

**Echoes of the Past, Visions for the Future:
Rethinking Kalaja Fortress for the Modern Era**



Future project - Culture.Education.Display/ Kosovo

Project Name

Sadik Šaipi – Master Thesis Project on Kalaja Fortress

Project Country:

Kosovo

Project City:

Prizren

Project Category:

Heritage Conservation. Public Space. Cultural Landscape.

Project Area:

Approx. 4.3 hectares

(fortress grounds and surrounding interventions)

ARCHITECTURAL CREDITS

Sadik Šaipi – Master of Architecture,

International Balkan University

Supervised by Prof. Dr. Velika Ivkowska

and Prof. Marko Icev

Thesis Title: “Echoes of the Past, Visions for the Future:

Rethinking Kalaja Fortress for the Modern Era”

Project Team

Historical research support by Prof. Dr. Velika Ivkowska;

Visualization and presentation by Sadik Šaipi

using ArchiCAD, Lumion, and Photoshop.

CLIENT OR OWNER NAME:

Academic Research Project – International Balkan University

(Potential future stakeholder: Municipality of Prizren)

Project Overview

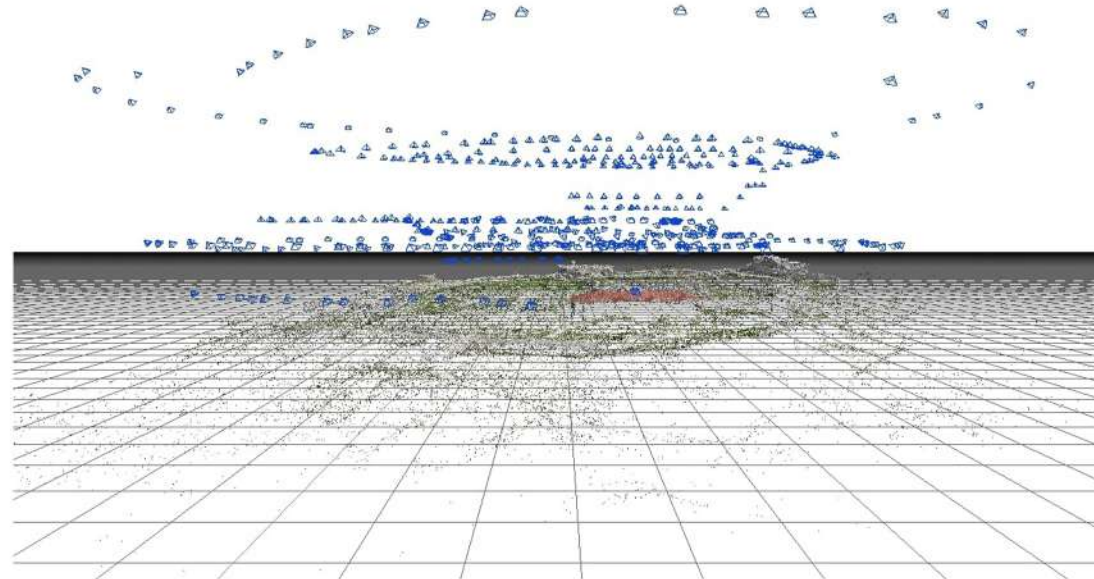
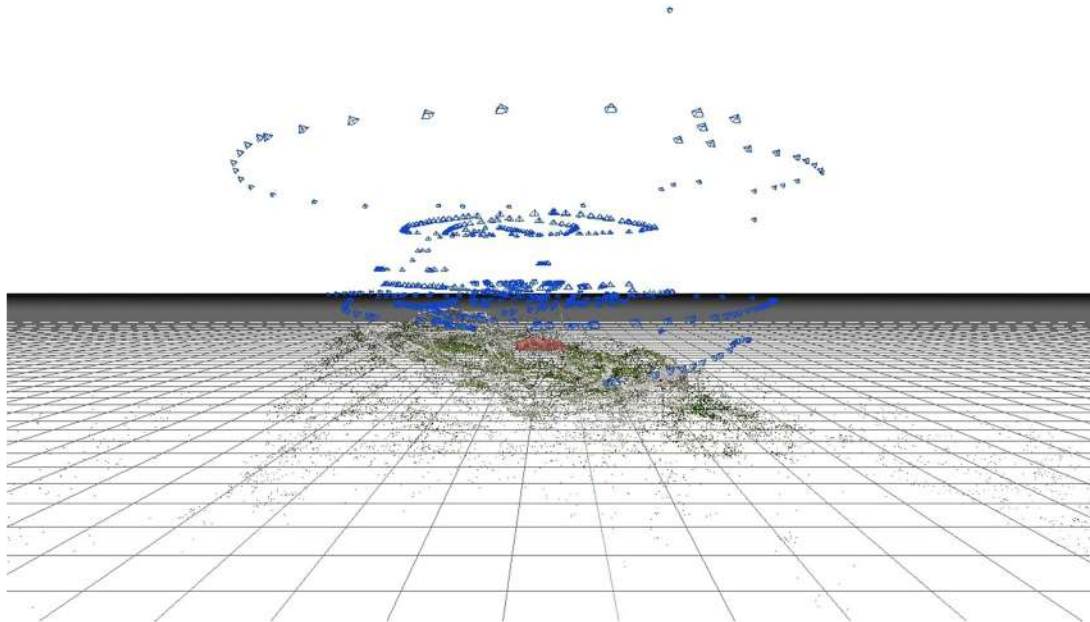
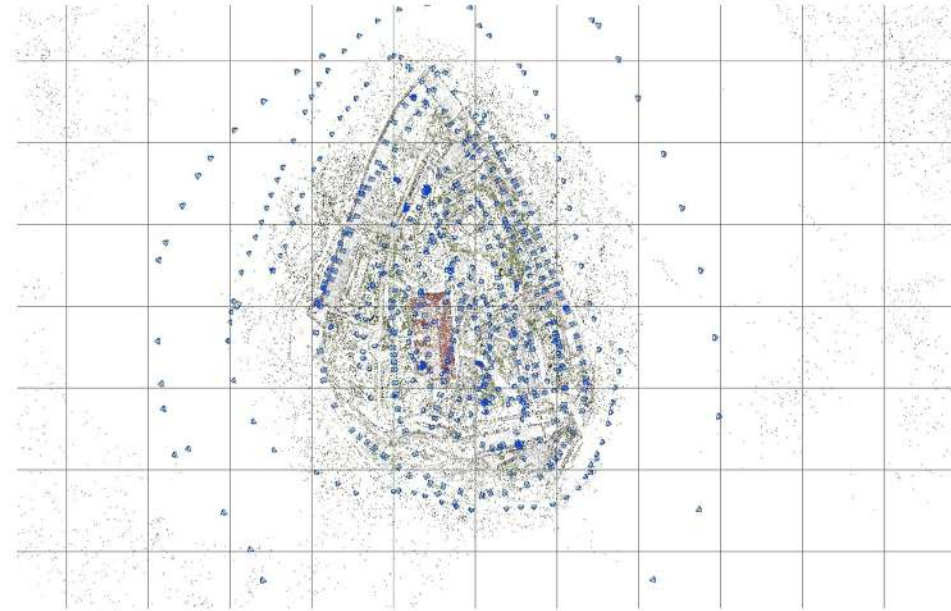
The Kalaja Fortress Adaptive Reuse project aims to revitalize the historic site of Kalaja Fortress in Prizren, Kosovo, combining conservation principles with modern interventions. A key feature of the design includes the rebuilding and redesigning of the old mosque within the fortress complex, reimagined in a contemporary architectural style that respects its historical roots while introducing modern materials and functional space planning. The project preserves the fortress's historical and cultural significance while integrating contemporary functions such as a visitor center, exhibition spaces, and public areas. By balancing heritage preservation with innovative design, the project creates an accessible and engaging space for both locals and tourists. Sustainable practices and sensitive restoration techniques ensure that the site maintains its historical authenticity while being adapted for modern-day use, contributing to regional cultural tourism and community development.

Project History

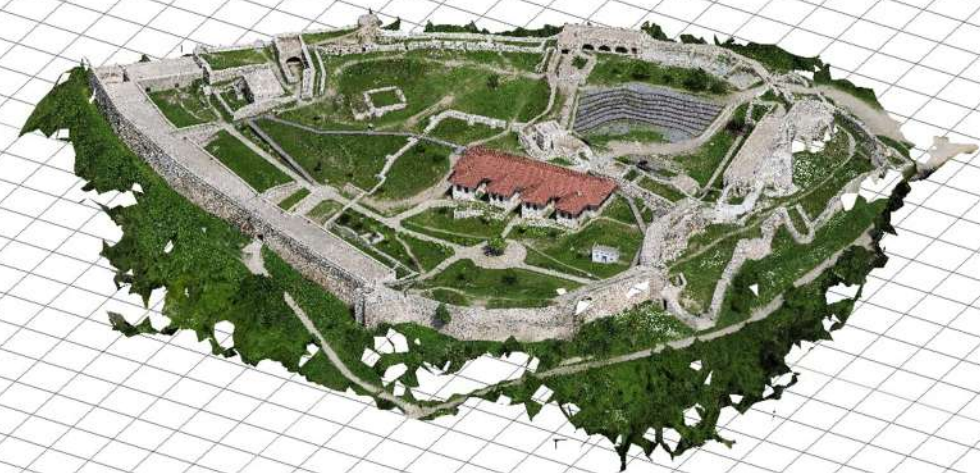
The Kalaja Fortress project originated as a research and design thesis project by Sadik Šaipi at International Balkan University. It seeks to address the urgent need for the preservation and revitalization of the fortress, which has suffered from neglect and structural decay over the years. Situated on a hilltop overlooking Prizren, the fortress is a significant historical and cultural landmark that dates back to the neolithic era. The goal of this project is to propose a vision for the adaptive reuse of the site, integrating new architectural interventions while maintaining the integrity of its historical fabric. The project draws inspiration from both the region's rich history and modern conservation practices, offering a sustainable future for the fortress as a vibrant public space and cultural hub.

PHOTOGRAMMETRY

Photogrammetry is a powerful technique used to create accurate 3D models from photographs. For the Kalaja Fortress project, photogrammetry was employed to capture the fortress's complex structures and topography. By taking multiple photographs from different angles, high-resolution 3D models of the fortress were generated, allowing for detailed analysis and documentation of its current state. This method ensures a precise digital representation of the site, which is essential for restoration planning, architectural analysis, and future interventions. Additionally, the 3D model serves as a valuable tool for visualizing the integration of new architectural elements while preserving the historical integrity of the fortress.



ORTHOGRAPHIC VIEW OF THE FORTRESS





ELEVATIONS OF THE FORTRESS



MUSEUM

This proposal outlines the plan to repurpose the currently non-functional museum within Kalaja Fortress, Prizren. The space will be divided into two distinct areas: a restaurant/bar/cafe and an exhibition space. This transformation aims to create a dynamic environment that caters to both social and cultural needs, enhancing the overall visitor experience at the fortress.

THE MOSQUE

This proposal outlines the renovation plan for the mosque, which aims to modernize its architecture while preserving its historical essence. The renovation will be based on the existing old stone foundation, incorporating contemporary elements such as a steel structure, glass slabs, and a double-layered façade featuring a mashrabiya pattern. This blend of traditional and modern architectural styles will create a unique and aesthetically pleasing environment for worshippers.

OPEN AUDITORIUM

This proposal aims to introduce a new stage at the existing open auditorium within the historic Kalaja Fortress in Prizren. The stage will serve as a versatile platform for social and public events, enhancing the cultural and communal engagement within the fortress. The design will be sensitive to the historical significance of the site while providing modern amenities for a wide range of events.

