



My philosophy is that any architecture,
even if it is a very small architecture, is inside a community.
I defined the threshold as in between the family and the community
because every family is inside a community but they are independent”

Riken Yamamoto, Winner of Pritzker Prize 2024

“My generation has to caution and direct the next
generation not to immitate us, but to learn from us and to find new
directions.
I don’t think architecture in the future will be so
concerned with image and identity.
It will be more concerned with process: “how we makearchitecture”
more concerned with relevance: “why do we do it”
and more concerned with purpose “for what do we do it”

David Chipperfield, Winner of Pritzker Prize 2023



This studio will deal with different, real life scenarios in different geographic locations in Munich and Albania related to issues of displacement, densification, repopulation, migration, community and design.

This proposal is premised on the even increasing exchange between very rich, very active, economically diverse cities like Munich, and more peripheral, dynamic but economically less strong places like Tirana, Albania.

In places like the latter, paradoxically, apparent construction boom is acoompanied, among others, by loss of young, skilled segments of the population that opt to try to build a future in cities like Munich.

Parallel with this familiar migration story, there are other, seemingly more romantic trends of young skilled people, or older people with sufficient income and health, who want to move to idyllic places in th middle of pristine nature, where from they can work remotely or live a simpler but healthier life away from the pressures and undesirable facets of city or metropolis life.

One of them is the Valley of Vjosa, one of the last wild rivers of Europe, which straddles the border between Greece and Albania.

Declared by the Albanian Government ‘A Natural Park’ with the support of organizations like Patagonia Foundation, these places offer an alternative to the historical pattern of moving from the less well to do towns and cities to booming, rich metropolises.

Underlying the three different scenarios is the search for community building and community preservation, in the actual process of relocation from one settlement to the other.

A given community in Tirana, capital of Albania, has the chance or is forced to think because of threats to their habitat due to physical factors, about its future. Do they stay where they are or take the opportunity offered to move to a different location, be it Munich or Vjosa Valley?

All three are real life scenarios that have the potential to grow into real projects. Ideally a group of 6 students, divided in three groups, with 2 students per team per scenario.

Urban Flows - Renewal, Migration, Relocation and Homecoming

Scenarios for pre-90's block in Tirana, Albania

An entire urban block built with pre-fab elements in the 1980-s is scheduled to be demolished and replaced with new construction. Aged materials, earth quake norms, settling soils due to soil deteriorations because of shifting underground water patterns, as well as pressure by the developers looking for opportunities to build, point to demolition and replacement in the not so distant future. Faced with these challenges, urbanists and architects are asked to envision the future of these plots.

What kind of density should replace them? How will the social cohesion of the existing buildings where the same families have been neighbors for over 40 years be maintained?

Where will the families be relocated in the time of the construction of the new buildings, a critical 3-5 year period?

How will the finances be arranged between current market costs, legislation that regulates claims over land ownership of these multifamily units, developer offers and market demands?



Scenario3

Their children have relocated to Germany as immigrants, and much like their parents, have managed to live in close proximity to one-another. Now that have the opportunity to get some extra-cash in their hands because of the sale of the apartments, they get together and discuss how they can best spend the money that they have received. They are attracted by the idea of developing a small plot nearby where they live, where there are single, standing garages. By their calculations they can develop 1.5-2 units per each garage and therefore be able to have a spare apartment for their relatives/family to stay with them now and then, as well as to rent out to students and young families.



Scenario 1

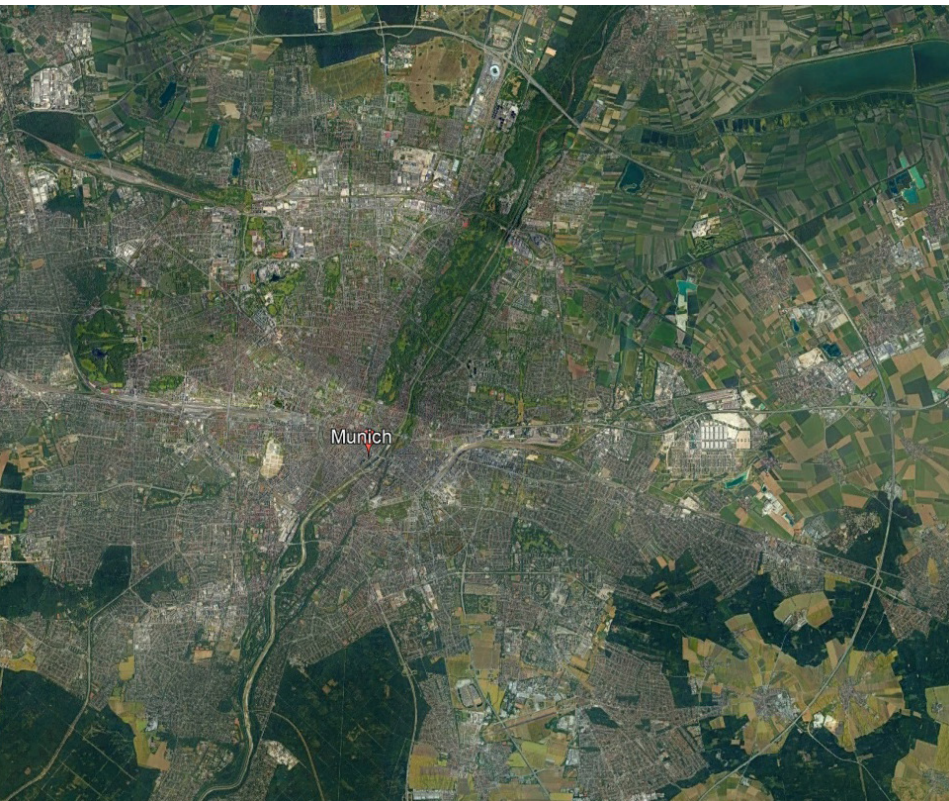
Different from their neighbors who agree to move to other new developments in the city, the inhabitants of one building decide to say no to the offer to sell/move and instead to stay put, improve and renew and their building and make all the additions allowed by the urban regulations.

During the time of the works they will move to a villa nearby which is part of the city's heritage and in turns contribute to also maintaining the villa and its grounds.



Scenario 2

Having sold their apartments to the developer, keen to maintain the strong bonds of neighborhoodship that they have developed, tired of the noise and chaos of the metropolis, sentimental of the places where they were born and of the beautiful landscapes where they grew up a majority of the families living in the apartment buildings, decide to relocate to a village on the hills in the valley of River Vjosa, one of the last wild rivers of Europe. Jointly, and with the help of th government, they will rebuild the abandoned houses, the old school and community center, and a local health care clinic.





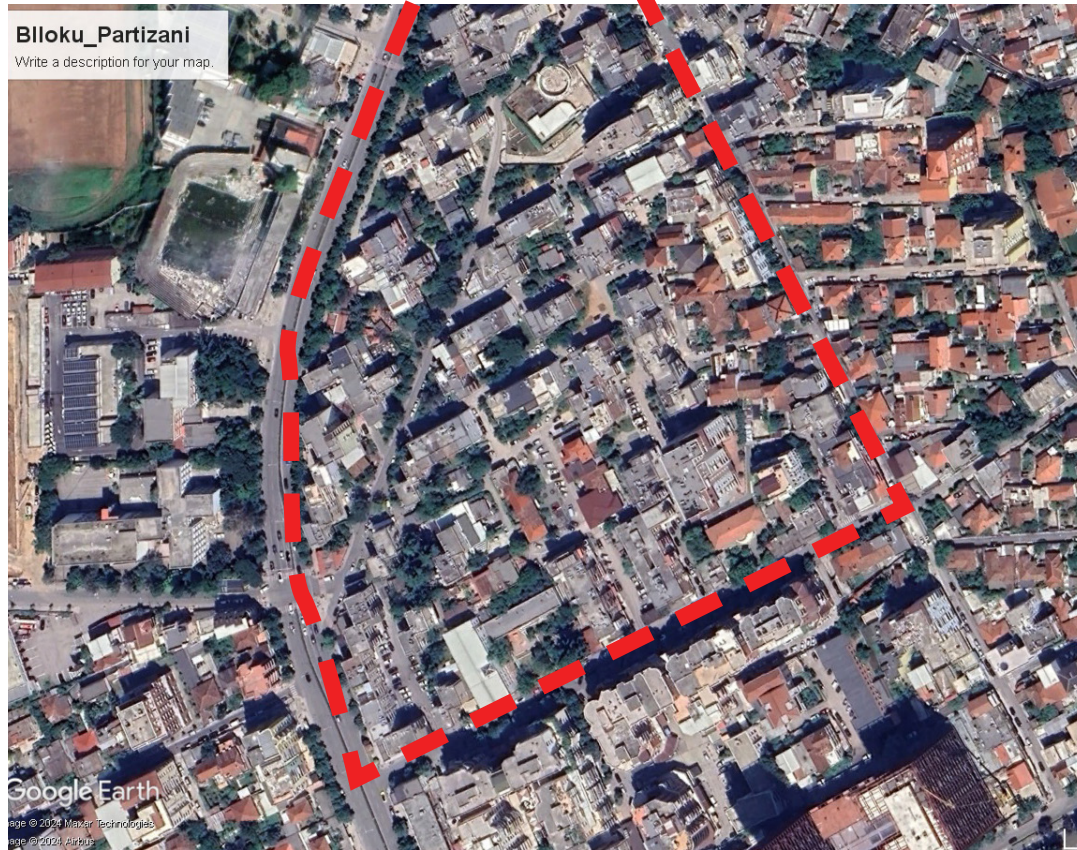
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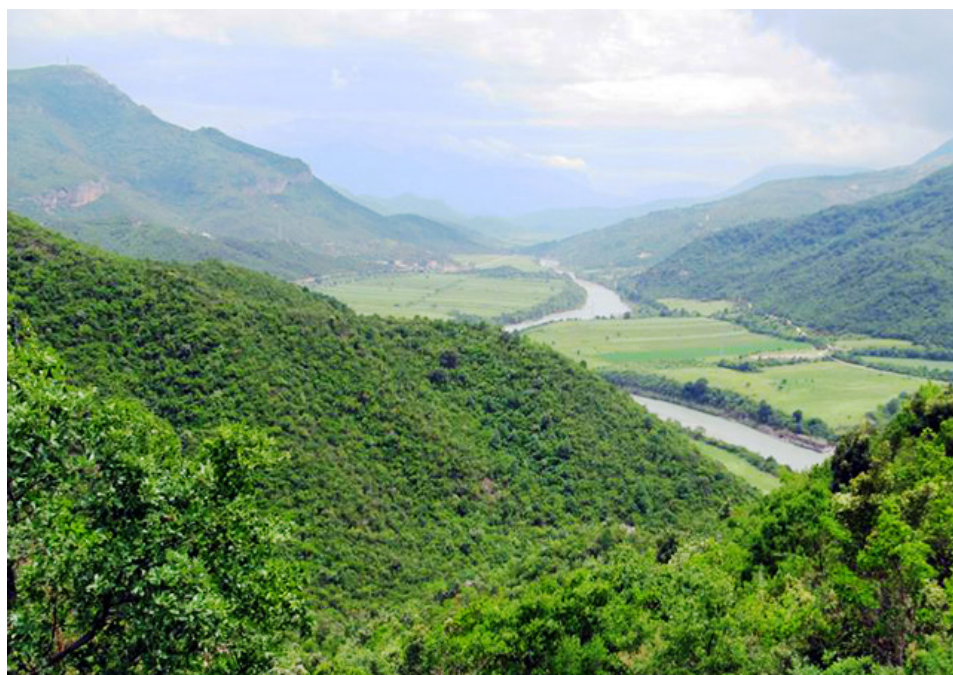
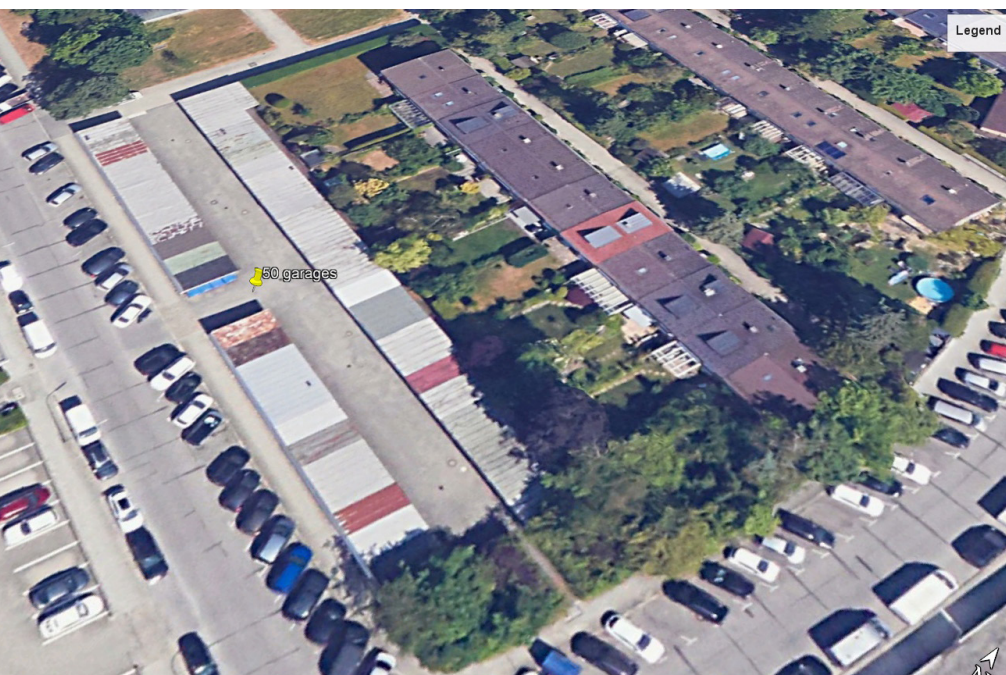
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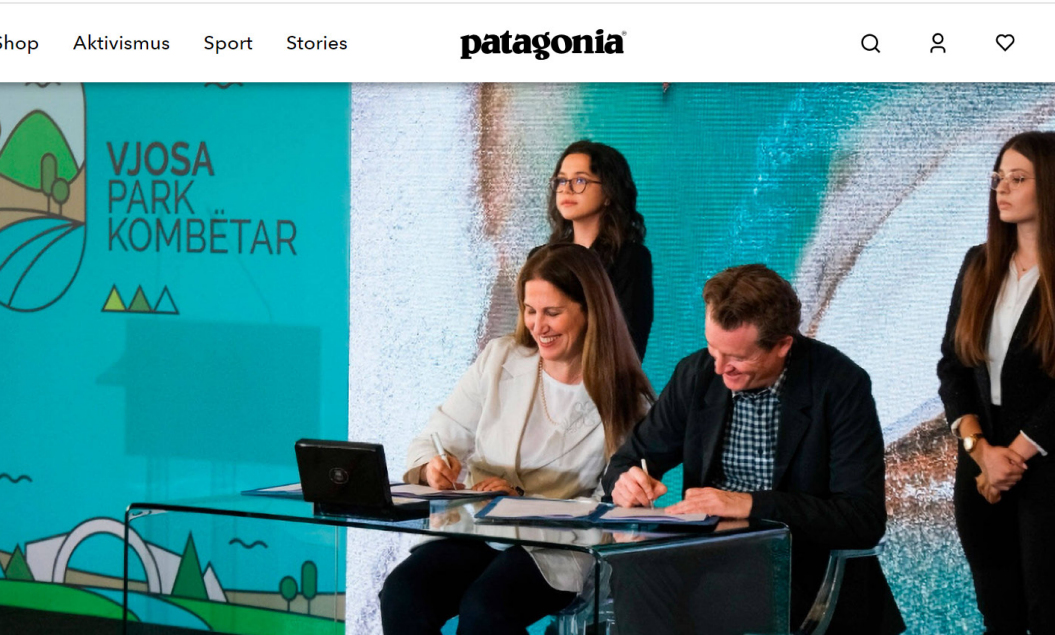
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Albanian Minister for culture and environment, Mirela Kumbaro, and Patagonia CEO Ryan Gellert sign a Memorandum of Understanding for the creation of the Vjosa National Park, on June 13, 2022 in Tirana, Albania. Photo: Nick St. Oegger



The Vjosa’s river basin catchment area makes up one-third or more of the land in Albania. It’s massive. Phase 1 of the Vjosa Wild River National Park, as established on March 15, 2023, is a long, narrow 20,000 hectares (nearly 50,000 acres), with 400 kilometers (around 250 miles) of protected river running freely from the border of Albania and Greece to the Adriatic Sea, and includes three tributaries. Phase 2 hopes to protect more tributaries, expand into Greece to include the river’s headwaters and add more of the river basin.



Northwestern Albania was struck by a magnitude 6.4 earthquake with an epicentre 16 kilometres west-southwest of Mamurras, at 03:54 CET on 26 November 2019.

[Wikipedia](#)

Magnitude: 6.4 M_w

Total damage: : 14,000+ buildings damaged/destroyed; €844 million in damages; €1.07 billion (estimated reconstruction cost);



Ein Hauch von Strauß in Albanien: Söder will „Bayern als Brücke“ zum Balkan aufbauen

Nein, sagt Söder auf dem mausgrauen Shtraus-Platz in Tirana, es gehe „nicht um historische Reminiszenzen, sondern um die Zukunft“. Es hat konkrete Gründe, dass er, der als eher reisescheu oder zumindest bayernfokussiert gilt, sich nach Südosteuropa begab. Ein Schlüsselprojekt in Albanien soll das Werben um Arbeits- und Fachkräfte werden. Bayerns Wirtschaft eröffnet in Tirana ein Büro, auch um Jobs zu vermitteln.