

# BEING BEIZAMA



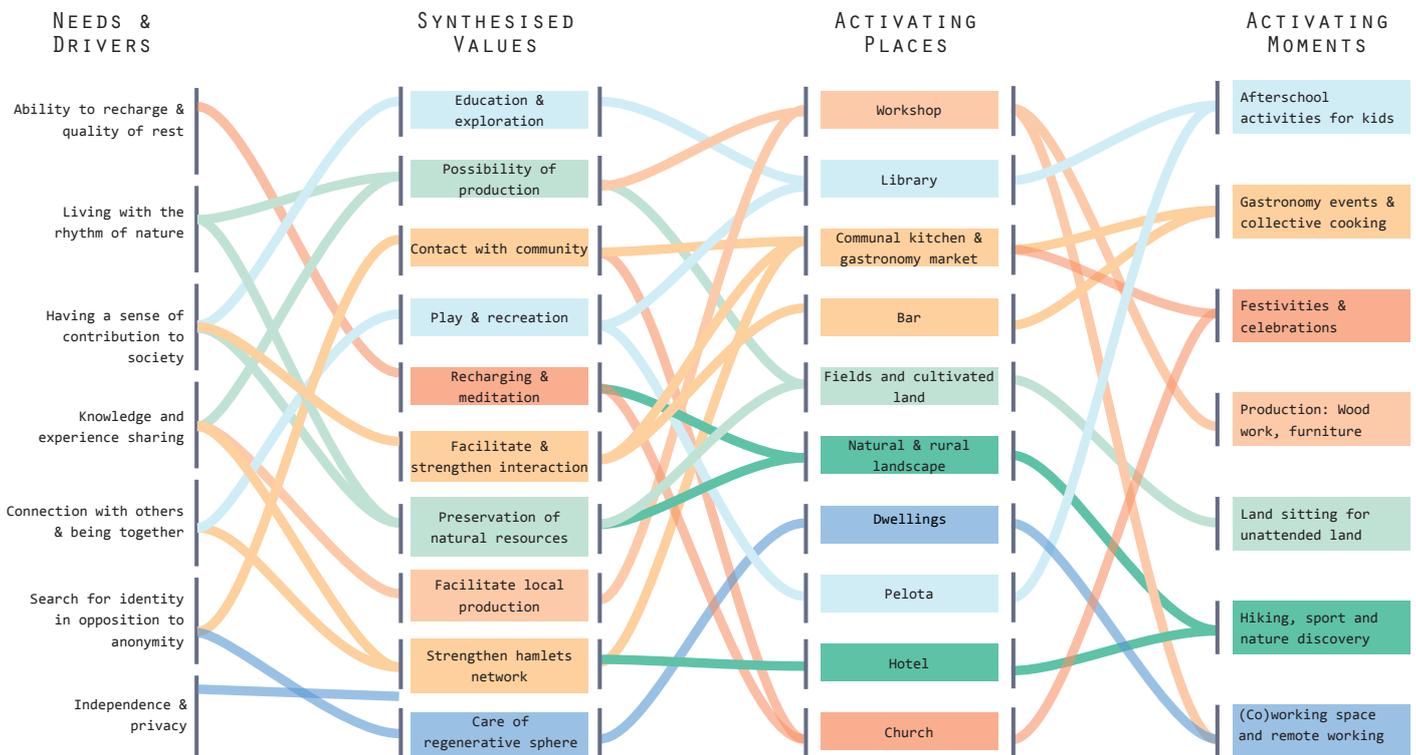
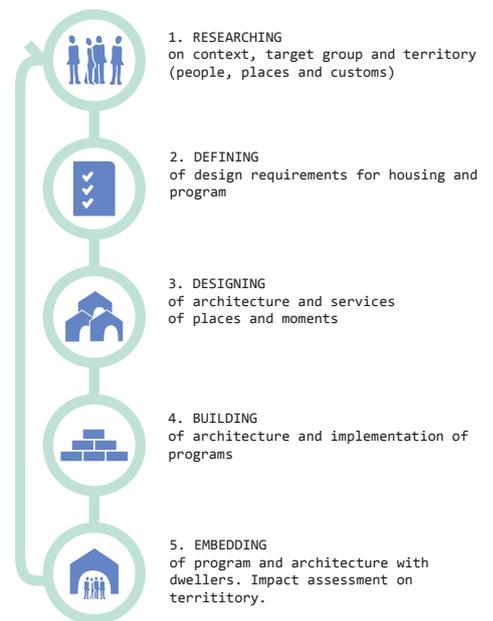
The strategy we propose aims at leveraging the great potential of Beizama's territory to create new synergies between people and nature. At the same time we propose this strategy as a replicable model, with the ambition to support other hamlets in the Basque Country to tap into their true potential.

The strategy consists in an informed combination of architecture and service design to activate Beizama. The replicable model we propose in the architecture consists in creating 'enabling' spaces that will be informed through qualitative research on the territory and with target users.

The results of the research informs the design of programmes to activate places, as well as service interventions to activate moments in a way that is tailored to the character of the territory. The goal of the strategy is not only to provide suitable housing for those who want to move to a new home, but also to facilitate that process of identity rediscovery and integration by activating the territory.

The research conducted so far has led us to identify values that life in a place like Beizama offers and could offer to its inhabitants. The aim of our design is to complement Beizama's current offer to enable people to access these values, through the architecture and the service interventions.

## FIVE STEPS APPROACH to placemaking & integration



We have designed a small architectural intervention consisting of four buildings. These buildings are based on a common ground floor with uses that enable the activation of the town. Above the public program we developed two floors with a dwelling function to comply with the brief's requirements. We have designed two building types that appear twice each, one larger, comprising two apartments per floor (one 50sqm apt. and one 80sqm apt.) and one smaller, comprising one apartment per floor (80sqm apt.) delivering a total of 12 apartments. The larger apartment has an extra room that can be used flexibly to allow different uses such as an extra bedroom or a studio. All apartments have been designed to allow inhabitants to have a working station either integrated in the apartment or even as a shared space adjacent to the staircase.

To create architectural continuity the buildings explicitly refer to the basque country's traditional house, the baserri, with the use of slanted roofs and simple facades. The arched entrances specifically recall the traditional entrances inviting to inhabit the ground floor areas. Special attention has been



given to the design of the slope, with regard to the topics of nature inclusive landscapes, accessible pathways and rainwater collection. The pathways are strategically designed for the management of water collection.

The public programmes of workshop, library, co-working spaces and communal kitchen have been studied to fulfill needs of -for instance- strengthening the relationship with the community and facilitating interaction, give more relevance to local production and potentially revitalise the hamlets network to activate the place. Parallely, service interventions can enable inhabitants to tap into Beizama's value potential where architectural interventions can't. Examples are facilitating land sitting opportunities, or after-school activities for kids volunteering platform.



We believe this combined approach will help activating Beizama and reverse the aging trend of the population, providing the right hard and soft infrastructure to retain younger population while consolidating the territory's values and reinforcing the relationship with the neighbourhoods and the nearby towns. Furthermore we believe this strategy could be applicable to the rest of the region, making Beizama the model for other hamlets facing similar challenges.

We envision this project as being the first step into understanding of the needs and drivers of Beizama and its future inhabitants. Through participatory research on the ground our aim is, given the chance, to further refine our design.

Sara runs into Tino who tells her that he's not able to take care of his family's land. Supported by a service designed to facilitate the interaction, Sara starts to Landsit Tino's land and in return she can make use of the land's produce.



Camilla and Mathia celebrate his birthday big, txoko style. After inviting friends and family from in and out of town, they pick from the gastronomic corner of the communal kitchen fresh ingredients for the dinner.



Tino likes to work with his hands to take his mind off of work. Since he moved into the new house, he has full access to the shared workshop, so he can do projects like helping Lea who is building the panels for the photography exhibition.



As part of a facilitated peer-to-peer service, every week Lea volunteers to look after the kids, with after school activities. She often uses the Library as a place to meet, there's lots of space to stimulate their curiosity and imagination.



