



Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value: format, process, sources

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East and Eastern European Countries on the
Preparation of the Second Cycle of the Periodic
Reporting Exercise

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SOUV in the *Operational Guidelines*

49. Outstanding universal value means cultural and/or natural significance which is so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and to be of common importance for present and future generations of all humanity.

As such, the permanent protection of this heritage is of the highest importance to the international community as a whole. The Committee defines the criteria for the inscription of properties on the World Heritage List.

SOUV in the *Operational Guidelines*

51. At the time of inscription of a property on the World Heritage List, the Committee adopts a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (see paragraph 154) which will be the key reference for the future effective protection and management of the property.

SOUV in the *Operational Guidelines*

154. When deciding to inscribe a property on the World Heritage List, the Committee, guided by the Advisory Bodies, adopts a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the property.
155. The Statement of Outstanding Universal Value should include a **brief synthesis** of the Committee's determination that the property has outstanding universal value, identifying the **criteria** under which the property was inscribed, including the assessments of the conditions of **integrity** or **authenticity**, and of the **requirements for protection and management** in force. The Statement of Outstanding Universal Value shall be the basis for the future protection and management of the property.

Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

A retrospective Statement of OUV is a Statement of OUV created for properties that were inscribed on the World Heritage List before the requirement for a Statement of OUV was introduced into the Operational Guidelines in 2005.

SOUV : Format

(suggested overall length one or two A4 pages)

- **Brief synthesis**
 - Summary of factual information
 - Summary of qualities (values, attributes, integrity, authenticity)
- **Criteria** (values and attributes which manifest them)
- **Integrity** (all sites) as much as possible at the moment of inscription AND at the date of the drafting
- **Authenticity** (criteria i-vi) as much as possible at the moment of inscription AND at the date of the drafting
- **Management and protection requirements necessary to maintain OUV**
 - Overall framework
 - Specific long-term expectations

SOUV : Format

Brief synthesis

- Avoid bullet points
- Use narrative text
- Avoid acronyms
- Use key words to define the property

SOUV : Format

Brief synthesis

- Where is situated the property?
- What is it?
- Which is the relevant historic period?
- Focus on the list of attributes to develop on them

Justification for Criteria

- Check whether criteria statements were adopted at the moment of inscription
- Use criteria definitions in force at the moment of inscription
- Use the list of attributes

SOUV : Format

Integrity

- Do all the identified attributes are included within the boundaries of the property?
- Do the size of the boundaries is adequate to reflect the OUV?

Integrity

- Any of the identified attributes is endangered?
- Is the property vulnerable?

Authenticity

- Do the attributes well reflect the OUV?
- Do the restorations undertaken affected the OUV of the property?

Authenticity

- Do the materials used for the restorations were the same as the original ones?
- Do the property still play the original function?

Protection Requirements

- Summarize in one or two phrases the overall legal protection covering the property
- Do not put a long list of law articles

Management

- Present the long term expectations for the effective conservation of the property
- Propose solutions to fight potential weaknesses as identified in the statement of integrity

Management

- How to implement solutions addressing current or potential issues (issues identified in the statements of integrity/authenticity)

Retrospective SOUV for a serial property

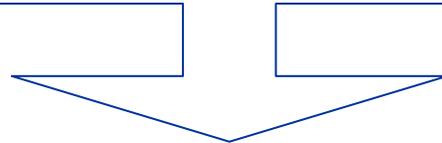
- Serial property as a whole should have a single Statement of OUV covering all component parts that make up the serial property.
- These requirements apply to all serial properties, whether national or transnational.

Retrospective SOUV for extended or re-nominated properties

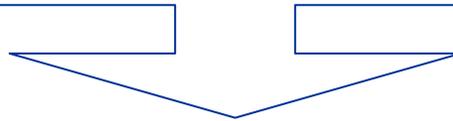
- Extended property : SOUV should take into account the documents of the original inscription and those of the extension
- Property re-nominated under additional criteria : SOUV should take account of the most recent decision of the Committee and evaluation by AB in relation to each of the relevant criteria assessed.

SOUV : process

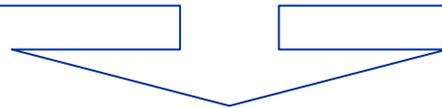
The **State Party**, using the official sources linked to the inscription of the concerned property (Evaluation, Committee's Decision and original Nomination file) along with its knowledge of it, prepares a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value



The **State Party** submits officially the Statement of OUV to the **World Heritage Centre** by **1 February**



The **WHC** checks for completeness and forwards the received Statement to the relevant **Advisory Body (ICOMOS and/or IUCN)**



SOUV : process

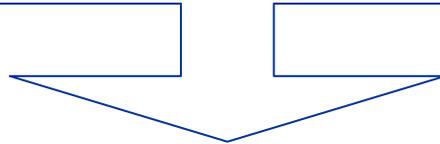
The **Advisory Body (ICOMOS and/or IUCN)** in collaboration with **WHC** evaluate and refine the text

The **World Heritage Centre** sends back to the **State Party** the redrafted text for its agreement

The **State Party** sends back to **WHC** the agreed text by 1 February (2nd year)

SOUV : process

WHC inserts the proposed Statement of Outstanding Universal Value in a Working Document for the Committee (April-May 2nd year)



The World Heritage Committee adopts or refers back the Statement of OUV (June-July 2nd year)

Retrospective SOUV : sources

- Where to find the relevant information?

There are 3 main sources:

- 1) The Committee Decision
- 2) The Advisory Body Evaluation Text
- 3) The Nomination Text

Retrospective SOUV : sources

Sydney Opera House (Australia)

No 166 rev

Official name as proposed by the State Party: Sydney Opera House

Location: Sydney, Australia

Brief description:

The Sydney Opera House is situated at the tip of a prominent peninsula projecting into Sydney Harbour and within close proximity to the Royal Botanic Gardens and the Sydney Harbour Bridge. The architectural form comprises three groups of interlocking vaulted 'shells' (roofing respectively the two main performance halls and a restaurant), set upon a vast terraced platform, 'the podium', and surrounded by terrace areas that function as pedestrian concourses. The complex includes more than 1,000 rooms, most of which are located within the podium, as are virtually all the technical functions of the performing arts centre.

Category of property:

In terms of the categories of cultural properties set out in Article 1 of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, this is a *monument*.

1. BASIC DATA

Included in the Tentative List: 27 June 2006

International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund for preparing the Nomination: No

Date received by the World Heritage Centre: 26 January 2006

Background:

In 1980 Australia submitted a nomination dossier referred to as *The Sydney Opera House in its Setting*, including the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the surrounding waterways of Sydney Harbour from Bradley's Head to McMahon's Point.

In April 1981 ICOMOS recommended that the inclusion of the proposed cultural property be deferred. ICOMOS considered that the inscription on the World Heritage List on the basis of criterion i, as proposed by the State Party, did not appear to assert itself, to the extent that the Opera House is part of a series of experiments in "sculptural architecture".

ICOMOS also considered that as a question of the work of a living architect, inaugurated less than ten years ago at that time, ICOMOS did not feel itself competent to express an opinion on the eventual admissibility based on criterion ii.

The inscription was recommended to be deferred until its exemplary character or its role as model appears more clearly attributable to the creation of Jørn Utzon.

At the 5th session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee (Paris, May 1981), the Bureau "considered that modern structures should only be accepted when there was clear evidence that they had established, or were outstanding examples of, a distinctive architectural style. However, the Bureau expressed interest in receiving a revised nomination based on the outstanding features of Sydney Harbour, both as a bay and as the site of the first permanent European settlement in Australia. Such a nomination could include structures such as the Opera House and the Sydney Harbour Bridge, but they would not constitute the primary elements."

Consultations: ICOMOS has consulted its International Scientific Committee on 20th Century Heritage.

Literature consulted (selection):

Curtis, WJ, *Modern architecture since 1900*, 4 ed, Phaidon Press, Oxford, 1994.

DOCOMOMO International, *The Modern Movement and the World Heritage List: advisory report to ICOMOS composed by DOCOMOMO's International Specialist Committee on registers*, The Netherlands, 1997.

Drew, P, *Sydney Opera House: Jørn Utzon, Architecture in detail series*, Phaidon Press, London, 1995.

Faber, T, Sharp, D and Norberg-Schulz, C, "Jørn Utzon: Special Issue", *World Architecture*, n° 15, 1991.

Frampton, K, *Modern architecture: a critical history*, 3 ed, (1st edition 1980), Thames and Hudson, London, 1992.

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Giedion, S, "Jørn Utzon and the third generation: three works by Jørn Utzon—a new chapter of *Space time and architecture*", *Zodiac*, n° 14, 36–47, 1965.

Hale, P and Macdonald, S, "The Sydney Opera House, an evolving icon" *Journal of Architectural Conservation*, vol. 11, n°2, July 2005, 7–21.

Jencks, C, *Modern movements in architecture*, Penguin, London, 1973.

Jencks, C, *The iconic building, the power of enigma*, Frances Lincoln, London, 2005.

Joedicke, J, *Architecture since 1945: sources and directions*, translated by JC Palmes, Pall Mall Press, London, 1969.

Jokilehto, J, "Great sites of modern architecture" *World Heritage* n° 25, April, 4–21, 2002.

Norberg-Schulz, C, "Jørn Utzon: Sydney Opera House, Sydney, Australia, 1957–73", *Global Architecture*, vol. 54, March 1980, 54–58. Edited and photographed by Yukio Futagawa, A.D.A. Edit, Tokyo.

Utzon, J, "The Sydney Opera House", *Zodiac* (Milan), n°14, 36–93, 1965, reprinted in Weston, R 2002, 134–135.

Technical Evaluation Mission: 20-22 September 2006

The Advisory Bodies Evaluations

Retrospective SOUV : sources

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In terms of the categories of cultural properties set out in Article 1 of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, this is a monument.

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Summary of factual information

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Summary of factual information

Retrospective SOUV : sources

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B.1,
2. Inscribes the **Sydney Opera House, Australia**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (i)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

The Sydney Opera House constitutes a masterpiece of 20th century architecture. Its significance is based on its unparalleled design and construction; its exceptional engineering achievements and technological innovation and its position as a world-famous icon of architecture. It is a daring and visionary experiment that has had an enduring influence on the emergent architecture of the late 20th century. Utzon's original design concept and his unique approach to building gave impetus to a collective creativity of architects, engineers and builders. Ove Arup's engineering achievements helped make Utzon's vision a reality. The design represents an extraordinary interpretation and response to the setting in Sydney Harbour. The Sydney Opera House is also of outstanding universal value for its achievements in structural engineering and building technology. The building is a great artistic monument and an icon, accessible to society at large.

Criterion (i): The Sydney Opera House is a great architectural work of the 20th century. It represents multiple strands of creativity, both in architectural form and structural design, a great urban sculpture carefully set in a remarkable waterscape and a world famous iconic building.

All elements necessary to express the values of the Sydney Opera House are included within the boundaries of the nominated area and buffer zone. This ensures the complete representation of its significance as an architectural object of great beauty in its waterscape setting. The Sydney Opera House continues to perform its function as a world-class performing arts centre. The Conservation Plan specifies the need to balance the roles of the building as an architectural monument and as a state of the art performing centre, thus retaining its authenticity of use and function. Attention given to retaining the building's authenticity culminated with the Conservation Plan and the Utzon Design Principles.

The Sydney Opera House was included in the National Heritage List in 2005 under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 and on the State Heritage Register of New South Wales in 2003 under the Heritage Act 1977. Listing in the National Heritage List implies that any proposed action to be taken inside or outside the boundaries of a National Heritage place or a World Heritage property that may have a significant impact on the heritage values is prohibited without the approval of the Minister for the Environment and Heritage. A buffer zone has been established.

Decisions report (Christchurch, 2007)

WHC-07/31.COM/24, p. 160

Criteria statements

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Criteria statements

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All elements necessary to express the values of the Sydney Opera House are included within the boundaries of the nominated area and buffer zone. This ensures the complete representation of its significance as an architectural object of great beauty in its waterscape setting. The Sydney Opera House continues to perform its function as a

Retrospective SOUV : sources

Criteria statements

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Model Tree

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Criteria statements

SOUV : Examples

Brief synthesis

The Sydney Opera House constitutes a **masterpiece** of 20th century architecture. Its significance is based on its **unparalleled** design and construction; its **exceptional** engineering achievements and technological innovation and its position as a **world-famous icon** of architecture. It is a **daring and visionary** experiment that has had an **enduring influence** on the emergent architecture of the late 20th century. Utzon's original design concept and his **unique** approach to building gave impetus to a collective creativity of architects, engineers and builders. Ove Arup's engineering achievements helped make Utzon's vision a reality. The design represents an **extraordinary** interpretation and response to the setting in Sydney Harbour. The Sydney Opera House is also of outstanding universal value for its achievements in structural engineering and building technology. The building is a **great artistic monument and an icon**, accessible to society at large



SOUV : Examples

Criteria

Criterion (i) represent a masterpiece of human creative genius

Criterion (i): The Sydney Opera House is a great architectural work of the 20th century. It represents multiple strands of creativity, both in architectural form and structural design, a great urban sculpture carefully set in a remarkable waterscape and a world famous iconic building.

SOUV : Examples

Integrity and authenticity

All elements necessary to express the values of the Sydney Opera House are included within the boundaries of the nominated area and buffer zone. This ensures **the complete representation of its significance** as an architectural object of great beauty in its waterscape setting. The Sydney Opera House continues to perform its function as a world-class performing arts centre. The Conservation Plan specifies the need to balance the roles of the building as an architectural monument and as a state of the art performing centre, thus retaining **its authenticity of use and function**. Attention given to retaining the building's authenticity culminated with the Conservation Plan and the Utzon Design Principles.

SOUV : Examples

Management and protection requirements

The Sydney Opera House was included in the National Heritage List in 2005 under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 and on the State Heritage Register of New South Wales in 2003 under the Heritage Act 1977. Listing in the National Heritage List implies that any proposed action to be taken inside or outside the boundaries of a National Heritage place or a World Heritage property that may have a significant impact on the heritage values is prohibited without the approval of the Minister for the Environment and Heritage. A buffer zone has been established.

The present state of conservation is very good. The property is maintained and preserved through regular and rigorous repair and conservation programmes. The management system of the Sydney Opera House takes into account a wide range of measures provided under planning and heritage legislation and policies of both the Australian Government and the New South Wales Government. The Management Plan for the Sydney Opera House, the Conservation Plan and the Utzon Design Principles together provide the policy framework for the conservation and management of the Sydney Opera House.



SOUV : Examples

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-07/31.COM/8B and WHC-07/31.COM/INF.8B.1,
2. Inscribes the **Sydney Opera House, Australia**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (i)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

The Sydney Opera House constitutes a masterpiece of 20th century architecture. Its significance is based on its unparalleled design and construction; its exceptional engineering achievements and technological innovation and its position as a world-famous icon of architecture. It is a daring and visionary experiment that has had an enduring influence on the emergent architecture of the late 20th century. Utzon's original design concept and his unique approach to building gave impetus to a collective creativity of architects, engineers and builders. Ove Arup's engineering achievements helped make Utzon's vision a reality. The design represents an extraordinary interpretation and response to the setting in Sydney Harbour. The Sydney Opera House is also of outstanding universal value for its achievements in structural engineering and building technology. The building is a great artistic monument and an icon, accessible to society at large.

Criterion (i): The Sydney Opera House is a great architectural work of the 20th century. It represents multiple strands of creativity, both in architectural form and structural design, a great urban sculpture carefully set in a remarkable waterscape and a world famous iconic building.

All elements necessary to express the values of the Sydney Opera House are included within the boundaries of the nominated area and buffer zone. This ensures the complete representation of its significance as an architectural object of great beauty in its waterscape setting. The Sydney Opera House continues to perform its function as a world-class performing arts centre. The Conservation Plan specifies the need to balance the roles of the building as an architectural monument and as a state of the art performing centre, thus retaining its authenticity of use and function. Attention given to retaining the building's authenticity culminated with the Conservation Plan and the Utzon Design Principles.

The Sydney Opera House was included in the National Heritage List in 2005 under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 and on the State Heritage Register of New South Wales in 2003 under the Heritage Act 1977. Listing in the National Heritage List implies that any proposed action to be taken inside or outside the boundaries of a National Heritage place or a World Heritage property that may have a significant impact on the heritage values is prohibited without the approval of the Minister for the Environment and Heritage. A buffer zone has been established.

Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

- The Statement of Outstanding Universal Value will be the **key reference** for the future effective protection and management of the property



- Thank you!

- Merci!