

ICOMOS

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES MONUMENTS ET DES SITES
CONSEJO INTERNACIONAL DE MONUMENTOS Y SITIOS
МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ СОВЕТ ПО ВОПРОСАМ ПАМЯТНИКОВ И ДОСТОПРИМЕЧАТЕЛЬНЫХ МЕСТ

ICOMOS ISC 20C – Working Group „SocHeritage“
“Conserving the Heritage of Socialist Realism and Socialist Modernism”

Working Group Meeting
Saturday, 5 September 2015
Landesdenkmalamt Berlin, Altes Stadthaus, Klosterstraße 47, D-10179 Berlin

Minutes

Participants:

Prof. Dr. Jörg HASPEL	State curator and director of Landesdenkmalamt Berlin, President of ICOMOS Germany, member of ISC20C
Dr. Boguslaw SZMYGIN	President of ICOMOS Poland, member of the World Heritage Panel Poland
Dr. Christoph MACHAT	Vice President of ICOMOS Germany, member of Monitoring Group, member of the ICOMOS Board (Executive Committee), member of the World Heritage Working Group and the World Heritage Panel; responsible for the editing of the ICOMOS Heritage at Risk publication series
Prof. Dr. Sigrid BRANDT	University of Salzburg, department of art history, Secretary General of ICOMOS Germany, member of the monitoring group of ICOMOS Germany
Dr. Sandra USKOKOVIC	Assistant professor at University of Dubrovnik, member of ICOMOS Croatia, member of ISC20C
Anna JAGIELLAK	Representative of the heritage authority of the City of Warsaw
Dora IVANOVA	Architect; candidate for ICOMOS Bulgaria / Germany
Rusu DUMITRU	Member of ICOMOS Romania, member of ISC20C; architect
Martin STRAKOS	Member of ICOMOS Czech Republic, staff member of the National Heritage Board
Oxana GOURINOVITCH	Member of ICOMOS Belarus
Thomas FLIERL	Chairman of Hermann Henselmann Foundation, candidate for ICOMOS Germany
Dr. Anke ZALIVAKO	Member of ICOMOS Germany and ISC 20C
Juliane STAMM	Art historian; trainee Landesdenkmalamt Berlin
Dr. Ramona DORNBUSCH	World Heritage Coordinator of Landesdenkmalamt Berlin, member of ICOMOS Germany

Reports on current status of World Heritage nominations

Czech Republic

Martin Strakos presented the Mountain-top Hotel and Television Transmitter Ještěd (Karel Hubáček, 1966-1973) as candidate for the Czech tentative list since 2007. Ještěd Tower in its combination of a technical and social facility is typologically a unique structure. Comparable examples and landscape sites are rare, but in an urban context a lot of radio towers (even from the interwar period, like e.g. Shuchov Tower) and television towers as in Stuttgart (Fritz Leonhardt, 1953-56), Moscow (Nikola Nikitin, 1963-67), Berlin (Hermann Henselmann and Jörg Streitparth, 1965-69), or the CN Tower in Toronto (John Andrews Architects, 1972-76) stand for this modern building and structural type and can be compared. Current problems result from the private ownership of the property. Therefore a coordinated process is needed.

In his second presentation he described the Industrial Complexes at Ostrava which have been on the tentative list since 2001. They are a historic document of the economic development of Ostrava which, in the course of the 19th and 20th centuries, turned from a stagnating town with a ring of satellite villages and emerging mining colonies into a large industrial city. For decades, the Ostrava-Karvinà Coal Mining District was one of the most important centres of coal mining and heavy industry in Europe. The industrial complexes became a symbol and even at present they are a dominant element of the city. They have a high potential for an international serial nomination.

Finally Martin Strakos was asked to contact the authorities of New Ostrava if they are interested in becoming part or even lead partner of an international serial nomination of industrial socialist Model Towns of the Post-war Period in CEE (with Nowa Huta, Eisenhüttenstadt, Dimitrovgrad, Dunaujvaros, etc).

Belarus

Oksana Gurynowicz reported on the current state of the SocHeritage issues in Belarus. She stated that there is a lack of interest of politicians and the public for post-war heritage. There is also only an insufficient infrastructure and lack of capacity to prepare nomination dossiers. She informed that the Architectural Ensemble of FrancyskScaryna Avenue in Minsk (1940s -1950s) was nominated for inscription in the World Heritage List in 2004, but since summer 2015 it has no longer been on Belarus' current tentative list. At present there are five items of cultural heritage registered.

ICOMOS Belarus and the national heritage authorities of Belarus should be informed by Oksana Gurynowicz and Boguslaw Szmygin that the meeting in Berlin appreciates the Minsk heritage of the 1940s and 1950s as an internationally significant heritage asset of the 20th century and that the meeting has asked for further information.

Croatia

Sandra Uskokovic gave a short review of the current discussion and proposal to nominate post war socialist heritage from Croatia for the tentative list. The proposal includes the most representative examples like the Stone Flower Jasenovac (1966), Dudik Memorial Park (1978-1980) by Bogdan Bogdanovic; the monument at Petrova Gora (1982) by Vojin Bakic; the monument to the Revolution (1967) by Dusan Damonja. She pointed out that today's question is not only how to restore but also how to revitalize this type of legacy for future generations. One of the hidden obstacles for the revitalization of these monuments is the exclusive perception of their artistic significance, which neglects parts of the whole range of values and significance. She reported on recent discussions about a serial transnational nomination of

antifascist monuments in Slovenia, Bosnia, Serbia, and Macedonia. There are also discussions to nominate the Pomorac Lighthouse in Split (Croatia) and the cemetery Partizansko Groblje in Mostar (Bosnia Herzegovina).

The participants discussed the potential of a multinational serial nomination of post-war sculpture and memorials dedicated to antifascist resistance and anti-war movements in former Yugoslavia or in CEE, including the Baltic Sea region.

Poland

Bogusław Szmygin (and Anna Jagiellak) confirmed that there is no current initiative in Warsaw to protect and to promote the MDM quarter or the Palace of Science and Culture in Warsaw for World Heritage nomination.

Szmygin drew attention to Nowa Huta (1949-1958), the easternmost district of Krakow (old town of Krakow inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1978) and one of only two entirely pre-planned socialist realist cities (the other being Magnitogorsk in Russia's Ural Mountains). The city district is one of the finest examples of deliberate social engineering in the world. Granting it the status of a monument was the first step in the preparation for Nowa Huta to be listed on the UNESCO List. Further steps have already been taken, as Nowa Huta has already been submitted as a candidate for the national heritage list.

According to the information delivered by Prof. Jacek Purchla, head of the International Cultural Centre in Krakow, the mayor of the city of Krakow declared his interest in joining a serial nomination of Socialist Realism Industrial Cities.

Germany

Jörg Haspel and Thomas Flierl presented two Berlin heritage complexes of the post-war period: the East Berlin example of Karl-Marx-Allee and the West Berlin Interbau exhibition ensemble to be nominated for the tentative list. The submission has been evaluated by an expert panel (Fachbeirat) of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder of the Federal Republic of Germany (KMK) in 2014. According to the experts' advice an individual nomination of the (unique post-war combination of) Double Berlin should be preferred to an international serial nomination with other properties of post-war heritage (SocRealism, SocModernism) in post-socialist countries.

A political decision of the Senate of Berlin and the Federal KMK is expected only in the preparation phase for updating the German Tentative List in 2017/2018.

Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania

Dora Ivanova and Rusu Dumitru presented case studies of Modernist Soc Heritage Sites at Risk, such as the iconic Buzludzha Memorial (1981) in Bulgaria and the Communal housing "ROMANITA", the National Hotel (former Inturist, 1978), the Cosmos Hotel (1986), or the Constantin or the State Circus (1981), all in Chisinau, the capital of Moldova. Dora Ivanova briefly informed about the ISC20C meeting on SocHeritage in Sofia in August 2015.

The participants agreed that a special issue of an ICOMOS Heritage at Risk Report on threatened SocHeritage Sites could become an efficient tool for raising public awareness of the SocHeritage value in

post-socialist countries and for expanding the circle of participants and contributors to that issue in other countries (including Asian and African countries).

Rusu Dumitru offered to add the topics of SocRealism and a category SocHeritage at Risk to his SocHeritage website and to provide a common platform for communication and cooperation within the ISC 20C working group.

In-depth discussion

The experts discussed alternatives to initiate individual applications or international serial applications. The participants agreed that the nomination of 20th-century properties on the World Heritage List requires less capacities and communication and will be considerably more successful in the end than international serial applications. The discussion showed that there is a need to resolve or clarify further issues (see below).

- *Which period should be represented?*

The key emphasis is on Socialist Realism (1940s, 1950s) and Socialist Modernism (1960s – 1980s), irrespective of different academic approaches. In this context the internationally acknowledged significance of new industrial towns/ socialist model cities and the precursor role of this type for the movement of New Urbanism were stressed. Analogies can be found in Nowa Huta (Poland), New Ostrava (Czech Republic), Dimitrovgrad (Bulgaria) and Eisenhüttenstadt (Germany), Dunaujvaros (Hungary), etc. A common feature of these new settlements is the characteristic traditional plan with axis and a focus on the urban core.

Another focus can be found in comparable examples of modernist television towers.

- *How many objects should be proposed by each country?*

There was an agreement that for multinational initiatives each country could propose one of its most representative examples.

- *What should be the object of assessment?*

The assessment of Socialist Realism and Socialist Modernism should be based on the recognition of its historic value, its artistic significance, and urban value (urban planning, typology of arrangements, composition, handling of proportion, scale, symbols).

- *How should a multinational initiative be organised to prepare a nomination?*

It was recommended to start the preparation by setting up a team of a two to three countries working on an initiative for Socialist Realist model towns (Poland: Nowa Huta, Czech Republic: New Ostrava; possibly Germany: Eisenhüttenstadt, Bulgaria: Dimitrovgrad, Hungary: Dunaujvaros etc.). All parties interested are invited to attend.

- *Who could serve as the leader of a multinational initiative and how should the cooperation be organised?*

Indispensable prerequisite for a lead partner is the property's inclusion on the national tentative list by the state party. Additionally ICOMOS National Committees concerned by the project could prepare letter(s) of cooperation, starting with Poland and the Czech Republic, possibly complemented by Bulgaria, Germany, Hungary, etc. The Krakow authorities will be asked to take the lead. The time frame for submission of the detailed dossiers shall be three years.

- *Where and when could the upcoming regional meetings be held?*

The actors of the planned WH-Initiative on Soc Model Towns should be invited and hosted by one of the cities interested in the project (Nowa Huta, Nova Ostrava, etc)

The next regional meetings of the ISC20C Working Group on SocHeritage and its network could be organised by ICOMOS NCs in Sofia/Dimitrovgrad (Bulgaria), Armenia, Croatia, etc (2016/2017).

Comments, Statements, Proposals, Recommendations

Dr. Machat sees a possibility to publish a special issue on threatened SocHeritage within the ICOMOS publication series *Heritage at Risk*, if the ISC20C working group SocHeritage organises the call for articles, collecting the papers, doing the editor's work, etc.

Dora Ivanova submitted a proposal for the reconstruction and reuse of Buszludzha memorial (Bulgaria) as monument of national memory, telling the history of Bulgaria. She pleaded for preserving the monument in its present condition and suggested usage as a forum for art and history. She also will contact members of the European Parliament to raise their awareness and to underline the (Eastern) European dimension of the SocHeritage (postwar heritage in post-socialist countries.)

Rusu Dumitru presented the initiative www.socialistmodernism.com which focuses on protection of built heritage of Socialist Modernism architecture erected in the period between 1957 and 1989 and on research within the borders of the former Eastern bloc. All participants are invited to support the website with photos and facts of their heritage.

Jörg Haspel drew attention to the international initiative to prepare and organize a “European Cultural Heritage Year” in 2018, which should be supported by the ICOMOS Europe Group and could offer a chance to reflect and promote SocHeritage on a European level (and to benefit from European funds for SocHeritage?).

Possible Follow-Up Activities on SocHeritage

2015, November: Japan

ICOMOS Europe meeting, should be informed and asked for supporting the initiative and the proposals for the preparation period of ECHY 2018 activities.

2015, December: Warsaw

On the occasion of the Annual Meeting of ICOMOS Poland

ICOMOS Agreement regarding the preparation of a multinational serial nomination of SocHeritage in CEE

2016, March/April: Florence

ICOMOS ISC TheoPhil “Modern Heritage – Criteria for selection and rules of protection”

2016 (2017):

Regional meetings are possible in Armenia, Bulgaria, and Croatia on SocHeritage in CEE

2016: possibly Athens

ICOMOS Europe should be kept informed about the activities and asked for proposals to support the initiative and to include the topic in the ICOMOS program for ECHY 2018 activities

2016, October 2nd: China

ICOMOS ISC TheoPhil – Annual meeting; on the occasion of the ISC TheoPhil meeting a workshop on SocHeritage could be arranged (on a global level including non-European countries)

2017:

Heritage at Risk Report – Special issue SocHeritage in Danger

2018

European Cultural Heritage Year (ECHY) – SocHeritage as specific part of the European history and identity

Ramona Dornbusch, Jörg Haspel, Bogusław Szmygin

Berlin, September 2015