

# 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 ДОСТОПРИИМАТЕЛЬНЫХ МЕСТ

Our Ref:GB/AS/1614/IR

Charenton-le-Pont, 20 December 2019

H. E. Mr Peter Reuss  
Ambassador, Permanente Delegate  
Permanent Delegation of Germany to  
UNESCO  
9, rue Maspéro  
75116 Paris

## **World Heritage List 2020 Mathildenhöhe Darmstadt (Germany) – Interim report and additional information request**

Dear Ambassador,

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 2020. We are therefore pleased to provide you with the relevant information outlining issues related to the evaluation process.

The ICOMOS technical evaluation mission to "Mathildenhöhe Darmstadt" was carried out by Ms. Natalia Dushkina (Russia) in August 2019. 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 10 September 2019, a letter was sent by ICOMOS to request further information regarding the integrity and authenticity, factors affecting the property, boundaries, maps, conservation, management, development projects and interpretation, presentation and visitors' management. Please convey our thanks to all the officials and experts for the additional information you provided on 21 October 2019 and for their continued cooperation in this process.

In mid-November 2019, the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel evaluated the cultural and mixed properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List in 2020. The additional information provided by the State Party, together with mission and desk review reports were carefully examined by the Panel members. This process will conclude in March 2020.

We thank you for the availability of your Delegation to the meeting held on Thursday 21 November 2019 with representatives of the ICOMOS Panel. The exchange during this meeting was of great help for the third part of the ICOMOS evaluation meeting in which the Panel identified areas where it considers further information is needed.

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

### **Integrity and authenticity**

ICOMOS recognizes the significance of Mathildenhöhe and would like to further confirm its conditions of authenticity with regards to the post-war restorations and reconstructions. ICOMOS appreciates the very useful additional information provided by the State Party with this regard. However, ICOMOS would be pleased if more detailed information on the state of buildings before and after restoration with technical information and illustrative materials such as photographs and measured drawings be

provided for each buildings rehabilitated post-war. This information could provide explanation as regards the conservation approach and principles applied to the rehabilitation of these buildings; and an accurate chronology of interventions and some comparison record photography that show the state before and after the interventions.

#### **Boundaries of the property and the buffer zone**

ICOMOS would be grateful if the State Party could consider changes to the boundaries of the property and the buffer zone (please find the map with ICOMOS proposals enclosed to this report).

Regarding the boundaries of the nominated property, would the State Party be willing to enlarge component (ID-NO.001) in the south-western part along the Eugen-Bract-Weg/Prinz Christians-Weg border as part of the grounds of the first 1901 Artists' Colony exhibition, for which the planning pattern and parceling is preserved?

Regarding the buffer zone, would the State Party be willing to consider enlarging the buffer zone in order to protect the sightline to and from the property as well as the visual integrity of the urban context and landscape:

- Along the Kopernikusplatz-Gutenbergstrasse to the north;
- On the south and east; and
- On the southeast.

#### **Factors affecting the site**

ICOMOS appreciates the need for a permanent visitor center for the property and the State Party's efforts to realize this. However, ICOMOS has concerns as regards the location of the newly designed visitor center within the boundaries of the property which would have negative impact on its integrity.

Could the State Party provide information regarding the advisory council decision related to the location of the visitors' centre, as well as the criteria used for the selection of its current design?

ICOMOS would recommend that a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) be carried out in order to inform the decision for the new location of the visitor center and its selected design.

Accordingly, could the State Party provide a draft HIA? Would the State Party be willing to consider relocation of the new visitor center outside the boundaries of the nominated property, below the Eastern slope along Olbrichweg? This will allow to reduce the load on the site, help to avoid negative visual pressure on the most important structures of the ensemble, and free up the approach to the nominated element Studio Building, 1914.

#### **Legal protection**

ICOMOS would be pleased to receive, when available, further information on the date of the approval of all local Building Plans for urban regulations and protection within the nominated property and the buffer zone.

ICOMOS notes that Section 18 of the Hessian Act on the Protection and Conservation of Monuments (HDSchG) permits modifications, including demolition, removal or redesign of heritage objects and construction measures on cultural monuments, subject to approval. ICOMOS would be pleased to receive further information on how the State Party is planning to ensure the protection of the buildings within the nominated property, particularly the interiors of the privately-owned buildings in the case of inscription on the World Heritage List.

#### **Visitor management**

ICOMOS would be pleased if the State Party could indicate whether the development of a detailed visitor management strategy for the property is planned or could be implemented, including an assessment of carrying capacity and means to monitor and control visitor numbers as well as facilitating visitors' accessibility to privately owned buildings within the property.

We look forward to your responses to these points, which will be of great help in our evaluation process.

We would be grateful if you could provide **ICOMOS** and the **World Heritage Centre** with the above information **by 28 February 2020 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 would be grateful if the State Party could keep its response concise and respond only to the above requests.

We thank you for your support of the World Heritage Convention and the evaluation process.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G Bourdin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gwenaëlle Bourdin  
Director  
ICOMOS Evaluation Unit

Copy to            Mathildenhöhe Development, World Heritage Office  
                         Federal Foreign Office  
                         UNESCO World Heritage Centre

## ANNEX 1

ICOMOS' proposal for enlarging the property and buffer zone



### ICOMOS' recommendation for

- 1 - South-western area along the Eugen-Bracht-Weg/Prinz Christians-Weg border as part of the first 1901 exhibition;
- 2 and 3 - Listed cultural monuments of the Grosser Woog and Rosenhöhe Park;
- 4 - Listed historic station Ostbahnhof;
- 5 - Listed 'ensemble' (Erbacher/Landgraf-Georg strassen, Fiedlerweg and Schwarzwaldring);
- 6 - northern area along Kopernikusplatz-Gutenbergstrasse.