



WORLD

The League of Historical Cities Bulletin

# HISTORICAL CITIES

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The main street, Rio Branco Avenue in Rio de Janeiro

*Bordeaux*

*Rio de Janeiro*

*Interview*



The Quinconces Square in Bordeaux

# Bordeaux

Urban project of Bordeaux



The night view of the Bordeaux Municipal Hall

Bordeaux was founded no less than 22 centuries ago.

Much of the influence of the Middle Ages can still be found throughout our city with the Sainte Croix Church and the Basilique St. Michel being just two excellent examples.

They were completed on the eve of the Renaissance in an extremely pure Gothic style in the old Bordeaux.

During the English period, major buildings were constructed in Bordeaux.

In addition to those already mentioned, the Big Bell served at the city's belfry, such as it is represented in the coat of arms of the town.

Recently it has been back to its former beauty.

The 18th century brought the implementation of the philosophy of the Age of Enlightenment under the management of the Intendant Tourny.

He wanted the city to be built rationally, with a harmonious layout, boasting buildings to match its new

lifestyle.

The vast avenues of the city were laid out, to the detriment, of course, of older building and streets. Thus making Bordeaux one of the symbols of the beauty of the classical age.

The city of Bordeaux blossomed in the 19th century when the lay-out of the boulevards and the city garden were completed.

The 20th century was some what unkind to Bordeaux.

The hitherto all-important port progressively lost its activity with the development of new means of transport other than by sea, thus resulting in the decrease and final disappearance of the special links between France and its colonies in Morocco, Africa and parts of South-East Asia.

Only the West Indies continued for some time to maintain regular shipping lines with Bordeaux.

On the positive side, the 20th century saw the creation of two new districts, under the inspiration of the

Mayor at the time, Jacques Chaban-Delmas.

It also saw the development of a major industrial complex located on the outskirts of the Urban District.

This included the Ford plant at Blanquefort, the arrival of a highly advanced aerospace industry and the establishment of the pharmaceutical industry and computer industry.

When Alain Juppe was elected Mayor of Bordeaux in June 1995, he found himself at the head of a city weighed down by centuries of existence as an old back-dated city and faced with problems that were extremely difficult to solve.

He was imbued with the spirit of a builder and challenged with the task of renovating the city while at the same time respecting its past.

The urban plan that was presented during the election campaign was ratified by the population.

The plan focused on the following four main themes.

**The first was the renovation of those parts of the city which had suffered from a distinct lack of maintenance over the past few decades.**

The clear determination to re-center the city around the river involved the redevelopment of the two banks of the Garonne.

On the right bank, the industrial wasteland and the abandoned houses were removed and replaced by new projects such as new housing affording a pleasant lifestyle.

Furthermore, the creation of a free zone covering part of the area of La Bastide and the re-design of an area of urban incentive should bring about a renewal of industrial and commercial activity.

The plan called for the destruction of the now unused port hangars and the re-establishment of a link between the river by the

symbolic removal of the gates separating the port from the town.

Other projects included the layout of a parkway for pedestrians, cyclists and roller-skaters; the creation of numerous facilities for children and adolescents; and the development of new activity around the river; in particular, the creation of a Sunday market which has proved to be a great success. The decision to build a tunnel between the right and left banks is a further element of urban renovation and of economic revival.

**The second objective was to restore the beauty of the monuments of Bordeaux.**

The cleaning of the buildings along the embankment is a long task which is scheduled to be completed in 2001. This magnificent architectural ensemble will then once again draw the eyes of this inhabitants- if it doesn't already does- and of the regularly increasing number of tourists.

Other historic buildings such as the Big Bell ( Grosse Cloche ) and the Eglise Notre-Dame has already been renovated.

It is worth noting in particular the extremely beneficial effect of these undertakings for the renovation of our monuments and buildings which give a new importance to the city.

The programme has been set, but its implementation will perhaps take decades, as it is well known that such operations for the restoration and maintenance of our architectural heritage call for continuing action.

Saint Andrew's Cathedral is a good example: it took 9 centuries to build it, and it has benefited ever since from constant care.

**The third important component of the programme consists of the renovation of those areas of the city that have suffered from a certain impoverishment and a lack of maintenance.**



The Grand Theater, established in 1780, is the the model of the Opera in Paris.



The Historic landscape of Bordeaux

Particular efforts are being deployed for the restoration of buildings and the construction of new complexes, avoiding the sprawling character of the 1970's.

It can be seen that each area provides the proof of the attention devoted to them by city councillors.

**The fourth component is the construction of the tramway, a major part of the municipal programme.**

This is designed to make the city more pleasant to live in through a noticeable reduction in the number of cars, thanks to the construction of this effective and modern mode of transport.

The tramway will facilitate public transport and give the city a new vitality by enabling the population of the suburbs to commute more easily into the city center.

The programme for the construction of the tramway is accompanied by operations for the restoration of the streets and buildings lining the roads along which the tramway will run.

Our programme is ambitious, but proportionate. It has been given a very warm welcome by the population with a satisfaction rating of over 70 %. It will mark a new lease of life for Bordeaux, the restoration of its beauty, and the expansion of its economic activity.

Bordeaux is ready to move ahead for several centuries of renewed grandeur, beauty and happiness for all its inhabitants.

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The City Assembly Hall of Bordeaux



## 7th World Conference of Historical Cities in Montpellier, France in 2000.

**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 city of Kyoto as a Chairperson of the League, sent a letter of condolence to the city of Istanbul, our member city, on the occasion of the big earthquake which hit on the morning of August 17 and also made a donation of 1 million yen to the government of Turkey.

The volunteer contributions by the employees of Kyoto Government have been gathered for the recovery from this earthquake in Turkey. The contribution of JPY300,000- was delivered to the

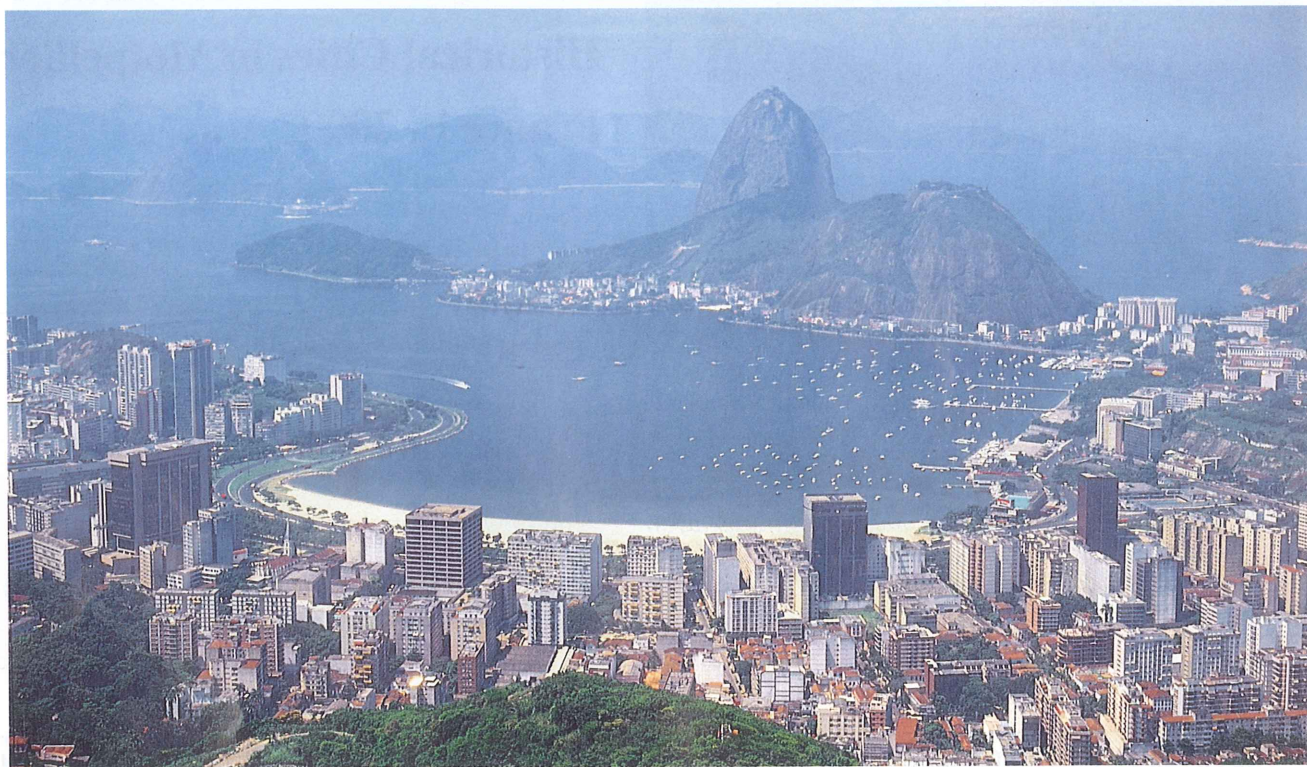
city of Istanbul and JPY4,395,783- was delivered to the national government of the Republic of Turkey.

The city of Kyoto also sent a letter of condolence to the city of Athens, our member city, on the occasion of the earthquake which hit Greece on September 7.

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

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

## Rio de Janeiro



The city landscape and the Copacabana beach from the hill of Corcovado

Rio de Janeiro was founded in 1565 on a small hill facing Guanabara Bay on the Atlantic Ocean.

Its growing importance was first linked to the shipments of gold to Portugal and later to the commerce of coffee. Being

the most important Brazilian city for so long, Rio de Janeiro's historical heritage encompasses nearly 3,600 protected buildings.

In 1979 the city of Rio de Janeiro launched a process to protect its heritage, and so far around 10,000 historic buildings have been put under protection by municipal law, most of these buildings being located in the city center or in its immediate neighborhood.

Widely known for its beautiful landscape, Rio de Janeiro owes its fame to the presence of the sea, the beaches and the huge forested mountains that crisscross it.

However, not many people are aware of the role the city played in the history of the country.

Having been the capital of Brazil for over a century, Rio de Janeiro has managed to preserve much of its Brazilian architecture, ranging from the baroque style to the neo classic.

Therefore, upkeeping the historical heritage in harmony with the development of the city is and will for many years be the main task of the municipal government.

As deputy mayor in charge of the central district of Rio de Janeiro, my main task is to manage the delicate balance between the protection of our historical heritage and the need to modernize our city center.

This task requires combining the challenge of increasing traffic demands with the need for more pedestrian space, as well as attracting modern enterprises whilst maintaining the support of traditional activities.

This requires involving the population in this process by increasing their awareness of the importance of conserving historic buildings, as well

as reinforcing the attractiveness of the city center against the competition of new development areas outside of it.

Therefore, the meetings and activities of the League of Historical Cities serve well to make us aware that we are not alone in the fight to preserve our historical heritage, in spite of the social, economic and environmental differences between our cities.

They also let us see and hear about new experiences that we can learn from in order to keep our cities in touch with the problems with which other cities are currently facing and their solutions.

Rio de Janeiro is ready to contribute to this process by demonstrating how a relatively new city is dealing with the task of protecting its natural and cultural landscape whilst meeting the challenge of modernizing a city of 12 million inhabitants with its expected enormous



The Municipal Theater

social and economic problems.

Rio de Janeiro relies on the League of Historical Cities to help member cities to keep in contact via their common problems and solutions.

It hopes that the League will put into practice a program of cooperation between its affiliates, in which technicians and city directors can exchange their experiences through topical seminars and working visits, thus learning how to best protect their heritage.

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The 6th meeting of the Board of Directors will be held in Rio de Janeiro in 2001.

It has been decided that the city of Rio de Janeiro will be the host city of the 8th Conference of the League of Historical Cities in 2002.

(The next 7th Conference will be held in Montpellier in France in 2000.)



The Carnival in Rio de Janeiro

## INTERVIEW

## Yuichi Masuda

Director General of the Secretariat of the League of Historical Cities, Vice Mayor of Kyoto

**What do you expect of the 7th Conference of Historical Cities in Montpellier next year?**

The next World Conference of Historical Cities is scheduled to be held in Montpellier in the commemorative year of 2000. The preparatory meeting was held on June 21 in Montpellier between the host city, Montpellier and the secretariat city, Kyoto. We are making preparations about concrete procedure of the Conference and invitation letter to member cities.

The number of our member cities has reached 60. I wish many member cities will come to Montpellier, and have an active exchange of opinions.

**What kind of activity or project do you have in your city regarding the aim of League of Historical Cities?**

Endowed with over 1200 years of history since her foundation as the capital Heian-kyo (794 A.D.), gifted with exceptional natural beauty and a concentration of fine culture, including but not confined to 14 world cultural heritage properties, Kyoto represents Japan as a world-famous historic and cultural city with 1,460,000 inhabitants.

For generations, the citizens of Kyoto have cultivated a city of outstanding scenic beauty, and now it is our duty to hand this heritage on to our descendants.

Laws and ordinances have been enacted to conserve the scenic beauty and historical landscapes around Kyoto. Aiming at the



preservation of urban landscapes, an integrated plan was institutionalized in 1972 for the first time in Japan: the Kyoto Municipal Ordinance on Cityscape.

Among the many systems established by the ordinances is Special Preservation Area of Traditional Buildings System. For districts where traditional townscape especially typical of Kyoto exist, this system requires preservation of the exterior of traditional town houses, and restoration of the exterior of buildings which no longer retain their original traditional styles. It also provides grant subsidies to partially cover the expenses needed for such repair works.

Recently, forty-five buildings such as tradesman's house (Machiya) were registered as "edifice with historic design" in order to keep a traditional landscape of ancient Kyoto.

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

Various administrative policies for preservation are taken in the Historical Cities in the world.

We would like the LHC to function as a means to get a useful information to cope with a difficult demand to satisfy the contradictory needs in our administrative management through the newsletter or the Conference. These are the need to preserve historical city and the need to modernize the city function.

**Will you give a message to the members of the League of Historical Cities?**

The election of the principal officers such as the chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons, and Directors will be held in the General Assembly of the League of Historical Cities in Montpellier. I wish member cities to come to the next Montpellier Conference which is held once in every two year in order to make it successful as much as possible.

*Access to Secretariat.*

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