

# Preservation of cultural heritage in Lezha city

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70

**Abstract-** *This paper is oriented and is part of the research on the discovery, to discover and create a revitalization of Lezha which has been left in oblivion. Lezha is a city with historical and cultural values which have many years remained unrestored. This paper will focus more on how these cultural monuments can be brought back to attention.*

*The methodology used shows how through new methods we will be able to revitalize the city of Lezha. The objective is how a network of identification of these values will be created and their restoration without intervening without breaking the history, but preserving and developing this history.*

*The aim is how the city of Lezha will connect these points as a cultural network and as monuments that need to be restored because over the years nothing has been done about them. The restoration will be done after they are well analyzed where they have problems and how they should be repaired.*

*These monuments play an important role in the transfer of cultural identity. When monuments or heritage buildings are degraded, damaged, or physically destroyed; could not function better; or require new design components, careful preservation is a key, ensuring that the original dignity of a structure is preserved.*

*As a result, heritage is a concept that covers many areas, whether cultural or community, but is also related to the community. Especially in the city of Lezha, to make various interventions, there must be a well-thought-out plan of what will be restored and what will not. If it will be only historic dwellings which have been damaged or along with them and monuments. When we decide to restore the apartment, we will need to interact with the community.*

**Keywords-** *Preservation, restoration, Lezha City, buildings.*

**Introduction-** Cultural heritage is the physical heritage of artifacts and objects of society that are inherited from past generations, to present generations to care for the good of future generations.

Cultural heritage includes cultural property also known as material culture (such as buildings, monuments, landscapes, books, works of art, and various objects), spiritual culture, (such as folklore, traditions, language, and traditional knowledge), as well as and natural heritage (including important cultural landscapes. ("Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) (AITB)". 21 July 2021.)

The deliberate act of preserving cultural heritage for the future is known as conservation. Restoration and protection of cultural heritage remain one of the main points of development in Albania.

The conservation is a process that works in parallel with cultural heritage that recreates is true cultural product), accumulating the marks of passing generations. As such, it must be placed in its larger social contexts - as part of the larger cultural sphere; as an activity reshaped by forces such as globalization, technology development. It can serve as a basis for economic persons and to



*Fig. 1. Lezha Lagoon. Source: Author*

ensure that conservation is "important" to the society in training. Conservation was a relatively autonomous, closed field composed of specialists and experts. These experts, together with art historians and archaeologists, decided what was significant and thus needed special attention and care, and there was a consensus among those who had the power to act on the values to be preserved. The lack of protection and care of cultural heritage and the lack of their restoration have left the city of Lezha underdeveloped in terms of culture.

Lezha is a city which is located in the southern part of Shkodra. A city that has history and cultural events. The ancient city of Lezha is located on hilly and plain terrain with surrounding walls of the castle. In this city what was noticed was that culture was not lacking but the cultural itinerary was still underdeveloped. This article offers a theoretical review of the origin of the concept of the cultural heritage of the city of Lezha.

**Heritage Industry** - At this time cultural values are dependent on the economic development of a country and this is making heritage the industry itself. Many objects have been left in oblivion and in particular, deindustrialization has allowed them to try to create a socio-cultural and economic regeneration of culture and especially heritage, more broadly as part of the stimulation of urban enterprises. Cultural and especially heritage industries contribute to economic regeneration in historic urban landscapes; filling the void left by extinct factories and warehouses

and creating a new image that would make them more attractive while giving cultural value, turning them into museums, fairs, and recreational spaces.

On the other hand, the preservation of the cultural heritage served as an economic force, especially and socially in a developing country like ours and especially as the city of Lezha which is not yet a cultural heritage has no economic works. In the developing country, preserving the cultural history of sustainable life by increasing the sense of identity of the inhabitants.

Based in the city of Lezha, the relevant concerns are the preservation of protected areas and the integration of tourism with the rest of the activity of the region. A bicycle route from Lezha to Laguna can be crucial to reducing car use in protected areas without adversely affecting tourist accessibility. For the same purpose, a panoramic bicycle path from the lagoon to Shengjin could be an opportunity.

Lezha is a historic city known for its cultural and historical heritage. Every year, the heritage industry attracts tourists from all over the world, resolutely preserving the history of the city. I have divided the itinerary of the heritage industry in the city of Lezha into 6 key points that connect different parts of the city in a single line.

First: Historical Site (Lezha Castle)

Lezha is famous for its historical monuments and Lezha Castle is one of them, which has historical importance as the former residence of the Albanian National Hero Skenderbeu. This castle is a monument which must be preserved and taken care of as it is a very strong tourist point and popular attraction. The

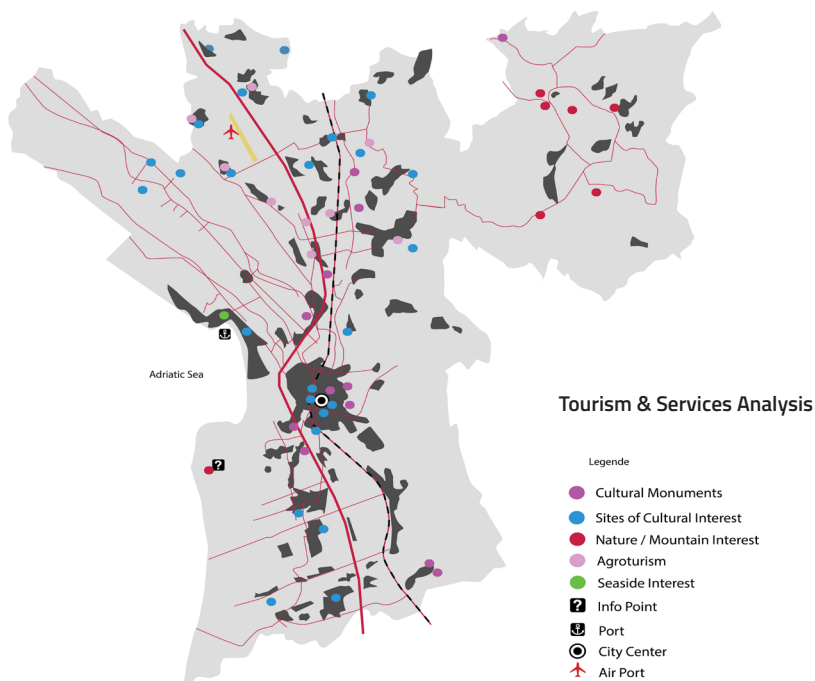


Fig.2. Cultural itineraary maps. Source: Author

view of the city of Lezhe from this point is amazing.

Second: Archeological Sites (Lissus)

The second chosen is the archaeological area. The city of Lezhe is rich in archaeological sites, the most famous of which is the ancient city of Lissus, a space where Roman and Byzantine ruins and structures can still be found today. This archaeological park is like a museum which offers tourists to know the cultural past.

The third: Skanderbeg Museum:

The third chosen is the Skanderbeg museum, which is located inside the castle of Lezhe. So the created route connects parts that are inside each other and for this reason it is easier for tourists to visit. This museum is known for the artifacts, weapons, historical documents related to the life of Skanderbeg and the resistance of the Ottoman Empire.

The fourth is Cultural Events:

The fourth choice is the cultural events, this city is full of cultural events and throughout the year music festivals, cultural shows, folk dance shows, exhibitions, workshops with local crafts, works of art, and traditional foods are organized.

The fifth is Religious Sites (Church of Saint Kolli)

The fifth selected are the religious buildings where the Cathedral of Lezhe should be highlighted, which is one of the oldest churches in Albania, which today is a religious building that is visited by tourists for its beautiful frescoes and architectural features. This church must be restored and maintained as an architectural restoration

and that of the frescoes so that it has a long life and does not lose its historical value.

The sixth is Tourism Infrastructure:

The sixth selected is the tourism infrastructure where the heritage industry in Lezhe has made this infrastructure develop including accommodation, restaurants, souvenir shops and objects of cultural value. Tourists as well as citizens can choose according to their preferences which of the city's heritage attractions they will choose.

The heritage industry in Lezhe is very important for the preservation of the cultural and historical identity, for the preservation of the tradition and providing benefits through tourism. So this itinerary, both cultural and historical, which basically has the evidence of these monuments and their preservation, is promoting the country and attracts national and international visitors, and this point is related to the meaning of the heritage industry.

**Heritage Itineraries-** Cultural heritage today is an asset that has the source of integrating territorial resources. It needs to be preserved and created because of the economic value it has today and there are some changes in future generations may be from it. In our society it is important that some have some that are thought to be vitally prepared for future generations. Moreover, it is a feeling that they generate a feeling for the whole society and make the society feel different from the other nations. The legacy of other emotions affects some like other art products,

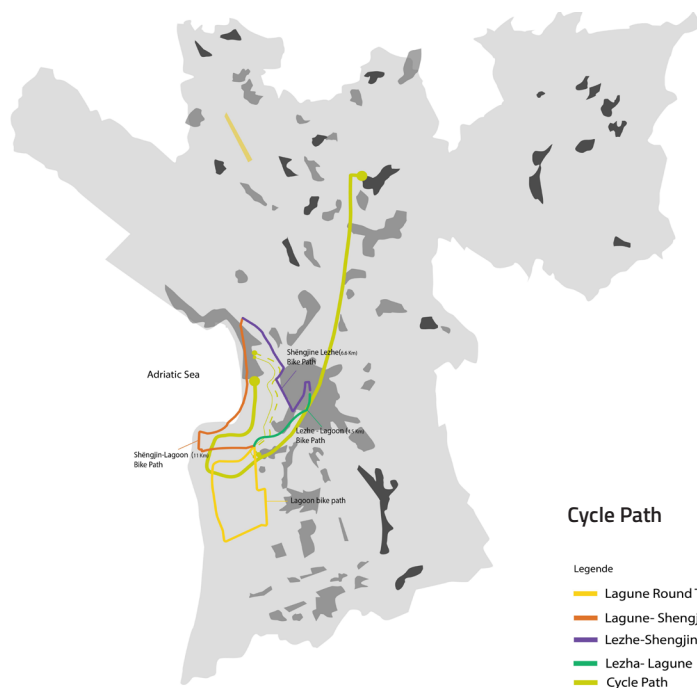


Fig 3. Cultural itinieray maps. Source: Author

traditional houses, statues, temples, traditional festivals, museums, historical and other events. It is important to create a cultural itinerary like that of museums of traditional constructions. Meanwhile, the role of municipalities in promoting cultural orders is very important.

While the summary innovation is important to emphasize that we must have the right tools to act in the identification and development of cultural resources. Some of them in Lezha are Lezha Castle (fig below), The memorial tomb of National Hero Gjergj Kastrioti Scanderbeg, and The lagoon system of Kune - Vain.

As you can see in the maps above, Lezha is a city which these cultural itineraries are related to the heritage of this country as well as the monuments. A very interesting itinerary would be the historic, religious heritage, cultural immersion, natural beauty itinerary.

These itineraries, and especially the historical itinerary, connect all these historical points to one another. As in the map above, the itinerary begins with the Castle of Lezha, the exploration of the ruins along its walls, where it continues with the Museum of Skanderbeg located inside the castle, where there are exhibitions of various documents, and at the end of this historical itinerary is the Lezha Museum, which focuses on traditional issues.

The second itinerary is the Religious Itinerary, which starts with the Church of St. Kolla, known for its importance, and then continues with the exploration of the Fatih Sultan Mosque, where both the church and the mosque should be evaluated for their architectural importance. These itineraries

and why they are separate according to a logical connection by grouping them all together, they act as a single entity and the goal is to preserve these cultural heritage values.

The third itinerary is related to the traditional ones, if you walk through the city you will notice the traditional houses. The old Bazaar, which sells fresh products, handicrafts, souvenirs. Different shows are often created to preserve values.

The fourth itinerary is natural where the Lagoon is the main itinerary and then the connection that is created with the Shengjin beach, then the Drin river and in each of them you can enjoy the tradition of food.

While culture and heritage have become the business of cities, one of the most important consequences of urban conservation policies is the transformation of heritage into a "product" with marketing value under the name of cultural capital. In this way, it is possible to define the heritage industry as the management of historic sites and the cultural heritage as consumption spaces that have been reorganized.

### Conclusions

This paper shows how the cultural heritage will affect the city of Lezha, the benefits we have from it, how to preserve and develop the city while respecting the culture. How other results of the damage of this culture affect the city given the slopes that affect society today. The paper shows the conditions in which the storage field operates. Where and how to find conservation place in the city.

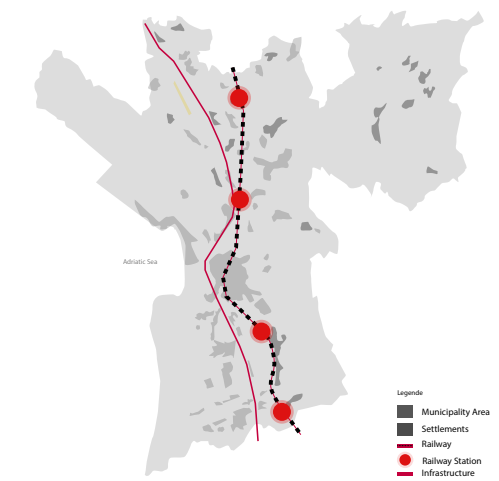
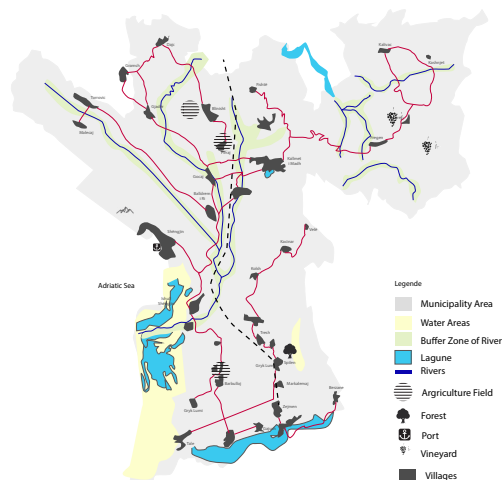
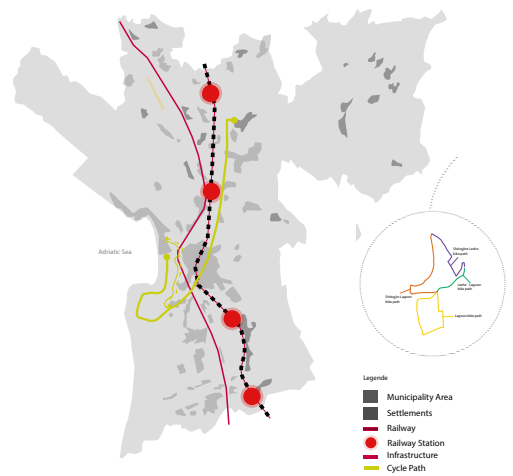
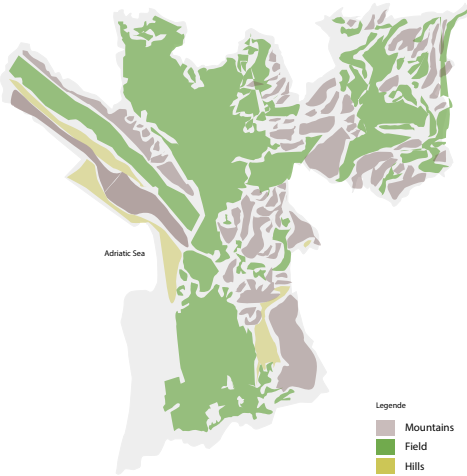
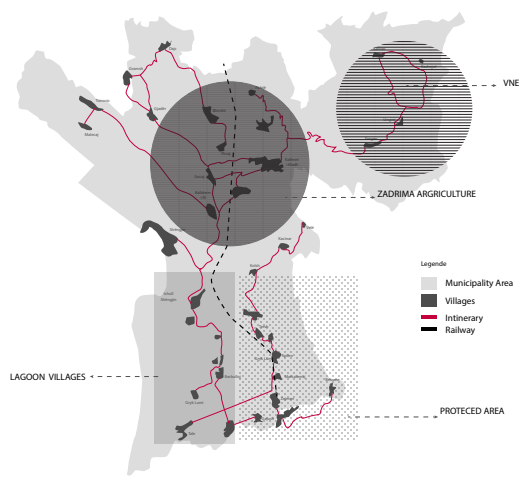
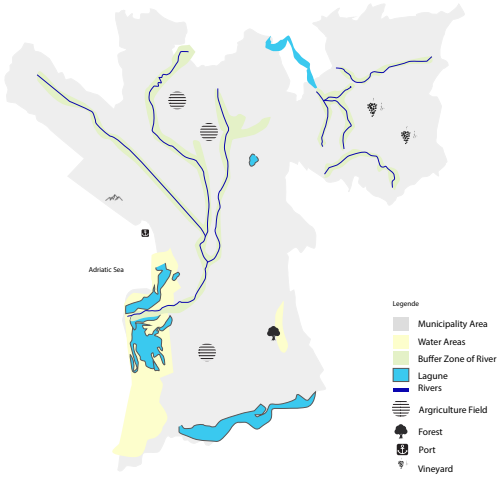






Fig.4. Lezha City View, Source: Author

Cultural heritage is valued in a variety of words, for a variety of reasons: to change and negotiate identity; to bond within a social group, as a nation or a neighborhood; to bring an economic profit; to send a political message and more.

Ultimately, cultural heritage itself finds itself in a connection between preservation on the one hand and change on the other. This depends on the relationship that the city has with these cultural values and this is related to the geographical area, the extent of the city, and its importance concerning other areas.

This topic is very much related to the sensitivity we have toward the treatment of cultural heritage. This topic is related to the identity and histories of the communities themselves. This makes it a social phenomenon along with its potential to be a catalyst for the further cultural and economic development of the city of Lezha.

All these features that the city has will bring cultural and economic development to the country and will preserve great historical and cultural values inherited from generation to generation.

These assets can create very good cultural itineraries which can be related to other surrounding areas and this leads to the creation of a strong economic-cultural network.

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