

Transnational Serial Nominations for the UNESCO World Heritage List

The German National Committee of ICOMOS and the Berlin Monument Authority (Landesdenkmalamt Berlin) warmly welcome the initiative of the Warsaw Heritage Protection Department, led by Piotr Brabander, in inviting experts to the spring 2013 workshop on the options around making an international serial nomination for the World Heritage list for the architectural and urban heritage of Socialist Realism in Central and Eastern Europe. Our heartfelt thanks go to Warsaw's city government and colleagues from the Heritage Protection Department in the Polish capital for preparing and organising the international meeting of experts. Without the welcome initiative of our colleagues from Warsaw and ICOMOS Poland, this discussion on possible joint World Heritage nominations to UNESCO would never have taken place.

We see the meeting as a continuation of the last cooperative heritage protection project undertaken and expanded as part of the partnership between the cities of Berlin and Warsaw and the many years of neighbourly cooperation between ICOMOS Poland and ICOMOS Germany. I would like to thank the President of ICOMOS Poland, Prof. Dr. Boguslaw Szmygin from Lublin, and the European Vice President of the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Twentieth Century Heritage (ISC20C), Prof. Dr. Natalia Dushkina from Moscow, for their interest and involvement.

Work carried out by ICOMOS in 2004 resulted in an analysis and recommendations by ICOMOS and UNESCO, published in 2005 under the title *The World Heritage List. Filling the Gaps – an Action Plan for the Future*.¹ Mentioned in this under the heading of under-represented World Heritage categories are firstly modern heritage, that is, monuments and sites from the 19th and 20th centuries,² and also cross-border and international serial nominations and heritage sites. Therefore, introducing and implementing international World Heritage projects with the aim of nominating and managing multinational World Heritage proposals offers an opportunity to create a more balanced list of World Heritage sites and promote the cause of international understanding through international cooperative projects. This is also true of the options around a multinational initiative to nominate post-war heritage in post-socialist countries of Central and Eastern Europe, evaluated in the course of the international working session in Warsaw (*International Expert Meeting on Transnational Serial Nomination of the Architectural Heritage of Social Realism in Central and Eastern Europe to the UNESCO World Heritage List. Presentation of Proposals*) in April 2013. The following observations on the process and opportunities of international nominations for World Heritage status serve as an introduc-

tion to the current state of affairs and are divided into three sections:

- Transboundary Nominations and Properties,
- Serial Nominations and Properties (local, regional, national series),
- International Serial Nominations and Properties.

Basic information on the preconditions for and processes involved in making multinational World Heritage proposals has in recent years been increasingly debated and documented at the level of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and in the organisations that advise UNESCO on World Heritage matters (ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM). It is now widely available on the internet for information purposes.³ The UNESCO publication *Preparing World Heritage Nominations* has been available since 2011⁴ and is also widely available on the internet. The information below is largely based on the aforementioned publications and is predominantly illustrated with examples from Europe and the 20th century.

1. Transboundary Properties and Nominations (Operational Guidelines III C, 134–136)

The term transboundary properties generally refers to expansive World Heritage sites, which extend as a cohesive and closed area across the territory of two or three UNESCO Convention member states. An example of this is the German-Polish World Heritage site accepted onto the UNESCO list in 2004: Muskau Park by Herrmann Fürst von Pückler, c. 700 hectares of gardens divided into various sections, extending across both sides of the Neisse river and maintained by the two countries working together.

Transboundary properties should be jointly proposed and managed by the neighbouring member states, ideally via a joint operating or management organisation, to ensure a unified approach to maintenance and care and an early alignment of interests. The Rhaetian Railway in the Albula/Bernina Landscapes, which links Switzerland and Italy and was accepted onto the World Heritage list in 2008, can also be seen as a modern transboundary heritage site.

It is also possible to propose and develop a consistent joint bi- or tri-national World Heritage site by expanding an existing site in one member state into one or more neighbouring countries. A single organisation should also be responsible for maintaining and operating the expanded property (para. 136 of the Operational Guidelines).



The duplex apartment house by Le Corbusier and Pierre Jeanneret in the Stuttgart Weißenhof-Siedlung (1927) is part of an international initiative to nominate a series of the “The Architectural and Urban Work of Le Corbusier” for the World Heritage List of UNESCO; the current nomination dossier covers more than a dozen building sites and urban areas in six states of Europe, Latin-America and Asia

Das Doppelhaus von Le Corbusier und Pierre Jeanneret in der Weißenhofsiedlung Stuttgart (1927) ist Bestandteil einer internationalen seriellen Nominierung des „Architektonischen und städtebaulichen Werks von Le Corbusier“ für das UNESCO-Welterbe; die jüngste Fassung des Antragsentwurfs umfasst mehr als ein Dutzend Bauwerke und städtebauliche Anlagen aus sechs Staaten in Europa, Südamerika und Asien

2. Serial Nominations and Properties

Serial entries consist of two or more subcomponents that have arisen and developed jointly in cultural, social or functional terms, and which are linked by clearly defined connections. Each component should be clearly distinguishable and should contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property (including possible immaterial attributes). To avoid further fragmentation of individual components, the nomination, selection and combination of the individual elements should be designed in such a way that the shared identity of the property and its unified maintenance and joint upkeep or management can be promoted or guaranteed. This is particularly the case when the series as a whole and not necessarily each individual element is of unique universal value.

Serial nominations can be made on a local, regional or national level within a single member state. The six Berlin Modernism Housing Estates (2008), spread across seven

districts of Berlin fall into the category of a local or regional series of properties, as do the works of Antoni Gaudi in and around Barcelona (Spain, 1984/2005) or the four most significant town houses by Victor Horta in Brussels (Belgium, 2000). Berlin’s current World Heritage initiative to parcel together the Karl-Marx-Allee in the East and the Hansaviertel in the West of the city with various other buildings and put them forward for inclusion on the tentative list is based on such examples of a local serial nomination.

The five Bauhaus properties in Weimar (3) and Dessau (2), accepted as 20th century World Heritage sites in 1996 following an application by the Federal Republic of Germany, are an example of a supra-regional or national serial World Heritage site. These five Bauhaus buildings lie in two different federal states (Thuringia, Saxony-Anhalt). An expansion of this group from five to half a dozen is planned for the future with the nomination of the ADGB Trade Union School Bernau (1928–1930), designed by the Bauhaus director Hannes Meyer with Hans Wittwer, suggested for

inclusion in Germany's national series of Bauhaus World Heritage sites by the state of Brandenburg.

3. International Serial Nominations and Properties (Operational Guidelines III C, 137–139)

A transnational or international serial nomination consists of two or more spatially distinct components in two or more countries; these may be neighbours but they are not limited to adjacent states. International serial nominations can also include transboundary nominations and properties which stretch across two or more neighbouring countries, as individual components if they create a thematic, functional, historic, stylistic or typological series with other, spatially distinct components.

One of the most impressive examples of an international serial nomination is the Struve Geodetic Arc, named after the German-Russian scientist Friedrich Georg Wilhelm Struve, a measurement network or a chain currently made up of 34 triangulation points, extending across more than ten countries and over 2,800 km in length. It is hoped that it will be expanded and consolidated in future by including other countries and points. Another famous example is the Roman Limes, the frontier line of the Roman Empire, which extended for over 5,000 km from the Atlantic through Great Britain and across Europe to the Black Sea, and across North Africa to the Red Sea. Major but fragmented sections of the Limes are registered as World Heritage sites in Great Britain (Antonine Wall and Hadrian's Wall) as well as in Germany (North Rhine-Westphalia, Hessen, Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg); in future, this should be expanded to include additional archaeological monuments to the Limes in other countries. The idea of proposing the so-called Green Belt, the border strip along the Iron Curtain through Europe, as a natural and cultural heritage site from the time of the Cold War for the UNESCO World Heritage List is currently under consideration; again, the aim would be to create an international series of distinct properties that could later be expanded piecemeal.

Probably the best-known initiative to nominate a multi-national, even transcontinental, 20th century World Heritage series is the French proposal to include the architectural and urban work of Le Corbusier on the World Heritage List. The starting point for the initiative are 13 of Le Corbusier's masterpieces and ensembles in France, to be expanded to include his work in Switzerland, Germany, Argentina, Belgium and the Netherlands. It would later be possible to expand the network to include further signatory states to the UNESCO Convention, and this is indeed the intention. Similarly, there have been very recent discussions on the subject of proposing the architectural work of Jože Plečnik as a bi- or transnational World Heritage series (Slovenia, the Czech Republic, Austria); this would be a further multinational 20th century contribution to this category.

By summer 2013, 172 states had drawn up tentative lists and submitted almost 1,600 proposals to UNESCO. One of the items is the Cuban initiative to submit the National Schools of Art, Cubanacán, of the early 1960s for a World Heritage nomination. Included among the proposals of modern heritage were also two Central and Eastern European sites from the decades after the Second World War which could be considered as socialist heritage. One of these projects is the Czech proposal to nominate the Mountain Top Hotel and Television Transmitter at Ještěd for the World Heritage List. Television and radio towers have not yet been represented on the UNESCO List. So it would also even be possible to expand the Czech initiative to include comparable examples of internationally famous TV towers in Europe and beyond. The second proposal to be found on a national tentative list is the inner city heritage area in Minsk, the capital of Belarus. Following the liberation of the Belarusian capital from Nazi troops in 1944, Minsk was redesigned on Soviet lines throughout the 1940s and 1950s and it represents one of the most significant international examples of Socialism's architectural and urban heritage. Here too, there are conceivable points of connection and links with socialist realist monuments and sites in other Central and Eastern European countries.

Prof. Dr. Jörg Haspel
President of ICOMOS Germany