



WORLD

The League of Historical Cities Bulletin

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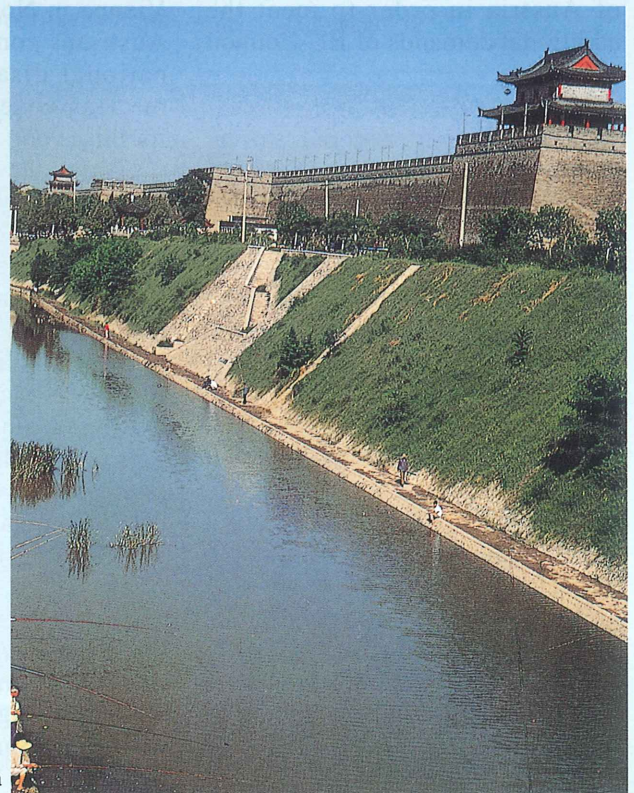
St. Stephan and the view of Vienna, Austria

Vienna

Xian

The meeting of Board of Directors

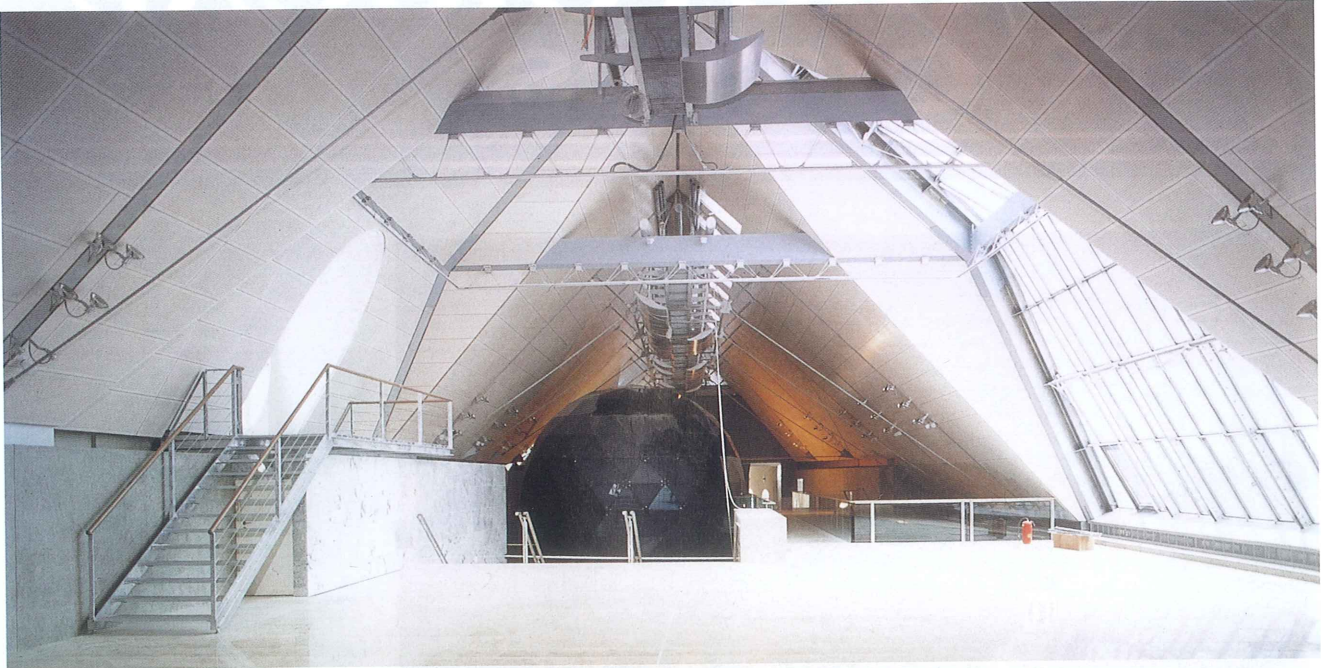
Interview



The City Wall and the Moat in Xian, China

Vienna

Restoration and Reconstruction of the Assembly Halls of Vienna



The Press Foyer in the former roof area in the Hofburg.

Austria has assumed the presidency of the European Union for the second half of 1998.

The Assembly Halls of Vienna, which were devastated by a fire in November 1992, have been developed into a Conference Center owned and managed by the Republic of Austria in order to meet the additional demands of EU Council meetings.

When construction engineers were faced with the task of restoring and reconstructing the Assembly Hall Wing of Vienna, they had to decide whether to rebuild the entire hall in accordance with the original plan, or whether to restore what had survived the fire, and replace the missing parts with element designed in a contemporary style.

The Assembly Hall Wing of Vienna is one of the best known parts of the palace and adjoins the National Library, the Spanish Riding school, as well as the stable of the famous Lippizaner horses.

Engineers opted for the latter version with the result being a composition of the highest quality with a harmonious intermingling of old and new.

The work was completed according to schedule thus allowing the Assembly Halls to be used as a venue for meetings during the current Austrian presidency of the European Union.

After a devastating fire broke out in the Assembly Hall wing of Vienna in November 1992, many Austrians considered this to be a national disaster. International media provided extensive coverage for this event.

Today the halls are once again in the public eye, this time as a venue for meetings on the agenda of the Austrian presidency of the European Union. The latest utilization of the hall is entirely in keeping with their historical tradition.

It was here that the Viennese Congress danced in the winter of 1814/15, that Ludwig van Beethoven gave piano recitals, and that Nicolo Paganini performed his first Viennese violin concerto in 1828.

Numerous world famous waltzes were first played at the balls held in these halls, and between 1921 and 1927 many legendary performances of the Vienna State Opera were

staged here.

From an architectural point of view the Assembly Hall forms a complex which has developed over the course of time, and still contains in its walls the remains of the 17th century structure.

The layout of the Hall dates back to the periods of Maria Theresa, (1744 to 1748), when they were converted according to plans drawn up by the architect Jean Nicolas Jadot de Ville Issey from Lorraine.

Since then they have been altered several times. The baroque elements in the interior, which were still visible before the fire, were part of a conversion carried out in 1893 according to plans by the architect Ferdinand Kirschner.

The fire, the cause of which still remains unknown, did considerable damage. The baroque roof framework of the entire wing collapsed and was completely destroyed. The Large Assembly Hall was most heavily affected; the ceiling and lower part of the walls and the floor structure all fell prey to the flames, and the stucco decoration on the walls was severely damaged.

A new concept of "monument preservation" influenced the planning of the restoration and reconstruction work.

Hence it was decided to restore parts which had survived the fire, and replace the missing parts with elements in a contemporary style which would form a synthesis with the existing structure.

The concept behind the plan is most apparent in the Large Assembly Hall ; the wall area, eighty percent of which had survived the fire, was maintained in its original form.

For the first time ever in the history of architecture the so called calcined stucco (the high water content of stucco is reduced or eliminated during a fire) was restored here in Vienna.

However , in accordance with the concept underlying the work, those areas completely destroyed by fire such as the ceiling, floor and lower part of the walls which were replaced by contemporary architecture.

International artists were asked for their ideas, and from amongst entries submitted to the experts' committee between June and November 1994, that of Austrian painter Josef Mikl was chosen as the winner.

His project consists of a ceiling painting dedicated to Youth, a poem by the well- known Austrian satirist Karl Kraus, and 22 smaller paintings depicting scenes from plays by the great playwrights Ferdinand Raimund, Johann Nestroy and Elias Canetti.

They are dominated by a fiery red and yellow, which harmonizes in a virtually classical manner with the historical white and gold decoration of the walls.

The solution proposed for the Large Assembly Hall is not the first of its kind, yet this Viennese example is characteristic of a new trend in monument preservation which essentially draws on the area of tension between old and new.

The smaller of the two halls was

far less affected by the fire than the larger one, renovations made were through traditional methods. Although one third of the ceiling had collapsed, the greater part of the structure, including the historic interior, was saved and largely preserved. Even the wooden floor, which is a Viennese oak parquet, survived the fire and was restored.

With the EU Council Meetings in mind it was decided to turn the Assembly Hall into a conference center for the Federal Republic of Austria on the express condition that the halls would still be available for theater and opera performances, balls, and other cultural events.

Hence, in the course of the reconstruction work, the entire technical infrastructure was overhauled to meet the demands of both present day conferences and theater performances.

A state of the art air heating system was installed in both halls which integrated some of the existing warm air ducts.

Interpretation booths are partly hidden by tall mirrors which are transparent from behind. There are facilities for video and TV transmissions, and the entire wing has been equipped with an active and passive fire protection system.

The interaction of old and new mentioned earlier is also apparent in the so called Press Foyer in the former roof area.

The foyer, with a surface area of approximately 1,200 square meter was created primarily for the EU Council Meetings. The huge steel and glass structure of the roof extension is not visible from the Josefsplatz, but overlooks the inner courtyard.

It offers a full view of the historic St. Michael's dome which was built by Ferdinand Kirschner in 1893. In the same year, the same architect also built the Large Assembly Hall.

Thus history returns to its starting point; old and new come together in perfect harmony, without conflict but as a union of the highest quality.

*For further information,
Chief Executive's Coordination Office,
Municipality of Vienna, Republic of
Austria
phone 43-1-4000-82-202
fax 43-1-4000-7122*



LEFT : The cleaning- up operations at the Large Assembly Hall immediately after the fire of November 26-27, 1998.

RIGHT : The view of the St. Michael's dome from the Press Foyer in the Hofburg.

XIAN

Protection of Historical Relics



The Huaqing Hot Springs - the hot spring takes its name from the Hua Qing Palace constructed by Emperor Xuan Zong. It was here that the tragic Lady Yang Fufei spent much time with the Emperor.

Xian, a world renowned historic and cultural city which was an international metropolis in the period of the Han and the Tang Dynasties, has plenty of historical and cultural relics under ground in the long course of its development.

Today it is one of the show-windows where an outsider can see about the opening of China. Statistics show that the annual number of tourists from overseas amounts to over 400,000.

With the exploitation of cultural relic resources, the protection of historical relics is becoming increasingly important.

In recent years we have made a lot of headway in the preservation and repair of ancient buildings, and in the protection of key historical relics - especially large historical ruins, by adhering to the principle of efficient protection, rational utilization and forceful administration.

In recent years we have taken a series of effective measures to improve the overall management of

the historical relics preservation.

The municipality holds a meeting every year on the relics work at which the municipal government signs responsibility contracts for relic protection targets with the governments of the counties and districts.

The governments at the district and county level hold similar meetings every year to pass on the message of the municipality to the local authorities, and to sign responsibility papers with the town leaders.

At the same time various meetings are held to promote the network of relic preservation so that the broad masses may better participate in the protection of ruins and relics in the open fields. We have also held training courses for the heads of sites.

In this way many valuable relics have been rescued. Further more remarkable progress has been made in the classification and labeling of relics.

Labeling involves marking the

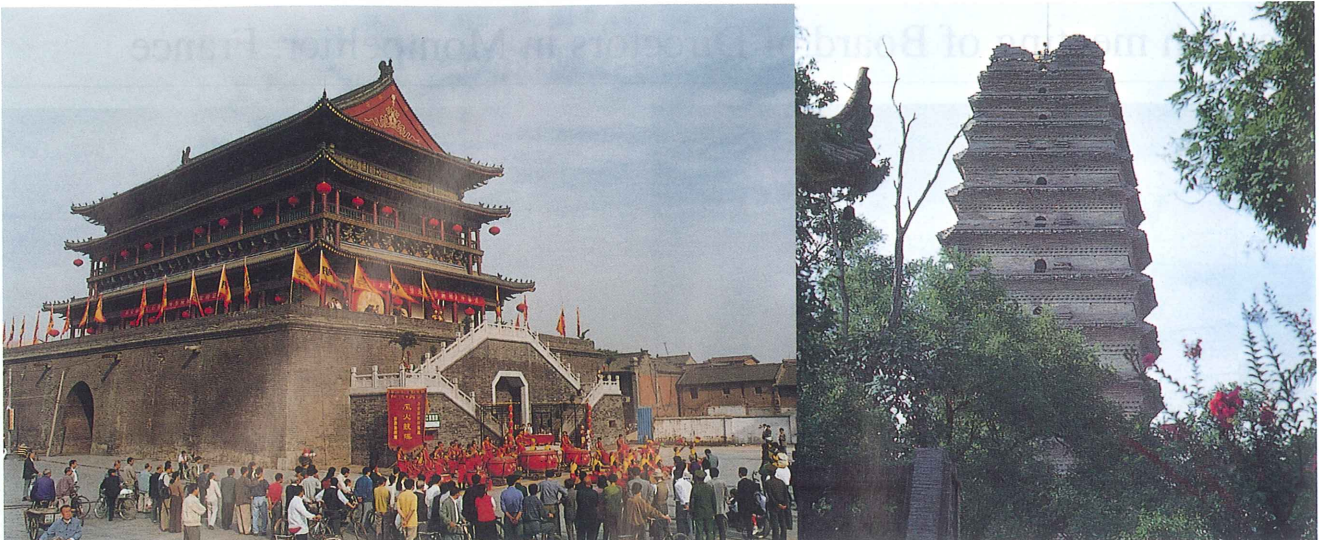
protection scope, protection sign, protection institution and the records on a label. This scientific catalogue system facilitates consulting and inquiry.

The responsibility contracts that are signed with the district and county governments, and municipal museums, ensure the examination of supervision of the work. As a result all the stored relics have been safe from fire hazard for 8 consecutive years.

We have completed the construction of the protection centers of Efangong Palace (the Qin Dynasty) and the Changan City (the Han Dynasty), thus meaning that each of the four great dynasties (Zhou, Qin, Han and Tang) now has its own preservation Center.

We have also tightened our administration of the market of relics and their imitations with the help of the public security authorities and the industrial and commercial administration organs.

This enables us to further crack down on the illegal trading of relics,



LEFT : The Drum Tower - symbolic architecture in Xian. RIGHT : Small Wild Goose Pagoda

and to safeguard the normal order of the relics market.

Publicity work has been carried out citywide so as to enhance the citizens' awareness of relics preservation. This publicity includes billboards, broadcasting and leaflets.

Local legislation on relics protection has been accelerated in recent years.

Promulgated is a Circular of Xian Municipal Government on the Promotion of Relics Preservation, and a Circular on the Relics

Preservation in Capital Construction.

Regulations of Xian Municipality on the Administration of the Historic and Cultural city and Measures of Xian Municipality on the Administration of Imitations of Cultural Relics are also promulgated.

In terms of repairing ancient architectural works, we have completed the following projects; the recoloring decoration of the Drum Tower, the repairing of the

base of the Bell Tower, the illumination of the Drum and Bell Towers, the installation of lightning arrestors atop the Dayan Pagoda and the South City Gate, the protective restoration, the preparation for relocation, and the building of the southern wall of the Qinshihuang Mausoleum.

*For further information,
Foreign Affairs' Office
Xian Municipal People's Government
People's Republic of China*



LEFT : The bicycle is the standard mode of transportation of the citizens of Xian.
RIGHT : The terracotta Warriors of the First Emperor of the Qin

The 5th meeting of Board of Directors in Montpellier, France



LEFT : The next conference of the League of Historical Cities will be held at this hall "LE CORUM".

RIGHT : The representatives at the last meeting of the Board of Directors, Ms. Prat (Paris) , Mr. Fabre (Montpellier) , Mr. Masuda (Kyoto) , Mr. Feng (Xian) , Mr. Larbiou (Montpellier) [from left to right].

Three Director cities, Paris, Xian and Kyoto were present at this meeting and the 4 cities of Katmandu, Rio de Janeiro, Zurich and Cracow had sent the Delegation of Powers to the Chairperson.

Besides the examination of the application for membership, reports were made from the secretariat regarding the 7th Conference of Historical Cities, the League's activities for fiscal

year 1999 and the account settlement of the League of Historical Cities. The membership fee problem was also put under consideration.

The preparatory meeting between the host city, Montpellier, and the chairperson and secretariat city, Kyoto was also held regarding the 7th World Conference of the Historical Cities.

7th World Conference of Historical Cities

Schedule : July 5th (Wed.) - 8th (Sat.) 2000

Main venue : Le Corum, Einstein Hall (used for both opera theater and international conference)

Official languages : English and French

Theme of the conference : History and Value

Themes of the working session:

1. Architectural coherence and urban integration in a historical city

2. Historical city and Mediterranean harmonization of cultures
3. Integration of a historical city in a modern economy
4. Tourism and Historical cities

The new principal officers will be elected at the General Assembly and a meeting of the board of directors by the new principal officers will be held on July 7th.



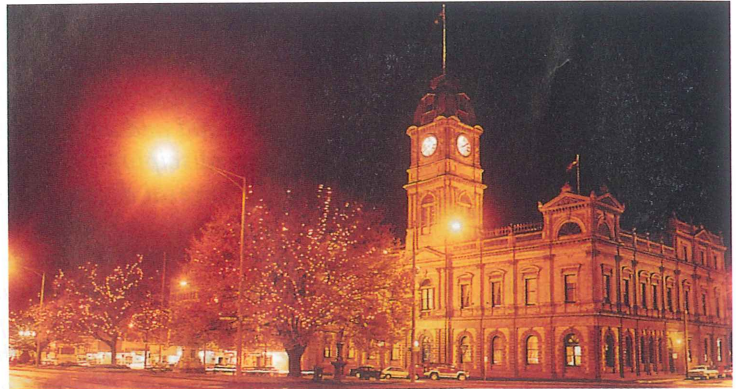
The landscape of the historical district of Montpellier

New member city

The application for membership by Ballarat, Australia was approved at the 5th meeting of the Board of Directors in Montpellier, France on June 22, 1999. This makes the number of our member cities increase to 60 from 48 countries.

Ballarat (Australia)

Mayor : Cr Judy Verlin
 Population : 80,000
 Contact : Mr. David Miller, Executive Director of economic development
 Address : City of Ballarat, Town Hall P.O. Box 655, Ballarat 3353 Victoria, Australia
 Telephone : 61-3-5320-5620
 Facsimile : 61-3-5333-4117
 URL : www.ballarat.vic.gov.au
 E-mail : bedb@netconnect.com.au



Ballarat has a fascinating and turbulent history.

Gold was first discovered in Ballarat in 1851, with the second largest gold nugget ever found in Australia - the welcome Nugget, discovered in 1858. Within a year, 20,000 miners had arrived from all over the world.

In the early morning of December 3, 1854 another important piece of history centered around Ballarat.

A brief yet bloody battle known as the Eureka Stockade took place between protesting miners and Government soldiers. This was



caused by the unfair treatment meted out to miners by the colonial administration, and the imposition of a harsh license fee. The miners in the end did achieve political rights and freedoms.

Today, you can immerse yourself

in the city's history - from the streetscapes and architecture to the Ballarat Fine Art Gallery which proudly displays the original Eureka flag and provides fascinating insights into life in the 1850s.

The League of Historical Cities List (60 cities from 48 countries)

Accra (Republic of Ghana)	Florence (Republic of Italy)	States)
Alexandria (Arab Republic of Egypt)	Guadalajara (United Mexican States)	Montreal (Canada)
Algiers (Algeria)	Hague (Kingdom of the Netherlands)	Montpellier (France)
Amsterdam (Kingdom of the Netherlands)	Hanoi (Socialist Republic of Viet Nam)	Nanjing (People's Republic of China)
Athens (Hellenic Republic)	Helsinki (Sweden)	Nara (Japan)
Baghdad (Iraq)	Iasi (Romania)	Paris (French Republic)
Ballarat (Australia)	Isfahan (Islamic Republic of Iran)	Prague (Czech Republic)
Barcelona (Spain)	Istanbul (Republic of Turkey)	Quebec (Canada)
Bordeaux (French Republic)	Jerusalem (State of Israel)	Rio de Janeiro (Federative Republic of Brazil)
Boston (United States of America)	Kaesong (Democratic People's Republic of Korea)	Rome (Republic of Italy)
Bratislava (Slovak Republic)	Katmandu (Kingdom of Nepal)	Santiago de Compostela (Spain)
Brussels (Kingdom of Belgium)	Kiev (Ukraine)	Tashkent (Republic of Uzbekistan)
Budapest (Republic of Hungary)	Konya (Turkey)	Tunis (Republic of Tunisia)
Chiang Mai (Kingdom of Thailand)	Kyongju (Republic of Korea)	Ulan Bator (Mongolia)
Cologne (Federal Republic of Germany)	Kyoto (Japan)	Varanasi (India)
Cordoba (Spain)	Lahore (Islamic Republic of Pakistan)	Vienna (Republic of Austria)
Cracow (Republic of Poland)	Lisbon (Portuguese Republic)	Xian (People's Republic of China)
Cusco (Republic of Peru)	Melbourne (Australia)	Yangon (Myanmar)
Dublin (Ireland)	Mexico City (United Mexican States)	Yogyakarta (Republic of Indonesia)
Edinburgh (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)		Zagreb (Republic of Croatia)
Fez (Kingdom of Morocco)		Zurich (Swiss Confederation)

INTERVIEW

Jacek Purchla

Director of International Cultural Center in Cracow, Poland



Modern protection of heritage means not only the physical preservation of its substance but also its interpretation, marketing and utilization. Such a broad and active understanding of heritage protection also requires an interdisciplinary approach to the historical city.

Several dozen years ago a very dynamic development of urbanization forced conservation to be understood in what in English is termed as "the management of change". The management of change means an attempt to control and regulate rather than plan spontaneous urbanization processes, which often cannot be put within the confines of planning.

The new scale of the problem of heritage protection calls for a new formulation of goals and scope of protection - a transition towards the process of efficient revitalization of the extensive housing complexes. In this process of total protection, the only guarantee of success may lie in the wise incorporation of cultural heritage into the economic circulation. This in turn requires that a balanced compromise be found between the preservation doctrine, the needs of everyday life and the laws of economics.

-Extract from his presentation at Cracow Conference -

You have made a presentation under the title of "managing historic cities" 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 Cities are a focal point of the problems of modern civilization. Our attitude to our historical legacy is once more becoming a very important issue.

We are concerned only with such a situation in which cultural heritage not only determines their present-day form, but is also an object of preservation and a potential area of future development.

Only the skillful harmonization of the cultural heritage of our historic cities with the great sociocultural changes offers a guarantee of its efficient preservation.

You said in your speech that "Several dozen years ago a very dynamic development of

urbanisation forced conservation to be understood in what is termed as the management of change ". What does the management of change mean? How will this contribute to "preservation and development" of historical cities?

Harnessing the whole economic mechanism is essential if conservation is to be effective.

The heritage industry provides opportunities for our many historic centers while at the same time being the source of many threats.

Changes in the philosophy of historic city preservation is also becoming necessary.

Therefore preservation should mean the rational management of the changing function and changing potential of a city. Not only the form which we are accustomed to think about regarding heritage conservation, but also the function of the historic urban system determine the efficacy of conservation today.

A society's heritage involves much more than the sum of historical buildings preserved in a given area.

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

The main purpose and value of our cooperation should therefore be to continuously compare very different experiences in the field of cultural heritage in its widest meaning.

The League of Historical Cities forms a platform for an exchange of experiences between cities from all continents. This is where the strength and importance of our organization lies.

Access to Secretariat.
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URL address: <http://www.city.kyoto.jp/somu/kokusai/lhcs/>

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