

DOCUMENTING RURAL ARCHITECTURE IN BËNJA VILLAGE:  
RECONSTRUCTION SCENARIOS FOR HOUSES DESTROYED IN WWII

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FOR  
THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE  
IN  
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## Approval sheet of the Thesis

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# ABSTRACT

## DOCUMENTATION OF RURAL ARCHITECTURE IN THE VILLAGE OF BËNJA: RECONSTRUCTION SCENARIOS FOR HOUSES DESTROYED IN WWII

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The scientific research aims to conduct a study and documentation of rural architecture in the village of Bënja, Përmet. The research includes an examination of the historical center of the village, focusing on its functional, social, and cultural organization across different historical periods. Furthermore, the study delves into construction techniques, materials, and the functional organization of old houses from the village's founding to the present day.

The primary objective is to document the current state of buildings in the area, identifying modifications made over time. To achieve this, architectural surveys were carried out on several houses within the historical center of the village, as well as a topographical survey of the entire village. The next step involved drawing detailed floor plans and facades, followed by the generation of comprehensive three-dimensional visual models. These steps facilitate a thorough analysis of the architectural aspects and spatial dynamics of the village, contributing to a detailed understanding of the studied area.

In conjunction with the architectural survey, a detailed exploration of the village's cultural and historical significance was undertaken. This included gathering information on local traditions, customs, and community narratives to provide context for understanding the observed architectural changes. Integrating socio-cultural



dimensions enhances the overall comprehension of the village's history and residential structures, resulting in a comprehensive examination of the targeted region

***Keywords:*** *Cultural heritage, Rural Architecture, traditional dwellings, Bënja Village, Historical Center, Ottoman-era architecture*

# **ABSTRAKT**

## **DOKUMENTIMI I ARKITEKTURËS RURALE NË FSHATIN BËNJË**

### **SKENARËT E RIKONSTRUKSIONIT PËR SHTËPITË E SHKATËRRUARA GJATË LUFTËS SË DYTË BOTËRORE**

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Kërkimi shkencor ka për qëllim të realizojë një studim dhe dokumentim të arkitekturës rurale në fshatin Bënjë, Përmet. Kërkimi përfshin një studim rural të qendrës historike të fshatit, duke shqyrtuar organizimin funksional, social dhe kulturor gjatë periudhave të ndryshme kohore.

Për më tepër, kërkimi thellohet në teknikat e ndërtimit, materialet dhe organizimin funksional të shtëpive të vjetra që nga themelimi i fshatit deri në ditët e sotme.

Qëllimi kryesor është të dokumentohet gjendja ekzistuese e banesave në këtë zonë, duke identifikuar modifikimet e bëra në ndërtesa gjatë kalimit të kohës. Për ta arritur këtë, u realizua rilevim arkitektonik, i cili u krye në disa banesa që ndodhen në qendrën historike të fshatit si dhe rilevim topografik i të gjithë fshatit.

Hapi tjetër, ishte vizatimi i planimetrive dhe fasadave, dhe u gjeneruan modele tredimensionale vizuale.

Këto hapa lehtësojnë një analizë të plotë të aspekteve arkitekturore dhe dinamikave hapësinore të fshatit, duke kontribuar në një kuptim të hollësishëm të zonës së studiuar.

Në bashkëveprim me rilevimin arkitekturor, u ndërmor një eksplorim i detajuar i rëndësisë kulturore dhe historike të fshatit. Kjo përfshiu mbledhjen e informacionit mbi traditat lokale, zakonet dhe tregimet e komunitetit për të ofruar kontekst për kuptimin e ndryshimeve arkitekturore të vëzhguara. Integrimi i dimensioneve socio-kulturore përmirëson kuptimin e përgjithshëm të historisë dhe strukturave banesore të fshatit, duke rezultuar në një ekzaminim të plotë të rajonit të synuar.

***Fjalët kyçe:** Trashëgimia kulturore, Arkitektura rurale, Banesat tradicionale,*

*Fshati Bënjë, Qendra historike, Arkitekturë e periudhës Osmane*

*To my family,*

*Your unwavering love, encouragement, and sacrifices have been the foundation of my academic pursuits. This thesis is dedicated to you, with heartfelt gratitude for your endless support.*

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# **CHAPTER 1**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Bënjë, Përmet, is a unique, small, and peculiar village in southern Albania. The village stands in a strategic elevated place that controls the gorge of the Langarica river and canyon. Bënja village is the only rural designated historical center in the Përmet area. Besides its historical significance and values, its landscape, geographical position, nature, and climate provide the potential for it to become one of the main tourist attractions in our country. Additionally, the village is located very close to other tourist attractions such as the Bënja Thermal Baths, Bënja Bridge, the Katiu Bridge, the Leusa Church, the Bënja Mill, the Langarica Canyons, and the Town of Përmet.

This thesis aims to research the rural architecture in the area of Përmet, focusing on Bënjë village in the ethnographic region of Shqeri. The main objective of this study is the development of a strategic plan for the recovery of the historical center of the village of Bënjë. To help with this purpose, a comprehensive study was conducted, which helped in identifying the main characteristics of the village's rural development, the history of the development as well as the features of the architecture of the houses and other objects with different functions. Furthermore, to create a more complete panorama, the research will also present data on the functional, social and cultural organization of the village.

### **1.1. Problem Statement**

Bënjë-Novosela is a village in the Petran municipality in the Përmet district of Albania. Once this village had about 2000 inhabitants and was one of the largest historical, cultural, and commercial centers of the Middle Ages (together with Frashër) of the Përmet region. A village with special architecture located near the thermal waters and the Lëngarice canyon. Today, it has no more than ten families and has been left in oblivion. The abandoned houses are on the verge of collapse, also the depopulation of the village is massive.

### **1.2. Thesis Objective**

The main objective of this thesis is the revitalization of life in Bënjë Village, focusing on the restoration in accordance with its architectural and rural traditional characteristics.

The development of the village would have a positive effect in many aspects, including making the village a tourist attraction. The creation of this attraction will result in the expansion and structuring of tourist attractions in this area.

The village is located near a very important destination in the area of Përmet, such as thermal springs. Bënja's thermal springs are popular and overcrowded with tourists, so the creation of a new site would draw the interest of both local and foreign visitors.

### **1.3. Scope of the study**

This research was conducted in phases. *The initial phase* involves surveying the village with different tools and devices. *The second phase* is the proposal of a strategic plan for the revitalization of the village, as well as the proposal of providing alternative functions to some of its dwellings. *The third phase* aims to propose scenarios for rural regeneration of ruins left from the destructions of WWII.

#### **1.4. Organization of thesis**

This thesis is divided in 6 chapters. The organization is done as follows:

In Chapter 1 it will be shown the problem statement were it will provide a thorough grasp of the issue this thesis addresses, the thesis objective and the goals of this thesis and scope of work. Chapter 2, includes literature review talking about the main topics that will be studied in this thesis. Chapter 3, consists of the methodology followed in this studi starting from data collections, collages, archives review and literature review. In chapter 4 and 5 will be shown the results and sheets that were done about some of the main buildings as well as the conclusions and some recommendation that will be used in the future.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1. Introduction**

The preservation and revitalization of rural architecture are vital for maintaining the cultural heritage and historical identity of communities. This literature review chapter aims to provide a comprehensive overview of studies, articles, bibliographies, and online publications focusing on the Përmet Town, the region of Shqeria, and specifically the village of Benjë. By drawing on various literature sources and previous studies, this chapter will serve as a foundation for understanding how similar studies are conducted. The analysis aims to explore the architectural significance of Benjë, highlight the challenges and opportunities in preserving and revitalizing the village, and provide insights into the methodologies and findings of previous research

#### **2.2. Overview of Resources**

Bibliographic searches for this study involved finding books, articles, and various publications that mention Bënja Village, Shqeria Province, and Përmet. This research relies on a number of publications and papers. Organizations such as the National Library, the Library at the Academy of Sciences, and the Multifunctional Cultural Center "Odhise Paskali" Përmet have facilitated the acquisition of these materials. Drawing from a diverse array of sources, including books, scholarly articles, and previous research projects, this study constructs a well-rounded understanding of Përmet and Benjë. These resources have been instrumental in collecting detailed information about the historical, social, and cultural aspects of the area.

### **2.2.1 Books on Përmet and Benjë:**

#### **"Three Villages of Përmet: Bënjë, Kosinë and Leusë." MONOGRAPH**

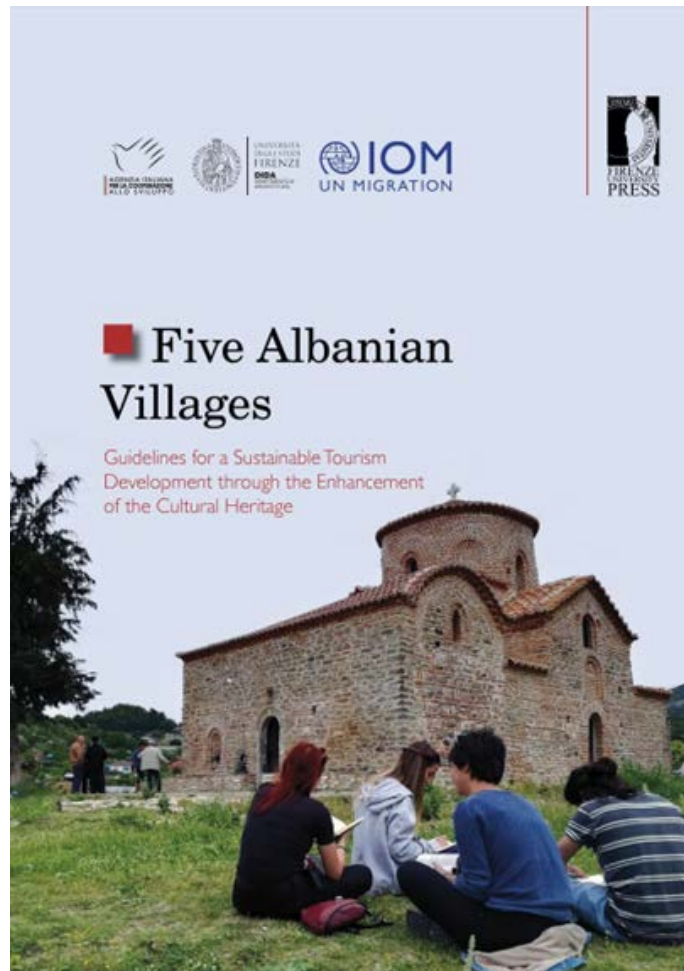
**Authors: Antonio Lauria, Valbona Flora, Kamela Guza**

This book is the result of a research project from the Department of Architecture at the University of Florence, which involved transferring knowledge from the Albanian Diaspora in Italy to Albania. This innovative approach established a replicable methodology for both Albanian rural areas and similar contexts elsewhere. The book provides a structured framework for sustainable and inclusive development in five lesser-known Albanian cultural sites, focusing on leveraging their tangible and intangible cultural heritage to improve residents' quality of life and strengthen local identity and social networks.

This book offers a structured approach to sustainable and socially inclusive development that is highly relevant to my study of Bënja village. By presenting methodologies for utilizing cultural heritage to drive development, it provides practical examples and strategies that I can adapt to the context of Bënja. The book's focus on enhancing both tangible and intangible cultural assets will assist me in crafting a



revitalization plan that balances historical preservation with contemporary needs, ensuring a holistic and effective approach to the village's development.



**Figure 1.** Book cover of "Five Albanian Village"

**Source:** Firenze University Press

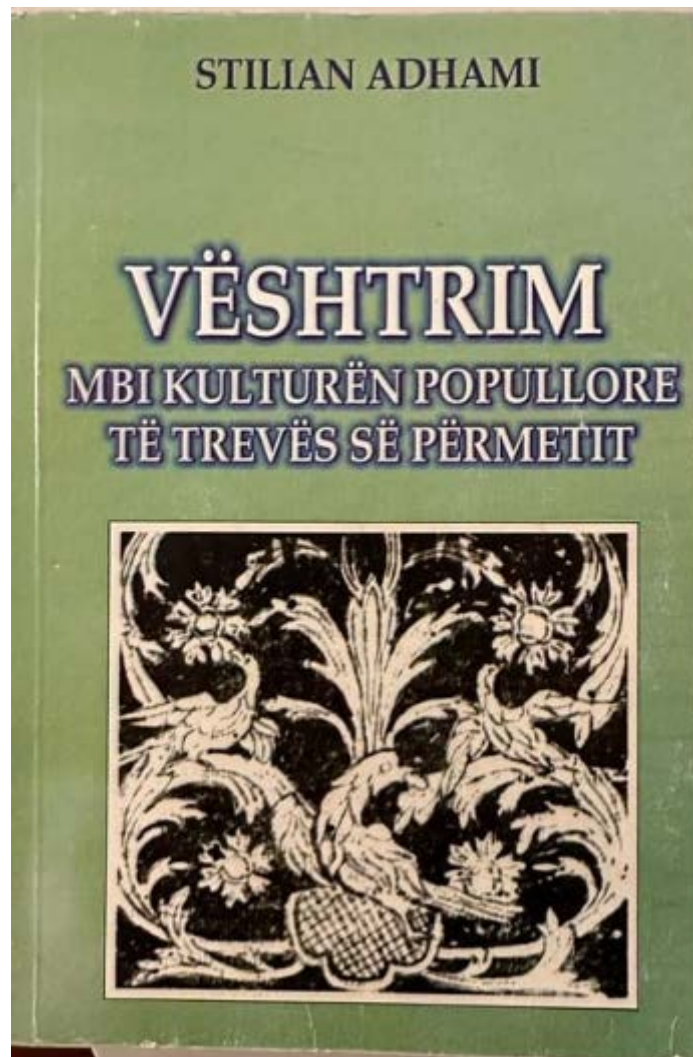
**"Veshtrim mbi Kulturen Popullore të trevës së Përmetit" by Stilia Adhami:**

This book provides a critical overview of the popular culture in the Përmet region. It offers insights into the historical development, social structures, and cultural practices that have shaped the identity of Përmet

**Use of "Veshtrim mbi Kulturën Popullore të Trevës së Përmetit" in My Study:**

- **Social and Demographic Insights:** Provides essential data on the social structures and ethnic groups in Bënja, aiding in understanding local dynamics.
- **Architectural Understanding:** Offers detailed information on traditional construction techniques, crucial for documenting and restoring Bënja's buildings.
- **Monument and Ruin Assessment:** Helps identify key structures for conservation and develop restoration strategies.
- **Cultural Practices:** Informs the integration of local customs, rituals, and traditions into revitalization efforts.
- **Folklore and Traditions:** Assists in preserving and promoting Bënja's cultural heritage through folklore and traditional practices.

This book has been pivotal in documenting, analyzing, and planning the revitalization and preservation of Bënja village by providing comprehensive cultural and architectural insights



*Figure 2.* Book cover of "Vështrim mbi kulturën popullore të trevës së Përmetit"

Source: National Library

**"Defteri i regjistrimit të Përmetit dhe Korçës i vitit 1431"**, translated by Vexhi Buharaja, mentions the name "Bano," specifically referring to a village located exactly where the village of Bënja is found today. It notes that the village had 9 houses. This is a very important piece of information for understanding the ancient origins of the village and that the village had its own indigenous inhabitants.

**Use of "Defteri i Regjistrimit të Përmetit dhe Korçës i vitit 1431" in My Study:**

- **Historical Evidence:** Provides crucial evidence of the early presence of the village of Bënja, recorded as "Bano" in the 1431 register.
- **Population Insight:** Indicates that the village had 9 houses, offering insight into the village's size and its historical significance.
- **Origins Understanding:** Helps trace the ancient origins of Bënja and confirms the presence of indigenous inhabitants.

This historical document is essential for understanding Bënja's early settlement and demographic context



**Figure 3.** Book cover of "Deferi i regjistrimit të Përmetit dhe Korçës i vitit 1431"

Source " Albanological Studies Center"

## 2.2.2 Studies on the Region of Shqeria:

### "Hulumtime për Luginën e sipërme të Përmetit: (Rrëza dhe Shqeria)" by Shefqet Saliu:

This study focuses on the upper valley of Përmet, including the region of Shqeria, which encompasses Benjë. It provides a detailed examination of the geographic, ecological, and demographic characteristics of Shqeria. Understanding these elements is crucial for contextualizing Benjë within its broader regional setting. The study also identifies the various villages within Shqeria, offering a comparative perspective on their development and current state.



*Figure 4.* Book cover of "Hulumtime për Luginën e sipërme të Përmetit: (Rrëza dhe Shqeria)" Source: National Library

### **2.2.3 In-depth Study of Benjë Village:**

#### **"Benja e Përmetit" by Viktor Kola:**

This book offers a comprehensive historical account of Benjë, tracing its development from its founding to the present day. It combines documentary evidence with oral histories from long-time residents, providing a rich narrative of the village's evolution. The book explores the social, cultural, and functional aspects of Benjë, detailing how these elements have interacted over time to shape the village's unique identity.

#### **"Relacioni- Zona te mbrojtura te asamblit arkitektonik, Benjë Përmet" by Ark. Kreshik Merxhani:**

The report examines the historical and architectural significance of the village of Bënjë, highlighting its origins, unique stone-built structures, and cultural heritage. Bënjë's name is linked to its thermal baths, and historical records from 1431-1432 confirm its early existence. The village is noted for its rugged terrain, stone houses, and cobblestone streets, forming a cohesive ensemble resembling a stone castle. Key features include the Church of St. Mary, built in 1879, and various monuments like the Katiu Bridge and the Wheat Mill. The report proposes designating two protection zones: a Historical Center encompassing the architectural ensemble and a surrounding Protected Area, ensuring the preservation of Bënjë's cultural and architectural heritage while promoting cultural tourism.

This report will significantly aid my study by providing a comprehensive understanding of the architectural and historical context of Bënjë village. It details the village's origins, architectural features, and cultural significance, offering a foundational framework for my analysis. The historical records and descriptions of unique stone-built structures will enhance the authenticity and depth of my research. Additionally, the proposed protection zones and legal procedures for granting protection status align with my objective of preserving Bënjë's cultural heritage, providing a practical reference for developing conservation strategies. By leveraging this report, I can formulate informed and contextually relevant recommendations for

the revitalization and sustainable development of Bënjë village, aligning with broader goals of cultural tourism and heritage conservation.



**Figure 5.** Cover of "Relacioni- Zona te mbrojtura te asamblit arkitektonik, Bënjë Përmet"



#### 2.2.4 Methodology and Analysis

The methodologies and analytical frameworks employed in these studies have informed my approach to surveying and analyzing Benjë. A significant reference has been the project "Plani i Rikuperimit per qendren historike Gjirokaster," coordinated by architect Fabrizio Torresi and engineer Bruno Bonifazi. This project has provided practical insights into the process of conducting comprehensive analyses of historical centers.

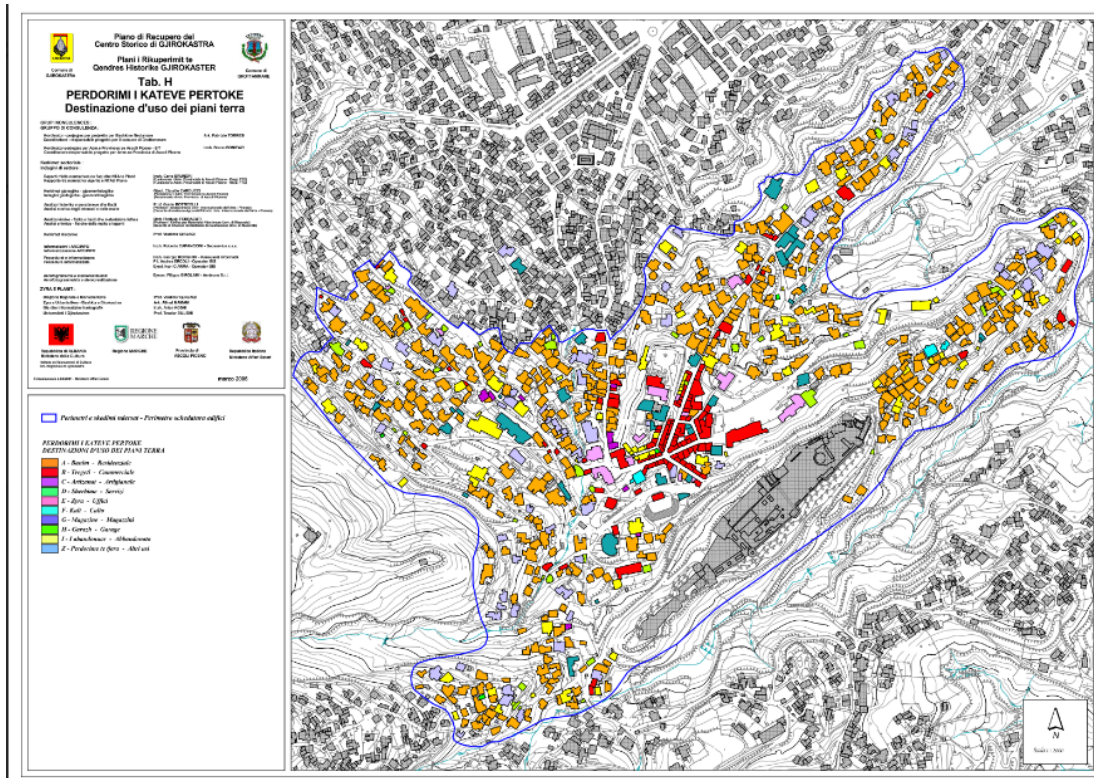
Based on the methodologies from the Gjirokaster project, I have conducted a series of rural analyses for Benjë, generating various maps that detail different aspects of the village:



*Figure 6.* View of the old town of Gjirokastra

*Ground floor use:*

This map categorizes buildings based on their primary use, distinguishing between residential, religious, educational, and agricultural structures. This categorization helps in understanding the functional layout of the village and identifying areas that may need specific types of revitalization.



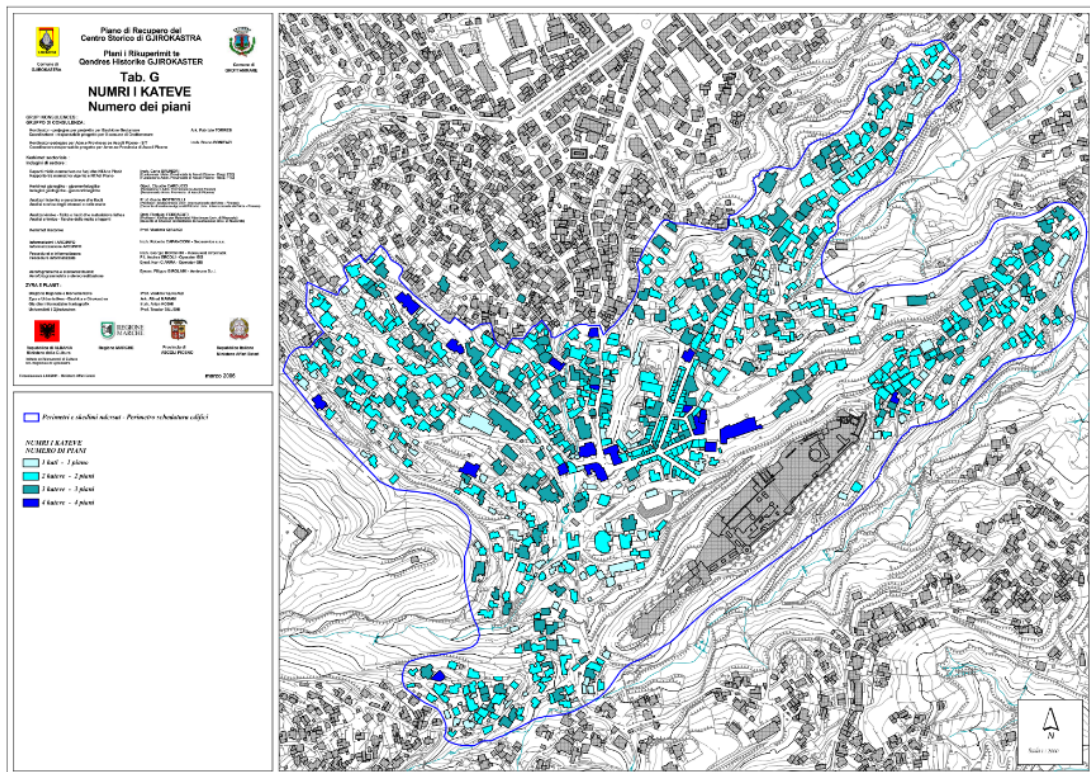
**Figure 7.** Ground floor use

Piano di recupero del centro storica Di Gjirokaaster



### *Building Heights:*

This map identifies the number of stories of each building, indicating whether they are single-story, double-story, or three-story structures. Understanding the vertical distribution of buildings is important for planning restoration and new constructions that are harmonious with the existing architecture.

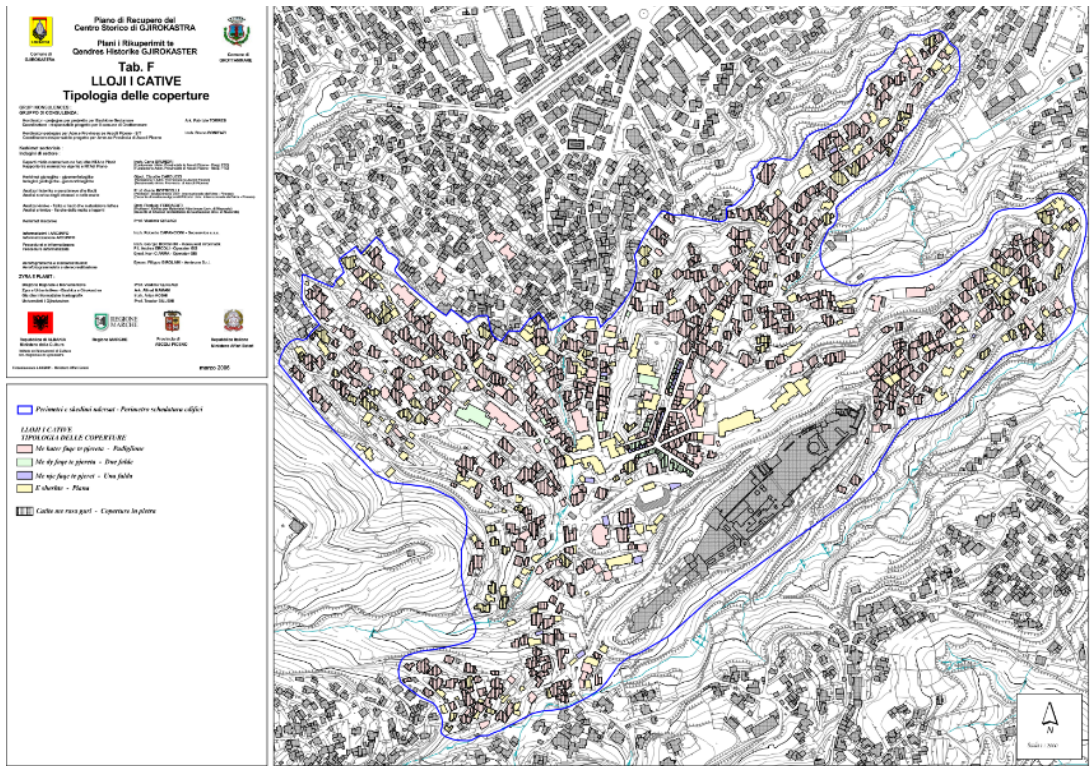


**Figure 8.** Building heights

Piano di recupero del centro storica Di Gjirokastra

*Roofing Materials:*

This map documents the types of roofing materials used in the village, noting which roofs have retained the authentic stone slates and which have been replaced with other materials. This information is critical for planning restoration efforts that aim to preserve the traditional appearance of the village.

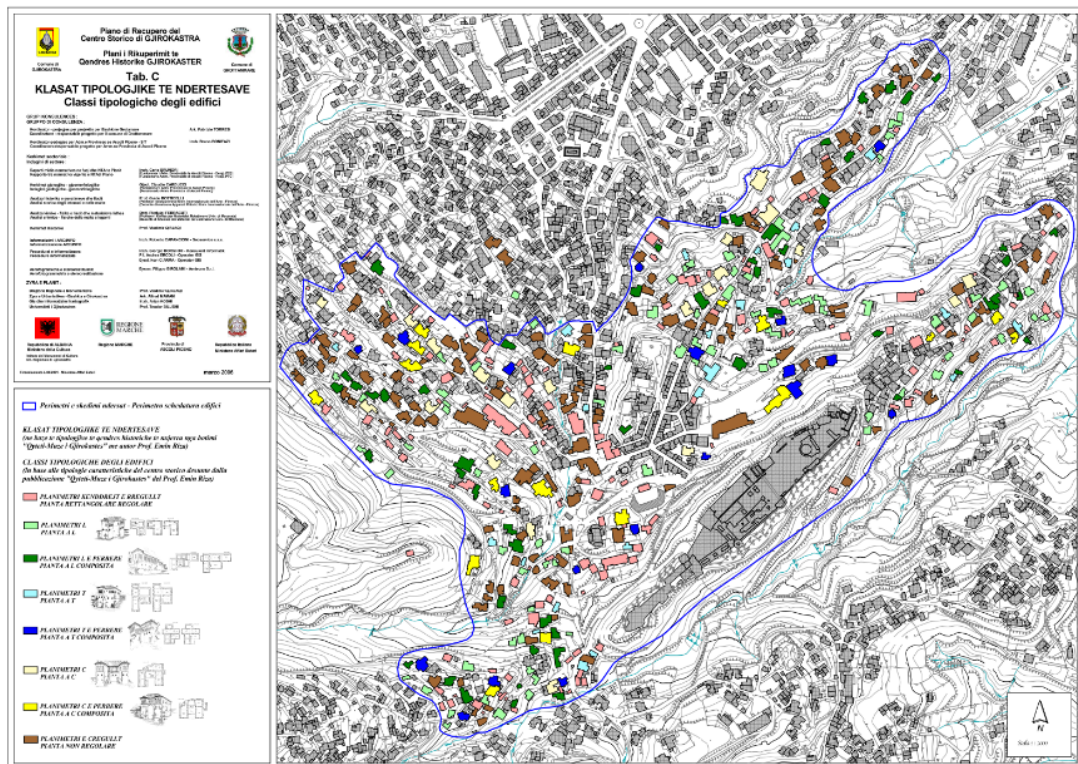


**Figure 9.** Roof typologies  
Piano di recupero del centro storica Di Gjirokastra



## House Typology:

This map classifies houses based on their architectural forms, providing insights into the variety of building styles present in Gjirokastra. Understanding these typologies helps in developing guidelines for new constructions and restorations that are sympathetic to the existing architectural heritage.



**Figure 10.** House typology

Piano di recupero del centro storica Di Gjirokaster

## Ruins:

This map identifies and documents the locations and conditions of ruins within the village. Mapping the ruins is essential for prioritizing restoration efforts and planning interventions that can bring these structures back into functional use. These analyses will serve as essential tools in the subsequent phases of the project, enabling targeted interventions and informed decision-making for the preservation and revitalization of Benjë.

### **2.3. CONDITION ASSESSMENT – DOCUMENTATION**

This session was originally written by Tony Crosby and submitted with modifications to the Getty Conservation Institute (GCI) in 2005, completed by Claudia Cancino.

Documentation is an integral part of managing and preserving cultural heritage. It is essential for recording specific information related to the needs of those protecting heritage sites. A documentation program should respond to a specific need, and once identified, an appropriate approach and methodology can be selected. The session emphasizes defining the need, objective, and selecting the proper documentation approach, method, and tools.

**OBJECTIVES** Participants should be able to:

- Understand the importance of why we document a site.
- Grasp the relationship between documentation purpose and methodology.
- Define the information to be recorded and its role in planning.
- Identify a wide range of documentation tools and methods.

#### **CONTENT**

Classroom Lecture:

##### **1. Introduction:**

- Link this session with previous and upcoming sessions.
- Explain the types of records produced at different conservation stages.
- Highlight the impact of proper recording, documentation assessment, and information management on the conservation process.
- Emphasize how threats influence the documentation methodology for sites at risk.

##### **2. Documentation Tools and Methodology:**

- Discuss examples of site documentation and identify the tools used.
- Differentiate between documentation tools and methods:
  - Base recording: Hand survey, sketch diagram.
  - Instrument survey: Total station theodolite, laser scanning, GPS.
  - Image-based methods: Pictorial imagery, rectified photography, photogrammetry, video.
  - Data Management: CAD, computer modeling, databases, GIS.

### 3. Documentation for Specific Objectives:

- Brainstorm reasons to document a site (interpretation, decay process, monitoring, intervention).
- Use case studies to illustrate different documentation methods, their rationale, advantages, and disadvantages.
- Discuss if the tool selected for each case study was suitable for the identified need.

During the documentation phase of the cultural monuments in Benja village, the "Condition Assessment – Documentation" methodology was employed to ensure a comprehensive and detailed assessment of the physical condition of each object. This methodology was specifically applied to four key cultural monuments: the Prifti Family House (a first-category cultural monument), the Benja Church (a first-category cultural monument), the Old Village School (a first-category cultural monument), and the Bridge over Benja Stream (a first-category cultural monument). The use of this methodology facilitated the identification of potential damages, such as the erosion of building materials and environmental impacts, ensuring that every aspect of conservation was thoroughly considered. The process included visual and descriptive documentation of architectural characteristics and the preparation of detailed reports, which serve as a basis for future interventions and strategic planning for the preservation of cultural heritage in this area.

The aim of using the "Condition Assessment – Documentation" methodology in the documentation phase was to achieve a thorough and systematic evaluation of the physical state of the cultural monuments in Benja village. This approach was intended to:

- a. Identify and Document Existing Conditions: Provide a detailed and accurate record of the current condition of the monuments, capturing any signs of deterioration, structural issues, and material degradation.
- b. Facilitate Conservation Planning: Generate comprehensive reports that could inform and guide conservation and restoration efforts, ensuring that interventions are based on precise and reliable data.
- c. Preserve Cultural Heritage: Contribute to the long-term preservation and protection of Benja village's cultural heritage by creating a well-documented baseline for future reference and monitoring.
- d. Enhance Understanding of Historical Significance: Support the broader understanding of the historical and architectural significance of the monuments, promoting their value and importance within the community and beyond.

#### **2.4. Proposal for the hypothetical reconstruction**

The final study is concluded with a proposal for the hypothetical reconstruction of two houses that were destroyed during World War II. For this proposal, I have taken inspiration from two projects:

*Example 1:*

Stone House in Mani by hhharchitects: In reconstructing this traditional house in Mani, hhharchitects aimed at preserving its existing stone shell while clearly differentiating new interventions. They used a lightweight steel construction to create visual contact between different levels and highlight the new interventions. The staircase, made from both marble and metal, connects the house's three levels. The 'outbuilding,' in direct contact with the main house, was reconstructed into a bedroom. The kitchen on the



upper level communicates with the dining room and sun terrace, which was expanded to create an outdoor seating area. The reconstruction maintained the integrity of the old wooden gate and connected various levels of the house through external staircases.



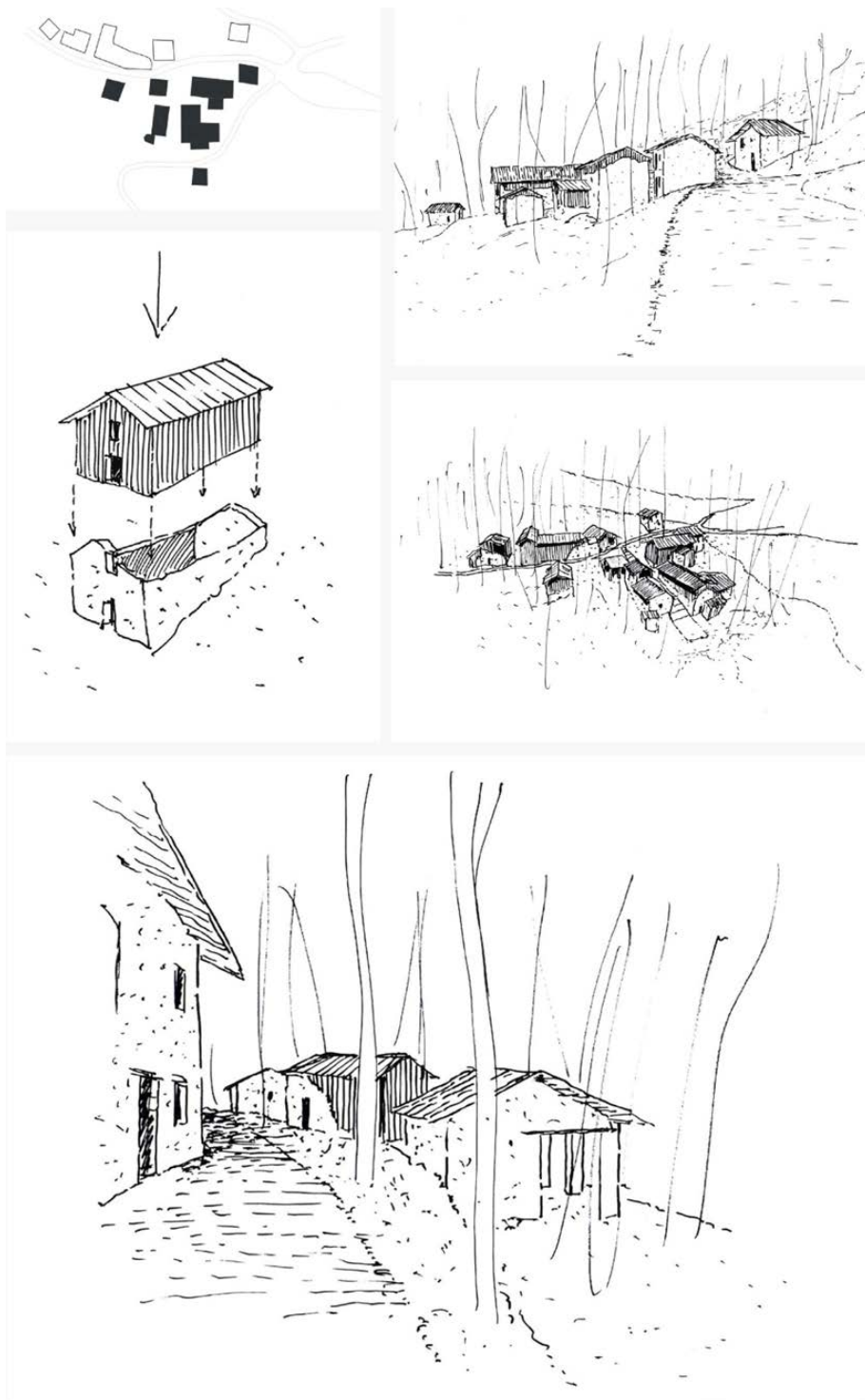
*Figure 11.* Stone house in Mani by hhharchitecs

*Example 2:*

Recupero della Borgata Paraloup by D. Castellino, V. Cottino, G. Barberis, and D. Regis: This project revived the abandoned village of Paraloup in Valle Stura, highlighting the dialogue between historical heritage and contemporary architecture. The recovery preserved the site's identity, sustainability, environmental, and social quality, conserving and enhancing the architectural and landscape heritage. The project maintained the original layout and pedestrian paths, consolidating the ruins while recognizing and reconstructing the original volumes and geometries. Using traditional materials like untreated local chestnut and modern, invisible technologies ensured the intervention's recognizability and respect for the site's historical fabric. The project also integrated modern sustainable practices, such as photovoltaic systems and local wool insulation, ensuring the village's long-term viability and cultural activities.



**Figure 12.** RECUPERO DELLA BORGATA PARALOUP  
Daniele Regis, Dario Castellino, RealyEasyStar



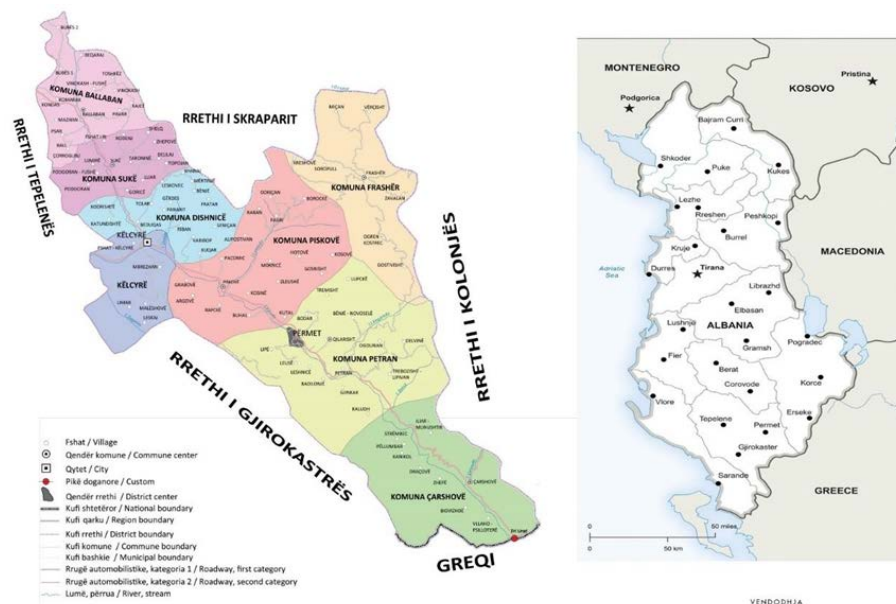
**Figure 13.** RECUPERO DELLA BORGATA PARALOUP

Daniele Regis, Dario Castellino, RealyEasyStar

Inspiration from these projects has guided the proposal for reconstructing the two destroyed houses in Benja village, aiming to preserve the historical essence while incorporating contemporary, sustainable interventions.

## 2.5. Geographical position

Përmet is located approximately 240 meters above sea level and has an urban area of 120 hectares, including 99,000 m<sup>2</sup> of green space. It is located 30 km from the border with Greece, positioned in the south-east of Albania. The territory of the district has the shape of a regular hexagon with a northwest-southeast longitudinal extension. The town of Përmet, with over 12,000 residents, features an attractive square in the center dedicated to Albanian diplomat Abdyl Frashëri. The municipality's territory is rich in natural resources, which serve as the foundation for the municipality's economic context. Among them, we mention the many water sources. Vjosa River, one of the main rivers of our country, crosses the territory of the town, constituting the main axis of the organization and communication of local communities in the district of Përmet, which have a strong territorial identity due to its location in the Vjosa valley. The thermal springs of Bënja, its waters which have curative properties for several diseases, constitute one of the most popular assets underground resources of the area. The town encompasses the area where the "Bredhi i Hotova" national park and the forest massif meet. There is a lot of biodiversity in this park.



**Figure 14.** Location of Përmet district on Albania's map

Source: Wikipedia





*Figure 15.* Vjosa River  
by Dorotea Bregu

## 2.6. History

According to the legend, the city got its name from the ancient hero named Premt who, in order not to fall alive into the hands of the enemies, threw himself from the "City Stone", a rock near the city center that is also a cultural monument of the first category.

There are no complete data on the exact establishment of the city of Përmet. It seems that as a settlement it should belong to the early Middle Ages; however, from some archaeological material that was accidentally discovered during the opening of the foundations of the new school in 1948 and that belong to the Hellenistic period, the age of this settlement is pushed further than the early Middle Ages. Above the City Stone, traces of the acropolis are clearly visible. The core of the old settlement is logically thought to have been around where there were ruins and two cemeteries from the Hellenistic period were also discovered nearby. When the need for the construction of the castle was felt, of course, dwellings were also gathered inside the castle, until peace and other conditions were ensured, the inhabitants began to descend below the castle to build their permanent dwellings. This is how the neighborhood of Jamia, Shurkaleci and the beginnings of the neighborhood of Shënkolli were formed first, to continue in turn.

Përmet has played an important political role in Albania: it was here that in 1944 the so-called Congress of Përmet created the provisional government, paving the way for the communist regime. As far as is known, two houses are left standing, one declared a cultural monument of the first category as the House of Ylli Imami and Lilo Vangjeli is one of the oldest buildings left, but unfortunately it too has entered a rapid phase of degradation after the collapse of part of its roof and walls. The second remaining dwelling is quite transformed in its upper part (only the basements are preserved). Both these dwellings are thought to be from the early 19th century.



***Figure 16.*** Panoramic view of Përmet

Source: Wander



## **2.7. The historical center of Përmet**

Bënja The Historical Center of the city of Përmet includes all the existing buildings and lies mainly in the neighborhoods of Shënkolli (Varrosh), Teqesë, which, in terms of the composition of buildings and cobbled streets, are the neighborhoods where the oldest traces of the city have remained.

Within the historical center there are two cult objects: Shën e Premte Church, built in 1776, and declared a cultural monument of the first category; The 19th century Shën Kolli Church. The road's track and narrow cobblestone alleys date back to the early 19th century.

In Përmet there are characteristic houses, albeit transformed, arched gates and perennial cypress trees. The cemetery, which usually included the dwellings outside the fortresses, those under the foot of the castle, over time was known as the neighborhood of Shënkolli, since this neighborhood began to stretch under the foot of the Bolënga bank, from the end of the which the castle was located. his neighborhood, built almost from the southern side of Bolënga, went down to the other neighborhoods, over which it dominated as a position and had a wide view. The streets are paved for the most part with cobblestones made of limestone and river stones. In each stretch of road there was a central line for the passage of water, which was opened almost daily by the mills to guarantee the cleaning of the streets, gates and gardens. The houses of this neighborhood are built almost next to each other, with small yards or gardens and with a slight slope that is dictated by the terrain itself. The enclosures of the courtyards are mostly enclosed by high stone walls and sheltered wooden gates. Most of the houses are two-story with stone walls and stone-slab roofs, but there are also one-story or three-story houses.

Within the historical center, several buildings from the beginning of the 20th century stand out with special values that deserve the status of a cultural monument. The vast majority of dwellings were built after World War II.



*Figure 17.* Buildings from the early 20th, streets with cobblestones made of limestone and river stones.

by Dorotea Bregu



**Figure 18.** The historic neighborhood Përmet

Source: Municipality of Përmet

## **2.8. Art and Culture**

Përmet, a city rich in beauty, lots to see and do is located in southeastern part of Albania. It is known for its cultural monuments, archeological site, historical figures, folk music and rose planting. For generations, various religions have coexisted peacefully in this city, and the city and its surroundings are home to some of the country's most beautiful religious buildings, which have priceless cultural and historical significance. The *Church of “Shën Kolli”*, the *Church of “Shën Mëria”*, the *Church of “Shën e Premte”*, the *“Teqe of Baba Ali”* and the *“Teqe of Frashëri”* are all examples of religious tolerance. Përmet is a popular place to learn about the history of Albania.

This city is undoubtedly the main center of the Albanian National Renaissance, the political, social, and cultural movements for the liberation of the country from foreign invasions, the unification of the Albanian lands as well as the development of local education and culture. The cultural contributions and activities of the three brothers Abdyl, Naim and Sami Frashëri, born in the village of Frashër, Përmet, are undoubtedly some of the most valuable and essential during this movement, which

began in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and lasted until 1912. Visiting Përmet is an impressive immersion in nature, art and culture

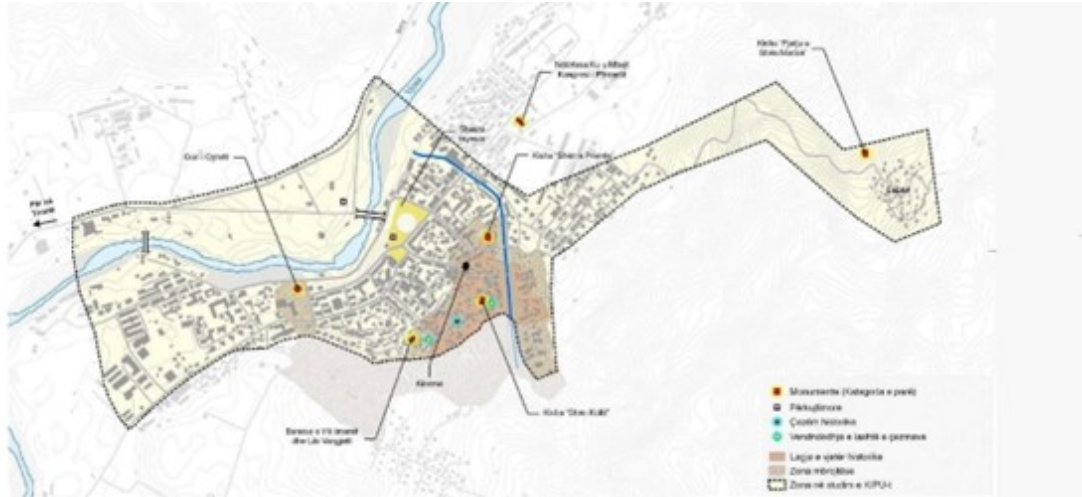


Figure 19. Cultural Monuments of Përmet District

Source: Municipality of Përmet



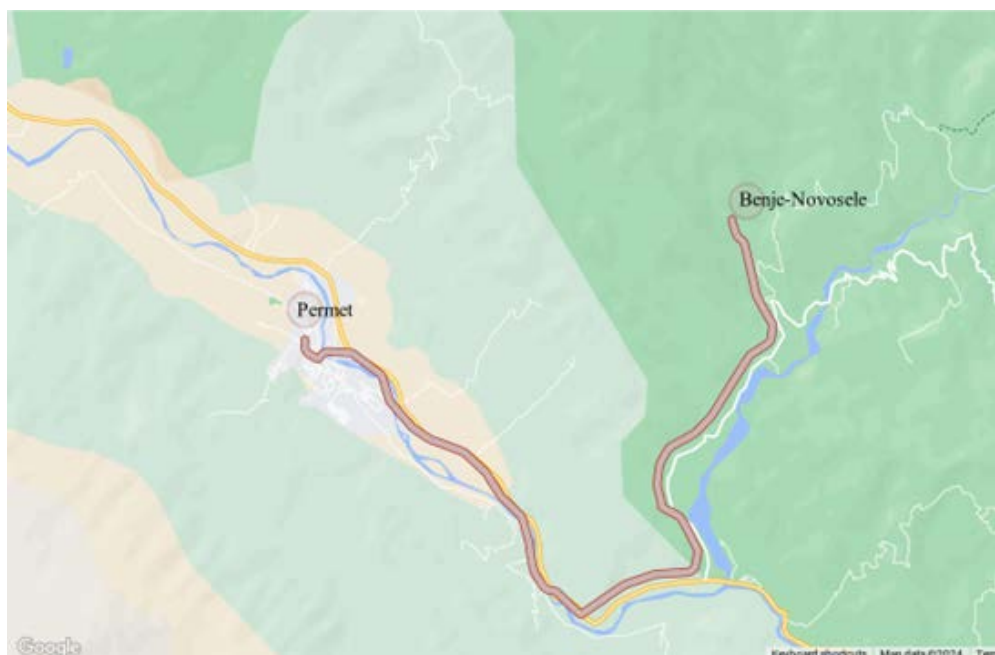
## RRETHI I PËRMETIT - MOMUMENTET E KULTURËS Përmeti District - Cultural monuments



**Figure 20.** Overview of Cultural Monuments in Përmet District

## 2.9. The connection of Përmet with the village of Bënje

Bënja is one of the settlements of *Shqeria* district, which is dependent on Petran province and Përmet Municipality. Since early times, Bënja has had its own administrative and economic-social relations with the town of Përmet. According to numerous documents such as the Turkish *register* and the work of Sami Frashëri "*Kamus Ul Alam*," Përmet was the "Kazaja" of *Sanxhak* of Gjirokastra and consisted of four provinces, one of which being *Shqeria*, and therefore Bënja was dependent on Përmet's governance. To this day, the village of Bënje maintains a relationship with the city of Përmet, since almost all administrative procedures that the residents may have are carried out in Përmet. In the economic-social aspect, Bënja and Përmeti have had strong ties. The two regions are known for the trade they did between them in the city bazaar once a week where many villagers went to participate. Nowadays, the villagers travel from time to time to the city to sell their agricultural products.



**Figure 21.** The connection of Përmet with the village of Bënje

# **CHAPTER 3**

## **METHODOLOGY**

This chapter summarizes the key research queries. More specifically, in the third chapter, is elaborated the chosen research design, including the thorough approach that includes bibliographic sources, archival searches and on-site inspections.

### **3.2 Archival searches**

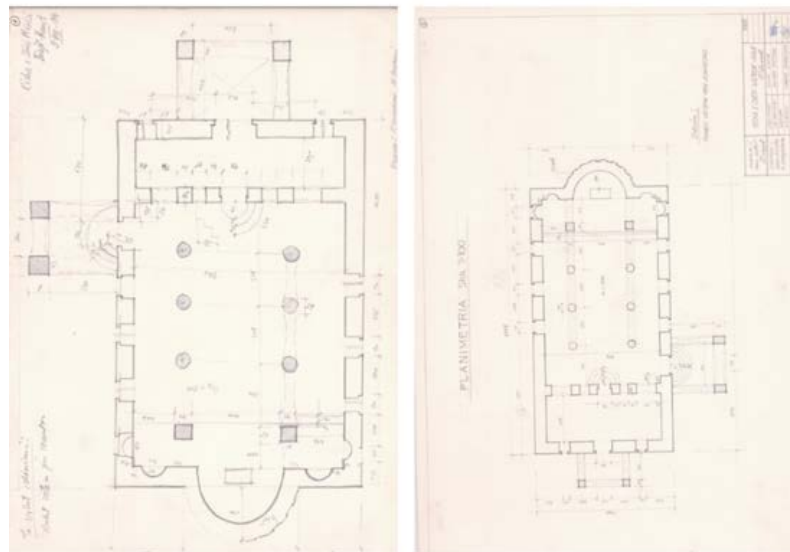
The archival research was conducted at the National Institute of Cultural Heritage archive, from where I obtained floor plans, surveys, and documentation regarding the Bënja Church.

KISHA E SHËN MËRIË - BËNJA

FURMET

Ruhet për ikonoetes. Benilikë trefeshe në tavan,  
ndërtim i shek.XII. Nga ana perëndimore ka narteksin dhe nga  
lindje një abside. Hyrjet nga perëndimi dhe jugu mbulohen me  
portik shi kollona. Në pjesë nuk ruan pikturë murale .Nga ana  
konstruktive ka planje në qershet.

*Tirre 18. 11. 83*



**Figure 22.** Documentation on the "Church of Bënja"

Source: Institute of Cultural Heritage (IKKT)

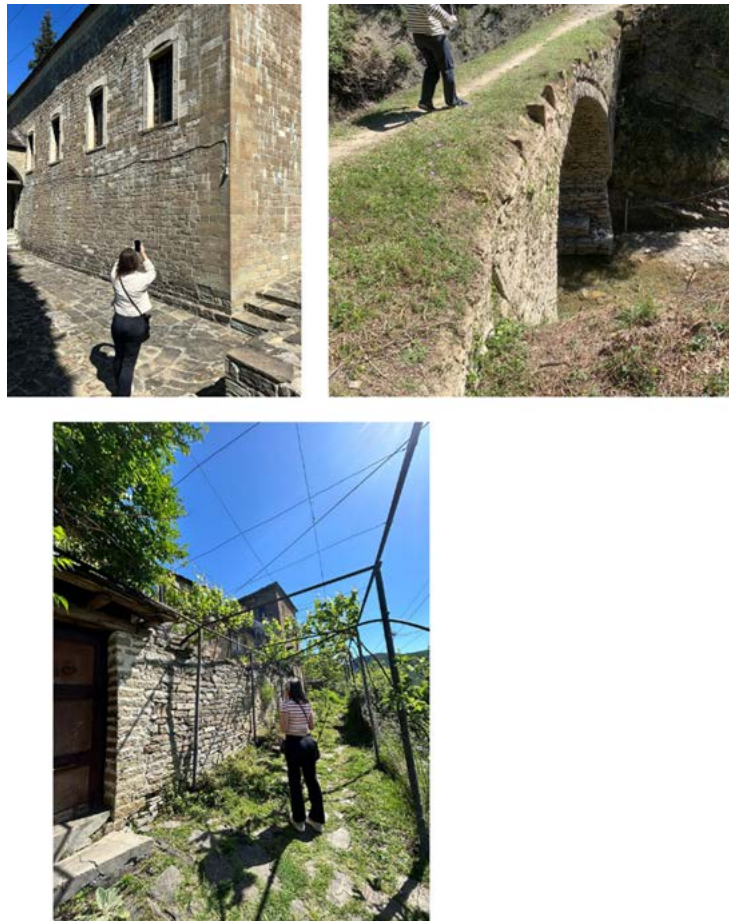


### 3.3 Preliminary Site Visits

Site visit is one of the many methods used to carry out this study. The objective of the site visits was to gather as much information and materials as possible about the the village.

Data acquired during site visits to the village include:

- *Photographic materials and sketches*
- *Interviews with the residents of the area*
- *Measurements taken in typical village dwellings*
- *Aerial Measurement Using Drones*



**Figure 23.** Preliminary site visit  
by Dorotea Bregu

### 3.3.1 Collection of photographic materials and sketches



**Figure 24.** Rock drawings collected by a local  
by Dorotea Bregu





*Figure 25.* Snapshots collected during an on-site preliminary visit  
by Dorotea Bregu

### **3.3.2 Interviews with the residents of the area**

During the visits to the village, there are conducted interviews with different residents of the village, who, through their stories, made me better understand the history of the development of the village over the years. In particular, i would highlight the interviews with two village inhabitants, *Jorgji Kreci* and *Sotir Nauni* should be highlighted.

*Jorgji Kreci* is currently the only construction worker or “usta” as he described himself in the village, thanks to the interview with him i managed to understand more about the construction of the houses and other facilites.

*Sotir Nauni*, the former teacher of the old school in the village is one of the last autochthonous residents of the village. Through the interview with him, I obtained deeper insights into the historical narrative of the village, encompassing its operational mechanisms, the construction of its cobblestone pathways, the infrastructure of its sewers, the methods of water supply to the village, and related facets.

### **3.3.3 Measurements taken in typical village dwellings**

#### **3.3.3.1 Sketches and laser meter measurements**

Selected the first 10 houses for in-depth analysis. Described each structure using sketches and obtained precise measurements with a laser meter during individual visits.

#### **3.3.3.2 Program-assisted measurements and scanning**

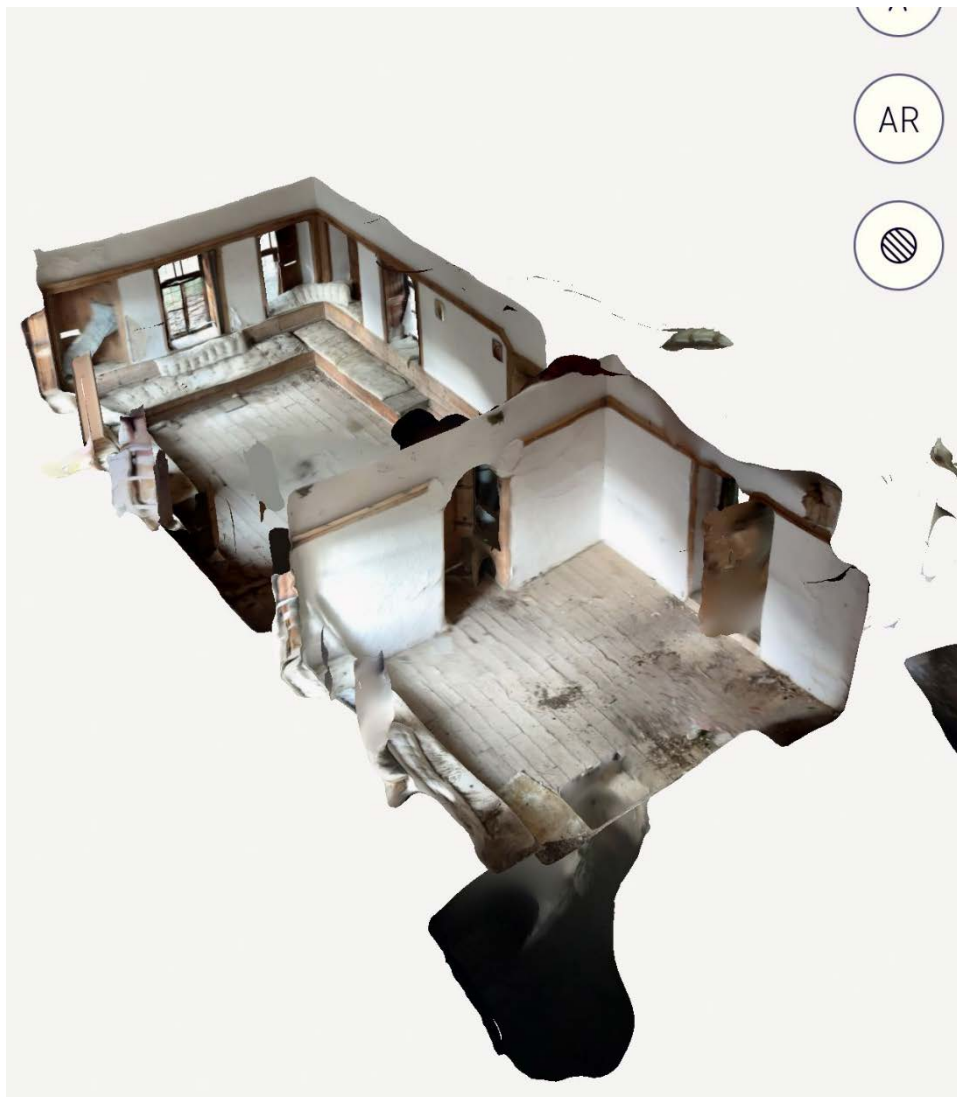
Used innovative software systems to conduct precise measurements and scans of the selected houses. This innovative approach increased the precision and efficiency of data collecting, allowing for a thorough examination of architectural characteristics and details. The utilization of these advanced tools contributed to a more comprehensive understanding of the studied village.



**Figure 26.** Electronic laser window measurements

### 3.3.3.3 Follow-up site visits

Used innovative software systems to conduct precise measurements and scans of the selected houses. This innovative approach increased the precision and efficiency of data collecting, allowing for a thorough examination of architectural characteristics and details. The utilization of these advanced tools contributed to a more comprehensive understanding of the studied village.



*Figure 27.* 3D generated through scanning



### 3.4 Aerial Measurement Using Drones

Utilized drone technology to capture high-resolution images of the village, providing a detailed aerial perspective for further analysis.



*Figure 28.* Aerial imagery depicts the village





*Figure 29.* Aerial perspective of how buildings are structured



*Figure 30.* Aerial image of the village's main entrance



### 3.5 Data processing

The collected drone materials aimed to create 3D images of the village by utilizing advanced software systems. This involved a thorough analysis of the dataset, involving the extraction of valuable information to enhance the precision of the visual representations. The detailed examination of these 3D images contributed significantly to a comprehensive understanding of the architectural and topographical aspects of the studied village.



*Figure 31.* 3D developed via a drone

### **3.6 Imaging and orthophotos**

Independently leveraging 3D imaging and orthophotos, an advanced approach was used to extract detailed plans and surveys of the village. This approach included an in-depth analysis of the visual data, which enabled the identification and documentation of essential elements such as house structures, cultural objects, and landscape features. The independent application of these technologies allowed a thorough examination, generating nuanced insights into the spatial arrangement and characteristics of the studied village.

### **3.7 Integration of drone data**

The integration of drone data, 3D images, and orthophotos was conducted independently to provide an objective and comprehensive understanding of the architectural and topographical aspects of the village. This approach allowed for a thorough analysis of the village's layout, structures, and terrain, ensuring a holistic perspective on its characteristics. The methodology involved individual implementation, combining on-site measurements, drone technology, and software-assisted analyses for a thorough exploration of the village's architectural and cultural aspects.

## CHAPTER 4

### Bënja Village

This chapter delineates the history of the formation of Bënja village, spanning from the 11<sup>th</sup> century to the modern era post-2000. In intricate detail, the chapter expounds on the historical significance of Bënja, encompassing the evolution and key changes that have influenced the development of this village. Key events and developments are analyzed, shedding light on the historical and socio-cultural context in which Bënja has emerged. Additionally, the chapter provides an overview of the social and institutional structure of the village, addressing issues such as community organization, economic development, and infrastructure networks.

#### 4.1 General overview of Bënja village

##### *Shqeria*

Përmeti is divided into several regions: *Dangelli*, *Shqeri*, *Karamuratas*, *Cerje*, *Deshnice*, and *Rreze*. The region that includes the village of Bënja is Shqeria.

*Shqeria*: The eastern part of this region belongs to the Përmet district, while the western part belongs to the Kolonja district, with some villages being part of Leskovik; however, during the Ottoman occupation, when the district of Përmet encompassed 148 villages, all of *Shqeria* was connected to the district of Përmet (even Jani Vretoja claims to be from Postenani of Përmet). This region is bordered to the north by the Lengarica valley, to the east and southeast by the Leskovik region, while to the south and southwest by the upper Vjosa valley. The majority of it is composed of limestone and rocky terrain, with hilly and mountainous relief, with flat hilltops, interrupted horizontally by the valleys of rivers and streams, which have created narrow and often impassable gorges, such as that of Lëngarica. In the northeastern slopes of Postenani mountain, pine trees, beech trees, and fir trees grow. The inhabited centers are located

on the slopes of the hills and mountain slopes, such as Delvina, Izgari, Odgunani, Lipivani, Trebozishti, Roçavishti (with a community gender), Gjerakara, and Postenani.

#### **4.1.1 Geographic position**

The village of Bënje is situated in the northeastern part of Përmet, approximately 10 km away from it in a straight line. It is located in a rugged terrain, surrounded by hills and slopes. To the west of the village, there is an undulating plateau, elevated to Pilatë of Novoselë. On either side of the village, two rivers flow. These two rivers converge at the stone bridge of the village, and together they continue their course towards the Lëngarica gorge. One of the reasons for the village's positioning in such terrain is also for protection against the numerous natural hazards that were prevalent at that time. *Bënja* is bordered to the north by the villages of Ogren, Vinjah, Ogdunan, and Grabova. To the northwest, it is bordered by the villages of Lupcke and Novosele, while to the south, it is bordered by the Buareci River.

#### **4.1.2 Relief**

The territory of Bënja presents a rich and diversified relief, with various forms. It begins with the depression of the Lëngarica gorge in the western part, while it is bordered by a range of hills that, rising towards the north, continue to elevate. Based on natural conditions, this field is divided into two levels. In the lower level, near the Lëngarica River, are the fields of Tajma with their fertile soils. In the higher level above them, the majority of the Bënja field extends with its brownish lands. Moving upwards in this field towards the village, especially in its surrounding areas and beyond, in the depth of the northern zone, the relief becomes increasingly complex and rugged. It is characterized by a series of hills and clusters of hills, ridges and slopes, terraces and plateaus, often extending on both sides of the Oskrushe River and forming a deep gorge or valley within it. This valley starts from the south, from the head of the fields of the Church, and continues north towards the opposite side of the Oskrushe River's flow. It ascends high to the bridge of Bënja, to Rrepet, to the Zerec

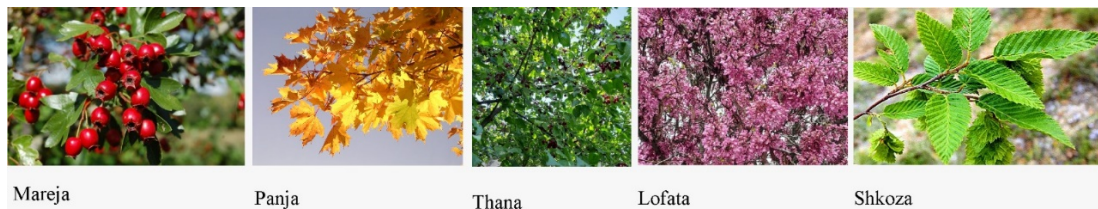
mountain, until the heights of the Drenova hills. It widens periodically and narrows periodically, forming circular shapes and fields like that of Shengjergji, terraces of the fields of Rrepe, the fields of Vangjeli, etc. The mentioned hills in these areas are Krygeza with Qafa and Rripa of Vinjahu, the Zerec mountain, Ratinja, while in the mountainous area to the north, the cluster of hills of Drenova and the fields of Kacori are noticeable.

## 4.2 Flora and fauna

The territory of Bënjë has a rich biodiversity, including various animals and plants. The area has changed significantly over time, influenced by factors such as size, climate, and natural phenomena.

### 4.2.1 Flora

The territory of Bënja is renowned for its abundant plant wealth. The vegetation in the southern and central regions of this land mostly consists of Mediterranean shrubs, deciduous trees, and heather, including species such as mareja, cermedelli, lofata, mereti, shkoza, ilget, driza, mu-mizi, dellinja, and others.



**Figure 32.** The illustration displays the vegetation of the region

Mareja holds a distinctive place, forming dense forests on all the hills and slopes in the area. We can mention some of the forested areas, such as those in Krygëza, the region of Vangjeli, Shen Gjergji, Shen Mëriti, Kamenikul on one side, and the region of Kologelovë, Shëndelliu, and the Ishati ridge on the other, extending up to Ratinjo.



**Figure 33.** The vegetation found in the Vangjeli, Shen Gjergji, and Shen Meriti regions, among others

These forests also host a rich variety of plant life, including several medicinal species. In the hills of Buaces, the vegetation becomes rarer, and the terrain is more barren with lower vegetation cover. Here, you can find tall trees, including some with medicinal properties. In the hills of Berceve, the terrain remains diverse and rich in various flora and fauna.

#### **4.2.2 Fauna**

Including a wide range of species adapted to the seasons, some of the mentioned birds in this area are Ilenjat (chaffinches), ciget, cerret, boraket, shapkat, and others. These birds are usually visitors to the village and its surroundings during winter and autumn. Meanwhile, cikafonjtë, turtujt, guakët, grifshat, bilbilat, tushat, and others are primarily seen in spring, summer, and autumn, especially during the fruit-bearing season. Harabelat are part of this rich flora and fauna, with permanent populations in the Ishat. Wild pigeons, with their beauty, inhabit the cliffs of the Kadikut and Zereci Bridge. Swallows, tireless travelers, arrive in spring and depart in autumn, constructing nests perfectly under eaves and house roofs. Their chirping and joyful songs are part of the landscape in different times of the year. Among the predatory birds, one can distinguish carnivores such as mishngrënësit, gjeraginat, skifterat, shqiponjat e malit, kuajt e grykës, korbət, and nighttime predators like kukuvajka, bufi, and gjoni. This text conveys information about a rich and biodiverse environment in the Bënja area.



**Figure 34.** Birds found in the region

The fox, coot, wild boar, and wild rabbit are among the animals that can be identified in this region. However, a change has been recognized in their populations, particularly with the disappearance of foxes in recent decades. The coot, an animal known for its leather value, lives in the hollows of oaks in the high forest area of Drenova, sharing the environment with the wild cat. In the shrub belt, the forest cover stands out for its rare beauty, being encountered in various areas such as meadows, forests above Zerec, Vinjah, Kacori field, Vangiel field forest, and Kamenik area. Squirrels and wild hares can be found throughout Bênje, particularly in the bush, gardens, village outskirts, and plains. Badgers are common in planted forests, and they provide food for the animals. In this rich ecosystem, bats and marsh shrews find the right environment for their living.



**Figure 35.** The fox, wild boar, and wolf are identified in the region



## 4.3 Points of interest in the vicinity of the village of Bënjë

### 4.3.1 Thermal springs

Known since antiquity, these sulphuric springs, emerging from a deep tectonic fault, vary and flow on both sides of the Lengarica Canyon. Each spring possesses various therapeutic properties for treating skin diseases, stomach ailments, kidney issues, rheumatism, etc. The thermal water sources are natural and pour into small basins of remarkable beauty, within which thermal mud can also be collected, suitable for skin treatments. Surrounded by pristine nature, this location presents a unique blend of history, adventure, and natural beauty. In addition to the thermal baths, the Lengarica Canyon and the Katiu Bridge are also found there.





### 4.3.2 Thermal springs

A few kilometers upstream from its confluence with the Vjosa River, precisely at the thermal baths, lies the Katiu Bridge, a structure of notable interest and relatively well-preserved. Built upon rocky cliffs, it presents architectural composition and constructional solutions of interest. At the center of the bridge's composition is the main arch in the form of a circular segment, with a span of 15.5 meters and a height of 6 meters above the water level. Including the arch ring, the thickness of the arch is 1 meter and is constructed with slab-shaped limestone blocks. At the lower end of the bridge, two metal hooks are still preserved for anchoring the spring stones. The bridge's pavement, with a length of 2.65 meters, is built with flat limestone blocks laid in a herringbone pattern. On both sides of the key, two concentric rows of river stones are raised above the pavement, facilitating ascent over the bridge's crest.

The Katiu Bridge, a humpbacked bridge, characterized by horizontal emphasis, with a larger main arch and a smaller one on either side, is a well-known type in Albania in the 18th century.



*Figure 36.* Katiu Bridge, surrounded by natural thermal springs

Source: Due Mari virtual tours

### 4.3.3 Bënja Cave, an ancient habitation

Bënja's Cave is a prehistoric settlement with a 160-meter-long corridor that comprises many rooms and areas suitable for living. The location is approximately 10 meters above the Lëngarice river and belongs to the Eneolithic period. Different studies conducted revealed that it contains a novel cultural wealth as a link between the copper and bronze periods, between the ancient inhabitants (Pelasgians) and the Illyrian inhabitants of the bronze age. The Middle and Late Bronze Age layers reveal an active existence in Bënja Cave. The middle bronze paintings are in the Devolli style and are renowned for its high level of workmanship. The cave continued to be used with the same intensity throughout the Early Iron Age, and Devolli-style painting continued to be produced and dominated in this period.

This cave serves as both a natural monument and a cultural monument. Its preserved material values provide insight into the Illyrian culture of the upper Vjosa valley, which was inhabited by Illyrian tribes of Parauej.



*Figure 37.* Bënja Cave

Source: Anesti Jançe

## **4.4 Demography**

The village of Bënjë once had about 2,000 inhabitants, today it has no more than ten families.

Based on the collected statistics, it appears that the population of Bënja over time has been as follows:

- ❖ According to the Turkish census, there were 9 houses with a considerable number of inhabitants in 1831-1832, given that families at the time were patriarchal, large, and had many members
- ❖ In the statistical records provided in the work "Chronology of Epirus" of 1856, covering the demographic situation of the villages of Kaza, it is noted that Bënja had 16 Christian houses
- ❖ According to the 1923 general population census, Bënja had 39 dwellings and 146 people, all of them were Orthodox
- ❖ The population was 160 at the time of the 1927 census.
- ❖ Prior to liberation, there were 45 Christian families.
- ❖ According to the 1945 census, there were 119 inhabitants

## **4.5 Historic description of Bënja village**

Traces of cave dwellings provide evidence of human presence in the area of Bënjë since the 3rd millennium B.C. During the last few centuries before the Christian era the area was inhabited by the Illyrian tribe of the Parauej, which had settled along the banks of the River Vjosa and the adjacent territories (Dangëlli, Shqeri, Nemërçkë and Dhëmbel). An Ottoman fiscal registry (defter) dating back to the year 1431-1432 mentions a hamlet with the name of "Bano" or "Bana" in the area where the village is now located. The Ottoman registry states that the village had "9 houses and 548 akce (Turkish silver coins of the time.)" income, implying that Bënja had native inhabitants. According to local people, the settlement was once located on the "Bregorja e Bërçeve", where only ruins exist now. Residents claim that the bare ground, a lack of water, and the presence of many snakes encouraged them to disperse and create the village where it is today. The locals confidently identify the following families as the

village's founders, the family of Dona, family of Anastas, family of Llukani, family of Kici Spiros, and the family of Josif Tikos, family of Theofanise, etc. Locals also refer to other families as autochthonous, such as the Nasko, Budo, and Xhaje families. There is no certain information concerning the date of foundation of the current village. The only available ‘documentation’ consists of the inscriptions on the cornerstones and entrances of dwellings, all dated between 1860 and 1910. During this span of time, the South of Albania underwent substantial socio-economic changes, as well as wars and local conflicts. In this scenario the transformation of peasant houses into more complex configurations, similar to city dwellings, is frequent. Two-three storey fortified dwellings were built, sometimes giving rise to authentic fortified villages. The fortified houses of Bënjë, with aesthetic and typological features inspired on the stately homes of Gjirokastër, belong to this phenomenon. The destiny of Bënjë was permanently marked by World War II, when a large section of the village was destroyed. The amount of damage and the alteration of the original urban fabric can be seen by comparing the current state with a historical photograph from the Thirties.



**Figure 38.** The image on the top displays the village nowadays, while the bottom image shows the village in 1930

Source: Top image RELACIONI – Zona te mbrojtura te Ansamblit Arkitektonik, Bënjë, Permet, bottom image “Ministria e Kultures”

With the fall of the Communist regime, the village, like many others in Albania, suffered an inexorable process of depopulation. It is currently inhabited by 80 people, most of whom are elderly; there are only 4 children in the village, all of whom go to school in Përmet.

## **4.6 Social aspects**

### **4.6.1 Governance from "Pleqësia" and the life of Bënjë residents**

The village was run independently in two directions. The church and priest faced one direction, while the village Eldership faced the other. These two institutions collaborated but maintained their independence. Bënjë's population were Christians and quite faithful, therefore the church and the priest had a significant impact on their life. The village eldership, on the other hand, had the value of a legitimate institution and was led by the "Kryeplaku", who had absolute power among Bënjë's citizens. The election of the "Kryeplaku" and the "pleqesise" was entirely democratic. They were picked by unanimous consent of the village's inhabitants. (a practice comparable to today's voting) The "kryeplaku" and the "pleqesia" had significant roles in village decision-making. They regulated the well-being and employment of the village's citizens. They made fair and impartial decisions for the village. The eldership also ensured that the village priest was compensated with funds collected from all village members.

### **4.6.2 Economy, Agriculture, and Village Trade**

Families traded with the cities of Përmet, Janine, Vlore, Berat, and Gjirokastra. They bought in Ioannina clothing and home goods. Also sold and traded their agricultural and cattle products. Because they did not have much agricultural land, they focused primarily on beekeeping. They owned olive groves and vineyards. Fruit trees such as dates and pomegranates were widely grown. "Qepujka" was a popular local product that was produced in large quantities and traded as a commodity with other locations.



### 4.6.3 Weddings and rituals

Marriages were performed in the surrounding villages, but only in accordance with the family's property. The family's social standing was carefully guarded when the new “krushqi” was created. Wealthy families would seek marriage with another rich family from a Christian village.

Certain ceremonies were also performed for those who died. Before being buried, the deceased was taken to church to pay their final respects, rites, and prayers to the priest. Afterward, the burial was held in the churchyard.



*Figure 39.* Cemetery in the church yard  
by Dorotea Bregu

## 4.7 The residential area

Bënjë is a settlement located on a slope with especially valuable landscape and architectural features, due to which it was granted recognition in 2016 as a “historic centre”. The village is approximately 15 km from Përmet. The road “Rruga e Bënjës” is asphalted and in good condition until the turn that leads to the thermal area. From that point onward, it becomes a rather rugged dirt road with accessibility and safety issues, which worsen during the winter months. The bad condition of the road has a strong impact on the quality of life of the community, since it contributes to the isolation of the village. There are other communication routes, such as mule tracks and trails. Among these, one of the most interesting is the trail that begins near the Church of St. Mary, runs along the River of Bënjë, crosses it thanks to a bridge from the Ottoman period “Ura e Bënjës” and reaches the thermal area. Unfortunately, some sections of the trail are currently uneven. Bënjë’s road network includes a main street “Guri i Konomit” which crosses the entire village, and four local streets that branch off from it and follow the morphology of the slope. The streets, which were originally paved with the use of the local stone (kalldrëm), are in a state of disrepair and are only walkable. The village is characterized by stone houses, roofs, and cobbled streets, forming a cohesive ensemble reminiscent of a stone castle. It is estimated to have had around 40 houses, divided into two wards on either side of the main road. The streets are paved with cobblestones designed to facilitate rainwater drainage and accommodate the passage of cargo animals. The village is home to the Church of St. Mary, built in 1879 and known for its architectural and artistic significance, including a notable iconostasis completed in 1904. The church is classified as a "Monument of Culture" of the first category. Bënja also features four fenced-in areas paved with stone slabs and a water source called "Gurrëza of the village," which provides drinking water for the inhabitants. The village's houses are closely clustered together, with some appearing as a single building due to their proximity. Most of the houses have two stories, with a few having three or four stories. The layout of the buildings is carefully designed to harmonize with the terrain and maintain urban harmony.

The houses in Bënja have spacious rooms with large windows, grilles, and beautifully crafted wood shutters. The first floor typically contains areas for livestock, while the upper floors feature various chambers, including waiting rooms, bedrooms, and storage spaces. The houses also have well-designed yards with gates, stone sofas, and additional facilities such as bakeries, baths, and poultry chambers.

Within the village's territory, several objects classified as "Monuments of Culture" of the first category can be found. These include the *Cave of Bënja*, the *Katiu Bridge* with its two arches, the Bënja stream bridge with a single arch, and the *Wheat Mill Bënjë*, known for its multifunctional use of water power and unique construction.

Overall, with its historical and cultural significance, as well as its natural attractions such as the Lengarica canyons and thermal springs, Bënja is an appealing destination for visitors and tourists.





*Figure 40.* Bënja's Aereal Residential Area

Source: RELACIONI – Zona te mbrojtura te Ansambli Arkitektonik, Bënjë, Permet

## 4.8 The traditional dwelling

Dwellings present L-shaped and rectangular layouts; in the past there were also two and three-storey dwellings with U and E-shaped layouts. Dwellings are traditionally distributed around a small courtyard (oborr) enclosed by a wall; often groups of dwellings form a single building. The courtyard is accessed from the street through an entrance gate protected by a canopy. The courtyard serves both distributive and service functions, since it is used for carrying out domestic activities, but it also plays an aesthetic role by emphasising the entrance. In it are located the oven, toilets, chicken coop, beehives and agricultural annexes, an expression of the rural life of the village. The ground floors of the dwellings originally included the food pantry, the harvest storeroom, the stables and troughs. With the passage of time, the function of these spaces changed: they have mostly been turned into habitable spaces, like the ones on the upper floors. Houses usually have from three to ten rooms (in three-storey buildings). In the layout of the house, the main spaces were the room with the hearth (shtëpia e zjarrit) and the guest room (oda e miqve). The “shtëpia e zjarrit” is the room that better represents the dimension of everyday life, since it is where food is prepared and eaten and where the family gathers, but it is also pregnant with symbolic values. The fire was always burning and its extinguishing was a sign of the coming of a period of bad fortune for the whole family. Occasionally this was the room where the head of the family slept. The oda e miqve was the reception room of the house. It was exclusively for the use of men and for the main family rituals, such as wedding feasts and funerals. Important guests were received in this room, which was generally located on the uppermost floor and in a privileged position. The guests would also sleep there in case of prolonged stays. Great attention was given to the wooden ceilings, which in wealthier houses were abundantly decorated, as well as to the furniture, such as, for example, the musëndra (a typical cupboard).

#### **4.8.1 House of Kologeve**

It is located in the upper part, at the head of the village, large, two-story, E-shaped. In front is a wide courtyard made with stone slabs, surrounded by a large yard. This courtyard is accessible from the west side via the main two-story square-shaped gate, which is covered from above. In front of it, there are two sofas to sit on, while behind it is closed by a long wooden log. A small door on the southeast side allows you to enter after climbing a series of stone steps. On both sides of the courtyard, there are two paths for animal enclosure, and at the end rises a black mulberry, the trunk of which cannot be conquer by four men. It is the only house that had six doors, of which the two main ones are in the front part with a distance of 4-5 meters from each other. This house is divided into two separate parts by these two doors, which go from the first level to the second floor. It is owned by Josif e Ngjeli Kolo on the western side, and by Niko Koste Kolo on the eastern side, near to Josif Prifti's residence.

### **4.9 Public space**

In the absence of real squares, the public life of the village takes place in the streets, open-air workplaces and at the Church of St. Mary, which dates back to the year 1873. This religious building, which during the Communist regime served as a storehouse for grain and timber, was used not only for liturgical, but also for social purposes. Its portico (hajati), especially, was the place where the community met or gathered during secular ceremonies. The area in which it stands now in a state of neglect, includes a complex of open spaces, dirt roads and buildings, as well as the village school, which stopped functioning in 2017 due to the absence of students. Before the main entrance to the church, there is a small courtyard with a well and a gate, which serves as threshold to the exterior section. In the past, the village streets were an important space for interaction; their margins offered sufficient space and opportunity for socialising. To the east of the settlement, at the crossroads, there is a clearing known as “Ndërgurë”, which was used by the men of the village as a meeting place. Masonry benches (sofat) placed on both sides of the entrance to the courtyards

of the houses marked the passage from the street to the dwelling space. The *sofat* – a distinctive element of vernacular architecture in Përmet (Adhami, 2001b) – is a place of transition between the public and private dimensions of living, as well as a place for social interaction and domestic work (embroidery, food processing, etc.). Other places that were equally important in community life were the fountain “Gurrëza e fshatit” and the threshing floors (*lëm*). The fountain, which is currently inaccessible and in a bad state of preservation, is located in a very evocative landscape, connoted by dry stone walls and oak trees. It was a place for work and social interaction for the women of the village, supplied water to the families and served as a trough for watering animals (a function that is still active today). The threshing floors are valuable testimonies to the agricultural identity of the village and to the peasant culture for which they were sacred places where it was absolutely forbidden to build. They had a flat circular surface (with a diameter of approximately 6 m), perfectly leveled and paved with stone slabs. The end of the harvest was celebrated with a popular feast that took place on the threshing floor.





**Figure 41.** Public spaces on the village  
by Dorotea Bregu

## Chapter 5

### SHEETS AND RESULTS

#### 5.1 Phase One: Village Survey

As delineated earlier, the research is subdivided into several phases, with the primary phase focusing on the survey of the village. The objective of this phase is to survey and document the current situation in the village. To achieve this documentation, a comprehensive topographic survey of the entire village has been conducted, along with surveys and measurements of typical village houses.

The importance of this stage:

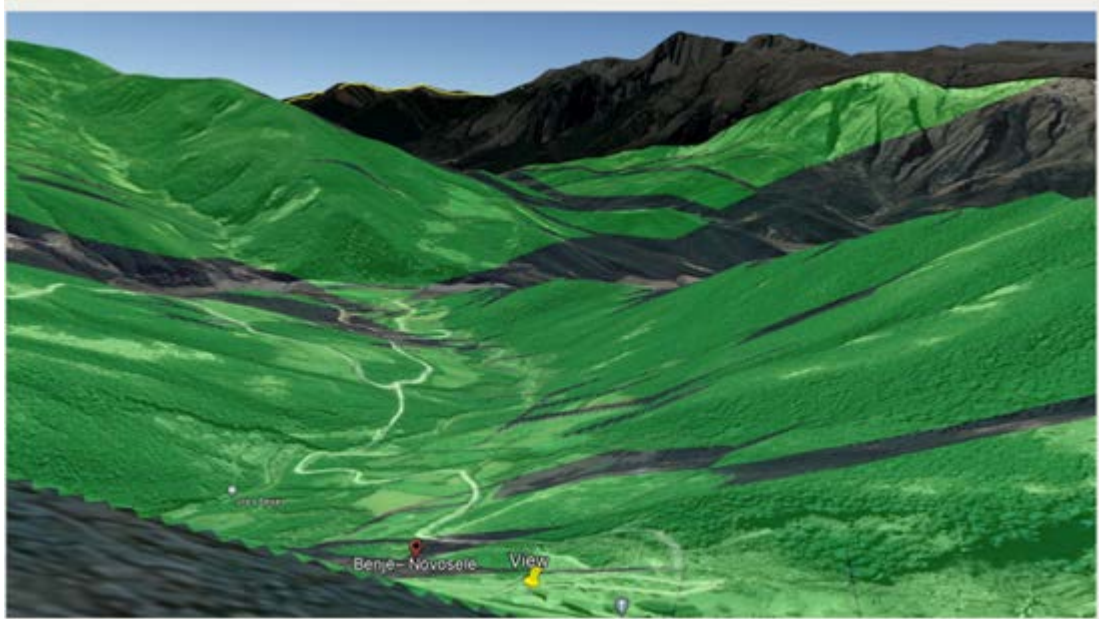
- 1) Analysis of the Current Situation:** Documenting the current situation provides a clear and detailed overview of the infrastructure, environment and living conditions in the village. This helps identify specific needs and challenges that need to be addressed in the development plan.
- 2) Identification of Resources and Potentials:** By documenting the current situation, the natural, cultural, and historical resources of the village can be identified. These resources are required to create plans that maximize the village's potential while preserving heritage and fostering sustainable development.
- 3) Preventing Potential Problems:** A detailed documentation helps identify existing problems such as: damaged infrastructure, hazardous areas or environmental pollution. This allows planners to take precautions and avoid complications that may arise during the development phase. In conclusion, documenting the existing state of the village is the foundation on which a well-structured and effective development plan is built, which takes into account all aspects and needs of the village for a sustainable and successful future.

## 5.2 Rural Analysis

As a result of the total surveying process of the village, I managed to generate maps and materials that will help me in the further stages of the research.



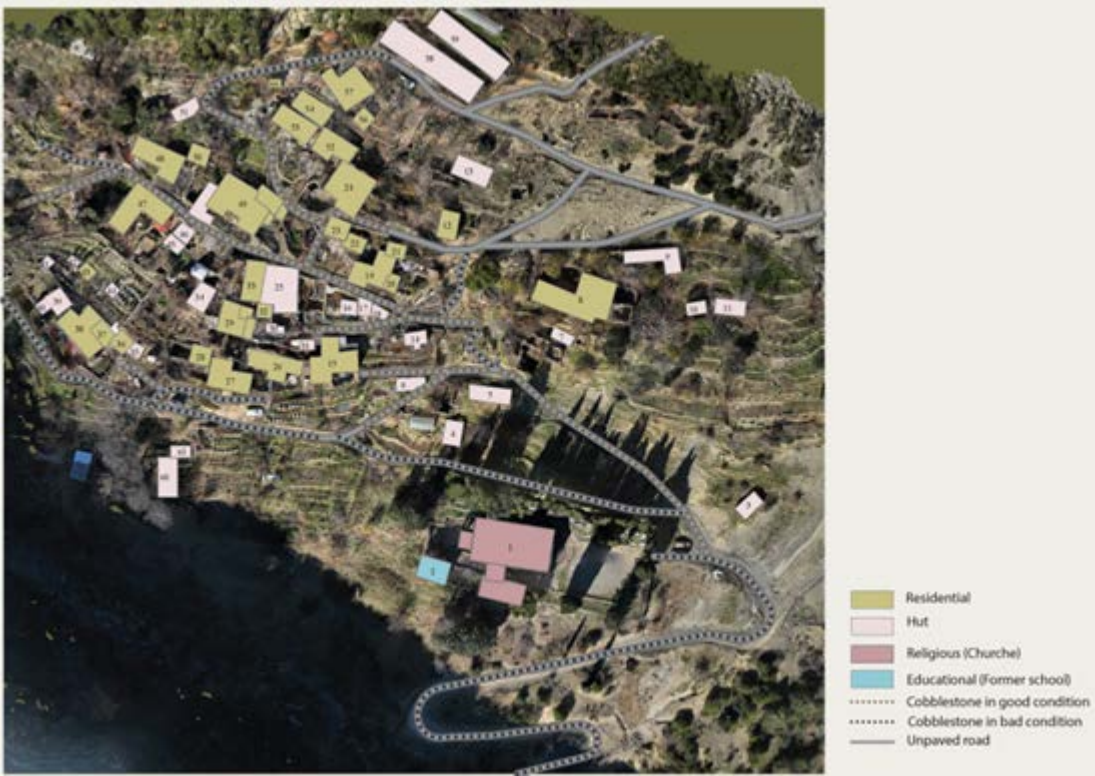
*Figure 42.* Panoramic view  
by Dorotea Bregu



*Figure 43.* Visual perspective of the village from the most panoramic viewpoint

Source: Google Earth





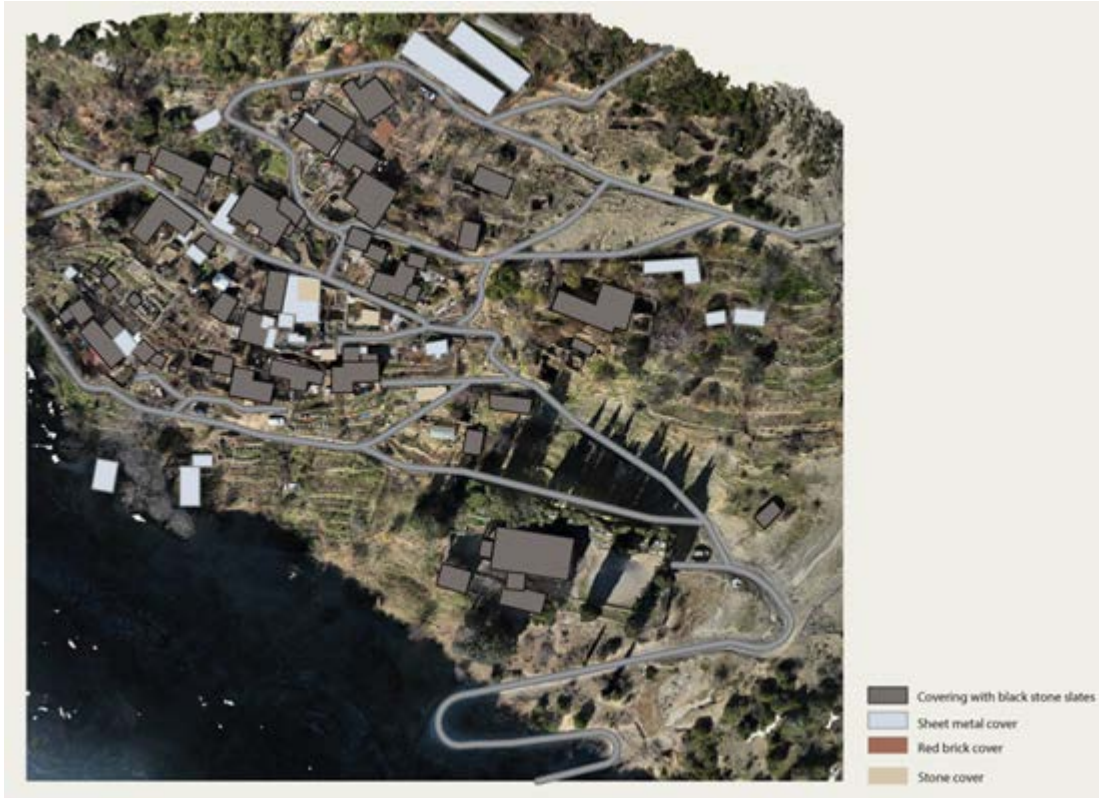
*Figure 44.* Land use map

drawing by Dorotea Bregu



*Figure 45.* Building height map

drawing by Dorotea Bregu



*Figure 46.* Roof covering plan

drawing by Dorotea Bregu





*Figure 47.* Ruins map

drawing by Dorotea Bregu

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*Figure 48.* House typologies map

drawing by Dorotea Bregu

### 5.2.1 Pavement:

It is not known exactly when the cobblestones were built, but according to the data collected from the stories of the residents of the area as well as old photographs, the village was paved with cobblestones during the construction of the houses. Black river stone was used for the construction of the cobblestones. According to the data obtained from the interview with *Jorgji Kreci* (who is one of the only construction workers in the village as well as from the old families of Bënjë) but also from the traces that have remained, we understand that the cobblestones that are still today used to go all the way to the village of *Petrani*. Also, other residents testify that the cobblestones reached the lower area of the village until around 2000.



*Figure 49.* Cobbled pavements in the village

by Dorotea Bregu

Based on the urban measurements and analyses I conducted, it appears that the width of the cobbled streets varies from 1.5 - 3m. Nowadays, the situation is not very good, many roads in the village are damaged or non-existent.





*Figure 50.* A 3D view of a section of road where the cobblestone pavement is severely damaged



*Figure 51.* A 3D view of a section of road where the cobblestone pavement partly damaged



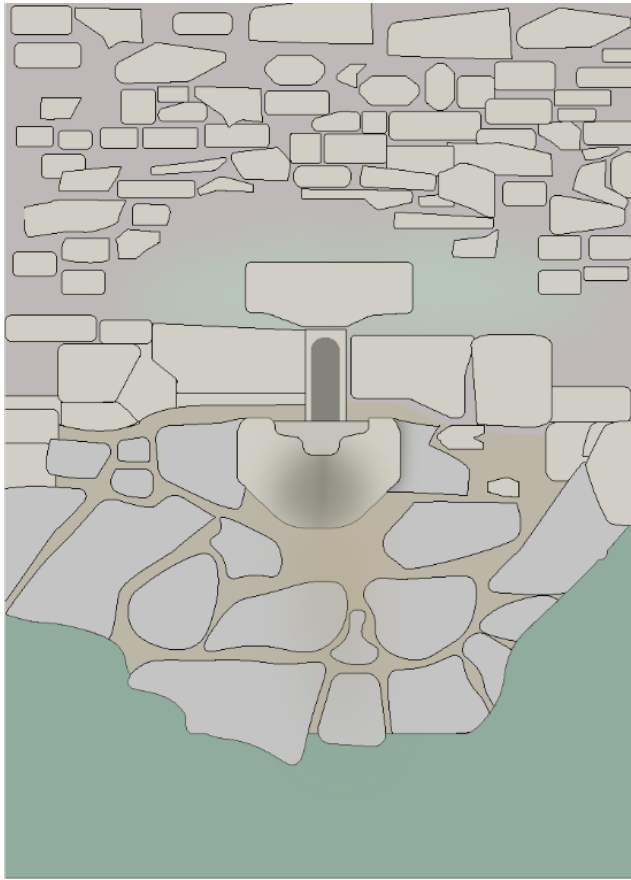
*Figure 52.* A 3D view of a section of road where the cobblestone pavement is in good state



### 5.2.2 Gurrëza of the village

It used to be the village's only drinking water source. *Gurrëza* is built with a high stone wall about 2m long and 3-4m wide that forms on a flat slope. Below it, in the middle of the wall, a stone basin has been placed for water drainage. On both sides, two elevated stone benches have been constructed, which once served for sitting and placing “*bucelat*”. This cistern collects water from the sources in Novoselë and maintains water throughout the year except for the months of July and August when the village experiences drought.





***Figure 53.*** Gurrëza of the village

drawing by Dorotea Bregu

Near the fountain lies a centuries-old “*rrap*”, which has a large hearth stained by smoke. It was once used to place cauldrons for boiling water and for washing clothes by the womens of the village.



**Figure 54.** Centuries-old tree, "*Rrap*"

by Dorotea Bregu

### 5.3 House Survey

After the measurement and surveying process, I managed to collect enough data to generate documentation cards for each object that I studied.

For four special objects such as: *the residence of the Prifti family*, *the former village school*, *the bridge of the stream*, and “*Shën Mëria*” Church, i used the standard card for Intangible Cultural Heritage.

For the rest of the objects, I have generated cards with sufficient data.



### **5.3.1 House Prifti card**

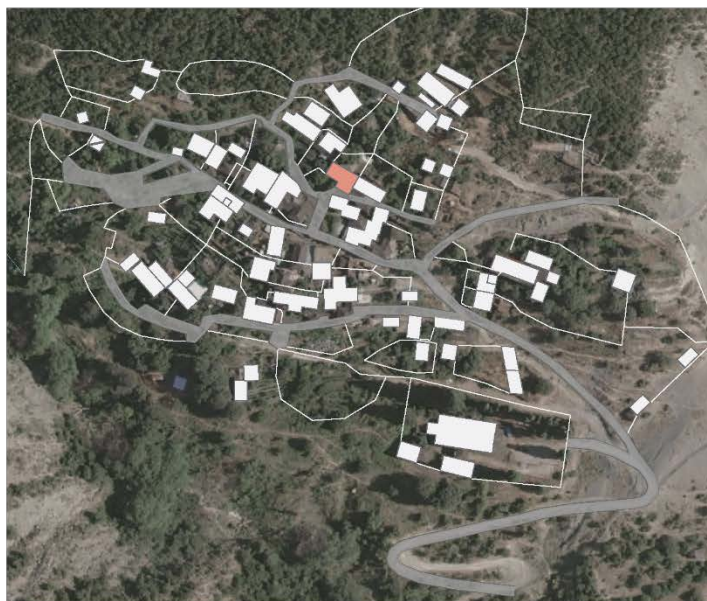
The **Cultural Heritage Card** for the Prifti Family House, dated 1868, provides a comprehensive overview of this significant architectural site located in the village of Benje, within the Permet municipality. Classified as a Category I protected site, this three-story residence showcases traditional black sandstone masonry and features a distinctive roof covered with stone slabs. The house is typologically categorized as a one-wing structure, with a prominent central room known as the Ode, accessible via a Divan. The interior includes a Musandra, utilized for storage, and wooden ceilings devoid of decorative rosettes. Despite currently being abandoned, the structure retains good condition, reflecting the rich cultural heritage of the region. The card also includes essential administrative details, such as coordinates, ownership status, and conservation history, emphasizing the site's importance for both historical and architectural preservation

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TIPOLOGJIA	BANESE			
KODI I ARKIVIT				
ADRESA	BENJE 02290003			
VENDNDODHJA	RRETHI	BASHKIA	KOMUNA	FSHATI
	PERMET	PERMET		BENJE
STATUSI I MBROJTJES (KATEGORIA I, II)	KATEGORIA I			
NR. I VENDIMIT , DATA E SHPALLJES	10.12.2015			
INSTITUCIONI I SHPALLJES				
DATIMI ( VITI / SHEK )	1868			
INSTITUCIONI, ADMINISTRUES / DRKK	DRKKK GJIROKASTER			
PËRDORIMI FILLESTAR	BANESE			
PËRDORIMI I TANISHËM	E BRAKTISUR			
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NR. I PRONËSISE	8/18			
ZONA KADASTRALE				
SIPËRFAQJA E NDËRTIMIT / LARTËSIA E OBJEKTIT	SIP.136.15 m2 12m			
SIPËRFAQJA E PËRGJ. E RRETHIMIT	201.77m2			
SIPËRFAQJA E ZONËS SË MBROJTUR	28,356.97 Sq Meters			
A KA RRUGË AUTOMOBILISTIKE DERI NË MONUMENT? / GJENDJA E SAJ	PJESERISHT/GJENDJE JO E MIRE			

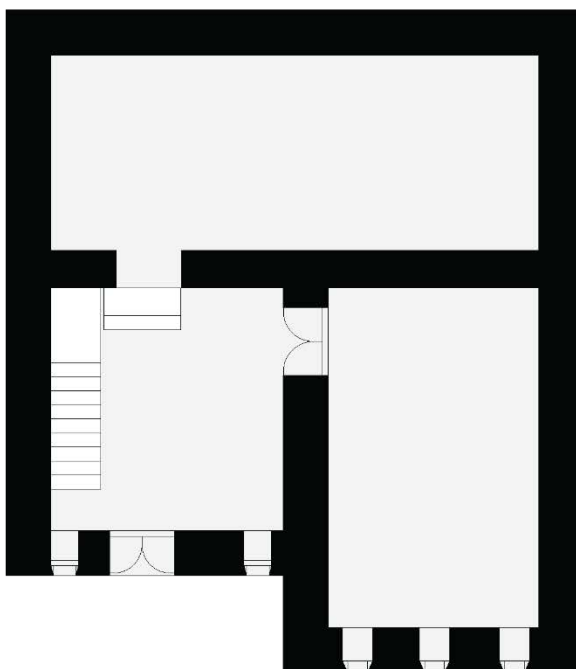
TË DHËNATEKNIKE	
<p data-bbox="422 790 671 815"><b>TË DHËNA ARKITEKTONIKE</b></p>	<p data-bbox="774 275 1241 577">           Banesa e familjes Prifti daton ne vitin 1868 dhe perfaqson nie nga shembujt me te arire te ansamblit rural ne fshatin Benje dhe me giere ne krahinën e Permetit. Banesa zhvillohet ne tri kate me murature guri te zi ranor, karakteristike e gjithë ansamblit dhe e mbular me çati me rasa guri. Tipologikisht kategorizohet si banese me nje krah i cili zhillohet ne jug dhe ne dy katet e sipërme perben Oden. Oda eshte dhe kthina më e aradhe e cila arihet permes nje Divani apo Hajati gëndror. Ne fundin e Odës ndodhet Musandra, je dollap i murezuar e i stilizuar ne te cilen mbaheshin mbulesat dhe tesha të ndryshme. Tavanet janë druri dhe nuk i kanë rozetat         </p> <p data-bbox="774 683 895 707">MURATURA :</p> <p data-bbox="774 875 903 900">NDËRKATET: :</p> <p data-bbox="774 1025 847 1050">ÇATIA: :</p>



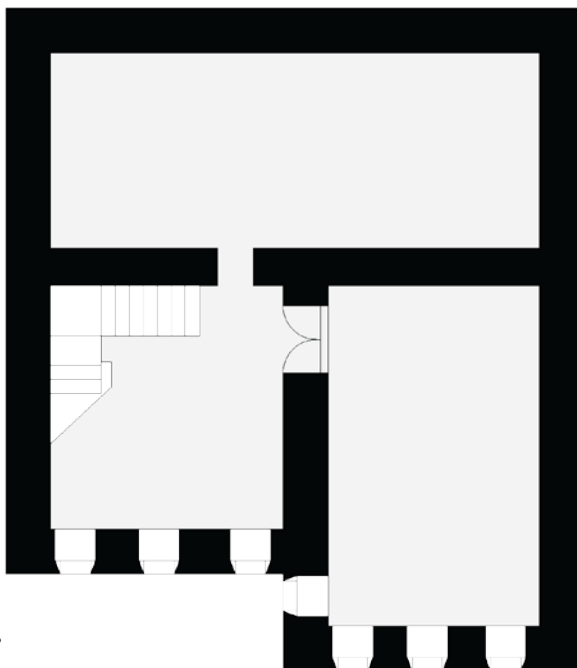
NDËRHYRJET KONSERVUESE / RESTAURUESE NË VITE,	VITI	VITI	VITI	
GJENDJA E KONSERVIMIT  SHKALLËT E GJENDJES / 1 / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5 (nga problematika me e lehtë tek me rëndë)	ÇATIA / MBULESA	DYER / DRITARE	TAVANI/ NDËRKATI	STRUKTURA E DRURIT NË AMBIENTET E BRENDSHËM (MAFILI, KOLONA, etj)
	5	4	5	4
NDËRHYRJET KONSERVUESE / RESTAURUESE QË PROPOZOHEN	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Restaurim e konsolidim murature guri</li> <li>2. Restaurim i Çatisë</li> <li>3. Rehabilitim e rikonstruksion i elementeve të dëmtuar apo të eliminuar ( Erker , Dyer e Dritare etj.)</li> <li>4. Restaurim i Ndërkateve dhe dyshemeve</li> <li>5. Restaurim i tavaneve dekorative</li> <li>6. Konsolidim i muratures rrethuese të oborrit ( kopështit )</li> <li>7. Pastrim nga gjelberimi parazit</li> <li>8. Sistemi i instalimeve elektrike e hidraulike</li> <li>9. Restaurim i shkallëve.</li> </ol>			



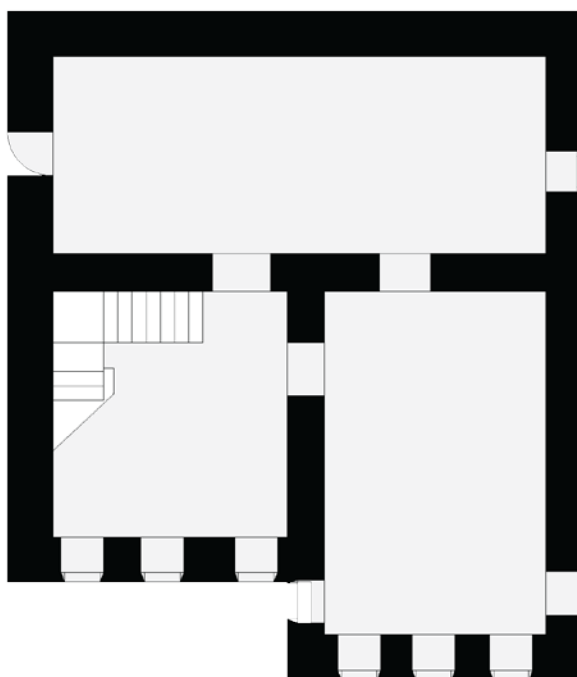
Vendosje ne harte



Plani i katit Përdhe.



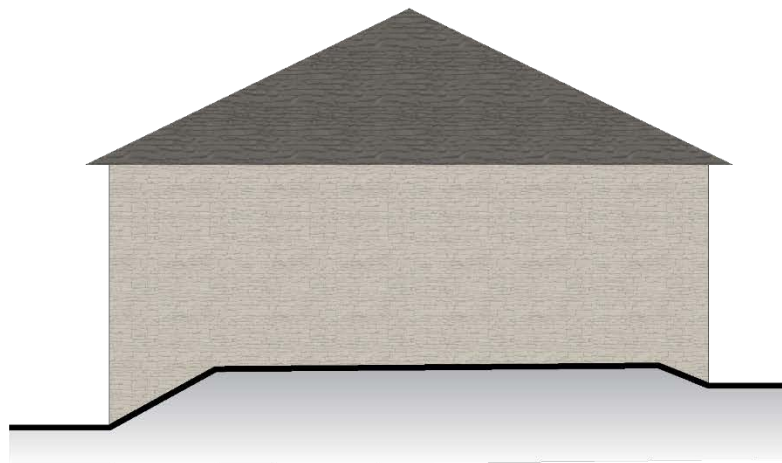
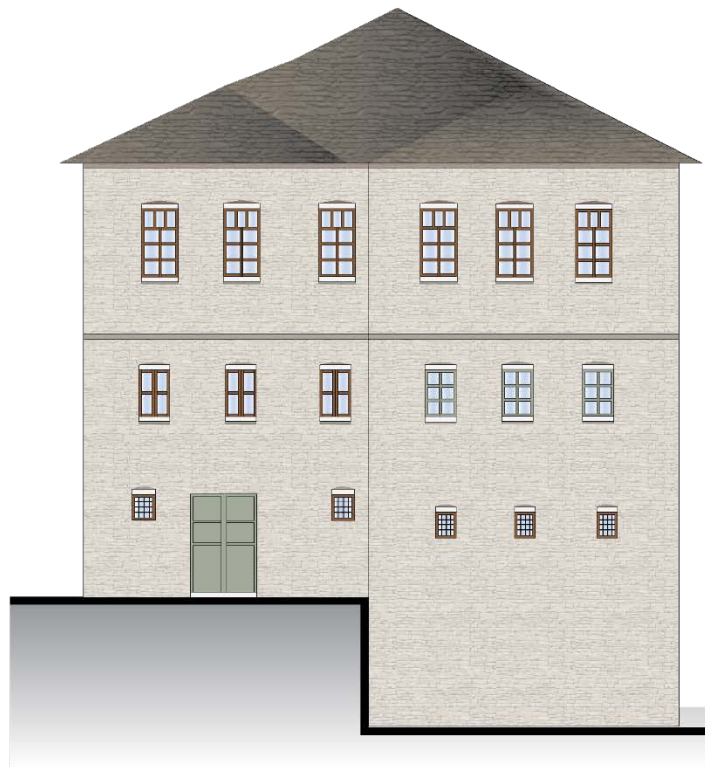
Plani i katit të Parë

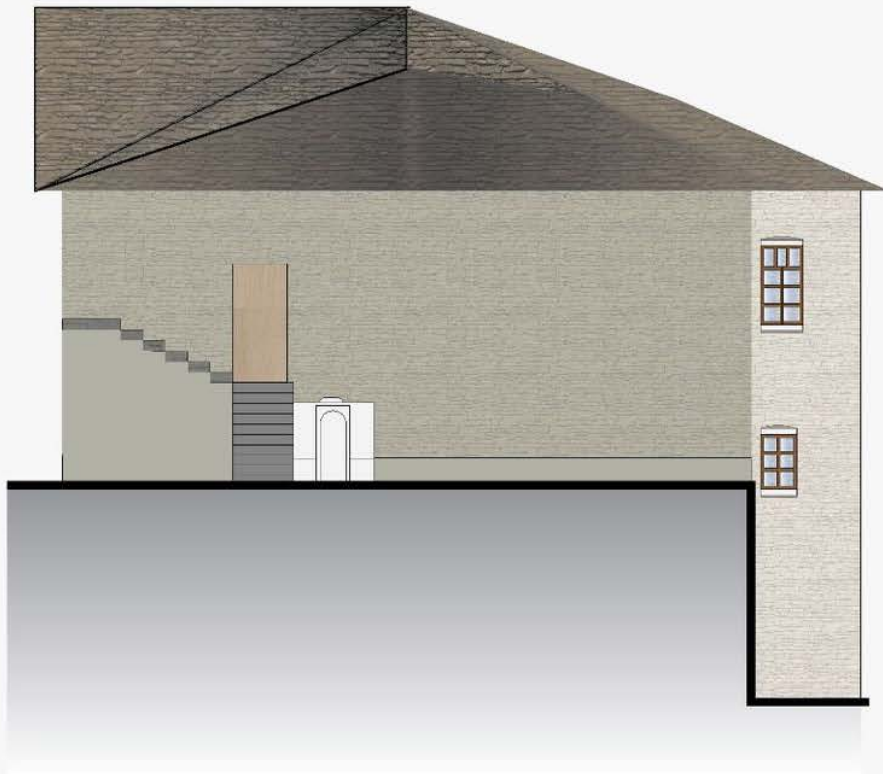
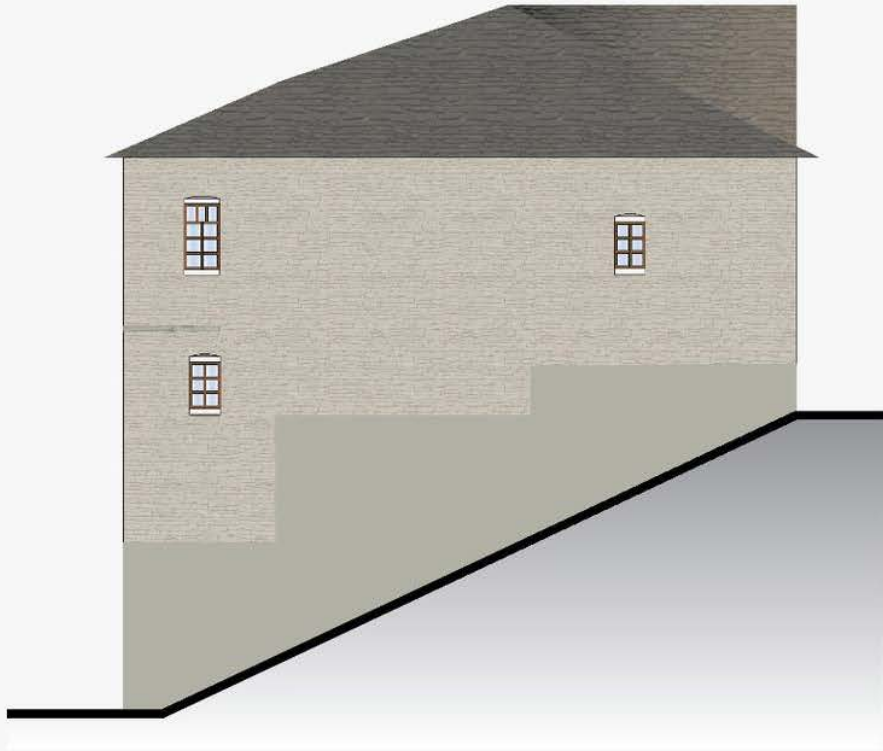


Plani i katit të dytë

PRERJE









### **5.3.2 The former village school**

The **Cultural Heritage Card** for the Former School of the Village of Benje, established in the mid-18th century, provides essential information about this historically significant educational building. Classified as a Category II protected site, the school is located in the Permet district, within a designated protected area, and currently remains abandoned. The structure reflects traditional architectural styles characteristic of the region and plays a vital role in the local cultural heritage. Although its condition is described as partially good, the site is enclosed and maintains a connection to the community's educational history. The card emphasizes the importance of preserving this landmark as a symbol of the village's past and its educational legacy

<b>KARTELA PËR TRASHËGIMINË KULTURORE TË PALUAJTSHME</b>				
<b>TË DHËNA ADMINISTRATIVE</b>				
NR. I SKEDËS	3.			
EMËRTIMI	ISH SHKOLLA E FSHATIT BENJE			
FUSHA	ARKITEKTURE			
GJINIA	OBJEKTE EDUKATIV			
TIPOLOGJIA	SHKOLLE			
KODI I ARKIVIT				
ADRESA	BENJE,NOVOSELE			
VENDNDODHJA	QARKU	BASHKIA	NJESIA ADMINISTRATA.	FSHATI
	PERMET		PETRAN	BENJE
STATUSI I MBROJTJES (KATEGORIA I, II)	KATEGORIA II			
NR. I VENDIMIT , DATA E SHPALLJES				
INSTITUCIONI I SHPALLJES	DRKK GJIROKASTER			
DATIMI ( VITI / SHEK )	GJYSMA E DYTESHEK XVIII			
INSTITUCIONI, ADMINISTRUES / DRKK	DRKK GJIROKASTER			
PËRDORIMI FILLESTAR	SHKOLLE			
PËRDORIMI I TANISHËM	E BRAKTISUR			
A KA RRETHIM OBJEKTI? / GJENDJA E TIJ	PJESERISHT/ MIRE			
ZONA E MBROJTUR	PO			
KOORDINATAT GJEOGRAFIKE TE MONUMENTIT	40° 15' 04.03" N / 20° 25' 00.06" E			
KOORDINATA GJEOGRAFIKE TË ZONËS SË MBROJTUR	40° 15' 09.46" N / 20° 24' 59.05" E			
PRONËSIA	SHTETI			
EMRI I PRONARIT (-VE)				
NR. I PRONËSISE	1154			
ZONA KADASTRALE				
SIPËRFAQJA E NDËRTIMIT / LARTËSIA E OBJEKTIT	57m <sup>2</sup> / 10m			
SIPERFAQJA E PËRGJ. E RRETHIMIT	1,631.61 (TOKA E KISHES)			
SIPËRFAQJA E ZONËS SË MBROJTUR	24,466.31 m <sup>2</sup>			
A KA RRUGË AUTOMOBILISTIKE DERI	PJESERISHT			

NË MONUMENT? / GJENDJA E SAJ				
TË DHENA TEKNIKE				
PËRSHKRIMI ARKITEKTONIK	<p>Ish shkolla e fshatit benje ndodhet ne oborrin e kishes se fshatit. Eshte nje ndertese me planimetri drejtkendore dhe me 3 kate.</p> <p>Kati perdhe nuk ka dere hyrese dhe ka dritare te vogla, kati perdhe komunikon me katin me sipër me ane te shkalleve te disa shkalleve prej druri.</p> <p>Ndertesa ka muratur guri dhe cati me rrasa te zeza guri.</p> <p>Ne dy katet e siperm godina ka kater dritare ne fasadet e jugut dhe nga dy dritare ne fasadat e lindjes dhe perendimit. Sot kjo godine eshte e braktisur dhe ne gjendje te renduar ku kati i pare dhe perdhe kan degraduar dhe jane drejte rrenimit.</p> <p>Per katin e siperm nuk ka informacion te mjaftueshem per gjendjen pasi dera eshte mbyllur dhe nuk mund te hyshe brenda.</p>			
	PËRSHKRIMI KONSTRUKTIV	Shkolla e fshatit eshte e ndertuar me gure		
NDËRHYRJET KONSERVUESE / RESTAURUESE NË VITE,	VITI	VITI	VITI	VITI
				2023 2
SHKALLËT E NDERHYRJES / 1 / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5 / (nga nderhyrja me e lehtë tek me thellë)				
GJENDJA E KONSERVIMIT	ÇATIA / MBULESA	DYER / DRITARE	TAVANI / NDERKATI	STRUKTURA E DRURIT NE AMBIENTET E BRENSHEM (MAFILI, KOLONA, etj)
SHKALLËT E GJENDJES / 1 / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5 / (nga problematika me e lehtë tek me rendë)	AFRESKU	IKONOSTASI	MINARIA / KEMBANARJ A	DYSHEMEJA/MOZAIK

NDËRHYRJET KONSERVUESE /  
RESTAURUESE  
QË PROPOZOHEN

DOKUMENTACIONI GRAFIK DHE HARTOGRAFIK

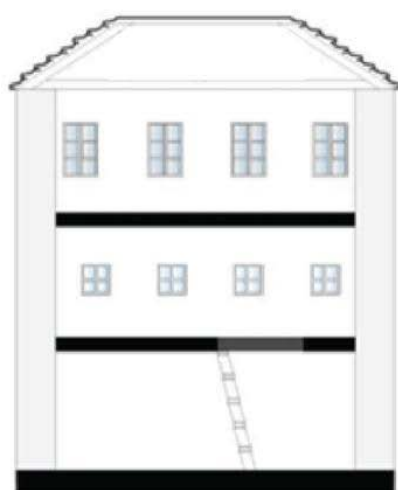
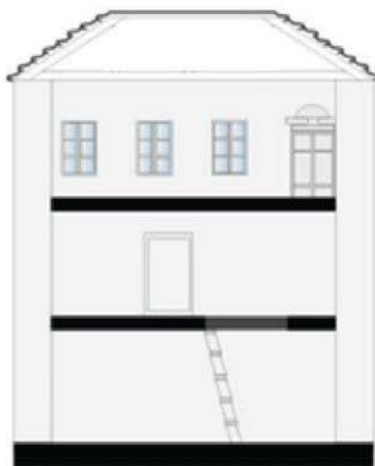


- Vendorsje në raport me Qendrën Historike

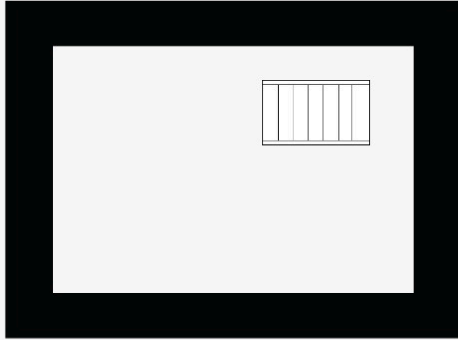


Plan - Vendorsje ( ortofoto 202024)

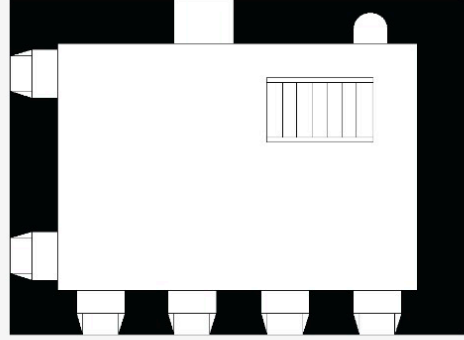
Prerje Tërthore e banesës



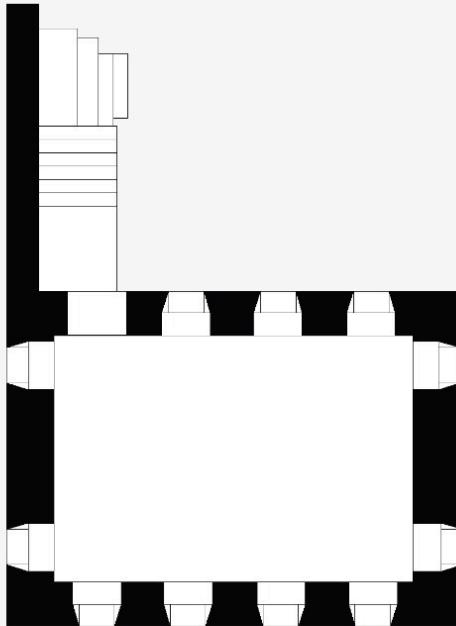
Plani i katit Përdhe. Rilevim i vitit 2024.



Plani i katit të Parë . Rilevim i vitit 2024.



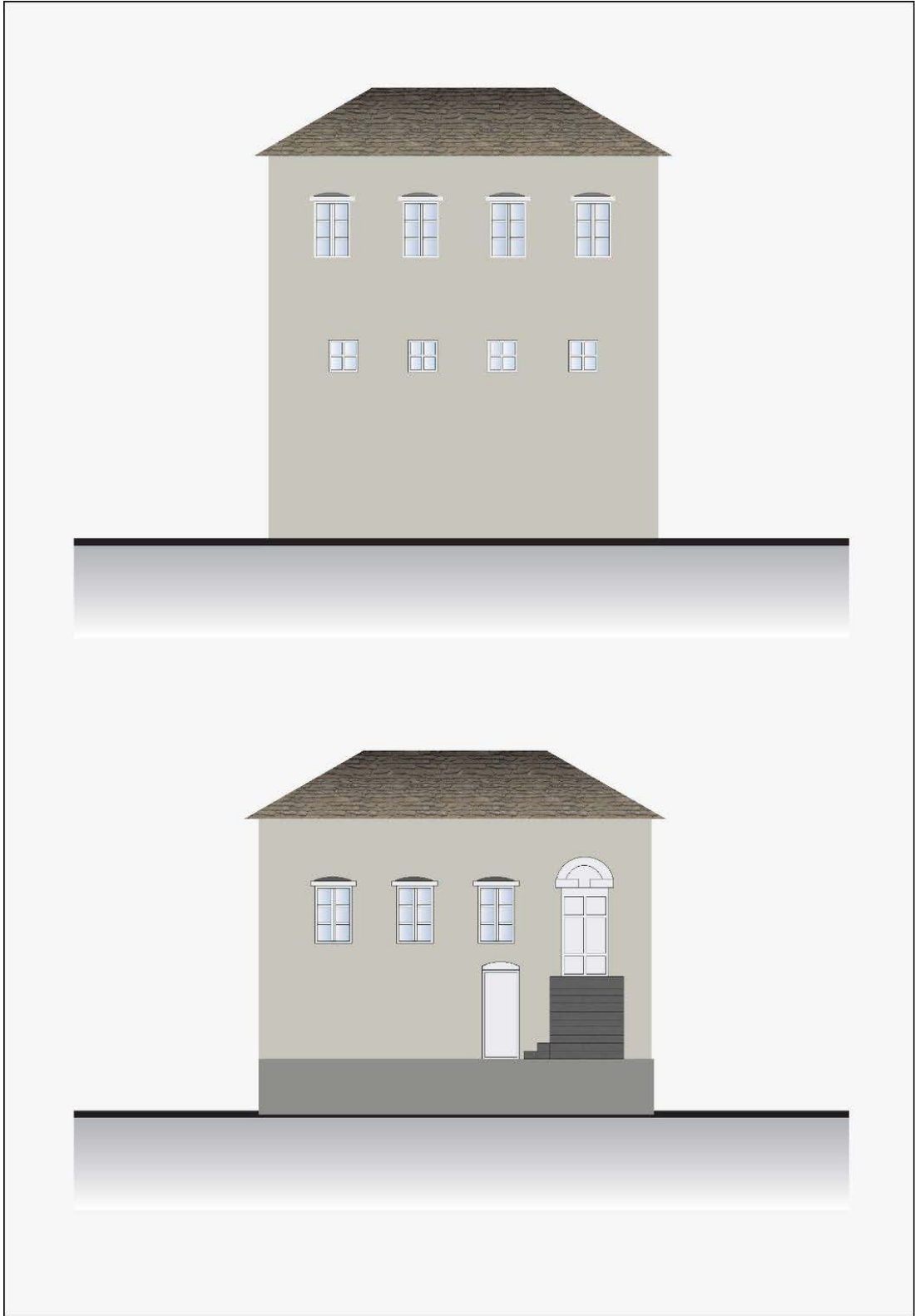
Plani i katit te dyte. Rilevim i vitit 2024.

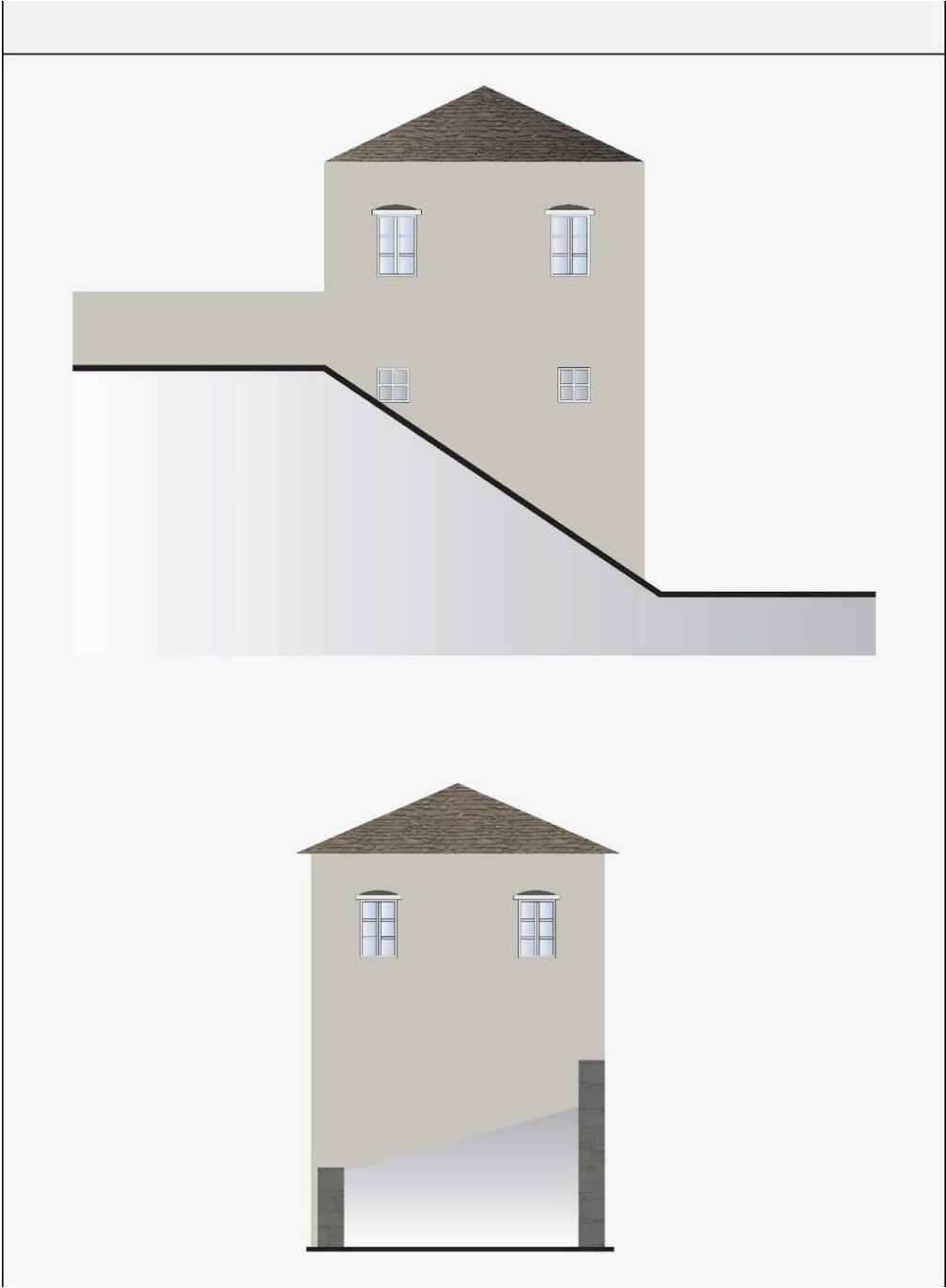


Plani i catise. Rilevim i vitit 2024.









DOKUMENTACIONI FOTOGRAFIK



Shkolla e vjeter e Fshatit



#### **5.4 “*Shën Mëria*” Church**

The **Cultural Heritage Card** for the church in the village of Benje details this important architectural site, classified as a Category I protected monument. Dating back to the mid-18th century, the church is a vital symbol of the region's religious heritage and continues to function as a place of worship. Located in the Permet district and situated within a designated protected area, the structure is in good condition and showcases traditional stone masonry and distinctive architectural features characteristic of local ecclesiastical buildings. The card emphasizes the church's historical significance and its integral role in the community's cultural identity, highlighting the importance of its preservation for future generations

KARTELA PËR TRASHËGIMINË KULTURORE TË PALUAJTSHME				
TË DHËNA ADMINISTRATIVE				
NR. I SKEDËS	4.			
EMËRTIMI	KISHA E SHËN MËRISË (BËNJË, PËRMET)			
FUSHA	ARKITEKTURE			
GJINIA	OBJEKTE KULTI			
TIPOLOGJIA	KISHE			
KODI I ARKIVIT				
ADRESA	BENJE,NOVOSELE			
VENDNDODHJA	QARKU	BASHKIA	NJESIA ADMINISTRATIVE	FSHATI
	PERMET		PETRAN	BENJE
STATUSI I MBROJTJES (KATEGORIA I, II)	KATEGORIA I			
NR. I VENDIMIT , DATA E SHPALLJES				
INSTITUCIONI I SHPALLJES	DRKK GJIROKASTER			
DATIMI ( VITI / SHEK )	1789- 1891			
INSTITUCIONI, ADMINISTRUES / DRKK	DRKK GJIROKASTER			
PËRDORIMI FILLESTAR	KISHE			
PËRDORIMI I TANISHËM	KISHE			
A KA RRETHIM OBJEKTI? / GJENDJA E TIJ	PJESERISHT/ MIRE			
ZONA E MBROJTUR	PO			
KOORDINATAT GJEOGRAFIKE TE MONUMENTIT	40.251178°N /20.423606°E			
KOORDINATA GJEOGRAFIKE TË ZONËS SË MBROJTUR	40° 15' 09.46" N / 20° 24' 59.05" E			
PRONËSIA	SHTETI			
EMRI I PRONARIT (-VE)				
NR. I PRONËSISE				
ZONA KADASTRALE	1154			
SIPËRFAQJA E NDËRTIMIT / LARTËSIA E OBJEKTIT	392.53 <sup>2</sup> / 2KT			
SIPËRFAQJA E PËRGJ. E RRETHIMIT	1,631.61 (TOKA E KISHES)			
SIPËRFAQJA E ZONËS SË MBROJTUR	24,466.31 m <sup>2</sup>			
A KA RRUGË AUTOMOBILISTIKE DERI	PJESERISHT			

NË MONUMENT? / GJENDJA E SAJ																	
<b>TË DHENA TEKNIKE</b>																	
<b>PËRSHKRIMI ARKITEKTONIK</b>	<p>Hyrja për në kishë bëhet nga ana e perëndimit nëpërmjet një harkade e përbërë nga dy kollona guri. Narteksi përbëhet prej dy katesh. Hipja për në katin e dytë bëhet nëpërmjet shkallëve të drunjta në krahun e majtë. Hyrja për në naos bëhet nëpërmjet një dere në qendër të narteksit duke zbritur tre këmbë shkalle. Gjithashtu ka dhe një hyrje të dytë prej një dere në jug e cila lidhet me hajatin e hapur. Naosi përbëhet nga katër kollona që lidhen midis tyre nga harqe me qemer dhe në qendër ngrihet kupola cilindrike e përbërë me katër dritare të ngushta. Nga të dyja faqet anësore veri –jug përbëhet nga nefe cilindrike me drejtim lindje- perëndim. Naosi ndriçohet nga katër dritare të medha në faqet veriore dhe jugore ambjenti I altarit ndahet nga naosi nëpërmjet ikonostasit të punuar me gdhendje ne dru arre ,me pas ndodhet apsida ne forme gjysëm rrethore. Këmbanorja është me dy hapësira mbuluar me harqe dheme kolone nëmes, e cila ndodhet sipër në faqen ballore të hyrjes për në kishë</p>																
<b>PËRSHKRIMI KONSTRUKTIV</b>	<p>· Kisha është e ndërtuar me gure. Catia mbulohet me rrasa guri te zi</p>																
<b>NDËRHYRJET KONSERVUESE / RESTAURUESE NË VITE,</b>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>VITI</th> <th>VITI</th> <th>VITI</th> <th>VITI</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2017 3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	VITI	VITI	VITI	VITI				2017 3								
VITI	VITI	VITI	VITI														
			2017 3														
<i>SHKALLËT E NDERHYRJES / 1 / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5 / (nga nderhyrja me e lehtë tek me thellë)</i>																	
<b>GJENDJA E KONSERVIMIT</b>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>ÇATIA / MBULESA</th> <th>DYER / DRITARE</th> <th>TAVANI/ NDERKATI</th> <th>STRUKTURA E DRURIT NE AMBIENTET E BRENSHEM (MAFILI, KOLONA, etj)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <th>AFRESKU</th> <th>IKONOSTASI</th> <th>MINARJA /KEMBANARJ A</th> <th>DYSCHEMEJA/MOZAIK</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	ÇATIA / MBULESA	DYER / DRITARE	TAVANI/ NDERKATI	STRUKTURA E DRURIT NE AMBIENTET E BRENSHEM (MAFILI, KOLONA, etj)	1	1	2	2	AFRESKU	IKONOSTASI	MINARJA /KEMBANARJ A	DYSCHEMEJA/MOZAIK		1	1	4
ÇATIA / MBULESA	DYER / DRITARE	TAVANI/ NDERKATI	STRUKTURA E DRURIT NE AMBIENTET E BRENSHEM (MAFILI, KOLONA, etj)														
1	1	2	2														
AFRESKU	IKONOSTASI	MINARJA /KEMBANARJ A	DYSCHEMEJA/MOZAIK														
	1	1	4														
<i>SHKALLËT E GJENDJES / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5 / (nga problematika me e lehtë tek me rendë)</i>																	



**NDËRHYRJET KONSERVUESE /  
RESTAURUESE  
QË PROPOZOHEN**

Propozohet:  
-Restaurim dysheme ne katin e dyt  
-Rikuperim i shkalleve qe te cojne ne katin e dyte  
-Pastrim i tavanit dhe mureve te kishes nga  
lageshtira myku dhe faktore te tjere natyror qe e  
demtojne

**DOKUMENTACIONI GRAFIK DHE HARTOGRAFIK**

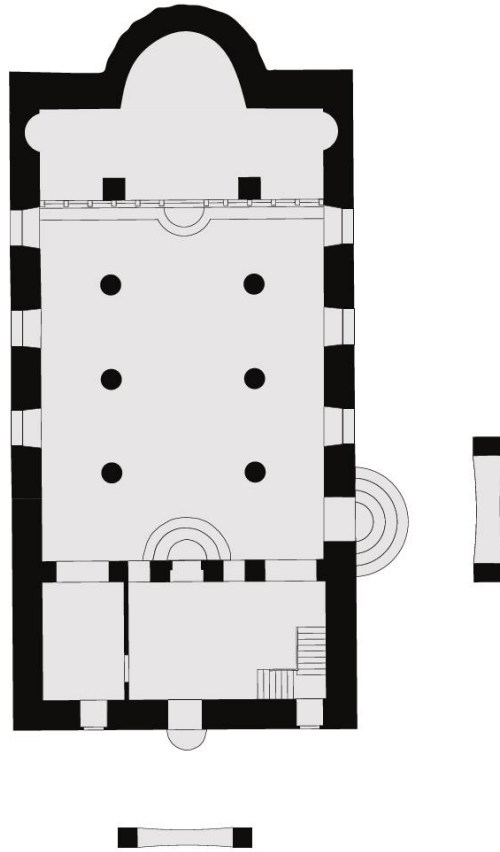


– Vendorsje në raport me Qendrën Historike



Plan – Vendorsje ( ortofoto 202024)

Plani i katit Përdhe. Rilevim i vitit 2024.



Plani i katit të Parë . Rilevim i vitit 2024.



Pamje Perëndimore



Pamje Veriore



Pamje Jugore



Pamje Veriore





DOKUMENTACIONI FOTOGRAFIK






## **5.5 The bridge of the stream**

The **Cultural Heritage Card** for the bridge in the village of Benje details this important Category I protected site, dating back to the mid-18th century. As a vital engineering structure, the bridge exemplifies traditional construction techniques and serves a crucial role in facilitating transportation in the region. It is in good condition and remains functional, reflecting the historical significance and ingenuity of its builders. Enclosed within a protected area, the bridge not only represents a key piece of local infrastructure but also underscores the rich cultural heritage of the Permet district, highlighting its importance for future generations.

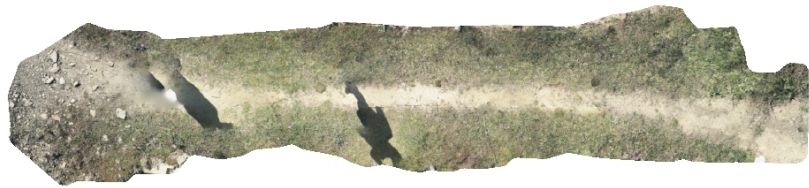


KARTELA PËR TRASHËGIMINË KULTURORE TË PALUAJTSHME				
TË DHËNA ADMINISTRATIVE				
NR. I SKEDËS	2.			
EMËRTIMI	URA NË PËRROIIN E BENJËS			
FUSHA	ARKITEKTURE			
GJINIA	OBJEKTE INXHINIERIKE			
TIPOLOGJIA	URE			
KODI I ARKIVIT				
ADRESA	BENJE,NOVOSELE			
VENDNDODHJA	QARKU	BASHKIA	NJESIA ADMINISTRATIVE	FSHATI
	PERMET		PETRAN	BENJE
STATUSI I MBROJTJES (KATEGORIA I, II)	KATEGORIA I			
NR. I VENDIMIT , DATA E SHPALLJES	VENDIM NR.1886/ DT.10.06.1973			
INSTITUCIONI I SHPALLJES	MINISTRIA E ARSIMIT DHE KULTURËS			
DATIMI ( VITI / SHEK )	GJYSMA E DYTESHEK XVIII			
INSTITUCIONI, ADMINISTRUES / DRKK	DRKK GJIROKASTER			
PËRDORIMI FILLESTAR	URE			
PËRDORIMI I TANISHËM	URE			
A KA RRETHIM OBJEKTI? / GJENDJA E TIJ	JO			
ZONA E MBROJTUR	PO			
KOORDINATAT GJEOGRAFIKE TE MONUMENTIT	40°14'56"N 20°25'13"E			
KOORDINATA GJEOGRAFIKE TË ZONËS SË MBROJTUR	40° 15' 09.46" N / 20° 24' 59.05" E			
PRONËSIA	SHTETI			
EMRI I PRONARIT (-VE)				
NR. I PRONËSISE				
ZONA KADASTRALE	1154			
SIPËRFAQJA E NDËRTIMIT / LARTËSIA E OBJEKTIT	7.5m			
SIPËRFAQJA E PËRGGJ. E RRETHIMIT				
SIPËRFAQJA E ZONËS SË MBROJTUR	24,466.31 m²			
A KA RRUGË AUTOMOBILISTIKE DERI	PO/ MIRE			

NË MONUMENT? / GJENDJA E SAJ																	
<b>TË DHENA TEKNIKE</b>																	
<b>PËRSHKRIMI ARKITEKTONIK</b>	<p>Ura e Bënjës është një ndërtesë e veçantë në fund të fshatit, vendosur mbi perroi i Oskru-sheve (Zerecit), në vendin më të ngushtë dhe më të fortë. Kjo urë guri e vogël është ndërtuar mbi një hark të vetëm tip shigjete, me një hapësirë drite prej 6.4 metra dhe lartësi prej 7.5 metra mbi nivelin e ujit në taban. Harku, përfshirë edhe arkivolten, ka një trashësi prej 70 centimetra. Arkivolta shkel me dhembe 7 centimetra mbi harkun e poshtëm. Kalldremi i urës është i trafikuar, me gjatësi 9.6 metra dhe gjerësi 2.3 metra. Mendohet të jetë ndërtuar në gjysmën e dytë të shekullit XVII dhe ruhet mirë edhe sot.</p>																
<b>PËRSHKRIMI KONSTRUKTIV</b>	Ura e Benjes është e ndërtuar me gure. Pjesa e sipërme është e mbuluar me gjelberim dhe nuk ka kalldrem.																
<b>NDËRHYRJET KONSERVUESE / RESTAURUESE NË VITE,</b>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>VITI</th> <th>VITI</th> <th>VITI</th> <th>VITI</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2015</td> <td>2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">           SHKALLËT E NDERHYRJES            / 1 / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5 /            (nga nderhyrja me e lehtë tek me thellë)         </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	VITI	VITI	VITI	VITI			2015	2023	SHKALLËT E NDERHYRJES / 1 / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5 / (nga nderhyrja me e lehtë tek me thellë)							
VITI	VITI	VITI	VITI														
		2015	2023														
SHKALLËT E NDERHYRJES / 1 / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5 / (nga nderhyrja me e lehtë tek me thellë)																	
<b>GJENDJA E KONSERVIMIT</b>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>ÇATIA / MBULESA</th> <th>DYER / DRITARE</th> <th>TAVANI / NDERKATI</th> <th>STRUKTURA E DRURIT NE AMBIENTET E BRENSHEM (MAFILI, KOLONA, etj)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <th>AFRESKU</th> <th>IKONOSTASI</th> <th>MINARJA /KEMBANARJ A</th> <th>DYSCHEMEJA/MOZAIK</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	ÇATIA / MBULESA	DYER / DRITARE	TAVANI / NDERKATI	STRUKTURA E DRURIT NE AMBIENTET E BRENSHEM (MAFILI, KOLONA, etj)					AFRESKU	IKONOSTASI	MINARJA /KEMBANARJ A	DYSCHEMEJA/MOZAIK				
ÇATIA / MBULESA	DYER / DRITARE	TAVANI / NDERKATI	STRUKTURA E DRURIT NE AMBIENTET E BRENSHEM (MAFILI, KOLONA, etj)														
AFRESKU	IKONOSTASI	MINARJA /KEMBANARJ A	DYSCHEMEJA/MOZAIK														
SHKALLËT E GJENDJES / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5 / (nga problematika me e lehtë tek me rendë)	/ 1 (nga)																

<p><b>NDËRHYRJET KONSERVUESE / RESTAURUESE QË PROPOZOHEN</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Riforcim i kembazeve,</li> <li>-Pastrim i siperfaqes nga barishtet bimet si dhe faktoret e tjere natyrore qe cojne ne demtimin e ures</li> <li>-Restaurim i kalldremit</li> </ul>
<p><b>DOKUMENTACIONI GRAFIK DHE HARTOGRAFIK</b></p>	
	
	

DOKUMENTACIONI FOTOGRAFIK



**BIBLIOGRAFIA:**

Permeti dhe trevat e tij deri ne vitin "1912"  
Dhimitraq A. Lole, 2002, f.92-94

Punoi: Dorotea Bregu

## 5.6 Sotir Nauni, Sofokli Dono house

<b>Aderess:</b> (Region, Village, Neighborhood, Number)	<i>Gjirokastër Region, Permet Municipality, Benja Village</i>
<b>Coordinations:</b>	Latitude: 40.2520° Longitude: 20.4160°
<b>Area:</b>	West side :203.35 m <sup>2</sup> (109.76 m <sup>2</sup> bulding) East Side :186.20 m <sup>2</sup> (102.75 m <sup>2</sup> bulding)
<b>Owner:</b> (West Side)	Sotir Nauni
<b>Owner:</b> (East Side)	Sofokli Dono
<b>Project :</b> (Ustallare Korcare)	Unknoun workers from Korca
<b>Ownership:</b> (Public/ Private)	Private
<b>Initial Usage:</b>	Residential
<b>Current usage:</b>	Residential
<b>Cultural monument:</b>	<i>DRKK Gjirokaster</i>
<b>Monument Category</b>	II-e Dyte

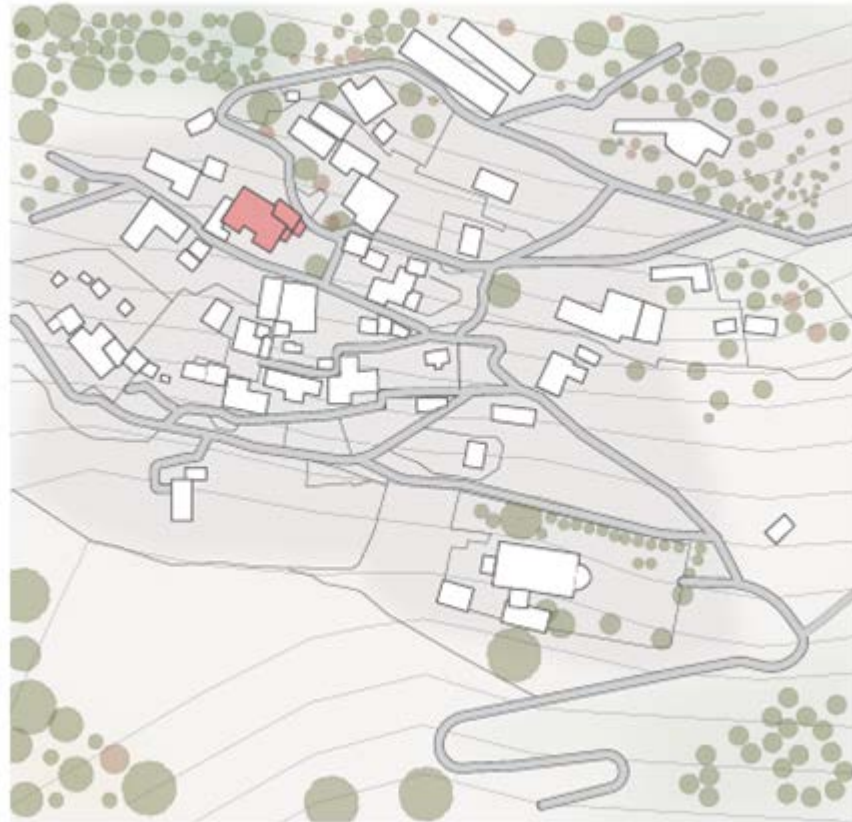
### 5.6.1 Description of the house

The house, located in the upper part of the village, has an E-shaped structure. It is surrounded by a large courtyard paved with stone slabs and high walls. The entrance to the courtyard was once made through two main doors, one on the western side and one on the southeast side. Later, these two sides divided the courtyard into two parts, each owned by different owners. The house has 2 floors, and on the first floor, it has two porches and three hallways that communicate with them. The second floor consists of rooms (*oda*) in a square shape, winter rooms, and the kitchen. The second floor is furnished with wooden floors, and the decorations include embellished doors, cabinets, and decorated ceilings.



### 5.6.2 Location on the map

The house is located in the upper part of the village.



*Figure 55.* The location of Sotir Nauri and Sofokli Dono building

### 5.6.3 On site images



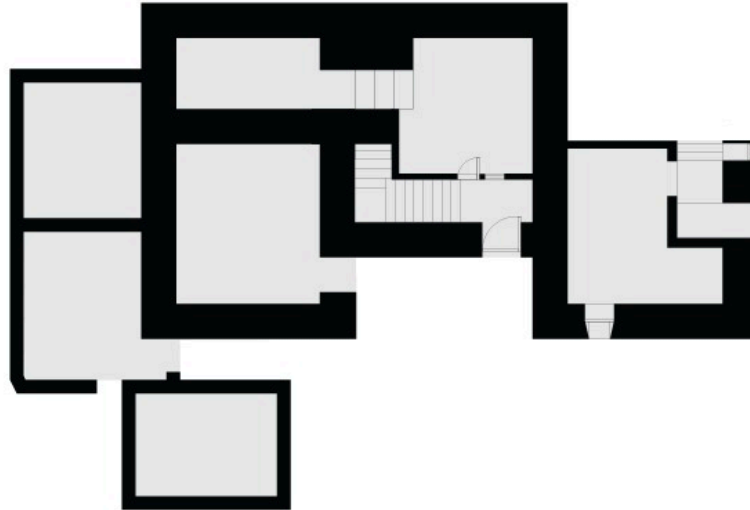
*Figure 56.* Front view of the building of Sotir Nauri and Sofokli Dono



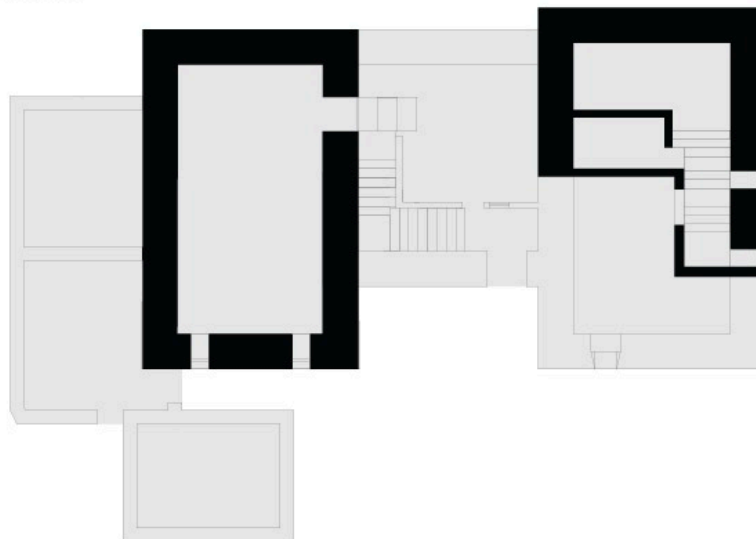
*Figure 57.* Details of the building of Sotir Nauri and Sofokli Dono

#### 5.6.4 Graficial Representation:

##### Ground floor.



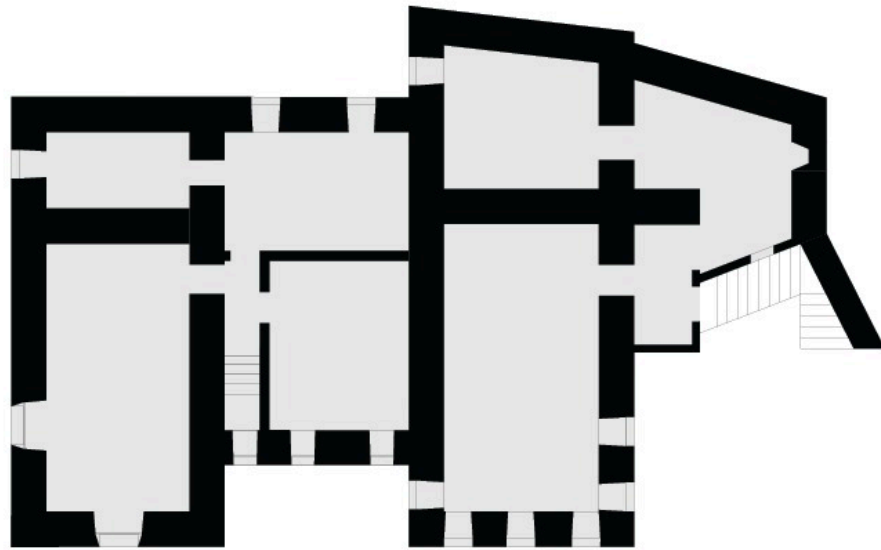
##### First floor.



*Figure 58.* Plan of the ground and first floors of the building



**Second floor.**



**Roof plan.**



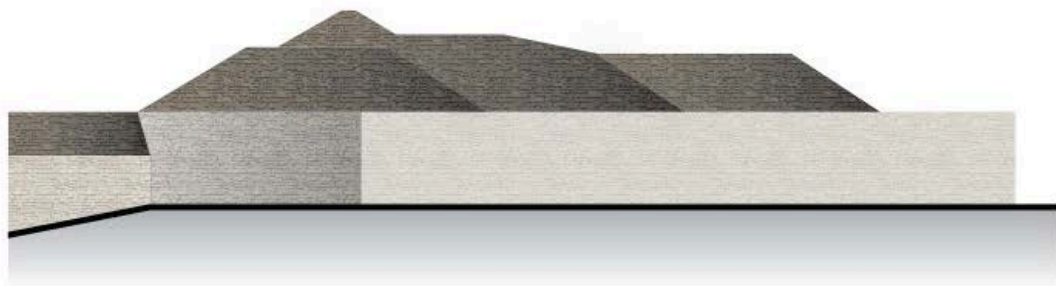
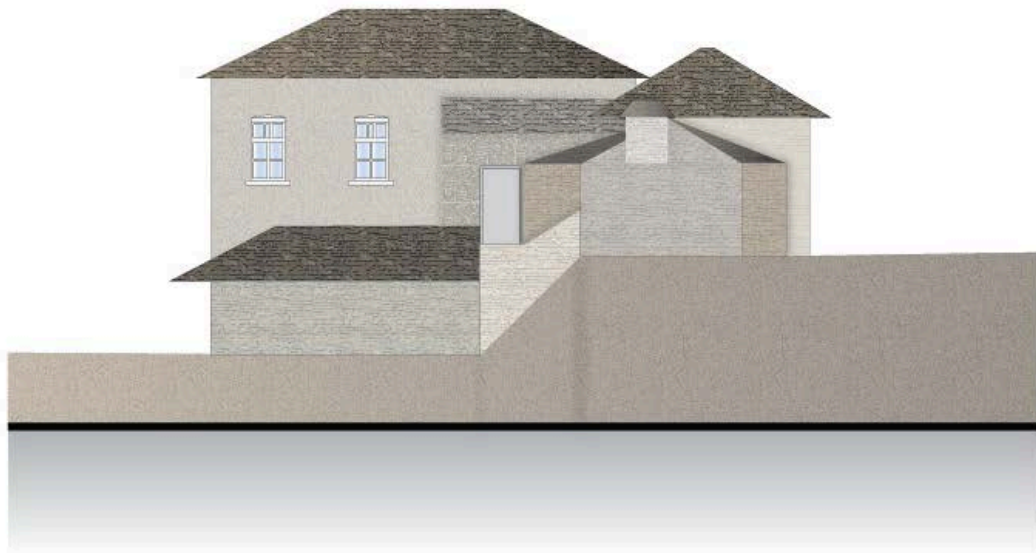
*Figure 59.* Plan of the second floor and roof of the building

## Sections.



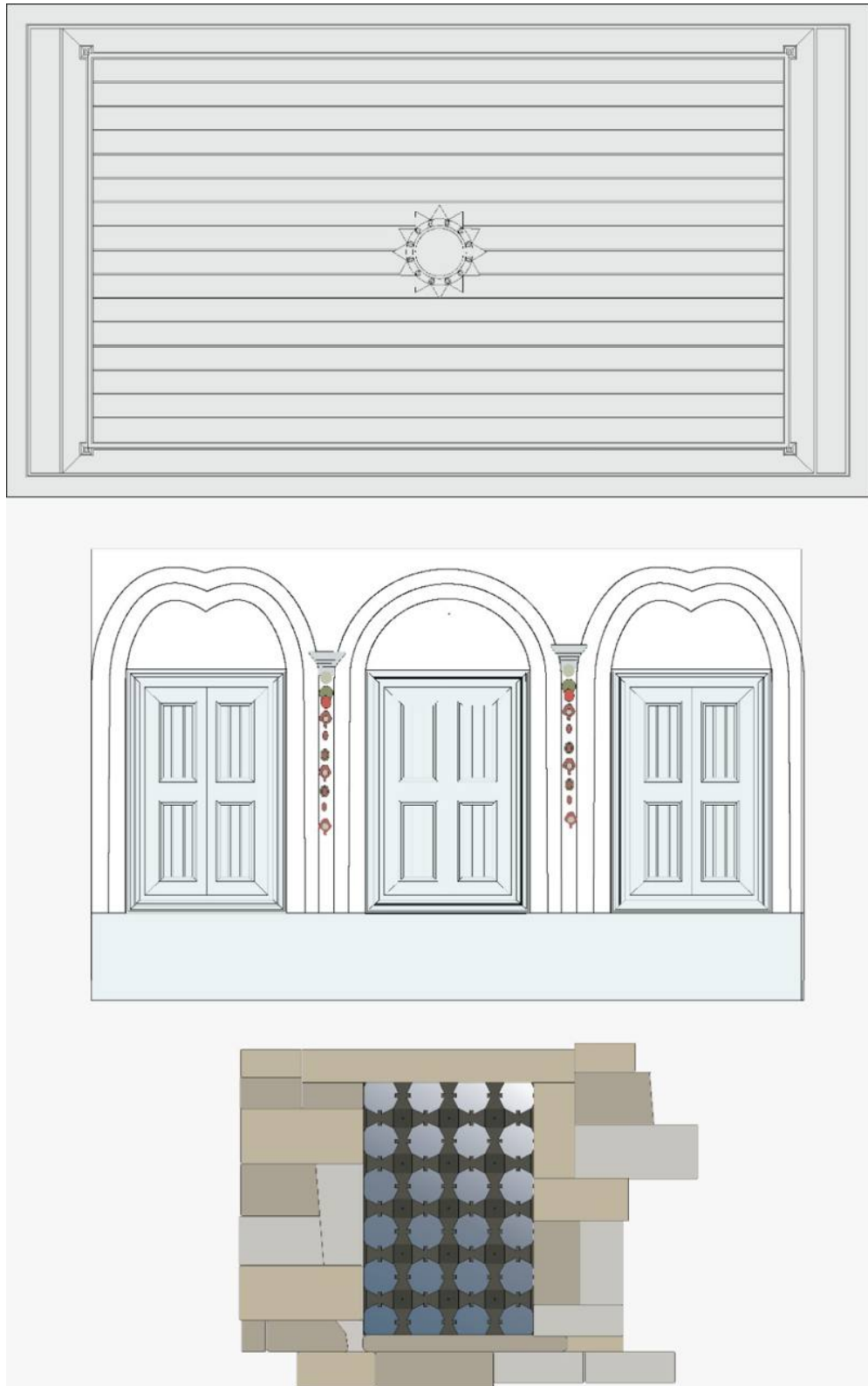
*Figure 60.* Sections of the building of Sotir Nauni and Sofokli Dono

## Elevations.

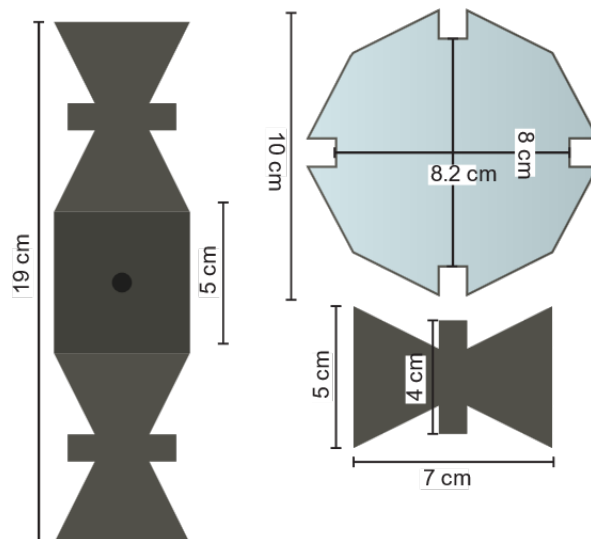
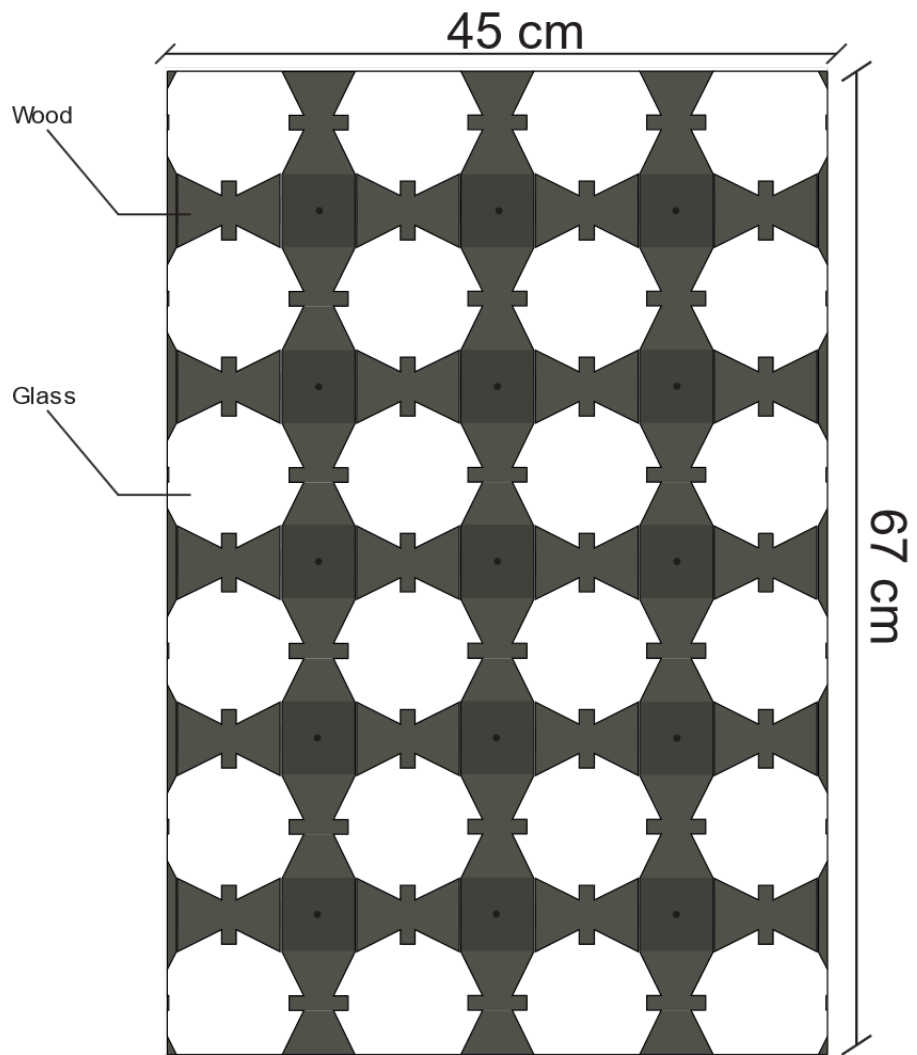


*Figure 61.* Elevations of the building of Sotir Nauri and Sofokli Dono





**Figure 62.** Decorative ceiling details on the top figure, Mesendra in the middle, and a typical window on the bottom figure.



**Figure 63.** Detailed window frame

## 5.7 Pandeli Stefo House

<b>Adres: Aderess:</b> (Region, Village, Neighborhood, Number)	Gjirokastër Region, Permet Municipality, Benja Village
<b>Coordinations:</b>	40.2516° N 20.4163° E
<b>Area:</b>	111 m2
<b>Current owner:</b>	Pandeli Stefo
<b>Previews owner:</b>	Thanas Zhamo
<b>Original owner:</b>	Aleks Tundo
<b>Project :</b>	Unknown workers
<b>Ownership: (Public/ Private)</b>	Privat
<b>Current usage:</b>	Residential
<b>Current usage:</b>	Residential
<b>Possible usage:</b>	Guest house/ Hotel
<b>Cultural monument:</b>	DRKK Gjirokaster
<b>Monument Category</b>	II-e Dyte

### 5.7.1 Description of the House

The house is located in the lower neighborhood of the village. It is a three-story house with a mixed L-shaped floor plan. The walls are made of stone, and the roof is covered with black stone slabs. On the right side, there have been no alterations, and the house continues to maintain its authenticity, with the same windows as from its

original construction. However, on the left side, modifications have been made to both the facade and the interior partitions of the dwelling.

### 5.7.2 Location on the map



*Figure 64. The location of Pandeli Stefo house*

### 5.7.3 On site images

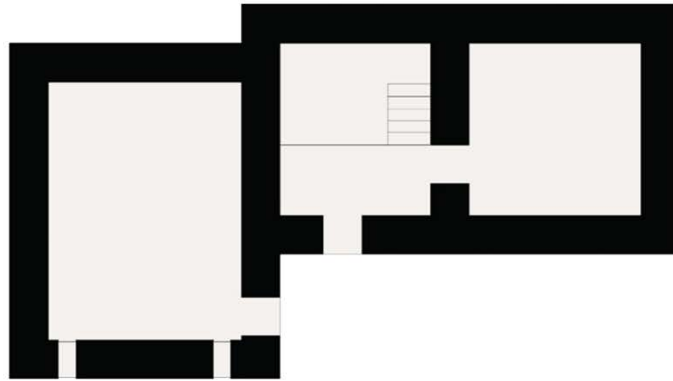


*Figure 65.* Front and internal view of the building of Pandeli Stefo

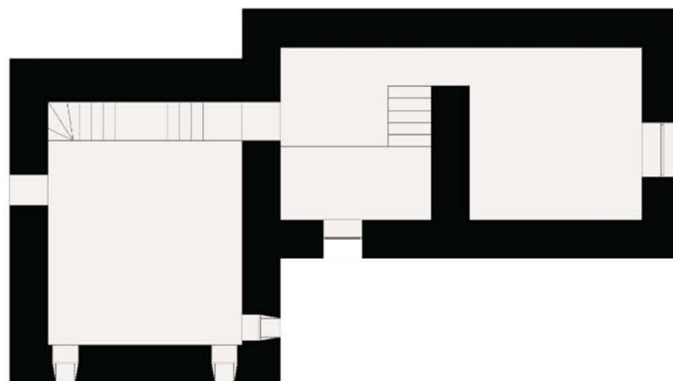


### 5.7.4 Grafical materials

Ground floor

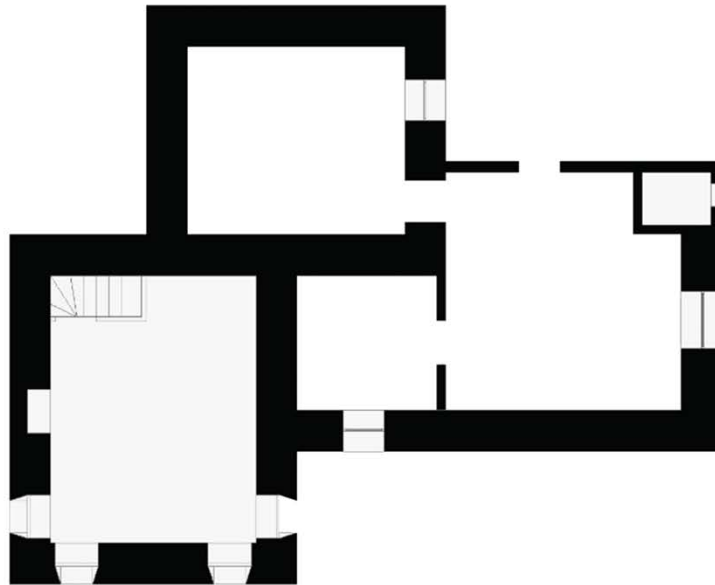


First floor

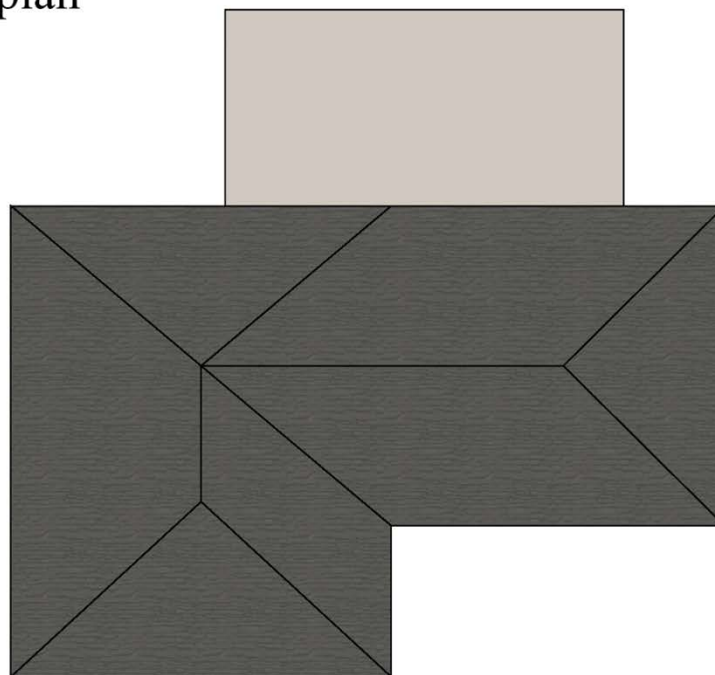


*Figure 66.* Plan of the ground and first floors of the Pandeli Stefo house

Second floor

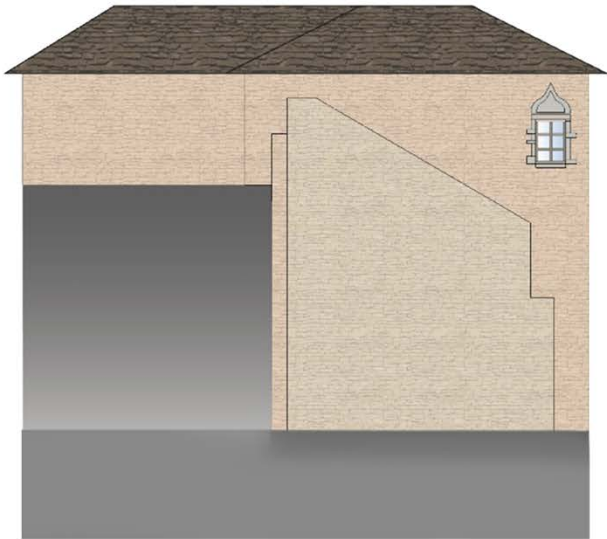


Roof plan



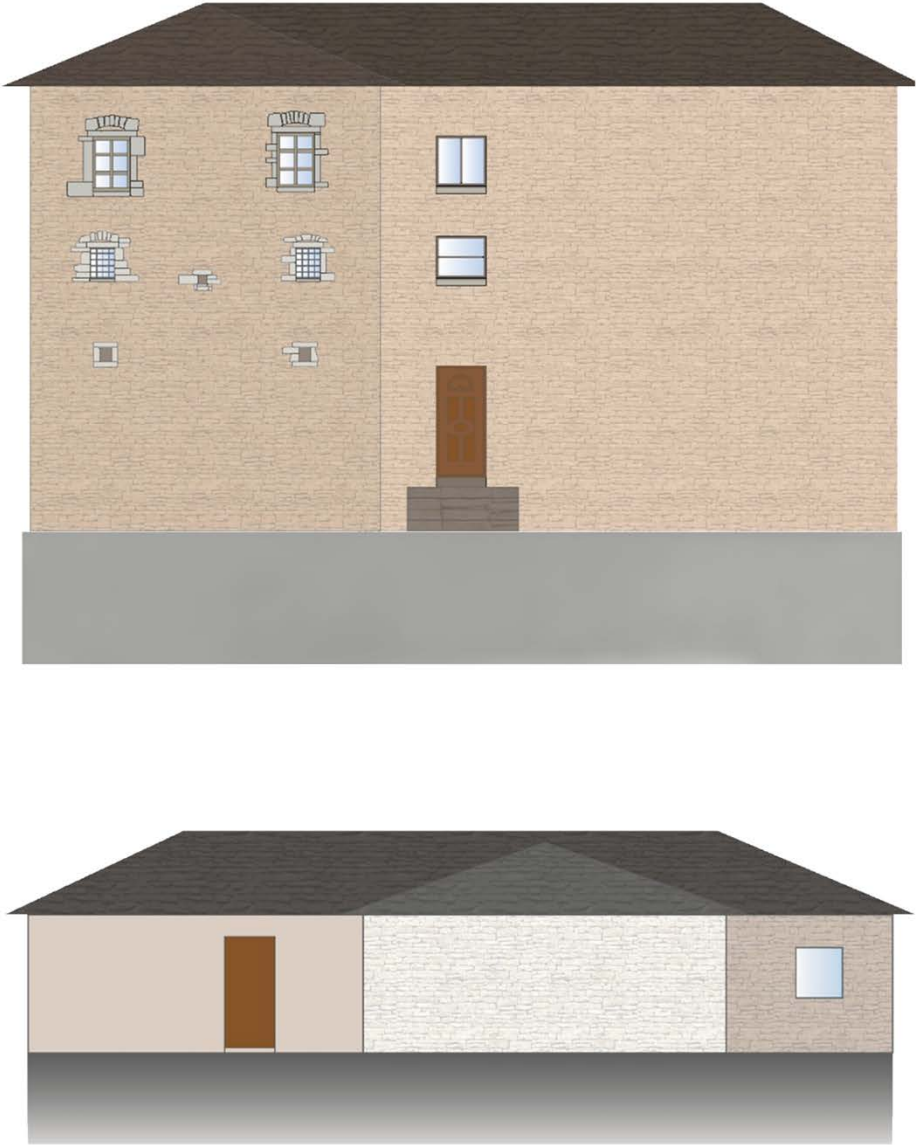
*Figure 67.* Plan of the second floor and roof of the building

Elevations



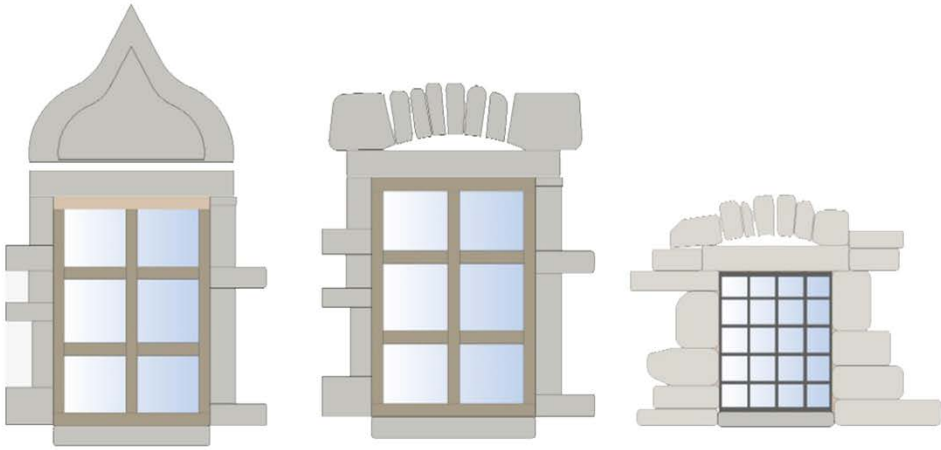
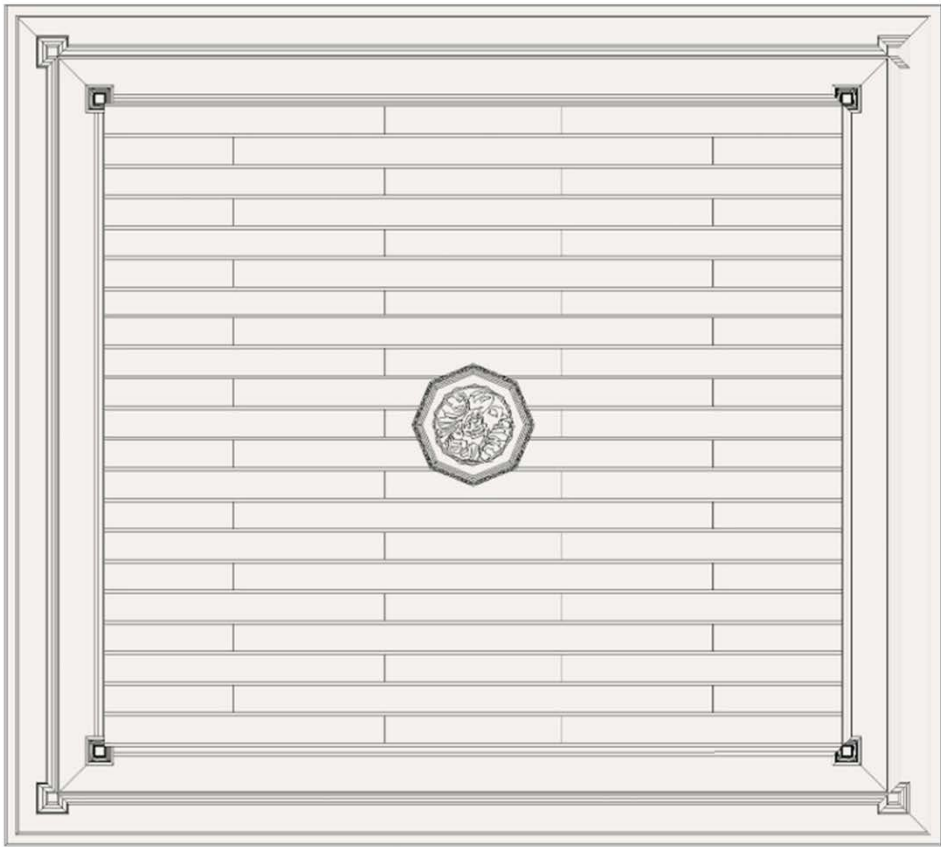
*Figure 68.* Elevations of the building of the Pandeli Stefo House

Elevations



*Figure 69.* Elevations of the building of the Pandeli Sefo House

Details



*Figure 70.* Details of the building of the Pandeli Sefo House

## 5.8 Adrian and Stilian Gele House

### Adrian, Stilian Gele House.

<b>Address:</b> (Region, Village, Neighborhood, Number)	<i>Çirrokastër Region, Permet Municipality, Berqa Village</i>
<b>Coordinates:</b>	Latitude: 40.15.06.22° Longitude: 20° 24' 55.79" E
<b>Area:</b>	353.00m <sup>2</sup> (139.96 m <sup>2</sup> building)
<b>Owner:</b> (West Side)	Adrian Gele, Stilian Gele
<b>Project :</b> (Ustallare Korcare)	Unknown workers
<b>Ownership:</b> (Public/ Private)	Private
<b>Initial Usage:</b>	Residential
<b>Current usage:</b>	Residential
<b>Possible usage:</b>	Residential
<b>Cultural monument:</b>	<i>DRKK Çirrokastër</i>
<b>Monument Category</b>	II-Dyte

#### 5.8.1 Description of the House

These two-story houses are located on the southwest side of the village. The houses are divided into two families and were originally built in 1970, but later interventions and additions were made. The original floor plan was L-shaped, but over time it underwent transformations. In the old part of the house, the walls of the house are 90 cm, while in the part of the addition, they are 25 cm outside and 15 inside.



### 5.8.2 Location on the map



*Figure 71.* The location of Adrian & Stilian Gele building

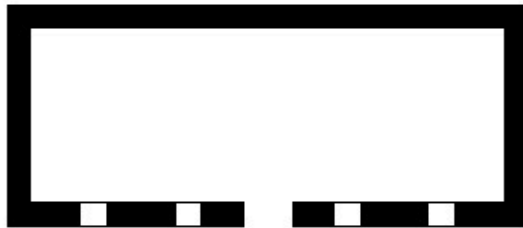
### 5.8.3 On site images



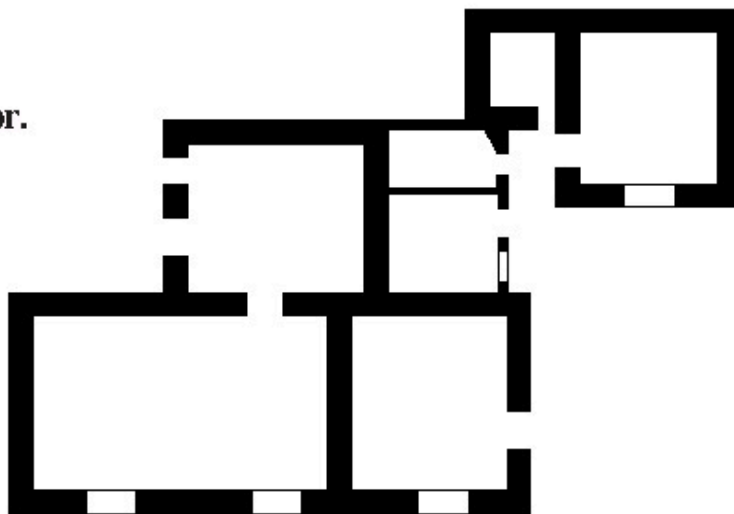
*Figure 72.* Front of the building of Adrian & Stilian Gele

#### 5.8.4 Grafical materials

Ground floor.

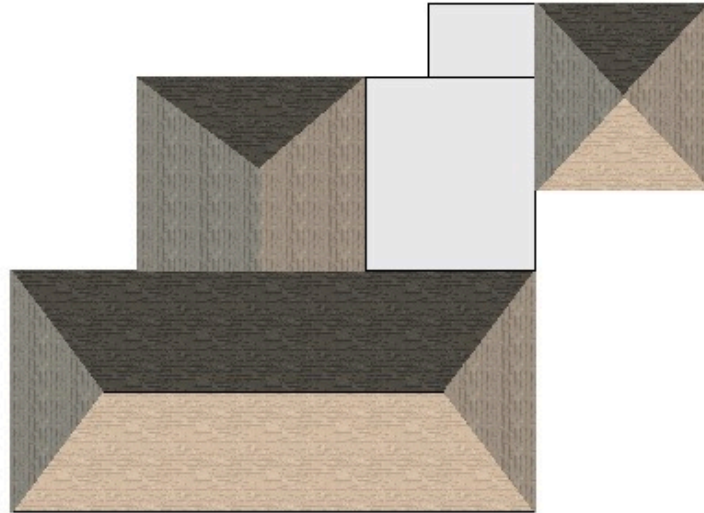


First floor.

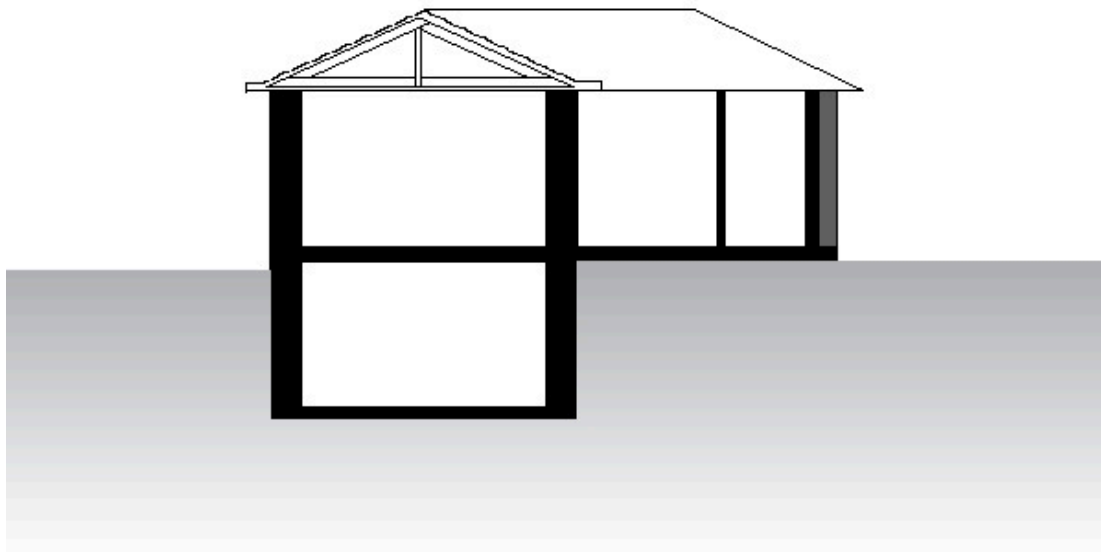


*Figure 73.* Plan of the ground and first floors of the Adrian & Stilian Gele house

**Roof plan.**

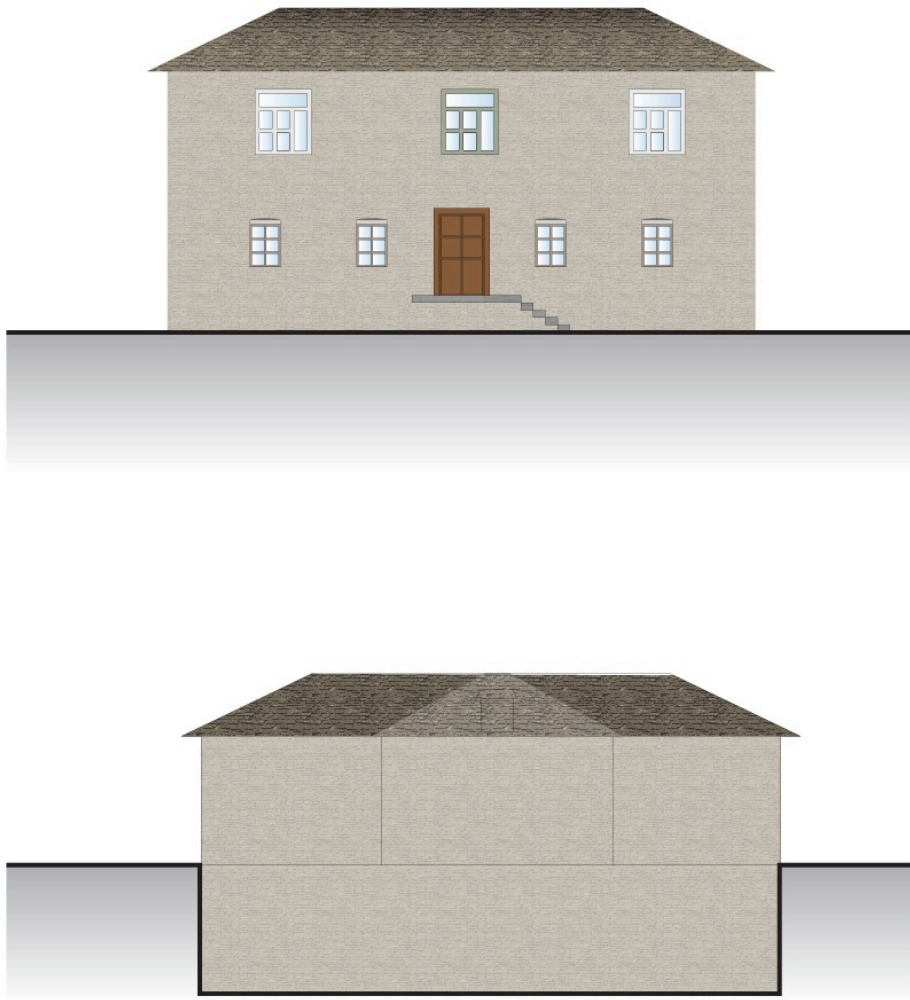


**Sections.**



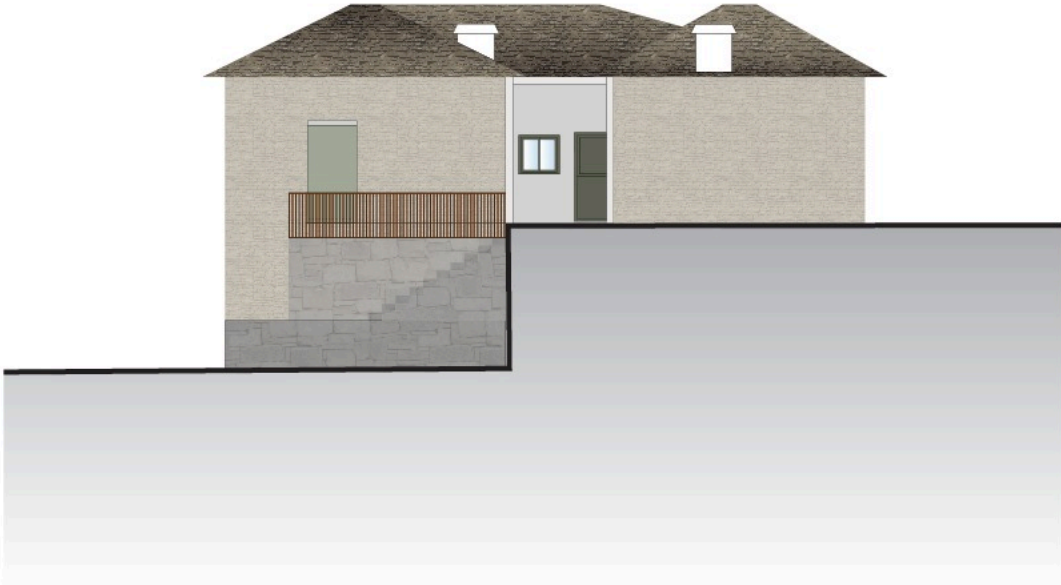
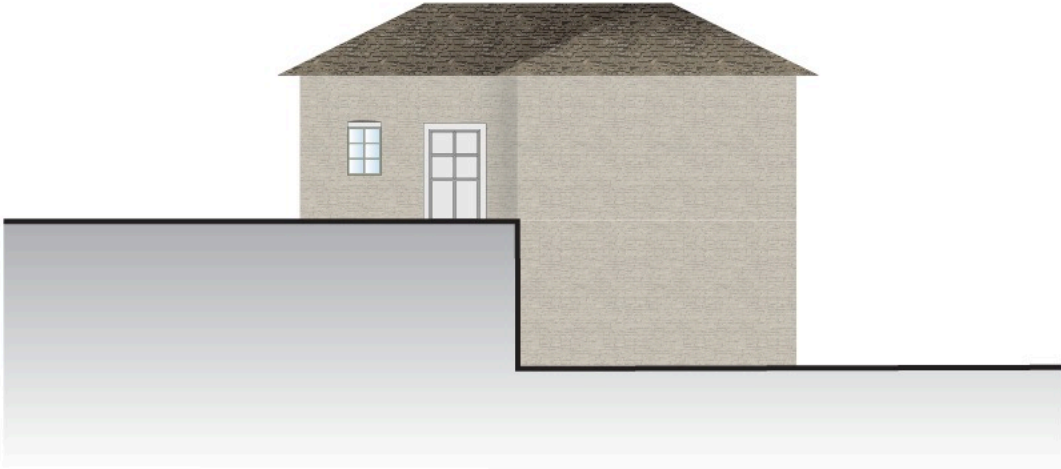
*Figure 74.* Section and the roof of the building of Adrian and Stilian Gele

**Elevations.**



*Figure 75.* Elevations of the building of Adrian & Stilian Gele

**Elevations.**



*Figure 76.* Elevations of the building of Adrian & Stilian Gele

## 5.9 Giorgo Ponti's House

### Giorgo Ponti's House

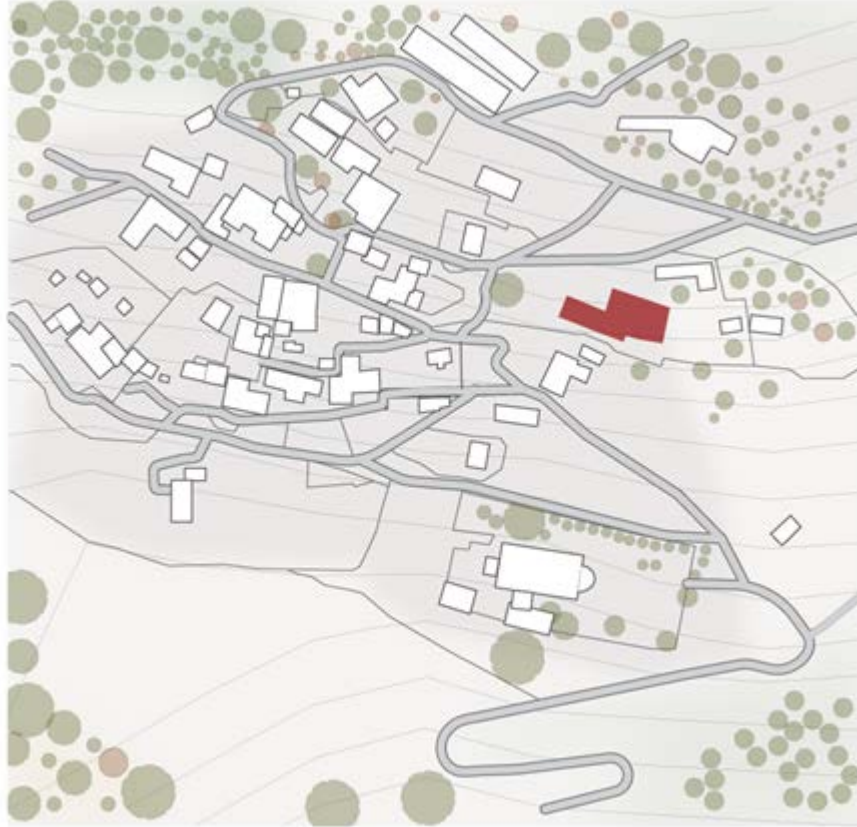
<b>Adress:(Region, City, Village, Neighborhood, Number).</b>	Region: Gjirokaster, City:Permet, Village:Benje
<b>Coordination:</b>	Longitude:40.2518°, Latitude: 611.7874
<b>Area:</b>	187.88m <sup>2</sup> , Builted: 85.97 m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Builder:</b>	Unknown builder from Korca
<b>Original owner:</b>	Androkli Vaso
<b>Current owner:</b>	Vasil Tane
<b>Privious owner:</b>	Giorgio Ponti
<b>Ownership:</b>	Privat
<b>Original usage:</b>	Residential
<b>Current usage:</b>	Abandoned
<b>Possible usage :</b>	Guest house, Hotel, Museum
<b>Cultural Monument:</b>	<i>DRKK Gjirokaster</i>
<b>Monument Category:</b>	<i>II-Dyte</i>

### 5.9.1 Description of the house

These houses are located in the southern part of the village, a few meters above the village church. The houses have a rectangular plan and together lie in an L shape. The houses are developed on two floors. Although today they are not able very good, on the second floor of the west side you can see how the original room was, where there are no missing elements, such as wall cupboards, the middle and the decorated ceiling. The walls of the houses are made of stone and are 90 cm. while walking with black stones. What is noticeable between these houses is the fact that they communicate with each other through internal doors.



### 5.9.2 Location on the map



*Figure 77.* The location of Giorgio Ponti's house

### 5.9.3 On site images



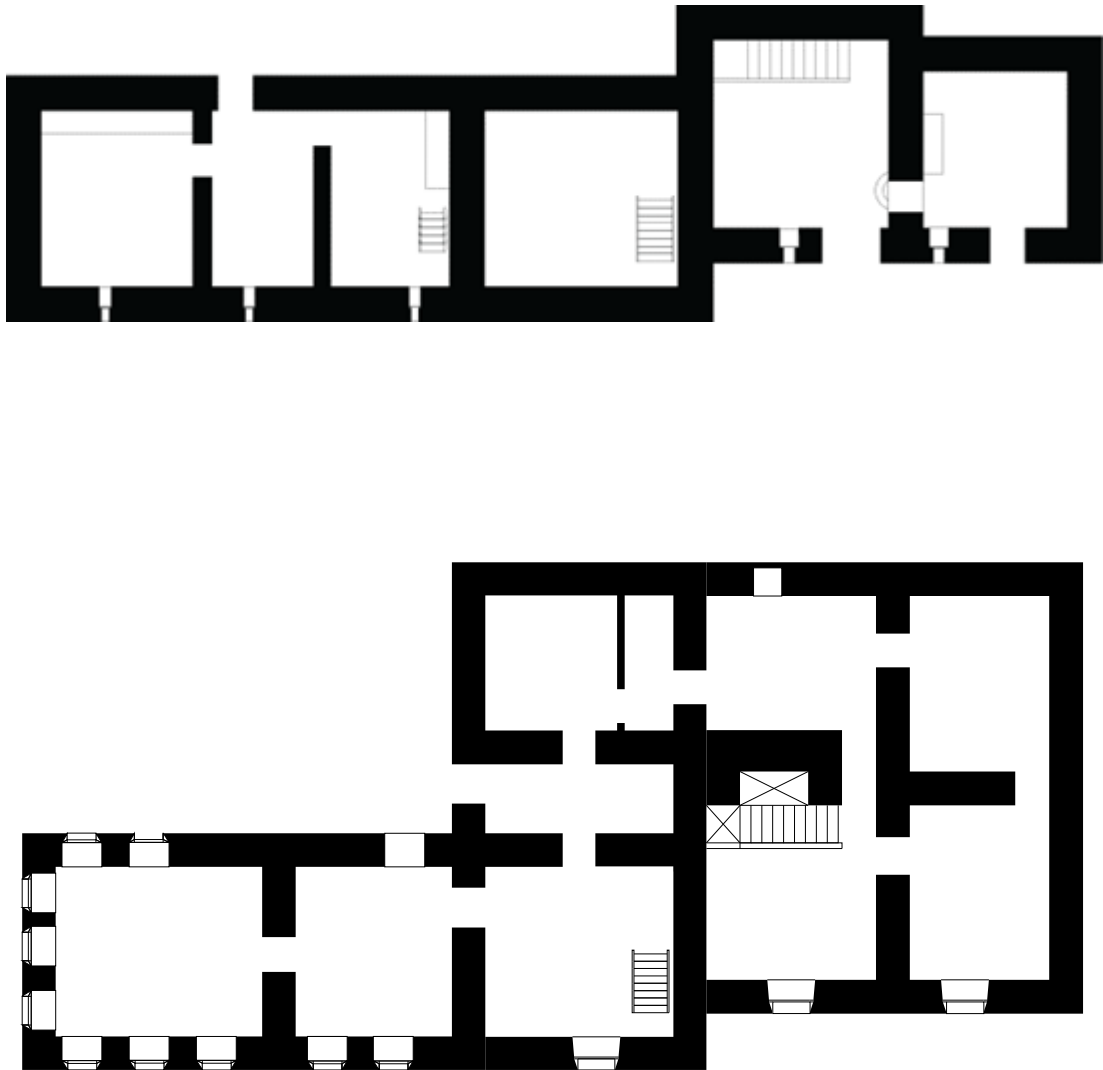
*Figure 78.* The top image shows the front view of Giorgio Ponti's house, while the bottom shots reveal internal doors and ceiling features.





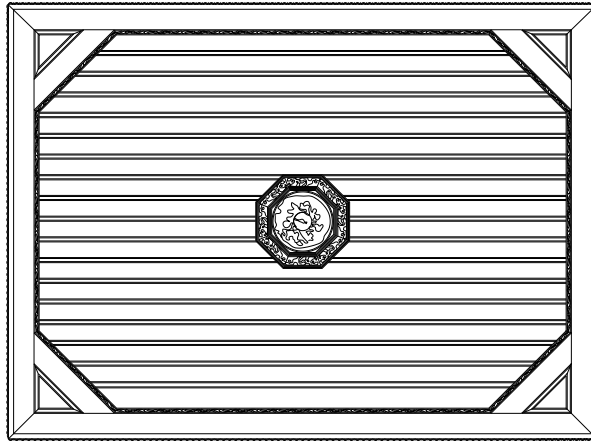
*Figure 79.* The internal view demonstrates "Oda"

### 5.9.4 Grafical Materials

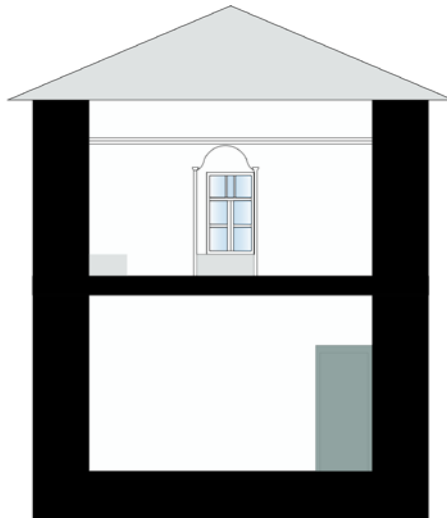


*Figure 80.* Plan of the ground and first floors of the building

### 5.9.5 Ceiling details

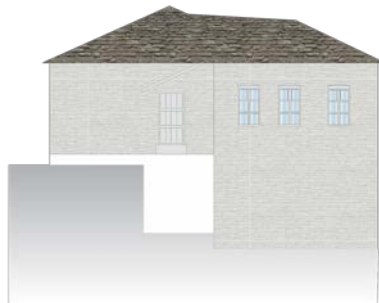


### 5.9.6 Section



*Figure 81.* Ceiling and sections of the building of Giorgio Ponti house

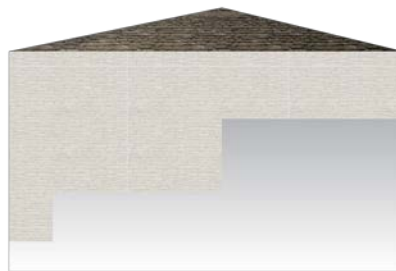
## Elevation



*Figure 82.* Elevations of the building of the Giorgio Ponti house



## Elevation



**Figure 83.** Elevations of the building of the Giorgio Ponti house

## 5.10 Spiron Kreci House

<b>Adress:</b> (Region, Village, Neighborhood, Number)	<i>Gjirokastër Region, Pemet Municipality Benja Village</i>
<b>Coordinations:</b>	Latitude: 40.2522° Longitude: 20.4163° E
<b>Area:</b>	180m <sup>2</sup> (56m <sup>2</sup> built)
<b>Current Owner:</b>	Spiron Kreci
<b>Previous Owner:</b>	Andrea Xhaja
<b>Project :</b>	Unknown
<b>Ownership</b> (Public/ Private)	Private
<b>Initial Usage:</b>	Residential
<b>Current usage:</b>	Residential
<b>Cultural monument:</b>	Proposed <i>DRKK Gjirokaster</i>
<b>Monument Category</b>	II-e Dytë

### 5.10.1 Description of the house

The house is located in the upper part of the village and has an L-shaped floor plan. The house has an upper floor and a lower floor due to the slope of the terrain. The masonry is built with black river stones, and the terraces are covered with black stone slabs. The unique feature of this house is the decorative ceiling, which is authentic and has remained untouched since the house was built. In other parts of the house, interventions have been made over the years.

### 5.10.2 Location on the map



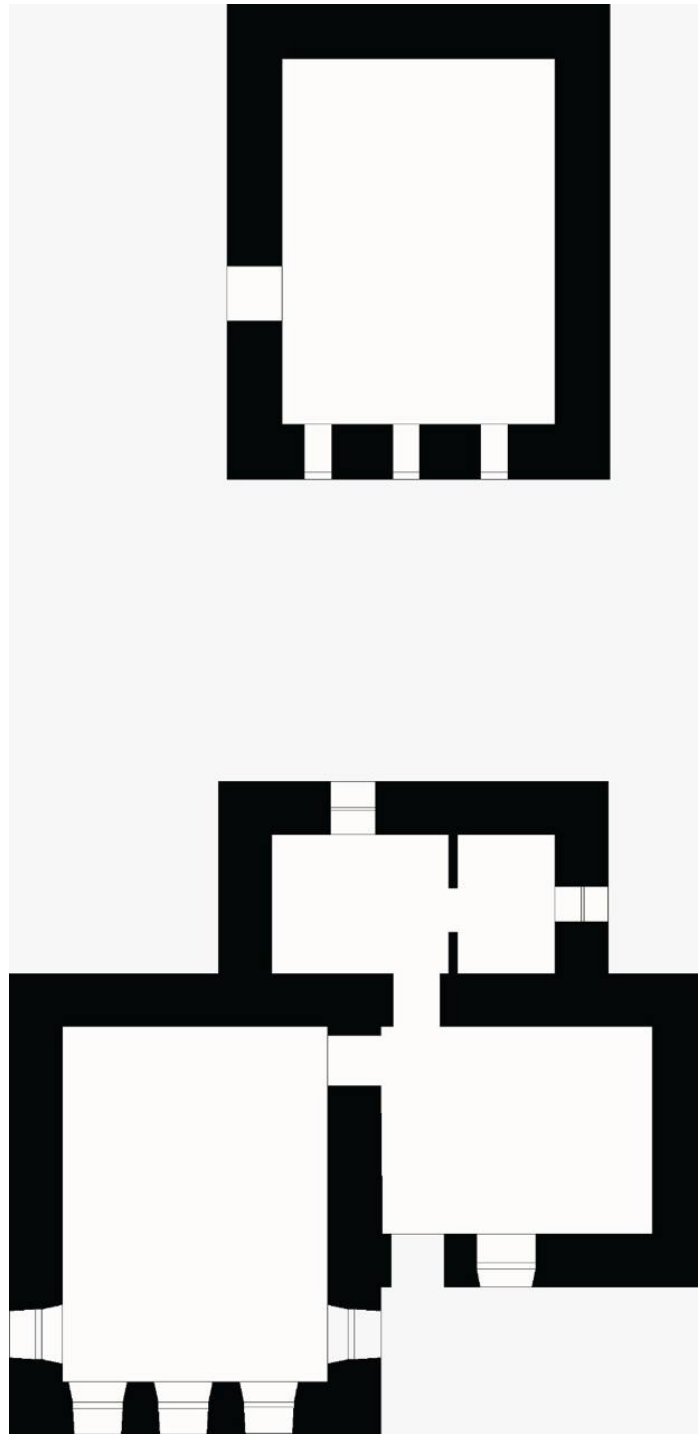
*Figure 84.* The location of Spiron Kreci building

### 5.10.3 On site images

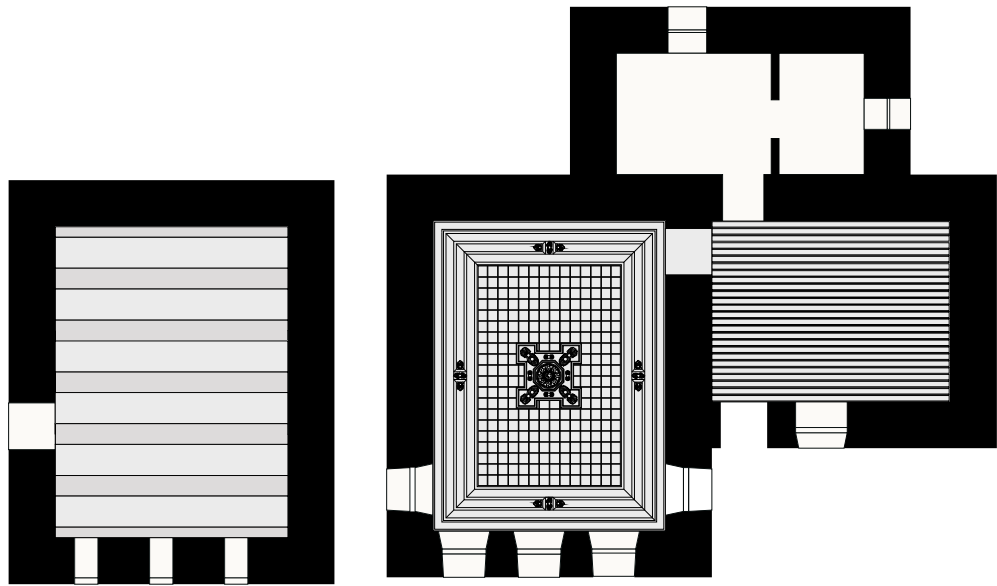


*Figure 85.* Front of the building of Spiron Kreci

#### 5.10.4 Grafical Materials

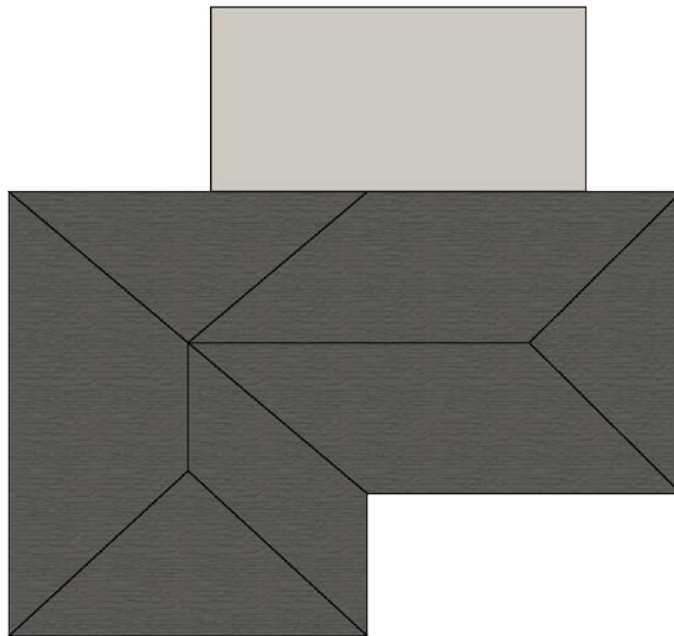


*Figure 86.* Plan of the ground and first floors of the building



**Ceeling Plan**

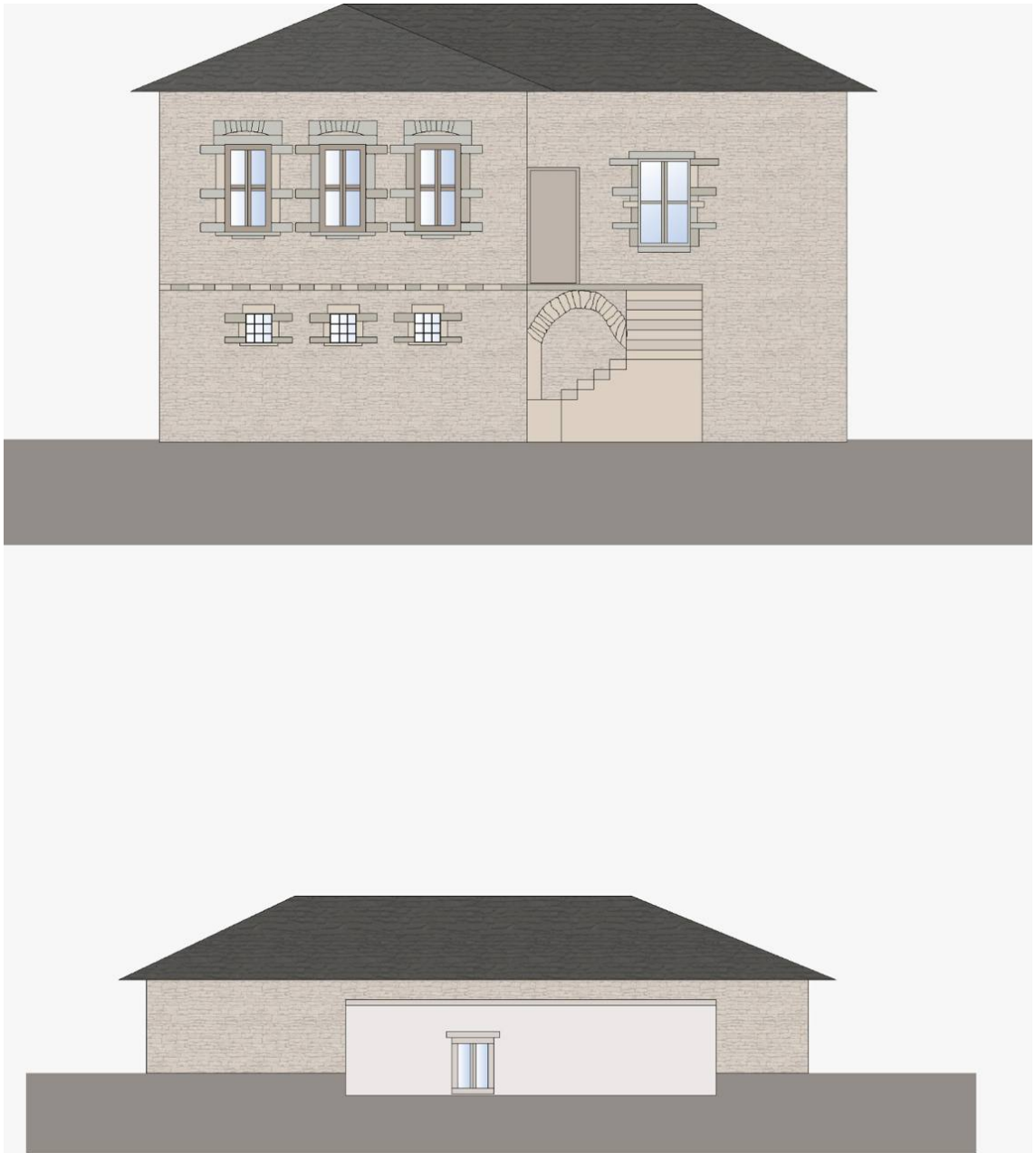
**Roof Plan**



*Figure 87.* Plan of the ceeling and roof of the building

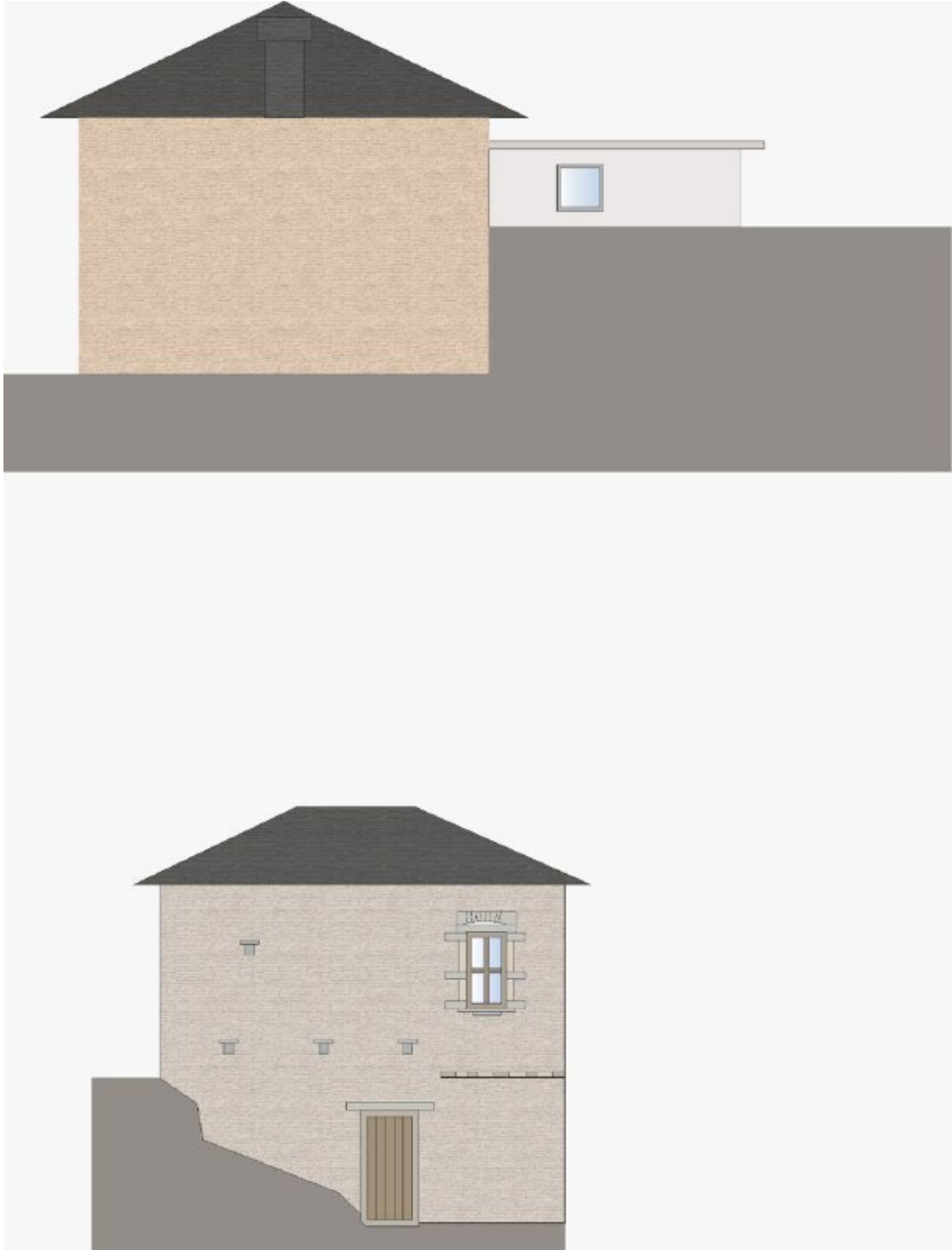


**Elevations**



*Figure 88.* Elevations of the building of Spiron Kreci

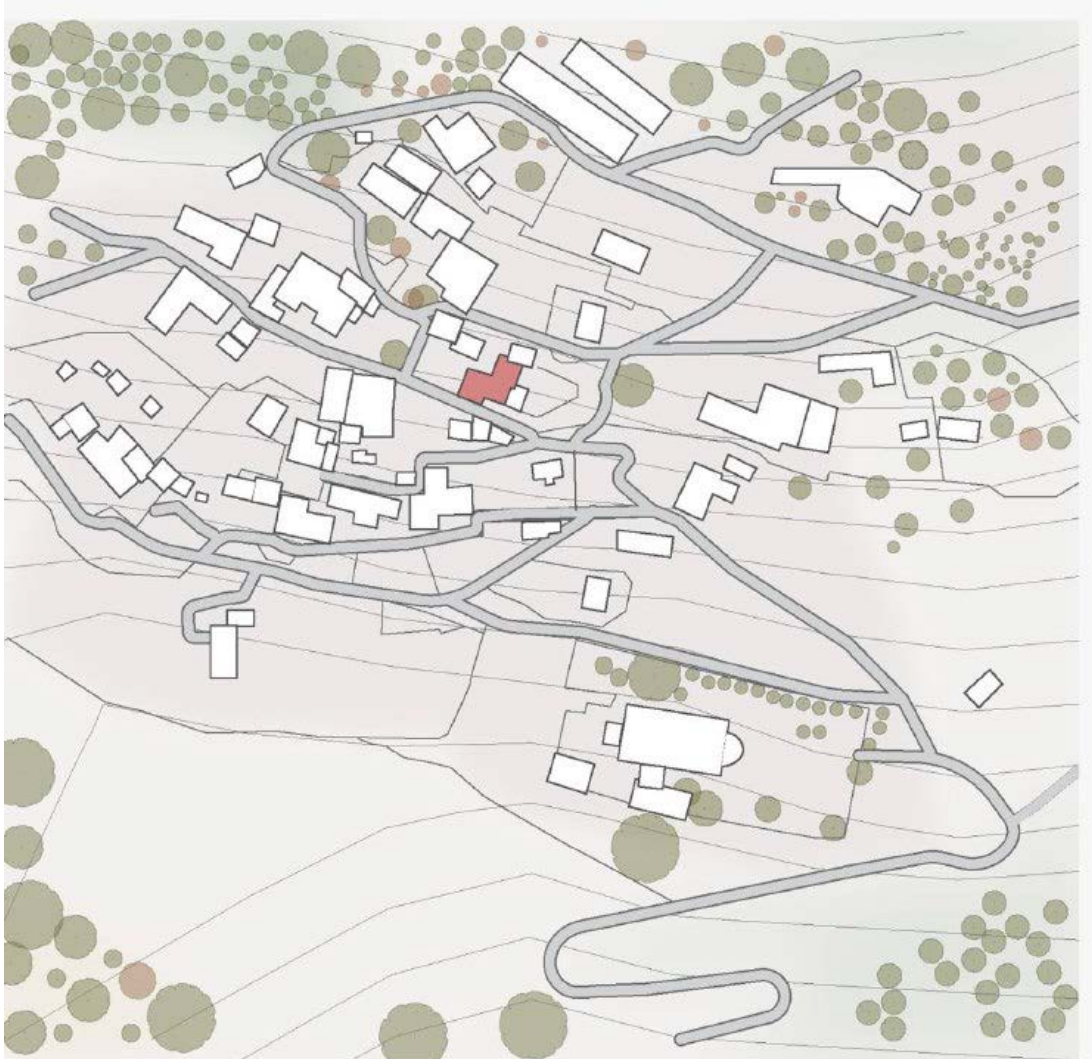
## Elevations



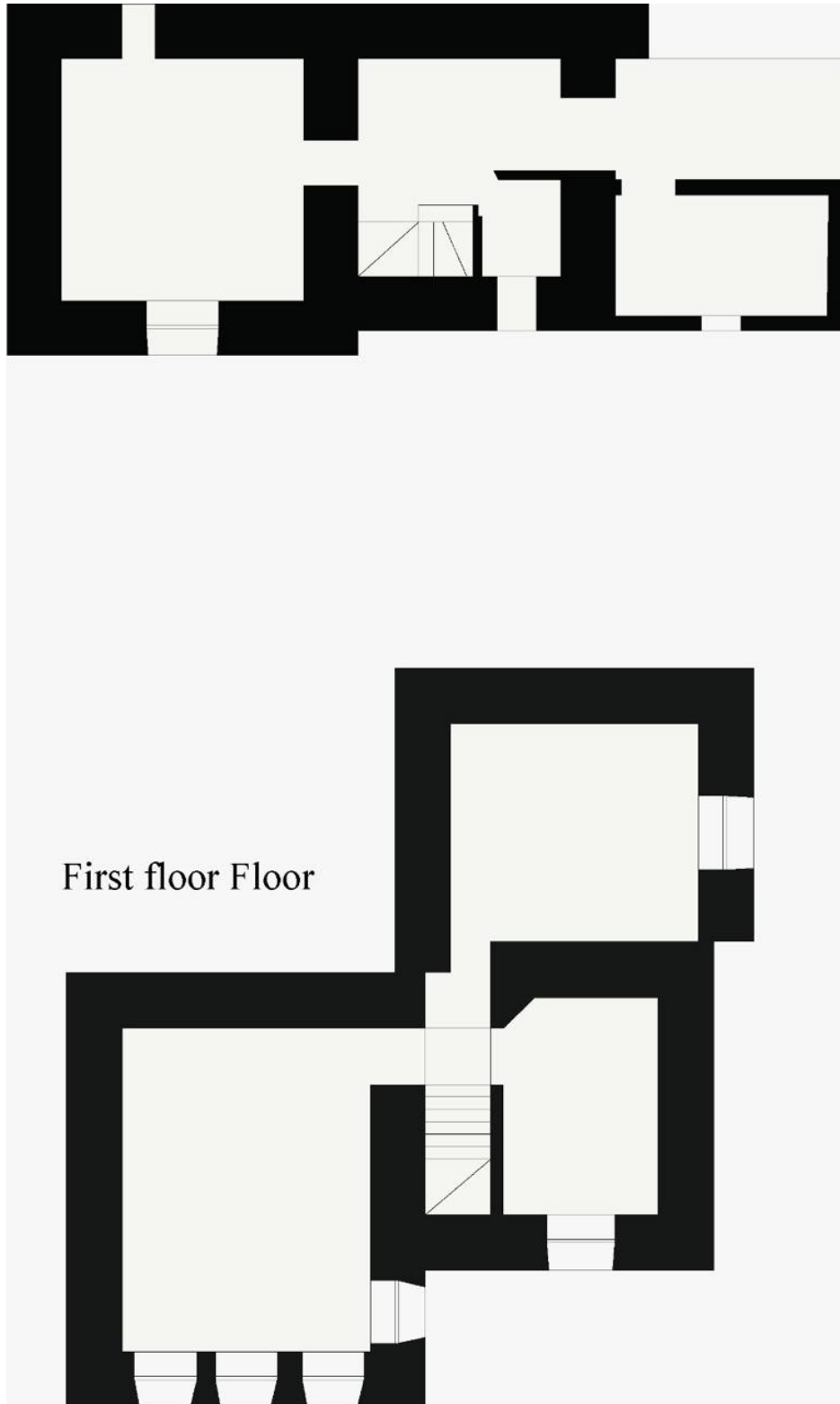
*Figure 89.* Elevations of the building of Spiron Kreci

## 5.11 Viktor Nauni House

### 5.11.1 Location on the map

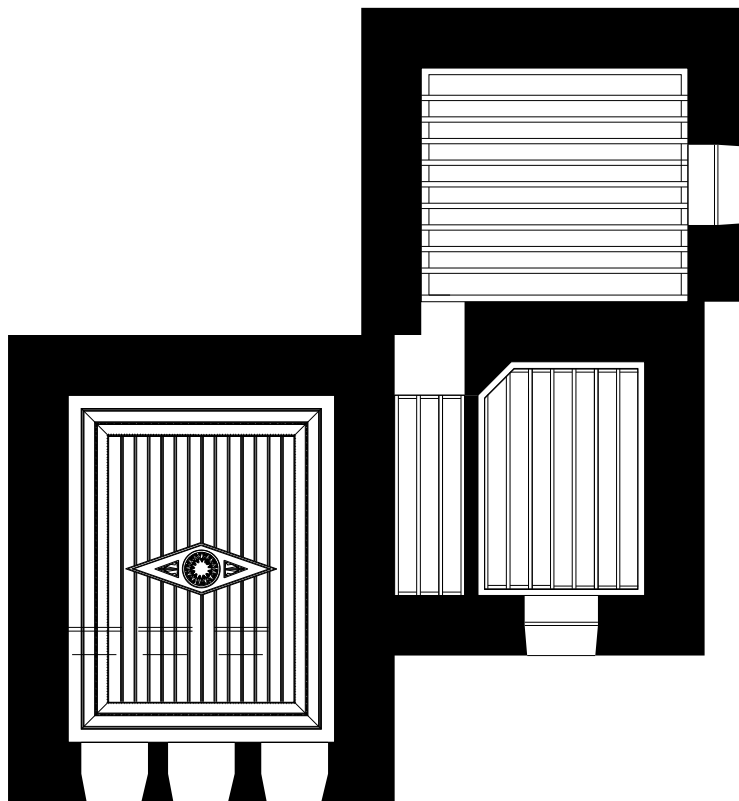
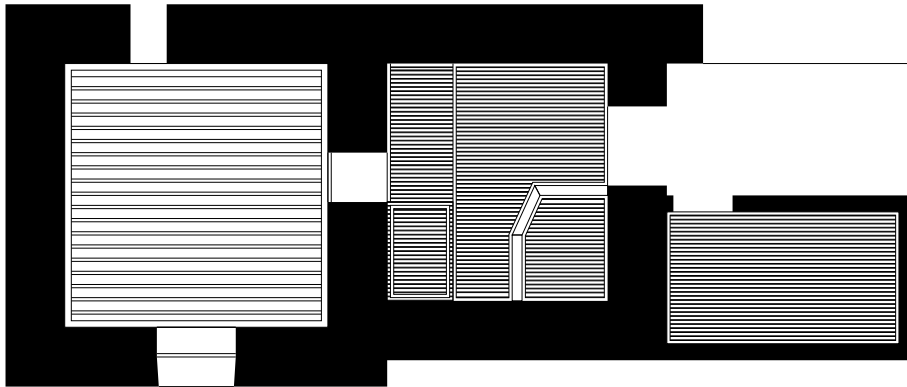


*Figure 90.* Viktor Nauni's location



*Figure 91.* Plan of the ground and first floors of the building

Ceeling Plan

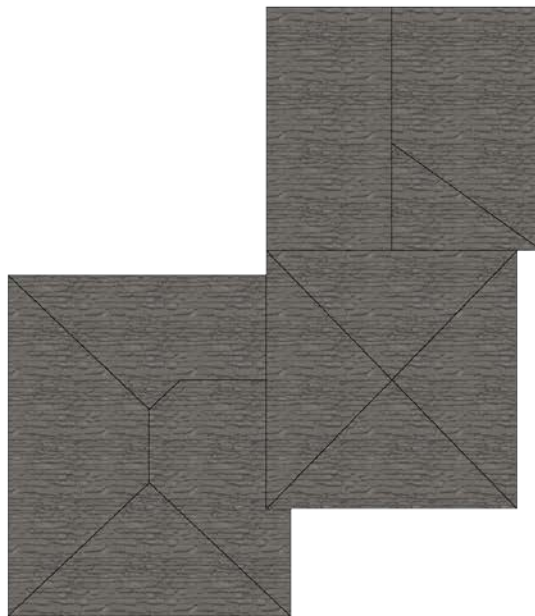


*Figure 92.* Plan of the ceeling

## Section



## Roof Plan

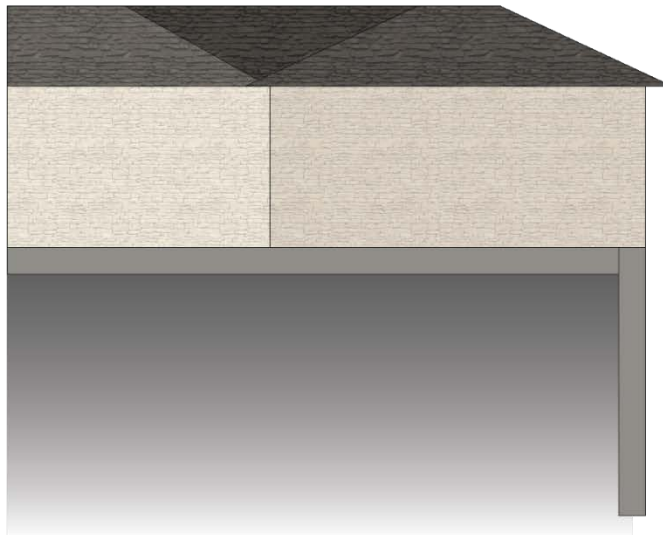
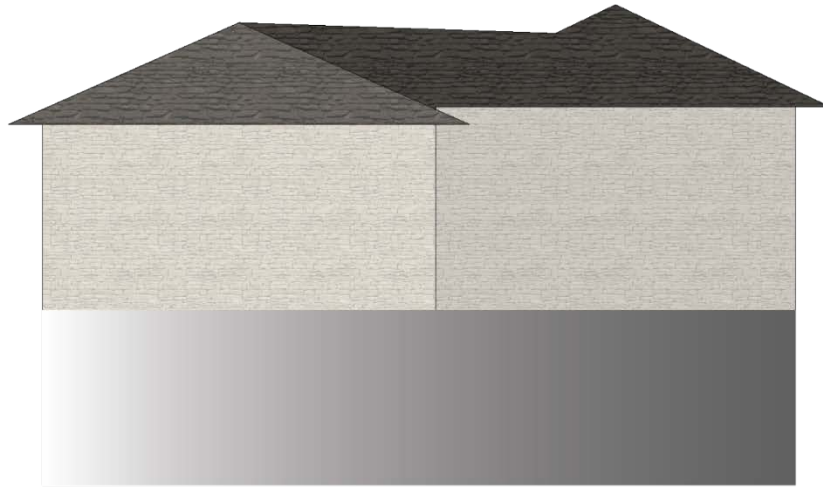


**Figure 93.** Plan of the sections and roof of the Viktor Nauri house





**Figure 94.** Elevations of the building of the Viktor Nauri House



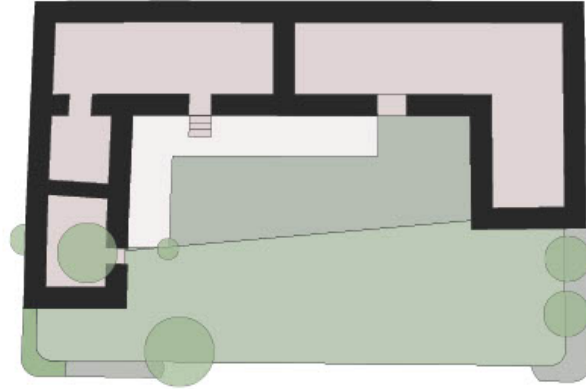
*Figure 95.* Elevations of the building of the Viktor Nauri House

## 5.12 Barn House in the village

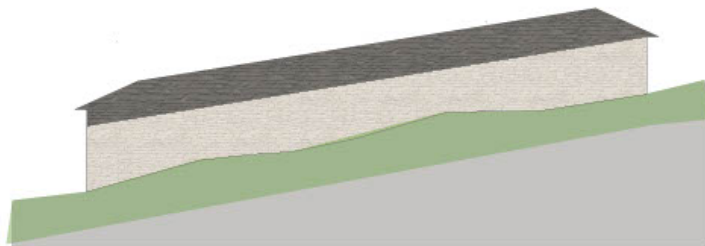


*Figure 96.* On-site photography of the Barn House

Barn Plan



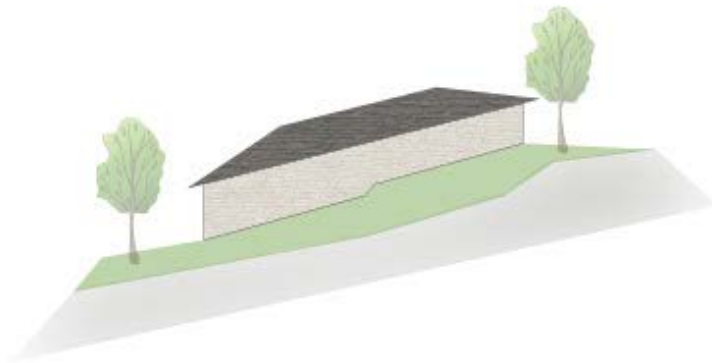
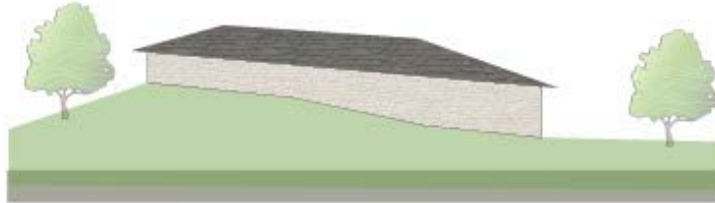
Elevations



**Figure 97.** Barn House Plan and Elevations



Elevations



*Figure 98. Barn House Plan Elevations*

## CHAPTER 6

### Revitalisation of Bënja Village historic center

The village of Bënjë encapsulates within itself a series of historical, cultural, and architectural values. Its geographical

position and natural conditions also constitute an added value to the village. The historical center, picturesque nature, other tourist attractions near the village, the landscape, etc., are elements that give this village the potential for development. The village revitalization plan is conceived based on several necessary principles to facilitate tourism, such as reception and information, agrotourism, and accommodation.

Some of the proposals of this plan include:

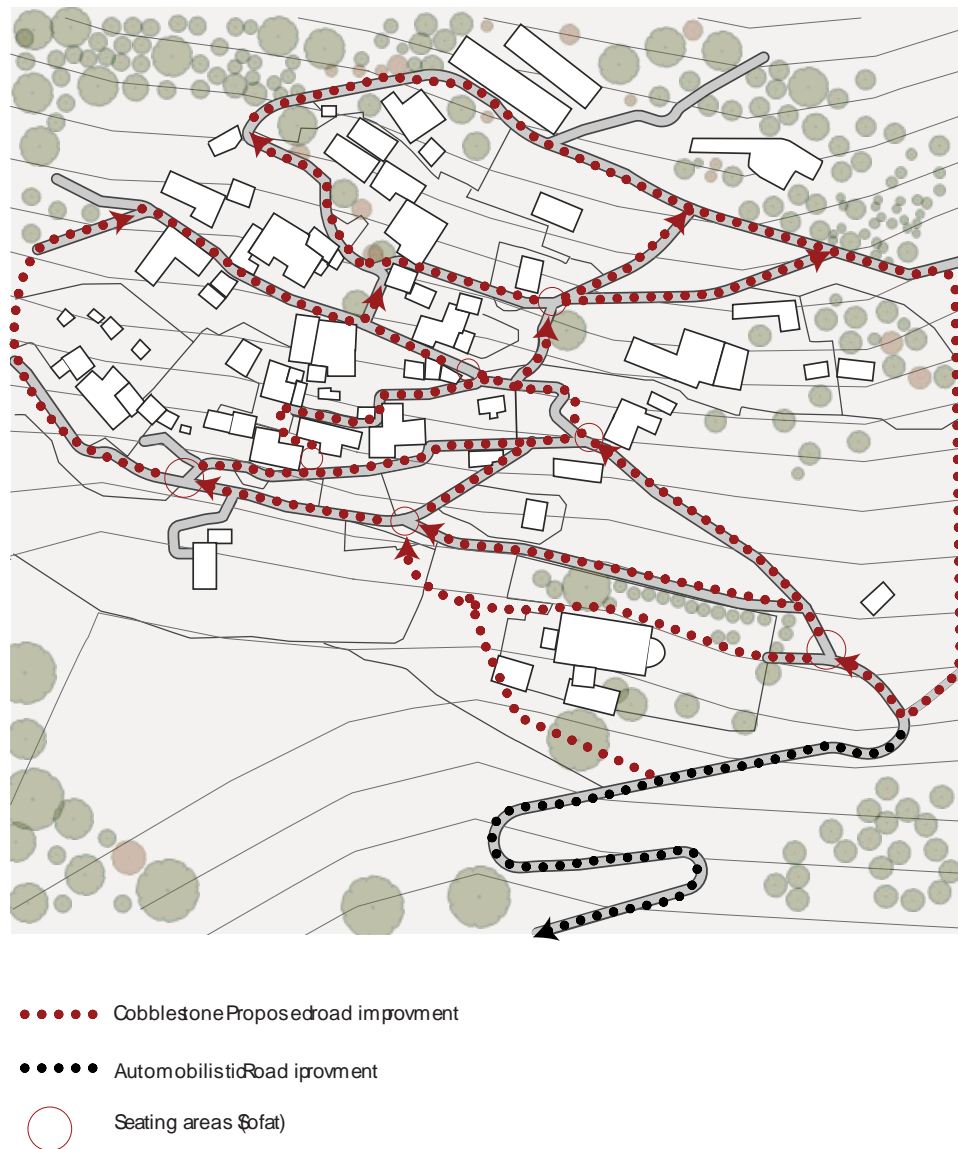
- Improvement of the road that leads from the city to the village
- Restoration of cobblestones in the historic area of the village
- Adapting some buildings into service facilities for tourists such as guesthouses, restaurants, agrotourism facilities, etc.

#### **6.1 Improvement of the road that leads from the city to the village**

The main way of communication for the village with the city and neighboring villages is through the driveable route. Although currently accessible by vehicles, there are still difficulties, which may discourage tourists from visiting. *The first suggestion* within this proposal is the rehabilitation of the authentic road by paving it with cobblestones up to the lower section, as it was earlier. *The second suggestion* is the creation of pedestrian paths for those who want to enjoy the panoramic landscape of the village by walking.



## 6.2 Restoration of cobblestones in the historic area of the village

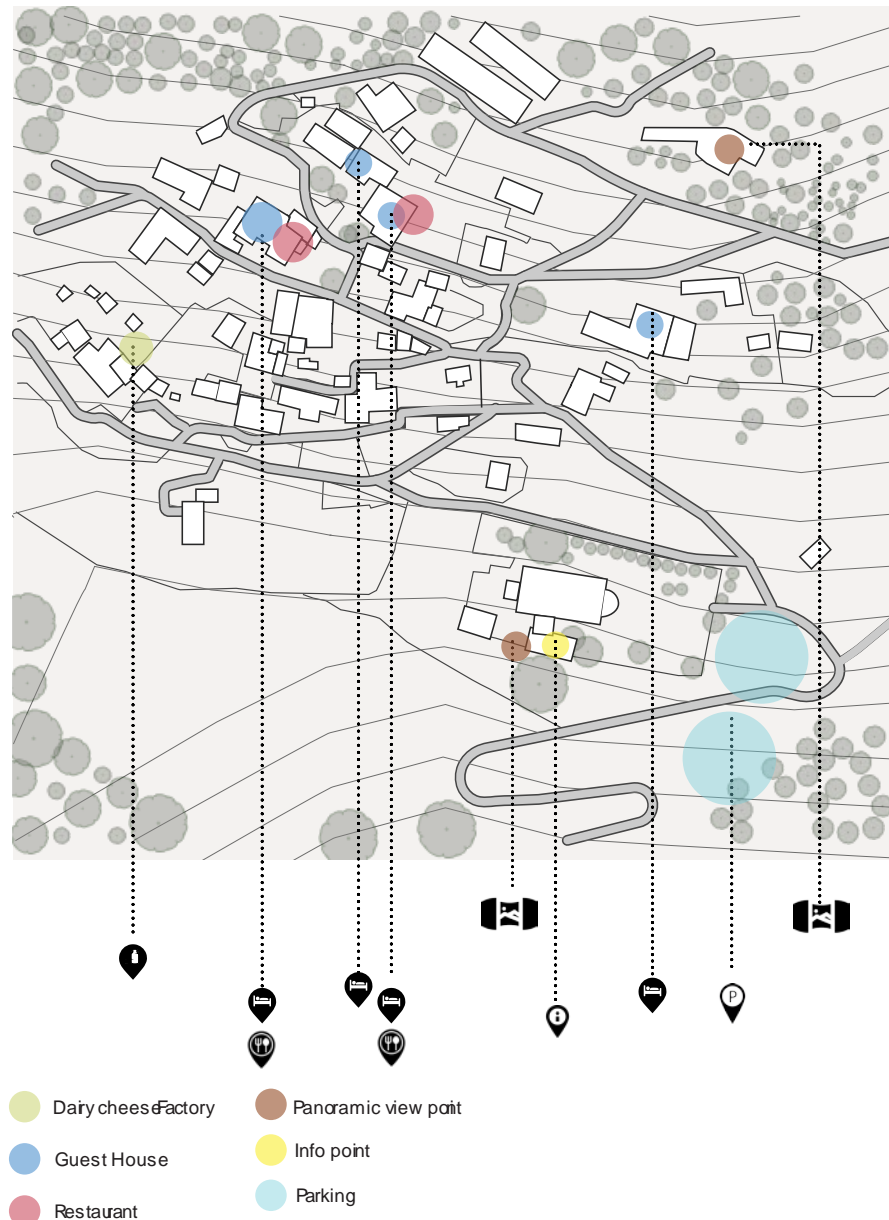


*Figure 99.* Revitalizing the cobblestone in the historic district of the village

## 6.3 Adapting some buildings into service facilities for tourists such as guesthouses, restaurants, agrotourism facilities, etc.;

### Hypothetical reconstruction of burned houses

Although there are not many autochthonous families in the village, I have relied on spoken testimony gathered during visits to the village for this phase. The residents told me where and how the houses were before they were burned by the German invaders in the second world war. Aerial photos taken with a drone, but also photos and measurements I took during the visits, helped me to identify the remaining ruins.



**Figure 100.** Adapting some buildings into service facilities



*Figure 101.* Ruins of burnt house





*Figure 102.* Ruins of burnt house

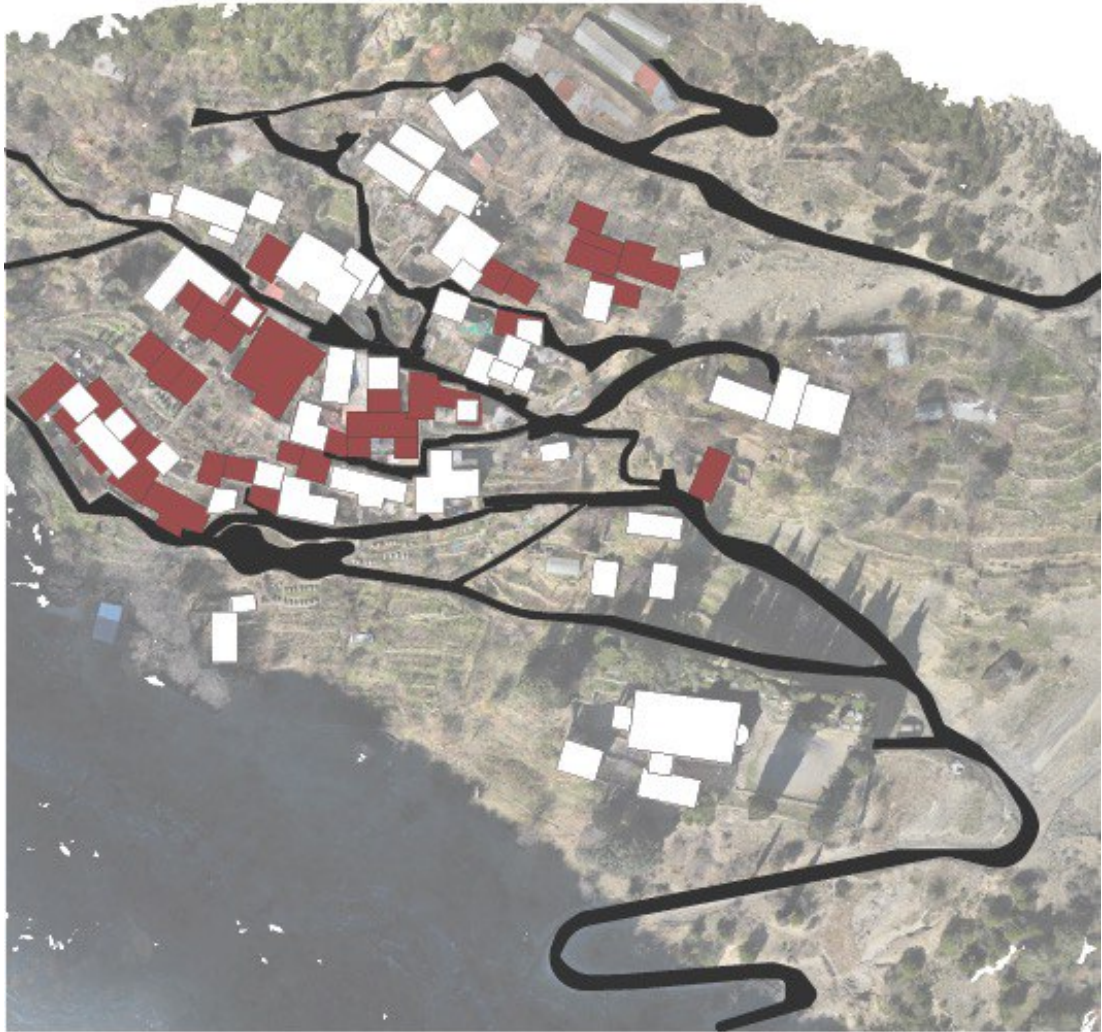


Upon thorough documentation of the present state and identification of the remaining ruins, I utilized the only historical photograph of the city before the fire to generate several hypothetical sketches of how the city would appear today if it hadn't been burned down.



*Figure 103.* Historical photograph of the city before the fire





*Figure 104.* Hypothetical map of the burnt house

### **6.3.1 Reconstruction of two of the burnt houses**

Despite the inherent challenges provided by limited data and documentation, collected from the research and study conducted within the area, I have managed to achieve a hypothetical reconstruction of two of the burned houses. In the process of rebuilding two houses in the village of Bënjë-Novoselë, two different methods will be used to preserve and revitalize the architectural heritage of the area. *The first house* will be rebuilt while maintaining historical authenticity, using traditional materials and techniques to accurately recreate the building's original appearance and structure. *The second house* will preserve the structure and form of the original building but will use



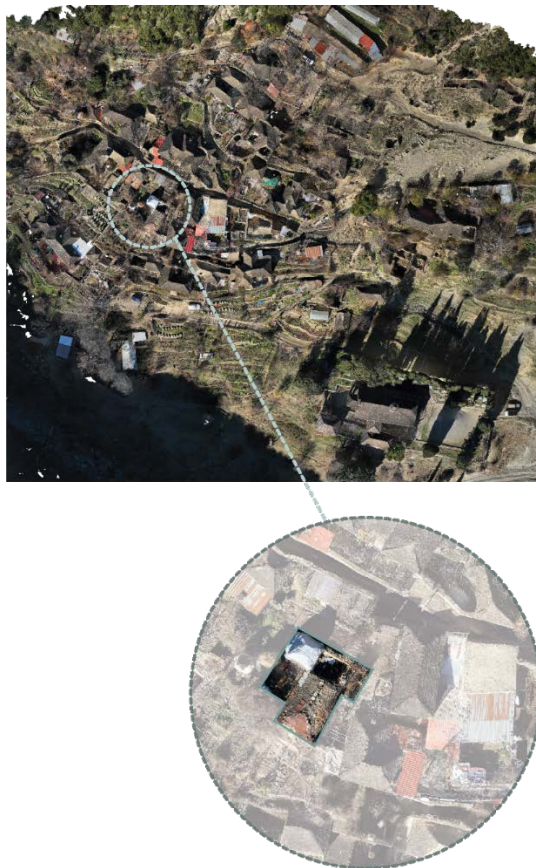
modern materials to improve durability and functionality as well as to differentiate it from the older buildings.

### 6.3.1.1 HOUSE A

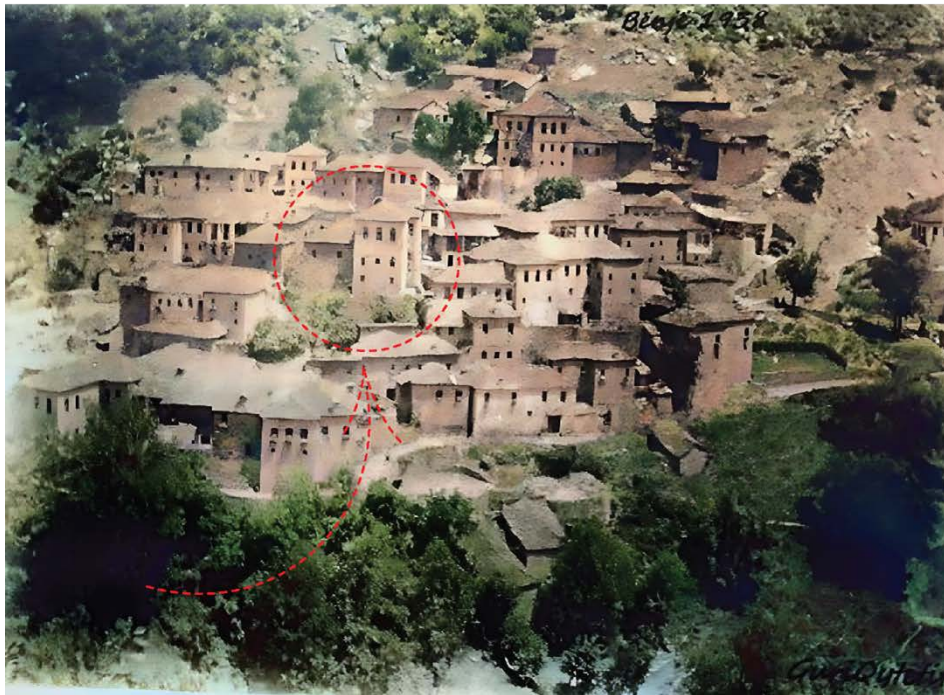
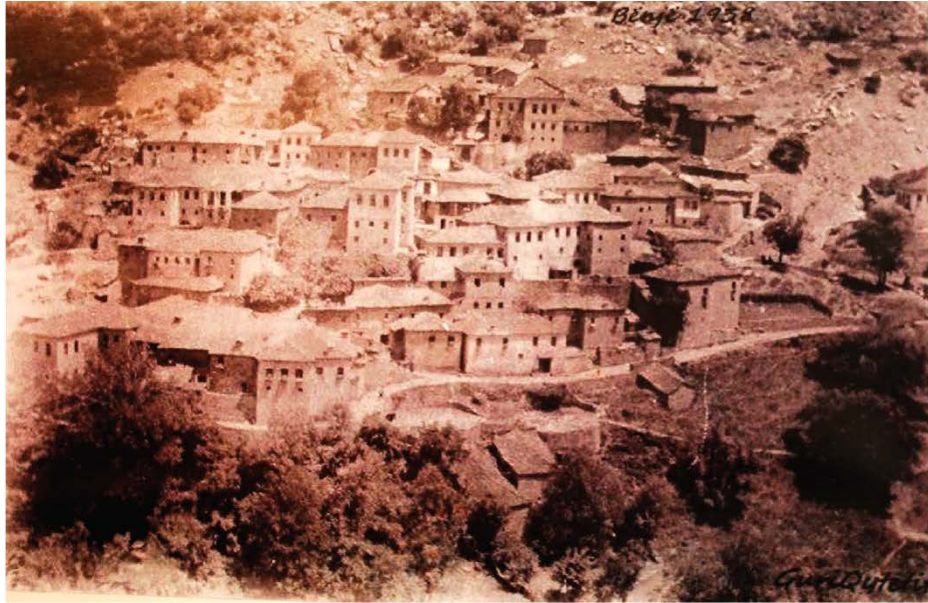
In order to realize the hypothetical reconstruction of the burnt house in the village of Bënjë-Novoselë, I followed a detailed process, based on historical photographs and the ruins evident in the field, to determine the supposed location of the building.

#### STAGE 1: Location Identification

- *Historical Photographs and Ruins:* Through the analysis of historical photographs and the examination of traces evident in the field, I was able to identify the supposed location of the dwelling



*Figure 105.* Location on the map of the ruins



*Figure 106.* Identification of the house in the historical photo



## STAGE 2: The establishment of the Object Trace

- *Existing Building Plans*: In order to create the object trace, I was based on the floor plan of the existing buildings in the village. *Oda* has a rectangular layout, no more than 4.5m wide and no more than 6m long.



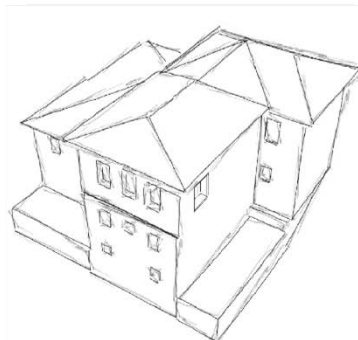
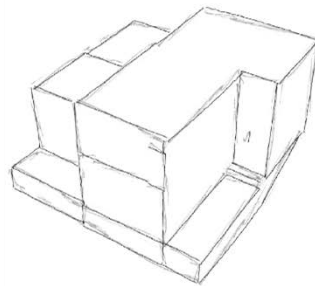
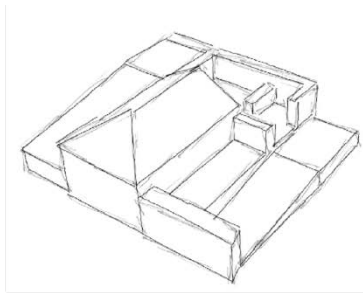
*Figure 107.* The current state of ruins

### STAGE 3: Determination of Floor Heights

- *Measurements of Existing Housing:* The height of the floors, based on the measurements made in the existing buildings, reaches up to 2.5m for the lower floors and up to 3m for the third floor

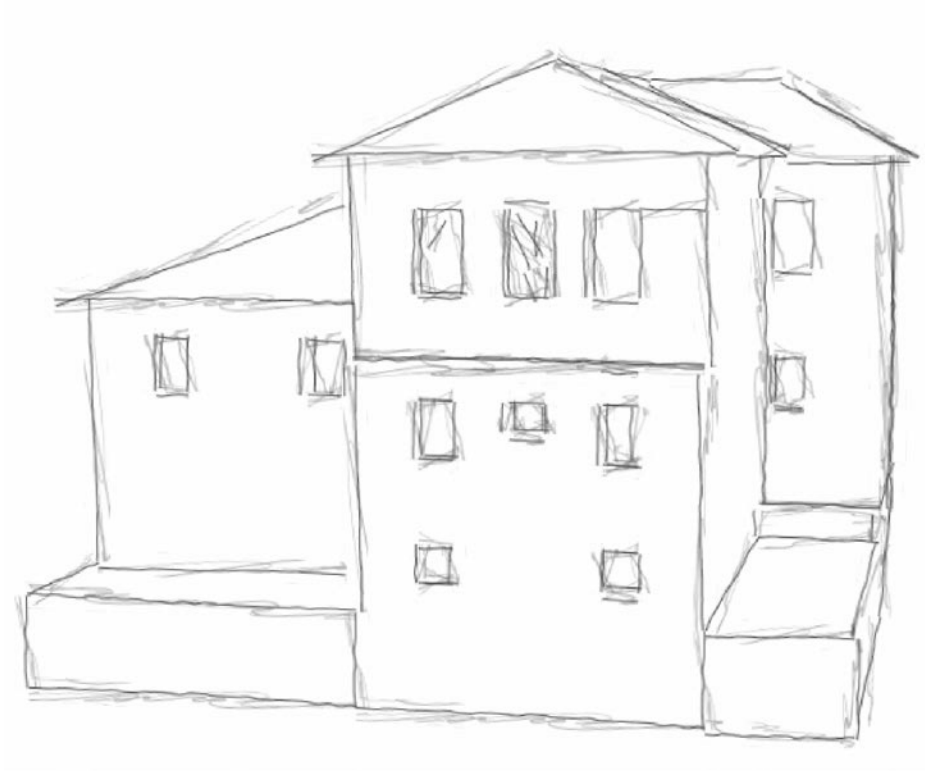
### STAGE 4: Setting up Windows

- The photo analysis revealed that the residence had three windows on the second and third floors, and two on the first floor on the left side. In the right wing, which is two stories high, there are two windows.
- *Window Measurements:* For the upper floors, I relied on measurements taken from several similar residences. On the second floor, the windows are no more than 65cm wide and 90cm long. On the third floor, the windows are up to 80cm wide and 1.20m high.



## STAGE 5: Roof construction

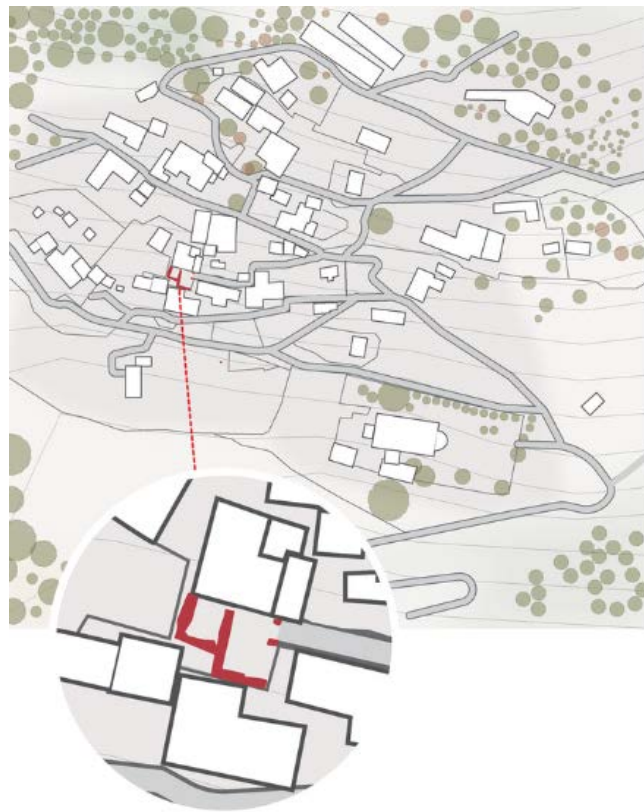
- *Black Stone Slates:* The roof will be constructed using black stone slates, laid in the traditional way, to ensure a durable and authentic covering.
- *Wooden Beams:* Wooden beams will be used to support the stone slabs, preserving the traditional roof construction technique.



*Figure 108.* Final sketches

### 6.3.1.2 House B

House B is being rebuilt on the existing, partially ruined walls, retaining the structure and form of the original building but using modern construction materials. The walls will be made of reinforced concrete and covered with a stone facade, while the window and door elements will be made of glass and iron. The roof will be constructed with artificial slates to ensure a durable covering, and on one side it will be open, using a simple metal framework. This approach will ensure a more durable and functional construction while preserving the appearance and character of the historic building. These two approaches provide a balance between respecting historical heritage and meeting modern needs for durability and comfort.

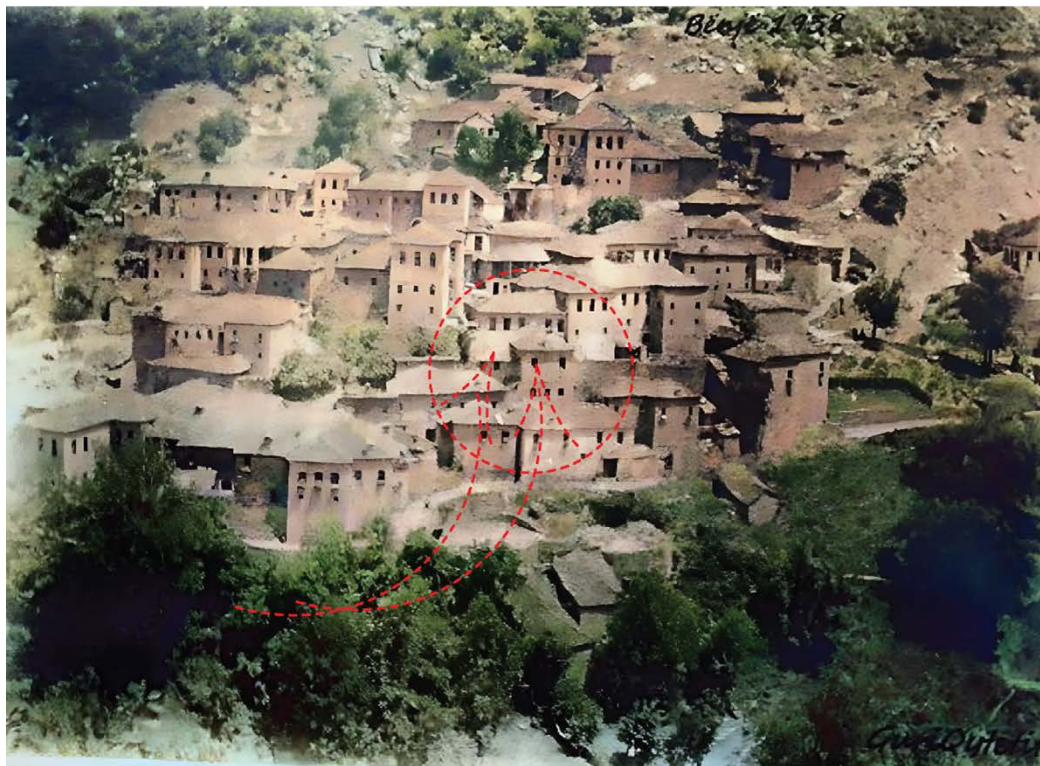
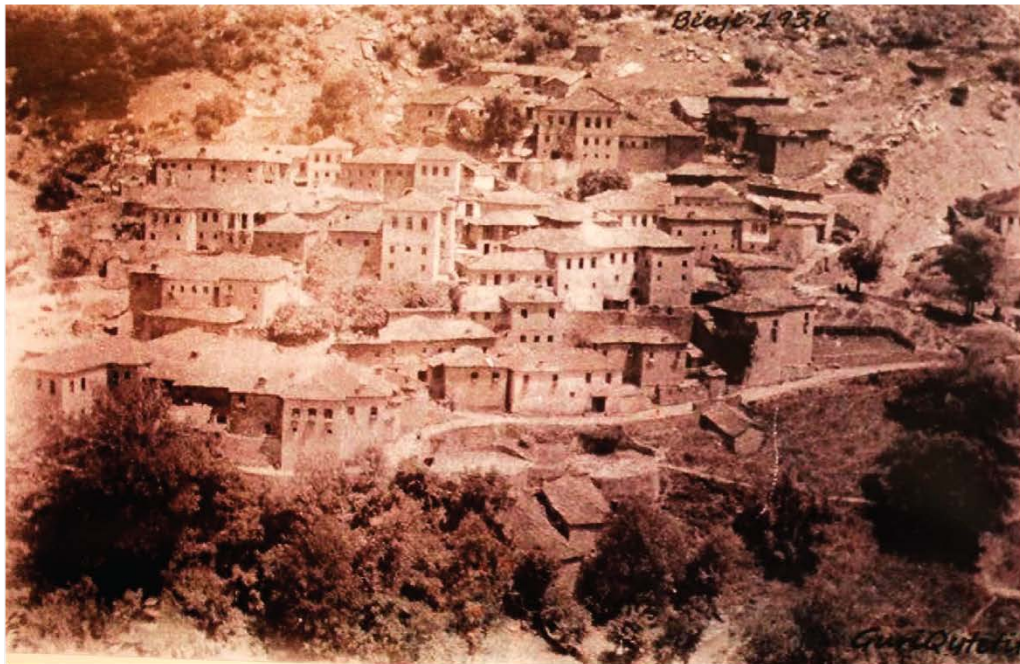


*Figure 109.* Ruins location on map





*Figure 110.* Identification of the existing conditions

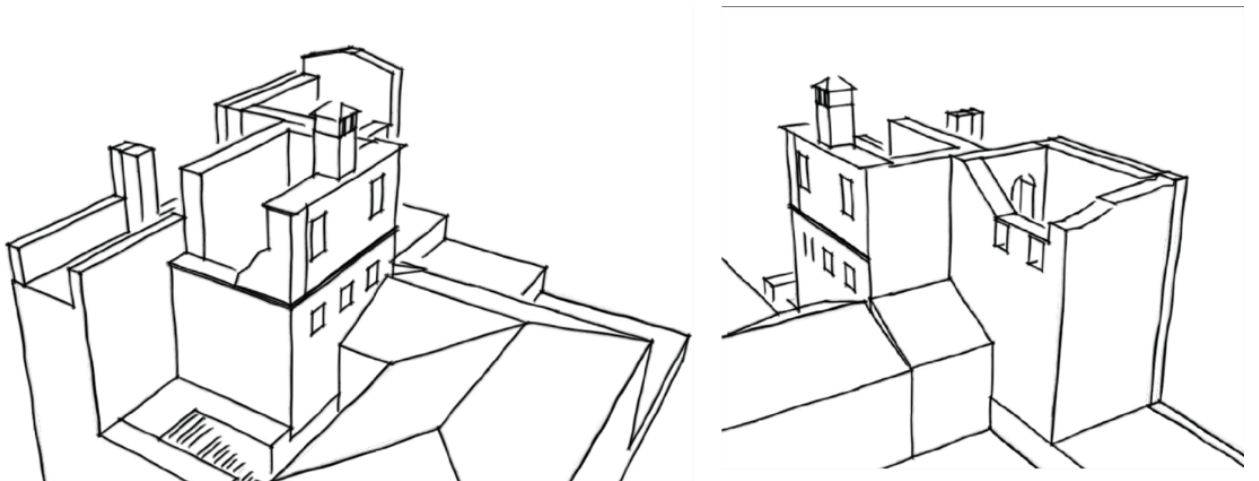


*Figure 111.* Identification of the house in the historical photo

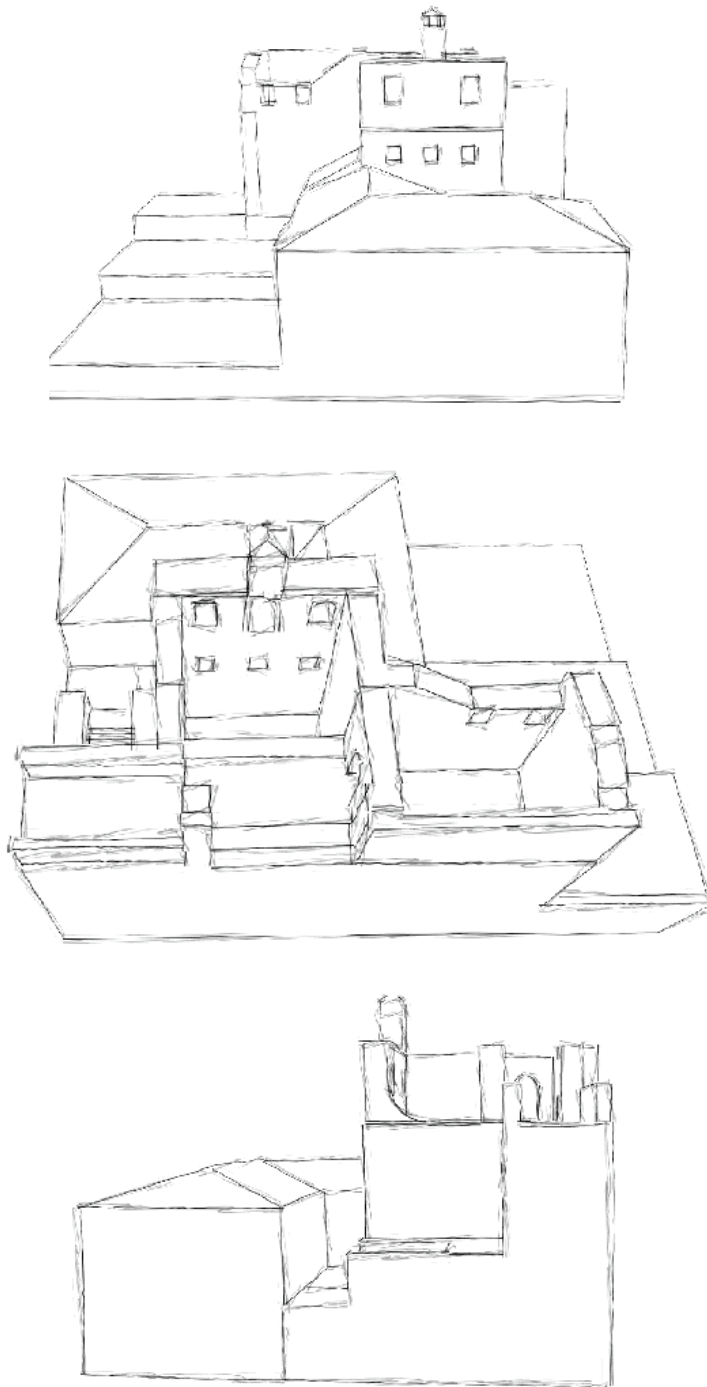




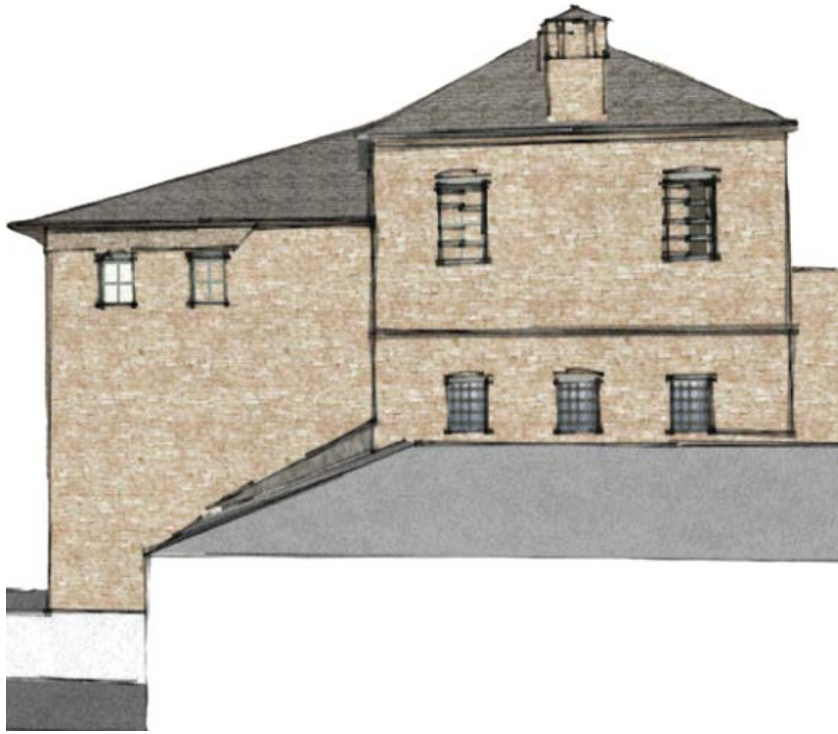
*Figure 112.* The current state of ruins



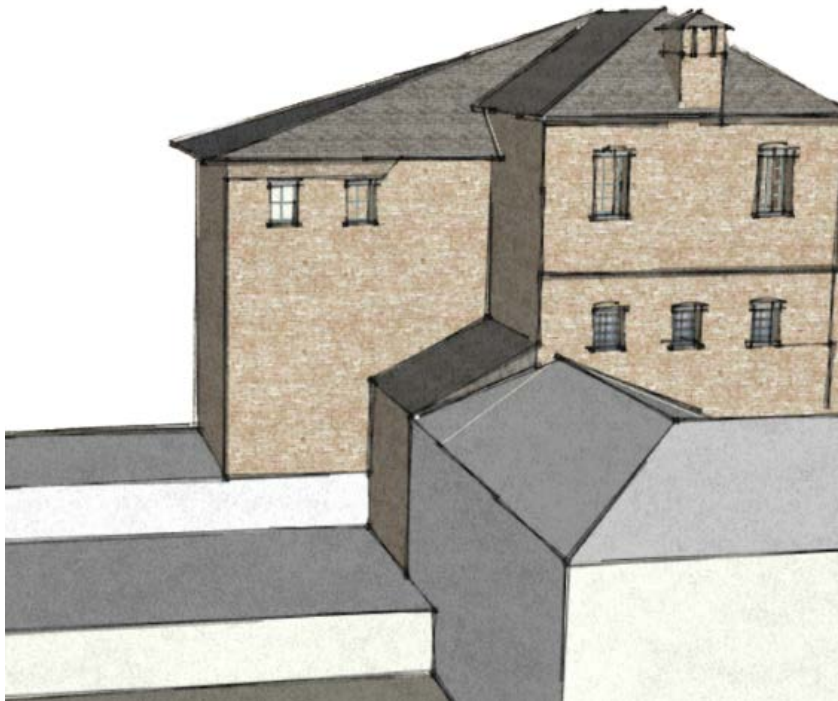
*Figure 113.* Sketches of the ruins



**Figure 114.** Proposed sketches



*Figure 115.* Final proposial



*Figure 116.* Final proposial

## **6.4 Conclusion**

In conclusion, the successful revitalization of the village hinges on a meticulous and well-structured approach that begins with comprehensive documentation of the current state and progresses through detailed planning and community engagement. This revitalization effort is a multi-phase process that integrates advanced technological tools, strategic planning, and active local participation to ensure the long-term sustainability and prosperity of the village.

### **1. Comprehensive Documentation:**

The initial step involves a thorough documentation process that captures the existing conditions of the village. This includes conducting topographic surveys, aerial photography, and 3D scanning to gather precise and detailed data about the village's layout, infrastructure, and buildings. By utilizing these advanced technologies, a clear and accurate representation of the village's current state is achieved, highlighting its strengths, weaknesses, and areas requiring intervention.

In addition to technological data collection, consultations with local residents are crucial. Engaging with the community provides valuable insights into their needs, preferences, and historical context. This participatory approach ensures that the documentation reflects both the physical and socio-cultural aspects of the village, offering a holistic view of the current conditions.

### **2. Strategic Planning:**

Once the current state is comprehensively documented, the next phase is the development of a strategic plan for revitalization. This plan must be thorough and multi-faceted, addressing various aspects of village life including infrastructure improvements, economic development, social services, and cultural preservation. The plan should outline clear objectives, actionable strategies, and a timeline for implementation.

A key component of this strategic plan is the identification and proposal of alternative functions for existing buildings. By repurposing some of the village's structures for



new uses—such as community centers, cultural venues, educational facilities, or commercial spaces—the plan not only revitalizes the physical space but also enhances the village’s social and economic vitality. These new functions should align with the community’s needs and aspirations, ensuring that the revitalization effort benefits all residents.

### **3. Preservation of Historical and Cultural Heritage:**

An integral part of the revitalization plan is the preservation and restoration of historically significant structures, particularly those damaged or destroyed during World War II. The accurate reconstruction of these buildings is essential for maintaining the village’s historical authenticity and cultural identity. This effort will help restore the village’s historical appearance and serve as a testament to its rich past, attracting visitors and fostering cultural tourism.

### **4. Community Involvement:**

Active community involvement is vital throughout the revitalization process. Engaging residents in planning and decision-making ensures that the revitalization efforts are tailored to local needs and are supported by those who are most affected by them. Community engagement fosters a sense of ownership and pride, which is crucial for the long-term success and sustainability of the revitalization project.

### **5. Monitoring and Evaluation:**

A well-documented initial state provides a solid foundation for ongoing monitoring and evaluation. By regularly assessing progress against the strategic plan, adjustments can be made as needed to address any emerging challenges or opportunities. This iterative process ensures that the project remains on track and continues to meet its objectives effectively.

### **6. Securing Financial Support:**

Securing funding is another critical aspect of the revitalization project. Detailed and reliable documentation, coupled with a clear and compelling strategic plan, increases

the likelihood of obtaining financial support from donors, government agencies, and private investors. This funding is essential for implementing the project and achieving its goals.

### **7. Long-Term Sustainability:**

Ultimately, the goal of the revitalization project is to ensure the long-term sustainability and prosperity of the village. By combining thorough documentation, strategic planning, community engagement, and financial support, the revitalization effort will create a vibrant, sustainable, and culturally rich environment. This approach will not only improve the quality of life for current residents but also preserve and celebrate the village's unique heritage for future generations.

In summary, the revitalization of the village requires a comprehensive and methodical approach that integrates detailed documentation, strategic planning, and active community involvement. By focusing on these elements, the project aims to create a sustainable and prosperous future for the village, while preserving its cultural and historical heritage.

## CHAPTER 7

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