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**ANALISIS OF THE POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL TOURISM
THROUGH THE PRISM OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN
IN THE REGION OF MALESIA**

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ABSTRACT

The motive for such a study was valorization and categorization of architectural heritage in some rural areas in North Macedonia that are located close to larger urban areas, and the possibility of sustainable spatial development, as well as the promotion of rural areas through action in areas such as architecture, urbanism, planning, environment protection, development of the civil sector and development of rural tourism.

For this purpose, we analyzed several rural areas in Malesia region. We selected this locations because it is located close to larger towns such as Struga and Ohrid, and on account of the possibilities for development of rural tourism.

Key words: rural tourism, rural architecture

1. INTRODUCTION

The mountainous area of Malesia, located in the south-western part of N. Macedonia, belongs to the Struga region. It is an area whose villages are mostly of a scattered type or combination, in which Macedonian architecture, typical for this region, is preserved. Due to influences from the outside world, as most of the inhabitants in this area were migrant workers, but also due to the historical events, the villages in Malesia were often burnt to the ground and rebuilt. Today the villages of Malesia are almost deserted due to the factor of village-to-town migration that began in the aftermath of World War II. Yet, in summer many previously permanent residents return and enjoy the nature and their former homes. The countryside is surrounded by beautiful forests and extremely rich flora and fauna.

The Malesia area is a mountainous region in south-west Macedonia near the tourist cities of Struga and Ohrid, that extends in the north to Stogovo Mountain to Debarca Zupa, in the east to Karaorman Mountain, where it borders the Debarca area, in the west to the Crni Drim river, and in the south to Struga Field. The narrower area covers the villages of Arjanovo (Rzanovo), Selci, Zakamen, Lokov, Burinec, Prisovjani and Zbazdi.

The village of Zbazdi is located on the west, southwest side of Mount Karaorman, at an altitude of 1060 m, surrounded by thick oak and beech forests, to the south by the village of Prisovjani which is the most remote village in the area. To the west Zbazdi borders the villages of Lokov and Globochica, to the north the village of Rzhanovo and to the east its area extends through Karaorman to the village of Pesocan. The village church in Zbazdi, St. Mother of God, is one of the oldest churches in Malesia and is believed to date from the beginning of the 17th century. In written records the village was mentioned for the first time at the beginning of the XIX century under the name Zobozdi ”

The houses are made of stone with a chardak (a loggia) and a teliz (a narrow balcony). On the lower floor is the storage space called "kelar", and on the upper floor there is a room called "house" and sleeping rooms. They were mostly built from the so-called "black stone", which abounds near the village area. Like other villages in Malesia, most villagers were migrant workers who used to work as confectioners in the past. Craftsmanship, as well as search for a better life, are some of the reasons why this region is almost uninhabited today.

Village Lokov, formerly known as Lokve, is located in the western part of the area, at 1340 m above sea level and overlooks the villages of Zbazdi and Rzanovo. Although its location is the highest, it is located on a plain ground. The houses were built of stone. There has been a school in the village since 19th century, and there are three churches and two monasteries. This village is divided into several neighborhoods: Upper Neighborhood, Lower Neighborhood, Na Rid, U Belchevci and the structures are scattered. People cultivated various cereals, potatoes, fodder, and livestock was kept, as the area abandons in numerous pastures throughout Malesia.

Locals were mostly known as builders, especially famous for stonework. There is evidence that many buildings in Struga were made of stone by Lokovski masters. "

The water supply system in Lokov was built in 1928. Often throughout history Lokov was burnt to the ground, but its inhabitants always rebuilt it. During World War II the village of Lokov was burnt down almost completely, and today there are mostly new buildings in it.

Arjanovo or Rzanovo is a compact village situated on a slightly rounded slope, in the north of Malesia, at an altitude of 1260 m. Located in the north, the villages of Rzanovo and Zbazdi are separated by the Bigla Mountain Pass, bordered by the village of Lokov in the west, and Karaorman Mountain in the north and the east. In its surroundings there are limestone rocks and poor vegetation. The road leading to Rzanovo is in poor condition, and it was built by the residents themselves in 1975.

The villages of Selci and Burinec are built opposite each other, at 1050 m altitude; they are 2 km from each other by air route and are divided by the Slileska River. The village of Burinec, the smallest village in Struga Malesia, was often considered in the past to be a continuation of the village of Selci, and it is located at an altitude of 1050 m. Both villages are surrounded by dense oak, beech and chestnut forest, which abandons in wildlife. The village of Burinec is divided into two neighborhoods, with a family division, as is the case in Selci, but also in all other villages in the region.

2. SPATIAL AND FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS OF THE HOUSES IN MALESIA

The potential of the natural beauty in this region is undeniable, but the real specific valuable feature of Malesia is the traditional village house, which in its untouched and unchanged form is a monument of perfection achieved by the builder adapting it to the everyday needs of the individual, using local materials. The traditional village house in Malesija is primarily functional and adapted to the existing field conditions. With its preserved form and architectural - ethnological features, the Manor House is a valuable example, an epitome of the Macedonian traditional built structures, and it undoubtedly needs to be qualified and preserved as an important cultural - historical heritage. The villages of Lokov, Selci, Burinec, Rzanovo, Zbazdi and Prisovjani are representatives of the narrower region of Malesia, whose houses, because of their indigenous architectural appearance, are in the focus of this paper. The primary emphasis is on the ground floors of the living spaces and their decoration, but also on the whole house and its value from the perspective of the possibility of developing rural tourism as an option for their preservation, and not to be forgotten during the time.

The construction system, as a combination of massive and skeleton, is of particular importance and has played an important role in the process of standardization, as it is itself an instrument for formation of the architectural space.

The ground floor facilities in the buildings are usually economical, with a kernel and a cell, while the living rooms are on the top floor: the house and the bedrooms. In the original structures there are often no sanitary facilities (the toilet is outside), while later on, parts of the space were adapted for that purpose.

The porch, the teliz and the chardak are three characteristic elements that define the main facade of the buildings.

The porch in front of the house is an airy space under the shade, it is an extremely spatially-plastic element."

The porch is a passage room, i.e. its function is primarily to allow communication between the ground floor and the top floor of the house through stairs that continue from the porch leading to the teliz or the chardak. As space that is usually located on the ground floor, the porch is in the immediate vicinity of the house, joining all the other areas in the house. This space can be of indoor or outdoor type. As far as form is concerned, the porch is predominantly rectangular or square, very rarely of irregular shape. The porch on the ground floor of the houses is located on the side where the entrance is located.

Very often the porch facilities also have verandas, or balconies on the top floors. We could say that the function of the porch and the loggia was primarily to enable communication at all levels of the house. The beginnings of the construction of the ramparts and porch originated from the porch connected to the staircases of the entrance, gradually developing alongside the enlargement and complexity of the house. The teliz was mounted on the ceiling beams that were spread out about one meter from the building and were always connected to the roof structure. The spatial closure of the surface of the body is accomplished by placing vertical planks - parties, all over the height of the floor, holding out the beams that separate the upper part of the house from the coral, which also fulfills the function of ventilation, and enriches the facade decoration. . The width of the stele was usually one meter and often extended around the house to the toilet. The toilet was mostly built at the back of the building or as a continuation of the teliz, and sometimes as a separate building in the courtyard of the house itself. In some houses the middle room that functions as a porch, has no front wall, thus being connected to the teliz and increasing the area of the room itself and its functionality. The floor of the chardak is either of planks, or of short planks nailed to one another, and there is clay filling attached to them. The chardak is enclosed at a height of one meter, or more with wooden boards - pieces.

The chatdak, which can be defined as a retrofitted double veranda on most of the front wall, mostly appears in front of the building entrance in an orthogonal form connected to the pillar wall, through the attic beams on the ground floor and the first floor and covered with a roof. Depending on the needs and desires of the hosts, it could be open or closed, or partitioned with boards. Functionally defined and defined as a space, the chardak appears on the upper floor of the house.

The width of the chardak was not very large, but sufficient to accommodate a loom, a bed or bedding, a barn, etc. The main housing unit is the "house", a space where most of the day was spent cooking, eating, sometimes sleeping, lying at the same time. In it is the fireplace where all activities took place. The rooms are bedrooms, they are beautifully decorated, but they were also used as guest rooms.

3. TYPOLOGICAL ANALYSES

The typological diversity of architectural forms depends on the layout of the objects, their horizontal and vertical development at the base of the structure of the object. The changes in social conditions, but also in the economic and social situation of the families, is proportionally related to the development of the house. In this respect, we distinguish two types of development of the village house: horizontal and vertical development, i.e. the addition of new units in it, which inevitably evolved, and thus the culture of living grew. The basic elements of the skeletal structure are:

1. Continuous beam, 2. Freehold (pillar), 3. Sloping beam (beam).

This means that the skeletal system consists of horizontal and vertical structural elements, which are elastically attached to the sloping element, in a stable unit whose basic form is a triangle, or without the sloping element, in a rectangle or square. To make a typological analysis of the houses we will refer to their horizontal and vertical development as starting points. In terms of vertical development, attention will be paid to the floor of the house, in other words, the vertical direction. The horizontal development refers to the increase in the number of rooms on the living room top floor - popularly called "mattress", but also on the ground floor. The appearance of the porch and the chardak, which give a distinctive feature to the maelstrom house, is a typical typological feature of the exterior appearance of the buildings.

3.1 TYPOLOGICAL ANALYSIS ACCORDING TO THE VERTICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE HOUSE

In the typological analysis of houses, the basic rule applies to the flooring of the house, as well as to its structure in relation to the materials used, in this case stone and wood, as well as to the methodology for building the walls and their placing, in other words, the vertical direction. In terms of vertical development, in this analysis we will consider precisely the floors. Malesia houses were dominated by ground floor and one top floor houses, as well as two-floor houses, and rarely multi-storey ones, with different variations, the lower part being for cattle and food storage and the upper floors for living.

It should be noted that more multi-storey houses were built near steep slopes, and then the first floor was treated as winter floor, and the last one as a summer floor, serving also as a reception room. The rooms were always built on the top floor mounted on the ceiling beams that were extended within a meter of the building and were always connected to the roof structure.

We should also mention the chardak, which forms part of the general contents of the house, connecting the other rooms. Accordingly, the vertical development of the buildings in Malesia can be classified into the following groups:

- Houses with ground floor and barn, undermined at the base,
- Houses with ground floor and a top floor, and
- Multi-storey houses;

3.2 TYPOLOGICAL ANALYSIS ACCORDING TO THE HORIZONTAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE HOUSE

Horizontal habitats development preserves their expansion based on socio-economic needs and historical developments. As the needs of the owners increased, the number of rooms in the house increased. In this respect, this analysis considers spatial resolution of the house, which enables it to determine its typological profile.

For example, an increase in the number of separate rooms, that is, in addition to the main room "house", which is located on the top floor and represents a winter apartment where the fireplace is located, also the room - a room for sleeping or receiving guests.

The number of rooms on the floor depended on the size of the family. In terms of the number of additional rooms beside the main "house" room, there are two types of buildings:

- With one room
- With more rooms

In the lower part of the house beside the storage space, the "kelar", there is often another small room – "odajche", which is used for disposing of objects, but was once used for temporary accommodation of the bridegroom and the bride. In terms of organization on the ground floor there are:

- Houses with only economic premises on the ground floor, and
- Houses with economic and commercial premises on the ground floor;

As part of the horizontal development of the buildings in this area we can notice the fraternity houses, although the independent houses are dominant, so we do the following typification:

- Individual house and
- Fraternal house;

3.3 TYPOLOGICAL ANALYSIS BY THE TYPE AND ARRANGEMENT OF THE LOGGIA AND THE TERRACE

The typical appearance of the exterior of the buildings is the appearance of the porch, balconies, s and chardaks. The Malesija houses, those of the wealthier inhabitants, on one side, usually the ones in the south (in winter to heat the house in the sun), had a chardak. In this region it is typical to use a narrow form of chardak or teliz that was placed on one or two sides of the house, usually longer, and less frequently around all four walls. The beginnings of building the

chardak and teliz arose from the porch connected to the steps of the entrance, gradually developing alongside the development and complexity of the house.

Depending on the layout and type of the chardak, we can classify the houses in Malesia.

Centrally placed chardak is most commonly used, which maintains the ideal symmetry of the object, both in terms of spatial conception and layout of facade elements.

According to the layout of the chardak we can divide the houses into:

- Houses with a central chardak,
- Houses with a corner chardak and
- Houses with a frontal chardak

Depending on whether the loggia is partitioned or not, we distinguish:

- Houses with an open chardak and
- Closed chardak houses

While based on the layout of the chardak, with respect to the spatial volume of the base, we distinguish:

- A house with an airy ejected chardak and
- A house with a chardak that follows the line of the building's basic size;

Houses that have a loggia are still called open houses, while those without a loggia are called closed houses.

For houses with teliz, depending on whether the teliz is only on one side of the facade or extends to several sides relative to the base, there are the following types of houses:

- Houses with a single sided teliz
- Houses with a multiple sided teliz;

4. FIELD LAYOUT OF THE OBJECTS

Depending on the layout of the terrain, structures can be undermined almost to the first floor, or freely elevated in space. During their construction, the front - entrance side was always at the sunniest direction. The construction was done by erecting one side, that is, a wall in the ground, which was a must due to the terrain itself and the place where it was built, by a hill or a slope, and that side was the back, usually the northern side. So, the entrance to the ground floor was placed on the front wall. As first type in this typological division, we will mention the house whose basic form is a square with many variations. The construction was carried out by erecting one side, namely a wall in the ground, which allowed the choice of the site where it was built, by a hill or slope, and that side being the back, usually the northern side. Therefore the entrance to the ground floor had to be placed on the front wall. The ground floor was constructed of thick stone supporting walls 60cm to 1m wide and served as a support for construction of the upper walls. The upper walls were 20cm thinner than the lower walls. During construction of the floor, almost always in the southern side of the building, the walls were laid, and the northern part was built on foundations excavated in the slope. The upper floor entrance was on either side or at the rear of the building.

The second type of houses are those that are built on a rectangular basis and their characteristic is that they are not always built by digging up to the height of the first floor, as is the case with the houses with a square base, and unlike the previously described houses, the ground floor rooms have the same number of rooms as those on the floor. Accordingly, houses of this type usually consist of three rooms: a loggia - the central room, a side room - a room and a kitchen with a fireplace.



Figure 1.

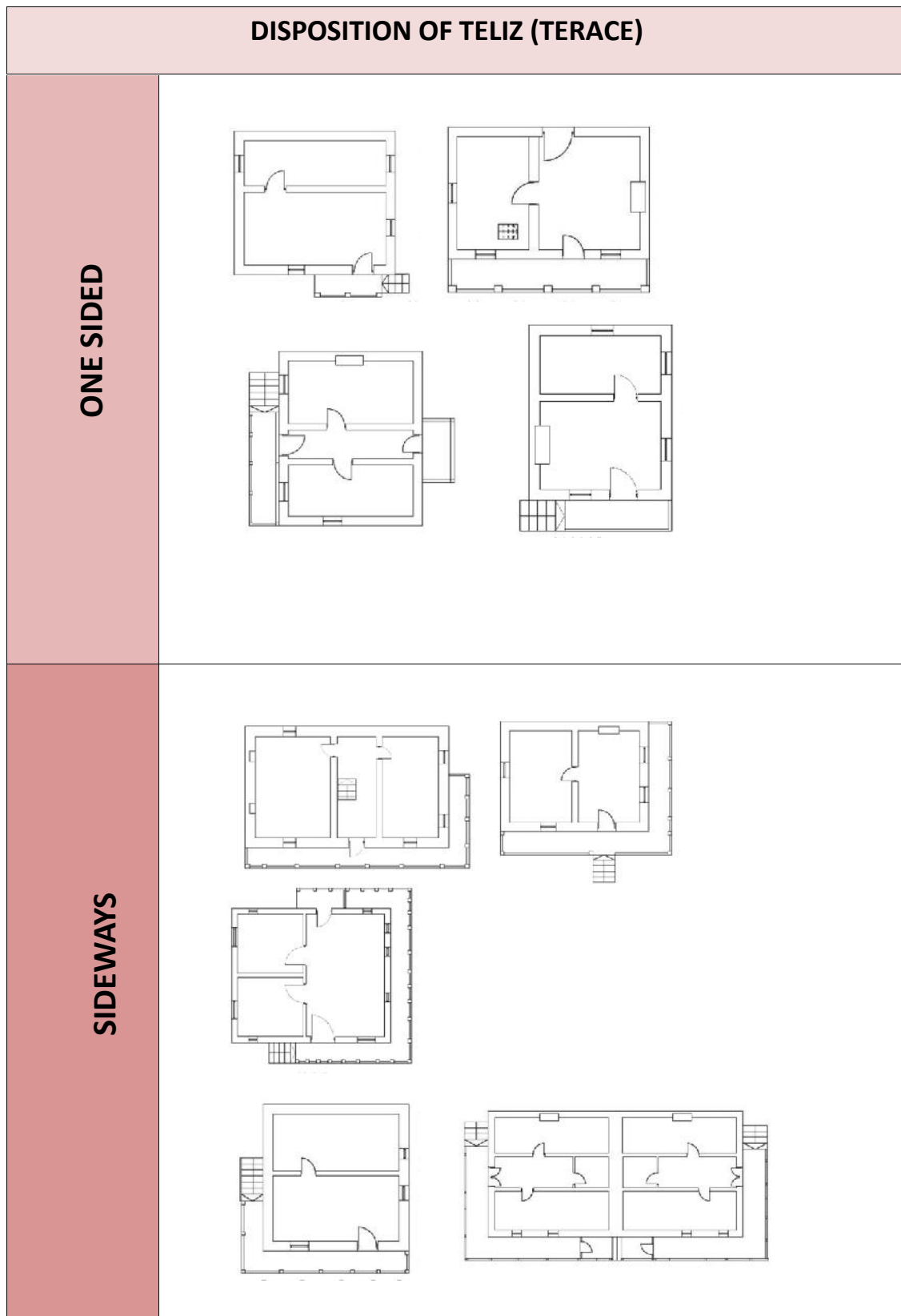


Figure 2.

5. CONCLUSION

Maintenance of already existing road infrastructure, easier and better access to these villages

- One of the most important priorities is improvement of the road infrastructure in the villages themselves (asphalting the roads close to the buildings, and preventing creation of canals along the road that before long ruin the existing road).

- Categorization of those potential structures that in future could be accommodation facilities for tourists and visitors, and their reconstruction in the traditional style.

- Training of the population planning to deal with tourism, by issuing accommodation facilities and other types of services that would meet the needs of tourists. Such training would be: foreign language courses, communication skills, accelerated courses in tourism and hospitality, etc.

- Establishment of associations at the municipal level (Struga) that include these villages, which would be related to handicrafts, catering, trade and so on. These associations, through organized meetings with the municipality authorities, would improve their work, the provision of services (meeting the needs of tourists).

- Enrichment of rural areas with various types of animation activities by the local population.

These would include: preparation of traditional dishes, presentations of vegetable and fruit farming, domestication of animals, horse riding, fruit harvesting, mountain slopes walks, mountain biking, designing of clay pottery, etc.





Figure 3

Table 1.

VALORISATION OF SOME INDICATORS IN VILLAGES OF MALESIA											
CULTURAL VALUES						QUALITY OF THE SPACE					
	1	2	3	4	5		1	2	3	4	5
Historical						Quality of drinking water					
Artistic						Quality of infrastructure					
Architectural						Quality of the air					
Richness of contents						Quality of diversity of information					
						Quality of road infrastructure					
						Quality of organization of living in the villages					

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