

ARCHITECTURE OF
TERRITORY
European Countryside

ARCADIA

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ETH Zurich D-ARCH
Asst Prof Milica Topalović

ARCADIA

A Journey into the Pastoral

Spring 2016

European Countryside ARCADIA

During the Spring semester 2016, Arcadia, one of the most enduring pastoral utopias and ancient territories of Europe, was the departure point for the project on European Countryside, initiated by the ETH Zurich Architecture of Territory. The Arcadia semester was carried out with students from the architectural schools of ETH Zurich, NTUA Athens and University of Patras, along with collaborators, experts and guests.

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Book Colophone

Four different works on Arcadia were prepared by the students and the Architecture of Territory and are brought together in this book.

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ETH

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European Countryside

European territory has become completely urbanised. The countrysides in the traditional sense have disappeared; the distinctions between the town and the country have been blurred. In contrast to the unambiguous urban transformations of cities, the processes of urban change in the countryside are massive, yet often unnoticed. Away from the public eye and professional scrutiny, these processes have created new urban identities and configurations in the formerly rural realm of Europe. The studio series European Countryside explores the terra incognita of the countryside, and its radical mutations. The project aims to reinvent contemporary countrysides, both as an urban territory and as a legitimate and critical subject of architecture profession. Initiated in Spring 2016 in Arcadia, the project selects several countryside case-studies from the European typological panorama of countrysides. Through these cases, a definition of countryside is being rewritten, and its contemporary potentials discussed and represented. These insights form the basis for projects on the countryside.

p.31

Arcadia Studio Concept and Method

Arcadia is an archetype of European countryside, both pastoral ideal and territory in radical transformation. The research method comprises of a section through the territory.

p.48

1 Arcadian Villages Mountainous Countryside

Countryside as territory of shrinkage: A reflection on the future of the villages of Arcadia, characterized by the loss of population and their partial reappropriation through tourism.

p.122

2 Olive Valley Slow Agriculture

Countryside as territory of ecological agriculture: A vision for non-industrialized olive orchards of Arcadia and Iliia, based on cooperatives and family-producers.

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3 Olympia Heritage as an Urban Project

Countryside as a landscape of heritage: A proposal for 'un-freezing' Olympia, a landscape overdetermined by heritage regulations and tourist monocultures.

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4 Iliia's Local Coast Seaside Countryside

Coastal landscape as countryside: A conceptual sketch for Iliia's quiet coastline, a unique situation on the increasingly noisy Mediterranean.



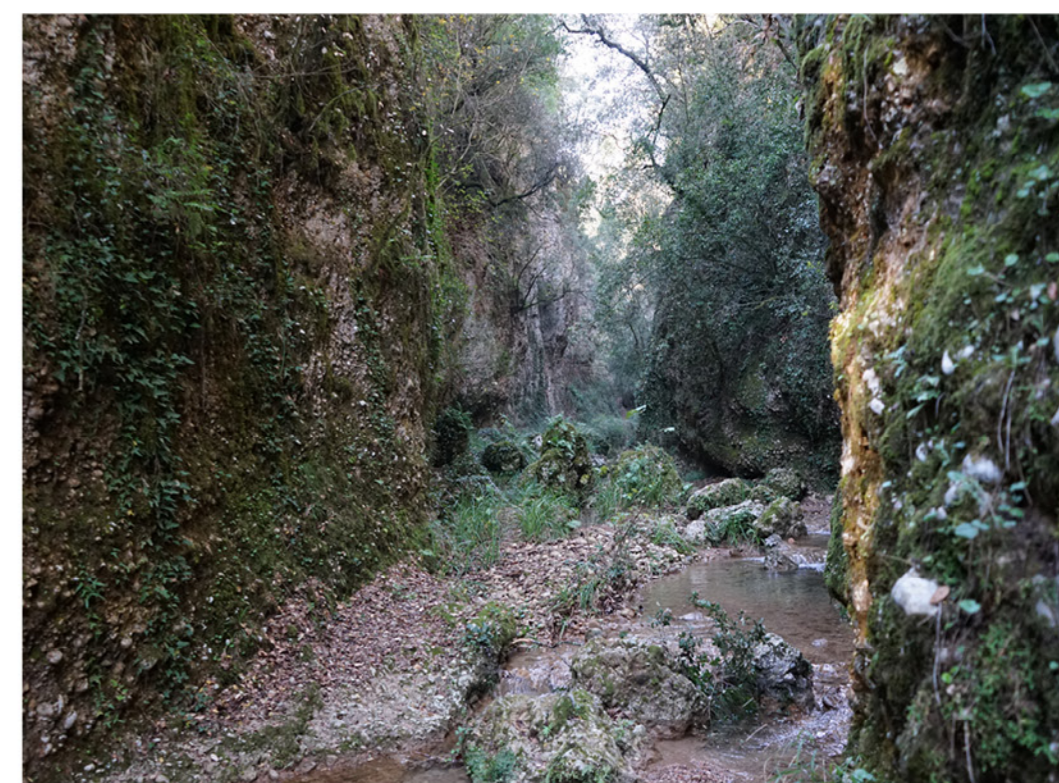
Olive groves
Afeios Valley



Moni Prodromou
Gortynia



Football field with a view
Lakonia



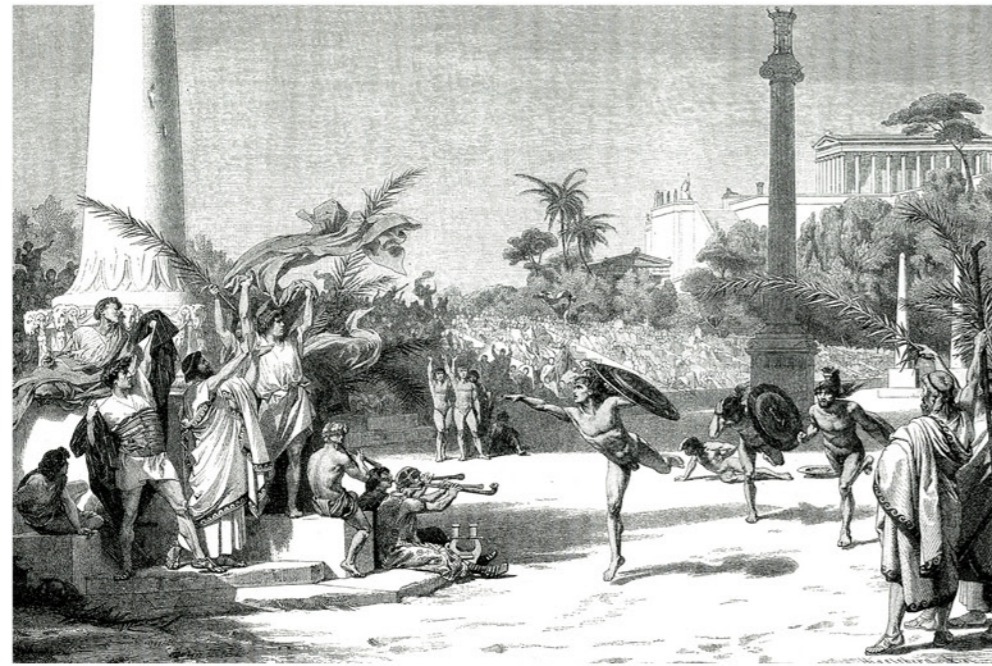
Lucios Potamos
Gortynia



Oranges and goats
Lakonia



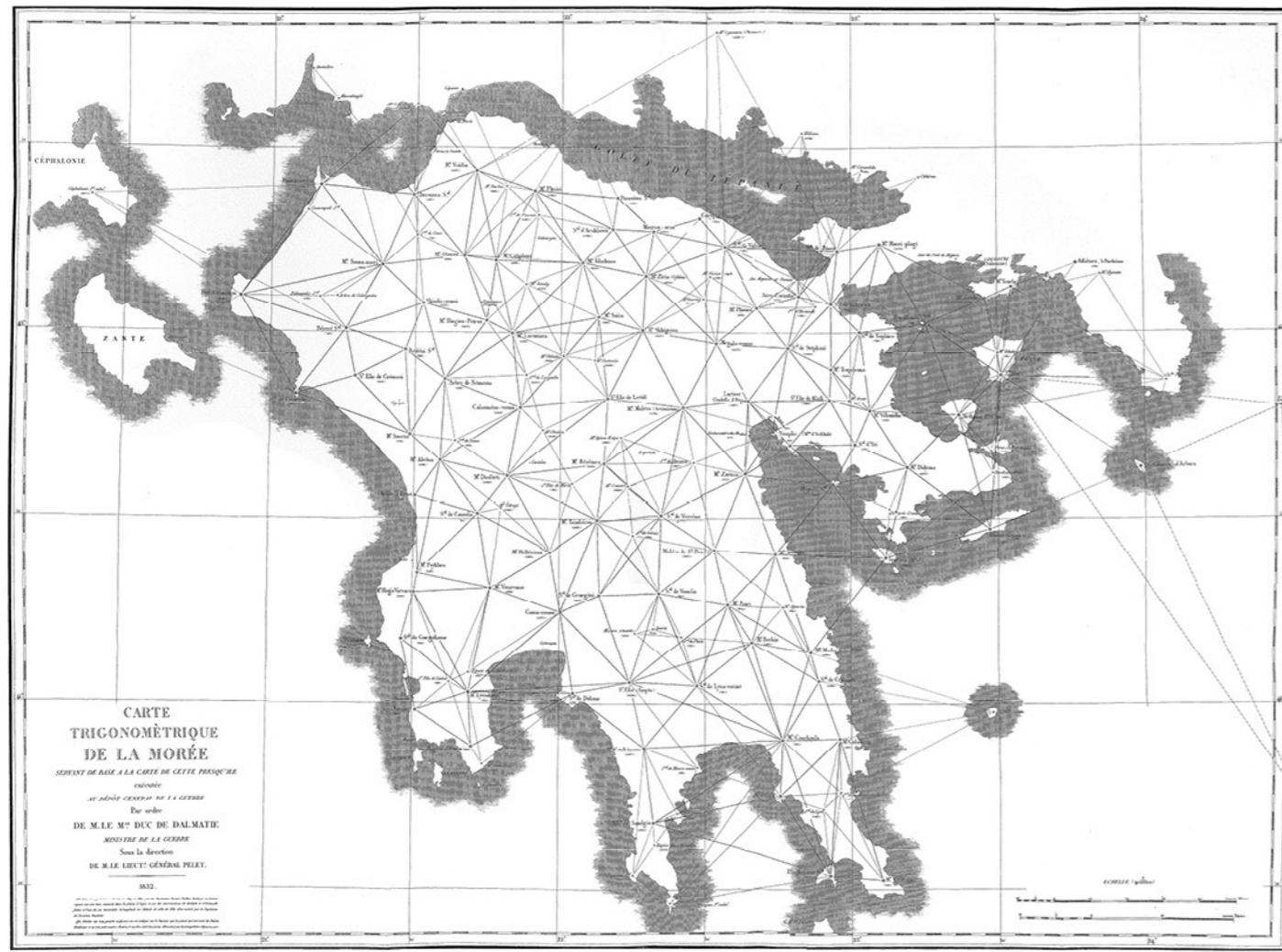
Archaeological area
Olympia



The Life and Culture of Ancient Greeks
Jacob von Falke
1887



Carte Générale
Expédition Scientifique de Morée
1829-1838



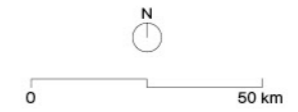
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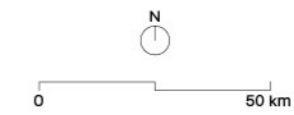
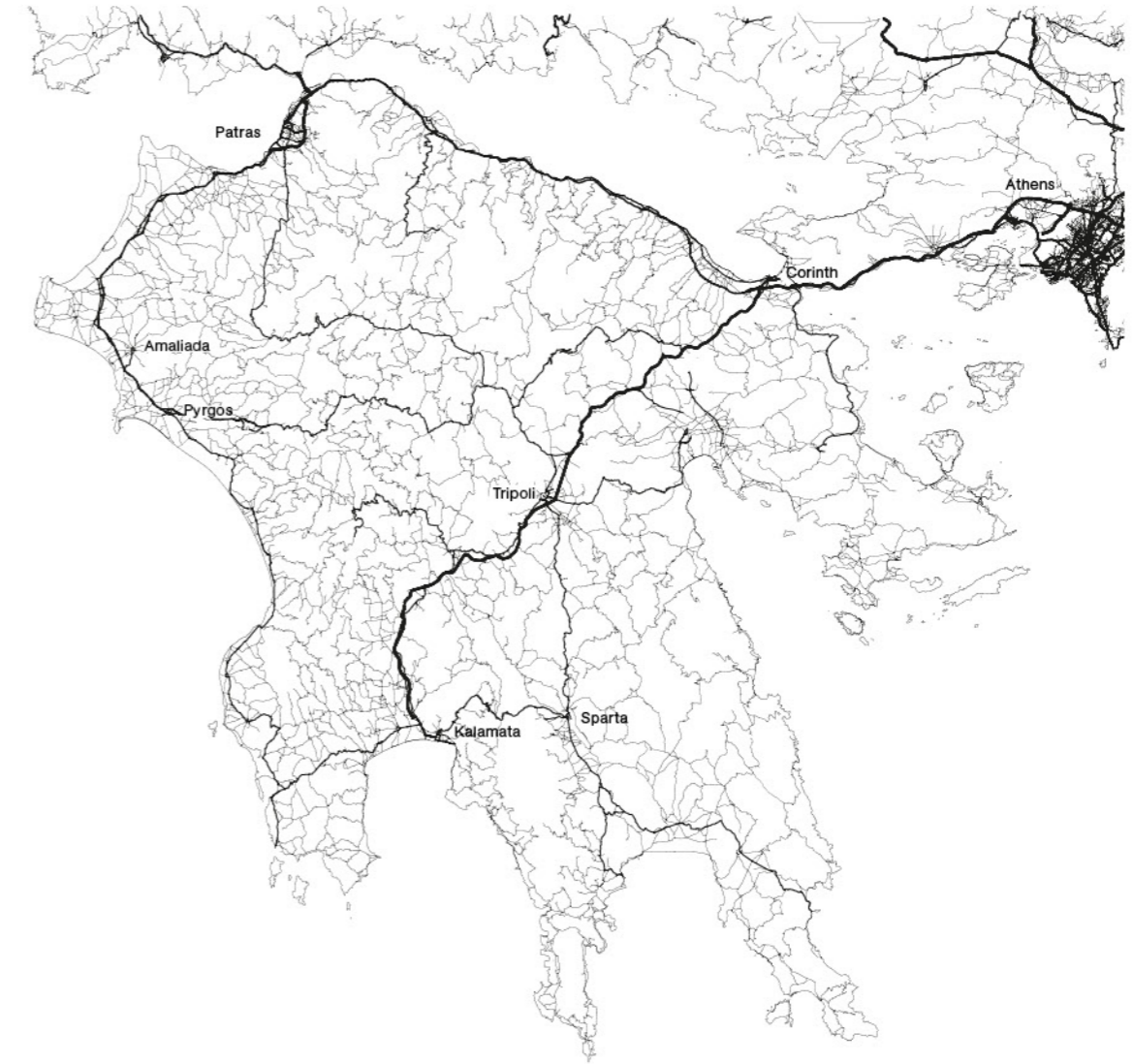
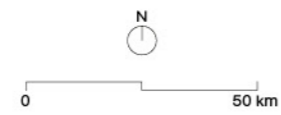


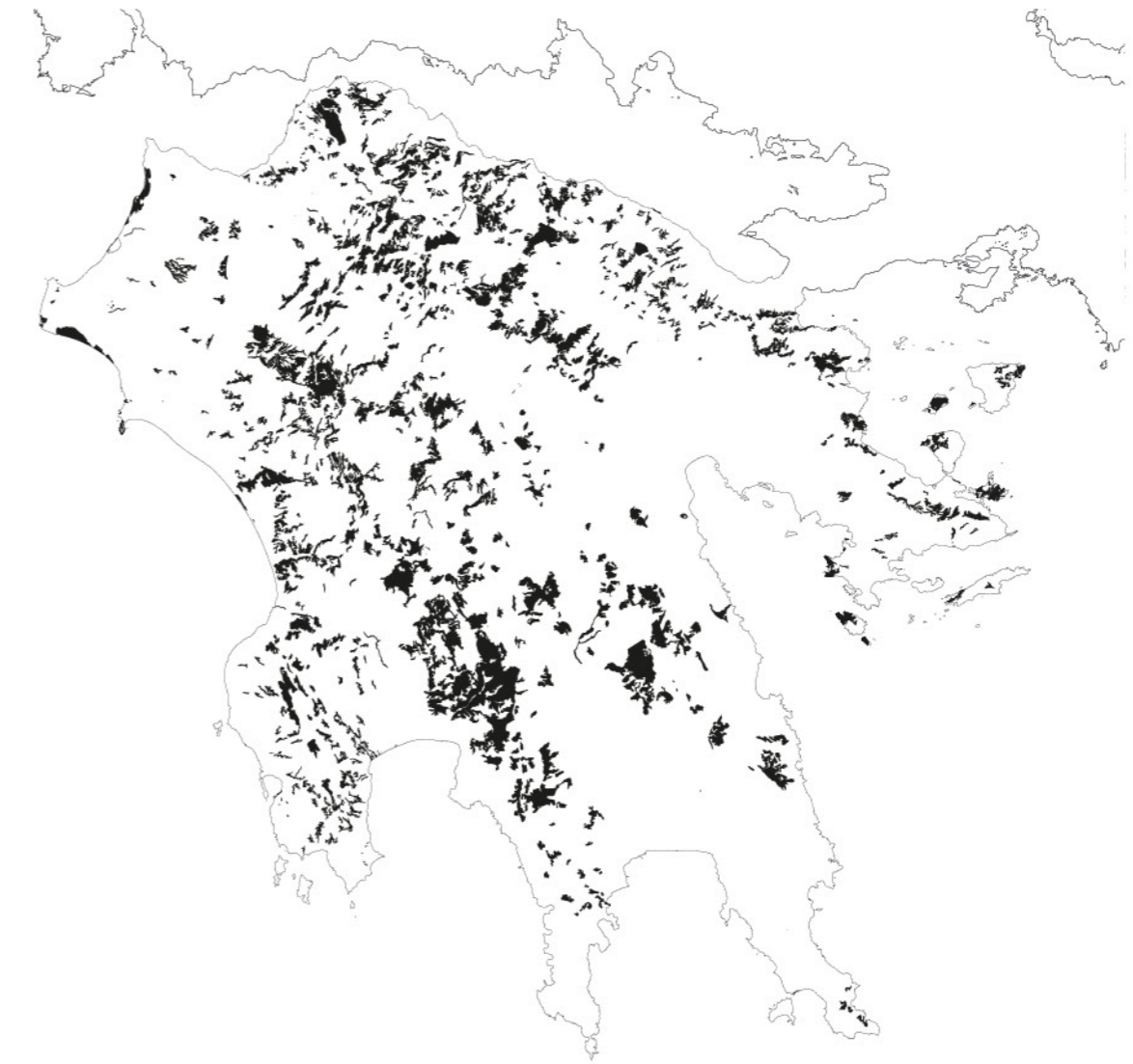
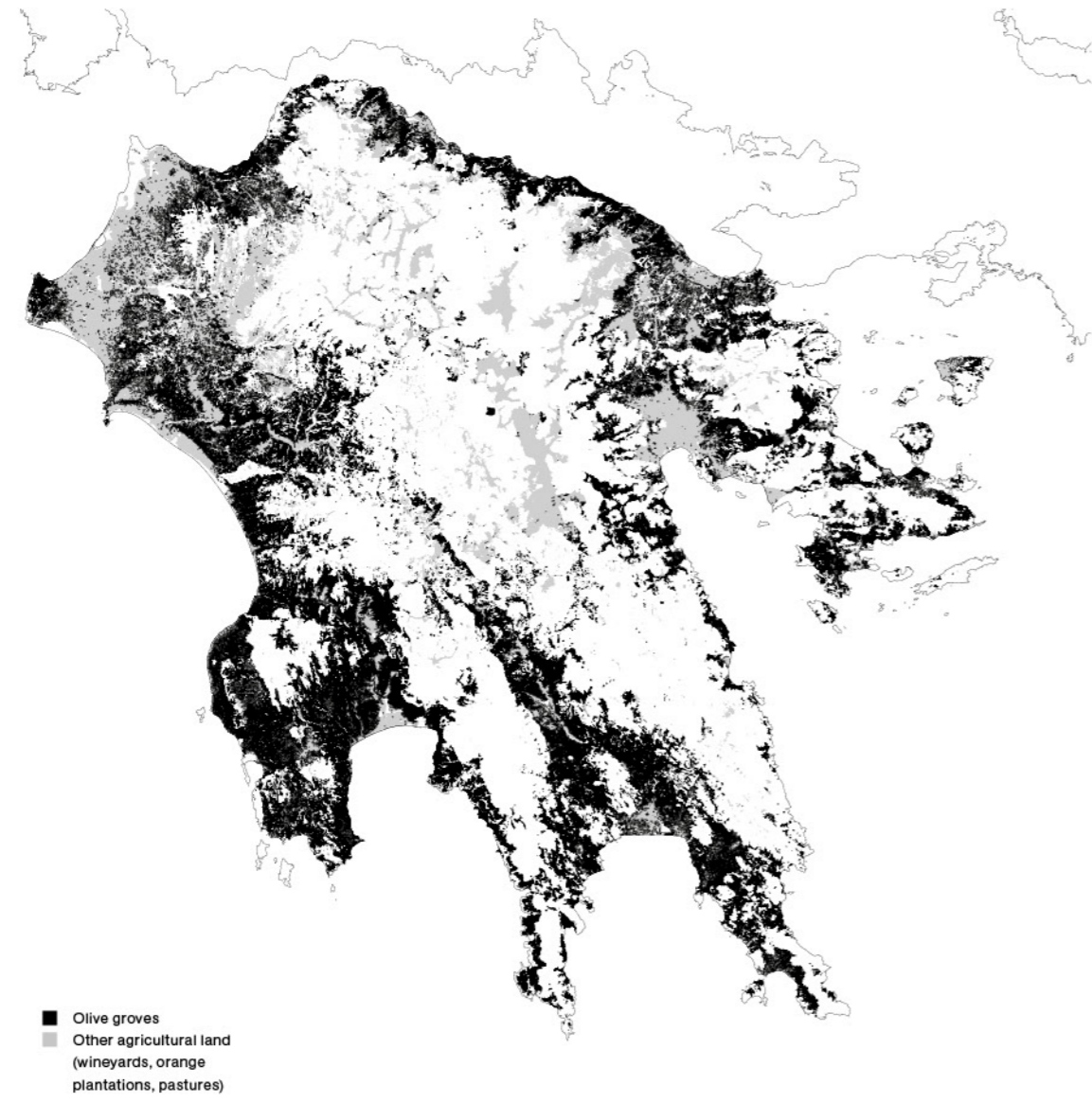
Canton Arcadia
 Expédition Scientifique de Morée
 1829-1838



Arcas Preparing to Kill His Mother
Hendrik Goltzius
1574-1575











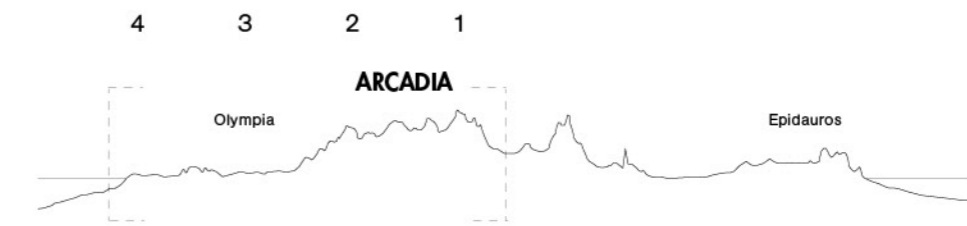
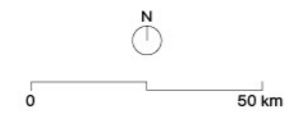
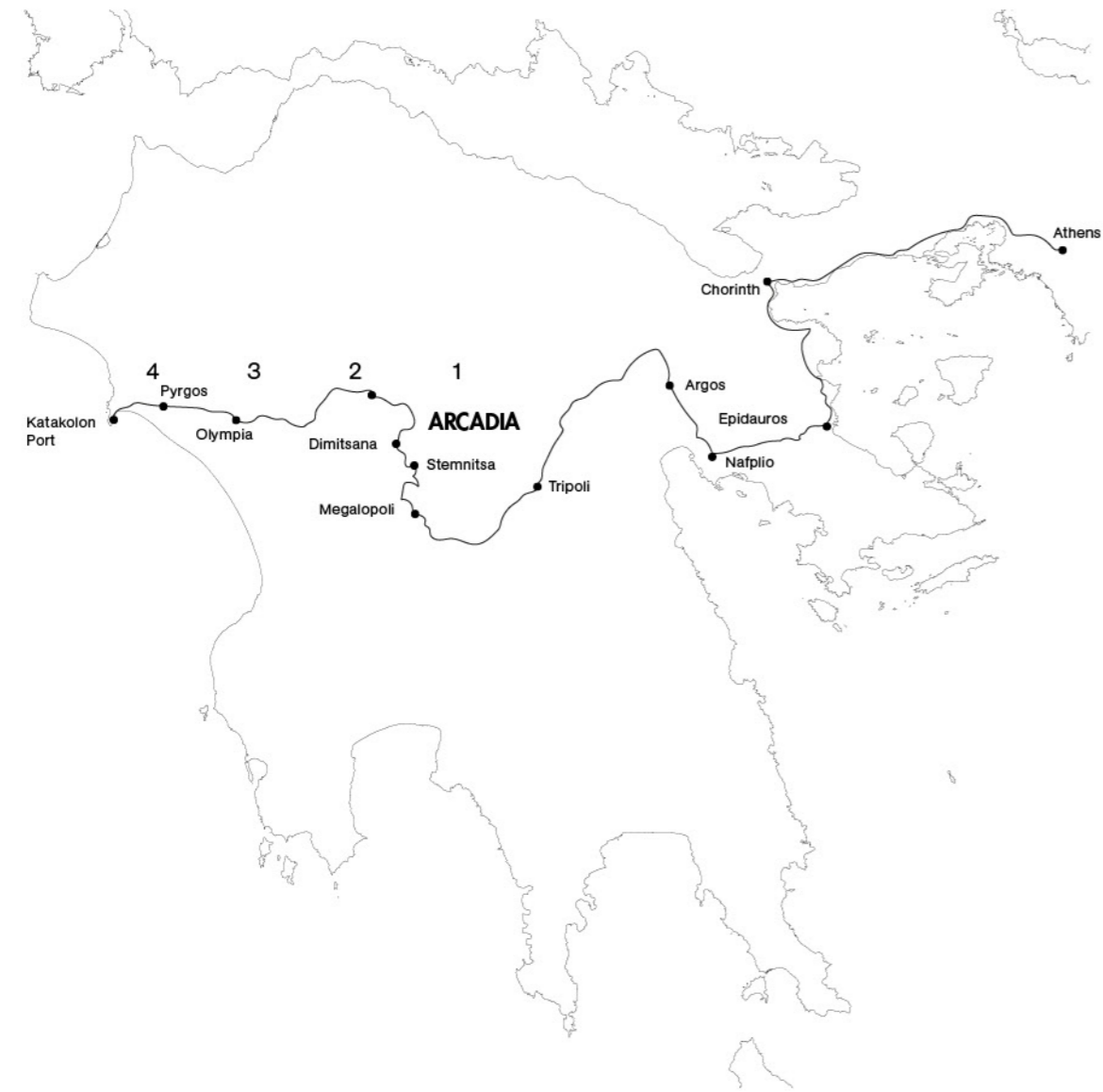
The project is organized as an east-west section through the territory of Peloponnese, running from coast to coast, from Epidaurus to Olympia, through the mountains of Arcadia. Learning from the myths and the direct experience of the landscape, the studio explored four main themes.

1 Arcadian Villages. Mountainous Countryside examined the urban transformation of the remote villages of Arcadia, characterized by population shrinkage and their partial revival through tourism.

2 Olive Valley: Slow Agriculture looked into the production backstage of the olive oil, a Greek 'national product.' This viewpoint revealed its non-commercial character, with new forms of labour defined by migrant workers, and community and family-based production.

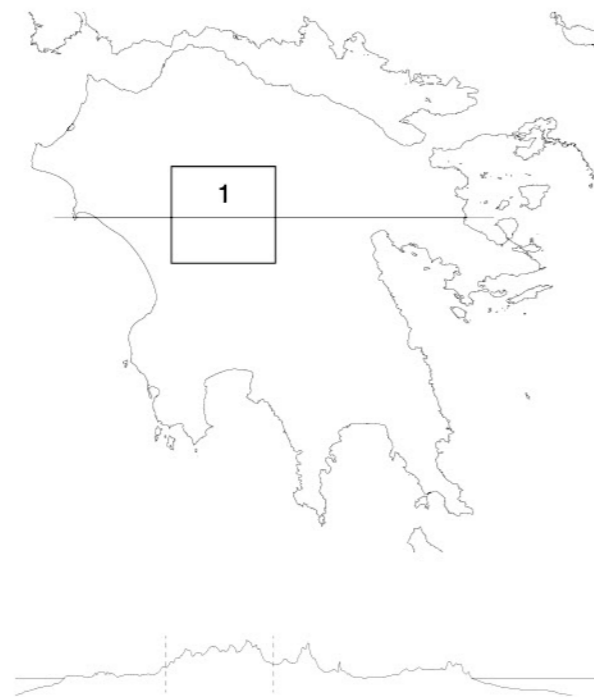
3 Olympia. Heritage as an Urban Project studied the 'frozen landscape' of Olympia—a UNESCO site exposed to urban transformation through high-frequency tourism.

4 Iliia's Local Coast. Seaside Countryside mapped a semi-rural, 'quiet coastline' of Arcadia defined by patterns of local seasonal living and agriculture, which constitutes an alternative to the international tourism.



- 1 Arcadian Villages
Mountainous Countryside
- 2 Olive Valley
Slow Agriculture
- 3 Olympia
Heritage as an Urban Project
- 4 Ilia's Local Coast
Seaside Countryside

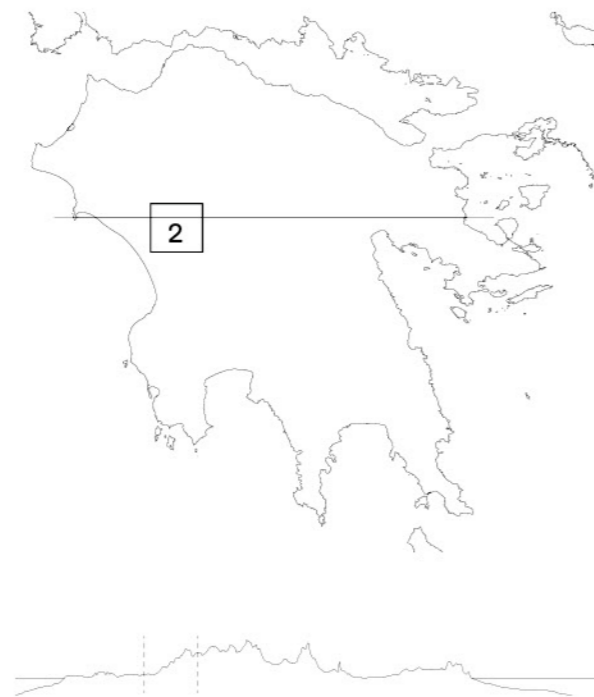
Arcadian Villages Mountainous Countryside



The villages of Arcadia punctuate the slopes of Mainalon, Parnonas and Lykaion Oros mountains. With their compact built structure and defined limits, each village constitutes an identifiable entity in the Arcadian landscape. Located at high altitudes, between 600 and 1200 meters, and surrounded by wilderness, these villages have acquired a special place in Greek political history. During the antiquity, the inaccessible heights of Arcadia triggered imagination and various mythic associations developed around it: Arcadia is the battlefield of Gigantomachy, the birthplace of Zeus, and the homeland of Pan and the Nymphs. Up to the modern era, the region has never been a unified political entity, but was rather marked by the coexistence of independent city-states. After the fall of the Roman Empire, Arcadia became part of the Greek-speaking Byzantine Empire (Despotate of Morea), still perceived as an intact and secluded region. Its inhabitants became proverbial herdsmen symbolizing both pastoral lack of sophistication, and the gift of simplicity and living in bliss. The imaginary of idyllic paradise travelled to the west through the works of literature, most notably in the visions of a pastoral utopia of Virgil's Eclogues (42 BC) and later in Jacopo Sannazaro's Arcadia (1504). During the four hundred years under Ottoman Empire, the remote Arcadian mountains served as hideout against Ottoman rule, where some measure of Greek self-government was preserved, eventually producing the revolutionary generation that won the Greek national independence in 1821. Since the 1950s, Arcadian villages experienced extreme depopulation as a result of intense urban-rural migration in the postwar Greece. Today, Arcadian villages compose a heterogeneous constellation. One finds touristic villages such as the Mainalon ski resort, with luxurious pensions in renovated stone houses; abandoned villages that exist only as transit points on hiking paths (Arkoudoremma, 0 inh. and Limpovici, 0 inh.), and seasonal villages active only a few days each month, when they host weekend visitors or holiday goers (examples are Stemnitsa, which went to 191 inh. in 2011 from 411 inh. in 2001, and Dimitsana with 342 inh. in 2011, shrinking from 611 inh. in 2001—the figure equal the half of its population

before the WWII). At mid-heights below 600 meters, agricultural hamlets lacking views and other natural attractions of the peaks have also shrunk (examples are Kapelitsa with 30 inh. and Zatouna with 13 inh.). In the lower heights, wealthy agricultural villages are still growing (Tropaia counted 506 inh. in 2011 compared to 674 inh. in 2001). With their history of remoteness and utopian imaginaries, the Arcadian villages today face several challenges radically altering their character. Still considered a remote part of Greece, Arcadia remains an unfortunate object of persisting idyllic mythologies, often misinterpreted as area of intact nature and source of all Greek traditions. This understanding contributes to the further decline of the villages. The project on Arcadian villages focused on the Arcadian municipality of Gortynia, in which the various transformations have been framed and observed: the challenges of depopulation and the declining village economies; the reinvention of villages as touristic destinations; the lack of infrastructures, and the need for future plans. The project demystifies the stereotype of Arcadia as pastoral idyll and tries to reconstitute a contemporary image of Arcadia under urban transformation. These insights have formed the basis for a territorial strategy for the Arcadian countryside.

Olive Valley Slow Agriculture

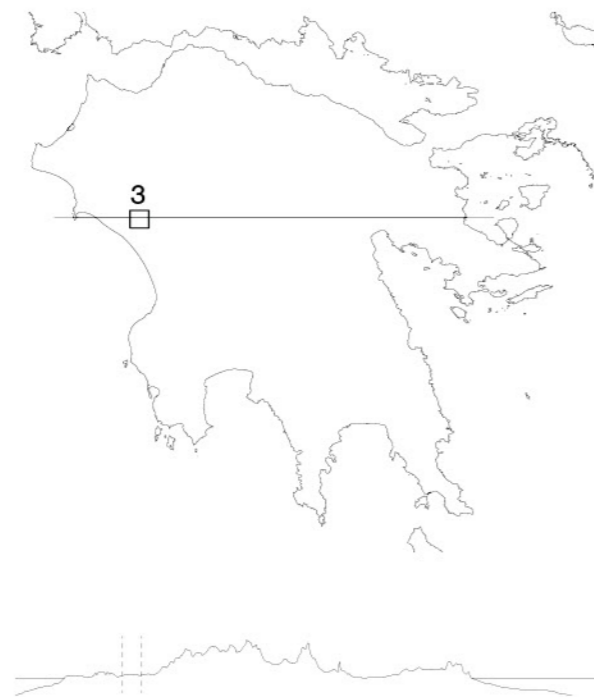


Despite great variety of agriculture in Peloponnese, two types of fruit cultivation dominate the landscape: oranges in Argos and Lakonia, and olives in Iliia and Messina. Tied to altitude and soil quality, the areas of specific cultivation (olive, orange, wine, etc) are clearly delineated in the landscape. The word agriculture shares root with Greek “agrios” meaning “wild”. A degree of unruliness is still part of agricultural production in Greece and in Peloponnese, due to small field sizes and small-scale individual producers, who often operate without formal land title. Compared to elsewhere in Europe the size of agricultural properties in Greece is exceedingly small: 4.4 hectares in average, being even smaller in Peloponnese. By comparison, in Switzerland, despite the mountainous terrain and the small land subdivision, the average land property is 17.4 hectares. EU policies and subsidies have decisive impact in regulating agricultural production in Greece; however, despite the fact that the EU allocates 2.5 billion euros in annual subsidies for production in the so-called “less favored areas” such as the small-scale production in Peloponnese, due to the poor state of local politics and administration, much investment is wasted. The Alfeios River valley and the surrounding hilly slopes covered with olive trees have served as the frame in this project to examine the transformation of olive landscapes in Peloponnese. Due to its hilly topography, the area is designated as “less favored” for cultivation and receives EU subsidies. Olives and olive oil are the most significant agricultural products in Greece, tightly connected to Greek cultural traditions, shaping both the Greek landscape and regional identities. The importance of olive farming is illustrated by the fact that municipal workers typically get time off every year for the olive harvest. Families in Greece, regardless whether “rural” or “urban”, continue to produce olive oil for themselves. Artisanry surrounding the olive industry stands now in sharp contrast to the industrialization of agriculture in many parts of Europe. The traditional olive farming ecosystems have high levels of biodiversity due to the still-limited use of pesticides. On the other hand, it appears that for small-scale olive producers it is becoming increasingly difficult to adequately

promote traditional farming methods and benefit from them. Complementing the family labor, in Greece and Peloponnese the small-scale producers in agriculture have developed economic relationships with migrant workers. In reclaiming abandoned fields and century-old farms, migrant farmers, often from Albania, now help revive Greek countryside. Beside foreign work migration, a new type of urban-to-rural migration has emerged: more and more young professionals abandon large cities to move to the countryside, in response to increasing urban unemployment and the financial crisis. In addition, the potential of agro-tourism hasn't yet been fully explored. Traditionally, agriculture in Greece has been an autonomous field of labor and production; its new association with leisure and tourism may still appear incompatible with the popular understanding of the countryside. Climate, topography and other natural conditions and hazards, property rights, traditions, national and international economic policies and migrations, are all powerful forces shaping the olive production landscape in Greece. In Peloponnese, the predominance of family farms and cooperative organization structures for olive oil processing and trade, emphasize the highly local character of olive agriculture. The project aimed to describe transformation processes shaping the countryside of olive cultivation. Interested in the potentials of the small-scale, family-based production for the future of European countryside, the project envisioned a new kind of “slow territory”, with new ways of living and working in the olive groves.

Olympia

Heritage as an Urban Project



The idea of the countryside as heritage landscape can be easily understood in Peloponnese: remains of antiquity scattered in myriad remote or peripheral locations, outside of cities. The sanctuary of Olympia, placed in a quiet and relatively secluded spot at the confluence of Alfeios and Kladeos Rivers, is typical of this phenomenon.

The sacred site attracted visitors for centuries, even before the first Olympics, which took place in 776 BC. To provide security for athletes and spectators gathering from all over the Greek World, Olympic Truce was announced before and during the games. The architecture of the site developed in several stages over time, resulting in a heterogeneous structure. During the so-called golden age of Olympia, in 560 BC the extraordinary Olympic Stadium was embedded in the terrain, followed by the Temple of Zeus, with the gigantic statue of Olympian Zeus by Phidias in 456 BC. Further buildings for athletes were built, including the Palaestra and the Baths.

In the 3rd century earthquakes and invading tribes damaged the site. The Olympic games continued to be held until 393 AD when Christian emperor Theodosius prohibited the worship of Greek gods. Repeated floods destroyed the settlement again in the early 7th century.

Though the site was rediscovered in the 18th century, the first excavations in Olympia took place in 1829, carried out by the French Expedition Scientifique de Morea. Subsequently, the excavations and the preservation of the Ancient Olympia have been the responsibility of the German Archaeological Institute in Athens, who received exclusive access. The first major excavation began in 1875, funded by the German government.

In 1936, the year of the Olympic games in Berlin, a new systematic excavation was initiated by the Nazi Party and the ritual of bringing the Olympic flame to the venue of the games had been started. Leni Riefenstahl commemorated the new ritual in the documentary film „Olympia“, purportedly aiming to revive the ideals of the Olympics in the modern, western world.

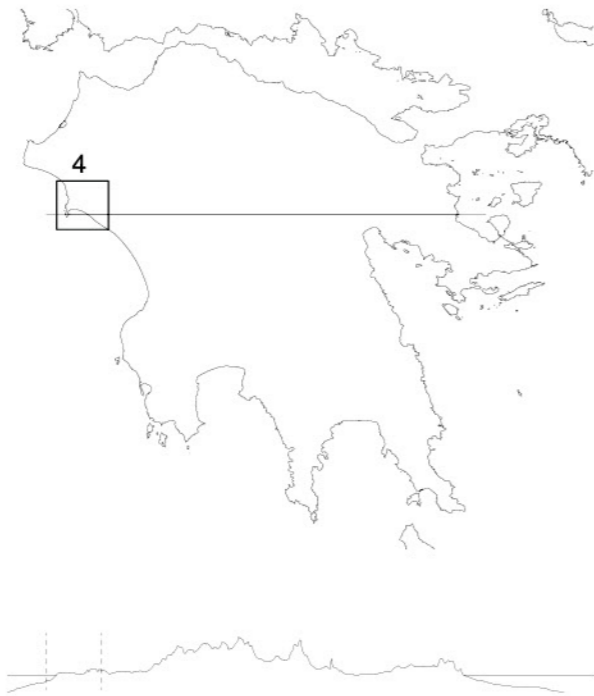
Today, the Olympia heritage site lies under the jurisdiction of the Greek Ministry of Culture, which supervises the area for any acts of illegal

excavations, and intervenes in case any new finds are revealed. The financial resources for the site are provided by the Greek state and the EU funds.

The contemporary village of Olympia sprouted as a parasite adjoining the archaeological area soon after the ruins were discovered. To this day, the village life is based on seasonal tourist visits, mainly during the summer. The village main road is lined with restaurants, tourist agencies, hotels, two museums and a municipal building—not surprisingly, nearly all public buildings in Olympia are of high architectural value. The municipal building, the former Xenia Motel, is designed by Aris Konstantinidis, one of Greece's leading modern architects.

The wider municipal territory of Olympia today counts around 13.400 inhabitants; the village itself around 1000. In 1989, the ancient site was awarded the UNESCO World Heritage status. The need to protect the remains from possible floods led to the construction of extensive flood barriers along Alpheios. After forest fires nearly reached Olympia in 2007, fire protection infrastructures received major overhaul. The nearby Port Katakolon serves several cruise lines in the Mediterranean and functions as jumping off point for cruise day trips to Olympia. In 2010 for example, nearly 950.000 passengers debarked at the port, and were shuttled to Olympia and back, during their six-hour stops. As a consequence of UNESCO regulations, many urban interventions have taken place within and around the site. The implemented buffer zone and other protection arrangements applying to built structure and traffic in the area, prevent any conflicts from the expansion of the tourist village, but they also appear to hamper its development. The project analysed and proposed new territorial strategies articulating new relationships between heritage and tourism in Olympia. Olympia was always a destination attracting visitors from afar—in the past athletes and spectators; today hundreds of thousands of tourists. The project focused in understanding the character of tourism in Olympia today, and proposed ideas for Olympia's future territorial development.

Ilia's Local Coast Seaside Countryside



“Seaside Countryside” is a distinctive typology of coastal development of Peloponnese. Since antiquity, the coast of Peloponnese has been an area of commercial activity, but was also perceived as dangerous and unfit for inhabitation due to piracy, conflict and swampy land. Most historical cities had been located inland, at a distance from the coast.

In the mid 20th century, Peloponnese had still resisted beach tourism: the growing urban middle class in Greece still preferred to escape the city to the mountains for vacation and leisure. Only in the 1960s and '70s, coastal tourism begins to flourish, mainly through public incentives, such as Xenia project, in form of large-scale tourist facilities designed and built at various locations throughout the country.

The coast of Ilia is part of low-lying plains on the west of Peloponnese, forming a foreland to the north-south mountain ranges. Pyrgos, Ilia's largest city, is located about four kilometres inland. The coastal topography was transformed profoundly over time; in antiquity the coastline laid approximately eight kilometres further inland. The present-day coast formed through the build-up of alluvial soil, made cultivable in the second half of the 20th century through extended irrigation infrastructures.

Sited on a rocky cape, Katakolon is a unique point on the coast and has been a port settlement for centuries. From the end of the 19th to the mid 20th century, it functioned as the gate for export of Ilia's agricultural products, especially raisin, to Europe. In recent years, the Port Katakolon has experienced major makeover through cruise tourism—an ongoing development with uncertain consequences. The port now receives around 300 cruise boats annually, serving as the gateway to the archaeological area of Olympia, located twenty kilometers inland.

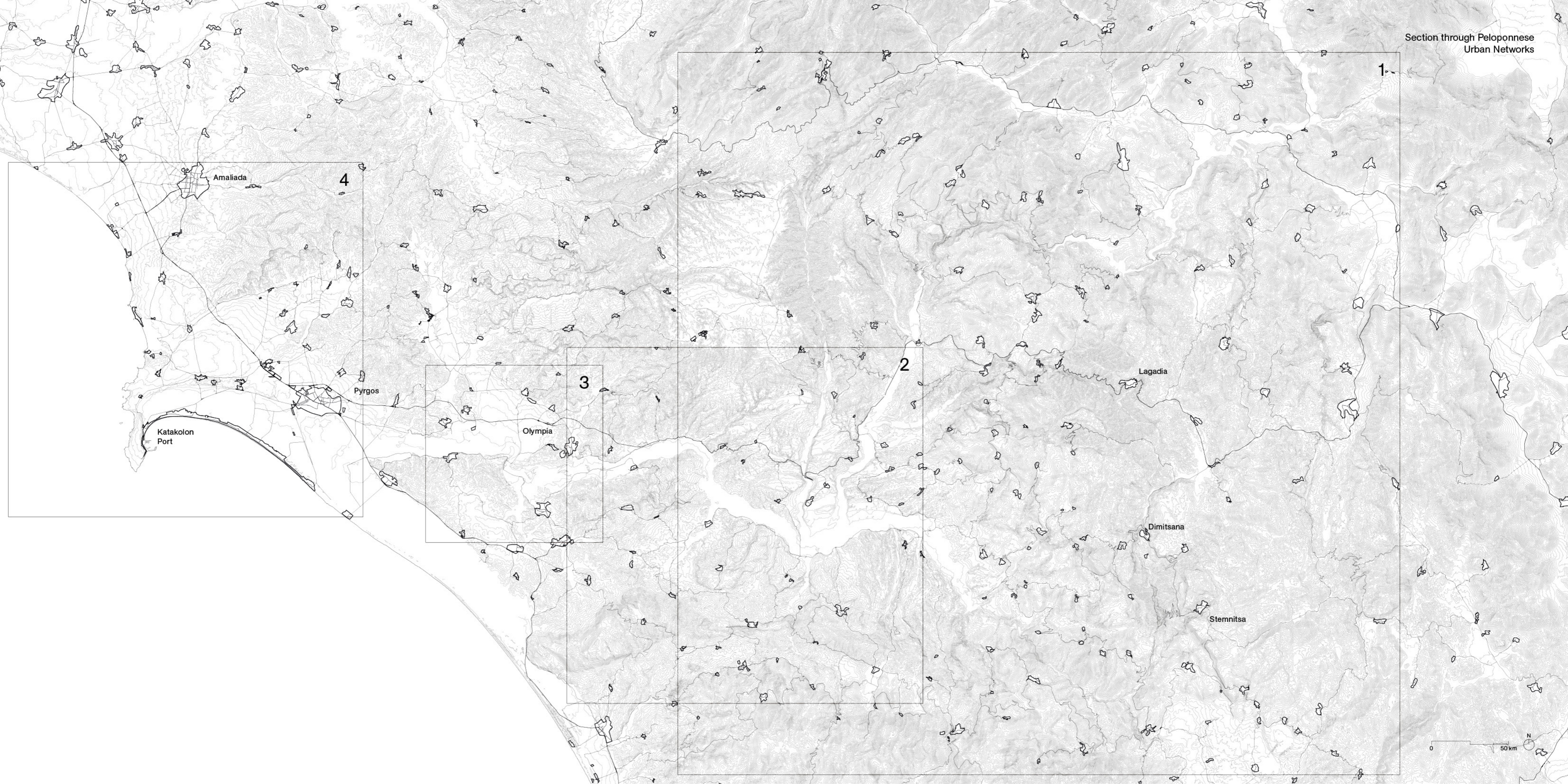
Urbanization of Ilia's coastline is heterogeneous and largely spontaneous: Illegal beach settlements, campsites, summer houses with olive orchards, and new seaside resorts catering to international tourist are lined up side-by-side. The extended coastal zone between the cities (Pyrgos, Amaliada) and the sea functions as a peri-urban landscape, filled by vegetable fields and farmhouses, water reservoirs

and irrigation channels, and scattered leisure sites such as motorbike trails and hiking paths.

Ilia's coast appears to develop without strategic land-use plans. The planning and building regulation in Greece generally focuses on the construction aspect of development; the floor area ratio and the minimum plot size are widespread regulatory instruments. By contrast, zoning plans cover less than 3 percent of the Greek countryside territory, an important exception compared to most European countries, contributing to unauthorized construction. The proportion of unauthorized construction in Greece increased 45 percent between 1950 and 1995. Initially, the mechanism of self-built housing served as a response to the pressing housing shortage, but since the 1970s the practice spread beyond housing to include holiday houses and other tourist establishments. The laissez-faire attitude and the policy of non-demolition since the 1950s can be interpreted as powerful elements of local and national politics and electoral games in Greece, which radically altered the urban landscape of the country.

In contrast to congested touristic coast of the northern Mediterranean, the coast of Ilia is an interesting exception. Not a purely touristic destination, rather, it is appropriated by the locals. The seaside is here still an area of agriculture and second residence connected to nearby inland cities. On the other hand, various pressures including transport infrastructures and increasing tourist arrivals are threatening the local character of the coast and the preserved ecosystems.

Through maps, drawings and text, the project described the specific local character of Ilia's coast, seen as an attractive mixture of local seasonal living, agriculture and protected nature areas. The “seaside countryside” is offered as a concept and potential for the future of the area—a proposal to envision an alternative territorial hierarchy, resisting the wholesale submission to international tourism, and strengthening the features of the local urban landscape.



1

4

Amaliada

Pyrgos

Katakolon
Port

3

Olympia

2

Lagadia

Dimitsana

Stenmitsa

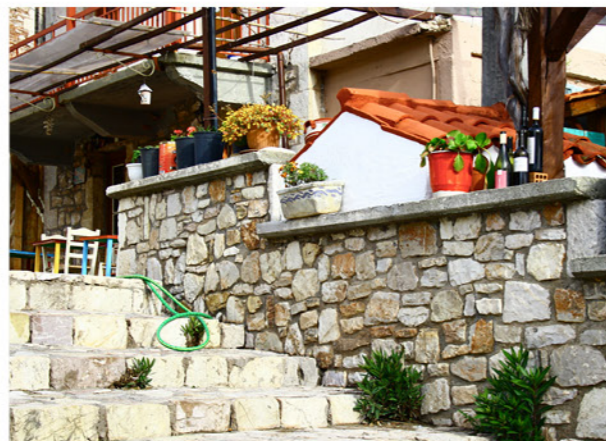




■ Olive groves
■ Intensive agriculture
■ Olive groves

0 50 km N





ARCHITECTURE OF
TERRITORY
European Countryside

Project by
Meike Stender
Akito Yoshinaka

ARCADIAN VILLAGES MOUNTAINOUS COUNTRYSIDE

ARCADIA
Spring 2016

Arcadian Villages Mountainous Countryside

Arcadia is not only one of the most ancient notions of paradise in the western culture, but it also refers to an actual geographic location—it lies in the central region of Peloponnese, the southern peninsula of Greek mainland, situated among the mountain ranges of the Menalon massif. Subject to myths and charged with imaginaries and concepts of identity, the region has a rich and idealised past. It is one of the oldest inhabited areas in Greece. The Arcadian villages, scattered in extreme topographies, are located at the altitudes between 700 and 1200m altitude. Playing an important role in Greek history, they were well known already during the ancient times. The archetypal Arcadian dweller is a poetic figure of 'great independence and strength', a skilled warrior and a tough herdsman.

Arcadia today is facing complex challenges of urbanisation. Like other mountainous countrysides of Europe, it suffers from an extreme depopulation and demographic shrinkage. Migration, mainly to Athens, which had accelerated since the end of World War II, led to emptying out of rural territory into abandoned fields and pastures. It is no longer a productive region and no longer economically significant as before. Soon, the region will be entirely devoid of a permanent habitation.

At the same time, in the city, Greek urban dwellers are particularly nostalgic about these villages. Arcadia has become the point of return, a retreat. Many Greeks still own their families' old countryside houses and use them as weekend or holiday destinations, creating new patterns of inhabitation that are now shaping this countryside.



Arcadia as a retreat

p.54

Arcadian Identities

Mythological stories of Arcadia and its actual history comprise a set of images, varying from an idealised past to the landscape as a symbol of the Greek contemporary national identity.

p.62

Anatomy of Shrinkage

Gortynia is the mountainous municipality of Arcadia. Once an advantage, its topographical setting now represents an obstacle in the development of the region.

p.82

New Patterns of Living

The countryside is losing population. Permanence is being replaced by mobility, changing the relationship between the inhabitants and the land.

p.104

Three Regions of Arcadia

Three distinct regions with different levels of urbanisation can be defined in the area.

p.108

A Chance for the Commons?

Introducing the proposal for renegotiating property, a future strategy to reorganize life and usage of land in Arcadia is developed.

Arcadian Identities Images and History

As a utopian space, Arcadia is one of the most powerful western constructions of the idyllic countryside. It evokes images of rural simplicity, a civilisation of contentment and peace, as described by the Roman poets Ovid and Vergil. But, aside from being an idealised mythological space, Arcadia is also an actual locus. However, its boundaries are not uniform. For example, there is a region described as an area where the Arcadian dialect is still spoken; there are old maps of explorers that depict the boundaries of the ancient district of Arcadia in the heart of the peninsula's mountains; and there is even a contemporary administrative prefecture of Peloponnese that bears the name Arcadia, stretching from the central mountains to the east coasts of Peloponnese. Still, Arcadia has often been established in the common imaginary as an isolated space, an island-like condition within the mountains.

Leaving aside the preconceptions we bring as European tourists, and looking into Arcadia from the perspective of the recent history of the contemporary Greece, a different perception quickly emerges. During the Ottoman occupation, and again, during the civil war a century later, the mountainous countryside served as a battleground. The mountainous hideouts in the creeks and the foggy backdrop had more of a strategic value rather than a pure romantic connotation. This was the place where Greek independence was both fought for and disputed. This is why this landscape is powered with symbolism for the Greeks: it played an important role in formation of their contemporary national identity.

Mythical Nature



'Arcadia,'
T. Eakin, 1883

Already during the Hellenic era, the remote Arcadia symbolised a locus of pure, rural, idyllic living, far from the cities, located at lower altitudes and near the coast. This romantic view of the region inspired imaginations ever since, triggering various myths and beliefs about creatures and Gods living hidden there. According to the Greek mythology, Arcadia of Peloponnese was a version of paradise, the domain of Pan, God of the forest. Half-goat and half-man, he lived in the virgin wilderness with his court of dryads, nymphs and other spirits of nature. Another myth narrates that Arcadia owes its name to the hero Arcas, who was the son of Callisto and Zeus, and who, himself, was born there on the banks of Lucius River. These stories charge the landscape with pictures of freedom and originality, later inspiring the European Renaissance, the artistic production of Arcadia as an intact bucolic Utopia.

Landscape of National Identity



'Greek War of Independence,'
T. Vryzakis, 1852

Resisting the Ottoman Empire

The mountains of Peloponnese resisted the Ottoman rule in a long period of time. Acting like a fortress, with monasteries and strongholds placed in strategic locations, Arcadia became the heartland of the revolt and the place where the Greek War

of Independence was declared on the 25th March 1821. Greek troops managed to defeat the Ottoman forces, with the assistance of by the Russian Empire, Great Britain and the Kingdom of France achieving independence in 1832.

Civil War Battleground

Almost a century later, the same landscape became once again a space of national conflict. The power vacuum left after the end of WWII led to a polarised struggle between the left and the right, making this region one of the first battlegrounds

of the Cold War. The fight between the Greek Communists and the Greek government army mirrored the world division on East and West. This tension left Greece with an anti-communist establishment.



Arcadia as a retreat:
Places of resistance

Nomadic Pastoralism



Film stills, private video,
1930s

Territory of Shepherds

The ideal of the Arcadian herdsmen, that of leading a simple pastoral life – unsophisticated but happy – was immortalised by Vergil's Eclogues. The inhabitants of the mountains were seen as free, wild and tough people, living in a semi-nomadic way. The farmers migrated

towards the more fertile areas of Elia during the harvest season to earn additional money. At the same time, shepherds moved to the coast in the winter, and back to the mountains during summer to avoid the spreading of diseases that high temperatures brought.

Twin Villages

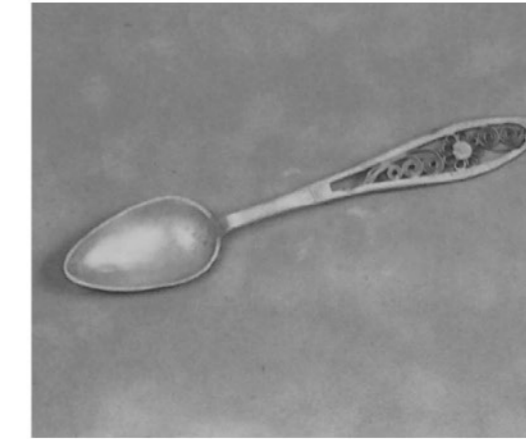
The shepherds originally built temporary huts during winters in Elia. Later on, they started settling, building permanent houses and returning to the same place every year. This way, a relationship was established between some villages in the moun-

tainous area of Gortynia and the coastal area of Elia. These relations are still visible in the paired names of some villages. An example is a mountainous village of Lasta, which relates to the name of the coastal village Lasteika.



Bipolar living:
Connection to Elia

Craftsmen and Traders



A spoon, Folklore Museum
in Stemnitsa

Extended Network of Craftsmen

Some of the settlements developed from purely pastoral places into centres of craft production. As a result, a network of production was formed, in which each village was specialised in a particular technique and a particular product. Valtessiniko, which is surrounded by pine forest,

became the woodcarvers village, Vytina became a centre for textile production, while the reputation of the Langadian stonemasons spread all-over Greece and Istanbul.

Trade Routes

As there are only few paths crossing the mountain range of Peloponnese, these became strategic locations for trading. Merchants would pass directly through the

village and buy products on the way, but also the craftsmen themselves left the village after half a year of production to sell their products in Athens or Istanbul.



Craft network:
Central villages



Defining
Arcadia

- 1 Prefecture of Arcadia
- 2 Arcadia according to Travels of Anacharsis
- 3 Arcadia according to the spoken dialect
- 4 Gortynia



Mountains as islands.
'Travels of Anacharsis the Younger in
Greece,' Jean-Jacques Barthelemy, 1794



'Et in Arcadia Ego,'
Nicolas Poussin, 1637-38

In the translation of the phrase "Et in Arcadia, Ego" – "Even in Arcadia, there am I", the usual interpretation of "I" refers to death, and "Arcadia" to a utopian land. The sentiment was meant to

express an ironic contrast between the shadow of death and the usual idle merriment that the nymphs and swains of ancient Arcadia were thought to have embodied.



'Arcas Preparing to Kill His Mother,' Hendrik Goltzius, 1574-75

Arcadia owes its name to the mythological hero Arcas, the son of Zeus and the nymph Callisto. After finding out that Callisto was pregnant, Hera, the jealous spouse of Zeus, turned her into a bear. Years later, during hunting, Arcas

came upon a bear, pointing his arrow at it, ready to kill. Zeus, feeling sorry for the tragedy of the mother and son, placed Callisto in the sky as the Ursa Major constellation and Arcas as the Ursa Minor constellation.



The Celestial Map,
Albrecht Dürer, 1515



Trade Routes to
Athens and Istanbul

Craftsmen from the Arcadian villages would usually lead a life of production and trading, spending six months at home and six months on the road travelling to the markets of Athens and Istanbul. The intense trading

movements of its inhabitants resulted in a good reputation of the region all over Greece and the Ottoman Empire. Their craft was demanded and they would return to Arcadia, making their villages rich and influential.



Expédition scientifique de Morée,
1829-38

In this map of the Morea expedition of 1828, the craft villages Dimitsana, Stemnitza, Magouliana, Valtessiniko and Langadia appear as important figures. At the time, these villages were rich and

politically relevant, as they also played a central role in the national battle against the Ottomans and later in the war for independence, assisted by the French and the British troops.

Anatomy of Shrinkage

Although often romanticised, the mountainous countryside today faces many challenges. Municipality of Gortynia, located in the heart of Arcadia, is radically shrinking and ageing. Composed of 135 very small and widely scattered settlements, ranging from two to over six hundred inhabitants, the overall population lessened for over half its size only in the last decade. Once seen as an advantage for trade and defence, the steep topography of the area has now become an obstacle for development. It makes Gortynia a peripheral region, shrinking not only in size, but also in its economical relevance.

Villages as Islands

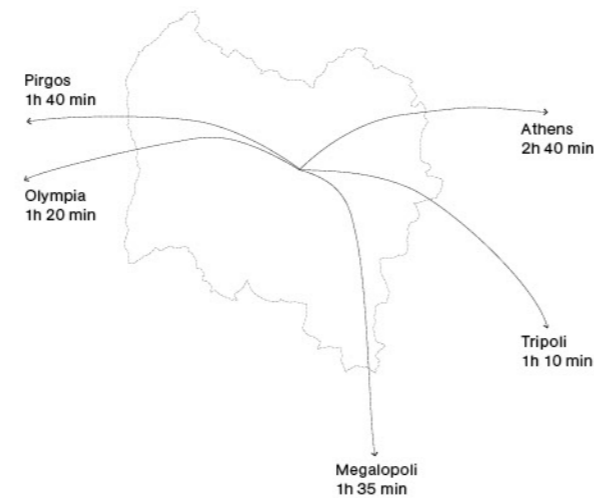
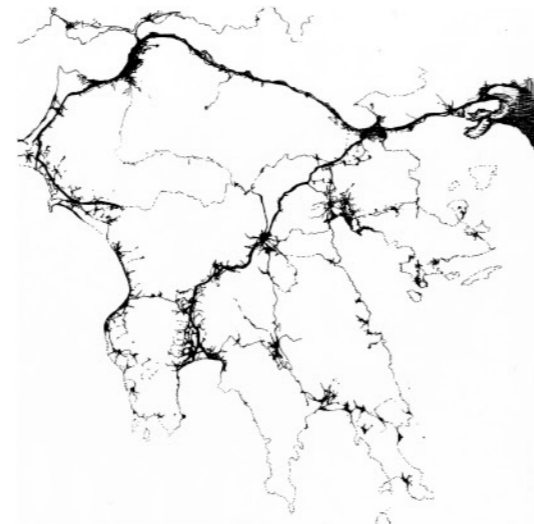
In an extremely low overall density of less than 10 inhabitants per square kilometre, the Arcadian settlements appear as isolated dots scattered over the mountainous landscape. Due to the long distances between the villages, social relations with other settlements are often very limited, and for the most of the people, visible only in the festival season. People here usually celebrate by moving from one village to the next. Even today, after roads have already been paved, a sense of isolation prevails.



Scale Comparison
Athens - Gortynia

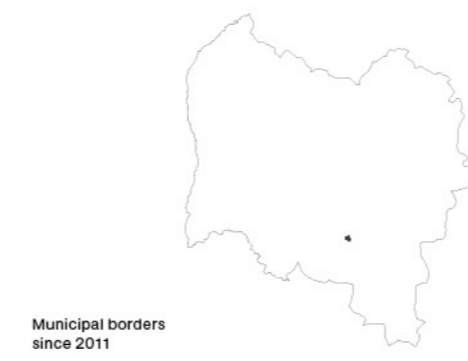
Remote Centre of Peloponnese

Excluded by the fast transportation network, Gortynia is located on a highly inaccessible mountain range that crosses the centre of Peloponnese. The urban fabric here extends mostly along the highways, of the coast that runs diagonally from Athens to Korinthos, and down to Kalamata, passing from Tripoli. None of the existing roads are wide and straight enough to ensure a quick traffic flow.



Administrative Divisions

Arcadia as an administrative unit of Greece dates back to the Greek independence in 1833. The contemporary prefecture of Arcadia also includes a strip of land that extends down to the coast. Therefore, this mountainous region, which is commonly referred to as Arcadia, reflects today in the shape of the municipality of Gortynia. The municipality was established in 2011, formulated out of eight smaller municipalities during the administrative reforms of the Kallikratis programme.



Gortynia: Former and actual administrative units

Rough Topography

Steep topography is a regular feature in Gortynia. Its values and disadvantages create very distinct locations, forming characteristic morphologies and determining the economical success of the settlements.

Embedding in the Land

Picturesque but restricting, the mountains create an enclosed territory with slow connections. Several visual connections between the villages are blocked by massive bodies of rock, whereas others are positioned as

'rooms,' surrounded by mountains. There are steep, narrow valleys, settlements surrounded by dense forest, and giant slopes dropping down to Megalopolis and Elia, creating stunning open views.

Strategic Value of Topography

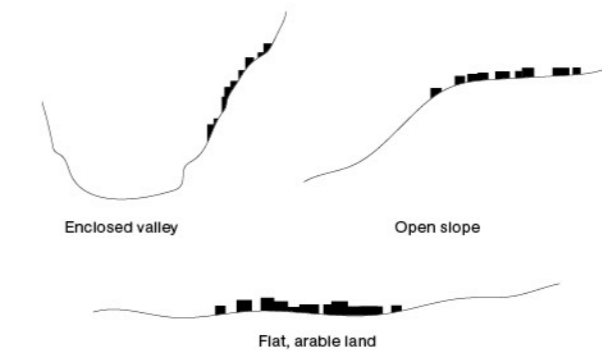
There are more and less favourable locations in this constellation of landscape 'rooms'. Considering the few routes that were used to cross the mountains, the constellations located in proximity to the strategic arteries profited from the wide network of trading. These villages turned into bigger, wealthier settlements with more than a thousand inhab-

itants. In times of war, the mountains also turned into a landscape of conflict. Topography created hidden retreats and strategic defences. Dimitsana is one such case, sitting on a steep hill that approaches inner Arcadia. The mist hanging in the valleys created even further confusion, making the mountains a territory hard to occupy.

Altitude and Landscape Economy

The type of vegetation is highly dependent on altitude. As a result the villages can be categorised by their potential in land-use and production. Those in the lower regions are agricultural hamlets, positioned around

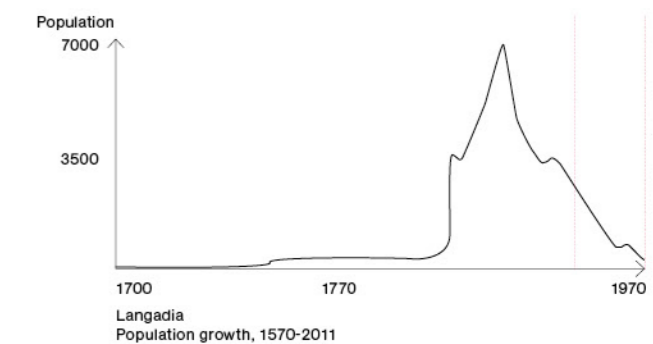
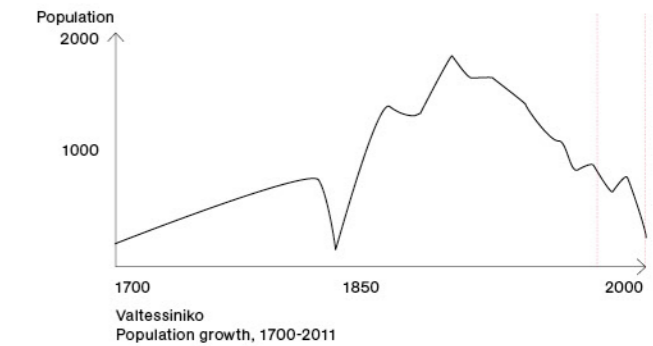
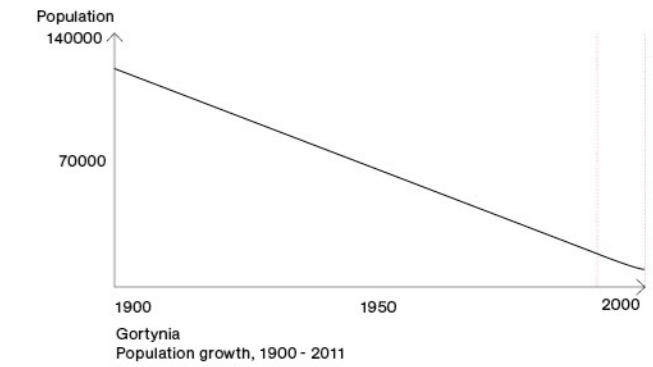
fertile riverbeds. At higher altitudes, the crops are limited due to the little availability of continuous and fertile land. Livestock farming, and in the higher altitudes also lumbering, became the main source of income for the villagers.



Landscape settings

Drainage of Population

Given Gortynia's remote location and restrictive topography, the settlements in the mountains are suffering from a severe depopulation. Around 1900, the population of these mountainous villages was at its peak, measuring several thousands inhabitants, with villagers having an important economic and political role at the time. During and after the two world wars, the population gradually started moving to the big cities, such as Athens. The first waves of emigration to U.S. and Australia followed soon after. After the Civil War, the population shrinkage accelerated, finally reaching its radical current statistic – a drainage of over half of the inhabitants only in the last decade.





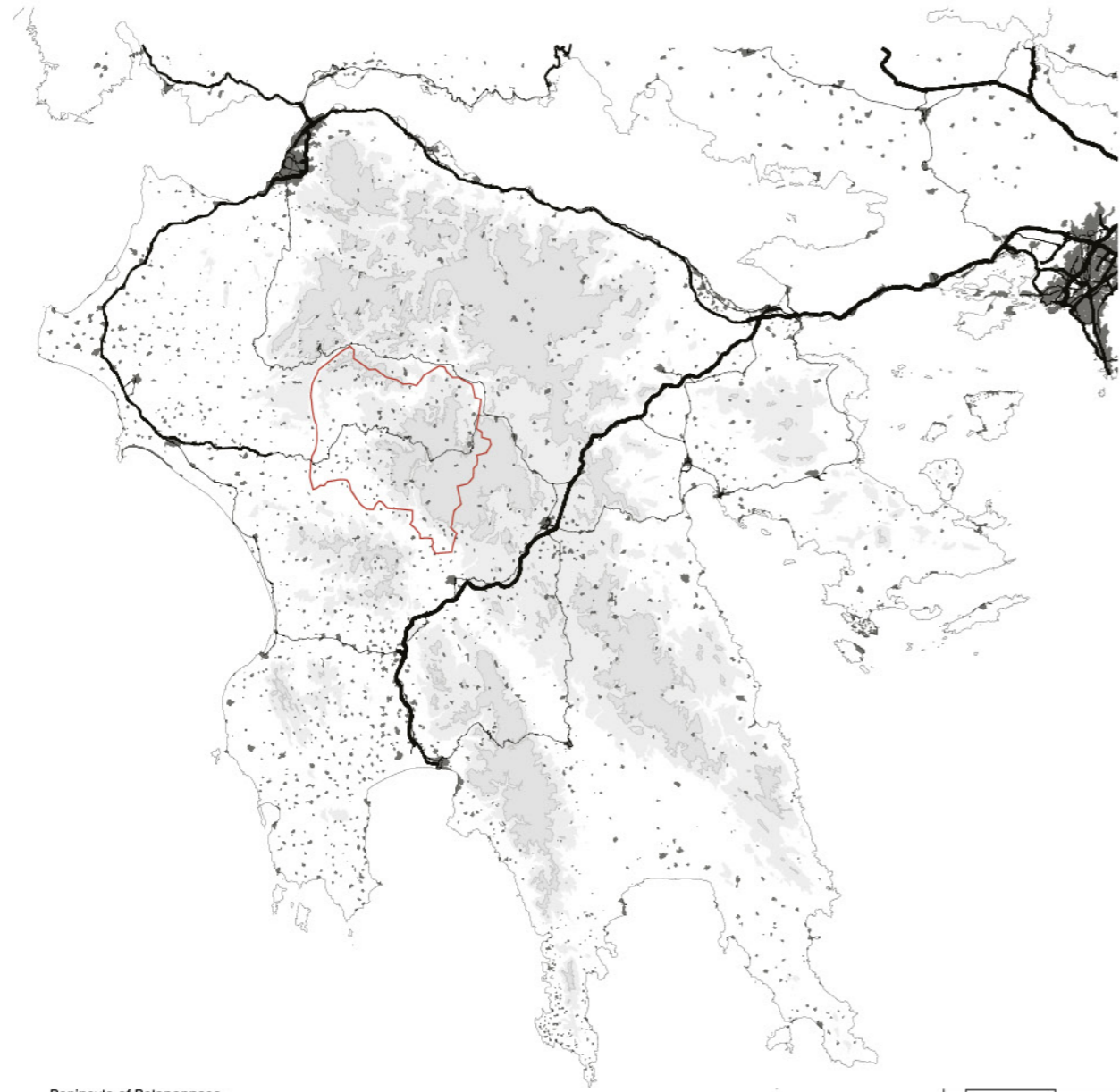
Administrative boundaries of units in Peloponnese

0 5 km



Municipality of Gortynia Administrative units

0 5 km

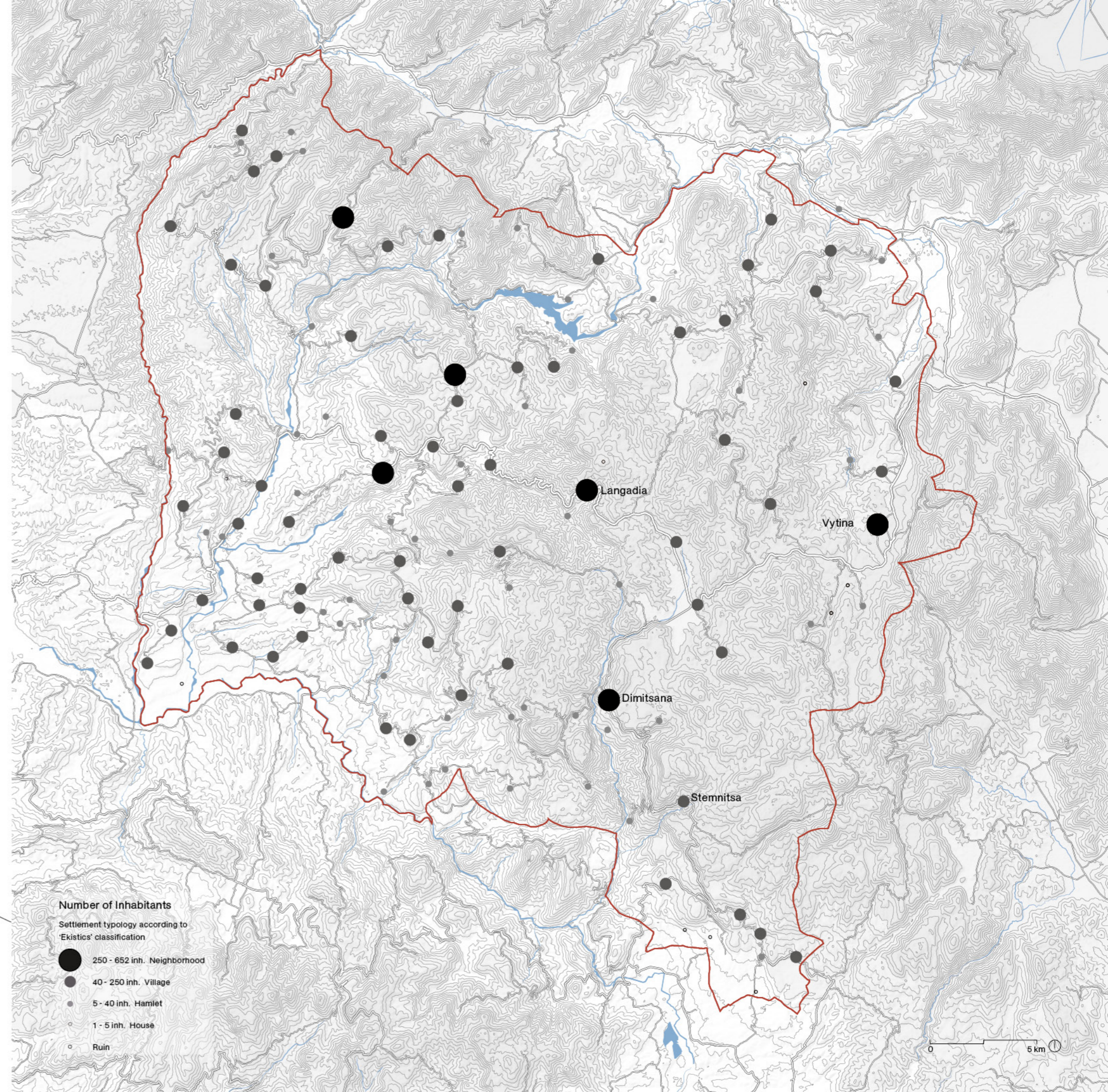
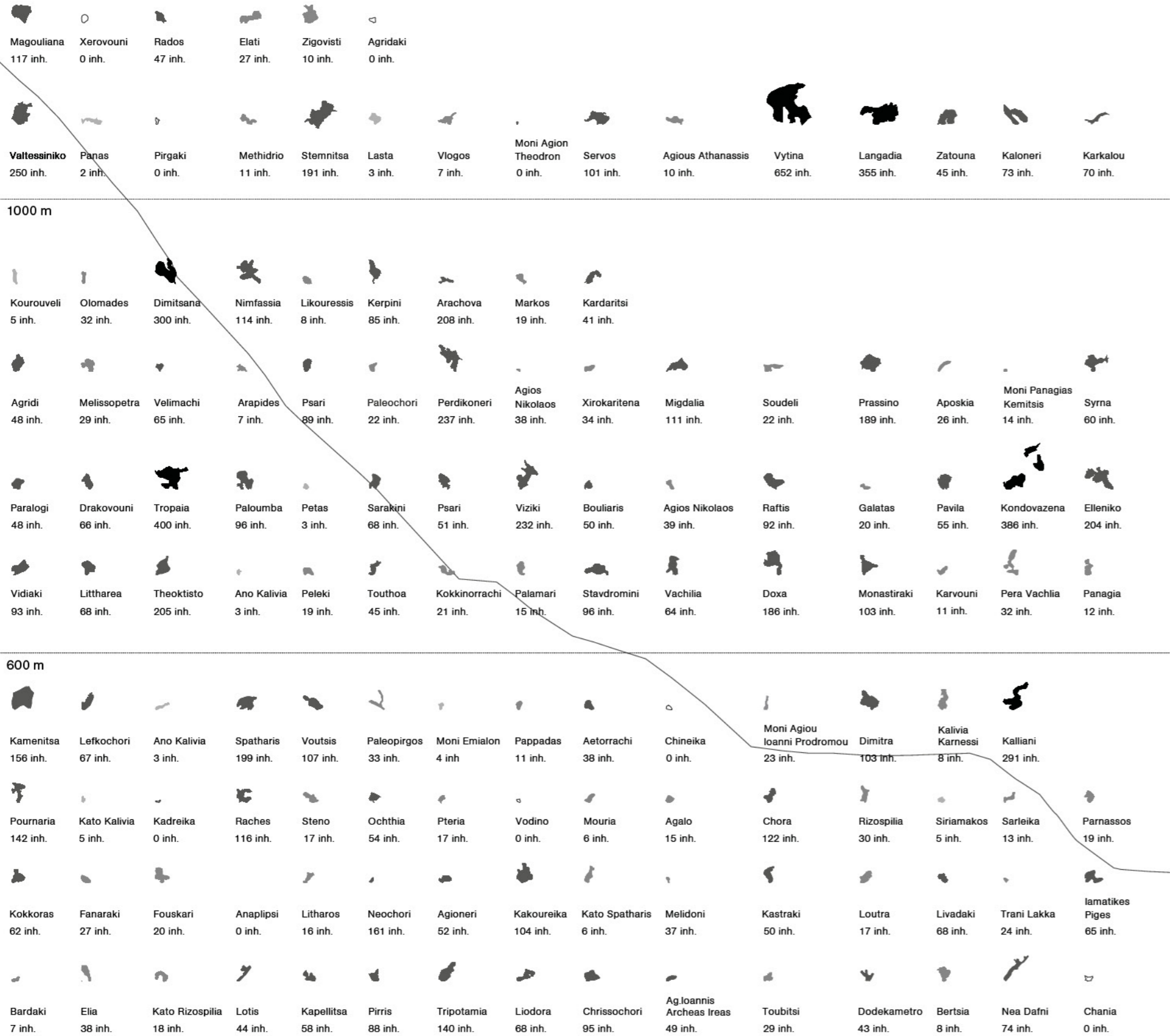


Peninsula of Peloponnese:
The mountain ranges and
road infrastructure



Gortynia
Settlements and infrastructure

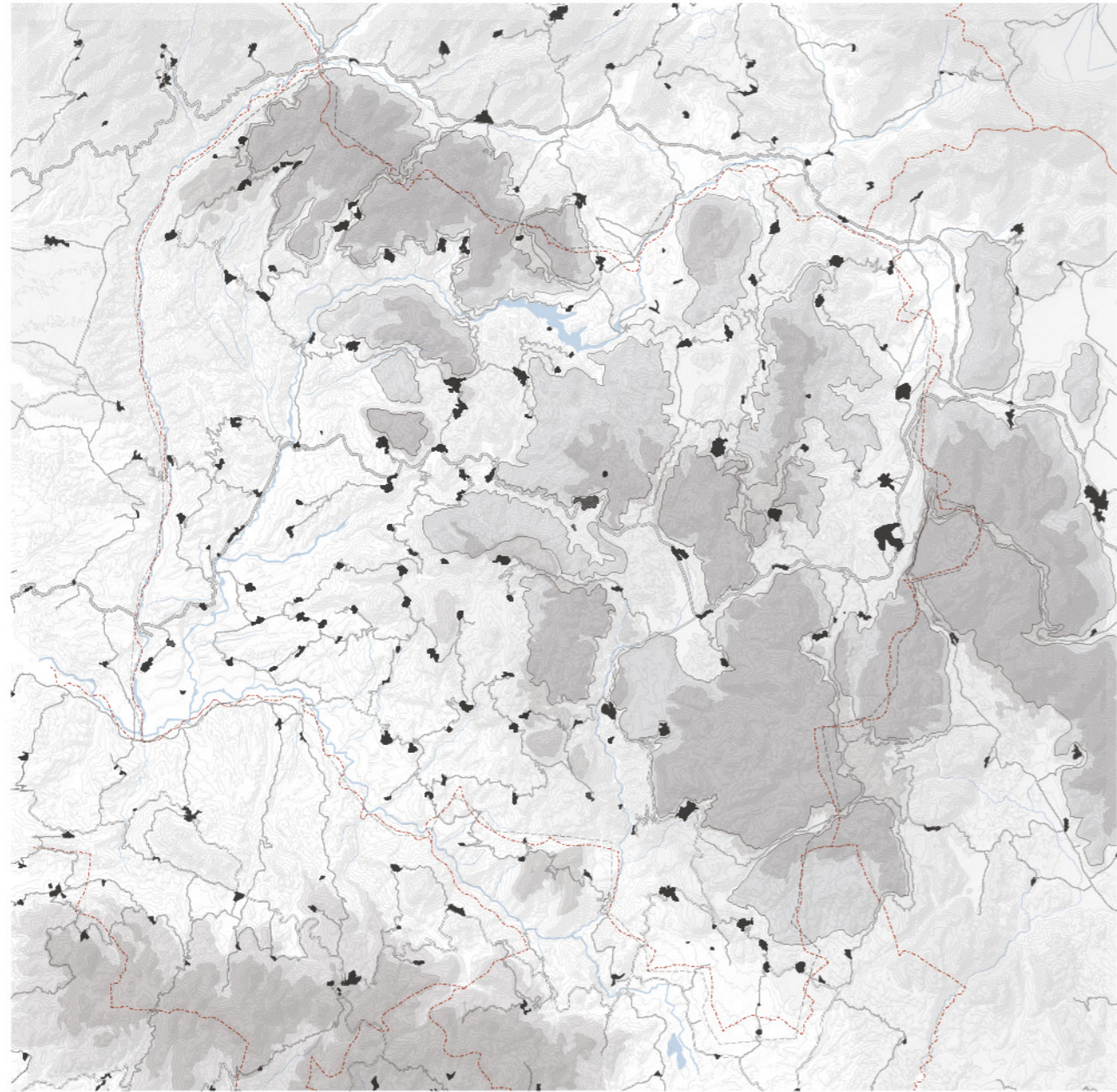
Villages as Islands
Altitude and Population



Number of Inhabitants
Settlement typology according to 'Ekistics' classification

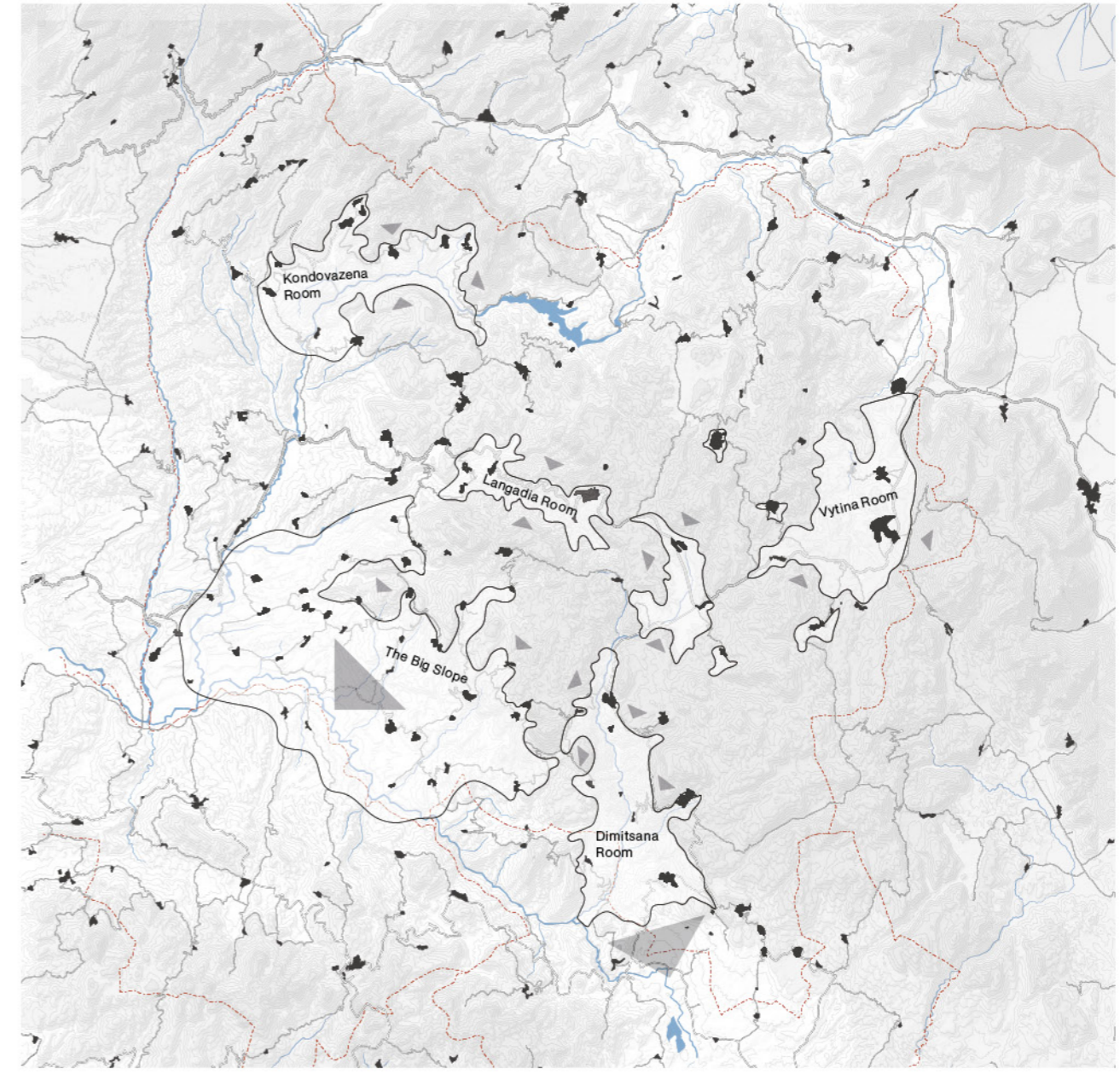
- 250 - 652 inh. Neighborhood
- 40 - 250 inh. Village
- 5 - 40 inh. Hamlet
- 1 - 5 inh. House
- Ruin





Inaccessible Peaks

In Gortynia, settlements are dominated by their topographic setting. While eye of an observer stays fixed on the roads and settlements, what is above remains unseen, acting as a backstage.



Landscape Rooms

The topographical conditions create a strong feeling of enclosure and define specific visual horizons. As a result, several topographical rooms are recognised in the landscape, in which the view rela-

tions between the villages and the points of orientation are very precisely defined. These rooms are connected only by the narrow corridors of roads and can be seen as closed spatial units.

Rough Topography:
Embedding in the Land



1 Dimitsana
Strategic setting



2 Dimitsana
Room in the landscape



3 Langadia
Scenic setting



4 Langadia
Room in the landscape



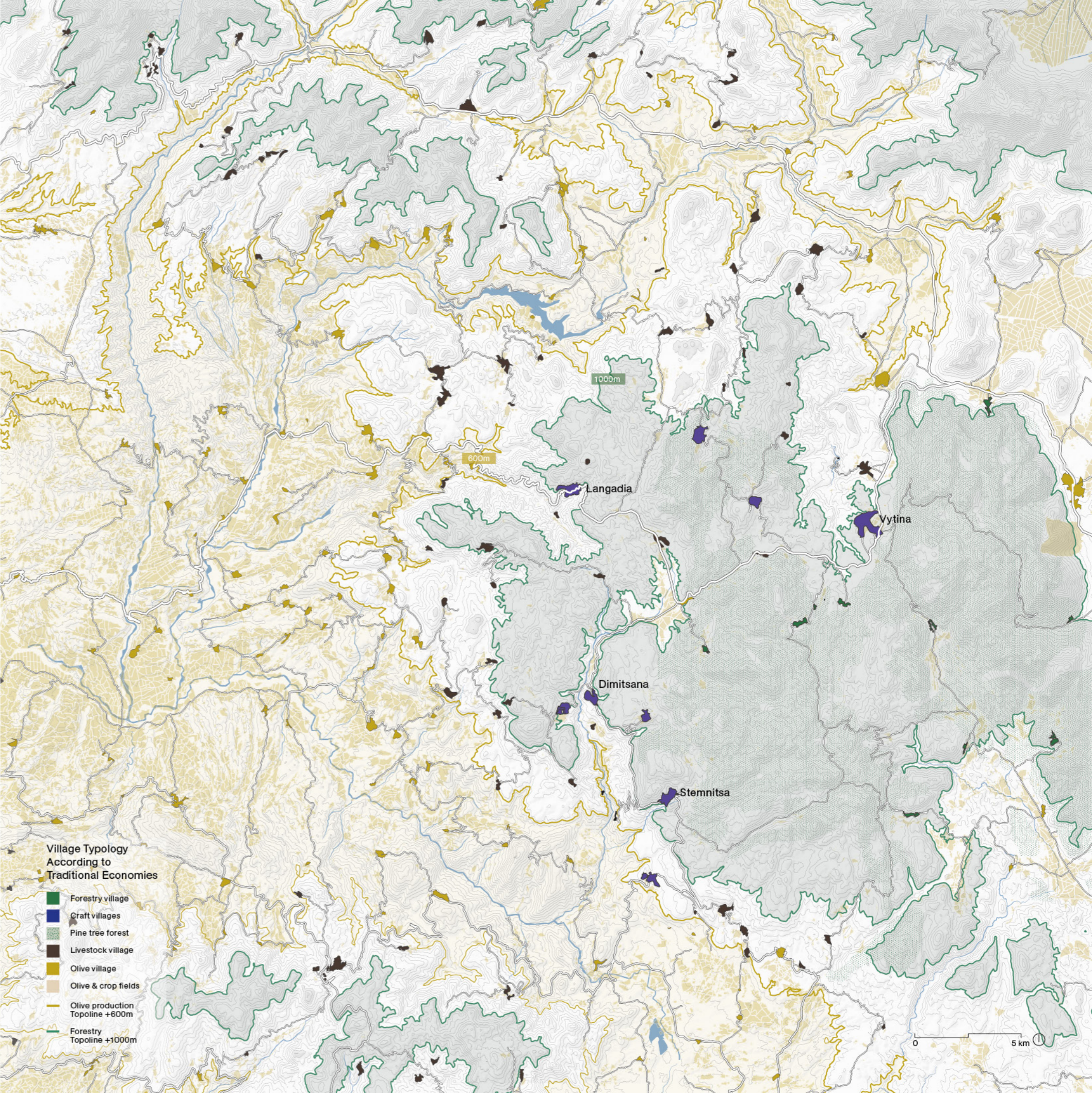
Altitude Thesis



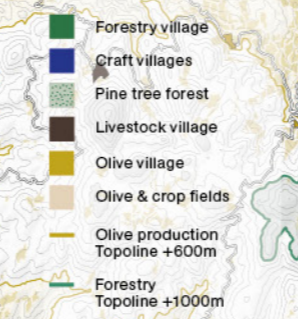
1000 m



600 m



Village Typology According to Traditional Economies



1000 m



Pine tree line at
1000 m altitude

600 m



Olive tree line
at 600 m altitude

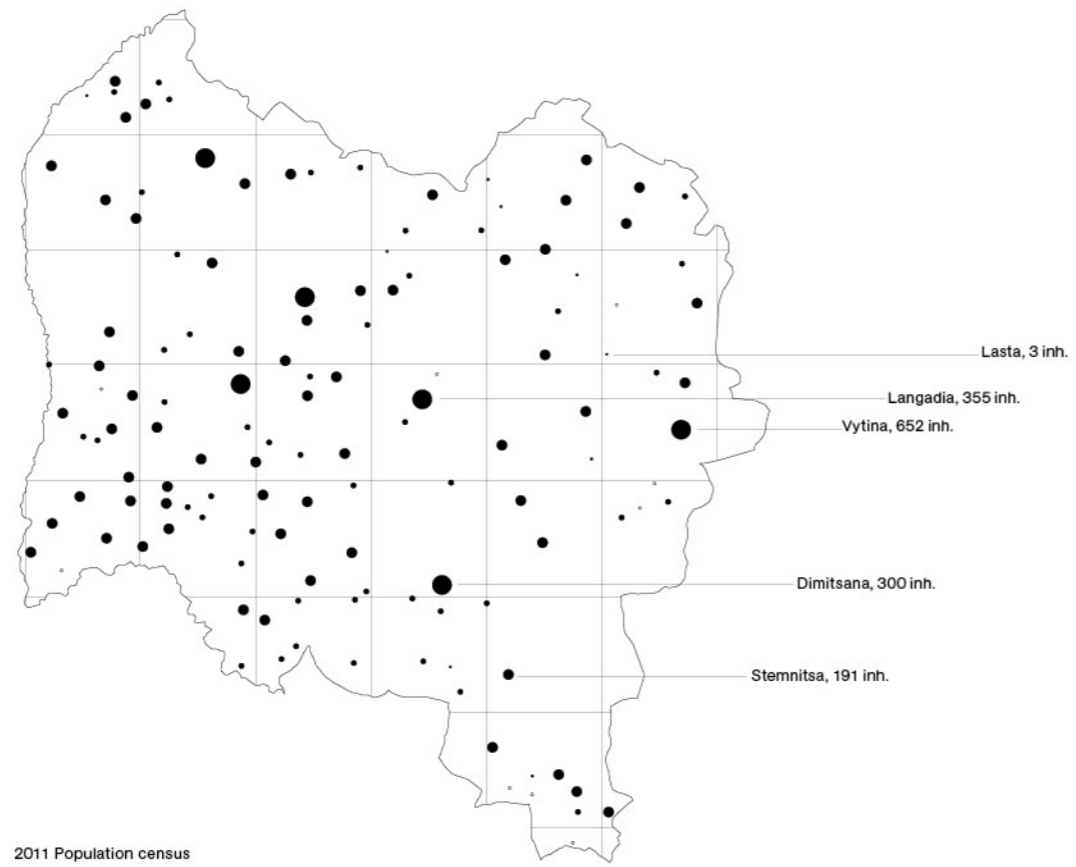
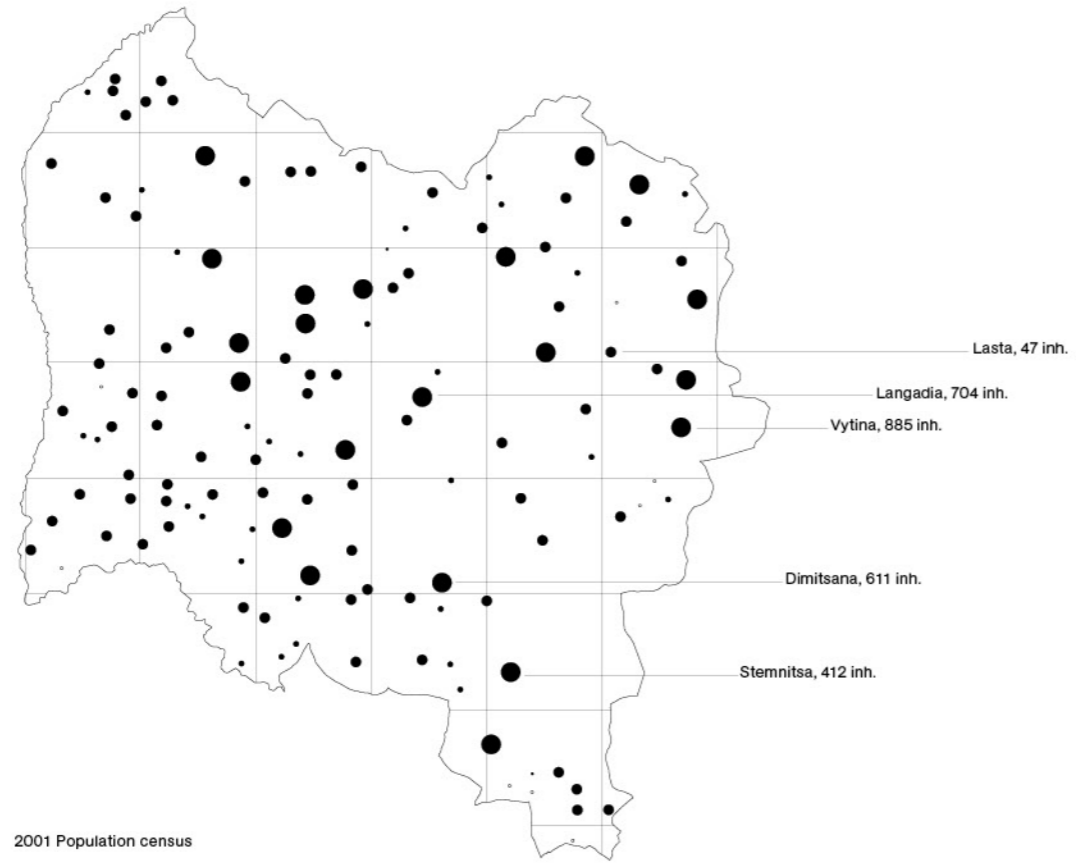


1 Valtetsiniko
A village inside the forest



2 Pirris
An agricultural village





Gortynia Population Census

- 250 - 652 inh. Neighborhood
- 40 - 250 inh. Village
- 5 - 40 inh. Hamlet
- 1 - 5 inh. Scattered houses
- Ruins

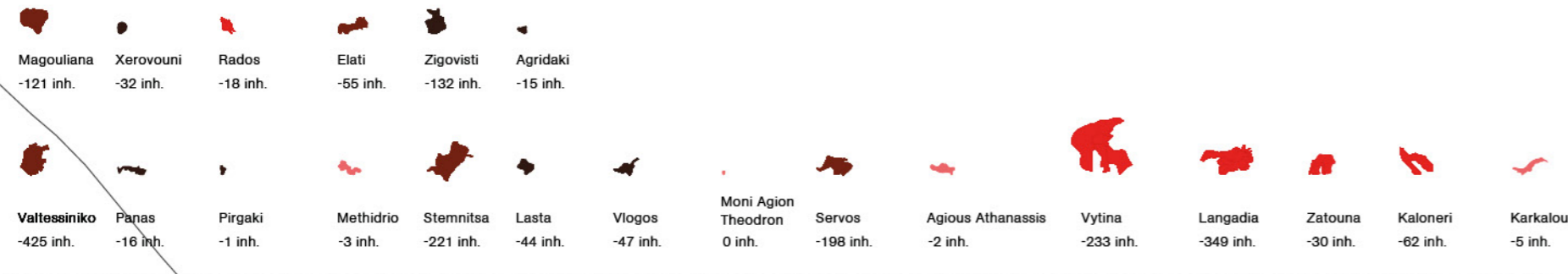


1 Valtessiniko, 1960:
1055 inhabitants

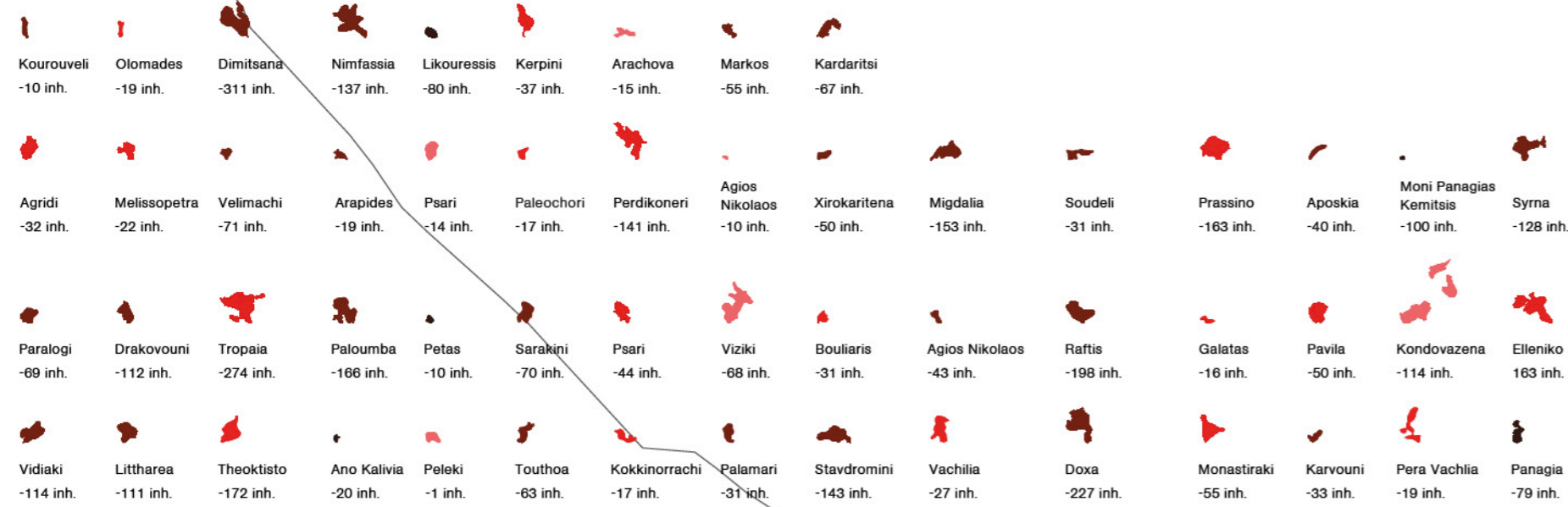


Valtessiniko, 2016:
ca. 250 inhabitants

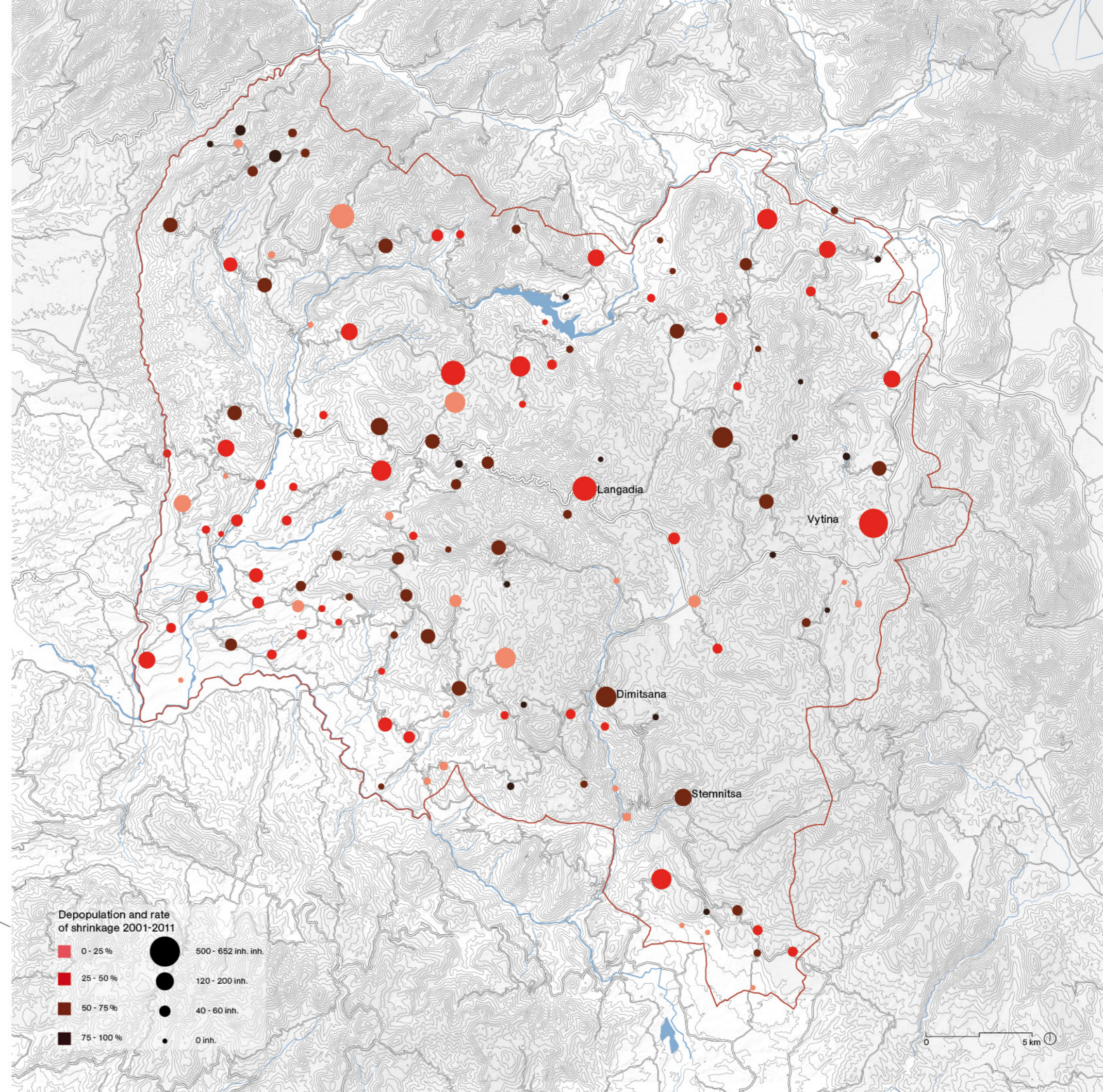
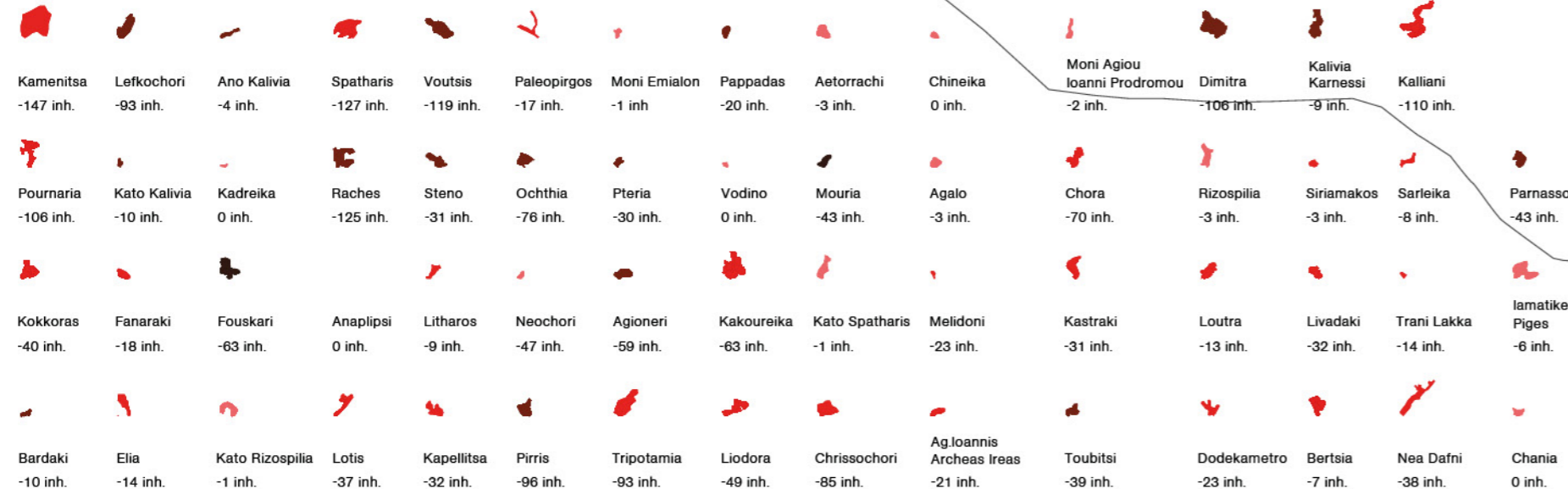
Drainage of Population
2001-2011



1000 m



600 m



New Patterns of Living

Isolated for a long time, the Arcadian mountains are perceived as the leftovers from pastoral times. However, looking at them more closely reveals that life in Gortynia is changing. As the rural population has been moving away, shrinkage had diverse effects on the built environment and the land itself. At the same time, the area has been rediscovered by the urban dwellers, looking for the countryside lifestyle. Instead of permanent inhabitants, these shifts brought to the emergence of new patterns of living, marked by temporal residents. A fluctuating population moves between Athens or other (home)towns and second homes on the Arcadian mountains, leading to an impression of a tidal, rhythmic population growth and shrinkage.

Scale of the Shrinkage



Markos
Main road

Gortynia has not only lost half of its population in the past decade, but also professionals like doctors, teachers and policemen. The shrinkage refers to people, public institutions, economical activities, knowledge and cultural heritage. It has complex effects, developing a self-amplifying dynamic. The region becomes less and less self-sustainable, needing subventions from the outside to keep up its infrastructure. The rural way of life, connected with the close connection to the land, is disappearing.

Derelict Structures

When departing countryside to move to the bigger urban centres, most people leave their properties abandoned. Real estate prices for this region are already low and are constantly dropping,

making it almost unrealistic to sell a property here. Those, usually secondary, houses that are not maintained, start to fall apart, forming a consistent pattern of ruins throughout the settlements.

Abandonment of the Land

The migration of the rural population has a significant consequence on the landscape. Formerly productive acres and pastures that have shaped the image of Arcadia, are abandoned, turning into bushy fallow lands. Old constructed stone terraces are crumbling, alter-

ing the crafted landscape back to its original state. With the estrangement from historical landscape economies, knowledge is lost and old culture of cultivation disappears, regardless of how valuable it might be in times of a decreasing variety in seed production.



Zigovist
Closed school

Closing Institutions

Gortynia is strongly under-served, making it even more difficult for the people willing to stay here. Most of the settlements used to have at least one school, but at the moment, there are only five villages in the entire area that provide educational infrastructure. This has been a

conscious political decision in the past, brought in order to lower the state expenses: under the dictatorial rule in Greece, people were strongly encouraged to move and concentrate in larger settlements.

System of Subsidies

In contrast to the stance adopted by the Greek state, the EU has been willing to invest large amounts into subsidising the maintenance of the rural regions of Europe. Apart from structural funding for sewage and road infrastructure, there are newer programs like LEADER, or more recently CLLD, that focus on bottom-up developments.

These approaches put trust in the local actors, who know their region the best and should democratically take part in its reshaping. Some examples for such grants are renovations of the livestock barns or building of the processing units. Opening up of guesthouses and small local businesses is also being promoted.

Tidal Inhabitation

There are several new types of social groups that are replacing the original inhabitants of this area. Only a few of them, like migrant workers or students from the Silversmith School in Stemnitsa, come here to look for work, while the rest mostly arrive purely for leisure. As a result, the Arcadian countryside increasingly acts as a garden: one finds the tourists, both Greek and foreign, attracted by the poetic overtone of the Arcadian nature; there are people who come here to spend their weekends, and pensioners who have a home here, in addition to their city residence. Apart from maintaining a connection with the places of origin, these second homes also function as an economic security: most of the Greeks desire to be homeowners instead of renters, especially in a time of financial unrest and crisis in the city.

Village Portraits

The new cycles of inhabitation generally apply to all settlements of Gortynia. There are no clear types of villages, as the transformation process from old to new still evolves. Nevertheless, different tendencies can be described when observing the different regions according to altitude and land use.

The Touristic Village

Easily accessible from the fast road infrastructure, the touristic villages are located at an altitude of approximately 1000 m, originating from the craft village network. The wealthy past is reflected in the quality of stonework of its buildings – especially visible on the unusually large number of Orthodox churches. The

preservation of the village texture gives an impression that nothing had changed in the past centuries. Many villages have small folk museums presenting the village history and folklore culture. The touristic villages benefit from their landscape setting, which makes them attractive to visitors seeking active nature holidays.

The Pulsating Village

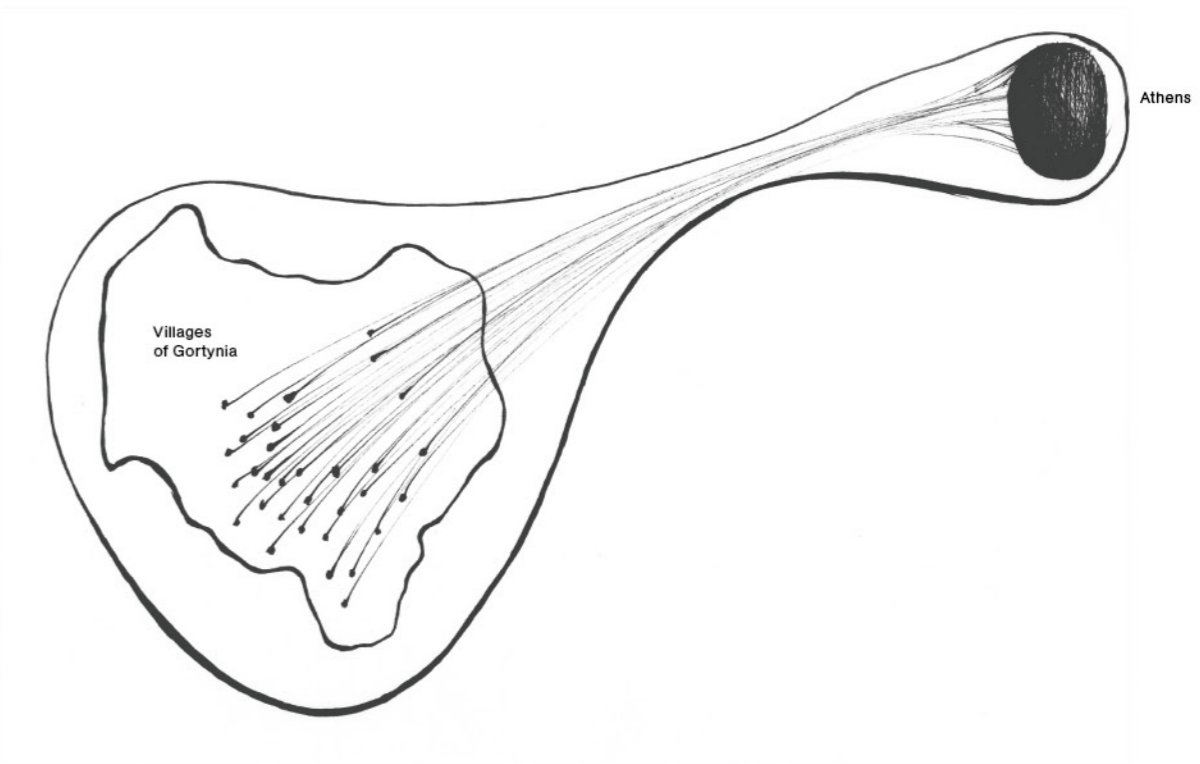
Less favourable in terms of accessibility and usually positioned between 600m and 1000m altitude, the village in the process of emptying is the most common type. The originally self-sustaining local population is rapidly leaving, being replaced by weekend

visitors and pensioners; it is not a place of production, but rather a place of retreat and leisure. Traces of agriculture and livestock farming can be found only in a very few places.

The Productive Village

The villages of the Alfios Valley are a special case in Gortynia. Not really located on the mountainous territory, but below the altitude of 600m, their situation differs

from the touristic and vacant villages. These villages are located on productive ground and are still managed and inhabited by olive and other farmers.



Tidal movement of population:
New bipolar relationship
between Athens and Gortynia



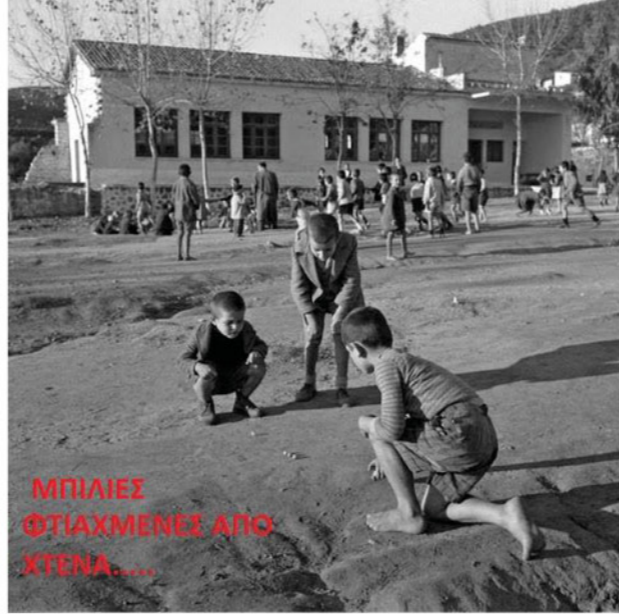
Αντώνης Τλάς Τσολιάς στην Ανακτορική Φρουρά



Κεφαλόβρυσο Βαλτεσνίκου 1954, Προσωπική εργασία
Ορθος δεξιά Νίκος Π Βασιλικός, δεξιά με το καπέλο Βασίλης Χ Ρέπτας.



'Εκδρομείς κάτω από τον βράχο στην Μονή Αγίου Νικολάου 10ετία ..40'



ΜΠΙΛΙΕΣ
ΦΤΙΑΧΜΕΝΕΣ ΑΠΟ
ΧΤΕΝΑ.....



New Patterns of Living

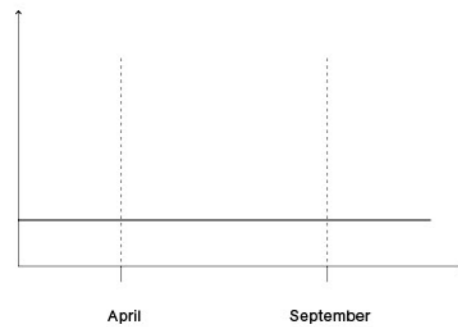
Tidal Inhabitation

The Locals



Few locals are left in the villages of Gortynia. Some still work either as livestock farmers, or in the fields, but most of them rely on other sources of income. Many receive remittances from their relatives in the city.

Also, there are EU subsidies for local businesses. Some work in the city and drive back up to the mountain villages after work. Alternatively, the growing tourist industry creates new jobs.

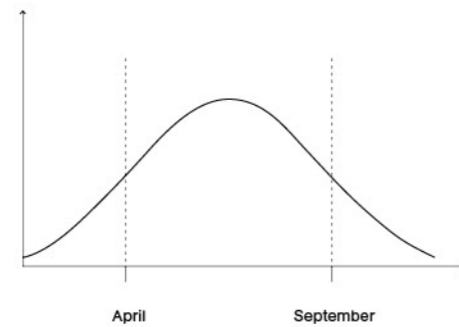


The Pensioners



Many pensioners who grew up in the countryside still maintain a strong connection to their place of origin. After they started receiving their pension, they are no longer tied to the bigger cities, and prefer instead to spend half

of the year back at their old houses in Gortynia. Being retired, they seek the simple life as self-sustaining farmers. In winter, they usually return to the cities, as the mountains can be very harsh.

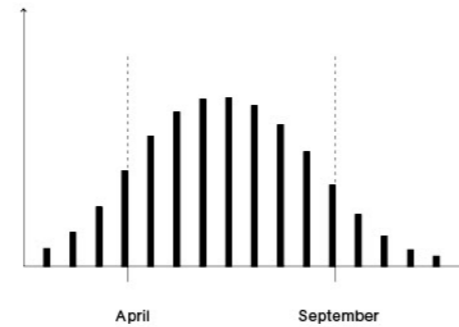


The Weekenders



Having a second home is not only a privilege for the rich but a rather common situation in Greece. Usually it is a family home inherited from parents. Owning some land and a house in the countryside also gives Greek families

a feeling of safety, as its value is considered to be stable in times of crisis. For some people, in the case of unemployment, it may also serve as a temporary option for self-sustainment.

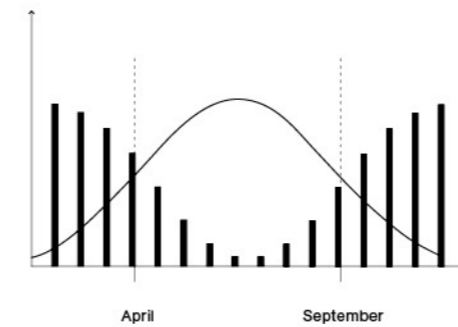


The Tourists



Tourists are the group with the shortest time span of inhabitation. Most of them come as couples and only spend one or two nights in a village. In most of the cases, they have no special connection to Arcadia and come

here for outdoor activities like hiking, skiing, horse-riding and rafting. Greek tourists prefer the winter season for weekend trips, while foreigners usually prefer summers.

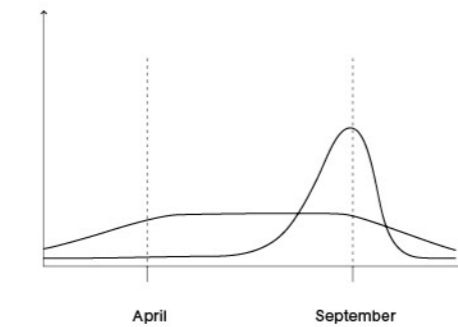


The Migrant Workers

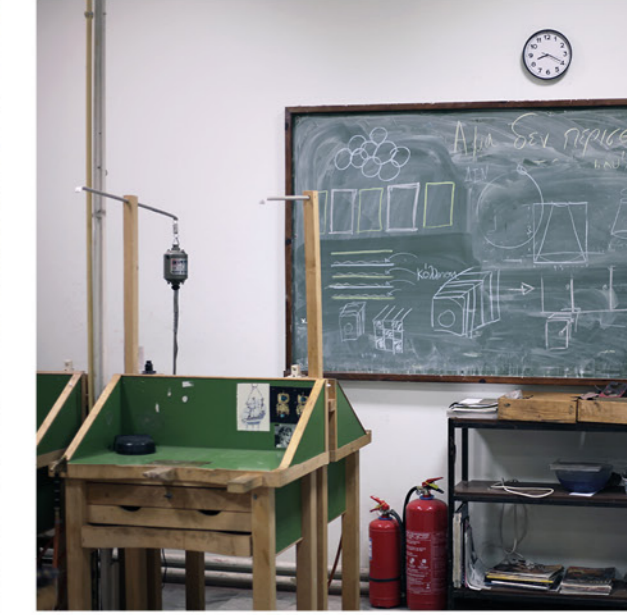


There are two types of migrant workers, which are common in Gortynia; the harvest workers and the construction workers. Most of them come from Albania. In most of the cases, they only come to work during the

farming season, returning to their home country afterwards. Only a small number of them bring their families and stay in the villages. They are generally not integrated into the village culture.

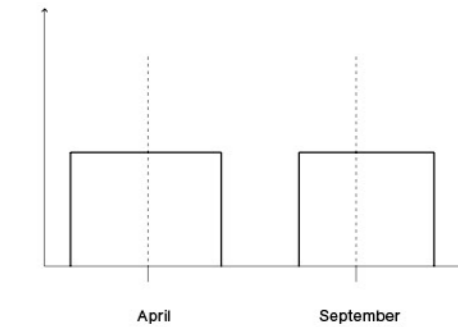


The Students



Since 1976, there is a school of Silver-Gold Smithery in Stemnitsa. The school is working on reviving this traditional village craft, hosting students from all over Greece. Usually, they stay here for three years to obtain

a degree, while some of the students stay here for a year or two longer. They form a young and vital part of the Stemnitsa community. During holidays, most of them depart for Athens or their hometowns.



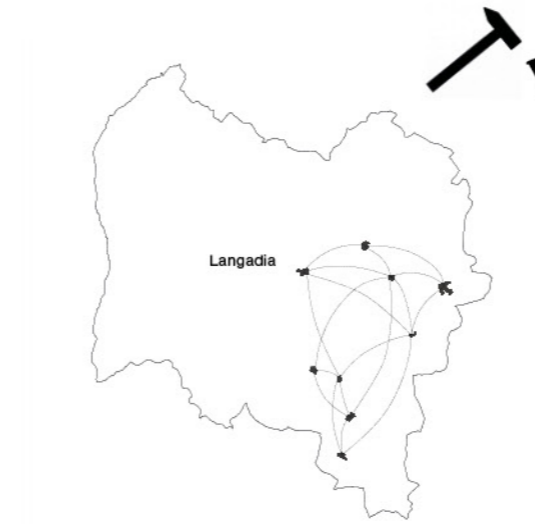
Seasonal patterns of tidal inhabitation



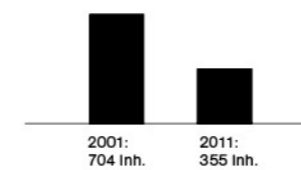
Langadia

Located at exactly 1000 m on an extreme slope in the midst of a spectacular landscape setting, Langadia is one of the primary touristic destinations. It originates in the network of craft villages as a stonemason village.

Today, most of the inhabitants are looking for business opportunities in the tourism sector; it has as many hotel beds as it has residents. Nevertheless, there are no new permanent inhabitants.



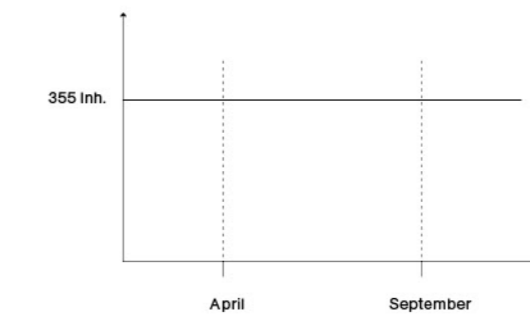
Historical identity:
Stonemason village in the network of craft villages



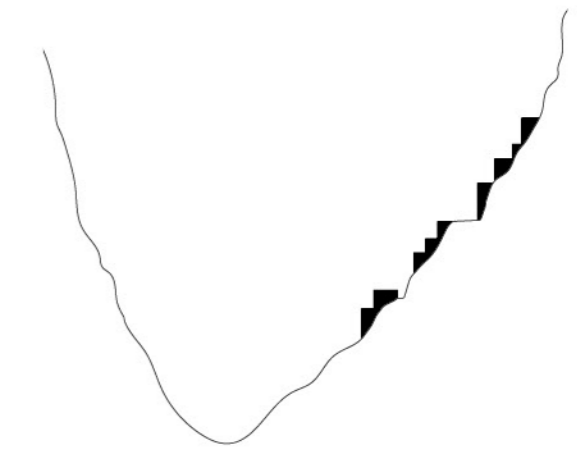
High shrinkage of permanent population:
50% in 10 years



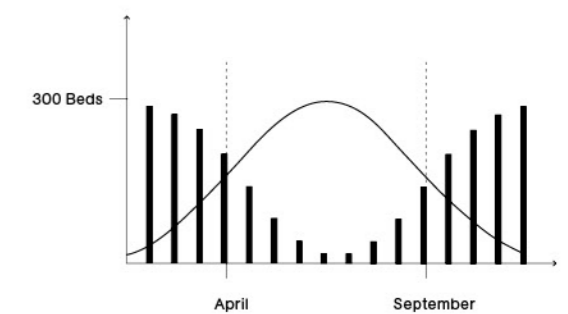
Accessibility:
Located on the fast track



Local population:
Supported mostly by tourist industry



Landscape setting:
Steep, with a view



High touristic frequency:
One bed per inhabitant



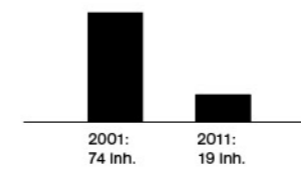
Markos

Being almost completely abandoned by the rural population, Markos village can be seen as a future model for most of the settlements in Gortynia. Still attractive in its setting, it has a potential for tourism. Its agricultural lands

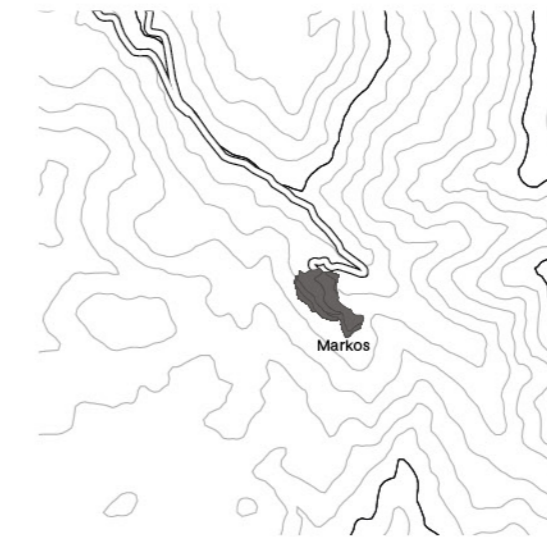
are overgrowing, showing no sign of productive use. During weekdays, the village is nearly empty, while on weekends, the local tavern opens and life comes back to the village.



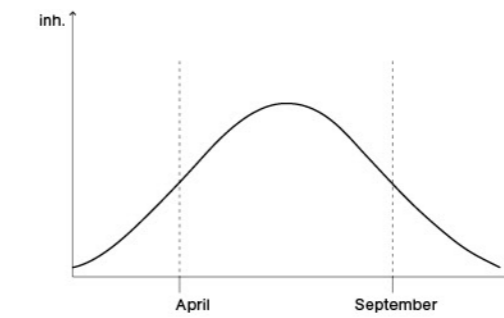
Historical identity:
Livestock farming villages



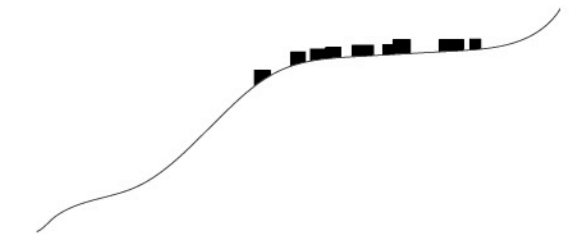
Extreme shrinkage of permanent population:
74% in 10 years



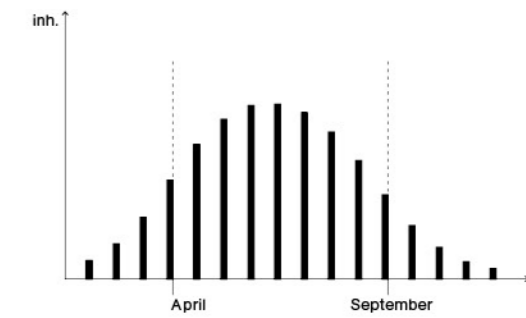
Accessibility:
Dead-end of a slow road



Deserted winter time:
Pensioners' village



Landscape setting:
Slope towards Megalopoli



Calm during the week:
Second home for city dwellers



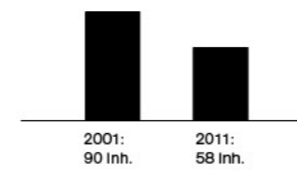
Kapellitsa

Kapellitsa's location in the Alfeios Valley helps its agricultural productivity – the topography here is mostly flat and easily manageable, followed by a fertile riverbank. Even here, population is shrinking, although in a

slower pace than in the mountains. During the harvest season, the village expands for several weeks, when the harvest workers arrive. Kapellitsa can be described as a slow and local village.



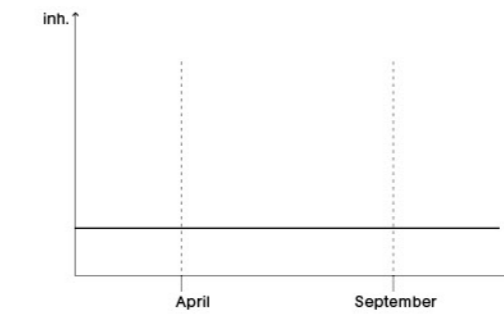
Historical identity:
Agricultural village



Moderate shrinkage
of permanent population:
36% in 10 years



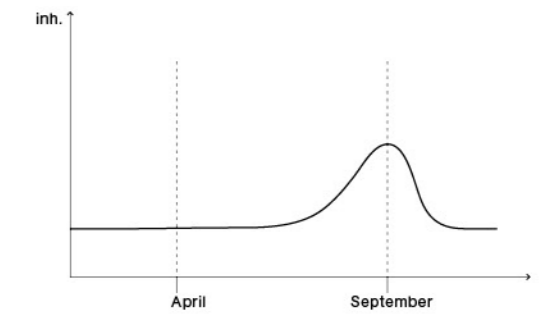
Accessibility:
Located near the
fast track



Local population:
Self-sustaining farmers



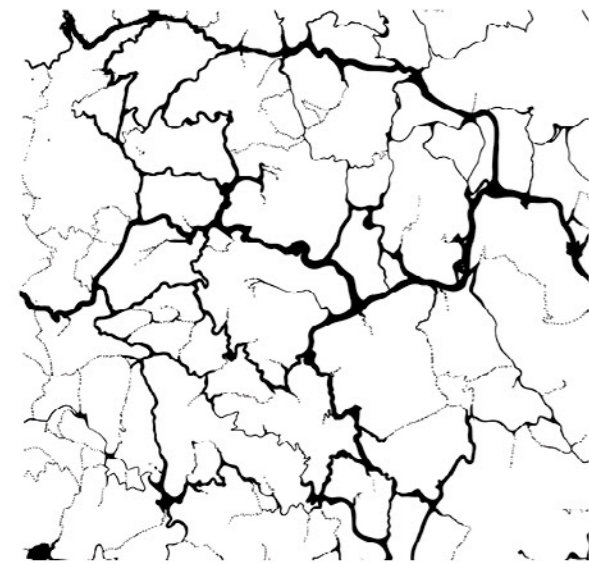
Landscape setting:
Steep, with a view



Harvest season:
Population doubles through
migrant workers and family members

Differentiation of Networks

The new patterns and seasonal cycles of living formed by the new inhabitants are reflected in the infrastructure that serves the area. The extensive road lengths can be categorised by the different possible traffic speeds. Shorter time spans of inhabitation (like weekenders) are linked to faster and more intensively serviced networks, whereas the more traditional rural patterns of living are linked to slower networks. Additionally, the distribution of state services and local institutions reveal distinct patterns, leading to the conclusion that Gortynia is mainly composed of two different types of regions: one with high levels of tourist activity and high frequentation and a more marginal region, characterised by a poor coverage of public and commercial services.

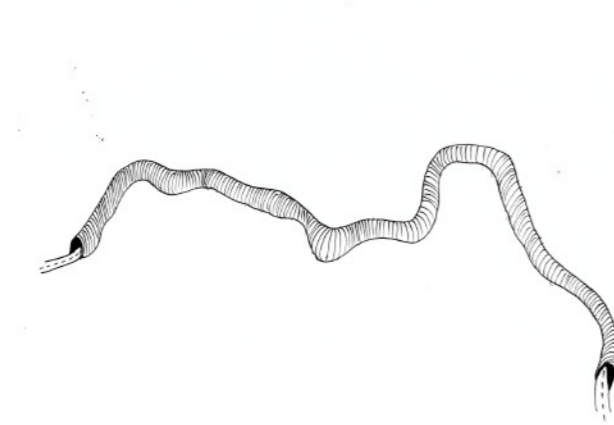


River roads

The Fast Track: Outside Connections

The primary road running through Gortynia leads from Tripoli to Olympia and Pirgos, serving as the main axis of movement to bigger settlements outside the mountains. Faster than the usual roads, speed is still limited to

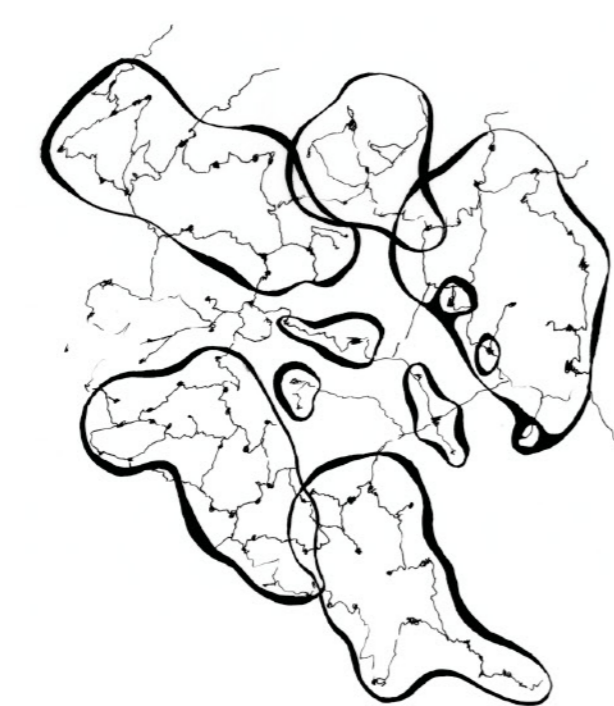
60 km/h, due to long winding parts and narrow lanes. Nevertheless, it makes touristic short trips and weekend visits to this remote piece of countryside possible.



Slow Networks: Internal Worlds

Branching from the Fast Track, the local road network is widespread and slow. Topography and foggy conditions allow for speeds of around 40 km/h. Visits to other villages and grocery shopping happens in smaller

regions determined by what is considered to be a reasonable driving time (30 min). Therefore one can speak of several regions or internal worlds that seldomly interact with each other.



Capillaries: Gravity of the Land

Extending from the local road network, there are many shortcuts and paths. Most of them can only be travelled by foot, bike or on a horseback. It is possible to drive through some of these paths using rugged terrain cars. They form the subtle

network, a remnant of the rural activities of previous decades, when they were still used for agricultural purposes and when the connection of the village with its surrounding land was still vital and close.



Public Services: Thin Pattern



Tropeia one of Gortynia's hospitals

Since the population decline in this region is accelerating, more and more public institutions need state and EU funding to stay in service. Although a network of basic supply is sustained, the medical care coverage is poor, rated as one of the

poorest in entire Greece. Transportation is also a critical issue. A public bus network connects many of the more remote settlements to Tripoli twice a day, but it is impossible to move inside the area without a private vehicle.



KTEL bus network and public institutions

Commercial Activities: Local Supply



Stemnitsa Bakery car

In Gortynia, there are no supermarkets or shopping centres; people have to go to either Megalopoli or Tripoli. There are farmers markets in some of the bigger villages and a few smaller shops, located mainly in the more touristic part of Gortynia. Remote villages are supplied by travelling merchants, like

in the older times. Once or twice a week, a car passes with products for daily need. However, many villagers also produce their own food. Tavernas and cafés are also concentrated in the larger settlements, which in the original rural society didn't play such a central role.



Bakery car routes, shops and tavernas

Touristic Networks: Rising Economy



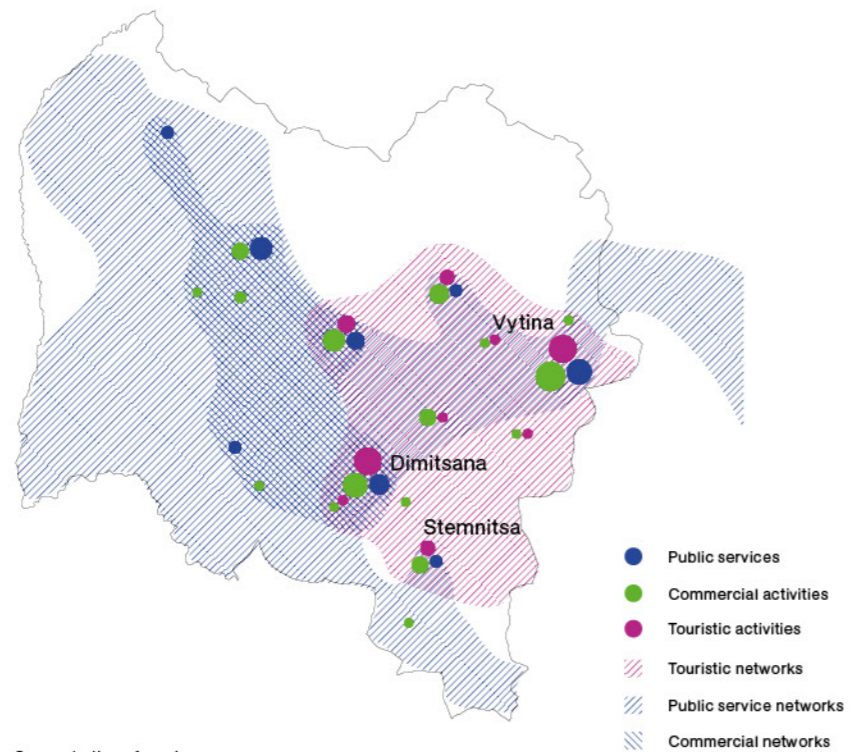
Elati Four-Star-Hotel

Recently created by local volunteers, the Menalon Trail is a hiking path in eastern Gortynia that revives old paths and trading routes dating back to the Ancient Hellenic and Ottoman times. It is part of the Greek Paths of Culture Program, aiming for sustainable development in the growing tourist

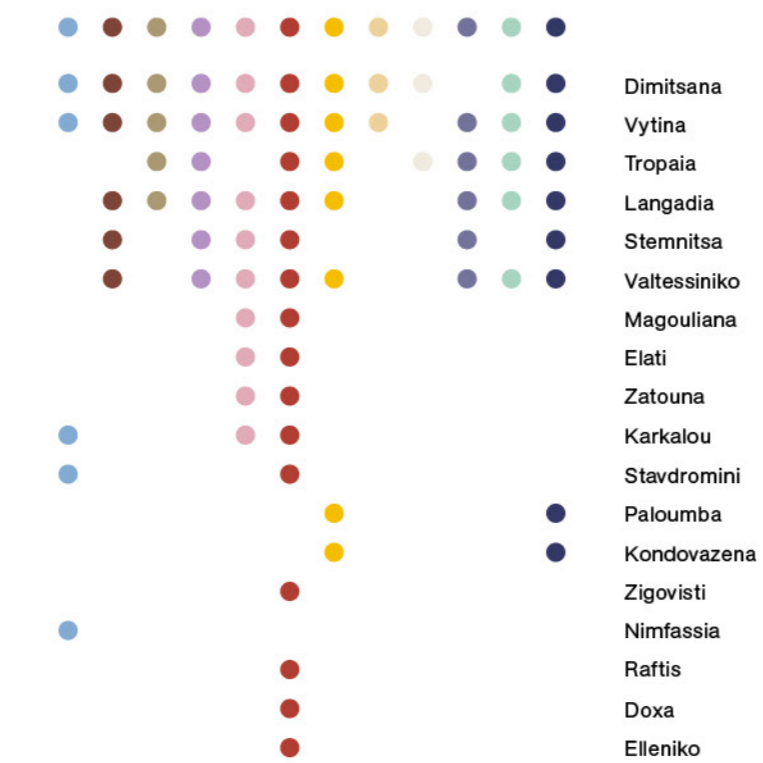
economy. Guesthouses focus on authentic settings, integrated to local environments, offering high quality services for the tourists willing to pay more. Some also offer activities like horse-riding, knitting lessons or traditional cooking lessons.



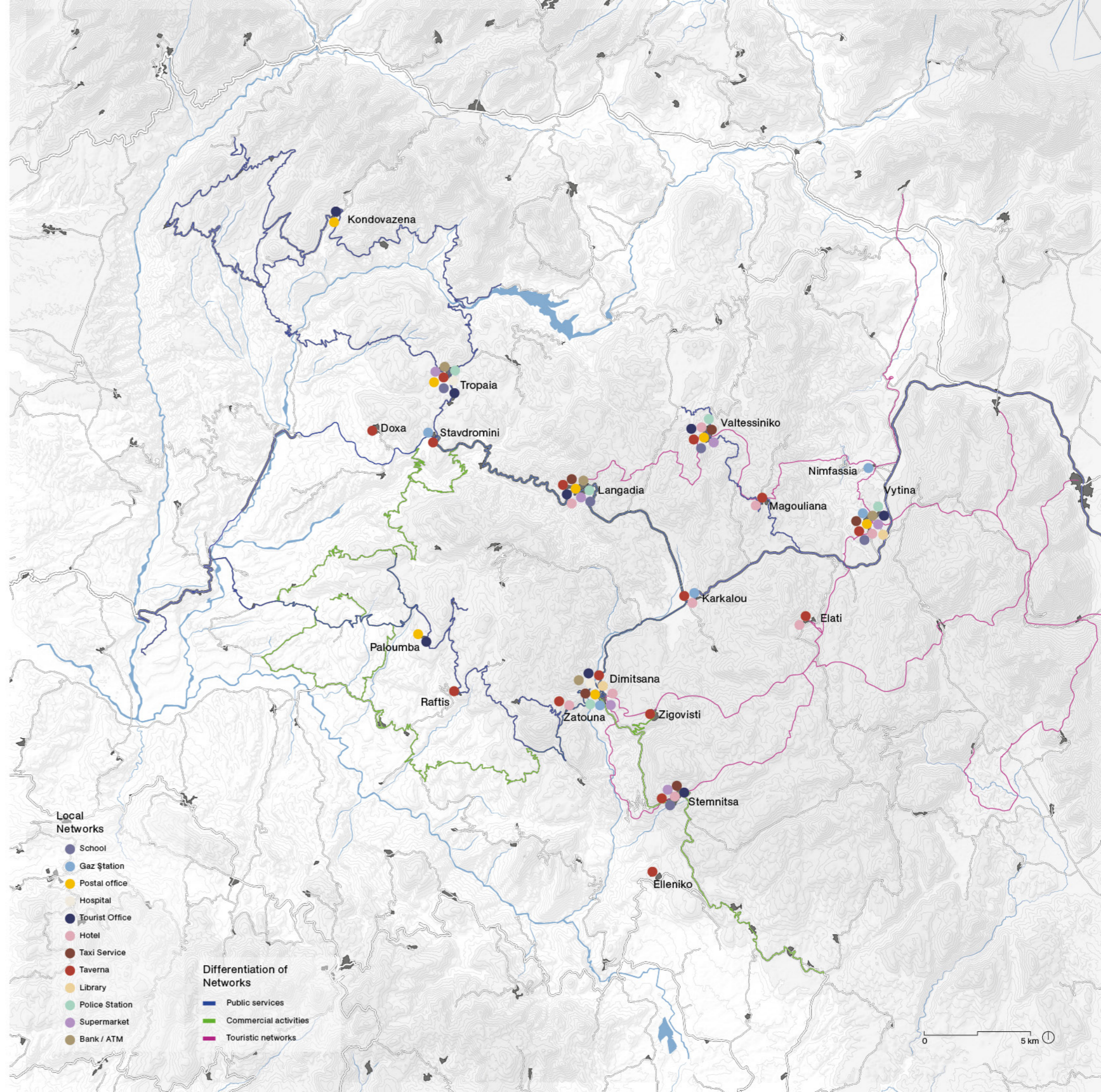
Menalon trail and guesthouses



Concentration of services and local networks



Local Networks and Facilities



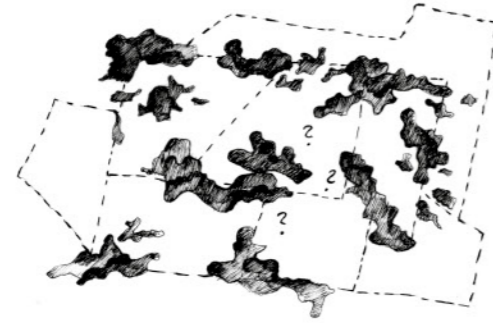
Rewriting the Land

Arcadia's rural past is clearly inscribed on the surface of the land – a constructed, pastoral landscape, shaped by its agricultural uses and structures. Now, the traditional relations between the inhabitants of the villages and the land that surrounds them, are breaking, as the new inhabitants approach the countryside with estrangement. The extensive abandonment of the land implies its low economical value. The perception of the territory turns from a rural one, with specific knowledge and clear concepts of usefulness and property, to the punctually highlighted wilderness of a leisure landscape, interrupted from time to time by seemingly displaced signs of urbanised development.

Overgrowing Plot Lines

Property had been defined mostly by landmarks such as prominent trees or stone-walls of terraces. This informality was operative for a long time, as local families steadily managed the fields and the village population has been stable. Today, there is still no cadastral plan of the area, a fact which in combination with the over-

growing forest, creates the confusion over physical borders of the property. Not only pastures are covered but also the plot lines. While the fields are abandoned and the stone terraces washed away, the former field structures become impossible to trace. A territory of private property is turning into a terrain vague.

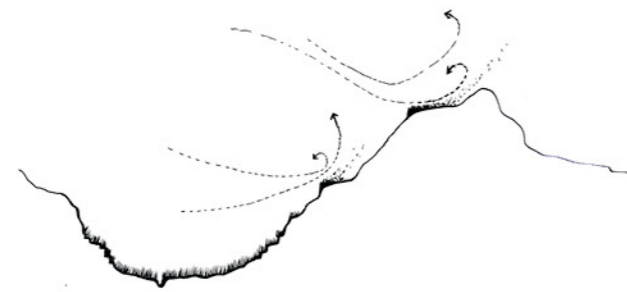


Blurring of property borders

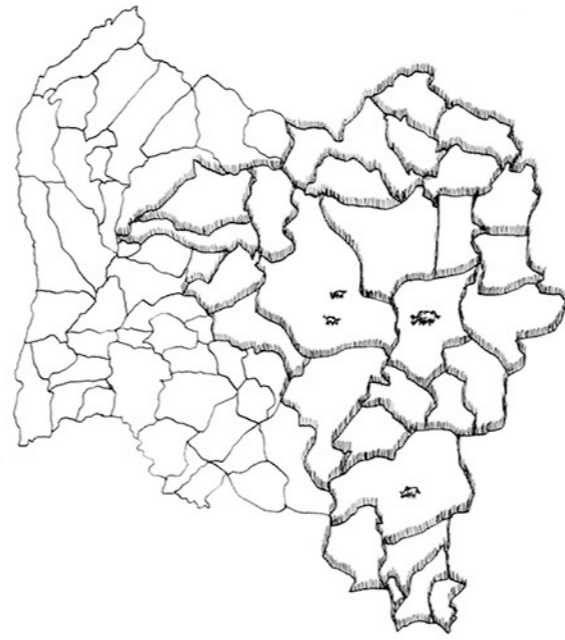
Changing Perceptions

Farmers used to have a mental map of water, fertility, and topography of the area: during harvest, the corn would be carried up to beating circles, located on hilltops with the correct wind conditions. The shepherds on the other hand used to have the borders of property

and village territory clearly inscribed in their mind: would his animals cross these borders, it could cause a conflict between the villages. The map of the tourist reveals other values: sites, points of natural beauty or possible activities and how to get there.



The farmer's map



The shepherd's map

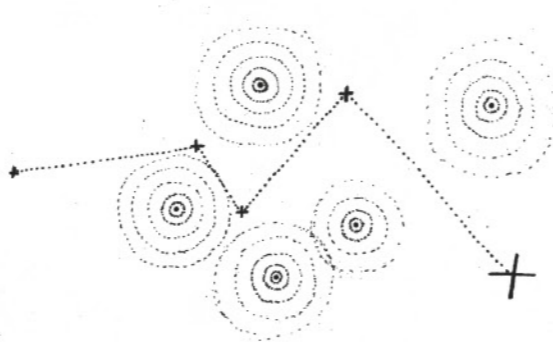


The tourist's map

Dropped Structures

Wind and solar power, telephone masts and quarries hint contemporary developments in the landscape. From the viewpoint of a civil engineer, mountains are an

obstacle to be crossed, so that roads and optic fibres could be organised to make living according to the urban standards of the new inhabitants.



The technocrat's map





Land around Stenitsa,
Orthophoto image, 1970



Land around Stenitsa,
Satellite image, 2016



Vanishing traces: An abandoned settlement in Gortynia



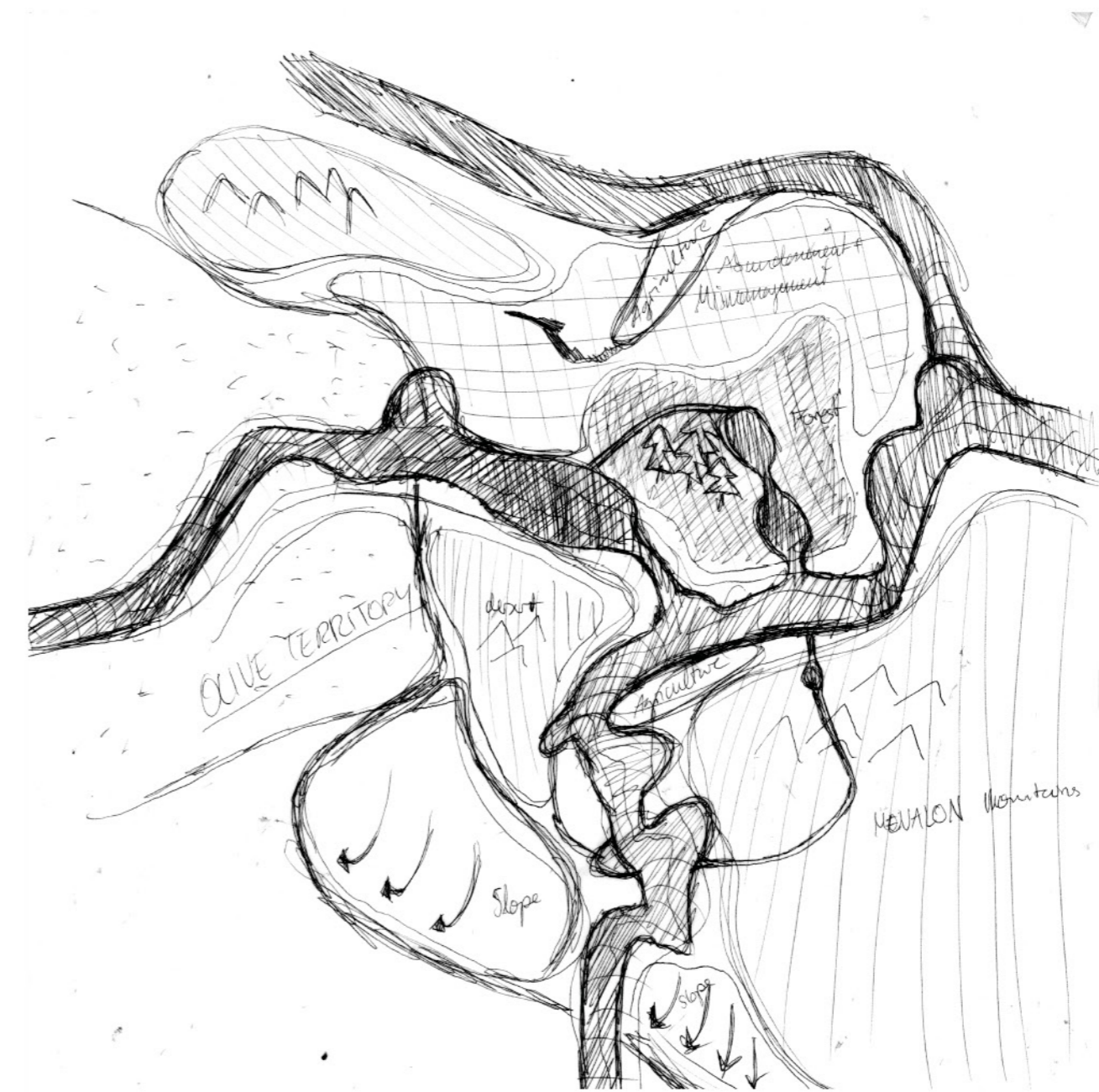
Abandoned terraces and "alonia" (corn-circles) at Magouliana

Three Regions of Arcadia

Considering the natural, infrastructural and social conditions presented, three main tendencies in the Municipality of Gortynia could be defined. These tendencies are spatially manifested in three distinct regions, offering different perspectives for development in the future. Roughly defined by the altitude ranges of 0–600m, 600–1000m and above 1000m, there is a productive agricultural region, a shrinking, pulsating in-between region and a region of touristic interest.

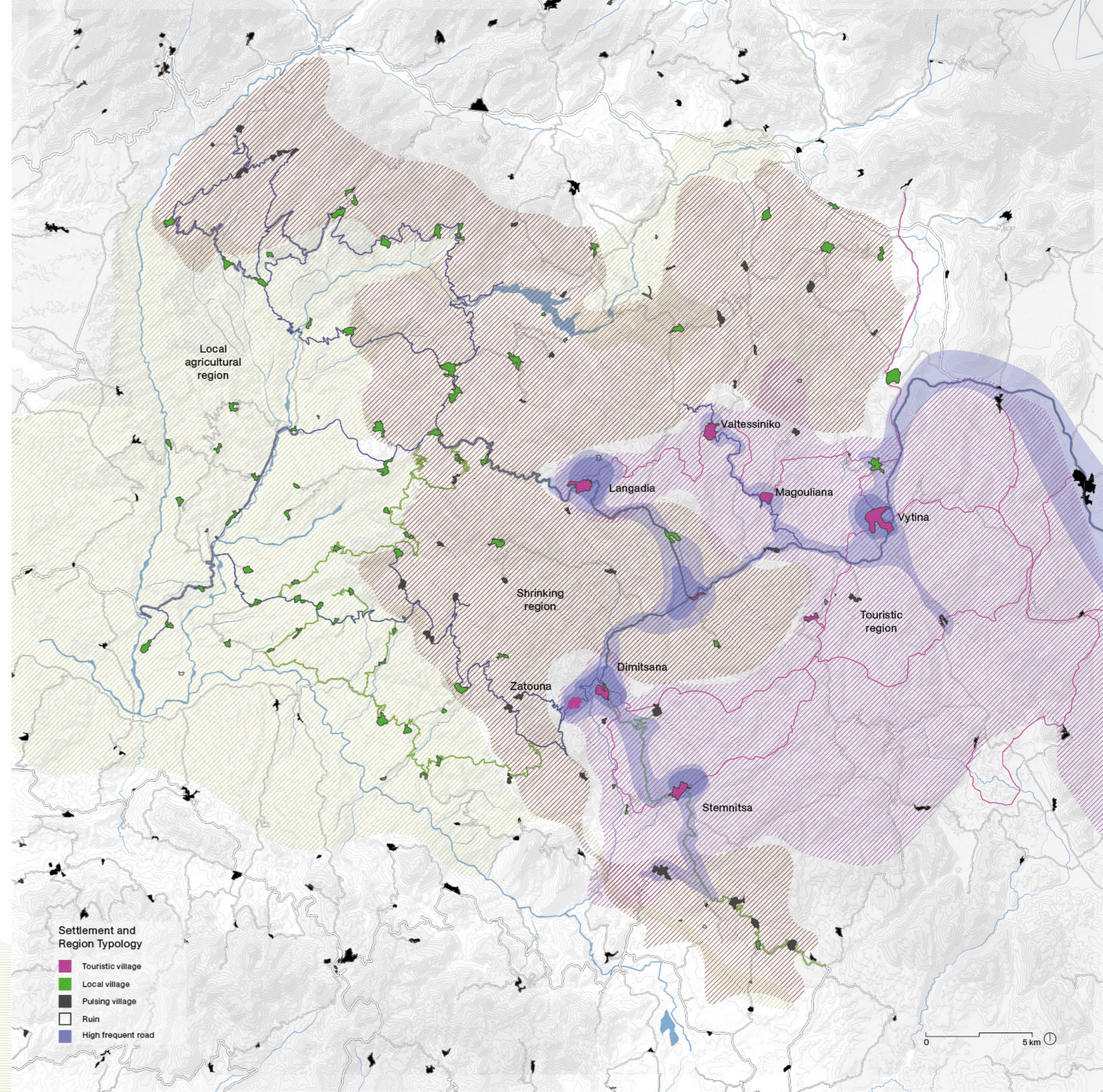
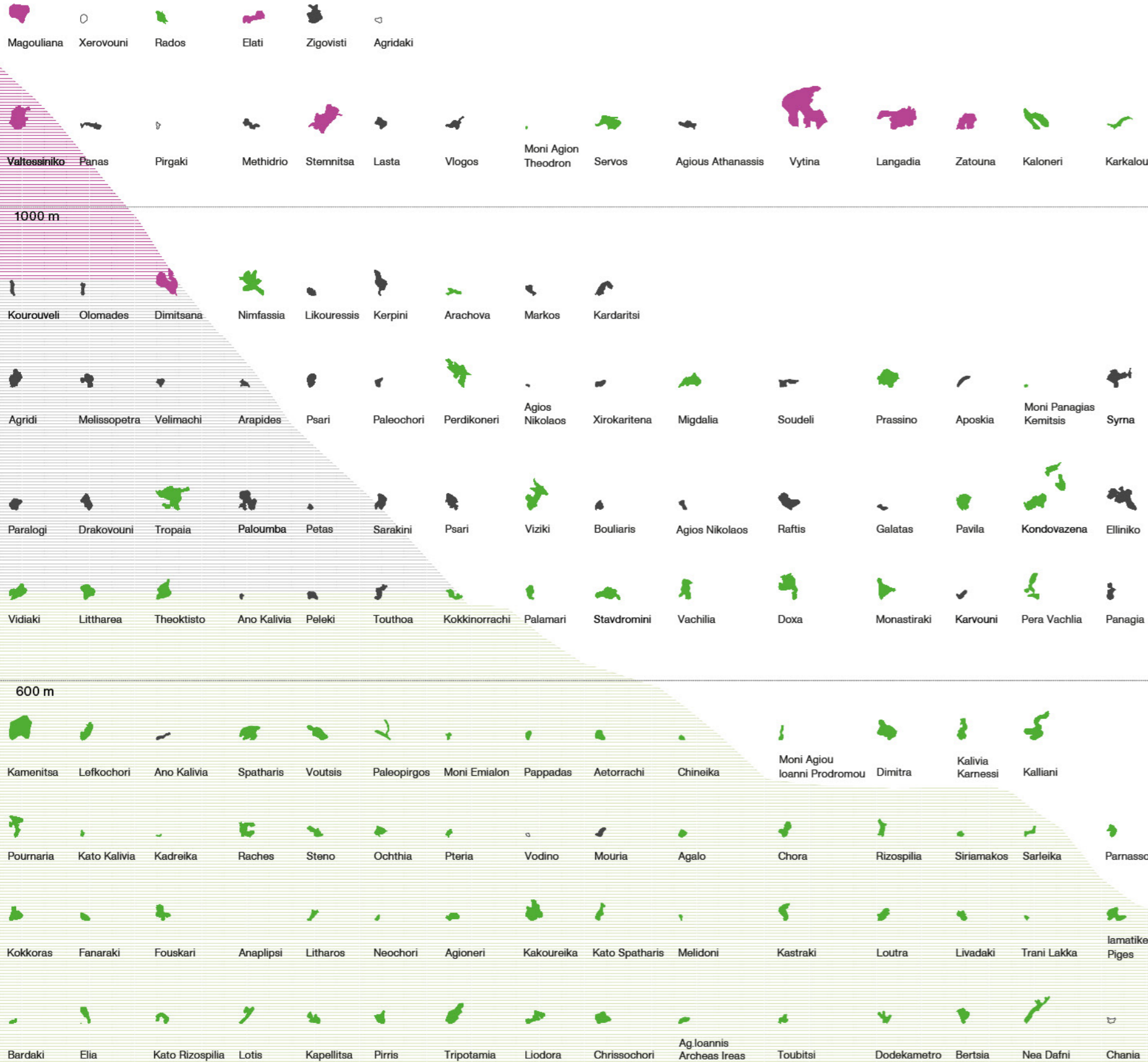
The first region is part of the olive groves of Alfeios: a dense pattern of small scale plots following the Alfeios River to Pirgos. This region is productive but family-managed and not oriented towards exports. It has agricultural potential but is not yet completely industrialised. The settlements are medium-sized and rural, mostly without public services and commercial activities. The second, the 'pulsating region' is composed of smaller settlements. Due to the altitude, agricultural production is limited to nut trees and livestock farming. It is a zone of mismanagement and shrinking infrastructure with basically no services for locals, as weekend and holiday population becomes dominant.

The third, the 'touristic region' offers a diverse landscape with views, hiking trails and cultural heritage sites. Most of the larger settlements and services are located here, as a consequence of its wealthy and powerful past.



First analysis sketch,
after field trip impressions

Three Regions of Arcadia



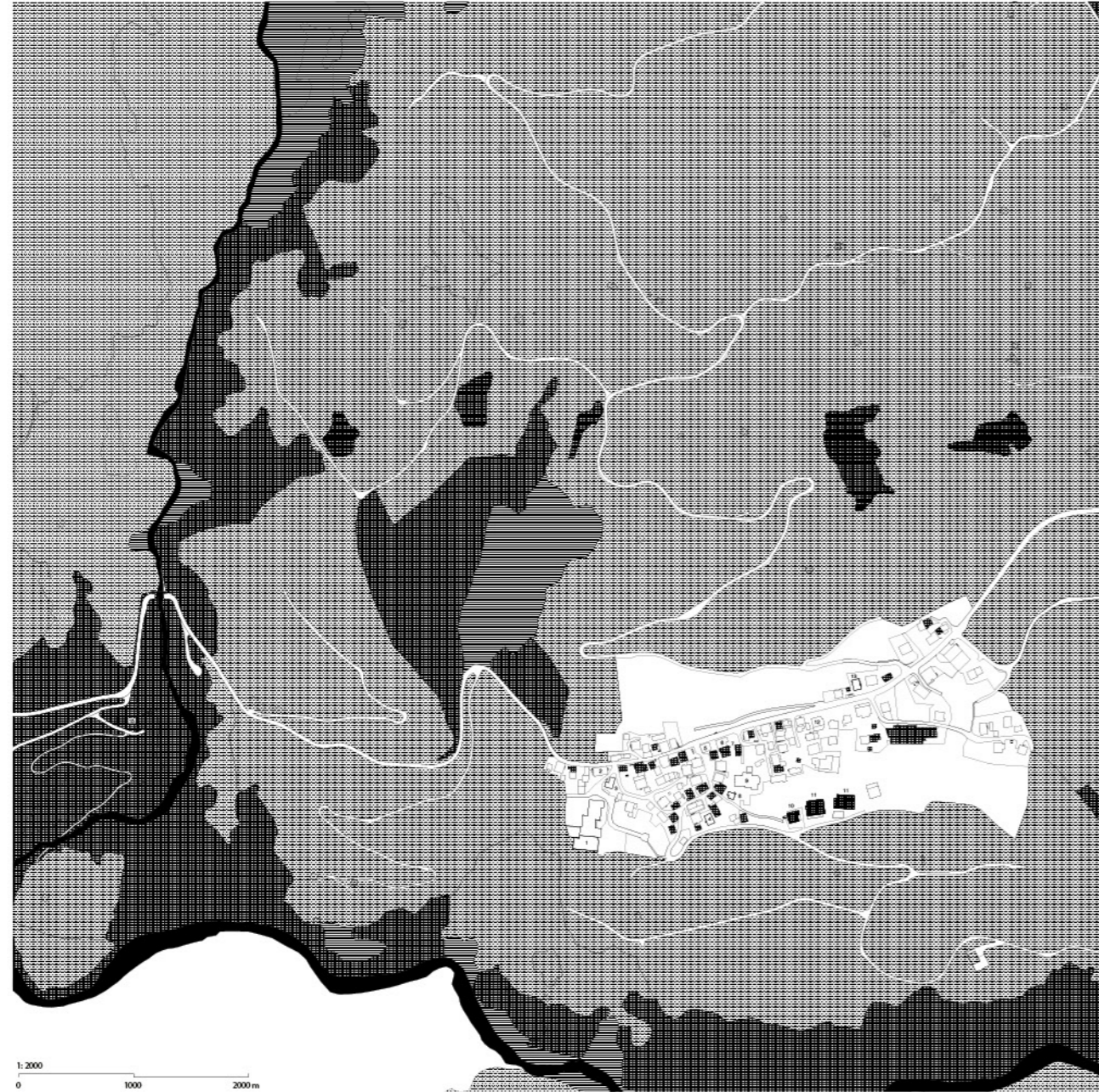
Arcadia: A Chance for the Commons?

The conditions of neglect and land abandonment, together with population drainage, should not be seen as irreversible, but rather as an opportunity for reinvention. As the old layers inscribed on the land are fading, field property lines are gradually disappearing and property issues are characterised by disinterest and confusion. This situation can be understood as a valuable opportunity for rethinking and renegotiating the territory. The land is freed from ownership fragmentation, providing the opportunity to open up the discussion for an overarching communal strategy to redefine land use and settlement organisation. This land should be seen not as an abandoned infertile territory but rather as a land reserve, which must be prepared for re-appropriation. Nevertheless, one has to accept the fact that the rural patterns of living are being replaced by new ones. Younger generations may not be interested in spending their life in one place. The management of the commons in this area, therefore, is a complex task that has to enable short time spans of inhabitation, like seasonal stays or interim years, as much as a long time commitment. Defining an area in Gortynia as a case study, the proposal will rethink the status quo of land ownerships and put forward the idea of the commons as a potential for the area. The proposal addresses three parts: first, it examines the potential of the agricultural land, which is addressed through the 'productive commons'; second, it reframes the role of the settlements as spaces of communal life and manufacturing; finally, it deals with the urbanised perception of the countryside as a landscape and place of idyllic freedom, initiating the idea of commons that is dedicated to leisure and retreat. As a reference to the successful countryside intervention, the Swiss village of Vrin will be discussed here.



The Commons

The Commons refers to old strategies to efficiently manage land through a communal-decision making process. Long dismissed as utopia, it has been brought back into discussion by leading economists like Elinor Ostrom.



The village of Vrin
and surrounding land use

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| 1 Multipurpose hall | 9 Church with bell tower | ■ water |
| 2 Pasternaria | 10 Mazlaria | ▨ forest |
| 3 Community house | 11 Stables | ▨ pasture |
| 4 House Caminada | 12 Volg supermarket | ▨ steep land |
| 5 Restaurant 'Della Posta' | 13 House Caviezel | □ buildable land |
| 6 Post Office | 14 ALIG Carpenters | |
| 7 Telephone Box | 15 Sawmill | |
| 8 Stiva des Morts | | |

Vrin is a small community in the Swiss canton of Graubünden. As in Arcadia, the village's mountainous and peripheral setting caused a gradual population shrinkage. A model project

was launched in the 1980s, setting up the foundations of Pro Vrin as a management institution. A broad land melioration restructured the pastures and forests, improving their productivity.



The village of Vrin,
project collage

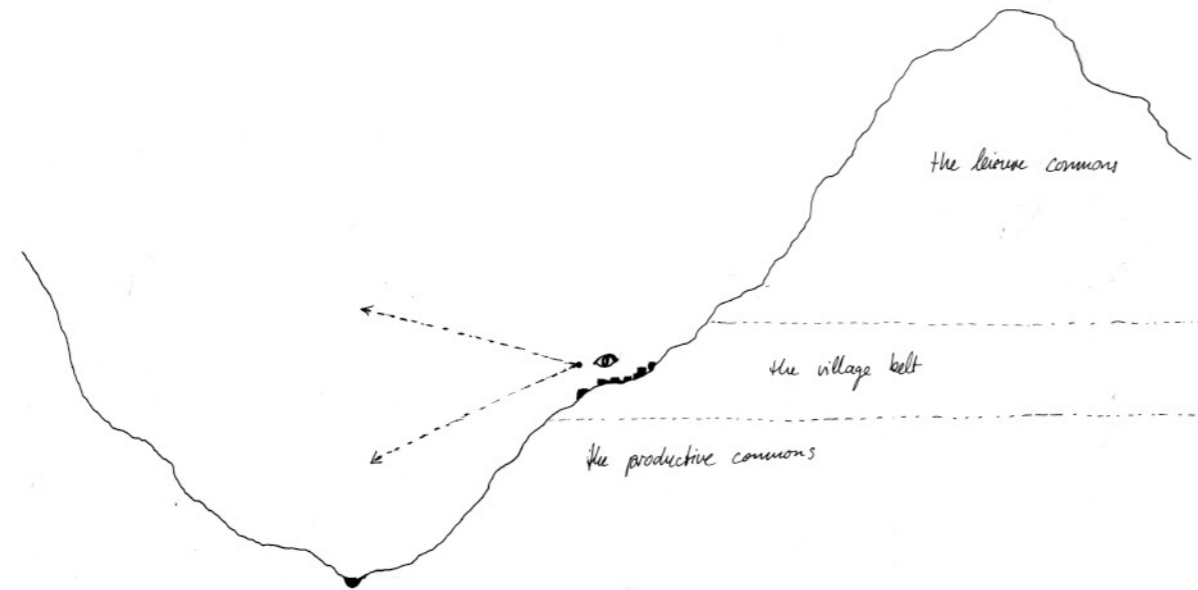
Additionally, the architect Gion Caminada, who grew up in Vrin, made a series of building interventions within the village. Processing units for wood and livestock products were built and commu-

nity institutions like a meeting hall and a chapel for traditional funeral rituals (Stiva des Morts) was added. These measures have encouraged a stabilisation of the local population.

Arcadia: A Chance for the Commons?

Elinor Ostrom
Eight Principles for Managing the Commons

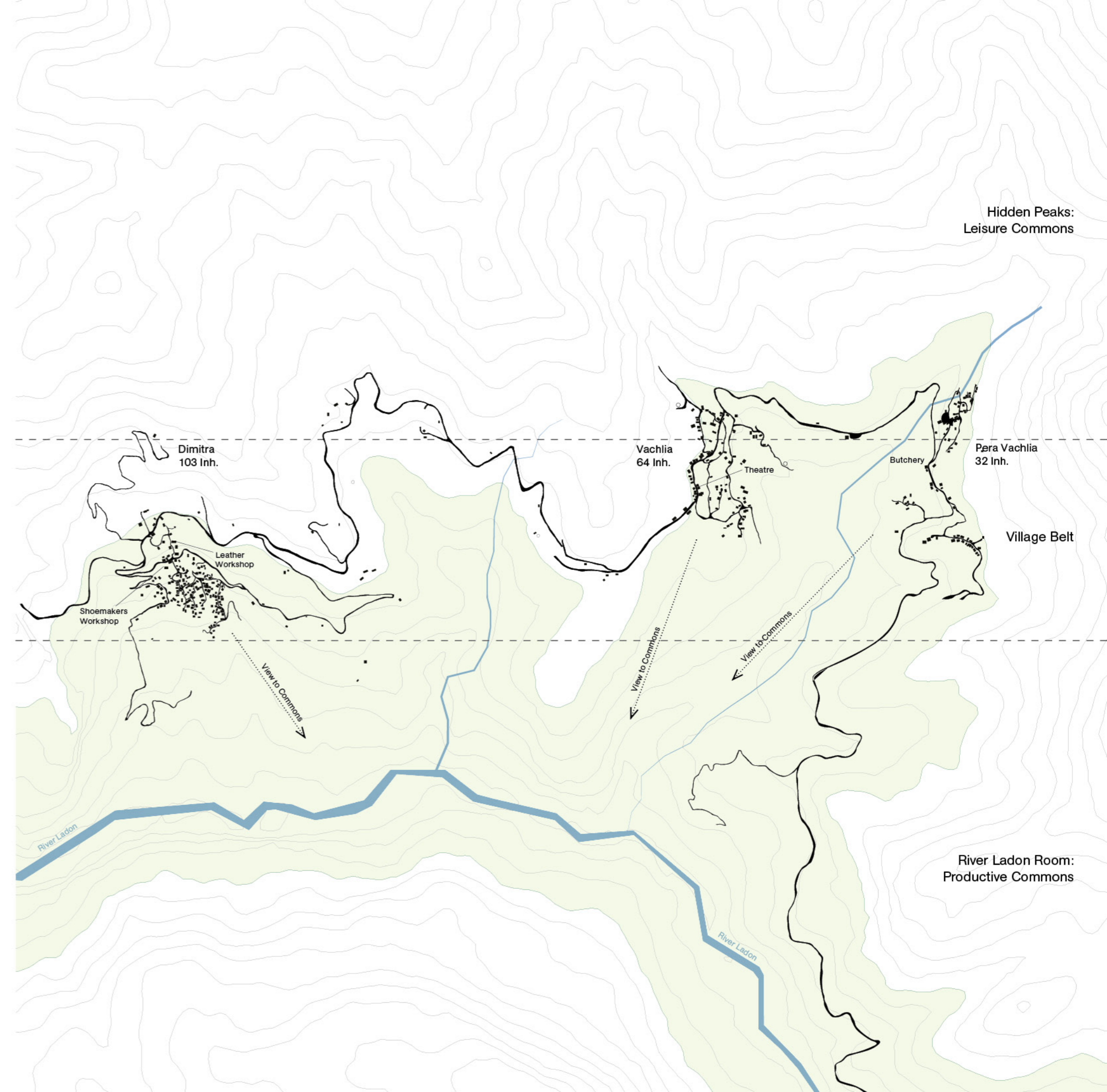
1. Define clear group boundaries.
2. Match rules governing the use of common goods to the local needs and conditions.
3. Ensure that those affected by the rules can participate in modifying the rules.
4. Make sure the rule-making rights of community members are respected by the outside authorities.
5. Develop a system, carried out by community members, for monitoring the members' behaviour.
6. Use graduated sanctions for rule violators.
7. Provide accessible, low-cost means for dispute resolution.
8. Build responsibility for governing the common resource in nested tiers from the lowest level up to the entire interconnected system.



Elements of the Commons

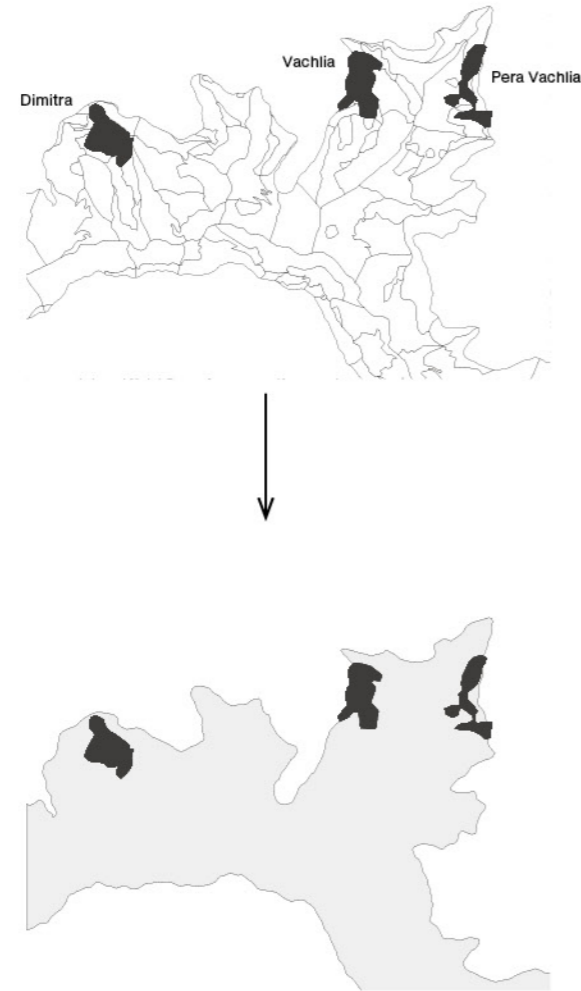
The success of the Vrin suggests a strategy that consists of two main elements: one being the radical re-structuring of the agricultural land - in our proposal called 'the productive commons', and the other including the im-

plementation of productive units and meeting spaces within the village belt. Additionally, with accepting the new patterns of living in the countryside, space for leisure should also be considered.



Arcadia: A Chance for the Commons?

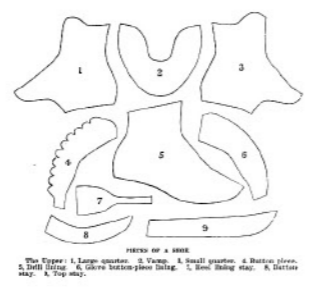
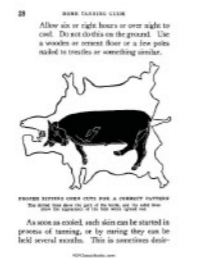
The Productive Commons



A radical land melioration turns the current fragmented plot structure into one common agricultural ground. This new agricultural territory is managed collectively by an organisation, formed by the

representatives of each village. Livestock farming is reintroduced and working positions opened for people willing to spend time by herding in the countryside.





The Village Belt

Processing units are introduced into the existing village network. Workshops for leather making and crafting, butcheries for the manufacturing of meat products and spinning mills create products of added value that

then can be sold in the areas that receive a higher number of visitors. The income created is distributed in the community and forms the basis for economic independence.



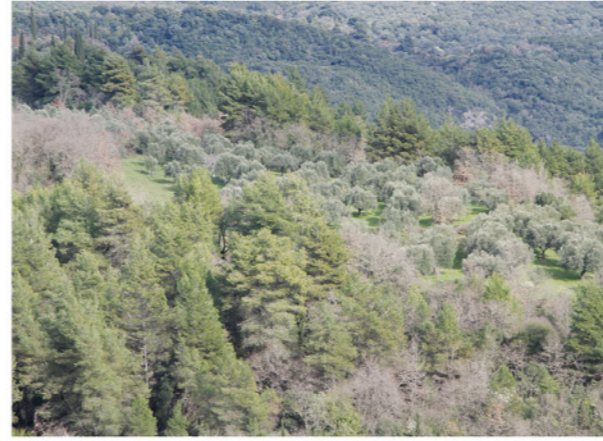


The Leisure Commons

The common ground should not only be a place of production. Countryside could be also seen through the prism of leisure, and this perspective constitutes a part of its contemporary understanding. Accepting these

emerging patterns of living and the desire for leisure, the countryside is also envisioned as a place of freedom, an unbound antidote to the life in the city.





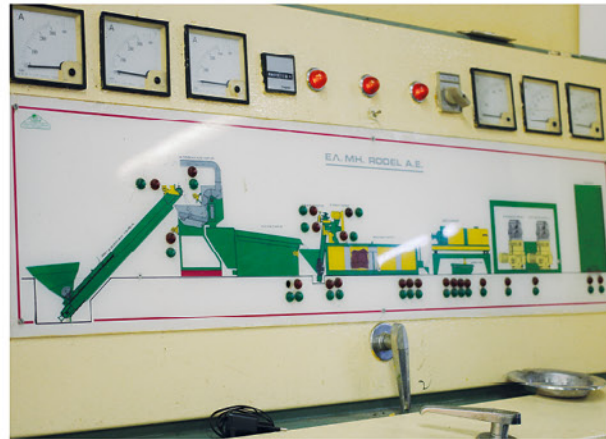


ARCHITECTURE OF
TERRITORY
European Countryside

Project by
Lorenzo Autieri
Patrick Meyer



OLIVE VALLEY SLOW AGRICULTURE



ARCADIA
Spring 2016

Olive Valley Slow Agriculture

The semester started with the question: What is ‘countryside’?

We intuitively decided to define it as an environment with interwoven agriculture and production. We refused the idea of a bucolic idyll and started with understanding better the main characters which play a central role in its definition.

Our attention was focused on Alfeios Valley, a semi-mountainous area in western Peloponnese, between the Arcadian villages and Pyrgos’ seaside. The preconception that organized production could shape the identity of this countryside was constantly on our minds, but the fourteen-days-long field-trip showed a much more ambiguous reality, where informality and confusion characterised both the object and the method of study.

Alfeios Valley turned out to be exactly the opposite of a generic industrial agricultural landscape. As a matter of fact, our frame of study revealed a heterogeneous patchwork, in the words of Gilles Clement, a ‘third landscape’—the leftover space consisting of forests, bushes, abandoned paths and fields, mixed with the olive orchards.

Topography shapes the physical and the social elements of the territory. The physical elements such as the streets, the villages, the fields and the mills—in a word, the productive chain of agriculture—resist mechanization and stay slow. The social elements mainly refer to landowners—old, permanent population (agriculture workers, state employers and public facility workers) and seasonal ones (land owners and manual workers from the cities). Even if we say that a general decline in different production aspects took place from the 1960s onwards, this area still stays alive.

We learned that it is not possible to separate countryside from urbanity and vice versa.

We experienced the striking beauty of living in a “non-comfortable” environment.



p. 128

Slow Agriculture: Why so Slow?

Topography and household farming practices give rise to conditions far removed from the ones we are used to in the cities.

p. 136

The Street: Off-Road(s)

The street network acts as a slow buffer rather than a fast connection.

p. 144

The Village: A City Fallback

The villages appear virtually as islands in the landscape of the countryside. Villages are empty throughout the most of the year, except for summer and harvest months when people from cities come here for retreat.

p. 156

The Field: A Diverse Ground for Production

Once vineyards and nowadays olive groves, scattered fields of the Alfeios Valley appear as 'rooms' in the landscape.

p. 168

The Mill: A Public Facility

The mill exists independently from the village. During harvest months it becomes around-the-clock public space.

p. 174

Slow Agriculture: The Elements of the Territory

Slow streets and shrinking villages, disconnected one from the other, scattered fields and the olive mill, acting as a public place among them, form peculiar conditions in the Alfeios Valley.

p. 176

Eleopolis: Working & Living in the Olive Groves

In Eleopolis, we see slowness as a potential.

Slow Agriculture: Why so Slow?

Alfeios Valley is a physical entity, but it is also a social frame whose economic basis completely relies on the agricultural sector. Vineyard once used to be the predominant cultivation type here, nowadays it is the olive groves. This area has been largely resistant to any form of mechanisation due to its adverse topographical conditions and a general lack of entrepreneurship in agriculture. Internet connection was established in the area over ten years ago, but a majority of the local inhabitants from the area did not profit much from it. The labour is still mostly manual and the road infrastructure doesn't allow for fast and efficient movement. The result is a series of elements that shape the territory in a very unconventional way, far removed from what people are used to in urban settings. Streets adapt to the topography and quietly sit on the ground. These villages have a very peculiar dimension which is very close to the size of an average field (< 4 ha). The agriculture fields and the forests merge, producing a diverse landscape, unreadable at first glance and asking to be slowly discovered over time. The olive mill as a community infrastructure historically evolved through the system of barter. On the one hand, all these territorial elements have limited further economic development of the region, while on the other hand, they promoted an incredible potential for resistance. This opens up capacities for a whole new discussion on the future of the region.

Topography as a Constraint for Agriculture...

Topography, together with soil quality and climate, is the major factor that influences the agricultural production. High altitude areas (above 600m) that are steep sloped (>16%) are usually considered less favourable for agriculture. These regions are highly resistant to mechanization and require tough and often complicated handwork. Because of this, EU provides additional subsidies to encourage farmers to keep working in these scarcely profitable, but still highly diverse and rich areas.

...in the Region of Peloponnese

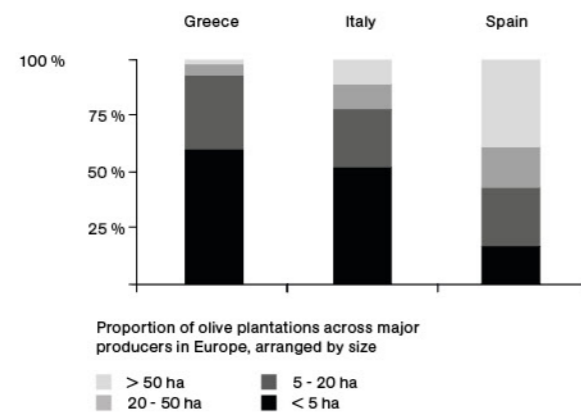
A major north-south spine acts as a barrier to the climatic agents from the west to the east. Therefore, the occidental part receives a high precipitation compared to the west. The area can be divided into three general zones based on the type of agriculture: the seaside zone with vegetables or fruit trees (ex. Argos); the semi-mountainous area (below 600m),

that is, due to its altitude and rocky soil, mostly optimal for olive groves (ex. Alfeios Valley); the higher plateaus, where mostly fruit trees like apple or chestnut are cultivated (ex. Tripoli).

...in Alfeios Valley

The Alfeios Valley consists of all of the aforementioned conditions in Peloponnese. In the areas close to the riverside, in addition to already existing corn plantations, a new trend of pomegranate cultivation has emerged. The river acts as an imprecise mirror between the north and south sides of the valley, that, although different in topographical and geological terms, each have olive

groves planted until about 600 meters of altitude. The former has stronger slopes parallel to the main valley and a better access to water, explaining the balance between olive cultivation and forest. The latter has less access to water and its delicate slopes are perpendicular to the river flow, offering better conditions for olive groves.



Small Scale, Household Based Agriculture Production

The agriculture sector, and in particular, the cultivation of olive groves, represents a major resource for the economy of Peloponnese. In spite of its major share in olive production (39% of the national production), Peloponnese doesn't benefit completely from this potential. The scattered nature and small size of the olive fields discourages any considerable investment in the development of infrastructure. Additionally, the idea of olive oil being a family business fails to inspire entrepreneurialism.

International Comparison

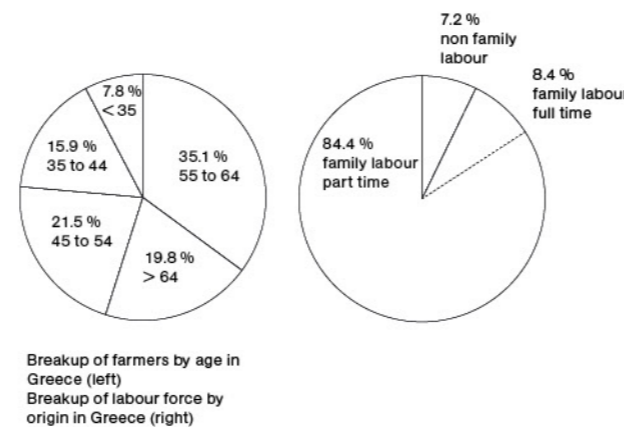
After Spain and Italy, Greece is the world's third largest olive oil producer. In contrast to these two countries, it is very hard for Greece to produce olive oil. The complexity of its topography doesn't allow for mechanization. The field sizes and patterns that one can find in Jaën or in Tuscany for industrial production could not be possible in Greece.

At present, 60% of the Greek and 40% of the Spanish olive export is supplied in bulk to big Italian companies, who are re-branding them for the international export as fine products.

Labour Portrait

As in the rest of Europe, Greece and Peloponnese have registered a significant reduction in the number of people working in the fields. While countries like Spain, Italy and France have registered a strong switch to mechanisation, Peloponnese still remains highly dependent on manual labour. This sector lacked a generational change. A vast majority of farmers are older than 45

and work in the fields by themselves or with their families. Since the financial crisis, there has been a trend of younger people moving here from the cities in order to earn extra money working in the agriculture sector. A major proportion of the labour force is comprised of immigrants from Albania that are usually hired illegally.



Alfeios Valley, Greece
Olive groves



Jaën, Spain
Olive groves

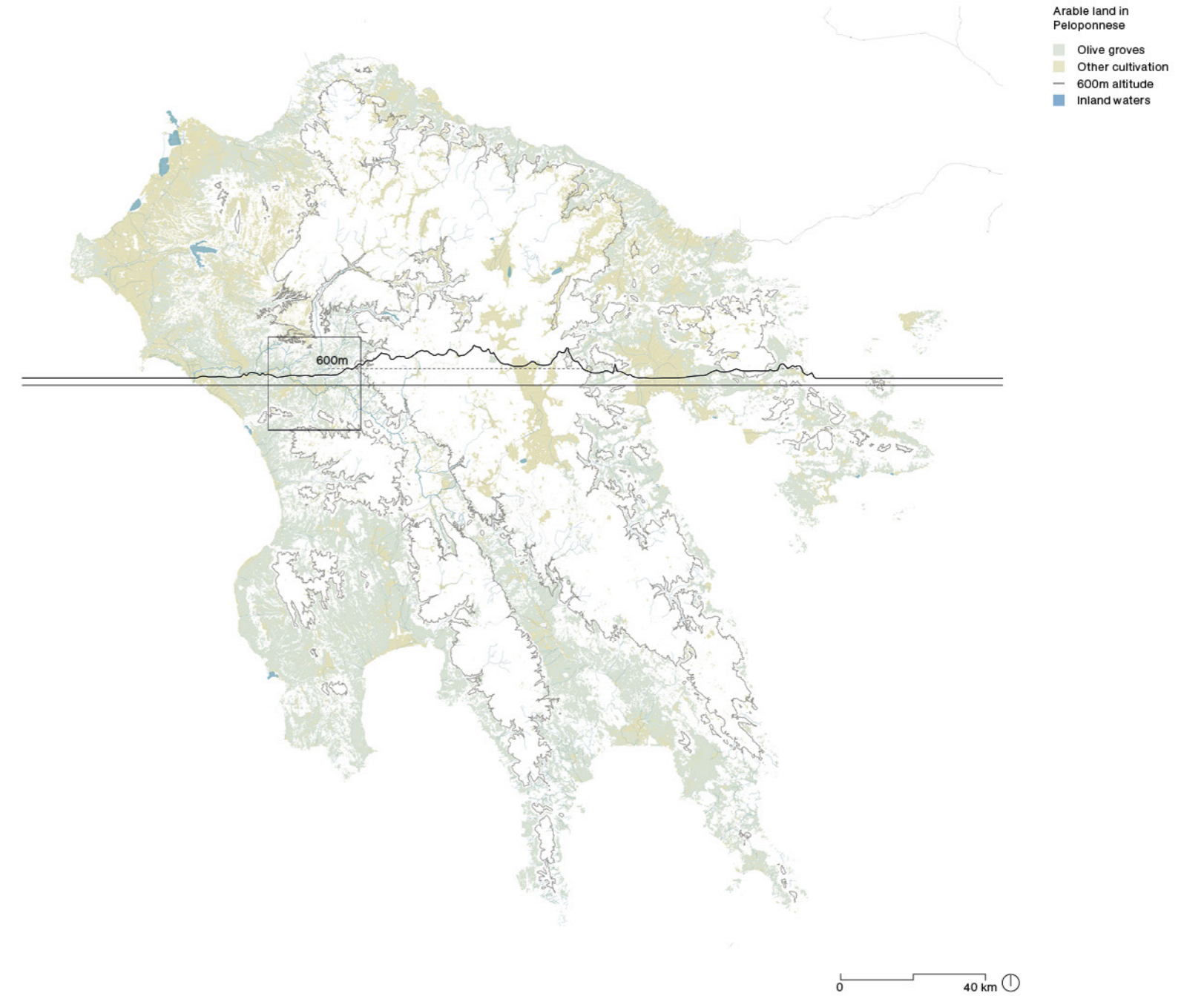


Profiles of Alfeios Valley inhabitants

Topography as a
Constraint for
Agriculture
...in Peloponnese



Seaside agriculture (top)
Semi-mountainous area (middle)
Tripoli mountainous plateau (bottom)



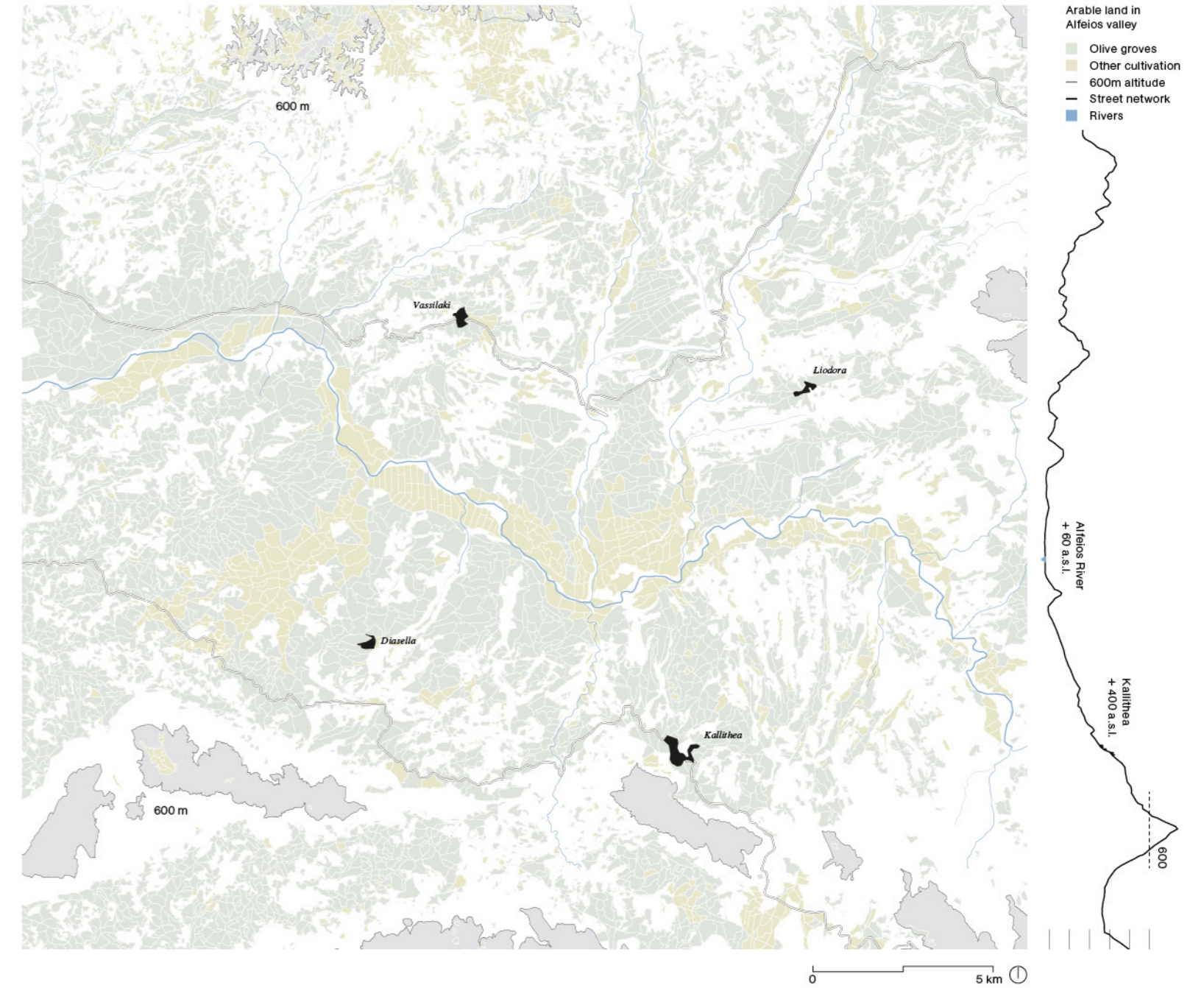
The Peloponnesian topography can be classified into three different categories, with dominant cultivation systems: fruit trees in the higher plateaus- like apple

and walnut; olive groves in the semi-mountainous areas; and berry trees, orange trees and vegetables in the plains where most of the inland water is present.



Riverside plains (top)
Semi-mountainous area
(middle)
Above the 600m altitude line
(bottom)

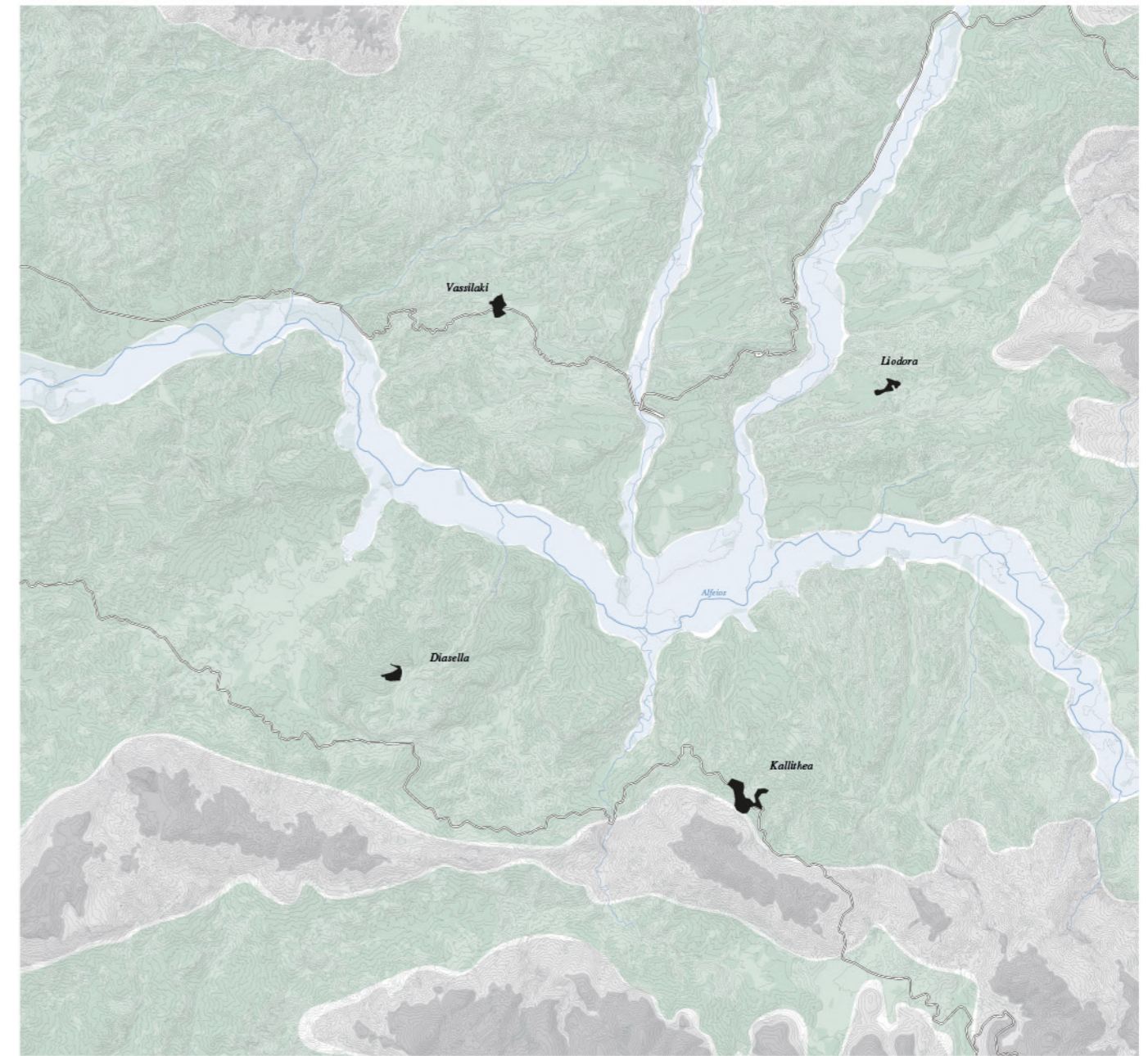
600m



In Alfeios Valley, the olive groves represent the most common cultivation form. A series of minor cultivation types, such as pomegranate, corn and walnut, occur close to the riverbeds.



Semi-mountainous olive groves in Aifeios Valley



The 3 topographical areas of Aifeios valley

- Head village
- Riverside area
- Semi-mountain. area
- Mountain area
- Above 600m

0 5 km

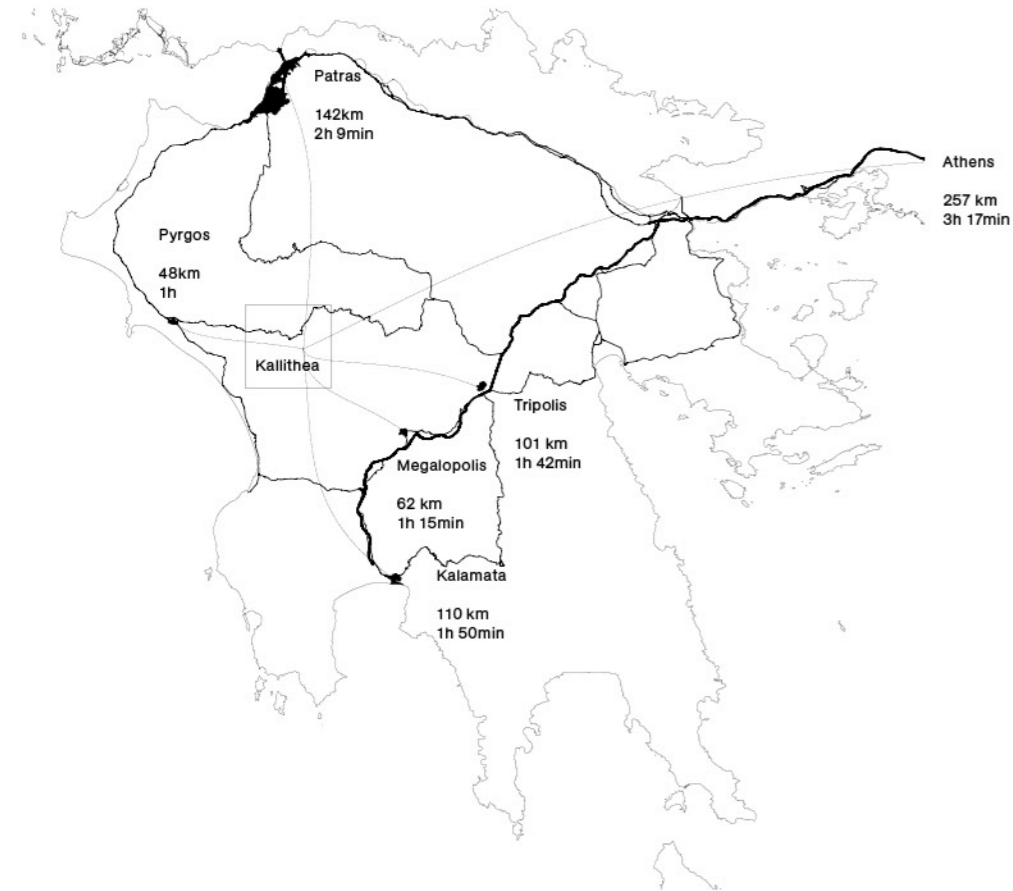
Aifeios Valley contains different topo-agricultural conditions present in Peloponnese: areas located above 600m that physically define our study, a vast semi-mountainous area and an extensive flat riverside.

The Street: Off-Road(s)

The road network in Alfeios Valley operates as a network of slow connections, mainly used for movement between the villages and the agricultural fields. There are only two main roads providing a connection to the seaside and to the mountains.

Highway 110 km/h

There is only one existing highway in Peloponnese, the Moreas motorway leading from Athens down to Kalamata. It was opened in 2012. Another highway leading to Kalamata from Athens through Patras is planned. These roads are in good conditions and are able to provide a secure and fast way of moving around.



Highway 110 km/h

Main Road 60 km/h

Two main roads connect the Alfeios Valley to the cities like Pyrgos and Tripoli. One in the north through Vassilaki, the other one in the south passing Kallithea. These two roads are safe and well maintained.

Secondary Road 40 km/h

Mostly with a single lane, these roads lead from the two main roads towards the smaller villages in the valley. One has to always be aware of possible obstacles like livestock, stones or bushes on their way. In these hilly landscapes the roads can become very steep and curvy inhibiting fast driving.

Tertiary Road 20 km/h

Tertiary roads are not accessible by any type of vehicle. These are mostly dirty roads leading to the small farms and huts in the fields. Tertiary roads are still maintained in order to provide access for the farmers.

Path 5 km/h

Paths are unofficial connections between small fields, accessible only with a tractor. They usually mark the borders between two properties and provide connections with individual olive fields.



Two cars driving along an abandoned street

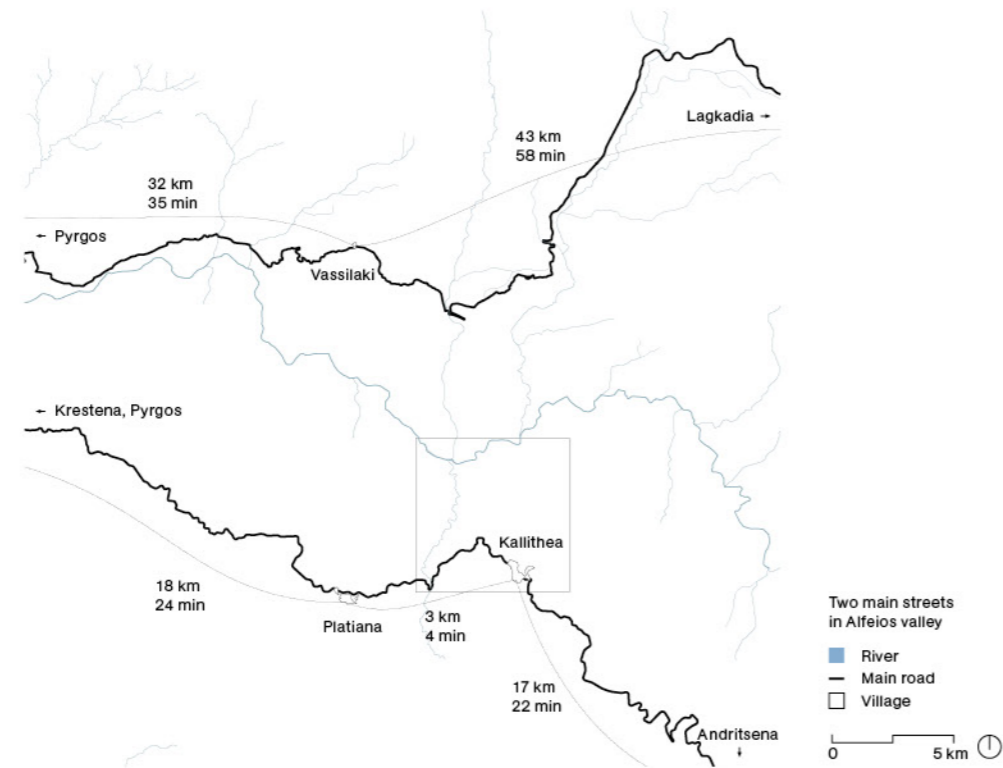


Concept drawing of the street network in Peloponnese

Main Road
60 km/h



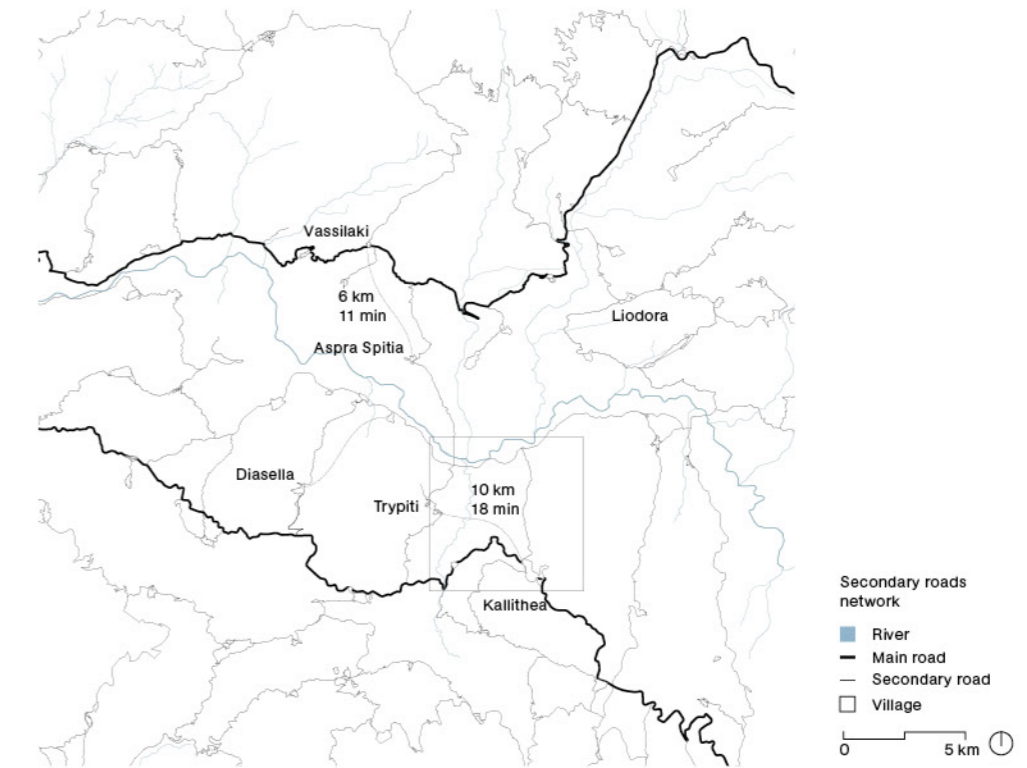
Southern main road leading to Krestena



Secondary Road
40 km/h



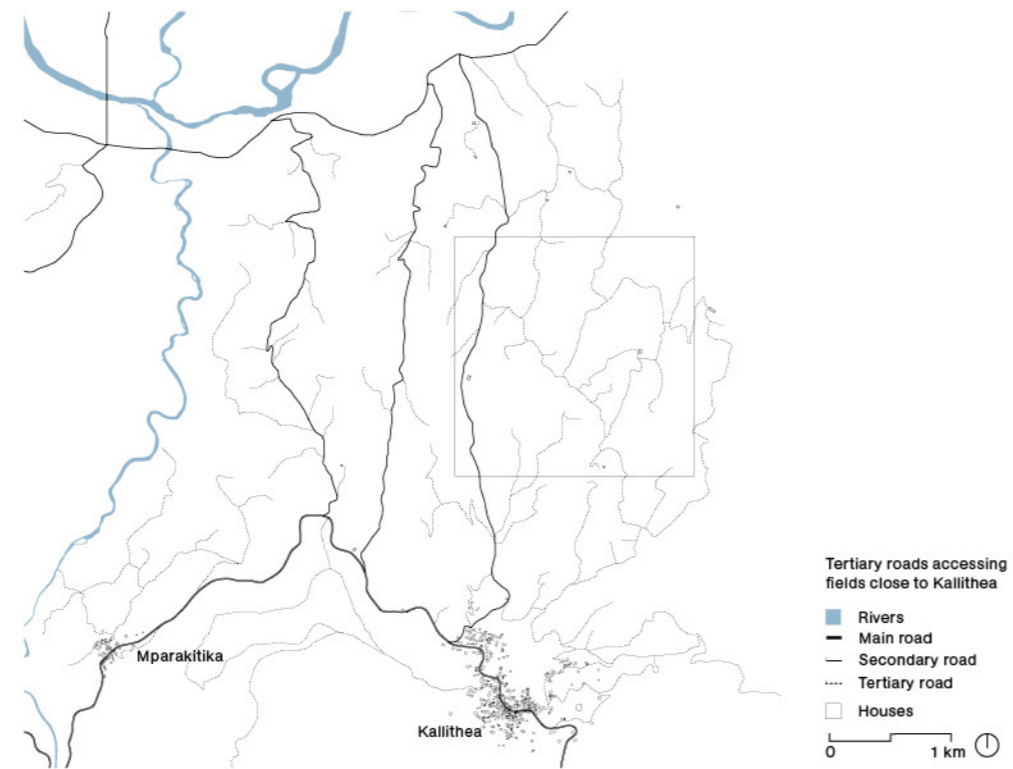
Secondary road near Diasella



Tertiary Road
20 km/h



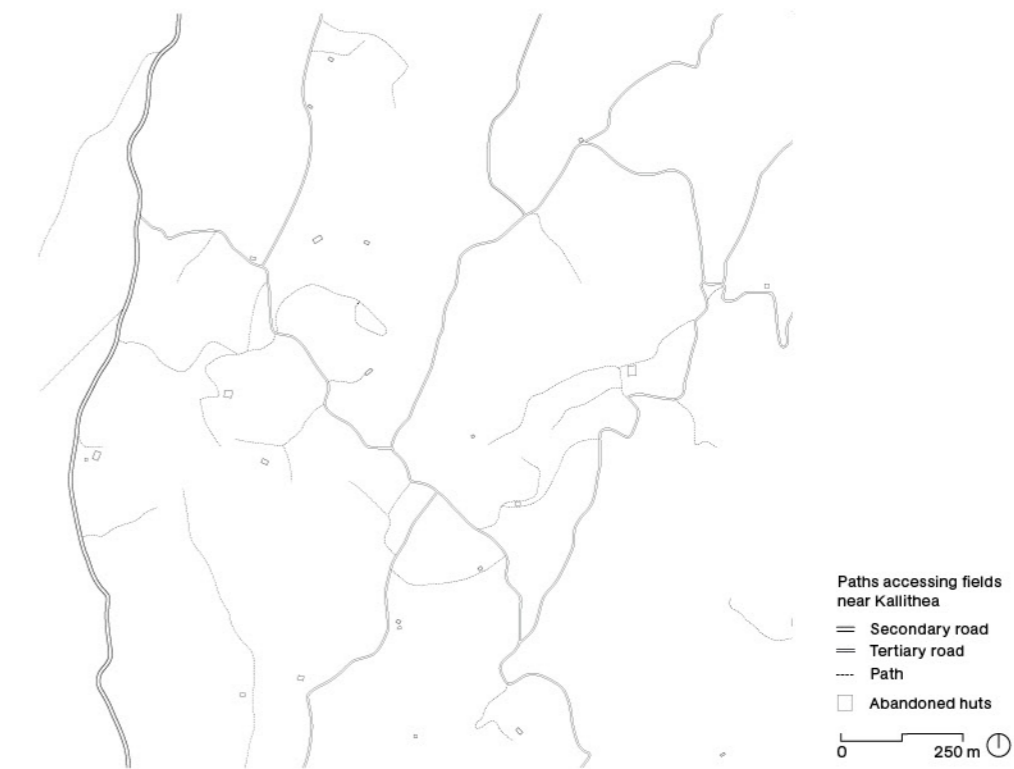
Tertiary road accessing fields close to Kallithea



Path
5 km/h

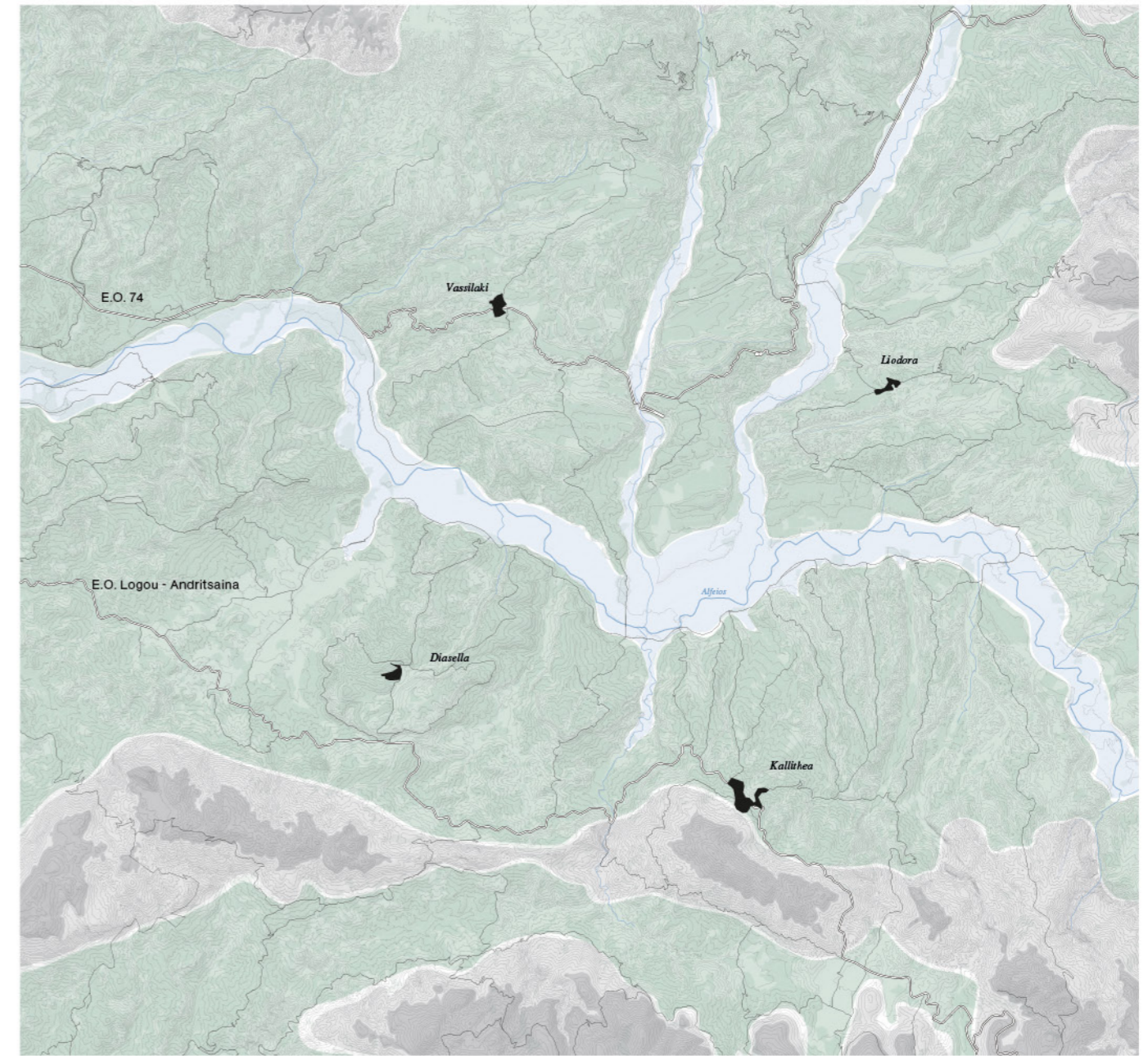


A path dividing two fields close to Kallithea





Frequent obstacles due to the fragile soil slow down the route along the main streets



The street network of Aifeios valley

- Head village
- Riverside area
- Semi-mountain. area
- Mountain area
- Secondary road 40 km/h
- Main street 60 km/h

0 5 km

The street hierarchy defines different levels of accessibility, from the villages that can be easily accessed via the main street to that of the single field that can be accessed only by foot or by tractor.

The Village: City's Fallback

The settlements in the Alfeios Region struggled for a long time with the problem of an incredible population shrinkage. From the 1940s onwards, the inhabitants started leaving their native villages in order to move to the big cities like Athens or Thessaloniki and even further afar. This process of migration continued until the 2008 financial crisis broke all the hopes of success in the larger cities of Greece. Some young people even returned after studies, hoping to build up their own business in the countryside. Mostly, it was the retired people who moved back to their home villages searching for a calm and decent lifestyle away from the bigger cities. Most of them own some olive fields from which they are able to earn a living. Although ready for retirement, these men continue to work in their fields with the help of their younger family members from the cities.

This seasonal movement is an important factor in the villages, where, during the summer and harvest months, the population doubles and fills the entire village. On the other hand, these villages are half-empty during the off-season. The only place where you can find some public life at this time is the cafe. This is something you can find in nearly every village. It is where the old village folks come together to discuss over a cup of a good Greek coffee.

Dependency on the City

These villages are still dependent on the nearby cities of Pyrgos and Zacharo. Hospitals, high-schools and other cultural amenities like cinemas and concert halls are only accessible in a minimum one hour car drive to the closest town. Additionally, a lack of efficient public transport connections is apparent. This is the major reason why youngsters leave for the city. This strong orientation towards Pyrgos, doesn't allow for more effective sharing between village clusters. Considered not attractive, the residents have always assumed that there is no reason to go to the other side of the valley. Could the model of the "Ring cluster" be applied to a larger scale in order to redefine the relations between the "Head villages"? In this case, would new public programs be necessary to make this form of organization functional?

Two Cluster Typologies

These villages differ a lot in their infrastructure and number of inhabitants. Some of them are bigger, have more facilities and are better connected to the main roads. Others consist of only few houses, being completely dependent on the bigger villages.

Centralized Cluster:
The Perishing Hamlet

A hamlet is a settlement that is unable to sustain without a head village. The people from the hamlet are mostly farmers living close to their fields and their livestock. In addition to their regular earnings, they receive subsidies from the European Union to maintain their farms. These settlements do not have public facilities like restau-

rants and markets. Food or medicine could be found only in the closest main village. The accessibility is mostly very low and the streets leading to and from hamlets are usually small and rough. It can sometimes take up to 25 minutes of driving to reach the next main village.

Centralized Cluster:
Resisting the Head Village

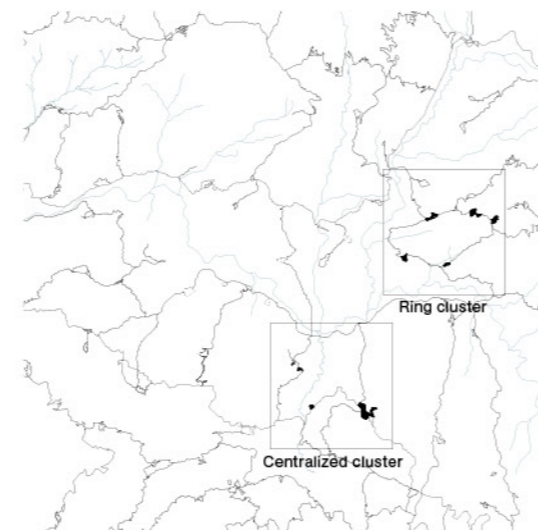
A head village is a settlement which can mostly survive independently. Major facilities like markets, restaurants, doctors and schools are provided here. Very rarely does one need to go to the big city. Even if most of the inhabitants are already retired, there are still young people who work and live in these

Ring
Cluster

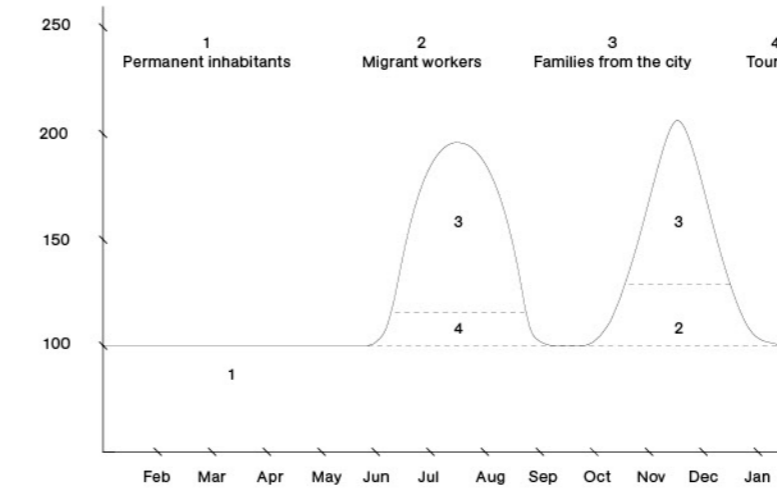
Not all the villages are so uni-directionally orientated, such as the ones described before. We have observed a group of villages that form a stable community together. Each of these settlements has only few public facilities like a school for instance, sharing it with their neighbouring villages. This way, they can benefit from each

villages. We met people working in gastronomy, crafts or even informatics, showing a wide diversity of occupations. Head villages are well connected by main roads. From time to time, there are even buses that can take you to the city in less than one hour.

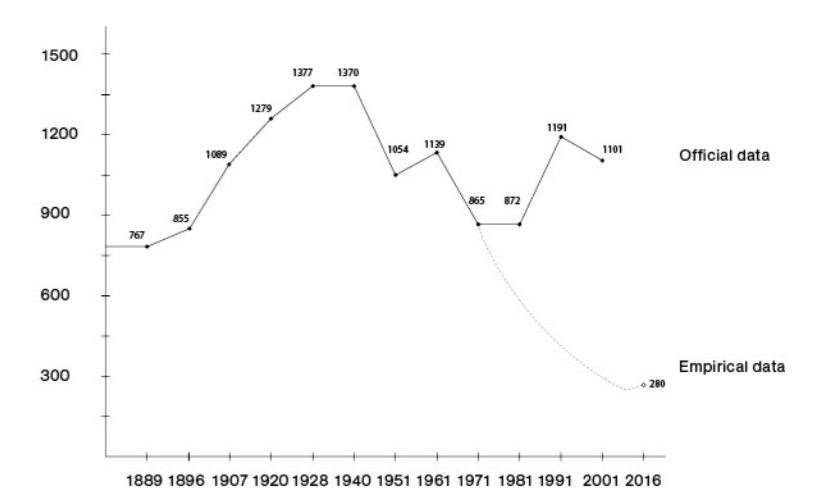
other, at the same time maintaining a certain degree of independence from the city of Pyrgos. The movement through this belt of villages is also supported by a short-cut street that connects Pirris and Lotis, passing through the landscape of cultivated olive groves and wild plants mixed together.



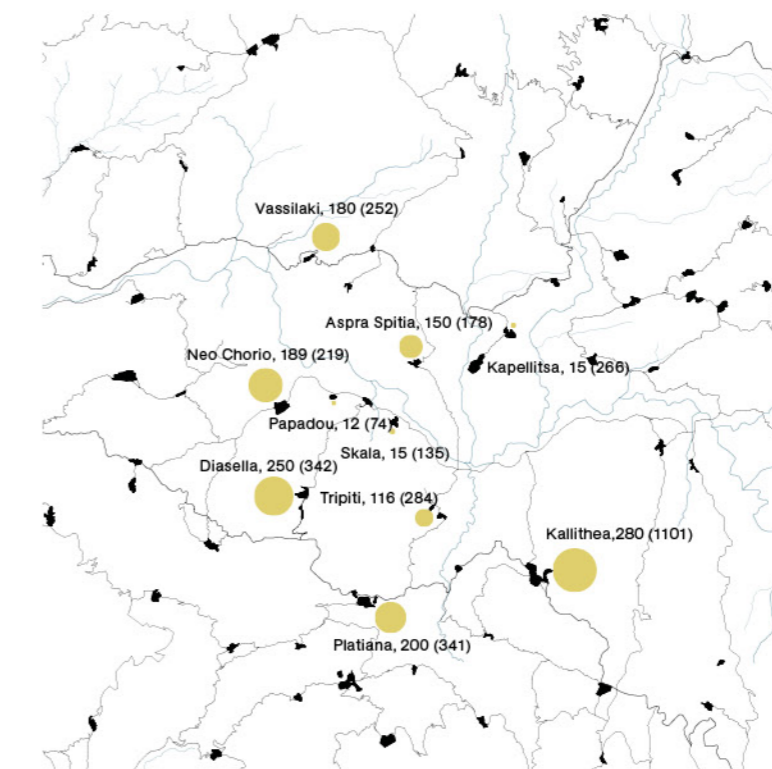
Two cluster typologies



Seasonal demography

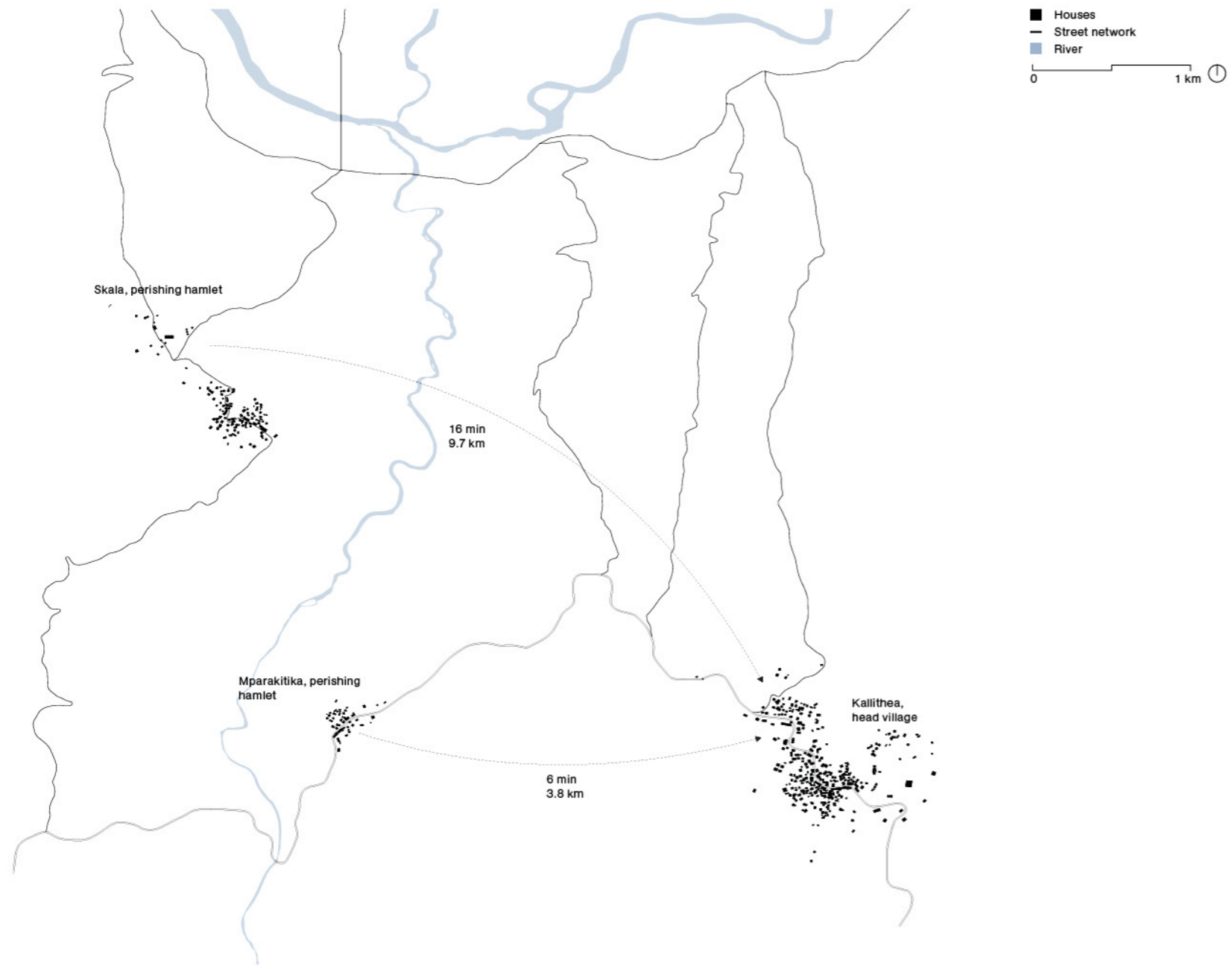


Kallithea
Demography in historical timeline



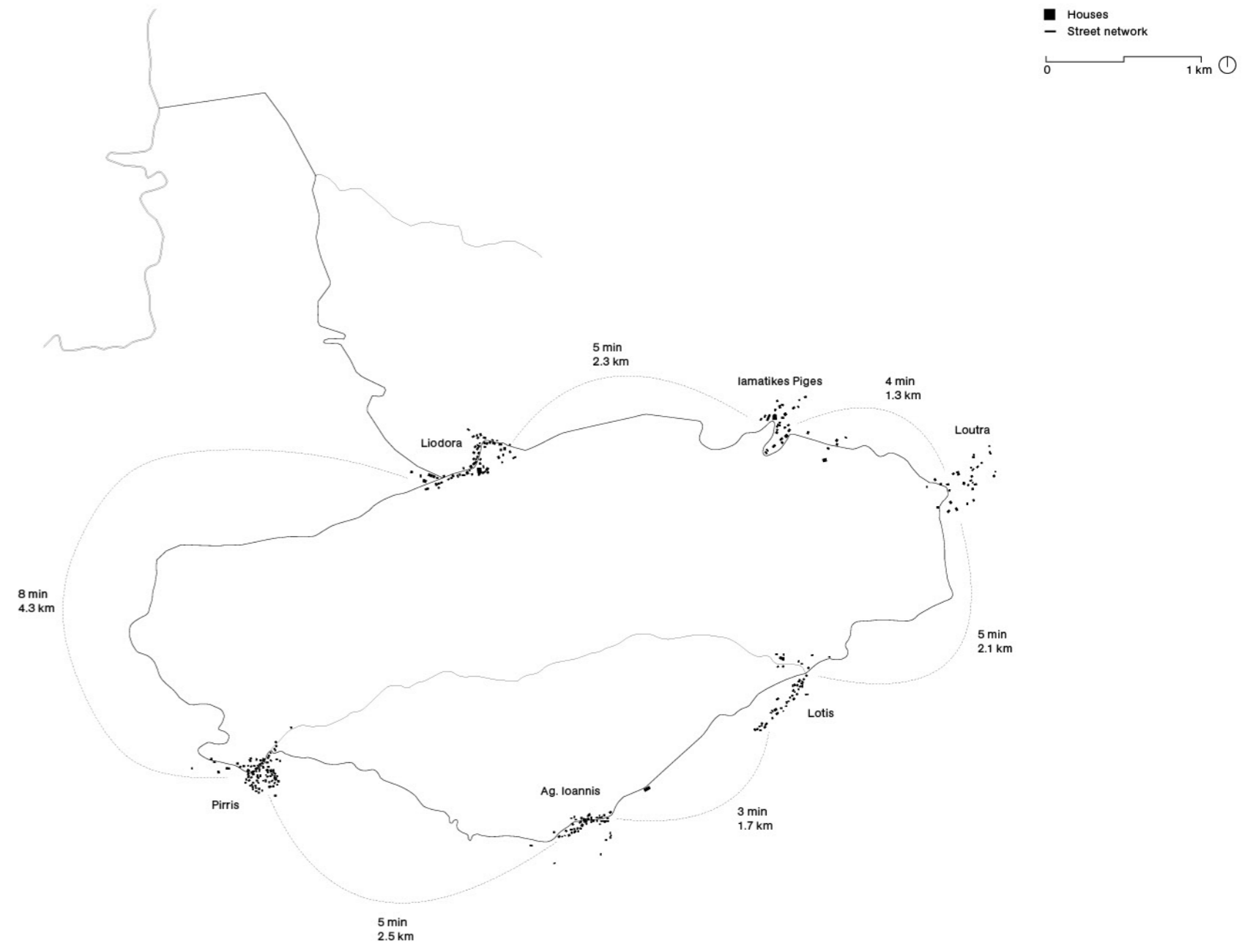
Off-season demography,
empirical data (official data)

Centralized Cluster



- | | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Kallithea - Head village | Secondary school | Skala - Perishing Hamlet | Mparakitika - Perishing Hamlet |
| Petrol station
Primary school
Church
Museum
Hotel | Animal food
Electronic equipment
Pharmacy
Hairdresser
Cemetery | Chapel
Cemetery | Kafeneio
Cemetery |

Ring Cluster



- | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Liodora | Iamatikes Piges | Loutra | Lotis | Ag. Ioannis | Pirris |
| Restaurant
Kafeneio
School | Restaurant
Mini market
Thermal bath
Hotel | Primary School
Cemetery | School
Chapel | Church
Cemetery
Mill | Church
Cemetery
Mill |



Skala
Perishing hamlet

Mr. Nikolaos (67), Retired

What do you do for living?

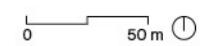
Since I don't earn much through the rent, I still work on my farm. I take care of the sheep, some corn and olive trees. For me and my wife, this is a full time job and quite tough for our age.

Do you receive any subsidies from the EU?

For my olive trees and the sheep, I receive about 5000 euros of subsidies per year from the European Union. Out of this amount, I have to directly pay 800 euros in form of taxes to the Greek government. Without these subsidies it would be difficult to survive here.



Skala
Mr. Nikolaos



Skala - Perishing Hamlet

- A Chapel
- B Cemetery



Kallithea
Head village

Mr. Kostantinos (83), Retired

What was your profession?

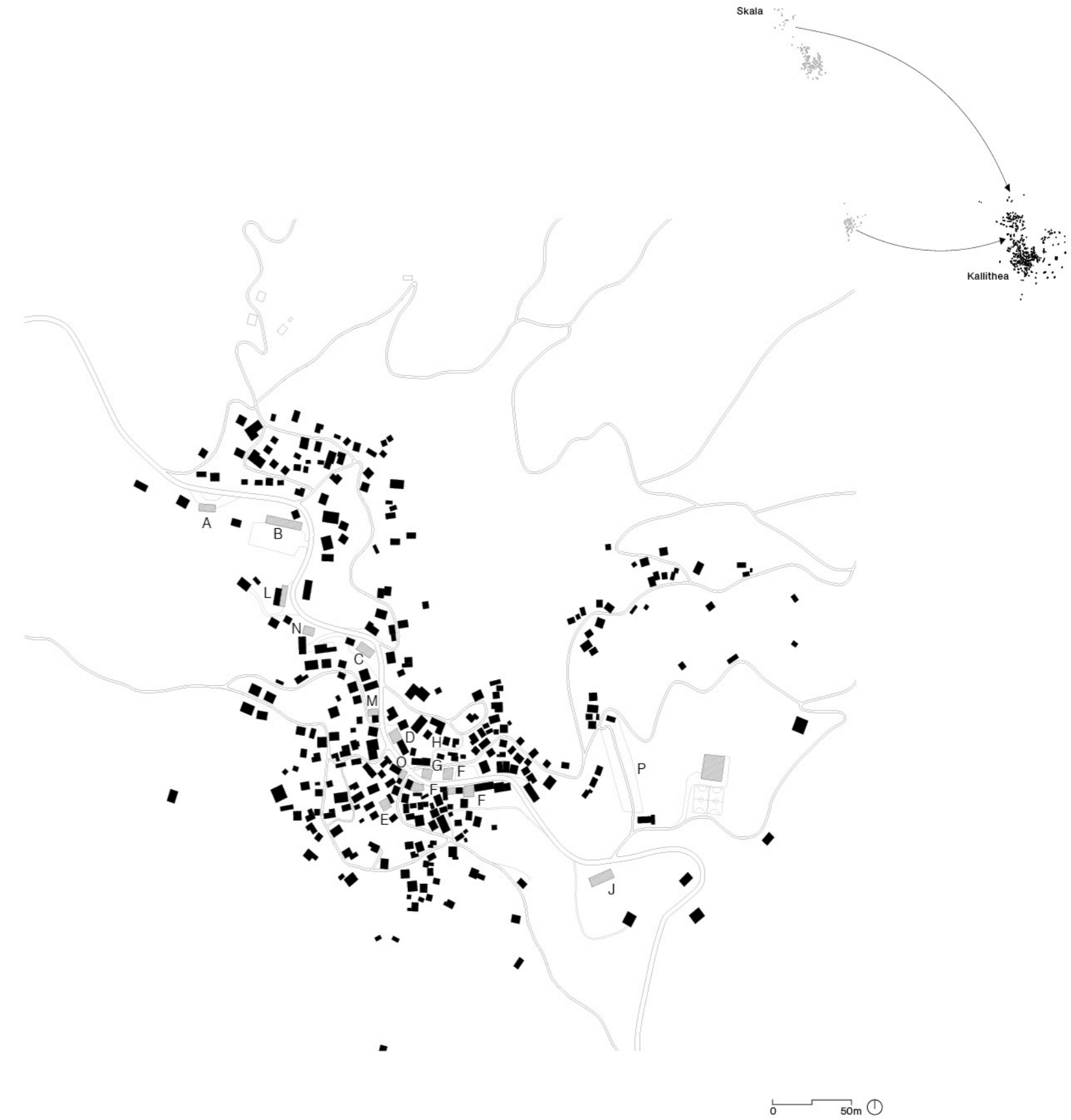
Until my retirement 20 years ago, I was working regularly in the olive fields. I was helping with the harvest, cutting trees during the off-season and from time to time I worked in the olive mills. At this moment, I own about 100ha of olive fields. Every harvest, my family comes to help with collecting the olives used for making one of the best oils in the region!

What is your favourite place here in Kallithea?

The Kafeneio we're just sitting in, for sure. This is where we all meet together and drink some nice Greek coffee.



Kallithea
Mr. Kostantinos



Kallithea - Head village

- | | | | | | |
|---|----------------|---|------------------|---|----------------------|
| A | Petrol station | F | Restaurant | L | Animal food |
| B | Primary school | G | Mini market | M | Electronic equipment |
| C | Church | H | Doctor | N | Pharmacy |
| D | Museum | J | Olive mill | O | Hairdresser |
| E | Hotel | K | Secondary school | P | Cemetery |



Liodora
Ring cluster

Mr. Vasilis (63), Farmer

What is your profession?

Since many generations, my family is in the olive oil business. I have over 240 acres of fields which my employees cultivate for me. I export the oil directly to Italy and Athens.

Do you enjoy living here in Liodora?

I have a nice house here in the forest where my whole family lives, the olive fields are in the area and I have some good old friends living just next door. Being here is just perfect for me.



Liodora
Mr. Vasilis

Liodora

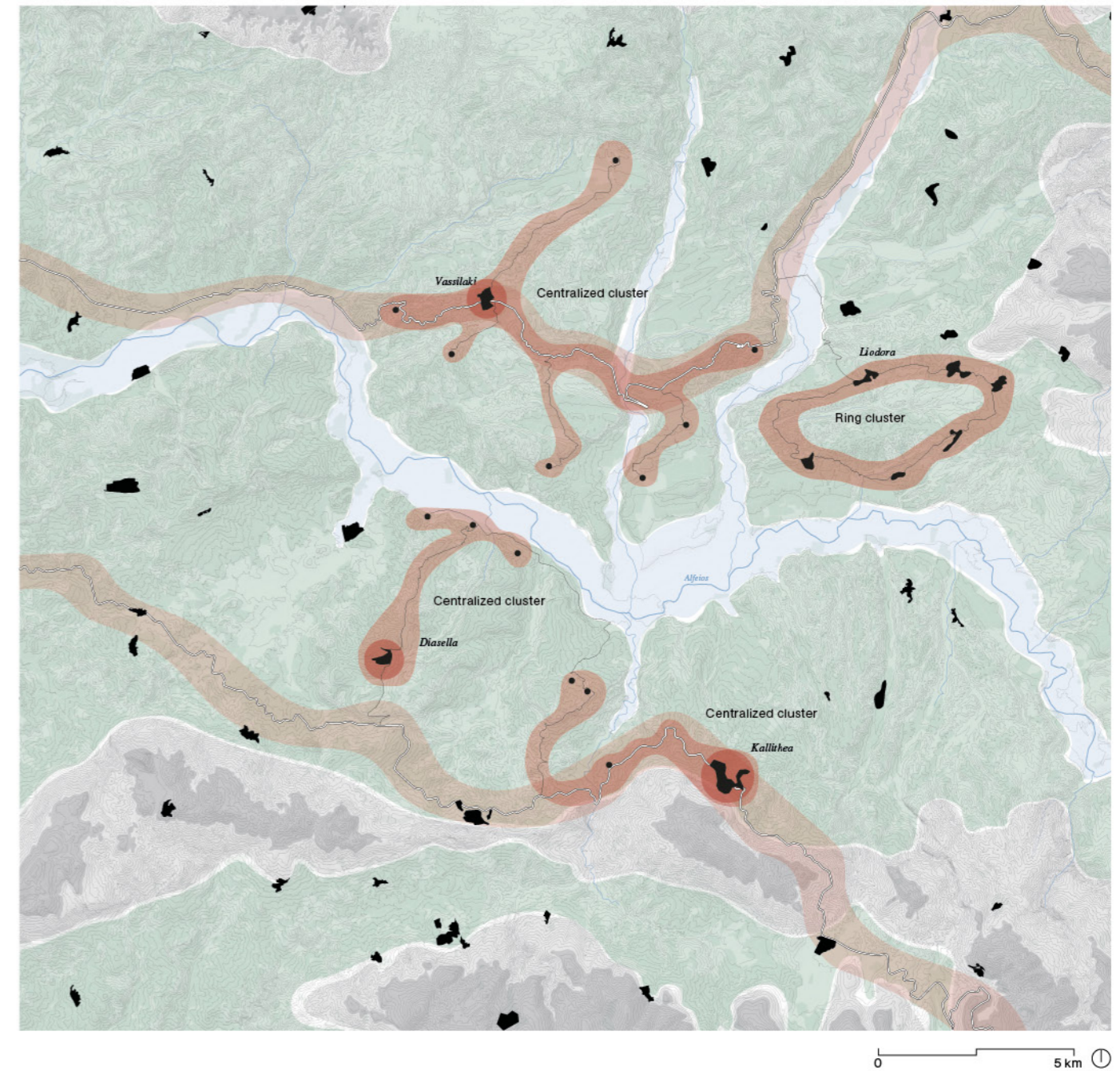


Liodora - Ring cluster

- A Kafeneio
- B Primary school
- C Restaurant



Xirokampos
The village



The village clusters

- Village
- Riverside area
- Semi-mountain area
- Mountain area (+600m)
- Street network
- Drainage to the city
- Cluster relations
- Resisting head village

The different characters of the villages in Alfeios Valley implies different relations they have among themselves and with the city. The most visible is a dependency on cities like Pyrgos and

Zacharo, while closer inspection reveals a movement from the perishing hamlets to head villages like Kallithea, Diasella and Vassilaki. The group of villages that share different facilities make an exception.

The Field: Irrational Landscape

The olive fields characterise the image of Alfeios Valley. The cultivation in the area remained quite traditional throughout the years, without use of pesticides and following the cycles of soil regeneration. The incredible biodiversity of natural species remained with the image of a landscape “en mouvement”, reminding of Gilles Clement’s concept about gardens. Apart from the fire of 2007 that strongly changed the relation between forest and olives in favor of the latter, very slow and small changes can be observed over time: densification of olive plantations, refinement of field perimeters through small paths, and a general shift to organic agriculture. Terracements are the traces of a previous cultivation type that is not anymore visible nowadays: a vineyard. Even if they facilitate the movement through steep fields, they don’t allow the water to flow away. Topography, of course, plays a central role in the distribution across fields and accessibility that is far from being comfortable. What appears from the outside as a unified pattern of cultivation, is actually highly fragmented through different areas defined by natural limits like cliffs, rivers, and forest. In addition to this, a chronic parcellization, obtained due to dowries and heritage, makes field property very small and thus not so profitable. Nonetheless, the non-intensive agriculture approach makes the trees of the Koroneiki olive variety the best olive producers in the country.

Alfeios: Uneven Pattern

Comparison of the Alfeios Valley with the famous olive fields in Kalamata, or even the huge olive production in Spain, points to the significant difference. In Jaën, the fields are organized in a grid only divided with small access roads. In Kalamata, the pattern is also organised geometrically but the landscape contains other elements like forests or other forms of cultivation. In the Alfeios Valley, fields appear in a random arrangement, they are not easily accessible and there are not so many forests.

Formalizing Ownership

Greece does not have a very precise cadastral map. In order to receive subsidies from the European Union, they use something called ‘the olive catalogue’. In this catalogue every farmer marks their farm on a Google Earth base. Through this, the government can ascertain the exact ownership of every farm and avoid farmers claiming a bigger share than they are actually entitled to.

Small & Scattered Land Property

The fields of cultivation in our area are especially small and scattered. It can happen that a farmer has more than ten different fields scattered in a wide area, with each not bigger than 400m². Some of these fields have only few trees and make harvesting and maintainance more complicated. Additionally, this dispersion discourages farmers from investing into technology, keeping the agriculture in this area on the level of traditional handwork.

Abandoned Huts

Alfeios Valley once had a very different appearance than the one we associate with it nowadays. Vineyards were the main agricultural typology in the area, while small huts for the storage of agriculture tools and equipment dominated the landscape. Gradually, people started turning their fields into olive plantations, and the huts lost their utility mostly turning into ruins, and rarely into wood storage spaces.



Abandoned hut

Natural Barrier Group Olive Groves

The Alfeios Valley has many smaller valleys that run perpendicular to it. The areas between these valleys are defined by groups of olive producers and are accessible through roads and paths. There is almost no physical connection between these groups due to the presence of rivers and dense forests.



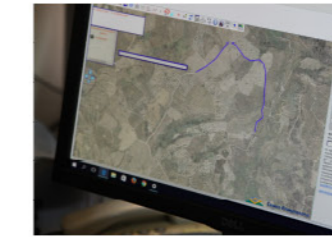
‘Olive room’ defined by forests and a cliff



Farmers working in the fields, 1910



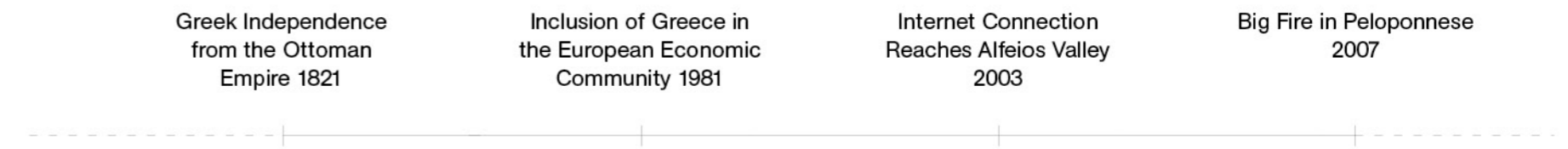
Alfeios valley, engraving, 1861



Peloponnese olive cadastral plan based on Google Earth



A satellite image of Peloponnese during the 2007 fire



From Tsiflikia to Small Fields

After the fall of the feudal system introduced by the Ottoman Empire, the farmers claimed the land they were cultivating. Due to the inheritance and dowry, the plots are becoming smaller. The fact that these olive trees belonged once to their ancestors, brings a certain level of nostalgia among the farmers. This nostalgia refrains farmers from exchanging or selling their fields in order to have more efficient cultivation.

From Vineyards to Olive Groves

Vineyards once represented the main agriculture type in the Alfeios Valley. Since Greece entered the European Union, subsidies became available to farmers. Around 40 years ago, the destruction of the vineyards started, resulting in obsolete huts and the rise of the olive groves as a cultivation type.

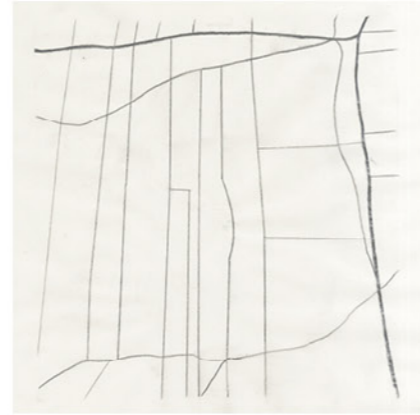
Olive Catalogue

In 2003, the first Internet connection was provided to the main villages of the Alfeios Valley, such as Kallithea. Among the many benefits that this brought, Google Earth played a fundamental role in the ‘formalisation’ of agricultural land property. Earlier, more land surface was declared in order to receive more subsidies from the EU. Now, the introduction of the olive catalogue is both facilitating and controlling land declaration.

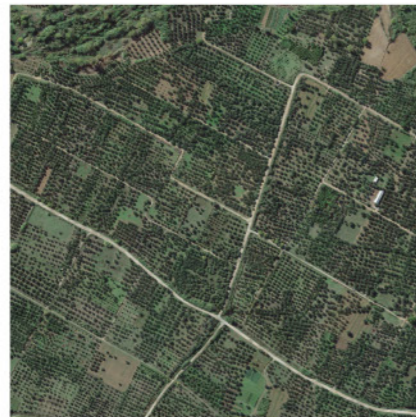
Burned Landscape

Throughout the summer of 2007, a whole series of fires broke out in several areas across Greece. The worst fire of the last 50 years didn’t spare Alfeios Valley; in fact it came from its southern part and destroyed a big portion of the forests. The river acted as a limit to the spread of the fire. That’s where the actual land configuration becomes visible, showing northern side as more wild and southern side as more calm with olive trees dominating the forest.

Spain
Jaën



Kalamata
Greece

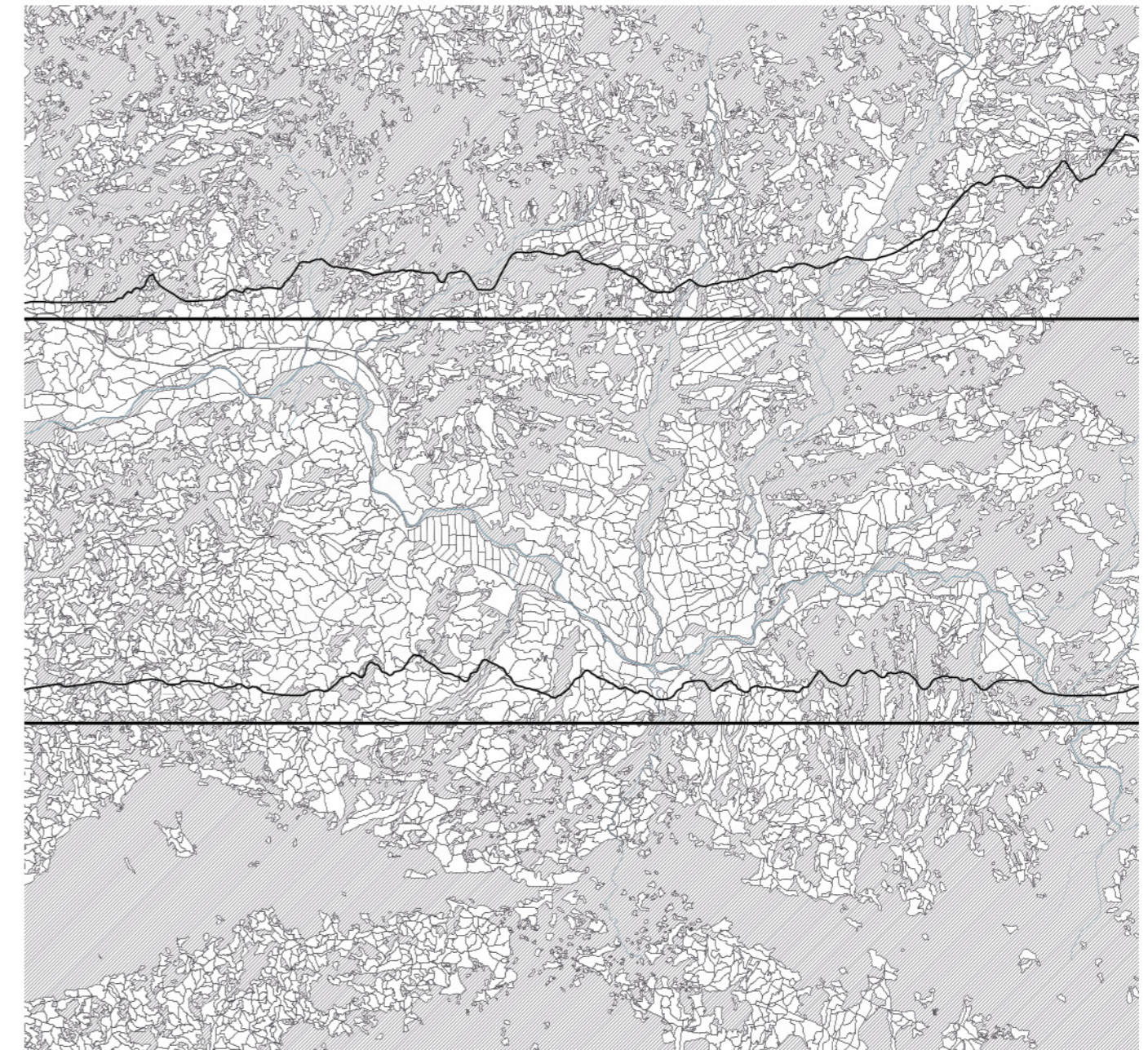


Alfeios
Greece



The olive fields in Jaën are organised in a regular grid spreading all over the plantation. In Kalamata, the grid is also present, but the elements of forest and other plantations can be seen as

well. The Alfeios pattern is quite different, the fields are randomly organised, there is no planned grid and there is a significant presence of the forest between the fields.



The Alfeios pattern

- Agriculture
- Forest
- River

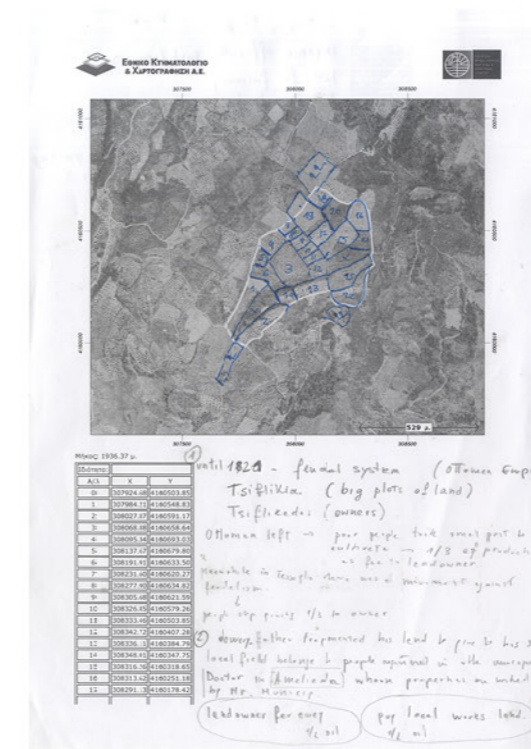
The forest has an important status in the Alfeios Valley. Dense trees with fields are appearing only in the form of the 'rooms' in the forest, especially on the northern side.



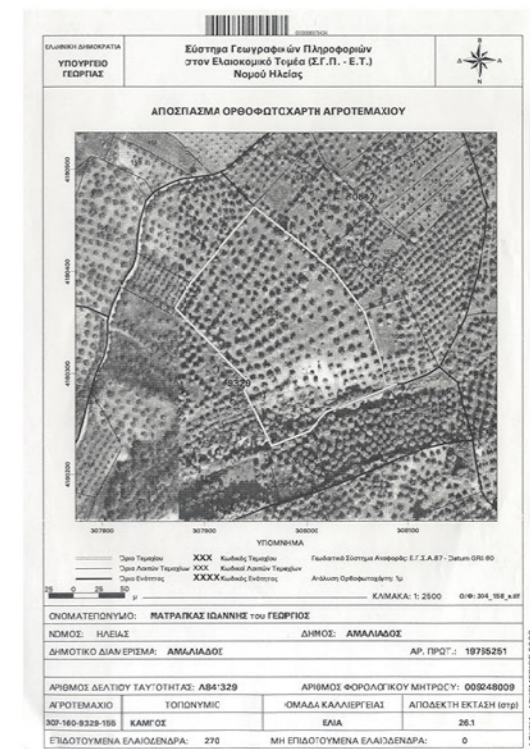
1. Asimakopoulos Antonis
fields: 6, acres: 50
2. Dedousis Panagiotis, ATHENS
fields: 2
3. Matragas AMALIADA
4. Sourelli Theouli
fields: 2, acres: 25
5. Ramos Athanasios
fields: 3, acres: 15
6. Doganis Ioannis
fields: 7, acres: 120
7. Kostadaras Nikolaos
fields: 6, acres: 50
8. Bithas Nikolaos
fields: 4, acres: 25
9. Bithas Georgios, ATHENS
fields: 2, acres: 5
10. Karanatsis Ilias
fields: 2, acres: 10
11. Diamadopoulos Fotis
fields: 2, acres: 10
12. Diamadopoulos Ilias, ATHENS
fields: 2, acres: 10
13. Christopoulos Anastasios, ATHENS
fields: 1, acres: 10
14. Spyropoulos Vasiliios
fields: 3, acres: 35
15. Diamadopoulos Theodoros
fields: 12, acres: 180
16. Tsardis Trifonas
fields: 5, acres: 50
17. Karnaros Kostadinos
fields: 4, acres: 30
18. Doganis Nikolaos, ATHENS
fields: 6, acres: 60
19. no name ATHENS
20. Tsatsris Vasileios, ATHENS
fields: 4, acres: 20



Diverse field ownership:
70% of the owners are non-locals

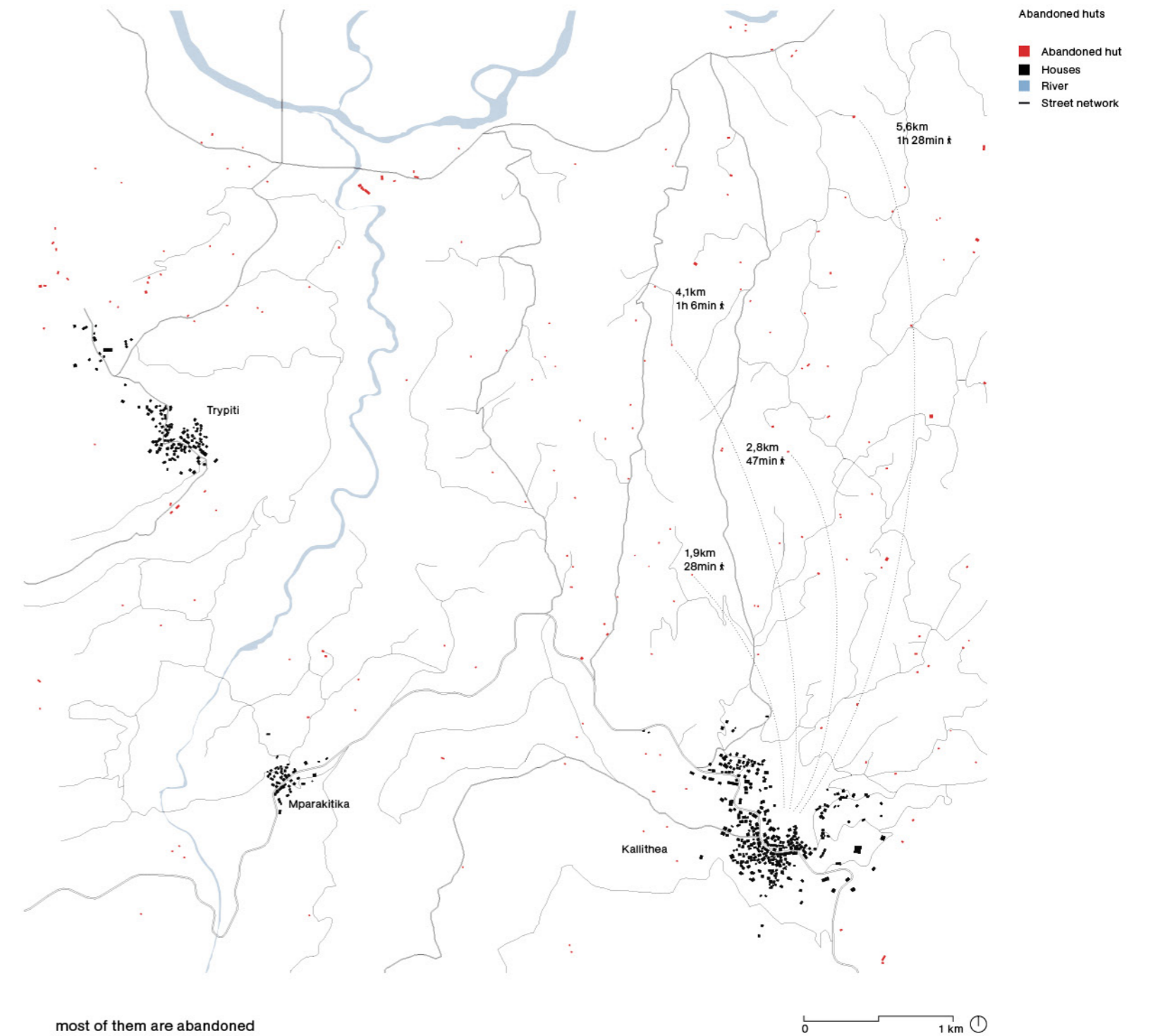


Olive catalogue





An abandoned hut in the middle of an olive field



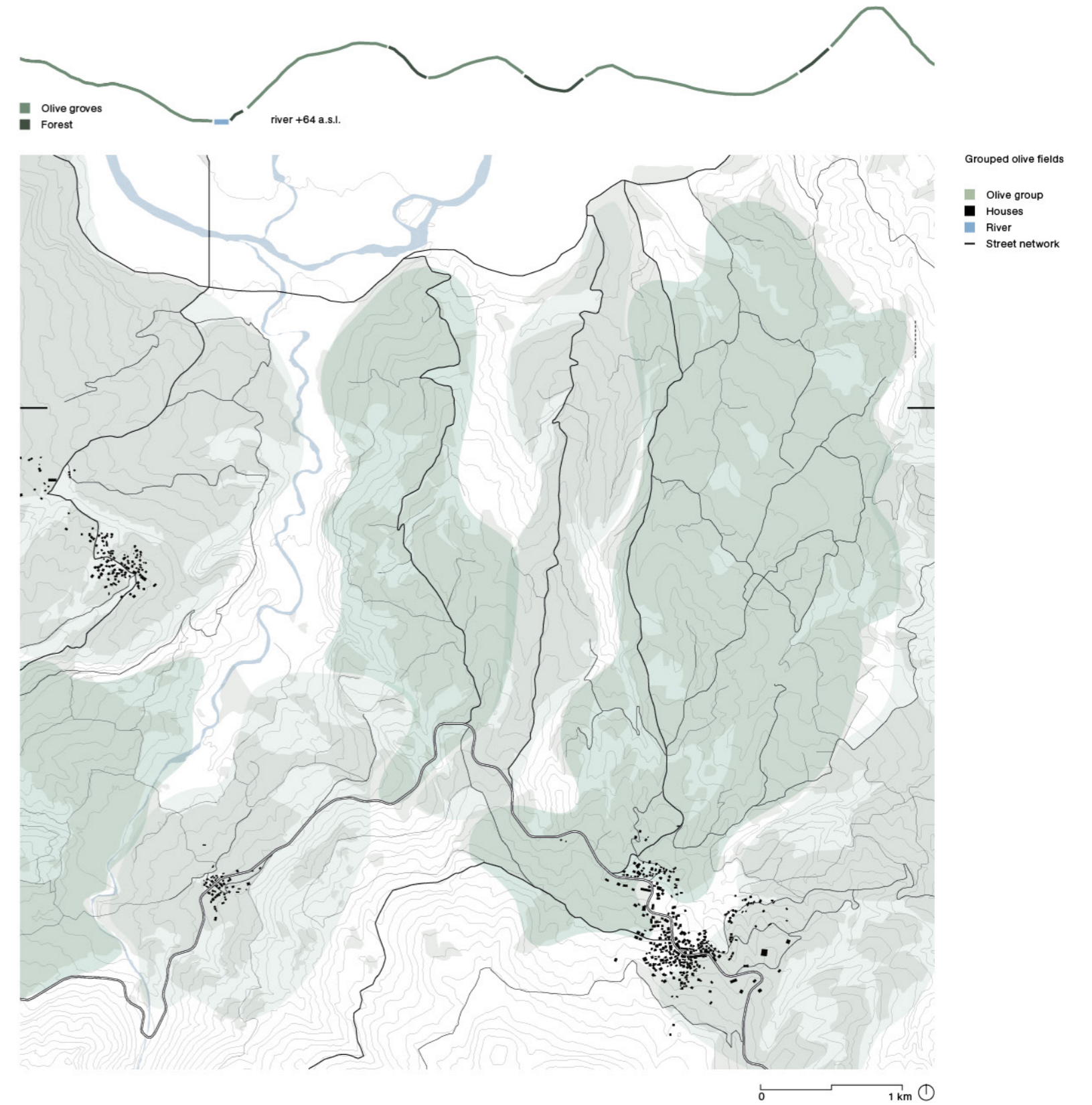
Until the late 1960's vineyards were the main agriculture cultivation type in the area. In order to take care of the grapes, many storage units were built. Nowadays

most of them are abandoned or occasionally used to store wood. These buildings represent the only built typology in the fields and are inaccessible by cars.



Aifeios valley
Olive groupings

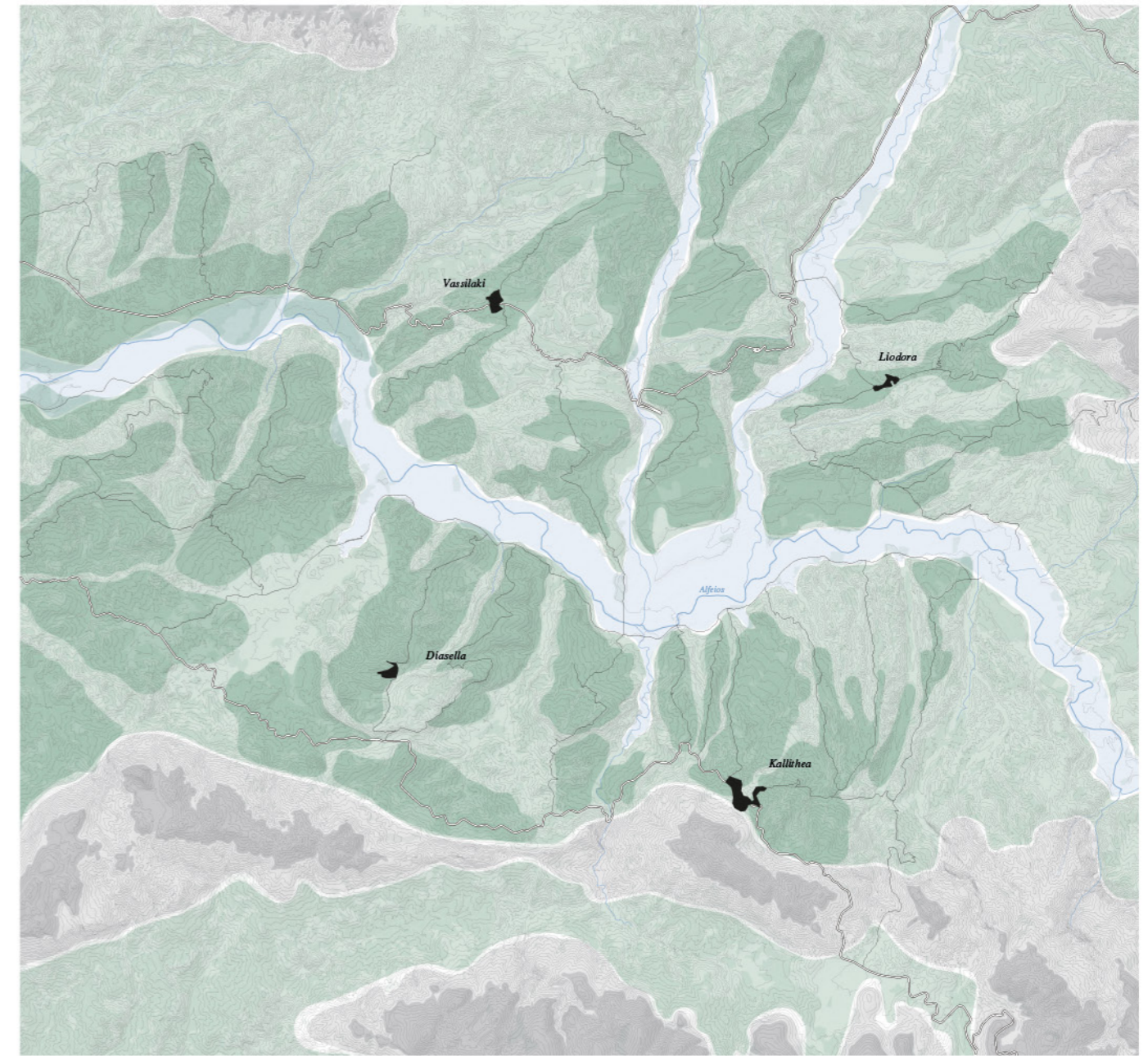
There is a significant presence of steep valleys that form clear borders between the olive fields.



Topography and street network shape and serve precise areas of the olive production.



'Olive room' defined by the forest.



Grouped olive fields in Aifeios valley

- Head village
- Riverside area
- Semi-mountain area
- Mountain area (+600m)
- Street network
- Olive group

Steep valleys are formulating clear borders between the olive fields.

The Mill: A Public Facility

From the informal ground of cultivation to a formal receptor, the cultivated olives are brought to the olive mills for processing. Here the olives are pressed, then the raw oil is separated from water and refined through a centrifugal process. The farmers bring their olives to the closest mill where they pay for the service through share (10-12%) of the produced oil, instead of paying in cash. The portion of oil that the farmer doesn't need for himself, is sold to the mill usually at the rate of about 2-3 euro per litre.

A well equipped mill then brands the oil and sells it across Europe. However, the most of the mills in Alfeios Valley, instead just sell bulk oil to Athens and Italy, making less profit in the process. The mills occupy the built environment as structures independent from the dynamics of the villages. Five out of eight mills in the Alfeios Valley area are located along the two main streets that cross parallel to the valley and connect the Arcadian mountains to the coast of Pyrgos. This is done in order to insure accessibility for the large number of people that visit it during the harvest period.

In the past, the mills used to lie closer to the river to take advantage of the mechanical power from the water flow, but due to the frequent floods of the river, they are more often relocated higher up towards the villages.

Family-Business Mill

Most of the mills present in the Alfeios Valley were founded in the 1970s. From then on, the successive generations took up the activity of their ancestors and implemented it with new machinery, provided through the EU subsidies. Subsidies would usually cover up to 50% of the total investment. Still, the owners needed a secondary off-season revenue stream. That is the reason why you can seldomly find mills with construction material storage, solar panels or gravel digging in this area. During harvest, these spaces of production transform into round-the-clock working spaces.

Bio Mill: a Model

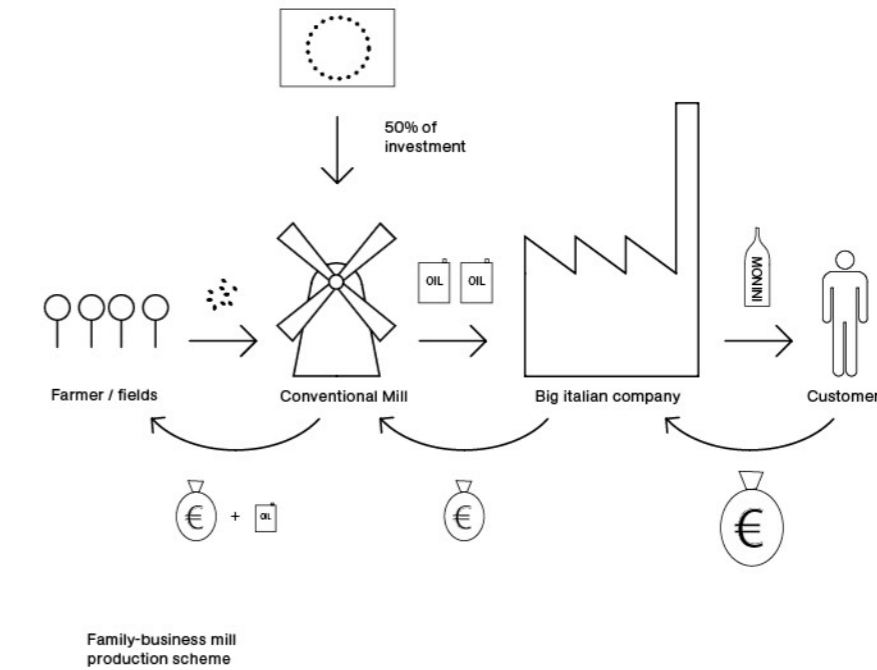
In 2014, a new olive oil mill opened up in Krestena, a bigger village close to the Alfeios valley. In addition to the conventional machines that mills normally own, it also has a machine used for extracting energy out of olive's kernel, as well as a laboratory for bottle labelling. Meetings organised with farmers where knowledge about bio-cultivation is shared, represent important activity in the process of production. As a matter of fact, in order to compete abroad, these mills need quality certificates from the EU. Being able to export its own branded olive oil not only means that most of the profit stays local, but also that these companies compete on a market, different than the one where big industrial companies rely more on quantity rather than quality.



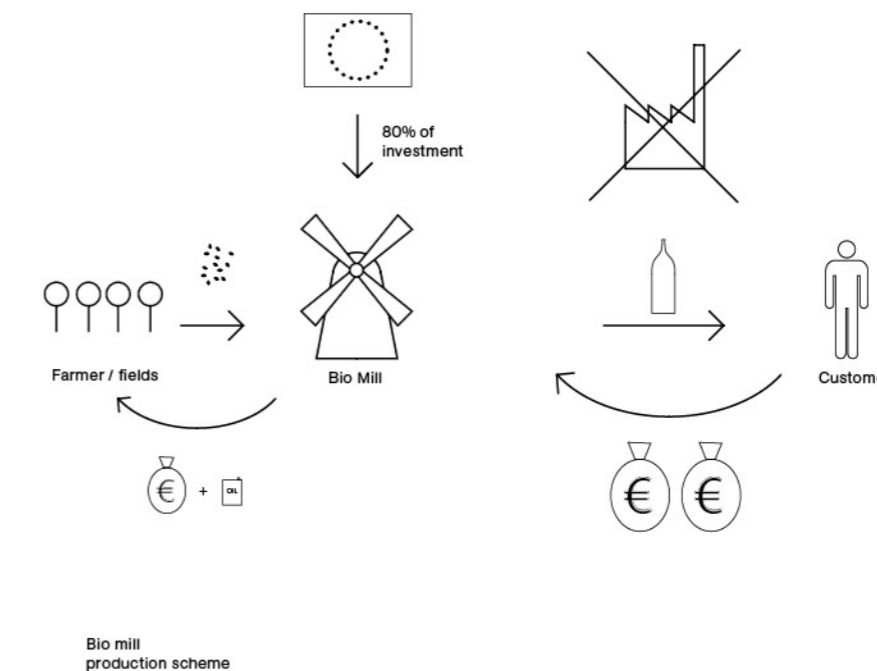
Olive mill with farmers waiting for their oil



Alfeios Valley: A family business mill (Ag. Ioannis) & bio mill (Krestena)



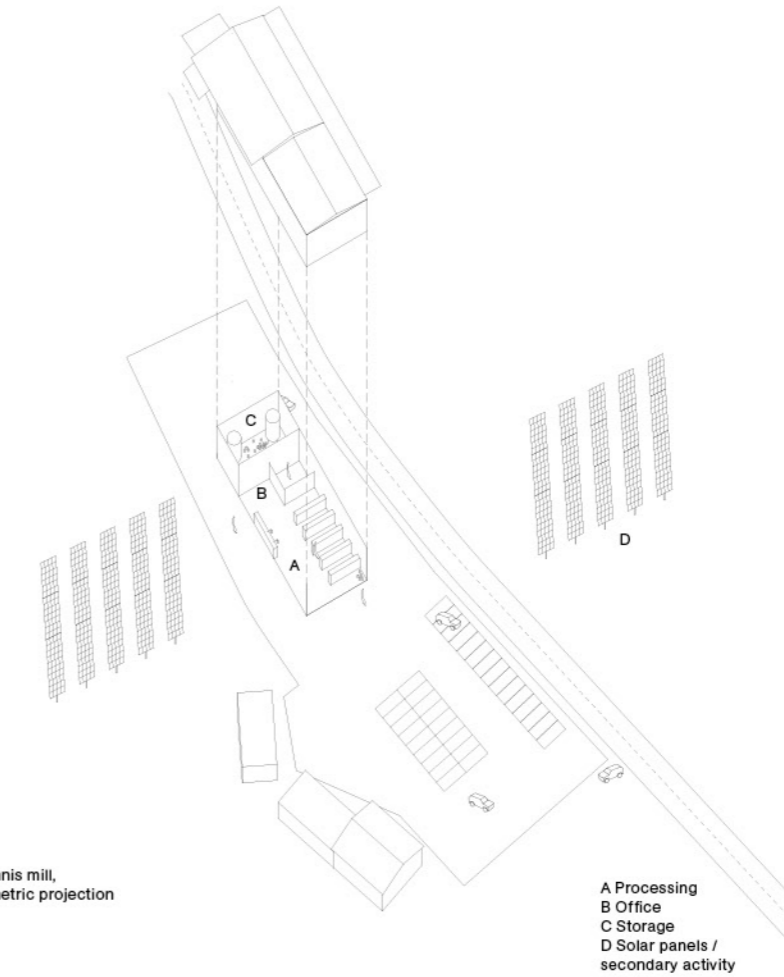
Unlabelled olive oil bottle



Labelled olive oil bottle



An exterior view of the mill



An interior view of the centrifuge room



Mill owner looking sceptically toward his olive press

Mr. Papadopoulos (41), Mill owner

What is your profession?

I am the owner of an olive mill since 2007. The mill belonged to my father since 1972. Next to this, I run a small business with solar energy. I built up solar panels in my garden, with help of EU subsidies. I sell the electricity produced through the solar business to the state of Greece. It helps in earning some extra money during the off-season.

How much oil do you produce and who do you sell it to?

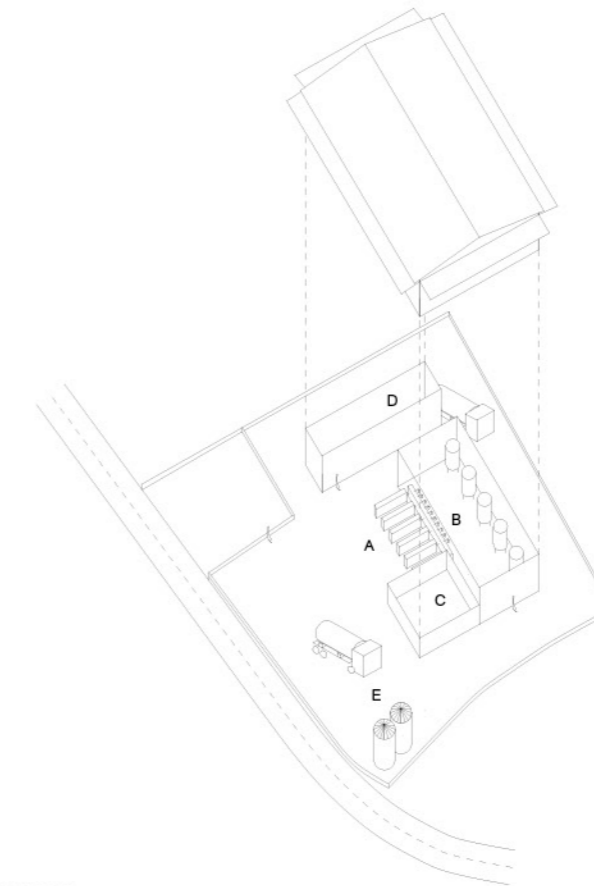
I press olive oil for about 1100 families in the area of Alfeios valley and they pay me with 10% of their oil. Usually they take 200 kg back for their personal use, the rest I buy and then sell to big companies in Athens and Italy.

Did you ever think about creating your own olive oil brand?

As you probably know, the investment for your own brand is really high. You need new machines, connections to big markets in Europe and a lot of energy. I prefer to keep my mill how it is for now and stay out of trouble.



Exterior view with bioenergy silos



Mill in Krestena, axonometric projection



Inside view, storage room



Mill's owner showing his labelling machineries

Mr. Papadipadopolus (38), Mill Owner

What is your profession?

After studying economics, I worked for a big olive oil company based outside of Athens. Some years back I decided to return back to my hometown Krestena and open my own mill in 2012. Since then, this has been my full time job.

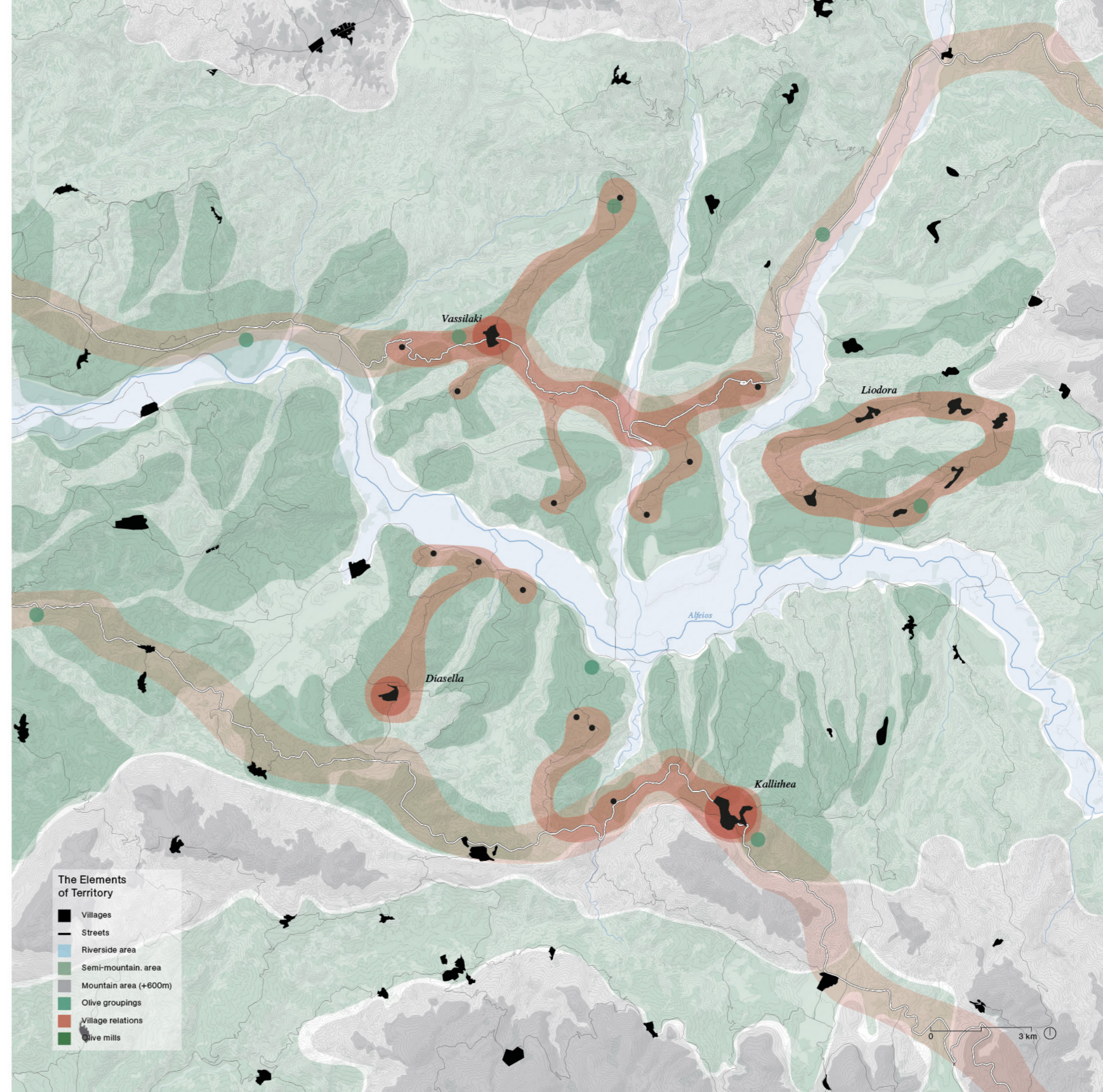
How much oil do you produce & who do you sell it to?

I press olive oil for about 600 families in Alfeios Valley, they all have organic farms and take good care of their plants. I brand this oil in my mill and sell it directly to Europe and America.

Slow Agriculture: Territorial Elements

The villages of Alfeios Valley face an uncertain future. Hamlets are perishing and the main villages are still dependent on the major cities of Pyrgos and Zacharo. Even when the street network is in a slow but stable condition, there is no public transport which would encourage the exchange between the villages or provide a faster connection to the cities. The fields that are grouped around the access streets and shaped between the valleys do not benefit from cooperative thinking or common infrastructure. Every farmer takes care of their own field and their own machines, they only share the public access to streets. The olive mills, which are mostly well positioned next to the main roads, do not profit from their location. They are mostly enclosed industrial buildings which do not reveal their function openly to the people passing by.

Thesis Map



Working & Living in the Olive Groves: Eleopolis

Having started with a series of problems concerning our study framework, we decided to keep using those problems as productive tools rather than questions to answer. We imagine the countryside as an environment where 'slow living' can both resist urbanisation and be fortified by fast digitalisation. In a time that allows us to be connected through the internet and quickly move from one place to another, a physical, static presence in the city is not needed anymore. Therefore, we think that the countryside can develop, not as an alternative but rather as a condition for itself, where living and working are no longer separated.

We tried to tackle this issue in our case-study with a strategy that can be roughly divided into three parts:

- Initiate a local structure independent from the city. In this constellation, head villages are emphasised and their role is enhanced through implemented public facilities
- Rethink connectivity so as to support a local network and connection to big cities
- A new modus for living and working: with a coexistence of agriculture activities with a new pattern of living.



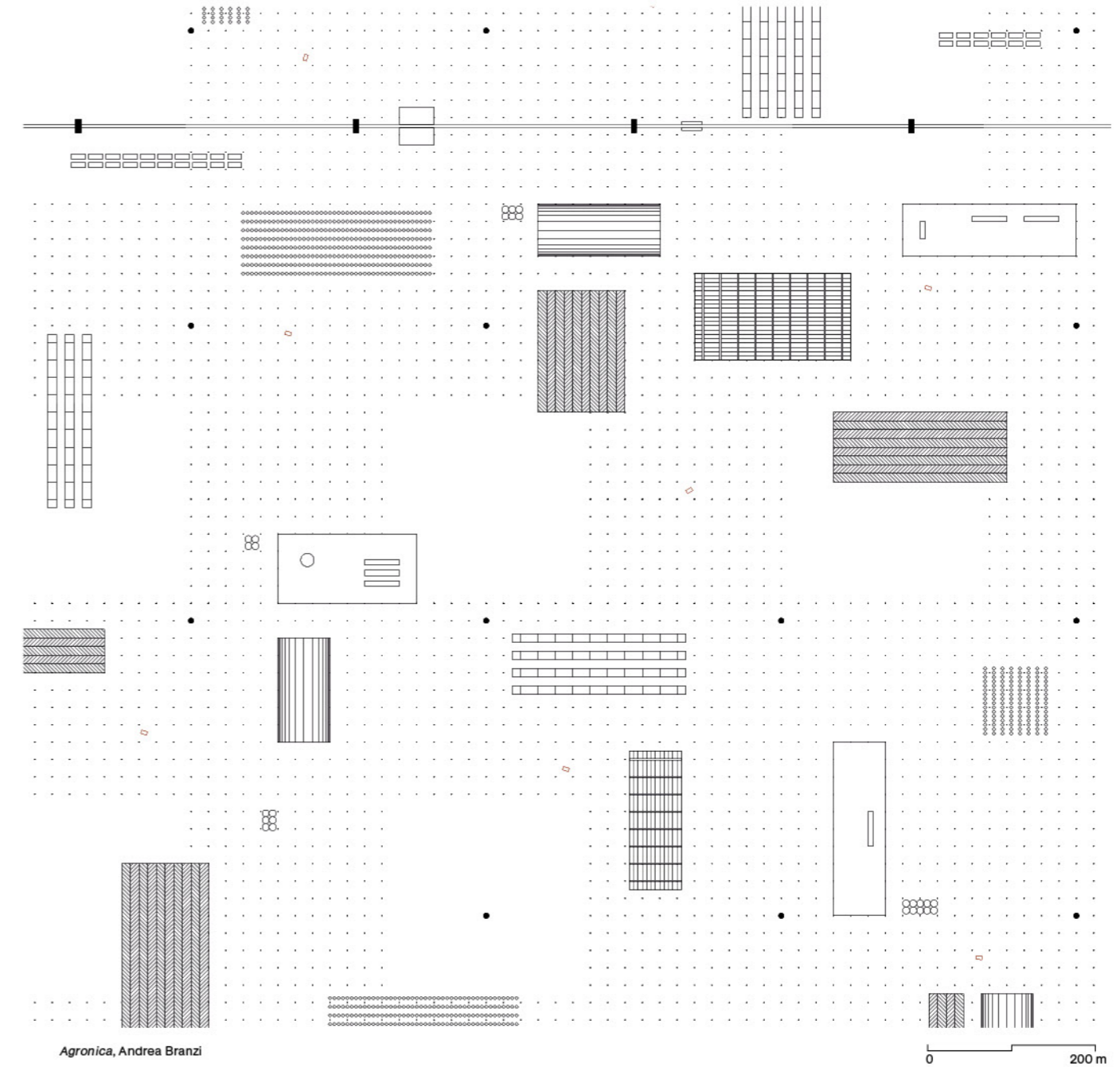
Concept sketch



Agronica, Andrea Branzi

Agronica aims to overcome the gap between the city and the countryside, allowing agriculture and nature to exist side by side in a urban system. It begins with an agricultural territory in which, a system of architectural ele-

ments (roofs, walls, platforms) come together as a system. This way, a semi-urbanised and semi-agricultural territory is created, with temporary service structures combined without creating permanent configurations.



Agronica, Andrea Branzi

Head Village Stability: Public Infrastructure for Locals

The four main villages of Kallithea, Diasella, Vassilaki and Liodora do not have any shared infrastructure. Even if big squares like the one in Diasella or terraces like in Kallithea do exist, most of the time they are not used and are lying empty. In order to strengthen the local connections of the place and make inhabitants less dependent on the city, we propose a cultural hub in each village using simple architectural elements like a public roof.

Public Programs for a Self-Sustained Urbanity

Based on the specificity in each of the villages, we would like to come up with a unique character for each of them. Kallithea, with its beautiful views, speciality restaurants and Kafeneios has a good potential to attract people. Diasella has a big public square at the centre of the village on which we imagine a 'public roof' to support the market. Vassilaki has a well positioned olive

mill next to the main street. Along with providing a platform for cultural activities, the mill could be more open to the public in order to attract clients and share knowledge with them. Liodora is positioned in the middle of a dense forest. An existing bath and the presence of a river next to it, shows its potential in becoming a village for leisure.

Public Transport

The dependency on a car to move around makes life difficult, especially for the younger people in the area. An efficient public transport system is a basis for strengthening the existence of Alfeios valley as an entity. Keeping pace with the friendliness towards the environment, we imagine these vehicles to run with electric motors and solar energy.

Fast City-Line Bus

To make the living in the fields possible, one needs a fast connection to the main cities of Pyrgos, Patras or even Athens. We propose a fast city-line bus which would make a loop from Pyrgos to Vassilaki, Liodora, Kallithea, Diasella, Krestena and back to Pyrgos. Through

Alfeios Local Bus

In order for everybody from the valley to benefit from the new public programs, like market, the villages need a good connection with each other. A slow, but reliable, bus connection would make

Self Driving TukTuk

People who live in the fields need a proper connection with the village. In order to avoid too many cars in the area, we propose small, driverless cars that can be ordered via the internet, and

Alfeios Hiking Map

In order to connect different olive groves, we imagine a hiking path which transverses the Alfeios Valley. This trail would re-use existing paths in the fields and would

this connection, big institutions like hospitals and high schools could be accessible to the people from remote regions. It would be imaginable to live in the fields of Alfeios Valley while working in bigger cities like Pyrgos or Zacharo.

the link between Vassilaki, Liodora, Kallithea and Diasella more feasible. With such a connection, the inhabitants of the valley can benefit from the diverse characteristics of the area.

can pick you up from your doorstep. These autonomous TukTuks could potentially be driven with solar power to preserve an eco-friendly environment.

need only small interventions at spots where it crosses bushes or streams. This path is drawn down as a hiking map and helps visitors to discover the area by foot.

Working and Living in the Olive Groves

Not everyone wishes to live in big cities anymore. More and more people are looking for a calm and simple way of life like the one they can find in the countryside. A diverse set of professionals like information scientists, artists or even architects could potentially live in areas like this. Fast digital connections enable people to work in their gardens while the actual office is based far away.

A Prototype for a New Way of Living

The houses in the fields should not provide a luxurious living. The size and function of these autarkical huts should be kept at a minimum to avoid the emergence of big villas. Through restricting them to come up only on ex-

Public Storage for Agricultural Equipment

To strengthen the local agriculture production, a public storage in form of shelves is provided. In these, one can find farming machines, tools, and water supply for the fields. This facility is not private, but an open source and available to all the

isting structures or ruins, the houses are placed reasonably in the landscape. Solar panels and wells provide the basic resources for the house.

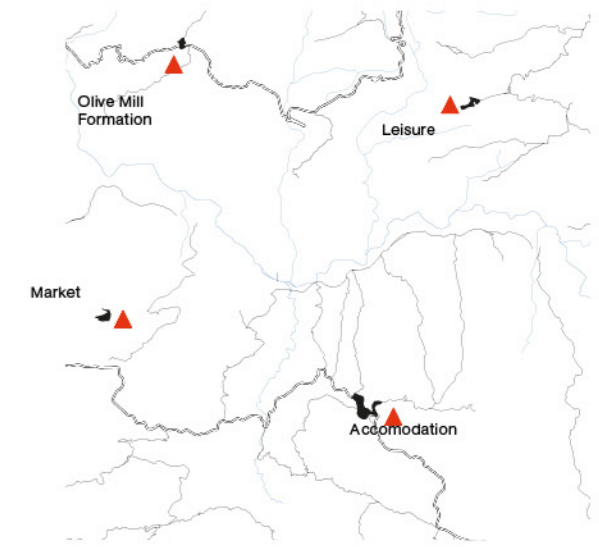
farmers. Next to the storage we propose a cultural platform which connects the local farmers to the new inhabitants. People could meet for a coffee or trade their farming products.



Living & working in the fields



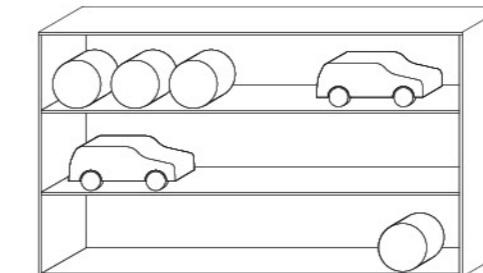
Public transport



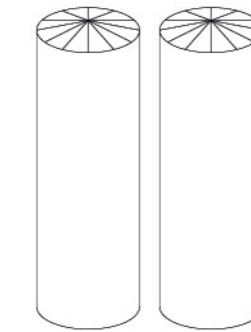
Public program for the village



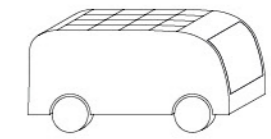
Public roof



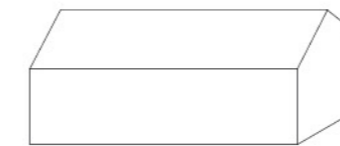
Agriculture storage



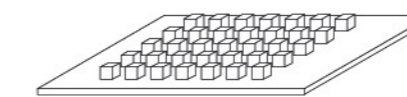
Bio energy



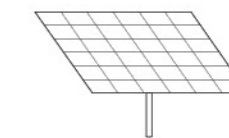
Self driving tuktuk



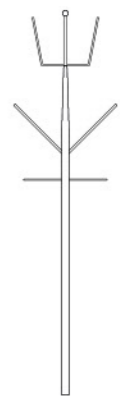
Prototype for a new living



Cultural platform



Solar panels



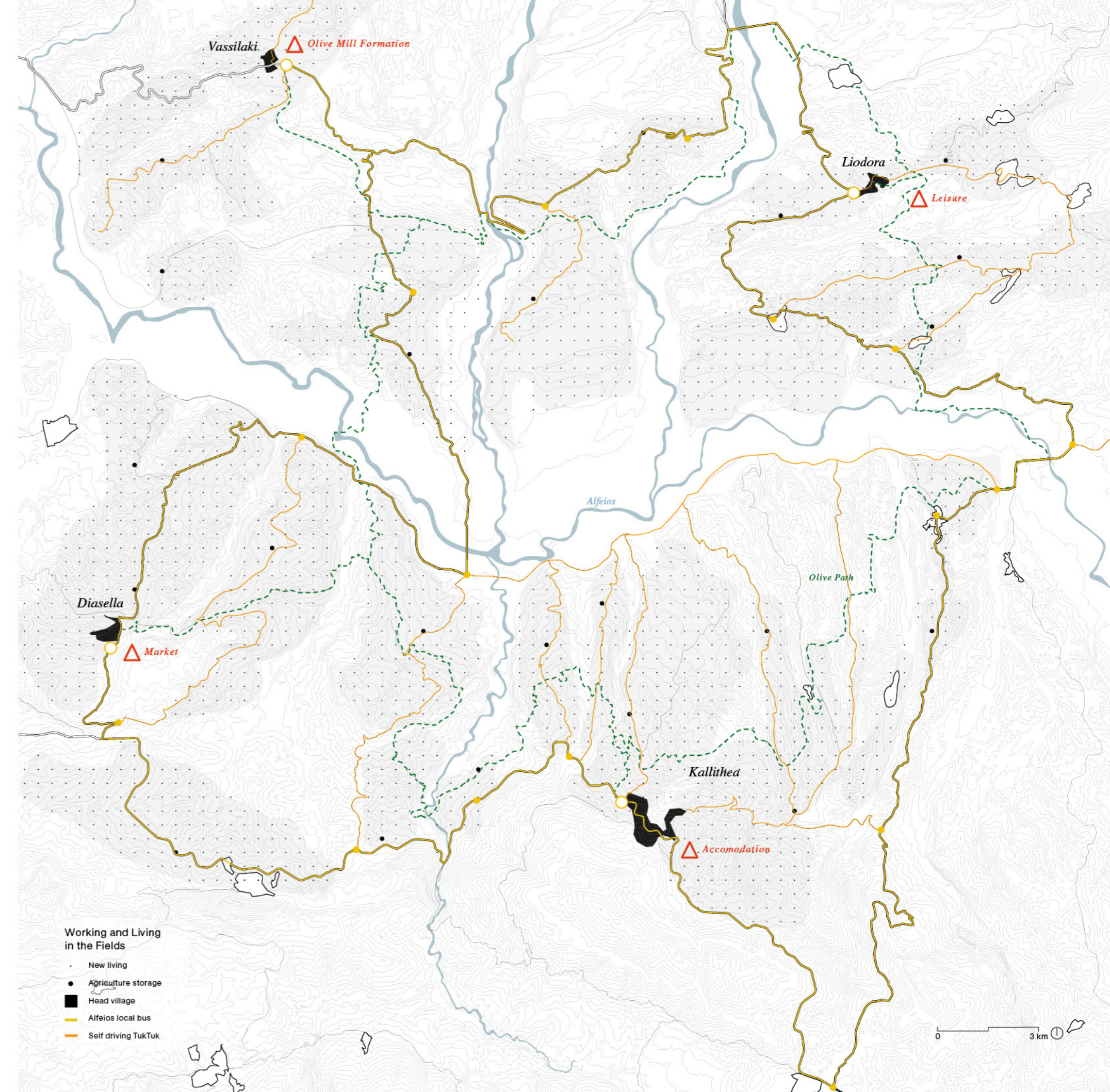
Fast digital connection



Public roof as a market on
the main square in Diasella

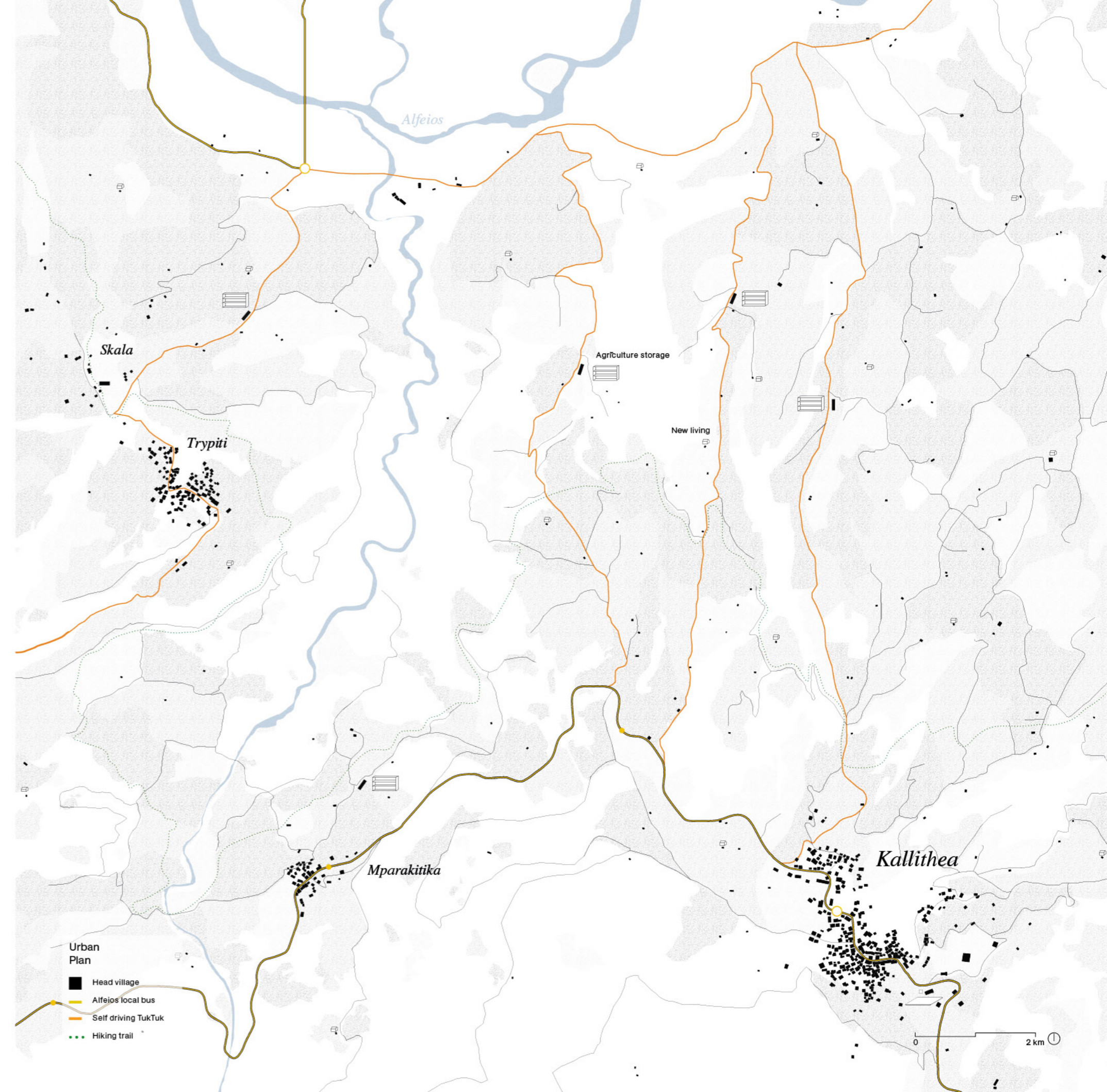


Cultural platform in front
of an olive mill





Working and living in the olive groves





New living and working
in the olive groves

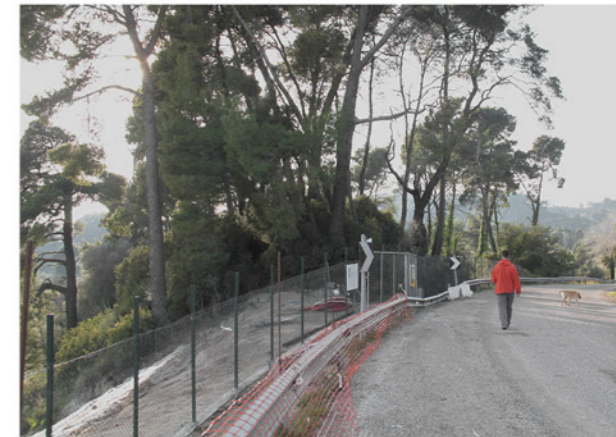
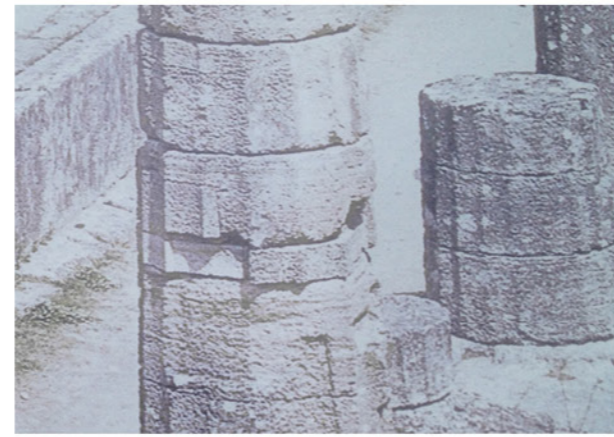
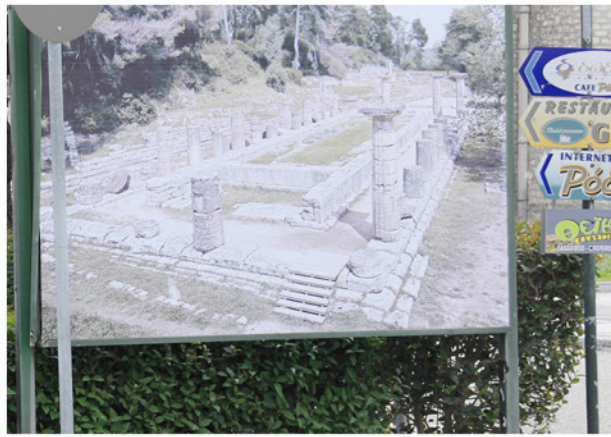




A hiking map for the olive groves







ARCHITECTURE OF
TERRITORY
European Countryside

Project by
Dorothee Hahn
Julie Rigling

OLYMPIA HERITAGE AS AN URBAN PROJECT

ARCADIA
Spring 2016

Olympia

Heritage as an Urban Project



Olympia is not one, but rather many places. It is a very peculiar configuration composed of a site with ruins, a modernist conference facility and a village based on grid-iron planning: an urban project. Over the course of time, Olympia has gone through many transformations. Travellers, their ideologies and their specific spatial configurations had an important role in shaping its landscape and fabric. With the change of the 'Olympian traveller', the Olympia as a place changed too. This peculiarity makes Olympia a very unique kind of a Greek heritage site.

During our research, we tried to unravel the different layers that compose its urban scheme. Following the routes of both the present-day and of the bygone travellers, we dug deep into the sandy ground of Olympian history. We went back to its mythological roots, its history as a sanctuary, and its eventual disappearance (possible tsunami). We followed the versatile campaigns of excavations, which had taken place in the age of European Imperialism and Neoclassicism. And then, we tracked its rise as a destination for mass tourism in the 1960s. What about the present-day travellers? Who are they? The cruise-ship tourists. One day, at ten o'clock in the morning, when the cruiser had dropped its anchor in the nearby port, they poured into the village, the souvenir shops, and the ruins. This arrival of tourists in massive numbers is what is currently strongly shaping the Olympian landscape: roads are enlarged, parking lots are constructed, the business of souvenir shops is flourishing. However, hotels stay empty, as do the museums. At a moment, we decided to leave the formal paths that the traveller networks had established. We decided to discover the hidden landscapes that unfold between the urban configurations: the wild riverbanks; flourishing grasslands; overgrown fields; abandoned tourist infrastructures; and strange artefacts like fire-protection towers, dams, and archaeological storage places. Since the World Heritage status was bestowed upon the ancient site of Olympia in 1989, there has been an existence of a buffer zone around the ruins. This had frozen this landscape over the years and turned it into a remote and silent area with very peculiar qualities.

What if these fragments of landscape were to become the new protagonists of a network of destinations that went beyond the fast-track mass tourism that exists today? What if a path were to lead across the Alfeios River, through the pine groves, clearings and fields, and past the workshops of archaeologists working on these sites? What if one has strolled along the grassy slopes of Drouva and reached the former Xenia Motel, that has been transformed into a public school? What if the Olympian territory turned into a park of heritage landscape fragments?

p.200

A Metamorphosis Through Time

Olympia has never been a settlement, but a destination for travellers. It only became inhabited after a village started to grow to serve the tourists visiting the excavated sites.

p.210

Olympia as an Urban Landscape

The heritage site is the stage. The river and the mountains act as a scenography, while tourist infrastructure is placed in the backstage.

p.218

Heritage as an Urban Program

There is a dense overlap of user networks patterns over the Olympian landscape. Each has very specific paths, destinations, uses.

p.220

Two Global Players

The Olympian territory is shaped by the activities of two internationally operating organizations: The IOC and the UNESCO.

p.222

Tourist Gates

Olympia is a touristic town. While the cruise ship tourism is exploding, and with it a number of souvenir shops along the main streets, the hotel complexes become derelict.

p.228

Archaeologist Loops

Two perfectly functioning circuits of excavating, processing, archiving and storing are hidden behind the scenes of the ancient site.

p.234

Local Patterns

A dense layer of production, sales, habitation and consumption reveals that the local Olympia is part of a polycentric system of villages.

p.240

Hidden Landscapes

In between the networks of local, archaeological and tourist activities, a fourth layer is hidden: the abandoned fields, modernist buildings in decay, and an overgrowing riverbank.

p.248

Heritage as a Frozen Landscape

The existence of a buffer zone triggers dynamic tourist aisles within an otherwise static territory.

p.252

New Destinations

A second chance for Olympia: In the frozen territory of the buffer zone lies the potential for a slow network of resilient leisure landscapes.

A Metamorphosis Through Time

Olympia lies in Western Peloponnese, a hilly area, on the edge of the Alfeios Valley, where the confluence of Alfeios and the smaller Kladeos river takes place. The peculiar configuration of Olympia which is composed of a ruin site, a modernist conference facility and a gridded village, is the result of a very particular transformation and development process that happened over a hundred years, starting in the middle of the 19th century. This transformation process had always been deeply related to Olympia as a destination for travellers. But this is only one part of the story. As it is known in the historical studies, the story of Olympia begins in mythological times, some time before the period of Greek Antiquity. According to the legends, on the very spot where the remains of temples exist between the grasslands, Zeus, Pelops and other Greek Gods were racing their chariots. Then, during the Greek Antiquity, people from all over the Greek territory travelled to Olympia to worship these gods, and to attend the Olympic Games. The stadium, temples, gymnasiums, all tell us about this use even today. After the centuries of oblivion, the sanctuary, hidden under alluvial sediments, was rediscovered by the first adventure travellers, who dared to cross the Ionian Sea on their 'grand tour'. German archaeologists excavated the sanctuary completely only by the end of the 19th century. They built the first infrastructures of the new village, that would become the second part in this peculiar setting: the new tourist town. The Olympic Academy, a modernist complex to host conference visitors, was constructed in the 1960s, when the Olympic movement gained popularity worldwide.

Sanctuary 1000 BC–392 AD

The site of Olympia has been inhabited since prehistoric times. In the 10th century BC, Olympia became a centre of the worship of Zeus, the father of the twelve Olympian Gods. In 776 BC, the Olympic Games started to take place here every four years. During the next thousand years and more, the sanctuary constantly grew in importance. Buildings, such as hotels or administration buildings were added to support the rising number of visitors, coming from all over Greece to thank Zeus for the success in wars and to attend the Olympic Games. A sacred truce was established during the Games and, as such, the Olympic Games were an important event in the history of the establishment of the Greek democracy. Most visitors would arrive to Olympia by ship over the Kladeos River, and sleep in tents between the river and the sanctuary. The athletes and priests came here through the Holy Road, which connected Elis, a big city and capital of the region in the ancient times, with the sanctuary, in a procession. In 393 AD, the Roman and Christian emperor Theodosius, prohibited the pagan religion, which also meant the end to the sanctuary of Olympia and the Olympic Games.



A model of the Altis of Olympia

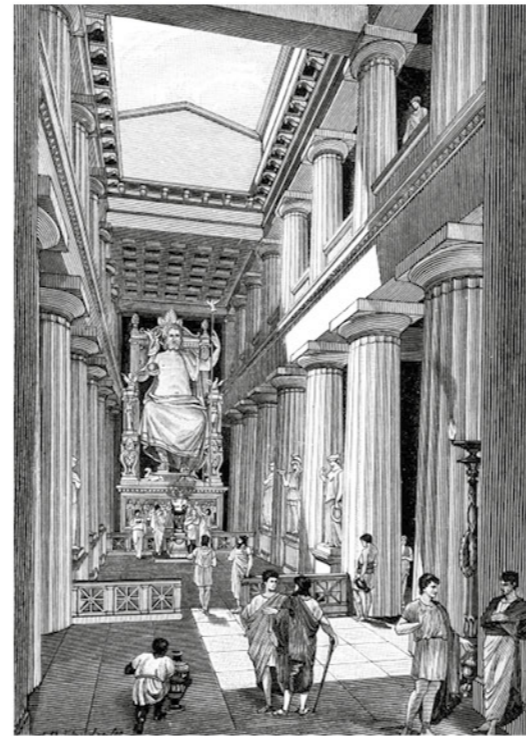
Olympia in Mythology

There are several myths about how the games started, the most common one is the story of the hero Pelops, after whom the Peloponnese is named ("Pelop's Isle"). Pelops was a prince from Lydia in Asia Minor who sought the hand of Hippodamia, the daughter of King Oinomaos of Pisa, which was supposed to be a town just next to the site of Olympia. Oinomaos challenged his daughter's suitors to a chariot race under the guarantee that any young man who won the chariot

race could have Hippodamia as his wife. Any young man who lost the race would be beheaded, and the heads would be used as decoration for the palace of Oinomaos. With the help of his charioteer Myrtilos, Pelops devised a plan to beat Oinomaos in the chariot race. Pelops and Myrtilos secretly replaced the bronze linchpins of the King's chariot with linchpins made of wax. When Oinomaos was about to pass Pelops in the chariot race, the wax melted and Oinomaos was thrown to death. Pelops

married Hippodamia and instituted the Olympic Games to celebrate his victory. A different version of the myth refers to the Olympic games as funeral games in the memory of Oinomaos. It is

also said that Hercules' fifth labour, cleaning the Aegean stables by diverting a river and let it flow through the stables took place in the area of Olympia.



Statue of Zeus in Olympia, one of the seven world wonders, lost after 393 AD

The Traveller: Pausanias 115–180 AD

Pausanias was a Greek traveller, a geographer and a writer from the second century AD. He travelled through the Greek territory, visiting sanctuaries and important villages from that time. In his travel journal, the so called "Periegesis", he describes sites and monuments, local and regional histories, mythical and folkloric

traditions and rituals. Olympia was one stop on his travel itineraries. To archaeologists and historians, the account has served as a valuable source of information. With the help of his descriptions, French archaeologists from the Morea Expedition excavated the first main parts of the sanctuary in 1829.



Pausanias' ten books

Ruins 1829–2016

Through floods, earthquakes or maybe even a tsunami around 6th century AD (see p.229), the sanctuary got buried under an eight meter thick layer of earth and other debris. Even the name of Olympia, which was inseparably connected with this famous place, was getting forgotten. It was only a thousand years later that the confluence point of the rivers Kladeos and Alfeios were once again marked on a Venetian map of 1516. During the rising interest for the ancient times during the Renaissance, some explorers from Western countries tried to rediscover the lost site. It was only in 1829, that a first part of the ruins was revealed. The Beaux-Arts section of the French military expedition 'Expédition de la Morée', managed to make a quick trawl for treasures. But formal excavations did not begin until 1875, under the direction of the newly formed 'Deutsches Archäologisches Institut'. By the end of the 19th century, the main parts of the sanctuary had been excavated. Excavations continue today with searching for treasures, archiving archaeological findings, and transforming the size and shape of the landscape through the process of research.



Carte Trigonométrique Expédition scientifique de Morée, 1829-1838

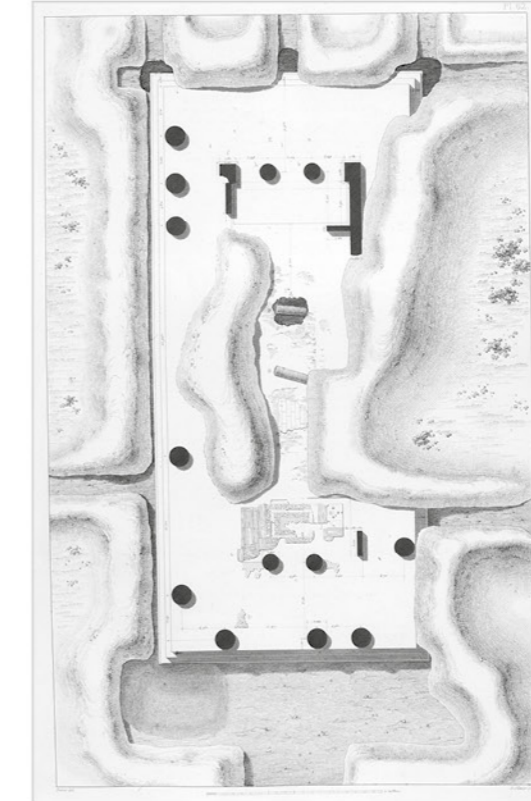
The Traveller: Morea Expedition 1828-1833

Since 1821, the Greeks had been waging a war of independence against the Ottoman Empire. In 1827, the United Kingdom, France and Russia decided to set out on a military expedition to force the Ottoman Empire to recognise Greek independence. In addition to the military part of this expedition, there were also scientific and artistic sections that would

explore the territory: authentic diaries of their excavations where precise measurements that were read off watches and compasses were written down, they drew maps of the regions they travelled, and described the layout of the terrain. The expedition spent six weeks in Olympia, starting on May 10, 1829. The site was divided into squares and excavations

were undertaken in straight lines: archaeology was becoming rationalised. And it was in this way, with the help of Pausanias' descriptions (see p.200) that the location of the Temple of Zeus was

determined. Three metopes of the Temple of Zeus discovered in Olympia were brought to a museum in Paris in their entirety, where they remain until today.



Morea Expedition, Floor plan and detail of the Temple of Zeus

Greek-German Convention 1875

The Greek-German Excavation Convention is notable for having been the first in which excavators agreed to leave all original artefacts with the host country. The Convention was signed in 1875 between the newly independent Greek Kingdom and the German Empire. The German archaeologists were at that time only allowed to

make duplicates or mouldings from the findings. In parallel, it was even decided to build an on-site museum to house the findings. This was supposed to be a very progressive step at the time, when the National Museums in Athens were supposed to be the only archaeological archives for objects from Ancient Greece.



German archaeologists at the ruins of Olympia

German Excavations 1876–2016

In times of an enormous enthusiasm for the Ancient Greek world, the German Archaeologist Ernst Curtius delivered a lecture on January 10th, 1852, in the presence of King Friedrich IV in Berlin, which caused the monarch himself to take initiative for ordering excavations in Olympia. Olympia thus, became a state project, some sort of a célèbre. In February 1854, the Prussian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister received the order to open up negotiations with Athens. But political developments (the Russian-Turkish War) in Greece necessitated a further delay of the project. In the end, it took twenty years until the excavations could start, after the signing of the Excavation Convention in 1875. They were carried out under the direction of Ernst Curtius, Friedrich Adler and Dr. Busch. The work on

Archaeology and Neoclassicism

The interest for the Greek world in the late 18th and 19th century is deeply rooted in Neoclassicism that was a predominant style at that time. Johann Joachim Winckelmann, pioneering Hellenist who first articulated the difference between Greek, Greco-Roman and Roman art, would be the decisive influence on the rise of the Neoclassical movement during the late 18th century. As such, the excavations carried out by German archaeologists between 1875 and 1881, served to legitimate the Neoclassical style. This explains why certain findings were given more importance than others: when

the site became increasingly concentrated on the examination of the big temples and their surroundings, with a major interest in sculptures. In order to accelerate the work, not only wheelbarrows but horse-drawn carts were employed. In May 1877, the famous statue of the Hermes of Praxiteles was discovered on the very spot where Pausanias had seen it. In 1881, after a total of six years work, the excavation work was concluded and thus started the construction of the first of the infrastructures that would later become the village of Olympia: the museum, the hotel and the train station. After World War I and II, German archaeologists resumed the excavations and are present in Olympia until this day.

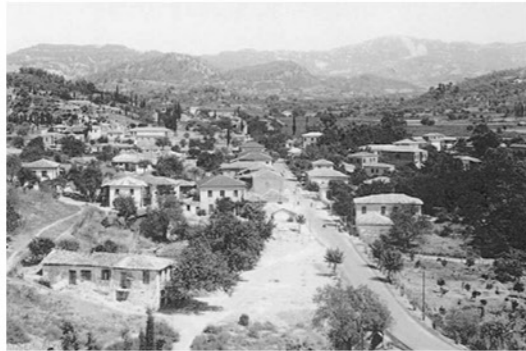
the statue of Praxiteles was found, there was a big frustration in the beginning, because the archaeologists thought that they were dealing with a Roman statue, which would have been of minor value compared to a Greek one. The neoclassical museum, the hotel, and the train station, built by the German architect Ernst Ziller after 1886, are an expression of the neoclassical style on the site itself. The Greek Neoclassicism, implemented through Western architects such as Ziller, became one of the main pillars of the identity for the new Greek state.

Village 1886–2016

After prehistoric settlements that had existed on the site of Olympia, no continuous human settlement existed here until the construction of three new buildings by a German architect during the archaeological excavations by the Germans: a hotel, a museum and a train station. The new functions that were directly linked to these buildings represented a new kind of attraction, and since then, a tourist town started to grow next to the site. Locals from the nearby villages, above all from Drouva, located on a hill close to the site, started to settle down here because of the new train connection. As a second step, this location became favourable due to the new economic possibilities offered by the expanding tourism sector. Slowly, the first restaurants and hotels started to appear here. The main development of the village started to take place after World War II with the development of mass tourism. The first hotel complexes were erected, in order to host the growing number of middle class tourist arrivals. The grid was thus constantly filled up, and the first constructions outside the grid, such as the Xenia or the Amalia Hotel, took place. Also, locals started to build their private residences outside the official borders of the village. The settlement sprawled. After 1989, any kind of new construction development was restricted, the establishment of the UNESCO World Heritage status for the ancient site meant that the village of Olympia fell within the non-building buffer zone. Since then, the existing fabric of the village has been officially allowed to densify.



The SPAP hotel, next to the first archaeological museum of Olympia, 1900



The main street of Olympia, 1950



Larger hotel complexes emerging in Olympia, 1965

Three Catalysts: Museum, Hotel and Train Station

On a gentle rise next to the site, the German architect Friedrich Adler started the construction of the first museum in Olympia in 1886. Its architectural style was borrowed from the Temple of Zeus, and hosted the metopes, the Praxiteles and other major findings from the German archaeological excavations of the 19th century. Some years later, with the financial support of the Greek railways Cooperation, the first hotel, the so-called SPAP Hotel, was con-

structed on the very same hill, only a few meters away from the museum. The low vegetation allowed for a spectacular view on the Ancient site to the mainly aristocratic visitors. With the construction of the train station, this new neoclassical triangle functioned as the catalyst for the development of the village of Olympia, that attained its grid through a master plan, established by the German authorities in 1911.



A map taken from the Baedeker travel guide showing the main points of interest and harbours on the Greek territory, 1980s

The Traveller: The Tourist 1950s–2016

At a time when it had become evident that, in the international division of labour, Greece was to take up the role of a tourism hub, Olympia transformed into a flourishing tourist town. The once explorative Western Europe traveller had now turned into a tourist who quickly wants to consume cultural experiences. This is also the moment in which the number of pages allotted to the Ancient site of Olympia in travel guides considerably increased. While tourist institutional infra-structures were insured on a national level, tourist agencies in Athens resumed their work, new hotel complexes were built in Olympia, and

the historical site started to be guarded. More tourists from the upper strata of the Greek society began pouring into Olympia by buses. The 1960s, however, was the time when the first post-war generation gradually started to turn into active consumers. The preferences of the new visitors arriving in Olympia, often goes beyond state planning or tours organised by tourist agencies. They travel to Olympia by car via Balkans, or by cruise boats through the Ionian and Aegean Seas, and later by hitchhiking. Tourism at this stage involves new scales of production: small and medium family enterprises.

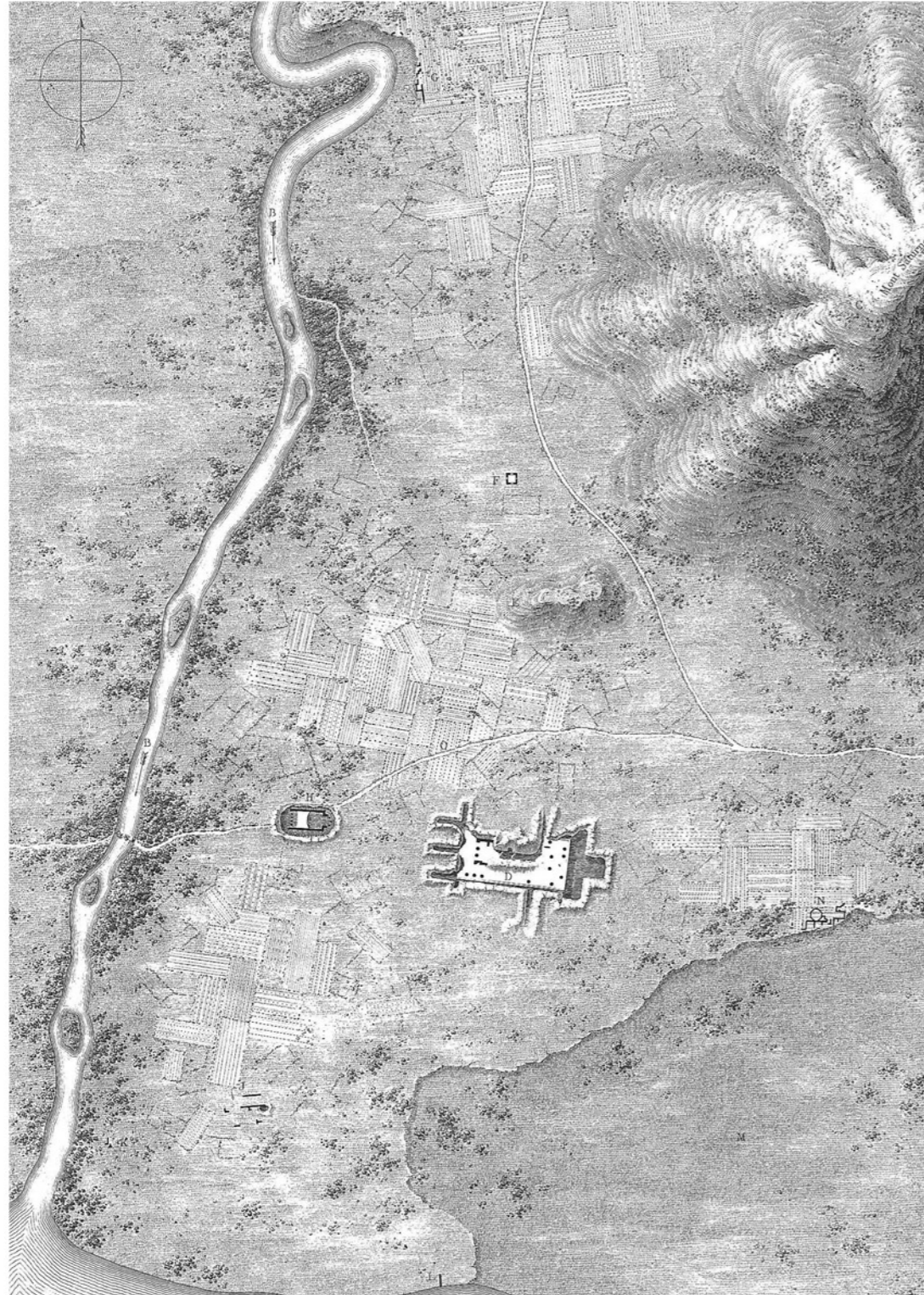


A ticket kiosk in Olympia, 1965



Peloponnesian Map of Myths

- 1 Pan
- 2 Pelops and Hippodamia
- 3 The Nemean Lion
- 4 The Lernean Hydra
- 5 The Hind of Ceryneia
- 6 The Erymanthean Boar
- 7 The Augean Stables
- 8 The Stymphalian Birds
- 9 Cerberus
- 10 Theseus and Sinis
- 11 Theseus and Periphetes



After the excavations of The French Morea Expedition, the Temple of Zeus and a Byzantine church appeared on the map, 1829



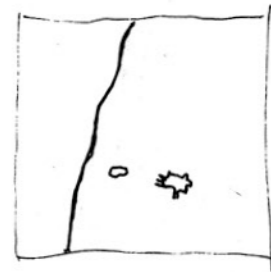
Map drawn by the German cartographer J. A. Kaupert during the German archaeological excavation campaign, 1880



Late ancient fortress wall,
photographed in 1972



Excavation works on the
ancient Olympic stadium,
1960



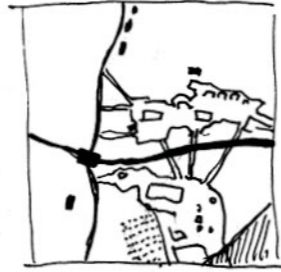
1829
The Morea
Expedition



1876
First German
excavation campaign



1877
Second German
excavation campaign



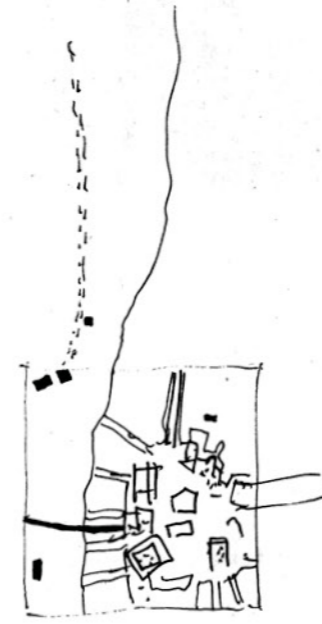
1878
Third German
excavation campaign



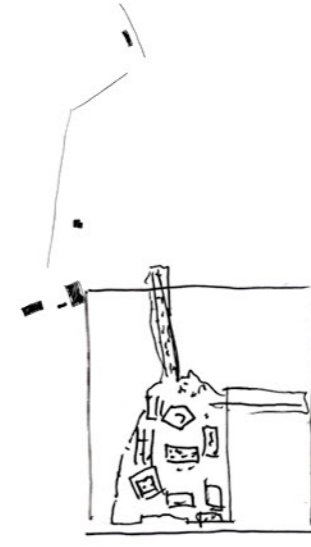
1879
Fourth German
excavation campaign



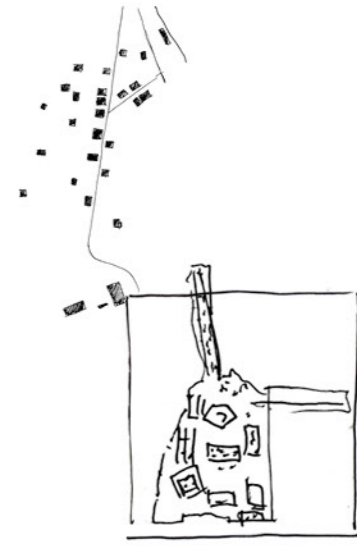
1881
Fifth German
excavation campaign



1886
Museum and
SPAP hotel



1892
Train station



1950
Development
between the train
station and museum



1984
Development along
the main road and
outside the grid

Development of the Urban Olympia

Two main stages of urban
development are presented:
the excavations of a buried
sanctuary, and the construc-
tion of a grid-plan village.
While drainage ditches,

heaps of ground and ancient
ruins constitute the architec-
ture of the first stage,
streets, buildings and train
lines represent the second-
ary stages of development.

Olympia as an Urban Landscape

The ancient site is the stage. The valley with the wild overgrown river, the mountains in the south and the Kronio hill with its pine trees serve as a background image, like a setting on a stage. The backstage facilities are the ticket kiosk, the two museums, the village with its souvenir shops and hotels, parking lots, the Olympic Academy and the roads that allow for access to the site.



1
The ancient site:
Echo hall



2
The ancient site:
Stadium



3
The fence enclosing
the site



4
The ticket kiosk



5
The bridge over the
Kladeos river



6
The old Archaeological
Museum



7
A fire protection tower



8
The new Archaeological
Museum



9
The International
Olympic Academy
hidden behind a fence



10
The modernist
municipality building
by Aris Konstantinidis



11
A parking lot



12
The main street



13
A souvenir shop



14
A hotel



15
The main road



16
The highway
Pyrgos-Olympia



17
The dam of
Alfeios River



18
The Alfeios Valley

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|-----------------|
| 1 | The ancient site: echo hall | 11 | A parking lot |
| 2 | The ancient site: stadium | 12 | The main street |
| 3 | The fence enclosing the site | 13 | A souvenir shop |
| 4 | The ticket kiosk | 14 | A hotel |
| 5 | The bridge over Kiadeos River | 15 | The main road |
| 6 | The old Archaeological Museum | | |
| 7 | A fire protection tower | | |
| 8 | The new Archaeological Museum | | |
| 9 | The International Olympic Academy hidden behind a fence | | |
| 10 | The modernist municipality building | | |



- 1 The ancient site: Echo hall
- 2 The ancient site: Stadium
- 6 The old Archaeological Museum
- 7 A fire protection tower
- 8 The new Archaeological Museum
- 9 The International Olympic Academy hidden behind a fence

- 15 The main road
- 16 The highway from Pyrgos to Olympia
- 17 The dam of Alfeios River
- 18 The Alfeios Valley

- A UNESCO core zone
- B UNESCO buffer zone





View towards the main road in Olympia, 2016



View from the eastern hills of Drouva towards the village of Olympia. On the right is the new Archaeological Museum, hidden behind trees, 2016.

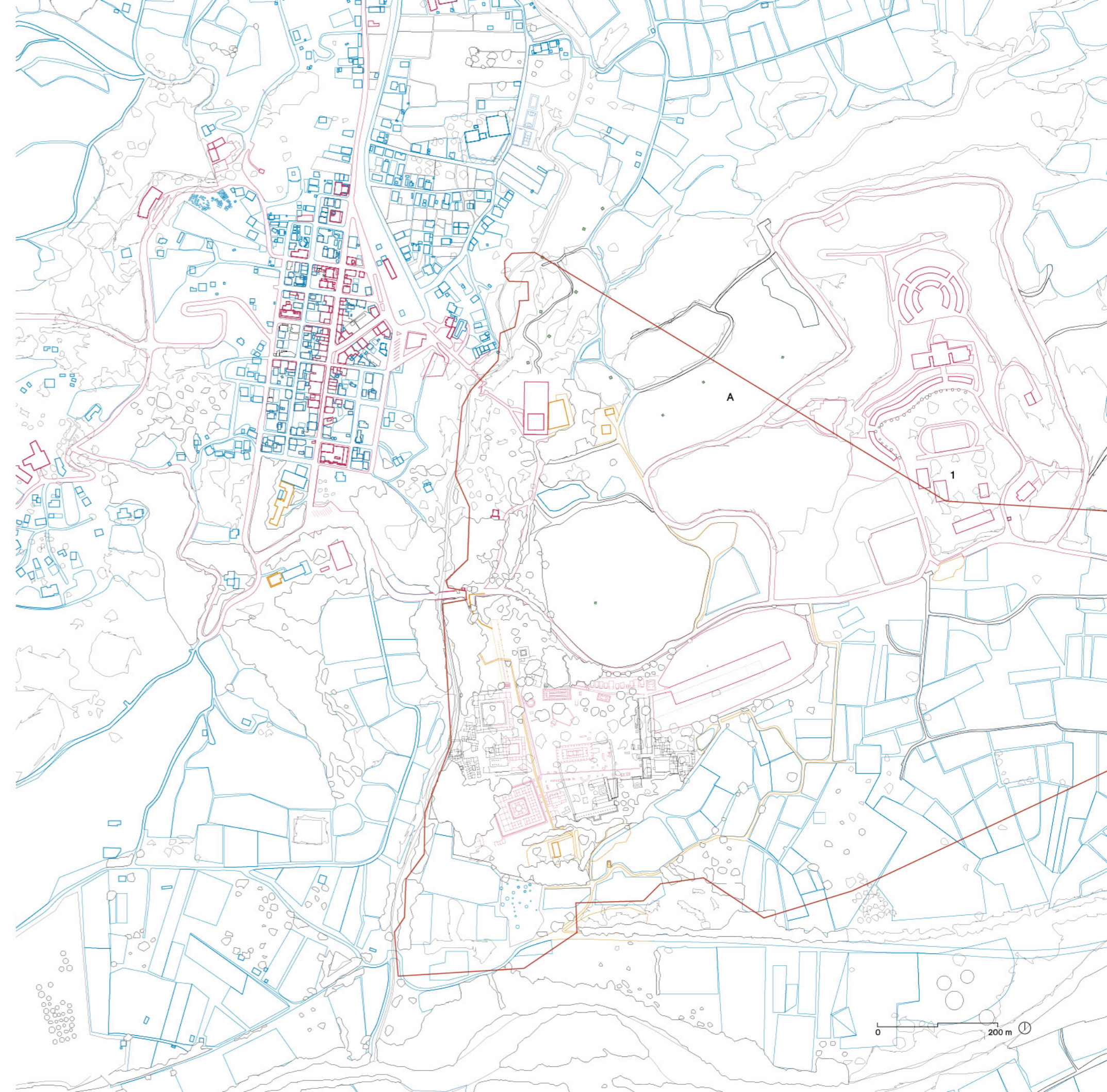
Heritage as an Urban Program

Three main layers of user networks compose the urban program of Olympia: the Tourist Gates; the Archaeologist Loops and the Local Networks. Each of them include their own specific paths and places of significance. The urban program also includes two globally active organizations: The IOC and the UNESCO. The IOC maintains presence here through the International Olympic Academy and organises the Olympic torch relay ceremony, while the UNESCO maintains a buffer and core zone for protection of the ancient sites in Olympia.

Urban Program

- Tourist gates
- Archaeologist loops
- Local pattern

- 1 International Olympic Academy
- A UNESCO core zone



Two Global Players

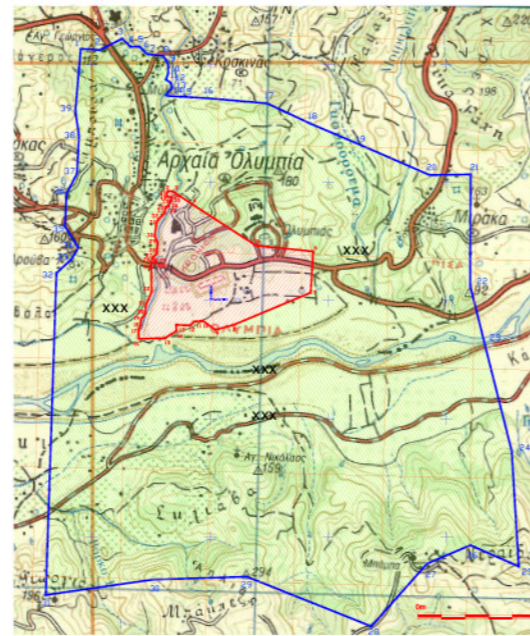
Since 1989, Olympia is officially designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site. The establishment of this status introduced an apparatus of organised preservation and protection services in Olympia. By creating a non-building buffer zone, UNESCO's protection philosophy physically marked the Olympian landscape. The effects of this politics can be felt in contemporary Olympia through fences, fire protection infrastructure, an overgrowing and an uninhabited zone of greenery. IOC, the organiser and a holder of the rights for organising the Olympic Games is the second biggest actor in Olympia. What probably began as a spontaneous, ritual gathering in the sanctuary during the ancient times has today evolved into one of the largest mega-events and cultural phenomena of the modern times. In addition to the commercialisation of the ancient Olympic Games, the IOC also maintains an on-site base: the International Olympic Academy, based in a modernist complex next to the ancient site.

UNESCO N°517

The UNESCO World Heritage Committee is an agency of the UN that lists places of importance (such as buildings, cities, complexes, deserts, forests, islands, lakes, monuments or other landscape features) as being of cultural or physical significance. Since its founding in 1972, 191 state parties have ratified the convention, making it one of the most powerful international institutions for historical preservation. While each World Heritage site remains part of the legal territory of the state wherein it is located, UNESCO considers it in the interest of the international community to preserve each of the sites. World Heritage sites are prized tourism assets. In 1998, the sanctuary of Olympia was declared as a UNESCO World Heritage. It is the number 517 out of 1'031 UNESCO Heritage sites worldwide in 2016. Since then, Olympia is officially considered as a place of global cultural importance. Therefore, new preservation regulations were implemented here. UNESCO defined an area of strict preservation, the so-called core zone, which includes the Ancient site itself as well as an area of possible future findings (approx. 106 ha). Around the core zone, a buffer zone has been instituted. This includes areas of direct visibility from the site where construction activities are completely forbidden, apart from extension of existing buildings. The buffer zone of Olympia constitutes approximately 1'458ha in land area, its boundaries reflect the surrounding mountain peaks. Since the implementation of the UNESCO heritage status, the size and location of the zones hasn't changed.



Map of the 1,031 worldwide designated UNESCO heritage sites, 2016



Official UNESCO map showing the core zone (red) and the buffer zone (blue)

Core Zone and Buffer Zone

"99. The delineation of boundaries is an essential requirement in the establishment of effective protection of nominated properties. Boundaries should be drawn to incorporate all the attributes that convey the Outstanding Universal Value and to ensure the integrity and/or authenticity of the property. 103. Wherever necessary for the proper protection of the property, an adequate buffer zone should be provided. 104. For the purposes of effective protection of the nominated property, a buffer zone is an area surrounding the nominated property which has complementary legal and/or customary restrictions placed on its use and development to give an

Ancient Monument Preservation Plan

How does preservation and tourism come together? The Ancient Monument Preservation Plan is the link between the UNESCO Operational Guidelines and the requirements of the site for tourism functions. The plan makes precise indications on the type and number of trees to

be maintained on the site (they should fit with the image of an ancient bucolic landscape), guidelines for the arrangement of paths and their surface quality, regulations about toilet complexes and the design of display showing maps or reconstruction drawings.

added layer of protection to the property. This should include the immediate setting of the nominated property, important views and other areas or attributes that are functionally important as a support to the property and its protection. Details on the size, characteristics and authorized uses of a buffer zone, as well as a map indicating the precise boundaries of the property and its buffer zone, should be provided in the nomination."

(Extract from the 'Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention', UNESCO, July 5th, 2015)

IOC Branding the Territory

The IOC is the umbrella organisation that organises the Olympic Games. Since the resurrection of the Olympic idea in the late 19th century, the IOC has gradually turned into one of the most powerful international organisations. They often use Olympia with its ruins and the ancient stadium for legitimatising their activities historically: the ceremony of the Olympic torch relay takes place in the stadium, and the national subsidiary of the IOC. The International Olympic Academy (IOA) is hosted in a modernist conference complex also close to the ancient site. The Summer Olympics are the hallmark of global sport events. Experts believe that the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro in 2016 will easily surpass London Olympics in by the revenue generated, with the later generated around \$1.1 billion in domestic sponsorship deals.



The new IOC headquarter in Lausanne designed by 3xn Architects



Remains of the Olympic Games 2004 in Greece: The abandoned Helliniko Olympic complex

Local Representation: The Olympic Academy

The International Olympic Academy was founded in 1961 as an educational institution in order to promote the values of Olympism. At that time, Olympism had become a very popular international movement, after the rediscovery of the Olympic Games through the French educator Pierre de Coubertin in the late 19th century. As such, the establishment of the Academy not only served as a confirmation to the symbolic link between the modern Olympic movement and its ancient Greek roots, but also functions as a constant enactor of that symbol-

ism. Young athletes from around the world come to attend seminars and summer schools in the Academy and their curriculum does not only include sports activities but also an experience of the ancient remains and the landscape of Olympia. The Academy complex lies on a slope hidden behind the Kronio hill and is enclosed by a two meter high fence. The access is only permitted to guests, and it possesses its own fire protection infrastructure. The architectural style of the building is a mixture of modernist and 'critical regionalist' styles.



The Olympic Academy in Olympia, with view on to the Aifeios valley



Torch relay ceremony on the ancient site of Olympia, 2012

Olympia as a Brand

The IOC is the owner of the rights of the Games and its biggest income comes through the assigning permissions to conduct the games and sell merchandise. Every postcard, t-shirt, kitchen magnet with the logo of the Olympic Games on it is a source of income for the organisation, making the name of Olympia protected – not every olive oil production from the region is allowed to

use this to indicate their origin. "To preserve the official brands, guaranteeing the integrity and emotional value is essential for the maintenance and continuity of the Olympic and Paralympic movements"– the official website of the IOC states that even the torch relay as a ceremony is protected and there are attempts to limit the playful use of it within the local community.



Worldwide national Olympic Committees, 2016

Olympism and Local Identity

When it comes to the identity of the local community of Olympia, one always comes across the Olympic Games. The identification with the so-called Olympic Values, and the link to the ancient ancestry is present above all in personal memorabilia of Olympic ceremonies that take place in Olympia. One event that strikes out particularly is the torch lighting ceremony. The torch itself, postcards, and other souve-

nir items prove the participation of the local residents in the torch ceremony as athletes. These objects are often hung on the walls or placed on a side table in a prominent place within the house or in hotel reception areas. Since the village has emerged as a tourist town serving the site, any other historical or traditional lineage upon which the local identity could be based on does not exist.

Is Olympia Doing Better When the Olympic Games are Doing Well?

To what extent is the state of Olympia dependent on the success of the Olympic Games is not demonstrable. But since the economic survival of Olympia as a village is so very deeply rooted in tourism, and the tourism attraction is primarily based upon the interest and zeal for the Olympic Games of antiquity, one cannot neglect

the interdependence between the two. The Olympic Games have always been a venue of political protest, the Olympic boycotts from 1972, 1976, 1980 and 1984 go far to prove this. This factor even enlarges the potential sphere of influence of the Olympic Games on Olympia.

Tourist Gates

Tourism is the most important sector of the Greek economy. Politics, economy and social trends all culminate in tourism and shape its dynamics. Olympia as an archetypical tourist destination has to be understood in the context of its tourist history. With its very important archaeological site, its beautiful landscape and the proximity to the sea, Olympia as a tourist landscape surpassed all kinds of usual dynamics, which are still visible in the urban configuration. The present complexity of the place cannot be understood without understanding its past and present tourist fabric. The layers of tourism, the historical ones as well as the present ones are very evident since Olympia has a 'frozen core' due to UNESCO's strict zoning regulations. Due to various tourist needs and interests acting in the place, we are able to observe a highly specific infrastructure. At the same time, there is the tendency to concentrate on the increasing number of cruise ships that cater to the tourist arrivals. As the number of tourists arriving through the cruise ship route keeps rising, even the regular tourists are forced into the same fast and shallow 'highlight tourism' circuit. There is the tendency of the mass tourism circuit to take over the place and shape it according to its needs, with alternatives being in danger. The whole region is highly dependent on this unsustainable trend.

Aristocratic Excursionism 1886–1914

Tourism in Greece before and during WWI was mostly excursionist. Since the 1840's, railroads made country more accessible. The construction of tourist infrastructure boomed, the SPAP Hotel was finished in 1906. Spa tourism and archaeological sites were the most interesting for the tourists. Between the wars, The Bureau for Foreigners and

Expositions was founded, later becoming the Greek National Tourism Organisation (GNTO). The organisation started clearing up the sites and towns, to make them more touristically attractive. The excavation, restoration and clearing up of the sites was the first step in influence tourism had on a Greek landscape.



Expedition travellers at the ancient sites, 1891



Visitors in the Central Hall of the first Archaeological Museum, 1935

Preparing for Mass Tourism 1930s–1950s

In the 1930s, the first infrastructures for cruise tourism started to come up. In contrast to the present cruise tourism, this used to be the most luxurious way of travelling. At the same time, in the Art Deco era, spa tourism started to take root. Following World War II and civil war, the country was in ruins. As a consequence of the Marshall Plan, there was a focus on rebuilding the country during the 1940s and 1950s. The road network was reconstructed and the GNTO was re-established in 1950. Various tourism and transport infrastructure projects started to be proposed. The state owned 'Xenia Program' focused on developing

modern and functional hotels in the whole country. The Xenia Hotels were characterised as hotels of a small capacity, high quality, a conscious integration with the beautiful Greek landscape, a combination of Modernist elements and a discrete use of traditional materials. The modernisation of the countryside after World War II led to a mass seaside tourism, that combined historical monuments and beautiful landscapes, the so-called 'historical landscape'. The myth of modern Greece was born. The landscape as a natural layer of archaeological sites became stereotypical.



Guests at the Olympic Academy in the Aifeios River, 1965

Rise of the Middle Class Tourism 1960s–2008

The state-run Xenia Program gradually lost its prestige due to a change in the cultural context and an increase in the comfort standards that were expected. Between 1950 and 1958, the amount of tourist spendings in Greece grew from \$2.5 million to \$40 million. As a consequence, the need for large-scale tourist complexes arose. Large post-modernist-style structures, without connection to their surroundings, broadly based on the 1964 Venice Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites of the so called 'critical regionalism', started to come up. In the mid 1970s, after the new constitution was signed and put into action, there was a

strong approach towards adopting local identity, while designing for the new tourist facilities. The GNTO started re-using existing architecture and restored settlements in order to convert them into tourist facilities. In parallel, the urban housing typology of Polikatoikia was taking over the countryside, bringing a strong modernisation drive. With the introduction of Interrail in 1972, the country opened up to a new genre of tourists, mostly young people and students with a keen interests in the culture and society of the country they were visiting. According to the locals, Olympia used to be an attractive Interrail destination due to its proximity to the coast, Pyrgos, its cultural at-

tractiveness and a good rail connection with Athens and Patras. Therefore, we see the potential in this railway infrastructure, as well as in the relics from the past, such as camping sites and the youth hostel that is reused nowadays. Olympia has emerged as a globally attractive brand.



Xenia Motel in Olympia, 1970s

Crisis and Post-Crisis 2008–2016

After the rapid urbanisation in the 1950s and 1960s, domestic tourism became an important factor in the slow re-establishment of a relationship between urban Greeks and their countryside. Especially during the mid-1990s, large numbers of Greeks started to reconnect with the countryside. This tourist infrastructure almost completely broke down during the 2008 crisis, remaining inactive until today. Big groups of international tourists, started to dominate the popular sites and beaches of Greece. The cruise ship tourism sector saw the biggest growth. As a consequence of the dominance that the cruise ship industry started to be homogenised with diverse tourist groups either being

Through the establishment of the International Olympic Academy in Olympia in the 1960s, the global resonance that Olympia enjoys today was strengthened. One aim of the Academy was to establish Olympia as a destination for conference.

people, also prefer these bigger hotels. These kind of groups are the dominant type in Olympia these days. Almost all of the interviewed groups had visited Delphi, Nafplio and Mycenae before they arrived here in Olympia. Most of the group members are over fifty years old and come from countries such as the US, Canada, Germany,

The Invading Cruisers 1990–2016

The new form of cruise tourism, which was pushed by the crisis, has a very particular character. The ships have tended to get bigger, transforming into huge efficient tourist-shelving-units. This kind of tourism has little economic impact on the local economy. The ship provides hotels, restaurants and entertainment facilities on board making space for 2000 to 3000 people. As a result, the huge number of tourist arrivals makes a concentrated pressure on the local facilities after the ship drops anchor. The need for high capacity infrastructures such as new ports, highways and parking lots leads to a complete transformation of the landscapes and villages. Compared to the very small consumption by the village, a lot more sewage and solid waste has to be handled.



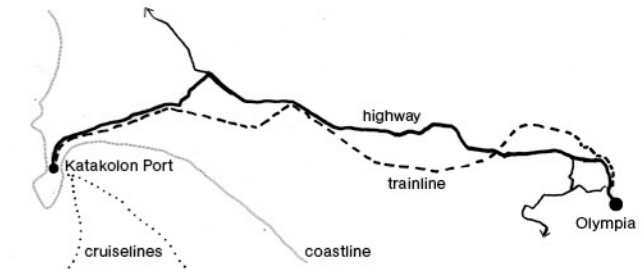
Cruise ship tourists in Katakolon, on their way to Olympia, 2016

Italy and France. Due to the relatively large size of international groups, large hotels with higher standards are often found. In fact, not many of these groups end up staying in Olympia overnight, but pass through for a few hours to see the site, spending their nights in the hotels along the coast.

Because of Olympia's proximity to Katakolon Port (38 minutes drive), cruise ship tourism is one of the most important income segments. The passengers usually arrive in Olympia at around 11 a.m., they visit the Ancient site, returning to the cruise ship after approximately two hours of stay. Instead of visiting the museums, the tourists rush through the main streets. As a consequence, the road has turned into a souvenir street, selling cheap imitations of statues, jewellery and t-shirts but also local products such as olive oil, wine and soaps. Olympia now looks interspersed with huge parking lots, which, after passengers leave, tend to empty out, resembling abandoned infrastructures. An optimised fast visitor circuit has formed what we call 'The Tourist Gate'.



MSC Cruise Musica, Mediterranean, 22.09-03.10.2016, 11 nights, €949 to €2199



The tourist gate Katakolon Port – Olympia, 33,9 km

Backpacker Tourism



Since the train connecting Olympia to Athens has been out of service since 2009, the backpacker tourists are not such common visitors anymore. In the meantime, some of the camping sites in Olympia have found new clients in form of the caravan and individual car tourists. Others have closed or changed their programmes, like a youth hostel, which has now been converted into a hotel. We can imagine that the town of Olympia had more variety on offer than it does these days. Bars, cinemas and restaurants, catering younger tourists used to be a common feature here.

Conference and Seminar Tourism



There is the aim to establish Olympia as a destination for international conference tourism. This would surely raise the global character of Olympia. Even though the conference participants mostly stay within the Academies or hosting hotels, they are usually financially stronger groups, benefitting local Academies and institutions. Also, the summer seminars from different universities are considered to be an important part of new tourism forms and hotels are being retrofitted to be able to provide conference facilities.

Individual Tourism



Due to the focus on catering to the needs of mass tourism, there has been a neglect of the middle class tourists who mostly make individual tours. Seeking alternatives, they are forced to become a part of the mass tourist Olympia and its oversized tourist infrastructure. This could be one of the reasons behind the constant decline in this tourist segment in Olympia. Another explanation to this could be, that this kind of tourism is much more unstable and follows the contours of development of the global economy in a much more direct and dynamic way that lies in contrast to the constantly expanding cruise tourism.

School Excursions



We have noticed that there is the so-called 'Tourist club', right at the exit of Olympia heading towards Drouva. This facility provides parking lots for school buses and hosts a buffet restaurant that enables several batches of students to have lunch at the same time. A specialised place to cater to school tourism was found to be missing previously in Olympia. Some of these school batches stay in Olympia overnight. Bigger groups usually go to the bigger hotels in the town of Olympia such as the Elis Hotel. International school tourism has especially maintained a relative stability in the tourism sector, keeping a persistent importance here.

Group Tourism from the Inland

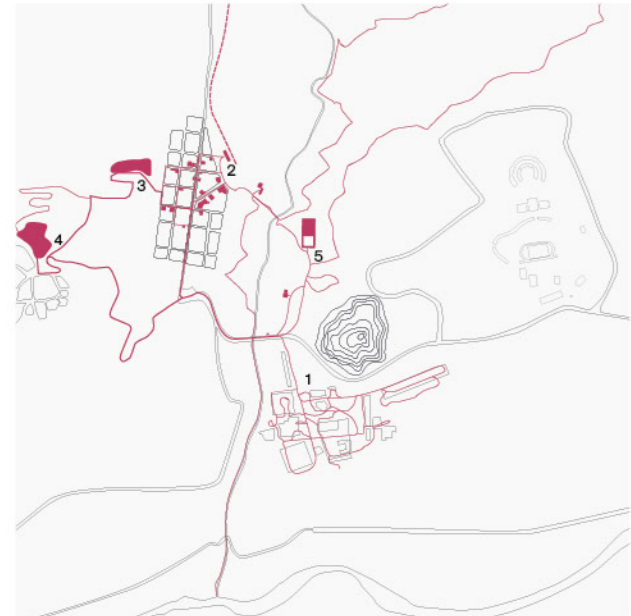


Olympia is one of the most important parts of Greece's highlight tours, including Athens, Mycenae, Nafplio, and Delphi, amongst others. The UNESCO status in combination with the extended mass tourism infrastructures fulfilling the similar needs of the cruise masses and the land mass tourism. Therefore Olympia is developing further attractions such as showfarms and open wineries with capacities for big tourist groups coming by bus.

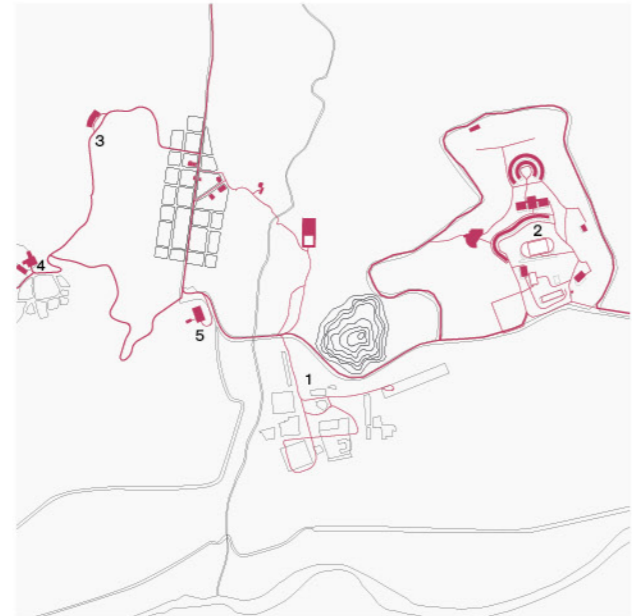
Cruise Ship Tourist Invasion



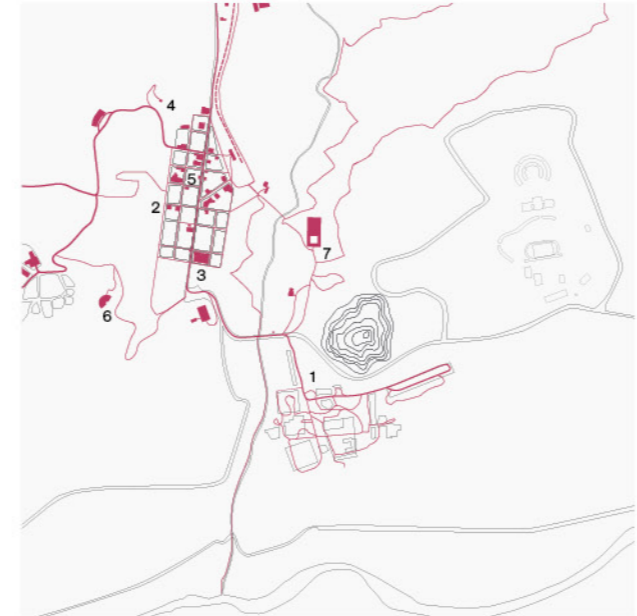
Olympia, which has been an important destination on cruise routes is further adapting to the developments in the sector. Katakolon Port is currently managed as a future homeport (comparable to Venice). Due to a rising volume and a higher frequency of arrivals, cruise tourism has been rising sharply in importance and the town constantly adapts to satisfy the needs of this sector.



- 1 The ancient site
- 2 Train station
- 3 Camping Diana
- 4 Camping Alfeios
- 5 The new Archaeological Museum



- 1 The ancient site
- 2 Pension Posidon
- 3 Olympia Palace Hotel
- 4 Airbnb
- 5 Grill tavern and rooms for rent Anesis
- 6 Forest theatre
- 7 The new Archaeological Museum



- 1 The ancient site
- 2 Pension Posidon
- 3 Olympia Palace Hotel
- 4 Airbnb
- 5 Grill tavern and rooms for rent Anesis
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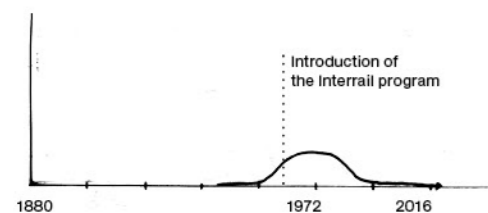
- 1 The ancient site
- 2 The old Archaeological Museum, 3D exhibition
- 3 The new Archaeological Museum
- 4 Touris club
- 5 Camping Diana
- 6 Camping Alfeios
- 7 Hotel Elis
- 8 Kalypso club
- 9 Botanical garden



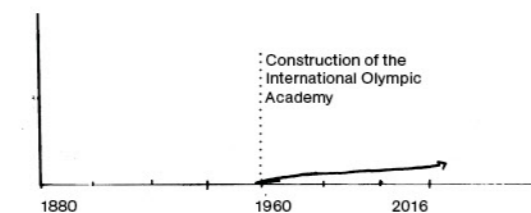
- 1 The ancient site
- 2 Hotel Neda
- 3 Hotel Antonios
- 4 Hotel Europa
- 5 The new Archaeological Museum



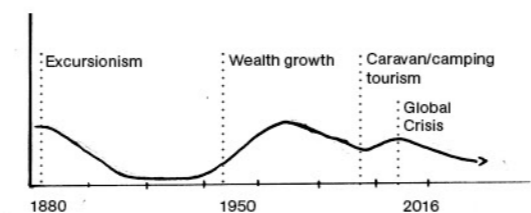
- 1 The ancient site
- 2 Souvenir road
- 3 Parking lot 1
- 4 Parking lot 2
- 5 Parking lot 3
- 6 Parking lot 4



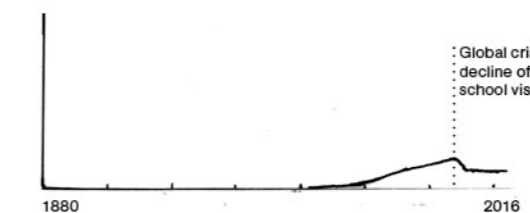
Backpacker tourism over time



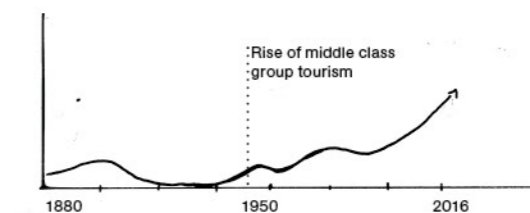
Conference and seminar tourism over time



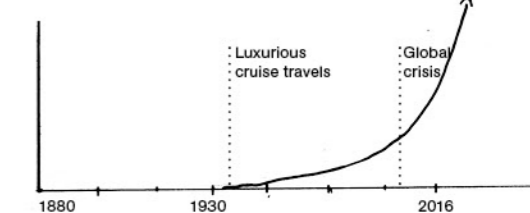
Individual tourism over time



School excursions over time

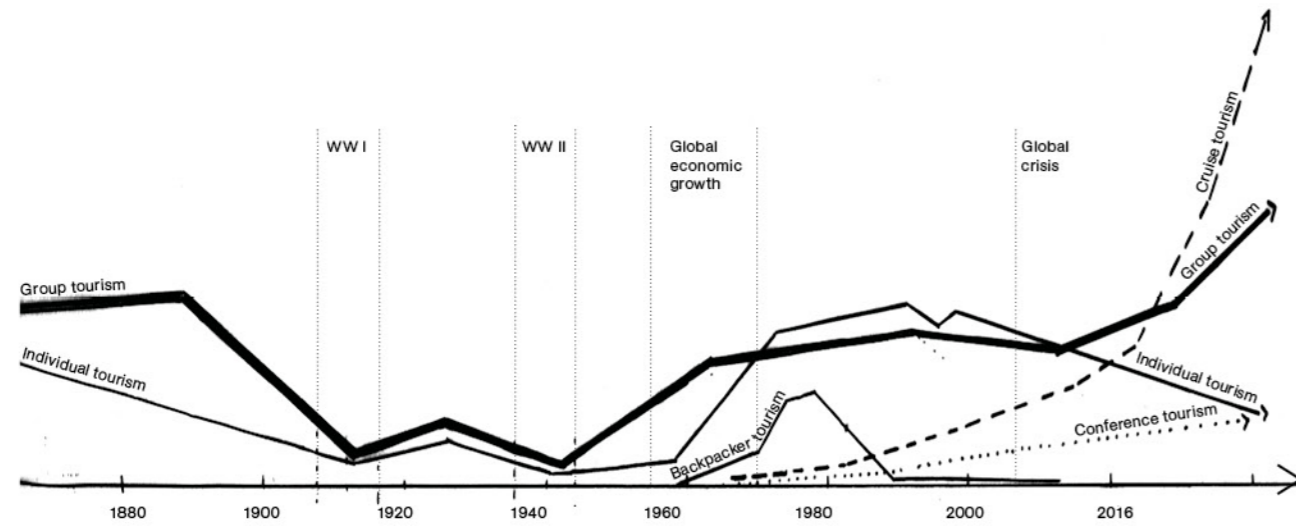


Group tourism over time

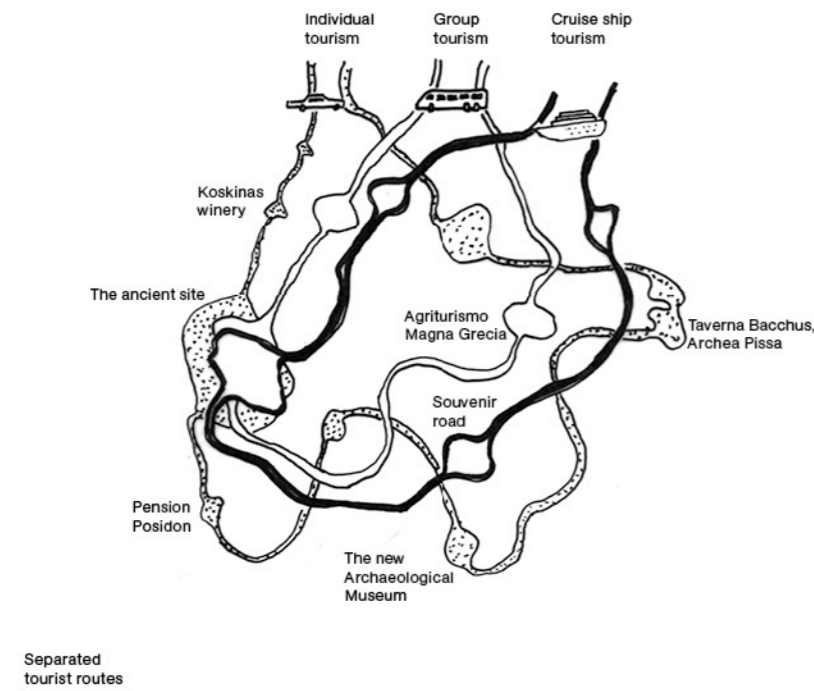


Cruise ship tourism over time

Underused Infrastructures

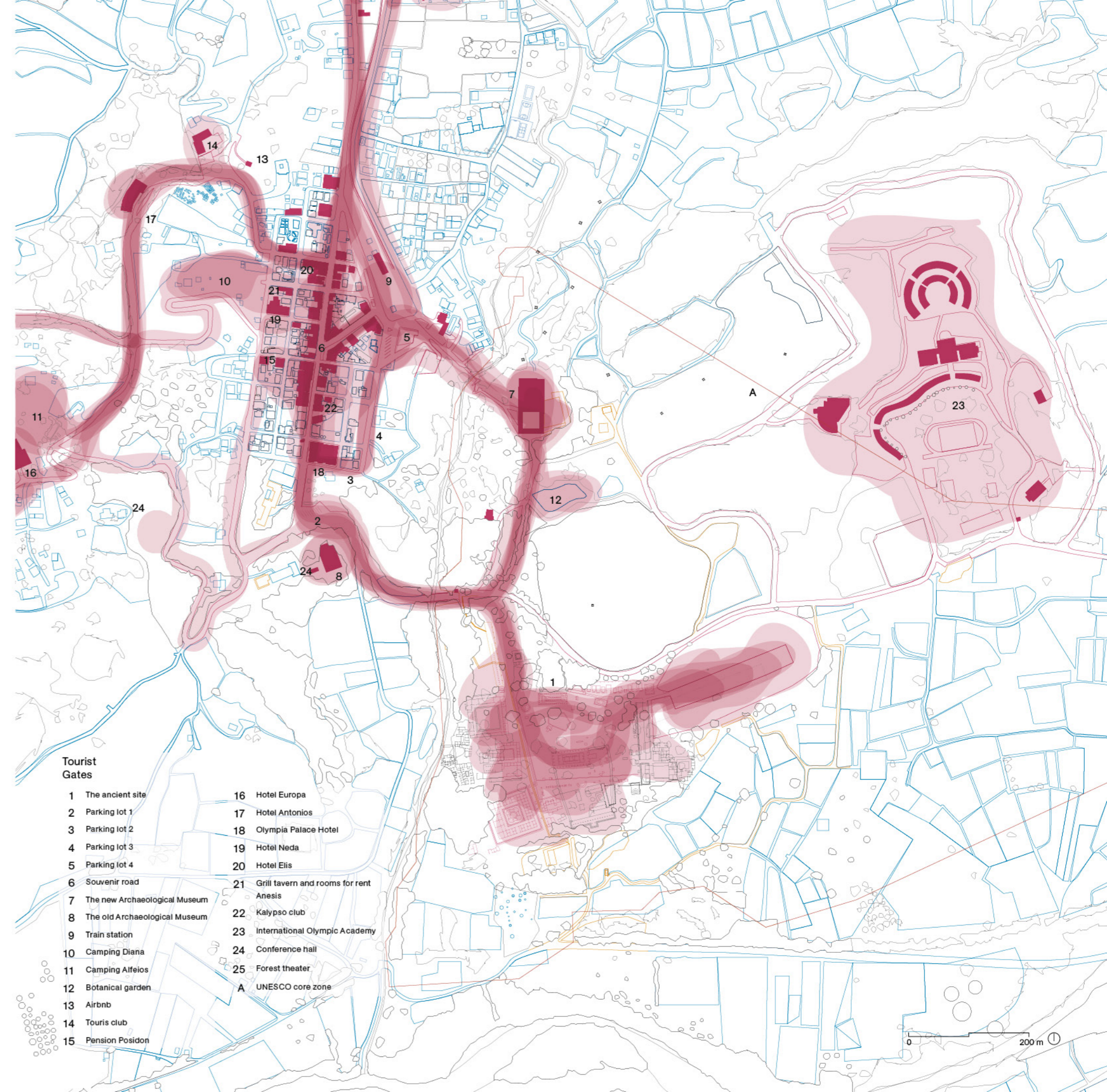


Tourism dynamics between 1880 and 2016



Since the year 2000, the number of cruise ship tourists that have been arriving in Olympia has significantly increased, while other tourist sectors have seen a sharp decline. Extensive infrastructures such as parking lots can be seen as a direct con-

sequence of this on-the-run fast-track tourism. Other existing tourism sectors do not require the sort of permanent infrastructure that cruise ship tourism requires. Thus, such infrastructure often lie vacant over long periods of time.



Tourist Gates

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1 The ancient site | 16 Hotel Europa |
| 2 Parking lot 1 | 17 Hotel Antonios |
| 3 Parking lot 2 | 18 Olympia Palace Hotel |
| 4 Parking lot 3 | 19 Hotel Neda |
| 5 Parking lot 4 | 20 Hotel Elis |
| 6 Souvenir road | 21 Grill tavern and rooms for rent Anesis |
| 7 The new Archaeological Museum | 22 Kalypso club |
| 8 The old Archaeological Museum | 23 International Olympic Academy |
| 9 Train station | 24 Conference hall |
| 10 Camping Diana | 25 Forest theater |
| 11 Camping Alfeios | A UNESCO core zone |
| 12 Botanical garden | |
| 13 Airbnb | |
| 14 Tourist club | |
| 15 Pension Posidon | |

Archaeologist Loops

Since the ruins of Olympia have not been fully excavated, there are still a lot of on-going archaeological excavation works happening here. Currently, the excavation work is being done by two major teams: firstly, the National Greek archaeological team and secondly, the German Archaeological Institute. The groups often operate independently from one other: the Greek excavation team is responsible for the excavations happening from the east to the west and the German team are following a circular path around the site. They have boarding and lodging facilities here. However, they both share space of the new Museum, where their findings are stored, achieved and exhibited. The excavation works have a great impact on the landscape. Huge amounts of soil are excavated that originally covered the terrain of the Ancient site. The soil level today is around eight meters higher than it was in those days. Towards the south of the site one can still get a glimpse of how high the terrain might have been.



Lately restored column of the Temple of Zeus

Greek Excavations

The current Greek excavations take place towards the eastern end of the Ancient site, below which the Olympic Academy is situated. There, currently the house of the priestess of the Ancient sanctuary is under excavation. There used to be a second excavation site right at the entrance to the site where they excavated the gymnasium, the training site of the Ancient Olympic participants. But this has recently been put on hold owing to the difficulty associated with excavating the site. Apparently, a newer road has been built on top of the ancient site, requiring more funds than originally anticipated. The gymnasium has the same length as the stadium. The western part of the gymnasium has been found on the other side of the Kladeos River, which gives a hint to how different the Ancient course of the river might have been and how the whole scenery might have looked like.

German Excavations

The Greek-German Excavation Convention was the catalyst for the on-going German involvement in excavation at the Ancient site of Olympia. The German Archaeological Institute in Olympia is the most experienced expert on the Ancient site. Their processes of excavation works follow a perfectly organised cycle, optimised for over more than a century of excavation works. The archive with rich findings in the basement of the new Museum, is a witness to the long and intense archaeological activities at the site. The archive space is not only restricted by its capacity. The climate conditions are unstable and unsuitable for the storing of found objects here. Most of the findings at the archaeological site stay locked away from the public view.

The History of an Enclave

The fact that the village of Olympia would not exist as it does today, had there not been the German archaeologists, is very present among the locals. They are a fixed component of the inventory of Olympia. There are even stories about Olympia being spared and having received a special treatment during World War II due to German interests in the place and the traditional cohabitation of Germans and locals in the area. The infrastructure of the German excavation works is, therefore, an integral element of the site, including the workshop or the German excavation house. Furthermore, the site of Olympia benefits from a

great amount of admirers from Germany who regularly donate extensively to help in the restoration of the site and the different objects that are found here. One such object was a column that was found at the Temple of Zeus and which costs around 1 million Euros to restore. During their stay in Olympia, the German team which comprises of archaeologists; geologists; students; stone masons; and scientists all live in the so called German 'Grabungshaus'. The plot belongs to the German State. The house was built in the 1970s by the German excavation architect at that time, Alfred Mallwitz.



The workshop on site, 2016

The Tsunami Theory

The reason for the almost complete destruction of the ancient sanctuary of Olympia has always been blamed on earthquakes and river floods. Professor Dr. Andreas Vött of the Institute of Geography of the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz presented a new theory. The sedimentary findings in Olympia and the surrounding area have provided strong evidences that Olympia had been hit by several tsunamis. The sediments cannot be from the Kladeos River due to the different geomorphologic composition than the rest of the valley. Vött has disproved the

belief that the Kladeos River sediments have covered the ancient site by the fact that the sediments have marine origins. In fact, in ancient times the coastline was about eight kilometres further inland and the water rushed through the Alfeios Valley to Olympia, destroyed the site and buried it under eight meters of sediments and mud. Prof. Vött and his team from the German Archaeological Institute are also based in the German excavation house.



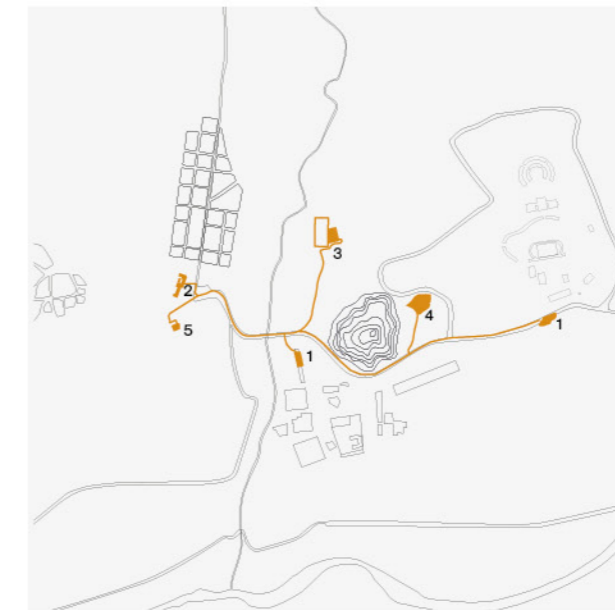
The stone masons' working place and storage on site, 2016

Greek Loop



The present Greek excavations are on the southern part of the International Olympic Academy complex. They are about to commence on excavating the house of the priestess of the sanctuary of Olympia. The second excavation site was the eastern part of the Gymnasium, right at the entrance of the site. Lately, this excavation site has been closed. The dumping site of the Greek excavations is in between Mount Kronio and the Olympic Academy. The archaeologists' offices, the 'ephorate' are housed in the extension of the former SPAP hotel. Some of the employees of the ephorate live

in the old Xenia Motel, which also partly serves as an office space for the municipality. It contains a storage facility for the Greek findings on the ground floor and in the former motel rooms are the seasonal accommodations for the ephorates' employees. A further storage place of Greek, as well as German findings is the basement of the new Museum.



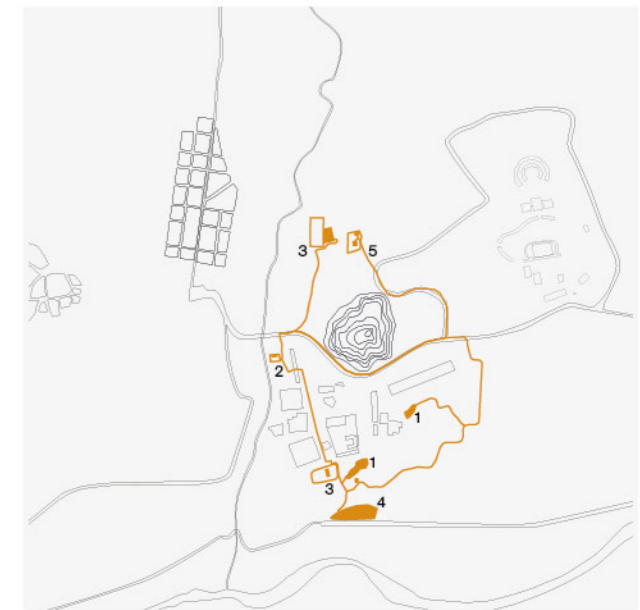
Greek loop
1 Ongoing excavations
2 Workshop, storage and accommodation
3 Archive under the new Archaeological Museum
4 Dumping site
5 Offices

German Loop



The procedure of excavating, sorting out and archiving is very well coordinated and time-proven one. The recent excavations take place in the south of the site. First, the upper layers of the earth, covering the ruins are carried away and brought to the dumping site right behind the dam. Big excavators and trucks carry out the rough works until the interesting layers, rich of Ancient material, are reached. This is where the precision works begin. The findings are brought to the workshop on the site where every piece is then labelled, numbered and photographed. Then, the pieces are wrapped and

packed into wooden boxes and brought to the basement of the new Museum. This is the main archaeological archive for the Olympian findings and the nearby archaeological sites. However, the situation is suboptimal, since the main part of the archive lies under the toilet facilities of the museum. These installations are leaking and water damage occurs regularly. The German archaeological team lives in the 'excavation house', right above the new Museum, behind Mount Kronio.



The German loop
1 Present excavations
2 Workshop on site
3 Archive under the new Archaeological Museum
4 Storage
5 Dumping site
6 The German excavation house



A collection of ancient helmets in the storage of the new Archaeological Museum

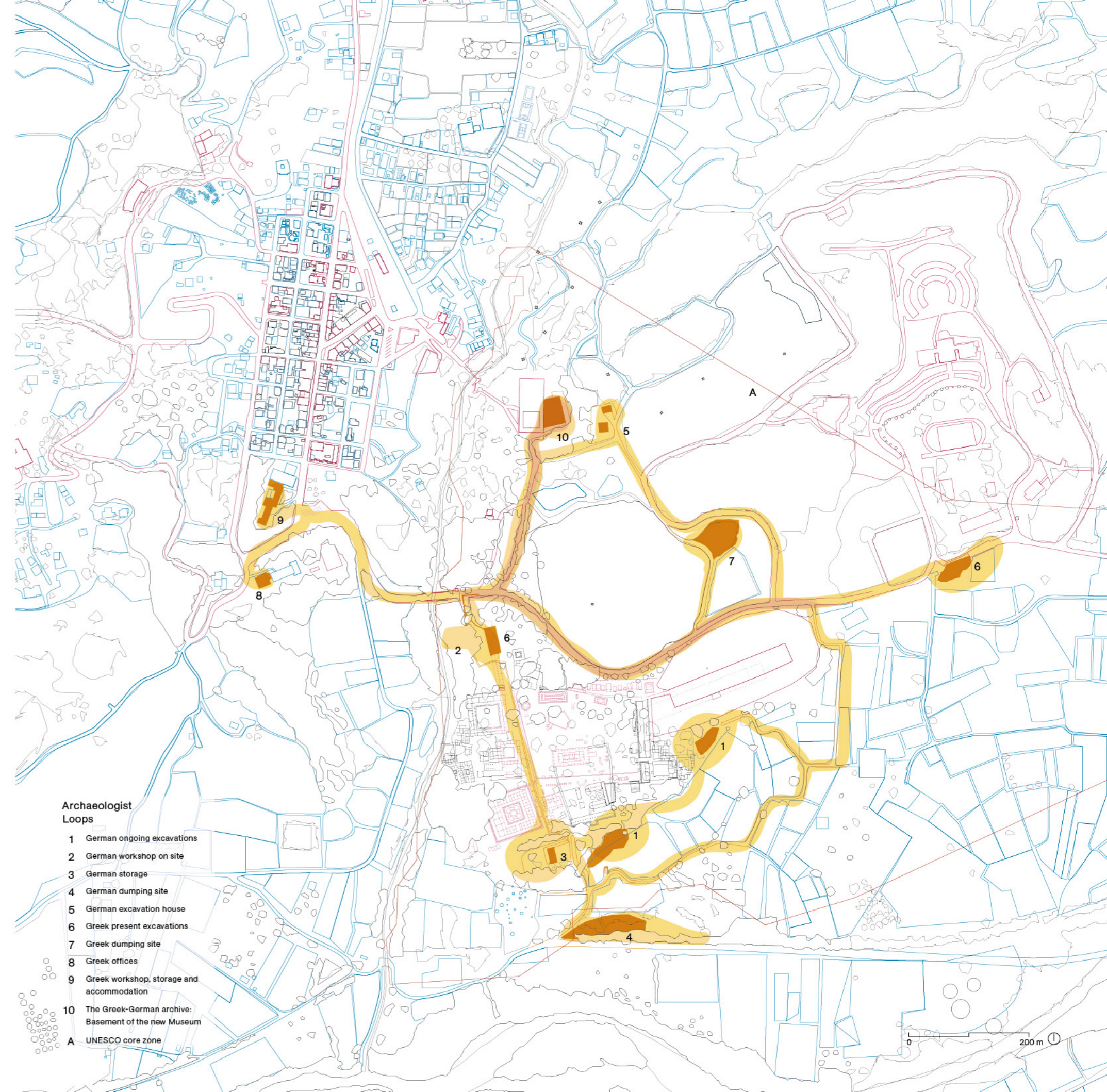
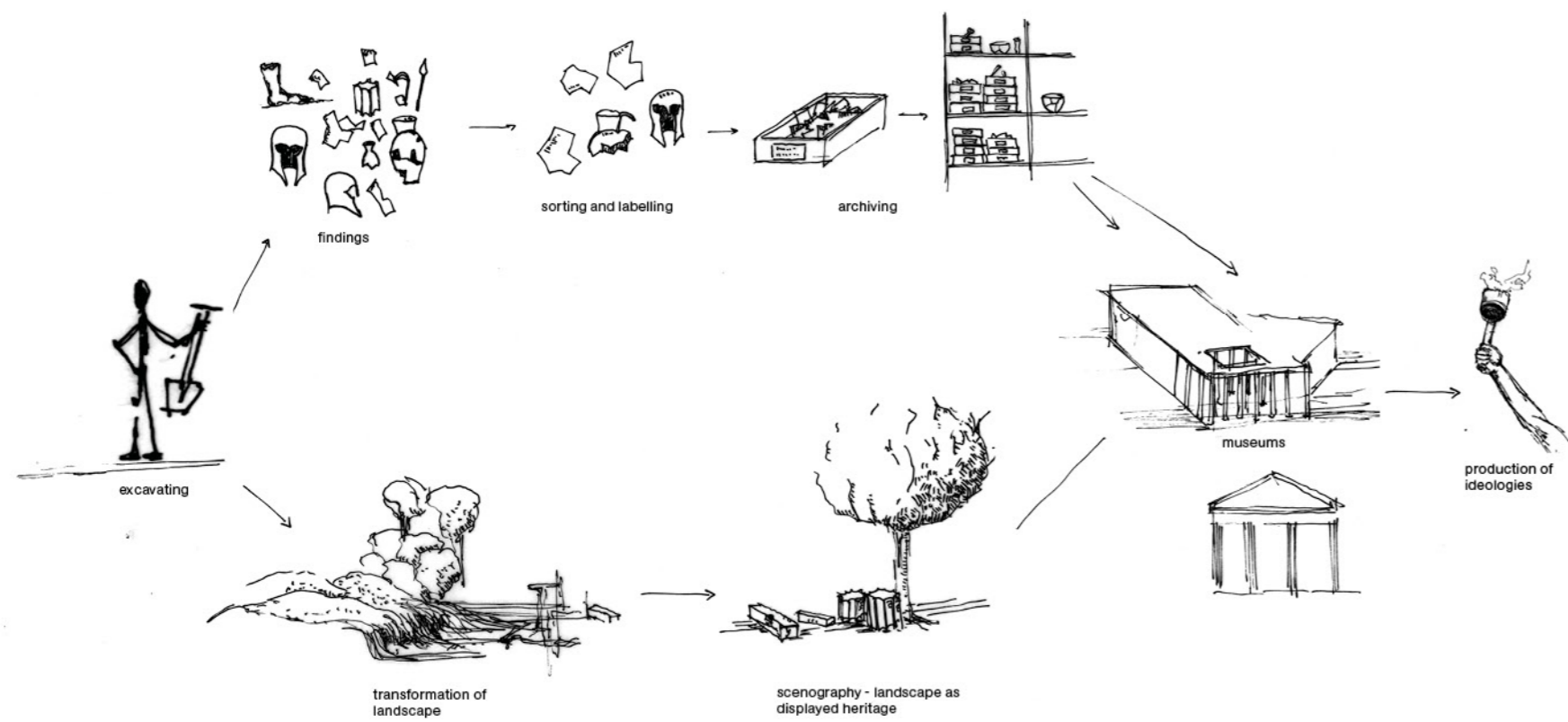


A collection of ancient ceramics in the storage of the new Archaeological Museum

Activities Under the Ground

The archaeological works in Olympia are almost invisible to the foreign visitor. Whether it is storing the findings in the basement of the new Archaeological Museum or excavating the ruins hidden behind the green

buffer strips of the ancient site – their activities remain unseen on the site itself. This contrasts with the place of the museum, where their findings are presented to a wider public.



**Archaeologist
Loops**

- 1 German ongoing excavations
- 2 German workshop on site
- 3 German storage
- 4 German dumping site
- 5 German excavation house
- 6 Greek present excavations
- 7 Greek dumping site
- 8 Greek offices
- 9 Greek workshop, storage and accommodation
- 10 The Greek-German archive: Basement of the new Museum
- A UNESCO core zone

Local Patterns

The local network is much closely meshed than the punctual massive 'tourist gates'. The relationship between Olympia and its residents to the surrounding villages creates a network of centralities. The Municipality of Olympia is the most important political and administrative centre in this region. Due to its developed tourism, it also represents the largest regional labour and goods market. Almost all villages and their residents in the area are either directly or indirectly economically dependent on Olympia. Products from the entire region are sold in here and distributed globally under the Olympia brand name. Especially during the tourist season, people from all over Peloponnese come here to seek seasonal employment. On the other hand, Olympia also depends on the surrounding villages for their resources, their agrarian production, workforce and construction space. Due to the zoning restrictions imposed by UNESCO, many of the urban functions are outsourced. Olympia is an administrative, touristic and therefore economical centre, that has become almost fully saturated with built structures within its legal building zones.

Olympia as an Urban Center

Olympia as a brand is a key market in the region, due to its international image and the high frequency of tourist arrivals. Either directly employed in the tourist sector or in the production of local agricultural goods, the locals are economically highly connected with Olympia. The area of direct economical relationship is limited to the northern banks of the Alfeios River since it is a strong physical border.

Administration Center

Olympia's municipality belongs to the prefecture of Elis. It consists of 41 other smaller constituents. Villages such as Drouva, Flokas, Ancient Pissa, Linaria, Koskinas, Magira, Platanos, Pelopio etc. belong administratively to it. River Alfeios serves as the southern municipal border. The municipality consists of 13'409 residents and occupies an area of approximately 545sq.m.. There are 46 people working regularly for the City Hall, while another 15 to 20 people have been hired as seasonal personnel. Olympia has an important municipal building – the different au-

The Producer

Until the 1950s when mass tourism to Olympia was yet to flourish, the whole area was still based on agriculture and farming. The fields in the riverbed of the Alfeios in the south of Olympia and on the hills surrounding Olympia belong to the residents of Olympia. Further up the Kladeos River, there are vineyards as well as livestock, whereas on the hills in the east and west of the village, olive trees are cultivated. Owing to the development of Olympia as a brand and as a market place, there has been an incline towards local production especially of olives and grapes. The products,

thorities are housed in the old Xenia Motel which was built by the famous Greek architect Aris Konstantinidis in 1963. It became obsolete as a hotel and was eventually retrofitted into a shared use building. The prominent main part of the building with the big terrace is now the municipality building. The Municipality of Olympia has 9 nursery schools, 12 primary schools, 6 high schools and 4 lyceums. There is one primary school and a high school in Olympia but the important school complex is in Pelopio. Many children and young people from Olympia go to study there.

olive oil and wine are sold all over the world under the brand name of Olympia. Increasingly, there is also a trend of opening these wineries and farms to visitors. Visitors can look at the products and buy them either immediately or later in the markets of Olympia, where these products are distributed by the local shops or through the outlets belonging to the farms. As we go further west, we see huge areas of intense agricultural production due to the fertile soil deposited by the Alfeios river. These fields mostly belong to the residents of Platanos and Pelopio.



Olympia land winery in Koskinas, which is open to visitors for the possibility of tasting and buying wine

The Shop or the Hotel Owner

Olympia as a mainly touristic city, since the 1950s has a large number of hotels, rental accommodations, camping sites and shops that cater to the tourists. Over the many generations especially locals have run the smaller and medium sized hotels. These families were mostly landowners and eventually went on to build their own hotel after the first mass tourism streams started to arrive to Olympia. People even moved down from the first settlement in Drouva to live in their newly built hotels here. The experience with the local stores is quite similar – the plots have always belonged to the shop owner's families. Still, a very dynamic process of change

in tourism is visible. In the simple common concrete structures, almost all kinds of small business can be run. Since the expansion of the town of Olympia is restricted within the borders imposed by UNESCO's zoning regulations, the any increment to the tourism sector happens through densification within the existing fabric. The strong reliance on tourism in Olympia leads to very high levels of seasonality in employment. Most of the local shops and hotel owners have the olive and other agricultural fields nearby. What is noticeable about the local hotel and shop owners is the really high adaptability to the dynamics of tourist arrivals.



Locals working at a souvenir shop along the main road in Olympia

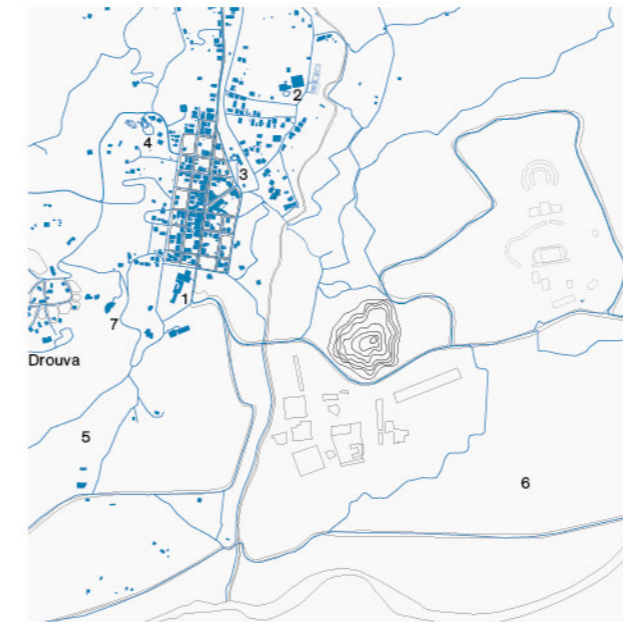
The Employee

Many people from the region of Olympia, even reaching Pyrgos are employed in the tourism sector, as waiters, hotel staff, guides, taxi and bus drivers, cleaning staff and so on. Most of them are seasonal workers, coming to Olympia between April and October. The Ephorate hires

many additional guides and guards to manage the extended summer opening hours of the Heritage sites. There is even a school in Pyrgos which trains people as guards to meet really high demands of protecting these archaeological sites.



Construction works on the main road preparing for tourist season



Local patterns
 1 Municipality building
 2 Secondary school
 3 Bus stop
 4 Cemetery
 5 Olive groves
 6 Agricultural fields
 7 Forest theater

Decentralised Living

Olympia is not the major habitation area in the region. Locals working in Olympia are settled within the entire municipality. Due to the scarcity of available building space in the village, most of the basic urban infrastructures are not located in Olympia itself but sourced out, such as the supermarket along the highway or the big school complex of Pelopio.



Local living: Storage on the ground floor, living upstairs

Habitats

The residents of Olympia often have their shops on the lower levels of their houses and live on the upper floors. Some also tend to have their shops in or near the main streets, and live either in the surrounding settlements or in a less central place in the village of Olympia. The owners of hotels and rental accommodations often tend to live on the top floor of their guesthouses. The houses in the main road mostly have a souvenir shop or a restaurant on the ground floor and have the upper floors usually empty. Apart from the people living in the main roads, all houses have a backyard where they maintain a little amount of livestock, a few orange trees

and sometimes a vegetable garden. If the house is used only for residential purposes, the ground floor is mostly left empty to serve as a storage place or garage. The settlement on the other side of the train-tracks, beside the grid, is much looser compared to the dense grid of Olympia. The fields between the houses are mostly abandoned and tend to be overgrown. Most of the residential houses in Olympia are between two and three stories high. Only hotels, with up to six stories overlook the village. The so called 'locals' of Olympia often do not live in the village of Olympia but tend to spread out along several settlements in the nearby regions.

Shopping

Since the village of Olympia is one of the most important employers of the region and head of municipality, one would expect more shops meeting the locals' needs. We only find one butcher, a small grocery store, two pharmacies, two bakeries, a frozen food store and an animal feed store. Olympia is not a local commercial center. The center of local consumption is the supermarket along the highway connecting Olympia to Pyrgos. People even go to Pyrgos to make their purchases. Especially in the souvenir main road of Olympia, an almost

complete separation between the local shop owners and the foreign customers is visible. What we observed during our stay were small vans with open loading areas, passing different villages in the area and selling local fruit and vegetables to the locals. Since not everyone is able to drive to the supermarket and local village stores can hardly survive, this seems like a good alternative – the local farmer or shop owner is able to supply several villages due to the mobility and knowledge of the local conditions.



Mobile fruit and vegetable cart in front of the municipal building in Olympia

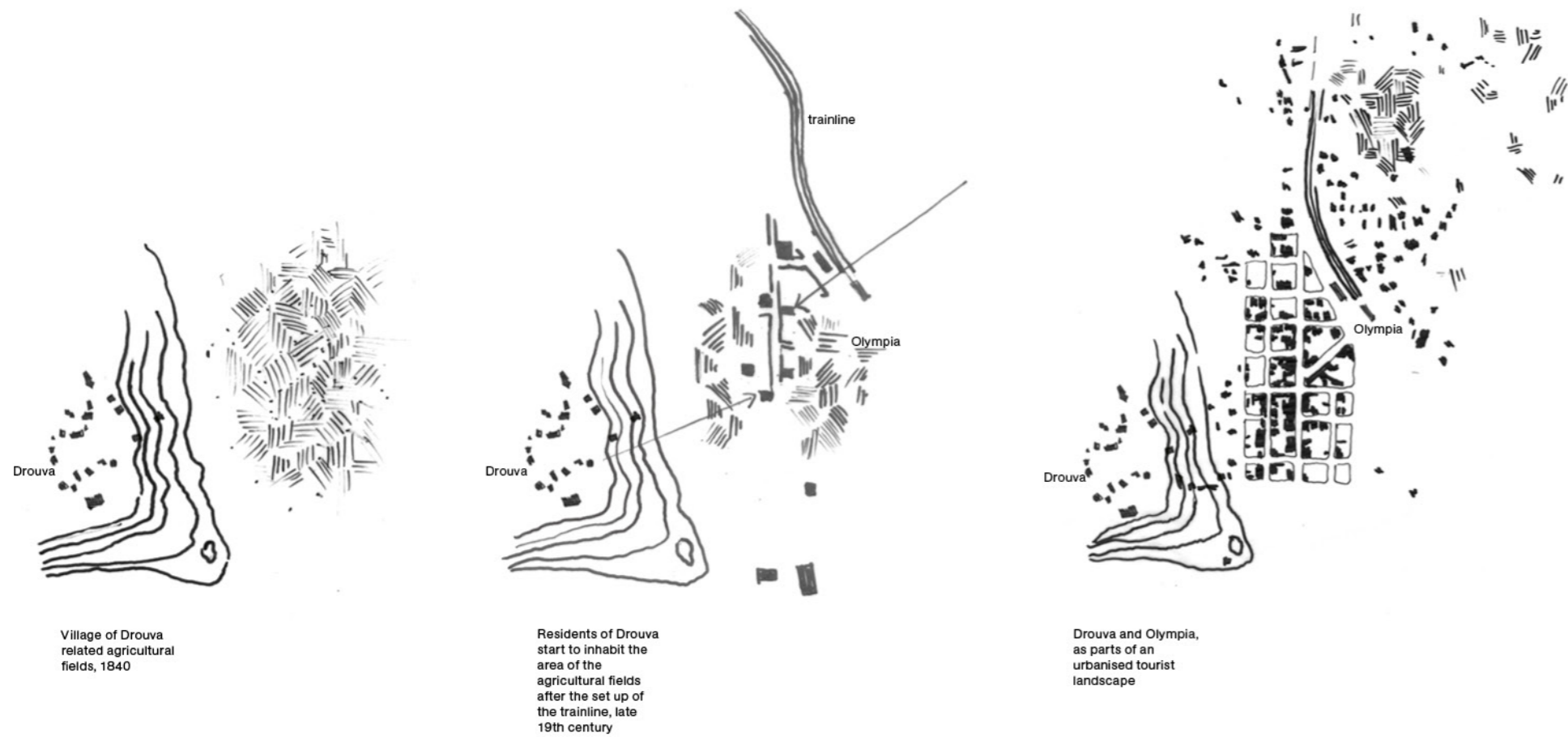
Taverns and Bars

There are many taverns in Olympia frequented by tourists as well as by locals. There is also one in Archea Pissa and one in Flokas, which are often visited by the locals from Olympia and villages that surround it. There is hardly any tavern in Olympia that is either exclusively local or touristic. Of course, there is a difference between tourist seasons and off seasons. The tourist visit days and hours differ to the ones practiced by the locals.

In the surrounding villages, we find purely local places, especially kafenios, which are exclusively visited by locals. Even in Archea Pissa, a five minutes drive away from Olympia, we found a purely local kafenio, probably never visited by a tourist. This shows the extreme concentration of tourism in Olympia.



Kafenio in Olympia



Village of Drouva related agricultural fields, 1840

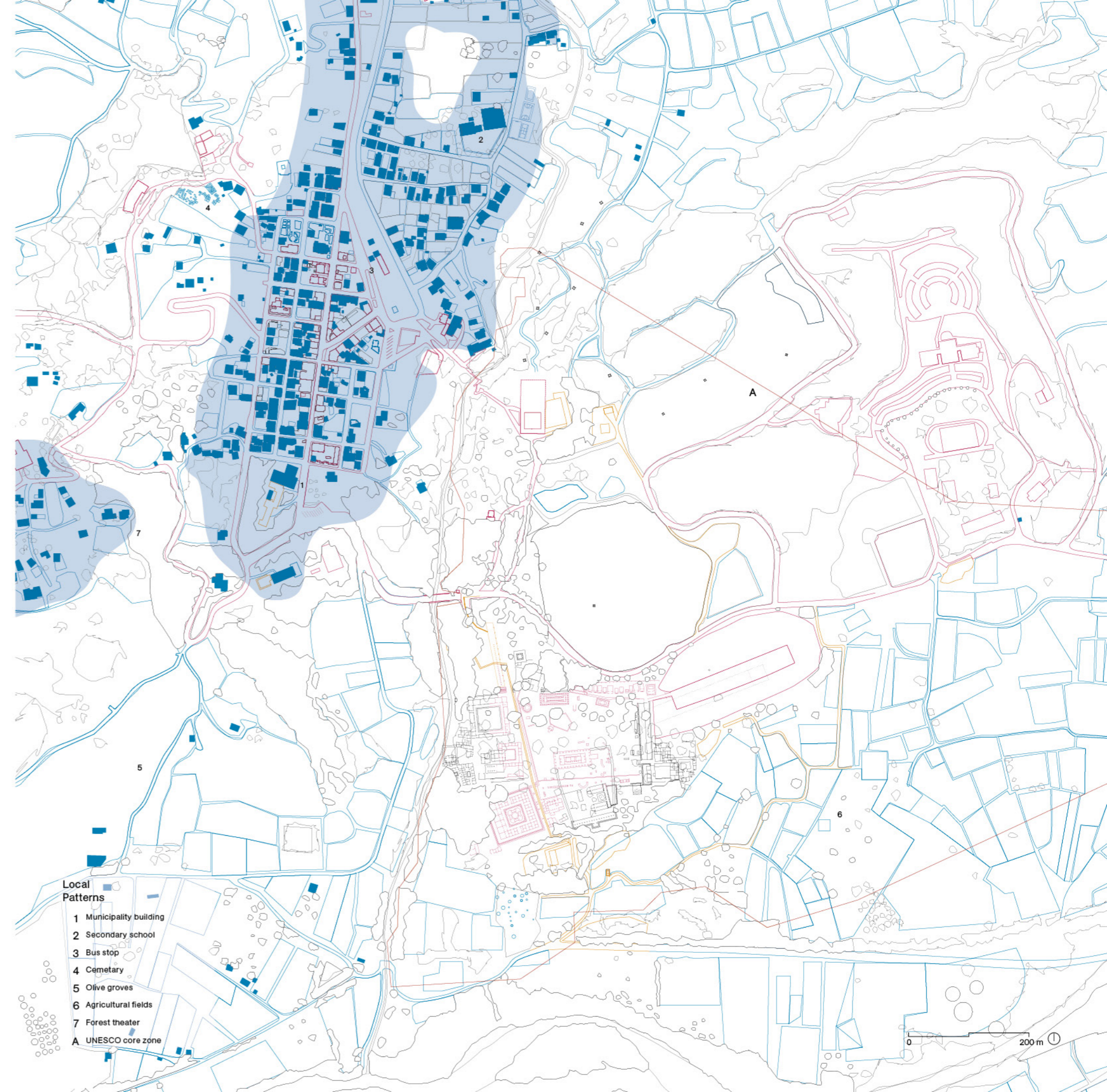
Residents of Drouva start to inhabit the area of the agricultural fields after the set up of the trainline, late 19th century

Drouva and Olympia, as parts of an urbanised tourist landscape

Local Migratory Movements

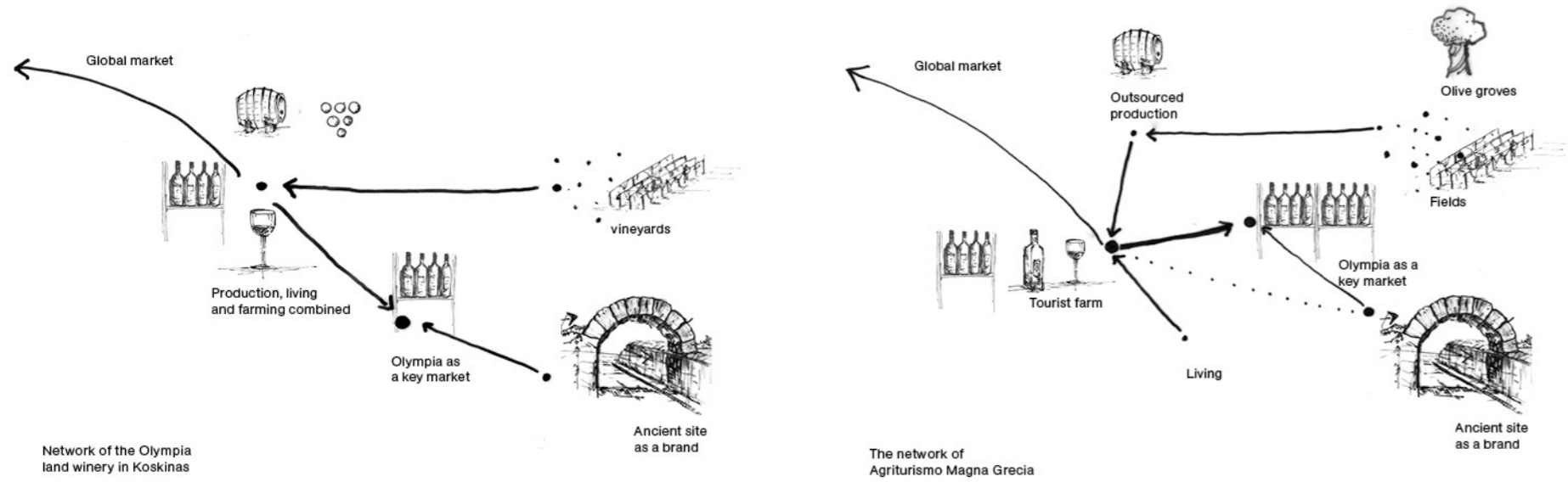
Olympia as a settlement is purely a contemporary construction. In contrast to Drouva, the neighbor agricultural village, routed in the 18th century, Olympia has been for centuries a sacred destination in the landscape. The railway connection to

Pyrgos and to the nearby harbour of Katakolon in 1883, together with the post-WWII rise of tourism, created the potential for the former agricultural fields around Olympia to turn in to an attractive touristic village.





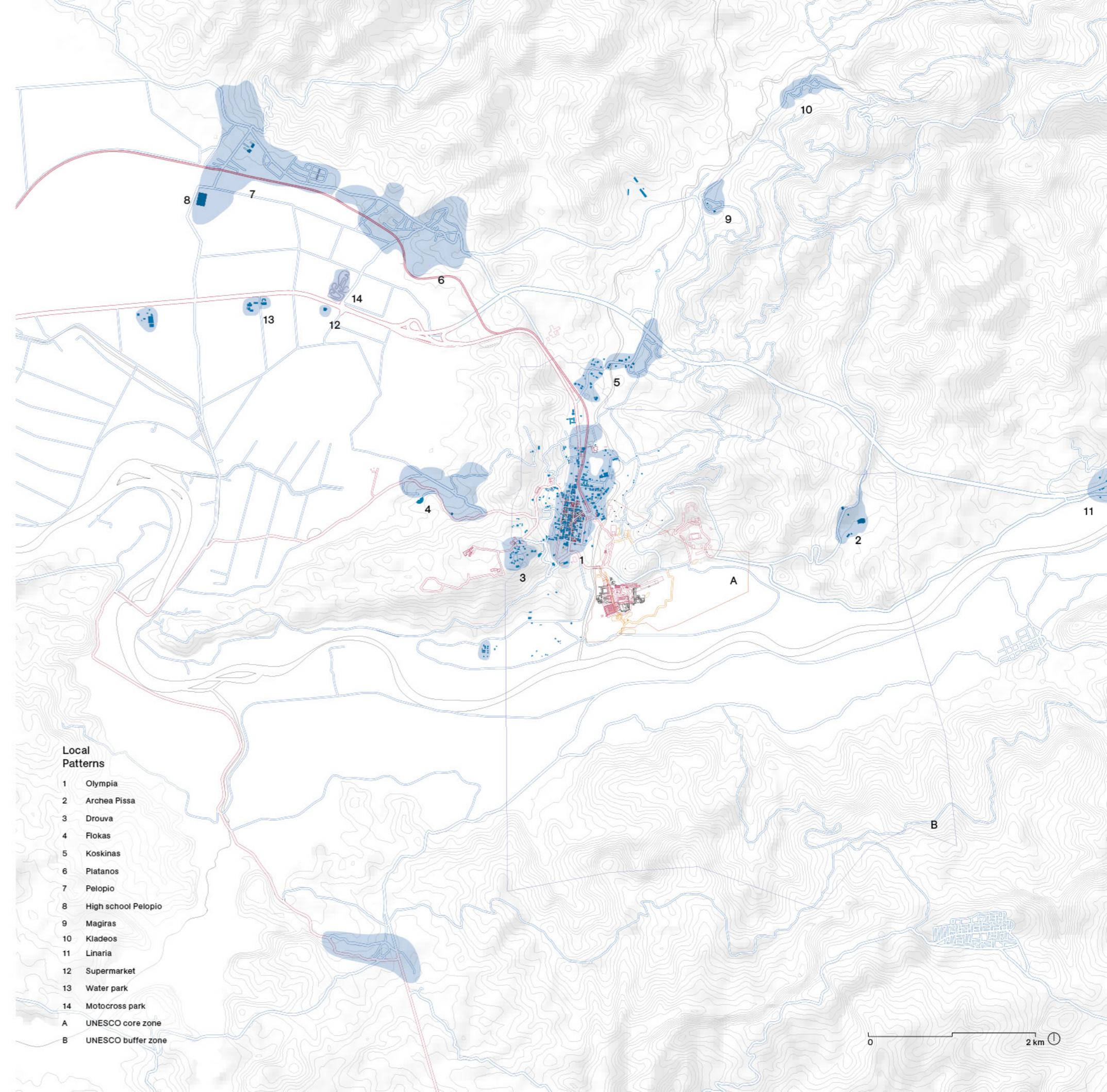
The municipality of Olympia includes 41 villages on an area of 544880m².



Local Reality: Polycentrism

Olympia as administrative head of 41 villages occupies a pivotal role in the region. In addition, the presence of tourism makes it an important regional and one of the key national markets. The local life plans have adapted

to this reality: working in the service sector takes place in Olympia, whereas living, production and leisure happen on different locations scattered around the region. All together, these places constitute a polycentric network.



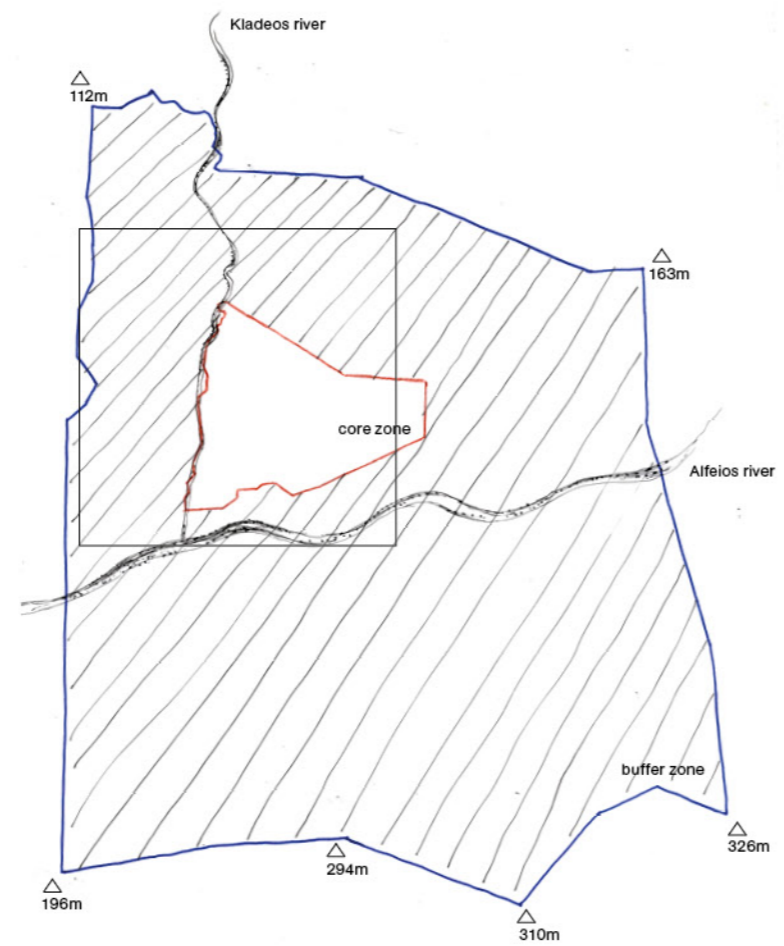
Local Patterns

- 1 Olympia
- 2 Archea Pissa
- 3 Drouva
- 4 Fokas
- 5 Koskinas
- 6 Platanos
- 7 Pelopio
- 8 High school Pelopio
- 9 Magiras
- 10 Kladeos
- 11 Linaria
- 12 Supermarket
- 13 Water park
- 14 Motocross park
- A UNESCO core zone
- B UNESCO buffer zone



Hidden Landscapes

In between the network of tourists, locals and archaeologists, layer of hidden and potential landscapes unfolds. Lying within the radius of the UNESCO buffer zone, these landscapes slowly turned into overgrown fields after 1989, abandoned buildings and inaccessible riverbanks. They are the backstage to the heritage site, silent and fragmented, with a strange and peculiar character and settings.



Hidden Landscapes

- 1 Aifeios riverbank
- 2 Kronio mountain
- 3 Flooding protection wall
- 4 Xenia Motel Olympia
- 5 Abandoned fields
- 6 Meandering highway
- 7 Secret ruins
- 8 Fire protection skyscrapers
- 9 Train depot
- 10 Column fields
- 11 Forest theater
- 12 Agricultural idyll

Alfeios Riverbank



1

Alfeios is one of the biggest rivers in Peloponnese. Through thousands of years of geological evolution, the river has shaped the surroundings and formed a wide and humid valley in the region. Every year, the stream changes its path, sweeping orange fields away, leaving dried out branches behind. The valley is probably the most quickly transforming landscape in the area. Gravel and sand build

the ground for the streams, sandbanks appear where the Alfeios makes large strays, and a dense band of vegetation accompanies the course of the river. In the ancient times, the visitors of the Olympic Games arrived by boat to the site via the Alfeios river. A large temporary city made up of tents spread over the meadows next to the riverbed at that time.

Kronio Mountain



2

The Kronio hill stands in the landscape like a major landmark. From the valley and its surroundings, it functions as a landmark to the site. Pausanias mentions it in his Periegesis, the existence of a temple on the hill – as it is visible in many of the recon-

struction drawings. During the big fire of 2008, the pine trees on the hill burned down completely. The vegetation consists of young trees and bushes. A fence encloses the hill and small dirt paths lead up to the peak.

Flooding Protection Wall



3

In order to protect the Heritage site from frequent flooding, an embankment was built parallel to the riverbed. It is composed of stones enclosed in wire cubes. This linear infrastructure is part of a larger protection system that consists of additional dykes and a dam that lies a kilometre south to the stream. The construction of the dam leads to the emer-

gence of peat bogs over the course of decades, that little by little have overgrown with thorny bushes and started to serve as breeding grounds for swarms of insects. Within the valley, the embankment also serves as a viewing platform on to the orange groves, the dense riverbank vegetation and the mountain chain that lies behind it.

Xenia Motel Olympia



4

The former Xenia Motel is a complex constructed in the modernist style, consisting of four identically designed wings that together form a courtyard. This is a place where a swimming pool used to be located earlier. The four parts are connected to each other through open stairwells. It is constructed out of standardised elements, has two storeys and a parking space for each unit. The motel was abandoned in the 1980s and serves nowadays as a parking lot and storage place for the local

fire brigade. It lies in a dilapidated state. Aris Konstantinidis, one of the most famous Modernist architects of the time in Greece, built the motel. Xenia was a nation-wide hotel construction program initiated by the Hellenic Tourism Organisation to improve the country's tourism infrastructure in the 1960s and 1970s. In 2012, the premises of the Xenia motel were used for an art exhibition organised by Thanos Touris, local hotel owner and project manager.

Abandoned Fields



5

North of the train station, in between the sprawling residential units, lies a field, that seems to have not been cultivated for a long time. Before tourism gained the upper hand in Olympia and

its surroundings, raisins were cultivated on these fields and exported over through the harbour of Katakolon. Today, long grass grows in these fields and ivy leaves climb onto the trees.

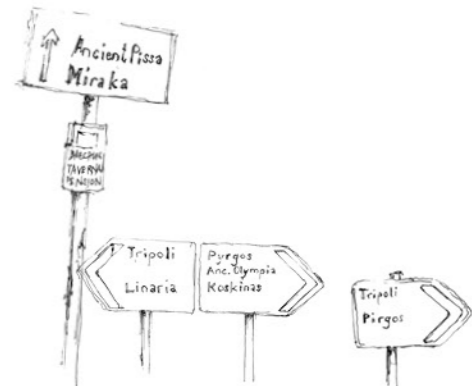
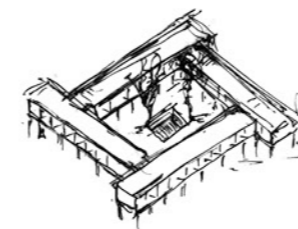
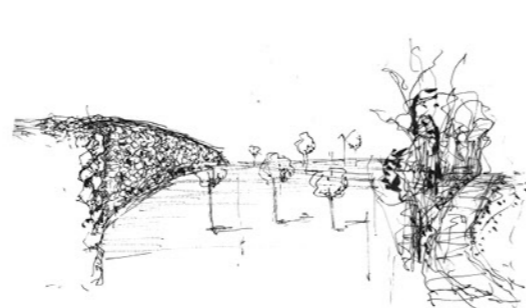
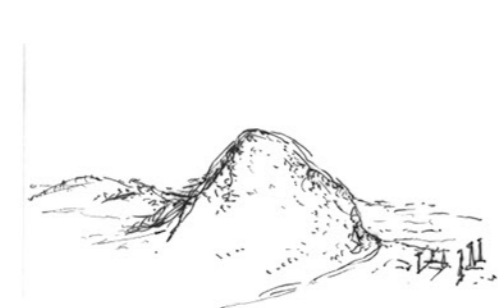
Meandering Highway



6

A two-lane road, accompanied by overgrown crash barriers, meanders through the landscape. Tunnels with names of Ancient mythological figures such as Pelops break through the hills. Bushes and trees protrude into the lanes. Once in a while, a car passes by. They

look like toy cars, lost on the wide road. Three kilometres after crossing the junction to Olympia, the highway suddenly ends and merges with the old and smaller road. The road was constructed for the Olympic Games in 2004, and was supposed to lead to Tripoli.



Secret Ruins



7

At the furthestmost corner of the Ancient site, the archaeologist seem to have abandoned some excavated tambours, friezes and capitals. They lie on the ground, covered with moss and overgrown long grass. Towards its back rises the 'archaeological frontier', the edge between the excavated lower

and the naturally growing terrain towards the north. A metal fence surrounds the edge, separating the site from the olive groves that are located behind it. This place, where the ruins merge with the nature, tourists rarely find on their way.



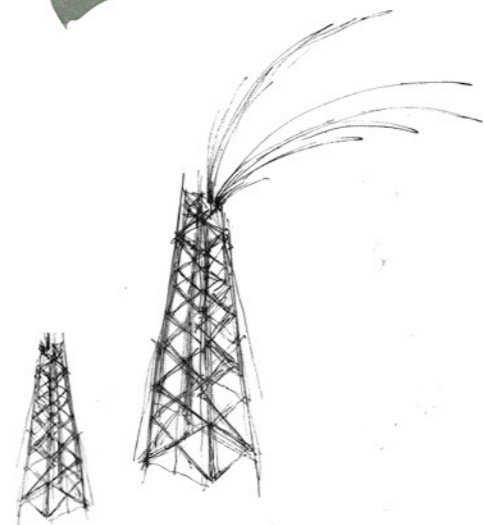
Fire Protection Skyscrapers



8

On the mountains that lie towards the north of the Kronio hill, a chain of fire protection towers stands like a line of skyscrapers in the landscape. They are made of a metallic construction and equipped with water dispensers. In the mornings, when the water pipes are

turned on, a shimmering humid gloss unfolds over the slopes. The towers were built in order to extinguish wild fires that are common in this area. Nowadays, these are also used to irrigate and maintain the delicate vegetation, that started to grow after the wild fire of 2008.



Train Depot



9

The train depot, with its blue lacquered doors and its pitched roof, appears like an elongated single-family house. Its construction consists of masonry, pilasters that give a rhythm to its facade and an ornamental

band winds around the building. The depot is vacant, but in extremely good condition. Since the train stopped to run regular service between Pyrgos and Olympia, the depot has lost its use.



Column Fields



10

At the southern end of the Ancient site, tambours are aligned on concrete plates like pearls on a chain. They are part of the archaeological infrastructure and serve as an interim storage for very heavy findings. The concrete subsurface protects the Ancient artefacts from the decomposition of the con-

crete through humidity. They were constructed in the 1970s under the guidance of the German archaeologist Emil Kunze. Next to the storage, the workshop for the German stonemason is located. A light tent structure protects the material and the stonemasons from rain.



Forest Theater



11

Hidden in between the green belt of Olympia, a modern theatre offers a spectacular view onto the landscape, the Kronio hill and the Ancient

site. A small foot path leads from the road to Drouva along the slope to this introverted space. High pine trees frame its scenery.



Agricultural Idyll



12

In Koskinas, a village north to Olympia, a winery sits between fields of vines. The building not only hosts a tasting space, but also a production area. Big shining tanks are connected through

pipes. The wine bottles are furnished with the label - Olympia. The vegetation in this area is less dense, rocks appear on the peaks and dry macchia spreads onto the hills.





Hills with fire protection towers spraying mist for irrigation, over the landscape



The Kladeos riverbed

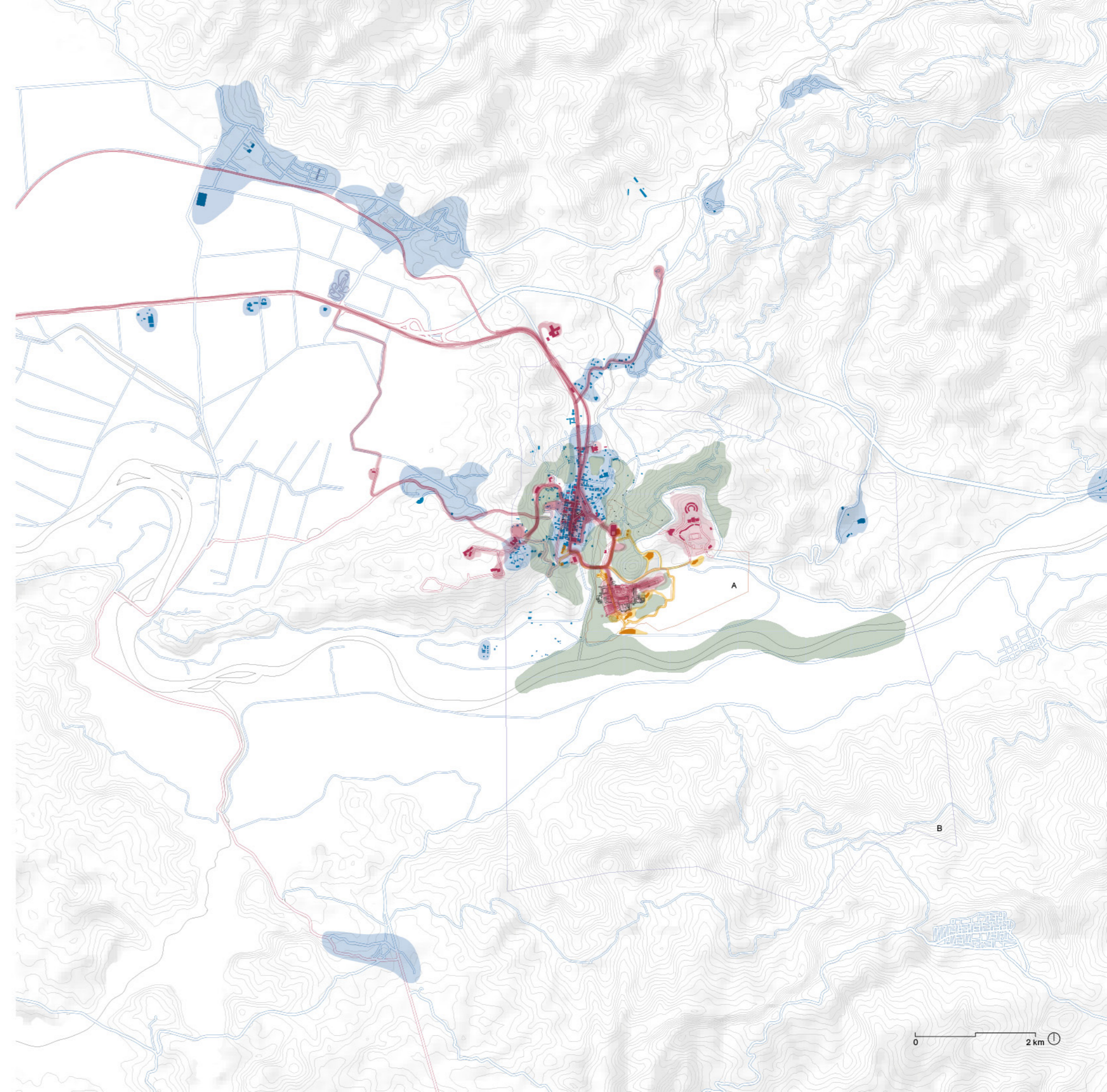
Heritage as a Frozen Landscape

This thesis' map synergises the results from the analysis of the three user networks with a fourth layer of hidden landscapes and proposes potential landscapes for intervention. Like a narrow tube, the layer of tourism is inserted into the urban configuration of Olympia presenting a dense overlap and concentration of human activities. On the other hand, the local layer unfolds as a pattern of different uses and spatial characteristics. It is widely ramified and spread, and can be understood only in a larger frame, including the nearby villages. Together, they form a polycentric, urban system with local centres and spread into the residential and agricultural areas in-between. The Archaeologist Loops almost do not touch the paths frequented by the tourists and locals, being thus an introverted and invisible actor on the scene of Olympia. Its minimal footprint contrasts with its broad impact on history. The Hidden Landscapes are arranged in "circles" around the three characters of the urban configuration. As scarcely used and mostly undeveloped lands, they are in strong contrast to the density of built structures and uses of the tourist layer. Their potential lies in their fragmentation—they are micro landscapes with extremely different and specific qualities. They could be experienced not only as a two-dimensional background for the ancient site, but also as three-dimensional spaces.

Thesis Map

Heritage as a Frozen Landscape

- Tourist gates
- Archaeologist loops
- Local pattern
- Hidden landscapes
- A UNESCO core zone
- B UNESCO buffer zone



Aisles in the Landscape

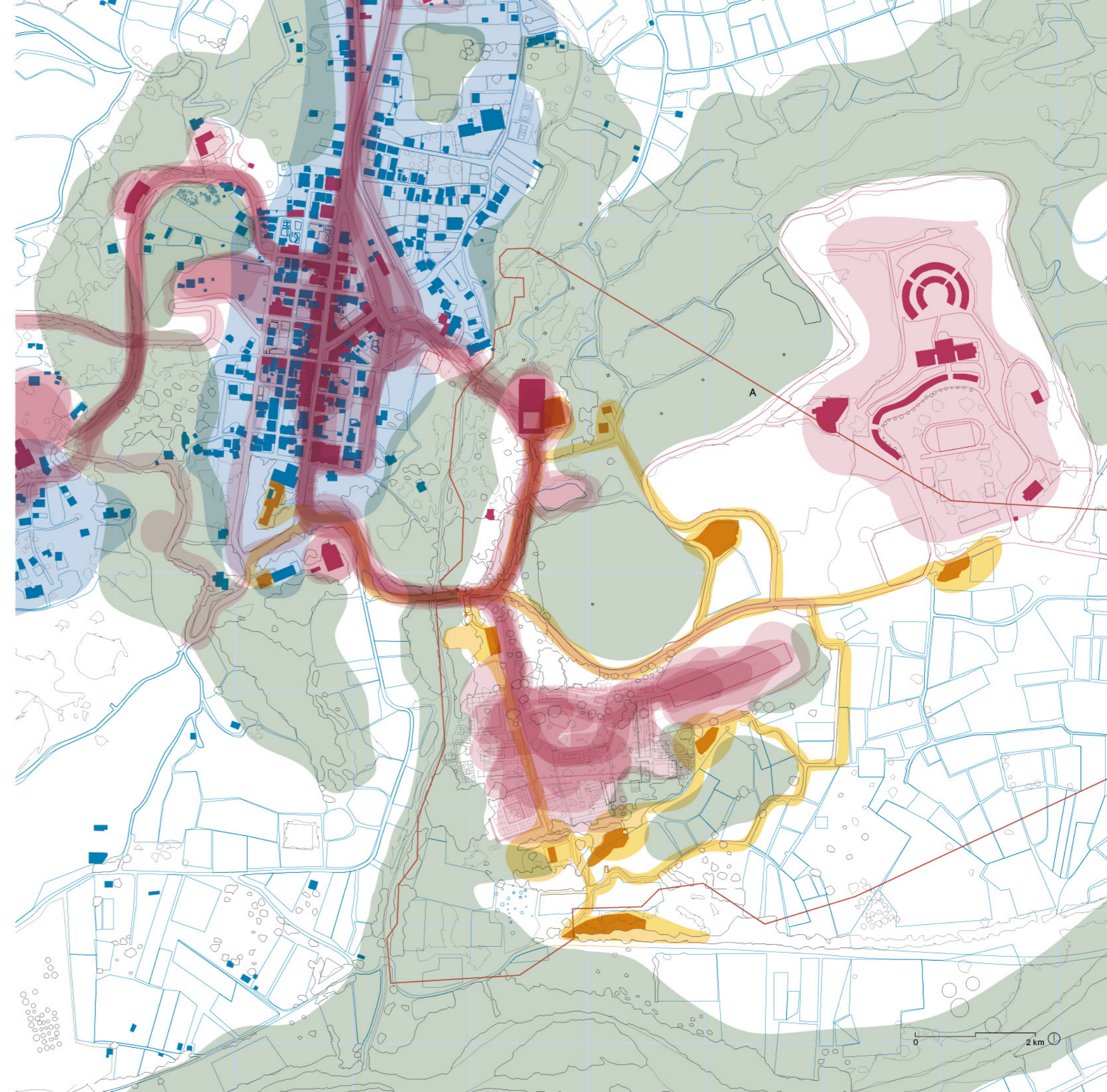
The three artefacts of the Olympian urban scheme – the village, the site and the Olympic Academy – sit as islands in the heritage territory. Enclosed by the archaeological infrastructures or the 'frozen landscapes' of

the buffer zone, they host all kinds of human activities. Their highly dynamic, gate-like character, contrasts with the static landscapes that unfold around the three cores.

Heritage as a Frozen Landscape

- Tourist gates
- Archaeologist loops
- Local pattern
- Hidden landscapes

A — UNESCO core zone

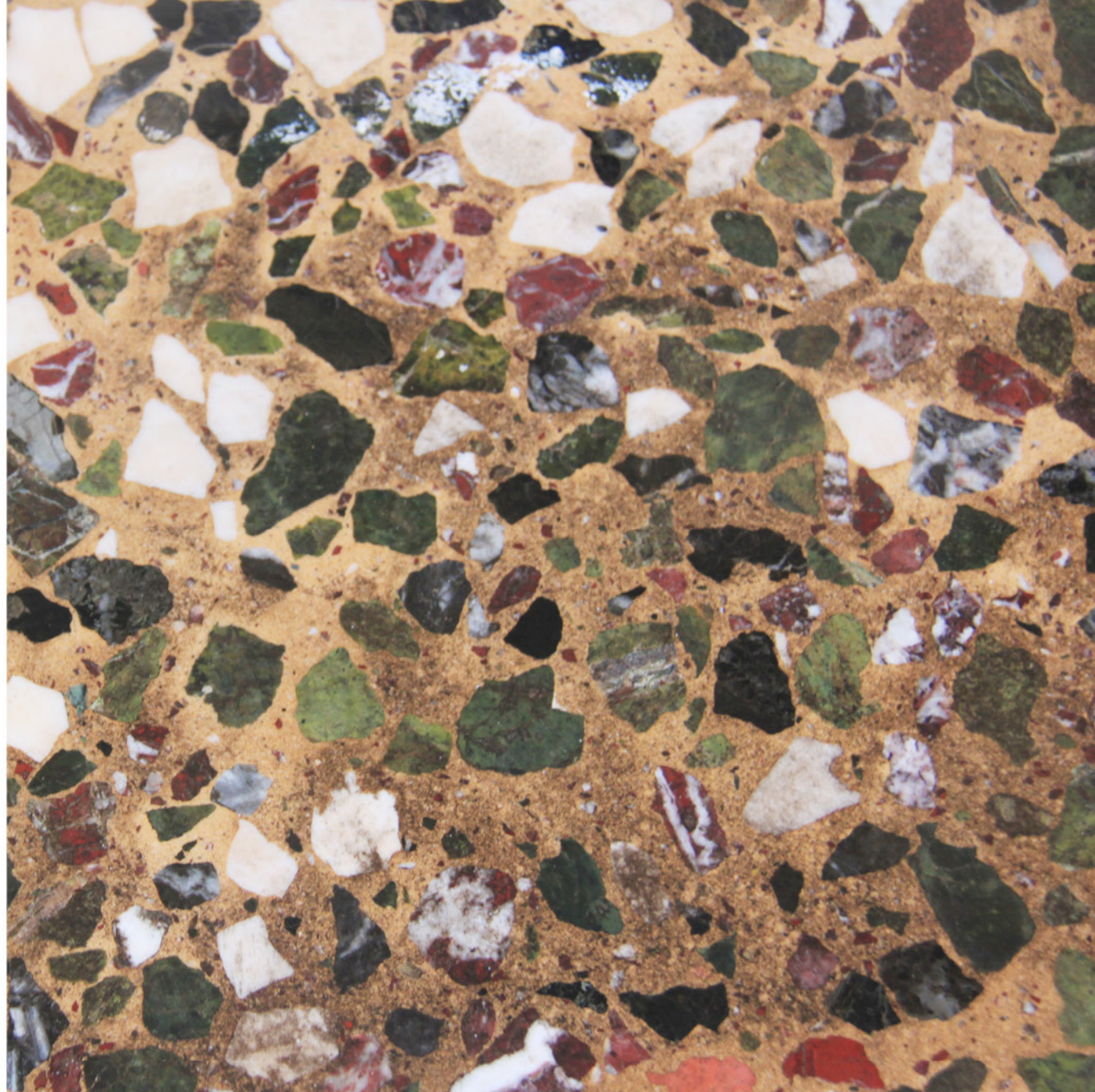


How should the urban development of Olympia evolve in the future? What kind of development is contingent in a territory that mainly consists of a static buffer zone? How can we face the dynamics that arise from an unilateral dependence on mass tourism? What are the opportunities that these buffer zones might offer? No big development is possible besides the interest for personal residence, which in the case of Olympia is low, and the plots are too small for agricultural production. In the arsenal of preservation there seems to be no consideration of how the effects of this territorial tag should be managed, how the preservation and the buffer zones could stay alive, and yet evolve. It is the chance for a new, particular leisure landscape of destinations: the places of the frozen landscapes of the buffer zone with their strange and peculiar settings, small and fragmented, wild, hidden and resilient. These landscapes—as opposed to the fast track prefabricated tourist experience—can focus on offering a personal experience. A new future slow tourism could hold onto the specificities of these landscapes and a foreboding nature, that preclude a standard tourist experience. It could constitute a second chance for Olympia as an opportunity for a more stable and resilient form of tourism, based on existing potentials and affiliated with local production. Through the connection of these new destinations of the Olympian territory, a park of heritage landscapes could arise.

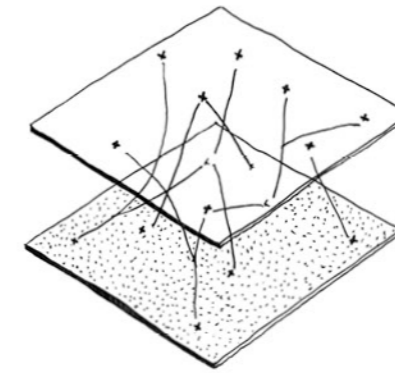
Olympia is not the only frozen landscape in the Greek territory. It is one out of seventeen World Heritage sites in Greece, each comprised of a core zone, and most of them additionally of buffer zones, defined around the actual heritage sites.



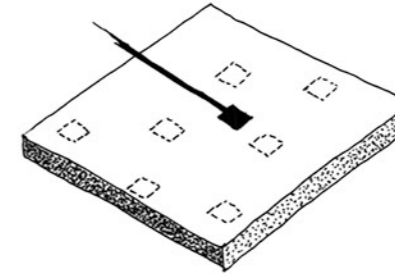
A conceptual sketch of the landscape of new destinations



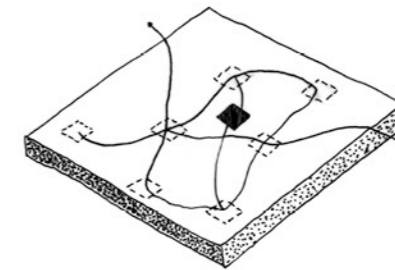
Fragmented landscape,
pattern of a stone flooring
at the church of
Skillountia, Greece



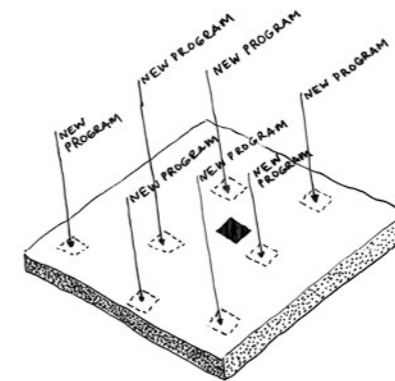
The new paths connect
the four layers of the
analysis with each other
and therefore create a
productive tourist
landscape.



Optimizing the tourist
gate in order to reduce
the spatial footprint of
fast mass tourism.



Connecting hidden
landscapes as
protagonists of a new,
slow tourism.



New programs are
inserted into the spots of
hidden landscapes in
order to activate them.

A Shuttle Station and new Networks

A layer of roads for bicycles, paths for strollers and trails for explorers connect new places of interest with each other and with already existing destinations. Besides the places of the hidden landscapes, spots of local production, such as a wineries or honey farms, will become a part of this network. As a first step towards a park for the heritage landscape, the infrastructure of cruise ship tourism in Olympia has to be optimised in order to reduce their footprint. The implementation of a shuttle service between the port in Katakolon and Olympia will make the extensive parking lots obsolete – which can then become a part of the new park. Small interventions in the landscape fabric such as clearings or aisles will create rooms in the thickly overgrown landscapes and establish visible connections with the new destinations.



1
Drive-in car renters
Los Angeles 1932



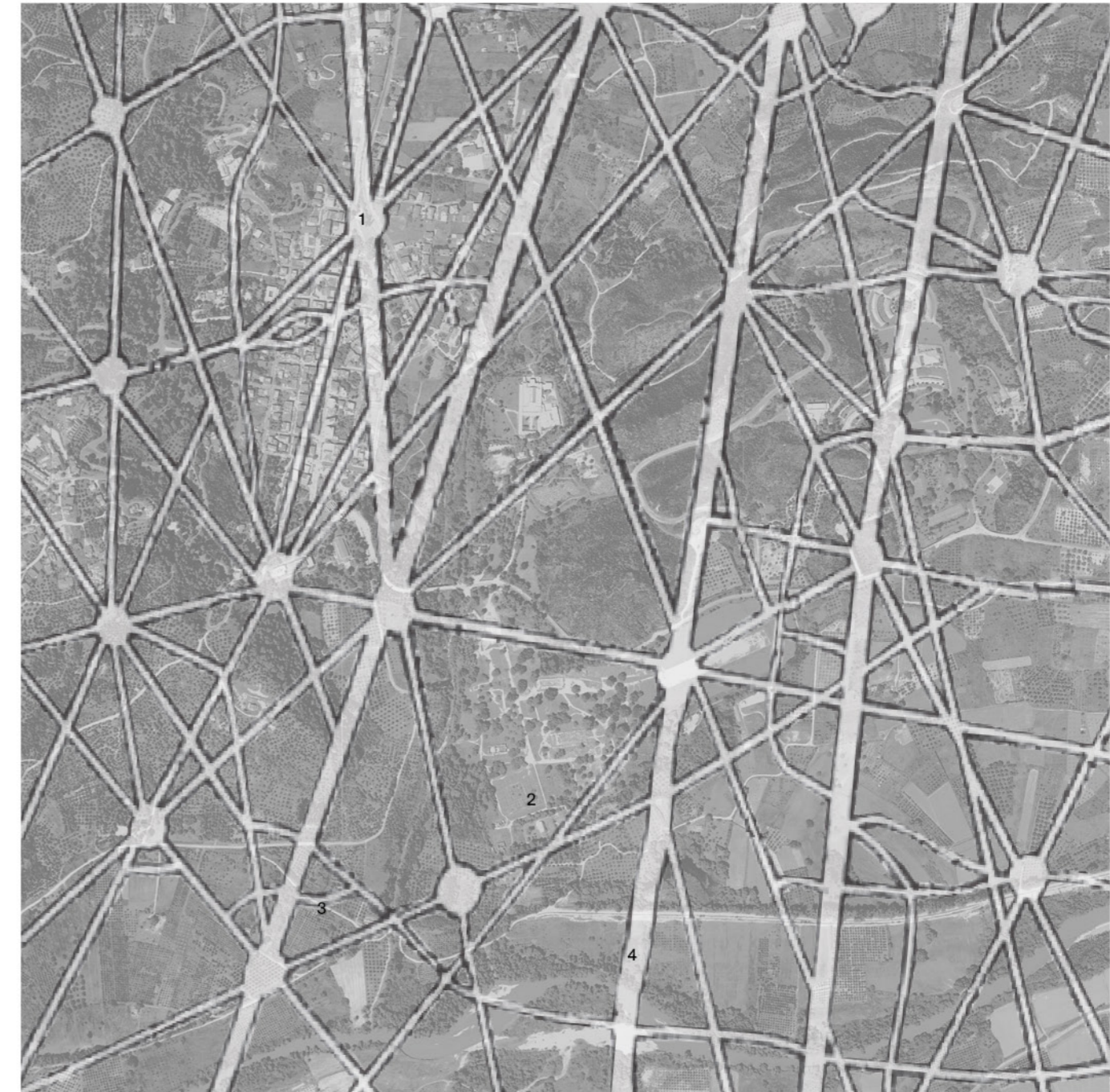
2
Ruins sitting in an open
landscape, ancient site of Elis,
Greece



3
Agriculture within a landscape
garden, Pfaueninsel, 2013



4
Destinations within a landscape
garden, Pfaueninsel, 2013



Conceptual sketch of the
new network (satellite
image of Olympia ruins
and a map of the hunting
grounds of Louis XV)

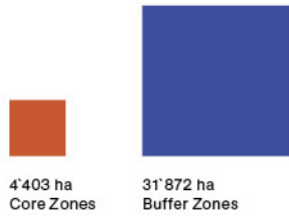
Frozen Territories of Greece

Since 1986, seventeen historical and natural sites have been included in the list of UNESCO World Heritage Site. An additional fifteen sites are currently on the tentative list. Most of these sites are provided with a buffer zone. We can assume that all of them are 'frozen landscapes', an outgrowth of the heritage apparatus, and potential parks for the heritage landscapes.

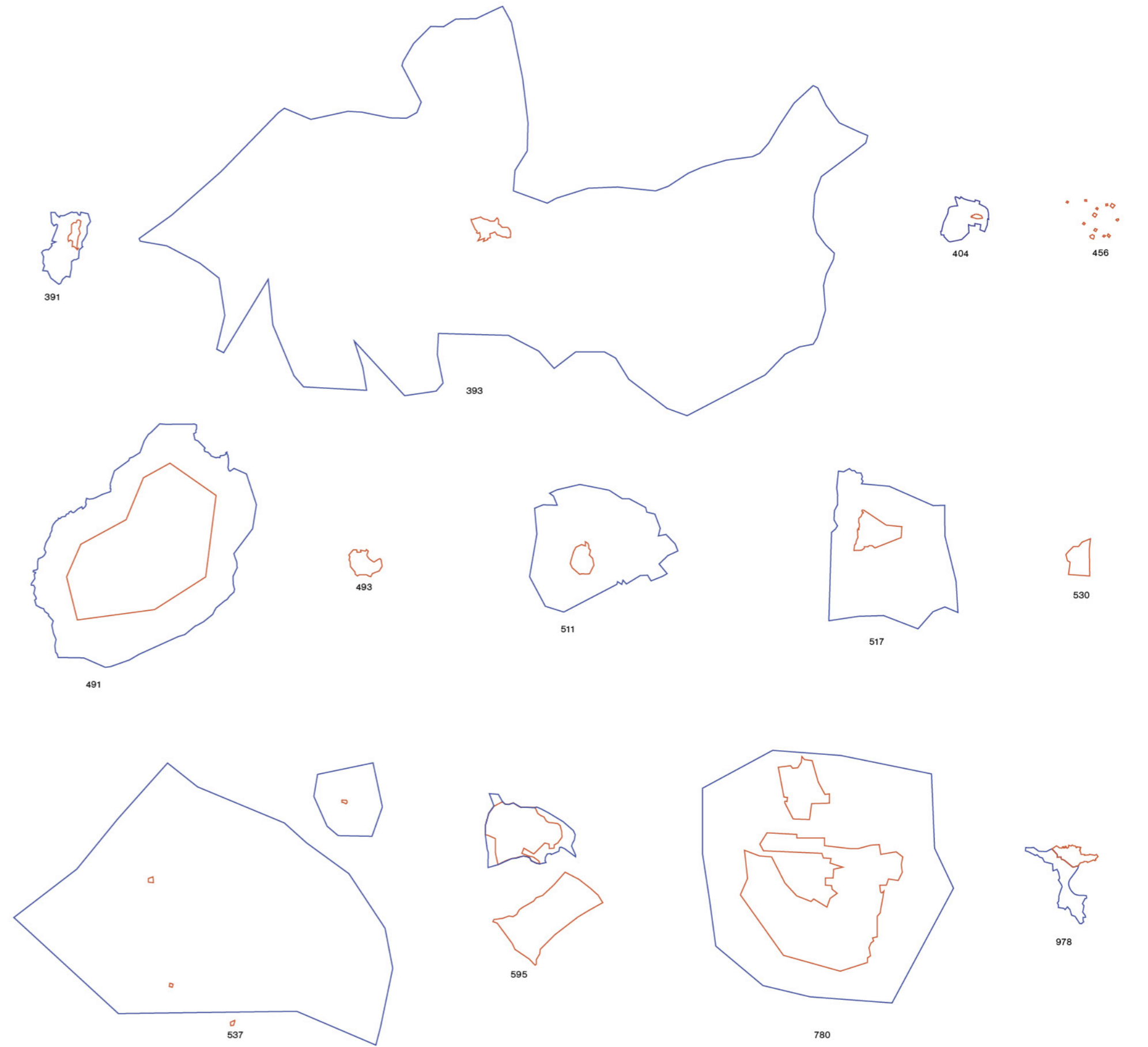
- | | |
|--|---|
| N°391
Temple of Apollo Epicurius at Bassae, 1986
Core zone: 20 ha
Buffer zone: 202 ha | N°517
Archaeological site of Olympia, 1989
Core zone: 106 ha
Buffer zone: 1'458 ha |
| N°393
Archaeological site of Delphi, 1987
Core zone: 51 ha
Buffer zone: 14'314 | N°530
Delos, 1990
Core zone: 351 ha |
| N°404
Acropolis Athens, 1987
Core zone: 3.04 ha
Buffer zone: 117 ha | N°537
Monasteries of Daphni, Hosios Loukas and Nea Moni of Chios, 1990
Core zone: 3.7 ha
Buffer zone: 5'816 ha |
| N°456
Paleochristian and Byzantine monuments of Thessalonika, 1988
Core zone: 5.33 ha | N°595
Pythagoreion and Heraion of Samos, 1992
Core zone: 668 ha
Buffer zone: 402 ha |
| N°491
Sanctuary of Asklepios at Epidaurus, 1988
Core zone: 1'394 ha
Buffer zone: 3'386 ha | N°780
Archaeological site of Aigai (modern name Vergina), 1996
Core zone: 1'421 ha
Buffer zone: 4'812 ha |
| N°493
Medieval city of Rhodes, 1988
Core zone: 66 ha | N°978
Old town of Corfu, 2007
Core zone: 70 ha
Buffer zone: 162 ha |
| N°511
Archaeological site of Mystras, 1989
Core zone: 54 ha
Buffer zone: 1'203 ha | |



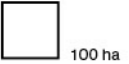
Greek heritage site inscribed in the World Heritage List, 2016



Greek territories of preservation



UNESCO World Heritage sites in Greece represented as core and buffer zones





- Landscape of Destinations**
- 1 Abandoned Xenia
 - 2 Forest theater
 - 3 Dam
 - 4 River Aifeios
 - 5 Storage place
 - 6 Mount Kronio
 - 7 Museum archive
 - 8 Water towers
 - 9 Municipality building
 - 10 Main square
 - 11 Forest theater
 - 12 Agricultural production





ARCHITECTURE OF
TERRITORY
European Countryside

Project by
Andres Ruiz
Johannes Hirsbrunner



ILIA'S COAST SEASIDE COUNTRYSIDE

ARCADIA
Spring 2016

Ilia's Coast Seaside Countryside

The development of tourism in Greece is an interesting and complex case study. In the 1950s, the Greek government fostered the belief that, instead of driving the country's economic development through industrialisation, the main economic policy should rather focus on tourism. This strategy did not derive from the local economic traditions, but instead, it emerged as a result of the growing demands of the international leisure and travel industry.

It started from the premise that Greek tourism would be based on the economies of 'history' and 'scenic landscape', emphasizing the coexistence of archaeological monuments with nature. The construction of infrastructure, including ports, highways and airports, was an essential prerequisite for the economic strategy based on tourism. The areas with an 'intact' landscape became a synonym for modernisation and touristic development. Still, not all the regions developed in the same way. Some of them stayed blind spots to the international mass tourism, and these are the places where a 'local kind of living' could be found.

One of these regions is the coast of Ilia, a region to which international mass coastal tourism seems to be just arriving.



p.8

Local Coast

With the development of international tourism, beaches with local character, like the ones of Ilia's coast, are rarely found.

p.16

Coastal Settlements and Urban Networks

The juxtaposition of international tourism with local lifestyle is visible both in its infrastructure and in the patterns of local and international tourist influx seasons.

p.32

Coastal Landscape in Transformation

Last century's emphasis on agriculture has radically transformed Ilia's coast. Today, international tourism adds up to this transformation.

p.50

Local Coast under Pressure

Real-estate pressure for the development of coastal tourist facilities leads to the continual land deterioration and drying-up of lakes in the area.

p.52

Accessing the Local Landscape

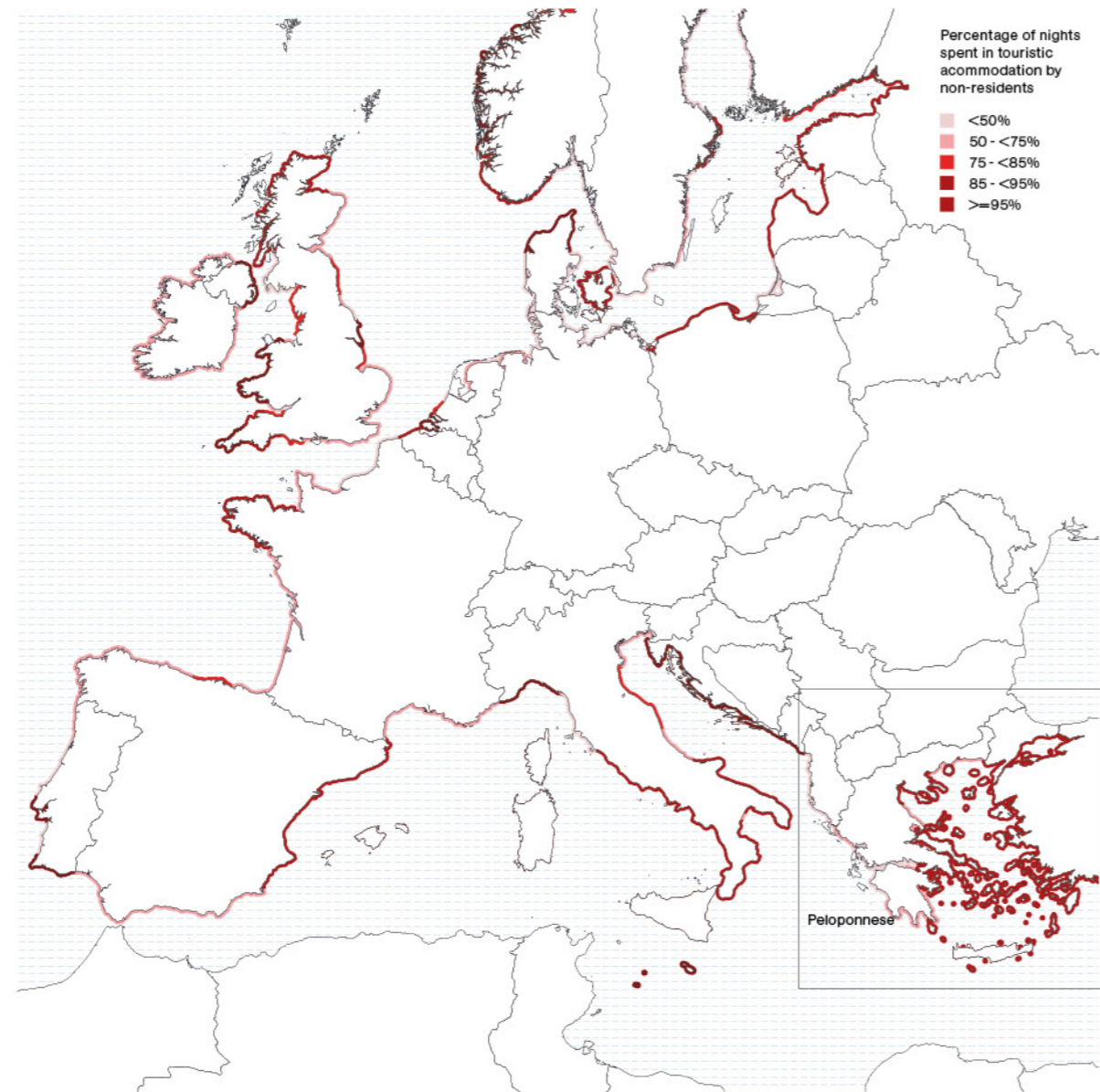
The vulnerability of the local settlements and of the coastal landscapes of Ilia signals an urgent need for rethinking the relationship between tourism, locality and landscapes in the region.

Local Coast

Coastal tourism is transforming the majority of inhabited coastal areas around the world. The signs of this transformation can be seen and felt almost everywhere on the coasts of Europe, especially in the Mediterranean. Traditional local settlements as well as 'natural' coasts seem to be quickly disappearing, with mass tourism facilities replacing them. Relatively few regions, such as the western Peloponnesian coast, have averted the affects resulting from this kind of development, due to a limited accessibility and poorly developed infrastructure. As a result, these regions offer more local qualities and possibilities, in comparison to the coast developed for mass tourism.

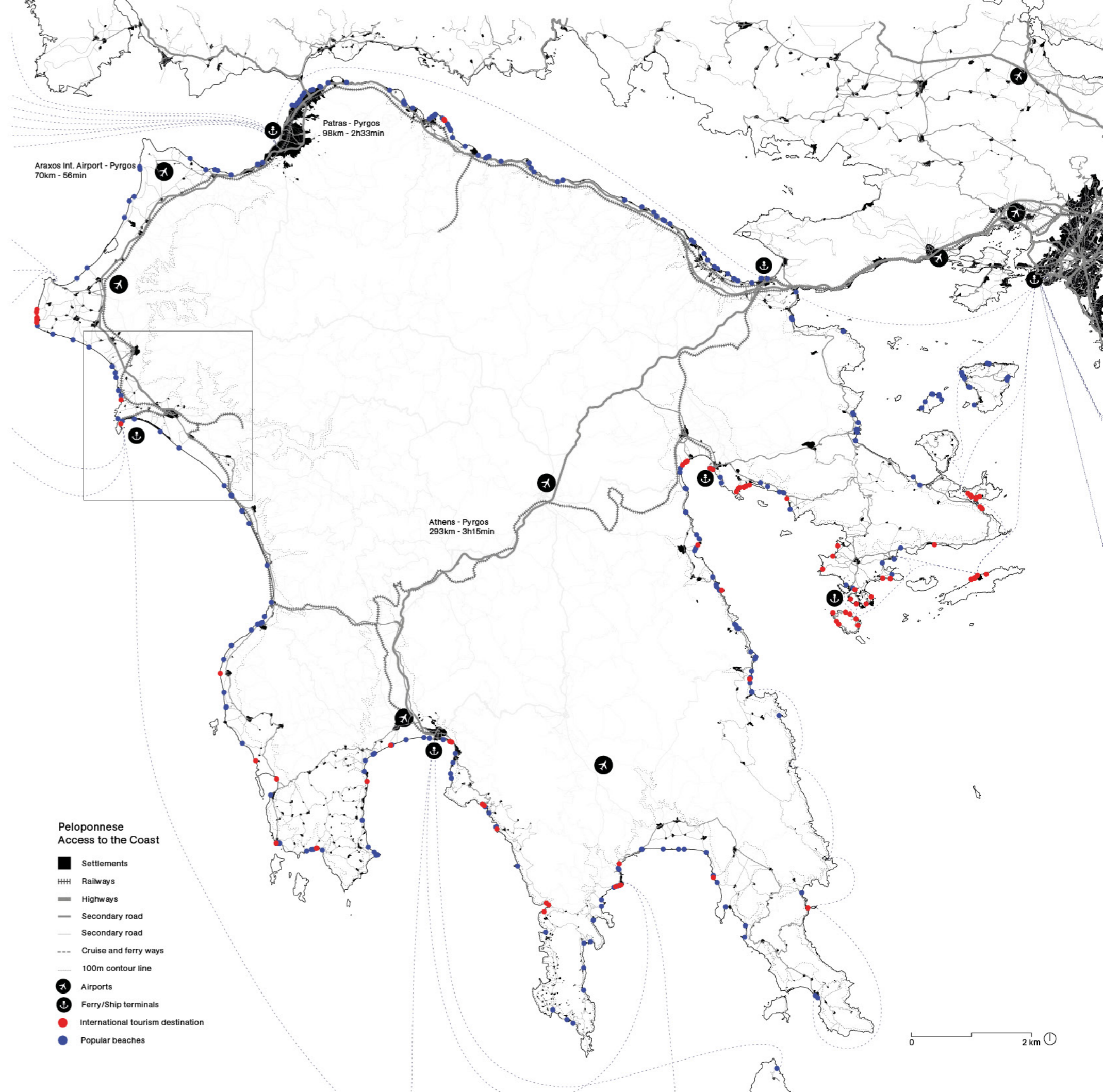
Touristic Coast of Europe

Coastal tourism in Europe is mostly international, particularly in the Mediterranean. Taking Costa Brava in Spain as an example, one can see that international tourism manifests here in a form of high density development. On the other hand, the western coast of Greece seems to be an interesting case, as it still offers international coastal tourism, but with a much lower density.



Touristic Coasts of Peloponnese

In the Greek context, the western Peloponnesian coast could be characterized as more 'local'. This can be explained by the relative inaccessibility of the coast. At the same time, eastern Peloponnesian coast, which can be better accessed from Athens, experienced an aggressive transformation into a tourist hub.



Historical Evolution of Urban Settlements

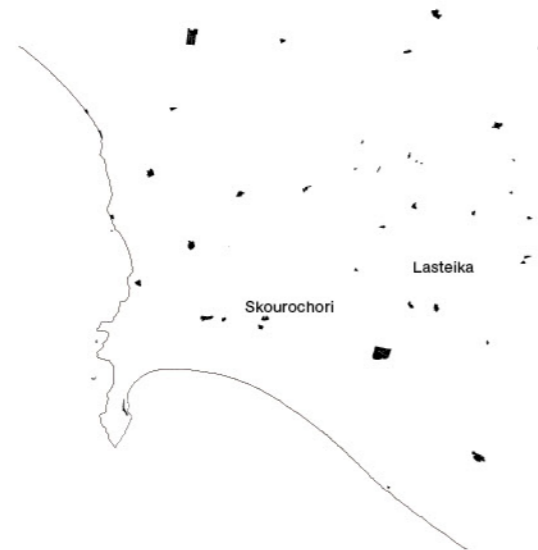
The coastal region of Iliia has traditionally been one of low density, owing to a prevalence of disease and infestation. This can be attributed to its warm and humid climate, as well as to the great frequency of contact with foreign boats. Additionally, its location and topography offered little protection from foreign invasion. The sparse settlements occurred mostly on hilly terrains close to rivers, that connected the settlements with the sea. After the Greek Revolution and the subsequent liberation from Ottoman Occupation in the 19th Century, the coastal areas became more safe, leading to new settlements springing up along the coast. Fertile but uncultivated plains turned into agricultural land. Raisins became the primary export good of Iliia and they were shipped all over Europe from Port Katakolon. The profitable export of agricultural goods in the 19th century, led to the growth of the regional centres, Amaliada and Pyrgos. The discovery of archaeological sites in Olympia opened the region for travellers wanting to visit the ancient ruins. It was not until the 1980's when newly extended terminal brought a new wave of international mass-tourism. It still remains the main arrival facility for tourists in Iliia.

XIX Century Destination for Seasonal Migration



Family in Viltineika, around 1900

After the liberation from the Ottoman occupation, the coastal land was repurposed for agriculture. Attracted by the cultivable fields, people from Arcadia started settling on the hilly coast. The migrants spent the winter seasons living and working in Iliia because of its warm weather and cultivable land, returning to Arcadia during the summer season. For instance, people from Lasta, an Arcadian village, would seasonally commute to a newly built settlement, Lasteika.



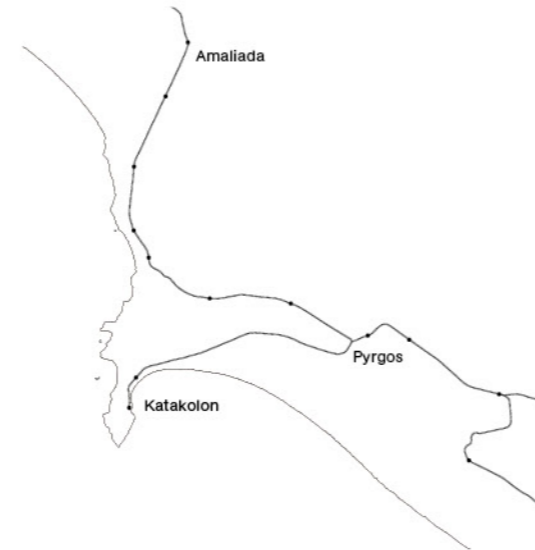
Settlements of seasonal agriculture migrants coming from Arcadia

1883–1902 Introduction of Commuter Railways



Old train station in Pyrgos, around 1902

In 1883 the first railway line was constructed. It connected Pyrgos with Katakolon and was mainly used for the transport of agricultural goods. Seven years later, it was opened to the public. The route, which connected Pyrgos with Amaliada and Athens, was inaugurated on March 29, 1890. Later, in 1902, the route was extended towards south, connecting Pyrgos with Kyparissia. Shortly after, in 1891, the route between Pyrgos and Olympia was inaugurated.



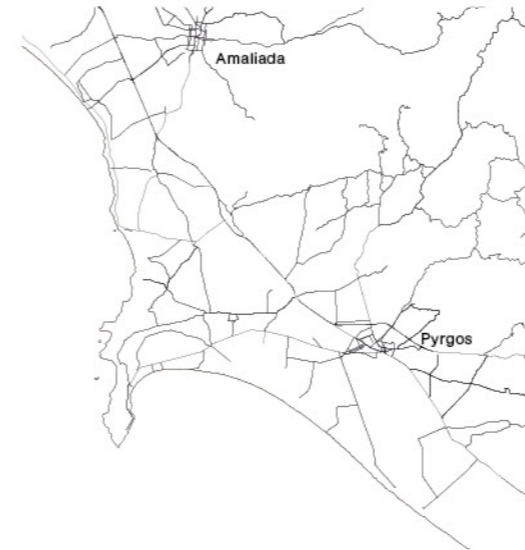
Railway network, 1902

1920–1960 Entering the Automobile Era



A bus driver in Iliia, circa 1957

As automobiles became more affordable, Iliia's road network started expanding. This led to the emergence of sprawls across the region. In particular, the popularity of the 'second homes' close to the beach was one of the main agent of the change in physical and social landscape. Additionally, the new road network led to the intensified urbanisation in Pyrgos and Amaliada, cities that emerged at the time as regional centres.



Expansion of the road network, circa 1960

1967–1969 Agriculture as a State-Run Project. Lake Drainage



Fisherman in Lake Mouria, circa 1950

The region along former Mouria lake was known for fishing. During the 1970s, this area was reclaimed and drained by the Greek state, in order to be exploited for agriculture. The drainage strategy went hand in hand with the construction of a new irrigation system for the coastal region, with the water supply from the Alfeios river. As a consequence, the landscape of boats and fishery was slowly replaced by agricultural landscape.



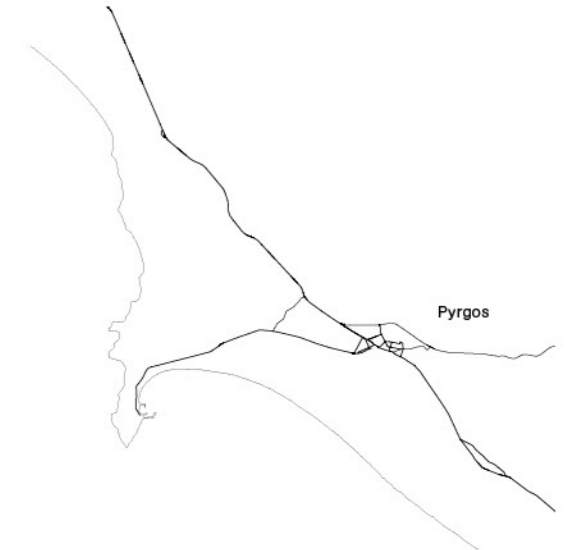
Agricultural irrigation and the drainage system

1978–2016 Infrastructures for International Tourism

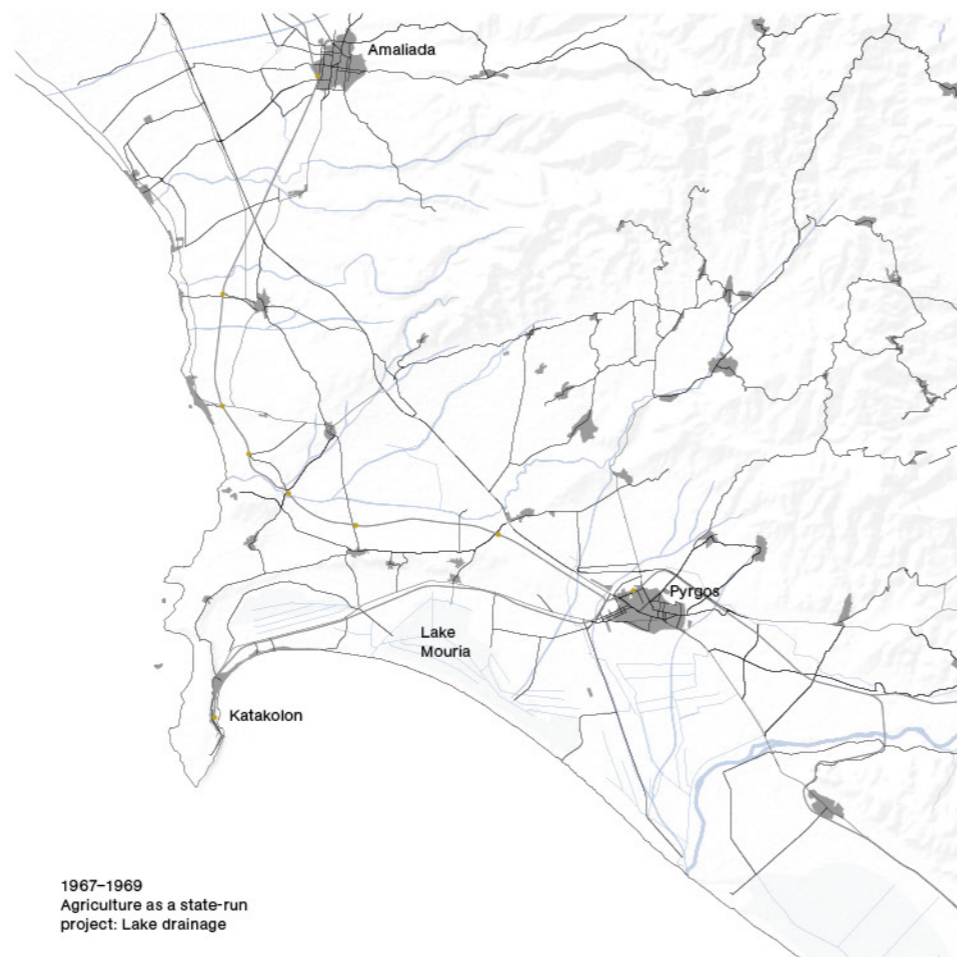
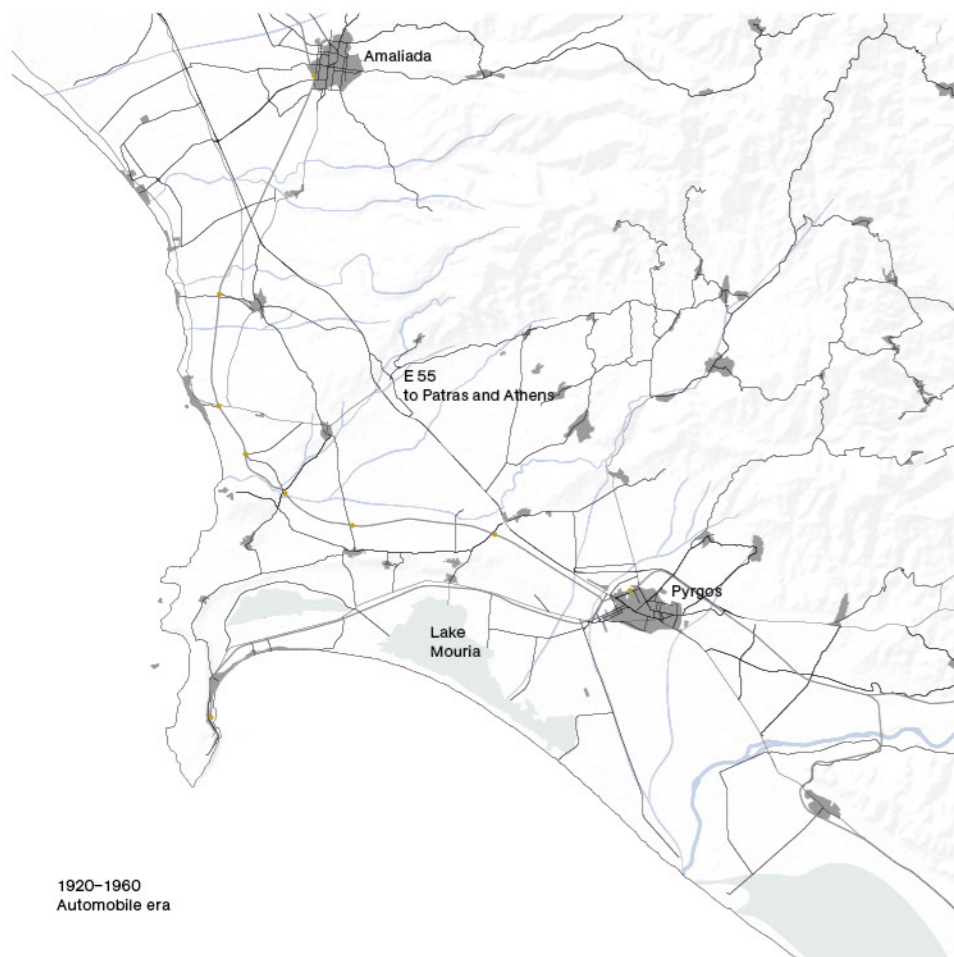
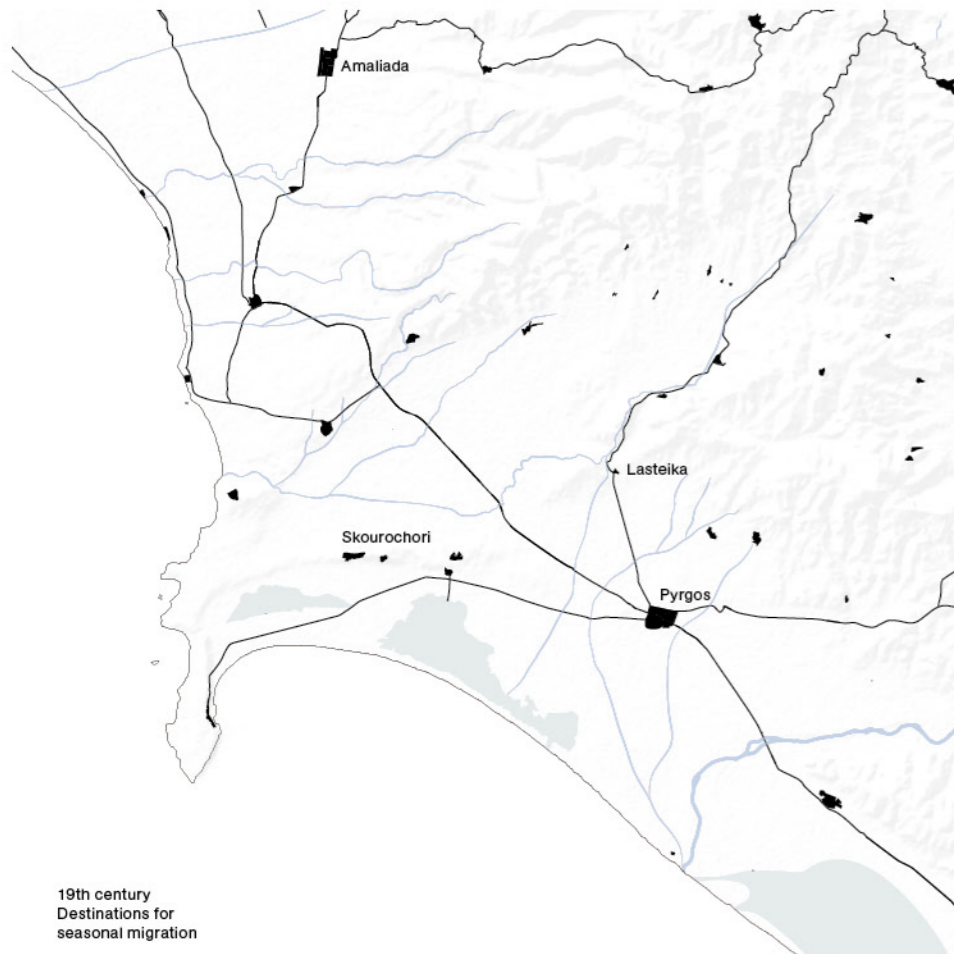


Quay in Port Katakolo, circa 1930

Port Katakolon was constructed for the transport of agricultural goods. However, since the discovery of ancient sites in Olympia, travellers started pouring to Katakolon. Thus, the port was extended and adapted in order to receive and serve cruise ships during the 1980s. Following this trend, the National Road E55, that connected Iliia's coastal regions with the International Airport at Patras, was built in 1978. This stimulated the construction of resorts on the beach.

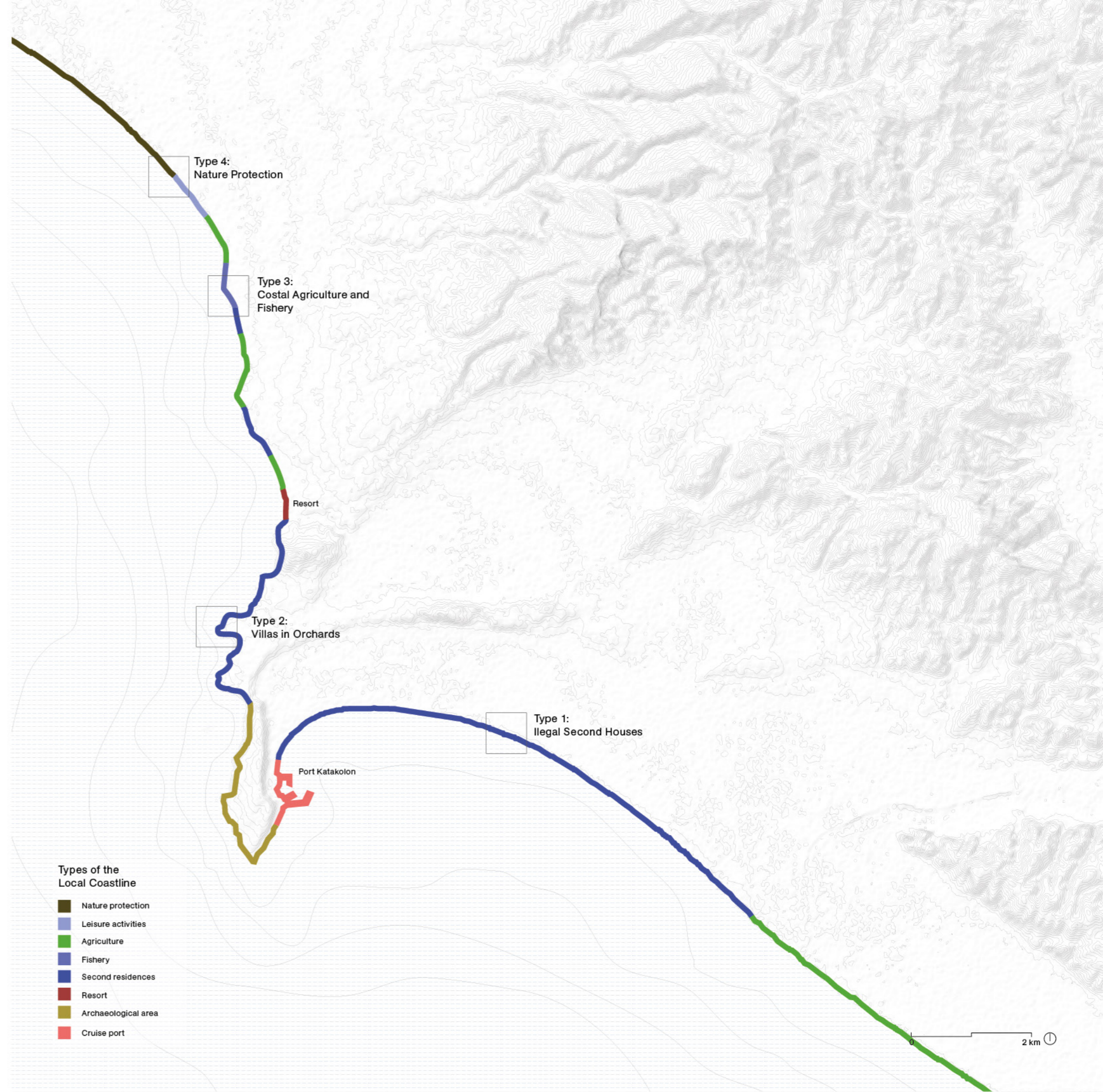
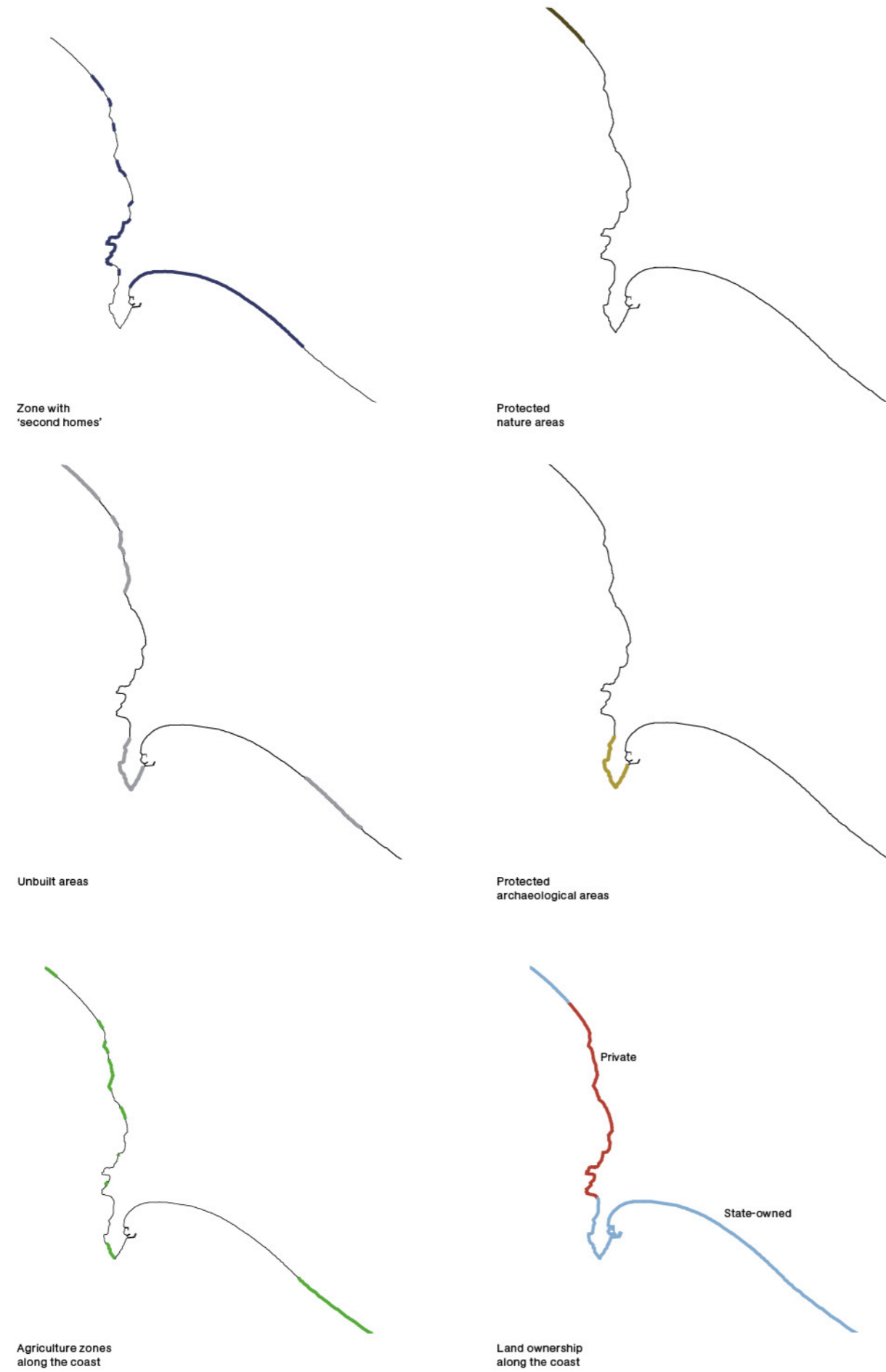


Expansion of the port and national road network, 1980s



Searching for the Local Coast

By looking at the coast of Ilia, we can identify certain characteristics of what can be labeled as a 'local coast'. The coexistence of these characteristics aids the development of various local occupations along the coastal line. Nonetheless, there are only two kinds of international occupations that seem to be rather isolated from the rest of the coastline.



Coastal Settlements and Urban Networks

The coast of Ilia has maintained a very strong and predominantly local character, even though Port Katakolon has been one of the major cruise ship ports of Greece, with a large annual influx of international tourists coming to visit the heritage sites of Olympia. The coexistence of 'the local' and 'the international' is also reflected in the overlap of the networks they create. While the urban network serving international tourism is characterized by a linear configuration, defined through entrance gates and specific destinations, the local networks are much more complex structures with common services and activities.

International Coastal Settlements

Port Katakolon is the entry point for international tourists arriving by cruise ships, looking for the emblematic ancient Olympia. The beach resort is the main destination for these tourists.



Katakolon
Cruise port



Resort Miramar
near Kalakeika

Local Coastal Occupations

The predominant heterogeneity of Ilia is immediately evident. Most of the settlements have preserved their local character and a way of living, even though new activities have been sprung up in these places. For instance, a new open-air cinema was built in a forest.

Type 1: Illegal Second Houses

The coastal settlement zone, which is approximately 10 km long and 200 m wide, is mostly constituted from 'second houses' of Ilia's residents, positioned between the sea and the former lake. In Mouria, these settlements

are technically illegal as they are built on a public land. A formalisation of these settlements by the state is still expected by its inhabitants.



Illegal second houses
near Spiatza



Road inside illegal second
houses near Katakolon

Type 2: Villas in Orchards

Villas are the most common typology of second houses. Sprawled along the coast of Ag. Andreas, they are located on the hilly outcrops and usually built on a private land. Many of the villas are surrounded by olive groves.



Ag. Andreas
Villa



Ag. Andreas
Villa

Type 3: Coastal Agriculture and Fishery

For centuries, the marina of Palouki has been strongly linked to the nearby inland settlements. It represents one of the few access points to the Ionian sea. The port has maintained a local character

and is used mostly as a meeting point, or for fishing and sailing. Agricultural fields surround the port. It is also known as a camping destination for local tourism.



Palouki
Promenade



Palouki
Fishery marina

Type 4: Nature Protection

The forest near Kourouta is a coastal dune and is designated as a 'nature protection zone'. On a normal weekday, it is common to see people walking dogs or jogging here. During summer, people build temporary huts out of salvaged wood from the beach

to shelter themselves from the sun. The open-air cinema in the forest is rebuilt every year and attracts many visitors.



Summer huts
near Paralia



Public cinema in the
forest near Kourouta



Sticks indicating
eggs of Turtles

Type 1:
Illegal Second Houses



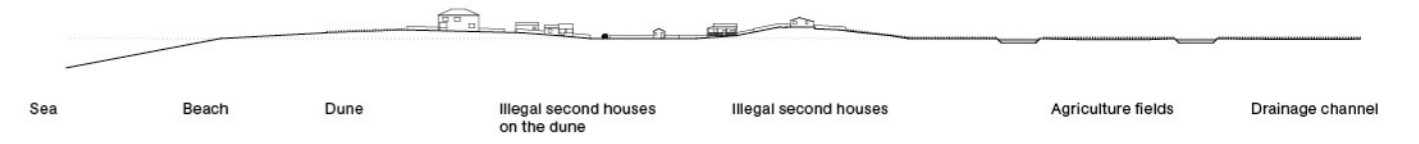
Illegal second houses
near Katakoton



Kiani Akti
Aerial view



0 200 m



Section A-A:
0 20 m

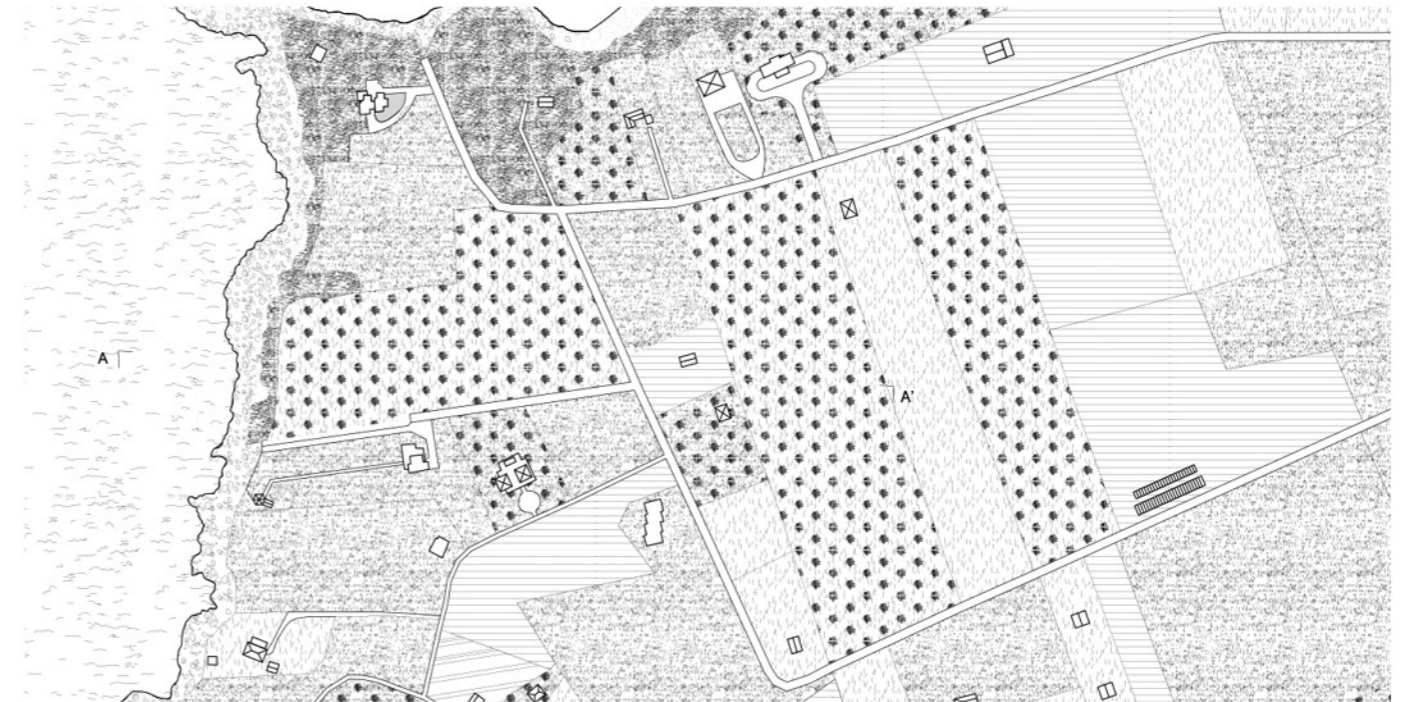
Type 2:
Villas in Orchards



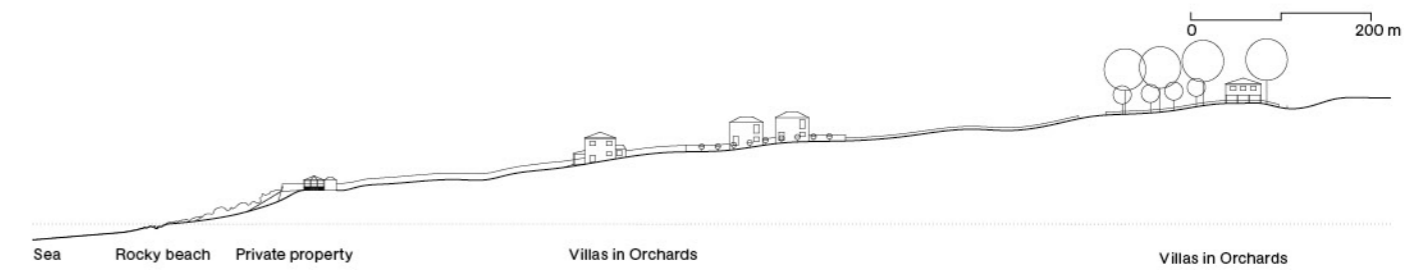
Summer villas near
Ag. Andreas



Ag. Andreas
Aerial view

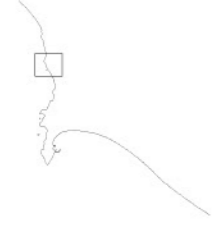


0 200 m



Section A-A
0 20 m

Type 3:
Coastal Agriculture and
Fishery



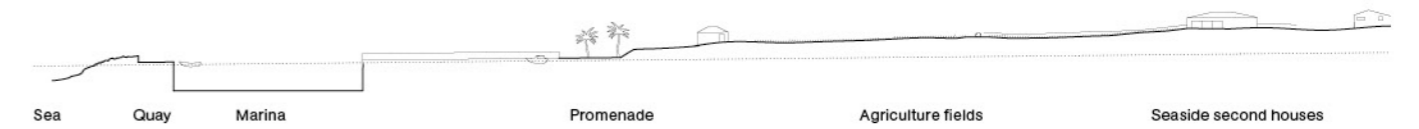
Palouki
Fisher boats in the marina



Palouki
Aerial view



0 200 m



Section A-A*
0 20 m



Forest near Kourouta



Kourouta, aerial view of the forest as a protected site



0 200 m



Sea Beach Huts Dune Forest Open-air cinema

Section A-A*
0 20 m

Introducing Seasonality

In Iliia, it is possible to differentiate seasonality in patterns related to international tourism and local living. The 'international pattern' consists of mass tourism, that concentrates in specific locations. This pattern is generated mostly during the summer months and reaches its highest frequency during the initial weeks of autumn. The 'local pattern' is maintained by locals from the nearby villages that use their seaside second houses during these months. During summer, most of the local people live in their second houses, as the beach provides a more comfortable temperature than inland villages. In winter, these villages are partially inhabited during the weekends.



Port Katakolon Quay

Two different versions of international tourism are identifiable on Iliia's coast. The first type refers to the stop-over cruise ships at the Katakolon port that bring up to four thousand passengers per ship. The stop-over lasts approximately for six hours, just enough time for visiting the Olympian heritage sites. Consequently, the shops and touristic facilities in Port Katakolon are opened only during these hours. On the other hand, tourists looking for more exclusive beach holidays, arrive mainly at the Araxos Airport (Patras) and are driven through national road E55 directly to their resorts. The resort provides all the needed facilities. As a consequence, souvenir shops can be found along the streets leading to the resort.

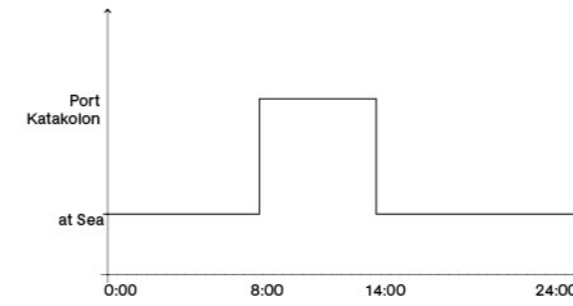
International Pattern

Local Pattern

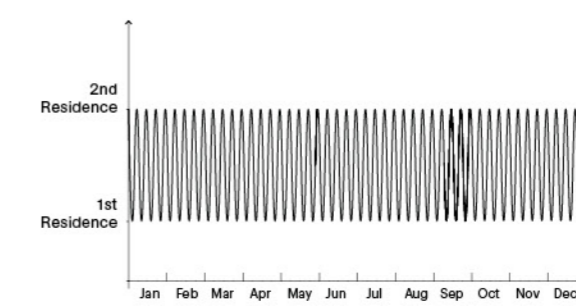


Street in Myrtia

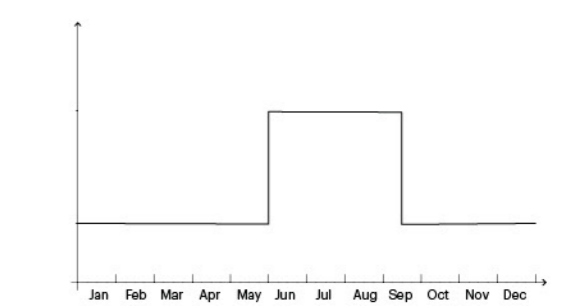
The local pattern refers to the small villages with populations between 200 and 800 inhabitants, whose residents, in order to fulfil their basic life needs, create a network of service sharing between the old head villages, smaller old village centres and beach centres. However, their autonomy is possible only up to a certain degree, as they still depend on the bigger centres, Pyrgos and Amaliada. This dependency mostly refers to the access to places of higher education, health care, shopping malls and other similar amenities.



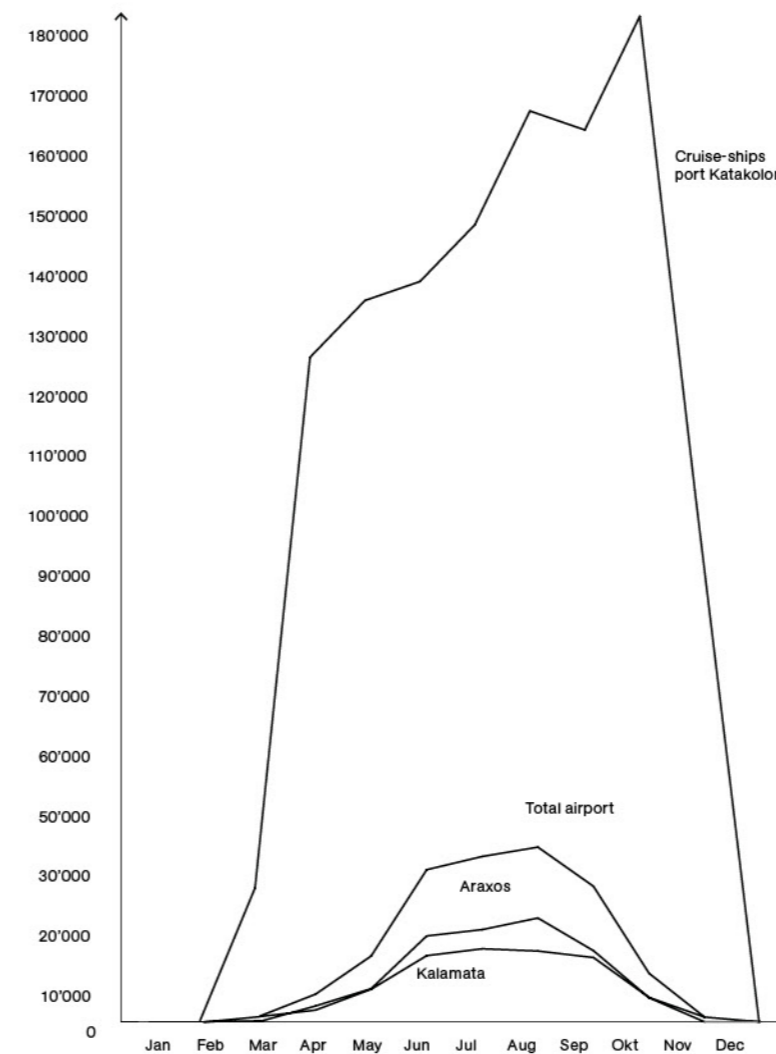
International pattern: Cruise ship stopovers at Katakolon



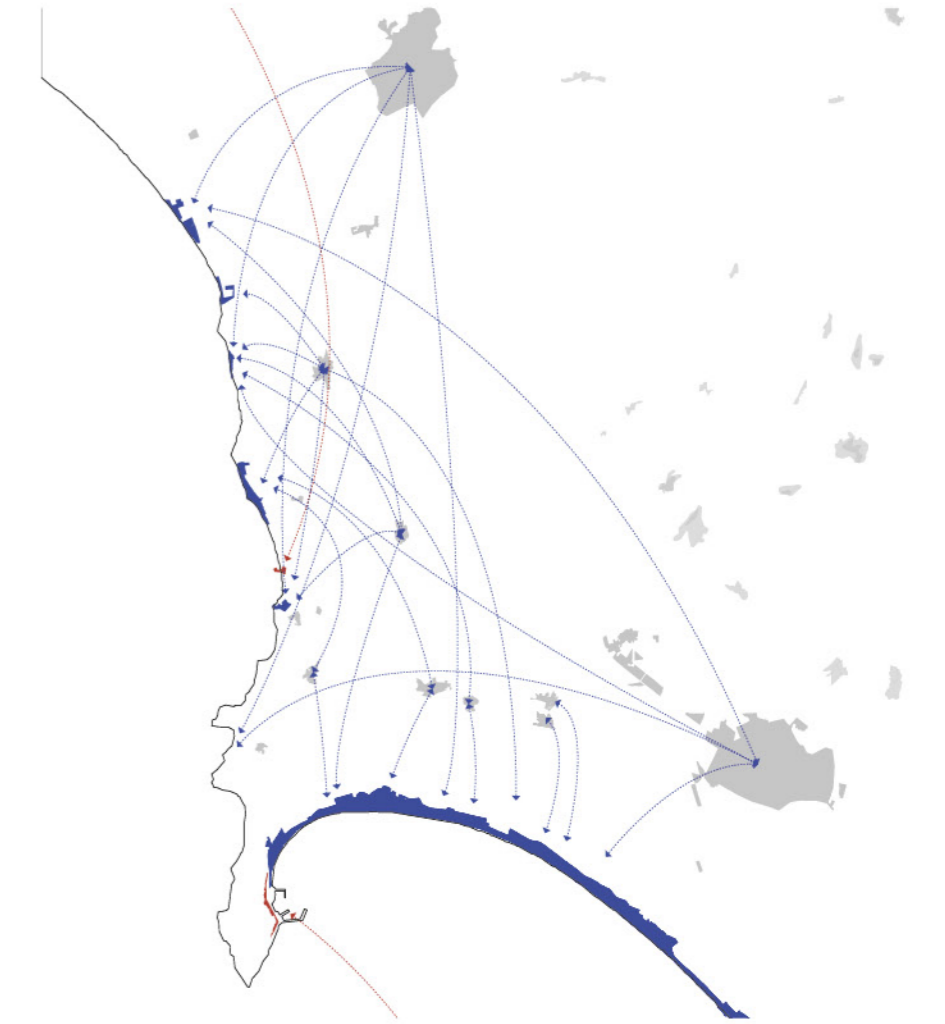
Local pattern: Weekly cycle



Local pattern: Seasonal cycle



Number of international visitors arriving via cruise-ships or airports



Circulation of locals to "second-homes" inside Iliia

International Pattern

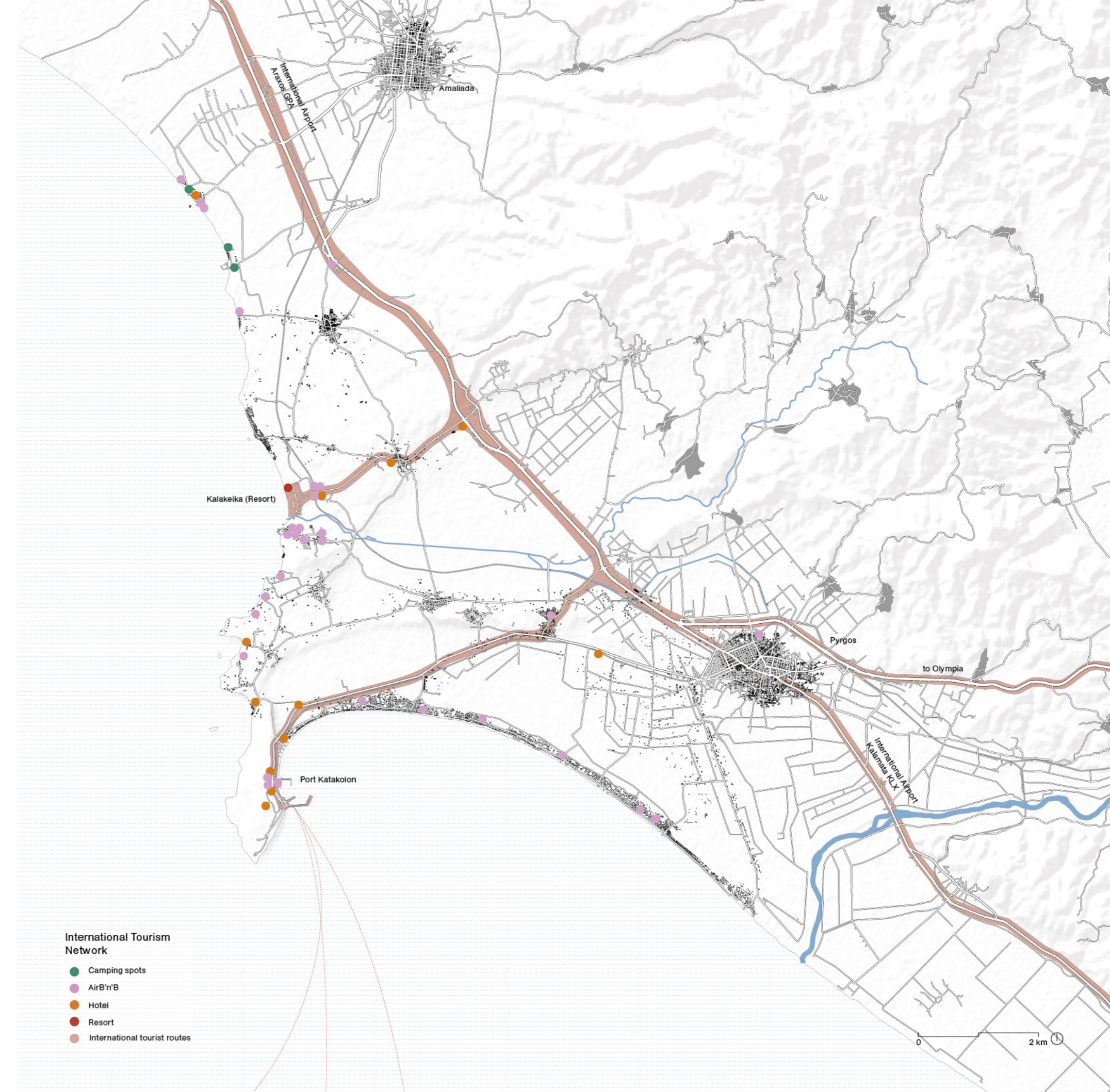
Helmut (62), Engineer
Hanna (52), Secretary

"This is the second time we have taken this route with the cruise ship, that's the reason we would now skip Olympia. But most of the people from our cruise ship have gone there today. It's really relaxing to travel on a cruise ship because almost everything is planned for you. We don't have to worry about taking the wrong train or bus. That's why we try to repeat this every year."



Port Katakolon

The shops in Katakolon open only during hours in which cruise ships are docked there, thus serving only international tourists staying up to 6 hours in Iliia.



Local Pattern

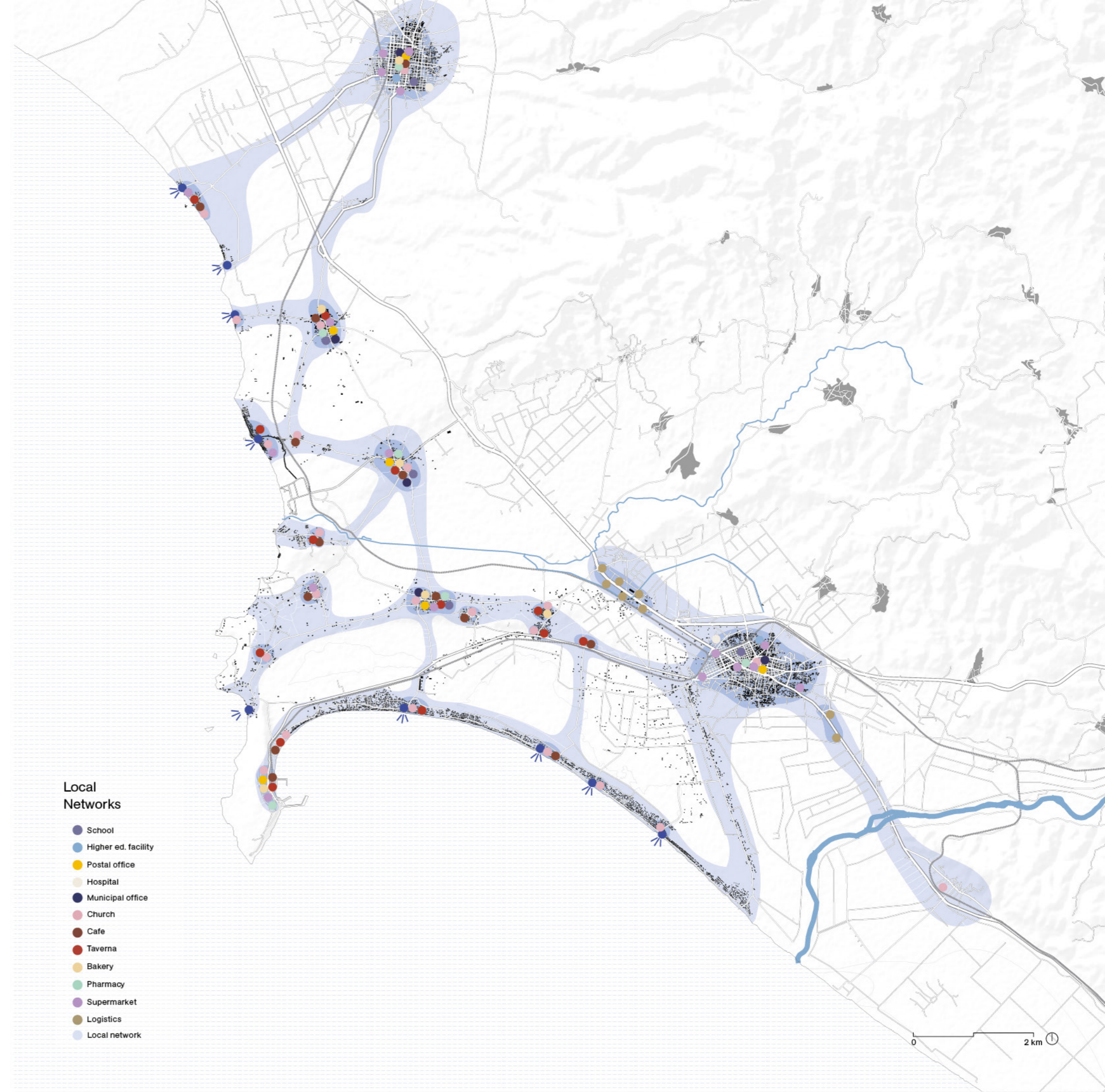
Nikos (35), Farmer

"I live here in Skourochori. I used to work on a cruise ship, but being a farmer gives me more freedom to enjoy life. I can dress as I wish and don't have to laugh when I don't want to. I do have a second house on the beach, as everyone else here does. I go there sometimes on weekends but I am mostly there during the summer."



Skourochori

Skourochori is one of the old head villages. All services here are located on the main road which leads up to Myrtia. It represents a local centre for the nearby villages when it comes to offering access to daily services.



Coastal Landscape in Transformation

During the last century the coastal landscape of Iliia has experienced profound transformations. The construction of infrastructure for agriculture has been one of the strongest factors in this radical change. Urbanisation processes, such as the illegal occupation of land, have added to the transformation of the landscape, making it more fragmented. Aggressive and unregulated changes in support of the development for international tourism, are the new forms of pressure, making the landscape vulnerable.

Type 1 Coastal Dunes: in Transformation



Wooded dune overgrown by *Pancretium Maritimum*

Due to the unique biodiversity they offer, coastal dunes act as natural barriers that protect interior areas from water intrusion and from high sea waves. Together with the beach, they are considered to be public spaces. However, coastal dunes are at risk of disappearing if the construction of touristic beach facilities continues unimpeded.



Pancretium Maritimum

Type 2 Fertile Flats: Ground for Touristic Growth



Potato field near Palouki

Fertile grounds are located close to the coast and have been nicknamed 'California #2', because of their ultra-fertile soil. These fields are under tremendous real-estate pressure and their value has increased manifold because foreign investors from countries like USA and Switzerland are interested in building beach resorts here.



Planned resorts

Type 3 Hilly Coast: Protected Stability



Medieval ruins near Ag. Andreas



Sheeps blocking the streets

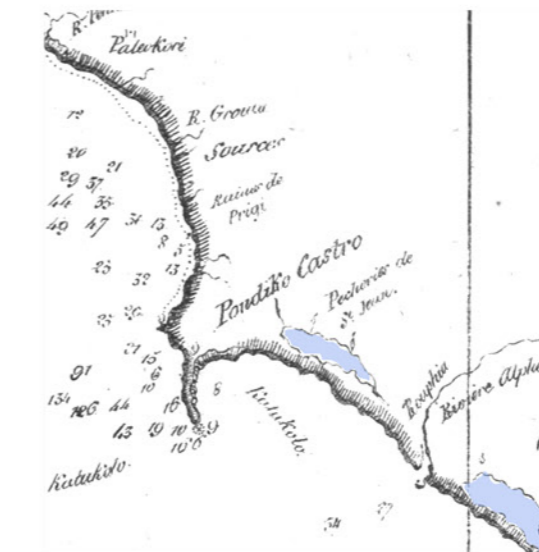
Since the ancient times, the shoreline has been constantly retreating, leading the ancient city of Phea to submerge in the rocky coast. Today, because of its character of an archaeological protected site, the hill has remained almost completely unbuilt, with forest covering up the ground almost in its entirety. Still, few of the mountain trails, used by shephards and hikers, remain.

Type 4 Dried Lake: Blocked Transformation



Hunters in lake Mouria around 1910

The large site where Mouria lake stood almost 50 years ago, spanning at approximately 6 square kilometers, is owned today by the Greek state and being used as a garbage landfill. The drainage of this lake has led to a fast drawdown of the water table in the region and a deterioration of the groundwater quality. Additionally, it led to a diminishing agriculture production, owing to the soil erosion and an increasing abandonment of the fields combined with an enormous surge in electricity consumption.



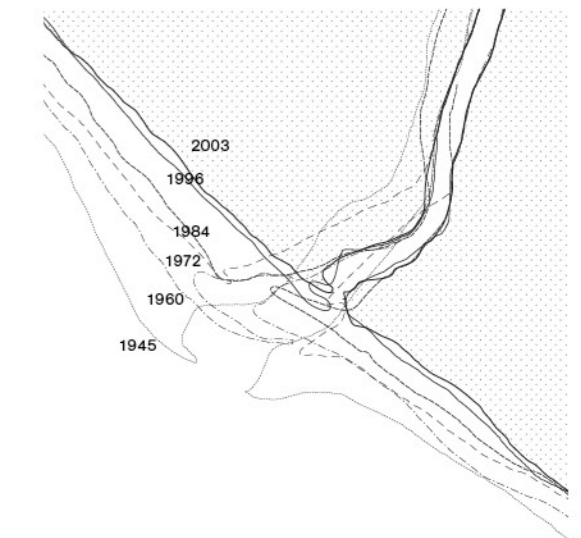
Iliia, 1840

Type 5 Alfeios River: A Tool for Transformation



An abandoned illegal second house

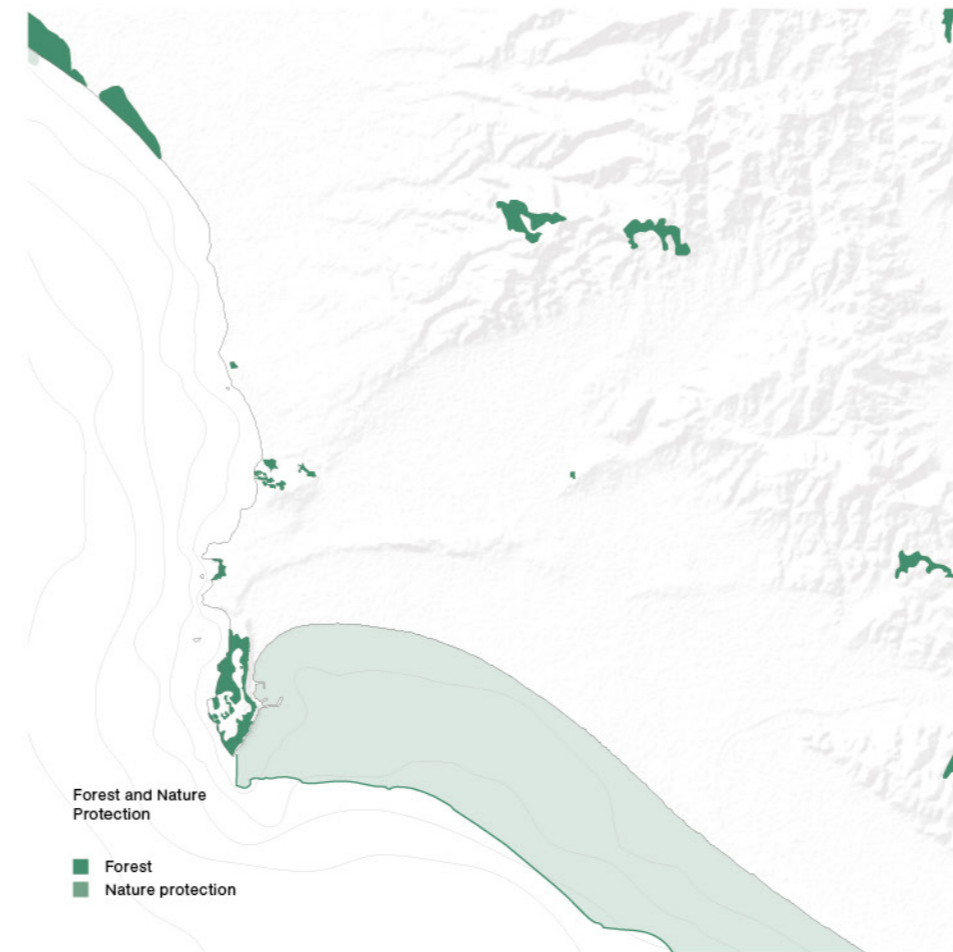
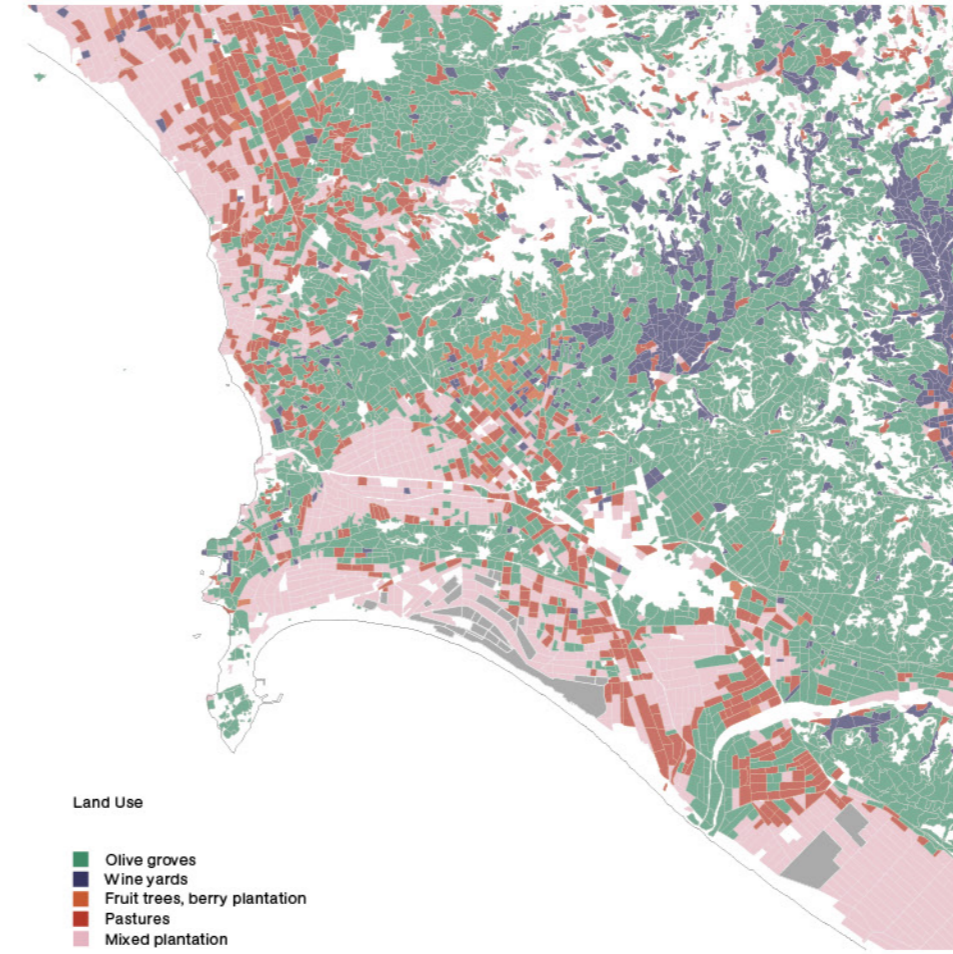
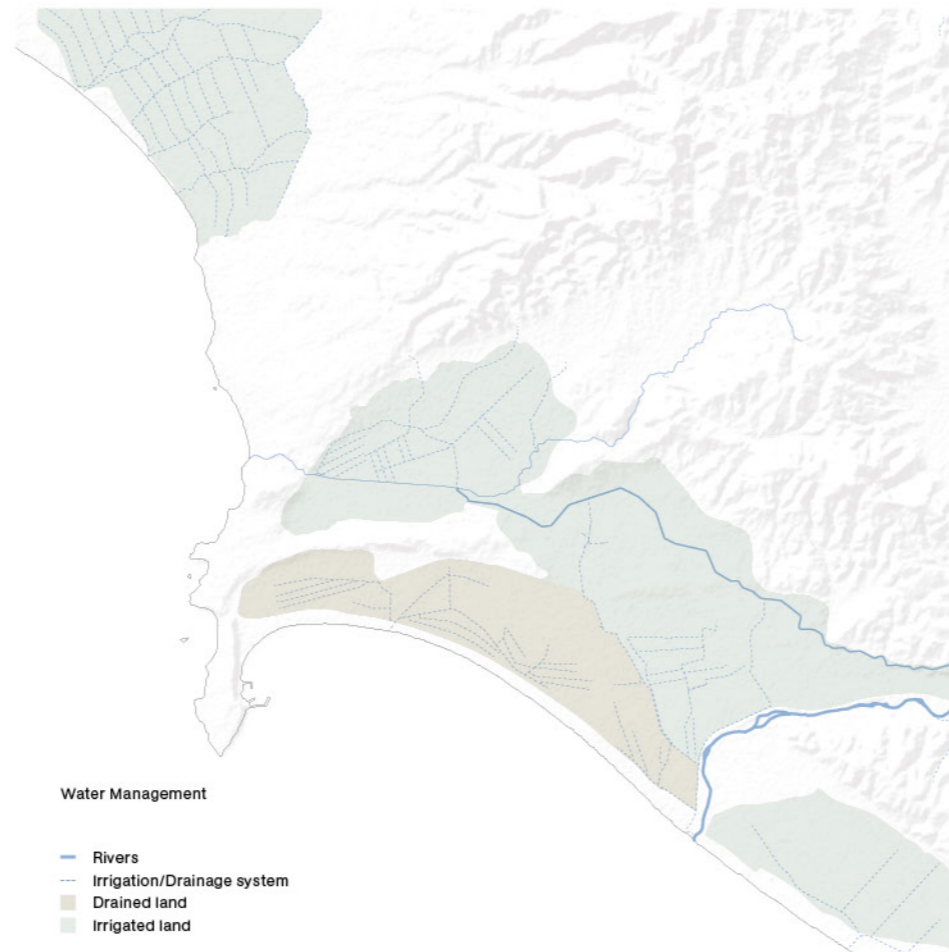
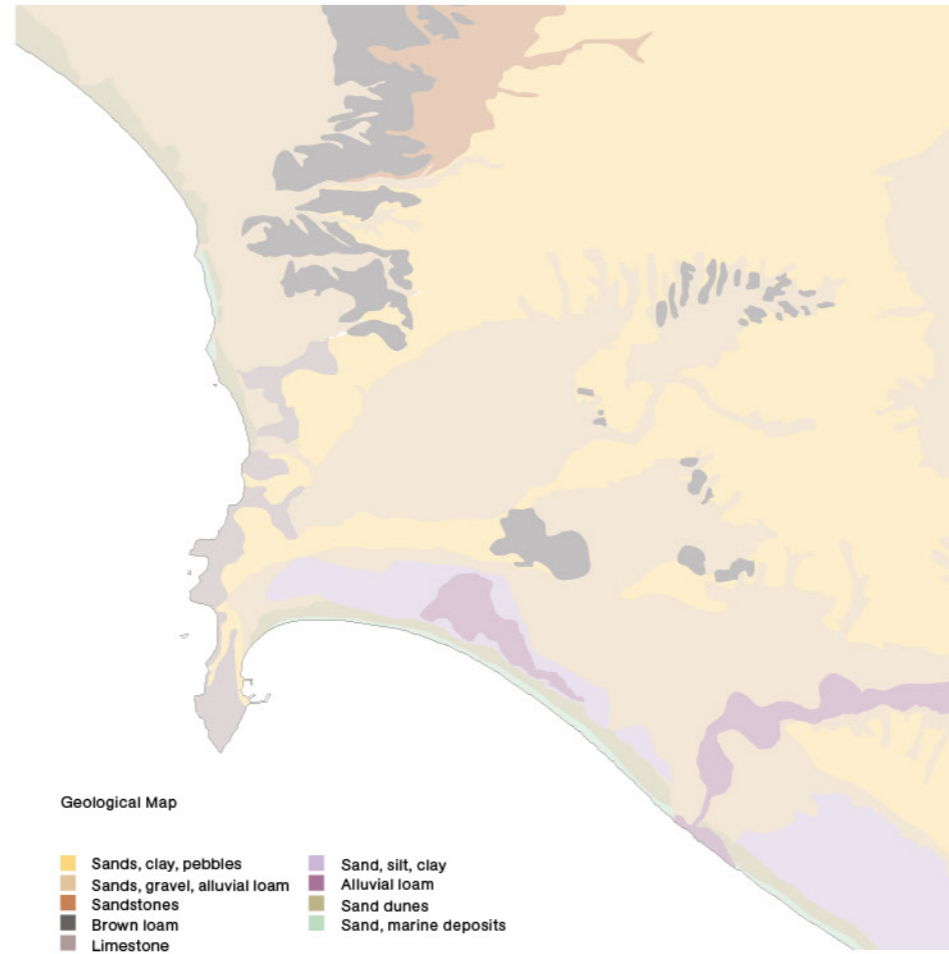
The Ladomas and Fokas irrigation dam was constructed during the 1960s. It redirects approx. 70% of the water stream for agricultural purposes and blocks most of the fluvial sediments. This has caused the retreat of the shoreline by up to 400 meters leading to the destruction of illegal settlements, as well as erosion of river banks.



Regression of the coastal line

Landscape Conditions

The main characteristic of Iliia's coast is the extensive agricultural production, which differs depending on the different layers of landscape conditions. The overlapping of these layers refers to two major conditions, one at the north and the other at the south of port Katakolon. In the northern part, the combination of a flat terrain, good irrigation infrastructure, sedimentary soil, and private land ownership, ensure ideal conditions for good agricultural production. The land towards south of port Katakolon is also characterized by a flat terrain, but unlike in the northern part, it is predominantly 2m below the sea level. The previous existence of the lake Mouria left a very unique soil condition.



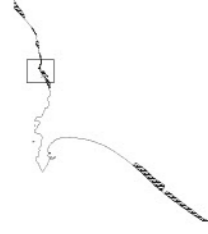
Coastal Landscape Types

The coastal landscape of Iliia has experienced various transformations mainly due to the infrastructure built for agricultural production and tourism development. The irrigated and drained areas are faced with a gridded land par-

cellisation and canalisation. They are becoming more and more fragmented, a state of things especially visible at the sea front, where illegal occupation have led to a complete disappearance of the coastal dunes in some areas.



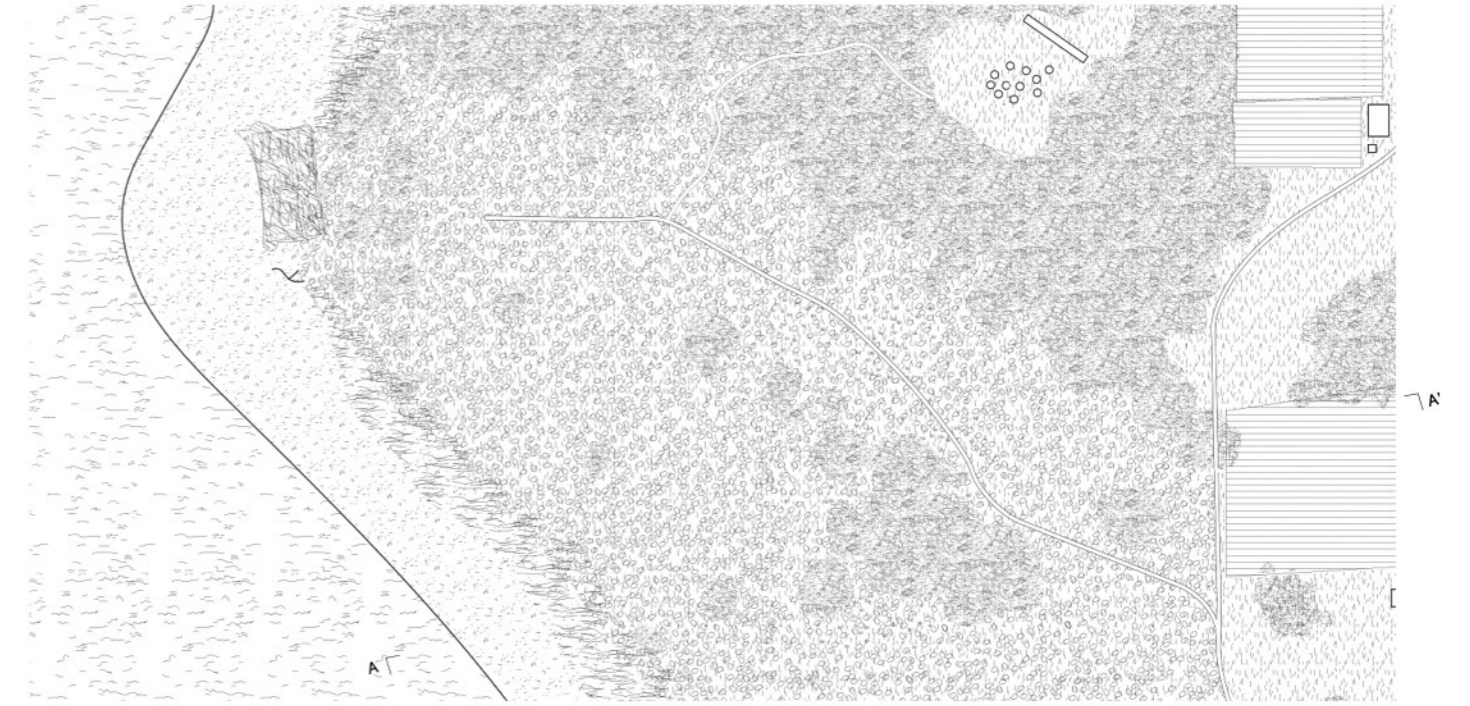
Coastal Dunes



A dune at the coast of Ilia



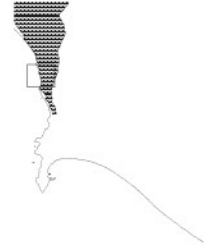
Aerial view, coastal dune



Sea Beach Huts out of wooden sticks Wooded dune Agriculture fields Agriculture fields

Section A-A*
0 10 m

Fertile Flats



Potato field in the fertile flats



Aerial view with a planned resorts



0 200 m



Sea Beach Wooded dune Agriculture fields Farmer houses Agriculture fields Drainage channel Agriculture fields

Section A-A*
0 20 m

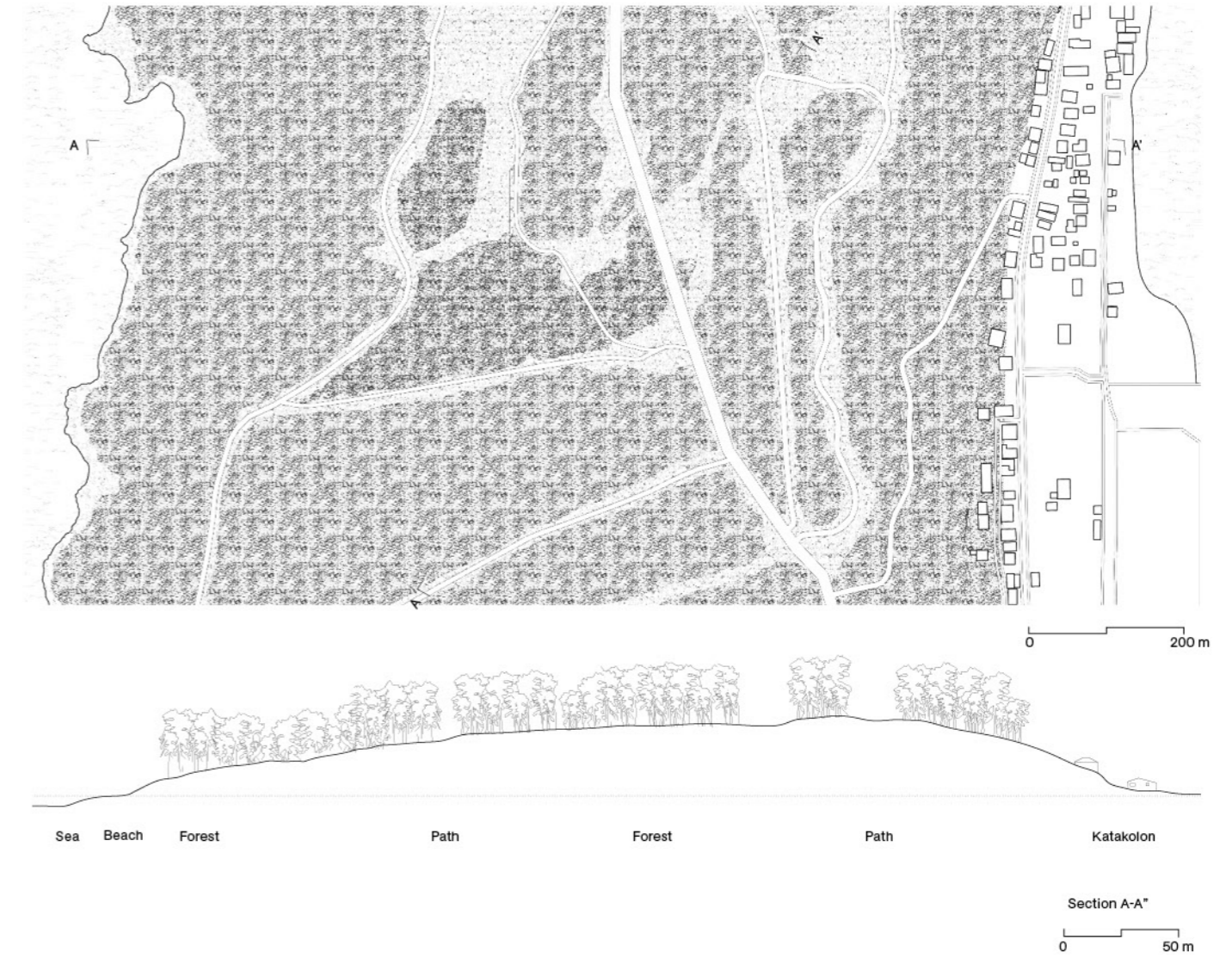
Hilly Coast



Hiking path near Skafidia



Aerial view of the archaeological sites



Dried Lake

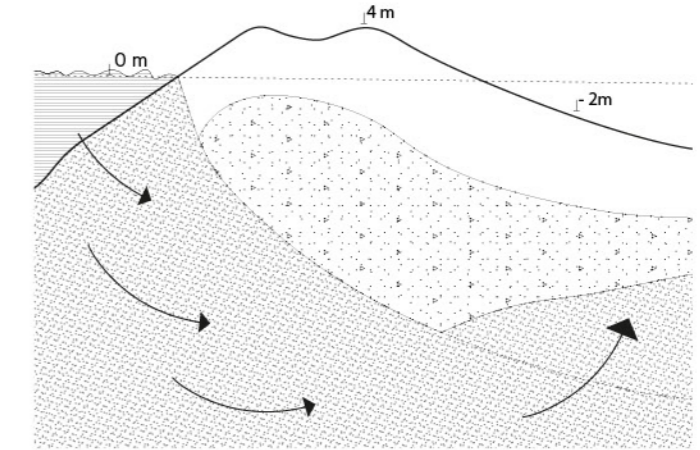
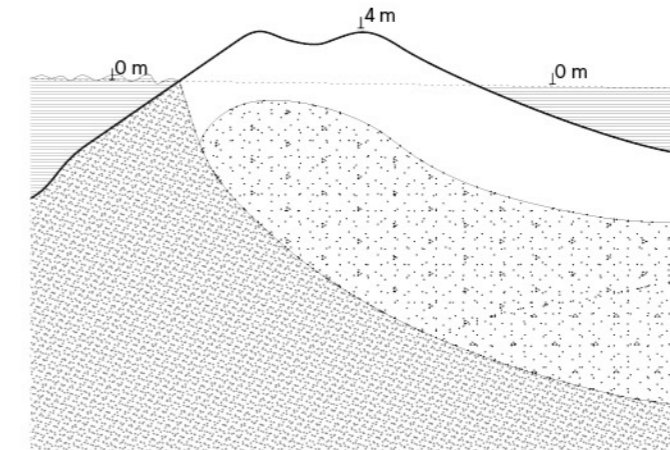


Dried lake

View from Granitseika towards the dried lake



Aerial view of the abandoned land



Salt Water Intrusion

The drainage of the Mouria lake during the 1960s has caused the water table to drop down drastically. As a result, salt water intrusion has been facilitated. It has not

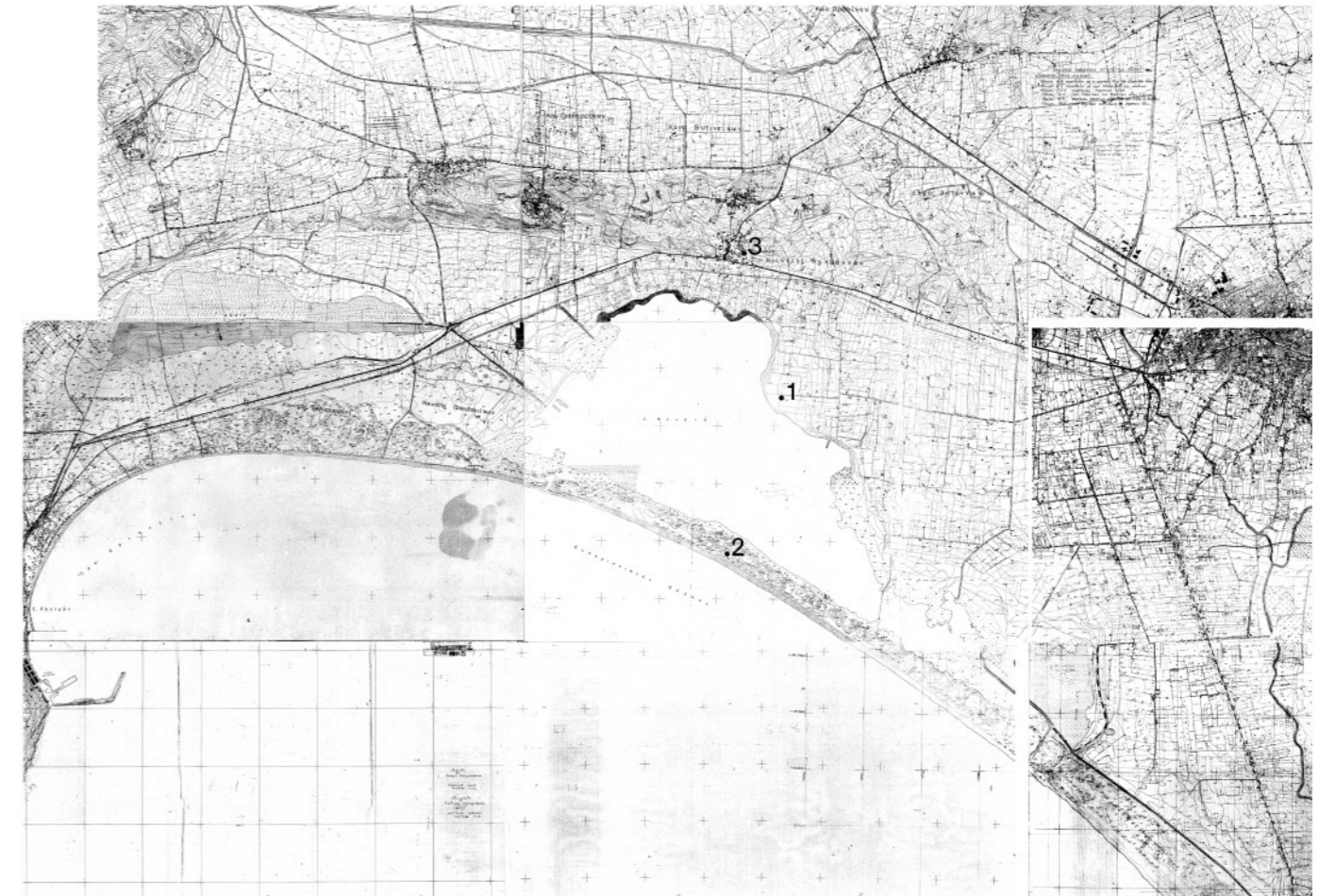
only deteriorated the ground-water aquifer, but has also led to deterioration of the local soil conditions and to the abandonment of several agricultural fields.



Fisher hut in former lake Mouria, in the 1960's



Fishermen in lake Mouria, circa 1930

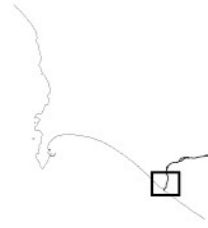


Parcelation plan, shortly before the lake drainage, around 1960

The History of the Lake Opens Potentials

- 1 Streets connecting the lake with the nearby settlements as a recreational area.
- 2 The lake is part of the development of second houses.
- 3 Traditional fishermen's village.

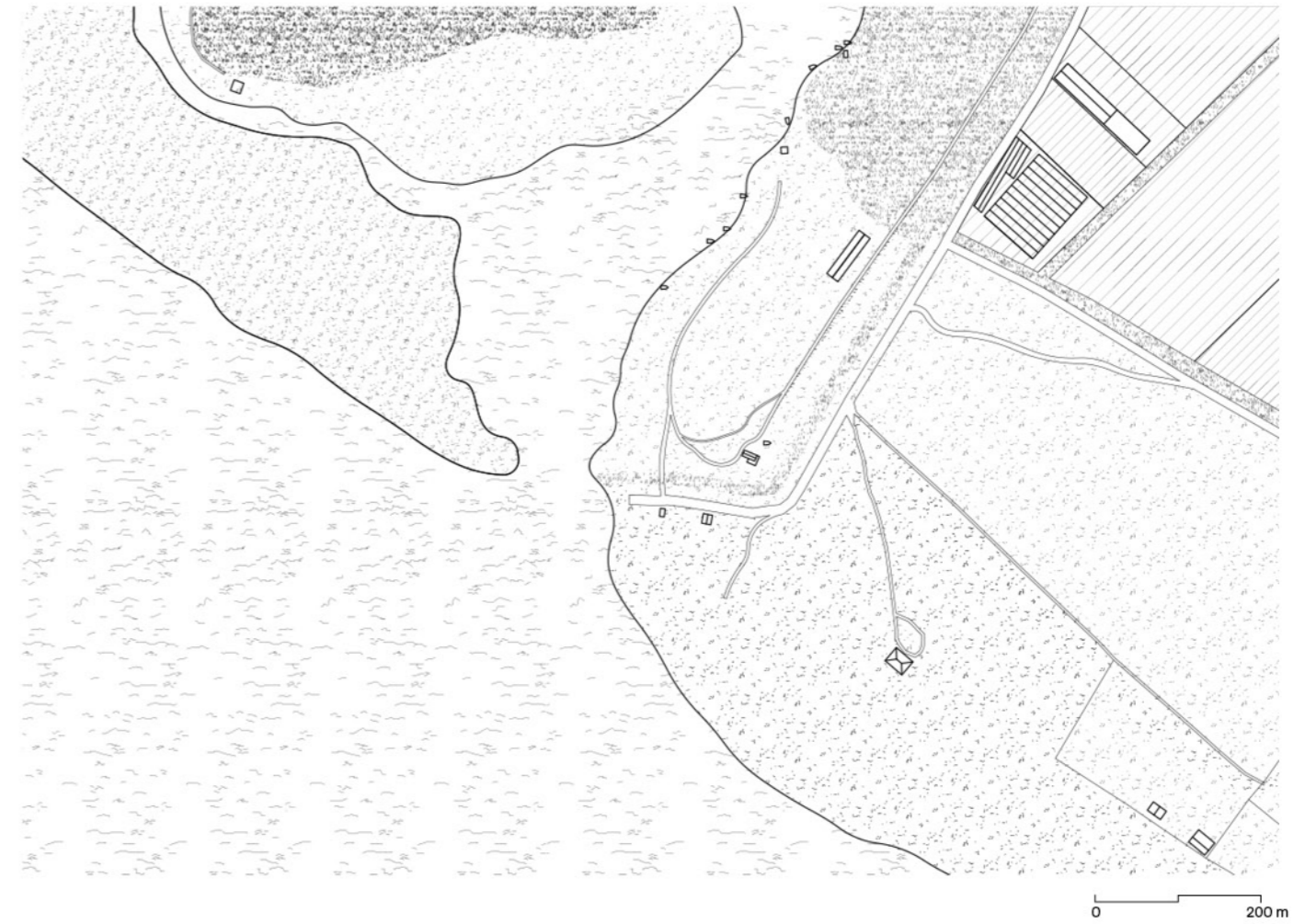
Alfeios River



The riverbed of the Alfeios River



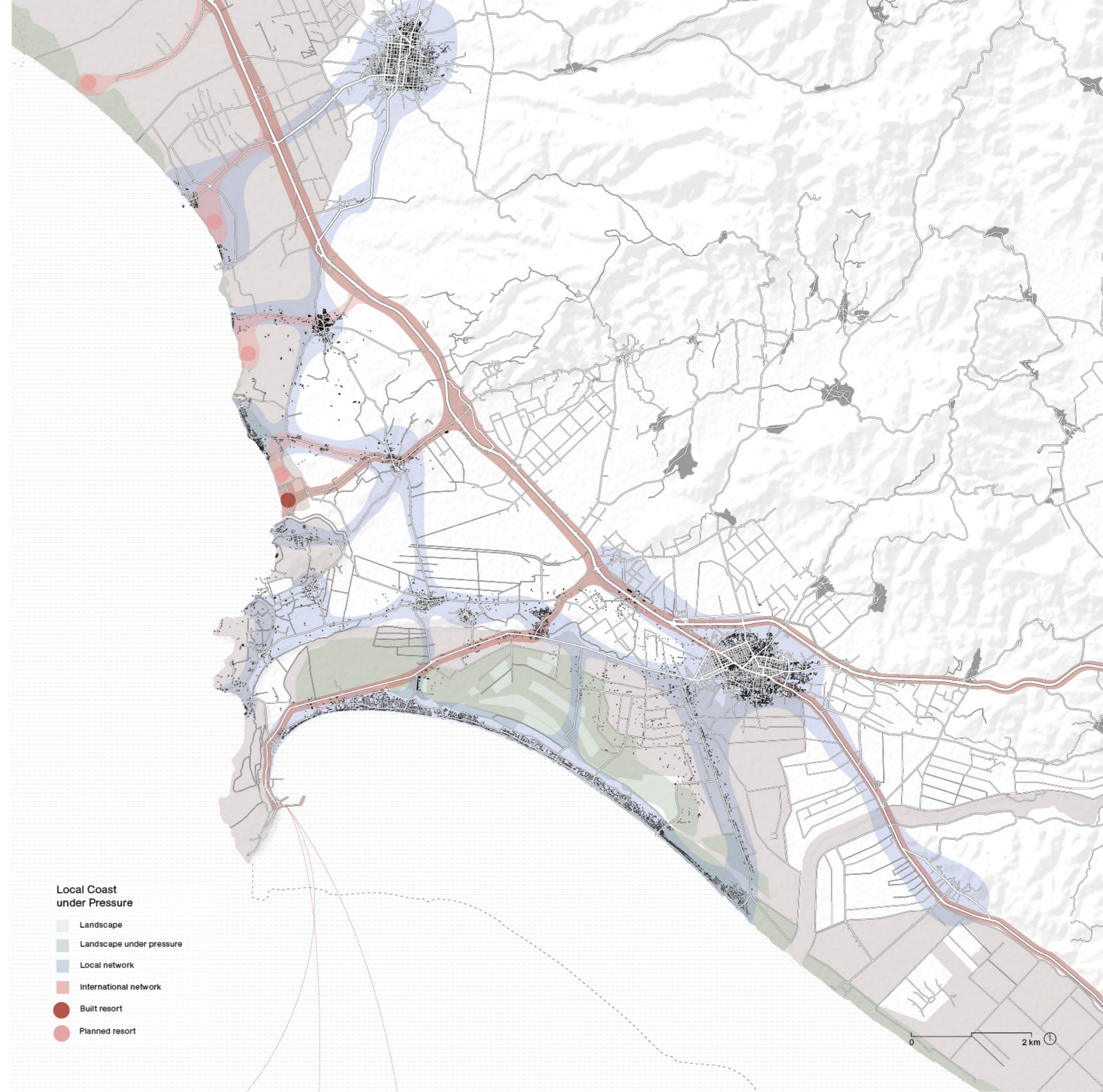
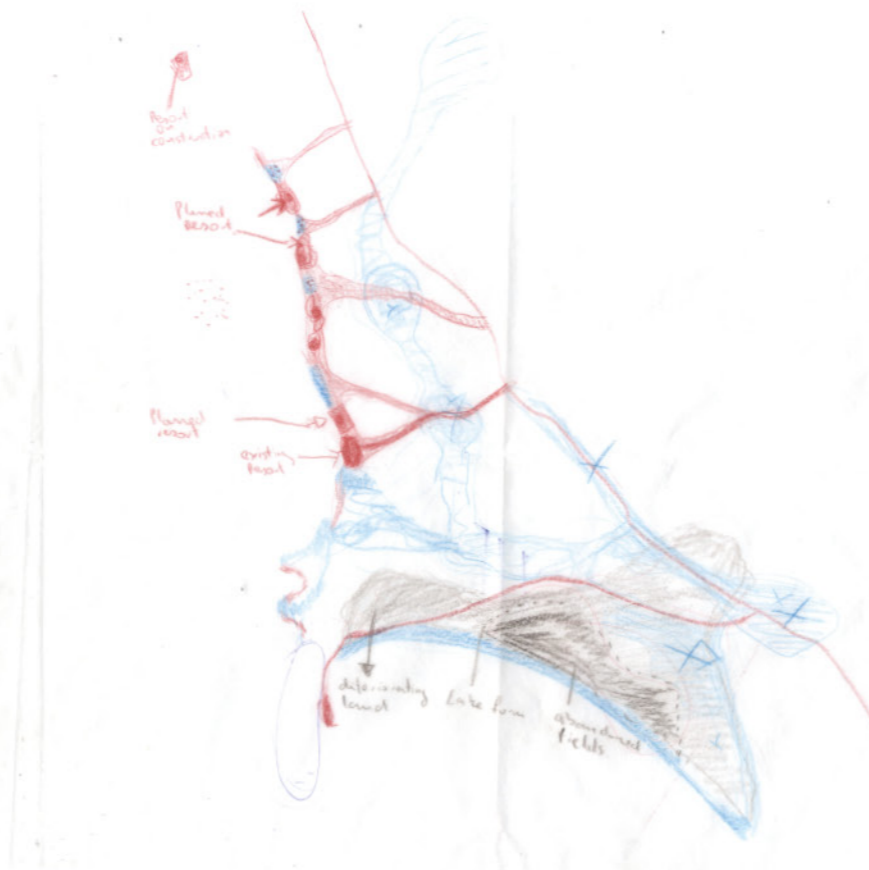
Aerial view of the river mouth of Alfeios



Local Coast under Pressure

Looking at the tendencies of transformation of Iliia's coast, it seems that large-scale touristic facilities would be arriving here soon. This will fuel the expansion of the existing network of services and infrastructures for international mass tourism, which is mainly concentrated along the connections with the arrival area. They are being owned and managed by private investors. Therefore, a further fragmentation of the landscape will probably involve resorts replacing fields. As a consequence of this expansion, public access to the beaches will be greatly affected, as the beaches will become privatised, at least unofficially, with possible flattening of the dunes to allow for tourists to access wider beaches. Simultaneously, the ongoing deterioration of land in the area occupied formerly by the Lake Mouria is causing a slower, yet profound fragmentation of the coastal landscape. After the drainage of the lake, problems with underground water intrusion started to appear, affecting the fields in the area around the former lake and later extending the affected area up to the fields near the city of Pyrgos. The abandonment of the fields is one of the results of the ongoing deterioration particularly because agricultural productivity has significantly dropped.

Thesis Map



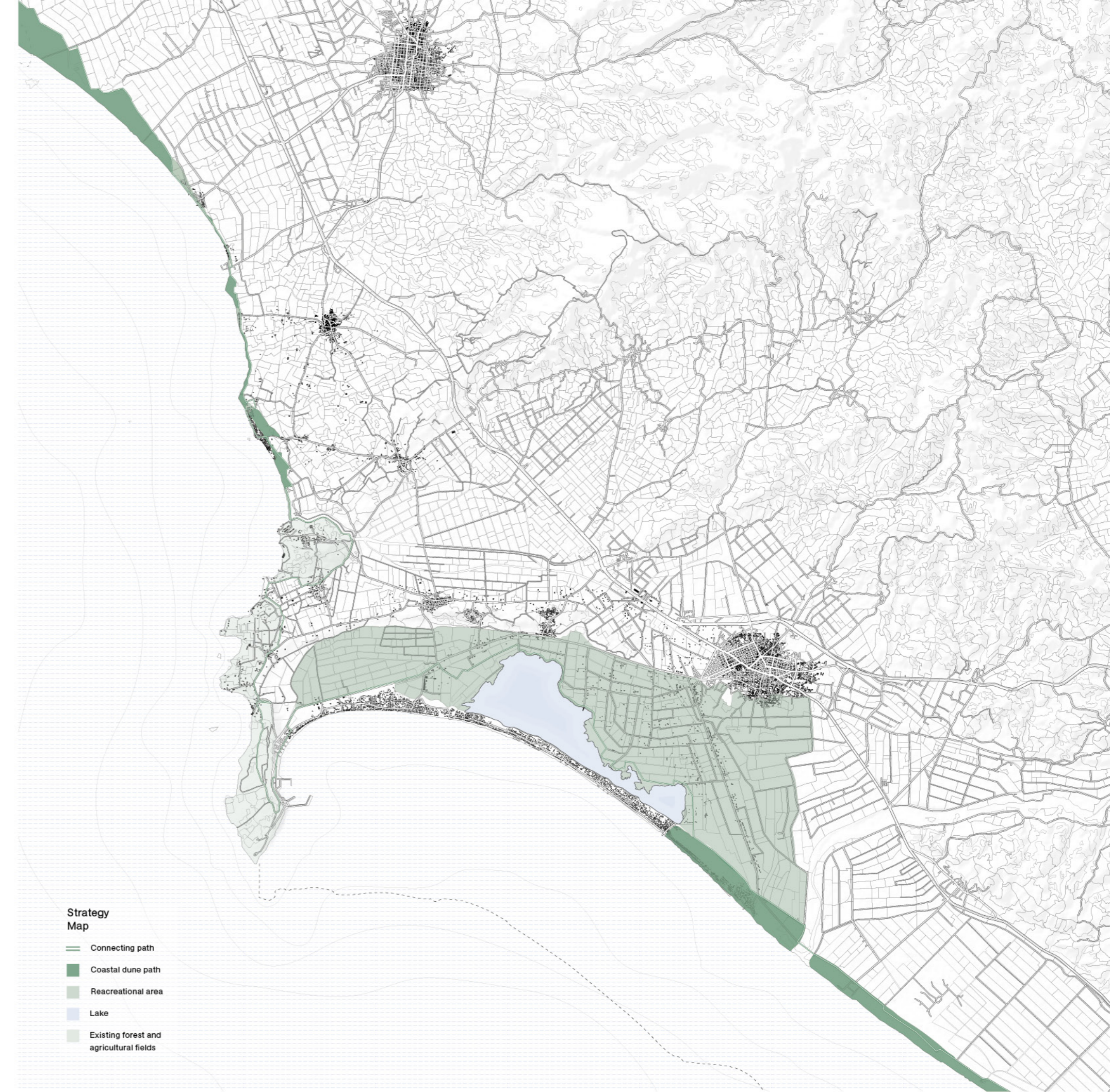
Accessing the Local Landscape

Territorial Project

In an attempt to counteract the ongoing fragmentation of the coastal landscape, pressured by the tourism real-estate industry on the one hand and the ecological deterioration from drainage of lake Mouria on the other, the project aims to strengthen the coastal landscapes by designating some areas as protected nature zones.

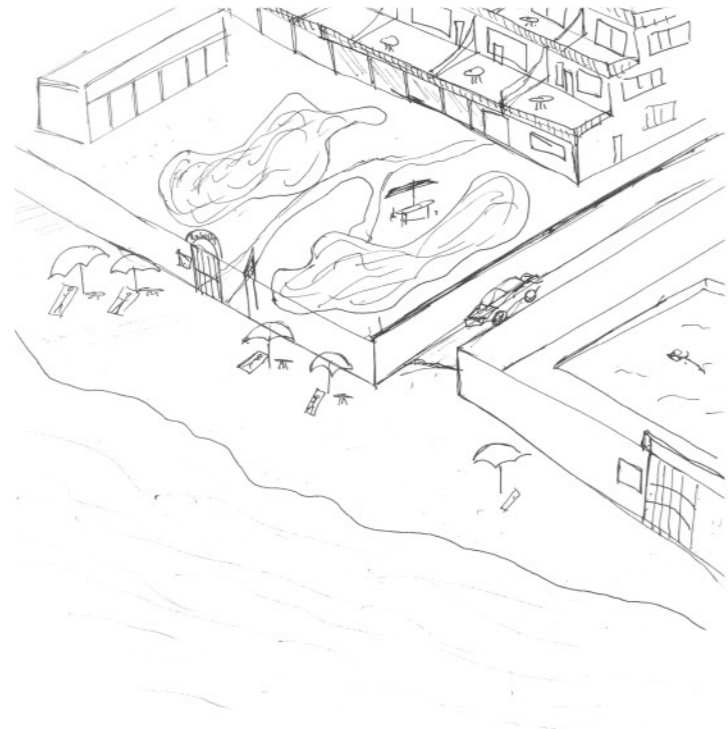
Situated on publicly owned land, the project seeks to integrate the fragmented coastal landscape as one and uninterrupted landscape entity.

One of the interventions involves a network of paths that interconnect several fragments of dunes along the coast. The existing local activities in the ecologically protected areas of Iliia are supported, stimulating the local population towards a more diverse use of the landscape for new kinds of activities. Another intervention consists of a partial refilling of the former Lake Mouria, that would avert a further deterioration of the agricultural areas around the lake. The deactivation of the drainage pumping station and the recovery of the connection of the lake with the Alfos River are the key aspects that will help complete the restoration and prevent saltwater intrusion. The project, instead of solely focusing on the protection of eco-systems in the region, aims at considering the protected nature areas as potential public spaces. On a larger scale, these interventions can be integrated and even replicated through a series of interventions along the western coast of Peloponnese.

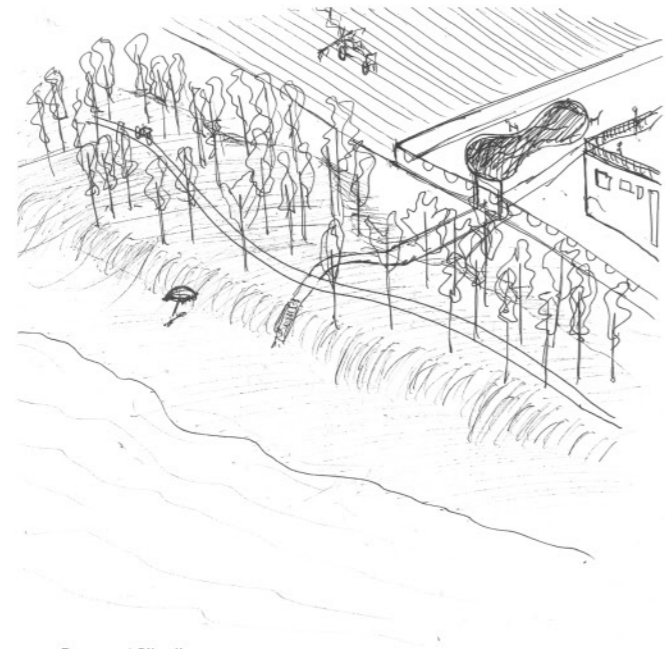


Strategy Map

- Connecting path
- Coastal dune path
- Recreational area
- Lake
- Existing forest and agricultural fields



Current Situation:
A gated coastline



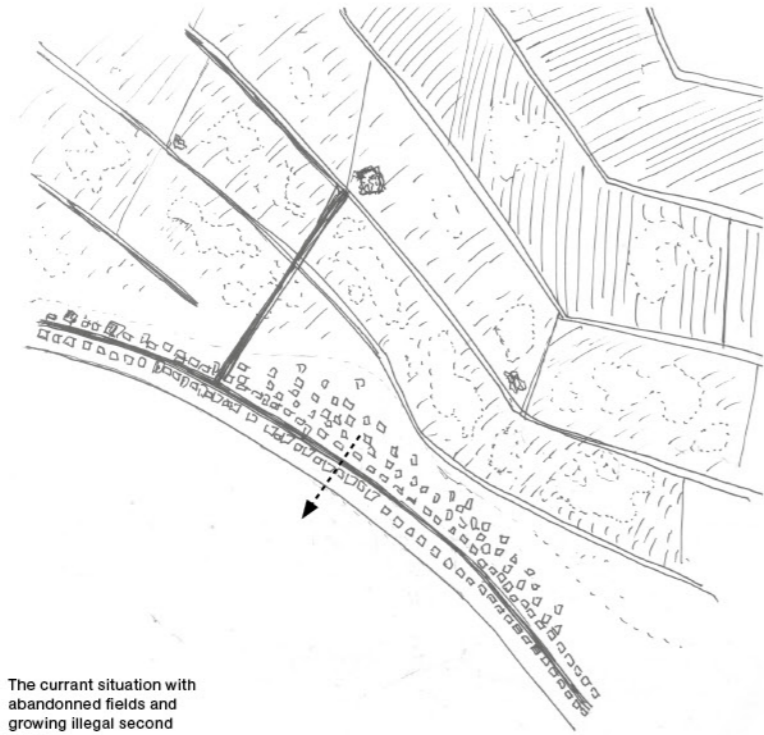
Proposed Situation:
A public coastal landscape

The unofficial occupation of the coastal dune by large-scale touristic facilities is an ongoing process of claiming publicly owned land. As a consequence, the access to the beach for local people has

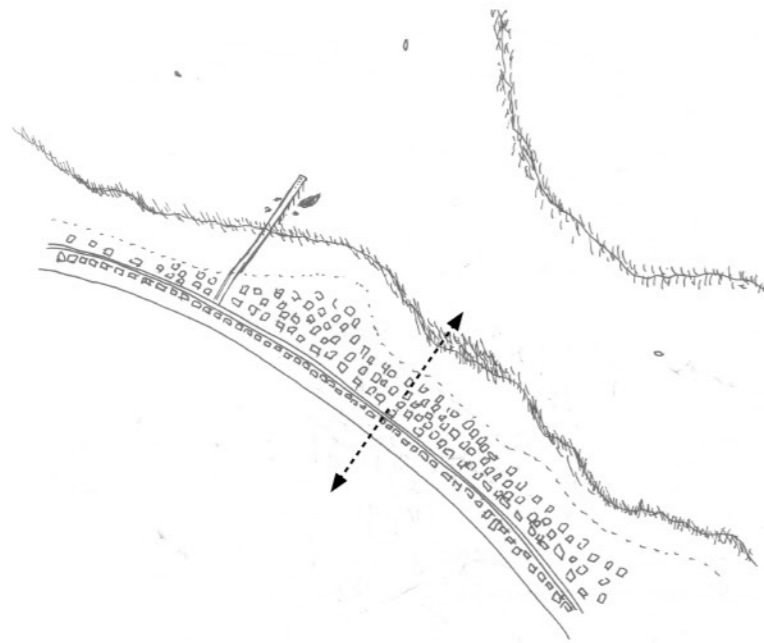
become restricted. By designing the coastal landscape in order to increase the potential for local activities, this project aims to insure an access to the coast for locals and foreign tourists alike.



The coastal dune path



The current situation with abandoned fields and growing illegal second houses.



The proposed condition where the lake is part of a way of living in the coast of Iliia.

The refilling of the lake provides a solution for the currently abandoned fields, representing an opportunity for the entire region. The lake would support the local coast with recreational area.



An artistic impression of the refilled lake Mouria

SOURCES

Unless stated otherwise, all diagrams and photographs are original to this book. Original photographs are the work of instructors and students of Architecture of Territory during the spring semester 2016. All satellite images are taken from Google Maps and Google Earth.

The maps presented in this volume are based on the digital map data collection which was assembled by ETH Zürich Assistant Professorship of Architecture and Territorial Planning, M. Topalovic, in the period of 2015–2016, at ETH Zurich.

The most significant digital data sets, retrieved in 2015–2016, are: Open data catalogues for Greece, The European Environment Agency (EEA) Data Service, The European Topic Centre on Land Use and Spatial Information, Eurostat, AnaDigit Topo navigator, Open Street Map (OSM) and other commercial geo-referenced information purchased in 2015–2016.

We apologize for missing credits, which were not submitted by the authors of respective chapters by the date this book was printed.

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Fig. 10. - View of the coast from the summit of the mountain.

THE MARCAIDA.

