

SERBIA

Protest against the Demolition of the National Theatre in Subotica

The theatre in Subotica (Province of Vojvodina), which also includes a hotel and ballroom, was erected in 1854 after designs by János Scultety. After 1900 it was altered and renovated several times. In a letter of 6 June 2007 to Mr Voja Brajovic, Minister of Culture of the Republic of Serbia, ICOMOS protested against the imminent demolition of this historic building:

Dear Minister,

ICOMOS (the International Council on Monuments and Sites) has been alerted through professional channels on the decision taken to demolish the National Theatre in Subotica – a cultural property with a 150-year-old history. We have further been advised that demolition of the annexes has already commenced.

This building is the sixth oldest masonry theatre built in the Carpathian Basin. Beside its historical value, it constitutes a significant component in the townscape of Subotica itself.

Considering the above, ICOMOS appeals to you in your capacity as Minister of Culture, and to the competent authorities in Serbia,

to call for an immediate halt to the demolition works. This is in order to reconsider the planned interventions and to protect the outstanding significance of this historic property, in particular the authenticity of both its exterior and its interior.

We hope that you will find a solution to preserve all the values of this historic building whilst still achieving your aims for the sustainable future of this cultural property.

Such a solution would demonstrate your government's commitment and support for cultural heritage, within the recognized dynamism of your emerging region, which currently attracts much interest in Europe and worldwide.

ICOMOS, as the international expert body in this field, would be happy to assist Serbia in any way in resolving this issue.

Yours sincerely

*Michael Petzet
President of ICOMOS*



The National Theatre in Subotica before its demolition (www.intbau.org)



The theatre during the demolition in November 2007 (www.kakanien.ac.at)