

CROATIA

Old City of Dubrovnik

Brief Description

The 'Pearl of the Adriatic', situated on the Dalmatian coast, became an important Mediterranean sea power from the 13th century onwards. Although severely damaged by an earthquake in 1667, Dubrovnik managed to preserve its beautiful Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque churches, monasteries, palaces and fountains. Damaged again in the 1990s by armed conflict, it is now the focus of a major restoration programme co-ordinated by UNESCO.

1. Introduction

Year(s) of Inscription 1979, 1994

Years of inscription on List in Danger
1991-1998 (removed 1998)

Agencies responsible for site management

- The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia - The Administration for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, Runjaninova 2, 10 000 Zagreb, Croatia
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2. Statement of Significance

Inscription Criteria C (i), (iii), (iv)

Justification provided by State Party

The historical urban (and architectural) complex of Dubrovnik has retained to date the essential elements of the medieval structure of a fortified town: the ramparts, the lay-out of the streets and squares, impressive public edifices (lay and religious) and a great many private dwellings. Regardless of any considerations on the particular artistic value of the edifices, here we find primarily a complex of outstanding value, which owing to the host of messages - artistic, urbanistic, cultural and historical - make Dubrovnik one of the most important properties within the borders of Yugoslavia¹. Nearly all stages of the development of the town through the centuries have been stamped and preserved in its structure and

particularly the extensive town planning interventions of the 13th century by means of which this complex had been given its unity. When the preserved documents, which drew up the laws according to the "status" of town, are compared with the town's present condition, one is made aware that the urbanistic ideas of its "planners" were only implemented. This planning of the town had its direct source in the aim of its builders to create the monumental centre of a large territory, which was a unique medieval State (Republic) in the making, and which has actually succeeded in retaining its freedom in spite of very critical conditions until the beginning of the 19th century. These are the major events which account for the quality as well as the outstanding result and the deliberate tendency towards an imposing style which is ever noticeable in the construction of the private dwellings in town. Emphasis is laid on the importance of the fortified walls, surrounding this almost entirely preserved complex, with its big defensive towers representative of the military architecture from the 13th to the 17th century. In the construction of these "utilitarian", edifices, as elsewhere, there appears in the town a tendency towards the grandiose style and a "aesthetic" features even in the way the stones are hewn as well as in the formal features combining functional design with aesthetics. A characteristic example of the latter is to be found in the big tower in the north-west corner of the town ("Minceta"), built by M. Michelozzi and Georgius Dalmaticus, the most important masters of the 15th century.

When all those elements are taken into consideration, one becomes aware that the urban historical complex of Dubrovnik is a unique creation of medieval architecture and town planning, which has exerted considerable influence not only within a small area but on the greater area of the Adriatic Coast and the Balkans. Among all the medieval European cities, Dubrovnik stands out due to the mutual relationship which has been established between the existing edifices and the whole complex and by the enormous documentation allowing each stage of its growth to be studied in the light of history.

As provided in ICOMOS evaluation

(1979): ICOMOS made no written evaluation.

(1994): The consideration of this proposal for extension is deferred to await provision by the State Party of satisfactory evidence of an effective buffer zone around the site. In the event of such information being received, ICOMOS recommends that the World Heritage Site be extended to include the areas indicated in the additional nomination.

¹ At the time of inscription of this site on the World Heritage List, Croatia was part of former Yugoslavia. The above texts are taken from the original nomination dossier.

Committee Decision

(1979): The Committee made no statement.

(1994): The Committee made no statement.

- Statement of significance adequately defines the outstanding universal value of the site
- Statement of significance did not exist at time of inscription
- No change required

Boundaries and Buffer Zone

- Status of boundaries of the site: adequate
- Buffer zone: adequate
- There is no change to the buffer zone proposed by State Party

Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- World Heritage site values have been maintained

3. Protection**Legislative and Administrative Arrangements**

- Decision on founding the Committee of the Municipal Council of the City of Dubrovnik for monitoring the condition of monumental heritage. In its work, the Committee cooperates with the Institute for the Reconstruction of Dubrovnik, the Ministry of Culture – Conservation Office in Dubrovnik, the Society of Friends of Dubrovnik Antiquities, and the Administration of the City of Dubrovnik
- Law on the reconstruction of the endangered monumental complex of Dubrovnik (OG, no. 21/86) and further amendments (1989, 1999)
- The protection arrangements are considered sufficiently effective

4. Management**Use of site/property**

- Urban centre

Management /Administrative Body

- A legally constituted steering group was set up in 1979
- There is a site manager on a full-time basis
- Levels of public authority who are primarily involved with the management of the site: national, local
- The current management system is considered highly effective

5. Management Plan

- Management plan is being implemented
- The management plan is considered adequate

- The body responsible for implementation of management plan is the Conservation Office at the Institute for the Reconstruction of Dubrovnik, City of Dubrovnik

6. Financial Resources**Financial situation**

- No details given on Budget sources
- World Heritage Fund was received
- Several organisations and individuals have been founded with the purpose of raising funds for restoration
- Financial resources are considered sufficient

7. Staffing Levels

- number of staff: not given

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

- Very good: conservation, management, interpretation
- Good: interpretation, education, visitor management
- Average: promotion

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

- Scientific institutions: University of Zagreb, Faculty of Civil Engineering and Faculty of Architecture, Statics Department
- Museum conservation facilities: Institute for Reconstruction, monitoring firms
- Training is available for on site stakeholders

9. Visitor Management

- Visitor statistics: (provided in the appendix to the periodic report)
- Visitor facilities: city tour, combining a coach drive and walking tour
- Visitor needs: further access to information for visitors, particularly online

10. Scientific Studies

- Studies include: monitoring exercises; condition surveys; archaeological surveys
- Studies used for management of site, in particular to properly assign all possible work on the monuments

11. Education, Information and Awareness Building

- Adequate awareness of World Heritage: visitors, local communities, businesses, and local authorities
- There is an agreed education strategy included in the school curriculum
- Events: exhibitions, publications
- Web site available, managed by the Institute for the Reconstruction of Dubrovnik

12. Factors affecting the Property (State of Conservation)

Reactive monitoring reports

- World Heritage Bureau sessions: 16th (1992); 17th (1993); 19th(1995); 22nd (1998)
- World Heritage Committee sessions: 16th (1992); 17th (1993); 18th (1994); 19th (1995); 20th (1996); 21st (1997); 22nd (1998)

Conservation interventions

- Present state of conservation: adequate

Threats and Risks to site

- Possible threats: development pressures, number of inhabitants

13. Monitoring

- A formal monitoring programme exists
- Measures planned: a medium term plan for 2006-2007 for the reconstruction of cultural monuments in Dubrovnik has been adopted

14. Conclusions and Recommended Actions

- Main benefits of WH status: conservation
- A number of interventions to retrieve original historic paintings, concerning the devastations of war. Works have been made on almost every segment of the historic urban centre