Place Stanislas, Place de la Carrière and Place d’Alliance in Nancy (France)
No 229 Bis

1 Basic data

State Party
France

Name of property
Place Stanislas, Place de la Carrière and Place d’Alliance in Nancy

Location
Department of Meurthe-et-Moselle, Lorraine Region.

Inscription
1983

Brief description
Nancy, the temporary residence of a king without a kingdom – Stanislas Leszczynski, later to become Duke of Lorraine – is paradoxically the oldest and most typical example of a modern capital where an enlightened monarch proved to be sensitive to the needs of the public. Built between 1752 and 1756 by a brilliant team led by the architect Héré, this was a carefully conceived project that succeeded in creating a capital that not only enhanced the sovereign’s prestige but was also functional.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report
11 March 2016

2 Issues raised

Background
The property was inscribed in 1983 without a buffer zone but since the first Periodic Reporting exercise (2006), the State Party had the intention to provide the property with a buffer zone coinciding with the secteur sauvegardé (loi 4 July 1962) which encompasses the two parts of the historic town. The older one, or Vieille Ville, dates back to the 14th – 15th centuries, while the more recent expansion was begun by Charles III in the 16th century and then completed by Stanislas in the 18th century.

The revision of the secteur sauvegardé was recently finalised by slightly extending its perimeter, and subsequently the proposal for the buffer zone was submitted.

Modification
The modification consists of creating a buffer zone of 159 ha for the property that provides an additional layer of protection to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. From an historical perspective, the proposal of this buffer zone is justified, in that the three squares have had since their conception a crucial urban role through which the town was reconfigured as one city with a capital urban form and prestigious public and residential architecture. At the time of inscription, ICOMOS recommended that the urban remodelling of the years 1752 – 1756, corresponding to the design and construction of the squares, could be included in the boundaries of the property. The present proposal for a buffer zone covering the entire historic areas of the city that existed when the squares were conceived and constructed, also responds to this recommendation and improve the understanding of the urban role of the three squares in the reconfiguration of the town.

The secteurs sauvegardés have been established by the Law 4 July 1962, known as Loi Malraux, and are issued by decree to protect urban areas bearing historic, cultural or aesthetic significance. They benefit from regulatory measures that need to be developed through a detailed plan of safeguard and enhancement which is developed jointly by the State and the municipality and prevails over the masterplan, where this exists. The process of its formulation and approval envisages administrative steps that allow public participation. The scope, objectives and regulatory mechanisms for its implementation ensure an adequate level of protection for a buffer zone.

3 ICOMOS Recommendations

Recommendation with respect to inscription
ICOMOS recommends that the proposed buffer zone for Place Stanislas, Place de la Carrière and Place d’Alliance in Nancy, France, be approved.
Map showing the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone