

WORLD

The League of Historical Cities Bulletin

HISTORICAL CITIES

NO. 8: JULY 1996



Vienna's Grabenstraße and Pestsäule

VIENNA

Kyoto's Kamigamo District

5th World Conference in Xian

Member Cities' Update:

Zagreb

Barcelona

Interview



Stephansdom in Vienna

The Restoration of A Historic Building in VIENNA



Palais Harrach shortly after World War II



Palais Harrach after renovation

It is undoubtedly one of the most important concerns of historical cities to preserve buildings which possess high historical and artistic value. We must strive for a connection between the buildings' historical and cultural heritage and their modern-day functions and requirements.

One example of a particularly successful rehabilitation of a famous old building in Vienna is Palais Harrach, a building whose cultural assets have been decisive for Vienna's artistic reputation until today.

Located in the centre of Vienna, in the historic square of "Freyung" opposite a monastery, this house, which now shines in fresh splendor after a careful renovation, looks back on a long, eventful history.

Home of the Rich and Powerful

Palais Harrach was originally owned by Baron Karl von Harrach, who was made a count in 1627. In 1689 Count Bonaventura Harrach began the reconstruction of the palace, which had been substantially damaged during a fire in 1683. He commissioned the most renowned architects of the time to carry out the reconstruction of the building.

Those were the days when the rich and powerful were seen at this magnificent palace. In 1850 the rooms were adapted to house the Harrach Picture Gallery, one of the most significant private collections at the time. No fewer than 1,000 first-rate paintings, acquired through the

active purchasing policy of the family, were framed by valuable vitrines with glasses, medals, miniature portraits, brooches and other small objets d'art.

Neglect and Renewal

After suffering severe damage during an air raid in 1944, the palace was restored to its original baroque state between 1949 and 1952. Following a partition of the estate, the famous paintings collection was relocated to the country house of Rohrau in 1970 and the palace itself was sold in 1975.

Then came a period during which the palace was left to deteriorate. In 1990, however, it passed into the possession

of one of Austria's largest banks and was then extensively renovated and rehabilitated.

All the rooms have been restored in accordance with strict rules of monument protection. The elaborate rehabilitation of stucco, imitation marble, painting and gilding, the metal and textile restoration, the reconstruction of the valuable wooden floors and the electrification of the splendid old chandeliers are further proof of the world-renowned excellence of Austrian restorers.

When an inventory of the furnishings was made, details were discovered which required the taste and discernment of an art historian to guarantee ar-



The grand staircase of the palace

tistic excellence and homogeneous appearance after completion.

The experts believed that the grand staircase contained some concha niches on the upper pedestal. They were indeed revealed from under the plastering during the renovation and restored in order to enhance the grandeur of the staircase (photo).

Another challenge concerned the ceiling frescoes in the gallery: the task was to bring about an elegant harmony between the early baroque painting and the restoration work of the 19th century.

A good compromise was achieved by uncovering the best preserved sections of the baroque quadrature painting and keeping the more recent overpainting. The ceiling, the segments of wall hangings on the longitudinal wall and the mirrors on the opposite wall with its row of windows offer the visitor a view which is both harmonious and true to style (photo).

The smaller, less impressive rooms which are now used for office, residential or commercial purposes, were restored to be both practical and authentic.

The Centerpiece of Rehabilitation

Nevertheless, it was the restoration of the state rooms of Palais Harrach which represented the centerpiece of rehabilitation. Access to the rooms of the former bel etage is via the former entrance hall and the former grand staircase. These rooms were placed at the disposal of the Austrian Museum of Fine Arts, one of the world's most significant art collections.

The Museum has set itself the task of filling the palace with new life while attending to all aspects of conservation



The Great Gallery of Palais Harrach

and restoration. The rooms are being used for readings, lectures, concerts and receptions, and the palace has once again become one of Vienna's cultural and social centers within a short period of time.

Multiple-Use Concept

Next to the social events mentioned above, it is one of the Museum's main concerns to organize special exhibitions which, given the peculiar arrangement of the rooms at the Museum of Fine Arts, cannot be realized on the premises of their own building.

Thus the baroque ambience of the palace offers a harmonious background for the presentation of the Museum's less well-known collections (tapestries, objects of art from the "Kunstkammer", and the imperial hunting and arms, old musical instruments and paintings collections) in a manner unrivalled by any

other location in Vienna.

The rehabilitation of Palais Harrach is one of Vienna's largest and most significant restoration projects in the recent past. It was based on a multiple-use concept that combined the preservation of the valuable architectural heritage and a genuine resuscitation of the former magnificent palace by providing space for the great number of shops, offices, flats and spaces for social events in a single building.

For more information:

Dr. Wendelin Wanka
Magistratsdirektion der Stadt Wien
Koordinationsburo
Rathaus, Stiege 4, Halbstock, Zi. 247
A-1082 Wien, Austria
Tel: 43 1 4000 82217
Fax: 43 1 4000 7122

The League of Historical Cities List

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

Fez (Kingdom of Morocco)
Florence (Republic of Italy)
Guadalajara (United Mexican States)
Hanoi (Socialist Republic of Viet Nam)
Isfahan (Islamic Republic of Iran)
Istanbul (Republic of Turkey)
Jerusalem (State of Israel)
Kaesong (Democratic People's Republic of Korea)
Katmandu (Kingdom of Nepal)
Kiev (Ukraine)
Kyongju (Republic of Korea)
Kyoto (Japan)
Lahore (Islamic Republic of Pakistan)
Lisbon (Portuguese Republic)
Melbourne (Australia)
Mexico City (United Mexican States)

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

Shakemachi and Myojin River



Historic Townscapes of Kyoto

A Look at the Kamigamo District

The Kamigamo district in northern Kyoto City was formed by Shinto priests and farmers around Kamigamo Shrine, one of 17 historic buildings in Kyoto that were designated as UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Sites in 1994, and the supposed residence of the guardian god of *Heian-kyo*, the ancient capital. The district has developed as a *shakemachi*, a residential district for priests since the Muromachi Period (1338-1573).

The district spreads 300 meters to the east along the Myojin River, which flows near Kamigamo Shrine. A number of *shakes*, or residences for priests, stand in a row along the river.

Most of these residences are built in a traditional Japanese fashion. Together with stone bridges, earthen garden walls, gates and green plants seen behind the walls, the *shakes* reflect the long cherished traditional landscape of Kamigamo.

Unlike the other Kyoto districts which have been introduced in back numbers of the *League of Historical Cities Bulletin*, the Kamigamo district is neither a commercial district nor a tourist spot, but a residential area.

Beginning of the Preservation

The Myojin River has always played an important role in the daily lives of the *shakes* and *shakemachi*. Although residents once washed rice and vegetables and laundered their clothes in the river, its waters are now mainly used for making ponds in their gardens.

However, in the early 1960s, the growing number of new houses that were built near the district began to pollute the Myojin River. Moreover, for the last decade, the townscape has been threatened by the construction rush of such buildings as apartments for college students.

In response to these threats, the local residents formed the Myojin River Preservation Association to periodically clean the river as a group. Encouraged by the city authorities, they formed the Kamigamo Townscape Preservation Association in 1988.

In the same year, the Kamigamo district was designated as a Preservation District for Groups of Historic Buildings by the city authorities and as a Special Preservation Dis-

trict for Groups of Historic Buildings by the national government, which provides financial assistance to support the local authorities. These designations bolstered the district's preservation efforts.

Preservation Ordinances

The city authorities carry out preservation activities mainly by enacting ordinances to protect the district and its houses. These ordinances outline architectural regulations and subsidies from the government.

The architectural regulations list specifications for building heights, construction materials, and other aspects of housing construction necessary for preserving the district's historic appearance.

The authorities "guide" the residents into remodeling modern buildings and repairing old buildings. This *gyoseishido*, or administrative guidance, functions so well that although the architectural laws have penalties, they have never been applied.

The government subsidies cover expenses to repair and remodel all the outer components of the townscape, such as houses, stone walls, bridges and trees in the gardens. Although there is a limit to these subsidies, they range from one third to two thirds of the expenses.

Association Activities

Some of the main activities of the association include cleaning the river four times a year, making sure the residents are following the architectural regulations, and, when necessary, actively lobbying for public and private sector support to preserve the district.



Kamigamo Shrine

For example, in 1990, the association successfully appealed to electric and telephone companies to remove utility poles along the river which spoiled the townscape.

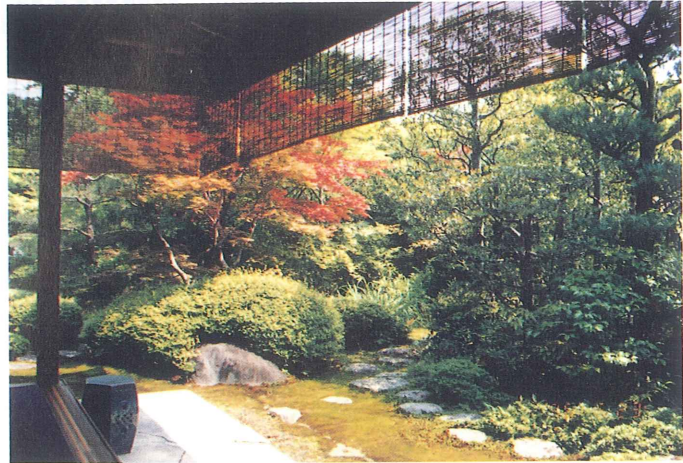
Furthermore, the Kamigamo association is a member of the national union of preservation associations of designated historical towns.

Through information exchanges and discussions with other members of the union, the Kamigamo association keeps in contact with the preservation groups in other towns.

The Future of Kamigamo

While the residents are pleased that more people are getting to know Kamigamo and are visiting the district, they are reluctant to make their town a tourist spot because tourism is likely to do some damage to the well-preserved townscape.

Although the residents support the townscape's preservation, they oppose



Inner garden of a house in Kamigamo

the creation of stricter regulations in fear that further limitations will hinder their economic activities and daily lives.

In this way, the residents still live in the district, feeling quite ambivalent about the issues on preservation and development. However, it is ob-

vious that they are firmly determined to continue cherishing and preserving the townscape and environment which have been gradually built over the centuries since the Heian Period (794-1192).

SPECIAL INTERVIEW

Kamigamo Townscape Preservation Association

WHC: How many members does the association have?

KTPA: 50 families. This includes not only all the families who live in the district, but families who live in *shakes* just outside the district and support our activities.

As you know, a *shake* was originally a house occupied by the family of a priest. Do priests still live in these houses?

Only two priests remain here today. This is because most of the priests moved to Tokyo to be near the emperor when the capital of Japan was transferred from Kyoto to Tokyo in the mid 19th century, in the beginning of the Meiji Era. Also, since the hereditary system no longer exists, children of priests are free to choose other professions. Nowadays, people in the *shakes* have different occupations.



There are few facilities in Kamigamo for tourists. Is the association planning to develop tourist facilities in the district?

We do feel sorry that we cannot receive an increasing number of tourists in a satisfactory way. It would be difficult to commercialize this district for tourism because this area is basically residential. However, if possible, we hope we can make a museum or a historical archive.

Does living in a designated district pose any difficulties for its residents?

People living outside the district can enjoy the townscape, but the people who actually live here sometimes feel inconvenienced by the complex architectural regulations. Al-

though the government subsidies are helpful, we are still burdened by a property tax that is higher than what ordinary people pay. This is because we are advised to use costly special parts for repairs that will keep the appearance of old houses. So, we hope the authorities will increase the subsidies or take other measures to further assist us.

Does the association have any message for the people who live in historical cities around the world?

Even though living in historical buildings is sometimes inconvenient, we are truly proud of our houses which have long histories and environments that are compatible with their natural surroundings. No historical buildings and environments can be built in a day. Once destroyed, they can never be restored to what they used to be. So those of us living in these cities must continue to preserve these irreplaceable assets.

The 5th World Conference of Historical Cities

Xian Garden Hotel
Xian, China
Sept. 9 - 13, 1996

As of May 22nd, 31 League member cities and 23 non-member cities have notified the City of Xian of their intent to participate in the 5th World Conference.

We, the City of Xian and the League Secretariat, will do our utmost to make this conference successful. Your active participation will be highly appreciated as the conference's success depends on your cooperation and support.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Monday, September 9

- Registration
- Welcome Reception

Tuesday, September 10

- Opening Ceremony
- Plenary Session
- Observation of Tang Dynasty Musical

Wednesday, September 11

- Sessions
- General Assembly of the League

Thursday, September 12

- Observation of the Opening Ceremony of the '96 China Xian Investment and Trade Forum
- Visit to the Museum of Emperor Qin Shihuang's Terra-Cotta Warriors and Horses, Hua Qing Hot Springs and Shaanxi History Museum
- Observation of the Opening Ceremony for the Ancient Culture and Art Festival

Friday, September 13

- Closing Ceremony



The Xian Garden Hotel, a member of The Leading Hotels of the World, recaptures the spirit of the Tang Dynasty and brings visitors closer to the heart of ancient China.

A spacious garden, a museum specializing in the arts of the Tang Dynasty, and a theater restaurant where visitors can enjoy performing arts from the Tang Dynasty are conveniently located on the hotel property. Standing next to the Xian Garden Hotel is the Big Wild Goose Pagoda, where the renowned monk Xuanzhuang translated Buddhist scriptures.

We are confident that this hotel is the most appropriate venue for the 5th World Conference of Historical Cities.

Xian Garden Hotel
4 Dong Yan Yin Lu, Da Yan Ta Xian 710061 China
Tel: 029-526-1111 Fax: 029-526-1998 Telex: 70027 GAHTL CN • 70007 THHTL CN

Member Cities' Update

Puppet Festival Draws International Puppeteers to Zagreb

From August 30 until September 4, Zagreb, Croatia will host its 29th International Puppet Festival (PIF).

Established in 1968, this annual tradition has been highly regarded among puppeteers and cultural organizers worldwide as a medium for expanding artistic and cultural horizons in puppet theatre and for strengthening intercultural communication among international artists and educators.

A popular tradition for amateur and professional puppeteers, as well as puppet enthusiasts both young and old, this festival has showcased over 200 theatre groups from over 30 countries worldwide.

With the exception of 1979 and 1981, when the Puppet Festival was held in Tromsø, Zagreb's sister-city in Norway, the PIF has traditionally started in the host city of Zagreb and traveled through other coordinating cities in Croatia.

The festival will feature puppet performances in streets and public squares, exhibitions on puppet collections and manuscripts, educational seminars and discussion forums on puppet theatre.



Every autumn, festival organizers mail several hundred invitations to puppet theatres around the world. A selection committee then nominates the most interesting applicants to participate in the upcoming festival.

Three international juries will take part in awarding the main PIF prize for the best overall performance, special prizes for Esperanto performances, the international children's panel award and in-

dividual awards for excellence in scenography, puppet technology, animation, music, direction, text and other aspects of puppet theatre.

For more information:
The International Culture Centre
B. Magovca bb
HR-10010 Zagreb, Croatia
Tel: +385-1-692 575
Fax: +385-1-692 562

Seafront Recovery: New Functions in Barcelona's Inner City

The beautiful Spanish city of Barcelona, which faces the Mediterranean Sea, shares the League of Historical Cities' common goal of coordinating development and preservation.

The seafront development had been

obstructed by the construction of the Ciutadella, a 200-year-old fortification. The city had grown inland since then.

After the Barcelona Olympic Games in 1992, the City of Barcelona is currently recovering its seafront to pre-

serve its traditional landscape and address serious needs for modernization and development.

Concretely speaking, old warehouses, industries and railway sites are being replaced by shopping centers and modern commercial and residential buildings. This move represents a shift in the internal structure and functioning of the central city.

Barcelona has finally reclaimed its history by redefining its relation with the sea. This is a remarkable example for making preservation compatible with development.



For more information:
Amador Ferrer, Architect
Gabinet d'Estudis Urbanistics
plaza Lesseps 12, Barcelona 08023
Spain
Tel: +343-2914211
Fax: +343-2914216

INTERVIEW

Tomoko Onozawa

**Coordinator for International Relations
Kyoto Convention Bureau**

A native of New York City, Ms. Onozawa graduated from Cornell University in May 1993 and arrived in Kyoto City two months later as a participant of the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme. Over the past year, she has served as the co-editor of the League of Historical Cities Bulletin. This is her last issue.



WHC: What led to the creation of the League of Historical Cities Bulletin?

TO: Since league member cities meet only once every two years, there needs to be a regular publication which serves as an ongoing forum where historical cities can exchange ideas and publicize current activities and projects that may be of interest to other cities or organizations. *The World Historical Cities Bulletin* was created to fill that need.

What was the most difficult part of editing the newsletter over the past year?

The biggest problem in producing this newsletter is that we haven't received enough article submissions, particularly new information on member city activities. It's unfortunate because the usefulness and quality of the newsletter depends on the feedback and the cooperation that other cities can give us.

In addition, much of the newsletter content has been dominated by Kyoto news, Kyoto people and repetitive information on League member cities so far. Since this newsletter is supposed to be a forum where all league member cities can exchange timely, up-to-date news, it seems strange that this should be

"I'd like more input from member cities regarding new ideas, suggestions and even criticisms for this newsletter."

the case.

Why do you think this is so?

I think the reasons behind this is that first, this newsletter is still a fairly new publication in many respects and it has been difficult for us to come up with novel ideas on article content and to broaden the scope of the newsletter on our own. Secondly, as I said earlier, we've had problems in obtaining articles from member cities.

What the most enjoyable experience you had while working on this newsletter?

The entire experience of learning how to put a newsletter together, use desktop publishing software, etc., has been enjoyable and rewarding in itself. I especially enjoyed meeting and speaking with different people for the interview pages and working with staffpersons at the Kyoto City International Relations Office.

Which interviews left the biggest impression on you?

Well, all the interviewees featured on this page so far have been foreigners living and working in Kyoto City. It's hard to pinpoint one particular interview that stands out in my mind, but what has impressed me the most about speaking to these people is the diverse reasons which brought them halfway around the world to Kyoto and the strong attachments which they have developed for this city.

As a foreigner who has also spent several years living and working here, I can identify with their admiration of Kyoto's beauty, arts and culture, and their desire to share those precious memories of Kyoto with people back home.

Do you have any suggestions or advice for the newsletter?

I'd like more input from member cities regarding new ideas, suggestions and even criticisms for this newsletter: What kinds of articles would they like to see in the newsletter? What new article series ought to be introduced in future issues? Should there any changes to the bulletin's format?

We're also considering a new idea to introduce league member representatives outside Japan in the page 8 interview section by conducting interviews via fax, mail or phone.

The League of Historical Cities Secretariat

International Relations Office, City of Kyoto, Teramachi Oike, Nakagyo-ku, Kyoto 604, Japan/Phone +81-75-222-3072 Fax +81-75-222-3055