

## **“KULLA” – REINTERPRETATION OF A TYPICAL TRADITIONAL ALBANIAN HOUSE**

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### **Abstract**

Under the influence of globalization, development and evolution of individual house has entered a strange and less sustainable path. The vernacular house that is verified in the course of centuries, serves no more as a reference for the development of new models. As a result, new materials and technologies are commonly being applied without considerations towards local factors as such as climate, culture, family structure etc. The archetype that has consolidated its part in the collective memory as part of community identity does not seem to have been brought in a continuum of contemporary architectural research. As a consequence of this attitude, the built environment is headed towards aesthetic identity loss, which further impacts all levels of identity as spatial identity and community identity. In these circumstances, the possibility of seeking for new archetypes that would tend to establish formal communication bridges, but not only, with the consolidated typologies of traditional architecture would be the goal of this study. What would be the possible developments of this typology seeking for compatibility with the user's community and natural environment, certainly aiming the preservation of identity? How can we develop this typology in the context of contemporary reinterpretation of the local traditions? To achieve this kind of conjunction, first, the very reasons of its existence in different regions of Albania should be understood. As a case study the "Kulla" is selected to be on the focus of this analysis, as a well-known housing typology spread in northern Albania. The aim is to reach an interpretation of its formal development at several levels and to conclude with the proposal of an architectural approach, where reinterpretation of the local traditions has nothing to do with a romantic approach to an already nonexistent past rather than reusing the sustainable characteristics as new tools to a contemporary formal articulation.

**Keywords:** *kulla, reinterpretation, local architecture, identity.*