



AGORA Dealu Frumos

...the village comes together!

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AGORA

Dealu Frumos

...the village comes together!

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Preembel

The fortified churches are the big treasure of the Transylvanian region. There is no other place where you can find such special buildings in such a density. But how to keep those if only a few people are using it anymore?

...new usages and perspectives have to be found and defined so that people get a feeling of responsibility for the actual landmarks of their vilages to save the fortified churches for the future!

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DEALU FRUMOS

...the midpoint of Romania !

Deal Frumos is one of the small villages of the famous region of Transylvania which was founded and settled by Saxon-settlers in the 12th century.

Since the Saxons suffered from very bad conditions during the communist time which began in the 1950ies, more and more people went back to their origin, to Germany. The peak of the emigration wave was after the fall of the iron curtain, 1989, so that today only a few Saxons remained in the area as well as in Dealu Frumos. What is left from their culture and history are the fortified churches which suffer now from problems like vacantness and bad conditions.

The main part of the population today are Romanians and Romies who are mostly orthodox and have no bond to the reformatic fortified church. So it happens, that the most obvious landmark of the village is rarely in use, has almost no connection to the village community and is situated in the heart of the village as an alien which doesn't belong to anybody.

But as I got to know from the villagers, the community is very strong! There are no problems with minorities, people know each other and there is a good living together. What is missing, is a gathering-place or a place to exchange.

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Inhabitants: | 547 |
| Children in primary school: | 58 |
| Age of work-start: | 14-15 years |
| Quality of village community: | excellent |

FACTS



STRONG VILLAGE COMMUNITY



FORITIFIED CHURCH AS MAIN LANDMARK



UNIQUE ARCHITECTURE AND ATHMOSPHERE



BUILDINGS PARTIALLY IN A BAD CONDITION



MISSING GATHERING-PLACES



Abandoned benches

***„The fortified churches are often like
,aliens‘ in the villages.“***
(Andrea Manastirean, Stiftung Kirchenburgen)



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FORTIFIED CHURCH: STATUS QUO

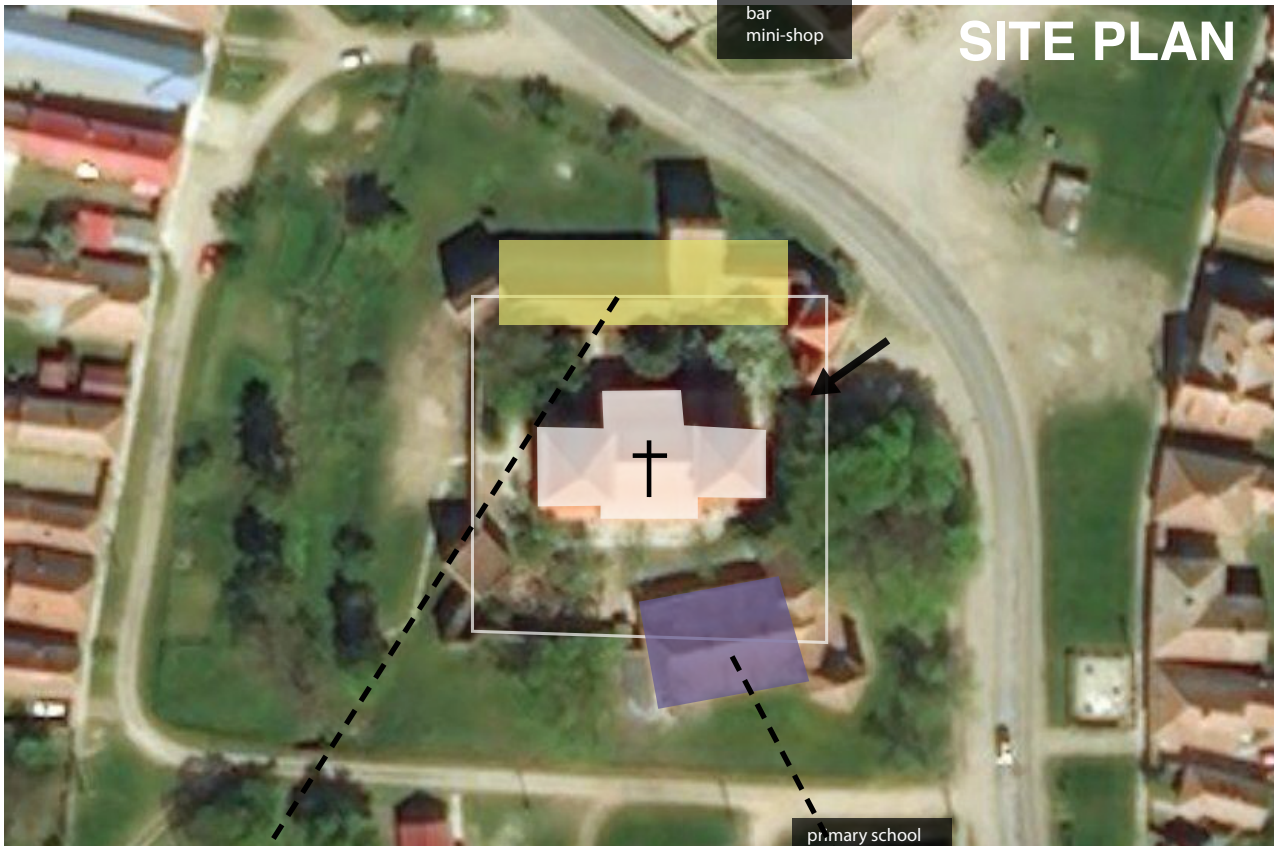
The three-naved Romanesque basilica was built in the 13th century, the countermure was added in the 15th century. As well as many other fortified churches also this one was abandoned and in a very weak condition for the last 20 years. Thanks to EU-fundings and the cooperation with Ion Mincu University of Bucharest and several motivated students, who analyzed the building in order to rebuild the missing and destroyed parts, the main church is today in a very representative condition.

Unluckily, entering the church is not so easy and not always possible. Holy prayers are holden very rarely, about once a month due to missing believers. But the key for the church is kept by a contact-person who is opening the church if needed, for tourists, visitors or interested persons. Other occasions, like events or happenings, which are made for the villagers are not happening. Only the give out of the donations, collected by Saxons living in Germany for the children of the village, once a year is hold in the building next to the church.

Besides Ion Mincu University, there are already existing cooperations between the fortified church of Dealu Frumos and other universities so that there is an on-going network of different professionals who research on the development in rural areas in Romania. For the participants there are already exiting dormitories.

- +** CENTRAL POSITION IN VILLAGE
- +** ALREADY USED BY UNIVERSITIES
- +** UNIQUE ARCHITECTURE AND ATMOSPHERE
- BUILDINGS PARTIALLY IN A BAD CONDITION
- RARELY USED BY VILLAGE COMMUNITY





The side-buildings are not in use and in a bad condition.

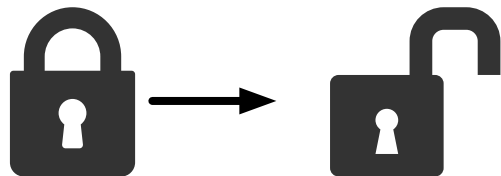


The ballroom is equipped with accommodations and is usable.

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CONCEPT - AIMS

...three key-topics for the successful revitalization of the fortified church!



Make the fortified church accessible to the villagers!

Opening is a precaution for the future use and the preservation of the buildings of the fortified church.

The church is the village's landmark so that the management of it should be in the hand of the mayor and his team.

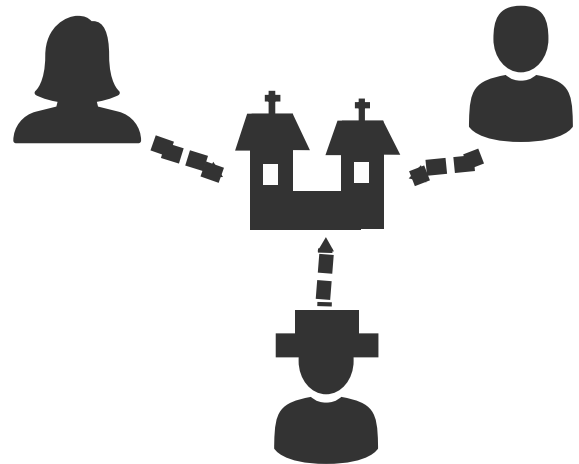
OPEN



UNIFY

There are only a few Saxons left in the village - the area of the fortified-church shall become a place where all ethnicities come together.

By opening the church to all ethnicities of the village-community, the acceptance and bond to the fortified-church complex will raise. It will become a multicultural place and serve the needs of the villagers.



Use the unique atmosphere to create a market place / activity space available for all villagers.

A big part of the people in Dealu Frumos are growing their own vegetables - often the harvest is even 70% too much - this can be sold in a Farmer's market or exchanged with other villagers.

An activity space can be a multifunctional room that is used to realize projects or can function as a facility for birthdays, meetings and else.

CREATE

10 a concept approach: The AGORA

The idea of the greek Agora should be an example or even an ideal for the revitalization of the fortified church of Dealu Frumos.

Agora (*ancient-greek: ἀγορά - „gathering-place“ or „assembly“*) was the central public space in ancient Greek cities. A place where people came together, where events happened and a place that supported the development of a common identity and the growth of solidarity and strength among community members.



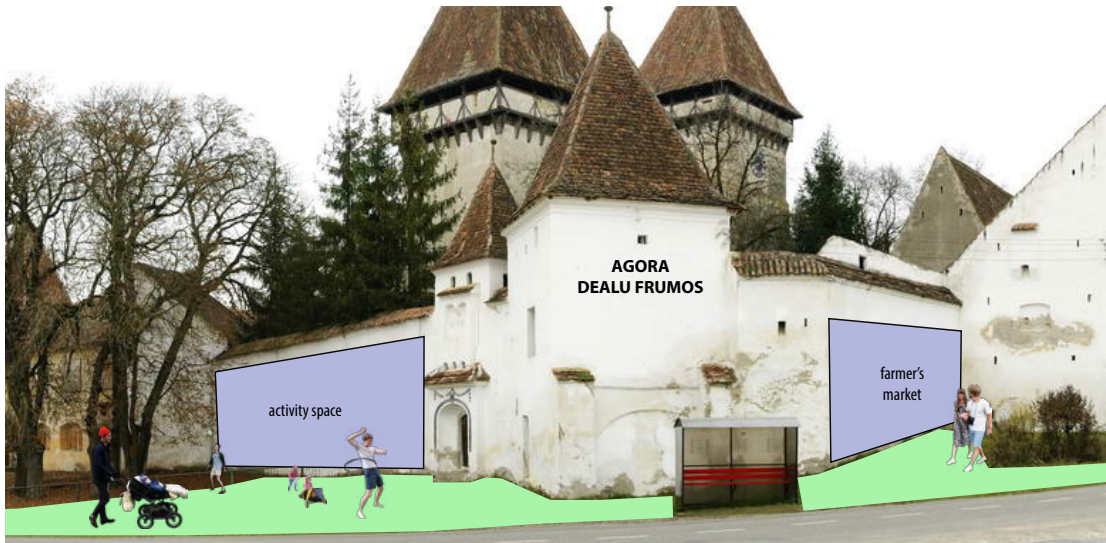
"The Agora" Project, Michael Hinman

A mixture of different usages will awake the fortified church of Dealu Frumos from its sleep and open it to all villagers.

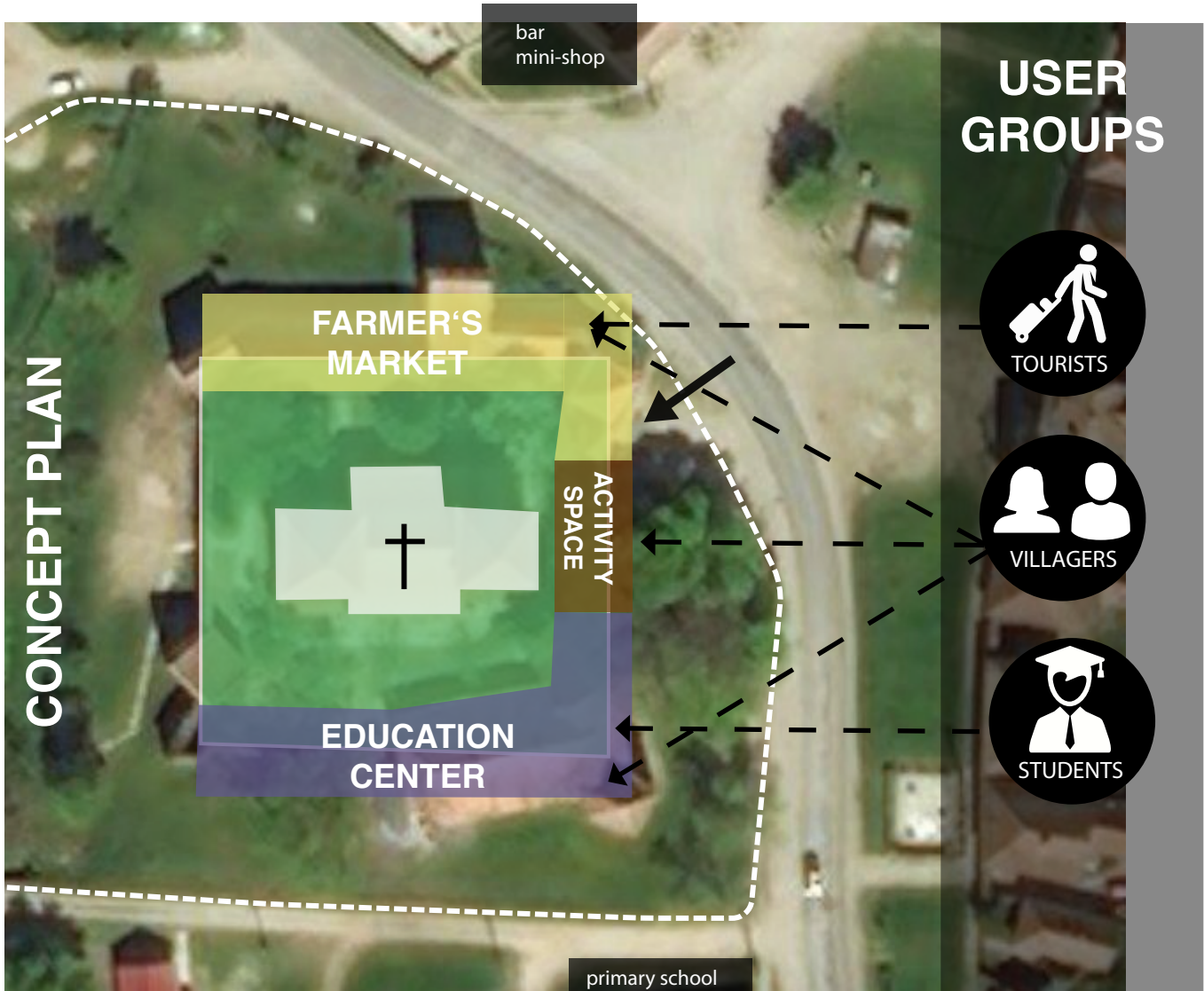
The area of the fortified church will be the new Agora of Dealu Frumos. The given position in the main-center of the village, at the crossing of two main roads and in-between the primary school and the mini-shop makes it reachable for all villagers and visible for all people passing by.

Until today the users of the church were Saxons only. Since they left the country only a few people feel responsible - so why not open it to everybody? By giving the fortified church new usages, the villagers will create new bonds - so that the church gets a part of their lives - the religion doesn't matter.

The main church will remain its original function as a reformatic house of prayer. The surrounding buildings will be open to villagers, visitors or students.

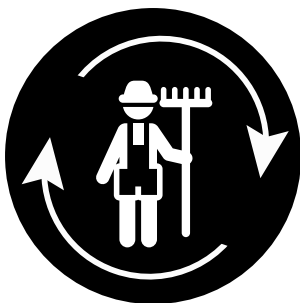


The blue colour shows the part of the surface which will be made out of glass so that it's more visible and inviting.



14 FUNCTIONS

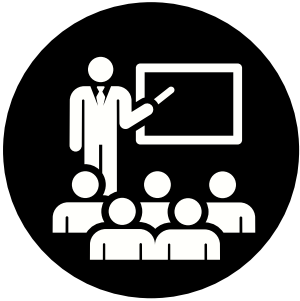
Three functions that will work together as the new AGORA of Dealu Frumos.



The farmer's market is an important new offer for the village community: it will be managed by interested villagers who organize themselves similar to the system called „Food Coop“.

People from the village can offer their products and works to visitors and also have the chance to exchange things with others. The facilities can also be used to collect products that will be brought to the market collectively.

FARMER'S MARKET



The education center is partly an already existing useage of the fortified church. One of the buildings is currently managed by Ion Mincu University. The faculty of Architecture is using the halls for lectures - a few times a year groups do excursions to Dealu Frumos and use the dormitories as accomodation, which fit for about 15 students.

In the last few years a bunch of international universities participated in workshops in Dealu Frumos: the AGORA project could be a cooperation between the village and universities, where they can test their research work in the field.

EDUCATION CENTER



The Activity Space will consist of a sales floor inside the wall-building which will be opened by glass-walls to the streetside. It can be used for all different needs of the villagers. Either as a selling room or a co-working office or just a room to work on someones ideas.

The usage is limited to a certain periode per villager so that everybody gets a chance to use it.

ACTIVITY SPACE

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STEPS & MILESTONES

Re-usage and re-vitalization is a process and needs time. For the success of the project the population's acceptance can be achieved by participation.

September 2018

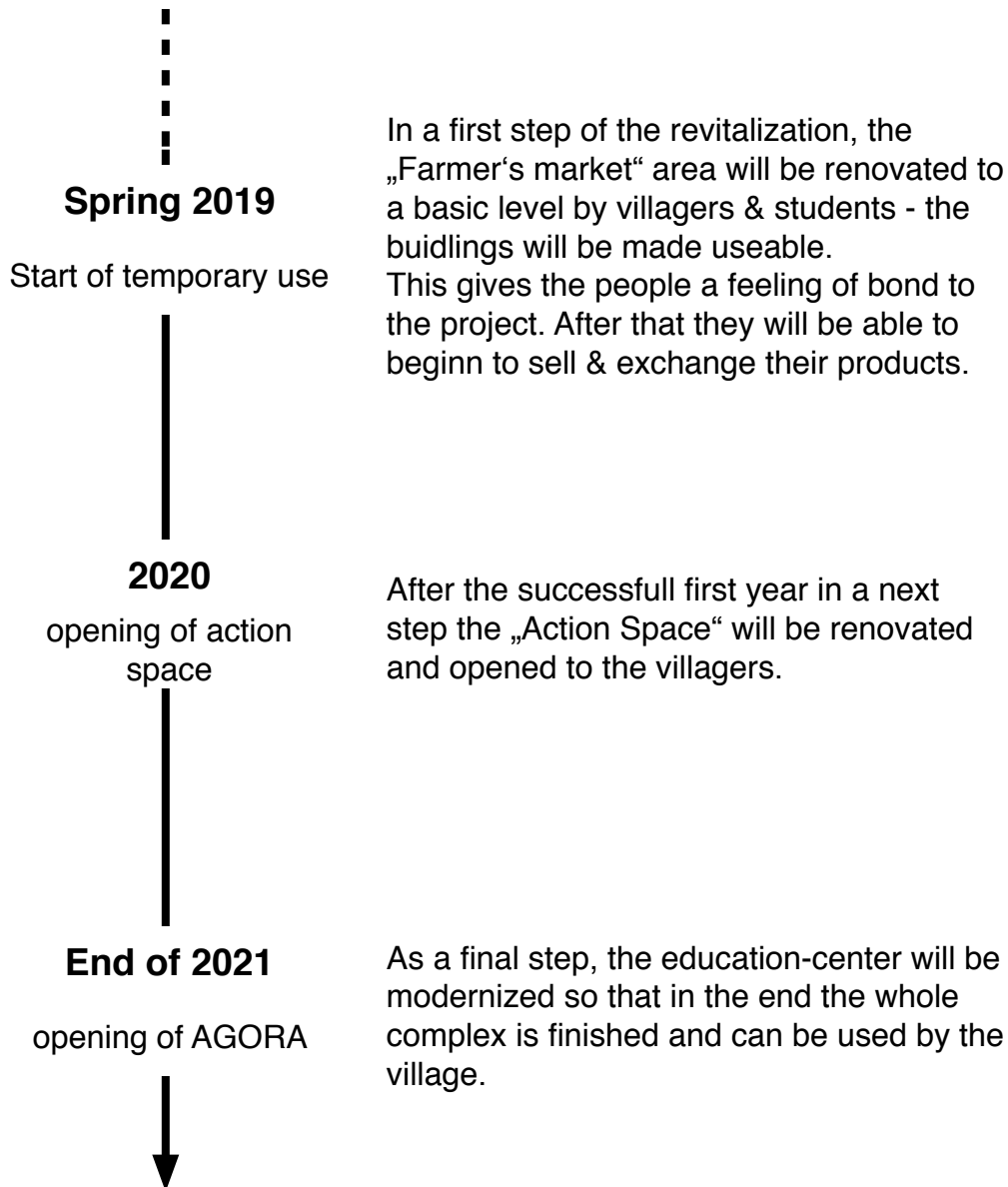
Ideas - Workshop

In a first step the mayor invites all villagers to participate in an idea-finding-workshop. What are the needs of the people? How can the AGORA improve their daily life? Everybody is welcome to say his/her opinions - those will be implemented in the planning-process.

December 2018

Agreement with Stiftung
Kirchenburgen

After finalizing the AGORA concept, the mayor of Delau Frumos starts negotiations with the Stiftung Kirchenburgen to convince about the benefits for the fortified church from this project. The Stiftung Kirchenburgen will agree, for the condition that the village takes over the operating and running costs.



Dealu Frumos

