

# NATIONAL REPORTS



## ALGERIA

### Mausoleum of Medracen in Danger

Medracen, a vast mausoleum in the shape of a tumulus possibly dating to the third century BC, is one of the most important sites of the Maghreb. Recently, it became victim of major “repair work” without respect for the value of this monument and its authenticity. Despite protests from ICOMOS Algeria it has not been possible to stop these drastic and harmful interventions. Since the authorities in charge of these measures continued their work regardless of the concerns of national and international professionals, ICOMOS, at the request of ICOMOS Algeria, presented this critical case of the mausoleum proposed for the World Heritage List to the World Heritage Centre. The photographic documentation by ICOMOS Algeria shows the interventions with heavy equipment. Apparently, so far there is no careful planning and documentation.

The Mausoleum of Medracen in the process of inadequate repair work  
(Photos: Yassine Ouagueni)





## ARGENTINA

All members of ICOMOS Argentina were invited to submit short papers on specific situations of heritage at risk. This report summarises those individual contributions. Risk is mainly caused by development pressures and the lack of proper planning controls, especially with reference to urban heritage, but also individual monuments and cultural landscapes are currently at risk since they are not properly protected or adequately maintained and conserved.

### Development pressures in cities

Some risk situations identified in the country are related to the lack of proper planning controls and normative structures to protect the setting of urban monuments or heritage buildings. Even if individual buildings are protected, changes in the surrounding urban tissue diminish the historic or architectural values of the heritage components. As examples of this situation, the cities of Cordoba and Ushuaia can be mentioned.

The city of Cordoba, located in central Argentina, contains some of the finest monuments from the Spanish period, especially the Jesuit Block, inscribed on the World Heritage List. The extension of the city during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries produced new urban areas, characterised by the presence of boulevards and green spaces or neighbourhoods with specific identities. Some risk situations were reported (Photo 1).

The neighbourhood “Nueva Cordoba”, projected in 1886, was the first extension of the colonial city. Plaza España is a circular green space that serves as an entrance to the city park. The plaza was conceived as the core of the neighbourhood and constitutes presently one of the most harmonious urban spaces of the city. Over the 20th century important residential buildings were constructed surrounding the plaza, including historicist and modernist expressions. The resulting townscape is characterised by the coexistence of diverse architectural trends. The importance of this urban architectural ensemble is not in question but the setting of the plaza is currently the subject of strong development pressures. Proper planning would be needed to avoid disrupting the scale through the construction of high-rise buildings and the harmony of the plaza’s surroundings.

One specific case close to Plaza España is the Ferreyra Palace (1911-1916), internationally recognized as one of the best examples of neo-Louis XVI architecture. The surrounding garden enhances the architectural values of the different façades through the introduction of different species of trees and by its organic layouts. The building was expropriated in June 2005 with the purpose of installing a Museum of Fine Arts. Interventions included work to part of the gardens and aimed at “clearing” the view of the building. The complex of bedrooms on the first floor was completely changed to create three large spaces. To the façade facing Plaza España a glass volume and a stairway were added. Interventions are completely inadequate to assure the proper conservation of the monument’s values, its authenticity and integrity.

Urban areas next to the historic centre of Cordoba are known as “neighbourhood villages” and were laid out at the end of the 19th century. Related to the expansion of the railway system, the settlement of industries and the arrival of immigrants, these areas include specific features related to their community life. Testimonies of this particular way of life are, among other herita-



Cordoba, construction of new buildings next to the World Heritage site of the Jesuit Block of Cordoba City (Photo A. Conti)

components, large one-family houses, social and sports facilities, schools and libraries, commercial buildings, railway workshops, hospitals, bars and cafeterias. Since 2002, an important real estate expansion has developed in the city. As expansion of the historic centre is limited the neighbourhoods next to downtown have become the target for renovation. Buildings bearing historic or architectural values are being demolished in order to erect new high-rise buildings and private condominiums. Between 2005 and 2006 more than 100 new buildings were permitted in the General Paz Quarter, an area consisting of some 40 urban blocks. The urban identity is thus modified in terms of height; many inhabitants have decided to move to other areas since they feel that they are “invaded” by the new urban structure. The traditional social tissue is consequently weakened as well.

Ushuaia, located on the shore of the Beagle Channel in the province of Tierra del Fuego, is considered to be the most southern city in the world. It was founded in 1884 and started a process of development from 1902 onwards, when a high-security prison was established. From the 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards, the area was constantly visited by numerous scientific expeditions, especially due to its proximity to the Antarctic continent. The city’s cultural heritage is linked to a tradition related to scientists, fishermen, tradesmen and missionaries. The city’s historic centre is characterised by the presence of wooden and corrugated iron buildings.

By the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, policies for economic development were based on attracting industry. These policies, along with the rapid development of tourism, led to a significant population increase and associated building construction. Since 2001, new large hotels have been constructed. Their location in the historic area of the town involved the loss of older buildings. A logical equilibrium between the size of new buildings and landscaped areas in accordance with a small city located in a narrow piece of land between the mountains and the sea has not been taken into account. New high-rise buildings are not only constructed by demolishing historic buildings, they also produce a change of scale in the city’s downtown (Photo 2). Ironically, this development is destroying the building stock which is the main tourism resource of the city.

In the city of Posadas, located in northern Argentina by the Paraná River, the possibility of increasing the level of water in relation to the Yaciretá barrage, could affect not only urban areas but

also heritage buildings; among the buildings threatened is the railway station, a building of prominent historic and architectural interest. The Regional Vice-Presidency of ICOMOS and the University of Santa Fe sent a letter to the President of the Republic, explaining the risks and proposing solutions to the situation.



Ushuaia, high-rise buildings in the city's historic centre (Photo L. Lupiano)

## Monuments and sites at risk

The lack of proper protection or conservation policies is also affecting individual buildings and archaeological sites. The church of Alta Gracia (province of Cordoba) is included in the Jesuit's *Estancias* World Heritage Site. Partial interventions altered the visual character of the building and deterioration caused by an increase in natural decay. No major conservation work has been undertaken over the last 30 years and the deterioration process has increased over the last five years; the building needs an integral plan for restoration rather than a piecemeal approach.

The Jesuit mission "Santos Mártires del Japón", in the province of Misiones, presents quite an interesting state of integrity due to the fact that no modern village was constructed in the surroundings and that it is relatively isolated from other urban places. However, a provincial route passes through the mission's plaza, threatening

the ensemble of the remains. Agreements between technical staff and provincial authorities could assure the construction of a by-pass so that the route would avoid the archaeological site. In any case, the site is not properly protected.

## Cultural landscapes at risk

In the northern area of the province of Cordoba, important testimonies to the process of occupation have been preserved, including cultural landscapes, the royal route system and some *postas* or relays in the route that provided facilities for travellers and storage space. Just a few *postas* have been preserved; some have been demolished or completely altered. The natural landscape that constituted the setting of these buildings is also at risk. The extension of agriculture has replaced the original forests and has altered the original landscape.

Colonia Caroya is located 50 km north of Cordoba City. Immigrants coming from northern Italy settled here from 1878 onwards, producing a typical cultural landscape featuring specific patterns of divisions of the land, tree plantations, irrigation ditches, architectural and less tangible components. The formation of an urban settlement at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century generated a crisis in the structure and image of the territory. The lack of specific protection policies poses further risks to this rich heritage site.

Plaza de Mayo constitutes not only the foundational plaza of the City of Buenos Aires, but one of the most significant open spaces in the country. Some of the main historic civic meetings have taken place in this plaza. A current project undertaken by the Government of the City of Buenos Aires plans to completely change the present state of the plaza and to convert it into a paved space with only some trees preserved. The project proposes to interpret the different configurations of the space over time by means of a floor lighting system. The project has been objected to by several professional and civic organisations that stress the risk of altering the country's most important open space.

This report was written on the basis of contributions by the following members of ICOMOS Argentina: Mirta Alá Rué, Sonia Berjman, Leonardo Lupiano, Melina Malandrino, María Rebeca Medina, Hugo Peschiutta, Ana María Rodríguez, María Clara Supisiche and María Teresa Sassi. Alfredo Conti summarised and translated individual papers.



## ARMENIA

### Castle Amberd

Castle Amberd is one of the famous and valuable architectural complexes of Armenia. Once it was a powerful castle, one of the nine defending castles of Ani. It is situated near the village of Burakan in the Aragatsotn region, on the slope of Mount Aragats. Castle Amberd was built on a promontory formed by rivers, with three sides surrounded by impregnable canyons leaving only the north side accessible.

### Its History

The great architect Toros Toramanian supposed that in pre-Christian times this place was chosen as a fortress because of the natural strength of the site. This is proved by some partially preserved pre-Christian battlements in the south-west. Tokarsky, one of the scientists who have explored the ruins of Amberd, supposes that the present castle was built in the 7<sup>th</sup> century and that it became the property of the Bagratunies in the 9<sup>th</sup> century when it was reconstructed and enlarged in the north. According to historians, the Bagratunies later bequeathed the castle to Vahram Pahlavuny, to whom the prosperous period of the castle was ascribed.

### Description of the castle

The castle battlements were built with huge basaltic stones and

mortar and reinforced with thick brick towers which spring from the promontory on three sides. This position of the castle on the Aragats slope not only made it impregnable, but also offered an opportunity to overlook the entire Ararat valley. The castle with its structures appears like a small town with numerous buildings of different functions (sacred, residential etc). The princely palace is situated in the castle citadel. The northern battlements of the castle were reinforced in the Middle Ages and the second battlement was added, with forcing towers of up to 12 meters. At the end of the promontory is the domed Chamer-like church with fan-shaped spire built by Vahram Pahlavuny in 1026.

Within the three-storey palace situated in the north of the promontory the palace reservoir and some other rooms have been preserved. Two similar but bigger reservoirs are within the castle walls, one of which was built for animals. A bit further to the north, not far from the Palace, is also situated the castle's well-preserved bath-house with stove and two domed small rooms built in the Middle Ages. Immediately next to the bath-house is the chapel, now in ruins.

The castle has two guarded entrances from the sides of the Arkhashan and the Amberdadzor rivers which adjoin to the battlements. Inside the battlements a number of residential buildings and outbuildings can be found.

Archaeological and research work at the castle site was carried out in 1922, 1935 and 1964. Some restoration work was done in the 1970s, mainly at the church. In 2004 restoration and stabilisation work began on structure of the castle.

Although much has been done with regard to stabilization and research, the castle, especially the palace and the citadel, is nonetheless still classified as an endangered monument.



View of the citadel (Photo: Edward Grigorian)

## The technical state of the citadel and the palace

The stone walls have been constructed directly on natural shale rock foundations. The walls are built of huge solid basaltic stones with mortar filling. There are numerous cracks in the walls, which are the result either of earthquakes or of the deterioration of the foundation stones. The rock surfaces have been wind-beaten because of the climate. The temperature varies between 35° C in summer and minus 35° C in winter. Due to the destruction of the foundations, the north-east tower has collapsed and fallen into the nearest canyon. The wall originally adjoining this tower is now in danger of falling into the canyon as well. The crack between the wall and the next tower is growing wider and wider, threatening the already damaged wall.

Recent research has proved that the damage to the northern and southern walls have occurred in the last 50 to 60 years. This is shown by old photos, where we can very distinctly see that there

were no cracks then. The main difficulty and problem are that the walls of the citadel and the palace have lost the constructive bond. The walls of 12 to 13 metres height, which have stood for several centuries, have lost their stability, and the process of intensive destruction has begun, endangering the existence of the monument.

The research and stabilisation process of Amberd Castle is being prevented by the circumstance that the middle battlement with all its areas of destruction is between the palace and the northern battlement. To clear and reinforce the inner part of the ruins is full of risk, as for hundreds of years the battlements have leaned upon the ruins. The clearing of the ruin might worsen the already unstable situation.

As a result, the existence of this monument of unique historical-cultural value is endangered. An urgent and immediate intervention will be necessary to stabilise and preserve Amberd Castle.

Mary Danielian  
Edward Grigorian



View from the citadel towards the church (Photo: Edward Grigorian)



# AUSTRALIA

## Introduction

For this issue of the ICOMOS International Heritage at Risk report, Australia ICOMOS has chosen to report on two major processes of review and inquiry, which have provided an important snapshot of the areas of risk to Australia's cultural heritage and the adequacy of the legal and policy frameworks in operation to conserve Australia's heritage.

These processes are:

1. The five-yearly *Australian State of the Environment Report*, completed at the end of 2006, which considered the state, pressures and adequacy of conservation responses for Australia's natural and cultural heritage (as well as the links between human settlements and heritage places, and biodiversity in relation to natural heritage and landscapes).
2. The completion in 2006 of a substantial Inquiry into the 'Conservation of Australia's Historic Heritage' by the Australian Productivity Commission.

## Trends affecting Australia's Heritage at Risk

In Australia, there is a statutory requirement for a State of the Environment Report to be prepared by an Independent Committee every five years. There have been three reports, the most recent of these was tabled in the Parliament in December 2006.

The 2006 State of the Environment Report provides an ongoing commentary about a range of risks to natural and cultural heritage places and objects, including environmental decline due to over-clearing in some ecosystems, large-scale bushfires and the long drought, shifts in land use, social change, and lack of understanding, skills and resources. To these can be added the increasing pressures from tourism, urbanisation, industrial/commercial development, and the legislative framework which often inhibits effective management of places at an appropriate whole-of-landscape scale.

Some of the important trends identified for Australia's cultural heritage places and objects include:

- The Condition of Historic Heritage Places remains generally static since the previous report, without improvement [see Box 1].
- Pressures impacting on the integrity and condition of heritage places and surrounding landscapes are experienced in regional growth centres and coastal areas through urban expansion, consolidation and redevelopment; rural population decline can be expected to continue to result in abandoned and deteriorated heritage places.
- The Condition of Indigenous Heritage Places has begun to improve as a result of increased involvement of Indigenous people in site management but there are huge variations in resources, intergenerational involvement and skills available. There is increased recognition by developers and governments that Indigenous people must be consulted about issues affecting their lands, heritage and connection to country.
- The Condition of Heritage Objects and Collections generally relates to storage arrangements, which are inadequate in many

small museums and not environmentally controlled in places with climate extremes; conservation treatment of collections remains a high priority.

- Stronger recognition of Intangible Cultural Heritage in heritage activity has continued, including language, oral tradition, crafts, skills and performing arts. There is continuing interest by Australians in Indigenous art forms, music and oral narratives as intangible heritage and as part of national identity.
- However, the 2006 State of the Environment Report noted the continuing loss of Indigenous languages in Australia, with 110 of the 135 languages considered to be critically endangered and only 18 are considered by linguists to be 'strong'.
- Understanding of Indigenous cultural heritage, especially intangible heritage associated with stories and practices, is increasingly at risk through the lack of transmission of traditional knowledge by Elders to younger generations, and also lack of knowledge about Indigenous heritage in the wider community.
- Political support for heritage is widely perceived to have declined. Despite the enactment of the long awaited reformed national heritage system, stakeholders believe that heritage is 'off the political agenda' and replaced by broader environmental issues like water supply, salinity and re-vegetation in these times of continuing variable climate. In turn, these are highlighted in the national research priorities.
- Changing concepts of heritage were noted.
  - The Natural Heritage Trust dominates the government funding agenda and this has created a discourse in which the word 'heritage' is increasingly linked to nature.
  - There has been an increase in recognition and research about non-Anglo histories and places as our multicultural post-war generation retires and records their memoirs of arrival and living in Australia and as we recognise the wartime issues of alien internment and 60<sup>th</sup> anniversaries associated with the end of World War II.
- Cultural landscapes are well recognised at the conceptual level, as a tool for integrating and managing all heritage interests in a place, but operational definitions and practical conservation approaches have been slow to develop and there has been very little actual on-ground management. The integrity of heritage landscapes is threatened in the face of transforming developments such as wind farms. [see Illustration 1]
- Professional training programs continue to occur in academic 'silos', based on separate heritage disciplines. Lack of history teaching in school environmental studies/social studies curricula remains an issue discussed nationally, including through the National History Summit convened by the Australian Government during 2006.
- Private residential heritage buildings, listed on heritage registers, have generally been maintained because of private owner preference, their niche real estate value and the period restoration businesses that serve their renovation and maintenance.
- Former government-owned heritage properties have lost heritage values and integrity where they have been redeveloped for new uses, particularly in urban redevelopments such as inner-city post offices.
- Public funding for historic built heritage conservation has declined.



The need for sustainable energy sources in Australia has resulted in the rapid installation of wind farms in parts of the continent. Community debate about these developments has included support for renewable energy sources as well as the need to assess the cultural and natural landscape values of areas suitable for wind-power generation. New assessment and siting guidelines are being developed to respond to community concern to improve the consideration of cultural landscape impacts, although many wind farm developments have already been approved or established.

The risks to Australia's natural and cultural heritage arising from natural hazards have been well recognised. For example, large areas of the continent have been affected by severe wild fire events over the past five years, including two very severe fires in the alpine region of the south-eastern States during 2003 (when over 1 million hectares were burned) and over the summer of 2005-6 [see Illustration 2]. In most cases these bushfires are naturally occurring. There is evidence that prolonged burning will change the distribution of certain forest types such as alpine ash and may lead to loss of that natural heritage type (Gill et al., 2004) while re-invigoration of Indigenous mosaic burning regimes in arid lands has been seen as positive by Indigenous communities and ecologists.

Because cultural heritage impacts are generally poorly recognised in the bushfire response of land management agencies, Australia ICOMOS developed a guideline document to assist the decision making, particularly in the immediate aftermath of the crisis, when many heritage features are further damaged or destroyed through

'clean up' activities [see [www.icomos.org/australia](http://www.icomos.org/australia)]. The recent experiences with these large fires have also provided opportunities for new surveys of Indigenous and historic heritage assets in the affected regions, and to develop new risk-preparedness measures.

The current drought and pressure on water resources has substantially raised community awareness and concern about climate change, although it is well established that Australia has an extremely variable climate. Nevertheless, the enhanced political presence of climate change issues is to be welcomed. Climate change is now gradually becoming a part of the processes of risk assessment and response, with projected changes in land use, and increased occurrence of extreme events (for example, greater occurrence of drought and bushfires in the south, and more frequent cyclones in the north), as well as sea level rises. However, because of the variety of environmental systems across the continent, detailed modelling and identification of risks are occurring. So far, this work has not picked up the cultural heritage impacts and issues in a comprehensive and detailed way.



The Mount Stromlo Observatory, near Canberra in the Australian Capital Territory was severely damaged by the 2003 south-eastern Australian fires, resulting in the loss of important historic buildings, scientific equipment and documents. The Observatory was built in 1911 to fill a solar recording gap in the western Pacific, and is historically significant for its role in scientific research in astronomy and astrophysics in Australia since Federation.



**BOX 1:** The Condition of Australia's Historic Heritage

This table reports the trends emerging from two sample surveys of historic sites on the national Register of the National Estate undertaken in 2000 and again in 2004. The results of this condition survey suggests only small changes in condition overall, and that certain kinds of historic buildings continue to be particularly vulnerable.

	2000	2004
Commercial premises in urban centres and regional towns	Good condition; but exteriors have high integrity; Interiors: low	Same trend: historical associations and functional significance much diminished
Prominent buildings in rural towns		Adapted by retail chains, especially clothing
Prominent buildings in cities and regional towns	converting to 'modern' retail standards	Increasing number subject to facadism:
Vacant places	42% of those surveyed	Same %
Places subject to conservation works		Increasing deterioration due to no maintenance
Affluent regional centres, including coastal towns		Increasing land values threatening heritage integrity
Former government buildings	Many empty destroyed individual heritage integrity	Streetscape value maintained but modifications
Heritage listed places as a class fare better	Need for more systematic survey consider heritage	Obligations placed on planning approvals to
Heritage listing of places has not been systematic	Minimal protection at the local government level	Listings but many councils are overtly pro-development
Redundant rural buildings of heritage value	Noted as problem known	True scale and extent of this problem still not
Government buildings remain at risk station and Rockhampton Post Office	Echuca railway engine shed, Burra railway Hospital, Townsville Customs House, State Government Printing Office in Perth	Customs House Williamstown, Ararat Mental
Churches: highest integrity and best class of heritage place	Conservation problems developing, such as water penetration redundancy	Trend of ageing church fabric and inadequate maintenance funds continued; increasing
Subdivision of church land		Continuing trend impairing curtilage values
Masonry of heritage buildings degrades integrity	Painting: to detriment of heritage values and	Trend continues
Provision of interpretative information		Ranges from zero to good: Qld Heritage Trails
Interpretative material installed as part of conservation works	Deterioration observed in signage	Continuing trend: town streetscape panels and historic route panels are 'tatty and tired'

Source: Australian State of the Environment Report 2006 (Beeton et al, 2006). Data Reporting System Table NCH-06, based on Pearson and Marshall (2004, pp.17–19)

## Areas of Inadequate Policy Responses

Risks to Australia's cultural heritage are in part an outcome of ineffective response measures, in particular the inadequate provision of resources available to the owners and managers of important cultural heritage places.

It is therefore important to evaluate the policy settings established by the three levels of Government – the national/Commonwealth Government, the eight States and Territories, and the 694 local governments across the continent. The policy environment also includes the considerable contribution of the community and professional organisations, and the role of academic institutions.

It was hoped by all these stakeholders that the Australian Treasurer's instruction to the Productivity Commission in April 2005 to enquire into the policy framework and incentives for the conservation of Australia's historic heritage places<sup>1</sup> would lead to new policy and programme approaches.

Australia ICOMOS and most key government and non-government heritage organisations supported a number of the key findings of the Inquiry, such as:

- the importance to the nation of our historic heritage places,
- the role of historic places in contributing to cultural capital,
- the enhancement of social capital through heritage providing a tangible link to the past and reinforcing the sense of community identity,
- the emerging trends of adaptive reuse and heritage tourism,
- the need for enhanced decision-making tools, including data collection and systematic monitoring, and
- the need for improvements to the system in terms of coordination between levels of government, consistency and transparency in the identification of heritage values and the application of thresholds, and the efficiency and effectiveness and efficiency of conservation programs.

However, the submissions also expressed strong disagreement and dismay about the main thrust of the draft Recommendations (December 2005), and disappointment in the lost opportunities represented by the final report (April 2006). This reaction is based mostly on the finding by the Inquiry that heritage protection represents a substantial economic 'burden' for private owners, and questioning whether the social benefits sufficiently warranted these 'onerous restrictions'.

The Productivity Commission had *challenged (and seemingly*

*disregarded) central principles and tenets underlying the practice of heritage conservation, and seemed to have provided little of practical or tangible benefit in return* (Heritage Chairs of the States and Territories of Australia, 2006:2).

This was the first national inquiry into heritage in over 30 years, and there were high expectations of its potential significance for the future of the national heritage system. As a result, the 418 written submissions offer an unparalleled snapshot of the 'state of heritage' as it is regulated, administered, and experienced at community level in 2005/6 and an unprecedented opportunity to not only assess the 'state of heritage', but also to construct ways to improve the system nationwide.

The three most consistent and compelling messages from the submissions to the inquiry are (Heritage Chairs of the States and Territories of Australia, 2006):

- Insufficient capacity exists at all levels of government to meet community expectations regarding the conservation of Australia's historic cultural heritage.
- This is especially critical at the local level, and a growing share of heritage conservation responsibilities has been shifted to local municipalities, without the accompanying financial and other resources (including technical advice and expertise).
- The lack of a *national strategic framework* which incorporates the roles and activities of all levels of government is a substantial issue.

The Heritage Chairs & Officials of Australia and New Zealand also conducted a national choice modelling survey as part of its contribution to the Inquiry process. The results were overwhelming, showing that 93% of the community see heritage as forming part of Australia's national identity. A similarly overwhelming percentage of respondents considered that it is important to protect Australia's heritage, even though the individual respondent may never visit these places, and that it is important to educate Australian children about heritage (The Allen Consulting Group, 2006).

Registers of listed places have been compiled since the 1970s and as shown in Box 2 below the vast majority of statutory-listed historic heritage places are of local significance. More listed heritage places are in private hands than are in public ownership, especially those of local significance. The emphasis on the 'problems' and the resourcing challenges therefore focuses primarily on the vast heritage resource of local significance.



**Box 2:** Australian historic heritage places on statutory lists/registers, at 30 June 2005

	<i>World and national heritage lists</i>	<i>Government-owned heritage lists</i>	<i>State and Territory heritage registers</i>	<i>Local government lists</i>
<i>Jurisdiction</i>				
Commonwealth	16	292 <sup>a</sup>	..	..
New South Wales	..	6 522 <sup>b</sup>	1 500	26 000
Victoria	..	nsi	1 992	100 000 <sup>c</sup>
Queensland	..	nsi	1 440	na
Western Australia	..	nsi	1 113	16 807 <sup>f</sup>
South Australia	..	nsi <sup>d</sup>	2 195 <sup>e</sup>	4 500
Tasmania	..	nsi	5 326	.. <sup>g</sup>
Northern Territory	..	nsi	175	..
ACT	..	nsi	247	..
<b>Totals</b>	<b>16*</b>	<b>6 814</b>	<b>13 988</b>	<b>&gt;147 000</b>
<sup>a</sup> Commonwealth Heritage List. <sup>b</sup> Government-owned and managed places on the NSW s. 170 Register <sup>c</sup> Estimated number of properties covered by individual and area Heritage Overlay controls. <sup>d</sup> Included in State figure. <sup>e</sup> About 27 per cent are residential homes. <sup>f</sup> Includes non-government lists. About 36 per cent are residential homes, 77 per cent are 20 <sup>th</sup> Century places and 7 per cent are also listed on the State Register. <sup>g</sup> Included in State figure. <b>na</b> Not available. .. Nil. <b>nsi</b> Not separately listed.				

(Source: Table 3.3, Productivity Commission, 2006:36)

The Productivity Commission undertook a survey of all local government areas in Australia. 75% of Australia's 694 local councils responded. Around 50% of responding councils provided some forms of assistance to property owners and community organisations to identify and conserve historic cultural heritage places (ranging from 15% of councils in Queensland to over 80% in New South Wales). The main forms of assistance provided were free heritage advice and grants (Productivity Commission, 2006:38-9).

Submissions were generally in accord that the efficiency and effectiveness of the system is hampered by a failure to fully implement nationally agreed approaches and by the lack of capacity of local government, in terms of skills and financial resources, to properly manage and support heritage conservation at local level. There are also issues arising from the insufficient and/or unnecessarily complicated interactions between systems for heritage protection and urban planning.

The roles and responsibilities of governments, and the adminis-

trative and regulatory arrangements between them, were key issues for many respondents, including for those most involved, the responsible agencies themselves. This relates to the complexities arising from Australia's 'three-tier' structure of government, and the confusion in the community about the different responsibilities and significance thresholds. There were concerns about cost shifting between the different levels of government, and duplication in the processes of listing and statutory approvals, leading to community confusion about how things are expected to work.

A notable example of the lack of protection provided in the three-tier government structure is the extensive and extremely significant rock art of the Burrup Peninsula in Western Australia (see Box 3). A large portion of this landscape has now been included in Australia's National Heritage List. However, issues still remain regarding the long-term conservation of its heritage values in the face of competing development pressures from natural resource exploration and processing, and less urgently, tourism.

**Box 3: Burrup Peninsula**

Development pressures can inhibit the operation of national and State cultural heritage legislation, including places with potential World Heritage values. One example from Australia is the Burrup Peninsula rock art sites in the Dampier Archipelago in the north-west of Western Australia, which is also the site of Australia's largest liquid natural gas facility on the North-West Shelf.

The Australian Heritage Council assessed the site as having National Heritage values, and after a protracted process it was entered on Australia's National Heritage List by the Commonwealth Minister on 3 July 2007. There was a consistent view of experts that the protection provided by the Western Australian State Government was insufficient. The area is noted by ICOMOS in its thematic study of global rock art sites, and is well known internationally as a very significant rock art cultural landscape. The inclusion of this area in the National Heritage List was welcomed by many organisations and experts throughout the Australian community, including Australia ICOMOS.

Rock art specialists from around the world have expressed concern about the impacts of new development proposals for the Burrup. The World Monuments Fund's 100 Most Endangered Sites list included in June 2007 the Burrup Peninsula, 'one of the world's richest collections of rock art...with up to one million carvings as old as 20,000 years... as among the planet's most endangered sites' (<http://www.worldmonumentswatch.org/>).

Delegates to the Australia ICOMOS national conference, meeting in Fremantle, Western Australia in November 2006 noted the unquestionable significance of the Burrup Peninsula Rock Art sites, and the lack of adequate legislative protection afforded to them, particularly in the face of the substantial and economically important industrial development proposal. Australia ICOMOS requested that national and State governments act with urgency to redress this situation, ensuring the adequate protection for the significant cultural landscape, development and implementation of a strong and culturally appropriate heritage management regime, and all necessary actions to avoid adverse impacts.

While to some extent this call has been answered with the listing of a large part of the area on the National Heritage List, there remain strong concerns about the long term conservation of the area in the face of competing pressures from development. The boundary of the listed area was a controversial element of the compromise between the State and National Governments. This allows for the development to proceed in part of the area, involving the continued relocation of rock art. There is currently no endorsed Conservation Management Plan in place for this significant site, and strong concerns remain about the nature and extent of future development, both within and adjacent to the listed area.





Similarly, there are many examples of inadequate government stewardship of publicly owned heritage assets, including insufficient resourcing, privatisation of management, and poor government adherence to heritage legislation.

Overseas studies and local research were used to demonstrate that there are both market and non-market values of historic heritage places to Australian society and that there is a 'public good' argument for historic conservation that justifies government intervention.

The funding that governments in Australia devote to taking care of our cultural heritage is far less than the amount they allocate to safeguarding the public interest in conservation of natural resources. There is a stark contrast between the funding provided by governments in Australia for the conservation of natural and historic heritage. For example, the \$2.7 billion Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) represents the biggest financial commitment to environmental action by any Australian government. Yet the Act which established the Trust in 1997 specifically excludes historic heritage from funded projects, despite the often indivisible nature of the heritage values expressed in the one place or landscape – natural, Indigenous and historic. There is a case to be made for widening the use of the NHT mechanisms to include cultural heritage. Similarly, the lack of financial incentives for privately owned properties was frequently mentioned. There has been a great deal of debate about the operation of the taxation system, and the need to find new income sources.

Finally, there is a lack of national data collection standards and coordinated programs of data collection and reporting. This makes it impossible to monitor the condition of the heritage estate over time with any accuracy, and also means that the evaluation of the effectiveness of response measures, is anecdotal, impressionistic and ineffective as a basis for development of new policy or funding proposals.

## Conclusion

The peer-reviewed and independently prepared State of the Environment Report's theme commentary for Australia's Natural and Cultural Heritage had the following conclusion. It is a call to action for all heritage practitioners working in Australia – and Australia ICOMOS – and a challenge to all levels of Government to find new and more effective arrangements for managing Australia's cultural heritage (Lennon 2006).

*Heritage conservation in Australia is at a turning point. Heritage values have changed over the last 30 years since the Australian Heritage Commission Act was passed and reflect changed attitudes, educational standards, technology, economy and demography... The relationship between the Australian Government's heritage administration and State/Territory jurisdictions has been formally established through the National Heritage Protocol (September 2003). However, better integration of the new arrangements with State processes across all areas of heritage conservation still remains the most active requirement. A national policy framework is needed to attain the economic and social benefits of our heritage assets. Heritage is still regarded as special places rather than as a range of values found throughout the environment and encompassing stories, traditions and community associations.*

The very high risks being experienced by non-renewable heritage resources must be given adequate voice through specialist advisory bodies to the various Ministers overseeing heritage legislation and programs. There has been a demonstrable decline in the independence, leverage and professional composition of these committees over the last ten years, part of a more widespread trend recognised by some commentators of declining public debate and in the dissenting activities of NGOs. This has been coupled with the de-regulatory thrust of many State governments, a narrowing of the leadership exercised by the Commonwealth government and devolution of responsibilities to the over-burdened and under-resourced local levels of government.

A shared heritage requires public/private partnerships at all levels, public engagement, accountability and continuing education. In a decade of economic prosperity, cultural heritage remains a minnow in the vast sea of boiling issues relating to climate change, water supply and agricultural sustainability.

These factors compound the pressures on Australia's cultural heritage and diminish the effectiveness of the responses. As we look ahead, they therefore pose substantial risks to the conservation and sustainability of Australia's cultural heritage.

*This contribution to the ICOMOS International Heritage at Risk 2007 report was prepared for Australia ICOMOS by Jane Lennon, Kristal Buckley, Susan McIntyre-Tamwoy and Peter Phillips. Photographs were provided by Kristal Buckley, Juliet Ramsay and Jo McDonald.*

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<sup>i</sup> Indigenous cultural heritage was excluded from the terms of reference for the Inquiry.

## AUSTRIA

The Austrian examples are notably precarious and the results are not satisfactory in spite of complying with § 172 of the Operational Guidelines. ICOMOS has to learn its lesson – to defend the concerns of cultural heritage more clearly and explicitly against contradicting interests. To hopefully avoid such cases in the future the National Committee of ICOMOS Austria has established a Monitoring Group especially for World Heritage sites.

### High-rise buildings behind Belvedere Palace in Vienna – project for the area Main Station Vienna

In combination with the planned “Bahnhof-City” in Arsenalstrasse the project for a new main station is threatening the visual integrity of Belvedere Palace and Park. On the very edge of the core zone of the World Heritage site Historic Centre of Vienna the “Bahnhof-City” with 11 high-rises of up to 100 metres is to be erected. Because of the impact on the main axis Lower Belvedere – Upper Belvedere the high-rise buildings were slightly reduced and rearranged in the revised master plan of February 2006. Consequently, according to the latest view analyses only one 100-metre high-rise building would still be visible in the main axis to the right of the Upper Belvedere. However, the serious impact of the development area on the visual integrity of the main palace – viewpoint in front of the south side of the Belvedere and view of the “Bahnhof-City” from the Belvedere – and of the park to the south were not taken into account in the description and analyses of plans presented to UNESCO by the City of Vienna. On this matter see the following statement by ICOMOS:

*The project for the area of the Main Station Vienna-Central Europe (...) adjoins immediately to the core zone of the ensemble Historic Centre of Vienna (inscribed in the World Heritage List in 2001), stretching south with the park of Belvedere Palace. The project for a new main station with a large development area including a series of high-rise buildings situated 2.5 km south of the city centre goes back to an urbanistic competition of 1995. The corresponding master plan was adopted by the Vienna City Council in December 2004 under the condition that “the compatibility of the project with the*

*importance of the Belvedere complex as part of the World Heritage site must be safeguarded.” The revised master plan of February 2006 shows that some high-rise buildings were modified (reduction of one of the two 100-metre towers to 60 metres, certain changes in locations). (...) However, these changes are not sufficient to ensure a real compatibility with the World Heritage.*

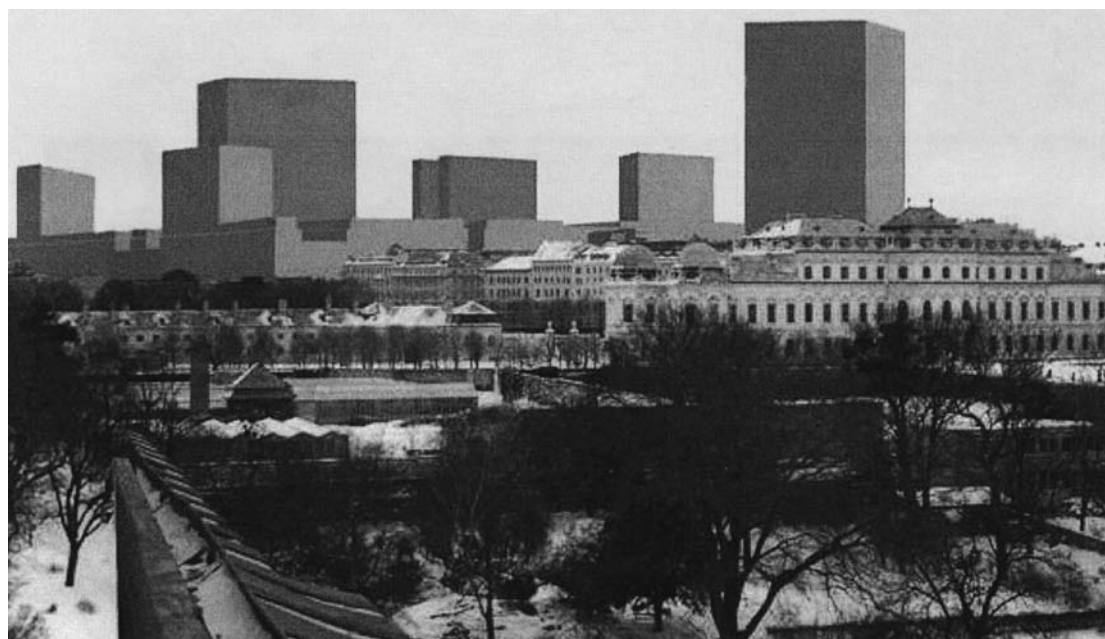
*The presentation by the City of Vienna refers first and foremost to the central visual axis Lower Belvedere Palace – Upper Belvedere Palace (also to the visual axis towards St Elizabeth Church). In this context the added computer simulation is also meant to give the impression as if this important historic axis would remain largely undisturbed. In reality, however, the 100-metre tower to the right of the Upper Belvedere Palace would appear above the trees and would also seriously disturb the visual integrity of the famous baroque palace from possible lateral perspectives. Besides, it needs to be taken into consideration firstly that the existing backdrop of trees is without leaves in the winter and thus transparent, and secondly that the illumination of the groups of high-rise buildings at night would interfere with the integrity of the park. Therefore, the heights of the clusters of high-rises need to be reappraised and corrected once more.*

*In the evaluation by the City of Vienna the possible consequences of the new urban quarter and the series of high-rise buildings for the south front of the Upper Belvedere Palace and the area of the park which, as part of the core zone of the World Heritage, immediately adjoin to the grounds connected with the main station, are totally suppressed. Here a detailed investigation must be asked for, which also takes into consideration the view from the palace towards the new development area and the consequences for the entire surroundings of the southern Belvedere Park.*

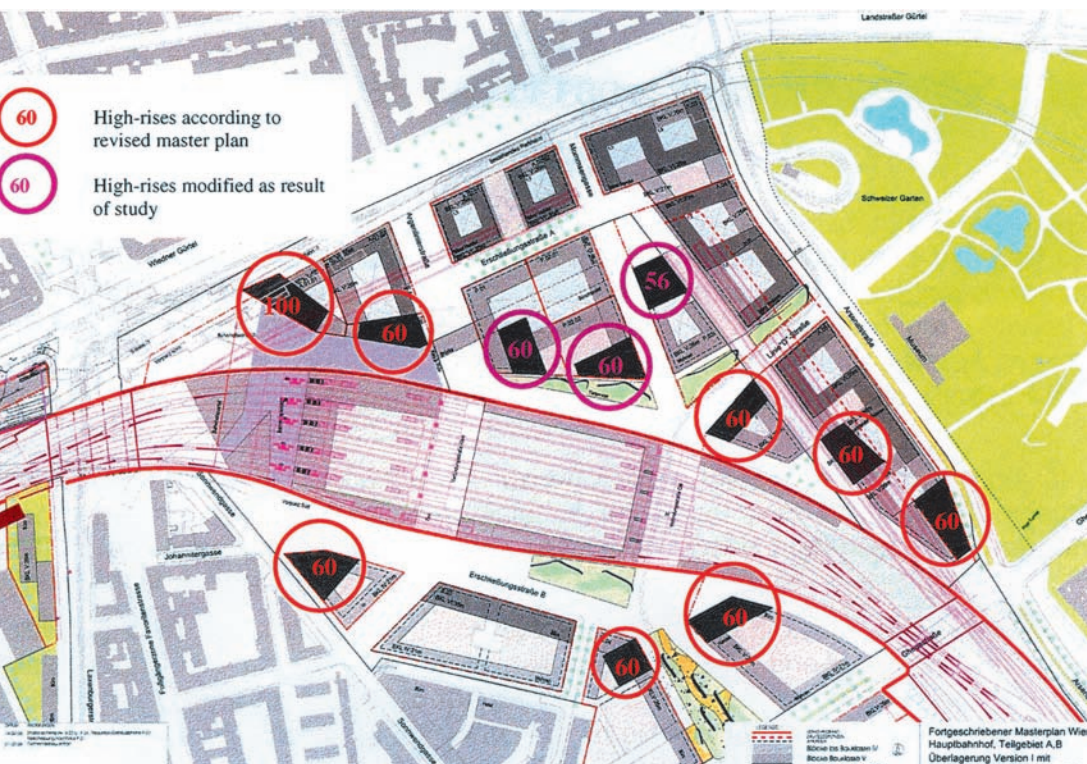
*Considering that the City of Vienna has tried several times to enforce ruthless projects near the World Heritage sites – for instance high-rise projects close to Schönbrunn Palace – highest caution is also advised in this alarming case. Further details and guidelines concerning the “compatibility” of the project Main Station Vienna-Central Europe with the World Heritage would urgently call for an ICOMOS mission to the site.*

Michael Petzet  
President of ICOMOS  
13 November 2007

Planned high-rise buildings behind Belvedere Palace, view from the roof of Rennweg 16, visualisation of the development of the Südbahnhof area, first project of 2004/05 before the revision of the master plan (Photo: Martin Kupf, Österr. Gesellschaft für Denkmal- und Ortsbildpflege)







Elevation points according to revised master plan for Vienna-Central Europe Railway Station, February 2006 (Wimmer, Masterplan Bahnhof Wien – Europa Mitte – Überarbeitung, 2005/2006)



View from the east side of the park towards the Upper Belvedere (Stadt Wien, Magistratsabteilung 41)



## Roof alteration to the department store Kastner & Öhler – an attack on the roofscape of Graz

ICOMOS Austria already gave a detailed account of destructions of the roofscape in the historic centre of Vienna with its roof-on-roof alterations etc (see H@R 2004/2005, pp. 41-45). Here is a similar case in another historic Austrian city, Graz.

The traditional department store Kastner & Öhler is situated amidst the core zone of the World Heritage site “Historic Centre of the City of Graz”. It was constructed by the renowned theatre architects Fellner & Helmer at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This store has been remodelled several times in the course of the last century. The latest construction phase resulted in putting up a multi-gabled trench roof above the top floor ceiling, tiled with red clay tiles in accordance with the historic roofscape of Graz. In yet another extension scheme Kastner & Öhler then planned a new roof construction, designed with various capped steep gables with a ridge height more than 9 metres, according to the project of the Spanish architects Nieto/Sobejano, who were the winners of an architecture competition.

In spite of protests from ICOMOS Austria the “compromise” found after a UNESCO/ICOMOS mission in October 2006 only resulted in a slightly reduced solution (slight changes in design and reduction of height). This could be understood as a signal for more roof alterations disturbing the visual integrity of the ensemble.

The result of the competition is a totally inadequate and misunderstood interpretation of a medieval roofscape without any connection to the typology of the building. The multiple gabled and pointed zigzag structure of no regularity shows arbitrariness. Above all a roof covering in metal is now envisaged: a disaster.

ICOMOS Austria holds the opinion that the project is in blatant contrast to the intentions of the World Heritage Convention.

ICOMOS Austria

## Wachau Cultural Landscape

The so called „Kellerschloessel“ is situated in Duernstein, one of the most beautiful villages in the Cultural Landscape Wachau. This charming baroque castle was built by the famous architect Jakob Prandtauer during the reign of Hieronymus Uebelbacher, Abbot of the Duernstein Monastery, at the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It was placed as “Lusthaus im Weinberg” at the outskirts amidst the winegrowing cultural landscape. Therefore the castle was always thought to be situated as a solitaire within the vineyards.

Through a re-designation of areas within the immediate surroundings the view has already been disturbed. Now a further residential settlement, the result of a competition, is meant to be constructed. The key question should have been: Is it generally adequate to erect buildings close to the Kellerschloessel? The decision to grant a building permit affects the World Heritage site and the result of this competition poses the problem whether the consistent limitation of exclusively “modern architecture” is justified in such a region.

ICOMOS Austria



Graz, state of the city centre at the beginning of the 1960s



Graz, current state of the historic city centre



Graz, awarded project of the architects Nieto/Sobejano

Altered project after UNESCO/ICOMOS-joint mission





## Threat to the cultural landscape at Neusiedler / Fertő Lake

Both ICOMOS Hungary and ICOMOS Austria protested against plans for a 73-metre-high building in Parndorf/Burgenland. The 18-storey hotel building “would seriously damage the Fertő/Neusiedler Lake area inscribed on the World Heritage List as a remarkable cultural landscape. The (...) building would visually destroy the nature reserve of Fertő Lake and its boundaries. After the examples of Vienna and Cologne, another high-rise building is endangering a World Heritage site” (appeal of the Hungarian National Committee of 12 September 2006). The project, situated at the exit of motorway B 50 and already

approved by the town council of Parsdorf, stands for a new escalation in the uncontrolled development of the cultural landscape of the Burgenland. Unfortunately, most of the places on the Austrian side are already severely disfigured by inadequate new buildings – contrary to the much better preserved stock of vernacular architecture in the Hungarian villages on the other side of the lake.

At the General Assembly of the World Heritage Committee it was demanded that the height of the hotel tower be reduced to 47 metres.



Duernstein, construction work in front of the Kellerschloessel



Duernstein, design for buildings to be erected in front of the Kellerschloessel



## AZERBAIJAN

### Destruction of the Armenian Cemetery at Djulfa – Continued

In the ICOMOS World Report 2002/2003, we submitted a report on the destruction of the outstanding Armenian cemetery of the former town of Djulfa (also Julfa, Jugha) in Nachitchevan, now under Azerbaijan's political sovereignty (pp. 44-47, with photos). The period of time covered by our report ended in January 2003, when the Armenian Bishop of Tabris (Iran) informed us that he went to the Iranian side of the river Araxes opposite to the cemetery of Djulfa to see with his own eyes what had seemed incredible to him: that the 1500 years old cemetery had completely been flattened. Yet, this was not the end.

Between 10<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of December 2005, vandals, who had not been held accountable for their previous crimes, finally succeeded in purging the cemetery area from all the remnants of khatchkars (standing tombstones): Using heavy hammers and pick-axes, about 200 soldiers of the Azerbaijani army reduced the displaced khatchkars to a heap of crushed pieces which were loaded onto lorries and emptied down the bank of the river Araxes.

In early March 2006, the Nachitchevan authorities stationed a firing range on the Djulfa Cemetery and turned the site into a "military zone" so that they could ban foreign missions and observers from entering it. Indeed, in the issue of May 30, 2006, *The Independent* communicated that in mid-April 2006 the Azerbaijani authorities had refused the request of a group of members of the European Parliament to visit the cemetery and, furthermore, that the response of the group to the refusal had been commented by Baku as being "hysterical and full of prejudices".

A comprehensive documentation was submitted to UNESCO in October 2006 by an international parliamentary delegation: *Parliamentary Group Switzerland-Armenia (ed.)*, "The Destruction of Jugha and the Entire Armenian Cultural Heritage in Nakhijevan". (Copies can be ordered from *SAA Switzerland-Armenia Association*,



"Requiem" for Armenian cultural monuments

Bern [www.armenian.ch](http://www.armenian.ch)). This documentation includes Mr. Steven Simm's account of his visit to Nachitchevan in August 2005. To sum up his detailed report: Also in the inner regions of the province there is nothing left but some sparse relics of hundreds of Armenian cultural monuments, like monasteries and churches.

Dr. Armen Haghnazarian  
Dr. Dieter Wickmann  
June 2007

Before its wilful demolition: the cemetery with thousands of standing khatchkars (Photo: Armen Haghnazarian, 1976)







One of the khatchkars as an example of the highly developed Armenian art of masonry, dated 1571 (Photo: Zaven Sargissian, 1987)



Azeri soldiers breaking the khatchkars to pieces with heavy hammers (Photo: Arthur Gevorgian, December 10-14, 2005)



The crushed pieces of khatchkars emptied into the Araxes-facing side of the railway (Photos: Arthur Gevorgian, December 10-14, 2005)



An Azerbaijani "military base" and "firing range" stationed at the site of the annihilated cemetery (Photo: Arthur. Gevorgian, March 2006)





## BELARUS

### State of Preservation of the Historic City of Hrodna

Hrodna is listed among the oldest Belarusian cities founded at the turn of the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> centuries. The historic and cultural heritage accumulated in the 1000 years of its existence is an outstanding example of urban architecture which is a mixture of contacts and interrelations with Western European as well as Byzantine culture and of local traditions. Among the unique architectural monuments of the city there were five 12<sup>th</sup>-century churches. At present, the historic and cultural potential of the city comprises more than 400 monuments, located in the historic city centre.

In recent years, the condition of Hrodna's monuments and their legal status has been deteriorating. In 1992 the only Hrodna firm working in the restoration field had to stop its activities so that the planned restoration programmes were not carried out. This concerns several individual monuments in the city centre and the planned restoration of the Old Castle from the Renaissance. Consequently, for 15 years no conservation work, so urgently needed for preserving Hrodna's heritage, has been done. The current state of conservation of Hrodna's cultural heritage can be described in the following way:

1. At present, the city authorities do not have any general preservation programme for the historic centre, since they have no understanding for the essential role of the historic and cultural potential of this city and consider this potential as useless lumber.
2. At the same time, the city authorities have launched large-scale municipal improvement activities called "reconstruction" or "restoration". In fact, these measures are reduced to a minimum: mere replacement of old pavements in the centre by modern concrete tiles, simple repair of old stone buildings, repainting of facades, covering of roofs with metal profile sheets, and destruction of green zones. These so-called municipal "improvements" are being undertaken by considerably violating Belarusian laws concerning the preservation of historic, archae-

ological and cultural heritage. They also ignore the rules and methods of restoration and of conservation operations. One of the elements of so-called "restoration" is the planned gradual demolition of Hrodna's historic centre. In 2005/2006 many architectural landmarks were demolished, including monuments of Constructivism (see <http://harodnia.com/a34.php>).

3. The 2003 general plan of the city of Hrodna underlined the necessity of clearing the historic city centre in order to make way for a public recreation area for pedestrians. However, in 2006 the city authorities built a four-lane road through the centre resulting in the demolition of many foundations of 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>-century stone buildings as well as in a partial or complete loss of archaeological strata (<http://harodnia.com/f04.php>; <http://harodnia.com/f01.php>). Archaeological excavations started with delay and covered only a limited area (<http://harodnia.com/f06.php>).
4. The local authorities are planning to build more road sections through the historic city centre, for example by widening and reconstructing Padgornaya Street and constructing a parallel to Vialikaya Trayetskaya Street. This plan will lead to further destruction of the townscape (including Nioman bank terraces) and have negative impact on architectural monuments (such as Old and New castle, the synagogue and others).
5. The authorities rejected all alternative proposals made by town-planners and historians that would offer solutions for reconstruction and for traffic improvements in the historic centre of Hrodna.

For more information see also:

<http://www.charter97.org/eng/news/2006/08/11/belarus>

Aliaksandr Milinkevich

Hrodna, historic view of the Old Castle



Hrodna, Old Castle, inadequate renovation work (Photo: A. Milinkevich)





## BRAZIL

### Amazonia, Monument of Nature

In the present worldwide discussion about the global climate change (see our special focus on GCC, p. 192 ff.), about melting glaciers, the causes of storms and disastrous fires the South American rainforest, which for decades has been a favourite topic for environmentalists, seems not to have received enough attention. But with its 4.1 million square kilometres the South American rainforest remains a decisive element for the global climate system. When the famous explorer Alexander von Humboldt travelled through the Amazonian forest about 200 years ago, everything reminded him of “the primordial state of the earth”. Nowadays, while each deforested and burnt area of the rainforest leads to the disappearance of countless animal and plant species, the question about the future of this unique ecological system has to be raised again and again and from new angles. In this context, the topic of the International Day for Monuments and Sites on 18 April 2007, *Cultural Landscapes and Monuments of Nature* could also open up new perspectives for the Amazonian rainforest: The largest imaginable “Monument of Nature” is not just a matter of natural heritage at risk (some parts of the Amazonian rainforest are already on the list of World Natural Heritage), it is also a matter of cultural heritage at risk.

Below is the text of an ICOMOS press release and our Amazonia Declaration published on the occasion of the ICOMOS conference in Manaus (16-19 November 2007):

### The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) declares Amazonia a “Monument of Nature”

*Manaus (Brazil), 19 November, 2007 – In concluding a year of world-wide activities around the theme of “Cultural Landscapes and Monuments of Nature”, members of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) met in Manaus, Brazil, and declared Amazonia as the First International Monument of Nature. ICOMOS, a world-wide non-governmental organization devoted to the protection and conservation of monuments and sites, is adviser of UNESCO and the World Heritage Committee.*

*“Over 200 years ago, Amazonia inspired the first use of the expression Monument of Nature by the famous explorer Alexander von Humboldt. Today, in a world concerned over global climate change or the loss of cultural diversity, Amazonia deserves the international recognition. The current interest observed world-wide for the cultural heritage, even in sites seen so far as exclusively natural, is bringing us to pay a very special homage to Amazonia, a vast area so essential to the World and its identity” said Prof. Dr Michael Petzet, the President of this international professional organisation.*

*Amazonia encompasses a large territory. It includes lands belonging to Brazil, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Guyana, Suriname and French Guyana. In Brazil, nine states constitute the Legal Amazonia (Amazonas, Pará, Amapá, Maranhão, Tocantins, Mato Grosso, Acre, Rondonia and Roraimá).*

*The meeting in Manaus was attended by experts from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, and Germany and its discussions took into consid-*



Declaration of Amazonia as Monument of Nature (Photo: M.Pz.)

*eration a vast array of experiences and perspectives, including the World Heritage Convention of UNESCO, signed by 184 countries.*

*This recognition of Amazonia by ICOMOS is a powerful symbol of the commitment of the professional and scientific networks involved in the conservation and protection of cultural heritage to encourage multidisciplinary and international cooperation. “Amazonia is opening a new perspective on heritage and international activities. We look forward to its inspiration in helping ICOMOS pursue its mission to bring experts together to identify and conserve heritage in all its forms, including monuments of nature”, added Prof. Dr Petzet.*

*ICOMOS will follow up from the Manaus meeting with activities to identify other Monuments of Nature (rivers, forests, mountains, sacred rocks or trees, geological formations, waterfalls, etc.) with its 150 National and International Committees. The conclusion of the Manaus meeting and the text of the Declaration of Amazonia will be made available on [www.icomos.org](http://www.icomos.org) along with other documents of the organisation such as the international charters of conservation and the Heritage at Risk reports.*



### **ICOMOS Declaration of Amazonia as a Monument of Nature**

*Being aware of the ecological threat to our planet and taking into account the protective measures already implemented or planned by the peoples and governments of the concerned countries;*

*Appealing to the responsibility of all people and countries benefiting directly or indirectly from the largest continuous forest area on earth;*

*Especially in honour of the traditional populations that interact with the rainforests resources on the basis of a sustainable development since thousands of years;*

*ICOMOS declares MONUMENT OF NATURE the tropical rainforest of the Amazon region in its natural boundaries and in its integrity.*

*Manaus, 17 November 2007*



Rainforest, river bank (Photo: M.Pz.)



Rainforest, aerial view (Photo: M.Pz.)

Manaus, dilapidated houses in the historic centre (Photo: M.Pz.)



## BULGARIA

### Heritage in Danger

The task of presenting specific Bulgarian monuments at risk seems to be very easy and at the same time it is very difficult. The reason for this ostensible contradiction lies in the simple fact that the Bulgarian cultural heritage in general is in a situation of mortal danger.

Realising that this conclusion may sound quite pathetic, we will try to present the impartial facts on which it is based:

1. The present Law for the Monuments of Culture and Museums, which should guarantee the preservation of the Bulgarian cultural heritage and regulate this activity, was adopted in 1969. In the last 18 years it has become overgrown with a number of amendments, which unfortunately cannot compensate for the lack of a general and modern policy of conservation in this conglomeration of decrees, most often dictated by the constantly changing conditions. This law is really unable to reconcile the system for preservation with the new social and economic conditions.
2. The various laws, related to heritage and its preservation, are not only lacking in harmony between one another, but in various items provide contradictory decrees. In a rather critical way this discrepancy is revealed in the Law for the Development of the Territory, where a number of decrees prevent the adequate and consecutive implementation of activities for the preservation of monuments.
3. The funds, provided by the State budget for the preservation of cultural monuments for the whole country, are absolutely insufficient. These funds are mainly used for urgent measures on the most endangered monuments of the highest categories. Considering there are about 40,000 monuments in total these funds are by no means sufficient to take care of all of them. Obviously, in this situation it is impossible to adequately implement any state strategy in the field of the preservation of cultural heritage – maybe this is the reason for the lack of any strategy.
4. At the same time there is a lack of mechanisms to attract and encourage other sources for funding and there is no incentive for sponsorship. There are also hardly any financial stimuli for the preservation of historic buildings: the responsibility to provide funds for their restoration is left entirely to the owners. Unfortunately there is a tendency for the opposite to occur: most owners intentionally expose these monuments to destruction aiming at excluding the monuments from the register, thus getting away from their commitments to the monuments as well as from the restrictions related to their preservation.
5. The responsibility and legal acts in the field of preservation are concentrated mainly in the National Institute for Monuments of Culture, a body of the Ministry of Culture. It's enough to point out that the staff of this institute numbers only about 60 people, who have practically no physical ability to exercise control over the state of monuments and interventions on them. This lack of control is obvious, especially in a situation where as a result of the process of restitution a number of buildings were returned to their previous owners or their inheritors. In most cases the actions taken for the "utilisation" of these buildings contradict the requirements for their preservation as cultural assets.
6. In most cases, when specific building initiatives also affect monuments of culture, the need of the latter to be preserved and adequately exhibited is considered an obstacle to the erection of a new building. The economic interests of the investors, short-

sightedly evaluated by them, usually outweigh the social interests for the preservation of cultural heritage. Unfortunately, we have to point out that the efficiency of this economic pressure arouses suspicions of corruption.

7. And maybe one of the greatest dangers to heritage is the lack of will and determination among the representatives of the executive to use their legal powers for the enforcement of the Law, which though being rather out-of-date and quite imperfect, still provides some protection for our heritage – because of the inaction of the authorities (no matter if there is interest or not) in a number of cases.
8. These are only the most important components of the risk situation of the Bulgarian cultural heritage. Alongside (and in many cases even provoked by them) a number of other factors are also active: a lack of constant care and good maintenance, so important for the protection of monuments, as a result of which a number of monuments are in a process of fast or slow self-destruction, and a great part of those restored in the past are in a rather bad state at present; a lack of security at the archaeological sites, as a result of which they have often become victims of treasure-hunting and vandalism; illegal traffic of cultural assets, etc. Special attention should be drawn to the problem related to the capacity of the people working both in the administrative as well as in the professional spheres of preservation activities. There is also a lack of well trained decision-makers at the local level as well as a lack of licence regime for the professionals with the right to intervene in monuments, which in some cases can be very harmful to the fate of the monuments.

Below, we will point out only six examples of the impact that the above-mentioned risk factors have on Bulgarian heritage. The selected monuments differ both in their typological and historical background, as well as in the category determining their value. The first five have in common that they are all in an extremely endangered state and urgent intervention for their preservation is absolutely necessary, while the sixth monument is a curious case, where a newly built substitute of a destroyed monument remains in its place in the monument register.

### Novae archaeological reserve near the town of Svishtov

The main risk influences on this monument are:

- Lack of funds for conservation and maintenance;
- Aggression caused by natural agents – erosion, geological instability of the ground, unfavourable climate with great temperature fluctuations, intensive invasion of vegetation; and
- Vandalism and treasure hunting due to the remoteness of the site from the town and the lack of security.

The archaeological site Novae is one of 44 cultural monuments in Bulgaria with the status of Reserve (this status is determined by a government decision for group monuments of the highest category, i.e. of national importance, to which the highest degree of protection should be provided).

As a result of archaeological research carried out by Bulgarian and Polish teams in the course of several decades, Novae is at pres-





Novae archaeological reserve

ent one of the best investigated Roman camps in Bulgaria. The site is especially representative of the fortified military settlements built on the periphery of the Roman Empire, and some of the findings there are unique evidence of the material and spiritual culture of the period.

Novae was founded in the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD as a fortified Roman camp on the Danube limes – one of the important points of the fortification system along the Danube river which continued to exist also during the Byzantine Empire. A number of extremely valuable remains and evidences of the town's almost 600 years of existence have been preserved (the last written documents date back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century).

Founded as a Roman military camp, around the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD Novae gradually became a town-fortress with mixed military and civil population. New residential buildings were built as well as handicraft workshops and churches. During that period the town became an important military, urban and religious centre.

Remarkable are the remains of the fortification system of the camp and the town, as well as a number of public, residential and religious buildings from the Roman and early Byzantine periods.

Extremely valuable is also the collection of the found artefacts: one of the rare sculpture portraits of Emperor Karakala, bronze statues, inscriptions, coins, glass and ceramic vessels, clay lamps, medical instruments (in the military hospital), wall paintings, etc.

The risk factors mentioned above are a serious threat to the site and question not only its adequate presentation, but also its physical survival.

## The church of St. Todor near the town of Boboshevo

The main risk influences on this monument are:

- Lack of funds for conservation and maintenance;
- Active destructive processes, which have led to the critical physical state of the monument and to risking its very existence; and
- Vandalism, a result of the remoteness of the site from the town and the lack of security.

The church of St. Todor is situated in the vicinity of the town of Boboshevo (in southwest Bulgaria), in a natural environment with exceptional and authentic beauty. Through this typical cultural landscape passes a historical pilgrim's way leading to Mount Athos. The church is one of the few preserved religious monuments from the period of the first Bulgarian State. Built at the beginning of the 11<sup>th</sup> century it is a representative of one of the rarest types of Eastern church architecture, some very few representatives of which have been preserved. Its typical characteristic is the so-called "expressed cross", which is the central element of the plan and space composition of the building and stands out distinctively both in the interior and the exterior of the church. The arms of the cross are covered by semi-cylindrical vaults, while in the centre of the cross rises a high semi-cylindrical drum with four windows, where the dome was set (semi-destroyed today). The walls of the church are stone masonry, while the vaults above the arms and the drum below the dome are brick masonry; the building structure of the drum has a decorative effect: large joints of white lime mortar lie between the red brick belts. These characteristics prove that the building reproduces a very old early Christian type of church architecture. The interior was painted in the 14<sup>th</sup> century covering older wall paintings. The iconography of the scenes reveals features common with the Cappadocian art tradition, quite different from the Byzantine style of painting dominant at that time. Due to the exceptional characteristics of its architecture and paintings, the church of St. Todor is an extremely valuable typological cultural monument of national importance.

The building and the wall paintings of the church of St. Todor have suffered heavy damages caused by natural destructive processes throughout its long life, by seismic influences, and unfortunately also by acts of vandalism. The church has a partially destroyed structure; the wall paintings are in a rather bad state. In the last century a temporary wooden protective cover was built above to protect the church from further destruction. Unfortunately, the cover itself is now also in a rather bad condition.



Wall paintings in the church of St Todor near Boboshevo



Wall painting in the apse of the monastery church of St Archangel Mihail in Dolna Beshoviza

### **The monastery of St. Archangel Mihail in the village of Dolna Beshoviza**

The main risk influences on this monument are:

- Lack of funds for conservation and maintenance;
- Active destructive processes which have led to a critical physical state of the monument and risk for its very existence; and
- Vandalism and treasure hunting, due to the neglected state of the monument and the lack of security.

The monastery of St. Archangel Mihail in Dolna Beshoviza is located in the municipality of Roman (in West Bulgaria). According to existing records, the monastery church was built in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, afterwards it was destroyed and rebuilt, repaired and new buildings were added. In the apse of the church well preserved wall paintings exist, revealing some unique characteristics: the images of the Roman popes Sylvester and Adrian, the first paintings of the brothers Cyril and Methodius in the space of the altar, resemblance of the image of the Virgin Mary to the one from the Monastery of Bachkovo. The investigations, the collected historical data and photo research of the icon painting of the church prove the high historical, art and architectural value of the monument, which is of national importance.

The present state of the monastery is disastrous: its west wing is destroyed, its east wing could fall down any minute; the church has serious cracks and unless the treasure hunting excavations in its foundations stop, the church is under serious threat. Urgent measures have to be taken immediately in order to save the surviving building structure of the monument, and in the next stage to carry out the necessary research and design work for future restoration activities.

### **The church of St. Petka in the village Chuipetliovo, region of Pernik**

The main risk influences on this monument are:

- Lack of funds for conservation and maintenance;
- Destructive process in the wall paintings; and
- Incompetent intervention in the wall paintings.

The church St. Petka in the village Chuipetliovo in the region of Pernik (Sofia bishopric) was built in 1860 (the date 1860 inscribed on its east façade is the only evidence for the construction, as the chronicle book of the temple was lost). The church is dedicated to St. Petka, one of the most honoured saints in Bulgaria and on the Balkan Peninsula.

As an architectural and composition type the monument belongs to the one-aisle churches and bears the typical characteristics of the temple construction in the West Bulgarian lands from the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The temple has no narthex; its main body is compact and monumental. Cyclopean blocks as well as processed stones were used for the building structure, altered by bricks. The building structure is massive, with thick walls, which entirely take the load of the massive vault. The walls end with a cornice, turning into convex-concave arcs in the east and west, typical for Bulgarian Revival architecture. Above the vault there is a double-pitched wooden roof with tile cover.

There are three distinctive parts in the spacious interior of the temple: altar, nave and upper level; the nave is divided into five equal parts by four arcs, supporting the vault. The vault has an elliptic outline, in the middle it smoothly turns into a flat ceiling. All surfaces of the interior are entirely covered by wall paintings. The iconographic programme is extremely interesting. No records from the icon painters have been preserved, but there is serious reason to assume that two icon painters worked in the temple at different periods of time. The entire layout of the interior has the same monumental impact as the exterior of the church, which is proof of



the high quality and experience of the painters. The church is a cultural monument “of local importance”.

Some of the wall paintings are destroyed, while the greater part of the rest is in a critical condition – with detachment and a covering thick layer of salts. The priest ordered the re-painting of some of the scenes by a local painter without the approval and consent of the National Institute for Monuments of Culture.

## The house of Dimitar Jablanski in Sofia

The main risk influences on this monument are:

- Intentional neglect and lack of maintenance by its owner; and
- Lack of intervention by competent authorities, which should demand from the owner to observe the law and in the case of refusal to use sanctions against him.

The house was built in 1907 by the Austrian architect Grunanger for the rich contractor Jablanski. It is situated in the centre of Sofia, close to the Parliament (18, Tsar Osvoboditel boulevard), and belongs to the category of rich family residential buildings typical for Europe at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> and beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, which the representatives of the well-to-do-classes built in the most prestigious areas of the big cities.

The building situated in a relatively small garden-yard is a three-storey house, with imposing dimensions, rich architectural and decorative design and monumental impact. Expropriated by the communist government after 1944, for more than 30 years it hosted the Chinese embassy in Sofia. After 1989 it was returned to the inheritors of its last owner.

The building at present is deserted, abandoned and left to destruction. There are indications that the new owner is striving for maximum utilisation of the extremely expensive ground of the building, aiming at impressive profit.

In spite of the numerous public initiatives for the preservation of this emblematic monument, no measures have been taken by the authorised institutions to prevent its intentional destruction.

The house of Dimitar Jablanski in Sofia



Sofia, façade of the house of Nicola Moushanov integrated into new building

## The house of Nicola Moushanov

It would be a bit incorrect to say that this monument is at risk, as actually it does not exist anymore – the building was destroyed, in its place a modern six storey apartment hotel was erected. The National Institute for Monuments of Culture reduced the category of the monument, and afterwards it authorised the project for the new hotel with the main motif that the memory of the monument has been preserved there – in the street façade of the hotel a “quotation” (though not literal) of the house façade was incorporated.

This house was of the same type of monument as the Jablanski house – a big and imposing residential building, situated in one of the central streets of Sofia (47, Moskovska street). It was built at the beginning of the 20th century by Nicola Moushanov, prominent Bulgarian politician and Prime Minister during the period 1931–1934.

Special attention should be drawn to the fate of this monument, as it is symptomatic of a kind of “disease” becoming “chronic”. This is the third case in Sofia, where monuments of culture are being destroyed in order to build new hotels on their sites. In all these cases the designs were authorised because the facades of the new buildings quote in some way the disappeared monuments.



## CHINA

The People's Republic of China is right to be proud of its ancient culture and has made considerable efforts in past years to preserve its unique cultural heritage. Here also in view of the immense dimensions of some monuments and sites considerable problems arise,- for instance concerning the protection and maintenance of the Great Wall, which is thousands of kilometres long. On the other hand, China's dynamic economic development is connected with a gigantic building boom in the cities and with large projects of road construction, like the new motorways, which in particular confront archaeologists with tremendous problems concerning the protection and rescue of below-ground evidence. In this context, the greatest challenge was, of course, the Three Gorges Dam, the largest dam in the world, about which we already reported in an earlier H@R publication (see *H@R 2000*, pp. 84/85). The following report points out problems after the completion of the dam which is also affecting the environment of the Yangtze River with its cultural heritage:

### Government tackling Three Gorges' hidden environmental threats

*The government is facing up to the hidden environmental threats stemming from construction of the 180 billion yuan (US\$24 billion) Three Gorges Project, experts and officials said at a workshop yesterday. Environmental damage caused by the largest hydroelectric river dam project in the world needed to be addressed to avert a disaster, participants said at the two-day forum debating the project, in Wuhan, capital of Hubei Province.*

*On the plus side the dam will prevent seasonal flooding on the lower reaches of the Yangtze River and electricity generated by hydropower will reduce carbon emissions, but the benefits will have an environmental cost, they said. Forum members said the project had "adversely" affected the Three Gorges reservoir*

View of a town already deserted and to be flooded, 2005 (Photo: M.Pz.)



Modern painting of the Yangtze River (detail) indicating the level of flooding (Photo: M.Pz.)

*environment. Problems mentioned included disruption of the ecosystem, more frequent natural disasters, severe erosion and landslides, land shortages and ecological degradation. Tan Qiwei, vice-mayor of Chongqing, a sprawling metropolis near the reservoir, said the shoreline had collapsed in 91 places.*

*Frequent geological disasters have threatened the lives of residents around the reservoir area, said Huang Xuebin, chief of the Headquarters for Prevention and Control of Geological Disasters in the Three Gorges Reservoir. At the forum he described landslides in the reservoir that had produced waves as high as 50 m, crashing into the shoreline and causing damage. Water discharged from the Three Gorges Dam has threatened the safety of protective embankments downstream, Hubei Vice-Governor Li Chunming said.*

*Both Tan and Li said water quality in the Yangtze tributaries had deteriorated and outbreaks of algae and aquatic weeds had become more common. "We cannot profit from a fleeting economic boom at the cost of sacrificing the environment," Wang Xiaofeng, director of the office of the Three Gorges Project Committee of the State Council, said. Wang added the government had paid a lot of attention to the consequences of construction of the Three Gorges Dam.*

*The government has invested heavily in programs designed to conserve the ecology of the Three Gorges area, including spending 12 billion yuan to prevent disasters such as landslides. It has also closed or relocated 1,500 manufacturing ventures, constructed more than 70 sewage disposal and waste treatment plants and resettled about 70,000 people from disaster-prone areas.*

*The Three Gorges Project was launched in 1993, with a budget of 180 billion yuan. Located on the middle reaches of the Yangtze River, the project boasts a 185 m dam, completed in early 2006, and a five-tier ship lock. At least 1.2 million people have been resettled.*

(quoted from: *China Daily*, September 28, 2007)

## CYPRUS

Development constitutes one of the most common factors that affect the cultural heritage of Cyprus. The occurrence of ancient remains during construction projects is very common and the solution that is usually suggested is the incorporation of archaeological sites within the development projects, sometimes with detrimental results for both the ancient site and the modern buildings. The pressures of pre-fixed excavation deadlines often lead to incomplete or inaccurate documentation and to the consequent loss of information.

### The archaeological site on the Hill of Agios Georgios (PA.SY.D.Y), Nicosia

The following is a progress report for the site of Agios Georgios (PA.SY.D.Y) and it intends to provide a follow-up of the report for the period 2004/5 (see *Heritage at Risk* 2004/2005, pp. 53/54).

The proposal to build the new House of Representatives on the Hill of Saint George, Nicosia, problematic because antiquities were found after the approval of the building plans (that were selected as a result of an architectural competition), is still pending. Superimposed strata have been revealed, belonging to various phases of the city's history. The site provides evidence for the early habitation of Nicosia during the Late Chalcolithic period (mid – 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium B.C.), taking back the city's history by about three centuries. The history of Cyprus' capital, although one of the longest in the Mediterranean, was little known to its population. One has to bear in mind that the modern city completely overlies its ancient forerunners and that until very recently no large-scale excavations had ever been undertaken to document its history.

Successive occupation at the site dates from the Archaic period to the end of the Hellenistic period and provides new evidence for the settlement, religion, economy and social organization during

these periods. Furthermore, important evidence has been uncovered, possibly related to the ancient kingdom of Ledra, which has not been identified so far. In addition, architectural remains assignable to the early Christian period until the 16<sup>th</sup> century A.D., when the city was shifted within the newly built fortifications of the Venetian period, constitute evidence of the city's later historical periods. The study of the remains and in general of the material unearthed (burials, moveable objects etc) will enhance our understanding of the history of Cyprus' capital city and its population.

Suggestions made by the Department of Antiquities, Cyprus, related to the re-designing of the building so that it takes into account the preservation of the excavated remains, have been forwarded and are still being examined by the bodies concerned. The Department of Antiquities, Cyprus, in collaboration with the Town Planning Bureau and the Department of Public Works, has taken on preliminary works for landscaping and making the site partly accessible to the general public. However, no final landscaping or sheltering of the vulnerable parts of the site may be possible before a final decision is made on the future of the site. The excavated remains are conserved annually, but still remain exposed to the elements with irreversible results.

### Palaion Demarcheion, Nicosia

The following is a progress report for the site of Palaion Demarcheion in the walled city of Nicosia and it intends to provide a follow-up of the report for the period 2004/5 (see *Heritage at Risk* 2004/2005, pp. 53/54). Unfortunately, the procedures for the completion of the plans for the future of the site are still delayed and as a result, long-term decisions for the conservation, preservation and presentation of the site to the public cannot be made.

The archaeological site on the Hill of Agios Georgios, Nicosia





Despite the fact that the political and ecclesiastical history of the Byzantine and medieval capital of Cyprus, Nicosia, is well documented by written sources, matters such as its topography, architecture, town-planning and the everyday life of its inhabitants are little known. These matters can be clarified by combining the information from the sources with archaeological research. Rarely are archaeologists given the chance to excavate a large area in a busy urban centre, and even more rarely they are given the chance to excavate a large area with undisturbed archaeological strata.

That is why the site of Palaion Demarcheion in the centre of the walled city of Nicosia presented a unique chance for archaeological research. The site was a municipal car-park since the 1960s and this kept the large modern digging machines away. It was the first time that such a large scale systematic excavation had taken place within the walled city.

In 2002 works began for the construction of a new town hall on this site, following an earlier decision of the Municipal Council. Almost half of the site was bulldozed away. It was only in 2004, however, that the walled city of Nicosia was declared an Ancient Monument of Schedule B under the Antiquities Law, which meant that, among other things, the Department of Antiquities controls all excavation works in the walled city.<sup>1</sup> The excavation was carried out during the period 2002-2006. Soon after it was realized that the site was also an archaeological one, it was decided by both the Department of Antiquities and the Nicosia Municipality that the ancient remains should coexist with the new building.

A large part of the Byzantine and medieval city was uncovered during the above-mentioned excavation periods, including two churches with cemeteries, remains of at least four monumental buildings, many workshop areas, a road, a cistern, a noria, a large number of wells of a great variety and numerous other architectural remains. The excavation revealed that the site was continuously inhabited from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries A.D. This was the first time that the stratigraphy of the Byzantine and medieval city was established and the moveable finds give us a picture of the material culture of its inhabitants during the various periods represented by the site. The whole site is in fact a window to the city's past. There was even an archaeological layer dated to the end of the Middle Bronze Age.

Furthermore, excavations in busy urban centres, with centuries of building activity, are by definition very difficult. That was indeed the case in Palaion Demarcheion; there are many overlapping phases of the city, later walls which destroy, use or replace older ones and so on. The archaeological landscape that has resulted is a highly complex and problematic one.

Palaion Demarcheion, Nicosia



Palaion Demarcheion, Nicosia

First of all, due to the fact that the excavation was carried out under a lot of pressure, long seasons of large-scale excavation took place and as a result the site was quickly exposed, in order to allow the plans for the new town hall to proceed. Currently there is a large archaeological site in the historic centre of the city, which requires everyday care and the development of a strategic management plan, both in terms of conservation and presentation to the public.

Secondly, the site faces a serious drainage problem and during the winter rains it floods. This problem was to be solved with the construction of the new building, but as this was a controversial matter the solution was delayed. We expect that this will soon proceed since Nicosia Municipality has recently finished investigating other possibilities for the location of the new town hall.

Important long-term decisions that will affect the future of the archaeological remains and the strategy that will be followed as far as their conservation and their presentation to the public are concerned, have been pending until today as a result of the decision-making process. Now the site is exposed to the elements and it is not accessible to the public. Final decisions about the future and the conservation strategy of this highly complex site must be taken soon; otherwise this will be at the further expense of the excavated antiquities and the historic information they bear, despite the fact that the Department of Antiquities takes all possible measures for short and medium term protection of the site, such as temporary sheltering and annual first-aid conservation.

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## Akanthou / LIASTRIKA

The cultural heritage in the territories of the island that are occupied by the Turkish forces since 1974 is still inaccessible to the Government of Cyprus and the responsible Department of Antiquities. The fate of many churches, ancient monuments, archaeological sites, museums and private collections is well-known. A new threat to heritage that has recently emerged, also in the occupied part of Cyprus, is development. An indicative case was recently observed near the village of Akanthou, on the north coast. The village is surrounded by remains of ancient settlements and this has been known to the authorities at least from the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

For this reason in 1966 a large site with rich archaeological remains was declared an Ancient Monument of Schedule B.<sup>2</sup> The name of the area today is LIASTRIKA and it is believed by researchers that it is the site of the ancient city of Aphrodision, mentioned by the ancient geographer Strabo. Even though a systematic excavation was never undertaken in the area, there is plenty of material evidence on the surface of the ground, mainly pottery, and among the accidental finds that have been reported is a Greek inscription

and many mosaic fragments. This large site also includes the church of Archangel Michael.

It was recently observed that, at a short distance to the south of this modest church, a huge three-storied building, possibly a hotel, is being illegally constructed within the boundaries of the archaeological site. The erection of this building is detrimental to the archaeological strata and as a result valuable information is lost. Moreover, both the natural and the archaeological environments are altered as a result of the fact that this modern building is also out of scale compared to its surroundings.

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Akanthou / LIASTRIKA, ancient church of Archangel Michael



The same site after the construction of a three-storied building







The Neolithic site of Apostolos  
Andreas-Kastros

## The Neolithic site of Apostolos Andreas – Kastros

The Aceramic Neolithic site of Apostolos Andreas-Kastros on the Karpas peninsula in the eastern-most part of the occupied territories of Cyprus was one of the most important sites of the Neolithic period on the island of Cyprus since it demonstrated the adaptation of the Neolithic inhabitants to their coastal environment. Apostolos Andreas-Kastros was a fishing settlement dated to the 6<sup>th</sup> millennium B.C., excavated from 1970 to 1973 by Dr. Alain Le Brun with funding from the CNRS (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique).

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of September 2005 the Director of the Department of Antiquities, Cyprus was informed that this important Neolithic site had been destroyed. The destruction was also reported in the Turkish Cypriot newspaper *Afrika* (13/9/05). The site was bulldozed and levelled by the Turkish army and where the archaeological remains used to be the flag poles of Turkey and the pseudo state now stand. Further destruction to the ruins came with the construction of a road opened in order to give access to the flags. According to the Turkish Cypriot article, the army has not been given permission to raise flag poles on the site. The so-called mayor of the occupied village of Rizokarpasso, Arif Ozbayrak, said that his 'municipality' is not responsible for the destruction and that the army had asked them for bulldozers and the community had given them the machines. The destruction of this site obliterates part of the history of Cyprus and indicates a lack of control and sensitivity in relation to the protection of cultural heritage.

The issue of the destruction of the Neolithic site of Apostolos Andreas-Kastros was put forward at the ICOMOS 15th General Assembly in Xi'an, China by the Cyprus section of ICOMOS. The Assembly resolved to "Condemn the destruction of the site of Apostolos Andreas ... and write to Turkey and Turkish Cypriot

Authorities calling for measures to be taken to prevent such destruction and name changes" (see: [www.international.icomos.org/xian2005/resolutions15ga.htm](http://www.international.icomos.org/xian2005/resolutions15ga.htm)).

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ICOMOS Cyprus

## Famagusta 2007: An Appeal for International Cooperation

Scratched onto the interior of the east wall of the ruined Cathedral of Saint George of the Greeks in Famagusta is the following inscription (Fig. 1)

How sad I am  
Famagusta (is) ruined  
Even if centuries passed  
However (I am) grateful.<sup>3</sup> [Trans]

Though shrouded in melancholy, there is yet a hint of optimism afforded by the anonymous writer of the Greek script, capturing both the triumph and the tragedy of the great city. This is precisely the theme and the balance I wish to develop over the course of this essay and in my appeal for the return of international academia to the wealth of heritage which lies behind Famagusta's impressive walls.

Famagusta, a city of some 35,000 inhabitants on the east coast of Cyprus, has a one-thousand-year history, and is characterized by an uncommon, and virtually forgotten, cultural wealth (Fig. 2). It was founded in 964 (on the site of 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC Arsinoe), was acquired by the French in 1192, and became a crucial crusader city and port after the fall of Acre in 1291. In later centuries it saw Byzantine, Lusignan, Genoese, Venetian, Ottoman and British dynasties come and go in the ebb and flow of its own turbulent history, and was simultaneously home to Armenian, Jewish, Nestorian, Maronite and Jacobite communities. Today, however, it stands internationally isolated in an unrecognized state at the nexus of East and West.

At the zenith of its medieval wealth and influence Famagusta was described by a German traveller as "...the richest of all cities, and her citizens are the richest of men. But I dare not speak of their precious stones and golden tissues and other riches, for it was a thing unheard of and incredible. I dare not speak of their riches."

The Cathedral of St. Nicholas (Figs. 3 & 4) in the main square of Famagusta became the coronation place of the crusader kings of Jerusalem and was surrounded by perhaps hundreds of smaller, yet exquisite, churches and houses, constructed in the finest Gothic styles appropriated from the Champagne region of France and the Rhinelands. From the port radiated impressive trade connections throughout the known world, especially with: Alexandria, Beirut, Tripoli, Antioch, Damascus, Aleppo, Rhodes, Constantinople, Thessaloniki, Crete, Venice, Valletta, Naples, Pisa, Genoa, Florence, Tunis, Barcelona, Montpellier, Avignon, Bruges, and London. It was even said that the prestige and wealth of the port of Lusignan Famagusta rivalled that of Venice and Constantinople in the early 14<sup>th</sup> century. The century-long government of the Genoese (1373-1464), however, led to a decline which not even the maritime and enterprising might of the Venetians could arrest when they took over the island (1489-1571). Despite the construction of a palace (Fig. 5) opposite the cathedral, a grand network of fortifications (Fig. 6), and the strengthening of the famed Othello Tower, Venetian Famagusta fell to Ottoman forces in 1571. Four and a half centuries of neglect followed which, combined with exposure to the elements, earthquakes, plague and flooding, left the city almost ruined at the time of the British arrival in 1878. The pioneering Scottish photographer John Thomson, who visited that year, called it "a place of ruins, a city of the dead, in which the traveler is surprised to encounter a living tenant" (Fig. 7).

Today the latest chapter in Famagusta's troubled history is being played out in the larger context of an international social and economic embargo, and a refusal by the international community to recognise the country in which it now finds itself: the self-proclaimed Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (also known as 'The Occupied Territories' of the Republic of Cyprus).<sup>4,5</sup> The region's magnificent heritage has been largely neglected for over three decades, since the Turkish military intervention of 1974 which divided the island into Turkish-Muslim north and Greek-Orthodox south (Fig. 8). The Greek section of the island, fully recognised internationally, has since been integrated into the European Union, while the northern Turkish section of the island remains unrecognized. Despite having voted for re-unification and EU membership under the UN Annan Plan in 2004 northern Cyprus finds itself unfunded and un-assisted, with the exception of substantial financial aid from Turkey. The already fragile legacy of Famagusta's diverse cultural heritage therefore continues to decay, and is used as a politically motivated pawn, indiscriminately played, and often sacrificed, in a propaganda war between north and south. Potential international assistance stays away for fear of being seen to 'recognise'

the break-away republic, while those individuals who risk their careers to work there, are firmly reminded by political lobbyists that there are grim consequences for those who challenge the embargo.

As early as May 2002 the Committee on Culture, Science and Education report in the Council of Europe commented on the collateral damage caused by such a sweeping state of affairs:

"One consequence of the current political situation is the isolation of the academics and professional conservation workers from international contact with colleagues other than those in Turkey.... We should therefore appeal to the wider international academic and professional community for co-operation."

The same Committee called for:

- 1) Breaking down the academic and professional isolation of the north;
- 2) Setting up a European Foundation for the Cultural Heritage of Cyprus (funding conservation of specific monuments, international contacts, inventory of losses etc);
- 3) Co-operation on illegal movement of cultural property.

The report concluded that it was time to look to the future, otherwise the losses would be "of a paneuropean dimension". Since that time, however, no substantial assistance has been forthcoming. Instead, the historic monuments of Famagusta, over 200 of them, are in a state of terminal decline and the cause of enormous concern to experts on the history, architecture and art of Medieval and Renaissance Cyprus (Fig. 9). Professor Nicola Coldstream for example wrote in 2006 that "All the medieval buildings, however, urgently need conservation. The stonework, much of which is now like a sponge, will soon be past saving, so time is on no one's side." The sandstone, which from a distance seems fine (Fig. 10), is, on closer inspection, in an extremely advanced state of decay, erosion pitting up to 15cms in places (Figs. 11 & 12). The collapse of domes, arches and ribbed vaults will in time be inevitable. In particular the exterior of Saint Nicholas Cathedral and St George of the Latins, "one of the finest Gothic buildings of medieval Christendom," are almost beyond repair (Fig. 13). Professor Michel Balard referred especially to the frescoes of the Church of St George of the Greeks (Figs 14 & 15), which, he observed, are literally disappearing through preventable natural causes such as sun and rain. He concluded "The protection is in any case very urgent." Professor Peter Edbury observed the political dilemma astutely when he wrote "It seems to me that, like the old city at Akko (Israel), Famagusta ought to be a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and I suspect that it is largely the fact that since 1974 Famagusta has been in the control of a regime that has been almost universally denied diplomatic recognition that has prevented moves in that direction." Professor Benjamin Arbel simply refers to the monuments in the old city as being in "a deplorable state" (Fig. 16).

Numerous natural and man-made threats endanger the old city, including geo-technical instability, drainage problems, vegetation ingress, water ingress, inappropriate prior conservation, neglect and inadequate maintenance, rapid development and haphazard townplanning, and a lack of conservation expertise. A decade of continued neglect will see further decline and, in one or two cases, possibly catastrophic structural failure. While the cathedral (Lala Mustafa Pasha Cami), Agia Zoni, the Armenian church, and the Nestorian church require only medium-scope maintenance and conservation, many other buildings are in greater peril and already require structural reconstitution (such as the façade of Saint George of the Greeks).

From the frescoes which are bleached off the walls daily in summer or rained upon every winter (Fig. 17), to the walls of the



churches and palaces which are unstable and ready to fall (Fig. 18); from the physical condition of the sandstone which is crumbling, to the removal of cut stone for other purposes and the inappropriate usage of old buildings, there is not much room for optimism. There can be no doubt at all that the magnificent medieval walled city of Famagusta is in desperate need of international co-operation, of professional consultation and of controlled restoration and not continued isolation and embargoes that make all forms of intellectual and professional assistance virtually impossible. As any political observer will also be aware, the solution to the 'Cyprus problem' is as distant today as ever it has been in the past, and so the future of the historic monuments behind this modern political fault line is indeed bleak despite the continued efforts of the local authorities and a handful of international academics who have taken the decision to work at one of the north Cypriot universities. If the international community does not intervene, then many of the greatest crusader churches and Renaissance fortifications (to say nothing of the Ottoman, Byzantine and British legacies) in the Eastern Mediterranean, will disappear. Numerous applications for funding have already been rejected by international organisations who are unwilling to cooperate with the regime in the north despite the obvious reality that it is extremely urgent that they do so.

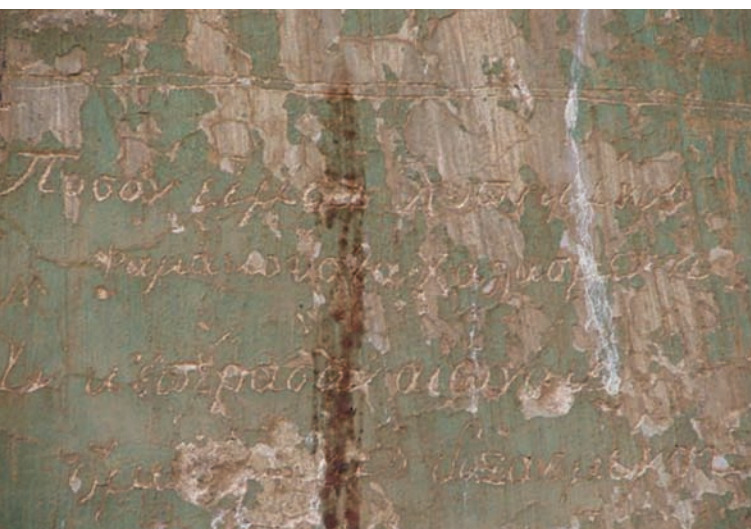
There is a second problem. Although Famagusta is internationally isolated, it is still experiencing un-harnessed development and a rapidly expanding population – a situation exacerbated by the post-Annan Plan climate in northern Cyprus which has encouraged a rate of foreign investment that the infrastructure simply cannot bear (Fig. 19). Famagusta boasts a university with a student population of 14,000 from over 60 different countries. In tandem has come a real estate boom, fuelled by foreign investment principally from the United Kingdom, which is putting tremendous stresses on the region's land and environmental resources. With it has come a subsequent urban sprawl that will soon encroach on Enkomi, Salamis and Saint Barnabas. It is hard to know which is the greater threat – years of international neglect and political obstruction, or rapid, careless and thoughtless property speculation. As mass housing developments are constructed, road systems built, water drainage routes dug, dams built, and all the short-term requirements for an economic boom hastily put into place, who is going to give a second glance at the heritage of the city and environs?

Perhaps this is why the Council of Europe report was so grave when it warned that "The invasion of mass tourism risks being far more devastating than the hostilities of 1974." The report then reminded us that 'The south is a striking example of the threats posed by commercial prosperity and mass tourism to the survival of the cultural and natural heritage. The contrast with the north should be instructive.' These turned out to be the warnings of Cassandra – prophetic but unheeded.

Perhaps this intentional neglect would be understandable if Famagusta lay in a dangerous war zone. It does not. Access to Famagusta is easy and permitted so long as the island is entered "legally" (ie through any port in the south). How long then must Famagusta wait for the expertise and funding that it so desperately needs? And how long can the active obstruction by lobbyists be tolerated? Who would imagine that within academia there are politically motivated professors dedicated to the prevention of external contact (even to talk and prepare preliminary status reports) from arriving in Famagusta because they believe that a solution to the Cyprus problem (and in particular the burning issue of the modern ghost city of Varosha) must be found first? After 34 years of such policies, any "victories" are surely Pyrrhic as the great city they so passionately defend decays and crumbles, as opportunity after opportunity is missed through political obstruction. I am convinced that with or without re-unification of the island the future of Famagusta's rich and turbulent past should be a matter for the international scholarly community to embrace, not neglect. Time, as Professor Coldstream put it, is on no-one's side. The traveller William Turner saw Famagusta almost two centuries ago and wrote: "It is hardly credible that a city so lately flourishing should be so completely ruined as Famagusta. Of its numerous palaces and churches not one remains entire. But the city might easily be restored, for the walls and the fortifications yet remain entire."

In 2007, and in the light of the prevailing and long-term political stalemate on the island, there are those who are beginning to wonder whether or not this chance might yet be missed. Famagusta's destiny lies in the hands of international academia and professional organisations who can, if they wish, decide to return with their expertise and funding to the city. If they do not, they must share in the responsibility of an unenviable fate.

Fig. 1 Greek Graffiti on the wall of Saint George of the Greeks Cathedral in Famagusta



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<sup>1</sup> K.ΔΠ. 596/4.6.2004, p.5754, no. 596.

<sup>2</sup> K.ΔΠ. 658/22.9.1966, p. 1008, no. 20.

<sup>3</sup> My thanks to Yesim Dede for this translation.

<sup>4</sup> See: Walsh M., Cultural Welfare and Political Stalemate: The Case of Northern Cyprus, in: Going Global: Defining CAA's Role in the International Community, 92nd College Arts Association Annual Conference.





Fig. 2 Saint Nicholas Cathedral through the north portal of Saint George of the Latins

Fig. 3 Saint Nicholas Cathedral – West Façade

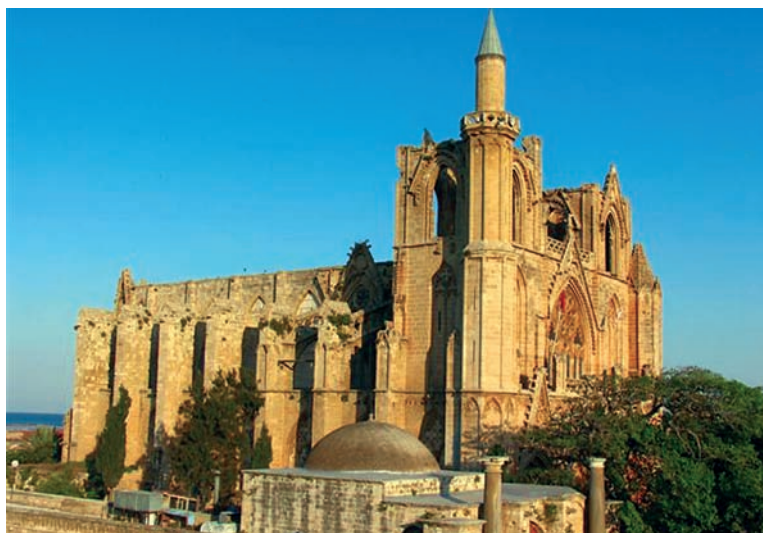
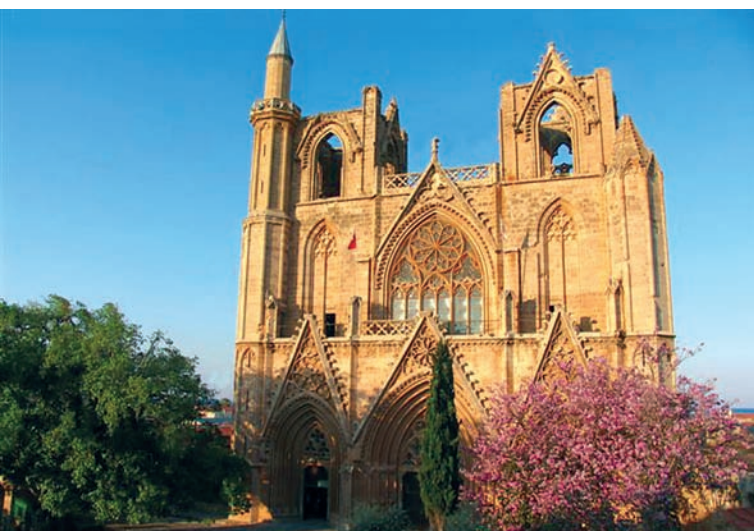


Fig. 4 Saint Nicholas Cathedral with Ottoman Medresa (and columns from Salamis) in foreground



Fig. 5 Entrance to the Venetian Palace

Fig. 6 The fortified walls and moat of Famagusta







Fig. 7 From identified church, past the church of Saint Peter and Paul, to Saint Nicholas Cathedral



Fig. 10 The apse (east) of Saint Nicholas Cathedral



Fig. 8 The Ruins of the Orthodox church of Agios Nikolaus

Fig. 9 The Ruins of Saint Mary of Carmel

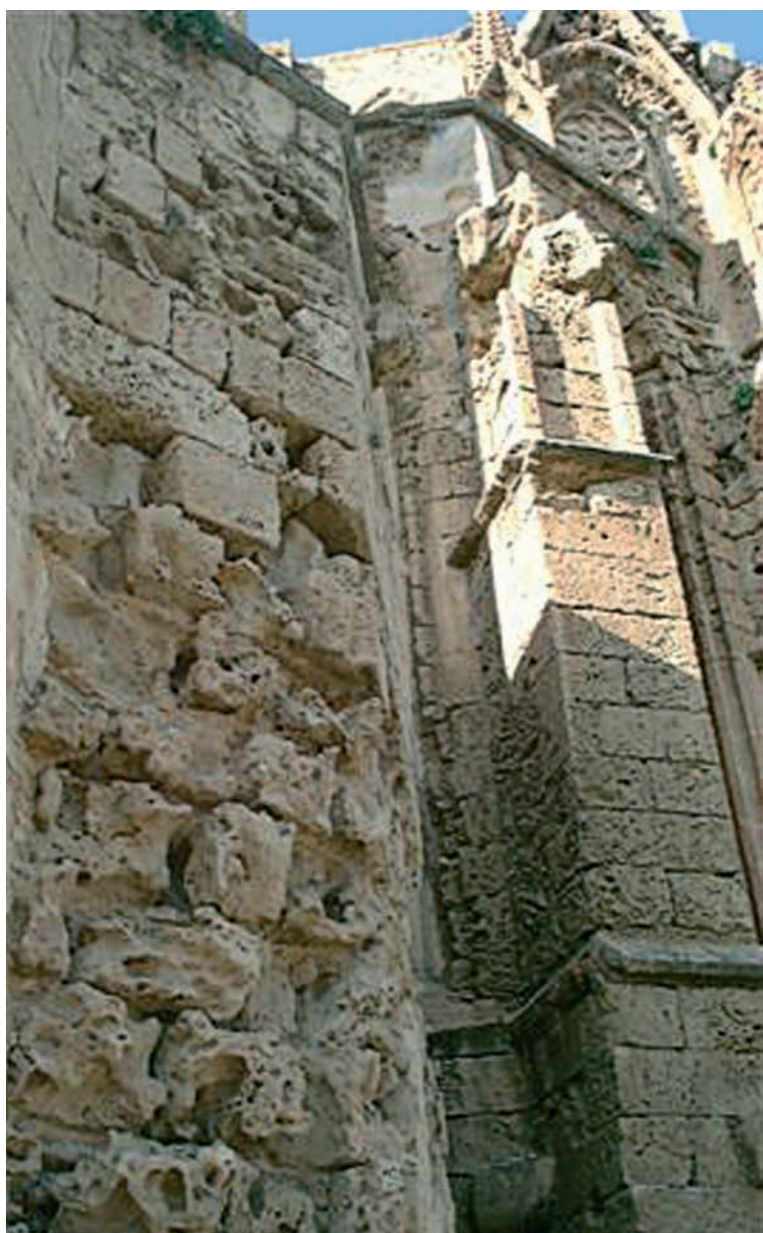






Fig. 12 Stone decay in the decorations of Saint Nicholas Cathedral

◀ Fig. 11 Stone decay in the chapels at the east of Saint Nicholas Cathedral



Fig. 14 Saint George of the Greeks – with Saint Nicholas in background, and Saint Symeon attached to south wall



Fig. 15 Saint George of the Greeks – interior

Fig. 13 The Ruins of Saint George of the Latins



Fig. 16 Sculptural detail on Saint George of the Latins







Fig. 17 Damaged frescoes in Saint George of the Greeks



Fig. 18 An unstable wall – Saint Peter and Paul

Fig. 19 Modern Famagusta encroaches on Saint Nicholas Cathedral





## CZECH REPUBLIC

### Prague, High-rise Buildings on Pankrac Plain

Since 2005 the Czech National Committee of ICOMOS and the Society for Old Prague have been fighting against the project of further high-rise buildings on Pankrac Plain – an elevated area within the buffer zone of the World Heritage site. After a colloquium of experts in Prague ICOMOS sent the following letter on 3 May 2007 to Mr Pavel Bem, Lord Mayor of the City of Prague, and to the responsible authorities:

*Dear Lord Mayor,*

*The members of ICOMOS, Architect Michal Firestone and Professor Wilfried Lipp, shared with me their experiences from the joint ICOMOS-UNESCO mission and colloquium that took place in Prague one month ago. The topic/purpose of their mission was the current architectural changes and notably the projects for high-rise buildings to be erected on Pankrac Plain within the formally designated Prague World Heritage site buffer zone.*

*I am most concerned by what I have learned. Prague deservedly has the fame of being one of the most beautiful historic cities in the world, comparable to World Heritage sites as Florence or Rome. The UNESCO World Heritage Committee identified its invaluable urban landscape as a deciding factor when inscribing Prague on the UNESCO World Heritage List.*

*As a frequent and enthusiastic visitor to your city, I fully share the opinion of ICOMOS experts that the existing high-rise buildings on the Pankrac Plain represent a serious town planning mistake of the past. I must strongly advise against this mistake being repeated today. What concerns me especially is the fact that projects with such deep impact on the historic urban ensemble of Prague may be approved by the city authorities on a case-to-case basis.*

*The case of Pankrac Plain high-rise buildings shows the urgent need for an appropriate Management Plan for the formally designated World Heritage site and buffer zone.*

*In the case of Prague, I also miss a vision of such form of poly-*

*centric development of the city that would prevent the construction of further high-rise buildings in direct visual contact with the historic core. Instead of such action being taken, I am informed that another project for high-rise buildings is being proposed and presented for review. This project is located in Holesovice quarter within the World Heritage buffer zone.*

*Being concerned that the Pankrac development may constitute an irreversible process of compromising the unique urban qualities of your city, I urgently ask you, distinguished Lord Mayor, to stop the Pankrac project in time, and see to it that the height of proposed buildings be reduced to soften instead of increase further negative impacts.*

*Because of the importance of this case, I am sending a copy of this letter also to Mr. Vaclav Jehlička, Minister of Culture to the Czech Republic, and to Mr. Francesco Bandarin, Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in Paris.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Michael Petzet  
President of ICOMOS*

In spite of all concerns, at the beginning of September 2007 the Czech Ministry of Culture consented to the decision of the Prague Magistrate to erect two high-rise buildings on Pankrac Plain. The consequences of this decision for the historic centre are regrettable, for the bad example of Pankrac Plain will be an incentive to develop more projects of this kind. First of all there is the Holesovice project, promoted as “The Prague Twins” with the argument that from the windows of the apartments and office studios the future customers will have the most impressive view over historic Prague. We can only hope that the authorities in charge will finally realise that one of the most beautiful city ensembles in the world must not be sacrificed for the economic interests of a few developers.

View of Prague with simulation of the so-called “Prague Twins” project





## ECUADOR

En las revistas *Heritage at Risk* 2001-2002 y 2002-2003, el ICOMOS ECUADOR publicó algunos graves casos de atentados al patrimonio en varias ciudades. Si bien en algunos ámbitos institucionales y técnicos escasas mejoras son identificables; conflictos de legislación y competencias, inadecuada planificación y prácticas profesionales insensibles frente al patrimonio continúan vigentes. Muchas veces la insuficiencia de recursos agudiza los problemas, sin embargo, fundamentalmente en las grandes ciudades como Quito, Guayaquil y Cuenca, donde existen importantes recursos financieros, los peligros son actualmente mayores.

En esta oportunidad se presentan especialmente dos relevantes casos: Reconstrucción de la Torre de la Compañía de Jesús y la Ampliación del Palacio del Congreso Nacional en Quito, ubicados dentro del área declarada como Patrimonio Cultural de la Humanidad.

Los atentados se sitúan tanto en el patrimonio cultural antiguo cuanto en el moderno. En el caso de lo antiguo, el tema central es de la autenticidad, las inversiones y el turismo; en el patrimonio del siglo XX, por un lado es la negativa a reconocer su valor e igualmente el desconocimiento y desenfoco sobre la relación del monumento con su contexto urbano. La polémica sobre la segunda tendencia es reciente y difícil por el ímpetu del “desarrollo” de las urbes.

En unos y en otros casos las instituciones protagonistas son, en primer término las municipalidades encargadas del manejo de los bienes patrimoniales, el Instituto Nacional de Patrimonio Cultural responsable legal de los bienes, el ICOMOS y los Colegios de Arquitectos del país; la UNESCO, que muy positivamente se está involucrando.

### Reconstrucción de la Torre-Campanario de la Compañía de Jesús en Quito

El conjunto arquitectónico o convento de la Compañía de Jesús es un monumento de primer orden del Centro Histórico de Quito, se halla ubicado entre las calles García Moreno, Sucre, Benalcázar y Espejo, ocupando la manzana localizada al sur occidente de la Plaza Mayor, en el núcleo o zona monumental del área declarada por la UNESCO en 1978, Patrimonio Cultural de la Humanidad.

Su construcción empezó en 1605 y fue concluida en 1766, es un

Convento de la Compañía de Jesús, estado actual



Reconstrucción de la Torre-Campanario de la Compañía de Jesús en Quito después del terremoto 1868

conjunto correspondiente al período barroco iberoamericano, que guarda innumerables tesoros pictóricos y escultóricos de la Escuela Quiteña.

Elemento dominante del conjunto jesuítico fue su torre-campanario de 55 varas, la más alta de la ciudad, separada del templo e integrada al claustro principal.

De acuerdo a la investigación histórica se sabe que la construcción de la torre se la finalizó en 1690. El terremoto de 1859 la afectó seriamente y se terminó su reconstrucción en abril de 1868. Un nuevo sismo de agosto de 1868 volvió a afectarle gravemente y obligó a derrocar sus dos cuerpos superiores, por segunda ocasión, para evitar su caída y salvaguardar de esa manera la integridad del conjunto.

La Torre de la Compañía no pudo ser restaurada como lo fueron en su momento las demás torres de Quito, por falta de recursos económicos; se la remató provisionalmente a la mitad de su altura original como hoy se la conoce. Actualmente, 138 años después de su desaparición, la comunidad jesuita ha decidido recuperar la torre-campanario, para lo cual se ha elaborado un proyecto de intervención, que ha sido sometido a consideración de la Municipalidad para su aprobación y ejecución. El proyecto se lo ha realizado base a un Convenio de Cooperación con la Comunidad de Madrid por 169.984 Euros, donados tanto para los estudios cuanto para las obras, con un tiempo de vigencia de 13 meses.

La propuesta plantea, por una parte la rehabilitación de la base de la torre y por otra, la reconstrucción de los dos cuerpos faltantes. En lo formal se reproducen las características que tenía la torre hace 138 años, en base a descripciones, dibujos y fotografías existentes; complementadas con interpretaciones geométricas hechas por el equipo técnico para establecer la volumetría y altura de la torre, definida en 46 m. En el ámbito funcional, la reproducción incluye también el campanario y el reloj similares a los de la antigua torre, manteniendo de este modo la función original; no obstante la función principal que se introduce es la turística mediante la instalación de un mirador, entre el tercer cuerpo y el remate, al cual se accede por un ascensor emplazado dentro de la parte existente de la torre, mismo que permite también la conexión con el claustro y galerías contiguos.

Para la edificación de los cuerpos faltantes de la torre, se propone un “nuevo sistema constructivo diseñado ad hoc para el efecto”, se trata de “una estructura de soporte laminar fundida en obra, que se dispondrá en las caras externas e internas dejando un vacío al medio”... “para aparentar el volumen y solidez de los muros antigu-

os de la base”<sup>1</sup> El remate piramidal se construirá con estructura metálica, cubierta con láminas de cobre y, los adornos y molduras serán prefabricados.

Todas las instituciones técnicas: Instituto de Patrimonio Cultural, Colegio de Arquitectos del Ecuador, Fondo de Salvamento del Patrimonio Cultural, ICOMOS y la Subcomisión Técnica de Áreas Históricas, han manifestado dudas con respecto al proyecto planteado por la Fundación Iglesia de la Compañía de Jesús, principalmente en temas de carácter jurídico, conceptual y técnico, que generan desconfianza y polémica y que, al no estar adecuadamente resueltos ponen en riesgo la autenticidad e integridad del monumento.

a) La propuesta general apunta a introducir en el conjunto jesuita nuevas funciones que permitan sustentar la restauración y mantenimiento del inmueble y que lo inserten en el mercado turístico, no obstante, se ha presentado a aprobación solamente el proyecto de intervención en la Torre-Campanario, y no el proyecto total de intervención, y tampoco un estudio de impactos.

b) El Convenio suscrito hizo abstracción total de lo relacionado con la normativa de protección del bien patrimonial y del procedimiento de aprobación de planos en las instancias correspondientes del Distrito Metropolitano de Quito y del Instituto Nacional de Patrimonio Cultural, como acción previa a la construcción de la obra; sin embargo se utiliza dicho convenio como mecanismo de presión para la

aprobación del proyecto, aduciendo que si no se aprueba rápidamente, se perderá el financiamiento de la Comunidad de Madrid.

c) El proyecto de reconstrucción no se debe a una necesidad esencialmente cultural, sino a otra de carácter turístico- económica, al haberse perdido materialmente la torre hace más de un siglo, esta ha perdido sus valores culturales y su significado para la sociedad actual, ya no es parte de la memoria colectiva, ni del imaginario de la ciudad. Culturalmente, dado el tiempo transcurrido, en términos de identidad, atributos artísticos o técnicos, singularidad, funcionalidad, etc.; ni para La Compañía de Jesús ni para la ciudad de Quito la existencia de la torre es indispensable.

d) Reconstruir la torre con las características formales de la antigua torre, atenta no solo contra la autenticidad del monumento Compañía de Jesús, sino también contra los valores excepcionales de Quito, que fue inscrita como Patrimonio Mundial por la UNESCO, precisamente bajo ese criterio<sup>ii</sup>.

e) El tema más preocupante y controversial es que el proyecto no considera el principio de reversibilidad, recomendado en las normas internacionales de conservación y plantea tres sistemas constructivos diferentes que conforman una unidad estructural: 1. Muros portantes de ladrillo, existentes, 2. Estructura laminar fundida propuesta para el 3° cuerpo y 3. Estructura metálica para el remate. Adicionalmente, la torre soportará las cargas puntuales móviles del ascensor y las campanas. En función de estas premisas, se desconoce el comportamiento estructural que pueda tener la torre durante el proceso constructivo y más grave aún, durante un evento sísmico, el cual podría afectar no solo a la parte antigua de la torre, sino a todo el monumento. Se hacen imprescindibles, por tanto estudios exhaustivos de la propuesta estructural y de la pertinencia de los sistemas constructivos.

A pesar de la argumentación precedente y de la oposición de las instituciones mencionadas, el 11 de abril de 2007 la Comisión de Áreas Históricas y Patrimonio del Distrito Metropolitano de Quito aprobó el proyecto.

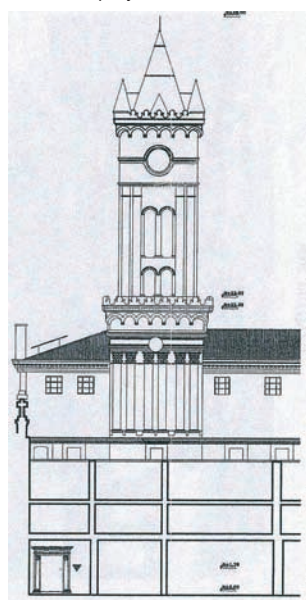
La posición categórica de ICOMOS Ecuador es que, dada la importancia histórica y cultural del conjunto jesuítico cualquier intervención para su salvaguarda es de extrema responsabilidad tanto para la Fundación Iglesia de la Compañía de Jesús, propietaria del bien, cuanto para las instituciones estatales, encargadas por Ley de la tutela y conservación del mismo. Una decisión equivocada podría comprometer los no solo los valores propios del monumento, sino también los valores excepcionales del Centro Histórico de Quito, principalmente su “autenticidad”. Por tanto una adecuada propuesta debería estar enmarcada en las normas jurídicas correspondientes, así como en las recomendaciones y procedimientos técnicos de conservación universalmente aceptados.

## Ampliación del Palacio del Congreso Nacional

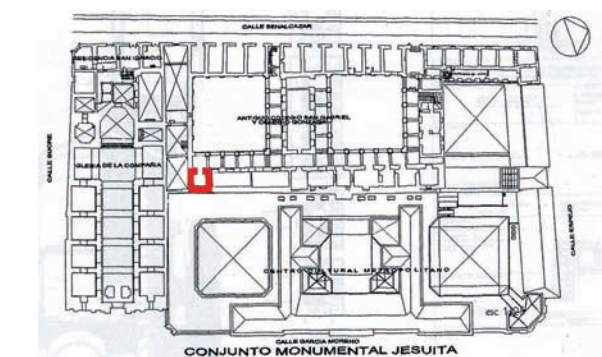
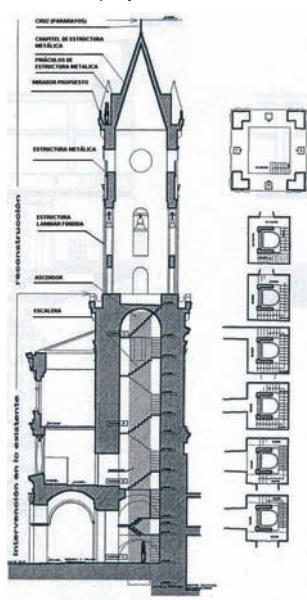
En 1944, la Municipalidad de Quito aprobó el Plan Regulador de Quito, realizado por el arquitecto uruguayo Jones Odriozola. Ese instrumento tenía como objetivo fundamental articular la histórica ciudad con el Quito del porvenir. Esa propuesta, entre múltiples elementos situó hacia el Norte de la urbe al nuevo “centro cívico”, en los llamados “potreros del Rey”.

Como principal componente del Centro Cívico de Quito, en

Torre-Campanario de la Compañía de Jesús, proyecto



Torre-Campanario de la Compañía de Jesús, proyecto, corte A-A



Convento de la Compañía de Jesús, conjunto monumental



1958 se construyó el palacio del Congreso Nacional, una valiosa obra de arquitectura moderna. Su calidad de bien patrimonial se debe a sus valores histórico- testimoniales y simbólicos de un período importante de la historia de la arquitectura y urbanismo de la ciudad y de la historia política del país. Tiene además valores artísticos agregados, ya que son parte integrante del monumento, notabilísimos murales de Víctor Mideros y de Oswaldo Guayasamín.

Tras décadas de saturación de actividades el Congreso Nacional había incrementado notablemente sus funcionarios y requerimientos y, en marzo de 2004 un incendio de notables proporciones, inutilizó al edificio e hizo necesaria una rehabilitación integral. En la intervención (pronta a finalizar) se excluyeron las oficinas de los legisladores y otros servicios que debían encontrar un sitio donde relocarse. Esa relocalización es el motivo de la controversia actual.

La Municipalidad diseñó un “campus legislativo” en la vecindad del Palacio, mediante la demolición de algunos bloques de oficinas; ese proyecto no pudo ser ejecutado por la tenaz resistencia de los afectados. Precipitadamente una oficina técnica del Congreso, carente de profesionales especializados en arquitectura y urbanismo patrimonial, realizó un proyecto de dos torres localizadas en el mismo predio del palacio (ver imágenes), atentando contra el histórico edificio y violando la Ley de Patrimonio y la Constitución.

El debate se centra por un lado sobre el “valor” o no del monumento, al cual se lo pretende retirar del Inventario para dar solución a los requerimientos de la legislatura. A favor del proyecto de las torres se sitúan los legisladores y la Municipalidad y en contra: el Instituto Nacional de Patrimonio Cultural, el ICOMOS, el Colegio de Arquitectos y varias facultades de arquitectura.

Vistas las enormes dificultades de lograr que el monumento y su contexto sean respetados, el ICOMOS Ecuador ha emprendido desde hace varios meses la defensa del mismo. Inicialmente presentó el problema en la reunión de Presidentes de los ICOMOS de América realizada en Zacatecas-México en diciembre 2006 y, logró la redacción de una fundamental resolución que se hizo llegar tanto al Alcalde de Quito, cuanto al Presidente del H. Congreso Nacional, luego contactó tanto a la Cancillería Nacional, representante del Estado ecuatoriano ante el Comité de Patrimonio Mundial, cuanto a la representación de la UNESCO en Ecuador.

En síntesis, careciendo la Municipalidad de argumentaciones científicas, culturales, técnicas y legales está haciendo prevalecer variables políticas, también deleznable puesto que la actualidad la crisis política en que se encuentra el Congreso Nacional es de dominio público. Estando a puertas la Asamblea Nacional



Quito, Palacio del Congreso Nacional, estado actual



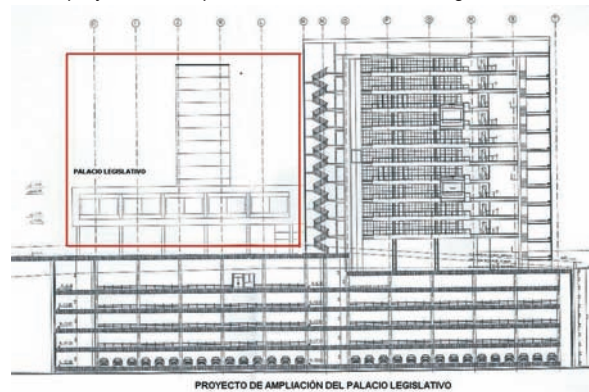
Quito, Palacio del Congreso Nacional, estado actual

Constituyente, lo sensato es esperar sus resultados para conocer los requerimientos que tendrá el futuro Congreso.

Los consistentes planteamientos ICOMOS basados en la Constitución de la República, la Ley de Patrimonio Cultural del país, las Cartas Internacionales pertinentes, así como fundamentos urbanos, sobre todo de tipo-morfología han puesto de relieve las ligerezas municipales y la gravedad del atentado. En una preliminar resolución de la Subcomisión de Áreas Históricas del Municipio, consta textualmente la decisión de desacato a la ley y la arbitraria aprobación del proyecto.

Quito esta a la espera de los criterios del Centro de Patrimonio Mundial sobre estos dos casos, mismos que son de vital importancia.

Quito, proyecto de ampliación del Palacio del Congreso Nacional



ICOMOS Ecuador

<sup>1</sup> Copia textual del expediente técnico elaborado por la Fundación Iglesia de la Compañía de Jesús.

<sup>2</sup> En el caso de Quito, la ciudad no mantiene su integridad original, su autenticidad está marcada por la expresión de su evolución histórica; posee trazado del siglo XVI, monasterios y templos de los siglos XVI, XVII y XVIII, muchos de ellos afectados por sismos, restaurados o vueltos a edificar en varias ocasiones, arquitectura civil fundamentalmente de los siglos XIX y XX, también se incluyen en esta evolución las modificaciones de su topografía a principios del siglo XX, incorporación de arquitectura moderna desde la década de los 50.

## GEORGIA

### Jvari (Holy Cross) Monastery in Mtskheta

A mountain rising over the confluence of the rivers Mtkvari and Aragvi near Mtskheta, ancient capital of Georgia, has attracted attention since ancient times. A pagan sanctuary was located on this mountain before the spread of Christianity in Georgia. In the third decade of the 4<sup>th</sup> century A.D., when Christianity became a state religion, a wooden cross was erected on top of the mountain where it stood for almost two centuries.

From 545 to 586 a church was built north of the cross (minor church of the Holy Cross) and from 586 to 605 a big church (main church of the Holy Cross) was built at the site of the cross. The base of the wooden cross can still be seen in the interior of the church. The buildings of Jvari Monastery are in harmony with the environment and represent a masterpiece created both by man and nature.

The builders of the churches were two generations of rulers (the ruler of Kartli, Guaram, and his son, Stephanos). The territory of the monastery was surrounded by a masonry wall and gate in the late Middle Ages (partially surviving at present).

The site was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List (Ancient Monuments of Mtskheta) in 1994.

### Significance

Jvari Monastery is a vivid example of the absorption of Eastern and Western cultural values and of re-adapting them to the local artistic environment. General characteristics of the minor church's ornamental decoration indicate the influence of Sasanian art. The architectural typology of the main church – a tetraconch – did not originate from Georgia, but underwent an original development, different from that in other countries. The outer volumes of the church are in full harmony with the interior space and are artistically ambitious. This feature makes Jvari different from Byzantine churches, in which the organization of the interior space is given higher priority.

The facades of the main church bear figure reliefs accompanied by explanatory inscriptions in old Georgian uncial script. The reliefs show the builders of the church and their family members. Fine proportions and high quality of execution distinguish these reliefs. An influence of Hellenistic traditions is also noticeable.

The building technique and the high standard of engineering for solutions of construction at Jvari Monastery, based on thorough calculations, are still impressive and a vivid testimony to the centuries-old building traditions in Georgia.

### Threats

The minor church of Jvari has only partially survived, while the main church is preserved without any major changes, but has deteriorated over the centuries due to earthquakes and invasions. During the last 30 years new threats and dangers to the building have appeared: accelerated erosion of the building stone due to the acidity of the rain water and strong winds; erosion has significantly damaged the reliefs of the church; the minor church of Jvari is left uncovered; an incorrect planning of the conservation works has endangered the authenticity of the minor church of Jvari.

In 2004 Jvari monastery was inscribed on the 100 Most Endangered Sites list of the World Monuments Fund. In 2006, the site received financial support from the Samuel H. Kress Foundation through the WORLD MONUMENTS FUND, Kress Foundation European Preservation Program. Currently works to document and analyze the present condition and to draw up conservation guidelines are underway.

Dr. Tsitsino Chachkhunashvili  
ICOMOS Georgia

Jvari Monastery in Mtskheta





## GERMANY

The issue of “**Preventive Monitoring**” as an important action of ICOMOS National Committees in countries with World Heritage sites (see also the Introduction, p. 10) is a crucial topic on our agenda. ICOMOS Germany has had a monitoring group since 2001, now consisting of more than 30 members, two or more of whom look after one of the 32 World Heritage sites. They organize on-site meetings, keep an eye on the state of conservation after consulting the responsible authorities and the conservation departments; they advise the planning authorities and point out possible conflicts and they write annual reports which are also sent to the International Secretariat.

From our experience, in many cases it is possible to avoid likely threats and conflicts with other interests through appropriate counseling and by involving the ICOMOS National Committees as early as possible with the task of Preventive Monitoring. And during public discussions (with ICOMOS as a disputatious NGO) at least compromises can be achieved which are acceptable.

The consequences of the devastating fire of 2-3 September 2004 in the **Duchess Anna-Amalia Library in Weimar** stood at the beginning of our last report (see *Heritage at Risk 2004/2005*, pp. 70-72). In the meantime, the building, the repair of which was also discussed in detail at a meeting of our monitoring group in Weimar in March 2005, has been restored in an exemplary way and, together with the saved historic books and works of art, was reopened on 24 October 2007.

The protests against a cluster of high-rise buildings threatening the dominant position and visual integrity of **Cologne Cathedral** (see the detailed report in *Heritage at Risk 2004/2005*, pp. 73/74) were finally successful – a spectacular case receiving worldwide attention: From the beginning ICOMOS clearly expressed its rejection of these plans in public. After the cathedral had been placed on

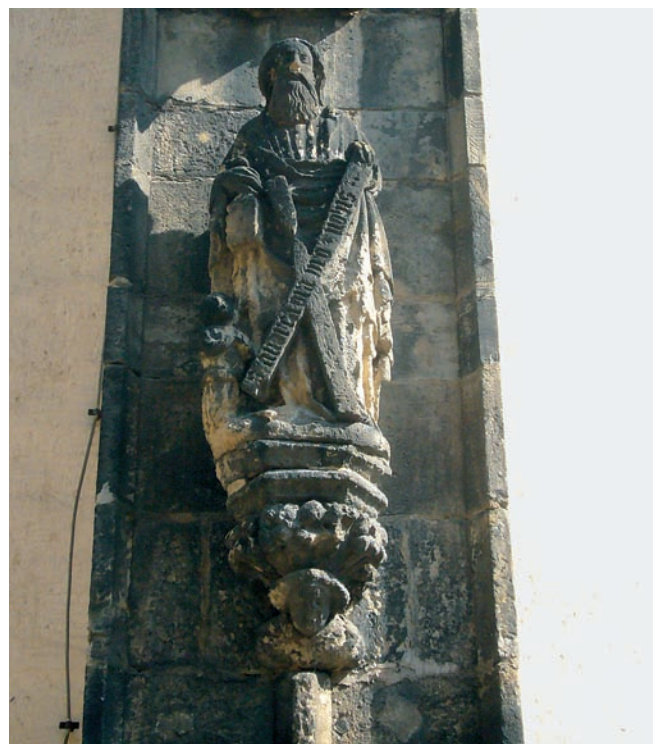
the list of World Heritage in Danger in July 2004 at the meeting of the World Heritage Committee in Suzhou (China), in 2006 the City of Cologne finally gave up its plans to build this cluster of high-rises; it revised its programme for high-rise buildings and gave new thoughts to the question of a sufficient buffer zone for the cathedral. However, the visual disturbance caused by the RZVK building, which is the only building of this cluster project to have been erected, cannot be repaired. Nonetheless, the deletion of Cologne Cathedral by the World Heritage Committee could be avoided and since the meeting of the Committee in Vilnius in July 2006 the cathedral is no longer on the “red list”.

In 2006/2007 ICOMOS was not only active as “advisory body” of UNESCO and the World Heritage Committee. Our national monitoring group, chaired since 2005 by our colleague Dipl.-Ing. Giulio Marano, was increasingly consulted by the authorities responsible for monuments and sites, also where sites on the German Tentative List were concerned (e.g. Kontorhäuser and Speicherstadt in Hamburg, Wilhelmshöhe Park with Hercules in Kassel). Furthermore, ICOMOS has had to deal with a whole series of German World Heritage cases, among others with Aachen Cathedral (question of expanding the buffer zone and including the town hall); Speyer Cathedral (expansion of a nearby airport); Würzburg Residence (professional advice for the restoration of the staircase with the Tiepolo frescoes); St Mary’s Cathedral and St Michael’s Church at Hildesheim (various restoration projects; also the exemplary restoration of the Hezilo-Leuchter in 2007); Roman monuments in Trier (rejection of an elevator on the exterior of the Porta Nigra, entrance building to the imperial thermae); Hanseatic City of Lübeck (ensemble threatened by commercial buildings); Palaces and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin (problems with new buildings in the border area of the historic grounds); Historic Town

Weimar, Duchess Anna Amalia Library, Rococo hall after the restoration, 2007 (Photo: M. Hamm/Otto Meissners Verlag)



Wittenberg, St Mary's parish church, weathered medieval sculpture, St Andrew, 2007



of Goslar (rejection of a department store project in the centre); Town of Bamberg (problems with new buildings and a shopping arcade); Town of Quedlinburg (technical and restoration mistakes in the Collegiate Church; new constructions in the ensemble); Bauhaus and its Sites in Weimar (restoration of the Meisterhäuser; in 2007 international competition for additional new buildings); Luther Memorials in Eisleben and Wittenberg (questions of restoration and use); Classical Weimar (restoration of the Duchess Anna-Amalia Library); Museum Island Berlin (statement on the restoration concept for the Neues Museum; various plans for modifications; critical evaluation of a new entrance building, in the meantime replaced by a more appropriate design by David Chipperfield); Wartburg Castle (protests against wind generators planned in the surrounding area and a cable car project); Garden Kingdom of Dessau-Wörlitz (threatened by a by-pass); Zollverein Coal Mine Industrial Complex in Essen (critical evaluation of too many interventions in connection with the renewal of the *Kohlenwäsche*; objections against a visually disturbing hotel project, eventually replaced by a more acceptable alternative); Upper Middle Rhine Valley (several statements against the project of a Rhine bridge in St Goar – St Goarshausen); Dresden Elbe Valley (the case of the “Waldschlösschen” bridge); Old Town of Regensburg (various restoration projects; project for a conference centre).

Below a selection of – abbreviated – expertises signed by the President of ICOMOS International, some of which were forwarded to the World Heritage Centre via the International Secretariat of ICOMOS in Paris. At the beginning and the end you will find statements on the “Waldschlösschen” bridge in Dresden, a case in which ICOMOS Germany has been very much involved. The situation resulted in this site being placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger at the meeting of the World Heritage Committee in Vilnius in July 2006. In 2008, this site will be deleted from the World Heritage List, unless a solution can be found after all. Also from the legal point of view this is a spectacular case and, given the federal structure in Germany, a highly complicated case, where the international obligations in connection with the ratification of the World Heritage Convention have to be weighed against the result of a – now highly disputed – public decision.

## Dresden, Waldschlösschen Bridge

*The cultural landscape of Dresden Elbe Valley was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2004, on the basis of criteria ii, iii, iv and v. The evaluation mission to examine the property prior to inscription had been undertaken on behalf of ICOMOS in 2003. During the mission, the project for the bridge, planned upstream from the city centre (mistakenly mentioned in the ICOMOS evaluation text as “foreseen 5 km down the river from the centre”) was discussed with the authorities. The new bridge had already been foreseen in the urban master plan of Dresden and several alternatives had been subject to an in-depth study, including other locations and the possibility to construct a tunnel. Out of these, the Waldschlösschen Bridge had emerged as the “least bad” solution, and had gained the support of the different authorities, especially of the Saxon Conservation Department (Landesamt für Denkmalpflege Sachsen), i.e. of the State conservation authority, which due to the alleged necessity of the bridge for the traffic sys-*

*tem of the city has never opposed its construction. However, it insisted explicitly and successfully that the bridge remain low, that means below the bog (Geländebruch) of the Neustädter Hochufer, and that it disappears in a tunnel in the Elbe slope.*

*In the meantime, ICOMOS has received extensive material on the bridge planning, the most recent being a letter by Mayor Mr. Rossbach of 5 January 2006 with the results of the investigated alternatives for tunnel constructions at the location of the planned bridge. Compared to these documents the information about the so-called Waldschlösschen Bridge which could be found in the application documents of 2003 for inscription on the World Heritage List must be considered as insufficient. For although the crossing of the valley is marked in the zoning map of the City of Dresden from 1999, it is only marked as one option (dash marking in yellow) of five alternatives at other locations. Details such as connecting ramps and tunnels were not included in the application documents which used only photo montages and a written description made*



View of Dresden from the Waldschlösschen terrace

Dresden, approved project for the Waldschlösschen Bridge





available by the award-winning design from 1996. Under these circumstances, in the course of evaluating the application documents ICOMOS took note of the City of Dresden's intention to construct a crossing at Waldschlösschen without being seriously concerned since our expert came to the conclusion that the project, which had already been settled with the State conservation authority and was the result of decades of planning, was acceptable.

In the meantime, documents of the planning brief (*Planfeststellungsverfahren*) show the entire extent of the intended building measures, which have resulted in fierce public discussion. These documents were sent to the World Heritage Centre and to ICOMOS on 24 November 2005. ICOMOS wishes to comment on these planning documents as follows:

This valley crossing is no longer an "urban bridge", but instead an important road connection resembling a motorway – in fact it is intended to be a fast connection between the motorways in the north and south of the city. The project will result in tearing apart the affected parts of the city and mostly the valley area of the river Elbe.

Apart from the bridge itself – whose piers need to be reinforced due to conditions imposed by water resources engineering – the valley area and thus also the World Heritage are also going to be disturbed by constructions connecting the bridge with the existing urban road network on both sides of the river, including ramps, accesses to the tunnel and other building elements for un-intersected connections, all of which emphasise the character of a city motorway. Particularly severe are the measures on the northern slope of the Elbe, below the well-known viewpoint "Waldschlösschen", from which the famous view of the reconstructed skyline of the old part of Dresden can be enjoyed just as much as the Elbe countryside with meadows on both sides, the foothills of the Erzgebirge and the first range of hills of the Sächsische Schweiz with the so-called Elbe castles. These are all very important elements of the World Cultural Heritage "Dresden Elbe Valley".

Since the early 19th century the "Waldschlösschen" view was praised in several descriptions and pictures. Enclosed you will find a view of Dresden from the Waldschlösschen terrace, a photo taken in 1939, which better than any written comment illustrates the possible threat to the Elbe landscape by the bridge project. Not to be ignored, either, are interventions in the so-called "Prussian" villa district, an exclusive residential area begun in the mid-19th century, which in its entirety is part of the World Heritage. The increasing traffic noise in the townscape caused by the new bridge and road connection needs to be pointed out as well.

After evaluating the documents, which have now been made available, ICOMOS comes to the conclusion that the realisation of the Waldschlösschen Bridge will lead to a considerable disturbance of the World Heritage site Dresden Elbe Valley. By all means there should now be a pause for thought to be able to inform the World Heritage Committee as well as to discuss less harmful alternatives, including a tunnel construction (for which a new cost estimate seems to exist) and other possible locations.

ICOMOS therefore suggests that the City of Dresden should be asked to extend the time of adjudication (*Vergabe der Bauaufträge*) for the bridge from end of March to at least end of September 2006. This would help avoid an irreversible *fait accompli* as well as the danger of a considerable financial loss for the city if the project cannot be realised.

M.Pz.

10 January 2006

## Museum Island Berlin

(...) First of all, we would like to repeat passages from a statement made by the undersigned in his capacity as President of ICOMOS International on 14 June 2004 after a meeting in Berlin on 17 May 2004:

"The meeting on 17 May, during which the entire construction site, including all interiors, was jointly inspected and various solutions were discussed, has shown, however, that at the moment the well-founded conservation concept (published in *Beiträge zur Denkmalpflege in Berlin*, Heft 1, 1994) is being implemented in an exemplary manner.

In the past decades many palace and museum buildings in Germany damaged during the war were often stripped of their interiors with no respect for the historic substance, and all historic remains were removed to create a "neutral" background for the exhibits. Contrary to that in the Neues Museum all preserved parts are being integrated and fragmentary elements carefully completed as far as that is appropriate and necessary. This approach applies also to the entire building, the reconstruction of the Egyptian Court, the main staircase etc.

As fortunately it is intended to return the collections which were originally in the Neues Museum (Egyptian art, prehistory and early history) the more or less fragmentarily preserved wall decorations will be an excellent background in the sense of the authentic spirit which, with regard to the aspect of archaeology, goes well with the preservation of fragments. Rooms with totally retouched interior decorations could be problematic in their interrelation with the exhibits. Besides, there is an excellent documentation and, in accordance with a pluralistic approach, the conservation concept takes the existing historic substance into consideration in every part of the building, thus strictly following the principles of the Venice Charter. The building measures, which will probably be completed by 2009, give reason to hope for a result which will be exemplary in many respects."

A recent visit to the building site of the Neues Museum on 9 September 2007 on the occasion of an international ICOMOS conference in Berlin ("World Heritage Sites of the 20th Century / Gaps and Risks from a European Point of View") has also shown that the historic fabric preserved after the destructions of World War II is being conserved with enormous care and in an exemplary manner. For the necessary modern additions great respect has been shown for the existing fabric which survived the war and the years afterwards. This applies also to the great staircase where the existing old structures are being preserved (there are new considerations to reconstruct the *Korenhalle* above the staircase). The flights of stairs are being reconstructed in the exact position and proportions of the old one, however in sort of a minimalist form. The plans would even allow an exact reconstruction of Stühler's staircase without any major alterations to what has already been done (except the solid stair strings) – future generations could decide in favour of a different concept. Therefore, it is possible to state once again that from ICOMOS' point of view the currently pursued concept for the restoration of the Neues Museum can be welcomed.

Concerning points A 1-4 (constructions already completed) it needs to be pointed out that the concept which has been followed for years and will be completed in one or two years was welcomed recently also in a resolution by the *Vereinigung der Landesdenkmalpfleger in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland*. Nothing can be said against the reuse of used stones and bricks (points 1, 4).



Berlin, Museum Island, first project for the James Simon Gallery by D. Chipperfield Architects (© 3d works visual computing)

*As to points B 1/2 (edifices intended) it must be said first of all that the criticised design by David Chipperfield for a new entrance building between the river Spree and the Neues Museum is no longer valid. The reservations stated by the undersigned ("hingeschachtelt", see also Süddeutsche Zeitung of 11 August 2006) were not against the construction of this necessary building per se, but rather against the design which stood in contrast to the integrity of the Museumsinsel. In the meantime, a completely revised project for the entrance building has been presented with which the World Heritage Center is probably also familiar with. This project developed in the spirit of the Museumsinsel has been*

Berlin, Museum Island, final project for the James Simon Gallery by D. Chipperfield Architects (Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz / Yli-Suanto)



generally appreciated. ICOMOS Germany too believes that it is a very good solution. From ICOMOS Germany's point of view no objections are necessary, either, against the design by Ungers (point B 2) for a wing closing the courtyard of the Pergamon Museum – such a wing had already been planned by the architect of the museum at the beginning of the 20th century.

M.Pz.

12 September 2007

## Historic Centre of Stralsund

*The so-called Quartier 17 (Q17) is situated in the centre of Stralsund immediately south of the town hall and the St. Nikolai church. This very densely built area, mostly with medieval houses, was almost completely destroyed by an air attack in 1944. Only two gable-fronted houses survived on the north side of Badenstrasse. The ruins of the other houses were removed, however only down to the street level. Cellars and foundations have therefore been largely preserved. In this context we would like to point out that in the appraisal of Stralsund and Wismar as World Heritage sites the exceptional importance of both towns' archaeological layers underground were explicitly emphasised. This quality was also confirmed by excavations in Quartier 17 carried out by the State Conservation Office of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern: on all four sides of the street extensive cellar walls, usually up to the full height of the cellars, have been preserved. The exposed medieval walls reflect and document a differentiated typology of houses in correspondence with the social hierarchy. Along Badenstrasse cellars of large and deep houses of the 13th century were excavated, also of shorter houses from around 1300 in Ossenreyer Strasse. Furthermore, cellar remains of simpler houses, so-called "Buden", were discovered along Kleinschmidtstrasse and Heiligenstrasse as well as remains originally belonging to typically larger houses at the corners of the quarter. High-quality findings are still to be expected at the corner of Badenstrasse/Ossenreyer Strasse, where the excavations have not yet been finished. In total, one has to come to the conclusion that, in accordance with the appraisal of the archaeological underground of the town of Stralsund as World Heritage, a rich stock of building remains from the 13th to the 15th centuries still exists, which – like an archive – has preserved the original stock of houses and the parcelling of the quarter.*

*From ICOMOS's point of view it would be very desirable if this central quarter were newly developed. However, essential criteria for a development compatible with the World Heritage status have not been fulfilled in the available plans by the architecture firm Kara und Hoffmann of March 2007:*

- *Through the large two-storey underground garage for c. 250 cars which takes up more than three quarters of the entire block the already mentioned archaeological findings would be almost completely destroyed – a loss of building stock from the Hanseatic era which cannot be justified.*
- *It is to be feared that the construction of the underground garage and the draining of the foundation pit would harm the enormous steeples of the St. Nikolai church only 27 and 50 metres away.*
- *The underground garage is largely meant for the customers of the retail stores which are to be opened here and it has been required as a precondition for attracting an "anchor tenant". With this underground garage the town of Stralsund would*



*annul its own principle for a traffic concept in the old town made a few years ago. According to this principle no underground garages for the general public are to be built in the historic centre; instead they should only be on the outskirts.*

- *It is to be feared that the planned garage for Q17 will have considerable negative consequences for other streets and that historic buildings which have been preserved will not be renovated because of the predicted increase in traffic.*

*The crucial point of criticism concerning the Q17 project of March 2007 is therefore the plan to build an underground garage of the intended dimensions. By no means can this be accepted.*

ICOMOS believes that for a development of this quarter compatible with the World Heritage status conditions would have to be formulated which have already been fulfilled to a large extent by the competition entry that won in 2003 (Büro Steidle + Partner, Berlin). From ICOMOS's point of view the subsequent plans by the architecture firm Kara und Hoffmann, made in the course of negotiations with a potential investor, resulted in major alterations which would have a negative impact on the World Heritage. To avoid that the development of Quartier 17 – a development highly



Stralsund, outline plan for the  
urban development, 2000  
(Conradi, Braum & Brockhorst)

Stralsund, view of the historic  
centre



welcome in principle – will be disadvantageous for the World Heritage the following would be required:

- To give up the underground garage in its presently planned dimensions as a condition for preserving the archaeological remains in this quarter and for avoiding damages to the St. Nikolai church. At best a smaller garage for handicapped persons and residents would be thinkable, perhaps as a parking lift.
- The outlines of the new buildings should follow the historic land parcels (in particular the new buildings should refer to the very early tangential deviation along the Badenstrasse) as a prerequisite for technically solving the preservation of the cellar walls. For instance, it would be possible to use bored piles with projecting plates as foundations for the new buildings.

M.Pz.

26 November 2007

## Upper Middle Rhine Valley

(...) For quite some time there have been considerations about the necessity of a bridge connection in the Upper Middle Rhine Valley between the two riverbanks; however, precise plans or even binding decisions have not been made so far. The necessity of such a connection is being justified by the fact that there is no bridge for almost 100 km between Bingen and Koblenz. The traffic across the river is handled by six ferries run by private enterprises. In comparison to a toll-free bridge ferries are disadvantageous in so far as there may be queue times (usually not more than 15 minutes, possibly longer in the main travel season) and that for reasons of profitability the ferries do not operate at night and – a few days every year – also not if there is extremely high or low tide. However, one can assume that during daytime ferries are no serious obstruction. It also needs to be pointed out that in the past the responsible

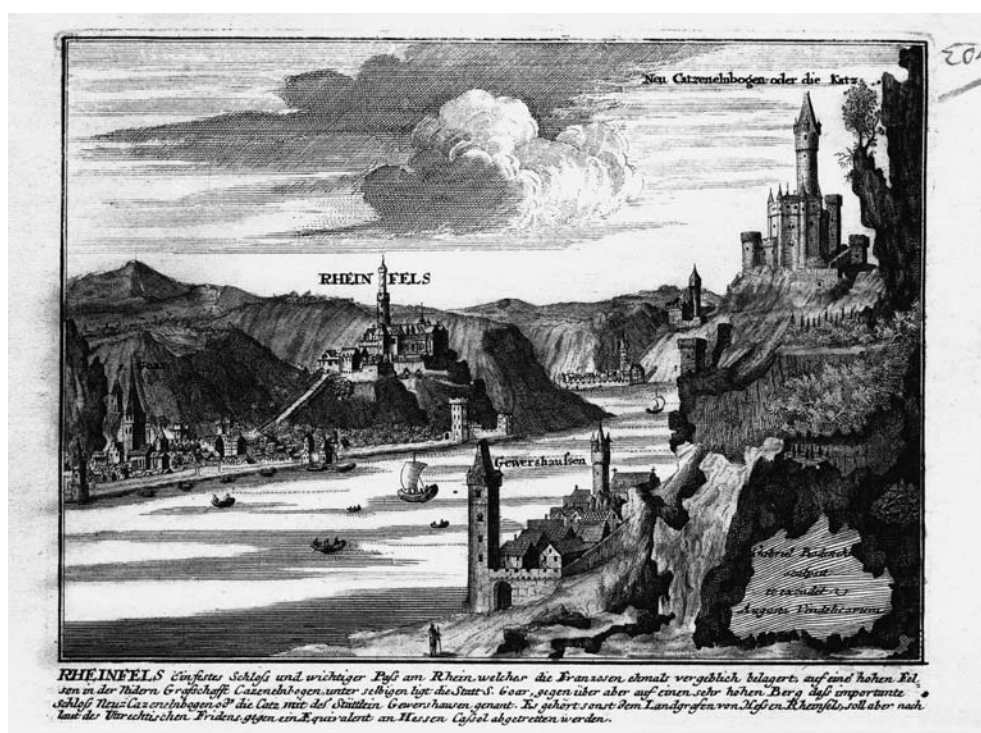
federal authorities did not find it necessary to connect the federal highways B9 and B42 (along the Rhine), B274 (east-bound connection) and the west-bound motorway A61 by means of a bridge – namely because of the low traffic volume.

Positive aspects of the ferries are that for a long time they have been an integral part of life by this river, that they also allow cyclists and pedestrians to cross the river near to where they live, that they enable travellers to have a short but intensive rest on the ferry, plus a number of other intangible reasons.

The expertise at hand by Cochet Consult of August 2007 shows relatively well which aims and hopes are being pursued with a new Rhine crossing. It is especially a matter of a supra-regional and comfortable traffic connection of the area on the right side of the river belonging to Rhineland-Palatinate, or to be more specific of the Rhein-Lahn district, with the left side of the valley and with motorway A61. For years, the industry of this area has been the driving force in asking for such a connection in order to avoid long detours to the Rhine crossings in Koblenz in the north and Bingen in the south. The responsible politicians and the marketing boards hope that such an improved connection to the motorway and to the centres of the State Rhineland Palatinate will also lead to an economic boost by attracting additional companies and making the region more accessible for commuters.

All suggestions for such a Rhine crossing have always concentrated on the area St. Goar / St. Goarshausen, because it is here that one sees the best preconditions for the implementation of the aims mentioned above. During the preparatory stage for the World Heritage application there were already discussions about this project. At every stage ICOMOS always spoke unmistakably against a bridge in this particular area of the World Heritage. ICOMOS's negative attitude is consistent with very similar statements made by the State Conservation Department of Rhineland Palatinate and a number of local associations, societies and private individuals – first and foremost the Rheinische Verein für Denkmalfpflege und Landschaftsschutz.

The reasons for the negative attitude towards a new Rhine crossing



Gabriel Bodenehr d. Ä., view of St Goar and St Goarshausen





Upper Middle Rhine with Loreley, etching from c. 1820



Upper Middle Rhine, view of Wellmich with Castle Maus (Photo: M.Pz.)

in the area St. Goar / St. Goarshausen are:

1. The Upper Middle Rhine Valley as World Heritage is characterised "as one of the most important transport routes in Europe". Surely, this refers mostly to its historic relevance, not so much to the modern transport routes, especially the two supra-regional federal highways along the Rhine and the railway routes. The modern transport routes are a considerable burden both for the local people as well as for the tourists in the valley. This sensitive situation should not be worsened by measures which will lead to additional traffic in the Rhine Valley.
2. The Upper Middle Rhine Valley is furthermore characterised by the very high number of historic buildings and towns, which together with the typical viticulture on terraces and the characteristic flora of the steep slopes have become a synonym for a

Romantic landscape. The immediate vicinity of St. Goar and St. Goarshausen is particularly distinguished by these characteristics, not just because of the world-famous Loreley rock, but also because of the historic townscapes of St. Goar, St. Goarshausen, Wellmich and the castles called "Katz", "Maus" and "Rheinfels" towering above them. In such a historic and romantically inflated landscape a technical construction like this bridge would inevitably be regarded as a disturbing intrusion. The visual integrity of the World Heritage would be seriously harmed. This evaluation applies to all the presented bridge alternatives, also to the one in Fellen-Wellmich preferred in the expertise (option 9.2.5).

3. The tunnel alternative would avoid disturbing the visual integrity. The road could be linked relatively easily to the B275 in St.

Goarshausen and to the local road net in St. Goar; in the expertise no indications were made as to how the traffic is then to be continued, especially in the direction of motorway A61. This deficit also holds true for all bridge solutions. A by-pass of St. Goar around Rheinfels Castle would be a considerable and additional burden to the World Heritage. Leading the traffic through St. Goar would also be a strain to the town and would hardly be possible for larger vehicles. On the other hand, redirecting the road to the south up to Oberwesel would encounter resistance there. Under these circumstances, there is no solution for the additional traffic that is to be expected from a built Rhine crossing. Further and considerable strains and encroachments of the World Heritage would have to be expected.

4. From ICOMOS's point of view the only solution compatible with the World Heritage would be option 8.1, i.e. an intensification of the ferry traffic, both as far as the frequency and the number of ferries is concerned. According to the expertise this would be possible, even if it does not exactly correspond with what the local politicians and market boards want. In this context, one would perhaps have to transfer the landing stage in St. Goarshausen, which at present is very cramped and probably unsuitable for several ferries. The State Government should seriously consider integrating the ferry service in the traffic network, also as far as fees are concerned, and subsidising the ferries outside the normal timetable.

Maintaining the ferry service would be a great advantage for pedestrians and cyclists (the latter being very interesting for tourism) as this would offer them a possibility to cross the river in the middle of the town without having to do a detour of several kilometres (bridge) or change on to bus (tunnel). It seems very likely that with the construction of a built Rhine crossing at least the ferry service from St. Goarshausen would be stopped.

The continuation of the ferry service would also have the very pleasant consequence that not only a traffic mode traditional for the Rhine landscape could be maintained, but also that the family which has been running this ferry for 200 years would be able to continue its work. (...)

M.Pz.

26 November 2007

## Bauhaus and its Sites in Dessau

From the point of view of various boards of the State of Sachsen-Anhalt (City of Dessau, State Ministry of Culture, Conservation Department, Stiftung Bauhaus) the present condition of the front part of the Meisterhaussiedlung (buildings designed by the school's professors) is not satisfactory. Largely, the war-related gap in the destroyed semi-detached house Moholy-Nagy and the war-related loss of the director's house (Gropiushaus) are considered as particularly disturbing, also the demolition of the "Trinkhalle" by Mies van der Rohe in 1970. Finally, the rebuilding of the director's house in 1956 in accordance with the ideology of the former GDR, i.e. as a one-storey building with saddle roof, is now considered to be inadequate. Discussions about correcting the unsatisfactory urbanistic situation started after the houses Lionel Feininger, Georg Musch, Oskar Schlemmer, Wassily Kandinsky and Paul Klee had been restored and declared World Heritage (1996).

During the investigations that were carried out together with the restoration of the master houses it was discovered that there had been a number of alterations. In the Bauhaus era 1925-1932 these alterations affected mostly the surfaces which were redesigned by the various professors who lived here. In the 1930s changes were made above all to the outer appearance. For ideological reasons the Nazis changed the buildings' specific Bauhaus shapes. Only through the comprehensive and meticulous investigations of the 1990s it was possible to reconstruct a situation outside and inside that reflects the condition of the Bauhaus era even in its materiality. These investigations also proved that the handed-down plans were not always reliable. The character of the "experimental" architecture of the Bauhaus may also have contributed to the fact that certain details were only decided when the construction was already under way.

The discussed "repair" of the present state considered to be unsatisfactory concerns three different possibilities of procedure:

- The reconstruction of the state at the time of the Bauhaus respecting the conditions of the Operational Guidelines: "Reconstruction is acceptable only on the basis of complete and detailed documentation and to no extent on conjecture".
- The erection of buildings which are recognisably from today and which should not interfere with the visual integrity of the ensemble.
- Maintaining the present state.

The option of a "reconstruction" is being rejected by some experts, because no reliable plans and findings of the destroyed buildings



Dessau, Meisterhaussiedlung, director's house, situation in 1926 (Photo: VG Bildkunst, Bonn, Lucia Moholy)

Dessau, former director's house, now "Haus Emmer", situation in 2004 (Photo: Stiftung Bauhaus Dessau)





seem to exist. This issue would have to be checked from case to case. In this context the most critical point would be the question if a reconstruction of the director's house is imaginable. The so-called "Emmer house", rebuilt in 1956 does contain considerable parts of the original director's house by Gropius – the unaltered garage, the undamaged cellar and the ground-plan structure of the ground floor, which in its most essential parts corresponds with the example of 1925. However, the Emmer house, including its original elements from 1925, can also be considered an important testimony to the way GDR architecture dealt with the Bauhaus. Under these circumstances ICOMOS would give preference to maintaining the present state and has serious concerns against any kind of "adapted" new building.

According to its letter to the World Heritage Centre of 11 June 2007 the City of Dessau decided in favour of a competition for the construction of new buildings in today's architectural vocabulary. From the town planning point of view these buildings are meant to correspond to the original situation. Such a one-sidedly predefined competition can only lead to considerable problems. The winners of such competitions are not infrequently also the most "fanciful" and the most ruthless designs. Under these circumstances, it must be feared that the results of the competition could seriously harm the integrity of the World Heritage site.

Instead of such a one-sidedly predefined competition a competition with a differentiated approach to the three building tasks – the semidetached house Moholy-Nagy, the director's house and the "Trinkhalle" – would be preferable. Such an approach could allow for instance an unproblematic reconstruction of the "Trinkhalle" and of the semidetached house Moholy-Nagy, but in the case of the Emmer house instead of a new building the preservation of the existing one.

Due to this differentiated situation ICOMOS recommends the following:

- Basically, a competition with the aim of repairing the situation in the front area of the Meisterhaussiedlung is considered to be possible.
- The above-mentioned alternatives concerning the handling of the three building tasks should be accepted, which means the possibility of reconstructions (on condition that sufficient documentation exists), evaluating whether "modern" substitution buildings are possible or leaving the present state as it is.
- This would however require a multilevel competition to be tendered: first of all an ideas competition, and then a more detailed elaboration in a second step.

As far as ICOMOS knows the call for tenders for this competition has not yet been formulated so that amendments could still be made. The relevant literature on this topic (Andreas Schwarting, HPC Weidner etc) should be made available to the participants. (...)

M.Pz.

26 November 2007

## Dresden, Waldschlösschen Bridge

(...) In this context, we would like to make reference to ICOMOS's statement of 10 January 2006, to the expertise by the Institut für Städtebau und Landesplanung at the RWTH Aachen of April 2006, and to the statement on this expertise by ICOMOS of 27 June 2006. According to these the crossing of the Elbe valley by the planned

four-lane, motorway-like road is on principle highly problematic and wrong, because it cuts the valley into different sections and hurts the visual integrity.

The alternatives presented to the World Heritage Centre in 2007 contain two different planning approaches:

- 1) The attempt to develop a bridge which would be more compatible with the cultural landscape and therefore acceptable;
- 2) The crossing of the Elbe valley by means of a tunnel.

### Ad 1

Reference is made especially to the letters by the mayor of Dresden to the World Heritage Centre of 21 May 2007 and of 14 June 2007 (e-mail of 19 June 2007 with report on the workshop of 8 June 2007). Seven engineering companies were invited to submit designs for a "better" bridge. The selection board evaluated two designs as particularly interesting because they can be further developed: Büro W. Sobek and Büro Schlaich, Bergermann und Partner, both Stuttgart. The plans by Sobek were eventually excluded because they had ignored a regulation regarding the Elbe as a waterway. (...) From ICOMOS's point of view this planning approach by Schlaich, Bergermann und Partner can NOT be seriously considered as being compatible with the World Heritage site. No doubt, the entire construction of the Elbe crossing, with foreshore bridge and the actual crossing of the river, is much more elegant and lighter in its appearance than the approved version. But, apart from the fact that in contrast to the design the lanes of the bridge would have to be raised by four metres in order to achieve the permitted overhead clearance for ships (which in turn would have a stronger impact on the valley landscape), this alternative shows no fundamental renunciation of the four-lane, motorway-like valley crossing pursued so far. The positive aspects of these plans are limited to an improved aesthetic effect of the construction, whereas the cutting-in-two of the valley by this road structure would remain unaltered in every respect.

### Ad 2

Reference is made to the letter by the architects office gmp – Prof. Marg to the mayor of Dresden of 21 May 2007, to the feasibility study of August 1996 by the City of Dresden regarding the tunnel solution, to a further study on this topic by the City of Dresden of December 2003, to plans made by the City of Dresden and the Büro EIBS of July 1996 and December 2003, to the statements by the engineering company ILF of 16 April 2004 and by the Ing. Gesellschaft Baugrund Dresden of 16 April 2004 with regard to the geological situation in the valley. Reference is made also to the letter from the City of Dresden of 17 October 2007 with the English version of the tunnel study of 8 June 2007 by the engineering company Bung in Heidelberg.

All these studies and expertises by renowned architectural and engineering companies and by the city itself have come to the conclusion that a tunnel instead of the Waldschlösschen bridge could be realised without serious problems, that its construction would not face any major difficulties and that – after the completion of the work – the World Heritage site Dresden Elbe Valley would be largely intact.

ICOMOS follows this evaluation. Ultimately, the approaches of the different studies and expertises only vary in detail, which is irrelevant for the World Heritage. All studies assume that – instead of the so far approved Elbe crossing consisting of a tunnel of 1.2 km (on the northern, right bank of the Elbe) combined with a 0.7 km-long bridge structure – a tunnel system of 1.9 km would be developed. The junctions to the city's road net could be carried out

as already planned; consequently, an interruption of the work begun would only be necessary in certain parts, if at all. The required flood protection of the tunnel would be warranted. The intended use of this crossing by public transport buses would also be possible with a tunnel, just as much as a retrofitting for trams, which was already planned in the feasibility study of 1996.

Crossing the valley by means of a tunnel would largely preserve the visual integrity of the World Heritage once the work is completed.

A comparison of the costs between the so far approved combined tunnel/bridge solution and the recently presented tunnel solution can only be approximate. On the one hand the state of planning of the two solutions differs too much, on the other hand pedestrians and cyclists would not be able to use the tunnel. However, very near to the planned crossing there is a ferry for pedestrians and cyclists, which could continue to be operated (in the case of the bridge solution it would be given up). All in all, from what can be concluded from the available documents even a belated decision in favour of an entire tunnel solution would not lead to a dramatic cost increase.

Therefore, ICOMOS strongly recommends that the tunnel solution, which would be unproblematic to carry out, should be insisted upon.

However, we wish to point out that the tunnel solution is not entirely unproblematic, either. With both solutions the border area of the World Heritage, the so-called "Prussian Quarter" on the right high bank of the Elbe, is going to be affected visually and acoustically by the tunnel exits, to a lesser degree also the left side of the river. But as far as the World Heritage is concerned such disturbances seem tolerable.

Incidentally, the question remains whether such an Elbe crossing is necessary at all. A traffic census made by the City of Dresden in the summer of 2007 has shown that since the opening of motorway A 17 car traffic in the city has decreased by 10.4%.

M.Pz.

18 December 2007

In the years 2006/2007 ICOMOS Germany tried in many other cases to help in conservation questions; it protested against planned demolitions and disfigurements of monuments and sites, and within the range of its possibilities as an NGO it supported the state monument services (*Landesämter für Denkmalpflege*) of the 16 Federal States in critical cases. ICOMOS also commented on dangerous trends in some Federal States to weaken the position of the state monument services in the context of structural reforms of the administration. Below a few examples from a great number of tasks:

## Protest against the demolition of the Telephone Cable Factory in Oberschöneweide (Berlin)

With its visible steel frame construction and its radically modern aesthetics the AEG telephone cable factory in Oberschöneweide, built by Ernst Ziesel in 1927/28, was a milestone in Berlin's industrial architecture of the 1920s (see also H@R Special 2006 *The Soviet Heritage and European Modernism*, p. 175). At first a renovation of this building for purposes of the *Fachhochschule* (= technical college) für Technik und Wirtschaft (FHWT), which is being

relocated to the former AEG premises, was planned. However, due to structural problems and the high renovation costs these plans were given up and in 2005 the "unavoidable" demolition of this factory, which had been on the monument list since 1977, was applied for. Sadly, public protest against the destruction, which also came from DOCOMOMO Germany and ICOMOS, was in vain. The building was demolished in 2006.

## The mining destruction of Heuersdorf and threats to Nietzsche's gravesite

A number of valuable historic sites in Germany have been destroyed by lignite surface mining. Vast deposits of this low-grade fuel, also known as brown coal, are extracted by the electrical power industry. The mining pits that penetrate several hundred meters into the earth have uncovered petrified trees, mastodon skeletons, artifacts from the New Stone and Bronze Ages, Roman and medieval settlements, as well as the remnants of daily life in more recent periods. Yet modern communities underlie the prerogative of German mining law for devastation wherever coal deposits have been found. While the local population is resettled into new housing, it has proven impossible to transplant more than a vestige of extant historic substance to other locations.

The oldest architectural monument in the village of Heuersdorf near Leipzig (on Heuersdorf see also H@R 2004/2005, pp. 82/83) has been the Emmaus Church. This 820 ton stone structure was transported on a flatbed trailer in October 2007 to the city of Borna 12 kilometers distant by the American-owned MIBRAG mining corporation. The church was first documented in 1297, while dendrochronology has established the roof beams to be about 750 years old. The edifice was remodeled after the Thirty Years' War, with the Romanesque arch still framing the nave as testimony to its pre-Lutheran origins. The weathervane above the later

Heuersdorf, transport of the Emmaus Church to Borna, 2007 (Photo: Jeffrey H. Michel)







Heuersdorf, demolition of the village (Photo: Jeffrey H. Michel)

shingled belfry bears the year 1837. Only three 17th century graves were discovered near the foundation during archaeological fieldwork. The diminutive church apparently served as a chapel of the nearby village of Breunsdorf, which has already been lost to the advancing lignite mine. The present name of the structure was conferred in 1959, when Heuersdorf persisted as a Christian community in Marxist East Germany. Both the Emmaus Church and the larger Tabor Church at the southern end of the town were renovated and maintained by the local population, even as 23 villages and 11 churches were destroyed in the immediate vicinity. Yet over 100 buildings in Heuersdorf, including the Tabor Church with its magnificent late classical architecture, are now being broken apart in preparation for mining. More than 40 structures or parts thereof have been entered into the state registry for historic monuments, a matter of no consequence for energy production. Equally notable in the surrounding fields are rows of truncated willows once used for basket weaving, and the ubiquitous fruit trees along village pathways and in the gardens of timbered farmhouses that reflect centuries of agrarian prosperity.

German mining law, enacted in 1980, does not mandate consideration of technological options such as wind power that would make the destruction of human settlements avoidable. MIBRAG intends to devastate several additional communities southwest of Leipzig to serve a new lignite generating station. The planned mining operations would include the town of Röcken, where the German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche was born and now lies buried. The 12th century church at the gravesite is far more massive than its counterpart in Heuersdorf; rebuilding it elsewhere would thus cost several million euros. Although no definite decision has yet been made by MIBRAG regarding mining operations in Röcken, several organisations have stated very clearly that the place where this world-renowned philosopher was born should be preserved by all means.

Röcken, parish church with graves of the Nietzsche family (Photo: [www.wikipedia.de](http://www.wikipedia.de))



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## Ochsenfurt: old bridge across the river Main threatened by demolition

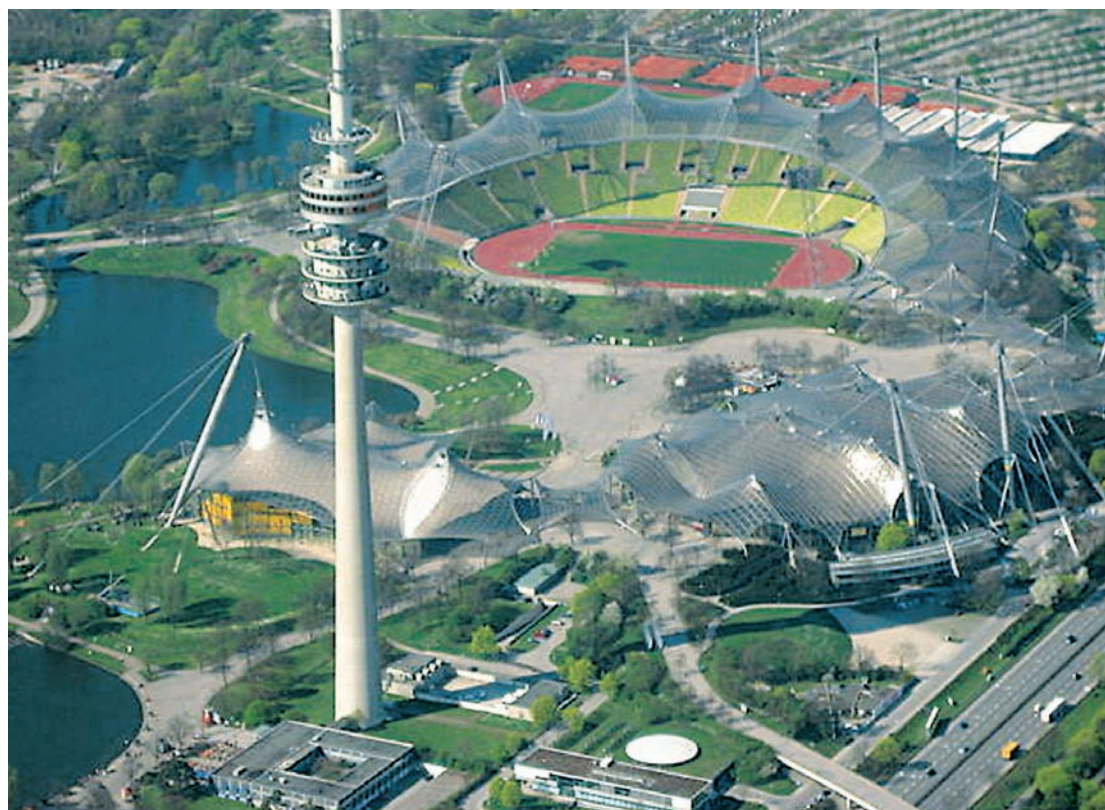


Ochsenfurt, old bridge across the river Main (Photo: Weissbach)

In November 2007 it became known that the District Office of Würzburg had allowed the demolition of the old Main bridge in Ochsenfurt. The unstable part, a steel construction erected in place of the middle part of the bridge which had been blown up during the last days of the Second World War, has already been demolished. The town of Ochsenfurt decided in favour of a completely new bridge. However, as the Bavarian State Conservation Office has appealed this decision and as there has been public protest against the demolition, there is some hope that this historic landmark of Ochsenfurt, parts of which date back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century, can be saved after all.

## Against the total commercialisation of the Olympic Park in Munich

Faced with the alarming news about the consequences of a commercialisation of the Olympic Park in Munich initiated by the City of Munich and the operating company Olympia GmbH, ICOMOS Germany sent an open letter to the mayor of Munich on 17 December 2007. With this letter ICOMOS joins the protests from various parties against the imminent disfigurement of the ensemble designed by Günther Behnisch and his team of architects in cooperation with the engineer Frei Otto and the landscape gardener Günther Grzimek for the Olympic Games of 1972. The erection of the planned Olympiapark-Hotel north of the newly-erected BMW-Welt would be an additional complex that would block the main access to the Olympic Park. Seen from Lerchenauer Strasse the 70-metre-high hotel tower, for which apparently tenders have already been called, would interfere with the original appearance of the Olympic village, which together with the sports sites and their world-famous tent roofs embedded in the park are part of the entire complex. Instead of using opportunities to enlarge the park in its border areas, it seems that the city is quite willing to sacrifice central areas of the park for the benefit of short-term marketing strategies of the operating company. This would gradually destroy the authentic character and integrity of the Olympic Park, parts of the park would be converted into building land for commercial use, thus ruining a cultural monument of international standing. The most depressing examples for this tendency are recent "test designs" by Auer + Weber for a five-storey hotel building around the base of the Olympic tower, to which wings of a wellness clinic in the north-eastern area of the park up to Georg-Brauchle-Ring and Lerchenauer Strasse, event halls and a multi-storey car park are proposed to be added.



Munich, aerial view of the Olympic Park  
(Photo: [www.wikipedia.de](http://www.wikipedia.de))



## GREECE

### The Ancient Diolkos

The Diolkos, the unique paved way that enabled Greek warships and merchantmen to be moved overland across the Isthmus of Corinth from sea to sea, has been crumbling into the water at its western end for decades. Neglect and total absence of remediation actions have caused its deterioration.

The Diolkos was probably first built by Periander (625-585 B.C.). Excavations carried out between 1956 and 1962 by Nikos Verdelis enable us to trace the course of the Diolkos for about one kilometer on both banks of the Corinth Canal; its eastern end, reported by Strabo to be at Schoenus (modern Kalamaki), has not been found.

The surface of the Diolkos, varying in width from about 3.5 to about 5 metres, bears the grooves made by the wheels of the trolleys onto which the ships were loaded. There is a part of the monument (today again covered by natural growth) where ruts cut into the blocks were clearly visible.

After its excavation, the Diolkos was abandoned in its exposed position near the Corinth Canal. The wake of the vessels passing through the Canal and the waves coming in from the Corinthian Gulf first eroded the land between the Canal and Diolkos and then proceeded to "demolish" the monument. A photo taken in 1978 by Walter Werner already shows quite a serious erosion front. Today the erosion has swept over the whole width of the monument at a length of several tens of meters. The decay is all the more concerning since the monument has never been properly recorded. Only the German researcher Walter Werner proceeded to make detailed drawings of the vestiges of the Diolkos in, and following, 1988.

Today, an extended paved area of square blocks in front (and to the side) of the Diolkos proper, is also ruined. Neglect has taken its toll also on the part of the Diolkos excavated on the Attica side of the Canal, on the grounds of the Military Engineers' School. Here, a double row of stones resting upon the course of the Diolkos suffered extensive mechanical damage sometime between 1978 and 1984.

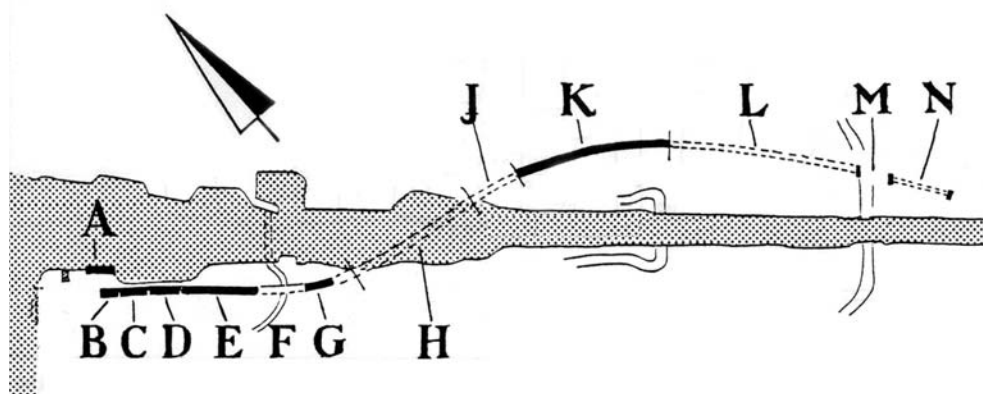
Although documents for almost three decades after 1956 are missing from the local ephorate's archives, it seems that the Canal

Company was never held responsible for damaging the Diolkos. On the contrary, in 1985, with the Diolkos already heavily eroded, the Canal Company was permitted to build a nearby bridge although the initial permit called for a prior study for the conservation of the monument. This obligation was "forgotten" by the Ministry of Culture, which quickly sent a commission and gave the go-ahead for the bridge upon the demand of the Canal Company's President.

Around 1989 the local Ephorate took part in a small study that proposed to embellish with plants, lighting and benches the then "intact" part of the monument, disregarding the quite extensive damaged part of the Diolkos. In 1999, after four decades of abandonment and with the initial part of the Diolkos already heavily devastated, two local members of Parliament presented written questions about the Diolkos. The official answer of the Minister of Culture was that the local ephorate had asked the Canal Company for a "study of the currents", after which measures would be proposed for the monument. Such incidents are only peaks in a constant background of neglect. At the beginning of March 2007 the Direction for the Restoration of Ancient Monuments (DAAM) finally proceeded with the first small rescue action, by supporting two precarious points of the long erosion front. At the end of May, in a meeting at the Ministry of Culture, there was a new understanding according to which the DAAM should have a first study ready and approved within two months. Extended protection measures are expected to follow. This first study will be used as the base for further studies and funding for the protection and restoration of the monument.

The petition for saving and restoring Diolkos has already received more than 5,300 signatures originating from 81 countries (see [www.thepetitionsite.com/petition/870477005](http://www.thepetitionsite.com/petition/870477005)).

Sofia Loverdou  
Science Journalist



A plan of the Diolkos by Walter Werner. The letters C and D correspond to different states of disruption at the time the plan was drawn.



The Diolkos around 1960, in a photo of the En Athinais Arhaiologiki Etairia and the same part in 2006.



Sector "G" (according to Werner's description) as it was after the excavations (in a photo of the En Athinais Arhaiologiki Etairia) and in 2007. An internal report by an antiquities' guard in 1992, saying that the erosion was approaching this part of the monument and urging the local ephorate to take measures, was disregarded.



An interesting feature of the Diolkos, engraved letters which appear with increasing frequency near its western terminal (as can be seen in a photo of the En Athinais Arhaiologiki Etairia taken during the excavations), lies in the sea.



Two preserved parts of the monument, on the Sholi Mihanikou grounds, in images taken by Walter Werner (in color, 1978) and the En Athinais Arhaiologiki Etairia (around 1960). This second part is visible today only in its general form, since it has been covered by natural growth.







An image taken in 1978 by the German researcher Walter Werner shows already serious erosion.



The extended platform which once constituted a part of the western terminus of the Diolkos today lies in ruins.

One of the two points supported at the beginning of March 2006 by the Direction for the Restoration of Ancient Monuments.



Satellite photo of the fires in Greece (Photo: NASA)

## Summer fires in Greece (2007)

(see also special focus on global climate change, pp. 220-223)

Message from ICOMOS Greece of 10 September 2007:

*Dear President,*

*Thank you for your interest regarding the latest news from Greece. Our Cultural and Natural Heritage are running a serious risk. In the last two months the fires have threatened firstly the population, the traditional agricultural production, the natural environment and mainly the Hellenic Cultural Heritage.*

*Today, the situation improved, even though the danger is not completely removed.*

*Now we are optimistic, because the State is taking measures.*

*At the same time all the scientific associations and between them the Technical Chamber of Greece and the ICOMOS Hellenic are collaborating with the universities, coordinating and organising proposals for the confrontation of the crisis.*

*We will keep you informed.*

*Best regards*

*Nikos Agriantonis*

*President of ICOMOS Hellenic*



## HUNGARY

### ICOMOS Hungary's "Historic Preservation Lemon Awards"

The Hungarian National Committee of ICOMOS – in accordance with ICOMOS's international efforts – makes a point of drawing attention to Hungarian cultural heritage in danger, in an attempt to save it. To further this goal the Hungarian National Committee established the "Historic Preservation Lemon Awards" in 2005. Nominations for this "negative distinction" may be made every spring. A jury made up of the best Hungarian experts – art historians and architects – judges which buildings were put at greatest risk by thoughtless owners, and where the most serious mistakes were made during rehabilitation projects. Three endangered buildings are put in the spotlight every year.

Up until now the awards have been given out twice, in 2005 and 2006. The historic preservation experts want to draw the attention of society to threatened historic buildings through the presentation of these regrettable examples. The announcement of the awards occurs during the annual meeting of the Hungarian National Committee of ICOMOS, which has been held for the last two years in conjunction with the International Day for Monuments and Sites. On both occasions the Lemon Awards produced a significant reaction from the press and the media. The efforts of ICOMOS Hungary have proven effective, as the fate of more than one of the poorly cared-for buildings highlighted in previous years has taken a turn for the better. This shows that presenting these unfortunate examples does provide effective encouragement for the preservation of endangered heritage sites, and so it is worthwhile to become familiar with a brief history of these buildings and their difficult fortunes.

#### ***Frigyes Barracks (Győr, 42 Baross Gábor St.) Schlichter Family Villa (Győr, houses at 12 Eszperantó Street and numbers 1, 3, 5 and 7 Zrínyi Street)***

The Frigyes Barracks were built in Győr's new town center in 1897 according to the urban planning concept of the well-known Hungarian architect, Ignác Alpár. The buildings within this complex were constructed around a large, symmetrical central square. The ballroom, library and clubrooms located in the officer's building were an important site for the cultural life of the city. In the enlisted men's buildings there were large performance halls – music, fencing and lecture rooms – in addition to the dormitory rooms. The barracks were carefully constructed, utilizing the best technical and architectural knowledge of the time.

For a long time the buildings were used by the occupying Soviet forces. When these forces withdrew (in 1989) the buildings were in an acceptable state, with the exception of their façades. The municipal government of Győr requested and received the Frigyes Barracks back from the State, to be used for educational purposes. The municipal government handed the valuable buildings over to the local Universitas Győr Foundation so that the local university could be expanded. The directors of the Foundation then thoughtlessly and foolishly put the valuable complex up for sale and "privatized" it. The buyer – an Austrian-owned building contractor –



Győr, 42 Baross Gábor St., Frigyes Barracks (1897)



Győr, 12 Eszperantó Street, and numbers 1, 3, 5 and 7 Zrínyi Street, Schlichter Family Villa (1898)

Szentendre, 5 Kossuth Street, Pajor House (18th-19th centuries)





planned on demolishing the structures, and wanted to build cheap, speculative apartment houses on the site of these valuable buildings. No efforts were made to preserve the existing buildings.

The “key building” of the complex, the natural focal point and gateway to the surrounding Nádorváros neighborhood, was rightfully placed upon the Hungarian register of historic monuments. However, this did not settle its fate. The complex changed hands again in the middle of the 1990s. The new investor wanted to create a huge shopping mall in place of this complex, along with a long-distance bus terminal and the Schlichter Villa across. Thankfully to this day these plans have not yet been realized. In the first years of the new millennium the barracks buildings that were expertly constructed with funding from the citizens of the town still stood admirably, but their condition has deteriorated to a worrisome degree due to weathering.

The former Schlichter Villa and office building stands in the area between the barracks and the international railway station. The magnificent building was constructed at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century at the same time as the barracks complex. Its appearance follows the picturesque style of late Historicism. The turreted corner building is quite an important element in Győr’s cityscape. Rich stucco decoration is found in the interior of the two-story villa, and the ceiling of the banquet hall is decorated with paintings from 1898 by the outstanding Hungarian artist Erik Bánffy Pauly. The building complex received historic protection at the beginning of the 1990s. The house is owned by the municipal government of Győr and has been empty for years, with its condition visibly deteriorating. The owner has not provided for the simplest conservation steps that could be expected, and has no intention of providing it with a new function.

The dilapidated historic complex of the Frigyes Barracks and the former Schlichter Villa justly deserved the “Lemon Award” for 2005, as a result of fifteen years of incompetent management and no hope for re-use. Since then the fate of the complex has taken a turn for the better. The barracks buildings changed ownership again, and the new investor finally went about rehabilitating the buildings. The officer’s casino building has been renovated and the rehabilitation of the former junior officer’s dormitory is now under way. The relationship between the new owners and

the historic preservationists is not without conflict, but the precious building complex has in any case been spared demolition. On the other hand, the fate of the Schlichter Villa is still uncertain.

### ***Szentendre, Pajor House, 5 Kossuth Street***

The building of the former Pajor House – later the land registry – is located on one of Szentendre’s busy streets near numerous other historic monuments and protected historic buildings. This town has been an important site in Hungarian history, and these days it is the tourism center of the Danube Bend region. The building, which has seen better days, was placed upon the Hungarian register of historic monuments in 1958. It was built by the very wealthy Lovcsánszky family in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and later in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the original owner’s grandson, Titusz Pajor, enlarged it. This was when it received its Historicist façade.

After the death of this owner a history full of ups and downs began for the building. From 1880 the building was a courthouse, and a jail was constructed in its enormous basement. In 1925 the Reformed Church bought it and used it as a higher elementary school and boarding school. During the Second World War the Rókus Hospital moved here from Budapest. In 1948 the house was placed under State ownership. From the 1950s it was first a police station, then the district council house, and finally in 1972 it became the land registry. In the 1980s the idea was raised to place the town’s historical collection here, but unfortunately this did not come about.

The land registry did not use the building for very long. Instead of rehabilitating it they built new office space. The fate of the empty building that had lost its function seemed to be sealed for good when it was given the “Lemon Award”. It was true that its function as the land registry had not been ideal, but at least it had been in use. It was also true that during this time periodic historic rehabilitations had not been performed, but at least this esteemed historic monument was heated and aired, and the most needed repairs were performed. After receiving the award the condition of the building has further deteriorated, and its salvation seems less and less likely.



Tura, Schossberger Palace (1883)

### ***Tura, Schossberger Palace***

The Schossberger Palace in Tura was built in 1883 according to the designs of Miklós Ybl, the most outstanding Hungarian master of the strict Neo-Renaissance style. The two-story building was constructed with an animated distribution of masses, an open carriage-way, a second-floor balcony and distinctive towers. Its seemingly sculpted masses, picturesque roof structure and richly molded chimneys followed the traditions of French Renaissance palace architecture, in accordance with the wishes of the client.

The enormous palace was built at about the same time as the Opera House on Andrásy Avenue in Pest, and the pronounced composition of its interior spaces is especially valuable. The interior spaces were designed in the spirit of the Italian Renaissance and represent Ybl's most mature architectural period. The client's wishes for an imposing building were met by the richly decorated carriage entrance. The elegant series of spaces including the entrance hall and staircase that led to the large parlor created a unique atmosphere. The building's frescoes were painted by Róbert Scholtz, who was Ybl's creative partner in some of the architect's other significant buildings.

After the Second World War the palace came into State ownership, and its management was entrusted to the local government. It was used as an orphanage for a long time, and during this period the preservation of its historic character was taken care of. After the orphanage was closed, the building's condition deteriorated dramatically. In 1981 it was run by a State-owned publishing house, and in 1991 it was privatized. The private owner prepared beautiful, exemplary plans for it, however these were not carried out. Now the building is without an owner and lies in ruins. First the roofing fell into disrepair, and now essentially every structural system is in critical condition. No steps have been taken since the award was given either, and it is feared that this palace of European significance may soon perish entirely.

### ***Gávavancsellő, Dessewffy Palace***

The prestigious Dessewffy family erected a magnificent palace in huge gardens that stretch to the banks of the Tisza River. A part of

the building was built in the Baroque style in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. This was later extended by an early Historicist, Classical Revival wing. In 1896 the complex was then remodeled following a unified design in the Neo-Baroque style. Over the last half century the building has been used for many different functions, but the managers of the esteemed monument have not provided for its proper maintenance. The fate of the building has become critical in the last decade. The palace gardens were partitioned and a large, ungainly mansion was built right next to the building. The low-quality new structure has been separated from the palace by a tall, massive fence. The historically significant palace building has completely lost its connection to its natural surroundings.

The Baroque wing of the palace is now in ruins. Only traces of the murals that decorated the interiors bear witness to the building's former high quality of workmanship. On the other hand the Classical Revival wing has been altered at significant cost and is now used as a disco. The stone cladding in the interior was covered with red paint so that the nightclub would have a more "modern" appearance. During the course of the alterations not even the most basic principles of historic rehabilitation were respected. The exterior façade was also painted in strident colors. The once magnificent palace can hardly be recognized in its altered form. It has lost its former architectural character, and its relationship to the surrounding natural landscape has been severed. The rehabilitation of this building is a sad example of a rehabilitation that was poorly planned and carried out.

### ***Kecskemét, Malom Center***

The cityscape of Kecskemét had preserved its unified appearance until recently. The characteristic urban structure had survived, and the scale of the city's buildings had not changed for quite a while. The city's skyline had also preserved its character and the natural surroundings of the protected buildings had remained unmarred.

A few years ago investors appeared in town, and their new projects caused drastic changes in the traditional appearance of the town. The greatest loss was the demolition of the historic complex of enormous mills which had great significance for the agricultural history of the area. The old mill buildings could have been modernized and



Gávavancsellő, Dessewffy Palace  
(18th-19th centuries)



in their renovated form could have become a famous sight of the city. However, the investors were given a free hand by the town leaders to implement their designs, and instead of restoring the complex the old buildings were demolished. A shopping mall was constructed in the empty lot that was created by their removal. This new building complex overwhelms the city with its massive presence. The new structure does not fit into the urban structure that was formed through history, and it ignores the town's traditional scale.

The large mass of the building dwarfs the accents, such as the church steeples that had defined the cityscape. The formerly active, small-town streetscape is now dominated by tall, dreary walls. This new element provides a depressing picture from every point in the city. The huge masses of the building stretch upward, and have changed the atmosphere of the entire downtown. In addition, the shopping mall has put the survival of the traditional, lively little shops in the town center in danger. The unwanted transformation of Kecskemét's historic center is an example of what happens when city government gives way to the desires of the aggressively spreading "globalized" architectural methods of shopping malls, which completely destroy the historic character of our towns through their unchecked construction.

### ***Budapest, 6<sup>th</sup> District, Apartment House at 40 Király Street***

According to an unwritten rule of historic preservation, every building erected before 1875 is worthy of preservation. József Hild designed this imposing residence in 1844 for the wealthy Robitsek family on Pest's former main street. In the 1920s the building was enlarged to four stories, but the Neo-classical palace is still contained within its interior. The owner of the building, the district government, decided to demolish the precious building, citing its poor condition and the

high costs of renovation. The demolition of the building was begun on February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

The building is located within the buffer zone of the Budapest World Heritage site. No repartitioning of lots or new construction exceeding the current scale is allowed to occur in this area. However, after the demolition of the building at 40 Király Street, plans were to unite its lot with that of the neighboring building on the corner. This would create an enormous unified lot, where the owners would like to erect a monstrous apartment house with 99 units that would not fit in with the traditional urban fabric. By doing this, the area would be built up two and a half times as densely, and the number of apartments would quadruple.

Civic groups organized a protest to rescue the outstanding old apartment house, and the demolition has stopped for the moment. However, the owners are neglecting the building, hoping that by accelerating its deterioration it will have to be demolished sooner or later. Not even the presentation of the "Lemon Award" has helped the situation.

The Hungarian National Committee of ICOMOS believes that the number of buildings at risk in Hungary is increasing, and therefore it has again announced "Historic Preservation Lemon Awards" for the year 2007.

Gábor Winkler  
ICOMOS Hungary

## **The Improper Paths of Urban and Real Estate Development in Hungary**

The erroneous analysis of the interrelations between historic sites and the utilitarian decisions made under the pretext of urban development seriously endanger the character of protected districts. Through the lack of an evaluation of their character and special requirements, misinterpreted examinations of the settings of historic sites may in many ways endanger our protected historic ensembles and the landscapes surrounding them. Unfortunately, more and more development programs are being created that damage the character of historic sites. The Hungarian National Committee of ICOMOS keeps track of the concepts and decisions related to the new developments to the best of its abilities. We make our positions public in statements and inform decision-makers directly of our views. If we can bring attention to unfortunate incidents, we may be able to avoid repeating them.

### ***Central Budapest in Danger***

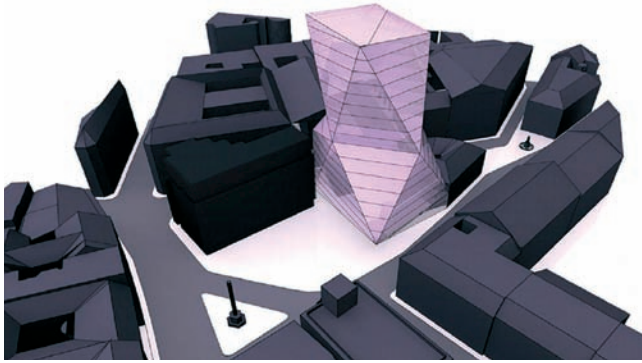
The areas of increasing value in the historic city center attract investors. The spectacular large-scale projects only accommodate themselves to their surroundings in the rarest of circumstances. In historic cities the most valuable areas are found in the city centers, the historic downtowns.

The developers attempt to erect the largest buildings with the greatest amount of ground space on the most valuable sites. Due to the lack of space in historic cities, they can only build upwards. Budapest has so far succeeded in avoiding the construction of skyscrapers.

As a consequence of the change in scale of urban architecture, skyscrapers have no consideration for the established urban conditions. It is not by accident that in many places these form an entirely

Budapest, 6th District, 40 Király St. (1844, altered 1920)





The first idea is a high-rise building next to the buffer zone of the Budapest World Heritage area



The second design is smaller, but still an enormous building in the historic urban structure of Budapest

new and separate district of the city. But even so, otherwise carefully fashioned and architecturally valuable buildings that are of enormous scale compared to the existing urban fabric can undermine a historic city. They rise above and dwarf the valuable buildings in the protected area, disrupting the urban fabric and ruining the cityscape. Developers step forward as ardent advocates of progress and modernity and often convince the municipal leaders by announcing that their ventures are a movement against outmoded conservatism.

The downtown area of Pest lying within the World Heritage site that encompasses the historic portion of Budapest may be jeopardized. The urban structure of Pest, which can be traced back to Roman times, and its characteristic development in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries are a particularly important part of the Budapest World Heritage site.

Up until now the city authorities have for the most part been able to protect the essential character of the area. A projected real estate development, which had been poorly examined and clearly lacked restrictions for protecting the character of the area, proposed the construction of a skyscraper in downtown Pest at Szervita Square. Later this proposal was rejected due to fierce opposition, but now there are plans for the construction of an otherwise high-quality structure, which is however completely alien to the historic architecture and streetscape of the area.

### ***The Example of the Big City is Contagious***

An example of an overbearing new building destroying the harmony of an area is the *new* shopping mall in Kecskemét. The city is one of the most beautiful Art Nouveau towns on the Hungarian Plain. After the demolition of a valuable abandoned mill near the main square, a gigantic building was erected in its place, which ruined the skyline of

The townscape of Kecskemét



The townscape of Kecskemét with the new shopping mall





the city. The mall rises above the church steeples, completely dominating the cityscape. A basic requirement for new buildings is that they comply with the prescribed obligations to be integrated with their surroundings. All development that surpasses the established construction height adversely affects the cityscape, and therefore it should be prohibited.

### ***Small Town Main Squares are at Risk***

Many Hungarian towns have preserved their historic centers. In the best cases the local governments also believe that the protection of these centers is important. Ever greater attention is being given to the revival of historic main squares. However, the centers and protected districts of more and more of our historic cities are being threatened due to pretensions of grandeur and over-eager designers. Small Hungarian towns have essentially begun to compete with one another in thoroughly altering their main squares.

Work begun in the interest of revitalizing the towns – in many places with good intentions – has started a process of destroying the historic centers. Instead, the renovation of the historic city centers is increasingly serving to satisfy pretensions of grandeur that alter the character of the given town squares. Wild dreams have turned protected architectural districts into historical fantasylands. There is no doubt that the historic districts must serve the modern town, but this should not result in the loss of their authentic character. Authenticity demands that historic town squares be revitalized through their own historic character and status. It is not the presence of functions adapted to today's life that represents a threat, but instead that in many cases the display of hackneyed elements with no connection to the traditions or history of the town becomes the main objective. The determining approach for the rehabilitations is not the preservation of the historic district. Buildings completely discordant with their surroundings – historized fountains, bandstands and fake ruins, etc. – seem out of place.



The renewed chaotic main square of Vác



The renewed "Romanesque" gate in the authentic Baroque walls

These renovations generally arise from the support of international financial sources. Due to the strict deadlines and lack of resources during the preliminary planning period insufficiently prepared and investigated application materials are produced. When they are judged favorably the submitted plans may not be altered later, and the ensuing results of research cannot modify the plan. Subsequently, there is no opportunity to assert the professional principles of historic preservation or to make alterations on the basis of more thorough research. Therefore, a situation may arise where inaccurately identified medieval ruins are restored into something that was never there, and during the preservation of a Baroque square a huge imitation of a medieval city gate is erected, damaging a historic Baroque building.

### ***Cultural Landscape at Risk: the Tokaj World Heritage Site is Endangered from Three Directions***

In Szerencs, at the gateway to the World Heritage site listed as the Tokaj-Hegyalja Cultural Landscape, the construction of an enormous straw-burning power plant is being planned on land next to the main trunk road. This project has received every kind of support, as it will produce bio-energy and create jobs. A huge investment of this size has to be stopped because it is to be built at the gateway to a World Heritage site. Nobody has examined what effect the project would have on the World Heritage site.

The power plant is to be located at the worst place possible. The complex consisting of several massive block buildings is alien to the landscape. Certain portions of the generic planned complex will be 34 meters tall, or nearly 10 stories, a vulgar sight in an area protected as a World Heritage site. Its presence seriously endangers the preservation of the landscape's characteristic values, and the protection of the World Heritage site. The landscaping planned around the buildings as a result of protests is an insufficient solution. Nor has the fact that the planned power plant stands in direct conflict with the city of Szerencs's current regulatory plan, which only permits buildings of nine meters in the area, stopped it from going forward. The overpowering ambition and the funding that has come from far away have even forced the city into making damaging changes to its regulatory plan. The power plant's presence will seriously harm the Tokaj wine region World Heritage site, and it will become a blemish on the landscape.

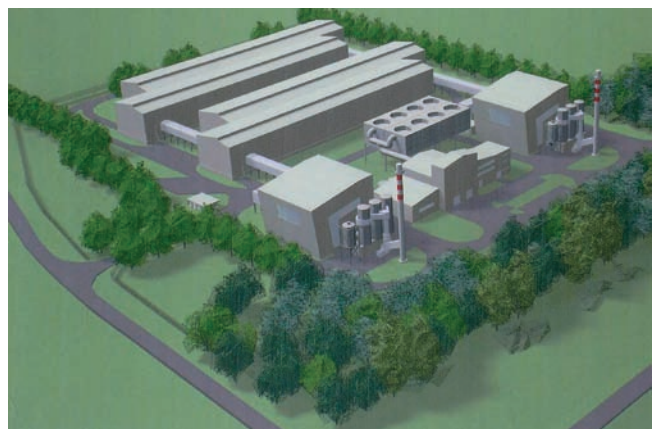
Other dangers also threaten this cultural landscape. A beautiful canyon-like valley is the target of a search for the most suitable site for a seven-kilometer-long reservoir. It is planned to create this massive rearrangement of nature within the buffer zone of the World Heritage site, on the outskirts of Abaújszántó in the valley of the Aranyos Creek. If it is constructed, a significant portion of the World Heritage site will be put in serious danger.

The third source of danger is expected to come from Slovakia. There are plans to erect a new straw-burning power plant right next to the border in Trebisov. Due to the prevailing winds the pollution from the power plant would cover the Tokaj wine region. If the project is completed it will not only endanger the World Heritage site, but also the vineyards that produce the grapes for the world famous Tokaj wine.

Enormous financial opportunities are inherent in energy production. It is not coincidental that the lobbies representing its interests have such great weight. Nor is it accidental that the alleged benefit for energy production is always able to push the efforts to defend the interests of historic preservation, construction regulations and environmental conservation into the background.



The first plan for the power station in the cultural landscape of Tokaj



...and the second one (?!)

### ***Will the Project Being Implemented at Hajógyári Island Become a Model Development?***

Most developments that damage cultural heritage may be traced back to an insufficient preparation of the plan. When the first drafts are in tune with the concerns of historic preservation and archaeology, then the new project can enjoy this special bonus without causing any disturbance to the investment program.

The Roman remains on Hajógyári Island in the Óbuda section of Budapest are an important part of the Limes Romanus, which is on Hungary's tentative list for nomination to the UNESCO World Heritage List (as a section of an international proposal). Therefore, the only projects that are acceptable on the island are those of a size and scale that will not endanger the scientific knowledge, preservation or presentation of any of the elements (both known and yet to be discovered) of these world-famous ancient remains. The preliminary development plan did not consider the area's archaeological assets. Because of the protests of the Hungarian National Committee of ICOMOS and the compromise that followed, the developer has accepted the responsibility to present the findings from the excavations at an international conference, and to consent to the positions of the convened experts. The developer has agreed to modify his plans on their basis. Following this an independent committee of experts will be created at the recommendation of ICOMOS. Their task will be to observe and supervise the proper protection of the archaeological remains during the course of the project. We have confidence in the fact that on the basis of the opinions of the committee, which is made up of noted professionals, there will



be the opportunity to present the valuable Roman ruins in a professional manner. If this cooperation proves to be successful, this process could become a model for the implementation of other similar projects in regards to the preservation of cultural heritage.

The Hungarian examples show that sensible urban development and established urban planning can provide one of the most important frameworks for historic preservation. It is no accident that great pressure is being exerted upon the drafter of the plan, since money is on the line. The examples above refer to challenges from recent times.

Due to the initiative of the UNESCO World Heritage Center, precisely on the basis of the lessons learned from these kinds of situations, and in the effort to avoid further similar instances, the "Vienna Memorandum" was adopted in 2005 as an official guideline, which among other things makes clear that:

"...Living historic cities, especially World Heritage cities, require a policy of city planning and management that takes conservation as one key point for conservation. In this process, the historic city's authenticity and integrity, which are determined by various factors, must not be compromised..."

continuing that

"...urban planning, contemporary architecture and preservation of the historic urban landscape should avoid all forms of pseudo-historical design, as they constitute a denial of both the historical and the contemporary alike. One historical view should not supplant others, as history must remain readable, while continuity of culture through quality interventions is the ultimate goal..."

and

"...Decision-making for interventions and contemporary architecture in a historic urban landscape demands careful consideration, a culturally and historic sensitive approach, stakeholder consultations and expert know-how. Such a process allows for adequate and proper action for individual cases, examining the spatial context between old and new, while respecting the authenticity and integrity of historic fabric and building stock..."

We think it is important to bring attention to development plans that are contrary to the goals of historic preservation. That is to say, plans can easily come from frightening notions. If business interests dominate the plan, then it will be built even if it causes irreparable damage.

Gergely Nagy  
President  
ICOMOS Hungary

## Report on the Condition of the Old Jewish Quarter of Pest

Due to repeated transformations, historic alterations and urban developments that have occurred from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> centuries we have inherited an extraordinary and uniquely valuable urban district where uniform construction from the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century has survived along the interior streets of a well-preserved organic 18<sup>th</sup>-century network of roads and squares. A neighborhood has survived here to this day defining the culture of the Jewish community that started to settle here in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and has remained here for nearly two centuries despite all the historic ordeals. Along with the Castle District and

the Downtown this Old Jewish Quarter of Pest is one of Budapest's oldest and most valuable architectural and historic ensembles.

Its individuality and significance is provided by its irregular, crooked streets that contrast with the neighboring historic districts of the city, by the varied division of plots and their construction, by the consistent architecture of 19<sup>th</sup>-century buildings recalling the neo-classical period, by the secretive network of passageways that are characteristic of the Jewish merchant's quarter, by the oriental mystique of the three major and two minor synagogues, by the outstanding works of Art Nouveau architecture found here, and by the unique combination of all these elements.

### 1980-2002

In the 1980s the first block reconstruction area was designated in this district, based on the judgment of its value at the time. The construction of offices that began in the 1980s, and the processes that began transforming the urban fabric in 1990 and have accelerated since 2002 – consisting of a series of irresponsible demolitions, and the replacement of these buildings with cheap, poor-quality new constructions that do not respect the established scale – have seriously disrupted the harmony of this unique architectural and cultural ensemble.

At the end of the 1980s the idea of constructing the proposed "Madách" Avenue as a pedestrian street along the model of Andrassy Avenue was reintroduced. This, however, does not meet the current standards and would endanger the unique character of the district. The urban regulatory plan related to the construction of the pedestrian street was first passed in 1990. According to the plan, the buildings along the pedestrian street – which would cut through the organic network of streets and valuable 19<sup>th</sup>-century buildings that have survived to this day – would be permitted to be several times larger than the current constructions. (The value of the measure indicating building density for traditional construction in the interior lots is 2-2.5, while in the plan this value would be 5.5-6. This same value in the protected historic district of Paris is 3.5.) The 18<sup>th</sup>-century streets, seven to nine meters wide and bordered by historic buildings, would have to serve as the new pedestrian street, which would be closed to automobile traffic and have parking garages above and under ground. This would have a disastrous effect on the streets crossing the two oldest roads parallel to the pedestrian street (Dob and Király Streets), if in addition to the 29 building lots already empty the demolition of a further 26 buildings prescribed in the plan were to occur. Apart from intruding on the historic arrangement of streets and lots, including the demolition of more than a thousand apartments, the only church in the capital serving the Romanian Orthodox community (since 1910) and the only ritual baths in the Jewish Quarter would also have been demolished according to the plan.

This plan, which was equally insensitive to cultural, architectural and religious values, was modified in 1999, but did not change in essence.

In 2001 another regulatory plan was prepared for the area around the Dohány Street Synagogue built in 1854 (this is Europe's largest functioning synagogue). This, similar to the 1990/1999 plan, continues to think in terms of demolition instead of rehabilitation aimed at preserving the area's character. The local government and the historic preservation agency have approved this regulatory plan as well.



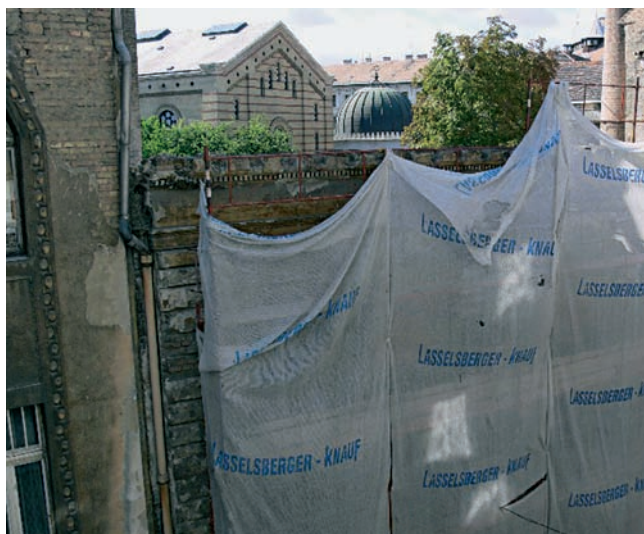
Demolition of Dob Street



Complete transformation of some streets in the protected area: New buildings in Holló Street, in the center of the protected area



Sight plan of the new authorized zoning plan in the immediate vicinity of the Synagogue in Dohány Street



Demolition of historic buildings in Síp Street, close to the Synagogue in Dohány Street.

Neo-classical building waiting to be demolished in Király Street. At this site the local government wants to construct a building with 100 flats.

Demolition of historic houses in Síp utca, in the background the Synagogue can be seen





## 2002-2004

In 2002 the quarter, which is part of Budapest's 7<sup>th</sup> District, became part of the buffer zone for the Budapest World Heritage site when the site was expanded to include Andrásy Avenue. Despite this, the regulatory plans previously prepared and adopted were not suspended, even though they did not consider the area to have a character worthy of preservation, but instead classified it as a site for unrestrained real estate development.

In the time since the Budapest World Heritage site was expanded to include Andrásy Avenue and the site's buffer zone was demarcated (2002), developments in line with the outdated regulatory plans that are still in effect have even accelerated. Between 2002 and 2006 the 7<sup>th</sup> District municipal government sold 47 properties, along with demolition permits in most cases, to private investors on condition that the residents be removed from the historic buildings. The eviction of residents and the demolition in interior cross streets have begun, and therefore the irreplaceable buildings that preserved the original profile and character of the streets are missing from several of them. These intrusions are affecting or have affected precisely the most valuable aspects of the area, its organic structure and early bourgeois houses. Nor have they spared the characteristic residences from the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, which contained factories and workshops for providing traditional Jewish services.

## 2004-2006

In the spring of 2004, after seeing the senseless destruction as well as the shoddiness and unacceptable scale of the new construction erected in place of the demolished buildings, a community movement was founded to save the Old Jewish Quarter of Pest. Due to the initiative of the organization "ÓVÁS!" ("PRESERVATION!"), in April 2004 the Hungarian Office of Cultural Heritage ordered that the "Old Jewish Quarter of Pest" as a section of the buffer zone of the protected Andrásy Avenue World Heritage Site receive temporary protected historic status, and in November 2004 it provided permanent historic district protective status for the area. In April 2005, 51 buildings were registered as historic structures, including buildings that would have been demolished according to the regulatory plans and the decisions of the local government. However, the regulatory plans that plainly endanger the character of the quarter have yet to be repealed to this day, despite their incompatibility with the area's protected status. Local government decisions are made, and demolition and construction permits are issued on the basis of the old plans.

In fact, in 2005 and 2006 another four lots were sacrificed for the site of the aforementioned pedestrian street. Furthermore, the approach and the parameters of the new plan for the only square located in the central part of the quarter, Klauzál Square, are along the same lines as the previous plans. Nevertheless, in 2005 the Management Plan for the World Heritage Site and its buffer zones was completed and accepted by the experts of the Hungarian Office of Cultural Heritage and of the Budapest municipal government. Unfortunately however, the recently re-drafted regulatory plans remain in sharp conflict with the approach and expectations of the Management Plan. To this day the Management Plan has not become a law, executive decree or Budapest city ordinance. Due to this, the expectations established in the Management Plan are ignored by the district government, whose interests lie in the demolition and construction of buildings that are out of scale.

Moreover, even the Hungarian Office of Cultural Heritage cannot enforce the provisions of the Management Plan, because its decisions during the approval of permits must correspond to the legally valid regulatory plans. A management organization has yet to be set up. Only the "ÓVÁS!" organization is recording and making an attempt to reign in the increased pace of large-scale changes.

Unfortunately, despite its status as a protected historic district, in reality the demolition of unprotected buildings within the buffer zone and its surrounding areas continues unabated, and construction permits are issued on the basis of plans that have seemingly – at least in public statements – been denounced by everyone. All of this is occurring in full knowledge of, but in spite of the fact that during the course of the previous decades large European cities have been rehabilitating their Jewish quarters without exception. Furthermore, these other cases occurred despite the lack of a surviving Jewish community still living there.

## 2006-2007

By 2006 the situation had further worsened. Today, in a portion of the interior blocks made up of Classicist, Historicist and Art Nouveau buildings nearly 40 % of the buildings are missing, or have been replaced by developments similar to housing projects. Certain streets are now unrecognizable. Since 2005 the "ÓVÁS!" organization has asked for a ban on alterations to the district until a

Demolition and construction activity in one of the streets of the protected area (Holló Street)



new regulatory plan and a rehabilitation program that conforms to the Management Plan's preservation requirements are created, but up until now in vain. They also have requested in vain the otherwise expected establishment of a Management Organization, or the legal enforcement of the Management Plan. Up to this point neither has happened.

The drafting of a new plan, through a joint commission between the City of Budapest and the 7<sup>th</sup> District, which would consider the Old Jewish Quarter of Pest a unified protected district, seemed to have begun at the end of 2006. However, currently the preliminary program for creating the plan has not even been accepted yet. Without the ordering of a ban on alterations and a radical reexamination of inappropriate earlier decisions, the preservation of the area's character is inconceivable. This is because, on the one hand construction and demolition permits that have been issued, but not yet utilized, are not rescinded – citing the rights acquired by the investors – and on the other hand it is due to the unchanged legal conditions in effect until the new plan is put into force (in one or one and a half years) that provide the opportunity for unwanted demolitions and development to occur based on the earlier plans. Here they have placed the rights acquired by the investors above the rights of the community. By the time the new plan is passed, and the rehabilitation or management organization is formed that has

been planned for years by the City of Budapest, the removal of the residents will have taken place. The buildings are being demolished, and construction orientated towards building large-scale apartment houses is continuing. Due to the lack of a rehabilitation plan and related over-development, the green spaces that currently exist – courtyards, gardens, yards and passageways – will be built over and lost, and the narrow streets will be choked with an intolerable amount of traffic.

The Hungarian National Committee of ICOMOS made a statement in 2006 calling attention to the protection of the area's character, and later set forth in a letter directed to the Mayor of Budapest that the introduction of a ban on alterations to the area is necessary until a new regulatory plan is completed and put into effect.

This large historic architectural ensemble with its 200 years of history, where the largest Jewish community in the cities of Central Europe has lived and where despite the horrors of 1944 they have remained in the streets and buildings of what had become a ghetto, will be destroyed in a few years before our eyes – if nothing happens to stop the destruction.

The Board of Directors of the  
Hungarian National Committee of ICOMOS



## INDIA

### The Temple Sites at Telkupi ("Bhairavasthan") Jaina Architectural Remains Submerged by Panchet Dam in Jharkhand and West Bengal

*With his report on the consequences of the Panchet Dam, erected half a century ago, Bulu Imam is complementing his report in Heritage at Risk 2004/2005, pp. 94-103 ("Threatened Jaina Heritage Route in Jharkhand and West Bengal"). More than 20 temples from the 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> centuries (Pala period) were submerged between 1956 and 1962 by the waters of the Damodar river. In the meantime, the remains of these ruined temples are becoming visible again in the silted-up reservoir.*

During the mid-1950s the fate of the twenty-odd temples at a place ancestrally known as Bhairavasthan was sealed during the submergence of a large area along the banks of the river Damodar on the border of Jharkhand and Bengal through the construction of the Panchet Dam across the river. The Dam was built by the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) which was following the Dam building models of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) dam building project on the Tennessee River in USA with big dams like the Norris Dam on the Clinch river, and the Wilson Dam on the Tennessee river. This project was India's first big industrial project begun and supervised under the constant attention of the Prime Minister after whom the project was called Nehru's Dream.

For the archaeological heritage of Jharkhand it was a catastrophe apart from the human and ecological aspects. Hundreds of villages were submerged in over six large dams and thousands of smaller dams. Like the TVA the DVC ignored the territorial rights of indigenous societies who had lived on the land ancestrally.

Bhairavasthan was some nine kilometres from Telkupi on the south bank of river Damodar. This location falls about thirty kilometres south of the town of Dhanbad. When the local villagers saw the waters of the Damodar river rising in 1957 they immediately informed the Archaeological Survey of India in Calcutta, and asked it to immediately arrange for the translocation of their stone and brick temples dat-

of the temples in original condition in 1957 is inadequate and we have to rely on the photos taken in 1872-73, by Beglar; the photos of Bloch in 1903, and those of Bose in 1929. This is supplemented by the photos of the ASI Eastern Circle taken in 1960. Beglar had documented Temples 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 15, and 18 in 1872-73. We have to rely on his photos and documentation to get a picture of the Bhairavasthan temples in their pristine condition.

The Director General of the ASI visited the Telkupi site with Dr. Mrs. Debala Mitra and they went to Bhairavasthan and according to Mitra in the Preface to her monograph on Telkupi (1969) they learned locally that most of the temples and the greater part of the village had gone under water and find only the tops of Temples 6, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15 and 16 protruding above the waters of the Damodar, and temples 17 and 18 standing at the edge of the water. The Eastern Circle photos of 1960 show the temples mentioned above standing above the water in fairly reasonable condition on dry land. There was still a chance to remove the temples. In the photograph of 1962 taken by the West Bengal Directorate of Archaeology, the temples are submerged. What happened could only be the result of extreme negligence, and callousness on the part of the development authorities. This should not have occurred again. But in the Chandil Dam on the Suvarnarekha river this is precisely what happened nearly forty years later.

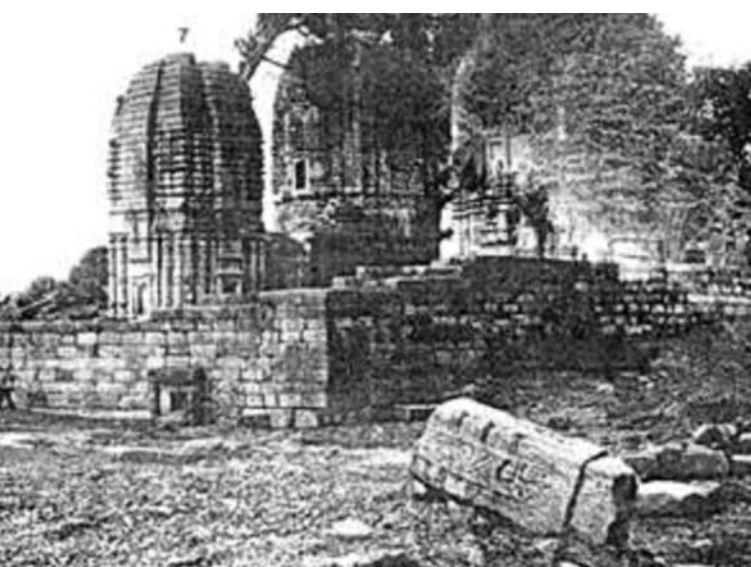
Truly it had earned its name River of Sorrows. The West Bengal Government was thereafter asked to order the dewatering of the area so that the Temples could at least be examined and possible translocation considered. But it was too late and the authorities concerned considered dewatering the area impractical and the most priceless Jain temple architecture of Jharkhand and West Bengal was needlessly destroyed and became "The Ghost Temples of Telkupi". Even now villagers say that at evening they can hear *kir-tans* being sung across the waters and boatmen pray before entering the waters lest they by mistake guide their craft over a temple...

Telkupi in local traditions was the place where the legendary Jain king Vikramaditya used to come from Dulmi, a place a hundred kilometres to the south near the ill-fated Icha and Chandil dams in what is now Seraikela-Kharsawan district, and rub oil on his body then return back to Dulmi where he would bathe in the tank called Chhatara Pokhar. Beglar notes that in the Manjhi Santal songs of Telkupi sexual freedom for girls was recorded during the annual spring fair during March-April (Sarhul), a tradition which Colonel Dalton upholds in his ethnological observations of Bengal.

Telkupi was under the Rajas of Panchet and Kashipur in the area called *Shikarbhum*, or "Land of Shikar (i.e. hunting)" which was the old name of Hazaribagh district until the arrival of the British in the eighteenth century, and when Dhanbad was within the district. Telkupi is about a hundred and thirty kilometres southeast of the Jain temple centre of Parasnath Hill, and thirty kilometres south of Dhanbad town today. Half the waters of the Panchet Dam are in Jharkhand and half in West Bengal. Some images of the temples are in Jharkhand at Katapatthar in Dhanbad district, and some in local temples or private houses on the West Bengal side of the border in Puruliya district.

The earliest reports of the Telkupi Temples is by J. D. Beglar who visited the place on two occasions. His report records three clusters of temples, the largest consisting of thirteen temples on the banks of the river Damodar which was the Bhairavasthan. W. W. Hunter in his work *Statistical Account of Bengal* refers to "eight or nine of these temples at Telkupi on the Damodar". He refers to the image of Bhairava being worshipped. For clarifying the tribal ancestry of the

Temples 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 & 10 at Bhairavasthan (Bloch's photograph, 1903)

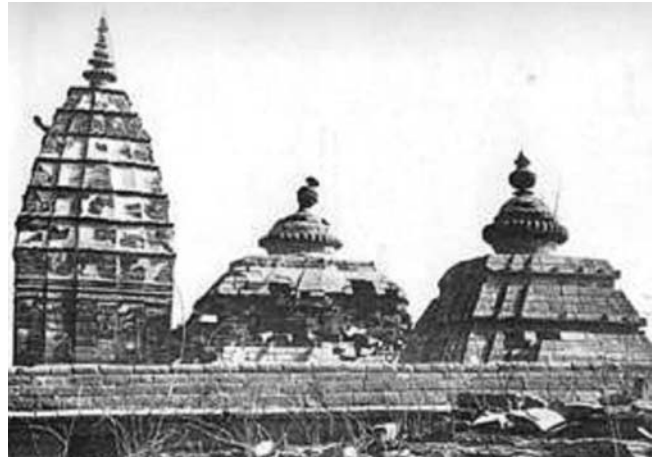


temples Bhairava is an ancient forest form of Shiva accompanied by two dogs and is a particular cult. W. W. Hunter also refers to Bhairavasthan as a Jain site with some Buddhist influence also. This is important in trying to understand the early nature of the site in the Pala period when they were built and when the local religion was Buddhist and Jain. The temples originally may have numbered over forty, but even before the Panchet Dam the banks of the river must have eroded sufficiently to destroy many temples on its banks. In 1903 Bloch of the Bengal Archaeological Survey refers to the temples, and he specifically refers to the worship of Bhairav, Kali (Tara?), Mahadeva (Shiva), Linga (Shiva), and Surya (Alokitesvara?). Bloch also took some photographs at Bhairavasthan (Temples 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13). Bose took some photos of temples in 1929 (Temples 8, 10, 14). The last photographs of the ruins were taken in 1960 by the A.S.I. Eastern Circle after the Damodar had done most of its work. Misra's photograph of 1957 was taken just as the waters were rising and getting ready to reach the temples. This photograph shows Temples 8, 6 and 10 in quite good condition, although the trees have been removed from their vicinity. The Eastern Circle photographs of Temples 8, 6, 9 and 10 of 1960 show them damaged but standing above dry land, and apart from No.6 most have a lot left in them, especially Temples 8, 9 and 10. At this time translocation was still possible. This was not even attempted. Two years later, in the photograph of May 1962 taken by the West Bengal Directorate of Archaeology, the Temples are shown more than half submerged with Temples 8, 9 and 10 bravely trying to hold themselves up while Temple 6 is a heap of stone slabs. The beautiful and profusely decorated temple 19 seen in Bose's photograph of 1929 was completely destroyed as shown by the Eastern Circle photo of 1960. At this time Temple 18 was standing on dry land at the edge of the waters and would meet a similar fate.

Today Temple 10 is still submerged up to half its height, but in the earth at the edge of the dam, due to the flooding and silting up of the reservoir. There is no trace of temples 8 and 9. The Panchet Dam has lost much of its water and silted up and the temples have become ruins, once again giving a possibility of archaeological excavation and reconstruction. Was this necessary? Some of the Jaina statuary from Telkupi temples has found its way to the Bhairav mandir, an unroofed enclosure in village Katapathar (Jharkhand) where they are standing in the open. Others are in Shivpur mandir in the village of Shivpur (West Bengal).

According to W. W. Hunter in his *Statistical Account of Bengal* (List of Ancient Monuments of Bengal, 1896) the image from Telkupi of Bhairav from which Bhairavasthan gets its name, was of Lord Mahavira, the 24<sup>th</sup> Tirthankara of the Jains. In the opinion of F. B. Bradley-Birt the statuary was Jaina (Chota-Nagpore: A Little-Known Province of the Empire, 1903/1910, p. 181). In the INTACH survey of Jaina monuments of South Jharkhand (Purulia, Seraikela, 2006) the Jaina statuary was invariably found in the sites with similar temple architecture as the Bhairavasthan temples of Telkupi. There is therefore every reason to assume Telkupi was a Jaina temple cluster. Further evidence is had by the fact the legendary Jain king Vikramaditya is believed to have come annually to Telkupi on pilgrimage.

Obviously, the Temples were originally sites of Jaina worship before or during the Pala period. Earlier they would have been local aboriginal worship sites and Gram Devtas or village deities under trees (*Chandi*, *Burhi Ma*, mother goddess) have been recorded. That there was a variance of worship is borne out by the fact that many of the temples faced in several directions. Temples 2, 4, 5, 8 faced east; Temple 1 faced south; Temples 3, 12, 13 faced west. Some of the Temples did not have porches, while some like Temples 6, 8, 10 had porches.



Temples 10 with porch and Temple 9. With compound wall in front. (Eastern Circle photograph, 1960)



Temples 8, 9 and 10, partly submerged by Waters of river Damodar impounded by the Panchet dam. (West Bengal Directorate of Archaeology photograph, May, 1962)



Telkupi Temple No.10 (the last of the Telkupi temples standing). Note that the dam has silted up and agriculture is being practiced. There are no signs of temple 8 and 9.

The questions which remain unanswered for us are: Why did the Archaeological Survey of India in Calcutta not act sooner? Why could the West Bengal government not intervene? Why could Prime Minister Nehru not be appealed to? Above all, the finger points at the Damodar Valley Corporation itself and the question begs answer why it was allowed so openly to destroy a National Heritage of the greatest importance. The tragic feature of Telkupi has been that only a few of the images were removed before the waters of the Damodar rose above them, while most of the stone



images which were free were washed away in the lapping of the current of the waters. The people were, it seems, loth to touch them for fear of desecrating the hallowed Temples.

Debala Mitra in 1959-60 recorded seeing submerged images of *Maheshasuramardini*, *Ganesa*, and *Uma Mahesvara* of the Late Pala period under the waters. She also noted a submerged *Vishnu* image in Temple 9, and an *Ambika*, and *Andhakasura-vadha* statue in the porch of Temple 10. TS boatmen refused to let him remove the submerged statues as they considered it would bring bad luck. That modern India should have thus treated one of its most precious archaeological and religious sites is a matter of great shame. Many villages apart from Telkupi were submerged along with their temples and statuary by the Panchet Dam. No lesson was learned from Telkupi and the same exercise was repeated a hundred kilometres to the south less than fifty years later in the southern tracts of Vikramaditya's kingdom from Dulmi and Patkom to Ichha on the Suvarnarekha river in the building of the Chandil Dam, wherein scores of Jain Temples and villages were submerged. A few pieces were salvaged by zealous local conservationists and found place in a small museum at Patkom.

Bulu Imam  
Convener  
INTACH Hazaribagh Chapter  
Sanskriti  
Hazaribagh



Remains of Jaina statuary from the Telkupi Temples



## Rama Setu and Setusamudram Project, Protest against Channel Passage through Adam's Bridge

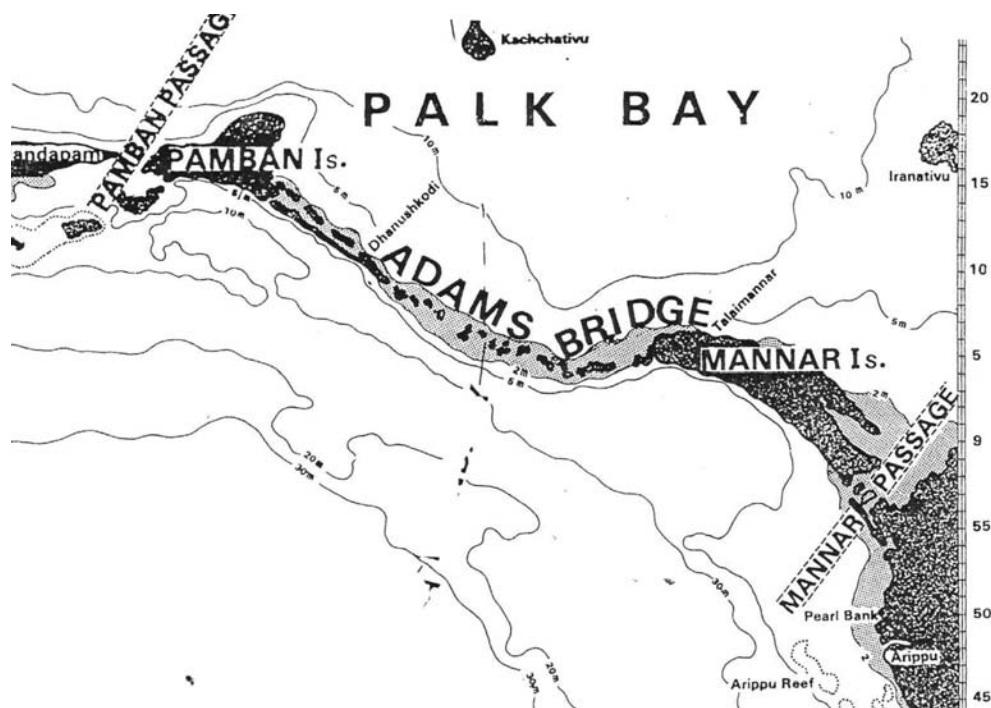
An international seminar organised by the Rameswaram Rama Setu Protection Movement on May 12, 2007 in Chennai, was inaugurated by Dr. S.R. Rao who is the founder of Society of Marine Archaeology in India and member of ICUCH. Scientists and professionals have urged the government to review and realign the Setusamudram Channel Project (SSCP), without impacting Rama Setu. SSCP which creates a channel passage in the Indian Ocean has serious security implications and a disastrous impact on the long-term ecological stability on the coastline of Tamilnadu and Kerala.

Rama Setu is an ancient monument of national and international importance. Presenting overwhelming archaeological, epigraphical and scientific evidences, seminar participants resolved that Rama Setu should be declared and protected as a World Heritage Site. Experts noted that by aligning the channel close to the medial line, an international waters boundary is likely to be created between India and Srilanka in violation of the consistent stand so far taken by the two countries, declaring the Gulf of Mannar and Palk Straits as 'Historic Waters' hence Internal Waters. Fishermen are concerned that such a boundary, under pressure from the US Navy, will prevent the exercise of their historic rights to the aquatic resources in the waters. A demand was made that tsunami protection measures should be made an integral part of the project to prevent the devastation of Tamilnadu and Kerala coastline and desiccation of thorium resources of Manavalakurichi, Aluva and Chavara, in case of another tsunami caused by recurrent earthquakes in the Indian Ocean region. Participants in the seminar noted that Sir AR Mudaliar Committee Report of 1956 clearly stated that any idea of cutting a channel through Rama Setu should be abandoned because of the problems of maintaining a mid-ocean channel and the turbulence of the Indian Ocean waters. This turbulence is now enhanced by the events such as the tsunami which struck the Indian Ocean coastline on December 26, 2004 resulting in the death of over 250,000 people.

*Press Release: Save Rama Setu: letter of 30 March 2007 from Dr. S. R. Rao addressed to the Honourable Minister for Shipping and Transport, Govt. of India*

*Dr. S. R. Rao earnestly requests the Hon'ble Union Minister to save the traditionally-known Rama Setu mentioned in various Puranas as a bridge built by the legendary Hero of Ramayana. He notes that it is of great emotional value as a sacred tirtha.*

*Dr. Rao requests the Hon'ble Union Minister to see that the cutting of the rock or any kind of damage to the rock is avoided and adds, "It is no less important than Swami Vivekananda Rock where a memorial is built. Alternate routes suggested by experts may kindly be considered in the interest of saving the Underwater Cultural Heritage of India, namely Rama Setu or Adam's Bridge. My study of the submergence of Poompuhar shows that most of the ancient sites on east coast are being swallowed by the sea. The latest victim is the shore temple at Tarangambadi. During my two visits to Sri Lanka, as a member of the ICUCH, I visited the Rama Setu site and had discussions with Commander Devendra Somasiri, another member of ICUCH from Sri Lanka about its importance as a Heritage site."*



Map showing Adam's Bridge

The geographical location that connects the Indian main land and Sri Lanka, which were culturally united in the early period, is known as Palk Strait (India) and the Gulf of Mannar (Sri Lanka).

A cursory look at the sketch map illustrates the problems of navigation in the above area. Separating the Gulf of Mannar in the south from the strait in the north is a chain of islands, reefs, shoals and shallows, consisting of the island of Mannar, Ramar Bridge (also known as Adam's Bridge), the island of Pamban and Ramesvaram. Significantly the strait is flanked by two ancient temples, Ramanatha temple and Thiruketesvara temple on the Indian and Sri Lankan sides respectively. On the Indian side it attains importance because of its association with the Ramayana epic.

### Successful protest against six-lane road proposed close to Humayun's Tomb in New Delhi

In a letter of 28 July 2006 to Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, Chairman of the 2010 Commonwealth Games Committee at the Ministry of Youth and Sports, ICOMOS protested against the plans for a highway near Humayun's Tomb (see *Hindustan Times*, 12 July 2006). On 1 September 2006 ICOMOS received a positive answer in so far as alternative plans will be respecting the visual integrity of this famous monument. Here is the wording of the two letters:



New Delhi, Humayun's Tomb



28 July 2006

Dear Sir,

**Humayun's Tomb, New Delhi, India**

ICOMOS (the International Council on Monuments and Sites) is very concerned to hear that the Delhi municipal authorities are planning to construct a major highway of six lanes which will be passing within 40 metres of the World Heritage site of Humayun's Tomb (inscribed in the World Heritage List in 1993), the first garden-tomb on the Indian subcontinent dating from 1570.

Please be informed that the inscription in the World Heritage List does not only oblige the relevant State authorities to look after the conservation of the monument or site itself, but also to guarantee its visual integrity. No doubt, the latter will be seriously disturbed if the municipal authorities go ahead with their road construction plans.

The outstanding artistic quality of Humayun's Tomb and its spectacular situation in a carefully designed garden should not be sacrificed for short-term considerations, such as an improvement of the traffic route to Nehru Stadium during the 2010 Commonwealth Games.

ICOMOS therefore urges you to reconsider the road construction plans and find alternatives.

In view of the dramatic consequences for the visual integrity of Humayun's Tomb and other protected monuments in its vicinity ICOMOS is also going to inform the UNESCO World Heritage Center of the threat.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Michael Petzet  
President

1 September 2006

Dear Prof. Dr. Michael Petzet,

I am in receipt of your letter dated 28.7.2006, in connection with the proposal to build an underground road linking N11-24 (Nizamuddin Bridge) to Sabz Burz round about on Mathura Road passing near the World Heritage Site of Humayun's Tomb.

In this connection, I am to inform that you are probably referring to the earlier alignment of the proposed road, which was passing at a distance of 42 metres from the wall of Humayun's Tomb.

Now the alignment is proposed to be altered in the following manner:

- The proposed road has been shifted north of Subj Burj and the alignment will have twin tunnels of 11 m diameter each, 5 m below ground level. The corridor will pass through these tunnels at a depth of 12.1 m below ground surface and each carriage-way will be two-lane (7.5 m) and not three-lane as proposed earlier. Due to shift of alignment the nearest point of alignment will now be 276 m from the wall of Humayun's Tomb, against 42 m of the earlier proposal.
- Since it is a tunnel corridor below ground from Lodhi Road to Railway Track, so the visual integrity of Humayun's Tomb will not be disturbed.
- As the road will be passing through the tunnels at a depth of 12.1 m below ground level, so it will not cause any damage to the garden.

Further, I may add that the purpose of above road is to meet an imperative need to decongest Bhairon Road and Ring Road and to provide for a short route between East Delhi and Central/South Delhi, which will incidentally facilitate a smooth flow of traffic from Games Village to Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium during the Commonwealth Games 2010.

Yours sincerely,

K. S. Mehra  
Principal Secretary  
Govt. of National Capital Territory of Delhi

## IRAN

In the Islamic Republic of Iran the historic city of Bam was devastated by an earthquake on 26 December 2003 (see *Heritage at Risk 2004/2005*, pp. 105-110, including the text of the “Bam Declaration and Recommendation” of 20 April 2004). The consequences of this earthquake were also discussed in detail at the ICOMOS Germany conference on “Cultural Heritage and Natural Disasters” (Leipzig, 27/28 October 2006, soon to be published in a *Heritage at Risk Special*). In the meantime, Iran was afflicted by another severe earthquake:

Between 30 and 31 March 2006, large earthquakes reaching over 6 on the Richter scale struck the area of Borujerd City, Lorestan Province. In the city and surrounding village areas, there

were approximately 40 cultural heritage properties which suffered damage. A mission report of the UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office made a detailed list of the damages inspected in April 2006. This list of damaged monuments mentions, among other objects, Jame Mosque in Borujerd City, where apparently part of one of the minarets has fallen and there are significant displacements and major cracks in the remains of the broken and still-standing minarets and the main ivan. In addition, it mentions the Shrine of Imamzadeh Khalegh Ibn Ali in Bozazma village. The structure of this shrine located closest to the epicentre of the earthquake suffered dramatic damage and the dome which is of special historic value is threatened by collapse.



Borujerd City, damaged Jame Mosque



## IRAQ

Also from the conservation point of view the situation in Iraq remains disastrous (see also H@R 2004/2005) and the alarming loss of cultural heritage continues.

### Attack against the Askariya Shrine (Golden Dome) in Samarra

In 2006/2007 several holy shrines were damaged and devastated in the sectarian reprisals that swept the country after an explosion destroyed the Askariya shrine's famous Golden Dome on 22 February 2006. The Askariya shrine is one of the most revered sites of Shiite Islam. It contains the tombs of the tenth and eleventh imams, Ali al Hadi (d. AD 868) and his son Hassan al Askari (d. AD 874). The Askariya shrine has been continually added to since the tenth century, often by Iranian rulers – its great dome was rebuilt in 1623 by the Safavid Shah Abbas and was first covered in golden tiles by the Qajar Shah Nasir al Din in 1868. On 13 June 2007 the Askariya shrine was once again attacked; this time both minarets were blown up.

Samarra, Askariya shrine before the demolition  
(BBC News)



### The ongoing looting of Iraq's cultural heritage

*2,000-year-old Sumerian cities torn apart and plundered by robbers. The very walls of the mighty Ur of the Chaldees cracking under the strain of massive troop movements, the privatisation of looting as landlords buy up the remaining sites of ancient Mesopotamia to strip them of their artefacts and wealth. The near total destruction of Iraq's historic past – the very cradle of human civilisation – has emerged as one of the most shameful symbols of our disastrous occupation.*

*Evidence amassed by archaeologists shows that even those Iraqis who trained as archaeological workers in Saddam Hussein's regime are now using their knowledge to join the looters in digging through the ancient cities, destroying thousands of priceless jars, bottles and other artefacts in their search for gold and other treasures. In the aftermath of the 1991 Gulf War, armies of looters moved in on the desert cities of southern Iraq and at least 13 Iraqi museums were plundered. Today, almost every archaeological site in southern Iraq is under the control of looters.*

*In a long and devastating appraisal to be published in December, Lebanese archaeologist Joanne Farchakh says that armies of looters have not spared "one metre of these Sumerian capitals that have been buried under the sand for thousands of years. "They systematically destroyed the remains of this civilisation in their tireless search for sellable artefacts: ancient cities, covering an estimated surface area of 20 square kilometres, which – if properly excavated – could have provided extensive new information concerning the develop-*

Askariya shrine, after the destruction of the golden dome on 22 February 2006 (BBC News)



ment of the human race. "Humankind is losing its past for a cuneiform tablet or a sculpture or piece of jewellery that the dealer buys and pays for in cash in a country devastated by war. Humankind is losing its history for the pleasure of private collectors living safely in their luxurious houses and ordering specific objects for their collection.

Ms Farchakh, who helped with the original investigation into stolen treasures from the Baghdad Archaeological Museum in the immediate aftermath of the invasion of Iraq, says Iraq may soon end up with no history. "There are 10,000 archaeological sites in the country. In the Nassariyah area alone, there are about 840 Sumerian sites; they have all been systematically looted. Even when Alexander the Great destroyed a city, he would always build another. But now the robbers are destroying everything because they are going down to bedrock. What's new is that the looters are becoming more and more organised with, apparently, lots of money." Quite apart from this, military operations are damaging these sites forever. There's been a US base in Ur for five years and the walls are cracking because of the weight of military vehicles. It's like putting an archaeological site under a continuous earthquake."

Of all the ancient cities of present-day Iraq, Ur is regarded as the most important in the history of man-kind. Mentioned in the Old Testament – and believed by many to be the home of the Prophet Abraham – it also features in the works of Arab historians and geographers where its name is Qamirnah, The City of the Moon. Founded in about 4,000 BC, its Sumerian people established the principles of irrigation, developed agriculture and metal-working. Fifteen hundred years later – in what has become known as "the age of the deluge" – Ur produced some of the first examples of writing, seal inscriptions and construction. In neighbouring Larsa, baked clay bricks were used as money orders – the world's first cheques – the depth of finger indentations in the clay marking the amount of money to be transferred. The royal tombs of Ur contained jewellery, daggers, gold, azurite cylindrical seals and sometimes the remains of slaves.

US officers have repeatedly said a large American base built at Babylon was to protect the site but Iraqi archaeologist Zainab Bahrani, a professor of art history and archaeology at Columbia University, says this "beggars belief". In an analysis of the city, she says: "The damage done to Babylon is both extensive and irreparable, and even if US forces had wanted to protect it, placing guards round the site would have been far more sensible than bulldozing it and setting up the largest coalition military headquarters in the region." Air strikes in 2003 left historical monuments undamaged, but Professor Bahrani, says: "The occupation has resulted in a tremendous destruction of history well beyond the museums and libraries looted and destroyed at the fall of Baghdad. At least seven historical sites have been used in this way by US and coalition forces since April 2003, one of them being the historical heart of Samarra, where the Askari shrine built by Nasr al Din Shah was bombed in 2006."

The use of heritage sites as military bases is a breach of the Hague Convention and Protocol of 1954 (chapter 1, article 5) which covers periods of occupation; although the US did not ratify the Convention, Italy, Poland, Australia and Holland, all of whom sent forces to Iraq, are contracting parties.

Ms Farchakh notes that as religious parties gain influence in all the Iraqi provinces, archaeological sites are also falling under their control. She tells of Abdulmir Hamdani, the director of antiquities for Di Qar province in the south who desperately – but vainly – tried to prevent the destruction of the buried cities during the occupation. Dr Hamdani himself wrote that he can do little to prevent "the disaster we are all witnessing and observing". In 2006, he says: "We recruited 200

police officers because we were trying to stop the looting by patrolling the sites as often as possible. Our equipment was not enough for this mission because we only had eight cars, some guns and other weapons and a few radio transmitters for the entire province where 800 archaeological sites have been inventoried. Of course, this is not enough but we were trying to establish some order until money restrictions within the government meant that we could no longer pay for the fuel to patrol the sites. So we ended up in our offices trying to fight the looting, but that was also before the religious parties took over southern Iraq."

Last year, Dr Hamdani's antiquities department received notice from the local authorities, approving the creation of mud-brick factories in areas surrounding Sumerian archaeological sites. But it quickly became apparent that the factory owners intended to buy the land from the Iraqi government because it covered several Sumerian capitals and other archaeological sites. The new landlord would "dig" the archaeological site, dissolve the "old mud brick" to form the new one for the market and sell the unearthed finds to antiquity traders. Dr Hamdani bravely refused to sign the dossier. Ms Farchakh says: "His rejection had rapid consequences. The religious parties controlling Nassariyah sent the police to see him with orders to jail him on corruption charges. He was imprisoned for three months, awaiting trial. The State Board of Antiquities and Heritage defended him during his trial, as did his powerful tribe. He was released and regained his position. The mud-brick factories are 'frozen projects', but reports have surfaced of a similar strategy being employed in other cities and in nearby archaeological sites such as the Aqarakouf Ziggurat near Baghdad. For how long can Iraqi archaeologists maintain order? This is a question only Iraqi politicians affiliated to the different religious parties can answer, since they approve these projects."

Police efforts to break the power of the looters, now with a well-organised support structure helped by tribal leaders, have proved lethal. In 2005, the Iraqi customs arrested – with the help of Western troops – several antiquities dealers in the town of Al Fajr, near Nassariyah. They seized hundreds of artefacts and decided to take them to the museum in Baghdad. It was a fatal mistake. The convoy was stopped a few miles from Baghdad, eight of the customs agents were murdered, and their bodies burnt and left to rot in the desert. The artefacts disappeared. "It was a clear message from the antiquities dealers to the world," Ms Farchakh says.

The legions of antiquities looters work within a smooth mass-smuggling organisation. Trucks, cars, planes and boats take Iraq's historical plunder to Europe, the US, to the United Arab Emirates and to Japan. The archaeologists say an ever-growing number of internet websites offer Mesopotamian artefacts, objects anywhere up to 7,000 years old.

The farmers of southern Iraq are now professional looters, knowing how to outline the walls of buried buildings and able to break directly into rooms and tombs. The archaeologists' report says: "They have been trained in how to rob the world of its past and they have been making significant profit from it. They know the value of each object and it is difficult to see why they would stop looting." After the 1991 Gulf War, archaeologists hired the previous looters as workers and promised them government salaries. This system worked as long as the archaeologists remained on the sites, but it was one of the main reasons for the later destruction; people now knew how to excavate and what they could find. Ms Farchakh adds: "The longer Iraq finds itself in a state of war, the more the cradle of civilisation is threatened. It may not even last for our grandchildren to learn from."

Robert Fisk

"It is the Death of History", in: *The Independent*, 17 September 2007



## ISRAEL

### Preliminary Damage Assessment Report: Israel Heritage after the 2006 War

The Israel World Heritage Committee at its 3<sup>rd</sup> extraordinary session (20 August 2006) set up a taskforce to survey the damage ensuing from the current conflict and mainly the damage by Hezbollah rockets in Israel.

In general, the recent war in Lebanon has brought massive damage to the Galilee, the northern part of Israel, and in particular to sites from Mount Carmel and Beit Shean to Zefat and Acre. The northern part of Israel has a high concentration of heritage sites due to its continuous history of thousands of years.

Fortunately, no real damage was caused to the five sites inscribed on the World Heritage List. But several other monuments and sites were damaged by rockets:

- Meron Old Synagogue, located on a junction of Sasa/Zefat: A rocket hit close to the synagogue and set a fire which heated and cracked stones and walls.
- Crusader Fortress Hunin/Margaliyot, located in Margaliyot: A number of rockets fell into the centre of its courtyard and affected the walls and mortars of the stones.
- Nazareth: Rockets hit the city, but there was no damage to religious heritage.
- Old Zefat: The city was badly hit, although the extent of the damage cannot yet be estimated due to the unforeseen impact on the foundations and the city's infrastructure. An ancient 14th-century cemetery and the Abuav synagogue were directly hit. Old buildings in the Maayan area received a direct hit leading to severe cracks.
- Roman Mausoleum in Kefar Giladi: The fire damaged stones and walls.
- Tel Kadesh, located in the Metzudat Koah area: Fire caused by rockets affected all walls.
- Roman temple, located in National Park near Tel Kadesh: This site

was directly hit by several rockets. Walls and stones cracked.

- Haifa: Dozens of rockets hit the city directly. Some historic buildings in the old city were damaged, including the El Itaihad building, the building of the historic communist newspaper, which was completely destroyed.
- There are numerous historic museums scattered in the Galilee. Two of them were indirectly hit: Bat Galim (Haifa) and Kefar Giladi. The damage was to windows and glass cases for presentations

## Conclusion

The direct damage to archaeological sites is minimal. However, the indirect hits in the vicinity of these sites, including the effects of impact and fire, have severely damaged many of the sites mentioned above, especially stones and walls. The impact on the stability as well as on the exposure of the sites, including damage manifested in the chemical composition of the stone, has not yet been determined. Due to the dangers and risks some sites are now closed for visitors until the damage has been finally assessed and rectified.

*Abbreviated version of the damage assessment report submitted by the Israel National Commission for UNESCO, the Israel World Heritage Committee and ICOMOS Israel.*

(On the Middle East conflict and its consequences see also the Lebanon report, p. 107)

Hunin/Margaliyot, Crusader fortress



Old Zefat, cracks on an old building in the Maayan area





Roman temple in the National Park near Tel Kadesh



Haifa, destroyed El Itihad building



Kefar Giladi, remains of the Roman mausoleum affected by fire



## ITALY

### Environmental and monumental SOS from Florence: Damages due to wrong ideas of modernity and embellishment

Almost 100 years ago Max Dvofák, in his still topical publication *Katechismus der Denkmalpflege* (*Catechism for the Protection of Monuments*), gave a list of the dangers threatening ancient monuments, including the “misunderstood ideas of progress”, the “presumed exigencies of the modern age” and “the eagerness of a wrong embellishment”.

It is unfortunately exactly what is happening in Florence as a consequence of some choices of urban planning taken in the last decades by the administrators, who want to relieve an artistic city from its secular “immobility” and to open it up for the economic and social exigencies of the new age of globalisation.

The consequences of the decision to locate a large exhibition and fair centre in the Renaissance monument of the Fortezza da Basso, already denounced in the 1960s as an unsustainable proposal, are visible today as its infrastructure and parking system endanger the monumental complex of the Fortezza designed by architect Sangallo and of its public gardens designed by Giuseppe Poggi,

while Florence was capital of Italy (1865-1870).

The construction of the fast open-air metro network with trains of 35 metres length in a reserved carriageway is dramatically threatening the public trees and the monumental heritage of the city. The first victim of the construction of line 1 (Firenze–Scandicci) has been the historic park of Cascine, through which the new urban train will pass. The realisation of an underpass in the esplanade at the entry of the park has interrupted the physical unity of the original layout of the park and impoverished the arboreal heritage. Two tram lines will pass the site of the two side alleys and the first part of the main alley of elms. The winter promenade bordering the river Arno will be interrupted by the metro rails and the ramps of a new bridge, irreparably damaging the park layout and the views of the river and the town in the background, which over time have been preserved almost identical to the well-known 17<sup>th</sup>-century views by Van Wittel. The remaining evidence of the first industrial settlement of Florence (the Pignone) has been completely destroyed by the edge of the same bridge on the left bank of the river. But, the climax is represented by the other two lines of the open-air metro. Trains are expected to pass a few meters near the Baptistery and beneath the complex of San Giovannino by the architect Ammannati, then past the well-known Palace Medici



Crossover of the park of Cascine with indication of the track (in red) of the open-air train, line 1



The new metro bridge between the river Arno and the Cascine.

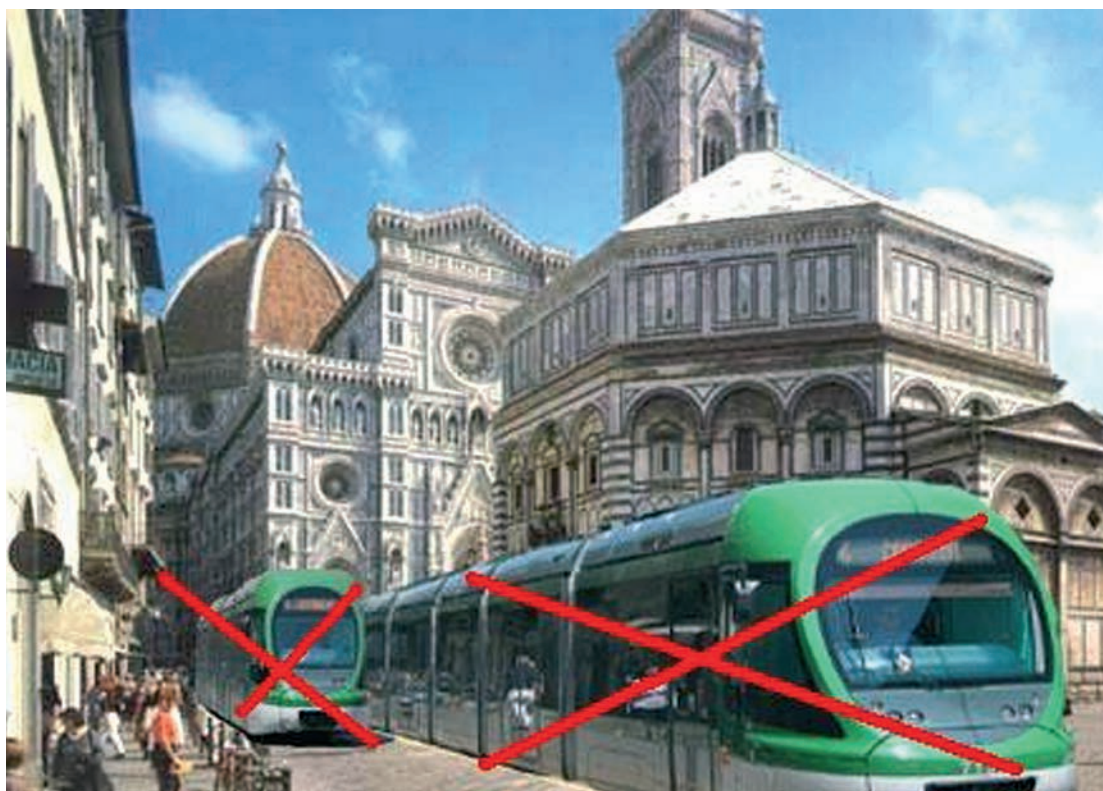
The park of Cascine in a view by G. Van Wittel



The central alley of elms dug up for the instalment of train rails





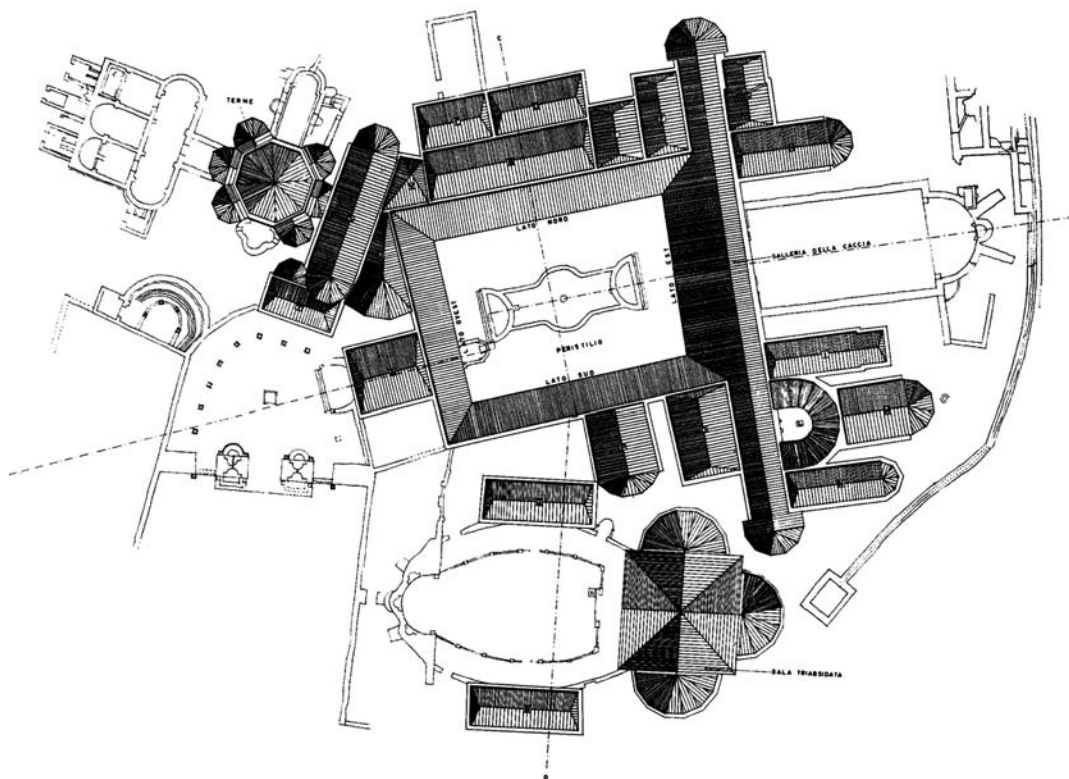


Model of the train passage in  
Piazza Duomo

Riccardi, the Biblioteca Marucelliana, crossing piazza San Marco to continue bordering the well-known Florentine botanical gardens (Giardino dei Semplici). Line 3 will destroy all the trees and public green which are part of the layout of the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and which grow along the new arterial streets connecting the Fortezza da Basso with the new hospital centre of Careggi, at via dello Statuto, piazza Vieusseux, piazza Leopoldo and viale Morgagni: about 400 tall trees will be cut down, of which some (in viale Morgagni) not only have great environmental value but also constitute the historic memory of the dead of the First World War.

The general public considers such projects as devastating, too expensive and unnecessary, particularly as there are possible alternative solutions which are considerably less expensive, have less impact and are more respectful of the delicate urban setting of a city of the arts as important as Florence.

Mario Bencivenni  
ICOMOS Italy



Plan of the roofing system  
designed by Minissi for Piazza  
Armerina (Dossier: Salviamo  
Minissi a Piazza Armerina,  
ANANKE 44, 2004)



## The work of Franco Minissi at the Roman Villa in Piazza Armerina in danger

While the 2006/2007 issue of *Heritage at Risk* is being published, this text will risk sounding like a necrology for one of the first examples of innovative museographical interventions on an archaeological site in Italy, realised as an open-air museum immediately after the Second World War, rather than like an urgent appeal for modern heritage in danger. The warning was already launched in 2004, when – for political reasons – the Communal Administration of the Roman Villa at the World Heritage site of Piazza Armerina (Enna) selected an *aesthete* art critic, Vittorio Sgarbi, as Conservator of the Roman Villa. As is known, Sicily is a region with an autonomous status; cultural properties are not under the responsibility of the Ministry of Cultural Properties and Activities but of the Ministry of Regional Tourism. This Conservator, faced with the serious decay due to a complete lack of maintenance of more than 2000 square metres of the famous polychrome floor mosaics discovered in 1927 by the archaeologist Paolo Orsi, pointed his finger at the roofing system. The latter was designed and realised by architect Franco Minissi in 1957-1963 to protect the mosaics, with the consultation of ICR (Istituto Centrale del Restauro) directed at that time by Cesare Brandi. This intervention, which was immediately met with unanimous consensus from scholars and the public, was then considered an exemplary solution (“esemplare”) for its light structures (“leggerezza delle strutture”), its modernity (design and materials) and its minimum impact (una soluzione “integralmente moderna e integralmente modesta”).

In Italy, the practice of protecting mosaics with temporary shelters or with a layer of sand has been considered a good practice, recommended already in the first Guidelines for conservation of archaeological contexts produced by the young reunited country (i.e. Giuseppe Fiorelli, 1875, art. 95: “nell’autunno di ogni anno dovranno esser coperti di arena i pavimenti di musaico e di marmo”).

In Sicily, architect Franco Minissi (1919-1996) was the author of a comprehensive campaign of protection and valorisation of cultural heritage, with on-site and museum interventions. In the case of Piazza Armerina, the intervention, requested by the *Direzione Generale* of the Ministry (directed by Guglielmo de Angelis d’Ossat), cleverly united the need for protection of the archaeological remains and the educational purpose by reconstructing the lost volumes of the Roman Villa with a light transparent structure – at the time experimental – in iron and perspex. The ancient walls of the perimeter were used to host foot-paths for visitors in order to offer them the best point of view of the precious floor mosaics and to avoid that visitors walk on them. For the innovative museography of the post-Second World War period and the presentation of archaeological contexts *en plein air* this intervention immediately constituted one of the first celebrated examples, its historic value still enduring in manuals to this day (e.g. Voce ‘Conservazione’ in *Manuale del Restauro*, Mancosu, Roma 2000).

After the proposal by the Conservator to dismantle the Minissi structure, a vast campaign was launched and is consultable on the website prepared by Prof. Franco Tomaselli from the University of

Palermo ([www.unipa.it/monumento-documento](http://www.unipa.it/monumento-documento)). This strong mobilisation, led by researchers and experts, is attempting to modify the selected project by avoiding the unacceptable environmental impact which could occur with the construction of a giant reticular dome of more than 110 m diameter and 30 m height (“cupolone (big dome)? No thanks!”). However, so far it has not succeeded in changing the negative judgement of the Conservator who to this day insists that the Minissi masterpiece is only horrible scrap-iron (“una orribile ferraglia”) which needs to be removed and replaced by new and more traditional structures. These structures, which would be bounded by masonry walls, covered by an opaque new wooden roof and have a ventilated air-chamber covered in pre-oxidised copper lamellae, are justified as a historic evolution of the Minissi project (“un’evoluzione storica del progetto Minissi”). The new works benefit from funds from the European Union. The company has already been contracted (with a 38% reduction by the company, which is a clear sign of the technical approximation of the project) and the fieldwork has started, notwithstanding that the site of Piazza Armerina is inscribed on the World Heritage List as a whole (the appeal: “Salviamo la Villa del Casale dalle cupole”, officially addressed on 6 December 2006 to UNESCO, has received no reply yet). This is therefore an urgent and last collective call to prevent the loss of a significant work of art consisting of its precious floor mosaics and the Minissi masterpiece.

As was claimed many times in vain by Franco Minissi during his lifetime and never envisaged by the site administration, a proper and systematic maintenance of this masterpiece would be the desirable remedy, which at the same time could benefit from today’s technologies for ventilation and micro-climate monitoring. This is an appeal for a wise management of the public budget (30 million euros for the new structure have been allocated) and for the implementation of in-situ conservation works of both the floor mosaics and the Minissi construction as a whole system. This is also an appeal against a parody of a modern structure already rich in historic value which constitutes a highly recognised highlight of Italian innovative museography of the post-Second World War period celebrating its fiftieth anniversary in 2007.

### References

For a detailed documentation of this case, see in particular the following reviews:

- ‘L’Architettura, cronache e storia’ (588, October 2004: “Da Agrigento a Piazza Armerina: Franco Minissi o della Modernità a rischio”)
- ‘ANANKE 44 (December 2004: Dossier con inchiesta fotografica “Salviamo Minissi a Piazza Armerina”)
- Architettura informazione della facoltà di Architettura di Napoli (24, May-June 2006: “Piazza Armerina al Salone del restauro di Ferrara”)
- L’Ingegnere, 11, January-February 2007: “Protagonisti della nuova museografia: Franco Minissi a Piazza Armerina”)

Marco Dezzi Bardeschi  
ICOMOS Italy



View of the site



View of the site



Rendering of the foreseen project which will replace the Minissi masterpiece ([www.unipa.it/monumen-to-documento](http://www.unipa.it/monumen-to-documento))



## JAPAN

The fishing port of Tomo-no-Ura is threatened by the project of a new road bridge which would cut right across the ancient harbour. With the following letter of 30 March 2006 the President of ICO-MOS called upon the responsible State authorities and the Mayor of Fukuyama City, Mr Akira Hada, to prevent the destruction of this outstanding ensemble and to rethink the entire project:

*As President of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) I am asking for your kind attention to the preservation of a historic harbour, Tomo-no-Ura, Fukuyama-city, Hiroshima, Japan.*

*ICOMOS had already expressed its organisational concern with regard to the outstanding historic and cultural value of Tomonoura as a result of ICOMOS's international conference organised by the Scientific Committee for Vernacular Architecture (SCVA) and held in Matsuyama-city, Ehime in October 2004. Furthermore, the resolution made at the ICOMOS General Assembly in October 2005 in Xi'an again raised public awareness to the state of its cultural value, which is under threat of the proposed development plan.*

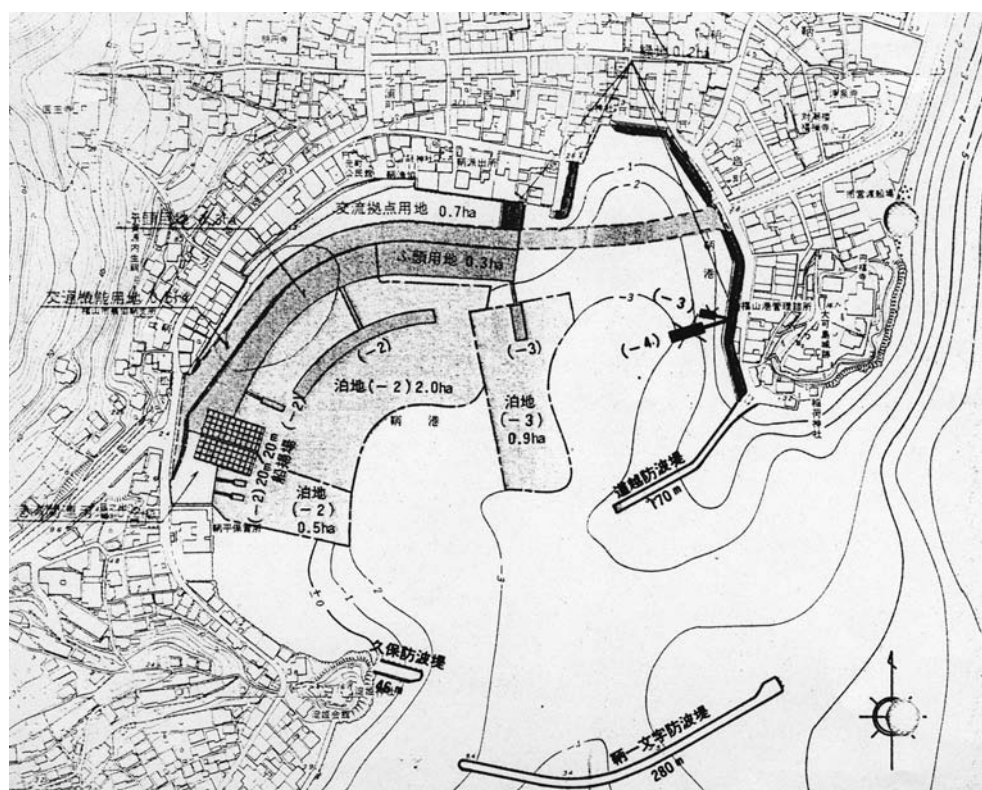
*Understanding the above mentioned decisions, three ICOMOS experts from Germany, Australia and Korea paid a visit to Tomonoura on 27 November 2005. The delegation unanimously reconfirmed the unequivocal value of this historic harbour. On the following day the delegation made a presentation to the mayor of Fukuyama-city and the governor of Hiroshima prefecture, asking for the careful preservation of the harbour/city so that it can remain open to the historic sea route. The mayor of Fukuyama-city, even though being very*

*appreciative of the high evaluation by ICOMOS, ascertained that the decision to go ahead with the existing road-building plan, including bridging the bay, had already been made without any changes. The delegation was informed at the same time that the mayor had already turned down the petition asking for the consideration of a plan that can coexist with historic preservation and the upgrading of road traffic, including an alternative tunnel route plan near the mountain submitted by the local preservation group.*

The professionals for the management of cultural monuments and sites recognise the significance of the Tomo-no-Ura layout in the way it has accumulated historical layers as part of the Seto inland sea route from ancient to modern times. With the surrounding cultural landscape preserved almost unchanged the site whose beauty was already praised by the Korean ambassador in the 18th century, this site is exceptional even from a world-wide perspective. The place shows rare and important historic evidence as part of East Asian history. Thus, this entire area should be viewed and protected in a larger context rather than just as a local historic district.

*As described in the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, we understand that the sovereignty of the state party where a historic site is situated must fully be respected. However, the same Convention also states the importance of the protective duty of the international community as a whole to cooperate. I would like to take this opportunity to urge your thoughtful and prompt consideration of this matter. ICOMOS International, together with Japan ICOMOS, will be available for you anytime to provide earnest professional assistance for the preservation of Tomo-no-Ura.*

*Yours sincerely,*  
*Prof. Dr. Michael Petzet*  
*President of ICOMOS*



Map showing the planned road bridge in Tomo-no-Ura





## Protest against a high-rise building near Genbaku Dome in Hiroshima

The following letter of 16 May 2006 was sent by ICOMOS Japan to Mr Tadatoshi Akiba, Mayor of Hiroshima, to protest against the construction of a high-rise building ("First Residence Kamiyacho") close to Genbaku Dome. In that context ICOMOS Japan is also referring to the case of Cologne Cathedral (see H@R 2004/2005, p. 73f.):

*On 26<sup>th</sup> March 2006, the Committee received a request for advice from the Association for the Protection of the Landscape of the World Heritage Genbaku Dome and the UNESCO Hiroshima Association, about the construction of a high-rise building within the buffer zone about 100 metres south of the Genbaku Dome. Taking account of this request, delegates of the Japan ICOMOS National Committee made a visit of the site on 9<sup>th</sup> April and held a meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> April regarding "the Landscape of the World Heritage Genbaku Dome". The Committee thus would like to report about opinions then expressed as follows.*



Views of Tomo-no-Ura (Photos: Christoph Machat)

## Evaluation of the Genbaku Dome as World Heritage

*On 6<sup>th</sup> August 1945, the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. Located very close to the bomb's hypocenter, the former Hiroshima Prefectural Industrial Exhibition Hall (Genbaku Dome) was hit directly and by this became the only built structure in the world to give direct evidence of the disaster which happened then. To avoid such an atomic tragedy to happen ever again and for Hiroshima city to keep telling this story for ever, it was decided on 20<sup>th</sup> June 1946 that this northern part of former Nakashima area should be conserved as a Peace Memorial Park: this Park was thus completed on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1954. In 1996, the Genbaku Dome was inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of cultural criterion (vi), as "the only structure left standing in the area where the first atomic bomb exploded (... It) has been preserved in the same state as immediately after the bombing. Not only is it a stark and powerful symbol of the most destructive force ever created by humankind; it also expresses the hope for world peace and the ultimate elimination of all nuclear weapons."*

## Prayers of the world and the Genbaku Dome

*The Peace Memorial Park is the very place where people wishing for peace gather from all around the world every year on 6<sup>th</sup> August. At 8:15 a.m. a silent prayer is offered at the Memorial Monument for Hiroshima City of Peace (Cenotaph for the A-bomb Victims) as a requiem mourning the A-bomb victims and asking for peace by praying towards Genbaku Dome, symbol of the wish for peace. This place, the Genbaku Dome, is thus the place where people from the whole world come to pray for peace. Any high-rise building standing in the line of view of this place of prayer should be visually lower than the Genbaku Dome; the current situation cannot be considered suitable for a place of mourning and peace.*

*The World Heritage Convention states that "Each state party (...) will do all it can (...) to the utmost of its own resources". Moreover, the General Assembly of ICOMOS held in Xian in 2005 discussed the importance of settings (settings for World Heritage): protecting cultural heritage and together with the "landscape" that contains it as a whole is thus the current trend*







Hiroshima, view of the Genbaku Dome and the new apartment building

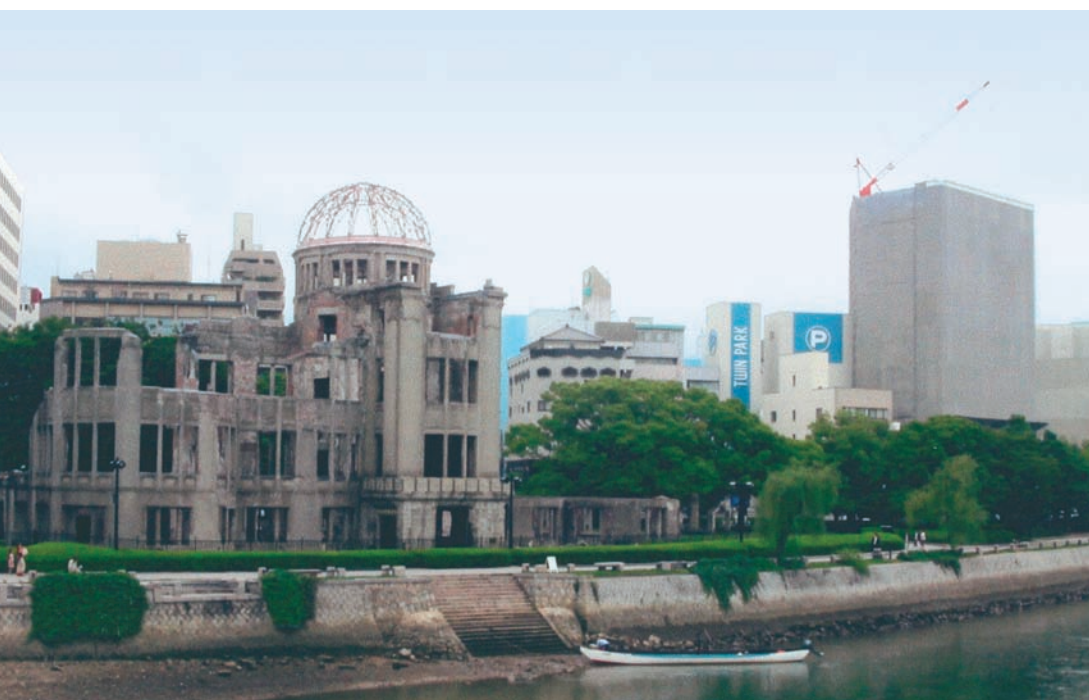
throughout the world. Any responsible institution is therefore requested to take measures that enhance the values of cultural heritage, and if the construction of an unsuitable building is planned, even though it may not be unlawful, it is of great importance that efforts are made to avoid such a construction. The recent example of the Cathedral of Cologne (inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1996) is to be mentioned, as having been inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger at the World Heritage Assembly of 2004, for the reason that "the construction of a group of high-rise buildings nearby the Cathedral as a part of town development plans damages the unity of space as World Heritage". It is our wish that through your good direction to the

entrepreneurs, the Genbaku Dome does not fall into a similar situation as the Cathedral.

With the above, the ICOMOS Japan National Committee wishes to express its concern regarding the construction of the "First Residence Kamiyacho" building.

Masaru Maeno  
President of Japan ICOMOS National Committee

(Both sites are also discussed in the ICLAFI report, pp. 183-185)



View of the Genbaku Dome from the canal side

## KENYA

Kenya is rich in its antiquities, monuments and cultural and natural sites which are spread all over the country. The National Museums of Kenya is the custodian of the country's cultural heritage, its principal mission being to collect, document, preserve and enhance knowledge, appreciation, management and the use of these resources for the benefit of Kenya and the world. Through the National Museums of Kenya many of these sites are protected by law by having them gazetted under the *Antiquities and Monuments Act* Cap. 215. One of the sites under such protection is the Mtwapa Heritage site.

### Case Study One – Mtwapa Heritage Site

Mtwapa Heritage Site (MHS) is an archaeological site that was a town during the 14<sup>th</sup> century AD as were other East African sites on the coast. The site is situated on a piece of land that is owned both privately and publicly (National Museums of Kenya). Mtwapa is located on the north-east of the Kenyan coast 15 km north of Mombasa, one of Kenya's major cities.

The history of Mtwapa as a settlement dates back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century AD. Archaeological evidence from the site indicates that the site developed prior to contact with the Middle and Far East. This must have been facilitated by the location of the site on the mainland on a relatively navigable creek, a situation which encouraged direct communication with the hinterland on the one hand and contact between coastal societies themselves on the other. Archaeological evidence gathered on Mtwapa indicates that the site was important both for its position facing the sea and as an exit point to the Middle East.

The structures at Mtwapa can be described as falling into the general coastal Swahili architecture – an original, creative synthesis of opportunities of the African climate and the resources and methods developed in the Arabian homelands. Remains at the site consist of the ruins of a town wall which once surrounded the site. The wall may be seen today as a mound of earth extending across roads and through the bush (cross-country). The architectural remains consist of 64 houses, one mosque and a tomb. There are five categories of houses: the single unit, double unit, triple unit and compound house complexes. According to oral tradition the site had three mosques being the Sheik Muhdar, Sheik Zamani, and Sheik Salim (still existing), the presence of which is corroborated by archaeological evidence.

The surviving ruins are built of coral rag and blocks dressed in lime mortar and lime plaster. Coral was mined locally and was used with mud mortar for house construction. The mangrove forests provided timber for building. Whilst there are no surviving structures outside the town wall, evidence of mounds (one of which was identified as a mosque) clearly indicate that some people must have lived outside it. This is further confirmed by the presence of pieces of pottery also found scattered outside the stone wall as far as the beach. This is where large quantities of local pottery, cowrie shells, imported ceramics and human skeletal remains can be seen on an eroded section of modern steps.

It is estimated that two thirds of the site lies outside the town wall. Other structures still surviving include several wells, pit latrines, a tomb, mosque cistern and lower portions of the mosque mihrab.

Mtwapa with all its complex structures and archaeological remains is also renowned for its forest, wildlife sanctuary, beach and its use for religious purposes and remains one of the most significant sites on the Kenyan coast. It is also protected by law as it is gazetted under the *Antiquities and Monuments Act* Cap 215. This act protects those sites that are considered of palaeontological, archaeological and historical interest. Its importance rests on a combination of these factors.

Despite seven centuries of natural degradation, weathering and occasional deliberate destruction of the remains, the structures are still relatively well preserved and continue to provide both aesthetic and romantic values. The location of the site and its outstanding architecture gives the place technical engineering and survey mastery value rendering it an invaluable educational resource. Also, its setting in a natural forest gives it important ecological, recreational and use values. On the eastern front, fishermen continue to use the site as a thoroughfare to the sea which is an important economic resource. The dual ownership of the land and ruins respectively makes the site a test ground for participatory management.

### Threats to Mtwapa Heritage Site

The threats to the Mtwapa Heritage Site are natural and man-made. The natural risk factors include rain, erosion, vegetation, micro-organisms and natural aging of the ruins. The man-made risk factors include pollution, population and or development pressure, vandalism and looting, lack of financial resources leading to inadequate maintenance and neglect.

Currently the entire site is an open area as it does not have a protective perimeter fence around the site, making it difficult to control entry and movement within the site. The people living in the neighbourhood are themselves a threat as they vandalise the ruins, collect easily available coral rubble and also destroy the local vegetation for domestic use. Infrastructure such as high-tension electrical power lines diagonally traverse the site. This situation predisposes the monument to imminent future development that may take the form of roads, housing construction etc.

Mtwapa Heritage site, part of the ruins (Photo: National Museums of Kenya)





### ***Emerging solutions to threats***

Several issues need to be addressed with regard to a thorough preservation and protection of the Mtwapa Heritage Site. The main concern is the development of a thorough and comprehensive management plan that is proposed to adopt a multidisciplinary approach and involve all the relevant stakeholders. A thorough implementation of this management plan is necessary to realise this positive move towards this site's conservation.

It is then planned to educate the local inhabitants regarding this heritage site being an essential component of their heritage and that of the nation and the world at large. However, the National Museums of Kenya has found it increasingly difficult to implement most of its preservation and conservation programs. This is due to a minimal budgetary allocation from the main government.

However, the intervention of the international community and the inclusion of the site as Heritage at Risk will help in the continued maintenance required for the conservation of the site. The government of Kenya will be encouraged to enforce laws and carry out the implementation of policies that are conservation driven.



## **Case Study Two – Qorahey Wells**

These wells are located in Wajir District in the North Eastern part of Kenya. The word *qorahey* means a place with a lot of sand. The area is generally quite dry. The wells cover a vast area of about one square kilometre which is marked by concrete pillars every two hundred metres. There are eight wells belonging to different clans within the pastoral community. They are round, of different sizes and cemented. They were cemented in the 1940s. These watering wells which have been in existence for the last one hundred years are the lifeline for the livestock which is the backbone for the livelihood of the community. The water level in this area is only about 10 m below ground level.

### **Threats to Qorahey Wells**

The wells are not protected by law. The people using the wells are also a threat to the wells as they pollute them by littering. They are also threatened by encroachment, both developmental and urbanisation. Vegetation growing near the wells is also a threat.

### ***Emerging solutions to the threats***

The wells need to be protected by law by having them gazetted under the *Antiquities and Monuments Act* Cap 215. There is also need to educate the local inhabitants of the importance of protecting the wells as an essential component of their heritage.

Report compiled by staff at the National Museums of  
Kenya

One of the Qorahey wells (Photo: National Museums of Kenya)

## LEBANON

### Cultural Heritage Threatened by the War in Lebanon in 2006

During the war in July and August 2006 devastating damages were caused above all to villages in the south of Lebanon. According to estimates made by the UN, at the end of the fights in mid-August 2006 c. 37.5 million square metres of land were contaminated by Israeli cluster bombs. With a statement of 21 July 2006 on the threatened cultural property in the Middle East conflict ICBS, the International Committee of the Blue Shield, which also includes ICOMOS and ICOM, called upon Israel, Lebanon and all parties concerned to respect the provisions of the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954). About damages by rockets that hit sites in Israel see the report on pages 96/97.

The following account which sums up the war damages in Lebanon was published by our partner organisation ICOM in *ICOM News* no. 3 (2006):

*In July and August 2006, the war in Lebanon caused tragic human losses, as well as massive damage to its infrastructure, environment, and heritage. While acknowledging that human casualties are more important than heritage, we also appreciate that cultural patrimony is in danger not only in Lebanon, but for the rest of the world. It is our legacy and duty to protect it as the memory of humankind. While there are conventions such as that of Geneva for the protection of human rights, we are also fortunate to have the Hague Convention to help protect cultural property in the event of the armed conflicts.*

*In Lebanon, villages with traditional homes have been swept away. These are not only part of a tangible heritage, but also an intangible one of artisans passing down traditions of artefact production from one generation to the next. Such knowledge, once lost, is lost forever.*

*Moreover, Byblos, Baalbek, and Tyre, all three UNESCO World Heritage sites, have been affected by the war. The walls of Byblos'*

*ancient Phoenician harbour are covered by an oil slick; the Roman Temples of Bacchus and Jupiter in Baalbek have enlarged fissures due to the vibrations caused by bombings. Damage also occurred to the old souk of Baalbek and wrecked ten of its traditional shops. In Tyre some of the painted frescoes found in its Roman tomb came partly unstuck and required urgent restoration. In addition, the Museum of Al-Khiyam in Southern Lebanon was completely destroyed in the first days of the conflict.*

*Mr Frédéric Hussein, the Director General of Antiquities and President of ICOM-Lebanon, stated during the conflict that "preventive measures have been taken to put the museum collections in safe places and to remain in contact with the guardians of the archaeological sites." UNESCO's Director General issued a warning to Israel and Lebanon to respect the Hague Convention, which both states have ratified.*

*Heritage in all its forms – natural, cultural, and archaeological – must be saved, cherished, and preserved if the Lebanese, as those elsewhere in the world, wish to preserve the cultural memory forming part of their identity. Once heritage is destroyed, the damage is irreversible. In September 2006, a UNESCO mission headed by Mounir Bouchenaki, new Director of ICCROM, published its report stating that the World Heritage sites were largely intact and that "the most serious damage resulting from the conflict concerns the World Heritage site of Byblos, which was affected by the oil spill from the fuel tanks of the Jiyeh power plant, an ecological problem for a large area of the eastern Mediterranean (...)" The Directorate General of Antiquities faces a great deal of urgent consolidation and restoration work as a result of these tragic events and the museum community is encouraged to follow through with international assistance efforts.*

*Dr. Lina G. Tahan  
ICOM-UK and ICOM Cultural Diversity Taskforce*

Baalbek, Roman temple of Bacchus and Jupiter (Photo: Pete Crow)





## LITHUANIA

### Lithuanian Manor Heritage and Problems of its Protection

A manor (estate) is a tangible expression of land ownership and management arrangements the origin of which dates from before the establishment and prosperity of the Lithuanian State. The historic manor with its multiple functions is the main and most stable land-based institution characteristic of Lithuanian countryside. Formerly, manors were the property of the State (the King, Grand Duke of Lithuania or State institutions), church, noblemen: in the recent ages, they turn to the property of owners with very different background.

Eventually, the size of the Lithuanian manor and its general planned spatial structure as well as the pattern of land-tenure and land-ownership changed. Over various periods of development, manors could include a farmstead (or a few farmsteads), manor land, so-called "palivarkai", villages, boroughs, and could even include towns or parts of towns, rivers, lakes and forests, meadows, industrial complexes, roadhouses, networks of roads and byways, hydraulic engineering facilities and other functional elements. Manors differed from one another both by their infrastructure and cultural environment as well as by economic capacity and social structure.

The manor as a major economic unit and tool of State management was validated by all three Statutes of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania (1529, 1566, 1588), i.e. in a codified legal form. Besides, for many ages, the place of the manor in the Duchy of Lithuania and Grand Duchy of Lithuania was defined by customary law that used to be even more reliable and morally stronger than the written law.

The system of manors can be connected directly with the development of Lithuanian statehood and agriculture as well as with more general European traditions. For a range of ages, it ensured the spread of European household culture across a major part of the Lithuanian territory.

Development of the historic network of Lithuanian manors resulted in a cultural landscape tradition and population structure of the country in the form of the network of Lithuanian countryside settlements, boroughs and towns. Furthermore, the network of manors was able to ensure even spread of material and spiritual culture in the major part of the Lithuanian territory for many years.

In the Soviet period, manors were confiscated and nationalised, and the rural settlements and land-tenure patterns were gradually and methodically destroyed. Manor houses and other buildings were also devastated, mishandled or damaged due to incompatible uses. However, a range of ruined manors, "palivarkai", settlements and boroughs typical of "valakinis" countryside<sup>2</sup> are still extant. Many manors were adapted for use as offices of State farms (sovkhozes) and collective farms (kolkhozes), household, training and cultural centres as well as outpatient departments. Workers of collective and State farms were also accommodated in so-called "kumetynai"<sup>3</sup>, and in other buildings associated with the manor.

Lithuanian manor heritage is an essential, particularly significant part of the cultural heritage typical of the Lithuanian countryside, however, no real statistics on the whole manor heritage is yet available. Some 10000 manors, "palivarkai" and manor places are known, however the official statistics on manor heritage contains no such figure. Regarding physical remains of fully or partially intact former manor settlements or the old agrarian systems, neither

heritage protection records nor overall official statistics are kept. According to population census data for Lithuania (without the Klaipėda and Vilnius regions) for the year 1923 there existed 3508 manors and "palivarkai". According to the official Soviet scientific publications of 1964, Lithuania contained over 4000 former manors (approximately 500 large, 1500 medium-sized and 2000 smaller). The Lists of Historic and Cultural Monuments compiled over the Soviet period included only 125 manors, fragments and elements (individual structures) thereof. At the beginning of 1995, the State Register of Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Lithuania listed 823 manors and "palivarkai". However, over the last decade, this figure was reduced considerably: over 230 manors were removed from the State Register of Cultural Heritage and this trend continues. Statistics on the sites of manors and "palivarkai", on former manor settlements, towns, boroughs and other elements are not kept. Records on the remaining manors, "palivarkai" and fragments thereof are not kept either. Monitoring of the manor heritage is also unavailable. Some 1000 places incorporate the settings of former manor houses and some 800 green spaces trace their origin to the manor parks.

Protection of manor heritage needs to be considered as a part of the landscape design process and this presents particular difficulties related to its integration into the State Strategic Planning System. As early as 2002, the State Commission of Monument Preservation developed a concept for dealing with preservation of the manor heritage of the Republic of Lithuania and integration of this heritage into public life. The Commission introduced principles and guidelines for the integration of manor heritage into the legal and State strategic planning system of the Republic of Lithuania. The Manor Heritage Preservation Programme was formulated and approved by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania in 2003.

In general the state of conservation of Lithuanian manors is critical, especially the state of objects without an owner. Legislation requires municipalities to take care of such heritage items but the legislation is not enforced. Other, privately owned, manors (or parts of manors) are in poor condition because their owners are incapable of maintaining or/and managing them appropriately. Legislation is in place to compulsorily acquire poorly maintained cultural heritage properties; however, partly due to lack of funds, the legislation is not used. Under these circumstances, the manor heritage as manor farmsteads and their remains have been decaying rapidly. In the protected territories, the state of manors and "palivarkai", former manor settlements and their landscape setting is also poor in many cases.

The best conserved manors or associated buildings are those managed by Museums (national and municipal). For the time being, some manors or associated buildings are already adapted or being adapted for new purposes. In a number of cases museums are being created to raise awareness of manor culture. Elsewhere, their original purpose is being restored. Some former manors have already started farming or horse breeding; in other cases this involves the restoration of mills, sawmills, dairies and greenhouses as well as plant nurseries. However, the general physical state of manor heritage is poor. Especially rapid decay threatens to destroy the unique wooden heritage of Lithuanian manors, and issues relating to the management and protection of historic plantings remain problematic.

There is still a shortage of principles covering built, movable social and spiritual heritage of the manor culture. In terms of protection, the manor heritage is still being treated as limited to farmstead or "palivarkas". And even protection of the integrity of this part of manor heritage is not sufficiently protected by national legislation, such as laws for the Protection of Immovable Cultural Values, for the Protected Territories, for Territorial Planning, for the Construction and Land Reforms, for the Real Estate Register and Real Estate Cadastre, etc.

Sustainable land management and administration has not yet been established on a strategic level and implementation of the land reform is inconsistent, failing to comply with the main landscaping regulations. The actual area of the manor and integrity thereof are neither protected nor validated by laws. In the planning and approval process, implementation of measures to protect the cultural heritage is not ensured. Many manors have been returned and privatised dissociating them from their traditional lands. These decisions were damaging the cultural heritage, landscape elements and unfavourable to farming.

The accelerating deterioration of Lithuania's manor heritage is due to five main factors:

- Uncertainty about the place of the manor in the emerging national economy;
- Uncertainties of ownership;

- Lack of building maintenance. In particular, the poor condition of roofs causes accelerated deterioration;
- Lack of funding;
- Inappropriate actions by State institutions.

Lithuanian manor heritage has the potential to greatly enrich local communities regions and districts of Lithuania, highlighting their distinct character. Local authorities should radically change their attitude towards these cultural sites. In many European countries, cultural heritage is regarded by the local authorities and local communities as a precious cultural asset and the ownership of these assets is considered as the matter of honour and prestige.

The State of Lithuania should urgently address preservation of its national manor heritage in its widest sense. This is the only way to preserve at least a small part of Lithuanian identity and culture and present Lithuania to Europe and the world as a nation with a deep-rooted cultural identity and representative of pan-European culture.

Algimantas Gražulis, architect

<sup>1</sup> a type of farmstead; known as Folwarks in Polish or Vorwecks in German

<sup>2</sup> called this way after the Valakas Land Reform

<sup>3</sup> special houses for manor farm labourers

A timber manor house in Pavilkijys manor estate requiring urgent maintenance (Photo: Indrė Kačinskaitė, Centre of Cultural Heritage, 2004)







Remains of the famous Pavlovas' Merkinė manor estate in decay (Photo: Indrė Kačinskaitė Centre of Cultural Heritage, 2007)



Remains of the Gothic Revival Svedasai manor palace in northern Lithuania (Photo: Indrė Kačinskaitė, Centre of Cultural Heritage, 2003)



Ruins of a former stylish palace in Vasuokeliai manor estate (Photo: Indrė Kačinskaitė, Centre of Cultural Heritage, 2003)



## LUXEMBOURG

### Le pont Adolphe

Vers 963 le comte d'Ardenne Sigefroid choisit un éperon rocheux escarpé entouré de profondes vallées pour y édifier un fortin lui permettant d'administrer ses terres. Autour de son château fort se développe une agglomération qui devient la ville de Luxembourg, aux XVII<sup>e</sup> et XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècles une des plus puissantes forteresses d'Europe qualifiée de « Gibraltar du Nord ». Le site n'est directement et facilement accessible que du côté occidental, ailleurs il est délimité par d'abruptes falaises.

En 1671 le général de Louvignies lance l'idée de la construction d'un pont qui doit relier la ville au plateau situé au sud au-delà de la vallée de la Pétrusse. Le projet, repris quelques années plus tard par Louis XIV, est cependant assez rapidement abandonné. Il faut attendre la seconde moitié du XIX<sup>e</sup> siècle et la création du réseau ferroviaire jusqu'à ce qu'un premier ouvrage permette de franchir la vallée. Comme à l'époque la forteresse joue encore un rôle militaire, il n'est pas question de construire une gare à l'intérieur de l'enceinte. Celle-ci est implantée hors les murs et un viaduc élevé de 1859 à 1861 permet aux piétons et aux véhicules d'y accéder depuis la ville. Le quartier qui naît autour de la station prend une importance telle qu'une quinzaine d'années plus tard le gouvernement envisage de créer une liaison supplémentaire pour résoudre les problèmes de circulation. En 1877, l'ingénieur Eugène Ferron (1841-1903) élabore un premier projet : une grande arche en pierre d'une portée de 80m enjambe la vallée. Plusieurs ouvertures pratiquées dans le tympan servent d'arcs de décharge et diminuent le poids de l'ouvrage. Le plan, même s'il n'est pas réalisé, présente déjà les caractéristiques qui marqueront l'aspect définitif du pont. Etant donné qu'il y a des hésitations sur le lieu d'implantation, plusieurs autres projets voient le jour jusqu'à ce qu'en 1898 l'ingénieur en chef des Travaux publics Albert Rodange (1858-1927) soumette au gouvernement un plan définitif : une arche principale d'une portée de 77m complétée de part et d'autre par des arcs plus petits. Rodange propose de construire la grande arche en béton de ciment et de l'habiller de pierre de taille. Afin d'éviter tout risque, le gouvernement luxembourgeois soumet les plans à l'ingénieur français Paul Séjourné (1851-1931), expert reconnu en la matière. Séjourné retient l'idée de base, élimine cependant le béton et opte pour la seule pierre, augmente la portée jusqu'à 84,65m et propose de renoncer à une voûte massive. Afin d'économiser la pierre, il prévoit la construction de deux arches parallèles distantes de 6m et reliées en haut par un tablier en ciment de béton large de 16m. Le pont présente une longueur de 211m, sa hauteur atteint au milieu 45m. Ce plan obtient l'accord du gouvernement qui charge en 1899 la société parisienne Fougerolles Frères de réaliser les travaux.

Le chantier débute par la mise en place d'un pont en bois qui sert d'échafaudage auquel est fixé un cintre de charpente. En 1900 le Grand-Duc Adolphe pose la première pierre « en souhaitant que le pont .... dure aussi longtemps que l'indépendance du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg... ». Après l'achèvement de la première arche en 1901, l'échafaudage et le cintre sont déplacés moyennant un dispositif hydraulique. Les pierres proviennent en majeure partie d'une carrière située dans les environs immédiats, les parties les plus exposées sont réalisées en grès puisé dans les meilleurs gisements du pays. Le pont doit, en effet, devenir une expression de l'identité luxembourgeoise et traduire la volonté d'indépendance ainsi que la prospérité du Grand-Duché. Les nombreuses cartes postales éditées pendant les travaux montrent l'intérêt de la popu-



Le pont Adolphe

lation pour cette construction extraordinaire. L'ouvrage est ouvert à la circulation le 24 juillet 1903. Pendant quelques mois l'arche principale présente la plus grande portée jamais réalisée.

En 1933, l'ingénieur zurichois Mirko Ros fait des essais de surcharge dont les résultats sont très positifs. Cinquante ans après l'achèvement de la construction, le directeur de l'Administration des Ponts et Chaussées et l'un de ses collaborateurs constatent : « On peut dire que le pont Adolphe est un des plus beaux monuments du XX<sup>e</sup> siècle, que c'est le plus beau pont en maçonnerie jamais construit et que l'expression 'ouvrage d'art' prend avec lui son plein sens ».

En 1964 la largeur de la chaussée est légèrement augmentée, le nouveau tablier est posé d'une façon inappropriée. Aujourd'hui le pont présente des fissures, en partie cependant assez anciennes. Son gabarit ne suffit plus à la circulation. Plusieurs solutions reviennent régulièrement à l'ordre du jour : garantir la stabilité de l'ouvrage par l'adjonction de supports métalliques, démolir l'arche principale afin de la reconstruire en béton armé et de l'habiller de pierre de taille. Ce procédé permettrait aussi d'élargir le pont et de créer une chaussée adaptée aux besoins de la circulation. Si cette solution n'est pas retenue, ne faudrait-il pas construire un pont supplémentaire parallèle au pont Adolphe ?

Les inconvénients de ces opérations se résument comme suit : la reconstruction en béton armé détruirait à jamais un ouvrage d'art extraordinaire qui est l'un des derniers ponts entièrement maçonnés en pierre. L'implantation d'une construction parallèle nuirait gravement et à l'aspect du pont Adolphe et à la beauté de la vallée de la Pétrusse aménagée comme le parc de la ville selon les projets d'Edouard André (1840-1911). Du point de vue de la conservation, seule l'implantation de supports supplémentaires paraît admissible. Cette façon de procéder respecterait le monument et ne toucherait pas à la substance historique. Aussi faut-il remarquer que pour l'instant le dossier n'est pas encore assez complet pour prendre une décision. Le 17 mars dernier, le Ministère des Travaux publics et le Ministère de la Culture, de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche et la Ville de Luxembourg ont organisé un hearing public où la majeure partie des personnes présentes se sont clairement prononcées pour la conservation de l'ouvrage.

Notons pour terminer que le pont n'est pas protégé en tant que monument historique. Il se situe cependant dans la zone tampon de l'UNESCO qui a inscrit « les vieux quartiers et les fortifications de la ville de Luxembourg » sur la liste du patrimoine mondial (17.12.1994).



## MEXICO

# La pérdida de la arquitectura de adobe en México

### Abstract

*The component of the built patrimony facing the biggest threat of extinction in Mexico is earthen architecture. This threat is due to the vulnerability of the material and to the lack of interest that people nowadays have in it. Even though this cultural heritage is an architectural typology that has been highly disseminated in this country throughout the centuries, we have witnessed the irreparable loss of hundreds of urban and rural adobe complexes that have been abandoned or intentionally demolished with the excuse that the materials of which they are built are unstable, unsafe and unhealthy.*

*This problem is very critical in the towns around the sites included in the World Heritage List, like Paquimé or the Monasteries of Popocatepetl. The conservation of earthen architecture must include the preservation of historical vestiges, of traditional constructive culture and the generation of conditions that will allow an improvement of the quality of life for the heirs of this patrimony.*

Durante toda la historia de México se ha utilizado a la tierra cruda como material básico de construcción. Esto ha permitido desarrollar respuestas arquitectónicas con gran eficiencia en el manejo de los recursos naturales y con un alto grado de adaptación a las condiciones climáticas existentes en las diversas latitudes del país. (Rodríguez, 2001: 83)

La convergencia de los conocimientos de las civilizaciones prehispánicas, con la tradición constructiva traída de Europa durante la época virreinal, generó una vasta tipología edilicia en la que haciendas, templos, conventos, palacios, edificios de gobierno, presidios y la mayor parte de la arquitectura doméstica, conformaron un valioso patrimonio cultural. Además, debido a la adecuación de estas obras a su medio físico, conservaron su vigencia después de siglos de su edificación, gracias a la pervivencia de la cultura constructiva transmitida a través de la tradición.

Hasta hace una o dos generaciones era frecuente que las comunidades tradicionales habitaran las viviendas de adobe que habían heredado de sus ancestros y que realizaran en ellas las actividades de mantenimiento preventivo que las preservaban estables a lo largo del tiempo.

Sin embargo, a pesar de las evidentes cualidades de los edificios de adobe y del valor que representan debido a su remoto origen y su permanencia dentro del bagaje cultural de nuestra sociedad, están a punto de desaparecer.

A partir del crecimiento explosivo de la oferta de materiales industrializados, la construcción con adobe ha decaído dramáticamente bajo el supuesto de que su uso es poco digno, insalubre y hasta peligroso. Esta cultura edilicia ha sido ignorada por los organismos de apoyo a la vivienda, la mayoría de las facultades de arquitectura e incluso las instituciones encargadas del patrimonio, que hasta hace no más de diez años empezaron a plantear criterios para su protección. Se considera un símbolo de pobreza y retraso a tal grado que los establecimientos financieros, los tasadores y desarrolladores urbanos, no le otorgan ningún valor económico con lo que, además de no ofrecer créditos para su reparación, al momento de venderse se aquilatan sólo por el precio de su terreno.

Lógicamente, esta tendencia ha llevado a un proceso degenerativo que se relaciona en primer lugar, con la pérdida de la tradición constructiva que lleva a la ejecución de reparaciones inadecuadas

por el uso de materiales incompatibles con la tierra; en segundo lugar, con el abandono y degradación progresiva de las estructuras antiguas; y finalmente, con su sustitución por nuevas obras totalmente ajenas cultural, económica y ecológicamente a los sitios en que se insertan.

A pesar de que se trata de un fenómeno generalizado en todo el territorio nacional, en el presente texto se hablará solamente de dos casos que resultan significativos por su relación con los procesos de valoración del Patrimonio Cultural de la Humanidad: se trata de Paquimé, en el estado de Chihuahua, al norte de México y de la región vinculada al volcán Popocatepetl, en el centro del país.

Como es sabido, en el año de 1998 la ciudad prehispánica denominada *Zona Arqueológica de Paquimé, Casas Grandes*, fue inscrita en la lista de Patrimonio Mundial debido fundamentalmente a que “jugó un papel primordial en las relaciones comerciales y culturales entre la cultura Pueblo del suroeste de los Estados Unidos y norte de México, y las civilizaciones más avanzadas de Mesoamérica. La gran cantidad de vestigios, de los cuales únicamente ha sido excavada una parte, son testimonios patentes de la vitalidad de una cultura perfectamente adaptada a su ambiente físico y económico, pero que desapareció repentinamente al momento de la conquista española” (<http://www.icomos.org.mx/cultural.php>).

Se trata de un caso sumamente singular por ser una metrópoli con habitaciones de varios niveles —totalmente construidos con tierra— cuyo estado de conservación ha permitido conocer muchos datos acerca de la forma de vida y adaptación de la sociedad que la habitó entre los siglos diez y quince de nuestra era.

Sin embargo, debido a errores de concepción, la definición del sitio dentro de la Lista de UNESCO desafortunadamente no incluyó la periferia urbana de la zona arqueológica. De este modo, además de perderse la oportunidad de proteger una región con diversos valores adicionales al sitio prehispánico, actualmente se presentan importantes presiones socioeconómicas que afectan su manejo y gestión.

La ciudad de Casas Grandes colinda con el sitio arqueológico por lo que en sus cimientos existen valiosos vestigios históricos. Además, posee estructuras patrimoniales que incluso fueron realizadas “reciclando” la tierra de las estructuras prehispánicas. Se trata de una villa de origen rural con evidencias de ocupación ininterrumpida desde la época virreinal y que manifiesta la continuidad en la tradición constructiva con adobe por más de cuatro siglos. A pesar de esto, el conjunto no ha sido adecuadamente valorado, ni se han definido criterios para su salvaguardia.

Parece increíble que mientras se llevan a cabo destacados esfuerzos académicos y económicos por preservar la zona delimitada, a sólo unos metros, la propia comunidad destruye los restos de origen virreinal y decimonónico a una velocidad alarmante. Debido a la pérdida de la tradición constructiva, la comunidad repara y altera sus edificios históricos utilizando materiales y sistemas de edificación ajenos al adobe, como es el caso del cemento y los materiales impermeables. Este hecho les produce mayores deterioros, lo que a su vez provoca la desconfianza de los habitantes hacia la arquitectura térrea que finalmente es demolida para edificar en su lugar viviendas con estilos, materiales y conceptos de diseño totalmente desarticulados del sitio. (Guerrero, 2002a: 8)

Es importante decir además, que desde luego no se trata de un fenómeno aislado. La mayor parte de las poblaciones mexicanas

que por siglos conservaron un tejido urbano con gran armonía gracias al equilibrio de sus edificios civiles y religiosos de adobe, en menos de veinte años han perdido su fisonomía e identidad. En estas ciudades, la especulación territorial ha motivado la destrucción sistemática del patrimonio edificado con adobe, acabando con cientos de inmuebles cuyos terrenos son transformados en lugares de estacionamiento, que a veces conservan tramos de las fachadas históricas, pero, que la mayor parte de las ocasiones son arrasados por completo. En el caso de la ciudad de Chihuahua, capital del estado, al igual que en Monterrey, Nuevo León, esta tendencia se ha visto agravada con el desarrollo de costosos programas de gobierno en los que se ha destruido este patrimonio con el objeto de crear enormes plazas, totalmente ajenas a las necesidades sociales y ecológicas de ciudades con las extremas condiciones climáticas que caracterizan los desiertos del norte de México.

Un problema muy semejante ha tenido lugar en los poblados en los que se emplazan los *Primeros Monasterios del Siglo XVI, sobre las laderas del Popocatepetl*, conjunto inscrito en la lista de Patrimonio de la Humanidad en 1994. Estos destacados monumentos han sido paulatinamente preservados mediante labores de conservación y restauración con diferentes grados de avance, pero con un progreso constante.

Sin embargo, la complicación se presenta por causas similares a Casas Grandes, porque la inscripción ante UNESCO desgraciadamente no tomó en cuenta el emplazamiento urbano de estos monasterios. Se trata de poblados muy singulares de los que el origen de su traza se remonta a épocas prehispánicas y donde la vivienda característica se ha realizado con tierra desde épocas anteriores al establecimiento de los conventos motivo de la declaratoria.

Estos conjuntos tradicionales presentaban estructuras de adobe de uno y dos niveles con fachadas parcialmente abiertas a la calle y articulados al interior de las manzanas mediante pórticos hacia los patios de labor y huertas que caracterizan la trama urbana.

Cada elemento del espacio cubierto y abierto de la vivienda tradicional tenía una función precisa y un fundamento simbólico cuyo origen se podría fechar con más de mil años de antigüedad. Entre estos componentes arquitectónicos destacan los depósitos de grano conocidos como "cuescomates" que además de su singularidad formal y funcional, resultan relevantes por tratarse de una herencia viva de origen prehispánico con evidencias fechadas en algunos casos hasta el año 700 a.C. (Fragoso, 1999:39).

Los *cuexcomatl*, son estructuras construidas con barro crudo y cubiertas con techumbres cónicas de paja, que están destinados a la conservación de granos y semillas obtenidas de las parcelas familiares. Su forma y dimensiones están perfectamente adaptadas para el almacenamiento, ventilación y protección del grano contra la lluvia y los roedores, y con un diseño resistente a los sismos que son frecuentes en la región. (Guerrero, 1994: 32)

Por desgracia, lo que alguna vez fueron conjuntos patrimoniales integrales en los que las capillas de barrio, las viviendas de adobe, los cuescomates y los espacios abiertos, formaban un todo, están siendo transformados y destruidos por sus habitantes que consideran que lo único valioso de sus poblados son los monasterios que han sido declarados Patrimonio de la Humanidad. La estructura urbana de los catorce poblados incluidos en la Lista, están desapareciendo o alterándose de manera irreversible.

Para tratar de frenar esta tendencia sería importante realizar las gestiones necesarias para proponer la ampliación de la definición patrimonial de estos y otros casos parecidos ante UNESCO. Es fundamental que las declaratorias patrimoniales sean lo suficientemente amplias como para incluir tanto a los "monumentos" como a su medio natural y cultural.

Además, es indispensable plantear campañas de sensibilización a fin de que las comunidades locales recuperen la confianza en la edificación tradicional de tierra y se den cuenta de sus cualidades ecológicas y culturales. En este sentido resulta destacable la labor del *Seminario Internacional de Conservación y Restauración de Arquitectura de Tierra* (SICRAT) que por más de diez años ha llevado a cabo análisis de casos y talleres con participación comunitaria en varios poblados tradicionales del norte de México y sur de los Estados Unidos. (Guerrero, 2005: 91)

Las labores que realiza esta organización binacional, por una parte buscan dar a conocer a los constructores contemporáneos los irreparables daños que los materiales rígidos e impermeables como el cemento, el acero y sustancias plásticas, causan a los edificios de tierra, debido a su discontinuidad, falta de adherencia e incompatibilidad térmica e higroscópica. Asimismo, se presentan alternativas para la intervención de estos inmuebles con base en la recuperación de la sabiduría ancestral del uso de materiales y sistemas constructivos tradicionales, y finalmente, se realizan prácticas para que los habitantes "re-aprendan" esta cultura constructiva, la valoren y sean promotores de su defensa y reactivación.

La conservación de la arquitectura de tierra debe perseguir la permanencia de los vestigios históricos, la preservación del patrimonio intangible de su cultura constructiva y la generación de condiciones que permitan elevar su calidad de vida de sus herederos.

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Casas acantilado con más de quinientos años de antigüedad en Sirupa, Chih



Dstrucción de estructuras patrimoniales de adobe en Chihuahua, Chih



Estacionamiento dentro de un inmueble de adobe en Chihuahua, Chih



Arquitectura de adobe característica de Tetela del Volcán, Mor

Abandono y alteración de la arquitectura tradicional de Casas Grandes, Chih



Dstrucción de una vivienda de adobe en Alpanocan, Pue





## MOLDOVA

### Chisinau – A Historic City in the Process of Disappearing

Chisinau, the capital of the Republic of Moldova, was formed as an urban entity in the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. At the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century it became the biggest urban settlement in the eastern part of the Moldavian Principality. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century Chisinau was enlarged by a new planned quarter, which was added to the organically developed medieval town. After the Second World War, a new master plan for the city was prepared. It envisaged placing the city's new administrative quarter in the centre of the 19<sup>th</sup> century city. This, coupled with the construction of a major new road in the city centre, resulted in the destruction of the core of the medieval part of town and in the demolition of a significant number of historic buildings. The policy of not preserving the historic built heritage also dates from that time.

Shortly before the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Chisinau was declared a historic city, a monument of urbanism. However, a special planning system for the implementation of this new status was not created because of the political instability at that time.

From the last years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century until now, aspects of the country's economic development have determined changes in the city's policies but not, however, in the policy of architectural heritage preservation.

The problems of Chisinau epitomise the problems of the whole country in the field of built heritage protection. In 1993, the historic central part of the city was officially declared an architectural and historic monument of national importance together with a great number of other architectural monuments, which were the most interesting constructions in the architectural and historical sense. Although they were inscribed in the *Register of Monuments of the Republic of Moldova Protected by the State*, to the present day a local service for the protection, conservation and presentation of monuments does not exist, neither in Chisinau nor in other localities. Also, the lack of a municipal archaeological service is one of the reasons why no excavations have been carried out in recent decades in the historic city centre.

There are many other threats to the historic centre of Chisinau in the not-too-distant future:

- 1) The continuous deterioration, day by day, of the historic buildings. It occurs in different ways, including:
  - Leaving the buildings without roofs, floors and inside walls for some years, until the natural destruction of the structure begins;
  - Demolition followed by replacement with new buildings, usually without any linkage to the historic built environment;
  - Keeping only the main façade and including it in the structure of a new building, together with adding new storeys above the historic buildings;
  - Partial or total replacement of the decorative and constructive elements of the historical exterior and interior; and
  - Destruction of their historic-surroundings.

All these ways are usually connected with the replacement of historic sashes and door cases; with the removal of historic plasters and decorations and with covering facades and interiors with a metallic net (armature) and cement plasters; and with the replacement of the historic load-bearing structures.

- 2) The following important aspects also have a negative impact:
  - The absence of necessary maintenance programmes for the historic buildings and corresponding municipal programmes;



Central historic part of Chisinau (with planned enlargement of the streets and the new road through the historic centre)

- The absence in the city of any kind of management of historic buildings which would correspond to their declared status as monuments. This also explains the absence of any restored buildings. Here it should be noted that what in Moldova is accepted as “restoration” does not usually match the internationally accepted meaning of this term. Usually it means an almost total reconstruction with the extensive use of new materials and techniques;
- The absence in the country of an institution in charge of implementing and developing methods and techniques of conservation/restoration which will assure the use of scientific and technological advances for the protection of the architectural heritage. The absence in the country of an educational institution training professionals in restoration and traditional crafts for the needs of heritage preservation also has a negative impact;
- The absence of “passports” containing the principal and detailed historical, architectural and urban data for architectural monuments. In the absence of such documentation the protection is inefficient and only affords a declarative status; and
- The absence of any clear and legally protected boundaries of the historic centre (i.e. a protection and buffer zone).

Today, the newly developed urban plan for Chisinau envisages the construction of a new 70-metre-wide street through the historical centre and the considerable enlargement of several other streets, all involving the very extensive demolition of historic buildings.

These problems are based on a misunderstanding of the value of our built heritage – a constituent part of European and World Heritage – for the culture and history of the country, coupled with





A street which will disappear after the construction of the new 70-metre-wide road



19<sup>th</sup> century former Hotel Petersburg



19<sup>th</sup> century synagogue



19<sup>th</sup> century gymnasium for girls

a misunderstanding of the methods which make the corresponding presentation of this heritage possible.

Changing the rules and practices in the field of architectural heritage in harmony with internationally accepted built heritage protection documents is the only way to create the necessary conditions for our heritage preservation. Otherwise, in a very few years, the historic centre of Chisinau will have disappeared.

#### Notes:

1. Chisinau population: about 700,000 inhabitants.
2. In 1993, the national *Law for the Protection of the Monuments* was adopted.
3. In 2001, ratification of the *CE Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe* and *CE Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage* by Moldova.
4. In 2002, ratification of the *UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage* by Moldova.

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#### Changing the historic architectural environment





## NORWAY

### Climate change and the effect on Norwegian World Heritage sites

Norway has seven sites inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List. Three cultural sites are located along the coast: the cultural landscape of the Vega Archipelago, the Alta Rock Art, and the Bryggen (Wharf) in Bergen. The sea level rise, increasing numbers of days with rain and heavier rainfall, warmer temperatures and storms in these areas, which already have a high humidity, will expose the cultural sites to more negative conditions than experienced before. The new climate will cause direct damage caused by stronger winds affecting roofing and panels, and an increase in insects and fungi attacking wooden constructions. The foundations of harbour quays, piers and storehouses are not built to resist extreme storms, and will need more intensive maintenance.

The construction of the wharf, Bryggen, in Bergen is one example where this has already become clearly visible. Bryggen is threatened by rising sea levels. Due to heavy rainfall and storms in combination with high tide, a lot of the buildings experience flooding during the winter. Future forecasts predict tide levels that will flood the buildings nearest to the wharf more often. Rising tides could also threaten more of Bergen's old city centre. The winter 2006-2007 resulted in flooding 15 to 20 times, meaning that the constantly wet timber structures are now threatened by rot and fungus from this inundation combined with lengthy rainfall.

### Coastal heritage

The Norwegian coastline is extensive, heavily dissected by fjords. Traditional wooden coastal settlements, composed of wharfs, warehouses, dwellings, and farmhouses form a typical Norwegian vernacular architecture.

World Heritage site, Bryggen in Bergen, with Svensgarden flooded 2006 (Photo: Bryggen Foundation)



This vernacular architecture is threatened, as the use of wooden buildings for the fishing industry, trade and farming is no longer viable. Settlements are left empty without any maintenance. It is a challenge to find new adaptive uses, which might guarantee maintenance of this coastal heritage. The Norwegian Government has launched several programmes to safeguard coastal heritage, but the degradation of this unique Norwegian coastal heritage is still of concern. Improved cooperation between local and national authorities is needed by the owners, aiming for an alternative use for Norway's coastal heritage, which might guarantee dependable and consistent preservation and protection.

### Churches

In Norway, churches are far more important as cultural heritage than in most other European countries. This is because from the Lutheran Reformation in 1537 until the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the church was almost the only institution building structures of any size and contracting adornment of importance from artists and craftsmen. Norway was a province under Denmark at this time, and the king, the court, and almost the whole nobility lived outside Norway. After the 1814 constitution, the state of Norway gradually developed its own administrative buildings and a royal palace. The mid-19<sup>th</sup> century was the most expansive church building period since the Middle Ages. These sacred buildings heralded a new era and united the new nation.

Most of the Norwegian churches are under some kind of statutory protection. 215 churches built before 1650 are protected by the Cultural Heritage Act. Changes undertaken in all the 309 churches built between 1650 and 1850 and in about 40% of the churches built after 1850, are also to be evaluated by the Directorate for Cultural Heritage.

Many of the churches, regardless of heritage importance, suffer

World Heritage site, Vega archipelago, warehouse and eider house, built for eider ducks to nest in (Photo: Kirsti Kovanen, 2002)







Odda Smelteverk (Photo: Harald Hognerud, Norwegian Hydro Power and Industry Museum (NVIM))



The Tysso hydropower plant (1906-16) is today a national monument and beautifully restored after its closure in 1996 (Photo: Axel Mykleby)

badly from a lack of maintenance over many years. The heart of the problem seems to be that municipalities are required to cover the cost of maintenance. Often the most interesting churches, especially those protected by the Cultural Heritage Act, are situated in remote, small and rather poor municipalities. Other churches were established by a once thriving community, such as the church at the World Heritage site Røros, the mining town. The church at Røros has always been special, even by wider European standards, but the lack of funding by a poor community is now a great threat to this church.

Through the years church buildings have been the losers when local budgets have been presented. The situation for many churches is now dire, due to a long period of financial neglect and increasing deterioration. The cost for repair and restoration of these churches is calculated to be 406 million Euros (3.3 billion Norwegian Kroner).

Due to demographic change and the high cost of maintenance, and because of negligence, church authorities are “open to” the sale and demolition of churches. A new, different use of churches is naturally a threat to their heritage values, and demolition will raze this important heritage, removing it from posterity.

Fire has been a serious threat to Norwegian churches for many years, especially during a period of growing Satanic cults. Many efforts have been made to provide churches with fire protections systems, but still many of these churches lack even an adequate fire warning system.

## Hydropower and large-scale industry in Odda

The town Odda is situated in the Hardangerfjord area on the western coast of Norway. The place is surrounded by two national parks; the Hardangervidda plateau and the Folgefonna glacier, which is the third largest glacier in Norway. Odda was one of the major tourist destinations of Norway during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, known for its beautiful scenery. The high mountains with several waterfalls and the ice free fjord made it ideal to establish large scale industry and to build a hydro-electric power plant in Tyssedal, once one of the largest in the world. The Tysso hydro-

electric power plant is today a national monument and beautifully restored since its closure in 1996, whereas the factories from the same period in the centre of Odda represent significant industrial heritage sites at risk.

The Odda Smelteverk AS (smelting works) from 1906 is located in the centre of the town of Odda. The works occupy half the town and were built for the production of calcium carbide and calcium cyanamide, and were amongst the largest of their kind in the world until the 1920s. In 1928 the ‘Odda process’ was invented here:

*The nitrophosphate process (also known as the Odda process) was a method for the industrial production of nitrogen fertilizers invented by Erling Johnson in the city of Odda, Norway around 1927. ... Although Johnson created the process while working for the Odda smelteverk, his company never employed it. Instead, it licensed the process to Norsk Hydro, BASF, Hoechst, and DSM. Each of these companies used the process, introduced variations, and licensed to other companies. Today only Yara (Norsk Hydro), BASF, AgroLinz and GNFC still use the Odda process.*

(From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nitrophosphate\\_process](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nitrophosphate_process)).

From 1937 until 1998 the factories were owned by The British Oxygen Company and then sold to Philip Brothers Chemicals in New York. Since a bankruptcy in 2003 the works have been neglected and much of the equipment sold as scrap metal. The production line of calcium carbide with the big ovens were interim listed in 2004 as significant industrial heritage, but are now under pressure probably because they are considered too ‘big and ugly’. Many local politicians and the local workers’ union want to demolish the listed items, because they want the land for new buildings.

Industrial heritage is under-represented on the World Heritage List. International experts claim that the Tysso Hydropower Plant together with parts of the smelting works in Odda and its surrounds with the fjord- and waterfall landscape are unique in the world. The industrial heritage of Odda needs international attention to be saved.



## OMAN

### Mirbat, Heritage at Risk

Mirbat, like most of the sea towns in the province of Dhofar, South Oman, was involved in the frankincense trade. It took over the port tradition from al-Balid in the 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries and became a well-known port, trading also with Hadramaut. Today, almost the entire historic city has been abandoned in favour of a new centre built in concrete. One of the largest structures, the Bayt al-Siduf, a merchant's house, has almost collapsed, but still shows the former beauty of the traditional architecture. The decay of the abandoned historic buildings illustrated in the first issue of *Heritage at Risk* (see H@R 2000, pp. 146/147) has in the meantime become even worse. A heavy rain storm in 2007 accelerated the decay.

Mirbat, like Taqah and Salalah, are witnesses to Oman's glorious past as a seafaring nation. Therefore, the old quarters of these cities should at least be documented and, if possible, be preserved for the coming generations.



Mirbat, castle with collapsed walls and roof, 2007 (Photo: M.Pz.)



Mirbat, abandoned houses (Photo: M.Pz.)

Mirbat, decaying entrance door (Photo: M.Pz.)







Mirbat, damage caused by a rain storm, 2007 (Photo: M.Pz.)

Mirbat, collapsed house of a rich merchant, Bayt al-Siduf (Photo: M.Pz.)





## PERÚ

### Patrimonio en Peligro

El Perú es un país megadiverso, donde la presencia humana – que se remonta a varios miles de años atrás – ha dejado diferentes paisajes culturales y monumentos naturales que son permanentemente depredados, y desprovistos de sus contenidos muebles por un mal entendido coleccionismo. El uso turístico irrestricto también es una amenaza para los sitios arqueológicos, como es el caso de Machu Picchu. La invasión española a los Andes significó la construcción de iglesias y conventos recubiertos de altares, lienzos e imágenes, así como dotados de hermosos ornamentos y platería que permanecieron en uso hasta mediados del siglo XX. Entonces comenzaron los movimientos migratorios y – paralelamente – se iniciaron los “robos sacrílegos” en estos recintos católicos y su comercialización ilícita, con el argumento que así se evitaba que se fueran al extranjero. El Instituto Nacional de Cultura (INC) registra tanto los bienes muebles arqueológicos como los históricos – así obtenidos – como de propiedad privada sin verificar su origen ni procedencia. Además, el INC tiene serias dificultades para mantener actualizado el registro de sitios arqueológicos y edificaciones históricas; por eso, aquí no podemos proporcionar estadísticas y/o cifras sobre el patrimonio monumental del Perú.

El INC es la instancia pública encargada de conducir la política cultural del Estado Peruano, como órgano descentralizado del Ministerio de Educación del Perú.

La administración cultural pública en el Perú se inició – formalmente – con la dación de la ley N°6634 y la creación del Patronato de Arqueología en 1929, por gestión del arqueólogo Julio C. Tello. En 1941 se creó la Dirección de Educación Artística y Extensión Cultural dentro del Ministerio de Educación, que de inmediato asumió la responsabilidad de hacer el inventario del patrimonio cultural mueble e inmueble del país, ante la fuerte oposición de las altas esferas de la sociedad peruana que – como ha explicado Jorge Basadre, el historiador de la República – asumían que el inventario era una sutil manera de “estatizar” la propiedad privada del patrimonio cultural. Esta dependencia pública se transformó en 1963 en la Casa de la Cultura del Perú y en 1972, en el Instituto Nacional de Cultura. Es pertinente recordar que actualmente el INC, la Biblioteca Nacional del Perú (BNP) – fundada en 1821, pocos días después de declarada la independencia – y el Archivo General de la Nación (AGN), que data de 1863, no tienen aún resuelto el problema de encontrar una estrategia para inventariar, clasificar, catalogar y registrar el Patrimonio Cultural de la Nación y – por supuesto – supervisar periódicamente los bienes registrados, así como realizar el indispensable seguimiento de los hurtos y desapariciones, ya se trate de bienes culturales muebles e inmuebles, públicos o privados. El principal obstáculo para proceder al registro de los bienes culturales en el INC es que la Ley de Amparo del Patrimonio Cultural del Perú N°28296, del año 2005, y sus antecesoras, no asumen plenamente la diversidad cultural del Perú, someramente esbozada en la Constitución de 1993.

A continuación presentamos algunos casos representativos de las amenazas y peligros que acechan al patrimonio monumental del Perú y sus contenidos muebles.



View of Machu Picchu (Photo: Alonzo Addison)

### Patrimonio arqueológico

Machu Picchu es un conjunto de edificios construidos por Pachacutec Inca Yupanqui en el siglo XV, que gradualmente se fue despoblando luego de la invasión española a los Andes, hasta la llegada de Hiram Bingham, profesor de la Universidad de Yale, en 1911; quien lo describió como “el último lugar que quedaba en América para explorar en soledad”. Desde entonces, el Perú ha tenido serias dificultades para equilibrar su conservación cultural con su uso turístico. Machu Picchu, con el transcurso del tiempo, se ha transformado en el icono del país y en uno de los atractivos turísticos más representativos de América del Sur.

Las amenazas que actualmente plantea el turismo irrestricto al Santuario Histórico de Machu Picchu (SHMP) se pueden sintetizar así:

- Una acelerada pérdida de autenticidad en la difusión y comprensión de Machu Picchu, debido al incremento de la demanda turística, la cual no tiene paralelo en la investigación arqueológica, histórica y antropológica. Consecuentemente, los promotores y los guías – incluso los autores de libros de difusión – siguen promoviendo las sesgadas interpretaciones que hiciera Hiram Bingham sobre esta llacta inca hace casi cien años. Esta situación crea las condiciones para la proliferación de interpretaciones esotéricas sobre el origen de las poblaciones andinas e incluso favorecen a quienes sustentan que Machu Picchu fue construida por extraterrestres. La reversión de estas incongruencias es posible si, siguiendo precedentes internacionales, se lleva a cabo un reordenamiento de las relaciones entre el sector cultural-público y el sector privado del turismo.
- El uso irrestricto del cabildeo – o lobbies – de determinados grupos de interés, para acceder a la autoridad central y promover sus intereses económicos por encima de otros grupos de interesados en beneficiarse del uso turístico de Machu Picchu, está profundizando y agrandando las desigualdades étnico-sociales que se remontan a la conquista española del Tawantinsuyu.



- La población local marginada encuentra sus propios caminos para acceder a los beneficios económicos del turismo que Machu Picchu genera en su área de influencia. Por ejemplo, en el año 1998 una avalancha arrasó con la vía férrea entre Machupicchu Pueblo y Quillabamba, vía que principalmente servía a la población local. Los grupos interesados en promover únicamente a visitantes muy prósperos presionaron al Ministerio de Transportes y Comunicaciones para que esta vía férrea quedara limitada a un tren de uso turístico entre el Cuzco y Machu Picchu Pueblo, con el argumento que así disminuía la contaminación en el área del SHMP. Ante esta situación, el gobierno local procedió –desde el 2004– a la construcción del puente de Carrilluchayoc y otras vías terrestres en el área de influencia de esta ciudadela –o llacta– inca, para tener acceso al SHMP y proporcionar servicios turísticos a los visitantes de ingresos medios.

Hiram Bingham – al igual que hicieron los españoles del siglo XVI en otros centros urbanos de los Andes – llevó consigo de Machu Picchu más de 5,000 objetos e ingente información científica a la Universidad de Yale, institución que actualmente se niega a devolver el material al SHMP, a pesar que estos materiales arqueológicos salieron del país, entre 1908 y 1916, con una autorización excepcional del gobierno del Perú para efectuar investigaciones durante dieciocho meses, y luego proceder a su devolución. Esta negativa perjudica la conservación cultural del SHMP y su uso turístico porque refuerza la noción de que Machu Picchu es la "tierra de nadie". Es conveniente que, siguiendo las recomendaciones conservacionistas internacionales de comienzos del siglo XXI, la Universidad de Yale, conjuntamente con el gobierno del Perú, encuentren una fórmula diplomática bilateral para hacer posible la conmemoración bicultural del centenario de la visita de Hiram Bingham a esta llacta inca, en julio del 2011. Paralelamente, hay que tomar en cuenta que ya la *National Geographic Society* ha comenzado a compartir con el gobierno del Perú las fotografías que han ilustrado sus publicaciones sobre Machu Picchu desde abril de 1913. Asimismo, la *National Geographic Society* ha instado a la Universidad de Yale a devolver al SHMP dicho material arqueológico, habida cuenta que financió las expediciones de Hiram Bingham.

El INC todavía no ha definido su política de restitución cultural para el SHMP correspondiente al quinquenio 2006 –2011, año en que se conmemora el centenario de la primera vista de Hiram Bingham a esa llacta inca.

### **Patrimonio colonial**

En el Perú – y específicamente en los Andes Centrales – la Iglesia Católica enfrenta retos aún sin estudiar para su mejor comprensión y, por lo tanto, todavía no se vislumbran formas viables para conservar los templos y otros recintos religiosos; debido a los movimientos migratorios y al descenso de feligreses por diversas razones. Asimismo, el deterioro – y eventualmente la desaparición – de estos espacios religiosos construidos entre los siglos XVII y XIX parece imparable. Las reconstrucciones son ocasiones propicias para que se produzcan los llamados “robos sacrílegos”. Además, hay serias dificultades para encontrar nuevos usos a los recintos religiosos.

Por ejemplo, esta situación se produjo en el año 2002 cuando desaparecieron ocho esculturas, debidamente registradas ante el INC, durante la ejecución de trabajos de restauración en la Catedral de Lima. Hechos de esta magnitud son noticia en los medios de

comunicación para luego ser olvidados por la opinión pública por ausencia de una sociedad civil que haga el necesario seguimiento a estas denuncias de depredación cultural. Las autoridades civiles, policiales y eclesiásticas, consecuentemente, no se sienten obligadas a realizar el seguimiento de los objetos y evitar su comercialización ilícita entre los coleccionistas, tanto de Lima cuanto del extranjero.

El INC no ha tomado la iniciativa para efectuar la restitución cultural tanto de bienes histórico-artísticos cuanto de los arqueológicos. Mientras los “robos sacrílegos” han dejado a los templos y otros recintos católicos desprovistos de las imágenes que son esenciales para la devoción popular; paralelamente, las colecciones privadas han ido en aumento, ya que es prestigioso tener casas, oficinas, clubes, hoteles y restaurantes adornados con obras de arte, por ejemplo, de la Escuela Cuzqueña. Además, las exposiciones de arte colonial o virreinal – con motivo de las festividades católicas como Semana Santa o devociones a la Virgen María o Santa Rosa de Lima – no proporcionan información sobre la procedencia de los lienzos y/o esculturas puestas en exhibición.

Paralelamente, miles de jóvenes de origen hispano andino – ya sea quechua o aimara – siguen bailando, como lo hicieron sus ancestros desde el siglo XVI, en las festividades de sus pueblos de origen. Estas expresiones de la religiosidad católica popular en honor de la Virgen de la Candelaria en Puno, o de la Virgen del Carmen en Paucartambo, Cuzco, constituyen un importante recurso turístico.

En síntesis, hay una nueva generación de católicos y católicas practicantes que, con el debido liderazgo de las autoridades civiles y eclesiásticas – trayendo al país las recomendaciones vaticanas sobre patrimonio cultural de la Iglesia Católica – podrían hacer posible un programa de restitución cultural para los depredados recintos católicos donde todavía quedan algunas imágenes – o sus réplicas – que periódicamente continúan siendo objetos de culto. El comité Peruano de ICOMOS hace esta propuesta porque la Santa Sede es Estado Parte de las Convenciones de UNESCO de los años 1970 y 1972.

El caso del Templo de Santiago en Ollantaytambo, Cuzco, es altamente representativo de esta situación. En agosto del año 2000 los medios de comunicación limeños y cuzqueños difundieron ampliamente la noticia proveniente de la Paz, Bolivia, que señalaba la comercialización ilícita del arte colonial hispano andino realizada por el diplomático peruano Pedro Díaz Vargas. Durante varios meses este hecho delictivo contra el patrimonio histórico artístico del Perú – y también de Bolivia – fue información recurrente en los medios de comunicación limeña, llegando incluso a sostenerse que los lienzos encontrados en su posesión no podían volver a su lugar de origen por falta de inventario. Paralelamente, los ollantinos reconocieron sus lienzos mostrados en las imágenes difundidas por televisión y se hicieron presentes ante el INC, con el respectivo e indispensable inventario para recoger sus cuadros, como también se puede comprobar en la ilustración adjunta. Sin embargo, el INC se negó a dar trámite a su bien sustentado reclamo. En abril del 2002 Pedro Díaz Vargas fue reincorporado al Servicio Diplomático del Perú ante la protesta diplomática de Bolivia.

Otro ejemplo de cómo la restauración de un recinto religioso católico es ocasión propicia para proceder a su depredación cultural es la capilla del Centro Poblado de San Pedro de Challapampa, a orillas del Lago Titicaca. En el año 1974, una vez concluidas las obras de restauración auspiciadas por la UNESCO, desaparecieron sus recién remozados 24 lienzos de arcángeles arcabuceros, que debieron haber sido pintados como defensores celestes del Imperio Español en el hermoso paisaje que ofrece el lago Titicaca a locales

y foráneos. En el 2001 los pobladores – con el apoyo del INC – procedieron a renovar el techo de paja de la capilla y por razones de seguridad física retiraron el “retablo de los ángeles” elaborado por el jesuita italiano Bernardo Bitti en el siglo XVII. En enero del 2002 los pobladores de Challapampa debieron denunciar la desaparición de esta obra maestra del arte manierista, sin que el INC iniciara su indispensable búsqueda ya que estaba debidamente inventariada, como también lo están los arcángeles que les fueron hurtados en el año 1974. En mayo del 2003 desde el portal [www.michelmanrijn.com](http://www.michelmanrijn.com) se alertó que el altar estaba en venta en los EEUU, por lo que el Comité Peruano de ICOMOS inició una campaña mediática para que el INC y el Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores tramitaran su restitución a Challapampa en el marco del Memorando de entendimiento suscrito entre el Perú y los Estados Unidos para contrarrestar el tráfico ilícito de bienes arqueológicos y cierto material etnológico colonial. En julio del 2006 el “retablo de los ángeles” de Bitti regresó a Challapampa, sin mayores explicaciones por parte del INC sobre cómo salió y volvió. De inmediato, los residentes de este Centro Poblado han montado un programa de vigilancia comunal.

Sin embargo, en abril del 2007 el INC ya intentaba autoritariamente trasladar esta obra de arte a la Catedral de Puno. Para asegurar la permanencia y adecuada conservación de estos bienes culturales, el Comité Peruano de ICOMOS viene proponiendo que el Centro Poblado de San Pedro de Challapampa se integre al circuito turístico que recorre las orillas del Lago Titicaca, en concordancia con la Carta del Turismo Cultural de ICOMOS Internacional.

### **Patrimonio republicano**

La casa de la antigua hacienda Sojo, ubicada en Sullana, Piura, en la costa norte del país se encuentra en permanente deterioro. El mal estado de esta edificación – representativa del desenvolvimiento de la agricultura en el paso del siglo XIX al siglo XX – se debe a la ausencia de un programa de conservación tanto de monumentos cuanto de su entorno paisajístico, permanentemente amenazado por la tala indiscriminada de los árboles de algarrobo (especie en extinción).

Esta casa hacienda, edificada en el año 1910, ha sido declarada patrimonio histórico en el año 1974, cuando sus tierras habían sido afectadas por la reforma agraria. Conformaba una unidad tanto con su entorno paisajístico, cuanto con el sitio arqueológico de la cultura tallán, que floreció en ese lugar hasta la invasión española en 1532. Los conquistadores europeos quedaron sorprendidos por el liderazgo de sus mujeres, a quienes llamaron “capullanas”. Este sitio arqueológico también está en peligro.

La casa hacienda fue construida por don Miguel Checa y Checa, pionero de técnicas de regadío que en su momento tuvieron gran impacto en el desarrollo de la agricultura de la región. Carlos Checa Leigh, su descendiente, está firmemente comprometido con su defensa y conservación, actitud y gestiones que respalda permanentemente el Comité Peruano de ICOMOS. La principal y mayor amenaza que enfrenta la casa hacienda Sojo es la tala indiscriminada de los bosques de algarrobo y el movimiento de tierra por parte de la empresa Energoprojekt, encargada del proyecto Chira-Piura para la electrificación del área. La siguiente amenaza que enfrenta este paisaje cultural y monumento natural es que el INC se muestra incapaz de contribuir a la toma de conciencia pública para conseguir financiación para la conservación de este patrimonio regional y así promover nuevos usos para la casa hacienda Sojo. Aparentemente, la desidia del INC – como en otros casos – se debe a la presión de la empresa que desde hace casi cuarenta años efec-

túa las obras de ingeniería civil en la región, para que no interfiera en “su” trabajo.

Otro caso que documenta la problemática del patrimonio cultural es el de la torre de la Iglesia de San Agustín, ubicada en Arequipa. En enero del 2005, de manera subrepticia, se inició la demolición de la torre, que data del año 1868, con la finalidad de reemplazarla por una acorde con la fábrica colonial de dicho templo. La dirección regional del INC – en un gesto sin precedentes – convocó al Comité Peruano de ICOMOS para que hiciera una evaluación técnica de estos hechos. Esta oportuna intervención detuvo la demolición, al argumentar que era un grave error de concepto calificar a la torre como un “agregado”. El Comité Peruano de ICOMOS demostró – con los enunciados de la Carta de Venecia, las normas de Quito y la Carta de Burra – que la torre era ahora un componente del proceso evolutivo de la iglesia de San Agustín de Arequipa, que pudo haber sido reconstruido varias veces obedeciendo a las tendencias de cada época, pero siempre como un elemento inherente al monumento, no como ajeno al mismo.

### **Patrimonio del siglo XX**

En 1987 la casa del sabio Julio César Tello, considerado padre de la arqueología peruana, ubicada en Miraflores, distrito de Lima, fue declarada monumento histórico por el INC. Posteriormente la misma institución le retiró su condición de monumento histórico acuñando así el término y concepto peculiar de “desmonumentación”. Este fue probablemente a pedido de los propietarios, ya que en el país actualmente se considera “una carga negativa” que un inmueble sea declarado monumento histórico por el INC, porque inmoviliza cualquier acción de mantenimiento que el propietario pudiera hacer en dicha edificación.

Esta casa fue adquirida ya construida por Tello en la década de 1930, para su uso como vivienda, y de inmediato le agregó los aditamentos prehispánicos que se pueden observar en la fotografía adjunta, sin modificar el interior, donde se reunía con sus colegas y alumnos. Tello falleció en 1947 y la familia vendió esta propiedad, que no fue modificada por los nuevos propietarios. En el 2005, es decir, ya “desmonumentalizada” la pusieron a la venta, por lo que el Comité Peruano de ICOMOS inició una campaña mediática para evitar que fuera derruida para dar paso a la construcción de un edificio de viviendas, a pesar de las amenazas de proceder a un juicio que esgrimían los propietarios. La población en general apoyó la iniciativa del Comité Peruano de ICOMOS y la casa ya no está en venta; pero como se puede apreciar en la fotografía adjunta, al momento de escribir estas líneas se encuentra en proceso de preparación para un nuevo uso que –se espera– sea respetuoso del exterior de esta casa mirafloresina.

El argumento del INC para proceder a la “desmonumentalización” de las casas y otras edificaciones del siglo XX es el cambio de uso de los barrios residenciales para permitir el funcionamiento de hoteles, restaurantes y otros negocios – así como derruir casas unifamiliares para dar paso a edificios multifamiliares – que la Municipalidad de Lima lleva a cabo desde el 2002, por iniciativa de las empresas constructoras. En el caso de Miraflores se trata de comprar casas construidas en la primera mitad del siglo XX dado que sus propietarios ya han fallecido o son muy ancianos y sus descendientes optan por disponer de dinero en efectivo antes que asumir la tarea de encontrar nuevos usos rentables al patrimonio arquitectónico mirafloresino del siglo XX. Este es un proceso que se acelera ante la actual incapacidad del INC para elaborar argumentos de por qué se justifica “salvar de la demolición” a determinadas edificaciones que así incrementarán su valor monetario y su prestigio.



### ***En busca de una gestión cultural pública balanceada***

En general el patrimonio cultural inmueble así como mueble e inmaterial del Perú está en peligro -entre otras razones- a comienzos del siglo XIX por las profundas dificultades que tiene el país para reconocerse como una nación multi y pluricultural. Este reconocimiento ha tenido a lo largo del siglo XX avances y retrocesos como fue la dación de la Ley N° 6634 de 1929 que es un primer esfuerzo por asumir esta diversidad cultural; sin embargo, luego ha venido una regresión ya que las Leyes N° 24047 de 1985 como N°28296 del 2005 asumen que la legalidad en el Perú comienza con la invasión española a los Andes; es decir con las llamadas Leyes Nuevas de 1542, que emite la Corona para regir sus recientes posesiones de ultramar.

Habida cuenta que a pesar que el Perú tiene puestas altas expectativas económicas en el turismo cultural, el gobierno central designa muy limitados recursos para revertir esta degradante situación, por lo que el Comité Peruano del ICOMOS despliega una estrategia de incorporar a la realidad nacional la normatividad conservacionista internacional que emana de las Convenciones de UNESCO de 1970 y 1972.

ICOMOS Perú

Para mayor información y descargar documentos periodísticos relacionados con la problemática del patrimonio cultural peruano, visite la página web de ICOMOS PERU <http://peru.icomos.org/>



The altar of the church of San Pedro in Coayllo, after the earthquake of August 2007 (Photo: Rommel Angeles Falcon)

## Peruvian earthquake damages

*On 15 August 2007, an earthquake of magnitude 7.9 struck the coast of Peru at Pisco, 250 kilometres to the south of Lima. As a result of this tragedy, thousands of families were affected when their adobe houses collapsed. Amid the grief and destruction, the valuable and varied cultural heritage of the region, including archaeological sites, colonial churches, and 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century houses, also felt the effects of the earthquake.*

*The most badly affected areas were to the south of Lima and around Ica, a region that is home to the Nasca lines and the fine woven textiles of the Paracas culture, and that has more than 1200 archaeological sites of diverse ages.*

*The great monumental sites of the Late Intermediate and Inca periods (1100-1532 AD), with their characteristic architecture of mud brick, mud and stone or adobe, underwent the greatest damage; earlier, pyramid-shaped structures were less badly affected. The sites of El Salitre in Mala, Uquira in Asia, Tambo and Huacónes, Ungará, Huarco, Imperial and Canchari in Cañete have suffered collapsed and cracked walls, as has the important Inca site of Tambo Colorado in Pisco. In some cases, the humidity and salinity of the ground accelerated the deterioration caused by the earthquake. However, the worst damage occurred to the sites in the lower Chincha valley. At La Centinela, one of the biggest archaeological sites on the south coast, a great number of mud walls collapsed, especially in the largest pyramid. Other sites in the valley, such as Tambo de Moro, also experienced cracked and falling walls.*

*16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century churches were also damaged, the most serious case being the Church of the Company in Pisco, which was completely destroyed. The Hacienda San José and the churches of Chincha Baja and San Pedro de Coayllo in the valley of Asia have also suffered enormous damage.*

*This is a tragedy for Peru's cultural heritage. We hope to obtain materials for conserving damaged artefacts, and support and advice for the restoration of important monuments like the Church of the Company in Pisco, the historic Church of Coayllo, and sites like La Centinela, Tambo Colorado and Uquira. The Huaca Malena museum has been gathering local support and has begun a rescue operation involving 120 young people from the community.*

*The Peruvian National Institute of Culture has initiated an effective plan for the systematic recording of damage, as well as considering different options for the conservation of the principal sites described above and others identified as needing preservation.*

*Rommel Angeles Falcón  
Director of the Huaca Malena Museum*

(taken from IIC – News in Conservation, No. 2, September 2007)

## Reactions to the earthquake of 15 August 2007

Given the immense damages to monuments and sites in Peru caused by the earthquake of 15 August 2007, ICOMOS International together with ICOMOS Peru offered their support to Alan García Pérez, President of the Republic of Peru, in a letter of 18 October 2007:

*Señor Presidente:*

*En nombre del Bureau y Comité Ejecutivo del Consejo Internacional de Monumentos y Sitios (ICOMOS) le expresamos a Usted y a todos los peruanos nuestro pesar por el terremoto que los ha afectado.*

*Frente a hechos de esta naturaleza, y conocedores de los efectos que han tenido los movimientos tectónicos sobre los valiosos sitios y monumentos que su país posee, las instituciones internacionales, entre las cuales se encuentra ICOMOS y sus Comités nacionales en 150 países del mundo, nos ponemos a su disposición para la ejecución de las acciones necesarias que permitan garantizar la preservación del patrimonio cultural del Perú.*

*Los monumentos son las obras arquitectónicas elaboradas por una sociedad en determinado tiempo. Ellos representan la historia viva de un grupo social en un período histórico. Pero el monumento no estuvo aislado, formó parte de un ambiente cultural con otras obras y estuvo enmarcado en un paisaje natural. La integración de todos estos componentes les dan sus valores sociales y culturales; la pérdida de algunos los disminuye o altera. Estos valores son transmitidos de una generación a la otra, le dan continuidad y le sirven a la nueva para su identificación. Son símbolos de identidad, pues transmiten un contenido social e histórico, que es colectivo y, por tanto, lo comparten todos sus miembros. Por todos estos valores, indispensables para la integración de una nación, los monumentos deben ser protegidos y conservados.*

*ICOMOS sugiere que el Perú acuda a los profesionales especializados en el campo de la conservación de los monumentos, en coordinación con el Comité peruano de ICOMOS, y que se hagan esfuerzos para preservarlos mediante adecuadas intervenciones que eviten la pérdida irreparable del contenido histórico que ellos transmiten.*

*Asimismo, sugerimos:*

- 1. La declaración del estado de emergencia para los monumentos ubicados en las zonas afectadas por los movimientos tectónicos, con el fin que se les brinde la atención técnica apropiada que garanticen su conservación.*
- 2. Que el gobierno peruano solicite al director de UNESCO, Francisco Bandarin, el apoyo económico a través del "Fondo de emergencia", que dispone para estos casos.*
- 3. La implementación de un Proyecto Especial para la rehabilitación de los monumentos, con autonomía de gestión y manejo de recursos.*
- 4. El otorgamiento de incentivos tributarios con el fin de promover la inversión privada en la recuperación de los monumentos afectados.*

*Le saluda muy atentamente.*

*Prof. Dr. Michael Petzet  
Presidente de ICOMOS*

The consequences of the earthquake in Peru also have had an impact on the historic building fabric, especially on the rural archi-





The ruined Church of the Company in Pisco (Photo: Rommel Angeles Falcon)

texture and the very important tradition of building with adobe. It is a common reaction after earthquakes of this type to discourage the use of adobe in reconstruction, which however is a fundamental precondition for the preservation of vernacular settlement patterns that have developed over centuries. Therefore, the following statement by Julio Vargas Neumann (English version by US/ICOMOS) is very helpful:

*Ante la controversia suscitada en el país sobre la pertinencia de la construcción de adobe, material de uso ancestral y vigente, y al hecho de que cerca del 50% de las familias peruanas no tienen la posibilidad de usar materiales industriales, los miembros del Comité Especializado de la Norma Técnica de Edificación E.080 Adobe, hacen de conocimiento a la comunidad:*

Collapsed mud walls at the pre-Inca site of La Centinela (Photo: Rommel Angeles Falcon)



*El sismo del 15 de agosto del presente año ha confirmado que las construcciones de adobe, ladrillo y concreto sin refuerzo adecuado, por falta de asistencia técnica, han colapsado y originado pérdida de vidas, aunque esto ocurrió mayormente en las construcciones de adobe, solución mas asequible para la población de menores recursos.*

*Las construcciones que han cumplido las especificaciones de la Norma Técnica de Edificación E.080 Adobe, no han sufrido daños estructurales, a pesar de la intensidad de éste y otros sismos, como lo demuestran las experiencias en Lunahuana, Pacarán, Zuñiga y Huangáscar (Cañete y Yauyos), Ica y Guadalupe (Ica), en el sismo del 15 de agosto del presente año y, Yacango y Estuquiña (Moquegua), Caplina (Tacna) y Azapa (Arica) en el sismo 23 de junio del 2001.*

*Luego de más 35 años de experiencia de investigación en el Perú, definiendo refuerzos que eviten el colapso, la Norma Técnica de Edificación E.080 Adobe ha sido inspiradora de las normas existentes o en proceso de otros países como: India, Nepal, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Marruecos, Brasil, Argentina y otros que comprenden la utilidad de transferir asistencia técnica a sus pobladores que autoconstruyen sus viviendas.*

*Invocamos a las autoridades del Gobierno Central, Regionales y Locales a difundir el uso correcto de las especificaciones de la Norma Técnica de Edificación E.080 Adobe incluida en el Reglamento Nacional de Edificaciones.*

*Existe la tecnología para reforzar este tipo de edificaciones nuevas o existentes y, la gran tarea es su difusión y capacitación, asumiendo la responsabilidad de atender la inevitable utilización del adobe como material de construcción.*

*Ing. Julio Vargas Neumann  
Presidente del Comité Especializado  
NTE 080 Adobe*

*In view of the controversy that has risen in Peru on the pertinence of building in adobe, an ancestral and still valid material, and of the fact that close to 50% of all Peruvian families do not have the means to use industrially produced materials, the members of the Specialized Committee on the Technical Building Code E.080 Adobe, make this announcement to the general public:*

*The earthquake of 15 August of this year has confirmed that adobe, brick and concrete constructions without adequate reinforcement due to lack of technical assistance, have collapsed and caused losses of life; and that the great majority among those were adobe because this is the most accessible and common construction solution among the poorer population.*

*In spite of the intensity of this last earthquake and of others in the past, constructions meeting the specifications in Technical Building Code E.080 Adobe, did not suffer structural damages, as demonstrated during the 15 August earthquake in Lunahuana, Pacarán, Zuñiga and Huangáscar (Cañete and Yauyos), Ica and Guadalupe (Ica), and in Yacango and Estuquiña (Moquegua), Caplina (Tacna) and Azapa (Arica) during the earthquake of 23 June 2001.*

*Resulting from more than 35 years of research experience in Perú to define reinforcements that will resist collapse, Technical*

*Building Code E.080 Adobe has inspired existing and still under development codes in other countries such as India, Nepal, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Morocco, Brazil, Argentina and others, where there is recognition of the need for technical assistance to convey such information to those who build their own houses.*

*We call upon the Central, Regional and Local Governments to disseminate the correct use of the specifications contained in Technical Building Code E.080 Adobe, as included in the National Building Regulation (Reglamento Nacional de Edificaciones).*

*The technology exists to reinforce this type of building, both new and existing ones, and the great task at hand is to assume our responsibility of looking after adobe as a viable construction material by making the specifications broadly known and providing training on the Code's application and use.*

*Ing. Julio Vargas Neumann  
President, Comité Especializado  
NTE 080 Adobe*



## ROMANIA

### Hope for Roșia Montana?

For many years ICOMOS has protested time and again against the plans of the Roșia Montana Gold Corporation (RMGC) (see *Heritage at Risk* 2002/2003, pp. 175/176 and *Heritage at Risk* 2004/2005, pp. 201-203). The project, which in spite of worldwide protests has been pushed on, is threatening the Roman and medieval mines and the small mining town in a scenic cultural landscape. A huge artificial lake filled with cyanides would endanger the entire region. After a visit to Roșia Montana, the President of ICOMOS once more spoke out against the project of the RMGC in a letter of 15 June 2007 to Călin Popescu-Tăriceanu, Prime Minister of Romania, also forwarded to representatives of the European Union:

*Dear Prime Minister,*

*It was a great pleasure for me to visit Romania recently, particularly the well restored city of Sibiu, the 2007 European Capital of Culture, and Sighisoara, an outstanding World Heritage Site. I also visited Roșia Montana, the ancient Alburnus Maior, where a gigantic mining project is in its preparation phase. Through my contacts with Romanian specialists, I heard again about the plans of the Roșia Montana Gold Corporation which are threatening to destroy the environmental, historical, archaeological and architectural values of the site, one of the oldest and most valuable mining ensembles in Europe and around the world.*

*As you probably know ICOMOS (the International Council on Monuments and Sites), the organization I have the honor to preside, has already officially raised its concerns about the preservation of the natural and cultural assets of the Roșia Montana area several times: two resolutions at its General Assemblies in Madrid 2002 and Victoria Falls 2003 emphasized the responsibility of the decision makers with regards to this dangerous situation and an ICOMOS congress in Pecs in 2005 reiterated our organization's concerns about this matter and called upon all relevant authorities to take further steps in order to save both the cultural and the natural heritage in Roșia Montana: "ICOMOS rejects the project of the new gold mine of Roșia Montana. This dangerous technology threatens the natural heritage of the site and the fauna and flora of the rivers Maros and Tisza, as well as the cultural heritage of the old mines used from Prehistoric through Roman and Middle Ages, endangers equipment of the old mining technology as well as 18th-century architectural heritage of the small mining town. ICOMOS demands to stop the project immediately."*

*At the same time, specialists worldwide as well as prestigious scientific bodies such as the Romanian Academy have emphasized the risks the mining development would inflict. Apparently the damages to the natural and man-made heritage would be irreversible. In this light, we would be very interested to learn about the current status of the mining project, in particular the prospects of it receiving or not the required government approvals and permits. On the other hand, ICOMOS would gladly support any initiative for the preservation and enhancement of the historic monuments and sites of the area.*

*As the natural and the cultural heritage of Roșia Montana constitute a common asset of the Romanian as well as European citizens, we consider that the responsibility for their care and preservation are subject to both Romanian and European authorities. This is*



One house after the other is bought by the Roșia Montana Gold Corporation (Photo: M.Pz.)

*even more relevant since 1 January 2007 when Romania became a member of the European Union.*

*Under these circumstances, I can therefore only hope that you will be able to prevent the impending disaster in Roșia Montana.*

*Yours sincerely*

*Michael Petzet  
President of ICOMOS*

Shortly before this publication went to press we received the following press release on a decision by the Brasov Court of Appeal, which gives reason to hope that the fight against the disastrous project is not yet lost:

*Roșia Montana/Romania; 27 November 2007 – The Brasov Court of Appeal yesterday annulled archaeological discharge certificate No. 4/2004 issued by the Ministry of Culture and Cults in order for Roșia Montana Gold Corporation (RMGC) to exploit the so-called Carnic Massif. The court's decision is definitive and means that Carnic's unique Roman and pre-Roman mine galleries as well as the entire Massif remain protected. Yesterday's ruling rejected RMGC's request to intervene but admitted intervention requests formulated by several Romanian NGOs; including the Pro Europe League.*

*Roșia Montana Gold Corporation (RMGC) is 80% owned by Gabriel Resources (TSX:GBU), a small, under-resourced and inexperienced Canadian mining company which plans to uproot the people of Roșia Montana to realize Europe's largest open-cast gold mine. The remaining 20% are owned by Minvest, a state-owned mining company as well as three minor shareholders. Archaeologists and expert institutions from Romania and all over the world have repeatedly protested over the destruction of Roșia Montana's archaeological*

treasures that would be caused by RMGC's development.

According to the French mining archaeologists responsible for the excavations at Roşia Montana "in Carnic, antic mining networks (from Dacian times, identified as such for the first time, and from Roman times as well) remain of a striking coherence and in a remarkable state of conservation...." Carnic is protected under Romanian legislation (Law 5/2000) as cultural patrimony of national interest. However, in January 2004 Romania's Ministry for Culture and the Cults (MCC) issued archaeological discharge certificate Nr. 4 (DC No.4/2004), which effectively removed Carnic's protected status. The decision was provoked by RMGC's intention to exploit the massif's rich gold reserves.

In February 2004 Alburnus Maior initiated legal proceedings against MCC to prove that there exists no scientific and legal basis for discharge certificate No.4/2004. In a first ruling the Alba-Iulia Court of Appeal accepted on 21 June 2005 Alburnus Maior's case and annulled the discharge certificate. However, due to procedural technicalities Romania's Supreme Court accepted on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2006 RMGC's and MCC's appeal against the annulment, and sent the case for re-trial to the Brasov Court of Appeal.

During the debates that led to yesterday's ruling, Alburnus Maior<sup>1</sup> and the Pro Europe League<sup>2</sup> successfully proved, amongst other: a) that the Carnic Massif hosts archaeological vestiges protected as a monument of national interest and b) that the Romanian State has the obligation to employ administrative, technical and legal measures to protect this patrimony. Evidence submitted showed that the existence of archaeological vestiges is incompatible with open cast mining. During the case the NGO's also showed that in 2003 when a French archaeological team researched the massif they recommended that Carnic's archaeological vestiges should be restored and that their conclusions had been intentionally distorted by the Director of Romania's National History Museum, who turned them into a recommendation for discharge. Last but not least, when DC

No. 4/2004 was issued, the research of the area was far from being finalized and, according to Romania's mining law, MCC is not the competent authority to allow mining activities to take place on archeologically protected areas. Better still, an expert topographical assessment ordered by the court proved that the stereographical coordinates contained within the administrative act under discussion in fact corresponded to a territory in the county of Buzau, some 460 km away from Roşia Montana!

Yesterday's victory is the result of a legal process which lasted for almost four years and included numerous testimonies by archaeologists and expert institutions such as the Romanian Academy. According to Andreea Szabo, Alburnus Maior's lawyer, "This precedent setting case which has already paved the way for additional court victories reconfirms the authenticity of the arguments advanced by Alburnus Maior as well as the Alba-Iulia Court of Appeal and sanctions a certain attitude from the part of the Romanian authorities."

"Laws on the protection of our cultural patrimony are vital, and yesterday's ruling shows that they must take precedence over short-term economic interests. It's unfortunate that civil society groups have to resort to taking the Government to court in order to stop it giving the country's patrimony away to foreign mining companies. We are happy that this ruling shows that it is possible for citizens to hold the Government to account. This is a major set-back for Gabriel and the only thing they can do now is to yet again spend more of their investor's money by trying to challenge the decision", says Dumitru Dobrev, Pro Europe League's lawyer.

<sup>1</sup> The full written conclusions submitted by Alburnus Maior can be accessed on [http://www.rosiamontana.ro/brasov/concluzii\\_serise\\_AM\\_19noi.doc](http://www.rosiamontana.ro/brasov/concluzii_serise_AM_19noi.doc)

<sup>2</sup> The full written conclusions submitted by Pro Europe League can be accessed on [http://www.rosiamontana.ro/brasov/Concluzii\\_CA\\_Bv\\_LPA.doc](http://www.rosiamontana.ro/brasov/Concluzii_CA_Bv_LPA.doc)



View of Roşia Montana with three churches (Photo: M.Pz.)





Dilapidated façade in the centre of Roșia Montana (Photo: M.Pz.)



Farmhouse in Roșia Montana with entrances to medieval mines in the background (Photo: M.Pz.)



View of the valley that would be replaced by a cyanide reservoir (Photo: M.Pz.)



## RUSSIA

### 20th-Century Heritage at Risk in Moscow and the former Soviet Union

A first approach to the topic of 20<sup>th</sup>-century heritage at risk in Moscow and the former Soviet Union was the case study "Russia – 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Heritage" in *Heritage at Risk 2002/2003*, presented by Natalia Dushkina on behalf of the Russian ICOMOS Committee (*H@R 2002/2003*, pp. 177-181). The contributions to the international conference *Heritage at Risk – Preservation of 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Architecture and World Heritage*, organised by public and scientific institutions in Russia and by international partner organisations in cooperation with ICOMOS on the occasion of the International Day for Monuments and Sites (Moscow, 17-20 April 2006) were already published in the Special Edition 2006 of *Heritage at Risk*. The conference passed the general *Moscow Declaration on the Preservation of 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Cultural Heritage* as well as a special *Resolution on Konstantin Melnikov's House and Collection*, thus highlighting the international significance of many famous monuments of Soviet avant-garde architecture and its architectural counterparts from the Stalinist years, but at the same time pointing at the huge dangers threatening the heritage of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in eastern Europe.

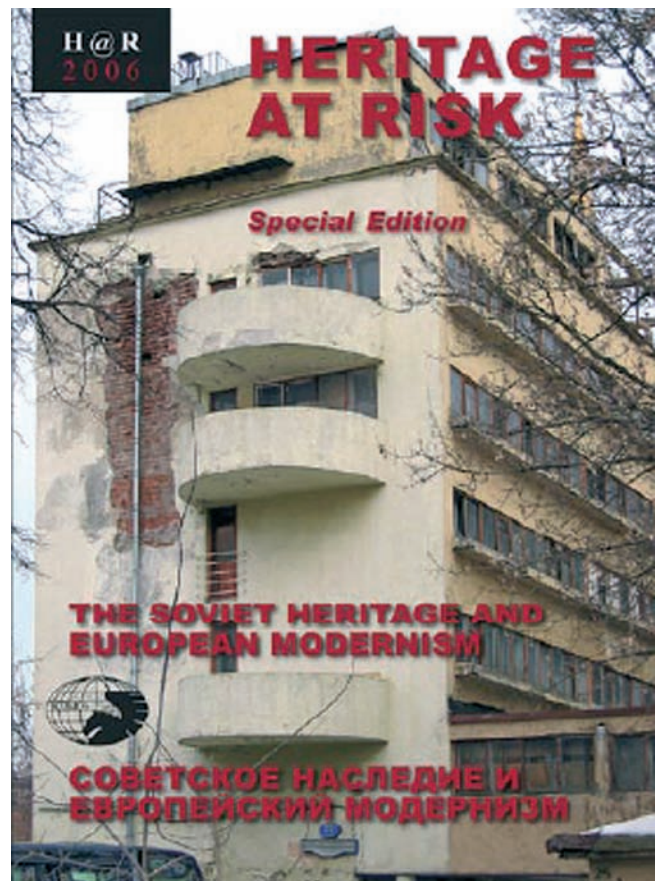
An important result of the conference in Moscow was also that during talks held with the Mayor of Moscow an extended co-operation with the City of Moscow was initiated. See also the following letter of 15 August 2006 to Mr Yuri Luzhkov, Mayor of Moscow:

Mr. Mayor,

*Further to the very fruitful meeting we had with you on 19<sup>th</sup> April at your office, we would like to report that your proposal of establishing a formal co-operation protocol and work programme between ICOMOS and the City of Moscow has been given due consideration and is very well received. We now look forward to more direct discussions with your representatives to finalise a draft text that can be presented to the ICOMOS Executive Committee at its January 2007 meeting in Paris.*

*Last June in Rome, the Officers of ICOMOS received with great interest the report our President Michael Petzet and I gave on the Heritage at Risk conference held in Moscow on the occasion of the International Monuments Day, 18<sup>th</sup> April. We reported on the working meeting we had the privilege of holding with you, and on your innovative proposal of formal co-operation between the City of Moscow and ICOMOS. This collaboration would enable sharing experiences to enhance the protection and condition your city's remarkable heritage sites like the Kremlin or the world famous monuments of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century (e.g. Narkomfin Housing Complex; Melnikov House; Russakov and Kauchuk Club Houses; Shukhov Radio Tower or the outstanding Moscow Metro.) in a dynamic urban context which can be very challenging to their integrity, setting and use.*

*Next month in Edinburgh, we will expose your proposal to the whole Executive Committee of ICOMOS. We hope to be able to then work with your representatives on the detailed draft agreement which we will discuss with our International Committee on 20<sup>th</sup> Century Heritage, ICOMOS Russia, the Moscow Architectural Institute, and our international partners Docomomo and the International Union of Architects who attended our April meeting with you and your senior staff. We trust the co-operation agreement*



Cover of the H@R Special "The Soviet Heritage and European Modernism"

*can be finalised this autumn and submitted at the following meeting of the Executive Committee, next January in Paris. We look forward to meeting with you again and to work with your staff and representatives in the course of this process.*

*With best regards,*

Dinu Bumbaru  
Secretary General of ICOMOS

### Visual Integrity of St Petersburg threatened by Gazprom Project

In a letter of 10 January 2007 to Ms Valentina Ivanovna Matvienko, Governor of St Petersburg, ICOMOS protested against the project of a 300-metre skyscraper designed by RMJM, winner of an international architectural competition for "Gazprom City" in which architects such as Daniel Libeskind, Herzog & De Meuron and Jean Nouvel had also taken part:

Dear Governor,

*Gazprom is planning to erect an administration centre on the bank of the Neva river and at the mouth of the Ohta river, located exactly opposite the famous Smolny monastery. After the competition advertised by Gazprom the design by the British architecture firm RMJM, a pointed skyscraper of 300 metres, was declared the win-*





Planned Gazprom skyscraper in St Petersburg (Photo: Gazprom)

ner on 1 December 2006. By 2016 the complex of buildings (office centre "Gazprom City") is meant to be complete.

The "Gazprom" project in St. Petersburg is another example which shows that on the whole high-rise buildings are not acceptable in areas inside the historic urban landscape. The planned skyscraper would be situated inside the protection zones of the World Heritage site of St. Petersburg, for which the Government has already proposed its own parameters of protection concerning an area for which "the limiting height for buildings and facilities for intrablock development shall be equal to 48 m, if the expert examination comes to a positive result."

ICOMOS endorses the already existing protests against this project. It will examine in detail the devastating consequences for the visual integrity of the Historic City of St. Petersburg (inscribed in the UNESCO List of World Heritage in 1990) and will inform the public about the dangers for the world-famous ensemble in its next *Heritage at Risk* publication.

*I would like to ask you to take care of this matter and remain*

*Yours sincerely,*

Prof. Dr. Michael Petzet  
President of ICOMOS

## Paintings of the Dwelling Houses in the Russian North (Archangel Region)

Paintings on wooden surfaces and interiors are one of the most important forms of folk art in Russia. In the Urals region, in Siberia and in the Russian north paintings on the façades and interiors of peasant houses were widespread. The question of when those paintings first appeared on the external walls of the peasant log houses is still open. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century only batten walls were decorated with paintings, but the use of battens in peasant constructions did not occur before the 19<sup>th</sup> century. That means decorating peasant log houses with drawings was apparently a novel phenomenon. The earliest paintings of peasant houses in the Archangel Region date from the 1840s, although painted buildings are mentioned in

sources from the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The façades and interiors of church buildings were also decorated with drawings.

Colourful paintings decorated the front gables of the houses, the so-called battened 'hemming' of pendent roofing and the balcony base, shutters and external architraves. Interiors were decorated with drawings on partitions, especially those forming the stove nook, movable pieces of furniture, cupboards, or in some cases doors and walls. Peasant artists decorated distaffs, birch-bark boxes, shaft-bows, sledges, and even cemetery crosses. Sometimes they produced utensils and tools and then covered them with paintings. That is why paintings in peasant homes in different parts of the northern regions form interrelated style complexes. The same artists often decorated interior elements of local wooden churches, such as the beams for the ceiling panels or the 'heaven', the iconostasis, lecterns and carved images, doors and portals. Paintings were done by professional or peasant artists. Sometimes they organised cooperatives of 'dyers', others worked as a family or did seasonal work far from home.

There are apparent parallels between peasant paintings from Russia and from Northern Europe, i.e. Sweden, Norway, Finland and Denmark. Similar geographical conditions, the history of cultural and trading contacts with the Archangel and Vologda regions produced common traits in that form of peasant art. Those interrelations could be proposed as the subject for an international research project, which could result in finding new data and comparisons.

From the artistic point of view, those paintings represent an independent and well elaborated part of folk art. One can discover

View of the chapel in the village of Glazovo in the Russian North (Kenozero)





several historic territories in the Archangel and the neighbouring Vologda regions where different types of painting existed in former times and are still observable. Those territories are the Poonezhye and Kargopolye, the area called Povazhye and the basins of the North Dvina, Pinega and Mezen' rivers.

### ***Paintings of Kargopolye and Poonezhye (western parts of Archangel and Vologda regions)***

The names of Poonezhye and Kargopolye have historically been used for the lands on the Onega river and around the Onega lake. They also border Karelia and in former times they were culturally and economically influenced by the town of Kargopol'. That town was first mentioned in chronicles from the 12<sup>th</sup> century and for a long period it was an important economic, political and trading centre in northwest Russia. Many interesting elements of construction techniques applied to wooden religious buildings and to dwelling houses are still applied together with particular customs and rituals that are practiced. They all bear witness to a distinctive folk culture preserved in the area.

Almost every village had its own chapel. The latter could be located in a place that seemed perfectly unusual – in woods, on riverbanks or lakeshores, in fields or at the village ends. The great number of chapels can be explained by the predominance of the old religious population from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The 'pogost' or a big churchyard including summer and winter churches, a bell tower and a graveyard put up in a village or a hamlet or nearby was also typical of the area.

From the architectural point of view, dwelling houses were very diverse in that territory. This can be explained by the variety of ethnic groups who lived there, namely Karels, Vepses, and Russians, all of whom had their own traditions and culture. Home paintings were very popular there, and a good number of buildings decorated both with façade and interior paintings are still preserved.

In northwest Russia a certain manner of folk painting emerged in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Technically, it was based on a free brush touch and the application of white contour lines. Free and easy style of painting, bright colouring combined with technical virtuosity are



Painted gable on a dwelling house in Kargopolye and Poonezhye

the most distinctive features of that form of folk art. In addition, artistic workshops in the region producing illuminated manuscripts, icons, pictures, painted furniture and utensils influenced that manner a lot.

Some of those items preserved until today prove that the folk painting of houses of the later period followed in style this artistic school of the 18<sup>th</sup> and first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries in many areas of the Russian north. In particular, that influence is apparent in floral patterns with rose motifs widely spread in the North. The bright polychrome palette of the Novgorod artists, the adherence to pure local tones, and the free manner of paintbrush movement developed in herbal patterns also deriving from Novgorod made up the source of that later artistic tradition.

That influence was often an immediate one. For instance, there is evidence that Mikhei Abramov dwelling in the Zaonezhye area acquired his skill in painting in the monastery and later taught his son Ivan Abramov who began to work with his father when he was 12 years old. Father and son painted churches, chapels and icons.

Peasant artists also decorated distaffs, birch bark articles, shaft-



Paintings on the balcony and gable of the house of Bechin in North Dvina; painter: Timofei Makarov



bows, sledges, as well as houses. Almost everywhere they worked not only at home but took to the road looking for commissions. For example, the Tarakanov brothers or artists of the Semyin family from the village of Maloye Konevo painted houses in the Kenozero villages and in other places.

The bush-shaped bouquet, the stretched or curved branch and complex floral compositions often in vases were the favourite pattern motifs of paintings. Bouquets were composed of lily-tulips, frontally-painted rosette-like flowers, apple-balls and roses. In between flowers and long, curved leaves, white, red, black and blue birds were painted. Rose-apples, rosettes and dog-rose flowers were veiled with pleached thin shoots, tendrils and curves. Frequently that type of composition included a picture of a lion. In gables of several preserved houses one can see the motifs of lion and grapevine side by side with rich floral patterns decorating a balcony. The vine symbolised prosperity and wealth of the house and a lion had protective functions.

However, it is important to underline that traditions of different ethnic groups are sometimes seen in peasant paintings. The interacting cultural and artistic traditions could serve as an explanation for the nearness in style and even the commonness of Russian, Karelian and Finnish peasant paintings on wood. From the 11<sup>th</sup> century the populations and folk art in these regions developed under similar historic and cultural circumstances and were under the influence of the same factors, traditions and phenomena.

Many houses (e.g. in Zadnyaya Dubrova village) are four-wall *izbas* and as a rule have four windows on their façades. The decorative paintings of those houses are combined with carved battens. The colour scheme of the gables harmonises with the ornamental paintings on the external architraves. The simplest type of decoration was colouring battens in stripes. The most widespread composition included a triple partition of the pendent roofing with flowers in the centre of each and blue gables with stars imitating a 'starry sky'.

The façade paintings of the house from Iglin Ruchei village show that the folk artist was influenced by the Art Nouveau style. The figures of the master and mistress were painted on the sides of the central gable window and the pendent roofing was decorated with pictures of 'exotic' fruits – pineapples, peaches, pears, and bunches of grapes painted on the white background. The floral pattern consists of roses amidst cornflowers, bluebells and other field flowers. Those paintings highlight the decorative character of the gable of that two-storey house.

There were also several pieces of painted furniture in the interior of the houses. Panelled partitions were often ornamented both with paintings and carving; a radiant rosette was the basic motif of the latter. The cupboard and drawer panels were decorated with paintings in dark blue and brown colours with white shades. Stylised flowers were symmetrically arranged and painted in rather a dry manner.

### **Paintings of North Dvina**

In that territory, one can find several types of paintings related to three historic cultural areas. The first and most acknowledged artistic centre bears the name of the town of Verkhnyaya Tot'ma. Many famous artists worked there, but the most renowned and outstanding was Timofei Makarov. He was lame and received the related nickname Kalets. His father was also a painter who decorated distaffs, wickerwork boxes, shaft-bows, chests, etc, but also ful-

filled church commissions. Timofei worked with his father and most of the façades painted by him are still preserved in many villages. One of the most interesting examples is the house in the Keras village. Its colouring and picture of the 'paradise garden' perform wonders not only with floral patterns but also with pictures of animals, namely of an ox and a horse presented in heraldic manner.

The Chistyakov sisters, whose father was also a painter or '*malyar*', worked in that region, too. They acquired their mastery from him and decorated house interiors, cupboards, doors, partitions and façades. Their bright and colourful painting evenly covers the surface with a vivid and supple ornament. Their herbal and floral patterns are in an ornate style but composed harmoniously and symmetrically. In some cases, bushes symbolising 'a tree of life' and crowned with tulips are put into vases while hens walk about. There are also pictures of tulips found in ancient Russian books and northern manuscripts, on traditional Russian enamels of the 17<sup>th</sup> century and on the wall frescoes of Moscow stone churches, etc.

Paradise birds or the Sirin bird are depicted in those paintings in rather an ordinary manner, though the latter was a favourite figure always placed in the centre of the composition. The bird symbolised the joy of life and the idea of growing life force. Sirin was also a symbol of heaven and water and its cult survived the Christian epoch when it was linked to earthly happiness.

In the Upper North Dvina *izbas* interiors were decorated with another type of painting. For instance, paintings by the artists Yurkin, Orlov or the Zakochurin brothers dating from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century covered the fielded panels which partitioned off the stove. Interesting examples of doors leading to the cellar, of those closing the stove stairs and of others closing a wash-stand exist. All these were unique elements of fitted furniture in a peasant house. Paintings were in oils, their bright red or blue or rose background was covered with bunches of flowers of the most diverse and exotic types and shapes. The petals were outlined with white in a style which was not as graphic as in the previous area but very picturesque. Paintings were brightly spotted with roses and the entire living space of a house formed an ensemble, including the building elements and the furniture.

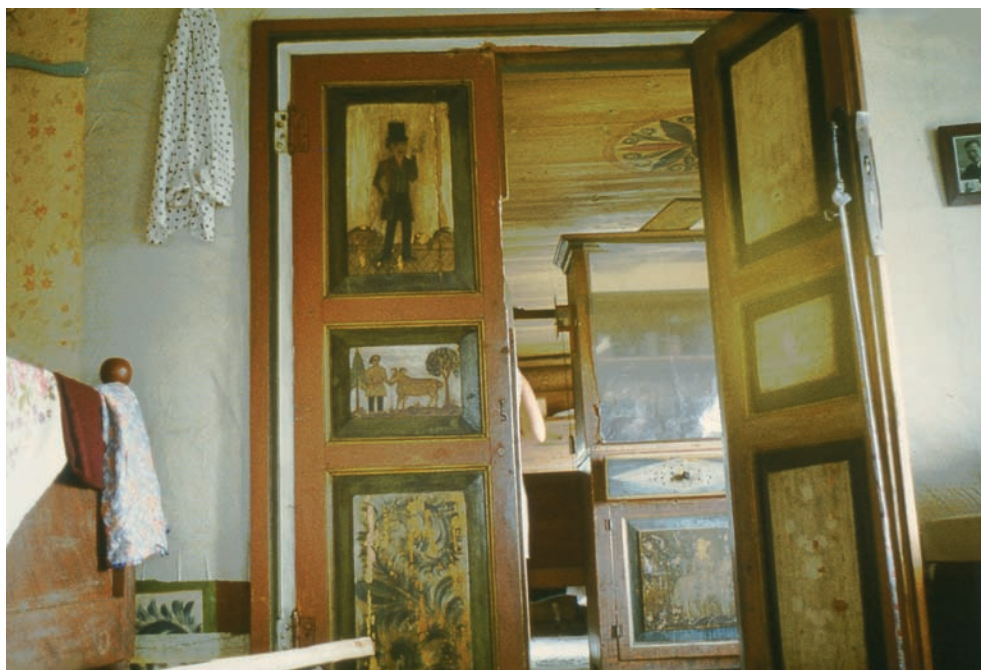
Paintings of the Lower North Dvina do not show birds or animals and are rather monotonous. The main ornament consists of floral rhombus patterns painted in bright sunny colours and on a light background.

Unfortunately all the houses mentioned above have not been put on the heritage preservation list at the federal or local level. They have not been studied yet by specialists from local or state museums, including the open-air museums.

### **Paintings of Povazhye**

In some sense these monuments of folk art were luckier. Here peasant paintings resemble those of the Verkhnyaya Tot'ma area. The artists used the symmetrical composition of three flowers in the centre of a surface with stems and leaves stretching from it and with a white outline. Those paintings were made by foreign artists from the southern Kostroma region.

But that was the area where the Petrovsky family of artists, the most famous artistic family in the Archangel and Vologda regions, lived in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Many houses here were painted by those artists who often showed the lion and



Painted door in the house of the Petrovsky family in Povazhye

unicorn motif, or a lion and a horse on the sides of a blossoming tree, or the pair of lions motif. A picture of a lion was typical for local monuments as the icon painters also used that exotic image. On an icon from the 17<sup>th</sup> century derived from the Vologda region in its composition and devoted to the Last Judgment the apocalyptic beast was presented as a lion with protruding tongue.

That heraldic type of composition was already used in ancient Russian art from the 16<sup>th</sup> century onwards. It is probable that an important role in the penetration of that motif into folk art was played by the emblem of the Moscow Printing Yard. Besides, a number of European utensils acquired at fairs, including crockery and dishes with pictures of heraldic character, were imitated.

The house of the Petrovsky family called 'Aleshkin' after the name of its master and the head of the family provides the most interesting examples of those paintings. The façade decorations were typical of those artists, but the interior ones were unique. Here the painted door panels showed particular pictures of peasant family life, e.g. a portrait of a master, a hunting scene, a peasant and a cow in the meadow, etc. The panels of the stove partition were also very picturesque and presented portraits of members of the tsar family and its retinue. Those paintings demonstrate both an urban and a European influence. It is known that artists from that family worked in St. Petersburg and theoretically could have had contact there with some foreigners from the Nordic countries.

Unfortunately that house is already demolished. At the beginning of the 1970s it was discovered by specialists, its paintings were renovated and after that it was put on the list of protected local heritage. It accommodated a branch of the local lore museum but neighbours in the village of Churkovskaya where the house was located gradually left it and the settlement was deserted. The threat that the house could be demolished emerged. In that situation workers from the Archangel open-air museum moved the main painted interior items to the museum. At the moment those paintings are included in the museum collection and presented on travelling exhibitions, but the museum has not succeeded in moving the house.

Another example of façade paintings by the Petrovskys used to be found in the village of Pakshen'ga. On the house gable portraits of its master smoking a pipe and his young mistress apparently dressed in urban vogue were painted. Under the balcony on the battened surface one could see protective pictures of lion and unicorn, flower bunches symbolising a tree of life and picturesque floral ornaments.

The fate of that house had much in common with that of the house mentioned above. The difference is that the deserted house was bought by an architect from Moscow in order to prevent its demolition and to renovate its paintings. Later on, the house was pulled down and the paintings were given to the Archangel Museum of Fine Arts where they were included in its collections. Peasant portrait paintings by the Petrovskys obviously belong to a rare phenomenon in the folk art of the Russian North and need further investigation. They demonstrate the mastery and individual artistic manner of the painter who may have been acquainted with European principles of interior decoration.

### ***Paintings of the Mezen' and Pinega rivers region***

In the 1880s a painter called Ivan Orlov worked in the Mezen' area. It seems that it was he who decorated the house of Vasily Klokotov which was one of the unique monuments of local wooden architecture. The house and farmstead, the social and cultural context of their formation and the history deserve particular investigation (this was undertaken by the author about 20 years ago and was linked to the project of moving the house to the open-air museum in Malye Korely). In practice the house was transferred only a year ago and recently its restoration began. Meanwhile it is still unclear whether the original façade paintings will be restored or if they will be replaced by a copy of the original preserved in the museum depository.

The battened pendent roof of the house was covered with a pattern consisting of flowers and grape bunches. The gable painting showed heraldic figures of lions with ducks and geese above them. In the same part of the gable one could see a picture of a man cross-





Semi-destroyed historic wooden house in Tomsk, Siberia (Photo: Jean-Luc Bruandet)

ing the river from one bank to another in the manner of a rope-walker (symbolising the transition to the other world). The external architraves, elements of the porch, the doors and other decorative details were painted red because that colour also has a protective function.

The interior of the dwelling space was quite traditional for that territory. It included the very interesting panelled partition separating the main room from the female space near the stove. Partition paintings represented flowers in vases which were executed in a graphic manner with white outlines together with sketches of diverse fenced foot-bridges.

Coloured paintings of the dwelling houses in sites near the Pinega' river are very simple and look like drawings of chess patterns with different colours of black, white and orange or others on the facades of the houses. Sometimes the red colour could also be found in the decoration of the windows.

On the whole the experience gained is explicit about all the difficulties of preserving peasant paintings and drawings in dwelling houses that are more than 150 years old and survive in a living rural environment. Modern constructions in the settlements on the one hand and the depopulation on the other result in losses to that very important and fascinating form of folk art. Of course, some of those painting can be preserved and shown in regional museums; some can be moved to open-air museums. However, local museums *in situ* could also be established on the base of such small architectural complexes in historical villages and hamlets, though that would need special decisions and organisational effort. The latter could only be successful with support from local and regional authorities, private business and the population.

Dr. Olga Sevan  
Russian Institute for Cultural Research  
Russian ICOMOS, ECOVAST

## Wooden Historic Houses in Tomsk, Siberia

The pictures of decaying houses in Tomsk, provided to ICOMOS by the French documentary film maker Jean-Luc Bruandet, are just some examples of countless historic wooden buildings in Russian towns and villages threatened by decay. In 1980, there were about 2800 wooden houses in Tomsk which could be considered as monuments; by 2003, only about 1400 were left, 70 percent of which were in a very critical condition.

## SERBIA

### Protest against the Demolition of the National Theatre in Subotica

The theatre in Subotica (Province of Vojvodina), which also includes a hotel and ballroom, was erected in 1854 after designs by János Scultety. After 1900 it was altered and renovated several times. In a letter of 6 June 2007 to Mr Voja Brajovic, Minister of Culture of the Republic of Serbia, ICOMOS protested against the imminent demolition of this historic building:

*Dear Minister,*

*ICOMOS (the International Council on Monuments and Sites) has been alerted through professional channels on the decision taken to demolish the National Theatre in Subotica – a cultural property with a 150-year-old history. We have further been advised that demolition of the annexes has already commenced.*

*This building is the sixth oldest masonry theatre built in the Carpathian Basin. Beside its historical value, it constitutes a significant component in the townscape of Subotica itself.*

*Considering the above, ICOMOS appeals to you in your capacity as Minister of Culture, and to the competent authorities in Serbia,*

*to call for an immediate halt to the demolition works. This is in order to reconsider the planned interventions and to protect the outstanding significance of this historic property, in particular the authenticity of both its exterior and its interior.*

*We hope that you will find a solution to preserve all the values of this historic building whilst still achieving your aims for the sustainable future of this cultural property.*

*Such a solution would demonstrate your government's commitment and support for cultural heritage, within the recognized dynamism of your emerging region, which currently attracts much interest in Europe and worldwide.*

*ICOMOS, as the international expert body in this field, would be happy to assist Serbia in any way in resolving this issue.*

*Yours sincerely*

*Michael Petzet  
President of ICOMOS*



The National Theatre in Subotica before its demolition ([www.intbau.org](http://www.intbau.org))



The theatre during the demolition in November 2007 ([www.kakanien.ac.at](http://www.kakanien.ac.at))



## SLOVAKIA

### Bratislava – Protected Area of Central Urban District at Risk

The last decade of the Communist regime was characterised by large scale demolitions of historic urban structures and traditional compact blocks were replaced by architecturally inadequate buildings. While most of these territories do not have very high concentrations of cultural and historic values they are representative of many Slovak historic settlements. The best examples of these historic areas were declared “protected areas” by the monument law at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with the aim of preventing further uncontrolled decrease of their cultural and historic values.

The central urban district of Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia, has been protected by law since 1992. In spite of this protection the district has continually been losing its historic and cultural values. The high numbers of already degraded original structures as

well as the fact that the protected area was too large were the reasons for reducing this area by half in 2005.

The decrease of cultural and historic values has been intensive and partly caused by the backwash of globalisation trends which have changed the originally provincial town of Bratislava into a European metropolis. The pressure from developers has been understood as part of the globalisation process. The loss of an emotional tie to the heritage of their forefathers is another problem. The absence of traditional continuity is reflected in the quality of contemporary architecture and the preference for modern rebuilding.

Despite these problems a fundamental part of the central urban district has been preserved by virtue of the compactness of the original urban fabric and its visual attractiveness.

In this context we would like to define the actual risk to the integrity and authenticity of the inner and outer zones of the historic town.

Inner zone of the town at risk:



Panorama of Bratislava's eastern territory



Square of St. Florian – loss of 19th-century character caused by inadequate new constructions

Inadequate modern buildings in the protected area of the central urban district



Large-scale demolition and erection of tall buildings on the site of an original compact settlement





- large-scale demolition of historic buildings, substituted by inappropriate new construction;
- out-of-scale new construction damaging the historic character of the original environment;
- loss of authenticity to buildings on the monument list.

Outer zone of the town at risk (eastern part of the territory):

- ad hoc construction of tower-blocks visible from the town's historic centre;
- increasing number of floors in original historic blocks.

In fact, these measures are referred to as “the principles of preservation, restoration and presentation of cultural-historic values” of this territory, and are carried out in collaboration with the chief architect of the city, the architects who elaborated the master plan and other specialists in the field of monument preservation.

As the prepared master plan has not been approved, it is very hard to control the developer's plans and intentions and the loss of historic and cultural values is continuing. The vague attitude of the municipality opens up possibilities for the realisation of unacceptable interventions into what remains of the historic urban structure.

Most other territories protected since the 1990s have had a similar destiny. If the long-prepared master plans are not approved soon and if adequate tools for monument preservation are not created, it is likely that this protected district, just as similar districts elsewhere in Slovakia, will definitely lose its authenticity and integrity.

Jana Gregorová  
Pavel Gregor  
ICOMOS Slovakia

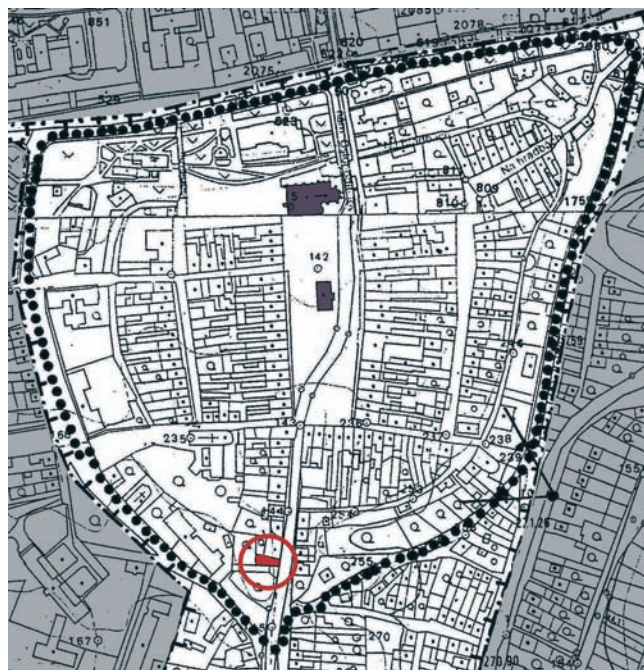
## Risk from Development: Threats to monuments caused by ignoring valid legislation

While the previous part was devoted to the topic of threats to Slovakian protected areas in general, in this part we will focus on the threats to the cultural heritage by disrespect for the actual legislation. In our urban protected areas the key issue is not the inadequate legislation, but the ineffectual application of statutory regulations and the great pressure exerted by profit-oriented property developers. Disregarding the law is not unusual. There are many examples of illegal additions, extensions, rebuilding, etc. We will focus our attention on examples of conscious disregard of the law and the intention to legalise this activity after the fact.

Accompanying factors include the following:

- economic pressure to capitalise on valuable land;
- possibilities to realize large investments;
- desire to increase the social status;
- architects and investors who regard themselves as beyond the law;
- pressure to change the place's use and character; and
- changes of life style and production technologies leading to loss of details.

Many different reasons exist why monuments and their curtilage are threatened. Some of them were discussed in our previous reports. Here we are presenting two examples of monuments whose authenticity and integrity are currently under threat. We concentrate on these examples because they have been the subject of repeated efforts to avert the threats without success.



Map of Bardejov

### 1. House in Rhody Street 14, Bardejov

The first place is within a World Heritage site: the Bardejov Town Conservation Reserve. Originally a one-storey building, during the registration process the house was evaluated as a contributing element of the World Heritage site and was identified for retention. Only its maintenance was allowed. In spite of opposition from the Slovak Monument Office and the lack of building permission, an investor restored the ground floor three years ago and later added two floors. This illegal construction is situated near the castle moat and the arch bridge which are close to the southern gate and damages the authenticity of the fortified castle and of the town silhouette with its dominant landmark, the St. Giles Church, as viewed from the south? These building activities are incompatible both with the legislation and the conditions of protection of World Heritage sites. Other institutions as well drew attention to this incident, but without any positive result so far.

Bardejov, house in Rhody Street 14





## 2. House in Hlavna Street 107B and 109, Prešov

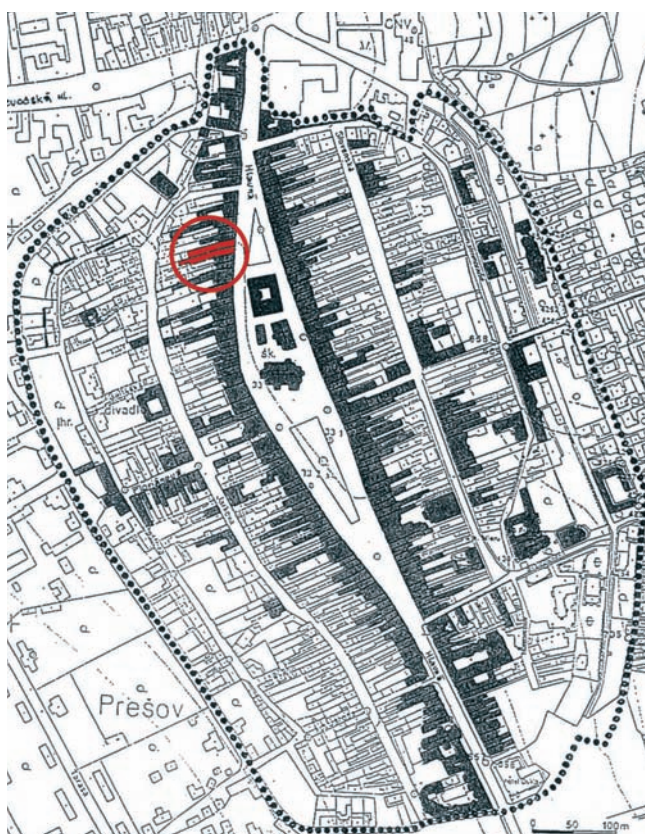
The problem concerns the re-building and vertical additions to remains of buildings in the designated ensemble of Prešov. In harmony with international principles of protection and re-vitalisation of historic towns (*The Washington Charter*) new housing has been allowed in this area from the beginning. A number of policies have been established to guide the construction of new buildings within the protected area. It has been determined that the form and scale of new buildings should be accommodated to older buildings within the same area. The latter usually have two floors, topped by cornice moulding ledges with pitched roofs. It is necessary to follow the height of the surrounding buildings and the measures of these houses. The original medieval parcelling of land should also be respected.

Although the originally approved project documentation contains these conditions, a house has been built which does not respect them. Its main facade has been extended by one floor, the ground plan measure of the third floor was changed, no indication whatsoever of a roof plane was realised and a project documentation was not approved. This illegal building is in use today. The owner applied for retrospective approval, but the Slovak Monuments Office did not authorise it. A solution still has to be found.

In summary we can state that this house:

- is not in harmony with the approved project documentation;
- exceeds the bulk and scale of housing in the area;
- does not respect the accepted territorial plan;
- is not adapted to the historic environment; and
- disturbs the panorama of the west side of the dominant square inside the ensemble.

Map of Prešov



Prešov, house in Hlavna Street 107B and 109

There are other equally negative examples of illegal building and/or restoration activities. In our country there is no institution that conducts building inspections. Sometimes illegal houses can also be legalised subsequently. An owner can obtain a building approval belatedly either by “an amendment to the project documentation before the end of building works” or by the “subsequent legalisation of a building”. Fines today are rather low so that they can be allowed for in the project budget. Unfortunately, the demolition of such buildings after they have been completed is almost impossible.

No doubt, similar examples of illegal buildings can be found in many countries of the world. Maybe in comparison to the realisation of huge investments in skyscrapers, large shopping centres and technological parks, etc, our examples are negligible, but they illustrate the enormous threat to the monument values of historic territories. The first example, above, is part of a World Heritage site. If we accept such activities in an important protected area like this, then any protected building and/or monument in a historic context is threatened.

Lubica Pičíková  
ICOMOS Slovakia



## SPAIN

### Toledo and its Setting: World Heritage in Danger

The New Municipal Development Plan for the City of Toledo (POM), which was provisionally approved on 2 June 2006, seems to unhinge some of the points relevant for the protection of the World Cultural Heritage at the time of the nomination of Toledo for inscription on the World Heritage List. Independently of further developing of the existing planning on a municipal or regional level the commitments acquired by the State party when Toledo was submitted for inscription on the World Heritage List in 1985 in accordance with the World Heritage Convention remain binding for evaluating the present situation. In order to investigate whether these obligations have been met, in the case of Toledo – contrary to some other cases of earlier inscriptions in the World Heritage List – there are very detailed and precise instructions in the nomination dossier with information on the core zone, special planning zones and a “zone of respect and protection of the landscape and urban silhouette.” As the town of Toledo has decided to create new facts by following the New Municipal Development Plan and to start building developments which can hardly be reversed, it is ICOMOS’ view that the World Heritage Committee should at least be given the opportunity to reflect on time on the consequences for the World



El Greco, View of Toledo (Metropolitan Museum, New York)

Details of the Visigothic archaeological site and its destruction



Toledo, billboard for the development area “Vega Baja 1” on the grounds of the Visigothic archaeological site (Photo: M.Pz.)

Visigothic archaeological site with view of Toledo (Photo: M.Pz.)





Heritage status of Toledo.

Apart from the still respected planning zone of Los Cigarrales and the “special planning zone of the entrance of Toledo by the Madrid Highway” the only purpose of the new Municipal Development Plan seems to be – to put it simply – to prepare the last remaining plots of land in the surroundings of the core zone of the World Heritage for the construction of new buildings. Quite obviously there is a strong development pressure in the area of Toledo, so that under these circumstances it is difficult to make objections against additional extensions of the modern quarter in the east and southern side of the Tajo River, especially since this quarter was planned to be at a considerable distance from the historic city. Nonetheless, the development on both sides of the – so far unobstructed – view axis of the highway to Madrid would have devastating consequences for the familiar view of Toledo as an elevated and fortified city dominating its surroundings. From various important positions the planned housing developments on the hills belonging to the buffer zone would considerably harm the famous silhouette of the town and thus the visual integrity and authentic character of the World Heritage site.

By all means the historic city and the surrounding landscape must be seen as an inseparable unit, while the extensive development of large areas of the buffer zone is going to violate the integrity and authenticity of this outstanding ensemble. This concerns particularly the banks of the Tajo River (las Vegas) and the corresponding view axes towards and from the old part of the town. In this context the proposed development of the area of Vega Alta and Vega Baja (respectively located on the East and West sides of the old historic centre) must be seen as particularly critical; here the new Municipal Development Plan provisionally approved in June 2006 recognises as “developable” the land classified as “protected” by the General Municipal Plan for Urban Planning (PGMOU) provisionally approved on 28 November 1985 according to the documentation presented by Spain in December 1985 for inscription of Toledo on the World Heritage List, which led to the positive reso-

lution of the World Heritage Committee in November 1986. Only after the nomination had been submitted a great part of the Vega Baja was reclassified as “developable” land and its possible uses were also changed, without having previously informed nor consulted the World Heritage Committee. If the new Municipal Development Plan is definitely approved in the next months, one of the consequences will be that important areas of Vega Alta and Baja will be built up, causing the loss of the morphology, the distinctive character and the surrounding landscape of the town, which were considered as outstanding values for its inscription on the World Heritage List.

In this context, it is convenient to draw our attention to the famous paintings by El Greco where the entire cultural landscape around Toledo with the hillsides in the background and the river-side are depicted such as “*View of Toledo*” (Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York), “*Laocoön*” (National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.), which complements this view; furthermore the most famous “*View and Plan of Toledo*” (Greco House and Museum, Toledo) or “*View of Toledo*” in the background of the painting of *San José* (Chapel of San José, now in the Sacristy of the Cathedral, Toledo). It is evident that many people visit the wonderful town of Toledo attracted by the outstanding paintings of El Greco and will not tolerate if the “setting” of this town, painted by this artist in such a special way, is lost in an ever-increasing urban sprawl.

One of the ICOMOS’ most serious concerns, given the imminent risks observed through the excavation works already undertaken, is the area of Vega Baja because of the Visigoth remains preserved in the ground and representing an important epoch in the history of Toledo and Spain. The foundations and other remains of Visigoth buildings – probably unique in Spain and also substantial for knowledge of urbanism of the Visigoth culture – are presently being almost completely exposed in the course of a large-scale excavation and apparently there are no plans to preserve these important historic traces in their integrity. It seems necessary to remain that even

Old town of Toledo and Tajo river (Photo: M.Pz.)



the best documentations as results of excavations cannot replace the underground archive of an archaeological site. Excavations should therefore be better restricted to partial areas, unless emergency excavations are necessary (compare the recommendations of 1956 in the Charter of New Delhi: "Each Member State should consider maintaining untouched, partially or totally, a certain number of archaeological sites..."). Consequently, it is quite surprising to see the extensive use of bulldozers for an archaeological excavation, even if presumably the archaeologists working in Toledo are trying under enormous time pressure to save at least what can be saved. Nonetheless, when visiting the place it is reasonable to think: What will remain of the Visigoth's traces apart from the planned modern town quarter – which according to illustrations on the construction site signs looks comparatively banal? What will there be in the future as a reminder of the Visigothic tradition of Toledo? Moreover, faced with the building-up of these important open spaces we should be worried about certain view axes towards the historic city like the still existing possibility of contemplating the ensemble from a panoramic viewpoint, and also about the connection with the former Roman area and the Roman circus. Sadly enough, the circus is already being cut in two by a road, which presumably is going to be upgraded as an access road to the new town quarter?

The town of Toledo blends harmoniously into the surrounding landscape which is intimately linked to its characteristic physiognomy. Both the natural and cultural values of this particular setting are a substantial part of the ensemble which cannot be understood without the adjacent valley of the Tajo River and its Vegas Alta and Baja.

If the new Municipal Development Plan (POM) is definitely approved, this will result in an irreparable loss of the above cultural and natural values, the urban model, the morphology, the authenticity and the integrity of the World Heritage of Toledo. This will also mean the loss of its character, its identity, its panoramic views and its landscapes, which have been – and still are – protected in a considerable extent by the Spanish regulations and by the UNESCO Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

Surely, it still must be possible to avert the dangers to the World Heritage site of Toledo in connection with the new Municipal Development Plan. That is why ICOMOS invites the responsible authorities and institutions to make an effort for preserving the integrity and authenticity of Toledo, which should be used and transmitted to future generations in the best possible conditions.

Michael Petzet  
President of ICOMOS  
July 2006

## Possible Impact of the Spanish High-Speed Train (AVE) on the Church of the *Sagrada Familia* in Barcelona

In Barcelona the proposed construction of an underground tunnel for passage of the Madrid-Zaragoza-Barcelona-French border line of the Spanish high speed train (AVE) has generated public alarm as a result of cracks already appearing in buildings in the city of El Prat de Llobregat where the tunnel is presently under construction. There is serious concern about a possible repetition of this phenomenon in the city of Barcelona. At the same time, a heated public debate has arisen about the suitability of the route chosen for the

underground passage of the train through the center of Barcelona, because of the possibility that the construction of the new tunnel might damage nearby buildings. This has also caused concern among members of the construction committee of the Church of the *Sagrada Familia*, i.e. specialists and cultural heritage associations and other concerned groups, because of the potential negative impact of the AVE on the integrity of the monument, mainly owing to the close proximity of the church and the new train line.

In view of this situation, the Spanish Committee of ICOMOS, after examining the assessment made by the construction committee (CC) of the Church of the *Sagrada Familia* as well as the geological and chemical reports provided by the CC on the potential impact of the high speed train on the church; and after consulting other specialists and analyzing the case in the light of the provisions of the World Heritage Convention, submits the present report to the competent authorities in World Heritage and the institutions involved in its defense for all pertinent purposes:

### Preliminary considerations

The projected route of the AVE line Madrid-Zaragoza-Barcelona-French border includes the construction of an underground tunnel for passage of the train at the point where it crosses Mallorca Street in Barcelona. This tunnel will be approximately 12 m in diameter and will be located at a depth of 30 m and at a distance of 3-4 m from the Glory façade (main façade) of the Church of the *Sagrada Familia*. To prevent potential damage from the tunnel construction and the passage of the high-speed train, the tunnel construction team has proposed to build a reinforced concrete slurry wall 240 m long and 42 m deep, composed of 1.5 m piles separated by 2 m. The distance from this wall to the foundations of the church will be 1.75 m and 0.75 m to the tunnel.

The church is a unique and structurally complex monument of large proportions, volume and weight, and when it is finished it will reach a maximum height of 170 m and have towers 120 m high (Glory façade). The already built central nave reaches a height of 45 m and its roof, now under construction, will rise to 70 m. The columns of the central nave branch at a certain height, forming a light tree-like structure, which, according to the temple construction committee, "is vulnerable due to its fragility to possible differential movements greater than those foreseen in the construction project for the church." The towers of the Nativity façade, declared World Heritage, reach a height of 110 m and belong to an earlier period of construction. Because of this, they rise on foundations that are shallower and less rigid than the rest of the church.

The Nativity façade and crypt of the *Sagrada Familia*, direct work by the architect Antoni Gaudí and located in this church, were recognized by UNESCO as works of outstanding universal value and were included on the World Heritage List on July 15, 2005. Although the rest of the church is not included in the work of outstanding universal value, it forms a "whole" with the declared property, i.e. a single architectural unit (from a conceptual, functional, spatial, structural, volumetric viewpoint), and is therefore also subject to protection. The legal figure for its protection is that of a "buffer zone" (or setting) of a World Heritage property.

In the dossier for declaring the Nativity façade and crypt of the *Sagrada Familia* World Heritage, which was evaluated by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee at the initiative of the Kingdom of Spain, their inclusion on the World Heritage List is justified on the basis of complying with criteria I, II, III and VI

The Spanish State, as a signatory of the World Cultural and

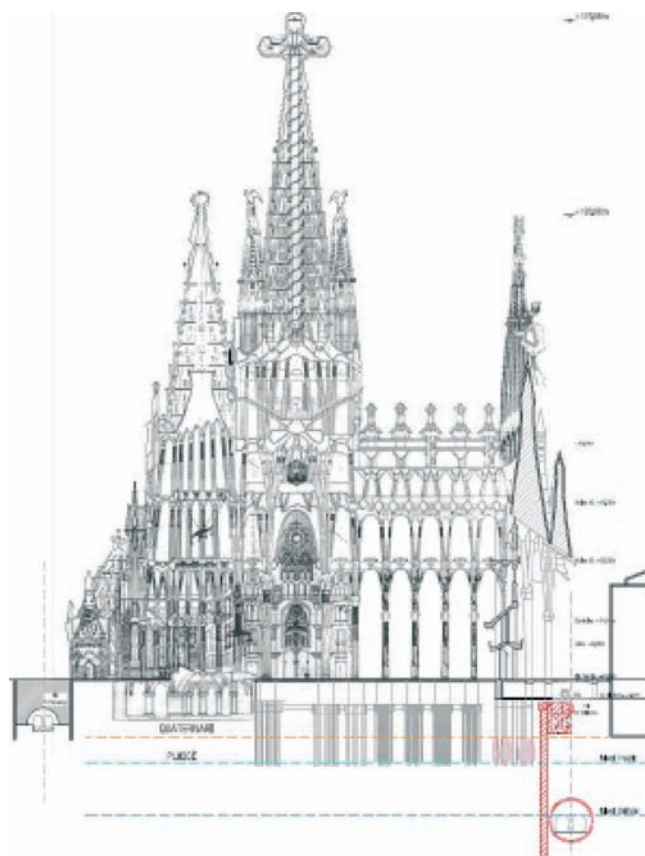


Natural Heritage Convention, has the responsibility and the obligation, among others, to ensure the conservation and transmission of the cultural heritage included on the World Heritage List for future generations (Art. 4), because they are unique and irreplaceable properties of exceptional universal value. It also has the obligation (Art. 6) not to take any deliberate measures that directly or indirectly damage this cultural heritage.

### **Reports consulted**

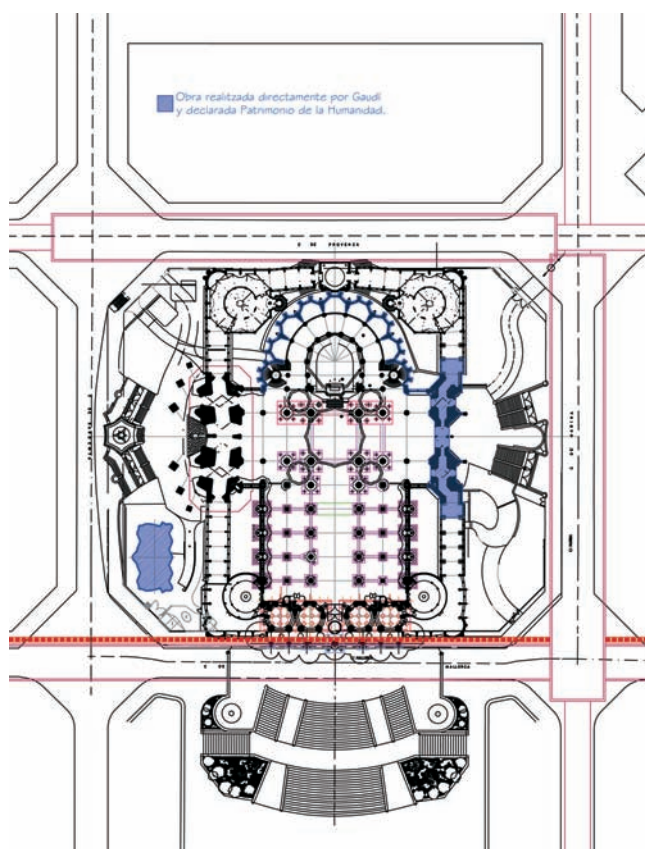
With regard to the potential impact of the proposed tunnel on the building elements of the church, the reports consulted underline the following:

- The monumental nature of the church.
- For the above reason the need for more careful precautions to be taken than usual in project design and execution of the works.
- Concern that the works for construction of the tunnel and protective wall do not adversely affect the integrity of the church.
- Consideration of the structural complexity and unity of the church complex.
- Concern about “the fragility and structural vulnerability of the church to differential movements greater than those foreseen in the construction project for the church”. These movements could be caused “by possible differential settling of the foundations of its supporting elements caused by probable incidents during tunnel construction or use or during construction of the pile wall for protection of the church”. They could also be caused by “future geological movements, such as washout of sands from increased water flow caused by reduced water passage due to the barrier of the pile wall barrier, or as an effect of the final weight of the building on the Pliocene ground underneath that could damage the structure of the tunnel.”
- It is also noted as a building experience that “during their construction the Nativity towers experienced a settling of a few centimeters due to their weight and the characteristics of their stone and lime mortar foundations, which caused cracks in the façade and adjacent windows”. It can be inferred from the above that as a consequence of the new shallower and less rigid foundations any damage occurring to the church would be greater than on the previous occasion.
- The consideration that the predicted maximum movements or displacements cannot be guaranteed, but only estimated, because their calculation is based on the assessment of a very complex and heterogeneous medium such as the subsoil, which may contain hidden features. As a consequence of this and due to the fragility and massiveness of the church, “the damages that may be caused will probably be irreparable”.
- The consideration that in addition to potential irreparable damage to the structure of the church, there is a risk of physical injuries to persons from possible falling objects.
- The projected tunnel “must be excavated in Tertiary soil (Pliocene) formed by decarbonated sands and layers of clay and marls below the water table level”. This soil is classified by Dr. Riba as “poorly cohesive and soft”.
- The consideration that the pile wall does not totally guarantee the protection of the church.
- The negative impact that could be caused to the church by “possible deterioration over the years in the reinforced concrete structure proposed by ADIF, since it is located partially and permanently below the water table level and very close to the



Barcelona, project for a high-speed train (AVE) underneath the main façade of the Church of the Sagrada Família

Church of the Sagrada Família, general plan



church foundations, which remain above the water table level.”

- The lack of consideration in the informative study of “possible natural or intentional accidents that could affect the work of the brilliant architect Gaudí”.
- Concern about the “impact of the vibrations on the fragile structures of the church caused by the passage of the train”. Once the tunnel has been built, high-speed passage of the trains consisting of several 80-ton cars will produce waves of vibration that will be transmitted to the ground both through the air and directly through the rails. The vibrations will propagate through the ground to the foundations and from there to the building structure. This concern is based, among other reasons, on the fact that in the informative study an evaluation is missing of the dynamic impact that will be caused by the vibrations produced on the fragile structure and foundations of the church and on the pile wall. In addition, there is no study on how these vibrations may affect the durability of the church, the vaults and the rest of the building structures. The pile wall as currently proposed is not considered to be a sufficient protective measure against this type of impacts.
- Therefore, the proposal to avoid potential damage to the monument by moving the tunnel away from it.

## Conclusions

Due to the high cultural value of the Church of the *Sagrada Família* in Barcelona the conservation of its integrity is imperative, especially if one considers that the UNESCO included the Nativity façade and crypt on the World Heritage List for their outstanding universal value. For this reason, in accordance with the World Cultural and Natural Heritage Convention, the responsible bodies must use all the means and measures at their disposal to guarantee the monument's integrity and avoid any possible damage.

It is noted that the current project for the tunnel and protective wall for the church calls for their construction within a few centimeters of the monument, which, due to its structural fragility and the nature of the underlying ground, could affect the foundations and cause differential settling, which might damage the structure of the church. The predicted maximum displacement cannot be guaranteed, but only estimated, because its calculation is based on an assessment of a very complex and heterogeneous medium such as the subsoil. High-speed passage of the train may also produce vibrations that could affect the foundations and structure of the church. To our knowledge, no study on the dynamic impact on the foundations and structure has been made, and we consider that a pile wall is not an effective protective measure against this type of impact. In summary, the project submitted does not offer sufficient guarantees for a conservation of the integrity of the built work or the work pending construction, and may cause irreparable damage to the monument and possible accidents.

A new project needs to be developed in which extraordinarily complex and detailed tests, analyses and studies are performed in an attempt to minimize the risk, which would then be used as the basis for designing new protective and safety measures if they are feasible. Even so, and in spite of the quality of the possible studies and projects, there would be no absolute guarantee, given the complexity of the ground and the monument.

In view of this, it would be recommendable to choose another route further away from the monument so that the high-speed train will not pose any risk to the integrity of such an irreplaceable heritage property as this work by Gaudí. At the same time, the compe-

tent State authorities in World Heritage protection are reminded that under the World Heritage Convention they have the obligation to take appropriate measures to prevent possible irreparable damage to the monument and the loss of its integrity.

ICOMOS Spain  
Madrid, 1 February 2007

## Sobre la Incidencia del Proyecto Nuevo Teatro, Auditorio y Centro Cultural de Lugo en la Muralla Romana de la Ciudad y su Entorno, Bien del Patrimonio Mundial

El proyecto de Nuevo Teatro, Auditorio y Centro Cultural de la Ciudad de Lugo, de los arquitectos Marcos Parga e Idoia Otegui, se ubica en el histórico edificio del antiguo Hospital de Inválidos, también conocido como Cuartel de San Fernando.

El antiguo Hospital-Cuartel se halla situado en el casco histórico de la ciudad, en el entorno inmediato, a menos cincuenta metros, de la Muralla Romana de Lugo que rodea el núcleo histórico de la población.

En el año 2000 la Muralla Romana fue incluida por la UNESCO en la Lista de Bienes Culturales Patrimonio Mundial, como monumento.

### El edificio del Hospital de Inválidos- Cuartel de San Fernando

Se trata de una construcción barroca-neoclásica para la que, según las últimas investigaciones históricas, el Arquitecto Mayor de las Obras Reales, Francisco Sabatini, ordenó formar plano, perfiles y cálculo de la obra, a cuyo fin comisionó al ingeniero militar Bartolomé de Amphoux. Este último, en 1779, se encargó de las trazas y la dirección de obra, aunque el proyecto sería revisado y corregido por el mencionado Francisco Sabatini, que ostentaba el cargo de Director y Comandante del ramo de Caminos, Puentes, Edificios de Arquitectura Civil y Canales de Riego y Navegación. Se conservan documentos y planimetría en los archivos General de Simancas y Militar de Madrid.

Las obras se concluyeron en 1790. La planta del inmueble es rectangular y dispone de patio porticado de dos alturas y cubierta regular a dos aguas. El edificio resulta equilibrado, de sobrias y austeras líneas; su construcción obedece a los parámetros técnicos, funcionales y estilísticos de la arquitectura militar de la Ilustración. Su importancia, independientemente de su valor histórico, le viene dada por su tipología, ya que en ella se combinan, por un lado, los avances de la Ilustración en materia sanitaria y hospitalaria (adaptada a los inválidos militares) y, por otro, su función militar como cuartel. La escasez de arquitectura militar hospitalaria de esta época confiere al edificio una singularidad y un gran valor cultural y arquitectónico. Singularidad y valores que no se han sabido, o no se han querido, reconocer.

Su presencia urbana, arquitectónica y social en la ciudad es notable. La proximidad del cuartel a la muralla, su importancia y la fuerte impronta militar del mismo hicieron que el nombre del santo rey que ostentaba el cuartel fuese, también, el de una de las puertas de acceso a la ciudad de la muralla, la más cercana al establecimiento militar.



La función militar del cuartel es innegable. Al tiempo de resolver el acuartelamiento de la tropa en la ciudad y de atender a los inválidos militares el cuartel se concibe como elemento de defensa estratégica de uno de los accesos más importantes a la misma. Por esta razón se puede decir que, *en el momento de la construcción del cuartel, éste, forma con la muralla una unidad*. Su realización será el fruto de la aplicación de los últimos conocimientos y estrategias militares de la época.

Permitirá, además, el control de la población civil lucense. La muralla, perdida en gran parte su capacidad defensiva a mediados del siglo XVIII debido a las nuevas técnicas militares, verá incrementarse su potencial de defensa y control con la construcción del inmediato cuartel. En consecuencia, entendemos que puede considerarse el cuartel como parte de la función defensiva de la muralla y parte funcional e histórica de la misma.

### **Protección de los valores culturales del Patrimonio Mundial de la muralla y su entorno**

De acuerdo con la Convención del Patrimonio Mundial (1972), España, como Estado parte reconoce la obligación de identificar, proteger, conservar, rehabilitar (poner en valor) y transmitir a las generaciones futuras el patrimonio cultural inscrito en la Lista de Bienes Patrimonio Mundial, mediante la actuación de las Administraciones competentes en materia de Patrimonio Cultural.

Todos los bienes inscritos en la lista del Patrimonio Mundial deben conservar al máximo la integridad y la autenticidad de los valores que dieron lugar a su inscripción. Según disponen las vigentes "Directrices Prácticas para la Aplicación de la Convención del Patrimonio Mundial", en su apartado 96 : *«La protección y gestión de los bienes declarados patrimonio de la humanidad deben garantizar que el valor universal excepcional, las condiciones de integridad y/o autenticidad en el momento de la inscripción en la lista se mantengan o mejoren en el futuro.»*

En referencia a la zona de amortiguamiento (entorno de protección) las mismas Directrices disponen en su párrafo 103: *«Cuando la conservación adecuada del bien lo requiera, deberá establecerse alrededor del bien una zona de amortiguamiento»*.

El párrafo 104 de las mencionadas Directrices precisa que: *«A los efectos de la protección del bien propuesto, una zona de amortiguamiento es un área alrededor del bien cuyo uso y desarrollo están restringidos jurídica y/o consuetudinariamente a fin de reforzar su protección. Para ello se tendrá en cuenta el entorno inmediato del bien propuesto, perspectivas y otras áreas o atributos que son funcionalmente importantes como apoyo al bien y a su protección. La zona de amortiguamiento deberá determinarse en cada caso mediante los mecanismos adecuados. La propuesta de*

*inscripción deberá contener detalles sobre la extensión, las características y usos autorizados en la zona de amortiguamiento, así como un mapa donde se indiquen los límites exactos tanto del bien como de su zona de amortiguamiento.»*

En el caso de la Muralla Romana de Lugo, la Documentación Técnica incorporada al Expediente de Inscripción como Bien Patrimonio de la Humanidad considera al recinto intramuros de la ciudad como Zona de Amortiguamiento. Esta zona viene definida por los límites de aplicación del PEPRI (Plan Especial de Protección y Reforma Interior) vigente en el momento de la inclusión de la muralla en la Lista del Patrimonio Mundial. En consecuencia, la normativa de aplicación urbanística será la del PEPRI y los parámetros de conservación, como mínimo, los existentes en ese momento. En el expediente se señala también que el recinto intramuros está declarado Conjunto Histórico artístico por Decreto nº 443/1973 de 22 de febrero y, por esa razón, desde el punto de vista cultural será de aplicación la Ley 16/1985 del Patrimonio Histórico Español.

La importancia de la zona de amortiguamiento en la conservación del bien se subraya en el párrafo 107 de las Directrices. Dice así: *«Aunque las zonas de amortiguamiento no suelen formar parte del bien propuesto, cualquier modificación de la zona de amortiguamiento realizada con posterioridad a la inscripción del bien en la Lista del Patrimonio Mundial tendrá que obtener la aprobación del Comité del Patrimonio Mundial»*.

En la misma documentación del Expediente de Inscripción se hace constar como edificio de interés el "Hospital de Inválidos o Cuartel de San Fernando", pues por los dos nombres es conocido.

Por otra parte, de acuerdo con la Legislación Española, no puede negarse que el Hospital de Inválidos-Cuartel de San Fernando, por su carácter militar y defensivo vinculado estrechamente a la muralla, tiene la consideración de Bien de Interés Cultural en la categoría de monumento. En efecto, la Ley 16/1985 de 25 de junio de 1985, del Patrimonio Histórico Español, en su Disposición Adicional segunda, dice que *"se consideran de Interés Cultural y quedan sometidos al régimen previsto en la presente Ley los bienes a que se contrae el Decreto de 22 de abril de 1949"*. Este Decreto determina que *"todos los Castillos de España quedan bajo la protección del Estado, que impedirá toda intervención que altere su carácter o pueda provocar su derrumbamiento"* y ordena, al mismo tiempo, la redacción de un Inventario "lo mas detallado posible" de castillos existentes en España. Este inventario, aparecerá publicado, por la Dirección General de Bellas Artes, en 1968, bajo el título de "Inventario de los Monumentos Militares españoles"<sup>2</sup> y será un intento no perfecto ni definitivo (según se reconoce en la misma publicación) de sistematizar la protección de los monumentos militares españoles al amparo del Decreto de 1949. Posteriormente, y en la misma línea que el

Lugo, vista panorámica del cuartel en la actualidad



Lugo, proyección del resultado del proyecto (PO2 arquitectos)



Inventario, sobre este mismo Decreto y con la misión también de clarificar conceptos, se emitió una Circular por la Dirección General de Bellas Artes del Ministerio de Cultura, el 1 de junio de 1981, en la que, a tenor de la misma, se desprende que a efectos de protección este Decreto protege como monumentos genéricos todos los restos de construcciones militares históricas existentes en España. Amplía, al igual que sucede con el Inventario, el concepto de “castillo” y lo extiende a toda la arquitectura militar quedando ésta, en consecuencia, bajo la protección del Estado.

Ignorada esta circunstancia por las autoridades competentes en materia de patrimonio cultural, se da la circunstancia inversa de que el edificio en cuestión, que sí había sido catalogado por el ayuntamiento, fue posteriormente descatalogado en 1997.

La disposición adicional primera de la Ley 8/1995 de 30 de octubre de 1995, del Patrimonio Cultural de Galicia, considera bienes de interés cultural los declarados con anterioridad a su aplicación.

El hecho de que el Cuartel de San Fernando no esté incluido en el Registro General de BIC, por las razones que sean, no excluye que no deba ser reconocido como tal y, en consecuencia, protegido y conservado por las autoridades competentes en la materia, de acuerdo con su consideración de BIC. Así mismo se considera que esta irregularidad jurídica debe subsanarse a la mayor brevedad.

### ***Nuevo uso y adaptación del antiguo edificio al mismo***

El proyecto prevé un nuevo uso para el edificio, proponiendo destinar el antiguo cuartel-hospital a Nuevo Teatro, Auditorio y Centro Cultural de la Ciudad de Lugo. El nuevo uso, totalmente distinto de la función primitiva, precisa para integrarse en el viejo edificio de una operación traumática. Operación mediante la que se transformaría profundamente su tipología de planta rectangular con patio central (así señalada en el Expediente de declaración) para convertirla en una U resultante de la destrucción del ala correspondiente a la fachada posterior del edificio histórico. La U se cierra en el proyecto con una nueva construcción, de estética contemporánea, que alberga la sala del auditorio, la caja escénica y otras dependencias. Con la intervención propuesta, el antiguo patio o claustro pierde un ala y sufre una alteración drástica de sus dimensiones y su función, quedando convertido en un gran “foyer” cubierto. Las tres alas restantes se ven notoriamente modificadas en su estructura al ser rehabilitadas con la finalidad de ubicar en ellas los nuevos espacios destinados a usos culturales (escuela de música, mediateca, salas de exposiciones y polivalente, área administrativa, cafetería-restaurante, etc.). Por otra parte, debido a exigencias técnicas, la caja escénica proyectada sobrepasa volumétricamente en exceso el nivel de cubierta original. Cubierta

que, a su vez, ve transformada su imagen de elemento unitario que engloba las cuatro alas del cuartel por otro de cierre, a tres aguas, de las alas de la U. El patio que resta, después de incluir en él la sala y ser destinado una parte a “foyer” se cubre con una nueva cubierta-visera que permite la entrada de luz cenital. Esta nueva cubierta-visera enlaza con la de la caja escénica y estará construida con materiales totalmente ajenos a los tradicionales del monumento. La caja escénica sobresale de la fachada y cubierta original y por su volumen, dinamismo de la forma, materiales, color y textura rompe de manera violenta el carácter equilibrado y sereno del hospital-cuartel, el carácter del conjunto histórico y, al mismo tiempo, las visuales protegidas de la muralla. El ala derribada será substituida por una nueva construcción que originará una nueva fachada, de estética y materiales nuevos que enlazan con los de la caja escénica desnaturalizando al edificio histórico y su unidad compositiva.

De todo lo dicho anteriormente se deduce que el nuevo uso propuesto, de realizarse, destruiría los valores culturales protegidos por los que la muralla de Lugo fue incluida en la Lista del Patrimonio, motivo por el cual resulta totalmente desaconsejable su realización.

Lugo, proyección del resultado del proyecto (PO2 arquitectos)





## **Consideraciones generales**

De los apartados anteriores se deduce que, de acuerdo con los criterios de la Convención del Patrimonio Mundial, los valores culturales por los que fue declarada la Muralla de Lugo deben ser conservados al máximo en su autenticidad e integridad. Los elementos a proteger son los definidos en el momento de su inclusión en la Lista del Patrimonio Mundial y la normativa legal de aplicación debe garantizar, como mínimo, los parámetros de protección existentes en el momento de su inclusión en dicha Lista. La conservación se refiere no solo al monumento propiamente dicho, sino también a su Zona de Amortiguamiento (entorno de Protección).

La Muralla de Lugo se ve afectada por la propuesta de nuevo Teatro, Auditorio y Centro Cultural en su entorno de protección en los siguientes aspectos:

- **Visuales:** Debido al nuevo volumen y a la forma, materiales, color y texturas propuestas, las visuales se ven alteradas negativamente al romper el equilibrio existente en el momento de la antedicha inscripción. La obra, de realizarse, afectará de forma notable y negativa al entorno visual de la muralla, así como a la armonía espacial y ambiental existente entre el edificio y el resto del conjunto histórico. Al mismo tiempo, se cambiaría la volumetría original del histórico Hospital-Cuartel perdiéndose con ello sus serenas y equilibradas formas y proporciones. La nueva fisonomía del edificio y los nuevos materiales crearían también un contraste con las formas y con los materiales, colores y texturas existentes. Esta reforma supondría, en consecuencia, un cambio muy importante en la configuración espacial y visual del Hospital-Cuartel y, por ende, de su imagen propia y de relación con la muralla y edificios circundantes. La nueva imagen resultaría, sin lugar a dudas, muy alejada de la existente en el momento de la inclusión de las murallas en la Lista del Patrimonio Mundial y, por tanto, protegida.

- **Hospital de Inválidos-Cuartel de San Fernando:** De realizarse el proyecto presentado supondría la pérdida por destrucción de los valores patrimoniales (tipología, volumen, estructura, concepto arquitectónico, carácter, espacialidad, significación histórica, ciudadana y militar, etc.), en su autenticidad e integridad, del antiguo edificio señalado de interés en el Expediente de Inscripción en la Lista del Patrimonio Mundial y considerado BCIN de acuerdo con el Decreto de 22 de abril de 1949 y la Circular de la Dirección General de Bellas Artes, del Ministerio de Cultura, de 1 de junio de 1981.

El proyecto de Auditorio, de construirse en el antiguo Hospital-Cuartel, causaría un grave e irreparable daño al edificio al desvirtuar y destruir su singularidad, su significado histórico y sus valores culturales y arquitectónicos fundamentales. Cualidades por las que merece ser respetado y conservado sin alteraciones, ya que se conservan muy pocos ejemplares de este tipo y en su estado de autenticidad e integridad.

- **Entorno urbano:** La construcción del nuevo auditorio significaría la pérdida de los valores urbanos, espaciales, formales, ambientales y referenciales de este sector del centro histórico lucense que da soporte y forma parte inseparable del entorno protegido de la muralla.

El problema, como puede apreciarse, no es únicamente de mantenimiento de las visuales existentes en el momento de la inscripción

en la Lista del Patrimonio Mundial, lo que ya de por sí es suficientemente importante, sino, también, de conservación de un edificio histórico de interés y del carácter y ambiente urbano de la zona que, obviamente, el nuevo proyecto alteraría de forma muy sustancial con la introducción de unos volúmenes, unos materiales y un diseño totalmente ajenos a los existentes. El nuevo edificio, de realizarse, adquiriría una dimensión espacial y una singularidad que desequilibraría el conjunto protegido.

Existe un defecto grave inicial, de planteamiento, al proponer un cambio de uso tan radical en el antiguo edificio sin tener en cuenta la obligación, por Ley, de conservar los valores culturales preexistentes. Si se quiere realizar el nuevo Auditorio en el Cuartel de San Fernando, los condicionantes espaciales, funcionales y técnicos son tan fuertes y tan grandes que no existe otra alternativa que no conlleve la destrucción previa del monumento para así poder ubicar los nuevos espacios. Pero esta solución, como se puede deducir de lo expresado en los apartados anteriores, es totalmente incompatible con la obligación de conservar los valores patrimoniales culturales, tangibles e intangibles, derivada de la inclusión de la muralla de Lugo y su entorno en la Lista del Patrimonio Mundial. Por esta razón, se considera conveniente la realización del proyecto del nuevo Teatro, Auditorio y Centro Cultural de Lugo en otro lugar que no reúna los condicionantes del Hospital-Cuartel y que no afecte negativamente al entorno de la Muralla según se ha explicado.

## **Recomendaciones finales**

Se recomienda muy especialmente a las autoridades responsables de la Xunta de Galicia y del Ayuntamiento de Lugo que cumplan escrupulosamente las normas de actuación y los criterios de intervención inherentes a la aplicación de la Convención del Patrimonio Mundial para, en primer lugar, poder permitir la mejor conservación de la muralla de Lugo y del carácter de su entorno, evitando con ello las posibles afectaciones visuales negativas derivadas del proyecto en cuestión y, en segundo lugar, para poder conseguir en toda su integridad la conservación del antiguo Hospital de Inválidos-Cuartel de San Fernando. Edificio éste, de carácter monumental, protegido por la inscripción de la muralla en la Lista del Patrimonio Mundial al formar parte de la zona de amortiguamiento y considerado, de acuerdo con la Ley del Patrimonio Histórico Español, BIC en la categoría de monumento. Por estos motivos se solicita que dichas autoridades no autoricen la construcción del proyecto de auditorio en el antiguo Hospital-Cuartel.

Se recomienda también que las autoridades competentes realicen las gestiones necesarias para dar a conocer pública y formalmente la protección legal conferida al Hospital de Inválidos-Cuartel de San Fernando, como monumento que es, en virtud de la Ley del Patrimonio Histórico Español.

Finalmente, se recomienda que el Cuartel-Hospital de San Fernando se destine a otro uso compatible con su categoría, que no afecte a sus valores, a su autenticidad y a su integridad y que sea igualmente respetuoso con los valores espaciales, formales y ambientales de este sector del centro histórico lucense.

Madrid, 2 de mayo de 2007.

Vº Bº

La Presidenta del Comité Español de ICOMOS  
Fdo: María Rosa Suárez-Inclán Ducassi

## Seville: Comments on the Planned Construction of a Skyscraper by Cesar Pelli

The announcement of the construction of a 178-meter high building in Seville, to be erected very close to the boundary of the historic city center and the Monastery of the Cartuja and in clear competition with the landscape of the Giralda – one of the city's three properties inscribed on the World Heritage List – has caused deep concern in the Spanish National Committee of ICOMOS. The construction of this skyscraper would not only have a large impact itself, and but would set a precedent for the construction of new skyscrapers. It would also be a shift in the urban scenery from the landmarks, which from the perspectives of history, heritage and identity are of true value, towards an approach undertaken in cities which due to a lack of other urban landmarks resort to skyscrapers as a symbol of their identity. Seville can do without this type of elevated structure without losing any of its identity, and without becoming a victim of this false nostalgia for presumed modernity. Modernity is achieved in another way in European cities. Rather than being determined by the height of the new buildings, modernity can be shown through other aspects, also quantitative, but especially cultural and qualitative. This seems more suitable to express the open spirit, the creative capacity for new ways to make the city habitable, and the openness to other more sensible, just and balanced territorial and urban models.

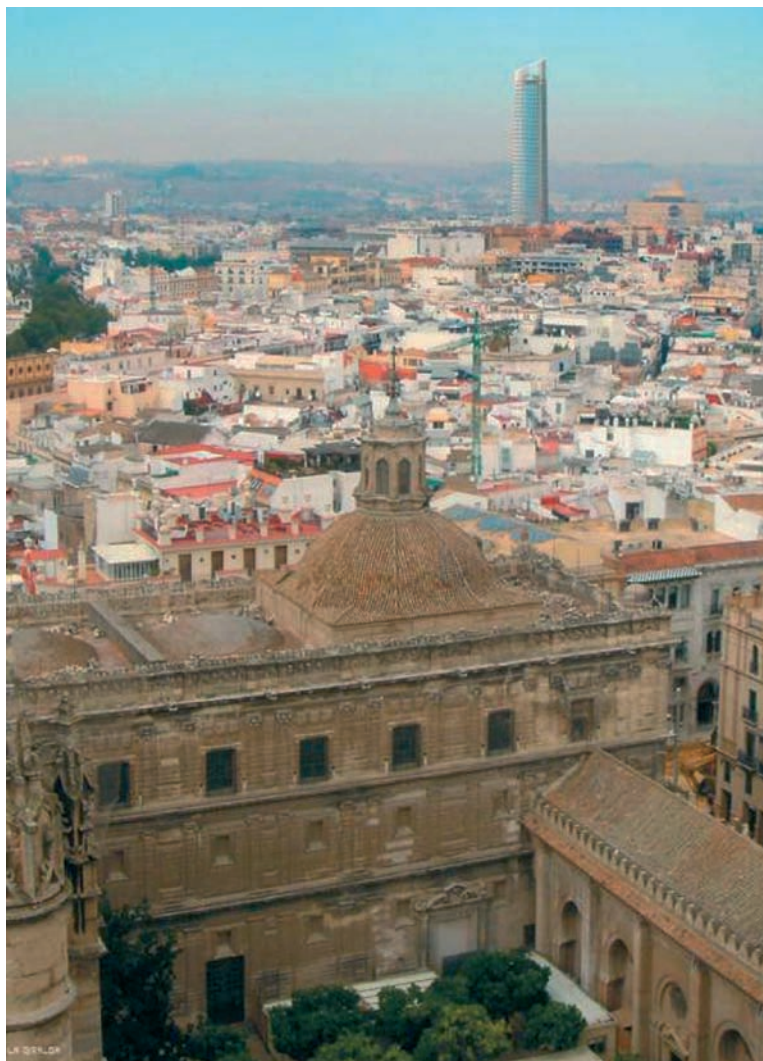
In view of the serious threat posed by this operation already approved both by the municipal and regional authorities, we recommend that the international ICOMOS team in charge of World Heritage affairs cause the creation of a board of experts in cultural heritage to assess the impact of this intervention. If an international contest of ideas was chosen to select the building, which included, in addition to the owners of the land, a group of experts on architecture, a report is now needed from experts of the same standing on cultural heritage conservation, especially on properties declared World Heritage, and experts on heritage landscape to assess the landscape impact of the planned building. It should not be forgotten that, according to the World Heritage Convention, the inclusion of three of Seville's monuments on the World Heritage List carries the obligation to ensure the conservation of their authenticity and integrity, and this does not only concern the buildings themselves, but also the implicit intangible cultural values (the harmonious relation with the immediate and distant environment, views, the preservation of the atmosphere, urban and landscape skylines, etc.). The city as a whole and the landscape of Seville are ultimately much more important than the quality of design of a single building, especially if this building will alter the visual appearance of the city.

Madrid, 7 May 2007

María Rosa Suárez-Inclán Ducassi  
President, ICOMOS Spain

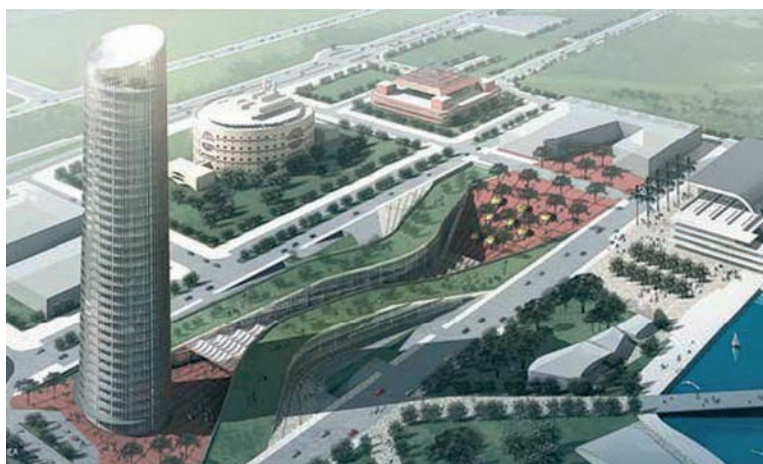
<sup>1</sup> (Textos Básicos de la CPM de 1972, Edición de 2006, UNESCO WHC, sufragada por el MCU de España con cargo a los FEP del Convenio suscrito con el Centro del Patrimonio Mundial)

<sup>2</sup> Inventario de Protección del Patrimonio Cultural Europeo IPCE. España-2. Monumentos de Arquitectura Militar. Inventario resumido. Florentino PEREZ EMBID. MADRID 27 DE JULIO DE 1968. (En esta obra se justifican los conceptos que dan pie a la circular de la Dirección General de Bellas Artes del Ministerio de Cultura, de 1 de junio de 1981 relacionando los castillos con la arquitectura militar y de defensa a nivel de protección).



View of Seville with planned skyscraper

Another view of the skyscraper project in Seville





## THAILAND

### Cooperation on Cultural Heritage Conservation

Since the beginning of 2006, newspapers, magazines and other media have published frequent news items on threats to our nation's cultural heritage. These have given perceptions on conditions of cultural heritage at risk to a certain extent. The media reported not only several cases of theft, illegal diggings and smuggling of ancient objects which are high in historical and aesthetic values; but also demolition and plans of demolition of many "at risk" buildings and communities. These demolitions are profit-driven and completely ignore the social and cultural dimensions of a place. These incidents, which are probably the fastest-paced catastrophe and most difficult to cure threats, have occurred frequently both in urban and rural areas.

One of such cases involves the shophouses (Charoenkrung 52, Bangkok) built circa 1926 to the designs of a French architect. The buildings are home to the Wang Li community which takes its name from the family who built the houses and later donated the land to the Wat Yannawa temple. The proposed development of the area as a shopping centre has been prominent in the news since the end of 2006. The community members, tenants of Wat Yannawa, were unaware of their houses' architectural and historical values and the rich history of their area prior to the incident. They pleaded with the Fine Arts Department to register their community as a National Monument in order to protect their community but the 81-year-old buildings fail to meet the Department's criteria (minimum age 100 years).

In 2004, the landowner, the Wat Yannawa temple, filed a law suit to evict the tenants. The court required that the tenants move from the land by 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2007 but found that the temple had to pay compensation. However, many tenants have refused compensation and have refused to move. Nevertheless, the law enables the temple to evict the tenants and demolish the shophouses. In this case, conservation and development appear to be resolutely at odds.

Nevertheless, not all "at risk" buildings and communities are facing a dead-end. The Mahakan Fortress and its community are an example of a successful resolution of the issues. The Mahakan fortress is part of the remains of Bangkok's fortifications built by King Rama I (reigned 1782 – 1809). The area beside the Mahakan Fort, between the old city wall and the canal, is occupied by a community living in a group of wooden houses described as "a rare complex of vernacular architecture". After a long period of struggle, a solution has been reached by collaboration from several parties, both public and private, including wholehearted cooperation among community members, that the community will be developed into a centre for learning and exchange of knowledge on historical and cultural issues, as well as being a leisure area and tourist attraction. Thus the community, whose members also act as property



House in Wang Li community

Half-demolished house in Wang Li community



Wang Li community (Charoenkrung 52)



caretakers, is ensured its stay on the land. This scheme also conforms to the Rattanakosin Island Development Plan by emphasizing on integration of historical, cultural, and living dimensions as the core of development.

Natural threats to cultural heritage are also critical. Last year's heavy rainfall and flooding damaged a great number of monuments, for instance, the collapse of the pagoda at Wat Phan On and Chang Phueak Gate in Chiang Mai; and the disintegration of bricks, the main construction material of Wiang Kum Kam ancient town which had been submerged under water for months. The overflow of northern rivers also caused flood in the Central region which affected both local dwellings and temples on the river banks. A number of monuments in several provinces, especially Phra Nakahon Si Ayutthaya, Ang Thong and Sing Buri were damaged. Monuments on the northern side of Ayutthaya City Island were greatly affected, as well as those on the river banks i.e. Wat Chai Wattanaram. The Fine Arts Department has initially estimated that the number of damaged monuments represents approximately 10 percent of the total number of monuments in Thailand (approximately 4,000 – 5,000). Natural threats such as the above-mentioned flood, however, are in large part due to human-induced environmental changes.

Amidst the crises which threaten valuable monuments, buildings, communities and relevant arts, organizations which are responsible for protection, conservation, and information distribution both directly and indirectly, i.e. the Fine Arts Department, public and private academic institutions, associations (e.g. Association of Siamese Architects), foundations (e.g. Lek – Praphai Wiriaphan Foundation), and published media etc. are doing their best to help preserve the nation's heritage in a sustainable way.

With awareness in the values of buildings and communities at risk which still exist in every part of the country, the Association of Siamese Architects, in cooperation with the Nippon Paint Co. Ltd., Stonehenge Co. Ltd, Discovery Museum Institute, and ICOMOS Thailand, has organized an "On-line Inventory of Heritage@Risk Projects"; a competition programme aimed to encourage students, professors, and architects to participate in searching, surveying, and collecting data on buildings, communities, and monuments which are valuable in historic, archaeological, social, cultural, and artistic terms. Several groups joined the competition and all the collected information will form the basis of a cultural heritage at risk inventory that will continue to be built on.

Although news-reports on the conditions of cultural heritage and its conservation are disseminated only by small and medium-sized organizations and are of interest to only a limited number of people at present, cooperation and wide distribution of information concerning cultural heritage to the society is certain to catch a wider circle of interested groups and people in the long run. Such information will also raise awareness and recognition of values in monuments, ancient objects, buildings and communities in historic, archaeological, social and cultural terms. Conservation would then



Wooden house, Mahakan Fortress community

cease to be an isolated issue that relies on only one organization; instead it would be a mission of cooperation and participation of several parties. Such participative planning has been demonstrated in a number of successful recent projects.

## Case Studies reported by Cultural Heritage Conservation at Heart Network Group

### *Timber Bridge with Tiered Roofs, Wat Som Kliang, Nonthaburi*

It is recorded that Wat Som Kliang was once a (probably) deserted temple called "Wat Sangkhadet". An evidence of its old age is a Vihara (shrine) which is contemporary with the bridge.

The historical site layout is that the original entry to the temple was from Khlong Khue Khwang canal. (Other parts of this canal are known as Khlong Bang Sano, Khlong Hua Khu and Khlong Wat Phai which connect Khlong Bang Yai at Wat Tha Banthoengtham to Khlong Mahasawat around the Wat Si Rueang Bun area). Such approach is in the opposite direction to the present one. The new approach has separated the community along the canals from the temple, which has turned to face the road rather than the waterway. Due to the impact of modern transportation the Bridge, the old entrance to the temple and linkage between the temple and the community, has gradually lost its use and meaning.

Wooden houses, Mahakan Fortress community







▲ Wooden structured bridge with tiered roofs, Wat Som Kliang, Nonthaburi ▼



▲ Ho Trai (Scriptures Hall), Wat Chang Khong, Chiang Mai ▼



The Bridge is testimony to the flourishing history of orchard communities, whose settlement is at least 450 years old, along the banks of the old Chao Phraya river which has now been channeled into the Khlong Bangkok Noi and Khlong Maenam Om Non.

In terms of cultural landscape and the Central region way of life, it indicates a connection between three mysterious words that lead to a realization of self: community, temple, and Khlong (waterway).

In terms of architecture, it shows a clear wooden structure, a good example of its type and an valuable source of instruction for architectural students as long as it survives intact.

In terms of connection and transition, it is a meeting place between

Land and land	Sky and water
Sunlight and waves	Religious establishment and daily living
Past and future	Present life and next life
Merit-making	Knowledge and virtue
intention and superb craftsmanship	
Truth and beauty	Poem and space

If we allow ourselves time to be quiet and listen...

### ***Ho Trai (Scriptures Hall), Wat Chang Khong, Chiang Mai***

This Ho Trai, or Buddhist Scriptures Hall, was built in 1903 as recorded in a document dating from 104 years ago. The hall is a 2-storeyed plastered brick building with Chinese style structure. Decoration consists of stucco and carved wood of local craftsmanship. The upper floor is decorated with mural paintings. The architecture is a mixture of Lanna and Burmese styles.

This building is a highly valuable cultural heritage due to its:

- Being a representative of the history of Chinese community in Chiang Mai that indicates the role of the Chinese in Buddhism. That is, a new group of influential people who came to replace the noblemen.
- Being valuable in terms of its architectural style. The building is the only example in Chiang Mai of a Scriptures Hall with Chinese structure in the Lanna-Burmese style.
- Containing evidence of mural paintings in gouache technique. The paintings depict a tale "Prince Suwat and Nang Buakham" from Pannas Jataka. It is important evidence of the development of Lanna mural paintings.

At present, the hall is under threat due to negligence. Moreover, a new building adjacent to the back of the hall has caused rainwater entry





Ho Trai (Scriptures Hall), Wat Chang Khong, Chiang Mai, detail

and moisture in the scriptures hall. Apart from this, the setting of the hall has been compromised by inappropriate landscape management. This may also lead to further problems for the building in the future.

### ***Two Ancient Chinese Shophouses with 5 Units, Pattani***

Although both buildings are only shophouses of commoners, they possess high historic value for their part in the administration and settlement of Chinese immigrants in Thailand. They also provide valuable evidence for comparative studies of the architecture of the Chinese diaspora.

#### **Value of the Buildings**

##### *Architectural value*

The buildings are among the earliest groups of Chinese architecture in Thailand, which are evidences of architectural evolution in terms of structure and the use of materials that had developed from Chinese style buildings of the earliest date.

##### *Social value*

The buildings are evidence of the Chinese immigrants who played highly significant roles in the structure and development of Thai society.

##### *Historical value*

Both Chinese style shophouses, built more than a century ago, as well as other Chinese-style buildings in the area, are evidence of the role of Pattani as a port city and trade centre where people of a diversity of nationalities, races and religions have come to live, work, and settle in past centuries.

##### *Scientific value*

The buildings are highly valuable in architectural studies, i.e. space planning, design of shape and form, materials, construction techniques, colouring and decoration, and especially useful for comparative studies of urban dwellings of overseas Chinese in Southeast Asian towns.

#### **Present Conditions and Threats**

These shophouses are still in use, but a point of worry is that No. 220, which is used as an electrical appliances repair shop on the ground floor, is rather untidy. That may lead to deterioration due to lack of maintenance. Besides, the building is not used as dwelling, thus it is not occupied full-time.

Another point of concern is the deterioration of decorative elements, especially those on the gable tops and the top parts of the walls where the stucco and paintings are suffering decay caused by weathering and aging.

Threats to the buildings have been caused by nature, animals, and the dwellers themselves; however, another external factor which seriously threatens the existence of these two shophouses and other old buildings in the area, including all the old Chinese communities in Pattani, is terrorism. Pattani separatists seeking independence as a new Islamic State have caused many non-Muslim dwellers to migrate to safer places. Many ancient Chinese shophouses are now deserted and are rapidly deteriorating due to lack of maintenance. Swiftlets have come to build their nests in those shut-down buildings, which is welcomed by the owners who can gain quite a satisfactory income from the collecting of edible bird's nests instead of leaving the buildings unused.

ICOMOS Thailand



▲  
Two Chinese shop-houses with five units, Pattani  
▼





## TURKEY

### The effects of rehabilitation projects on historic districts in Istanbul

The law and regulation on “The Preservation of Deteriorated Historic and Cultural Immovable Properties by Rehabilitation and Renovation” were officially effectuated in 2005. The objective of this new law was – as defined – to reconstruct and restore areas that were registered as conservation sites by the Monuments Councils, by constituting new residential, commercial, cultural, tourist and social areas and by taking preventive measures against natural disasters. Very large areas on the Historic Peninsula and in the Galata-Beyoğlu region were determined as rehabilitation areas within this context and studies were implemented by local authorities. Newly established committees (“Rehabilitation Committees”) will commence to operate soon. However, these areas either overlap or are very close to the historic areas of Istanbul that are on the World Heritage List and this generates serious debates. Süleymaniye, Fener, Ayvansaray, Sulukule, Kapa! İçarşa Hanlar Region and many other areas will be designated within this context. Unfortunately, most of the people that are appointed for the “Rehabilitation Committees” are not specialists; then again, restoration projects concerning the monuments within these areas will also be evaluated and approved by these new committees. Besides, because these committees’ priorities are urban rehabilitation and gentrification, it is obvious that their studies will not be focused on the preservation of historic fabric. After all, it can easily be figured out that the Historic Peninsula will be even more pressurized through speculations. Rehabilitation and gentrification will, on the other hand, cause the poor people who live in those areas to move away.

### Modern architectural heritage at risk

Since 20<sup>th</sup>-century heritage is partially under legislative protection, the main risk threatening modern architectural heritage is the lack of recognition. Not only in big cities like Istanbul and Ankara, but also in other Anatolian cities the city centres, including public spaces and buildings mainly developed after the 1950s, are suffering from planning decisions. Metropolitan municipalities are developing so-called urban conservation/renovation plans for areas subject to economic pressure.

Istanbul, historic district, one of the rehabilitation areas



Ankara,  
Grand Ankara Hotel



Istanbul, Drapers' Bazaar

Some buildings that have architectural significance, such as the Atatürk Cultural Centre facing Taksim Square, are under threat of being demolished. Earthquake damages and insufficient technical equipment are the main excuses for the demolition of buildings.

Restorations ignoring the architectural character of the buildings are another threat to the conservation of modern heritage. In recent years some unacceptable renovations and reconstructions were carried out. One of these examples is the Grand Ankara Hotel in Ankara, designed by architects Marc J. Sauge (Switzerland) and Yüksel Okan (Turkey) in the 1960s. The new ‘style’ adapted to the building after the renovation is garish neo-classical. All in all, it does not take much to foresee that the so-called refurbishment project will convert a genuinely modernist landmark into an ersatz building. Beyond question, the refurbishment of a building of such historic and architectural significance requires strict abidance to principles set out for the preservation of modern buildings, and all required renovations should be carried out under the supervision of experts qualified in the field.

Due to a lack of recognition and control and due to the absence of general criteria for the protection immediate action is necessary to prepare an inventory list for modern architectural heritage.

## Construction of dams

The construction of dams continues to affect the natural and cultural heritage of the country. In spite of opposition from local people, professionals and international NGOs, the construction of the much-debated Ilisu and Yortanlı dams has come to the final stage. Allianoi is a unique and significant health resort in western Turkey, dating from antiquity. Recent excavations have revealed exquisite ancient baths with pools and interesting surgeons' utensils from ancient times. The department for dams has developed some proposals in order to save the site from total extinction, but the solutions are far from saving the integrity of the site.

Hasankeyf, which is an important medieval site in southeast Turkey, is at risk of being flooded by Ilisu dam. Three European countries are supporting the project with credits. The risks to the environment, the lack of extensive documentation and archaeological research and problems of resettlement are still being discussed by the local public and international NGOs. The construction of the dam will result in the loss of important natural elements like the Tigris river and 75 percent of the historic city of Hasankeyf, which is cut into the soft rock cliffs surrounding the river.

## The remains at Ani

The quarries operated by Armenia, close to the remains at Ani that are situated near the Turkish-Armenian border, have negative effects on the monuments. Although the use of dynamite is abolished, quarrying by mechanical methods is still in progress and vibrations created by machines continue to damage the monuments. These stone quarries not only constitute a serious threat to the monuments that already have structural problems, but also destroy the natural landscape by tearing up the topography. The Advisory Committee established by the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism initiated certain studies for the protection and restoration of the monuments, such as developing proposals for the preservation, interpretation and improvement of the site. However, for an integrated preservation strategy all quarrying activities outside the Turkish territory directly destroying the remains should be halted as well. Armenia's sensitivity and responsibility to the subject will be appreciated.



Adobe architecture

## Adobe architecture

Adobe is a common construction material in the traditional architecture of Turkey, especially in the highlands of Anatolia and Thrace. As people prefer to use materials easily obtainable from the local environs in rural zones, adobe buildings became a basic feature of the cultural landscape where the soil was suitable for its production. However, the architectural characteristics of how adobe is used, including the choices of structural system, architectural elements and finishes show great diversity, depending on physical conditions, including geography, climate and proneness to earthquakes as well as other social, cultural and economic determinants.

Recent socio-economic changes in Turkey in the last thirty years have made adobe buildings less and less desirable, leaving most of these structures in a neglected, dilapidated and even partially destroyed and ruined condition. Meanwhile the few architectural documentation projects carried out in rural zones in Turkey are not adequate to determine the diversity or the state of conservation of this traditional type of architecture. The number of building masters specialising in this tradition is also diminishing quite rapidly.

Drawing attention to the necessity of the conservation of traditional adobe architecture in Turkey, its documentation as a manifestation of its value as part of the national cultural heritage and the detailed study of its production and construction systems to form a basis for conservation and restoration work are becoming an especially important and urgent issue, considering the fact that adobe architecture is being destroyed at great speed.

ICOMOS Turkey

View of the historic site of Ani and the quarries nearby





## Hasankeyf, a site threatened by the Ilisu Dam Project

Hasankeyf, which is one of the medieval sites in Turkey, is faced with the danger of being inundated by Ilisu Dam. The Turkish Prime Minister T. Erdogan earlier promised to stop the project, but now informs the public that the dam construction will start in March 2006. The unfortunate project was designed many years ago, without giving due attention to the presence of the unique architectural heritage at Hasankeyf. In spite of objections from archaeologists, art historians, architects, environmentalists and writers, the project has not been changed or cancelled. The authorities provide only eight-ten more years for further research in the region which will be flooded by the dam reservoir. This very short time is not enough to complete archaeological research; several cultural layers and artifacts will not be able to receive proper attention during the haste or will be flooded before they are systematically studied. The same was also tragically true for several other prehistoric, ancient and urban sites in the GAP region; Zeugma, a Roman garrison city and Halfeti, a beautiful town in the stone tradition are among significant ones which were recently sentenced to death by dam constructions.

In Hasankeyf, the possibility of salvaging some of the monuments by transferring them to another site needs to be considered seriously. Modern technology offers several methods for transferring masonry buildings. The most favorable from the point of conservation is the technique in which the monument is cut off from its foundations and mounted on a wheeled trolley. This sophisticated technique has been used in Europe to move cathedrals and palaces. It would be the right one for Zeynel Bey Tomb, which is a significant monument from late 15th century. The structure has a cylindrical shaft, the exterior of which is decorated with glazed bricks, laid in geometric patterns, featuring Timurid tradition and marking the strong artistic link between Anatolia and Central Asia in the fifteenth century.

Another technique which is widely adopted for moving is by the dismantling of the historic building and its reassembly at the new site. After careful photographic documentation and survey, each stone block in the structure is numbered. This technique is generally applied to monuments with ashlar construction. In Hasankeyf, it can be used to transfer architectural elements like minarets and the gates of the citadel. The criticism to this technique is that during the dismantling

and the re-erection process, monuments lose some of their original details; some blocks break down or crumble. Binding elements like mortar and clamps need to be changed or replaced. The workmanship is not the same. The mounting has to be done very carefully to assure proper alignment of the members.

Moving monuments is a hard task. It requires a good budget, technical means and planning. One of the most important objections to the Ilisu Dam is that there is no proper planning for the re-location of Hasankeyf's architectural heritage. Siting and topography are very important in moving monuments or parts thereof. A relocated building seldom has the same topographic relationship to its new site. When monuments are cut off from their foundations and erected on a completely different site, they look very different. They are alienated/isolated and lose much of their dignity and integrity. Their aesthetic value is diminished. A similar landscape and context has to be created in order to make them impressive and meaningful again. There are no studies or preparations to provide a similar landscape for the monuments; if the projected plan is put into execution, the new open air museum of "Hasankeyf" will be just a small park in which small fragments of great monuments will be exhibited like museum pieces.

One has to consider the fact that it is impossible to create the landscape of Hasankeyf with the Tigris river in the middle and cliffs shaped by action of the water in the past millions of years. The context for the transferred monuments will be totally foreign; since the new site is a land with a small inclination. The landscape at Hasankeyf comprises gigantic natural elements and complex relations among its architectural members. It is impossible to re-create the picturesqueness of the background for monuments like the Koç and Sultan Süleyman Mosques. Furthermore, who will compensate for the loss of the prestigious position of the medieval Castle and the Palace which are perched on a high cliff?

There are also technical problems: the rubble construction does not lend itself easily to being dismantled. Therefore monuments having rubble masonry (like the Koç and Sultan Süleyman mosques) and most of the other smaller structures, can not be transferred successfully. The relieving system in the vaulting of Sultan Süleyman mosque is very interesting. Yet, if this structure is forced to be transferred, most of the historic substance will be lost during the dismantling. Almost ninety-five percent of the masonry will have to be renewed after the operation. This means that authenticity of the cultural heritage will be lost. Authenticity is an important element of preservation. The site,



View of Hasankeyf (Photo: [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org))

form, substance /material of a monument are essential components of its significance as a cultural object. In the attempt to transfer the historic buildings in Hasankeyf, the original site will be changed, the original material will be lost in great scale.

International charters and conventions concerning protection of the cultural heritage recommend that at the preliminary survey stage of engineering projects, sites of historic and archaeological importance be marked and measures taken to preserve them in-situ. UNESCO's Recommendation concerning the Preservation of Cultural Property Endangered by Public or Private Works (1968) points out the fact that *"It is the duty of governments to ensure the protection and the preservation of cultural heritage of mankind as much as to promote social and economic development. (...) Preventive and corrective measures should be aimed at protecting or saving cultural property from public or private works likely to damage and destroy it..."*

UNESCO's recommendations have been ratified by Turkey and several of the European countries who are planning to support the consortium. We believe that it is essential to insist on the revision of the dam project in the light of this fact. Hasankeyf is a Grade I archaeological site with significant monuments. No permission is yet granted from the Monuments Council of the region for the construction of the Ilisu Dam. Ministry of Culture should try to solve this problem for the benefit of Hasankeyf.

Another critical point about Ilisu Dam is its life span. Experts foresee 30-50 years of functional life for this dam. It is predicted that in a very short period of time it will be filled with rubble and not be as useful. Experts claim that, in the long run, the dam will be a social, cultural and environmental disaster. When the very short useful life of the dam is set against the long history of Hasankeyf and its potential to live, one is compelled to ask the authorities: "Why build Ilisu dam?"

No material gain or money can bring back or reproduce a cultural treasure and impressive landscape like Hasankeyf. We have a great deal to learn from this site. People living there and others, who have visited it, have memories and very close ties with the site, all of which are worth more than the benefits the dam will provide.

The GAP region (Southeast Anatolia) hopes to have more and more tourists interested in visiting the cities and archaeological areas of the area. Hasankeyf offers memorable vistas and moments for spectators. From its acropolis, it is wonderful to watch Zeynel Bey tomb and the river Tigris flowing peacefully under the ruins of the medieval bridge. It seems absurd to bury a site which has a great potential for tourism.

When one compares the short-term economic prosperity the dam will generate with the long-term survival of a significant site which encompasses treasures from early human settlements up to late medieval period, one without doubt makes the preference for the survival of Hasankeyf. Public opinion and scholarly concerns back up the view that short-lived dams should not be permitted to devastate culturally abundant lands. Hasankeyf should not be "Doomed by the Dam".

Zeynep Ahunbay  
ICOMOS Turkey  
8 March 2006

ICOMOS Austria, ICOMOS Germany and ICOMOS Switzerland pointed out the devastating consequences for the cultural heritage to the government authorities responsible for the export credit guarantees for the Ilisu consortium – a group of Austrian, German and Swiss companies, which were also informed by means of the following and additional letters:

Dear Sir,

*ICOMOS has learned that you are planning to support the Ilisu Dam Project in southeast Turkey. As you may possibly know, Hasankeyf and several archaeological sites in Turkey are threatened by the Ilisu Dam Project. Hasankeyf has been researched for about twenty years now, but its archaeological potential is still not fully exploited. Many of the other sites in the region which will be inundated are not excavated and researched yet.*

*ICOMOS Turkey and several other NGO's, as well as the local people are concerned about the environmental and archaeological losses the dam construction will cause. Hasankeyf is a medieval settlement which due to being deserted has preserved many of its buildings and archaeological treasures. The site is spectacular, being located on the river Tigris, one of the two big rivers which have given life to the ancient civilizations in Mesopotamia. The rock-cut civil and religious buildings, the citadel and several medieval monuments make Hasankeyf one of the major tourist attractions of southeast Turkey. The local people are closely attached to their heritage and are very worried about being transferred from their villages and detached from their cultural heritage. The Ministry of Culture intends to transfer some of the monuments to a location which will be above the dam lake, but the transfer project is far from salvaging the extensive urban structure and falls short of recreating the atmosphere of the historic site.*

*ICOMOS would like to draw your attention to the fact that by supporting the dam construction, you will help destroy cultural heritage which is registered as a Grade I archaeological site. The international charters like the Valletta Convention encourage the state parties to protect and preserve archaeological heritage. The local people, archaeologists and architects in Turkey are against the project and run campaigns to stop the construction.*

*I hope that this information will help you to revise your intention to realise a project which will result in the destruction of cultural heritage, damage the ecosystem in the region and will dislocate the local inhabitants, detaching them from their cultural heritage and homeland.*

*Yours sincerely*

Michael Petzet  
President of ICOMOS  
7 April 2006

After Berlin and Vienna gave export guarantees to the Ilisu consortium in March 2007, according to press reports Turkey then signed the contracts with the construction companies in August 2007. It seems that the destructions which the first large dam of the river Tigris with its wall measuring 135 metres will cause to the largely inundated site of Hasankeyf and other historic sites can no longer be prevented.

## The flooding of Allianoi, a Roman bath complex

Allianoi, an archaeological site near Bergama (ancient Pergamon) with a Roman bath complex which is not only important because of its mosaics, is soon to be flooded by the Yortanlı Dam. Already in a letter of 2 September 2005 ICOMOS appealed to the Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to stop the project and seek for a better solution:



Dear Prime Minister,

ICOMOS, the International Council on Monuments and Sites, advises UNESCO regarding the World Cultural Heritage and publishes a World Report on Heritage at Risk every year (also to be found on the internet under <http://www.international.icomos.org/risk/index.html>). Whilst in our report 2001/2002 we already protested against a dam project destroying the archaeological site of Zeugma with its famous mosaics, I am sending you an urgent request today on behalf of ICOMOS to prevent the destruction of the archaeological site of Allianoi in the vicinity of Bergama (Pergamon) by another fill dam project. Allianoi is a unique Roman recreation site with thermal baths, an archaeological site of more than 10,000 square metres – so far only 20 percent have been excavated, nonetheless important finds have already been made.

According to a recent documentary on the television channel 3 SAT („Kulturreport“ of 19 August 2005) construction work on this dam is soon to begin, while our archaeological colleagues are still busy making emergency excavations.

A comparatively minor modification of these ruthless plans, i.e. erecting the dam wall at a different position, could prevent one more devastating loss of archaeological heritage in Turkey.

I am therefore urging you to take care of this matter and remain  
Yours sincerely

Prof. Dr. Michael Petzet  
President

Unfortunately, a joint appeal by ICOMOS, Europa Nostra and EAA (The European Association of Archaeologists) of 16 September 2005 and further international protests did not change the plans. Therefore, the subsequent joint appeal of 20 March 2007 could only ask to at least postpone the flooding so that the work of the archaeologists could continue and the necessary protective measures could be carried out:

### **Stop the flooding of Allianoi! Save Allianoi for the present and future generations!**

Joint International Appeal to the Turkish Government

20 March 2007

We, the undersigned, European and global organisations concerned with cultural heritage conservation, education and interpretation – which together reflect the opinion of millions of citizens and of the professional world – express our deep concern at the alarming and imminent threat to Allianoi, an outstanding archaeological Roman Bath complex situated near Bergama in Turkey. We support the widespread opposition – already expressed by many Turkish experts and citizens' associations and also by high representatives of the EU Institutions – to the announced flooding of Allianoi, to follow the finalisation of the Yortanlı Dam.

We deplore the fact that in November 2006, the Regional Commission for the Protection of Cultural and Natural Heritage in Izmir accepted the proposal made by the Turkish State Water Works to halt further excavations at the site and to proceed with the flooding of the area. In deciding so, the above regional body did not give due consideration to the recommendations made by the Special Scientific Committee, set up last year by the Turkish Minister of Culture. These recommendations included a series of alternative conservation measures which could be undertaken before the possible flooding of the area, such as the protection of the site by the construction of an earth wall or by the relocation of some of the most important structures of this archaeological site. We believe that there still is time to implement these protective measures.

Allianoi is a site of extraordinary cultural and historic significance, a cultural heritage shared by the local communities, the Turkish people, the European citizens and the world as a whole. The responsibility to preserve this site for the present and future generations should therefore also be shared.

In the light of the above, we jointly urge the Turkish Government



Detail of the archaeological site of Allianoi (Photo: Massavetas)

*to postpone the flooding of Alliano, pending the completion of the excavation, data-collection and documentation of the site. We also suggest that during this period, the Turkish Government commission an in-depth study of the social, cultural and economic benefits which could be generated for the wider region by a possible development of Alliano into a cultural and health tourism centre. We believe that this should be considered as a serious sustainable development alternative to the foreseen local economic benefits associated with the creation of an irrigation reservoir whose effective life-span is not expected to exceed 50 years. We encourage the Turkish Government to explore the possibility of obtaining European or international support for the financing of such a feasibility study and are prepared to endorse any possible application for such funds.*

*Dr Andrea H. Schuler*  
Executive President  
Europa Nostra

*Dr Predrag Novakovic*  
Secretary General  
European Association of  
Archaeologists

*Prof. Michael Petzet*  
President  
ICOMOS

## **Istanbul – Risks in the Historic Urban Topography?** **Visual Impact Assessment Study of Istanbul**

The intention is to present some observations, documentation material (mostly of 2006) and principal arguments to evaluate the visual impact of high-rise building developments in Istanbul UNESCO World Heritage site. Traditional sights, landmarks and monuments as well as the protected urban silhouette are in dan-

ger. Serious consequences are to be expected due to global investment dominance in public space and skyline.

The Visual Impact Study of Istanbul with two maps concerning the metropolitan area (see also the Metropolitan Area Visual Impact Assessment Study map) and the historic town centre (see also the Historic Centre Visual Impact Assessment Study map) is intended to give an impression of the prospective unprecedented scale of global building development within the urban topography (see also the photographic presentation) and to support a discussion and moderation of conflicts in favour of Istanbul's traditional public space, the unique topography, and the prospects and panoramas.

The starting point of this pilot study is Melling's topographical survey "Voyage pittoresque de Constantinople et des rives du Bosphore" (Paris 1819). Some of his viewpoints as Eyüp, Çamlıca and Galata Tower are still very popular as publicly accessible viewpoints in the metropolitan area of Istanbul. They form characteristic prospects, panoramas and visual axes in the historic urban landscape of today's metropolitan area (see also the photographic presentation).

The World Heritage site Istanbul was adopted in 1985 in the boundaries of the Peninsula, not including Galata and without a buffer zone to protect the surroundings. This research and photo presentation intends to direct one's eyes to the recent building development of the Istanbul metropolitan area. It wishes to call the attention to current disturbances and destructions as well as to conceivable dangers which the colossal new development projects would entail (see also the two maps of the Visual Impact Assessment Study of the Metropolitan Area and the Historic Centre). The evaluation should stimulate a discussion concerning the necessity to define a buffer zone and its boundaries in order to protect the effective range and authentic visibility of the WH Site within the metropolitan urban landscape.

A further aspect of this presentation could be a critical review of the existing high-scale buildings as to whether they should be considered as characteristic landmarks and appreciated icons in

**Istanbul UNESCO World Heritage Site**  
Visual impact assessment study (preventive plan project)

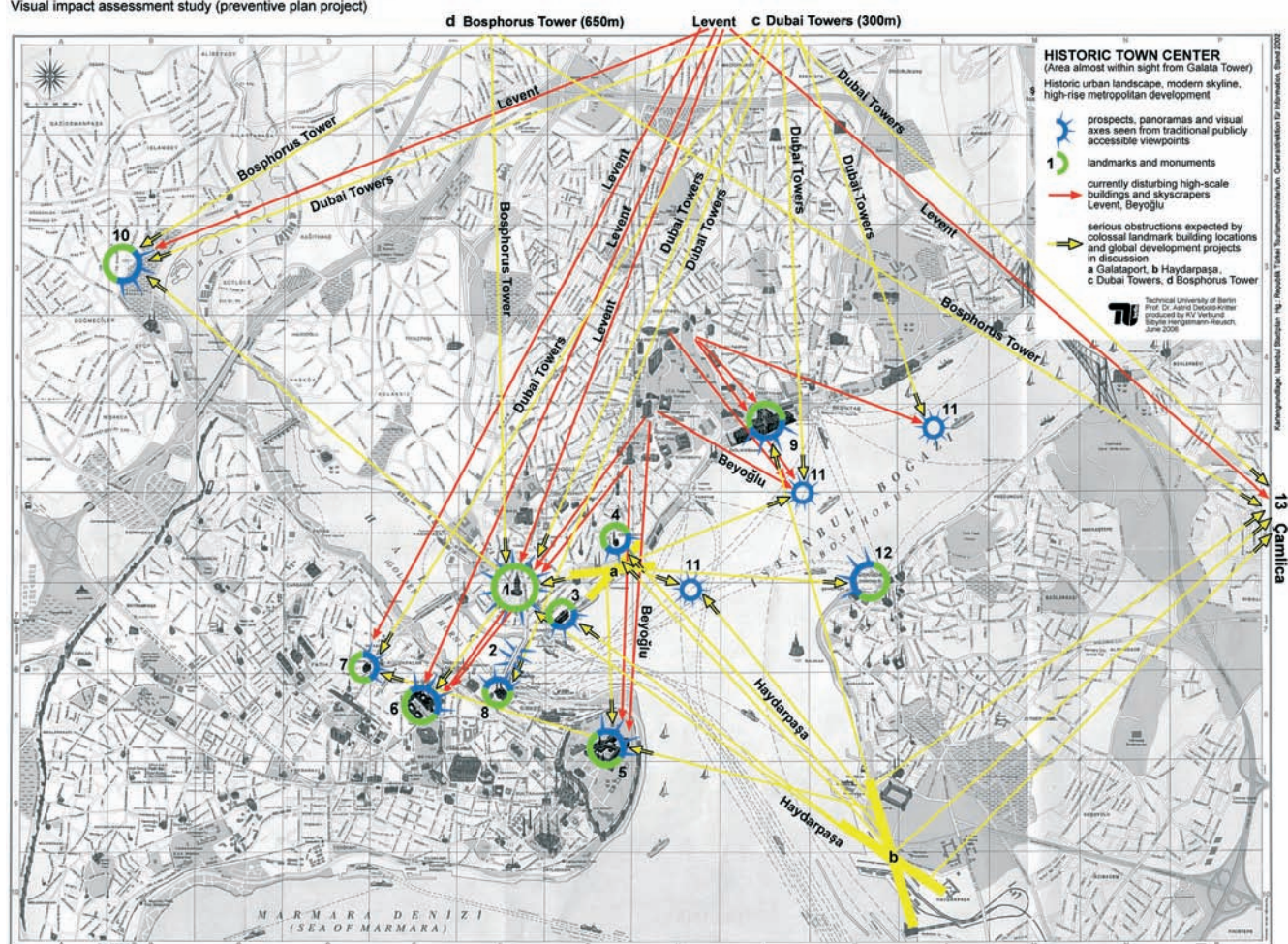


Istanbul, metropolitan area visual impact assessment study



### Istanbul UNESCO World Heritage Site

Visual impact assessment study (preventive plan project)



Istanbul, historic centre visual impact assessment study

one of the most beautiful ancient cities of the world. By this it might be possible to define elements of urban and architectural qualities and topics to create a 21st century modern Istanbul skyline without compromising the outstanding universal values for which it was put on the World Heritage List in the first place. Today several skyscrapers of Beyoğlu, Sisli and Levent appear, but they do not give the impression of a planned skyline.

Istanbul's metropolitan area finds itself in the middle of a rapid process of drastic urban transformation, a renewal with new big-scale building complexes and skyscraper clusters of unprecedented dimensions as to their cubic measure, density and extreme elevation. Since the late 1970s high-rise buildings generally did not grow to more than 100 m while the new generation of skyscrapers is expected to start with 300 m and to end by about 650 m. To put this into perspective with the scale of the landscape: the highest mountain, the Çamlıca, rises to about 260 m. Comparable to this is also the change of bulk and height of the projected Galata Port development with a mass of up to five gigantic cruise ships located in the historic Tophane area.

This presentation concentrates on only some of the colossal building development projects under discussion such as Haydarpaşa, Dubai Towers, Bosphorus Tower and Galataport, which might come in conflict with the World Heritage sites of Istanbul. With regard to

these projects a general lack of official information and transparency on the side of the metropolitan administration has to be stated. In a general way these simulations may map out a coming reality even if the elements of skyscrapers and ships were chosen without detailed knowledge of the actual projects and plans and even without a topographical town-plan which would indicate the exact locations. Nevertheless, it might be relevant for the discussion to recognize the gigantic scale of the development project, to visualize the dimensions of urban renewal and to become aware of the alarming extent of the impending transformation within the metropolitan area of a WH site. Even if there were aesthetic design alternatives of iconic architectural works created by "star architects", this would not really diminish the risk of compromising the outstanding universal value of Istanbul's historic urban landscape.

This presentation, realised at the Technical University of Berlin by Prof. Astrid Debold-Kritter as a member of ICOMOS CIVVIH, concerns a number of colossal development projects. At the Department for Town and Regional Planning, Prof. Debold-Kritter was assisted by Dipl. Ing. Canan Savaş, student research assistant Jan Polívka and cartographer Sibylle Hengstmann-Reusch. The topic was stimulated by the ICOMOS CIVVIH Scientific Symposium on "Historic Centres in Metropolitan Areas" held in Istanbul in 2005.



**Presentation of historic prospects, panoramas and view points by Melling (1819), photo documentation and digital simulations from 2006**

This research on the historic urban metropolitan landscape of Istanbul is based on an extensive topographic folio volume by Antoine-Ignace Melling, which contains panoramas and topographical maps with detailed locations and descriptions of each presentation.



Fig. 1 Part of Constantinople with point of Serail, seen from Pera (Melling's Panorama 24, 1819). This well known panorama represents the Peninsula with the cape of Topkapı Palace and the town silhouette crowned with mosques, domes and minarets, as well as the Golden Horn and the Princess Islands.



Figs. 2 and 3 Constantinople seen from Eyüp (Melling's Panorama 14, 1819) and view from Eyüp towards Istanbul World Heritage Site, 2006. This view from Eyüp towards the natural harbour is seen from an elevated viewpoint. At the horizon to the left appears the Galata Tower. Istanbul's Golden Horn and World Heritage site is almost undisturbed (if one ignores the bridge). The city's vulnerable town shape has been protected and preserved for 70 years due to effective and active measures by restricting the height of buildings to 50 m.



Fig. 4 Viewpoint at Eyüp, 2006. Haydarpaşa lies in this view angle at a distance of about 10 km. It seems possible that on days of high visibility this high rise project with seven skyscrapers would appear in the background between the Galata Tower and the protected WH site silhouette. The extent of the disturbance from this viewpoint at Eyüp near the famous Pierre Loti's café will depend on the future elevation, bulk and surface material of the projected tower buildings.



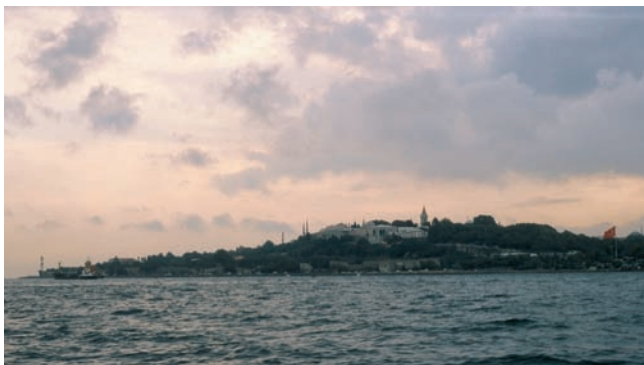
Figs. 5 and 6 Haydarpaşa seen from Marmara Sea, 2006, and Haydarpaşa Towers (simulation). It is this shore area between the Selimiye Baracks and the Bagdad Railway Station which is supposed to become a private development project Haydarpaşa with seven high-rise towers of at least 300 m height and several less high but densely packed new buildings. This Simulation of the Haydarpaşa Towers is an alternative attempt to the one of the Architectural Chamber, which presents the complete building project including seven uniform towers. In order to demonstrate how drastically these new colossal towers might influence the historic urban silhouette, different existing skyscrapers were chosen and have been made unidentifiable for this purpose.







Figs. 7 and 8 Haydarpaşa seen from Topkapı Terrace, 2006 and Haydarpaşa Towers (simulation). A very much appreciated viewpoint is the one very near the Topkapı Terrace. The simulation presents that it would become a gigantic Manhattan-like sight.



Figs. 9. and 10 Cape of the peninsula with Topkapı (simulation)  
A recent view on the cape of the peninsula with Topkapı taken in the evening from the boat coming from Princess Islands. The slightly rising hills and Topkapı Palace on the cape of the peninsula seen from Karaköy would be compromised by a gigantic new scale: seven towers of 300 metres height.



Fig. 11 Haydarpaşa and Süleymaniye Mosque seen from Zeyrek Terrace (simulation). The colossal Haydarpaşa site would appear from Zeyrek Terrace in the range of the Süleymaniye Mosque degrading the venerable silhouette and aura of the cupola and four slim minarets. (The Haydarpaşa towers are presented in a calculated scale). The Haydarpaşa Project will be visible from Galata Tower as well as from Galata Bridge and might even appear as a monster project in the view from Cihangir Mosque Garden. It was Yahya Kemal who in a poem perpetuated this famous view from Cihangir to Üsküdar at sunrise.



▲ Fig. 12; Fig 13 ▼

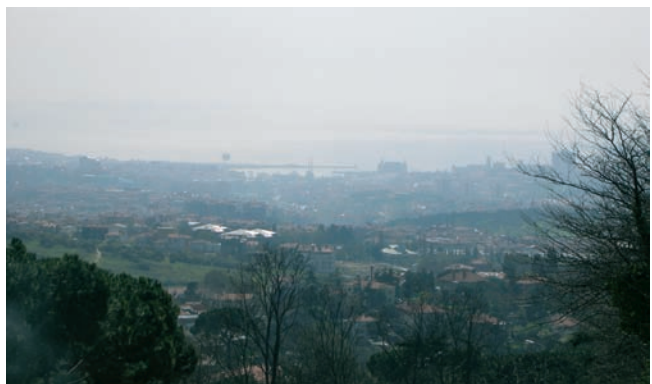


Fig. 14 ▼





Fig. 15 Tophane (Melling's Panorama 21, 1819). This panorama presents the Tophane place situated on the European shore of the Bosphorus with vast barracks and other representative still existing buildings: the Kılıç Ali Paşa Mosque built by architect Sinan, the Tophane fountain (1732) and the gunfoundry vaulted with six domes. It forms a highly representative urban prospect and scenery of the distinguished residential Pera quarter including the harbour with splendid ships in the foreground



Fig. 17 Cruise ships at Galata Port hiding the prospect of Tophane. Tophane shore is frequented by huge cruise ships which, if several ships are mooring at the same time, form a high and long barrier. The famous Pera prospect seen from boat excursions on the Bosphorus is hidden very often behind gigantic tourist steamers. This applies accordingly to the characteristic domes of the gun-foundry and mosques. The cruise ships present a new scale in the urban landscape which implies a break with the traditional cultural landscape of Byzantium, Constantinople, Istanbul.



Fig. 16 Tophane Pier with Cihangir Mosque, 2006. Today there are stores and administrative buildings situated right at the shore and covering a large fenced area. There are still freighters being loaded, which however can only be observed from the terrace of Istanbul Modern Museum, located in one of the reused stores. The public Tophane place of today is very much reduced and dominated by traffic. Behind this the densely built up hill of Pera with the Cihangir Mosque right up.



Fig. 18 Galataport (simulation). Galataport is planned for the moorage of four or five cruise ships at a quay about 1,5 km long. Five ships of the size which can already be seen in a simulation here will necessarily cause extensive demolition and new building development. The traditional city prospect seen from the Bosphorus will disappear with its historic monuments.

Fig. 19 Tophane Fountain and Kılıç Ali Paşa Mosque, 2006. The projected Galataport would even enlarge the barrier between the restored fountain and the Sinan Mosque and cut off the main remaining view on Bosphorus and Marmara Sea for ever. This would also mean a further loss of public space in favour of a private project.



- ◀ Figs. 12, 13, 14 This view from Çamlıca, the highest swelling ground in the urban landscape (268 m), directed to the South West presents the European shore of the Bosphorus, Galata Tower and the protected silhouette of the peninsula in the background, to the right of the Golden Horn. Üsküdar is to be seen in the fore-ground as well as the rural region bordering the Marmara Sea which later became Haydarpaşa. An impression of the Istanbul urban landscape with Galata and the Peninsula seen from Çamlıca on a rather misty day. Baedeker (1914) notes this view of the Bosphorus and the Marmara Sea and the entire city of Constantinople, a traditional viewpoint which is frequently visited by Istanbul's families. The Haydarpaşa Towers will rise up from the plain near Marmara Sea; this area, called Calcedonia, presumably the location of the oldest settlements, might appear in later years as a Manhattan-like scenery overlapping the peninsula and the World Heritage site.





Fig. 20 Cruise ship at Tophane Pier seen from Cad Necatibey, 2006. These huge cruise ships up to 60 m high will block the traditional views from the city, that is to say the characteristic prospects on Bosphorus, Marmara Sea, Üsküdar and Haydarpasa in perpetuity.

Fig. 21 Cruise ship seen from Cihangir Slope near the Mosque, 2006. Already now some brutal barriers blocking the view from public streets and elevated places of Cihangir, as for instance right near the Cihangir Mosque and its garden can be noticed. Considering the expected mass tourism – up to 15 000 daytourists could arrive here more or less at the same time – this would cause a tremendous pressure on the city neighbourhood, especially with regard to public space and places. This dense, various and ambiguous urban structure with narrow stairs, crooked and steep streets are substantial remainders of the old and famous Galata harbour and Pera quarter.



Fig. 22 Dubai Towers and Bosphorus Tower seen from Süleymaniye Terrace (simulation). The Dubai Towers and Bosphorus Tower will appear in the view angle out of the WH Site from the terrace of Süleymaniye Mosque (which is about 50 m high and 10 km away) in the background of Galata, Beyoglu, Sisli in a truly colossal dimension. They might extremely rise above the height of the Galata Tower and the context of several high-rising modern buildings. The Dubai Towers und Bosphorus Tower as viewed from the WH Site will definitely degrade and compromise the Byzantine Galata Tower of the Genuese port (the hill has an elevation of 45 m, the gallery of the tower of 44.5 m).

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## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### The 11 Most Endangered Historic Places in the United States

The 11 Most Endangered Sites is compiled annually by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and is meant to illustrate the plight of many other sites throughout the United States. The National Trust is a major partner organization of US/ICOMOS.

#### 1. Arts & Industries Building of Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

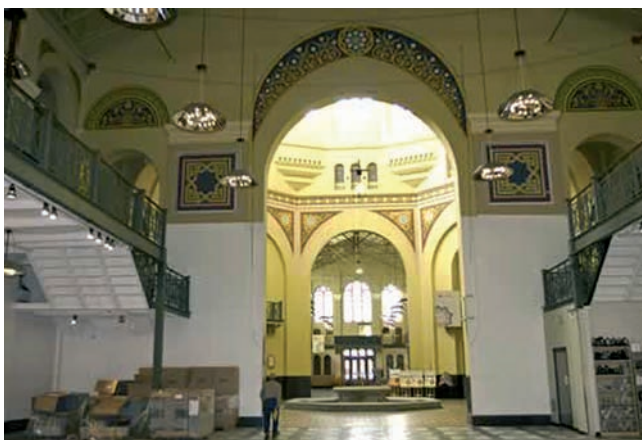
In 2004, this monument to history and culture was closed, and it has yet to reopen. Its distinctive architecture and prominent location on the Mall attract curious visitors, who are disappointed to find the doors firmly locked, with no hint as to when—or whether—they will open again.

“The Smithsonian Arts and Industries Building represents a serious challenge for the Smithsonian and an exceptional opportunity for preservationists”, said Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. “What was once the crown



Arts & Industries Building of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington

Interior of the Arts & Industries Building of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington



jewel of the Smithsonian Institution has become an empty relic. It's time to find a productive use for this landmark—perhaps even an appropriate private use that incorporates public access—and return it to the spotlight it so richly deserves.”

#### 2. Blair Mountain Battlefield, Logan County, West Virginia

The 1,600-acre Spruce Fork Ridge of Blair Mountain, about 90 minutes southwest of Charleston, West Virginia, was the scene of the 1921 showdown between a miners' army at least 7,500 strong and a 3,000-man defensive force headed by the Logan County Sheriff, Don Chafin, and other law officers, many of whom were on the coal companies' payrolls. The defensive force, bolstered by private planes that dropped homemade bombs on the miners, dug trenches, blocked roads, felled trees and mounted machine guns along the 15-mile ridgeline. The miners used natural pathways to mount the ridge and breach Chafin's line. The confrontation was the largest armed labor conflict in the nation's history, with miners seeking the right not only to unionize but also to exercise civil liberties such as freedom of speech and assembly.

Past preservation efforts have failed because of fierce opposition from the coal companies that own or lease most of the ridge. Hobet Mining, Arch Coal, Massey Energy Company and Aracoma Coal Company, among others, are intent on strip-mining, which would destroy the battlefield. Permits for strip-mining are issued through the Army Corps of Engineers, which is subject to a federal preservation review process that provides for consideration of—but not necessarily protection of—historic sites.

By increasing public awareness of the significance of the Blair Mountain battlefield, preservation advocates hope to win support for permanently protecting the site with easements and developing an economically sustainable interpretive program, possibly through the National Coal Heritage Area, which would allow the region to take advantage of West Virginia's fastest-growing industry—tourism. An independent evaluation of alternate mining methods may illuminate means by which the site could be mined and preserved. The best possible solution would be a compromise between the property owners and preservationists that will save the site for interpretation, while bringing economic benefit to the owners and local residents.

#### 3. Doo Wop Motels, Wildwood, New Jersey

Families have been vacationing at the Jersey Shore for more than 100 years, and the Wildwood Doo Wop motels have been a major beach destination since they were constructed from 1956 to 1970. The Doo Wop district offered families an affordable vacation that seemed exotic because of the motels' far-out design and faraway-sounding names such as Tahiti, Caribbean and Starlux. Named for a popular singing style of the day, Doo Wop motels sport neon-bright colors,





Example of a Doo Wop motel in New Jersey

funky signage and exotic architecture decked out with sawtooth angles, crazy overhangs, space-age “Jetson” ramps and lava rock siding. Considered the largest collection of mid-20<sup>th</sup> century commercial resort architecture in the nation, the motels celebrate a number of kitschy styles, including the Polynesian-inspired “Pu Pu Platter”, the “Chinatown Revival” with its *de rigueur* pagoda roof, and “Phony Colonee”, a tribute to American patriotism. Besides boasting a well-loved boardwalk, the Wildwood area became known as a rock-and-roll hot spot where Bill Haley and the Comets performed “Rock Around the Clock” in public for the first time in 1954 and Dick Clark broadcast his “American Bandstand” program live in 1957.

Doo Wop motel, illuminated advertising



The demand for resorts that offer modern amenities means that motels in the Doo Wop district, which encompasses the cities of Wildwood, Wildwood Crest and North Wildwood, are ripe for development. Nearly 100 Doo Wop motels have been demolished in recent years, usually for the construction of market-rate condominiums. While the architectural and historic significance of the motels has been widely recognized, local governments have not reached agreement on how—or whether—to regulate new development.

The Doo Wop Preservation League is lobbying local elected officials for zoning restrictions and incentives to support property owners who want to keep and renovate their Doo Wop motels. The Art Deco District in Miami Beach is one example of a success story, as is nearby Cape May, which saved its late-19<sup>th</sup> century architecture from the wrecking ball. The Caribbean Motel, widely regarded as the Wildwoods’ quintessential Doo Wop motel because of its super-sized neon sign and multi-colored “space ship” lights, has been purchased by new owners who are making a significant investment to preserve and refurbish the property. Many of the motel’s unique but aging architectural features are being fully rehabilitated, while the interiors are being professionally redesigned with stylish Doo Wop-inspired furnishings.

#### 4. Fort Snelling Upper Post, Hennepin County, Minnesota

Fort Snelling was established in 1820 to protect fur traders and early settlers. Beginning in the late 1800s, dozens of new buildings were constructed on the Upper Bluff area for training, supplies and administration. Today, Fort Snelling is a National Historic Landmark, and the Fort Snelling Historic District is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Twenty-eight buildings in the Upper Post area are considered historically significant or important to the future use of the site.

The military gradually abandoned all of the buildings in the Upper Post area after World War II, disposing of parts of the site to various federal and state agencies, and now there is no clear authority responsible for overall infrastructure. While several of the buildings were shuttered at the time they were vacated, many have suffered from deferred maintenance and vandalism over the years. Buildings are deteriorating at an increasingly rapid rate as a result of broken windows, damaged gutters and downspouts, and deteriorated roofs—some of which are on the verge of collapse. The 28 historic buildings that make up Fort Snelling’s Upper Post complex occupy a unique and important place in Minnesota history. But this year may be a critical period for the complex if they are to be preserved and reused.

The Upper Post area contains a collection of significant historic, architectural and cultural resources ideally suited for preservation and sensitive redevelopment. Recently the federal government has taken steps to widen the range of acceptable uses for the buildings in the Upper Post. If this occurs, it will create the opportunity for a public agency to assume responsibility for coordinating the development of the Upper Post by seeking proposals from private parties for rehabilitation and reuse of the buildings. The challenge will be to identify appropriate and feasible new uses that will respect the character of the buildings and their landscape. Many local residents hope that the complex can be transformed into a mixed-use development like Fort Worden near Port Townsend, Washington, or Fort Sheridan near Chicago. If an appropriate public agency like Hennepin County, which is considering the possibilities there, can gain control of the site for redevelopment, the Upper Post could have a bright future.



## 5. Historic Communities and Landmarks of the Mississippi Coast



House on the Mississippi Coast, damaged by Hurricane Katrina



Destroyed house in Biloxi



Last house on Pearl Street, Biloxi

Badly damaged house designed by Frank Lloyd Wright



Pascagoula, damaged tenement from the 1880s



When Hurricane Katrina's 145-mile per hour winds and 30-foot storm surge hit the Gulf Coast on August 29, 2005 the damage to Mississippi's historic communities was enormous. Unique and charming cities and towns such as Gulfport, Pass Christian and Ocean Springs suffered unfathomable damage which their residents are still working to repair. Between 250 and 300 historic structures on the coast were wiped out completely and more than 1,200 were damaged. Historic Landmarks with significant damage from the

hurricane include Beauvoir, where Confederate President Jefferson Davis wrote his memoirs and spent his final years in Biloxi; Pascagoula's LaPointe-Krebs House, the "Old Spanish Fort"; and the 1874 Bay Saint Louis's Hancock County Courthouse. The stories are heartbreaking and numerous.

The historic communities of the Mississippi Gulf Coast are threatened with land speculation and new development that ignores the remaining historic character of these towns. In addition, lack of



preservation and specific funding hinders individual homeowners from tackling the difficult job of stabilizing and rehabilitating their property. Many of the landmark structures of the Gulf Coast that are open to the public are further threatened by the loss of revenue, jeopardizing their restoration and future viability as community landmarks.

The Senate Appropriations Committee has recommended \$80 million in preservation grants for Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. This funding is critical to meeting the preservation needs on the Gulf Coast. Local zoning restrictions, height limitations and preservation laws need to be enforced and defended from development interests seeking more intensive redevelopment opportunities.

## 6. Historic Neighborhoods of New Orleans, Louisiana

Containing more than 30,000 structures and comprising more than half of the core area of the fabled Crescent City, the 20 historic neighborhoods of New Orleans are an irreplaceable national treasure. They tell a uniquely fascinating story infused with jazz rhythms, unique architectural grace-notes, and Creole undertones. But now the story could be erased: The unprecedented destruction wrought by Hurricane Katrina and a failed levee system threatens to eradicate the character that made these neighborhoods so special.

While the world-famous Vieux Carre, the Garden District and some other districts escaped severe damage from winds and water, other neighborhoods such as Holy Cross, Treme, New Marigny and Broadmoor—all of which are listed in the National Register of Historic Places—remain rubble-strewn and largely unoccupied months after the storm. These neighborhoods, relatively little-known to tourists, are the heart and soul of New Orleans. It is these neighborhoods that housed one of the largest populations of free people of color before the Civil War, provided a new home for immigrants, gave birth to jazz—one of America's greatest gifts to the world—and provided the distinctive architectural setting for the development of the special culture that has always set New Orleans apart from other American cities. These 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup>-century neighborhoods have been integral to the shaping of New Orleans, and their recovery is essential for the city's future. They provide the homes of the modest income working class on whom this city depends.

Boarded-up house in New Orleans



The challenge of recovering from an unprecedented storm has overwhelmed both public and private efforts. While owners wrestle with the complexities and uncertainties of job losses, flood insurance payouts, levee reconstruction, restoration of public services and endless delays, historic buildings continue to deteriorate. Many have also been unnecessarily "red-tagged" for demolition.

Through volunteers, publicity, advocacy and funding the preservation community has provided assistance and information for owners of historic homes in New Orleans. Continued efforts to protect properties and provide targeted assistance to owners in the most severely affected historic neighborhoods are urgently needed. The National Trust is working with its local partners, particularly the Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans, to ensure that these threatened neighborhoods are restored as healthy, attractive, viable places for people to live.

## 7. Town of Kenilworth, Illinois

The idea of a model residential community was on the mind of Kenilworth founder Joseph Sears in 1889 when he made his first purchase of a 224-acre wooded site 15 miles north of Chicago. Kenilworth came into being in the rush of excitement and planning for Chicago's 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, where the "City Beautiful" concept was unveiled. Among the noted architects that Sears attracted to his project were Franklin P. Burnham, who was one of Kenilworth's first residents and a director of the Kenilworth Company, which was formed to raise capital for the development. Another key player was architect George W. Maher, one of the most prolific Prairie School architects, who designed more than 40 houses in the Village and was instrumental in continuing the quality and character of the original village as Kenilworth grew to its current boundaries by the end of the 1920s, and the building of homes was essentially complete by the 1940s. Most of the 830 homes in the community are more than 80 years old, with many over 100 years old.

Since the Village has no ordinances on the books to protect the historic homes, teardowns are occurring at an alarming rate in Kenilworth, with 47 houses already lost to demolition. Nearly half of all teardowns have occurred during the last three years, including several homes designed by the most prominent architects involved in the Village's design. Many of these lost architectural gems have been replaced with new houses that are significantly larger in size and not in sync with the style and character of the neighborhoods. Since the National Trust listed "Teardowns in Historic Neighborhoods" on the 2002 list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places, this trend continues to grow and expand across the nation. Kenilworth is one of the more than 300 communities in 33 states the National Trust has documented as struggling to retain their historic community character when threatened by teardowns.

Time is now the enemy since the Village did not anticipate the teardown threat and has no comprehensive plan to stop it. Designating Kenilworth as an endangered historical place is a much-needed first step toward building the community support needed to establish a local landmark ordinance and designation program, in addition to modernized zoning ordinances. To help mobilize Kenilworth and community leaders across the country, the National Trust has launched the initial phase of the Teardowns Resource Guide, an online source for strategies and tools commonly being used to manage teardowns.

## 8. Kootenai Lodge, Bigfork, Montana

One of the most significant historic places in Northwest Montana, the Kootenai Lodge consists of 20 buildings, including a Main Lodge, several smaller lodges, dining halls and various cabins. The buildings range in size from the humble quarters of the hired help to the magnificent lodge and living quarters for residents and guests. Almost all the structures are built of cedar and larch logs, hand-peeled to retain the colorful and delicate cambium layer as a decorative touch, and all nestle into the landscape as if they have been here forever. To compliment the remarkable log buildings, the landscape was designed with a variety of native and exotic trees and shrubs. Man-made elements, such as stone bridges, gravel walks, arbors and seating areas are scattered throughout the property. Designed to take advantage of the open vistas of the meadow and seclusion of the wooded areas, these spaces enhance the visual appeal and natural serenity of the lake and nearby mountains.

The Milhous Group, which purchased the 42-acre property in 2005, is planning to build 42 condominiums, 24 boat slips, a pool and a new road. The plan calls for the demolition of several structures and the alteration of all remaining historic buildings. The historic barn has already been dismantled and relocated, and many of the old-growth trees have been cut down. The density proposed by the current redevelopment plan will significantly diminish the historic and architectural character of the historic lodge, cabins and landscape, and the addition of 42 new structures will obliterate historically open spaces and vistas. Public outcry has been fierce, with hundreds of residents attending meetings and voicing their opposition to the plan. Due to the unwillingness of the developer to consider alternative plans and the inability of the planning commission to make adjustments due to the lack of zoning, the historic character of the property is in imminent danger of being destroyed.

Opponents of the planned development have encouraged the developer to scale back his plans into a smaller footprint and include more sensitive design and placement of new constructed buildings. If the developer were so inclined, the redevelopment at Kootenai Lodge could be done sensitively while still accommodating some growth, providing a model for redevelopment of a large, historic, recreational property.

## 9. Mission San Miguel Arcangel, San Miguel, California

Much more than a place of worship, the mission was a colonial institution of great importance in the spread of the Spanish Empire. Spain's colonial ambitions in North America ultimately proved unsustainable, and Alta California passed into the hands of an independent Mexico in 1821. The following decade, the Mexican government secularized Mission San Miguel and all the Franciscan California missions, leading to the mission's virtual abandonment. While the mission complex fell into a state of disrepair, new secular uses were found. During the 1850s, mission buildings housed a series of retail operations, one of which was the most popular saloon along el Camino Real. In 1859, the mission was returned to the Catholic Church by President Buchanan, but two more decades would pass before Reverend Philip Farrelly took up residence as First Pastor of Mission San Miguel and repair work commenced. In 1928, the mission was returned to the founding Franciscan padres, who began an extensive renovation and preservation effort which continues to the present day. Despite its tumultuous history, the San Miguel Mission complex, midway between San Francisco and Los Angeles, enjoys unusual architectural integrity, and today offers a rare glimpse of Spanish Colonial mission life and the forces that shaped its history.

The mission was severely damaged by the San Simeon earthquake in 2003. In addition to significant structural damage, the earthquake caused extensive damage to priceless interior wall paintings. Estimates for total cost of all conservation efforts for the mission will be nearly \$14 million.

Directly following the 2003 earthquake, Mission San Miguel hired a team of architects, engineers and conservators to develop a preservation plan. The mission has already funded nearly \$1 million worth of construction to stabilize parts of the church and other buildings. While progress is being made slowly, it will require collaborative work to ensure that the Mission can receive desperately needed federal and state preservation and disaster funds as well as financial contributions from foundations and the general public to ensure the Mission's continued survival.

Kootenai Lodge, Bigfork, Montana





## 10. Over-the-Rhine Neighborhood, Cincinnati, Ohio

The dense, compact urban environment known as Over-the-Rhine is just north of Cincinnati's central business district. Starting around 1830, a large number of German immigrants settled in an area to the north and east of the Miami and Erie Canal where land was readily available and affordable for working-class families, helping convert Cincinnati into one of the "most German" of American cities. The Canal came to be referred to euphemistically as the "Rhine," and the area on the other side, "Over-the-Rhine." The architecture in the area reflects the diverse styles of the time – simple vernacular, muted Greek Revival, Italianate and Queen Anne. The buildings range from row houses to mixed commercial/residential structures and free-standing commercial, industrial and institutional structures including churches, a music hall, beer gardens and breweries. The district's Findlay Market is the only historic public market building still open in the city.

The distinctive mid-to-late-19<sup>th</sup>-century urban architecture in Over-the-Rhine is in danger due to a combination of inadequate planning, low levels of home ownership and a reduced business presence because of rampant crime, reluctance of investors to commit to renewal and renovation, and an increasing pattern of demolition as authorities seek to address public safety concerns.

Designation of Over-the-Rhine as one of America's most threatened historic places will aid the local Community Council and other organizations, such as the Cincinnati Preservation Association, in their efforts to save and safeguard the area. Only through a diverse, collaborative approach that includes urban planners, corporate and philanthropic organizations, and—most important—community groups and neighborhood residents and stakeholders, will it be possible to stop the deterioration of the buildings and improve the quality of life for area residents.

## 11. World Trade Center Vesey Street Staircase, New York

The Vesey Street Staircase played a significant role in saving the lives of hundreds of individuals who used it as a means of escape from their offices in the doomed Twin Towers. As a result, it has been dubbed the "Survivors' Staircase".

Before the September 11 attacks, the Vesey Street Staircase was seen and used by the public on a daily basis. Located near the intersection of Vesey and Church streets, it consisted of two granite-clad outdoor flights of stairs and an escalator that led from the World Trade Center plaza to Vesey Street. When terrorists crashed two planes into the Twin Towers, the staircase provided a path of escape for hundreds of people. It is the only surviving above-ground remnant of the original World Trade Center, and a vivid and haunting reminder of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. The staircase



World Trade Center, New York, Vesey Street staircase

now stands isolated and consists only of concrete slabs and blocks, a few remaining pieces of stone cladding, and steel supports – but it is nonetheless an authentic and invaluable remnant of the World Trade Center that once stood here.

The staircase is within the footprint of proposed WTC Tower 2, which is being designed by famed architect Norman Foster and is being developed by Silverstein Properties. Public review of the impact of this project on the staircase culminated in early 2007, when the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation announced its proposal to cut up the staircase and to embed several pieces in various locations around the site. Such an inappropriate plan would needlessly strip the Staircase of all its meaning and context. The New York State Historic Preservation Office also objected to this plan, calling for the staircase to be preserved intact.

The staircase structure can and should be moved to a temporary site nearby while construction on the World Trade Center site proceeds. Engineering studies have shown that the staircase can be moved quickly, safely and cost-effectively. The coalition of preservation organizations in the Lower Manhattan Emergency Preservation Fund have been working with several agencies to identify potential, temporary sites for the staircase, and Governor Spitzer's administration has publicly expressed a willingness to consider the views of the public on this issue, and to consider creative solutions.

At the appropriate time, the staircase should be moved back to the World Trade Center site and displayed as closely as possible to its original location. By maintaining a connection with its original site, the staircase will continue to serve as an authentic link to the historic stories of survival it witnessed.

Just as other cities around the world have successfully developed new buildings around historic ruins and remnants, so can New York City. The Lower Manhattan Emergency Preservation Fund is attempting to bring key decision-makers together to commit to preserving this irreplaceable icon.