

## Kazan Kremlin (Russian Federation)

No 980

### Identification

<i>Nomination</i>	Historical and Architectural Complex of the Kazan Kremlin
<i>Location</i>	Republic of Tatarstan, City of Kazan
<i>State Party</i>	Russian Federation
<i>Date</i>	29 June 1999

### Justification by State Party

The Kazan Kremlin is a unique and complex monument of archaeology, history, urban development, and architecture. Its occupation layer has accumulated over a thousand years, since the 10th and early 11th centuries, and ranges between 2m and 8m. It has preserved remains of stone and wooden buildings of different types, as well as artefacts of the material and spiritual culture of the people, who inhabited ancient Kazan in the pre-Mongol times, in the era of the Kazan Khanate Golden Horde. This unique complex has an extant 10th century masonry fortification system, the only remaining evidence of this lost culture.

The Kazan Kremlin has retained traces of three urban development grids: Tatar, pre-regular Russian, and regular European. The only town development complex of the Khanate period (15th to 16th centuries) to survive is an outline of the 15th century wall, with the Kazan Khans' mausolea. Syuyumbeki's Tower is one of the leaning towers of the world. The existing architectural monuments are by the master builders Postnik Yakovlev ("Barma") and Ivan Shiryai, who build the St Basil Cathedral in Moscow. K A Ton designed the former Governor's Palace with Imperial Quarters.

The Kazan Kremlin has the world's only operating centre of Tatar national culture and state power and Russia's only surviving Tatar fortress, with traces of the original town-planning conception. It is a product of the interaction of various developments and cultures: Bulgar, Golden Horde, medieval Kazan-Tatar, Italian, Russian, and modern Tatar. It is the north-western limit of the spread of Islam in the world and the southernmost point of the spread of the Pskov-Novgorod style in Russia, a synthesis of the Tatar and Russian architectural styles in its key monuments (Syuyumbeki's Tower, the Annunciation Cathedral, and the Saviour Tower). The Kazan Kremlin was left virtually unaffected by major urban development in the 20th century.

**Criteria ii, iii, and iv**

### Category of property

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

### History and Description

#### History

The first human occupation in the Kazan area goes back to the 7th and 8th millennia BCE; there are traces of the Bronze Age (2nd to 1st millennia, late Kazan area settlement), early Iron Age (8th to 6th centuries BCE, Ananin culture), and early medieval period (4th–5th centuries CE, Azelin culture). From the 10th to 13th centuries Kazan was a pre-Mongol Bulgar town. Today's Kremlin hill consisted then of a fortified trading settlement surrounded by moats, embankments, and a stockade. A stone fortress was built in the 12th century and the town developed as an outpost on the northern border of Volga Bulgaria. The so-called Old Town extended eastward, on the site of the former Kazan Monastery of Our Lady. The fortress was demolished on the instructions of the Mongols in the 13th century. A citadel was then built as the seat of the Prince of Kazan, including the town's administrative and religious institutions. By the first half of the 15th century, the town had become the capital of the Muslim Principality of Bulgaria, with administrative, military, and trading functions.

- Seat of the Kazan Khanate (1438–1552)

In the mid 15th century the state came under the rule of a dynasty of the Golden Horde Khans of the Ulug-Mukhammed branch. The former stone fortress was restored and extended to what is now the site of Kremlin and the territory was brought under organized control. By the mid 16th century the site had become a strong fortress built in wood and stone, with the Khan's Palace in the citadel and the Khan's Mosque with the tombs and necropolis of the Kazan Khans (possibly a site of pilgrimage). The Prince's Palace was rebuilt as the Khan's Court, while retaining its basic layout, and it also served as a treasury and depository of records and manuscripts. The Court dominated the townscape of Kazan and was surrounded by several walls at different levels, numerous pavilions, galleries, the Khan's Mosque, and other public buildings. The Western Gate was its most imposing structure.

- Seat of the annexed Volga Land (Kazan Kingdom, 1552–1708)

In 1552, Russian forces took Kazan by storm; as a result of Ivan the Terrible's Volga campaign, the town became the new Christian capital of the Volga Land. The new Russian Kremlin was similar to the Tatar fortress, keeping its old urban layout, its relation with the context, the location of towers, and its basic internal plan. The watchtower of the earlier Tazik moat survived and was converted into the bell-tower of the new Annunciation Cathedral. In the 16th and 17th centuries there were no large-scale constructions in the Kremlin; the surviving Tatar buildings were reused and the mosques were gradually converted into Christian churches. The Kremlin underwent some changes, reflecting its new status as a Orthodox Christian centre with two monasteries (the Saviour-Transfiguration and the Trinity) and as a military stronghold. The Khan's Court was converted into an

arsenal and new administrative quarters were built in the southern part of the fortress, in the Tsar's Palace chambers. Throughout these times Kazan retained its commemorative function, reflected in the saint's tomb near the Transfiguration Cathedral, the churches of St Nicholas Ratny and Nikita Selunskii, the chapel of the Vernicle, and the Holy (Tainitskii) Spring.

- Seat of the first Kazan Province (1708 to late 18th century)

In the early 18th century Kazan became the capital of Kazan Province, including vast territories of the Volga and Ural lands. As a result Kazan was again rebuilt. The administrative centre of the former Kazan Kingdom, located in the south, was returned to the northern part, where it had been at the time of the Tatars. The Chief Commandant's House, occupying the former Khan's Palace area, became the new focus of the fortress, suggesting the dominance of the secular power. It was reinforced by the mass of the Annunciation Cathedral and its bell-tower, overshadowing the Saviour-Transfiguration Monastery.

- Centre of the second Kazan Province (late 18th century to 1920s)

The urban layout of the Kremlin was made more regular and some old streets from the Khanate Kazan were eliminated. The functions remained essentially the same as before. The street connecting the Spasskaya and Tainitskaya driveway towers along the north-south axis was straightened, separating the fortress area into two distinct functional zones: (1) the eastern zone, including the Governor General's Palace, the Public Offices, the Consistory, the Annunciation Cathedral, and the Bishop's House and (2) the western zone, including the Cannon Foundry, Cadets' School, and Saviour-Transfiguration Monastery complexes. The loss of military significance and the emphasis on administration made the fortress merely an inner court of the provincial administration. This is seen particularly in the orientation of all the main elevations towards the city. Small-scale administrative buildings in different styles were added to the ensemble.

- Centre of the Tatar Autonomous Republic, 1922–92

During the Stalinist persecution most of the Kremlin's churches were demolished. This exacerbated the degradation of the ensemble, which lost many of its former compositional dominants – the belfries of the Annunciation and Saviour-Transfiguration Cathedrals, the church of Cyprian and Justinia, the Saviour-Transfiguration Monastery complex, the dome of Bishop's House, and the domes of the Annunciation Cathedral. Walls and towers have been renovated since the 1950s and the Annunciation Cathedral and Syuyumbeki's Tower since 1980. The Kremlin retained its status as a centre of state power and as garrison.

- Centre of the Republic of Tatarstan (since 1992)

On 22 September 1994 the Kremlin was established as the Historical, Architectural, and Artistic Museum "Kazan Kremlin," opening a new era for the historic ensemble. The garrison was removed and a museum function was introduced. The rehabilitation has emphasized the former fortress appearance and the commemorative and religious functions, which had been lost for a time. The renovation of the Cadets' School has been started and a project has been launched to rebuild the historic mosque of Kul-Sharif on the

site of the destroyed main mosque of the Khanate period Kazan. The building should rehabilitate the lost town-planning integrity of the Kremlin ensemble, enrich the townscape, and symbolize the peaceful coexistence of the two main religions of Tatarstan, Islam and Christianity. The minarets of the new mosque should bring together the Kremlin's crumbling composition, and become the new dominant of the complex. Reconstruction work has started on the complex of the former Cannon Foundry in order to establish a museum. Some upper floors of the unsightly northern building will be pulled down and the elevations will be renovated in the form of the 18th and 19th centuries.

#### *Description*

The Kazan Kremlin is a medieval fortress; its inner space has a regular plan and contains buildings dating from the 16th to the 19th centuries, with remains of the 10th–16th century fortifications and structures. The Kremlin is situated in the central part of Kazan, on the cape of an elevated terrace of the left bank of the river Kazanka (the maximum elevation change of the hill is 28m). The Kremlin territory is an irregular polygon, elongated in the north-to-south direction because of the site's topography. At present the Kremlin includes several historical, architectural, and archaeological complexes, including: the fortifications, the Governor's Palace and Syuyumbeki's Tower, the Annunciation Cathedral, the Public Offices, the Saviour-Transfiguration Monastery, the Cadets' School, and the Cannon Foundry. The archaeological layers range from 3m to 8m.

The following are the principal historic buildings and complexes in Kazan Kremlin:

- The fortifications

The fortifications were built in stages. In 1556–62 the masters of Pskov, headed by Postnik Yakovlev and Ivan Shiryai, generally replicated the earlier Tatar fortifications; the walls and towers were completed by the early 17th century and then extended in the 18th century. The first walls were built in stone (mid 16th century), then in stone and brick (late 16th century), and finally in brick (18th and 19th centuries). There were originally thirteen fortress towers, but some were pulled down in the 19th century. Since 1951 the fortifications have been subject to repair and reconstruction work. The main entrance to the Kremlin, the Spasskaya Tower, with the tower church of the Vernicle, is situated in the southern section of the embankment, built in 1556–62. In the 1670s the tower had a new upper part. The complex was restored in 1957 and 1970–75. Within the different sections of the fortifications there have been archaeological excavations, and remains have been discovered of earlier structures from the 11th and 12th centuries and from later periods.

- The Governor's Palace complex

This complex is situated high in the northern part of the Kremlin, on the site of the Kazan Khan's Palace complex, of which some remains survive. The present palace was built in 1845–48 to the design of K A Ton, the architect of the Church of Christ the Saviour and the Grand Kremlin Palace in Moscow. The palace consists of the main building and a low semicircle of outhouses to the north, with a passage to the inner court. This is a two-storey building in brick. The main facade faces the square and is symmetrical; motifs of late Russian Classicism dominate the interior decoration.

Repair and renovation have been in progress since 1950; the entrance halls were renovated in 1979 and the main facade in 1983. The 17th century Palace Church is situated west of the palace; it was refurbished and dedicated anew to the Descent of the Holy Spirit in 1852. Syuyumbeki's Tower is the architectural symbol of the city. Its name goes back to a Tatar tsarina, Syuyumbeki, wife of the last two Khans of Kazan. It was built at the end of the 17th and the early 18th century as a passageway. From 1941 to 1991 the tower was subject to various restoration and consolidation works. The complex includes remains from 15th and 16th century mausolea and some 13th and 14th century structures.

- The Annunciation Cathedral complex

The complex is situated in the north-eastern part of the Kremlin, evolving from the 16th century as the centre of the Orthodox Church administration. The Annunciation Cathedral is the largest construction of the Kremlin, built in 1561–62 as a five-domed, six-pillar, three-apse church with two chapels connected by a porch. There were modifications in 1694, in 1736, in 1842–43, and 1863. In the 1930s the bell-tower, the west porch, and the domes were pulled down. The central volume, built in white stone, has however preserved its original spatial composition. The sanctuary part has preserved its 16th and 17th century interiors. In 1973–86 the cupolas were reconstructed and the eastern part of the complex was restored. Restoration has been in progress since 1996, including work on paintings. The Bishop's House on the south-eastern side of the cathedral was built in 1829. The Consistory, which closes the complex from the south, was rebuilt in the 18th century and refurbished in the 19th century. There are archaeological remains from buildings of the 12th to the 16th centuries.

- The Public Offices complex

The complex is situated in the south-eastern part of the Kremlin and has evolved historically as an administrative centre. It includes the Public Offices building and the Guard House. The former was built in the 1770s to the design of V I Kaftyrev, the author of the first regular plan of Kazan. It included an earlier building of the Provincial Chancellery by the same architect. The facades were rebuilt in the 1840s. The three-storey Guard House was built in brick on the site of a military depot in the mid 19th century. The facades have sparse ornamentation, large windows, and a low-pitched roof. Comprehensive renovation work was carried out in 1998.

- The Saviour-Transfiguration Monastery complex

Situated in the south-eastern part of the Kremlin next to the Spasskaya Tower, the construction of the complex started in 1557. The monastery was the centre of missionary work and the burial grounds for prelates, respected citizens, and nobility of Kazan. The Saviour-Transfiguration Cathedral in the centre of the area was built in 1595–1601 and demolished in the 1920s. The basement in white stone has survived until the present day. The church of St Nicholas the Thaumaturgist and its refectory are situated to the west of the cathedral. The church was originally built in 1558 and then rebuilt by A Schmidt in 1815. The ground floor survives from the 16th century and is in white stone. Renovation work has been going on since 1993. The Brethrens' Building is situated north-east of the cathedral, adjoining the monastery fence. Built in brick, the cells date from 1670, the treasurer's house from the 18th century, and a gallery from 1892. The

Saviour-Transfiguration Monastery catacomb is underground near the cathedral. It was built in 1592 to serve as a burial ground for the wonder-workers of Kazan.

- Cadets' School complex

Built in the 19th century on the site of a mosque and a monastery, the complex consists of two schools and the former barracks. The Kul-Sharif mosque is currently being reconstructed. The Cadets' School, built in the 1840s in brick and plastered, was originally two storeys high but a third floor was added in the Soviet period. The Riding School was erected in the 1880s, measuring 56m x 71m and with a span of 17m with a suspended ceiling. There is a proposal to renovate the building, converting it into a picture gallery.

- The Artillery Cannon Foundry

This complex originated in the late 17th century and was built on the site of a military depot and the building of the Khan's guards. The buildings were one and two storeys high and formed a large foundry yard. The main building was rebuilt in the 18th and early 19th centuries, to correspond with the new orientation of the Great Street, following the 1768 plan. In the early 19th century the cannon works was one of the largest in Russia: it was constructed to the design of the engineer Betancourt. In 1815 there was a fire which damaged all the Kremlin and put an end to foundry activities. From 1825 to 1837 the former arsenal and foundry were refurbished as a school. The Main Building of the complex was renovated in 1995-99; the North Building has been under repair since 1996 and the South Building and West Building since 1995.

## Management and Protection

### *Legal status*

The Kazan Kremlin complex is the property of the Republic of Tatarstan. It is protected by law as a historic and cultural monument, pursuant to the Council of Ministers' Decree of 1960. The protected zone and the maintenance are regulated by the Project for Protected Zones of the Historic and Cultural Monuments of the City of Kazan, confirmed by the Ministerial Decree of 1988. This protection is complemented by other decrees dating from 1994 and 1995. The complex includes the residence of the President of the Republic of Tatarstan, other government buildings, a museum reserve, workshops, religious buildings, offices, a cafeteria, and a post office.

### *Management*

The Academic Council of the Museum reviews all works on the complex. The Scientific Restoration Board and the Main Administration for State Supervision of the Protection and Utilization of Historic and Cultural Monuments of the Ministry of Culture review all research and projects relating to restoration and development. The Office for State Architectural and Building Supervision controls the observance of renovation regulations and standards, as well as project execution. Only licensed institutions can undertake projects and a specialized restoration department of the State Historical, Architectural, and Artistic Preserve of the Kazan Kremlin is responsible for the supervision.

There is a series of approved programmes concerning the conservation of the complex, including the Federal Programme “Heritage” (1991), the Republic Programme “Miras” (1989), the programme for the development of culture of Kazan (1998), engineering and economic development of Kazan (1999), as well as framework plans for the conservation and development of the Kazan Kremlin complex (1994).

The site has a capacity of some 100,000 visitors per year. A tourist infrastructure is being developed. Current visitor facilities include a bus parking area, an excursion bureau, and a cafeteria. There is a monitoring system to measure (gravimetric) movements of buildings. There is some pollution and the area is vulnerable to floods, but preventive actions are taken every year. All buildings have automatic fire-fighting facilities and the personnel is instructed accordingly.

## **Conservation and Authenticity**

### *Conservation history*

The Kazan Kremlin complex results from a complex history of construction. There has been demolition and rebuilding in various centuries. It suffered from the demolition of religious buildings in the Stalinist period and most of the remaining buildings have undergone conservation, restoration, and reconstruction in the past fifty years.

The current condition of the fortifications is considered to be satisfactory. Parts of the walls have been reconstructed and the eastern part is turned into a museum. The Governor’s House is prepared for renovation and the Syuyumbeki’s Tower was reinforced in 1994. The remains of the Kazan Khan’s mausoleum have been conserved as a museum. Part of the annex has been rebuilt on the basis of archival evidence. The Annunciation Cathedral has been under renovation since 1996 and should be completed by 2001. The basement vaults have been strengthened, the air heating system preserved and reused, wall paintings and the iconostasis are being restored and the domes reconstructed. The Public Offices are reported to be in satisfactory condition, but a renovation project is planned for 2003. The Guard House has under repair since 1997. The condition of the Transfiguration Monastery is not satisfactory owing to losses in the 1920s. The church of St Nicholas has been renovated since 1995, conserving its 16th century remains. Other works are planned for 2000 and 2003, including the arrangement of an archaeological museum. The Cadets’ School has been subject to routine maintenance since 1994. The rebuilding of the mosque of Kul-Sharif is expected to be completed in 2000. There are reconstruction and renovation works also going on in other buildings of the area. All the works are expected to be completed for 2005, a millennium anniversary of the foundation of Kazan.

### *Authenticity*

Kazan Kremlin dates back to the 12th century and its integrity has been attested by historical records (Nikon’s, Rogozhskaya, and Novgorod chronicles, *Kazan History*, “Chronicler of Kazan”, Recto Corpus of Chronicles, Prince Kurbsky’s Legendry about the Conquest of Kazan), abundant archaeological material, documents, and archival records, as well as by the urban structure itself. The original urban layout of the Kazan Kremlin has remained

essentially unchanged from the Bulgar times, and it provided the basis for the continuous development of the town in all subsequent periods. In all their stylistic variety the architectural monuments are perceived as an ensemble and the Kremlin has remained a major compositional point of the city of Kazan.

In its history, the Kremlin area has gone through many changes, involving demolition and reconstruction. Some of the losses in the Stalinist period are regrettable and have subsequently required important interventions in terms of restoration and reconstruction. However, such changes can now be considered as part of its historic layers. In recent decades there have been a large number of restorations in the different parts of the complex. Generally speaking the documentary evidence from all periods has been respected and carefully preserved in restoration. In the case of the Transfiguration Cathedral, demolished in the 1920s, the only part remaining is the basement. Some conflicting elements have been demolished recently, such as a Soviet addition in the Cadets’ School. In the case of the Foundry restoration has been based on the careful presentation of all historic periods that are exceptionally interesting and important. In the case of reconstruction, such as the office complex currently being done, the new construction is based on documentary evidence and reflects the essential characteristics and spatial qualities of the previous situation.

A special case in the Kremlin complex is the new mosque of Koul Charif. There is no exact information about the original mosque, destroyed when the city was captured by Ivan the Terrible in 1552. The current construction can therefore be seen as new building. The project is based on an architectural competition, following the criteria established by the authorities. The accepted project is traditional in its spatial conception and decor but its structural system and materials are modern. It is a visible element that will affect the skyline of the ensemble but, at the same time, the construction can be seen as a sign of the continuity of a spiritual dialogue and balance between different cultures.

## **Evaluation**

### *Action by ICOMOS*

An ICOMOS mission visited the Kazan Kremlin in February 2000.

### *Qualities*

The historic citadel of the Kazan Kremlin represents an exceptional testimony of historical continuity and cultural diversity. Apart from its remarkable aesthetic qualities, the site has retained traces of its foundations in the 10th century, as well as from the Khanate period (15th to 16th centuries). The Kazan Kremlin is Russia’s only surviving Tatar fortress with traces of the original town-planning conception; the citadel results from an interaction of various cultures – Bulgar, Golden Horde, medieval Kazan-Tatar, Italian, Russian, and modern Tatar. It is the north-western limit of the spread of Islam, the southern extremity of the Pskov-Novgorod style, and a synthesis of Tatar and Russian architectural styles in its key monuments (Syuyumbeki’s Tower, the Annunciation Cathedral, and the Saviour Tower). One should also emphasize the fact

that the ensemble is inseparable from the surroundings and the entire city, where the historic quarters form the buffer zone. The new mosque that is being built within the complex can be understood as new construction in a historic context, where it contributes to the traditional continuity and a balance between the different cultural elements of the place. It should be noted that, considering the character of the site, such a new building should be considered to be strictly exceptional.

#### *Comparative analysis*

The situation in Kazan has differed markedly from that of other border provinces. This has contributed to a full-fledged synthesis of traditional Tatar architecture, rooted in the special Bulgar-Kazan architecture (the northern branch of medieval eastern architecture with some stylistic features of contemporary architecture) and felt through the medium of Russian culture. The Kazan Kremlin is an example of a military-defence centre but also of a centre of authority and culture. Even though there are similarities with the Kremlin of Moscow, the Kazan fort has its particular identity, strongly characterized by the variety of cultural influences. This fortress was built to the highest standards of the time and it was among the best in Russia, considered to be impregnable. Kazan was a large administrative provincial centre, which had evolved principally from two traditions: Tatar-Russian and Oriental-European. It represents a series of outstanding architectural monuments, as well as a surviving cultural landscape and ancient occupation layer of the ground.

#### *ICOMOS recommendations for future action*

Recognizing the outstanding universal significance of the site, ICOMOS draws attention to the careful consideration of future restoration and rehabilitation policies on the site.

#### **Brief description**

Built on an ancient site, the Kazan Kremlin originates from the Muslim period of the Kazan Khanate Golden Horde, and then conquered by Ivan the Terrible to become the Christian See of the Volga Land. The only surviving Tatar fortress in Russia and an important pilgrimage place, the Kremlin consists of an outstanding group of historic buildings dating from the 16th to the 19th centuries, integrating remains of earlier structures of the 10th to the 16th centuries.

#### **Recommendation**

ICOMOS recommends that this site be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria ii, iii, and iv*:

**Criterion ii** The Kazan Kremlin complex represents exceptional testimony of historical continuity and cultural diversity over a long period of time, resulting in an important interchange of values generated by the different cultures.

**Criterion iii** The historic citadel represents an exceptional testimony of the Khanate period and is the only surviving Tatar fortress with traces of the original town-planning conception.

**Criterion iv** The site and its key monuments represent an outstanding example of a synthesis of Tatar and Russian influences in architecture, integrating different cultures (Bulgar, Golden Horde, Tatar, Italian, and Russian), as well as showing the impact of Islam and Christianity.

ICOMOS, September 2000