



जुम्ला मान्छेको बल, ठिनी देवताको बल

THINI VILLAGE



THINI (ठनी)

A Settlement Study of Thini Village, Mustang

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This publication documents the settlement study conducted in Thini Village, Mustang, by the students of the Department of Architecture, Pokhara Engineering College, as part of the academic curriculum of Pokhara University.

The purpose of this publication is to share our understanding and documentation of Thini Village through architectural and settlement studies. It brings together the village's physical setting, traditional architecture, culture, landscape, and everyday life, as observed during our field visit. We hope that this magazine is a valuable document of our learning journey and a unique introduction to the Thini Village for students, educators and all who seek to learn about the vernacular architecture of Nepal.

All the photographs, drawings, maps, diagrams, and written content included in this publication were produced during the Settlement Study conducted from May (23-28) 2026 by the students of the Department of Architecture, Pokhara Engineering College, Pokhara University. This work is the outcome of the field measurements, interviews, observations, documentation, and academic research conducted during the study.

This is the academic documentation of Pokhara Engineering College's Department of Architecture. It reflects the collective efforts of the students and faculty members who participated in the settlement study and aims to contribute to the documentation and appreciation of Nepal's vernacular settlements.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the people of Thini Village for their warm hospitality, generous support, and willingness to share their knowledge and experiences with us. We are equally thankful to our faculty members and Pokhara Engineering College for their continuous guidance and encouragement throughout this settlement study.

Front Cover: Thini Village House, Mustang, Nepal, 2026

Back Cover: Painting Collage of Thini Surroundings, 2026



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01 DISCOVERING THINI

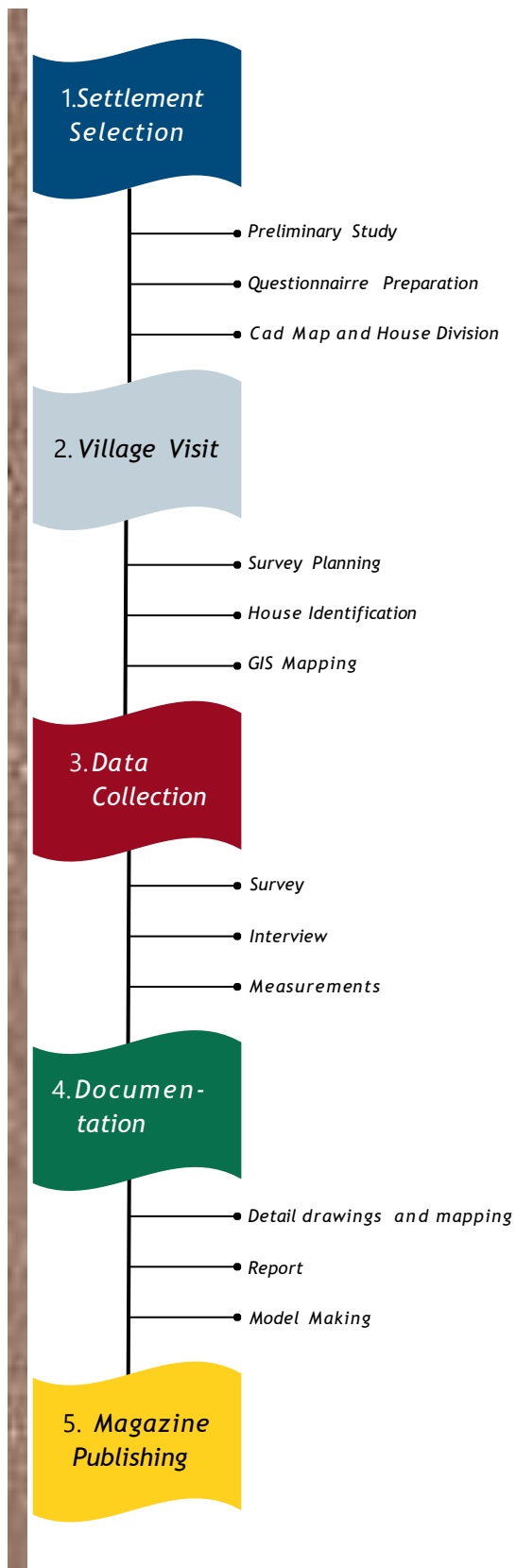
A JOURNEY INTO THE VILLAGE

- 1.How it all Began
- 2.Arrival in Mustang
- 3.The Village Above the Kali Gandaki
- 4.Why Thini?



Panoramic View of Thini Village, Ar. Manish Krishna Barun, 2026

HOW IT ALL BEGAN



Every settlement study begins long before setting foot in the village. Our journey to Thini Village, Mustang, started at Pokhara Engineering College, where we explored available literature, maps, and other reference materials. At the same time, survey questionnaires were prepared, CAD maps were organized, and houses were numbered to make the fieldwork more systematic. This preparation gave us a clear direction before heading into the field.

With the groundwork complete, we travelled to Thini and began exploring the village firsthand. The settlement was divided into different sectors, houses were identified for documentation, and GIS mapping helped us understand the overall layout of the village. Walking through its streets and open spaces allowed us to become familiar with the settlement before beginning detailed documentation.

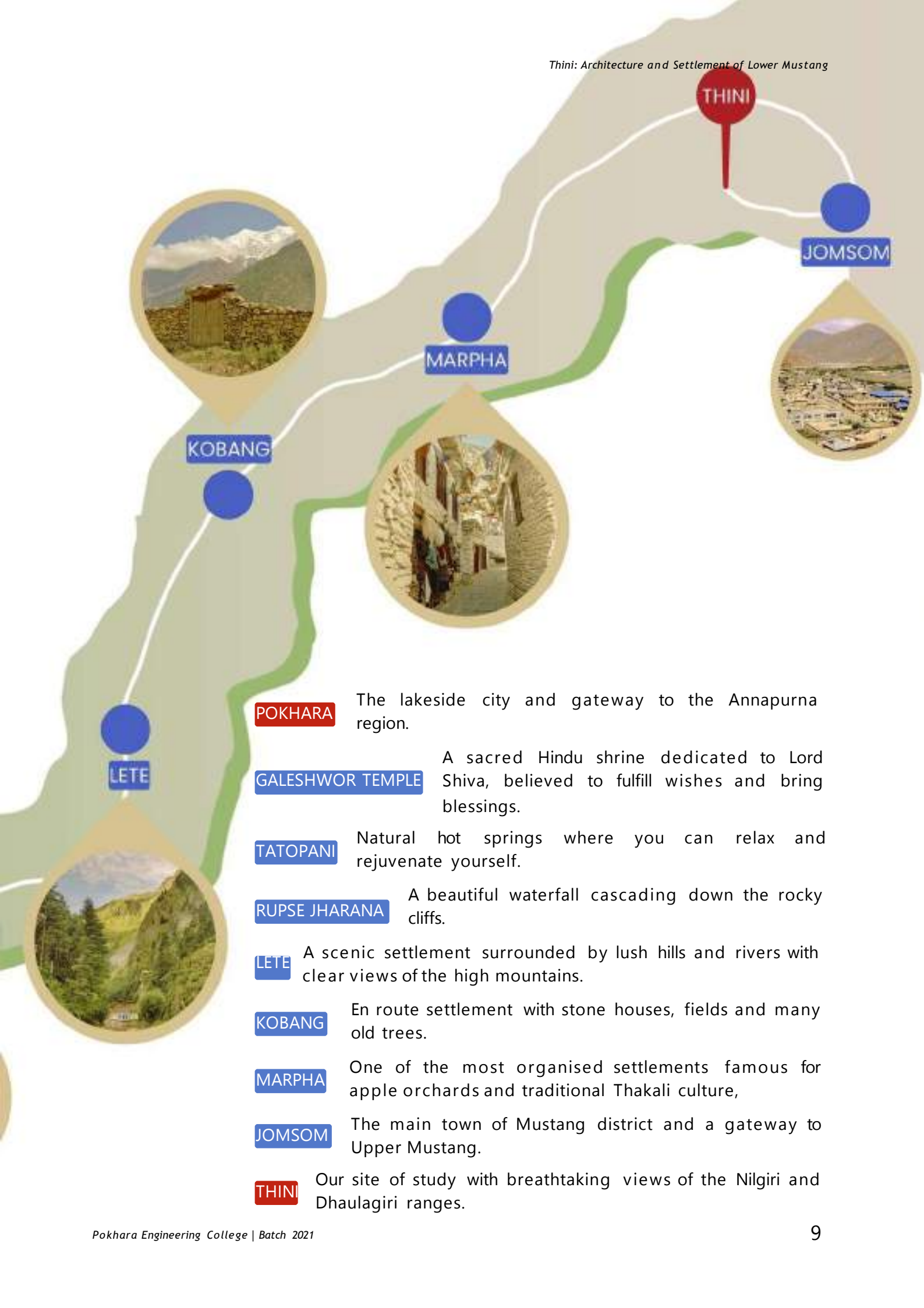
The most interesting aspect of the study was the fieldwork. We measured houses, conducted surveys and interviews, and documented the village through sketches and photographs. Every conversation and observation deepened our understanding of Thini's architecture, culture, and everyday life.

After returning to the college, the field records were transformed into architectural drawings, maps, reports, and presentation materials. This magazine is the final outcome of that journey, bringing together our drawings, photographs, maps, and experiences while celebrating the unique architectural and cultural heritage of Thini Village.

ARRIVAL IN MUSTANG

We began our trip from Pokhara early in the morning by bus. The road followed the Kali Gandaki corridor, passing places like Galeshwor, Tatopani, Rupse Jharana, Lete, Kalopani, Kobang, Larjung and Marpha before reaching Jomsom. From Jomsom, it was a short uphill drive to Thini Village. During the journey, we saw the landscape gradually change from green hills to the dry terrain of Mustang. The trip took almost a full day, but it gave us a good first impression of the region before arriving at the settlement.





POKHARA

The lakeside city and gateway to the Annapurna region.

GALESHWOR TEMPLE

A sacred Hindu shrine dedicated to Lord Shiva, believed to fulfill wishes and bring blessings.

TATOPANI

Natural hot springs where you can relax and rejuvenate yourself.

RUPSE JHARANA

A beautiful waterfall cascading down the rocky cliffs.

LETE

A scenic settlement surrounded by lush hills and rivers with clear views of the high mountains.

KOBANG

En route settlement with stone houses, fields and many old trees.

MARPHA

One of the most organised settlements famous for apple orchards and traditional Thakali culture,

JOMSOM

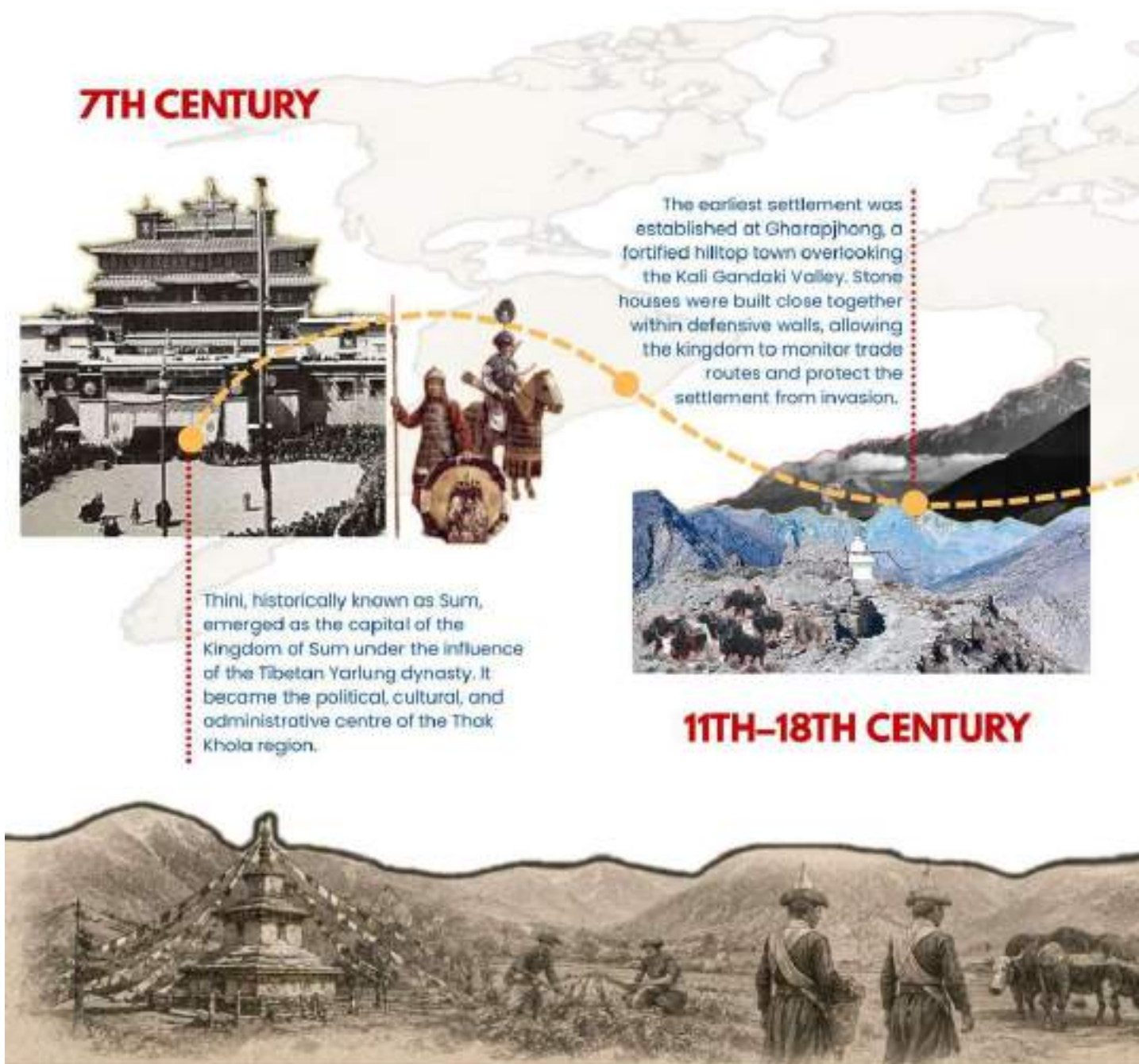
The main town of Mustang district and a gateway to Upper Mustang.

THINI

Our site of study with breathtaking views of the Nilgiri and Dhaulagiri ranges.

THE VILLAGE ABOVE KALI GANDAKI

One of the most fascinating parts of our settlement study was discovering that Thini is much more than the quiet village we see today. As we explored its streets, spoke with the local people, and learned about its past, we found the story of an ancient kingdom that once ruled the valley from the hilltop fortress of Gharapjhong. Over the centuries, the settlement gradually moved to its present location, shaped by changing needs, trade, farming, and the surrounding landscape. Today, every stone lane, traditional house, and courtyard carries a small piece of that journey, reminding us that it is not only preserved in books but also in the village itself.



18TH-20TH CENTURY



Source: <https://greatmountainholidays.com/thini-village-homestay-mustang>

Thini continues to preserve much of its traditional character. Stone masonry, mud plaster, timber windows, and flat roofs while newer materials have been introduced over time. Despite these changes, the village continues to reflect its history, culture, and connection to nature.



After Gorkha unification of Nepal, and the decline of regional conflicts, people moved to the present site of Thini, closer to water sources and agricultural land. Houses became larger and more open, often arranged around courtyards with space for livestock, storage, and family activities..



THINI TODAY



WHY THINI?

Every settlement has a story, but Thini stood out because it offered much more than beautiful mountain views. As one of the oldest villages in Lower Mustang, it carries a rich history, a unique cultural identity, and a well-preserved traditional settlement that continues to reflect the lifestyle of its people. It's stone houses, narrow lanes, open courtyards, and connection to the landscape made it an ideal place to study how architecture, culture, and everyday life have grown together over time. For us, Thini was not just a site to document but a place to experience and learn from.

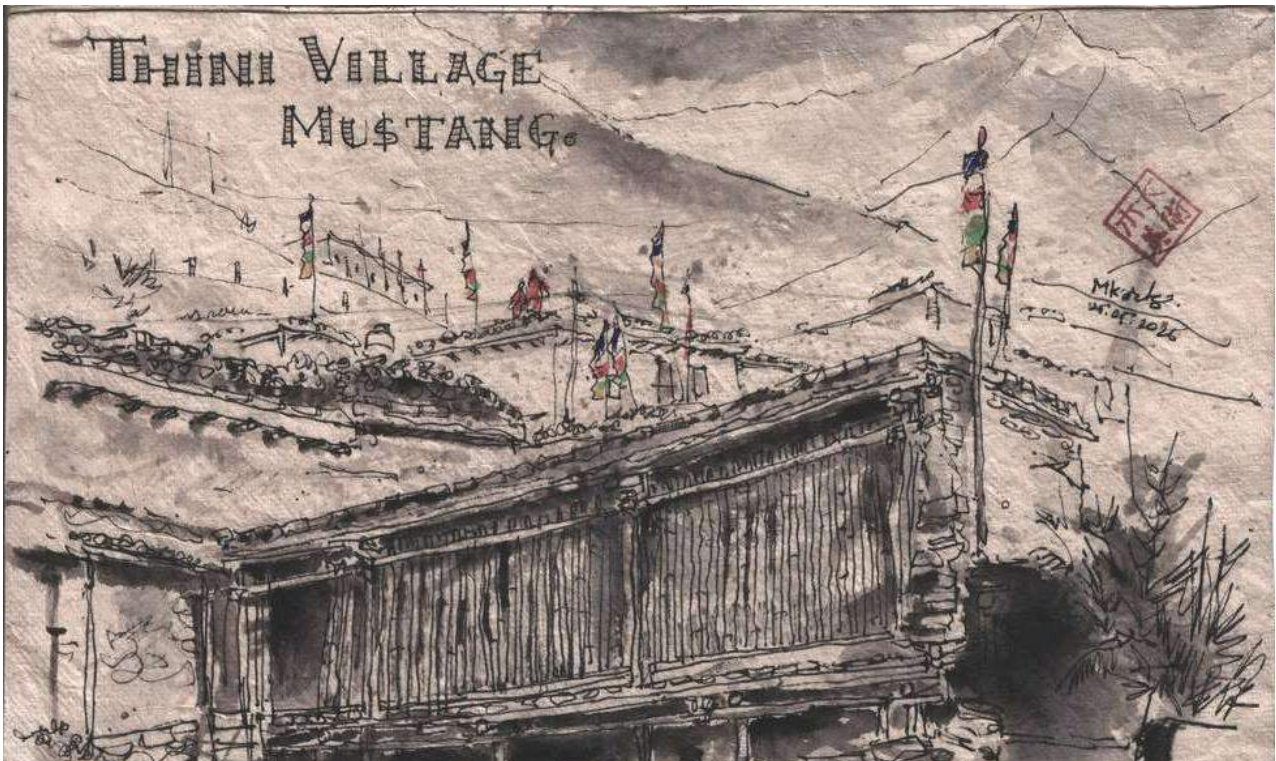


Source: <https://greatmountainholidays.com/thini-village-homestay-mustang>

02 READING THE LANDSCAPE

UNDERSTANDING THE PLACE

1. Geography, Climate & Environment
2. Water, Agriculture & Livelihood
3. Landscape Character



Vernacular House in the Mountain Landscape, Ar. Manish Krishna Barun, 2026

GEOGRAPHY



Thini is a traditional village in the lower Mustang region of Nepal, lying in the shadow of the Nilgiri Himal. It sits on a gentle rise to the south of Jomsom Bazaar and is one of the closest rural settlements to the district headquarter.



Administrative Location

Gharopjhung Rural
Municipality-5, Mustang
District



Proximity

2 km south of Jomsom



Coordinates

28°40'0" N Latitude
83°43'0" E Longitude



Elevations

Approx 2800 -3000 m

QUICK FACTS

High altitude cold desert
Trans-Himalayan region
Traditional settlement pattern
Close to trade route (Jomsom)

LANDSCAPE

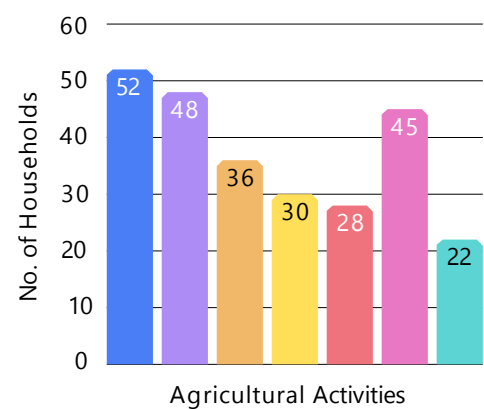


SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL CHARACTER

Season	Main Agricultural Production
❄ WINTER (Push–Falgun)	Apple plantation, potato, winter crop sowing.
🌱 SPRING (Chait–Jeth)	Vegetable cultivation.
☁ MONSOON (Asar–Bhadau)	Wheat, buckwheat, potato harvesting.
🍂 AUTUMN (Asoj–Mangsir)	Apple harvesting, buckwheat harvest, sowing wheat, barley etc.

- ♦ Primary livelihood: **Agriculture**
- ♦ Major economic activity: **Farming**
- ♦ Main crops: **Apples, Potatoes, Buckwheat & Barley**
- ♦ Farming type: **High-altitude mountain agriculture**

- Apple Cultivation
- Potato Cultivation
- Buckwheat Cultivation
- Barley Cultivation
- Beans/ Peas Cultivation
- Livestock rearing (Cattle, sheep...)
- Kitchen Gardening



CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT



CLIMATE

Cold Desert Climate

- ♦ High Altitude: (2,800–3,000 m)
- ♦ Trans-Himalayan Region

Warmest Month: July

- ♦ Daytime 15–27°C
- ♦ Night 7°C

Coldest month: January

- ♦ Daytime: 0–5°C
- ♦ Night: –10°C to –15°C



WIND

Daytime winds

- ♦ are very strong, often 15–20 m/s

Average annual wind speed

- ♦ 6.99 m/s

Night winds:

- ♦ less than 5 m/s



PRECIPITATION

- ♦ Changing Rainfall Patterns
- ♦ Reduced Snowfall
- ♦ Short Winter
- ♦ Less Accumulation

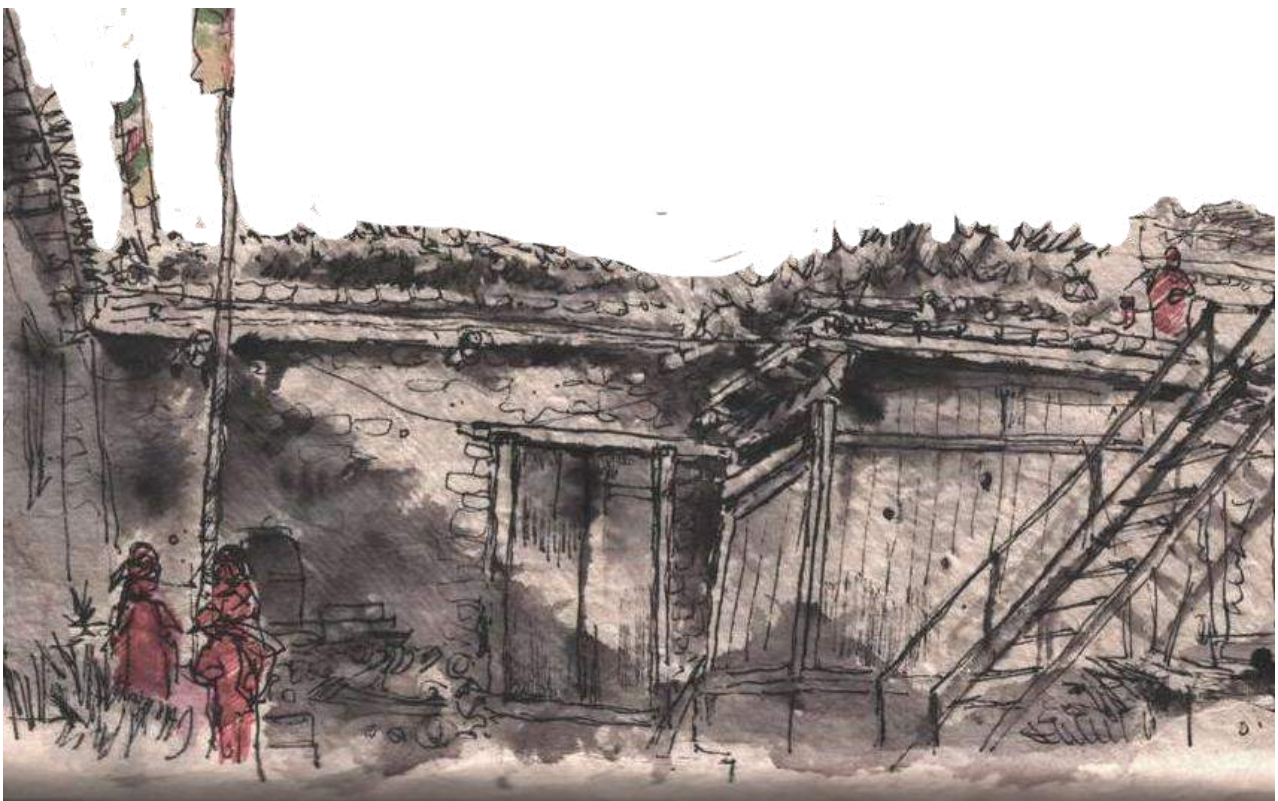




03 LIFE IN THINI

The people who shape the village

- 1.Culture & Traditions
- 2.Everyday Life
- 3.Voices of the Community



Life at a Homestay, Ar. Manish Krishna Barun, 2026

CULTURE AND TRADITIONS

Thini is more than just a Himalayan village; it is a place where culture is part of everyday life. Home to the Thakali community, the village has preserved its traditions, language, and customs for generations. Buddhism and the ancient Bon tradition continue to influence daily life, while monasteries and sacred shrines bring people together for both spiritual and community activities. Even as modern influences reach the village, Thini's rich cultural heritage remains at the heart of its identity.



EVERYDAY LIFE

Life in Thini begins early, with villagers working in apple orchards, potato fields, and caring for livestock. Farming remains the heart of daily life, while tourism, education, and small businesses are gradually becoming part of the local economy. Families share strong community bonds, with women actively managing homes and farms, while elders preserve traditions and pass on local knowledge. Evenings are spent with family, neighbours, and at religious spaces, making life in Thini a simple yet meaningful blend of hard work, togetherness, and cultural heritage.



VOICES OF THE COMMUNITY

The true spirit of Thini is reflected in its people and their strong sense of community.



Rooted in Land and Heritage

Farmers care for apple orchards, while elders keep local stories alive.



Festivals that bring us together

Festivals bring families and relatives back to the village each year.



Women leading the way

Women help organize cultural events and keep the village clean.



Never too far from home

Even if they move away for work or study, they come back to celebrate festivals with family and the village.



Source: <https://www.facebook.com/officialroutineofnepalbanda/posts/production-of-apple-is-good-this-year-in-manang-district-but-they-are-not-being-/5408396469193102/>

“People stay connected, respect traditions, and help each other, making Thini special.”



COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND SOCIAL HARMONY

What makes Thini special is how everyone comes together. People and local organizations work side by side to make the village a better place.



Source: <https://trekkingplus.com/trip/upper-mustang-trekking>

Working together for a stronger Thini



Aama Samuha



Youth Club



Farmers' Groups



Homestay
Committees



School Management
Committees

From lively festivals to greener public spaces, these groups work together to support farming, tourism, and village life.

Inclusion that strengthens Thini



Dalit families are an active part of village life, taking part in education, community decisions, and local activities.



Different communities work side by side to make Thini a better place for everyone.



It's the spirit of working together and caring for one another that keeps Thini united.

FOOD, DRESS AND LOCAL IDENTITY



Thakali khana set



Thakali khaja set

Source: <https://everestdine.co.nz/exploring-the-thakali-khana-set-at-everest-dine/>

Food and clothing in Thini reflect its rich Thakali culture and mountain lifestyle. Local meals are made with buckwheat, barley, potatoes, beans, and fresh vegetables, with the famous Thakali Khana Set being a local favourite. During festivals, families enjoy special foods like sel roti, puri, and homemade drinks. Traditional dress also remains an important part of the culture, with women wearing colourful Bhaku dresses and men wearing Daura Suruwal, bhangra and traditional caps on special occasions.



Thakali Dress

Source: <https://thehimalayantimes.com/multimedia/welcome-to-mustang-thakali-dress/>



Gurung Dress

Source: <https://himalayancultures.com/tag/gurung/>

The people of Thini still value simple, home-cooked meals and traditional clothing, keeping their customs alive from one generation to the next. These everyday traditions make the village unique and culturally rich.

FESTIVALS AND CELEBRATIONS



Festivals are a special part of life in Thini, bringing families and the community together to celebrate their culture and traditions. Major festivals like Tyungla (Thakali New Year), the Phala Festival, and the rare La Phewa festival are celebrated with prayers, traditional dances, feasts, and joyful gatherings. These events not only strengthen community bonds but also help keep Thini's unique heritage and customs alive for future generations.



Tyungla Festival (Thakali New Year)

Source:https://www.swotahtravel.com/up_per-mustang-tiji-festival/



Phala Festival (Celebrating Harvest and Prosperity)

Source:<https://kathmandupost.com/national/2024/08/30/traditional-falo-celebration-kicks-off-in-lower-mustang>



Yartung Festival (Horse Racing and Celebration)

Source:<https://langtang.com/trip/upper-mustang-yartung-festival-trek-17-day/>



La fewa Festival (Sacred 12 Year Festival)

Source:<https://www.nepalfootprinthead.com/blog/tiji-festival-mustang/>



Map of Thini indicating the profession of the house owner

LEGENDS OF BUILDING WITH PROFESSION

	AGRICULTURE & TOURISM
	AGRICULTURE
	AGRICULTURE & ANIMAL HUSBANDRY
	AGRICULTURE & GOVERNMENT JOB
	NOT-SPECIFIED
	AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & REMITTANCE

	REMITTANCE
	BUSINESS
	GOVERNMENT JOB
	AGRICULTURE & REMITTANCE
	AGRICULTURE & BUSINESS
	AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & GOVERNMENT JOB



Tourism

Image Source: Thakali Community Homestay Facebook Community Page



Animal Husbandry



Business

Source: https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1117266183780134&set=pb.100064902872054_-2207520000&type=3

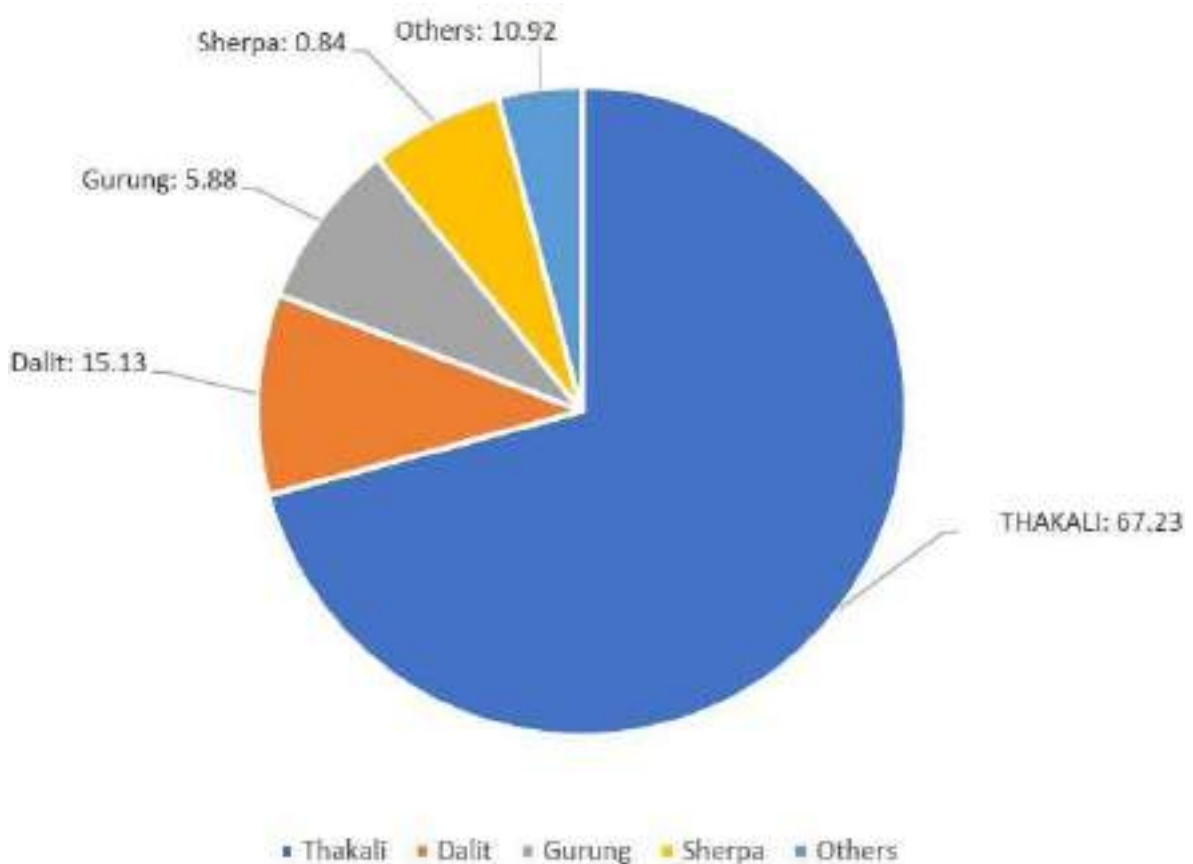


Agriculture

PEOPLE OF THINI

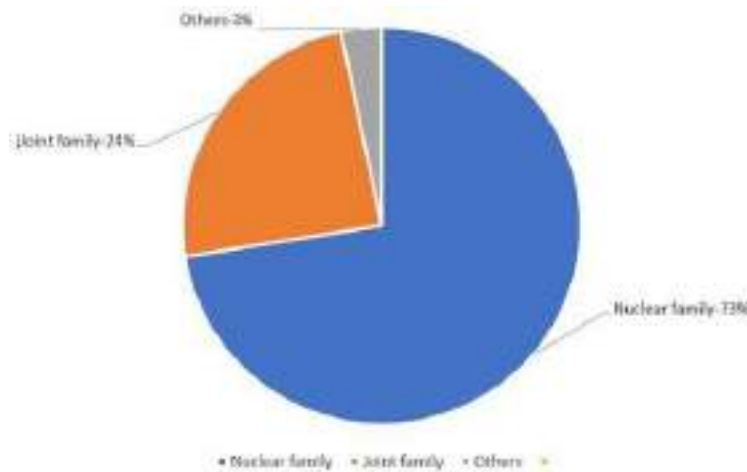
The population of Thini is predominantly Thakali, making up 67.23% of the residents. The Thakali community has long been known for its trading traditions, hospitality, and ability to adapt to the challenging Himalayan environment. Alongside them live Dalits (15.13%), Gurungs (5.88%), Sherpas (0.84%) and people from other ethnic groups (10.92%). This diversity has created a village where different cultures, traditions, and skills exist together while sharing the same mountain landscape.

Family life in Thini reflects changing social patterns. Today, 73% of households are nuclear families, while 24% continue to live in joint family systems, and the remaining 3% fall into other household arrangements. The shift towards smaller families reflects changing lifestyles, migration, and economic opportunities, yet strong family ties and community support remain an important part of village life. Thini has a total population of approximately 513, mostly Thakalis. (Rai, 2083)



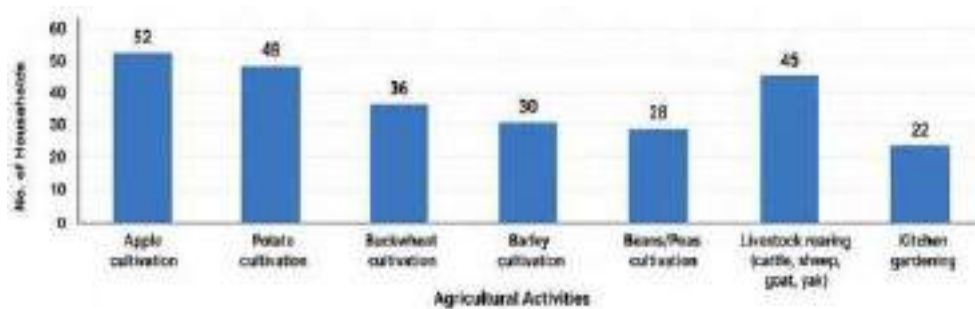
Population Composition by Ethnicity Group

The family structure of Thimi Village is predominantly characterized by nuclear families, accounting for 73% of households, followed by joint families at 24%, while other family arrangements represent only 3%.



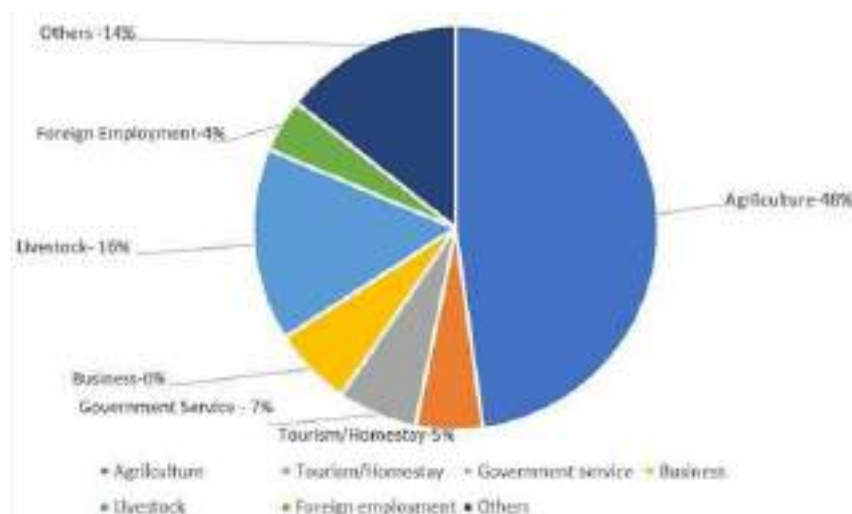
Family System of Thini Village

Apple cultivation leads with 52 households, followed by potato (48), livestock (45), buckwheat (36), barley (30), beans/peas (28), and kitchen gardening (22).



Households by Agricultural Activities

Agriculture dominates household income at 48%, followed by livestock at 16% and other sources at 14%, with services, tourism, business, and foreign employment making up the remainder.



Major Household Income Sources

04 THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

ARCHITECTURE ROOTED IN PLACE

- 1.Settlement Pattern & Public Spaces
- 2.Traditional Houses & Building Typology



Architectural Details of Thini Village, Ar. Manish Krishna Barun, 2026

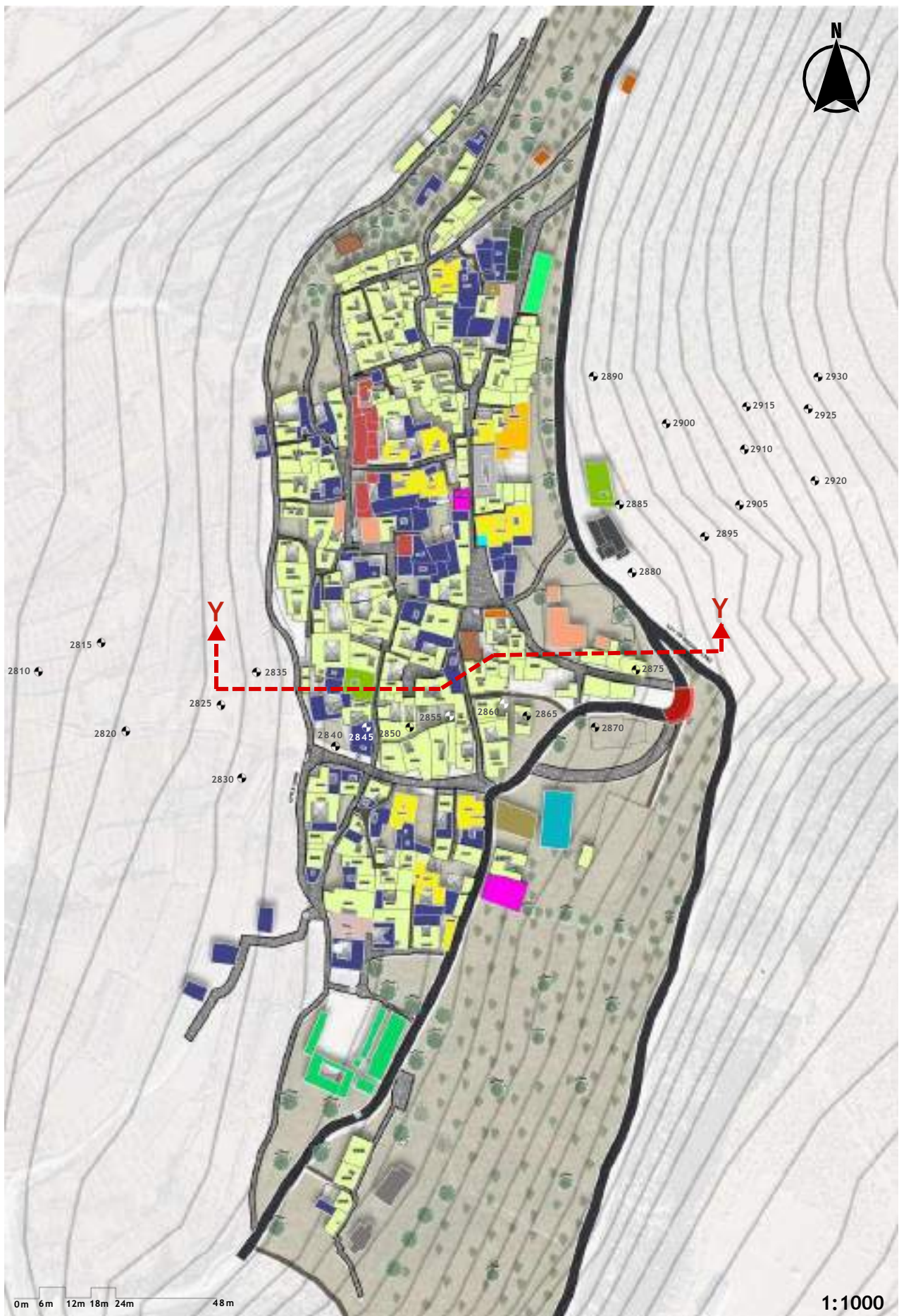
SETTLEMENT PATTERN & PUBLIC SPACES

Thini Village has a compact settlement pattern, with houses closely clustered together and connected by narrow lanes that follow the natural slope of the land. Surrounded by agricultural fields and dramatic mountain landscapes, the village reflects a strong relationship between people, place, and nature. Its dense layout not only responds to the harsh climate but also encourages everyday social interaction.

Public spaces are woven into village life through temple courtyards, community spaces, open grounds, and informal gathering spots along the streets. Facilities such as the school, ward office, museum, and volleyball court serve as important social hubs, making these shared spaces central to both cultural traditions and daily activities.



Source: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/789655397877858/posts/1000589256784470/>



Masterplan of Thini Village

LEGENDS

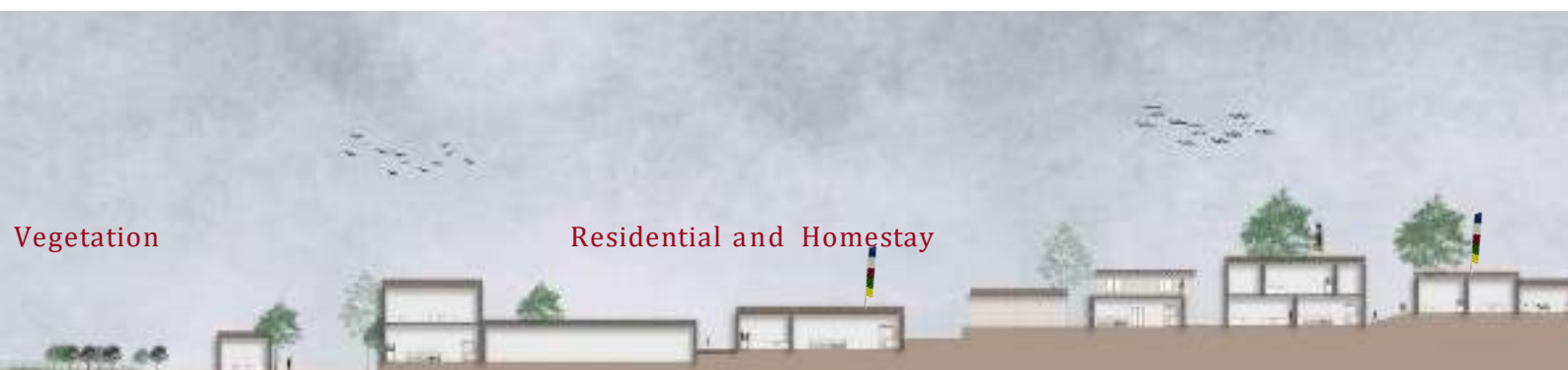
	RESIDENCE		OPEN SPACE
	HOMESTAY		FURNITURE WORKSHOP
	STORAGE		PRIMARY STREET
	SHOP		SECONDARY STREET
	SWAYAM SEVIKA		MAIN ROAD
	GOTH		SCHOOL
	DURBAR		WARD OFFICE
	VOLLEYBALL COURT		ABANDONED
	POULTRY		COMMUNITY HALL
	TEMPLE		MUSEUM
	COW HUSBANDRY		SAMAJ GHAR
	HEALTH POST		HOTEL
	MONASTERY		ARCHERY
	YOUTH CLUB		CULVERT



Source: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/789655397877858/posts/1000589256784470/>

ARCHITECTURE IN SECTION

The village grows vertically with the slope. Service spaces and livestock shelters at lower levels, while living spaces rise above, creating a resilient terraced settlement.





BUILDING ELEMENTS OF VERNACULAR DESIGN

THICK STONE MASONRY WALLS

Walking through Thini Village, thick stone masonry walls are seen in almost every house. Built with locally available stone, these walls give the settlement a strong and timeless character while providing excellent protection against the cold climate and strong mountain winds.



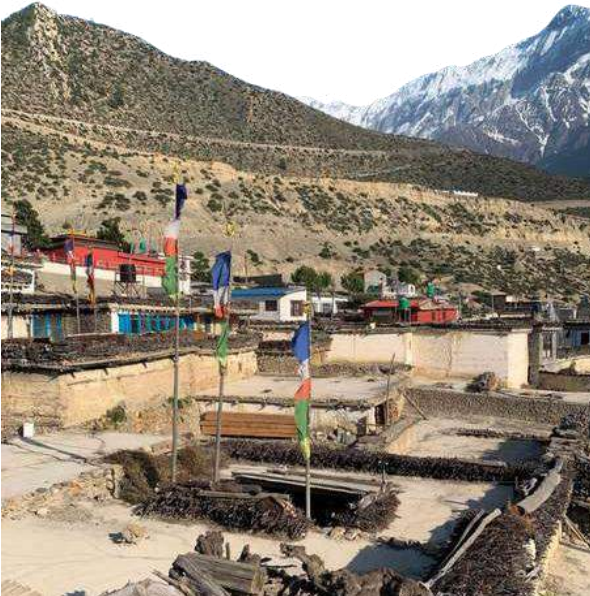
WHITEWASHED EXTERIOR WALLS

Stone walls are first coated with breathable mud plaster, improving insulation while protecting the masonry. A final finish of lime or clay whitewash reflects the harsh mountain sun, enhances durability, and gives Thini its bright, unified vernacular character.

TIMBER STRUCTURAL FRAME

Hidden within the stone walls, a timber skeleton quietly supports the village. Beams, columns, and lintels provide strength, flexibility, and warmth, balancing the weight of the earthen roof with the resilience of traditional craftsmanship.





FLAT EARTHEN ROOF

Resting on a timber framework, the flat earthen roof is an extension of everyday life. Used for drying crops, storing firewood, and daily activities, it responds naturally to Mustang's dry climate while reinforcing the village's simple, functional architecture.

SMALL DEEP-SET WINDOWS

Small timber-framed windows are carefully proportioned to retain warmth and reduce exposure to the harsh Himalayan winds. Set deep within the thick stone walls, they enhance thermal performance while framing selective views of the surrounding landscape.



WOODEN ENTRANCE DOOR

Solid timber doors with handcrafted details mark the entrance to each home. They provide security while showcasing the traditional woodworking skills of the Thakali community.



Map of Thini indicating the building typology

LEGENDS OF BUILDING WITH TYPOLOGY

-  STONE MASONRY AND RAMMED EARTH
-  STONE MASONRY ON MUD MORTAR/PLASTER
-  RCC FRAMED WITH STONE MASONRY
-  STONE MASONRY ON CEMENT PLASTER
-  RAMMED EARTH STRUCTURE
-  RCC FRAMED, STONE MASONRY AND RAMMED EARTH STRUCTURE



Stone Masonry and Rammed Earth



RCC Framed with Stone Masonry



Stone Masonry on Mud Mortar

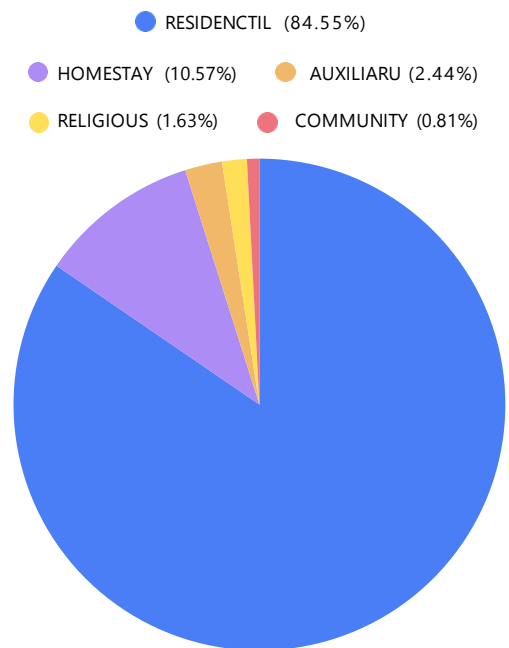


Rammed Earth Structure

THINI IN LAYERS

The buildings in Thini village reflect its character as a long-established and mainly residential settlement. Houses form the main part of the village fabric, while a few other building types support tourism, religious activities, and community needs. Thini consist of houses that are almost a decade old and yet standing strong.

As shown in the pie chart, residential buildings clearly dominate the settlement, with homestays forming the next noticeable building type. The smaller share of religious, community, and auxiliary buildings shows that these functions are present but are scattered within the largely residential setting.



The bar graph further shows that a large number of the surveyed buildings were built before 1980. The number gradually decreases in the later periods, with only a few recent constructions. Together, the two charts highlight Thini as a settlement where older residential buildings continue to shape the overall character and identity of the village.

BUILDING AGE

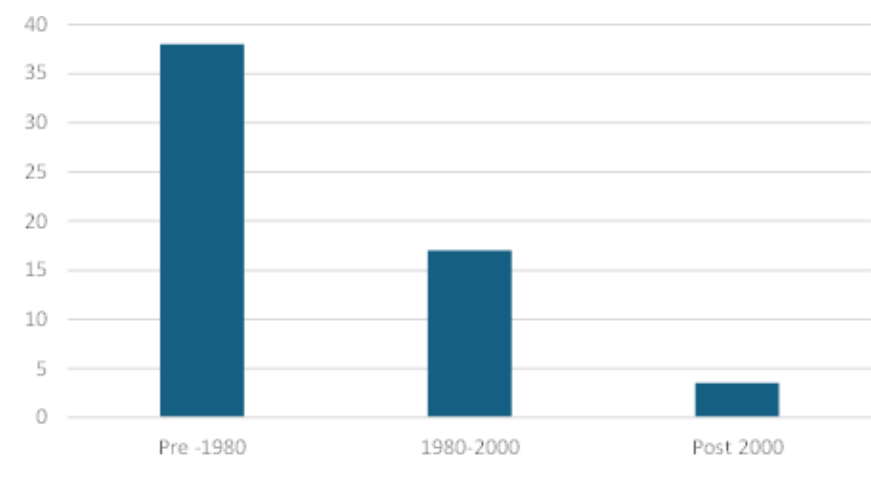


Fig: Classification of surveyed houses based on ages

The layout of houses in Thini village is closely connected to its streets and surrounding open spaces. Most houses face the road or street, while fewer are oriented towards courtyards or both spaces.

The block pattern shows one major block with a high concentration of houses, while the other blocks are much smaller. Most houses also follow a single-block arrangement, giving the settlement a clear and compact pattern shaped mainly by its streets.

HOUSES BY ORIENTATION

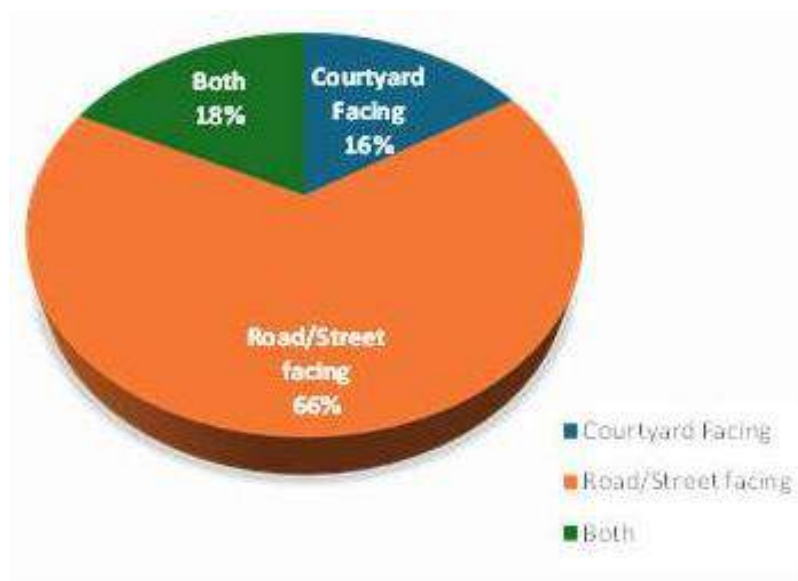


Fig: Chart showing orientation of houses

NO OF BLOCKS

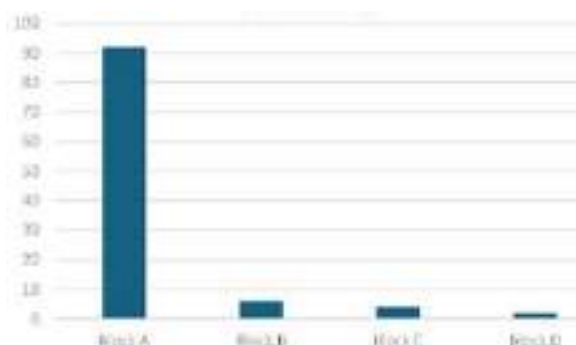


Fig: Chart showing number of different blocks types

NO OF BLOCKS

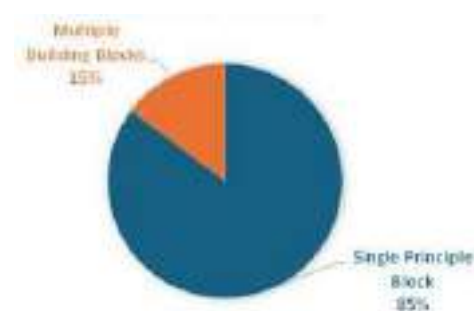


Fig: Chart showing classification of houses based on number of blocks

ROOF-EDGE FIREWOOD STORAGE

Stacks of firewood stored on rooftops ensure an adequate fuel supply for the long winter months. This practical feature also contributes to the characteristic skyline of Thini Village.



FIG: SECTIONAL SKETCH SHOWING COURTYARD OF HOUSE NO. 10/

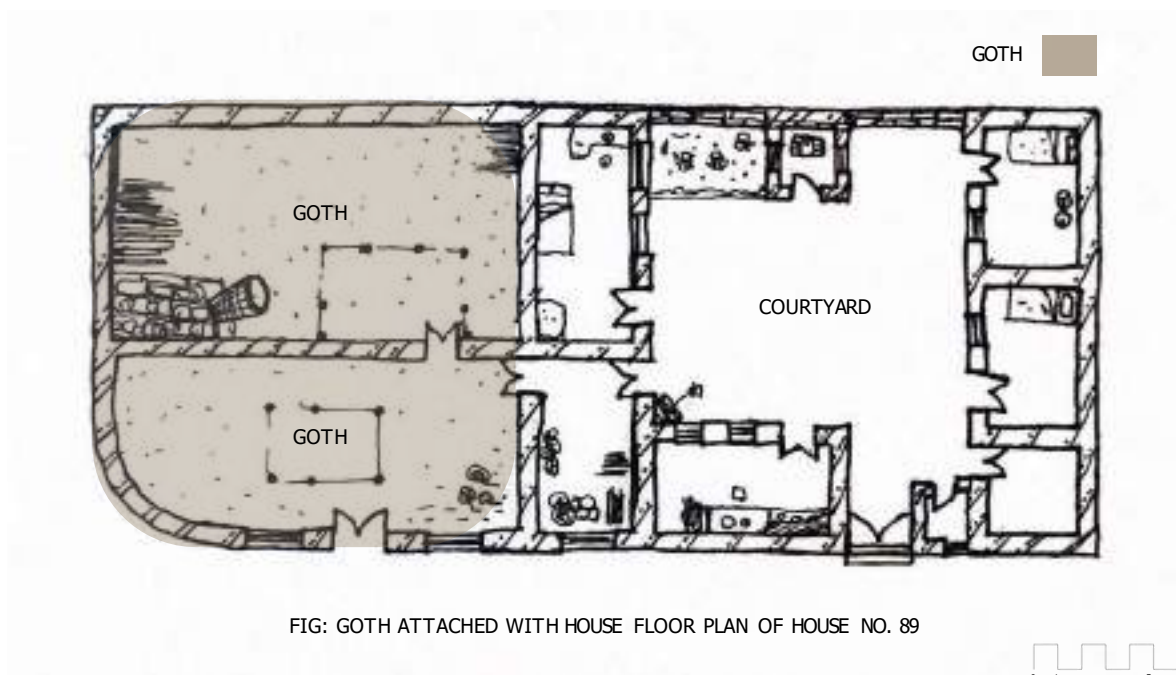
INTERNAL COURTYARD (CHHYANGRA)

The central courtyard acts as the heart of the house, providing space for family gatherings, food preparation, and everyday activities. It also improves natural lighting and ventilation throughout the dwelling.



GOTH (ANIMAL SHELTER)

The goth is a traditional livestock shelter central to the agro-pastoral lifestyle of the Thakali community. Built from locally sourced stone with a simple timber roof, it protects livestock from Mustang's harsh winds and cold climate while reflecting the village's resourceful vernacular architecture.



PRAYER ELEMENTS

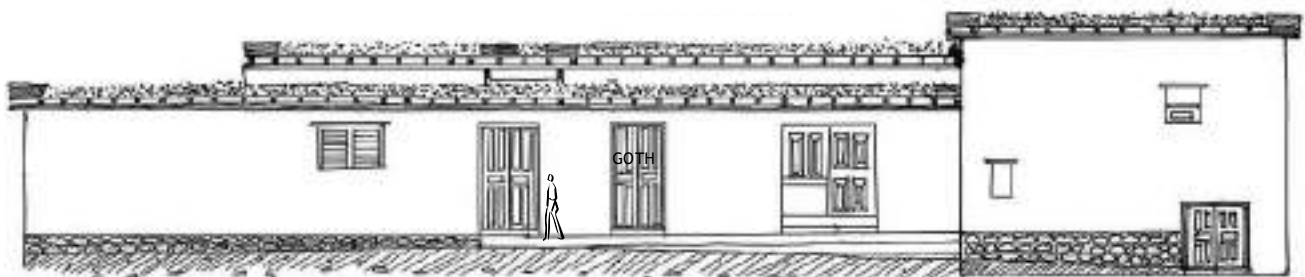
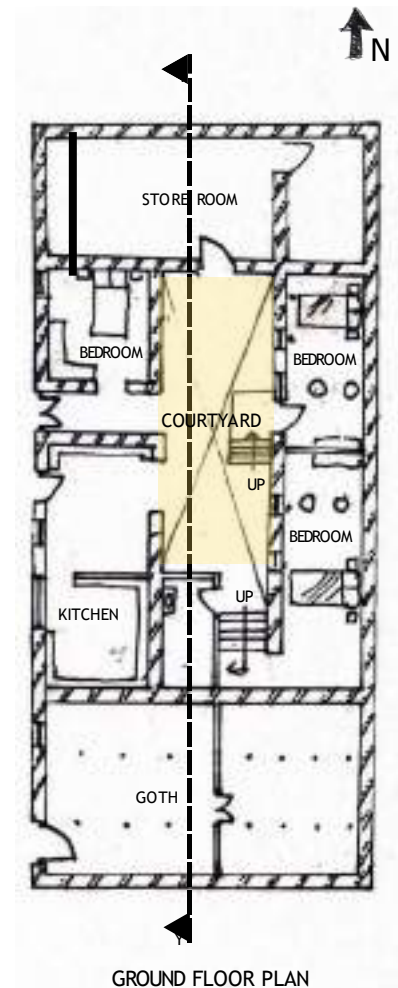
Prayer flags, shrines, and Buddhist symbols are woven into homes, streets, and public spaces, expressing the community's spiritual traditions. Together, they enrich the village with a strong sense of cultural identity and place.



LIVING TRADITIONS: HOUSE TYPOLOGIES OF THINI

HOUSE NO 33 - TRADITIONAL HOUSE TYPOLOGY

Over 200 years old, House No. 33 is a remarkable example of Thini's vernacular architecture. Built with local stone and timber, the two-storey dwelling reflects generations of climate-responsive design. Everyday living spaces occupy the lower floor, while the upper level houses a sacred shrine room and storage. An adjoining courtyard extends the home outdoors, supporting daily routines and community life while preserving the cultural essence of the Thakali settlement.





Traditional kitchen with timber ceiling



Traditional stone façade with timber roof overhang



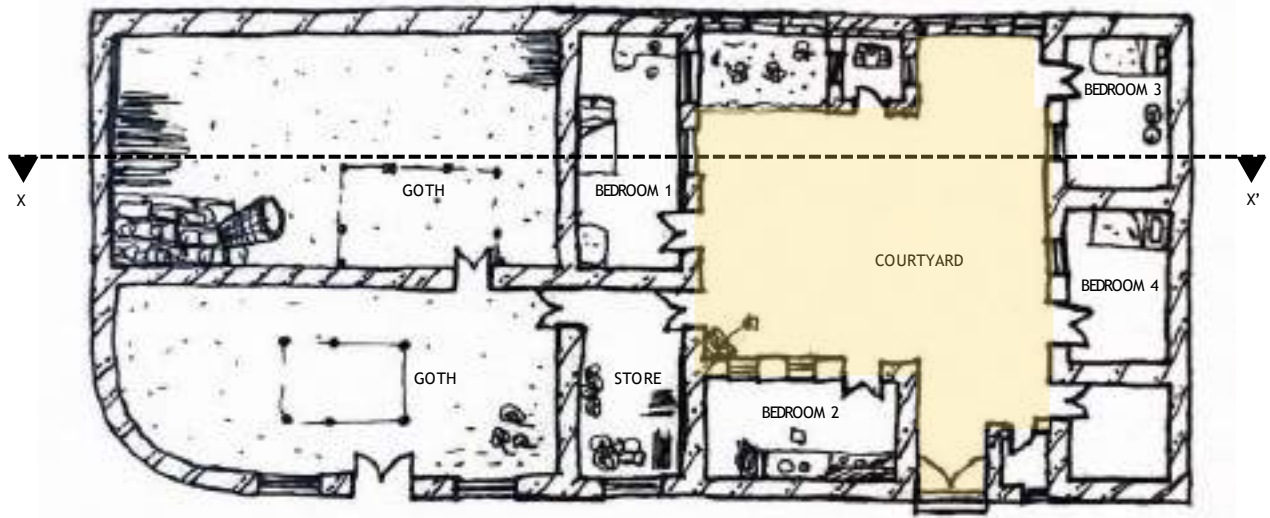
Main entrance to the livestock goth in a well-preserved 200-year-old Thini house.

HOUSE NO 89- TYPICAL SINGLE STOREY HOUSE TYPOLOGY

More than a house, this traditional single-storey Thini dwelling is a self-sustaining living environment shaped by the demands of Himalayan life. The compact layout integrates living spaces with an attached livestock goth, storage, a courtyard, and a productive kitchen garden, creating a seamless relationship between domestic life and agriculture. A hand-carved single-log timber staircase provides access to the roof, reflecting generations of local craftsmanship and indigenous building knowledge. Together, these elements illustrate how vernacular architecture in Thini balances functionality, resilience, and cultural identity through simple yet enduring design.



Panoramic view of traditional single-storey Thini dwelling reflecting the simplicity and resilience of Himalayan vernacular architecture.



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



FRONT ELEVATION

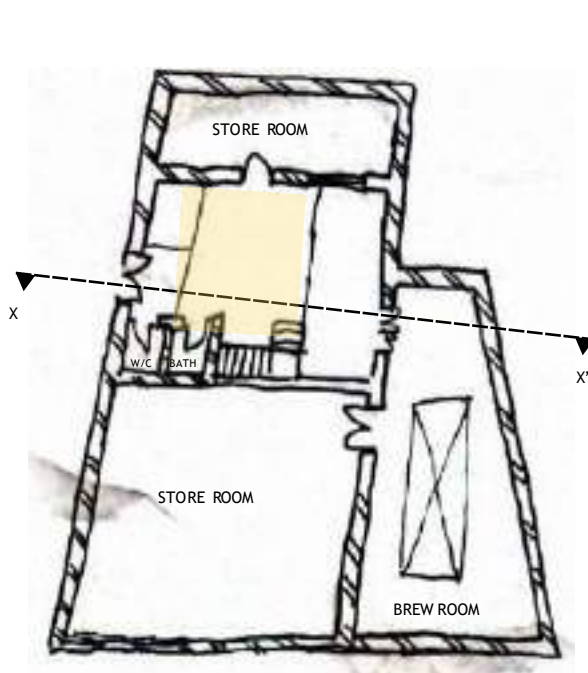


SECTION AT X-X'

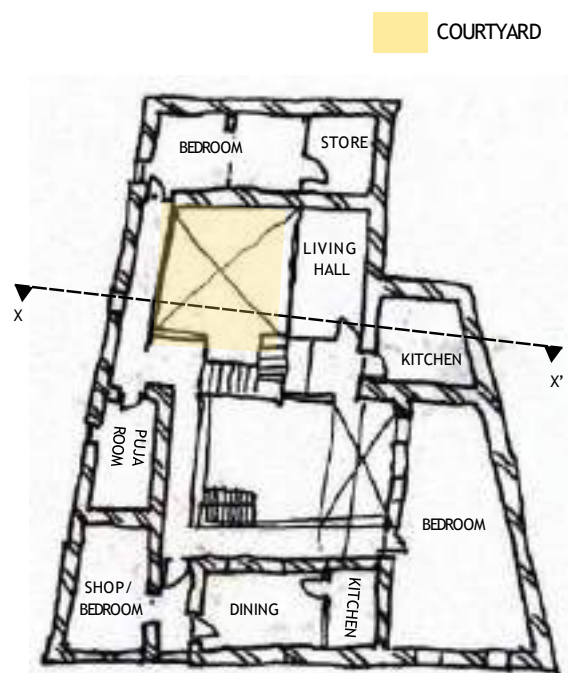


HOUSENO 38- TYPICAL DOUBLE STOREY TYPOLOGY

Shaped by the mountain climate, House No. 38 demonstrates a practical and climate-responsive double-storey layout. The ground floor accommodates the kitchen, storage spaces, and a traditional brew room, while the upper level contains four bedrooms, toilet facilities, and a sunroom. Filled with winter sunlight, the sunroom serves as the social heart of the house, providing warmth, comfort, and a gathering space during the colder months. This thoughtful vertical organization illustrates how generations of local builders adapted architecture to climate, creating homes that are both functional and resilient.

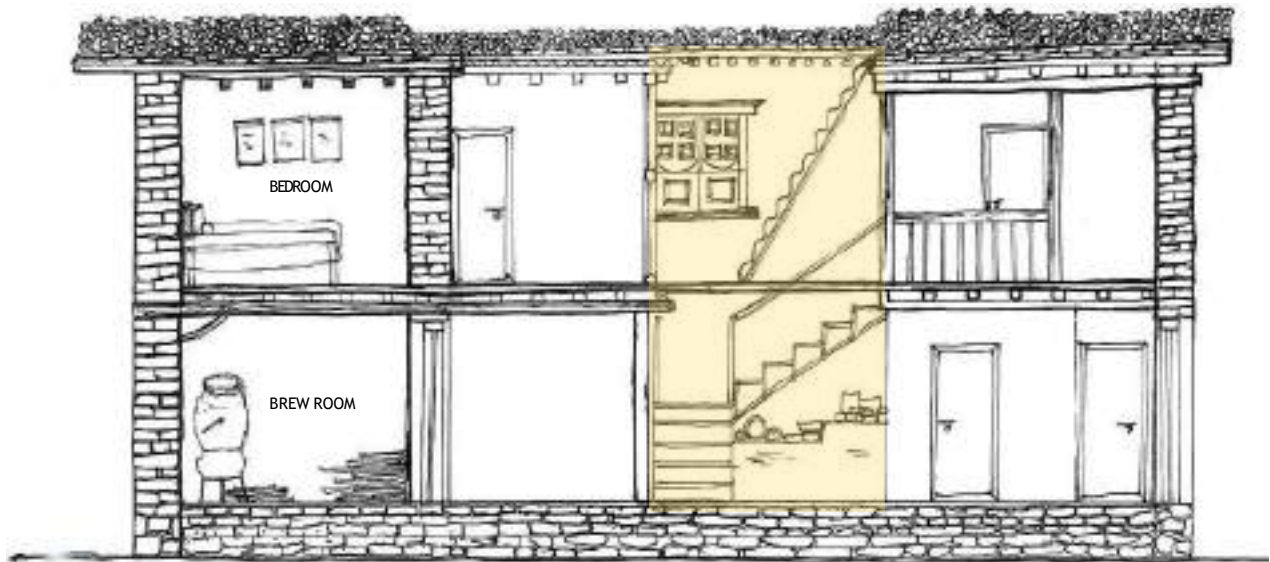


GROUND FLOOR PLAN



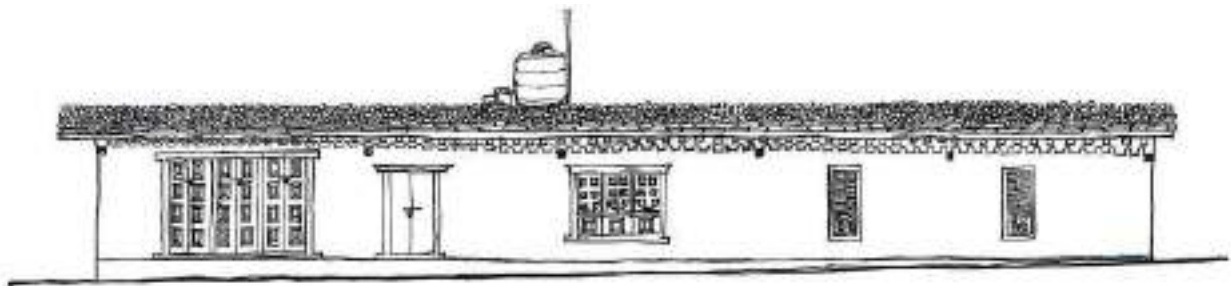
FIRST FLOOR PLAN





SECTION at x-x'

COURTYARD



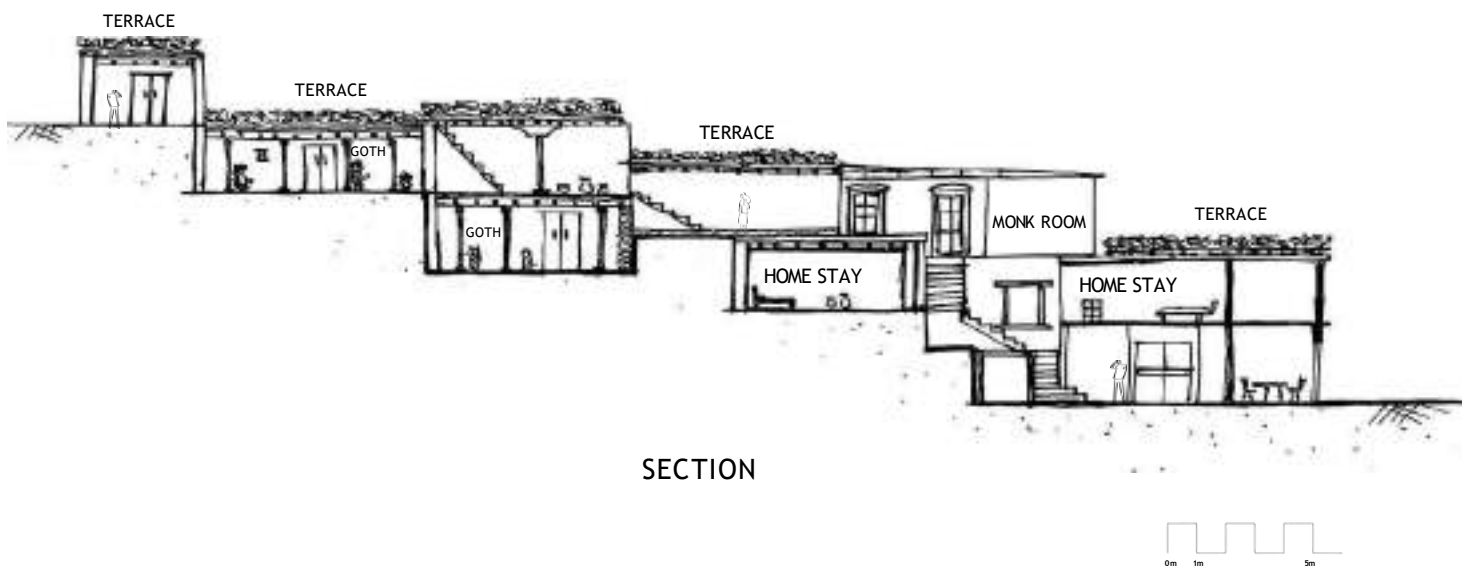
East Elevation



South Elevation



HOUSE NO 4: MULTI-STOREY HOUSE TYPOLOGY



Shaped by the slope, the section illustrates how traditional buildings in Thini are carefully embedded into the natural hillside, creating a stepped settlement that follows the mountain terrain. Each structure occupies successive terraces, allowing floor levels to respond naturally to changes in elevation while minimizing excavation. Lower levels are typically used for livestock goths, kitchens, storage, and other service spaces, reflecting the functional needs of everyday mountain life.

Upper floors accommodate family living areas, bedrooms, and, in some cases, homestays or monastic rooms. Narrow pathways and interconnected stairways link the terraced buildings, reinforcing the village's compact, pedestrian-oriented character. Constructed from rammed earth, stone masonry, timber, and mud roofs, the section demonstrates how Thini's vernacular architecture harmoniously integrates topography, climate, and daily life into a resilient and sustainable Himalayan settlement.

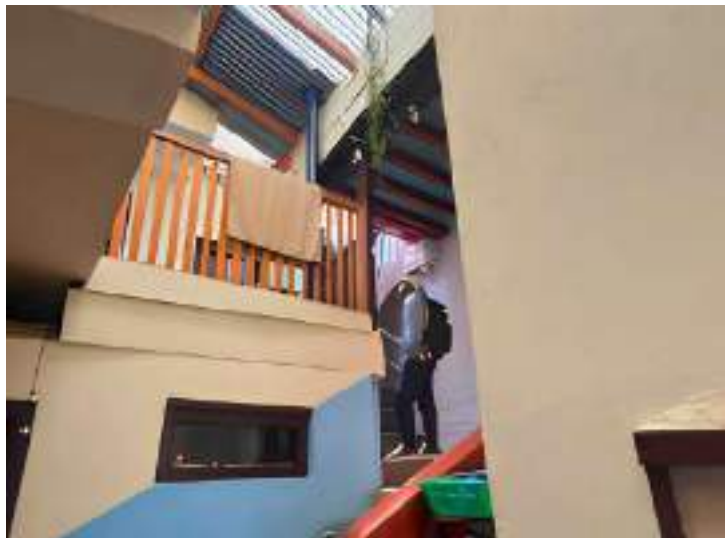


Image: Exterior stone façade, mani entrance, and interior view of House No. 33, illustrating the traditional vernacular architecture, spiritual identity, and climate-responsive living spaces of Thini Village.

The house tells two stories. Its exterior remains rooted in Thini's vernacular heritage, preserving the stone façade, modest street frontage, and traditional village character. Beyond the entrance, however, the interior reveals a contemporary transformation, with reinforced concrete construction, open circulation, skylit spaces, and modern finishes that respond to present-day lifestyles. Rather than replacing tradition, the renovation respects the historic streetscape while embracing modern comfort illustrating how Thini's architecture continues to evolve without losing its cultural identity.

INSIDE THINI

The buildings in Thini village mainly follow a simple and low-rise character, reflecting the traditional scale of the settlement. Most houses are built with a clear connection between their roof form and overall height. Similarly, maximum houses are of single storey only and double storey, making triple storey the least.

As shown in the pie chart, the majority of houses have a roof-level structure, while only a small number have ground-level or mixed arrangements. The bar graph further shows that single-storey houses are the most common, followed by double-storey buildings, with very few three-storey structures.

Together, the charts show that Thini village maintains a predominantly low-rise built form, giving the settlement a simple and human-scale character.



Fig: Chart showing roof level of houses

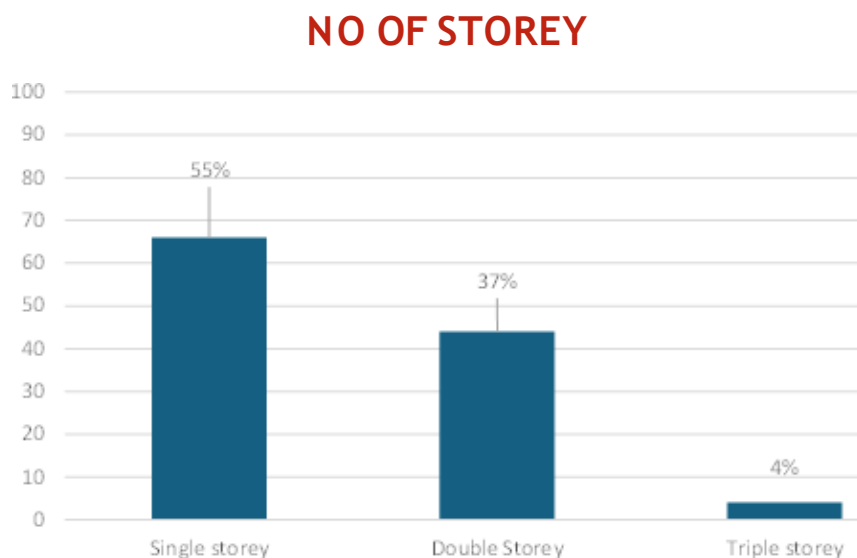
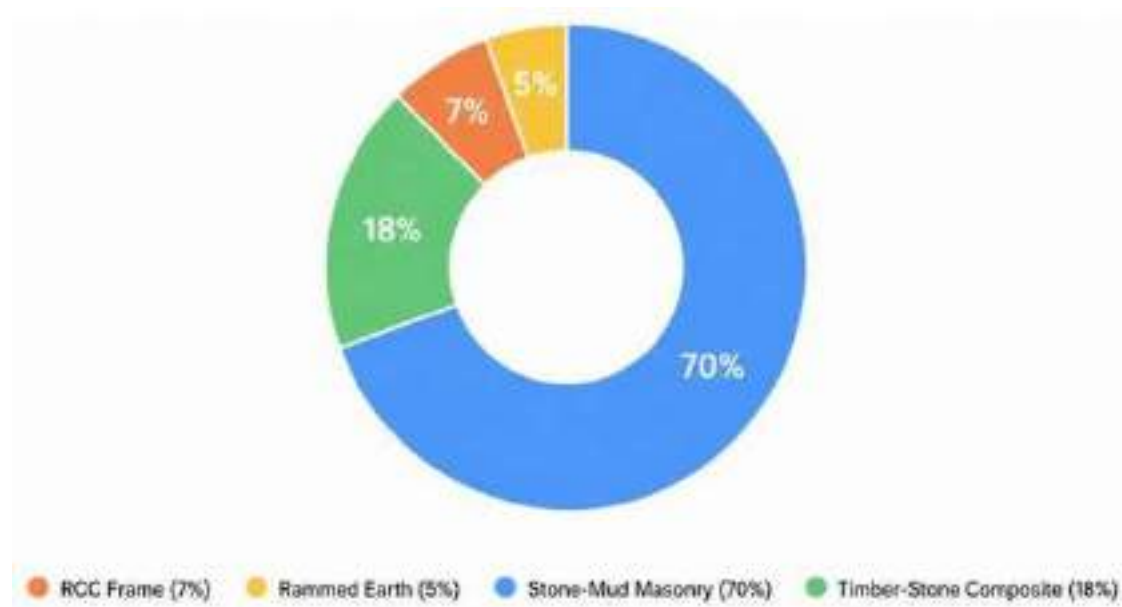


Fig: Classification of houses based on number of storey

The buildings in Thini village show a mix of traditional and modern construction practices. The charts show that stone-mud masonry and timber-stone composite structures are common, while rammed earth and RCC frame buildings are less frequent. Solar and grid-based lighting are both used, while most houses follow load-bearing construction techniques. Overall, the settlement reflects a strong traditional building character with gradual use of modern materials and services.



SOURCE OF LIGHTING

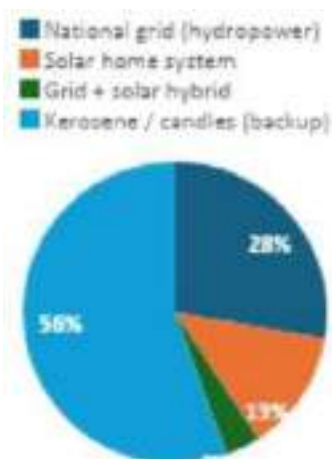


Fig: Source of lighting

CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUE

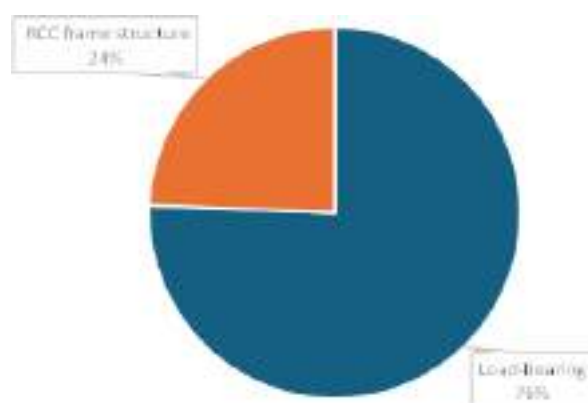


Fig: Chart showing classification of houses based on number of construction technique

05 INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

FOUNDATIONS FOR COMMUNITY LIVING

- 1.Fundamentals
- 2.Water Management and Distribution
- 3.Electricity and Power Supply
- 4.Roads and Streets
- 5.Public Buildings and Spaces



Traditional Street of Thini Village, Ar. Manish Krishna Barun, 2026

FUNDAMENTALS

Thini Village's infrastructure blends modern utilities with indigenous management to sustain its high-altitude community. Drinking water flows by gravity from Nilgiri Himal springs into a central reservoir, distributing to households via the local Water Committee. Irrigation diverts river water through stone canals (Kulos), strictly regulated by the traditional Mukhiya (headman) system using a community-maintained rotational calendar.

Electricity is supplied by the national grid via the NEA Jomsom sub-station and distributed locally through transformers and utility poles. The road network links to the national Beni-Korala Highway via the Gharapjhong Ring Road and a 35-meter concrete bridge. Internal village paths use traditional stone paving to prevent erosion, branching into dirt tracks for orchard access managed by the Ward 5 Office. Public spaces like volley ball court, community hall, club house plays a significant role in human interaction.



Architectural Character of Thini Village Showing Traditional Stone Masonry Houses, Narrow Pedestrian Lanes, Community Courtyards, Cultural Activities, and Vernacular Construction Details.



Map of Thini indicating the Public Infrastructure

LEGENDS



WATER TAP



CANAL CHAMBER



CANAL GATE VALVE



CULVERT



PUBLIC BUILDING



ELECTRIC POLE



WATER FEEDING



Community Water Tap



Electric Poles



Monastery



Volleyball Court



Community Hall



School

MONASTERY

The monastery complex in Thini Village includes Yangdung (Bonpo) Gumba and Lakhim Karpo Gumba, reflecting the region's rich Buddhist and Bon cultural heritage. The prayer hall features a traditional timber post-and-beam structure, painted wooden columns, exposed beams, colorful murals, and a central altar. Natural light from the skylight enhances the sacred atmosphere, while the use of local materials, traditional craftsmanship, and symbolic colors showcases the vernacular architecture and spiritual identity of Mustang.



Interior view of traditional monastery of Thini dwelling reflecting the colorful murals, religious paintings, and sacred artifacts of Himalayan vernacular architecture.

WATER SUPPLY

Thini village is situated at 3100m+ height so, water supply at Thini village was always been a challenge. The primary source for thini village is "Chheyima Kunda". The asset is located in Jomsom VDC ward number 1-8 at 9km away from village south-east of the district head quarter at the base of Mt. Nilgiri. The intake site is located at a distance of 3 km from the settlement of command area. The catchment area is fragile in nature and a threat of landslide has been noticed.

Irrigation System is a farmers' managed irrigation system commanding a gross area of 100ha and a net cultivable command area of 90ha. The crops grown in the project area are apple, buckwheat, naked barley, maize, potato and vegetables. The source of water for this Irrigation scheme is Thini Khola a snow-fed.



Existing taps, canals, artificial ponds and the Reservoir gate for supply of water to the village for irrigation and domestic purpose.

ELECTRICITY AND POWER SUPPLY

Thini Village receives electricity through Nepal's national grid via the Nepal Electricity Authority's Jomsom Substation, with power sourced primarily from the Kali Gandaki hydropower system; high-voltage transmission lines feed a local distribution transformer that steps down the voltage for safe domestic and public use, after which an overhead network of steel and wooden utility poles carries electricity to households, public buildings, and street lighting throughout the village supplemented by rooftop solar panels installed on many houses that provide an additional and more resilient source of power.



Existing Electrical Infrastructure with Utility Poles, Distribution Lines, and Domestic Service Connections in Thini Village.



Traditional Pedestrian Street Network of Thini Village Showing Narrow Stone-Paved Lanes and Vernacular Residential Architecture.

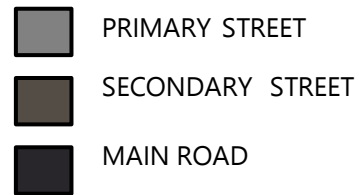
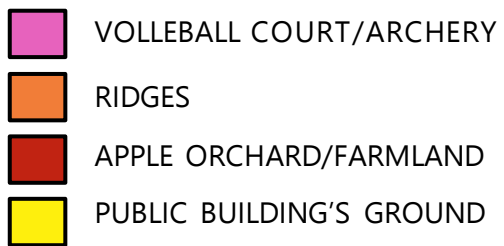
ROADS AND STREETS

Thini Village's road network is anchored by the primary Gharapjhung Ring Road and a 35-meter concrete motorable bridge over the Thini Khola, which connects the village to Jomsom and the national Beni-Jomsom-Korala Highway. Inside the residential core, secondary internal streets narrow into traditional layouts paved with local stone soling to prevent erosion, slow down traffic, and preserve the village's ancient aesthetic. These paved lanes branch into unpaved tertiary dirt tracks designed specifically for tractors to access the surrounding apple orchards. The Provincial Infrastructure Development Office manages the primary highways and bridges, while the internal stone streets and agricultural tracks are overseen by the Gharapjhung Ward 5 Office using municipal funds and community labor.

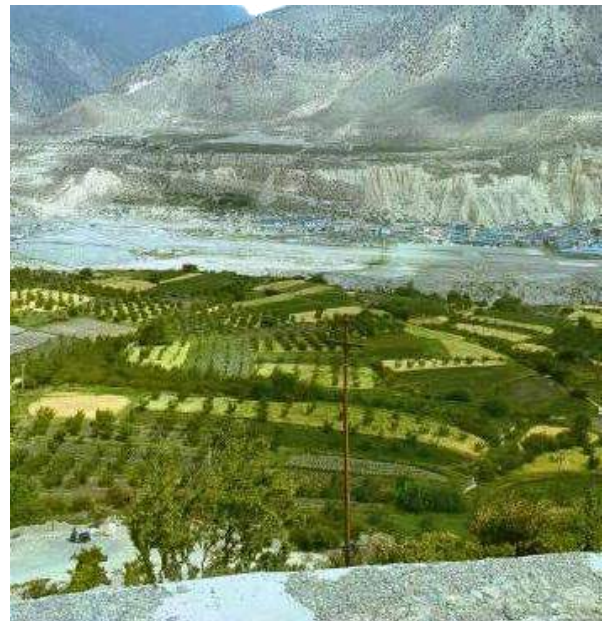


Map of Thini indicating the Open spaces/community spaces

LEGENDS OF OPEN/COMMUNITY SPACES



Pathways and Streets



Orchards and Agriculture Lands



Volleyball Court



School Ground

PUBLIC SERVICES

The public services in Thini Village are modest but sufficient for a remote Himalayan settlement. The village provides essential facilities such as education, primary healthcare, drinking water, electricity, sanitation, irrigation, road access, and community spaces. While specialized services remain concentrated in nearby Jomsom, Thini demonstrates a balanced integration of traditional community systems with modern public infrastructure, supporting both local livelihoods and sustainable rural development.



Volleyball Court



School



Monastery

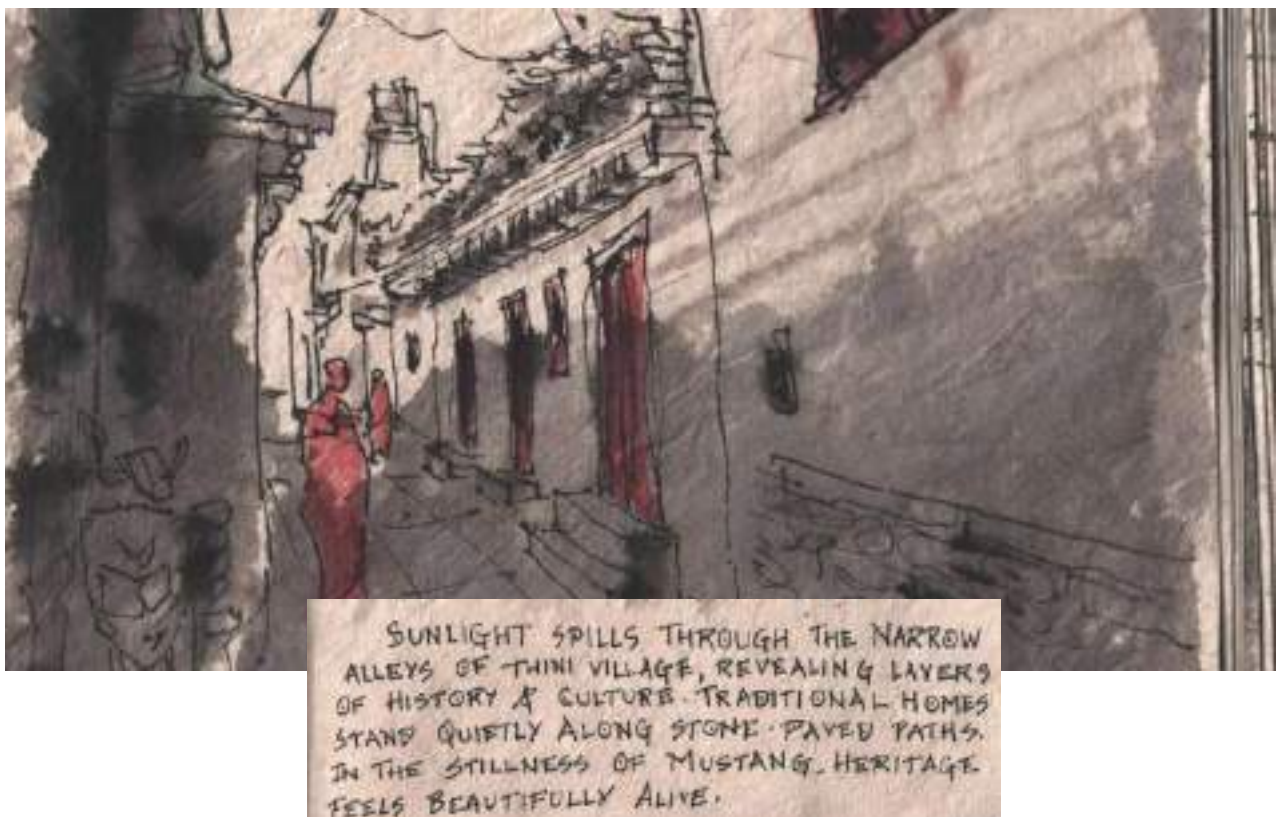


Community Hall

05 MOMENTS TO REMEMBER

THE MEMORIES BEYOND THE DRAWINGS

- 1.3D and Renders
- 2. Model Making
- 3. Team Memories
- 4. Acknowledgements



Sunlit Alleyway, Ar. Manish Krishna Barun, 2026

3D AND RENDERS

The 3D model allowed us to see Thini Village beyond plans and photographs. It gave us the chance to explore the settlement from different angles and understand how its spaces connect with one another. The final renders beautifully captured the village's traditional character and its close bond with the surrounding landscape.



SketchUp. D5 render. Post-processing



SketchUp. D5 render



SketchUp. D5 render. Post-processing

MODEL MAKING

Building the physical model of Thini Village was one of the most enjoyable parts of our journey. Piece by piece, the village slowly came to life as we recreated its traditional houses, winding paths, and unique landscape. It gave us a new appreciation for the settlement's form and character, turning what we had studied on paper into something we could see, touch, and truly understand.

Modeling materials:

sunboard, Cut Board (Kut), white lime (chuna), Fevicol/Vega adhesive, paint, erasers, cinnamon sticks (roof timber), sawdust, vermicelli, wooden skewers (sausage sticks), toothpicks and cutter





TEAM MEMORIES



Batch 2021, Pokhara Engineering College

PHOTO GALLERY



PHOTO GALLERY



AFTERWORD

Our journey to Thini Village was much more than a settlement study. It became a journey of learning, discovery and connection. During our stay, we were warmly welcomed by the people of Thini who shared their homes, stories, traditions and everyday life with kindness and generosity. Their hospitality made us feel like part of the community.

As we walked through the narrow stone lanes, visited traditional houses and explored the village landscape, we discovered that every place has a story to tell. Thini taught us how architecture, culture, nature, and community are closely connected. Its houses, monasteries, courtyards and open spaces reflect generations of knowledge and a way of life shaped by the mountains.

Like many rural settlements, Thini is also facing change. Modern lifestyles, migration and changing occupations are gradually affecting traditional buildings and village life. Yet the village continues to preserve its strong cultural identity, community spirit and architectural heritage. These qualities remind us why places like Thini are important and deserve to be understood and protected.

This magazine is the result of our observations, documentation, sketches, and conversations during the settlement study. More than a record of buildings and spaces, it is a celebration of the people, traditions, and living heritage of Thini.

As we conclude this journey, we carry with us not only drawings and photographs, but also valuable lessons, unforgettable memories, and deep respect for the people of Thini. We hope this magazine encourages others to appreciate, learn from, and help preserve the unique heritage of this remarkable Himalayan village for generations to come.

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YEAR: 2026

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Pieces of Thini, Reejan Acharya, 2026



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In May 2026, students and faculty members from the Department of Architecture, Pokhara Engineering College, Pokhara University, visited Thini Village, Mustang, as part of an academic settlement study. This publication brings together the experiences and findings of that field visit, documenting the village's architecture, landscape, culture, and daily life through drawings, maps, photographs, and observations. More than a record of the study, it is a reflection of our collective learning journey and an effort to celebrate and preserve the rich vernacular heritage of Thini Village.