

UKRAINE

Kiev: St. Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kiev-Pechersk Lavra

Brief description

Designed to rival Hagia Sophia in Constantinople, Kiev's Saint-Sophia Cathedral symbolizes the 'new Constantinople', capital of the Christian principality of Kiev, which was created in the 11th century in a region evangelized after the baptism of St Vladimir in 988. The spiritual and intellectual influence of Kiev-Pechersk Lavra contributed to the spread of Orthodox thought and the Orthodox faith in the Russian world from the 17th to the 19th century.

1. Introduction

Year(s) of Inscription 1990

Agency responsible for site management

- National Conservation Area "St.Sophia of Kiev"
24, Volodymyrska St., 01034 Kiev
- National Kiev-Pechersk Historic and Cultural Reserve
21, Sichnevogo Povstannia St., 01015 Kiev

2. Statement of Significance

Inscription Criteria C (i), (ii), (iii), (iv)

Justification as provided by the State Party

(1990) :

(Cathédrale Saint-Sophie) : La cathédrale Sainte-Sophie est un monument d'une valeur universelle exceptionnelle. Elle joua un grand rôle au XI^e s. dans la construction de la ville, en tant qu'édifice central de Kiev. La cathédrale exerça une influence considérable sur le développement de l'architecture de la Russie Ancienne, et par la suite sur l'architecture et l'art monumental de la Russie, de l'Ukraine et de la Biélorussie. Sainte-Sophie est la plus ancienne construction sur le territoire des peuples slaves d'U.R.S.S. qui nous est parvenue. La conception de la cathédrale remonte aux traditions architecturales et artistiques byzantines. Cependant, les formes architecturales et les procédés de construction byzantins ont trouvé ici

une nouvelle interprétation sous l'influence de la culture slave et du goût du prince de Kiev.

La cathédrale est un chef-d'œuvre inégalé de la culture de la Russie Ancienne.

L'architecture et l'art monumental de Sainte-Sophie reflètent les idées progressistes de la Russie Ancienne: l'affirmation du christianisme, la consolidation d'un Etat féodal et ses relations avec les pays étrangers.

Sainte-Sophie était la cathédrale du métropolite, le temple principal de la Russie, son centre social et culturel, et elle était aussi le lieu de sépulture de la famille princière. Près de la cathédrale fut fondée la première bibliothèque de la Russie Ancienne.

La cathédrale a conservé son architecture primitive avec des ajouts effectués aux XVII^e-XVIII^e siècles, 260 mètres carrés de mosaïques et 3 000 mètres carrés de fresques, ceci constituant le plus grand ensemble de peintures monumentales remontant au XI^e siècle.

(Kiev-Pechersk Lavra) : La Réserve d'Etat d'histoire et de culture de Kiévo-Petchersk est un ensemble d'architecture unique qui comprend notamment:

ouvrages datant du XI^e siècle:

La collégiale de la Dormition
l'église du Sauveur-à-Bérestovo
l'église de la Trinité "sur le porche"
les labyrinthes des Catacombes

Proches et Lointaines

ouvrages datant des XVII^e-XVIII^e siècles:

fortifications de la forteresse de Petchersk
l'église Sainte-Nicolas
l'église de-Tous-les-Saints
le grand Campanile
l'église de l'Exaltation-de-la-Croix
les Cellules des moines
le Réfectoire avec église, etc.

Les tombes de nombreuses personnalités historiques se trouvent sur le territoire de la Réserve.

Les monuments d'architecture sont décorés à l'intérieur de peintures monumentales uniques datant des XI^e-XIX^e siècles.

As provided in ICOMOS evaluation

(April 1990):

(St. Sophia): ICOMOS recommends the inclusion of St. Sophia of Kiev on the World Heritage List on the basis of Criteria (I), (II), (III), (IV), and (VI).

- Criterion (I). The Cathedral of St. Sophia of Kiev is a unique artistic achievement in both its architectural conception and its remarkable decoration.

By virtue of its plan whereby 12 columns divide the interior into five naves, this church represents a perfect fusion between symbolic image and architecture: the 13 cupolas, which crown it evoke Christ and the 12 apostles in a pyramidal composition so strongly expressed, that it was not diminished in the restoration of the onion domes in the 18th century. The design of the five apsidal chapels on the east side and of the double galleries on the north, south and west (where two unsymmetrical towers lead to the tribune) is quite original in both structure and technique.

By virtue of its unique mosaic decoration, which covers about 260 m² and includes such masterpieces as the Pantocrator in the cupola, the Annunciation in the transept, the Virgin Mary at Prayer, the Communion of the Apostles and the Deïsis in the main apsidiole, St. Sophia of Kiev is a mayor monument of Christian art. The 3,000 m² of wall paintings, often greatly restored, which complete the mosaic decor contribute to the paradisaical aspect of the interior; its richness makes it comparable to contemporary edifices of the Byzantine empire like Hosios Loukas in Phocide.

- Criterion (II). Just as the architectural structure of St. Sophia served as a model, the stylistic features of its decoration were spread throughout Kievian Russia in the 11th century by the icon painters working in Kiev. Despite the destruction of a large part of their work in the invasions by the Mongols under Batou Khan in 1240 and the Tatars from Crimea in 1416 and 1482, their influence can be seen in the centers of Novgorod, Pskov, Vladimir and Souzdal.

- Criterion (III). The decoration of St. Sophia, in particular the paintings in the west towers, which depict historical events (the visit of Princess Olga of Kiev to Constantinople) or anecdotes (the bear hunt, the squirrel hunt, the wild boar hunt, musicians and court entertainers), bear excellent testimony to the medieval civilization in a region long characterised by interethnic exchanges.

- Criterion (IV). Conceived to rival with Hagia Sophia in Constantinople, St. Sophia of Kiev is an outstanding example of a Greek-cross church. The central space plan is used but the transversal area is more developed. It is one of the major edifices of Eastern Christianity in the 11th century. Inspired by Byzantine models, the Cathedral has the profound originality of a unique monument strongly

influenced by both the Slavic and the cosmopolitan culture of the Prince of Kiev.

- Criterion (VI). In the center of the city of Kiev, St. Sophia symbolizes "New Constantinople", the capital of the Christian state founded by the son of St. Vladimir. It was the cathedral, where princes were crowned and - following the burial of Yaroslav the Wise in a marble sarcophagus decorated with crosses, palms and shells in 1054- were buried. At the time, it possessed the first library of all the Russias. St. Sophia of Kiev is directly and tangibly linked with the history of the foundation of the Russian state, which, even under Peter the Great, celebrated its victories there.

The nomination form for inclusion leaves a doubt as to the delimitation of the proposed property. ICOMOS is of the opinion that the whole of the monastic enclosure, including the buildings inside the enceinte, which since the 17th century, share a common history with the Cathedral, should be part of the proposal. The Baroque bell tower built by the architect Schaedel (1699-1706, remodeled 1851-52), the church refectory (1722-30), the monks' cells, the Metropolitan's house, and other buildings are, like the enceinte and the gates, significant elements of the past history of St. Sophia of Kiev. Furthermore, ICOMOS, noting the deleterious effect on the monastery's environs with the reconstruction of the heavily damaged city after World War II, recommends, that in future the authorities of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic respect building standards compatible with the exceptional quality of St. Sophia. ICOMOS, April 1990

(Kiev-Pechersk Lavra:) That inclusion of this cultural property be deferred to enable the authorities of the Soviet Socialist Republic of the Ukraine to complete the dossier and to formulate a joint proposal with that of St. Sophia of Kiev.

[...] However, having considered that the site and the monuments of Kiev-Pechersk Lavra are inextricably linked with the town of Kiev, ICOMOS recommends that a joint proposal be drawn up for Lavra complex and St. Sophia. The resulting proposal would - request inclusion on the World Heritage List of the following property: religious monuments of Kiev, the Cathedral of St. Sophia and Kiev-Pechersk Lavra.

1) The revised dossier should include a map of the proposed zone (desired scale - between 1/5,000 and 1/25,000), an aerial view and panoramic views of the surroundings as well as groundplans and photographs of the principal monuments. The protection zone of the Church of the Savior at

Berestovo, south of the Park of Eternal Glory, should also be detailed.

2) ICOMOS should like to note the reservations and fears it has in regard to the plans for an a fundamentis reconstruction of the Dormition Cathedral, as extensively commented in the press, and would like to have further details on this subject. ICOMOS, April 1990

(2005): ICOMOS recommends that the World Heritage Committee adopt the following draft decision:

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-05/29.COM/8B Add,
2. Commends the State Party for having proposed the buffer zones.
3. Approves the minor modification of the buffer zone of the Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastery Buildings.
4. Welcomes the proposal by the State Party to organize a mission to the site that would as well examine the choice of the eastern boundary of the buffer zone and the existing quality and condition of the urban fabric of the central Kiev both inside and outside of the buffer zones.

Committee Decision

Bureau (1990): The Bureau recommended that this property be included in the World Heritage List. It suggested, however, that the Ukrainian authorities draw up a nomination concerning not only Cathedral Saint Sophia, but also the Kiev-Pechersk Lavra, and submit this overall file, showing the complementarity of the two properties, before the next session of the Committee.

Session (1990): The Committee recommended that the authorities concerned respect the environment of these two outstanding monumental ensembles.

(2005)

Decision: 29 COM 8B.56

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/8B.Add**;
2. Commends the State Party for having proposed the buffer zones;
3. Approves the minor modification of the buffer zone of **Kiev: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastery Buildings, Kiev-Pechersk, Ukraine**;

Welcomes the proposal by the State Party to organise a mission to the site that would as well examine the choice of the eastern boundary of the buffer zone and the existing quality and condition of the urban fabric of the central Kiev both inside and outside the buffer zone.

- Statement of significance adequately defines the outstanding universal value of the site
- No change required by State Party

Boundaries and Buffer Zone

- Status of boundaries: adequate
- Buffer zone is a subject of subsequent revision. The project "The buffer zone of the architectural ensemble of the Saint Sophia Cathedral of Kiev: boundaries and use mode" was developed considering the changes of the town surrounding. Committee at its 29th session approved the minor modification of buffer zone
- Committee welcomed the proposal of State Party to organise a mission to the site that would examine the choice of the eastern boundary of the buffer zone and the existing quality and condition of the urban fabric of the central Kiev both inside and outside the buffer zone

Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- World Heritage site values have not been maintained. The reconstruction works undertaken following the damages during the 2WW have not affected significantly the authenticity of the property

3. Protection

Legislative and Administrative Arrangements

- Law of Ukraine "on Cultural Heritage Protection"
- Various Decrees of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine are providing the site-specific legal framework for the protection, conservation and use of property
- The protection arrangements are considered sufficiently effective

Actions taken/proposed:

- Adoption of the Law of Ukraine "On the confirmation of the Common National Programme *The Cultural Heritage Conservation from 2004 till 2010*"

4. Management

Use of site/property

- Religious use, visitor attraction

Management /Administrative Body

- Steering group has been set up formally with advisory capacity
- Site manager on full-time basis
- Levels of public authority who are primarily involved with the management of the site: national, local
- The current management system is sufficiently effective

5. Management Plan

- Management plan is being implemented
- Implementation commenced: April 2003
- The current management plan considered to be adequate
- Responsibility for over-seeing the implementation of the management plan and monitoring its effectiveness: Ministry of Culture; State Committee on Construction and Architecture; Service for the Cultural Heritage Protection; Supervision Councils; National Conservation Area “Sophia of Kiev” and the Kiev-Pechersk National Historical and Cultural Preserve

6. Financial Resources**Financial situation**

- Subsidies from State Budget
- WHF, UNESCO
- Getty Institute
- Funding is sufficient

7. Staffing Levels

- Number of staff: 594

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

- Good: conservation, management, promotion, interpretation, education, visitor management

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

- Scientific institutions and museum conservation facilities: National Conservation Area “Sophia of Kiev” and the Kiev-Pechersk National Historical and Cultural Preserve
- Education and training: National University of Construction and Architecture of Kiev; National T. Shevchenko University; National Academy of Fine Arts and Architecture; Academy of the Culture Managers of Ukraine

9. Visitor Management

- Visitor statistics: 809,525 visitors in 2004
- Visitor facilities: Museum of Book and Printing; Museum of Historic Treasures; Museum of Theatre, Music and Cinema; Museum of Ukrainian Folk Decorative Arts; art galleries; excursion offices; guides; souvenir shops

10. Scientific Studies

- Numerous geological researches of the base; geodetic supervisions on the building deformations and of constructive systems; conservation researches and restoration projects; archaeological surveys and archaeological research
- Numerous researches aimed at integrated study of history, architecture and monumental painting, movable monuments. Archival researches; inventory of the movable and immovable monuments, preparing of the methodological documentation for scientific and educational work

11. Education, Information and Awareness Building

- An adequate number of signs referring to World Heritage site
- World Heritage Convention Emblem used on publications
- Adequate awareness of World Heritage among: visitors, local communities, businesses, local authorities
- Annual conference and permanent thematic exhibitions dedicated to the World Heritage status of the property
- Web sites: www.sophia.org.ua
www.kplavra.kiev.ua

12. Factors affecting the Property (State of Conservation)**Reactive monitoring reports**

- World Heritage Bureau sessions: 22nd (1998); 23rd (1999)

Conservation interventions

- No major conservation/restoration measures have been taken. State Party conducted numerous researches which creates necessary framework for the establishment of the effective conservation strategies
- Present state of conservation: patchy

Threats and Risks to site

- Urban pressure, environmental pressure
- Specific issues: technogenic issues due to the negative conditions of the underground engineering: numerous hazardous places due to earthfalls and slopes of the Dnepr River

13. Monitoring

- Formal monitoring programme: technical state of monuments disposed on territories of the St-Sophia Cathedral to counteract of the development of negative phenomena; supervision of the underground water level; condition of slopes; temperature/humidity control

14. Conclusions and Recommended Actions

- Main benefits of WH status: Conservation; social; economic
- Strength: adequate conservation policies; revival of the Dormition Cathedral; enhancement of territories of Upper and Lower Lavra; strengthening of the hazard earthfall slopes; repair/restoration of several monuments
- Weaknesses: results of urban pressure; poor condition of the underground engineering communications; hazard places at the slopes of the Dnipro

Future actions:

- Subsequent geological researches; geodetic supervision of deformations; further improvement of the monitoring exercise; emergency repair works; repair of the engineering underground nets