

THE WORD AND FORM IN VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE OF HIGHLANDS OF
TIRANA

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Approval sheet of the Thesis

This is to certify that we have read this thesis entitled “**The word and form in vernacular architecture of Highlands of Tirana.**” and that in our opinion it is fully adequate, in scope and quality, as a thesis for the degree of Master of Science.

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ABSTRACT

THE WORD AND FORM IN VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE OF HIGHLANDS OF TIRANA

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This is a research work on the old terms of traditional Albanian architecture. Together with the illustrations, they translate architecture into a language understandable to all people. The lack of a dictionary in the Albanian language of traditional local architecture has been identified. Thus, in the field of architecture are used mostly words borrowed or adapted from other languages such as English. Words in architecture are an important tool to create a bridge between the architect and the client. They serve to explain well the images (such as plans, functions, techniques, details, etc...) in the present but also to inherit a cultural wealth for tomorrow.

In order to make possible the creation of this dictionary, we must identify the old terms of architecture. To identify this terms, I first started from the knowledge that I already had. The highlands of Tirana have always made me curious as an area. I have been given the opportunity to know this area closely as its resident. For this reason, several cases in the highlands of Tirana have been closely studied for the very fact that they preserve pure qualities of Albanian folk architecture. In these case studies, the old words of traditional architecture have been identified through interviews. These will be explained and illustrated with concrete existing examples.

Keywords: *Traditional architecture, local architecture, cultural wealth, architectural terms, words, illustrations, Tirana highlands, interviews, case studies.*

ABSTRAKT

FJALA, FORMA DHE ARKITEKTURA POPULLORE NË MALËSINË E TIRANËS

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Kjo është një punë kërkimore mbi termat e vjetra të arkitekturës tradicionale shqiptare. Së bashku me ilustrimet, ata përkthejnë arkitekturën në një gjuhë të kuptueshme për të gjithë njerëzit. Është evidentuar mungesa e një fjalori në gjuhën shqipe të arkitekturës tradicionale vendase. Kështu, në fushën e arkitekturës përdoren kryesisht fjalë të huazuara ose të përshtatura nga gjuhë të tjera si anglishtja. Fjalët në arkitekturë janë një mjet i rëndësishëm për të krijuar një urë lidhëse midis arkitektit dhe klientit. Ato shërbejnë për të shpjeguar mirë imazhet (si planet, funksionet, teknikat, detajet etj...) në të tashmen por edhe për të trashëguar një pasuri kulturore për të nesërmen.

Për të bërë të mundur krijimin e këtij fjalori, duhet të identifikojmë termat e vjetër të arkitekturës. Për të identifikuar këto terma, fillimisht u nisa nga njohuritë që kisha. Malësia e Tiranës më ka bërë gjithmonë kurioze si zonë. Më është dhënë mundësia ta njoh nga afër këtë zonë si banor e saj. Për këtë arsye, disa raste në malësitë e Tiranës janë studiuar nga afër për vetë faktin se ato ruajnë cilësi të pastra të arkitekturës popullore shqiptare. Në këto raste studimore, fjalët e vjetra të arkitekturës tradicionale janë identifikuar përmes intervistave. Këto do të shpjegohen dhe ilustrohen me shembuj konkretë ekzistues.

***Fjalët kyçe:** Arkitektura tradicionale, arkitekturë lokale, pasuri kulturore, terma arkitektonikë, fjalë, ilustrime, malësia e Tiranës, intervista, raste studimore.*

*Dedicated to my parents who taught me love for the knowledge and to my mentor, Prof.
Kreshnik Merxhani.*

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I would like to express my special appreciation for all the people that have been a huge help on the building on this thesis. Special thanks to my mentor Prof. Kreshnik Merxhani for helping me to carve the understanding of this research.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Problem Statement

The old words used in different regions have their own impact on architecture. Rural Tirana has been decreasing in population for two decades. This happens even more rapidly in the highlands due to the hard atmospheric conditions which make it harder for the residents to plant their lands. As a result there are few residents remaining in the villages and in many fewer houses still occupied. Some stone houses are still standing strong on the highlands of Tirana. They hold inside people that lived in the days from previous decades.

The discovery or remaining of the old architectural words of the highlands of Tirana, could help by enriching our Albanian vernacular architectural vocabulary. A vocabulary on the Albanian language helps to ease the translation of the architecture from imagery to a written and spoken communication. In these modern times where people are already used to technology, it seems extra hard to save the culture and your own language and easier to adapt with the new innovations of the modern times.

Focusing on the elderly is a goal as they remember very valuable transitions of the architecture and the society itself. But in order to understand their memories and their experience we must learn to understand and talk their language. On a journey of the Shëngjergj province of a century ago, we will try to understand if we are still speaking the same language with the highlanders, architecture wise. We will understand if these words do actually comprehend a deeper and heavier meaning than we know them to be today.

The thesis you are about to read is focused on rural Tirana but the study has started

for five different districts in Albania. This districts are well known in Albania and the all five, have a rich culture. The study continues on four other researches made for the cities of Kruja, Korca, Shkodra and Berat.

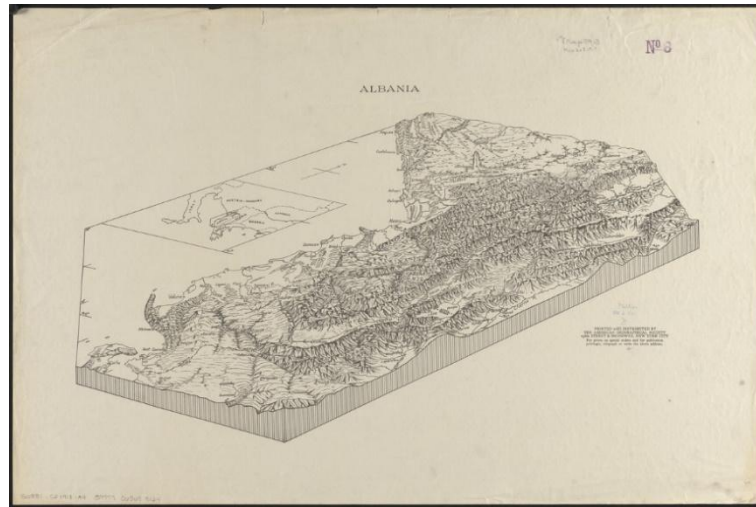


Figure 1. Relief map of Albania taken from Norman B. Leventhal Map Center Collection.

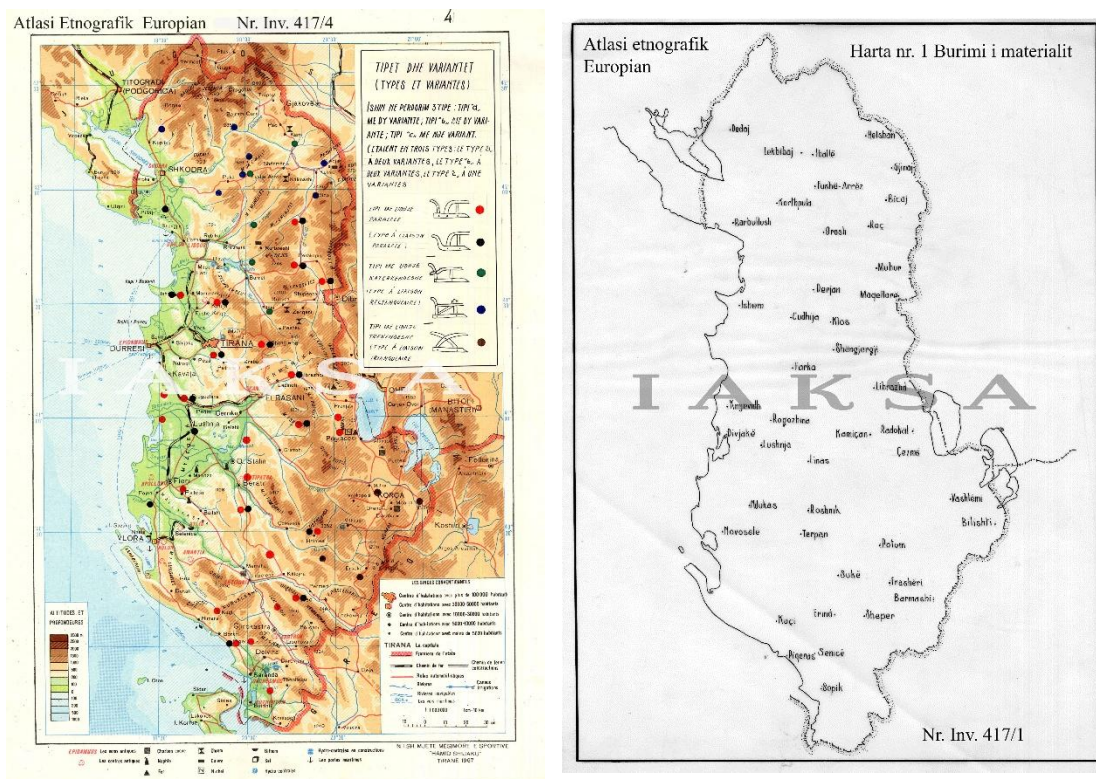


Figure 2. Etnografik maps of Albania taken from Instituti I Antropologjisë dhe stidimit të Artit, Arkivi i Skicotekës, Fondi Planimetri. Hartë Nr.ihv 417/1 and hartë Nr.ihv 417/4.



Figure 3. Passport of Tirana Municipality taken from PortaVendore.al.



Figure 4. Orienting map of Shëngjergj province taken from the Facebook page of the province.

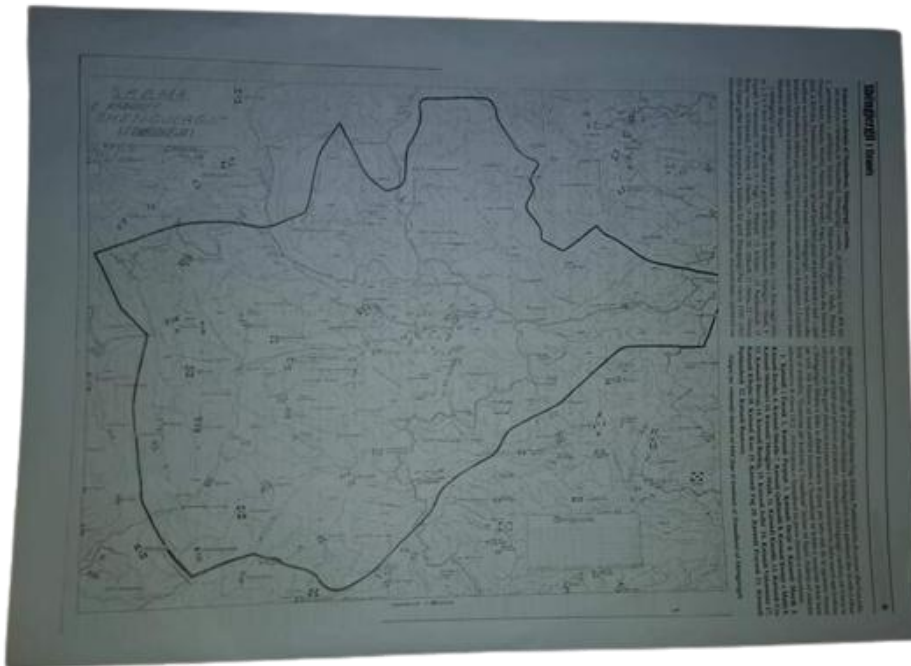


Figure 5. Orienting map of Shëngjergj province taken from a newspaper, published on the Facebook page of the province.

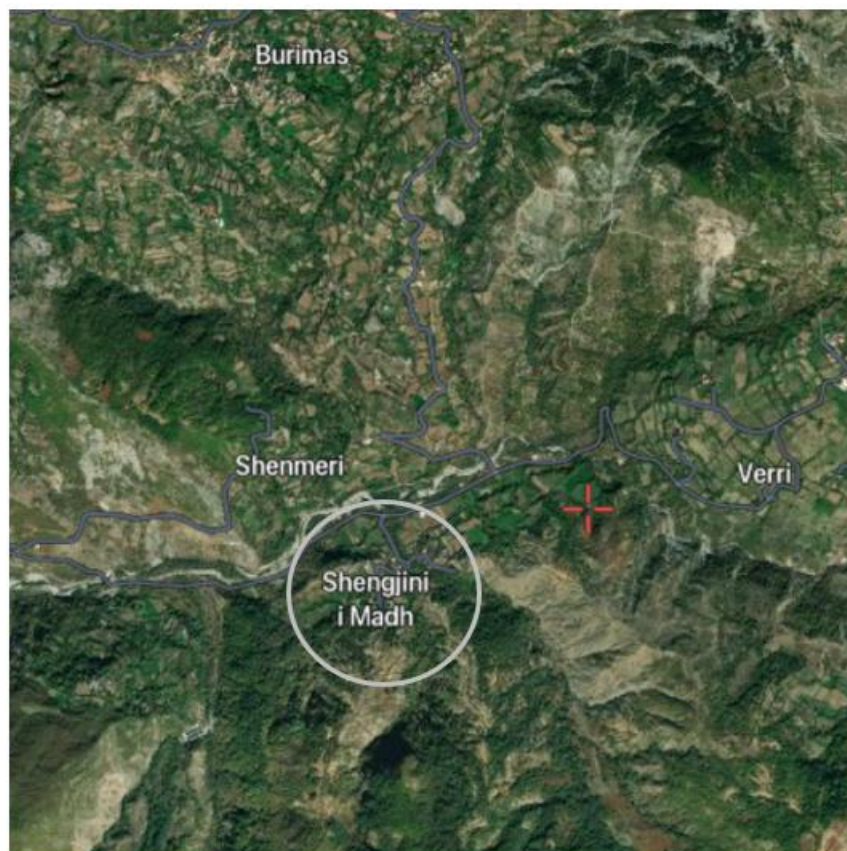


Figure 6. Location of the village Shëngjin i Madh of Shëngjergj province which is taken under study. Map from satellites.pro.

1.1 Thesis Objective

The objective of this thesis is to gather old architectural terms in our mother language. But once these words are noted, there must be created a record of some kind of the gathered information. This study aims in a way to rise some awareness regarding this topic. The only way to transmit further the old architectural terms of the past is to have clear record of it. In the beginning of this study the goal was to focus on the gathering of the world's once used, today forgotten of old architecture. But through the process, is very easy to become a student of your own research.

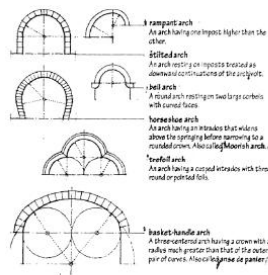
So what starts as a simple research with a few sources, tends to expand on the way and reveals a new world. Once you get to know this world of the past you start to understand the struggle, the history and what human go through to develop and hence to create what we call the present. One of the definitions of the word monument in the Merriam-Webster dictionary describes monument as: a lasting evidence, reminder, or example of someone or something notable or great. If a statue can be a monument, or a painting, or a building, why can't the word not be one?

This study aims to gather the forgotten architectural words but mostly to open a door to a new movement which can spread for all the cities in our country. That would enable the writing of a fully complete Albanian architectural dictionary with illustrations. An interesting book which is dedicated to architecture is *A Visual Dictionary of Architecture* by Francis D.K. Ching (*figure 7*). Rich on words and illustrations it has not exactly the looks of a traditional dictionary but yet is so efficient. A good architectural dictionary from an Albanian author is the one from Dr.Vera Bushati (*figure 7*). Seems like a very good example of what a future Albanian Architectural Dictionary can look like. A guide on how to start creating dictionary of this kind can be found in “Udhëzues për mbledhjen e fjalëve të shprehjes së gjuhës shqipe” (*figure 8*), with illustrations and clear instruction on how to register the old terms.

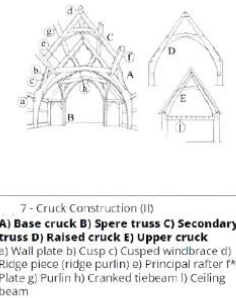
The format of illustrations and explanation of the terms decided from the literature review.



Example of an architectural dictionary. Photo taken from "Fjalori Terminologjik për Historinë e Arkitekturës", 2018



Example of an architectural dictionary. Photo taken from "A Visual Dictionary of Architecture", 2012



Example of an architectural dictionary. Photo taken from "Vernacular Architecture Glossary", 1977

Figure 7. Examples of architectural dictionaries taken from ("Fjalori Terminologjik për Historinë e Arkitekturës", 2018), ("A Visual Dictionary of Architecture", 2012), ("Vernacular Architecture Glossary", 1977).

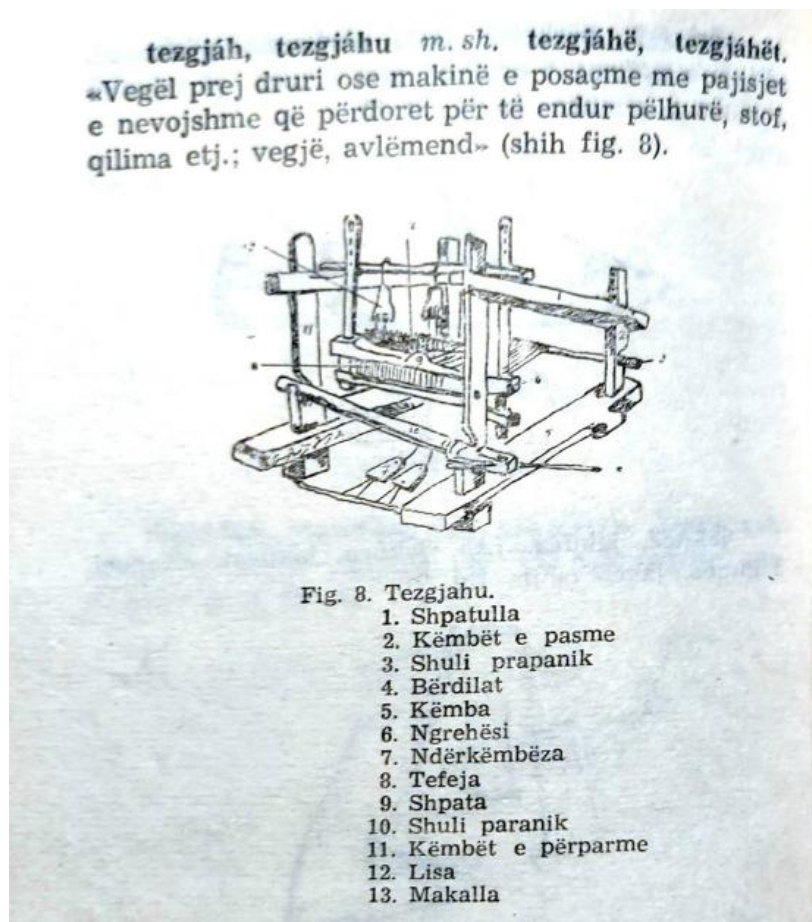


Figure 8. Example from "Udhëzues për mbledhjen e fjalëve të shprehjes së gjuhës shqipe".

1.2 Scope of works

This study aims to gather a minimum of 20 words which must be part of the old lexicon of the highlands Tirana. To achieve this, there are employed both qualitative and quantitative methods. As a secondary goal there is the study of some old traditional dwellings in villages of Tirana district aiming to help with a visionary explanations of the collected words.

Content Analysis and quantitative method such as Descriptive Research are combined to achieve the result. Through the Content Analyses there will be analysis of the presence, meanings, and relationships of the gathered words. Through Descriptive Research there is held a survey as well as different interviews with interlockers. Four houses are taken as case studies to provide illustrations for the collected words.

1.3 Organization of the thesis

This thesis start with chapter one an introduction on why I chose this topic. A statement of the actual problem and on the objectives that this research aims. Explaining in generally the boundaries of Tirana and as wells as the researches made on the toping of architectural terms up to this day. This chapters serves to give a better understanding of the actual situation on the matter of architecture and its spoken words in Tirana. The scope of works and the organization of the thesis are found here.

The chapter two focuses on the literature review with special attention given to the “Monumentet” magazine. A few numbers of issued magazines had articles about Tirana city and the surrounding villages. Highly valuable this magazines were a great help to extract the old forgotten words not just for mentioning the words but because they are used in a context. Finding the words in their own context is a great help in comprehending their meaning as it is as well as getting an idea on how people experienced and came up with these words. Pictures follow each article, extracted from

the magazines making sure the reader does not have to just imagine the words but instead see and understand clearly.

On this chapter we will also be able to understand more on the development of the architecture of the villages of Tirana. This makes the research a whole at the end because the old word would be of no use if the background is not there to wear them with meaning. This chapter is organized more as a story telling to give the reader the experience of visiting these houses and to be able to understand the old words.

The literature review continues on other sources as “Etnografia Shqiptare” magazine, “Kultura Popullore”, articles from Ali Muka, Aferdita Onuzi, Emin Riza, Manjola Xhaferri etc... This chapter intends to fill any gaps left by the previous chapter. A huge help for this chapter was also a previous research on Tirana city made by Manjola Xhaferri on the different living aspects of Tirana. She had done a great work on the research for her doctoral thesis. A curated work which offers useful word and pictures. She also had done some site work doing visits on some villages not covered by “Monumentet” magazines. This enabled me to complete my research and enrich it with more words and graphic content to fully explain the words. On her thesis is given importance to the living conditions and overall culture of Tirana and the surrounding villages, but each aspect which was discussed had something to offer for my research especially since it’s on the Albanian language and the context of the old words was fully comprehensible.

Chapter three goes into a detailed explanation on the methodology following this research and the reasons why it is followed. The methodologies are mixed and more than one to adapt to the research as it develops on the way. That of course is a product of several factors such as the limitation on time, resources as well as the topic itself. Nevertheless a combination of several methods does produce useful information and keeps one motivation to go further with the research.

On chapter four will be a list of the words extracted from all gathered sources as well as from interviews. Most of the words will have attached a sketch, picture or context as well as written explanation both in English and Albanian language. This

layout of the chapter will also show the importance of an illustrative dictionary. Not only you make sure that the word is fully understood by the reader since this are word of an architectural background but also since this are old words, they may seem strange to many new generations reader, hence figures would be a great help.

On the same chapter will be show an experimental questionnaire made at Epoka University made among architecture students. The questionnaires had word gathered from five cities in Albania among which is Tirana. The students were simply asked to anonymously answer if they knew the words or not. The graphs will show in percentage and graphic the questionnaire output.

Here will be shown as well a template for interviews for furthers research on this topic. As well as a list of people which I have spoken to in person. This are people from Tirana and the surrounding villages. A special thank goes to them as well for helping me this journey and sharing their knowledge, story and parts of their past.

On chapter five will be listed the final conclusions as well as future suggestions and advices of how to further develop this research. Indeed this research is not fully expanded but it is enough to open a new window and to make it clear that there is potential into looking further into it.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

To write this literature review, I have used the literature provided by various authors, who have written about the traditional dwelling as a whole and the one in Tirana in particular, among them are: Mr. Koço Zhegun, Mr. Ali Muka, Mr. Emin Riza and Dr. Vera Bushati who have done a detailed analysis of the apartment as a whole. But also Mrs. Manjola Xhaferri, who has done a lot of work and analysis of life and experience in Tirana and the villages around it.

One of the books “Ndërtimet Tradicionale Fshatare” by the author Ali Muka, gives rich information of the local architecture of different villages of Albania. Techniques and development of the architecture of the time is explained in details proving as well a good amount of lexicon of the earlier periods. From Emin Riza, two books that helped this research were “Banesa Shqiptare me Qoshk” and “Banesa Popullore Shqiptare”. The books from Dr. Vera Bushati helped on completing this research in two different directions. Specifically “Vilat e Tiranës” which shares details of the architecture of the villas of Tirana city and “Fjalori Terminologjik per Historinë e Arkitekturës” which is an Albanian terminology dictionary for the history of architecture and gives a guide on building an architectural dictionary.

A great focus is given on “Revista Monumentet” because in this articles the reader can get a more clear concentrated information. What is more important most of the old word are retrieved form this articles and they are used below on the review within their context so the reader can have a full understanding of each word. There are 56 articles in total, in which at least 6 of them had direct information on Tirana district.

2.1 Overview

In the Albanian tradition, family was a key factor determining the progress of the development of the house. For this purpose, the family and the house identify as one, being one of the basic elements of our society. Tirana district shows as a basic characteristic of the province, the type of apartment with fire house along two floors, which is also named as Tirana housing because of the great spread that has taken mainly in this area. These firehouses in all variants of later developments, serve as a central place in the composition of the apartment. In today's situation, the number of firehouses preserved in their original form or with few changes, is quite small, however, those that are preserved, enable the complete characterization of this environment.

The progress of this type, from the simplest forms to the most developed ones, is presented to us in variety. This is noticeable, especially when passing by the lands and hilly part of Tirana in the mountains. Two types of houses are noticed depending on the terrain. A more closed type of the dwelling is seen in the highlands compared with the ones that stand on low and hilly part, which show a more open character with a wide use of “hajat” and “çardak”. Of course on a deeper looking this two kind of houses show still the same concept on their composition.

From the plans and volumetric composition to the developments and the forms, all features suggesting the existence of the large family with a good welfare. All the needs of this large family were firstly accommodated inside a singular volume. That single volume being organized around the fire-place and serving as a core for the composition of other surroundings. For other functions such as economic or different services there are seen other constructions near the main volume such as in the yard. Some of these constructions, where fenced courtyards sometimes fully and some partially, as well as units which were especially prepared for certain functions. All together, they were complementary the program of family requests at certain time stages. The distributions of this type of housing highlight the presence of the big family in the rural Tirana in most of its villages and provinces.

Some natural features that have offered the residents opportunities in the construction activity have been relief, land, vegetation, geographical position etc... The position of the residence determined to some extent the type of material used by nature. Consequently, we see a wider use of more durable materials such as stone in mountainous areas. In these areas we see the stone in the form of slates to cover the floors. In the flat areas, this material was replaced with wood or adobe or combinations with stone and adobe. While the roof covering was made of tiles or a combination of stone tiles and slates or sometimes even straw. One can be noticed for the low and high relief, which is a flat with a fire in the center. While a difference that is related to both the relief and the climate is the open or closed character of the building.

2.2.1 Structural organization of the typical dwelling in the villages of Tirana.

In general, the traditional dwelling, regardless of the type used and the way of its development, both in the villages of the Highlands of Tirana, as well as in those of the hilly and lower areas, consists and appears organized in two main parts:

a. The real part or area of the residence, where the “house of fire” is located or as it is called the “shpi buke”, “oda e miqve” the bedrooms or “të ramet” as the residents of this district call them.

b. Service objects such as: “laset” (Bathrooms), “quri” and any other storage annex, as well as economic objects (“aheri” or “burgu i gjasë”, “gozhdari” and “koçek”). “Aheri” is part of the apartment, while “gozhdari” and “koçek” are accessories located in the yard.

The typical apartment of rural Tirana is the apartment with a fireplace in the center. We see the “house of fire” developed in several varieties, except in the center

it goes up along two floors, unlike other alcoves that are developed on two floors. This is the most typical variant for this type of housing that affects the whole character and individuality of this space compared to other spaces of the house. In the other variants of this apartment, we see that they have placed the hearth next to the wall or on the side of the room. We will see this variant later in concrete examples taken in the village of Shëngjin. As well as the cases with chimneys inserted into the wall that come from the later period until before the turn of the century, around the 1900s. Likewise, there have been traced many dwellings with closed chimneys inserted into the wall, which understandably belong to a period of later, with a time span of the 1900s, that is, about 120 years ago.

2.2.2 Used materials and their preparation.

As for the materials used, most of them were also circumstantial in nature. Among these were wood that was used from the floor to the ceiling and of course in the doors and windows, but also in the form of bands on the stone walls. This wood, which was supposed to be used in most cases, was prepared 12 months ago. In this way, durability and stability were ensured, as well as wood not rotting. The type of wood used depended on the purpose, for example pine and beech were used to cover or lay the floor, while oak was used for supporting structures. On the wall, there was seen the use of stone in the form of blocks and slates. Since the stone was found in mass near the houses, its extraction was easy. Another material that we see is clay, new in the role of wall binder but also for plastering, just like mortar today. This was mainly prepared close to the house. But in the case of the preparation of the tiles, these were prepared in rivers in the mountain zone and in the water of the shingle in the plain areas.

From the data obtained in the literature but also in the field, mainly the villagers themselves have built the complementary structures such as huts, huts and nail beds. While the houses were built by craftsmen who came from the villages of other provinces such as Kostenja, Gollobordasi and Cermenika, but also Bilishti.

2.2.3 Differences and commonalities in lowland and highlands of Tirana.

In **Preza**, the most developed variant of the house is called “konak”, a two-story apartment which consisted of these premises: on the ground floor, we have the “shtëpia e zjarrit”, sometimes called by residents of the area the “shtëpia e punëve”, which occupies two floors in height; the “burgu i gjasë” and “hajati”. Rare are the one-storey flats which were traced in villages, with a lower economic level and far from the center of the area like in the village of Palaq, Ahmetaq etc... The foundations of the houses in this area were not dug very deep, because every work was done with arms and the ground was very strong: grid or pumice.

The material used for the construction of houses was stone, which was not missing in this area. In most of the time, he was trained by the “ustallar” of Dibra, who had become masters of stone work. While the connection of the stones was done with mud, which was compacted firmly by stepping on it with the feet and put it in bulk on the wall. Rarely the “ustallar” also said “The stone mattress is mud”. In rare cases, there have also been walls with piles and filling with small stones, slates and pieces of tiles. The reinforcement of the walls was achieved by belts of oak wood or even wood. This type of wood showed good resistance qualities to withstand atmospheric conditions without rotting. In the end, the house was covered with tiles prepared by local artisans.

On the second floor was the tower of friends, or the “oda e miqesise”, the “divanhane” and in some cases there was also a bedroom. The nucleus around which this dwelling was developed was the “shtëpia e zjarrit”. In all variants, from the simplest one with an alcove and more, the fire house remained the main environment, with which the other areas of the apartment were connected. In this environment where daily life took place, it was used for cooking, eating and almost did all the work. In relation to the other premises of the apartment, it occupied the highest percentage of the living area, about 30 m². Even in two-story apartments, it extended to the entire height of the apartment, showing in this way a kind of hierarchy and importance in relation to other environments.

In this environment, we find the place of the fire separated by the perimeter walls, consisting of two parts: the one where the fire is lit, which is the “hearth”, and the other slightly higher part, where the firewood is supported, which is called the “rune”. Above the hearth of the fire there is a hanging chain, tied to the roof beam, this chain or “chain”, hanging at its end, is turned into a screed; with a height of half a meter from the fireplace, which performs the function of hanging various dishes for cooking, to heat water, etc... The firehouse is without lighting, there is no ceiling, the floor is compacted and the walls are without plaster. Two built-in “baxha”[“], only with tiles, provide lighting over the hearth of the fireplace.

A characteristic element that you find in all the old houses of the area, inside the fireplace house is the “nafili”, this is a wooden balcony, 1.50 m wide, and that crosses one by one, sometimes two of the sides of the fire house in the middle of its height. The double height of the “fire house” allowed space for the construction of the “nafil”. Initially, the “nafili” served as a place to sleep, a role that was lost in later developments. In some cases, it has served as a liaison with other premises and with the sanitary unit of the fire house, but also to connect the “divanhanene” with the fire house. On the internal walls of the firehouse, light fence partitions painted with mud have been built, these go up to the floor partitions. This system makes it possible for the smoke caused by the hearth to find its way out without spreading through other rooms. . To get inside the firehouse, came in use “hajati” or directly from the outside. Through the “hajati” but also the “divanhane”, with which it communicates directly, the fire house creates an internal connection with every other internal space.

The second floor is accessed by a wooden staircase through the nafil. Adjacent to the fire house on the ground floor is the “burgu”, this is a dark space, which receives light only from the gate and two “frengji” shaped windows. Usually in front of the prison and the fire house is the hayat, which can be open or closed, built of stones. When closed, the entrance gate is large enough to fit a loaded animal inside. Even the “dhoma e miqve” plays an important role. It is always found on the second floor and is also called the “kulla e miqve”. In the layout, it stands above the prison and next to the firehouse. From the various trackers in this area, they noticed walls without plaster

and ceiling, as well as the presence of niches and a chimney in the wall. This “oda” serves both to host and to sleep for friends. This receives light from two or three windows and is completed with wall cupboards and lids where there are beds.

Above the “hajati” there is a “divanhane” that is closed with planks and runs the entire front of the floor. Similar to the “çardak” but closed, the weaving of fabrics and the drying of agricultural products are carried out in the “divanhane”. This large space also allowed the creation of sleeping rooms by means of some not heavy partitions. The “ode fjetje” also had a fireplace and two or three windows, but the plastered ceiling was missing as in the other abbeys. In addition to the entrance from the fire house, there was also an entrance from the outside to the second floor with a single ramp. However, not every apartment had this dedicated sleeping space called “ode fjetje”.

An interesting fact is that there is a sanitary node for each environment. These houses in this area are rarely surrounded by “gardh” and there are no “avlli” fences. Next to the core dwelling in the courtyard, there were auxiliary structures such as the “koshiq” that served as a warehouse for goods. These houses are built with stone walls, mud mortar and wooden beams. All sanitary joints, which go outside the walls, rest on the extension of the floor beams, are closed with light partitions, and made of fence plastered with mud or boards.

The simplest variant of the apartment in the Preza area is the one on the ground floor and with a single room. From the tracing done in this area, we encountered two approximate variants of the same type of housing. It was thought that it performed all the functions of a dwelling. The apartment has a hearth in the middle, a “sqoll” for washing dishes and a sanitary unit which cantilevers out of the side walls. Access to the joint is via an internal stone staircase. This traced apartment belonged to Mr. Halil Shamku and is uninhabitable. It is thought to have been built during the 1880s.

Another variant of the ground-floor apartment with a single room, we came across in the village of Palaq, where in addition to the fire house, which was the main room, a loft was added to it, which is included in the middle of the extension of two side walls. The great height of the fire house and the quadrangular planimetric form,

has given the possibility that inside the surface of the nafil, by means of a fence plastered with mud, an environment for sleeping or receiving friends can be created. This solution has made the sanitary node in this case to be common, both for the back of the fire and for the bedroom or the reception of friends. This apartment was under the ownership of Mr. Myslym Budulla and it was in good living condition at least until 2013 when the visits were carried out by Mrs. Manjola Xhaferri. According to the owner of the house, this apartment was built in the 1930s.

Another more developed type of apartment is represented by two apartments next to each other built from the beginning for two families. These dwellings belonged to the village of Gjeç-Fushë in one of the points where the entire field is dominated from the southern side and are thought to have been built at the beginning of the 20th century. In the organization of the floor plan, a parallel placement of the premises was noticed. Each of them was composed of a fire pit in the middle and a “burgu i gjese” in the back. The premises of the second floor keep the same arrangement.

It is noted that the apartments in the Preza area are presented in several variants, but they are included within the same type. The increase in the number of alcoves from the variant with one alcove to the most developed variants, is accompanied by changes in the architectural formulation, both vertical and horizontal. The core of its entire development continues to be the firehouse, as well as in the dwellings of the villages of Mullet, Linzë, Lundër and Ndroq. What sets the area apart is the lack of a bed in the fireplace, the sofa-bed that adjoins a closed gazebo, the porch in front, which even in the cases of developed variants remains closed.

The initial form of the primitive dwelling in **Mullet** was called “Bread house” by the villagers themselves. It was the main nucleus around which the vernacular architecture of Mullet village developed. As for the materials that were used for the construction of residential houses, the residents of this area, as well as in other areas, collected them in the vicinity of the intended building. These materials were collected and prepared by the locals up to one or two years before the construction and with after the construction, it was entrusted to the craftsmen from Korça and Dibra. The main materials, such as timber, stones and tiles, were prepared and collected by the villagers

themselves, a few years before starting the construction of the new house.

From the foundations to the main walls, they were built with river stones and mortar (clay, mud). Then they were connected with wooden bands that were placed horizontally, and alternated with spaces of 60-120 cm, the height of the wall. And the thickness of the main walls was about 50-60 cm. “Qerpiç” was also used on the external walls, since here we are dealing with a hilly area, but usually only on the last generations, for the reason that this part of the wall is well protected from the rains, by the shelters.

While the internal walls were mainly built with adobe, connected with mud mortar and wooden strips. Round oak beams with a diameter of 20-30 cm were used for the construction of the heavy roof structure. Sides split with an ax, not fastened with nails, were placed on the beams. Trough-shaped tiles were used for the roof covering, which were prepared by the villagers themselves but also by visiting specialists.

In the ground-floor apartments, there is no real floor, but it is painted above with a thin layer of mud, while in the cases with two floors, poplar boards were used on the upper floor. Not having a chimney on the roof to vent the smoke, the ceiling itself was not used much either. Plastered walls were found only in the “oda e miqve” and in these cases this plastering was done with mud mortar but also with “qerpiç”.

The number of windows was limited, because they were used more in the waiting rooms and very rarely in the bedrooms. In most of the buildings, the stairs were always outside, and in a few cases, internal stairs were found in the houses, a different feature from other areas of the district of Tirana. The stairs were placed on the sides of the side walls of the dwelling, mainly the end part was made of stone and the other part was made of oak wood.

The “shtëpi e bukës” in Mullet comes in several variants, from the simplest to the most sophisticated. The first variant is a one-story apartment, with a square layout, measuring 5mx5m.

It is characterized by a single entrance and the absence of windows. To enable lighting, several round or angular holes were opened in the roof, which are known as “baxha” in other villages of Tirana. The core of the apartment is the hearth, it is located in the middle of the apartment and is made up of two 1 meter squares that together form a rectangle. The fire is lit in the first square, while the spare wood is placed in the second. This water tank was built with stone or clay slabs, 6-8 cm high. Two round stones stuck in the ground, which were called “carunj”, served to keep the firewood from scattering. The “shtëpia e bukes” didn’t have a ceiling and the smoke of the fire came out through the “hatlla” of the roof. In the inner walls there were “sergjen” and “kamare” which resembled closets without open doors in the wall. This type of apartment, having only one space, was used for every function, such as for cooking, for sleeping, but also for guests. This type of dwelling was thought to belong to the end of the 19th century. The most developed variant of this typology was the bread house, of the tower type.

The need for additional premises, an improved economic situation or the expansion of the family, but also a life with a better standard, were seen as reasons for the construction of the two-story residential house. The first floor retains the function of the “shtëpi e bukës” but the “burgu i gjasë” is added to it. The bakery remains the same in organization with the feature that it now continues at the height of two floors. The “oda e miqve” and two sleeping quarters were located on the second floor. To the “oda e miqve” you enter directly from the outside and go to the bread house, passing through the bedroom. The guest room is built with a width of 4-6 m. and 5-8 m long. It was covered with boards and often has a ceiling. Lighting is possible with 3-4 windows and often the hearth on the side of the wall also has a chimney. On the sides of the fireplace, there is also a niche measuring 20 cm x 30 cm, which is inserted into the wall and serves to place various items. The bedrooms, located to the right of the guest room, are ceilingless, unplastered and mostly without fireplaces and hearths. In these rooms, there is no additional furniture except for a “kamare” in the wall where the beds were placed.

In this typology we also noticed the gazebo, which is closed on two sides by the extension of the side walls of the building. Sanitary joints are placed in the corner. Çardak is made of wooden boards and covered by the roof of the house, which rests on the beams of its railings. Some differences encountered in the architecture of the Mulleti area compared to other villages of Tirana are the stone work and the composition of the house. The stone in this area did not show the qualities of the Preza stone, which caused difficulty in carving and working, so it was softer and workable. Regarding the composition in Mullet, the oil mill was often found on the first floor.

The general characteristic of most of the **villages in the highlands of Tirana** is their large extent, which has also been influenced by the rugged mountainous terrain, with few possibilities of use for arable land. What distinguishes them is a division they made into three generations, or at least two residential generations, which are: Zalli or Vërria, Katundi and Mali. As a whole, the dwellings, regardless of the type used, the scale and the way of their development, there was noted that in highlands of Tirana, was common an open courtyard, without a fence, which has in its composition, the dwelling, “gozhdari” for the deposit of corn and some “koçek” to keep the winter food of the working animals.

In the villages in the part of the Highlands, the premises can be grouped into two groups: real residential premises; service facilities. Each of these environments has played its own functions to help the living of the villagers. The materials used for the dwellings were similar like in the other villagers. What takes an interest is that the highland house show a larger use of stone in the houses. Perhaps for climatic and endurance factors.

The surrounding materials of the facades are: wood for roofs, floors, doors, windows, bands in stone masonry, various light controllers and : stone mostly for masonry and in the form of slates for covering are used for honoring of roofing and clay as a binding mortar for stone masonry, for the preparation of spoon shaped tiles, for plastering any temporary construction. Oak was used for the supporting structure of the roof and floor, while beech and pine were also used for flooring.

As in other cases, the craftsmen from Dibra and Korça built the houses and the villagers themselves built the auxiliary structures in the yard. Among them were: “gozhdare”, “kasolle” and “koçek”. Even here in the early forms of housing in this area, there were basements even though these were rare. But the dominant variant has been the construction with perpendicular halves and those with one floor. Referring to the tracings done in the field, but also to the publications of different authors, who dealt with the study of the traditional apartment as a whole.

Two kind of houses are distinguished in these areas:

- a. The apartment with the “firehouse” as a center
- b. Apartment with “telizë”

Starting with the analysis of the first type, it must be said that this dwelling is a type that preserves one of the simplest forms of “the house” on the way of its development, on the way of growth of firehouse. Not only does it show the center of the composition but also the center of the daily life of the villagers. Traces were made in Dajt and Shënmëri, which exemplify the typical architecture of the area. These traces reflect very well the entire area of the Highlands of Tirana.

A typical feature of the fireplace is the hearth located almost in the center of the room. Inside the fire chamber there was a kind of open balcony, which surrounded the entire space of the chamber. This was used to communicate with their home environments and was made of wood. This balcony was called ““mafil” ”. A feature of the Highlands of Tirana that is not found in the plain and hilly villages of the Tirana district, is the placement of the ““vatër”” the right of the fire house, it is buried in the ground and serves to keep and preserve the fire. The “quri” consisted of a square pit, with dry stone walls, measuring 1.5 meters high and 1.8 meters wide. This environment was closed with a wooden cover that rests on the floor of the apartment. It is noted that when the house is built on sloping ground, the fire house does not go along the two floors, thus eliminating the “mafil”.

Another type of housing, which has been traced in the Highlands of Tirana, was the “shtëpi me telizë””. This apartment is always a multi-story building. In its simplest form it was developed “with halves”. This had a closed wooden gallery on the exterior facade, which the people called by the name “sele”, “curtain” or “teliz”.

It went outside the vertical plane of the stone walls, and surrounded the walls of the upper floors sometimes completely and sometimes partially. Often in this type of housing there was also a balcony open from the inside that came out on a plane with the “telizi”. This kind of dwelling had a clear composition. The living quarters were placed on the ground floor, while cattle were housed below.

CHAPTER 3

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aiming to solve the problem

Architecture as a discipline that involves creativity, needs especially its specific terms to transmit correctly all its nuances. Architectural vocabulary is important because it expresses the specifications of the build work in a universal language, talking and writing. As in any other profession specific vocabulary is required to make sure that the information is delivered correctly. Architecture seems to have an adapted vocabulary to make it easier to be understood when the correct delivery of the meaning has a more important role.

In Albania the case needs even more care with the assimilation of terms from other languages such as English. While there are steps to be taken, the journey of returning the Albanian authenticity might be long. There is one step though that could at least open the road to starting this journey. An authentic architectural vocabulary would be a beginning. Everyone can bring its contribution. A personal experience from the residents of each city can bring an even more coherent information.

On the literature of “Udhëzues për mbledhjen e fjalëve të shprehjes së gjuhës shqipe” is explained the correct attitude and tips on how to collect the old phrases. While that no opportunity must be missed to collect words, it must come naturally and such as in effortless conversations with people. On the other hand, there must be set a schedule to visit places and buildings where useful information can get retrieved.

3.2 Used methodologies

The problem that is intended to be solved in this thesis is the absence of a Vernacular Architecture dictionary of Albania, specifically on Tirana district. Below are shown the methodologies implemented on this research to solve this problem.

To solve the problem there is implemented the qualitative method such as case study and grounded theory. For the case studies there are taken in consideration three existing examples of old houses in Shëngjergj of Tirana, specifically ; Shëngjin. Case studies help to not only develop further the research but also bring proof to the reader that this house, this word and this architecture is still among us. The grounded theory is used to collect the data and later analyze it.

Another method implemented is the quantitative method. Through the descriptive research the data collection goes further through the survey method and the naturalistic observation. The strategy from Umberto Eco on his book “How to write a thesis”, was very helpful to organize the methodologies so I could combine more than one to achieve maximal results with the collecting process of the words from literature review as well as interviews.

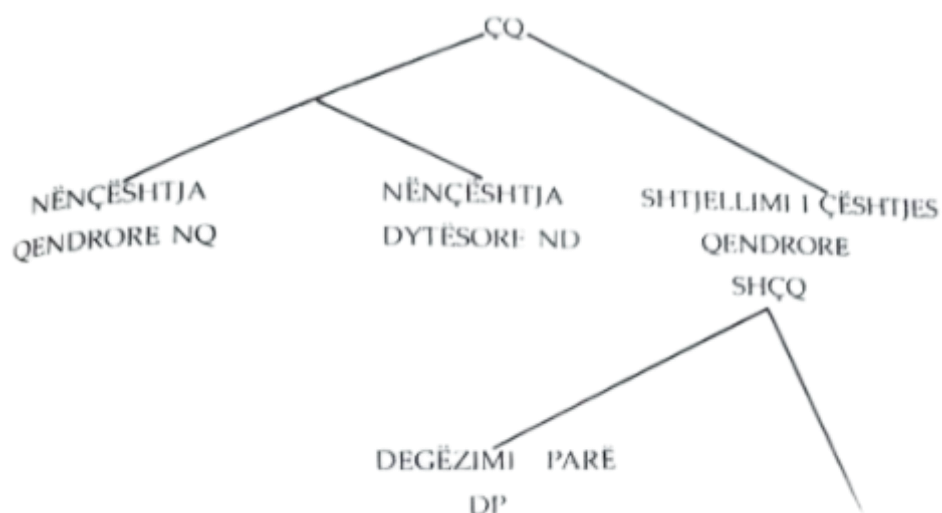


Figure 9. Example from “How to write a Thesis” by Umberto Eco.

Table 1. Methodology solution scheme.

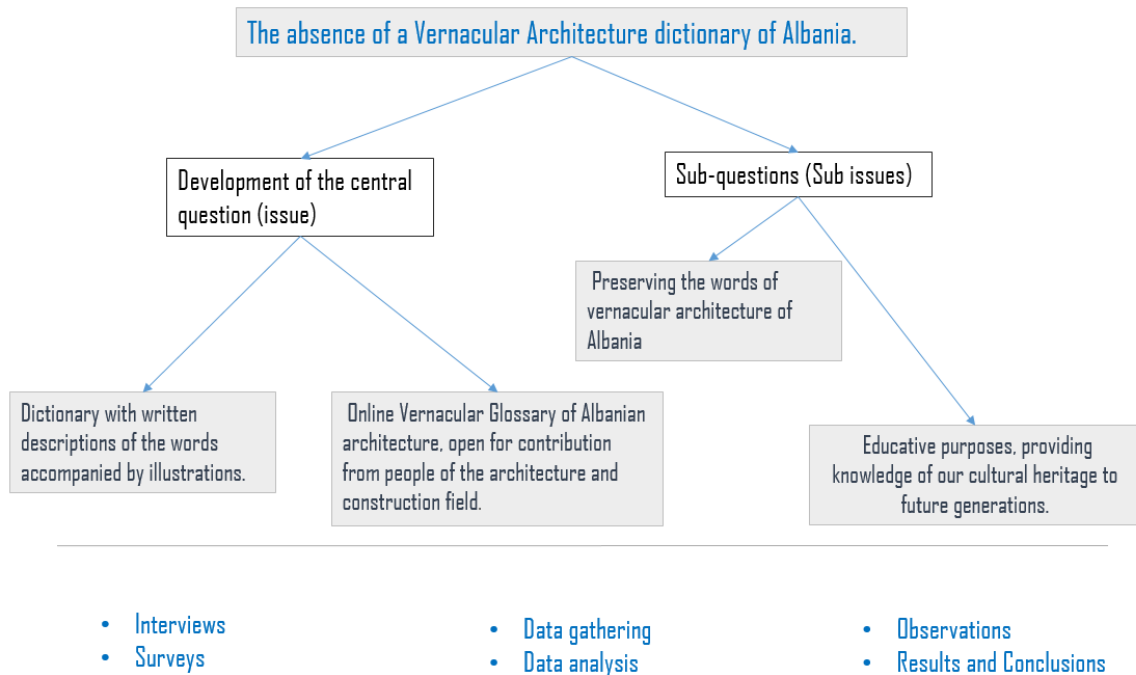
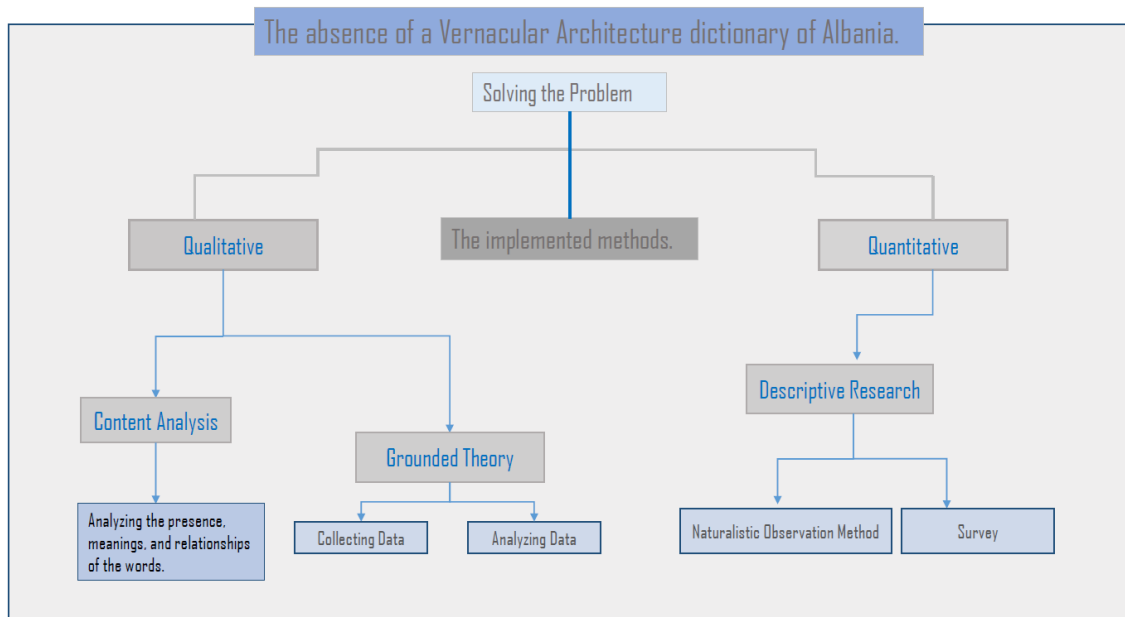


Table 2. Methodology solution scheme.

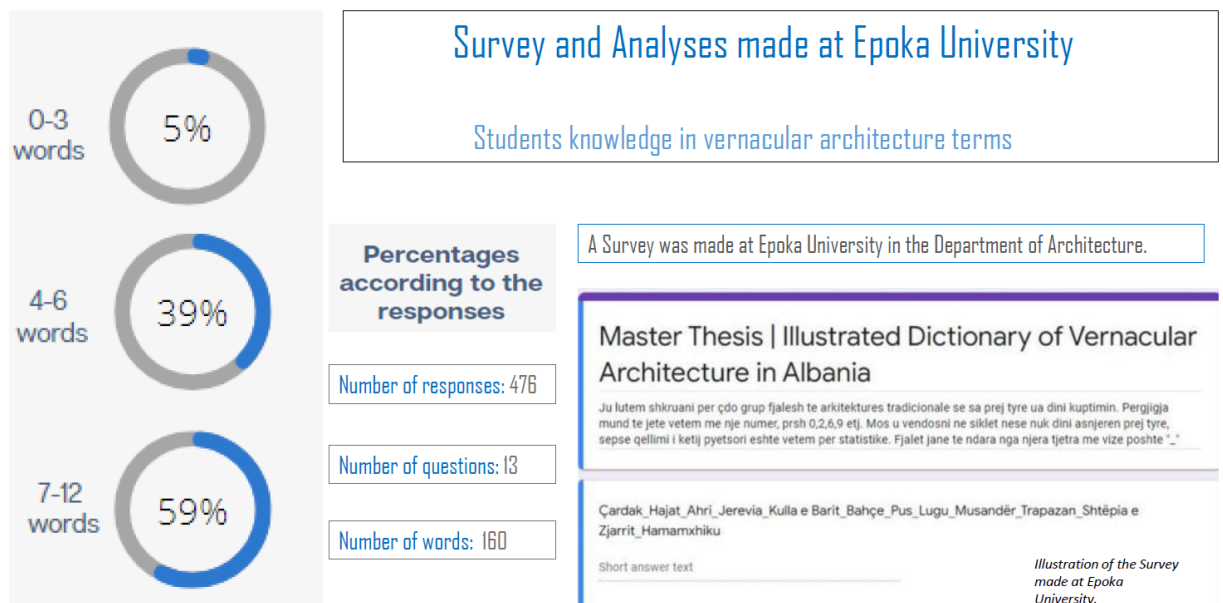


3.3 Survey

The survey is done in Epoka University, Department of Architecture. It was sent to 300 students to complete. This survey aimed to get some information on the knowledge of the architecture students in vernacular architectural terms from five different Albanian districts, Tirana, Korça, Berati, Kruja and Shkodra. Below (table 3) can be seen the results. 300 students received an email where they had 13 questions. Each question consisted of groups of 12 words. They had option to select if they knew 0-3 words, 4-6 words or 7-12 words. The totals number of words was 160.

The results stated that only 5% of the students knew 0-3 words. 39% of them knew 4-6 words and the majority knew 7-12 words with 59%.

Table 3. Survey made at Epoka University and analysis.



3.3.1 Considerations when starting interviews.

The individuals that will be taken an interview must represent their area's dialect and not must not be under the influence of other dialects. Talkative personas must be a priority while both genders should be interviewed. The information can be retrieved through effortless conversations or through question-answer methodology.

The conversation can start through a certain topic and the questions must be formulated and structured carefully. Showing pictures of the object that we want to get the name for, can be more efficient because saying the word in the standard written language can affect the person. While the method of free conversations can collect a deeper work understanding better the traditions, the interview method gives the specifics that are the main goal. To achieve the best of both ends a combination of both methods is suggested (*figure 11*).

When collecting the words, it's important to write the words directly as they are heard. There must be taken care to write the word also in a sentence to give it context and make sure that the full meaning is retrieved.

After collecting the words, they must be checked carefully with the Albanian dictionaries of different publications. When explaining the words, the explanation must be short but including all the important information.

The explanation can include a simple sketch when that is possible as well. Otherwise, instead of the sketch a picture can be implemented. What helps to bring a full understanding of the words is putting an example where the word is used. The examples must come from the interviewed people. When the words that are found are not simple is important to include supplementary data (*figure 10*).

Fjala që regjistrohet	Fjala në kontekst
háje-a, f.sh. -e, -et	Hájet e kafshëve i përgatitin një ditë më parë.
llapsán/ë,-a, f.sh. -a, -at	Lepujt hanë llapsanat e lakres.
pepelláshk/-a, f.sh. -a, -at	Fshiu furrën me pepellashkë.

Figure 10. Orienting example on how to record the found words from “Udhëzues Për Mbledhjen e Fjalëve Dhe Të Shprehjeve Të Gjuhës Shqipe”, 1989.

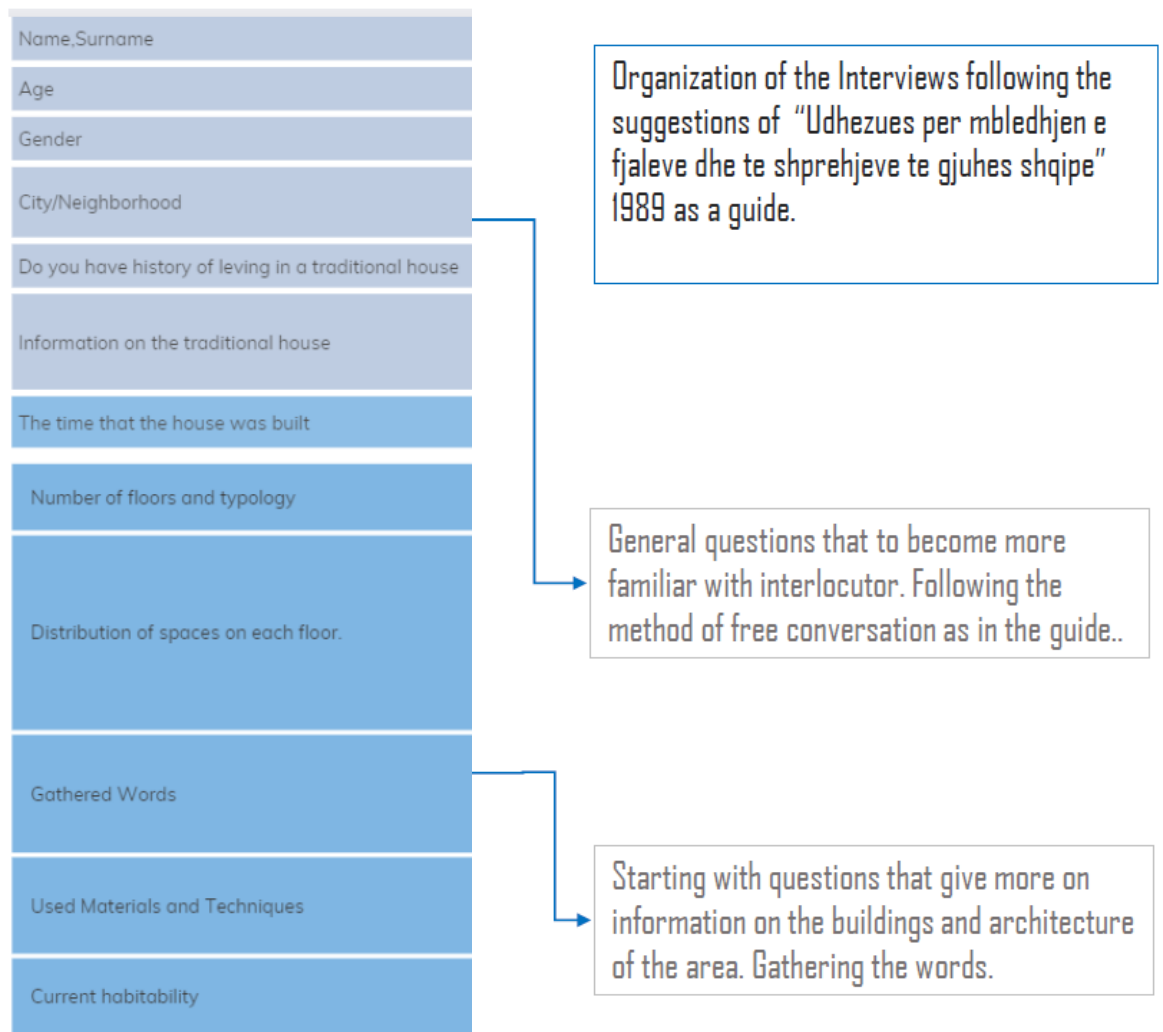


Figure 11. Organization of the interview questions with considerations from “Udhëzues për Mbledhjen e Fjalëve dhe Shprehjeve të Gjuhës Shqipe.

CHAPTER 4

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The result below are a collection from the literature review and the research on field. To explain the words better they are divided into systems. Each system is divided in its components and explained in that way. The word are explained both in English and Albanian. Each word is accompanied by an illustration when it could be found or a sketch from literature review, or both at the same time. This organization also illustrates an example of what a vernacular architecture dictionary could look like.

4.1 Roof System

In roof system are included the roof as a covering component together with its structural elements underneath it such as beams or the drainage solution.

Patavra/Hartosa Plur. Patavra/t//Hartosa/Hartosat

Noun

- A thin, long and narrow board that is usually used to cover the roof of the house under the tiles.
- Dërrasë e hollë, e gjatë dhe e ngushtë që përdoret zakonisht për të mbuluar çatinë e shtëpisë nën tjegullat.

Çati Plur. Çatit/të - Roof

Noun

- The upper covering of a building or house, usually pitched and composed of a wooden or metal framework, on which tiles or other additions are placed.
- Mbulesa e sipërme e një ndërtese ose e një shtëpie, zakonisht e pjerrët dhe e përbërë prej një skeleti druri ose metali, mbi të cilin vendosen tjegulla.

Mahi Plur. **Mahi/të**

Noun

- A rafter is a structural component used as part of a roof structure. Typically, it runs from the ridge or hip of the roof to the wall plate of the exterior wall. Rafters are generally placed in series, side by side, providing a base to support roof decking, roof coverings, etc.
- Një mahi është një komponent strukturor që përdoret si pjesë e një konstruksioni çati. Zakonisht, ajo shkon nga kreshta ose ijet e çatisë në pllakën e murit të murit të jashtëm. Mahi në përgjithësi vendosen në seri, krah për krah, duke siguruar një bazë për të mbështetur kuverten e çatisë, mbulesat e çatisë etj.

Bisht Plur. **Bishta/t**

Noun

- The ends of the beams are allowed to extend outside the roof creating a shelter.
- Skajet e trarëve të cilën dalin dhe shtrihen jashtë çatisë duke krijuar një strehë.

Tra Plur. **Trarë/t**

Noun

- A long, thick log, usually made of wood, four-cornered and round, used in the construction of house roofs.
- Trung i gjatë e i trashë zakonisht prej druri, me katër qoshe e i rumbullakët, që përdoret në ndërtim në çatitë e shtëpive.

Urë Plur. **Ura/t**

Noun

- The roof beam of a building, which is placed horizontally.
- Trari i kulmit të një ndërtese, që vendoset horizontalisht.

Ulluk Plur. Ulluqe/t

Noun

- Tin trough, which is placed on the edge of the roof shelter to collect the water and take it down; device that has such a shape, through which something flows,
- Lug prej teneqeje, që vihet në buzë të strehës së çatisë për të mbledhur ujërat e për t'i çuar poshtë; pajisje që ka trajtë të tillë, nëpër të cilën rrjedh diçka, lug.

Rrasë Plur. Rrasa/t

Noun

- Stone slab; thick sheet of stone used to cover the roof.
- Pllakë guri; petë e trashë guri që perdorej për të mbuluar çatine.

Kulm Plur. Kulme/t

Noun

- The top of the roof of a building, culmination; the culmination of a building.
- Maja e çatisë së një ndërtese, kulmare; kulmari i një ndërtese. Kulmi i shtëpisë.

Cikë Plur. Cikë/t

Noun

- The last part of the roof comes out from where the rain drips and falls to the ground. It comes from the word "çikon" which means dripping.
- Pjesa e fundit e dalë e çatisë nga ju pikon shiu dhe bie në tokë. Vjen nga folja "çikon" që do të thotë pikon.

Bisht Plur. Bishta/t

Noun

- The ends of the beams are allowed to extend outside the roof creating a shelter.
- Skajet e trarëve të cilet dalin dhe shtrihen jashtë çatisë duke krijuar një strehë.

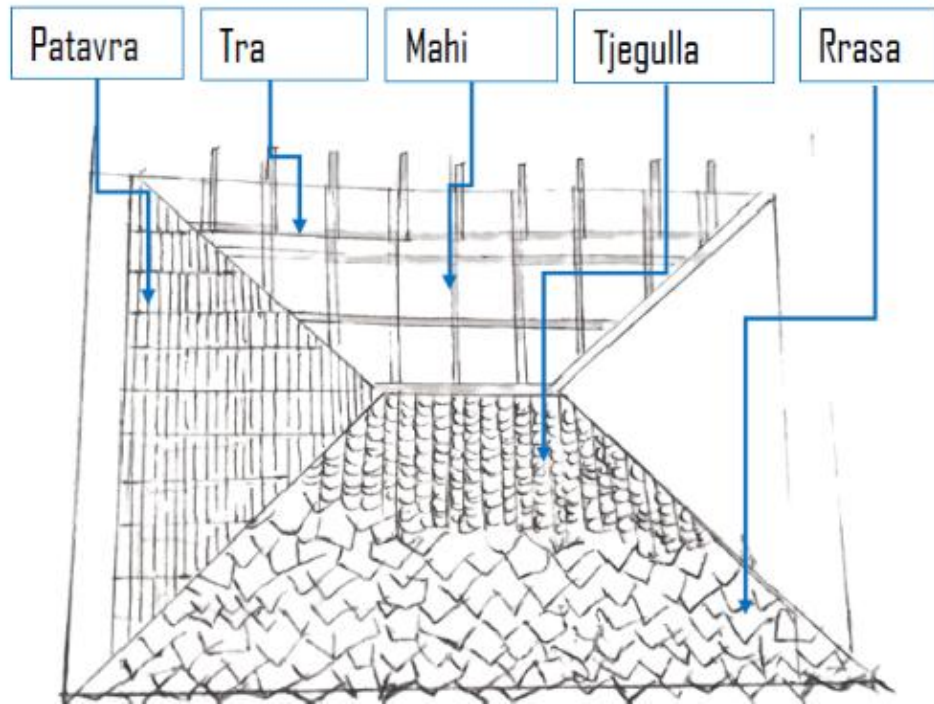


Figure 12. Roof system sketch based on Ali Muka and words collected from people on Shëngjin village.



Figure 13. Demolished roof with exposed structure found in Shëngjin village, house owned by A.Myftari.

Patavra/Hartosa Plur. Patavra/t//Hartosa/Hartosat

Noun

- A thin, long and narrow board that is usually used to cover the roof of the house under the tiles.
- Dërrasë e hollë, e gjatë dhe e ngushtë që përdoret zakonisht për të mbuluar çatinë e shtëpisë nën tjegullat.

Tjegull Plur. Tjegulla/t or Tuvlla Plur. Tuvlla/t

Noun

- A thin plate, usually bent, made of dentine. Well compressed and baked in a special oven, used to cover the roofs of buildings.
- Pllakë e hollë, zakonisht përkulur, që bëhet prej deltime të ngjeshur mirë e të pjekur në një furrë të posaçme dhe që përdoret për të mbuluar çatitë e ndërtesave.

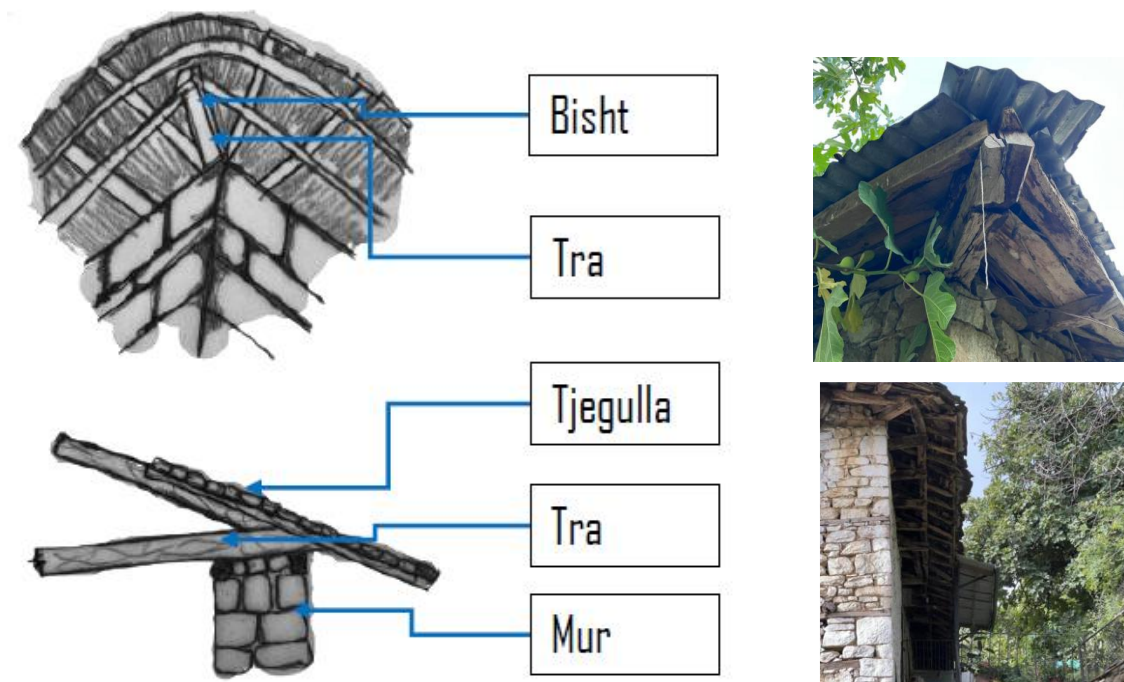


Figure 14. Sketches based on Ali Muka and words collected from people on Shëngjin village. Top left, “çika” from Sh.Kaloshi’s house, Top bottom, “çika” from B.Sala’s house.

Gërshërez Plur. Gërshëreza/t

Noun

- Each of the thin beams, which descend two by two in the form of scissors from the peak of the roof, on which the onions are fastened.
- Secili prej trarëve të hollë, që zbresin dy nga dy në trajtë gërshëre nga kulmari i çatisë, mbi të cilët mbërthehen qeprat.

Cungal Plur. Cungale/t

Noun

- Short wood, which is placed perpendicularly on the roof beams and carries the eaves.
- Dru i shkurtër, që vihet pingul mbi trarët e çatisë dhe mban përsipër qeprat; baballëk.

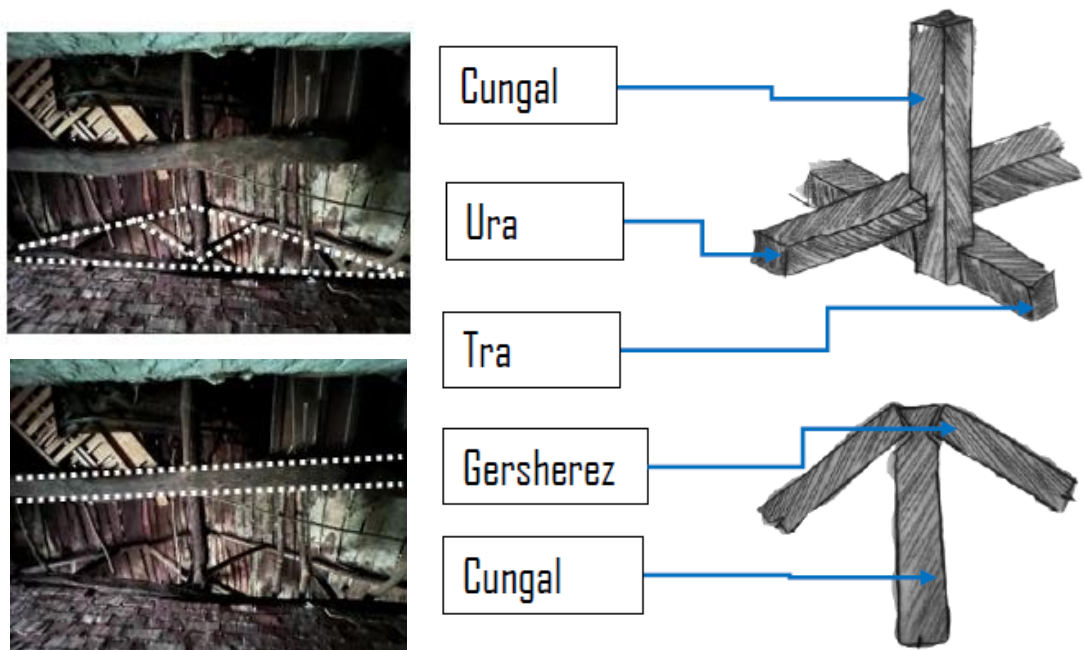


Figure 15. Illustration of “ura”, “tra”, “cungal” and “gërshërez” collected from D.Sala and sketch of roof structure details based on Ali Muka.

4.2 Wall System

On the wall system are listed the components of the wall and the technique used at the time to make ensure the endurance such as from atmospheric conditions and seismicity.

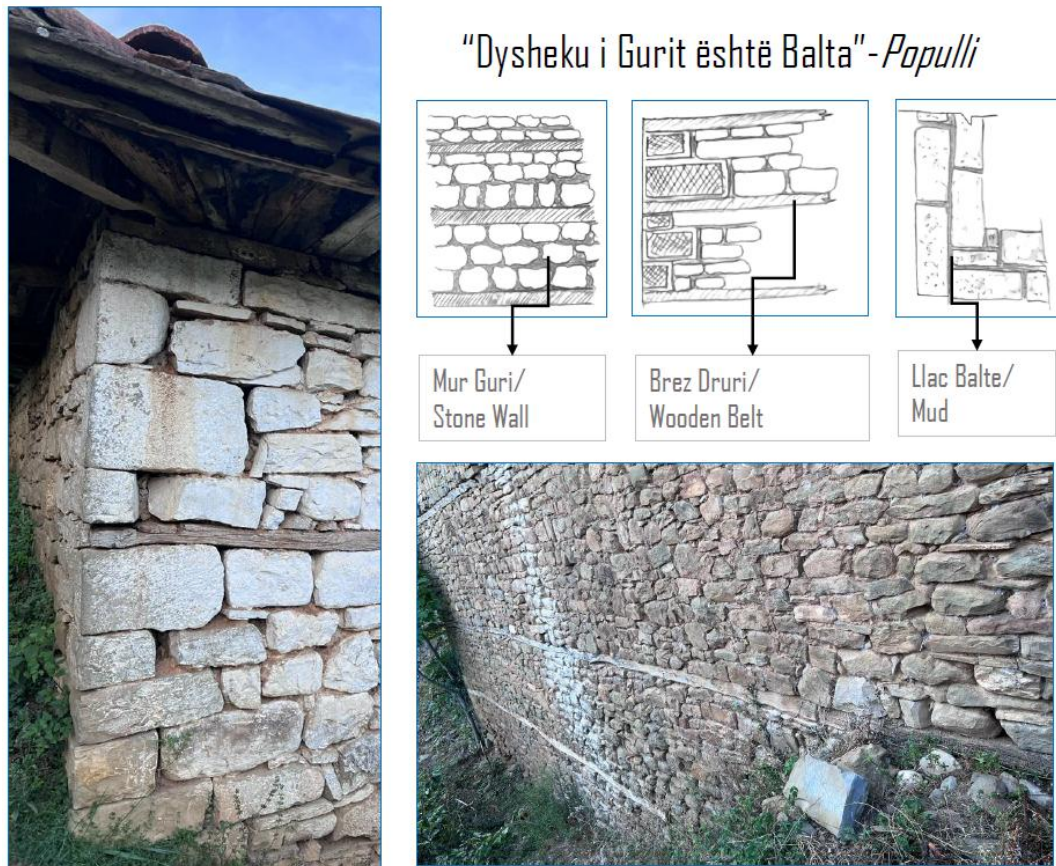


Figure 16. Wall of a house found in Shëngjin village owned by A.Myftari with matching sketch and words collected from A.Myftari.

Mur Plur. **Mure/t** - Wall

Noun

- Long and narrow construction with bricks, stones or adobe, usually connected with mortar, mud, etc...

- Ndërtim i gjatë e i ngushtë me tulla, me gurë ose me qerpiçë, të lidhur zakonisht me llaç, me baltë etj...

Brez Druri Plur. **Breza/t e Drurit**

Noun

- Long timber, which is placed along the wall that is built with adobe, stone or brick, to connect or strengthen it. The lower (upper) belt. Wall belt. Iron belt (concrete). Earthquake belts.
- Dru i gjatë, i cili vihet përgjatë murit që ndërtohet me qerpiç, me gurë ose me tulla, për ta lidhur ose për ta forcuar. Brezi i poshtëm (i sipërm). Brez muri.

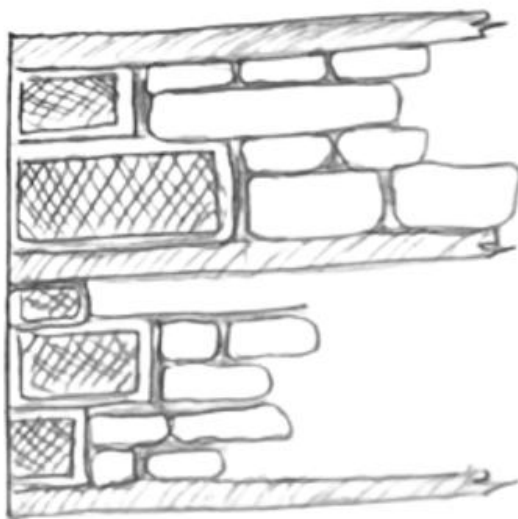


Figure 17. Wall system sketch and picture based on house found in Shëngjin village, owned by A.Myftari

Qerpiç Plur. **Qerpiçë/t**

Noun

- Sun-dried, not kiln-baked clay brick.
- Tullë prej balte e tharë në diell dhe jo e pjekur në furrë.

Zokol plur. Zokolë/t

Noun

- The lowest part or foot of a pedestal, podium, or architrave.
- Pjesa më e ulët ose këmba e një piedestali, podiumi ose arkitrari.

4.3 Door and Window System

In the door and window system are listed all the components of the doors and windows together with the opening and closings mechanisms.



Figure 18. Collection of a doors found in a house in Shëngjin, owned by J.Veli, Sh.Kaloshi, A.Myftari, F.Veli.

Qemer Plur. Qemerë/t

Noun

- Stone, brick or concrete arch that is made above doors, windows, etc. or passing from one leg of a bridge to another, from one pillar of a building to another, etc...
- Hark prej guri, prej tulle a prej betoni që bëhet sipër dyerve, dritareve etj... ose që kalon nga një këmbë e urës në tjetrën, nga një shtyllë e një ndërtimi në tjetrën.

Kanota Plur. Kanota/t

Noun

- Each of the sheets that close the door, the window or the closet; each of the outer wooden shutters of the window.
- Secila nga fletët që mbyllin derën, dritaren a dollapin, flegër; secila nga kapakët e jashtëm prej druri të dritareve.

Prag Plur. Pragje/t

Noun

- Thick belt of stone, concrete or wood, which is placed across the lower part of the door and serves as a support for it.
- Brez i trashë prej guri, prej betoni a prej druri, që vihet për së gjeri në pjesën e poshtme të derës dhe që shërben si mbështetje për këtë.

Arkitra Plur. Arkitrarë/t

Noun

- A beam made of stone or concrete, which is placed on top of the pillars of a building or on the upper part of doors and windows.
- Tra prej guri a prej betoni, që vihet mbi kreun e shtyllave të një ndërtese ose në pjesën e sipërme të dyerve e të dritareve, kryetra.

Këlysh Plur. Këlysha/t

Noun

- An iron bracket placed in the door where the "Rezja" of the door is inserted.
- Nje kllape hekuri e vendosur në derë ku futet rezja e derës.

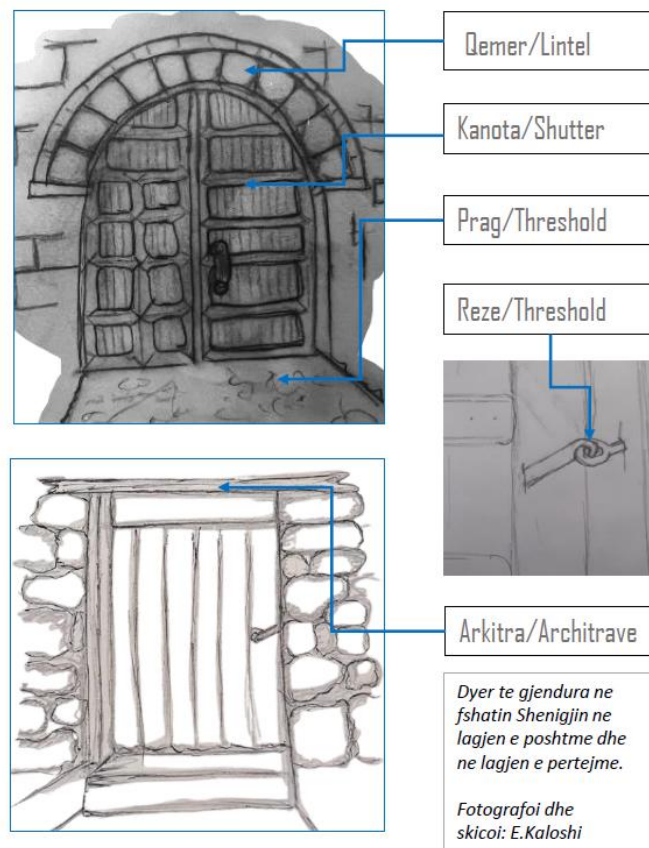


Figure 19. Sketches of doors found in Shëngjin with the closing mechanism owned by J.Veli.

Frëngji Plur. **Frëngji /të**

Noun

- A crack like a small and narrow window in the walls that was used to fire weapons but also for lighting.
- Një e çarë si dritare e vogël dhe e ngushtë në mure që shërbente për të qëlluar me armë por dhe për ndriçim.

Reze Plur. **Reze/t**

Noun

- A short iron strap with a hook, fastened to a door, window, or cupboard to keep it closed by inserting the hook into a ring.
- Rrip i shkurtër prej hekuri me një grep, që mbërthehet në derë, në dritare a në dollap për ta mbajtur këtë mbyllur duke e futur gripin në një unazë.



Figure 20. Examples of “fregji” in Shengjin

Dallap Plur. Dallapë /t or Penxhere Plur. Penxhere/t

Noun

- An opening in the wall of a building, in train carriages, ship cabins, etc., through which light and air enter or through which we see outside. Window.
- Pjesë e hapur në murin e një ndërtese, në vagonët e trenit, në kabinat e anijeve etj... nga e cila hyn drita dhe ajri ose nëpërmjet së cilës shohim jashtë. Dritare.



Figure 21. Image of “Penxhere” found in Shengjin Village owned by D.Sala.



Figure 22. Scetch of “Penxhere” found in Shëngjin Village owned by D.Sala.

4.4The yard and its components.

The yard is included in a system because it had some structures which were built separate from the house, thus becoming more components of the yard rather than the house. These components are structures built to deposit food for livestock or to keep the livestock inside.

Kasolle Plur. Kasolle/t

Noun

- Simple one-story building, made of woven birch, adobe, stone, etc. and covered with straw, where they keep cattle; such a building, where poor families lived before the Liberation, plevica, huts. Livestock sheds (sheep, cows). Thatched (mud) hut. Birch hut (made of adobe, made of stone).
- Ndërtesë e thjeshtë përdhese, e bërë me thupra të thurura, me qerpiçë, me gurë etj. dhe e mbuluar me kashtë, ku mbajnë bagëtinë; ndërtesë e tillë, ku banonin familjet e varfra para Çlirimit, plevicë, kolibe. Kasolle bagëtish (dhensh, lopësh). Kasolle prej kashte (prej balte). Kasolle me thupra (me qerpiçë, me gurë).



Figure 23. “Kasolle” found in Shëngjin Village owned by D.Sala.

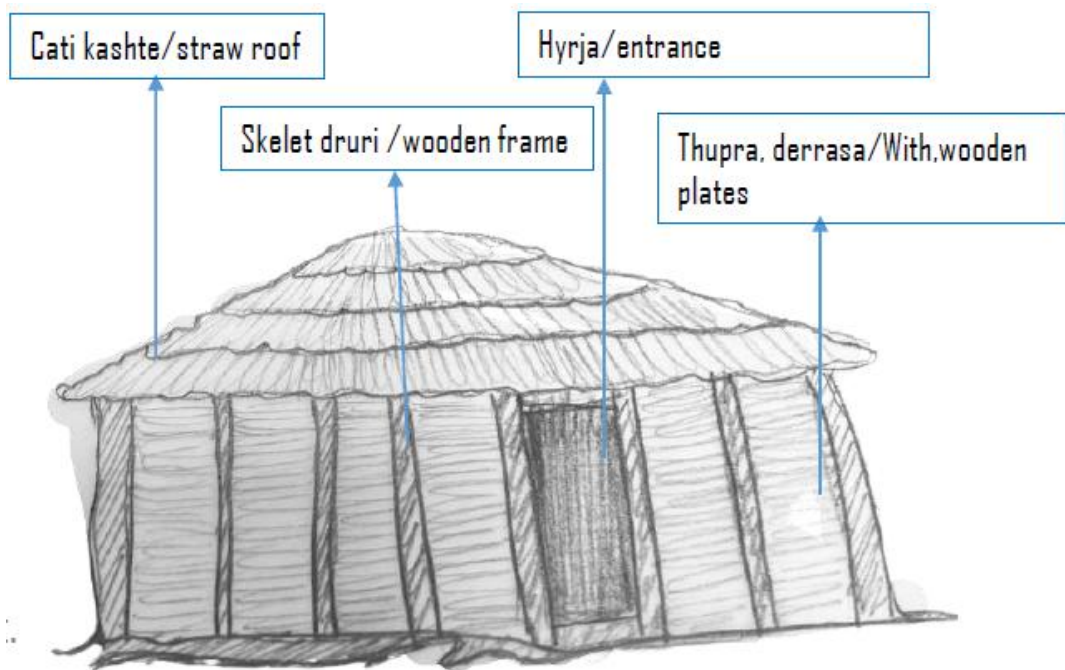


Figure 24. Sketch of “Kasolle” based on Ali Muka.



Figure 25. “Koçek” found in Shëngjin Village owned by A.Myftari, F.Veli and I.Cakri.

Kuçek Plur. Kuçekë/t

Noun

- A small and low hut made of boards, perches, etc. It was also woven with “patavra” (narrow pieces of boards) that were placed 2-3 cm apart from each other, for airing the “bereket” (corn).
- Kasolle e vogël dhe e ulët prej dërrasash, prej purtekash etj. Gjithashtu thurej me patavra (copa të ngushta dërrasash) që vendoseshin 2-3 cm larg njera-tjetrës, për ajrosjen e bereqetit (misrit).

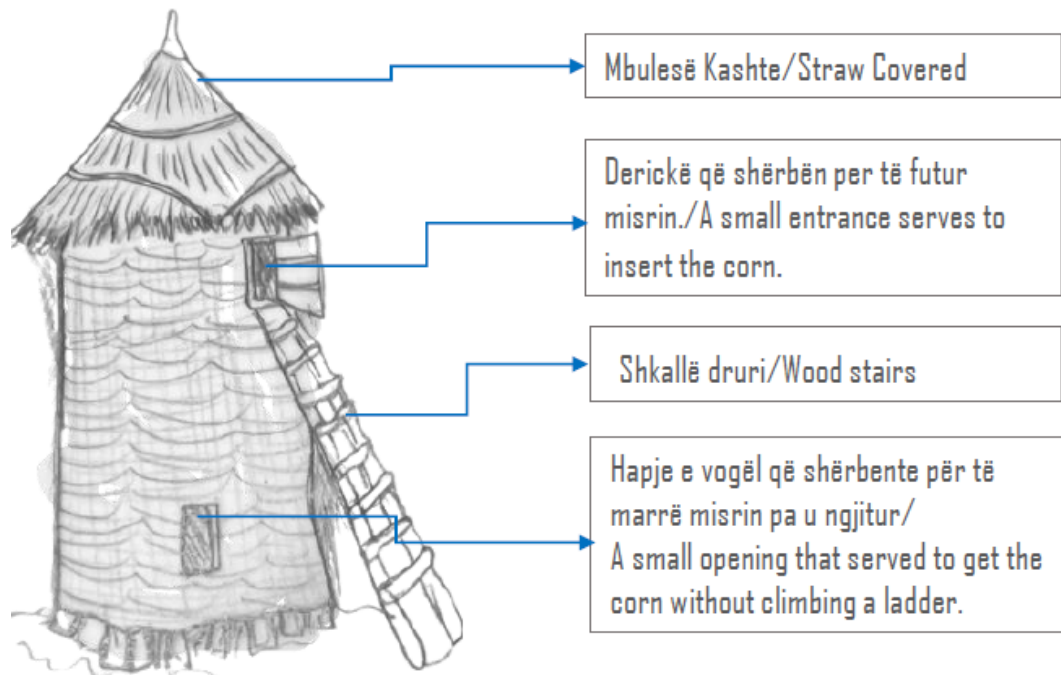


Figure 26. Sketch of “Koçek” and its components.

Grrull/Gruall Plur. Grrulle/Grrullet

Noun

- A small and low hut made of boards, wood, perches, etc., where the domestic fowls are kept; coal. Chicken coop (geese, ducks).
- Kasolle e vogël dhe e ulët prej dërrasash, grui, prej purtekash etj., ku mbahen shpendët shtëpiakë; qymez. Koteci i pulave (i patave, i rosave).

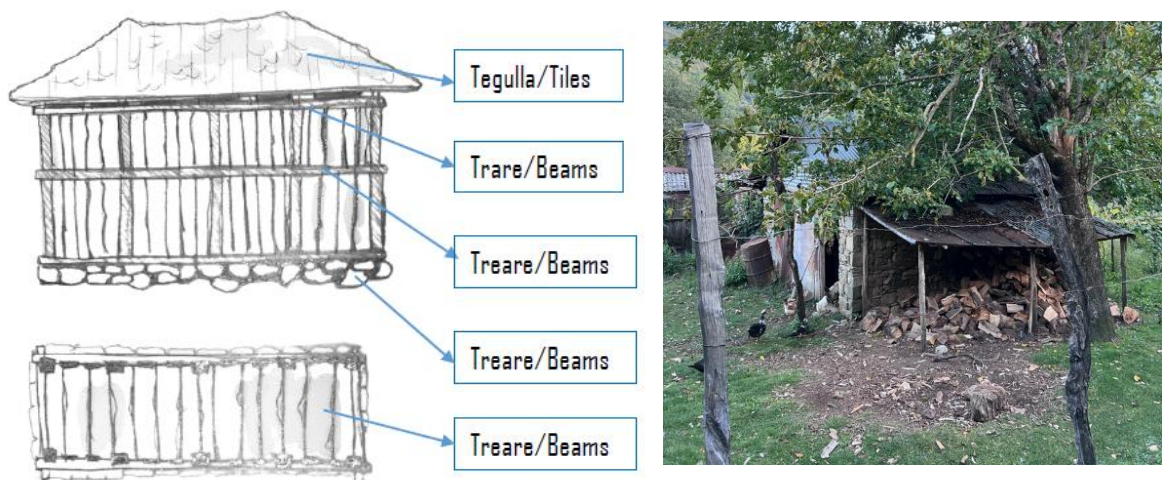


Figure 27. Sketch of “Koçek” and its components. “Grull” found in Shëngjin Village owned by D.Sala.

Pus Plur. Puse/t

Noun

- A deep and narrow hole, round in shape, with perpendicular sides and usually lined with stones, etc., that has been dug in the ground to draw water.
- Gropë e thellë dhe e ngushtë, me trajtë të rrumbullakët, me faqe të pingultë dhe zakonisht të veshur me gurë etj..., që është hapur në tokë për të nxjerrë ujë.

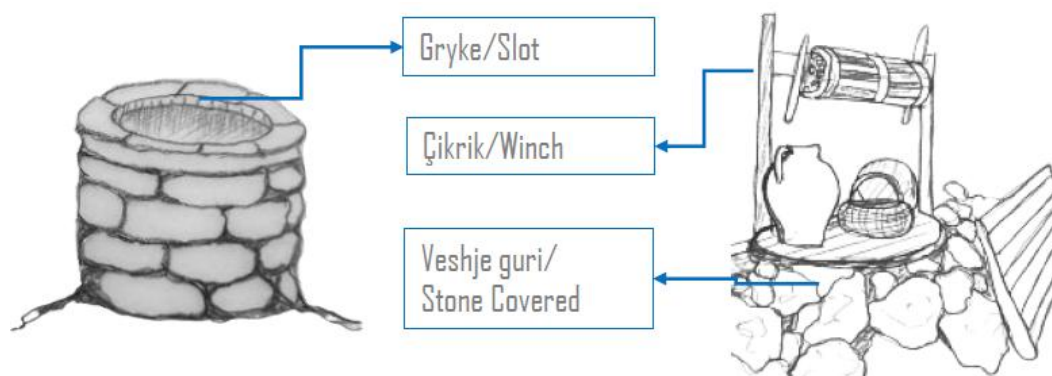


Figure 28. Illustration of “Pus”.

Vathë Plur. Vathë/t

Noun

- A fenced place in an open square, where the cattle stay in the summer; a fenced place in a field, where sheep are kept at night to manure it; flock of sheep or cattle fenced in such a place.
- Vend i rrethuar me gardh në një shesh të hapët, ku rrinë bagëtia në verë; vend i rrethuar me lesa në një arë, ku mbajnë dhentë natën për ta plehëruar; tufa e dhenve apo e bagëtive të gardhuara në një vend të tillë.

Stan Plur. Stane/t

Noun

- Place with pens and huts for cattle, shepherds and dairy, located on the mountain for summer or winter.
- Vend me vathë e me kasolle për bagëtitë, për barinjte e për bulmetin, i vendosur në mal për verë ose në dimër.

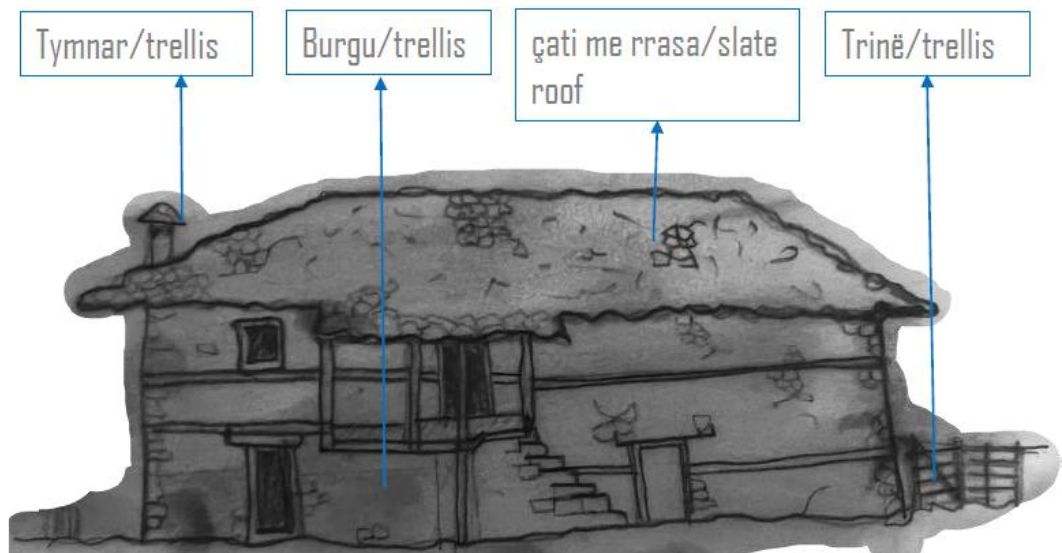


Figure 29. Sketch of “Stan” based on Ali Muka.

Kalldrëm Plur. Kalldrëme/t

Noun

- Paved road with stones placed one next to the other; stone layer of a road, a yard.
- Rrugë e shtruar me gurë të vendosur njëri pranë tjetrit; shtresa me gurë e një rruge, e një oborri.



Figure 30. “Grrull” gathered from D.Sala and stone paved street, found in Shëngjin.
Word gathered from B.Salceni.

Trinë Plur. Trina/t

Noun

- A small door woven with birch or branches, which serves to close the loop or any other passageway; wickerwork to surround something.
- Derë e vogël e thurur me thupra a me degë, që shërben për të mbyllur vathën ose ndonjë shteg tjetër kalimi; për të rrethuar diçka.

Gardh Plur. Gardhe/t

Noun

- A small door woven with birch or branches, which serves to close the loop or any other passageway; wickerwork to surround something. Weaving made with perches, birches or beams around a garden, an area, a yard, etc...
- Thurimë e bërë me purteka, me thupra a me driza rreth e përqark një kopshti, një are, një oborri etj...



Figure 31. Example of “trinë” found in Shëngjin, house found by B.Salceni.

4.5 House Core system.

The “fire house” is a distinguish element of the houses found in Highlands of Tirana. It is known as the core of the house because most of the daily activities would happen here. In the house core system are included the house core known as “fire house” together with all its surrounding elements. This starts from the ground to the ceilings and the elements found in the walls.

Shpi Zjerri-Shtëpi Zjarri Plur. Shtëpi/të e Zjarrit

Compound noun

- It is the core of the composition and carries the main functions of everyday life. Built with large dimensions, with a hearth and with the characteristic mafil, the fireplace remains the compositional center in the many variants of this house, which are developed one after the other, surrounding the stairs on its three sides. All the premises surrounding the fire house are developed with two floors, unlike it itself.
- Është thelbi i përbërjes dhe mbart funksionet kryesore të jetës së përditshme. I ndërtuar me përmasa të mëdha, me vatër dhe me mafil karakteristik, oxhaku mbetet qendra

kompozicionale në variantet e shumta të kësaj shtëpie, të cilat zhvillohen njëra pas tjetrës, duke rrethuar shkallët në tre anët e saj. Të gjitha ambientet që rrethojnë shtëpinë e zjarrit janë të zhvilluara me dy kate, ndryshe nga vetë ajo.

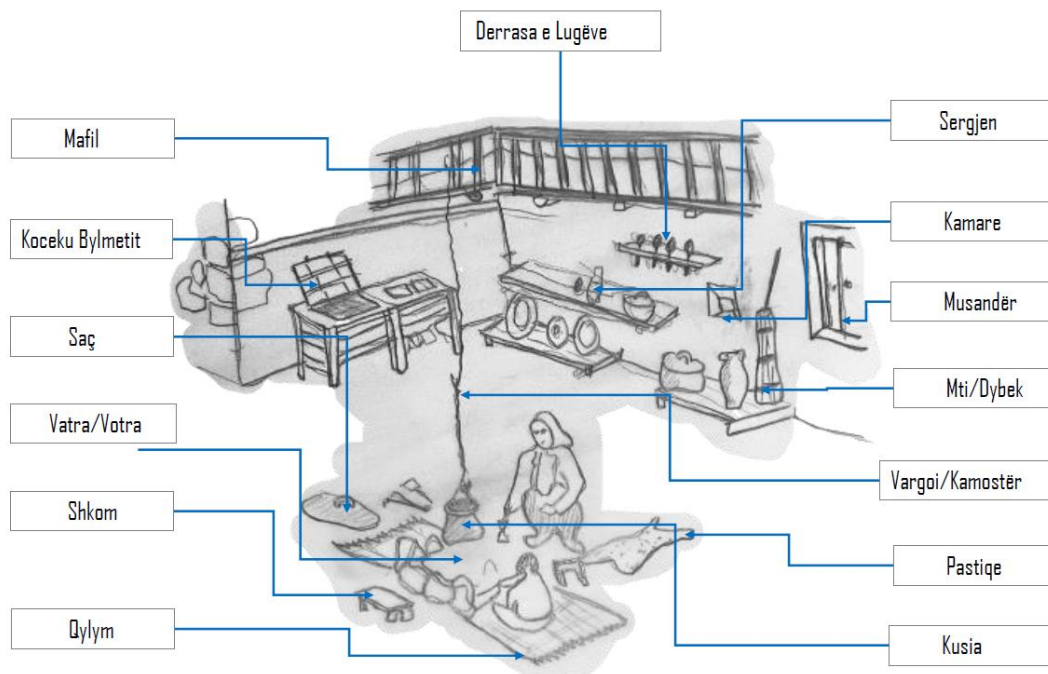


Figure 32. Sketch of a fire house with chimney, based on Ali Muka with explained words gathered from interlockers and literature review.

Hatlla Plur. Hatlla/t

Noun

- The part of a building between the ceiling and the roof beams, where the beams, shears, etc... Supporting timbers (bolts, shears, etc.) that are in this part of the building.
- Pjesa e një ndërtese ndërmjet trarëve të tavanit dhe të çatisë, ku janë baballëkët, gërshërëzat etj... Drunjtë mbajtës (baballëkët, gërshërëzat etj.) janë në këtë pjesë të ndërtesës.

Vargua Plur. Vargoj/të

Noun

- A hanging chain, above the hearth of the fire that is tied to the roof beam, this chain or string, as the inhabitants of this area also call it, hanging at its end, is turned into a screed; with a height of half a meter from the fireplace, which performs the function of hanging various dishes for cooking, to heat water, etc.
- Një zinxhir i varur, mbi vatrën e zjarrit që ndodhet i lidhur në trarin e çatisë, ky zinxhir ose vargoj, siç e emërtojnë edhe banorët e kësaj zone, i varur në fundin e saj, është i kthyer në formë skrrepi; me lartësi gjysëm metri nga vatra e zjarrit, që kryen funksionin e varjes së enëve të ndryshme për gatim, për të ngrohur ujë etj...

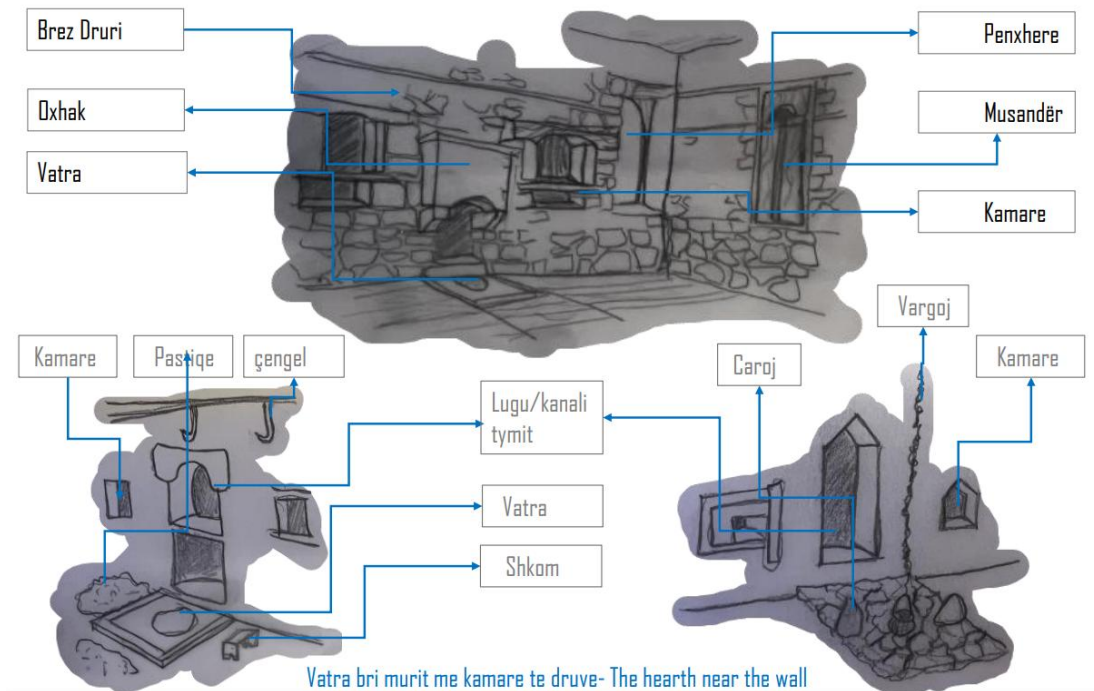


Figure 33. Sketch of a fire house with chimney, based on Ali Muka with explained words gathered from interlockers and literature review.

Vargua Plur. Vargoj/të

Noun

- A hanging chain, above the hearth of the fire that is tied to the roof beam, this chain or string, as the inhabitants of this area also call it, hanging at its end, is turned into a screed; with a height of half a meter from the fireplace, which performs the function of hanging various dishes for cooking, to heat water, etc.
- Një zinxhir i varur, mbi vatrën e zjarrit që ndodhet i lidhur në trarin e çatisë, ky zinxhir ose vargoj, siç e emërtojnë edhe banorët e kësaj zone, i varur në fundin e saj, është i kthyer në formë skrrepi; me lartësi gjysëm metri nga vatra e zjarrit, që kryen funksionin e varjes së enëve të ndryshme për gatim, për të ngrohur ujë etj...

Musandër Plur. Musandëra /t

Noun

- Large closet inside the wall of the room where we sit or sleep, in which mattresses, quilts and other clothes are placed.
- Dollap i madh brenda në mur të dhomës ku rrimë a ku flemë, në të cilin vihen dyshekët, jorganët dhe rroba të tjera.

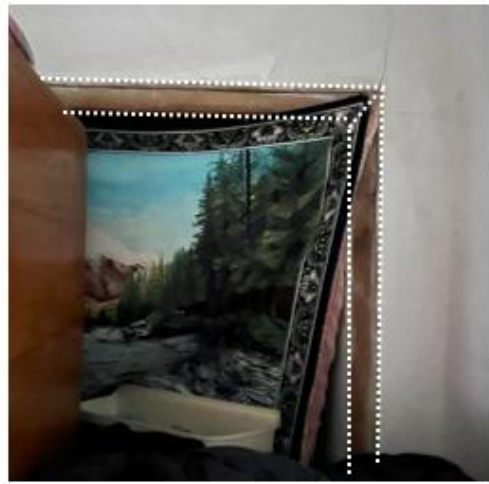


Figure 34. Example of “Hatlla” found in an old house in Shëngjin village owned by F.Veli and of “Musandër” found in a house in Shëngjin village owned by Sh.Sala.

Kamare Plur. Kamare/t

Noun

- An open place in the wall of a house, usually on both sides of the fireplace, where containers and small items that are used daily (jewels, cups, etc.) are kept; small closet without drawers on the wall.
- Vend i hapur në murin e një shtëpie, zakonisht në të dyja anët e oxhakut, ku mbahen enë e sende të vogla që përdoren përditë (xhezve, filxhanë etj.); dollap i vogël pa kanata në mur.

Sergjen Plur. Sergjene/t

Noun

- A narrow plank placed along the wall to place kitchen utensils and other items; open shelf with several boards, placed next to the wall.
- Dërrasë e ngushtë, e vendosur brinjazi gjatë murit për të vënë enë kuzhine e sende të tjera; raft i hapur me disa dërrasa, i vendosur pranë murit.

Shkom Plur. Shkoma/t

Noun

- Wooden bench, made simply with three pieces of board, two of which functioned as bench legs and the other, wider, as a support where only one person could sit. Such stools were used to sit near the hearth, but also to sit on the mahogany. We encounter this phenomenon in many villages of the district of Tirana, such as Shëngjergj, Zall-Bastar, Surrel, Priskë, Drashen.
- Stol druri, i punuar thjeshtë me tri copa dërrase nga të cilat dy funksiononin si këmbë stoli dhe tjetra, më e gjera, si mbështetëse ku mund të ulej vetëm një person. Stola të këtitillë shërbenin për t'u ulur pranë vatrës, por edhe për t'u ulur në sofër. Këtë fenomen e hasim në shumë fshatra të rrethit të Tiranës, si Shëngjergj, Zall-Bastar, Surrel, Priskë, Drashen.

Vatër Plur. Vatra/t

Noun

- A framed opening into the ground or the floor which will hold an open fire. A part of the chimney as well.

- Një hapje me kornizuar ne toke ose dysheme e cila do të mbajë një zjarr të hapur. Gjithashtu nje pjese e oxhakut.

Oxhak Plur. **Oxhaqe/t**

Noun

- The place at the side of a room or in a building, together with the open part up to the roof, where the fire is kindled and the smoke escapes.
- Vendi në anë të një dhomë a në një ndërtesë, bashkë me pjesën e hapur deri mbi çati, ku ndizet zjarri dhe shkon tymi jashte.

Tymnar Plur. **Tymnarë/t**

Noun

- Begins from the inside of the fireplace and ends above the roof. Its function is to excrete the fumes out of the house.
- Fillon nga pjesa e brëndshme e oxhakut dhe përfundon mbi çati.

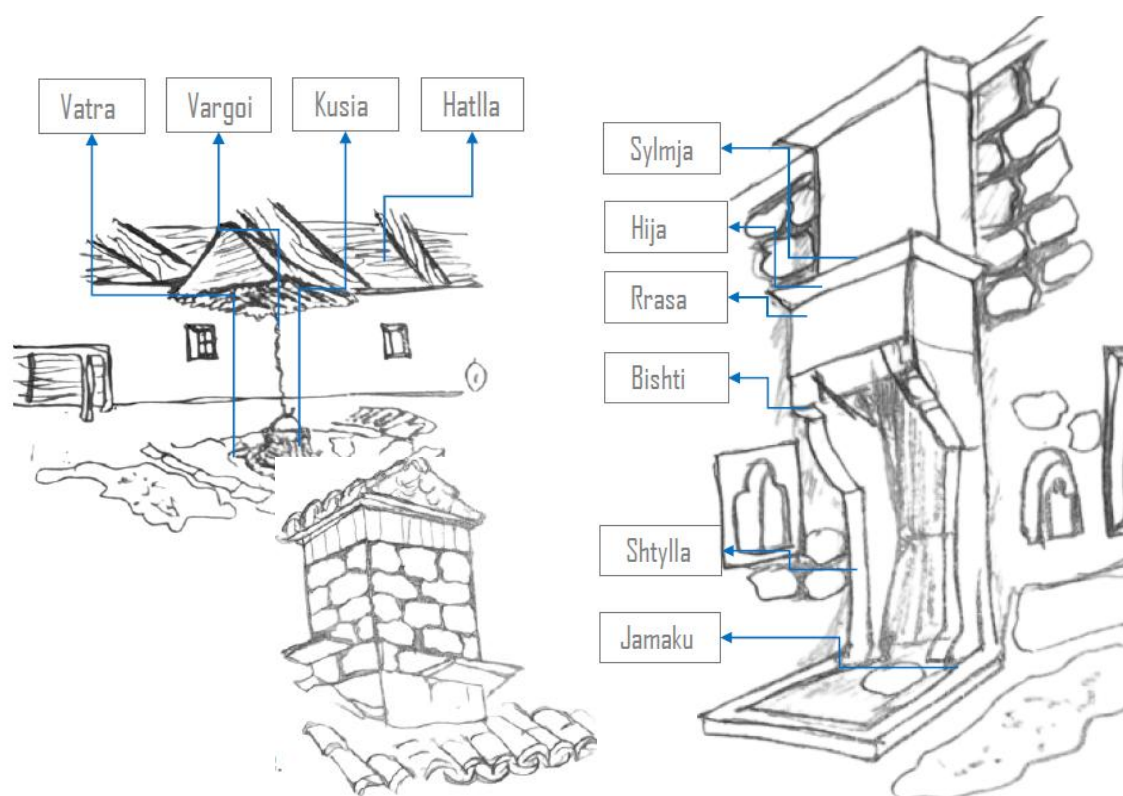


Figure 35. Sketch of “oxhak”, “vatër”, “tymnar” and its components based on Ali

Muka.



Figure 36. Existing “oxhak” in Sh.Sala’s house, Shëngjin, Shëngjergj.

4.6 House system.

In the house system are explained all the spaces found in the typical houses in Highlands of Tirana. These start from inside the house and continue to spaces extending outside such as balcony like structures.

Konak Plur. Konakë /t

Noun

- Room or hallway usually on the first floor of the house, used to receive friends; room. The guesthouse of the house.
- Dhomë a kthinë zakonisht në katin e parë të shtëpisë, që shërbente për të pritur miqtë; dhomë. Konaku i shtëpisë.

Oda Plur. Odë/t

Noun

- A room in the house usually the living room. When a new room was added to the house it would be called “oda re”
- Një dhomë në shtëpi, zakonisht dhoma e ndenjjes. Kur një dhomë i shtohet shtëpisë do të quhej "oda re".

Hajat Plur. Hajate/t

Noun

- Square in front of the door of a building, paved with compacted soil or slates, roofed on stilts and usually unwalled or surrounded by low walls or railings.
- Shesh përpara derës së një ndërtese, i shtruar me dhe të ngjeshur ose me rrasa, i mbuluar me çati të vendosur mbi shtylla dhe zakonisht i parrethuar me mur ose i rrethuar me mure të ulëta a me parmacë.

Qur Plur. Qurë/t

Noun

- A small annex in the house with a fireplace where food and objects were stored.
- Një aneks i vogël në shtëpinë e zjarrin ku depozitoheshin ushqime e objekte.

Katua Plur. Katoj/të

Noun

- Space on the ground floor of a house, where domestic animals and agricultural alms are kept; cellar, pantry.
- Hapësirë në katin përdhes të një shtëpie, ku mbahen kafshët shtëpiake dhe almiset bujqësore; bodrum, qilar.

Të Rame Plur. Të Rame/t

Noun

- A room in the Tirana old houses used for sleeping, used to have as well a hidrosanitary knot.
- Një dhomë në shtëpitë e vjetra të Tiranës, e përdorur për të fjetur, ka pasur edhe një nyje hidrosanitare.

Lasë Plur. Lasa/t

Noun

- A sanitary space used for washing or washing clothes.
- Nje hapësirë sanitare që përdoret për larjen ose larjen e rrobave.

Qoshku Plur. Qoshke/t

Noun

- The alcove beyond the wall of the house is like a small veranda where they usually hang out to cool off.
- Kthinë e dalë përtej murit të shtëpisë që është si një lloj verande e vogël ku zakonisht rrinë për t'u freskuar.

Qestekë Plur. Qesteka/t

Noun

- A kind of extension, mainly on the upper floor. It rested on the extension of the beams and was made of wood.
- Një lloj zgjatimi, kryesisht në katin e sipërm. Mbështetet në zgjatimin e trarëve dhe ishte prej druri.



Figure 37. House with “qoshk”, found in Shëngjin village, owned by F.Veli.



Figure 38. Existing house with “qestekë” in Shëngjin village owned by Sh.Sala and the remaining extensions of beams of what used to be a “qestekë” in a house in Shëngjin village owned by Sh.Kaloshi.

4.7 Interviews and Survey

Below are shown the results of the Survey (*table 2*) made at Epoka University as well as examples of interviews made on site in Shëngjergj Province (*table 3, 4*).

Table 3. Survey at Epoka University, Department of Architecture.

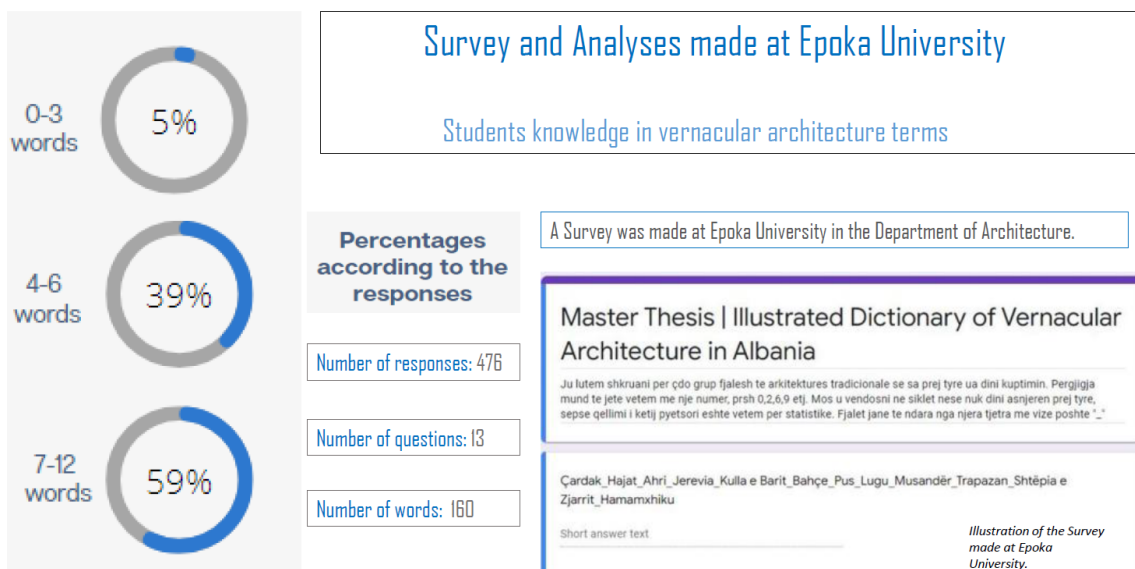


Table 4. Interview with A.Sala in Shëngjin.

Name,Surname	Adile Sala
Age	68 years
Gender	Female
City/Neighborhood	Tirane,Shengjergj,Shengjin, Lagjia e Poshtme
Do you have history of leving in a traditional house	Yes, all my life
Information on the traditional house	Two story house with four drainages roof system.
The time that the house was built	XVX century
Number of floors and typology	Two floors, residential
Distribution of spaces on each floor.	On the ground floor is situated the firehouse, guest rooms and the sanitary knot. On the first floor can be found the sleeping rooms.
Gathered Words	Mur guri, Hatlla, Oxhak ,Voter, Hartosa, Penxhere, çika, Breza.
Used Materials and Techniques	çati katerujse, llaç balte, tjegulla te lugeta.
Current habitability	5 people

Table 5. Interview with F.Hysa in Shënmëri.

Name,Surname	Fiqiri Hysa
Age	59 years
Gender	Male
City/Neighborhood	Tirane,Shengjergj,Shenmeri
Do you have history of living in a traditional house	Yes, all my life
Information on the traditional house	House with half a floor with hajat.
The time that the house was built	XIX century
Number of floors and typology	Two floors and one floor, residential
Distribution of spaces on each floor.	On the ground floor is situated the firehouse, guest rooms and the sanitary knot. On the first floor can be found the sleeping rooms.
Gathered Words	Mur guri, Hatlla, Oxhak ,Voter, Hartosa, Penxhere, çika, Breza.
Used Materials and Techniques	çati katerujse, llaç balte, tjegulla te lugeta.
Current habitability	5 people

4.8 Examples and Case Studies

In the impossibility to visit all the villages of Tirana, I analyzed three houses in the Shëngjergji province (*figure 38*), specifically the village of Shengjin. I have tried to show, through sketches, the composition of the spaces of these three houses. I chose this village, having had the closest experience with this place over the years. This helped me with a closer approach to people to get information. For the way of analyzing the planimetries, I took an example from Dr. Vera Bushati's book, "Vilat e Tiranes" (*figure 39*). The analysis will be done as in the following example(*figure 40*).



Figure 39. Color map. Relief shown by hachures and spot heights; depths by isolines. Inset of Albania at 1:1,500,000. Map of 1929 taken from David Rumsey Historical Map Collection, published by Touring club italiano.

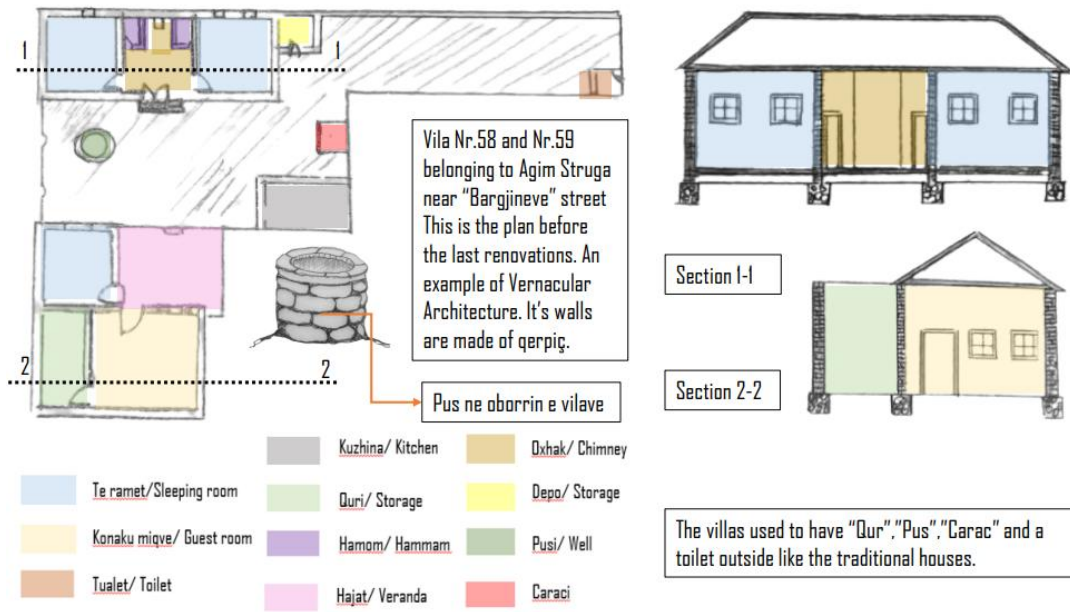


Figure 40. Space distribution example with reference from "Vilat e Tiranës".

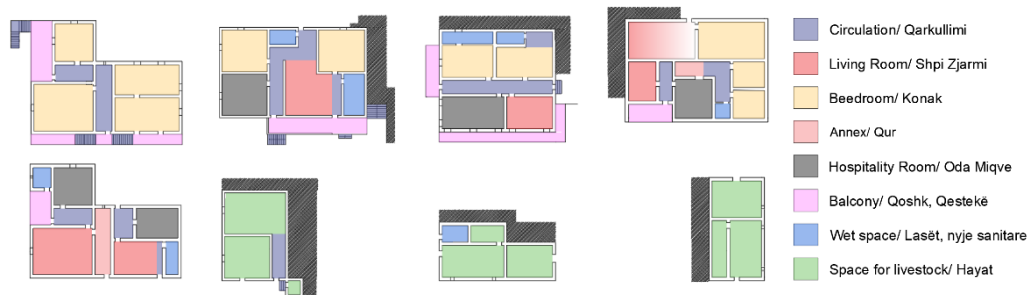


Figure 41. Space distribution on the four houses in the two levels.

The houses analyzed belong to Sh. Kaloshi (currently uninhabitable), Sh. Sala (inhabited), A. Myftari (uninhabitable), F.Veli (uninhabitable). I chose this houses because the four of them show interesting features that are varieties of the same type but slightly different from each other.

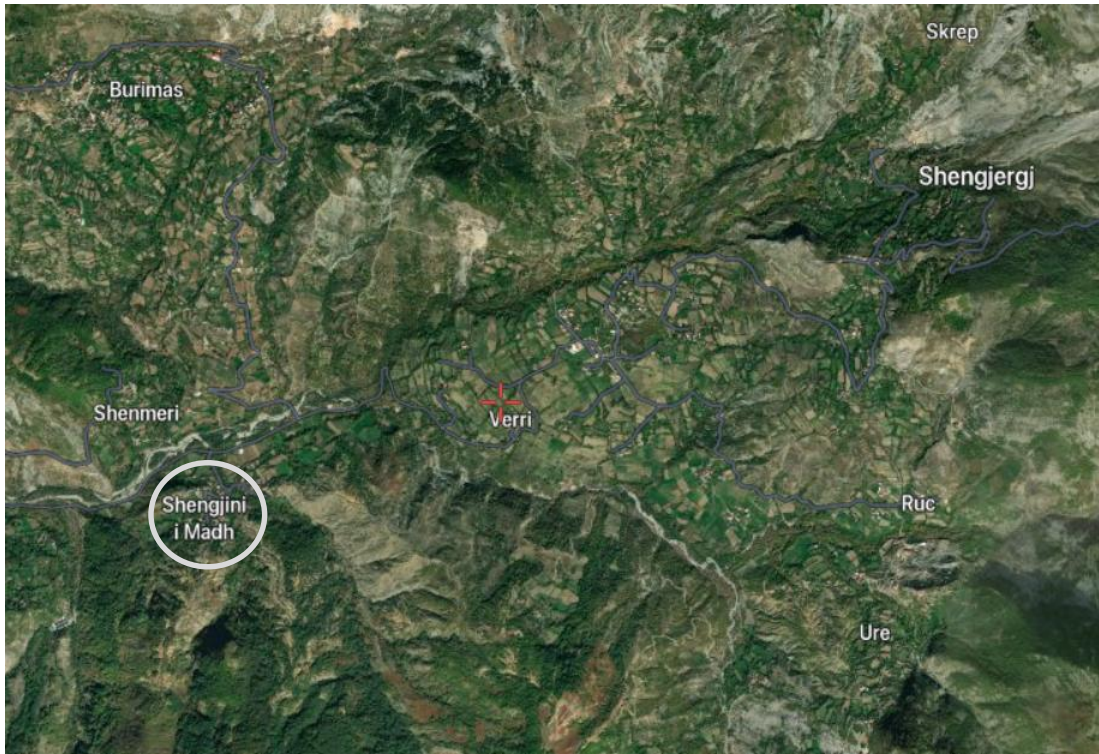


Figure 42. Satellite map taken from satellites.pro showing Shëngjin i Madh found in Shëngjergj Province.



Figure 43. Satellite map taken from satellites.pro showing Shëngjin i Madh footprint and the houses taken as case study on the upper and lower neighborhood.



Figure 44. Satellite map taken from satellites.pro showing houses of the case study in Shengjin Village.

4.8.1 House of Sh.Sala

This house belongs to Sh.Sala. Currently habitable with 6 people living in it. It is located on the lower neighbourhood as the resident likes to call it. It is developed in two floors and in difference from the other studied houses is built on a flat terrain.



Figure 45. Satellite pictures from above of the house of Sh.Sala.

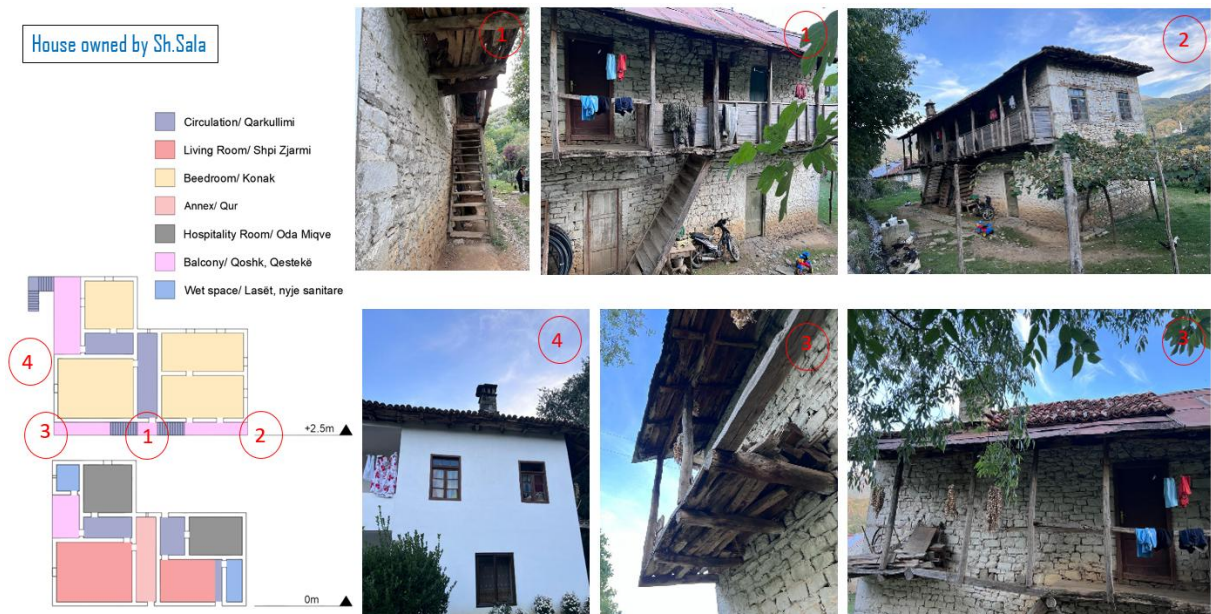


Figure 46. Space distribution in the house of Sh.Sala.

4.8.2 House of A.Myftari

This house belongs to A.Myftari. Currently inhabitable and partially demolished. It is located on the lower neighbourhood. Is it developed in two floors on one side and one floor on the other side following the shape if the terrain.



Figure 47. Satellite pictures from satellites.pro taken from above of the house of A.Myftari.

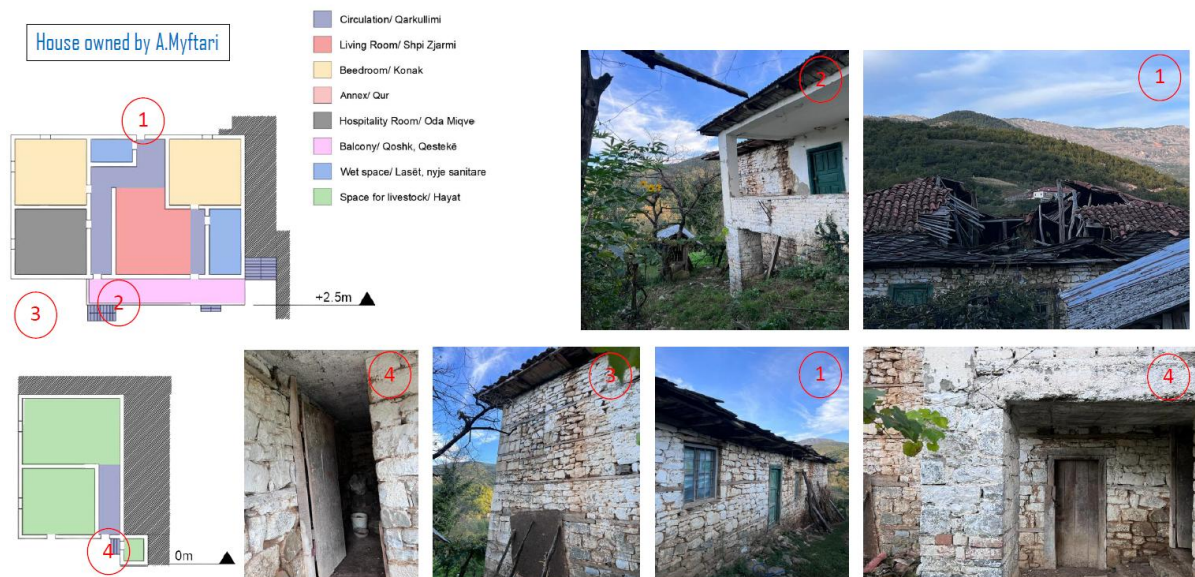


Figure 48 Space distribution in the house of A.Myftari.

4.8.3 House of Sh.Kaloshi

This house belongs to Sh.Kaloshi. Currently inhabitable. It is located on the upper neighbourhood. Is it developed in two floors in one side and one floor on the other side following the shape if the terrain.



Figure 49. Satellite pictures from satellites.pro taken from above of the house of Sh.Kaloshi.

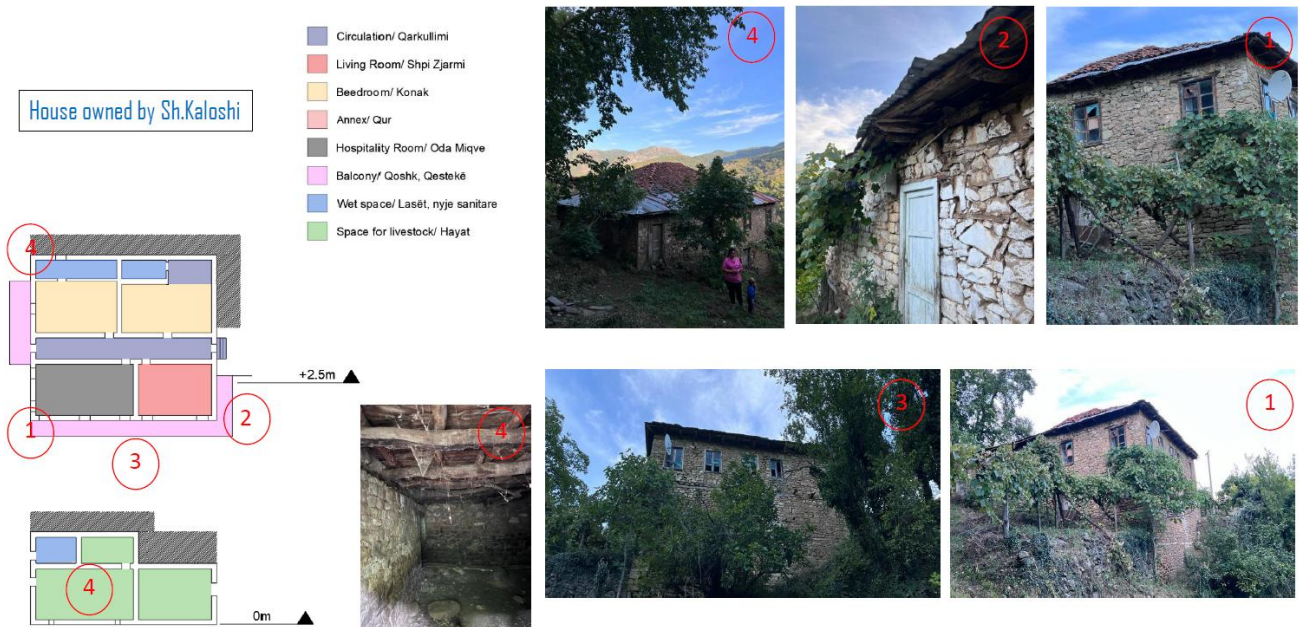


Figure 50. Space distribution in the house of Sh.Kaloshi.

4.8.4 House of F.Veli

This house belongs to F.Veli. Currently inhabitable and partially demolished. It is located on the lower neighbourhood. Is it developed in two floors in one side and one floor on the other side following the shape if the terrain.



Figure 51. Satellite pictures from satellites.pro taken from above of the house of F.Veli.



Figure 52. Space distribution in the house of F.Veli.



Figure 53. Collage of pictures from Shēngjīn houses.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Conclusions

When choosing this topic as my thesis I had expectations. Expectation which were high on the beginning before starting, low after starting to work and realistic through the end of the process. I personally felt like I knew plenty of old words, even architectural ones. But when starting to write down I realized that I forgot a lot of them and the few that I still remembered, I could count on my fingers. This made me realize why we actually need to have a record of the old words. We can't simply rely on our memory. If words are not used they can be forgotten very easily. Even my parents and relatives which are from different areas of Tirana seemed to have forgotten a lot of their old dictionary. Realizing this I could also understand that if I wanted interviews to be helpful I should structure them right and why not try to nudge the interviewee memory.

Through the literature review I could finally have some hope back. *Revista Monumentet* which had 60 volumes in total, had a lot of information on the moments and architecture of the time in Albania. It also includes building techniques, sketches, details etc... The way the articles were organized helped a lot into not just retrieving the old words but giving the needed context to explain the words clearly in this study for the reader.

A great source for the case of Tirana was also a study made by Manjola Xhaferri for her doctoral studies. She treated different aspect of life on Tirana and the villages around. It helped a lot especially since he has treated some villages of Tirana which are not treated in *Revista Monumentet*, so in a way it filled some gaps on my research.

After the words were retrieved from different sources and making a full collection I decided to check for precise definition through dictionaries when I could find one. A few web platforms helped me through my research as well, all which will be listed in web-biography.

Some of the major findings were:

- The gathered data suggests that a lot of the terms on the five districts were the same or they had minor changes of a dialectic matter.
- Most of the terminology is not used or remembered anymore by the habitants meaning that some of it hasn't made it to this research.
- All the phases of the research reinforce the reasons why this research is important and how it benefits the upcoming researches on the field.

Some surprising results include:

- The goal was to find around 200 words, but only 100 were found from the highlands of Tirana.
- Most of the houses on the Villages are abandoned if not demolished, resulting in less interviews than expected.
- The houses that still hold inhabitants are deeply changed inside but some of them save the old structure.

Some limitations include:

- Abandoned houses on the verge of collapse.
- There are very few evidences of the old interiors of the houses as the owners have adapted to the modern times.
- Limited possibilities to visit the villages on the mountains alone.

5.2 Recommendations for future research

For anyone hopefully deciding to do further researches on this study, I would like to make some recommendations based on my own experience.

I would like to say first that in order to make a full research one must understand that it requires a lot of time. For it to be successful time is crucial as I could see in my case that the biggest limitation came from the lack of time. On site visits followed by interviews are a great source and each of them requires time and efforts since there are plenty of villages to visits.

Studying previous researches is very helpful, but checking the references is even better as you go directly to the literature. Aiming for the references also saves some time because it gives not only the title or source of literature but also the specific sections or pages that would have the most coherent information. This would also help to organize the research since the first phases.

When collecting words it would be of a great value if there was also found information of how the word evolved or if it has a particular different meaning from the past. While on the process of making the illustrations it made me realise how nice it would be if there was an architectural dictionary for children. An entertaining dictionary with colourful illustrations would arise the curiosity of the children to learn the old words. That would be a great way to transmit our heritage to the future generations.



Figure 54. Suggestion and Recommendations for future research, example taken from Vernacularbuildingglossary.org.uk.

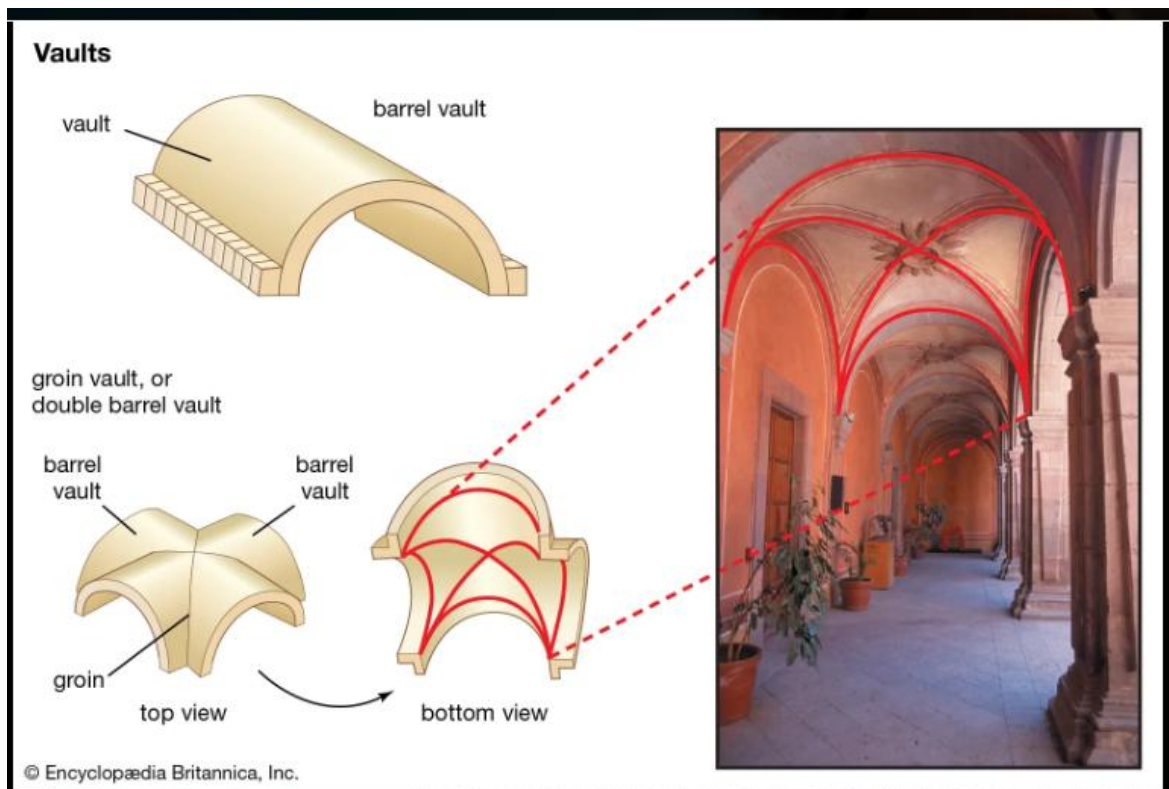


Figure 55. Suggestion and Recommendations for future research, example taken from kids.britannica.com

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