

Settlements of Lesvos

Introduction

Lesvos is known for its rich architectural heritage, a result of the island's interesting new history. According to data from the General Secretariat of the Aegean and the services of the Ministry of Culture, there are 23 listed traditional settlements in Lesvos. In addition, there are 493 buildings that have been designated as listed by the Ministry of the Environment or the General Secretariat of the Aegean and 330 designated by the Ministry of Culture.

Topographic writings of the late 19th century refer to settlements in groups, each of which has usually a center. The most representative segregation distinguishes the following eight sections of settlements: Mytilene, Agiasos, Geras, Plomari, Polichnitos, Kalloni, Mantamados and Molyvos. In general terms these sections correspond to the regions of the ancient cities, which means that the basis of the housing organization has virtually not changed. The basic feature of almost all the settlements of Lesvos is their urban character. In many settlements the continuous building system prevails and the yards are completely absent. In those which have courtyards they are surrounded by tall walls and are completely isolated from the street. Some settlements are more interesting thanks to their location or the causes of their establishment and present specific characteristics. Such examples are Molivos, Agiassos, Plomari, less perhaps, the city of Mytilene itself.

The numerous picturesque villages of Lesvos are built amphitheatrically on the hillsides of the island. Here we meet one of the oldest architectural styles, that of the sheltered building, mainly in the countryside of the mountainous and isolated settlements (Mantamados) and mainly for agricultural use. The traditional houses

are usually two-storeyed and built with large stones. They have tiled roofs and their facades are decorated with patterns and dark wood ornaments. Some others have colourful facades, huge windows and heavy wooden doors. Narrow streets and stone steps encircle the various buildings.

Traditional part of the city of Mytilene

In the historical center of Mytilene (bounded by the area of Agios Therapontas, the main shopping street Ermou and Epano Skala) the architecture presents specific characteristics compared to other islands of the Eastern Aegean. It cannot be characterized by a pure style but by a confluence of many historical styles with influences from the West and the East.

In the 19th century, Mytilene developed an impressive home architecture, which was manifested through the language of eclectic neoclassicism. Behind the primitive neoclassical facades of the early houses of Mytilene, the typology of the Europeanized home of the Ottoman elite is distinguished. The typology is distinguished by the adoption of a symmetrical model with a bright, majestic hall and two rooms on either sides. The most formal spaces are arranged on the top floor, sometimes enriched with **"sachnisi"** (projections supported on wooden beams that are beyond the boundaries of the ground floor walls) ensuring the precious criterion of view.

From 1880 and onwards, the typology of Mytilinean dwelling formulates a new composition with distinct tendencies of Europeanisation and gradual abandonment of the Oriental model. Especially the 1880-1900 period is characterized by the construction of houses of monumental style and size, with prominent evidence of an evolved urban life, through the luxurious and multiple reception

areas, as well as the elements of comfort and equipment that are gradually established in each residence.

Pligoni

Pligoni belongs to the municipality of Lesvos and its official name is "Pligonion". It is located in the south part of the city of Mytilene within a walking distance and at an altitude of 67 meters from sea level.

It is characterized as a traditional settlement, because apart from the overall architectural interest, it has remarkable architectural and morphological elements and it is a sample of local folk architecture. The buildings are stone-built and include "sachnisinia". The buildings are austere and rectangular. The cantilevered balconies have a rectangular floor plan and are constructed according to the architectural standards of the area with stone flooring for the most part. The traditional scenery is complemented by cobbled streets, fountains, stockyards, patio doors, pebble flooring, etc.

The Church of St. George is considered to be the 'jewel' of the settlement. It is a building of the 19th century which has suffered significant damage due to the precipitation of the ground. Next to the church, at the entrance of which there is an inscription with the year of its establishment, 1863, one more temple in honor of St. George was built.

Taxiarches

The settlement of Taxiarches belongs to the municipality of Lesvos and is located 6.5 km south of the city of Mytilene. It is built on the outskirts of a verdant hill of olive trees and has an altitude of 175 meters from the sea surface.

The village is known with the older name Kayani (Kaya, genitive case: kayanin = hill in Turkish), which was replaced in 1955 by its present name in honor of the homonymous church.

The Church of Taxiarches is certainly the center of reference of the village and the pilgrimage of the whole surrounding area. Its building started in 1903, based on the well-known design of the architect Argyrios Adalis. It is of Byzantine style with a dome of Gothic style.

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Agia Marina

Agia Marina belongs to the municipality of Lesvos and it is located 5 km away. It is placed in the south part of the city of Mytilene and it is built at an altitude of 142 meters from the sea.

The settlement is built in the hilly area of Amali Mountain, facing east to the Aegean Sea and the Turkish coasts, next to the airport of the island.

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rectangular floor plan and are constructed according to the architectural standards of the area with stone flooring for the most part. The traditional scenery is complemented by cobbled streets, fountains, stockyards, patio doors, pebble floors, etc.

The Church of the settlement is dedicated to Agia Marina. It is a three-aisled basilica and a building aged from 1797, as it is mentioned in an inscription above the entrance.

Moria

Moria is a village in eastern Lesvos, with a population of 1,164 inhabitants. It is built at an altitude of 30 meters above sea level, at the foot of Agios Dimitrios Hill. It is 1 to 1.5 km from the sea (Panagiouda Bay) and just 7.5 km drive from the capital of the Mytilene Island.

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The main church of the village is a three-aisled basilica dedicated to Saint Basil and dates back to 1769, while in its courtyard there are sections of an early Christian church.

Finally, the best preserved part of the ancient Roman Aqueduct of the city of Mytilene, "Kamares", is located in the area of Moria, 500 meters from the last houses of the southern part of the village. The

arcade that has survived has a length of 170 meters and 17 arches, with a maximum height of 27 meters.

Panagiouda

Panagiouda is a relatively small seaside village, 6 km away from the city of Mytilene. It is located in the north side of the city of Mytilene and it has a population of 705 inhabitants (2001). The main occupation of the inhabitants is fishing.

The settlement of Panagouda is essentially a refugee settlement. It began to be built in 1867 by refugees, residents of the neighbouring settlement of Afalona, since a large earthquake destroyed many of their houses in the village. This newly constructed settlement was named then "Neochorion" or "New Afalon". Quite later, in 1924 about 100 refugees came from the opposite coast of Asia Minor and built their houses creating the "Fishermen's Settlement" or just "Settlement".

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In the settlement you will also see the Church of the Virgin Mary's Birthday (1896) which is of gothic style with a dome, as well as old oil mills and the paved coastal road along the small port.

Afalonas

Afalonas belongs to the municipality of Lesvos and it is built at an altitude of 100 meters, on the outskirts of a verdant hill of olive trees and at a distance of 7 kilometers from Mytilene.

The choice of this area to be the site of the founding of the village must be surely attributed to the the inhabitants' desire of that era to protect their life and their movable and immovable property from the scourge of piracy. The old towers, moreover, that existed in the village served the same purpose.

On February 23, 1867, due to a powerful earthquake affecting Lesvos, all houses were destroyed. In 1908, Afalonas had 220 families and in 1928, according to the first Greek census, it had 852 residents.

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The Church of the village is dedicated to the Assumption and began to be constructed in 1914 according to Argyrios Adalis' plan and

belongs to the type of three-aisled basilica with Byzantine and Gothic elements.

Pamfila

The Village of Pamfila is 7 km from Mytilene and it is built at an altitude of 50 meters from the sea.

In 1849 Pamfila had 300 houses and in 1908 it had 550 houses which all belonged to Christians. The first official Greek census of 1928 recorded a population of 2,198 inhabitants in the village, including refugees from Asia Minor. After the war the population declined and reached 1,482 inhabitants in 1971.

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In the village you can encounter towers. These are high-rise (usually three-storeyed), almost square – floor buildings, which are built on the outskirts of the village or inside it with a clear defensive orientation.

The center of reference of the village is certainly the impressive church of St. Barbara, of basilica rhythm, which began to be built on the place of an older smaller church in 1859.

Sponsored by Panagiotis and Georgios Vostanis, the Kallimarmaro "Vostaneio" elementary school was built in 1928 at the entrance of the village.

Vatousa

Vatousa is located in the western part of the island, 67 km from the town of Mytilene, at an altitude of 300 m. It is said that the name Vatousa comes from the adjective "vatoessa", which means the area where there are plenty of bushes. According to another version, it derives from the composition of the adjective "vatos" (passable) and the participle "ousa", which gives the name "Vatousa".

It is a village with traditional cobbled streets, stone houses with tiled roofs and large mansions with splendid architecture.

The attractions of the village are the Mansion of Gogou, which serves as a Folklore museum, the old school, a 19th century building that now operates as a Community Guesthouse, the Ecclesiastical (Byzantine) Museum with remarkable exhibits, located in the grounds of the main church of the village, as well as the male school (a school only for boys) which is now the elementary School of the village. The Church of Taxiarchis (1832-33) is interesting too. It belongs to the type of basilica without a dome, with the characteristic cemetery in its enclosure and unique built tombs. You can also see the Church of the Assumption (1850) which is built entirely of chipped stone.

Antissa

Antissa is located on the west side of the island, at a distance of 76 km from the capital. It is built on the southwest side of Mount Kouratsona, on a hillside, which is a volcanic dome and was formed by the cooling of volcanic lava 17 million years ago.

This region has a great historical significance for Lesvos, as the ancient city of Lesvos flourished there, which was one of the first wind settlements of the island. Today, Antissa is a town that lives off livestock and tourism. It is famous for its very good climate and the hospitality of the residents. It is an administrative center of the region and the seat of many public services and utilities.

The largest church of the village, Agios Ioannis Theologos, is a large three-aisled basilica, built in 1807 and restored in 1927 and in 1971. The Folklore Collection, which is exhibited in the Cultural Association, is of high interest. In Antissa there is an ecclesiastical museum, which hosts icons, vestments and sacred utensils, while there is also a private collection of traditional games.

Close to the region, there is the Monastery of Perivoli (1600-1650), located in a wooded ravine of the river Voulgari between Vatousa and Antissa. A detour of the provincial road Kalloni – Antissa leads to it. It is a women's monastery dedicated to the Presentation of the Virgin Mary and has been deserted in recent years.

Mithymna (Molyvos)

The settlement is built amphitheatrically with its beautiful stone houses and the imposing Byzantine castle dominating the top of the hill. Cobbled streets, old neighborhoods, beautifully preserved mansions, old fountains, and quaint little shops compose the amazing scenery of Molyvos overlooking the endless blue.

The houses, the facades of which are seen on the main roads, are extended in width and form parallel rows that might initially have a fortification meaning. This becomes more noticeable in the seaside series of buildings.

Most houses in Molyvos are two-storeyed, stone or wooden. The stone walls are usually uncoated and are grouted with plaster. When the floor is wooden, the walls often protrude from the outline of the ground floor and form a "sachnisi" (projections supported on wooden beams) on one or more sides with the same or different dimensions.

The parish churches are characteristic buildings. The Basilica of Taxiarchis was built in 1795 and it is one of the most important architectural monuments of Molyvos. Agios Panteleimonas was built in 1844 and presents several neoclassical elements. Agia Kyriaki is a remarkable example of ecclesiastical architecture.

In Molyvos, many public fountains of the Ottoman period are preserved with embossed inscriptions and decorations.

Molyvos has been characterized as listed settlement since 1965.

Petra

Petra is a large settlement on the northern coast of Lesvos with a population of 1,246 inhabitants (2001). Petra had a remarkable spiritual movement in the generation of 1930, in the so-called Lesbian Spring, with Thrasyvoulos Stavrou, Dimitrios Stavrou and his wife Tatiana, Orestis Kanellis, Takis Eleftheriadis and others.

The main attraction of Petra is of course the Church of "Panagia Glykofilousa" which stands onto a rock (hence the name Petra in Greek) with its 114 steps in the center of the settlement. Inside the settlement is the Church of St. Nicholas, another important ecclesiastical monument of the region.

The Mansion of "Vareltzidaina" is another remarkable monument of the settlement. It is built in the 2nd half of the 18th century in western Macedonian rhythm and the interior is decorated with beautiful frescoes and woodcarvings.

Sykamnia

Sykamnia is located in the northern part of the island, at an altitude of 291 meters from the sea surface.

The settlement is built on the north side of the mountain Lepetymnos, offering unique views of the Asia Minor coast. It is the homeland of the novelist Stratis Myrivilis, with his statue dominating the entrance of the village. His personal belongings are exhibited in the Folklore Museum of the village.

It is a traditional settlement with cobbled streets and stone mansions of the 19th century and beautiful public fountains.

In many houses of Sykamnia you first enter a small shed in the yard and then you reach the open courtyard. This first shed has a room on top or more rarely it has a low – rise roof (2 - 2.5 m).

In the highly exploited touristic Scala of Sykamnia, near the beautiful port, you can see the chapel of “Panagia Gorgona” (mermaid). The mural depicting Panagia with a mermaid tail has inspired Stratis Myrivilis to write the homonym novel.

Agiasos

Agiasos is built in a natural funnel, formed by the surrounding hills and mountains with the dominant Mount Olympus, which is treeless, ash-white and spheroid. The residents call it Aglia –Agios (Saint) Ilias.

Almost all of today's houses in Agiasos are from the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th. Characteristic elements are the urban character of the settlement, the continuous building system and the type of narrow front three-storeyed house with small wooden

balconies. Oil mills of exceptional architecture dominate in the settlement.

It is a rather unique case of a settlement where the layout of the axes is exactly the opposite. The church of Panagia, which is in the center of the settlement, is located at the lowest point and the settlement is developed around it in the shape of a funnel. All the main streets lead to the church, following the market path, in a direction perpendicular to the altitudinal curves. The acute angles meet, as they converge towards the center from the periphery of the funnel, indicating a characteristic element of Agiasos. Steep slopes also dictate the formation of houses with a narrow front in a way that their walls offer support to one another.

Polichnitos

Polichnitos is located at the southeast end of the Gulf of Kalloni. It is a densely structured settlement with elements of western style and neoclassical motifs, as well as structural forms from the East.

The settlement includes three types of traditional houses. The first is the old mansion. It has a square shape and consists of two floors with four rooms and a basement.

The second type is that of the classical houses of Polichnitos, rectangular in shape, with no basement. These houses have two rooms on the ground floor, one of which was traditionally the storage room for the oil and the second one was called "katevato" and it was as a reception room.

The third type of houses are those built from 1922 and onwards, when the refugees arrived across the coast. These are ground - floor

houses, with low basement, which housed refugees but also the the poor working - class at the beginning of the last century.

A common characteristic of all three types were the small inner courtyards, where the toilet of the houses was located, with no other access to the building, as well as some auxiliary spaces which were formerly used for the animals.

The streets of Polichnitos are paved cobbled streets (kalderimia), which are in a very good condition until today through works of maintenance and repairs.

In 1979 Polichnitos was declared as a listed settlement. One of the most remarkable buildings is the oil mill of the Church, the Primary School, the old coffee shop, the mosque and the Church of St. George.

Vrisa

Vrisa is a village with 798 inhabitants and its neighbouring coasts have a significant tourist activity during the summer period.

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The wood-carved temple of the church Zoodochos Pigi (Wellspring of Life) is remarkable, depicting scenes of the Old and New Testament with an exceptional delicacy. An oil mill and a factory for manufacturing bricks and other ceramics were in Vrisa. You can also visit the Natural History Collection, where the Paleontological finds are kept. They are believed to be of unique value worldwide.

Unfortunately, almost all the buildings of the settlement were characterized as uninhabitable after the earthquake of 2017.

Vasilika

Vasilika belongs to the municipality of Lesvos and it is built at an altitude of 224 meters from sea level.

The houses of the village are stone-built with tiled roof. They are usually two-storeyed and have four rooms and similar auxiliary spaces. Several of the houses have been classified as listed houses.

Almost all of the houses have ample courtyards with stables for the animals that no longer exist and ovens for bread, an activity which also ceased to exist. Each courtyard has its vines, ornamental trees and abundant flowers.

The cafeteria of the village in the Upper Agora is a unique example of architecture and work of the "pelicans" of the village (special craftsmen for carving). It was built by Efstratios Chatzimanolakis, who was a renowned principal man of the village before the liberation of the island from the Turks.

The settlement of Vasilika is also famous for the magnesite mines, which today are not in use and for the pine forest, "Pyrrion Oros" or "Pitiodes", as it is called by Theophrastus.

Lisvori

Lisvori is 42 km away from Mytilene and it is on the same direction to Polichnitos. The facades of the village houses, as well as of the old cafes and other shops of the village are built with a local mild type of stone, which is carved, brown, pink and white and they have large porch windows and stone arches.

In the "Bouglou soukats", another neighborhood of the village, there lies the Prokopiou's mansion. Here the art of stone sculpture has given a masterful decoration. The same stone has been carved here too in Ionic capitals, acanthus leaves, flakes and rosettes.

The church of the village is devoted to the decapitation of St. John the Baptist, and was built in the middle of the 19th century.

Its inhabitants are mainly occupied with the cultivation of the land. In this area the anise is also produced, which is an aromatic plant the seeds of which are used in the ouzo production. Onions, clovers and livestock products are also produced, while the rusks and bread, made from local grains, are also famous.

Asomatos

Asomatos is located 22 kilometres west of Mytilene on the way to Agiasos. It is a mountainous village at an altitude of 301 meters from the sea, at the foot of Mount Olympus. As it is hidden in the olive trees, the village still preserves the features of traditional architecture.

Strolling through the cobbled streets, the visitor can admire the stone houses, the beautiful marble fountains, the picturesque cafes with

the vines, the reverently chapels and overall you can admire a genuine atmosphere but at the same time different from that of a bustling city. In addition there are two oil mills and also a flour mill.

The church of the village is a three-aisled basilica and is honoured on the 8th November, when it is the celebration of the "Pamegiston" Archangels, Michael and Gabriel. In the courtyard of the church you can find the ecclesiastical – folk Museum of the village.

Near Asomatos is the area of "Agioi Anargyroi". It is a place tucked in plane trees, pines and walnut trees, with cool waters flowing among them, shady spots and chirping birds all over the place and picturesque cafes which can offer relaxing moments to the visitors.

Palaiohori

Palaiohori is located in the wider area of Plomari. As its name testifies (palaios means old), it is among the oldest villages in the region. At the beginning it was built at the site Melinda, but the pirates drove the residents away to the location Apethamenes and then to the inaccessible area of Prionas. Prionas is in the north side, so living there is difficult. So when the danger from pirates disappeared, the residents moved to the current position of the village, Merina, in 1817, as the "Fountain of Merina" informs us.

The houses of the village are attached to one other, built like castle walls to make the defense more effective against any danger. The floor of the buildings is usually constructed from a light wooden structure or masonry lined with wooden planks, which follows the outline of the building or protrude from it ("sachnisi").

Akrasi

It is located 17.5 km northwest of Plomari. It was firstly inhabited at the beginning of the 19th century by the Sotirhos family.

The village is built on a small hill. The building starts from the foothills and reaches the top, where there is a fairly spacious square with the church, the cafes and the Community Office. The school is located at the southwest end of the village, which now houses the cultural center and the museum. The oil mill, the largest building of the village, is also there. Some old houses in the village – among the few old ones that still exist –do not have tiles on their roof but they have white soil instead. The cobbled streets of the village is yet another traditional feature.

Neohori

The settlement is located 17 km from Plomari. It is built on a steep green slope of olive trees and orchards with water splashing from the patios and courtyards of the houses.

The stone houses with tiled roofs lie on a steep hillside. The alternation of their vivid colours is impressive. The floor of the buildings can be constructed from a light wooden construction or masonry lined with wooden planks, which will follow the outline of the building or protrude from it (“sachnisi”).

The churches of St. Catherine, a three-aisled basilica, built in 1841 and Saints Constantine and Eleni, built in 1951, are worth the visitor’s attention. Outside the village, literally nestled among the olive trees, lies the elementary school. It was built in 1931 and it is large with a monumental entrance having a pediment, carved scenes, and capitals of light and brown stone.

Megalohori

The name of the settlement reveals that it used to be once the largest village in the area of Plomari. It is also called "old Plomari" since almost all of its population moved to Plomari in the mid-19th century. It was frequently called the "Burnt Village", as it was burned three times by pirates and some other time by arsonists (1843).

In the village one can encounter buildings with eclectic influences. After the first houses of the settlement, you see the church of St. John and the paved square with the tall plane tree, the walnut trees and the traditional coffee shops. The church was built in 1795, while the temple is carved, as well as the temple of Panagia, the other large church of the village. The church is dedicated to the Transfiguration of the Savior, but the villagers also honour the grace of Virgin Mary in it. It is built in 1765 and on the carved temple there are scenes from the Bible. A certain part of the temple has been stolen, that of the snake from Adam and Eve's scene.

Almost in the centre of the village lies the monument of the teacher Veniamin from Lesvos. To honour him the "Veniamineia" (local cultural events) are held annually, both in Megalohori and Plomari.

Ampeliko

Ambeliko is built on the outskirts of Mt Olympus and it is 38 km from the city of Mytilene. The oldest name of the village was Vaccheon and the inhabitants' occupations were viticulture and resin collection from pine trees. Today the permanent residents are exclusively engaged in cultivating olive trees. Throughout the village there are paved alleys leading to the south, where there is the Heroes' Monument and

the church, which the priest has renewed with great love and passion. Opposite the church there is a folk museum with objects that were used by the old residents and an ecclesiastical collection, as well as one regarding the resin.

In the center of Ampeliko in a prominent position lies the Gatelouzos medieval tower (15th century), which is 26 meters high. From these towers people were warned with torches of the danger from pirates, and the girls had the time to leave and find shelter in "tsamlikia" (forested areas that served as shelters).

Plomari

The present city of Plomari began to be built at the estuary of a small delta of Sedundas River.

The specific character of the architectural forms in Plomari is a function on the one hand, of the narrow space, which was initially confined to the small delta of the river and to the two narrow strips parallel to its banks, and on the other hand, of the composition of the population, in which we clearly distinguish two different groups: a) the oldest one, for which there are indications that it originates from Asia Minor and b) the youngest one consisting of islanders of the Cyclades mainly, who arrived in Plomari to work as sailors and craftsmen.

Thus, in Plomari we can still see a special colour, both in the neighbourhood of sailors, the "Tarsana", along the beach, and in the mansion district, following the market street. There, the large urban houses with their glass - fronted balconies on the road and their back sides directly facing the river constitute a special scenery.

The lack of space has led to the construction of houses without an external courtyard and to the arrangement of the rooms and their

fittings often on three floors. A noteworthy characteristic is the construction of protrusions of the second floor or the last two floors with arches based on stone corbels, a technically difficult construction that is not found in other villages or cities of Lesvos.

Olive oil mills, soap factories, old ouzo distilleries, as well as its beautiful location make Plomari a settlement of natural beauty and special interest.

Mantamados

At a distance of 38 km in the north of Mytilene lies Mantamados, known throughout the country for the monastery of Taxiarchis, for its great and significant tradition in the art of ceramics, as well as for its dairy products.

Mantamados was created by the merging of several coastal settlements of the region. Because of the pirates' repeated raids during Middle Ages, the inhabitants were forced to abandon these exquisite coastal areas, where they lived with fishing, livestock and pottery. They settled around the sacred and miraculous pilgrimage of Taxiarchis, known even then, in the area "Palaios Arhistratigos" (old Commander), where there are remnants of ruins of the first small temple.

Its traditional architecture, picturesque alleys and cobbled streets make the settlement of an exceptional beauty. In the square of the village, there is another beautiful church, that of Agios Vasilios, with woodcut temple constructed in 1750.

With the participation of all the inhabitants of Mantamados, the first community oil factory was built in 1909, called "mihani agiou"

(machine of saints), a big and rare project for that time. Nowadays it is Mantamados Polykentro cultural center.

Agia Paraskevi

Agia Paraskevi is a lowland town located in the center of the island, north of the Bay of Kalloni, at an altitude of 100 meters.

The village is built in a basin, surrounded by low mountains planted with olive trees and small bare hills. Almost all of the settlement consists of rural and urban houses built with the traditional architecture of Lesvos.

The houses with a flat floor (doma) are quite characteristic. Their cornice is a series of stone plates with small protrusion from the wall. The courtyards of the houses are paved, having their front door, the bench around the vine and a niche with a pot on the wall.

The school building, the town hall and the church are also worth seeing. At the entrance of the village there are old industrial buildings, mainly mills. One of them has been restored and houses an exceptional industrial museum, the Museum of Industrial Olive-Oil Production of Lesvos. Agia Paraskevi has traditional coffee shops and picturesque grocery stores, which a visitor should certainly “explore”.

Municipality of Yera

The villages of Mesagros, Skopelos, Palaiokipos, Pappados, Plakados and Perama make up the region of Yera. In these villages we will meet cottages, neoclassical majestic mansions, traditional houses on mountain slopes, but they are all in harmony with the natural environment. They present with resistance over time all the

architectural changes the island has undergone. It is no coincidence that in this region even the Nobel laureate Odysseus Elytis chose to spend his summers.

In Pappados with the splendid picturesque mansions, the Vranas mansion stands out for its beauty and history. It is where the Nobel laureate poet Odysseus Elytis' mother lived, and today it is the Town hall.

The village of Mesagros with its ruined mosque is in a short distance. Only the minaret has remained intact and it is quite impressive that the Christian cross is distinguished within its crescent. Other famous sights are also the temple of Zoodochos Pigi (with half of it made of wood and the other half of marble) and the oven with the fresco of the famous painter Theofilus, depicting scenes from the production of bread.

In Skopelos, the largest village of Yera, the square with the plane trees and the marble fountain are really impressive. Skopelos is also known for its "Magdalini's Lagoumia", the long early Christian catacombs located under the Church of St. Magdalene. The area is located at the foot of Karona, a green mountain that is ideal for hiking with views of the Gulf of Yera.

The Church of St. Ermollaos with its wooden temple stands in Palaiokipos. In Evriaki there is an organized beach and several complexes of rooms to rent, as well as a lot of restaurants. A rural road starts from Plakado, the smallest village of Yera, that leads to "Soroko", a beautiful forest area with amazing view.

Perama is the port of Yera, and for years it has been the commercial center of the area. It is connected by ferry to the opposite coast of Kountouroudia.

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