

AUSTRIA

Historic Centre of the City of Salzburg

Brief description

Salzburg has managed to preserve an extraordinarily rich urban fabric, developed over the period from the Middle Ages to the 19th century when it was a city-state ruled by a prince-archbishop. Its Flamboyant Gothic art attracted many craftsmen and artists before the city became even better known through the work of the Italian architects Vincenzo Scamozzi and Santini Solari, to whom the centre of Salzburg owes much of its Baroque appearance. This meeting-point of northern and southern Europe perhaps sparked the genius of Salzburg's most famous son, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, whose name has been associated with the city ever since.

1. Introduction

Year(s) of Inscription 1996

Agency responsible for site management

- Magistrat Salzburg
Abt. 5, Raumplanung und Baubehörde
Auerspergstr. 7
A - 5024 Salzburg
web-site: www.stadt-salzburg.at

2. Statement of Significance

Inscription Criteria C (ii), (iv), (vi)

Justification provided by the State Party

No separate justification provided.

As provided in ICOMOS evaluation

No urban plan for Salzburg was submitted with the nomination dossier. However, the stringent controls over activities within the historic centre contained in the 1967 Salzburg Old Town Preservation Act may be deemed to constitute the equivalent of a historic centre plan.

Recommendation

That this property be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria ii, iv, and vi: Salzburg is an exceptionally important example of a European ecclesiastical city-state which preserves

to a remarkable degree its dramatic townscape, its historically significant urban fabric, and a large number of outstanding ecclesiastical and secular buildings from several centuries. It is also noteworthy for its associations with the arts, and in particular with music, in the person of its famous son, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

Committee Decision

The Committee decided to inscribe the nominated property on the basis of cultural criteria (ii), (iv) and (vi) and considered that the site is of outstanding universal value being an important example of a European ecclesiastical city-state which preserves to a remarkable degree its dramatic townscape, its historically significant urban fabric and a large number of outstanding ecclesiastical and secular buildings from several centuries. It is also noteworthy for its associations with the arts, and in particular with music in the person of its famous son, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

- Statement of significance adequately defines the outstanding universal value of the site
- No change required

Boundaries and Buffer Zone

- Status of boundaries of the site: adequate
- Buffer zone: adequate
- The buffer zone covers both areas protected under zone II of the "Altstadterhaltungsgesetz" (Old Town Protection Act)

Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- World Heritage site values have been maintained

3. Protection

Legislative and Administrative Arrangements

- Legislation at national level: Austrian Monuments Protection Act (Federal Act of 1923 as amended in 1999 by Federal Gazette No 170/1999)
- Legislation on regional/local level: the historic centre is protected by the "Salzburger Altstadterhaltungsgesetz" (Salzburg Old Town Preservation Act) dating back to 1967; "Altstadtverordnung" (Old Town Preservation Ordinance) 1982 and II "Schutzzonenerhaltungsverordnung" (II Protected Zones Ordinance) from 1995
- The protection arrangements are considered sufficiently effective

4. Management

Use of site/property

- Visitor attraction, urban centre

Management/Administrative Body

- Steering group: the City Mayor for Culture as political responsible on the one hand, and the head of the Dpt. for Building, Traffic and Urban Planning of the Magistrate of the City of Salzburg as managerial responsible on the other, take care of all kind of questions affecting the World Heritage
- Formally constituted
- Management under protective legislation; management under traditional protective measures or customary law; consensual management
- Site manager on full-time basis (responsibilities have been added to an existing job)
- Levels of public authority who are primarily involved with the management of the site: national; regional; local
- The current management system is sufficiently effective

Actions proposed:

- Elaboration of a management plan: the city administration is going to elaborate a management plan in order to create a better link between the already existing protective measures at different levels of administration
- Timeframe: 2006

5. Management Plan

- No management plan
- Management plan being developed
- Timeframe: January 2007

6. Financial Resources

Financial situation

- Old Town Preservation Fund is borne by the City of Salzburg (60%) and the Federal Province of Salzburg (40%); Federal grant aid; "Bundesdenkmalamt" (Federal Office for the Protection of Monuments) and Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Culture
- Townscape preservation fund; donations to the "Bundesdenkmalamt" (Federal Office of Historic Monuments); Old Town Preservation Fund
- Funding is adequate

7. Staffing Levels

- 2 staff

Rate of access to adequate professional staff across the following disciplines:

- Very good: conservation, management, promotion; interpretation; education; visitor management
- Support from regular volunteers

8. Sources of Expertise and Training in Conservation and Management Techniques

- "Bundesdenkmalamt" (Federal Office for the Protection of Monuments) offers restoration workshops for building conservation; Salzburg "Lehrbauhof" of the Salzburg Chamber of Economy is offering regular training courses and seminars on traditional building techniques; Salzburg University (history of art, archaeology, history) archives and museums and monasteries with their libraries

9. Visitor Management

- Visitor statistics: not provided
- Visitor facilities: Salzburg is well known and provided with all kind of visitor's facilities
- No tourism/visitor management plan: with the increasing visitor's numbers a visitor management plan becomes indispensable and is going to be elaborated

10. Scientific Studies

- No research framework/strategy for the site
- Scientific studies and research programmes: impact of World Heritage designation
- Numerous researches on archaeology, history, art history, building history, town history, At Salzburg University a study on tourism and World Heritage are under way
- Studies used for management of site: Increased knowledge on Salzburg's archaeology and architecture is needed for a better management of restoration, excavation - and rehabilitation activities

11. Education, Information and Awareness Building

- Not enough signs referring to World Heritage site

- World Heritage Convention Emblem used on some publications
- Adequate awareness of World Heritage among: visitors, local communities, businesses, local authorities
- Education strategy: primary schools lessons, German translation of the World Heritage Kit
- Special events/exhibition: International events and symposiums on World Heritage
- Web site available

12. Factors affecting the Property (State of Conservation)

Reactive monitoring reports

- World Heritage Bureau sessions: 24th (2000)
- World Heritage Committee sessions: 24th (2000); 27th (2003); 28th (2004), 29th (2005)

Conservation interventions

- Restoration and conservation of the façades of the Churches, historic monuments, elaboration of a garden-masterplan for Leopoldskron Castle
- Present state of conservation: very good

Threats and Risks to site

- Development pressure; visitor/tourism pressure
- Specific issues mentioned: as much as some economic functions are concerned, the physical capacity of the old town is almost exhausted. If the exceeding demand is not denied or canalized into other parts of the city, the resulting architectural solutions will be hardly satisfying. The management plan which is going to be elaborated will hopefully help to settle such problems.

13. Monitoring

- No formal monitoring programme
- ICOMOS-Austria has offered a kind of monitoring by observing planned changes in advance
- Measures planned: key indicators for monitoring will be included in the management plan which is going to be elaborated

14. Conclusions and Recommended Actions

- Main benefits of WH status: conservation; economic
- Since Salzburg has always been a prominent cultural and touristic centre, there is not so

much increase of tourism by its World Heritage status

- Strength: after having been declared a World Heritage site, at first a series of celebrations took place without further consequences. It was followed later by an increasing awareness for the responsibility which is connected with World Heritage status. This development continues
- Weaknesses of management: Besides its music and festival tradition, Salzburg considers itself a cultural centre of high importance which is demanding progress also in terms of contemporary architecture. Being well aware of its responsibility as World Heritage site on the one hand, Salzburg seems to be afraid of being coined a museum city. This uncertainty sometimes gives way to demands of modernists who are not satisfied with a back row, but seem only content if they can apply their creations in/on/at the most prominent sites of the city. It has not yet been fully understood that certain locations and situations should be out of discussion as much as the question of old versus new is concerned. Thus sometimes development is ranked before conservation. The future management plan will give a better possibility for steering the aforementioned problems