

HUNGARY

Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrassy Avenue

Brief description

This site has the remains of monuments such as the Roman city of Aquincum and the Gothic castle of Buda, which have had a considerable influence on the architecture of various periods. It is one of the world's outstanding urban landscapes and illustrates the great periods in the history of the Hungarian capital.

1. Introduction

Year(s) of Inscription 1987, 2002

Agency responsible for site management

- Budapest Főpolgármesteri Hivatal
The Municipality of Budapest
1052 Budapest
Városház u. 9-11.
Hungary

2. Statement of Significance

Inscription Criteria C (ii), (iv)

Justification provided by the State Party

(1987):

(III) L'unique effet esthétique de Budapest est du en premier lieu au rapport harmonieux de paysage et ville, de nature et oeuvre humaine, dans lequel les facteurs de valeur particuliers ne se totalisent pas seulement, mais se multiplient encore. Dans le cas de Budapest la connexion du paysage et de la ville est tellement harmonieuse et parfaite parce que le Château, point principal de paysage urbain à l'égard du contenu et de la morphologie, est situé sur cette aire déterminée nécessairement par la formation de la surface comme donnée primaire. Le point principal de la beauté du paysage et celui de la ville coïncident, en rehaussant et multipliant cela réciproquement énormément leur effet esthétique.

(I) L'ensemble historique du quartier de ville représente l'esprit créateur de l'homme d'une manière unique. Ayant ressuscité à plusieurs reprises de la destruction, il offre un bel exemple de

la continuité et de la survivance résistante d'ordre supérieur aussi au point de vue esthétique d'un ensemble architectural et d'urbanisme.

(IV) Et la ville médiévale et la ville baroque représentent un type caractéristiquement spécifique qui diffèrent des ensembles architecturaux des époques analogues ou pareilles des pays limitrophes.

(I) A l'égard des caractéristiques de la typologie des maisons médiévales, le Château de Buda a exercé une influence considérable sur les autres villes hongroises.

(VI) En un tel sens il s'agit d'un espace vital traditionnel et caractéristique qui a conservé organiquement sa structure développée au Moyen Age et était aussi capable de changer plusieurs fois fonction au cours de l'histoire. De nos jours, la zone est le centre culturel et de tourisme de la capitale de Budapest, mais en dehors de cela aussi le quartier résidentiel et le lieu d'habitation d'environ 3000 personnes dans les belles maisons restaurées.

(2002):

The proposed extension area of the Andrassy Avenue and the Millenary underground is unique as an entity of harmonious interaction between parkland and a modern urban area all created within an unprecedented short timespan. As a perfect technical solution, providing easy and inexpensive access to the parkland for all classes of an emerging modern society.

(ii) In the context of painfully protracted cultural and technical development in Central-Eastern Europe the innovative planning and implementation of a unique architectural and technological concept of modern townscape design.

(iv) The proposed extension, together with the previously inscribed area, represents as a whole all major historical sources of inspiration for the Hungarian nation, as reflected in the architectural trends, united harmoniously in a dynamic townscape.

(vi) The Opera House, the old and the current Music Academy, all built within the proposed extension, are unique artistic and literal homes of the greatest Hungarian musicians: Ferenc Liszt, Bela Bartok and Zoltan Kodaly, to mention just a few, whose contribution to the world's musical tradition is of outstanding universal significance.

As provided in ICOMOS evaluation

ICOMOS 1986:

Criterion (II) can be evoked on several scores. Aquincum played an essential role in the diffusion of Roman architectural forms in Pannonia, then in Dacia. Buda Castle played an essential role in the diffusion of Gothic art in Magyar region from the 14th century. In the reign of Matthias Corvinus Buda, the city was an artistic centre comparable to that of Cracow (included on the World Heritage List in 1978) as a result of its influence.

Criterion (IV) can especially be applied to Buda Castle, an architectural ensemble which, together with the nearby old district, illustrates two significant periods of history which were separated by an interval corresponding to the Turkish invasion. But the Parliament is also an outstanding example of a great official building on a par with those of London, Munich, Vienna and Athens, exemplifying the eclectic architecture of the 19th century, whilst at the same time symbolizing the political function of the second capital of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy.

Committee Decision

Bureau (1987): The Bureau recommended that the Hungarian authorities adopt a policy for safeguarding the whole built-up area, particularly with a view to stopping the development of tower blocks built on a different scale to the old buildings.

Session (1987): The Committee took note of the statement made by the observer from Hungary that his Government undertook to make no modifications to the panorama of Budapest by adding constructions out of scale.

Session (2002):

26 COM 23.10 - The World Heritage Committee,

Approves the extension of Budapest, the Banks of the Danube and the Buda Castle Quarter, Hungary with the Andrassy Avenue and the Millennium Underground Railway on the basis of the existing cultural criteria (ii) and (iv).

26 COM 23.11

With regard to Budapest, and in particular the Andrassy Avenue (1872-85) and the Millennium Underground Railway (1893-96), Hungary, the World Heritage Committee,

Encourages the Hungarian authorities to: (a) consider measures to improve the public spaces

and street amenities; (b) propose incentives that could stimulate the conservation of residential housing in the World Heritage area, and (c) improve control of the growing automobile traffic.

26 COM 23.12:

With regard to Budapest, the Banks of the Danube and the Buda Castle Quarter, Hungary, the World Heritage Committee,

Encourages the Hungarian authorities to extend the buffer zone of the World Heritage area to the western side of the existing property, on the Buda side of the town.

- Statement of significance adequately defines the outstanding universal value of the site
- Proposal for text has not been made by State Party but is requested
- No change required

Boundaries and Buffer Zone

- Status of boundaries of the site: adequate
- Buffer zone: adequate
- Change to buffer zone proposed by State Party: further work is needed on the buffer zone to protect the site's significance

Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- World Heritage site values have been maintained, however attention must be given to the threat posed by increasing traffic and the visual landscape of the site

3. Protection**Legislative and Administrative Arrangements**

- Agreements: Metropolitan Master Plan, Building Acts
- Laws: the basic Hungarian legislative text on the Protection of Cultural Heritage: Act LXIV of 2001 on the Protection of Cultural Heritage, Local municipality regulations
- The protection arrangements are considered sufficiently effective

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

- Urban centre

Management /Administrative Body

- Steering group does not exist at this time, but one has been ordered in the 2005 Act of LXXXIX on the Protection of Cultural Heritage

- No site manager has been appointed at this time
- Levels of public authority who are primarily involved with the management of the site: local
- The current management system is sufficiently effective

5. *Management Plan*

- No management plan is being implemented, however there are plans to create one

6. *Financial Resources*

Financial situation

- Budget sources: no details available
- Bi-lateral: none available
- Insufficient

7. *Staffing Levels*

- number of staff: 20

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

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

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

- Scientific institutions & Museum conservation facilities: access to experts in the fields of architecture, urban studies, archaeology, art history, museology and tourism is available
- Training on site management: there is a need for skills development for administration

9. *Visitor Management*

- Visitor statistics: not available at this time
- Visitor facilities: city infrastructure (shops, museums, public facilities and restaurants, recreational facilities, etc.)

10. *Scientific Studies*

- Studies relating to the value of the site; Archaeological surveys; visitor management; transportation studies

- Studies used for preparing the Management Plan, as well as resource material for site protection planning.

11. *Education, Information and Awareness Building*

- An adequate number of 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
- Events: museum exhibits, conferences, media broadcasting and publicity
- Web site available: managed by Municipality of Budapest
- Local participation: steps taken to involve local people in site management (details not given)

12. *Factors affecting the Property (State of Conservation)*

Reactive monitoring reports

- N/A

Conservation interventions

- Conservation: In connection with the urban removal process there were many reconstruction actions principally in the World Heritage site, among others the Buda Castle district, the Szent György place excavations, the restoration of the Sándor palace, the building of the Ybl villa, and the buildings of the Andrassy Avenue are being gradually restored
- Present state of conservation: not given

Threats and Risks to site

- Development pressures
- Specific issues: financial issues in dealing with conservation, threats to visual integrity of the site, traffic volume increase
- Emergency measures taken: UNESCO expert meeting at the site to discuss the extension of the Buda lower-embankment process

13. *Monitoring*

- No formal monitoring programme exists at this time
- Measures planned: establishment of adequate management planning systems

14. Conclusions and Recommended Actions

- Main benefits of WH status: conservation, social factors
- Strengths of management: extension of the buffer zone; protection of the whole area as “an area of monumental significance”; restoration of buildings within the site
- Weaknesses of management: tourism income is not reinvested in the site, lack of management, the management plan has not yet been completed

Future actions:

- Preparation of the Management Plan is foreseen as taking approximately 6 months