Sinaia Valley

Transforming an Industrial Center into a Carpathian Oasis

Diplomarbeit

ausgeführt zum Zwecke der Erlangung des akademischen Grades der Diplom-Ingenieurin eingereicht an der TU-Wien,
Fakultät für Architektur und Raumplanung von

Isabelle Cricoveanu
12118522

unter der Betreuung von
Markus Tomaselli
Ass.Prof. Arch. Dipl.-Ing. Dr.techn.

E260-01 Forschungsbereich Städtebau
Institut für Städtebau, Landschaftsarchitektur und Entwerfen

Wien, am 30.09.2024

TU WIEN architektur + raumplanung

Kurzfassung

Die Kleinstadt Sinaia, auch die „Perle der Karpaten“ genannt, ist einer der populärsten Urlaubsorte Rumäniens. Aufgrund eines fehlenden Angebotes an Bildungs- und Freizeiteinrichtungen sowie Arbeitsplätzen, verliert die Stadt an EinwohnerInnen, während der Tourismus weiterhin blüht. Ein triftiger Grund für den Verlust an Arbeitsplätzen stellt die Schließung der Firma Mefin S.A. dar, bei welcher circa 2.000 Personen ohne Beschäftigung blieben und somit in die nächstgrößeren Städte Brasov und Bukarest umsiedelten.
Ziel des Projektes ist die positive Aufwertung und Belebung des Industriegrundstückes und seiner Umgebung durch ein neues Nutzungskonzept sowie Zu-, Um-, und Neubau. So wird Arbeits-, Bildungs- und Wohnraum generiert während soziale, ökonomische und ökologische Nachhaltigkeit beachtet werden. Das neue Nutzungskonzept soll dem Schrumpfen der Stadt entgegenwirken und auch junge Menschen permanent anziehen. Hierzu soll eine Ausbildungsstätte in den Bereichen Tourismus und lokale Kunst beitragen, für welche es bisher in Rumänien nicht viele Fakultäten gibt. Die Lage Sinaias in den Bergen und der fast alljährliche Tourismus machen die Kleinstadt zum sehr gut geeigneten Standort für diese Bildungsbereiche. Neben Wohnraum und Bildungsmöglichkeiten werden öffentliche Einrichtungen wie Restaurants, Cafés, Veranstaltungs- und Gemeinschaftsorte das Freizeitangebot Sinaias ergänzen. Auch die Naturnähe spielt eine große Rolle, auf Grund welcher viele TouristInnen für den Wintersport, zum Wandern, Campen und Fahrradfahren anreisen. Des Weiteren werden werden Einrichtungen für sportliche Aktivitäten, sowie Spa Räumlichkeiten mit verschiedenen Saunen, Bädern und Ruhebereichen geplant, in denen sich die BesucherInnen nach ihren Tagesaktivitäten regenerieren können. Das Grundstück soll über eine qualitative Freiraumplanung in das existierende Netzwerk an Infrastruktur und Grünraum integriert werden und dieses ergänzen.
Sinaia Valley wird eine Stadterweiterung mit verschiedenen Funktionen und qualitativem Freiraum, welche das Angebot der Stadt für EinwohnerInnen und Touristen erhöht, indem das verlassene Industrieareal neu interpretiert wird.

Abstract

The small town of Sinaia, also known as the “Pearl of the Carpathians”, is one of the most popular vacation resorts in Romania. Its location in the heart of the Carpathian Mountains and its history as former royal retreat which comes with important cultural heritage and attracts many people from all over the world.
However, due to a lack of educational and labour facilities, the town is losing its inhabitants to the bigger cities, while tourism continues to flourish. The closure of the company Mefin S.A., which made Sinaia a major industrial center in Romania after its role as royal retreat, hit society hard as it left around 2,000 people without employment, so they moved to the nearest large cities Brasov and Bucharest.
The aim of the project Sinaia Valley is the positive revaluation and revitalization of the industrial site and its surroundings through expansion, conversion and new construction. At the same time social, ecological and cultural aspects are taken into consideration. Thanks to the property`s shape and exact location, it has the potential to connect the northern and southern parts of Sinaia not only geographically and physically but also through a utilization concept that brings people together in their professional, educational and leisure environments.
The final concept should enhance an inclusive space with a wide offer of functions, opposite to the gated almost unused property today, that is more of a barrier between the two parts of Sinaia and additionally blocks the direct access to the mountains east of the property.
Sinaia Valley will be an expansion of the existing network of facilities and open spaces, which can be seen as an addition of an adequate new urban layer for the improvement of the lives of residents and tourists by reinterpreting the abandoned industrial area.

Table of Content

„The mountain is a world apart, its peaks touch the heavens, its valleys cradle tranquility, and its forests sing the songs of eternity.“

„Pe drumuri de munte“ (On Mountain Paths), 1912, Calistrat Hogaș, Romanian writer

1. INTRODUCTION

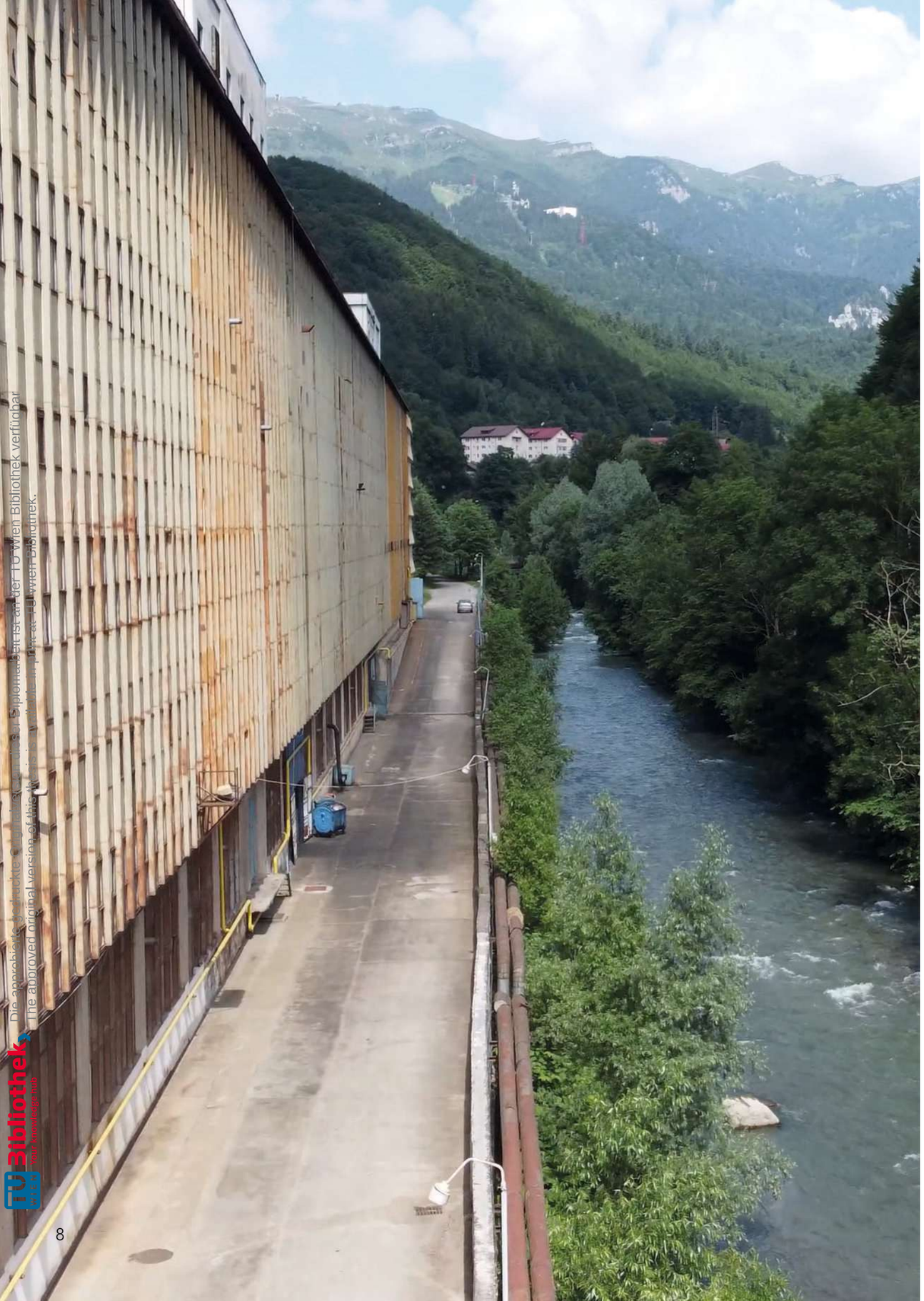


Fig. 1
Mefin`s Production Hall and the Prahova River

1.1 Motivation

A little girl from Germany whose family roots are in Transylvania, Romania used to visit her grandparents in Brasov every summer. She sits in the back of her dad`s car on her way from the airport in Bucharest to Brasov and recognizes the small town Sinaia, which they pass every year when they cross the Carpathians. Once again she is overwhelmed but amazed by the huge factory buildings by the street that are so old, plants are even growing inside. It seems paradox, such immense volumes in a small, beautiful town in the valley of the Bucegi Mountains.
Many years of wondering and curiosity later, she is working on her diploma project for her architecture studies, choosing to put an end to the mystery of the abandoned factory. She decides to redesign the entire site in favor of the beautiful town she visited so many times. She talks to workers and the owner of the industrial company, to the citizens of Sinaia, is allowed an insight into the history of the company, analizes, reserches and draws, until finally it seems she now is the person knowing this spot in the valley better than anyone and today she looks back on the project, knowing she created a version of the site that fulfills the hearts of the beautiful people of Sinaia.

"The Carpathian Mountains, with their untamed wilderness and ancient forests, have preserved the spirit of an earlier Europe, untouched by time."

Albanesische Studien, 1854, Johann Georg von Hahn, Austrian diplomat and philologist

2. ANALYSIS

2.1 Romania

2.1.1 General Facts

Romania is situated in southeastern Europe and has a population of 19.800.000 (Worldometers, 2024) on a surface of 238.391 km^2 (I. Grigorescu, G. Kucsicsa, E. -A. Popovici, B. Mitrică, I. Mocanu & M. Dumitraşcu, 2021, p. 3). Its neighboring countries are Bulgaria, Hungary, Moldova and Serbia and to the southeast it borders the Black Sea with a coastline of 275 km (Nationsonline, 2024). The capital city is Bucharest and with about two million inhabitants it is the biggest city in the country, which equals almost one tenth of the population. Romania has been part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization since 2004 and joined the European Union in 2007 (Britannica, 2024).
About 10.400.000 people live in urban areas, which makes about 52,5 % of the country`s population (Worldometers, 2024). Nevertheless those built areas make up only 3,1 % of Romania`s whole surface (Romanian Statistical Yearbook, 2012).

Fig. 2
Location of Romania

Although the population has been growing steadily since the the fall of the communist regime and the economic recovery process began, the average age tends to increase.
People over age sixty-five make up 18,5 % of the entire population, whereas young people age one to fourteen sum up to be only 15,6 %, male and female almost equally.
The main reason for an older population and at the same time a decreasing one is the migration to mostly Western countries with a more promising economic future and better career opportunities. A UN International Migration Report states that between 2007 and 2015 about 3,5 million Romanians left their country due to corruption and poverty. Starting in 2007 with Romania joining the European Union, a huge barrier was eliminated and gave people a chance for a new life.
There are estimations about the shrinking population that will be at 17,4 million by the year 2040, 15,9 million by 2060 and at 13,3 million by the end of the century (Transylvanianow, 2020).

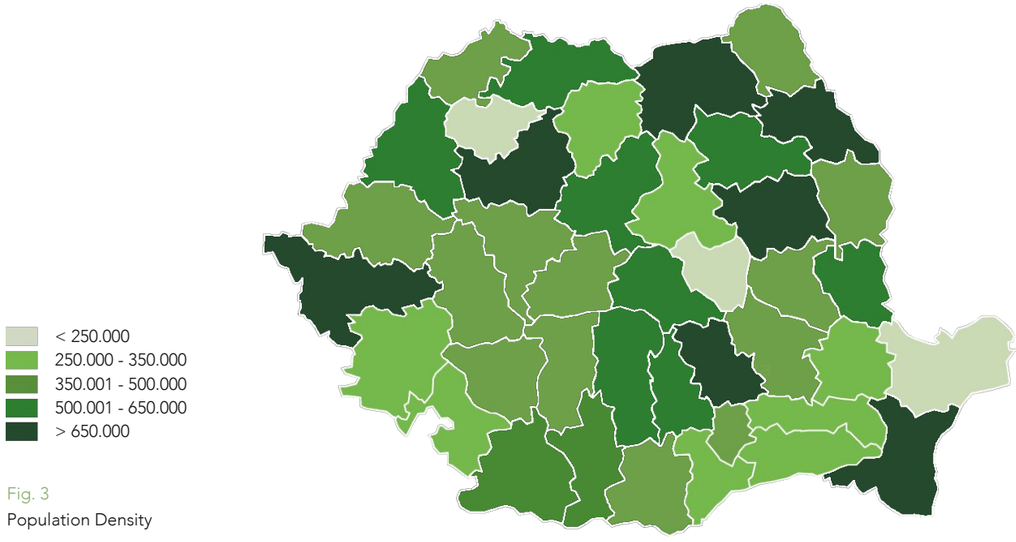


Fig. 3
Population Density

2.1.2 Geography

Romania`s landscape is dominated by the Carpathian Mountains, a mountain range of 1.500 km. The main categories are the Eastern Carpathians, the Southern Carpathians, and the Western Carpathians. In the east they extend to the Prahova River Valley and reach their highest peak in the Rodna Mountains, where Pietrosu lies at 2,303 metres. The Southern Carpathians, known as Transylvanian Alps, stretch from the Prahova River valley to the east to the Timiș and Cerna river valleys on the western side.

The Romanian relief is approximately one-third mountainous and one-third is defined as forests, with the transition zones made up of hills and plains.

Romania is rich of natural resources that offer fertile soil for agriculture, many types of woods, petroleum, different metals, including gold and silver, many rivers, and the Black Sea coastline to the east (Britannica, 2024).

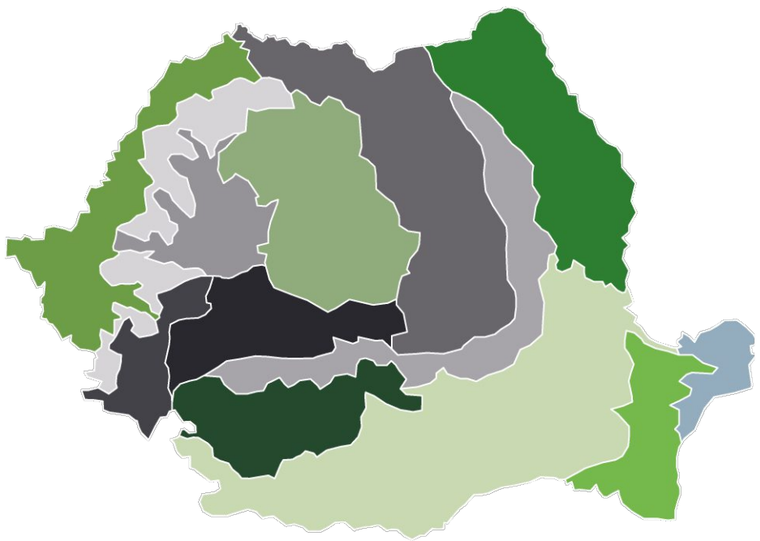


Fig. 4
Major Landform Units

Among the country`s mineral resources are oil, natural gas, coal, gold, silver and salt.

Romania is home to about 2.000 mineral water springs, which are famous for consumption and their medical and healing qualities.

Although mineral water is a renewable resource, only some of springs and their waters were capitalized, even though some received international recognition for their chemical features. From whole mineral water reserve of 122 thousands m^3 per day, about 40% is commercialized (Ministry of Environment and Forests, 2010, p.15).

Vegetation is predominantly determined by the relief. In the mountains mostly coniferous and beech forests can be found. Forests on higher mountains are dominated by alpine lawns, pines, and bilberry.

The forests covering lower hills consist of broad leaved trees, including beech and oak (Britannica, 2024).

Fig. 5
Relief of Romania

2.1.3 History

The first known settlements of Stone Age hunters date back to around 8.000 BC. Later farming practices developed as well as the methods to make tools for example out of bronze. By 600 BC trade with Greece began and so did cultural and economic exchanges.

8.000 BC
First Settlements

In 106 AD Romania was conquered by the Romans following the end of the Battle of Sarmizegetusa. Romans gave the territiory the new name `Dacia` and additionally imposed cultural influences of the Roman Empire which today can for example be found in the Romanian language.

106 AD
Conquest by Romans

However, in the 3rd century the `Barbarians` made the Romans withdraw from Dacia towards the regions south of the Danube. Different migration dynamics took place and resulted in changes of demographics and culture. Around 271 Radu Negru founded the first Romanian principality Wallachia. Moldavia, the second principality was established in the 14th Century. Wallachia and Moldavia were taken over by the Ottoman Empire in the 17th Century until they united in 1862 under the leadership of Alexandru Ioan Cuza and the new state named Romania was formed. Romania`s independence from Turkey was finally declared in 1877.

271
First Principality `Wallachia`

1862
New State `Romania`

Fig. 6
Dacia, 50 BC

Fig. 7
United Principality Quartet

The country became a kingdom in 1881 under the leadership of King Carol I who introduced a process of modernization and development. In 1916 Romania, ruled by King Ferdinand, I joined the Allies in the war against Germany and Austria-Hungary, achieving to take Transylvania from Hungary in 1918. Additionally Romania gained back Bessarabia from the Russians. This led to a rapid growth of territory and consequently in population which increased from about 7,5 million to about 12 million (Localhistories, 2021).

1881
King Carol I

1918
Effects of World war One, Growth in Territory and Population

Fig. 8
Carol I of Romania, 1905

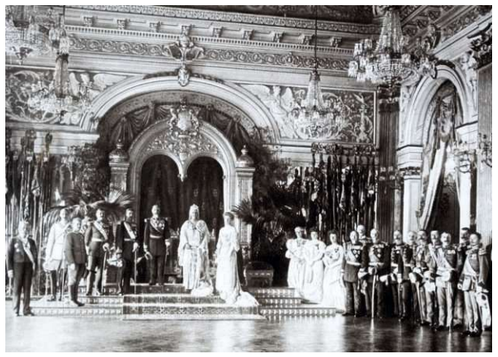


Fig. 9
Royal Palace Bucharest, 1881

Fig. 10
Territorial Structure of Romania Following the Establishing of Greater Romania

1927
Formation Iron Guard

The following years were dominated by political instability within the country, one reason being the formation of the Iron Guard in 1927, which was a fascist and ultra-nationalist political movement. In 1938 King Carol II banned political parties and used a new royal dictatorship as an attempt to stabilize the country, which was doomed to fail as tensions only increased.

1940
Pressures of World War Two

Pressure was imposed on Romania through a pact between Nazi Germany under Hitler`s rule and the Soviet Union led by Stalin, so in 1940 the country was forced to cede Bessarabia to Russia and NorthernTransylvania to Hungary as well as other parts to Bulgaria.

Although he had no chance of resistance, King Carol II`s reputation in the eyes of the population was a weak one, so the pressure and tension forced him to abdicate. His successor was his son Michael, who was only nineteen at the time had very little power (Localhistories, 2021).

Fig. 11
Romania, 1940

Marshal Ion Antonescu took advantage of the political instability and established a fascist dictatorship. He followed Nazi Germany`s lead during the invasion of Russia in 1941 (Operation Barbarossa), his primary aim being to regain Bessarabia. Under his control during the Second World War many Jews and Roma were murdered and deported.
After a coupd'état in 1944, Antonescu`s rule was overthrown and King Michael I declared Romania's change of allegiance from the Axis to the Allies, subsequently declaring war on Germany. The country regained Northern Transylvania, but soon Romania was invaded and dominated by Russian troops, which imposed a new communist regime.

1941
Operation Barbarossa

1944
Change of War Sides

Fig. 12
Soviet Occupation in Romania

1946
Elections, Communist Power

Communist parties gained power after the elections in 1946 and soon the king was forced to abdicate, paving the way for a new totalitarian regime under which all industries were nationalized. Antonescu as well as many other Romanians collaborating with the Nazis were executed in the same year. Russian troops left the country in 1958 having ensured that the communist regime was successfully consolidated.

1965
Dictatorship under Ceausescu

A new independet foreign policy was pursued in 1960 under the leadership of Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej until after his death in 1965 Nicolae Ceausescu became the new dictator of Romania. His regime aimed at rapidly increasing the country`s heavy industry and creating a centralized economy, without regard for the population suffering from poverty and repression (Localhistories, 2021).

Fig. 13
Ceausescu giving a speech in Bucharest

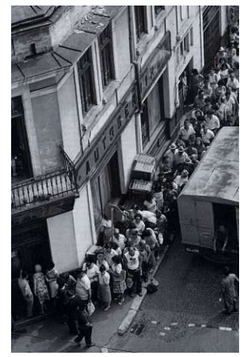


Fig. 14
Communism, Bucharest

Fig. 15
Nicolae Ceausescu and Charles de Gaulle in Bucharest, Press Palace in the back

Fig. 16
Demonstration parade in Bucharest

Demonstations began and in 1989 Ceausescu and his wife were executed, leading to the first free elections in 1990. After a long history of regime- and territorial changes, Romania found itself in an economically weakened situation. The country faced a difficult way towards democracy and a market economy. Until today the economy and population has steadily increased (Localhistories, 2021). Today Romania is a semi-presidential representative democratic republic. Marcel Ciolacu is the current prime minister. He is a member of the Social Democratic party.

1990
First free Elections

Fig. 17
Romanian Demonstrators in front of the Headquarters of the Romanian Communist Party in Bucharest during the 1989 Anti-communist Revolution

2.1.4 Architecture

Romanian architectural typologies and urban patterns are based on a long history of different political regimes and consequently result to be a composition of different gestures.

15th and 16th Century

During the Middle-Ages many churches were constructed in Transylvania. The five most famous ones - Voronet, Arbore, Humor, Modovita - were built between 1488 and 1585. With their domes and colorful frescoes they represent a mixture of late-byzantine and gothic architectural styles (Michael Toms, 2009, p. 4). Byzantine elements in Romanian architecture like the Sucevița Monastery date back to when the Ottoman Empire took control over Romanian territory. This influence endured even the communist period under dictator Ceausescu, during which many historic bulidings and with them part of the Romanian culture were destroyed in order to build new districts (Michael Toms, 2009, p. 6).

17th and 18th Century

Most of the churches that exist in Romania nowadays were built in the 17th and 18th century, and when Constantin Brâncoveanu was at power, the `Brâncoveanu-Style` emerged, that can easily be recognized when looking at Palace Mogosaia or the Horezu Monastery (Michael Toms, 2009, p. 11). It combines Italian and oriental stylistic elements.

Fig. 18
Sucevița Monastery

Fig. 19
Horezu Monastery

Romania`s architecture is also influenced by France. The connection of the two countries comes from sharing a common history of Roman leadership. Soseaua Kiseleff imitates Champs-Elysees as well as a version of the Arc de Triomphe can be found at the end of the street. A new Bourgoisie implied the construction of more luxurious villas and wide boulevards as well as Calea Victoriei after World War One (Michael Toms, 2009, p. 5).

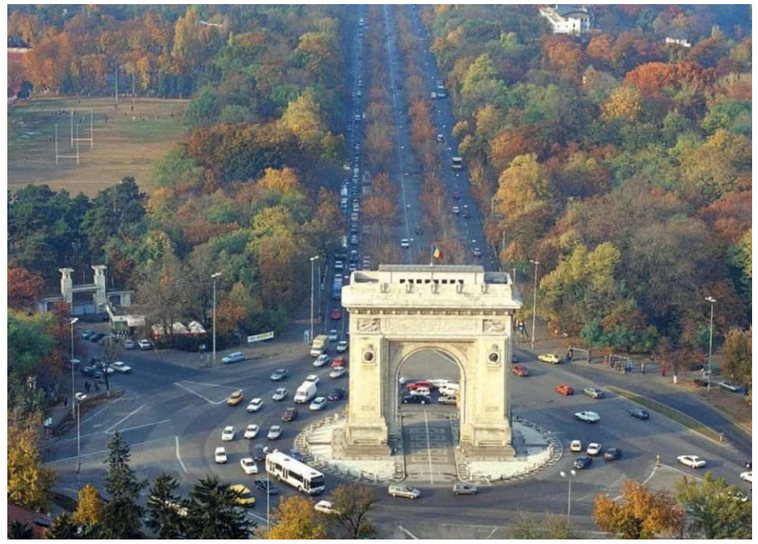


Fig. 20
Arc of Triumph, Bucharest

Fig. 21
Calea Victoriei, 1930

Fig. 22
Calea Victoriei, 2023

The Concept of `Systematization`

The term `systematization` gained much releveance and negative associations with the communist regime, nevertheless, related to spatial development, it first appeared in the 19th century when for instance foreign foresters were hired by the Ministry of Agriculture, Industry, Commerce and Domains in order to make systematic plans of development, meaning that foreign expertise was being implemented in Romanian scientific education (Dana Vais, 2022, p. 208)
In 1906 there was a competition for a `General Plan of Systematization` for Bucharest. That implied the `Systematization of Streets` on one hand and the `Systematization of the Ctiy` on the other, demanding a `hierarchical system` but a `harmonic whole` at once. This attempt of introducing an urban plan was doomed as the occupation by Germany took place from 1916 to 1918 (I. Davidescu, 1941, p. 172).

Romanian Urbanism

Urban planning was revitalized by urban engineer Cincinat Sfintescu who is known as the father of Romanian urbanism (A. Udrea, T. Popoescu, I. Calotă, I. Păun Constantinescu, 2015, p. 6). He was active in the administration of Bucharest and was the chair of urbaism at the Architecture Academy. For him city planning is `a scientific procedure where you look to establish the relationships that exist, should exist, between the whole and its elements` (C. Sfințescu, 1916, p. 2). He also called for getting inspired by different countries in order to fill the holes of national urban planing. Having the required expertise, he came up with The First General Project of the Systematization Plan for Bucharest in 1921 (D. Vais, 2022, p. 208).
Architects soon started taking over the responsibility for systematization plans from urban engineers and more and more Romanian architects received their education in France and Germany. By the 1933 CIAM they had designed a functional city concept, rejecting monumental perspectives and landscapes, strict functional arrangements and alignments, and instead adapting the city to modern life (D. Vais, 2022, p. 209). The architects were wellknown figures of their profession: Duiliu Marcu, G. M. Cantacuzino, R. Bolomey, I. Davidescu, and T. Rădulescu (the only engineer). They agreed that a systematiation plan and `The organization of the city is an act of authority` (D. Marcu, G. M. Cantacuzino, R. Bolomey, I. Davidescu, T. Rădulescu, 1937, p. 294).

Housing in the Systematization Plan from 1935

The 1935 Systematization Plan for Bucharest raised the question of how to deal with housing, especially for the poorer population. Sfințescu to his time demanded the construction of new hygienic and aesthetic neighborhoods from the Communal Society for Low-Cost Housing, that was founded in 1911. Nevertheless a study showed that low-cost housing so far was only affordable for better-payed state employees, whereas the rest of the population kept suffering from poor housing and living conditions at urban peripheries. About 82 % of the houses there had no bathroom (Vîrtosu, 1936). Although the will to imitate the western world and the workers` housing in Vienna or Rotterdam was there and actually taught in urbanism classes, the realization of such projects failed (I. Davidescu, 1941).

Fig. 23
Housing in Bucharest by the Communal Society for Low-Cost Housing before World War I

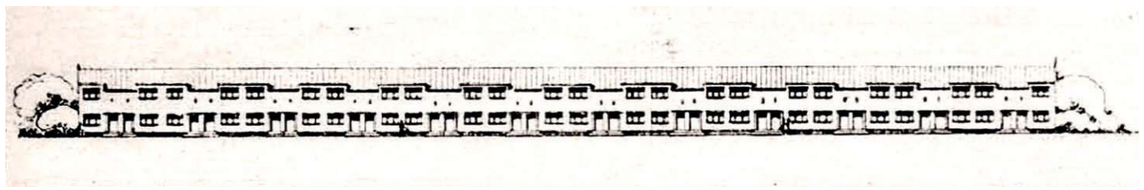


Fig. 24
Low-cost Housing Project Proposed by the Working Committee of the 1935 Bucharest Master Plan of Systematization

Fig. 25
Romanian Village

Fig. 26
Romanian Farmer`s House,
1962

Systematization plans not only concerned Bucharest, but played an important role on a territorial scale, since Romania still consisted of various regions, each with their own culture and history. The authors of the systematization plan of Bucharest started realizing that the Romanian state after World War I grew rapidly in population and suddenly consisted of 18 million people. It was still a mainly rural country, which led the state to introduce `Village Systematizations` and `New Model Settlements` in order to ensure a more homogenously and especially controlled spread of the population. This implied for instance the relocating of peasants from denser regions into less dense regions, where free space was available" (V. Rădulescu, 1941, p. 118).

Systematization when the communist regime came to power in 1948 was a design tool for concepts of new cities as well as existing ones. The Practicing Architect Handbook from 1958 included "norms, design principles and technical solutions tested in practice during the grandiose process of constructing socialism and communism in the USSR" (T. Chițulescu, G. Chițulescu, 1954, p. 13).
Industries still represented the focus in systematization, but localities and economic infrastructure as well played important roles (T. Chițulescu, G. Chițulescu, 1958, p. 484).

Rural systematization was a topic for itself and of great relevance since agriculture was booming in the 1950s. Since the rural population was forced into the cities in order to keep up the fast industrialization, there was a lack of farmers to take care of the harvest. Political authorites again moved the people, in this case predominantly soldiers and students in favor of politcal interests and sent them to the cropland to help the farmers. It was unpaid work hidden behind the term `voluntary seasonal work` (Wordpress, 2016).

All of those factors were summarized in the territorial systematization, determining location, size and the role of cities and villages following state economic plans. At the same time it ensured direct control over the people and industries (C. Spiride, 1959).

As industrial development was under control by the communist regime, the issue of mass housing arose around industrial areas. (Spiride, 1959.) The following years systematization included large housing estates whereas before 1958 they were created at a smaller scale. In the Handbook, `cvartals` were a new well received concept, counteracting to the large monumental zeitgeist. They were inferior to the Soviet planning term `microraion` which in the Handbook is described as "component unit of the residential zone, immediately superior to cvartals" (T. Chițulescu, G. Chițulescu, 1958, p. 349) and made the transition to low cost and efficient residences easier. After this period, the Athens Charter with its open spaces and structures was introduced in Romania (C. Lăzărescu, 1977, p. 65).

Housing estates also followed systematization plans on different levels. A cvarter can be seen as an investment project. The cvarter followed a systematization plan and the building itself followed another more detailed one which included choosing one of the housing types documented on a catalogue (D. Vais, 2022, p. 214).

Housing Systematization

Microraion
Urban element that describes a surface between 20 and 50 ha, including between 5.000 and 15.000 inhabitants and in addition to housing might include schools, shops etc. (dexonline, 2024)

Cvartal
Unit of a locality that includes only a few blocks of housing, and/or kindergardens etc. (dexonline, 2024)

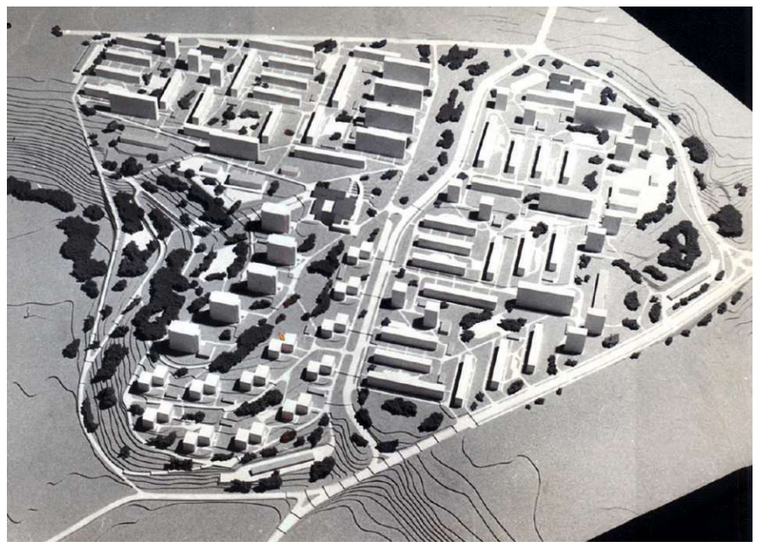


Fig. 27
Model for Gheorgheni District (microraions I and II) by Augustin Presecan, Vasila Mitrea, Aurelian Buzuloiu, Cluj, 1964

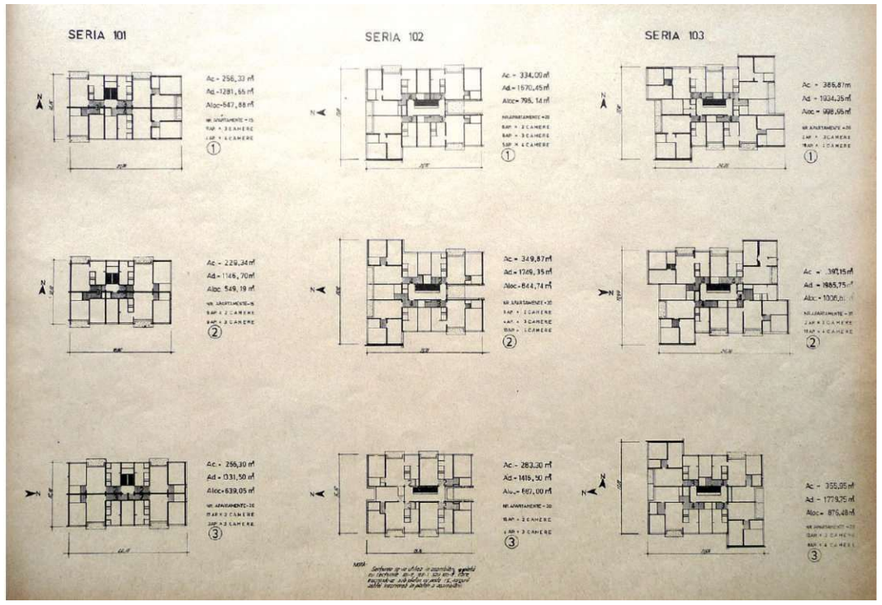


Fig. 28
Examples for Apartment Housing Types from Directive Project no. 1361/1967

Fields of Architecture

The architects during the 1970s and 1980s finished their education at Ion Mincu Institute of Architecture receiving diplomas in the `specialization in architecture and systematization`. The multidisciplinary operation (architecture, urbanism and systematization) fields were thus summarized in the profession of the architect.

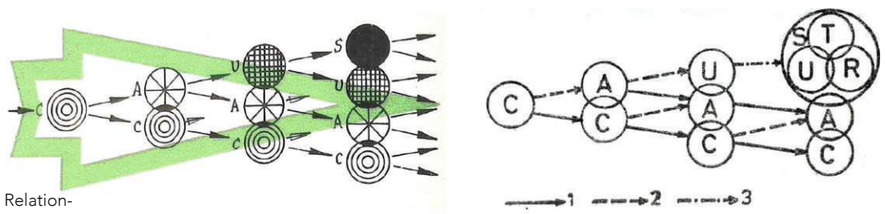


Fig. 29
Diagrams of the Relationship between Constructions, Architecture, Urbanism, Systematization and Urban, Regional, and Territorial Scales, 1983

With the new program of national systematization of 1972 was followed by laws like the Housing Law of 1973, the Systematization Law of 1974 ad the Streets Law of 1975 which all ensured political authority and monumentality through built architecture (D. Vais, 2022, p. 217).

Systematization Plan from 1988

Part of the Systematization Plan from 1988 was destroying antique villages including churches, justified by the argument of the dictator was that only minorites were affected and that it the villages were not part of Romanian culture. In 2000 there were supposed to be only 5.000 - 6.000 villages out of about 13.000 existing ones (Michael Toms, 2009, p. 6).
The earthquake in 1977 that according to the regime left villages and historic buldings in very bad conditions was used as a justification for erasing entire villages. Along with many destructions came the rejection of the proposal to extend the list of monuments which could have protected buildings and villages. Instead the systematization was made official with a new law and the monument office replaced by the Council for Socialist Culture and Training (Michael Toms, 2009, p. 11).
The acts of demolition started in the late 1980s and six villages near the capital had been razed. Romania`s systematization concept was by that point known worldwide. The act of destruction stopped with the fall of Ceausescu in 1989 and the term Systematization along with its radical operations immediately were abolished in 1990.
Ever since then `urban and territorial planning` are the only used terms and urbanism instead of systematization as a disciplinary field was distincted in 1997 (D. Vais, 2022, p. 219).

Systematization Conclusion

Dana Vais, professor of architecture at the Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism of the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca underlines that systematization as a concept should be interpreted as the idea of modernsim during the 20th Century. It was the politcal power that turned it from an innovative idea into a top-down repressive and brutal tool harming the population and national heritage. Urban planning on the other handside involves multiple (inclusive) factors that aim at sustainability and the good for the people (D. Vais, 2022, p. 219).

Fig. 30
The Way that Former Romanian Dictator Nicolae Ceausescu hid the Old City of Bucharest after he had Demolished a Sixth of the Old City Center, I

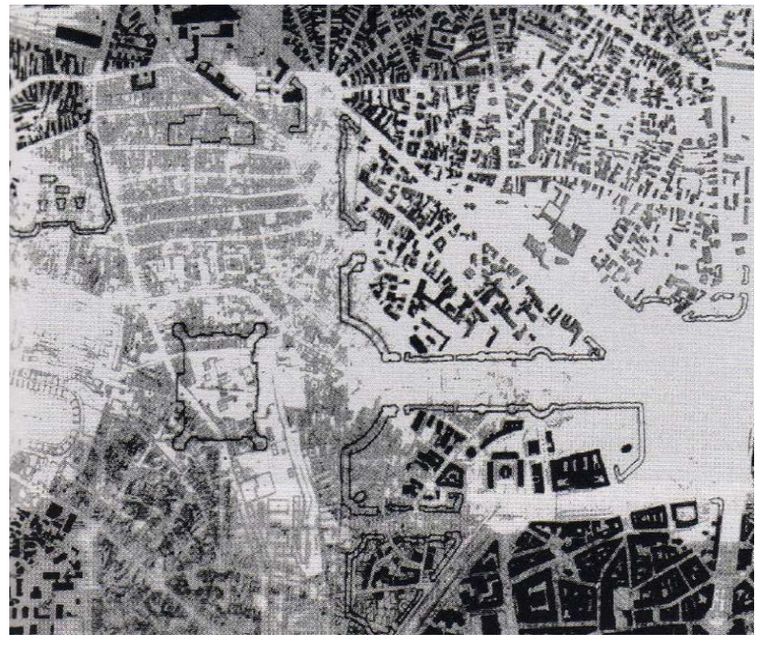


Fig. 31
The Way that Former Romanian Dictator Nicolae Ceausescu hid the Old City of Bucharest after he had Demolished a Sixth of the Old City Center, II

The fall of the communist regime left the country in search for a new identity. A slow process of personalization and owning the public space began and created a dynamic between communist architecture with new, small, sprinkles of individualism. Nevertheless, it is still very obvious that there is a certain traumatization concerning public space which lost its inclusive and participative character. There is not enough conscious appropriation by the population, one reason being the lack of administration and maintenance. Quality of stay therefore is mostly found in spaces of private ownership like shopping malls. These areas of forced consumption can have negative impacts like social discrimination and gentrification and they don't compare to a healthy and green public space with quality of stay. As well as the economy, the residential sector was decentralzied and thus the metropolitan areas of existing cities and villages expanded there and economic activities took place in those regions too. This led to suburbanization and complexes like shopping malls and office parks became a dominant element on the periphery (A. Banica, M. Istrate, I. Muntele, 2017, p. 6).

A new set of regulations from 2004 secured monuments and for example made Romania`s antique churches part of the UNESCO. It also set the stone for the country´s modern spatial planning, aiming for balanced social and economic development with respect for specific local aspects. While working on a sustainable development, the utilization of natural resources and the protection of the environment is a main aspect, as well as the controlled extension of the built environment. Urban design from now on should focus on improving the quality of life for the people, meaning there should be public access to all infrastructure, public services and affordable housing for everyone. Special needs of elderly people, children and handicapped people are respected. Furthermore potential natural catastrophes are taken into consideration in urban planning as well as the access to built and natural art and their conservation (Michael Toms, 2009, p.44).

2.2 Sinaia

„If I am ever to retreat, I want it to be to the mountains of Sinaia, where nature and history will protect the kingdom.“

Peles Castle, n.d., King Carol I of Romania

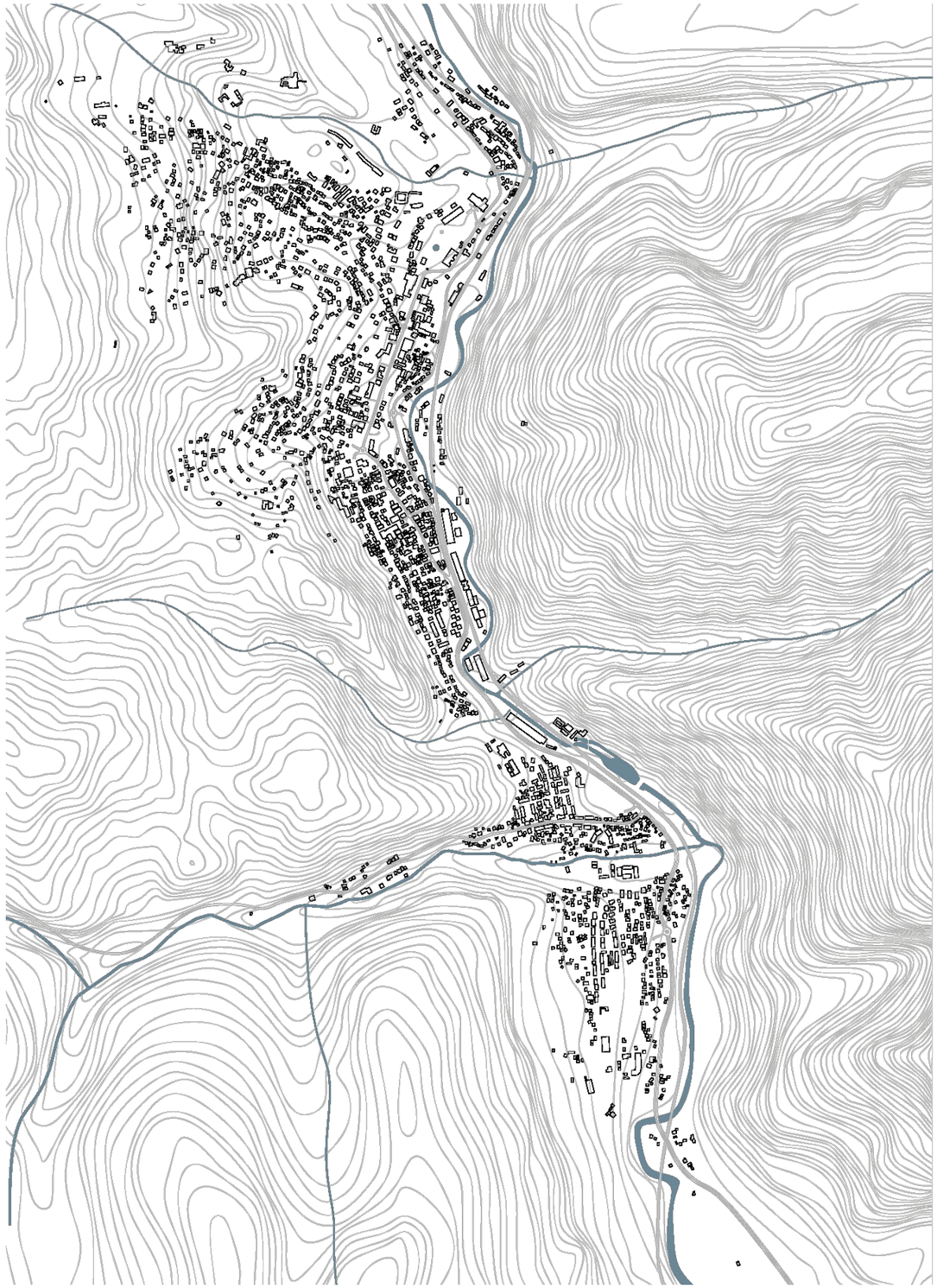


Fig. 32
Figure-Ground Plan

2.2.1 General Facts

Sinaia is situated in the county Prahova. Prahova`s county seat Ploieşti used to run Romania`s petroleom-processing industry. Sinaia`s industry is known for producing building materials and traditional arts such as embroidery and wood carvings. Its neighboring towns Azuga, Busteni and Predeal also lie in the Prahova Valley and have a similar size and history. The most famous mountains are located west of the town and are called Bucegi Mountains.

Sinaia is a small town with approximatley 15.000 inhabitants living on a surface of about 13,16 km^2 (A. E. Huzui, A. Abdelkader, I. Patru-Stupariu, 2013, p. 565). Sinaia lies at 767-1,055 m (D.-M. Plesoianu, A. Popescu, 2021) at the foot of Mount Furnica of the Bucegi Mountains on the DN1 (National Road No. 1) and is located 105 km north-west of the capital Bucharest and 50 km south of Brasov. DN1 currently is the only direct connection between Bucharest and Brasov, therefore it is much used by commuters, locals, and tourists. One of the main reasons is that the international airport Henri Coanda, which is also the only one in the region, is situated in Bucharest.

Fig. 33
Prahova Valley, Sinaia`s Neighoring Towns

Fig. 34
Course of DN1

Another way to reach Sinaia is by train, since the main line between Bucharest and Brasov alsol passes through the town. Not only Brasov, Oradea, Cluj-Napoca and other cities can be reached by this line, but also international destinations like Hungary.

Sinaia`s main economic motor nowadays is toursim, since the mountain resort is very popular for offering ski slopes in winter and many hiking and cycling routes in summer thanks to its location in the Carpathians. As a consequence there are a relatively big amount of hotels and tourist apartments, as well as vacation homes.

In terms of industry there are metallurgiacal works and a food-processing factory as well as one for building materials (Britannica, n.d.).

2.2.2 Climate

Sinaia`s tourists and residents can enjoy four different seasons, out of which spring is known to be the shortest, since temperatures rise quickly after winter ends.

The climate in general combines features of temperate regions and the rather extreme temperatures from the continental center (Britannica, 2024). The temperature trend in Sinaia between 1961 and 2007 was in increase of about 1,8° C in summer and a decrease of 1° C in winter, whereas the precipitation was approximately 35 mm less in summer and in winter about 60 mm less (Ministry of Environment and Forests, 2010, p.17-20). The following diagram illustrates the average temperature and precipitation in Sinaia of the last years. In 2023 the temperature reached its lowest in January varying between -6 and 1° Celsius whereas in August the highest temperatures were measured between 14 and 25° Celsius, which can be a valuable aspect for the town, since temperatures are growing everywhere due to global warming and

tourists are starting to turn away from typical summer destinations like Spain. Mild summer temperatures with fresh mountain air like in Sinaia become more valued and popular amongst tourists.

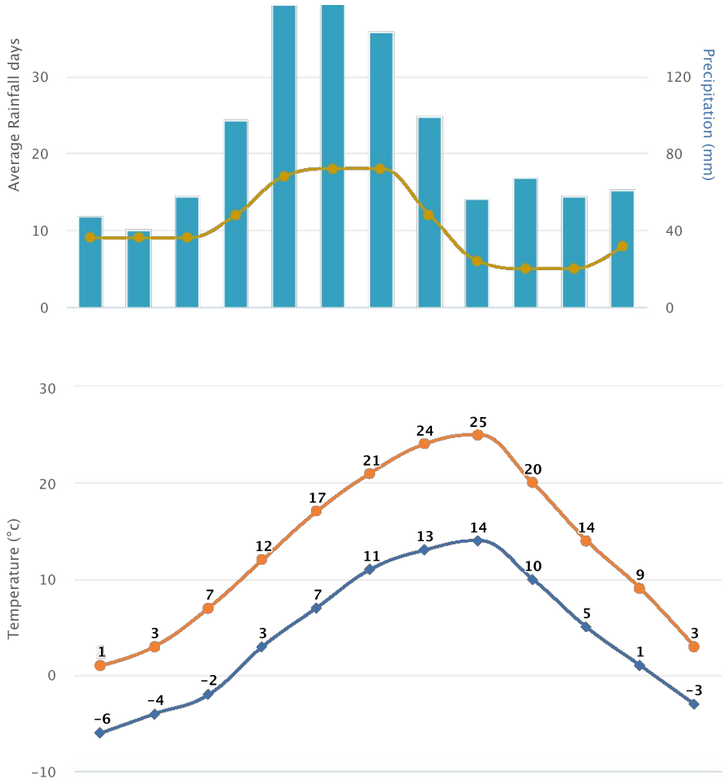


Fig. 35
Average Rainfall and Precipitation in Sinaia, 2023

Fig. 36
Average Temperature in SInaia, 2023

2.2.3 Geography

The Bucegi Mountains have attracted numerous international and local explorers and nature lovers since the 19th Century and with their distinct flora and fauna represent a very famous region in the the Carpathian mountain range.
Towards the end of the 20th Century the area of about 32.500 ha was protected as Bucegi Nature Park in 2000 in order to hinder the destruction of the biological diversity through tourism and the search for natural resources which was a high danger during the communist period. The Park today has its own administration, which is a lower unity of RNP ROMSILVA, aiming to preserve and protect nature. The introduction of such modern laws concerning envirnmental protection were also a requirement to be fulfilled in order to join the European Union.
Within the borders of the park are 15 mountain peaks, Vârful Omu being the highest at 2.505 m (Bucegipark, Istoric, 2024).

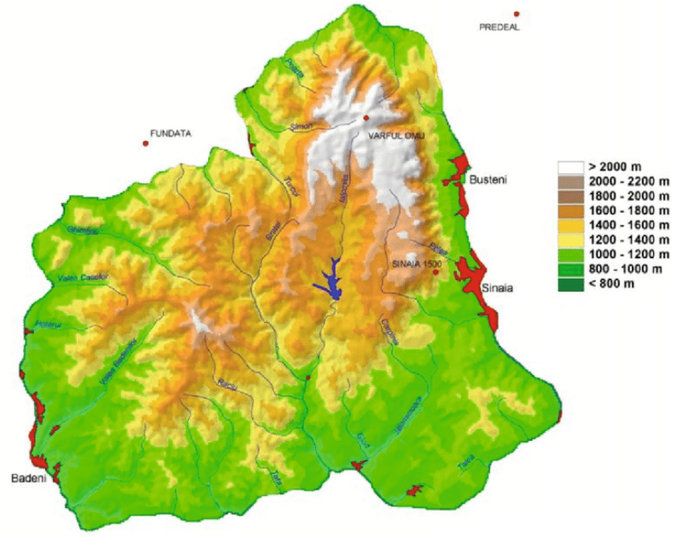


Fig. 37
Topography of the Bucegi Nature Park

2.2.4 Flora & Fauna

Fig. 38
Brown Bear

Fig. 39
Lynx

Fig. 40
Squirrel

Fig. 41
Wolf

Fig. 42
Red Deer

Fig. 43
Feral Cat

Fig. 44
Chamois

Fig. 45
Bat

Fig. 46
Corncrake

Fig. 47
Capercaillie

Fig. 48
Tawny Owl

Fig. 49
Black Wood-
pecker

Fig. 50
Smooth
Newt

Fig. 51
Yew
(Taxus bac-
cata)

Fig. 52
White fir
(Abies alba)

Fig. 53
Leontopodi-
um nivale

Fig. 54
Dianthus
glacialis

Fig. 55
Papaver
alpinum

Fig. 56
Yew zoom-in

Fig. 57
White fir
zoom-in

Fig. 58
Viola Alpina

Fig. 59
Lilium mar-
tagon

Fig. 60
Gentiana
acaulis

2.2.5 History

Sinaia was the first village in the Prahova valley to develop. Later its neighborhing cities Azuga, Busteni and Predeal developed and soon a chain of small villages war formed. Just like Sinaia, these other cities have a similiar history: historic resorts that were established in the 19th century, and later a bourgeois clientele was attracted by royal presence and other famous figures of that time. The first architectural element and root of Sinaia`s history, which is one of the most important landmarks of the town, dates back to when the Sinaia Monastery was built by the Wallachian Prince Mihai Cantacuzino, who was inspired by his trips to Nazareth and Jerusalem. The name Sinaia hints at Mount Sinai, where Moses receivedthe Ten Commandments. There are two courtyards formed by low buildings which surround two churches.
The Old Church was built in 1695 in the Brincovenesc and Byzantine style with rich-carved stone columns, small details and the porch with the rock portal, which was introduced in the 17th Century. There are also Byzantine paintings. The rock portal is decorated with the coat of arms of the Cantacuzino family, a sculpture of Moses and the two-headed eagle with cross and scepter. Slowly a new village started developing around it (Uncover - Romania, 2024).

The area was however damaged during the Russo–Turkish War from 1735 to 1739. The New Church was built in 1846. The whole monastery was renewed by King Carol I (1951 - 1957), who made the New Church the first in the entire country to use electric lights. In 1864 the monastery

1990
First Free Elections

Fig. 61
Location Sinaia Monastery within Northern Sinaia

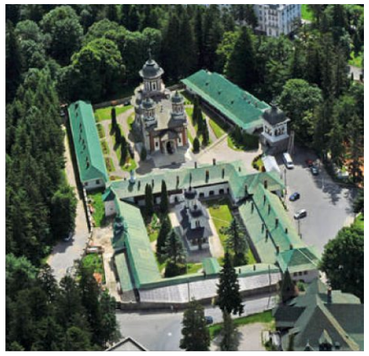
Fig. 62
The Porch of Sinaia Monastery, The Old Church

Fig. 63
Sinaia Monastery, The Old Church

Fig. 64
Sinaia Monastery, the New Church

Fig. 65
Sinaia Monastery

became the responsibility of the Board of Civil Hospitals, which opened one hospital in the town and set the stone for the development of mineral springs by forming several baths. He also used the monastery as a summer residence until the Peles Castle was built to become the actual royal summer residence. That part of the building decades later became the first religious museum in the whole country. Since 2005, 13 Christian Orthodox monks reside in the monastery and are the administrators of valuable jewels that once belonged to the Cantacuzino family as well as the first Romanian translation of the Bible from 1668. Another aspect that underlines the prominence of the monastery is that Ionescu, former Prime Minister of the country, is buried there (Tripadvisor, 2024).



Sinaia Monastery lies along the road to the Peles Castle, which is also one of the most important monuments of Southern Romania. It was built by King Carol I in 1883 in Sinaia, because of his personal admiration of the town (Uncover - Romania, 2024).
The castle included 160 rooms and the exterior part was built in German Renaissance style, whereas the gardens of the smaller neighboring Pelisor Palace remind of English landscaping including exotic flora.
The town started growing when the railway line was built to pass through in 1878 (Britannica, 2024).
The town developed into a popular summer resort of Romania`s upper class, which came with wishes for vacation villas, hotels, shops, restaurants and casinos.

To that time Sinaia also became known as the `Pearl of the Carpathians` (Carmen Sylva 1893) (A. E. Huzui, A. Abdelkader, I. Patru-Stupariu, 2013, p. 565)

Peles Castle represents German Neo-Renaissance style. It was the first European castle to exclusively use electricity. Toward the end of the 20th Century some changes were made and today it covers 3200 m^2, having about 200 rooms. Tourists nowadays can visit 35% of the building, where some of the most valuable painting and weapon collections within the castle. The castle is an architectural piece of art itself with its wood carvings and the stained glass.

After Carol I had no choice but to abdicate in 1947 parts of the castle were declared public for tourism, whereas it was closed again during the last years of the communist regime. Today the entire castle except for the presidential residence, can be visited (Welcometoromania, n.d.).

Constructions for Pelisor Castle began in 1899 by the order of King Carol I for the future King Ferdinand and Queen Maria.

Until it was finished four years later, the couple stayed in Foisor Castle, which today is a well-known sight in Sinaia.

Fig. 67
Peles Castle

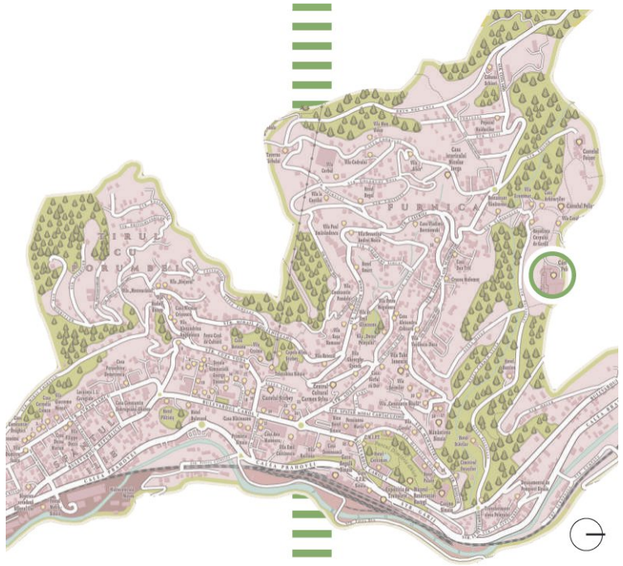


Fig. 66
Location Peles Castle within Northern Sinaia

Fig. 68
Peles Castle, Courtyard

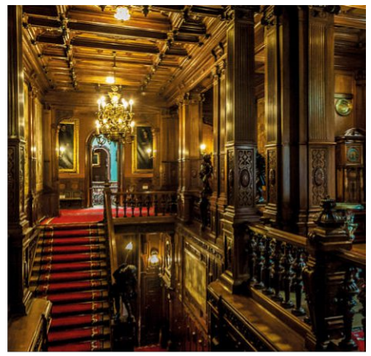


Fig. 69
Peles Castle, Interior

Pelisor consists of about 60 rooms. The castle`s design was adapted to serve the personal wishes of Queen Maria. She preferred the walls to be covered with oak timber and even some of the furniture and other architectural elements werde designed by her.

The new royal offsprings grew up in this castle as well. They were the future king Carol, Queen Mary of Yugoslavia, Queen Elizabeth of Greece and prince Nicolae (Welcometoromania, n.d.).

Fig. 70
Pelisor Castle

2.2.6 Land Use

The first map of Romania was produced in 1790 by the Austrian general Specht. It is a military map that shows the dominantly natural characteristics of the region and Sinaia Monastery. In the early 20th century King Carol I`s monarchy turned the small settlement into a royal residece with the Peles Castle. During Ceausescu`s communist leaderhip, the elegant mountain resort`s image was shifted towards an industrial center with new workers`neighborhoods (I. Pătru-Stupariu, M.-S. Stupariu, R. Cuculici, A. Huzui, 2011, p. 210).

The diachronic images below were created by combining multi-temporal satellite images with different cartographic materials into a grid system which result in a accurate date base making it possible to analyze urban growth over a time period. They show the changes in landuse in Sinaia between 1979 and 2007.

During the first period betewen 1979 and 1990 7 % of the vegetation area were tured into built-up areas, whereas vegetation spread more towards the south of the town and at the same time built-up areas grow towards southern parts, as workers` residential areas connected to Mefin S.A. were implemented. The industry was placed in Sinaia because of local raw materials, acess to water power and good infrastructure (DN1 and railway). A new working class neighborhood including technical schools emerged. According to the archive of the city`s town hall, 24 collective buildings were added in this context. Between 1990 and 2000 some forest areas became secondary residences in Northern Sinaia since private properties were reintroduced after the communist period. About 5 % of the meadows became leisure areas including various facilities, which was the beginning of a development away from industry and toward tourism. This came with a great demand for tourist accommodations and urban pressure and soon many construction athorizations by non-residents were requested for new secondary houses. (Arhivele Primariei Sinaia 2006). Since 2000 and beyond 2007 more leisure facilities were implemented and some skiing competitions of the European Youth Olympic Festival took place in Sinaia in 2013 where skiing is possible between 1.607 m and 2.056 m of altitude. New cable car systems were required and started to be built in 2007.

All in all a clear expansion of the built-up areas, connected with deforestation can be noticed to create space for new residential areas and leisure facilities (A. E. Huzui, A. Abdelkader, I. Patru-Stupariu, 2013, p. 572-576).

Through these chain reactions are the reason for the landscape fragmentation and it becomes obvious that there was not enough long-term-thinking involved in the development of the city, which could have made it more resilient to political or econimic changes (I. Pătru-Stupariu, M.-S. Stupariu, R. Cuculici, A. Huzui, 2011, p. 216).

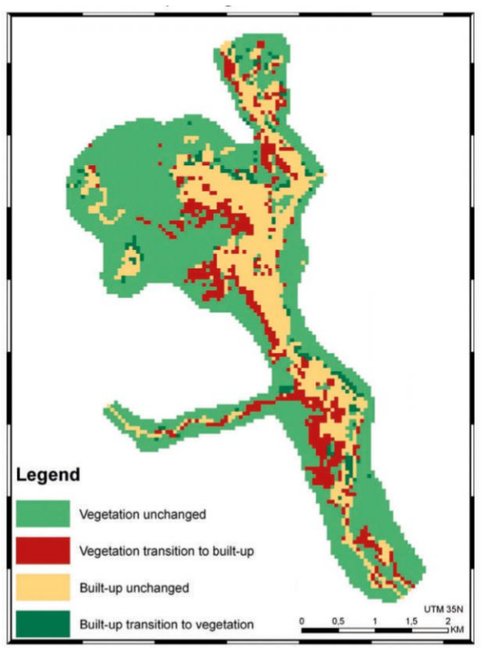
The authors define seven land use typologies: forests, pasture (grass cover for grazing or ecological purposes), urban, leisure in terms of sports (ski slopes and leisure interms of cultural facilites.

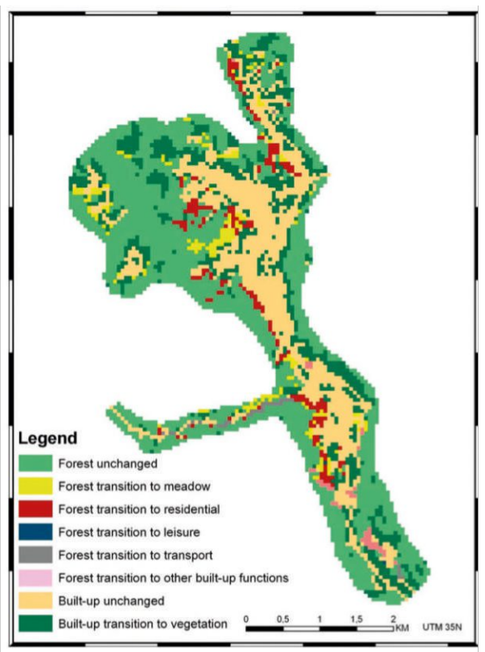
Fig. 71
Landscape Changes between 1979 and 2007

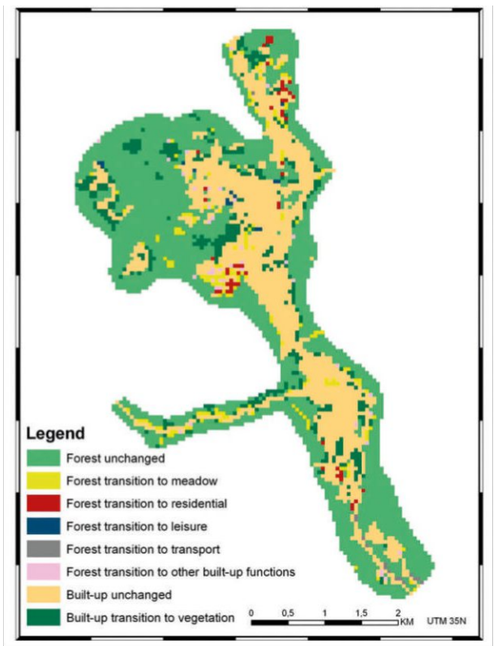
Fig. 72
Landscape Changes between 1979 and 1990

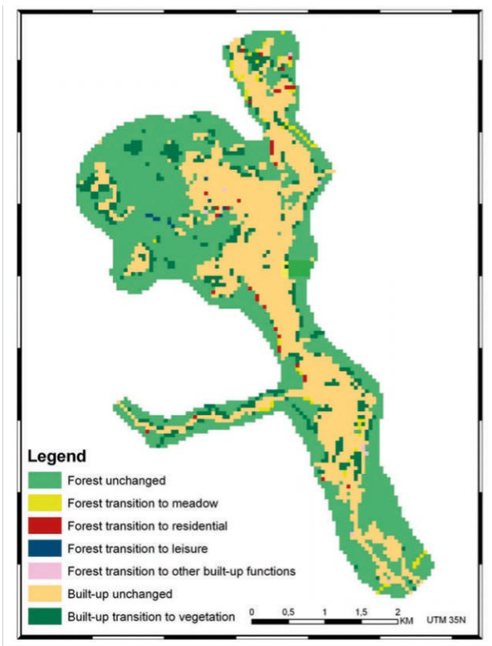
Fig. 73
Landscape Changes between 1990 and 2000

Fig. 74
Landscape Changes between 2000 and 1007









2.2.7 Uses Today

The analysis of functions in Sinaia supports the fact that the town developed around the Monastery in the north and furthermore expanded towards the south. The most busy area is located around Boulevard Carol I, where also the most popular hotels and restaurants are. It is also a commercial area and public facilities and institutions like the only mall of Sinaia, the town hall, the post office and the representative green spaces are also situated on this street. The northern part of the city is also the part which includes the sights and monuments, which is the reason why most tourists spend their time there.

The southern part started developing as a housing area, especially when workers` housing was needed for the people working at Mefin S.A., the industrial force and one of the most important aspect of Sinaia. Functions needed for inhabitants like a school and medical institutions are also found here. Sinaia has three kindergardens, one primary school, one school that teaches grades five to eight and one high school that teaches grade five to twelve. There is no institution like a college or university to attend after highschool, which is a major reason for young people to leave the town and move to bigger cities that offer better educational and job opportunities.

According to statistics by Zhuji Word from 2023, Sinaia`s population has already sunk by 12% between 2011 and 2022, when it had 12.000 inhabitants. The forecast for 2100 is a population of 7.000 if things continue to develop as they have up to today (Zhuji Word, 2023).

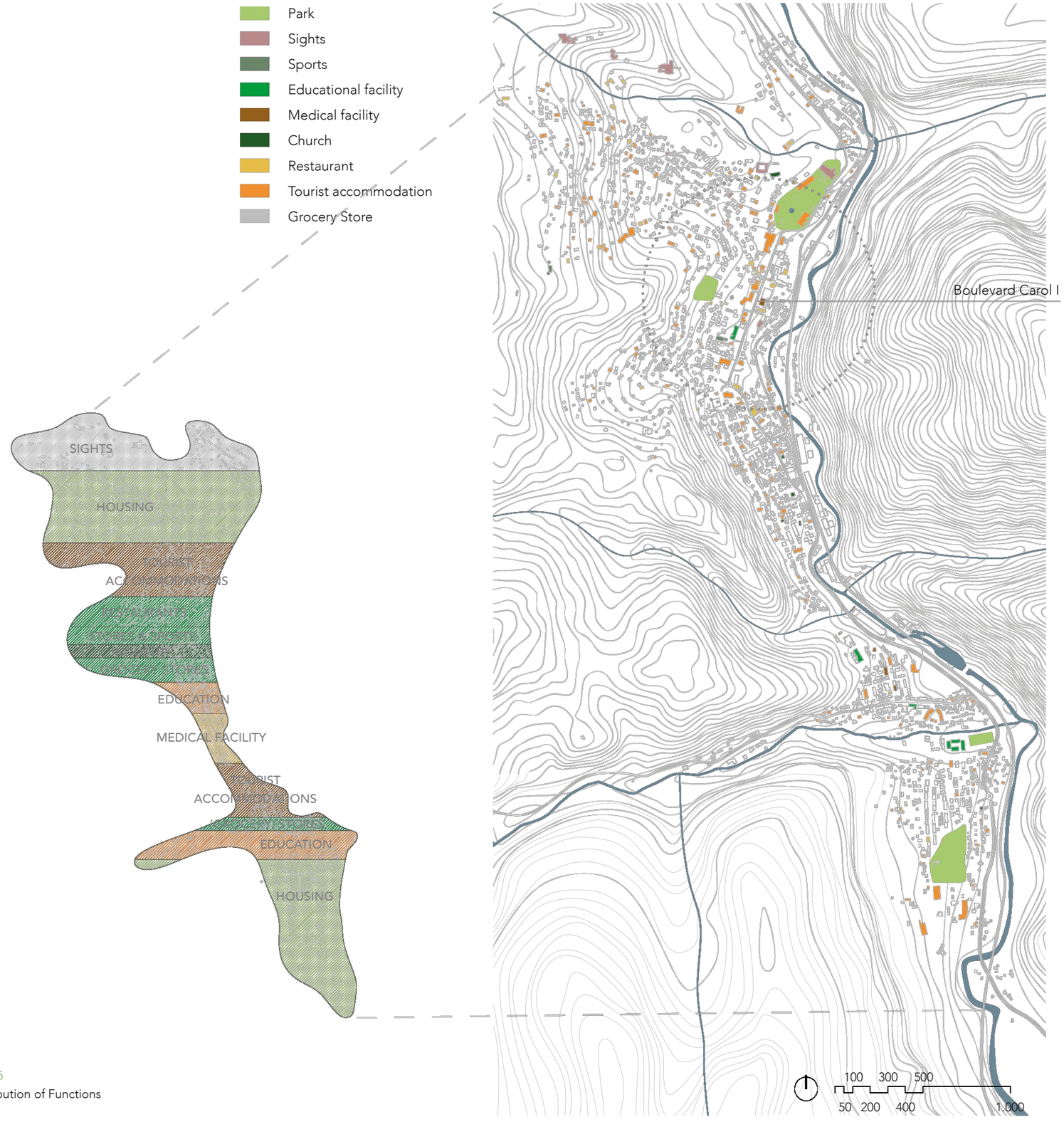


Fig. 75
Distribution of Functions

Fig. 76
Utilization Plan of Sinaia

2.3 Tourism in Sinaia

2.3.1 General Facts

Adrian Voican is the head of the Association for the Promotion and Development of Tourism and says about the district Prahova that it is the most important region in Romania in terms of tourism along with Transylvania and the Black Sea coast. Especially the winter resorts in Prahova attract international tourists. In Poiana Campina a growth in spa tourism could be experienced thanks to its salt- and thermal springs. Busteni is home to the Castle Cantacuzino and the town also hosts events and theaters like Bolschoi from Moscow. Azuga is popular for its ski slopes. In the middle of November one can be sure that 90% of the accommodations are fully booked for Christmas time and New Year's by national and international tourists.

Sinaia is known as the Pearl of the Carpathian Mountains and one of the last towns to maintain its historic flair, whereas many other holiday resorts developed to be much more commercial. However the hotels in Sinaia were modernized and also the cable car system which connects the urban area with the Bucegi mountains was upgraded.

Sinaia is also popular for business tourism and hosts conferences with over 5.000 visitors of for example pharmaceutical companies (Radio Romania International, n. d.).

In the resort tourists have the opportunity to practice various forms of tourism, including winter sports, business and meeting tourism, hunting tourism, scientific tourism or simply relaxation holidays (D.-M. Plesoianu, A. Popescu, 2021).

Tourism generally is based on spending most time outdoors, practicing winter sports during the cold season, being the busiest time of year in Sinaia.

The mountain landscapes, the unique tourist objectives and the possibility to practice several mountain activities, make Sinaia the favorite resort of many Romanian tourists and those from abroad.

A team from the World Tourism Organization and experts on Romanian tourism in particular developed The Master Plan for National Tourism Development 2007 – 2026. It is the main engine for the implementation of the ministry's tourism policies. The role of the National Organization for Tourism is the same as for encouraging and promoting the development of tourism to and within Romania. The objectives of the Master Plan focues on the current strenghts in Romanian tourism in order to develop new strategies to create more opportunities and satisfy a growing future demand. The sustainable development of the tourism industry, with the conservation of natural and anthropic resources is the overall idea of the master plan (World Tourism Organization, 2007).

Fig. 79
Ski Slopes in the Bucegi Mountains

Sinaia Casino

Architect: Petre Antonescu
Architectural style: Art Nouveau
Construction year: 1912 - 1913
Information: Initiative of king Carol I; Main attraction to that time; Players from all over the country and Europe came by train; 800 guests daily; Today serves as location for theater performances, folklore events, concerts, internatioal meetings (Welcometoromania, n.d.)

Fig. 80
Sinaia Casino, Interior

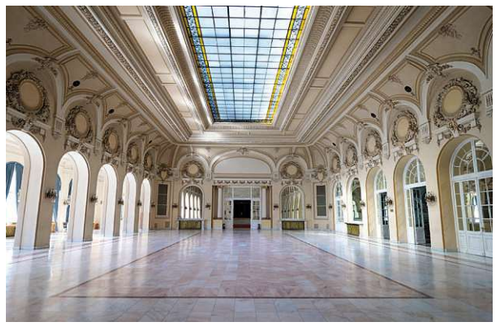


Fig. 81
Sinaia Casino

Castle Foisor

Architect: Initiative by king Carol I
Architectural style: Neo-Romanian style
Construction year: Before 1883
Information: Hunting house with 43 rooms; Royal residence to King Carol I and Queen Elisabeth until completion of Peles Castle; Residence to king Ferdinand and Queen Mary until completion of Pelisor Castle; Residence to king Carol II during his rule (1930 - 1940); Rebuilt after fire in 1933; Today belongs to the Romanian state and cannot be entered (Welcometoromania, n.d.)

Fig. 82
Castle Foisor

Casa Enescu

Architect: Radu Dudescu
Architectural style: Neo-Brâncovenesc
Construction year: 1923 - 1926
Information: George Enescu wrote contemporary Romanian music; Queen Elisabeth (wife of Carol I) appreciated his work and gave him a room in the castle to work in; When successful enough, he built villa Luminis; Since 1995 under administration of European Cultural Center of Sinaia (Welcometoromania, n.d.)

Fig. 83
Casa Enescu I

Fig. 84
Casa Enescu II

Economat Building

Architect: Duiliu Marcu
Architectural style: German Renaissance style
Construction year: Before 1883
Information: Residence of employees of the royal court when the king was in town; 52 rooms; Rebuilt in 1908; Today functions as a hotel
(Welcometoromania, n.d.)

Fig. 85
Economat Building

Sinaia Royal Station I

Architect: National Railway Company

Construction year: 1886

Information: Initiative of king Carol I; Orient Express stops there; Prime Minister Ion Duca was assassinated there by the Iron Guard in 1933 (Welcometoromania, n.d.)

Fig. 86
Sinaia Royal Station I

Fig. 87
Sinaia Royal Station I

Sinaia Royal Station II

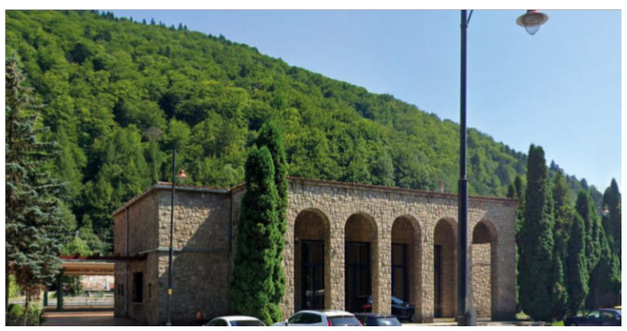
Architect: Duiliu Marcu

Construction year: 1938 - 1940

Information: Initiative of king Carol II; Exclusively for the royal family (Welcometoromania, n.d.)

Fig. 88
Second Royal Station I

Fig. 89
Second Royal Station II



Dimitrie Ghica Park

Architect: Franz Eder

Architectural style: Neoclassic

Construction year: 1881

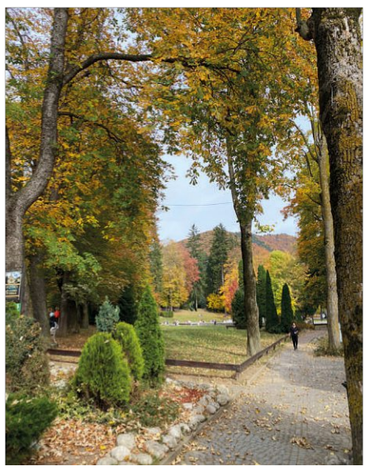
Information: Dimitrie Ghica was the co-founder of The Civil Hospitals Charity; Hosts concerts like Sinaia Forever (Izitravel, n.d.)

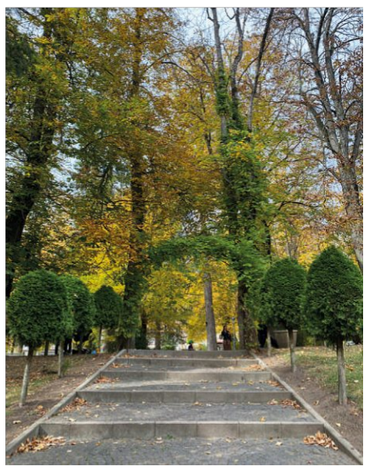
Fig. 90
Dimitrie Ghica Park, View on Hotel Caraiman

Fig. 91
Dimitrie Ghica Park I

Fig. 92
Dimitrie Ghica Park II

Fig. 93
Dimitrie Ghica Park III





2.3.3 Balneology

Introduction

The main feature in terms of tourist attraction is the country's outstanding nature and landscape, which covers a huge variety depending on the region. The Carpathian Mountains not only offer a large forest area, many small and big lakes, as well as streams and rivers, but also a great number of thermal water sources. Romania covers 30% of Europe's thermal springs, (Radio Romania International, n.d.).

There are about 160 spas and climatic health resorts including more than 2.000 thermal water springs. Due to their chemical composition, concentration, thermality and radioactivity, these springs compete with the best known high-quality resorts worldwide. Additionally there are about 150 lakes where you can find mineral water, out of which the majority are heliotherm (heated through sunlight), and some where healing mud of mineral und organic origin.

As a Branch of Tourism

Spa resorts in thermal spring regions are well-known for the treatment of different diseases and sufferings in picturesque landscapes. Nowadays they are a popular holiday destination for patients with specific needs of adapted treatments as well as the thermal baths and resorts simply offer great places for a short escape from the busy everyday-life.

As a branch of Romania's tourism, balneology has gained such significancy, that there are a lot of experts that deal with the topic on a political and economical level. George Sorin Nicolescu, vice president of the Workers` Association of Romanian Travel Agencies underlines that Romania has a large history in the field of spa tourism and that since back in the time it attracted foreign visitors who appreciated the unique offer. Nicolescu´s goal is to revitalize the concept of spa tourism in Romania: The infrastructure already exists, there are various hotels and facilities for visitors that are planned to be expanded to more regions. Different complaints like breathing difficulties, rheumatism, stomach diseases can be treated there. Some of the best known resorts are the Băile Herculane (Hercules Baths) in southwestern Romania, Călimăneşti, Căciulata, Olăneşti, Govora (in the Southern Carpathians), Covasna, Tuşnad, and Sovata in Transylvania.

In May 2016 the 41st International Scientific Congress for Balneology took place in Bucharest, where experts from different balneologic fields exchanged their knowledge and discussed spa resorts in the countries of their origins.

History

Mineral water springs were firstly used for spas by the Romans as they constructed Saratel, Anie (Chintuan, 1998), Borsec, Vâlcele, Odorheiu Secuiesc. With the tools of that time the water was tested for its medical, geological and chemical features and values. After the Romans, since the Habsburg Monarchy was at power, data collections in German appeared in 1777 that documented all the mineral water sources known at that time.

In 1766 the use of specific waters in a therapeutic context was examined by Kibédi, as many other doctors and authors followed the same lead. Spa resorts became a to some extent an exclusice facilities for the bourgeoisie. They were visited either for treatments and healing or simply for entertainment. Soon not only the relation with therapeutic treatments were analyzed but as well the geological background of the water that determied its composition (K. Boglárka-Mercedesz, 2014).

To historic times the Austrian Emperor Franz Joseph referred to Baile Herculane as the most beautiful resort on the continent and his wife Empress Elisabeth who shared his opinion even owned a house in the village (Romanrobroek, 2019).

Over the years and throughout the 20th Century analytic methods and expertise developed further and about 2.000 mineral water sources were detected in only the Eastern Carpathians. They vary much in terms of hydro-chemical compositions (K. Boglárka-Mercedesz, 2014, p. 72).

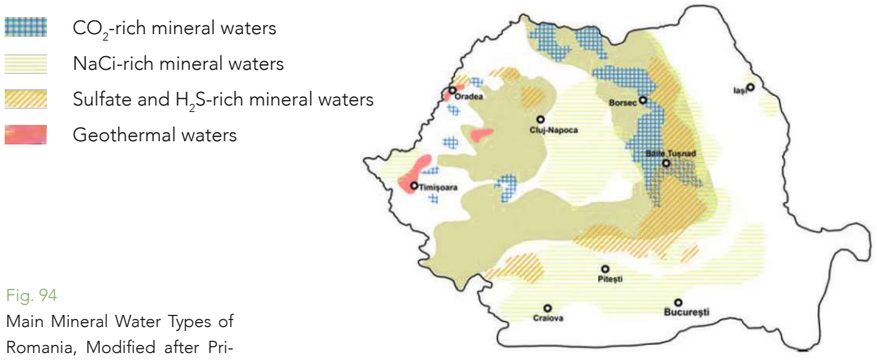


Fig. 94
Main Mineral Water Types of Romania, Modified after Pricajan, 1972

Resorts in Comparison

The following lists of chemical and medical terms are based on the source Romania Insider.

	Băile Felix	Băile Herculane	Sinaia
District	Bihor	Caras Severin	Prahova
Location	9 km from Oradea	5 km from the main route, which links Bucharest to the western part of the country; Cerna Valley- Domogled" National Park	At the foot of Furnica Mountains, on the right side of Prahova River, on the southeastern side of Bucegi Mountains
Natural Healing Factor	Thermal mineral waters containing: bicarbonate, sulphur, calcium, sodium, silicium; moderate continental climate	The thermal mineral waters are chlorosodic, bicarbonate with sulfur or calcium or with brome-iodine-sulphur. The air is rich in negative ions	Sulphur-ferric mineral water, carbon dioxide, herbs and electrotherapy that is achieved by exposure to ultraviolet radiation, as well as pulse currents or shortwave currents carbon dioxide, herbs and electrotherapy that is achieved by exposure to ultraviolet radiation, as well as pulse currents or shortwave currents (D.-M. Plesoianu, A. Popescu, 2021, p. 432)
Treats	Inflammatory rheumatic affections (rheumatic polyarthritis, ankylosing spondylitis), degenerative rheumatic affections (cervical, dorsal and lumbar spondylosis), posttraumatic affections, peripheral and central nervous system affections, associated diseasses (nutrition, metabolic, endocrine diseases), gynecologic diseases	Locomotion apparatus and nervous system diseases, sequels after locomotion apparatus trauma, breathing problems, chronic gynecological disorders, incipient diabetes mellitus, heavy metals intoxication, digestive diseases, eye problems, overweight syndrome	Neurosis, endocrine-metabolic diseases (hyper-thyroid, arteriosclerosis, diabetes, obesity), chronic breathing diseases, high blood pressure; peripheral and cerebral circulation disorders, chronic rheumatism, chronic peripheral neuron affections
What else to see	Oradea, Biharia, dendrology park in Batar, the Bears' Cave in Chiscau, 1 Mai baths, Meziad Cave, Padis Plateau, Stana de Vale, The Hell Valley, Vadu Crisului, Crisul Repede Gorge, Vadu Crisului caves (Romania-Insider, 2011)	Hercules bronze statue, the museum of the spa, The Imperial Roman Baths, the cabins where Emperor Franz Iosef and Empress Elisabeth treated their affections, Herculane Railway Station, the hunting house of Emperor Franz Joseph, Tismana Monastery (Romania-Insider, 2011)	Peles Castle Museum, Sinaia Monastery, George Enescu Museum, Sinaia Casino, Medieval castle in Bran, museum in Campina, Cheia monastery. (Romania-Insider, 2011)

Băile Felix

Traian Bădulescu, journalist and member of the press club for tourism of Romania points out the qualities that make the Băile Felix (Felix` Baths) very popular. It is important for a spa resort to have an ***easy and direct connection with the next big city***. In this case Băile Felix are located near Oradea, a touristic city with a beautifully restored, historic old town. Furthermore the resort offers ***accommodations*** as well as ***treatment options*** for a few thousands of tourists. Additionally visitors have the possibility to book ***sightseeing tours***. According to the plan, four- and five star hotels will open in Oradea and also the largest indoor aqua park in the country.
Rodica Pencea, who works as general secretary of the Workers` Association of Spa Tourism in Romania participated at the International Scientific Congress for Balneology and presented ***special offers*** like:

(Radio Romania International, n.d.)

One week of relaxation:
Six nights in a double bedroom
Breakfast
Two treatments of choice per day during five days
For 330 Lei (75 Euros) p.p.
Two-star hotel

One spa decade:
Nine nights in a double bedroom
Full board
Two treatments of choice per day during seven days
For 650 Lei (145 Euros) p.p.
Two-star hotel

Fig. 95
Băile Felix, Courtyard

Fig. 96
Băile Felix, Indoor Pool

Fig. 97
Băile Felix, Outdoor Pool

Fig. 98
Băile Felix, Bird View

Băile Herculane

The town Băile Herculane (Herculane Baths) with a population of 5.000 is located by the Cerna River in the mountains. The legend about a Roman god named Hercules who came to bathe and rest in this town gives the resort its name and according to archaeological investigations the village has been inhabited since the Old Stone Age.
The natural healing hot springs became very popular and the town was expanded through big hotels during communist rule.
Baile Neptun (Neptune- or Austrian Imperial Baths) are just as famous. They were built at the end of the 19th century and mainly designed by architect Alpar Ignat. The building contained over 30 cabins and large pools. There was a gym and an representative reception hall with very colorful details, especially red marble and a ceramic fountain in the center. The water sources used to be the hot springs Neptune I and Neptune IV. The building fell into decay due to lack of usage and administration towards the end of the 20th Century.
Today a young group of architects initiated the `Herculane Project`, which unfortunately has to deal with delays due to corruption and the legal situation, which gives the building more time to collapse little by little (Romanrobroek, 2019).

Fig. 99
Băile Herculane

Fig. 100
Băile Herculane, Interior I

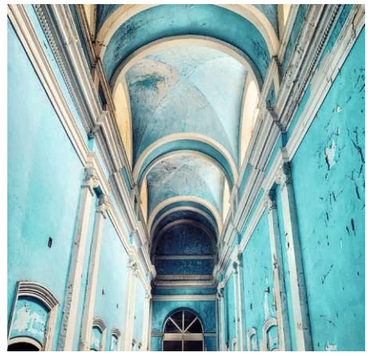


Fig. 101
Băile Herculane, Interior II

Fig. 102
Băile Herculane, Interior III

Fig. 103
Băile Herculane, Interior IV

Fig. 104
Băile Herculane, Interior V

Sinaia

The nearest thermal spring in the area around Sinaia is located at the foot of the Furnica Mountains, the Cainlelui Valley, where the sulphur-ferric baths can be found (Olalahomes, 2024).
The spring called Izvoarele Cu Sulf (translation: sulphur spring) is a hidden gem of Sinaia, since its water is not being used for medical treatments so far. Nevertheless it is not completely unknown, since many tourists pass it while following one of the hiking trails that start in Sinaia. Also local people go find the spring and use it on their skin. However no facility makes use of the spring water. The spring is one of the reasons why Sinaia is considered a health resort. Using the spring water for a spa in Sinaia would require a specific new infrastructure that maintains the water`s quality and temperature during all seasons. Offering different treatments in a spa in Sinaia using the water of the local spring water would extend Sinaia`s offers as a health resort.
Treatments that can be offered: sulphur baths, saunas, steam baths, mud baths, mud packs, hydrotherapy, skin treatments, drinking cures, massages and aroma therapies (Eurothermen, 2024).

Fig. 105
Valea Căinelui

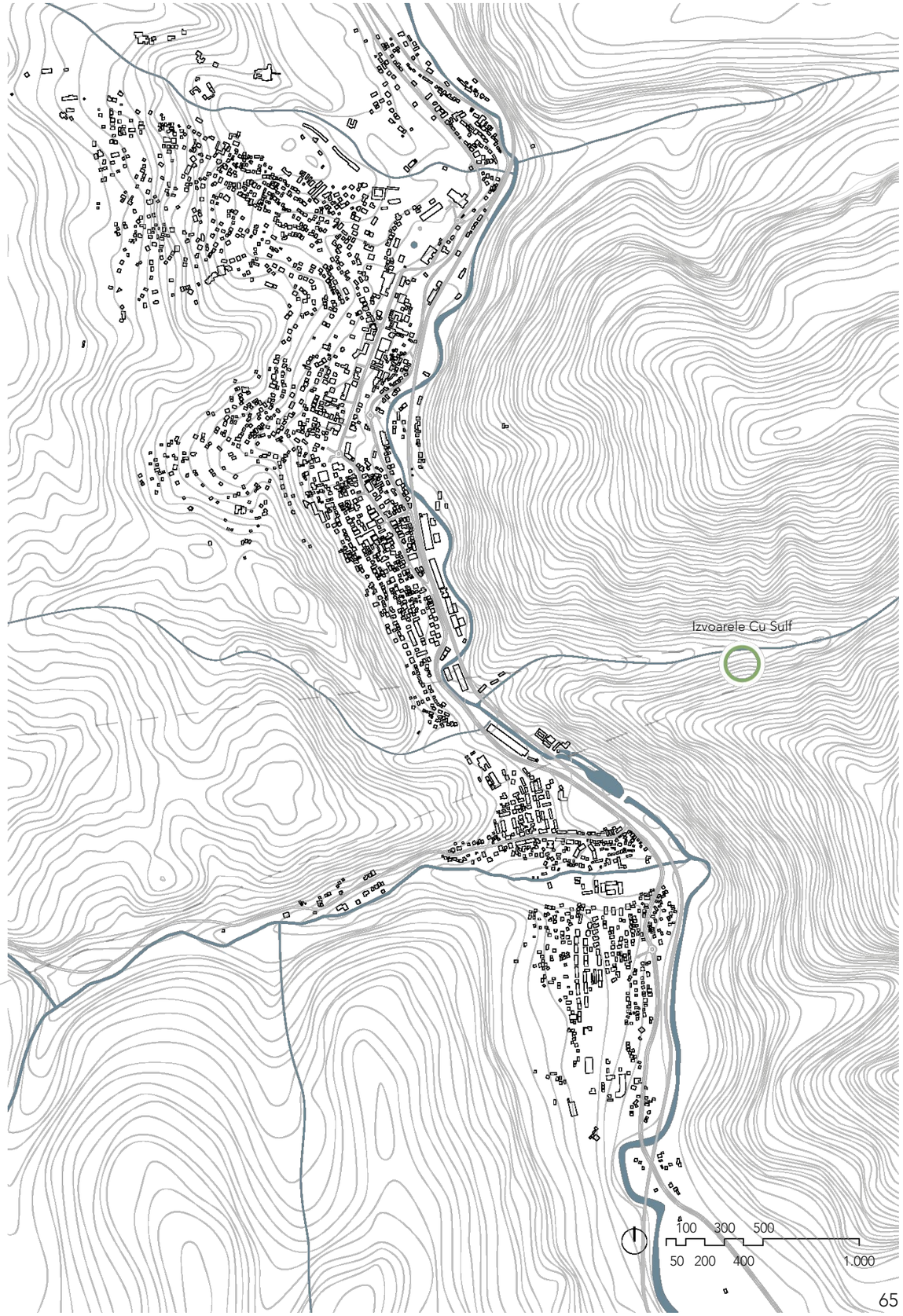


Fig. 106
Location Valea Căinelui

2.3.4 Winter & Summer Sports

The International Report on Snow and Mountain Tourism by Laurent Vanat, who is an expert in ski business and ski resort management, was published in 2020 and is well-known in the industry. The report takes into consideration existing major ski resorts as well as emerging ones all over the world. Out of 2.084 resorts worldwide, 37% are located in the Alps. Eastern Europe and Western Europe eachaccount for about 11% of the resorts (p. 13). The Alps make up only 37% of all resorts but generate 80% of all ski visits worldwide which are estimated to be about 400 million per year (p. 15). The report puts the resorts in relation with the ski visitors and their countries of origin. The number of skiers is estimated about 130 million with the tendency to grow since development is expected in Eastern Europe as well as Asia (p.16). Resorts there are likely to benefit themselves at a regional level for geographic and financial reasons, whereas for instance British or Dutch skiers will have a growing offer to choose from (p. 18).

Thanks to the according altitude, ski resorts in the Romanian Carpathians can benefit from snow from November until April. There are 44 ski resorts. Since those ski resorts are still rather undiscovered among international skiers, compared to major ski resorts the prices run relatively low, however one might not enjoy the same level of infrastructure and service, since it still finds itself in the development process. Nevertheless Romanian ski resorts count around 1,2 million visits per year (p. 126).

The most popular ski resorts in the Carpathians are Poiana Brasov, Sinaia, Busteni, Predeal, Azuga, Paltinis,and Borsa, Vatra Dornei. Poiana Brasov is a great example for how a ski resort with a clear plan can grow and become one of the most popular ski destinations of a country. It is located 13 kilometers from the big city Brasov and has a great infrastructure which make it easily accessible. Visitors can choose from a big variety of restaurants, bars and accommodations. Apart from the typical ski sport, several importantant sport events take place here in cross-country-skiing, ice skating, swimming (p. 126). Poiana Brasov might even host the Winter Youth Olympic Games in 2028. There are plans for new ski resorts initiated by the Romanian Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism including an 80 million Euro Ski the Carpathians program (p. 127).

The most popular mountain activity in Sinaia during the warmer seasons is hiking, which is not only a sport activity but gives visitors the opportunity to explore the mountain region, known to be one ot the most beautiful ones of the country. The Bucegi Mountains, which in winter are visited for their ski slopes, offer many marked hiking tails with different difficulties, but also bike paths that allow visitors to dicover natural heritage. Other than the Bucegi Mountains, the Piatra Mare Massif at 1.843 meters and the Postavaru Mountains at 1.799 meters can be expored (Daniela-Mirela Plesoianu, Agatha Popescu, 2021, p. 424).

Fig. 108
Ski Slopes in the Bucegi Mountains

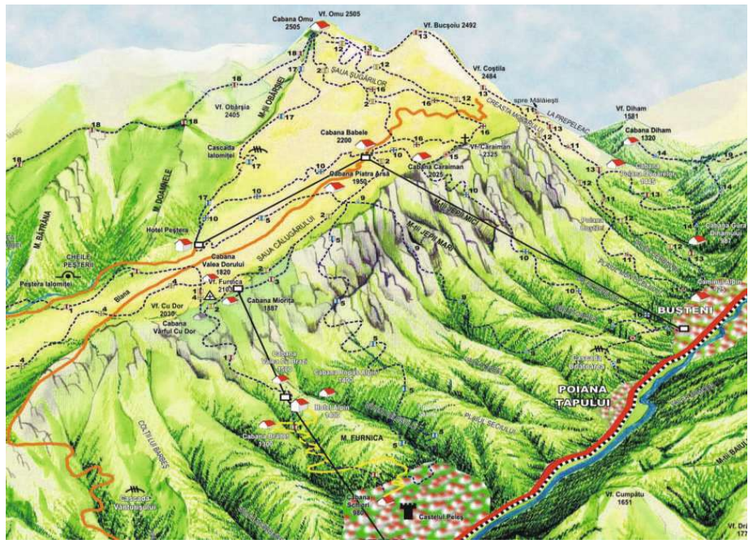


Fig. 107
Hiking Trails in the Bucegi Mountains

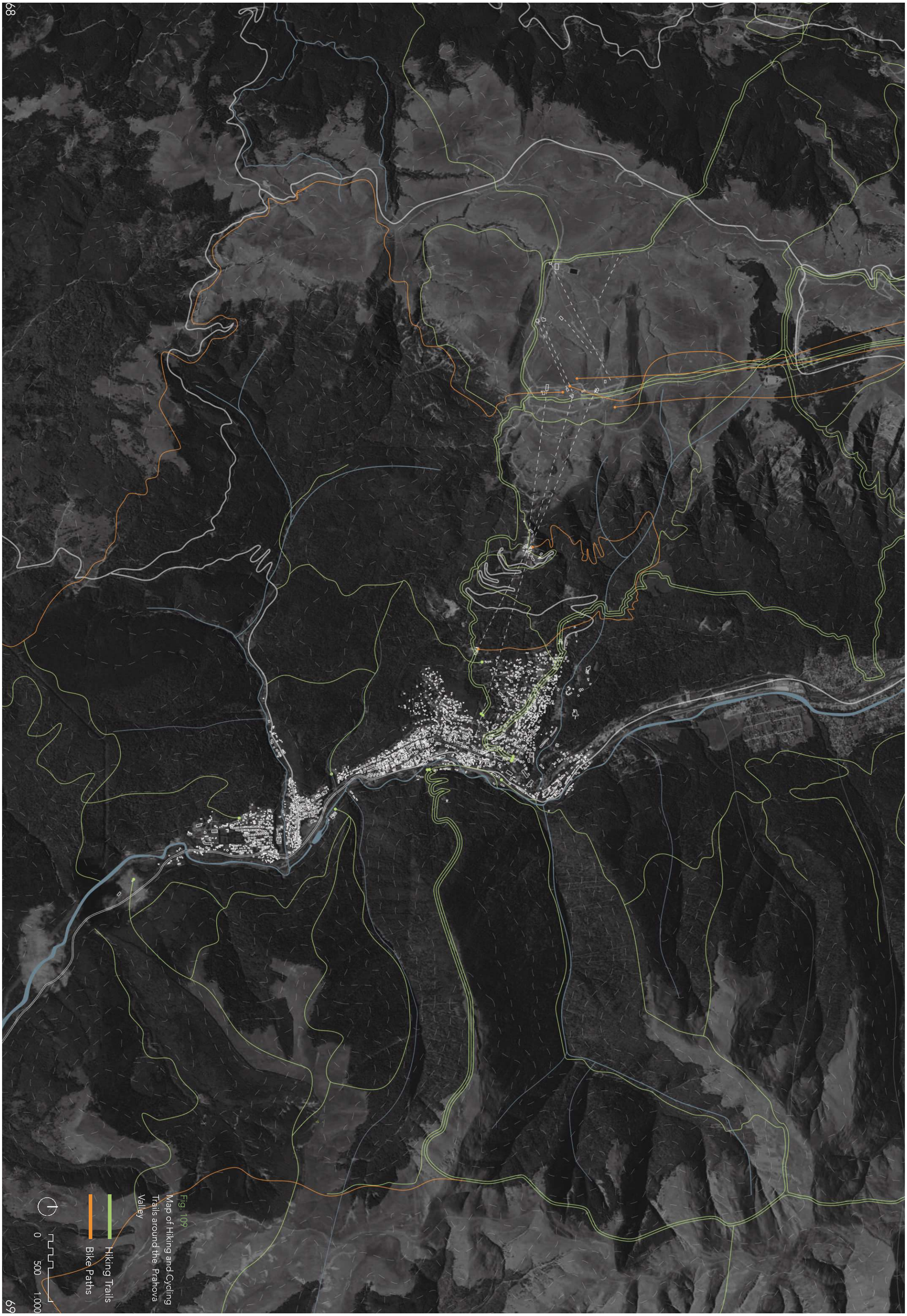


Fig. 109
Map of Hiking and Cycling Trails around the Prahova Valley

Accommodation	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total	77	77	83	84	89	89	87	85	96	95	89
Hotels	22	22	23	27	28	27	28	28	28	28	28
Hostels	2	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Motels	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Villas	22	23	21	15	13	12	11	10	13	13	12
Chalets	5	3	3	5	5	6	3	2	2	2	3
Camps for students and preschoolers	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Fig. 110
Tourist Reception Structures with Tourist Accommodation Function in Sinaia, 2009-2019

Year	Arrivals of Accommodated Tourists	Overnight Stays in Accommodation Structures
2009	165.233	403.352
2010	166.862	391.996
2011	174.616	397.491
2012	98.157	452.920
2013	197.813	438.868
2014	198.061	440.190
2015	267.789	528.906
2016	289.993	585.224
2017	293.408	596.591
2018	305.800	657.073

Fig. 111
Number of Arrivals and Overnight Stays in Accommodation Units in Sinaia, 2009-2018

Year	Romanian Tourists	Foreign Tourists
2009	181.423	64.782
2010	219.866	65.322
2011	267.603	80.109
2012	252.727	78.472
2013	273.494	89.693
2014	293.766	101.056
2015	349.676	115.876
2016	376.900	128.321
2017	400.630	139.502
2018	370.913	129.363
2019	442.911	130.646

Fig. 112
Number of Tourists Arriving in Sinaia, 2009-2019

2.3.5 Statistics

The official Tourism Plan of Sinaia implies the expansion of the accommodation offer as well als touristic infrastructure. Accommodationn offers vary from campsites and low-budget to more luxurious hotels, making it possible for anyone to visit Sinaia according to their lifestyle.
The accommodations are documented in the table below, which shows that in 2009 Sinaia had 77 tourist reception facilities, whereas in 2019 it were already 89. Accommodations are mostly hotels (about 50% are 3-star hotels) and tourist villas and a small amount are chalets, motels and hostels. Villas are very popular amongst Romanian tourists since it is common to travel with other families or friends which results in bigger groups of people. In addition to that villas offer much privacy for tourists which many prefer.
There has always been one camp site for students and preschoolers (D.-M. Plesoianu, A. Popescu, 2021, p. 430).
The constantly expanding accommodation offer responds to the demands of a yearly growing number of tourists in Sinaia. By now the town is one of the most popular resorts in the country.
The table expounds the increase from 165.233 arrivals of accommodated tourists in 2009 to 305.800 in 2019 which resulted in 657.073 overnight stays in accommodation structures in 2019. The number of overnight stays additionally highlights weekend tourism and short vacations (D.-M. Plesoianu, A. Popescu, 2021, p. 431) with an average duration of stay of 2,1 days in 2019 (National Institute of Statistics, 2020, p. 625).
In 2017 tourists had the possibility to choose from 4.769 accommodation places which could cover approximately 15.000 people.
The table underlines that Sinaia has attracted and still attracts more national tourists, nevertheless the number of foreign tourists keeps growing proportianlly with the total number of tourists, making up 130.646 (22,78 %) out of 573.557 tourists in total in 2019 (D.-M. Plesoianu, A. Popescu, 2021, p. 434). On the top of the list of foreign tourists are Moldova, Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy and Germany. (National Institute of Statistics, 2020, p. 627).

Like many other regions, predominantly in Eastern Europe, Romania in its post-communist period faced a time of deindustrialization that came with desurbanization and led to many shrinking cities.
The term Shrinking City refers to cities in which a decline in population and economy is experienced. Direct causes might be poor infrastructures in the transportation, social or utility sector, which is a common phenomenon for post-socialist regions. During Ceausescu`s rule, up to 60 % of investments were in the industry. The change of regime from a centralized economy to a market-orientad one affected the population severely (A. Banica, M. Istrate, I. Muntele, 2017, p. 5).
According to Wiechmann the term Shrinking City decribes urban areas with at least 10.000 inhabitants that has experienced a decline in population for minimum two years (A. Banica, M. Istrate, I. Muntele, 2017, p.1). There are other definitions by different experts but they all indicate a negative connotation and the relation with demographic losses as well as economic struggles (A. Banica, M. Istrate, I. Muntele, 2017, p. 2).

Class 3 according to the authors are the stabilized shrinking cities. They still offer a certain amount of jobs an the population loss is at a slower pace than in other regions. Nevertheless if put into relation with other regions, the number of people leaving the area is relatively high, but it has to be considered that the 1990s meant a rapid population growth for those regions. Examples for class 3 cities are Brasov, Oradea and Sibiu. Class one categorizes episodically shrinking cities, class 2 the fast shrinking ones, class 4 the deep shrinking cities which experienced the worst population loss and class 5 are the least or non-shrinking cities like Bucharest (A. Banica, M. Istrate, I. Muntele, 2017, p.8).
People started migrating from urban to rural areas which advanced the declining economy: unemployment and low income were the results.
Between 1997 and 2000 the privatization of many companies and industries took place and led to a better economy and higher GDP in 2008 for the first time. An important factor were the measures that were taken in order to be accpeted into the European Union, which set some new standards. The global economic crisis, which followed right away, cut off the economic growth until 2011, when the the private sector in Romania was reformed and the industry reorganized.
According to the authors, shrinking Romanian cities should focus on `economic development encouraging these areas to become attractive both residentially and from the viewpoint of job opportunities and leisure areas in a clean and sound environment.` (A. Banica, M. Istrate, I. Muntele, 2017, p.17).

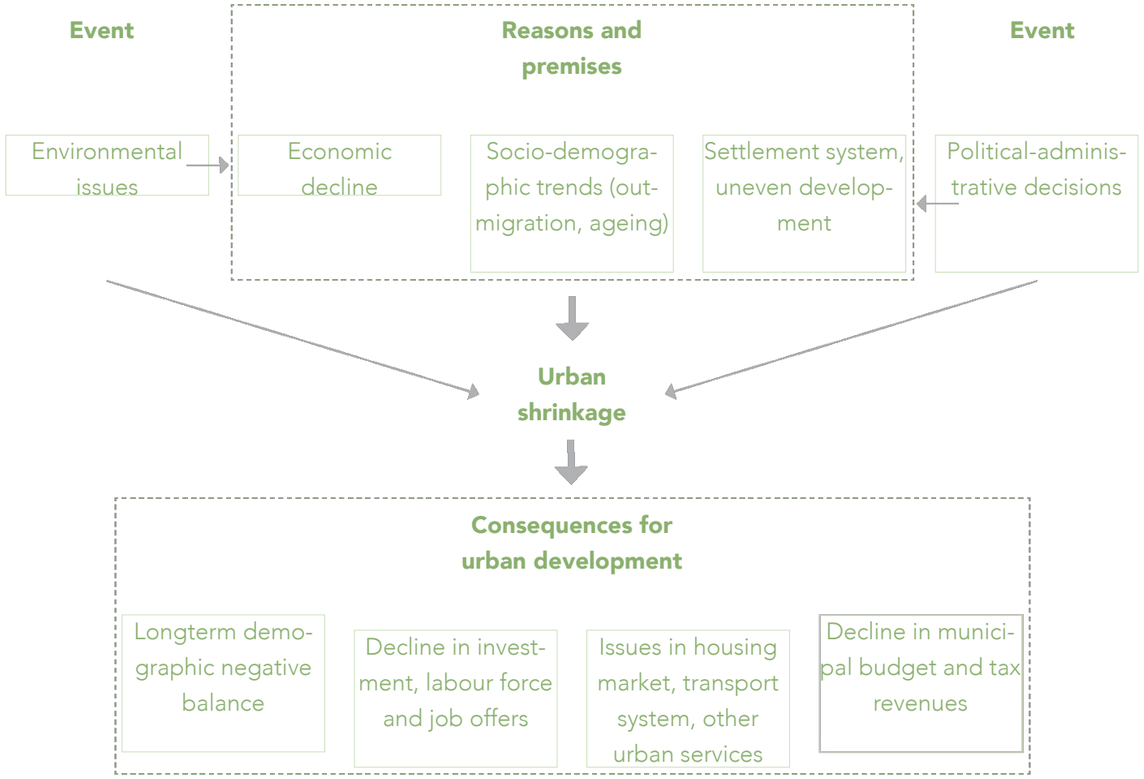


Fig. 113
Urban Shrinkage and its Causes and Effects

Fig. 114
Sinaia`s Silhouette

Fig. 115
Neighborhood in Sinaia

Fig. 116
Foot of the Furnica Mountains

Fig. 117
Bucegi Mountains in Winter

Fig. 118
View on the Town I

Fig. 119
View on the Town II

Views

Fig. 120
Hotel International

Fig. 121
Hotel Palace

Fig. 122
Hotel Sinaia

Fig. 123
Hotel Pältiniş

Hotels

Fig. 124
Hotel Cerbu

Fig. 125
Street View Sinaia

Fig. 126
House by the Train Tracks

Fig. 127
Detail of the Roof of a Residential House in Sinaia

Fig. 128
Residential Villa

Fig. 129
Sinai APH Apartments

Housing

Fig. 130
House in the Center of Sinaia

Fig. 131
Residential House

Fig. 132
Town Hall

Fig. 133
Typical Wooden Bus Station

Fig. 135
Tourist
Information

Representative Buildings

Fig. 134
Villa Carol

Fig. 136
Street Food House and Villa
in the Back

Fig. 137
Stirbey Castle

Fig. 138
Mall in the Center, Including
Freetime Activities

Fig. 139
Pedestrian Walkway

Fig. 140
Walkway by the Main Street
in the Center

Fig. 141
Roundabout in the Center

Street Space

Fig. 142
Vegetation by the Street

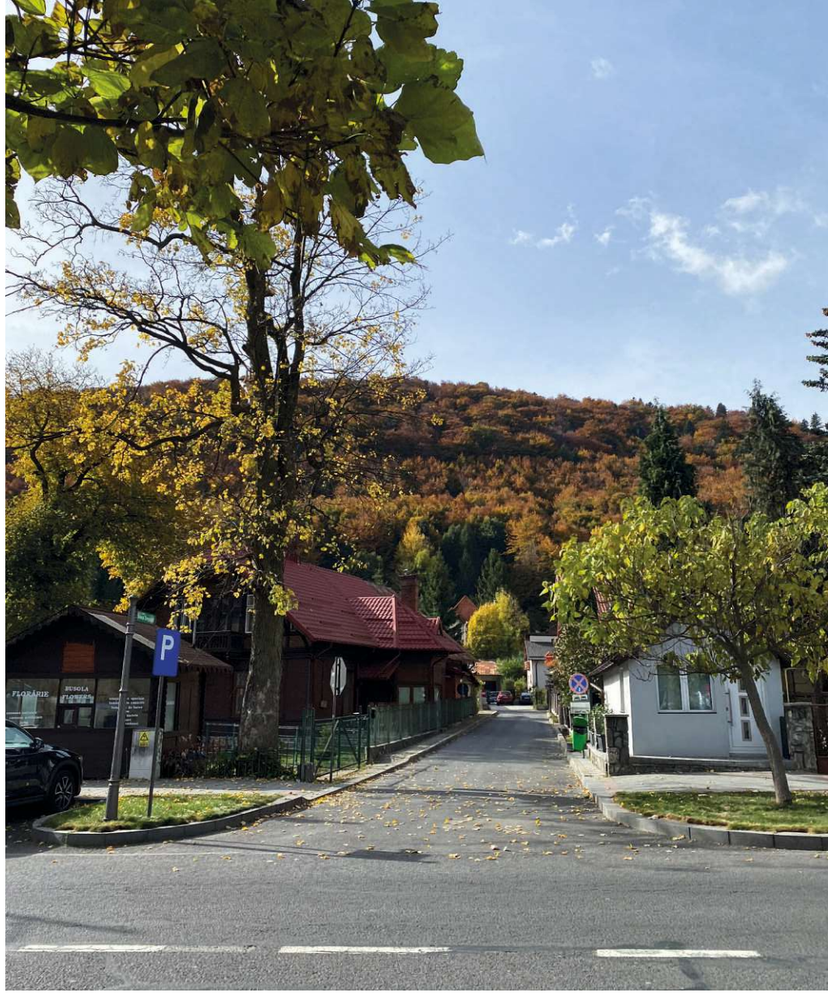


Fig. 143
Side Street

Fig. 144
Birdview of Boulevard Carol I

"Heavy industry plays a decisive role in the development oof the economy and the construction of socialism, ensuring the necessary basis for thee progress of all other sectors."

The Political Report of the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party to its Twelfth Congress, 1979, Nicolae Ceausescu

3. MEFIN S.A.

3.1 Background

The site where Sinaia Valley was designed firstly caught the eye with its huge voluminous factory buildings that attract a lot of attention when driving on DN1, which is the only access road to Sinaia. The site with a surface of about 104.000 m² belongs to a company named Mefin S.A..
The Company`s history began in 1892, when entrepreneur Emil Constinescu built a factory for the production of nails, screws and screw nuts.
In 1913 the joint stock company `Emil Costinescu` was founded and the production of arms began in 1938. With the communists coming to power, Mefin just like all the industrial companies in the country was no longer a private company, but state property by 1948.
Production shifted towards injection equipment in 1953 and for further expansion the BOSCH-Germany license was purchased in 1967 for in-line injection pumps. Two years later another license by LUCAS-CAV from Great Britain was added for the production of rotary pumps type DPA.
A new building with a surface of 20.000 m² was added in 1982 in order to double the existing capacity (Mefin, Background, 2024).

The company quickly developed to be amongst the best known manufacturers in the field of diesel fuel injection equipment worldwide. The company is represented in 81 countries and in 2003 it was bought by DCI Walbridge Partners, making it private property once again.
To profitable times 1.000.000 high-pressure fuel pumps and spare parts were sold to more than 15.000 service workshops and OEM factories. The equipment can be installed on diesel-powered tractors, trucks, passenger vehicles, industrial and construction equipment, generators and forklift trucks (Mefin, Start, 2024).

For machining, testing and assembly, casting, plating and foundry, there are more than 2,000 metal-working machines and specialized vertically-integrated manufacturing facilities like heat treatment, foundry, forge, protective coating, tool-room, machine-tool building, metrological services and manufacturing and research and development (R&D) laboratories (Mefin, Start, 2024).
The company counts more than 300 employees in Romania and about 2.500 worldwide in the 15.000 service workshops (Mefin, Background, 2024).

Fig. 145
Mefin S.A. Main Entrance

Fig. 146
Mefin S.A. Office Building

More than 500 employees lost their jobs in 2009 after a long period of fear of uncertainty. Many metal and heart diseases were diagnosed on the employees due to the pressure to that time. A few months earlier in 2008 they were told that the company was not going to be closed down, however they received the notice of termination a little later. The fear of unemployment led them to go to the streets and demonstrate. They were also fighting for their rights as employees which after an inspection were found to be non-satisfactory (VPTV.RO, 2015).

With the times of modernization it came to the closings of many industries, Mefin S.A. being one of them. The result are a big number of vacant industrial areas and factories. Since industrialization came hand in hand with urbanization, new workers` housing was built and in Sinaia`s case it used to be the whole southern part of the city. Today, just like the factories, many of those houses are vacant or only holiday residences for the people that moved from Sinaia to Brasov and Bucharest.

Fig. 147
Mefin S.A., 19th Century

Fig. 148
Mefin S.A. Historic Photo

Fig. 149
Mefin S.A. Machinery

Fig. 150
Mefin S.A. Production

Fig. 151
Mefin S.A. Products

Fig. 152
Building A

Fig. 153
Side Entrance Building A

Fig. 154
Birdview Northern Part of the Property

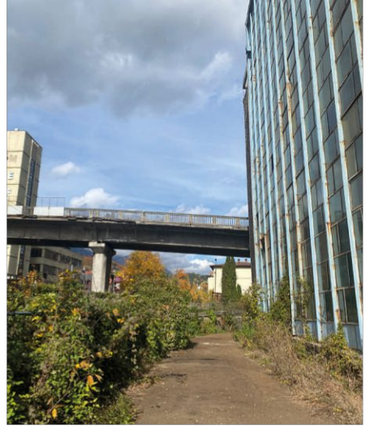
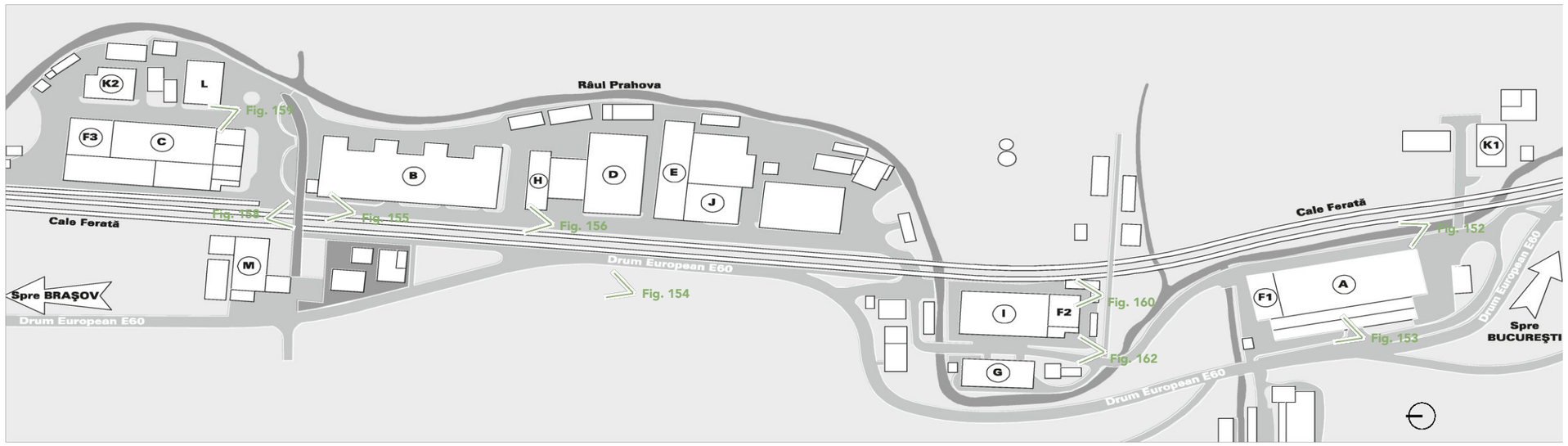


Fig. 155
Building B and Bridge
Access from the City

Fig. 156
Building B

3.2 Property



A Manufacture of DPA pumps
A Manufacture of components
B In-line pump manufacturing
C Machining on automatic lathes
D Atorie
E Forge
F Heat treatments
G Coverings
H Mechanical-energy section
Tool room
I Workshop
J Metrology
K1 Laboratory
K2 Prototype workshop
L and engine testing
M Administration

Fig. 157
Site Plan

Fig. 158
Building B and Train Tracks

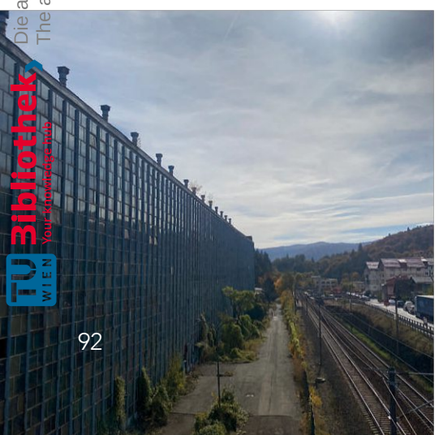


Fig. 159
Building C

Fig. 160
Birdview on Building I

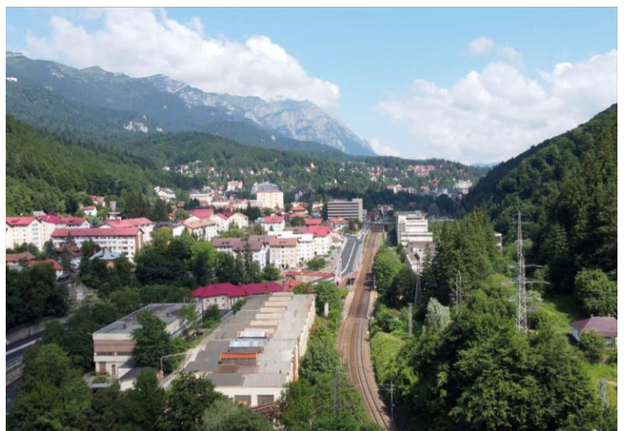


Fig. 161
Facade Building B

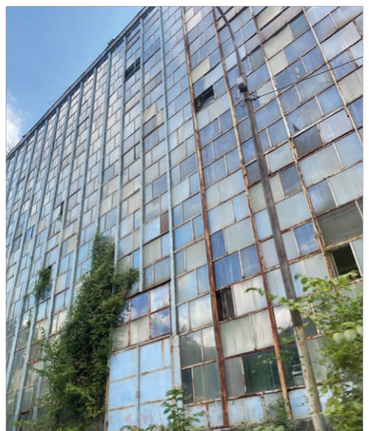
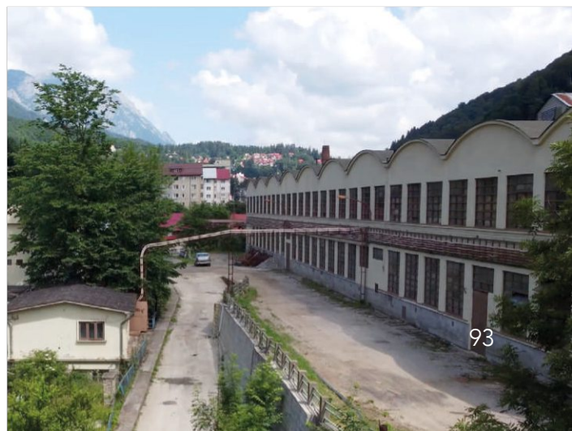


Fig. 162
Building I



3.3 Communist Industrial Architecture in Romania

It is very typical for towns in the Prahova Valley to have an industrial background from the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. With the closings of most of those factories during the last twenty years, the towns are left with big industrial buildings that slowly decay because there are no means of maintenance.
The Association of Culture, Cults and National Cultural Heritage Prahova extended the list of industrial buildings that are historic monuments. In 2006 the only three buildings on that list were the electric power plant on Aleea Pelesului, nr. 2, which was the former mill of the Sinaia Monastery, some buildings in the Ferastrau neighborhood, on Telecabinei Street, belonging to the Busteni Paper Factory and Warthiadi Water Mill in the commune of Drajna, in the village Drajna de Jos.
Liana Dobrinescu, architect and DCCPCN counselor, started an initiative for many more such buildings. The proposed list of was sent to the Ministry of Culture in 2006. Buildings to be maintained in Sinaia according to Liana Dobrinescu are the hidroelectric plant on Piscul Cainelui Street, which in 1998 became the Prahovene Energetics Museum, the production hall of the former Costinescu Nails Factory which today is one of Mefin`s production facilites, the Filippo Dozzi Salami Factory and the first water catchment of the city, on Furnica Street.
In Sinaia`s neighboring town Busteni, buildings related to the paper factroy built in 1882 were on the list. After a fire that partly destroyed the production hall, the town decided to erase most of the industrial buildings in order to build a new neighborhood with apartment blocks and shops. Azuga, the town north of Busteni, was known for its beer production, cement factory and cloth factory, which were all built around 1880. Just like the paper factory in Busteni, the factories in Azuga are waiting to be demolished to make room for a large leisure complex.
These are just some of the examples for industrial locations in the Prahova Valley (Ziarulprahova, 2006).

Fig. 163
Synthetic Fiber Industry - Production, Braila,1980s

Fig. 164
Synthetic Fiber Industry - Building, Braila,1980s

According to the essay `Post-Communist Identities` by Alexandru Fleseriu and Eszter Peter, there are three categories of Romanian cities: Cities that revitalize their original identity, cities that create a new one and cities that combine both ideas (Ina Stoian, Daniela Calciu, 2012, p. 132). Sinaia today does not show much of its communist industrial past. The most present elements are the mostly empty production halls of Mefin. There are very popular sights in the town that remind of other moments in history before the communists came to power, whereas a number of new hotels and a mall have been constructed and make it a modern holiday resort. It is most realistic to say that Sinaia has the image of the combination of its royal, industrial and modern features.

"Often enough, ***emigration*** and ***industrial decline*** are mutually ***dependent***. At the end of the day, the municipalities affected are faced with the question of how these processes can be ***reversed*** and how the industrial and commercial wasteland left behind can be put to ***good use for urban developement.***"

ABES S.a.r.l., n.d., urban design studio

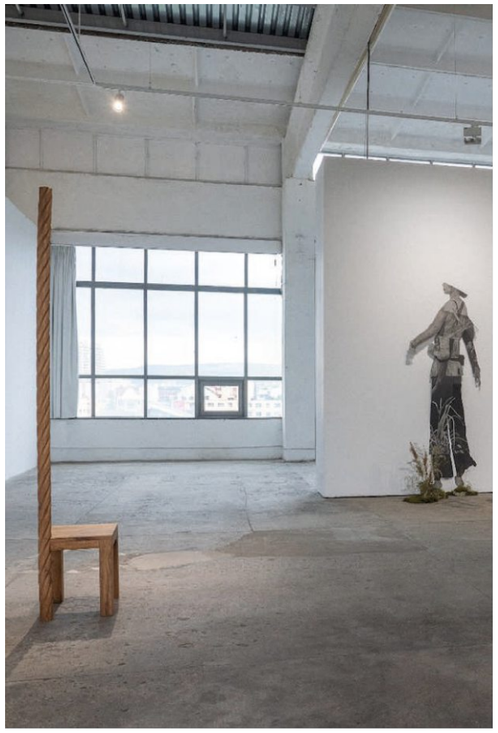


Fig. 165
Exposition

Fabrica de Pensule

Location	Cluj-Napoca, Romania
Old use	Paintbrush factory
New use	Contemporary art collective, offices
Year of restauration	2017
	(Transilvaniareporter, 2019)

Fig. 166
Event

Fig. 167
View on the Building

AIRE - Ancient Baths

Location	New York City, USA
Old use	Textile factory
New use	Wellness center
Architects	Alonso Balaguer
Year of restauration	2013
	(Architizer, n.d.)

Fig. 168
Thermal Pool

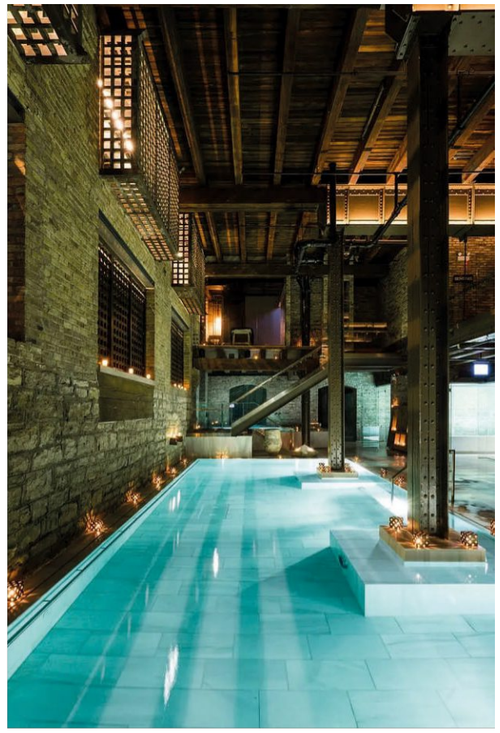


Fig. 169
Water around Static Structure

Fig. 170
Treatment Space

Andels Hotel Lodz

Location	Lodz, Poland
Old use	Textile factory
New use	Hotel
Architects	OP ARCHITEKTEN ZT GmbH
Year of restauration	2009
	(EUMiesAward, n.d.)

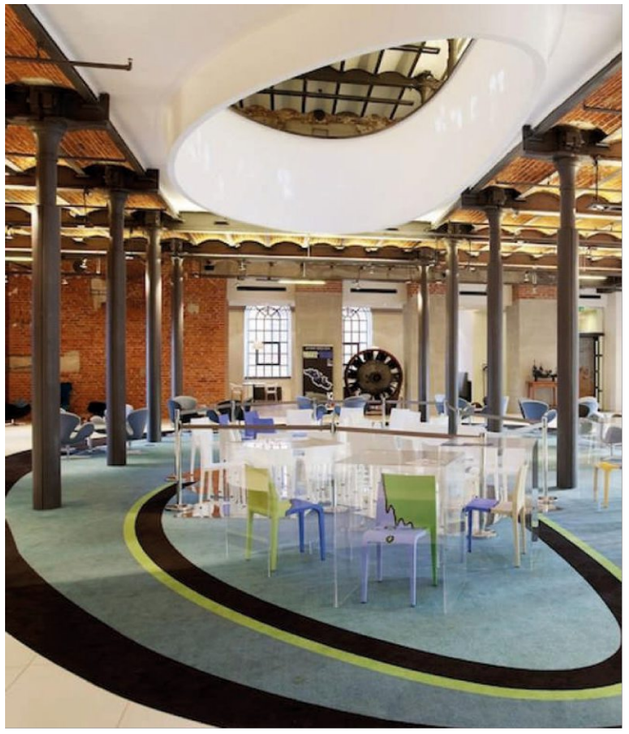


Fig. 171
Common Space

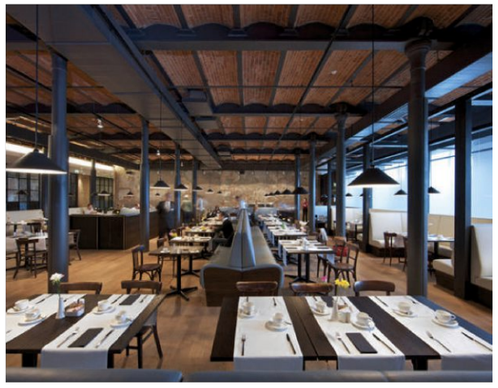


Fig. 172
Restaurant

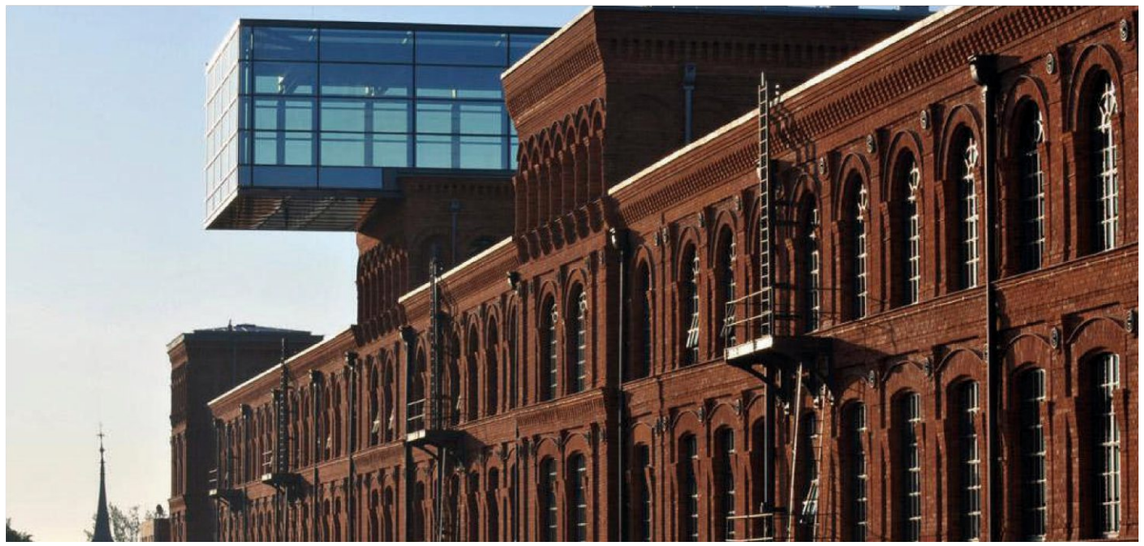


Fig. 173
Facade

LocHal

Location	Tilburg, Netherlands
Old use	Locomotive hall
New use	National library, work space
Architects	Civic Architects
Year of restauration	2019
	(Architectsjournal, 2020)

Fig. 174
Food Spot

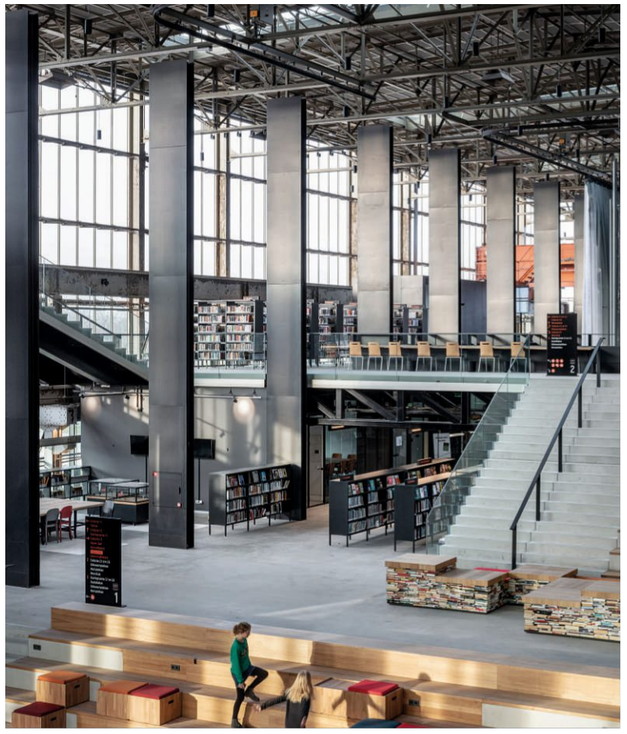
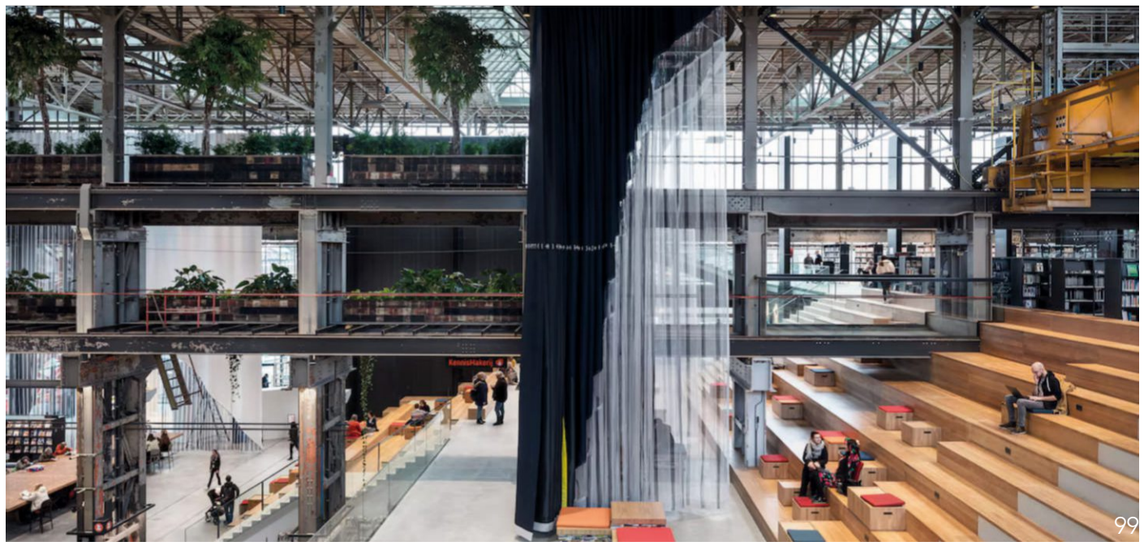


Fig. 175
Library Indoor

Fig. 176
Seating Steps



"As an architect, you design for the present, with an awareness of the past, for a future which is essentially unknown."

Archdaily, 2023, Norman Foster, architect

4. SINAIA VALLEY

4.1 First Steps

The property of the Mefin S.A seemed abandoned except for one of the production buildings, and since there was no way of entering the property due to big gates ans security cameras, the first step was to get in touch with anyone who still worked there. After several emails and calls with the city hall, it became clear that it was not easy to get access to insider information, especially on the property Mefin S.A with its long history of private ownership, then state ownership and the following privatization. During its period as state property it even was related to the military, since arms were produced there, which didn`t make it easier either to receive information. After long internet researches, the name and mobile phone number of the executive manager could be found. Together with the commercial manager the two women are leading what`s left of the company while the owner from Walbridge Partners sits in Detroit in the USA.
The managers were open for the idea since they were happy to hear that there was interest in designing the huge property and a few weeks later a meeting in person an the office of Mefin took place. Only with a scheduled meeting and a daypass from the security guard at the front gate it was possible to enter the property. After talking about the initial ideas and intention of the project, one of the engineers offered to show around the property by car, since it is so big. It was not allowed to walk around the property without supervision. Everything was documented with photos and the curiousity for the site only grew after realizing how it flows through the Prahova valley parallel to the DN1 and the Prahova river. The dimensions and especially the circulation on different levels, with bridges crossing the river and passages underneath the train tracks are one of the most important feature of the site. The tour on the property also helped to win an impression on the state of the buildings in terms of risk of collapsing and statics.
During the process of developing the project, several trips and meetings helped to get as close as possible to the history and current situation of Mefin. Furthermore the city Sinaia, although visited several times before, was analyzed from an architectural and urban perspective.

Fig. 177
Last Active Production Hall of Mefin Sinaia

4.2 Project Aim

Interview with the employee of a tourist information facility, translated from Romanian to English, 12/08/2023

IC How big is the demand for information and what ar the most asked questions or what are people most interested about?

TI We receive between 6.000 and 10.000 mails per year. Some people also call or walk into our office. The questions really depend on the season. During the warmer season most questions are related to the hiking trails in our mountains as well as the animals that can be seen in the Bucegi Natural Park. People also ask where the rest huts are in which ones include rooms for overnight stays. In the colder season questions are all aboout the skiing routes, ropeways, the weather in the mountains and tariffs for ski passes.

IC Did you also notice non-seasonal realated interests?

TI Of course! What people are curious about all year long are the sights that make Sinaia famous. You probably know Peles, Foisor etc.
Some also want to know about events that sometimes take place in the city, like the Sinaia Forever festival or artist performances in the park. I also answered questions about exhibitions that Sinaia sometimes hosts temporarily.

IC Do you know anything about the Mefin property?

TI I come from Sinaia and I have always lived here. I have lived through the company`s ownership changes and saw how it turned Sinaia into an industrial center, and now we all experience the failure of the company who disappointed and actually harmed many people.

IC Could you explain what you mean by harm and and why you are using the term failure?

TI The company wasn`t doing well and people were scared of losing their jobs. Although they were promised it wouldn`t happen, one day they woke up and hundreds of people were unemployed by force. The company was bought by an an American group. I always say its a 100/300 principle. Foreign investors come and companies are pritavized, in other words they invest 100% if you will. They know that the local industry cannot keep up with the global industry, so the old machines and materials are sold and people are taken away their job, in other words no wages have to be paid. Finally when they get rid of everything they sell the property for a much higher price than they purchased it for or they inject those modern complexes in our towns to make a good profit out of it.

IC When you are talking in plural I suppose you mean that Azuga and Busteni had similar stories?

TI Amongst many others in our country, yes.

IC Could I share with you how I imagine a version of the Mefin property that inhabitants and tourists benefit from?

TI Of course.

PROJECT AIM

IC The project aim of Sinaia Valley is to develop a concept that uses the former industrial property and part of its buildings as an opportunity to complement the network of functions and urban elements in order to improve the town`s offer for inhabitants and tourists and therefore counteract the shrinking population.
The new urban layer that is added through Sinaia Valley adapts to different extisting structures and needs of society.
The general fields of functions are wellness, tourist accommodations, housing, local businesses, education, local industry and sports. The excat location and extent of the facilities depend on existing infrastructure like streets, public transport, hiking trails and pedestrian areas, and the network of outdoor spaces. Furthermore the proximity to nature is strengthened by creating logical accesses for hiking trails and bike paths. A spa is planned, using the water of the so far not used springs Izvoarele Cu Sulf and support Sinaia`s image of Carpathian health resort. The local industry in the field of woodwork is combined with the work of design studios and made transparent for visitors. A hotel within a former industrial building is planned and serves growing numbers in tourism. There will also be spaces for smaller local businesses. A faculty for about 200 students covers the management af all of the above mentioned fields and practical classes are directly connected to them.
For all of these uses, the existing industrial architecture with no static risks will be preserved in a sustainable and at the same time respectful kind of way, remembering the history of the property.

TI I absolutely agree with the concept and as someone who grew up here I would love to see a project like this add to my city`s potential.

And so the overall idea was set.

“The city is an ongoing process of heuristic interpretation.“

PASSAGES: EXPLORATIONS OF THE CONTEMPORARY CITY,
p. 98, 1960, Graham Livesey, architect

Sinaia as a Puzzle,

Sinaia Valley

as the Missing Piece.

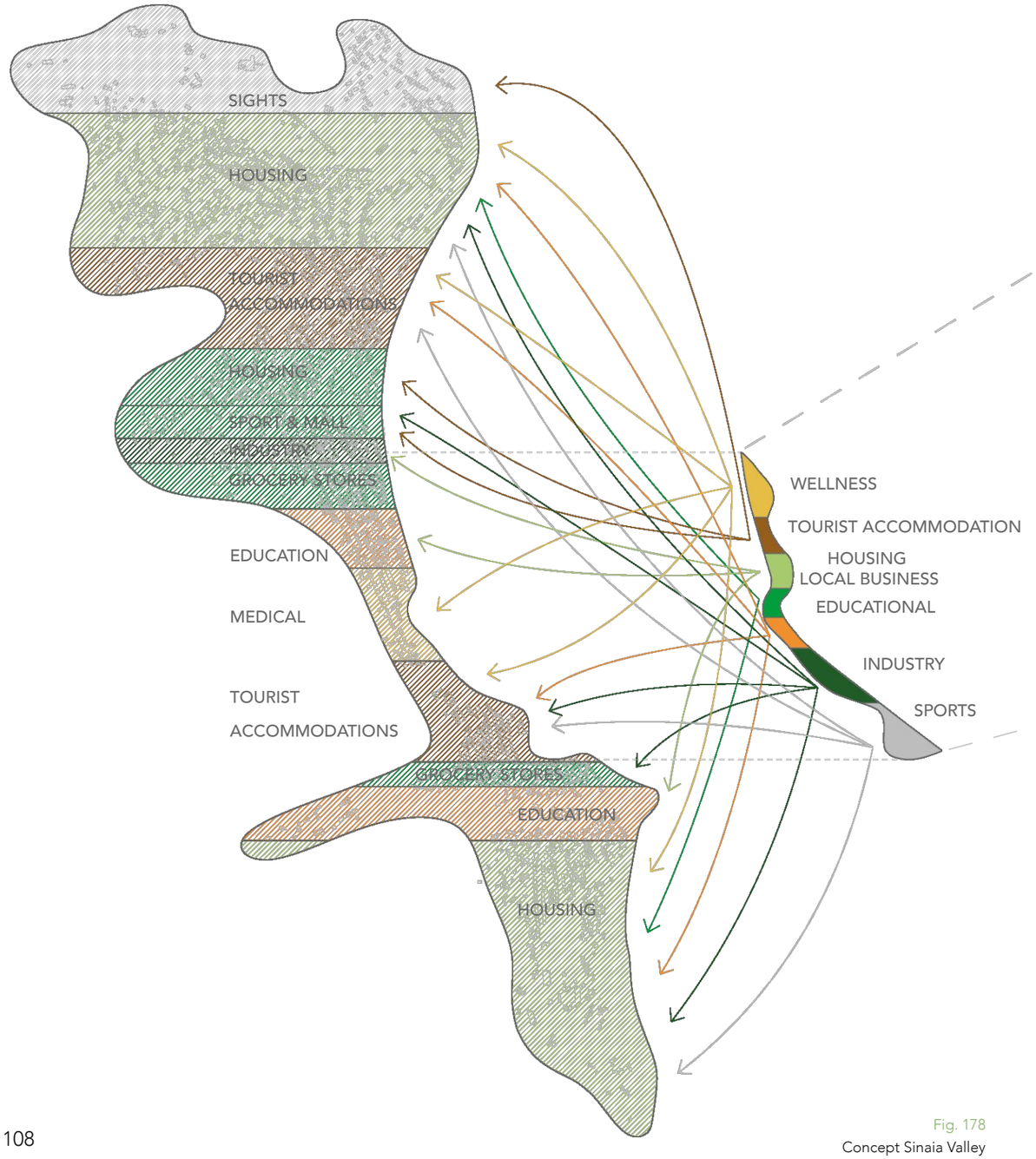


Fig. 178
Concept Sinaia Valley

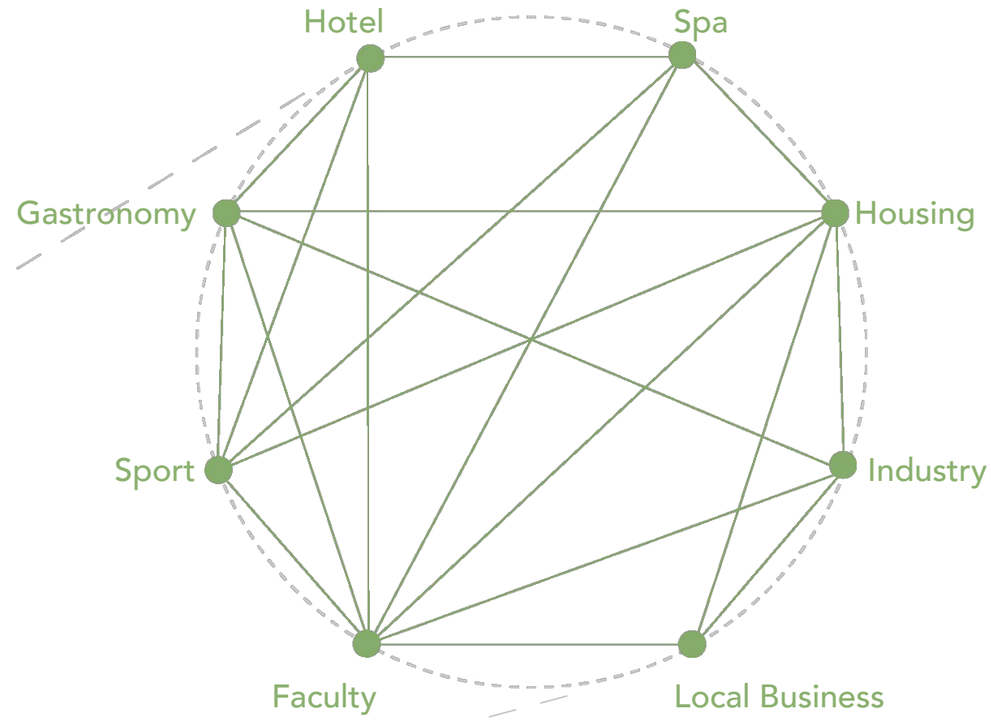


Fig. 179
Correlations within the project

As its history shows, Sinaia is composed by different layers from the last centuries like during royal times and later communist and idustrial times. Finally the latest layer is dominated by tourism and modernism. Each one of these layers can be seen as a a piece of the puzzle which is Sinaia.
Sinaia Valley is a new layer and piece of the puzzle that is added to the city. Each piece is different from the others and has its specific place and function.
The project Sinaia Valley is to be seen as the latest layer so far, but it is to be considered a response to Sinaia`s situation today, meaning that the needs of society may change during the next decades and centuries, which will require new layers to complete the puzzle. The status quo leaves the town with a decreasing population and increasing tourism, so the unused former industrial area aims at strengthening the sense of identity within the community by improving living conditions and creating more spaces for interaction and communication. A mixture of functions correlated with each other and mindfully placed within the puzzle will build up a strong community spirit and counteract the shrinking of the population.

4.4 SWOT Analysis - Weaknesses and Threats

1 The main road DN1 creates a physical barrier between the project site and the town

2 The train tracks as well create a physical barrier and additionally isolated spaces between them and the DN1

3 The private property of the hydroelectric power plant hinders the connection of the town and the northen part of the project site

4 Static experts hired by Mefin S.A. declared part of the buildings at risk of collapse

5 In some places, aprupt topographic changes create physical barriers

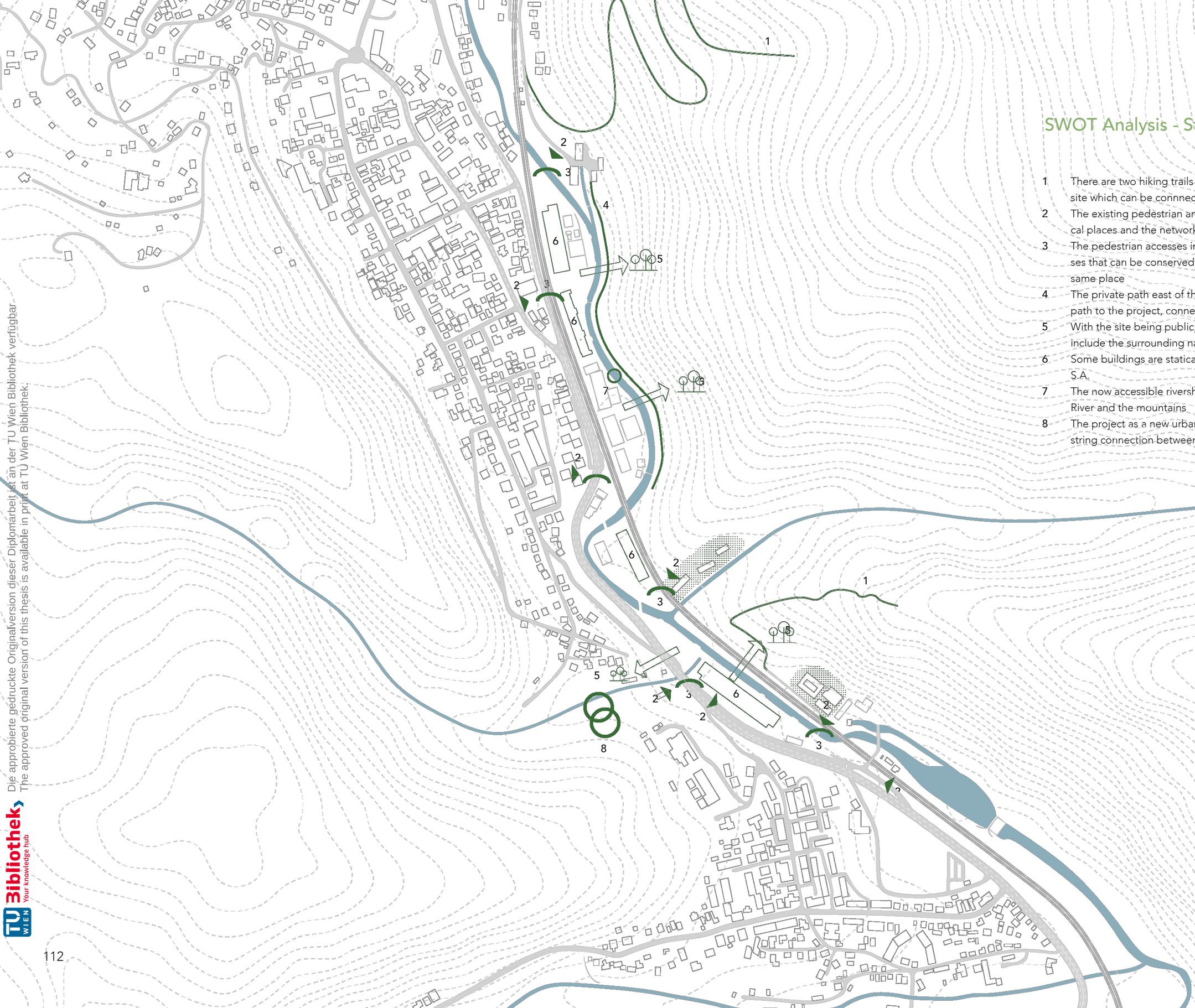
6 The private Mefin S.A. property cut off many direct accesses from the town to nature east of it

7 The path starting at the hydroelectric power plant is private and has a dead end

8 There are some complicated circulation nods with bridges, underpasses, level crossings and the overlap of vehicle and pedestrian areas

9 The private homes east of the project site are isolated

Fig. 180
Weaknesses and Threats



SWOT Analysis - Strengths and Potentials

1 There are two hiking trails starting north and south of the project site which can be connnected through the project

2 The existing pedestrian and vehicle accesses are located in logical places and the network can easily be extended

3 The pedestrian accesses include several bridges and underpasses that can be conserved, while others will be renewed in the same place

4 The private path east of the site can be a secondary pedestrain path to the project, connecting the two hiking trails

5 With the site being public, there are many new opportunities to include the surrounding nature in the project

6 Some buildings are statically approved by experts hired by Mefin S.A.

7 The now accessible rivershore offers proximity to the Prahova River and the mountains

8 The project as a new urban layer can work as a patch, creating a string connection between the north and the south of the town

Fig. 181
Strengths and Potentials

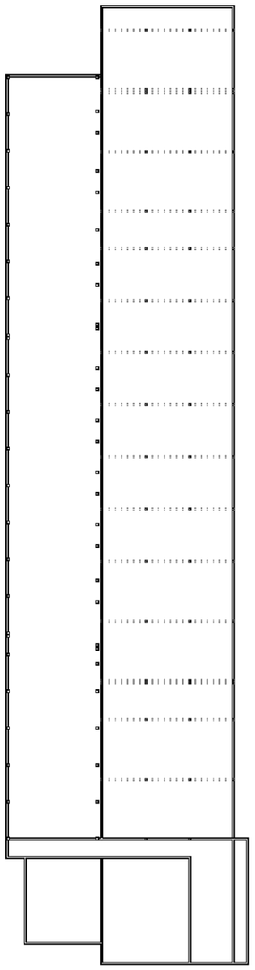


Fig. 182
Existing Structure 1

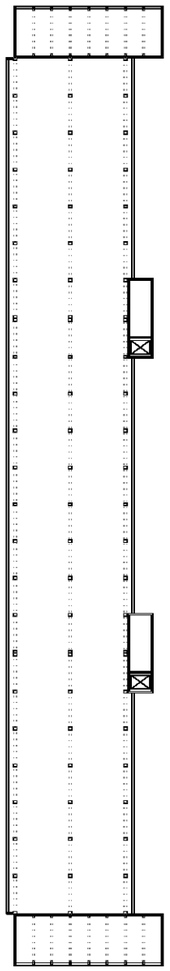


Fig. 183
Existing Structure 2

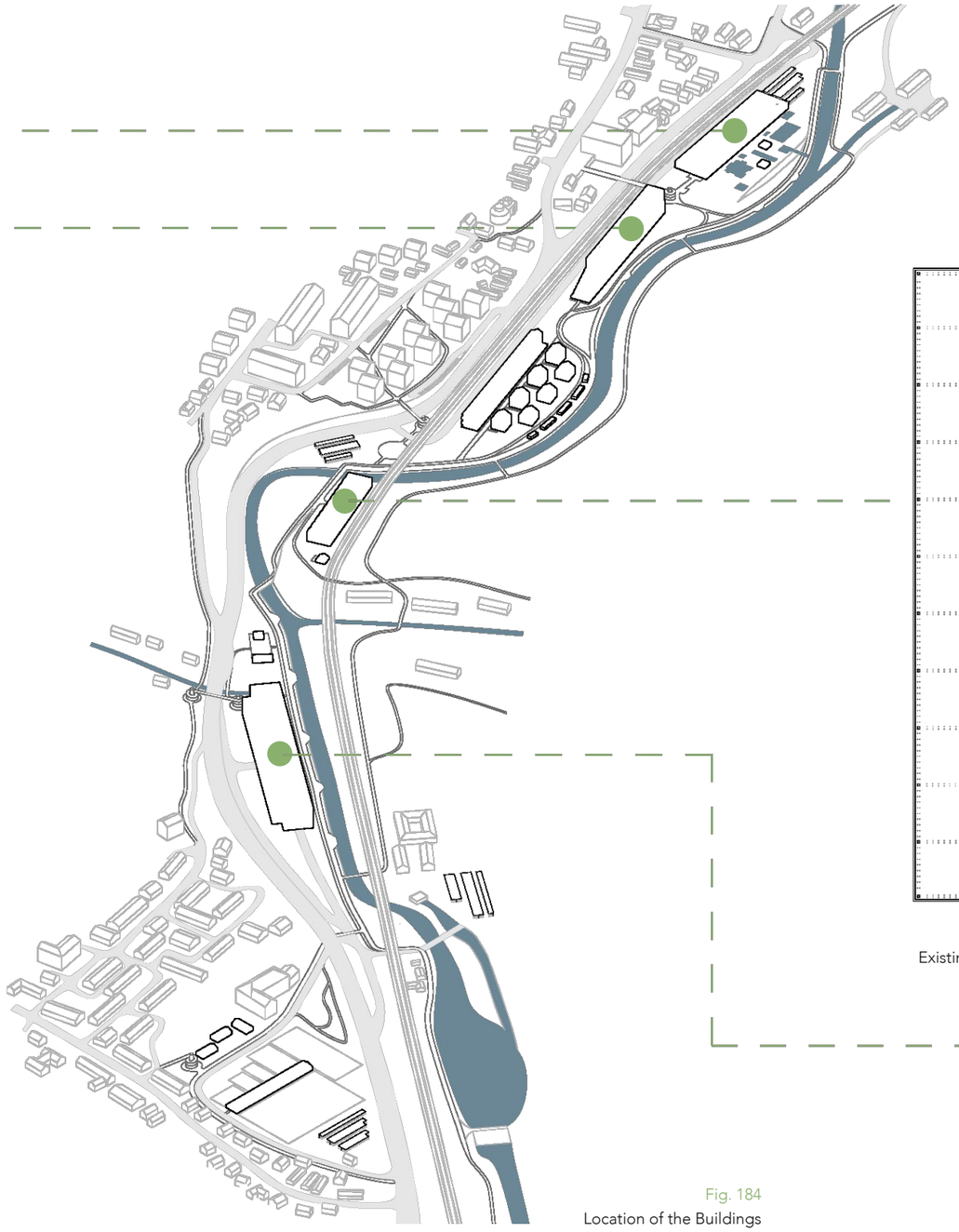


Fig. 184
Location of the Buildings

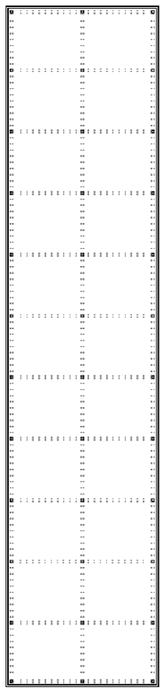


Fig. 185
Existing Structure 3

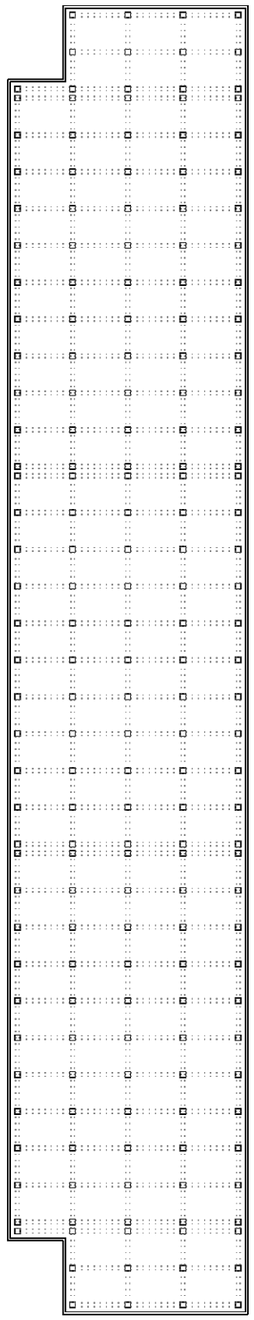
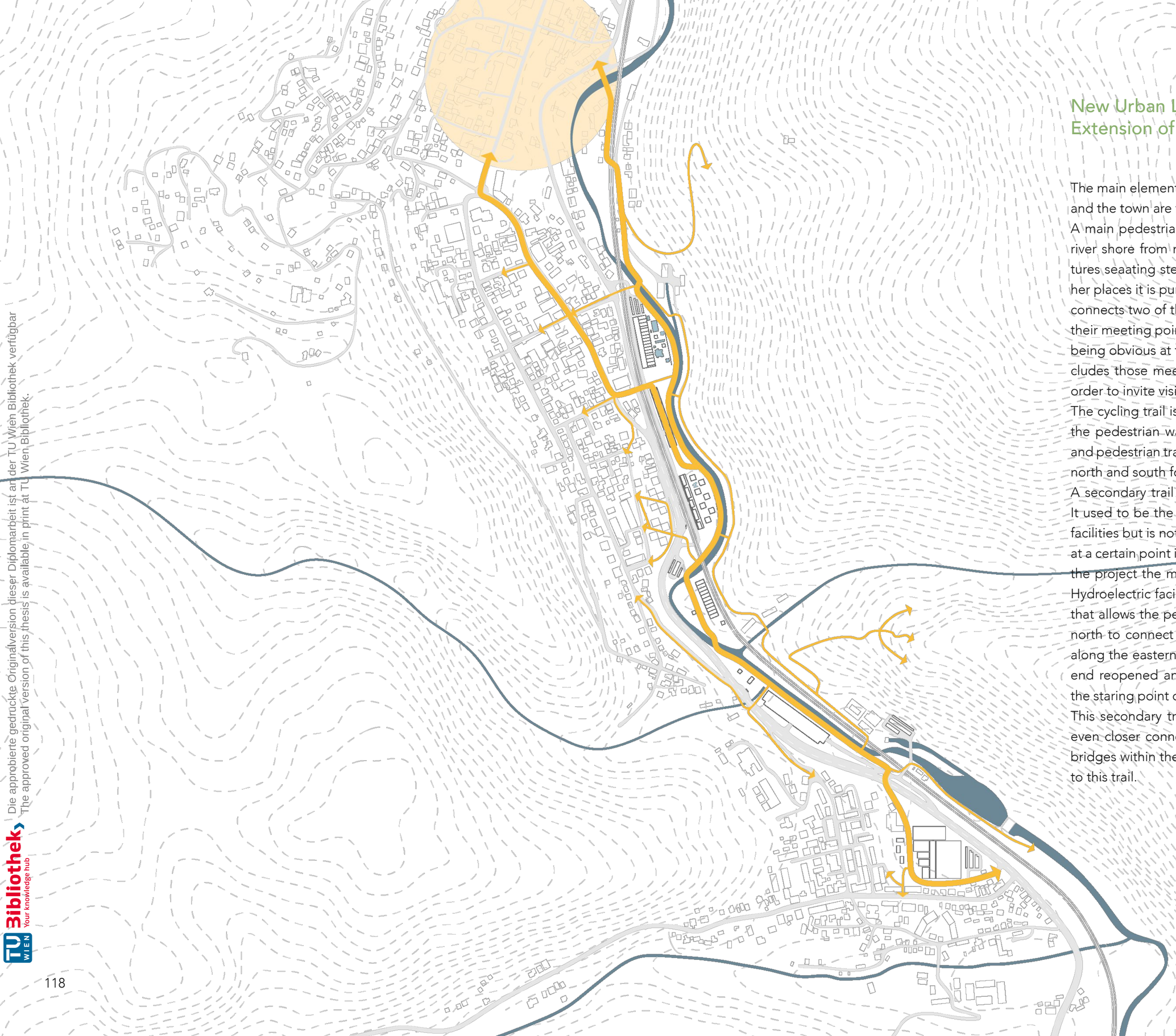


Fig. 186
Existing Structure 4

Fig. 187
Structural Plan



New Urban Layer: Pedestrian Areas and Extension of the Existing Network

The main elements to create links between the project site and the town are those that extend existing networks.
A main pedestrian promenade is implemented along the river shore from north to south. In selected places it features seaating steps for a higher quality of stay and in other places it is punctually extended toward the river. It also connects two of the existing hiking trails which before had their meeting points hidden behind private properties, not being obvious at first sight. The new public promenade includes those meeting points in a more prominent way in order to invite visitors into the mountain area.
The cycling trail is a separate element that runs parallel to the pedestrian walkway from north to south. The cycling and pedestrian trails can be extended infinitely towards the north and south following the Prahova Valley.
A secondary trail is reactivated east of the Prahova River. It used to be the private access road to the Hydroelectric facilities but is not in use anymore, which is the reason why at a certain point it just ends up being cut off by nature. For the project the most southern part of the property of the Hydroelectric facility is turned public, including the bridge that allows the pedestrian and cycling path starting in the north to connect to the project site. The now public trail along the eastern river shore is reactivated and the cut off end reopened and extended further south until it meets the staring point of the hiking trail south of the project site. This secondary trail is more quiet and meant to offer an even closer connection to the mountain. There are three bridges within the project site that are additional accesses to this trail.

Fig. 188
Pedestrian Areas

New Urban Layer: Vehicle Connections and Extension of the Existing Network

Only necessary new vehicle accesses and streets are planned next to the train tracks to not create a new source of noise and barrier. At the access points parking lots with shading by solar panels are located. The Streets on the property of Sinaia Valley are essential especially for emergency vehicles and deliveries.

Fig. 189
Vehicle Connections

New Urban Layer: Green areas and Extension of the Existing Network

A very dominant and important element of the project is the extension and of the green network. Apart from the surrounding forested mountain area, Sinaia has formal parks, which are illustrated as solid green surfaces, but the larger natural green areas are surfaces with dense tree accumulations. These are spaces that haven't been deforested for the construction of houses and development of the town. As the illustration shows, the formal and informal green spaces are connected through Sinaia Valley.

Fig.140
Green Network

4.7 Site Plan North

1 Thermal Spa
2 Hotel, Rooftop Park
3 Housing, Local Businesses

Fig. 191
Northern Part

10 20 50 100 200 300

Site Plan South

4 Faculty
5 Industry
6 Sports

Fig. 192
Southern Part

10 20 50 100

Fig. 193
Location Thermal Spa

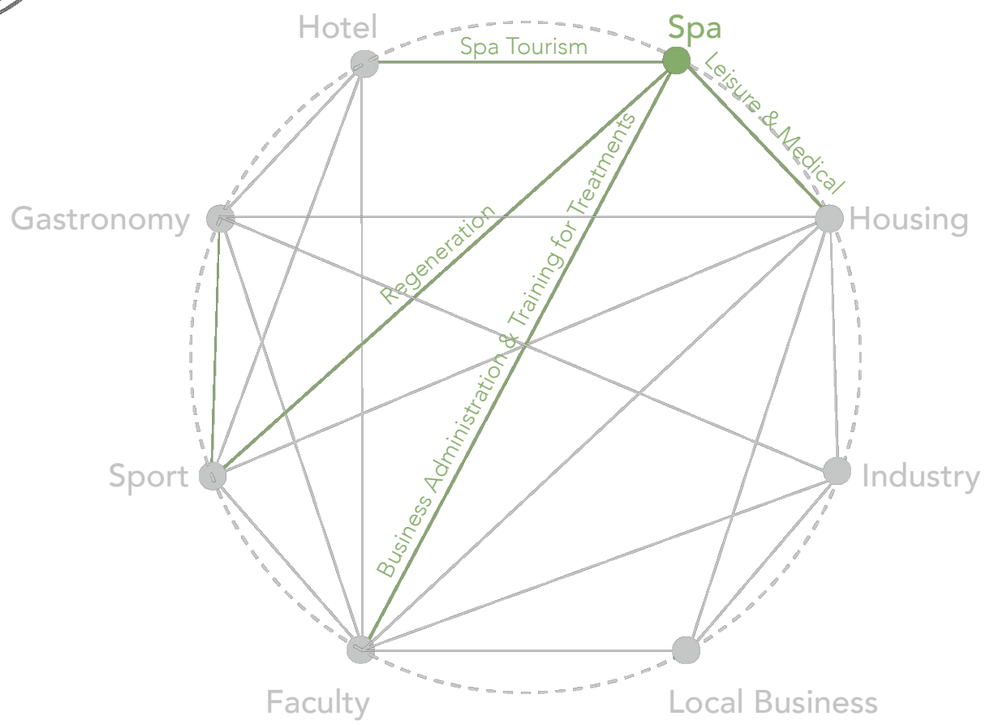


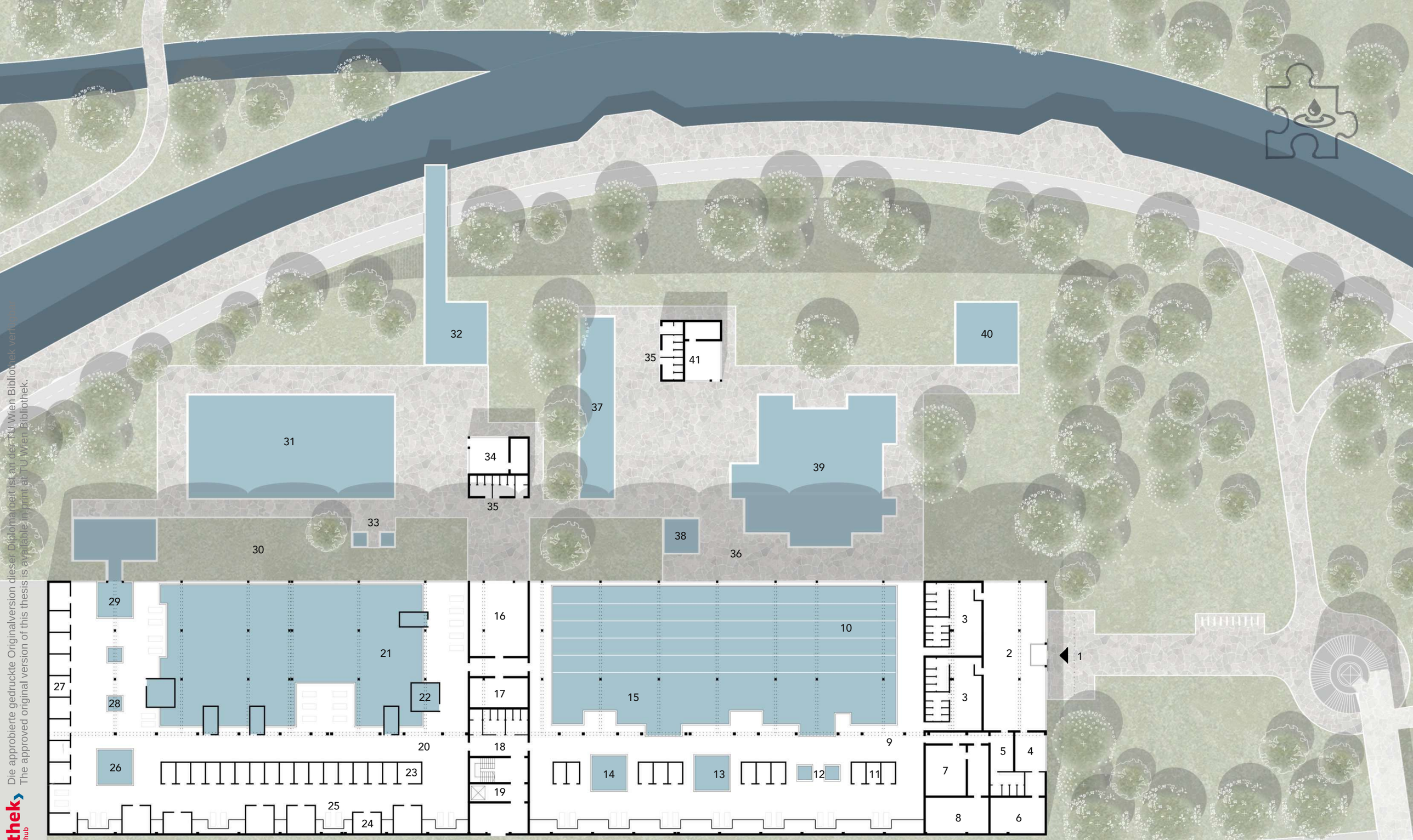
Fig. 194
Correlations within Sinaia Valley

Thermal Spa

Four of the existing industrial buildings are being reused through a new function. The most northern building repurposed into a spa for two main reasons. On one handside it is the only building with an underground level, which offers enough space for swimming pools up to 2,70 m of depth. This level also contains the hydraulic system and storage rooms. The other aspect is the proximity to the center of the town where most hotels and busy areas are located, so tourists and visitors easily find their way to the recreation facility.The parking for spa visitors is located north of the building next to the new car access to reach Sinaia Valley.
On the ground floor, which has high ceilings at nine meters, visitors can enter the reception area and through the cloakrooms reach the “louder” part of the facility. It includes amongst others a sports pool, a children’s pool and some spaces for private recreation. Following through the ground level, one reaches the lounge area which creates a buffer to the `calm` and relaxation area which includes different baths and saunas. The outdoor swimming pools are the equivalent calm and louder areas, two smaller buildings with restaurants and restrooms creating the buffer zone. Since the river shore walkway and the cycling path are located three meters below the spa, so privacy can be guaranteed.

The water used for the different treatments is taken from the springs Izvoarele Cu Sulf. The sulphurous water can be used for treatments like sulphur baths, saunas, steam baths, mud baths, mud packs, hydrotherapy, skin treatments, drinking cures, massages and aroma therapies.

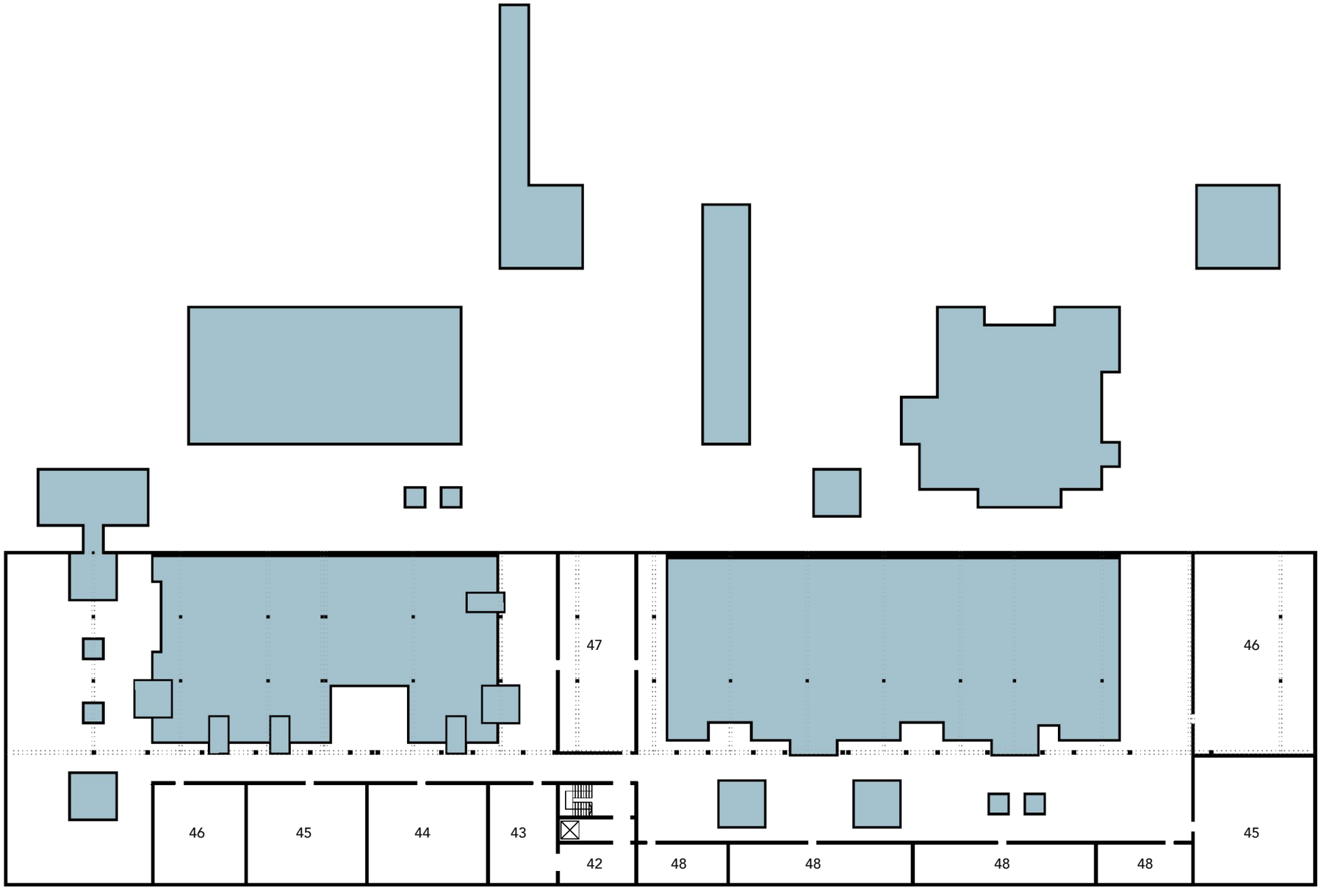
It is important to know that the spa does not only benefit SInaia Valley as depicted in figure 194, but also cooperates with medical, educational and leisure institutions in Sinaia as well as it attracts residents and tourists who stay anywhere in the town.



1	Covered forecourt	8	Laundry room	15	Space for classes	22	Thematic baths	29	Pool with outdoor area	36	`Loud`outdoor area
2	Reception hall	9	`Loud`activity area	16	Lounge and exit	23	Treatments	30	`Quiet` outdoor area	37	Pool as seperation
3	Changing rooms	10	Sports pool	17	Bar	24	Private spaces	31	Common pool	38	Children`s pool
4	Office	11	Sports treatments	18	Restrooms, showers	25	Relaxation areas	32	Infinity pool	39	Common pool
5	Staff area	12	Whirl pool	19	Staff area, delivery	26	Thematic bath	33	Whirl pools	40	Plunge pool
6	Office storage	13	Children`s pool	20	`Quiet` relaxation area	27	Saunas and steam baths	34	Bar	41	Bar
7	Storage	14	Senior pool	21	Pool with seating	28	Whirl pools	35	Restrooms, showers		

Fig. 195
Thermal Spa Ground Floor Plan

0 5 10 20 30 40 50



42 Laundry storage
43 Laundry room
44 Electricity rooms
45 Ventilation and climate control
46 Technical rooms for specific spa facilities like steam generators or hydraulic systems for the pools
47 Technical rooms for water treatment and heating
48 Storage

Fig. 196
Thermal Spa Underground Floor Plan

0 5 10 20 30 40 50

Fig. 197
Location Hotel

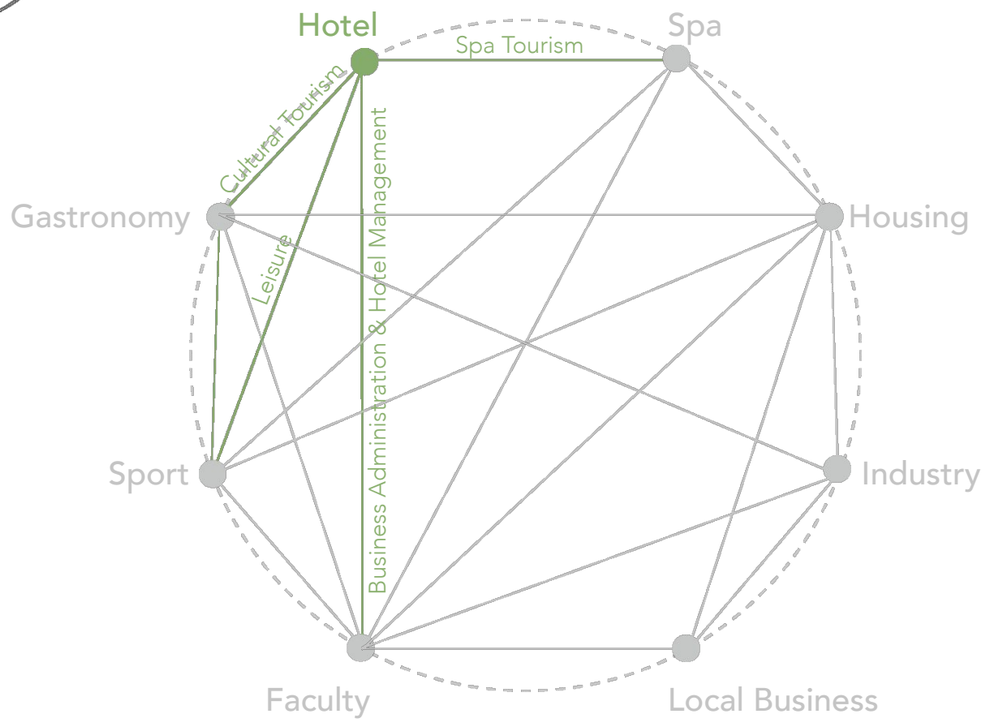


Fig. 198
Correlations within Sinaia Valley

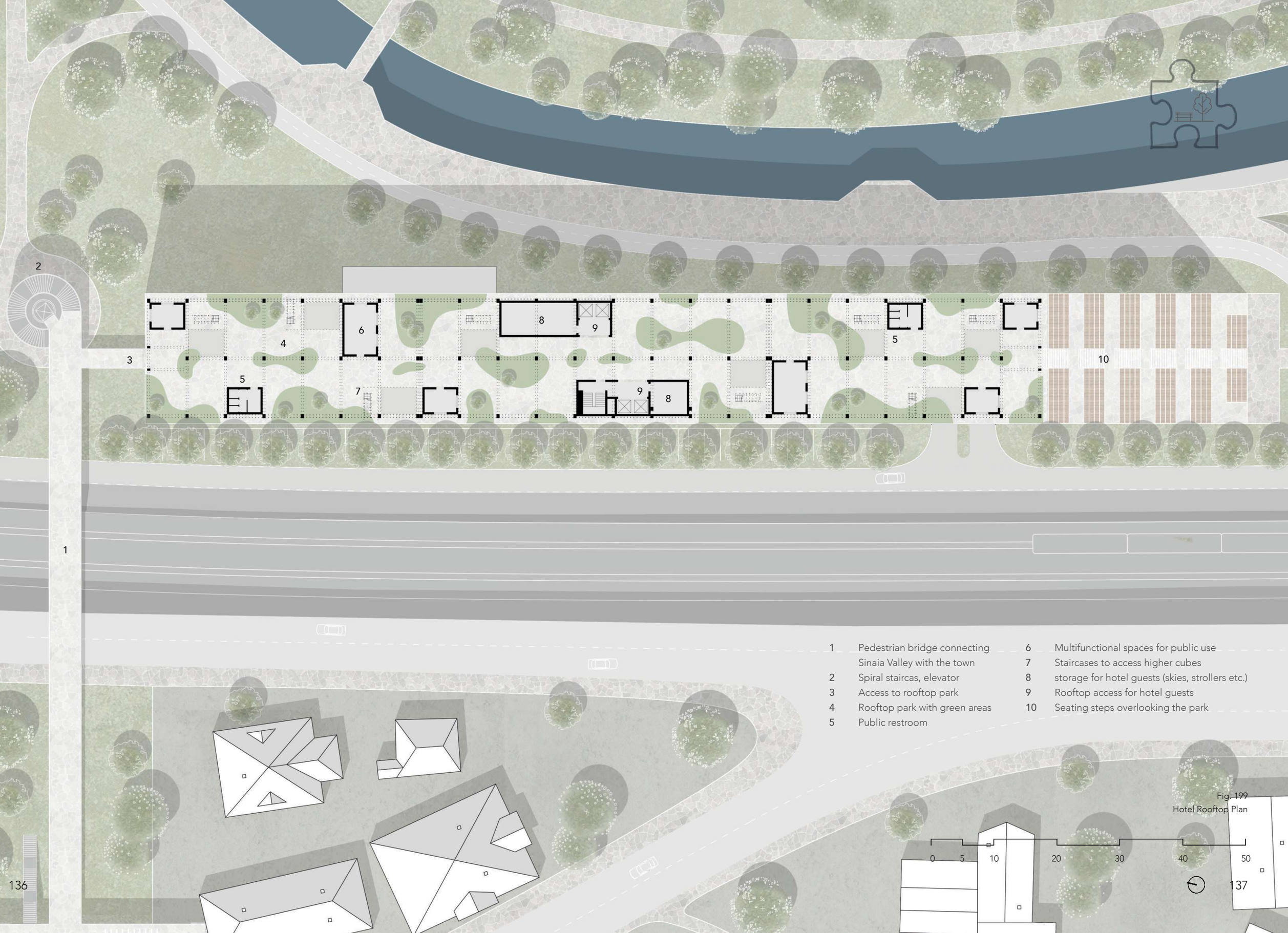
Hotel & Park

The second most northern building is repurposed into a hotel with rooms of different sizes and parking spaces for each room and staff members. Its main feature is its pedestrian accessibility via the footbridge that runs from the town in the west towards the building and is on the level of the roof of the hotel. The Bridge is inspired by Negrelli Footbridge by ARGE Negrelli in Zurich. A staircase leads to the hotel entrances on floor below and finally the ground level. In order to create a more harmonic silhouette of the entire site, the top three levels of the building are opened up, meaning that only the concrete stilts and supports are maintained. This also opens up the blocked view of the mountain east of the hotel.

The floor that now is the roof on the new hotel extends the pedestrian access to the site and the southern facade consists of seating steps offering a view of the park and at the bottom the connection to the river shore promenade.

The entrance and lobby is on the third floor of the building and additionally includes a lounge, a bar, a partly overhanging restaurant and seminar- as well as conference spaces. The floor below fits fiftyfive hotel rooms whereas the two lower floors are foreseen for parking, storage and electricity. Below the seating steps a new event location with proximity to the park is situated.

Cubical spaces with different uses are added into the static stilt structure on top of the building. Some functions like bicycle, ski and stroller storage are linked to the hotel whereas others like cafes, working spaces, multiple usage rooms and restrooms are public. These cubicles are an important architectural element, since Sinaia mostly hosts a small-scale typologies exept for the bigger hotels. In order to combine these, the hotel in Sinaia Valley maintains the four bottom floors as one volume, and opens up the top three public floors to create filigree on a more human scale. The chosen location for the hotel is close to the touristic area of Sinaia, and in proximity of the spa, the new park south of the seating steps and the rivershore.



1 Pedestrian bridge connecting Sinaia Valley with the town
2 Spiral staircas, elevator
3 Access to rooftop park
4 Rooftop park with green areas
5 Public restroom
6 Multifunctional spaces for public use
7 Staircases to access higher cubes
8 storage for hotel guests (skies, strollers etc.)
9 Rooftop access for hotel guests
10 Seating steps overlooking the park

Fig. 199
Hotel Rooftop Plan

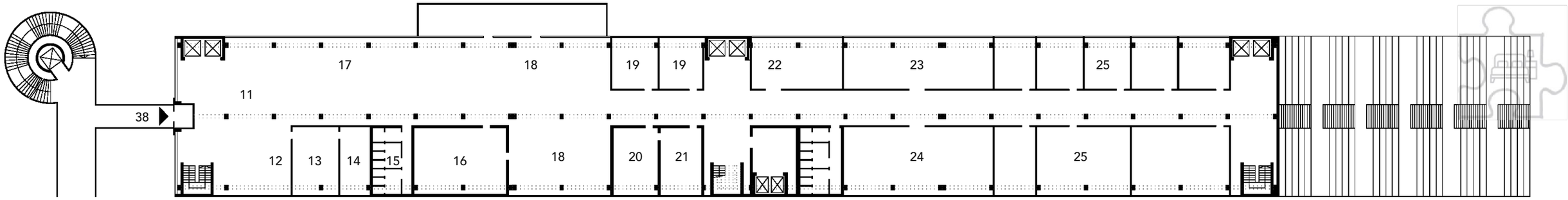


Fig. 200
Hotel Third Floor Plan

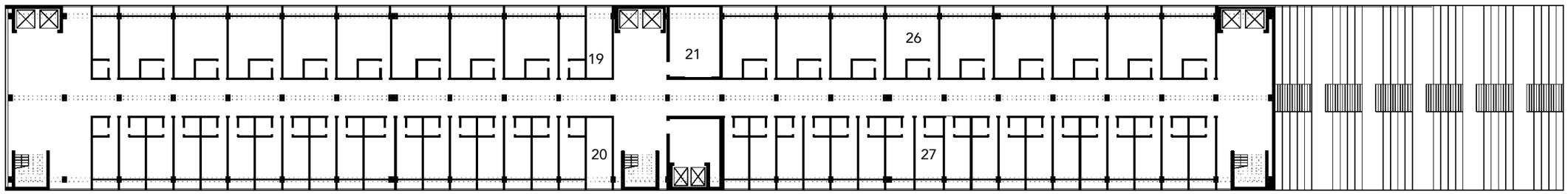


Fig. 201
Hotel Second Floor Plan

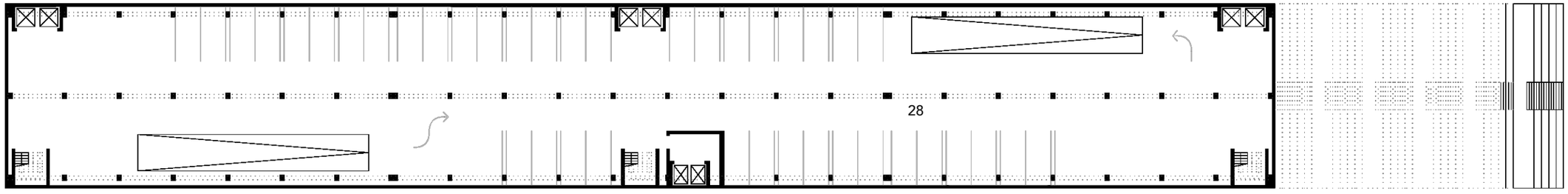


Fig. 202
Hotel First Floor Plan

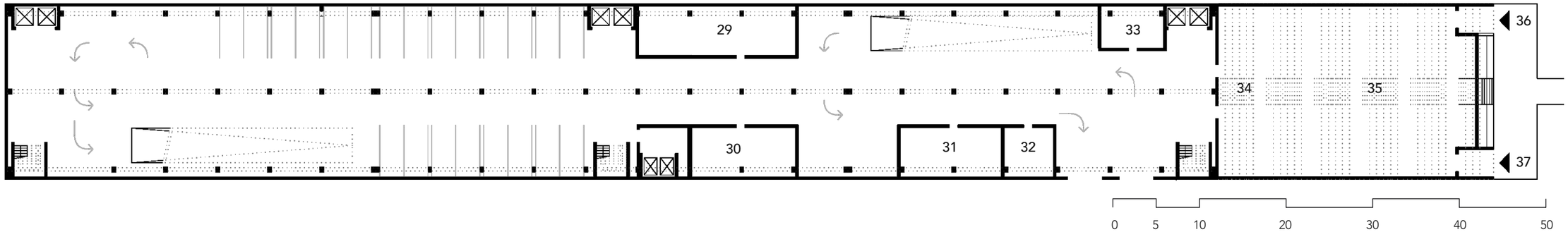


Fig. 203
Hotel Ground Floor Plan

11 Lobby
12 Reception
13 Offices
14 Storage
15 Restrooms
16 Kitchen
17 Lounge, bar
18 Restaurant
19 Staff
20 Storage
21 Laundry room
22 Daycare
23 Common space
24 Gym
25 Multifunctional spaces
26 39 m² room, 4 m² loggia
27 18 m² room, 2,7 m² loggia
28 Parking
29 Electricity room
30 Electricity room
31 Garbage room
32 Storage
33 Backstage area
34 Stage
35 Audience area
36 Eastern entrance event facility
37 Northerrn entrance event facility
38 Hotel entrance

Fig. 204
Location Housing

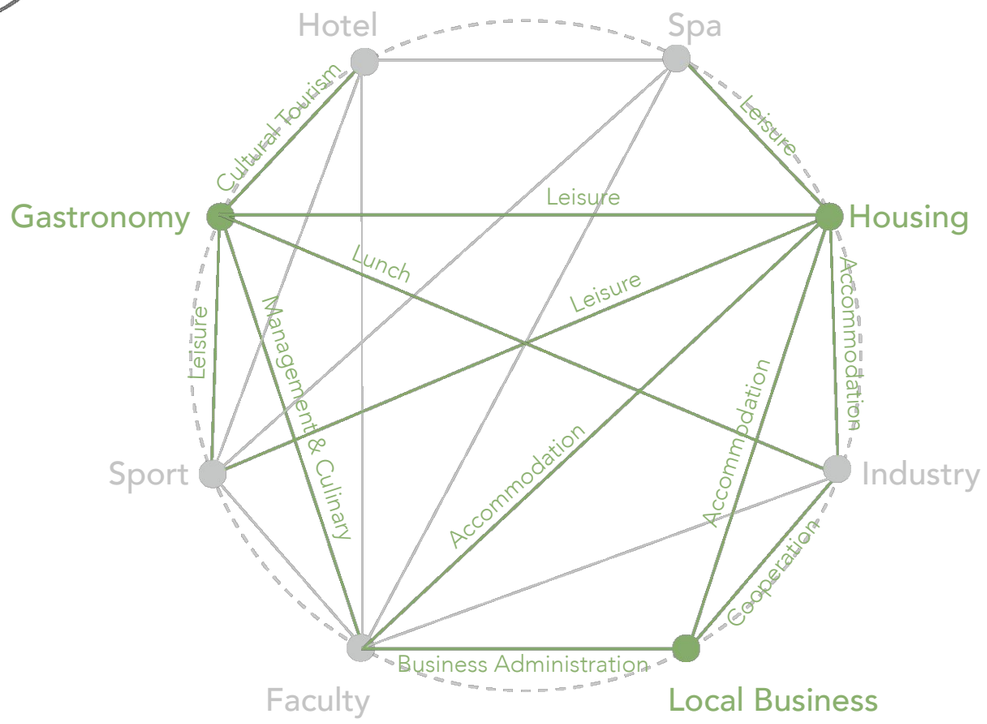


Fig. 205
Correlations within Sinaia Valley

Housing & Local Business

South of the hotel is a park with seating steps and a terrace within the topography hinting towards the river and forest. The shape of the terrace transitions into a chain of restaurants and bars directly connected to the promenade. Between the DN1 and the restaurants is a private housing area which lies on a higher topographic level than the restaurants.

The housing area consists of one complex with a basis volume of two floors: the ground floor offering spaces for local commercial business and the first floor as parking for residents of the area. On top of this basis are apartment towers counting four additional floors. These volumes are interconnected at the western facade with pergola accesses and box-shaped spaces meant for storage space for bikes, strollers etc. but at the same time they serve as noise isolation from the train tracks and street. This box concept is inspired by the project in Polgar Street in Vienna by the architecture stuidio Königlarch and furthermore adapted to Sinaia Valley. The buildings in the second row counted from the rivershore have three floors with two apartments each and the first row buildings consist of two floors with two apartments each. The housing area counts 94 apartments and the same number of parking spaces with additionak ones for the commercial and public facilites.

The southernmost single building contains a kindergarden on two floors and the top floor is a communitiy space which brings together elderly and young people.

Like the hotel, the housing area reflects the architectural typologies found in its existing surroundings. The apartment blocks west of the new housing area are connected with Sinaia Valley via a pedestrian bridge.

1	Rivershore promenade	7	86 m² apartments, 4 m² loggia	13	Toy storage
2	Bike path	8	Square with water feature	14	Gastronomy
3	Seating steps	9	Multifunctional square	15	Parking kindergarden
4	Pedestrian area	10	Urban gardening	16	Accesses to housing units
5	Bike racks	11	Kindergarden	17	Spaces for local businesses
6	86 m² apartments, 4 m² loggia	12	Kindergarden outdoor	18	Parking for local businesses

Fig. 206
Housing Ground Floor Plan

0 5 10 20 30 40 50

19 Outdoor area gastronomy
20 Community space for seniors and children
21 Apartment 62 m², loggia 4 m²
22 Apartment 86 m², loggia 4 m²
23 Storage space and noise isolation
24 Residential parking

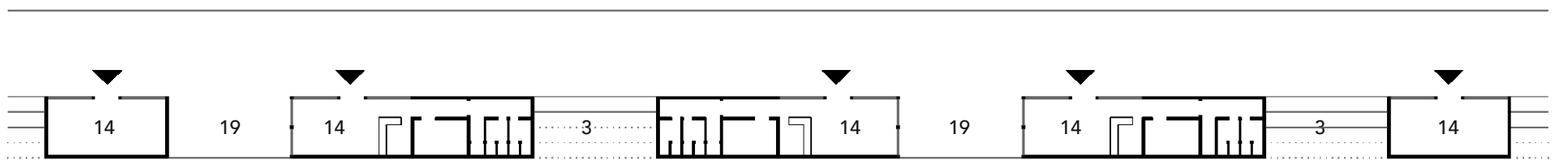


Fig. 209
Gastronomy Floor Plan

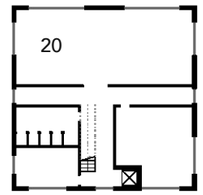


Fig. 207
Common Space Second Floor Plan

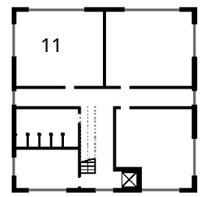


Fig. 208
Kindergarden First Floor Plan

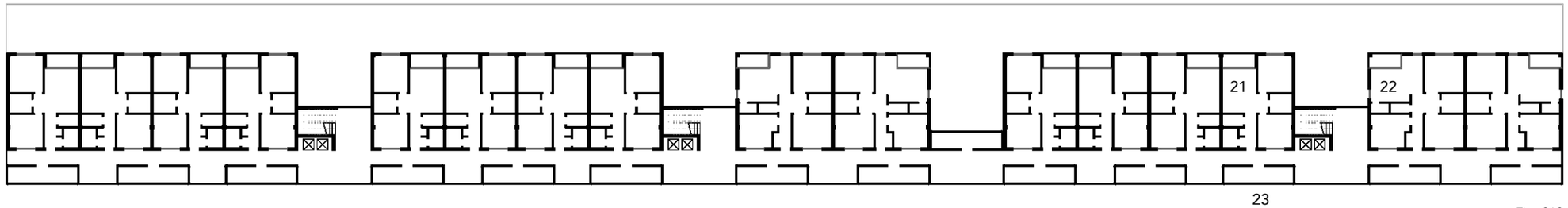


Fig. 210
Housing Second Floor Plan

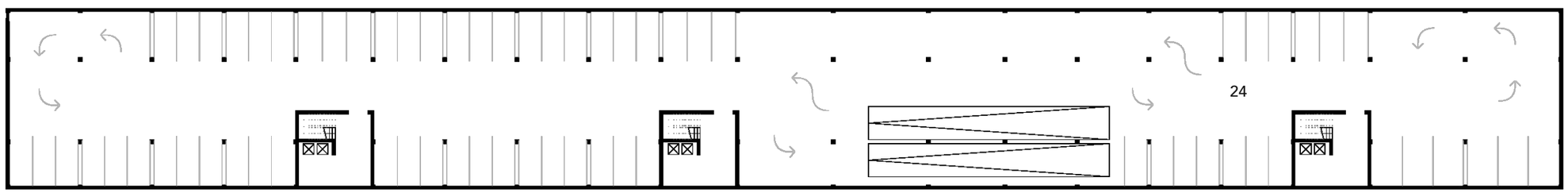


Fig. 211
Housing First Floor Plan

Fig. 212
Location Faculty

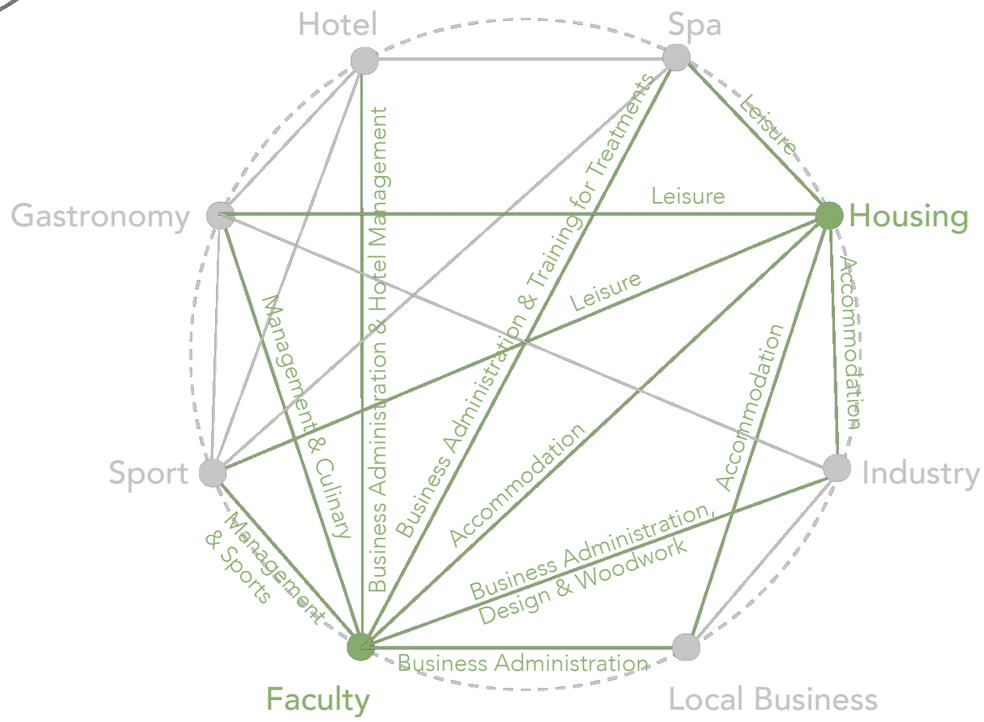


Fig. 213
Correlations within Sinaia Valley

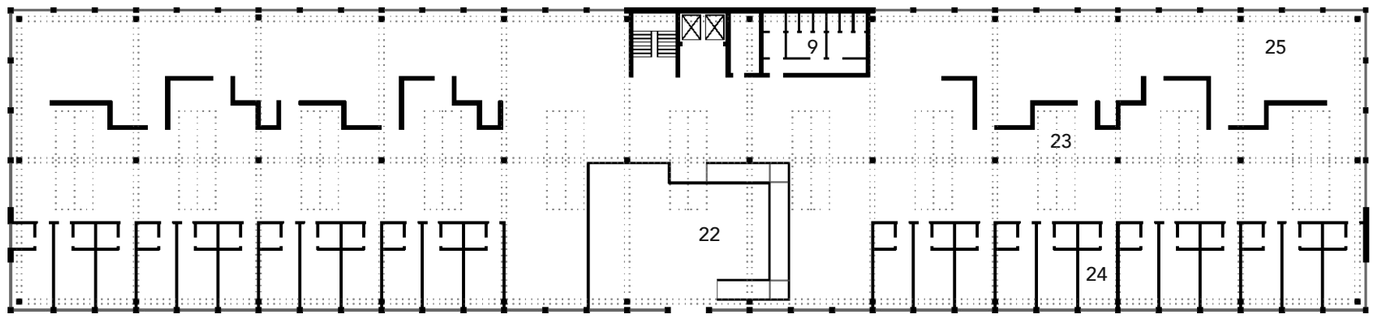
Education

This building hosts a faculty for about 150 students. The teaching fields are business management, tourism, mountain sports and local traditional arts like cooking and wood carving.
The building has two floors, the ground floor containing a library, cafeteria and classrooms, whereas the first floor offers twentyfour student living units and a student lounge with study areas.
The theoretic parts of the education are linked with practical trainings for example in the industry complex, the spa or the hotel.

1 Covered forecourt
2 Bike racks
3 Entrance hall
4 Secretary`s office
5 Staff
6 Work area
7 Library
8 Storage, utility room
9 Restrooms
10 Kitchen
11 Classrooms
12 Cafeteria
13 Lounge
14 Hobby room
15 Square, tabel tennis
16 Pedestrian path
17 Bike path
18 Staircase to lower level park
19 Table tennis
20 Playground
21 Gastronomy

Fig. 214
Faculty Ground Floor Plan

0 5 10 20 30 40 50



22 Open gallery overlooking the entrance hall
23 Multifunctional wall including kitchens and storage space
24 Student unit 20 m²
25 Multifunctional space

Fig. 215
Faculty First Floor Plan

0 5 10 20 30 40 50

Fig. 216
Location Industry

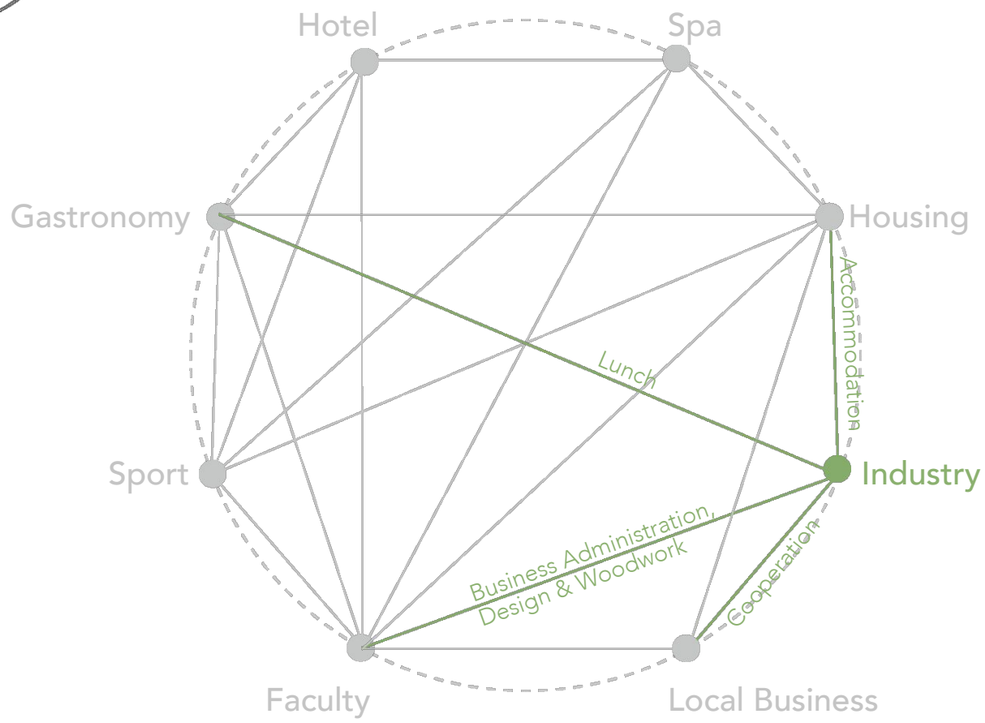
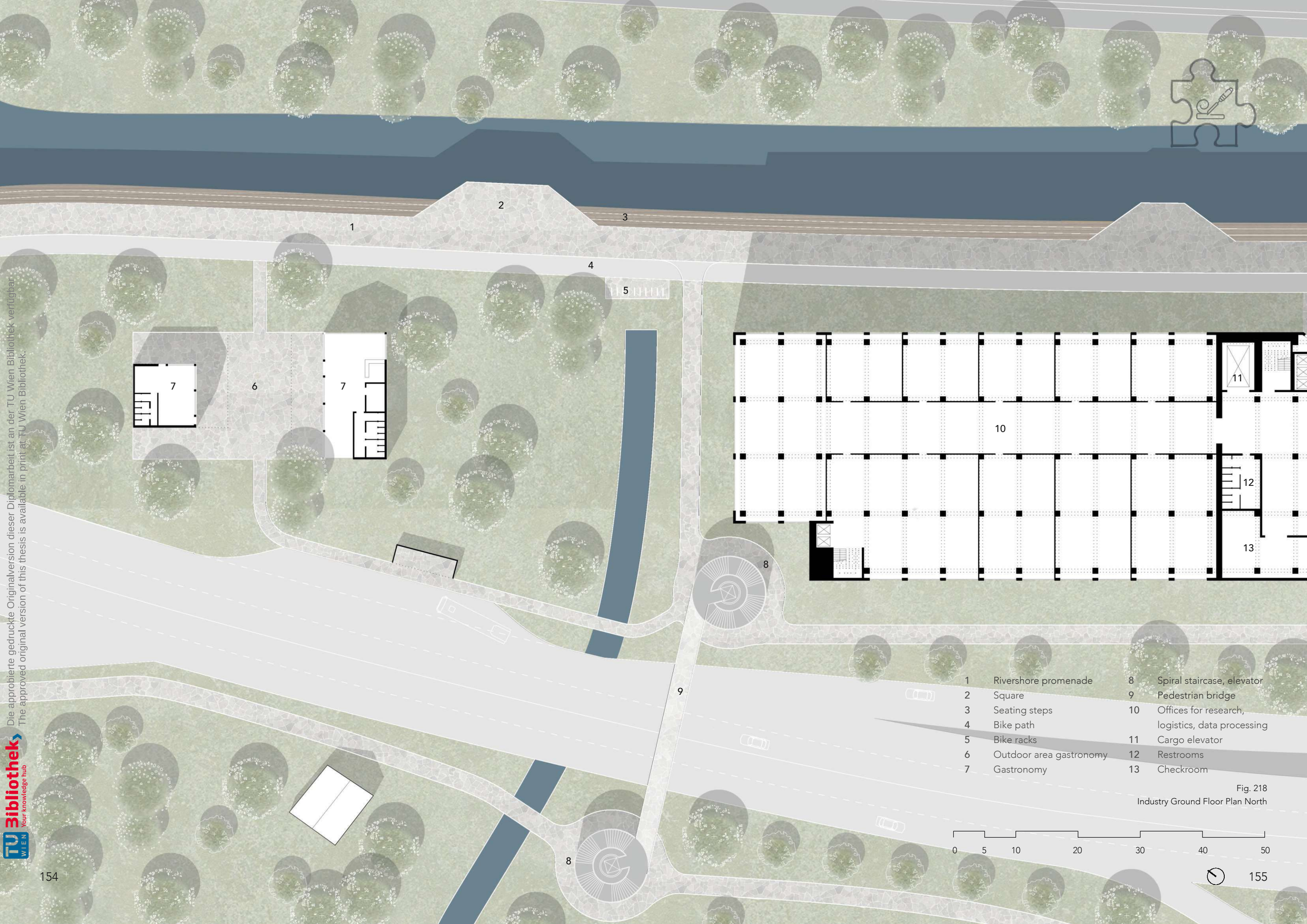


Fig. 217
Correlations within Sinaia Valley

Local Industry

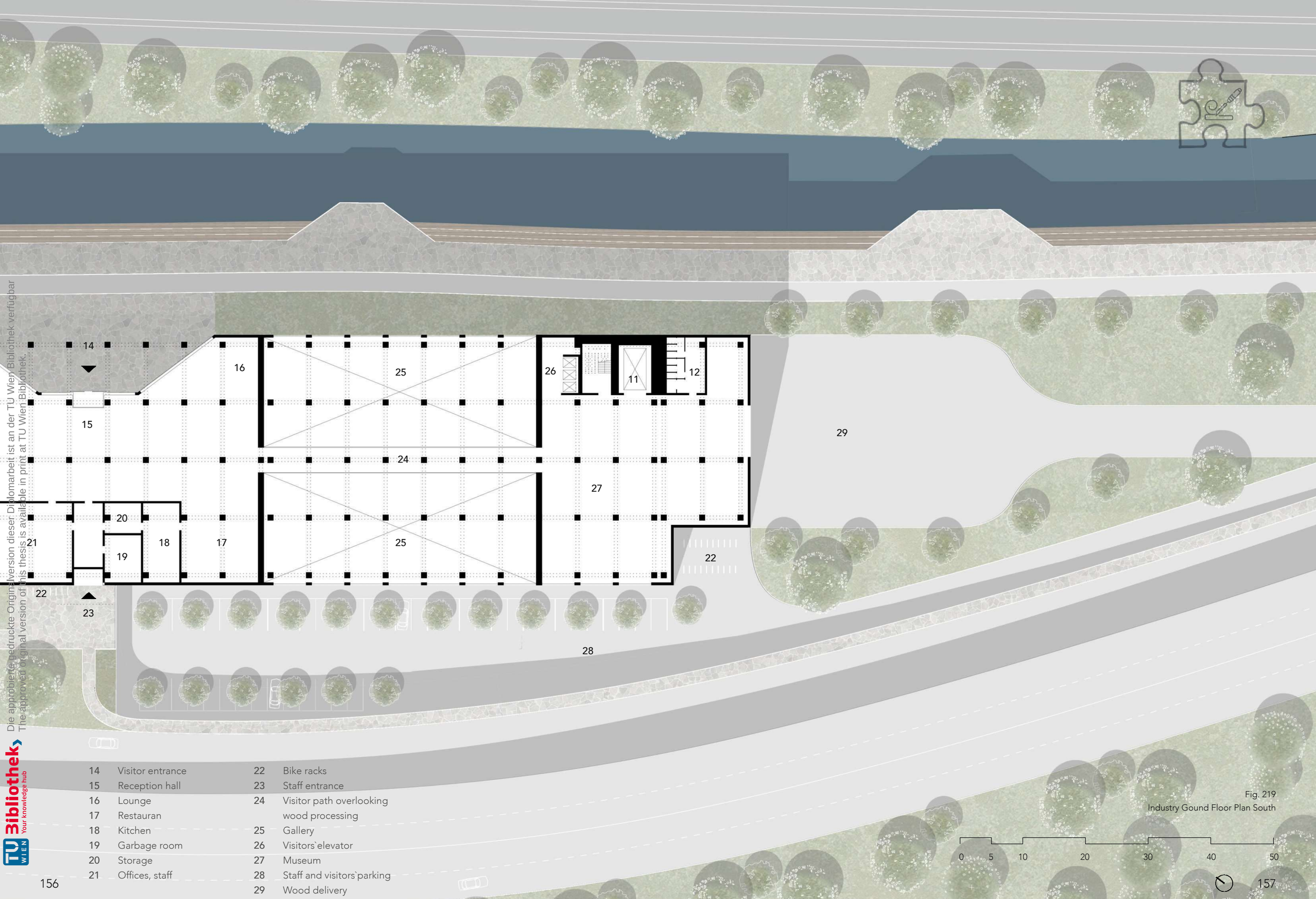
The local industry complex hosts various functions. It refers to traditional wood work. The hole process from the deliverry of the material until the detailed woodcarving and putting together of architectural elements and furniture is made transparent for visitors and includes a workshop for woodcarving. This practical part is situated in the southern tract of the building whereas the northern part includes design studios, offices for businesses in the same field but also start-ups and recreational spaces.



1	Rivershore promenade	8	Spiral staircase, elevator
2	Square	9	Pedestrian bridge
3	Seating steps	10	Offices for research, logistics, data processing
4	Bike path	11	Cargo elevator
5	Bike racks	12	Restrooms
6	Outdoor area gastronomy	13	Checkroom
7	Gastronomy		

Fig. 218
Industry Ground Floor Plan North

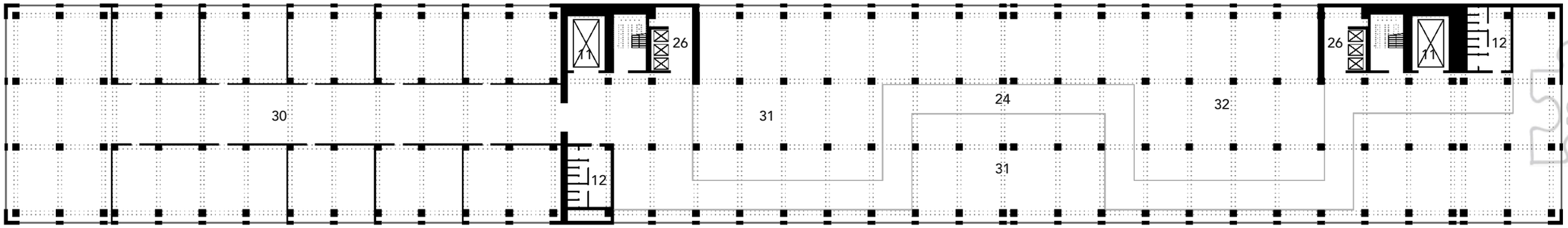
0 5 10 20 30 40 50



14	Visitor entrance	22	Bike racks
15	Reception hall	23	Staff entrance
16	Lounge	24	Visitor path overlooking
17	Restauran		wood processing
18	Kitchen	25	Gallery
19	Garbage room	26	Visitors`elevator
20	Storage	27	Museum
21	Offices, staff	28	Staff and visitors`parking
		29	Wood delivery

Fig. 219
Industry Gound Floor Plan South

0 5 10 20 30 40 50



30 Design studios
31 Exhibition
32 Shop
33 Recreational space for workers
34 Visitor workshop
35 Woodcarving
36 Electricity rooms
37 Storage
38 Heavy wood processing

Fig. 220
Industry Third Floor Plan

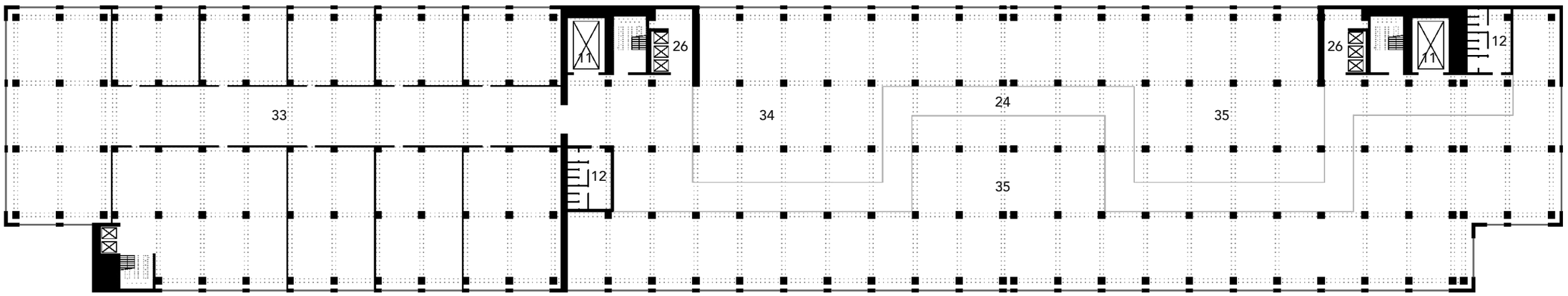


Fig. 221
Industry Second Floor Plan

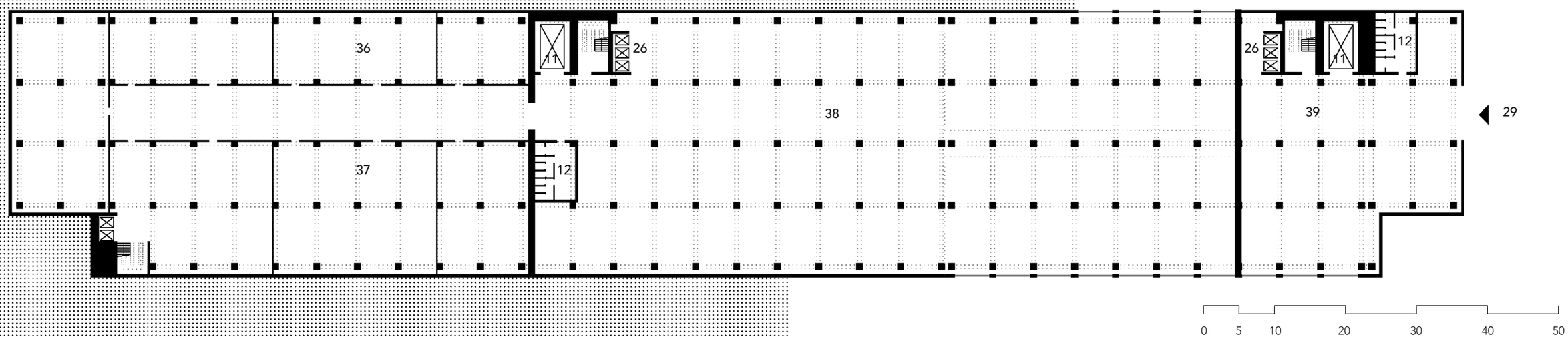


Fig. 222
Industry Ground Floor Plan

Fig. 223
Location Sports Center

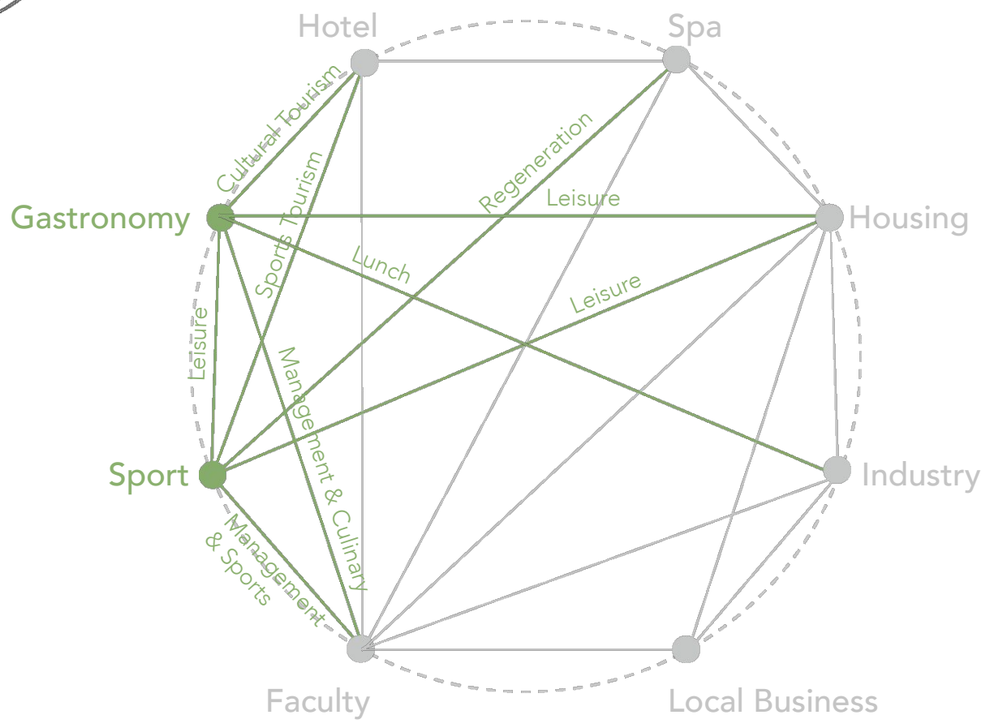


Fig. 224
Correlations within Sinaia Valley

Sports

The sports area is located in the south of Sinaia Valley, since it offers many activities that people staying in the northh but also in the soutch of Sinaia can integrate in their daily lives. During warmer seasons the courts are outdoors whereas during winter they are sepereately covered by air domes that are diectly connected with the building in the center. The building offers all the facilites needed to practice the sports and the roof is a large tribune overlooking the entire area.

Wesst of the courts are three restaurants that can for example be attended after practicing sporrts. North of them is one existing hotel, that can benefit from the sports facilities, since many people come to Sinaia for sport tourism and the offer of restaurants right next to it increases its potential.

South and west of the sports area are topographic changes that can only be overcome through the pedestrian bridge and spiral staircase in order to avoid long detours.

1 Square, outdoor area gastronomy
2 Street for vehicles and bikes
3 Gastronomy
4 Bike racks
5 Spiral staircase with elevator
6 Pedestrian bridge to overcome topographic difference
7 Indoor tennis courts
8 Indoor volleyball courts
9 Indoor squash courts
10 Indoor badminton courts
11 Indoor basketball court
12 Indoor soccer field
13 Entrance sports center
14 Reception, office
15 Shop
16 Changing rooms
17 Gear rental
18 Warm up room
19 Staircase to rooftop tribunes
20 Gastronomy
21 Kitchen
22 Drinking water
23 Parking

0 5 10 20 30 40 50

Fig. 225
Sports Ground Floor Plan

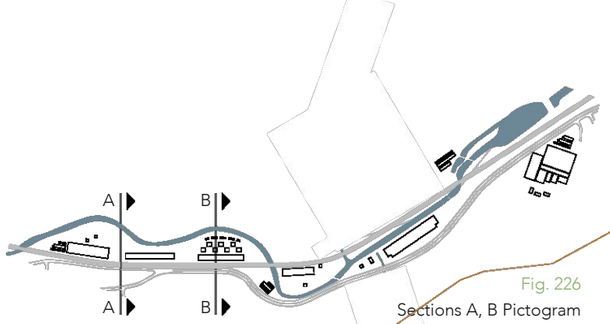


Fig. 226
Sections A, B Pictogram

Sections

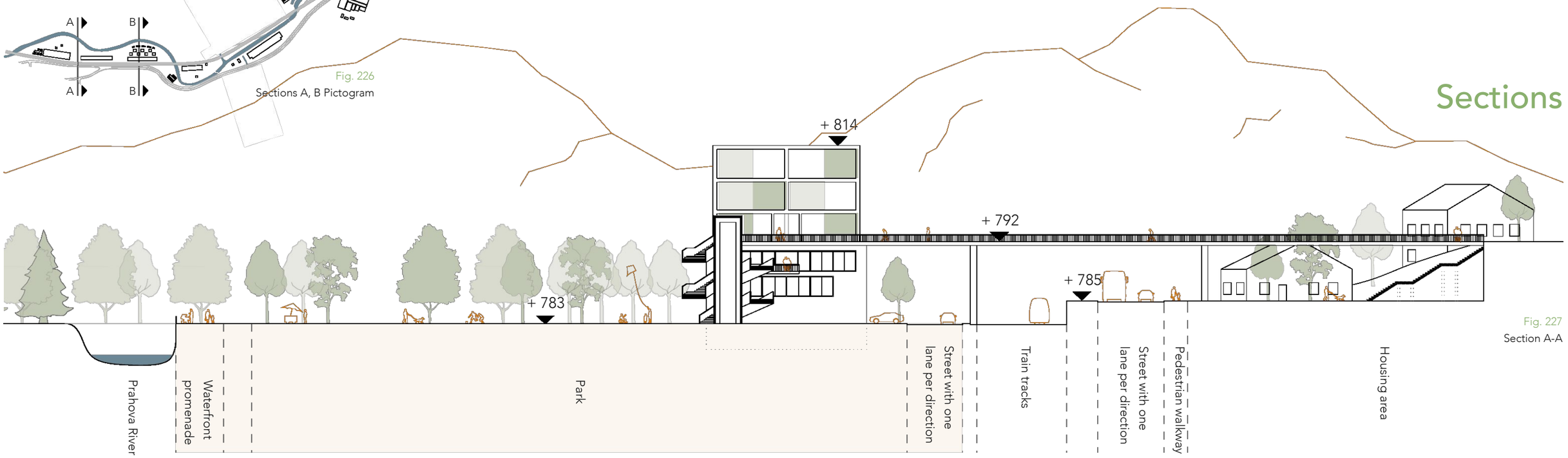


Fig. 227
Section A-A

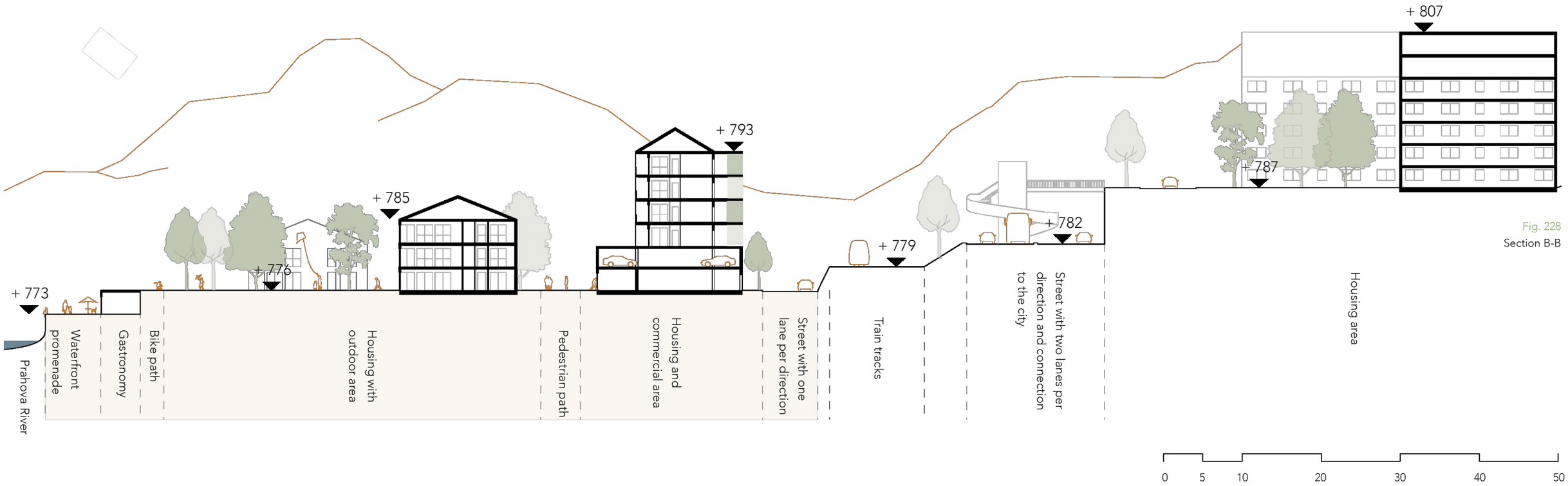


Fig. 228
Section B-B

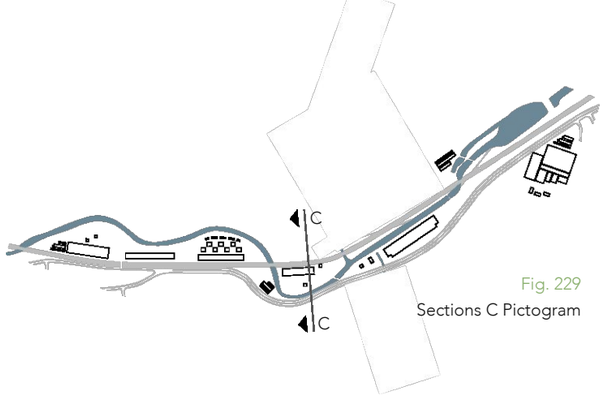


Fig. 229
Sections C Pictogram

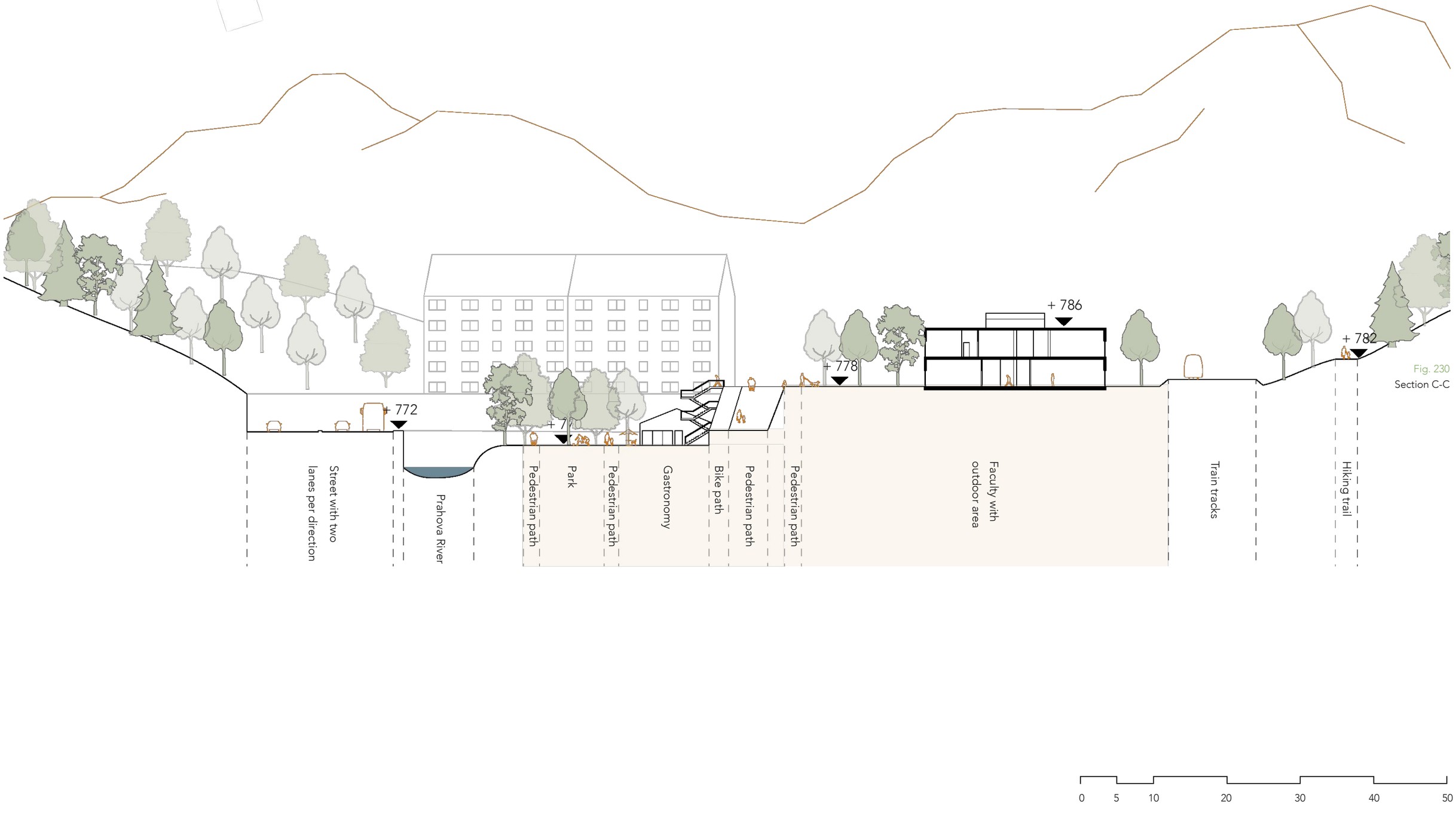


Fig. 230
Section C-C

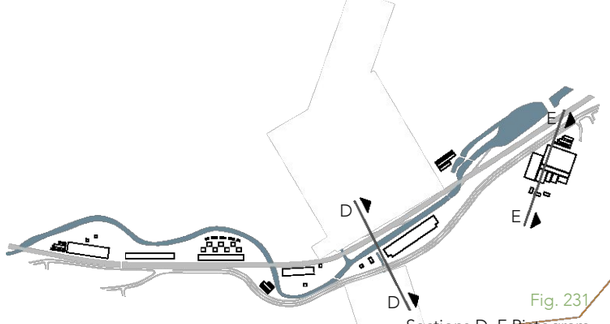


Fig. 231
Sections D, E Pictogram

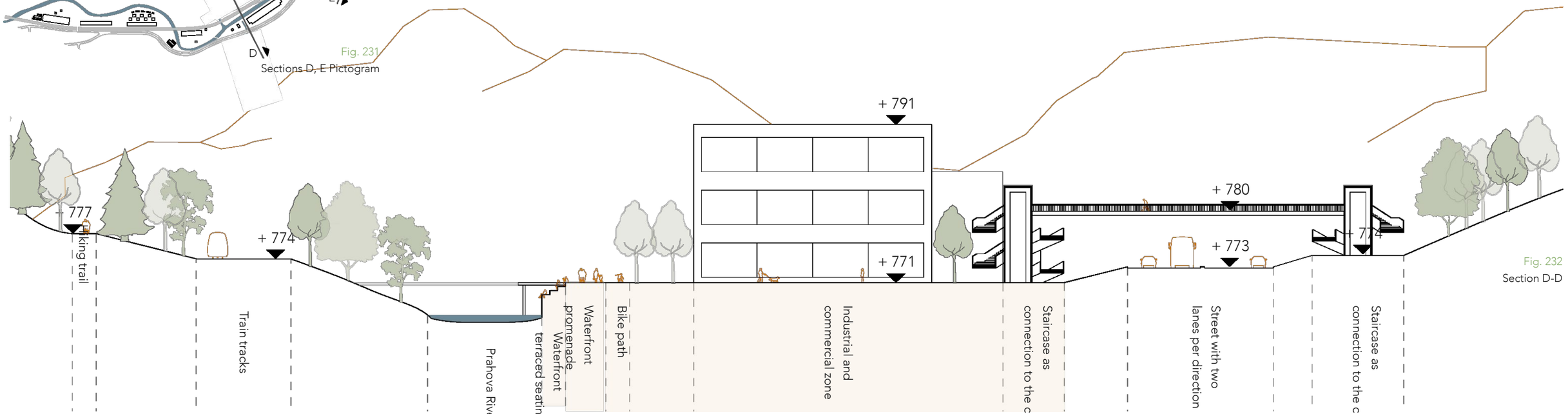


Fig. 232
Section D-D

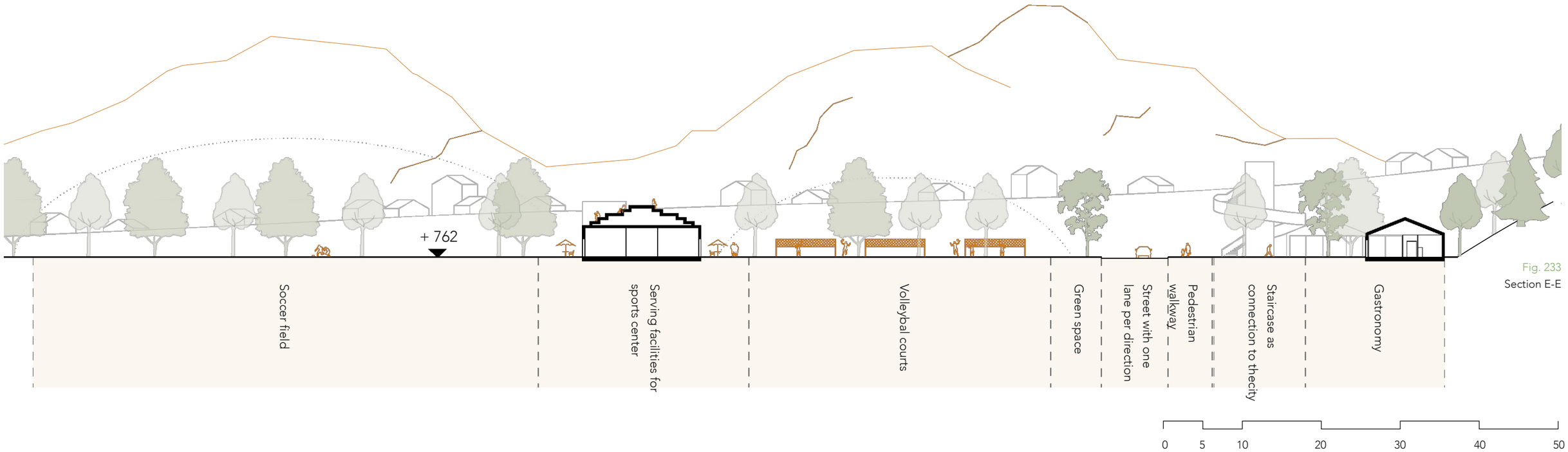


Fig. 233
Section E-E

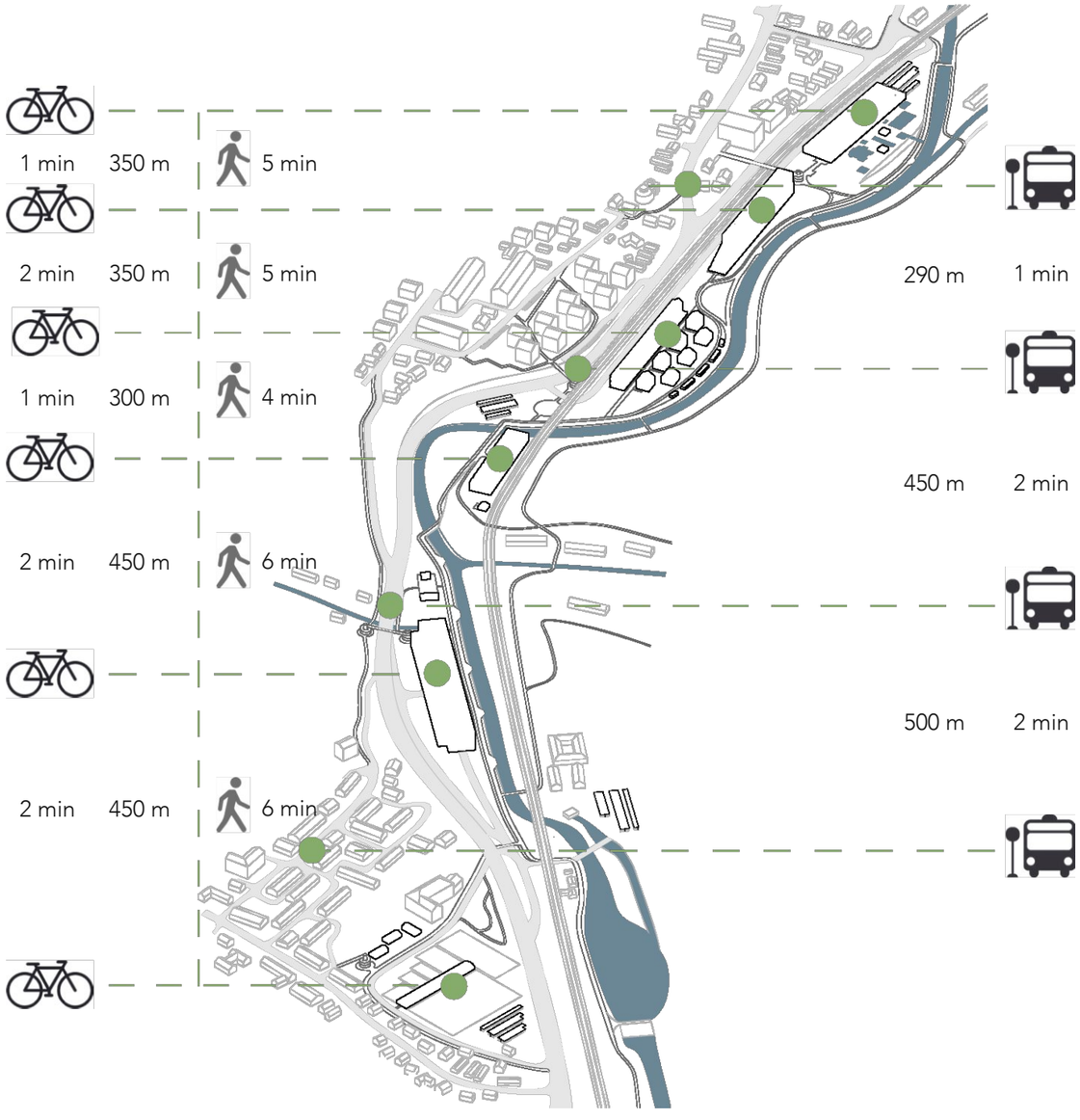


Fig. 234
Distances

Distances

The illustration to the left demonstrates the distances between differetn elements of the project and how much time is need to get there by bike, car and walking. It takes about half an hour to walk thorugh Sinaia Valley and since the different elements feature facilities that can cover peoples`everyday lives, Sinaia Valley can be considered a walkable part of the city. There are also four bus stations which are included in the urban design, so that people find accesses to the area right when getting off the bus.

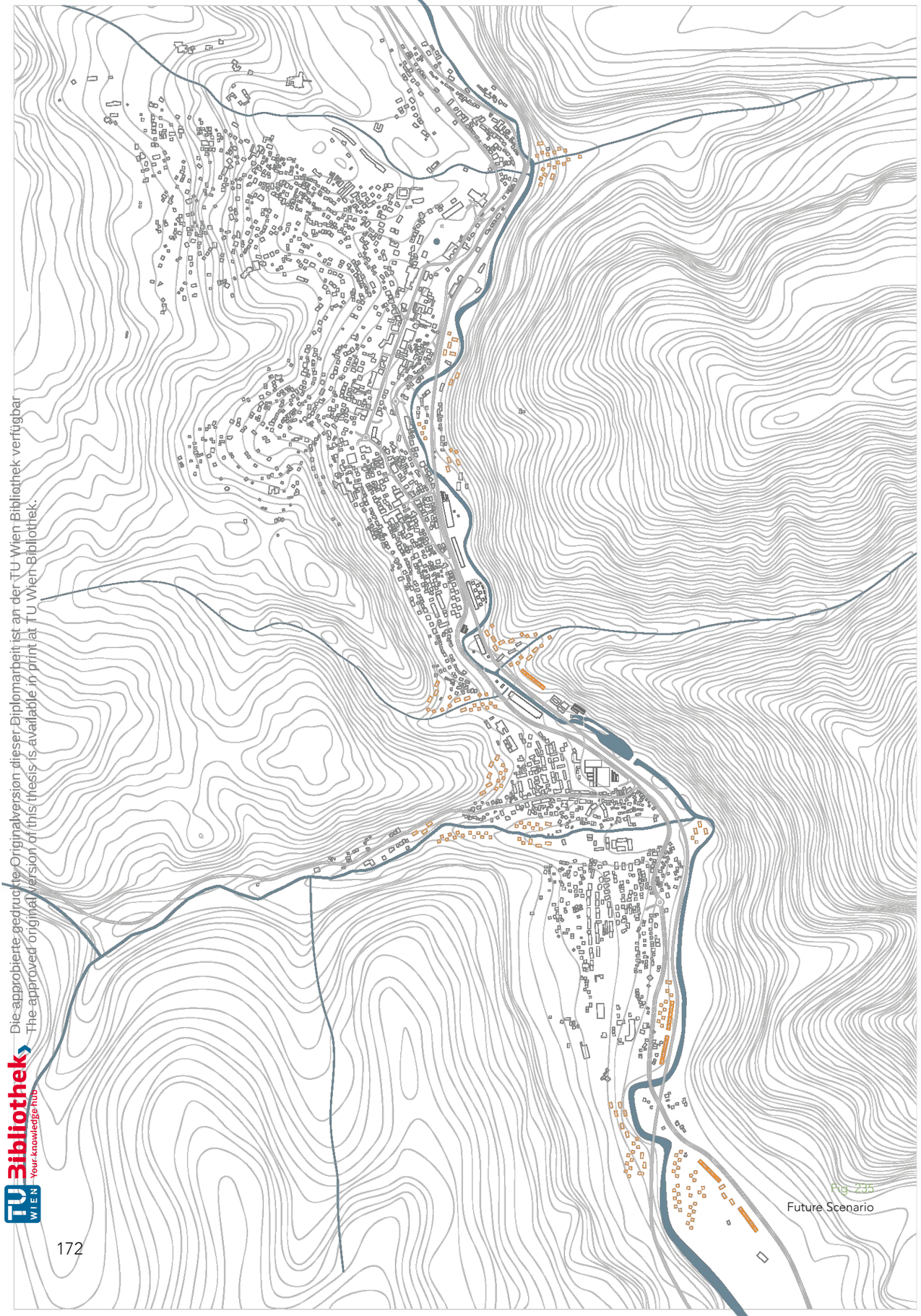
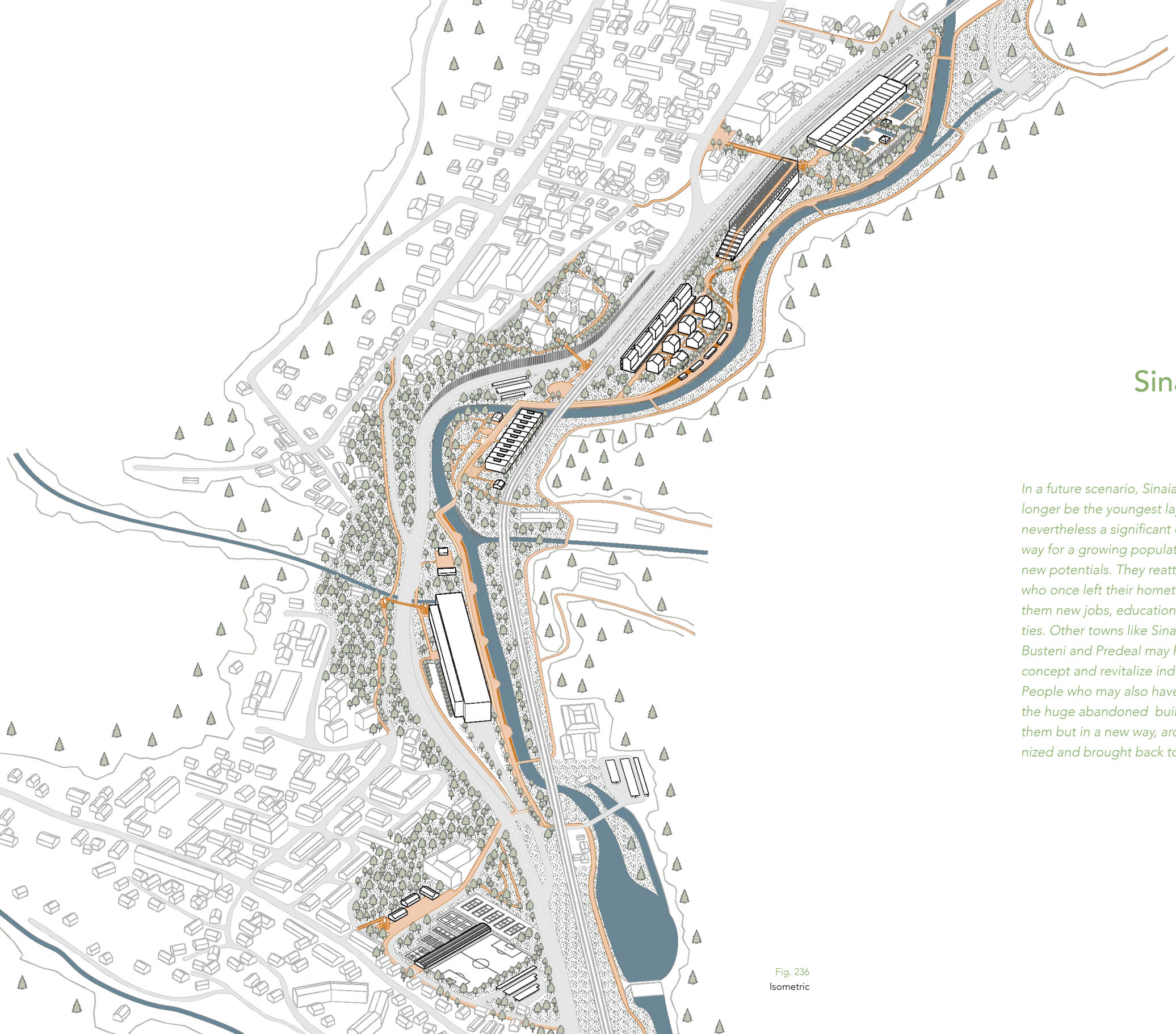


Fig. 235
Future Scenario

A Future Scenario

Sinaia has developed in the Prahova Valley, where some flat areas were found by the Prahova River. Nowadays buildings are already built on sites with an inclination, but it is unlikely and not in the sense of a protected natural environment to count on deforestation in order to expand the town if the poulation grows. Sinaia`s character of a small town gives it its charme and intimite atmosphere. If an increasing society requires new urban layers of housing and other fields, this is morst likely to also happen in the smaller valleys to the east and west, where the Prahova River is connected with mountain streams. Once the neighhoring towns have the same level of revitalization as Sinaia, vacant spaces withing the towns will be filled and each town is a piece of the puzzle of the Prahova Valley. This means that no big expansions of built areas will be necessary, but a concept which connects the towns and creates essential relations. It can be compared to a pearl chain with the Pearl of the Carpathians in its core.



Sinaia Valley

In a future scenario, Sinaia Valley will no longer be the youngest layer of the town, but nevertheless a significant one, as it paved the way for a growing population and a variety of new potentials. They reattracted the people who once left their hometown and offered them new jobs, education and freetime activities. Other towns like Sinaia`s neighors Azuga, Busteni and Predeal may have adopted the concept and revitalize industrial silos.
People who may also have wondered about the huge abandoned buildings, will still see them but in a new way, architecturally modernized and brought back to life.

Fig. 236
Isometric

Fig. 237
Model View from South

Fig. 238
Model View from West

Fig. 239
Model View from North

Fig. 240
Atmosphere 1

Fig. 241
Atmosphere 2

Fig. 240
Atmosphere 3

Fig. 243
Model Birdview from South

Fig. 244
Model Birdview from Northwest

5. REFERENCES

Internet Sources

ABES S.a.r.l. - (n.d.) Neues Leben und neue Möglichkeiten für städtische Quartiere
Access: 09/01/2024
https://abes-online.com/publikationen/ratgeber/aufwertung-und-umnutzung-fuer-industrie-und-gewerbebrachen/

Archdaily - (2023) "As an Architect You Design for the Present, with an Awareness of the Past, for a Future which Is Essentially Unknown" : On Foster's Body of Work and Evolution
Access: 09/01/2024
https://www.archdaily.com/1002908/as-an-architect-you-design-for-the-present-with-an-awareness-of-the-past-for-a-future-which-is-essentially-unknown-on-fosters-body-of-work-and-evolution#:~:text=In%20a%202007%20conference%2C%20Norman,about%20fashion%20but%20about%20survival."

Architectsjournal - (2020)
09/09/2024
https://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/buildings/train-of-thought-lochal-library-by-civic-architects-2

Architizer - (n.d.) AIRE Ancient Baths
Access:09/09/2024
https://architizer.com/projects/aire-ancient-baths/

Britannica - (2024) Prahova
Access. 12/08/2023
https://www.britannica.com/place/Prahova

Britannica - (2024) Romania
Access: 01/03/2023
https://www.britannica.com/place/Romania

Britannica - (2024) Sinaia
Access: 01/03/2023
https://www.britannica.com/place/Sinaia

Bucegipark - (2024) Istoric
Access: 06/20/2024
https://www.bucegipark.ro/ro/history

Bucegipark - (2024) Fauna
Access: 06/20/2024
https://www.bucegipark.ro/ro/fauna

Bucegipark - (2024) Flora
Access: 06/20/2024
https://www.bucegipark.ro/ro/flora

Dexonline
https://dexonline.ro/definitie/cvartal
Access: 07/01/2024

Dexonline
https://dexonline.ro/intrare/microraion/34119
Access: 07/01/2024

EUMiesAward - (n.d.)
Access: 09/09/2024
https://miesarch.com/work/3029

Eurothermen
Access: 09/01/2024
https://www.eurothermen.at/bad-schallerbach/therapie-anwendungen/

Izitravel - (n.d.)
Access: 01/03/2024
https://izi.travel/de/959e-dimitrie-ghica-park/en
Mefin - (2024) History of the Company
Access: 03/12/2024
http://www.mefin.ro/background_r.htm

Localhistories - (2021) A Timeline of Romania
Access: 06/07/2024
https://localhistories.org/a-timeline-of-romania/

Mefin - (2024) Start
Access: 03/12/2024
http://www.mefin.ro/start.htm

Nationsonline - (n.d.) Romania
Access: 12/07/2023
https://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/romania.htm

Olalahomes - (2024)
Access: 07/30/2024
https://blog.olalahomes.com/5-interesting-things-you-didnt-know-about-sinaia/

Radio Romania International - (n.d.) Gesundheit und Wellness in den rumänischen Badekurorten
Access: 12/08/2023
https://www.rri.ro/de_de/gesundheit_und_wellness_in_den_rumaenischen_badekurorten-2545749

Radio Romania International - (n.d.) Attraktionen im Landkreis Prahova
Access: 12/08/2023
https://www.rri.ro/de_de/attraktionen_im_landkreis_prahova-2555969

Romanian-Insider - (2011) Medical tourism in Romania: 30 most important Spa resorts across the country
Access: 07/12/2024
https://www.romania-insider.com/medical-tourism-in-romania-30-most-important-spa-resorts-across-the-country

Transilvaniareporter
Access: 09/10/2024
https://transilvaniareporter.ro/cultura/clujul-dupa-30-de-ani-vechi-spatii-industriale-noi-centre-culturale-de-la-fabrica-de-pensule-la-centrul-de-interes-artistii-rescriu-destinul-fostelor-fabrici/

Welcometoromania - (n.d.)
Access: 01/03/2024
https://www.welcometoromania.eu/Sinaia/Sinaia_Casino_e.htm

Welcometoromania - (n.d.)
Access: 01/03/2024
https://www.welcometoromania.eu/Sinaia/Sinaia_Foisor_e.htm

Welcometoromania - (n.d.)
Access: 01/03/2024
https://www.welcometoromania.eu/Sinaia/Sinaia_Casa_Enescu_e.htm

Welcometoromania - (n.d.)
Access: 01/03/2024
https://www.welcometoromania.eu/Sinaia/Sinaia_Economat_e.htm

Welcometoromania - (n.d.)
Access: 01/03/2024 https://www.welcometoromania.eu/Sinaia/Sinaia_Garile_regale_e.htm

Welcometoromania - (n.d.)
Access: 01/03/2024
https://www.welcometoromania.eu/Sinaia/Sinaia_Castelul_Peles_e.htm

Welcometoromania - (n.d.)
Access: 01/03/2024
https://www.welcometoromania.eu/Sinaia/Sinaia_Castelul_Pelisor_e.htm

Access: 06/22/2024
https://www.romania-insider.com/medical-tourism-in-romania-30-most-important-spa-resorts-across-the-country

Romanian Statistical Yearbook - (2012)

Romanrobroek - (2019) Photographing Abandoned Buildings in Băile Herculane, Romania
Access: 12/10/2023
https://romanrobroek.nl/photographing-abandoned-buildings-in-baile-herculane-romania/

Transyvanianow - (2020) Romania Keeps Losing its Population to the West
Access: 06/10/2024
https://transylvanianow.com/demographic-trends-migration-to-richer-countries-is-not-slowing-down/

Tripadvisor - (2018) Sinaia Monastery
Access: 06/20/2024
https://www.tripadvisor.com/ShowUserReviews-g315907-d2023984-r551081658-Manastirea_Sinaia-Sinaia_Prahova_County_Southern_Romania.html

Uncover - Romania - (2024)
Access: 06/20/2024
https://www.uncover-romania.com/attractions/history-culture/churches/sinaia-monastery/

Worldometers - (2024) Romania Population
Access: 12/07/2023
https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/romania-population/

Wordpress - (2016) Ceausescu`s Romania 1965 - 1989
Access: 05/13/2024
https://romaniadacia.wordpress.com/2016/01/07/ceausescu-romania-1965-1989/

VPTV.RO
Access: 12/13/2023
https://www.vptv.ro/concedieri-la-mefin-sinaia/

Ziarulprahova - (2006) Industria de pe Valea Prahovei Devina Muzeu
https://ziarulprahova.ro/2006/10/industria-de-pe-valea-prahovei-devine-muzeu/
Zhuji World - (2023) Sinaia, Romania - Statistici
https://ro.zhujiworld.com/ro/363051-sinaia/

Bibliography

Alexandru Banica, Marinela Istrate, Ionel Muntele - (2017) Challenges for the Resilience Capacity of Romanian Shrinking Cities

Alina Elena Huzui, Abdellaoui Abdelkader, Ileana Patru-Stupariu - (2013) Analysing urban dynamics using multi-temporal satellite images in the case of a mountain area, Sinaia (Romania), International Journal of Digital Earth

Andreea Udrea, Toader Popescu, Irina Calotă, Ilinca Păun Constantinescu - (2015) Cincinat Sfințescu. Începuturile urbanismului românesc

Calistrat Hogaș - (1912) Pe Drumuri de Munte

Carol I - (n.d.) Plaque in Peles Castle

Cezar Lăzărescu - (1977) Urbanismul în România

Cincinat Sfințescu - (1916) "Parcela" și "blocul" în constituirea orașelor

Constantin Spiride - (1959) Sistematizarea teritorială

Dana Vais - (2022) Systematization: A Key Term in 20th-Century Romanian Urbanism

Daniela-Mirela Plesoianu, Agatha Popescu - (2021) THE INFLUENCE OF CLIMATIC CONDITIONS ON TOURISM IN SINAIA RESORT, PRAHOVA VALLEY, ROMANIA

Duiliu Marcu, Gheorghe Matei Cantacuzino, Roger Bolomey, Ion Davidescu, Traian Rădulescu - (1937) Planul director de sistematizare al Municipiului București

Graham Lvesey - (1960) Passages: Explorations of the Contemporary City

Ina Stoian, Daniela Calciu - (2012) The Would-Be City - Interventions in the Post-Communist Urban Space

Ileana Pătru-Stupariu, Mihai-Sorin Stupariu, Roxana Cuculici, Alina Huzui - (2011) Understanding landscape change using historical maps. Case study Sinaia, Romania

Johann Georg von Hahn - (1854) Albanesische Studien

Popovici, Bianca Mitrică, Irena Mocanu & Monica Dumitrașcu - (2021) Modelling land use/ cover change to assess future urban sprawl in Romania

Ion Davidescu - (1941) Istoricul urbanismului în România

Kis Boglárka-Mercedesz - (2014) The mineral waters from the Eastern Carpathians

Laurent Vanat - (2020) The International Report on Snow and Mountain Tourism

Michael Toms - (2009) Principles of Planning Processes in Central Eastern Europe

Ministry of Environment and Forests - (2010) Romania's Fifth National Communication on Climate Change under the United Nations Framework

National Institute of Statistics - (2020) Romanian Statistical Yearbook

Nicolae Ceausescu - (1979) The Political Report of the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party to its Twelfth Congress

Traian Chițulescu, Georgeta Chițulescu - (1954) Manualul arhitectului proiectant. Volumul I

Traian Chițulescu, Georgeta Chițulescu - (1958). Manualul arhitectului proiectant. Volumul III

Vasile Rădulescu - (1941) Istoricul și realizările arhitecturale în serviciile publice

World Tourism Organization - (2007) Romania`s National Tourism Development Master Plan from 2007-2026

Figures

If not indidcated otherwise, photos and graphics are originals by the author

Fig. 1 Mefin `s production hall and the Prahova River
Screenshot from Video sent by employee of Mefin S. A.

Fig. 2 Location of Romania
Drawn with the basis from Vemaps
Access: 06/10/2024
https://vemaps.com/uploads/img/big/eu-c-04.jpg

Fig. 3 Population Density of Romania
Drawn with the basis from Transylvanianow
Access: 06/10/2024
https://transylvanianow.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/lakossag.png

Fig. 4 Major Landform Units
Drawn with the basis from Researchgate
Access: 06/10/2024
https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Ursanu-Popovici-Elena-Ana/publication/331036168/figure/fig1/AS:725408416817159@1549962252565/The-Development-Regions-and-the-major-landform-units-of-Romania-The-built-up-areas-in.jpg

Fig. 5 Relief of Romania
Access: 06/10/2024
https://x.com/milos_agathon/status/1741515921309450283/photo/1

Fig. 6 Dacia, 50 BC
Access: 03/12/2024
https://cdn.britannica.com/69/244569-050-E334723F/Locator-map-Dacia.jpg

Fig. 7 United Principality Quartet
Access: 03/12/2024
https://www.reddit.com/r/imaginarymaps/comments/fp97si/united_principality_quartet_under_michael_the/

Fig. 8 Carol I of Romania, 1905
Access: 04/13/2024
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/8/82/Carol_I_of_Romania_edited.jpg/1200px-Carol_I_of_Romania_edited.jpg

Fig. 9 Royal Palace Bucharest, 1881
Access: 04/13/2024
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Royal_Palace_Bucrest_Romania_1881.jpg

Fig. 10 Territorial structure of Romania following the establishing of Greater Romania
Access: 04/13/2024
https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Lakatos-Artur/publication/333384473/figure/fig2/AS:762610324627456@1558831878556/Territorial-structure-of-Romania-following-the-establishing-of-Greater-Romania-after-1918.png

Fig. 11 Romania, 1940
Access: 04/14/2024
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/c/c6/PérdidasTerritorialesRumanas1940-ro.svg/2560px-PérdidasTerritorialesRumanas1940-ro.svg.png

Fig. 12 Soviet Occupation in Romania
Access: 04/14/2024
https://romaniadacia.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/soviet-troops-occupy-bucharest-romania-1944.jpg

Fig. 13 Ceausescu giving a speech in Bucharest
Access: 04/14/2024
https://romaniadacia.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/nicolae-ceausescu-socialist-romania.jpg

Fig. 14 Communism, Bucharest
Access: 04/14/2024
https://qph.cf2.quoracdn.net/main-qimg-3690dac209e54193d1009d846f3b84e1-lq

Fig. 15 Nicolae Ceausescu and Charles de Gaulle in Bucharest, Press Palace in the back
Access: 04/14/2024
https://romaniadacia.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/charles-de-gaulle-french-leader-and-nicolae-ceausescu.jpg

Fig. 16 Demonstration parade in Bucharest
Access: 04/14/2024
https://romaniadacia.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/23-august-parade-romania.jpg?w=1058&h=684

Fig. 17 Romanian demonstrators in front of the headquarters of the Romanian Communist Party in Bucharest during the 1989 anti-communist revolution
Access: 04/14/2024
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/dec/23/romania-ceaucescu-goes-down-in-blood-1989#img-1

Fig. 18 Sucevița Monastery
Access: 04/16/2024
https://romaniaonthemap.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Sucevita_Monastery_RomaniaOnTheMap.jpg

Fig. 19 Horezu Monastery
Access: 04/16/2024
https://3seaseurope.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/horezu1.webp

Fig. 20 Arf of Triumph, Bucharest
Access: 04/16/2024
https://lupucezar.files.wordpress.com/2014/07/bucharest-arch-of-triumph.jpg?w=1200 https://lupucezar.files.wordpress.com/2014/07/bucharest-arch-of-triumph.jpg?w=1200

Fig. 21 Calea Victoriei, 1930
Access: 04/16/2024
https://www.enciclopedie.info/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Calea-Victoriei-în-1930.jpg

Fig. 22 Calea Victoriei, 2023
Access: 04/17/2024
https://dynamic-media-cdn.tripadvisor.com/media/photo-o/12/1a/21/fc/victoriei-street.jpg?w=1200&h=-1&s=1

Fig. 23 Housing in Bucharest by the Communal Society for Low-Cost Housing before World War I
Access: 04/17/2024
https://romaniadacia.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/cutremur_1977-bucuresti-bucharest-romania-earthquake.jpg

Fig. 24 Low-cost housing project proposed by the working committee of the 1935 Bucharest Master Plan of Systematizazion
Gheorghe Vîrtosu - (1937) Locuințe pentru populația nevoiașă
și problema comasărilor, p. 68

Fig. 25 Romanian village
Access: 04/17/2024
https://romaniadacia.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/northern-romania-village-late-1960s.jpg

Fig. 26 Romanian farmer`s house, 1962
Access: 04/17/2024
https://romaniadacia.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/romanian-countryside-1964-photo-by-carl-mydans.jpg

Fig. 27 Model for Gheorgheni district (microraions I and II) by Augustin Presecan, Vasila Mitrea, Aurelian Buzuloiu, Cluj, 1964
Access: 04/17/2024
Dana Vais - (2022) Systematization: A Key Term in 20th Century Romanian Urbanism, p. 215

Fig. 28 Examples for apartment housing types from directive project no. 1361/1967
Institute for Studies and Projects for Systematization, Architecture and Typification, 1971
Dana Vais - (2022) A Key Term in 20th Century Romanian Urbanism, p. 215, figure 7)

Fig. 29 Diagrams of the relationship between constructions, architecture, urbanism, systematization and urban, regional, and territorial scales, 1983
Drawn with the basis from Mariana Cardaș - (1983) Mic lexicon ilustrat al noțiunilor
de sistematizare, p. 307

Fig. 30 The way that former Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu hid the old city of Bucharest after he had demolished a sixth of the old city center, I
Access: 04/18/2024
https://preview.redd.it/uc0nmq1arte51.jpg?auto=webp&s=af85cac614b3899c9404d875889a99fd83ea0396

Fig. 31 The way that former Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu hid the old city of Bucharest after he had demolished a sixth of the old city center, II
Access: 04/18/2024
Beate Störtkuhl, Hanna Derer - (2006) Architekturgeschichte und kulturelles Erbe - Aspekte der Baudenkmalpflege in Ostmitteleuropa, p. 65

Fig. 32 Figure-ground plan

Fig. 33 Prahova Valley, Sinaia`s neighboring towns
Access: 05/23/2024
https://scontent-vie1-1.xx.fbcdn.net/v/t1.6435
9/53584946_2550978578462381_83560652690
21409280_n.jpg?_nc_cat=109&ccb=1-7&_nc_
sid=5f2048&_nc_ohc=OwD8R4-5ReUQ7kN-
vgFwUfob&_nc_ht=scontent-vie1-1.
xx&oh=00_AYC57K21PbpovkX_caiVrm_VLEFvw1rs-
dp3d1TCyutmR2g&oe=6697CB60

Fig. 34 Course of DN1
Drawn with the basis of Romanian National Road Map
Access: 05/23/2024
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/
thumb/8/87/Romanian_National_Road_Map_-_
DN1.svg/1600px-Romanian_National_Road_
Map_-_DN1.svg.png

Fig. 35 Average rainfall days and preciputation in Sinaia, 2023
Access: 05/27/2024
https://www.worldweatheronline.com/sinaia-weat-
her-averages/brasov/ro.aspx

Fig. 36 Average temperature in Sinaia, 2023
Access: 05/27/2024
https://www.worldweatheronline.com/sinaia-weat-
her-averages/brasov/ro.aspx

Fig. 37 Topography of the Bucegi Nature Park
Access: 04/23/2024
https://www.researchgate.net/publicati-
on/307774674/figure/fig1/AS:406819596980224@1
474004758650/The-Leaota-Bucegi-mountain-com-
plex-This-figure-is-available-in-colour-online-at.png

Fig. 38 Brown bear
Access: 06/12/2024
https://image.geo.de/30516778/t/c_/v3/w1440/
r1/-/arthur-ba-r-pa-240554646.jpg

Fig. 39 Lynx
Access: 06/12/2024
https://i.pinimg.com/originals/40/
e1/55/40e15517d1101277a65e4150e2b242ae.jpg

Fig. 40 Squirrel
Access: 06/12/2024
https://www.zooplus.de/magazin/wp-content/up-
loads/2023/02/Eichhoernchen-frisst-Nuss.jpeg

Fig. 41 Wolf
Access: 06/12/2024
https://image.stirileprotv.ro/media/
images/1408x882/Jun2020/62130853.jpg

Fig. 42 Red deer
Access: 06/12/2024
https://static4.libertatea.ro/wp-content/up-
loads/2021/10/cerbul-animale.jpg

Fig. 43 Feral cat
Access: 06/12/2024
https://mediacdn.libertatea.ro/unsafe/870x0/smart/
filters:format(webp):contrast(8):quality(75)/https://
static4.libertatea.ro/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/
cum-arata-pisica-salbatica.jpg

Fig. 44 Chamois
Access: 06/12/2024
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/
thumb/7/74/Gämse_am_Frieder.jpg/1200px-Gäm-
se_am_Frieder.jpg

Fig. 45 Bat
Access: 06/12/2024
https://image.geo.de/30516778/t/c_/v3/w1440/
r1/-/arthur-ba-r-pa-240554646.jpg

Fig. 46 Corncrake
Access: 06/12/2024
https://encrypted-tbn0.gstatic.com/ima-
ges?q=tbn:ANd9GcQuboCI4s9pOCes6CybxH2Kv-
ME_G9dZLiu7Xg&s

Fig. 47 Capercaillie
Access: 06/12/2024
https://pasaridinromania.sor.ro/resized/
data/2021/08/11/tet-uro-nicu-barz-2jpg_fi-
le_6113bc083f68f.jpg?w=2000

Fig. 48 Tawny Owl
Access: 06/12/2024
https://ornitodata2.sor.ro/resized/data/2021/07/29/
str-ura-alexandra-ion-2jpg_file_61027158350a0.
jpg?w=2000

Fig. 49 Black woodpecker
Access: 06/12/2024
https://media.descopera.ro/7UtuPFGijeF-
Qk85Wj0fEHbR6zQ=/610x0/smart/filters:con-
trast(5):format(webp):quality(80)/https://
www.descopera.ro/wp-content/uploads/me-
dia/401/321/5108/11721000/7/cioca-1.jpg

Fig. 50 Smooth newt
Access: 06/12/2024
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/com-
mons/thumb/b/b6/Teichmolch-triturus-vulgaris.
jpg/2560px-Teichmolch-triturus-vulgaris.jpg

Fig. 51 Yew (Taxus bacata)
Access: 06/12/2024
https://merg.in/thumbs/big_art/2015/09/24/taxus-
baccata-tisa-11854.jpg

Fig. 52 White fir (Abies alba)
Access: 06/12/2024
https://cdn.pflanzmich.de/produkt/24040/00-Abies-
alba-TG-01_origin_img.jpg

Fig. 53 Leontopodium nivale
Access: 06/12/2024
https://sweetgarden.ro/uploads/images/dis-
play/43618_floare_de_colt.webp

Fig. 54 Dianthus glacialis
Access: 06/12/2024
https://spontana.org/pictures/20210617_Diant-
hus%20glacialis%20-%20Bucegi,%20Valea%20Mo-
rarului%20IMG_0661.JPG

Fig. 55 Papaverr alpinum
Access: 06/12/2024
https://live.staticflickr.com/65535/48370291961_155
54d445a_b.jpg

Fig. 56 Yew zoom-in
Access: 06/12/2024
https://bucegipark.ro/media/flora_image/tisa.webp

Fig. 57 White fir zoom-in
Access: 06/12/2024
https://www.waldwissen.net/assets/wald/baeu-
me_waldpflanzen/nadel/wsl_weisstanne/wsl_weiss-
tanne_tannenkrone.jpeg

Fig. 58 Viola alpina
Access: 06/12/2024
https://live.staticflickr.com/190/494440636_
c20ff9f0c4_b.jpg

Fig. 59 Lilium martagon
Access: 06/12/2024
https://cdn11.bigcommerce.com/s-i7i23daso6/
images/stencil/1280w/products/10495/31260/Lili-
um_Martagon_Pink_0002572_2__41628.16564190
30.jpg

Fig. 60 Gentiana acaulis
Access: 06/12/2024
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/
commons/d/da/Gentiana_acaulis_Goryc-
zka_2016-05-02_03.jpg

Fig. 61 Location of Sinaia Moastery
Drawn with the basis of Oanacanditmaps
Access 08/12/2024
https://oanacanditmaps.ro/wp-content/up-
loads/2021/11/Sinaia_.png

Fig. 62 The porch of Sinaia Monastery, The Old Church
Access: 06/ 15/2024
https://www.uncover-romania.com/wp-content/up-
loads/2016/07/Sinaia-Monastery-2-1.jpg

Fig. 63 Sinaia Monastery, The Old Church
Access: 06/15/2024
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/
thumb/f/fd/Biserica_veche_monastere_Sinaia.
jpg/440px-Biserica_veche_monastere_Sinaia.jpg

Fig. 64 Sinaia Monastery, New Church
Access: 06/15/2024
https://media.tacdn.com/media/attractions-splice-
spp-674x446/0b/39/96/04.jpg

Fig. 65 Sinaia Monastery
Access: 06/15/2024
https://vile-lucia.ro/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/
VB_Sinaia_manastire-2.jpg

Fig. 66 Location of Peles Castle
Drawn with the basis of Oanacanditmaps
Access 08/12/2024

Fig. 67 Peles Castle
Access: 06/25/2024
https://cdn.getyourguide.com/img/
tour/6421717365bff.jpeg/99.jpg

Fig. 68 Peles Castle, courtyard
Access: 06/25/2024
https://tripinworld.net/wp-content/up-
loads/2021/11/castello-di-peles-cortile-interno-con-
gli-affreschi.jpg

Fig. 69 Peles Castle, interior
Access: 06/25/2024
https://live.staticflickr.com/712/20781269746_
d256e033bc_b.jpg

Fig. 70 Pelisor Castle
Access: 06/25/2024
https://www.destinatii.ro/wp-content/up-
loads/2018/10/pelisor-1024x680-1.jpg

Fig. 71 Landscape changes between 1979 and 2007
Alina Elena Huzui, Abdellaoui Abdelkader, Ileana Patru-Stupariu - (2013) Analysing urban dynamics using multi-temporal satellite images in the case of a mountain area, p. 572

Fig. 117 Bucegi Mountains in winter
Access: 06/27/2024
https://www.shtiu.ro/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Varful-Omu-iarna-c-1210x680.webp

Fig. 118 View on the town I
Access: 06/27/2024
https://www.mywanderlust.pl/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/sinaia-romania-20.jpg

Fig. 119 View on the town II
Access: 06/27/2024
https://ghidul-horeca.ro/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Statiunea-Sinaia-2.jpg

Fig. 120 Hotel International
Access: 06/30/2024
https://www.hotel.de/de/media/image/6c/21/e1/International_Sinaia-Sinaia-Hotel_outdoor_area-88489.jpg

Fig. 121 Hotel Palace
Access: 06/30/2024
https://palace-sinaia.hotel-mix.de/data/Photos/OriginalPhoto/15198/1519811/1519811932/Hotel-Palace-Sinaia-Exterior.JPEG

Fig. 122 Hotel Sinaia
Access: 06/30/2024
https://q-xx.bstatic.com/xdata/images/hotel/max300/514105006.jpg?k=ab447bf166ae-56c4e46e1e50d77953d03b62abe61238d1cbc6ac-4928be54938a&o=

Fig. 123 Hotel Pältiniş
Access: 06/30/2024
https://live.staticflickr.com/204/468732621_fd45f771a3_b.jpg

Fig. 124 Hotel Cerbu
Access: 06/30/2024
https://content.r9cdn.net/rimg/dimg/6b/48/dd2ad76f-city-48645-172d045e384.jpg?crop=true&width=1366&height=768&xhint=2803&yhint=1354

Fig. 125 Street view Sinaia
Access: 06/30/2024
https://www.whisperwanderlust.com/sinaia-romania/locuri-de-vizitat-in-sinaia-1-2/

Fig. 126 House by the train tracks
Access: 06/30/2024
https://images2.moldovatrans.com/moldovatrans/front/imgbank/offers/5e453e293ae6b.jpg

Fig. 127 Detail of the roof of a residential house in Sinaia
Access: 06/30/2024
https://as2.ftcdn.net/v2/jpg/02/42/52/03/1000_F_242520366_ITJ0RewfUICUBwmO0jMuDggEM-2KZQafY.jpg

Fig. 128 Residential villa
Access: 06/30/2024
https://as2.ftcdn.net/v2/jpg/02/42/52/07/1000_F_242520779_jTFWbEh3IrZqvibphyce749MjL43v-AlV.jpg

Fig. 129 Sinai APH Apartments
Access: 06/30/2024
https://d3hj7i5wny7p5d.cloudfront.net/upload/hotel/77/5935/36110-m.jpg

Fig. 130 House in the center of Sinaia
Access: 06/30/2024
https://as1.ftcdn.net/v2/jpg/02/42/52/06/1000_F_242520679_TNBTDy0GjFrgXYLhwiElniVe-T9E2lZ94.jpg

Fig. 131 Residential house
10/20/2023

Fig. 132 Town hall
Access: 07/01/2024
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/3/3f/Urbodomo_de_Sinaia_en_Rumanio.jpg/2560px-Urbodomo_de_Sinaia_en_Rumanio.jpg

Fig. 133 Typical wooden bus station
10/20/2023

Fig. 134 Villa Carol
Access: 07/01/2024
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/5c/Sinaia_Old_Town.jpg/900px-Sinaia_Old_Town.jpg

Fig. 135 Tourist information
10/20/2023

Fig. 136 Street food house and villa in the back
Access: 06/30/2024
https://www.flickr.com/photos/abaril-tur/49486098713

Fig. 137 Stirbey Castle
Access: 09/12/2024
https://calatoriprinromania.ro/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Castelul-Stirbey-Sinaia-18-scaled.jpg

Fig. 138 Mall in the center, including freetime activities
Access: 06/30/2024
https://dynamic-media-cdn.tripadvisor.com/media/photo-o/12/e7/1a/bb/getlstd-property-photo.jpg?w=2400&h=-1&s=1

Fig. 139 Pedestrian walkway
10/20/2023

Fig. 140 Walkway by the main street in the center
10/20/2023

Fig. 141 Roundabout in the center
10/20/2023

Fig. 142 Vegetation by the street
10/20/2023

Fig. 143 Side street
10/20/2023

Fig. 144 Birdview of the street
06/20/2024
https://ghidul-horeca.ro/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Statiunea-Sinaia-2.jpg

Fig. 145 Mefin S.A. main entrance
Screenshot from Video sent by employee of Mefin S. A.

Fig. 146 Mefin S. A. office building

Fig. 147 Mefin S.A. 19th Century
Access: 09/10/2024
https://www.mefin.ro/poze/identif/hex0.jpg

Mefin S.A. historic photo
Access: 09/10/2024
Fig. 148 https://www.bursa.ro/_img/articole/3937.gif

Fig. 149 Mefin S.A. machinery
Access: 09/10/2024
https://storage0.dms.mpinteractiv.ro/media/1/1481/22467/13488327/1/mefin.jpg

Fig. 150 Mefin S.A. production
Access: 09/10/2024
https://image.stirileprotv.ro/media/images/1408x882/May2009/60291901.jpg

Fig. 151 Mefin S.A. products
Access: 09/10/2024
http://www.mefin.ro/poze/rotary.jpg

Fig. 152 Building A
10/23/2023

Fig. 153 Side entrance building A

Fig. 154 Birdview northern part of the property
Screenshot from Video sent by employee of Mefin S. A.

Fig. 155 Building B and bridge
access from the city

Fig. 156 Building B

Fig. 157 Site plan
provided by Mefin S.A.

Fig. 158 Building B and train tracks

Fig. 159 Building C

Fig. 160 Birdview on building I
Screenshot from Video sent by employee of Mefin S. A.

Fig. 161 Facade building B

Fig. 162 Building I
Screenshot from Video sent by employee of Mefin S. A.

Fig. 163 Synthetic fiber industry - Production, Braila,1980s
Access: 09/14/2024
https://romaniadacia.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/combinatul-de-fibre-artificiale.jpg?w=1058&h=558

Fig. 164 Synthetic fiber industry - Building, Braila,1980s
Access: 09/14/2024
https://romaniadacia.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/celostuf-braila.jpg?w=1058&h=1038

Fig. 165 Exposition
Access: 09/12/2024
https://www.espoarte.net/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/1-1.jpg

Fig. 166 Event
Access: 09/12/2024
https://images.squarespace-cdn.com/content/v1/5693845b57eb8d9880ba5f8c/1701788642507-UC2KSJX6UY8ATHUDUSS4/Urban+Desig_Centrul+de+Interes19.JPG

First and foremost, I would like to thank my supervisor Markus Tomaselli for his enthusiasm and invaluable guidance during the entire process of developing this project. His expertise was of great importance and expanded my personal architectural insight.

I am very grateful for my friends, who always supported and motivated me. Our collaborations and discussions helped shape my architectural vision.
Thank you to my family for being an incredible source of encouragement und unconditional support.

Further acknowledgements go to my contact persons from Mefin S.A. who provided me with crucial materials and information and gave me a deep insight into the company.