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# Mudéjar Architecture of Aragon (Spain)

## No 378 Ter

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### 1 Basic data

**State Party**  
Spain

**Name of property**  
Mudéjar Architecture of Aragon

**Location**  
Provinces of Teruel and Zaragoza, Autonomous Community of Aragon

**Inscription**  
1986, extension 2001

#### Brief description

The development in the 12th century of Mudejar art in Aragon resulted from the particular political, social and cultural conditions that prevailed in Spain after the Reconquista. This art, influenced by Islamic tradition, also reflects various contemporary European styles, particularly the Gothic. Present until the early 17th century, it is characterized by an extremely refined and inventive use of brick and glazed tiles in architecture, especially in the belfries.

**Date of ICOMOS approval of this report**  
11 March 2016

### 2 Issues raised

#### Background

In 1986, four components in the town of Teruel were inscribed on the World Heritage List as the 'Mudéjar Architecture of Teruel'. At that time ICOMOS queried the overall composition of the series as being either too broad or too narrow to capture this important tradition, but supported its inscription. Following further exchanges, an extension of a further six components was proposed by the State Party, and the extension was approved by the World Heritage Committee in 2001, along with amendment to the property name to 'Mudéjar Architecture of Aragon' to better reflect the series of ten components (Decision CONF 208 X.B). At that time, ICOMOS and the World Heritage Committee noted the need for continued work on the management plan, and the need for careful consideration of the relationships between the monuments and their urban settings. While recognising that these urban areas were covered by conservation policies, ICOMOS nevertheless queried the

adequacy of the small buffer zones identified for each component.

The Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for this property was adopted by the World Heritage Committee in 2014 (Decision 38 COM 8E).

#### Modification

The proposal from the State Party is to extend the buffer zones of three of the components of this property: Santa Maria de Calatayud (extended from 0.526 ha to 1.377 ha); San Pablo de Zaragoza (extended from 1.472 ha to 1.568 ha); and La Seo de Zaragoza (extended from 1.637 ha to 3.907 ha).

The purpose of these modifications is to align the buffer zones to the boundaries of the protected areas '*Bienes de Interés Cultural*' (Properties of Cultural Interest), according to 'Law 3/1999 of 10<sup>th</sup> March, on the Cultural Heritage of Aragon'. In each case, the modifications represent expansions in the overall areas of the existing buffer zones; although the revised boundary of the buffer zone for the San Pablo de Zaragoza proposes a different shaped area that will exclude a few streets to the east and west of the inscribed component that are currently included in the buffer zone. This is justified by the State Party on the grounds that no direct views to the monument are possible from these points, and some photographs were provided to support this assertion. However, the protection provided by the buffer zone potentially also protects this component from new constructions that could impact on the setting on this component, and ICOMOS has some concerns about the protection of these areas.

The State Party has also submitted some corrections to the figures for the area of the properties and buffer zones for the San Pedro de Teruel (buffer zone area 1.15 ha) and Santa Maria de Tobed (property area 0.04 ha; buffer zone 0.11 ha). These errors in the documentation held by the World Heritage Centre were identified in the 2007 work on the Retrospective Inventory and the 2014 questionnaire for the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting.

ICOMOS considers that the revised and enlarged buffer zones for the three components (Santa Maria de Calatayud, San Pablo de Zaragoza and La Seo de Zaragoza) will assist in strengthening the protection of the setting of these properties. ICOMOS also supports the argument that coordination of management and protection will be assisted through the alignment of the World Heritage boundaries with those provided in the relevant legal mechanisms. However, ICOMOS considers the rationale for the exclusion of some areas within the existing buffer zone for San Pablo de Zaragoza has not been sufficiently established.

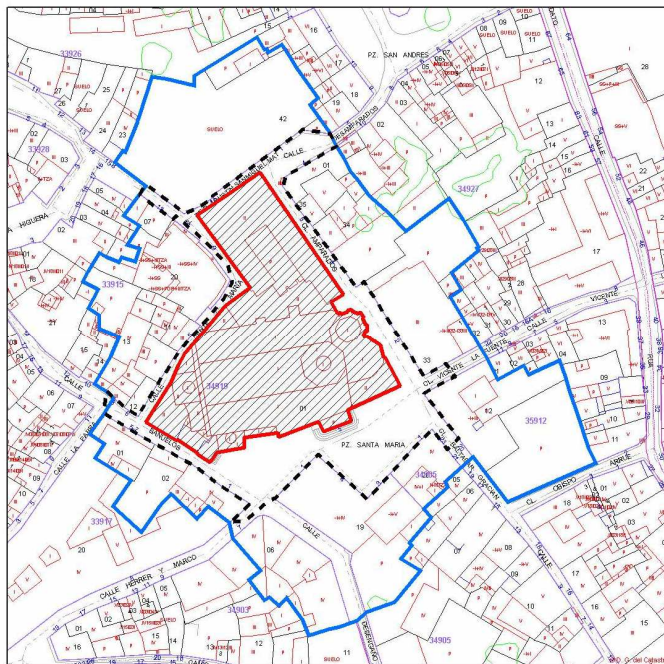
### 3 ICOMOS Recommendations

#### **Recommendation with respect to inscription**

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed buffer zones for the component sites of Santa Maria de Calatayud and La Seo de Zaragoza, Mudéjar Architecture of Aragon, Spain, be **approved**.

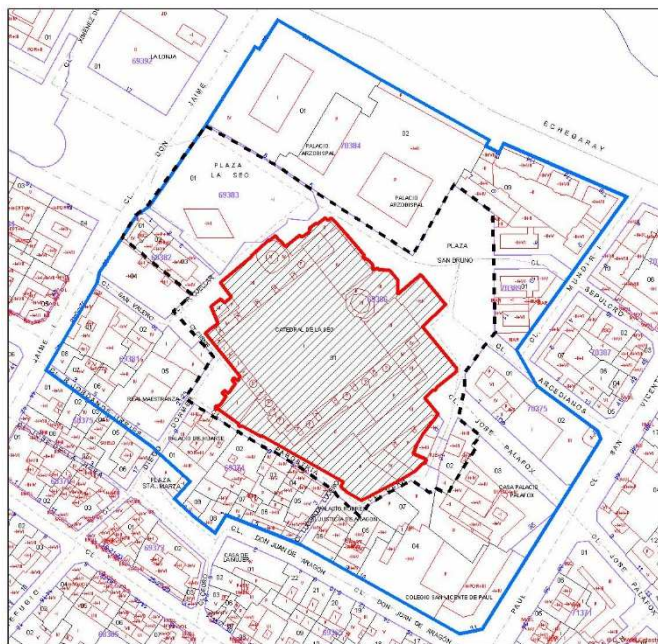
ICOMOS recommends that the examination of the proposed buffer zone for the component site of San Pablo de Zaragoza, Mudéjar Architecture of Aragon, Spain, be **referred back** to the State Party in order to allow it to:

- Reconsider the inclusion of all areas in the current buffer zone to be incorporated into the new buffer zone; or to provide a clear rationale for the exclusion of some areas to the far east and west of the current buffer zone in terms of their relevance for supporting the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the inscribed property component.



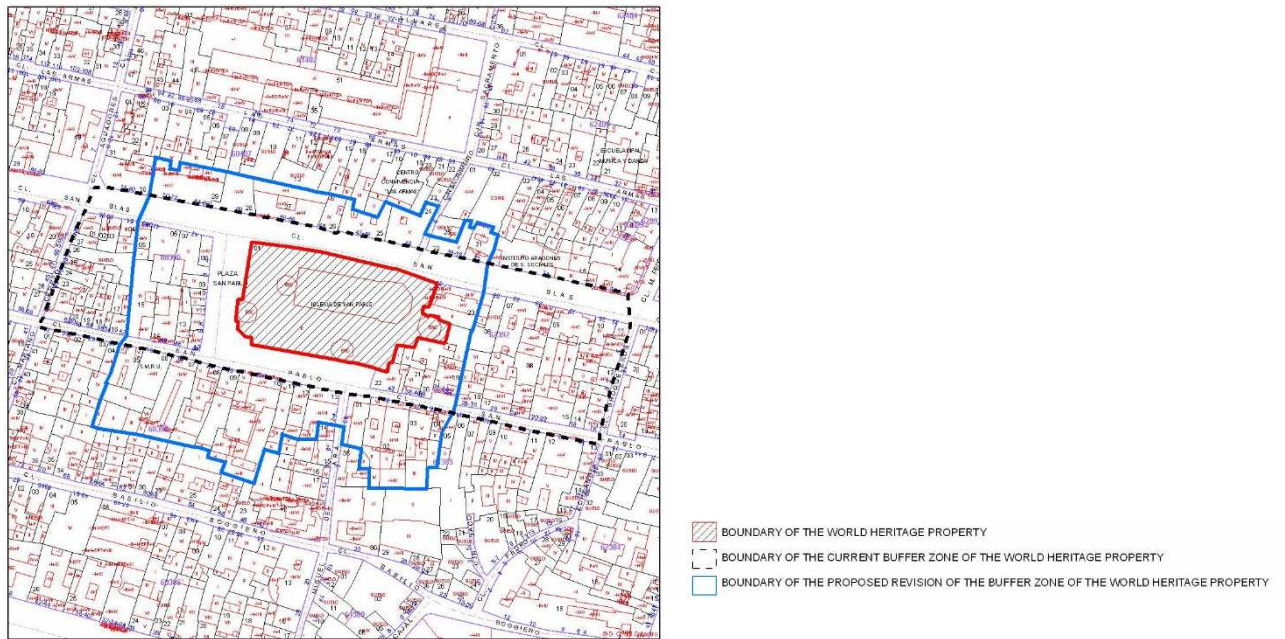
- BOUNDARY OF THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY
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Santa Maria de Calatayud - Map showing the revised buffer zone



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La Seo de Zaragoza - Map showing the revised buffer zone



San Pablo de Zaragoza - Map showing the revised buffer zone