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° 395**

A) IDENTIFICATION

Nomination : Piazza del Duomo or Campo dei Miracoli, Pisa

Location : Tuscany

State Party : Italy

Date : December 30, 1986

B) ICOMOS RECOMMENDATION

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

C) JUSTIFICATION

In a restricted area enclosed by the city walls, the former Ospedale della Misericordia and the Palazzo dell'Arcivescovato, the Piazza del Duomo, or Campo dei Miracoli, at Pisa comprises one of the most renowned and astonishing constructed landscapes in the world. The individual, basic structures of Christian religious architectural works (church, cathedral, baptistry, campanile, cemetery), were erected between the 11th and 14th centuries within close proximity of each other, forming a unique cluster of monuments. A magical quality pervades the site, emanating from the sparkling interplay of marble and mosaics, the unusual alliance of bare walls and arcated galleries, triangular frontons and heavy cupolas, the whole effect definitely heightened by the breathtaking slant of the campanile, the famous "Leaning Tower of Pisa".

Considering that no formal comments need be made with regard to the universally famous monuments of the Campo dei Miracoli -the Cathedral (begun in 1063 by the architect Buscheto, completed in the 13th century), the baptistry (begun in 1153 by the architect Diotisalvi, completed in the 14th century), the campanile (1173-1350) and the Campo Santo (begun in 1278 by Giovanni di Simone, completed in the 15th century), ICOMOS shall confine itself to recommending that the group of monuments of the Campo dei Miracoli in Pisa be included on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria I, II, IV and VI.

- Criterion I. Artistically unique because of its spatial design, the Campo dei Miracoli contains four absolute architectural masterpieces : the Cathedral, the baptistry, the campanile and the Campo Santo. Within these monuments are such world-renowned art treasures as the bronze and mosaic doors of

the cathedral, the pulpits in the baptistry and cathedral, the frescoes of the Campo Santo, and many others.

- **Criterion II.** The monuments of the Campo dei Miracoli considerably influenced the development of architecture and monumental arts at two different times in history.

1) First, from the 11th century up to 1284, during the epitome of Pisa's prosperity, a new type of church characterized by the refinement of polychrome architecture and the use of loggias was established. The Pisan style that first appeared with the Cathedral can be found elsewhere in Tuscany (notably at Lucques and Pistoia), but also within the Pisan maritime territory, as shown in more humble form by the "pieve" in Sardegna and Corsica.

2) Later, during the 14th century, architecture in Tuscany was dominated by the monumental style of Giovanni Pisano (who sculpted the pulpit of the Cathedral between 1302 and 1311), a new era of pictorial art -the Trecento- was ushered in after the epidemic of the black death (Triumph of Death, a fresco by Francesco Traini at the Campo Santo, c. 1350).

- **Criterion IV.** The group of monuments of the Campo dei Miracoli, composed of typical religious buildings constructed for distinct and specific functions, constitutes an outstanding example of medieval Christian architecture.

- **Criterion VI.** It was at the Cathedral of Pisa that Galileo Galilei (1564-1642), observing the oscillations of the bronze chandelier created by Battista Lorenzi, discovered at the age of 19 the theory of isochronism of small oscillations, a prelude to his pioneering work on dynamics. From the top of the campanile, he conducted experiments which led him to formulate the laws governing falling bodies. Two of the principal buildings of the Campo dei Miracoli are thus directly and tangibly associated with a decisive stage in the history of physical sciences.

ICOMOS, April 1987