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Țăranu Week-end House – a Modern Model of Tourist Facility in Romania

The idea of building a modern house appeared in 2002, when they managed to buy the land. Its position and direction was ideal for the aimed purpose. The surface of the land is about 1 ha and it is situated in Galda River plain, in a forest area (hornbeam, oak woods). Upstream, through specific works, it was built an artificial dam to prevent floods.

family built the foundation of the house. The main idea was that the house should be comfortable from all points of view (sleeping, hygiene, heating system, and so on). With loan money they tried to finalize the house in the next two years. At the first floor we can find a large storeroom and a room for wine tasting. The foundation and the walls to the first floor are made of river stones. The second floor is built of wood. Here it was set up a multifunctional room endowed with TV set, table for serving the meals, bedroom, having a surface of 100 sq m. The outer and inner facade is made of natural wood.

At the southern end of this large room there is the kitchen. We can find here a large variety of modern utilities for cooking meals. Right beside it was set up a small storage room for storing for a short time the products next to be fit to be eaten. In the storage room on the first floor there are huge freezers for conserving the meat which will be used one for feeding people and another for feeding the dogs. On both sides there are built four bedrooms. The whole assembly is endowed with modern furniture, fully color integrated, walls and ceiling in perfect relation. In this house we can find two large screen TV sets and a video audio system for listening to music. They use wood for heating, especially phagous, from the nearby forests.

This way, taking into consideration the security they have to take against fires, they set up a boiler for central heating, at about one meter distance from the house, in the back, from which there continues the entire heating system. In the same place they installed a bake house with an oven for baking homemade bread. For cooking meals, according to the number of people they have, they have to use both wood and electric system.

They use the house at full capacity only on Saturdays and Sundays, when Țăranu family brings with them ten children from the orphanage, in Alba Iulia City for their feeding, taking care and recreation. During summer, the meals are cooked and served in a large kitchen next to the main house, at about 10 meters away. For the minimum need of vegetables, they built a small green garden, which is exploited from spring to autumn (3). In front of the house and of the summer kitchen they set up arrays with decorative flowers, mainly roses (15). On the house balcony and on the main access stairs there are flowerpots with pelargonium. On the southern way they can walk out from the house right into the forest, building rock stairs for this

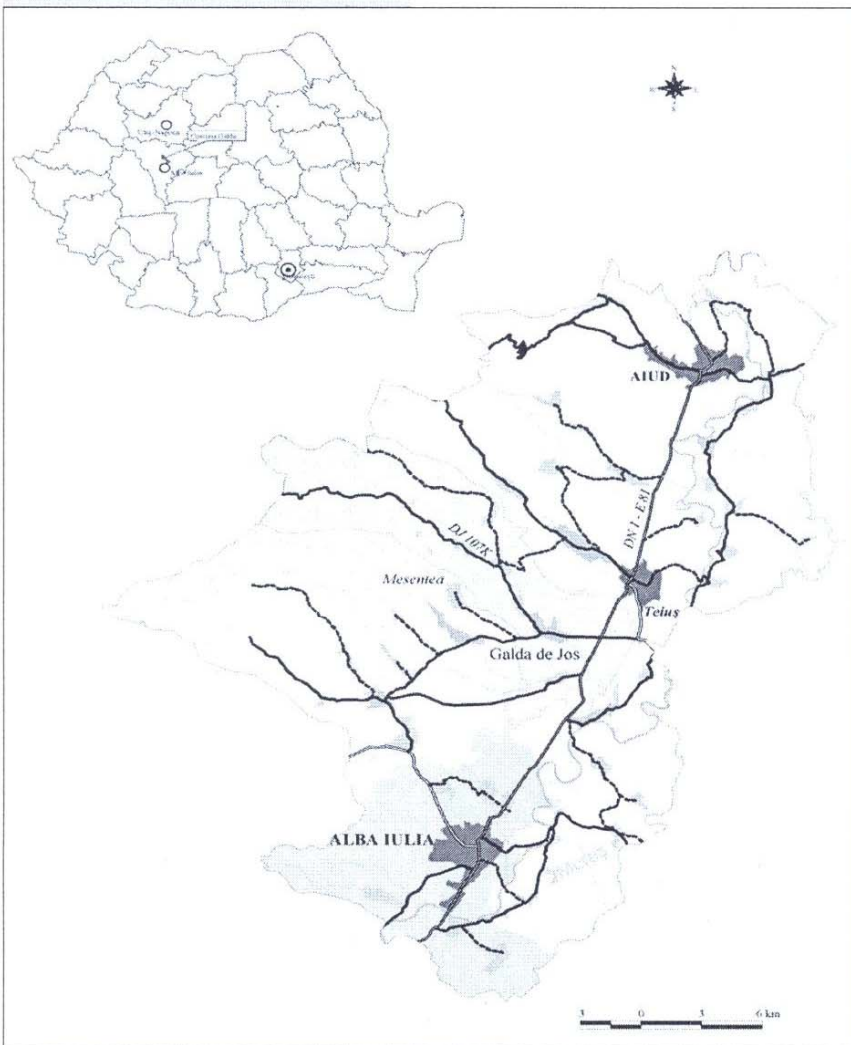


Fig. 1. Location on the national map

This week-end house is located 30 km to Alba Iulia City, which is the residence city of the Alba County. You may easy go on the county roads which crossroads the national road 81, exactly off the Galda de Jos locality.

Unfortunately, at this moment, the state of the road is very shaky, fact that causes a slow access of tourists and inhabitants in the area.

During the first year, only by their own financial means Țăranu Lucian and Elena

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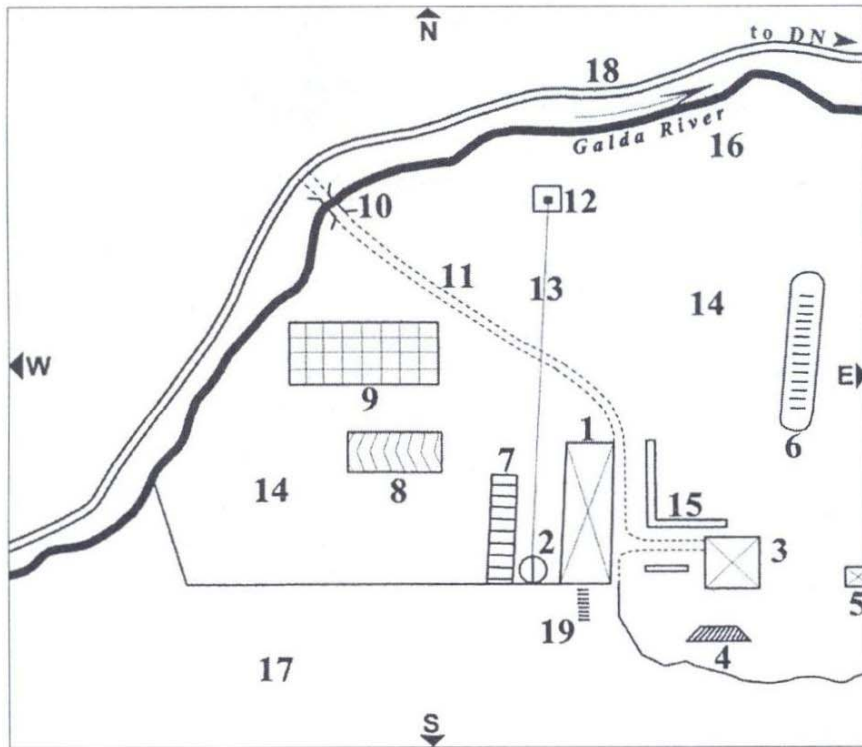


Fig. 2. The plan of the house and surroundings

1. The house. 2. Heating system. 3. Shelter and the kitchen. 4. Shelter for dogs for the winter time. 5. Closet (outdoor). 6. Fishing pool. 7. Deposit for fire wood. 8. Grass house. 9. Shelter for decorative birds. 10. Bridge. 11. Path. 12. Shelter for the dog. 13. Wire for chained dog. 14. Grass area. 15. Rows with flowers. 16. Willows. 17. Forest. 18. Road. 19. Stairs for an easy access to the forest.

purpose (19). In front of the house and in the surroundings there is a very well kept grass field (14). This family has a hobby that of decorative birds (peacocks). For their preserving and protection they built a shelter for them (9). Also with a recreational purpose, they built a small basin for fishes (6) where they grow valuable species of carp.

The most faithful protector of the house is their dog, named King, Carpathian Shepherd dog. For it they built a small special cage (12) and when it is tied up it may glide on wire (13), right to the front of the house, this way being able to block any strange person's entrance to the main gate.

As it may be observed from the plan above everything is set in a specific manner and organized proportionally on the surface of the yard. The best way someone may develop the property depends on his or her sense of management, rightness and proportionality in using the available space.

Having described this example of a rest house for week-end time we may wonder why choosing to have this type of pension. The answer we may find in the need of something new, easy to live with. The option of having it set in the rural space depends on some facts like the reason of already having an old house that may be modernized, or having a house near the city.

During the latest years people got used to the idea of going out to the country for some quietness and relaxation especially during the week-end because that was their free time. There is also the possibility of receiving that house as an inheritance. This was the way the week-end family agricultural practices appeared. It looks like the ideal recreation place, especially when it comes for family reunions, small parties or group celebrations. If it is a case of an old house, with a little investment this one could easily be extended to a guest house with a larger capacity of accommodation, or even to become one of the pensions that could be included to the national tourism network, after modernizing it. It is a specific habit of the urban citizens who want to start a business and realize that they have the mobile to be exploited. Thus appeared and started developing the rural tourism, especially due to the benefic impact that has on people and to the rest, relaxation and isolation that provides. If, by any chance, they happen to practice the traditional cooking in the area, there's a good reason for visitors to be attracted into. Starting such a business means not to hurry or to expect huge profits because it is a long time process. In their commercials or announcements they should stress on the advantage of being situated in a rural area, away of the ur-

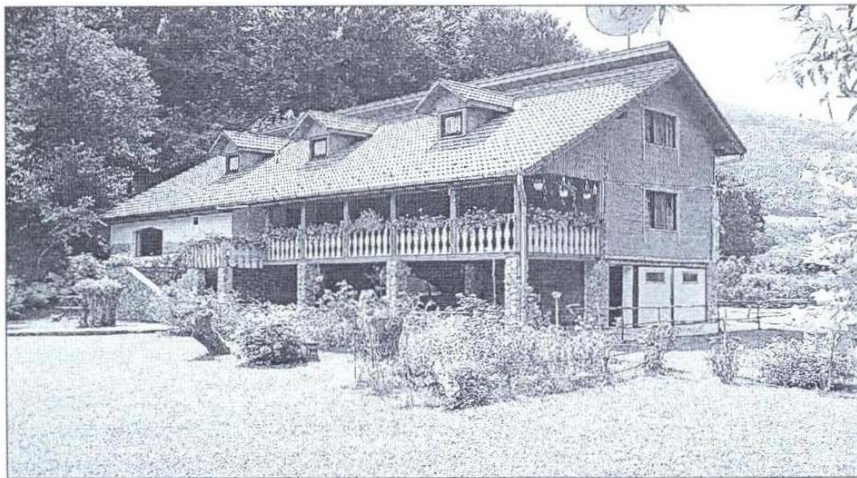


Fig. 3. General view of the house



Fig. 4. The fishing-pool

ban agglomeration, can provide noise-disconnecting even to full isolation.

A guest house in the country side or a pension developed lately under the circumstances of an increasing number of requests for accommodation places that becomes larger than the offer of the hostel units in the natural areas. More than that it's a chance for rediscovering the rural space and set the basis of the rural development. For the moment rural tourism represents one of the main axis on which rural developments programmes stress on and European funds are heading for.

This chance anyone can afford, gives no impediment concerning age or professional background of the individual for running such a business. Moreover it is considered to be a sample of innovation and good initiative. The state is officially approving and sustaining these initiatives even from 1997, when Law 63 was established, and when there were set the priorities in equipping the rural areas with informational and communication network system improving the access to information in all areas of the country. Another facility to be mentioned would be the possibility of a small guest house to pay utilities as a usual family house in the rural space, mentioning the condition of not having more than 5 room capacity of housing.

Nowadays people barely understand how tourism works or how the services should be

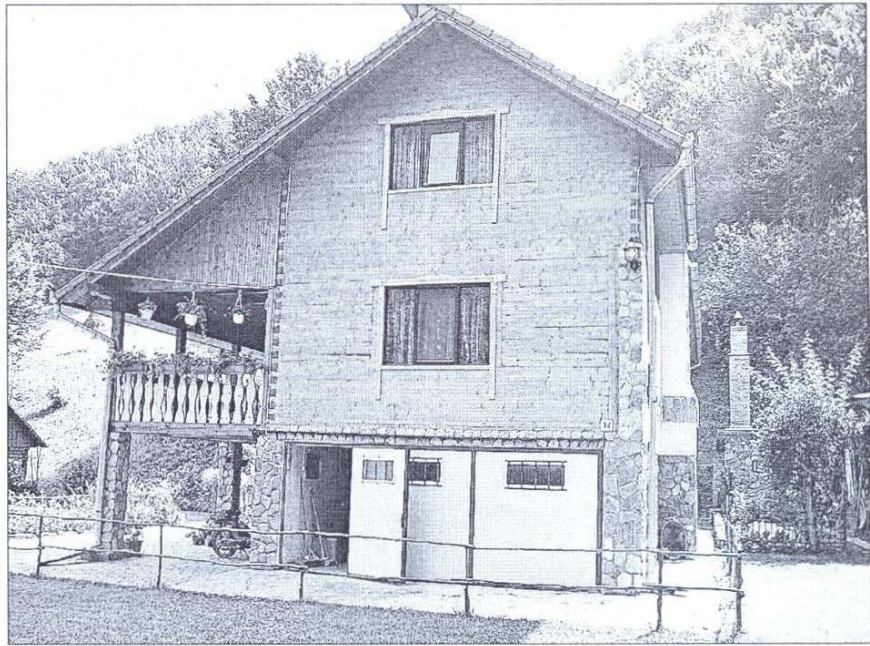


Fig.5. Side view of the house

and what standards should apply in serving. The fact that someone has the courage to come into such a business with a guest house, even starting practicing only the week-end tourism, he should somehow get informed that it is on a long term, it cannot have any category of standard quality so the prices would be lower.

The good thing is that these houses, properly endowed, may function all year long, no matter the season would be, the house being available in high-quality conditions. Rural tourism and tourism, generally speaking, is fashionable, means a new brand of nonpolluting industry, and a source of alternative income.