



WORLD

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HISTORICAL CITIES

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Istanbul

Special Report (Prague & Vienna)

Interview

The Sultan Ahmet Square in Istanbul

Istanbul



The silhouette of the Sultan Ahmet Mosque (the Blue Mosque) at sunset. The Sultan Ahmet Mosque is the supremely elegant, imperial six minaret mosque of Sultan Ahmet I. Built between 1609-1616 by the architect Mehmet, it is known as the Blue Mosque because of its magnificent interior decoration of Blue Iznik tiles. During the tourist season there is a light and sound show in the evening.

Istanbul, the only city in the world built on two continents, stands on the shores of the Istanbul Bogazi (Bosphorus) where the waters of the Black Sea mingle with those of the Sea of Marmara and the Golden Horn. Here on this splendid site, Istanbul guards the precious relics of the three empires of which she has been the capital; a unique link between East and West, past and present.

Beneath the unchanging skyline of her domes and minarets, there is the continual bustle and movement of the crowd, the rumbling of vehicles along the ancient cobbled streets, the incessant coming and going, and cries of street sellers mingling with the sounds of shipping in the busy ports.

Istanbul has infinite variety: museums, ancient churches, palaces, great mosques, bazaars and the Istanbul Bogazi (Bosphorus).

The heritage in the city

Our city is inscribed on the list of UNESCO's world heritage as Historic Areas of Istanbul. The municipality of Istanbul makes a great effort to maintain its beauty of this city in cooperation with the Ministry of culture and Historic Preservation Council.

The Ministry of culture, Historic Preservation Council and Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality have drawn up the inventory to identify the heritage and established a fund to carry out this operation.

Istanbul has a diverse heritage since she has been the capital of different empires and cultures such as Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman.

Some important forms of these heritages are Mosques, Churches, Synagogues, Museums, City Walls and others.

Our city has a specific feature which is different from the rest of

the world. The heritage in Istanbul stems from the different cultures and periods. Also, Istanbul has been the capital of many civilizations and their important heritage is located in Istanbul. Whereas, most of the heritage in other cities is inherited from one culture.

Tools for the conservation of the heritage

The protective measures taken at the initiative of public bodies proceed from regulations and incentives.

We have a registration in urban planning documents, conservation plans, classification procedures, protected areas, orders to carry out renovation work and preemptive rights as regulatory means.

The public authority is expected to take measures in the event of deterioration of registered heritages.

The registration in the inventory is still continuing.

The decision-making organizations such as Istanbul Municipality are involved in the enactment of the documents and rules on which decisions to start up operations are based.

Related administrative and legal bodies and Ministry of Culture, Historic Preservation Council, Municipalities, Universities, and local interest associations are involved in ensuring that the regulations are complied with.

Indeed there are no direct taxes, granting of loans or subsidies for renovation work, but there is counseling and assistance for restoration. When certified, heritage buildings are exempt from real estate taxes.

As for the private sector for conservation, there is not an organized sponsoring system. But there are private foundations whose purpose is to protect heritage.

Consideration of local activities

Old streets and squares are restructured by the local administrations. For example, famous Sultan Ahmet Square, Eyup Square were renovated by the municipality and equipped with new fountains.

There are two famous bazaars, which are called 'Covered Grand Bazaar' and 'Egyptian Bazaar' in the center of old downtown.

These buildings were built during the Ottoman Empire. Today, traders use them as marketplaces.

The Grand Bazaar has jewelry and silk carpet shops. The Egyptian Bazaar is used by Asiatic spice traders. The Topkapi Palace and many of the old historic heritage places are used as museums and for touristic purposes.

Old buildings (Heritage Buildings) can be used by public organizations such as hospitals, university buildings and police stations, among others.

Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality has restored the old

pavilions and opened these buildings for public service as restaurants, cafes and hotels. As an addition to these works, IMM is restoring the historical city walls and fortresses.

Enhancement measures

Tourism is indispensable for effective preservation of historical areas of this city.

Some of activities such as lighting of historical buildings or mosques are done by different government bodies and owners or the users of such heritage.

We have events such as International Istanbul Festival and Sultan Ahmet Mosque light show to promote tourism.

Incentives are given to the activities in accordance with the tourism promotion law.

Municipalities and Ministry of Tourism also offer assistance to tourists.

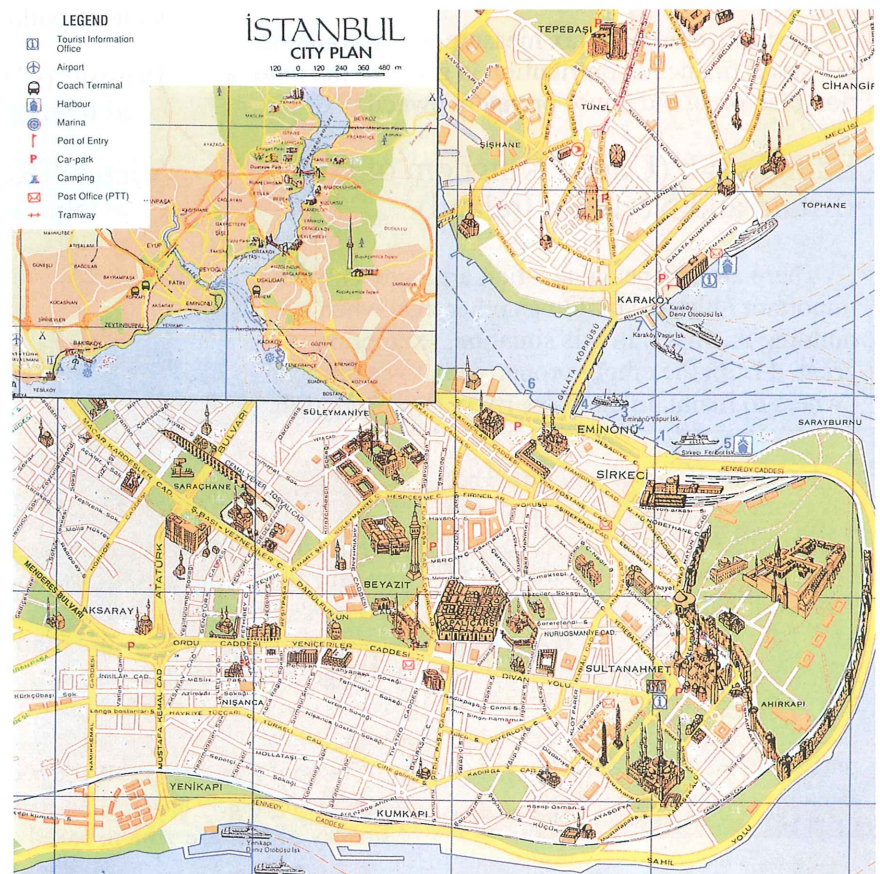
Publications of these attractive heritage of our city are done by

different government bodies, private sector and some by municipalities. For example, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality prepared a CD-ROM and a map of Istanbul for tourist.

Risk Prevention

There are no specific measures taken for heritage against natural disasters. Although there is not much insecurity towards heritage, still we have very developed risk prevention forces for insecurities. Istanbul has been reported as one of the safest metropolis of the world.

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SPECIAL REPORT

The report from member cities for the survey about tax measures to preserve residential areas of historical value.

The secretariat of the League of Historical Cities conducted a survey of tax or tax-related measures or any other forms of incentives to preserve residential areas of historical value on member cities.

We will look at the reports from member cities.

Yogyakarta (Republic of Indonesia)

Culture and nature preservation areas are designated. Incentive or disincentive tax system is not introduced. Architectural change in this area is restricted.

Konya (Republic of Turkey)

Konya has some regulations and laws related with this preservation such as;

- *not to take real estate tax from buildings registered as historical.

- *provide credit with a rate of 5% interest for a 20 year-term to owners whose historical buildings need to be restored.

- *if the owner accepts, the building may be used for touristic purposes such as restaurant, hotel, etc. In this case, the ministry also pays credit with a low interest.

Zurich (Swiss Confederation)

Assistance through tax measure is not available, but small financial contribution is given to the renovation plan of an old house privately owned.

Edinburgh (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

There are no special taxation arrangements for important / historic buildings other than when a building is empty. In this situation, exemption is granted from the empty property tax to encourage owners to maintain the property in good condition.

Lisbon (Portuguese Republic)

We take the following measures to help the preservation of historical houses and buildings and benefit its owners.

- *exemption of municipal tax
- *exemption of all taxes related to municipal licenses for rehabilitation works in these houses.

Melbourne (Australia)

There are three main sources of incentive and assistance available at Federal, State and Local level respectively.

The Federal government's Tax Incentive Program offers a 20% tax rebate to owners for works to buildings of national significance. The state government has a heritage fund. This program offers low interest loans to owners of buildings of state significance. The city of Melbourne has its own low interest loan program, known as the Melbourne Heritage Restoration Fund. This program offers low interest loans to building owners.

Prague (Czech Republic)
as follows;

Vienne (Republic of Austria)
as follows;

Prague (Czech Republic)

The city of Prague has the system used for financing restoration of protected heritage sites in our city and for assisting their owners according to laws and regulations in effect in the Czech Republic.

The tax measures for preservation of historical heritage are also available in our city.

Direct government financing of preservation and restoration of historical, cultural and heritage sites is provided exclusively for cultural heritage sites based on applicable provisions of Czech National Council law.

The state budget of the Czech Republic regularly allots funds to the Ministry of Culture which, based on

various programs, distributes these funds through municipal and district authorities to proprietors of cultural heritage sites for financing preservation and restoration thereof.

District authorities also allot funds from their budgets to owners of heritage sites (individuals and legal entities) for preservation and restoration purposes.

These grants cover the cost by which restoration of a cultural heritage site or a part thereof exceeds usual costs of property restoration.

In comparison with other areas of the Czech Republic, the budget of the City of Prague has much higher revenues and expenditures.

The volume of funds which are released from the municipal budget including government subsidies, taxes collected from individuals and enterprises, local revenues, fees and fines for the needs of preservation and restoration of cultural heritage sites, corresponds to the above mentioned facts on the basis of an approval of the Prague City Council.

Based on laws and regulations of the Czech Republic, owners of cultural heritage sites enjoy certain advantages pertaining to restoration of their property.

These advantages include the free assistance from professional organizations and heritage protection authorities, materials and information for restoration, and local investigation, research and documentation of cultural sites.

Another way of protection for the residential heritage zone are taxes or other taxation measures levied by the City of Prague.

Based on a new taxation system which entered into effect on January 1, 1993 by the adoption of the taxation law, only a number of individual types of taxes may be levied in the Czech Republic.

As a rule taxes are levied in relation to taxpayers' income, directly or indirectly, or as property taxes.

Subsequently, based on the law on budget guidelines, tax revenues are distributed into areas specified in the state and local (municipal) budgets.

For instance, the city of Prague receives;

- (1) 100% of revenues from properties located within the municipality;
- (2) 100% of revenues from income tax collected from individual entrepreneurs whose residence is within the City of Prague.

Municipalities have no way of affecting the amount of tax revenues by levying surtaxes or through other measures under the present structure of taxation system.

Despite that, tax revenues are the most important source of income for municipalities, including the City of Prague where taxes amount to more than three quarters of all revenues.

Municipalities may impose local fees to supplement their budget revenues.

The City of Prague collects the following fees:

- *local animal registration fee,
- *local fee for use of public areas,
- *local fee on accommodation capacities,
- *local fee on recreational stay.

Both tax revenues and revenues from local fees are included as budget income without being reserved for specific use.

Funds for restoration of heritage sites are allotted as part of the process of determining the use of municipal budget funds.



The panorama of Historic Center of Prague

Vienne (Republic of Austria)

How to finance the Restoration of Protection Zones by the Viennese Fund for this purpose.

In 1972, the city of Vienna promulgated a law to put the preservation of its historical zones under municipal administration.

The first protection zones, which are part of the land use and development plan for Vienna, were introduced in the same year and systematically expanded and enlarged over time.

Today Vienna disposes of 107 protection zones comprising roughly ten thousand individual objects, which equals about nine percent of the entire building stock.

The largest of these protection zones covers the entire historical city of Vienna including the world-famous Ringstrasse boulevard and the adjoining monumental edifices dating from the second half of the 19th century.

The protection zones comprise former suburbs, rural areas at the urban periphery, cemeteries, parks and gardens as well as working-class quarters and industrial areas dating from the turn of the century.

However, the protection zone designation process is far from

completed.

Vienna's protection zone concept constitutes a dynamic, ongoing development that needs to be adapted to the current state of research and actual requirements.

For this reason, the City of Vienna has commissioned a scientific-practical study which will redefine the essence of the protection zone concept and entail a significant extension of the size and number of Vienna's protection zones in the coming years.

From the very beginning, competent politicians and experts were aware that both the successful implementation of the protection zone concept and the efficient rehabilitation of relevant building stock required adequate funds in the form of subsidies.

The special fund was established which is mainly endowed on the basis of "Viennese Culture Subsidy Law" and "Viennese Law on the Preservation of Historical Architectural Ensembles".

This instrument, which came into force on 1 March, 1972, institutes a contribution today amounting to 10 percent of the TV and radio license fee for cultural purposes, in particular the

preservation of the city's old building stock.

While in the first full business year of the Viennese Fund for the Preservation of Historical Architectural Ensembles - i.e. in 1973 - subsidies amounting to roughly 19,225,000 Austria Shilling - (approximately \$1,500,000) were granted for 105 objects, these figures rose in the course of time; the greatest number of subsidized objects per year was already achieved in 1976 with 214 objects; the highest subsidy total was granted in 1995, amounting to approximately 131,500,000 Austria Shilling - (or \$10,350,000).

From the establishment of the Viennese Fund for the Preservation of Historical Architectural Ensembles until late 1997, a total of 3,372 objects were rehabilitated with subsidies amounting to more than 1,870,000,000 Austria Shilling- (or \$148,000,000).

The objects eligible for subsidies under the law are manifold, which corresponds to the comprehensive definition of the term "Historical Architectural Ensembles".

According to the principles of the Viennese Fund for the Preservation of Historical Architectural Ensembles, subsidies may be granted for;

- a) the preservation or restoration of built structures; the location of these structures in a protection zone is not absolutely essential to receive a subsidy; rather, any object may be subsidized if its preservation is important because of its historical, cultural or artistic value or its particular significance for the outlook of the neighborhood;
- b) the design of public traffic areas, this may concern surface materials, lighting fixtures, park fences etc.;
- c) the restoration of ground-floor zones around shop entrances because these are of particular importance for the visual appeal of the streetscape;
- d) the preparatory work such as color schemes and documentary material; for this reason, scientific studies, architects' services, material analyses and trial restoration work are principally eligible for subsidization, thereby providing a reliable basis for suitable quality of these works and quality control;
- e) the work done in connection with the regulation of protection zones, and the research of protection zone.

On the basis of these principles, a large share of the subsidies concerns privately-owned buildings or other objects in the historical city center.

As a rule, subsidies are granted for additional costs incurred due to exterior preservation, i.e. the restoration of street and courtyard facades, passageways and roofs.

Recently, however, common facilities - and in particular installations - of buildings are increasingly subsidized, for example historical lifts, glass windows etc.

Meeting halls or ballrooms are also subsidized if these premises are accessible to the general public.

In keeping with this principle, subsidies are granted not only for the entrance doors of old shops but also for their interior if this is historically valuable, which is often the case with the renowned late 19th and early 20th century cafes or shops which are a typical features of Vienna.

The term "additional costs incurred due to exterior preservation" requires some explanation: subsidies are granted for the major share (currently, this is generally 80 percent) of the restoration costs if these go beyond

the scope of simple building renovation.

Practically, this means subsidizing the cost difference between the cheapest roof cover and ceramic-tile roofing, which is in accordance with the monument preservation laws, or reimbursing the costs of reconstructing historical facade ornaments.

The subsidy applications are evaluated by an honorary advisory board composed of members of the Viennese City Council, specialized employees of various municipal departments and the Austrian Office for Monuments and Sites, representatives of relevant institutes of Vienna University and other experts.

The preservation and protection of our historical heritage is imposed not only by ethic requirements and aesthetic necessity; it is more than just another element of a flourishing tourism industry.

The balanced and harmonious use of historical city quarters markedly enhances the well-being of the people who live and work in these old buildings.

With more than twenty-five years of experience and the visible improvements, it has added to the outlook of the city, the Viennese Fund for the Preservation of Historical Architectural Ensembles could therefore serve as an example at the international level.

The Meeting of Board of Directors of the League will be held on Tuesday, 22nd of this June in Montpellier, France where the 7th World Conference and the General Assembly of the League of Historical Cities will be held in 2000.

Agenda Items are below;

1. Admission of Applicants to membership
 - Ballarat in Australia
 - Hebron in Palestinian National Authority
2. Membership fee issue (consultation item)
3. Fiscal Year 1999 Project (report item)

The League of Historical Cities List (59 cities from 48 countries)

Accra (Republic of Ghana)
 Alexandria (Arab Republic of Egypt)
 Algiers (Algeria)
 Amsterdam (Kingdom of the Netherlands)
 Athens (Hellenic Republic)
 Baghdad (Iraq)
 Barcelona (Spain)
 Bordeaux (French Republic)
 Boston (United States of America)
 Bratislava (Slovak Republic)
 Brussels (Kingdom of Belgium)
 Budapest (Republic of Hungary)
 Chiang Mai (Kingdom of Thailand)
 Cologne (Federal Republic of Germany)
 Cordoba (Spain)
 Cracow (Republic of Poland)
 Cusco (Republic of Peru)
 Dublin (Ireland)
 Edinburgh (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
 Fez (Kingdom of Morocco)
 Florence (Republic of Italy)

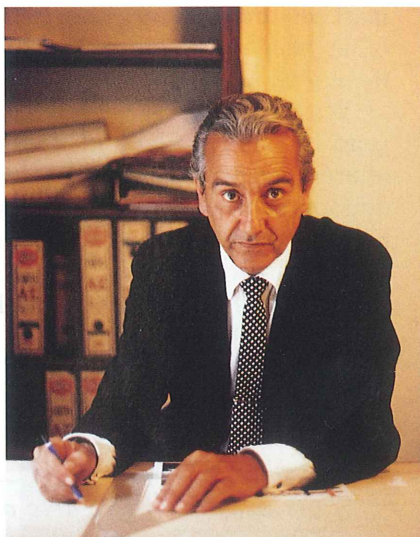
Guadalajara (United Mexican States)
 Hague (Kingdom of the Netherlands)
 Hanoi (Socialist Republic of Viet Nam)
 Helsingborg (Sweden)
 Iasi (Romania)
 Isfahan (Islamic Republic of Iran)
 Istanbul (Republic of Turkey)
 Jerusalem (State of Israel)
 Kaesong (Democratic People's Republic of Korea)
 Katmandu (Kingdom of Nepal)
 Kiev (Ukraine)
 Konya (Turkey)
 Kyongju (Republic of Korea)
 Kyoto (Japan)
 Lahore (Islamic Republic of Pakistan)
 Lisbon (Portuguese Republic)
 Melbourne (Australia)
 Mexico City (United Mexican States)

Montreal (Canada)
 Montpellier (France)
 Nanjing (People's Republic of China)
 Nara (Japan)
 Paris (French Republic)
 Prague (Czech Republic)
 Quebec (Canada)
 Rio de Janeiro (Federative Republic of Brazil)
 Rome (Republic of Italy)
 Santiago de Compostela (Spain)
 Tashkent (Republic of Uzbekistan)
 Tunis (Republic of Tunisia)
 Ulan Bator (Mongolia)
 Varanasi (India)
 Vienna (Republic of Austria)
 Xian (People's Republic of China)
 Yangon (Myanmar)
 Yogyakarta (Republic of Indonesia)
 Zagreb (Republic of Croatia)
 Zurich (Swiss Confederation)

INTERVIEW

Federico Correa

Architect, Barcelona (Spain)



Barcelona found in the 1992 Olympics an occasion for a much needed city development. Since the arrival of Democracy in Spain in 1975 and especially since the election of the first democratic Mayor, planning activities of Barcelona had been facilitated. The first socialist Mayor Narcis Serra elected in 1981 asked the architect Oriol Bohigas, head of the school of Architecture to accept the post of manager of the city's planning commission. Bohigas, probably the most acknowledged architect in Barcelona, a staunch anti-Franco intellectual and consequently a victim of the regime's repressions, had been named Dean of the Escuela Tecnica Superior de Arquitectura de Barcelona only three years before in 1978. He had formerly been expelled from it (with six others I myself included) for political reasons.

Yet the Barcelona School had kept a fairly high standard that Bohigas enhanced in 1978 by naming new professors from the group of very competent architects with whom he had kept in contact through other cultural activities in those years. A fairly compact relationship between various generations of architects had been established in Barcelona, rather a singularity compared to other cities in Spain or elsewhere.

-Extract from his presentation at Cracow Conference -

Your have made a presentation under the title of "the role of Major Projects" such as Olympic Games or Expo's at the working session of the 6th World Conference of Historical Cities in Cracow. Will you give us the main point of your lecture briefly?

The main point of my lecture is that Municipal Administrations have a great task before them for the harmonic development of their cities and their historic heritage.

And that for such a task they should start before anything else to try and find the right professionals.

With the example of Barcelona and the projects around the 1992 Olympics I showed how the two subsequent Mayors Serra and Maragall comissioned most of the prominent works to the best reputed architects in the city.

I believe the success of Barcelona's development is mostly due to having named architect Oriol Bohigas as head of the Urban Department of the city.

In Barcelona the Mayors and especially Mayor Maragall made the effort to find out about the city's talent but I believe City Authorities everywhere should take the trouble to inquire about the professional status of local architects and recognize that the right person will be found among colleagues.

In brief, Mayors should love, respect and be interested in architecture as much as Maragall did.

What do you expect of the League when each member city of the League deals with the common theme of conservation and development ?

I believe the conservation of Historical Cities is of importance in the sense to preserve the symbols of each country's history and to enhance their people's identity.

Please give your message to the members of the League of Historical Cities.

I think that the level of communication between members of the League should be raised in order to provide for a more fruitful collaboration.

It is also important for us to recognize the significance of multilateral cooperation among member cities.

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