



**Politecnico
di Torino**

Honors Thesis

Master's degree Science in Architecture Construction City

Abstract

**Georgian Darbazi:
Inspecting the fibers of the
past, present & future**

Tutor/Correlators

***Tanja Marzi
Edoardo Piccoli
Cesare Tocci***

Candidate

***Gvantsa Tskipurishvili
S300320***

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One of the main foci of this thesis is to investigate the development of the accumulated knowledge about timber use in Georgian secular architecture, more specifically in the Meskheti historical region, where the cases of interest are located - “*Darbazi*” dwellings hut-like structures with corbelled roofing and halfway underground. We shall browse through these specific dwellings, briefly introducing their historical and technical background, and more importantly stress

Survey materials

photos of surveyed dwellings in Samtskhe-Javakheti region, South Georgia

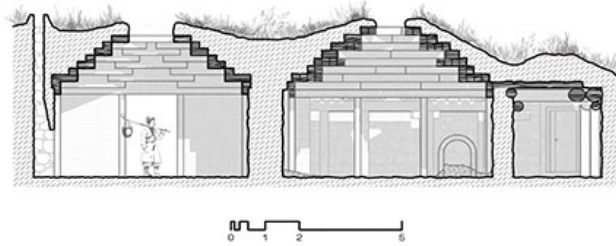


their state of art accompanied by the visual data collected from the preliminary in-situ inspections in several villages of Southwestern Georgia.

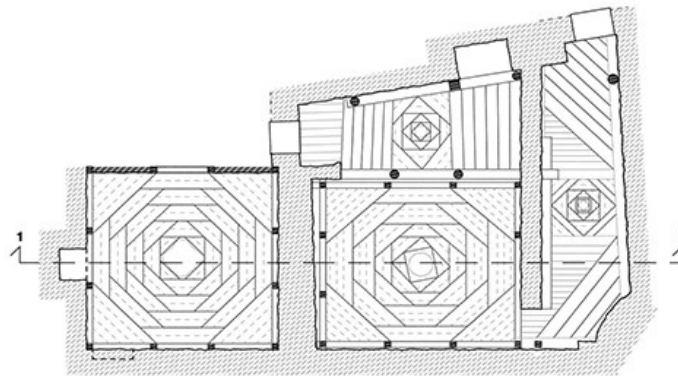
First and foremost, we shall summarise an essential bibliography about the vernacular folk architecture of Georgia, discussing more deeply the architectural endeavours from the Southwestern part, whilst observing the cultural, political and environmental form-giving processes behind the technological veils.

Melikidze dwelling

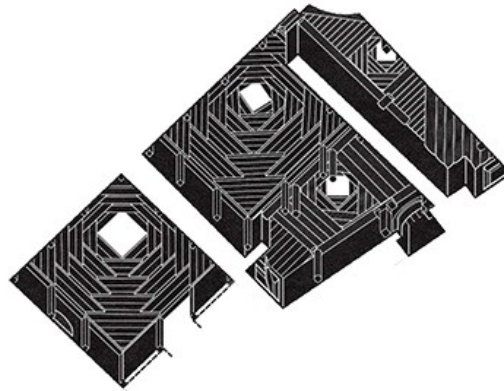
Location: Balanta, Georgia
Construction date: end of XVIII century - mid-XIX century



Section



Reflected ceiling plan



Axonometric scheme

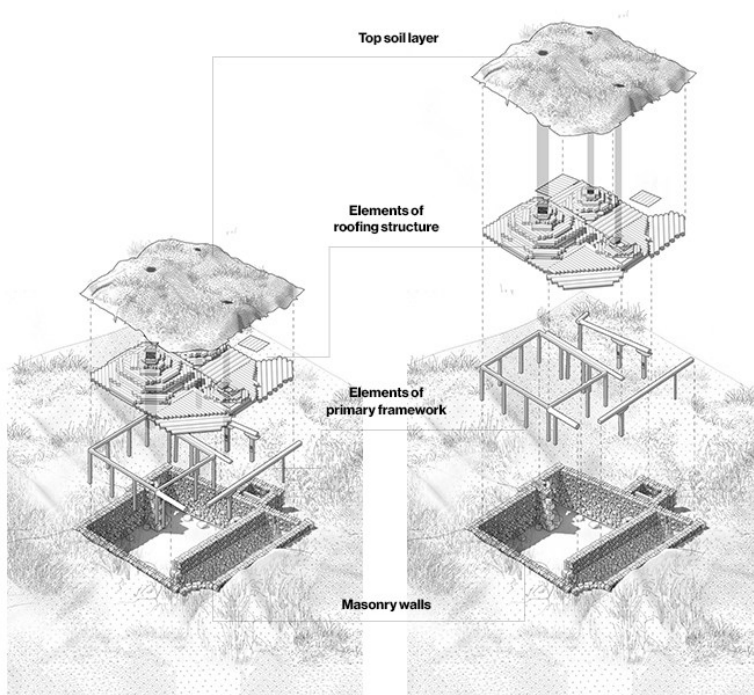


The first chapter explores the *past* knowledge about “*Darbazi*” dwellings through the main scopes of technology, building materials, geometry and history, starting from the first evolutionary processes in the Antic period fill the latest formations of the XX century, with complementary parallels to some similar structures in various regions of the globe. The acquired materials allow us to have a visual and analytical tour of these primitively sophisticated structures.

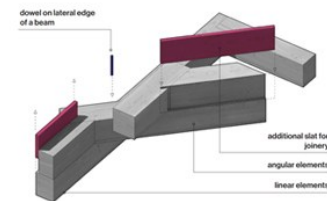
In the second chapter, we shall overview the international and national methodologies of evaluation of the existing timber structures, alongside the brief discourse of information and knowledge state in collective national data. The primary aim is to shed light on the *present* conditions and poor conservation state of some aforementioned structures, collected from the preliminary visual survey, carried out mostly in the remote villages of Georgia. This one-scope inspection is an attempt to underline the importance of technological analysis of wooden heritage in the country.

The third chapter introduces several available tools and standards for *future* preservation/restoration of historic timber buildings in international practice and consequently shows the application of these methodologies to the selected case studies. Hereby we also attempt to explore the existing resources of wood material and its treatment methods, but more importantly - the potential involvement of local public and/or private actors in fostering these valuable structures.

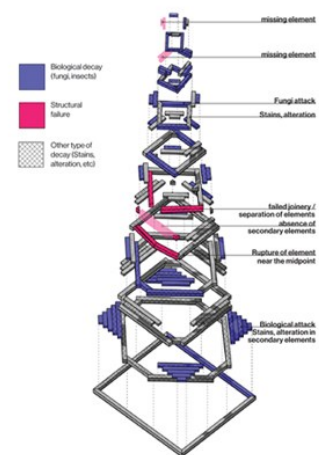
Isometric scheme
displaying the main components of structural system



Isometric scheme
ceiling construction detail



Isometric scheme
Decay Analysis



For info:
(gvantsa.arch@gmail.com)