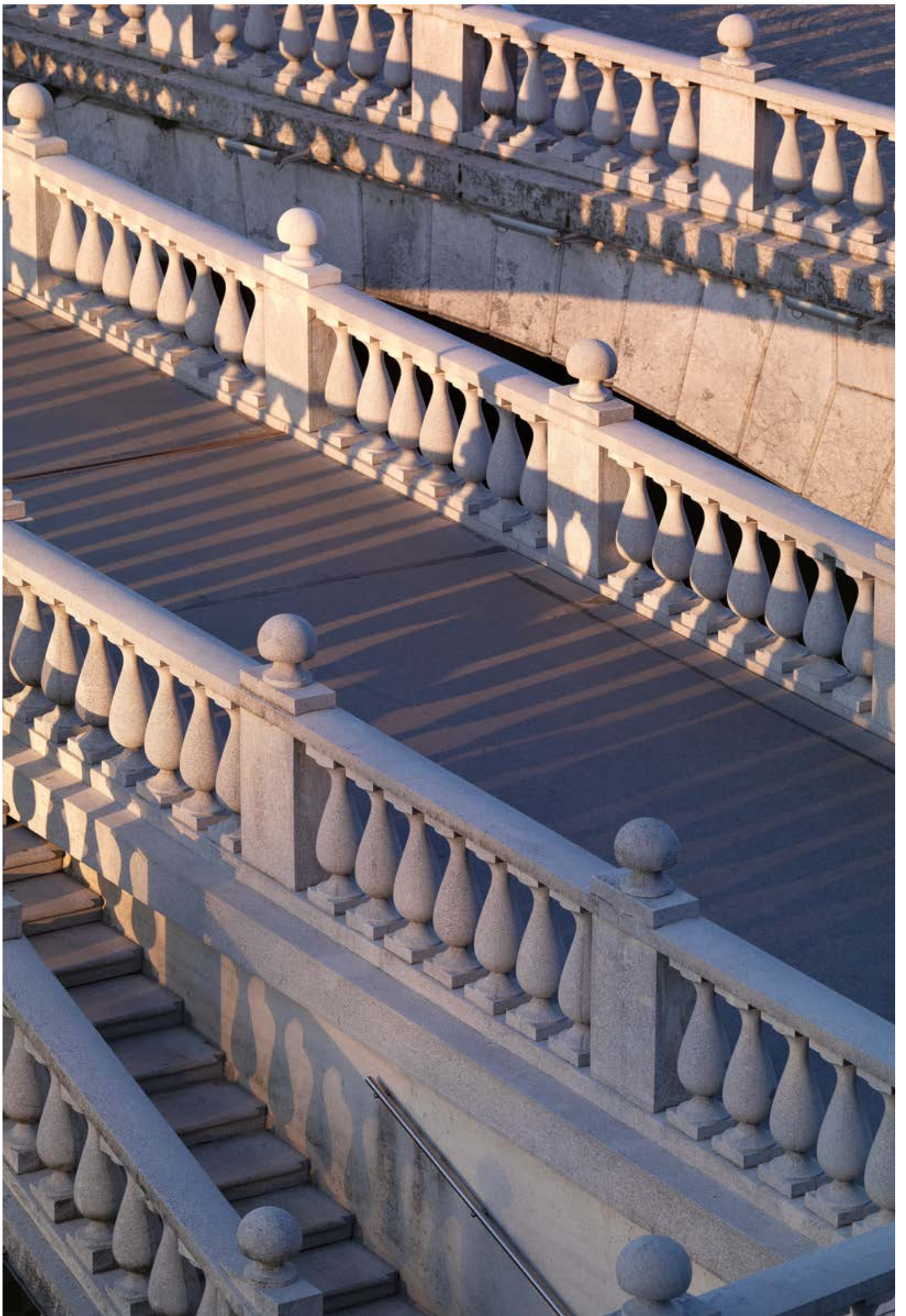


EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

LJUBLJANA: THE TIMELESS, HUMAN
CAPITAL DESIGNED BY JOŽE PLEČNIK



State Party

Republic of Slovenia

State, Province or Region

City of Ljubljana

Name of property

Ljubljana: The Timeless, Human Capital Designed by Jože Plečnik

Geographical coordinates to the nearest second

WGS 84: Lat (ϕ)= 46° 03' 20" N

Lon (λ)= 14° 30' 30" E

Textual description of the boundaries of the nominated property

All nominated components were declared cultural monuments under the *Ordinance designating the work of the architect Jože Plečnik in Ljubljana as a cultural monument of national importance* (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 51/09 of 3rd July 2009), and each component has a separately declared and specially designated buffer zone. This order was supplemented by subsequent orders that further elaborated the changes in land allotment and ownership, and, for the purpose of adequate protection, provided for the precise determination and protection of buffer zones at the level of a cultural monument of national importance. These supplements were published in *Orders amending and supplementing the Ordinance designating the work of the architect Jože Plečnik in Ljubljana as a cultural monument of national importance* (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 88/14 of 8th December 2014, No. 19/16 of 11th March 2016 and No. 76/17 of 22th December 2017, No. 17/18 of 16th March 2018). Also adopted were two further orders dealing with the boundaries of protected cultural monuments selected for the nomination: *Order declaring the Church of St. Trinity in Ljubljana as a cultural monument of national importance* (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 85/08) and *Order declaring the Palace of Philharmonic Society in Ljubljana as a cultural monument of national importance* (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 112/08).

Buffer zones for individual monuments and sites were determined with reference to urban planning, history, landscaping and architectural experts. A valid and uniform protection regime for buffer zones is stipulated in point 9 of Article 56 of the 2009 order. It provides for comprehensive protection against any intervention that might have a detrimental effect on the protection of individual monuments or sites, including views or inadequate land use in protected buffer zones. Stipulated is the preservation of existing unbuilt open space and traditional land use, where this is essential to preserve the integrity of the cultural monument; the construction or erection of temporary structures in the area of existing open spaces, especially lawn areas, parks and gardens, is prohibited, except when such structures are needed for the use, functioning, preservation and presentation of the monument; coordinated comprehensive park arrangements or smaller landscaping interventions are permissible; the size and function of substitute buildings in the buffer zone of a monument must be adjusted to the monument; the views of the monument or views from it onto the surroundings must be preserved. The protection regime exceptionally permits urgent interventions, above all on subterranean utilities, such as traffic, energy provision and telecommunications infrastructure. Activities in the buffer zone, such as use, preservation and presentation of monuments, landscaping of green areas, etc., is permissible only subject to the conditions laid down under the powers conferred on it by the state body responsible for the protection of cultural heritage.

A3 size map of the nominated property,
showing boundaries and buffer zone

LJUBLJANA: THE TIMELESS, HUMAN CAPITAL DESIGNED BY JOŽE PLEČNIK

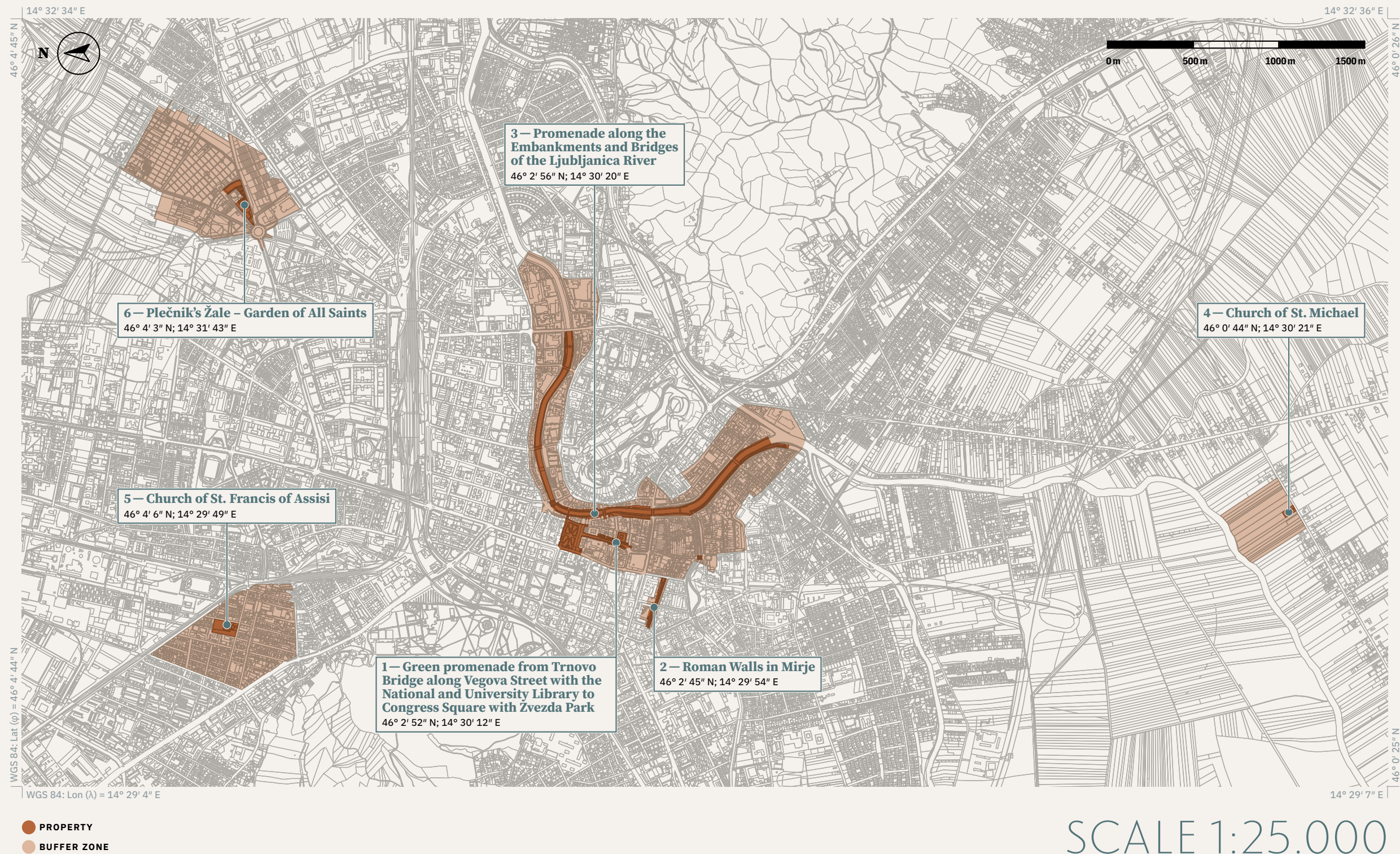


FIGURE 1: Delimitation of the nominated property with the buffer zone.

Criteria under which property is nominated

(i) to represent a masterpiece of human creative genius

Ljubljana, as formed by the architect Jože Plečnik, is defined by a personal and specific architectural expression, which differs from the language of the architectural movements of the time. The architectural elements and building types are innovatively summarised and modernised, drawing predominantly from classical architectures, such as Ancient Egyptian, Classical, Baroque and Renaissance, as well as folk and even those related to Middle and Far Eastern traditions. Common motifs of architectural expression are used freely, yet the results are entirely new, original and unrepeatable forms. With a distinctive architectural expression marked by adding and subtracting, covering and opening, aligning and grading, the town gains picturesque vedutas, ambiances and spatial accents. The synthesis of old and new buildings, spaces and green areas represents a continuity of the town's memory and serves to construct its new identity. As the result of a clearly recognisable, formally rich and semantically multi-layered architectural expression, "Plečnik's Ljubljana" represents an important masterpiece of human creative genius of the first half of the 20th century architecture.

(iv) be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history

The public space of Ljubljana created by the architect Jože Plečnik in the short period between the two World Wars is an example of a renewed urban space. It is based on a harmonic relationship with the context of the space and its natural possibilities. The town is not built anew but improved with small- or large-scale interventions – new architectural ensembles, buildings and urban accents. The relationship with the past is established in various ways, from adapting the urban network and incorporating existing structures through architectural reminiscences and by establishing new vedutas. The new urban space is not limited to a specific use but has various functions and the whole is thus imbued with new meanings. Taking into account individual experiences, users are drawn to connect and identify with the town. The innovative solutions employed, with an eye to the economical use of materials and a respectful attitude to the space, demonstrate an ethical relation towards the environment that continues to endure today.

Draft statement of Outstanding Universal Value

BRIEF SYNTHESIS

Architect Jože Plečnik (1872–1957) conceived the new urban design for Ljubljana in the period between the two World Wars. The entities that followed the disintegration of the Austro-Hungarian Empire were created as nation states, where state and town building projects were realised with newfound optimism and a desire to create democratic societies. In the changed social contexts, the urban planners and architects materialised the vision of creating towns to suit their modern inhabitants and introduced new urbanistic and architectural approaches under the influence of the Modern movement. The transformation of Ljubljana from a peripheral town of the former state into the national capital emerged during the introduction of these modern guidelines, although from entirely different architectural starting points.

The urban design of “Plečnik’s Ljubljana” is based on an architectural dialogue with the existing older town. Based on the manmade cityscape and its natural features two urban axes were conceived: the land axis and the water axis, which constitute the best representations of the architect’s approach to spatial re-organisation. These two axes are connected by transversal axes, which help to form the urbanistic network of the town. The land axis – the Green Promenade starts at the Trnovo Bridge and runs through the Square of the French Revolution, along Vegova Street with the National and University Library, and ends at the Congress Square with Zvezda Park. Running parallel is the water axis – the Promenade along the Embankments and Bridges of the Ljubljanica River extending from the Trnovo district to the Sluice Gate. The historical town centre is connected with vital points in both the rural and urban suburbs, and with the broader spatial network of Ljubljana: Church of St. Michael, Church of St. Francis of Assisi, Plečnik’s Žale – Garden of All Saints.

The proposed property is an example of an urban landscape developed in the context of the existing space and tailored to suit the inhabitants. With every intervention into the town the existing space was enriched with new motifs, buildings and town building functions. The town centre is interpreted anew and developed into a series of public spaces (squares, parks, streets, promenades, bridges) and public institutions (library, churches, markets, funeral complex). Together they create a different type of urban space and architecture, which is not limited to a certain specific use, but instead gives rise to a connecting of the different uses and meanings and creates a new identity of the space. The architect’s approaches reacted to the needs of an emerging modern 20th century society. Even more, they responded to the problems of contemporary society by seeking a greater sensibility for the contexts of the space and sustainable planning through a larger comprehensive urban planning scheme. The proposed series is defined by a distinctive architectural expression that differs from the new modernistic approaches of the day. The architectural elements, types and spaces of classical architecture are innovatively summarised, transformed and modernised.

“Plečnik’s Ljubljana” is an exceptional case of creating public spaces, buildings and green areas within a limited time, space, and with modest means according to the vision of a single architect. The qualities of this timeless, human capital continue to be respected even in the framework of the contemporary interventions in the town, which is marked by the architect’s spirit and have proven to be of great value still today.

JUSTIFICATION FOR CRITERIA

Criterion (i)

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Criterion (iv)

The public space of Ljubljana created by the architect Jože Plečnik in the short period between the two World Wars is an example of a renewed urban space. It is based on a harmonic relationship with the context of the space and its natural possibilities. The town is not built anew but improved with small- or large-scale interventions – new architectural ensembles, buildings and urban accents. The relationship with the past is established in various ways, from adapting the urban network and incorporating existing structures through architectural reminiscences and by establishing new vedutas. The new urban space is not limited to a specific use but has various functions and the whole is thus imbued with new meanings. Taking into account individual experiences, users are drawn to connect and identify with the town. The innovative solutions employed, with an eye to the economical use of materials and a respectful attitude to the space, demonstrate an ethical relation towards the environment that continues to endure today.

INTEGRITY

The urban landscape of Ljubljana includes the readily identifiable characteristics of a human capital city created largely in the 1930s by Jože Plečnik’s timeless architecture. The proposed area of Ljubljana’s urban landscape is an upgrade of the existing space with regards to the topography and based on its

continuous use and interpretation of historical layers. The topography of the space is expressed through the urban landscape design for the two axes: the land axis and the water axis. The design of both promenades originates and draws from the continuous use of the space, which defines the positions and use of squares, markets, bridges, parks and other public spaces as well as buildings.

The human values behind the public spaces can be recognised in both spatially complete wholes as well as in individual components. A series of public spaces endows the town with public contents, from spiritual spaces (the churches of St. Michael and St. Francis of Assisi, Plečnik's Žale – The Garden of All Saints), spaces for relaxation (archaeological park along the Roman Wall, and promenades along the embankments of the Ljubljana River, Trnovo Quay), to market activities (Plečnik's Market), socialising (Congress Square, the Three Bridges, the Cobblers' Bridge), and intellectual and cultural activities (Vegova Street, National and University Library).

All proposed components are protected to the highest degree and have been declared cultural monuments of national importance with clearly delineated and specially protected buffer zones. A unified protection regime ensures that the currently unbuilt areas remain building-free, that the space preserves its traditional use, and provides comprehensive protection from interventions that could potentially endanger the integrity of the cultural monument. This is further supported by several other heritage protection orders declaring cultural or historical monuments on the national and local levels in the proposed area and is harmonized with the existing municipal spatial plans.

The proposed property is an indicative and illustrative representation of the cultural and social values of Jože Plečnik's timeless, human architecture in Ljubljana.

AUTHENTICITY

The proposed components constitute the town's essential spaces in the historical centre and similarly important points in the suburbs. The proposed area has preserved its original characteristics, in which the conscious preservation and enhancement of the context of the space are reflected. The cultural significance can thus be found in the contents as well as in the spatial planning of the entire property with its public contents, multi-functionality and design of the architectural details. The proposed components have faithfully preserved the originally conceived content scheme. The human approach is embedded and communicated in an architectural language recognizable to the local inhabitants as well as to anyone stepping into the space.

The selected components have preserved the authentic treatment of materials and the original design in the exterior arrangements, in the interiors as well as on the facades, in the inner furnishings and the masterful attention to detail. The building materials were reinforced in most components in the 1990s, but regardless of the individual repairs or conservation and restoration interventions, which were a consequence of continuous use, the authenticity in general has not been compromised. Larger urbanistic areas have remained unchanged; in some cases, repairs were performed in order to meet

the requirements of modern use and ensure the greater safety and structural stability of the property. The characteristics of the original urban design have been preserved, although partial changes appear due to the overgrowth of the original vegetation and in some places the pressure of local traffic, which was strategically addressed over the course of the previous decade.

All of the measures necessary for the preservation of their cultural meaning in the future are defined in the conservation plans for each component individually.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

Plečnik's architectural heritage is a monument of national importance and is protected by the Ordinance designating the Ljubljana work of the architect Jože Plečnik as a cultural monument of national importance (Official Gazette RS, Nos. 51/09, 88/14, 19/16, 76/17 and 17/18). The Ordinance represents a single comprehensive protection mechanism for the entire immovable and movable heritage of the proposed property. It defines the boundaries of all individual component parts and their buffer zones, as well as their protection regimes. All of the proposed monuments have conservation plans that form the basis for any and all interventions on the monuments. Works are coordinated with the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage and supervised by the specially appointed conservator for Plečnik's heritage. On the basis of this Ordinance, the Cultural Heritage Protection Act (Official Gazette RS, Nos. 16/08, 123/08, 8/11, 90/12, 111/13, 32/16 and 21/18 – ZNOrg – ZVKD-1) and the conservation plans a management plan was established for each individual proposed monument.

The management system complements the existing system for the preservation of architect Jože Plečnik's heritage in Ljubljana from the professional, organisational as well as legal and financial perspective, and which involves owners, managers and public bodies alike. The management of the property operates on two levels. All component parts have their specific management plans and procedures for the implementation and approval of and amendments to such plans. They concern the management of the monuments' physical substance and include an overview of the values that need to be protected, conserved and enhanced, including short-term and long-term objectives and responsibilities that lie with the owners and/or managers. State of conservation is monitored by the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, with a special emphasis on the factors likely to affect the property, in particular development pressures and tourism.

The coordination of individual owners, managers, public institutions and professional bodies that form the Management Body is ensured by a Joint Manager that has overall responsibility for the implementation of the joint management plan. The Museum of Architecture and Design, as an appointed joint manager, cooperates with those institutions on the state and local level that specialise in protection, monitoring, presentation, education and research, promotion and cultural tourism. Management activities are funded by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia and the City of Ljubljana as the main partners and members of the Steering Body.

Name and contact information of official local institution/agency

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