

Albania

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Visual Newsletter Issue Four. After a hectic summer traveling to and from the States, I'm back to Albania for a full year. Here are a few pictures from a bike ride down Mt. Dajti, waterskiing, and a business idea...

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Top & Left: flowers & fruits bloom at the base of Mt. Dajti; Above: Gent & Genti rest on the biking descent from Dajti.

Beauty and the Beast

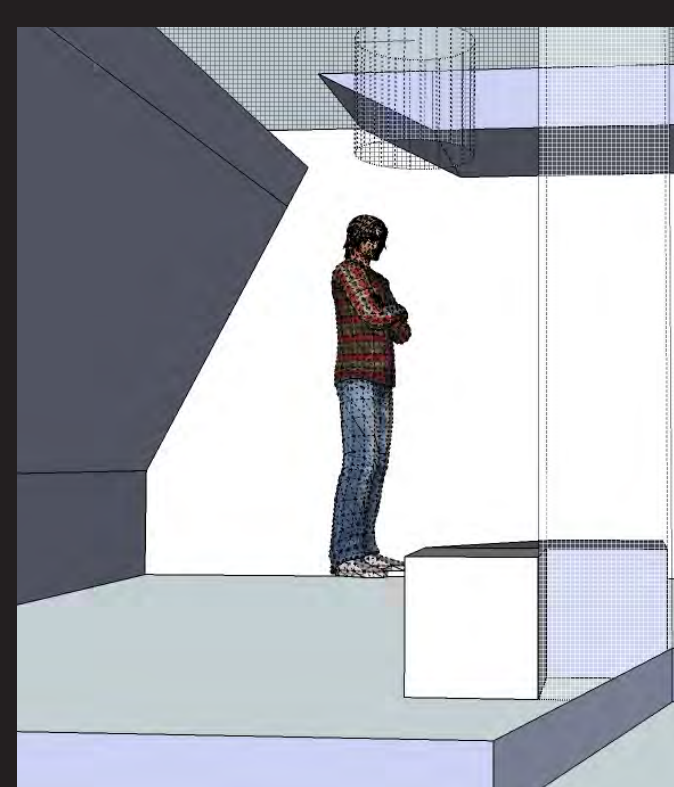
When I attended 3 weeks of cross-cultural training in Colorado in September, we talked about the “Yeahs” and the “Yucks” of living overseas. As I experience firsthand what it means to live in a ‘paradox,’ I’m beginning to understand.

I notice my frustration with things like the chaos of Albanian electrical wiring systems (see below). Internet and phones work...sometimes. The desperate poverty of some of our clients is overwhelming at times and the pollution in Tirana really needs some cleanup!

Then I also notice the beauty. When I get out of the office, and into the mountains, lakes, and countryside of Albania, I’m blown away by the beauty of the land. I would never have dreamed I’d be wakeboarding on a pristine lake or biking down a remote mountainside with my fun-loving Albanian friends. Yes, I live in a paradox, but as long as I keep that in mind, I can enjoy the good and deal with the bad.

Bring on the adventures!





Project Climb

The first indoor bouldering/climbing wall in Tirana. It's an idea I started developing last spring and since then has begun to take shape. I brought some climbing holds (150lbs worth) and an assortment of climbing shoes as I begin to compile some key resources to make it a reality. The idea is to market the business to Albanian youth - giving them a place to go after school that is fun, healthy, and challenging. Right now, I'm searching, planning, and talking to anyone and everyone in hopes that I can get my idea from paper to rock without scissors.

Nicknamed 'the tractor' by it's Austrian owner, this slightly older boat boasts a BMW-engine which helped fuel our Saturday fun last weekend.



Gent Mita, co-founder of Outdoor Albania (guiding and eco-tourism), catches the flats and throws some wake while he rides his board.



