



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.