

Riga ~ The City of Inspiration ~

Cover Photo: View of the Riga Old Town

*Invitation to the 11th World Conference
of Historical Cities in Konya, Turkey*

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WORLD HISTORICAL CITIES

The League of Historical Cities Bulletin

No.46: March 2008

"Riga - The City of Inspiration"

Outline of Riga

To eight hundred years of history it has been city of Riga, to us it is the City of Inspiration. Riga is the geographical centre of the Baltic States. The territory of the city covers 307 km² with about 734,000 inhabitants. All the architectural styles of Western Europe can be found in Riga's architecture. Old buildings with Roman and Gothic features stand side-by-side with Renaissance, Mannerism, Baroque, Classicism and colourful Art Nouveau architecture.

Riga's name was first mentioned in 1198, but its year of foundation is deemed to be 1201, when Bishop Albert moved his Residence from the neighbouring Ikskile to this place near the ancient River Riga or Ridzene. Since 11th and 12th centuries craftsmen, fishermen and merchants lived here in Livonian and ancient Latvian villages. The city obtained its name from the ancient River Riga which flowed into the River Daugava.

Riga's advantageous geographical position has fostered the development of the city at all times. Each century has provided Riga with new features that appear in architecture, street planning and scenery of parks. Nowadays, when the growth of the city is more rapid than it was during the post-war years, unusual changes take place in the city's environment. New economical challenges and Riga's competitiveness in the world's market require the usage of new infrastructure and modern building technologies, simultaneously bearing in mind the significance of the heritage being maintained and the renovation issues.

Heritage of the City - Historic Centre of Riga

The Historic Centre of Riga is a World Heritage Site No 852, inscribed upon the UNESCO World Heritage List on December 7, 1997. The World Heritage Committee has acknowledged that "...the historic centre of Riga, while retaining its medieval and later urban fabric relatively intact, is of outstanding universal value by virtue of the quality and the quantity of its Art Nouveau/Jugendstil architecture, which is unparalleled anywhere in the world,



Latvian National Opera

and its 19th century architecture in wood." 4,383 hectares of the Historic Centre of Riga (i.e., 1.4% of city area) contain approximately 4,000 buildings. Historic Centre of Riga comprises three different cityscapes: Old Town, Ring of Boulevards and Art Nouveau centre, every one of them possessing its own and different urban fabric.

Old Town grew up around the original settlement of the Livs and harbour of German invaders on the banks of the River Ridzene. Fragments of the first city wall masonry and the serpentine street patterns show how the river gave the Old Town its basic form. Further development was fostered by three competitive groups: clergy, knights of Livonian Order and Riga's citizens - merchants and craftsmen.

Ring of Boulevards with its main element, the city canal, embraces the Old Town forming a crescent with River Daugava completing it.



Panorama view to the Old Riga and the Left Bank of the Daugava



DOMA Church

Riga - The City of Inspiration
 Riga City Council, City Development Department,
 Urban Planning Board, Republic of Latvia

The park system was created after 1856, when the reconstruction of the 17th century fortification system, built by Swedish military engineers, was begun. This large scale green space with free standing significant public buildings and boulevard blocks is an excellent counterpoint to the Old Town.

The perimeter of Art Nouveau blocks was a result of expansion of the city after the fire in 1812 that totally destroyed former suburbs. The blocks were laid out following the earlier lines of roads and streets, and this is why the grid pattern lacks the monotony of a mechanically regular layout. Buildings comprise mainly Art Nouveau (about 40%) and eclectic architectural styles of the early 20th century. The majority of the buildings are five-storey apartment houses built before the WWII with height of cornice up to 21.3 meters. These rows are here and there interrupted by one or two-storey wooden buildings from the 19th century.

Historical heritage issues are undoubtedly utterly significant for the future development of Riga. We try our utmost to develop Riga into a modern city at the same time preserving the historically formed cultural diversity of it. The City Development Department of the Riga City Council on the 7th of February 2006 introduced and approved long-term development plan. Main concepts of this plan are conservation and promotion of cultural and archaeological heritage, natural values and traditional environment as well as developing it into a place for active and modern business, tourism, trade, state administration and leisure.

Decentralisation of the City

River Daugava flows through Riga splitting it in two halves. The centre of Riga, with most of the city's daily activities, is located on the right bank of the river and Pardaugava on the left. Currently the City Development Department of the Riga City Council is working on two major projects that will leave a substantial influence on the development of the left bank of the River Daugava.

This will not only change the silhouette

of the left bank, but also functionality.

New development traits of Pardaugava are driven by necessity to provide space for further growth of the city and thrivings to preserve cultural values that this city has brought with it through time. Situation of building and territory exploitation of the Daugava's left bank has been forming for centuries. Several projects for particular territories have been developed during the late 20th Century - Press House, Vansu Bridge, Salu Bridge, complex of Riga Technical University buildings, shopping centre "Olimpija" and central building of "Hansabanka". All together this has given the left bank of the Daugava its current shape.

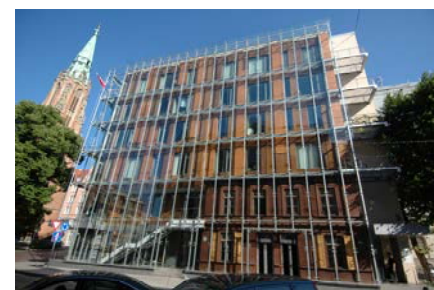
Dynamics of building processes in the beginning of the 21st Century, technical possibilities in conjuncture with real estate market and Riga's desire to be the Baltic metropolis altogether are conditions fostering fast formation of the Daugava's left bank's new silhouette. For the first time in history centre of the city expands to the territory of the Daugava's left bank. This will complement traditional brand of Riga City with a concentrated silhouette of high-riser groups.

Although there are several important public buildings and service objects located on the Daugava's left bank territory, preparation of new projects involving cultural and public objects of national and local importance is a significant factor for further development of the territory. Latvian National Library, Acoustic Concert Hall and administrative centre of the city give major guarantee for the long-term interest of expanding central part of the city to the Daugava's left bank.

Work of the City Development Department is aimed at balancing the city's economical growth, building development and the inflow of investments with protection and maintenance of cultural heritage preserving Riga's unique and varied building character.



Statue of Roland in the Town hall square



Contemporary renovated wooden building



Development suggestion of the Daugava left bank

For further information

Riga City Council
City Development Dept.
Urban Planning Board

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<http://www.riga.lv>

to be held in Konya, Turkey from June 10 to 13, 2008

Invitation to the 11th World Conference
of Historical Cities



Mevlana Museum

Welcome to the 11th World Conference update news.

The secretariat would like to introduce the attraction of Konya city in this issue.

It will be a precious experience for you to get together in such an attractive city with the people from all over the world to exchange ideas and opinions under the theme of "Living Cultral Heritage in Historical Cities".

KONYA, LAND OF PEACE AND LOVE

At the middle of Anatolia which conjuncts Asia and Europe with its province of forty thousand km2 which is today bigger than many other world countries, Konya has been an important centre for many civilizations in the history. In every footstep, Konya cuddles with history; at the same time in our modern era, it is one of the unique cities, which harmonizes people's cultural ties and customs with modern life style. Konya is one of the unique cities that combine heritage brought from the history within the equipments that are essential requirements of the life to live with its people.

A LOVE SPRING: MAWLANA JALALEDDIN RUMI

Mawlana Jalaleddin Rumi, who is a unique personality, enlightened humanity by his teachings influenced all over the world for centuries. The journey, which was started from Balkh, lasted years and ended up in Konya, gifted soul person and an artist Mawlana for humanity. Konya became a city which is known as with peace, love and tolerance by the teachings of Mawlana. His work (Mathnawi) enlightens so many hearts today, the messages given to the humanity is echoed every corner of the world.

A CITY OF HISTORY, CULTURE & CIVILIZATION

What has been echoed in Konya is a magnificent story which extents from the past

to the future. The pleasant sound of voice of the civilization that left deep traces every individual's soul is spread out road by road street by street.

Catalhuyuk is one of the most significant archaeological fields. Its past goes back to 7000-8000 B.C. ; as it will be a project for the past of Konya and gives an important information about the first permanent settlement province of the human history, first house architecture , first holy building and regarding the social life of the first period of humanity.

Catalhuyuk, which is located within the province of Konya, is known as a centre for the first cultivation made in the world history, common defense made against wild animals, first fire were discovered and the first permanent settlement were made. Konya, which has been playing a central role being a cradle for many civilizations and as the discovery of writing is remembered, began 3500 B.C., Konya is considered one of the oldest settlements of the world history.

With its mosques, churches, caravanserais, madrasas, inns, Turkish baths, Konya is the most prosperous capital city of the Middle Age. This land, which tolerance has found an abode for years, is a soul city, which forlorn and oppressed shelter in it any longer.

<Program for the 11th World Conference of Historical Cities>

Conference Venue: Dedeman Hotel, Konya

Day 1 (June 10)

- 09:00 Registration
- 10:00 Opening Ceremony
- 12:00 Lunch
- 13:00 Workshop 1 Urban Identity
Workshop 2 Living Heritage
- 15:30 Workshop 3 Cultural Diversity
Workshop 4 Crossroads of Cultures
- 19:00 Welcome Dinner & Entertainment

Day 3 (June 12)

- 09:00 Keynote Speech
- 11:00 Round Table 3 Policies & Evaluation
- 12:30 Lunch
- 13:30 General Assembly of the LHC
- 14:30 City Tour
- 19:00 Closing Ceremony

Day 2 (June 11)

- 09:00 Round Table 1
Urban Identity & Living Heritage
- 12:00 Lunch
- 13:00 Round Table 2
Cultural Diversity & Crossroads of Cultures
- 15:30 City Tour
- 19:30 Dinner & Concert

Day 4 (June 13, Optional)

- Post Conference Tour to Cappadocia

(Please note that this program is subject to change)

The Secretariat would like to draw your attention that the mayor of Kyoto, i.e. the Chairperson of the League of Historical Cities has been replaced.

Mr. Daisaku Kadokawa was assigned as the new mayor of the City of Kyoto with effect from February 25, 2008 by the mayoral election upon the expiration of the term of the mayor Yorikane Masumoto. The following is the message from Mr. Daisaku Kadokawa.



civilization and the world peace, in realizing such an important role of the League.

The 11th World Conference of Historical Cities will be held in Konya, Turkey in this coming June, first time in the Islamic Region. I would like to invite all the member cities to participate in the Conference. It will be a precious experience for all of you to exchange various ideas and policies with other participants under the theme of "Living Cultural Heritage in Historical Cities". As the Chairperson of the League, I will try my best to support the host city of Konya in order to lead the conference a great success.

I appreciate your continuous support and cooperation to the management of the League of Historical Cities.

I am very much looking forward to seeing you all at the 11th World Conference of Historical Cities in Konya.

Sincerely,

Daisaku Kadokawa

*Chairperson of the League of Historical Cities,
Mayor of Kyoto*



View of Konya City

Konya, the widest city of Turkey, shares with us its historical heritages and modern aspect.

It is my great pleasure to send my cordial greetings to every member city of the League of Historical Cities as the Chairperson of the League.

Nowadays, the decentralization of power from central government to local governments has been promoted on a global scale and the importance of city-to-city cooperation has been emphasized.

Under this circumstance, the LHC, established in 1994, has promoted the borderless exchange and constructive dialogue among historical cities. The League has been contributed to the development of communication among cities. I would like to take this opportunity to express my determination to strengthen the activities of the League as well as to contribute to the further development of



Catalhoyuk

The place where humanity searched himself was started here.

<Presentaters Wanted ! >

The City of Konya is seeking people interested in making a presentation in the conference based on the subthemes either "Urban Identity", "Cultural Diversity", "Living Heritage", or "Crossroads of Cultures" .

Note: Mayors are to be in the roundtable forums (June 11) and Experts are to be in the workshops (June 10)

Please choose the subtheme (see the bulletin No.45 or visit the conference official website for the details) you would like to talk about and contact the City of Konya at

Mr. Ali Uslu (Phone: +90-332-3528-111 Fax: +90-332-3526-777 e-mail: aliuslu@mkm.gov.tr)

<How to Register for the Conference>

Registration Fee: **US\$500.00-**

(the early birds who register by April 30 get 3 nights free accommodation!!)

There are two alternatives to register such as:

1. **Internet** (Please visit the official website at <http://www.leaguehistoricalcities-konya.com>)
2. **Fax or post the registration form** which you can download from the above official website or find the form enclosed with the invitation letter from the City of Konya and Kyoto.

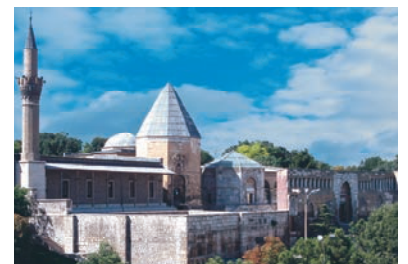
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Mevlana Museum

Today, Mevlana has been continuing to enlighten hearts of people, to spread light to spirits from Konya to the world.



Aladdin Camii

Every corner of Konya is surrounded by heritage of the civilization of Seljuk Empire.

Evolution and Innovation
 Round-Table Forum IV with Norwich, Konya & Melbourne
 Review of the 10th Conference in Ballarat

Case Study in Norwich:
 "A Strategic Approach to Heritage led Regeneration"

1 **NORWICH**
EUROPEAN HERITAGE CITY
 I saw, with pleasure and surprise, the beautiful towers of Norwich...No situation can it surpass in any nation.
 Alexander Geddes 1742

England's second city throughout most of the medieval period and still has

- two cathedrals
- 'the finest secular building of its period in Europe'
- more Pre-Reformation churches than any other city north of the Alps
- the largest walled centre with the most complete medieval street pattern in England
- more than 1500 listed buildings
- 'the grandest market place and very best market in England'

2 **Mind the GAP**
 recognising the failures

The Heritage GAP is

- **Incrementalism & Fragmentation** – of both the product and the agencies working on elements of it
- **Lack of Focus** – no single vision of where Heritage in a particular location is going
- **Little recognition of the Resource Burden** – funding agencies sometimes see bits of the trees but never see the whole wood – and no one helps them to see it
- **Rarely a Regeneration Product** – how often do we think of joined up heritage as a driver
- **Negligible Demonstration of Benefits** – 'its all about doing up the odd old building isn't it?'
- **No Promotion** – we don't really tell people about it – even local people

3 **Heritage Economic & Regeneration Trust Summary**

- A private, charitable company
- Tasked with:
 - > Acting as the single, co-ordinating organisation to strategically plan, regenerate, manage and promote all heritage resources in Norwich
 - > Performing as a Best Practice Exemplar nationally and internationally to promote the economic benefits of heritage based regeneration
- Delivery of a £75m Business Plan over 10-15 years
- Establishing the co-ordinated delivery of one of the most outstanding cultural heritage products in Europe as a key driver for the local and regional economy

4 **Management Plan**
Building Blocks

- **The Great & The Good**
 - o A universally important set of heritage buildings, individually unique and capable of being developed as leading cultural, economic and social attractions for visitors and local people
- **The Strings of Pearls**
 - o A series of heritage collections, unique in the UK, capable of being developed as a linked portfolio of themed attractions
- **Time & Space**
 - o The largest and most complete medieval street pattern in England providing the 'glue' to bind the other elements together and a stage to create new economic and cultural activity

5 **Summary**
Direct Economic Benefits

- Increased footfall
- Longer stays (hours/days)
- More expenditure
- More intensive commercial exploitation of area
- More uses and spend on the street
- Increased property values
- Higher rents
- More repair/regeneration of sites therefore spin off construction investment
- New business formations
- New traders and therefore increased 'pulling power'
- Improvement in retail rankings
- New roles for public space stimulating tourism spend
- More and varied jobs created
- Improvement in quality of life assisting workforce recruitment and retention

6 **Summary**
Indirect Economic benefits

- Reduction in road deaths and injuries so cost reductions
- Wider health and well being benefits so reduction in health care/lost work days costs
- Reduction in vandalism and graffiti so minimised repair costs
- Reduction in crime and anti social behaviour and associated costs
- Removal of barriers previously inhibiting engagement in social and therefore economic activity
- Reduction in environmental impacts and therefore economic costs
- Reduction in long term build & maintenance costs
- Creation of new image – safe society, festival city, seasonal city, evening economy hub – to stimulate profile and investment

Case Study in Konya:
 "Outline and Policies of Konya"



Mr. Tahir Akyurek, Mayor of Konya

History of Konya city begins with the history of humanity and civilization. Findings show that signs of first permanent settlement of human history of 8000 B.C. were found in Catalhoyuk, Konya.

Other findings chronologically belongs to neolithic, paleolithic, early Bronze Age, Phrygians, Hittites, Lycian, Persian, Bergama Kingdom, The Romans, Sasanies & Amawiys, Byzantine. Konya, also the capital of Seljuk Empire, was a province of Ottoman Empire and now it is the largest city of Turkey Republic.

Kiristra in Konya is mentioned in the bible and because of that we have many visitors

come and see the historical monuments and findings. We recognize the responsibilities to preserve and protect those historical monuments. We think preserving and protecting the history and civilization may make some contribution to the world peace. We understand that the findings of historical excavation are not only something to watch and go away. They should be some understandings and some advise. At the same time, they have to live together with the city and people living that area.

In order to preserve and protect them, we cannot avoid the innovation and evolution. We have to continue to develop two things, past and future.

For example, we are trying to develop pedestrian ways for people to spend valuable time in the historical area.

Also, we are working on the restoration of old avenues and streets to make them alive as they were. The restoration project in the Byzantine historical area called Sille is also under way in order to grab people's attention. In the city area, the project of the lighting historical buildings and monuments are going on aiming at giving them a better view.



Craigs Royal Hotel, Ballarat

Case Study in Melbourne:

"Melbourne: Building Tomorrow's Historical Capital"

Melbourne is a young capital with an exciting history marked by significant events.

Founded in 1835 on the banks of the Yarra River, Melbourne is Australia's second largest city.

Initially a pastoral settlement, the very ordered town planning we enjoy today was carried out not long after settlement.

The discovery of gold in 1851, here in Ballarat and nearby in Bendigo, rapidly transformed Melbourne into an internationally important business centre.

The city was one of the richest in the world and earned the name 'Marvellous Melbourne'.

Melbourne was the birthplace of Australian Federation and the first Australian Parliament, so great was its influence during the early 20th century.

The magnificent buildings you will see on your tour tomorrow - the Royal Melbourne Exhibition Buildings, Melbourne Town Hall and Parliament House - are all legacies of this golden era.

With European foundation but Australian influence, the city's historical architecture reflects the immense wealth of the times.

One of our challenges is to ensure we not only maintain but fully utilise these grand old buildings and ensure modern

development does not detract from our glorious past.

We must also create the tomorrow's historical legacy.

Just as the World Heritage listed Royal Melbourne Exhibition Buildings represent the pinnacle of architecture and design in their day, we are determined that new buildings reflect the ambitions of our city today.

As development in Melbourne has rapidly increased, we have been consistently challenged in our commitment to appropriate development which enhances the city skyline and amenity.

The great European heritage cities are forever admired not just for a handful of impressive buildings or sculpted gardens, but for the beauty and charm of entire precincts.

Over time, the shape and function of city precincts has given rise to fantastic cultures expressed through arts, entertainment, food and architecture.

With this in mind, the City of Melbourne has taken a 'precinct approach', which sees us develop strategies for whole precincts in advance of development taking place.

Our collaboration with State Government on the billion dollar Docklands project taught us a great deal about complex developments.



Mr. Michael Loveday,
Chief Executive, Heritage Economic
& Regeneration Trust (HEART),
Norwich, UK



Mr. John So,
Lord Mayor of the City of Melbourne,
Australia

The mayor of the City of Chiang Mai has been replaced. Here is the greetings from the new mayor, Ms. Deuntendum Na-Chiangmai.



My very best wishes to all member cities of the League of Historical Cities.

As Mayor of Chiang Mai Municipality, I intend to fully support and cooperate for the work of the League of Historical Cities. I very much look forward to working closely with the member cities of the League of Historical Cities aiming to the development of each historical city at our common activities.

Captain Deuntendum Na-Chiangmai, Ph.D
Mayor of Chiang Mai Municipality



Chiang Mai City Arts and Cultural Center



Corner of Old Chiang Mai City's Moat



Wat Chiang Man, the first temple of Chiang Mai City

Greetings from New Mayor
Ms. Deuntendum Na-Chiangmai,
City of Chiang Mai, Thailand

Under the Protection of Historical Heritage

Associate Professor of the University of Selçuk: Dr. Onder Kutlu



Onder Kutlu
Associate Professor of Politics
University of Selçuk, Konya
Turkey

As great French philosopher Montesquieu named his famous book, 'the Spirit of Laws', with the intention of digging into the very heart of state systems and going beyond the appearance, the 'spirit of cities' also bear certain provisions for human history. Therefore, there is an obvious need to focus on 'spirit of cities', which is directly related to historical heritage and historical background any particular city experienced.

The same applies to human civilisation too. It owns very much to every nation living in the world, cities possess a considerable amount of heritage to provide preservation of civilisations as well. Therefore, historical heritage plays an important role in the preservation of culture, society, economy and politics. All these elements are complementary features of human beings. As a result, historical elements provide preservation to human beings in concrete terms. If history is protected, history protects society; implicit and explicit effects would be evident on human beings.

History and society should be regarded in an active mode. Imagine a place furnished with historical sites, buildings, monuments etc. People of this city will be completely different from those of cities with little or no historical heritage. Hence, they see, feel and experience the history around them. Readers of this bulletin are all aware of this issue.

Yet, one needs to stress the importance of historical heritage to protect human beings. There is a general negligence of environmental factors in historical heritage literature. Majority of attempts concentrates on preservation of historical heritage, quite often disregarding the vice versa, namely preservation of society by historical heritage.

Related to the effects, five main elements can be identified: toleration culture, consensual politics, active society, self-confidence, and open-society. Cities with rich historical heritage

can foster a toleration culture. These places might have multicultural elements, pluralism in terms of culture and living conditions, and inclusiveness. Multiculturalism does not necessarily require multi-ethnic structures. Instead, even in nation states and monolithically structured cities toleration becomes an integral part of everyday life. Besides, history may also bring the notion of inclusiveness rather than an exclusive society. Hence, living in a historical city is an invaluable experience for individuals. Therefore, people can feel free to be intact with 'others'. They are likely to include others rather than exclude.

Consensual politics can easily be implemented in historically rich cities, because living together with other people in a historical context requires inhabitants to find a way to please other views and ideas. Compromises and concessions are made in social environments. Besides, communication is usually easy, as people living in that area are careful of commenting on 'others'.

Active society is also an integral part of 'spirit of cities'. People of historical cities are expected to be curious and questioning, paying attention to what is going on around him/her, caring the people especially with disadvantages, and promoting social interaction. In addition, scale and scope of organisations and activities are quite intense. Environment may make human beings curious, claiming and questioning. This is especially visible in cities with rich historical background. History also provides a reasonable amount of courage to individuals. There is plenty of evidence drawn from this explanation that history may also help establish a democratic structure.

Self-confidence could be brought to the people of historical cities too. This confidence may lead to a rapidly expanding society in social, economical, cultural and political terms. This society can easily adapt to changes. People are expected to care human beings in the society.

Finally, historical heritage may pave the way for the establishment of an open society, as people would feel responsibility and surveillance by history. Since, people have the idea and shadow of history over them, they would keep history in their minds. This is a real positive prospect in the account of historical heritage.

In conclusion, historical heritage would protect society and political system, creating endurance, persistence and clear patterns for the successors to follow.

The League of Historical Cities Secretariat

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The 11th World Conference of Historical Cities in Konya, Turkey

Period : June 10 - 13, 2008

Venue : Dedeman Hotel, Konya

Theme : Living Cultural Heritage in Historical Cities

Fee : US\$500.00-

(early birds who register by April 30 get 3 nights free accommodation!!)

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Karatay sultan selim camii