promote the creation of sustainable building materials.
5. **Waste Management:** Sustainable architecture requires efficient waste management systems, such as on-site greywater and blackwater treatment to reduce the burden on municipal systems. Methods like letting organic garbage break down naturally and using effective recycling procedures help reduce the impact on the environment. Creating structures and procedures that encourage recycling and waste minimization helps to advance sustainable practices.
6. By incorporating these ideas into sustainable building, a culture of ongoing sustainability is fostered. These design concepts focus on creating resource-efficient, occupant-friendly, and environmentally friendly buildings that maximize the benefits of natural components to improve overall quality of life. In addition to helping building occupants, sustainable architecture advances sustainable development aims and more general sustainability objectives (Syam, Wisdianti, Sajar, & Bahri, 2023)

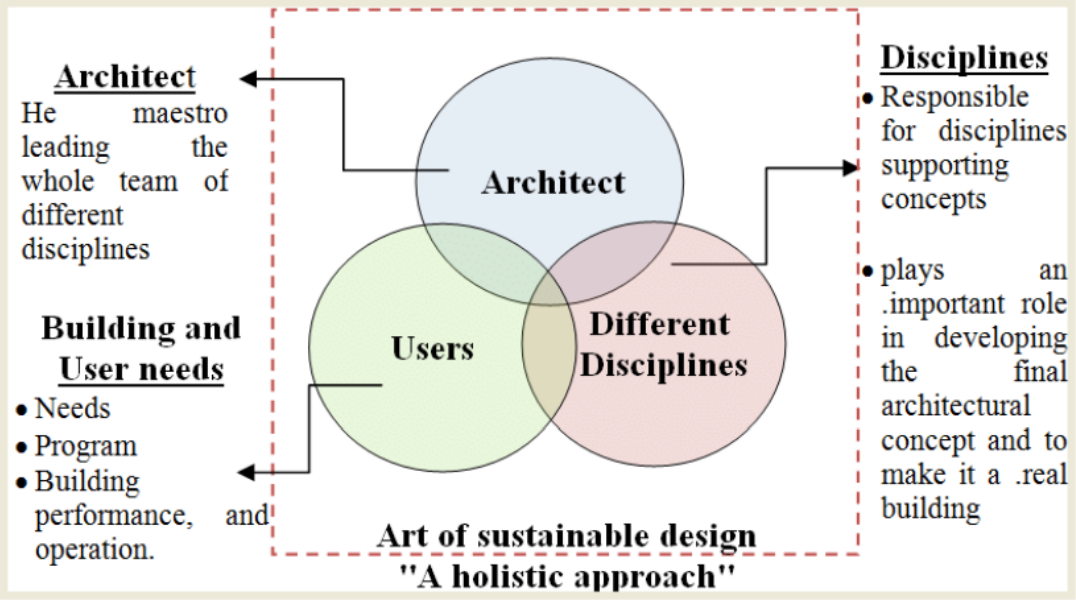


Figure 27: Sustainable Design Approach (Syam, Wisdianti, Sajar, & Bahri, 2023)

5.3 Sustainability in Integration with Natural Environments

The term "green building" refers to a variety of methods used to reduce construction's negative effects on the environment and increase its sustainability. Preventing soil erosion, collecting rainwater, creating heat-absorbing landscapes, using less potable water, reusing wastewater, and implementing cutting-edge energy-efficient practices are important strategies.

The primary objective of green buildings is to lessen the adverse effects of the built environment on both human health and the natural world. This is achieved through:

- Efficient use of energy, water, and other resources.
- Enhancing occupant health and boosting employee productivity.
- Minimizing waste, pollution, and environmental degradation.

5.4 The Environmental Impact of Conventional Building Materials

Materials including cement, sand, steel, stones, bricks, and numerous finishing materials are significantly used in traditional construction processes. Since these materials are frequently carried over great distances to construction sites, the carbon footprint of building projects is greatly increased. Building materials alone are thought to be responsible for 20% or more of the greenhouse gases released during a building's lifetime.

5.5 Sustainable Alternatives in Green Building

When possible, non-toxic, recyclable, renewable, and reused materials are used in green buildings. They also place a strong emphasis on obtaining goods locally in order to protect the region's natural integrity and reduce energy use associated with transportation. This strategy

reduces the construction phase's overall environmental impact while simultaneously boosting the local economy.

5.5.1 The Shift Towards Green Materials

Building materials are evolving toward sustainability in a manner similar to the expanding practice of designating food and household items as eco-friendly. The use of cutting-edge green materials that are presently being studied and created will determine the direction of green buildings in the future. These products are designed to improve the overall sustainability of built environments and drastically reduce the environmental impact of construction activities.

5.6 Key Practices in Green Building

Soil Erosion Prevention: Implementing measures to prevent soil erosion during and after construction helps maintain soil health and prevent sedimentation in nearby water bodies.

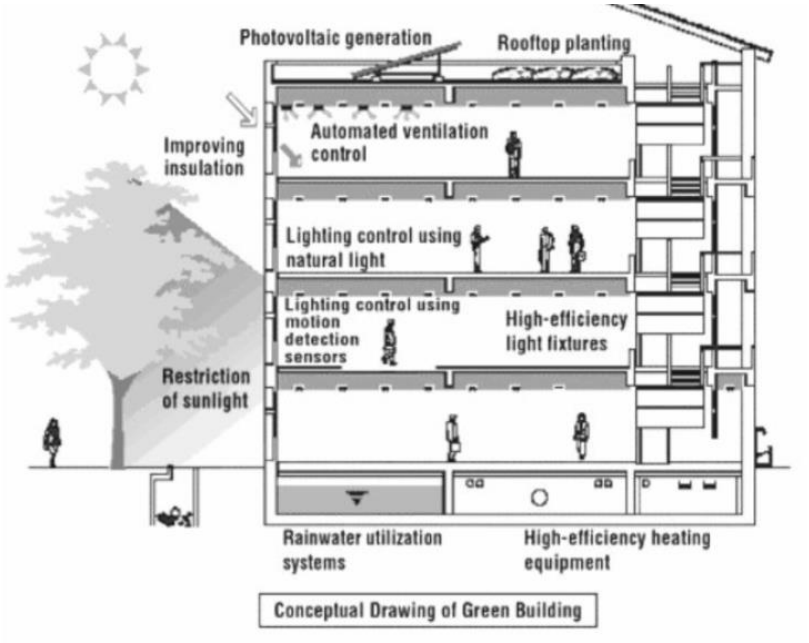
Rainwater Harvesting: Collecting and storing rainwater for various uses reduces the reliance on municipal water sources and helps in water conservation.

Heat Reduction Landscaping: Designing landscapes to reduce heat absorption helps in lowering the overall temperature of the building and its surroundings, contributing to a cooler microclimate.

Potable Water Reduction: Reducing the use of potable water in buildings by employing efficient fixtures and systems that minimize water wastage.

Wastewater Recycling: Recycling wastewater within the building reduces the demand for fresh water and minimizes the strain on municipal wastewater treatment facilities.

Energy Efficiency: Incorporating energy-efficient practices and technologies to lower energy consumption and reduce greenhouse gas emissions (Mukund, 2016).



Green Buildings Retain the Environment at the location of the Building. Either a site with bio diversity should be avoided or the building should be planned to reduce site disturbance

Figure 28: Green Building Concept

5.7 Case Studies

5.7.1 Mrizi i Zanave

Figure 29: Mrizi I Zanave Architecture (Mrizi i Zanave, 2024)

Albania's most famous and luxury farm stay, Mrizi i Zanave is located not far from the northern Albanian city of Shkodra. The unique architecture is a mix of traditional stone and modern glass, the food is exceptional and the garden is overflowing with fresh produce.

Pros: The highest-rated and most well-known farm stay in Albania and rightfully so.

Cons: Accessibility may be an issue.

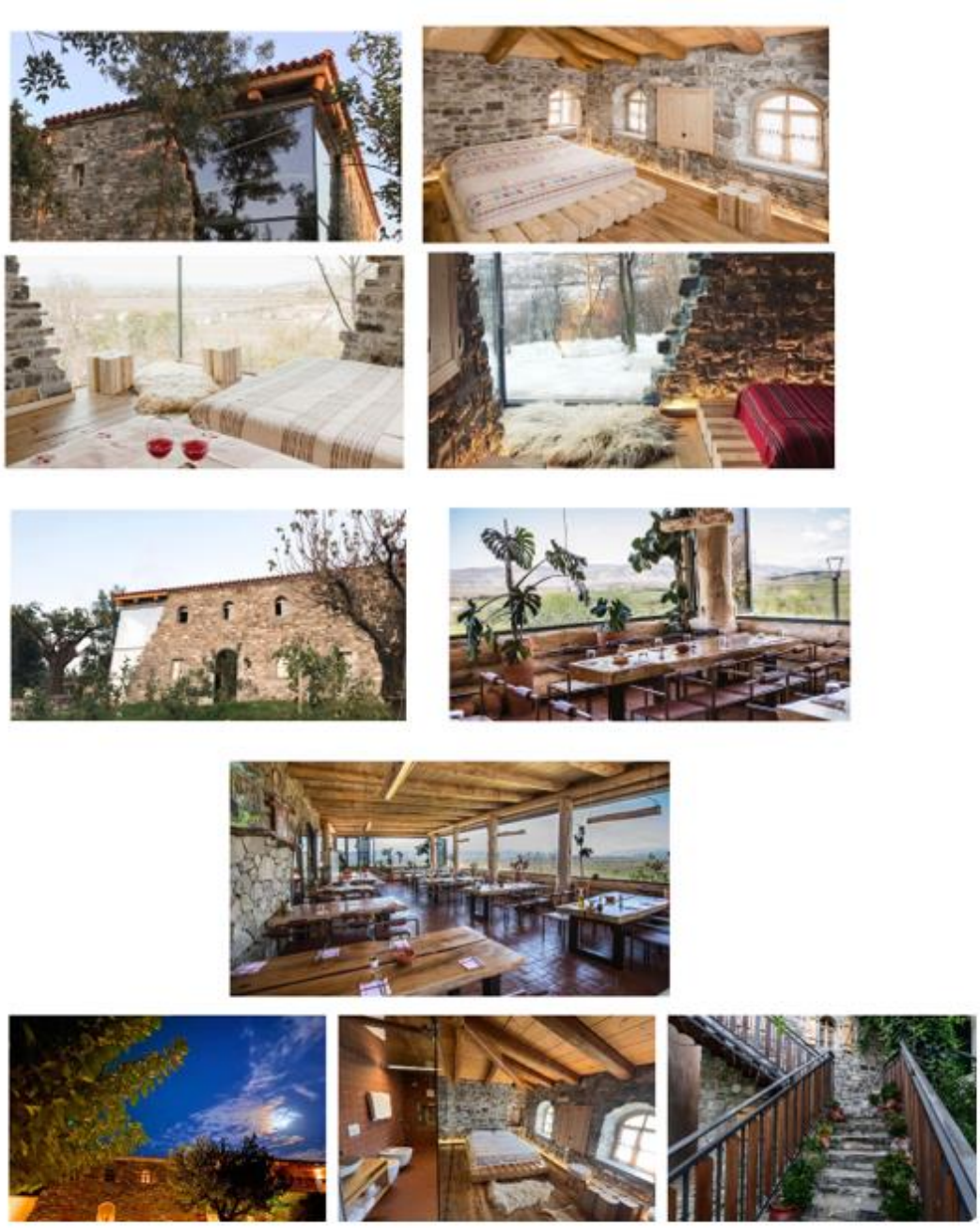


Figure 30: Mrizi i Zanave Views (Mrizi i Zanave, 2024)

Figure 31: Mrizi i Zanave Map Location (Mrizi i Zanave, 2024)

The building's exterior design combines modern components with traditional stone cladding in a seamless manner. The corner is graced with a magnificent two-story picture window that boldly expresses the tasteful fusion of traditional and modern design while flooding the room with natural light.

Upon entering, visitors are welcomed with a warm atmosphere enhanced by the utilization of wood. The room's hardwood furnishings are reflected in the thick beams that cross the ceiling. The bed is supported by a wooden log base that is matched by wooden stools and tables. This combination offers a stylish and modern take on the traditional log cabin look. Mrizi i Zanave is an excellent example of several of the guidelines for environmentally friendly agritourism structures.

1. **Location, Terrain, and Topography:** Mrizi i Zanave is a stunning rural setting south of Shkodra, surrounded by nature, and is ideally located amid agricultural fields in the Albanian countryside. Its close proximity to the fresh product source guarantees a true farm-to-table dining experience for its patrons. Because of the restaurant's connection with the natural terrain, patrons can enjoy meals while taking in beautiful views of the surrounding area.

2. **Solar Analysis Scheme:** Although precise information on solar orientation is not easily accessible, Mrizi i Zanave most certainly took solar orientation into account when designing it. The restaurant reduces its dependency on artificial lighting and heating by placing itself to optimize natural light exposure, which is consistent with sustainable practices.
3. **Wind Analysis:** To take use of the prevailing winds for cross-ventilation, Mrizi i Zanave probably uses natural ventilation techniques. This improves indoor air quality and lessens the use for mechanical cooling systems, which is consistent with the ideas of sustainable design.
4. **Rain Analysis:** Mrizi i Zanave uses rainwater harvesting devices to collect and store rainfall for irrigation because of Albania's climate. The restaurant's roof is presumably designed to efficiently absorb rainwater and has overhangs to shield patrons from the elements.
5. **Functional Layout and Site Planning:** Mrizi i Zanave has well-defined paths that link the kitchen, eating area, and fields, among other areas of the property. All visitors, including those with disabilities, may easily move about the room thanks to its accessible design. The dining area and kitchen are close to one another, which makes food transfers easier and improves the farm-to-table experience.
6. **Building Form:** Mrizi i Zanave's low-rise buildings follow the land's natural contours, its architectural form most likely blends in with the surrounding scenery. This optimizes natural ventilation and illumination while ensuring a minimal visible influence on the surrounding area.
7. **Materials Used:** It is probable that Mrizi i Zanave is constructed using sustainable and locally sourced resources like wood, clay, and stone. These materials boost the regional economy in addition to lowering transportation expenses. To further improve sustainability, eco-friendly solutions like recycled wood can be employed.

Overall, by incorporating environmental concerns into its operations and design, Mrizi i Zanave shows that it is dedicated to sustainable agritourism practices. It offers guests an immersive and environmentally conscious dining experience while protecting and developing Albania's natural and cultural surroundings by abiding by the guidelines provided in the guide.

5.7.2 Kulla Hupi

Figure 32: Kulla Hupi (Hotelmix, 2024)

Figure 33: Kulla Hupi Map Location (Hotelmix, 2024)

Located 90 minutes east of Tirana via car. Restored to its original two-hundred-year-old Balkan tower house, the Kulla Hupi Guesthouse in Bulqizë upholds traditional Albanian customs. The guesthouse provides lodging, mouthwatering regional cuisine, and outdoor pursuits like hiking and horseback riding. The home retains its historic beauty while being surrounded by a stunning setting and contemporary conveniences. All things considered, it is a distinctive and genuine experience for tourists wishing to see the Bulqiza region.

The Kulla Hupi Guesthouse in Bulqizë, Albania, exemplifies several key principles outlined in the guide for farm-to-table tourism buildings:

1. **Location, Terrain, and Topography**: Kulla Hupi's proximity to farming areas reduces the distance needed to deliver fresh products, improving the farm-to-table experience. Furthermore, the guesthouse blends in perfectly with the surrounding landscape by avoiding flat spots that could flood and making use of gentle slopes for natural drainage. The lovely setting provides lovely views of the surroundings, encouraging rest and a sense of connection to the natural world.
2. **Solar Analysis Scheme**: Although the article does not address solar orientation in detail, large openings should be oriented south to optimize

sunshine exposure and minimize the need for artificial lighting and heating, particularly in the winter.

3. **Wind Analysis**: Wind patterns aren't mentioned specifically, although it's likely that the design accounts for prevailing winds to provide natural ventilation. By carefully positioning windows and vents, you can improve indoor air quality by encouraging cross-ventilation.
4. **Rain Analysis**: To lessen dependency on outside water sources, Kulla Hupi may implement rainwater harvesting devices to capture and store rainfall for irrigation. In order to effectively shed rainfall and safeguard walls and entrances, the roof's design most likely has the proper pitch and overhangs.
5. **Functional Layout and Site Planning**: The site's dining spaces, kitchens, fields, and guest lodgings are all connected by clear walkways that make mobility simple and accessibility guaranteed. The dining area and kitchen are close enough to make food transfers easier, which improves the farm-to-table experience. Outdoor eating areas make use of the lovely weather and picturesque surroundings.
6. **Building Form**: The architectural form of Kulla Hupi is probably both aesthetically beautiful and useful, integrating nicely with the surrounding natural environment. Low-rise buildings can minimize their visual impact by following the natural curves of the terrain, which improves natural lighting, ventilation, and integration with the surroundings.
7. **Materials Used**: The guesthouse likely utilizes locally sourced, sustainable materials such as stone, wood, and clay to reduce transportation costs and support the local economy. These materials are durable, require minimal maintenance, and contribute to the building's eco-friendliness.

In summary, the guide's guidelines for sustainable, useful, and immersive farm-to-table tourist buildings are embodied by Kulla Hupi in Bulqizë, Albania. By incorporating these ideas, Kulla Hupi preserves and improves the area's natural and cultural surroundings while providing visitors with a singular, original experience.

5.7.3 Hylli i Drites

Address: Rruga lezhe vaudejes trosha, Lezhë, Albania

Location: 35 minutes south of Shkodra

Hylli i Drites is an upmarket farm stay located on a hill overlooking the Lezha countryside, and it is perfect for travellers driving from Shkodra to Tirana. The farm stay has earned a reputation for its Albanian meals, which are prepared with fresh, locally-sourced ingredients and highly praised by visitors and locals from nearby regions. You can enjoy a beautiful view of the surrounding countryside during the extensive breakfast. In addition to the delicious food and stunning views, the rooms are also a highlight of the stay. They are modern, spacious, and comfortable, with large, well-appointed bathrooms.

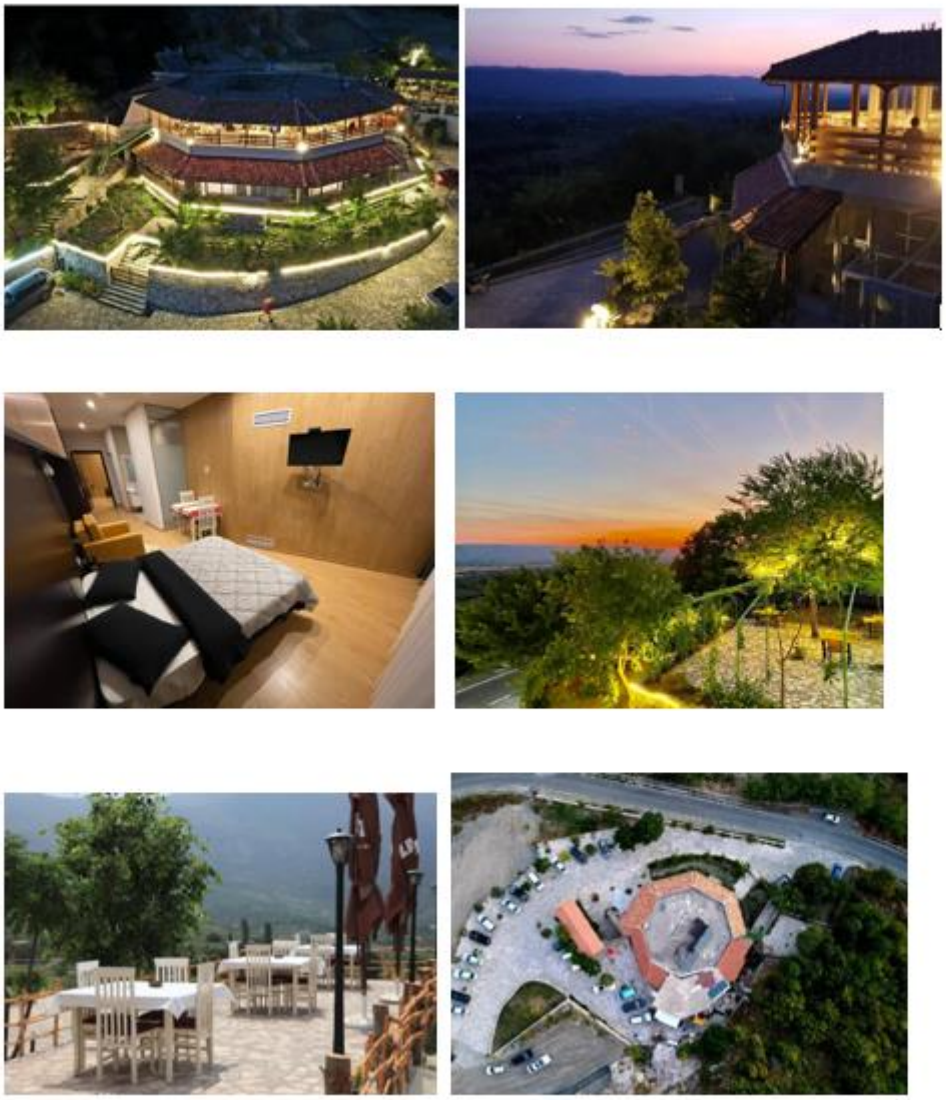


Figure 34: Hylli I Drites Views (Hylli i Drites, 2024)

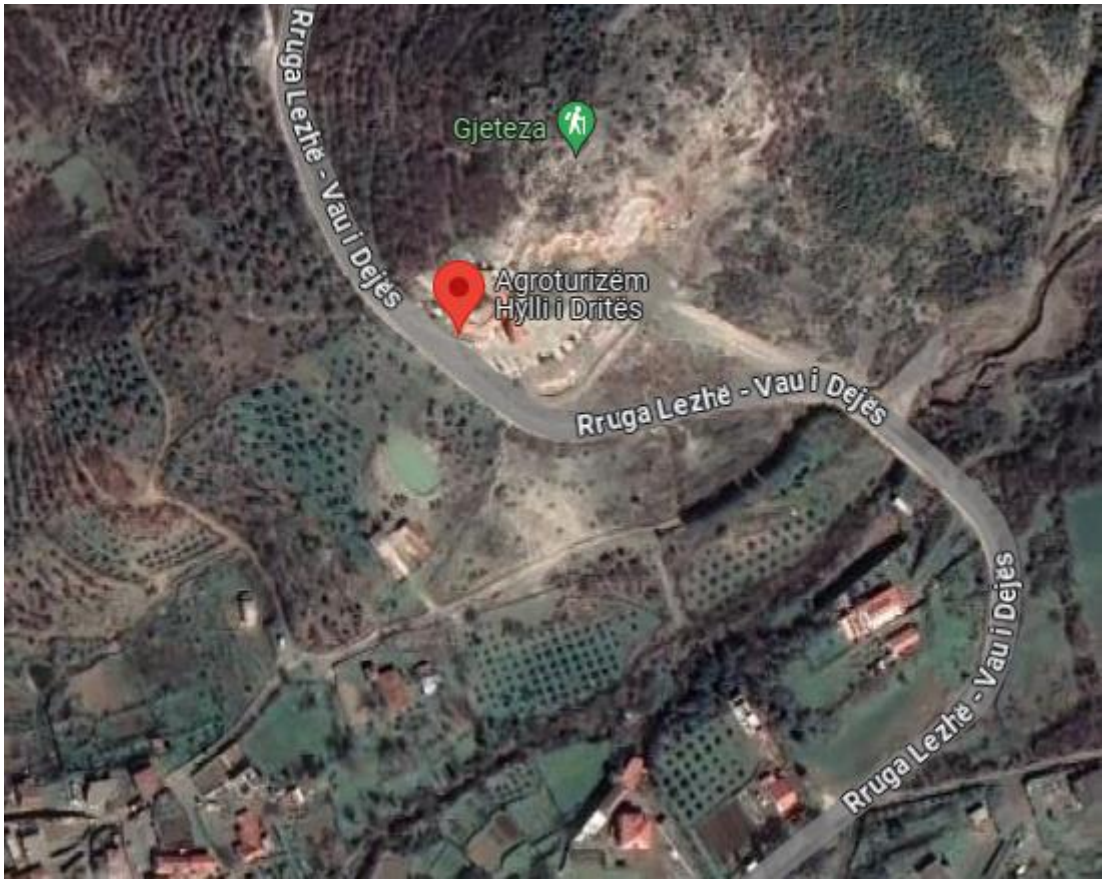


Figure 35: Hylli I Drites (Hylli i Drites, 2024)

1. Location, Terrain, and Topography:

Proximity to Agricultural Activities: The proximity of agricultural fields to Hylli i Dritës ensures easy access to fresh produce. Using foods that are acquired locally, this improves the farm-to-table experience for guests.

Integration with Natural Terrain: Because of its thoughtful placement on mild slopes, the guesthouse prevents waterlogging and promotes natural drainage. Sustainability and aesthetic appeal are improved by this interaction with the natural landscape.

Scenic Views: Situated in Lezhë, Hylli i Dritës boasts picturesque views of the surrounding landscape, promoting relaxation and a connection with nature, which enhances the overall guest experience.

3. Solar Analysis Scheme:

Determining Sun Direction: The structure is angled to maximize natural light and passive solar heating by the use of sun path diagrams, which lessens the

need for artificial lighting and heating, particularly during the winter.

3. Wind Analysis:

Understanding Wind Patterns: The guesthouse makes sure that natural ventilation is at its best by examining local wind patterns. With thoughtful placement of windows and vents, cross-ventilation can improve indoor air quality without the need for mechanical cooling.

4. Rain Analysis:

- **Rainfall Considerations:** Reducing dependency on outside water sources, Hylli i Dritës uses rainwater collecting technologies to collect and store rainwater for irrigation. Rainwater is effectively shed from the roof and entrances are shielded from direct rains by the design.

5. Functional Layout and Site Planning:

- **Circulation, Connectivity, and Accessibility:** Accessible and unobstructed routes link various sections of the property, such as the dining rooms, kitchen, lawns, and lodgings, guaranteeing convenience of mobility for both visitors and employees. Features for accessibility are included to make accommodations for visitors with disabilities.
- **Farm-to-Table Dining Spaces:** The dining area is strategically positioned close to the kitchen, facilitating easy transfer of food and allowing guests to observe the preparation process, enhancing the farm-to-table experience. Outdoor dining options take advantage of the scenic landscape and pleasant weather.

6. Building Form:

- **Functional and Aesthetic Form:** Hylli i Dritës incorporates low-rise structures that blend seamlessly with the natural landscape, supporting farm-to-table operations while offering an aesthetically pleasing environment for guests.
- **Modular Design:** A modular design allows for flexibility and future expansion, accommodating evolving functions and growing visitor numbers without major disruptions.
- **Impact of Form:** The building's form enhances natural ventilation, lighting, and integration with the landscape, minimizing its visual impact on the environment and preserving the natural beauty of the area.

7. Materials Used:

- **Local and Sustainable Materials:** By using locally obtained materials like wood, clay, and stone, Hylli i Dritës helps the local economy and lowers transportation expenses. These materials add to the building's eco-friendliness, are long-lasting, and require little upkeep.

5.7.4 Farm Sotira

Address: Rruga Nacionale Leskovik, Gërmenj
Location: 90 minutes south of Korca.

Farm Stay Sotira is a top-rated farm stay in southern Albania, located between Korca and Gjirokastra. The accommodation features a restaurant and bar serving traditional Albanian cuisine and offers horseback riding and fishing activities. Guest rooms are simply furnished with access to a shared bathroom, while the lush garden and terrace provide comfortable outdoor seating. Surrounded by forested mountains and greenery, this tranquil farm stay offers a unique and enjoyable experience for those seeking an authentic Albanian getaway.

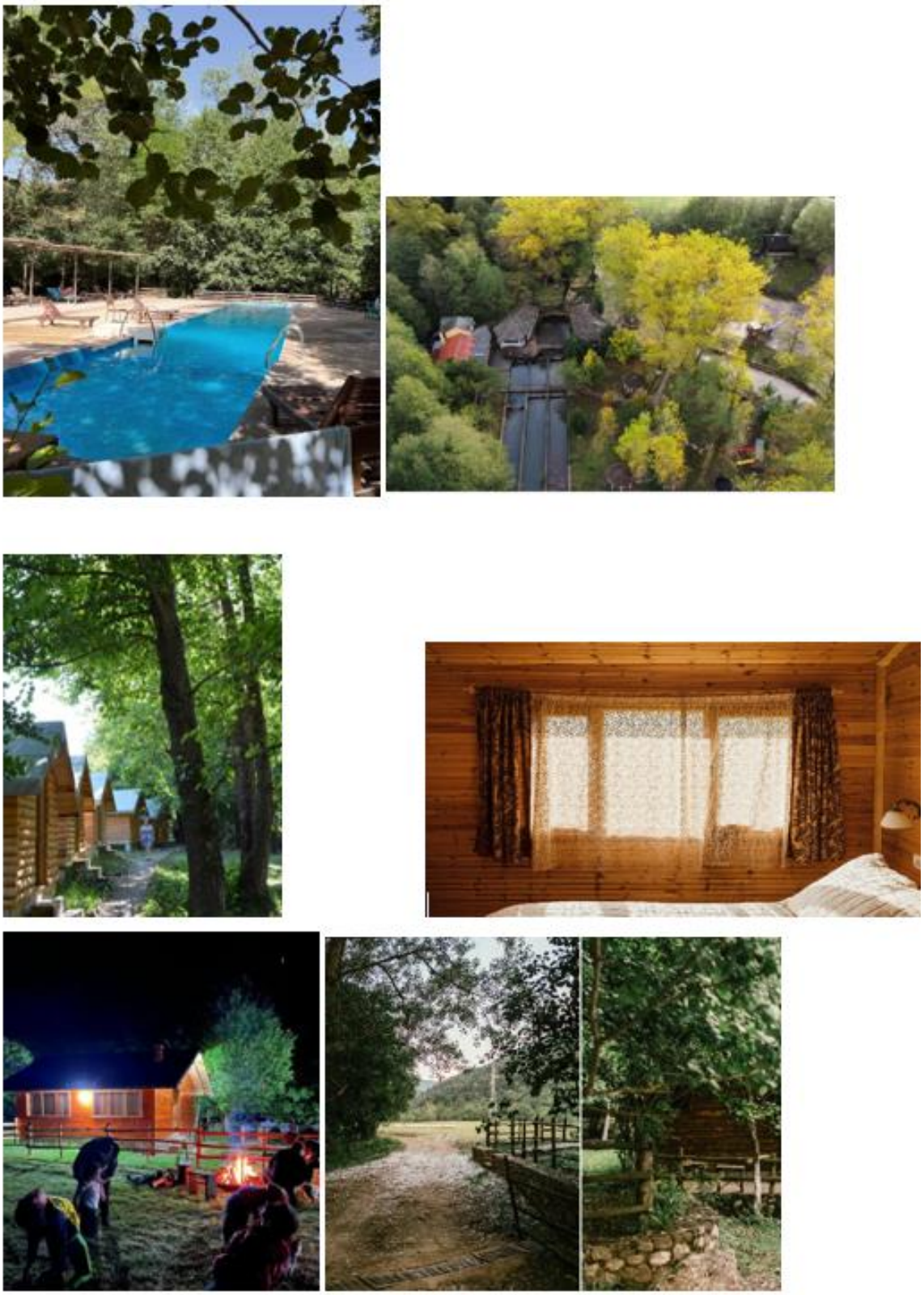


Figure 36: Farm Sotira Views (Farm Sotira, 2024)

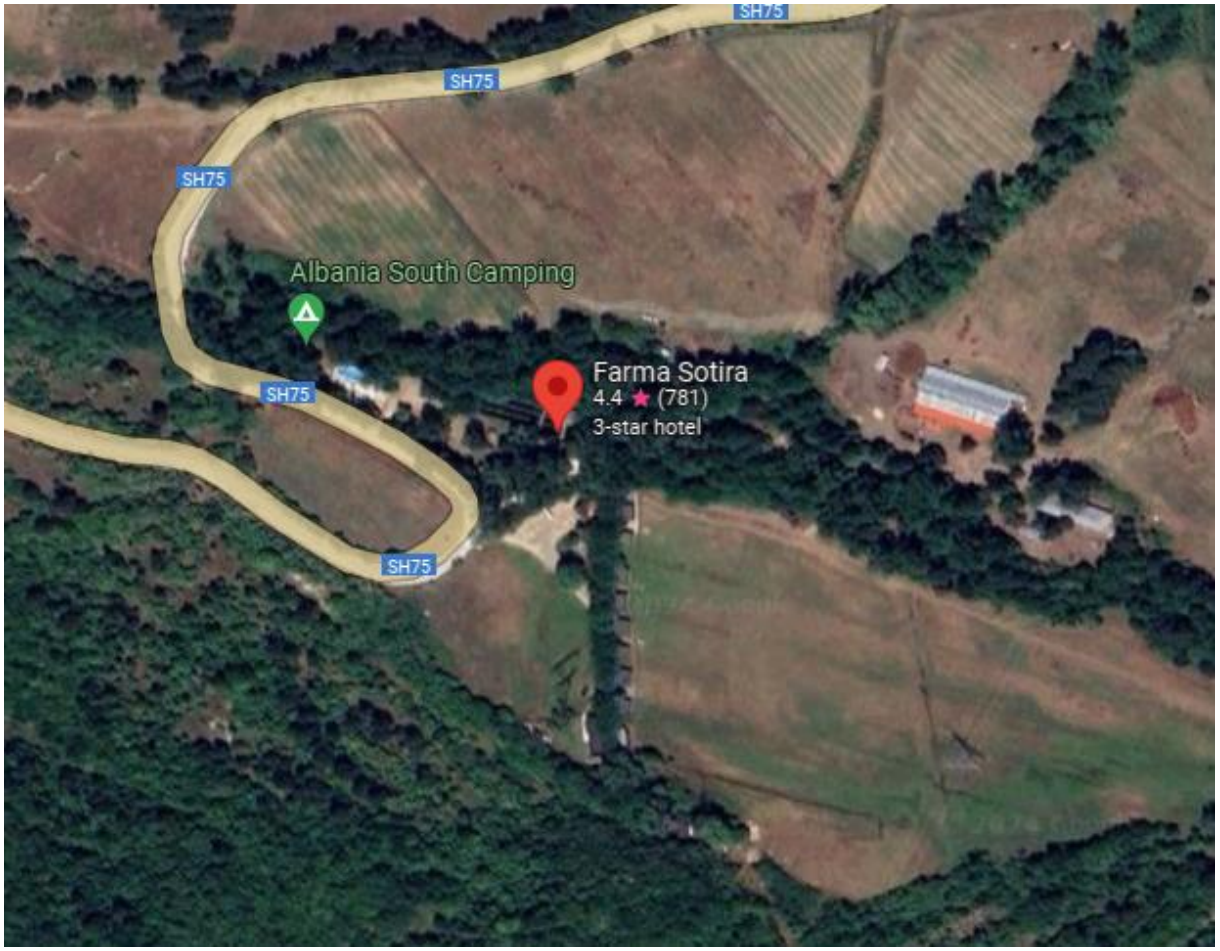


Figure 37: Farm Sotira Map Location (Farm Sotira, 2024)

Farm Stay Sotira, nestled in the Albanian countryside, embodies the principles of sustainable agritourism outlined in the guide.

1. **Location, Terrain, and Topography**:
    - *Proximity to Agricultural Activities:* Farm Stay Sotira is strategically located near agricultural fields, ensuring fresh produce is readily available for farm-to-table dining experiences.
    - *Integration with Natural Terrain:* The guesthouse is built on gentle slopes, allowing for natural drainage and preventing waterlogging, thus enhancing sustainability.
    - *Scenic Views:* Guests enjoy picturesque views of the surrounding landscape, fostering a deep connection with nature and promoting relaxation.
2. **Solar Analysis Scheme**:
    - *Determining Sun Direction:* Utilizing sun path diagrams, the building maximizes natural light and passive solar heating, reducing reliance on artificial lighting and heating systems.

- *South-facing Orientation:* Major openings face south, optimizing sunlight exposure, particularly during winter, and minimizing energy consumption.

3. **Wind Analysis**:
    - *Understanding Wind Patterns:* Local wind patterns are analyzed to ensure optimal natural ventilation, with windows strategically positioned to facilitate cross-ventilation.
    - *Ventilation Design:* The building's design promotes airflow, enhancing indoor air quality without the need for mechanical cooling systems.
4. **Rain Analysis**:
    - *Rainfall Considerations:* Rainwater harvesting systems are integrated to collect and store rainwater for irrigation purposes, reducing dependence on external water sources.
    - *Roof Design:* The roof is designed with appropriate pitch and materials to efficiently shed rainwater, with overhangs protecting walls and entrances from direct rainfall.
5. **Functional Layout and Site Planning**:
    - *Circulation, Connectivity, and Accessibility:* Clear pathways connect various parts of the site, ensuring easy movement for guests and accommodating farm equipment.
    - *Accessible Design:* All areas, including dining spaces, are accessible to individuals with disabilities, ensuring inclusivity.
6. **Farm-to-Table Dining Spaces**:
    - *Proximity to Kitchen:* The dining area is strategically positioned close to the kitchen, facilitating the quick transfer of food and allowing guests to observe the preparation process.
    - *Outdoor Dining Options:* Outdoor dining spaces capitalize on the scenic landscape, providing guests with a unique dining experience amidst nature.
7. **Building Form**:
    - *Functional and Aesthetic Form:* Low-rise structures blend harmoniously with the natural landscape, supporting farm-to-table operations while offering an aesthetically pleasing environment.

- *Modular Design:* The design allows for flexibility and future expansion, catering to evolving needs without disrupting operations.
- *Impact of Form:* The building's form enhances natural ventilation, lighting, and integration with the landscape, preserving the area's natural beauty.

8. **Materials Used**:
    - *Local and Sustainable Materials:* Locally sourced materials such as stone, wood, and clay are used, reducing transportation costs and supporting the local economy.
    - *Durability and Maintenance:* Durable materials requiring minimal maintenance ensure the longevity of the building and reduce long-term costs.
    - *Eco-friendly Options:* Eco-friendly materials like recycled wood and bamboo contribute to the building's sustainability and environmental impact reduction.

Farm Stay Sotira exemplifies how the integration of these principles can create a sustainable, functional, and immersive agritourism experience while preserving and enhancing the natural and cultural landscape of Albania.

5.7.5 Logu i Harushave

Address: Rruga Fushe, Theth, Albania
Location: Located in Theth, situated one hour and forty-five minutes northeast of Shkodra.

Theth area of Albania is home to this farm stay, which provides interaction with farm animals and traditional Albanian food. There is a restaurant and pub close by, and the position is central in Theth. Although the farm stay may not be on the same level as other options in Albania, the staff is helpful and kind, and the rooms have thin walls.

Figure 38:Logu i Harshave View (Logu i Harushave, 2024)

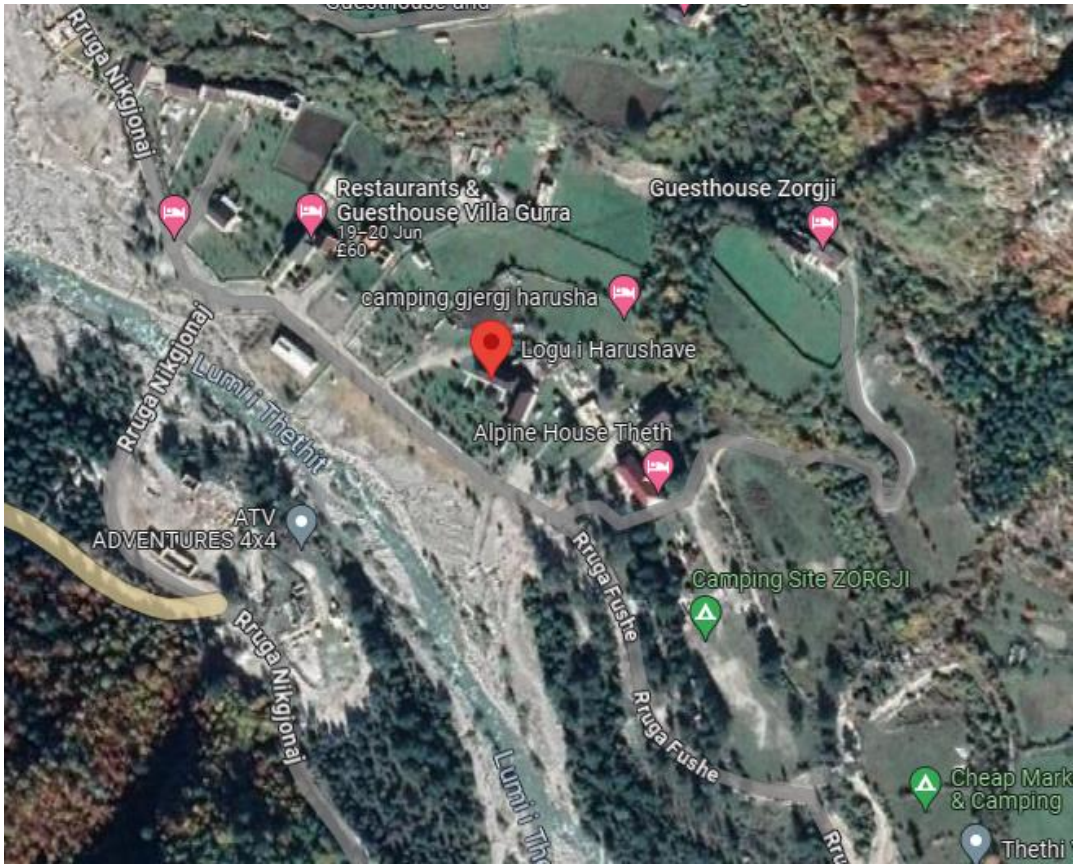


Figure 39: Logu I Harushave Map Location (Logu i Harushave, 2024)

Analysis of Logu i Harushave, Theth, Albania:

1. **Location, Terrain, and Topography:**
    - *Proximity to Agricultural Activities:* Logu i Harushave is strategically positioned near agricultural fields, ensuring easy access to fresh produce for farm-to-table dining experiences.
    - *Integration with Natural Terrain:* The guesthouse is built on gentle slopes, allowing for natural drainage and preventing waterlogging, which enhances sustainability and aesthetic appeal.
    - *Scenic Views:* Situated in Theth, Logu i Harushave offers picturesque views of the surrounding landscape, providing guests with a serene environment conducive to relaxation and connection with nature.
2. **Solar Analysis Scheme:**
    - *Determining Sun Direction:* Utilizing sun path diagrams, the building is oriented to maximize natural light and passive solar heating, minimizing reliance on artificial lighting and heating

systems.

- *South-facing Orientation:* Major openings, including windows and dining areas, face south, optimizing sunlight exposure and reducing energy consumption, particularly during winter.

3. **Wind Analysis:**
    - *Understanding Wind Patterns:* Local wind patterns are analyzed to ensure optimal natural ventilation, with windows and vents strategically positioned to facilitate cross-ventilation and enhance indoor air quality.
    - *Ventilation Design:* The building's design promotes airflow, reducing the need for mechanical cooling systems and creating a comfortable environment for guests.
4. **Rain Analysis:**
    - *Rainfall Considerations:* Logu i Harushave incorporates rainwater harvesting systems to collect and store rainwater for irrigation purposes, minimizing dependence on external water sources.
    - *Roof Design:* The roof is designed with appropriate pitch and materials to efficiently shed rainwater, while overhangs protect walls and entrances from direct rainfall, enhancing durability and maintenance.
5. **Functional Layout and Site Planning:**
    - *Circulation, Connectivity, and Accessibility:* Clear pathways connect various parts of the site, including dining areas, kitchen, fields, and guest accommodations, ensuring easy movement for guests and staff. Accessibility features are integrated to accommodate guests with disabilities.
    - *Farm-to-Table Dining Spaces:* The dining area is strategically positioned close to the kitchen, facilitating the transfer of food and allowing guests to observe the preparation process. Outdoor dining options capitalize on the scenic landscape, offering guests a unique dining experience amidst nature.
6. **Building Form:**
    - *Functional and Aesthetic Form:* Low-rise structures blend harmoniously with the natural landscape, supporting farm-to-

table operations while offering an aesthetically pleasing environment for guests.

- *Modular Design:* The design allows for flexibility and future expansion, catering to evolving needs without disrupting operations.
- *Impact of Form:* The building's form enhances natural ventilation, lighting, and integration with the landscape, preserving the area's natural beauty while minimizing its visual impact on the environment.

7. **Materials Used:**
    - *Local and Sustainable Materials:* Logu i Harushave utilizes locally sourced materials such as stone, wood, and clay, reducing transportation costs and supporting the local economy. These materials are durable, require minimal maintenance, and contribute to the building's eco-friendliness.
    - *Durability and Maintenance:* The chosen materials ensure the longevity of the building, reducing long-term costs associated with maintenance and upkeep.
    - *Eco-friendly Options:* Eco-friendly materials such as recycled wood, bamboo, and natural insulation are incorporated, further enhancing the building's sustainability and environmental impact reduction.

By integrating these principles, Logu i Harushave offers guests a sustainable, functional, and immersive farm-to-table tourism experience while preserving and enhancing the natural and cultural landscape of Theth, Albania.

	Mrizi I Zanave	**Kulla Hupi**	**Hylli I Drites**	**Farm Sotira**	**Logu I Harushave**
Location	South of Shkodra, surrounded by agricultural fields	Bulqizë, 90 minutes east of Tirana, rural setting	Lezhë, 35 minutes south of Shkodra, hilltop location	Gërmenj, 90 minutes south of Korca, forested mountains	Theth, 1 hr 45 mins NE of Shkodra, central Theth
Design Integration	Traditional stone and modern glass	Restored 200-year-old Balkan tower house	Modern, spacious rooms with large bathrooms	Simple, shared bathroom, outdoor seating	Traditional Albanian design, thin walls
Sustainability	Solar	Likely uses	Sun path	Solar	Solar

Practices	orientation, rainwater harvesting, natural ventilation	natural ventilation, rainwater harvesting	diagrams, rainwater collection, natural ventilation	heating, rainwater harvesting, natural ventilation	orientation, natural ventilation, rainwater harvesting
Functional Layout	Accessible design, clear pathways	Clear walkways, close kitchen and dining area	Accessible routes, close dining and kitchen	Clear pathways, accessible design	Clear pathways, close dining and kitchen
Building Form	Low-rise, blends with natural contours	Low-rise, integrates with natural environment	Low-rise, blends with natural landscape	Low-rise, modular design	Low-rise, modular design
Materials Used	Sustainable, locally sourced wood, clay, stone	Locally sourced stone, wood, clay	Locally sourced wood, clay, stone	Locally sourced stone, wood, clay	Locally sourced stone, wood, clay
Unique Features	Exceptional food, fusion of traditional and modern	Upholds traditional Albanian customs	Highly praised Albanian meals, modern amenities	Top-rated in southern Albania, horseback riding, fishing	Interaction with farm animals, traditional food
Accessibility	issues with accessibility	Modern conveniences, helpful staff	Accessible design for guests with disabilities	Accessible design for guests with disabilities	Accessible design for guests with disabilities
Dining Experience	Farm-to-table with fresh produce, beautiful garden	Regional cuisine, close dining and kitchen area	Extensive breakfast with beautiful views, farm-to-table	Farm-to-table with fresh produce, outdoor dining	Farm-to-table with fresh produce, outdoor dining
Cons	Accessibility issues	Limited details on solar and wind analysis	Limited details on modular design	Shared bathroom facilities	Rooms with thin walls

5.8 Vernacular architecture in agritourism design

The term "vernacular" refers to characteristics that are indigenous to a particular area. Preserving cultural and natural values while advancing rural tourism is a viable approach to maintaining rural cultural landscapes and vernacular architecture. By leveraging the distinctive qualities of rural environments—such as distinctive vernacular landscapes, customary local lifestyles, and architectural styles shaped by the interaction between communities and their natural surroundings—this strategy seeks to promote a robust economy. A useful way to advance sustainable tourism practices in rural regions is to highlight rural tourism as a cornerstone of sustainable development in rural communities. (Danaci & Atik, 2014).

5.9 Traditional building techniques

5.10 User-Centered Design

The practice of user-centered design (UCD), which puts the needs and preferences of end users first throughout the design process, is becoming more popular in the architectural community as it is realized how important it is to create buildings that are not only aesthetically beautiful but also extremely functional and user-friendly. To effectively fulfill human wants and preferences, it must be implemented in architectural design through extensive study and testing, which informs the creation of spaces that are designed to suit these requirements. Continuous user participation and testing are part of this iterative process, which makes sure the finished building design best serves its users.

Aligning buildings with user preferences and demands is a major benefit of using UCD in architectural design. Through the integration of user research and testing, architects can create environments that are not only highly functional but also highly navigable, hence improving user pleasure and environment interaction.

Furthermore, UCD makes it easier to identify and address possible design flaws before construction ever starts. Architects can save money and time by quickly identifying and fixing design defects through thorough user research and testing, which also guarantees that the final building design meets user expectations. This proactive approach helps to design buildings that are user-centric and efficient

(Xavier, 2022).

5.11 Architectural features

Designing a sustainable farm-to-table building for tourism involves incorporating several key characteristics to ensure harmony with the natural environment, efficiency, and local cultural integration. Here are the guiding principles:

- **Building Mass and Form**

When creating buildings for farm-to-table tourism, integration with the environment is essential. The shape of the structure should complement its environment; for example, if it is located next to a beach, it should mix in perfectly with the wind and wave patterns. This integration creates a natural synergy between the constructed and natural settings, improving visual appeal and the overall visitor experience.

When design components are incorporated that emulate natural phenomena, such wind or wave movements, architectural harmony is established. This makes the building more aesthetically pleasing and helps create a feeling of location

and connection, so the structure blends in with its surroundings.

- **Regarding sun orientation and natural lighting,** Sun path diagrams are used by planners to establish the best orientation for buildings and locations for windows from sunrise to dusk. By maximizing natural light throughout the day, this tactical strategy lowers the need for artificial lighting and enhances the building's atmosphere.
- **Local wisdom and cultural integration** hold important positions in design. The building can accurately depict the cultural legacy of the area by incorporating local architectural styles, materials, and construction methods. The farm-to-table experience is enhanced by this cultural representation, which also boosts local identity and encourages cultural tourism..
- **Practical** Construction mass and form must be carefully considered throughout implementation. For example, architects can mimic the natural environment in coastal settings by using wind-catching components or undulating rooflines. Employing locally produced materials, such as stone, wood, or thatch, not only complements the environment but also boosts regional economy and lowers transportation-related carbon emissions**.**
- **Strategic window placement** makes sure there is enough natural light, especially in the dining rooms where it improves the ambiance of the meal. Overhangs, pergolas, and vegetation are examples of natural shading solutions that further maximize energy efficiency by lowering heat gain and the demand for air conditioning.
- **Architectural details** such as regional patterns, colors, and motifs enhance the building's aesthetic appeal while honoring local artistry and cultural legacy. Not only can sustainable initiatives like rainwater harvesting and traditional cooling methods help maintain the environment, but they also teach tourists about eco-friendly practices and local customs.

Through the integration of these features, a farm-to-table building may enhance

visitor experience by connecting meaningfully with the local environment and culture, all while achieving sustainability. This all-encompassing strategy promotes local communities, protects cultural legacy for future generations, and is good for the environments**.**

	Mrizi I Zanave	**Kulla Hupi**	**Hylli I Drites**	**Farm Sotira**	**Logu I Harushave**
Architectural Style	Fusion of traditional and modern	Traditional Balkan tower house	Modern with traditional elements	Simple, traditional	Traditional Albanian
Exterior Materials	Stone, glass	Stone, wood	Stone, wood	Stone, wood	Stone, wood
Interior Design	Warm atmosphere with wood elements	Preserved historic beauty, traditional furnishings	Modern, spacious, well-appointed bathrooms	Simple, functional	Traditional, basic furnishings
Natural Light	Large picture windows for natural light	Large openings for sunlight	Maximizes natural light with strategic orientation	Maximizes natural light with south-facing openings	Maximizes natural light with strategic orientation
Ventilation	Natural ventilation through design	Natural ventilation likely through window placement	Cross-ventilation with window and vent positioning	Cross-ventilation with strategic window placement	Cross-ventilation with strategic window placement
Energy Efficiency	Solar orientation, reduced artificial lighting	Large openings for reduced lighting/heating needs	Sun path diagrams for passive solar heating	Solar heating, efficient lighting	Solar orientation, energy-efficient design
Water Management	Rainwater harvesting for irrigation	Rainwater harvesting for irrigation	Rainwater collection systems	Rainwater harvesting systems	Rainwater harvesting systems
Landscape Integration	Blends with natural contours	Integrates with landscape	Positioned on slopes for natural drainage	Built on gentle slopes for natural drainage	Built on gentle slopes for natural drainage
Sustainable Practices	Use of sustainable, locally sourced materials	Use of locally sourced materials	Use of locally sourced materials	Use of locally sourced materials	Use of locally sourced materials
Environmental Impact	Minimal visible impact on surroundings	Minimal visible impact	Enhances natural landscape, minimal impact	Preserves natural beauty, minimal impact	Preserves natural beauty, minimal impact

Outdoor Spaces	Beautiful garden, outdoor seating	Outdoor activities like hiking, horseback riding	Outdoor dining with scenic views	Lush garden, terrace for outdoor seating	Outdoor seating, interaction with farm animals
Guest Interaction with Environment	Farm-to-table experience, connection to nature	Interaction with natural landscape, outdoor activities	Nice views, connection to natural surroundings	Scenic views, interaction with animals and nature	Interaction with natural landscape, outdoor activities

5.12 Design Guidance for Farm to Table Agriculture building in Albania

Table 1: Design Guidance for Farm to Table Agriculture building in Albania

Category	Design Principles
1. Location, Terrain, and Topography	• Position buildings within 500 meters of agricultural fields to minimize produce transportation. • Utilize natural slopes (5-15% grade) for building placement to enhance drainage. • Orient main façades and dining areas towards scenic landscapes. • Avoid construction on prime agricultural land; utilize marginal areas when possible. • Implement terracing techniques for buildings on steeper slopes to minimize erosion.
2. Solar Analysis Scheme	• Use sun path diagrams to determine optimal building orientation; aim for ±15° of true south. • Design roof overhangs to shade windows in summer (when sun is high) and allow sunlight in winter (when sun is low). • Incorporate large, south-facing windows (20-30% of floor area) in main living and dining spaces. • Utilize thermal mass materials (e.g., stone walls, tile floors) near south-facing windows to absorb and release heat. • Implement passive solar design features such as trombe walls or sunspaces where appropriate.
3. Wind Analysis	• Analyze local wind patterns to optimize natural ventilation; align longer building axis perpendicular to prevailing summer winds. • Design for cross-ventilation with operable windows on opposite walls. • Incorporate wind scoops or wind towers in hot regions to enhance air circulation. • Use landscape features (trees, shrubs) as windbreaks to protect from harsh winter winds. • Implement stack ventilation techniques with high and low openings to create natural air flow.
4. Rain Analysis	• Design roofs with a minimum 30° pitch to efficiently shed rainwater. • Implement rainwater harvesting systems with storage capacity based on local rainfall patterns (minimum 5000L). • Use permeable paving materials for driveways and pathways to reduce runoff. • Incorporate green roofs or rain gardens to manage stormwater and enhance biodiversity. • Design overhangs and gutters to direct water away from building foundations (minimum 60cm overhang).
5. Functional Layout and Site Planning	• Design clear, accessible pathways (minimum 1.5m wide) connecting all areas of the site. • Position dining areas within 30 meters of kitchen facilities to maintain food quality. • Create outdoor dining spaces with retractable or permanent shade structures. • Design flexible, modular spaces that can adapt to changing needs (e.g., convertible indoor/outdoor areas). • Incorporate universal design principles: ramps with 1:12 slope, 90cm wide doorways, and accessible restrooms. • Zone the site to separate guest areas from working farm operations while maintaining visual connections. . **Building Form:** • Limit building height to 2-3 stories to maintain rural character and minimize visual impact. • Use traditional Albanian architectural forms (e.g., pitched roofs, stone facades) reinterpreted for modern functionality.

Category	Design Principles
	• Design compact building forms with a surface area to volume ratio of 0.6-0.8 to optimize energy efficiency. • Incorporate courtyards or atriums to create microclimate zones and enhance natural lighting. • Use earth-sheltered design techniques where appropriate to regulate indoor temperatures. **Materials Used:** • Prioritize locally-sourced materials: stone, wood, and clay should constitute at least 60% of building materials. • Use high thermal mass materials for walls (e.g., rammed earth, stone) with R-value of at least R-20. • Implement green building materials: recycled wood, bamboo flooring, or sheep's wool insulation. • Utilize traditional techniques like stone masonry or wood joinery, integrating with modern construction methods. • Specify low-VOC paints and finishes to maintain healthy indoor air quality. • Use local craft techniques in interior finishes (e.g., hand-woven textiles, carved wood details) to enhance cultural authenticity.

6 CHAPTER 6: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Conclusions and Recommendations for Case Studies:

Case Study 1: Mrizi i Zanave

Conclusions:

Mrizi i Zanave exemplifies a harmonious blend of traditional Albanian architecture and modern design principles, creating a visually striking and functional farm-to-table destination. The building's exterior seamlessly integrates traditional stone cladding with contemporary elements, notably the two-story picture window that floods the interior with natural light. This architectural feature not only enhances the aesthetic appeal but also aligns with sustainable design practices by reducing reliance on artificial lighting. The use of local materials, such as stone and wood, reflects a commitment to sustainability and cultural authenticity. The building's form and orientation appear to be well-considered, taking advantage of the natural landscape to offer guests panoramic views of the surrounding countryside. While the exact details of its solar orientation and ventilation systems are not specified, the emphasis on natural light suggests a thoughtful approach to passive design strategies. The integration of indoor and outdoor spaces, particularly in dining areas, creates a seamless connection between the built environment and the agricultural setting, enhancing the farm-to-table experience for guests.

Case Study 2: Kulla Hupi Guesthouse

Conclusions:

Kulla Hupi Guesthouse stands as a testament to the successful preservation and adaptation of Albania's architectural heritage for modern agritourism. The restoration of the two-hundred-year-old Balkan tower house demonstrates a deep respect for traditional building techniques while incorporating contemporary amenities. The structure's original form, likely designed to take advantage of natural ventilation and thermal mass for climate control, has been maintained. The use of authentic materials in the restoration process, such as local stone and wood, contributes to the building's sustainability profile and cultural integrity. The guesthouse's layout appears to be optimized for its hillside location, potentially leveraging the natural topography for drainage and views. While specific details about energy systems are not provided, the restoration likely included updates to improve energy efficiency while preserving the

building's historic character. The integration of outdoor spaces for activities like horseback riding suggests a thoughtful site plan that connects the built environment with the surrounding landscape, enhancing the overall agritourism experience.

Case Study 3: Hylli i Drites

Conclusions:

Hylli i Drites showcases a sophisticated approach to agritourism architecture, balancing modern comfort with sustainable design principles. The building's hilltop location demonstrates careful site selection, offering panoramic views of the Lezha countryside and optimizing natural ventilation. The architectural design likely incorporates large windows and outdoor terraces to capitalize on these views, seamlessly blending indoor and outdoor spaces. The emphasis on locally-sourced ingredients in the dining experience suggests a well-planned integration of agricultural areas with the main building, possibly including kitchen gardens or orchards in close proximity. The rooms' description as modern and spacious indicates a focus on guest comfort, potentially featuring high ceilings and ample natural light. While specific sustainable technologies are not mentioned, the overall approach suggests the potential incorporation of energy-efficient systems and possibly rainwater harvesting, given the property's commitment to sustainability. The use of well-appointed bathrooms highlights the balance between luxury and eco-consciousness in the design.

Case Study 4: Farm Stay Sotira

Conclusions:

Farm Stay Sotira's architecture embodies the principles of vernacular design adapted for agritourism purposes. The building's integration into the forested mountain landscape suggests a low-impact approach, likely utilizing natural materials that complement the surroundings. The design appears to prioritize outdoor connectivity, with mentions of a lush garden and terrace indicating thoughtful landscaping that blends with the natural environment. While the accommodations are described as simple, this aligns with sustainable principles of minimizing resource use. The shared bathroom facilities, while potentially a compromise on luxury, can be seen as a water-saving measure. The building's form and orientation likely take advantage of the mountainous terrain for natural shading and cooling. The inclusion of a restaurant and bar suggests a communal space design that fosters guest interaction and showcases local culinary traditions, integral to the farm-to-table concept.

Case Study 5: Logu i Harushave

Logu i Harushave's architectural approach appears to prioritize authenticity and integration with the natural beauty of the Theth region. The building's design likely incorporates traditional Albanian architectural elements, using local materials that harmonize with the mountainous landscape. The emphasis on providing scenic views suggests a careful orientation of the building and strategic placement of windows to frame the surrounding vistas. The inclusion of outdoor seating areas indicates a design that encourages guests to engage with the natural environment. While the accommodations are noted to be simply furnished, this simplicity aligns with sustainable design principles and allows the focus to remain on the agricultural and natural surroundings. The proximity of the restaurant to agricultural activities suggests a well-thought-out site plan that facilitates the farm-to-table concept. Although specific energy-efficient features are not mentioned, the overall description implies a low-impact design approach that respects the local ecosystem and cultural context of the Theth region.

	Mrizi I Zanave	Kulla Hupi	Hylli I Drites	Farm Sotira	Logu I Harushave
Adventages	• Highest-rated farm stay in Albania • Exceptional food quality • Fusion of traditional and modern design • Sustainable practices • Warm, welcoming interior	• Authentic traditional experience • Beautiful historic architecture • Scenic surroundings • Outdoor activities (hiking, horseback riding) • Modern conveniences	• Modern and spacious rooms • Highly praised for food quality • Stunning countryside views • Easy access for travelers	• Top-rated farm stay in southern Albania • Traditional Albanian cuisine • Outdoor activities (horseback riding, fishing) • Calm environment	• Central location in Theth • Interaction with farm animals • Traditional Albanian food
Disadvantages	Accessibility issues	Remote locatio May lack some modern amenities	Limited detailed information on sustainability May lack detailed	Shared bathroom facilities Basic furnishings	Thin walls in room May not be as luxurious as other options

			environmental analysis		May lack some modern amenities Basic compared to other farm stays

6.2 Other Conclusions and recommendations based on Literature Review Conclusions:

1. **Integration of Architecture, Agriculture, and Tourism:** The study reveals the intricate relationship between architecture, agriculture, and tourism in agritourism ventures, highlighting how thoughtful architectural design can optimize this integration to foster sustainable development in rural areas. By leveraging design principles that harmonize with the natural and cultural context, agritourism projects can enhance visitor experiences while preserving the environment and supporting local economies.
2. **Key Factors Influencing Success:** Through a comprehensive analysis of literature and case studies, several key factors influencing the design and implementation of successful agritourism ventures have been identified. These include site layout optimization, selection of appropriate building materials, integration of cultural elements, and effective stakeholder engagement. Understanding and addressing these factors are critical for maximizing the sustainability and success of agritourism projects.
3. **Best Practices in Architectural Design:** The research identifies a range of best practices in architectural design for agritourism, emphasizing the importance of site-sensitive planning, use of sustainable materials, and incorporation of local cultural elements. By prioritizing principles such as energy efficiency, land use optimization, and waste management, architects can create spaces that not only attract tourists but also contribute positively to the surrounding environment and community.
4. **Recommendations for Stakeholders:** Based on the findings,

recommendations are offered for policymakers, architects, and agritourism stakeholders to promote the adoption of sustainable design principles in future projects. These recommendations include the development of supportive policy frameworks, capacity-building initiatives for architects and designers, and incentives for implementing sustainable practices. Collaboration among stakeholders is emphasized to ensure holistic planning and implementation of agritourism ventures.

5. **Practical Guidance for Implementation:** Derived from case studies and literature analysis, a set of practical suggestions is provided to guide the implementation of sustainable architectural strategies in agritourism ventures. These suggestions encompass aspects such as site assessment and planning, building design and construction, landscape integration, and community engagement. By following these guidelines, stakeholders can create agritourism destinations that are environmentally responsible, culturally authentic, and economically viable.

Recommendations:

1. **Policy Support:** Policymakers should prioritize the development of supportive regulatory frameworks that incentivize sustainable architectural design in agritourism ventures. This may include offering tax incentives, streamlining permit processes, and establishing guidelines for eco-friendly construction practices.
2. **Capacity Building:** Architects and designers should undergo training programs and workshops focused on sustainable design principles and techniques tailored to agritourism contexts. Continuous professional development opportunities should be provided to ensure proficiency in integrating agriculture, tourism, and architecture effectively.
3. **Stakeholder Collaboration:** Effective collaboration among stakeholders, including government agencies, local communities, tourism operators, and agricultural producers, is essential for the success of agritourism projects. Regular communication, consultation, and participation in decision-making processes can ensure alignment of interests and collective action towards sustainability goals.

4. **Resource Optimization:** Architects and developers should prioritize resource optimization in design and construction, including the use of locally sourced materials, energy-efficient building systems, and water conservation measures. Embracing innovative technologies and practices can minimize environmental impact while enhancing the overall quality and durability of agritourism infrastructure.
5. **Community Engagement:** Engaging local communities in the design and development process is crucial for fostering a sense of ownership, cultural authenticity, and social cohesion. Architects should involve residents in participatory design workshops, storytelling sessions, and hands-on construction activities to ensure that agritourism projects reflect community values and aspirations.

By implementing these recommendations and embracing sustainable design principles, stakeholders can create agritourism destinations that not only attract visitors but also contribute to the long-term prosperity and resilience of rural areas. The symbiotic relationship between architecture, agriculture, and tourism can be harnessed to promote environmental stewardship, economic growth, and cultural vitality in agrarian communities.

Part 1: Conclusions from Literature on Agritourism

Agritourism is recognized as a pivotal driver of sustainable rural development, as evidenced by a thorough examination of the literature. It serves as a catalyst for economic diversification and revitalization in rural communities by integrating local agricultural practices with tourism. Through the preservation and promotion of local traditions, cuisine, and craftsmanship, agritourism ventures attract tourists seeking authentic experiences while safeguarding cultural heritage.

Moreover, sustainable agritourism practices, such as organic farming and eco-friendly construction, contribute significantly to environmental conservation. These initiatives not only minimize ecological footprints but also promote biodiversity and resource efficiency. Overall, agritourism emerges as a potent mechanism for promoting environmental stewardship and enhancing socio-economic resilience in rural areas.

Part 2: Architectural Insights into Agritourism

Architectural design plays a pivotal role in optimizing the sustainability and appeal of agritourism destinations. Case studies underscore how thoughtful design strategies enhance visitor experiences while aligning with local contexts. Incorporating traditional building materials and techniques not only enhances authenticity but also supports local economies and reduces environmental impacts associated with material transportation.

The integration of passive design strategies, such as maximizing natural light and ventilation, contributes to energy efficiency and guest comfort. Sustainable technologies, like rainwater harvesting and solar power, further underscore the commitment to environmental responsibility. Moreover, community engagement in design processes ensures that agritourism developments resonate with local values and aspirations, fostering social cohesion and cultural pride.

Part 3: Overall Common Conclusion

In conclusion, the convergence of architecture, agriculture, and tourism in agritourism ventures offers promising avenues for sustainable rural development. By blending traditional knowledge with contemporary design principles, stakeholders can create destinations that celebrate local identities, bolster economic resilience, and conserve natural resources.

Future research should prioritize refining architectural guidelines specific to agritourism to maximize sustainability and enrich visitor experiences. This includes exploring innovative materials, evaluating socio-economic impacts, and fostering effective stakeholder collaboration. Emphasizing community-based planning and cultivating partnerships between architects, policymakers, and local communities will be essential in achieving long-term sustainability goals.

Drawing on insights from case studies, which highlight successful integration of architectural and agritourism principles, stakeholders can harness agritourism's transformative potential to create vibrant, culturally enriched rural destinations. These efforts not only benefit local communities but also contribute to global sustainability endeavors by showcasing sustainable practices and preserving cultural heritage.

7 REFERENCES

(AASF), A. A. (2019). *Agritourism Sector in Albania: Development Potentials and Financial Needs*. Retrieved from https://aasf.com.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/AgritourismEN-with-cover.pdf

Ali Shah, I., Rajper, Z., Ali Ghumro, I., & Wahab Mahar, S. (2018). Experiential value mediates relationship between Experiential Marketing and Customer Satisfaction. *Sukkur IBA J. Manag. Bus.*

Barbieri, C. (2020). Agritourism research: a perspective article. *Emerald Insight*.

Barbieri, C., & Valdivia, C. (2010). Recreation Multifunctionality and its implications for agroforestry diffusion. *Agroforestry Systems*.

Bartesaghi-Koc, C. (2010). *Systemic Agro-tourism: Arequipa's Downtown Masterplan and Self-manufactured Eco-shelters.* nternational Architecture Festival Catalogue .

Besra, N. (2018). *Agritourism in Albania, Case Studies Summer Intern*. Retrieved from Harvard Kennedy School, : https://albania.growthlab.cid.harvard.edu/files/albaniagrowthlab/files/besra_agritourism_2018.pdf

Brandth, B. H. (2011). Farm diversification into tourism – Implications for social identity? . *Journal of Rural Studies*.

Briedenhann, J., & Wickens, E. (2004). Tourism Routes as a Tool for the Economic Development of Rural Areas – vibrant hope or impossible dream? *Tourism Management*.

Busby, G., & Rendle, S. (2000). The transition from tourism in farms to farm tourism. . *Tourism Management*, 635-642.

Carrier, M., & Schalliol, D. (2020). Engagement as theory: Architecture, Planning and Placemaking in the twenty-first century city. *Rethinking The Future*.

Chansomsak, S., & Vale, B. (2018). *Sustainable Architecture: Architecture As Sustainability.* The Proceedings of the World Conference SB08 - ISBN 978-0-646-50372-1.

Cohen, E. (1987). "Alternative Tourism"—A Critique. *Tourism Recreation Research*.

Colton, J. W., & Bissix, G. (2005). Developing Agritourism in Nova Scotia: Issues and Challenges. *Journal of Sustainable Agriculture*.

Colton, J. W., & Bissix, G. (2005). Developing Agritourism in Nova Scotia: Issues and

Challenges. *Journal of Sustainable Agriculture*.

Danaci, H., & Atik, M. (2014). *Rural Tourism and Vernacular Architecture: An Example from Elmalı, Antalya.* American International Journal of Contemporary Research.

Dwyer, L., Lee, J., & Chen, N. (2019). The role of place attachment in tourism research. *Journal of Travel and Tourism Marketing*.

Errington, A. . (1994). Agri-tourism and Rural Revitalization in China's Peri-urban Areas: The Case of Dutang . *Journal of Rural Studies*.

Farm Sotira, .. (2024). Retrieved from https://www.farmasotira.com/

Ferrari, S., & Rambonilaza, T. (2009). Agricultural Activities, Rural Areas and Natural Environment: Drawing Up the Frontiers of the Multifunctionality Concept. *Research Gate*.

Fleischer, A., & Pizam, A. (1997). Rural Tourism in Israel. *Tourism Management*.

Gkoltsiou, A. (2012). The role of landscape architect in agritourism landscape design. *greekarchitects.net*.

Hegarty, C., & Przezborska, L. (2005). Rural and agri-tourism as a tool for reorganizing rural areas in old and new member states-a comparison study of Ireland and Poland. *International Journal of Tourism Research*, 63-77.

Hotelmix, .. (2024). Retrieved from https://kulla-hupi-guesthouse-bulqize-al.hotelmix.co.uk/

Hylli i Drites, .. (2024). Retrieved from https://hyllidrites.weebly.com/

Ilbery, B., Bowler, I., Clark, G., Crockett, A., & Shaw, A. (1998). Farm based tourism as an alternative farm enterprise: A case study from the Northern Pennines, England. . *Regional Studies*, 355-364.

Kastenholz, E., & Figueiredo, E. (2014). *Rural Tourism Experiences.* Rural Tourism.

Kime, L. F., Harper, J. K., Hancharick, A., Becker, J. C., & Harsh, R. M. (n.d.). *Agricultural Alternatives. Report by Pennsylvania State University Cooperative Extension*. Retrieved from http://pubs.cas.psu.edu/FreePubs/pdfs/ee0008.pdf

Kizos, T., & Iosifides, T. (2007). The contradictions of agrotourism development in Greece: Evidence from three case studies. *South European Society & Politics*, , 59-77.

Kron, G. (2017). The Diversification and Intensification of Italian Agriculture: The Complementary Roles of the Small and Wealthy Farmer. *Research Gate*.

Lerman, Z. (2001). Agriculture in transition economies: from common heritage to divergence. . *Agricultural Economics*.

Lobo, R. E., Goldman, G. E., Jolly, D. A., Wallace, B. D., Schrader, W. L., & Parker, S. (1999).

Agritourism benefits agriculture in San Diego County. *California Agriculture*.

Logu i Harushave, .. (2024). *Hotelmix*. Retrieved from https://logu-i-harushave-theth.hotelmix.co.uk/

Manurung, P. (2014). *Arsitektur Berkelanjutan, Belajar Dari Kearifkan Arsitektur Nusantara.* Simposium Nasional RAPI XIII-2014 FT UMS.

Marcak, K., & Janowska-Biernat, .. (2020). Opportunities and barriers to the development of tourism in rural areas. *ANNALS of the Polish Association of Agricultural and Agribusiness*.

McGehee, N., & Kim, K. (2004). Motivation for Agri-Tourism Entrepreneurship. *Journal of Travel research.*

McKenzie, N., & Wysocki, A. (2002). Agritainment: A Viable Option for Florida Producers. *IFAS Extension*.

Mrizi i Zanave, .. (2024). Retrieved from https://www.mrizizanave.al/

Mukund, K. (2016). *Sustainable Architecture An Introduction.* IAEME Publication.

Nagy, H. K., & B., M. (2017). The potentials of rural tourism in developing rural areas in Albania. *DETUROPE – The Central European Journal of Regional Development and Tourism*.

Özçatalbaş, O., Mansurogly, S., & Ceylan, C. (2018). Rural tourism extension for community development and Turkey. *Research Gate*.

Philip, S., Hunter, C., & Blackstock, K. (2009). A typology for defining agritourism. *Tourism Management*.

Phillip, S. H., & Blackstock, K. (2010). A typology for defining agritourism. *Tourism Management*.

Poria, Y., Butler, R., & Airey, D. (2004). Links Between Tourists, Heritage, and Reasons for Visiting Heritage Sites. *Research Gate.*

Sandt, V. (2018). Place-Based Innovation: An Integrated Look at Agritourism in the Western US. *AFRI Project #2014-68006-21824.*

Scerri, M., Edwards, C., & Foley, C. (2018). Design, architecture and the value to tourism. *Tourism Economics*.

Sharpley, R. (2002). Rural Tourism and the Challenge of Tourism diversification: The Case of Cyprus. *Tourism Management*.

Slavič, P., & Schmitz, S. (2013). Farm tourism across Europe. *European Countryside*.

Sulaj, A., & Themelko, H. (2015). Impact of Urbanization to Demographic Changes Occurred

in Recent Years in Areas along the Tirana-Durres Corridor. *Anglisticum, and International Journal of Literature Linguistics & Interdisciplinary Studies,*.

Syam, f., Wisdianti, D., Sajar, S., & Bahri, S. (2023). *Study of Sustainable Architecture Concepts.* International Journal of Research and Review Vol. 10; Issue: 4;.

Talbot, M. (2012). Farm Tourism in Wales: Products, markets and evidence of local benefits. *In Agritourism Between Embeddedness and Internationalization Proceedings*, 93-106.

Tanrivermis, H., & Sanli, H. (2007). A Research on the Impacts of Tourism on Rural Household Income and Farm Enterprises:The Case of the Nevsehir Province of Turkey. *Journal of Agriculture and Rural Development in the Tropics and Subtropics*.

Tarihi, G. (2016). *The role of rural tourim in rural development: the case of Turkey.* Journal of Economics and Administrative Sciences- Volume:XVIIIssue: 2.

Tseng, S., Wang, D., Shen, C., & Chung, C. (2023). A Study on the Relationship between Tourists' Experience and Experience Value and Satisfaction in Taiwan's Farmer's Markets. *Sustainability*.

UNWTO, .. (2017). *Agritourism in Albania.*

USDA, .. (2007). *United States Department of Agriculture: National Agriculture Statistics Service.* Retrieved from 2007 Census of Agriculture: U.S. State Level Data: http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Full_Report/usv1.pdf

Uzun, C. (2013). Change in Tourism Planning Approach in the case of South Antalya Tourism Area. *OpenMetu*.

Veeck, G., Che, D., & Veeck, A. (2006). America's changing farmscape: a study of agricultural tourism in Michigan. *The Professional Geographer*, 235-248.

Wicks, B., & Merrett, C. (2003). Agritourism: An economic opportunity for Illinois. *Rural Research Report*, 1-8.

Wielenga, B. (2021). New experiences in nature areas: architecture as a tool to stimulate transformative experiences among visitors in nature areas? *Journal of Tourism Features*.

Wilson, S., Fesenmaier, D. R., Fesenmaier, J., & Van Es, J. C. (2001). Factors for Success in Rural. *Tourism Development*.

WTO, W. T. (2001). *Tourism Satellite Accounts: Recommended Methodological Framework.* New York: United Nations,.

Xavier, J. (2022). *Enhancing Functionality and User Experience through User Centered Design in Architectural Design.* Journal of Steel Structures & Construction.