



FOLK TRADITION

When building a tower, the master craftsman would measure its height with the span of his hand and wouldn't consult the homeowner.

However, the tower's length and width were determined by the homeowner, who measured them with their own arm's reach.



BARÇI TOWER

LIS, MAT

Barçi Tower is classified under Typology III, according to the typology map of rural traditional houses in Albania. This structure, embodying the features of a fortified rural dwelling, is divided into two parts: one constructed in 1926 and the other in 1936, placing it within the category of "brotherhood dwellings." The tower includes several corners, which, beyond serving as living spaces, also had a defensive function. The interior layout is centered around the fireplace room, the main living area and compositional core of the house. The fireplace is topped with a finely carved stone chimney, adding a decorative element. Another significant space is the guest room, which plays a central role in showcasing the family's hospitality and social standing.



SATAJ'S TOWER

KURDARI, KLOS

A true cultural landmark, this miniature fortress is a remarkable example of Typology III from the map of fortified rural traditional houses. The structure is built over three floors, with the first floor—accessible through the main entrance via an external staircase—originally serving either as a prison or as a space for the family's livestock. The main entrance leads to the second floor via a sturdy stone staircase, while the upper floor (third level) is reached by internal wooden stairs. This tower is a classic representation of its type, distinguished by small windows and defensive overhangs above the staircase. The interior reflects both the spiritual depth and material prosperity of the family during its era.



GJINI'S TOWER

SHULBATËR, KLOS

This tower is a testament to the architectural craftsmanship of Shulbatër and the only one with rooms designed according to the traditional Mat region proportions.

Positioned on the eastern edge of the village, it overlooks the Mat River, giving the entire settlement a fortified appearance.

The village itself seems to revolve around this imposing three-story structure.

The tower embodies all the defining features of a fortified rural dwelling and is classified under Typology III on the map of traditional houses. Its defensive character is evident in its overhangs, while the large windows flood the interior with natural light, balancing function with elegance.



SHABAN ZAJMI'S TOWER

SHULBATËR, KLOS

One of the notable towers in the village of Shulbatër is that of the Shaban Sulejman Zajmi family. According to local lore, the tower was built approximately 250–300 years ago and underwent reconstruction after World War II, carefully preserving its original architectural features.

The tower spans over 100 m² and rises three stories high. It includes five spacious rooms and features an impressive, monumental entrance that connects to the first-floor living spaces. A unique aspect of the design is the abundance of fireplaces throughout the rooms. The defensive character of the tower is emphasized by its battlements, while an ingenious feature near the fireplaces stands out: a pulley-like mechanism, resembling an elevator, used to transport coffee from the ground floor.

In the courtyard of the tower lies a deep well, approximately 33 meters in depth, constructed in 1980. Its completion took about 22 years, and to this day, it continues to provide fresh drinking water to both residents and visitors.



IMER KURTI'S TOWER

GURRË E VOGËL, KLOS

This three-story tower, characteristic of Gurrë e Vogël region and home to the Kurti family, is a welcoming retreat for visitors. Those who pause to rest in its courtyard will be serenaded by the enchanting melody of the shepherd's flute, masterfully played by the homeowner. With its distinctive overhangs (qoshkë) and a guest room centered around an ornate fireplace, the tower is a true inspiration for admirers of traditional architecture. Its accessibility also makes it a convenient and inviting destination.



THE OLD TOWER

FSHAT, KLOS

A warm and inviting residence, with an entrance framed by external stairs sheltered beneath a charming overhang, sits just below the Arbri Road, near the turnoff to Klos. According to local tradition, it once stood close to Skanderbeg's tekke. Built with the timeless technique of alternating wooden and stone bands, and topped with a roof of locally crafted tiles, it beautifully embodies the traditional architecture of the southern Mat River region.

Now a guesthouse, the tower welcomes travelers with open arms, offering breathtaking views of the Mat River valley. Its serene setting invites visitors to immerse themselves in the quiet beauty and peaceful ambiance of the surrounding nature.



HUPI TOWER

DUSHAJ, BULQIZË

A charming three-story residence built with a traditional technique of alternating wooden beams and stone masonry. Access to the interior is through external stone stairs, elegantly covered by a protective overhang. Nestled in the village of Dushaj in Bulqiza, it serves as a welcoming guesthouse for visitors. Situated near a natural terrace, the tower offers picturesque nature walks and serene views of nearby water springs. Guests are treated to the authentic flavors of the region, lovingly and expertly prepared by the Hupi family.



KOÇI TOWER **GURRË E VOGËL, KLOS**

A modest family dedicated to preserving the traditions of Gurra e Vogël. Their recently constructed two-story tower reflects the characteristic design of the region's traditional towers. Built with respect for traditional proportions and materials, it seamlessly combines stone and wood to create a harmonious structure. This tower offers a fresh perspective to the village, honoring its heritage while catering to the evolving needs of cultural tourism.



THE TOWER OF THE KALOSH FAMILY KANDËRR, PESHKOPI

The Kalosh of Kandri are among the largest and most warrior-like tribes of Dibra. For over 150 years, this grand home was a symbol of hospitality for the Highlands and Lower Dibra, offering shelter, food, and drink to both friends and strangers. Built with small windows for defense and combat, the tower was designed to protect its inhabitants in times of conflict. Over the centuries, it endured and survived being burned down three times—first by Serbian forces and later by the Italians.



DOÇI'S TOWER

LURË, PESHKOPI

Built in keeping with Lura's renowned tower-building tradition, this recently constructed tower showcases the creative vision and craftsmanship of its owners. Its thoughtful architectural details, combined with exceptional functionality for hosting visitors, have made it a beloved destination for those exploring Lura year-round. The Doçi Tower serves as a gateway to hiking trails around the breathtaking Lura Lakes and a meeting place to savor the finest traditional dishes of the region.



TOWER OF BINAK ALI BUJAN, TROPOJË

It can easily be called the tower of the brave, the place where generation after generation has revived the desire for independence and Albanianness. Decorated by the three-story tower, it is a worthy representative of the architectural tradition of the Gjakova Highlands and is part of the group of towers of the northeastern regions of Albania. It is distinguished by its prismatic stone volume, which has a closed character and protective features. On the ground floor was the ahri, while on the upper floors was the place where family life took place, where the fire room and the bedrooms (bedrooms for young couples) were located. The third floor consisted of the divan and the reception room, otherwise known as the men's stove or even the friends' room, where the wooden walls and ceiling stand out.



TOWER OF KURPALI

LETAJ, HAS

The tower-type dwelling, over 200 years old, preserves rich architectural values and represents one of the examples of the fortified dwelling of the Gjakova Highlands. The ground floor consists of a single room once used as a cattle shed. The second floor is the most representative of the dwelling and there is the guest room preceded by the living room. The main view of the tower is oriented to the north. The upper part of the facade has a combination of brick and stone, bringing harmony to the architectural aspect of the tower.



TOWER OF MIC SOKOLI BUJAN, TROPOJË

The tower-type dwelling, over 200 years old, preserves rich architectural values and represents one of the examples of the fortified dwelling of the Gjakova Highlands. The ground floor consists of a single room once used as a cattle shed. The second floor is the most representative of the dwelling and there is the guest room preceded by the living room. The main view of the tower is oriented to the north. The upper part of the facade has a combination of brick and stone, bringing harmony to the architectural aspect of the tower.



KULLA E SALI MANIT BUJAN, TROPOJË

Sali Man's Tower is a typical three-story stone tower, with rare turrets in its upper part and covered with a furde. The first floor allows access to the tower through an arched stone gate, while internal stairs facilitate access to the other two floors. In line with the model of buildings in the Gjakova Highlands, this dwelling has the same type of living, with its tall chimneys standing out. The ground floor was used as a cattle shed, the first floor was the women's room, and the second floor was for the friends and men of the house. The mezzanines are separated by wooden elements, while the perimeter wall surrounding the courtyard highlights the building for visitors. The tower was built at the end of the 18th century and became known as the place where the Bujan Conference took place.



TOWER OF HAN BUKAÇI MACUKULL, DIBËR

Built in 1964 in Dej-Macukull, but following the style of the famous towers of Mat, the tower houses on its 2 floors a multitude of elements and details of the Macukull tradition. The two arched gates next to each other show the common life under one roof of two large families. Despite the late time of construction, the care of the stone carving of the gates and the heavy roof with stone slabs are noticeable.



TOWER OF HYSNI BUKAÇI MACUKULL, DIBËR

Built in 1970, it is a close descendant of Han Bukaç's tower. Located in Dej-Macukull, the tower serves as a necessary stop to further explore not only the rich history of the area but also its food and natural aspects. The road that is in the process of being paved is bringing the guesthouse and Macukull closer to the movements of Albanian and foreign tourists.



ONUZI TOWER

NANGË, KUKËS

According to family tradition, Onuzi Tower is a tower that is more than 200 years old and was built in a unique style with 3 floors. The stone construction located on a hill with a dominant view of the surrounding area gives the tower architectural value but also serves as a reference point in the geographical space where it is located. The interior of the tower follows the tradition of the highlands where they have developed over the centuries in complete harmony with the needs of the large families of the time.