

# AUSTRIA

## Palace and Gardens of Schönbrunn

### Brief description

From the 18th century to 1918, Schönbrunn was the residence of the Habsburg emperors. It was designed by the architects Johann Bernhard Fischer von Erlach and Nicolaus Pacassi and is full of outstanding examples of decorative art. Together with its gardens, the site of the world's first zoo in 1752, it is a remarkable Baroque ensemble and a perfect example of Gesamtkunstwerk.

### 1. Introduction

**Year(s) of Inscription** 1996

#### Agency responsible for site management

- Schloss Schönbrunn Kultur- und BetriebsgesmbH (Operating Company Ltd.)  
  
Bundesgärten (Federal Garden Administration)  
Schönbrunn  
  
Tiergarten (Zoo) Schönbrunn

### 2. Statement of Significance

**Inscription Criteria** C (i), (iv)

#### Justification provided by the State Party

No separate justification provided

#### As provided in ICOMOS evaluation

The Palace and Gardens of Schönbrunn are an especially well preserved example of the Baroque Princely residential ensemble, which constitute an outstanding example of *Gesamtkunstwerk*, and are exceptional by virtue of the evidence that they preserve of modifications over several centuries that vividly illustrate the tastes, interests, and aspirations of successive Habsburg monarchs.

#### Committee Decision

The Committee decided to inscribe the nominated property as an ensemble on the basis of cultural criteria (i) and (iv) considering that the site is of outstanding universal value being an especially well

preserved example of the Baroque princely residential ensemble, which constitutes an outstanding example of a *Gesamtkunstwerk*. The Palace and Gardens are exceptional by virtue of the evidence that they preserve of modifications over several centuries that vividly illustrate the tastes, interests and aspirations of successive Habsburg monarchs. It also congratulated Austria on their first inscription of two properties on the World Heritage List.

- Statement of significance adequately defines the outstanding universal value of the site

#### Boundaries and Buffer Zone

- Status of boundaries of the site: adequate
- Buffer zone: adequate
- Protection of surrounding area of the palace is adequate only under condition of the existing zoning and building plans (Flächenwidmungspläne and Bebauungspläne) within and outside of the buffer zone.

#### Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- World Heritage site values have been maintained
- Changes which may affect outstanding universal value: increasing number of high-rise buildings in Vienna being planned. At present one high-rise building is just outside the buffer zone and influences with a planned height of over 140m the integrity of Schönbrunn

### 3. Protection

#### Legislative and Administrative Arrangements

- Austrian Monuments Protection Act (Federal Act of 1923 as amended in 1999 by Federal Gazette No 170/1999); protection zones (Schutzzonen)
- Changes: As far as the protection of historic gardens is concerned, which constitutionally is within the competence of the federal provinces, the 1999 amendment of the Federal Monument's Act has handed over the protection of a certain number of important gardens - among them the Park of Schönbrunn - to federal competence. Consequently a so called "Parkpflegewerk" (a management plan for the park) was elaborated by "Bundesdenkmalamt" (Federal Office for Protection of Monuments). The park will be soon listed as monument under the "Denkmalschutzgesetz" (Federal Monuments Protection Act)  
As far as the protection is concerned, the park will then fall under the competence of the

"Bundesdenkmalamt" (Federal Office for Monuments Protection), Dpt. for Historic Gardens

- The protection arrangements are considered sufficiently effective

#### 4. Management

##### Use of site/property

Visitor attraction

##### Management /Administrative Body

- Steering group: January 1992 - responsible for supervising that conservation work is done only in accordance with the national heritage laws
- Formally constituted
- Management system: management under protective legislation
- Additional management system: for the Palace and Zoo: in form of a limited company, where the state has all the shares; for the Garden: management by State Party (Federal Garden administration)
- No site manager
- Levels of public authority who are primarily involved with the management of the site: national; regional; local
- The current management system is sufficiently effective

#### 5. Management Plan

- Management plan is being implemented (management plan elaborated for palace only)
- Implementation commenced: January 1993
- Revised: October 2004
- Title (if applicable)
- Effective/ insufficiently effective
- Responsibility for over-seeing the implementation of the management plan and monitoring its effectiveness: The managers of the company and the Board of directors

#### 6. Financial Resources

##### Financial situation

- State Budget; Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (since the park is federally owned); "Schloss Schönbrunn Kultur- und BetriebsgmbH" (operative company ltd.) earns the necessary funds through their business activities
- Sufficient

#### 7. Staffing Levels

- Staff: Schönbrunn Palace: 150, Schönbrunn Zoo: 180, Schönbrunn Park and Gardens : 110 (+ 30 apprentices)

Rate of access to adequate professional staff across the following disciplines:

- Very good: conservation, management, promotion; interpretation; education; visitor management

#### 8. Sources of Expertise and Training in Conservation and Management Techniques

- Schoenbrunn Academy
- 2 restoration workshops for building conservation under the Austrian "Bundesdenkmalamt" (Federal Office for the Protection of Monuments)

#### 9. Visitor Management

- Visitor statistics: 7,000,000 in 2004 (Palace: 2,212,000 tickets, Zoo: 1,730,000 tickets, Park: 7,000,000 estimated - free admission); tendency increasing
- Visitor facilities: Visitor Centre for groups, Information and cash desks for individual visitors, ticket reservation via Internet , e-mail, fax and phone, restaurants, shops, toilets
- Visitor/tourism management plan

#### 10. Scientific Studies

- Risk assessment; studies related to the value of the site; monitoring exercises; condition surveys; archaeological surveys; transportation studies
- Studies used for management and maintenance of site

#### 11. Education, Information and Awareness Building

- An adequate number of signs referring to World Heritage site
- World Heritage Convention Emblem used on publications
- Adequate awareness of World Heritage among: visitors, local communities, businesses, local authorities
- Web site available

## 12. Factors affecting the Property (State of Conservation)

### Reactive monitoring reports

- World Heritage Committee sessions: 29<sup>th</sup> (2005); 30<sup>th</sup> (2006)

### Conservation interventions

- Numerous conservation and restoration works, structural renovation to buildings, archaeological and art-historical investigations preceding restoration of Roman ruins
- Present state of conservation: very good

### Threats and Risks to site

- Development pressure, visitor/tourism pressures
- Specific issues: plans to build high rise buildings in the vicinity outside the buffer zone

## 13. Monitoring

- Formal monitoring programme
- Measures taken: risk assessment, yearly renewed restoration plan

## 14. Conclusions and Recommended Actions

- Main benefits of WH status: conservation
- Strength: Palace - The change of administration of Schoenbrunn Palace in 1992 (until 1992 the entire complex was managed by the "Schloßhauptmannschaft Schoenbrunn" a government body) almost coincided with the award of World Heritage Status in 1996. The newly established "Schloß Schoenbrunn Kultur und Betriebsges.m.b.H." (Schoenbrunn Palace Operating Company Ltd.) is a private, however federally owned enterprise. It started a 10-years restoration programme with an outlay of € 54,500,000 - which were yielded from higher entrance fees, souvenir and catering operations, on the one hand, and a rationalization of internal procedures on the other. The following restoration, redevelopment and revitalization projects have been performed: Redevelopment and restoration of the ground floor of the Palace, excavations on the ground floor of the Palace, restoration of the Blue Chinese Salon and Vieux-Laque Room, redevelopment of the Neptune Fountain in the Park, restoration and revitalization of the Gloriette, restoration of Maria Theresia's four-poster bed linked with "Reiches Zimmer", restoration and repair work of the Orangery,

restoration of the Roman Ruins, extensive climatic research of the interior

Park - Necessary exchange of over aged trees to new ones of a part of the green hedges flanking the garden green. Implementation of the "Parkpflegewerk"

- Weaknesses of management: 3 independent management processes for palace, zoo and park. However, the responsible meet regularly to discuss common management problems.

### Future actions:

- Establishing an overall coordination (develop an overall management system including the 3 sectors of the site (palace, zoo, park) and also town planning authorities. To open and offer further attractions in order to reduce the visitor's pressure at the palace.)