

ICOMOS

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES MONUMENTS ET DES SITES
CONSEJO INTERNACIONAL DE MONUMENTOS Y SITIOS
МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ СОВЕТ ПО ВОПРОСАМ ПАМЯТНИКОВ И ДОСТОПРИМЕЧАТЕЛЬНЫХ МЕСТ

WORLD HERITAGE LIST

N° 361

A) IDENTIFICATION

Nomination : Historic Centre of Evora

Location : Province of Alentejo

State Party : Portugal

Date : February 26, 1985

B) ICOMOS RECOMMENDATION

That the proposed cultural property be included on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria II and IV.

C) JUSTIFICATION

The Portuguese government is nominating the historic centre of Evora for inclusion on the World Heritage List. Evora is the capital of the Alentejo province and one of the tourist attractions of the south. In spite of sharp population growth which has led to the construction of new quarters to the west, south and east, this museum city has retained all of its traditional charm inside the Vauban-style wall built in the 17th century according to the plans of Nicolas de Langres, a French engineer. The rural landscape to the north has gone virtually unchanged.

Evora has been shaped by nearly twenty centuries of history, going as far back as Celtic times. It fell under Roman domination, was called Liberalitas Julia and among other ruins, still retains those of the Temple of Diana. During the Visigothic period, the Christian city occupied the surface area surrounded by the Roman wall, which was then re-worked. Under Moorish domination, which came to an end in 1165, further improvements were made to the original defensive system as shown by a fortified gate and the remains of the ancient Kasbah. Moreover, the toponymy is indicative of the Maghreb population which remained after the reconquest in the la Mouraria quarter in the northeast.

There are a number of buildings from the medieval period, the best known of which is unquestionably the Cathedral, begun in 1186 and essentially completed in the 13th and 14th centuries. But it was in the 15th century, when the Portuguese kings began living there on an increasingly regular basis that Evora's golden age began. At that time, convents and royal palaces sprung up

everywhere: Saint Claire Convent, founded in 1452, the royal church and convent of Sao Francisco, founded in 1480, not far from the royal palace of the same name, begun in 1470, Loios Convent with Sao Joao Evangelista Church, after 1485. These splendid monuments which were either entirely new buildings or else constructed within already existing establishments, are characterized by the Manoeline style which survived in the major creations of the 16th century: Palace of the Counts of Basto, built upon the site of the Alcazar and the Church of the Knights of Calatrava, the convents of Carmo and da Graça, Santo Antao, Santa Helena do Monte Calvario, etc.

The 16th century was a time of major urban planning as demonstrated by the ancient style: Agua da Prata aqueduct built in 1537 by Francisco de Arruda and the many fountains which remain (la Praça do Geraldo being the best known).

It also marked the beginning of Evora's intellectual and religious influence. The University of the Holy Spirit, where the Jesuits taught from 1553, played a role in the south which was comparable to that of Coimbra in the north of the kingdom. Moreover, Evora began a rapid decline following the expulsion of the Company of Jesus by the Minister, Pombal, in 1759.

Evora is also interesting for reasons other than its monumental heritage related to significant historic events and royal orders. This interest also goes beyond the many 16th-century patrician houses (Cordovil house, the house of Garcia de Resende). In fact, the unique quality of the city arises from the coherence of the minor architecture of the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries which finds its overall expression in the form of myriad low whitewashed houses, covered with tile roofs or terraces which line narrow streets whose layout is of medieval configuration in the old city centre and which in other areas bears witness to the concentric growth of the town up to the 17th century.

Wrought iron and azulejo decoration, which is splendid in the convents and palaces and very charming in the most humble dwellings serves to strengthen the fundamental unity of a type of architecture which is perfectly adapted to the climate and the site.

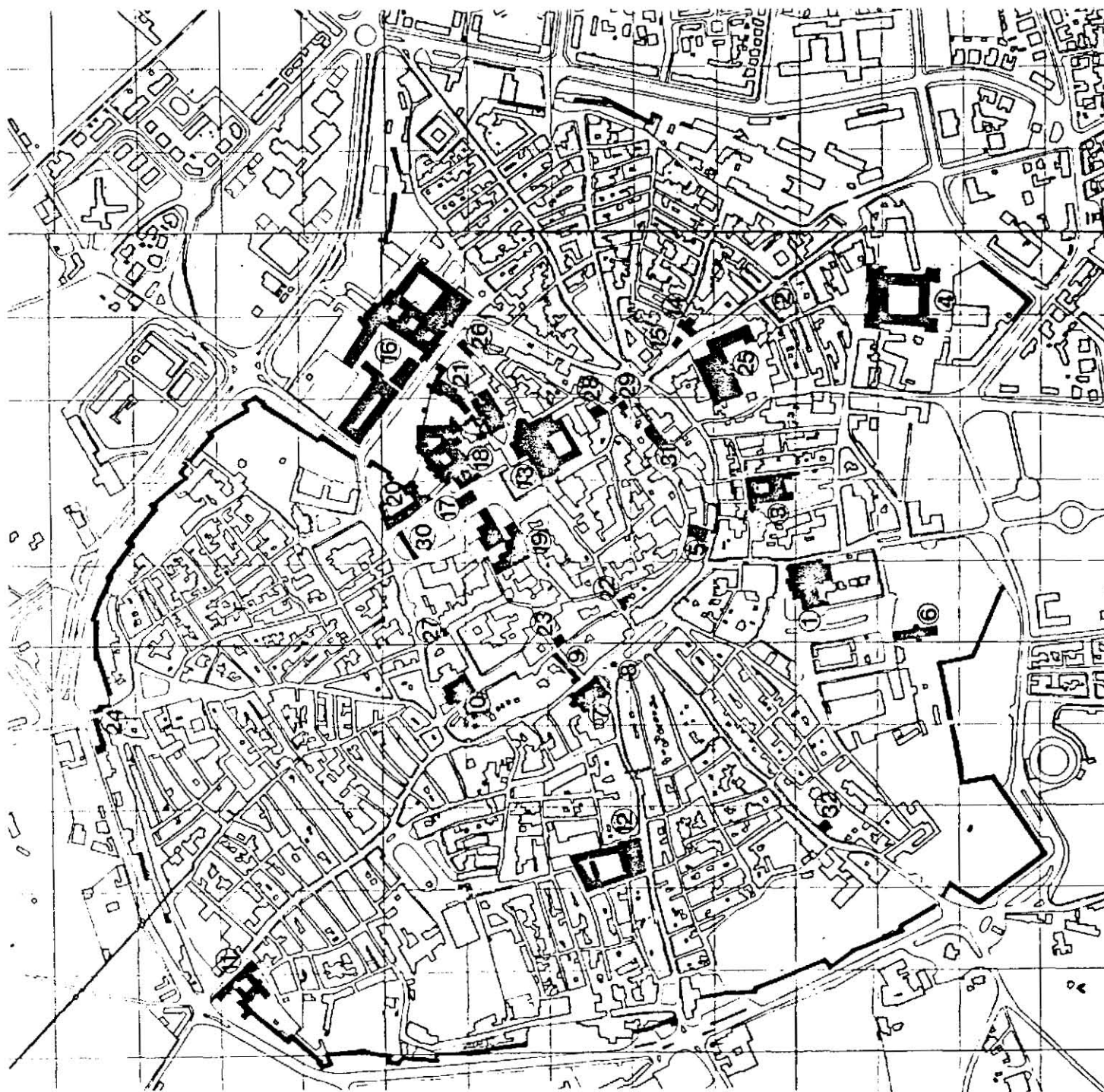
After recalling that the city of Evora was placed by a group of experts on the list of historic towns which could be included on the World Heritage List, ICOMOS justifies the nomination of the Portuguese government on the basis of criterion IV and secondarily criterion II.

Criterion IV. Evora is the finest example of a city of the golden age of Portugal after the destruction of Lisbon by the earthquake of 1755.

Criterion II. The cityscape of Evora alone can enable us to

understand the influence exerted by Portuguese architecture in Brazil, in sites such as Salvador de Bahia (included on the World Heritage List in 1985).

ICOMOS, April 1986.



INDICATION DES MONUMENTS ENUMERÉS DANS LA PROPOSITION

- 1-Eglise Royale de São Francisco
- 2-Petit Aqueduc canalisant l'eau vers le Granier Commum
- 3-Eglise et Couvent de Notre Dame de Graça
- 4-Regiment des Dragons
- 5-Eglise de S. Vicente
- 6-Palais Royal de D. Manuel
- 7-Eglise de Santo Antão
- 8-Fontaine de la Praça de Geraldo
- 9-Arcades de l'Aqueduc de Agua da Prata ex Reservoir à eau de l'aque
- 10-Eglise du Salvador do Mundo
- 11-Couvent de Santa Helena do Monte do Calvário
- 12-Eglise et ex Couvent de Santa Clara
- 13-Cathédrale
- 14-Résidence des Cordovil
- 15-Chafariz (fontaine) de Porta de Moura
- 16-Université du Saint Esprit
- 17-Temple Romain
- 18-Eglise et Couvent de São João Evangelista (Loios)
- 19-Palais de l'Inquisition
- 20-Palais des Ducs de Cadaval
- 21-Palais des Comtes de Basto
- 22-Tour médiéval de la muraille de la primitive enceinte
- 23-Tour carrée du Moyen-Age
- 24-Chapelle de Nossa Senhora do "O"
- 25-Couvent de Notre Dame de Carmo
- 26-Tour de Rampa dos Colegais
- 27-Arc de D. Isabel
- 28-Maison de Garcia de Resende
- 29-Tour de la Porta de Moura
- 30-Fragment de muraille
- 31-Eglise de la Misericórdia
- 32-Eglise de Mercês

EVORA - ZONE URBAINE

Monuments Nationaux (Classifiés Par Decret)

Echelle - 1:5000

MUNICIPALITÉ D'EVORA
NOYAU DE RECUPERATION DU CENTRE HISTORIQUE