Archis Interventions

The New Prishtina

European Forum Alpbach

Every August since 1945, the "European Forum Alpbach" has taken place in the Tyrolean mountain village of Alpbach. It has become a well-known "European" place.

Speakers and participants from all parts of the world, from science, business and politics, renowned experts and students meet in Alpbach to discuss current issues in an interdisciplinary way. The open character of the event creates an atmosphere of tolerance for other opinions and contributes to finding a consensus beyond national, ideological or disciplinary barriers.

"Emergence" is the general topic of the 63rd European Forum Alpbach, taking place from August 16 to September 1, 2007. In this framework, we would like to deal not only with innovation, but also with developments coming into being spontaneously without the deliberate assistance of man.

The cultural program of the European Forum Alpbach has a long tradition. Every year, a musical composition is commissioned by the European Forum Alpbach. Numerous oeuvres of performing art have premiered in Alpbach. Many young artists who have performed in Alpbach have gone on to enjoy successful international careers.

In a particularly impressive way, the exhibition "The New Prishtina" links the scientific part of the European Forum Alpbach with its cultural program. Kai Völkler, the exhibition's main curator, will present the project during the Alpbach Architecture Symposium. The exhibition was developed from a workshop and during intensive research conducted in Priština/Prishtina, the progress of which I have closely watched as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of ERSTE Foundation, which supports the project. Therefore, I would like to especially thank Christine Böhler from ERSTE Foundation, who came up with the idea to create this special exhibition in Alpbach. To be involved in Kosovo/Kosova means to be engaged in Europe.

Erhard Busek

EUROPEAN FORUM ALPBACH

Preface

In December 2006, the Dutch-German-Kosovan initiative Archis Interventions held a workshop in Priština/Prishtina together with planners and architects from Kosovo. The purpose of this workshop was to discuss the results of a research project that investigated the development of building construction in the city after the end of the violent conflict in 1999. Participants also included representatives of the municipality, the Institute for Spatial Planning Kosova and UN-Habitat. In a round table discussion, they talked about the reasons for the enormous construction boom triggered by the mostly informal building activities of Kosovo-Albanians who had returned to Priština/Prishtina, and how this boom has changed the city's urban life.

ERSTE Foundation co-financed this workshop and encouraged participants to present the results in an exhibition. As a platform for cultural networks and cross-border dialogue, but also for ideas, knowledge and initiatives dedicated to the common "Project Europe", ERSTE Foundation furthermore supports a series of studies of the European Stability Initiative (ESI) research group, which investigates key topics of the future development of Southeast Europe, such as multi-ethnic coexistence, transformation and de-industrialization. The group examined, for example, how the architectural heritage of the city of Priština/Prishtina is dealt with, which has inspired the work of Archis Interventions.

Social Affairs, Culture and Europe are the three programs of ERSTE Foundation. A major shareholder of Erste Bank, it is one of Europe's largest foundations and has been actively initiating projects across borders in the entire region of Central and Southeast Europe since 2005. In examining the socio-political context of the rapidly changing cityscape of Priština/Prishtina, the three program themes nicely complement one another, providing profound insights. We are very pleased that "The New Prishtina" will be presented to an international audience in the course of this year's European Forum Alpbach conference.

Christine Böhler
ERSTE Foundation

ERSTE Stiftung

Building in the Wild –

– The New Prishtina

The situation in Prishtina is typical of cities that find themselves in a period of upheaval after a conflict. Most of the time, there is a complete lack of public bodies with the capacity and jurisdiction to enforce laws. In addition, a lack of social self-regulation leaves the field wide open for uncontrolled forces that cause lasting damage to a city's urban fabric. Moreover, there is always a profound crisis of confidence in the public dimension of urban life.

by Kai Vöckler

Intervention by NATO forces in 1999 put a halt to the war between Serb troops and the Kosovo-Albanian Liberation Army (UCK) in Kosovo. At that time, the Albanian majority of the former Yugoslav territory was highly isolated from normal life and society, the result of persistent repression by the Milosevic regime which had begun in 1990. Also, a large portion of the – mostly younger – Kosovo-Albanian population had moved to Western Europe, mainly to Germany, Austria and Switzerland. To the Kosovo-Albanians, the arrival of international troops felt like liberation. As an expression of this mood, building activity increased markedly. This is a typical characteristic of post-war urban development, which can also be observed under different conditions and with other consequences elsewhere, in Kabul for example. It took place simultaneously with a quick increase in the urban population, fueled partly by migrants from the countryside looking for new opportunities in the city and partly by returning refugees. Germany, for instance, sent the Kosovo-Albanians to whom it had given refuge back to Kosovo without much ado. As a result, a large portion of Kosovo's urban population consisted of people who had yet to find or rediscover their place in life. The consequent housing shortage gave local investors an opportunity for quick returns and substantial profits. Yet part of the building boom was based on family investments, for during the Milosevic era, Kosovo-Albanian families had amassed substantial savings abroad, savings that were now invested in family homes. These families have constructed and continue to construct mostly large two- or three-story houses on agricultural plots on the city's edges.

Situation in Prishtina

Such building activities in Prishtina have taken place without supervision or control. Although the regulatory plans developed between 1967 and 1990 are still formally valid, as a result of the lack of administrative clarity, no one takes notice of them. At present, Kosovo is being run by a transitional administration (UNMIK – United Nations Mission in Kosovo) and a provisional government (PISG – Provisional Institutions of Self-Government). As in other crisis regions, the UN had to rebuild institutional structures while construction went on unhindered. As a result, some 75% of the city have been reconfigured by new buildings, for instance in informal suburbs. Remarkably, this brought about Prishtina's destruction after the war, since the city had suffered hardly any war damage. According to the city planning administration in 2005, 10 new buildings are put up every day. The historical city with its typical one-story, square houses is being transformed by multi-story buildings, mostly offices, hotels and commercial buildings clad in typical blue-glass facades. Even listed historical buildings have disappeared overnight. Public squares and parks are being neglected, streets are in poor condition, the electricity supply is notoriously unreliable and drainage systems are overtaxed.

In 2000, Prishtina's leading town planner, Rexhep Luci, tried to stop the destruction and had students document illegal building. He was shot dead. In response to his murder, the UN administration issued an ordinance to regulate building activities (UNMIK regulation 2000/53) which specifically required the local government to enforce building permits. In fact, these have only been issued again in 2006, and it is virtually impossible to get information on the necessary procedures from the authorities. Both the current UN authorities and the local administration have avoided dealing with this politically explosive topic.

In less than four months, the urban administration has instead produced an 'Urban Strategic Plan 2020' which is now the basis for all future construction. This document is an astonishing urban vision based on unreliable data. As the European Stability Initiative (ESI) showed in a recent report, the population growth forecast in the Strategic Plan is unrealistic. The Plan estimates the number of inhabitants at half a million and predicts double that number in 2020. Yet given the number of households connected to the water system and taking into account the average size of a household, the figure should be in the range of 200,000 to 250,000. This still constitutes twice the population of the 1981 census. The growth rates and numbers in the Strategic Plan make the huge city extensions with apartment blocks and large-scale road infrastructure more convincing. Where the money for these measures should come from has not yet been made clear by the town planning authority. In the old socialist tradition, trust has been placed in funding from the European Union and other international donors. The assumption that Prishtina will continue to be the destination of rural migrants is not very likely, given the current unemployment rate of above 40% and the worst economic growth figures in the region.

A typical form of informal settlement is parasite architecture. Even three-story single-family houses can be found on the roofs of former communal buildings.

That the Strategic Plan does not explicitly address the problems that have arisen in any way is a serious matter. So are the facts that large portions of historical Prishtina have been and are still being destroyed, fundamental fire safety standards have been ignored, infrastructures including water supply and drainage have failed or are currently overburdened, and

the social problems caused by unregulated building activity (e.g. obstructing neighboring views) remain unaddressed. Realistically counting on much lower population growth, it would be wiser to improve the existing situation than to develop megalomaniac visions of the future. For these reasons, urgent intervention in the process is needed to restore a sense of public responsibility for both the victims and those in charge.
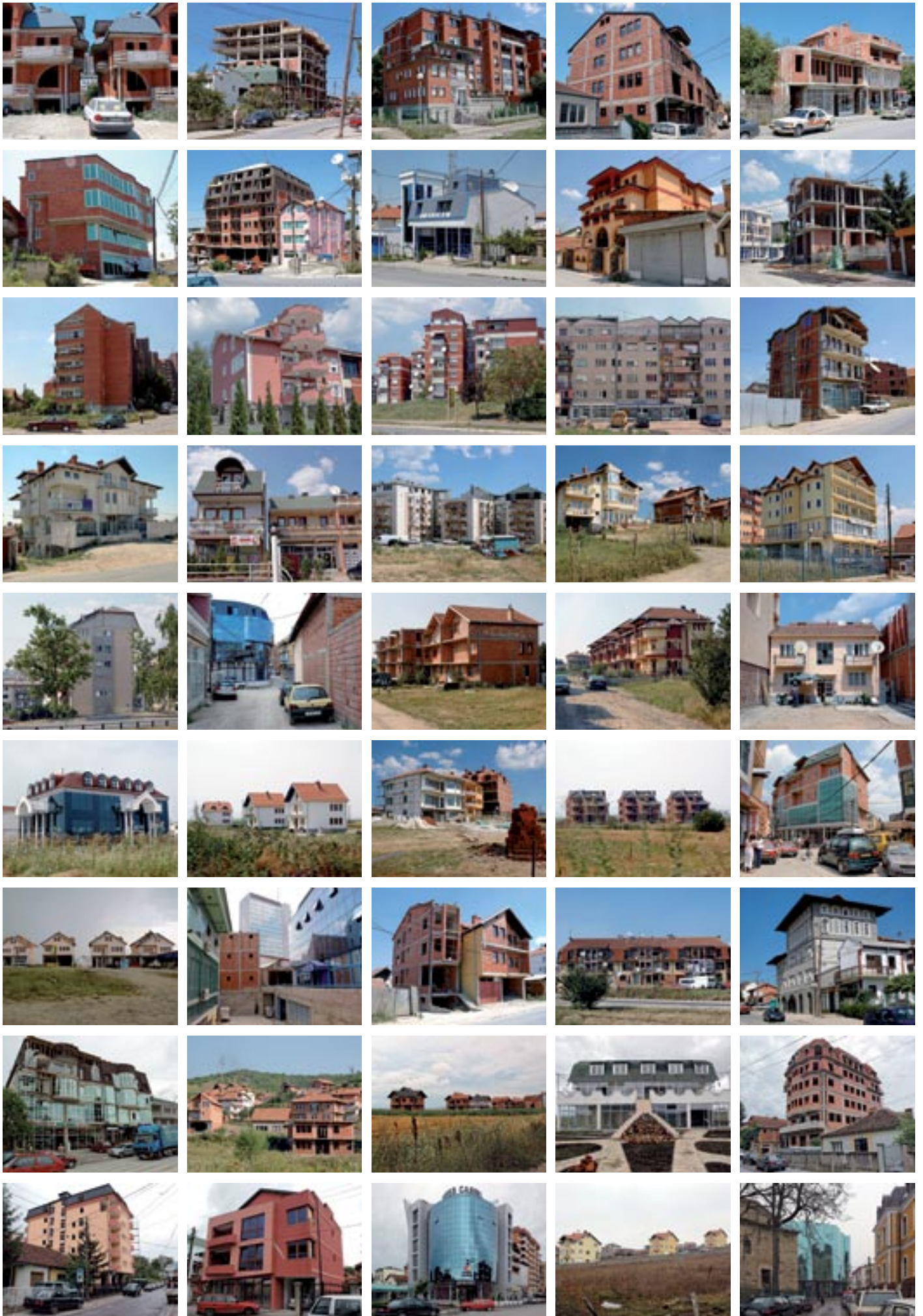
Archis Interventions

Archis Interventions, a not-for-profit branch of the Archis Foundation (also known for its magazine Volume), has set itself the task to provide cities with suggestions and strategies to revive the public domain, to re-energize their urban spirit and to revitalize their trust in dialogue as the essence of civic life.

Single-family houses on the outskirts of Prishtina have been developed through the family network; the money saved and collected is equally distributed by the father. Three brothers equals three houses.

In August 2005, the author on behalf of Archis established a local NGO together with three architects from Kosovo, Visar Geci, Florina Jerliu and Vlora Navakazi, to develop and propose solutions for structuring urban development. As part of the Archis network, Archis Interventions/Prishtina, together with Archis Interventions/Berlin, organized a workshop with local and international experts in December 2006 (compare following pages). Part of the project has been a survey of existing illegal buildings and the development of improvement measures. The goal was to formulate a strategic concept that takes political and social dimensions into account (compare following pages). With the aid of international expertise, Archis Interventions/Prishtina will serve as an information exchange and assist in the development of an inclusive strategy, supported by Archis Interventions/Berlin and the Archis Foundation in Amsterdam. In addition to these local intervention plans, the following question is central: Based on this experience, can we assemble typical development and improvement strategies for post-war situations which are then transferable to similar urban situations? In other words, what can we learn from Prishtina? This question is discussed within the international Archis network through the magazine Volume.

Archis Interventions in Prishtina

Visar Geci, Florina Jerliu, Vlora Navakazi, Ilir Gjinolli, Mentor Haziri and Thilo Fuchs, Wilfried Hackenbroich, Arjen Oosterman, Kai Vöckler

Prishtina is an example of a city in transition facing enormous challenges: transformation from a socialist to a market-driven economy and self-reinvention after a long period of oppression and conflict. It represents the difficulties of the transformation process, which can be identified in cities all over the Balkans as well as in other parts of the world. There is a complete lack of public bodies with the capacity and jurisdiction to enforce laws. Moreover, there is always a profound crisis of confidence in the public dimension of urban life. At this point, Archis Interventions is intervening to work out strategies in cooperation with international and local experts, bring important issues of future urban development into public awareness, and mediate between local authorities and private interests. The local NGO will be supported by Archis Interventions' international expertise and information exchange in developing a sustainable solution strategy. Problems related to the regulation of informal building activities in post-conflict situations, as well as future aspects of architecture and town planning in this social and political context, have been brought into the international urbanistic debate by the publication of Volume 11, 'Cities Unbuilt' (Archis 1/2007), which includes a 30-page report on the Kosovo and presented the results of collaborative work to an international public.

Analysis — Necessary standards in the building process have not yet been put in place in Prishtina, and there is no public awareness of the fundamental problems emerging out of informal settlement. The project developed solution strategies to facilitate private developers' meeting the provisions of laws and regulations in regard to the needs of community development. Archis Interventions/Prishtina, as a local, nonprofit and independent NGO, will bring professional expertise into this process. The strategy concept worked out in December 2006 will be implemented in 2007 - 2008. The workshop first developed an analysis of the current situation in Prishtina by identifying the various forms of informal building activi-

ties which have reconfigured almost 75 percent of the city and its outskirts. These buildings have been categorized as different prototypes, which represent different stakeholders, environmental circumstances and problems.
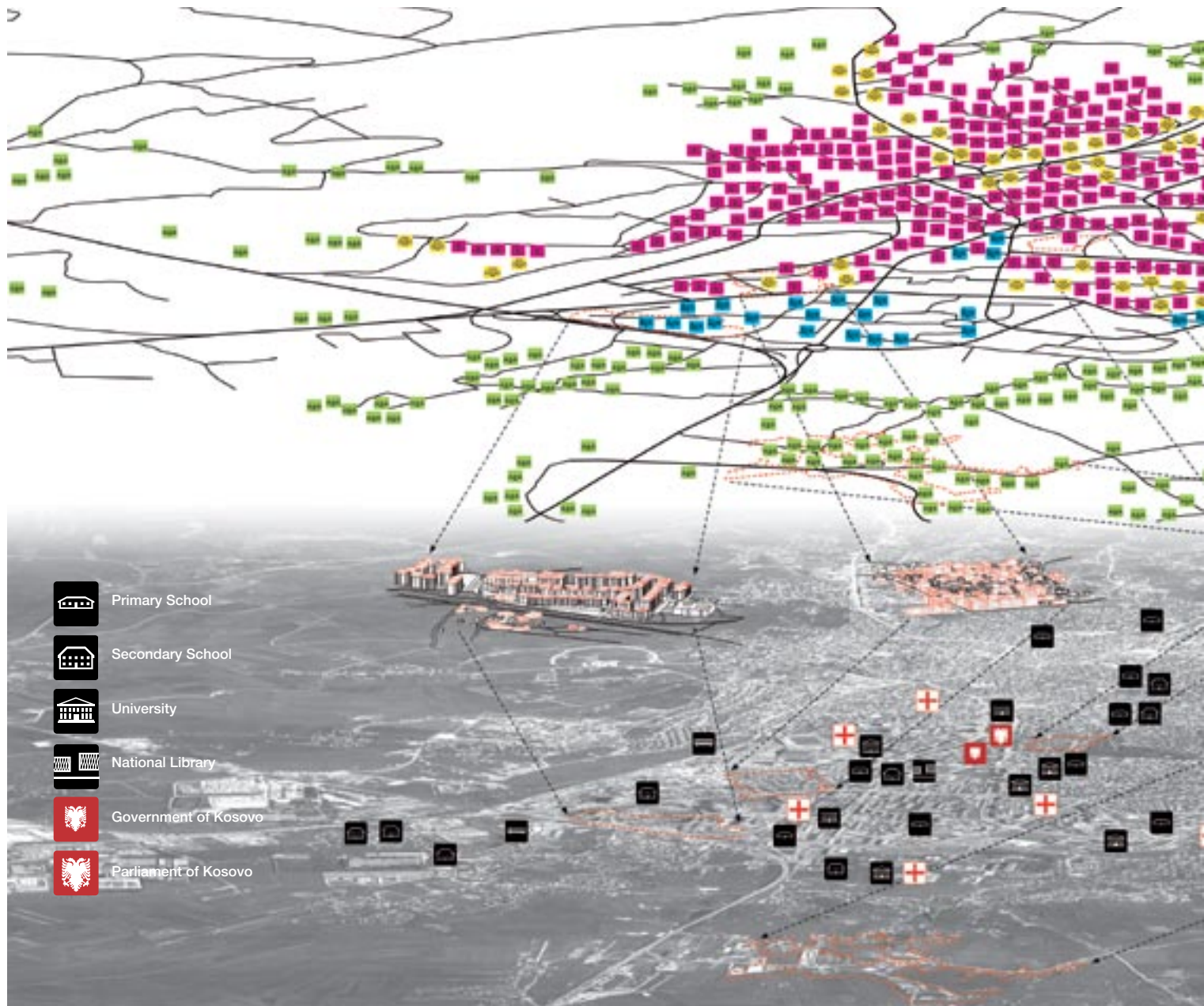
Urban Pathology Map — The map shows the whereabouts of the problems and issues which the uncontrolled urban development trends of the capital city of Prishtina have generated. The map is intended to identify, localize and cross-reference informal building areas, referred to as 'areas of pathologies', both on the urban and the architectural scale. Such pathologies are usually judged as a (bad) habit of countries in transition. Prishtina is one of these cases. The aim of the Urban Pathology Map is to show the informal building areas, grouped into prototypical key typologies, which are referred to as symptoms. Over the last several years, the uncontrolled urban development in Prishtina has caused damage to the existing urban fabric as well as to the open fields on the outskirts of the city. In order to trace the trend of current building developments, these will be compared with the newly developed urban regulatory plans. This will also be done for those areas without regulation within the new scope of the Prishtina Strategic Plan. Recent building history has shown that scattered housing on the outskirts of a city tends to develop into dense neighborhoods without any compliance with regulatory plans. This case is already a fact in the inner part of the city, indicating how synchronized uncontrolled building activity may be. The Urban Pathology Map is also intended to serve as a tool to devise a road map for future intervention. By carrying out a case study on a city scale, the map will enable identification of potential areas where future model projects may take place. Finally, by making this map accessible to the general public, the latter will become more aware of the pathologies on the urban and architectural scale, which in the majority of cases are pathologies of their own making.
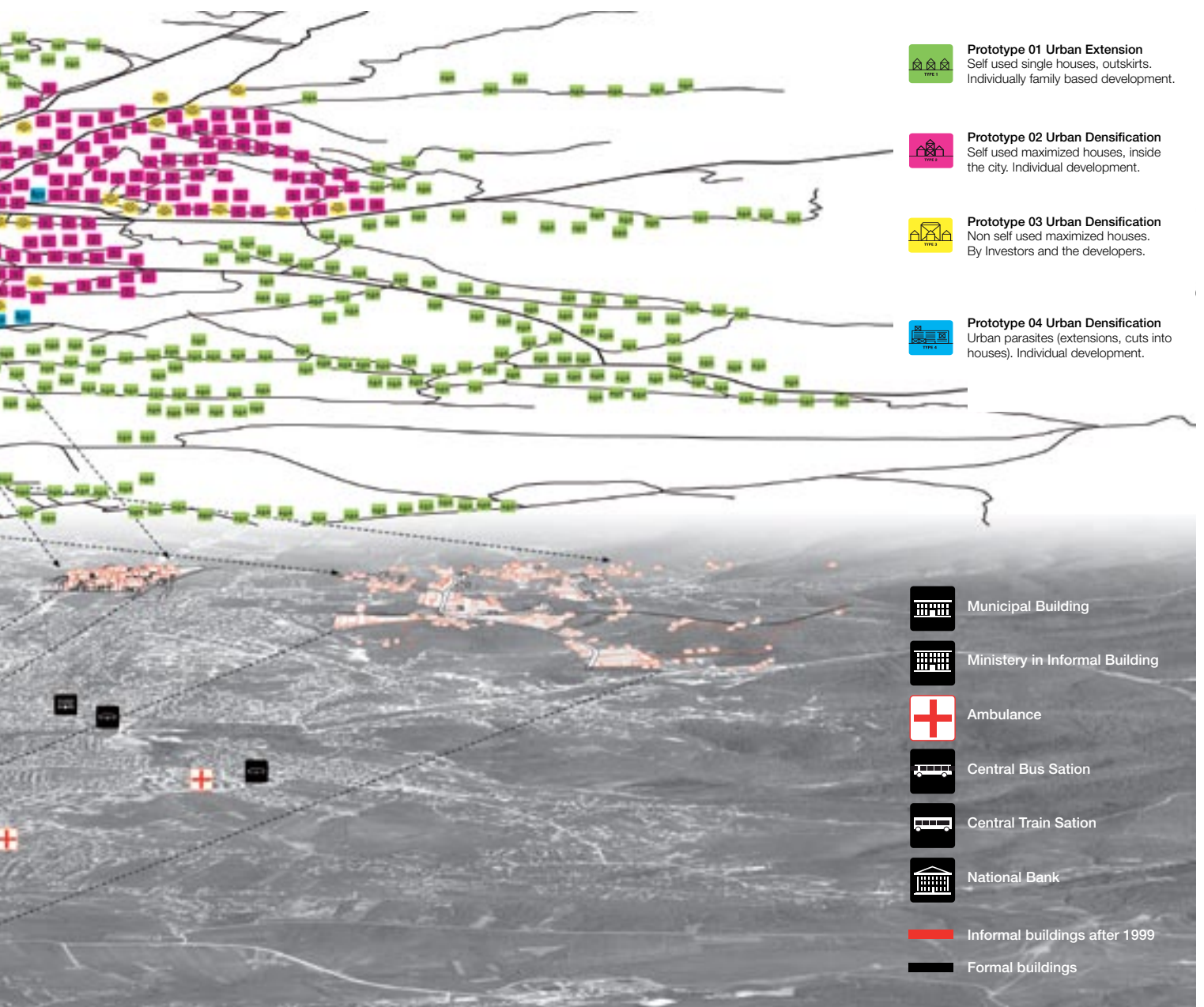
Urban Pathology Map

After the war the city at least doubled its population
to estimated 250,000 - 300,000 inhabitants.

Informal building activities have reconfigured almost 75 percent
of the city and its outskirts.

According to the city planning administration,
in 2005 every day 10 new buildings have been put up.

Primary School

Secondary School

University

National Library

Government of Kosovo

Parliament of Kosovo

Prototype 01 Urban Extension
Self used single houses, outskirts.
Individually family based development.

Prototype 02 Urban Densification
Self used maximized houses, inside
the city. Individual development.

Prototype 03 Urban Densification
Non self used maximized houses.
By Investors and the developers.

Prototype 04 Urban Densification
Urban parasites (extensions, cuts into
houses). Individual development.

Municipal Building

Ministery in Informal Building

Ambulance

Central Bus Sation

Central Train Sation

National Bank

Informal buildings after 1999

Formal buildings

Case Studies: Identifying Key Typologies Prototype 01 Urban Extension

Single-family homes for own use, outskirts.
Individual family-based development. The owners are part of the community.

Legal Situation /Ownership – No dispute about land ownership, the building owners own the land. The land is generally owned or bought by builders (land register entry). Permission is generally not applied for or granted. Generally, neighbors know one another and ask one another before the land is sold, a tradition which is vanishing.

Safety – Construction is based on estimates and experience, but not on calculations. The structural members are usually over-dimensioned, and construction is generally executed by construction companies. Fire escape routes are still possible.

Infrastructure – Sewage is handled individually. Some households are illegally connected to the public sewage network. Some neighborhoods have jointly applied for connection to the public sewage network. Property access is via unpaved roads. No public transportation system exists. Public amenities are generally lacking, and private amenities are increasingly organized by individuals themselves.

Based on "Urban Development of Prishtina-Strategic Plan 2003 - 2020" (UDP-SP) - the latest existing document in town scale:

Case Study- Type 1:
- no reg. plan has been issued yet
- no infrastructure at all
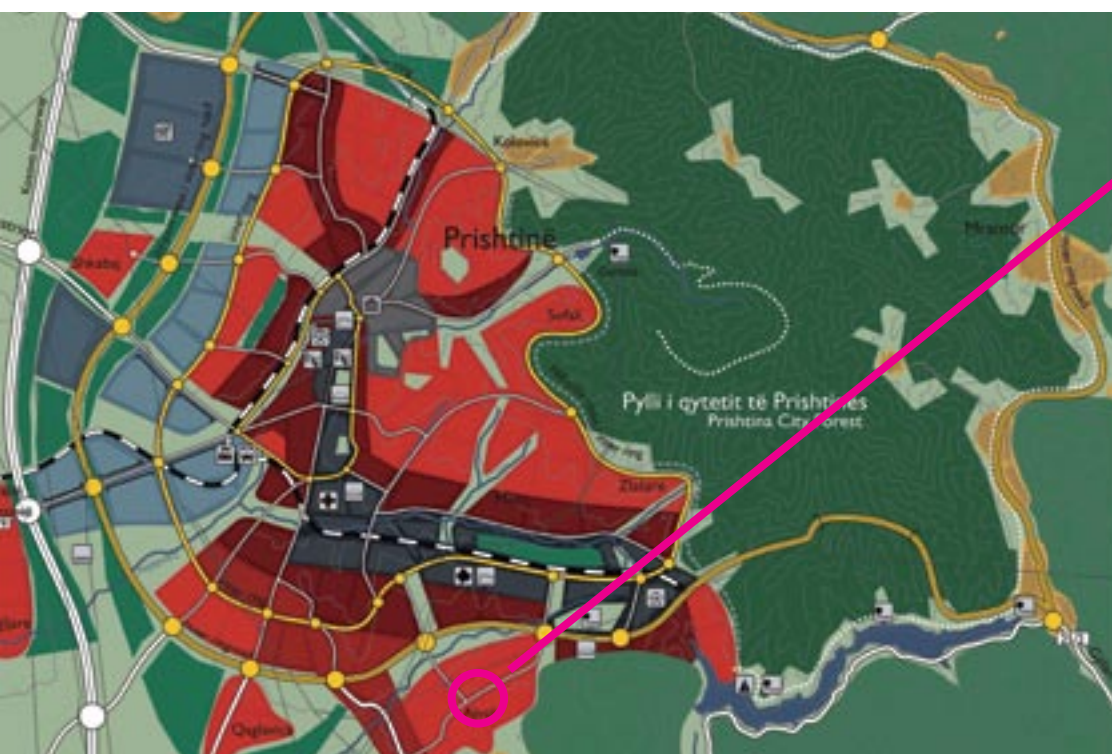
Stakeholders – Private individuals

Growth – The UDP Strategic Plan foresees only apartment houses with a minimum of 4-10 stories; the growth of single-family homes is not supported.

TASKS

Architectural Scale – Improvement

Legalizing the informal buildings and obtaining permits. Improvement of building infrastructure and/or adaptation of the informal buildings to recent regulations (regulatory plans).

Architectural Scale – Channeling

Raise awareness of architectural design, aesthetic and functional needs.

Urban Scale – Improvement

Development of collective infrastructure such as water supply and sewage, road network and social amenities.

Urban Scale – Channeling

Assist in the development of new plans for neighborhoods. Encourage participation of the citizens in the planning process. Improvements on the neighborhood scale. Initiate sustainable processes. Raise awareness of urban design, aesthetic and functional needs.
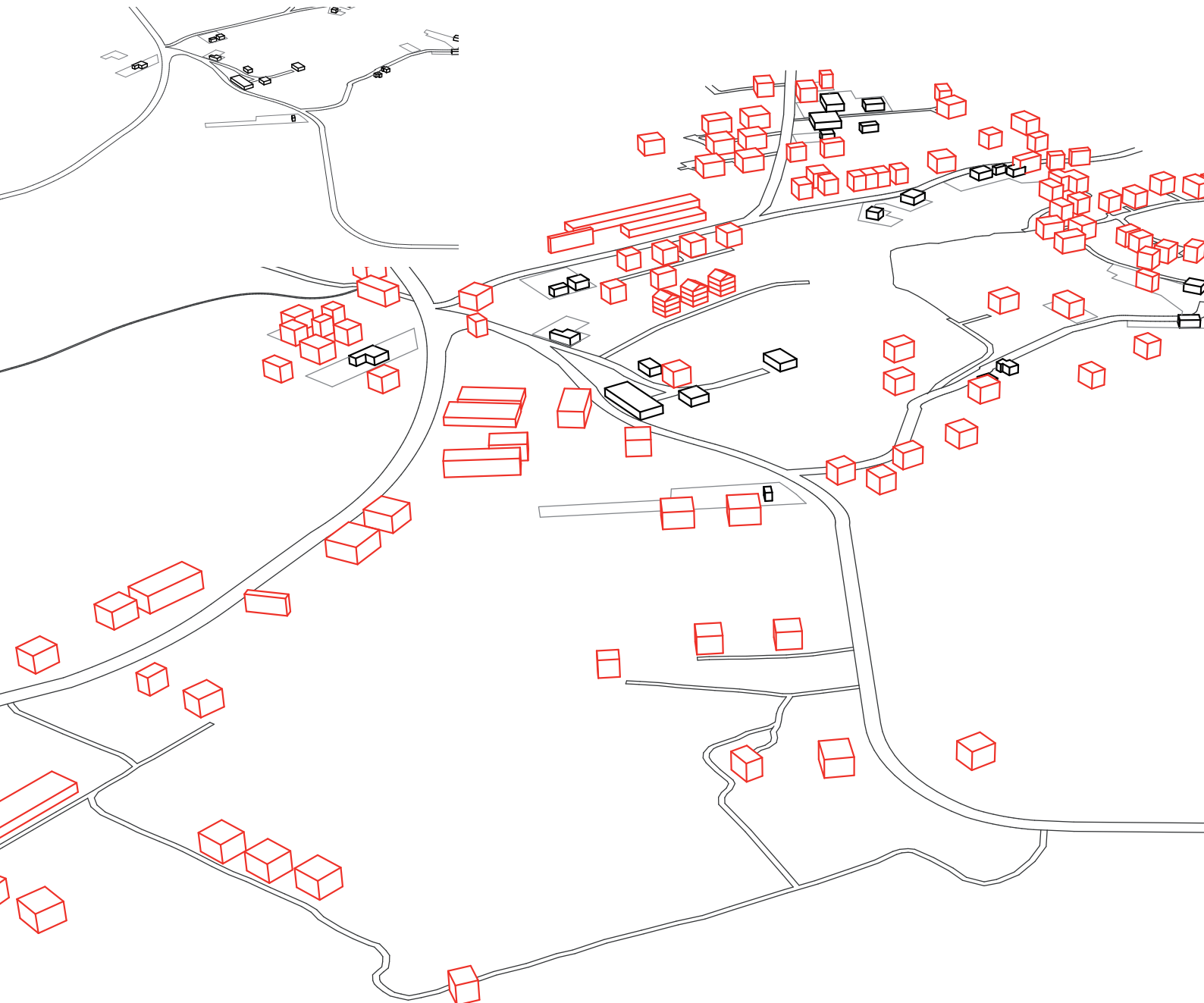
Prototype 02 Urban Densification

Enlarged buildings for own use, inside the city.
Individual development, the owner is part of the neighborhood community.

Legal Situation /Ownership – There is no dispute about land ownership; the building owners own the land. In many cases, a permit for a single-family house with a ground floor, first floor and roof was issued, but the final building exceeds the maximum gross floor size for the site and the number of floors allowed. Several land owners work together with an investor to put up a new building, and each land owner gets a share of the final building according to the value of his land.

Safety – Construction is not sustainable due to the use of cheap or low-quality materials. Fire safety is limited due to missing or blocked escape routes, insufficient fire walls and insufficient fire protection to neighbors.

Infrastructure – Overload of sewage and electricity systems due to extensive overbuilding. Under-serviced garbage collection due to extensive densification. Energy efficiency is not considered at

all; thermal insulation is rarely used. The surviving social infrastructure of the city is used. The mostly legal connections to the water, sanitation and electricity networks produce extensive usage pressure on existing capacities.
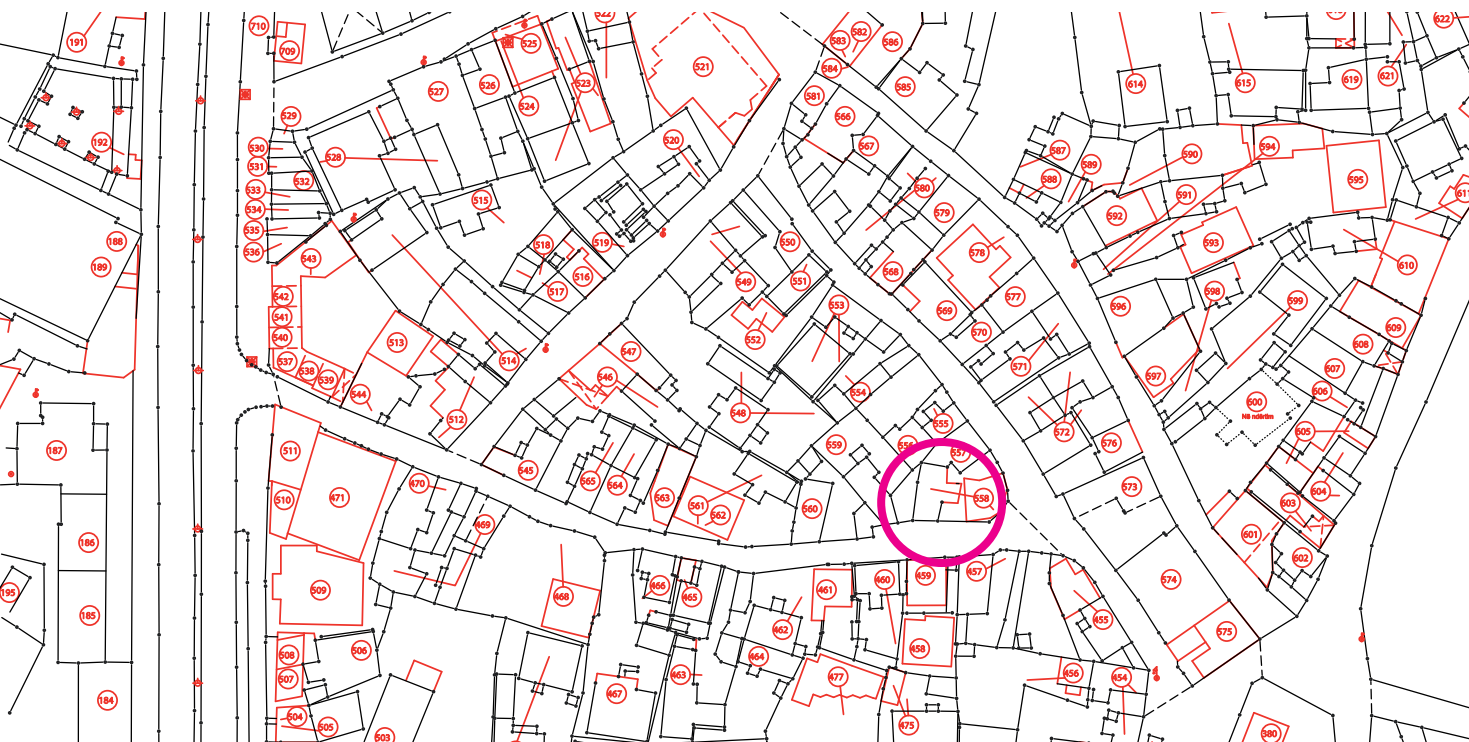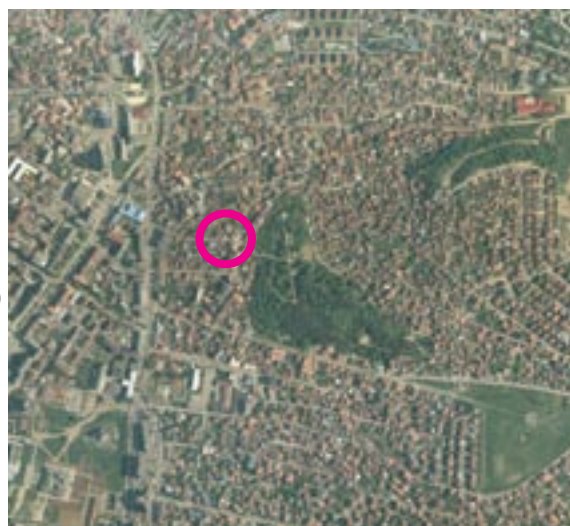
Stakeholders – Families, investors and developers.

Growth – Demand for this type of housing development is still rising.
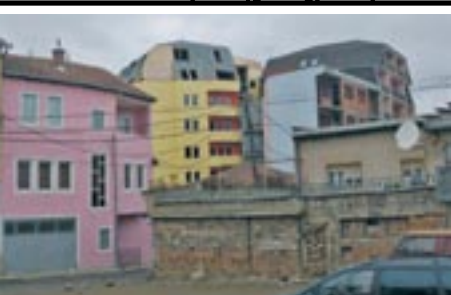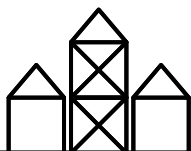
URBAN REGULATORY PLAN
"Dodona", 2004

– Number of full storeys III-V,
  in fact 7 full stories
– Site occupancy 0,6
  in fact full site occupancy
– Coverage type d1 (50m long
  or 3m free space between buildings)
  in fact full site coverage

TASKS

Architectural Scale – Improvement

Improve structural safety, specifically the condition of the ground. Legalization and/or redevelopment of the informal buildings and permit acquisition especially for fire escapes, accessibility, parking infrastructure, safety, hygiene and energy efficiency.

Architectural Scale – Channeling

Encourage the process to adapt the buildings to the regulatory plan.

Urban Scale – Improvement

Adjust extreme densification. Transform the negative effects, such as blocked views or light. Negotiate the social dimension in order to avoid conflict. Improvements impact the urban surroundings.

Urban Scale – Channeling

Address community and raise awareness of security, safety, hygiene and energy efficiency standards. Generate consensus on scale adjustment and the distances between buildings. Learn about owners' interests. Inform them about the consequences of enlarging their homes. Provide advisory board to prevent future urban development mistakes in order to protect the urban fabric and historical buildings.
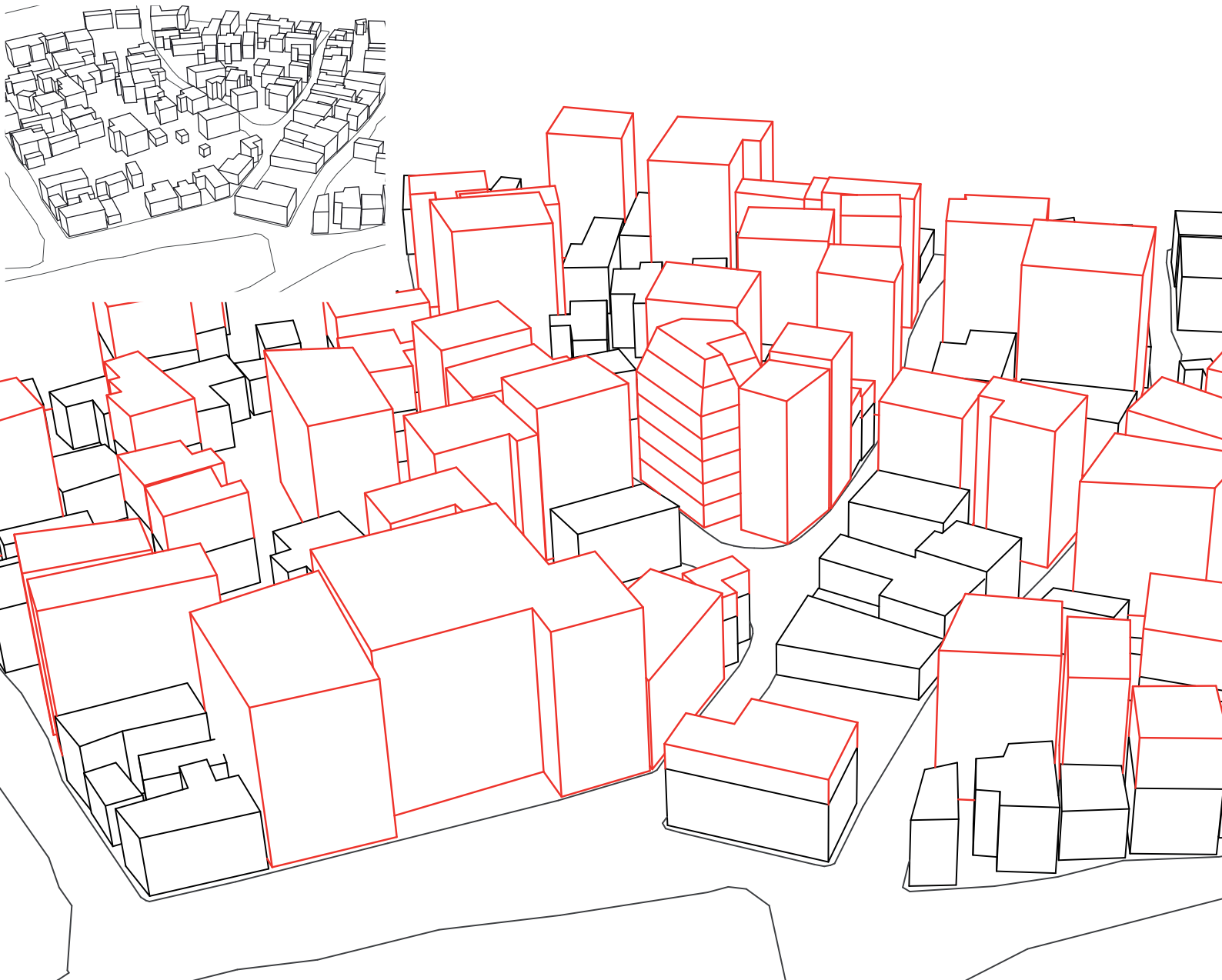
Prototype 03 Urban Densification

**Enlarged buildings not for own use (rental apartments, commercial spaces).
Investors and developers who are not part of the neighborhood community.**

Legal Situation /Ownership –
Recently, developers have started to buy
and develop land for pure profit. The
apartments are sold or rented. In some
cases, the apartments are sold before
the building is finished to co-finance
construction. Planning permission status:
most projects of this type have a building
permit, and the buildings are constructed
according to the regulatory plans.

Safety – Construction is not sustainable
due to the use of cheap or low-quality
materials. Fire safety is limited due to
missing or blocked escape routes,
insufficient fire walls and insufficient fire
protection to neighbors.

Infrastructure – Overload of sewage
and electricity systems due to extensive
overbuilding. Responsibility rests with
the city administration. Due to extensive
densification, garbage collection is
under-serviced. Energy efficiency is not
considered at all; thermal insulation is not
used. The surviving social infrastructure
of the city is used. Legal connections
to the existing water, sanitation and
electricity networks produce extensive
usage pressure on existing capacities.
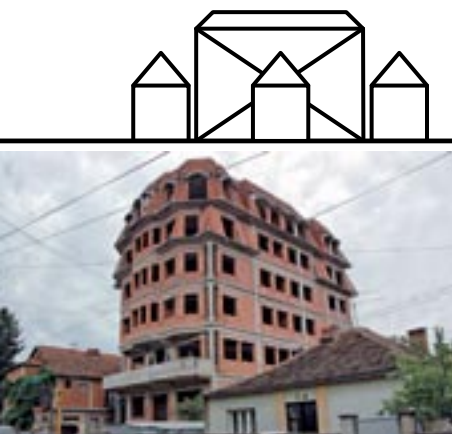
URBAN REGULATORY PLAN
dating from 1978

– The area was foreseen for individual
   houses P+1
   in fact multi story
   commercial building
– Site occupancy 0,6,
   in fact full site occupancy
– Coverage type distance between
   buildings 2,5-3m
   in fact full site coverage
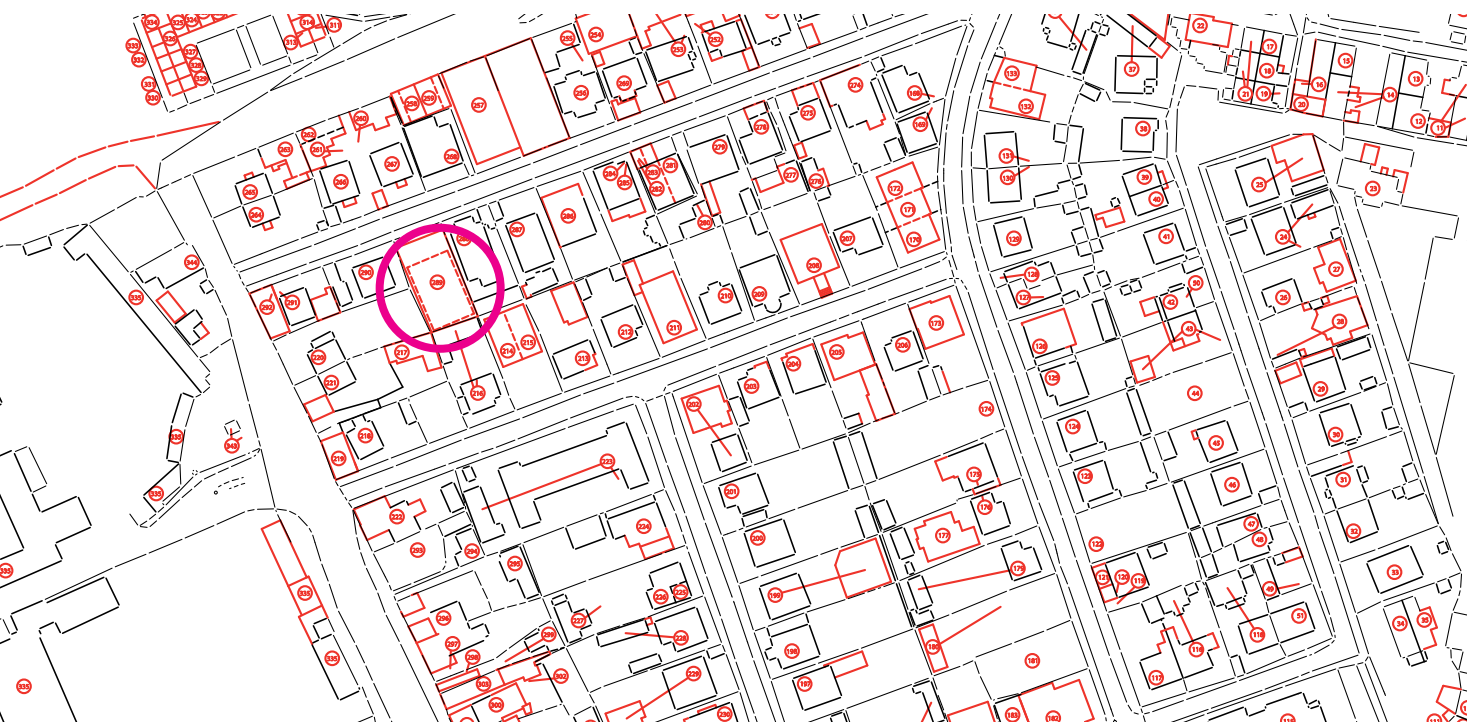
Stakeholders – Investors and developers.

Growth – Rising demand for this type of housing development.

TASKS

**Architectural Scale – Improvement**
Reduction of building size. Reinstall sidewalks and necessary distances between the buildings.

Architectural Scale – Channeling
Raise public awareness of the negative architectural consequences. Inform users and enable them to be more critical of construction in order to encourage a change in building standards.

Urban Scale – Channeling
Develop minimum apartment size standards and design-related organizational principles.
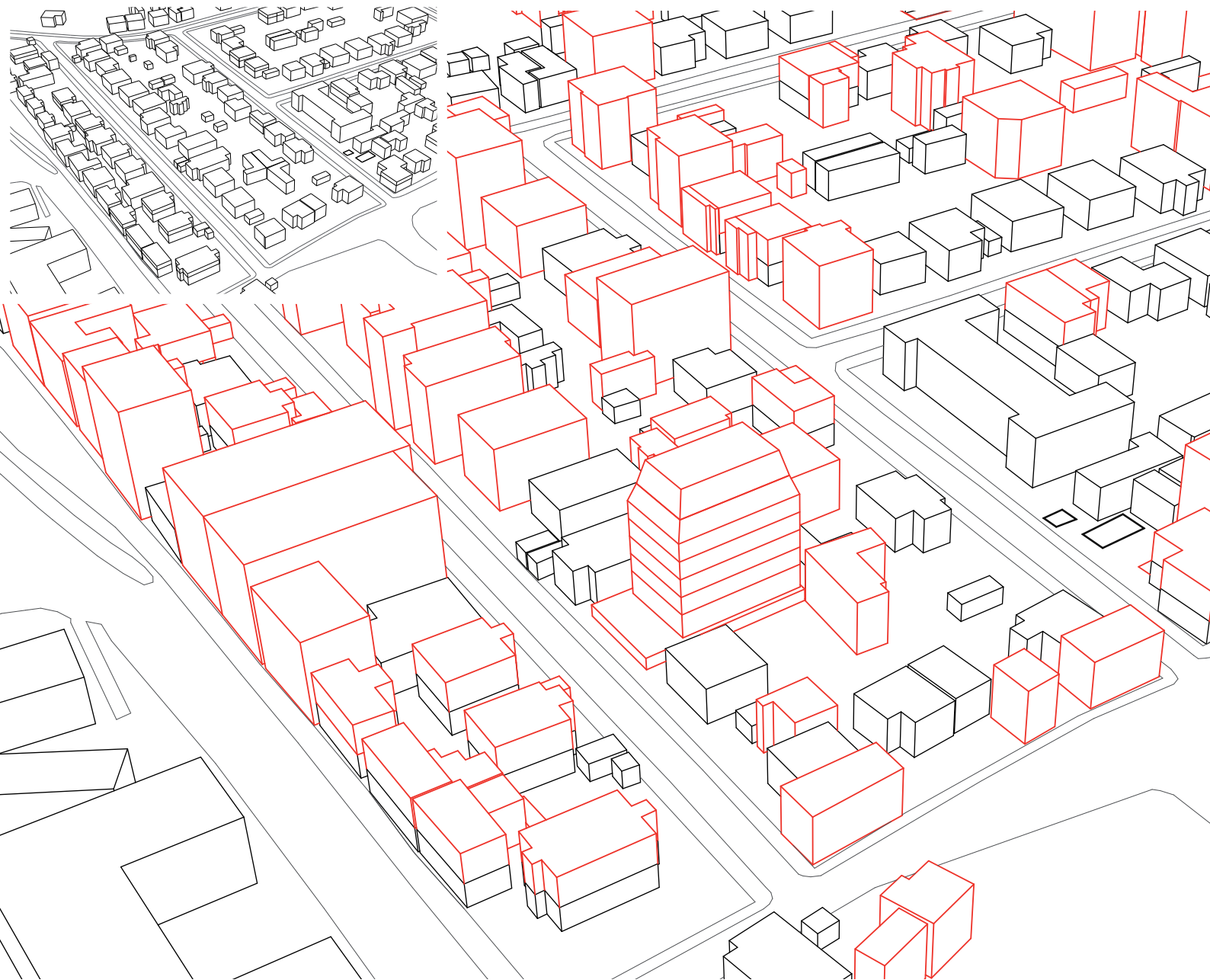
Prototype 04 Urban Densification

Urban parasites (extensions, annexes, roof extensions and cuts into buildings; houses on roofs). Individual developments; the owners are part of the neighborhood community.

Legal Situation /Ownership – Roof extensions are often semi-legal, with basic permits which are exceeded. The municipality supports the transformation of flat roofs into pitched roofs, and therefore raising the roof by one floor is permitted. Many, however, raise their roofs by two, three or even four floors. Often, entire houses are built on the roofs of privatized communal buildings. The owners bought the apartments individually, and the roof becomes the common property of the apartment owners. Needed roof renovation usually

causes the apartment owners on the top floors to raise the roof on their own initiative, saving the community the costs of renovation. Small, individual and hidden extensions to apartment buildings are mostly illegal and carried out without permits, and are often not coordinated with other owners. Renovations to ground floors are mostly carried out with permits for a change of use, but later, load-bearing structures are often taken out or modified. Basements are then often utilized for various purposes, and their ownership is often disputed.

Safety – Serious safety problems are created by structural changes to the ground floor and basements due to the removal of supporting walls. This safety risk is increased by the additional load of the roof extensions. Even if concrete perimeter beams are built on the existing building, the roof extensions do not have any vertical connection to the main load-bearing walls. Most buildings not older than 20 years are able to take the additional load of a two-story roof extension, but even that is often exceeded.

URBAN REGULATORY PLAN
dating from 1978

– Number of full storeys 8-12
   in fact 15 stories
– Uncontrolled stability of the
   construction
– Commercial occupancy of
   common space for the dwellers
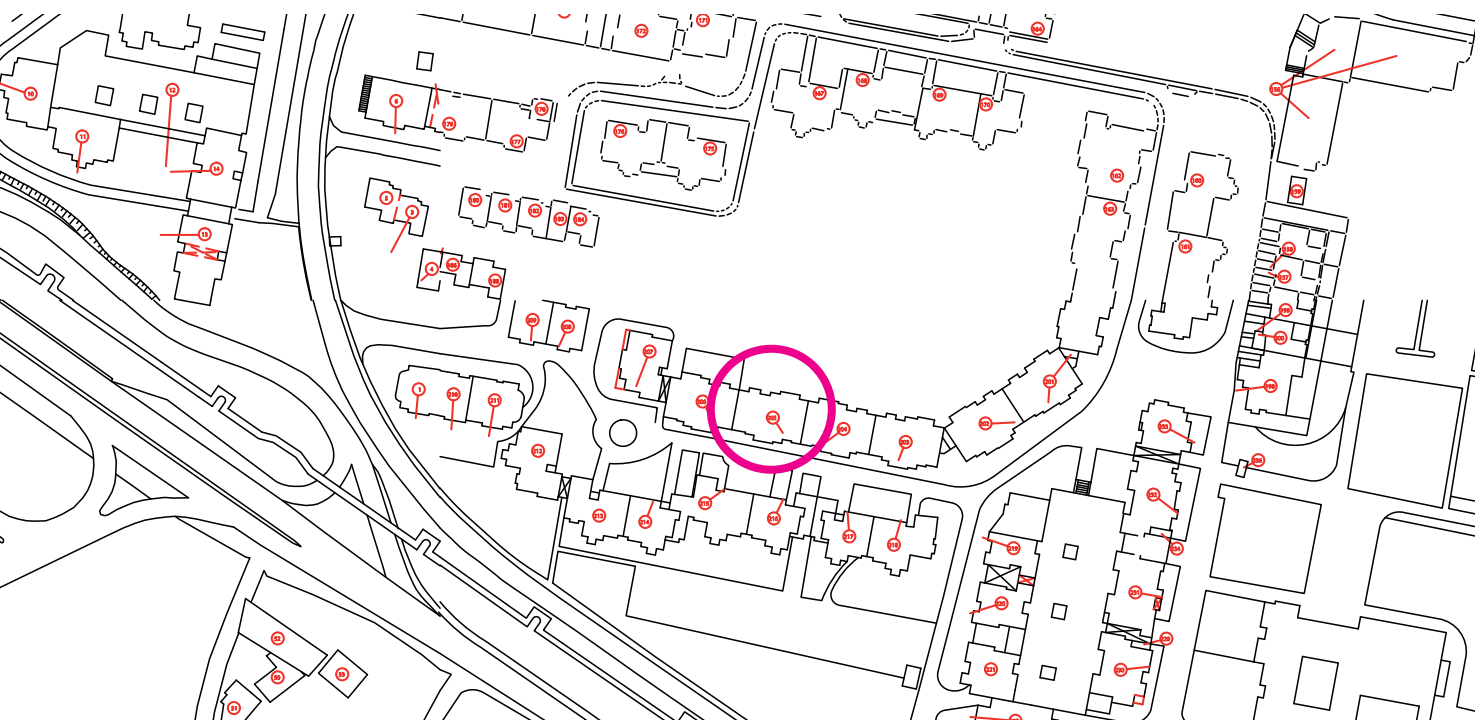
Emergency escapes are ensured by connecting to existing escape routes.

Infrastructure – Excepting for a few unprofessional connections to the existing sewage system, there are hardly any hygiene problems. Often, owners apply for and get an official connection to the sewage system. Permission to connect to the sewage system is generally granted, even for building extensions carried out without permits, due to bureaucratic inefficiencies. Access to the extensions is provided by the existing access routes.

Stakeholders – Mostly families and private apartment owners. For ground floor extensions, shops are bought and used by individuals. Basements are used by individuals.

Growth – Development will most likely continue until all flat roofs are converted and extended, and the ground floors and basements are transformed into nonresidential spaces.

TASKS

Architectural Scale – Improvement
Improve structural safety of buildings in line with the buildings' transformation.

Legalization and/or redevelopment of the informal structures and acquisition of permits, especially for fires escapes, accessibility and safety.

Architectural Scale – Channeling
Provide knowledge about adequate building materials, technical standards and functional needs.

Urban Scale – Improvement
Eliminate access via public land, such as staircases on sidewalks.

Urban Scale – Channeling
Impart an awareness of how to improve the roofscape within the neighboring context.
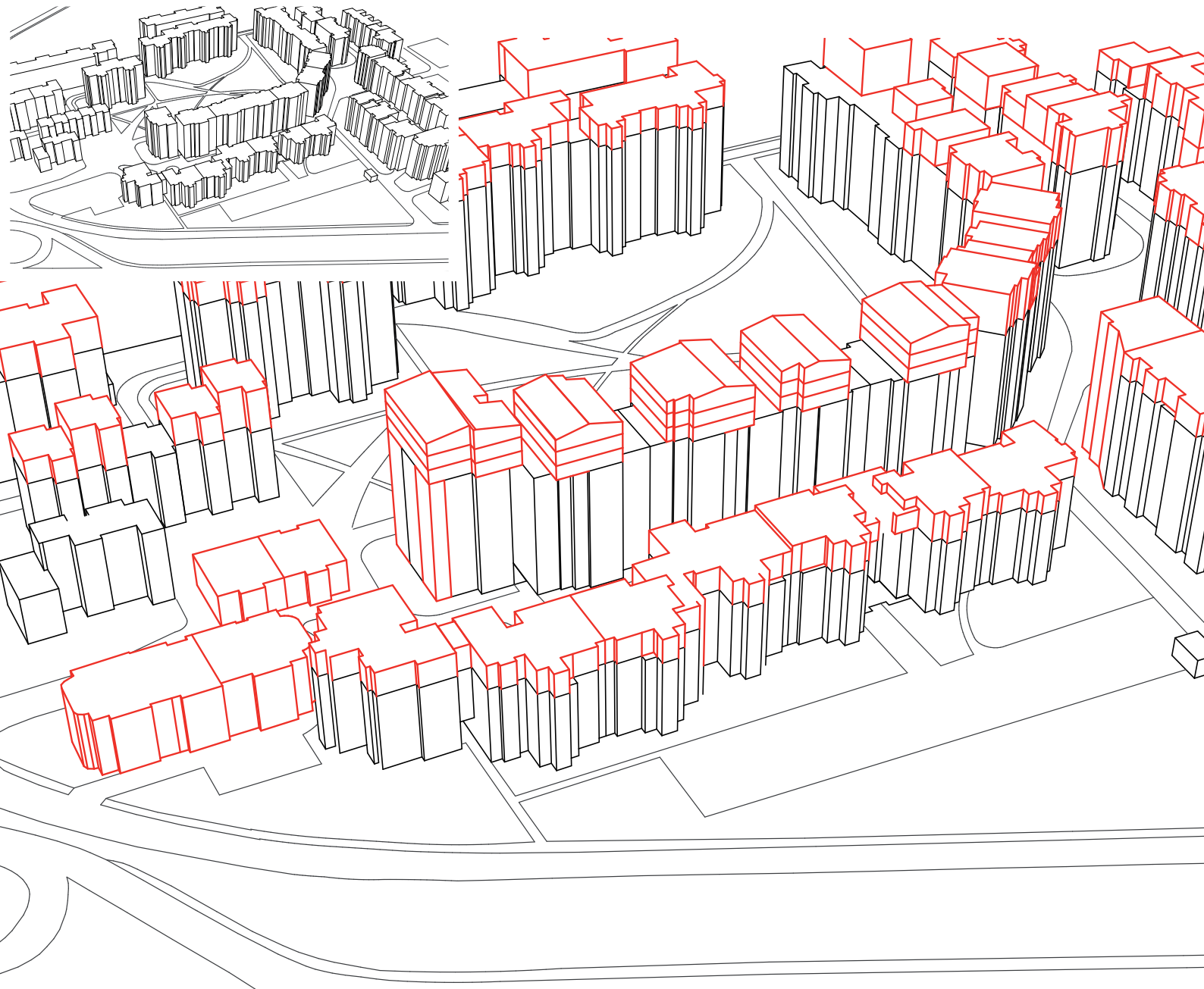
STRATEGIES

The strategies developed in the workshop combine different approaches to achieve public awareness and raise sensitivity to environmental qualities and architectural values. They address different stakeholders, local as well as international, and are designed to bridge the gap between them.

Communication Strategy

Public awareness regarding the problems of informal building will be encouraged through different media and a specified strategy. Apart from the users/builders, we aim to draw the attention of competent persons, such as professionals and decision-makers. A public discussion will integrate both authorities and users into the process of thinking about better living conditions in Prishtina.

TV-show
In the summer of 2007, Visar Geci (one of the founders of AI Prishtina), also known for his seasonal TV shows, will organize weekly TV shows with a key topic being informal building in Prishtina. Crucial problems of safety as well as infrastructural needs will be explained by means of cartoons. Interviews with owners and neighbors will document the social dimension. Questions of legalization will be discussed with local authorities, and the quality of building construction with local contractors. The TV show will address the individual users of informal buildings. It will also show them examples of good practice and solutions to major problems. It will inform private builders about how to consult the advisory board of Archis Interventions/Prishtina in order to get access to professional advice. It will also promote the manual, which includes information about how to improve buildings. The major Kosovar TV channels are highly interested in broadcasting this program.

Newspaper campaign
We will enclose a copy of the 'Urban Pathology Map' in newspapers, which will show the city's development on an urban scale, and how it is driven by informal building activities. Examples of highly problematic situations will allow readers to identify the problems neighborhoods are facing.

Newspaper competitions – 'Who can find the best example of worst architecture in Prishtina?' Public awareness of the problems produced by informal building will be raised by means of a weekly competition. The winner is whoever finds the worst example. Determination of what this is will have to be publicly argued, so that everybody taking part becomes aware of how informal activities can lead to problematic situations.

Leaflet
Leaflets with simple drawings explaining, for example, the need for vaccination or how to avoid infection are very common in Prishtina. This form of communication is popular and can be used to address simple problems, especially the blocking of fire escape routes.

Architectural competition
Through an architectural competition addressing the improvement of a highly problematic situation in the city, architects as well as planners will be motivated to contribute their professional expertise. The first prize will be awarded to the best improvement to building structures as well as public spaces on the basis of efficient cost management.

Architectural exhibition
The results will be exhibited and accompanied by a public media campaign showing the different solution strategies.

Architectural Strategy

Different architectural approaches will achieve sensitivity to environmental qualities as well as an improvement of the quality of life and will teach the general population to understand the cultural value of a proper urban fabric.

Manual 'How to do it better'
A manual will be written along defined key typologies of informal buildings to show the problems and help individual builders by providing solutions.

Advisory board
An advisory board of local experts can be consulted by users of informal buildings to get advice for legalizing as well as for improving their buildings.

Prototypical small-scale individual projects
Individual projects will serve to illustrate improvement possibilities and instill more confidence in and awareness of professional architectural expertise.

Model project

At the neighborhood level, the problems which go beyond individual needs, such as lacking infrastructures (technical as well as social), safety problems (fire safety, escape routes, unstable housing structures) and social problems (blocked views), will be addressed. The model project will help the neighborhood to collectively find solutions and will also give advice on formalizing buildings.

Participatory Strategy

The integration of all parts of society affected by the informal building process by means of different participation strategies will address users' real needs and also guarantee a sustainable development.

Encouragement of interest groups

The combination of public campaigns with the offer of professional expertise will help different groups to identify their specific interests and incite them to articulate their needs. They will then have a public presence and will be able to find solutions to their problems. This will enable local authorities to gain a better understanding of the needs of different neighborhoods.

Activation of local knowledge

Directly addressing the intellectual elite of the city via public campaigns, so as to encourage them to take responsibility and contribute their local knowledge, will make the process of improvement sustainable.

Networking Strategy

The strategy concept established in the workshop reflects how this can be generalized and prove helpful in different circumstances, given the international urban discourse as represented by the Archis network.

Archis issue: integration in the international Archis network

By presenting the results in an issue of VOLUME (Archis 1/2007), the Archis network was activated to respond to the issue of informal building and to provide Archis Interventions/Prishtina with professional expertise.

Workshop and conference

Following up on the December 2006 workshop, a second workshop in the form of a working conference will be organized in 2007. Ideas and results from the first workshop will be tested in discussions with stakeholders and specialists, and compared to experience elsewhere.

Encouragement of Balkans experts network/ city network

By inviting the experts needed to back the local initiatives and interventions, a practical network can be established to support the longer-term goals of Archis Interventions/Prishtina. This will lead to a regional network of experts from the Balkans.

Educational Strategy

The strategy focuses on knowledge transfer.

Student projects

The education and training of future architects and planners by intervening in the process of informal building via their own projects and helping citizens to contribute to Prishtina's improved development is of great importance. In cooperation with the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture of the University of Prishtina, students can be integrated into small-scale projects.

Lectures/workshops

Experts from the international Archis network will give lectures and hold workshops to demonstrate their way of practicing architecture and urban planning. The special aspect of 'communicative planning' with its specific participatory strategy and communication strategy will give students of architecture a new perspective on integrating social aspects into planning. This will show a young generation potential ways to contribute to their society.

Support Strategy

New capacities can be built by supporting different stakeholders in the building process and mediating between them.

Mediation between stakeholders

In the current situation, the interests of most private investors are in conflict with the proposed plans of the local administration. As a non-governmental organization, Archis Interventions can mediate and create a dialogue leading to solutions acceptable to all sides.

Communicative planning

In order to address and integrate different social stakeholders and to support the local administration, current planning should be flexibilized and changed from 'comprehensive' to become more 'communicative'. Archis Interventions will work as an 'advocacy planner' and contribute to the city's development with its professional knowledge.

Strategy Concept

The combined strategies include advice and planning support to be offered to building projects already under way. Building owners will thus be provided with free architectural knowledge, and this will help them avoid the most obvious construction problems. These activities will be supported by a media campaign in cooperation with the Kosovo broadcasting network. This should start a public discussion on the problems related to informal construction. The goal is to develop solution strategies that mediate between the local administration, investors and property owners.
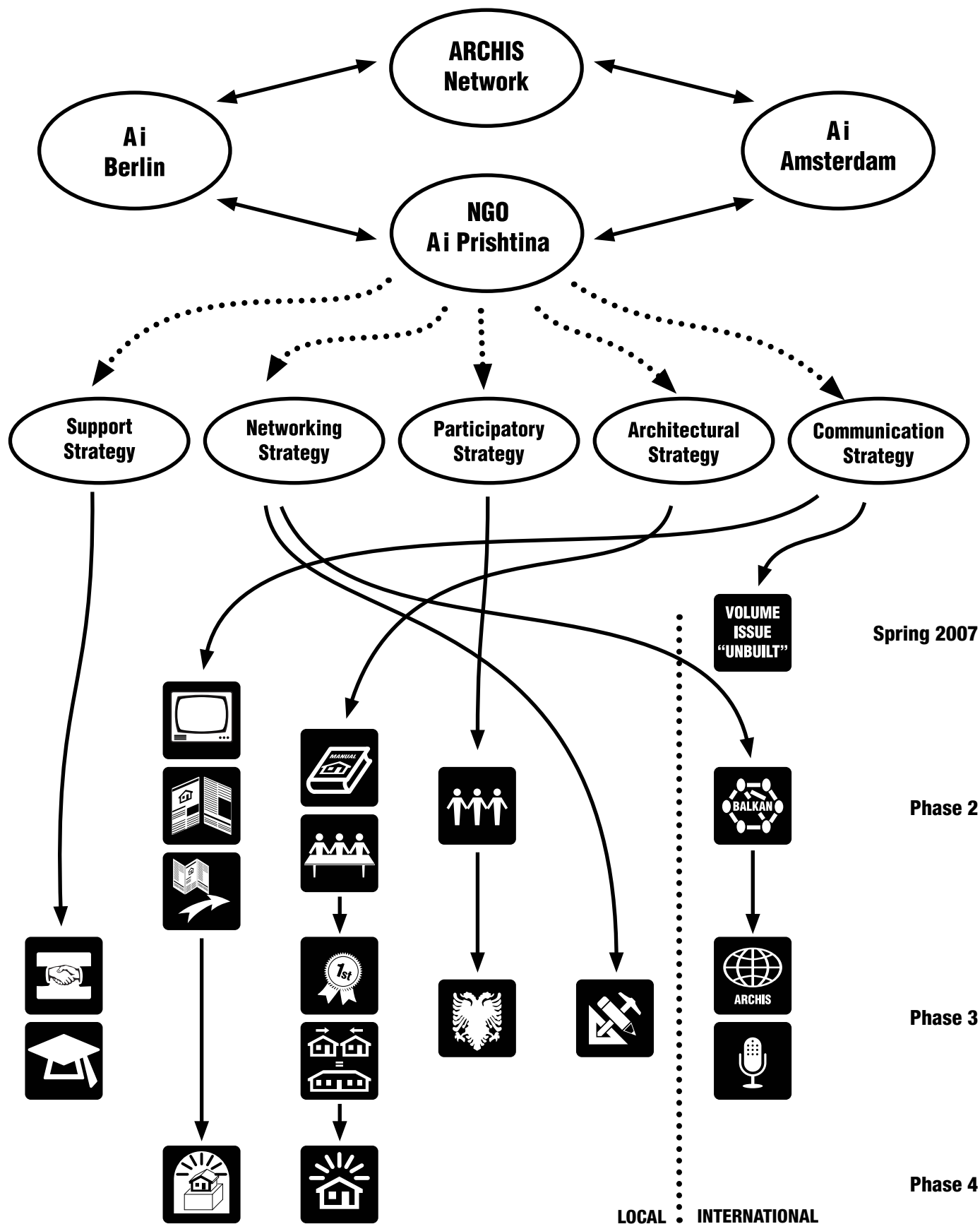
Spring 2007

Phase 2

Phase 3

Phase 4

LOCAL · INTERNATIONAL

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ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE
Body responsible for the project is the Archis Foundation in
Amsterdam. The project management is headed by Archis
Interventions/Berlin (Kai Vöckler). Archis Interventions/Prishtina
is registered as a NGO by the United Nations in Kosova
and will together with Archis Interventions/Berlin and Archis
Interventions/Amsterdam develop and realize the project.

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