*Summary :*

The history of the Tirana’s urbanization has been a continuous, repeated story of ‘tabula rasa’, the destruction of the ‘whole’ to bring a new better hypothetic ‘whole’ instead, without a proper re-valuation of what’s already existing. Therefore this project consists in evidencing and mapping, on the current map of Tirana, of all the buildings that through the years have become part of a certain category*, ‘the undesired buildings’* of Tirana. This categorization includes buildings with a certain historical and architectural value that are left neglected to nature’s course, therefore not functional anymore and continuously decaying. Also buildings of a certain importance and value that nowadays don’t exist anymore because they were torn down to be replaced with new ones, or buildings with a certain negative value or reputation at a certain moment in time. Therefore this categorization is not a rigid one because is reflected by the notion of a ‘buildings value’ which is a relative , but nonetheless this research represents a very important tool to somehow archive the last remaining ‘gems’ of Tirana ( with no intent of being nostalgic), before they vanish completely not only from the ‘urban texture ‘ of Tirana but most important from the inhabitant’s collective memory. So it’s a contribution to the city with the possibility, if there’s the interest of course, of everybody giving their input and help in enriching this study.

**1.**VILLA ON ‘ RRUGA DERVISH HATIXHE’ (not existing anymore)

This villa represents a traditional typology of Albanian houses based on its organization, ‘banese me qoshk’. Masive walls made of a traditional technique with mud ‘qerpici’, 40cm thickness. There’s a simetric division of the main inner spaces and as a result it’s thought to have been used by two brothers. Today this house, doesn’t exist anymore even though represented one of the oldest typology of houses from Tirana and in its place there’s a high-rise building construction project going on.

**2.** VILLA ON ‘ RRUGA ÇERCIZ TOPULLI’

**3**. VILLA ‘FORTUZI’

Villa ‘ Fortuzi’ was built from Omer Fortuzi around 1920. He used to be one of the first Albanian engineers and a member of one of the biggest and most important families in the city., being also once the mayor of Tirana. While he had this position he always tried to implement as many Italian projects as he could. The architecture of this villa shows this intent too with this big , functional balconies, the way it is developed on its ground floor in an ‘L’ shape. A special characteristic of this Villa is the fact that its volumetry is treated with organic lines and shapes instead of the straight lines and angles of most of the buildings of that period.

**4**. VILLA ON ‘ RRUGA SPIRO DEDJA’

It used to be the first school in Tirana. As a typology, it also represents a traditional ‘Banese me qoshk’ therefore constructed with massive ‘qerpic’ walls with (antisizmic) wooden beams in between, decorative wooden ceiling , well-treated balcony .Today in a very bad condition, neglected and left to nature’s course.

**5.** CINEMA ‘ 17 NENTORI’ – today City mall ‘Galeria’

The first Cinema in Tirana, also known as Cinema-Theater *‘Nacional’* project realized by arch. *Skënder Luarasi*, in 1924. It represented a very important cultural center at the time and gathering place for the cities inhabitants.In 1945 took the name *’17 nëntori’* (the date of Tirana’s Independence). It was used as a cinema until 1991 (during which its ownership changed from the ‘Beshiret’ family to the Government). Later on , some popular courts were held in its inner space and after that it was used for spiritual sessions etc until it decayed completely and it was given to its original owners back again , but it never returned back to being a cinema again. Finally in 2003 , the decision to completely demolish it , was taken and instead of it building erecting a Shopping mall. In the beginning , it was said to save and re-use the existing façade of the building but afterwards this idea wasn’t implemented. Everything from the old Cinema vanished as it apparently never existed , the only thing remaining the same was its name .

**6**. ‘THE BUILDING WITH CUBES’ FROM MAKS VELOS

**7**. VILLA ON ‘RRUGA QEMAL STAFA’

**8**. VILLA 2 ON ‘RRUGA QEMAL STAFA’

**9**. VILLA 3 ON ‘ RRUA ‘QEMAL STAFA’

**10**. VILLA ON ‘RRUGA XHORXHI MARTINI’

**11.** VILLA ON ‘ RRUGA XHORXHI MARTINI’

**12.** THE PUPPET THEATER

This building was the base of the first operating Albanian Parliament. It is a Monument of first Category nominated by the Ministry of Youth and Sports in November 1992 in the beginning and after in march of the 2000. The Theater was created as an Institution on 6th December of the 1950 and nowadays celebrates 60 years ,with 160 places. There has been no serious maintenance during the years and this is visible in the current condition of the building and there are voices going on that it will be also demolished since it doesn’t accomplish with the present requisites of functionality for a building.

**13.** THE NATIONAL THEATER

**14**. VILLA ON ‘RRUGA E DURRESIT’ (close to the The Ministry of Environment)

**15**. VILLA ON THE CROSSROAD BETWEEN ‘RR.MIHAL DURI’ AND ‘RR.KONT URANI’

**16**. VILLA ON ‘RRUGA KONT URANI’

**17**. VILLA AT THE ENTRANCE OF ‘RRUGA KAVAJES’

The Villa positioned in the intersection of ‘Rruga Kont Urani’ and ‘Rruga Kavajes” once known as Boulevard ‘Mussolini’ using a surface area of 1437m2. It’s project was realized in 1935 but the construction works lasted until 1936, from the Italian engenieer Giulio Berte (whome is a very important name in the history of the architecture of Tirana, the one who realized The Palace of Brigades, once ‘The Royal Villa’ and the design of the Scanderbeg Square in Tirana).This villa was commissioned by the once mayor of the Municipality of Tirana, Abedin Nepravishta ( Mayor from 1934-1936, and 1937-1939).This project was thought to have influenced King Zogu to ask Berte to realize also the project for his residence villa, ‘Royal Villa’ very notable today because of some similirities in terms of their design. Like many other Italian architects of that time G.Berte also intended a rational style with a representative character not realated to the existing architecture of the surrounding but providing a certain combination of modernity and identity of the context also respecting specific urban conditions towards the main streets. Being a villa situated in a crossroad of two very important mobility axes, it’s volumetry as a result was very defined and geometric, at the same time monumental providing a view towards the ‘Mussolini’ Boulevard, ‘Ethem Bej Mosque’ and further on to the main ‘Scanderbeg Square’. It has a very clear plan organizations, with an underground plan, ground floor plan, first floor and terrace. Talking about the functional organization , its ground floor was meant to host mixed use spaces.Thre main areas along the Boulevard Mussolini , treated like duplexes with specific staircases connecting to the first floor and the technical spaces underground. The other part of the ground floor plan was reserved for an apartment that communicated also to the inner garden. Meanwhile all the first floor has a residential use therefore represents a more intimate space.

From 1945 until 1992 it served as a Kindergraden and after 1992 the original owners got it back.

**18.** VILLA OF THE FORMER ‘RADIO TIRANA’

This Villa is a Monument of second category.Represents the first mediatic Institution in Albania .The villa was built in 1938 from a very rich and important family of Tirana ‘Kollciu’ with the main purpose to be a house for two brothers , fact that is also emphasized by the symmetric plan organization of the villa. Later on it was seized under the order of King Zog and it served as the base for ‘Radio Tirana’ until 1965. After that its inner space was used by The Institute of Anthroplogy and Art studies, which later on moved also from there since its private owners appeared again and today It stands in very bad conditions. The villa is composed by four floors and one of them stands underground .It has two main entrances and one of them is directed towards the backyard. It has a very harmonic, neoclassical façade with columns without orders, prefabricated granil (granulated stones composition) staircase, a main hallway with marble tiles, windows with wooden frames, metallic balustrades. Currently there are some people from the ‘rome’ community living in the building. It is believed that the actual owner of the Villa led them ‘squat’ and clean the inner space before taking back the villa and reconstruct it for its main interest. It is believed .Everything regarding the fate of the villa is a speculation , some of the inhabitants around the neighbourhood say the actual owner wants to recreate a Museum out of it but none of this regarding its fate is yet confirmed .

**19**. VILLA AT THE ENTRANCE OF ‘RRUGA KONT URANI’

**20.** NATURE SCIENCE MUSEUM

The Nature Science Museum, had different functions during the years .During the regime of King Zogu it used to be a Dormitory , Dormitory ‘Naim Frasheri’. During the fascist Italian regime it served as an aeroplane’s motors repairing unit. In 948 the building worked as ‘The Nature Science Museum’ related to the Science Institute (state property). In 2009 four private owners of the site where the building stood, appeared and through a court’s decision , the building became their property. There were several polemics regarding the fact if the Museum should move or not from its original location, there were some students protest also but neither of those worked .The Museum was demolished and transformed into a construction site for a high-rise complex of businesses and housing.

**21.** THE PYRAMID

The Pyramid represents, definitely one of the most complex, and special buildings representative of the historical, cultural and political discourse of the city of Tirana. The project for the Pyramid Projekti I saj u realizua nga nje ekip arkitektësh Pranvera Hoxha(vajza e Enver Hoxhës), Klement Kolaneci, Pirro Vaso dhe Vladimir Bregu ne një kohë rekord prej tre vitesh dhe me funksionin e Mauzoleumit te diktatorit komunist, Muzeut te Enver Hoxhes. Në 1988 kjo godinë u vu në përdorim dhe shërbeu si e tillë deri në 199Ë me rënien e regjimit komunist.Me pas pësoi ndryshime të njëpasnjëshme në funksion .Funksionoi si hapsirë për konferenca dhe me vonë qëndër humanitare pas 1999 me vendosjen e selisë së NATO-s gjatë luftës në Kosovë. Në 2001 u vendos në të Selia eTop chanel duke u përdorur njëkohësisht si hapsirë për kafene dhe night-clube (brendia) dhe hapsirë mitingjesh hapësira publike jashtë. Sot pas shumw vitesh injorimi e moskujdesjeje, ka njw plan pwr ri-jetwzimin e saj .

**22.** ‘QEMAL STAFA’ STADIUM

**23**. VILLA AT THE END OF ’RRUGA BARRIKADAVE’ (not existing anymore)

**24.** VILLA ON ‘RRUGA NIKOLLA TUPE’

**25.** VILLA ON ‘RRUGA TEFTA TASHKO KOCO’

**26.** VILLA ON ’RRUGA TEFTA TASHKO KOCO’

**27**. VILLA ON ‘RRUGA KONT URANI’

Vila qe mendohet të ketë shërbyer gjatë një kohe si shtëpi publike. Aktualisht eshte nën zotërim të pronarëve privat.Kjo ndërtesë përfaqëson një masë rrënojash sot pasi kanë mbetur te dukshme prej strukturës së saj vetëm disa mure perimetralë prej këtyre dhe fasada kryesore me murin rrethues, ndërkohë në brëndësi hapsira zihet nga gjelbërim bimësi dhe pemë .Panvarsisht pozicionit shumë të mirë e të volitshëm në një nga Rrugët kryesore dhe më të vjetra në Tiranë, hapsira brënda si pasojë e lënies në harresë të strukturës shfrytëzohet për banim dhe tezga informale të disa familjeve nga komunitetit rom.

**28**. ‘HOUSE OF LEAVES’

E ndërtuar në vitin 1931, godina, e njohur në Shqipëri si “shtëpia e gjetheve” fillimisht ka patur funksionin e një klinike obstetrike. Gjatë luftës së dytë botërore, nën pushtimin gjerman, ajo i përkiste Gestapo-s, ndërkohë që fill më pas, gjatë viteve të para të regjimit të ri, ajo u bë një qendër e Sigurimit (Policia politike) e përdorur për hetime. Nga viti 1950 ajo u bë zyra qendrore e seksionit teknik dhe shkencor të sigurimit.

kjo ndërtesë u ngrit si klinikë obstetrike për t’i dhënë jetë njeriut , por në fakt u përdor për t’ia marrë jetën njeriut. Ndërtesat e harruara dhe të rrënuara po i rikonstruktojmë. Që nga 2014 kemi punuar për planin e ndërtimit dhe muzealizimin e kësaj ndërtese”

**29**. FORMER YUGOSLAVIA EMBASSY

Fasada kryesore e vilës nëe fjalë është e orientuar nga jugu dhe me dalje në Rr. E Durrësit. Vila u ndërtua në 1931 për të shërbyer si ‘Legata Turke’ dhe më pas , pas 1945 shërbeu si Ambasada Jugosllave. Ndërtesa përbëhet nga dy kate dhe një I tretë në kuotën e catisë. Zotëron katër hyrje , dy ne fasadën jugore e dy në atë veriore nga prapa. Karakterizohet nga carje në trajtë harqesh ‘a sesto acuto’ që shkarkojne peshën e tyre në kolona. Ky trajtim është I ngjashëm me atë të kishave gotike.Pas një kohe shumë të gjatë të lënë në harresë ajo u restaurua por jo sipas rregullave te mirëfillta të restaurimit.

**30.** VILLA ON ‘RRUGA ISA BOLETINI’

**31**. VILLA 4 ON ‘RRUGA QEMAL STAFA’

**32**. VILLA ON ‘RRUGA PAPA GJON PALI II’

**33**. VILLA ON ‘RRUGA JUL VARIBOBA’

**34.** VILLA ON ‘RRUGA ELBASANIT’

**35**. TOPTANI’S SARAJET

Sarajet e Toptanëeve (Sarajet e Selim Pasha Toptani) është ndërtuar rreth viteve 1833-1840 , ndër të paktat ndërtime të periudhës feudale në Shqipëri. Përbëhet nga 32 dhoma të dekoruara në stil oriental. Ështe një kompleks arkitektonik që përbehet nga mure masive mbajtës që I japing trajtën e një fortifikimi, apo Kështjelle.Përbën një lloj ndërtimi të përhapur në Shqipëri gjatë gjysmës së dytë të shek.19, në periudhën e rendit feudal.Është ndërtim dykatësh , I shpallur monument kulture , është realizuar nga mjeshtër të Dibrës .Mbart vlera jo vetëm për ndarjen funksionale por dhe për trajtimin rkitektonik ne dekorime.Një periudhë ka qënë vënë në përdorim si Bar/kafe , sot është I mbyllur dhe I paaksesueshëm nga publiku në cfaredolloj forme.

36. VILLA ‘IVANAJ’

The history of Villa Ivanaj is closly related with the history of the two Ivanaj brothers and their families, Martin and Mirash Ivanaj, both of them two very illustrious figures who invested a lot in the preservation and development of the education and Albanian language. Mirash Ivanaj as the younger brother held the position of the Minister of Education around 1933-1935 and on the other hand Martin was a very important lawyer and judge. The two of them together created the biggest private library with the biggest amount of books, that is still preserved today in the Building that today hosts the’ Ivanaj Institute ‘, but once used to be the residence Villa of the Ivanaj family. The Villa was built around 1939 during the Italian occupation and at that time wasn’t completely finished, it consisted of 14 rooms. Afterwards the Villa was confiscated by the Italian Military forces and during the years several additional units of different functions were added to the Villa’s site. Drita Ivanaj (daughter of Martin), therefore legal owner of the Ivanaj properties in Tirana, was finally able to take physical possession of her ex-residence and land in this capital city on June 5th, 2009.  She had obtained title to this legacy in 1995, but could not access or use it until the military unit that occupied it for decades, free of charge. Today instead of this Villa there’s a mixed-use building where on the main ground floors , ‘The Ivanaj Institute of Albania’ organizes its everyday activities.