

ICOMOS

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES MONUMENTS ET DES SITES
CONSEJO INTERNACIONAL DE MONUMENTOS Y SITIOS
МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ СОВЕТ ПО ВОПРОСАМ ПАМЯТНИКОВ И ДОСТОПРИМЕЧАТЕЛЬНЫХ МЕСТ

Our Ref. GB/AS/1538/IR

Charenton-le-Pont, 22 December 2017

H. E. Mrs Vincenza Lomonaco
Permanent Delegation of Italy to UNESCO
50, rue de Varenne
75007 Paris

World Heritage List 2018

Ivrea, Industrial City of the 20th Century (Italy) – Interim report and additional information request

Dear Madam,

As prescribed by the revised Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention and its Annex 6, the Advisory Bodies have been requested to submit a short interim report for each nomination by 31 January 2018. We are therefore pleased to provide you with the relevant information outlining issues related to the evaluation process.

The ICOMOS technical evaluation mission to the “Ivrea, Industrial City of the 20th Century” was carried out by Jean-Yves Andrieux (France) from 21 to 25 September 2017. The mission expert highly appreciated the availabilities and support provided by the experts in your country for the organization and implementation of the mission.

On 5 October 2017, a letter was sent by ICOMOS to request further information regarding the selection of the components, protection, ownership and visitor facilities. Please convey our thanks to all the officials and experts for the additional information you provided on 31 October 2017, including an updated Management Plan provided on 10 November 2017, and for their continued cooperation in this process.

At the end of November 2017, the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel evaluated the cultural and mixed properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List in 2018. The additional information, together with mission and desk review reports were carefully examined by the Panel members. This process will conclude in March 2018.

We thank you for the availability of your Delegation to the meeting held on Friday, 24 November 2017 with some representatives of the ICOMOS Panel. During the final part of the ICOMOS Panel meeting that followed, the ICOMOS Panel has identified a number of areas where it considers that further information is needed.

While the ICOMOS Panel considered that the “Ivrea, Industrial City of the 20th Century” might have the potential to meet the requirements for Outstanding Universal Value, this has not yet been demonstrated.

Therefore, we would be pleased if the State Party could consider the following points.

Justification of the proposed Outstanding Universal Value

The ICOMOS Panel has identified questions concerning the conceptualisation of the nomination, as well as associated documentation and comparative analysis.

As discussed with representatives of the State Party at the meeting in November 2017, the ICOMOS Panel considers that the question of whether the nominated property could be understood as a 'city', 'company town' or as a 'group of buildings' is a potentially important conceptual distinction within the evaluation of this nomination. A concise written clarification on this point would therefore be useful for the continuing evaluation by ICOMOS. Depending on the response of the State Party, it might also be necessary to further expand the comparative analysis to support the clarified concept for this nominated property (see also the questions on 'Comparative Analysis' below).

In the nomination dossier, emphasis has been placed on a number of individual buildings (and their architects/designers), but there is a lesser focus on the property as an urban composition within the larger urban entity of Ivrea. The ICOMOS Panel therefore requests further information on the evolution of the town plan/urban landscape over the key periods of development (and more recently). ICOMOS notes that some relevant information on this matter was already provided in the Additional Information in October 2017, especially the map titled 'Historical and Architectural Value of the Building Heritage in the Nominated Property: ICO Buildings Construction Periods and Original Functions'. This map compiles information about the timeframes of development and change using the key and colour coding, but this is a complex overall picture and the ICOMOS Panel would find it helpful to see these as a chronological sequence of maps. Would it be possible to provide these in a sequenced format? It would be appreciated if this could include the dates of the more recent addition of buildings within the nominated area, even though these are not proposed as attributes that convey the proposed Outstanding Universal Value.

The ICOMOS Panel also requests further information that clarifies the linkages between the buildings/urban spaces and the economic and social project based on the ideas of the 'Movimento Comunità' (Community Movement). In other words, could the attributes that can demonstrate these dimensions be specifically identified? A concise table or text response to this question would be appreciated.

Comparative analysis

The ICOMOS Panel considers that the comparative analysis has included a number of relevant comparative examples, but would require additional comparisons. These would include the Manufacture in Saint-Dié-des-Vosges, France, a component within the World Heritage serial property of 'The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier, an outstanding contribution to the Modern Movement' (included in the World Heritage List in 2016) as well as the mill village of Chicopee in Georgia, United States of America, and industrial complexes in Russia (Magnitigorsk, Orse, ZIL/Moscow, Avtrostroi/Nizhny Novgorod). Depending on the clarified conceptualisation of the nomination (see above), the ICOMOS Panel considers that there could be additional relevant comparisons. It would be appreciated if the State Party could review the comparative analysis already presented in this regard, particularly in relation to the ways in which the urban morphology has been shaped by the industrial processes and social ideals.

Boundaries

The ICOMOS Panel discussed a number of queries concerning the boundaries and buffer zone with the representatives of the State Party at the meeting held on 24 November 2017. This engagement clarified a number of points.

Additional information is requested outlining the rationale for the delineation of the boundaries of the nominated property and its buffer zone. In addition to this overall question, the remaining points on boundaries where additional information is requested are as follows:

- The inclusion of the Villa Rossi within the nominated area, given its location within the administrative borders of Banchette. Additional information on the rationale for the inclusion of this site is requested, along with further clarification of the practical implications for the management and protection of this component within the larger nominated property.

- The inclusion of the recent housing project facing the red brick factory of Camillo Olivetti within the nominated area. Additional information on the rationale for the inclusion of this site in the nominated property (rather than the buffer zone) is requested. This project also raises questions for the ICOMOS Panel concerning the issuing of construction permits for new development projects within the nominated property, and whether sufficient consideration to the impacts on visual integrity are included in the system of legal protection.
- Current constructions at the site next to the Villa Capellaro, located within the buffer zone. The ICOMOS Panel notes that this was commenced prior to new regulations to ensure the visual integrity of the nominated property. Additional information is requested confirming the ability of the visual integrity of the nominated property to be protected in the future when issuing permits for changes and new developments in the buffer zone.

Integrity and Authenticity

The ICOMOS Panel considers that the authenticity and integrity of a number of the primary components of the nominated property are vulnerable due to the degree of future adaptive reuse that will be required in order to ensure their long-term retention. Accordingly, the ICOMOS Panel would appreciate information that provide additional insight into the strategies that will be employed by the State Party to ensure the future viability and conservation of the nominated property, including its architectural and its non-architectural spaces and settings. Could the State Party further explain how the adaptive reuse of key buildings of the property will be carried out without detrimentally affecting its vulnerable integrity and authenticity of function, setting and form?

Conservation

The present state of conservation of some of the buildings presents challenges for this nominated property. The ICOMOS Panel considers that the strategies for conservation proposed by the State Party are appropriate, and notes the financial support of the owners and users. Additional information would be useful in relation to the implementation of the conservation and maintenance strategies for currently vacant buildings.

Legal Protection

The ICOMOS Panel notes the useful clarifications provided by the State Party in the Additional Information received in October 2017, and in the discussions with State Party representatives on 24 November 2017. As discussed, the ICOMOS Panel considers that the provisions for legal protection are relatively complex due to the different regimes applying to private and public buildings, and between the buildings and non-architectural spaces. For the purposes of the ongoing work of the ICOMOS Panel, it would be appreciated if the State Party could provide a concise written statement confirming that the attributes of the proposed Outstanding Universal Value are all given the highest available level of legal protection; an outline of the ways in which the legal mechanisms work together; and, an explanation of how the overall management system functions to avoid gaps and/or complexity for current and future users and occupants.

Management

The revised Management Plan highlights that the World Heritage designation is intended in part as a strategy for addressing the low levels of occupancy in the property. The ICOMOS Panel discussed some issues concerning community involvement in the development of the nomination with representatives of the State Party in November 2017, and appreciated the useful information provided. As discussed, this is expected to be an ongoing priority within the management system, particularly for the residential buildings. The ICOMOS Panel would therefore welcome any further insight available about how the management system will incorporate processes for continuing community engagement, and available information about the perceptions of owners and users concerning the implications of World Heritage designation.

We would be grateful if you could provide ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre with the above information by **28 February 2018 at the latest**, the deadline set out in paragraph 148 of the Operational Guidelines for supplementary information on nominations to be received. Please note that any information submitted after this date will not be considered by ICOMOS in its evaluation for the World Heritage Committee. It should be noted, however, that while ICOMOS will carefully consider any supplementary information submitted, it cannot properly evaluate a completely revised nomination or large amounts of new information submitted at the last minute. So we request to keep your response concise and respond only to the above requests.

Yours faithfully,

Gwenaëlle Bourdin
Director
ICOMOS Evaluation Unit

Copy to Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Activities and Tourism – General Secretariat – Coordination and international relations - UNESCO office
UNESCO World Heritage Centre