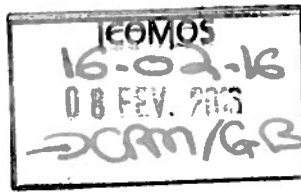


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AMTSFÜHRENDE STADTRÄTIN FÜR  
STADTENTWICKLUNG, VERKEHR, KLIMASCHUTZ,  
ENERGIEPLANUNG UND  
BÜRGERINNENBETEILIGUNG  
VON WIEN

ICOMOS  
11 rue du Séminaire de Conflans  
94220 Charenton-le-Pont - France

Vienna, 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Dear Secretary General Kovanen,  
Dear President Lipp,

Thank you for your letter to Mayor Michael Häupl, which was relayed to us for reply, as well as for your interest in the conservation of the Jugendstil ensemble of the Otto Wagner Hospital area.

The Otto Wagner Hospital area belongs to all citizens of Vienna. We want to preserve this area, revitalise it and ensure that it will remain open to all in the future. In this goal, we aim to embrace and continue the social concerns of Otto Wagner.

The Otto Wagner Hospital area with its Jugendstil ensemble architecture is one of Vienna's most important cultural treasures. The City of Vienna is deeply committed to conserving the Otto Wagner Hospital site in its entirety by complying with all obligations of monument protection and cultural asset preservation while also revitalising the area.

The area was placed under triple protection.

1. The historic built stock is covered by monument protection.
2. The historic ensemble including the green zones is protected by being classified as a protection zone under the Building Code for Vienna.
3. A new land use and development plan affords additional protection for this cultural gem.

This means that no buildings can be erected between the pavilions. As a consequence, all green zones of the core area and in the western part of the site will remain untouched. By the same token, the green zones between the core area and the former "economic area" ("Wirtschaftsareal") to the east will be preserved and reclassified from "land for building purposes" to "parkland". Likewise, the central visual axis from Pathology to Church will remain uncluttered. Any building development is hence excluded.

With respect to the future use of the site, the City of Vienna takes its cue from the requests voiced by citizens and experts to provide a mix of facilities serving scientific, educational, social, artistic, cultural and healthcare purposes as well as providing housing, recreation and sports facilities. A corresponding utilisation concept will be submitted by Wiener Standortentwicklung GmbH (WSE) by the end of 2016. In this, WSE bases its work on the expertise provided by internationally renowned planning and culture experts.

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The former "economic area" with its industrial structures is to be integrated into the overall ensemble and upgraded. 140 – not 440 – new rental flats with a clear focus on affordable housing and assisted or potentially assisted living as well as 60 to 80 – not 100 – housing units in the buildings situated in the "economic area" will inject new life into the eastern part of the site. Of course, the historic structures in the former "economic area" are covered by monument protection as well.

The recreation area north of the Otto Wagner Hospital including the Jugendstil Church of St Leopold planned by Otto Wagner was decreed a landscape conservation area. This zone is also part of the Vienna Woods Biosphere Reserve recognised by UNESCO in 2005. In this area, (architectural) interventions are subject to particularly stringent restrictions.

In connection with the question of the UNESCO World Heritage status raised by you, the following should be noted:

On the basis of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention and the Operational Guidelines of UNESCO, the World Heritage status principally confers protection of a conceptual nature by the international community. In keeping with its respective legal system, every State Party must then make sure that the necessary legal measures are taken to protect an area nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List. As already mentioned, it may be assumed that the protective mechanisms described above are sufficient to ensure the comprehensive protection of the cultural property that is the Otto Wagner Hospital site. It should thus be noted that – irrespective of the question of whether or not the Otto Wagner Hospital harbours the potential to become a World Heritage property – protection of the site is required at this specific moment in time and, in the opinion of the City of Vienna, is also provided to an adequate degree.

We offer interested citizens and organisations the possibility of submitting feedback to the project managers, thereby becoming part of the development process. A special contact office was set up on-site for this purpose.

Yours sincerely,

