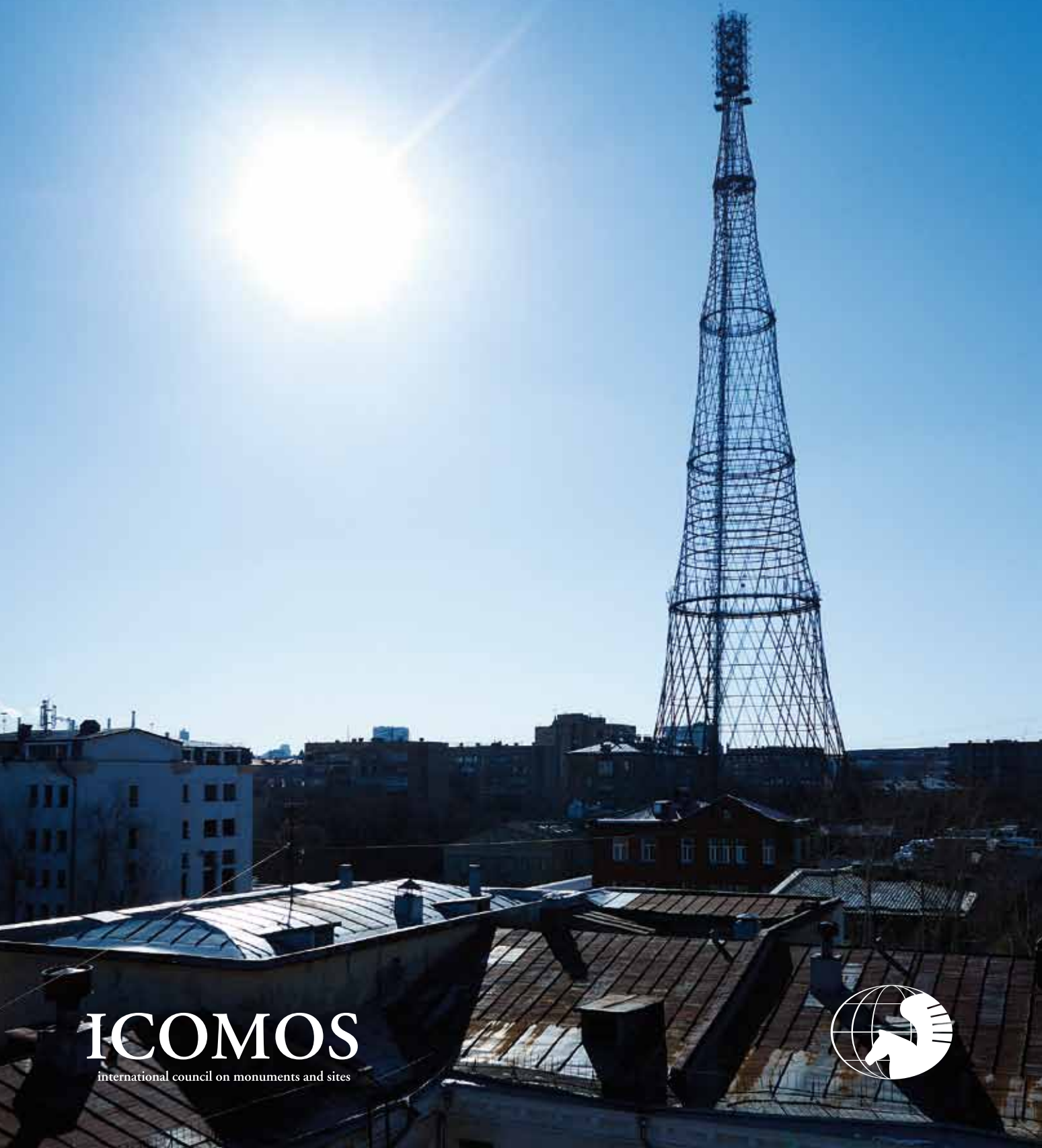


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# HERITAGE AT RISK

## WORLD REPORT 2011-2013 ON MONUMENTS AND SITES IN DANGER

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**ICOMOS**  
international council on monuments and sites









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# HERITAGE AT RISK

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**WORLD REPORT 2011-2013  
ON MONUMENTS AND SITES IN DANGER**

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**PATRIMOINE EN PÉRIL  
PATRIMONIO EN PELIGRO**

**EDITED BY CHRISTOPH MACHAT,  
MICHAEL PETZET AND JOHN ZIESEMER**

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Front Cover: The Shukhov Tower, Moscow (photo: Nikolai Vassiliev)

Inside Front Cover: Borobudur, Indonesia, temple relief showing severe rounding (photo: H. Leisen)

Inside Back Cover: Princeton Battlefield, Princeton, New Jersey (photo: Jon Roemer)

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# CONTENTS

Foreword, Avant-Propos, Preámbulo by Gustavo Araoz, President of ICOMOS . . . . .	6
Introduction by Christoph Machat . . . . .	9
<b>Afghanistan:</b> Bamiyan: Reinforcement of the Lower Gallery in Front of the Eastern Buddha Niche/Mes Aynak . . . . .	14
<b>Armenia:</b> The Central Covered Market in Yerevan . . . . .	20
<b>Australia:</b> Issues and Threats/Case Study One: Bush Fires – Eastern Tasmania/Case Study Two: Urban Development – Old Government House and Domain, Parramatta, New South Wales . . . . .	23
<b>Austria:</b> Attack on the World Heritage Site “Historic Centre of Vienna”/The Historic Centre of the City of Salzburg/World Heritage Semmering Railway . . . . .	27
<b>Belgium:</b> Funerary Heritage in Belgium, from Underestimation to Revaluation to Degradation . . . . .	32
<b>Bhutan:</b> Wangduephrodang Dzong Seriously Damaged by Fire/Brief Survey Report for Remaining Structure of Wangduephrodang Dzong . . . . .	36
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina:</b> The Devastation of the Setting – New Hotel Ruza in Mostar . . . . .	49
<b>Brazil:</b> Hydroelectric Dam of Belo Monte under Construction . . . . .	52
<b>Bulgaria:</b> Specific Problems Associated with Heritage at Risk/The Case of Ratiaria/The Case of Sozopol/The Coastal Town of Nessebar . . . . .	53
<b>China:</b> Hongkong: West Wing of Central Government Offices Threatened with Demolition . . . . .	58
<b>Egypt:</b> Social Unrest Threatens Egypt’s Cultural Heritage/Historic Cairo/Abu Mina/Port Said’s Architectural Heritage Threatened by Neglect and Ruthless Development . . . . .	59
<b>Georgia:</b> Bagrati Cathedral Reconstructed/Appeal to Protect the Monuments in Abkhazia/Sakdrisi – the Oldest Goldmine in the World . . . . .	63
<b>Germany:</b> The Upper Middle Rhine Valley – Conservation and Development Issues Related to the World Heritage Property/Parking in Historic Town Centres: the Examples of Stralsund and Wismar/The Kant Garage in Berlin-Charlottenburg, Listed Multi-Storey Garage in the Style of the New Objectivity, Threatened to be Demolished/Uncertain Future for International Congress Center (ICC) Berlin . . . . .	67
<b>Greece:</b> Repercussions of the Economic Crisis on the Cultural Heritage Sector/Archaeological Finds in Thessalonica at Risk due to Metro Construction . . . . .	74
<b>Hungary:</b> Győr, Danube Gate . . . . .	76
<b>Indonesia:</b> Borobudur Temple . . . . .	78
<b>Iran:</b> Sasanian Bas-reliefs at Tang-e Chogan under Invasion of Lichens and Fungi . . . . .	81
<b>Ireland:</b> Heritage at Risk and in Economic Crisis . . . . .	82
<b>Italy:</b> The Earthquake in Emilia Romagna, May 2012/L’Aquila, Five Years after the Earthquake/Impact of Climate Change on Cultural Heritage: The Snow Event of February 2012/Venice Threatened by Cruise Ships and Skyscraper Project . . . . .	85
<b>Japan:</b> The Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami of March 11, 2011 and their Impact on Cultural Heritage . . . . .	89
<b>Libya:</b> Cultural Heritage at Risk due to Unstable Political Situation . . . . .	92
<b>Mali:</b> Cultural Heritage Seriously Damaged by Islamist Rebels . . . . .	94
<b>New Zealand:</b> The Christchurch Earthquake of February 2011 . . . . .	96
<b>Nigeria:</b> Sango Oyo: International Heritage Endangered . . . . .	99
<b>Peru:</b> Pyramid Torn Down by Developers . . . . .	106
<b>Philippines:</b> Impact of the 15 October 2013 Bohol Earthquake on the Bohol Churches . . . . .	107
<b>Romania:</b> Follow-up on Roşia Montana and the Preservation of its Cultural and Natural Heritage/First Results in Safeguarding the Transylvanian Saxon Architectural Heritage/The Threats to and the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Manor Estates in Banat . . . . .	122
<b>Russia:</b> The Shukhov Tower in Shabolovka Street, Moscow/Melnikov’s House and Studio in Moscow/The Circular Depot, Leningradsky Station, Moscow – Hope for this Outstanding Testimony to Early Railway History?/Scharoun’s Prime . . . . .	132
<b>Saudi Arabia:</b> Medina . . . . .	138
<b>Serbia:</b> Endangered Heritage – The Earthquake in Kraljevo, Central Serbia/Niš: Part of the Main Necropolis of the Roman City of Naissus (4th/5th Centuries AD) Discovered and in Danger of Being Destroyed . . . . .	140
<b>Syria:</b> The Impact of the Civil War on the Cultural Heritage: ICOMOS Concerned about Aleppo’s Cultural Heritage/Aleppo’s Umayyad Mosque Extensively Damaged/ICOMOS Statement on Crac des Chevaliers and the Continuing Destruction of the Cultural Heritage of Syria, July 19, 2013 / Protection of Syria’s Cultural Heritage in Times of Armed Conflict: ICOMOS–ICCROM E-Learning Course for Syrian Cultural Heritage Professionals . . . . .	143
<b>Tunisia:</b> Le Patrimoine architectural soufi en Tunisie: une destruction programmée . . . . .	148
<b>Turkey:</b> Dam Constructions: Alliano and Hasankeyf . . . . .	150
<b>United States of America:</b> Endangered Historic Places (2011–2013) . . . . .	151
<b>The Heritage at Risk Series . . . . .</b>	<b>158</b>

# FOREWORD

Through the generous support of the Federal Government of Germany and the insightful information made possible by our global networks, ICOMOS has been able to periodically publish *Heritage at Risk*, a compendium of monuments and cultural heritage sites that are facing destruction or serious alterations throughout the world. Intended to rescue these places from imminent threats by raising public and media awareness and fostering international cooperation and assistance, *Heritage at Risk* represents the unwavering commitment of ICOMOS to do all that is possible to ensure that humanity's cultural heritage will be safely transmitted to the next generation.

In spite of the crucially important information contained in this publication, the gathering and reading of its contents, as well as in all past issues, is not a pleasant task, as it brings us face to face with the ruthless and raw destruction of the truly remarkable places that the thousands of members of ICOMOS dedicate their lives to save and protect.

This year, the table of contents for this particular issue of *Heritage at Risk* presents an alarming vision not only about the conditions affecting cultural heritage but about the state of the planet. On the natural side, catastrophic events such as the ones reported in Australia, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, the Philippines and Serbia seem to be occurring more often and with greater intensity. In cases attributable to climate change, the destructive power of these natural disasters are often magnified by myopic patterns of settlement, urbanization and land use, uncontrolled migration, extreme poverty or simple economic greed and political opportunism.

Looking at the human-induced threats to cultural heritage is far more vast and sobering, since these are driven by forces that could

be reined in. The rising level of civil and ideological conflicts and outright wars, such as the ones reported in Egypt, Mali and Syria, have plunged the cultural heritage of these countries into a chaos of destruction as combatants from one side try to impose beliefs and erase from the landscape the ancestral architectural and landscape manifestations treasured by their opponents.

The bulk of all threats, however, is not due to natural disasters or armed conflicts, but to human-induced destruction driven by development pressures resulting from a variety of sources such as the unprecedented social imbalance in power and wealth, and misguided responses to the real estate and infrastructure needs of exploding cities. On the other end of the spectrum, the global economic crisis has also brought tragic budget and staff reductions in heritage agencies and cultural sites, such as those reported in Ireland and Greece. Also at work are the huge threats posed by open pit mining projects that have the potential to not only destroy cultural resources, but transform and poison the natural environment for centuries, as exemplified this year by the reports from Romania and Afghanistan.

None of this is new. There have always been earthquakes, floods and hurricanes, as well as wars, urbanization and industrial endeavors. Perhaps they seem to be occurring more frequently because of the immediacy with which news travel today. If that is the case, the news about the pain and outrage caused by these losses should travel the world with similar celerity and help us in stopping them, or at least mitigating them.

Gustavo Araoz  
President



# AVANT-PROPOS

Grâce au soutien généreux du gouvernement fédéral de l'Allemagne et aux précieux renseignements disponibles grâce à nos réseaux mondiaux, l'ICOMOS a été en mesure de publier périodiquement la série *Heritage at Risk* (Patrimoine en Péril), un recueil sur des monuments et des sites du patrimoine culturel qui sont confrontés à la destruction ou à de graves altérations dans le monde entier. Destiné à sauver ces lieux de menaces imminentes par la sensibilisation du public et des médias et à encourager la coopération et l'assistance internationale, *Heritage at Risk* représente l'engagement indéfectible de l'ICOMOS à faire tout ce qui est possible pour assurer que le patrimoine culturel de l'humanité soit transmis en toute sécurité à la prochaine génération.

En dépit des informations d'une importance cruciale contenues dans cette publication, la collecte et la lecture de son contenu, de même que dans toutes les éditions précédentes, n'est pas une tâche agréable, car elle nous confronte à la destruction impitoyable et brutale de lieux véritablement remarquables que les milliers de membres de l'ICOMOS consacrent leurs vies à sauver et à protéger.

Cette année, la table des matières de cette édition de *Heritage at Risk* présente une vision alarmante non seulement sur les conditions touchant le patrimoine culturel, mais sur l'état de la planète en général. Sur le plan naturel, des événements catastrophiques tels que ceux rapportés dans les rapports sur l'Australie, l'Italie, le Japon, la Nouvelle-Zélande, les Philippines et la Serbie semblent se produire de plus en plus souvent et avec plus d'intensité. Dans les cas attribuables au changement climatique, les puissances destructrices de ces catastrophes naturelles sont souvent amplifiées par des schémas d'implantation, d'urbanisation et d'utilisation des territoires limités, une migration incontrôlée, une extrême pauvreté ou simplement par la cupidité économique et l'opportunisme politique.

Les menaces anthropiques pesant sur le patrimoine culturel sont encore beaucoup plus vastes et préoccupantes, car celles-ci sont provoquées par des forces qui pourraient être maîtrisées. Le nombre croissant de conflits civils et idéologiques ainsi que les

guerres ouvertes, comme celles signalées dans les rapports sur l'Égypte, le Mali et la Syrie, ont plongé le patrimoine culturel de ces pays dans un chaos de destruction où les combattants d'un camp tentent d'imposer des croyances et d'effacer du paysage les manifestations architecturales et paysagères ancestrales chères à leurs opposants.

La majeure partie de toutes les menaces, cependant, n'est pas issue de catastrophes naturelles ou de conflits armés, mais de la destruction d'origine humaine entraînée par les pressions du développement résultant d'une variété de sources telles qu'un déséquilibre social sans précédent en termes de pouvoir et de richesse, et des solutions inappropriées aux réels besoins immobiliers et d'infrastructures de villes en pleine expansion. À l'autre extrémité du spectre, la crise économique mondiale a également déclenché des réductions dramatiques dans les budgets et le personnel des organismes chargés du patrimoine et des sites culturels, comme l'illustrent les rapports sur l'Irlande et la Grèce. Également à l'œuvre sont les énormes menaces posées par les projets miniers à ciel ouvert qui présentent le risque non seulement de détruire les ressources culturelles, mais de transformer et d'empoisonner l'environnement naturel pour des siècles, comme en témoignent cette année les rapports de la Roumanie et de l'Afghanistan.

Rien de tout cela n'est nouveau. Il y a toujours eu des tremblements de terre, des inondations et des ouragans, ainsi que des guerres, des projets urbanistiques et des projets industriels. Peut-être qu'ils semblent se produire plus fréquemment en raison de l'immédiateté avec laquelle les nouvelles sont transmises aujourd'hui. Si tel est le cas, les nouvelles sur la douleur et l'indignation causées par ces pertes de patrimoine doivent parcourir le monde avec une célérité similaire et nous aider à les arrêter, ou au moins à les atténuer.

Gustavo Araoz  
Président

# PREÁMBULO

Gracias al generoso apoyo del Gobierno Federal de Alemania y la información detallada hecha posible por nuestras redes globales, el ICOMOS ha podido publicar periódicamente *Heritage at Risk*, un compendio de monumentos y sitios del patrimonio cultural que se enfrentan a la destrucción o serísimas alteraciones por todas partes del mundo. Con la intención de rescatar estos lugares de amenazas inminentes mediante la sensibilización pública y los medios de comunicación y fomentar la cooperación internacional y la asistencia, *Heritage at Risk* representa el compromiso inquebrantable del ICOMOS a hacer todo lo posible para asegurar que el patrimonio cultural de la humanidad sea transmitido de forma segura a la próxima generación.

A pesar de la información de vital importancia que esta publicación contiene, la recolección y lectura de su contenido, así como el de todas las ediciones anteriores, no es una tarea agradable, ya que nos pone cara a cara con la destrucción despiadada y cruda de esos lugares notables a los cuales los miles de miembros de ICOMOS les dedicamos nuestras vidas para salvarlos y protegerlos.

Este año, el índice para este número en particular nos presenta una visión alarmante no sólo en cuanto a las condiciones que afectan al patrimonio cultural, sino sobre el estado general del planeta. Por el lado natural, los eventos catastróficos, como los reportados por Australia, Italia, Japón, Nueva Zelanda, Filipinas y Serbia, parecerían estar ocurriendo con más frecuencia y mayor intensidad. En aquellos casos atribuibles al cambio climático, el poder destructivo de los desastres naturales a menudo se ve magnificado por los patrones miopes de asentamiento, urbanización y uso del suelo, la migración descontrolada, la pobreza extrema o simplemente la codicia económica y el oportunismo político.

Al observar las amenazas de origen humano para el patrimonio cultural, el cuadro resulta ser mucho más sobrio y preocupante, ya que estos son impulsados por fuerzas que podrían ser refrenadas. El aumento en los conflictos civiles e ideológicas y las guerras,

tales como los reportados por Egipto, Malí y Siria, han sumido al patrimonio cultural de estos países en un caos de destrucción a medida que los combatientes de un lado tratan de imponer sus creencias y borrar del paisaje de las manifestaciones arquitectónicas y los paisajes ancestrales atesorados por sus opositores.

La mayor parte de todas las amenazas, sin embargo, no es debida a desastres naturales ni a conflictos armados, sino a la destrucción inducida por seres humanos impulsados por presiones de desarrollo que provienen resultan de una variedad de fuentes tales como el desequilibrio social en el poder y la riqueza, y las respuestas equivocadas a las necesidades inmobiliarias y de infraestructura en nuestras de las ciudades que estallan de crecimiento. Al otro extremo del espectro, la crisis económica mundial también ha traído dramáticos cortes en los presupuestos y el personal de las agencias a cargo del patrimonio y en los sitios y monumentos bajo su tutela, tal como ha sido reportado por Irlanda y Grecia. También socavando el patrimonio están las grandes amenazas que plantean los proyectos de minería a cielo abierto que tienen el potencial no sólo para destruir a los bienes culturales, si no que transforman y envenenan el medio ambiente natural durante siglos, como lo demuestran este año los informes procedentes de Rumanía y Afganistán.

Nada de esto es nuevo. Siempre han habido terremotos, inundaciones y huracanes, así como guerras, avaricia, urbanización y emprendimientos industriales. Tal vez nos parezca hoy que estén ocurriendo con más frecuencia debido a la inmediatez con que viajan las noticias. Si ese fuese el caso, la noticia de dolor e indignación causados por estas pérdidas debe viajar por el mundo con la misma celeridad e impacto para ayudarnos a detenerlos, o al menos, mitigarlos.

Gustavo Araoz  
Presidente

# INTRODUCTION

The *ICOMOS World Report 2011–2013 on Monuments and Sites in Danger (Heritage at Risk)* is the latest volume of what is already a whole series of World Reports, starting in the year 2000 and followed by the volumes *H@R 2001/2002*, *H@R 2002/2003*, *H@R 2004/2005*, *H@R 2006/2007* and *H@R 2008–2010*. So far this series has also been complemented by three special editions: *H@R Special 2006 Underwater Cultural Heritage at Risk/Managing Natural and Human Impacts*, *H@R Special 2006 The Soviet Heritage and European Modernism*, and *H@R Special 2007 Cultural Heritage and Natural Disasters/Risk Preparedness and the Limits of Prevention*. As all the previous volumes the new *World Report 2011–2013* tries to fill a gap in ICOMOS' annual reporting. It implements at the same time Resolution 26 of the 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS in October 2008 in Quebec, which resolved to “request the *Heritage at Risk* Series to be continued and that actions be taken to enhance its communication and impact so as to support protection and conservation of the cultural heritage world-wide and to better serve ICOMOS and its Committees to define priorities and strategic goals”. The continuation of this successful series can also be regarded in connection with the initiative of President Gustavo Araoz of June 2010 to establish an ICOMOS Cultural Heritage Global Monitoring Network as “the logical outgrowth of our *Heritage@Risk* programme”.

The new *ICOMOS World Report 2011–2013* consists of contributions from 34 countries, among them (unfortunately only 18) reports from national or international committees of ICOMOS, but as usual there are also reports by individual experts and quotations from different expertises, statements, articles and press releases. The analysis of the reports shows that, apart from the general risks to heritage from natural disasters and physical decay of structures, there are certain patterns in human activity endangering our heritage, e. g. risks from war and inter-ethnic conflicts, risks from development, tourism or – very recently – the repercussions of the economic crisis on the cultural heritage sector in some European countries.

On the one hand, our built heritage has always been threatened by the consequences of earthquakes, typhoons, hurricanes, floods, and fires. Following the frequent disasters of the previous years earthquakes and their impacts also remain a central topic in this *Heritage at Risk* edition. There are reports on the earthquake in Emilia Romagna in Italy in 2012 (pp. 85 f.), including a short statement on L'Aquila five years after the earthquake of 2009 (pp. 86 f., see also *H@R 2008/2010*, pp. 109 f.), on the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami of 2011 in Japan (pp. 89–91), the Christchurch earthquake of 2011 in New Zealand (pp. 96–98), the Bohol earthquake of October 2013 in the Philippines (pp. 107–121), and a (delayed) report on the events of late 2010 in Kraljevo, Central Serbia (pp. 140–142). Among all natural hazards, fires can cause serious damage, as happened in 2012 at the Wangduephodrang Dzong, one of the most important Buddhist fortified monasteries in Bhutan (pp. 36–48). A special case are

the bushfires in Australia, which are most terrifying and possibly pose the greatest threat to life and property, like those of February 2009 across Victoria (see *H@R 2008–2010*, pp. 25 f.) and those of January 2013 in Eastern Tasmania (pp. 23–26). The Tasmanian fires are considered to be (one of) the results of the dramatic climate change (see the special focus on global climate change in *Heritage at Risk 2006/2007*, pp. 191–227); another consequence was the reported snow event of February 2012 in Urbino, in the Marche region of Italy (p. 87).

On the other hand, global climate change is a man-made disaster, in the same way as wars and ethnic or religious confrontations, which are still leading to tremendous losses: The reports included in this edition show the dramatic situation in Egypt (pp. 59–62), in Abkhazia, an occupied territory of Georgia (pp. 63 f.), or in Tunisia (pp. 148 f.), where the architectural heritage of the Soufi, especially the mausoleums, is threatened to be systematically destroyed. Serious damages to mausoleums, mosques and manuscript collections in Timbuktu in northern Mali were caused by attacks of Islamist rebels in May 2012 (pp. 94 f.); unfortunately, a detailed report was not available. The great concern about the safeguarding of the cultural heritage in Libya due to the unstable political situation is expressed in the statement of the International Committee of the Blue Shield (p. 92). The impact of the civil war on the cultural heritage in Syria was first documented in a comprehensive compilation of the disastrous damages prepared for the Global Heritage Fund in 2012 (pp. 143 f.). Since the beginning of the conflict the Blue Shield has issued two statements on the country's invaluable cultural heritage (2011, 2012, pp. 143 f.), and ICOMOS (one of the founding organisations of the Blue Shield) also expressed its deep concern about the ongoing destructions in two statements: the first on Aleppo's cultural heritage (July 2012, p. 144), the other on Crac des Chevaliers and the six World Heritage sites in Syria (July 2013, p. 145). As a result of the efforts to support Syrian professionals and experts by delivering knowledge, providing technical consultancy, raising awareness, and building capacity, ICOMOS, in cooperation with ICCROM and the Directorate-General of Antiquities and Museums of Syria (DGAM), and in coordination with UNESCO, succeeded in organising a first e-learning course for Syrian cultural heritage professionals at the Damascus National Museum in January 2013. The course was conducted by the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Risk Preparedness (ICORP) (pp. 145 f.). Further seminars on additional subjects are envisaged, and in fact our *Heritage at Risk* reports are not only meant as an appeal to the public. Instead, our intention and hope is that on the basis of these reports and together with the National and International Committees of ICOMOS such pilot projects can be organised by our experts.

Part of such projects, but nevertheless a special case, are the measures taken by ICOMOS Germany after the destruction of the Giant Buddhas of Bamiyan in Afghanistan in 2001, implemented since 2002 thanks to funds provided by the German For-

eign Office and by UNESCO within the framework of Phase III of the Japan-Fund-In-Trust project ‘Safeguarding the Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley’ (see *H@R 2008–2010*, Introduction, p. 12; see also the reports in *The Giant Buddhas of Bamiyan. Safeguarding the Remains, Monuments and Sites*, vol. XIX, Berlin 2009). Of the recent project interventions (based on the UNESCO Partners Agreement of July 10, 2013 with ICOMOS Germany) the reinforcement of the Lower Gallery in front of the Eastern Buddha niche is presented on pp. 14–17.

As already described in *H@R 2008–2010* (Introduction, p. 12), the rapid development all over the world in the 21st century, taking place under the pressures of population growth and progressive industrialisation, leads to ever-greater consumption of land, destroying not only archaeological evidence underground, but entire historic cultural landscapes. It also results in faster and faster cycles of demolition and new construction with their concomitant burden on the environment. Examples of such development pressures are the various dam projects, some of which were already mentioned in previous *Heritage at Risk* editions, e. g. Alliano, already flooded by the Yortanlı Dam, and Hasankeyf, soon to be flooded by the Ilisu Dam, both in Turkey (p. 150). There is also the dam project in Belo Monte, Brazil (p. 52), which will cause the displacement of thousands of indigenous people, or large-scale mining projects, such as the open-cast gold mining in Roşia Montana, Romania (p. 122), the copper mining in Mes Aynak, Afghanistan (p. 18), both encompassing the destruction of the ancient sites and the risk of environmental catastrophes for the respective cultural landscape; and finally the mining project in Sakdrisi, Georgia, which will destroy the oldest gold mine in the world (pp. 64–66). But also small-scale development pressures can produce tremendous losses, for instance the bulldozing of a pyramid in Peru (p. 106) or of several ancient tombs at the World Heritage site of Cyrene in northeastern Libya (pp. 92 f.) for selling the plots to developers. Other examples are the digging activities for new building and development projects, often revealing rich and important archaeological finds, at risk due to time pressures in connection with the project implementation, as happened in Thessalonica, Greece (p. 75) or in Niš, Serbia (p. 142).

Neglect is another source of possible deterioration or destruction. It applies to such archaeological sites as Ratiaria in Bulgaria (pp. 53–55) or Abu Mina in Egypt (pp. 60 f.) as well as to historic buildings no longer in use, as illustrated by the manor houses in Banat, Romania (pp. 126–131). In many countries not only the financial resources are unavailable to guide such developments in the direction of cultural continuity. Sometimes the political will is also missing, for instance if the extant legal regulations are not put to use, are weakened or even abolished. In Hungary the government started dismantling the entire 140-year-old monument preservation office system as early as in late 2010, dissolving the central institute, weakening the protection and conservation law and transferring all the heritage protection and conservation responsibilities to the district administration level in 2013 (p. 77). In some countries of the European Union the economic crisis of the last few years has had serious repercussions on the cultural heritage sector, as reported from Ireland (pp. 82–84) and Greece (p. 74), where the governments have reduced the cultural budget almost to zero and forced more than half of the experienced and specialised heritage conservationists to retire. Even in Germany, the government of the federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia at the beginning of 2013 decided to cut all public funding for the heritage sector and offer financial aid to owners by loans instead.

Fortunately, the decision of the government of the federal state of Berlin of summer 2013 to reduce public funding for the heritage sector by 40% in 2014 was cancelled.

With the *Heritage at Risk* initiative, ICOMOS is concerned with monuments and sites in the broadest sense: not only classic categories of monuments, like churches (see the reports on churches in Georgia, p. 63 and Romania, pp. 122–124), funerary heritage (Belgium, pp. 32–35) or fortresses (Győr, Hungary, pp. 76 f.), but also immovable and movable cultural properties, archaeological sites (see above), historic areas and ensembles, cultural landscapes (e. g. the Upper Middle Rhine Valley, Germany, pp. 67 f.; Greater Chaco Landscape, New Mexico, USA, pp. 152 f.), vernacular heritage (Sango City Oyo, Nigeria, pp. 99–105), or various types of historic evidence from prehistory up to the Modern Movement of the 20th century. All over the world historic urban districts suffer from careless, often totally unplanned renewal processes (compare reports on Sozopol and Nessebar, Bulgaria, pp. 55–57; Vienna and Salzburg, Austria, pp. 27–31; Historic Cairo, Egypt, p. 59). The built evidence of our industrial heritage is also in danger: these structures erected with modern technology and now themselves worthy of preservation cause difficulties for conservationists, examples being the famous Shukhov Radio Tower in Moscow (p. 132; see also *H@R 2008–2010*, p. 152) or testimonies of early railway constructions, such as the Circular Depot in Moscow (p. 134) and the cultural landscape of the World Heritage Semmering Railway (p. 31). And even architectural masterpieces of the Modern Movement of the 20th century are threatened with demolition or disfigurement (see reports on Melnikov’s House and Studio in Moscow, p. 133, mentioned already in *H@R 2008–2010*, p. 152; Scharoun’s Colour Row settlement, pp. 134–137, or the Kant-Garage in Berlin-Charlottenburg, p. 71), not to forget numerous examples of masterpieces from the second part of the last century in different parts of the world, such as the Central Covered Market in Yerevan, Armenia (pp. 20–22), the West Wing of the Central Government Offices in Hong Kong (p. 58), the International Congress Centre in Berlin (p. 72), the Prentice Women’s Hospital in Chicago (p. 153), the Astrodome in Houston, Texas (p. 155), or the Worldport Terminal at JFK Airport in New York (p. 156).

An essential task of ICOMOS within the framework of the World Heritage Convention of 1972 is our work as advisory body to the World Heritage Committee and to UNESCO on issues concerning the World Cultural Heritage. The mandate and function of the advisory bodies ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM result from articles 8 (3), 13 (7) and 14 (2) of the World Heritage Convention in connection with paragraphs 30 and 31 of the Operational Guidelines (OG). One of the responsibilities of the advisory bodies is *to monitor the state of conservation of World Heritage properties* (OG § 31). The role of ICOMOS is described in paragraph 35: *The specific role of ICOMOS in relation to the Convention includes: evaluation of properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List, monitoring the state of conservation of World Heritage cultural properties, reviewing requests for International Assistance submitted by State Parties, and providing input and support for capacity-building activities* (OG § 35). Looking at and reflecting upon the rather large number of World Heritage sites included in this volume of *Heritage at Risk*, which are facing threats from armed conflicts (Mali, Syria) or development pressures (Vienna, Salzburg, Upper Middle Rhine Valley), it is obvious that a continuous proactive observation should take place, a preventive monitoring which lies in the responsibility of the National Committees of ICOMOS (in special cases sup-



ported by the International Scientific Committees), in accordance with article 4 of the ICOMOS Statutes. Such preventive monitoring of course differs from the Periodic Reporting described in the Operational Guidelines (OG V, 199–210) and from Reactive Monitoring (OG IV.A, 169–176), as already explained in detail in the Introduction of the previous volume (see *H@R 2008–2010*, p. 13). Reactive Monitoring can only be applied in particularly serious cases; however the report on the Upper Middle Rhine Valley (pp. 67–69) is a good example of how the Reactive Monitoring procedure (initiated of course by the State Party, but under the consultancy of the German monitoring group) may produce positive results in solving serious problems.

Some years ago individual National Committees of ICOMOS developed special initiatives for the monitoring of the state of conservation of World Heritage sites in their countries, the German monitoring group being founded in 2001 (compare also *H@R 2006/2007*, pp. 62 f. and the Introduction to *H@R 2008–2010*, p. 13). Besides reporting on the state of conservation of the German World Heritage sites, since 2009 the group has played an important advisory role within the framework of the “Promotion of Investments into National UNESCO World Heritage Sites” initiated by the German Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development. This programme has included about 200 projects; unfortunately, it will run out at the end of 2014. Such very positive examples could determine or even convince all National Committees of ICOMOS to attend to the task of Preventive Monitoring in the future. Based on the annual reports of all ICOMOS committees on the dangers and trends in conservation in their region, the *Heritage at Risk* initiative can serve as the data base for the already mentioned initiative of President Gustavo Araoz to establish a Global Monitoring Network: ICOMOS as a sort of general “monument watch” observing the state of conservation worldwide.

Together with all the previous volumes of *Heritage at Risk* the actual report may be able to give a certain overview of the dangers, problems and trends regarding the protection of monuments in the 21st century in different regions of the world. We are quite aware of the gaps in our work and of the limits to what we can do. However, in the years to come the *Heritage at Risk* initiative will not only need an improved financial base, but also the involvement of all ICOMOS committees with annual reports, collected by a press and information office to be installed at our International Secretariat in Paris. This office would compile all information and put statements by ICOMOS International on current risks on the ICOMOS website as fast as possible. Our deepest thanks are addressed to Gaia Jungeblodt, our director at the International Secretariat, who over the last years for our editorial work has collected all the relevant information, reports, press releases and comments on worldwide threats to heritage. Thanking all colleagues who have contributed to this publication and made their pictures available to us, we would also like to note that, in line with ICOMOS policy, the texts and information provided for this publication reflect the independent view of each committee and the different authors. At the secretariat of ICOMOS Germany in Munich, we would like to thank John Ziesemer, who was in charge of the editorial work and the English translations, and Ioana Cisek for her administrative work. Finally, we wish to extend our thanks to the German Federal Government Commissioner for Cultural Affairs and the Media who once again provided the necessary financial and organisational framework of this publication.

Christoph Machat



# NATIONAL REPORTS

# AFGHANISTAN

## Bamiyan: Reinforcement of the Lower Gallery in Front of the Eastern Buddha Niche

Since the removal of the scaffold in 2010 to the site of the Western Buddha the totally stabilised niche of the 38-metre Eastern Buddha presents the silhouette of the former relief with its conserved original remains on the rear side. Here in the niche and the lower caves, thanks to funds from the German Foreign Office in 2010 and 2011, a small “site museum” or “site interpretation centre” (fragments, exhibition of posters, etc) with lapidarium was installed. The successful “opening” of this area, which in future will be accessible to visitors together with the lateral stair cases of the Buddha niche, was highly welcomed on 19 June 2012 by the participants of a stake holder meeting in Bamiyan.

The chances of partial reconstruction of the famous Buddhas of Bamiyan – in the sense of a “reassembling of existing but dismembered parts” (anastylosis, article 14 of the Venice Charter) has been discussed since 2002 in the Expert Working Group Meetings for the Safeguarding of the Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley World Heritage Property (for example, recommendation of the meeting in Tokyo, December 2011, point 10: *feasibility study be undertaken to determine whether or not a partial reassembling of fragments of the Eastern Buddha could be an option...*) and representatives of the Afghan Government have strongly supported this idea:

- *I believe that if we are to undertake any sort of remedial measures to rebuild or partially rebuild the statues of Bamiyan, it should be for this higher goal of the site of Bamiyan as a symbol of memory of the tragedy of war and conflict in Afghanistan and as a statement of peace and hope for a better future* (H. E. Omar Sultan, Deputy Minister of Information and Culture, 2 March 2011 at the Forum in UNESCO).
- *We saw last year that the Eastern or Small Buddha has been stabilized and repaired. I therefore think it is an appropriate time to return to the question of the reconstruction or the so-called ‘anastylosis’ of the Small Buddha. There is still strong support in Afghanistan for the reconstruction of at least one of the Buddha sculptures destroyed by the Taliban in 2001. Reconstruction itself is a common practice at sites all around the world destroyed by war and natural disasters and so we should find a way for Afghanistan to repair this damage also* (H. E. Minister Dr. Sayed Makhdoum Raheen, speech in Aachen, 11th Expert Working Group Meeting, Aachen, December 2012).

Also under measures in terms of site security the ICOMOS reports since 2011 have several times presented the reinforcement of the lower gallery of the Eastern Buddha as a matter of priority: *The lower gallery in front of caves 2–4 should be protected by means of a horizontal cover against particles that*

*might fall down, following the front line of the former relief, – a solution with two pillars to commemorate the feet of the statue that were already reconstructed in the 1970s during the restoration campaign carried out by the Indian-Afghan team* (Technical and Financial Report, 14 December 2012). For further details see [www.icomos.de/bulletin.php](http://www.icomos.de/bulletin.php); compare also H@R 2008–2010, pp. 16–18 and *Anastylosis or Reconstruction – Considerations on a Conservation Concept for the Remains of the Buddhas of Bamiyan*, 2002, Monuments and Sites XIX, pp. 46–51, and the contributions to the meetings of the Bamiyan Working Group, e. g. to the 10th Expert Working Group, Tokyo, December 2011: *Preserving the Fragments of the Bamiyan Buddhas and their Future Presentation*.

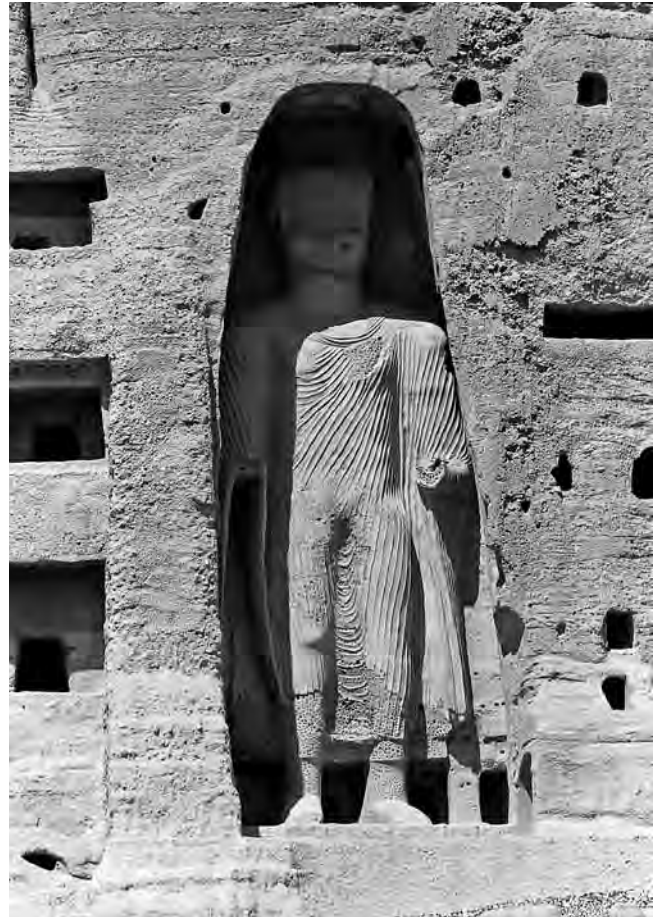
Since 2002 the safeguarding measures of ICOMOS Germany have contributed considerably to the history of the Bamiyan Buddhas by a wealth of insights and outstanding findings – for instance, the Buddhist relics from the time the Eastern Buddha was erected, discovered by restorers Edmund Melzl and Bert Praxenthaler in 2006 and 2008 (Monuments and Sites XIX, pp. 85, 142). In connection with the lower caves and the lower gallery largely destroyed by the blowing-up in 2001 the historic condition of the lower zone with the feet of the Eastern Buddha had to be taken into consideration: the condition around 1886 handed down in drawings and engravings (Monuments and Sites XIX, p. 22, figs. 7, 8); illustrations showing buildings for habitation and stables, involving the feet, probably erected in the first decades of the 20th century (Monuments and Sites XIX, p. 24, figs. 15, 16, photos by DAFA, 1928 and 1933); and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) photo documentation of the restoration measures carried out by the Indian-Afghan team since 1969. Of particular relevance in this context is the condition after the demolition of the annex buildings and the visible historic remains of the feet that were included in the restoration (Monuments and Sites XIX, p. 31, fig. 33, 34); finally, the photo documentation of ICOMOS Germany of the lower caves with lower gallery after the removal of the rubble. In the latter case, the largely destroyed enclosing walls and partition walls, partly already heavily rebuilt by ASI, had to be reconstructed for structural reasons, as base for the rear side of the Eastern Buddha niche. Besides, the very solid and conscientious work of ASI since 1969, which certainly contributed a lot to the survival of the rather fragile Eastern Buddha niche with its caves and the lateral accesses to the upper gallery during the disastrous attacks of 2001, was included as far as possible and maintained for structural reasons in the work of the ICOMOS team during the past years and, as far as necessary, completed with corresponding materials and technologies.

Part of this concept, which to a certain extent considers the restoration carried out by the Indian-Afghan team as the most recent “historic” condition, is the reconstruction of the lower gallery. In connection with the partition walls of the caves, safeguarding the enormous crack behind the surface of the rear side with the





The Eastern Buddha, engraving after P. J. Maitland, in: *The Illustrated London News*, Nov. 13, 1886



The Eastern Buddha after the Indian-Afghan restoration, 1977 (photo: Blume, 1977)

original fragments of the statue, leading from the lower vaults up to the height of the statue's head, the lower gallery is part of a structural system which will not only protect future visitors from falling particles but also facilitate in future, step by step, a reassembling of individual salvaged fragments of the figure.

The fact that the reconstruction of the lower gallery in connection with the already completed partial reconstruction of the lower caves, as well as of the lateral accesses to the Eastern Buddha niche and of the upper gallery, stabilised by massive replacements are necessary becomes evident when looking at the similar situation in the lower zone of the Western Buddha niche. Here, where the lower caves with their original decoration in clayplaster (in parts already conserved by Bert Praxenthaler) are much better preserved than at the Eastern Buddha, the accesses to the caves are threatened by massive rock fall: The consolidation of the rear side, already begun in 2013 with the scaffolding and the consolidation of a rock part at the access to the upper gallery in danger of falling off, remains one of the most urgent concerns. Should it become possible to consolidate the entire rear side, similar to the Eastern Buddha niche, it would of course also be necessary to have similar safety measures in terms of a "lower gallery", also imaginable as a modern construction, including the gigantic feet uncovered under a big rubble heap in years of work (see H@R 2008–2010, p. 16). During the ASI restoration these feet were completed by reinforced parts (lower legs of the statue), including considerable parts dating back to earlier centuries. At the Eastern Buddha, the presently unfinished and there-



The cliff with the Eastern Buddha niche (photo: Maynard Owen Williams, 1931)

fore interim condition of the lower gallery with its brick structure, only meant to serve as supporting layer for the traditional clay plaster, allows different variations: not only the planned reconstruction of the condition around 1970 created by the restoration of the Indian-Afghan team, but also solutions in commemoration of the severely fragmented condition after the demolition of the later buildings for habitation and stables.





The lower gallery before the beginning of the Indian-Afghan restoration, legs partially cleared of the former additional buildings



Feet of the Eastern Buddha after the Indian-Afghan restoration



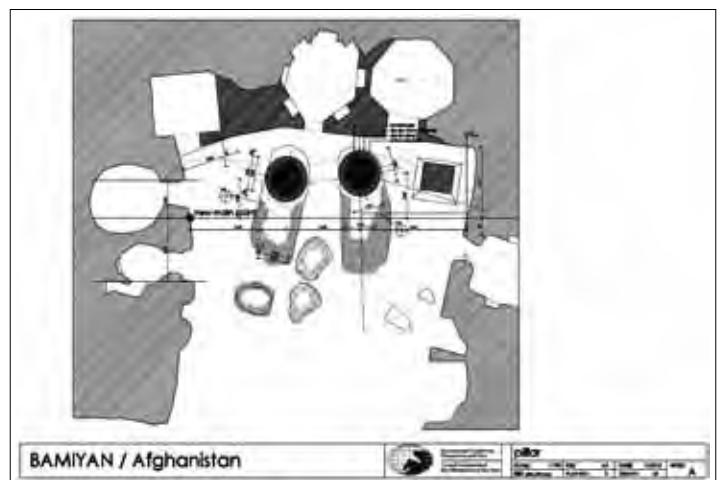
Eastern Buddha niche, the ground level with the destroyed caves in the background

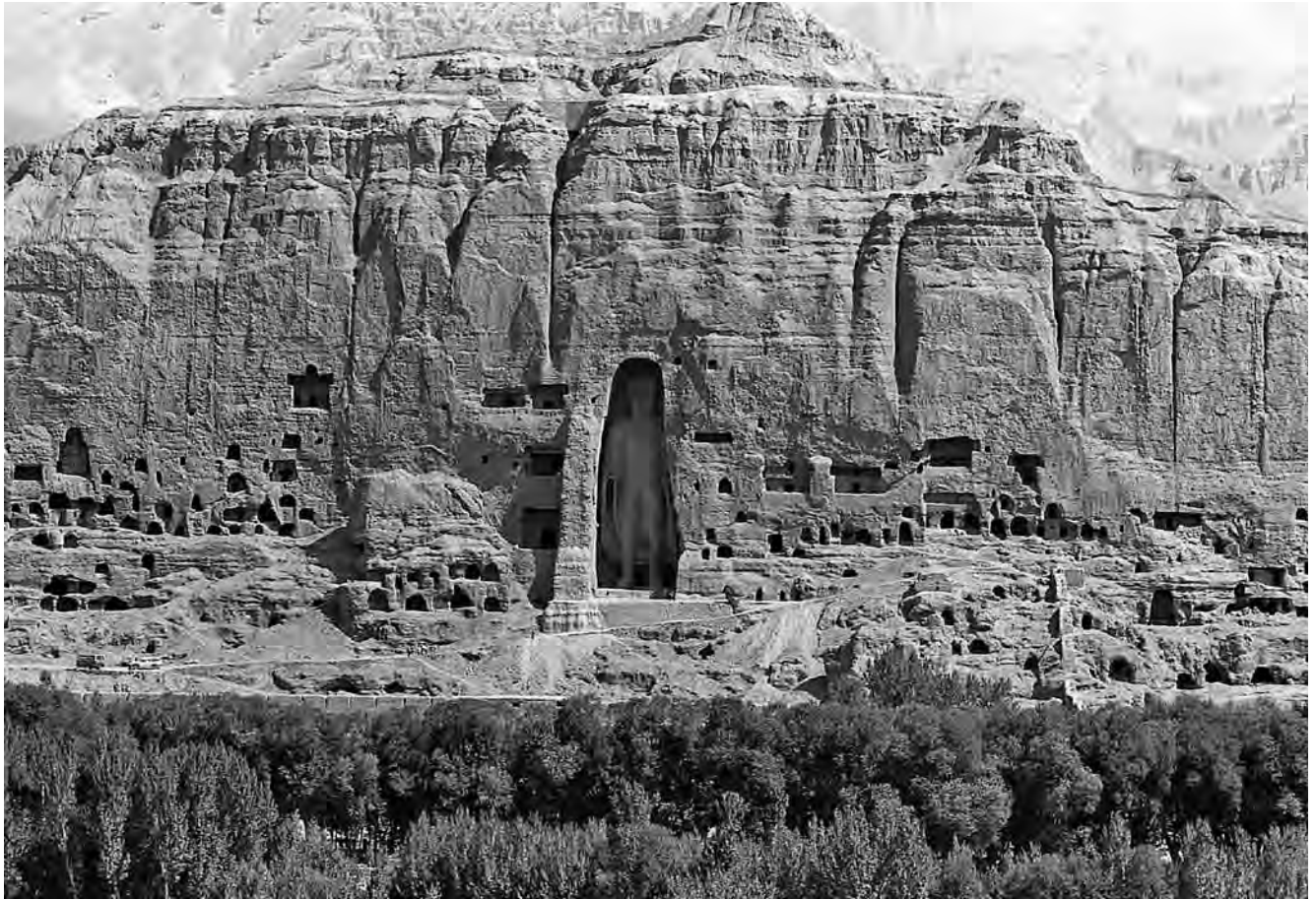
Unfinished pillars commemorating the feet of the Indian-Afghan restoration during the reconstruction, August 2013



Parts of the niche's back wall had to be supported as stone slabs kept falling down

Eastern Buddha niche, ground plan with reconstructed partition walls and pillars





Cliff with the Eastern Buddha niche (Foto: Blume 1977)

In the end we would like to repeat some central aspects for the concept of reconstructing the lower gallery in the niche of the Eastern Buddha on the basis of the well documented conditions before and after the restoration about 1970:

- Starting point of the ICOMOS concept was the question of safety for future visitors to the “site museum” that includes the rearward lower caves, i.e. protection against particles falling from the cliff, also protection against rock fall in the case of severe tremors.
- In combination with the already reconstructed partition walls of the lower caves (see ground plan), the lower gallery can be seen as part of a structural system stabilising the rear side of the Eastern Buddha niche with the remains of the statue. In view of the enormous crack behind the surface of the rear side this stabilisation system is indispensable.
- The lower gallery as stable foundation allows a step-by-step reassembling of salvaged fragments at their original site (reassembling in accordance with article 14 of the Venice Charter) that will emphasise the outline of the statue without hiding the condition of destruction. The lower gallery integrates the existing pillar on the right side with fragments of the ancient vault of the gallery into the overall appearance of the rear front with the original lateral layers of clay plaster still preserved in situ. Under these circumstances the concept of the lower gallery improves the overall appearance in terms of integrity and authenticity of the World Heritage site considerably.

- What’s more, in future the lower gallery, which to a certain extent is “reversible”, will facilitate partial reconstructions in accordance with the statements by representatives of the Afghan government and open up possibilities for future generations to enhance the maintenance, conservation and presentation of the historic and aesthetic values of the Eastern Buddha niche under new perspectives.

ICOMOS acting as advisory body to UNESCO can only give advice within the framework of the international principles of preservation and its experts can only evaluate the different technical possibilities. The necessary decisions on all further steps are a matter of the Afghan government within the framework of the Afghan monument protection law. Saving the fragments of the Buddhas of Bamiyan will only be possible in cooperation and under the guidance of our Afghan colleagues, and we wish to express our gratitude for the close cooperation in former years to the responsible Ministers and Vice Ministers and to the colleagues of the Afghan Conservation Department, most of all to Abdul Ahad Abassi (Dept. of Historic Monuments).

*Abridged version of a report by the authors of 24 January 2014*



## Mes Aynak

In *Heritage at Risk 2008–10* the critical condition of the Mes Aynak archaeological site threatened by a huge copper mining project was already described. Since then the situation seems not to have improved. Rescue excavations have been carried out to salvage as many archaeological objects as possible. Here are some extracts taken from a recent article on the current situation, published by ARCH (Alliance for the Restoration of Cultural Heritage):

*of geology, mining engineering, archaeology, history and economic development to study the specific situation in Mes Aynak. The experts met at SAIS in Washington, D. C. to develop realistic strategies to ensure real economic benefit to the Afghan population, safeguard their environment and health, consider livelihoods during and after the mining, and preserve the cultural treasures at Mes Aynak. The meeting was co-chaired by ARCH's founder Dr. Cheryl Benard and CACI Silk Road Program Chairman, Fred Starr. Other experts included Philippe Marquis, an archaeologist with DAFA, the French Government's archaeological mission in Afghanistan. (...)*



General view of the site of Mes Aynak, on the left the central part of the archaeological site (photo: DAFA)

### **Experts Show How to Preserve Ancient Mes Aynak Ruins While Safely Mining Copper Near Kabul, Afghanistan**

*Mes Aynak is one of the largest copper deposits in the world, located 20 km south of Kabul in Logar Province. The huge site looms as major revenue source for Afghanistan, a country deeply in need of economic growth. Mes Aynak is also a vast complex of over twenty ruin locations, including numerous 5th–6th century Buddhist monasteries, a fortress, and evidence of even older Bronze Age settlements buried beneath the rubble of ancient copper mines. Archaeologists from around the world hold that Mes Aynak represents a cultural heritage site of immense importance. The Aynak region also sits on top of the underground water sources serving agricultural areas and population centers, most notably Kabul and Jalalabad but extending into Pakistan.*

*Mes Aynak's unique cultural heritage, coupled with its strategic environmental characteristics and its vast mineral wealth under contract to be mined by the MCC Corporation of China, make it a complex international issue where the potential for economic growth abuts the huge risk of an environmental catastrophe and the irreparable loss of Afghanistan's world-class cultural heritage.*

*On June 4 and 5, 2012, ARCH International and the Central Asia Caucasus Institute's Silk Road Program at SAIS/Johns Hopkins, convened a group of highly experienced experts in the fields*

*What the experts discovered is provisionally encouraging – but only if certain key provisos, currently not in place, are met. Their key findings: Mining, environmental protection and heritage preservation can and must be part of one integrated plan and effort, with shared and transparent planning and information. Openness, transparency, and information sharing amongst all parties is absolutely critical. With current dearth of information, it is not possible to evaluate the scope of the project and connect the dots between mining operations, environmental protection, and respect for cultural heritage sites.*

*A realistic timetable for mining operations, environmental impact assessment, and protection of heritage sites is needed. This timetable must clearly spell out MCC's plan on infrastructure, opening blocks of site, etc for conserving all other resources, particularly the heritage sites.*

*It is also crucial that MCC play a more active role engaging with different stakeholders, especially those focused on the environmental and cultural dimensions of this project.*

*This includes MCC dedicating long-term financial resources to the effort to protect cultural heritage sites. It also includes similar long-term financial support to establish a local museum to house and protect artifacts recovered from the Aynak site. Such funding represents a very small percentage of overall revenue expected to flow from this immense mining project and reflects international best practices.*

*ARCH's Cheryl Benard summarizes the group's over-all focus on the issue: "The dominant narrative has it that Afghanistan*



*needs resources right away, that mining can commence immediately and money will begin to flow into government coffers shortly and in large amounts. Because the need is so great, some believe that losses to cultural heritage unfortunately have to be accepted.”*

*Currently in Mes Aynak, mining operations are temporarily on hold while a salvage archaeology effort rushes to remove the most valuable artifacts that can be carried away.*

*The experts’ 30-page meeting report is in preparation. In it, they balance keen interest with caution – Mes Aynak has the potential to become a positive model for mineral extraction that respects and preserves cultural heritage, but it can also become a costly and irreparable failure.*

### ARCH Summary

*As the United States and NATO prepare to scale down their mission in Afghanistan, and with it the massive international funding that has essentially been subsidizing the country and its government for the last ten years, the country has appeared to face a tragic choice. It truly possesses rich mineral resources. But due to its ancient history, these typically lie under priceless archaeological remains. Mes Aynak, where the Chinese company MCC obtained the contract to mine copper, perfectly represents this dilemma. Copper is extremely lucrative – but how do you put a price on a 5000 year old buried city containing multiple monasteries and settlements possibly going back to the Bronze Age, a site at least as significant as the tragically lost Buddhas of Bamiyan?*

*All of this historical material is in imminent danger of destruction by the mining endeavour, although a plan for minimal salvage archaeology was put into place. This plan still foresees the destruction of the site and everything still buried beneath it, but*

*it does allow for removal of whatever smaller statues and artifacts can be carried away by a small archaeological team lead by DAFA, the French archaeological mission to Afghanistan.*

*ARCH International’s mission is to achieve a partnership of cultural conservation, economic interests, and national development that can rescue and restore Mes Aynak and become a model for the many projected future situations where archaeological remains and mineral deposits share the same physical location.*

[www.archinternational.org](http://www.archinternational.org)



Architectural remains of the Buddhist monastery (photo: M. Jansen)

# ARMENIA

## The Central Covered Market in Yerevan

The Central Covered Market of Yerevan built in 1952, the acknowledged masterpiece of 20th-century Armenian architecture representing a unique example of the so-called “neo-Armenian” style of the Soviet period, was seriously damaged in its original architectural and structural shape due to impermissible reconstruction.

The distortion works, begun in January 2012, continued until October 2013 without any approved project documents. Within a short period of about one and a half years, under the guise of

public organisations permanently called upon the Yerevan City Municipality and relevant Ministries to stop the destruction of the Covered Market, to take urgent measures for dismantling the newly erected structures, to oblige the owner to fully restore the authentic structural, architectural shape of the Covered Market and reconstitute its original use. However, no serious measures to stop the illegal construction were undertaken. The distorted landmark was reopened and has functioned illegally since 8 October 2013.

The Central Covered Market was built just after the Second World War. During this period (1945–1955) in Soviet Armenia many significant buildings with architecture representing the synergy of traditional local artistic techniques and concrete struc-



The Central Covered Market in 1985 (architect Grigor Aghababyan, engineer Hamazasp Arakelyan)

renovation and construction of an underground parking area, half of the building was dismantled and replaced by a four-storey supermarket whose structures are incompatible with the authentic design and seriously endanger the Market’s important heritage values. This vandalism was not stopped despite warnings from professionals and a powerful public protest movement. Since the beginning of the reconstruction a great number of architects and

tures, new for that period, were realised. The Central Covered Market is not only one of the most interesting creations of Armenian post-war architecture, but also a significant contribution to the movement of neo-national styles in Soviet architecture in general. This type of “double technique – double face” building is an original example of a coherent combination of exterior stone masonry and concrete support structure.



The Central Market was built in the historic centre of the capital of Armenia. It was designed by Grigor Aghababyan (1911–1977), a famous Soviet Armenian architect and Honoured Artist of the Republic of Armenia, as well as by engineer Hamazasp Arakelyan. The original use of the building was a grocery market with different services: shops, a medical centre, newsstands, a post office and a railway station office. Architecturally, structurally and functionally this building represents an exclusive phenomenon of its time. It could be considered as a precursor of the contemporary trade malls.

The Covered Market was not only a significant artistic and architectural creation, but also a rare social phenomenon, an exceptional attempt to realize the utopian dream of a society where everything, including the grocery sale and household services, are a cultural manifestation of a progressive nation with centuries-old traditions and fighting for a better future.

The massive rectangular volume (42 x 92 m) of the building is inscribed in a dense residential plot in the very centre of the capital. This area is located between Kond and Dzoragyugh, the two oldest districts of Yerevan. The intensive urbanisation of this territory began in the second decade of the 19th century, when Eastern Armenia was annexed by the Russian Empire, and Yerevan became the main city of Erivan Province. In 1856, the entire territory of the present small centre of Yerevan received a regular planning structure, which was maintained in the first master plan of Yerevan of the Soviet period (1924) and in all subsequent master plans. The Covered Market occupies a plot of 5,000 square metres in a quarter bounded by Mashtots, Proshian, Leo and Saryan Streets. Its main, most richly decorated facade overlooks Mashtots Avenue (formerly Lenin Avenue, Armenian Street), one of the most important transport and compositional axes of Yerevan. The stained glass main entrance, representing an original interpretation of mediaeval Armenian decorative forms, itself is an outstanding work of decorative art. This monumental portal accentuates the continuous linear facade of Mashtots Avenue with residential houses of tuff, and at the same time does not disturb its compositional integrity.

The building has no analogies in the Soviet and foreign architecture of this period with regard to its multifunctional organization closely related to the structural and artistic interpretation.

The building represented a two-level three-nave hall with larger central nave. The roof was supported by 19 concrete arches of 42 metres width (ten of which are now destroyed). The structural system of the building was clearly expressed in the interior. The supporting arcade was also the main means of artistic expression in the interior. The surfaces of the big arches were treated with gradually reduced additional arcs that visually give a lightness and elegance to the structure. Despite the huge size, the interior space had a very human scale, thanks to the masterfully drawn arch galleries of the side naves and to the interior details, like metal railing of the corner stairs and the higher tiers. The 34 stationary shops were located in the side galleries. The restaurant, café and medical centre were situated on an underground floor. At the main entrance there were the post office and the railway station office to serve the sellers – farmers from different regions.

Despite the fact that the valuable stained glass of the main facade and several supporting arches remained intact, the authentic structural and architectural integrity of the building was seriously damaged. The floors, escalators, and other incoherent elements of the newly built structure create a sharp dissonance with the remaining authentic part of the former Covered Market. This



The authentic interior of the Covered Market



The demolition of the Covered Market started in 2012



The new structures of the "renovated" Covered Market

The interior of the former Covered Market in September 2013



kind of gross interference suggests that the owner also intends to reconstruct the remaining part of the building.

The Covered Market has been on the State List of Immovable Historical and Cultural Monuments of Yerevan as a monument of Republican (national) level since 1983. It retained its Republican Protection Status (within three existing protection levels – local, regional and Republican) on the latest State List of Immovable Historical and Cultural Monuments approved in 2004. The building was privatized in 2010. Until 2012, no restoration work or changes to the landmark had been made.

The history and analysis of the Covered Market were widely presented in numerous publications and research on 20th-century architecture in Armenia and abroad, which proves the outstand-

ing universal value of this building. It was one of the most visited tourist sites in Armenia. The luminous hall impressed visitors by the colors and scents of the rich gifts of Armenian nature. For many tourists the Covered Market was a symbol of traditional Armenian hospitality.

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# AUSTRALIA

## Introduction

In Australia's last report for *Heritage at Risk* we noted the prevalence and impact of natural disasters across Australia. Sadly, the country has experienced another summer of such disasters, ranging from fires in south-eastern Australia to massive flooding in the north. We remain grateful that the impact on life has been much less than that from previous disasters, and while a loss of significant heritage values has not occurred in the more recent events, the destruction of more local and community-based values has been sorely felt.

## Issues and Threats

While we continue to recognise the threat to heritage arising from natural disasters, two important studies have been finalised since our last report and it is hence timely to review their findings and recommendations in terms of ongoing threats to Australia's cultural heritage. The first is the five-yearly Australian government publication *State of the Environment 2011*. The second is the UNESCO World Heritage Asia Pacific Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting 2010–12. Australia ICOMOS members contributed to both studies and to the final publications.

The 2011 State of the Environment (SoE) report identified the key threats to heritage (both natural and cultural) as the impact of natural and human processes and a lack of public sector resourcing. The 'at a glance summary' of risks to heritage provides the following overview:

Australia's heritage is under-resourced and at risk from both natural and human factors. Although some events, such as the removal of statutory protection, large-scale resource extraction from reserved lands and unmanaged fires, would have catastrophic impact, these are generally unlikely. However, major risks do arise from the effects of climate change, such as damage from extreme weather events, managed fires, loss of habitat and increases in invasive species. Indigenous cultural heritage is particularly at risk from loss of traditional knowledge and incremental destruction of Indigenous places. Development consent is often granted in the knowledge of site-specific heritage impact, but in the absence of adequate knowledge about the total extent of the Indigenous heritage resource. Resourcing is also a major risk factor, including limited funding, lack of incentives, neglect arising from rural population decline and the impending loss of specialist heritage trade skills. Development and resource extraction projects directly threaten the nation's heritage at both a landscape and individual site scale; the impacts are exacerbated by inadequate survey and assessment, duplicate and inconsistent statutory processes, and a perception of heritage as expendable. Lack of national leadership increases the overall risk to Australia's heritage (SoE 2011, p. 784). In the preparation of the SoE report, Australia ICOMOS had the opportunity to contribute through

a workshop session, which involved a number of members and the Executive Committee. The table below includes a number of threats to the ongoing protection of heritage that were identified in that forum.

Issue	Comment
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– there is a lack of government support and leadership for heritage with no national strategy or adequate resourcing for heritage protection;</li> <li>– current decision-making powers do not reflect community attitudes;</li> <li>– failure to link individual, public and government interests;</li> <li>– jurisdictions handle cultural heritage differently;</li> <li>– the role of natural/national heritage trusts has changed over the last 30-40 years as heritage is now being managed in a different context</li> </ul>
Definition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– there is a lack of good outcomes for heritage owing to the imperfect conceptualisation of what heritage is, in particular Indigenous heritage</li> </ul>
Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– systematic failure of the planning system to protect heritage;</li> <li>– there are no shared resourcing, planning or management systems in place for natural and cultural (tangible and intangible) heritage – all are competing for resources and not working together</li> </ul>
Tangible/Intangible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– heritage institutions responsible for heritage management focus on tangible heritage;</li> <li>– there are multi-generational and multi-cultural people with knowledge and stories who do not necessarily place value on them or know how to share them, and are often not identified or captured as part of assessment surveys (especially at local government level)</li> </ul>
Economic drivers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– the scale and pressure of economic development, including urban development and mining, outweighs heritage which is perceived as being of no monetary value and expendable;</li> <li>– in planning the focus is expedience and heritage protection is reactive rather than proactive</li> </ul>

Disaster response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– when natural disasters such as cyclones or fires occur, there is a lack of recognition that community health and wellbeing also rely on the retention and conservation of heritage places and values;</li> <li>– climate change is accelerating and its potential consequences for all types of heritage are dire</li> </ul>
Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– heritage concepts need better coverage in environmental management courses and other training that has crossover with heritage management;</li> <li>– conservation skills need to be incorporated into education and training for planners, architects, public and tradespeople</li> </ul>
Identification and listing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– failure between heritage industry, government and community about identifying what we want to keep and what can be preserved through interpretation and stories;</li> <li>– landscape assessment and protection is an especially challenging area</li> </ul>

It is interesting to note that many of these concerns were reflected in the broader regional study undertaken through the World Heritage Periodic Reporting for Asia and the Pacific. Australia ICOMOS again had the opportunity to contribute at a national level in a stakeholder workshop, held by the Federal department with responsibility for heritage. While in some cases there was a differing opinion as to degree of threat between Australia ICOMOS and the government representatives, it is clear that Australia's identification of threats is reinforced in the feedback from across the Asia Pacific region. Clearly this is all contained within the final report, which can be accessed readily on the UNESCO website, however it is worth highlighting a number of identified threats. Many have already been identified above and those listed below stand out as additional issues. While the Periodic Reporting process arises in the context of World Heritage properties, it was clear from the questionnaires and workshops that the implications for heritage management exist in many national entities across all heritage places and values:

- incomplete inventories (in both extent and diversity);
- inadequate tentative lists;
- inadequate legal frameworks;
- lack of management plans or ineffective/incomplete plans;
- failure to engage in effective monitoring programs;
- lack of heritage training (including traditional trades and skills training) and access to experienced people;
- need for consolidated research programs;
- inadequate involvement with local and traditional communities;
- impacts from tourism activities and visitation.

Arguably one of the strongest challenges that has been identified in the Australian context and reflected across the region relates to communication and awareness-raising at the grass roots level. The impetus for conservation and protection of heritage values can be best instilled through education programs, whether school

based or mature-age programs, and through mechanisms for information exchange, discussion, debate and learning. However, this is but one of a tool set of activities and mechanisms that need to be put into play to help reduce the threats we are facing to heritage within Australia. One of the key messages coming out of processes such as the State of Environment and Periodic Reporting is that the recommendations in the final publications are of little value unless they are acted on and reviewed in a timely, regular and proactive way. Waiting for another five or six years for the next report in these programs devalues the efforts that have gone into their creation. Australia ICOMOS proposes to initiate further discussion with relevant government and other bodies, both nationally and regionally, to ensure that this process is one of ongoing engagement.

### Case Study One: Bush Fires – Eastern Tasmania

Tasmania is the small island state located at the far south of Australia. On 4 January 2013, most of the south-eastern part of Australia experienced a heat wave with weather conditions that resulted in a number of bush fires across the country. The most devastating of these occurred in Tasmania, where for several days large bushfires burnt out of control. On 4 January, Hobart, Tasmania's capital, recorded its highest temperature since records began in 1882, reaching 41.8°C (107.2°F).

Communities in the fire-affected regions were forced to evacuate, with a particular impact on the Tasman and Forestier Peninsulas. As the fires travelled south, they forced the closure of the only road both in and out. This left people on both sides stranded, compounded on the Tasman Peninsula by the large number of visitors on a day trip to the Port Arthur Historic Site. Two of the sites in the Australian Convict Sites World Heritage property are located on the Tasman Peninsula: The Port Arthur Historic Site and the Coal Mines Historic Site. Both sites include large portions of natural bushland. The fires did not threaten the Coal Mines site, which is located on the north-western tip of the Tasman Peninsula, but reached within 10 kilometres of Port Arthur. With the road closed, the Port Arthur Historic Site was established as an evacuation centre and undertook the care of over 500 visitors, many of whom who were unable to leave for several days. The disaster was compounded by the loss of power and communications, and the historic site also acted as a refuge for members of the local community faced with food shortages and no domestic electricity supply.

The final impact of the fires in Tasmania was the destruction of over 100 properties. More than 20,000 hectares (49,000 acres) of bushland were burnt out. The impact on people's homes, properties, livestock, rural landscapes and both domestic and native wildlife was devastating. Thankfully no lives were lost, an outcome that can be credited to prompt action by emergency workers and the coastal location of much of the impacted area.

No places of major heritage significance were destroyed. However, many places that were important to the local community, including rural and township landscapes, have been lost and much of the recovery effort is now dedicated not only to the replacement of homes, sheds and fences, but also to the community's sense of place and cohesion.

Without a change in weather conditions, it is likely that the Port Arthur Historic Site would have been severely damaged. At the time the Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority was near completion of two systems to counter such threats: a fire

suppression system that will provide the capacity to deliver water flows to all significant areas of the site, and a revised Emergency Management Plan, which has been prepared in consultation with the guidelines of the UNESCO publication *Managing Disaster Risks for World Heritage Properties* (2010). However, the somewhat sobering reality is that if the January fire had reached the historic site neither would have been of much value in the face of such a ferocious and devastating wildfire. The site managers are currently undertaking a review of threat preparedness for all three sites it manages in the Australian Convict Sites World Heritage property.

## Case Study Two: Urban Development – Old Government House and Domain, Parramatta, New South Wales

In November 2011 a major development was proposed in the immediate proximity of another site that is part of the Australian Convict Sites World Heritage property: Old Government House and Domain. Australia ICOMOS expressed its concerns at the time through processes established under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection Biodiversity and Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The matter was reviewed and a second development proposal submitted some six months later. It was disappointing that there was little in that change to mitigate any of the concerns highlighted by Australia ICOMOS. Our main concerns were:

1. It was non-compliant with the existing planning scheme, for two high-rise towers, both over the maximum building height of 80 metres, with one tower exceeding the maximum building height by 37.6 metres.
2. Parramatta is an area of early settlement in Australia and the development site is surrounded by sites of acknowledged local, state, national and World Heritage value.
3. There would be potential impact on the setting of Old Government House and Domain, Parramatta Park, which is not only of Local and State heritage significance but is included on the National Heritage List and is one of the eleven sites in the Australian Convict Sites World Heritage property.
4. The development was potentially at odds with the ICOMOS assessment report for the Australian Convict Sites, tabled at the 34th Meeting of the World Heritage Committee in Brasilia in 2010, which recommended that the Commonwealth of Australia pay attention to managing the landscape values of the sites in or close to urban areas by studying the visual impact of their current environment and any projects liable to affect those values (World Heritage Committee Meeting Decision 34COM 8B.16)
5. The 2010 Assessment report for the Listing further noted under the heading ‘Development pressures’:  
More broadly, some of the sites within the property may be threatened by the development of the property’s peripheral area and in its buffer zone, notably in terms of the landscape impact of growing urban environments... This refers in particular to the City of Sydney for Hyde Park Barracks... to Parramatta city for Old Government House...
6. As the Australian Convict Sites World Heritage Property consists of 11 individual sites, any potential negative impact on the heritage values of one site can be considered to affect the Australian Convict Sites as a single property. The implications were hence far greater reaching than the impact in this



The fires in January 2013. This photo was taken after the fire had devastated the township of Dunalley, destroying 65 buildings, and before it moved on to Sommers Bay, where another 14 homes were destroyed (photo: courtesy of Jody Steele).



Fire devastation, Tasmania, January 2013 (photo: courtesy of Jody Steele)

Old Government House, Parramatta (photo: courtesy of Kerime Danis)



instance of the identified heritage values of Old Government House and Domain.

Australia ICOMOS expressed concern that the documentation for the proposal did not adequately address the potential to negatively impact the World Heritage and National heritage values of Old Government House and Domain and recommended that the potential impact on the World Heritage and National heritage values of the site appropriately addressed and considered prior to the proposal being allowed to proceed.

Central to the control of identified National and World Heritage values under the EPBC Act is the need for Ministerial approval of an activity or 'action that has, will have or is likely to have a significant impact on certain aspects of the environment' – that is, the National or World Heritage values of identified places/properties – and his/her determination as to whether the action 'should proceed'. Despite the concerns expressed by Australia ICOMOS that there was insufficient evidence to show that heritage values would not be significantly impacted, the Minister decided that the development was not a matter of concern under the EPBC Act. Subsequent referrals under the New South Wales state planning mechanisms approved the project.

Subsequent to the approval of the development, Parramatta City Council, in partnership with the commonwealth and state government departments responsible for heritage, is preparing guidelines for assessing the impacts on heritage, including settings, for the main city area. While this is welcomed, in the case of the only World Heritage listed site in the area, it is too late and the two-tower proposal has the potential to present the exact threat to heritage values that was identified in 2010 at the time the Australian Convict Sites was added to the World Heritage List.

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# AUSTRIA

## Attack on the World Heritage Site “Historic Centre of Vienna”

There is not much hope that the City of Vienna will learn from the negative experiences with the Wien-Mitte project (see H@R 2002/2003, p. 42 f.) and the high-rise projects behind Belvedere Palace and near Schönbrunn (see H@R 2008–2010). Compared with the famous Canaletto view of Vienna the visual integrity of the historic centre with the tower of the Stephansdom seen from the Upper Belvedere could now be ruined by another high-rise project. The development project “Vienna Ice-Skating Club – Hotel InterContinental – Konzerthaus” lies in the World Heritage zone in the area of the Vienna Ice-Skating Club between Hotel InterContinental (opened in 1964) and the Konzerthaus (opened in 1913, a building by architects Fellner and Helmer). With regard to this project the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session in Phnom Penh in 2013 urged the State Party “to halt any redevelopment higher than existing structures until an evaluation has been made by the Advisory Bodies”. However, although in the international competition there were proposals that would have respected the visual integrity of the World Heritage, the first prize-winning design by the Brazilian architect Isay Weinfeld presented on February 27, 2014, a 73 metre-tall building, is another provocation by the high-rise lobby. This design would seriously harm the nearer surroundings and the entire silhouette



Winning design for the “new” Hotel InterContinental  
(© Wertinvest)

of the historic centre and therefore also the outstanding universal value of the Vienna World Heritage site.

Wilfried Lipp  
President of ICOMOS Austria

Present view  
of the historic  
centre from the  
Upper Belvedere  
(top) and  
photo montage  
showing the  
high-rise project  
for the Hotel  
InterContinental  
(below) (©  
Wertinvest)





## The Historic Centre of the City of Salzburg

The historic centre of the City of Salzburg, inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1996, has again and again been on the agenda of the World Heritage Committee concerning the management plan and various state of conservation reports, which were evaluated by a UNESCO/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission of January 27–29, 2009, and most recently by an ICOMOS advisory mission, April 2–3, 2013. The World Heritage Committee in its 37th session at Phnom Penh in 2013 (37 COM 7B.72) expressed its concern “about the apparent lack of adequate, legislative and planning mechanisms to protect the property from the various proposed, often aggressive, urban and infrastructure developments as well as lack of an officially approved management system” and requested the state party “to initiate the modification of the project designs and proportions of the Residential Buildings City Life Rehrplatz, the project at Schwarzstrasse 45/Ernest-Thunstr. 2 and the Nelböck Viaduct Rainerstrasse/Bahnhofsvorplatz”, and “to strengthen the legal mechanisms for the protection of monuments in their setting, especially through an expansion of the Austrian Monument Protection Law.”

Indeed, a fundamental problem seems to be the Austrian Monument Protection Law, which in general only refers to individual objects and hinders the inscription of all the monuments and ensembles (groups of buildings), incl. parks, etc by rather complicated procedures. Under these circumstances the inscription of monuments and sites is incomplete (only very few inscribed ensembles). Besides, the Federal State Office for the Protection of Historic Monuments (Bundesdenkmalamt), taking care only of the conservation of the inscribed monuments of art and architecture, is not responsible for the surrounding and setting of the inscribed monuments and sites, and therefore not for matters of disturbing building projects nearby. In any case, it would be high time to strengthen the Federal Law for the Protection of Historic Monuments (Bundesdenkmalschutzgesetz) in accordance with article 5 of the World Heritage Convention, to avert danger not only from the Austrian World Heritage sites, but from the entire national cultural heritage. A certain improvement is the Environment Impact Assessment Act (Umweltverträglichkeitsprüfungsgesetz) of 2009.

In the special case of Salzburg a Law for the Preservation of the Old Town Centre of Salzburg (Altstadterhaltungsgesetz) of 1967 (latest version 1980) applies, in combination with a Fund for the Preservation of the Old Town Centre (Altstadterhaltungsfonds) and an Expert Commission for the Preservation of the Old Town (SVK, Sachverständigenkommission). Under these comparatively good conditions the Federal State Office for the Protection of Historical Monuments (Bundesdenkmalamt with Landeskonservatorium Salzburg) looks after the monuments of art and architecture in Salzburg in an exemplary way, which fortunately are inscribed in great numbers and also documented in a series of inventories (Österreichische Kunsttopographie). Although the monument protection system in Salzburg with its different responsibilities may seem complicated, very good results can be achieved by means of the Law on the Preservation of the Old Town Centre (Altstadterhaltungsgesetz) – not just for the outstanding monumental buildings, but also for many “small-scale projects” (including roofscape, facades of townhouses, etc) thanks to the commitment of the Building and Planning Department of the City, the Federal State Office for the Protection of Historical Monuments, and the Expert Commission for the Pres-

ervation of the Old Town. Consequently, large areas of the old town making up the core zone of the World Heritage Salzburg are still in excellent condition, compared to the devastating interferences in the urban landscape of the historic centre of Vienna.

Among the cases given in the above-quoted decisions of the World Heritage Committee the **project “Residential Buildings City Life”, Rehrplatz** is the most controversial case; a project against which the citizens of Salzburg have protested with 25,000 signatures. The project (architects Storch Ehlers Partners GbR), result of an international competition, is located within the World Heritage property and the Historic City-Centre Zone I opposite the modern wings of the emergency hospital, near an ensemble of villas from the later 19th century on the banks of the river Salzach, in the background partly older buildings along the streets Steingasse and Arenbergstrasse. Although the Expert Commission for the Preservation of the Old Town (SVK) had astonishingly come to a positive statement (“The planned project fits in harmoniously into the townscape, as the existing typical elements of the surrounding setting will be incorporated into the new construction and further developed”), the ICOMOS advisory mission of April 2–3, 2013 came to the conclusion that the project as possible example for further experiments of “city renewal” in the ensemble of the old town is incompatible with the character of the World Heritage of Salzburg. The project does not “fit in harmoniously” at all, contradicts especially § 5 of the Salzburg Altstadterhaltungsgesetz and thus also the Salzburg Altstadtverordnung of 1982 (AStEVO, II § 2-6), attached to the management plan of 2008 for the World Heritage of Salzburg, which includes regulations for facades, windows, roofs, etc. Furthermore, reference was made to art. 26 of the Vienna Memorandum (2005): “Special care should be taken to ensure that the development of contemporary architecture in World Heritage cities is complementary to values of the historic urban landscape and remains within limits in order not to compromise the historic nature of the city” – limits which the project did not respect. In order to find an adequate solution for this special situation on the fringe of the World Heritage zone and opposite the emergency hospital, the project is presently being revised in accordance with the recommendations by the monitoring group of ICOMOS Austria and by the advisory mission (“reduce the disturbing height of the project along the entire length by giving up the fifth storey, to separate the structure into two or three clearly defined solitaires and to orientate the structure of the facades and the windows on the formats found on-site”).

The **project Ernest-Thun-Strasse 2/Schwarzstrasse 45** in the area along the bank of the Salzach near the railway bridge is situated in the buffer zone of the World Heritage and in protection zone II of the Altstadterhaltungsgebiet. It is a disturbance for its surroundings, especially for the architectural monument Ernest-Thun-Strasse 3/Schwarzstrasse 47, restored some years ago with the support of the city. Taking into account the neighbouring buildings and because the result of the building project inside the buffer zone is visible from the banks of the Salzach, which are very important for the visual integrity of the World Heritage, it was recommended to better integrate the two modern structures into their surroundings.

For the high-rise structure **Nelböck Viaduct Rainerstrasse/Bahnhofsvorplatz** an already legally binding development plan (2007) allows a building height of 42 m at the corner Saint-Julien-Strasse/Nelböck Viaduct, but in the meantime, there are plans for a building height of 58 m. Together with the “historic” high-rise building Hotel Europa, opened in 1956, this additional high-rise



Rehrlplatz, design for new buildings (status: April 2013)

structure is meant to be an architectural “signal” for the square in front of the station. The ICOMOS advisory mission pointed out that the “skyline” of the city of Salzburg does not need any high-rise buildings, as it is already characterised in an exceptional way by the near and distant mountains, the steeples and domes of the churches as well as by the fortification Festung Hohe Salzburg on Mönchsberg. Under these circumstances a development with additional high-rise structures in the historic urban landscape of Salzburg and in the wider surroundings is hardly imaginable. A certain building height in the area of the station already exists with the Hotel Europa and the neighbouring buildings from the 1950s. Nonetheless, it does not seem compulsive that the planned new high-rise in Rainerstrasse must necessarily have the same height as the Hotel Europa, as suggested by the Architectural Advisory Board (Gestaltungsbeirat). The ICOMOS advisory mission therefore recommended that in accordance with the already approved development plan the height be reduced in relation to the 59-metre-Hotel Europa.



Building project Ernest-Thun-Strasse 2/Schwarzstrasse 45, visualisation of situation in Schwarzstrasse



Visualisation north-east corner Schwarzstrasse (left), north-west corner Elisabethkai (right)



Rehrlplatz, model of the planned complex of buildings (status: April 2013)

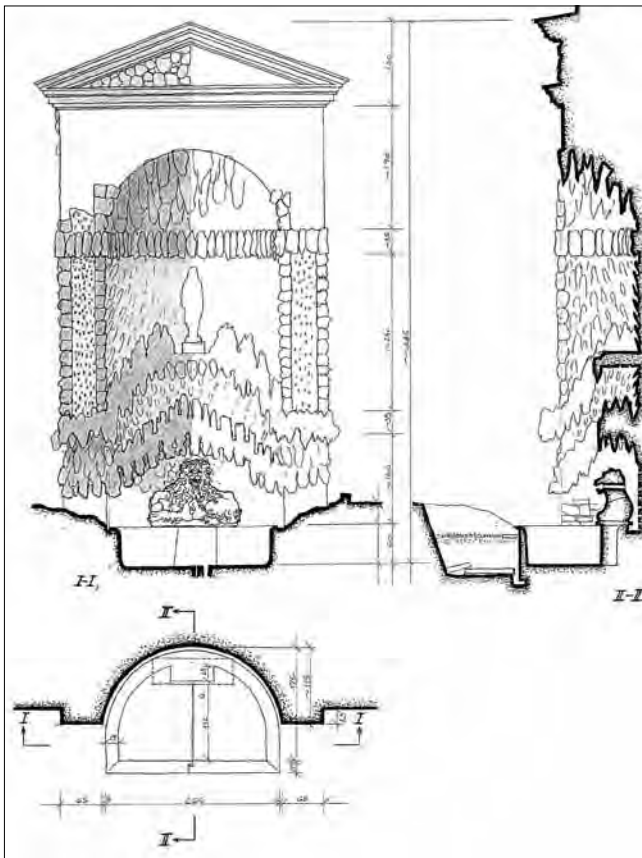
Another example of aggressive urban development in the historic centre of Salzburg is the **project Priesterhausgarten in Paris-Lodron-Strasse**. The Priesterhausgarten lies in the core zone of the World Heritage area and in protection zone I. The grounds behind the late medieval town wall in Paris-Lodron-Strasse became the property of the Priesterhaus in 1848. Today the grounds are used as access to the underground garage and to the neighbouring houses as well as a car park. The regrettable condition of this area bordered by the town wall and the wall of the Loreto monastery hardly shows that these are remains of a once important garden complex extending to the later Dreifaltigkeitsgasse. This early baroque garden laid out in 1630 was part of the primogeniture palace erected by Archbishop Paris Lodron: A view of the town (Philipp Harpff 1643) shows these gardens in the centre of the “Lodronstadt” erected by the Archbishop, including a precursor of the later Mirabellgarten – all in all a very important site for the World Heritage Salzburg, the historic view also showing a pavilion in the central axis which after a great



High-rise project Nelböck Viaduct Rainerstrasse/Bahnhofsvorplatz, visualisation



Ph. Harpff, map of Salzburg, 1643, detail showing the Priesterhausgarten. The arrow indicates the position of the grotto.



Priesterhausgarten, view, ground plan and section of the grotto

Priesterhausgarten, visualisation of building project



circular flower bed ends in front of the still existing grotto at the wall of the Loreto monastery. This grotto with its already exposed water basin of Untersberger marble would have to be carefully restored. Besides, the traces apparently located one metre below ground would have to be further investigated in an archaeological excavation, i.e. before new constructions of whatever kind could be planned. Sadly, this historic open space so important for the World Heritage of Salzburg is no longer a green area. Instead, it has been declared building land. The result of an architectural competition of 2012, presented to the ICOMOS advisory mission, envisages a compact mixture of apartments, cinemas, garages, and public lavatories. The three-to-four-storey rows of houses separated by strips of lawn would be visible high above the town wall in Paris-Lodron-Strasse. The grotto would be eclipsed by the new constructions that negate the historic qualities of the place. The advisory mission recommended in 2013 to reconsider and reverse the classification as building land. In the case of a considerably reduced development, fitting in harmoniously according to the regulations of the Law for the Preservation of the Old Town Centre (Altstadterhaltungsgesetz), the visual integrity of the grotto and the central axis in the historic garden leading towards the grotto would have to be taken into account.

Concerning the World Heritage Salzburg with its protection zones I and II, particularly in large areas of Zone I, in the old town embedded between Mönchsberg and Kapuzinerberg, the overall state of conservation is still rather good. A serious problem for the World Heritage and its characteristic values are several examples of a new trend towards aggressive town renewal incompatible with the Law for the Preservation of the Old Town Centre (Altstadterhaltungsgesetz): the project “Residential Buildings City Life” near Rehr-Platz, which has already led to fierce protests from the citizenry, the development project for the Priesterhausgarten in Paris-Lodron-Strasse, and the project Ernest-Thun-Strasse 2/Schwarzstrasse 45. The formalistic exercises carried out in this context, comparing heights and cubic capacities, should in these cases not hide the fact that according to the Altstadterhaltungsgesetz the aim should not be the usual architecture of contrasts. Instead, there is a demand for harmonious integration, correct heights of eaves, simply designed facades, yes even modesty and restriction.

In the buffer zone and far beyond the protection zones I and II there are more than enough critical issues: From the castle on Mönchsberg one can see the total **urban sprawl in the surroundings of the city**, which in recent decades has increased dramatically. It is difficult for the municipal and state authorities, who seem to act from case to case without general urban land-use planning, to get this general destruction of the landscape under control. City quarters such as Lehen are already covered with concrete structures and in the quarter of Riedenburg an over-dimensioned residential complex is presently under construction. Also for the benefit of the World Cultural Heritage Salzburg it would be imperative to protect at least certain green areas and to keep the still existing far-reaching axis of the Hellbrunner Allee free from any development.

Michael Petzet





Semmering Railway viaduct Kalte Rinne (© C. Schuhböck)

## World Heritage Semmering Railway

For many years, various names were used for this railway World Heritage site, but it was clear that they all meant the entire Semmering region. Consequently, at all the stations along the Semmering Railway one can find UNESCO World Heritage panels referring to the “Semmering Railway with surrounding landscape”. Only when in 2005, in the course of the Styrian electoral campaign, the national decision on the governmental level was taken to build the much disputed “Semmering Base Tunnel” (SBT) as a double-tube tunnel with a length of 28 km between Gloggnitz (Lower Austria) and Mürzzuschlag (Styria), a step-by-step “dismantling” of the World Heritage took place. To begin with, the stations Gloggnitz and Mürzzuschlag were removed from the monument list – after the nomination of the Semmering Railway as World Heritage site by the Republic of Austria in 1995. In the notification of monument status issued by the Aus-

trian Federal Monument Protection Office on March 17, 1997, the Semmering Railway (between the Gloggnitz and Mürzzuschlag stations) is described, but only the stretch between railway kilometres 75,650 and 114,820 was put under monument protection. The stations Gloggnitz and Mürzzuschlag thus lost their monument status, probably because the planned Semmering Base Tunnel will be looping in in these areas. Not only the Semmering Railway but also the surrounding landscape lost part of their protection status in favour of the project “Semmering Base Tunnel new” (SBTn). The Styrian landscape protection area “Stuhleck-Pretul”, decreed in 1981, was reduced to approximately one third of its original size in 2007, after the governmental decision (2005) to build the “Semmering Base Tunnel new” – in the area of the planned building site of the SBTn (Fröschnitztal).

Summary of a report by  
DI Christian Schuhböck

# BELGIUM

## Funerary Heritage in Belgium, from Underestimation to Revaluation to Degradation

Most Belgian cemeteries were created in the 19th century and testify in a particular way to the bourgeois culture which started to flourish at that time, like everywhere else in Europe. With the individual tombs, surviving relatives paid tribute to their deceased



Evere cemetery, Brussels, dismantled tomb  
(photo: Linda Van Santvoort)

family members and no expense was spared to do so through a high-quality artistic individual expression. Cemeteries developed into a unique 'lieu de mémoire' (memorial site) where societal, social and ideological developments were materialised. The First World War claimed millions of casualties. This caused a break in trend in how people dealt with death and how the deceased were remembered by their relatives. For the first time in history a democratisation process was deliberately pursued. On the military burial grounds no distinction was made by rank or position

and the principle was applied that in death all men are equal and deserve equal respect. Still, it is precisely this social shift in the 20th century that caused the funerary culture to disappear. In the post-war welfare state death was no longer used to remember the deceased for eternity. Tombs became standardised consumption products with a limited expiry date. In our current dealings with death, tombs with artistic qualities have become rare. Anonymous burials in green areas and virtual types of commemoration are gaining increasing popularity and support. All of this means that our cemeteries should more and more be designated as "herit-



Evere cemetery, Brussels, tombs in conflict with nature  
(photo: Linda Van Santvoort)

age". Within this context (policy area) we should reflect on how we should deal with this in the future.

### 'Outlawed' tombs

In 1971, the Belgian Act 'on cemeteries and undertaking' led to an important shift that reflected a societal development. The combination of lack of space, lack of interest in the old tombs and a





Willebroek cemetery, the consequences of the removal policy (photo: Linda Van Santvoort)

changing funerary culture resulted in the repeal of the perpetual concession, which had been introduced by Napoleon in 1804. As a result, the majority of the tombs became ‘outlawed’ in one fell swoop. Tombs which were already older than fifty years and for which the owners (relatives) did not insist on a renewal became the property of the municipality which could proceed to their removal. This law caused considerable anxiety among those who were committed to immovable heritage. The application of this law has started to define the image of our cemeteries. Cemeteries no longer constitute a coherent entity and their image is disrupted by a removal policy which makes a selection on an administrative rather than on a qualitative and heritage basis.

Meanwhile, the fear of insufficient space on the cemeteries, which was the reason for the 1971 Act, is totally irrelevant today. With 48% cremations (in 2010) Belgium is certainly not at the top of the ranking in Europe, where the UK is the front-runner with 70%. Still, the number of cremations is definitely rising. Consequently, pressure on the cemeteries has evolved in a totally different way. Removed tombs leave empty spaces that are no longer filled. This seriously disrupts the layout of the 19th century cemeteries which had either a landscape or an urban character, depending on the circumstances. To fill this randomly freed up space in a qualitative way is far from straightforward.

## Unknown is unloved

The immovable heritage care sector is convinced that mapping out heritage, or in other words inventorying it, is indispensable for its preservation and for a good policy and management. For architectural heritage, a systematic inventorying process was started in the early 1970s. Within the regions (Flanders, Wallonia and Brussels-Capital) this inventorying process is still taken to heart. In fact, insofar as this process is area-based (Flanders and Wallonia), a re-inventorying project has meanwhile also started, because the used values and criteria are constantly changing. However, funerary heritage completely falls outside this scope. None of the three regions have so far done any work on a systematic inventory of cemeteries and graveyards up to the level of the tomb. Yet, from an art historical perspective more than ordinary interest is shown in funerary heritage. However, the research that has been carried out up to now by various universities in the framework of (master’s) theses and which has also included inventories of cemeteries has not been opened up yet. The shift towards a coordinating inventorying process is still a distant prospect. The initiative which Flanders took in 2004 to encourage local administrations (municipalities) through a Flemish Parliament Act to draw up lists of tombs of ‘local historical significance’ is only slowly getting into its stride and is lacking





Dieweg cemetery in Ukkel, damaged tomb (photo: Linda Van Santvoort)

the required coordinating dimension. Moreover, there is still too much uncertainty about its actual purpose. As a matter of fact, this initiative even intensifies the distinction between heritage of local and supralocal significance, whereas the legislation on the protection of monuments and landscapes does not make this distinction in Flanders. This leads to a discrepancy and an a priori hierarchical distinction which seems to assume that funerary heritage is a local responsibility and does therefore not exceed local significance. A thematic approach – like inventorying cast-iron grave crosses in Wallonia or recording children’s graves in Flanders – also has its merit, but becomes bogged down in a casuistic approach with highly differing starting points. Consequently, the results cannot really be used in a policy context. For the moment there is no overview whatsoever. Therefore, a system to process and open up data in a centralised manner is urgently required. This can only be efficiently organised by a government in consultation with all the actors (local administrations, associations).

### Revaluation or memento mori?

As is often the case, awareness of the significance of heritage results from indignation. In response to the above mentioned Act of 1971, for instance, the foundations were laid for the valorisation and revaluation of cemeteries and their tombs. This revaluation was generated from the bottom up. Associations such as Epitaaf vzw started to dedicate themselves to funerary heritage and tried to publicise its value to the largest possible public.

Meanwhile, on an international level, the Association of Significant Cemeteries in Europe (ASCE) raises public awareness each year during the Week of Discovering European Cemeteries. Cemeteries are regarded more and more as an attraction and cemetery tourism has become an established activity. This attention is positive, since it increases support. However, the question is whether it actually contributes to a better preservation.

Precisely, funerary heritage seems to be in an ambiguous position. Cemeteries invite people to reflect on their mortality. Cemeteries do not attract the average tourist. Those in search of added value gaze in admiration at the beauty of decay. The restored tombs, which indeed often stand out in their surroundings, are from that point of view perceived as a ‘nuisance’. The fact is that some degree of erosion is simply inherent in cemeteries and even fosters their quality. The cemetery of Ukkel Dieweg already stood out from its protection in 1997 due to the large presence of biodiversity. Meanwhile, nature has gained the upper hand and many tombs are entirely overgrown or even destroyed. In this case the balance between monument and nature seems to be totally missing and the ‘soft’ approach that was intended seems to have completely lost its purpose.

### Protection and/or management

We have gone a long way already as far as the protection of cemeteries and individual tombs is concerned. It is difficult to deduce any figures, because since the regionalisation of heritage policy in Belgium in 1989 very diverse legal instruments are in place

in each of the regions which are used totally differently. Since 1938, graveyards were protected as landscapes. The protection of a graveyard usually resulted from its protection by the church. 1976 marked a change in the Belgian context. One year after the International Monuments Year 1975 the legal framework was adjusted and the concept of monument was widely extended. From then on, even very modest heritage (architectura minor) could be protected. This was a development that was expected to be beneficial to the funerary heritage. Since that time graveyards were often protected as 'townscapes'. The protection of cemeteries as 'monuments' is still rather exceptional; at least when not taking into consideration the military cemeteries, since an intensive protection campaign has been launched in the build-up to the Great War Centenary Commemoration in 2014. Exceptions that prove the rule are the protection of a cemetery like Schoonselhof (Antwerp) in 2008, or – even before that – the protection of the oldest part of the cemetery of Laken (Brussels) in 1999 or of the cemetery in Walloon Spa in 2004. Sometimes, individual monuments are protected as well. The question raised in this respect is whether these protections actually serve the intended purpose, which is to better preserve them. Any answer to this question should be put into the right context. Bruges succeeded in finalising a set of instruments for a better preservation, even without the protection of the central cemetery (Assebroeck). For the first time, an end was made to the removal through the sale of old concessions with the preservation and re-use of the tomb. Today, this system is applied to many cemeteries. The protected monuments in the graveyard of Laken do not serve as an example of good preservation and management. The tomb of La Malibran which contains a masterpiece by the sculptor Geefs has continued to decay despite its protection in 1999. These are merely examples that show that investing in preservation and good management is a question of developing good tools and making choices, and that an unimaginative application of a legal protection unfortunately does not always guarantee the intended result.

### **Cemeteries and tombs fall victim to vandalism and theft**

There are more and more reports in the press and media about vandalism (deliberate destruction, either targeted or not) and also about theft. It is with good reason that any violation of the respect for the dead causes great public indignation. In the case of theft a distinction is to be made between metal theft and art theft. Both have disastrous consequences for the funerary heritage. However, it is especially the latter form which leaves heritage care institutions in two minds. The efforts that were made to demonstrate

the significance and artistic value of tombs seems to be used as a 'manual'. It is reported, for instance, that precisely the most interesting and valuable artistic sculptures (often bronze) are stolen. This has led to the debate whether or not cemeteries should be open to the public at all times (since theft and vandalism often occur at night). It is practically impossible to fully secure cemeteries, which are sometimes very extensive in size.

### **Maintenance against erosion and decay**

Within the heritage care sector there is a consensus about the fact that the best guarantee of preservation lies in proper and proactive maintenance. However, the time when relatives carried out this maintenance on a permanent basis is behind us. As a result of 'granting heritage status' to cemeteries, this responsibility now lies with the government.

Permanent monitoring is the key to a proactive policy. In Flanders, Monumentenwacht (Monument Watch Flanders) plays an important role in this. The expertise built up by Monumentenwacht Vlaanderen resulted in 2012 in a publication entitled "Maintenance of Funerary Heritage". This publication discusses all aspects relating to the maintenance of cemeteries. The complexity which is so typical of funerary heritage is touched upon as well.

### **Conclusion**

Due to the richness and diversification, and in particular the vulnerability of funerary heritage, the heritage preservation sector is faced with great challenges. There is an urgent need for a coordinating and systematic inventorying process. Only on this basis can an integrated policy be designed which is founded on justified choices. The Belgian regions have the necessary instruments at their disposal to protect the most valuable cemeteries and tombs. In addition, instruments can be developed to also take initiatives at the local level to promote the preservation (maintenance) of funerary heritage. Communication around good practices could provide a stimulus and help local administrations to look for solutions. Associations may play a role in raising awareness of the value and significance of this heritage among the public at large.

Icomos Belgium  
Icomos Vlaanderen-Brussel;  
thanks to the association "Epitaaf"



# BHUTAN

## Wangduephodrang Dzong Seriously Damaged by Fire

A tragic fire accident on June 24, 2012 led to the loss of one of the most important and historic heritage sites in Bhutan, the Wangduephodrang Dzong. It is one of the historically and architecturally most significant dzongs (Buddhist fortified monasteries) found in the Himalayas. Fortunately, all the precious nangtens (relics) were saved. In the meantime, considerable funds have been provided for the reconstruction of the Dzong. The Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs of Bhutan undertook a detailed documentation and assessment of the condition of the remaining structure of the Dzong from July 5, 2012 onwards. A comprehensive report on the findings of the survey was prepared and



Wangduephodrang Dzong, the fire of June 24, 2012  
(photo: Dawa Knight)

submitted to the government. According to the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs the main objective of this project is to rebuild Wangduephodrang Dzong to its former appearance incorporating state-of-the-art technology in terms of disaster resilience measures and traditional architecture (see also <http://www.mohca.gov.bt/?p=6206>).

The reconstruction works began in January 2014 and are expected to be completed within five years. Below is the above-mentioned report by the Division for Conservation of Heritage Sites (Department of Culture, Ministry of Home & Cultural Affairs, Royal Government of Bhutan), published October 15, 2012.



The ruins of Wangduephodrang Dzong after the fire  
(photos: Yeshey Dorji, Choki Gyeltshen)

WANGDUEPHODRANG DZONG

(Concise Version)

**Survey for Remaining Structure of  
Wangduephodrang Dzong  
After June 24, 2012 fire**

15 October 2012

Division for Conservation of Heritage Sites  
Department of Culture  
Ministry of Home & Cultural Affairs  
Royal Government of Bhutan



BREIF SURVEY REPORT OF WANGDUEPHODRANG DZONG - Following June 24, 2012 Fire

## BRIEF SURVEY REPORT FOR REMAINING STRUCTURE OF WANGDUEPHODRANG DZONG - following June 24, 2012 Fire

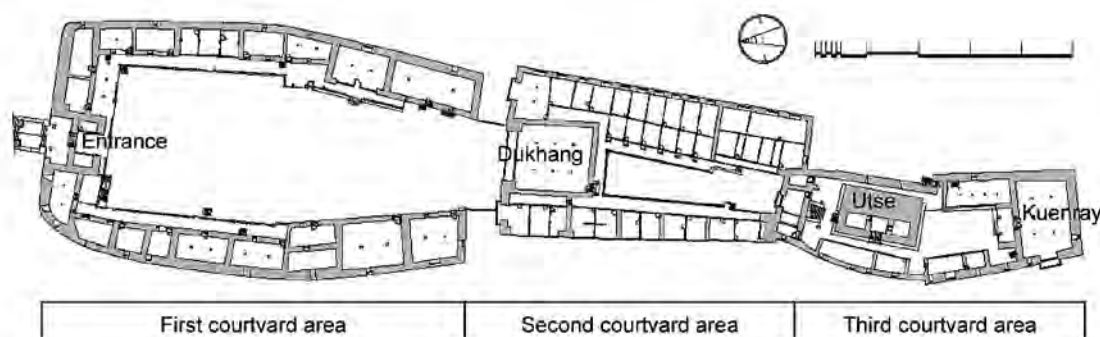
### 1. Wangduephodrang Dzong Fire

The fire which engulfed the entire Wangduephodrang Dzong on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2012 had started from the Census office, which was located on the first floor of the eastern *shabkhor* building surrounding the first courtyard area of the Dzong. According to the Royal Bhutan Police's investigation report, the fire started around 16:30 hrs due to electric short-circuits.

### 2. Description of the Survey

On receiving the instructions from His Excellency the Prime Minister of Bhutan to execute a detail survey of the remaining structure of Wangduephodrang Dzong, the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs deputed a team from the Division for Conservation of Heritage Sites (DCHS) under the Department of Culture to carry out the survey works. The team from the DCHS surveyed the Dzong as per the following schedule:

- Survey of the 1<sup>st</sup> Courtyard Area (Dzongkhag Administrative)  
From 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> July 2012
- Survey of the 2nd Courtyard Area (Rabdey – Dukhang and drasha)  
From 24<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> July 2012
- Survey of the 3rd Courtyard Area (Rabdey - Utse and Kuenray)  
From 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2012



### Purpose and Methodology of the Survey

The survey was carried out to document the condition of the remaining structure of the Dzong following the fire. This documentation would serve as the preliminary information to determine the possible extent of retaining and reusing the remaining structure while preparing the reconstruction master plan of Wangduephodrang Dzong. Thus, the survey focused on the following two areas:

1. To identify the heritage value of the remaining structure.

The survey focused on identifying the original and the subsequent phases of construction that had taken place as and when the Dzong was renovated in the past. The process of identification was carried out by diligently observing the remaining structure in relation to the available literatures and visual records on the Dzong. This

## BRIEF SURVEY REPORT OF WANGDUEPHODRANG DZONG - Following June 24, 2012 Fire

study enables to determine which parts of the remaining structure should be given more priority in the context of retaining them for its heritage value.

2. To document the condition of the remaining structure and assess the extent of damages sustained by the structure.

All the damaged and the collapsed portion of the walls were documented to understand the physical damages caused by the fire to the structure. The condition of the remaining wooden members including ceiling timber components, which are inserted into the walls, were also surveyed to check traces of the residual burning, which eventually would contribute to weakening the walls due to continued exposure to heat from the residual fire. In the areas where the wooden components do not show any sign of residual burning, the chances are that the stone and earthen wall in this area will be less affected by heat.

### 3. Study on Heritage Value – I (Literatures & visual records)

#### Summary of Chronology of Wangduephodrang Dzong

- 1638 Construction (3rd courtyard)
- 1683 Extension (1st & 2nd courtyard, upper stories of Utse)
- 1767 Renovation
- 1783 Sketches by Samuel Davis
- 1837 Fire
- 1897 Earthquake
- 1905 Photographs by J.C. White
- 1952 Renovation (Kuenray, Dukhang, 1st courtyard)
- 1983 Renovation (2nd & 3rd courtyard)

#### Comparative Study of Visual Records

The sketches of Wangduephodrang Dzong drawn by Samuel Davis in 1783 and the photographs taken by John C White in 1905 allow us to compare the state of the Dzong before and after the two disasters in 1837 and 1897.

1. The structure flanking the entrance tower at the Level-3 were stone masonry walls prior to the disasters.
2. The *gorikha* and *gomang-rabsel* on the front façade of the entrance tower, which existed in 1783, were closed by stone masonry wall leaving a narrow entrance door before 1905.
3. The projected structure on the west façade which had existed before the disasters can no longer be seen in the photograph of 1905.
4. The existing front façade walls are part of the original extension undertaken by Gyalsay Tenzin Rabgye. (This can be confirmed from the two small holes at the northeast corner of the front façade, right below the *khemar*, which can be seen in the sketch of 1783, the photograph of 1905 and on the existing northeast walls of front façade.)

Two photographs of John C White taken in 1905 showing the inner façade view of the first courtyard are informative with regard to understanding the alterations undertaken during the renovation in 1952 and 1983. Despite major replacement of wooden components, no major change on the inner façade walls of the first courtyard can be found except for the following two areas:

BREIF SURVEY REPORT OF WANGDUEPHODRANG DZONG - Following June 24, 2012 Fire

1. Both the walls adjacent to Dukhang building has been altered with the addition of the second floor.
2. It is likely that the front façade of the current Chamkhang (Level-1 of Area 01h) was constructed of rammed earth wall earlier instead of the present *ecra* wall.



A sketch drawn by Samuel Davis in 1783



A photograph taken by JC White in 1905



A photograph taken in 2010



BREIF SURVEY REPORT OF WANGDUEPHODRANG DZONG - Following June 24, 2012 Fire



A photograph of the first courtyard (facing Dukhang building) taken in 1905



A photograph of the first courtyard (facing Dukhang building) taken in 2010

A photograph of the first courtyard (facing entrance) taken in 1905



A photograph of the first courtyard (facing entrance) taken in 2012





**4. Study on Heritage Value – II (Findings during the survey)**

Beside the information acquired from literatures and visual records, the following survey findings provide more insight to the past renovation works undertaken on Wangduephodrang Dzong. Some of the extracts of these findings are as follows:

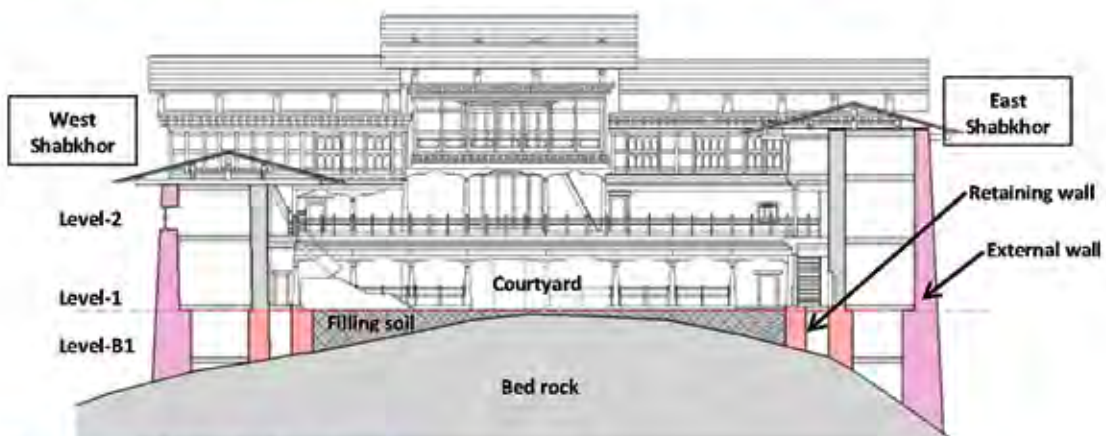
**Rammed earth wall at the first courtyard**

Although the walls of this Dzong are mainly of stone masonry, significant amount of rammed earth walls can be found at the eastern *shabkhor* (facing Dangchu River) of the first courtyard area, which is part of the original extension work undertaken by Gyalsay Tenzin Rabgay.

The mixed construction of rammed earth wall and stone masonry wall should be understood as efficient application of suitable materials for appropriate area. Assuming that acquiring a huge amount of stones was the major challenge for Dzong construction, use of stone might have been reserved for building up crucial and important areas, such external wall and retaining wall.



Rammed earth wall (indicated in yellow) and stone masonry wall at the Level-1



Cross-section for the first courtyard area



BREIF SURVEY REPORT OF WANGDUEPHODRANG DZONG - Following June 24, 2012 Fire

It is important to note that use of different construction materials can be observed in some of the other ancient Dzongs in Bhutan. For example, Drukgyal Dzong and the ruin Dzong in Chubjakha, Paro has some of the inner walls constructed of rammed earth. A comparative study among the Dzongs in Bhutan could assist in providing more clarity to the use of different construction materials within an overall structure.



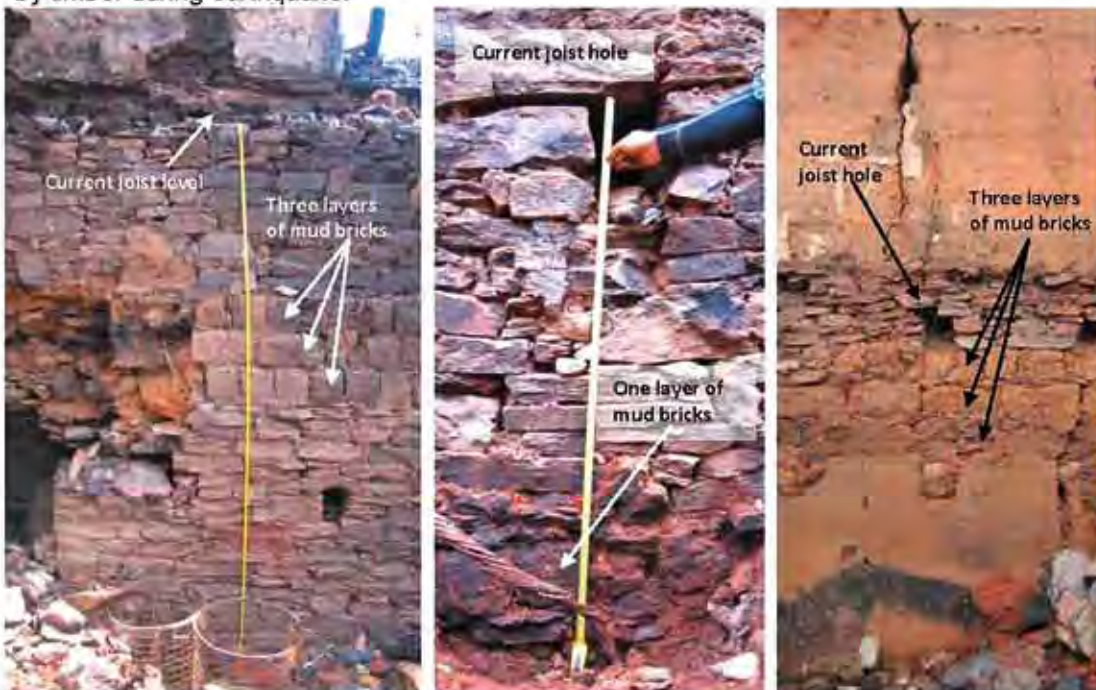
Inner wall of Drugyal Dzong, Paro



Inner wall of Chubjakha Dzong, Paro

**Use of Mud bricks**

The inner surfaces of the front façade walls of the first courtyard, which are of stone masonry are observed with a few vertical layers of mud bricks (*parchung*). Since the front façade walls are part of the original construction (as mentioned earlier in page 2), these *parchung* layers must have existed since the original construction. It has been observed that *parchung* layers are mainly around the area where the earlier joists were inserted. This insertion of *parchung* is assumed to make it easy to replace chams, or to reduce damage on the stone wall caused by timber during earthquake.



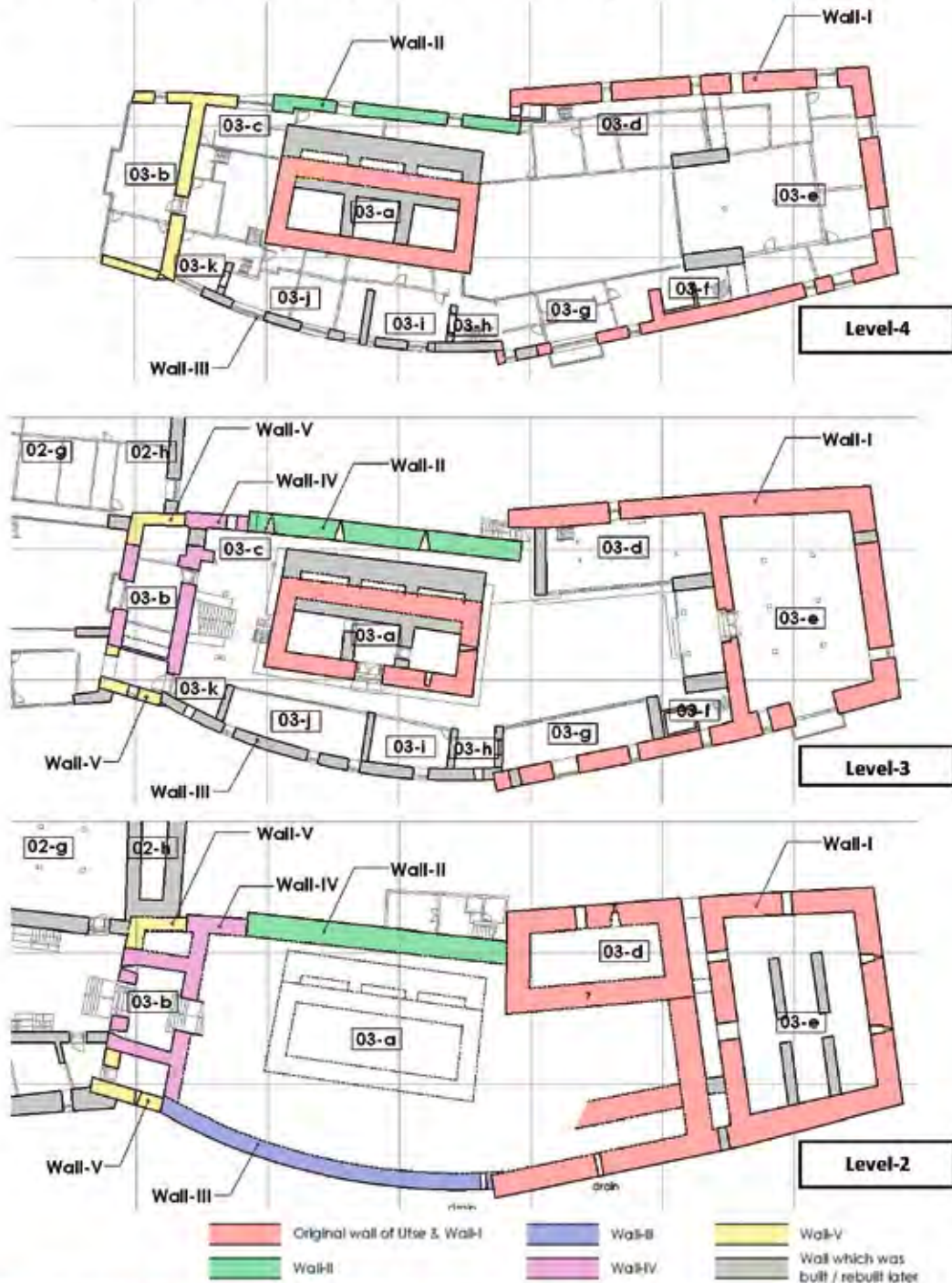
(Left) Inner surface of the front façade stone wall for Area01j  
 (Middle) Inner surface of the front façade stone wall for Area01b  
 (Right) The rammed earth wall on the opposite side of the wall in pic40



BREIF SURVEY REPORT OF WANGDUEPHODRANG DZONG - Following June 24, 2012 Fire

**Different phases of construction at the third courtyard**

The *shabkhor* building around the third courtyard provides evidence to assume that parts of the *shabkhor* building were constructed at least in three different phases or period, which has taken place from 1638 to 1683, as shown in the drawing below.



Different phases of wall construction (Wall-I to Wall-V) at the third courtyard area



## BREIF SURVEY REPORT OF WANGDUEPHODRANG DZONG - Following June 24, 2012 Fire

## 5. Survey of Damages

The fire has extensively damaged the Dzong. While the majority of the masonry walls remain standing, almost all the timber components have been destroyed. The damages have been documented on the attached drawing.

### Damage caused by failed lintel

The majority of the damage to the walls was caused by failure of the wooden lintels over windows and doors, these lintels were severely burnt and therefore provided very little support to walls above. Such damages are common in all the three courtyard areas. In most cases, where lintels located on the upper wall were completely burnt, the entire wall above the lintel collapsed, this usually triggered further collapse of nearby walls. On the other hand, where lintels located on the lower wall were completely burnt, the collapse of stone wall above the lintel were generally partial with formation of an arch or semi-dome shape damage.



(Left) Collapse of stone wall above a lintel with formation of arch – Area01m at Level-1  
 (Middle) Collapse of stone wall above a lintel with formation of semi dome – Area01l at Level-1  
 (Right) Collapse of entire stone wall above a lintel – Area02c at Level-2

### Heat Damage

All internal walls above the courtyard levels show signs of heat damage, with many visible hairline cracks or fragmentation of individual stones. The extent of this damage varies with location, presumably correlating with the intensity of the fire.

### Wooden Components

Nearly all wooden components above the courtyard levels have entirely burnt to ash. There is very little timber remaining among the debris. However, few rooms survived at the Level-1 of the second courtyard area particularly to the western side.

The floors over the basements sustained local damage due to fire or falling debris. For instance, the floor of Kuenray at the third courtyard area has failed.

Generally, it is expected that there will be minimum to no damage to the walls below the courtyards, where the floors were not affected by the fire.

### Mud Plaster

Mud plaster, which previously covered all internal walls, was missing in large areas. However, in some locations the plaster remained almost entirely intact or in large patches. This suggests either a different quality of plaster or a different intensity of the fire at these locations.

### Mud Mortar

The mud mortar of the stonework has become very hard. These properties are very similar to that of fired clay, suggesting that the fire has hardened the mortar, however no mortar from before the fire was available for comparison.



## 6. Way Forward

Wangduephodrang Dzong is one of the most important heritage buildings in Bhutan. This Dzong is not only important due to its historical and religious significance aspect, but also from the fact that this dzong is an irreplaceable information source for Bhutanese architecture. Out of the Dzongs built by Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal, Wangduephodrang Dzong has provided us the best evidence to study the chronology of construction, which could be the main foundation to understand the architectural characteristics and medieval history of Bhutan.

Therefore, it is very crucial to carefully determine which part of the remaining Dzong structure should be retained and reused while reconstructing the Dzong especially from the structural stability aspect and the heritage value of the structure. In addition to the above, it is also important to look into cost and time factor for the reconstruction of the overall Dzong structure especially in the context of avoiding total reconstruction of walls which are structurally stable.

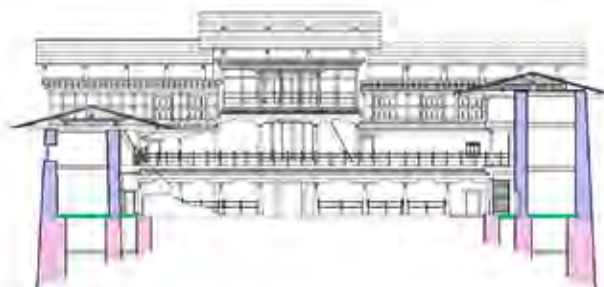
In exercising the Royal Government of Bhutan's plan to have two World Heritage sites in Bhutan in the 10<sup>th</sup> FYP period, Wangduephodrang Dzong together with four other Dzongs in Bhutan (Punakha Dzong, Paro Dzong, Trongsa Dzong and Dagana Dzong) has been put up on the Tentative List of the World Heritage sites in Bhutan since March 2012. These five Dzongs have been submitted as a serial heritage sites under the title "Dzongs: the centre of temporal and religious authorities". The Tentative List is a part of the preliminary procedure for nominating the sites to the World Heritage. Therefore, the reconstruction of Wangduephodrang Dzong should also take into consideration that there is minimal loss of heritage values associated to this particular Dzong, and also the loss of overall "outstanding universal values" of the five Dzongs as a serial heritage site.

### Proposed walls to be retained

Taking the heritage value of each wall, which has been examined, in the earlier chapters into account, the following walls are identified to be retained and reused for the reconstruction of the Dzong:

- Walls below the courtyards

The external walls below the courtyard levels show no signs of bulging or major damages. The fire has minimally affected the walls located below the courtyards, as it is evident from the state of wooden floorings of the ground floors, most of which have remained after the fire. Reuse of the walls with minor repair at this level is also recommendable from financial aspect. The stone masonry work for the current walls below the courtyard levels is roughly estimated of 14,000 cubic-meters, which is almost equivalent with the walls above the courtyard levels.



#### Estimate for amount of wall

Above the courtyard levels (blue):  
 For the first courtyard area= 4,358 m<sup>3</sup>  
 For the second courtyard area = 5,078 m<sup>3</sup>  
 For the third courtyard area = 4,124 m<sup>3</sup>

Below the courtyard levels (red):  
 For the first courtyard area= 6,057 m<sup>3</sup>  
 For the second courtyard area = 4,336 m<sup>3</sup>  
 For the third courtyard area = 3,569 m<sup>3</sup>

## BRIEF SURVEY REPORT OF WANGDUEPHODRANG DZONG - Following June 24, 2012 Fire

- External walls of the ground floors

Most of the external walls of the ground floor level except which had been reconstructed in the past are also reusable, though minor repair is required.

- Rammed earth walls around the first courtyard area

Rammed earth wall at the first courtyard area is expected of the extension work in 1683. As it will be served for a future study on medieval construction especially when compared with other Dzongs and buildings which were built of a mixture of construction materials, it is highly recommended to retain these rammed earth walls. Although the walls of the Level-1 have been deteriorated by fire-fighting water and subsequent rain, the rammed earth walls on the Level-B1, which is in good condition, should be maintained.

- Walls of the original Utse

As the original wall of Utse is the most significant part of this Dzong, appropriate measures should be taken to reuse this wall. Despite the sign of damage on stones which shows peeling off the surface of stone, it is expected that core of the wall is intact.



(Left) Eastern external wall of the first courtyard area: The ground floor level downward (below the khemar) is in good condition

(Middle) Rammed earth wall at Level – B1 located between Area01b & 01c

(Right) Utse

## 6.2 Way Forward

Prior to planning the reconstruction of Wangduephodrang Dzong, the following measures are highly recommended to be undertaken:

- Inviting international experts

The structural evaluation from international organization such as ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites, an advisory body to UNESCO) and its Scientific Committees is highly recommended to assist Bhutan to further strategize the nomination of Wangduephodrang Dzong to the World Heritage List.

It is also recommended to obtain a second opinion from such international experts with regard to the structural stability of the existing walls of Wangduephodrang Dzong. Furthermore, international experts recommendation can be sought on seismic and fire prevention measures to be put in place while reconstructing the Dzong.

- Establish comprehensive system for fire prevention in traditional buildings



## BRIEF SURVEY REPORT OF WANGDUEPHODRANG DZONG - Following June 24, 2012 Fire

On reviewing the fire of Wangduephodrang Dzong, it is highly recommended that fire prevention measures and facilities should be studied justifying the pros and cons of implementing these measures.

For instance, it is highly recommended that alternate non-flammable material be used for the construction of lintel for doors and windows in the light of reducing major damages that are caused by the failure of wooden lintel during and after a fire. However, it may not be required to extend the use non-flammable materials to the overall frames of door and window, as the amount of wood used for these frames does not cause considerable damage to the overall structure in case of a fire.

Similarly, although it was observed that the flammable roofing material (traditional wooden shingle) made the fire bigger, there is high possibility that the fire could have spread over much faster if the roofing material was of non-flammable material. Non flammable material obstructs the natural flow of highly heated and expanding air thereby causing the fire to move in the horizontal direction below the roof in a remarkable speed.

Furthermore, such fire prevention measures should be incorporated effectively along with establishing a thorough fire fighting mechanism and system. For instance, installation of fire walls which would obstruct a fire spreading over the structure will effectively function only when a fire-fighting plan is well collaborated with the location of the fire wall.

- **Material tests for scientific study of traditional construction techniques and materials**  
In most of the cases, disasters usually assist to review and examine the structural context and the performance of a building. The existing ruins of Wangduephodrang Dzong is one of the most potential site that can assist to understand Bhutanese stone masonry structure and rammed earth structure by undertaking necessary scientific study at the earliest. It is necessary to extract specimens for test from the remaining walls, which will be destroyed, for reconstruction purpose.

- **Seismic resistance measures**  
It is of utmost importance that the effective seismic resilient measures are incorporated during the reconstruction of Wangduephodrang Dzong. Although the Division for Conservation of Heritage Sites under the Department of Culture is undertaking the structural analysis of Bhutanese traditional building with a group of Japanese experts, further consultation with the international experts could be undertaken to get more recommendations in the field of incorporating seismic resilient features in the traditional construction techniques and materials of Bhutan.

# BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

## The Devastation of the Setting – New Hotel Ruza in Mostar

Very soon after “The Old Bridge Area of the Old City of Mostar” was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2005, the construction of a new hotel in the buffer zone of the World Heritage property began, not in conformity with the provisions of the master plan, which was part of the management plan included in the nomination file.

Hotel Ruza had already existed on that spot (built in 1979, architect Zlatko Ugljen). It was built in the contemporary architectural style, which corresponded very well with the cultural and historic setting (Figs. 1, 2, 3). In the war of 1992–95, the hotel was badly damaged. Bearing in mind that it was an exceptional and valuable contemporary piece of architecture, it should have been restored and returned to its original condition and function (Fig. 4). However, after the war no one in charge actually cared about this structure. The restoration of the existing damaged hotel was not acceptable for the potential investor, so he obtained a building permit from the local authorities, the town-planning institute and the institute for heritage protection, to build a much higher and larger hotel on the same spot. The demolition of the old Hotel Ruza and the construction of the new hotel caused an immeasurable degradation of the World Heritage property and numerous debates, not only at the national, but also at the international expert level (Figs. 5, 6). The World Heritage Committee reacted with good reason and undertook several international missions in order to solve the problem in an adequate way – in compliance with the propositions of the World Heritage Convention (2006: ICOMOS mission; 2007: UNESCO/ICOMOS mission; 2008: ICCROM/ICOMOS expert mission).

The ICOMOS National Committee in Bosnia and Herzegovina would like to call to mind the conclusions and recommendations of those previous missions:

ICOMOS mission to Mostar, 21–24 June 2006, by Werner Desimpelaere and Adam Arnoth

### Conclusions and recommendations

*Although the expert mission wanted to be prepared to propose some concrete alternatives and reasonable solutions to the current problem of the hotel construction, the mission was concerned that at present no other advice can be given than to reconsider the new project and design taking into account the already constructed volume while fully respecting the management plan of the World Heritage property.*

*The mission concludes:*

(1) *That the current hotel construction project is not in compliance with the 1972 World Heritage Convention and the integrity and authenticity of the World Heritage property;*



Aerial view of Mostar with original Hotel Ruza at top left

Hotel Ruza, Mostar, in the contemporary architectural style (architect Zlatko Ugljen, 1979)



- (2) *To encourage the Federal Minister of Physical Planning and the Mayor of Mostar to find a feasible solution for this complex situation, in particular to (a) halt the current project, (b) review the plans and (c) find alternative solutions in line with the principles indicated by Prof. Zlatko Ugljen.*
- (3) *To fully respect the Master Plan and the Management Plan, adopted for the World Heritage property of the Old Bridge area of the Old City of Mostar.*

*The mission specifically recommends:*

1. *To the State Party of Bosnia and Herzegovina to fully respect its obligations under the World Heritage Convention of 1972;*
2. *To the State Party of Bosnia and Herzegovina and its national and local authorities to find appropriate solutions in order to*





Disharmony was caused in the buffer zone of the World Heritage property by the inadequate construction of the new Hotel Ruza

The height and size of the new Hotel Ruza visibly degrade the cultural and historic setting



*reduce the unacceptable visual impact of the new structure of the Hotel Ruza;*

ICOMOS mission to Mostar, 11–13 June 2007, by Luigi Milano and Prof. Umberto Siola

#### Conclusions and recommendations

- We fully concur with the conclusions presented in the mission report of Mr Werner Desimpelaere and Mr. Adam Arnoth to Mostar in the period of 21–24 June 2006.
- On the basis of the comparison with the skyline of the city of Mostar, the construction of the new building presents an important visual impact in relation to the adjacent structures. The strength of this impact is due, above all, to the building's height and compactness of the volumetric masses, which appear as a barrier to the depth of the visual field as well as catching the observers' attention.
- Having a strong visual impact, it may be necessary to reduce the height of the body of the building for at least one floor (even partially) to obtain a building with volumetric masses not vertically aligned, in particular case and in order to fully

*respect the criteria set in Master Plan of 2001 and Management Plan of 2004 reduction of the entire floor of the north wing is strongly recommended.*

ICOMOS mission to Mostar, 26–28 May 2008, by Werner Desimpelaere and Luigi Milano (with Umberto Siola)  
Accordingly, the mission concluded the following:

- *The mission has not noted any change in the existing structure of the new hotel. In order to result in a building with a mass closer to that of the hotel damaged during the war, it is necessary to reduce the height, the compactness and, as a consequence, the volumetric impact of the new building through demolition. It is necessary to underline that the hotel designed by Zlatko Ugljen was composed of several "pavilions" wisely set together, in order to obtain a building perfectly integrated and interpolated with the existing historic context without having negative impacts on the perspectives of the typical streets of the Old City;*
- *The great visual impact of the new building, compared both with the surrounding buildings and with the skyline of the Old City of Mostar (taking into consideration volumetric masses and height of the new structure), remains unchanged;*
- *The new hotel building in no case could be interpolated and integrated with the urban-historical part of City of Mostar, inscribed on the World Heritage List, neither from an environmental point of view nor from the proposed aesthetic characteristics which, despite the attempt to use different materials, remain out of the historic context;*
- *Although we deplore the total destruction of the original hotel, it makes no sense to ask to reconstruct it (because of new hotel norms as well).*
- *Improving the quality of the new Hotel Ruza to a high level of architectural design seems to be an almost impossible mission.*
- *The negative image and impact of this heavy mortgage for the national and international society should be turned into positive action.*
- *The part of the building with a curved shape (even if it is only one floor; between the two orthogonal wings of the new hotel), being practically tangent to the pedestrian route Rade Bitange overhangs it with its height of about 7 meters. Furthermore the facade of this part of the designed building is composed of very large surfaces of glass that are not having any relation to the typology and ancient characteristics of this part of the city.*

#### Recommendations

*It is required to prepare a new design for the hotel fully respecting the norms and conditions set in the Management Plan of 2005, taking into account the Guidelines set out in the Vienna Memorandum (2005) and to ensure full protection of the World Heritage property and implementation of the decisions of the World Heritage Committee. That design should take into account the following:*

- *It is necessary to review the relationship of the hotel with its external areas, with the surrounding streets and buildings;*
- *The facades should be characterized by articulation of mass and concavity, windows and loggias to create the depth and the impression of chiaroscuro just like the hotel destroyed during the war;*
- *It should establish a clear relationship between the built areas of the lot and the green ones. It is also necessary to identify and*

*describe the materials that will be used for the external areas of the lot, for the facades, for the interiors, and the types and characteristics of the lighting of the external areas;*

- *It seems out of place to create a pool on the terrace floor that is the roof of part of the building;*
- *It is necessary to avoid large surfaces of glass, especially on the ground floor, because they are not connected to the characteristics of this part of the city.*

Reports and recommendations of the aforementioned international experts clearly bear witness to the inadequacy of the new Hotel Ruza and to necessary interventions in order to achieve an acceptable condition.

Considering that the investor obtained a building permit, he does not want to give up the planned capacity and size of the hotel. The local authorities take responsibility for that condition as well, because they issued the building permit. That is why attempts to reduce the disharmony with the valuable setting – to reduce the number of storeys and thus the hotel's entire height – and to redesign its appearance, still has not produced any results. It is important to mention that we do not speak here about the entire number of storeys, but about the fact that all storey heights were considerably raised (in comparison to the previous hotel), resulting in an increase of the entire height and a disharmony with the setting. The dimensions of the new Hotel are three times larger than the old one.

Since there was no progress concerning this problem the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009) requested the State Party to submit drawings of the proposed reconstruction of the New Hotel Ruza. A report was submitted by the State Party on 2 February 2010, and was based on an ICCROM-ICOMOS mission to Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 11–18 October 2008 and a mission report by C. Cesari, L. Baratin and J. Jokilehto (Rome, 22 January 2009).

*The newly submitted proposal for the hotel remains five storeys (ground floor plus four upper floors) as allowed in the building permit granted by the City of Mostar in 2004 (but one storey higher than allowed in the 2001 master plan and 2005 management plan). Following the recommendations of the 2008 expert mission, however, the facades of the hotel have been redesigned taking into account the need to better articulate it by breaking it into discrete sections, thereby diminishing the overall massing. The drawings do indicate, however, some additional rooftop constructions, which include the roof of a bar and sitting area,*

*and the enclosures of stairways and other services, despite assurances by the developer that there would be no roof constructions for the pool level.*

*The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies have examined the new designs and consider that while not the preferred solution, these designs do address a number of the previously expressed concerns. They do, however, remain extremely concerned about the constructions found above the fifth storey to house a bar, seating area, stairways, and other services. These additional elements effectively constitute a sixth storey to the building, even if their surface area is small in relation to the overall footprint of the hotel, and should be avoided.*

*Taking these considerations into account, the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies are of the opinion that the newly articulated facades will not have an overall negative impact. (WH 34 COM, C 946 rev, Brasilia, Brasil, 25 July–3 August 2010)*

The ICOMOS National Committee in Bosnia and Herzegovina was unpleasantly surprised that in the report of 22 January 2009 to the ICCROM-ICOMOS Mission to Mostar, there is a considerable departure from the previous ICOMOS mission reports and their decisions (WHC 31, 32, 33). The suggestions and conclusions evidently show that the mission members (C. Cesari, L. Baratin and J. Jokilehto) primarily took the investor's demands into consideration and closely cooperated with politicians in Bosnia and Herzegovina, not with the expert bodies and the ICOMOS National Committee. It is clear that the achieved compromise will heavily degrade the World Heritage status of Old Mostar. The integral impact of the volume of the new Hotel Ruza cannot be justified. Also, it is hard to expect that the architectural solution of the structure's exterior will reduce the huge volume of the hotel.

Our resigned conclusion is that the suggested compromise bears witness to the mission's lack of professionalism, while it damages the mission's reputation as well as that of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

Although the aforementioned recommendations and conclusions were adopted at the WH 34 COM 2010 in Brazil, there is no progress at the new Hotel Ruza construction site to this day (January 2013). Instead, there is still status quo.

ICOMOS National Committee in  
Bosnia and Herzegovina

# BRAZIL

## Hydroelectric Dam of Belo Monte under Construction

The impact on the environment and the lives and culture of the indigenous people caused by the Belo Monte Dam project at Xingu River in the state of Pará (Amazonian rainforest) was already described in *Heritage at Risk 2008–10* (see p. 37 f.). The dam is currently under construction and is to open in 2014 or 2015. It will then be the second-largest hydroelectric dam complex in Brazil and one of the world's largest in installed capacity, behind the Three Gorges Dam in China and the Brazilian-Paraguayan Itaipu Dam. With the energy produced by this dam and many others under construction Brazil aims to speed up its economic growth, the country already being the world's fifth-largest economy.

The project has strongly been criticised by indigenous people and numerous environmental organisations in Brazil as well as by organisations and individuals around the world. Belo Monte's 668 square kilometres of reservoir will flood 400 square kilometres of forest, about 0.01 % of the Amazon forest. Though argued to be a relatively small area for a dam's energy output, it seems this output cannot be fully obtained without the construction of other dams planned within the dam complex. Therefore, the prognosed area of reservoir for the Belo Monte dam and the necessary additional Altamira dam, also on Rio Xingu, together will exceed 6 500 square kilometers of rainforest. Thousands of indigenous people will either be directly displaced or will have to leave as the river diversion negatively affects their fisheries, groundwater and ability to transport on the river. Apparently, these effects have not been or not sufficiently addressed by environmental impact assessments.

John Ziesemer



△ Visualisation of the Belo Monte dam  
([plattformbelomonte.blogspot.de](http://plattformbelomonte.blogspot.de))



△ Construction work at Santo Antônio  
([plattformbelomonte.blogspot.de](http://plattformbelomonte.blogspot.de))

▷ Construction work in connection with the Belo Monte dam project  
(photo: [www.altamirahoje.net](http://www.altamirahoje.net))





# BULGARIA

Cultural heritage is endangered more and more by demolition, due not only to the traditional causes of degradation, but also to the recent development of social and economic life, resulting in worsening destructive phenomena. The protection of this heritage at the national level is unsatisfactory because of the large funds necessary. Archaeological sites are among the most vulnerable sites. Many of them are still unexplored. Although they have been declared as monuments by the law, they are subject to interventions of treasure hunters, accompanied by partial or complete destruction of structures and deletion of the valuable archaeological data. Common are cases where archaeological sites are destroyed by digging for construction works. Some investors concerned about a delay of the construction works or an imposition of changes in their intentions deliberately break the law, which expressly provides for the legal protection of such chance finds.

## Specific Problems Associated with Heritage at Risk

1. Lack of measures for the protection of uncovered, preserved and restored archaeological structures, museum buildings and ensembles of national importance, from the effects of risk factors.
2. Lack of projects in the field of forecasting, risk analysis and monitoring of endangered cultural values, initiated by state and municipal management, museums and other relevant institutions and organisations involved in the national system for the protection of cultural heritage.

A new law on cultural heritage adopted in 2009 introduced for the first time the obligation of the state to organise the protection of cultural heritage from natural disasters and armed conflicts. At the initiative of ICOMOS Bulgaria, the legislature introduced a new category of cultural value, with two subcategories depending on the degree of endangerment:

1. Cultural values at risk – for which there is an imminent threat of damage or destruction by reason of:
  - a) location in earthquake zones, areas of large construction projects, being near areas with high risk of flooding or progressive changes of geological, climatic and other environmental factors;
  - b) danger of armed conflict and terrorist attacks;
2. Endangered cultural values – for which there is a real danger of damage, vandalism, destruction or serious distortion of their integrity by reason of:
  - a) fast disintegration of their original substance, leading to a major change in the structure;
  - b) fast deterioration of the environment;
  - c) visible loss of their authentic look.

Unfortunately, the legislature did not accept the idea of a special register of “endangered monuments” and “cultural values at risk.” Neither did it adopt proposed mechanisms for determining the criteria by which an object of cultural heritage could be registered in one or the other list nor procedures for deciding on the registration.

## The Case of Ratiaria

The archaeological site is an example of inadequate government policy and lack of foresight regarding the need to develop the cultural site as a factor for economic prosperity.

The ancient city of Colonia Ulpia Traiana Ratiaria (Ratiaria) is the most important Roman and Byzantine centre in today’s northwestern Bulgaria. Its remains are located in the locality of Kaleto on the northern outskirts of the village of Archar, district of Vidin, near the Danube. As an important cultural and historical site Ratiaria could be compared to cities like Serdica (modern Sofia), Philipopolis (Plovdiv), Nicopolis ad Istrum (near the village of Nikyup, district of Veliko Tarnovo), Ulpia Eskus (Municipality of Gulyantsi, district of Pleven, near the mouth of the Iskar River). Recent studies show that the city was founded at the beginning of the first century AD or earlier, as a military camp of the IVth Flavian and VIIth Claudius Legions. In the second and third centuries AD Ratiaria became the centre of a large urban area, prospering economically and culturally. After 272 AD, Ratiaria became the main town of the coastal Dacia Province. The military and administrative governors of the province were situated at Ratiaria. The remains of a monumental building are interpreted as the residence of the governor of the province (Kuzmanov, 2000; Valeva, 2000). Recent findings (monumental architectural decorations) indicate that the public architecture of Ratiaria was more monumental and more abundant than that in Eskus, Nove and Durostorum (Luka, 2011b, p. 271, Obr. 1).

## The risks

The critical condition of the archaeological site and challenges to its preservation have come from the lack of any action since the last archaeological excavations in 1991. Ratiaria has become one of the main targets of treasure-hunter intervention and antiquities trafficking over the past two decades instead of being excavated by archaeologists. This problem was announced in international publications such as *Current World Archaeology*, *Past Horizons Magazine*, *Rescue News*. Jewellery, statues and inscriptions from the site have appeared in auctions in Western Europe and the United States.

The main problems related to the protection of the site at the moment are:



The main street (decumanus maximus) of Ratiaria discovered in 2011 at the time of investigation. The excavations carried out in 2012 proved that the town was founded in the early decades of the 1st century A. D. and had an active life until the end of the 5th c. A. D.



A photo taken by Associated Press after the closing of the excavation in 2012. It shows the main street of the town (decumanus maximus) left to the mercy of the looters.

After the archaeologists had left eight men were employed by the Municipality of Dimovo to guard the excavation site. The photo clearly shows that no care is being taken of the Roman street despite the declared intentions for preserving the site.



#### **Inadequate institutional commitment to the critical situation of the site**

The archaeological site of Ratiaria was declared a monument of “national significance”. The archaeological reserve is the only status of high protection, which provides the legal framework for heritage in Bulgaria. The municipal administration of Dimovo has a folder labeled “Ratiaria Reserve” in which the last document dates back to November 9, 2004. All documents required by the law to initiate the procedure for notification of Ratiaria as reserve were sent to the Ministry of Culture and to the National Institute of Monuments. The absence of documentation between 2004 and 2009 actually illustrates quite vividly a period of complete withdrawal of the responsible institutions (including those of researchers) from the problem or the abandonment of the problem.

#### **Lack of funds for planning and implementing the necessary measures for the conservation of the site**

In 2001, an interdepartmental committee decided that any financing activities such as security guards, repair of the fence in the area around the monument, the territorial scope of application of the monument on the local cadastre, trench backfilling and regular excavations have to be made by the municipality of Dimovo. If, however, one takes into account that the area of the site is about 415 acres, this decision puts the municipality of Dimovo in a situation of financial collapse.

#### **Lack of a management plan and of projects for the conservation and restoration of the site**

While the responsible institutions transferred files and the name of Ratiaria occurred only in the criminal records, in 2009 a new Heritage Act was passed. The obligations for the institutions have now become even more burdensome to implement, for instance the mandatory preparation of a management plan for immovable cultural property of national significance. In the case of Ratiaria the financing must be supported by the municipality on whose territory the immovable cultural property is situated.

#### **Absence of social and educational initiatives among the local population aimed at increasing awareness of the values of the archaeological site**

In 1993 the Republic of Bulgaria ratified the Convention of the Council of Europe for the protection of archaeological heritage. According to the Convention each country should conduct educational activities to raise public awareness about the importance of archaeological heritage for understanding the past and the threats to this heritage.

Public and educational initiatives initiated by local authorities in collaboration with the civil sector are directly linked to investments in conservation of heritage, which certainly is an effective tool for the sustainable development of local communities. With improved coordination between the competent institutions and involvement of private sector investment processes and the implementation of best practices, it is possible to stop the destruction and start a successful model for the preservation of endangered heritage.

#### **Highly prominent criminal and corrupt practices**

It is no secret that organised crime in the area of the heritage site is now growing and is expected to continue to do so. Theft is everywhere, but beneficial to its increase are corruption and weak control of authorities – police, customs officers, state and local governments involved in the preservation of heritage. Fac-

tors such as globalisation of economic relations, opportunities for money laundering, increasing poverty in the region and loss of respect for the monuments provide a negative effect on the critical situation.

The specifics of the case of Ratiaria are expressed in the scale of tampering, manifested in illegal excavations and destruction of archaeological layers by heavy digging equipment, convenient and quick access to the border, which facilitates international traffic in cultural property, and minimum police and judicial control over the perpetrators of criminal interventions.

## What has been done?

In 2009, the Bulgarian Archaeological Association “Ivan Venedikov” launched a campaign “Help to preserve the biggest archaeological site in North Bulgaria - COLONIA ULPIA TRAIANA RATIARIA”. Because of this, and with the assistance of the Inspectorate for Preservation of Heritage to the Ministry of Culture, first steps were taken to protect the site. In 2010, the same Association, with the permission of the Minister of Culture, carried out rescue archaeological excavations in which the following steps were made:

- a detailed survey of the entire territory on which the cultural remains in the Kaleto locality are registered;
- a photo documentation and location of movable and immovable cultural property;
- assessment of the status of the architectural remains from the fortification system and public buildings. studied until 1991;
- backfilling of treasure hunter trenches and leveling of the terrain in the southeastern part of the locality of Kaleto.
- documentation of epigraphic and architectural movable cultural property.
- removal of the terrain and presentation of movable cultural property in a temporary exhibition in the cultural centre of education in the village of Archar.

In 2011 the Bulgarian Archaeological Association “Ivan Venedikov” supported by ICOMOS Bulgaria prepared a nomination for inclusion of Ratiaria in the 2012 list of the 100 most endangered sites of the World Monuments Fund.

## What prospects and potentialities are there?

Attracting the attention of the international scientific community will provide the chance of showing Ratiaria’s problems and seeking long-term solutions concerning the economic crisis and the decline of spiritual values. To have a successful recovery plan for the archaeological site of Ratiaria a professional monitoring by international NGOs is needed to help focus the public interest and stimulate the private sector.

## The Case of Sozopol

Sozopol is a small town on the southern part of the Bulgarian Black Sea coast. Distinguished for its beaches and rocky cliffs, its favourable climatic, natural and topographical conditions, today Sozopol is one of the most popular seaside resorts in Bulgaria.



Sozopol, the original part of the tower is preserved in its base only, whereas the rest is new masonry

Houses from the 18th, 19th, and early 20th centuries still preserved illustrate that the town developed through the centuries as a ‘natural and man-made environment’.

Sozopol is the direct successor of Apollonia, a colony founded around 610 BC by Greeks from Asia Minor. Both local Thracians and Greek colonists inhabited the peninsula, which only later was fortified by the Byzantines. As hinterland of Constantinople and one of the most important international ports, Sozopol experienced remarkable cultural and economic growth and became a major economic centre of the area. Later the town became a disputed territory in the policy between the Bulgarian Kingdom and the Byzantine Empire, and was alternately annexed by both rivals. The term ‘crossroad of civilisations’, generally applied to the Balkans, is entirely applicable to Sozopol.

Although Sozopol was given the status of a national preserve, its cultural heritage and its natural heritage have been recently threatened by the building activities of private properties overflowing the modern city and its vicinity, as well as by the campaign to restore archaeological entities affecting all archaeological entities. In fact, this campaign has resulted in the loss of authenticity of the cultural heritage. In recent years, parallel to the archaeological excavations we have seen building activities on a large scale upon the monuments discovered. These activities have exceeded the conservation process declared as ‘urgent’. As a result the original structures have been walled up by the new masonry and often it is the archeological stratigraphy that has been damaged. Monuments have been reconstructed on the basis of conjecture, whereas all the analysis and reasons for the additions remain unknown.

The violations observed can be summarized in four main groups:

- The authenticity of the architectural monuments has been replaced by rebuilding these monuments.
- The context of the archeological heritage monuments has been replaced. The stone monuments have been separated from their original environment and embedded into contemporary structures.
- The disproportion between overbuilding certain monuments and overlooking other monuments.





Sozopol, the medieval fortress wall under construction (left) and after completion (right)



Remains of the medieval fortress



The medieval church in the vicinity of Sozopol: another quarry for construction material

– The sea-shore is destroyed through the laying of concrete platforms over it and down below the Fortress wall as well as by the use of stones and sand from the nearby beaches as building materials.

Even though the principles adopted by UNESCO have been violated, Sozopol is regarded by the national institutions in charge as a model of how to convert the cultural heritage into mere tourist

attractions. This trend betrays an irreversible shift in understanding the value of monuments.

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ICOMOS Bulgaria

## The Coastal Town of Nessebar

The Ancient City of Nessebar, inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1983, has in the past years been increasingly disturbed by factors such as uncontrolled urban development affecting the historic fabric of certain buildings as well as the overall appearance and the silhouette of certain parts of the World Heritage site (including the coastal areas); loss of the heritage value of individual historic buildings; unchecked spread of movable tourist facilities in the historic centre; absence of appropriate planning, monitoring, management and conservation mechanisms. This situation, which was also criticised by the non-governmental organization Old Nessebar Association in a report of 2011, was brought to the attention of UNESCO's World Heritage Committee. At the 35th and 37th sessions in 2011 and 2013 the Committee acknowledged the efforts already made “to launch policy



Nessebar, map showing the outline of the World Heritage area and its buffer zone



Nessebar, detail of medieval church

and legislative initiatives intended to enhance protection of the World Heritage property, as well as the strong commitment of the State Party to improve measures in place for the conservation of the World Heritage property”, and the fact that the municipality “suspended the issuing of building permits in the protected area”. However, to further improve the city's protected status the Committee requested the State Party to implement certain recommendations, in particular effective legislative and regulatory measures for the management of the buffer zone and the sea coastline and for the regulation of tourism activities; development and approval of an urban master plan and conservation plan; realisation of priority conservation and maintenance works for the historic buildings and archaeological sites (see also <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4495> and <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5085>).

John Ziesemer



# CHINA

## Hong Kong: West Wing of Central Government Offices Threatened with Demolition

*Hong Kong's 170-year-old Government Hill is currently under threat by a government plan to redevelop a large part of the area for commercial development. The site slated for demolition and redevelopment is a 20th century heritage – the Central Government Offices West Wing – which was built in the 1950s with the East and Central Wings to provide centralized accommodation for all government departments. It is a fine example of 1950s Modernist architecture in Hong Kong.*

*Government Hill has a history as long as Hong Kong's colonial history. In 1841, not long after the British landed in Hong*



Hong Kong, view of the Central Government Offices' west wing (photo: Chong Fat)

*Kong, the colonial government designated an area in Central District as its political, administrative and religious centre with the Governor's residence, government offices and the cathedral in close proximity. Local historians have remarked that this is probably the last remaining heritage precinct in Hong Kong. A conservation consultant report commissioned by the Hong Kong Government recommends establishing a Special Protected Zone to conserve this entire unique low-rise, wooded historic area.*

*With the completion of a new government headquarters in 2011, the government plans to take forward a redevelopment scheme and demolish the West Wing. The site will be excavated to make way for a huge underground facility and a 32-storey office tower which will overwhelm the surviving East and Central Wings and other 19th century historic buildings in the area, thus significantly compromising the landscape setting of the Government Hill as a whole. The redevelopment will commercialize a site which has historically been the seat of Government in Hong Kong. The excavation will destroy historic World War II air-raid tunnels underneath Government Hill which are also 20th century heritage.*

*The disposition of the three existing wings in the CGO complex is the result of excellent site planning with the three building blocks well positioned in relationship to each other, to the Government House and to the natural landscape around them. Removal of the West Wing and building a new office tower on the site is like amputating an arm from an otherwise healthy and integral body and attaching an oversized prosthetic arm to the disintegrated body.*

*We are calling for immediate international action to stop this destruction and save this important 20th century heritage of Hong Kong.*

Excerpt taken from the *Proposal for Heritage Alert Action* of June 2012 compiled by ICOMOS' International Scientific Committee on 20th Century Heritage (ISC 20C)



# EGYPT

## Social Unrest Threatens Egypt's Cultural Heritage

*Blue Shield<sup>1</sup> Statement, January 31, 2011*

*Following the recent events in Egypt, the Blue Shield expresses its great concern about the safeguarding of the country's invaluable cultural heritage amid the existing turmoil.*

*Starting last Friday evening, a number of important museums and sites in Egypt have fallen prey to looters. Thankfully, in certain cases, it has been reported that members of civil society stood to protect museums and heritage sites all over the country. This demonstrates not only the attachment of the local population for their cultural heritage and their determination to protect it, but also the vulnerability of cultural institutions, sites and monuments during times of great conflict.*

*It is universally recognised that Egypt has an incomparable history and heritage which has had a profound and lasting influence on peoples throughout the world. Any loss of Egyptian cultural property would seriously impoverish the collective memory of mankind. Egypt has an exceptionally rich cultural heritage and it is imperative that every precaution necessary be taken by all sides involved in this strife to avoid destruction or damage to archives, libraries, monuments and sites, and museums.*

*Blue Shield urges all sectors of Egyptian society to do everything in their power to curb or prevent all actions that could result in the damage or destruction of their cultural heritage. The Blue Shield also praises the courageous citizens of Cairo and the rest of Egypt who spontaneously mobilized to protect the Egyptian Museum and other cultural institutions. We call on all Egyptians to continue giving the fullest support to all efforts to prevent damage to heritage sites and institutions throughout the country.*

*The Blue Shield Mission is "to work to protect the world's cultural heritage threatened by armed conflict, natural and man-made disasters". For this reason, it places the expertise and network of its member organisations at the disposal of their Egyptian colleagues to support their work in protecting the country's heritage, in assessing the damage that has occurred, and for subsequent recovery, restoration and repair measures.*

*The member organisations of the Blue Shield are currently liaising with Egyptian colleagues to obtain further information on both the situation and on the possible needs and types of help required so as to mobilise their networks accordingly.*

*A more complete report on damages, needs and actions will be published subsequently, in order to facilitate coordination.*

## Historic Cairo

The historic components of Cairo, World Heritage since 1979, consist of uniquely separate areas – the city's pre-Islamic origins



Cairo, Darb al-Ahmar, empty plot (photo: W. Mayer)

Cairo, Darb al-Ahmar, history versus modernity (photo: W. Mayer)





Cairo, Darb al-Ahmar, new buildings next to the historic mosque of Aslam al-Silahdar (photo: W. Mayer)

in the south, the Citadel, the largest and best-preserved fortification in the Middle East, and the residential area between the two cemeteries. Historic Cairo has the largest concentration of Islamic monuments in the world. It occupies a stretch of 3.87 square kilometres of urban fabric accommodating about 320,000 inhabitants. This area includes 313 listed monuments.

In 1998, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Supreme Council for Antiquities (SCA) carried out a study entitled “Project for Developing Historic Cairo” to restore 157 monuments. Over the next eight years these restorations were mainly executed by four large contractors. In the last ten years, the Aga Khan Trust for Culture devised a model for community development in Darb al Ahmar. This project started as a combination of community participation, rehabilitation and restoration. However, due to various difficulties the Aga Khan Trust for Culture recently handed over this project to the governorate of Cairo.

Since the start of the Revolution on January 25, 2011, most monuments and antique sites in Egypt are more at risk than ever. For a long time, there were no police at the sites and building regulations were not implemented. Consequently, in the World Heritage area of historic Cairo some of the anonymous architecture, an important part of the historic fabric, could be pulled down and replaced by high-rise buildings.

When Naguib Mahfouz, Egypt’s famous novelist, wrote about the glory of Cairo, the city had her “crown” of several hundred

minarets and domes, towering above the residential buildings. Today the monuments are hidden behind tall residential buildings erected either without permission or without consultation of the conservation department.

Wolfgang Mayer

## Abu Mina

The archaeological site of Abu Mina, dating back to the end of the 4th century AD where the grave of St. Menas was venerated since the late Roman Empire, was the most important pilgrimage site in Egypt until the early Middle Ages. The site was discovered in 1905 and since that time excavations have been carried out until today. In 1979 the site was inscribed on the World Heritage List, as one of the five most important sites in Egypt.

In 2001, however, UNESCO put Abu Mina on the World Heritage in Danger list. Because of agriculture around the site, with water canals all around, the groundwater level rose and the foundations of most buildings, set on mud with lime, were shrinking. Many walls and wells collapsed and the crypt of St. Menas had to be filled with sand to protect it against collapse. Until today, hardly anything has been done for a sustainable conservation of the site.





Abu Mina, view of the archaeological site (photo: W. Mayer)



Abu Mina, recent "restoration" work using gypsum lime stones (photo: W. Mayer)

### The Great Basilica

The church complex as part of the pilgrimage site consists of three individual buildings: the Great Basilica, the Martyr Church above the crypt and the Baptistery.

The Basilica was a three-nave columned basilica with a three-nave transept. Several marble bases from the rows of columns could be seen in their original location and on the original walls remnants of the marble facing were evident – until 2011. During the "restoration" of the basilica, carried out by the biggest construction company in Egypt, the original walls were destroyed and replaced by gypsum-lime stones. The question arises: How could it be possible that for this work heavy material was used that destroyed a monument built at the end of the 5th century, probably during the reign of Emperor Zeno (474–491 AD)?

Wolfgang Mayer

## Port Said's Architectural Heritage Threatened by Neglect and Ruthless Development

The ongoing demolition of Port Said's historical buildings, in tandem with longstanding government neglect, have put the coastal

city's heritage in jeopardy. Here are excerpts from an article in *Ahram Online* of 27 October 2012:

*In his unique diaries, world-renowned Egyptian intellect Samir Amin speaks of the coastal city of Port Said, where he was born in the 1930s, discussing its exceptional architecture, which bespeaks the diversity that has long characterised the city. (...) Port Said, which lies in northeast Egypt, is now going through a grave crisis, with the looming destruction of its architectural heritage. Following Egypt's January 25 [2011] Revolution, the subsequent security vacuum – coupled with the loose grip of the government and absence of municipal supervision – all whetted appetites to encroach upon the city's properties. Khaled Abdel-Rahman, a young pharmacist and Port Said resident, has posted hundreds of old pictures of his beloved city on Facebook, sounding alarm bells in hopes of rescuing what is left of the city's historical legacy. Abdel-Rahman's photos are a testament to the appalling tragedy that has come to afflict the city's edifices. (...)*

*The list includes the Trade Centre nestled on the Cornice near the Port Fouad Ferry. Built in the 1930s in the Italian architectural style, the distinctive building was among the possessions of a renowned Jewish family. Port Said's beacon, along with a number of waterside buildings, also features on the list. This includes the now-closed Italian Cultural Centre, which, it is feared, could suffer the same fate as the Arderado Cinema that faces the possibility of being pulled down. The Nasinwally Hotel, an adjacent hotel, is another historical building that had been one of the city's landmarks in the 1940s, and now, among other constructions, suffers from comparative neglect.*

*"The problem partially boils down to the lack of general culture among the public. Interest in heritage is at rock bottom," said Abdel-Rahman, noting that the city lacked a single cultural institution to help raise cultural awareness among its denizens. (...) "Thanks to corrupt municipal councils and the language of money, various forms of encroachment upon public properties and funds have become rife," he added. (...)*

*"With the recent management reshuffle, the governorate also failed to take thorough measures to stop such demolition operations," said writer Osama Kamal. He noted that, with the inactive role of city planners, the government's alternative vision to weather the mounting population-density crisis is to tear down historical buildings and replace them with high-rise towers. (...) Ahmed Sedky cited plans to tear down an edifice in Safiya Zaghoul Street, despite its being fully intact, just to make use of its distinctive location and spaciousness, as a classic example of corruption. Built in 1903 and featuring distinctive architecture and carved Greek statues, unique stone iron-inlaid and rich wooden windows, the building is deemed one of the most prominent heritage landmarks in Port Said. Sedky blamed the Ministry of Culture for paying no heed to such buildings, underscoring that building protection policies, urban charters, and construction codes were all non-existent. He also pointed the finger at the Cultural Coordination Authority for its "failure to raise awareness among the general public about the value of historical sites." (...)*

*Sedky called for halting all demolition decisions until legislation and licenses were reconsidered. He also proposed looking at ways and means to capitalise on historical buildings as part of an integrated strategic scheme along the lines of Solidere (a Lebanese development and reconstruction company), which specialises in restoration work in downtown Beirut and had breathed new life and investment into the area. (...)*

*In 2003, the Port Said-based French Cultural Association embarked on a documentation project of the city's heritage, reg-*





View of Port Said (photo: [www.travelin.pl](http://www.travelin.pl))

*istering 400 buildings to date. Also, the body arranges cultural-awareness workshops bringing in French pundits and architects to establish an advocacy force to preserve the city's architectural history. Sohair Zaky of the Cultural Coordination Authority contends that the body has no authority over judicial seizure of buildings and the demolition decisions. "The authority is merely entitled to report to concerned entities while seizure power rests*

*with the governorate," he explained. The governor of Port Said was not available for comment on the issue.*

*Sayed Mahmoud  
"Egypt's threatened heritage: Port Said's history  
breathes its last", in: Ahram Online, 27 October 2012*

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<sup>1</sup> The Blue Shield is the protective emblem of the 1954 Hague Convention which is the basic international treaty formulating rules to protect cultural heritage during armed conflicts. The Blue Shield network consists of organisations dealing with museums,

archives, audiovisual supports, libraries, monuments and sites. The International Committee of the Blue Shield (ICBS), founded in 1996, comprises representatives of five non-governmental organisations working in this field, among them ICOMOS.

# GEORGIA

## Bagrati Cathedral Reconstructed

Bagrati Cathedral, inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1994 together with Gelati Monastery, was constructed at the end of the 10th century during the reign of King Bagrat III in Kutaisi and completed in 1003 (see inscription on the northern façade). During a Turkish invasion in 1691 (blowing-up of the dome) and in 1770 during the shelling of Kutaisi Fortress (upper parts of the church) it was badly damaged. The repair of the ruin, a national symbol of Georgia's revival, already started in the 1950s and in 2009 the Georgian Ministry of Culture approved the Bagrati Cathedral Rehabilitation Plan envisaging a reinforcement of the existing structure with the aim of complete reconstruction – a project a group of Georgian experts and ICOMOS Georgia protested against in vain (see also the report in *Heritage at Risk 2008–2010*, pp. 59–61, including a series of pictures of the reconstruction works). At its 34th session in Brasilia in 2010 the UNESCO World Heritage Committee placed Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery on the World Heritage in Danger List in view of *irreversible interventions carried out on the site as part of a major reconstruction project* and after further decisions in 2011 and 2012 to postpone final solutions the Committee at its 37th session in Phnom Penh in 2013 came to the conclusion that *due to the inappropriate rehabilitation the authenticity of Bagrati Cathedral has been irreversibly compromised and that it no longer contributes to the justification for the criterion for which the property was inscribed. Following the recommendation by the World Heritage Committee the State Party has submitted the major boundary modification for the property to allow Gelati Monastery to justify the criterion on its own.*

The reconstruction, claimed for years by the Georgian Patriarch, supported by President Saakashvili (*Bagrati was built for people to pray there and now it must be restored for modern Georgians to pray there as well*) and defended by Niki Vacheishvili, Director General of the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia (*Bagrati is a national symbol of unity and it would be incorrect to preserve it in the form of ruins*) is now being looked after by the experienced Italian architect Andrea Bruno, who is in charge of the restoration of Bagrati: *My creative plan, which I started to develop in January 2011 along with restoration interventions, involves the identification and study of values of the construction and that part which lies within the adjacent entire archaeological area. I think that this is a necessary condition in order to fully meet the requirement of bodies in charge of preservation of cultural heritage, to increase the interest toward the monuments on the Cultural Heritage List and possibilities of determining their values. The work on these issues will start after the completion of the reconstruction process* (all quotations taken from the extensive article “Bagrati Cathedral – Copy or Original?” by Irina Bagauri in *Tabula Magazine*, June 25, 2012, <http://en.tabula.ge/print-6673.html>). To what extent the



Bagrati Cathedral before the intervention (photo: [www.monument.ge](http://www.monument.ge))

Bagrati Cathedral after the reconstruction (photo: National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation)



interior design by Andrea Bruno, for instance “reconstruction of a gallery which will house a museum” in the left wing, has actually been carried out is currently unknown.

Michael Petzet

## Appeal to Protect the Monuments in Abkhazia

*Georgia is one of the ancient Christian states rich in unique historical and cultural monuments of global importance, museum artifacts and other values. After gaining independence and especially after the Rose Revolution of 2003, the protection of the historical and cultural heritage of Georgia became part of a com-*

mon system guided and implemented by governmental and legal entities as well as by individuals within the framework of their authority. The steps made by the government towards protecting and popularizing the historical/cultural heritage envisage a close cooperation with international organizations. With their help, the implementation of numerous significant projects has become possible.

The long period of occupation of the Georgian territories has resulted in damages to the cultural and historical monuments of Georgia. Unique monuments of great aesthetic and historic value – Christian churches and buildings for public worship, feudal architectural complexes, beautiful ancient frescoes and inscriptions have been destroyed and this process is still going on. Even today, unique monuments of aesthetic, historic and cultural value and museum artifacts are exposed to danger.

Thus, the issue of protecting and maintaining historical and cultural monuments located on the occupied territories of Tskhinvali and Abkhazia has become more important.

After the 1990s, due to objective reasons the relevant authorities of the Georgian government were unable to carry out the necessary actions towards protecting cultural and historical monuments of global value located in this area. Before the eyes of the whole civilized world a deliberate counterfeiting of Georgian spiritual and cultural heritage and a falsification of its real historical origin are going on. For this purpose everything Georgian is being destroyed – ancient texts and inscriptions, frescoes, archaeological and museum artifacts, etc. By such actions, occupational and separatist forces are trying to prove that historical monuments located on that territory have nothing to do with Georgian history and culture. With such pseudo-scientific propaganda and actions they are trying to lead the public astray, to finally annex the above-mentioned territories, legalize ethnic cleansing and war crimes, the full responsibility of which rests with the Russian party.

Efforts of the Georgian government, of academic circles and the non-governmental sector together with the international community to stop the deliberate change of appearance of Georgian architectural monuments and the falsification of its spiritual and cultural heritage have failed to yield results. Unfortunately, our serious concerns that the number of such activities could gradually increase have come true. In 2009, at the St. George Ilori Church – a monument of Georgian cultural heritage located on the occupied territory of Abkhazia – an act of vandalism was committed under the cloak of restoration works (breach of paragraph 5 of the Venice Charter and of international principles on the protection of cultural heritage), leading to a complete loss of authenticity of the monument.

Soon after this act of vandalism “restoration works” started on another monument in Abkhazia, the monastery complex of Bedia (10th century). So far we have no information about:

- Whether a qualified and complete preliminary study of the monument by international experts has been prepared;
- Whether a corresponding conclusion about the condition of the monument before the restoration exists;
- Whether the monument’s reconstruction and restoration plan has been presented;
- How qualified the group of specialists working on this monument actually is;
- To what extent the works being carried out on the monument meet the requirements of paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Venice Charter.

## Conclusion based on the aforesaid

We, the participants of the scientific conference *Georgian Cultural Heritage in the Occupied Territories – Abkhazia* recognize that Georgian cultural heritage represents an integral part of the cultural heritage of mankind;

and as we are guided by the internationally recognized conventions and charters: the Venice Charter of 1964, the UNESCO World Heritage Convention of 1972, the UNESCO Hague Convention of 1954, etc.;

and as we believe that Georgia, as well as the international community, should do its best to preserve the cultural values of the occupied territories of Georgia for the next generations;

and as in the occupied territories it is especially difficult to take care, restore and maintain the monuments of cultural heritage; we consider that for the maintenance and protection of the monuments situated in the occupied territory of Georgia, Abkhazia, it would be reasonable to take the following steps:

1. Avoid carrying out any unplanned and amateur works on monuments of cultural heritage, in order to avoid losing cultural values, as happened during the willful “restoration” of St. George Ilori Church.
2. Intensify the cooperation with international organizations, such as the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), the Georgian National Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), the International Committee of the Blue Shield (ICBS), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).
3. With the participation of international organizations (UNESCO, ICOMOS, ICOM) negotiations on creating a Georgian-Abkhazian working group(s) for studying the condition of cultural heritage sites and working out a plan of activities for their protection. To achieve this goal the most should be made of the Geneva Talks.
4. In order to implement the 2nd Protocol Provisions of the Hague Convention Georgia undertakes to:
  - Actively cooperate with the Hague Convention Committee;
  - Work out the necessary documentation for receiving a special protection status (under the 2nd Protocol Provisions) for a number of monuments in Abkhazia;
  - Appeal for technical and financial aid through the Hague Convention Committee.

Address issued by the participants of the scientific conference “Georgian Cultural Heritage in the Occupied Territories – Abkhazia”, Sokhumi State University, December 21, 2011

## Sakdrisi – the Oldest Gold Mine in the World

Deep man-made holes in the rock; narrow galleries showing nothing attractive at first glance. What is the significance of this place? The importance of an archaeological site can only be evaluated through the systematic recovery and analysis of material remains and objects as physical evidence of human actions in the past. This is especially the case with ancient mining sites where



people of past societies engaged in the extraction and processing of precious metals. Assessing the cultural values of such sites requires a broad approach, including identifying the minerals that were mined, investigating the ancient mining methods and most of all trying to uncover the impact these materials had obtained on ancient societies. In the contemporary world the quest for mineral wealth continues, in many cases at places of historic mining activities, with the aim to exploit and consequently destroy these places for the very same purpose of extracting monetary profit.

The archaeological site of Sakdrisi-Kachagiani is located in the South-Eastern Caucasus, around 80 km from Tbilisi in the Bolnisi district of the Kvemo Kartli region. According to international and national archaeologists it is the world's oldest gold mine now threatened by commercial mining activities. The site is characterised by caverns into the ground of a small rocky hill called *Kachagiani* between the villages of Kazreti and Maschavera and along the Maschavera river.

From 2004 to 2012 the ancient adits and galleries inside the hill were partially excavated in a joint Georgian-German capacity building cooperation project in the field of archaeology that was conducted by the National Centre for Archaeology, the state institution giving scientific advice to the archaeological sector in Georgia, and the Deutsches Bergbau Museum Bochum (Germany). Due to the exceptional findings the site was listed in 2006 as Monument of National Significance, the highest protection status under Georgian law. The excavation team analysed many samples of organic material, such as charcoal remains from ancient fire exploration techniques with scientific C14 screening methods, in order to determine the age of the site.

The numerous samples revealed that ore mining took place as early as in the 4th – 3rd millenniums BC at the Sakdrisi-Kachagiani site and the team could successfully extract gold sands of high quality from different subterranean layers inside the historic mine. In a nearby valley (Dzedzvebi) remains of ancient settlements with metallurgical workshops could be found, identified by object finds and burial graves as remains of the so-called Kura-Araxes culture of the 4th - 3rd millenniums BC, thus showing evidence of ore beneficiation near the historic mine. By means of sophisticated archaeometric electron probe micro analysis undertaken at the Institute of Archaeological Studies at the University of Bochum (Germany) element analysis of ore probes from Sakdrisi-Kachagiani could be compared with gold objects at the Azerbaijan Academy of Science dating from the same period and identified as Kura-Araxes culture objects. The results give evidence that the material objects of this cultural period were produced with metal derived from the Sakdrisi-Kachagiani mine. A similar analysis is in preparation to examine the material provenance of gold objects from the Tbilisi National Museum. Based on results from the research the Sakdrisi-Kachagiani ancient gold mine and the related Kura-Araxes culture settlements provide important and unique material evidence of the metallurgical capacities of the societies of the Chalcolithic and Early Bronze eras in the territories of the Southern Caucasus, which have not been found anywhere else in Georgia.

The entire region of Bolnisi is well known for its variety of gold and copper resources and for several decades, not far from the ancient site the Madneuli open pit mining plant has been exploiting copper in large quantities and it processes gold from auriferous “quartzite” ore that was stockpiled there in the past with toxic cyanide leaching techniques. A conflict arose in 2013, because the newly elected government of Georgia denies the existence of evidence of historic mining activities in the area of



Together with Georgian workers the mining excavations were exposed (photo: K. Stange/AVttention)

Sakdrisi-Kachagiani hill and has repealed the protection status of the archaeological site. Furthermore, in early 2014 the government of Georgia granted permission for the commercial exploitation of gold deposits located in the mentioned area.

The Madneuli plant was taken over by the Georgian state-owned company Quartzite Ltd in 2006 which until that time had been exploiting the site in a joint venture together with the Australian mining company Bolnisi Gold NL. According to its own mission statement at that time the Bolnisi/Quartzite joint venture was designed to demonstrate to the international investment community that Georgia is a safe country for investment, that the company has striven to achieve highest international standards and that responsible mining can be of socio-economic benefit for the entire country. As such Quartzite Ltd had officially signed the UN Global Compact policy to promote the practices inspired by this UN initiative and had repeatedly reported on its measures implemented to fulfil highest environmental and social standards according to the World Bank and International Finance Cooperation (IFC) Performance Standards.

The dynamics of the case evolved on May 28, 2013 when the Agency for the Protection of Cultural Heritage (advisory body to the Ministry of Culture) announced to re-examine the protection status of the Sakdrisi-Kachagiani site in response to an initiative of the new owner of the Madneuli plant, the Russian-owned private company RMG Gold which acquired the corresponding licence in late 2012.

The highest level of protection can only be revoked if the status of the site is considered to be severely changed, a conclusion that has to be stated by the Archaeological Division of the Cultural Heritage Protection Board, a group of scientists and experts stipulated by the Georgian law to advise the Agency for the Protection of Cultural Heritage in its decisions. However, the mentioned board was never asked. Instead, an ad-hoc commission formed by the Ministry of Culture discussed the future of the site and concluded that the protection status is not considered justified. Based on this recommendation the Ministry of Culture revoked the highest level of protection and the office of the Prime Minister confirmed this action in July 2013.

As a result professionals from the cultural heritage sector as well as citizens, various organisations of the civil society sector in Georgia and many people living in the area affected by the extension of the future mining activities have joined in a broad societal campaign against this mining project. Besides the cultural aspects the mining project and the new company leadership are under



The documentations inside the complex mine are time-consuming. Here a 3D scanner by Arctron is used (photo: K. Stange/AVtention).

pressure due to accusations of having violated labour rights and environmental standards. Based on a legal initiative of the local organisations the Tbilisi court annulled the revocation of the protection status on behalf by the Ministry of Culture by June 2014.

In a statement issued by the Georgian National Committee of ICOMOS on the recent development in the heritage sector the concern was raised that the general aim to attract more investment for the country's economic development is intended to be achieved by disposing of entire historic ensembles for large-scale development projects. Furthermore, the potential of heritage assets contributing to the social and economic development of the country is not even envisioned in the newly published "Strategy for the Socio-Economic Development of Georgia (2014–2020)" presented by the government of Georgia in early 2014. The actions of the government of Georgia as exemplified by the Sakdrisi case and its current position with regard to the overall value of cultural heritage for socio-economic development are in opposition and in fact a violation of international agreements and treaties for the protection of cultural heritage to which the State of Georgia has acceded to with the promise to ensure the provision and implementation of these principles.

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Georgios Toubekis  
Report based on information provided  
by ICOMOS Georgia



# GERMANY

## The Upper Middle Rhine Valley – Conservation and Development Issues Related to the World Heritage Property

Some of the problems related to development pressures with possible negative impact on the outstanding universal value (OUV), the authenticity and integrity of the 65-km-long property were already presented in *Heritage at Risk 2006/07* (pp. 67–69) and *Heritage at Risk 2008–2010* (pp. 62–64), namely the plans (developed even before the inscription on the World Heritage List in 2002) to connect the federal highways on both sides of the river by means of a bridge in the vicinity of St. Goar and St. Goarshausen. In 2012 the government of the federal state of Rhineland-Palatinate decided to give up the plan for a bridge for the remaining legislative period and to implement – as requested by ICOMOS – an extended ferry service on a probationary basis until 2016. As the legislative period of the government is due to end in 2016, the report of the ICOMOS advisory mission of December 2012 recommended to the World Heritage Committee that the “World Heritage Master Plan”, elaborated in an exemplary participatory process in 2012, should provide for a clear definition of an acceptable form of river crossing.

The ICOMOS advisory mission was invited by the State Party in August 2012 to evaluate the operation of a cable car in the city of Koblenz, located in the World Heritage property. As proposed by ICOMOS the scope of the mission was broadened to also address other current development issues, such as the development plan for the Loreley Plateau, including a summer bobsleigh track and large-scale hotel buildings, noise from the railway and alternative energy production installations such as wind turbines and pump storage stations.

The **cable car system** was built from 2009 to 2010 for the 2011 National Garden Show, connecting the left bank of the Rhine (the city of Koblenz) with the Ehrenbreitstein fortress on the right bank. The agreement of the World Heritage Centre was based on the promise given by the Ministry of Education, Science, Youth and Culture to start dismantling the construction in autumn 2013. As the cable car’s base station is located in the immediate vicinity of the eastern part of St. Kastor, the oldest and most important medieval church in Koblenz dating back to Carolingian times, from the very beginning not only ICOMOS, but also the Archbishopric of Trier considered it as not being compatible with the OUV of the property, as it harmed its authenticity and integrity. In 2012 the State Party noted that the federal state of Rhineland-Palatinate reserved the right to extend the cable car’s operation by two years, to June 30, 2016, and requested that the temporary cable car system be even allowed to remain in operation until June 30, 2026 (the technical deadline of operation). The mission concluded that the cable car system is not compatible with the



Cable cars connecting the city of Koblenz with Ehrenbreitstein fortress (photo: C. Machat)



Cable car base station near the medieval church of St. Kastor (photo: C. Machat)

OUV of the property and recommended the dismantling, with the initially agreed deadlines to be respected. Unfortunately, during its 37th session in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, from June 16–27, 2013, the World Heritage Committee did not follow the recommendation and accepted the proposal of the State Party to continue the operation of the cable car until June 2026.

However, the World Heritage Committee decided to follow the other recommendations addressed by the ICOMOS mission





The Loreley seen from the other side of the Rhine (photo: C. Machat)

and included in the report of the World Heritage Centre: On the **Loreley Plateau** behind the legendary steep rock, the core and centre of the whole property, a development plan is in progress to improve the compatibility of tourist activities, traffic and parking with the site. Investors intend to develop the site by erecting several large-scale hotel buildings and installing a summer bobsleigh track. The latter has already been built, and the mis-



Loreley summer bobsleigh track (photo: C. Machat)

Visualisation of hotel project on the Loreley Plateau at night  
(© B. Burkhardt)



sion report concluded that it is not compatible with the OUV of the property and therefore recommended that the final permit should be refused, thus ensuring that the track will be dismantled. The project for three hotels on the Loreley Plateau, developed in 2012, is not compatible with the OUV of the property, either. In particular the six-star hotel, due to its position on the edge of the plateau and its dimensions, would seriously alter the cultural landscape and damage its authenticity and integrity. A project for a smaller hotel may be possible if it complies with the development plan for the plateau. The World Heritage Committee recommended that the State Party on the one hand deny approval for the large-scale hotel building; on the other hand, it encouraged the State Party to consider viable solutions for a smaller-scale redevelopment in consultation with the Advisory Bodies and all stakeholders. As a consequence, ICOMOS Germany asked the decision-making authorities of the state of Rhineland-Palatinate to initiate an architectural competition for a development plan of the cultural landscape of the Plateau.

**Noise from the railway** is a permanent problem heavily affecting the quality of life of inhabitants and the experience of visitors to the property. The mission recommended that efforts to reduce noise in the most effective and sensitive way be reinforced, but cautioned against sporadic measures leading to unsightly solutions, such as noise-protection walls. It suggested that short-term solutions, including improvements to the technical infrastructure, noise reduction of vehicles, be realised, while also developing a long-term solution, for instance another rail transport corridor. In summer 2013 the European Commission started a consultation procedure for “effective reduction of noise generated by rail freight waggons in the EU” (“Railnoise 2013”), and on September 30, 2013 the “Association World Heritage Upper Middle Rhine Valley”, which runs the property since 2005, contributed with a petition signed also by a representative of ICOMOS Germany. In the meantime, the technical department of the national railway company informed the public about the bad condition of three tunnels (Bank-, Bett- and Kammereckttunnel) on the left



bank of the river opposite the Loreley area and about the technical necessity to develop alternative solutions for restructuring and/or building new tunnels. A working group, including all the stakeholders of the area and also the Advisory Bodies, was formed that started to consider all technical possibilities and alternatives with respect to the OUV of the area.

Based on the recommendations included in the ICOMOS advisory mission report the World Heritage Committee in its Decision 37 COM 7B.75 requested “the State Party to closely monitor the situation related to **alternative energy production installations** such as wind turbines and pump storage stations, complete the related sightline study, and submit this study to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the Advisory Bodies”. In the meantime, the sightline study has been completed and from the very beginning has caused conflicts of opinions and positions between the different stakeholders. The political pressure for the erection of wind turbines is well known, because they are highly subsidised by the state and assure an important income for the communes. At the same time the visual effect and also impact (not only) on the Upper Middle Rhine Valley and its buffer zone are known. The property is located in two different federal states, in Rhineland-Palatinate and in Hessen, where different legal systems apply. For the property itself, both federal states have declared that no wind turbines will be permitted. For the buffer zone, however, the regulations are different: In Rhineland-Palatinate the erection of wind turbines is excluded if incompatible with the OUV of the property, i.e. where it would result in a visual disturbance, while in Hessen, with no precise and area-wide regulations, every case would have to be examined separately. This is one of the reasons for the request included in the ICOMOS advisory mission report that procedures need to be clarified and decision-making authorities defined.

Christoph Machat

The town of Hirzenach affected by railway traffic  
(photo: [www.pro-rheintal.de](http://www.pro-rheintal.de))



Stralsund, multi-storey car park at Fahrwall, Schagemann und Schulte 2011 (photo: [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Stralsund,\\_F%C3%A4hrwall,\\_Parkhaus\\_Am\\_Hafen\\_%282012-03-04%29,\\_by\\_Klugschnacker\\_in\\_Wikipedia.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Stralsund,_F%C3%A4hrwall,_Parkhaus_Am_Hafen_%282012-03-04%29,_by_Klugschnacker_in_Wikipedia.jpg) [1 June 2013])

## Parking in Historic Town Centres: the Examples of Stralsund and Wismar

In Stralsund and Wismar, the successful preservation of the World Cultural Heritage depends considerably on a continuous adjustment and adaptation of traffic and parking concepts. The urban framework plans set up in the early 1990s envisaged an extension of the pedestrian areas, a reduction of through-traffic, traffic calming by means of 30 km/h zones, and the strict introduction of priority-to-right regulations. These aspects became part of both towns' management plans ten years later. The expertises commissioned in 2012 illustrate the changed situation ten years after the inscription on the World Heritage List in 2002. Several ensembles, individual buildings, entire streets and squares have been preserved and renovated; gaps between buildings have been filled. The influx of new inhabitants into the historic centres and rising numbers of tourists have enlivened both towns to a very pleasing extent. However, they also confront the towns with new problems. With regard to parking new solutions will have to be found for the various demands (residential parking, parking for customers and for deliveries, parking for visitors, employees and commuters) if derelict areas are no longer available as interim solutions. The declared and fundamental goal is a reduction of traffic in the historic town centres by limiting the number parking spaces and concentrating the parking possibilities on the outskirts.

In 1997, Stralsund erected a pre-fab multi-storey car park (267 parking spaces) at Weingartenbastion, close to the Frankenwall on the south-eastern fringe of the old town. Between 2003 and 2005 this was followed by an underground garage (260 parking spaces) on the opposite side of the town, at Knieperwall in the north-west. So far the erection of apartments on top of the underground garage has not yet worked out. Excavations at this construction site had unearthed a part of the archaeological heritage of this town – the latter being an integral part of the World Heritage. The Hiddenseer Hof was a Cistercian settlement in Stralsund, erected in the first half of the 14th century, later to become derelict and





Wismar, old town with harbour, on the lower edge of the picture the south-eastern fringe of the old town (photo: U. Jahr, Ingenieurbüro Jahr, Objektplanung – Bauüberwachung, Burgwall 2, 23966 Wismar, photo 2012)

to be re-erected. After the Reformation it served as accommodation, was destroyed by fire in the 17th century and once again re-erected. Parts of the rediscovered cellars were integrated into the new building by using viewing windows. Thus, the “readability” of history is insured. However, the quality and execution of the new buildings are not satisfactory; they diminish the original intention quite considerably.

The municipality had great interest in developing and integrating Quartier 17, the largest derelict area in the centre of Stralsund, into the historic centre. The archaeological finds were an important corrective for the already planned parking spaces. In general, the decision to install a new commercial quarter in the heart of the old town and to provide parking spaces for this purpose undermines the concept of parking on the outskirts. Against opposition – not only from ICOMOS, but also from the conservation department, from the town itself as well as from citizens and the Altstadtverein – the claim for town repair was asserted. Excavations in the area of Badenstrasse exposed well preserved cellars dating back to the 13th and 14th centuries. They also showed clearly the damages caused by the Second World War in the southern section of the quarter that measures 5,000 m<sup>2</sup>. As a result of these excavations, in order to preserve these testimonies the number of parking spaces was reduced from 235 to 188. Furthermore, in the course of the discussions it was also possible to move the drive for deliveries, to preserve the upper layers and making them visible in the new building. For the new construction the Berlin architects Kara und Hoffmann have suggested an architecture divided into small sections. The roofing ceremony was in November 2012.

Basically, the multi-storey car park “Am Hafen” situated at the northern Fährwall, which opened in June 2011 after plans by the

Potsdam architects Schagemann und Schulte, is in accordance with the pursued parking concept. All the same, it also shows the limits of such a concept: The construction with 280 spaces, against which residents had protested for a long time, tries to adapt to the Hanseatic building tradition in its choice of materials. Nevertheless, this cannot visually reduce the enormous volume of this building. – In the coming years the existing car park of 165 spaces at Neuer Markt is meant to disappear altogether or to be considerably reduced. Apart from the Alter Markt where the city has already removed all parking spaces, the Neuer Markt is one of the most important places in the old town. Stralsund is planning a call for tenders for this area.

In Wismar the situation is similar. A new parking concept, as in Stralsund prepared by IVAS (Ingenieurbüro für Verkehrsanlagen und -systeme Dresden) in 2011, reacts to the demand for parking spaces in view of a decreasing supply and aims for a classification of the parking zones for residents, employees, customers and visitors of the town, allowing different lengths of parking. The conflicts caused by the concept of parking on the outskirts of the historic centre also become evident in Wismar. On the south-eastern fringe of the old town, after the demolition of an oversized office block, an urban replanning has been under way for years. Part of this replanning is to provide parking spaces to relieve the town centre. After initial plans for 380 spaces the number was raised to 500. A draft for a master plan allowed a spacious new multi-storey car park. Thereupon, the town commissioned an expertise on the ramparts and fortifications and immediately reacted to the results. The number of parking spaces is now 400 and the height of the permitted new buildings has been considerably reduced. Consequently, the view of the historic centre is not obstructed. By



adapting the green areas to the now visible medieval moat in front of the town wall another correction has been achieved.

Just as in Stralsund parking in the centre is also being discussed in Wismar: within the framework of a civic participation regarding the urban development of the quarter around the tower of St. Mary's Church (in accordance with § 137 of the code of German building law) the citizenry in January 2014 voted in favour of an overall concept for the quarter. Regarding the traffic objectives it says: "In the area around St Mary's Church parking spaces for residents and non-residents should be provided in well-balanced proportions. The various user groups, residents, customers, visitors, tourists and the handicapped, must be taken into due consideration."

Sigrid Brandt and Jörg Haspel

## The Kant-Garage in Berlin-Charlottenburg, Listed Multi-Storey Garage in the Style of the New Objectivity, Threatened to be Demolished

The Kant-Garage is clearly visible among the rows of houses in Kantstrasse in Charlottenburg. According to the decision of the owner, Berlin's last remaining multi-storey garage from the 1920s is to be demolished for economic reasons. The necessary application for demolition has already been filed with the municipal monuments authority. This garage, opened in October 1930, which survived the Second World War without any major damages, has been situated in Kantstrasse 126–127 for more than 80 years. It bears the rather pompous, typically Berlin-style name "Kant-Garagen-Palast".

The Kant-Garage was built in the architectural language of the *Neues Bauen*/the *Neue Sachlichkeit* (New Objectivity). The two Hans Poelzig pupils Hermann Zweigenthal (1904–1968) and Richard Paulick (1903–1979) designed this garage for businessman Louis Serlin. The actual form was developed together with the Berlin architect's office Lohmüller, Korschelt & Renker that specialised in multi-storey garages. The impressive curtain wall covering the entire back wall of the building like a glass skin and the spectacular double spiral ramp are ascribed to Zweigenthal. In 1991 the garage was included in Berlin's monument list. From the time between 1907 and 1937 barely a dozen multi-storey garages have survived in Germany. According to Berlin's monument council (2010) the Kant-Garage "is not only an outstanding monument of the *Neues Bauen*. It is also a unique technical monument of automobilism in Germany." This exceptional status has to be seen in connection with the way the building was executed and the unusual state of conservation of the garage. The curtain wall on the rear side of the building made by the Frankfurt glass-roof factory Claus Meyn KG is largely intact. Inside, one finds the cleverly designed sliding gates made by the Paul Heinrichs factory in Tempelhof.

In 1930, this monument was one of only two multi-storey garages in Europe with a double spiral ramp. On this special type of ramp cars use one spiral lane to drive up and another to drive down. The Kant-Garage was the only German multi-storey garage to be designed that way – and remained so until 1957. On a worldwide scale there is only one older garage of this type



Illustration of the Kant-Garage from *Deutsche Bauzeitung*, 1931



The exterior today (photo: [www.bauwelt.de](http://www.bauwelt.de))



Detail of the interior (photo: [www.bauwelt.de](http://www.bauwelt.de))

with a double spiral ramp: the Richmond Garage of 1928 (107 N, 6th St., Richmond, Virginia) by Lee, Smith & VanDervoort. The Kant-Garage is authentic and a key example of this new building type. It is a testimony to a largely forgotten cultural history of the automobile. Even listed examples of this type have been destroyed: in 1983 the "Hochgarage Stephanstrasse" in Krefeld (1928) by Carl Stauth, in 1997 the "Clover Leaf" filling station in Hannover (1952) by Gerd Lichtenhahn, in 2011 the "Parkgarage am Zoo in Berlin (1956/57) by Hans Bielenberg, and



General view of the ICC with the Radio Tower in the background (photo: Alfred Englert)

most recently the “Holtzendorff-Garage” in Berlin (1928/29) by Johannes and Walter Krüger.

What a magnet this carefully restored Kant-Garage could be in and for Berlin’s district of Charlottenburg: After all, it is already an inherent part of the sightseeing programmes of international tourists interested in the remaining witnesses of the Weimar Republic. The first step, however, would have to be its restoration in line with general conservation standards. The present owner, the Kantgaragen Grundstücksgesellschaft mbH (Pepper Immobilien), will most likely not be able to fund such measures. From the cultural-historical perspective, however, the demolition would be inexcusable.

René Hartmann

## Uncertain Future for International Congress Center (ICC) Berlin

”Silver whale” – “spaceship” – ”space station”. These metaphors have been used to describe the International Congress Center of Berlin. Designed by two of the city’s architects, Ralf Schüler and Ursulina Schüler-Witte, the ICC was completed in April 1979, after 10 years of construction. Prior to that, the Congress Hall in Tiergarten (1957) was Berlin’s first attempt to highlight the city as a conference location.

The function of the ICC was intended to be much larger in scope: it was planned to be ”Europe’s Congress Center”. In addition, for those entering the city using the Avus from the west, the ICC had ”a purpose similar to that of the Brandenburg Gate in the past” (Helmut Börsch-Supan, *Bauwelt* 1979). Today, the future of this architectural landmark on the island of West Berlin

is uncertain. For years, those responsible for economic and urban development in Berlin disagreed about refurbishment and uses that would preserve and modernize this architectural symbol of West Berlin as a cultural hub.

The ICC Berlin is a structure that integrates aesthetics and function. A striking symbol at the time because of its high-tech architecture, it was a display of progress, modernization and internationalization and has shaped architectural and urban history. This grand edifice in Berlin is comparable to the Centre Pompidou in Paris (1971–77), Lloyds in London (1978–86) or the University Hospital in Aachen (1971–85); places that have already been designated historic monuments, or – as in the case of the Centre Pompidou – have been accepted as undisputed national treasures.

As a contemporary response to the enormous arrangement of exhibition halls west of the site, built in the neo-classical style of the 1930s, the architects designed a 320 m long, 80 m wide and 40 m high structure. The ICC features a highway along its longitudinal axis and incorporates the traffic landscape surrounding it. It stands broad and powerful between Messedamm, the freeway, and the railroad tracks, flanking it on the east. This specific location required the architects Ralf Schüler and Ursulina Schüler-Witte to design a large, noise-resistant building with a large span.

The result is a construction unit, consisting of load-bearing stair towers, along the flanks of the building stretched trusses and transversely stretched binders. The steel trusses provide the supporting structure to the outside walls and ‘clutch’ the building from above. On the flanks it is held together with an enormous carcass-braced double rail. Building and external support structures are covered with shimmering aluminium sheets, partly in bold red.

The internal design is reminiscent of a town with a central square and a network of roads varying in size. The building is



accessed by a foyer, which extends longitudinally through the building and was termed “Boulevard” by the architects. From it branch off – comparable to crossroads on slopes – stairs and escalators that lead to wardrobes and the rooms on lower and upper levels. The Boulevard and foyer do not merely accommodate traffic; instead, numerous public and semi-private conversation niches are furnished in the original style. 40 halls and 40 rooms differing in size for a total capacity of 20,000 seats, provide ample space for conferences and congresses. The size of the building is shaped by the two largest halls, separated by a towering stage house, clearly seen from the outside. These halls feature particular design elements: Ceiling panels can be lowered to visually reduce the size of the space, and a double floor accommodates multiple uses. The first floor reveals an auditorium complete with built-in congress chairs for a capacity of 2000 delegates. That floor can be raised to be a ceiling, exposing the second, underlying floor, which converts the hall into a 4000-seat grand banquet or ball-room. The special atmosphere of the round hall was referred to as ‘Spaceship Orion’ (German version of Star Trek) because of its futuristic appearance. It is characterized by the combination of different materials: the load-bearing constructions are made of exposed concrete; the balustrades of the gallery floors are clad with plasterboards. The escalators have stainless steel portals, showing a distinctly tech-savvy form like a raised lever.

The main technological element is the ‘Congress-chair’ developed by Ralf Schüler. It provides seating for two and features communication technology, to include simultaneous interpreter system, microphones, channel selection and volume control, which – as he said it – “besides other technical facilities, a communication technology equipment is integrated with a microphone for two seats, a word alarm button connected to each seat, the corresponding indicator fields for the acknowledgement of a request to speak and for the grant to speak, also the facilities for the simultaneous interpreter system, for channel selection and volume control” (AIT 3/1980, S. 234).

The Congress chair is therefore the smallest unit of a comprehensive communications technology. Over time, the ICC’s inherent technology has been replaced by wireless headset communication. The compact equipment consoles are obsolete; however, they maintain a function: technology as historical testimony and memory support.

What does the future hold for Berlin’s International Congress Center, a structure which at this time has not been designated a ‘monument’? The ICC has been the subject of long-standing debate about demolition, remodelling and reconstruction. A synthesis of aesthetics, function, materiality, construction and social context of large buildings, such as the ICC, forms a central aspect in a discussion that must take into account the question of the identity-forming potential of such buildings. The ICC has yet to be designated as ‘historical’ and as such has not yet gained acceptance for its historical dimension. The building is one of the main reference points for the architecture of the Cold War period. It is significant as the interior design and furnishings are largely from the construction period, which gives the building a high degree of authenticity. Major international congresses were held here, which enriched Berlin’s capacity for global communication. The city consistently maintained its influence despite its isolation.

Currently, a re-purposing of the building is under consideration. The CityCube, a new congress and exhibition centre nearby, to be completed in 2014, generates competition with regard to the functional aspect of the ICC, a competition that may render the ICC expendable. In accordance with the criteria guiding monu-



The Boulevard (photo: Alfred Englert)



Conference hall 1 (photo: Alfred Englert)



The round conference hall (photo: Alfred Englert)

ment preservation, current uses of the Center must be maintained while new uses must be secured: this is the only way to ensure the building’s relevance. Nearly unchanged over time, the International Congress Center continues to meet the international criteria guiding the designation ‘monument’ of authenticity and integrity. Hardly any of Berlin’s formative “large buildings” of the 1970s meet that standard. Therefore, the ICC should neither be gutted nor destroyed.

Kerstin Wittmann-Englert  
(English translation: Birgit Meany)



# GREECE

## Repercussions of the Economic Crisis on the Cultural Heritage Sector

The crisis experienced in Greece over the past three years has spread beyond the economy to all facets of social and cultural life. Health, national education and culture are the sectors facing the most significant pressure and losses regarding their personnel and budget. More specifically, in the sector of culture and the protection of cultural heritage, important delays can be noted in the execution of research as well as of programmed works.

This situation was aggravated when around the end 2011 dozens of experienced and specialized scientists, employees of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture, were forced to retire from the central and peripheral services of the Ministry of Culture. ICOMOS Hellenic denounced this situation, asking for our colleagues' solidarity during the 17th General Assembly of ICOMOS in November 2011.

This decision caused delays in approximately 578 projects with over 3000 employees and a budget of 707 million euros in the framework of the National Strategic Reference Program, allocating European Union Funds at a national level for the period of 2007 – 2013. The funding is aimed at protecting monuments and at developing Greece in cultural and tourist matters. These projects have opened up job opportunities and provided work to a great number of employees, many of whom fall under the enforcements of the new legislation. Therefore all these projects are threatened to be delayed or even terminated.

But austerity did not end there. Recently, and despite the protest by ICOMOS Hellenic, the Association of Archaeologists and other non-governmental institutions, the number of seasonal employees was significantly limited. They are the ones undertaking excavation and restoration work during the summer and they also operate the archaeological sites and museums during the tourist season.

Culture is a capital developmental asset for Greece, from a qualitative but also from a quantitative point of view. It is estimated that its broader sector occupies more than 100,000 employees and it accounts for 2.8% of the Gross National Product, according to the 2011 data. The Greek people respect and love their tradition and culture, which give great added value to their country. Unfortunately however, the last years' crisis is bringing to light some increasingly worrying phenomena, timely denounced through letters to the competent bodies by ICOMOS Hellenic. Some of these issues are the following:

- Vandalisms and destruction of historic buildings, as those burnt in the historic centre of Athens at the beginning of 2012 and which await some action of restoration;
- Thefts from the National Gallery and the Museum of Ancient Olympia, which occurred quite possibly due to insufficient safeguarding;

- Procedures for the sale of national estates, often included in the list of natural and cultural monuments, as in the case of the temple of Apollo Zostiras included in the Astir resort tourist complex in Attica.

Nevertheless, the issue troubling us most is the proposed law for the new Organization Chart of the General Secretariat of Culture, made public on February 5, 2012.

As the economic crisis progressed, the erstwhile autonomous Ministry of Culture was finally abolished in 2009. Recently, it was incorporated into the newly established Ministry of Education, Religion, Culture and Sports as a simple General Secretariat of Culture. Within the general framework of governmental reorganization, a new organization plan of the General Secretariat's structure has been drafted and is on its way to be voted for in Parliament. The draft of this new organization plan will dramatically reduce, by up to 51.5%, the organizational structures and units of the culture-related Public Services, as well as detach vital Directorates, such as the Directorates of Administration and Finances.

The plan calls for the merging of non-related departments which perform very different scientific and administrative duties. In addition, several other Directorates of the General Secretariat of Culture, with significant responsibilities, will be eliminated or reduced drastically. It is evident that if the New Organization Plan of the General Secretariat of Culture is voted for and put into effect, it will fundamentally weaken the Greek state's ability to cope with the enormous task of protecting and enhancing Greece's cultural heritage.

The drafting and discussion excluded the Ministry's service bodies, employees and associations; neither did it include bodies active in the protection of cultural heritage, such as ICOMOS Hellenic, the National Association of Architects, the Technical Chamber of Greece, ICOM, TICCIH, etc.

The Hellenic section of ICOMOS estimates that the aforementioned development actually leads to the dissolution of the cultural Technical Services, at a central and peripheral level, while administrative incompatibilities emerge in some cases, leading to malfunction in services. It has become obvious that the preliminary plan (with its elements publicized so far) does not constitute the result of a substantial assessment and evaluation of structures and people; nor does it take into consideration the actual administrative needs in this sector. On the contrary, the aim of this plan seems to be the shrinking of the public sector, through the impoverishment of its developmental character and finally the devaluation of culture itself.

By making its documents public, the Hellenic National Committee of ICOMOS calls the political leadership to withdraw and to refute, if it disagrees with the proposed Organization Chart and to start a substantial dialogue, aiming at a modern, functional and effective organization; not at devaluating but at strengthening culture and its services.

Athens, May 27, 2013  
ICOMOS Hellenic

## Archaeological Finds in Thessalonica at Risk due to Metro Construction

In the centre of Greece's second largest city, Thessalonica, digging carried out for the construction of the city's metro unearthed rich archaeological finds dating back to late Antiquity. It turned out that these metro construction works exposed part of the historic Via Egnatia, an antique road connecting the Adriatic with the Bosphorus.

According to an article in the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* of July 2, 2013 these finds resulted in a controversial discussion what ought

to be done with them. While archaeologists were thrilled about what they had found in the ground and demanded that the finds be left where they were, the construction companies and even the State Office of Antiquities in Athens were determined that the metro construction works be taken up again as soon as possible and that the antique finds be removed and transported to an interim depot on the outskirts. The latter parties seem to have won the "battle": Apparently, the finds have now been removed and will be displayed in the future metro stations "Agia Sophia" and "Eleftherios Venizelos".

John Ziesemer



Thessalonica, archaeological remains discovered during metro construction (photos: [www.thehistoryblog.com](http://www.thehistoryblog.com))

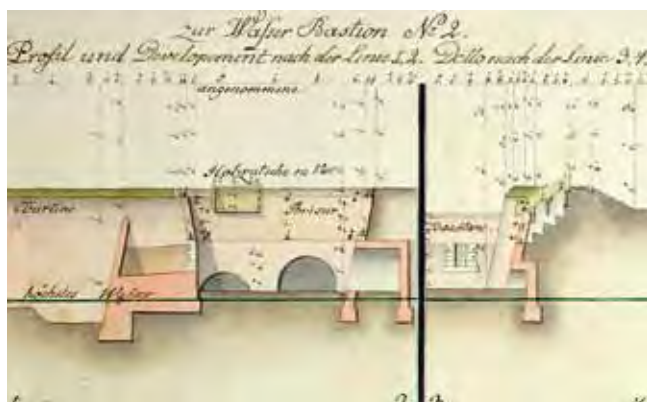
# HUNGARY

## Győr, Danube Gate

Today, Győr (Raab, Javorinum, Giavarino) is the spiritual and economic centre of Northern Transdanubia. The historic settlement is situated at the border of several typical geographical regions and is an important intersection point of rivers, highways and railway lines. The settlement owes its existence to the geography of the area. Without doubt, one of the most important gifts of nature is the gate-like character of this region. A safe river



Győr, Danube Gate occupation in 1594



Győr, fortification plan, c. 1561

crossing connected the western Viennese, Czech and Moravian Basins with the Carpathian Basin. For thousands of years, people, migrant tribes and armies passed through this area.

Győr played an important role at historic moments of Europe. Its strategic stance in times of war and its economy and trade in times of peace ensured its outstanding position in both the local and wider region. The Roman fortress Arrabona – an important part of the ancient Roman “Limes” – was almost symmetrical, square shaped. The Hungarians first appeared in the area in the

10th century.<sup>1</sup> In early medieval times, as the Hungarian city was established around the Chapter Hill, it became the residence of the Bishopric.

From the first quarter of the 16th century, Győr became the border fortress of Europe, a defensive bastion of Vienna preventing the Ottoman advance towards the west for one and a half centuries. On 10 May 1529, Sultan Suleiman I sent a declaration of war to Ferdinand I, the Hungarian king, an event which determined the next one and a half centuries in the history of Győr. The Turkish troops overcame the fortress of Győr on 19 September 1529 with the intention to capture Vienna. The conquerors set fire to the city. That was when the Turks named Győr “The Burnt Castle – Janik-kala”.

Around 1536, the reinforcement of the dirt and wood plank-wall of the castle began. By October 1552, the fortified north entrance – Danube Gate – which later played a significant role in the city’s history, was completed. For the fortification of the city, Italian engineers and royal military architects worked out plans in accordance with the military techniques of the period. In 1554, a royal decision was made about the fortification of the entire downtown of Győr and the construction was led by the Italian master builders Francesco Benigno and Bernardo Gabrielli.<sup>2</sup> In 1561, Pietro Ferrabosco<sup>3</sup> arrived in Győr, and in 1564 he sketched plans illustrating the changes he recommended. His plan included modifications recommended by Benigno and Gabrielli in 1561. He supplemented the west wall of the Castle bastion with the Sforza half bastion, and between the southern Kaiser bastion and the eastern Middle bastion he installed the New Bastion.

The final image of the fortress of Győr from an aerial perspective is illustrated in a 1566 copper engraving by Domenico Zeno.<sup>4</sup> The representation clearly shows the up-to-date, new Italian “winged bastions” at the junction of Rába, Rábca and Danube, the Danube Gate. The monumental architectural and engineering work was financed partly by the Austrian Imperial Court, by the taxpayers of Styria, Upper Austria and by the Pope. A great series of detailed architectural plans remained in the Military Archive in Vienna and in the Archive of the Provincial Government of Upper Austria.

On 29 September 1594 the Turkish Army captured Győr after a long, bloody siege. It was a tragic moment for Christian Europe. There is a whole series of staggering representations of the 1594 siege of Győr; Balthasar Caimax’s stenographic picture of Turkish troops storming the Christian army sent to liberate the fortress illustrates a crucial moment of the siege.

Győr was recaptured on 28 March 1598 by the Common European Army led by General Adolf Schwarzenberg and Nicolaus Pálffy in one night. It was one of the most important historical events of the 16th century. Overall in Styria, Carinthia, Upper Austria and Bavaria hundreds of statues – so-called Raaber Kreuze (Győr crosses) – were put up to immortalize the important success of the Christian world.



After recapturing the city, construction works of the missing outer entrenchment began. Around that time a delegation of engineers from Győr visited Palmanova Fortress, a military settlement built in the shape of a nine-pointed star. Upon meeting the designer of the fortress, Vincenzo Scamozzi<sup>5</sup> suggested increasing the height of the walls of the bastions in Győr. According to the old drawings, the works of the fortress progressed between 1661 and 1664.

The peaceful times of the 18th century were only disturbed by the Napoleonic wars – Napoleon’s troops later caused the destruction of the fortress of Győr. Only the three town gates, the castle bastion and the Sforza half-bastion were spared at that time, but the three Renaissance town gates were destroyed between 1858 and 1894. The row of small Baroque houses built on top of the walls of the fortress was demolished in 1938 to create a new market square for the city.

In 1978, upon maintaining flood preservation works builders discovered the lower part of the Danube bastion. The bastion walls were restored accurately.<sup>6</sup> While building flood preservation walls we observed that the whole casemate system of the Renaissance fortress had remained intact under the ground level of the square. It was our greatest desire to discover this interesting historical document of Győr at a later time.

In 2011, the municipality of Győr decided to build an underground garage for 400 cars under the empty square. The National Office of Cultural Heritage compelled the municipality of Győr to undertake an archaeological excavation of the whole area. The result of the excavation surpassed all our hopes. The whole casemate system was discovered in excellent condition. The overall view of the wall system was the same as in Lucca (Italy), where the complete fortress has been preserved to this day.

On 31 October 2013 the entire 140-year-old Hungarian monument preservation office system was abolished by the Hungarian Parliament. The new authority for building permissions, the “bureau of the government”, approved the plans to build the three storey underground garage in April 2013. It is easy to understand that the construction works mean a great danger for the bastions. According to plans only a small surface of the back of the brick walls would be displayed on the first level of the garage. ICOMOS Hungary together with local civil organisations – Hun-



Győr, Danube Gate excavation, 2012



Győr, Danube Gate excavation, 2012

garia Nostra, Arrabona Local Patriot Organisation<sup>7</sup> and other associations – have protested heavily in the past years to prevent the local municipality’s plans to build the garage complex. Hungarian architects have advised to reconstruct the whole casemate system to demonstrate the original, authentic construction from the Turkish era.

It seems that nothing can be done: the construction of the garage will start in 2013–2014.

Prof. emer. Gábor Winkler  
Honorary Member of ICOMOS

<sup>1</sup> Győr supposedly got its Hungarian name from the family name “Geur”.

<sup>2</sup> Agoston, Gábor: “Habsburgs and Ottomans: Defence, Military Change and Shifts in Power”, in: *The Turkish Bulletin Association*, vol. 22, no. 1, spring 1990, pp. 124–141.

<sup>3</sup> Ferabosco [Ferrabosco], Pietro, born in Laino near Como, 1512(?), died in Como(?), 1599(?), Italian painter, architect and military engineer.

<sup>4</sup> Winkler, Gábor: *Győr 1539–1939*. Győr 1998; Winkler, Gábor: *Győr 1939–1999*. Győr 1999.

<sup>5</sup> Vincenzo Scamozzi (2. September 1548–7. August 1616) was a Venetian architect and a writer on architecture, active mainly in Vicenza and in the Republic of Venice area in the second half of the 16th century.

<sup>6</sup> Architect: Gábor Winkler, structural engineer: András Persa.

<sup>7</sup> Expert opinion: Arch. Gyula Szabó and Arch. Ferenc Szigeti.

# INDONESIA

## Borobudur Temple

The Borobudur Temple was built in the 8th century by a king of the Sailendra dynasty. It is one of the biggest Buddhist monuments in the world. The layout of the temple in the shape of a Mandala is composed of a basement, the so-called hidden foot



Borobudur Temple before the restoration by Theodore van Erp



Sunrise over Borobudur Temple

and four square terraces with 1460 reliefs showing the life of Buddha and Buddhist mythological scenes. Nearly countless niches with sitting Buddha statues adorn these four levels. The upper three levels consist of circular terraces with 72 bell-shaped

stupas containing Buddha statues and of the central huge stupa at the top. The ashlar and sculptures are made of intermediate and basic volcanic rocks (andesite, basalt) from the surrounding volcanoes Gunung Merapi, Gunung Merbabue, Gunung Sindoro and Gunung Sumbing and were quarried in the river beds. The basement is built up by a natural hill and backfill; the ashlar were dry set.

The temple was covered with soils and ashes from volcano eruptions and had gradually overgrown with trees and shrubs when it was rediscovered in the 19th century by Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles. In 1991 the 'Borobudur Temple Compounds' were inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, underlining their significance as a site of outstanding universal value.

The first restoration intervention was undertaken between 1907 and 1911 by Theodore van Erp. He consolidated the upper three terraces of the temple-mountain, reconstructed the bell-shaped stupas and the central stupa and stabilised the walls of the lower galleries and the stairs and gates. Furthermore, he improved the water drainage system. During this intervention a considerable amount of concrete was brought into the structure. The middle terraces were not consolidated. During this restoration phase many of the bas-relief panels were painted with ochre yellow, the so-called "van Erp paint".

From 1973 until 1982 the second large-scale, international rescue campaign was led by UNESCO. Large parts of the temple mountain and of the bas-reliefs in the galleries above the so-called hidden foot were dismantled and reassembled on a stabilized construction. During this intervention, concrete slabs with vertical epoxy tar layers and horizontal lead sheets, functioning as waterproofing for a new internal draining system, were built into the temple structure. The concrete slabs collect the water on the different platforms and serve also as circular reinforcements ("Ringanker") for the stabilisation of the temple mountain. PVC pipes channel the water from the upper to the lower levels.

All these interventions could not stop water seepage. Therefore, a third big intervention took place between 2011 and 2013, carried out by the Borobudur Conservation Office (BCO). Most of the balustrades were dismantled and reassembled and new epoxy tar coated lead sheets were inserted underneath. However water seepage still occurs.

Sitting on the edge of the 'ring of fire', the most active volcanic region in the world, the temple has been repeatedly damaged by natural disasters. In October and November 2010 big eruptions from the Mount Merapi volcano covered its surrounding areas and the temple with a blanket of volcanic ash. The November 5, 2010 eruption alone covered the Borobudur Temple Compounds with a layer of around 45 mm.

The cleaning of the volcanic ash from the surface of the monument began immediately after the first eruption in order to prevent any damage to the reliefs. The work was nearly completed when the second eruption took place on November 5. The cleaning operation was carried out by the staff of the Borobudur Con-





Temple front showing different types of decay



Bas-relief with pustules



Detail of a relief showing severe rounding

ervation Office and by hundreds of people from the local community and volunteers under the supervision of the site office of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. It was assisted by UNESCO and the international community, including the German government.

The risk of a direct damaging influence of the ashes on the temple's carved reliefs and Buddha statues inside the stupas and chapels was negligible; those responsible had been afraid of a potentially corrosive reaction of solutions from the ash on the reliefs. However the blockage of the internal water drainage system by the ashes would have caused unpredictable serious problems.

In February 2014, the ash of the Kelud volcano in East Java blanketed the temple compound again with ashes. Due to the pre-

ventive disaster management project of the BCO the Borobudur Temple could be immediately protected by sliding covers and the damages could be mitigated.

The most severe stone conservation issues on the bas-reliefs of the temple walls and the balustrades are so-called pustules, crust formation with different compositions, cracks, and uncontrolled water seepage. They are independent of the ashes and solutions from the ashes. Everywhere breakages at the horizontal joints can be observed which derive from the dismantling and reassembling of parts of the temple during the intervention of the 1970s. Other negative influences are salts with damaging effects on building materials and microbiological contamination. They cause the loss of the precious carved surface in very small fragments. The





Relief showing biological growth and breakage

weathering dynamics are not very rapid, but it is currently impossible to provide a reliable prognosis as to further weathering.

The ongoing research therefore focuses on the leakages and the formation of pustules and crusts. It is carried out by the authors in close cooperation with the colleagues of the BCO and other German and Japanese experts, organized by UNESCO Jakarta office and supported by the German Federal Foreign Office. A full photographic documentation of the bas-reliefs was carried out during the dry and the rainy season. It provides the basis for a comparison with the older documentation (van Erp), but also for the long-term monitoring and observation of the leaking areas. Detailed mapping of deterioration patterns on test areas and extensive material testing at the site and in the lab as well as practical conservation tests have been undertaken. Another

particular project focuses on the question of the participation of microbiology in the alteration process. The internal drainage system was investigated in a first phase. It could be demonstrated that most of the PVC pipes still function and are in good condition. Another mission is necessary to prove whether the water-collecting concrete slabs show leakages anywhere and whether the filter and waterproofing layers still function. Several years ago a comprehensive environmental monitoring system was already established. The structural stability of the temple is monitored and evaluated by means of sophisticated technical devices and a regular monitoring of movement marks.

Hans Leisen and  
Esther von Plehwe-Leisen



# IRAN

## Sasanian Bas-reliefs at Tang-e Chogan under Invasion of Lichens and Fungi

At several places near the town of Bishapur, which was founded by Sasanian King Shapur I (241–272) and was situated on the road between Persis and Elam, the King also had the sides of the Bishapur River gorge decorated with huge historical reliefs commemorating his triple triumph over Rome. The six reliefs at Tang-e Chogan show scenes such as Shapur enslaving the Roman Emperor; the King and his courtiers; or rows of registers with files of soldiers and horses, in a deliberate imitation of the narrative scenes on the Trajan column in Rome.

The critical situation of these bas-reliefs is described in an article by CAIS (The Circle of Ancient Iranian Studies):

*Lichens and vegetation growing in the cavities and cracks of the Sasanian bas-reliefs at Tang-e Chogan, a part of the ruins of the ancient city of Bishapur in southwestern Iran, are gradually destroying these irreplaceable antiquities. The lichens and vegetation are clearly visible on all six bas-reliefs, which are located 19 kilometres north of Kazerun, reported the Persian service of the Mehr News Agency. One of the bas-reliefs depicts Shapur I, the Persian King of Kings who consolidated and expanded the fourth Iranian dynastic empire founded by his father, Ardashir I. It shows him seated on a throne, witnessing a triumph of his army. In the top row, he is flanked by nobles of the court, and the lower row contains soldiers who represent Roman captives and trophies of victory.*

*Another bas-relief portrays Bahram, one of the sons of Shapur I. During his father's reign, he governed the province of Atropatene (modern Azarbaijan Province). There is an inscription beside the bas-relief, which originally bore the name of Bahram, although his name was later erased by the Sasanian king Narses.*

*The Shiraz Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department (SCHTH) that is responsible for protecting ancient*



Sasanian bas-reliefs at Tang-e Chogan (photo: Pedram Veisi)

*site historical monuments in Fars Province, has made no efforts to save the ancient relics from the lichens and vegetation attacks.*

*The ancient city of Bishapur is also in peril by several other factors. The ruins are trampled on every day under the hoofs of livestock that are taken to the site for grazing. In addition, provincial officials have recently announced that they plan to expand the road north of the ruins. As a result, their plan may turn into another threat to the site.*

*In a report published in Persian media outlets in March 2010, experts warned about the growth of the various types of fungi, lichen and plants on the stone structures at Persepolis too. However, not surprisingly their warnings have not been heeded by the Islamic regime.*

[www.cais-soas.com](http://www.cais-soas.com), May 30, 2011



Sasanian bas-reliefs at Tang-e Chogan (photo: Pedram Veisi)



# IRELAND

## Heritage at Risk and in Economic Crisis

Ireland's built historic environment comprises a wide range of assets, including two World Heritage sites and more than 20 Historic National Properties, 800 National Monuments in State Care, 38,000 Protected Structures and over 120,000 Recorded Monuments protected under the National Monuments Act. In addition, Architectural Conservation Areas cover a range of historic townscapes and urban ensembles and there are some 175,000 buildings constructed prior to 1919, many of which are maintained using traditional materials and craft-based labour skills and which, although undesignated, contribute greatly to the historic and cultural environment and landscape.<sup>1</sup>

### The State Sector

Since 2011, key elements of heritage protection and management in Ireland fall under the remit of the renamed Department of Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht. This includes both Built and Natural Heritage, although 80% of the heritage is neither owned nor designated by the State. Another section of State management, notably the day to day care of State-owned properties, visitor facilities and World Heritage sites, falls under the Office of Public Works, which, with its own junior minister, is a semi-autonomous part of the Department of Finance.

Heritage has been at the mercy of year on year cuts made as part of Ireland's national austerity programme, with built heritage capital allocations bearing the brunt of the 2011 cuts (-38%) and with the DAHG funded Heritage Council similarly cut (-34%), while natural heritage has seen a small increase in Capital allocation (+7%). The arts and culture sector, also under the remit of DAHG, has suffered almost equivalent cuts in 2011 of a cumulative -32%, although they have not been subject to the year on year cuts experienced by built heritage. Between 2008 and 2011, heritage has experienced a reduction in its budget from 26 million to 2 million euros, mainly borne by the built heritage sector, with a cut in 2011 itself of 75%.<sup>2</sup>

In February 2012, the Irish Government's planned restructuring of the public sector saw the loss of 40% of the country's senior heritage professionals, overnight. The details of the programme restrained participants from notifying colleagues until the day before. The impact of their unplanned departure left an enormous vacuum and a situation of near chaos. Added to recent public sector decentralisation, the restructuring has meant that the Heritage Sector now has to deal with a public service that is very fragmented across the country.

World Heritage, one of the principle advisory remits of ICOMOS, has been the responsibility of a number of different personnel over the past two years. It has only recently been



Former Military Barracks, Nenagh, Tipperary North, 2013

assigned as a function between two officers, each with a responsibility for one of Ireland's two inscribed World Heritage sites. These personnel are dealing with a call to advance nominations to the World Heritage List from the Irish Tentative List, and to review the Tentative List itself. Physically and geographically, those responsible for World Heritage are separated from the associated Departmental Division, thereby reducing the benefit of professional proximity and administrative support.

### Funding for Heritage

The Structures At Risk Fund (SRF) 2012 appears, from the DAHG website, as the only fund administered by them that is still in existence in 2012. The Heritage Council, which administers its own Conservation Grants scheme, however receives DAHG support.<sup>3</sup> The SRF, with an application deadline of April 2012, commenced in 2011 as a two-year continuum of a Civic Structures Conservation Grants Scheme and is limited to a maximum of two schemes per local authority. The Conservation Grants system previously administered by Local Authorities on behalf of the DAHG has also been terminated, one can only hope temporarily.

Irish Local Authorities also have responsibility for our medieval walled towns. The reorganisation and loss of funding to local authorities has affected protection and management (not to say presentation and repair) of all aspects of heritage.

The former LEADER funding, provided under the Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS), provided a much valued source of funding for vernacular heritage, which has been terminated and replaced by Axis 3 & 4.

However, the application process has proven to be cumbersome, extremely onerous and a significant deterrent for many

worthy recipients, while the transfer of administrative staff responsible for the programme has broken the chain of knowledge at a crucial stage in the programme.

## Owners

There is widespread disaffection among the owners of Protected Structures at the removal of grant support, with the prognosis being bleak for the ongoing repair and preventative maintenance of many historic buildings.

Changes in insurance companies' perception of risk associated with historic buildings, and in particular, a negative perception of the cost of conforming to regulations in reinstating damaged protected structures, has also caused rises in the premia for these buildings. This is having a negative effect on the perceived value of old buildings in the property market, and is leading to dramatically increased unanticipated costs associated with maintaining insurance cover for the asset in accordance with the terms of mortgage agreements.

Ironically, the removal of Conservation Grants as a corollary tacit obligation to designation on the statutory Record of Protected Structures (RPS) designated and maintained by local authorities under planning and development legislation, may remove one of the existing impediments to local authorities, – competing for dwindling budget allocations, of adopting National Inventory for Architectural Heritage (NIAH) recommendations for incorporation of sites into the Register of Protected Structures (RPS).

## The Heritage Council

Within such a seismic environment, one should be comforted to know that at least one grant giving organisation remains with the interests of heritage as their remit, albeit with cruelly diminished funds. The Heritage Council, established in 1995 under an act of parliament as a public body working in the public interest, has operated with a voluntary Council of 15 and a staff of 18. Up to recently, it disbursed funding to the heritage sector, supporting more than 25,000 jobs directly, 40,000 full-time equivalent positions indirectly, or 2% of overall employment and contributing over 1.5 billion euros to GVA in 2011 alone.<sup>4</sup> However, in the aftermath of the cuts sought in the 2011 budget, a review of the Heritage Council was announced, which envisaged its merger with the DAHG.

The Heritage Council survived the review but, for the first time in its 17 years of existence, the Heritage Council is not in a position to offer grant support to the public for the maintenance, conservation, presentation or promotion of cultural or natural heritage. It remains, however, an effective and transparent mechanism already in place and with a track record of delivering effectively, which might be utilised to great effect, in the event of other funding streams coming on line. Its continued existence is an acknowledgment of the value of the heritage sector to the Irish economy in a time of crisis.

## The Private Sector

The private sector in particular, archaeologists previously engaged in development-led projects and heritage management and architects accredited under the RIAI Accreditation Scheme

to work on conservation projects, have been experiencing major difficulties. The application of the European Procurement System, following the cataclysmic decline in the Irish construction industry has had a huge impact.

Despite guidance suggesting the use of e-tenders generally only over 50,000 euros, e-tenders is introduced in the Operating Rules for LEADER funding, as a compliant and cost effective process, satisfying 'national advertising and publicity requirements', available 'at no cost to the contracting authorities'. This ensures that [etenders.gov.ie](http://etenders.gov.ie) is the first and perhaps only choice for the multiple community organisations seeking funding under the only remaining funding programme available to heritage regardless of scale of project.<sup>5</sup>

Moreover, for tiny jobs, sometimes even of less than 1500 euros in value, architects are being required to submit evidence of turnovers appropriate to major firms operating on large-scale projects. Moreover, evidence of such turnover is required for the last three years of operation, which includes the sudden death of the economic 'crisis'. Turnover that few of the smaller practices enjoy.

Moreover, separate tenders are frequently sought for projects to planning, then tendering and finally, for contract management and administration, costing time and precious resources and losing the benefit of the often very considerable knowledge acquired during the project lifetime.

The frequently small heritage accredited practices are the very epitome of the conservation professional and like conservation as a whole, are a sustainable and effective means of mobilising the economy and maximising the economic multiplier of indirect and induced benefits and spend. For every euro spent by the Heritage Council, the Irish Tourism industry benefits by 4.40 euros.<sup>6</sup> Overall, the historic environment is estimated to provide a return on public sector investment equivalent to 16 euros per one euro.<sup>7</sup> The skills that are supported by the heritage industry are typically small-scale and craft-based and the lack of funding for this sector threatens the very existence of these skills themselves and with them, the end product that they maintain.

## The Future

Since 2009 funding for heritage in Ireland, in line with global experience, has been decimated. The Irish 2012 budget virtually eliminated funding provision, leaving the beleaguered heritage sector scrambling to pick up the leavings of other sectoral funds, such as LEADER, administered by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Other issues facing the country and the heritage sector include

- the impact of a government-led 'retrofit' programme known as PAYS (pay as you save), which carries the risk of increasing indebtedness, leading to, rather than solving fuel poverty, while at the same time damaging our vernacular heritage irreparably;
- the introduction of 2300 next generation wind farms in the midlands, which risk being an unregulated 'step change in technology and scale', to sell energy to a UK market – with little consideration thus far given to the cultural landscape impacts;<sup>8</sup>
- the restructuring of EU farm payments, to induce farm enlargement and development which will inevitably impact on the



(cultural) rural landscape, field monuments, traditional farms and their farm buildings, and landscape character generally;

- the termination of ‘turbury’ rights on raised bogs set to come into effect over the next year, where the traditional hand cutting of turf for fuel which has been a way of life for over 400 years and which has given way to mechanised semi industrial, commercial extraction, including the mining of 2.5 million cubic metres of horticultural peat moss, mainly for the export market and has accounted for a loss of 47% of the original area of peatlands in Ireland.<sup>9</sup> Although heritage positive, the delay in implementing these unpopular changes is likely to see a hefty fine imposed by the EU for delays to date, to a country already floundering in austerity.

In the face of the above hiatus, the message of maximising the economic benefit of our heritage does not seem to have reached

our elected representatives, in spite of the continued efforts of ICOMOS and other heritage bodies and organisations. Recent ICOMOS annual lectures (2011, 2012) and conferences have presented the case for judicious management of heritage to this end.<sup>10</sup> Heritage protection and management cannot be regarded as an add-on luxury and an easy target when times are economically tough. It is a fundamental sector of the Irish economy and identity and essential to the delivery of geographically dispersed, sustained and sustainable growth.

Deirdre McDermott  
President ICOMOS Ireland

<sup>1</sup> Ecorys, *Economic Value of Irelands Historic Environment*. Ecorys 2012, p. 7.

<sup>2</sup> Minister Deenehan opening *Your Place or Mine*, a conference on the theme of World Heritage: The role of Local Communities, in support of the International Day of Sites and Monuments 2012, jointly organised by ICOMOS Ireland and the Heritage Council: <[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dMVHJdTx518&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dMVHJdTx518&feature=player_embedded)>

<sup>3</sup> DAHG Structures at Risk Fund Circular SRF 1/2012 March 2012

<sup>4</sup> Ecorys, op. cit., p. 8.

<sup>5</sup> Dept of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs, Axes 3 & 4 Rural Development Programme Ireland 2007–2014, Operating Rules, p. 31.

<sup>6</sup> Michael Starrett, CEO, ‘Chief Executive’s Report’ *The Heritage Council Annual, Report 2011*, p. 5.

<sup>7</sup> Ecorys, op. cit., p. 34.

<sup>8</sup> Michael O’Regan reporting on Dáil (parliamentary) debate between the Taoiseach Enda Kenny and opposition leader Micheál Martin. ‘Planned turbines put the wind up locals’, *Irish Times*, 20 June 2013.

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.ipcc.ie/a-to-z-peatlands/peatland-action-plan/over-exploitation-of-peatlands-for-peat/>

<sup>10</sup> [http://icomos.ie/activities/maura\\_shaffrey\\_lecture](http://icomos.ie/activities/maura_shaffrey_lecture)  
<http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/events/past-conferences/your-place-or-mine-april-2012/>

# ITALY

## The Earthquake in Emilia Romagna, May 2012

The 5.9 earthquake, which hit the Emilia Romagna region on 20 May 2012 was followed on 29 May 2012 by a 5.8 earthquake with epicentre 15 km northwest of the former event. This earthquake caused further damage to locations hit by the previous earthquake and extended the affected area to the east side of the province of Modena. The earthquake affected an area of former independent municipalities, historic capitals and small states with rich cultural heritage.

According to an approximate balance of the damages caused to cultural goods in the region (see *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, 6 July 2012) about 700 listed secular buildings and groups of buildings were damaged. In addition, there are c. 400 churches, 147 bell and city towers seriously hit. Hundreds of works of art had to be salvaged from partly or completely destroyed churches and museums, among them works by Guido Reni, Guercino and Correggio. 25 municipal archives were damaged; seven of them could be salvaged.

Although immediately after the earthquakes there were calls for a structural reinforcement of historic buildings in the future, monument conservationists pointed out that this is only possible to a limited extent, not least because there are estimates that it would cost 90 billion euros to make all of Italy's historic structures (more) earthquake-safe.

The following is an extract from a Field Observation Report of 21 June 2012 (i. e. only a few weeks after the earthquakes) compiled by University College London, Department of Civil, Environmental and Geomatic Engineering: ([http://www.ucl.ac.uk/~ucestor/research-earthquake/EPICentre\\_Report\\_EPI-FO-290512.pdf](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/~ucestor/research-earthquake/EPICentre_Report_EPI-FO-290512.pdf)):

*With respect to brick masonry churches, the churches of Matildica in Sorbara and of San Lorenzo della Pioppa did not suffer any damage. Slight to moderate damage patterns were noted in a few other churches in the same area. A church in Cento appeared to have suffered slight damage with long but light cracks on the façade and the south wall. Another church in Cento suffered out-of-plane failure of the façade due to loss of connection between the north wall and the façade.*

*The church of San Michele in Novi di Modena was surveyed from a distance due to lack of access. Extensive diagonal cracks on the south and east side were noted. The church of Cavezzo suffered moderate damage with extensive cracks on the south wall and a vertical crack on the wall indicating out-of-plane failure of the façade. A dislodged statue was also observed and extensive shear cracks seen on a masonry extension. A vertical crack was noted on the façade of the church of San Lorenzo in Casumaro Finalese. Seven churches were noted to have suffered partial or total collapse of the upper part of their nave. A notable exception is the collapse of the roof over the transept of the church in San*

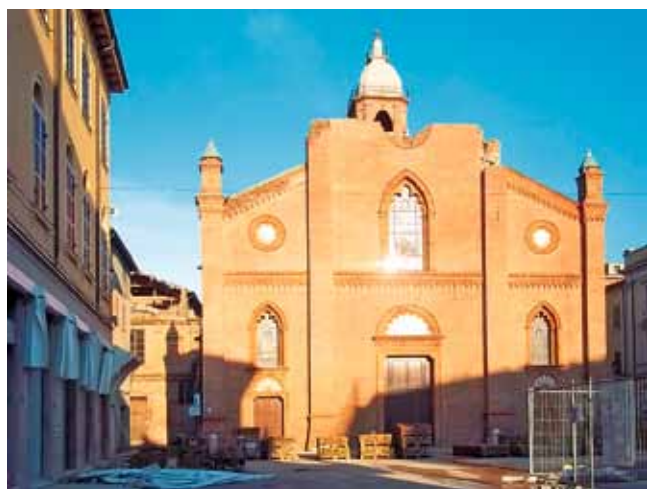


San Martino in Cavezzo (photo: [www.scoutcavezzo.org](http://www.scoutcavezzo.org))

Church in Disvetro (photo: *Gazzetta di Modena*)







The Cathedral in Mirandola  
(photo: [www.impressioniespressioni.blogspot.de](http://www.impressioniespressioni.blogspot.de))



San Martino in Buonacompra (photo: Nicoletta Vitali)

*Possidonio. A common failure mechanism was the overturning of the upper part of the façade which led in most cases to the collapse of the gable.*

*A complete assessment of the level of damage suffered from the bell towers was not possible in all cases due to the limited access to areas where these towers were located. Overall, the bell towers of the notably damaged churches also appeared to have suffered substantial damage. Partial collapse of the bell tower of the church of Disvetro and San Possidonio was observed. Notably, the collapse of the top end of the bell tower in Biagio caused severe damage to an adjacent building. Apart from partial collapse, severe structural damage expressed by extensive and large shear failure at the lower end of the towers was also observed: i.e. the bell tower of Cavezzo, San Martino, San Lorenzo in Casumaro Finalese and the Cathedral in Mirandola. Dislodged decorations on the spire were also noted.*

*The 20 May 2012 earthquake caused significant levels of damage observed during the second mission in San Martino in Buonacompra, San Biagio as well as in many churches, i.e. Natività di Maria Santissima in Rivara, San Bartholomew and the church in via degli Estensi in San Felice sul Panaro, San Pavlo in Mira-*

*bello and San Agostino in San Agostino. Most aforementioned churches were not affected by the 29 May 2012 earthquake. Two notable exceptions include the increase in spalling suffered by the base of the masonry bell tower in Rivara and the partial collapse of the top of the façade of the church of DOM in San Felice sul Panaro. The most significant increase in the level of damage caused by the second event was noted at the two gothic churches in Mirandola. San Francesco suffered moderate to severe damage from the first event (Decanini et al, 2012) and partially collapsed during the 29 May 2012 event. The levels of damage caused by each of the earthquake to the other churches remain unclear.*

*With regard to other historical buildings, the Castle in Cento, built in 1378 and enlarged a century later, is a reinforced brick masonry structure. This castle was found to have suffered no damage. By contrast, the Castle in Mirandola (Castello dei Pico) suffered severe structural damage on an external wall as well as dislodged chimneys. Overall, the damage suffered by these two Castles was significantly less than the partial collapse suffered by the Castles in Finale Emilia and San Felice sul Panaro damaged mainly by the 20 May 2012 earthquake. These two Castles did not appear to have been notably damaged by the 29 May 2012 earthquake.*

*With reference to town halls, the town hall in Mirandola is a three storey brick masonry building with porticos. Nonetheless, there is reinforcement provided by the iron rods in the longitudinal direction to the columns. From the extensive stabilisation work undertaken under the porticos it may be concluded that this building suffered some damage from the May 20 event. Nonetheless, very little damage could be observed from the street. By contrast, the town hall in San Agostino suffered severe damage from the 20 May 2012 earthquake.*

*Finally, a severely damaged brick masonry tower was noted in Concordia and two towers in Finale Emilia were revisited. The brick masonry tower, which was lightly damaged by the first event, did not seem to have suffered any additional damage. The partially collapsed bell tower instead had been removed by the fire brigade.*

## L'Aquila, Five Years after the Earthquake

The devastating earthquake that struck L'Aquila in the Abruzzi on 6 April 2009 (see also *Heritage at Risk 2008–2010*, p. 109 f.) created a major rupture in the social and cultural history of the city. Since the earthquake, the historic city centre remains a “red zone” and is mostly inaccessible due to strict safety regulations. Many of the local civic, religious, and social structures cannot be used as a lot of historic buildings have not yet been fully repaired. The residents of the historic centre are still living in temporary housing outside of the damaged area.

Without proper repair and restoration of the historic core, the city will lose important cultural heritage (see also <http://www.wmf.org/project/historic-center-l'aquila>). Today, ongoing restorations are accompanied by a lively debate involving specialists from various disciplines. They participate in the discussions on the complex issues of reconstruction, restoration, and preservation that are deciding how to return the city to its citizens and to ensure the survival of its monumental heritage. Ongoing questions are: What techniques and methodologies allow medi-



Ongoing repair work in L'Aquila  
(photos: [www.dorsetdaze.wordpress.com](http://www.dorsetdaze.wordpress.com))

ation between aesthetic and historical values? Is it possible to find a balance between the protection of heritage and the needs of the citizens of L'Aquila; between the desire for change and the impulse to return to the forms of the past? It is very likely that the rebuilding, restoration and revitalisation of L'Aquila's historic centre will require quite a few more years and major efforts.

## Impact of Climate Change on Cultural Heritage: The Snow Event of February 2012

In 2012, ICORP (ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Risk Preparedness) discussed within the context of global climate change and its consequences for cultural heritage worldwide the example of increasingly severe snow events, as occurred in Italy in February 2012. For instance, in Urbino, in the Marche region of Italy, partial collapses were reported at the convents of San Francesco and San Bernardino, while the roof of the Church of the Capuchins outside the town centre reportedly caved in.

Heritage conservationists will have to find ways how to respond to and minimise the effects of such extreme weather conditions on our cultural heritage.

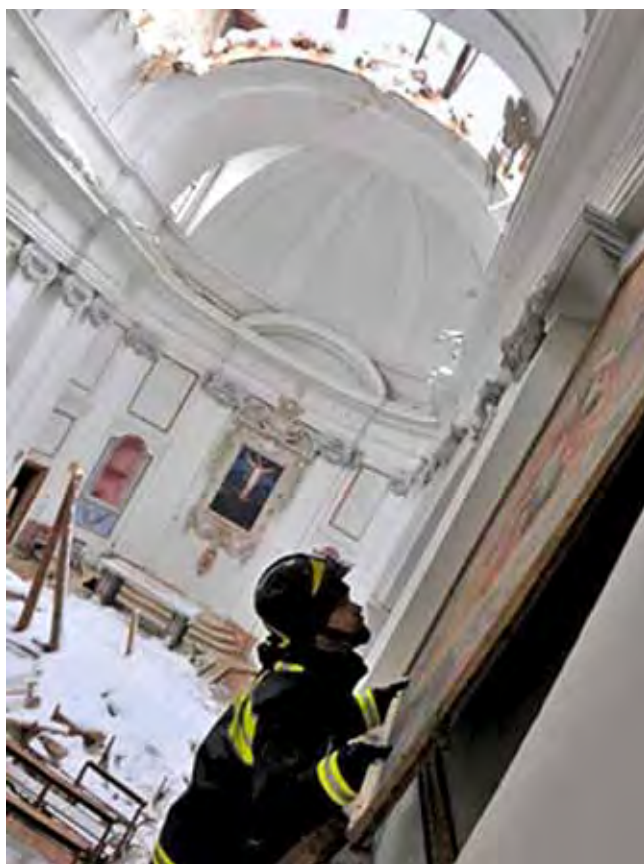


Urbino, Marche, removing snow from the roof of San Bernardino monastery



Urbino, Marche, Capuchin monastery dating from the 16th century: the collapse of the timber roof truss caused the masonry vault underneath to collapse as well.

Urbina, church of SS. Crocifisso, collapsed roof





## Venice Threatened by Cruise Ships and Skyscraper Project

It is a well-known fact that Venice was built on delicate foundations and is gradually sinking into the lagoon – apparently, it has sunk 23 cm in the past 100 years. However, this is not the only danger this outstanding city has to face. In the past years, Venice has been plagued by monstrous cruise ships (650 passing through the city annually) that not only ruin the view for people strolling down Venice’s Giudecca Canal; these ships also unleash huge currents that threaten to undermine the city’s foundations. Furthermore, the No Grandi Navi (No Big Ships) Committee, a local protest group, noted that the giant vessels produce as much pollution in an hour as 15,000 cars. In addition, the fumes contain 15 times as much sulphur as road vehicle emissions. The acid nature of the pollution is thought to be potentially speeding up the erosion of the city’s medieval buildings.

Now, a law passed in April 2014 has put a ban on vessels weighing over 96,000 tonnes. As from November 2014 they will no longer be allowed to pass close to St Mark’s Square. An additional agreement will also see a reduction in the number of cruise liners weighing over 40,000 tonnes that enter Giudecca Canal, and cruise ship operators are committed to not using fuel with more than 0.1 per cent sulphur.

Fortunately, plans by the French fashion tycoon Pierre Cardin to build a 60-storey, three-finned skyscraper, the so-called Palais de Lumière, on the Venetian mainland have been cancelled. The tower in the former industrial area of Porto Marghera was to contain swimming pools, gardens and ponds on the upper decks and a helipad on the roof. The project was finally given up in 2013 due to criticism of how the 245-metre-high building would fit into the Venetian landscape.

As positive as these two recent developments may be, showing that protests against aggressive commercialism can be successful, the plans for the conversion of the 16th-century Fondaco dei Tedeschi into a Benetton megastore proves that the fragile building fabric of Venice continues to be at risk. Star architect Rem Koolhaas wants to add an extra storey by demolishing part of the roof, install escalators and build a floating dock on Canal Grande.

Visualisation of so-called Palais de Lumière, originally planned on the Venetian mainland (© www.designbuild-network.com)



Cruise ships in Venice (photos: Die Welt and www.orf.at)



Aerial view of Venice with the Fondaco dei Tedeschi marked (photo: www.urbanchoreography.net)

Model of the planned conversion of the Fondaco dei Tedeschi by Rem Koolhaas (© www.gizmoweb.org)



# JAPAN

## The Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami of March 11, 2011 and their Impact on Cultural Heritage

The March 11, 2011 earthquake measured a magnitude of 9.0 on the JMA intensity scale. The subsequent tsunami was 8–9 m high, which eventually reached an upstream height of up to 40 m, causing vast and heavy damage over a 500 km span of the Pacific east coast of Japan. Numerous cultural properties were devastated by the earthquake and the tsunami, including about 600 nationally designated cultural properties. The earthquake was characterised by relatively minor damage to buildings, including wooden buildings, caused by ground motion. Instead, short-period structures such as masonry constructions, mud-wall warehouses and stone-retaining walls over a wide area were greatly affected. In addition, ground motions with a long duration lasting more than three minutes caused liquefaction of soils. Some of the “Important Preservation Districts for Groups of Traditional Buildings” were seriously affected by such liquefaction.

### Wooden Structures

On the whole, damage to structures built according to traditional timber framework methods was only minor. Nevertheless, there are some sad exceptions:

The main building of the old Yubikan (Japan’s oldest school located in Osaki City, Miyagi Prefecture, built in 1691) collapsed. It is located in the region with the strongest measured tremor. The main building had little earthquake-resistant elements; therefore, it is believed that it was fundamentally lacking in horizontal resistant capacity. The building had already suffered damage during another earthquake in 2008.

The former Baba Family Residence (mid-Edo era) located in Aizu-gun, Fukushima Prefecture, has little earthquake-resistant elements and therefore the building is now tilting.

Other national treasures made of wood, such as the Zuigan-ji temple in Matsushima, or the Osaki Hachimangu Shrine in Osaki City, were only slightly damaged.

Quite a number of dozo (mud-wall warehouse) buildings were damaged. The Mori Goshi Gaisha storehouse shows that the eaves have collapsed and the earthen wall has cracked.

Some wooden buildings were not destroyed or damaged by the earthquake, but by the ensuing tsunami. For instance, in the harbour town of Kesenuma City, Miyagi Prefecture, home to many registered cultural properties built at the beginning of the 20th century, the Kakuboshi shop was swept away.

A recovery program making full use of this historical landscape will be required for this district in the future.



Yubikan, main building of the historic site, before the earthquake (top) and after (bottom)

Fukushima City, United Church of Christ in Japan before the earthquake, now demolished (photo: Otraff wikimedia.com)







Damaged house in Makabe



Collapsed masonry walls of Komine Castle

## Masonry Structures

On the whole, the earthquake had a larger impact on buildings with a short natural period such as stone and brick-constructed buildings. However, the total number of masonry buildings in the affected area is lower than the number of wooden buildings.

There are a lot of structures made of oya-stone (tuff) across the region; many of them suffered serious damage. Damage to stone

pagodas vulnerable to ground motions could be seen in various regions. For example, many stone pagodas designated as important cultural property collapsed at the Toshogu Shrine in Sendai City. In Fukushima City, the brick-constructed and registered tangible cultural property, the United Church of Christ in Japan, was damaged and subsequently demolished by the owners due to concerns for the safety of the church goers. In Tsuchiura City, Ibaraki Prefecture, there is a district with brick storehouses from the Taisho era to the Showa era. One of those, the Machikado Kura Nomura storehouse, sustained significant damage with cracks appearing in the walls.

## Reinforced Concrete Structures of Modern Heritage

In the Tohoku region there are seven reinforced concrete structures selected by Docomomo Japan, three of them in the strong motion zone. One of them is the Furukawa Civic Hall built in 1966 where non-structural components cracked and underwent deformation. At the Ishioka No. 1 Power Plant in Ibaraki Prefecture completed in 1911 and designated a nationally important cultural property in 2008 the structure itself was not destroyed, but the virgin soil supporting the bottom of the tank collapsed and the tank was unable to hold out. Since the recovery of this tank is impossible, the important cultural property status was removed.

## Groups of Traditional Buildings

Two preservation districts with groups of traditional buildings, Makabe, Sakuragawa City (Ibaraki Prefecture) and Sawara, Katori City (Chiba Prefecture) sustained extensive damage. At Makabe, 70% of the 106 traditional structures were affected by the disaster (damages to ceilings and walls). However, collapsed buildings were scarce, demonstrating that Japanese traditional houses are resistant to earthquakes. Also at Sawara, approximately 70% of the 92 historic structures were affected. The damage to roofs was particularly extensive, including caved-in ridge tiles, falling tiles, cracks, and caved-in external walls.

## Historic Sites

Castle remains dating back to the early modern period (late 16th to early 17th centuries) are usually made up of masonry walls. Some of these walls sustained considerable damage during the earthquake. For instance, at Komine Castle, Shirakawa City (Fukushima Prefecture) the walls collapsed in ten places and other parts suffered damages such as loosening, bulging, and cracks. Apparently, some damages were also due to previous flawed restoration methods, as the shape and stacking method of newly added stones were faulty.

## Places of Scenic Beauty

The Takata-Matsubara scenery is backed by beautifully shaped mountains. It also includes a reef formed by a sandy beach as well as by pine trees growing densely there. The eastern half was greatly eroded by the tsunami, and the few surviving trees were harmed by salt water. Moreover, it is believed that



Takata-Matsubara, only one red pine survived

*the width of the reef from north to south has reduced to one third.*

*The Rikuchu Kaigan National Park stretches 180 km from Iwate Prefecture to Miyagi Prefecture. Its entire coastal region sustained extensive damage due to the tidal wave, and out of a total of 124 facilities 18% were totally destroyed and 31% partially.*

*The Matsushima Nobiru Area sustained the largest damage among the designated districts. There, along the Matsubara Coast pine trees were literally uprooted and carried away by the tsunami so that considerable efforts and patience are required to restore this place of scenic beauty.*

*In the gardens of the already mentioned Yubikan not only the buildings were damaged. Also the river wall on the shoreline subsided and suffered cracks. Furthermore, the river banks required extensive repairs.*

*Statements taken from the information brochure  
The Great East Japan Earthquake – Report on the  
Damage to the Cultural Heritage, published  
by ICOMOS Japan in November 2011*



# LIBYA

## Cultural Heritage at Risk due to Unstable Political Situation

### Blue Shield Statement, March 14, 2011

Following the recent events in Libya, the Blue Shield expresses its great concern about the safeguarding of the country's invaluable cultural heritage amid the existing turmoil. The Blue Shield deplores the suffering and loss of life this conflict has imposed on the Libyan population.



The ancient site of Cyrene (photos: M. Tacke)

Between 1982 and 1986, five sites in this vast country, bearing witness to the rise and fall of sophisticated cultures stretching from prehistory to Islamic civilization, were chosen to become part of the UNESCO World Heritage List. Three of these sites, Cyrene, Leptis Magna and Sabratha, are evidence of the civilization that flourished in Libya during the Punic, Greek and Roman eras. The prehistoric site of Tadrart Acacus and the ancient city of Ghadames are proof of the importance of heritage sites in this territory.

The ongoing armed conflict in Libya gives reason for concern, not only amongst academics but for everybody concerned with the preservation of cultural heritage, about the vulnerability of cultural institutions, sites and monuments. Especially aerial bombardments and artillery pose a grave danger to fragile cultural sites. Any loss of Libyan cultural property would seriously impoverish the collective memory of mankind.

Libya is a party to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict since 1957, and became a party to the Second Protocol of this convention in 2001. The Hague Convention deals with responsibilities regarding cultural heritage in times of armed conflict and the

danger of its misuse. The Blue Shield is appealing to all parties involved to respect the stipulations of the Convention and to protect our world cultural heritage.

The Blue Shield mission is "to work to protect the world's cultural heritage threatened by armed conflict, natural and man-made disasters". For this reason it places the expertise and network of its member organizations at the disposal of their colleagues working in Libya to support their work in protecting the country's heritage, and if necessary, for subsequent recovery, restoration and repair measures.

The member organizations of the Blue Shield are currently liaising with colleagues in Libya to obtain further inform-



ation on both the situation and on the possible needs and types of help required so as to mobilize their networks accordingly.

The following article from *The Art Newspaper* shows that the country's continued fragile political situation often leaves authorities unable to intervene, even if such major sites as Cyrene, a World Heritage site, are threatened:

### Farmers Bulldoze Ancient Tombs at Cyrene to Sell Plots to Developers

Several ancient tombs at a Unesco World Heritage Site in north-eastern Libya have been bulldozed to clear space for a residential complex. Local farmers, who have laid claim to part of the vast necropolis at Cyrene, began demolishing a mile-long section of the site last week in the hope of selling 500 sq. m parcels to real estate developers. Although the proper authorities have been

notified, the country's current fragile political situation has left them unable to intervene.

"Ancient artefacts were thrown into a nearby river as if they were mere rubbish," Ahmed Hussein, an archaeology professor at Bayda University, told France 24. He says that around "200 vaults and tombs were destroyed, as well as a section of a viaduct that dates back to approximately AD 200." The ancient Greek colony, which was founded in the seventh century BC, is described by Unesco as "one of the principal cities in the Hellenic world" and its necropolis is considered one of the largest and most varied of its kind. The site is one of Libya's five World Heritage Sites.

"In Libya, customs and practices tend to carry more weight than the written law. This land traditionally belongs to families who live in nearby farms. They have no official documents that prove that they own the land, yet their claims are not contested. Under Gaddafi, these families did not dare try to act on these claims. But now, they have transformed the archaeological site into a construction zone," Hussein says. Locals, he says, are willing to halt the destruction if the government were to offer them other plots in exchange or to pay them for the land.

Emily Sharpe  
The Art Newspaper, September 4, 2013

The ancient site of Cyrene before bulldozing (photo: The Art Newspaper)





# MALI

## Cultural Heritage Seriously Damaged by Islamist Rebels

In May 2012 armed groups of Islamist rebels occupied the north of Mali, destroyed 11 of the 16 mausoleums, the doors of the Sidi Yahya mosque in Timbuktu and the tomb of Askia in Gao. The declared intention of the rebels was to stop the community of Timbuktu from adoring their saints (the city of Timbuktu is known as the “city of 333 saints”), which has been done for about 1000 years. At the same time a large number of the famous manuscripts kept in private and public collections in Timbuktu (all in all 300,000 estimated manuscripts) were destroyed, burnt or stolen. According to one source, in Mali’s capital Bamako “the Islamist rebels burnt the manuscripts that they do not agree with. They are not tolerant Muslims. Some of those manuscripts were written by Sufi Muslims and these rebels are not tolerant of that” (press release of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre of January 30, 2013).

Timbuktu’s three major mosques, Djingareyber, Sankore and Sidi Yahya, along with 16 mausoleums were first inscribed on the

Precious manuscripts in Timbuktu (photo: F. Bandarin, 2005)



The mausoleum of Alfa Mobo destroyed by Islamists on July 1, 2012 (photo: AFP)



Men recovering burnt ancient manuscripts at the Ahmed Baba Centre for Documentation and Research in Timbuktu (photo: AFP)

World Heritage List in 1988, and the Askia tomb in the city of Gao followed in 2004. As an immediate reaction to the destructions, in July 2012 the World Heritage Committee inscribed both sites on UNESCO’s List of World Heritage in Danger, decided to send a mission to Timbuktu as soon as possible and establish a special fund for Mali, as UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova declared (see article in *Le Devoir*, Montréal, July 14, 2012). UNESCO was instrumental in providing topographic maps and coordinates to the armed forces of Mali, France and Chad to help prevent shelling of these sites.

On January 30, 2013 Irina Bokova announced that UNESCO will do everything possible to safeguard and rebuild Mali’s extraordinary cultural heritage, which she described as “a vital part of the country’s identity and history and fundamental for its future. Its restoration and reconstruction will give the people of Mali the strength and the confidence to rebuild national unity and look to the future. (...) Now that Timbuktu will return to normalcy, we must do everything to help the people of Mali turn a new page in the spirit of national cohesion. (...) UNESCO will spare no effort to help rebuild the mausoleums of Timbuktu and

the tomb of Askia in Gao, and we will mobilise all our expertise and resources to help safeguard and preserve the ancient manuscripts that testify to the region's glorious past as a major centre of Islamic learning. I appeal to all our partners to work with us." The Director-General also expressed her concern on the illicit export and traffic of any cultural artefact out of the country: "In times of turmoil, the risks of illicit trafficking of cultural objects are at the highest, with Mali's renowned ancient manuscripts being the most vulnerable." In 1974, UNESCO helped to set up the

Ahmed Baba research centre, where about 40,000 manuscripts are stored.

For the entire UNESCO press release of January 30, 2013 see <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/resources/unescos-action-in-mali/>.

Christoph Machat

The manuscripts of Timbuktu belong to the greatest cultural treasures of Africa (photo: F1ONLINE)





# NEW ZEALAND

## The Christchurch Earthquake of February 2011

### *Blue Shield Statement, March 3, 2011*

*Following the recent earthquake in Christchurch, New Zealand, the Blue Shield expresses its great sorrow for the loss of lives and the destructions the city's cultural heritage sites and institutions suffered.*

*The city of Christchurch has been rocked by a major earthquake (magnitude 6.3) on last Tuesday, 22 February 2011, half a year after the 7.1 earthquake of 4 September 2010. Besides the serious casualties, the toll on heritage is to be high. It appears that there is very important damage to the historic area of the city and its built heritage.*

*Among others, the Anglican cathedral, the Catholic basilica, and the Victorian Gothic Provincial Buildings, symbols of the city's cultural heritage, have been severely damaged. Some major cultural institutions and conservation places, such as museums, libraries and archives, are also reported to be significantly affected. What happened in Christchurch once again underlines the vulnerability of cultural institutions, sites and monuments in case of natural disaster.*



*In addition to the tragic loss of human lives and the country's prevailing state of shock, the loss of these significant aspects of Christchurch's heritage will have profound and lasting consequences on the self-conception and the collective memory of its inhabitants. The intangible values of a people's cultural heritage can support the processes to regenerate normality and help people to move forward. Cultural heritage is a fundamental aspect in the rebuilding of community identity and dignity, as well as in keeping up hope after such a catastrophe.*

Christchurch, Canterbury Provincial Council Buildings, exterior after the February 2011 earthquake (photos: A. Marriott; O. White)



*The Blue Shield trusts that the emergency authorities will take appropriate measures to ensure the preservation of heritage features of the city in the aftermath of the disaster.*

*The Blue Shield Mission is “to work to protect the world’s cultural heritage threatened by armed conflict, natural and man-made disasters”. While it strongly supports the priority to find the missing, and to help the injured and homeless; it places the expertise and network of its members at the disposal of their New Zealand colleagues to facilitate their work in assessing the damages, and, for subsequent recovery, the restoration and repair measures.*

## Case Study: Canterbury Provincial Council Buildings, Christchurch

On February 22, 2011 the 1865 Stone Chamber of the Canterbury Provincial Council Buildings collapsed. This earthquake and the subsequent two years of seismic activity have severely damaged other parts of the complex. The Armagh Street stone tower collapsed; the Bellamy’s wing and the Durham Street stone tower were considerably damaged; chimneys fell or had to be removed. The former provincial councillors’ refreshments rooms of 1865,



Canterbury Provincial Council Buildings, damaged interior (photo: Jenny May)

*The Blue Shield calls on the international community, responsible authorities and local population to give the fullest support to all efforts underway to protect or rescue the heritage of Christchurch and avoid further damages to museums, libraries, archives, monuments and sites.*

*The member organisations of the Blue Shield are currently liaising with New Zealand colleagues to obtain further information on both the situation and on the possible needs and types of help required so as to mobilise their networks accordingly. A more complete report on damages, needs and actions will be published subsequently, in order to facilitate coordination.*

*Bellamys*, though strengthened, suffered considerable damage due to both shaking and lateral ground spread toward the river. The timber sections of the complex have also suffered some damage from falling masonry and ground spread, but in general remained intact. Over the last three years a four-stage programme to secure and stabilise the building has been taken and was completed in April 2014. The next stage will involve the planning process for the future restoration work.

The Canterbury Provincial Council Buildings were designed by Victorian Gothic Revival architect Benjamin Woolfield Mountfort and built in three stages between 1858 and 1865. The complex is situated on a high point on the banks of the Otakaro (Avon) River within the Puari Pa site. They are the only remaining purpose-built Provincial Government Buildings nationally.

A careful programme of deconstruction and stabilisation to make safe, watertight and retrieve material was undertaken and



supervised by a team experienced in heritage work and spread over a number of disciplines including archaeologists, historians, a conservation architect, engineers, stone masons and construction workers.

As has been the case with the deconstruction and make-safe works of all Christchurch's major heritage buildings damaged or destroyed by the earthquakes, the retrieval of significant features and materials for later reconstruction or interpretation has been undertaken in a manner to ensure that all material is photographed, accurately recorded, conserved and appropriately stored.

The principal focus was initially based around the 1865 Stone Debating Chamber, the area of the most catastrophic collapse and undoubtedly the area of the greatest architectural, craftsmanship and technological significance. The site around the Stone Chamber was marked off into numbered grids. Material from each grid was identified and numbered, recorded and crated before being placed into storage. Large sections of the ridge and furrow ceiling have also been retrieved. Stone corbels, in part and some almost complete, have been found within the rubble and where possible identified through existing photographic records as to their exact position.

Tragically, little has remained intact of the Chamber's stained glass windows; however, every found fragment was carefully collected, recorded and stored. The encaustic tiles on the east wall have remained largely intact in situ; large areas of the tiling on the west wall also remain. Major items retrieved have included some of the 19th century furniture (designed by the architect of the complex, B W Mountfort) and the rare double-faced clock that graced the northern entrance to the Stone Chamber. The Chamber now has a temporary structure built over the top of it to ensure it is fully protected and watertight.

The remaining areas of the complex, including the 1865 Belamy's wing, have been carefully secured and considerable engi-

neering work has been undertaken to provide the required temporary stabilisation and weather tightness to ensure the buildings will remain well protected until the conservation and restoration programme is developed; a monitoring and securing programme for this period is currently being established.

Two major grants have been received for the future restoration of the Provincial buildings complex. A grant from the New York-based World Monuments Fund was received in 2012 to help fund the restoration of recovered historic furniture from the Stone Debating Chamber, in particular the speaker's chair and double-faced clock, and also to interpret and promote the future restoration and conservation of the heritage structure. This work is currently being undertaken. In March 2014 the Christchurch Earthquake Appeal Trust and the Ministry for Culture and Heritage provided funding of \$2.5 million for the Canterbury Provincial Council Buildings, to be used towards the restoration and reconstruction of the Armagh Street and Durham Street stone towers. The Durham Street tower was severely structurally compromised in the 2011 earthquake and has been deconstructed to approximately two metres above ground and the Armagh Street tower fell in February 2011 – the remnants have been secured. When completed, this work is intended to enable the adjacent timber sections of the complex to be restored and re-opened. This work will form part of the overall programme being developed for the future work on the Canterbury Provincial Council Buildings. The total cost of restoration and reconstruction of the Provincial building complex is yet to be determined, but it is estimated to exceed the total insurance pay-out of approximately \$30 million.

Jenny May  
President  
ICOMOS New Zealand

# NIGERIA

## SANGO OYO: INTERNATIONAL HERITAGE ENDANGERED



### INTRODUCTORY NOTE ON SAFETY AND PROTECTION OF SANGO CITY - Oyo Alaafin, Nigeria -





Sango Oyo: International Heritage in Danger



## 1. PRESENTATION

This document was prepared by Paula Gomes Cultural Foundation with support from of The Candomblé of Bahia, institution Osumarê (Ilé Òsùmàrè Araka Ase Ogodo), aiming to make a brief introduction on the outstanding universal value of the tangible and intangible heritage of city of Oyo, given their invaluable importance as the capital of one of the greatest empires in Africa, responsible for the dissemination of culture and Yoruba religion in West Africa and the Americas.

The city is located in Oyo, Oyo State in Nigeria. As already mentioned, this city was the capital of an empire that dominated the whole territory of southwest Nigeria. It extended to Benin, Togo and Ghana. The old Oyo Empire was responsible for the dissemination of culture, language, technologies, practices, norms and value system of the people of Yoruba as well as the traditions of Sango. From the sixteenth century, when starting the transatlantic slave trade, the traditions of Sango and Oyo are also widespread in the New World, being preserved today in several countries in South America, North America and the Caribbean.

Nowadays, Oyo remains the main reference of Yoruba culture. However, the influence and pressures of the modern world seem risky to the heritage of the city, consisting of palaces, temples, markets and a number of other urban buildings, and complex cultural system, political and religious topics that reflect the power of Oyo Empire. It is urgent to conserve and safeguard this heritage so as not to miss forever.

Therefore, considering that the heritage of Oyo has outstanding universal value, by portraying a very special chapter of human history and because of their cultural legacy remains alive today in the countries of the black diaspora - and even to be officially recognized as part of their national cultural heritage as is the case of Brazil - search with this brief note mobilize international organizations, the Nigerian government and the governments of other countries in diaspora to support the urgent safeguarding of the heritage of Oyo.

Sango Oyo: International Heritage in Danger



(...)

### 3. OYO TANGIBLE HERITAGE IN DANGER

The ancient city of Oyo consists of a number of important historic buildings that perform many different functions in the complex political, religious and cultural systems of the Yoruba people. However, many of these monuments are now in an advanced state of disrepair and in need of urgent conservation and restoration interventions. Not objective of this exhaustively catalog all tabalho sites that constitute assets of Oyo. So, the list below shows the conservation status of some of the most important historical monuments.

#### 3.1 KOSO NEIGHBORHOOD AND THE TEMPLE OF SANGO-KOSO

This suburban district of Oyo is one of the holiest places of the city because it was the place where Sango laid his power, his Ase. For this reason, one of the titles is Obakoso Sango (the king of Koso). No king is installed without performing all the rites of coronation inside the temple of Sango in Koso. After the coronation of the king, he can never join the community until his death.

Therefore, the connection between Koso and the Alaafin is both spiritual and political time. The Alaafin should regularly perform traditional rites for their direct ancestor (Sango), which inherited his crown. This crown was passed from generation to generation, under the protection of the high-priest of Sango, the Mogba Koso. At the end of a reign, the crown is returned to Sango Mogba Koso and kept at the shrine of Sango-Koso, while the city awaits the selection of a new king.



Sango Oyo: International Heritage in Danger



**Photo 2.** Gbongan Koso (Main Shrine of Sango in Koso)



**Photo 3.** Inside of Sango-Koso Shrine, century XIX.



**Photo 4.** Nowadays inside of Sango-Koso Shrine.



**Photo 5.** Current status of the original walls on the outside of Sango-Koso Shrine

As illustrated by the photos above, the inside of the temple is in an advanced state of degradation, and the few fallen walls as well as the interior roof fell in its entirety. On the initiative of the local community, a wall was built of concrete blocks to protect the temple. To return your originality is necessary to demolish this wall and restore all ancient walls made of mud. Also, it is also necessary to redo the roof of traditional straw (Bere) and restore the external decorations of the temple, powder formed a set of traditional artistic reliefs and carved wooden pillars.

Sango Oyo: International Heritage in Danger



### 3.2 OBATALA SHRINE

According to Yoruba belief, one of the main orisas in the spiritual world is Obatala. This is considered an employee of Olodumare (God) in the creation of the world and humanity. According to belief, man is created by God in a lump and molded Obatala. This gives the following praise: "Mori mori, moori tuntun atom" which means "the final draw of our body shapes." Obatala is also responsible for the Orisha and purity is the oldest among all orisas. There are several shrines dedicated to the tradition of Obatala, but differ in the history of its foundation. One of the oldest buildings in Oyo is the Obatala shrine located in Aaje complex Isale-Oyo.

This building was in total state of disrepair and was recently restored by Paula Gomes Cultural Foundation, with the support of the community, using traditional methods and materials of construction, so as not to lose the originality of the temple.



**Photo 6.** The exterior of the Obatala shrine in advanced degree of degradation.



**Photo 7.** The outside of the Obatala shrine after restoration.

### 3.3 ALAAFIN PALACE

The Oyo palace is the main cultural center of the city, where all cultural forms are widely practiced and stored. The palace is decorated with works of art, murals and various forms of sculpture, including the posts of wood and carved paneled doors, symbolizing the status of wealth and royalty.

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Sango Oyo: International Heritage in Danger

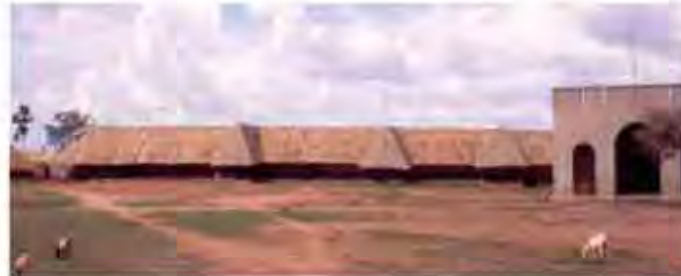


Photo 8. Left wing of the main building of the Palace of the Alaafin.



Photo 9 . Main entrance of the Palace



Photo 10. Decorative paintings from the palace entrance



Photo 11. Palace old map, 1937



Photo 12. Internal corridor of the palace



Photo 13. Internal corridor of the palace



Photo 14. Internal corridor of the palace

### Sango Oyo: International Heritage in Danger



The palace of the Alaafin Oyo is the largest Yoruba royal residence and has the largest number of Kobis (runners). This complex corridor system allows the Alaafin move in without exiting to the outside. Within the complex, there are shrines of Sango, Obatala, Ogun and Imole.

Besides the Alaafin residence , and shrines , the complex also houses the palace 's throne room , offices, housing officials, the dwellings of the queens , the court , the room Aganju where confer the Oyes ( titles ) , the garden , the Akesan market , among other spaces .

The Oyo palace houses important works of art and antiques of the Yorubas. It is also the place where they are performed and traditional touches daily songs of praise and communication to the king, informing him about the external events of the palace . Touch is one of the most significant forms of communication culture of Oyo. Touch inside the palace is a real privilege and shows the continuation of the cultural practices of the Oyo Empire.

Altogether , the old traditional and natural architecture of the Oyo palace, as well as its art treasures , urgent need of restoration and preservation. This palace is a great testimony to the architectural ingenuity of the Yoruba and their empire.

(This is an abridged version. The 27-page original report also includes detailed information on the genesis and dissemination of Yoruba culture, on Oyo intangible heritage, and an urgent appeal to safeguard and protect this endangered heritage.)



# PERU

## Pyramid Torn Down by Developers

El Paraiso is the modern name of a Late Preceramic (3500–1800 BC) archaeological site located in the Chillón Valley on the central coast of Peru. It is one of the largest settlements from this period, encompassing over 58 hectares of land. In late June 2013, one of the pyramids at the El Paraiso complex was completely destroyed. Property developers used bulldozers to knock down the building, then set the remains ablaze. Police prevented the



El Paraiso archaeological site, pyramid before demolition  
(photo: [www.dailymail.co.uk](http://www.dailymail.co.uk))



The site after the demolition of the pyramid  
(photo: [www.pasthorizonspr.com](http://www.pasthorizonspr.com))

destruction of another 11 pyramids at the site. The following article is taken from the British newspaper *The Guardian*.

### **Officials lodge criminal complaints against two firms after building at El Paraiso, one of Peru's oldest archaeological sites, was destroyed**

*Real estate developers using heavy machinery tore down a 20 +ft (6 m) tall pyramid at one of Peru's oldest archaeological sites, cultural officials have said. Rafael Varon, deputy minister of cultural patrimony, told reporters on Wednesday that the destruction occurred over the weekend at the ruins of El Paraiso, a few miles north of Peru's capital, Lima. He said his agency has lodged criminal complaints against two companies for the damage – identified as Alisol and Provelanz – and has moved to seize the equipment used. People who answered the telephone at both companies said no one was available to comment.*

*Peru's tourism ministry says El Paraiso was built some 4,000 years ago and was a religious and administrative centre, long before the rise of the Inca culture encountered by the Spanish conquerors. Marco Guilen, director of an excavation project at El Paraiso, said the people who tore down the pyramid "have committed irreparable damage to a page of Peruvian history". "We are not going to be able to know in what ways it was constructed, what materials were used in it and how the society in that part of the pyramid behaved," said Guilen.*

*Varon said people apparently working for the two companies tore down one pyramid and tried to destroy three others, but were stopped by witnesses.*

*Mayor Freddy Ternerero of San Martin de Porres, the town where the ruins are located, said the pyramids were sited in agricultural fields and were not guarded, though he said the minister of the interior sent police to protect it after the incident.*

*The Guardian, July 4, 2013*

# PHILIPPINES

## IMPACT OF THE 15 OCTOBER 2013 BOHOL EARTHQUAKE ON THE BOHOL CHURCHES



*Daus church*

Prepared by **Ma. Joycelyn Bolhayon-Mananghaya, M. Arch, uap**  
*Trustee, ICOMOS Philippines*

Paper that came out of the Assessment Mission to Bohol 18-26 October 2013



## **INTRODUCTION**

Earthquakes are unforeseen natural disasters that gravely affect lives and property. In general, they have resulted to landslides, fires, soil liquefaction, tsunami and floods and have impacted human lives such that loss and injury debilitate movement to those affected. Shakes and ground rupture during earthquakes cause severe damage to buildings and infrastructure, while tremors and aftershocks prolong anxiety and fears, as in some instances they continuously destroy property and cause psychosocial dysfunction to people. In most cases, normalcy takes time and development is hampered.

The October 15, 2013 earthquake that hit Bohol and other parts of the Visayas has had the same effects to the Boholanos and to its cultural heritage. The earthquake was unexpectedly sweeping, devastating residences, public buildings and religious structures both modern and of cultural heritage significance.

The epicenter of the 7.2 magnitude earthquake was in Catigbian town at an area between the towns of Sagbayan and Balilihan. Many structures within and in surrounding towns have experienced wreckage. Structures in towns as far as Anda that is located at the southeastern part of the island experienced damage while those as far up north in Talibon equally felt drastic effects. The disaster deeply distressed and overturned the high esteem and pride of heritage that was so prevalently felt from the Boholanos and Filipinos at large who have know and loved Bohol and their rich cultural heritage.

It is in this light that, upon hearing of the disaster, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts immediately defined measures to assist the island in the areas within its mandate: cultural heritage. A meeting was held to discuss the extent of damage, and specific actions were identified. This included fielding of a mission to verify and assess the state of cultural heritage that the NCCA, in its years since inception, have painstakingly supported and nurtured. This report forms part of the outcomes of the assessment mission. It is hoped that the information herein generated will be helpful in defining steps to assist in the rehabilitation of cultural heritage damaged by the 15 October 2013 earthquake.

## **THE NCCA'S RESPONSE TO THE DISASTER**

The NCCA, cognizant and proud of the wealth of heritage in Bohol, has for decades fully supported the conservation, promotion, management and development of cultural heritage in the province. Many programmes and projects completed and on-going in Bohol have been founded with the NCCA always steadfast to work on its mandate and in close collaboration with its associated cultural agencies, the province and the church authorities. This commitment forms part of its dedication to uphold national pride and identity that in Bohol are extensively manifested in various forms in its rich patrimony.

Thus, immediately following the earthquake, the NCCA together with the other national cultural agencies and the representative of the church convened an emergency meeting. This was to discuss the outcomes of the damage wrought on cultural heritage and to identify initial steps to be undertaken in order that its safeguarding may happen.

The mission to undertake a technical assessment of the Bohol Churches came about as a result of that emergency meeting held on 15 October 2013 at the National Historical Commission of the Philippines. Archt. Ma. Joycelyn B. Mananghaya, Secretary/Exe-Con member of the National Committee on Monuments and Sites, NCCA and Trustee, ICOMOS Philippines was invited to undertake the technical

assessment on behalf of the NCCA, with the purpose of defining possible directions of work on the conservation and rehabilitation of the churches of Bohol that have been damaged by the recent earthquake.

The Executive Director, NCCA, Hon. Emelita V. Almosara explained that the rehabilitation work for the Bohol churches should go beyond a national context and should consider an international perspective. ICOMOS Philippines has been identified to assist in this endeavor. It was serendipitous as the initial steps carried out by ICOMOS Philippines immediately following the tragic incident was to reach out to its broad international network informing them of the devastation that the earthquake has caused on the heritage of Bohol. Many have signified support and are awaiting news on the final directions that government will take, as well as to know the needs of the site which may assist in defining the possible involvement of the international sector in the rehabilitation work. Being a member of the National Committee on Monuments and Sites (NCMS) and a trustee of ICOMOS Philippines, collaborative efforts came to fruition.

#### **SIGNIFICANCE OF BOHOL'S CULTURAL HERITAGE**

Bohol's cultural heritage treasures stem from centuries of prosperous cultural development that covers a broad range of period starting way before the Spaniards came to the Philippines, reaching its zenith during the Spanish and American era, moreover carrying on to periods in between and after and continuously existing to the present. This covers a wide spectrum of tangible representations such as the pre-historic caves that are graced with pictographs (found in the Anda Peninsula), religious heritage in the form of churches, cemeteries, mortuaries and other forms of religious heritage manifestations, domestic heritage such as the vernacular houses that line major thoroughfares as well as those found in centrally located and remote areas, watch towers, public and institutional buildings including those within the realm of intangible cultural heritage.

The significance of Bohol's cultural heritage is not merely rooted in the variety of its tangible expressions but more so in how it withstood time and has shaped the cultural development of the Boholanos. Associated with the Spanish period churches are the cantatas of Bohol that formed an essential part of the rich liturgical ceremonies of its churches and at present are closely linked to the famous Bohol children's choir.

Within the milieu of the Bohol's tangible heritage are the attributes that point to the unique qualities of its heritage structures. Particularly special in Bohol's heritage architecture are the churches built during the Spanish period, that for centuries have withstood time and events. These churches are of coralline limestone masonry walls (*mamposteria*). Its coursework, cantons, pilasters are all of hewn limestone while its interior wall fabric is of rubble masonry - pieces of limestone consolidated by a lime based-binder. Its buttresses are of two kinds: the inclined type found at the lateral walls of the churches which are intentionally placed to absorb the lateral forces of the roof, and the vertical type found at front façades. Roof framing systems of these churches are of hardwood that are presently covered over with galvanized iron, a modern material which in contemporary times has replaced former old tin and/or



cogon roofs. Floor and other structural members (beams, posts and other frames) are of hardwood as well.

A significant built technology found in these churches is the 'tabique pampango', a construction method that is similar to the wattle and daub system found in other countries. Tabique pampango is a partition wall having interior wall frames of wood (thin wood branches), bamboo, reeds or sawali (weaved rattan) that function as joists or as a strengthening material of the interior wall fabric. These are pasted together with lime based mortar and plaster and they appear like any other mamposteria wall except when through time, the adhering plaster has defaced the rendering material thus exposing the inner core of the wall.

Another significant part of these churches were the additions made during the Spanish and American period in the form of porte cochere and other wall elements. These are made of concrete with twisted re-bars and they seemingly appear to have been homogenously constructed with the rest of the mamposteria components of the church. However, in truth, they act as singular independent sections that have their own strength and properties so unlike that of the mamposteria walls alongside it.

The interior of these churches presents elaborate features that associate them specifically to the Bohol cultural landscape. There are the ornately painted ceiling in tin by known Cebuano artists, Ray Francia and Canuto Avita. These colorfully done ceiling paintings are early 20th century and depict the life of Christ and the saints. There are also the intricately carved altars (retablos) of varying styles ranging from the baroque (Loboc, Dauis, others), neo-gothic (Loon and Maribojoc), neo-classic and the eclectic. Of equal significance are the American period churches in the neo-gothic and other revivalist styles that show how in that period reinforced concrete ruled as the method of construction easing over the former popularly utilized mamposteria.



*Features of Bohol churches: Ornately painted ceiling of Panglao church (L); Elaborately carved Baroque retablo of Baclayon church (M); Tabique Pampango walls (R)*

The vernacular houses of Bohol are at par in importance. These are almost of the same layout but of lesser proportions as the bahay na bato found in the northern parts of the country. They exhibit significant features that associate them to the Boholano lifestyle and artistry.

Many of the aforementioned cultural heritage of Bohol succumbed to damage as a result of the 15 October 2013 earthquake. Spanish period churches, vernacular houses and institutional buildings were affected. The degree of destruction was wide range, where some of these totally collapsed to the ground while others withstood seismic movements albeit with some degree of damage.

#### **METHODOLOGY AND GENERAL OBSERVATIONS**

The eight (8) day visit to the 19 Bohol churches located in different municipalities rendered information helpful in forming future actions that the NCCA and other government agencies could follow in order to address the rehabilitation of Bohol's religious heritage following the 15 October 2013 earthquake.

Technical Assessment was undertaken through the following: 1. Actual ocular survey and in-situ evaluation of what may have happened, which eventually led to the collapse and/or failure of structural members. Theory on what may have occurred during the disaster is evidenced by the remains at the site which was briefly examined during the visits; 2. The undertaking of thorough photo documentation which serves as first hand evidence of the damage found in these structures. The photo documentation records the state of the structure and its various elements following the earthquake. It serves as a reference for future off-site assessment; 3. The conduct of off-site assessment through the examination of photos. 4. The identification and definition of categories of damage, classified according to the material remains of the structures and their gravity of destruction.

During assessment which was done in-situ and off-situ, books and written materials about the cultural heritage of Bohol as well as old photographs were consulted to ensure clarity of information especially on the names of the churches, its various features and the parts that have been destroyed that contained certain important elements denoting its cultural significance. Similarly, so as to ensure correctness of use of architectural terminologies, architectural reference materials were also referred to during the evaluation process.

The actual visits to the sites that primarily focused on the assessment of the effects of the October 15, 2013 earthquake on Bohol's religious monuments have revealed damage that maybe categorized in different levels or degrees. Damage classification has been based on the level of gravity of destruction. Two (2) general types of damage were seen: major and minor. A rubrix has been designed to clearly understand and identify the categories of damage to the churches as well as to group them together basing it on the degree of damage by which they fall into.

#### **RUBRIX FOR THE CATEGORIES OF DAMAGE:**

Degree of Damage was classified into the following:

**MAJOR DAMAGE - Level 1** (Gravest damage)- Loon, Maribojoc ; **Level 2** (Major parts are still standing but in critical condition and have incurred severe damage which are restorable; Major parts have collapsed but can still be reconstructed; All these need immediate attention;) - Loboc ; **Level 3** (Major parts are still standing and with major and minor damage and repairable; Major parts have incurred severe damage, some are in critical condition. All these are restorable/repairable and require immediate attention;) - Daus, Loay, Cortes, Tubigon,



Inabanga, Clarin, Baclayon; and **Level 4** (Major parts are still standing but with major damage and repairable, most parts are standing and intact, or with minor damage. All parts that have major damage require immediate attention;) - Anda, Jagna, Talibon, Dimiao

**MINOR DAMAGE - Level 5** (Most parts are intact, some with very minor damage which are repairable, restorable) - Panglao, Alburquerque, Lila; and **Level 6** (Still very much intact, damage if present, are not discernible) - Duero, Mabini

**TYPES AND DEGREES OF DAMAGE OF THE BOHOL CHURCHES THAT WERE AFFECTED BY THE 15 OCTOBER 2013 EARTHQUAKE Date of Assessment: 18-25 October 2013**

PARTS OF CHURCH	MAJOR DAMAGE				MINOR DAMAGE	
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6
	Maribojoc, Loon	Loboc	Daus, Loay, Cortes, Tubigon, Inabanga, Clarin, Baclayon	Anda, Jagna, Talibon, Dimiao	Panglao, Alburquerque, Lila	Duero, Mabini
<b>Significance</b>	Highest significance = National Cultural Treasure; Spanish Period	Highest significance = National Cultural Treasure (NCT); Spanish Period; Church and its adjoining structures (the convent and the school) have huge proportions meriting its being declared as the first NCT;	Some are of Highest significance = National Cultural Treasure (Daus, Loay, Baclayon); Have other declarations or are yet to be declared; Spanish Period with some of the churches having reinforced concrete additions from the Spanish American period	Some are of Highest significance = National Cultural Treasure (Dimiao); Have other declarations or are yet to be declared; Spanish Period with some of the churches having reinforced concrete additions from the Spanish and the American period	Panglao is a marked structure by the NHI (now NHCP); Other churches have no declaration but might merit equal recognition; Major parts of these churches are Spanish Period with some reinforced concrete additions from the Spanish and American period	No declaration at present; might merit declaration especially in the case of Duero which is substantially made of wood; Time of establishment of churches may have been in the Spanish Period with some additions from the American period
<b>Walls</b> (front façade, lateral walls, transept walls, altar wall, rear wall, walls of sacristy and other attached structures)	Total collapse	Majority of the significant parts and elements of the church have collapsed and/or have disappeared; The church can still be restored to its original form and parts, and those parts that have collapsed	Some significant parts and elements of the churches have collapsed and/or have disappeared; These are still restorable and/or reconstructable; Some walls remain standing but have incurred major	Some of the major parts are still standing with major damage which are repairable; Most parts are standing and intact, and/or with minor damage and repairable;	Most wall parts are intact, some have been observed with minor damage which are repairable/restorable;	Walls are still very much intact; If there is damage it is not discernible;

		<p>can still be reconstructed following original technology and materials;</p> <p>Some walls remain standing but have incurred major damage to its members as evidenced by the presence of large vertical and diagonal cracks, splits and fissures that have caused the dislodgement of some stonework and/or parts of rubble fabric thereby sustaining partial /full disintegration of from its base;</p> <p>Traditional methods can be used for restoration while structural damage can be addressed using either/or both traditional and modern technology;</p>	<p>damage to its members as evidenced by the presence of cracks, splits and fissures; Some stonework and/or parts of the rubble fabric have been dislodged and/or have sustained partial /full disintegration of from its base;</p> <p>These churches are still restorable and/or repairable;</p> <p>Traditional methods can be used for restoration while structural damage can be addressed using either/or both traditional and modern technology;</p>	<p>Traditional methods can be used for restoration while structural damage can be addressed using either/or both traditional and modern technology;</p>		
<b>Roof</b>	Total collapse	Partial collapse, major damage found	Roof members of some of the churches have incurred partial to major collapse, and in some areas major damage is found	Still standing and appears to be intact but may have incurred damage which was not discernible during survey and assessment	Still standing and appears to be intact but may have incurred damage which was not discernible during survey and assessment	Still standing and appears to be intact but may have incurred damage which was not discernible during survey and assessment
<b>Floor parts</b> (choir loft, floor slab)	Total collapse	Total collapse of front façade leading to a minor collapse of choir loft floor; major damage found;	Some churches have been found to have incurred partial collapse of choir loft, major damage found on floor slab	Churches have been found to have incurred partial collapse of choir loft, major damage found on floor	Still standing and if there is damage, it is not discernible;	Still standing and if there is damage, it is not discernible;



		Floor framing system of gallery holding the pipe organ still intact but may have sustained some significant degree of failure; Pipe Organ still standing but may have to be checked to verify state;		slab		
<b>Other structural parts</b>	Total collapse	Partial collapse in some areas but with major damage found;	Partial collapse, major/minor damage found	Still standing and if there is damage, it is not discernible;	Still standing and if there is damage, it is not discernible;	Still standing and if there is damage, it is not discernible;
<b>PROBABLE OVERVIEW OF RESTORATION COST</b>	Cost for intervention depends on the kind and approach to be undertaken	Cost for restoration is major, substantially greater than Level 3	Cost for restoration is major, but is less than Level 2.	Cost for restoration is less than Level 3	Cost for restoration/repair is less than Level 4	Cost for any intervention work will depend on findings of the DES if damage has been discovered;

The above rubric qualified the degree by which the churches have incurred damage. Level 1 is found to be the gravest level wherein Loon and Maribojoc fit into this category. Maribojoc and Loon churches have been totally destroyed. Full collapse of its members is apparent leaving the whole edifice and its parts slumped to the ground with remains of crushed rubble, huge pieces of stone work, some recoverable fragments of ornamentation, torn and buckled roof parts and dislodged wooden members all becoming evidence of the existence of these once proudly standing monuments.

Under major damage is Level 2 which is the church (Loboc) that has sustained substantially severe damage in most of its members. Loboc has some of its parts still standing but have equally suffered grave failure as evidenced by the presence of major cracks (vertical and diagonal) and/or the serious splitting of structural members, which when not immediately addressed, may ultimately lead to its eventual collapse and harm and/or injury to its users. Major parts of Loboc’s structural fabric are still standing although they have been found to have incurred major damage. There is still a chance for these parts to be repaired, restored and those that have collapsed may still be reconstructed.

Level 3 are churches that have major parts still standing but have been found to have minor damage and are repairable. In these churches, it is at the canton of walls and at the joints of these corner pillars that connect the front façade to the lateral walls that vertical cracks and the splitting of members have occurred. This is mainly due to the fact that most of the front façade of these churches did not have buttresses that acted upon the outward forces of the lateral walls as tensioned by the roof members, which remain stable during normal conditions and worsened during seismic movements. It is also notable that the weakest parts of arches of openings (windows and doorways) such as the voussoirs

nearest to the keystone, and including the keystone, are those where failure occur. Such failure is apparent in the church of Daus where practically all its arch openings succumbed to vertical and diagonal cracks that emanated from the uppermost part of the wall, following a downward direction that reached the underside of the said arch openings. In most apertures in Daus, stone parts have been totally dislodged, leaving the apex of the arch opened. It has also been observed that churches having vertical pillasters acting as buttresses instead of the inclined retaining wall type buttress, have sustained much graver damage. In some instances, walls of churches having inclined buttresses that absorbed the outward splaying of the roof remained standing, although in many cases, some of these buttresses have also incurred major damage such as the dislodgement of its stonework from base, the dismemberment of the interior rubble fabric as well as in grave cases, the total collapse of the said structural element. Despite occurrence of these failures in the churches, they are still restorable/repairable.



*Daus Church*

Level 4 churches have major parts still standing but found with major damage at cantons which are the corner pillars of the building, and/or at intersecting coursework of adjoining walls. Damage to the Talibon church, for instance are the bulging of quoins at the upper most parts of its canton which are repairable, with the rest of the corner elements still standing and very much intact, and/or found to have minor damage. In Level 4 churches, all the other parts that have major damage require immediate attention.

Due to the still on-going tremors which lasted weeks after the earthquake in Bohol, it has been noted that some churches visited on 18 October 2013, which were re-visited after 4 days, have sustained much worse damage. This is the case of Loay, Daus and Dimiao. It is highly probable that other churches of the same condition with parts that may have been initially found with lesser damage or still intact, may have become worse in condition following the tremors that occurred after initial inspection.





#### **CONCLUSIONS ON THE STATE OF DAMAGE**

Remains found at the sites showed indications that failure occurred in specific areas within the structures. The cause of this is manifold and can be attributed to many factors such as the intrinsic quality of the structure itself : the type of material used during construction, the state of material and how it behaved over centuries of use or mis-use, the technology used; extrinsic factors such as previous seismic movements as well as the present earthquake that has led to the collapse and dismemberment of buildings and/or its parts; interventions to the buildings themselves which in one way or the other have enriched the building's significance but may have played an important role in their damage.

As a general overview, it is clear that parts that have collapsed and those that have remained standing are those that 'independently' acted on its own when the shakes and movements occurred, whilst, not considering that the other building parts alongside it are to be affected when it did its own self-determining reaction. This observation is shown in many areas where previous non-homogenous interventions were made. In particular, collapse (full or partial) was seen in the churches of Dauis, Loboc, Loay, Cortes, Baclayon where parts or full areas of the front façade walls gave way frontward. These are the churches with Spanish and/or American period additional interventions in the form of the portico facades.

The churches where central parts of lateral walls partially or fully collapsed in an inward direction and where buttresses failed to hold together the structure (Loboc, Inabanga, Clarin) showed that said walls similarly independently acted on its own sans being tied together to the rest of the structure or its adjoining members. In the case of Clarin, the front façade and its sanctuary wall remained standing

while both its lateral walls fell inward, an indication of the lack of a fastening material at the corners that could have prevented total collapse.



*Loboc church (L); Loay church (R)*

Churches whose lateral walls remained standing are those supported by inclined buttresses which not only acted to absorb the lateral sway of the roof, being its inherent function, but also prevented buckling of these lateral walls.

There were clear splitting and failure of connection between wall members especially at transept walls and between the front façade and/or the sanctuary wall corners that adjoin nave lateral walls. This observation is prevalent amongst Level 2, 3 and 4 churches.



*Clarin church*



*Inabanga church*



In many churches, failure occurred at arch openings with vertical/diagonal cracks emanating from the apex of the wall following downward directions and cutting into spandrels (Dauis, Loboc, Jagna, Baclayon, Cortes, Loay, others). In Dauis, this was most apparent as almost all apertures manifested the same problem. This means that the weakest points in the walls consequently gave way due to the movements. The arch action (compressive action of all its parts) eventually failed when the spandrel and arch abutments also fell short in putting together the compressive stresses that held them together. Arch openings should have in full the keystone, voussoir stones and the impost. These should be solid enough to carry its own the load. The coursework beside the arch which is the abutment helps prevent thrust thereby assisting in strengthening compressive qualities of the arch. If all these are subjected to multi-directional movements, they become weak and eventually result to the disintegration of parts. Most churches likewise manifested damage at the cantons with the bulging and eventual dislodgement of hewn stones that held the wall together. There were also cracks between the corner pillars and adjacent walls. Very much apparent in all churches was the state of the interior rubble masonry fabric which was found pulverizing and disintegrating. It was only the coursework that held these together so that when movements occurred and the coursework were eventually dislodged, the interior fabric similarly gave way.

*Cortes church**Dimiao church*





*Ground cracks Loboc church (L); Maribojoc church(R)*

In the case of the Loon and Maribojoc churches, ground ruptures found to have laterally cut across the longitudinal part of these churches at central and strategic locations may have led to the total collapse of the edifices. Owing to the karst topography of Bohol, the existence of caverns crevices within the karst substrate and theories of the presence of crevices under these churches remain as a plausible reason for the total collapse. This theory can only be substantiated by geophysical investigation.



*Loon and Maribojoc churches in state of rubble*

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The aforementioned criteria used for determining the gravity of damage could become the basis for defining recommendations and succeeding actions that government may take for the conservation, risk reduction and/or damage control of the churches affected by the 15 October 2013 earthquake in Bohol.

### **General Recommendations:**

1. Organize a workshop/international conference aimed at drawing information about similar experiences and practices employed by other countries and organizations who have encountered the same disasters such as the one in Bohol; From the workshop and conference can be inferred the necessary information needed in defining Guidelines for Conservation and for Disaster Risk Reduction and Post Disaster Management work. The Guidelines will become the framework for actions in the rehabilitation of the churches damaged by the 15 October 2013 earthquake;
2. Follow a collaborative, participative and inclusive approach where the voice and opinion of stakeholders are considered, as well as systems that will ensure longer life to the churches;
3. Prioritize shoring, risk reduction and damage control measures for the churches that have already incurred destruction (minor and major) from the earthquake; Consider that delays in putting the shoring may lead to the eventual collapse of structural members that are in a serious, precarious state;
4. At the clearing and retrieval operations, ensure that remains and evidences of significant tangible attributes of the churches are safe kept and well documented; Other forms of remains should be secured for future use during actual restoration work and as a reference for future studies;
5. As recommended, ensure the undertaking of complete and thorough Detailed Engineering Studies (DES) that cover complete architectural and engineering studies and structural retrofitting and/or re-strengthening methods that, when necessary, may go beyond the traditional; Consider, with extra care and prudence, the use of modern innovative methods for the restoration and structural strengthening of damaged parts of the edifices;
6. Depending on the availability of resources, prioritize intervention work according to the degree and gravity of damage; Damage found in churches under Levels 2, 3, and 4 have to be addressed the soonest possible time;

### **For Level 1**

1. Propose solutions that are beyond standard restoration and reconstruction practices; consider innovative approaches that are appropriate to the present and future needs of the place and the people as well as those considering the thrust of the owners of heritage and government in as much as the conservation of heritage is concerned;
2. Work within a consultative, participative and inclusive framework (for issue resolution, for information generation and for interpretation)

### **For Levels 2, 3, 4**

1. Prioritize funding for restoration, reconstruction, repairs;
2. Immediately undertake shoring and support for all areas that could fall off, collapse or be dislodged;
3. Prioritize the preparation of a complete Detailed Engineering Studies (DES) which will assist in determining cause of failure and damage as well as in defining appropriate solutions to conservation concerns;
4. Consider, with extra care and prudence, reliable retrofitting methods that, if necessary, is based on non-traditional practices; Consider, with extra care and prudence, instituting innovative modern approaches;
5. Institute restoration, reconstruction and repairs the soonest possible time (following completion of a complete

thorough DES); 6. Work within a collaborative framework where all national cultural agencies and other relevant national agencies as well the owners of heritage address conservation concerns within a spirit of cooperation so as to attain the desired direction and vision;

**For Level 5**

1. Undertake complete DES; 2. Institute repairs the soonest possible time, which include whatever damage discovered in the DES; 3. When necessary, work within a collaborative framework where the owners of the heritage, the concerned national cultural agencies and other relevant organizations address issues within a spirit of cooperation so as to attain the agreed direction and vision;

**For Level 6**

1. Undertake complete DES; 2. Institute repairs of damage discovered prior to or following completion of a complete DES.



# ROMANIA

## Follow-up on Roşia Montana and the Preservation of its Cultural and Natural Heritage<sup>1</sup>

Recently, on June 3, 2014, the Chamber of Representatives of the Romanian Parliament rejected the bill on the Roşia Montana mining project. The vote was quasi-unanimous (302 votes against the bill, one for and 3 abstentions). This follows a similar negative vote in the Senate on November 19, 2013. The rejection in both chambers of the Parliament is due to a political withdrawal after the Parliamentary Special Commission on Roşia Montana concluded its activity with a negative report. Not only the project was not sustained by the Special Commission Report, but the documents received by it were handed to the National Prosecutor's Office due to suspicions of fraud within the commercial procedures leading to the partnership between Gabriel Resources and the State-owned mining company that initially administrated the mine in Roşia Montana.

One might say that this is the end of the national debate on whether to dig for gold or enjoy the outstanding patrimony of the site. Our evaluations are not so optimistic. The Prime Minister publicly and repeatedly argued in favour of the mining project, even after the disastrous result for his bill in Parliament. The fact that the cultural reasons for the bill's rejection in the Special Commission Report were only marginally mentioned, the politicians not being able to understand the outstanding importance of the site from the historic and archaeological points of view, neither before the hearings in the Special Commission nor after, make us believe that it was only because of the electoral costs of approving the project that it has now been brought to a halt. We believe that after the presidential elections the project will be taken up again and pressure for its approval will be even stronger, especially if the elections will be won by the ruling party. On the other hand, civil society is prepared to take up street protest again if this will happen. Nevertheless, this is not much help for the state of conservation of the site's cultural heritage. Except for small but professionally led restoration workshops organised by the local conservation association with the support of the association ARA (Archaeology, Restoration, Architecture), the local, county and national authorities are in a prolonged standstill, as if waiting for the historic buildings to collapse and the galleries to be flooded.

In late June 2014 a mission of Europa Nostra and the Institute of the European Investment Bank visited the site and also paid visits to the Secretary of State for cultural heritage in the Ministry of Culture and to the President of the Romanian Academy. ICOMOS Romania and the Romanian Union of Architects

also met the delegates of Europa Nostra and the Institute of the European Investment Bank. The mission was not received by the President of the Alba County Council, although both institutions had asked for such a meeting in writing long before. ICOMOS Romania promised its full support in establishing a strategy for the sustainable development of the site, if such a strategy will be elaborated in a partnership with Europa Nostra, as part of "The 7 Most Endangered Programme" of this organisation.

Arch. Sergiu Nistor, Professor  
President of ICOMOS Romania

## First Results in Safeguarding the Transylvanian Saxon Architectural Heritage

In *Heritage at Risk 2008–2010* (pp. 145–147) the project "Attempts to Safeguard the Transylvanian Saxons' Architectural Heritage – The Project 'Fortresses, Rediscovered Treasures'" was presented. Developed in 2008 for 18 objects, all of them historic buildings and ensembles of national importance, the project was accepted and included in the Regional Operational Programme of Structural Funds from the European Union in 2010. The implementation started in 2011, with the plan to complete this project by the end of 2013. In the meantime, most of the works have been finished and the results are quite positive, as some selected pictures – in the villages of *Stejăriş/Propstorf*, *Apold/Trappold* or *Cloaşderf/Kloosdorf* – prove. As the projects were strictly limited to stopping the degradation and performing the maintenance and repair works necessary for their long-term preservation, the uncovering and conservation of the mural paintings, discovered by a mural painting restorer during the preliminary research tests inside most of the churches (e.g. Apold/Trappold), needed to be postponed until further funding is made possible.

Different is the actual state of conservation of the fortified ensemble in *Drăuşeni/Draas*, with one of the oldest and most important three-nave buttressed basilicas erected around 1280 in a transitional late Romanesque/early Gothic style. The village was mentioned as the north-eastern corner of the first German colonisation of Transylvania in the 13th century. Shortly before 1500 the church building was fortified itself by demolishing the aisles, raising the walls of the choir to the same level as the nave and adding to both a defence storey with half-timber parapets, erecting a defence gallery on the western tower and surrounding the churchyard with a circular defence wall with six towers. In the early 1970s the German population of the village left and the already bad condition of the church worsened due to a lack of maintenance. The recent conservation works started in 2010

<sup>1</sup> See *Heritage at Risk 2008–2010*, pp. 143–145.



Stejăriș/Propstorf, fortress after the completion of the measure

Apold/Trappold, fortress before and after the restoration







Apold/Trappold, fortress before and after the restoration

Cloaşderf/Kloosdorf fortress







Apold/Trappold, uncovered mural paintings

The fortified ensemble of Drăușeni/Draas







The fortified ensemble of Drăușeni/Draas

within the framework of a special funding programme provided by the European Union. However, at the end of 2011 the conservation work stopped and since then the fabric of the church once again has to be considered to be at risk: The plaster was completely removed from the church facades to “prepare” the naked masonry for a sort of reconstruction by making all the historic details of the building clearly visible and approachable. The plastering of the rubble masonry always has been and still is a very important protective layer not only for the masonry, but in the case of Drăușeni especially for the mural paintings inside the nave. There a cycle of scenes can be found illustrating the legend of Saint Catherine of Alexandria, the only one in Transylvania, painted around 1380. For the mural paintings no preventive conservation measures were taken, while on the south-western bay of the aisle a new defence gallery with timber-framed parapets has been built, which obviously never existed in the past. Meanwhile the towers of the ring wall are in danger of collapsing. Several – unsuccessful – attempts have already been made to convince the responsible authorities, i.e. the Romanian Ministry of Culture, to continue the conservation works for the entire ensemble. These works should start with the urgently needed plastering of the church facades, but should also include the conservation of the mural paintings and ensure at least a minimal protection for the fortification walls and towers, which are in danger of collapsing.

Christoph Machat

## The Threats to and the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Manor Estates in Banat

*In Romania, as probably in other countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the threats the built heritage faces are explainable by contemporary historic developments of society. Modernization, modernism, totalitarian regimes and, last but not least, the contemporary political lack of vision, administrative neglect and the scarcity of means for a comprehensive and effective preservation of the built heritage have recently led to an important social reaction on behalf of the young generation of professionals.*

*More and more civil society takes the initiative in the valorisation of the built heritage which is threatened by neglect, disrepair and dereliction. The report below is an example of the professional awareness of a young architect and energetic researcher aware of the values, importance and unhappy fate of an interesting architectural heritage which marked the 19th and early 20th century countryside: the Banat Manors. Behind the text one cannot only understand what that heritage is about, but also the author's commitment to its preservation.*

*(Introductory note by Sergiu Nistor, President of ICOMOS Romania)*





The Csité-Csekonics Manor House (Jimbolia, Timiș County; left) from the late 19th century and the Zselensky Manor House (Neudorf, Arad County; right) from the early 20th century



Athanasievics Residence (Valeapai, Caraș-Severin County) was built around 1840 by brothers Marcel and Emil Athanasievics. During the Communist regime, the palace was used as a Birth House, then as C.A.P. headquarter (Agrarian State Cooperative) and accommodation for seasonal workers. After 1989, it was abandoned leading to its gradual decay, thus becoming one of today's most affected manor estates in Banat. Without a roof and brought to a state of collapse, the former manor is nowadays subject to brick thieves and iron collectors. A lack of protection and the postponement of emergency interventions to consolidate the still existing structure will have as an inevitable effect the disappearance of this historic monument in the near future.



Ronay Manor (Utvin, Timiș County) was built by Kovács Ákosé in 1896 and bought in 1904 by Rónay Mihály. After the nationalization, it hosted a series of inappropriate functions, and after 1989 despite its historic and architectural value the ensemble was never classified as a historic monument. What is more, it was quickly abandoned. The state of advanced decay is the result of the local community's carelessness and the ineffectiveness of public heritage safeguarding policies.





Teleki-Mocioni Mansion (Căpâlnaş, Arad County) was built between 1876 and 1879 most probably by Kallina Mór after plans made in 1867 by Viennese architect Otto Wagner, under the patronage of Ecaterina Mocioni and her husband, Mihai Mocioni. In 1947, the estate was nationalized and the palace was transformed into a children's tuberculosis preventorium and later into a psychiatric hospital, which it is until today. The building shows structural degradation, especially because of rainfall infiltration, negligence in repairing the rainwater drainage system, a superficial care of framing and of water installation systems, leading to capillarity by an inadequate use of concrete plasters.



Built in a first stage at the beginning of the 19th century, the Mocioni ensemble (Bulci, Arad County) was gradually extended under Antoiniu I Mocioni de Foen and his son, Zeno. After the nationalization it functioned as a neuro-psychiatry hospital and later as a tuberculosis preventorium, a function it kept until 2011. Due to a legal dispute since the beginning of the 2000s, the ensemble has intentionally been brought to an advanced state of degradation, which has led to the partial collapse of the roof because of humidity and rainfall infiltration.

## The Architecture of the Manor Estates of Romania

Until the 1940s manor estates were a manifest of the well-being of the owner. These architectural ensembles were the symbolic centre of the estate – the main economic and administrative unit and also the most stable agrarian institution of that time – and their status was a guarantee of the responsible administration of wide land properties. Initially belonging to members of the privileged class (clerics or noblemen), the aristocratic residences of the past today have become, in an arbitrary way, the possessions of owners who have different cultures and perceptions.

In different periods of time, the estates comprised households and cultivated agricultural lands, villages, fairs, or even parts of towns, rivers, lakes, pastures and forests, small agricultural manufactures or huge industrial complexes, inns, road networks, hydraulic mechanisms and any other construction necessary for the good management of the property. The estates were different through both the economic and internal infrastructure capacity, as well as through the cultural environment and social structures developed within.

Placed at the heart or next to a rural settlement, the manor was coherently integrated into the surrounding anthropic and natural landscape, becoming both a dominant and a local landmark. According to their spatial model, these ensembles had the manor at the centre, with different annexes gravitating around it (barns, kitchens, servants' houses, glasshouses) and surrounded by a park or an arranged garden, a compulsory accessory of the nobility. Moreover, by creating a structured and fluent territorial system, the ensemble communicated visually and symbolically with a series of representative buildings in the vicinity (church and/or family funerary chapel).

The system of manor estates can be considered one of the key elements responsible for the development of the rural space and a characteristic part of the material and spiritual culture in certain areas of Europe. In the rural environment the development of this historical network of manor houses led to the creation of a particular cultural landscape and a specific social structure.

Socially, because of their significant economic and cultural role, there has always been a close connection between these estates and the neighbouring rural communities – both before the



The Nikolics ensemble (Rudna, Timiș County) was built at the end of the 18th century by Baron Ioan Nikolics. After the installation of the Communist regime, the family crypt was used as an observation point of the Serbian border, and the palace became the home of the border patrol troops. In 1964, it became a CAP headquarter. After 1989, the ensemble was privatized and an amateur restoration site was set up. However, its lack of sustainability led to the abandonment of the works and a profound alteration of the former manor estate's values.



Karátsonyi Palace (Banloc, Timiș County) received its final shape around 1793, during the time of Lazăr Karátsonyi, when the English park was laid out. It included a tea pavilion, a gloriette and a chapel. After the First World War, the Serbian occupation forces devastated the ensemble and in 1935, the last count, Karátsonyi-Keglevich Imre, sold what was left of the domain to Queen Elizabeth of Greece, sister of King Carl II of Romania. She renovated the entire complex, the ensemble reaching its final period of glory. In the course of its nationalization, the ensemble functioned as local GAS (Agricultural State Household), forestry, home for the elderly, orphanage and school. After 1989, it was abandoned, until 2009, when it was leased for 49 years to the Banat Orthodox Mitropoly. A large-scale restoration began, but due to a lack of funds, the works were interrupted and abandoned, the ensemble now being in a continuous process of degradation.

expropriation at the end of the 1940s as well as during the communist regime, when most of the ensembles were nationalized and forcibly transformed into mayoralties, police departments, social centres, schools, hospitals, but more often warehouses, households or state agrarian cooperatives. The result, in many cases, was the formal and aesthetical degradation of the buildings. Improperly kept in the second half of the 20th century and mostly abandoned after 1989, these ensembles of historical and architectural value began a rapid process of degradation and became for the “host” towns the inconvenient ruins of today.

Most of the residencies were transformed into public utility buildings. The main renovation endeavours contributed mostly to the mutilation and alteration of the historical and architectural value: foundations were consolidated, new ceilings and reinforced concrete beams were added, the plastering was remade with cement mortar, the rooftops were modified, going as far as

building a different framework from the original one. In the interiors, the big halls were repartitioned, other doors appeared, the original furniture was destroyed, and the rooms were repainted.

After 1990, the long procedures of retrocession led to the delay in the capitalisation of these edifices at their true potential. In general, the state of conservation of the noble residencies is critical, especially of those in a state of litigation or of those abandoned by the owners who recovered them. This period has led to a second wave of degradation.

Also, the state of the ensembles which are private property is alarming, because they are most often in a precarious preservation state, the owners being unable to preserve and manage them appropriately. Many of the ensembles were even abandoned by owners who lacked the motivation and the tools to capitalize the residencies. The lack of a coherent program to attract investors discouraged the initiatives of the owners. Because of lack of





A first Baroque mansion was built at the end of the 18th century at the site of the current residence by the Foeni branch of the Aromanian aristocratic family Mocioni, after settling on the Foeni estate in Timiș County. Considered a trademark for the entire Foeni aristocratic branch, the ensemble was then completed and extended, and at the end of the 19th century it became one of the most imposing manor estates in the region. Given to the local community by the last descendent of the family, the ensemble is used until today as school, kindergarten and local cultural centre. Following the rainy season in 2005, the level of the Timis River, running close to the village, rose, putting pressure on the upstream dyke. On April 20, the dyke collapsed, and the flood affected even Mocioni Palace. The lack of ulterior restoration interventions increased the building's state of decay.

funds and more often because of the ignorance of authorities and the passivity of civil society, legislation is rarely put into practice. In these circumstances, the estates decayed at an accelerated pace in the years following the fall of the Communist regime.

### Manor Estates from the Late 19th to the Early 20th Century in Banat

The manor estates in Banat belong to the widespread category of ensembles built for the rural nobility of Central and Eastern Europe, similar to the manor estates of Hungary, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Serbia, Poland or Ukraine. Together with all the manor estates found nowadays on the Romanian territory, those in Banat represent the most Western examples of rural architecture, containing stylistic elements from Baroque, Neo-Classicism, Gothic Revival, Romanticism or Eclecticism. Designed in most cases by renowned architects trained at the big schools of architecture of the old Austro-Hungarian Empire, the manor estates of Banat were often interpreted in a local manner, which accounts for their uniqueness. The residences of the local aristocracy are more valuable, because they represent a primary source of the regional socio-cultural history, bearing witness to the way the aristocracy expressed its status, economic power, conceptions and aspirations.

The importance of the manor house system in the Romanian Banat region is justified by the historical and cultural specificity of the researched area: historical Banat, an administrative and political notion belonging to the modern era and a constant landmark of Central European history. Fragmented when new nation states began to appear after the end of the First World War, historical Banat encompassed regions included nowadays in Romania, Hungary and Serbia, and thus we can speak of Romanian Banat (Timis county, Caras-Severin county, Arad county's south of Mures river, the extreme West of Mehedinti county), Serbian Banat (Voivodina and a small part of the Belgrade metropolitan area), and Hungarian Banat (South-Eastern area of the Csongrád

county). Ignoring the actual territorial-administrative frontiers and following instead the impact of the main cultural models in the central focal points on the peripheral territories through different ways of communication – Banat needs to be understood as a frontier historical area and a true space of cultural interferences.

The research regarding manor estates, performed as part of the *Monumente Uitate* project (initiated by the Department of Architectural History and Theory and Heritage Preservation at the University of Architecture and Urbanism “Ion Mincu” Bucuresti and later developed by the ARCHÉ Association), estimated a number of approximately 120 manor estates in Banat until the Second World War. Little is known about most of them, but we do know that nowadays there are 40 partially (gardens, annexes, family funeral chapels, etc) or fully preserved ensembles, among which only 18 (two in Arad county, two in Caras-Severin county, 14 in Timis county) are on the List of Historical Monuments (published in 2010). In less than a century, most of the manor estates were systematically and gradually destroyed, vandalized, misused, wrongly maintained or renovated, intentionally brought to a state of ruin or effectively demolished. Moreover, taking into account the interdependency of the manor estates and the surrounding cultural landscape, the destruction of the manor estates has resulted in a loss of the specificity and values of the local cultural landscape.

While some of the manor estates were demolished by their owners towards the end of the interwar period due to the financial and social decline of the nobility throughout Europe (e.g. residence Csekonics/Csitó in Jimbolia, Timis) and others were severely affected during the Second World War (e.g. Zselensky Palace in Neudorf, Arad), the vast majority of the estates suffered in the post-war period. Very soon after the Second World War, during the new Communist regime, private property was forbidden and the old aristocratic families were anathematized, which led to the expropriation and nationalization of all their possessions. The 40 years of socialist economy, where everything belonged to everyone and no one actually assumed any responsibility, followed by the next 20 years dominated by a general

carelessness among civil society and real estate speculation, led to the loss of more than 60% of the heritage represented by the former manor estates, many of which of an exceptional artistic and historical value. The phenomenon continues until today, and the effects are disastrous: fallen rooftops, unstable structures and plasters, decorations and embellishments irreversibly lost.

As these buildings represent remarkable heritage assets the Direction for Historical Monuments during the 1960s and 70s decided to carry out preservation works at several manor estates (Căpâlnaş, Bulci, Banloc etc.). However, these measures ended in December 1977 when the Direction itself was disbanded. After December 1989 there were no more restoration works with public funding in Banat. Being state property (e.g. the Mayoralty of Sânnicolau Mare – the ex-residence Nákó from Jimbolia, Timiș county), in the administration of public institutions (e.g. the Psychiatry Clinic Hospital Arad – the former residence Teleki-Mocioni from Căpâlnaş, Arad county), or private property, the built heritage represented by the former manor estates in Banat has been badly managed. Also, along with the decline of these ensembles formerly belonging to the old nobility, a disintegration of their anthropic and natural context followed, thus resulting in a profound degradation of the entire surrounding cultural landscape. The estates were arbitrarily fragmented, according to local interests, and the ensembles lost their unity and specific coherent landscape.

Recent preservation or restoration measures carried out with private or non-reimbursable funds mostly had an adverse or even destructive effect. An indication of this situation is the status of the old Karátsonyi ensemble in Banloc, where the Orthodox Mitropoly of Banat, as concessionaire, opened a large restoration site in 2009 and later abandoned it – a fact which sustained and accelerated the process of degradation.

The use of materials incompatible with traditional techniques, for instance the use of concrete to restore plasters, the modification or replacement of original carpentry and framing have visible consequences both on the structural and the decorative level. Because the results of chaotic and unprofessional interventions can be seen to this day, a critical analysis of restoration works and chosen techniques needs to be encouraged.

## Causes of Risk

As in many other Central and Eastern European countries where similar problems have appeared, the threats affecting the former manors in the rural areas of Romania, and particularly in Banat, are determined by a multitude of natural and anthropic factors and have irreversible effects. Though there are many different reasons for the degradation of the heritage elements, most of them can be linked directly to a lack of education in this field, to insufficient legislation, and to a failure of people and institutions involved in managing the existing cultural heritage.

### Legislation issues

- Ineffectiveness of the specialized public authority to use a legislation adapted to the real needs of society;

- Lack of public policies and a lack of management on the central and regional authorities level regarding the preservation of cultural heritage;
- Incomplete inventories and false records in the List of Historic Monuments (names, significant historical data, current status, localization) regarding this heritage segment;
- Lack of monitoring and controlling the correct management of architectural heritage by the owners, and lack of fiscal initiatives regarding the recovery, restoration and reuse of monuments;
- Ineffectiveness of the selection and regulation system of authorized professionals to execute restoration projects;
- Non-existence of a selection filter for companies or authorized people responsible for the works of intervention on historic monuments.

### Use and maintenance problems

- Lack of education, lack of civic initiatives from local communities to prevent vandalism;
- Lack of a proper current care determining, sustaining and accelerating the process of degradation;
- Repeated changes in the status or use of buildings and discrepancy between the initial program and different following functions;
- Poorly managed preservation or restoration sites (insufficient funding, use of inadequate techniques, negligence or lack of training, etc);
- Risk of natural disasters (floods, earthquakes) and of degradation due to aggressive climatic, chemical, physical and biological factors.

### Research and education

- Insufficient knowledge of scientific, historic and artistic values of the cultural heritage and lack of their acknowledgment and understanding;
- Lack of education and public interest in the preservation and capitalization potential of built heritage;
- Lack of exhaustive inventories.

In order to pass their heritage to the next generations, it is the local communities' fundamental role to approach it. The local identity crisis and difficulties in reading the heritage message can find a solution in a better collaboration between communities, authorities and specialists, who together should decide to rescue these manor estates. Time works against many of them; that is why there is a need to implement a decisive and coherent development plan in order to preserve and protect the manor estates in Banat.



# RUSSIA

## The Shukhov Tower in Shabolovka Street, Moscow

The radio tower in Shabolovka Street in Moscow can be considered the masterpiece among the works by the great Russian engineer Vladimir Grigorievich Shukhov. Shukhov was the first to invent and use in construction lattice metal shells in the form of hanging and arch-shaped overhead covers and hyperboloid towers (patented by the Russian Empire in 1899). The 25-metre steel lattice tower as part of eight gigantic pavilions built by Shukhov for the 1896 All-Russia industrial and art exhibition in Nizhniy Novgorod was the first hyperboloid structure in the world. In

metres, but the government could not provide a sufficient quantity of steel profiles to realise it.) After the installation of two beams and a flagpole the height of the tower reached 160 metres and for decades it was the tallest building in Russia. It served as a support for the antennas of big radio and TV stations and to this day is under the jurisdiction of the federal government's communications and mass media ministry.

In recent years, big efforts were made by the Shukhov Tower Foundation to preserve Vladimir Shukhov's heritage in Russia (see also *H@R 2008–2010*, p. 152). It is well known that the radio tower suffers from crevice corrosion and needs serious expertise and conservation. In 2011, Vladimir Putin allocated 135 million rubles (\$3.8 million) for its restoration, but no action has been



General view of the Shukhov Tower, 2014 (photo: Nikolai Vassiliev)

subsequent years, Shukhov developed numerous structures of various lattice steel shells and used them in hundreds of buildings. The radio tower in Shabolovka Street, built between 1919 and 1922 with a height of 148.5 metres, became the tallest of Shukhov's towers. (In the initial project the height had been 350

taken yet and the company in charge of the conservation presented a plan for dismantling the structure for restoration (arguing that a repair would be too expensive) and then moving it to a new location: The decision for dismantling has been made already – and some investment companies submitted plans for the construc-



The Shukhov Tower seen from below  
(photo: Arssenev)



Detail of the tower's lattice work showing crevice corrosion

tion of a business centre on the site. It is obvious that a dismantling would mean a “subtle” demolition of this landmark and lead to the death of the structure. Therefore, all efforts have to be made and endorsed to stop that decision.

Christoph Machat

## Melnikov's House and Studio in Moscow

Several times ICOMOS has reported on the threats to this iconic building and its bad structural condition (see for example *H&R 2002/03*, p. 179; *H&R 2008–2010*, p. 152). Since our last report the state of conservation has further deteriorated, while the types of threats largely remain the same. The following is an extract from a Heritage Alert report prepared in 2013 by the ICOMOS

International Scientific Committee on 20th Century Heritage (ISC 20C; see also <http://icomos-isc20c.org/sitebuildercontent/sitebuilderfiles/melnikovhousemoscowheritagealertapril2013.pdf>).

*The globally known masterpiece of the Russian architectural avant-garde, the Melnikov House built by Konstantin Melnikov in 1927–1929, is under threat of serious damage to its structural stability and historic fabric due to the on-going lack of conservation treatment and the immediate threat now posed by the proposed development on an adjacent site, which endangers the house's internationally important heritage values.*

*The demolition works which began in August 2012 in the near vicinity to the Melnikov House pose a significant risk to the structural stability of the building. Realization of an architectural project of a new multifunctional center at Arbat Street, 41 with a deep underground parking structure launched in February 2013 will dramatically change the hydrogeology and drainage system of the Melnikov site. The situation is also exacerbated by the underlying geological structure of the land and the delicate nature of the building construction. It is feared that this could lead to irreversible effects and finally to irreparable damage of Melnikov's architectural masterpiece, a building which is internationally published and well-recognized as an outstanding item of Russia's architectural contribution to 20th century architecture.*

*This is considered to be a new threat which presented itself this year in addition to numerous conservation problems, general deterioration, low quality of restoration works carried out in the 1990s, and changes in the monument's setting.*

*(...) The pressure on the subsoil and the construction of underground garages in apartment buildings with levels minus 7–8 m has altered the hydrogeology of the site and deformed its drain-*



The Melnikov House and Studio, seen from above  
(photo: [www.architizer.com](http://www.architizer.com))

*age system. This has led to a weakening of the foundations and cracks in the walls of the Melnikov House. The demolition works which began in August 2012 in the near vicinity to the Melnikov House and construction works launched in February 2013 pose a significant risk to the structural stability of the building. Realization of a proposed architectural project for a new multifunctional*



center at Arbat Street, 41 with a deep underground parking structure at minus 15 m, behind the Melnikov House, will dramatically change the hydrogeology of the site yet again. This could lead to irreversible effects and finally to irreparable damage of Melnikov's architectural masterpiece and surrounding historical buildings.

(...) The International Scientific Committee for Twentieth Century Heritage of ICOMOS, Docomomo and the International Union of Architects now urgently ask the Russian authorities to take direct steps to prevent further neglect and stagnation of this uniquely Russian heritage resource of the Twentieth Century. (...)

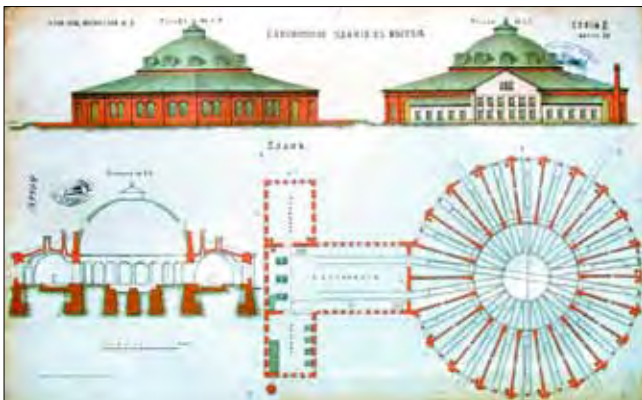
## The Circular Depot, Leningradsky Station, Moscow – Hope for this Outstanding Testimony to Early Railway History?

The following evaluation of the circular depot's architectural and historic significance as well as of its threatened state is an abridged version of a report prepared by MAPS (Moscow Architecture Preservation Society; [www.maps-moscow.com](http://www.maps-moscow.com)) in October 2011:

*This depot building by architect Rudolph Zhelyazevich, a student of Konstantin Ton, was constructed in the 1850s. It is part of a complex of buildings belonging to the former Nikolaevsky railway (now Oktyabrsky). It was the first engine shed in Moscow and one of the first such buildings in Russia. It was originally two-storied, with a central domed ceiling. There were 10 such depots constructed for the railway lines, of which three have been demolished, two are abandoned and are disintegrating, and the remaining have been remodeled. The "Nikolayevsky" circular depot is thus the only such building remaining in Moscow.*

*(...) The Circular depot is a newly-declared building of cultural heritage and is protected by the state. (...) Nevertheless, Russian Railways continues to prepare for demolition of the depot, the permission for which is based on incomplete information and is therefore legally invalid. Unfortunately, there is a precedent for this particular form of corrupt practice: in spring 2011, on the basis of an analogous expert conclusion and without the sanction of the city authorities, the Veerny Depot near Leningradsky Station was demolished. It was also in a protected zone and had significant architectural and historical value.*

Plan, section drawing and external views of the Circular Depot (© MAPS)



View of the Circular Depot today (© MAPS)



Courtyard of the Circular Depot today (© MAPS)

In March 2013, TICCIH Germany and ICOMOS Germany in a joint letter to the Russian Railways secretary of state urged that the depot at Moscow's Leningradsky Station be preserved and restored. With this initiative, the two German conservation organisations have supported local groups and activists such as MAPS who since 2011 have observed the growing danger for the remains of the circular locomotive shed threatened with demolition although it is listed. The fate of this outstanding example of early industrial heritage in Russia remains uncertain.

## Scharoun's Prime

Ever built a province before graduating or turning 25? Ever disappeared for a decade to emerge a happily married professor at an arts academy, with several dozen buildings in one's portfolio? – Almost 100 years ago this fittingly described the beginnings of one Hans Scharoun. His 1915–1925 works have only recently begun to attract the researcher's eye: an East Prussian treasure that had a war as an originator, another war as a demolisher and the post-war misery of Kaliningrad province as a custodian. Political correctness and craftsmen's inability are endangering it today.



Historic photo of the so-called "Bunte Reihe" (Colour Row)

Scharoun's military service stopped a promising high school course and took him from Berlin to Stallupönen (Nesterov, Russia), Gumbinnen (Gusev) and Insterburg (Chernyakhovsk) in a province badly hit at the beginning of the Great War. Eventually an acting head of two (of 24) Construction Advisory Offices, or *Bauberatungsämter*<sup>1</sup>, he, with some 30,000 mostly Russian prisoners of war and 500 German architect-colleagues, had over 40,000 houses erected anew and 60,000 repaired<sup>2</sup>, and designed quite a few. A strive for modernity, limited by funds and handy-men's skills, shaped a traditionalist yet expressionist way of local building, with restrained facades painted lavishly in vivid colours: Scharoun was thus one of the first not only to sign Taut's September 1919 Appeal for Colour in Construction<sup>3</sup>, but also to make words real. Commissioned in 1920, he erected the Kamswykus Suburban Settlement between 1921 and 1924<sup>4</sup> – a first major task, the only executed example of the colour period, the only Scharoun in Russia today.

Every settlement faces a main street with two city-scale apartment houses, shielding off a common-green-style side street with a pair of cottages and a double row of 16 two-storey houses, all with grocery gardens at the rear. A building line gradually bowing from a side street and back resembles the later *Wohngehöfte*

at Charlottenburg-Nord, while a semi-circular entrance square reminds one of the Siemensstadt. One of the apartment houses even got a "battleship" nickname, for the sake of its pointed rostra-like balcony "nose" – another *Panzerkreuzer*, just like in Berlin!

Utilizing one and the same row house layout, Scharoun varied just a few façade details, arranged flat triangular jutties, singular, in pairs, or pleating up the entire wall; marked the stairs with pointed, double-pointed or tri-partite windows, or niches, or combinations thereof; zig-zagged the parapets – and used colour as in no other of his works. Walls of red, yellow and blue, window cases of green and white, in manifold combinations, were held together by high East Prussian tile roofs. Four-rayed stars, as on Glass Chain drawings, appear on the walls, on doors and on handrails. Little wonder the "Bunte Reihe" (Colour Row) nickname made it into official maps and soon replaced the original name of the settlement.

Once a daring experiment of an architect and his burgomaster (Rosencrantz, also a signatory of Taut's Appeal), carefully placed outside the municipal area to avoid public dismay, and incorporated only after proving to be a success, presented at the 1926 "Die farbige Stadt" (The Coloured City) exhibition in Breslau





The "Bunte Reihe" today



Visualisation of the rehabilitation

(today Wrocław, Poland), the settlement soon disappeared from public view. Even if Scharoun's colour affinity made him one of Breslau's Colour Councillors in 1928<sup>5</sup>, and even if the foyer of the Berlin Philharmonics comes in an abundance of tints – never

again did Scharoun return to these Insterburg beginnings, neither have those who have been researching this architect. The 1993 anniversary chronicle<sup>6</sup> just showed old photos<sup>7</sup> giving the West the impression that the ensemble was lost for good – the East

could marvel at it, if only it knew, or if Scharoun would appear in Soviet architectural textbooks. Local living memory somehow withstood both the cleansing of all the tenants (German rail and postal workers had to make way for Soviet ones), and the loss of all the archives, so that both Scharoun's name and the "bat-leship" nickname were kept – yet without any chance of making use of such knowledge. Still, the general scarcity in such a restricted military area as East Prussia during the USSR years preserved the buildings. The war-time loss being limited to one totally destroyed apartment slab, the general lack of maintenance meant that the settlement became one singular preserve of original plaster, door and window frames, handrails, floor finishes, roof tiles, etc.

It has only been in the last decade through Prof. Czebot's summer schools at St. Petersburg University, and with the help of the investigation by the author of this report in his capacity as counsellor for the Berlin Scharoun Society, that the Colour Row re-surfaced and was listed in 2010<sup>8</sup>, thus reducing the threat to the visual integrity by the lure of DIY markets with their styrofoam delights.

In the same year, the houses were surveyed for the first time ever<sup>9</sup>, and a Colour Row House Owners Association was founded, acting as a client for research and design works. Many Russian and German students of architecture, landscape architecture, restoration and geography have filled summer tutorials, attracted by the name of Hans Scharoun and the unspoiled state of the pitiful ruins of contextual pre-modernism. On the façade paint tests were undertaken in 2011 by an original 1921 manufacturer, giving an idea of the Colour Row as it once was and serving as a basis for a proper implementation, with the help of a craftsmen's class focusing on old masonry, paint and timber works. A knowledge of such, and of monument-friendly engineering, insulation, etc does not exist so far, neither in Kaliningrad province, nor in greater Russia.

A study-and-construction project in the entire province to restore old buildings, not as a one-off expenditure of an international aficionado, but through properly instructed local craftsmen, to generate continuously improving living conditions, will fuel the economic circuit, reduce unemployment and out-migration, and welcome guests! A province once contested, devastated and rebuilt by Russians and Germans, Scharoun and Scharounians, could write history again!

This is an idea that so far has collected much applause<sup>10</sup>, many a personal effort, but little official support<sup>11</sup>: The reluctance of Russian state institutions to deal with "alien heritage" is matched by the Germans' self-inflicted fear of being accused of "revanchism". Luckily, people-to-people commitments are still bridging this gap – but for how long? There is no time to waste; neither the best 1921 plaster nor the dwellers' patience will last forever.<sup>12</sup> Only if the craftsmen's training succeeds, as now promoted jointly with the Görlitz Denkmalzentrum, the Kaliningrad University Urban Utility College, and the "Kamswyker Kreis" fund (<http://kreis.instergod.ru>), and brings its fruit to Chernyakhovsk's Colour Row, the self-mutilation by misled house owners will find a due end, here and elsewhere in the province. Supporters are welcome!

Several Scharoun houses that are on sale now could be a cadre for a timely rehabilitation to mark the architect's 125th birthday on September 20th, 2018, and the Colour Row's centennial in 2024 – but only if we start instantly. Incidentally, in February 2014 the Colour Row Settlement was selected by Europa Nostra as one of the seven most threatened landmarks in Europe. Rescue missions will be organised for this site and the other six during and after the summer and feasible action plans proposed by the end of 2014.<sup>13</sup>

Dmitry Sukhin

<sup>1</sup> Academy of Arts, folder 1.12, no. 25-0000; folder 1.15, no. 19-0331.

<sup>2</sup> Kruchen necrologue by Scharoun, in: *Neue Bauwelt*, 8 (1947).

<sup>3</sup> "Aufruf zum farbigen Bauen", in: *Bauwelt*, 38 (1919).

<sup>4</sup> *Ostdeutscher Verdingungs-Anzeiger* (Tender Bulletin), an inlet to *Ostdeutsche Bauzeitung* 1920 (nos. 28, 71, 75, 87, 100) and 1921 (nos. 16, 34, 39, 40).

<sup>5</sup> "Das farbige Breslau" by Rothenberg, in: *Ostdeutsche Bauzeitung*, 99 (1928).

<sup>6</sup> *Hans Scharoun, Chronik zu Leben und Werk* by Geist, Kürvers and Rausch.

<sup>7</sup> The Scharoun Fund at the Berlin Fine Arts Academy archives also keeps three technical drawings and a watercolour.

<sup>8</sup> See definition: "newly found monument of history and culture"; final grading pending.

<sup>9</sup> Winfried Brenne: "if Colour Row were in Berlin, it surely would have made it into the World Heritage submission", verbal statement made to the author, 2010.

<sup>10</sup> 2010, Cascade Media Event of the Year; 2012, provincial acknowledgement prize.

<sup>11</sup> The Kaliningrad provincial heritage authority exists since 2008 and is seriously understaffed; local VOPIK (All-Russian Monuments Society) branch extinct.

<sup>12</sup> Winfried Brenne: "if restoration works don't start now, there will be nothing left to preserve at Colour Row in ten to 15 years", verbal statement made to the author, 2010.

<sup>13</sup> See <http://www.europanostra.org/news/449/>.



# SAUDI ARABIA

## Medina

Apparently, the destruction of sites associated with early Islam is an on-going phenomenon that has occurred mainly in western Saudi Arabia, particularly around the holy cities of Mecca and Medina. The demolition has focused on mosques, burial sites, homes and historical locations associated with the Prophet Mohammed and many of the founding personalities of early Islamic history. The following article taken from the British newspaper *The Independent* describes one of the most drastic examples currently taking place in Medina, where for the construction of the gigantic Masjid an-Nabawi Mosque three historic mosques are to be demolished.

### Saudis Take a Bulldozer to Islam's History

*Three of the world's oldest mosques are about to be destroyed as Saudi Arabia embarks on a multi-billion-pound expansion of Islam's second holiest site. Work on the Masjid an-Nabawi in*



Medina, Masjid Ghamama Mosque  
(photo: A. Aqeel, [www.panoramio.com](http://www.panoramio.com))

*Medina, where the Prophet Mohamed is buried, will start once the annual Hajj pilgrimage ends next month. When complete, the development will turn the mosque into the world's largest building, with the capacity for 1.6 million worshippers.*

*But concerns have been raised that the development will see key historic sites bulldozed. Anger is already growing at the kingdom's apparent disdain for preserving the historical and archaeological heritage of the country's holiest city, Mecca. Most of the expansion of Masjid an-Nabawi will take place to the west of the existing mosque, which holds the tombs*

*of Islam's founder and two of his closest companions, Abu Bakr and Umar.*

*Just outside the western walls of the current compound are mosques dedicated to Abu Bakr and Umar, as well as the Masjid Ghamama, built to mark the spot where the Prophet is thought to have given his first prayers for the Eid festival. The Saudis have announced no plans to preserve or move the three mosques, which have existed since the seventh century and are covered by Ottoman-era structures, or to commission archaeological digs before they are pulled down, something that has caused considerable concern among the few academics who are willing to speak out in the deeply authoritarian kingdom.*

*"No one denies that Medina is in need of expansion, but it's the way the authorities are going about it which is so worrying," says Dr Irfan al-Alawi of the Islamic Heritage Research Foundation. "There are ways they could expand which would either avoid or preserve the ancient Islamic sites but instead they want to knock it all down." Dr Alawi has spent much of the past 10 years trying to highlight the destruction of early Islamic sites.*

*With cheap air travel and booming middle classes in populous Muslim countries within the developing world, both Mecca and Medina are struggling to cope with the 12 million pilgrims who visit each year – a number expected to grow to 17 million by 2025. The Saudi monarchy views itself as the sole authority to decide what should happen to the cradle of Islam. Although it has earmarked billions for an enormous expansion of both Mecca and Medina, it also sees the holy cities as lucrative for a country almost entirely reliant on its finite oil wealth.*

*Heritage campaigners and many locals have looked on aghast as the historic sections of Mecca and Medina have been bulldozed to make way for gleaming shopping malls, luxury hotels and enormous skyscrapers. The Washington-based Gulf Institute estimates that 95 per cent of the 1,000-year-old buildings in the two cities have been destroyed in the past 20 years.*

*In Mecca, the Masjid al-Haram, the holiest site in Islam and a place where all Muslims are supposed to be equal, is now overshadowed by the Jabal Omar complex, a development of skyscraper apartments, hotels and an enormous clock tower. To build it, the Saudi authorities destroyed the Ottoman era Ajyad Fortress and the hill it stood on. Other historic sites lost include the Prophet's birthplace – now a library – and the house of his first wife, Khadijah, which was replaced with a public toilet block.*

*Neither the Saudi Embassy in London nor the Ministry for Foreign Affairs responded to requests for comment when *The Independent* contacted them this week. But the government has previously defended its expansion plans for the two holy cities as necessary. It insists it has also built large numbers of budget hotels for poorer pilgrims, though critics point out these are routinely placed many miles away from the holy sites.*

*Until recently, redevelopment in Medina has pressed ahead at a slightly less frenetic pace than in Mecca, although a number of early Islamic sites have still been lost. Of the seven ancient*

mosques built to commemorate the Battle of the Trench – a key moment in the development of Islam – only two remain. Ten years ago, a mosque which belonged to the Prophet's grandson was dynamited. Pictures of the demolition that were secretly taken and smuggled out of the kingdom showed the religious police celebrating as the building collapsed.

The disregard for Islam's early history is partly explained by the regime's adoption of Wahabism, an austere and uncompromising interpretation of Islam that is vehemently opposed to anything which might encourage Muslims towards idol worship.

In most of the Muslim world, shrines have been built. Visits to graves are also commonplace. But Wahabism views such practices with disdain. The religious police go to enormous lengths to discourage people from praying at or visiting places closely connected to the time of the Prophet while powerful clerics work behind the scenes to promote the destruction of historic sites.

Dr Alawi fears that the redevelopment of the Masjid an-Nabawi is part of a wider drive to shift focus away from the place where Mohamed is buried. The spot that marks the Prophet's tomb is covered by a famous green dome and forms the centrepiece of the current mosque. But under the new plans, it will become the east wing of a building eight times its current size with a new pulpit. There are also plans to demolish the prayer niche at the centre of mosque. The area forms part of the Riyadh al-Jannah (Garden of Paradise), a section of the mosque that the Prophet decreed especially holy.

"Their excuse is they want to make more room and create 20 spaces in a mosque that will eventually hold 1.6 million," says Dr Alawi. "It makes no sense. What they really want is to move the focus away from where the Prophet is buried."

A pamphlet published in 2007 by the Ministry of Islamic Affairs – and endorsed by the Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia, Abdulaziz al Sheikh – called for the dome to be demolished and the graves of Mohamed, Abu Bakr and Umar to be flattened. Sheikh Ibn al-Uthaymeen, one of the 20th century's most prolific Wahabi scholars, made similar demands.

"Muslim silence over the destruction of Mecca and Medina is both disastrous and hypocritical," says Dr Alawi. "The recent



Medina, Abu Bakr Mosque (photo: [www.beautifulmosque.com](http://www.beautifulmosque.com))

movie about the Prophet Mohamed caused worldwide protests... and yet the destruction of the Prophet's birthplace, where he prayed and founded Islam has been allowed to continue without any criticism."

Jerome Taylor  
The Independent, October 27, 2012



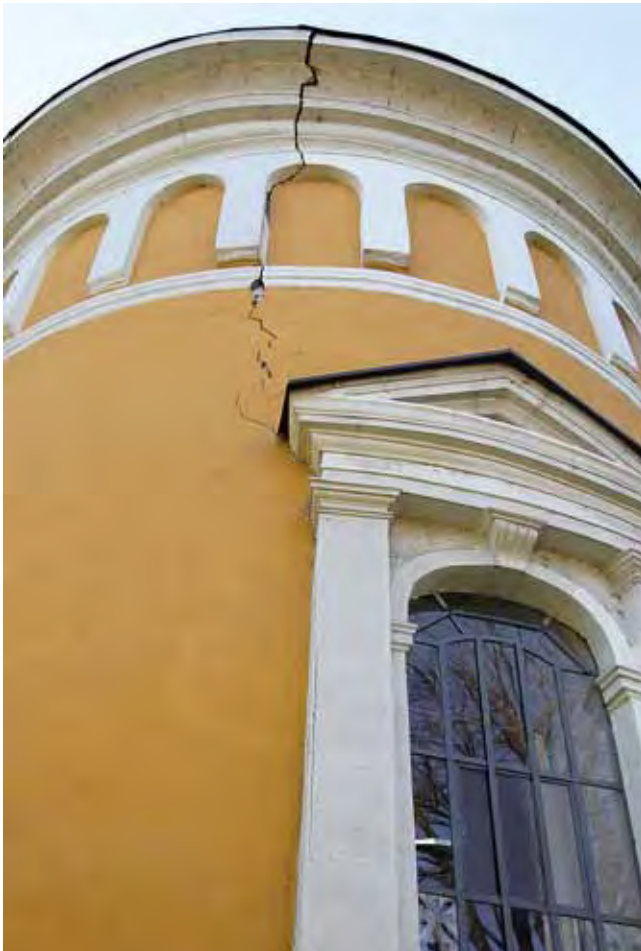
# SERBIA

## Endangered Heritage – The Earthquake in Kraljevo, Central Serbia

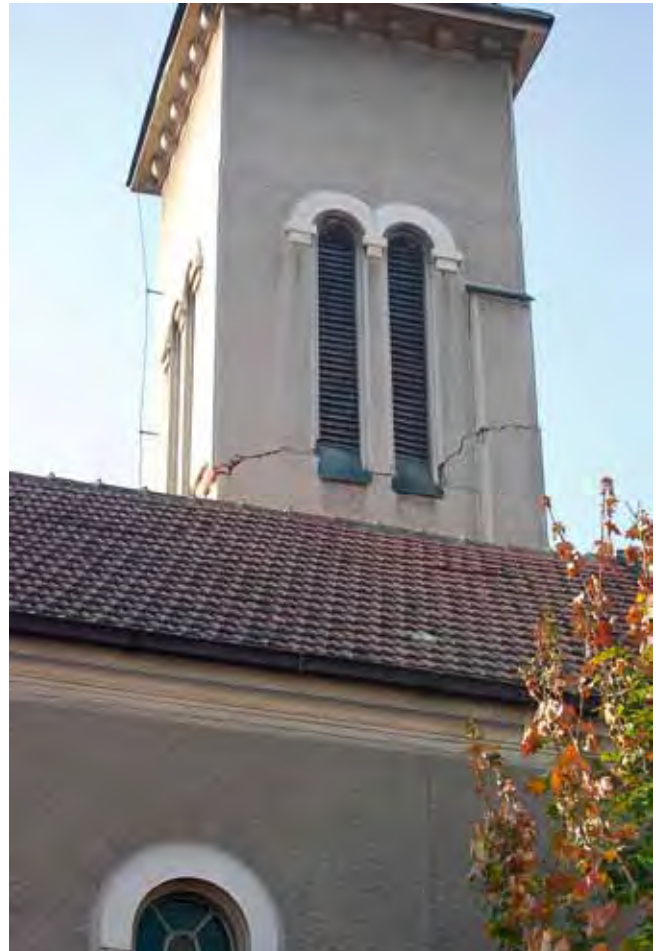
An earthquake of large destructive power hit the town of Kraljevo in the central part of Serbia and its surroundings on November 3, 2010. Beside the great damages that residential and administrative/commercial buildings suffered, the most serious damages were caused to the built cultural heritage. Fortunately, none of the cultural properties were completely devastated, but many of them suffered serious damages. Such a situation required the engagement of all available experts in the field of conservation and substantial financial support in order to consolidate and repair the buildings, and to conserve and restore their original state. During the full-day visits of the damaged properties, professionals from the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments from Kraljevo, especially a team of architects, prepared an

endangered heritage list, including a list of priority works. For this emergency situation, the National Committee of ICOMOS Serbia delegated an expert team to get an insight into the situation on-site and to prepare a preliminary report which was sent to the National Committee of ICOMOS Macedonia/Risk Preparedness Subcommittee. Their representatives, together with the Director of the Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Engineering Seismology from Skopje (Macedonia), used that report to assess the damage to the built heritage in order to offer their professional assistance. In addition, the Serbian Society of Conservators/Section of Architects made a proposal that all institutes for the protection of cultural monuments acting in Serbia should help the city of Kraljevo with development projects to rehabilitate and reconstruct selected examples of endangered valuable architectural heritage. During that action, 15 rehabilitation projects were prepared, and so far the works on seven objects/sites have been completed, with an expert supervision.

St. Trinity Church, cracks on the apse



St. Michael's Church, cracks on the tower





St. Michael's Church, cracks on the tower and on the church walls

▷ Old Bazaar in Kraljevo, one of the houses damaged during the earthquake

▷ The village of Guberevac, vernacular architecture damaged during the earthquake



On the list of the most endangered properties were the following objects: the House of the Švapčić family (the seat of the Institute in Kraljevo), the orthodox St. Trinity Church in the centre of the town, the old Hotel Paris and Hotel Yugoslavia, the catholic Church of St. Michael, Lord Vasa Residence, the building of the Historical Archives, the High Court and the Prosecution, and many buildings in the protected area of the Old Bazaar in the city centre. In the vicinity of Kraljevo heavy damage was reported at Žiča Monastery and at the Church of St. Elijah in the village of Sirča.

The teams of professionals from all over Serbia working on site had to face challenging project tasks for the rehabilitation and consolidation of different types of built heritage, which included extensive field research and documentation in archives, surveying the physical status of buildings just after the earthquake, thorough analysis of the structural elements of the ensemble, various details, and old materials which had been used with specific building techniques. All this could not be carried out without the close collaboration with university professors specialised in structural engineering, whose knowledge greatly contributed to the quality and selection of appropriate solutions for the repair

and strengthening of these specific structures. Thus the requirements for preserving the authenticity of built heritage were successfully reconciled with providing additional security structures in order to prevent any new potential damage from possible additional earthquakes.

The methodology used in the preparation of the projects duly contributed to the conservation and enhancement of the built heritage, using traditional methods for the reinforcement of structures such as only steel ties and cables, or in combination with the injection of special types of mortar. Some of the projects anticipated the application of new methods, such as using carbon fibers and canvases with epoxy resin, which is a reversible and non-devastating intervention in contemporary conservation practice. Unfortunately, these materials are new and still too expensive for the circumstances in our country, and so far projects making use of them have not yet been realized.

Financial assistance from the state administration was primarily focused on the urgent rehabilitation of residential architecture in the city and surrounding areas, which is understandable, since many families lost their homes. However, even in such a difficult situation we were able to rehabilitate a number of historic build-



ings. The disaster that struck Kraljevo opened citizens' eyes to the importance of heritage conservation as an essential element of collective identity in the period of globalisation. It also led to a kind of collegial solidarity among professionals from our country as well from the region, who together were engaged in activities to protect the cultural heritage.

ICOMOS Serbia

## Niš: Part of the Main Necropolis of the Roman City of Naissus (4th/5th Centuries AD) Discovered and in Danger of Being Destroyed

During construction works for a new factory in the former textile factory "Nitex" that was bought by "Benetton", several early Christian tombs were discovered. During 22 days of rescue excavations carried out by the Cultural Heritage Preservation Institute in Niš, 43 grave units were registered (including 11 vaulted tombs and 14 constructed graves) with more than 55 individual burials.

Excavations also unearthed unique and typical pieces of jewellery and personal belongings of the population buried here, together with sepulchral objects (such as glass unguentaria) characteristic of the late Roman / early Christian periods.

The necropolis of Jagodin-mala in Niš is already known as an early Christian necropolis with more than 60 vaulted tombs (several of these tombs are painted) together with grave basilicas registered during the last 70 years. This necropolis has analogies with the more famous ones in Sopianae (Pécs, Hungary), in Serdica, etc.

During the 22-day rescue campaign only 10% (450 sq m) of the total area could be investigated and only in several separate small areas of the grounds intended for the factory construction (5 000 sq m). The rest of the area has not yet been archaeologically investigated because of the still unknown final outcome of the factory construction and the destiny of the discovered tombs.

The excavated constructed grave units are in real danger of being completely destroyed together with the rest of the unexcavated area.

Toni Čerškov, archaeologist,  
Cultural Heritage Preservation Institute Niš  
Gordana Jeremić, PhD, archaeologist,  
Archaeological Institute Belgrade  
Aleksandar Aleksic, archaeologist,  
Cultural Heritage Preservation Institute Niš



Niš, early Christian vaulted tomb



Niš, inside a vaulted tomb

Golden earrings found in one of the tombs



# SYRIA

## The Impact of the Civil War on the Cultural Heritage

Faced with the escalating violence threatening Syria's cultural heritage, Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, expressed "grave concern about possible damages to precious sites" (see UNESCO Media Services March 30, 2012 and July 26, 2012). A first comprehensive compilation of the disastrous damages was provided by the study *Damage to the Soul: Syria's Cultural Heritage in Conflict* of May 2012 by Emma Cunliffe, prepared for the Global Heritage Fund ([http://ghn.globalheritagefund.com/uploads/documents/document\\_2107.pdf](http://ghn.globalheritagefund.com/uploads/documents/document_2107.pdf)). It used all available sources and gave the following introduction to the situation of the historic sites in Syria which continues to be desperate:

*Syria's cultural heritage is rich and complex, dating back millennia. Home to a succession of empires, Syria claims some of the earliest cities in human history, if not the earliest. Numerous Bronze Age civilisations left their successive marks, including the Babylonians, the Assyrians, and the Hittites, to name but a few. They in turn were replaced by the Greeks, the Sassanians, the Persians, the Romans and the Arabs, many of whom chose Syrian cities as their capitals. The European Crusaders came and*

*left some of the most impressive castles known, and the Ottoman Empire also made its mark. All these cultures co-existed and conflicted, forming something new and special found no-where else in the world.*

*Today Syria has six UNESCO World Heritage Sites, the most recent of which was inscribed only last summer: Damascus, Aleppo, Palmyra, Bosra, the Crac des Chevaliers and Saladin's Castle, and the Ancient Villages of Northern Syria. These sites alone represent at least two thousand years of history. Many more are on the Tentative inscription list for future consideration, and the list of national heritage sites is also impressive. The main authority responsible for the maintenance and preservation of archaeological heritage in Syria is the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (Damascus) and their regional departments. Throughout its existence, the DGAM has played a major role in safeguarding this heritage, but on 15 March 2011, the "Arab Spring" sweeping the Middle East reached Syria, plunging her into on-going civil unrest which affected the land, the people, and the history of the country. As a result, the task of the DGAM has become increasingly difficult as the conflict has widened, and access to many sites has become challenging, if not impossible. (...)*

*The reported damage to the sites takes multiple forms: as well as direct shelling damage from the conflict, some sites are sim-*

The ancient site of Palmyra, concerns about the World Heritage site (photo: Getty Images)





ply suffering collateral damage. Other sites are hit by gunfire, or are damaged by the movements of tanks or bulldozers entrenching positions. In addition to the direct damage, the breakdown in security has led to increased looting, of which numerous reports are beginning to circulate. Some looting is opportunistic: the conflict has left sites unguarded, providing easy access, but other reports suggest some thefts are planned. Further side effects of the conflict include the increase of domestic threats, such as illegal developments onto archaeological sites.

The Blue Shield also expressed its deep concern in a first statement of May 17, 2011 “regarding the safeguarding of the country’s invaluable cultural and historical heritage” and wrote in a second statement of April 17, 2012:

*As the conflict in Syria continues to deteriorate, and following its first statement from May 2011, the Blue Shield reiterates its grave concern regarding the safeguarding of the country’s invaluable cultural and historical heritage, and bemoans the great suffering and loss of life that the situation has engendered.*

*The recent events are great cause for apprehension for the world heritage community. Both the tragedies suffered by the people of the Syrian Arab Republic and the dangers faced by heritage sites and institutions give reason for distress.*

*Syria’s cultural heritage is endangered on several levels. Information on the besieging of the ruins of Palmyra, recognised as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1980, alongside the numerous worrisome reports concerning other important sites and the alleged looting of museums in Daraa, Hama, Homs and Idlib, have rendered obvious the need for a greater commitment to heritage protection by all those involved in this conflict. This also highlights the necessity for more concrete and detailed information regarding the extent of the damages already incurred and the risks faced by the country’s archaeological, architectural and urban heritage.*

*The Blue Shield’s concern for Palmyra also extends to other Syrian World Heritage Sites, monuments, ancient cities, archaeological sites, museums and other important repositories of movable cultural heritage. These sites and institutions conserve and provide insight into the country’s historical and cultural identity, introducing national and international visitors to Syria’s cultural wealth. The destruction and disappearance of artefacts greatly impoverish humankind’s collective memory.*

*The escalation of the conflict situation gives reason for concern and anguish to all those involved in the protection of heritage, rendering evident the precariousness of the situation for collections of cultural institutions and dangers to the integrity of sites and monuments. The protection of cultural heritage is required by international law, in addition to being a shared responsibility. The Blue Shield urges all those concerned to act responsibly, safeguarding the testimony of Syria’s unique history for the enrichment of future generations of its people and of all of humanity.*

*The Syrian Arab Republic was a signatory of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its First Protocol since 1958, and since 1975, of the 1972 World Heritage Convention. Signatories of these conventions acknowledge and commit to the necessity of protecting and preserving their cultural heritage in the case of armed conflict. The Blue Shield calls on all parties associated with the situation in Syria to fulfil their responsibilities in protect-*

*ing the country’s precious cultural heritage sites and institutions.*

*The Blue Shield also calls on the Syrian Arab Republic to abide by its Antiquities Law of 1963, which states that “The establishment of [...] military installations shall be prohibited within half a kilometre of registered non-moveable archaeological and historical property”.*

## ICOMOS Concerned About Aleppo’s Cultural Heritage

*In recent days, and following fighting in Damascus and Aleppo, the conflict in Syria has reached an unprecedented level. On 27 July 2012, the UN Human Rights Chief expressed particular concern about the likelihood of an “imminent major confrontation in Syria’s second largest city Aleppo.”*

*The Ancient City of Aleppo has been inscribed on the World Heritage List of UNESCO since 1986, as it “reflects the rich and diverse cultures of its successive occupants” and is “an outstanding example of an Ayyubid 12th century city with its military fortifications constructed as its focal point following the success of Salah El-Din against the Crusaders.”*

*ICOMOS is extremely concerned about the risks of any heavy conflict that may threaten the World Heritage site of Aleppo and the other precious cultural heritage of the city.*

*By recalling the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, ICOMOS calls upon all parties involved in this conflict to respect and protect the cultural heritage of Aleppo. UNESCO has also appealed for the protection of the World Heritage City of Aleppo.*

*ICOMOS is also concerned about other World Heritage sites, and cultural heritage properties with national and local values in other parts of Syria, including monuments, ancient cities and villages, archaeological sites, scientific excavations, museums and other important repositories of movable cultural heritage. Since the beginning of the conflict in Syria, the Blue Shield has also issued two statements for the protection of the country’s invaluable cultural heritage.*

Paris, 27 July 2012

See also the following statement by ICOMOS Greece of May 14, 2013 on the critical condition of one of the world’s most precious mosques:

## Aleppo’s Umayyad Mosque Extensively Damaged

The Great Mosque of Aleppo (Umayyad Mosque) is the largest and one of the oldest mosques in the walled old city of Aleppo, a UNESCO World Heritage site in Syria. It was built in the 8th century; however the current building has been the result of reconstructions dating to the 11th to 14th centuries. The mosque is purportedly home to the remains of Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist. The minaret of the mosque, of 45 m height, formed until recently the oldest surviving part of the monument dating back to 1090.

The mosque itself has been extensively damaged by fire and armed conflicts during the Syrian civil war. The fighting between rebels and the Syrian regime left the mosque burned, scarred by bullets, trashed and stained with soot. Antique furnishings and

intricately sculpted colonnades have been charred, valuable Islamic relics ransacked and ancient artifacts – including a box purported to contain a strand of the Prophet Muhammad’s hair – looted.

Although the minaret managed to stand tall above the mosque until recently, in April 2013 it was finally brought down by heavy fighting and shelling. Bashar al-Assad’s regime and anti-government activists traded blame for the attack. The damage in Aleppo is just part of the wider devastation caused by the country’s conflict, which began more than two years ago.

The picture of the mosque today comprises of a pile of rubble and twisted metal scattered in the tile courtyard. The fallen structural material of the minaret remains scattered inside the courtyard and exposed to further looting and shelling attempts. However it is of crucial importance that the authentic fallen material remains in situ and is not removed away from the mosque. The separation of the building material from the monument will undoubtedly deprive the possibility of a future potential restoration and it will therefore distinguish one of the key elements of cultural heritage’s protection values, authenticity.

Five of Syria’s six World Heritage sites have been damaged in the fighting, according to UNESCO, the UN’s cultural agency. Looters have broken into one of the world’s best-preserved Crusader castles, Crac des Chevaliers, and ruins in the ancient city of Palmyra have been damaged. Such incidents, whether targeted or not highlight the difficulty and complexity of protecting cultural heritage in times of war. Monuments and sites are almost impossible to be properly protected under the threat of the raging civil war, when rebel and regime forces set up bases in almost every significant site, including the historic ones. And since culture can only really be protected in peace time, it is important to preserve credible and truthful information of the monument (such as its original building material) in order to be able to safeguard its genuine cultural and historical value.

The Association to Protect Syrian Archaeology has also posted a plea to preserve the debris of the minaret.

It says: *Last night the group Protect Syrian Archaeology and one of the architects responsible for the restoration of the mosque in 2006 launched an appeal on Facebook requesting for the preservation of the debris of the fallen minaret and not dispensing with its remains so that they might be hopefully used in the future for reconstructing the minaret. Any help that archaeologists can offer us in this respect and all other matters pertaining to administering first aid to wrecked sites in order to save what can be saved would be most appreciated.*

Dr. Athanasios Nakasis  
President ICOMOS Hellenic  
Dr. Nikolaos Lianos  
Secretary General ICOMOS Greece

## ICOMOS Statement on Crac des Chevaliers and the Continuing Destruction of the Cultural Heritage of Syria, July 19, 2013

*ICOMOS, the International Council on Monuments and Sites, expresses its deep concern for the on-going destruction of cultural heritage in Syria, and stands with Syrian cultural heritage professionals for the protection of heritage places in the country.*



Aleppo, Umayyad Mosque (photo: Reuters)

Aleppo, Umayyad Mosque after its partial destruction (photo: Reuters)



*The continuing conflict situation in Syria, which began in 2011, has led to an extensive humanitarian crisis and the destruction of many invaluable cultural heritage places, including World Heritage properties.*

*New media reports and video footage of the bombardment and damages to Crac des Chevaliers, one of Syria’s World Heritage properties, are of particular concern to ICOMOS.*

*Once again, by recalling the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, to which the Syrian Arab Republic is a State Party, ICOMOS urges all parties to this armed conflict to respect and protect the cultural heritage. ICOMOS calls upon all parties to refrain from any use of cultural properties and their immediate surroundings for purposes which are likely to expose cultural heritage sites to destruction or damage. The parties to this conflict should refrain from any act of hostility, directed against such places. ICOMOS insists on the demilitarization of all cultural heritage of Syria, including monuments and sites with outstanding universal value. ICOMOS further supports the decision of the World Heritage Committee suggesting that the Syrian Arab Republic consider ratifying the Second Protocol (1999) of the 1954 Hague Convention.*

*Crac des Chevaliers and Qal’at Salah El-Din represent the most significant examples illustrating the exchange of influences and documenting the evolution of fortified architecture in the Near East during the time of the Crusades (11th–13th centuries). Crac des Chevaliers, with further construction by the Mamluks in the 13th century, is among the best-preserved examples of the Crusader castles.*



Unfortunately, this is not the first time during the current civil strife that the Syrian people and the international community are witnesses to the damages inflicted on the World Heritage properties of Syria. Many historic parts of the Ancient City of Aleppo, including its ancient markets (*suks*) and the Great Mosque, have suffered extensive damages, already since 2012.

The reports of illegal excavations in different archaeological sites, and reports of apparently planned and intentional destructions of symbolic monuments have also caused serious concerns.

Because of the continuing threats, all six Syrian World Heritage properties were inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger, at the 37th session of the World Heritage Committee, held in Cambodia last June:

- Ancient City of Aleppo;
- Ancient City of Bosra;
- Ancient City of Damascus;
- Ancient Villages of Northern Syria;
- Crac des Chevaliers and Qal'at Salah El-Din;
- Site of Palmyra.

The state of conservation of Syria's cultural heritage during the on-going armed conflict is among the most urgent concerns for ICOMOS. It continues its efforts to support Syrian professionals and experts by delivering knowledge, providing technical consultancy, raising awareness, and building capacity.

ICOMOS, an Advisory Body of the World Heritage Committee and a founder organization of the Blue Shield, expresses its solidarity with Syrian cultural heritage organizations and professionals, and supports their appeal for the protection and recovery of cultural properties during and after the end of the current turmoil.

It places itself at the disposal of UNESCO for all actions undertaken to ensure the preservation of Syria's six World Heritage properties currently listed as in danger.

## Protection of Syria's Cultural Heritage in Times of Armed Conflict: ICOMOS-ICCROM E-Learning Course for Syrian Cultural Heritage Professionals

Press Release of January 9, 2013

ICOMOS, in cooperation with ICCROM and the Directorate-General of Antiquities and Museums of Syria (DGAM), and in coordination with UNESCO, held an e-learning course for Syrian cultural heritage professionals from 7 to 8 January 2013 at the Damascus National Museum. The course was led by the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Risk Preparedness, ICORP.

Since its beginnings in 2011, armed conflict in Syria has reached an unprecedented and dramatic level with huge human loss, hundreds of thousands of refugees, and extensive damage to infrastructure and properties. Cultural heritage in all its forms is continuously suffering from the direct and indirect effects of this on-going conflict. Syria's World Heritage sites together with numerous cultural properties of national and local significance are at serious risk.

The degree and extent of damage necessitates international help, assistance and mobilization for the protection and recovery

of Syria's movable and immovable cultural heritage. ICOMOS is permanently and neutrally monitoring the situation of cultural heritage sites and is in contact with experts from the region. For security reasons, ICOMOS and other international cultural heritage organizations have been unable to undertake assessment and support missions to Syria.

The e-learning course was designed to overcome this obstacle and to improve the ability of Syrian cultural heritage experts to manage and respond to the multi-layered effects of armed conflict on their sites and museum collections, providing essential information about disaster risk management and emergency response, evacuation of collections, assessment of damage, network building, and capacity building for the recovery phase. Timely training towards action and emergency response will increase efficiency now and improve resources later, in the post-conflict phase until peace and stability return to the country.

ICCROM's constructive cooperation and its resource persons played a pivotal role in this initiative. The training materials, which have been developed through ICCROM's international courses on First Aid to Cultural Heritage in Times of Armed Conflict, provided knowledge and built capacity for emergency response.

About 75 DGAM managers, directors, curators, architects and staff, including Syrian cultural heritage researchers and experts of conservation, gathered with Syrian members of ICOMOS, university professors, and a few students from the University of Damascus' Faculty of Architecture at the National Museum of Damascus to follow the lectures and exchange with nine trainers from ICOMOS, ICCROM and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. The trainers made their presentations from their countries of residence: Canada, Spain, UK, France, Italy, Turkey and India.

The Syrian audience welcomed this initiative as a show of professional solidarity from the international heritage community in what is a particularly dramatic situation.

This initiative in a time of conflict may become a benchmark for a "paradigm shift in how we can build capacity and promote awareness for heritage conservation using new information technology", observes Rohit Jigyasu, President of ICORP, who acted as one of the trainers.

Organised entirely through voluntary contributions by its trainers and coordinators, ICOMOS project management and financial support together with facilities and translation provided by the DGAM, the e-learning course is seen as a first phase in a long-term effort. Further seminars on additional subjects or in other Syrian cities are envisaged, in cooperation with ICCROM and partner organisations. Knowledge, experience and advice may be offered in the recovery phase. Information material gathered will feed into a portal for technical information exchange. Some further activities may however depend on additional international support.

In organising the course, ICOMOS and ICCROM call on all parties associated with the situation in Syria to fulfil their obligations under international law in protecting Syria's precious cultural heritage sites and institutions. A call to abide by the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and to respect museums, monuments and historic cities was repeated at the beginning of the course.

Finally, see also the following article from *The New York Times International Weekly* of March 14, 2014:

# Syria's Past Is Being Lost in the War

By ALISSA J. RUBIN

PARIS — For the French archaeologists Pierre Leriche, 73, and Jean-Claude Margueron, nearly 80, who both spent decades uncovering Syria's rich past, it is almost too painful to look at its grim present.

The civil war there has long made work impossible in the ancient cities, houses and temples where they once toiled peacefully to understand long-ago civilizations. Now in Paris, an increasing number of reports are arriving that document the extent of the damage to one of the world's most important historical records, including physical destruction from the fighting, rampant pillaging of archaeological sites, and looting from museums and other collections.

The portrait emerging from scholars, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and experts in Syria is of a country in the process of obliterating its cultural history.

"The situation now is absolutely terrible there," said Mr. Leriche, who worked

## Destruction and theft take a painful toll on ancient history.

for more than 25 years at a site on the Euphrates River. "They come with jackhammers. That means everything is destroyed."

Mr. Margueron worked at another Euphrates site, Mari, which dates back 3,000 years. "Mari was one of the first urban civilizations where man lived," he said in his modest apartment filled with traditional Arab furniture and carpets. "If you pillage Mari, you destroy Mari. These are irremediable losses."

Mr. Leriche and Mr. Margueron are just two of many archaeologists from Belgium, Britain, France, Italy and elsewhere who spent years uncovering Syria's ancient history — the world of the

ancient Greeks, the Romans and the early years of Islam in the Levant. Unesco is now trying to catalog and recover stolen artifacts, working with scholars, collectors and law enforcement authorities in bordering countries.

When the fighting began in 2011 there were at least 78 archaeological teams working in the country, said Samir Abdulac, a Syrian who lives in France and is secretary general of the International Council on Monuments and Sites. He is in touch with archaeologists from around the world who worked in Syria and believes they have an invaluable, if necessarily incomplete, reservoir of information about the destruction of the country's archaeological and artistic heritage.

Three types of destruction are occurring, said Mr. Abdulac and Nada Hassan, the chief of the Arab states unit for Unesco: destruction of archaeological sites by fighting; looting and pillaging at sites; and theft from museums — with the latter the least serious so far, although there are reports of thefts at the Hama museum and several others, often carried out by highly professional thieves who have come to seize specific pieces.

Particularly vulnerable to the fighting have been citadels and castles, which were often built on high points so that soldiers in ancient times could spot the approach of their enemy. Rebels periodically claim sites, such as the famous crusaders' castle, the Krak des Chevaliers. Then the Syrian Army fights to get it back, almost inevitably damaging the ancient walls, roofs and carvings.

When the foreign archaeologists left, the local guards, who often were no longer being paid, left their posts. Local residents then broke into on-site museums and stole the windows and doors, the wood used in the buildings' construction, the electrical wire and even pipes.

The archaeologists said they did not blame the residents. "These are poor people in a crisis; one is worried for them," said Agnès Vokaer, the field director of the Belgian archaeological team at Apamea. "There are no telephones, no electricity, there is no fuel for running agricultural machinery, there is no more food."

Foreign fighters soon arrived, and with them criminals who took a more ruthless approach. By late 2011 or early 2012, they were working with mechanized digging equipment. They set up armed guards while the illegal excavators went to work.

"Objects are not just stones," said Irina Bokova, the head of Unesco. "This is about the identity of the Syrian people, and destroying the identity of people is a big blow to their communities."



ZEIN AL-RIFAI/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE — GETTY IMAGES

Syria's civil war has led to the destruction of archaeological sites and looting of museums. Pierre Leriche, an archaeologist, and a student examine maps of Syrian sites. Above, a rebel fighter in an alley in Aleppo.



LAUREN FLEISHMAN FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Daphné Anglès contributed reporting.



# TUNISIE

## Le Patrimoine architectural soufi en Tunisie: une destruction programmée

Depuis toujours objet de toutes les attentions et regardé avec égard et affection, le patrimoine architectural soufi en Tunisie est aujourd'hui menacé. Ce qui est plus grave c'est qu'il est menacé d'une destruction programmée et qui vient d'être mise en application. Apparue peu de temps après la Révolution du 17 décembre 2010, cette menace n'a fait que se préciser de plus en plus et s'étendre comme un feu de paille. Elle s'en prend aux zaouias (mausolées) abritant les sépultures de personnages vénérés à divers titres. Ces lieux de sépulture qui, à ce titre, devraient être inviolables, se trouvent visés par les adeptes fanatiques d'une interprétation rigoriste de l'Islam qui, de tout temps, a été étrangère au pays et à ses habitants. Il s'agit d'une catégorie de patrimoine qui occupe une place à part dans le vécu quotidien du tunisien. Il représente une partie intégrante de leur identité et ses valeurs spirituelles et patrimoniales sont irremplaçables. Ces monuments sont porteurs de la mémoire collective et témoignent de l'histoire des peuples. C'est ce qui rend toute atteinte à ce patrimoine une dégradation du patrimoine architectural et une blessure portée à l'identité d'une communauté. Les conséquences ne peuvent être que désastreuses tant pour la cohésion sociale que pour la préservation d'une composante importante du patrimoine culturel immobilier du pays. Que seraient, en effet, Kairouan sans le mausolée de Sidi Sahabi, le Compagnon du Prophète, ou Gabès sans celui de Sidi Bou Lbaba, lui aussi Compagnon du Prophète, ou Tunis sans les mausolées de Sidi Mehrez, de Sidi Belhassen et de Saïda Aïcha Manoubia, ou encore Nefta sans le mausolée de Sidi Bou Ali Es-Sounni, ou encore chaque ville et chaque village sans les zaouias de leurs saints patrons ? Que seraient nos agglomérations et nos campagnes sans les milliers de zaouias de quartiers et sans celles, par centaines, qui sont parsemées dans les zones rurales ? Sans doute, sans une partie de leurs âmes et sans des composantes importantes de leurs identités !

Les premières atteintes qui datent du printemps de l'année 2011 ont touché des monuments situés dans de petites agglomérations, comme par exemple ce qu'a connu le village de Hergla au printemps 2011, ou en pleine campagne comme cela est arrivé dans le Cap-Bon au cours de l'été 2012. Par la suite la menace s'est étendue à des monuments emblématiques tels que le mausolée de Saïda Manoubia à la Manouba, près de Tunis et même au mausolée de Sidi Sahabi à Kairouan qu'il a fallu faire protéger par l'armée !

La menace est donc avérée ! Il faut la prendre au sérieux. Le monde a pris connaissance avec inquiétude des destructions et atteintes au patrimoine soufi sous d'autres cieux, notamment en Libye et dans le Nord du Mali. La réponse ne peut être que globale, collective et multiforme. Aux mesures concrètes de renforcement de la protection qui relèvent de la responsabilité des autorités publiques et des administrations concernées et qui

doivent mobiliser et impliquer les communautés locales, il est nécessaire de prendre en considération la racine du mal et l'origine de cette menace, à savoir la pensée wahabite, et d'entreprendre une campagne ciblant tous les publics d'explication et de sensibilisation à la valeur culturelle exceptionnelle de ce patrimoine et à ses fonctions sociales et spirituelles sans équivalent.

ICOMOS Tunisie

Voir aussi le Communiqué de presse de l'ICOMOS du 11 mars 2013:

*Rappelant les résolutions sur le patrimoine religieux adoptées par les 14ème, 15ème, 16ème et 17ème Assemblées Générales de l'ICOMOS, concernant la sauvegarde et la mise en valeur des sites, des édifices et des paysages sacrés ;*

*Faisant suite aux déclarations antérieures sur la destruction programmée de sites du patrimoine sacré en Libye et au Mali;*

*L'ICOMOS condamne les récentes destructions de structures du patrimoine spirituel Soufi en Tunisie et les menaces persistantes qui pèsent sur ce patrimoine dans plusieurs pays de la région.*

*Depuis toujours objet de toutes les attentions et regardé avec égard et affection, le patrimoine architectural soufi en Tunisie est aujourd'hui menacé d'une destruction programmée qui vient d'être mise en application peu de temps après la Révolution de 17 décembre 2010 - 14 janvier 2011. Elle s'en prend aux zaouias, mausolées abritant les sépultures de saints patrons, qui constituent d'importants lieux de pèlerinage pour les communautés. Ces lieux qui, à ce titre, devraient être inviolables, se trouvent visés par les adeptes fanatiques d'une interprétation rigoriste de l'Islam qui, de tout temps, a été étrangère au pays et à ses habitants qui ont vécu dans une grande tolérance envers d'autres religions et pratiques spirituelles.*

*Le patrimoine Soufi occupe une place à part dans le vécu quotidien des communautés tunisiennes et représente une partie intégrante de leur identité et de leur mémoire collective. Toute atteinte à ce patrimoine est une blessure portée à l'identité d'une communauté et une perte de valeurs spirituelles et patrimoniales irremplaçables. Les conséquences ne peuvent être que désastreuses tant pour la cohésion sociale que pour la préservation d'une composante importante du patrimoine culturel immobilier du pays.*

*Les premières atteintes qui datent du printemps de l'année 2011 ont touché des monuments situés dans de petites agglomérations, comme par exemple les mausolées de Sidi Bou Mendel à Hergla, de Sidi Abelkader à Menzel Bouzalfa au Cap-Bon, et celui de Sidi Bou Saïd El Béji à Sidi Bou Saïd près de Carthage. La menace s'est étendue au mausolée de Saïda Manoubia à la Manouba, près de Tunis et même au mausolée de Sidi Sahbi à Kairouan, qui est à présent sous protection militaire.*



*Le monde a pris connaissance avec inquiétude des destructions et atteintes au patrimoine soufi dans d'autres pays d'Afrique, notamment en Libye et dans les régions du Nord du Mali : Tombouctou, Gao et Kidal. De plus, des attaques sur ce type de patrimoine en Syrie ont été récemment annoncées.*

*L'ICOMOS appelle donc à une réponse globale et collective qui comprend à la fois :*

- La coopération des autorités publiques responsables et la mobilisation des communautés locales afin de mettre en œuvre des mesures concrètes de protection du patrimoine Soufi, et*
- La sensibilisation de tous les publics et partis prenantes à la valeur culturelle exceptionnelle de ce patrimoine et à ses fonctions sociale et spirituelle sans équivalent.*

*Paris, le 11.03.2013*

Le mausolée de Sidi Bou Saïd après l'incendie du janvier 2013



# TURKEY

## Dam Constructions: Allianoi and Hasankeyf

As was already announced in *Heritage at Risk 2008–2010* (p. 180) the Roman bath complex of Allianoi has in the meantime been flooded and is now completely covered by a water reservoir of the Yortanlı Dam. Wide-spread public protest at least enabled a delay of the flooding so that archaeologists were able to make extensive excavations and eventually to ensure that the site be protected with sand before the flooding began.

More than ten years of archaeological digs revealed stunning discoveries of architecture, mosaics, sculptures and artefacts, as well as new evidence of Roman lifestyle and healing practices. Then from April until autumn 2010, Turkish authorities sand-filled the site and at the end of 2010 they started filling the reservoir behind the Yortanlı Dam. Allianoi will now remain under 30 metres of water and a build-up of estimated 18 metres of silt at least for the next 50 years.

Europa Nostra points out that Turkish “authorities will have learned that archaeological explorations of a site must be made before locating potentially destructive engineering works” and that “the vigorous Allianoi campaign acted as a rallying factor for Turkey’s heritage community and raised general public awareness of the issues involved” (see <http://www.europanostra.org/allianoi/>).

At Hasankeyf (see also H@R 2008–2010, p. 180 and H@R 2006/07, p. 156 f.), the flooding of the ancient town on the Tigris River and of its archaeological sites has not yet started, but will very likely happen once the Ilisu Dam has been completed (plans are to finish the dam in 2014). The water reservoir will have an approximate size of 313 square kilometres. The dam project does not only threaten the existence of this important ancient town and other sites in this area. It will also lead to an extensive forced relocation of the population in the entire Tigris valley.

John Ziesemer



Filling the archaeological site with sand started in April 2010



Allianoi, sandfill completed

The flooded site of Allianoi in January 2011



# UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

## Endangered Historic Places (2011–2013)

The “11 Most Endangered Historic Places” are compiled annually by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and are meant to illustrate the plight of many other sites throughout the United States. The National Trust is a major partner organization of US/ICOMOS. Here is a selection of sites from the years 2011–2013.

**2011**

### Bear Butte, Meade County, South Dakota

Bear Butte, the 4,426-foot mountain called Mato Paha by the Lakota in the Black Hills of South Dakota, is sacred ground for as many as 17 American Indian tribes. Believed to be the spot

where the creator communicates with his people through vision and prayer, the mountain earned its nickname because of its resemblance to a bear sleeping on its side. For thousands of years, American Indian tribes, including the Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Cheyenne, Arapahoe, Kiowa, Arikara, Hidatsa and Mandan have traveled to Bear Butte to perform annual prayer ceremonies. They, along with visitors from around the world, make annual pilgrimages for spiritual renewal and sustenance to this sacred site, which is part of Bear Butte State Park. It was here, from the expansive summit of Bear Butte, that the Lakota Sioux held their Oyate Kiwsiyaya, the Great Reunion of the People, where Crazy Horse pledged to resist further “white” encroachment into the Black Hills in 1857.

Despite its cultural and religious significance, this National Historic Landmark is threatened by proposed energy development. In November 2010, the South Dakota Board of Minerals and Environment approved a plan to establish a 960-acre oil field adjacent to Bear Butte. Based on tribal opposition and recom-

Bear Butte, Meade County, South Dakota (photo: courtesy of National Trust for Historic Preservation)





mendations made by the National Trust and the South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, the board agreed that no wells would be located within the NHL boundary, and adopted other restrictions to reduce the project's impact. However, in addition to the well proposal, a wind power installation, to be placed roughly five miles away from the mountain, is currently under consideration.

The National Trust recognizes the need for energy development. However, such projects need to include the appropriate siting of energy infrastructure that minimizes physical and visual impacts to significant cultural resources. Because the placement of any oil wells or other energy development near Bear Butte could negatively impact the sacred site and further degrade the cultural landscape, future development proposals should be required to undergo a review process that includes meaningful tribal input and full consideration of impacts to cultural resources. The most effective way to achieve this result would be through strengthened state and local protections.

### Fort Gaines, Dauphin Island, Alabama

A place of spectacular beauty and stirring history, Dauphin Island is home to Fort Gaines, a fortress pivotal to the Civil War Battle of Mobile Bay. On August 5, 1864, Confederate troops holding Fort Gaines rained down cannon fire on Union Admiral David Farragut's fleet. With French fortifications existing on the island as early as 1707, the massive brick fort was completed in 1861

and with slight exception, the fort structure is almost exactly like it was during the Civil War. The fort has original cannons used in battle, a restored blacksmith shop and kitchens used for living history demonstrations, as well as a tunnel system leading to corner bastions with vaulted brick ceilings.

Now Fort Gaines faces an even more formidable adversary: the relentless erosion of its Gulf of Mexico shoreline. Four hundred feet of historic battlefield have already been lost, and the eastern end, where Fort Gaines is located, is eroding at a rate of approximately nine feet per year. This is the result of more frequent and intense storms, climate change-related sea-level rise and dredging of the Mobile Ship Channel. All of this has been compounded by the effects of the Gulf of Mexico Deepwater Horizon oil spill response. Eventually, Fort Gaines could wash away, destroying a vital piece of our nation's historical and architectural heritage, and an important monument to the brave soldiers who fought, sacrificed and died in the American Civil War.

A comprehensive engineering feasibility/design study concluded that shoreline stabilization and beach nourishment will alleviate shoreline erosion and stabilize the island. Such intervention, however, carries significant costs.

### Greater Chaco Landscape, New Mexico

Across a swath of northwestern New Mexico are hundreds of sites that help unlock the mysteries of the Chacoan people, prehistoric farmers who inhabited this area for six centuries start-

Fort Gaines, Dauphin Island, Alabama (photo: courtesy of Dauphin Island Park & Beach Board)





Greater Chaco Landscape, New Mexico  
(photo: courtesy of National Trust for Historic Preservation)

ing in 700 A.D. Today these great innovators are represented by descendant Pueblo and other Native American groups. The architecture and engineering prowess of the Chacoan people suggest a highly developed culture, known for magnificent multi-storied buildings. Using masonry techniques unique for their time, the Chacoan people constructed massive stone buildings – or Great Houses – often containing hundreds of rooms. Although some of the Chacoan sites are now in ruins, many others are remarkably intact. The legacy of the Chacoan people includes thousands of ancient pueblos and shrines, along with an extensive road network that provided a physical and cultural link for people across the region.

Sites within Chaco Canyon itself and some on nearby mesas are protected as part of the Chaco Culture National Historical Park, which is managed by the National Park Service. The international significance of this region, which includes Aztec Ruins National Monument and Salmon Ruins, is exemplified by the designation of the Park as a World Heritage property, which is one of only 20 in the United States. It is the natural and cultural landscape as a whole, and not just individual sites, that make this Chacoan region worthy of protection and yet, most Chacoan sites and roads located on federal lands outside the Park and World Heritage boundaries are at risk from a variety of human activities including, most significantly, energy development. Many of these sites and roads rival those located within the Park. For example, the recently mapped culturally significant Great North Road, which runs dozens of miles towards the New Mexico–Colorado border, remains vulnerable to development and other land-disturbing activities.

## Prentice Women's Hospital, Chicago, Illinois

A concrete, cloverleaf-shaped icon, Prentice Women's Hospital has added drama and interest to the Chicago skyline for nearly four decades. Progressive and cutting edge, the highly engineered and sculpted building was designed by famed Chicago architect Bertrand Goldberg. The late architect, best known for the design of Chicago's Marina City, argued that imaginative and bold hospital planning could lead to a higher standard of patient care. Prentice Women's Hospital is his tour de force. Believing



Prentice Women's Hospital, Chicago, Illinois  
(photo: courtesy of Landmarks Illinois)

that the modernist boxes typical of the 1970s were dehumanizing and insensitive to their surroundings, Goldberg designed an open-floor plan that created four circular villages of care on each floor, facilitating interaction between patients and staff while improving patient experience.

Originally constructed to house the Chicago Maternity Hospital and the Northwestern Institute of Psychiatry, Prentice Women's Hospital's modern design brought the building national and international acclaim when it opened in 1974.

When Prentice Women's Hospital relocated to a new facility in 2007, the tower portion of the building was left vacant, and the tenant who occupies the building's base will leave this September. The building's owner, Northwestern University, has announced plans to raze the hospital in late 2011 in favor of a new research facility. The Commission on Chicago Landmarks placed the hospital on its June 2nd meeting agenda, but at the request of Northwestern University, the commission deferred consideration of Prentice Women's Hospital until its July hearing. Northwestern University has agreed not to apply for a demolition permit during this deferral period. Like many of Goldberg's architectural wonders in Chicago, the hospital still has no formal protection from demolition.

## 2012

### Historic Post Office Buildings

In 2011, the U.S. Postal Service identified nearly 4,400 post offices – large and small – that it plans to study for closure. Unfortunately, city officials and local preservationists who identified new buyers or uses for endangered post offices often find themselves frustrated by a lack of information and guidance from the U.S. Postal Service. In Geneva, developers interested in purchasing and rehabbing the downtown post office gave up because they could not get timely or clear answers from officials.

Although the U.S. Postal Service has announced that it will seek to cut costs through reduced hours of operation rather than closures, many post offices are currently shuttered and many more face uncertain futures. The U.S. Postal Service needs to





Historic Post Office Building in La Jolla  
(photo: courtesy of National Trust for Historic Preservation)

define and implement a clear process that will protect the historic buildings in its inventory.

Local post office buildings have traditionally played an essential role in the lives of millions of Americans. Many are architecturally distinctive, prominently located, and cherished as civic icons in communities across the country. Unless the U.S. Postal Service establishes a clear, consistent process that follows federal preservation law when considering disposal of these buildings, a significant part of the nation's architectural heritage will be at risk.

### Joe Frazier's Gym, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Inside this modest, three-story brick building, Joe Frazier – a gold medal winner at the 1964 Olympics and later Heavyweight Champion of the World – trained for his victorious bout against

Joe Frazier's Gym, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (photo: Ben Leech)



Muhammad Ali. Today, the converted warehouse where Smokin' Joe perfected his punch is home to a discount furniture store and two floors of vacant space. Despite growing interest in commemorating Frazier's life (he died in 2011), the gym is unprotected; it enjoys no formal historic designation at the local or national level.

Winning historic designation at the local level for the building Frazier owned and operated will demonstrate the power of communities to protect the places that tell their diverse stories. Similarly, inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places will promote the value of diversity within this roster of our country's most important historic resources.

### Princeton Battlefield, Princeton, New Jersey

On these New Jersey fields, George Washington rallied his forces to defeat British troops, a crucial turning point in the Revolutionary War. A portion of the battle site, however, faces significant threats, including a 15-unit housing development for faculty of the Institute for Advanced Study. As proposed, the project would radically alter the integrity of a rare, intact battlefield.

Waged 235 years ago, the battle at Princeton transformed prospects for the American Revolution. Not only did Washington's success inspire countless soldiers to renew their commissions, it reinvigorated support for the sometimes desperate Colonial effort. The story of our country's fight for independence is incomplete without a fully preserved Princeton Battlefield (see inside back cover).



The Village of Zoar, Ohio (photo: Andy Donaldson)

### The Village of Zoar, Ohio

The historic Village of Zoar, home to nearly 200 residents, is protected from flooding by a levee built in the 1930s. Record floods in 2005, however, raised concern about the levee's integrity. Now, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has started a three-year study to assess the levee's future. One of many alternatives under consideration is removing it entirely, which could require the relocation or demolition of 80% of this remarkable historic village.

The Village of Zoar was founded in 1817 by a group of separatists who fled Germany in search of religious freedom. Not only does Zoar help to tell the story of immigration to the United

States, it illustrates the history of settlement throughout this region. As part of a multi-year study of alternatives for solving the Zoar levee problem, the Army Corps is following a review process that requires federal agencies to consider the effects of their activities on historic properties. Through the process, the Army Corps should seek alternatives that will protect Zoar.

2013

## Astrodome in Houston, Texas

As the world's first domed, indoor, air-conditioned stadium, the 18-story multi-purpose Houston Astrodome was deemed the "Eighth Wonder of the World" when it opened in 1965. It is a



The Astrodome in Houston, Texas (photo: Ed Schipul)

marvel of modern engineering, and was designed to embody Houston's innovative, entrepreneurial and space-age development as a major U.S. city. The Astrodome was home to Major League Baseball's Houston Astros and the National Football League's Houston Oilers for many years, and also played host to numerous other notable events, from the "Battle of the Sexes" tennis match between Billie Jean King and Bobby Riggs in 1973, to the Republican National Convention in 1992. Without a viable reuse plan, the Astrodome will likely succumb to calls for demolition.

## Mountain View Black Officer's Club, Fort Huachuca, Arizona

Mountain View Black Officers' Club was built in 1942 and remains one of the most significant examples of a World War II-era military service club in the United States built specifically for African-American officers. The military, in response to "separate but equal" laws of the early 20th century, began a large-scale effort at Fort Huachuca army base to build barracks, hospitals, maintenance structures, offices, warehouses and recreational facilities, all of which were segregated and in many cases built in duplicate. During its operation the Mountain View Black Officers' club hosted top performers and dignitaries such as Lena Horne, Dinah Shore and Joe Louis. Today, The Mountain View Black Officer's Club faces demolition by the U.S. Army, which has threatened to place it on an active disposal list.



Mountain View Black Officer's Club, Fort Huachuca, Arizona (photo: courtesy of Ft. Huachuca Archives)

## Village of Mariemont, Mariemont, Ohio

One of America's most picturesque communities, the Village of Mariemont is a National Historic Landmark designed between 1921 and 1925 by renowned landscape architect and community planner John Nolen. Considered one of America's most important examples of town planning, it was named a "Top 10 Great Neighborhood in America" by the American Planning Association in 2008, and its elegant layout continues to inspire planners and designers to this day.



The village of Mariemont, Mariemont, Ohio (photo: Steve Spooner)

Now, the Ohio Department of Transportation is proposing a major transportation project that would significantly impact the Village, including a possible elevated highway through its southern border. In addition to disrupting Mariemont's design, the proposed transportation project would also impact other natural and cultural resources, including the nationally designated Wild and



Scenic Little Miami River valley, a freshwater aquifer, and Native American archaeological sites.

### **Worldport Terminal at JFK Airport, New York**

Opened in 1960, Worldport Terminal at JFK Airport, known for its flying-saucer shape, symbolizes America's entry into the Jet Age and has been featured in several Hollywood films. The first commercial flights of the Boeing 707, the first "modern" jetliner,

departed from the Terminal. In May 2013, Delta Airlines ceased operations from the Worldport Terminal, since renamed Terminal Three, and current plans of the Port Authority of New York/New Jersey call for the demolition of the iconic structure.

Alternatives to demolishing the Worldport include demolishing the south concourse instead and using Worldport as a connecting facility between Terminals Two and Four, as a dedicated or premier terminal or as an independent building open to the public containing a museum, restaurants, shops, aircraft observation space, airport employee daycare or other purposes.



Worldport Terminal at JFK Airport, New York  
(photo: Jon Proctor)

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MARK HERE I BEGAN  
MY LONG AND HONORABLE  
SERVICE AS A MEMBER  
OF THE 1ST REGIMENT  
OF THE 116TH INFANTRY  
IN THE BATTLE OF PRINCETON  
JANUARY 3rd 1777  
I WAS WOUNDED IN THE  
THIGH AND FELL  
IN THE MIDDLE OF THE  
DAY WITH EYES AGLOW  
ON THE BRITISH  
SIDE BY SIDE  
ALFRED NOYES  
1840-1970



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# HERITAGE AT RISK

## WORLD REPORT 2011-2013 ON MONUMENTS AND SITES IN DANGER

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ICOMOS is dedicated to the development of common doctrines, the evolution and circulation of knowledge, the creation of improved conservation techniques, and the promotion of cultural heritage significance. As an official advisory body to the World Heritage Committee for the implementation of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, ICOMOS evaluates nominations and advises on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. ICOMOS has built a solid philosophical, doctrinal and managerial framework for the sustainable conservation of heritage around the world.

The ICOMOS Heritage at Risk Reports, first published in 2000, are part of this framework. From a strictly preservation-based approach this publication series offers world-wide information about the dangers that are threatening our cultural heritage, in order to provide help in the case of risks and to promote practical measures to avert or at least allay these risks. The Heritage at Risk Reports are also addressed to the world public as an urgent appeal to commit itself to saving our heritage. Available also on the Internet, the reports furthermore serve as data base for the recently established ICOMOS Global Monitoring Network.