



STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT OF WORLD HERITAGE SITE - WALLED CITY OF BAKU WITH THE SHIRVANSHAHS' PALACE AND THE MAIDEN TOWER, AZERBAIJAN

January, 2014
Baku

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I. INTRODUCTION

a. State Party

Administration of the State Historical-Architectural Reserve “Icherisheher” under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SHAHAR).

b. Name of World Heritage Property

Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshahs' Palace and the Maiden Tower

c. Area of the property and number of inhabitants living in the property

Area of the property – 22 ha; number of inhabitants – about 4100.

d. Date of the inscription on the World Heritage List

The site was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2000 on the basis of the Criteria (IV).

e. Date of the inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger

After some joint missions of the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS experts the Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshahs' Palace and the Maiden Tower was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2003 because this site sustained significant damage during the earthquake of November 2000 and increasingly affected by the pressure of urban development, the lack of conservation policies and capacities and dubious restoration efforts.

f. Date of the exclusion from the List of World Heritage in Danger

On January 25-30, 2009, joint mission of the WHC and ICOMOS made monitoring visit to the property to assess the actions taken by the State Party in the follow-up of previous Committee decisions. World Heritage Centre appreciated “...State Party's efforts to improve the state of conservation of the property and the significant progress made in the implementation of the corrective measures for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.” (Decision: 33COM 7A.25) and within the 33rd session of the World Heritage Committee (Seville, Spain, July 20-30, 2009) removed the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

g. Organization responsible for preparation of the report

Report is prepared by the Administration of the State Historical-Architectural Reserve “Icherisheher” under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SHAHAR).

Note: this information refers to developments over the past two years and since the last decision of the Committee for this property

II. THE MEASURES HAD BEEN TAKEN BY AZERBAIJAN ACCORDING TO THE DECISION (36 COM 7B.71) OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE ADOPTED AT ITS 36TH SESSION (RUSSIA, 2012)

Information below covers activities of the State Party in order respond to requirements of respectful articles of the Committee decision:

In accordance with article 3:

(The Committee takes note of the progress made by the State Party in addressing concerns raised in prior sessions of World Heritage Committee and urges it to secure the necessary resources for the sustained operation of the management system currently in place and for the implementation of prescribed priority conservation and rehabilitation actions.)

Being relatively young institution SHAHAR keeps improving its management system in order to provide most effective framework for further activities on conservation and rehabilitation of the Walled City of Baku World Heritage Site and number of historical-architectural monuments within its area.

SHAHAR is paying big attention to the issue of development of cooperation with UNESCO and its bodies. After several structural reforms realized within reporting period its department in charge was reorganized (International cooperation and cultural relations department) and fully equipped with experts. For the moment there are two allocated employees of the Department responsible for follow-up of all recommendations and new initiatives of appropriate international organizations dealing with World Heritage Sites. Meantime this department and its employees are in charge of coordination of all relevant activities by other departments and organizations within the SHAHAR, as well as communication with experts of other state stakeholders.

Since January 2012 in accordance with the appropriate Presidential Decree SHAHAR was put in charge of managing one more state reserve – State Historical-Ethnographical Reserve “Qala”. Due to this fact new department in charge of coordination of issues related to “Qala” reserve was created within the SHAHAR. Besides, several other departments were also equipped with new relevant experts, including architects, restorers, project managers, museologists, HR specialists, legal advisers and etc. As a result the solid ground for more efficient distribution of relevant issues between appropriate experts as well as better implementation of strategic vision within daily tasks have been provided. One of important from this perspective steps was hiring of advanced level HR manager which helped to organize number of trainings and skills improvement seminars within reporting period. Creation of new position of Assistant to Head of Administration on Scientific Issues and appointment of appropriate professional also helped to organize proper coordination of all scientific researches and analyses by relevant structures and experts. Scientific analyses are part and parcel of any project implemented by SHAHAR both in the area of conservation and museum activities.

Special attention was paid to the issues of strengthening and capacity building of Scientific-Practical Restoration Atelier and Housing-Maintenance and Repair Service. These are two main organizations within structure of SHAHAR dealing on the daily basis with preservation and maintenance of the monuments within area of the World Heritage Site. Changes in personnel, trainings and study trips to European heritage sites, instructions to new staff members on requirements of both Conservation Master Plan and Integrated Area Management Plan and other actions undertaken have been positively reflected from quality and efficiency of work point of view.

Meantime number of internal rules and procedures and other legislative acts were developed and adopted by SHAHAR and/or relevant authorities within reporting period (additional information presented in the part III of this report).

It should be also underlined that by the Presidential Decree, dated 27 December, 2013 “State Program on Restoration and Preservation of Historical-Cultural Monuments and Improvement and Development of Functionality of Cultural Reserves (2014-2020)” was adopted. The Program considers implementation of a number of measures within following directions during the period of next 7 years:

- Improvement of legal base;
- Optimization and improvement of quality of works on restoration and conservation of historical and cultural monuments;
- Series of activities on better organization of monitoring, restoration and conservation, research and promotion.

The Program, which covers all cultural reserves of the country including State Historical-Architectural Reserve “Icherisheher”, creates new opportunities for further sustainable development and improvement of SHAHAR’s management system and for effective implementation of priority conservation and rehabilitation actions.

In accordance with Article 4:

(the Committee expresses its serious concern about the degradation of the setting of the property and the visual impact generated by high-rise buildings and also urges the State Party to introduce a moratorium on further construction of tall buildings until legal provisions, integrated urban policies and a survey of the urban landscape of the property have been developed and adopted to ensure the protection of the property’s surroundings.)

In order to provide moratorium for construction of tall buildings in the surroundings of world heritage site SHAHAR has applied with a request to the Government of Azerbaijan in July 2012. The Government of Azerbaijan has set a task for relevant governmental structures to take all necessary measures. SHAHAR has received the official confirmations about a moratorium on further construction of tall buildings in the surroundings of the World Heritage Site from the State Committee for Urban Planning and Architecture, the Ministry of Emergency Situations and the Baku City Mayor’s Office (Copies of relevant letters presented in Annex 1).

In accordance with Article 5:

(The Committee Requests the State Party to submit technical specifications of all on-going and planned new construction projects, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for review prior to granting approval for implementation.)

There is no ongoing and planned new construction within territory of Walled City of Baku World Heritage Site and its buffer zone.

In accordance with Article 6:

(The Committee Recommends that the State Party establish a Technical Review Committee, including representatives from all stakeholders, to review all major development proposals that could adversely impact on the Outstanding Universal Value, and to propose planning controls and policies.)

Since last visit of ICOMOS/WHC joint reactive-monitoring mission (06-11 February, 2012) to the Walled City of Baku SHAHAR is paying much bigger attention to effective communication with respectful stakeholders and coordination of Baku city development plans related to implementation of projects within surrounding area. Existing government structure and additional coordination units (both temporary and permanent) established within existing government system created proper platform for productive activities in this field.

Legal status of SHAHAR (i.e. Administration under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan), provides proper mechanisms of participation in decision making process. In July 2012 SHAHAR reported to the office of Prime-minister on appropriate Decision (36 COM 7B.71) of the World Heritage Committee and its recommendations to the State Party. Cabinet of Ministers instructed all its relevant authorities (stakeholders) to collaborate in order to consider recommendations of the World Heritage Committee in further activities. It was decided to build up this collaboration under umbrella of ongoing project of creation of "Greater Baku Regional Development Plan" coordinated by State Committee for Urban Planning and Architecture.

This project started in 2009 based on agreement between Government of Azerbaijan and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Its main goals are:

- to analyze existing situation within Greater Baku;
- to work out basic conceptual directions of development of Greater Baku region;
- to work out general scheme of development of Greater Baku;
- to work out development plan for Greater Baku (scale 1:25000);
- to work out land use plan (general plan) for Baku Itself ("Amphitheater").

Development of the Plan included its following main parts:

- strategic ecological assessment of Greater Baku territory;
- local economic development;
- management of planning on regional and city level;
- development of plan on functional zoning of Greater Baku region;
- development of land use plan for Baku itself, development of GIS/PIS system for management of process of planning.

Project team included number of local and international experts in the field. Besides, State Committee for Urban Development and Architecture consolidated more than 20 government agencies – stakeholders within this project.

Main task of the work on Greater Baku Development Concept was to find out the ideology which will provide basement for sorting out both current problems/issues and future plans. It was decided that such an ideology is a decentralization of Greater Baku region – decentralization both on regional level and city level. Regional decentralization implies maximum possible relocation of city clusters (those which are able to function in other cities of the country as well) from Absheron peninsula to regions of Azerbaijan. City decentralization implies relocation of some city functions from central part of Baku Itself to outskirts of the city. Interaction between center and outskirts of the city going to be organized based on progressive and balanced development.

Process of city decentralization is also covering issues related to conservation of historical center of Baku. Walled City of Baku is located within the center of Baku Itself, which is only center of the city and also functioning as administrative, historical-cultural, commercial and etc. center. Suggested scheme of city decentralization is considering creation of two alternative sub-cities next to Baku, creation of two main sub-centers and two more additional sub-centers, as well as creation of seven local sub-centers. Creation and development of such a scheme will allow clearly differentiate different city functions, as well as systemize locating of city clusters.

Area of existing city center is going to keep only cultural-historical, commercial and partly trade clusters. Initial plan for the moment, is that such a center is going to cover up to 1500 ha. Plan makes no provision for any big and large-scale development projects. Plan will provide basement for proper conservation of existing historical urban fabric, which may only be restored and rehabilitated in future. Main line of all development directions of the plan of both Greater Baku and Baku Itself for next 25-30 years is a preservation of existing historical, architectural and cultural heritage of Baku.

Work on the draft of Greater Baku Regional Development Plan was finalized in May 2013. There are following 22 state agencies involved in the process of coordination of this project, which have officially adopted the draft:

1. Executive Power of Baku city
2. Executive Power of Sumgayit city
3. Executive Power of Absheron region
4. Ministry of Culture and Tourism
5. Ministry of Emergency Situations
6. Ministry of Economic Development
7. Ministry of Finance
8. Ministry of Transport
9. Ministry of Youth and Sport
10. Ministry of Education
11. Ministry of Agriculture
12. Ministry of Communication and Information Technologies
13. Ministry of Health
14. Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources
15. Administration of State Historical-Architectural Reserve "Icherisheher"
16. State Committee of Land and Cartography
17. State Committee on Property Issues
18. State Oil Company
19. "Azerenerji" ("AzerEnergy") JSC

20. "Azersu" ("AzerWater") JSC
21. "Azerigaz" ("AzeriGas") JSC
22. Azerbaijan Union of Architects

For the moment the document is about to be presented to the Cabinet of Ministers for further consideration.

In accordance with Article 7:

(State Committee notes the results of the February 2012 reactive monitoring mission and encourages the State Party to implement its recommendations, with particular emphasis on:)

Point 7 (a):

(...Ensuring closer cooperation between State Historical-Architectural Reserve "Icherisheher" (SHAHAR) and the Greater Baku Planning and collaboration in the formulation of integrated urban policies.)

There is close cooperation between SHAHAR and State Committee for Urban Planning and Architecture established since first days of activity of the SHAHAR in 2007. State Committee was one of main stakeholders involved into process of development of General Detailed Conservation Master Plan of the Historical Center of Baku. Final draft of the Master Plan was adopted by several state authorities including State Committee for Urban Planning and Architecture. SHAHAR also created close relations particularly with the team in charge of Greater Baku Regional Development Plan, which started its activity within the structure of the State Committee on a later stage. General Detailed Conservation Master Plan of the Historical Center of Baku was officially approved by the Prime-Minister in November, 2010 and sent to all relevant stakeholders (including State Committee and its unit in charge of Greater Baku Planning process) for further consideration. There are number bilateral meetings organized on a working level between experts of SHAHAR and Greater Baku Planning unit since that time in order to make sure that all requirements of the Master Plan was considered in the draft of Greater Baku Regional Development Plan.

Point 7 (b):

(...Implementation of Heritage Impact Assessments prior to the approval of projects within the property and its buffer zone.)

In order to introduce and to discuss the Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties to all the relevant employees of different structures of SHAHAR this document was presented during the round table organized by International cooperation and cultural relations department. Both direct and indirect impact issues as well as different stages of heritage impact assessment and the way of its documentation were discussed in details. Final draft of SOUV was also presented at length and required to be considered at all stages starting from initial planning and development. It was particularly underlined that understanding the full meaning of the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Property is a crucial part of the heritage impact assessment process. Copy of the Guidelines has been distributed to all relevant structures of SHAHAR, and they were instructed to consider it within the process of evaluation of all types of further projects within the property and its buffer zone.

Point 7 (c):

(...Development of a guidance manual for maintenance of historic buildings.)

“Rules on routing engineering communications, coordination of construction-reinforcement, renovation, capital repair, restoration, conservation, reconstruction and regeneration works, organization of monitoring over the performance of the enumerated works and taking over the completed facilities for exploitation” were developed and adopted by the Head of Administration in January, 2012. The implementation of these rules is obligatory for all the structural bodies of SHAHAR for the maintenance of historic buildings.

Point 7 (d):

[...Prioritization of the implementation of research and conservation of urban elements set out in the Integrated Area Management Plan (IAMAP) and the rehabilitation action plan for urban residential quarters prescribed in the Conservation Master Plan (CMP).]

Icherisheher constitutes unique cultural heritage. SHAHAR believes that extremely important part of its agenda is to ensure that any rehabilitation activities within territory of Walled City of Baku needs to be implemented using materials and styles compatible with the surrounding historic environment. Both IAMAP and CMP provides clear guidelines, which are proper tools to maintain the architectural harmony and integrity of the World Heritage Site by identifying forms, sizes, colors and materials for different urban elements of residential quarters and the rest of historical monuments. One of the key components of any type of project considered by both Scientific-Practical Restoration Atelier and Housing-Maintenance and Repair Service of SHAHAR is to follow design guidelines and particularly such an elements like patterns of façades, windows, doors, wall surfaces, balconies and railings as well as courtyards and public squares with its green spaces. This is where scientific research and then proper design work plays a key role and provides the solid ground for preservation of Walled City’s architectural fabric and its historical character.

SHAHAR is prioritizing order of conservation and rehabilitation works through annual plans developed based on both historical value and conditions of monuments following requirements of CMP and IAMAP. This process is also demanding properly organized regular monitoring, which allows considering real conditions and state of conservation of monuments. One of important decisions taken in 2013 was the decision of the Head of Administration which established inter-agency commission for monitoring of buildings within the reserve area. Commission includes various experts of SHAHAR as well as representatives of the Ministry of Emergency Situations and State Committee for Urban Planning and Architecture.

SHAHAR is also paying big attention to consideration of international expertise and involvement of respectful experts into the process accordingly. One of its ongoing projects is the Icherisheher Centre for Traditional Arts (ICTA), which is joint initiative of SHAHAR and Prince's School of Traditional Arts (PSTA), UK. One of the main aims of the Centre, established in 2012, is to develop and regenerate the traditional Azerbaijani arts and crafts through training talented, young artists. ICTA, located in Icherisheher, is the major part of the vision of SHAHAR for the preservation of the Walled City of Baku as a "Living History". One of the first projects realized by ICTA and experts allocated by PSTA was development of the design of the throne of Shirvanshahs. This unique project is an opportunity to discover and regenerate a symbol of Shirvanshahs' state power. Its aim is not to replicate how the throne may have appeared but to create an integral design that captures the essence of a traditional craft practised in 15th century Shirvan and surrounding regions. Meanwhile it is planned that ICTA and its experts will be involved in scientific research and development of interior design of Beylar Mosque (19th century). Conservation project of the mosque is going to be started in 2014.

Point 7 (e):

(...Strengthening the implementation of the living city approach policy by providing financial and administrative support to maintain inhabitants within the Walled City.)

- Healthcare and medical support was one of the missing services to be provided within territory of the Reserve for years. SHAHAR applied to the Ministry of Health and coordinated opening of a new medical point with permanent staff working on daily basis.
- There are 442 apartments registered in the list of ones to be repaired within last two years. Up to day 228 out of them were repaired by SHAHAR within its budget allocated by the State.
- SHAHAR is paying big attention to the social issues related to residents of the World Heritage Site and considering unemployment rate as well. 25 residents were hired by SHAHAR for its different structures within reporting period.
- SHAHAR also keeps record of aged, disabled and solitary residents. There are financial aid and special gifts presented to such a resident on main public holidays by SHAHAR. Meantime there are public festivities and special performances organized for local children organized on Novruz and New Year holidays with special presents given.

Point 7 (f):

(...Expanding representation on the Council of Elders to ensure larger participation and transparency in decision-making processes.)

Council of Elders is one of important tools for SHAHAR in order to follow up tendencies among residents and wider local community as well as to communicate its agenda to public. Within last several years the Council became strong and productive instrument which actively participate in live of the World Heritage Site. SHAHAR's management enjoys the privilege of an opportunity to have also daily meetings with different members of the Council. Being experienced professionals in certain fields Council members are taking part in both discussion and decision making processes

within priority activities of SHAHAR.

Within reporting period SHAHAR provided the Council with new office space and is covering expenses related to its daily management. Meanwhile there is new procedure adopted in order to provide framework for joint consideration by SHAHAR and Council of complaints and proposals from residents. Another innovative step is participation of Council of Elders representative in meetings of the Head of Administration with residents scheduled on regular basis.

Besides regular working meetings, there is annual forum of Council of Elders organized every February. The decisions and proposals adopted during this annual meeting are taken into consideration by SHAHAR in its further activities. In order to strength the role of civil society organizations in decision making process several NGOs were also involved into work of the Council of Elders depending on precise agenda. The involved organizations (“Ireli” Youth Movement, “EcoSphere” ecological organization, “IDEA” ecological movement, “DA-ART” Art Center and etc.) have experience in different fields like ecology, architecture, youth mobility, voluntarism and others.

III. ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT DURING THE REPORT PERIOD

A. Legislative acts prepared by SHAHAR and/or relevant authorities:

- According to Presidential Decree, dated October 13, 2011 and to the Decision of Cabinet of Ministers, dated January 19, 2012 house museum of well-known artist Tahir Salahov in the Walled City was established within the structure of SHAHAR.
- “Marionette Theatre” was included into structure of SHAHAR in 2012 and a new administrative building within the Walled City was assigned for its functioning.

SHAHAR has adopted:

- Rules on routing engineering communications, coordination of construction-reinforcement, renovation, capital repair, restoration, conservation, reconstruction and regeneration works, organization of monitoring over the performance of the enumerated works and taking over the completed facilities for exploitation (2012);
- Instructions for Actions of Employees of the Administration of State Historical-Architectural Reserve “Icherisheher” in Case of Natural and Human-made Emergencies and Threats (2012);
- Civil Defence Plan of the Housing Communal and Maintenance Service of the Administration of State Historical-Architectural Reserve “Icherisheher” (2012);
- Schedule of Basic Measures in Cases of Emergence of the Danger and Occurrence of Natural Disasters, Industrial Accidents and Destructions (2012);
- Fire Safety Rules of the State Historical-Architectural Reserve “Icherisheher” (2013);

- Order of the Head of Administration on fire safety within the territory of the Reserves Administration in charge, constructions, buildings, facilities in use of units and entities (2013).

B. Restoration, conservation, renovation and promotion activities.

B.1. Repairs

- During the last two years 442 apartments were registered for repairs and 228 out of them were repaired by the SHAHAR funded via state budget. Also building roofs (1693 m²), doors and windows (136 m²) have been changed, floor and ceiling works (985 m²) have been carried out.
- According to the Order of the Head of Administration adopted to regulate the procedures of issuing permissions to apartment dwellers for repairs of apartments at their own expense, 672 applications were examined and 610 of them were given consent for current repairing works.
- As the result of such a works like installation of street lighting, replacement of gas pipelines and sewerage system, 92% of planned engineer-communication and street pavements works were finalized.

B.2. Conservation

CASE DESCRIPTION

The conservation of Maiden Tower was launched in 2009 according to “Detailed Conservation Master Plan of the Historic Center of Baku”. After the restoration materials and the method of conservation to be used were selected and appropriate tests were carried out, in March 2011 works on the counterforce of the monument and observation deck started, from June 2012 Tower’s main circular part’s façades works continued. In January 2013 as the monument’s interior conservation had started, the Tower shut down for visitors. The conservation was realized under supervision of world leading Austrian company in the area of protection of buildings, their restoration and conservation – “Erich Pumper Atelier” with the involvement of local and foreign specialists. Furthermore, inside the monument a new museum exposition appropriate to international standards was created. In December, 2013 the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan participated in the opening ceremony of Maiden Tower.

- Conservation of one part of the Fortress Wall (about 200 meters long) finished in January, 2014. This project, started in 2011, also included conservation of “Quadrangular” Tower – 12 century monument, build within the Wall.
- One more conservation project, realized within reporting period is the conservation of “Two-Storeyed Caravanserai” (17th century).

B.3. Renovation

- During the reporting period arrangement of green spaces carried out within 7300m² area of Icherisheher, 35320 evergreen flowers and bushes were planted.

- 4350 different-type lamps were changed in order to provide the illumination of more than 1000 plafonds fixed on walls and pavements.
- In order to improve working conditions of employers of the Shirvanshah' Palace Complex, museum's administrative building was renovated by SHAHAR.

C. Promotion of Icherisheher as a touristic center, propaganda among people for maintenance of WHC

Activities aimed at popularization of Icherisheher can be sorted as follows:

C.1. Public activities

Below presented are some of valuable and most important events organized (photo-list presented in Annex 2).

- In March 2012 and 2013 traditional holiday "Novruz" (Spring Holiday) has been celebrated in Icherisheher. During one week several events such as "Novruz Holiday Festival" and "Meydan bazari (Square market)" was organized within the area of Icherisheher which met public interest.
- On May 17-19, 2012 «3rd International Art Festival "Maiden Tower"» occurred with the partnership of Heydar Aliyev Foundation, Contemporary Art Museum and "Maiden Tower" Art Gallery.
- On May 20-25, 2012 the traditional "Meydan bazari" (Square Market) was organized within the Double Gates Square for the visitors of Baku during Eurovision song contest.
- On April 17, 2013 Scientific-Practical Conference devoted to "International day of monuments and historical places" was held with the partnership of the Union of Architects of Azerbaijan.
- On May 18, 2013 a number of events were organized by "Icherisheher" Historical Museum, House-museum of Tahir Salahov, located within the "Icherisheher" State Historical-Architectural Reserve devoted to the "International Day of Museums".
- In May, 2013 International "Living History" Festival was organized for the first time with active participation of foreign states embassies and diplomatic missions. The festival aimed to present cultural heritage of different European nations and to promote intercultural dialogue.

CASE DESCRIPTION

According to the decision of UNESCO General Conference about the world-wide celebration of 100th anniversary of Muslim East first operetta "Arshin mal alan", SHAHAR organized the performance of "Arshin mal alan" by its Marionette Theatre in Icherisheher in November, 2013.

- On June 1, 2013 there was held a march "Say No to drugs" and an exhibition devoted to "1 June - International Children Protection Day".

- During the reporting period in June of 2012 and 2013 concerts within “French Music Day in Icherisheher” were organized together with French Embassy in Azerbaijan.
- Along with national holidays, SHAHAR has a good practice on celebrations of other states important days. There is St. Andrew’s Day celebrated every year since 2009, with involvement of Scottish community. Scottish Music Day and Pipers Band Parade were organized on November 2013.
- For popularization of Icherisheher among the youth cultural-educational projects were realized during reporting years: exhibition of “Azerbaijani folk tales on paintings of children” (June, 2012); exhibition of “DA-ART” art center’s students’ pictures, paintings and other hand-works on the topic of “History in the eyes of children” (2012); different presentations about history and monuments of old city for students and young people.
- On November 29, 2013 SHAHAR organized the presentation of the project “Three stories”, which aimed to create the possibilities for young film makers to realize themselves and to increase the interest for city’s historical-architectural heritage.
- On November 29, 2013 SHAHAR also celebrated 85th anniversary of world famous artist Tahir Salahov and organized special event and exhibition within his house-museum.

C.2. Projects

- SHAHAR has participated in the beginning meeting of “OLKAS: “From the Aegean to the Black Sea” Medieval Ports in the Maritime Routs of the East” organized by European Center for Byzantine and post Byzantine monuments of the Republic of Greece on March 29-30, 2012 in Thessaloniki. The aim of the project is the contribution to the confrontation of an important void in the development of cultural tourism in the wider region of Black and Caspian Sea. In framework of this international project Walled City of Baku was also presented within the photo exhibition held in Greece, Thessaloniki from July to December, 2013.
- “Sectorlight” company which is famous for its models of such cities like London, Abu-Dhabi, Moscow, Tokyo, Shanghai and for its unique technology in this sphere has prepared a model of Icherisheher on a scale of 1:200 with the highly detailed elements of streets, public places, even the trees with the view similar to real state, the illumination of buildings’ interior was provided. This model is exhibited in within museum exhibition in Shirvanshahs’ Palace Complex.

CASE DESCRIPTION

In April 2012 the delegation of Great Britain’s Prince’s School of Traditional Arts visited Azerbaijan. During the visit the delegates met with the professors and students of Azerbaijan State Academy of Arts. After their visit as the result of productive cooperation between SHAHAR and Prince’s School, “the Icherisheher Centre for Traditional Arts” was created in order to organize trainings and seminars for local masters. One of the main purposes of the Centre is to develop and regenerate the traditional arts and crafts of Azerbaijan through the

teaching of talented young artists. These students were enrolled as a result of a selection process. Both local professionals and specialists from abroad contribute in the education program. The three year course encompasses a foundation into the practical understanding of the universal language of traditional, arts as well as technical development of craft skills. The initial four disciplines include: Ceramics; Silver and jewelry; Textiles and Painting, and a Decorative Building Arts. It is envisaged that the students will become the next generation of teacher practitioners within the traditional arts of Azerbaijan. These artists will contribute to contemporary design based upon traditional principles, thus creating a sustainable demand for the creative crafts.

C.3. Organizational measures and museum activities

- Employers of museums located within the Walled City have participated at the training-course on the subject “Management of museums by modern technology”, organized by US Institute of Smithsonian in 2012.
- In order to improve museum activity in Icherisheher it was held a symposium devoted to International Museums Day on May 17, 2013.
- As 2013 was a year of 550th anniversary of the death of Seyid Yahya Bakuvi, philosopher and poet, also celebrated by UNESCO, presentation of the work “Secrets of Sufism” was organized in the Complex of Shirvanshahs’ Palace.
- On October, 30 – November 3, 2013 employers of the SHAHAR participated at the international regional training on the Quality of museum services and the role of social activities organized by ICOM in Sheki.
- Shirvanshahs’ Palace Complex has organized the opportunity for 80 students of faculty of architecture, artistic textile and art criticism of Azerbaijan State Academy of Arts to pass the internship at the museum.
- There is an ongoing project on reorganization of museum exposition in Shirvanshahs’ Palace Complex. The museum’s exhibition will provide insights into the history of the palace, the dynasty of the Shirvanshahs - the rulers of the state with thousand-year history and the culture of Azerbaijan.

CASE DESCRIPTION

The Maiden Tower is the symbolic and historic center of Baku. The new permanent exhibition installed in the cooperation with Latvian company “DD Expo B.V.” after the conservation works have finished in September, 2013 presents the Maiden Tower as a historic and cultural monument of international value and addresses a very wide audience, including local and international visitors, tourists and children. The exhibition presented within all nine levels of the Tower, each level representing one topic. The space in the Tower is limited and cannot accommodate an intensive exhibition. Because of it the story is told by creating atmospheric rooms with a few central objects that effectively represent the main topic of the particular room. The limits of space is also overcome by exhibits that create unexpected perspectives on the Tower like a view from above in the panorama of Icherisheher or a view of the cross-section of the Tower in a three-dimensional model. The original stone walls of the Tower are clearly visible and are an integral part of the exhibition design. At the same time, the exhibition widely uses contemporary technologies and media that are indispensable for a modern museum. Together, traditional and electronic media create a rich and

multidimensional experience of the monument. New museum exposition creates and opportunity for visitors to discover wide range of information on history of the monument, its functions and legends around.

Other organizational activities

- In order to facilitate the acquisition of information in Icherisheher and monuments located here, special QR codes information system created and relative desks were installed with the area of the Reserve.
- In the framework of development of tourism infrastructure within the Walled City the setting of monitors was launched in information points in order to increase the service level and facilitate the acquisition of information.
- The staff of museums located in Icherisheher was provided with uniform of single design.
- In order to ensure high level of safety precautions which is essential for the development of tourism, all ingress and egress posts in Icherisheher were totally renewed.
- Special questionnaires for tourists were prepared in order to control the quality of service of guides and working personnel of public places in Icherisheher.

D. International cooperation

- In April, 2012 the Memorandum of Agreement was signed between SHAHAR and Italian “Foundation Del Bianco” on cooperation within its “Life Beyond Tourism” project.
- In April, 2012 the representatives of Kazan City Hall have visited Icherisheher in order to learn SHAHAR’s experience of management of historical center.

CASE DESCRIPTION

In framework of Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, in order granting for enhanced protection for the Walled City of Baku, including Shirvanshahs' Palace and Maiden Tower, SHAHAR has submitted the application to the Secretariat of Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of UNESCO in 2010. During the next three years SHAHAR has followed Committee’s recommendations and presented the supplemental information and actions undertaken (implemented number of new rules and procedures, organized trainings for personnel and reorganized its relevant activities as well as initiated amendments to national criminal legislation). As the result of close collaboration between SHAHAR and Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict at the 8th Meeting of the Committee held on 18-19th December, 2013 in Paris, the Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshahs' Palace and Maiden Tower was granted enhanced protection status.

- SHAHAR signed up “Covenant of Mayors” initiative, which is the mainstream European movement involving local and regional authorities, voluntarily committing to increasing energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources

on their territories. By their commitment, Covenant signatories aim to meet and exceed the European Union 20% CO2 reduction objective by 2020. SHAHAR is participating in “Covenant of Mayors going East” project, coordinated by UNEP on Supporting the participation of Eastern Partnership and Central Asian cities in the Covenant of Mayors and currently finalizing its work on development of relevant action plan, which is going to be implemented since next year.

- During the report period the representatives of SHAHAR participated in a number of international meetings:
 - study visit to Gratz, Austria for share of experiences (September, 2012);
 - 6th International Symposium on Turkic culture, art and heritage held in Milan, Italy (September, 2012);
 - International Conference on “Good experience and innovations on management of museums and art galleries” held in Prague, Czech (February, 2013);
 - “European village” in cooperation with European Commission Mission to Azerbaijan in Icherisheher (June, 2013);
 - the training-seminar local coordinators of Southern-Eastern European countries, organized by UNESCO World Heritage Centre in collaboration with Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan and National Commission to UNESCO (October, 2013).

- During the report period more than 6100 official guests traditionally have visited Icherisheher (photo-list presented in Annex 3).

CASE DESCRIPTION

Another success of SHAHAR is that in October, 2013 it received international award for “protection of cultural heritage and increasing its value” in nomination “Realization of the most important project by foreign country” from “Italian Heritage Award”. “Italian Heritage Award” presents awards on restoration, sculpture, culture, art, museum work, archeology and other fields in 26 categories.

IV. ANY POTENTIAL MAJOR RESTORATIONS, ALTERATIONS AND/OR NEW CONSTRUCTION(S) WITHIN THE PROTECTED AREA (CORE ZONE AND BUFFER ZONE AND/OR CORRIDORS) THAT MIGHT BE ENVISAGED IN CONFORMITY WITH PARAGRAPH 172 OF THE OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

There are continuance infrastructural works carried out on the territory of the Icherisheher in accordance to CMP & IAMAP, aimed to provide balanced conservation and development of the site. In case of significant restorations or new restorations to be planned and which may affect the outstanding universal value of the property, SHAHAR is periodically informing the WHC through its Secretariat.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

1. Letters of confirmation of the moratorium on further construction of tall buildings in the surroundings of the Walled City of Baku.
2. Photo list: Events organized in 2012 and 2013 by SHAHAR.
3. Photo list: Official Guests visited Icherisheher in 2012 and 2013.

**LETTERS OF CONFIRMATION OF THE MORATORIUM
on further construction of tall buildings in the surroundings of the Walled City of Baku.**

UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

**STATE COMMITTEE FOR URBAN PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
Chairman**

September 3, 2012

№ 02/03-942

**TO: Mr. A.Sharifov
Deputy Prime-minister
Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

*RE: Decision on "Icherisheher" architectural-urban planning complex"
adopted at 36th Session of UNESCO World Heritage Committee*

Dear Mr. Sharifov,

According to your letter dated 31 July 2012 the request of the Administration of State Historical-Architectural Reserve "Icherisheher" on the carrying out the appropriate measures concerning 4-6 paragraphs of the Decision adopted at 36th Session of UNESCO was considered.

It should be noticed that nowadays in the structure of town-building and urban-planning, esthetic view and engineer-transport infrastructure were made cardinal changes.

The works on widening of the streets, beautification of squares and pavements, the renovation of the facades of existing buildings and this way the fundamental change in architectural-esthetic view of the city and the installation of modern lightening systems are being carried out. At the same time in the places of the buildings expired time of exploitation and which were in disrepair are being installed new parks, play areas, green squares.

Altogether, it is planned to carry out comprehensive works in order to make Baku the city of world significance. Beside this, State Historical-Architectural Reserve "Icherisheher", which is considered the memory of urban planning and history of architecture and which is the pattern for future generations requires special attention and serious care in aim to ensure its further existence. It can be estimated as a good sample the attention paid from UNESCO to Icherisheher.

It should be noticed that in the "Project of detailed planning of Baku city center's regeneration" prepared by Baku State Project Institute custom by the State Committee for Urban Planning and Architecture of the Republic of Azerbaijan is not projected the construction of any high building with visual impact to "Icherisheher architecture-town planning complex".

In the project above mentioned are not planned any construction works till 2030 in the surroundings of "Icherisheher architecture-town planning complex"

We kindly ask you to take into consideration.

Sincerely yours,

**A.Alasgarov
Chairman**



**AZƏRBAYCAN RESPUBLİKASININ
DÖVLƏT ŞƏHƏRSALMA VƏ ARXİTEKTURA KOMİTƏSİ**

SƏDR

Az 1014, Bakı şəhəri, Püzlül küçəsi, 65. Tel.: (+994 12) 493-34-67, (+994 12) 595-94-50. Faks: (+994 12) 498-14-14.
E-mail: memar@arxkom.gov.az

"03" *sentyabr* 2012-ci il

№ *02/03-942*

Azərbaycan Respublikası
Baş nazirinin müavini
cənab A. Şərifova

Dünya İrs Mərkəzinin
"İçərişəhər memarlıq-şəhərsalma
kompleksi" ilə bağlı YUNESKO-nun
36-cı sessiyasının yekun qərarı barədə

Hörmətli Abid müəllim,

Sizin 31 iyul 2012-ci il tarixli 17/3411-12/11 nömrəli tapşırığınıza əsasən Dünya İrs Mərkəzinin "İçərişəhər memarlıq-şəhərsalma kompleksi" ilə bağlı YUNESKO -- nun 36-cı sessiyasının yekun qərarının 4-6 bəndləri ilə əlaqədar aidiyyəti üzrə lazımi tədbirlər görülməsi barədə İçərişəhər Dövlət Tarix-memarlıq Qorluğu İdarəsinin müraciətinə Komitədə baxılmışdır.

Qeyd etməliyik ki, bu gün Bakı şəhərinin şəhərsalma və memarlıq-planlaşdırma strukturunda, kompozisiya və estetik görünüşündə, şəhərin mühəndis-nəqliyyat infrastrukturunda kardinal dəyişikliklər aparılır.

Burada küçələrin genişləndirilməsi, meydançalar və səkilərin abadlaşdırılması, ən əsas - mövcud binaların fasadlarının yenidənqurulması və bu baxımdan memarlıq-estetik görünüşlərinin kökündən dəyişdirilməsi və müasir şəhərlərə xas olan gözəl işıqlandırılma sistemlərinin qurulması işləri aparılır. Eyni zamanda istismar müddəti bitmiş və yararsız vəziyyətə düşmüş evlərin yerində park, istirahət meydançalarının və yaşıllıq sahələrinin salınması işləri görülür.

Bakı şəhərinin mərkəzini formalaşdıran ərazilərdə və dünya əhəmiyyətli Dənizkənarı Bulvarda aparılan tikinti, yenidənqurma, abadlıq və yaşıllaşdırma işləri

Ümumiyyətlə Bakı şəhərinin dünya əhəmiyyətli şəhərə çevrilməsi istiqamətində gələcəkdə də böyük və hərtərəfli işlərin görülməsi planlaşdırılır.

Bununla yanaşı Bakının şəhərsalma və memarlıq tarixinin yadıqarı sayılan və gələcək nəsillər üçün örnək olan İçərişəhər Dövlət Tarix-memarlıq Qoruğu – paytaxtımızın qədim tarixi səlnaməsi üçün unudulmaz bir səhifə olaraq gələcəkdə yaşayıb qalması üçün ciddi münasibət və diqqət tələb edir.

Fikrimizcə YUNESKO-nun Dünya İrs Komitəsinin İçərişəhərə yönəltdiyi diqqəti müsbət hal kimi dəyərləndirmək olar.

Qeyd etməliyik ki, Dövlət Şəhərsalma və Arxitektura Komitəsinin sifarişi ilə Bakı Dövlət Layihə İnstitutu tərəfindən hazırlanmış “ Bakı şəhərinin mərkəzi hissəsinin yenidən qurulmasının müfəssəl planlaşdırma layihəsi”ndə “ İçərişəhər memarlıq-şəhərsalma kompleksi” dünya irsi obyektinin vizual görünüşünə xələl gətirən heç bir hündür mərtəbəli binaların inşası nəzərdə tutulmamışdır.

Adı çəkilən layihədə “ İçərişəhər memarlıq-şəhərsalma kompleksi” nin ətrafında 2030-cu hesabat ilinin sonuna kimi tikinti layihələrinin həyata keçirilməsi ümumiyyətlə planlaşdırılmamışdır.

Xahiş edirik nəzərə alalımız.

Hörmətlə,



A.Ələsgərov

THE MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY SITUATIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

October 8, 2012

№22/04-21/06779

**TO: Mr. Agabala Hajiyev
Head of the Apparatus
Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

Dear Mr. Hajiyev,

According to your letter dated July 31, 2012 we would like to declare, that the decisions made at 36th Session of UNESCO World Heritage Committee in order to prevent the negative visual impact on Icherisheher from the territory of Baku city center, Seaside Boulevard and Baku Bay are expedient and in connection with this task we consider it necessary to observe the state legislation on the protection of historical-architectural monuments.

It should be noted that common conceptual solution of the districts to be demolished and newly constructed as well as the territories above mentioned must be reflected in the Baku city General Plan and must be taken into consideration the accordance with relevant organs and distribution of building areas.

At the same time during the state expertise the recommendations of World Heritage Committee should be taken into consideration.

Sincerely yours,

**Ragim Latifov
Deputy Minister**



AZƏRBAYCAN RESPUBLİKASININ FÖVQƏLADƏ HALLAR NAZİRLİYİ

AZ1073, Bakı şəhəri,
M. Müşfiq küç., 501-ci məhəllə

Tel.: (994 12) 512 00 61
Faks: (994 12) 512 00 46
E-mail: info@fhn.gov.az

«08» 10 2012-ci il

№ 22/04-29/06429

**Azərbaycan Respublikası
Nazirlər Kabineti Aparatının
rəhbəri**

Ağa-Bala Hacıyeva

Hörmətli Ağa-Bala müəllim,

Sizin 31 iyul 2012-ci il tarixli 17/3411-12/11 nömrəli məktubunuza cavab olaraq bildirik ki, Bakı şəhərinin mərkəzini təşkil edən ərazidə, Dənizkənarı bulvarda və Bakı buxtasında İçərişəhərin vizual görünüşünə mənfi təsir göstərə biləcək hallara yol verməmək məqsədilə YUNESKO Dünya İrs Komitəsinin 36-cı sessiyasının Yekun Qərarında göstərilən təklifləri məqsədmüvafiq hesab edir və bu məsələ ilə əlaqədar tarixi memarlıq abidələrinin qorunması haqqında ölkə qanunvericiliyinin tələblərinə riayət olunmasını zəruri hesab edirik.

Qeyd etmək lazımdır ki, Bakı şəhərinin Baş Planında söküləcək və yeni inşa ediləcək məhəllələrin, o cümlədən yuxarıda qeyd olunan ərazilərin ümumi konseptual həlli öz əksini tapmalı və layihələrin müvafiq orqanlarla ilkin razılaşdırılmasında, tikinti sahələrinin ayrılmasında nəzərə alınmalıdır.

Eyni zamanda bildirik ki, layihələrin dövlət ekspertizası zamanı Dünya İrs Komitəsinin tövsiyələri diqqətdə saxlanılacaqdır.

Hörmətlə,

Nazir müavini

Ragim Latifov

THE HEAD OF BAKU CITY EXECUTIVE POWER OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

September 14, 2012

№ 7-305/2

**TO: Mr. Agabala Hajiyev
Head of the Apparatus
Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

RE: Your letter, dated 31.07.2012, № 17/3411-12/11

Dear Mr. Hajiyev,

We declare referring to the letter of the Head of the Administration of State Historical-Architectural Reserve "Icherisheher" Mr. Mikayil Cabbarov that recently only repair-reconstruction works have been carried out in the surroundings of Icherisheher and it is not planned the construction of any new building which may damage the visual impact of Icherisheher From Baku Bay. The reconstruction works being carried out in Seaside Boulevard are directed to its widening and beautification.

Sincerely yours,

Hajibala Abutalibov



AZƏRBAYCAN RESPUBLİKASI
BAKİ ŞƏHƏR
İCRA HAKİMİYYƏTİNİN BAŞÇISI

Bakı, AZ-1001, İstiqlaliyyət küçəsi, 4

Tel: _____

№ 4-305/2

№ 824/2012-ci il

Sizin 31.07.2012-ci il tarixli,
17/3411-12/11 sayılı məktubunuza

Azərbaycan Respublikası Nazirlər
Kabineti Aparatının Rəhbəri
cənab AĞA-BALA HACIYEVƏ

Hörmətli Ağa-Bala müəllim,

«İÇƏRİŞƏHƏR» Dövlət Tarix-Memarlıq Qoruğu İdarəsinin rəisi Mikayıl Cabbarovun məktubu ilə bağlı olaraq bildirik ki, İçərişəhərin ətrafında yerləşən binalarda son zamanlar yalnız təmir-bərpa işləri aparılır və Bakı buxtasından İçərişəhərin vizual görünüşünə mənfi təsir göstərə biləcək heç bir yeni obyektlərin tikintisi nəzərdə tutulmamışdır. Dənizkənarı Bulvarda aparılan yenidənqurma işləri isə bulvarın genişlənməsi və gözəlləşməsinə yönəldilmişdir.

Hörmətlə,


HACIBALA ABUTALIBOV

EVENTS

**organised in 2012 by the Administration
of State Historical-Architectural Reserve “Icherisheher”**

March 2012

Icherisheher’s gifts in the occasion of the International Women Day



Mart 2013

Novruz – Spring Festival – Icherisheher



Martch 2012

Novruz – Spring Festival – “Qala” State Historical-Ethnographical Reserve



April 2012

“Maiden Tower” III International Art Festival



November 2012

Scottish pipers in Icheri Sheher



EVENTS

organised in 2013 by the Administration
of State Historical-Architectural Reserve “Icherisheher”

March 2013

8 March – “Woman’s talent” event devoted to International Women Day



April 2013

Scientific – Practical Conference devoted to International day of monuments and historical places



May 2013

International "Living History" Festival



September 2013

Event in the occasion of the National Music Day



October 2013

Cycle race was organized in Qala



November 2013

Scottish pipers celebrated the St. Andrew's Day in Icheri Sheher



November 2013

“Arshin mal alan” on the stage of the Marionet Theatre of the Administration of State Historical-Architectural Reserve “Icherisheher”



November 2013

“National leader and art workers” event was organized



December 2013

The event named "My motherland" in the occasion of the Solidarity Day of World Azerbaijanis



Dekabr 2013

“In the light of kindness” - the children’s art exhibition



OFFICIAL GUESTS

visited State Historical-Architectural Reserve “Icherisheher” in 2012

March 2012

President of the Republic of Croatia Mr. Ivo Josipovic and first lady visited Icherisheher



April 2012

Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria Mr. Boyko Borisov visited Icherisheher



April of 2012

Delegation of the Republic of Tatarstan visited Icherisheher



May of 2012

Visit of the head of National Assembly of Bulgaria Mrs. Tsetska Tsacheva



July of 2012

Visit of the President of European Council Mr. Van Rompuy



July of 2012

Visit of the Prime-minister of Montenegro Mr. Igor Lukcic



September of 2012

Visit of the General Secretary of NATO Mr. Anders Fogh Rasmussen



September of 2012

Visit of the Deputy of Prime-minister of Slovenia Mr. Radovan Zerjav



October of 2012

Visit of the Deputy of Prime-minister of Uzbekistan Mr. Ulugbek Rozukulov



October of 2012

Visit of the head of presidium of Bosnia and Herzegovina Mr. Bakir İzetbeqovic



November of 2012

Visit of the wife of the head of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey Mrs. Gulden Chichek



December of 2012

Visit of the Prime-minister of Georgia Mr. Bidzina Ivanishvili



OFFICIAL GUESTS

visited State Historical-Architectural Reserve “Icherisheher” in 2013

January of 2013

Visit of the Prime-minister of Slovenia Mr. Janez Jansa



January of 2013

Visit of the Special Envoy of the President of Uruguay and State Secretary of President Administration of the Republic of Uruguay Mr. Diego Canepa



January of 2013

Visit of heads of Committees of United States Congress



February of 2013

Visit of Bozo Ljubic - the head of House of Representative of the Parliamentary Assembly Of Bosnia and Herzegovina



February of 2013

President of the Republic of Serbia Mr. Tomislav Nikolic visited Icherisheher



February of 2013

Visit of the First Lady of Georgia Mrs. Sandra Elizabet Rulofs to Icherisheher



April of 2013

Visit of the founder and executive chairman of the World Economic Forum
Mr. Klaus Martin Schwab



April of 2013

Visit of the head of House of Representatives of the Parliament of Indonesia Mr. Marzuki Alie to Icherisheher



April of 2013

Visit of the President of Latvia Mr. Andris Berziņš to Icherisheher



June of 2013

Visit of the Minister of Youth and Sport of Serbia Mrs. Alica Maric to Icherisheher



July of 2013

Visit of the head of Cantonal Council of the Federal Assembly of the Swiss Confederation Mr. Filippo Lombardi to Icherisheher



July of 2013

Visit of members of Board of Directors of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development



August of 2013

Visit of the Prime Minister of Italy Mr. Enrico Letta to Icherisheher



August of 2013

Visit of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Ilham Aliyev and the President of Russia Mr. Vladimir Putin



November of 2013

Visit of Ombudsman of Moldova Mrs. Aureliya Qriqoriu to Icherisheher



December of 2013

Visit of UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Culture Mr. Francesco Bandarin



December of 2013

Visit of the President of Dagestan Ramazan Abdulatipov to Icherisheher

