

# ICOMOS

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES  
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES MONUMENTS ET DES SITES  
CONSEJO INTERNACIONAL DE MONUMENTOS Y SITIOS  
МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ СОВЕТ ПО ВОПРОСАМ ПАМЯТНИКОВ И ДОСТОПРИМЕЧАТЕЛЬНЫХ МЕСТ  
WORLD HERITAGE LIST N° 272 Rev.

## A) IDENTIFICATION

Nomination : the Hanseatic City of Lübeck

Location : Land Schleswig-Holstein

State Party : Federal Republic of Germany

Date : December 31, 1986

## B) ICOMOS RECOMMENDATION

That the proposed cultural property be included on the World Heritage List on the basis of criterion IV.

## C) JUSTIFICATION

In 1983, the Bureau recommended that the nomination of Lübeck to the World Heritage List be deferred due to the loss of authenticity resulting from reconstruction in an extensive area of the city after World War II. It further recommended that the Federal Republic of Germany study, in conjunction with ICOMOS, the possibility of a new proposal based on the precise demarcation of sectors outstanding for the cohesion of their urban fabric, their well-preserved monuments and the density of their structures, as recent excavations have revealed, contributing much to our knowledge of this Hanseatic city.

When the study was completed in 1984, the new nomination conformed more to the Bureau's recommendations in that it excluded the business area, which had been almost totally demolished by bombs, and concentrated on three zones : to the north and east of the peninsula, the area bordered by the Fischergrube, a short section of the Breitestrasse, the Pfaffenstrasse, the Königstrasse and the Mühlenstrasse; to the southwest, several very old neighborhoods close to the Petrikerche and the Cathedral, the quays along the Trave and, on the left bank, the Holstentor and the Salzspeicher (salt storehouses); and lastly, in the central zone, the ensemble of monuments comprising the Marktplatz, the Rathaus and the Marienkerche.

The new proposal is satisfactory in form if not in spirit. Omitting those zones which have been entirely reconstructed, it includes several areas of significance in the history of Lübeck.

Zone 1 - The site of the Burgkloster, a Dominican convent built in fulfillment of a vow made at the battle of Bornhöved (1227), contains the original foundations of the castle

built by Count Adolf von Schauenburg on the Buku isthmus.

- The Koberg site preserves an entire late 18th century neighborhood built around a public square bordered by two important monuments, the Jakobikirche and the Heilig-Geist-Hospital.

- The sections between the Glockengiesserstrasse and the Aegidienstrasse retain their original layout and contain a remarkable number of medieval structures.

Zone 2 Between the two big churches that mark its boundaries - the Petrikirche to the north and the Cathedral to the south- this area includes rows of superb patrician residences from the 15th and 16th centuries. The enclave on the left bank of the Trave, with its salt storehouses and the Holstentor, reinforces the monumental aspect of an area that was entirely renovated at the height of the Hansa epoch, when Lübeck dominated trade in Northern Europe.

Zone 3 Located at the heart of the medieval city, the Marienkirche, the Rathaus and the Marktplatz bear the tragic scars of the heavy bombings suffered during World War II.

Having taken note that the new proposal conforms to the wishes expressed in 1983 by the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee, ICOMOS can only give a favorable opinion on the inclusion of Lübeck on the World Heritage List.

**Criterion IV** (be an outstanding example of a type of building which illustrates a significant stage in history) may be applied to the most authentic areas of a city which, more than any other, exemplifies the power and the historic role of the Hansa.

However, ICOMOS would like to draw the Committee's attention to the inherent dangers of the urban policy in force in Lübeck since the end of the war.

1) Although the layout of the principal thoroughfares of the old sections were respected, no restraint was shown with regard to widening some medieval streets, such as the Mengstrasse, or even in the destruction of historic houses that had survived the war (notably in the Fleischhauerstrasse). Elsewhere, whole rows of houses were "faithfully" reconstructed (Grosse Petersgrube, Wasserfront, etc.) and retain nothing authentic but the facades on the street side and riverbank side.

2) The policy of Sanierung (slum clearance) in old areas may well guarantee their survival but it gravely modifies their social makeup and tends to standardize them in banal separation of lower class and upper class sections.

3) Archaeological activity appears to be only a superficial concession to curb renewal contractors' appetites. No mention of excavations is made in either the nomination (drawn up by the Amt für Denkmalpflege) or in the bibliography, whereas this work, led by Günther Fehring and his team, has received worldwide acclaim.

It is therefore the opinion of ICOMOS that the inclusion of Lübeck on the World Heritage List should be accompanied by precise recommendations concerning the need to replace the present, unjustified reconstruction policy with a policy of conservation based on the study and respect of the old structures.

Moreover, ICOMOS should like to draw attention to the modern city of Lübeck, which extends beyond the Trave and the Wakenitz, and expresses the wish that these peripheral areas constitute a buffer zone governed by specific urbanization regulations compatible with those of the historic city.

ICOMOS, April 1987