

WORLD HISTORICAL CITIES

The League of Historical Cities Bulletin No.39: June 2006

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Budapest, A City of Minuscule Wonders

Cover Photo: Monumental windows (District XIV. 39 Ajt—si Džrer Lane)

*The 10th World Conference of Historical Cities
in Ballarat, October 29 - November 1, 2006*

A City of Minuscule Wonders
 by Dr. Katalin Kiss, Architect, Specialist for Architectural Heritage
 Department for Protection of Settlement Heritage / City of Budapest

What does the protection of urban appearance mean in Budapest?

When one considers this issue, there are several points to be taken into account. The beauty and unique character of the Hungarian capital is partly due to its unparalleled location and partly to its specific architectural treasures. There are relatively few buildings of particularly outstanding aesthetic value among these last, or buildings which are prominent due to their construction several centuries ago. Instead there are a large number of houses, ensembles of buildings, streets, and quarters of the city that radiate charm and a pleasant atmosphere of their own, and which were built with great mastery and care. One could say that Budapest is not a city of a few world-famous artistic treasures, but more a place of 'minuscule wonders', and this is the primary reason why tourists visit and citizens love it.

The next point of consideration, which cannot be disregarded and is visible to all who live in this city, is that the building stock significantly deteriorated during the decades after World War II. Occasional renovation and campaign-like serial refurbishing was done, primarily in the most conspicuous locations, but by and large it was rather lack of ownership, neglect and decay that characterized the city. This particularly affected the 'minuscule wonders' mentioned above, buildings which did not enjoy heritage protection, the ornamentation of facades, statues, gateways and glass windows.

A third crucial fact is the lack of resources: owners of property, whether private individuals or institutions, usually do not



The fountain of the Danaides (District V. Szomory Dezső Square)

This small square in the inner city has an intimate, almost Mediterranean atmosphere, particularly since the bronze statue with the polished red marble plinth and basin was restored with the assistance of the Heritage Fund.



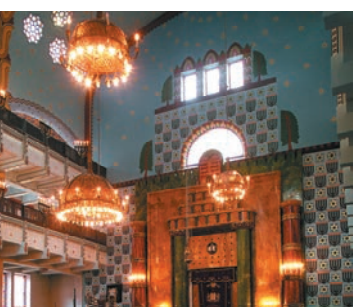
The riches of detail (District V., 3 Hold Street)

As a result of restoration the facade, dating from the turn of the 19th-20th centuries is again visible in its captivating richness of detail, and its beauty radiates over its environment, lending real stature to the inner city of Pest.



A jewel box next to the housing estate (District XXII. 15 Terv Street)

The former cemetery chapel of Budafok, an architectural jewel and part of Budafok's rich heritage was saved from total decay by the Assistance for the Protection of Settlement Value.



Art Nouveau in the Workers' Home (District XXI. 1 őrpart Road)

The building of the Csepel Workers' Home conceals a treasure which cannot be seen from the outside: a theater hall in Art Nouveau style, built between 1917 and 1920, and used by local workers not only for performances but also for balls and dances.

Step-by-step renovation (District VII. 29-31 Kazinczy Street)

possess the sums necessary for independent restoration of these (often badly damaged) buildings and structures. And naturally, the State, the local governments of districts and the Municipality cannot afford to simply take on the task of renovating buildings which they do not own. (It should be added that using public funds in this way would raise justified criticism on the grounds of proportionate sharing of public burden and fair redistribution.)

How, then, is it possible to pursue an effective policy for the protection of urban appearance?

It is necessary to create constructs of assistance suited to allocating resources even for works of smaller scale or lesser significance. Constructs designed to grant supplementary sums to other available resources. Support allowing for the realization of works phased out and prolonged for several years. Flexible assistance tailored to individual cases. Furthermore, professional assistance as well as money should be allocated, along with professional control over the renovation work.

During the past years the Municipality has elaborated two constructs of support for tasks in the field of protecting urban appearance.

One is Assistance to the Protection of Settlement Value (TfT). Subsidies may be obtained on the basis of applications invited annually for the restoration of buildings not included in the national heritage list, but which classified by the Municipality in the category of buildings and ensembles of buildings enjoying local protection. TfT partly gives non-refundable grants, and partly repayable loans (money collected as

repayment may subsequently increase the funds to be distributed).

The other means of support, serving similar purposes, is the Heritage Fund, the subject of the current publication. Its main advantage is that it is totally flexible: heritage buildings, buildings under local protection, and others not classified in either of these categories, may receive non-refundable subsidy. Therefore it is highly suited for offering supplementary resources in individual cases, even on occasions when worthwhile renovation would otherwise be halted for the lack of funds, or when insufficient funds may jeopardize the completion of an important piece of work in progress.

The Municipal Heritage Fund was established over a decade ago; initially it had a couple of million forints at its disposal, whereas in 2004 we could allocate almost 70 million for supporting reconstructions. During this period partial restorations were effected on almost six hundred buildings: certain representative cases are presented in this volume.

As a result of subsidies granted by TfT and the Heritage Fund, altogether more than one thousand works have been completed, to the point where the strollers of Budapest already sense the extent of achievement. The elaborated constructs of support seem to have worked, and the urban appearance of Budapest, even if at the cost of major efforts, has been continuously and spectacularly regaining its characteristic beauty.

We are proud of having been able to participate in this work during the last decade, together with our fellow representatives working in the Committee for Urban Planning and the Protection of Urban Image.



The power of joint effort (District VII, 35 Dob Street)
The Art Nouveau-style building owned by the Hungarian Autonomous Orthodox Israelite Community exemplifies how significant cultural and architectural treasures can be saved if the resources of the State and of the Municipality are united.



Minerva from a peacetime garden (District XI, 5 Rezeda Street)
The four-meter tall limestone statue of Minerva, the work of an unknown Italian artist stands in the sizable park of an early 20th century beautiful villa built on Gellőrt Hill in Rezeda Street.



A fresco by István Szónyi at the post office (District XXI, 22 Szent Imre Square)

The post office in the center of Csepel is a characteristic modern flat-roofed building ; it was completed in 1949. The unique feature of the building is the large fresco by István Szónyi on the slightly sloping wall looking at the audience from 1957.



History incorporated in two statues (District XII, 48 Márvány Street)

The bas-reliefs ornamenting the gates of the four-story block of flats, commissioned by the Hungarian Royal Defence Pension Contribution Fund in 1929, represent soldiers cast to the ground but looking upwards.

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Invitation to the 10th World Conference
of Historical Cities
in Ballarat, October 29 - November 1, 2006



CALL FOR PAPERS
Round Table Forums on Oct.31 & Nov.1

The 10th conference will provide member cities, guest cities and other delegates with the opportunity to share information and discuss issues relating to how to improve the quality of life of the world community in the 21st century in the pursuit of world peace. The overarching theme of the 10th Conference is "Sustainable Historical Cities: Economics, Preservation and Visions for the Future". The natural sub themes to emerge from this major theme are "Sustainability, Economic Viability, and Future Directions for cities". The following topics have been selected for the round table. Questions and considerations have been listed under each topic to prompt and assist prospective speakers in preparing papers and case studies for possible presentation at the conference.

Topic1 'Protection and Guidance'

The integration of heritage protection into policies, strategies and management programs to protect the historic urban setting.

Questions and considerations on this topic:

- * How do we improve, develop and/or implement legislative, regulatory, administrative or management measures to address the needs for protection and adequate control of historical cities?
- * Is legislative protection the only way? Are other more innovative initiatives being developed and used successfully to protect historical cities and neighborhoods?
- * Policies, strategies and/or guidelines - what are their strengths, weaknesses, successes,

failures? How do they compare?

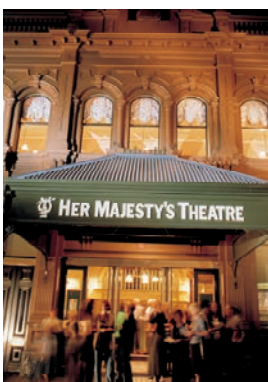
- * Strategies for financing urban heritage conservation
- * Carrots or sticks: Incentives or regulations? What works best?
- * Mechanisms to facilitate the protection and enhancement of heritage as well as plan for a sustainable future
- * Shifts in strategies
- * Practical experience in implementing conservation objectives

Topic2 'Impact and Benefit'

How the sustainable management of the historic environment can lead to the social and economic regeneration of historic centers - urban renaissance through heritage regeneration.

Questions and considerations on this topic:

- * What are the benefits of heritage conservation? How do we measure them? Can it be measured?
- * Urban Heritage as a cultural, social and economic asset
- * Heritage Conservation and Sustainable Tourism
- * The social and economic value of public-private cooperation in conservation
- * Profiting through preservation - is conservation the most sustainable development act of all - a long-term investment that will accumulate value over time?
- * Urban conservation and market forces - realizing the economic and social potential of heritage
- * Generating funds for preservation
- * Job creation through conservation - direct and indirect opportunities



Her Majesty's Theatre

- * What are the current legal and economic implications of heritage "ownership"?
- * What role does adaptive reuse of historic buildings play in sustainable development?

Topic3 'Desire and Expectation'

There is more to heritage than buildings and artifacts - there are also values and attitudes, memories and stories. Urban development is a complex issue of interrelated social, economic and legal interests, not all of which have the same desires and expectations for 'preservation' and 'development'.

Questions and considerations on this topic:

- * Managing change in historical cities: different perspectives and divergent economic interests
- * Resident Action Groups - motivations, strategies, knowledge, understanding, skills
- * Community involvement and public awareness - strengthening community skills in heritage conservation
- * How do we 'preserve' a living historic environment? Is modern urban life in conflict with historical preservation?
- * Conservation for whom?
- * What do we value & why?
- * Property and Heritage: whose property? whose heritage?
- * The developers' perspective: conservation versus development, or conservation as part of development?

Topic4 'Evolution and Innovation'

The major challenge for historical cities of harmonizing new economic and social needs with the original urban pattern without compromising the identity and authenticity of the historic city.

Questions and considerations on this topic:

- * Challenges and opportunities - balancing the imperatives of preservation, transformation, modernization, and ecologically sustainable development of historic urban
- * Inserting contemporary architecture and

urban development into the historic urban landscape - to what extent is change possible if historical cities are to maintain their historic character and identity?

- * Developers and conservators: natural enemies or are there many opportunities for successful partnerships?
- * Sustainable management of our historic towns relies upon the protection of historic urban areas. This requires heritage to be valued and its potential exploited - but are we in danger of killing "the Golden Goose"?
- * Innovative solutions to the adaptation of heritage buildings for contemporary needs - creative examples that retain heritage significance
- * Ensuring the future of our historic urban landscape - developing a mutual understanding between policy makers, urban planners, city developers, architects, conservationists, property owners, investors and concerned citizens
- * Responsible and proactive management of use and change in the historic environment - revitalization and rehabilitation

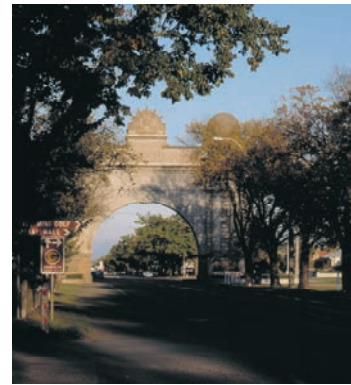
Guidelines for Submission of Abstracts

The City wishing to present a paper at the Round Table Forum is invited to forward an abstract in English and provide the following information. Each City is allocated 15 min.

Description of presentation

- * Proposed title
- * Name, affiliation and contact information including your e-mail address
- * Indicate under which topic you wish your proposal to be considered
- * Context, aim, methodology, results and main conclusions of the work to be reported
- * Form of presentation (lecture, PowerPoint presentation, film etc)

For further information regarding the content of themes or the call for papers process, please contact Mr. Brenton Thomas (E-mail: brentonthomas@ballarat.vic.gov.au) of the Committee. Please also visit the 10th



Arch of Victory



Sovereign Hill



Conservatory in the Ballarat Botanical Garden

*<Online Registration>
Register now to take advantage of the discounted Early Bird registration fee.*

The early bird fee of AUS\$500 will be extended to 31 August 2006 and includes all meals, activities such as the heritage sites tour and the tour of Melbourne on 2 Nov. and one night's accommodation.

Committee of the 10th World Conference of Historical Cities

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Official Web Site of the 10th Conference

<http://www.leaguehistoricalcities-ballarat.com>

Montreal



An Heritage Policy for Montreal

The Montreal community has long expressed the desire for Montreal to adopt a heritage policy. It is thus with a very special pride that I am presenting the results of the deliberations that we have pursued in 2004/2005 with the general public and with our partner organizations. This important moment in Montreal's history represents major contribution to heritage recognition for Quebec, for Canada and for the world as a whole.

We are breaking ground with this first Heritage Policy as we did earlier when we established the first Conseil du patrimoine de Montreal (Montreal heritage council), and when we created portfolio to deal with a tool for planning and for carrying out activities that confirms its commitment to preserve and to promote key features in identity of Montreal, a metropolis that is dedicated to building an inspiring future by putting its past to good use.

Our heritage is a key to our future and puts Montreal in the lead in this area among North American cities. Making the most of our collective heritage is a big task. It means that we must take into account heritage issues

whenever matters of urban, social, cultural or economic development emerge. This means that a balance must be struck between an all-encompassing vision of urban planning and promotion of each borough's distinctive features.

Our Policy places heritage at the heart of the municipal efforts. The city is committed, in its implementation of this Policy, to act as an exemplary leader in organizing its heritage-related efforts. Such a process requires the participation of all, including our residents, our property developers and the higher levels of government (Quebec and Canada). Together, we can carry out mutually supporting and well-coordinated activities aimed at preserving the distinctive character of our city and attesting to who we are. We were pleased to outline to the heritage network in particular and to the Montreal community in general a vision for working together to meet our common goals.

The adoption of this Policy represents a watershed in pursuing our major goal of providing this great city with all the tools it needs to carve out a place for itself among the leading metropolises of the 21st century.

*Gerald Tremblay
The Mayor of Montreal*

Konya at the Crossroad of Civilizations

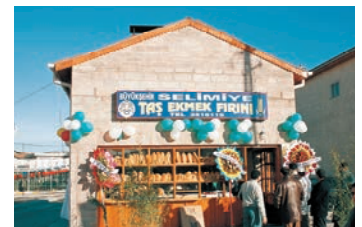
Cities are not simply settlements areas possessing particular functions. Just like live organisms, cities grow up and develop. The architectural activities of the people living in the cities and the accumulated culture and art have an important place among the factors that give cities life and enable them to take on particular characteristics. Cities possess a city culture deriving from their natural and historical features, citizens possess an historical city consciousness. Konya is a very old city in Euro-Asia (Anatolia). One of the oldest cities in the history of civilization (BC8000-5500) and Neolithic Site Catalhoyuk found in Konya. <http://www.catalhoyuk.com>

Konya gained its city identity in the true sense of the word during the period of the Anatolian Seljuks (1213). It had gained an important reputation among Middle Age Turkish - Islamic Cities for its philosophy, science, culture, education centers, city walls, public squares, bazaars and neighborhoods. Konya was a capital city where the world's heart beat in the 13th century. It had become a city of knowledge, culture, arts and Islamic mysticism. Famous People like Mevlana Jalal

Ed Din Rumi are monumental personalities and spaces which have played an important role in creation of Konya's identity and Islamic Mysticism. Konya city is an open museum with hundreds of historical buildings, houses and gardens.

The development continued during the Ottoman Empire period (1460-1920). It grew continuously by means of broad agricultural areas, trade and a lively internal economy. Konya was adorned with important mosques and madrasahs during this period. It preserved the special characteristics of being a city of culture and art which it had acquired during Seljuk Period. Konya is continuing to protect this important trait today.

The Metropolitan Municipality has begun a series of tasks to protect and repair historical works and the environment. These works are being continued in cooperation with interested organizations.





Mr. Yorikane Masumoto, Mayor of Kyoto, President of the LHC, has called out for assistance to all the member cities for Yogyakarta, where powerful earthquake flattened the ancient city on 27 May, 2006. Yogyakarta has struggled to cope with the scale of the earthquake disaster.

I was deeply distressed to receive the sad news of damages in central Indonesia caused by the powerful earthquake on the morning of May 27th, 2006. It is quite painful to hear of heavy casualties in the Yogyakarta Special District and the city of Yogyakarta in particular - a member city of the LHC. On behalf of the LHC, I would like to extend my deepest condolences to the family of those who have passed away or suffered injuries.

Citizens of historical cities across the world have strived tirelessly to foster their unique traditional cultures. Historical cities are valuable cultural assets created by the hands of mankind, and should be handed down to future generations. However, the earthquakes in Yogyakarta - the symbolic historical city of Indonesia - have caused serious damage to its important cultural properties and historical townscapes.

The big earthquake of the 16th century once collapsed the Prambanan Temple, a spectacular Hindu temple built in the late 9th century inscribed in the World Heritage List, and restoration work had been taking place since 1937. To our sorrow, many of the stone buildings were broken again due to this horrible disaster.

Historical Cities of the world have been created by our forerunners, and continue to speak to us in the present thanks to the persistent efforts for preservation and restoration. It is pitiful to lose such a precious historical inheritance with universal value to such an unfortunate event. I sincerely hope that the stricken areas will see its revival as soon as possible. As President of the LHC, I would like to donate one million Japanese yen to Yogyakarta as a token of our sympathy. This has already been sent through the Consul General of the Republic of Indonesia Osaka in Japan.

The LHC is the international organization that hopes to deepen mutual understanding among Historical Cities by transcending national boundaries and building on the commonalities, with each member city partnered to one another. I have already called out for assistance to all the member cities immediately following the quake, to think about what we can do for the City of Yogyakarta. Here again, I would appreciate it very much if you could offer your kind support and cooperation in the name of the recovery and regeneration of a historical city, in addition to, of course, your considerations toward the victims of this disaster.

Yorikane Masumoto
Mayor of Kyoto
President of the League of Historical cities



Announcement

Notice of Change

The LHC's bank, (former UFJ Bank Ltd.) merged with the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, Ltd. on January 1, 2006 and change its name to "the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ,Ltd.". Due to the merger, the SWIFT address,etc. were changed as follows.

Bank : The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, Ltd.
Branch : Kyoto Branch
Account Name : the League of Historical Cities
Description : Ordinary Deposit
Account Number : 5258586
Swift Code : BOTKJPJT

Bank Address : 689, Takanna-cho, Karasuma-dori,
Shijo-agaru, Nakagyo-ku, Kyoto, JAPAN
Zip Code : 604-8153
Tel :+81-75-211-1116
Fax :+81-75-211-8553

From the Secretariat



The Challenges of Sustainable Historical Cities :
 respect for past and future generations
 United Nations Human Settlements Programme : Mr. Daniel Biau



Daniel Biau
 Director of Technical Cooperation Division
 UN Human Settlements Programme
 Nairobi, Kenya (UN-HABITAT)

Daniel Biau is the Director of Technical Cooperation at UN-Habitat headquarters in Nairobi. Born in France, he is a specialist of housing and urban development policies, with thirty years of international experience.

Cities have played a most important role in the world's history, particularly since the birth of urban democracy in Athens, 2500 years ago. They have been engines of growth and incubators of civilization. In many regions and during various periods, cities have been more powerful than states, both in commercial and political terms. Today, with the global trend towards decentralization, a number of cities are becoming major players as financial and technological hubs. The role of UN-Habitat as the City Agency of the United Nations is to support towns and cities in the developing world, to improve urban governance and to promote sustainable urbanization policies. Historical cities are those cities, large and small, which have made outstanding contributions to the world's history and whose architectural heritage is preserved and well alive today. A key challenge for local authorities is to ensure the sustainable development of these cities. This can be summarized by three inter-related goals; environmental protection, social development and economic growth. Under each of these three pillars of sustainability, local leaders have to address difficult issues.

Environmental Protection Local Authorities should identify areas of historical significance and establish clear conservation goals. They should preserve and maintain the architectural heritage, but also improve and renew the urban fabric. The challenge is to preserve and rehabilitate existing places while cautiously introducing new buildings and infrastructure. Cities cannot be

considered as museums, they are living organisms. Historical continuity and contemporary ideas can be associated, and provided cultural identity is respected and continuously affirmed by architects and planners. Environmental protection should be a priority everywhere. In historical cities, it must be a top priority.

Social Development Cities are a mix of buildings and human beings, they are made of social communities inter-acting in particular spaces. In many programmes of rehabilitation and renovation of old districts, local authorities have to face the risk of gentrification, resulting in the exclusion of low-income groups and their replacement by intellectual and financial elites. This is sometimes called "market-eviction" of the poor, who end up in faraway suburbs. Local authorities should encourage broad civic participation in rehabilitation projects and link adequately conservation and social policies through fiscal incentives and targeted subsidies.

Economic Growth Historical cities are becoming more and more attractive to private investors. This global trend presents both opportunities and risks. Opportunities because investors can and should contribute to preservation projects which, by increasing the cultural value of the city, also improve their corporate image and financial returns. Risks because some investments, particularly in the tourism sector, can have a negative impact on local residents. Local authorities should therefore adopt a careful approach and enforce strict regulations, in order to ensure that economic growth does not harm the built environment and the cultural identity of their city.

Respecting the Past and the Future In view of the above-mentioned challenges, it appears that the definition of sustainable development could be amended to suit the specific conditions of historical cities. I wish to submit to LHC's consideration the following wording: "Sustainable Historical Cities are cities that meet the needs of present generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, and that respect and valorize the contribution of past generations to their cultural and architectural heritage". What matters is indeed to respect simultaneously the contributions of the past and the needs of the future. The experience of several UN-Habitat programmes and of LHC members show that this challenge can be successfully addressed. *Daniel Biau is the*

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Craig's Hotel