

REPORT
of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM
Reactive Monitoring mission
to the World Heritage property ‘Budapest, including the Banks
of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrásy Avenue’
(Hungary)
3-7 February 2025



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The mission team would like to express its gratitude to the Ministry of Construction and Transport for its kind hospitality and for the excellent arrangements put in place to ensure the smooth running of the mission. The programme of the mission, which combined meetings with a range of stakeholders with on-site visits and discussions, enabled the mission team to obtain first-hand, detailed information on the progress made under the National Hauszmann Programme (NHP) and to assess the overall state of conservation of the World Heritage property 'Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrásy Avenue' and its management.

The mission team would like to convey its special thanks to Mr Lóránt Perényi, Deputy State Secretary for Architectural Strategy, and Ms Magdolna Puha, Head of Department of Innovation, International Relations and World Heritage Affairs at the Ministry of Construction and Transport of Hungary, and their colleagues for their efforts in ensuring the success of the mission. Their presence throughout the mission was greatly appreciated. The mission team was also privileged to meet with Mr Regő Lánszki, Secretary of State for Architecture and National Chief Architect.

Meetings with representatives of the management body (National Heritage Protection Development Nonprofit Ltd.), with chief architects and other experts, as well as with representatives of NGOs helped the mission team to obtain comprehensive information on the issues to be assessed. Our thanks go to all stakeholders for their inputs and efforts to make the mission as informative and fruitful as possible.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the World Heritage property 'Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrásy Avenue' in Hungary took place from 3 to 7 February 2025. The State Party invited the mission in response to Decision **46 COM 7B.8** of the World Heritage Committee (New Delhi, 2024). The purpose of the mission was to assess the overall state of conservation and management of the property, including the potential negative impact of the continuation of the National Hauszmann Programme (NHP) works on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and to gain a comprehensive understanding of the progress made in relation to the recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission and subsequent decisions of the Committee.

The mission met with the relevant authorities in Budapest and reviewed the documents that the State Party submitted in English. The mission also visited, accompanied by Hungarian authorities, a number of key places within the property and the buffer zone; however, it was not possible to assess all interventions due to time constraints. The mission met with the representatives of the Ministry of Construction and Transport, the representatives of the management body – the National Heritage Protection Development Nonprofit Ltd., the chief architects and other experts, as well as with representatives of several NGOs.

The National Hauszmann Programme (NHP) is a substantial government led redevelopment/restoration project involving large scale demolition, reconstruction and conservation within the Buda Castle Quarter. A number of major projects within the NHP have been completed and presented to the mission, including St Stephen's Hall, the Main Guard House, Stöckl Stairway, Riding Hall, Karakash Pasha Tower, the former Ministry of Finance building and the former Hungarian Red Cross Headquarters. Some other projects are ongoing – the North Wing of the Buda Castle Palace, Archduke Joseph's Palace and the Royal Defence Headquarters – and several others are planned, notably the reconstruction of a grand reception hall in the southern wing of the Buda Castle Palace and the redesign of its dome and the overall roof silhouette to recreate the original Hauszmann vision. The rationale behind the works is two-fold: (i) to rebuild the buildings lost in the siege of Buda of 1945 but never rebuilt (such as Archduke Joseph's Palace); or (ii) to remove the elements reconstructed after the war and further modernised in the 1970s, which are now considered simplistic and of poor quality, in order to restore the historic buildings to their pre-WWII appearance.

The State Party presented to the mission the conceptual rationale behind the NHP. The approach to widespread reconstruction was justified as a means of affirming national identity. This rationale was supported by selective references to specific articles of the Riga and Krakow Charters (2000), as well as the Warsaw Recommendation on Recovery and Reconstruction of Cultural Heritage (2018).

The scale and pace of the NHP are matters of serious concern, as is the lack of participatory approaches, transparency and notification to the World Heritage Committee. The extent of completed reconstructions is substantial, and these have already had a negative impact on the authenticity of the property and its OUV; moreover, these impacts are irreversible.

Other government-led reconstruction/restoration projects underway in different parts the property include the Citadel of Budapest on the Gellért Hill (Buda site) and the renovation of the Supreme Court building and of the Ministry of Agriculture building on Kossuth Square (Pest side). None of these projects had been notified to the World Heritage

Centre prior to their approval. It is concerning that, in the renovation of the Ministry of Agriculture building, only minimal elements of the interior appear to have been preserved, with the overall integrity of the structure seemingly compromised in favour of functional needs. By contrast, the works carried out on the building of the Supreme Court appear to align more closely with internationally recognised conservation standards and demonstrate greater attention to heritage values than those applied in the intervention on the Ministry of Agriculture building.

The Liget Project, launched in 2013 and managed by a State-funded organisation, was conceived to rehabilitate the city park Városliget, which, with the exception of Heroes' Square, is entirely located in the property's buffer zone. The mission has concluded that the project's concept pays great attention to innovative, sustainable solutions and quality modern designs that do not have adverse effects on the OUV of the World Heritage property. Individual projects, such as the new buildings of the House of Hungarian Music and the new Ethnographic Museum, adhere to the principles of the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach, promoting the harmonious integration of contemporary interventions into the historic urban fabric.

Overall, the mission has concluded that the state of conservation of the property is fragile and that it faces a number of significant challenges. Regarding the impact on the property's OUV, including its authenticity, several factors could prove extremely damaging if the NHP and other similar reconstruction initiatives within the property continue unchecked. In particular, many of the reconstructions completed to date are not faithful replicas of the structures that existed prior to WWII: new materials have been used, original fabric has been partially lost, and interiors have often been entirely refurbished by both public and private bodies to accommodate contemporary functions. While it can be affirmed that, to date, the NHP programme has not resulted in a significant loss of authenticity, nor does the property currently face threats to its OUV that would warrant its inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, the continuation of large-scale reconstruction without adjustment could result in cumulative impacts that may bring the property to meet the criteria for such inscription, in line with Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines.

An ongoing challenge for the conservation and management of the property is the need for improved coordination between central government authorities and city and district-level administrations. Differences in priorities have, at times, led to divergent approaches, with local authorities often placing greater emphasis on sustainable preservation and conservation strategies, while national-level decisions may be guided by other priorities.

Notable progress has been made in strengthening the legislative framework, creating a solid foundation for the preparation of the Management Plan. The mission considers the finalisation of the Management Plan to be a matter of priority and urgency and emphasises the importance of its development through a transparent and participatory approach.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Reassess the justification for full demolition and reconstruction of long-lost buildings under the National Hauszmann Programme (NHP)**, in order to minimise further potential negative impacts on the property's Outstanding

Universal Value (OUV). Priority should be given to more sustainable solutions, including the adaptive reuse of existing and currently vacant structures.

2. **Submit detailed plans and Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for all components of the NHP that are yet to commence**, in accordance with the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*, to the World Heritage Centre. This will allow for review by the Advisory Bodies and facilitate advice on how best to mitigate potential negative impacts on the authenticity, integrity and OUV of the property, particularly within the Buda Castle Quarter.
3. **Suspend further work on the Citadel project** and submit HIAs for both this initiative and the proposed Gellért Hill funicular to the World Heritage Centre, in accordance with the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*, for review by the Advisory Bodies.
4. **Develop a long-term, permanent presentation and interpretation** strategy to ensure that the rationale behind reconstruction interventions, including the historical evidence and decision-making processes, is clearly communicated and remains intelligible to future visitors.
5. **Ensure that the cultural use of the Buda Castle Palace and the residential function of the Castle District are maintained.**
6. **Guarantee that the implementation of the NHP proceeds in a transparent and inclusive manner**, expanding stakeholder consultations and taking public and expert feedback meaningfully into account.
7. **Strengthen the municipal grant scheme supporting conservation works by private residents in historic buildings**, ensuring that interventions prioritise the safeguarding of heritage values and are carried out in accordance with internationally recognised conservation standards.
8. **Broaden the scope of the monitoring programme** to include a unified baseline survey and systematic condition assessment of key historic properties, thereby supporting informed decision-making and the prioritisation of conservation interventions.
9. **Undertake comprehensive assessments of current building uses**, examining how functionality and changes in use impact historic character and social fabric of the neighbourhood.
10. **Enhance community engagement and awareness** through the organisation of workshops and educational programmes aimed at residents and property owners, highlighting the importance of preserving the architectural heritage and the regulatory framework for its protection.
11. **Encourage close monitoring of the decision-making process regarding the Rákospuszta area** and support the efforts of the municipality to acquire the area for the creation of an urban park promoting sustainable and environmentally friendly urban spaces for the benefit of the city residents.

12. **Resume collaboration with ICOMOS in the further development and finalisation of the Management Plan**, ensuring that insights from previous expert engagement informs its drafting.
13. **The World Heritage Committee should reiterate its request to the State Party to submit a draft Management Plan** at the earliest opportunity, without awaiting the adoption of regulatory adjustments to the national legislation.
14. **Promote the sustainable reuse of currently vacant historic buildings within the property, redirecting resources, where appropriate, towards their adaptive reuse.** This would help reduce reliance on irreversible reconstruction and substantial alteration of historic, protected structures, whose cumulative impact increasingly threatens the authenticity of the property.
15. **The World Heritage Committee should once again remind the State Party of its obligation to inform the Committee**, through the World Heritage Centre, prior to making any decisions that are difficult to reverse, of its intention to undertake or authorise, in an area protected by the Convention, major restorations or new constructions that could impact adversely on the OUV of the property, as stipulated in Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

I. THE PROPERTY

The World Heritage property 'Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrásy Avenue' was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1987 under criteria (ii) and (iv). According to the retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (RSOUV) of the property, adopted by the World Heritage Committee in 2013 (Decision **37 COM 8E**), the property is one of the world's outstanding urban landscapes and illustrates the great periods in the history of the Hungarian capital. "As a centre for receiving and disseminating cultural influences, Budapest is an outstanding example of urban development in Central Europe, characterised by periods of devastation and revitalisation."

When inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1987, the property did not include Andrásy Avenue that was added to the property, together with the Millennium Underground Railway, through a significant modification to the boundaries of the property adopted by the World Heritage Committee in 2002 (Decision **26 COM 23.10**). In parallel, the name of the property changed from 'Budapest, the Banks of the Danube and the Buda Castle Quarter' to become 'Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrásy Avenue'. The RSOUV mentions that "the symbol of the development of the city as a modern metropolis was the radial Andrásy Avenue, which was included in the property in 2002. From 1872, the Avenue radically transformed the urban structure of Pest, together with the construction of the European continent's first underground railway beneath it in 1893-6".

Regarding the integrity of the property, the RSOUV underlines that the delimitation of the extended property meets the requirements of integrity, since it includes the attributes of OUV, and their historical and structural role is preserved in the urban fabric. "Despite the ruinous or missing buildings in certain parts and especially in the Buda Castle Quarter, and despite the reconstructions within the panorama of the Danube banks following World War II, the overall integrity of the property is sustained."

With regard to authenticity, the property was considered, at the time of the adoption of the RSOUV, to preserve, in its attributes and the sum of its constituent parts, the defining characters of the architectural heritage created by consecutive layers of historical periods.

The property, which extends on the surface of 473.3 ha, has a buffer zone of 493.8 ha. In its Decision **26 COM 23.12** (2002), the World Heritage Committee encouraged the Hungarian authorities to extend the buffer zone of the World Heritage area to the west on the Buda side of the town. This has not been taken forward: the western side of the property is not protected by a buffer zone.

The current cycle of Reactive Monitoring of the property started in 2008. The latest World Heritage Committee's decision on the property is Decision **46 COM 7B.8** (New Delhi, 2024), which can be found in Annex II.

The last Reactive Monitoring mission to the property was the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission which took place on 29 and 30 April 2019.

II. SUMMARY OF THE NATIONAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR THE PRESERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY

The World Heritage property with its buffer zone has been legally protected as a historic monuments area since 1965; this protected area was enlarged in 2005 – after the extension of the property in 2002 – under the Act on the Protection of Cultural Heritage.

The 2011 Act on World Heritage (Act LXXVII) aims to preserve the OUV of Hungary's World Heritage properties, taking into account the principles of sustainable development. Presently, there is an initiative by the Hungarian authorities to propose amendments to the Act, notably with regard to the domestic procedure for the designation of a World Heritage property, the content requirements of World Heritage management plans and the procedure for their preparation, as well as trusteeships and the state's right of pre-emption in World Heritage properties.

An important recent piece of legislation is the 2023 Act on Hungarian Architecture, which came into effect on 2 October 2024. It aims to protect values and enhance citizens' quality of life by promoting sustainable architecture, preserving natural and built environments as well as balancing development with tradition. It intends to create transparent, modern regulations that prioritise architecture as a profession, ensure a healthy environment and maintain cultural heritage. This coordinated effort involves the state, local authorities and various stakeholders to protect the built environment, encourage quality architecture and address climate change impacts. According to the State Party's 2025 state of conservation report, the Act pays more attention to the protection of monuments, townscapes and cultural heritage than any other Hungarian legislation to date and thus protects the visual links of World Heritage properties more strongly than ever before.

Additionally, a number of decrees have been issued that aim at the protection of cultural heritage. In particular, Decree 68/2018 (IV.9) on the Rules Relating to the Protection of Cultural Heritage outlines the responsibilities of authorities and institutions in safeguarding archaeological heritage, monumental values and cultural property, including rules for registering and declaring protected sites, archaeological exploration and excavation and financial regulation for discoveries. It also integrates provisions from the Corporate Income Tax Act to support heritage protection efforts.

The most recent is Decree 283/2024 (IX.30) on Architecture Council. It aims to ensure coherent and efficient architectural and urban planning processes, promote high-quality architectural standards and facilitate the sustainable development of urban environments. According to the State Party's 2025 state of conservation report, there is an ongoing amendment to the Decree with the goal of ensuring that the interests of World Heritage properties are represented by the World Heritage field and site managers with due weight at local and national councils of architectural design.

III. THE MISSION

In its Decision **46 COM 7B.8** (New Delhi, 2024), the World Heritage Committee requested the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the World Heritage property 'Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrásy Avenue' to assess the overall state of conservation and management of the property, including the potential negative impact of the continuation of the National Hauszmann Programme (NHP) works on its OUV, and allow a full understanding of what has been accomplished in the context of the recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission and subsequent decisions of the Committee. The State Party extended an invitation for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission by a letter from Mr Lóránt Perényi, Deputy State Secretary for Architectural Strategy at the Ministry of Construction and Transport, dated 24 September 2024.

The Terms of Reference of the mission (Annex I), agreed with the State Party, focused on assessing the progress made in finalising the property's draft Management Plan, reviewing the work undertaken on the NHP since the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission in 2019 and analysing its potential or ascertained cumulative impacts on the OUV of the property, as well as assessing the overall state of conservation of the property and evaluating factors and conservation issues that have impacted and could potentially impact on its OUV, including its conditions of integrity, protection and management. The mission was also tasked with making relevant recommendations to the World Heritage Committee, including on how to strengthen the property's management system and to ensure effective urban control.

The mission team consisted of Irena Caquet (UNESCO World Heritage Centre), Paula Cordeiro (ICOMOS) and Patrizia La Piscopia (ICCROM). The mission took place over five full days, from 3 to 7 February 2025 (programme attached in Annex II), and combined presentations from various stakeholders on the main topics with on-site visits to key locations within the property and its buffer zone. The mission team was able to engage with the representatives of the Ministry of Construction and Transport, with representatives of the management body, with chief architects and other experts, as well as with representatives of NGOs (full list of persons met is in Annex V).

The report of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property will be presented to the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session (July 2025). Its findings will be taken into account in the analysis of the state of conservation of the property, together with an updated report on the state of conservation received from the State Party on 31 January 2025, which will be presented to the Committee at that session.

IV. ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF THE PROPERTY

A. BUDA CASTLE QUARTER – National Hauszmann Programme

The National Hauszmann Programme (NHP) is a substantial government led redevelopment/restoration project involving large scale demolition, reconstruction, and conservation within the Buda Castle Quarter.

The project was conceived and approved by Governmental Decree in 2014, and works were planned to take place between 2019 and 2030. The management of the programme has been overseen by Várkapitányság Non-profit Zrt. – a government funded NGO responsible for both new development and maintenance of key state-owned properties. The core objective of the programme is to reshape the area in an attempt to bring back the clock to the late 19th and early 20th century, what is nationally considered as the 'Golden Age' of the city. The programme takes the name after Alajos Hauszmann, one of the most important architects in Hungarian history, and the author of the projects of several of the country's most iconic buildings. The Neo-Baroque royal palace was built between 1890 and 1905 with a significant expansion of the previous palace, but after the destruction occurred during the siege of Budapest in 1945, it was partially rebuilt and simplified, while some elements considered beyond repair were fully demolished.

The NHP entails a variety of interventions, ranging from the architectural restoration of monuments to the partial or complete reconstruction of key buildings. In terms of function, the NHP has been conceived with the intent of centralising major government functions in one location, by relocating ministries and governmental offices within the boundaries of the castle district, thus echoing the Buda Castle District's historic role as the centre of the country's governance. It is also intended for the district to continue having a cultural function and attracting significant tourist interest.

Concerns were raised in the past in relation to the NHP, in terms of scale, quality and compliance with both national and UNESCO World Heritage procedures, as well as its potential cumulative negative impacts on the OUV of the World Heritage property, including its authenticity and integrity. In 2018, the State Party invited an ICOMOS Advisory mission (following a World Heritage Committee Decision in 2017). This mission was followed in 2019 by a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, which assessed the state of the project and clearly requested that the State Party 'reorient further development and abandon the general policy of reconstruction' (RMM2019). The mission also requested that before any decision for permit was granted or works commenced, an HIA had to be carried out and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies. HIAs for the Former Red Cross Palace, the Ministry of Finance and former Military High Command Building were produced in 2020.

Since the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission, a number of further reconstructions have been completed, and the programme is progressing at incredible speed. The extent of the reconstructions, completed, ongoing and proposed, is substantial. Such interventions do have an impact the OUV of the property. Furthermore, a key problem has been the lack of submission of detailed information, in spite of repeated requests.

Completed projects

- The following completed projects were not discussed in detail during the mission: (i) Sándor Palace – currently the President's office (Figure 1¹); (ii) Castle Várkert Garden Bazaar, redesigned as an event space which includes modern exhibition halls, multifunctional event halls and an underground car park (Figure 2); (iii) from the Bazaar it is possible to access the upper terrace of the Castle via a modern escalator and lift (Figure 3); (iv) the restoration/refurbishment/requalification of the former Carmelite Convent housing the Prime Minister's office since 2019 (Figure 4); (v) the restoration of Matthias Fountain and Terrace of the Fishing Children with the fountain (Figure 5); (vi) the restoration of the Habsburg Gate, damaged in WWII and last renovated in the 1970s (Figures 6 and 7); (vii) the restoration of the South Range of the Palace (Figure 8).
- St Stephen's Hall in the Palace was recreated in 2021 based on archival documents and photographs (Figures 9 and 10). The plausible reconstruction took years of research. Some level of speculation was necessary to render the colour palette which could not be inferred from old black and white photographs but only from a tile that was found (Figure 11), adding to the already complex issue of identifying craftsmen and manufacturers who could replicate designs and techniques. Designed as a testament to the excellence of Hungarian applied arts, this room is currently part of the Buda Castle History Museum. Completed in 1902, it was destroyed during WWII and remodelled after the war in the socialist realist style (Figure 12). Once again, the long-term plan for this wing of the Palace would be to remove all traces of socialist era interiors to make room for replica interiors in an attempt to erase one of the historic phases in the evolution of the Palace.
- Main Guard House: before its demolition in 1972, the building was used as an office by an architecture design bureau. Reconstruction of historical exterior and modern interior started in 2017. The interior was refurbished as a restaurant and exhibition space on the upper floor. This reconstruction was once again carried out using modern materials and techniques to recreate volumes and overall aesthetic of the original design of the façades (Figure 13).
- Stöckl Stairway: demolished in 1971 and now rebuilt in its original form and location, it connects the Hunyadi and the Csikós Courtyards (Figure 14).
- Riding Hall: demolished in the 1950s, after detailed preliminary studies and concept development, reconstruction began in 2016 to recreate period exterior and interiors to be used as an event hall. The mounted oak floor of the hall is removable so that its ground can be filled with sand for equestrian events (Figures 15 to 18).
- Tabán lift pavilion provides accessible connection between the Csikós Courtyard and Palota Road thanks to two high-capacity lifts operating 24/7. The elevator superstructures in the courtyard have reflective/mirror glass cladding (Figure 19 and 20).
- The Hauszmann ramp connects the Csikós Courtyard with the Hunyadi Courtyard. It has been reconstructed based on original construction drawings and period photographs, with consideration to the preservation of archaeological remains as it rests on a medieval buttressed wall. The ramp was designed to meet modern engineering requirements and is made with a red clinker brick and limestone

¹ The figures that are not inserted in the main text can be found in Annex VIII.

cladding. Notwithstanding the adoption of original plans, the imposing shiny and bright red brick ramp is clearly perceived as a modern, new element in the overall balance of the architectural elements of the Castle (Figure 21 and 22).

- Reinforcement of Ybl retaining wall that was built at the end of the 19th century: reconstruction of the wall included the cleaning and restoration of the stone elements and the reconstruction of the red brick wall elements to make them structurally stable.
- Two of the five planned underground car parks have been completed, and vines will be planted on the western side of the Buda Castle. Work associated with these infrastructural elements can be considered extremely invasive (Figures 23 and 24).
- Ellyps promenade, refurbished because of health and safety concerns.
- Karakash Pasha Tower: the medieval tower was partially demolished at the end of the 19th century and then again in 1950s. The tower has been redesigned and refurbished to host a café with an outdoor terrace (Figures 25 and 26).
- Turkish gardens: this area was reconstructed and designed deductively without support of historical data as they were not available (Figure 27).
- Former Ministry of Finance building: recreation of original neo-gothic façade and rooflines designed by Sándor Fellner, which required the addition of two floors to the minimalist building rebuilt after WWII. Some elements of the interiors were salvaged, others recreated following archival documentation (Figures 28 to 37).



Figure 28: Former Ministry of Finance, main facade before reconstruction



Figure 29: Former Ministry of Finance, after partial reconstruction

- Demolition and full reconstruction of former Hungarian Red Cross Headquarters: designed by Hauszmann in 1901, the building was demolished in 1946. Of the original building only the basement walls were retained. The shell of the building was reconstructed in reinforced concrete as per modern construction standards, and external elements were designed to replicate original Hauszmann decorative volumes and style (Figure 38). The interior is modern, not visited by the mission for security reasons (Figure 39). It is interesting to note that the Impact Assessment

dated 2021 speaks of restoration while this is a pure reconstruction. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will relocate here.

Ongoing projects

- North Wing of the Palace: this intervention is one of the most concerning. All elements that could not be traced back to the Hauszmann phase were demolished in an attempt to recreate the original plans conceived by the architect. Only the eastern façade was preserved (Figures 40, 41, 43 and 44). Project architects have presented to the mission how the problem was approached methodologically, what type of research was carried out and what informed the final decisions on how to approach the rehabilitation of the structure. Hauszmann's architectural drawings have been digitized and analysed alongside the current survey. Some of the demolition decisions are deemed warranted by the State Party due to discrepancies identified between these plans (Figures 42 and 46). A maquette is presented in the visitor's centre (Figure 45). The so called 'value saving demolition' has generated knowledge, but at the same time, it has caused an extensive loss of historic fabric by de-facto erasing an entire phase of the history of the Palace.



Figure 40: Buda Castle Palace – North Wing works



Figure 41: Buda Castle Palace – North Wing works



Figure 42: Buda Castle Palace's North Wing project ©NHP

- Archduke Joseph's Palace was heavily damaged during WWII, then demolished and cleared away in the 1960s, including its garden. The area was used as a car park for a long time. The decision to rebuild the palace has allowed for the archaeological investigation of the area, and the project has been modified to accommodate the preservation of archaeological features (Figures 47 to 54). Original foundations, cellars and the rediscovered Jewish bath will be preserved. Once completed, the building will function as the Constitutional Court. The building will have two points of access, one for the employees and one for visitors. The new building has been completely reconstructed using concrete, and a metal framework has been installed to support the façade cladding. The outside appearance is intended to resemble the original building. On the ground floor, locally sourced limestone is used for the structural corner elements while the upper floors are cladded utilizing a lighter material called 'stostone' for considerations of weight and cost efficiency.



Figures 48 and 50: Archduke Joseph's Palace works – exterior



Figure 53: Works in the interior



Figure 54: Archduke Joseph's Palace – old photograph of the interior on construction site

- Royal Defence Headquarters: a competition was held to integrate a modern building in the urban fabric. However, no project was officially selected. Subsequently, the decision was taken to reconstruct the building according to the original shape and form. However, several modifications were introduced. The building's volume was reduced to prevent blocking the view from the Prime Minister's office. The dome has been rebuilt using a modern metal and glass structure. While some masonry elements of the ground floor were preserved, the upper floors were completely reconstructed in concrete. Insulation has been added to the concrete walls, and a brick façade cladding has been installed. This intervention does not adhere to the original proportions, resulting in only one storey of the original structure remaining (Figures 55 to 65).



Figure 56: Royal Defence Headquarters works



Figure 57: Royal Defence Headquarters: 2021 image on construction site



Figure 58: Royal Defence Headquarters: photograph on construction site 2021-2022

These two construction projects, Archduke Joseph's Palace and the Royal Defence Headquarters (Figure 66), have significantly altered the skyline of the district by adding elements that had been erased or modified as a consequence of WWII damage. In their current form these buildings were not in existence at the time of the nomination.

Further planned projects

- Reconstruction of a grand reception hall in the southern wing of the Buda Palace. A maquette is presented in the visitor's centre (Figure 67).
- Relocation of the National Gallery from the Buda Palace and renovation of the wing, including the reinstallation of grand eastern access staircase as per original Hauszmann plans. A maquette is presented in the visitor's centre (Figure 68). A photography of the intended staircase (Figure 69) and two original statues salvaged after the war are currently in the City of Budapest Museum in the Castle (Figure 70).
- Relocation of the Szecheny Library and renovation of the wing.
- Redesign of the existing Palace dome and of the overall roof silhouette, which would entail the demolition of the existing one and of part of the Palace to accommodate the new structure, which will be designed to recreate the original Hauszmann vision. Overall, the entire skyline of the Palace will be redesigned to bring back the roofline that existed before the war.
- New lighting plan for the entire Palace.

Potential projects

- The renovation of the Hungarian National Archives includes a new extension (Figure 71). For this project, a 1970s building – the National Electric Load Distributor – has already been demolished (Figure 72). According to the KÉK Association, it was a high-quality modernist building designed by Csaba Virág.
- The Old Parliament building, which was recently used as a school, is now vacant. It is situated on a sizable lot between Orszaghaz and Uri streets. Currently, there are no plans for the site (Figures 73 and 74).

Comments

During the siege of Buda in 1945, the Palace was heavily damaged by artillery shelling and subsequent fires that raged for days. A post-war survey carried out in 1949 documents the extensive damage rate that varied between 85 and 65%.

Some elements were reconstructed after the war and further modernisation occurred in the 1970s. These are now considered as poor-quality interventions by the promoters of the Hauszmann programme, which plans to rectify the perceived issues by what they define as “value-saving demolitions”. These demolitions are carried out in parallel with what has been defined as ‘destructive research’ undertaken following archaeological methods, this research in turn informs conservation/reconstruction decisions; every intervention is fully documented, and data is gathered in dedicated reconstruction books.

A huge amount of research has gone into the design of every intervention. Thorough archaeological investigation preceded the construction work, this facilitated new discoveries, and construction designs were adapted to protect archaeological features and allow future access to key archaeological structures, like the ritual Jewish bath that will be open to the public when works are completed at the Archduke Joseph’s Palace. An extensive digital archive of original plans, photographs, archival documents, surveys etc. has been compiled, including a complete BIM (Building Information Management) model, which was created for each building.

The digital historical plan has been compared to the current survey, revealing some differences. Historical plans do not accurately reflect today’s as-built plans. These discrepancies should not be used as justification for the ongoing demolition. This should be considered as an incredible resource that, if used appropriately, could greatly inform future conservation decisions. However, a number of projects completed to date are based exclusively on aesthetic considerations.

Some of the reconstructed buildings deviate from the original proportions, volumes, designs, textures, and patterns. For instance, the Royal Defence Headquarters new building underwent modifications in its proportions, volume, and materials. In other cases, like the Main Guard House and the Hungarian Red Cross Headquarters buildings, only the original facades were reconstructed, while modern interiors were added. Contemporary building techniques and materials were employed to comply with current standards and regulations. As a result, these structures may not endure overtime.

The NHP has been described as a social obligation to reinstitute ‘value’ through the adoption of a historically authentic narrative in an attempt to repair the scars of WWII and the subsequent Communist rule. Locally, the perception is that the real loss of value occurred between 1918 and 1960, while no value is given to Communist era modifications of the urban landscape. The overall desire to erase as much as possible of this painful phase in the history of the country is widely shared. As much as this is understandable, this issue should be approached with caution as the clock cannot be fully turned back. The new buildings are not reinstating the Buda Castle Quarter to its original pre-war state, as they are modern interpretations, and they should be readable as such. Some level of preservation of long-established historical layers would be advisable and in line with both the RSOUV and with conservation best practice. Some traces of later historic urban evolution should be preserved as memento to inform and sensitise future generations, which in turn will form independent opinions on historical events and on the value of later interventions on the urban landscape.

The RSOUV of the property indicates: 'In its attributes and the sum of its constituent parts, the property preserves the defining characters of the architectural heritage created by consecutive layers of historical periods. The restoration and partial reconstruction of the Buda Castle Quarter after World War II, carried out mainly between 1960 and 1980, as well as the degree of authenticity of the surviving historicising buildings are in line with the requirements of the Operational Guidelines.'

While a huge investment supported the promotion of the NHP and a range of communication tools were used to gain consensus,² public consultations seem to have been kept to the minimum. While surveys were carried out by consultancies, the sample base appears to be relatively small, and it was not possible to ascertain how questions were formulated.

Conclusion

The State Party has presented to the mission the conceptual rationale behind the NHP. The approach to widespread reconstruction has been justified as a necessary tool to affirm national identity. The theoretical justification was found in specific articles of the Riga and Krakow Charters (2000) and the Warsaw Recommendation on Recovery and Reconstruction of Cultural Heritage (2018). However, the strong ideological approach to conservation risks to erase key traces of historical events that contributed to the evolution of the monuments still standing in the castle district.

At present, while large construction sites are operating in the palace area of the district, a number of signs, panel and communication resources are available to both residents and visitors. These explain the nature of the projects and promote them. However, it is feared that once all works are complete it will be difficult for the visitor to identify what is a modern reconstruction and what is not.

This mission is in agreement with the conclusions of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission that viewed the recreation of new structures using historical forms and designs but modern techniques as a controversial practice, which is not entirely in line with the principles of the Venice Charter and gives rise to confusion between old and new.

Paragraph 86 of the Operational Guidelines states that: "In relation to authenticity, the reconstruction of archaeological remains or historic buildings or districts is justifiable only in exceptional circumstances. Reconstruction is acceptable only on the basis of complete and detailed documentation and to no extent on conjecture." The State Party has argued that the current circumstances can be considered as exceptional and the process applied has allowed project coordinators to gather complete and detailed documentation, as mentioned above. But this process has not been used to construct faithful copies using similar materials and methods of construction, and in many instances what has been constructed are buildings with mainly modern interiors.

Yet, the mission considers that had both UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies been promptly and fully informed at the beginning of the project, they could have provided valuable advice and supported the State Party by suggesting strategies that might have mitigated the negative impacts on the authenticity of the property that have resulted from the current approach. The World Heritage Committee issued several requests for further detailed background information, requested the submission of a full Impact Assessments

² The Palota info point is a semi-permanent structure offering a range of information to the visitors. The programme has a dedicated Facebook page, issues an online newsletter, prints a hard copy magazine, and organises events in the Bazaar.

and advised to halt the project to allow for thorough evaluation and extended consultation. Notwithstanding these requests, the project advanced at rapid speed and the documentation submitted in the past did not meet the required standard.

The NHP is a large-scale project that has already slightly diminished the property's OUV, and its effects are irreversible. While the attributes such as form and exterior design, use and function, location and setting, and spirit and feeling have largely been either recreated or preserved, the façade approach, the extensive use of new materials and a growing loss of the historic fabric have resulted in the property being in a fragile state. It is of particular concern that in some of the planned projects in the Buda Castle Palace, parts of the pre-war structures might be destroyed to be replaced with modern materials in order to facilitate bringing back the roofline of the palace to that which existed before WWII.

Overall, if the NHP continues at its current rapid pace and with its current approach, it might significantly affect the property's OUV due to its cumulative impact, thus resulting in the property meeting the criteria for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger as per Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines.

The programme has been established by government decree and did not go through standard impact assessment processes. This approach seems to be overriding all national and local regulations, and it is causing concern to the local stakeholders in relation to the scale and quality of planned interventions.

In the castle district some visitors' facilities and offers will be retained. However, a radical shift in function will transform the area into a centralised government quarter, in need of substantial infrastructure (extensive underground car parks have already been built) and possibly enhanced security measures. This will fundamentally change the nature of the Buda Castle area and likely result in driving away local residents and restricting visitors' access to certain areas. It appears that the entire place narrative has been transformed and symbolically appropriated to meet governmental demands, while also attracting tourists' interest in the publicly accessible areas such as the newly reconstructed St Stephen's Hall, the Main Guard House and the Riding Hall amongst others.

The top-down approach adopted by the NHP is not in line with the UNESCO Recommendation on Historic Urban Landscape, which puts sustainability and participatory strategies at the centre of urban landscape management and the 5Cs strategic objectives to promote the implementation of the World Heritage Convention: Credibility, Conservation, Capacity Building, Communication and Communities. The municipal district authorities are only marginally involved in the decision-making process associated with the programme. In addition to this, it is concerning that the programme did not go through the evaluation of the Architectural Planning Board.

Recommendations

Reassess the justification for full demolition and reconstruction of long-lost buildings under the National Hauszmann Programme (NHP), in order to minimise further potential negative impacts on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). Priority should be given to more sustainable solutions, including the adaptive reuse of existing and currently vacant structures.

Submit detailed plans and Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for all components of the NHP that are yet to commence, in accordance with the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*, to the

World Heritage Centre. This will allow for review by the Advisory Bodies and facilitate advice on how best to mitigate potential negative impacts on the authenticity, integrity and OUV of the property, particularly within the Buda Castle Quarter.

Develop a long-term, permanent presentation and interpretation strategy to ensure that the rationale behind reconstruction interventions, including the historical evidence and decision-making processes, is clearly communicated and remains intelligible to future visitors.

Ensure that the cultural use of the Buda Castle Palace and the residential function of the Castle District are maintained.

Guarantee that the implementation of the NHP proceeds in a transparent and inclusive manner, expanding stakeholder consultations and taking public and expert feedback meaningfully into account.

B. CITADEL OF BUDAPEST

The Citadel of Budapest is a defensive fortress located within the property on the summit of the Gellért Hill, to the south of the Buda Castle Hill. The site has been occupied since prehistory, and it was fortified multiple times in the course of history. What remained before the beginning of the present rehabilitation was a derelict complex sitting in a green area that could not be safely enjoyed by visitors and locals. The current rehabilitation project will see the area transformed into a new public park that, as per national narrative, will become a ‘true symbol of national freedom’.

The project appears to be quite interventionist. This project was not discussed in detail during the mission and a site visit to assess the works was not conducted.

Comments

Following a third-party notification to the World Heritage Centre and in response to a request for details on the Citadel project, the State Party reported in its 2024 state of conservation report that a Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) was undertaken and showed that “the visual impact of the project will not affect significantly the visual appearance of the property”. The VIA has not been shared with the World Heritage Centre, and no further details, results or plans of the project have been provided. Certain images of the project were displayed on the ongoing construction installations (Figures 75 and 76). One of the most intrusive elements of the development is possibly the opening of the northern and southern walls, while an impressive stairway will also be constructed behind the Liberty Statue. The statue itself, designed by Zsigmond Kisfaludi Strobl, was erected in 1947 and would now undergo complete restoration. Other structures are to be partly demolished and rebuilt to be converted into an exhibition space and visitors’ facilities.

Located on the southern edge of the property, overlooking the river Danube, the Gellért Hotel is a key historic landmark (Figures 77 and 78). The hotel has recently been acquired by private investors, and it is undergoing renovation. According to the State Party, the project has been assessed by the National Architectural Planning Board, but no further details were provided. As for other renovation projects, the concern is that fragments of internal fabric of historical importance might be lost in the renovation process.

Conclusions

The Citadel project is currently well underway, and it is expected to be completed by 2026. The project should be halted until the conclusions of the HIA of it are shared with the World Heritage Centre and reviewed by the Advisory Bodies.

Only one element seems to be still up for discussion – the development of a funicular that would reach the top of the Gellért Hill from the eastern side. Approved in the past and then halted, this project is now once again under consideration. Among the justifications for it is that it would allow to lower the number of busses accessing the hill. Considering the fact that the Citadel is also a Nature Conservation Area, and that important archaeological artefacts have been unearthed there, it would be crucial that a complete Heritage Impact Assessment is carried out for this project.

It is also alarming to notice the lack of transparency and public consultation in relation to this project. The issue was brought to the attention of the mission by some local stakeholders in relation to other government-led projects, and it should be considered as extremely problematic as it contravenes key principles promoting and supporting participatory approaches to management and conservation of World Heritage properties.

Recommendation

Suspend further work on the Citadel project and submit HIAs for both this initiative and the proposed Gellért Hill funicular to the World Heritage Centre, in accordance with the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*, for review by the Advisory Bodies.

C. PEST SIDE, INCLUDING THE STEINDL IMRE PROGRAMME

No detailed background documentation was received by the mission in relation to the Steindl Imre Programme. It is managed by a nonprofit government-funded company taking the name of the architect who designed the iconic Parliament building. The programme was established by Governmental Decree. The programme has been addressed in past state of conservation reports on the property.

Completed projects

- Redesign of Kossuth Lajos Square, which included the redesign of the pavement and of the green space to accommodate the reinstallation of the Kálmán Tisza Memorial and of the equestrian statue of Count Gyula Andrássy. Construction of an underground car park (Figures 79 and 80).
- Comprehensive renovation of the Hungarian Parliament, erection of a new Parliament visitor centre, flood control measures (Figure 81).
- MTESZ building on the corner of the square. In the end, the office block, which exuded a 1970s ambience, was demolished in favour of a new office centre with a neoclassical façade in keeping with designs that were originally made in 1928 but never built (Figures 82 to 84).

Ongoing projects

- Renovation of the Ministry of Agriculture building on Kossuth Square: the Neo-Renaissance façades will be restored to their original form. The previously closed central courtyard will be opened to the public, and modern facilities will be installed. The project entails extensive reconstruction of the eastern side of the building with exclusive preservation of the façade overlooking the square, and partially of the north and south wings (Figures 85 and 86). It was not possible to visit this development because of health and safety concerns. The entire eastern side of the building was demolished (Figure 87). The justification provided was that it was not possible to refurbish the wing according to modern standards to support efficiency and office needs (narrow offices and corridors, etc.). However, it also transpired that the demolition would allow for the construction of a modern underground parking facility. According to official sources, relevant decorative details of the interiors will be restored, but it was not clear to what extent original joinery and fixtures will be preserved. Given the extensive demolition taking place, this appears unlikely.
- The adjacent Supreme Court building housed the Museum of Ethnography for several decades after the war. The collections have now been relocated to the purpose-built Museum of Ethnography in the Liget Park, and the building is now under refurbishment to be brought back to its original court function. The mission was able to visit the building site and access different areas where restorers were working (Figures 90 to 92). This gave the mission the opportunity to observe how the renovation process is being approached. The project intends to retain a number of original features and to reproduce missing elements according to original designs and documentary information. However, it was not possible to gain an understanding if, together with the decorative elements, some other components of the fabric, like original joinery and minor elements, were being preserved.
- Masonry and sculptures were restored, some structural elements had to be changed to ensure safety. A number of interventions were deemed necessary to ensure energy efficiency. The installation of modern utilities was also designed taking into consideration modern conservation standards that minimize destructive intervention on the original fabric.

For both projects, historical photos and plans are available around the work sites, along with models of future projects that are accessible to the public (Figures 87, 89, 100, 101 and 102).

Future projects

A major renovation will take place in a sizeable building situated on the north side of Kossuth Square, although specific details about the project are not yet available (Figure 103).

Moreover, several notable buildings, including the vacant old stock market (Figure 104) and others, are currently up for sale (Figure 105). The mission did not receive any information regarding the future plans for these buildings near the Kossuth Square.

Conclusion

As with several other projects within the property mentioned above, it is concerning that in the renovation of the Ministry of Agriculture building only minimal elements of the interior appear to be preserved (floors, fittings, or joinery) while the integrity of the building has been sacrificed in favour of functional needs.

In contrast, the work carried out on the building of the Supreme Court seems to be following internationally recognised conservation standards with greater attention compared to the intervention on the Ministry of Agriculture building.

D. BRIDGES AND THE BANKS OF THE DANUBE

Funded by the European Investment Bank, the rehabilitation of the Széchenyi Chain Bridge was carried out under the supervision of the City Architect and in collaboration with Budapest University of Technology and Economics. The project is included in the Budapest Mobility Plan, and it was subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment, approved in 2019. The original cast-iron structure was strengthened in 1914 and then severely damaged during WWII. In 1949, it was reconstructed and subsequently renovated in the 1990s. The bridge had structurally deteriorated and required extensive repair and refurbishment. According to the information provided, work has been carried out with sensitivity to the heritage value of the bridge and a commitment to sustainability in all aspects of the project. Currently, the bridge is only open for use by public transport. The bridge is often fully pedestrianized to allow public enjoyment and events to take place (Figures 106 and 107).

The riverbanks along the Danube are an essential element of the cityscape and a key attribute of the World Heritage property. Soon after their construction the upper quays became a popular promenade, and later the quays developed as a corridor for the city tramway. In the 1960s this area was modernized and opened to car traffic, becoming the main north-south transport corridors for the city. The tramway is still running on the Pest side, and under the tracks, a number of small workshops closed with cast iron doors is still preserved even if not in use (Figures 108 and 109). Currently, the city has developed a masterplan for the rehabilitation of the riverbanks. The plan intends to gradually eliminate car traffic from the banks and reestablish the area as a promenade. Some interventions and pilot projects have already been implemented on a temporary basis (Figure 110).

Conclusion

The project of the rehabilitation of the riverbanks on the Pest side has clear potential to improve the area's accessibility, create socially inclusive urban spaces and improve the enjoyment of cultural heritage while adopting sustainable strategies. It would moreover assist in the maintenance of the OUV.

The local authorities have also confirmed the plan to regulate the mooring of large tourist boats on the stretch of riverbank directly opposite the Castle. This would also be deemed as an appropriate and welcomed measure.

E. ANDRÁSSY AVENUE

While the majority of the state investment in cultural heritage rehabilitation projects is concentrated in the Buda Castle area, other projects were also carried out in the Pest part of the property.

Andrássy Avenue, added to the World Heritage property through a significant boundary modification in 2002, has been protected by building regulations since the end of the 19th century and today receives special protection for its historical resources from the nation, city and district.

Opera House

Opened in 1884, the Hungarian State Opera House had been modernized and modified multiple times. The various interventions had completely altered the nature of the theater and impaired its functionality and quality of the acoustics. In 2016, the Government of Hungary made a decision to modernise the Opera House. The mission visited the building accompanied by the Chief Architect in charge of the renovation who mentioned the renovation of the façade and explained in detail the interventions of modernisation of the stage engineering system and acoustics, the improvement of the comfort of the auditorium, the reconstruction of the orchestra pit, the restoration of historic spaces, the replacement of the public utility network and electric and mechanical systems. From the site visit and the conversation with the architect, it was not possible to assess the intervention thoroughly. Nonetheless, it was clear that the project had been preceded by a phase of detailed historical research, and each conservation decision had been taken with great care for historical accuracy (Figures 111 to 114).

Drechsler Palace (currently Hotel W by Marriott)

The renovation and reconstruction of the Drechsler Palace, originally designed by architects Ödön Lechner and Gyula Pártos in the 1880s, has transformed the historic building – which once hosted a grand café and served as the headquarters for the Hungarian State Ballet Academy – into a luxury hotel with 151 rooms and suites, a restaurant, lounge and a spa. During the visit, the mission was accompanied by the project's architect. It was challenging to discern which original details were preserved and which were reinterpreted, particularly regarding the original colours and textures (Figures 115 to 118).

Other buildings on Andrássy Avenue

Andrássy Avenue, constructed between 1871 and 1876, is divided into three distinct sections. The first section extends from the eastern side of Deák Square to the Oktogon, characterized by three- to four-story shops, offices and apartment buildings. The second section, from the Oktogon to Kodály Körönd, features lower apartment buildings. The third section, from Kodály Körönd to Heroes' Square, is known for its detached villas and palatial houses. The focus of the mission's visit was on the first two sections (Figures 119 to 146).

An annual assessment of the conservation status of the buildings along Andrássy Avenue is conducted through a collaboration between the municipality and the Budapest University of Technology and Economics. Each district in Budapest is governed by specific regulations known as the 'Architectural Conservation Guidelines', which provide guidance for various projects. However, there are notable capacity challenges related to monitoring and enforcing these existing regulations. Significant efforts are being made

at the district level to collaborate with residents and private property owners to support the preservation of façades, roofs and essential interior systems such as plumbing and heating, often through grant programs. Despite these initiatives, capacity issues persist in effectively monitoring and enforcing the regulations.

During site visits, a contradiction emerged between the regulatory framework and the increasing reports of protected buildings being entirely demolished or gutted, with only the façades retained during renovations. The issue of building functionality was only vaguely addressed during the assessment, revealing a lack of monitoring regarding changes in building uses. The evolution of the resident population remains unclear. This information is crucial for maintaining a balance among various functions, such as housing, hotels and other tourist accommodations. On an urban scale, traffic congestion in this area is significant, and pedestrian spaces are insufficient. The management of the grants supporting maintenance and improvement of residential and private properties highlights the disparity between district initiatives and state-sponsored projects that receive generous funding.

Recommendations

Strengthen the municipal grant scheme supporting conservation works by private residents in historic buildings, ensuring that interventions prioritise the safeguarding of heritage values and are carried out in accordance with internationally recognised conservation standards.

Broaden the scope of the monitoring programme to include a unified baseline survey and systematic condition assessment of key historic properties, thereby supporting informed decision-making and the prioritisation of conservation interventions.

Undertake comprehensive assessments of current building uses, examining how functionality and changes in use impact historic character and social fabric of the neighbourhood.

Enhance community engagement and awareness through the organisation of workshops and educational programmes aimed at residents and property owners, highlighting the importance of preserving the architectural heritage and the regulatory framework for its protection.

F. LIGET PROJECT

The Liget Project was launched in 2013 and is managed by a state-funded organization. It was conceived to rehabilitate the city park Városliget, which, with the exception of Heroes' Square, is entirely located in the property's buffer zone.

A HIA was elaborated in January 2011, revised in January 2018 and updated in 2020. ICOMOS expressed concerns about the visual impact of the two new buildings in the park – the zoological Biodome and the Museum of Ethnography. Since the last mission, these projects have been completed. The current mission was able to ascertain that the visual impact both on the property is minimal and, furthermore, that the Museum of Ethnography enhances the park both in functional and aesthetic terms.

Most of the development designs within the Liget Project were awarded after international competition with a focus on integrating modern elements within the traditional fabric of the park.

Completed projects

The Biodome, designed by Mérték Studio Kft. and located in the area of a former amusement park is a key element of the enlargement and refurbishment plan for the zoo. The large white building was visible only from the great height of the Gellért Hill, or other vantage points in the Buda Castle, and it does not disturb the overall views of the Liget Park. From the distance it is clearly distinguishable but, considering the unique qualities of its modern architecture, it has the potential to become a new landmark that will stand as testimony of the urban evolution of the city (Figures 147 and 148).

The House of Hungarian Music designed by Sou Fujimoto Architects is a transparent building on the site of the former HUNGEXPO buildings, with its height remaining under the canopy of the existing trees and integrating their trunks in the architecture thanks to holes in the roof. It currently hosts an indoor and outdoor concert venue, interactive music-focused permanent exhibition, a café and community and education spaces (Figures 149 to 153). It is a welcome replacement of the dilapidated buildings that occupied this part of the park.

The Ethnographic Museum, designed by Napur Architect Kft. and opened in 2022, is a large building in the immediate vicinity of the World Heritage property. The chosen design is able to minimize the building's impact on the property because the architecture recalls an inverted arch that sees a great part of the building and exhibition space developing underground while the roof of the museum has been designed as an accessible garden space (Figures 154 to 159).

The Museum of Fine Arts' restoration and rehabilitation was completed in 2018 (Figure 160). It was not possible for the mission to visit the building due to time constraints.

Future projects

Városliget Theater will be a reconstruction of the former theatre on a currently paved surface, adopting once again the controversial approach of recreating a period building that will wrap a pseudo-authentic exterior around a modern shell (Figure 161).

The Hungarian Museum of Science, Technology and Transport was heavily damaged during the war and subsequently demolished in 1954 to be rebuilt in the 1960s. The museum stayed operational till its closure in 2015 and subsequent demolition. The new building will be recreated with the help of the Mérték Architecture Studio based on the original architectural designs by Ferenc Pfaff from 1896, so it will once again appear in its pre-WWII glory with a viewpoint in the dome. The reconstructed building will become the House of Hungarian Innovation while the Museum of Transport will be moved into new facilities (Figure 162).

A new National Gallery building, designed by Sejima and Nishizawa and Associates is planned to be erected on the site of the former Petőfi Hall. This will be an imposing modern building designed to host the reunified collections of the Museum of Fine Art and the Hungarian National Gallery (currently located in the Buda Castle Palace) (Figures 163 and 164).

Conclusion

The Városliget is a popular park in the Hungarian capital that has seen the promotion of quality developments which intend to enhance the value of the park. The Liget project's

concept pays great attention to innovative, sustainable solutions and quality modern designs that do not have adverse effects on the OUV of the World Heritage property. The projects do respect the HUL principle promoting the harmonious integration of contemporary interventions into the historic urban fabric.

Great care was also taken in relation to community engagement. The BREEAM methodology was applied to encourage positive social impact and equity in relation to the project. 12 forum meetings took place to discuss the project, overall surveys were designed and 98% of the comments were incorporated in design changes. A website with details of the project is available to the public, and a magazine is published regularly with updates.

However, once again, the approach of resurrecting long gone buildings by enveloping modern shells with replica period façades is seen as problematic in terms of authenticity, as it generates a lack of clarity in the visitor who cannot clearly read the urban intervention in historic terms.

G. OTHER DEVELOPMENTS AND HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS

The mission has discussed the issue of new high-rise buildings and asked clarifications in relation to regulations. In order to unify the regulatory framework, a new Hungarian Architecture Act came into force in 2024. Buildings taller than 65 meters may be built in the outskirts of cities only if strict conditions are met; moreover, a maximum height limit is also set, according to which buildings taller than 90 meters cannot be built anywhere. Moreover, no high-rise buildings are possible inside the World Heritage property or its buffer zone, the maximum possible height from the 2nd to the 3rd circle road is 40 m while after the 3rd circle road it can reach a maximum of 65 m.

The 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission recommended that overall in the country, the limit is set at a maximum of 90 m. The same year, the World Heritage Committee noted with dismay that the 120-metre-tall MOL Campus building in District 11 on the Buda side, located at a distance of 2 km from the buffer zone, was given permission. Unfortunately, the 2018 amended 'High-Level House Act' limiting the height of all new constructions to 65 m was not applicable for the one and only high-rise building construction permit issued before it became law, and so the imposing MOL Campus building makes it stand out in the city. It does not disturb the views from the Buda Castle district because the Gellért Hill is blocking the view, but it is well visible from the hill and from the Pest side of the property. For now, this is the only prominent high-rise building disturbing the views from the property and the buffer zone.

In relation to the risk posed by the possibility of high-rise buildings, despite the legal framework preventing them, a few days before the mission, UNESCO received third party information in relation to Rákospuszta area, a roughly 250-acre area of land around an out-of-use, former railway terminal. According to news reports, foreign investors have purchased the area to develop high-rise buildings as part of the project referred to as a 'mini-Dubai'.

If implemented, this project would have critical environmental and heritage impacts; moreover, the height of the planned buildings would permanently alter Budapest's skyline. Criticism of the project was expressed to the mission by a number of sides, including the local community, the municipality, the Budapest Chief Architect and the Ministry of Construction and Transport. While no formal plans for the project seem to be available at this state, NGOs underlined a lack of transparency in relation to development plans and the decision-making processes more generally. While plans for the

development are not confirmed, it is important to underline that high-rise buildings within the visual panorama of the property, which is impacted for the moment only by one such building (MOL Campus), would have a significant impact on its OUV.

On the other hand, the mission heard that as holder of pre-emptive rights, the Budapest municipality intends to exercise its right and implement a reclamation and rehabilitation plan that would transform the area into a city park.

Recommendation

Encourage close monitoring of the decision-making process regarding the Rákosszentmihály area and support the efforts of the municipality to acquire the area for the creation of an urban park promoting sustainable and environmentally friendly urban spaces for the benefit of the city residents.

V. MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

National level management tools

The Ministry of Construction and Transport is the national competent authority for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

In 2024, the World Heritage unit was transferred from the Deputy State Secretariat for Monument Protection to the Deputy State Secretariat for Architectural Strategy within the Ministry of Construction and Transport, while close cooperation continues between the Department of Innovation, International Relations and World Heritage Affairs and colleagues working on monument protection.

In 2023, the National Heritage Protection and Development Non-profit Ltd. was appointed as the new management body of the World Heritage property. This management body does not work exclusively for Budapest, but manages a number of heritage assets in the country, such as state-owned castles, palaces and historic residences in addition to two World Heritage properties ('Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrásy Avenue' and 'Early Christian Necropolis of Pécs (Sopianae)').

Regarding the Management Plan for the property, its revision has been requested by the World Heritage Committee since the promulgation of the World Heritage Act in 2011 (Decision 35 COM 7B.95). In the subsequent decisions, the Committee systematically underlined the importance of finalising the Management Plan as soon as possible. In its last decision (46 COM 7B.8), the Committee reiterated "its request to the State Party to finalise the Management Plan for the property as soon as possible and to submit its final draft to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its adoption".

At present, the State Party has commenced the process of compilation of a management plan, but the works mainly focussed so far on carrying out background research and some level of stakeholder consultation. However, during the mission it became clear that some work is still needed to define efficient governance structures, expand stakeholders' engagement and define key objectives.

One of the obstacles identified in the process of elaborating a management plan is linked with some provisions included in the 2011 World Heritage Act, which gives statutory weight to a management plan only after it has been approved in a governmental decree that integrates the management plan in the overall regulatory system. This provision has proved cumbersome and not favourable to the development and periodic update needed for the establishment of an efficient management plan, which needs to be regularly updated to address current issues of conservation, protection and monitoring. Normative solutions should be designed to grant the Management Plan, or key sections of it, statutory weight in the planning process as well as the flexibility to update and revise as necessary.

As mentioned in the 2025 State Party state of conservation report, an initiative to amend the 2011 World Heritage Act has been started and relates to, amongst others, the content requirements of World Heritage management plans and the procedure for their preparation, trusteeships and the state's right of pre-emption in World Heritage properties.

2024 Hungarian Architecture Act

Among the most recent legislative regulations approved in Hungary and relevant to cultural heritage, the 2024 Hungarian Architecture Act is of particular interest. This legislation establishes conservation as a priority and promotes the principles of civic good taste and architectural quality. Rules for the protection of the townscape are also be contained in the Hungarian Architecture Act.

A three-level system of chief architects has been introduced with enhanced and reinforced competences dealing with national, regional or local projects at the appropriate level.

At the highest level is the National Architectural Planning Board. The board is composed of 22 members, highly qualified architects and designers, and its meetings are attended by the Deputy State Secretary for Monument Protection. The Planning Board meets every two weeks to assess projects. The board has jurisdiction over projects with the following characteristics:

- Over 5000 m²;
- Housing projects of over 1500 m² with at least 6 units;
- Buildings of a height over 65 m;
- National Heritage protected buildings;
- Public investments.

When the project in question is located within a World Heritage property, the Department of Innovation, International Relations and World Heritage Affairs systematically attends the relevant Board's meeting.

The Act also allows for some level of demolition where no heritage value is perceived to remove what is considered an extraneous element distorting the original conditions of the monument.

District-level management tools

Of the 9 local districts, the mission received presentations from the Chief City Architect and District Architects of the I, II, V and VI municipalities. Each district is subject to two levels of building regulations, the city level and the district level. Within the World Heritage property these regulations are strict and do not allow for changes in size and proportions. Functional contemporary architecture is often integrated in the urban fabric with caution and great attention for the overall balance in the development of new plots. However, at times, modern buildings that are not considered of value are demolished arbitrarily with little to no consultation.³

Architectural conservation guidelines are available for each district, these documents provide analysis of the predominant architectural style in the district and offer clear guidelines for both new developments and conservation projects.

Districts are managing budgets to support private owners in relation to restoration and maintenance works via specific grant schemes. Each district is resourced differently. To give an example, thanks to the cooperation between the municipality of District I and the NHP their budget is currently the healthiest in the city.

³ The MVM electric power distributor station by Csaba Virág in the historical Buda Castle district was demolished in 2020.

At district level, the local architects proudly presented all the efforts they are making to ensure that the city develops in a sustainable way, by giving great attention to the establishment of green spaces and innovative traffic management solutions.

District V is the only one, for now, that has put in place some regulations to prevent the proliferation of short-term lettings. For each building, only 5% of flats can be let to tourists and only if all residents are in agreement. District VI seems to be the one facing the most complex situation as the number of properties in need of urgent care and conservation work is significant. The majority of these buildings is in private ownership, and when multiple residents own parcels of the building it becomes complex to ensure overall agreement on conservation interventions.

Conclusions

It seems clear that the conservation and management of the World Heritage property is under strain because of clear tensions between the central government authorities and both city and district authorities. It appears that there is often a conflict of interests between the different levels of management, these tensions often see the local authorities more favourable towards sustainable choices in preservation/conservation policies, while higher-level decisions might promote other priorities.

However, great progress has been made to strengthen the legislative framework and advance the works for the preparation of the Management Plan. The State Party should continue on this path and ensure that the Management Plan is compiled in a transparent and participatory manner as soon as possible.

Recommendations

Resume collaboration with ICOMOS in the further development and finalisation of the Management Plan, ensuring that insights from previous expert engagement informs its drafting.

The World Heritage Committee should reiterate its request to the State Party to submit a draft Management Plan at the earliest opportunity, without awaiting the adoption of regulatory adjustments to the national legislation.

Promote the sustainable reuse of currently vacant historic buildings within the property, redirecting resources, where appropriate, towards their adaptive reuse. This would help reduce reliance on irreversible reconstruction and substantial alteration of historic, protected structures, whose cumulative impact increasingly threatens the authenticity of the property.

The World Heritage Committee should once again remind the State Party of its obligation to inform the Committee, through the World Heritage Centre, prior to making any decisions that are difficult to reverse, of its intention to undertake or authorise, in an area protected by the Convention, major restorations or new constructions that could impact adversely on the OUV of the property, as stipulated in Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

The World Heritage property 'Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrásy Avenue' faces immense development pressures stemming from both private and the public sector activities.

The Government of Hungary invited a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property as requested in Decision **46 COM 7B.8** of the World Heritage Committee, which took place from 3 to 7 February 2025. In that Decision, the Committee also reiterated its request to the State Party to finalise the Management Plan for the property as soon as possible and to submit its final draft to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its adoption. The mission learned that work on the Management Plan is ongoing.

The Committee also expressed regret that, despite its request to halt work on the National Hauszmann Programme (NHP) to facilitate dialogue on potential modifications, construction has proceeded to 'renew' Hauszmann-designed structures in the Buda Castle Quarter without the Committee's approval, either in principle or in detail. Although advisory discussions between the State Party and ICOMOS commenced in 2022, these were not advanced further, limiting opportunities to address the Committee's concerns, particularly regarding the NHP. Such dialogue could have supported the State Party in adopting more sustainable and authentic development strategies.

Work is progressing in relation to the compilation of a management plan for the property and its buffer zone. However, large scale projects are advancing autonomously and at rapid speed without being part of a coordinated and organic conservation plan. This is partly attributable to the absence of an overall management structure and the fragmented nature of the city administration. Strategies to harmonise the various levels of administrative authority will need to be addressed within the Management Plan.

Some improvement can be seen thanks to the new Act on Hungarian Architecture (2024). The Act has redirected focus towards conservation rather than development and has authorised the creation of a committee responsible for assessing new developments and large-scale conservation initiatives. This is a positive step that could significantly enhance the monitoring of the property's state of conservation. However, not all projects undergo the same assessment process. Large government-led projects, considered of national importance, are approved by governmental decree and exempt from this review process. This results in inconsistencies in the quality of the interventions and disparities in the level of investment allocated to projects. The State Party should therefore be reminded of its obligation to inform the Committee, through the World Heritage Centre, prior to making any decisions that are difficult to reverse, of its intention to undertake or authorise, in an area protected by the Convention, major restorations or new constructions – whether they have been reviewed by the above-mentioned committee or not – that could impact adversely on the OUV of the property, as stipulated in Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

Procedurally, the State Party has shared several documents with the World Heritage Centre as part of its reports on the state of conservation of the property. However, it has not applied Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines for new projects. HIAs were submitted for only a limited number of projects and only after their approval, leaving no opportunity to discuss mitigation strategies.

The current management authority of the property, the National Heritage Protection and Development Non-Profit Ltd. (NÖF), appears unable to oversee and manage the

incremental number of ongoing and planned projects within the entire property and its buffer zone. NÖF seems to focus predominantly on promotional activities rather than on protection, conservation and management of the World Heritage property.

Regarding the impact on the property's OUV, including its authenticity and integrity, several factors should be considered potentially extremely damaging if the NHP and similar reconstruction projects within the property proceed unchecked. On one hand, there is a large-scale demolition of urban fabric associated with the Soviet era to make way for modern reconstructions in Hauszmann's style. On the other, reconstructions result in the loss of part of the original fabric of historic buildings, where only their façades are preserved while interiors are entirely refurbished by both public and private entities for contemporary uses.

In a background document, the State Party has presented a conceptual overview explaining the rationale behind some of the drastic reconstruction choices within the NHP. The reconstruction of buildings destroyed during the war has been justified with reference to principles outlined in the Krakow Charter and the Riga Charter, which accept reconstruction as a legitimate option for the buildings destroyed by armed conflict or natural disaster, which possess exceptional social or cultural value linked to a community's identity. The document further notes that post WWII reconstructions were curtailed for countries in the Soviet sphere of influence, and only now, following the fall of the 'iron curtain', can such projects advance.

However, examination of the NHP projects reveals that the programme does not solely aim to rebuild long-lost buildings, but rather seeks to artificially revert the clock, erasing traces of a specific, traumatic historical period. This approach risks causing an exponential loss of authenticity over time.

The property's RSOUV states that: "As a centre for receiving and disseminating cultural influences, Budapest is an outstanding example of urban development in Central Europe, characterised by periods of devastation and revitalisation." These periods of urban development are integral to the place's memory and identity and are testimony to historical continuity. Therefore, the concept of 'value-saving demolitions', which underpins the NHP, should be critically examined and discussed openly between the State Party and the World Heritage Committee through its Advisory Bodies. The mission recommends that alternative conservation approaches be considered for future projects in the Buda Castle Quarter. Furthermore, clear and transparent strategies for the interpretation and presentation of the completed reconstructions should be established.

Regarding Andrassy Avenue, as with interventions at Buda Castle, it is crucial to clearly define the type of intervention necessary to preserve the authenticity of the ensemble. The RSOUV for the property indicates that "The urban architectural ensemble of the Andrassy Avenue ... and its surroundings (Heroes' Square, the City Park, historic inner city districts and public buildings) are high-quality architectural and artistic realizations of principles of urbanism reflecting tendencies, which became widespread in the second part of the 19th century." The mission has concluded that recently completed projects in the city park Városliget adjoining Andrassy Avenue – notably the House of Hungarian Music and the new Ethnographic Museum – exemplify innovative, sustainable solutions and high-quality modern designs that do not adversely affect the OUV of the property.

However, for future projects within the property and its buffer zone, preserving typology and architectural integrity within a vibrant context requires not only thorough assessment and documentation, but also a deep understanding of the typological characteristics to inform design decisions that must be respected and enhanced. The use of appropriate

techniques for the repair or replacement of materials is vital to maintain the authenticity of the buildings. Equally important is ensuring that adaptive reuse practices are sensitive to and aligned with the existing typology.

The Management Plan has the potential to play a central role in coordinating interventions across different levels of governance, supporting restoration and preservation, while ensuring that the urban fabric remains vibrant and alive.

Finally, participatory approaches within the management system should be strengthened. The active engagement of stakeholders and the local community is vital for gathering diverse perspectives and fostering a sense of ownership and pride in the city's architectural heritage, as well as in the attributes that underpin the OUV of the World Heritage property as a living urban environment.

VII. ANNEXES

Annex I: Terms of Reference of the mission

**Terms of Reference
Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission
to the World Heritage property
'Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and
Andrássy Avenue' (Hungary)
(3-7 February 2025)**

I. Purpose of the Reactive Monitoring mission

In its Decision 46 COM 7B.8 (New Delhi, 2024), the World Heritage Committee requested the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the World Heritage property 'Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrássy Avenue' to assess the overall state of conservation and management of the property, including the potential negative impact of the continuation of the National Hauszmann Programme (NHP) works on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and to allow a full understanding of what has been accomplished in the context of the recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission and subsequent decisions of the Committee.

To this end, the mission shall:

1. Assess the progress made in finalising the property's draft Management Plan.
2. Review the work undertaken on the NHP since the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission in 2019, in order to gain a full understanding of what has been accomplished since then.
3. Review and assess the implementation of the recommendations of the 2019 mission and of the subsequent decisions of the World Heritage Committee regarding the property.
4. Analyse the potential or ascertained cumulative impacts of the ongoing NHP on the OUV of the property.
5. Assess the overall state of conservation of the property and evaluate factors and conservation issues that have impacted and could potentially impact on its OUV, including its conditions of integrity, protection and management.
6. Make relevant recommendations to the World Heritage Committee, including to strengthen the property's management system and to ensure more effective urban control.

Based on the above, the mission shall assess whether the property fulfils the criteria for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in accordance with Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines.

II. Organisation of the Reactive Monitoring mission

The State Party, through its competent authorities, should ensure that the mission is provided with all relevant information and documentation to enable it to review and

assess the issues listed in Paragraphs 1 to 5 above and that the mission is able to carry out on-site visits for a comprehensive inspection of the property. Should additional information be required, as identified during the mission, it should be provided by the State Party no later than two weeks after the end of the mission.

The State Party is requested to facilitate the necessary consultations through working meetings with stakeholders, including government authorities, the property management authority, and any other relevant stakeholders, and to facilitate field visits to key locations within the property and to viewpoints over the property in the wider setting.

In order to facilitate the preparation of the mission, the State Party should cooperate with the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM in preparing a detailed mission programme and a list of persons and institutions to be consulted, which should be submitted in draft form to the World Heritage Centre for review as soon as possible no later than 10 January 2025.

The following documents should be provided to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible and no later than 15 days prior to the mission:

- Current draft of the Management Plan for the property.
- Full details of the NHP project, including the reconstruction work undertaken and planned, the justification for reconstruction in relation to documentary evidence and the proposed methodological approach.
- Project documentation on other large projects underway or planned within the property, its buffer zone and wider setting.

In accordance with established practice at UNESCO, ICOMOS and ICCROM, their experts will not address the media or discuss the findings and recommendations of the mission, which should only be presented in the final report of the mission.

III. Report to be delivered

Following the mission, the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM will prepare a concise report in accordance with the terms of reference of the mission for consideration by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session. The mission report will follow the report format of the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies Reactive Monitoring mission. Prior to finalisation, the report will be transmitted in electronic format to the State Party for verification of any factual errors.

Annex II: Last Decision of the World Heritage Committee

World Heritage Committee 46th session (New Delhi, 2024)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.8

Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and András Avenue' (Hungary)

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.56** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Reiterates its request to the State Party to finalise the Management Plan for the property as soon as possible and to submit its final draft to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its adoption;
4. Regrets that, despite the Committee's request to halt work on the National Hauszmann Programme (NHP) in order to allow for dialogue on how it might be modified, work has been undertaken to 'renew' Hauszmann-designed structures in the Buda Castle Quarter, which has not been approved by the Committee either in principle or in detail;
5. Also regrets that, despite several requests by the Committee, full details of the Buda Castle Quarter project, including the justification for reconstruction in relation to documentary evidence and the proposed methodological approach, have not been provided, nor have Heritage Impact Assessments or Conservation Plans;
6. Also notes that, based on details provided in a promotional brochure on the NHP, extensive reconstruction work undertaken since 2019 includes the facades of the Guardhouse and Riding School, the Stöckl Stairway, the Karakash Pasha Tower, the Hauszmann Ramp and the South Range of the Castle, including the complete recreation of the interior of St Stephen's Hall to its early 20th century form, and further notes that reconstruction of the north range of the Castle is underway, and that reconstruction is planned for the Archduke Joseph's Palace, the former Hungarian Red Cross Headquarters, the Royal Defence Headquarters, and the National Archives of Hungary;
7. Reiterates its concern about the negative impact of the continuation of the NHP works on the state of conservation of the property, with potential cumulative negative impacts on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), including its authenticity and integrity, as noted in previous decisions of the Committee;
8. Requests the State Party to invite, as soon as possible, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the overall state of conservation and management of the property, including the potential negative impact of the continuation of the NHP works on its OUV, and allow a full understanding of what has been accomplished in the context of the

recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission and subsequent decisions of the Committee;

9. Notes the commitment by the State Party to revive the ICOMOS advisory assistance on the management and development of the property, but invites it to consider directing any future advisory assistance by ICOMOS towards the implementation of the recommendations of the forthcoming Reactive Monitoring mission;
10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session, **considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property require a broad mobilization to preserve its Outstanding Universal Value, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

Annex III: Composition of the mission team

- Irena Caquet, Programme Specialist, Europe and North America Unit, World Heritage Centre, UNESCO
- Paula Cordeiro, ICOMOS expert
- Patrizia La Piscopia, ICCROM expert

Annex IV: Itinerary and programme of the mission as implemented

Programme of the mission

3 February 2025

- 8:30-9:20 Opening session: introduction and welcome by key representatives
(*Ministry of Construction and Transport, Chief Architect of Budapest, National Heritage Protection Development Nonprofit Ltd. (NÖF), ICOMOS Hungarian National Committee*)
- 9:45-12:10 Overview of the National Hauszmann Programme (NHP)
(*Várkapitányság Nonprofit Zrt., Robert Gutowski Architects*)
- 13:30-16:00 Guided tour of Buda Castle (Former Red Cross Building, Military High Command Building, Palace of Archduke Josef, Fehérvár Rondella, Western Gardens and Castle of Gardens, North Wing of Palace)
(*Várkapitányság Nonprofit Zrt.*)
- 17:00-18:30 Continuation of the guided tour (Riding Hall, St Stephen's Hall)
(*Várkapitányság Nonprofit Zrt.*)

4 February 2025

- 9:00-10:30 Guided tour of Castle District (up to the Castle from Bécsi Kapu, visiting the Castle District, roof terrace of Hilton Budapest)
(*Department of History of Architecture and Monument Preservation at BME Faculty of Architecture*)
- 11:20-12:00 Presentation and guided tour (renovation of the Ministry of Finance building)
(*PM-Tér6 Nonprofit Ltd., heritage consultant*)
- 13:00-15:00 Guided exploration of key viewpoints and heritage sites (Citadel of Budapest, walking from the Citadel to the Fővám Square across the Liberty Bridge (Szabadság-híd), travel by tram along the quay of Pest)
(*Architectural expert in heritage preservation delegated by the National Heritage Protection Development Nonprofit Ltd.*)
- 16:30 Guided tour: Budapest Opera House
(*Chief Architect of the Opera House renovation*)
- 18:00-19:00 Danube River cruise

5 February 2025

- 8:30-10:00 Consultation session with NGOs
- 10:30-11:00 Presentation: Budapest municipality's role in the World Heritage safeguarding
(*Chief Architect of Budapest*)
- 11:00-12:00 Discussion with Chief Architects of the districts in the World Heritage area

13:00-17:30 Guided World Heritage tour along Andrassy Avenue (Varkert Bazaar – Chainbridge – Viaduct – Quays – Vigado Square – Vörösmarty Square (walk), travelling by the Millennial Underground from Vörösmarty Square to the Opera House – Ballet Institute, Oktogon, Kodaly Körönd, Heroes’ Square)
(*Chief Architect of Budapest, Chief Architect of Terézváros*)

6 February 2025

9:00-10:30 Tour of large-scale projects in the heritage area and buffer zone – visit to the Liget project (Heroes’ Square, Museum of Ethnography, House of Hungarian Music)
(*Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Városliget Zrt.*)

11:30-13:00 Exploration of the IMRE Steindl programme (Kossuth Square, Parliament, Ministry of Agriculture)
(*expert, heritage consultant*)

14:00-14:30 Presentation: National Council for Architectural Design
(*Ministry of Construction and Transport*)

14:30-16:30 Presentation: Management Plan for the World Heritage property
(*Architectural expert in heritage preservation delegated by the National Heritage Protection Development Nonprofit Ltd.*)

7 February 2025

9:00-11:00 Closing session and summary discussion

Annex V: List of people met

List of participants

Ministry of Construction and Transport:

- Regő Lászkai, Secretary of State for Architecture, National Chief Architect
- Lóránt Perényi, Deputy State Secretary for Architectural Strategy
- Magdolna Puha, Head of Department of Innovation, International Relations and World Heritage Affairs
- Petra Ohmacht, World Heritage expert, governmental officer
- Andrea Schrett, World Heritage expert, governmental officer
- Judit Szabadhegyi, World Heritage expert, governmental officer
- Gábor Szilágyi, natural heritage expert, governmental officer
- Melánia Miklós, governmental officer

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade:

- Bernadett Tresó, First Counsellor, Permanent Delegation of Hungary to UNESCO

National Heritage Protection Development Nonprofit Ltd. (NÖF):

- Zsanett Oláh, Executive Director, Head of the World Heritage Management Body
- Réka Mihályi, Project Manager
- Zorán Vukoszávlyev, Architectural expert in heritage preservation delegated by the Management body

Várkapitányság (Castle Headquarters Integrated Régió Development Centre Nonprofit Private Limited Company):

- Bence Madaras, Chief Executive Officer
- Gábor Kőrösi, Director of Communication and Marketing
- Sándor Finta, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
- András Iványi, Director for Development

Other participants:

- Tamás Fejérdy Dla, Honorary President, ICOMOS Hungarian National Committee Association
- Gábor Soós, Secretary-General, Hungarian National Commission for UNESCO, Ministry of Culture and Innovation
- Zoltán Erő, Chief Architect of Budapest
- Éva Csány, Chief Architect of Budapest I District
- Tamás Trummer, Chief Architect of Budapest II District
- Adrienn Sági, Chief Architect of Budapest V District
- István Matus, Chief Architect, Budapest VI District
- János Krähling, Head of Department of History of Architecture and Monument Preservation, BME Faculty of Architecture
- Csaba Fekete J., Expert, Robert Gutowski Architects
- Zsuzsanna Emilia Kiss, Expert, Robert Gutowski Architects
- Péter Kaknics, Expert, Robert Gutowski Architects
- Attila Győr, Art historian
- Ernő Kálmán Dla, Architect, PM-Tér6 Nonprofit Ltd.

- Péter Szaló, Ministry for Home Affairs
- Zoltán Halmai, Architect, PM-Tér6 Nonprofit Ltd.
- Kristóf Kelecsényi, Art historian, heritage consultant, SIP Zrt.
- Attila Sági, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Városliget Zrt.
- Sándor Guba, Communications Manager, Liget Zrt.
- Balázs Jelinek, Deputy CEO, Városliget Zrt.
- Márton Horn, Director, Hungarian House of Music
- Lajos Kemecsi, Director General, Museum of Ethnography
- Gábor Nagy, Event Coordinator, Millennium House
- András Batta, Executive Director, Hungarian House of Music Nonprofit Ltd.
- Ida Kiss, Moderator for the NGO meeting
- Gábor Zoboki DLA, Chief Architect, Opera House renovation
- Anna Szilágyi, Municipality of Budapest
- Tamás Kovács, Municipality of Budapest
- Piroska Varga, Board of the Budapest Chamber of Architects
- Béla Bánáti, Architect, Bánáti + Hartvig Architects, Architect of the Restoration of the Balletintitut

NGOs:

- András Veöreös, President, ICOMOS Hungarian National Committee Association
- András Lukács, Clean Air Action Group National Environmental Protection Association (Levegő Munkacsoport Országos Környezetvédő Egyesület)
- György Alföldi DLA, Hungarian Urban Planning Association (Magyar Urbanisztikai Társaság)
- Ernő Kálmán DLA, International Visegrad Fund (IVF) (V4 Építészeti Alapítvány)
- Kornél Baliga, Budapest Városvédő Egyesület (Budapest City Protection Association)
- Katalin Vitkay, Budapest Városvédő Egyesület (Budapest City Protection Association)
- János Klaniczay, KÉK - Hungarian Contemporary Architecture Centre (Kortárs Építészeti Központ)
- Miklós Tömör, VALYO - Town and River Association (Város és Folyó Egyesület)

Annex VI: Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value of the property

Brief synthesis

This stretch of the Danube has been the location of human settlement since the Palaeolithic. It was the site of the Roman city of Aquincum, situated to the north of the inscribed property which comprises parts of two originally quite separate cities: Buda on the spur on the right bank and Pest on the plain on the left bank. Pest was the first medieval urban centre, devastated in 1241-2. A few years later the castle of Buda was built on a rocky spur on the right bank by King Bela IV. Thereafter, the city reflected the history of the Hungarian monarchy. After the end of the Turkish occupation, recovery did not really begin until the 18th century. In the 19th century, the city's role as a capital was enhanced by the foundation of the Hungarian Academy, housed from 1862 in a neo-renaissance palace, and by the construction of the imposing neo-gothic Parliament building (1884–1904). W.T. Clark's suspension bridge, finalised in 1849, symbolised the reunification of Buda and Pest, which did not actually come about until 1873. The symbol of the development of the city as a modern metropolis was the radial Andrásy Avenue, which was included in the property in 2002. From 1872, the Avenue radically transformed the urban structure of Pest, together with the construction of the European continent's first underground railway beneath it in 1893-6.

As a centre for receiving and disseminating cultural influences, Budapest is an outstanding example of urban development in Central Europe, characterised by periods of devastation and revitalisation. Budapest has retained the separate structural characteristics of the former cities of Pest, Buda and Óbuda. One example thereof is the Buda Castle Quarter with its medieval and characteristically Baroque style, which are distinct from the extended and uniquely homogeneous architecture of Pest (with its historicising and art nouveau styles) which is characterised by outstanding public buildings and fitted into the ringed-radial city structure. All this is organized into a unity arising from the varied morphological characteristics of the landscape and the Danube, the two banks of which are linked by a number of bridges. The urban architectural ensemble of the Andrásy Avenue ('The Avenue') and its surroundings (Heroes' Square, the City Park, historic inner city districts and public buildings) are high-quality architectural and artistic realisations of principles of urbanism reflecting tendencies, which became widespread in the second part of the 19th century. The scenic view of the banks of the Danube as part of the historic urban landscape is a unique example of the harmonious interaction between human society and a natural environment characterised by varied morphological conditions (Gellért Hill with the Citadel and the Buda Hills partly covered with forests, the broad Danube river with its islands and Pest's flat terrain rising with a slight gradient).

Criterion (ii): 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 the Magyar region from the 14th century. In the reign of Matthias Corvinus, Buda was an artistic centre comparable, due to its influence, to that of Cracow. As a result of the unification of Pest, Buda and Óbuda in 1872-73, Budapest became once more a significant centre in the second part of the 19th and at the beginning of the 20th century due to the amount and quality of heritage built during those periods. It was a centre which absorbed, integrated and disseminated outstanding and progressive European influences of urbanism and of architecture as well as modern technological developments such as the Millennium Underground Railway, built under Andrásy Avenue, the first in Continental Europe, all of which was in line with its role as a metropolis.

Criterion (iv): Buda Castle is an architectural ensemble which, together with the nearby old district (the Buda Castle Quarter) illustrates two significant periods of history which were separated by an interval corresponding to the Turkish invasion. 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 symbolising the political function of the second capital of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Andrassy Avenue (1872–1885) and the Millennium Underground Railway (1893–1896) are representative examples of the implementation of planning solutions associated with the latest technical facilities of the day to meet the requirements of an emerging modern society. Architecturally, the Avenue has great integrity in its eclectic, neo-renaissance buildings.

Integrity

The delimitation of the extended property meets the requirements of integrity, since it includes the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value and their historical and structural role is preserved in the urban fabric. Despite the ruinous or missing buildings in certain parts and especially in the Buda Castle Quarter, and despite the reconstructions within the panorama of the Danube banks following World War II, the overall integrity of the property is sustained. In order to reinforce integrity, it is justified to review the delimitation on the Buda side as well as the inclusion of Margaret Island and the extension of the protected area up to the Grand Boulevard (Nagykörút). The original form of Andrassy Avenue with its buildings has been preserved reasonably well in terms of its conception and its relation to the surrounding urban environment, as well as the building fabric. Attention is also given to the preservation and appropriate design of small elements that form part of the street furniture. There are some problems, for example, in the physical condition of the buildings: wooden roof structures have suffered from humidity and metal structures have corroded, requiring maintenance and repair. There have also been some changes in the occupation, offices tending to replace the earlier residential use, which is a common problem in central urban areas. There have been problems with regard to development in the setting of the World Heritage property, both in terms of demolition and inappropriate new structures. Other challenges are the insurance of heritage-friendly traffic management and the mitigation of climate change impact on the natural and built environment (for example extreme water-levels of the Danube, air-pollution and deterioration of limestone structures).

Authenticity

In its attributes and the sum of its constituent parts, the property preserves the defining characters of the architectural heritage created by consecutive layers of historical periods. The restoration and partial reconstruction of the Buda Castle Quarter after World War II, carried out mainly between 1960 and 1980, as well as the degree of authenticity of the surviving historicising buildings are in line with the requirements of the Operational Guidelines. The majority of the replaced buildings in the panorama of the Danube banks conform to their original scales. The big public buildings, such as the Parliament, the Opera House, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the Market Hall, have also retained their original functions. Three of the four bridges across the Danube situated in the property have been authentically renovated. The 20th century design of the new Elisabeth Bridge fits in well into the line of bridges preserving its authentic image. Andrassy Avenue, with its trees alongside and its environment, preserve its historicity in its conception and constituent parts. The majority of public buildings have preserved their original function, however, the transformation of residential buildings into offices is an unfavourable trend. The renovated Underground Railway plays a functional role in the city infrastructure. The stations under the Avenue have retained their original

features, while those in the City Park have been changed from their original position above-ground and are now built under the surface which represents a certain degree of compromise with regard to the authenticity of the railway. One of the guarantees of the property's authenticity lies in the authentic conservation of the historic urban structure and the buildings in the buffer zone.

Protection and management requirements

The World Heritage property with its buffer zone has been legally protected as a historic monuments area since 1965; this protected area was enlarged in 2005 - after the extension of the property in 2002 – under the Act on the Protection of Cultural Heritage. A great number of historic buildings as well as the bridges and the embankments are also individually protected. The proposed revision of the boundaries of the property is prompted not only by decisions of the World Heritage Committee, but also by recent evolution in the appreciation of the heritage values of the property and its surroundings, as well as by the appearance of new threats. The property and its buffer zone lie within nine administrative districts of Budapest, another municipality being that of the Capital of Budapest itself. These ten municipalities concerned have not yet established an overall management body.

Architectural Planning Juries, both at the level of the districts and at the level of the Capital of Budapest, facilitate high quality architectural developments in accordance with the values of the property. The Gyula Forster National Centre for Cultural Heritage Management is the World Heritage Management Body. Based on the national World Heritage Act of 2011, the state of conservation of the property, as well as threats and preservation measures will be regularly monitored and reported to the National Assembly, while the management plan will be reviewed at least every seven years. Once finalised and approved, the management plan and the management body provide transparent governance arrangements with clear responsibilities, where different interests can manifest themselves and where the institutional framework and methods for the cooperation of the different stakeholders are available.

A management requirement is the establishment of an urban conservation and development plan for the buffer zone, fully respecting the principal architectural and urban values of each quarter with a strict enforcement. In a complementary manner, additional funding (for example tax incentives and grants) has to be sought, and in a dynamic manner, private building investment has to be directed to rehabilitation operations and restoration rather than demolition and reconstruction. Due to the complexity of the property and its context, special attention has to be paid to developing appropriate monitoring tools and mechanisms as well as to their proper application.

Annex VII: List of documents received from the State Party to inform the mission

Documentation received prior to the mission

- **Liget Project**
 - Liget Project Heritage Impact Assessment
 - Liget Project Visual Impact Assessment Biodome
 - Liget Project Visual Impact Assessment Museum of Ethnography
- **Military High Command Building**
 - Military High Command Building Inventory of Historical
 - Military High Command Building Scientific Building History Documentation
 - Military High Command Building HIA
 - Military High Command Building VIA
- **Ministry of Finance**
 - Fellner Album
 - Ministry of Finance Archive Photos
 - Ministry of Finance Archive Plans
 - Ministry of Finance Heritage Impact Assessment
- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Former Red Cross Building**
 - Former Red Cross Palace HIA
 - Former Red Cross Palace VIA
 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs Art History Documentation
- **NHP**
 - National Historical Importance of the Buda Castle as Background to the Hauszmann Program
 - The Buda Castle treatise
- **Palace of Archduke Joseph**
 - Palace of Archduke Joseph HIA
 - Palace of Archduke Joseph Scientific Building History Documentation
 - Results of the VIA of the planned reconstruction
- **Maps**
 - Three maps showing the limits of the WH property and its buffer zone
- **Background document for the mission**

Documentation received after the mission

- **Chief Architects' presentations**
 - BUDAPEST and the UNESCO WHS by Zoltán ERŐ
 - Discussion with Chief Architects - I District
 - Discussion with Chief Architects - II District
 - Discussion with Chief Architects - V District
 - Discussion with Chief Architects - VI District
 - Discussion with Chief Architects - XIII District
- **NGOs presentations**
 - Clean Air Action Group: Environmental issues relating to the Buda Castle, Andrassy Avenue and the Danube embankments
 - Hungarian Urban Planning Association

- KÉK Europa
- **Townscape Design Manual**
- **Budapest World Heritage Site Manager Body, Management Plan presentation**
- **Guided tour of Castle District by Janos Krähling**
- **Guided World Heritage Tour Along Andrassy Avenue with Mr. Zoltán Erő, Chief Architect of Budapest**
- **Overview of the NHP, Finta**
- **Overview of the NHP, text, Royal Palace by Kiss Fekete Kaknics**
- **Overview of the NHP, presentation, Royal Palace by Kiss Fekete Kaknics**
- **Presentation about the National Architectural Planning Board (OET)**
- **The progress of construction permit procedure in Hungary**

Annex VIII: Illustrations

The illustrations below complement those included in the main text.

BUDA CASTLE QUARTER – NHP

Completed projects



Figure 1: Sándor Palace

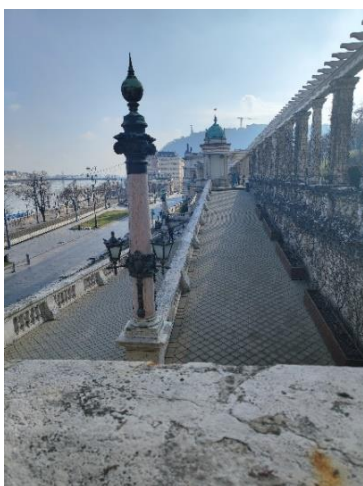


Figure 2: Castle Várkert Garden Bazaar



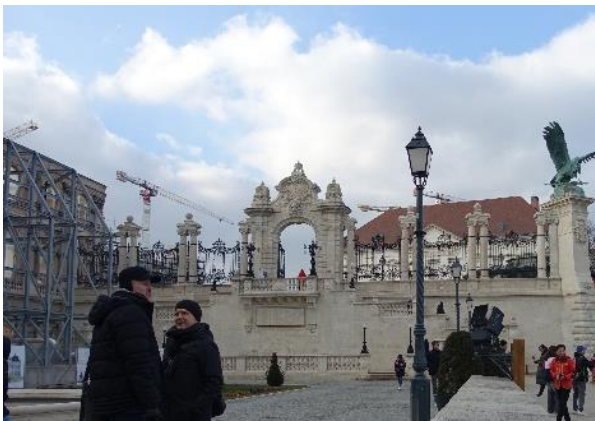
Figure 3: From Castle Várkert Garden Bazaar it is possible to access the upper terrace of the Castle via a modern escalator and lift



Figure 4: Former Carmelite Convent



Figure 5: Matthias Fountain and Terrace of the Fishing Children with the fountain



Figures 6 et 7: Habsburg Gate



Figure 8: The restoration of the south range of the Buda Castle Palace



Figures 9 et 10: St Stephen's Hall in the Buda Castle Palace: recreation of the room



Figure 11: Original tile from the St Stephen's Hall, collection of the museum

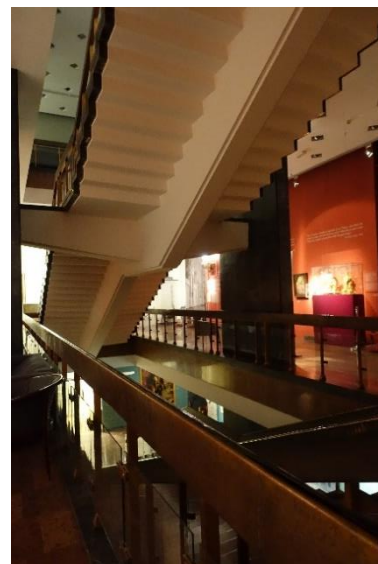


Figure 12: Castle Museum of the Budapest History Museum – intervention during the socialist period



Figure 13: Main Guard House



Figure 14: Stöckl Stairway



Figure 15: Riding Hall exterior – main entrance



Figure 16: Riding Hall exterior

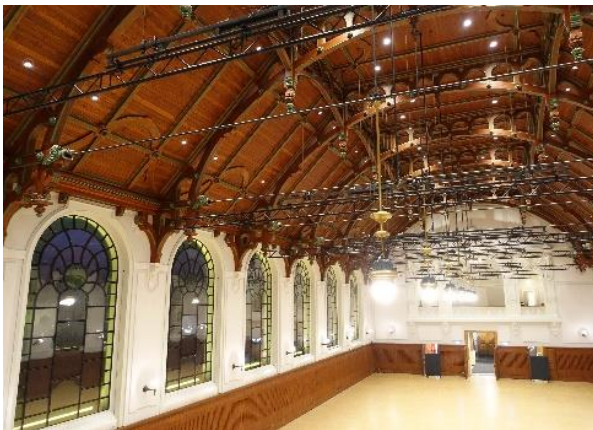


Figure 17: Riding Hall interior



Figure 18: Riding Hall ceiling detail



Figure 19: Csikós Courtyard lifts



Figure 20: Csikós Courtyard lifts



Figures 21 and 22: Hauszmann ramp



Figures 23 and 24: Western side of the Buda Castle, underground car parks



Figure 25: Karakash Pasha Tower, exterior

Figure 26: Karakash Pasha Tower, interior



Figure 27: Turkish gardens



Figure 30: Former Ministry of Finance, main entrance



Figure 31: Former Ministry of Finance, staircase detail



Figure 32: Former Ministry of Finance, main staircase



Figure 33: Former Ministry of Finance, recreated interior



Figure 34: Former Ministry of Finance, recreated interior



Figure 35: Former Ministry of Finance, courtyard



Figure 36: Former Ministry of Finance, terrace



Figure 37: Former Ministry of Finance, detail of staircase tower



Figure 38: Former Red Cross Headquarters



Figure 39: Former Red Cross Headquarters, interior (not visited for safety reasons)

Ongoing projects



Figures 43 and 44: Buda Castle Palace's North Wing works

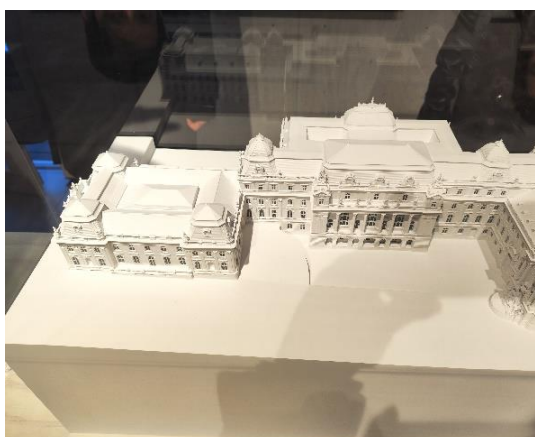


Figure 45: Buda Castle Palace – maquette of the North Wing visitors' centre



*Figure 46: Buda Castle Palace's North Wing – project
©NHP*



Figure 47: Almost completed Archduke Joseph's Palace



Figures 49 and 50: Archduke Joseph's Palace works – details



Figures 51 and 52: Archduke Joseph's Palace works



Figure 55: Royal Defence Headquarters works



Figure 59: Royal Defence Headquarters – photograph of the construction site, 2021-2022



Figures 60 and 61: Royal Defence Headquarters – original interiors, ground floor



Figure 62: Royal Defence Headquarters – interior, reconstruction

Figure 63: Royal Defence Headquarters – interior, new staircase to the dome

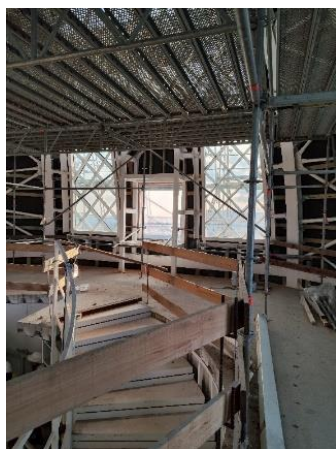


Figure 64: Royal Defence Headquarters – interior, dome

Figure 65: Royal Defence Headquarters – new structure of the dome interior



Figure 66: View of the Buda Castle Palace from the Citadel: visual impact of the two new Constructions – the Archduke Joseph's Palace and the Royal Defence Headquarters

Planned projects



Figure 67: Reconstruction of the grand reception hall in the southern wing of the Buda Castle Palace, maquette in the visitors' centre

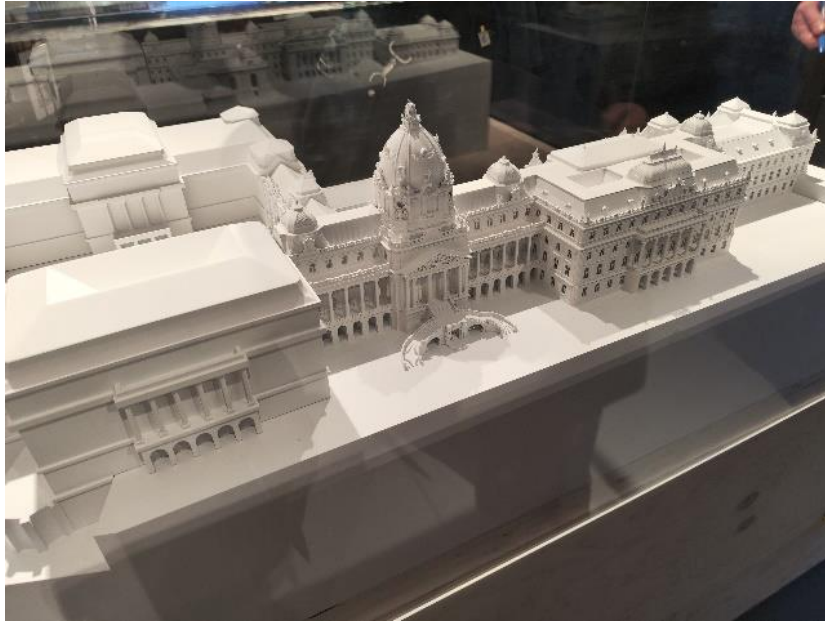


Figure 68: Reinstallation of grand eastern access staircase as per original Hauszmann plans, maquette in the visitors' centre



Figure 69: Reinstallation of grand eastern access staircase as per original Hauszmann plans, photo in the museum



Figure 70: Reinstallation of grand eastern access staircase as per original Hauszmann plans, two original statues in the museum

Future projects



Figure 71: Hungarian National Archives



Figure 72: National Electric Load Distributor building, demolished © KÉK



Figures 73 and 74: Old Parliament building is now empty

CITADEL OF BUDAPEST



Figure 75: Project of the Citadel of Budapest – information panel on the construction site (not visited)



Figure 76: Project of the Citadel of Budapest – image on the construction site (not visited)



Figure 77: Gellért Hotel



Figure 78: Gellért Hotel, side entrance

PEST SIDE, INCLUDING THE STEINDL IMRE PROGRAMME

Completed projects



Figure 79: Kossuth Square – Statue of Count Gyula Andrássy



Figure 80: Kalman Tisza Memorial



Figure 81: Hungarian Parliament

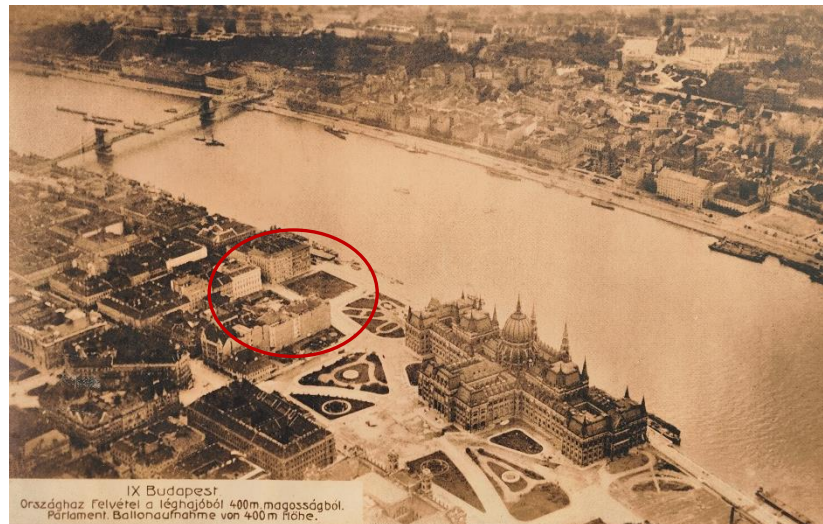


Figure 82: Kossuth Square – 1900 photograph of construction site



Figure 83: Kossuth Square – 1951 photograph of construction site



Figure 84: Kossuth Square, 2025

Ongoing projects



Figure 85: Ministry of Agriculture, main façade (construction site, not visited)

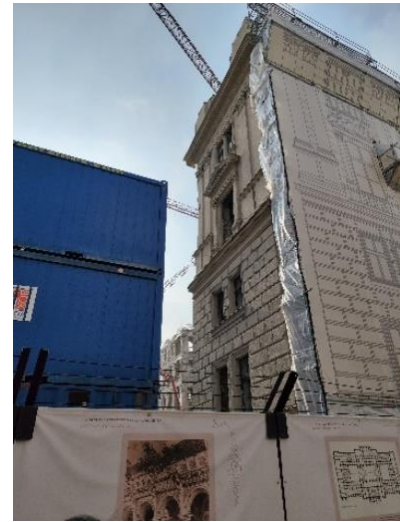


Figure 86: Ministry of Agriculture, main back facade, only the corner is conserved



Figure 87: Ministry of Agriculture, back of the building – large scale demolition

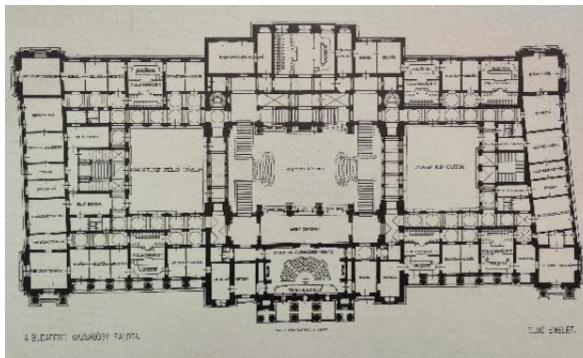


Figure 88: Ministry of Agriculture – old plan



Figure 89: Ministry of Agriculture – maquette

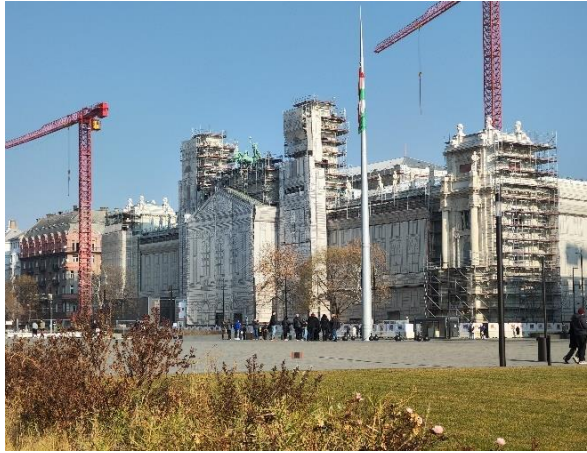


Figure 90: Supreme Court, main facade



Figure 91: Supreme Court, main facade, detail

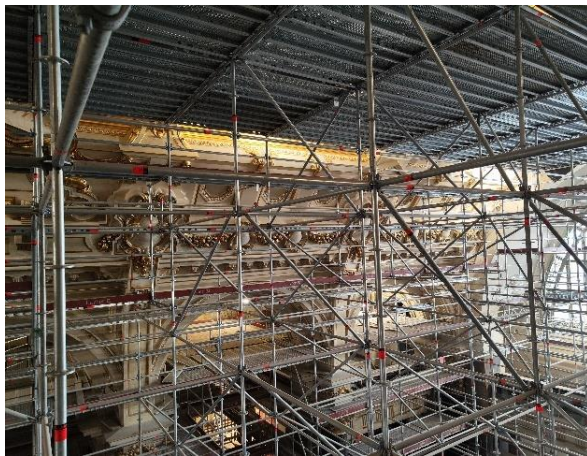


Figure 92: Supreme Court, interior



Figure 93: Supreme Court, interior, detail



Figures 94 and 95: Supreme Court, secco painting under the roof – restoration



Figure 96: Supreme Court – on the roof

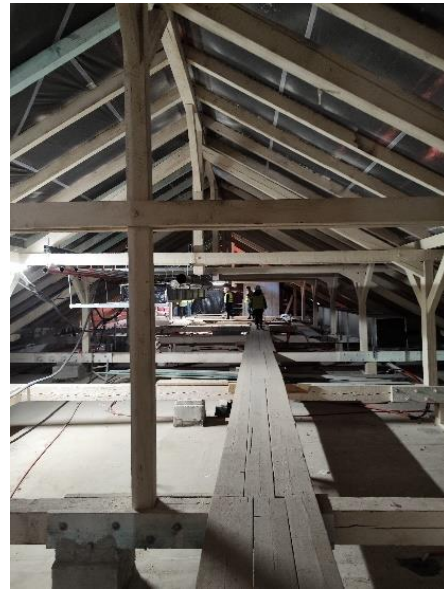


Figure 97: Supreme Court – roof structure



Figures 98 and 99: Supreme Court – on the roof



Figure 100: Supreme Court – old facade plan



Figure 101: Supreme Court's interior – old photograph



Figure 102: Supreme Court – maquette

Future projects



Figure 103: Building to be renovated in Kossuth Square

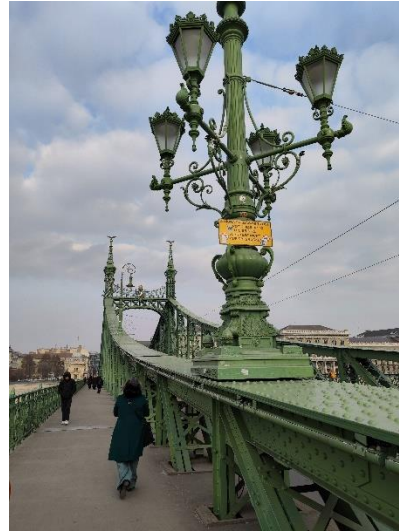
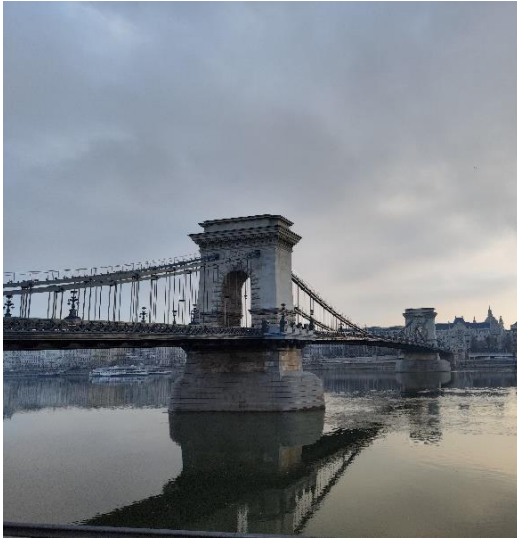


Figure 104: Empty building of the old stock market near Kossuth Square



Figure 105: Building for sale near Kossuth Square

BRIDGES AND THE BANKS OF THE DANUBE



Figures 106 and 107: Széchenyi Chain Bridge



Figure 108: Tramway tracks along the river



Figure 109: Small workshops area under the tramway tracks

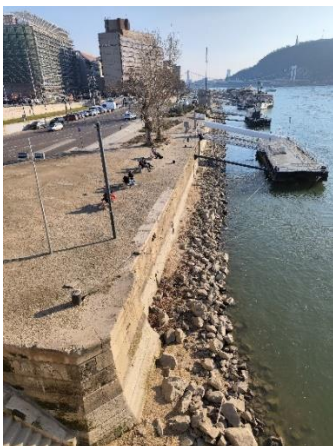


Figure 110: Riverbanks, small gardens

ANDRÁSSY AVENUE



Figure 111: Opera House



Figure 112: Opera House – staircase detail

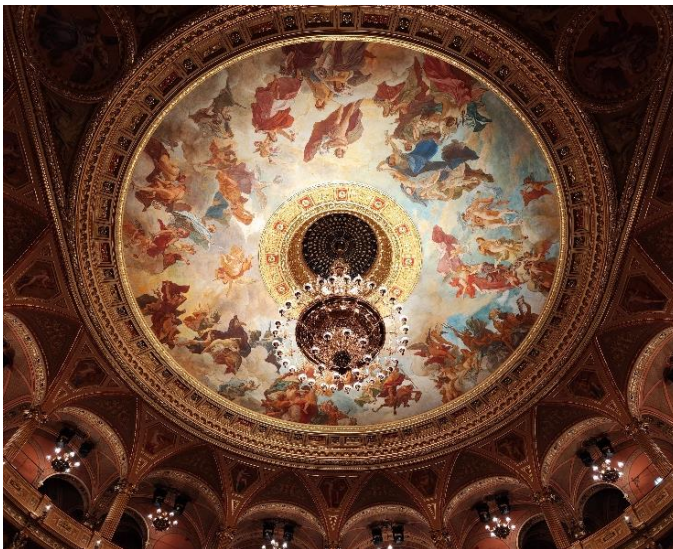


Figure 113: Opera House – ceiling of the main room



Figure 114: Opera House – main room



Figure 115: Former Ballet Institute, now Hotel W by Marriott

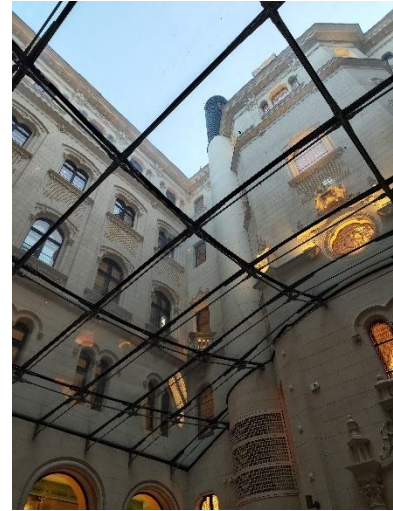


Figure 116: Courtyard of the former Ballet Institute, now Hotel W



Figure 117: Hotel W's staircase



Figure 118: Hotel W's entrance



Figure 119: Kodály Körönd Building, old picture ©Chief Architect of Budapest



Figure 120: Kodály Körönd Building, situation before the works ©Chief Architect of Budapest



Figure 121: Renovation and restitution of the roof of a group of buildings at Kodály Körönd, originally designed by architect Gyula Bukovics in 1883-84



Figure 122: Apartment building at Kodály Körönd, architect Gusztáv Petschauer, 1880-81



Figure 123: Apartment building at Kodály Körönd, detail



Figures 124 et 125: Derelict apartment building at 80 Andrassy Avenue

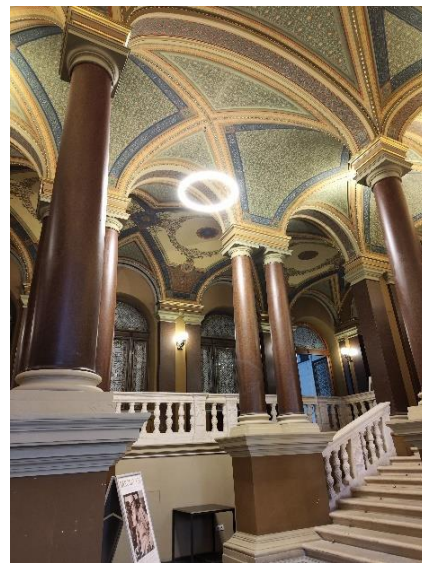
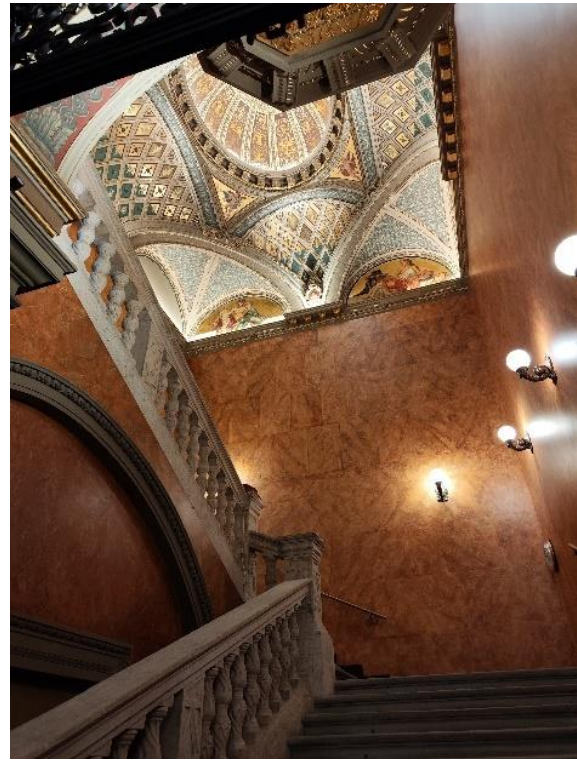


Figure 126: School of Arts, 125 Andrassy Avenue Figure 127: School of Arts – interior restoration



Figures 128 and 129: School of Arts' interiors



Figure 130: Haggenmacher Palace, 52 Andrassy Avenue, architect Henrik Schmahl (1884-1886)

Figure 131: 52 Andrassy Avenue: this former mansion was renovated and repurposed into a luxury hotel with 121 rooms



Figures 132 and 133: Interiors of the hotel at 52 Andrassy Avenue



Figure 134: Andrassy Avenue – recently renovated building for luxury apartments



Figure 135: Andrassy Avenue – luxury apartments for sale



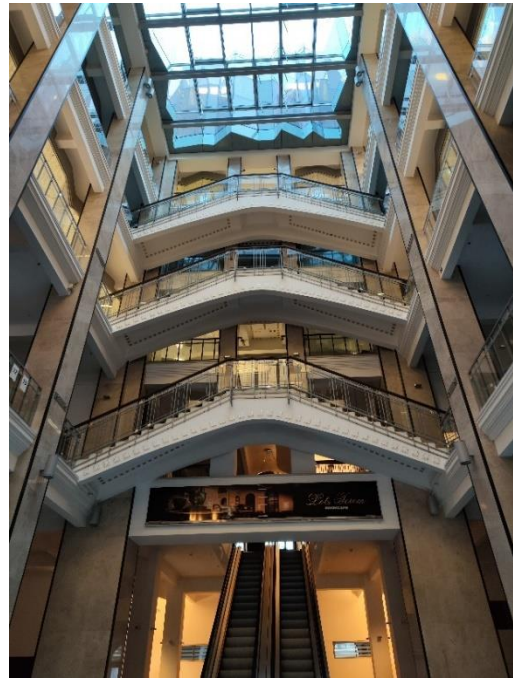
Figure 136: 45 Andrassy Avenue – apartments which are yet to be renovated



Figure 137: 45 Andrassy Avenue – entrance



Figures 138 and 139: 45 Andrassy Avenue - courtyard



Figures 140 and 141: 39 Andrassy Avenue – former department store 'Paris'; this reconstructed Secessionist-style building from 1911 replaced a Neo-Renaissance structure that housed the Municipal Casino Building Inc. in 1884

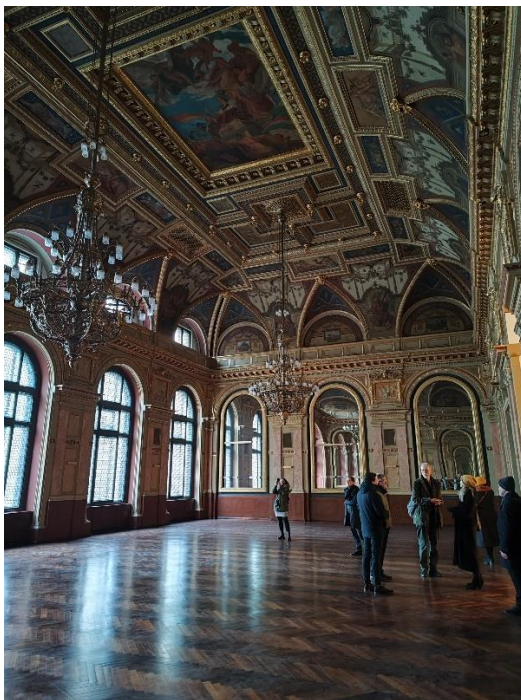


Figure 142: 39 Andrassy Avenue – former department store 'Paris'; the ballroom, adorned with frescoes by Károly Lotz and Árpád Feszty, still exists at the rear of the building



Figures 143 and 144: Roof interventions along Andrassy Avenue



Figure 145: View from the roof terrace of the department store 'Paris' – roof interventions along Andrassy Avenue



Figure 146: View from the roof terrace of the department store 'Paris' – typology of the buildings along Andrassy Avenue with a courtyard

LIGET PROJECT

Completed projects

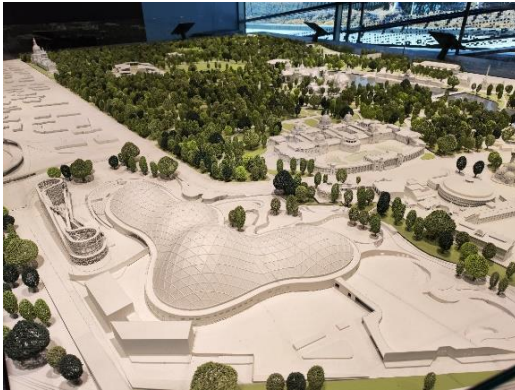


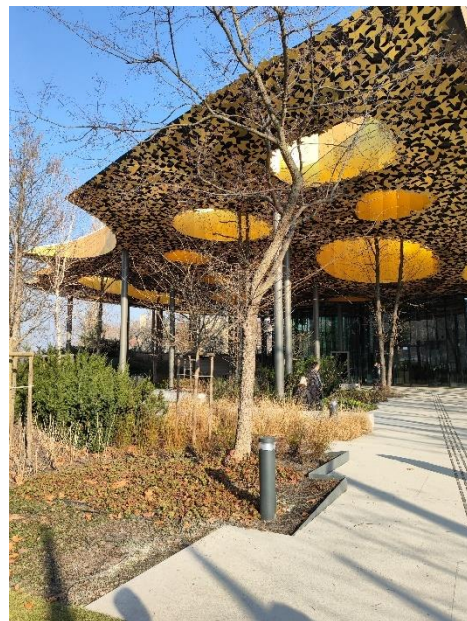
Figure 147: Biodome (not visited due to time constraints) – maquette in the Ethnographic Museum



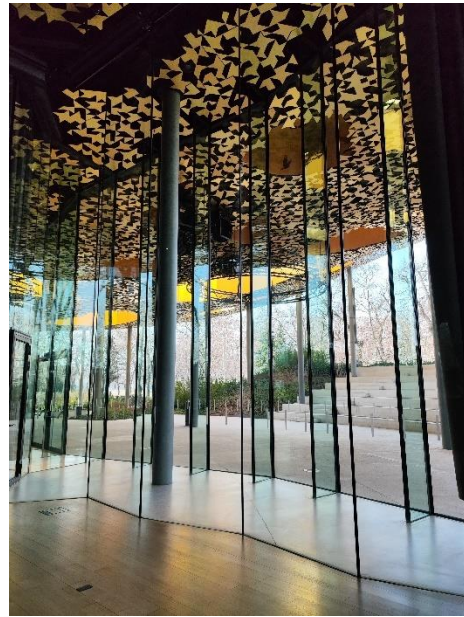
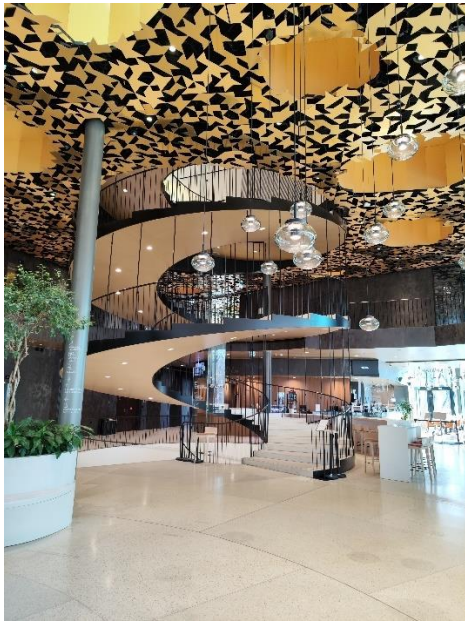
Figure 148: Biodome – view from the Gellért Hill



Figure 149: Maquette of the building of the House of Hungarian Music in the Ethnographic Museum



Figures 150 and 151: House of Hungarian Music – exteriors



Figures 152 and 153: House of Hungarian Music – interiors



Figure 154: Maquette of the Ethnographic Museum inside the museum



Figures 155 and 156: Ethnographic Museum – exterior



Figure 157: Ethnographic Museum – view from its terrace



Figures 158 and 159: Ethnographic Museum – interiors



Figure 160: Museum of Fine Arts (not visited due to time constraints)

Future projects



Figure 161: Városliget Theatre © Liget project



Figure 162: Hungarian Museum of Science, Technology and Transport © Liget project



Figure 163: New National Gallery – maquette in the Ethnographic Museum



Figure 164: Project for the new National Gallery © Liget project