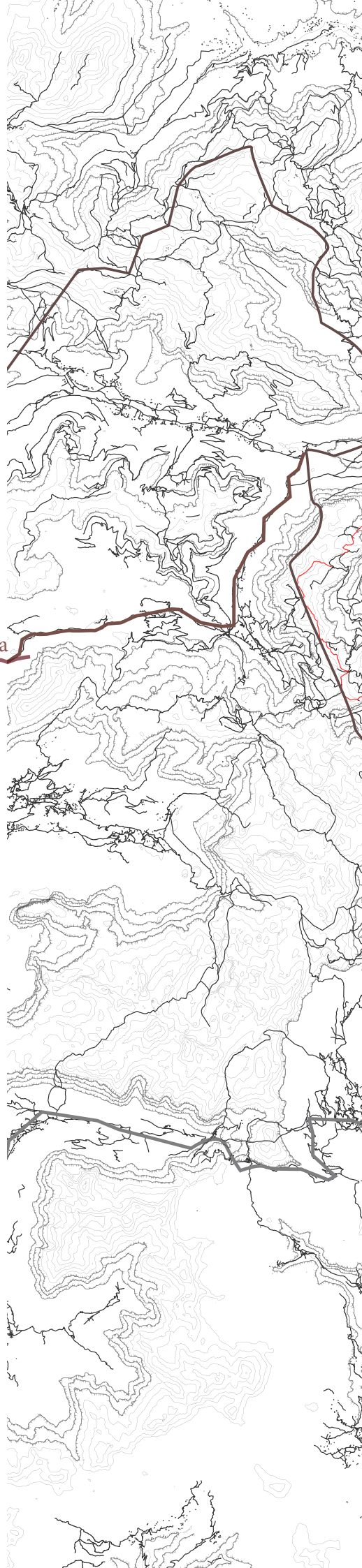


Reuse project of an abandoned site in the inner areas of Albania

# HOSPICE

Home for terminally ill people





Politecnico di Torino  
Architecture and Design department  
Course of Master degree in Architecture for sustainability  
2024/2025



Degree thesis developed in Thesis Seminar  
Project of regeneration, places, villages

**HOSPICE**  
**Home for terminally ill people**  
Reuse project of an abandoned site in the inner areas of Albania

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## ABSTRACT/English

This thesis seeks to offer a renewed existence not only to the building, but also to the surrounding landscape and, metaphorically, to the people whose lives it touches. The aim of the thesis was not only to select the optimal site for the development of a hospice but also to revitalize the valley by giving it a renewed purpose and vitality by reusing an unfinished/abandoned building (which in our case is a Hotel). This project seeks to harness the profound spiritual and therapeutic benefits that nature offers, both for the residents of the hospice, who are at the heart of the intervention, and for the local population. By introducing new activities and opportunities, it aims to enrich community life and introduce a degree of diversity into the routines of everyday living.

Our valley is located in the northern part of Albania. Our site is part of the Albanian Alps. The site, which for many years remained a remote village, has undergone a change, and now tourists are increasingly drawn to it. Our area is called Vermosh. "Vermoshi" (as said in the Albanian language) serves as the chosen location for establishing a hospice aimed at providing dignified and nature-integrated end-of-life care. In keeping with the overarching theme of regeneration of life,

nature, and rebirth, I will gradually introduce and explain the various aspects of my project. Vermosh, as we mentioned before, is the northernmost village of Albania, and its location can be found in the Kelmend municipality.

In 2015, it became part of the municipality of "Malesi e Madhe". The village is situated along a river that shares its name. Vermosh started being settled only around the mid-19th century, first only for the months of spring and summer because the winter in Vermosh can be really harsh (up to 3 feet of snow). Most of the families that we will find living there have immigrated from Selca, which can be found at 11 kilometers (6.8 miles) south of Vermosh. In the 19th century, we also find some Muslim Albanian families that had settled from Guci. The economy of this place is mostly based on agriculture, immigrant remittances and tourism. However, after some research and conversation with people about the territory, I discovered that it has so much to give to the people with its simplicity.

In conclusion, after conducting research from the southern regions up the Alps, the village of Vermosh emerged as the ideal location for developing a sustainable and distinctive project.

## ABSTRACT/Italian

La tesi si propone di offrire una nuova esistenza non solo all'edificio, ma anche al paesaggio circostante e, metaforicamente, alle persone che ne fanno parte. L'obiettivo della tesi non era solo quello di selezionare il sito ottimale per lo sviluppo di un ospizio, ma anche di rivitalizzare la valle dandole un nuovo scopo e vitalità attraverso il riutilizzo di un edificio incompiuto/abbandonato (che nel nostro caso è un hotel). Questo progetto mira a sfruttare i profondi benefici spirituali e terapeutici offerti dalla natura, sia per i residenti dell'hospice, che sono al centro dell'intervento, sia per la popolazione locale. Introducendo nuove attività e opportunità, mira ad arricchire la vita della comunità e ad introdurre un certo grado di diversità nelle routine quotidiane.

La nostra valle si trova nella parte settentrionale dell'Albania. Il nostro sito fa parte delle Alpi albanesi. Il sito, che per molti anni è rimasto un villaggio remoto, ha subito un cambiamento e ora i turisti ne sono sempre più attratti. La nostra area si chiama Vermosh. "Vermoshi" (come si dice in albanese) è il luogo prescelto per la creazione di un hospice che mira a fornire cure di fine vita dignitose e integrate con la natura. In linea con il tema generale della rigenerazione della vita, della

natura e della rinascita, introdurrò e spiegherò gradualmente i vari aspetti del mio progetto. Vermosh, come accennato in precedenza, è il villaggio più settentrionale dell'Albania e si trova nell'ex comune di Kelmend. Nel 2015 è entrato a far parte del comune di "Malesi e Madhe". Il villaggio è situato lungo un fiume che ne omonimo. Vermosh iniziò ad essere abitata solo verso la metà del XIX secolo, inizialmente solo per i mesi primaverili ed estivi, poiché l'inverno a Vermosh può essere molto rigido (fino a 90 cm di neve). La maggior parte delle famiglie che troveremo lì è immigrata da Selca, che si trova a 11 chilometri a sud di Vermosh. Nel XIX secolo, troviamo anche alcune famiglie albanesi musulmane che si erano stabilite da Guci. L'economia di questo luogo si basa principalmente sull'agricoltura, sulle rimesse degli immigrati e sul turismo. Tuttavia, dopo alcune ricerche e conversazioni con la gente del posto, ho scoperto che ha molto da offrire alla gente con la sua semplicità.

In conclusione, dopo aver condotto ricerche dalle regioni meridionali fino alle Alpi, il villaggio di Vermosh è emerso come il luogo ideale per lo sviluppo di un progetto sostenibile e distintivo.







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## INTRODUCTION

In recent years, Albania has experienced significant growth in tourism. However, this growth has been unevenly distributed: some popular destinations attract a high volume of tourists and consequently enjoy a stronger economy, while lesser-known areas remain relatively overlooked. These less-visited locations are not lacking in value; on the contrary, they embody much of the cultural richness and diversity that characterize Albania. The primary challenge lies in raising awareness of these hidden gems and encouraging sustainable tourism development, which in turn could stimulate the local economies and preserve their unique cultural heritage.

Vermosh is one of those places, with wonderful landscapes; a wide range of natural remedies sourced from different medicinal plants, a friendly and welcoming community that lives a simple life that they have built there. However, due to some climatic issues in the winter, less-developed areas have remained neglected, even though they are so close to two of the most important valleys in Albania: Valbona Valley and Theth Valley, located only minutes apart from Vermosh. The backbone of the economy has always been land, agriculture and more recently tourism.

Nevertheless, in this overshadowed valley, we find small guest houses created by people who live there and open their houses up to tourism. Only a few years ago, a more modern hotel or so-called resort was also built to increase tourism. Moreover, just at the beginning of this beautiful valley, there is an uncompleted and deserted hotel (many buildings in Albania are left unfinished for a lot of reasons, emigration, lack of funds to build it, and the list might go on).

This deserted and “left incomplete” hotel was the inspiration and starting point for this project. However, it should be noted that the thesis goes beyond just reusing, rebuilding the site and the unfinished hotel; it incorporates an important project as well. Unfortunately, death is part of our lives. Accepting it comes with great heaviness, but at least, amid all its heaviness and non-knowing’s of life, being able to decide for yourself in such critical moments, knowing that there could always be another alternative, is at the very least, comforting. That’s why, through the hospice, I aim to give a second alternative to people through places and vice versa.



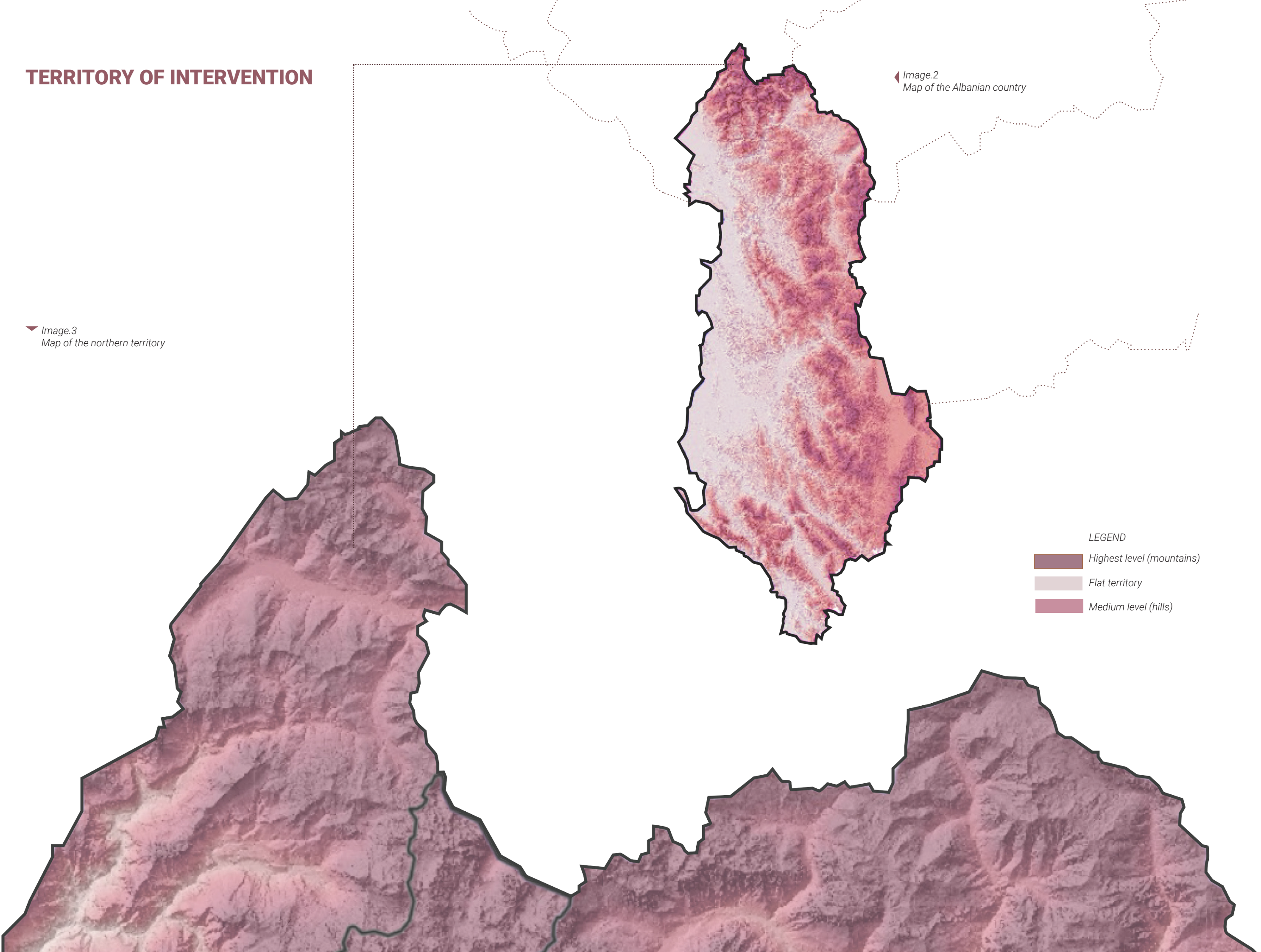
TERRITORY OF INTERVENTION

Image.3  
Map of the northern territory

Image.2  
Map of the Albanian country

LEGEND

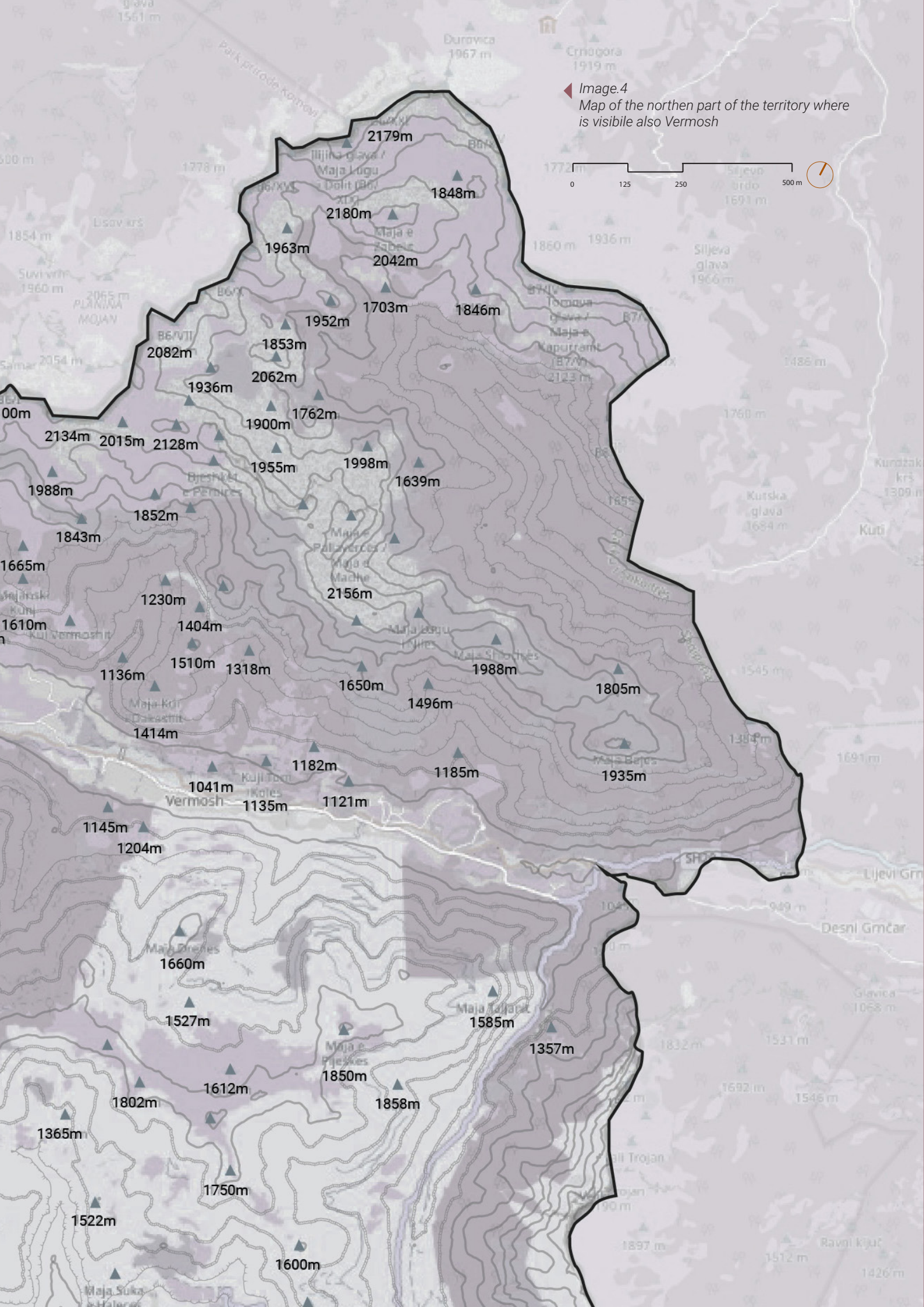
- Highest level (mountains)
- Flat territory
- Medium level (hills)



LO

**GETTING TO KNOW THE  
TERRITORY**





01

## LETS DISCOVER THE ALBANIAN ALPS

The Albanian Alps, where sharp mountain peaks, alpine pastures, dense forests, lakes, and rushing rivers reign in true peace with nature, are considered to be the main region in the northern part of the country. They also have great importance in mountain tourism. Part of the Albanian Alps is the so-called “National Park”, which includes the natural ecosystems of the Valbona Valley, Theth National Park, Gashi River, and Kelmend’s Namuna Mountains.

All these wonderful places create a majestic spectacle of nature that connects a small number of farms and houses through mountain passes in the valleys with the rest of the country during the summer months. According to various online sources, Albania is one of the few European countries with the Alps. “Most of the country’s highest peaks are located here, with Jezerca (2,694m) being the second-highest peak after Korab (2,751m) in the northeast of the country” (Albania all senses, Albanian national tourism agency,<https://albania.al/destinations/albanian-alps/>).<sup>1</sup>

In your journey through the Albanian Alps,

it’s impossible not to visit the Valbona River Valley, which is also considered one of the most beautiful natural areas in Albania.

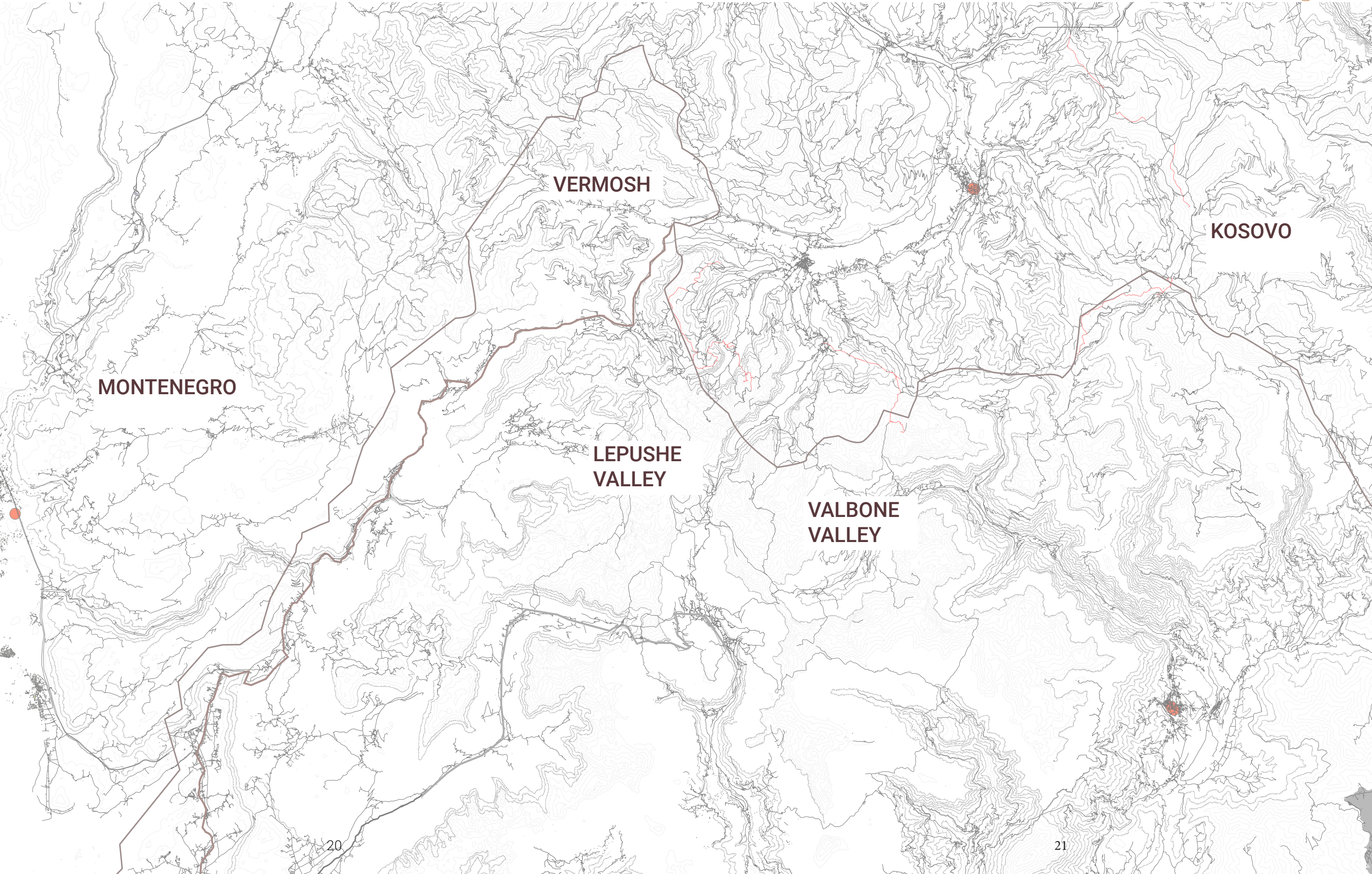
“This park is located about 22 km from the city of so called Bajram Curri” (Albania all senses, Albanian national tourism agency,<https://albania.al/destinations/albanian-alps/>).<sup>2</sup> The Valbona River is well known for its natural beauty and the picturesque villages around.

“The first village being introduced that has an alpine-style in its architecture of houses is Dragobia. On the cliff of the mountain, where the Cerem stream flows into the Valbona River, you’ll find the famous Dragobia Cave, which has an amazing history. In this cave, the national hero Bajram Curri was surrounded and killed” (Albania all senses, Albanian national tourism agency,<https://albania.al/destinations/albanian-alps/>).<sup>3</sup> To show the appreciation and the importance of the hero, as often happens in Albania, the northern city was named after him.



1.1 Relationship with the rest of the territory

▼ Image.5  
Map that shows the relation of Vermosh with the surrounding territories





We find Valbona River Valley in its location around 25 km from Bajram Curri. In Valbona, there are a lot of traditional and modern hotels, but your best experience can be if you stay in a village house, where the hospitality of the locals is impressive. This region is celebrated for its distinctive cuisine, featuring traditional dishes like mazja and flija, the latter being a multi-layered

pancake delicacy prepared over an open fire and often enjoyed with locally produced honey. “The national park has a variety of plants and trees, among which the Hormoq tree is the most widespread. Other trees include: wild apple trees, beech, chestnut, along with many types of berries, blueberries, and wild strawberries” (Albania all senses, Albanian national tourism agency,<https://albania.al/destinations/albanian-alps/>).<sup>4</sup>

The last village before reaching the source of the Valbona River is Rrogam. Rrogam is a remote village but well known for its amazing natural landscapes. Colors, aromas and a rich wildlife are an important part of this valley. The mountain and the water coexist beautifully. The clear waters of Valbona are sheltered by sharp mountains.

There is a contrast not only between the water and the mountain but between the blue sky and snow-covered peaks. For many climbers, this is considered to be a mesmerizing view.

▼ *Image.6*  
View from the Bjeshket e Namuna  
Source: Foto de Vermosh - Lepushe - Vusanje - theth - Valbone - Maya e Rosyt (5/6). Wikiloc. (n.d.). <https://es.wikiloc.com/rutas-senderismo/vermosh-lepushe-vusanje-theth-valbone-maya-e-rotyt-83326642/photo-55410845>

<sup>4</sup> Albanian Alps. Albania. (n.d.). <https://albania.al/destinations/albanian-alps/>





There is also a variety of wild animals that you can find there. Some of this animals are: bears, wolves, wildcats, and even herds of wild goats that you find climbing on cliffs. The wild trout, which is considered a rare fish with also a unique flavor, is found in the crystal-clear waters of Valbona.

“Albanian all senses suggests that the valley, the park, and the surrounding area are known for heavy snowfalls, reaching up to 100 cm, starting in early November and lasting almost until May. In the Rrogam National Park, many outdoor activities are available, such as skiing, mountaineering, climbing, fishing, excursions, hiking along valleys and streams, and canoeing in certain parts of the river”.(Albania all senses, Albanian national tourism agency,<https://albania.al/destinations/albanian-alps/>).<sup>5</sup>

“Another point of

interest in the Western Alps is Vermoshi, located at the northernmost tip of the Alps, 95 km from Shkodra, in the Kelmend region. The first thing that catches your eye during the journey is the Rapsh Pass, where you can see the crystal-clear waters of the Cem River, creating a wonderful contrast with the surrounding landscape.

In the summer months, the river banks create perfect conditions for sunbathing, attracting many visitors who stop to relax or have fun. Vermoshi is located on an alpine plateau 1100 m above sea level, surrounded by high mountain slopes. There, you can enjoy hiking, mountain climbing, skiing, and trout fishing”.(Albania all senses, Albanian national tourism agency,<https://albania.al/destinations/albanian-alps/>)<sup>6</sup>

▼Image.7  
View from the road to Vermosh  
Source: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/118782508900498660/>

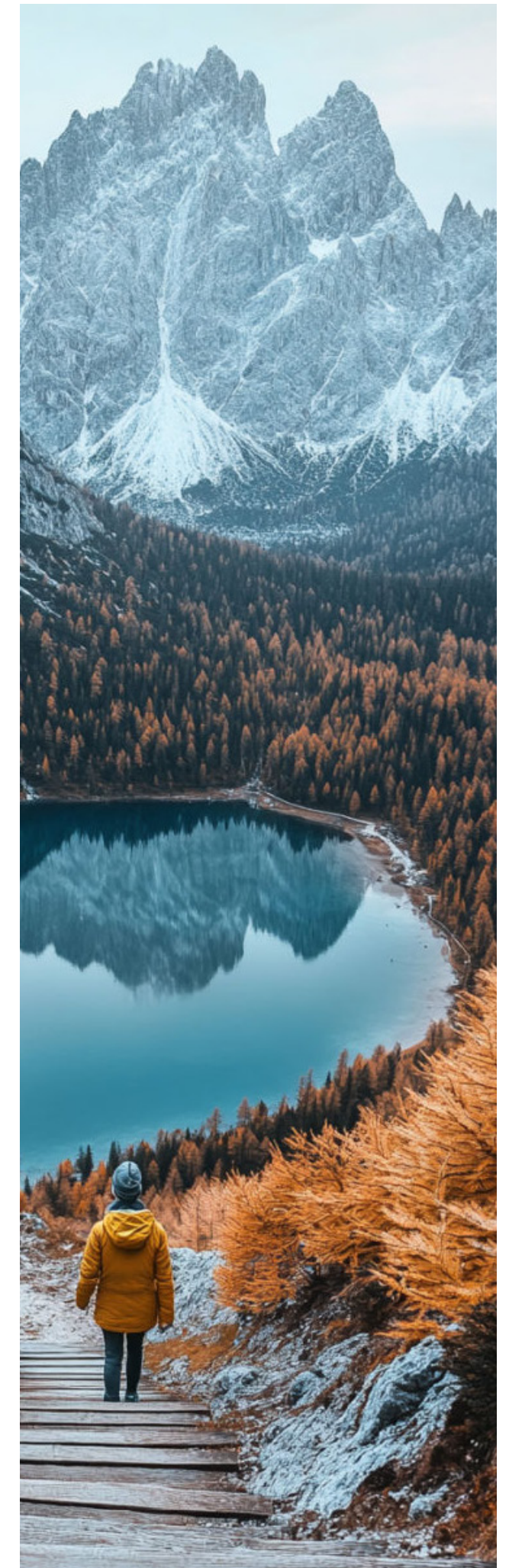


Moreover, an alpine trip in Albania would not be complete without a stop in the Western Albanian Alps, where you could enjoy an amazing experience of walking, relaxing, sleeping, and eating, immersed in nature. Through this trip, you can explore the core of the Albanian Alps, Theth Valley. The journey starts from the cultural capital of Shkodra and from there, it continues to meander for 41 kilometers past the village of Razëm. “The numerous alpine pastures and meadows are captivating to every visitor” (The Albanian Alps: Albania attractions. Zenith Travel. (n.d.-b). <https://visitalbania.zenith.travel/attractions/the-albanian-alps/>).<sup>7</sup>

Ramza offers a wide variety of activities for all tourists, such as mountain climbing, skiing. As described by Edith Durham in her book “*High Albania*”.<sup>8</sup> Ramza leads towards other beauties such as the village of Dedaj, entirely immersed in the Alps. Similar to Razma, Boga is the perfect place for mountain climbing, skiing, but most importantly cave exploration. The Theth Valley, 70 km away from Shkodra, is well known and loved by many.

Image.8 ►  
Theth, Albania  
Source: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/33143747254977935/>

5/6 Albanian Alps. Albania. (n.d.). <https://albania.al/destinations/albanian-alps/>  
8 Durham, M. E. (2021). *High albania*. Legare Street Press.  
7 The Albanian Alps: Albania attractions. Zenith Travel. (n.d.-b). <https://visitalbania.zenith.travel/attractions/the-albanian-alps/>







▲ Image.9  
View from Vermosh  
Source: Valley of Lepushë and Vermosh. Wander Albania. (n.d.). <https://wander.al/attraction/valley-of-lepushe-and-vermosh>

▼ Image.10  
View from Vermosh  
Source:: Valley of Lepushë and Vermosh. Wander Albania. (n.d.). <https://wander.al/attraction/valley-of-lepushe-and-vermosh>



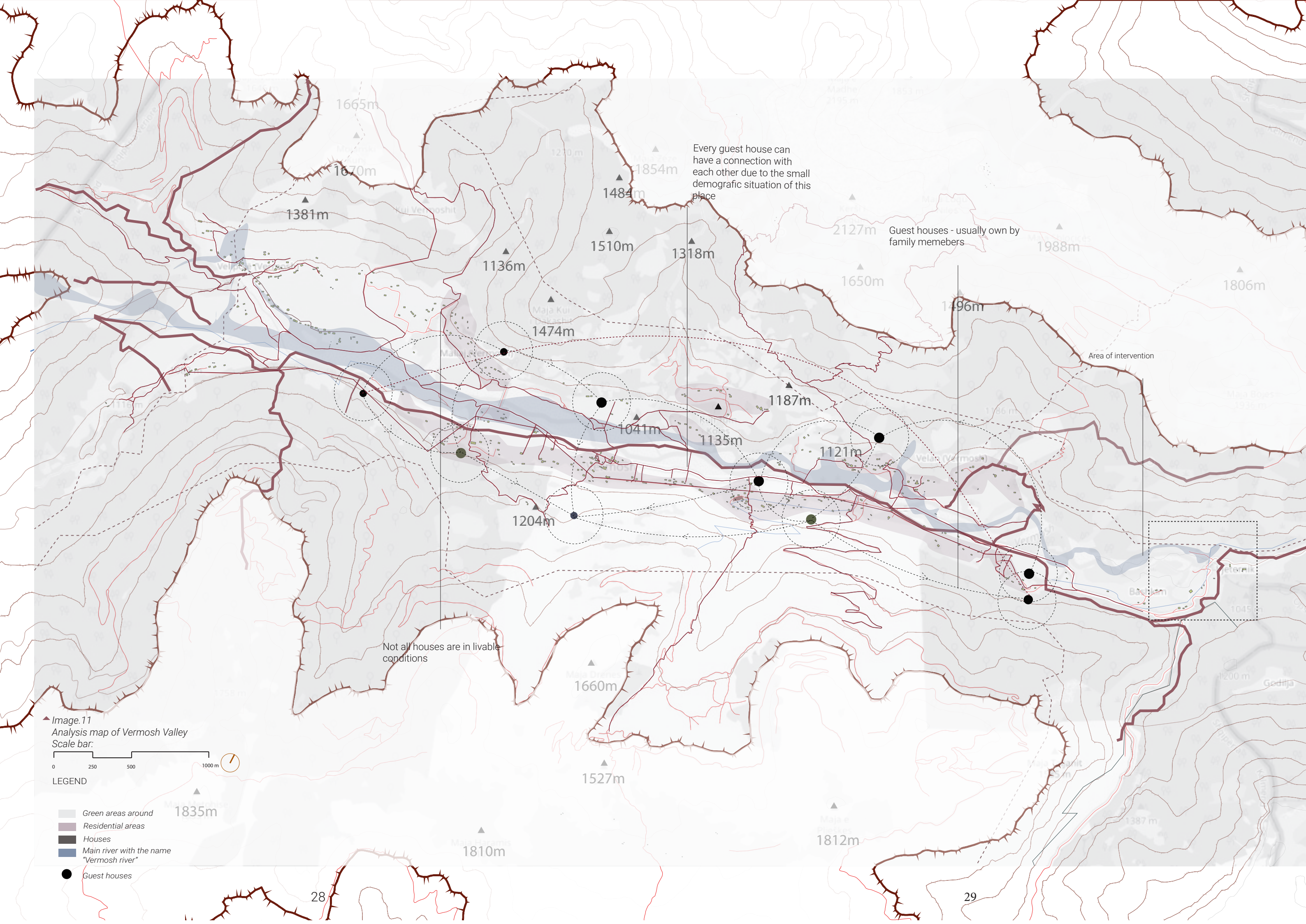
## 02

### GETTING FAMILIAR WITH THE STUDY AREA

Findings from various online sources show that “Vermosh is the most northern village of Albania, located in the former Kelmend municipality. At the 2015 local government reform, it became part of the municipality Malesi e Madhe. The village lies in a valley of the Albanian Alps, along a river with the same name. Vermosh is part of the “Bjeshkët e Namuna” (“Accursed Mountains”) or [Albanian Alps mountain range in Northern Albania that extends to western [Kosovo] and Eastern Montenegro, and the highest point of which lies 18.8 kilometers (12 miles) south of Vermosh, in the Theth and Valbona National Park. Vermosh comprises the quarters of Pjetroja (also known as Qendra, Velan, Bashkim (“junction”, incl. the Lepushë valley), Velipojë, and Maliaj” (Wikimedia Foundation. (2024, December 5). Vermosh. Wikipedia.<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vermosh>).<sup>10</sup>

10 Wikimedia Foundation. (2024, December 5). Vermosh. Wikipedia. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vermosh>





Every guest house can have a connection with each other due to the small demographic situation of this place

Guest houses - usually own by family members

Area of intervention

Not all houses are in livable conditions

Image.11  
Analysis map of Vermosh Valley  
Scale bar:



LEGEND

- Green areas around
- Residential areas
- Houses
- Main river with the name "Vermosh river"
- Guest houses



2.1 Existing bed and breakfast (Bujtina)



▲ Image.12  
Most recent and famous bujtina  
Source: Vermoshi, Zonës Turistike I shtohen edhe Disa Bujtina. Kultplus. (n.d.). <https://www.kultplus.com/lajme/vermoshi-zones-turistike-i-shtohen-edhe-disa-bujtina/>



▲ Image.13  
Most famous and recent bujtina in Vermosh  
Source: Albgarden. <https://www.facebook.com/AlbaniaViews/posts/vermoshvermosh-bujtina-hotel-albania-albaniantourism-vermosh-shkod%C3%ABr-albania/211327630386497/>

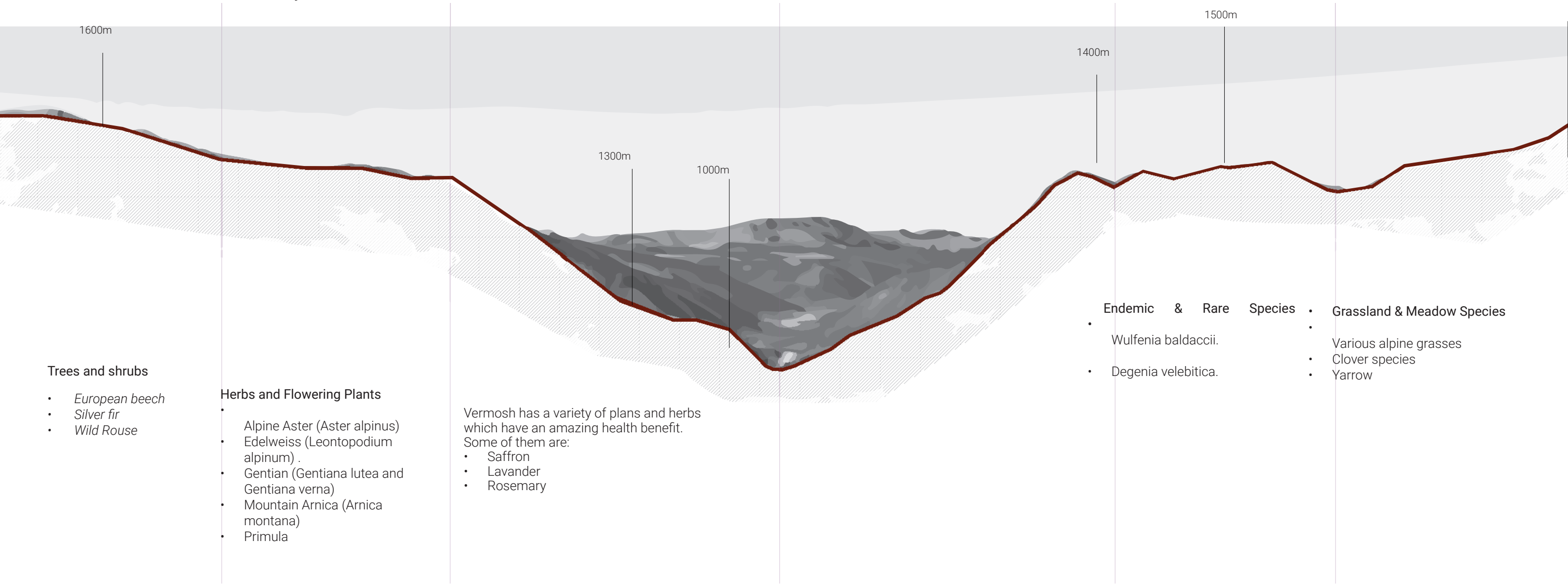


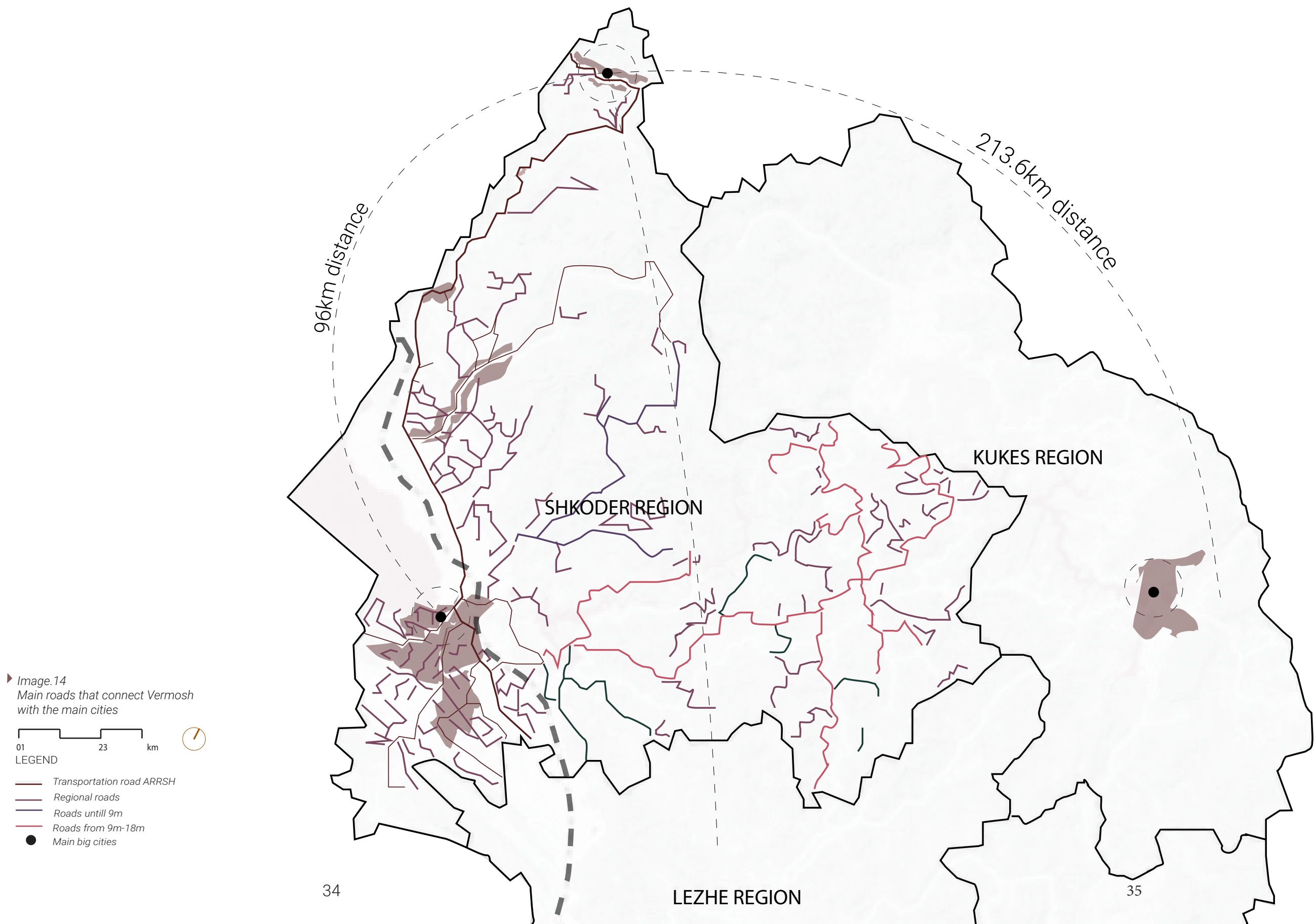
2.2. What territory has to offer

In the upper areas of vermosh we list some of the most popular trees that can be found usually in Ballkan and European countries. This biodiversity is usually rich in summer and in vallays areas like in our case. Many plants species that we find around the Vermosh valley are medical base and protected by their rarity. Having a area with this variety and rich in medical plants gives us a great advantage for the usage of this territory .



Territorial section of the Valley





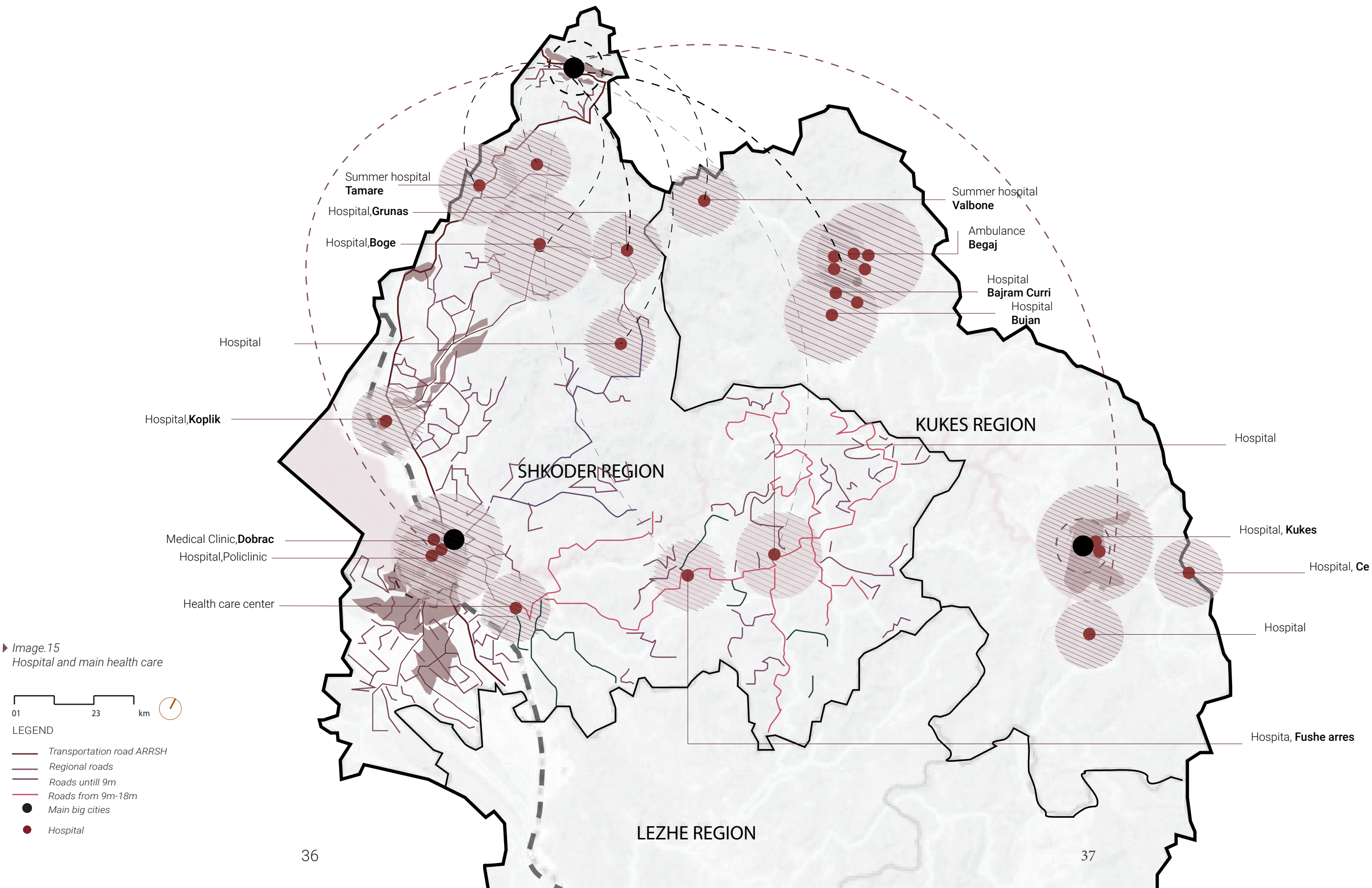


Image.15  
Hospital and main health care

2.3.Climate characteristics

Studies/reports state that the weather is characterized extreme weather, dry summer that arrives with a medium temperature of 25-20 degrees and a cold winter, the coldest month being December with temperatures that go up to -10 degrees. The other months of the year are usually normal with temperatures from -3 to 15 degrees Celsius. As for the wind speed and directions is interesting to state the following form “All dates Meteoblue” website, which explains: “The wind rose for Vermosh shows how many

hours per year the wind blows from the indicated direction. Example SW: Wind is blowing from South-West (SW) to North-East (NE). Cape Horn, the southernmost land point of South America, has a characteristic strong west wind, which makes crossings from East to West very difficult, especially for sailing boats” ( Simulated historical climate & weather data for Vermosh. meteoblue. (n.d.-b). [https://www.meteoblue.com/en/weather/historyclimate/climatemodelled/vermosh\\_albania\\_3183757](https://www.meteoblue.com/en/weather/historyclimate/climatemodelled/vermosh_albania_3183757)).<sup>11</sup>

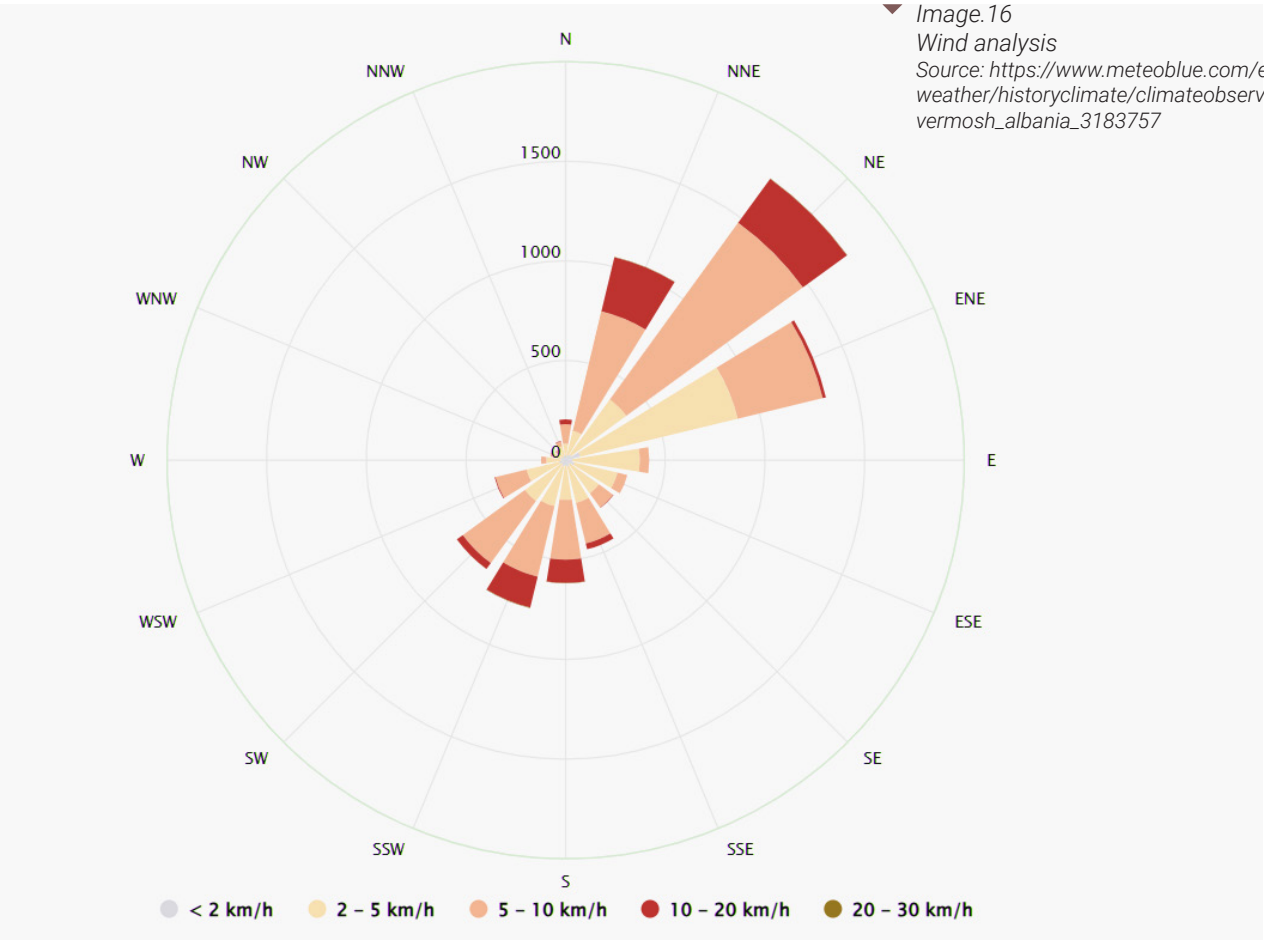


Image.17  
Climatic analysis of August and December

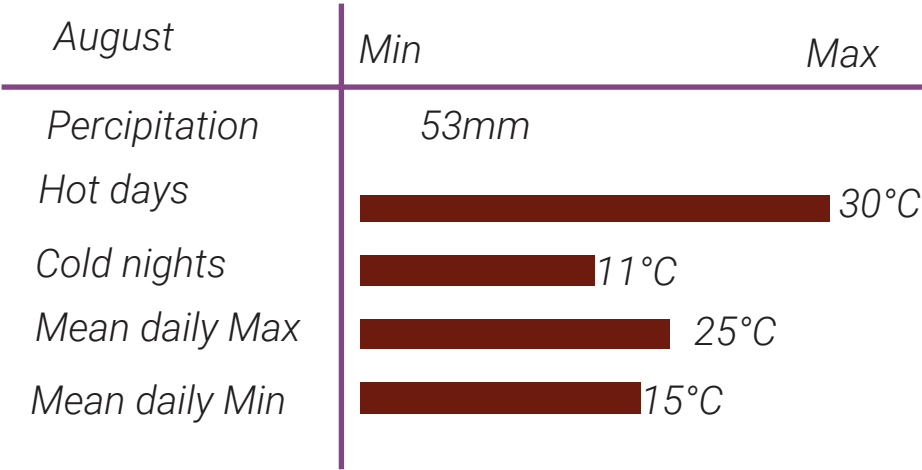
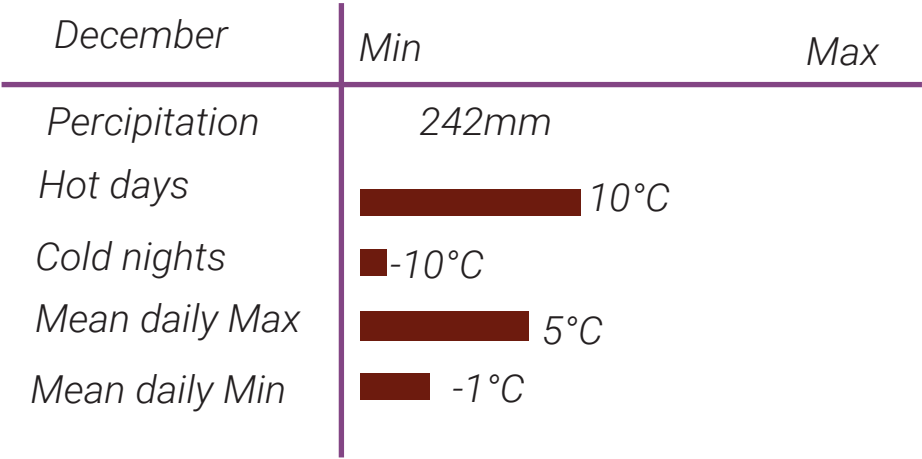


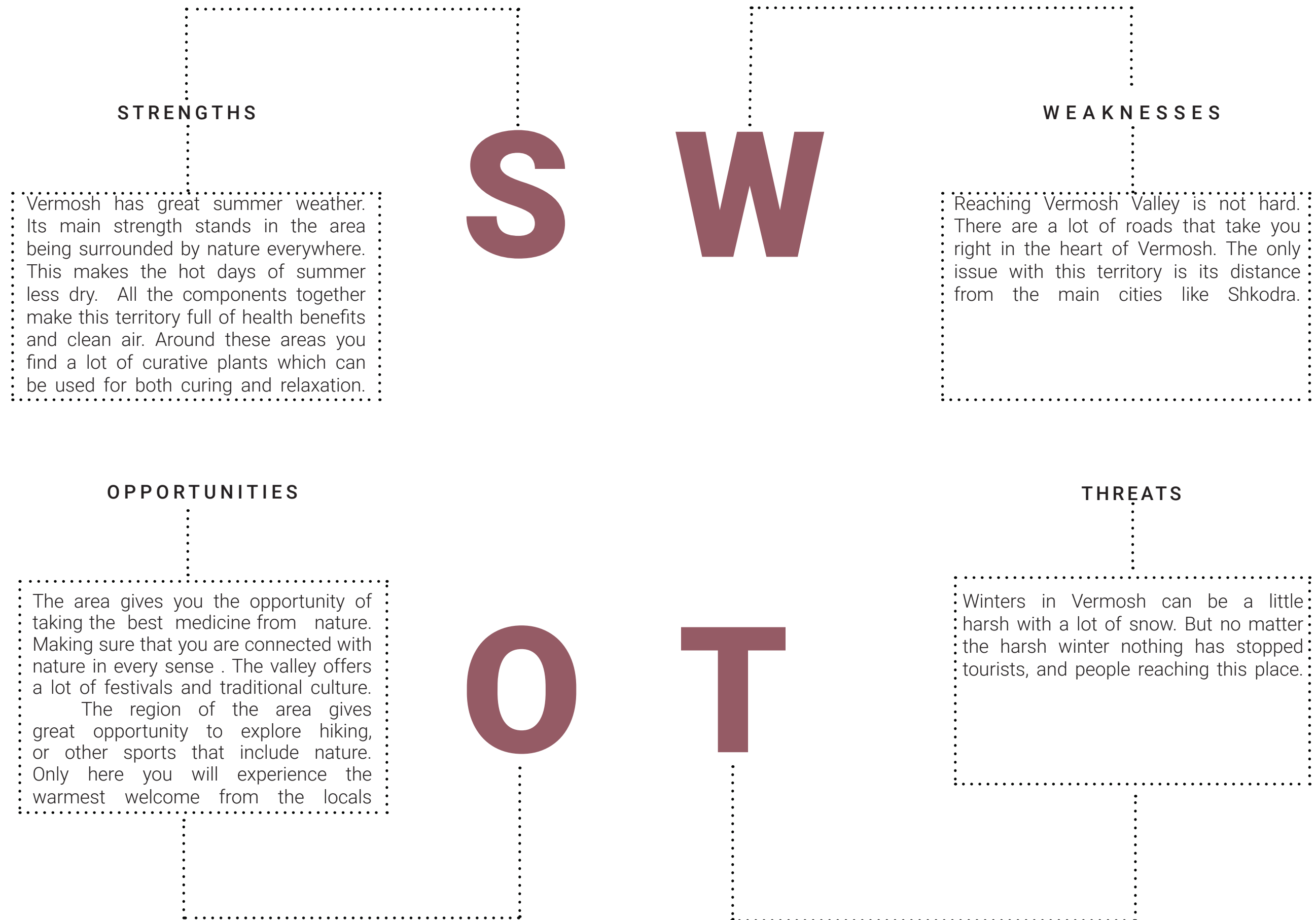
Image.18  
Climatic analysis of August and December



“Precipitation within Albania’s Dfb zone varies significantly across its extent, influenced by a complex interplay of altitude, latitude, and local topography. In the north and northwest, particularly in the deeply incised valleys of the Albanian Alps such as Theth, Valbonë, and Bogë, annual precipitation reaches 2500 to 3500 mm among the highest recorded for any Dfb climate globally accompanied by over 190 days of measurable precipitation per year” (Wikimedia Foundation. (2025, June19), Climate of Albania. Wikipedia,[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate\\_of\\_Albania](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_of_Albania)).<sup>12</sup>

11 Simulated historical climate & weather data for Vermosh. meteoblue. (n.d.-b). [https://www.meteoblue.com/en/weather/historyclimate/climatemodelled/vermosh\\_albania\\_3183757](https://www.meteoblue.com/en/weather/historyclimate/climatemodelled/vermosh_albania_3183757)  
12 Wikimedia Foundation. (2025, June 19). Climate of Albania. Wikipedia. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate\\_of\\_Albania](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_of_Albania)







### 3.1. Life in the territory

Historically, Vermosh during the communist area there were approximately 1,200-1,300 residents. As mentioned also in a blogger report (“Balkan Peace Park Project in Vermosh, Albania”, Kemal) due to the fell down of the communism area there were more possibilities

to the outside world. So due to immigration mostly to USA and economical challenges facing int that time Vermosh was left with a population that stands today as approximately “550 homes where 200 are unoccupied”.<sup>13</sup>

13 Wikimedia Foundation. (2023, December 6). Vermoshi. Wikipedia. <https://sq.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vermoshi>

▼Image.19  
Life in Vermosh  
Source: Twillert, M. van. (2016, December 10). Vermoshi (Albania): The land of the living past. Living in Montenegro :). <https://montenegro-for-me/2012/08/vermoshi-albania-the-land-of-the-living-past/>





### 3.2.Income in the region of the area

In the territory of Vermosh life is simple and easy. Before the population that lives in the territory mainly focused on agriculture as their main income. As the changes happened from the immigration there was also another source for the income of this territory which are the so called immigrant remittances.

A lot of people now living abroad help financially the remaining families. In the past years a new activity has opened in Vermosh which are the guest houses. Taking into consideration the growth in tourism of not only Vermosh but all albania there is an expansion

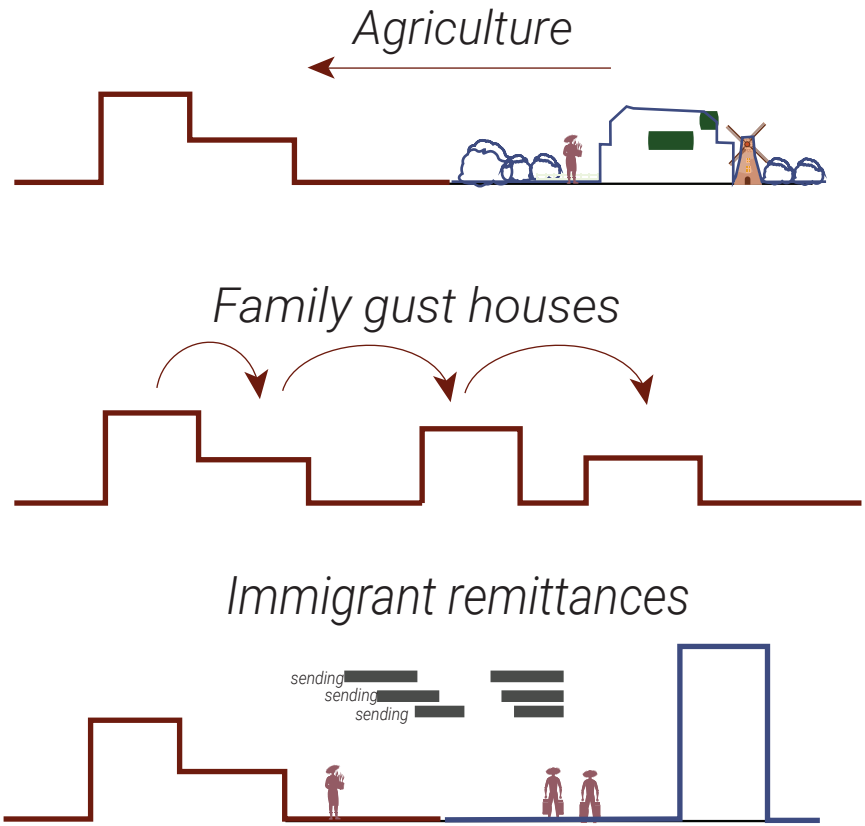
of this little guest houses or bed and breakfast

Each guest house in the zone is owned by a family which has blood or not connection with the rest of the owners of the other guest houses.

This houses are simply normal homes which the locals some rooms give for hotels

People in Vermosh historically but also in now days continue making a living from Agriculture.

A lot of people that have emigrated from Vermosh still spends a good amount of money in their lands for building hotel or also only as help. This is the case of also our building.



▼Image.20  
Life in Vermosh  
Source: R/askbalkans on reddit: Shkodër, Albania. (n.d.-b).  
[https://www.reddit.com/r/AskBalkans/comments/1jsb4yj/shkod%C3%ABr\\_albania/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskBalkans/comments/1jsb4yj/shkod%C3%ABr_albania/)





### 3.3. Social life

One of the most common activity to do in Vermosh is hiking and tracking. Being located in the Albanian Alps the possibility for the right tracking paths are very high. Tracking and hiking in this areas provide and incredible views.

As i have mention in this chapter before Valbona valley is very near Vermosh and this place also comes with picturesque views

Vermosh is known for a variety of wildlife and the territory natural environment is the home of so many of this animals. Bird-watching is a great activity and during your road you can pass by animals like deer, eagles.

One of the characteristic of this territory is that it had kept its cultural heritage. During a trip to Vermosh you can also visit this traditional houses and building or even try the local shops.

Canoeing and Rafting can be also a great activity for those who love it . The location of this region is great for water sports

Experiencing the most famous activity in Vermosh which is Agricultural you can choose to experience the Agricultural Tourism Being famous for the organic farming you can experience it and learn more about the organic farming.

Cultural Events are hosted often in the territory.

There are traditional festivals hosted by locals but not only where there is traditional folk music traditional food and clothes.

Local Cuisine Tasting where you can enjoy the traditional albanian dishes also in the gust houses that were mentioned before.



▼ Image.22  
View of Vermosh  
Source: Thethi zip line on Instagram:Instagram. (n.d.).  
[https://www.instagram.com/p/C6f9U\\_DMDfF/](https://www.instagram.com/p/C6f9U_DMDfF/)

▲ Image.21  
Activities in the ares of Vermosh  
Source: [https://de.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Datei:Logu\\_i\\_Bjeshk%C3%AB-ve\\_2017\\_%E2%80%93\\_2.jpg](https://de.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Datei:Logu_i_Bjeshk%C3%AB-ve_2017_%E2%80%93_2.jpg)

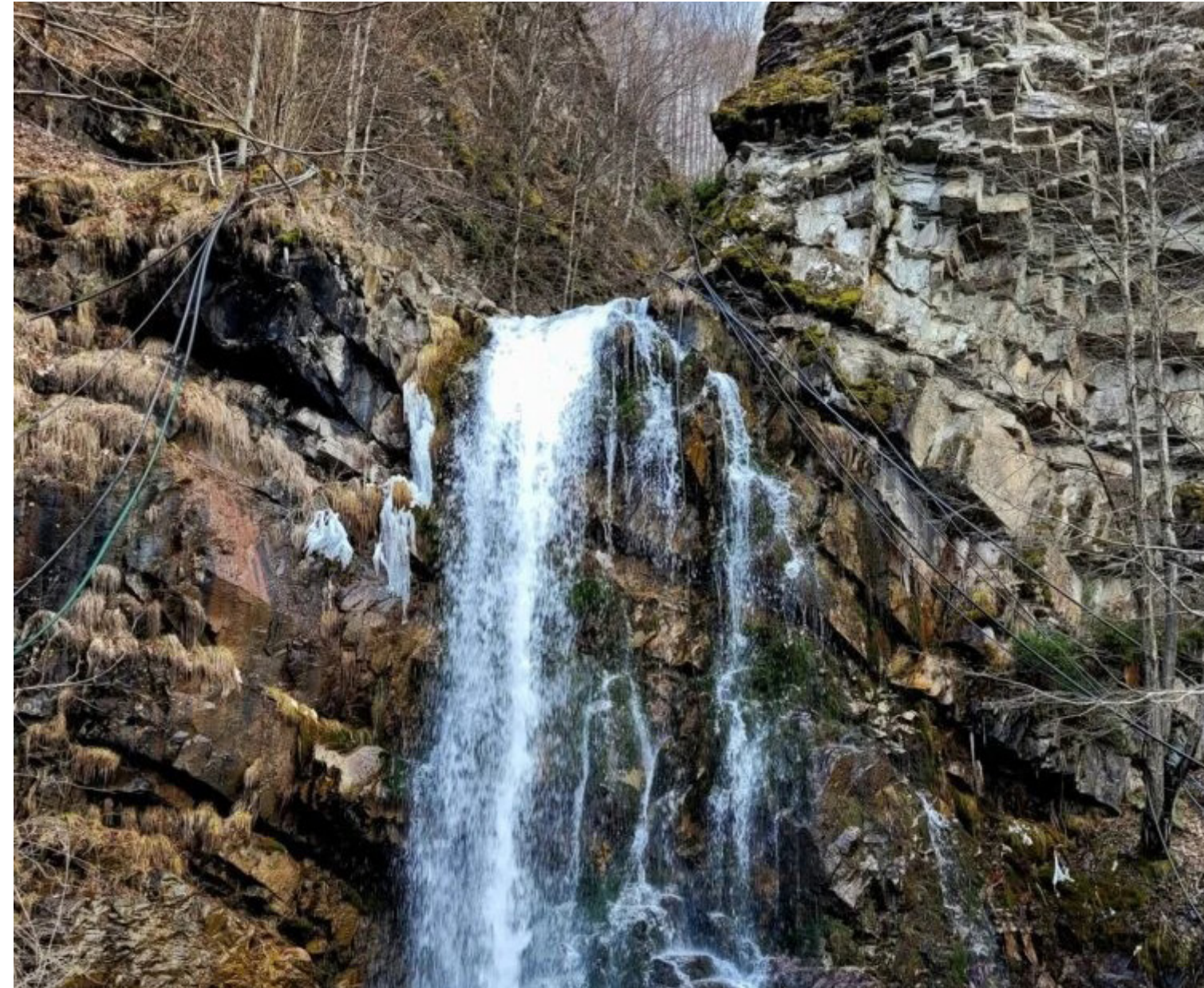




▼ *Image.23*  
 View of Vermosh  
 Source: Foto de Vermosh - Lepushe - Vusanje - theth - Valbone - Maya e Rosyt (5/6). Wikiloc. (n.d.). <https://es.wikiloc.com/rutas-senderismo/vermosh-lepushe-vusanje-theth-valbone-maya-e-rotyt-83326642/photo-55410845>



▼ *Image.24*  
 View of Vermosh  
 Source: Deirdre. (2023, November 6). Vermosh Albania: Two day hiking itinerary. BUILD & BOARD TRAVEL - Hiking and Outdoor Adventure. <https://buildandboardtravel.com/vermosh-albania-two-day-hiking-itinerary/>





# 02

## THE WINDOWS OF TOMORROW





# 01

## INSIDE THE SITE AREA

To move onward with the project, it is essential for us to first develop a clear understanding of the site and its existing architectural context. The location lies in the northern part of Albania, very close to Kanoni i Bashkimit. During the process of my research to identify the most appropriate area for analysis, I came across the so-called “unfinished hotel”, a site that immediately tempted me due to its uncommon characteristics and potential. Interestingly enough, there is no information online about “the unfinished hotel”, and few people know about it. After a lot of research done and some information gathered from both the owner, the municipality and the architect, I was eager and ready to delve into the “mystery” behind this hotel and the reason why it was left in these conditions for so long.

The hotel is a new structure built around 2019 by a young architect. The owner of this place lives in America. The hotel was constructed

on the site of a pre-existing structure. As a result, the site has already transformed, from its original appearance to what it represents today. The whole building is made of stone, mainly on the facade of the hotel. Another traditional element that we find in this building is the rooftop. The roof reflects a traditional construction method, not only in its aesthetic form but also in the materials used. This type of structure is very common in the north of Albania, and the usage of this material creates natural comfort during the atmospheric conditions in the northern area. Unfortunately, the work was left unfinished, despite the hope that the owner would return and finalize this project.

This hotel, being unfinished, involves a lack of completion regarding the area in front of it, the roads and pavements, which are not defined, and a whole greenery area behind it too.

◀ Image.25  
Image of the existing hotel in the abandoned stage  
Photo credit: Architect Milkjori



# 1.1. Site area

We are 1200 m above sea level. Our area of intervention is found near “Kanoni I Bashkimit” a picturesque and touristic place.

The area is ideal because it has a very open space but at the same time is very close to the main roads and other transportation prospects.

Furthermore, the open area behind the hotel offers more opportunities and more territory to work, consequently making it suitable for the project. It should be said that, when I was looking into this area, I had several unanswered questions. It was quite challenging to track down its owner and understand how much of the area I could make part of my project. However, after my interview with the person in charge of tourism in Vermosh and Malesi e Madhe, I came to conclusion that the whole area around the hotel is not private land but a public one, more specifically, it is part of the municipality. So I had to request a special permission, which I was granted later on. In the approval, it was stated that I could include in my project as much from the area as it was needed, due to its status as abandoned, surrounded by bushes and wild plants growing continuously.

Moreover, there are no existing

buildings or houses near our area. The land level differs, and it is created in 3 levels.

First level is the road where also the entrance of the hotel stands; the second level is the terrain behind the hotel , which is quite stable and the third level is the vegetation (just before reaching the Vermosh River), which increases in density, forming a natural barrier.



▲ Image.26  
Existing hotel site area  
Photo: Google earth



1.2 Current situation

In the images that we see above we can see more closely how the building stands today. We can see clearly the material of the building, which is stone. A typical way of construction in the north of Albania and specifically in the valleys. The stone is present in the existing building, but also in the complementary

elements around it. These materials used can give comfort to the locals and people during different weather conditions in the zone. From the images, we can also see a part of the street before accessing the building. The roads planned to be constructed around are left unfinished, just like our building.



▲ Image.28  
Image of the existing hotel in the abandoned stage  
Photo credit : Architect Milkjori

▼ Image.27  
Image of the existing hotel in the abandoned stage  
Photo credit : Architect Milkjori

▼ Image.29  
Image of the existing hotel in the abandoned stage  
Photo credit : Architect Milkjori





In image 14, we can have a view from the top of the existing building. The topography of the land and all the areas that can be used are clearly visible. During the conversation with the person responsible for tourism in Vermosh he confirmed that the land around the hotel is municipality property and in this case can be used for further expansions planned to be done.

The area around is full of greenery and different kinds of vegetation that also create a natural border. Here we can notice that around the territory where our hotel stands there are 2 remaining buildings with the function of houses that its not clear yet if they are left abandoned.

▼Image.30  
Image of the existing hotel in the abandoned stage  
Photo credit : Architect Milkjori



▲ Image.31  
Image of the existing hotel in the abandoned stage  
Photo credit : Architect Milkjori

In image 15, we have a front view of the hotel. We can easily notice the main road that brings you to the valley. This road is the most common and most comfortable one to reach our sites. The accessibility is also seen from the maps that were explained before and the hotel can be accessed at any time.

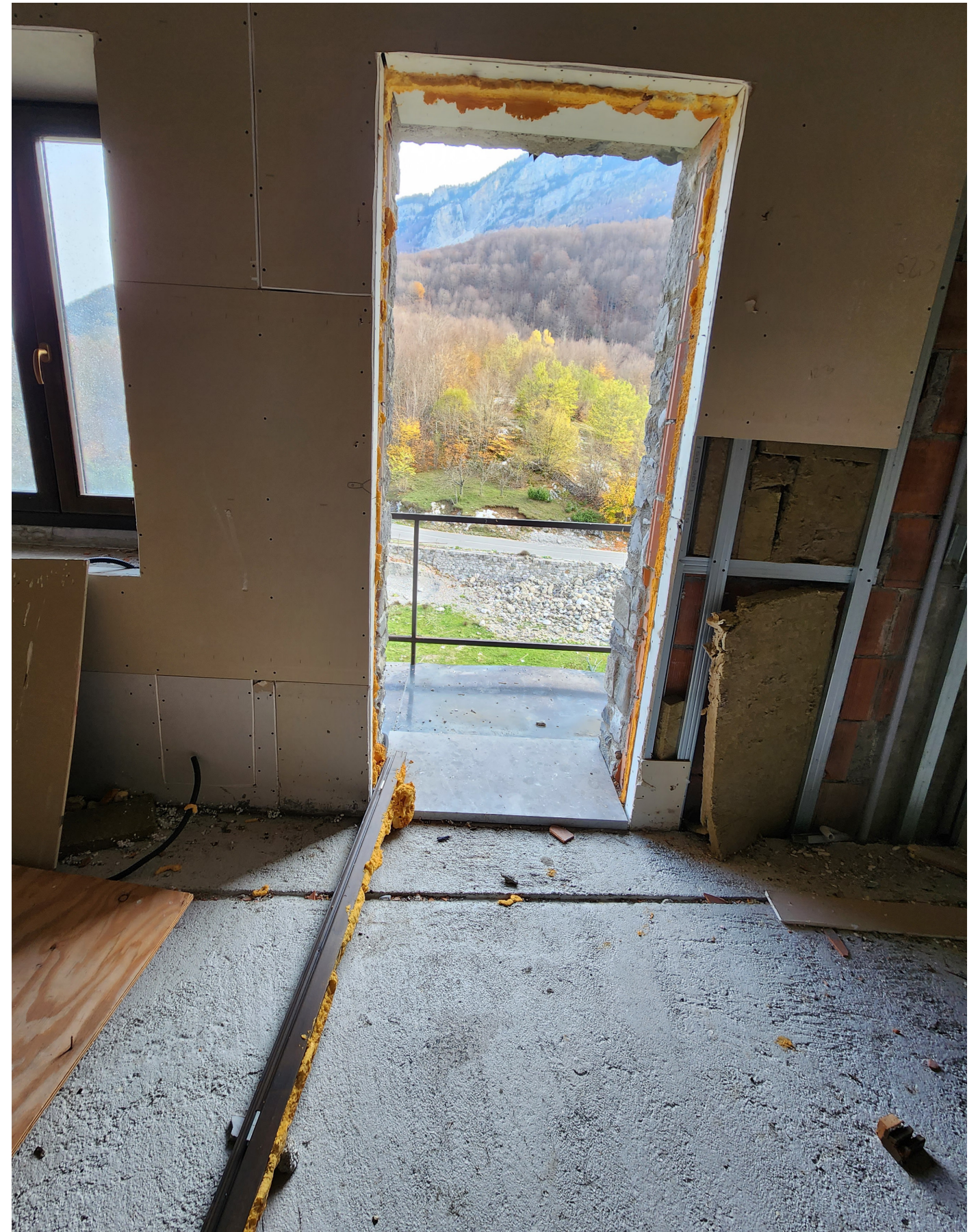
The area in front of the hotel where the main entrance is placed was not planned or projected at that time. This gives us total freedom of usage of the space also in front of the hotel.



▼ Image.32  
Interior views from the hotel  
Photo credit : Architect Milkjori



▼ Image.33  
Interior views from the hotel  
Photo credit : Architect Milkjori





▼ Image.34  
Under roof view  
Photo credit : Architect Milkjori

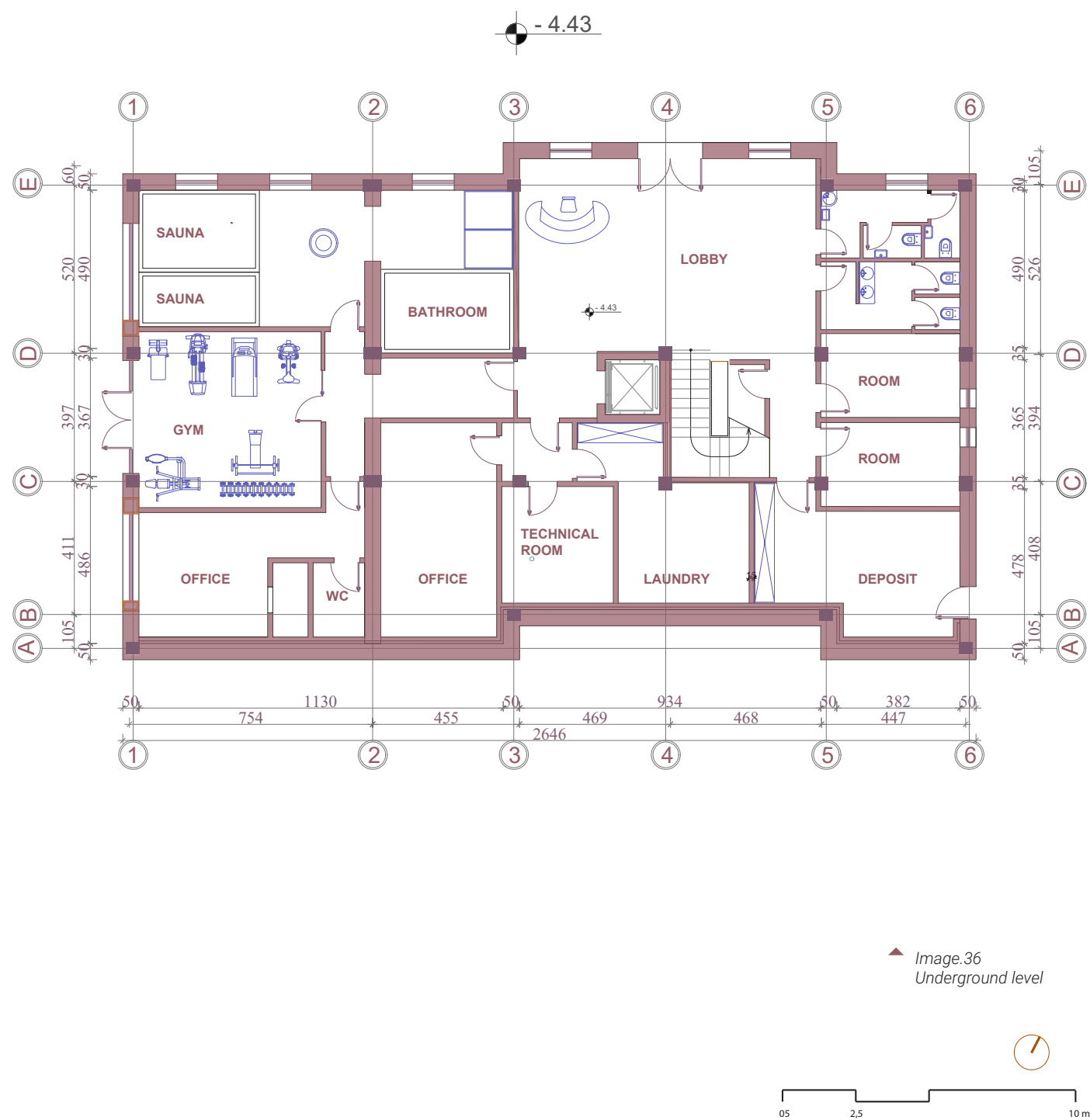


▼ Image.35  
Interior views from the hotel  
Photo credit : Architect Milkjori





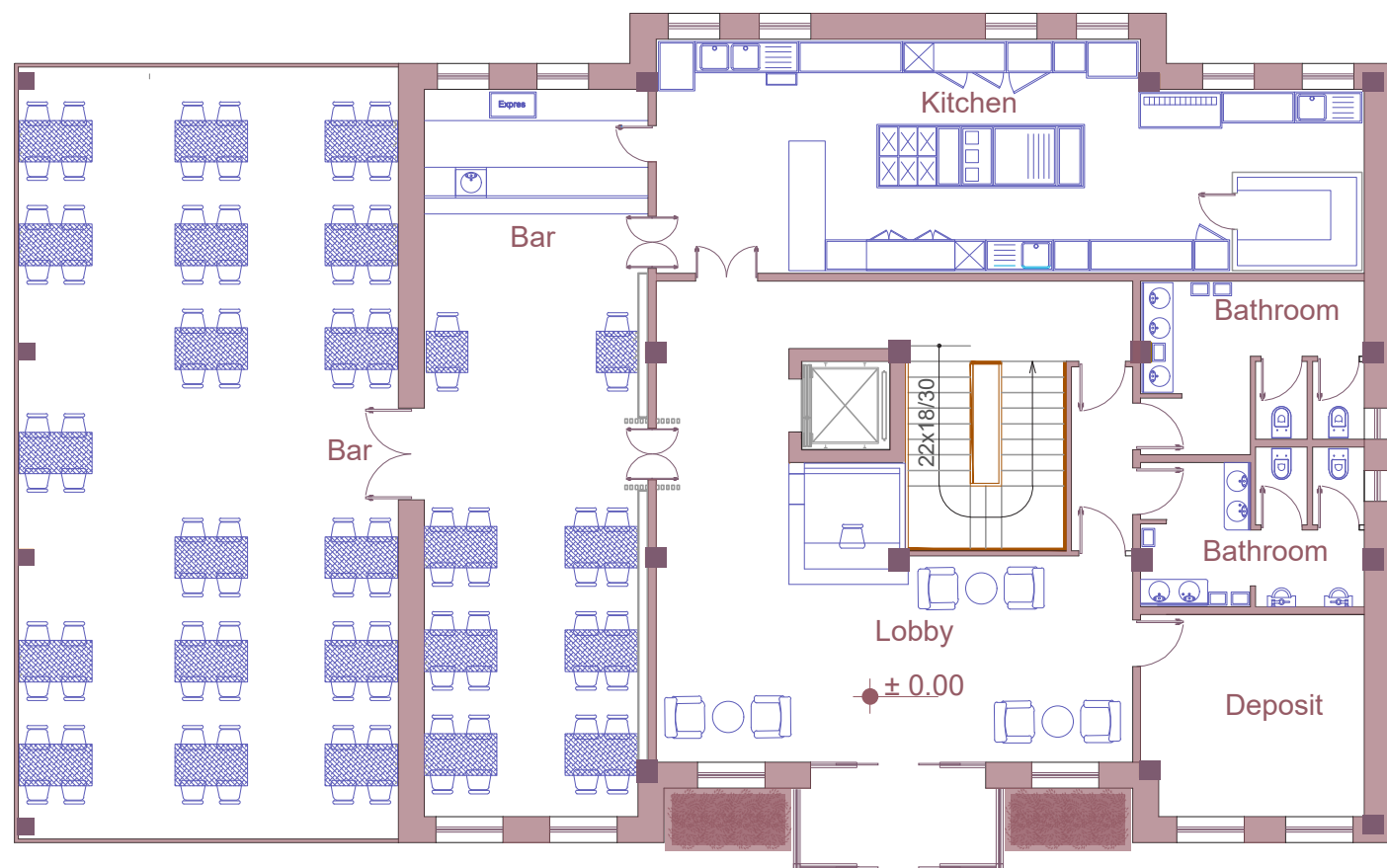
1.3 PLANS AND SECTIONS



UNDERGROUND LEVEL

The hotel was planned to have a underground floor where the spaces were the original plans include a lobby, deposits and other services. This floor was planned to be a space of services, making it more public than private. This floor is directly connected to the outside area that is behind the hotel, and for now is the only connection we have. Due to different levels of terrain, there are no specific roads that bring you to the bottom part.





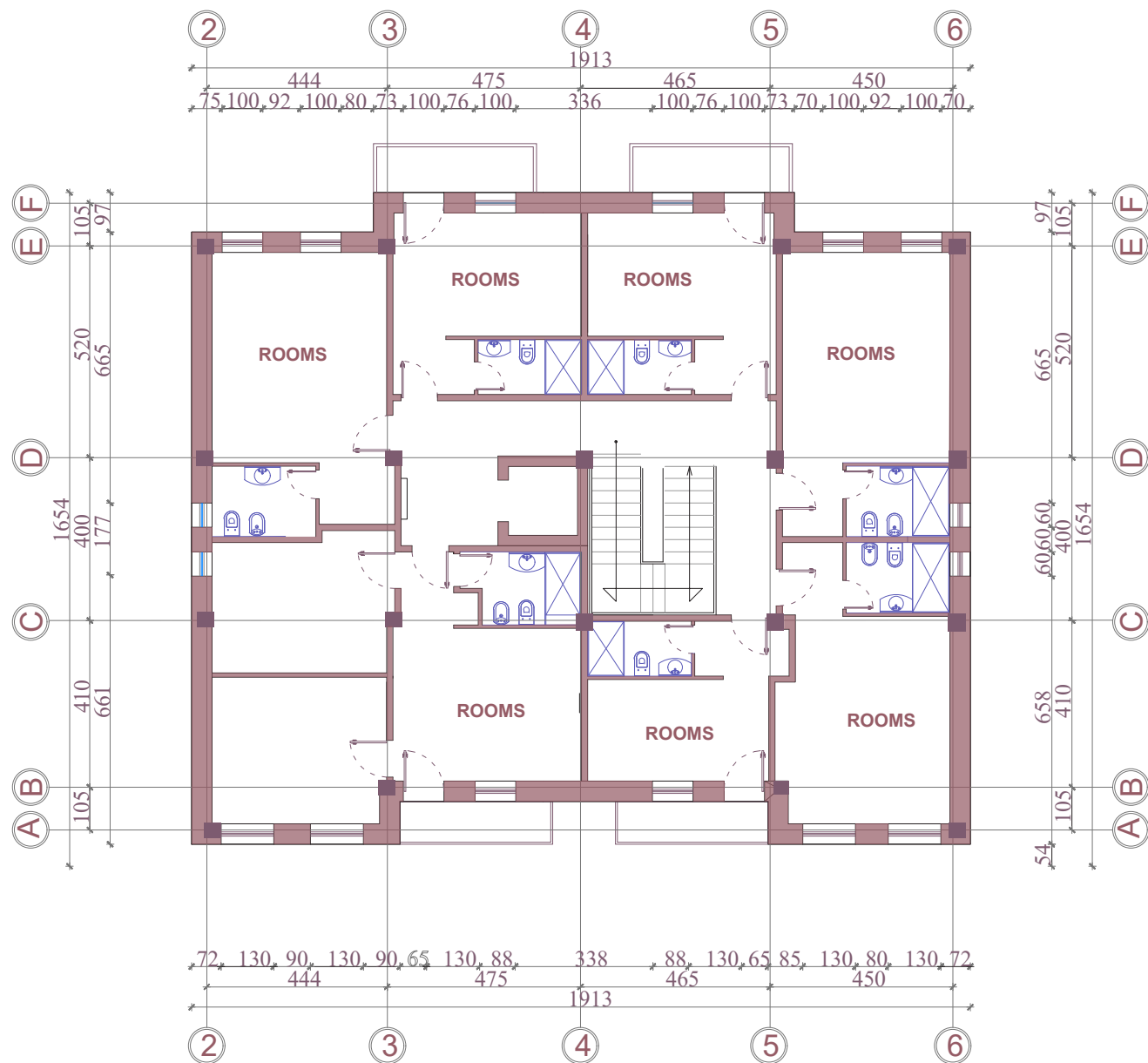
▲ Image.37  
Ground floor of the existing  
hotel



## GROUND FLOOR

The ground floor was projected to be a bar with its own kitchen area, the main entrance with a lobby and then some services around like common bathrooms. In the middle of the volume, there is always the circulation which brings us to the rest of the floors by connecting them.





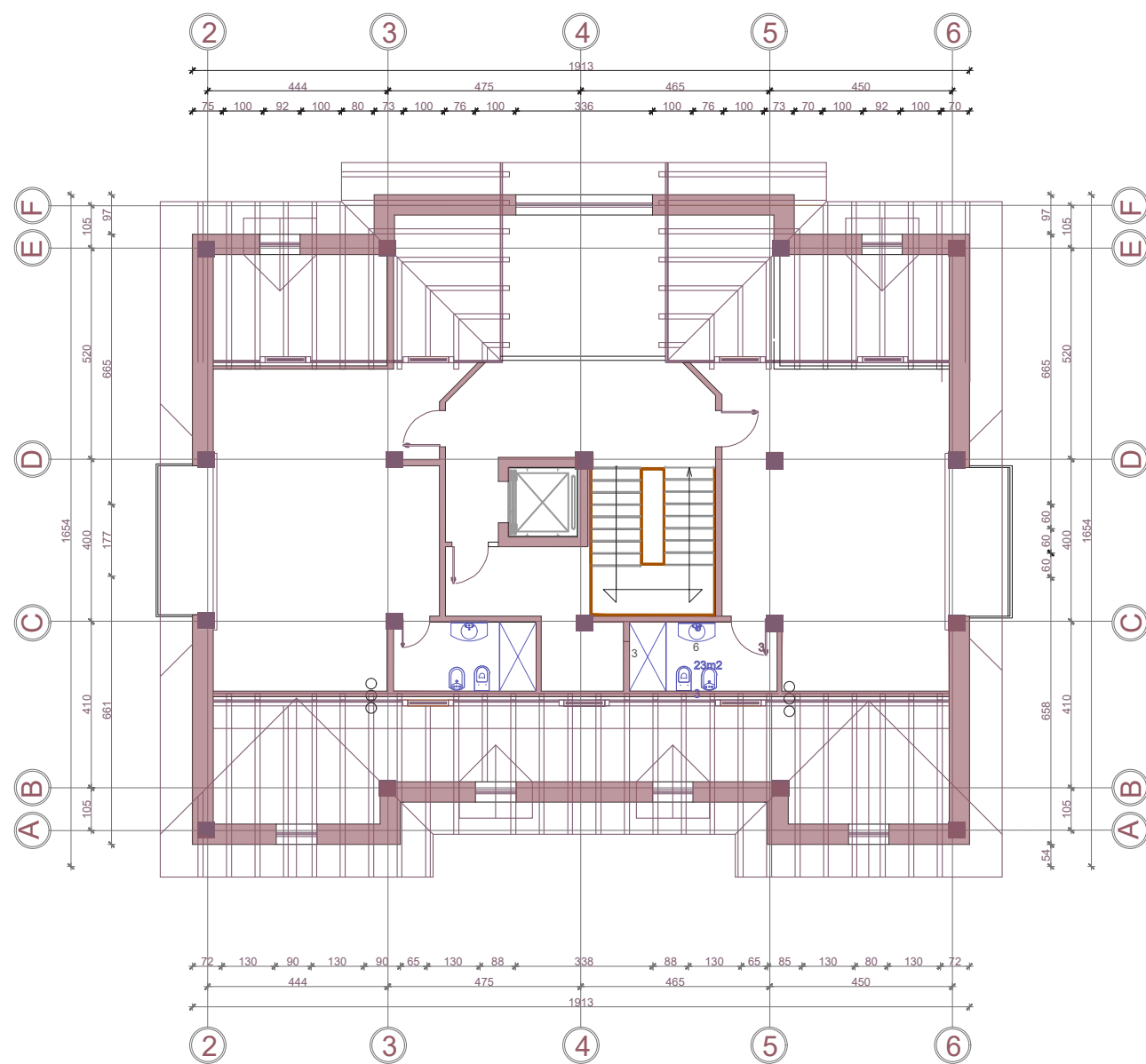
▲ Image.38  
First floor plan



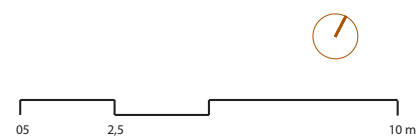
## FLOOR 1st,2nd,3rd,4th

From the first until the fourth floor the hotel rooms are positioned. Each of the rooms has a private bathroom inside. This kind of module is also placed on the second floor, third floor and fourth floor. Some of the rooms on this floor are also designed to have standard balconies facing both sides of the hotel.





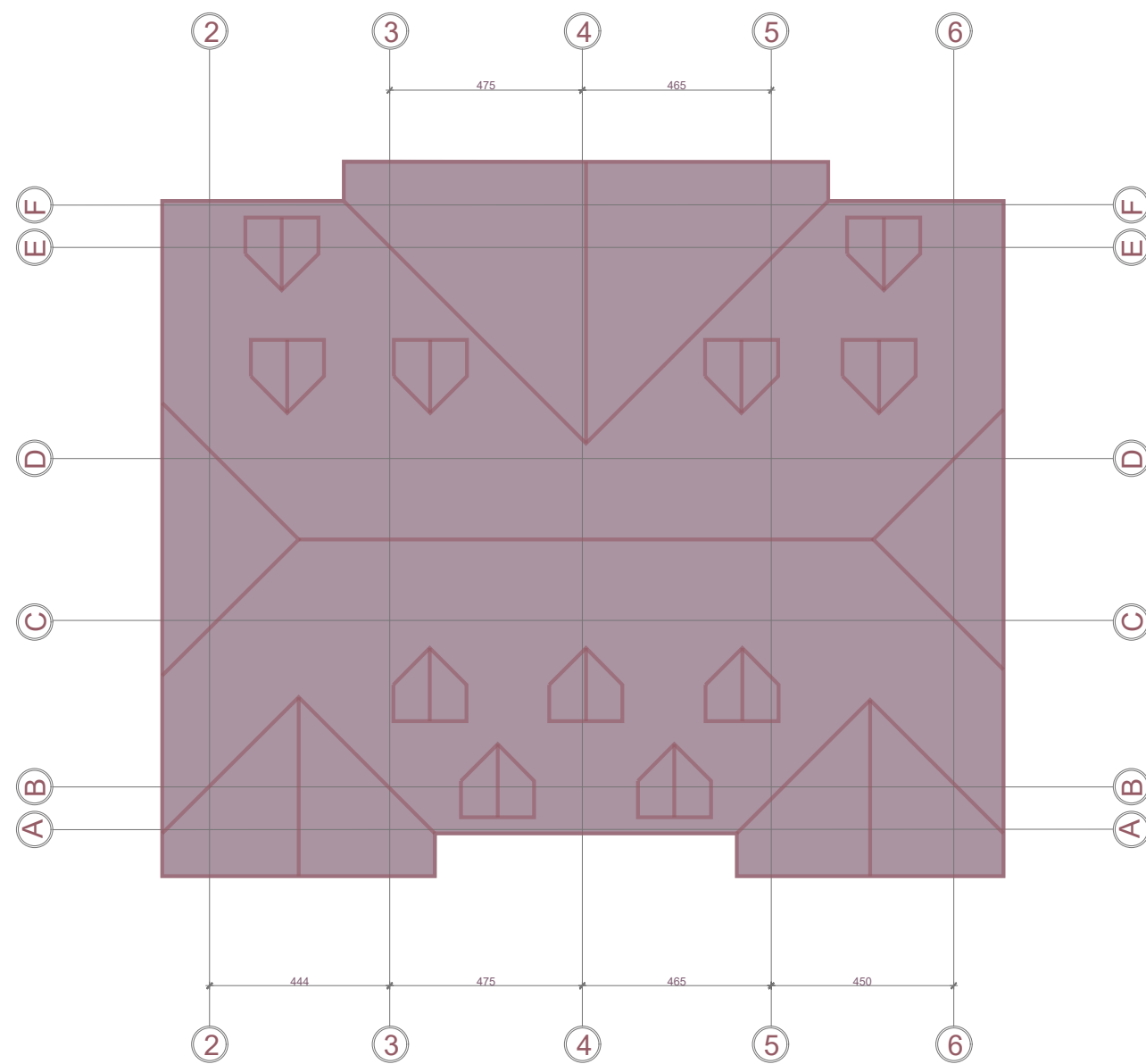
▲Image.39  
Attic floor plan



## ATTIC FLOOR

The under-roof floor is also thought to be a residential and private area, but not with standard rooms. This level focuses on the suites or more family rooms, where there can also be placed a day area for the kitchen and table. This type of rooms give the idea of little apartments inside this building.





▲ Image.40  
Roof plan  
Scale: Out of scale



## ROOF PLAN

The roof of the existing hotel is a very particular detail chosen by the architect. He decides to use the same old traditional way of building the wooden roof of a stone building. The traditionality is also kept in the visual part of the roof typical for this areas. Usually in vermosh is used a timber structure with a roof slope of  $45^{\circ}$  or  $60^{\circ}$  in this way heavy snow is prevented.



1.4 SECTIONS AND ELEVATIONS



Image.41  
Existing building elevation

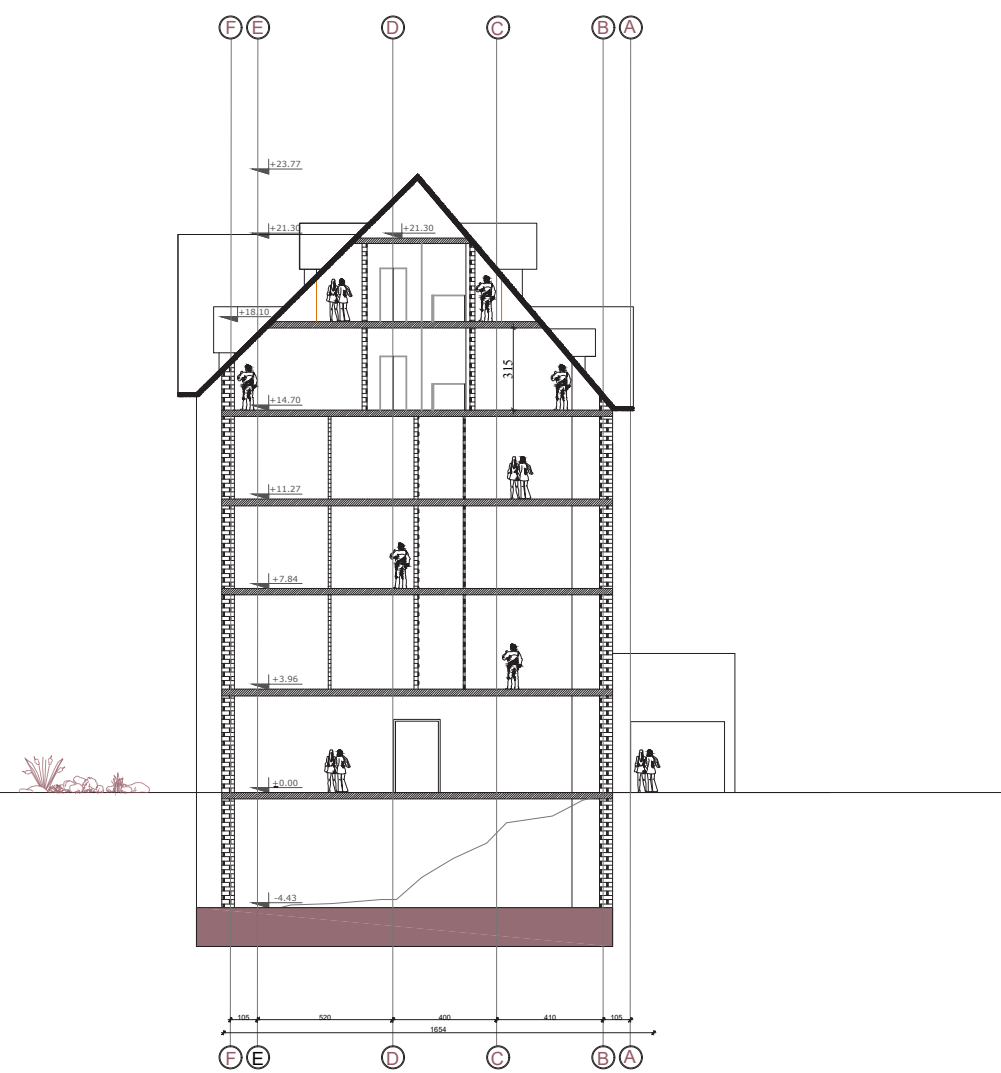
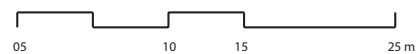
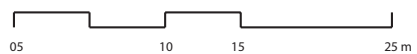


Image.42  
Existing building section





30

CONNECTED THROUGH SPACE





# 01

## WHAT DOES A HOSPICE SYMBOLIZE

When discussing hospice, we encounter a wide range of papers that provide information about it; however, all of them seem to emphasize the aspect of care when there are no more options left, so when there isn't a cure, as stated on Hospice Foundation of America website: "Hospice provides something more for patients when a cure is not an option. In other words, Hospice is presented like medical care, but medical care that has the focus on comfort and

quality of life for the patient: Hospice care aims to manage the patient's symptoms while supporting their quality of life" (Godfrey, A. (2024a, November 20). What is Hospice?. Hospice Foundation of America. <https://hospicefoundation.org/what-is-hospice/>).<sup>1</sup>

Being part of the hospice means having the courage to accept the situation and choosing to feel comfortable and not alone.

◀ *Imagine 43*  
Photo credit: Architect Milkjori

<sup>1</sup> Godfrey, A. (2024a, November 20). What is Hospice?. Hospice Foundation of America. <https://hospicefoundation.org/what-is-hospice/>



## 1.1.The Importance of hospice

Hospice facilities are a medical care service for people who are diagnosed with a terminal illness, and they are expected to live up to 6 months max. “This type of care can be provided in a structure of Hospice or also in the conditions of a nursing home, your home (also a type of palliative care)”.<sup>2</sup> This ambient gives the patient the possibility to stay near their family, friends, surrounded by an environment they know.

“Hospice care is provided by an interdisciplinary team of professionals trained to address the patient’s medical, physical, spiritual, and psychosocial needs. The team focuses on the person, not the illness, as they coordinate patient care, clarify the goals of care, and foster communication. The staff of the hospice team can differ, and they can visit the patient periodically or also stay with them for a longer term”(Godfrey, A. (2024a, November 20). What is Hospice?. Hospice Foundation of America. <https://hospicefoundation.org/what-is-hospice/>).<sup>3</sup>

The hospice team supports a larger group of people and not only patients. “They are there to support the caregivers (if these are private and not part of the hospice), and they are there to support the families, too” ((Godfrey, A. (2024a, November 20).

What is Hospice?. Hospice Foundation of America. <https://hospicefoundation.org/what-is-hospice/>).<sup>3</sup>

As I mentioned before, hospice is a type of medical care, but its focus doesn’t stay on curing the patient or giving medical treatment for a diagnosis for a longer life. Usually, the patients already part of the hospice know their diagnosis and know their limited time. Hospice is there to help you understand, face and accept the conditions in which you find yourself.

“Hospice care does not hasten death. Instead, it focuses on providing comfort at the end of life and supporting the dying person and their family caregivers”(Godfrey, A. (2024a, November 20). What is Hospice?. Hospice Foundation of America. <https://hospicefoundation.org/what-is-hospice/>).<sup>4</sup>

## 1.2. Who can receive it?

Hospice care typically involves the support needed of two key individuals. A hospice physician and a second doctor, whose role may vary depending on the patient’s condition and the specific eligibility criteria for hospice service.

“Frequently, the most eligible are the patients with a terminal illness who have a limited time to live, up to six months or less” (Shega, J. (2019, August 21). Hospice eligibility guidelines. for HCPs | VITAS Healthcare. <https://www.vitas.com/for-healthcare-professionals/hospice-eligibility-guidelines>).<sup>5</sup>

Of course, the rest of the patients still in need of care but do not qualify for hospice can always have palliative care in a nursing home or even their own house. Some of the common diagnoses for hospice patients can include cancer, heart disease, dementia, Parkinson’s disease, lung disease, stroke, chronic kidney disease, cirrhosis, and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

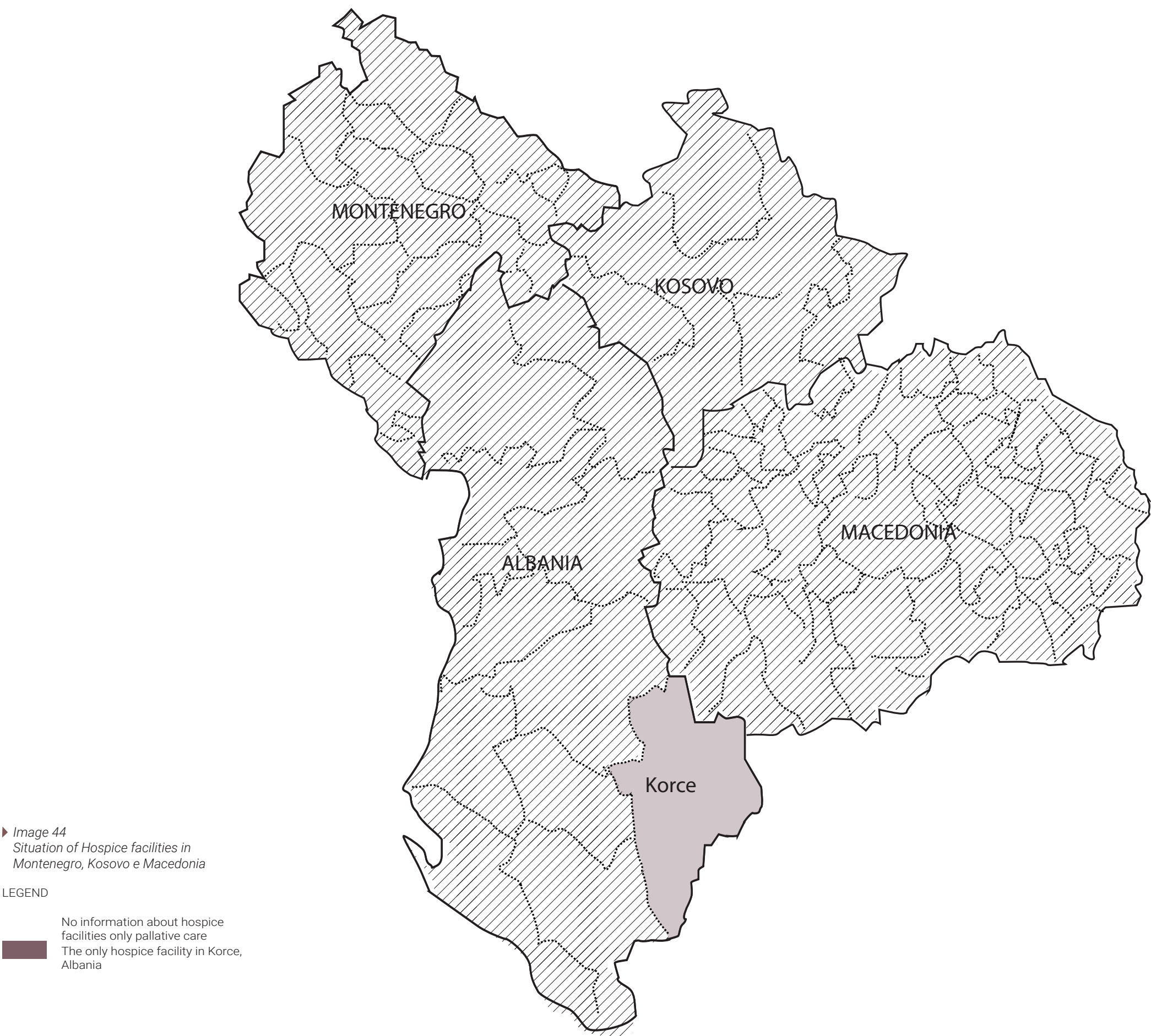
Part of the hospice can also include children or teens, but this type of hospice is separated from the adult one. At the base of some important regulations, services and coverage may differ.

<sup>2/3/4</sup> Godfrey, A. (2024a, November 20). What is Hospice?. Hospice Foundation of America. <https://hospicefoundation.org/what-is-hospice/>

<sup>5</sup> Shega, J. (2019, August 21). Hospice eligibility guidelines. for HCPs | VITAS Healthcare. <https://www.vitas.com/for-healthcare-professionals/hospice-eligibility-guidelines>



1.3. Existing Hospice facility in Montenegro, Albania and Kosovo





## 1.4.Hospice as architecture

Based on the Architecture and spirituality in hospice design by Kate Jackson Kate Jackson explains in her blog the story of Tony Redman who has spent the biggest part of his life building Hospice. By this we enter more closely into the function of the hospice as a architectural building.

Tony says: *"Buildings should be specifically designed around the core function, and in hospice care the core function is the dignity of the person who is coming in to have their symptoms controlled, or to prepare for their own death. So the building needs to be client-centered, rather than process centered. For example, in Bucharest, the main thing that we wanted to get across was that the way in which these people would be cared for would be transparent, it would be completely open. And so, as soon as you come into the entrance, you see straight through the building, you can see where everything is, it becomes a building which should be welcoming and encourages people to think that the whole ethos of the place is open and supportive."*<sup>6</sup>

Moreover he adds: *"There is something about the simple things, like the heights of*

*rooms, the way in which every bed ought to be able to look out easily through a window or over a good scene. The way in which there should be a feeling that you are never far from somebody who can control your pain if you're in pain."*<sup>7</sup>

And of course we come to the whole area. Not only what you see inside but also what and how you are able to see outside. A small window looking through a building might be even more depressing than the situation which you are facing but a more open space with a lot of greenery to observe and a quite environment might make you feel that life has so much too offer even though only for some days or months. Citing Redman: "Colour is important.

Citing Redman:

*"Colour is important. "Buildings which are very bland tend to lower the spirits, whereas buildings that have colour and have art on the wall tend to lift the spirits and therefore people are much more likely to receive their palliation more quickly than they would in a building which is just magnolia and wood."*<sup>8</sup>

Choosing a color can feel like the last thing to do, but Tony explains the importance of it and how it affects us. We all know the meaning of colours, where yellow is giving happiness, joy and creativity while gray gives us a more serious cold atmosphere.

*"There are people coming in through a front door who are very seriously ill and at the other end there is what happens at death and so to have a place where people can be quiet, and having all these functions which interrelate at the appropriate level without tripping up, that is important. Also, the way in which your design flows through the building has to be thought through very carefully."*<sup>9</sup>

Here it shows the importance of how people move around your building. How they perceive space and how this space makes them

feel. If the room of a patient who has just joined the hospice is going to be in front of a medical room where the other patient is expecting their death is not the best psychological and mental stability that the hospice building is seeking for.

6/7 Bonline. (2014, February 18). Architecture and spirituality in hospice design. eHospice. [https://ehospice.com/international\\_posts/architecture-and-spirituality-in-hospice-design/](https://ehospice.com/international_posts/architecture-and-spirituality-in-hospice-design/)

8/9 Bonline. (2014, February 18). Architecture and spirituality in hospice design. eHospice. [https://ehospice.com/international\\_posts/architecture-and-spirituality-in-hospice-design/](https://ehospice.com/international_posts/architecture-and-spirituality-in-hospice-design/)



1.5. Hospice and Pallative care

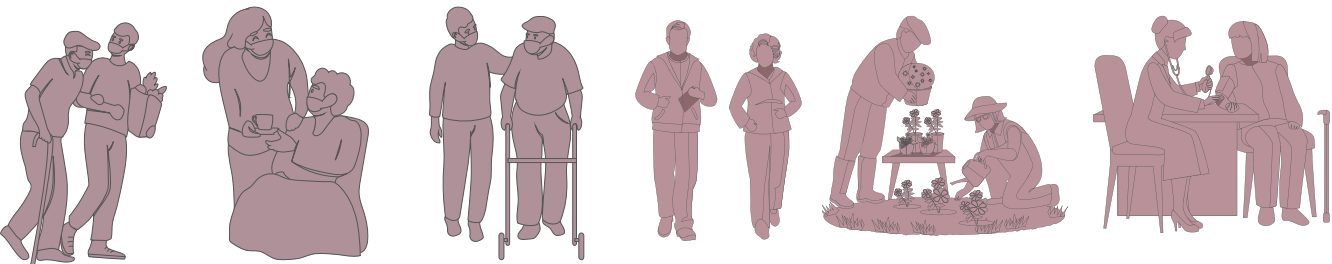
PALLIATIVE CARE

As mentioned in Capc that talks about the palliative in way that demonstrates its main purpose which is the improvement of the quality of life.<sup>10</sup>

This type of care can be provided for everybody, regardless of age.

Palliative care is interdisciplinary, implying collaboration between different doctors who work together not only with patients but also with family members.

“Palliative care can start as early as a person’s diagnosis or not until later in thei illness, and it can occur alongside other types of treatment for the disease. This form of care includes, but is not limited to, advance care planning, end-of-life care, hospice care, and bereavement support” (What are palliative care and Hospice Care? | National Institute on Aging. (n.d.-c). <https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/hospice-and-palliative-care/what-are-palliative-care-and-hospice-care>).<sup>11</sup>



10/13 Godfrey, A. (2024a, November 20). What is Hospice?. Hospice Foundation of America. <https://hospicefoundation.org/what-is-hospice/>  
11What are palliative care and Hospice Care? | National Institute on Aging. (n.d.-c). <https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/hospice-and-palliative-care/what-are-palliative-care-and-hospice-care>  
12 Lisa Catanese, E. (2024, December 2). Hospice care: Overview of a compassionate approach to end-of-life care. Harvard Health. <https://www.health.harvard.edu/staying-healthy/hospice-care-overview-of-a-compassionate-approach-to-end-of-life-care>

HOSPICE FACILITIES

“Hospice is medical care for people who are expected to live six months or less. It is provided primarily where a person lives — at home or in a nursing home or community living arrangement — so the patient can be near family, friends, pets, and valued possessions” (Lisa Catanese, E. (2024, December 2). Hospice care: Overview of a compassionate approach to end-of-life care. Harvard Health. <https://www.health.harvard.edu/staying-healthy/hospice-care-overview-of-a-compassionate-approach-to-end-of-life-care>)<sup>12</sup>. Hospice care is provided by an interdisciplinary team of professionals trained to address the patient’s medical, physical, spiritual, and psychosocial needs.

1.6.History of Pallative care in Albania

The first palliative care service began in Albania in 1993 by the Ryder Albanian Association (RAA) with a very small team of two doctors and one nurse. Now a number of non government organizations have been working in the field of palliativecaremanyyears inAlbania. Theseinclude

1. “National Association for Palliative Care (NAPC)which is the official national organization for the four existing palliative care providers in Albania and is mainly focused on advocacy and the development of palliative care in the country” (Rama , R., Çarçani, V., Prifti , F., Huta, K., Xhixha, A., & Connor , S. R. (2017b, August 12). Palliative care-albania. Journal of PainandSymptomManagement. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0885392417304013>).<sup>14</sup>

2.” RAA (in Tirana and Durres) was the first pallia-tive care provider in Albania. RAA’s main focus is the provision of home care, palliative care, advocacy, and fundraising” (Rama , R., Çarçani, V., Prifti , F., Huta, K., Xhixha, A., & Connor , S. R. (2017b, August 12). Palliative care-albania. Journal of Pain and Symptom Management. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0885392417304013>).<sup>15</sup>

3. Mary Potter (Family Health Care)

Association(MPA) in Koca’s main focus is home care and in-patient palliative care service provision and palliative care training. 4 .

“Caritas Albania (Elbasan, Shkodra, and Lezha) isa Catholic charity that operates more than 50health centers throughout the country. They work mostly with the poor and provide financial support for various supplies. The first government palliative care service was created in 2001 and for more than 10 years has been the only government provider of palliative care” (Huta, K. (n.d.). (PDF) temporary removal: Palliative care – albania | Kristo Huta - academia.edu. [https://www.academia.edu/52084687/TEMPORARY\\_REMOVAL\\_Palliative\\_care\\_Albania](https://www.academia.edu/52084687/TEMPORARY_REMOVAL_Palliative_care_Albania)).<sup>16</sup>

The Oncology Home Service (OHS) provides home care to cancer patients from the National Oncology Center in Tirana.

14/15 Rama , R., Çarçani, V., Prifti , F., Huta, K., Xhixha, A., & Connor , S. R. (2017b, August 12). Palliative care-albania. Journal of Pain and Symptom Management. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0885392417304013>  
16 Huta, K. (n.d.). (PDF) temporary removal: Palliative care – albania | Kristo Huta - academia.edu. [https://www.academia.edu/52084687/TEMPORARY\\_REMOVAL\\_Palliative\\_care\\_Albania](https://www.academia.edu/52084687/TEMPORARY_REMOVAL_Palliative_care_Albania)



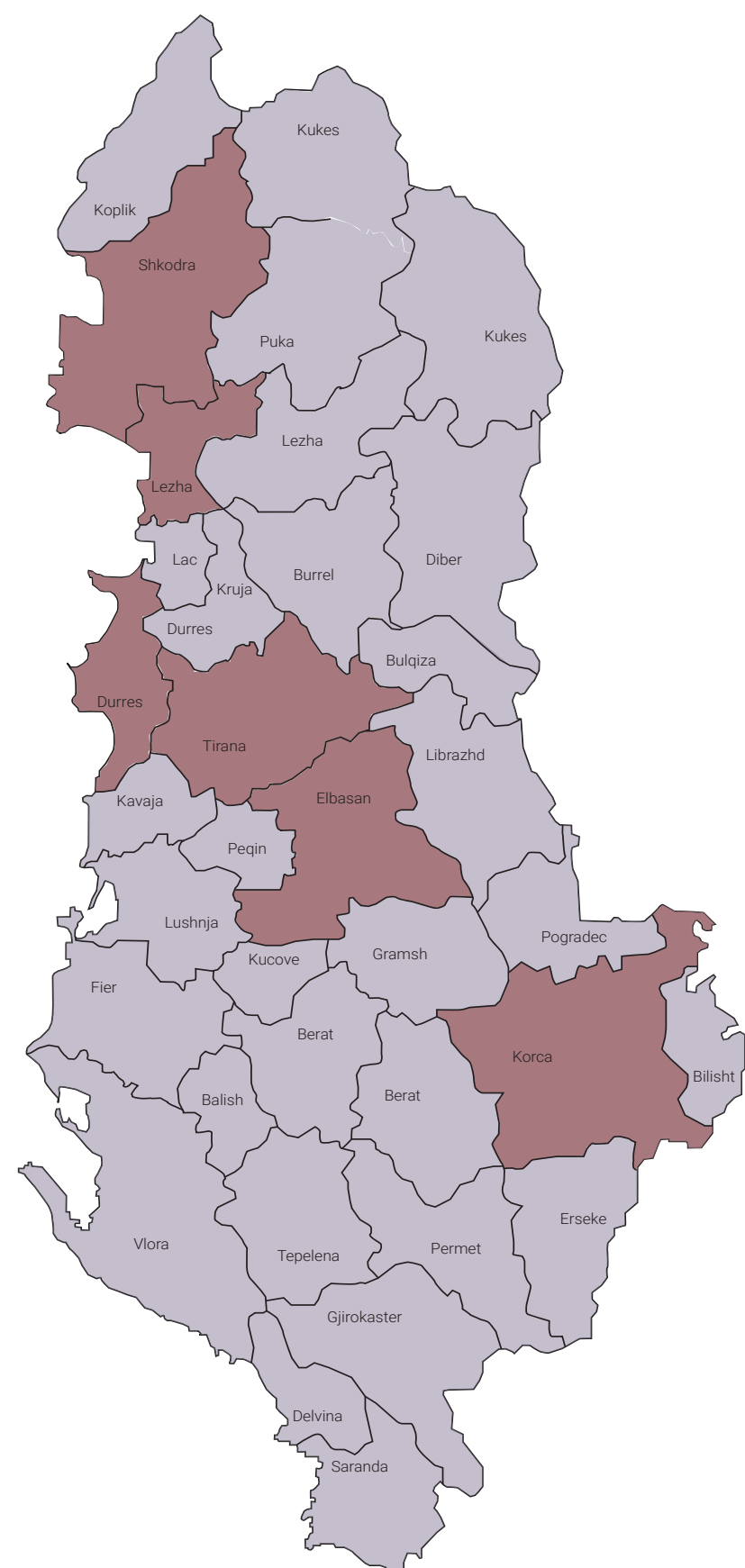
*<<(…) There are no nursing homes in Albania because the attitude of society toward the ill and sick is that the main caregiver should be the family, and the care is given at home.>><sup>17</sup>*

<sup>17</sup> Rama , R., Çarçani , V., Prifti , F., Huta, K., Xhixha, A., & Connor , S. R. (2017b, August 12). Palliative care-albania. Journal of Pain and Symptom Management. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0885392417304013>

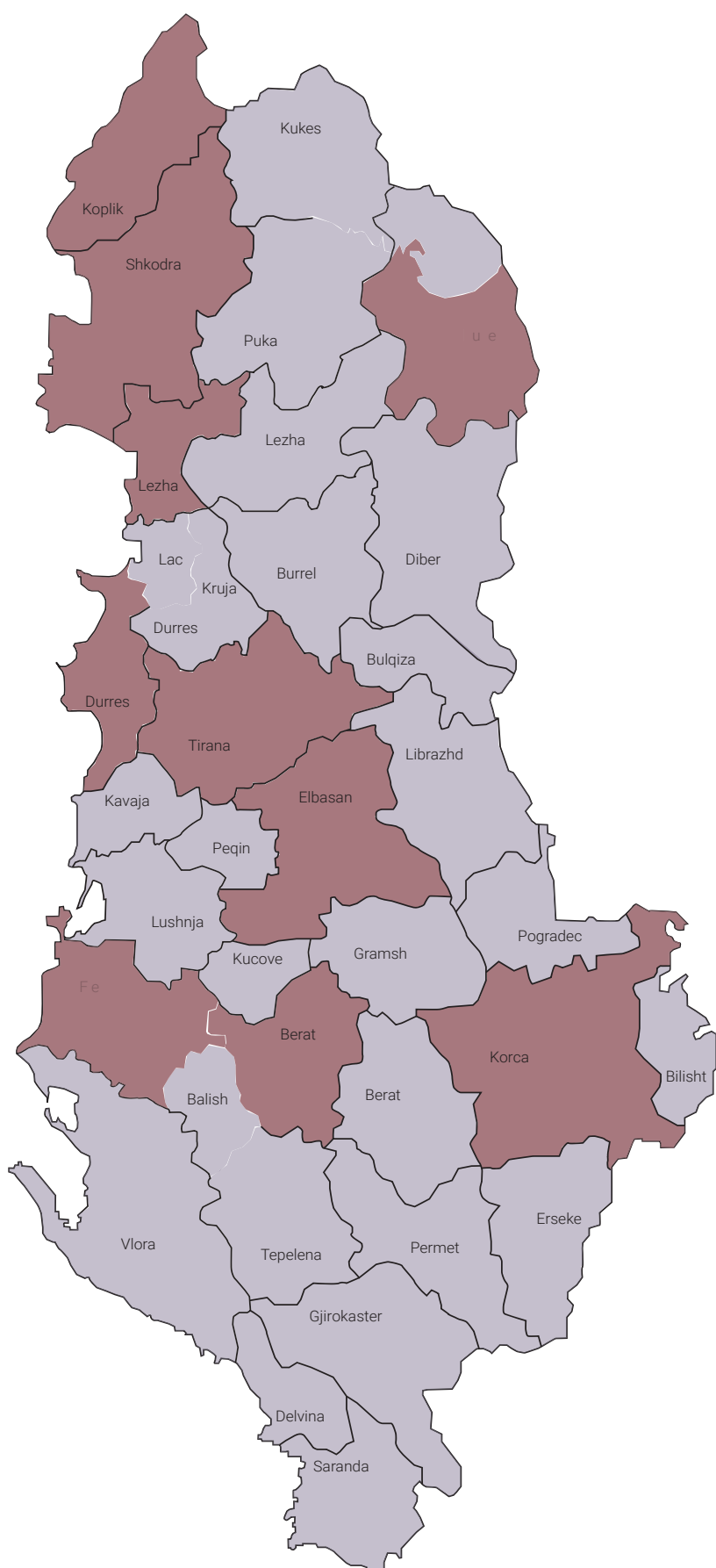


Palliative care in ALBANIA

2011



2016







▲ Image 45  
 Mary Potter Hospice in Korce Albania  
 Source: google maps



▲ Image 46  
 Mary Potter Hospice in Korce Albania  
 Source: Kapiti. marypotter.org.nz. (n.d.). <https://marypotter.org.nz/shops/shop-locations-and-hours/attachment/kapiti/>

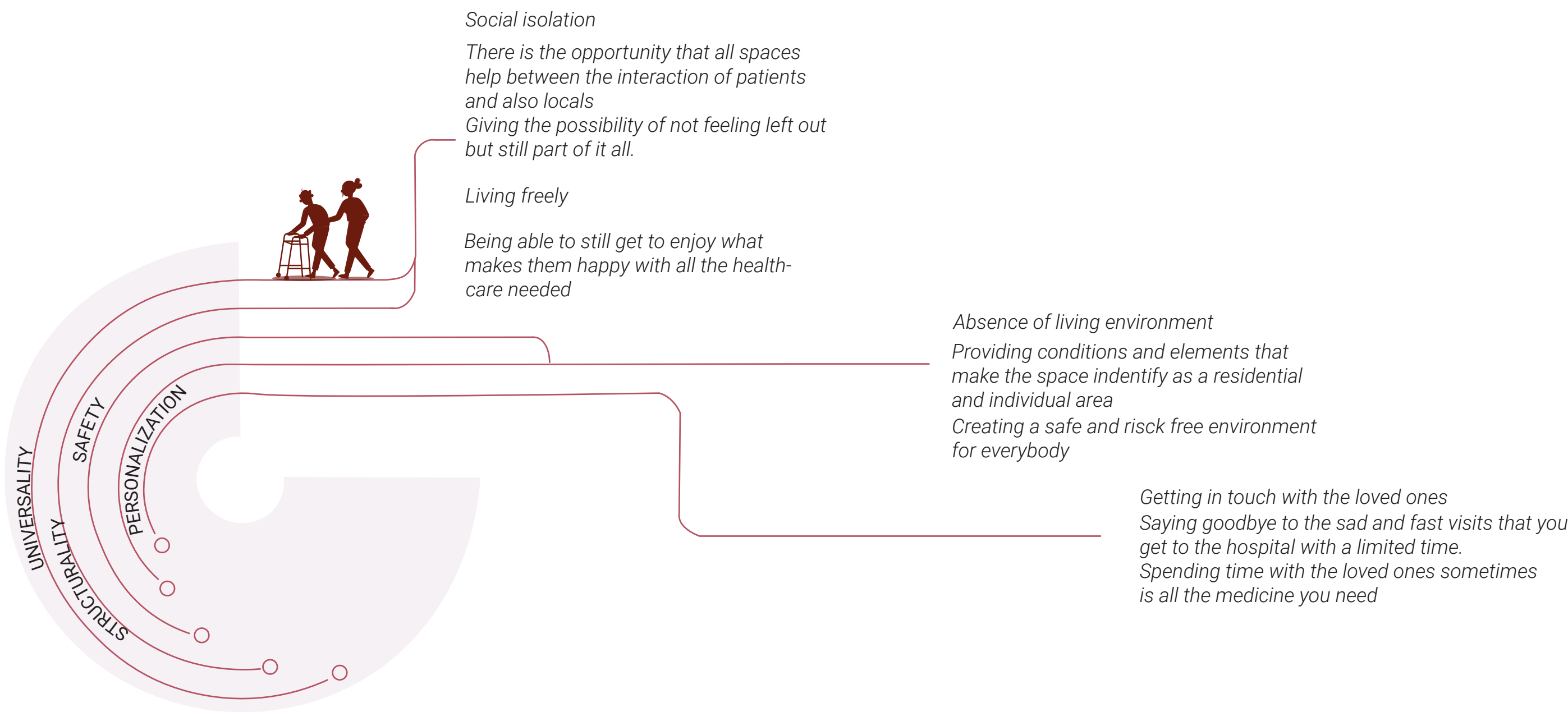


# 02

## WHY HOSPICE?

All the above-listed arguments by Redman led me to think of building a hospice, but why did I choose to build a hospice exactly in the Albanian Alps? Well, the answer is less complicated than what is expected. The breathtaking panorama, serene atmosphere and unique possibilities offered by the Albanian Alps create an ideal setting for hospice care. The project focuses on the main purpose which is to bring together the diversity and livability to create comfort and connection in every sense. Connection with nature, with people and connection with the locals and everything around. It is this multilayered connection that gives life to the hospice.







*<<(…) Hospice’s unique features comprise of caring for all dimensions of the “total pain”: physical, spiritual, psychological, and social problems of the patient and the family. Hospice care can be provided in five organizational forms: inpatient hospices, home care, day care, palliative care units, and hospital palliative care teams.>><sup>18</sup>*

18 Aleksandrova-Yankulovska, S. (2014). Hospice. *Encyclopedia of Global Bioethics*, 1–11. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-05544-2\\_228-1](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-05544-2_228-1)



# 03

## PROJECT PROGRAMME

The project focuses on the main purposes which is to bring together the diversity and livability to create the comfortness and the connection in every sense. The connection with the nature , with people and connection with the locals and everything around. From this the Hospice start developing. The project programme focuses in four main concepts which are : **livability, diversity, comfortness and connection**. This main concepts help to have a clear view also in the strategies used in this project. It is important understanding how this programme and strategies work with the area of intervention and also with the “Protagonists” which will be presented in the next pages.



- STRATEGIES**
-  REUSING THE TERRITORY AND VALORIZING IT THROUGH NEW SPACES
  -  SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT
  -  REUSAGE OF ABANDONED BUILDINGS FOR THE AIM OF THE NEW PROJECT IDEA
  -  COLLABORATION THROUGH LOCAL COMUNITY
  -  CONNECTING SPACES THROUGH TERRITORY

**PROJECT PROGRAMME**

**AIMS**

**LIVABILITY**

Livability means the importance of the space and where we are. Giving to the area and to the community and a diversity. Livability focuses on the long term well being of individuals

**DIVERSITY**

Like the diversity of the nature that we have in this terrain where water meets grass mountain at the same time. The projects creates a diversity in the community

**CONNECTION**

Connecting through space. In the end of the day we are all the same. We all want to go out enjoy life, some wants to paint and some others wants to read. What is important is the space and how we live it. How important is to feel connected where you are with what surrounds you.

**COMFORTNESS**

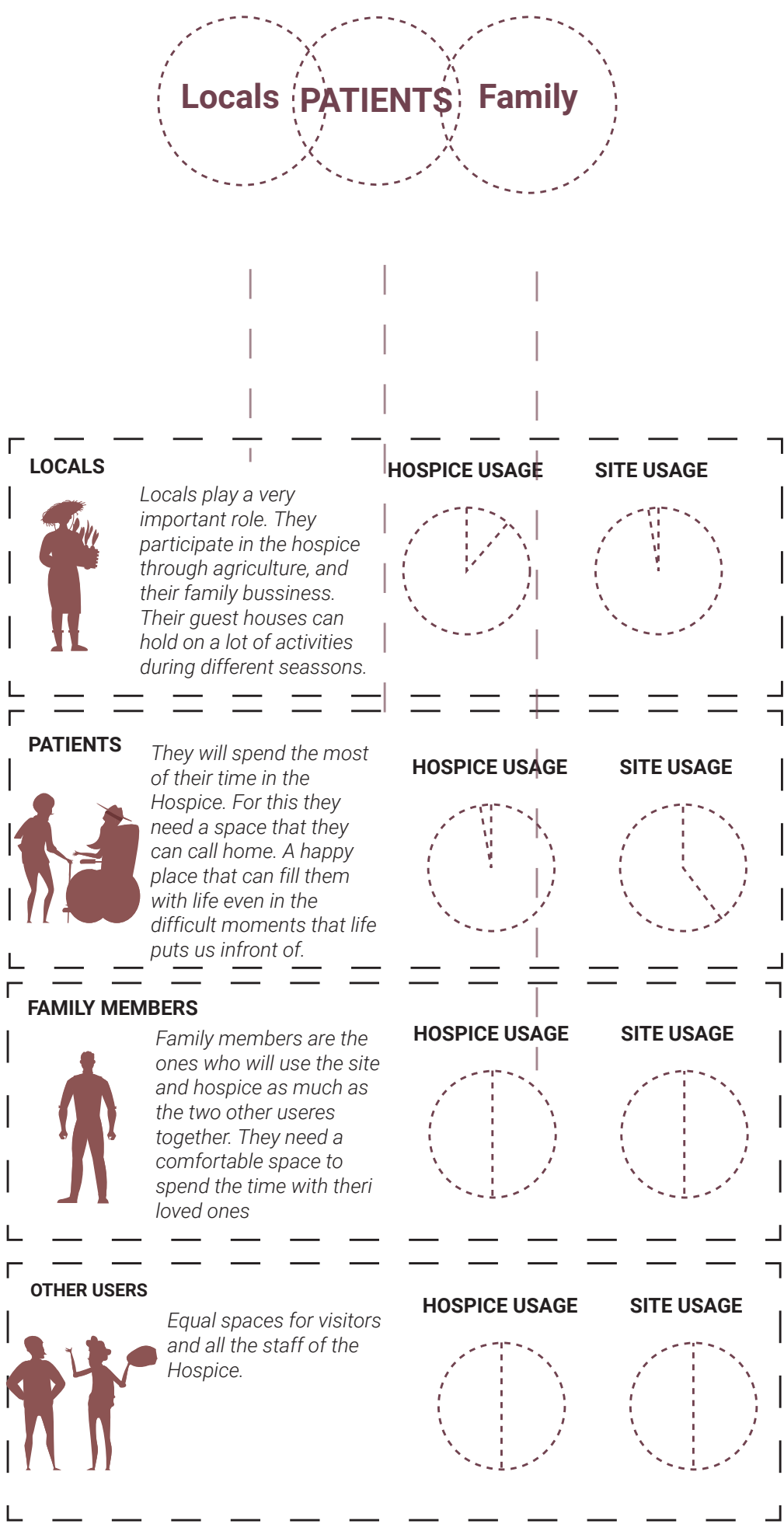
Feeling good in a area is important. Whats gives this comfortness? Easy everything that surrounds you.



3.1.The protagonists

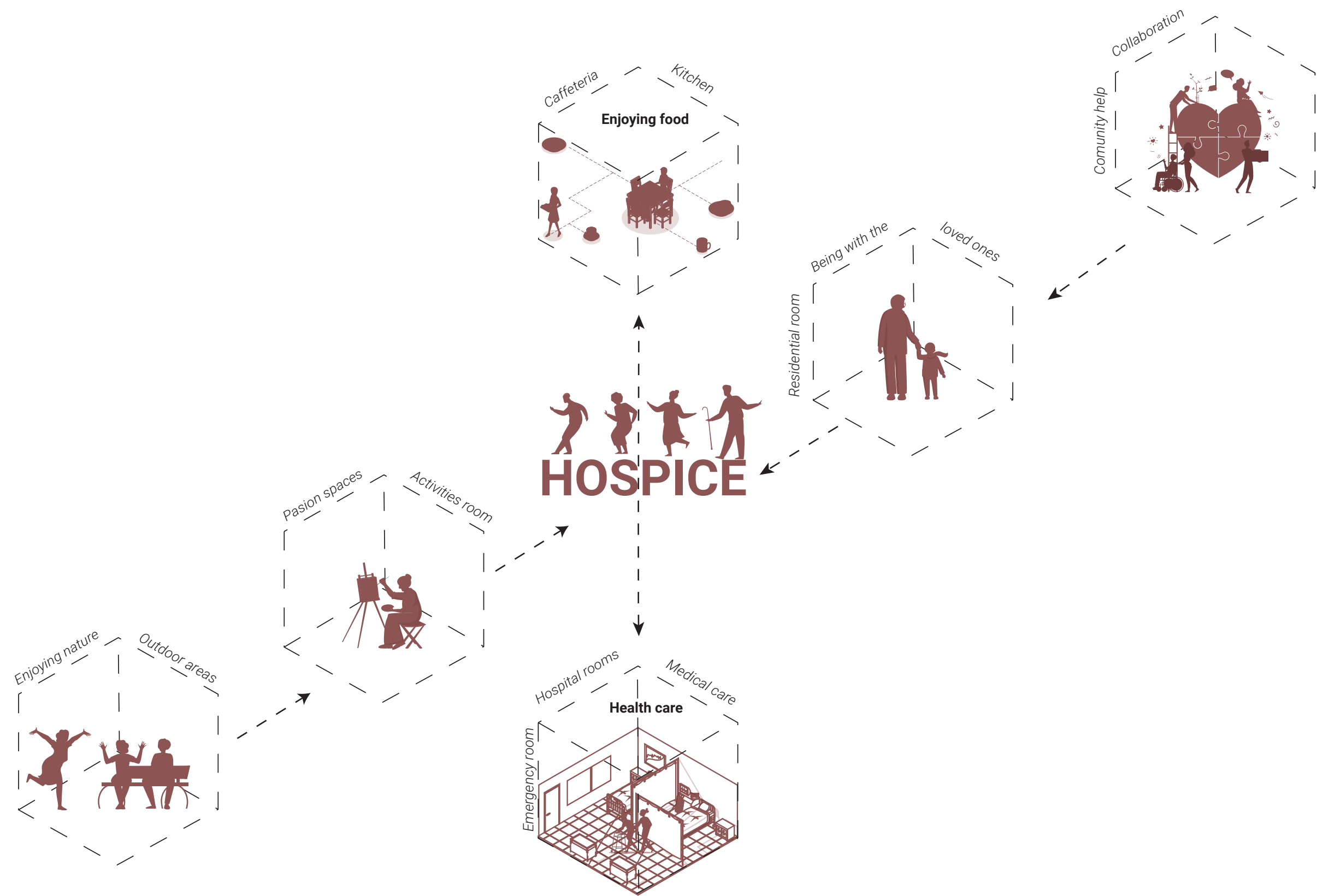
The protagonists bear the greatest importance in my project. They are the crucial, and thus receive attentive and all-encompassing care. In my area there are 3 main users, the locals, the patients and the family members. After interviewing people from the Shkodra city I was scared and skeptical about the idea of a hospice there, how open-minded could people in the countryside be, and how would they react to such a projec. Gladly even though the village is very small and people are usually not used to ideas and projects similar to this one, they were quite welcoming about this situation and how this project could also help around the territory. As a result, they seemed to embrace the idea of a change in their community. On one hand, the locals will profit from activities, job opportunities by the new facilities and also growing and selling the local food that they produce in a faster way. On the other hand, patients will be taking the care that they need, feeling less closed and blocked. They will be able to have all the local food and also the medicinal plants that are found in the highest areas of Albanian alps.

Family members will be able to enjoy meaningful time with their loved ones while using all the facilities and the surrounding area.





3.2 Inside the hospice





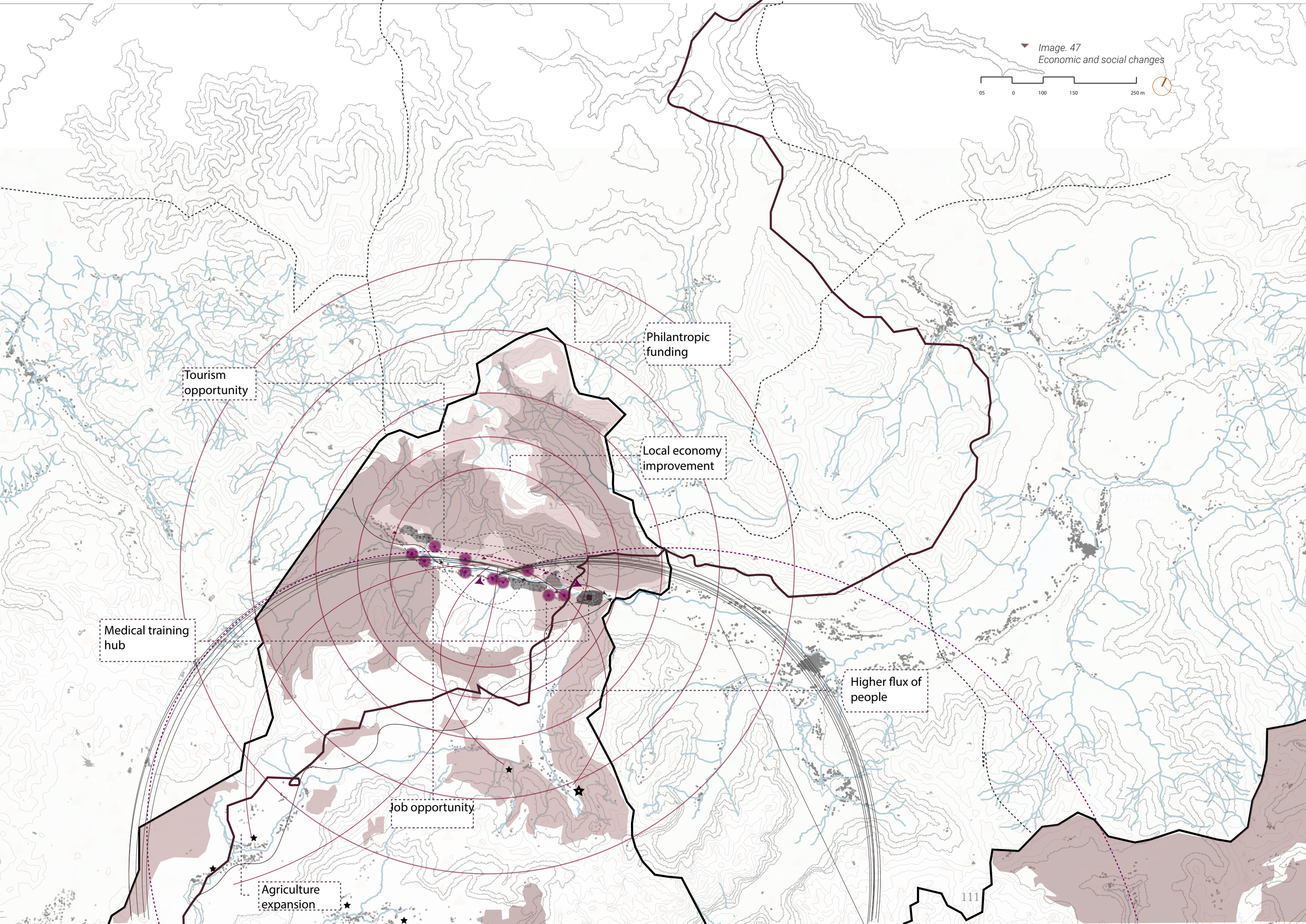
3.3 How my hospice works

The Hospice is divided into three areas. The medical base, residential area and the Wellness hub area. The medical base is the central focus of the project, thought to be constructed on the existing building. I consider it the main focus because it is the beginning of everything: Where people are diagnosed, monitored, and accepted to be part of the hospice. Having the rooms from the existing building already structured gives me continuity and the possibility of separation between the medical part and where the patients will live. The second area is the residential part, where a type of "healing village" is envisioned. Here the modular houses with heights of 4 m and big windows in each of the rooms are placed. The rooms face picturesque views, and you can perceive the idea of freedom and breathing. The wellness hub focuses more on spiritual aspects and mental health. In this area you're not alone, you're not different and you are all the same. If the medical area is a more public zone, the wellness hub is the "fun" public zone. Here, your passions and creativity flourish, giving you the possibility to experience life as you wish, again.





Image. 47  
Economic and social changes





### 3.4 Economic and social changes

The intervention of hospice will bring new opportunities and benefits to the area. The reuse of an abandoned building provides cost savings for the building owner and, with a lower negative impact on the environment, it helps create material and psychological benefits for the community. Firstly, a big facility like a hospice can influence the local economy quickly by supporting local products, which leads to richer agriculture, the creation of new shops, and markets. or nurses can practice or finish their stage/ internship in the hospice; doctors from other cities in Albania and neighboring countries. In all, the project aims to develop and attract philanthropic funding and international help, while simultaneously building a community of volunteers. Consequently, the valley of Vermosh, which for now is presented as a tourist site, can have an increased amount of growth socially and economically.

Secondly, job opportunities can expand, since there is a need for staff who work in the cafeteria, canteen, lobby, reception and many other positions.

In addition, a fast development in infrastructure would be detected due to the necessity for new roads to access the hospice and the surrounding area. Certainly, a better infrastructure would affect also the tourism positively, too. Moreover, there are positive social changes to look at, not only local but national as well.

The hospice could also operate as a medical care center where the locals will have the possibility to have access to emergency services within a suitable structure available to them (as mentioned before, currently there is no hospital near Vermosh). Also, many doctors



40

TOWARDS INFINITY



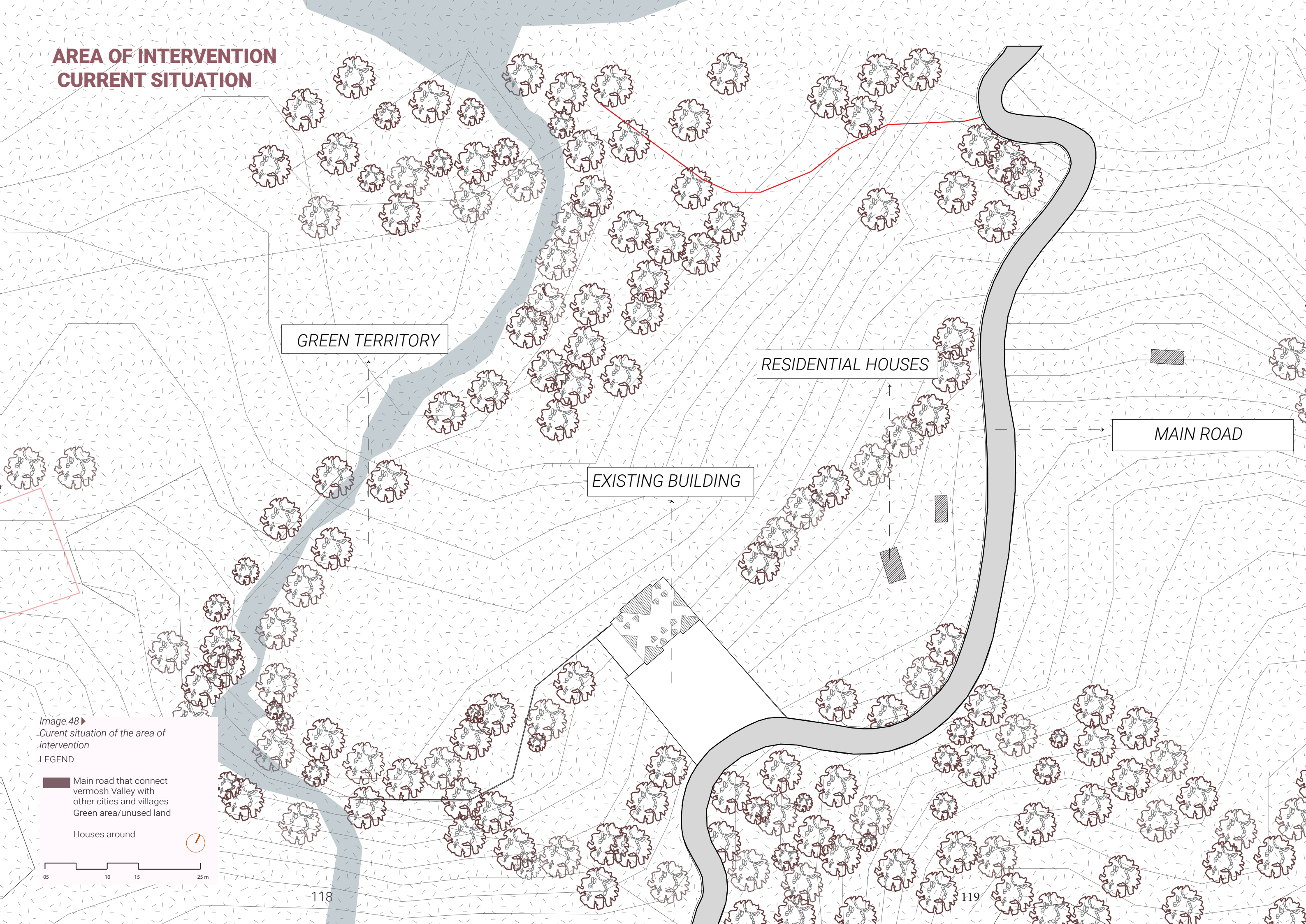
# 01

## AREA OF INTERVENTION

Placed near the River with the same name the area is mainly composed by the abandoned hotel, some houses from a distance which are mostly abandoned too and a whole empty area that is also left abandoned and covered from different wild plants. The land level differs slightly from the level of the main road where also the entrance of hotel is and from the rest of the area behind it. After some km the land starts to level up again creating like this a natural border. Where this natural border begins is thought to end the area that is going to be used. The accessibility of the site is very common where the main road that connects the main cities like Shkodra connects also the Valley of Vermosh.



AREA OF INTERVENTION  
CURRENT SITUATION



GREEN TERRITORY

RESIDENTIAL HOUSES

EXISTING BUILDING

MAIN ROAD

Image.48  
Current situation of the area of intervention

LEGEND

Main road that connect vermosh Valley with other cities and villages  
Green area/unused land

Houses around

05 10 15 25 m



1.1.Territorial section in the existing site area



Image.49  
Territorial section  
Section AA'





# 1.2.The usage of the existing building

The existing building, which was constructed to be a hotel, is planned to be left exactly as it is, but with a different function. The building is in great condition and ready to be finished up and reused. I decided to leave the structure as it was planned to be constructed, since the division of spaces is clear and already constructed, and it is compatible with its new function. Moreover, the existing structure is going to be the first part of my project, which is the medical area. Like every hospice, there is a need for emergency medical care, but also for patients who require medical examinations or follow-up monitoring. The new use of the building will be implemented throughout the building's 5 floors, as follows: The basement and the ground floor are intended for all services and facilities that can be accessed by all, such as the residential area, commercial area and also the medical area for the patients who unfortunately cannot be on their own anymore. Starting from the first floor until the 4th, the existing layout of the building is going to be repurposed to create office spaces. Some rooms will serve as shared offices while others might be used for different equipment or adapted to be used as examination

laboratories. Through the image, it can be better understood how all these rooms are connected. The 5th floor was designed for suites. And I intend to keep these rooms as they are, in a way that there is space for the caregivers if it is needed. These rooms could also serve as emergency rooms, available at any time when there is a need for extra space.

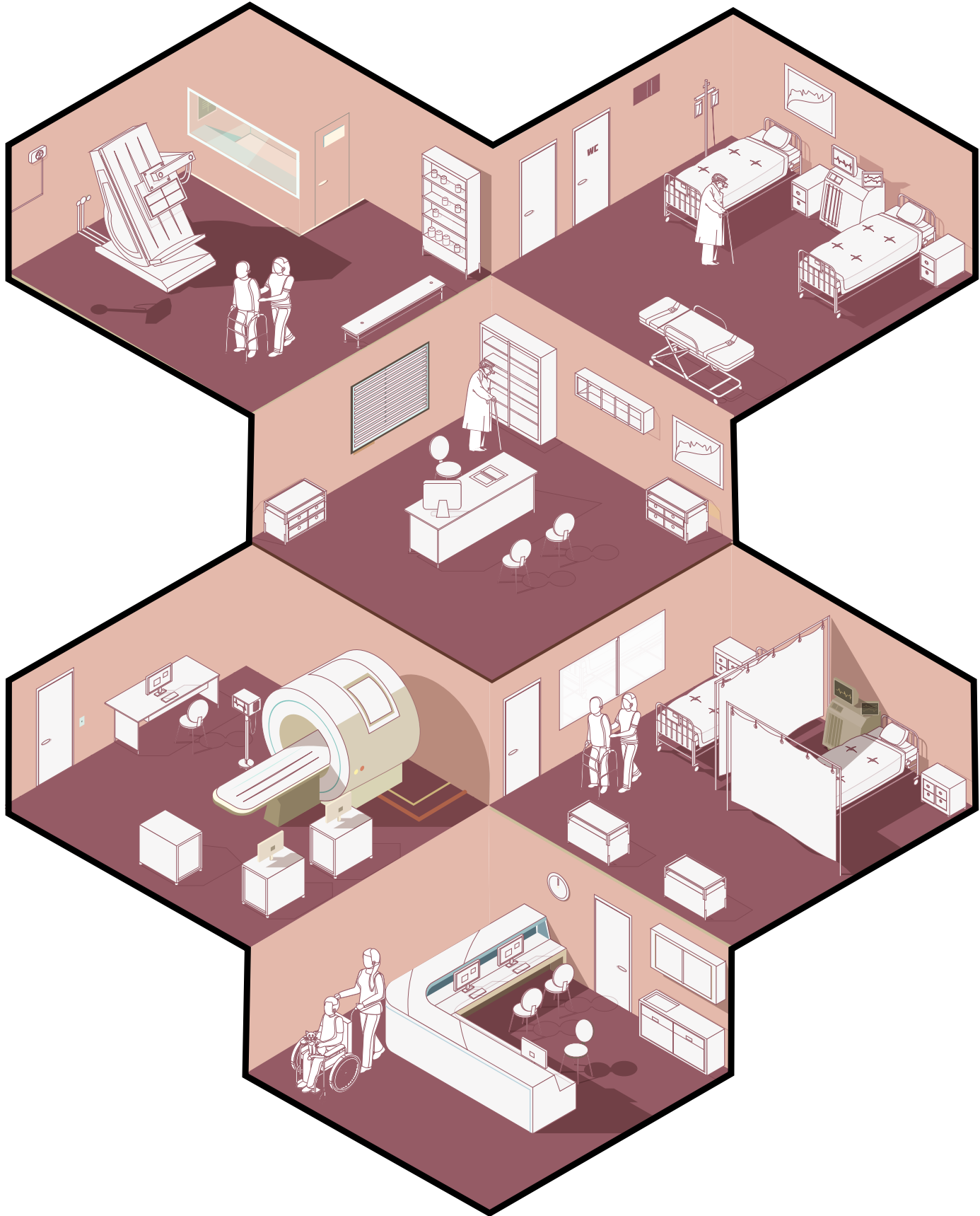
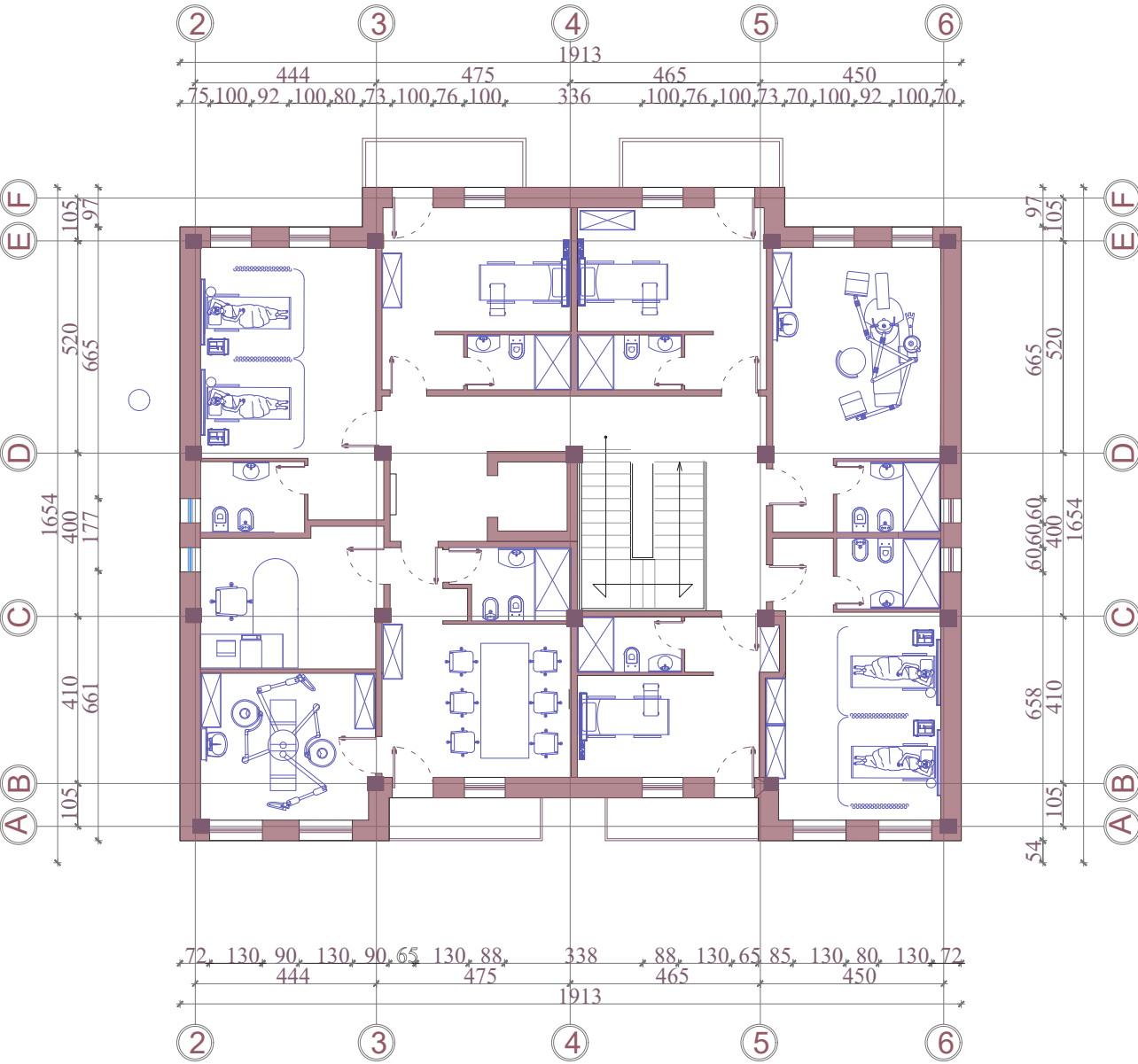


Image.50 ►  
Scheme of distribution of areas  
inside the medical center



Typology of floor plans from 1th to 4th



▲ Image.51  
The typology of rooms in  
the medical center

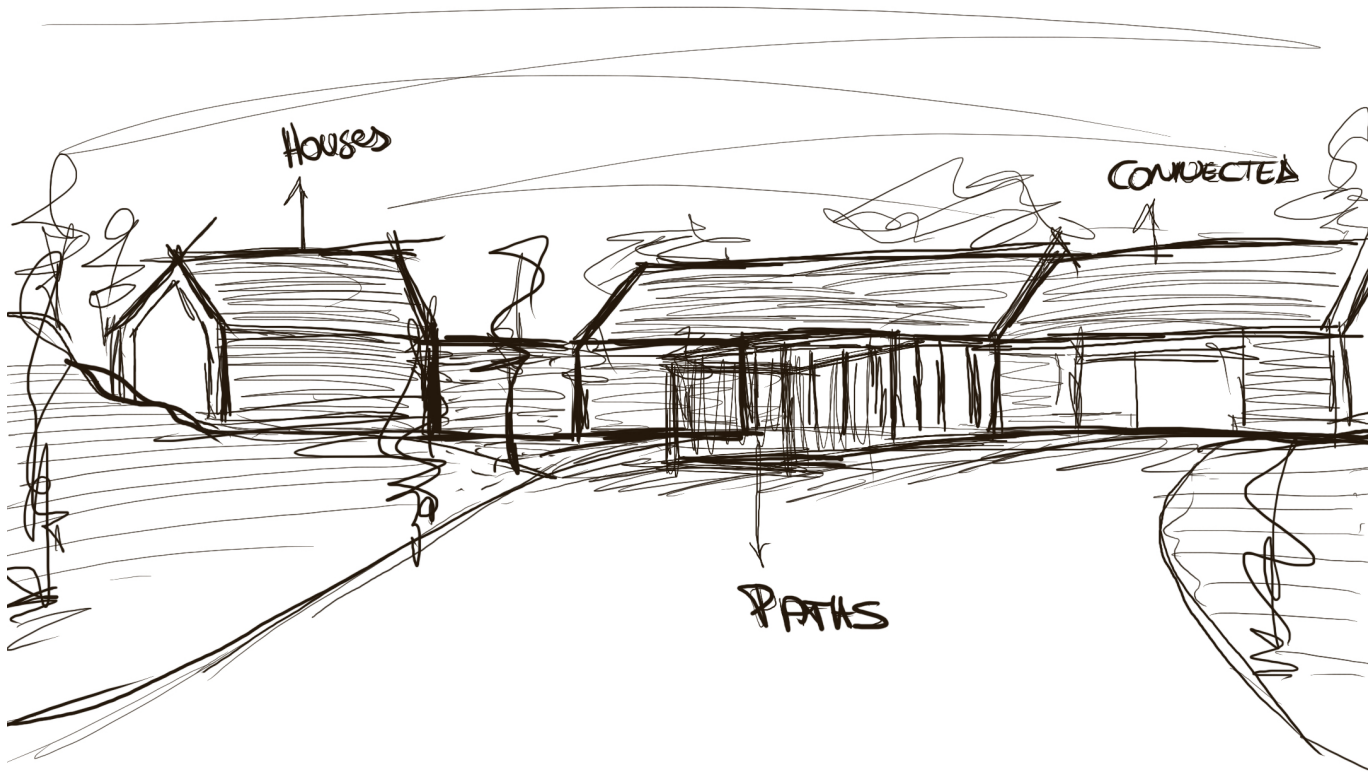




1.3 Concept idea

The initial idea for the master plan was conceived with the desire to enable interconnection, mirroring the concept of hospice itself. Thus, this led to the idea of a modular and repeated structure in the area behind the existing building. Modular houses are flexible structures, in my case made from wood, which can come with prefabricated panels constructed on the site directly. But why these houses? It is their flexibility that makes them perfect for a temporary home for the patients who are going to use it. They are small; however, they reflect very well the idea of living in a community, simultaneously having the privacy that is needed.

Image. 52  
Sketch of the first idea about the project

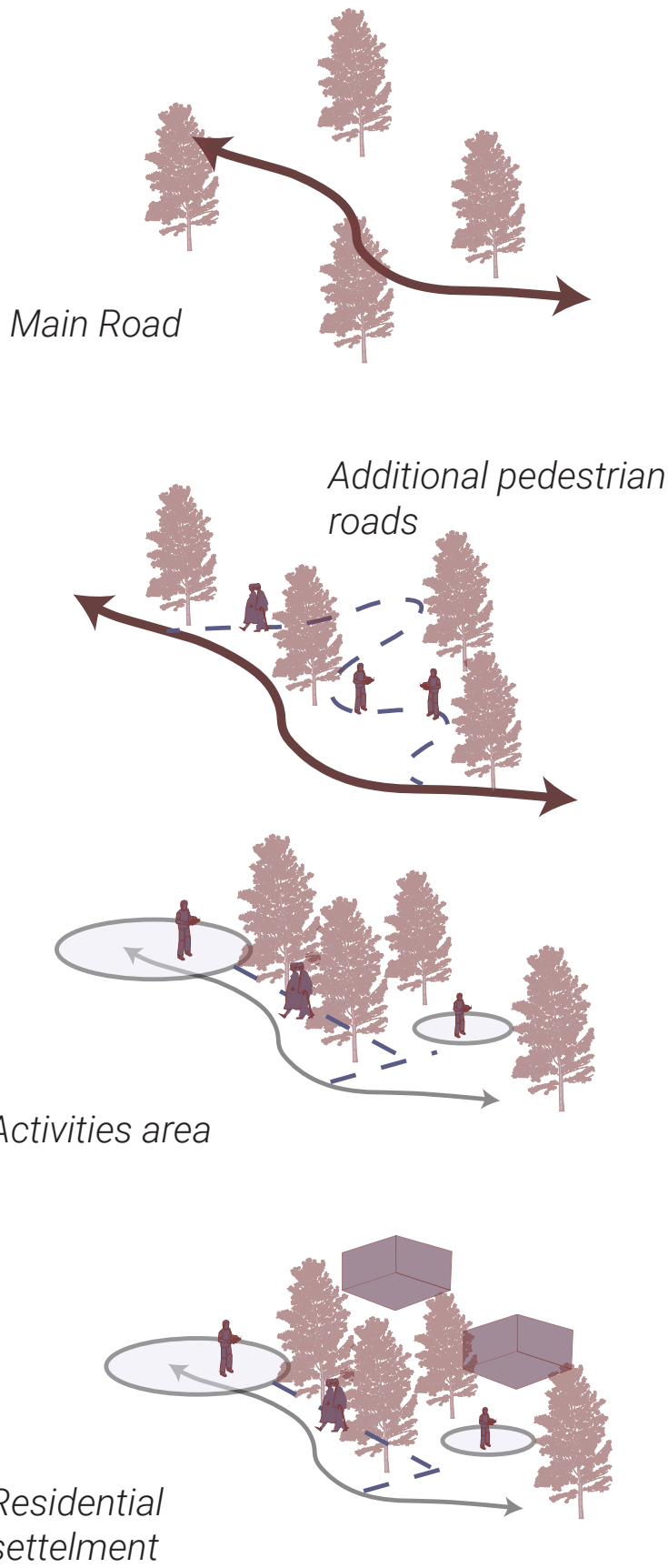


The idea of the master plan originated from the main road explained in the diagrams. The main road brings you to the entrance of our medical structure.

This entrance will also be considered the primary point of access for everyone. Pedestrian roads will be added to connect different areas around. These areas can be special places where different activities can be held.

And at the end, there are all of these modular houses are connected through a semi-closed wood structure that helps to create another path of movement, only near the modular houses. In this way there is a more easy way to access the rest of the facilities

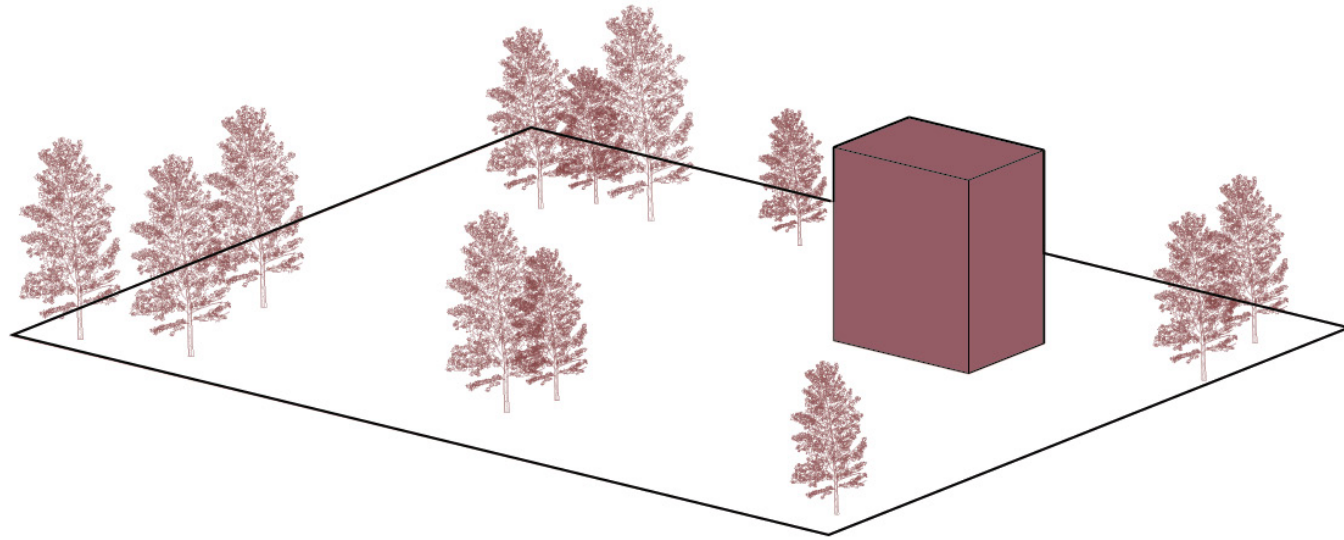
Image. 53  
Concept diagrams





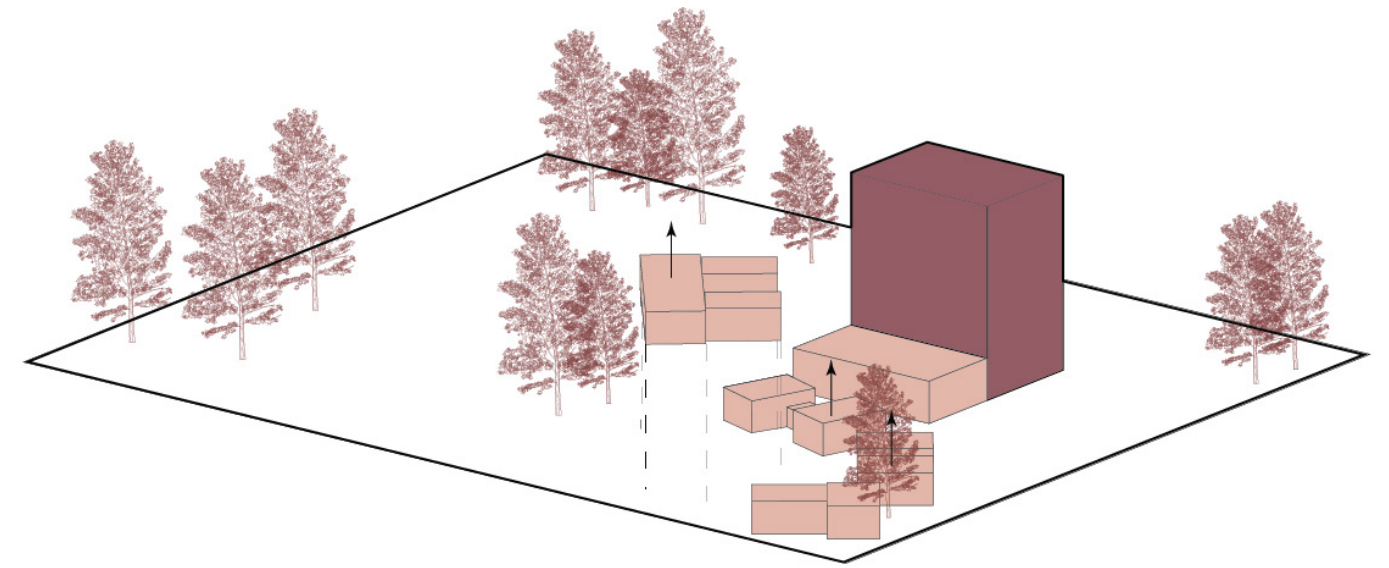
## Concept idea

### Step 1- Existing volume



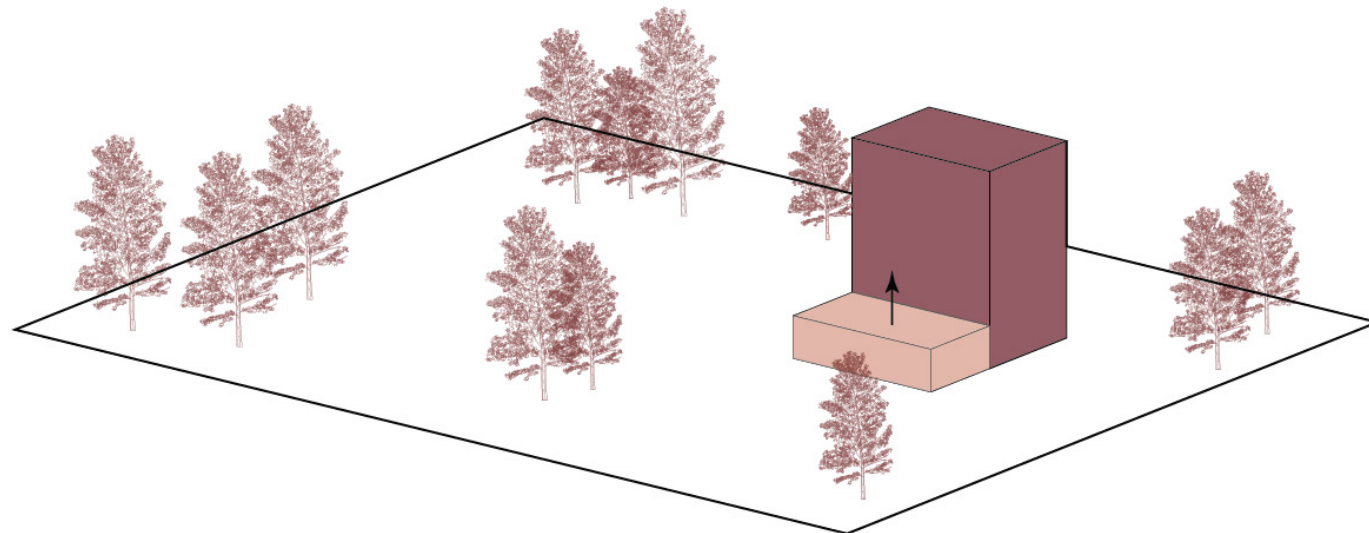
The introduction of the existing site with the only volume standing in the area

### Step 3- Modularity



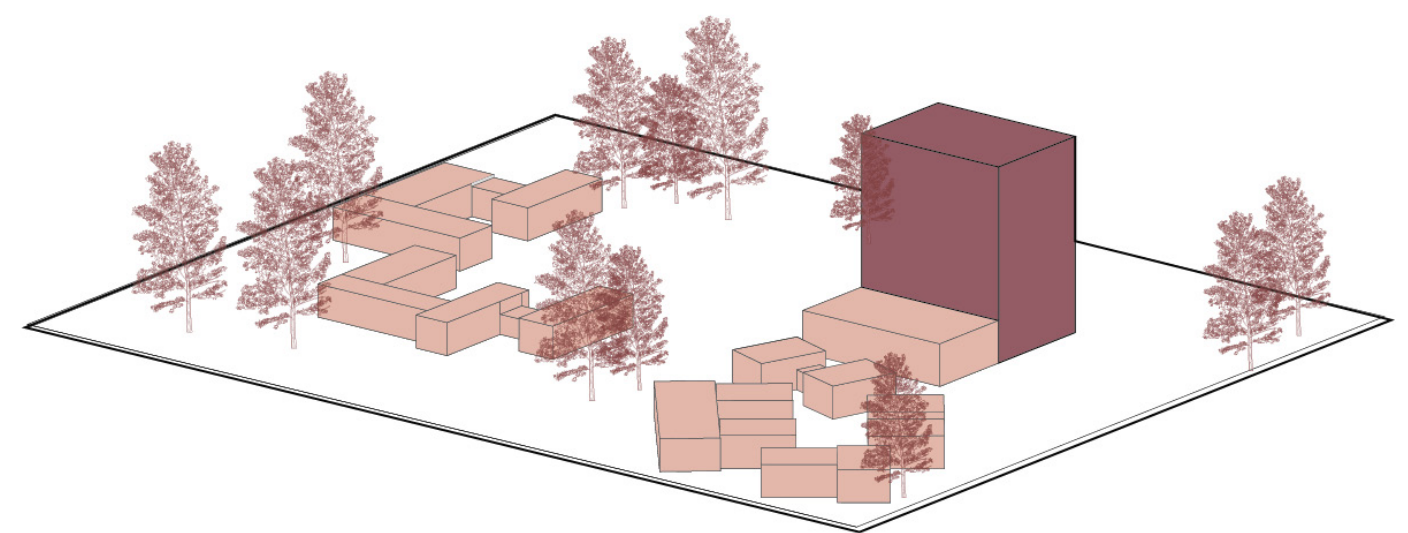
Following the idea of modularity little modules are placed creating a continuity

### Step 2- Adding volume



The existing volume stays as it is but near it I add another volume attaching it to the existing building

### Step 4- Final area



The final area is divided in two parts following always the modularity that becomes the identity of our area



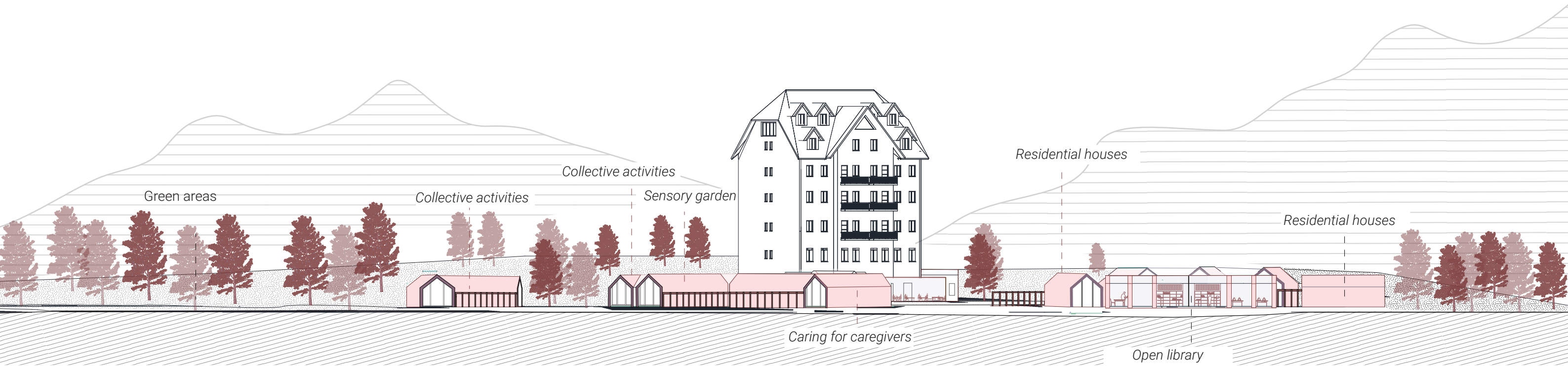




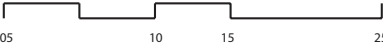




2.1.Territorial section of the project



▲ Image. 55  
Section territoriale AA'





# RESIDENTIAL AREA



RESIDENTIAL AREA



LIBRARY AND MEETING

RESIDENTIAL HOMES

CAFFETERIA

AUTOMOBILE ROAD

MAIN ROAD

B

ACTIVITY AREA

ACTIVITY AREA

WOODEN STRUCTURE

MEDICAL CENTER

B

ECO PARKING

PEDESTRIAN

Imag. 56  
Residential area

LEGEND

- Main road that connect vermosh Valley with other cities and villages
- Green areas
- Pedestrian
- Eco parking areas

0 2.5 5 10 m

3.1. Section residential area

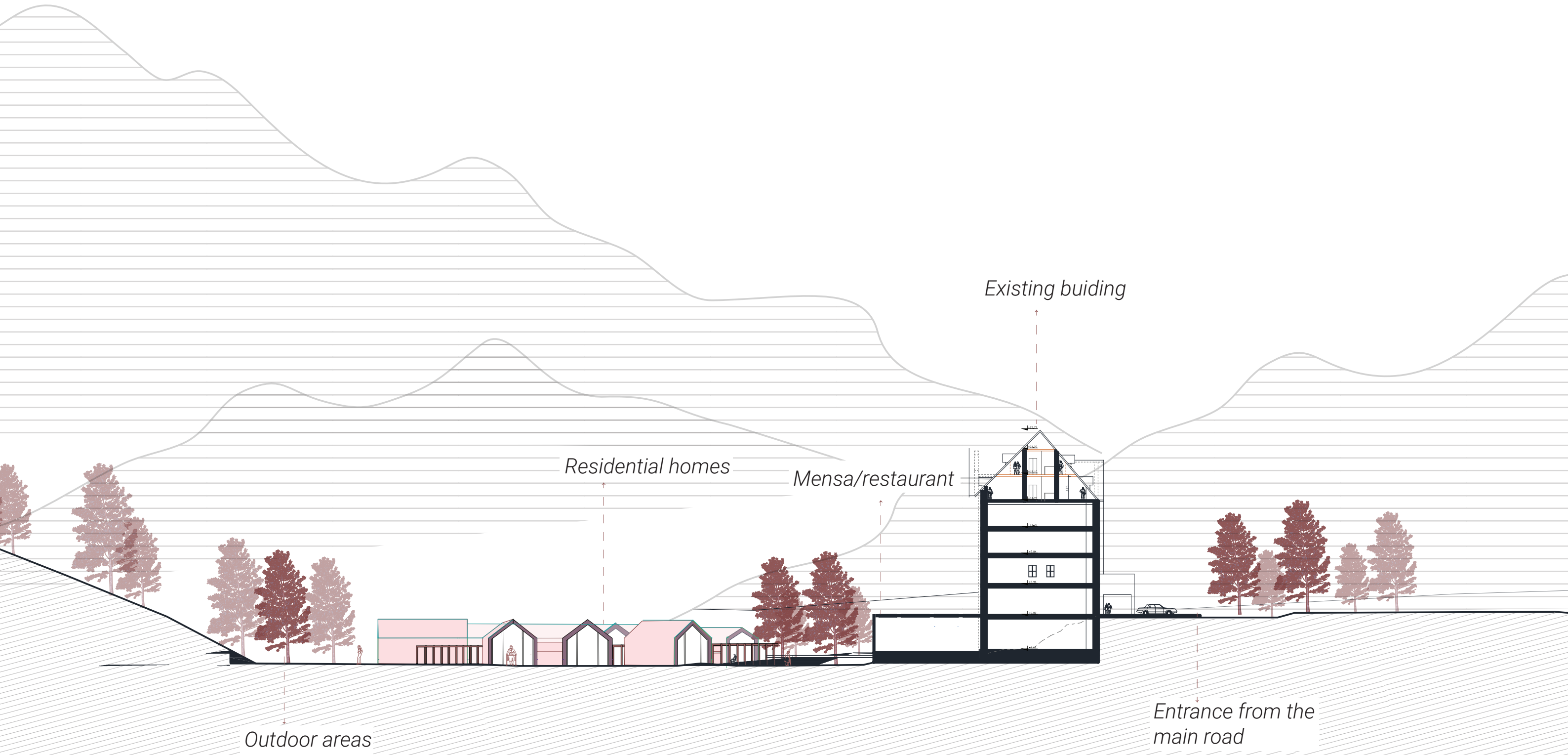


Image 57 ▲  
Sezione BB' Residential area

0 2,5 5 10 m



3.2. Materials

When talking about the materials we will stop in some of the most important ones that will be used in the whole project. Starting from an alternative usage of the common walkaway which is : Recycled rubber walkways are now days becoming more and more popular. They are presented as a very sustainable and eco-friendly products.

By this we understand that they are not only great for aesthetic purposes but also for the environment. "This type of materials are made from recycled tires, they offer a solution that reduces waste and helps create safer and more durable surfaces. Eco-friendly: Built from recycled materials, which becomes help in waste reduction. Durability: Offers long-lasting performance,

much longer than some traditional materials. Safety: Provides a non-slip, comfortable surface that cushions impacts. Low maintenance: Simple upkeep". ( Olson, L. (2025, June 19). Tread lightly: Evaluating the pros and cons of recycled rubber walkways - replay surfacing: Experts in rubber surfacing: Rubber paving. Replay Surfacing: Experts in Rubber Surfacing | Rubber Paving. <https://replaysurfacing.com/the-pros-and-cons-and-recycled-rubber-walkways/>)<sup>1</sup>

Another material used in the project is for the creation of the parking lots. In the project there are two areas where is needed to be placed parking spaces. This parking areas are planned to be created in base of eco/green parking lots which means This type of parking help in the green gas emission. This type of material is being used more and more everyday.

Image 58 ▼  
Recycle rubber  
Source: <https://www.capcon.it/en/new-circular-products-made-of-recycled-rubber-from-elt/>



Image 59 ▼  
Eco friendly parking  
Source: <https://www.gtechna.com/blog/green-parking-lots>

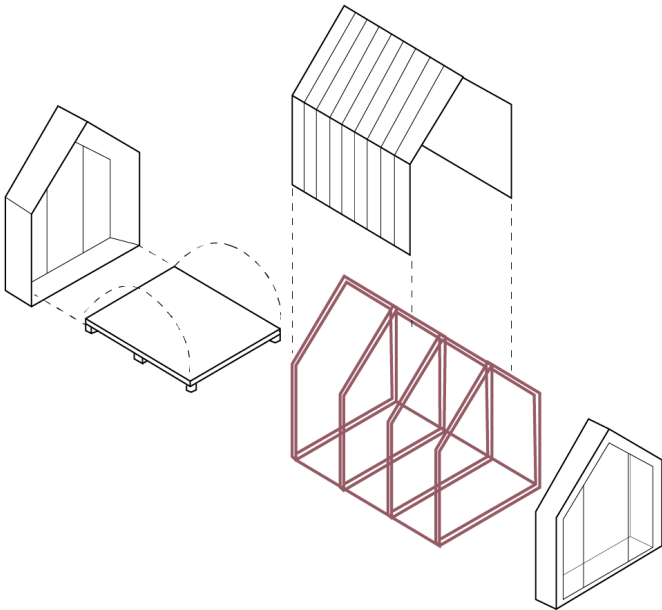


2 What is a green parking lot? everything you need to know. What is a Green Parking Lot? Everything You Need to Know. (n.d.). <https://www.gtechna.com/blog/green-parking-lots>  
1 Olson, L. (2025, June 19). Tread lightly: Evaluating the pros and cons of recycled rubber walkways - replay surfacing: Experts in rubber surfacing: Rubber paving. Replay Surfacing: Experts in Rubber Surfacing | Rubber Paving. <https://replaysurfacing.com/the-pros-and-cons-and-recycled-rubber-walkways/>

On the other hand the modular houses which are the main focus of the project are a timber construction structure. Following the ideas of a lot of agency that produce this modular houses i came in the conclusion of following the modular houses type of "Westatre". My modular houses are designed as prefabricated elements with a continuous structure that is made of wooden beams. Based on the WESTATRE they explain that: this type of modular house have a great thermal and acoustic insulation. This houses are being presented very strong and sturdy taking into consideration also the concrete foundation. The insulation provides great wind and water protection to the building.

Image.60 ►  
WESTATRE houses  
Source: Technology. Polski. (n.d.).  
<https://www.westatire.pl/en/technology/#images-13>

Image.61 ▼  
Scheme of the modular houses









## INSIDE THE WELLNESS HUB

All the rest of the modular houses is separated from the residential area for the fact of giving space to the soul and mind. Here is the moment when the patients need to be free and alive again.

### COLLECTIVE LEARNING/READING



Collective learning provides spaces for patients and also locals to enjoy reading or also learning different topics all together

### SPIRITUAL CLASSES



Spiritual classes open their doors for people who need to connect more closely to themselves again. Understanding how to enjoy in max their life and sometimes to accept the hard truth.

### SENSORY GARDEN



Sensory garden gives the pleasure and happiness to patient learning about gardening but also about the food that they consume and eat

<<(...) A Wellness Hub is a group of people who are passionate about positively impacting their community through whole-person health, meeting people where they are. They promote evidence-based whole-person health for the benefit of the community. They understand the wellness needs of their community and strive to meet their needs.

They serve their community through programs and/or activities that empower people to make better lifestyle choices and experience abundant living across the 7 Dimensions of Wellness..<sup>>>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Jaredmadden. (2021, September 10). Wellness hubs. Health. <https://health.adventistchurch.com/wellness-hubs/>



4.1 Diagram of spaces

This open classes are not just signed spaces with only one specific usage. This areas inculde both the local and the patients. In this way we have integration of this community into sharing similar interests with each other. The schemes below are created to give an idea of how some of this spaces are organized and what they symbolize. There has been taken a module of each area to represent that environment for example the Art classes or the mensa following by the open library that we find in the residential area

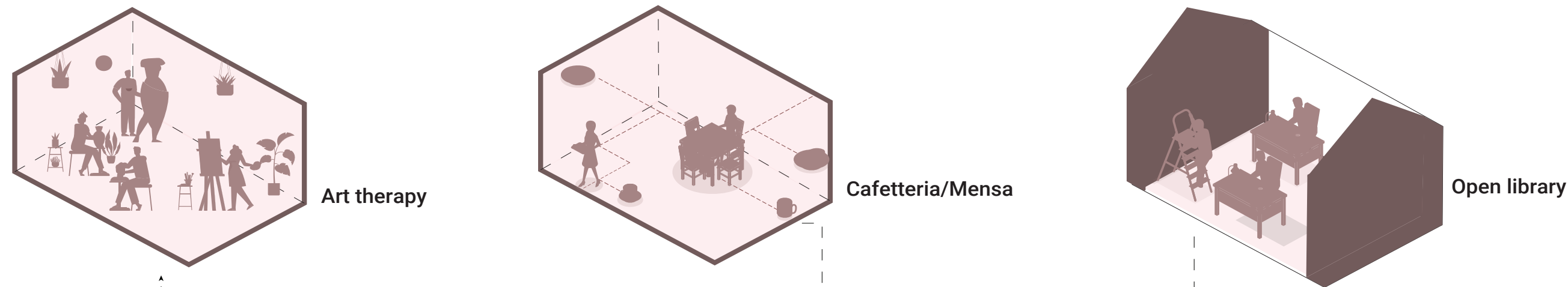
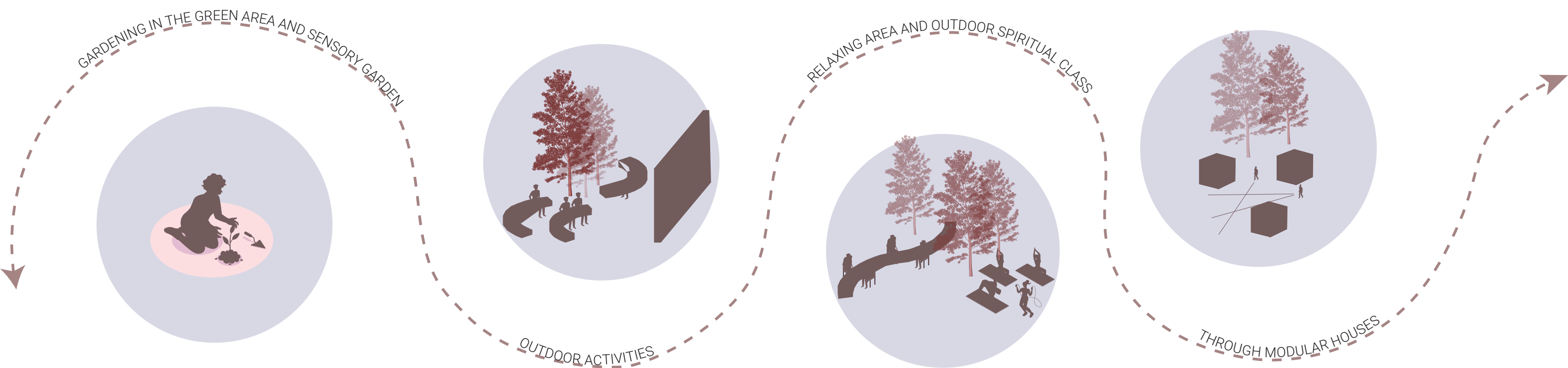


Image. 63 ▲  
Territorial section

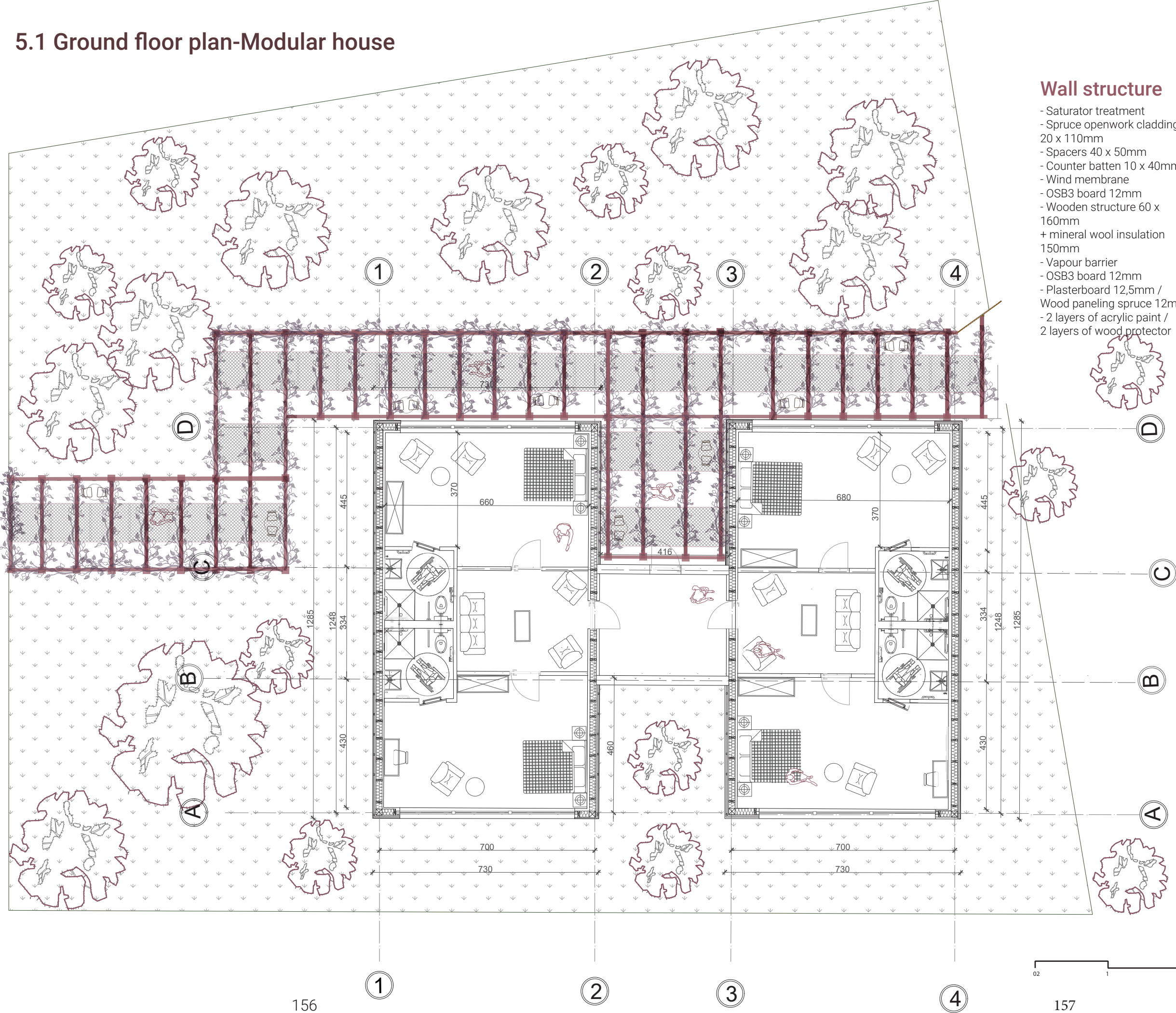








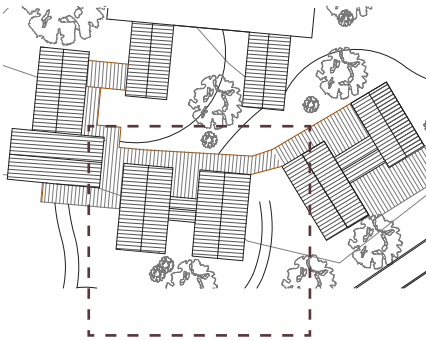
5.1 Ground floor plan-Modular house



Wall structure

- Saturator treatment
- Spruce openwork cladding 20 x 110mm
- Spacers 40 x 50mm
- Counter batten 10 x 40mm
- Wind membrane
- OSB3 board 12mm
- Wooden structure 60 x 160mm
- + mineral wool insulation 150mm
- Vapour barrier
- OSB3 board 12mm
- Plasterboard 12,5mm / Wood paneling spruce 12mm
- 2 layers of acrylic paint / 2 layers of wood protector

Keyplan





## 5.2 Perspective Section-modular house

### Keyplan

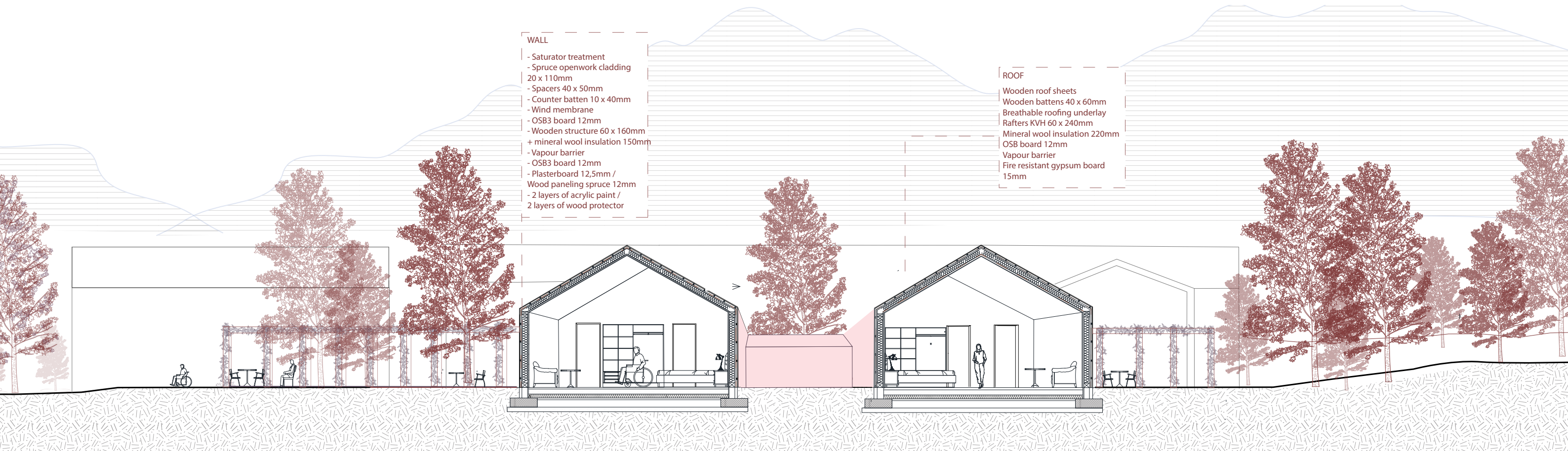
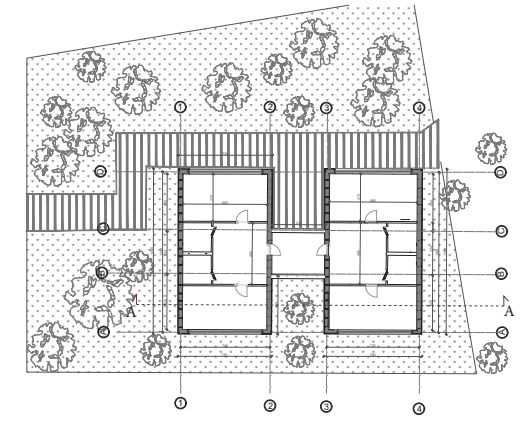
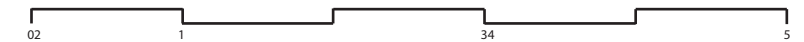


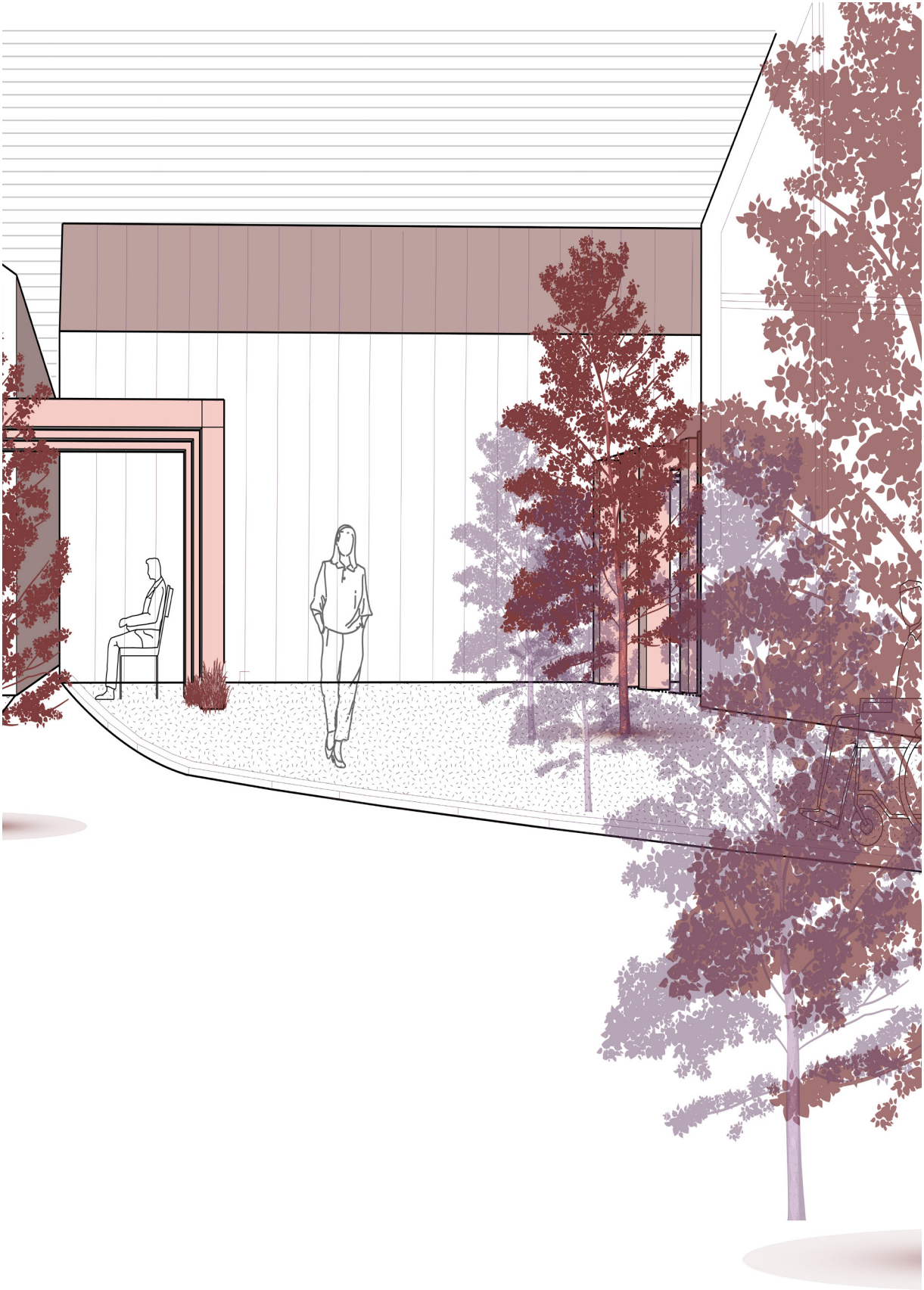
Image.64 ▲  
Sezione AA'  
Perspective section







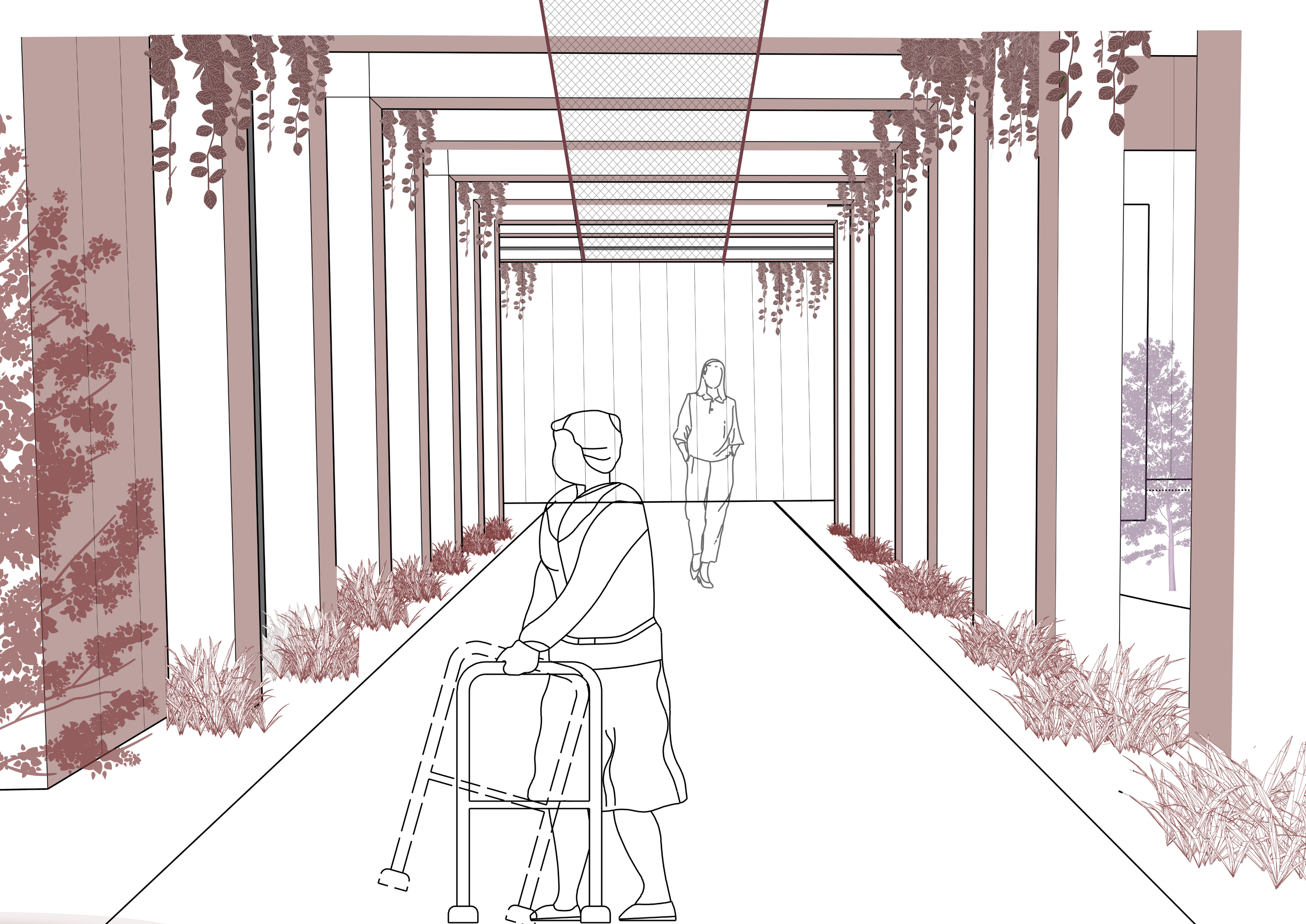
6.1 Views around the site















# CONCLUSION

At the end of the thesis project, it is clear that the in-depth territorial analysis, which has taken up a good part of the development of the thesis project, has been of fundamental importance for the definition of the key points to set the territorial strategy. Thanks to this analytical approach, the complex territorial strategy has seen its completion in an architectural project that has tried to be consistent with it and responsive to the needs of the territory and its community.

From an architectural point of view, the idea of maintaining the pre-existing structure and intervening on it, aiming at its maximum recovery, strives to be a virtuous operation of reuse and regeneration of the building that has already been part of the territory.

Following the conclusion of this thesis project Vermosh Valley is being represented as an area with possibilities to grow. Creating a Hospice is like providing a second chance, an alternative to the whole territory, and not only to the people in need of it. This new opportunity and possibility for the territory comes with such great social and economical impact that the project brings to the area.

This thesis project aims to develop and grow together with the whole area of Vermosh. As i have mentioned the thesis goes beyond just reusing, rebuilding the site and the unfinished hotel; it incorporates an important project as well. That's why, through the hospice, I aim to give a second alternative to people through places and to places through people.





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