

# Small Slums

## A Romanian Overview



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Cîmpia Turzii;  
București: str. Peisajului;

București: Piața Rahova,  
Bd. Energeticienilor;





# Orăștie – Stadionul Mecanica







**S**orinel shows us the well proudly. It is the only water source for the 20 families that live here. They have been moved in the lockers under the Mecanica Stadium tribunes, from a delapidated block of flats with no utilities. Even if water is pouring from the ceilings whenever it rains, they succeeded in keeping the place clean. Medicinal plants grow here and there on the former football pitch; people look after a garden near the entrance, and there were several attempts to breed a swine, but the town hall denied it because they would "damage the pitch". Dampness and mould, chilliness and the garbage produced by "the dirty ones" lead to a high level of morbidity.















When we arrived at the stadium, she appeared to be the most quarrelsome of all. A bulky woman, with tattoos acquired in prison, wearing a white impeccably clean shirt. For her, we were people from Bucharest, carrying cameras just as many others who happened to visit the place. She cursed and shouted almost all the time we spoke to other people. And after an hour or so, when living the place, we approached her. She shown us to her house, a tiny cell in the stadium's vestiaries divided by a wall she build herself to have a kitchen. Everything was tidy and well kept - carpets, embroidered napkins. We took some photos of the interior and then noticed that a human being was there, almost invisible, sleeping hidden under blanket. "He's cancerous, under morphine" she whispered calmly, tears in her eyes. An hour of rage that vanished in a few seconds of communication.

























Miercurea Ciuc – str. Primăverii



Miercurea Ciuc – groapa de gunoi



Miercurea Ciuc – Sumuleu















Miercurea Ciuc – Sumuleu









Miercurea Ciuc – str. Primăverii































Miercurea Ciuc – groapa de gunoi











































campo rom a castelromano  
segregazione organizzata a  
scopi umanitari







Castel Romano







Candoni  
Monachina



















Orastie – Digului Street

## **Roma / Gypsy**

**Romania has the largest number of Roma inhabitants in Europe. The economy of transition produced a decline in their housing condition, leading to an acute social exclusion. The racist attitude that forms the background of urban decisions can be seen today in the alarming development of the shantytowns surrounding the Romanian towns. The post revolution era reversed the process that defined the communist period – after the forced settlement of the nomads, the gypsies were the first to loose their jobs and to be evicted.**



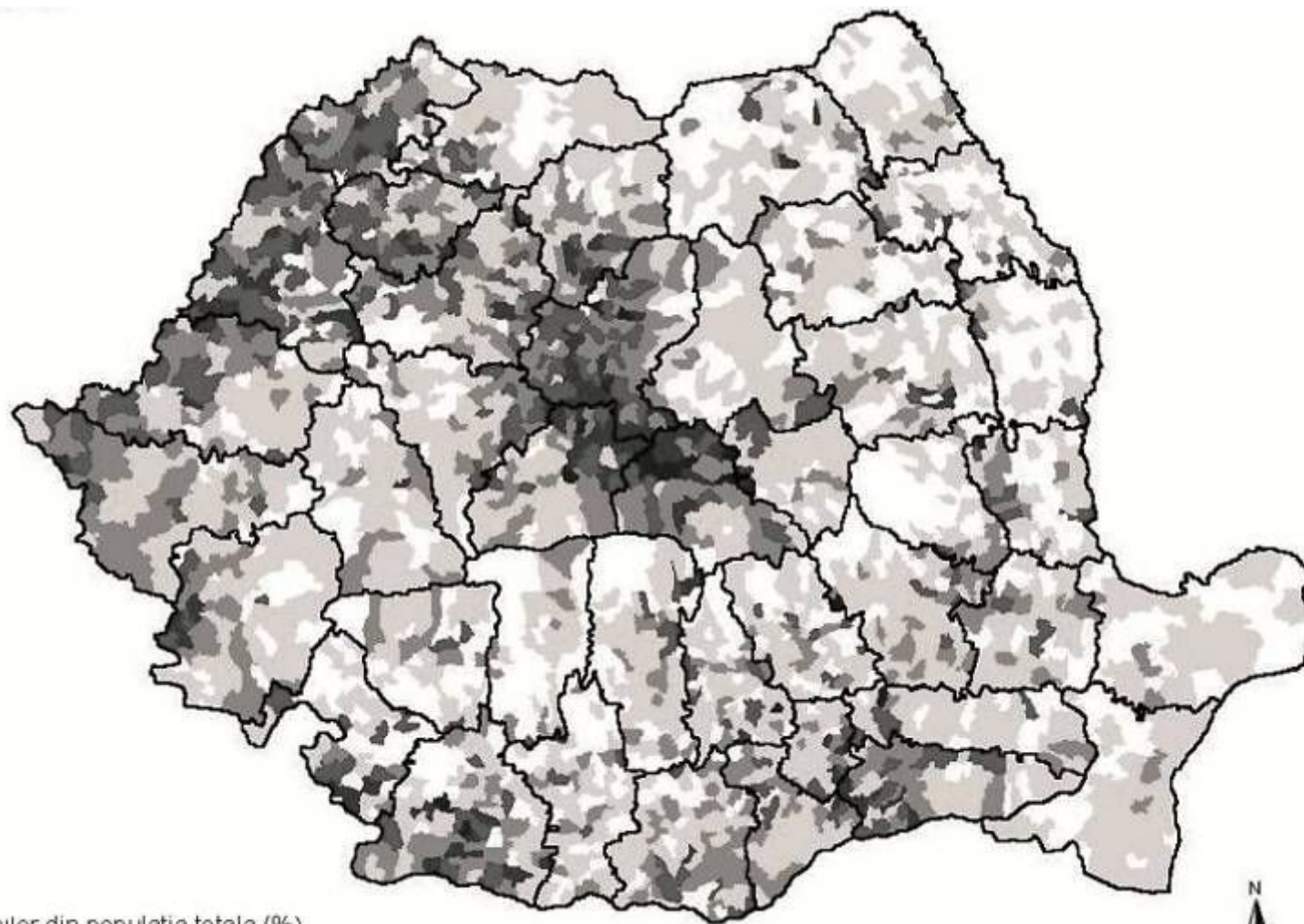
One million people live in inappropriate shelters and at least 2 millions are facing severe housing problems. Even if the situation is currently seen as a minor phenomenon of transition, it is already a “historically” constituted way of inhabiting space. We witness the creation of neighborhoods that develops into symbolic, ethnic and poverty enclaves. The collective imagery values the Gypsy as a threat and the public policies treats them consequently. The presentation focuses on the particularity of these communities and on the methodological aspects on connecting the social perspective with common architectural practice.



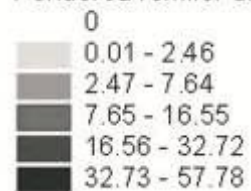
Tirgu Mures – Valea Rece



# Mapping ethnicity



Pondere romilor din populatia totala (%)



**2002**



# POVERTY AND EXTREME POVERTY

## World Bank terms (consumption)

- **Relative poverty**
- **Severe poverty**
- **Extreme poverty**
- **Poverty**
- **Extreme poverty**
- **Food poverty**

Poverty is “elastic”, it keeps its size and shape under the pressure of economic development. The number of people able to overcome this situation is smaller than of the ones that are falling into and of the natural growing rate.

monetar/non-monetar/ absolut / relativ / elasticitate / noua sărăcie



# SĂRĂCIA EXTREMĂ ÎN ROMÂNIA

	Sărăcie alimentară 872,005	Sărăcie extremă 1,060,658	Sărăcie totală 1,535,370
<b>Prag de sărăcie BM (LEI)</b>			
<b>NAȚIONAL</b>			
<b>Număr persoane sărace</b>	<b>1,210,724</b>	<b>2,366,110</b>	<b>6,265,186</b>
Pondere persoane sărace în total populație	5.6%	10.9%	28.9%
Deficit mediu de consum	0.0114	0.0239	0.0759
<b>URBAN</b>			
Număr persoane sărace	317,210	634,117	2,080,042
Pondere persoane sărace în total populație	2.7%	5.4%	17.6%
Deficit mediu de consum	0.0059	0.0119	0.0417
<b>RURAL</b>			
Număr persoane sărace	893,514	1,731,992	4,185,144
Pondere persoane sărace în total populație	9.1%	17.5%	42.4%
Deficit mediu de consum	0.0179	0.0383	0.1167

**Tabel 1** Sărăcia de consum pe medii de rezidență, 2002

Sursa: *România: Evaluarea sărăciei*, Banca Mondială, 2003.

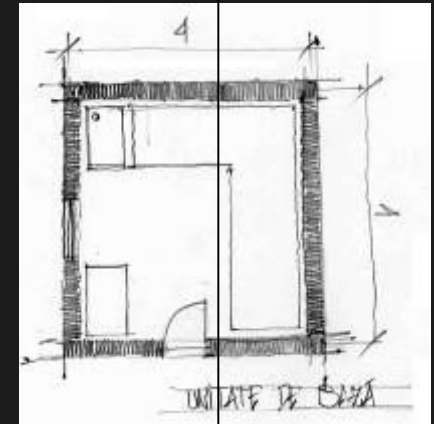


The data of the 2002 census proves the extreme housing poverty characterized by sq m/person situated between 3.1 and 3.5 sq m/person covers 930.000 people

In this category you can find households made of:

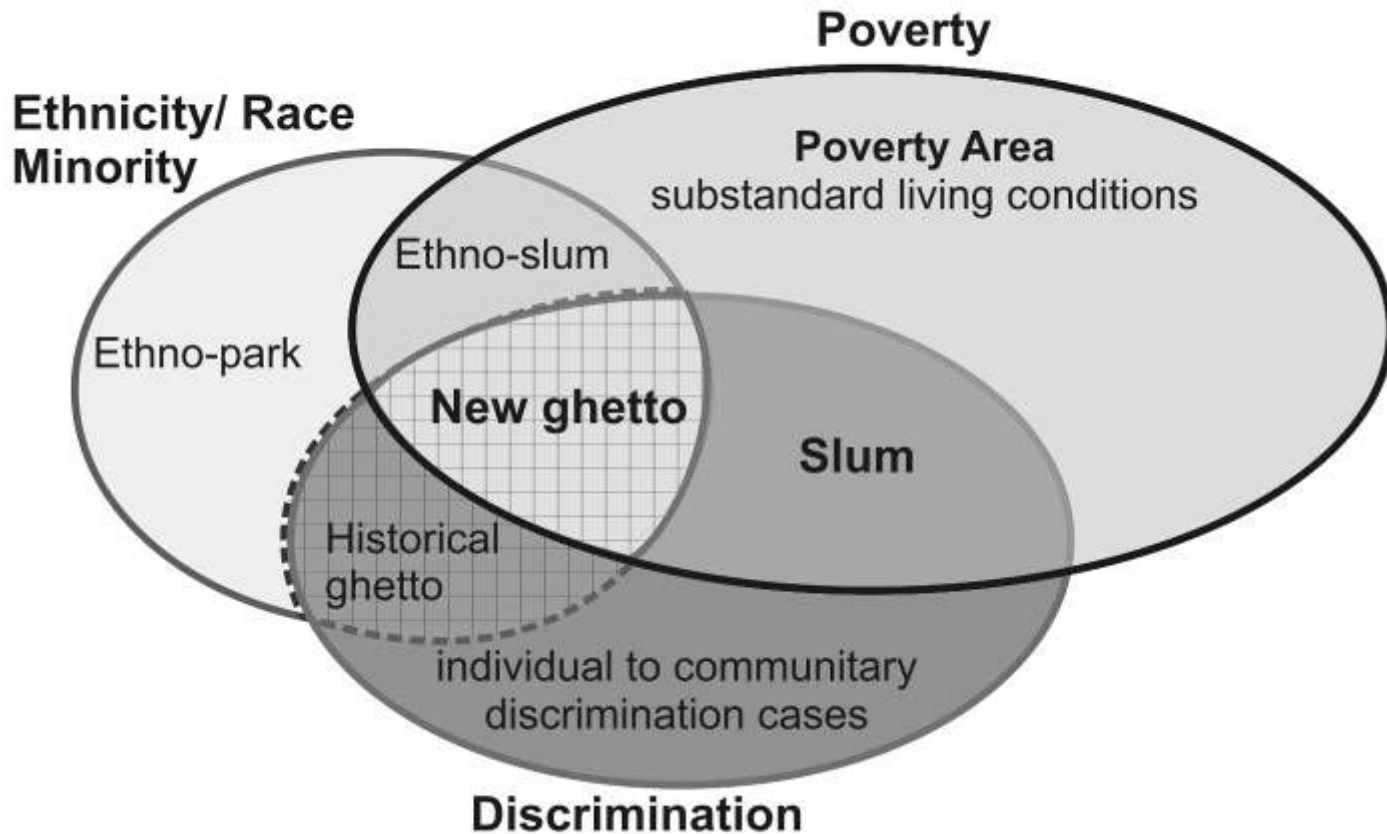
- One family nucleus (about 82.5%) 767.250 people
- Two family nuclei (about 15,9 %) 147.870 people
- Three family nuclei (about 10,3%) 95.790 people

There is a group of approximately 24,800 people for which the poverty indicator is placed around 1.5 sq m/pers.





## Housing Areas Assessment Scheme











Dorohoi, Botoșani – Historical Center - backyard



Dorohoi, Botoșani – Historical Center –facades



Dorohoi, Botoșani – Historical Center



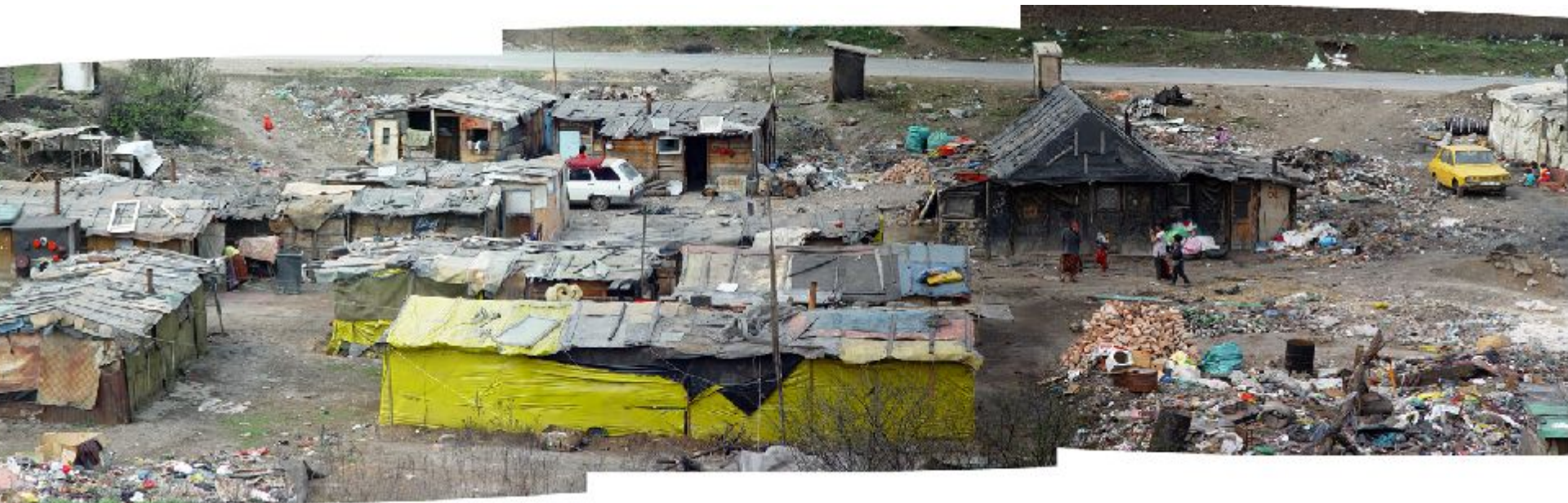
# Housing Poverty in Romania

The problem is:

- big
- deep
- generalised and growing
- diverse
- invisible



Pata Rât, Cluj – garbage ramp



Pata Rât, Cluj – “Dallas”





Cluj – Pata Rat – Dallas 2005



Pata Rât, Cluj – Cantonului Str.

















Brezoi, Vâlcea - Valea lui Stan

Ruralul este într-o stare mai gravă decât urbanul (?) și îl alimentează











Bolovanu', Vâlcea





**Housing poverty is a state of permanent lack of space and utilities specific to normal living. This neediness causes permanent consequences on the quality of life, meaning absence of sleep, hygiene, intimacy (with direct effect of reproduction health, favoring sexual abuse), serious perturbation or absence of education and information, a low capacity to acquire resources to survive and develop (household appliances, food, clothes, tools).**





Bucharest – Peisajului St. – informal Roma settlement in a flooding area

The extreme housing poverty, especially in the Romany communities, show to further aspects: precariousness of the house itself, and precariousness of the community milieu. Another dimension to poverty definition is vulnerability, which governs the investment strategies in the living space; it decisively determines the perception on one's own condition.

Extreme housing poverty is the state of housing crisis. The houses are structurally insecure, poorly built, insecure in legal terms of property, and characterized by a serious absence of minimal hygienic conditions. Those living under such conditions are constantly threatened to lose their shelter, belongings, health, and even their life.









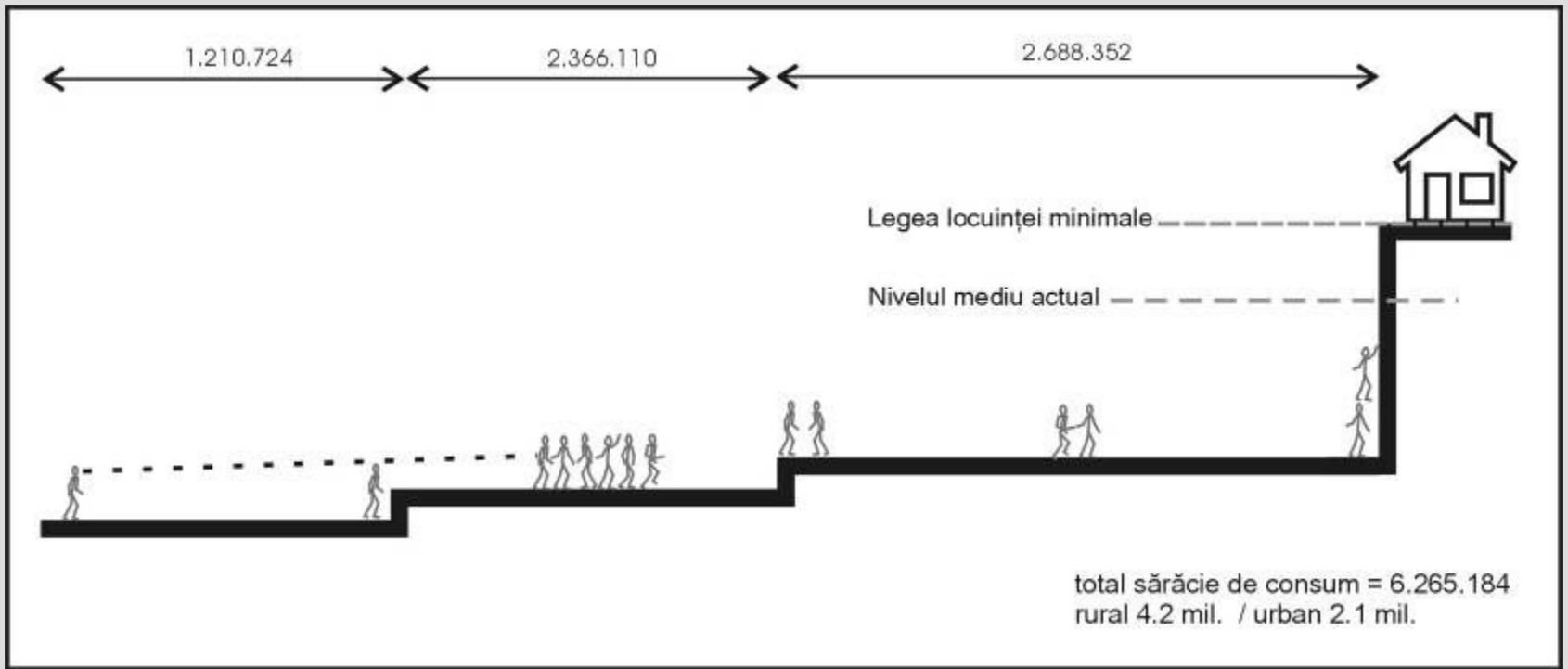




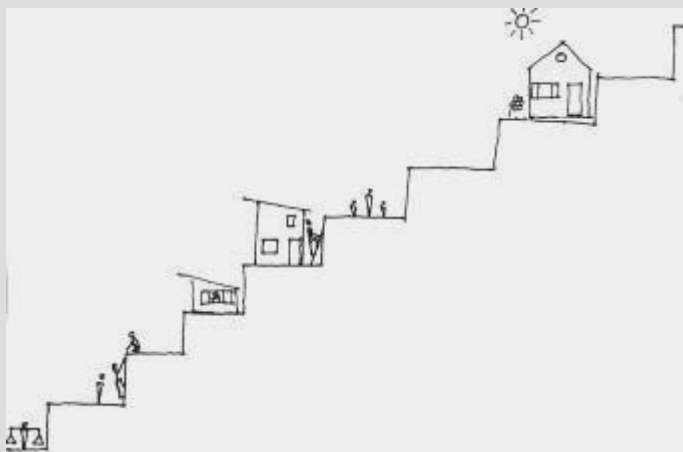


**Rodbav, Sibiu – former slaughter house inhabited by two sisters**





Romania – extreme poverty housing diagram



**Optimal leap**

**Visibility**

**Horizontal advance**

**Escalator**



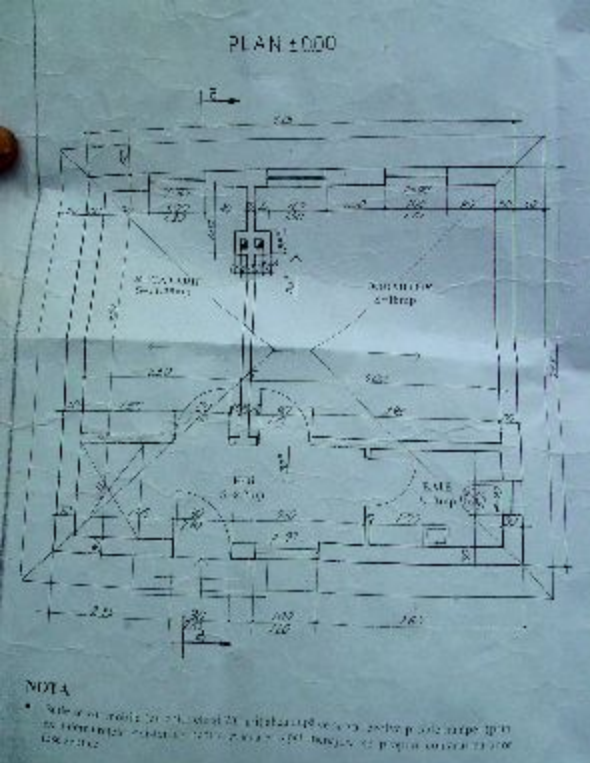






Perșani, Brașov – 2005















**good practice**

**ambiguous practice**

**bad practice**







