

# SPAIN

## Historic City of Toledo

### Brief description

Successively a Roman municipium, the capital of the Visigothic Kingdom, a fortress of the Emirate of Cordoba, an outpost of the Christian kingdoms fighting the Moors and, in the 16th century, the temporary seat of supreme power under Charles V, Toledo is the repository of more than 2,000 years of history. Its masterpieces are the product of heterogeneous civilizations in an environment where the existence of three major religions – Judaism, Christianity and Islam – was a major factor.

### 1. Introduction

**Year(s) of Inscription**

**1986**

**Agency responsible for site management**

Urban Planning Service, Town Hall of Toledo  
Autonomous Community of Castilla-La Mancha  
Mailing Address(es)  
E-mail:  
Website:

### 2. Statement of Significance

**Inscription Criteria**

**C (i), (ii), (iii), (iv)**

### Justification provided by the State Party

Tolède en tant qu'ensemble d'espaces urbains et édifices intégrés dans un paysage historique -les établissements humains remontent à l'époque préhistorique - et dont la construction s'est étendue sur plus de deux mille ans, obéit à tous les critères adoptés par la Commission du Patrimoine mondial et en particulier à cinq des critères nécessaires à leur inscription en tant que biens de « Valeur universelle exceptionnelle ». Ce sont les critères (i), (ii), (iv), (v) et (vi).

(i) Tolède représente dans son ensemble une réalisation artistique ou esthétique unique et un chef d'œuvre de l'esprit créateur de l'homme, à des différentes époques et pour les différentes races et cultures qui ont contribué à sa création.

(ii) Tolède a exercé une influence considérable dans l'architecture pendant les siècles de domination wisigothe (quand la ville était capitale

de toute la péninsule ibérique et de la Gaule narbonnaise bien que, malheureusement, les exemples qu'aujourd'hui restent peu abondants) et surtout dans la Renaissance (Ecole de Tolède d'architecture)

(iv) Tolède est le fécond résultat de l'intervention de plusieurs structures sociales telles que la musulmane, la médiévale et celles de la Renaissance et le Baroque; où ont coexisté étroitement des groupes humains de culture juive, maure et chrétienne. Ces groupes ont donné naissance à une ville qui dans la première des cultures susdites ne pouvait pas être égalée par son cosmopolitisme culturel, social et religieux à aucune autre ville européenne de son époque.

Non satisfaite de constituer un exemple caractéristique d'un type de structure social qui a intégré les trois plus importantes cultures méditerranéennes (à noter l'Ecole de Traducteurs), la ville a développé jusqu'au XVI<sup>e</sup> siècle une industrie qui a produit d'innombrables manufactures (acières de Tolède) liés à sa fréquente condition de Cour des rois espagnols et de l'empereur Charles Quint.

(v) Dans cet ensemble s'intègrent différents styles architectoniques tels que le mozarabe, mudéjar, le gothique et ceux de la Renaissance et du Baroque, ainsi que de précieux exemples de l'architecture juive. L'abondance et l'intégration de ces éléments lui donne tout son singulier caractère et son exceptionnel intérêt.

(vi) Tolède, en outre, est liée aux croyances religieuses et compte sur un grand nombre d'églises, ermitages, couvents et synagogues qui remontent au X<sup>e</sup> siècle les édifices religieux ont créé l'espace urbain et continuent à servir de référence à la structure urbaine actuelle. Ses édifices et espaces – encore reconnaissables dans les peintures du Greco – sont associés à des événements historiques importants, aux souvenirs laissés par des personnages célèbres et à des légendes encore enracinés dans la population: La Place de Zocodover d'abord esplanade militaire – puis marché maure – et, enfin, Place Majeure indubitable; site fréquent des « Autos de Féa » ; l'Alcazar, résidence des rois maures et beaucoup plus tard de Charles de Gand: la Cathédrale bâtie sur l'ancienne Mosquée ... sont tous des lieux relevant de cette riche histoire.

### As provided in ICOMOS/IUCN evaluation

ICOMOS recommends the inclusion of Toledo on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv).

Criterion (i). The city of Toledo in its entirety represents a unique artistic achievement and an uninterrupted succession of remarkable achievements, from the Visigothic churches to the Baroque ensembles of the early 18th century.

Criterion (ii). Toledo exerted considerable influence, both during the Visigoth period, when it was the capital of a kingdom which stretched all the way to the Narbonnese region, and during the Renaissance when it became one of the most important artistic centres in Spain.

Criterion (iii). Toledo bears exceptional testimony to several civilisations which have disappeared: Rome, with vestiges of the circus, the aqueduct and the sewer: the Visigoths, with the remains of the walls of king Wamba and the artefacts conserved in the Santa Cruz Museum. The civilisation of the Emirate of Cordoba built a great many Islamic art monuments: the piers of the destroyed Bano de la Cava Bridge, Puerta Vieja de Bisagra, Las Tornerias Mosque, Bib Mardum Mosque (a private oratory completed in 999), Hammams in the calle Del Angel and calle Pozo Amargo, etc.

After the reconquest in 1085 remarkable Jewish religious monuments such as Santa Maria la Blanca Synagogue (1180) and El Transito Synagogue (1366) were built at the same time as churches, either on the very location of earlier foundations (the Cathedral, founded in the 6th century by Saint Eugene, was converted into a mosque), or ex nihilo (San Roman, Santiago, San Pedro Martir, etc.). Furthermore, Toledo possesses a broad spectrum of structures from the medieval period: walls and fortified buildings, such as San Servando Castle, bridges, houses and entire streets.

Criterion (iv). Toledo retains a series of outstanding examples of 15th- and 16th-century constructions : the church of San Juan de los Reyes and the Cathedral, San Juan Bautista and Santa Cruz hospitals, the Puerta Nueva de Bisagra, etc. Each of these monuments is a perfect example of a particular type of architecture of the Spanish golden age, whether religious, hospital or military.

Moreover, Toledo witnessed the emergence, starting in the Middle Ages, of a Mudejar style which combined the structural and decorative elements of Visigothic and Moslem art, adapting them, thereafter, into successive styles: Santiago del Arrabal (13th century), the Moor's workshop and Puerta del Sol (14th century), wainscot of Santa Cruz Hospital and the chapter house of the Cathedral (15th and 16th centuries), etc.

#### Committee Decision

The Committee made no statement.

- Statement of Significance adequately defines the outstanding universal value of the site
- No change required

#### Boundaries and Buffer Zone

- Status of boundaries of the site: adequate
- Buffer zone: adequate

#### Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- World Heritage site values have been maintained

### 3. Protection

#### Legislative and Administrative Arrangements

- The Special Plan for Toledo's Historic Quarter has been in operation since 1997
- The Spanish Historical Heritage (Protection) Act, Law 16/1985, the Castilla-La Mancha Historical Heritage (Protection) Act, Law 4/1990 (implemented by the Regulation in force) and Law 2/1998 regarding Territorial Planning and Urban Planning Activity in Castilla-La Mancha.
- There are currently two protection commissions, composed of representatives of the Autonomous Community and the Town Hall
- For the areas surrounding the city two special protection plans; one in the northern sector (Roman Circus and Covachuelas) and another currently being drafted for the southern sector (Cigarrales)
- The protection arrangements are considered sufficiently effective, etc.

Actions taken/proposed:

- The Special Plan should be supplemented with a traffic ordinance. Existing electrical cabling should be removed

### 4. Management

#### Use of site/property

- Urban centre

#### Management /Administrative Body

- No formal steering group, several different administrative systems organised under the commission. These commissions are mostly annexed to the Town Hall of Toledo (Plaza del Consistorio 1, 45071-Toledo), and to the Department of Culture of the Autonomous Community (C/ de la Trinidad 8, 45071-Toledo),

the latter being responsible for heritage protection issues

- The City of Toledo Consortium was created which is charged with, upon consent of the three administrations composing the Consortium, implementing rehabilitation and restoration initiatives within the monumental ensemble
- Coordinator on a part-time basis
- Levels of public authority who are primarily involved with the management of the site: national, regional, local. The Autonomous Community has competence in heritage protection issues and archaeological control. The Ministry of Culture has competence for state-owned buildings; the Town Hall of Toledo has competence in urban planning issues
- The current management system is sufficiently effective

Actions proposed:

- The consideration of legislation specifically providing for fiscal or tax assistance for world heritage cities and for catalogued buildings thus involving the entire State in the conservation and protection process; specific assistance to Town Halls in light of the considerable added cost entailed in maintaining a world heritage city

### **5. Management Plan**

- Management plan is being implemented
- Implementation commenced: 02/1997
- Title: The Special Plan for Toledo's Historic Quarter
- Very effective
- Responsibility for over-seeing the implementation of the management plan and monitoring its effectiveness: Autonomous Community of Castilla-La Mancha

### **6. Financial Resources**

#### **Financial situation**

- Town Hall of Toledo; Autonomous Community of Castilla-La Mancha; National Administration
- Toledo Consortium
- European Investment Bank 1998-2004 EFTA
- Private foundations
- Insufficient

### **7. Staffing Levels**

- Number of staff: 5 (difficult to estimate)

Rate of access to adequate professional staff across the following disciplines:

- Very good: conservation, management
- Good: promotion, interpretation, education, visitor management
- Average: education

### **8. Sources of Expertise and Training in Conservation and Management Techniques**

- Two restoration schools to train personnel working in the Old Quarter; training courses run by the Toledo Consortium for training and also to disseminate information; Conservation Workshop Schools, Regional Foundation which provides professional competency, specialisation courses

### **9. Visitor Management**

- Visitor statistics: 2,000,000
- Visitor facilities: Tourist information offices, guided tours, accommodation facilities, commercial activities, parking and transport within the Old Quarter (Zocotren)
- Trend: a small improvement 2004
- Tourism management plan. 2001-2004. <http://www.toledoweb.org/Ficheros/Exposicion.htm>

### **10. Scientific Studies**

- Studies related to the value of the site, monitoring exercises, archaeological surveys, impact on WH designation, visitor management, transportation studies
- An extensive list of studies regarding the Special Plan for Toledo's Historic Quarter on architecture, archaeology, urban setting etc. Studies as part of the implementation of the Plan on housing rehabilitation, restoration, environmental analysis etc.
- Research by the Provincial Toledan Research and Studies Institute

### **11. Education, Information and Awareness Building**

- An adequate number of signs referring to World Heritage site
- World Heritage Convention Emblem used on some publications
- Adequate awareness of World Heritage among: visitors, local communities, businesses, local authorities

- A permanent exhibit on the history of Toledo and the city's heritage aspects
- Web site available: [www.ayto-toledo.org](http://www.ayto-toledo.org)
- Local participation through the Council for Citizen Participation, neighbourhood associations

## 12. Factors affecting the Property (State of Conservation)

### Reactive monitoring reports

- N/A

### Conservation interventions

- Conservation, restoration works, rehabilitation policies according to the Special Plan for the Quarter
- Present state of conservation: adequate

### Threats and Risks to site

- Visitor/tourism pressure
- Threats: tourism and commercial activities in public spaces; traffic; electrical infrastructure and advertisement 'visual pollution', the use of non traditional construction materials and construction sizes affecting the urban landscape; archaeological management plan needed; use of the Alcázar

### Emergency measures taken

- An Ordinance regarding assistance for the rehabilitation of storefronts; car parks outside the Quarter; a specific ordinance, in line with the recommendations laid down in the Special Plan, is also needed to regulate traffic and parking; an ordinance has been drafted regulating the use of public space for different activities; in a few different districts of the Quarter as well as at the majority of the monuments, a single trench has been dug for the underground installation of all service cables marking the commencement of this process; an advertising and signposting ordinance has been drafted and the gradual replacement of street furniture; attention has been given to the dissemination of housing restoration activities as part of an awareness-heightening campaign; control of private works and archaeological control

## 13. Monitoring

- A formal monitoring programme
- Measures are taken by the Town Hall and the Regional Government who are responsible for monitoring on checks of the historical and current status of any construction, archaeological action proposal is planned

- Future indications to consider: construction process: alteration of building facades, structures of footings. ICOMOS proposal for indicators include landscape quality, the state of conservation of vernacular architecture: ICOMOS proposes broadening indicators to include aspects such as landscape quality, the state of conservation of vernacular architecture, the living standard of the traditional population, use of public spaces, traffic control in the city proper (through-traffic and parking), control of tourist impact on the urban landscape and its everyday functioning and changes in archaeological precautionary control

## 14. Conclusions and Recommended Actions

- Main benefits of WH status: conservation, social, economic
- Strengths of management: following the Special Plan for Toledo's Historic Quarter 1997: All of these efforts have stabilised and increased the population in the Old Quarter, reversing the depopulation trend in the year 2000. The administrations involved have been able to coordinate themselves appropriately within the framework of a common mechanism in the pursuit of the recuperation and rehabilitation of the monumental ensemble; The city of Toledo has become more renowned and dissemination efforts in this connection have increased; more visitors
- Weaknesses of management: visitor pressure causing disruptions in certain areas (stores, certain streets, advertising, etc.); increased traffic

### Future actions:

- The quality of actions implemented in the Old Quarter must increase and this applies to both the public and private sectors
- Increased control in the maintenance of pre-existing structures and in improving residential and commercial use of them. "Visual pollution" needs to be reduced and the urban environment improved. Specific regulations are needed regarding traffic and pedestrian mobility within Toledo's Historic Quarter
- ICOMOS suggests heightening awareness of the city's intangible heritage especially that related to construction techniques and trades serving as a future reference for recuperation and maintenance