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UNESCO Region: EUROPE AND THE NORTH AMERICA

SITE NAME: City of Graz – Historic Centre

DATE OF INSCRIPTION: 4th December 1999

STATE PARTY: AUSTRIA

CRITERIA: C (ii) (iv)

DECISION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE:

Excerpt from the Report of the 23rd Session of the World Heritage Committee

Criterion (ii): The Historic Centre of the City of Graz reflects artistic and architectural movements originating from the Germanic region, the Balkans, and the Mediterranean, for which it served as a crossroads for centuries. The greatest architects and artists of these different regions expressed themselves forcefully here and thus created brilliant syntheses.

Criterion (iv): The urban complex forming the Historic Centre of the City of Graz is an exceptional example of a harmonious integration of architectural styles from successive periods. Each age is represented by typical buildings, which are often masterpieces. The urban physiognomy faithfully tells the story of its historic development.

BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS

The historic heart of the city of Graz is a central European urban complex marked by the centuries-long presence of the Habsburgs. The old city integrates harmoniously the architectural styles and artistic movements that have succeeded each other since the Middle Ages, as well as the different cultural influences of the neighbouring regions.

1.b State, Province or Region: Province of Styria

1.d Exact location: 47° 5' N, 15° 22' E



1. Specific location

Republic of Austria

Reg. N° 931 Date 30.6.98

a) Country

Copy N° 2

b) State, Province or
Region

Province of Styria

c) Name of property

City of Graz - historic center

d) Exact location on
map and indication of
geographical
coordinates

See documentation, p. 3 f. and maps

e) Maps and/or Plans

See documentation, annex

2. Juridical data

Historic center, therefore different owners.

a) Owner

2. Juridical Data
(cont'd)

b) Legal status

See documentation, p. 29 ff.

c) Responsible
national agency

"Bundesdenkmalamt" (Federal Office of Historical
Monuments")

A-1010 Vienna , Hofburg, Säulenstiege

Amt der Steiermärkischen Landesregierung (Office
of the Provincial Government Steiermark)
A-8020 Graz, Burg

d) Collaborating
national agencies and
organizations

For monuments listed under the Austrian Monument
Protection Act:
Bundesdenkmalamt, Landeskonservatorat für Steiermark,
A-8020 Graz, Schubertstraße 73

For the historic center under protection of the
Graz Old Town Preservation Act:
Altstadterhaltungskommission beim Amt der Steier-
märkischen Landesregierung
A-8020 Graz. Burg or Europaplatz 20

3. Identification

For the historic center in general see documentation p.7-21, for the individual monuments p. 22-28

a) History

b) Description and Inventory

See documentation, p. 22-28

Bibliography:

Dehio, Hndbuch - Graz, die Kunstdenkmäler Österreichs, Wien 1979

W.Resch, Die Kunstdenkmäler der Stadt Graz, Die Profanbauten des I.Bezirkes, Altstadt, Österreichische Kunsttopographie, Bd.LIII, Wien 1997

c) Photographic and/or cinematographic documentation

See documentation, annex, and enclosed slides, books and the video

3. Identification
(cont'd)

See documentation, p. 29ff.

d) Public awareness

e) Bibliography

See documentation, p.38 ff.

4. State of
preservation/
conservation

The preservation and conservation of the historic center is guaranteed both by legal and financial provisions. See documentation, p.29 ff.

a) Diagnosis

4. State of
preservation/
conservation
(cont'd)

b) History of
preservation/
conservation

b) Agent responsible for the preservation/conservation:

Bundesdenkmalamt, Landeskonservatorat für
Steiermark (see item 2d)

Amt der Steiermärkischen Landesregierung
(see item 2c)

c) See documentation, p. 29 ff.

c) Means for
preservation/
conservation

See documentation, p. 29 ff.

d) Management plans

5. Justification for inclusion in the World Heritage List

a) Cultural property

(i) reasons for which the property is considered to meet one or more of the World Heritage with, as appropriate, a comparative evaluation of the property in relation to properties of a similar type

(ii) evaluation of the property's present state of preservation as compared with similar properties elsewhere

See documentation, p. 5 ff.

See documentation, p. 5 ff.

The historic center of Graz is among the urban and architectural highlights of Austria as well as Europe. The "Altstadterhaltungsfonds" (townscape preservation fund) is designed to give financial support for restoration jobs that could cost more than standard repairs and maintenance.
See documentation, p. 29 ff.

(iii) indications as to the authenticity of the property

See documentation, P. 29ff.

5. Justification for inclusion in the World Heritage List (cont'd)

See documentation, p. 5 ff., p. 29 ff.

b) Natural property

(i) reasons for which the property is considered to meet one or more of the World Heritage criteria with, as appropriate, a comparative evaluation of the property in relation to properties of a similar type

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Supplements to the documentation
according to the „Format“

G r a z – H i s t o r i c C e n t r e

Enclosures:

- Second series of slides
- Austrian Monument Protection Act
- Excerpt from the Graz Historic Centre Conservation Act

1) **Identification of the Property**

- a) Austria
- b) Federal province of Styria
- c) Graz – historic centre
- d) see documentation, pp.3-4
- e) see documentation, maps I-V, further plan enclosed
- f) see documentation, p. 4, map II

2) **Justification for Inscription**

See documentation pp. 5–7

- a) Owing to its ensemble of buildings from many epochs (from the Middle Ages up to the 19th century), excellently preserved in its entirety and integrity, the historic centre of Graz represents a singular monument of a historic Central-European town. The authenticity of its evolved state and traditional appearance, unimpaired by wars or post-war economic boom times, is shown here in an exemplary manner. Between the river and Schlossberg, an urban organism emerged from the Middle Ages onwards that was to fulfil an important European mission later on as the court residence and the stronghold of the empire against the Ottomans. As hardly anywhere else, its history of development is mirrored in the townscape clearly and completely. Each epoch is represented by characteristic groups of architectural monuments that complement each other to unite into a uniform whole of an intact historic centre. To this day, the atmosphere of the city is characterised by a unique mixture of Mediterranean and northern elements from the wide expanse of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, the mingling of cultural influences from the regions between the Adriatic Sea, the Danube, and the Balkan. All of this finds its expression in the structure of the city, the atmosphere of its streets, squares and narrow lanes, and in the wealth of architectural forms of its churches, monasteries, palaces and burgher houses. The extension of the city in the 19th and 20th centuries

has added to this historic imprint by encircling the historic centre with a green belt on the site of the former large-scale post-medieval fortifications. The social structure of the historic centre with its acceptance of the traditional living space within the confines of the historic building ensemble has also been kept intact to a high degree.

The Middle Ages have left mighty hall churches as well as the basic urban structure with its tightly packed burgher houses at the foot of the Schlossberg and along both sides of the river. The Renaissance and Baroque periods are represented by a large number of ecclesiastical structures, imposing townhouses of the aristocracy, idyllic arcaded courtyards and splendid facades. Finally, the Classicist period surrounded the southern and eastern parts of the historic centre with extensive arrays of buildings. Owing to their exemplary state of preservation, urban structure and townscape in their traditional appearance are still reflecting the economic and sociopolitical development and status of the city with its continuity of social consensus. Thus the historic centre of Graz as a whole is of outstanding value: both as the specific type of an urban monument and as an exceptionally well-preserved traditional architectural ensemble.

- b) Due to the architectural integrity of its state of preservation, it is difficult to compare the historic centre of Graz with other historic centres. The most likely parallel is probably Bern with the compact integrity of its historic building material and the intact overall prospect.
- c) The historic centre of Graz represents a significant document for the concept of urbanity. Its authenticity is expressed not only in the integrity of the historic building material, but also in many buildings that combine features of architectural periods ranging from the Middle Ages up to modern times, in the co-existence of various stylistic elements and in the awareness of its inhabitants of a long tradition that forms part of contemporary everyday life. The identity of tradition and modern living functionality determines the unique synthesis of this city. Therefore the conservation of historic monuments is being carried out not only by the authorities concerned but primarily by the owners themselves, whose

acceptance of this authenticity has been passed on from generation to generation.

- d) Criterion IV (The historic centre of Graz is an outstanding example of an architectural ensemble which illustrates significant stages in human history).

With its unspoilt integrity and wide variety of architectural styles, the historic centre of Graz is among the most beautiful and important urban monuments in Europe.

In an almost unparalleled clear and complete manner, the townscape mirrors its history of development. Each architectural period is represented by characteristic high-quality groups of buildings that complement each other to form a uniform whole, its atmosphere dominated by the majestic Schlossberg and the picturesque Mur river.

3) **Description**

a) see documentation, pp.22-29

b) see documentation, pp. 7-22

c) Die Kunstdenkmäler der Stadt Graz, Die Profanbauten des I.Bezirkes, Altstadt, Österreichische Kunsttopographie, vol. LIII, Vienna 1997 (already submitted)

DEHIO-Handbuch, Die Kunstdenkmäler Österreichs, GRAZ, edited by Horst Schweiger †, Vienna 1979

Further relevant publications see documentation pp. 33, 34.

- d) The entire building material in the zone and buffer zone is characterised by an exceptional preservation of the evolved state, i.e. of all its historic strata. This is vividly illustrated by the squares and streets, facades and courtyards, and particularly in the uniquely preserved roofscape. The superb state of preservation includes not only the architectural monuments with their historically valuable details, but also the whole ambience of the historic building material (see documentation pp.32, 33).

- e) The active cultural policy pursued by the municipality has long since contributed to the preservation of the historic centre by including it into all important cultural events.

Current activities:

The funds allocated for the historic centre were doubled from ATS 2.2 to 4.4 million in order to finance the restoration of façades. ATS 17.6 million have been set aside for the rehabilitation of the City Park.

Measures planned for the project “Graz – Cultural Capital of Europe 2003“. Rehabilitation of the park areas until 2003 (approximate costs ATS 100 million).

Concept “*Platz für Menschen*“ (“Room for People“), designing of squares and streets in the historic centre within the scope of city conservation (1998: focus Sporgasse, costs of ATS 1.5 million); 1999: within the scope of the EU project URBAN: Griesplatz North, approximate costs ATS 10 million; until 2001: Griesplatz South, approximate costs ATS 70 million).

Residential initiative for the revival of the historic centre. Future urban investments in the rehabilitation area of City Hall and municipal administration building (approximate costs ATS 120 million).

Development of a cultural axis (*Eisernes Haus*, *Mariahilferplatz/ Cultural Centre Minoritenzentrum*, *Schlossberg tunnel*, *University Campus*, *glasshouses/ Botanical Gardens*).

Schlossberg: rehabilitation and architectural revitalisation: *Clock Tower* with forecourt, *bell tower*, *casemates*, *Chinese pavilion*, *tunnel*, *securing of paths* (approximate costs ATS 45 million), *Cerrini-Schlössl* and *Starke-Häuschen* (approximate costs ATS 11 million), *paths and parks* (approximately ATS 20 million).

See documentation pp.31, 32.

4) Management

- a) The historic centre in the zone proposed for inscription on the World Heritage List includes 450 historic monuments.

The major part is privately owned by families who have been living here for generations and whose consciousness of traditional values ensures the perfect preservation of these buildings. Moreover, full legal protection is also guaranteed (see 4b).

The latter also extends to numerous buildings owned by the Republic of Austria, the province of Styria and the city of Graz, as well as by other corporations under public law and the legally recognised churches.

- b) The scheme for the preservation of the historic centre of Graz encompasses a number of overlapping levels:
 - 1) For the preservation of the historic centre and the activation of its manifold urban functions the “*Grazer Altstadterhaltungsgesetz (GAEG)*“ (Graz Historic Centre Conservation Act) was created in 1980 (see enclosure). This act protects the appearance of the historic centre in its entirety. The GAEG protects architectural monuments as well as streets and squares, small monuments, open spaces, etc.
 - 2) Another protective level is provided by the Monument Protection Act of 1923 (Denkmalschutzgesetz / DMSG). It concentrates on outstanding historic monuments (currently 125 out of 450 buildings in the zone). The protection of monuments goes beyond the outward appearance (under GAEG) to include the whole dimension of the building material and the traditional appearance.
 - 3) Building code: All building permits in the historic centre are subject to the provisions of the GAEG and DMSG.
 - 4) An act dealing with the preservation and care of parks is being prepared.
See documentation pp. 29, 30.
- c) The comprehensive protection of the historic centre of Graz means that any alteration involving the historic substance, the traditional appearance and the artistic effect is subject to agreement and approval under GAEG and DMSG.
(Copies of the Austrian Monument Protection Act and an extract of the Graz Historic Centre Conservation Act are enclosed.)

d, e) The following institutions are in charge of the preservation of the historic centre of Graz (assisted by experienced specialists, such as architects, art historians, city planners, archeologists).

Altstadterhaltungskommission beim Amt der Steiermärkischen

Landesregierung

(Historic Centre Conservation Commission at the Office of the Styrian Provincial Government)

Burg, A-8020 Graz

Amt für Stadtentwicklung und Stadtplanung

(Municipal Planning and Design Office)

Europaplatz 20, A-8020 Graz

Bundesdenkmalamt (Federal Office of Historic Monuments)

Hofburg, Säulensiege, A-1010 Wien

Landeskonservatorat für Steiermark (Styrian Conservation Office)

Schubertstrasse 73, A-8020 Graz

f) From the point of view of its size and number of inhabitants, Graz boasts a disproportionately large and productive cultural scene. This is due to its universities, its multiethnic and multiconfessional population and above all to a large number of institutions organising cultural productions and events: **Internationales Städteforum Graz** (International Town Forum Graz) is a documentation and information centre dedicated to the exchange of experience (congresses, lectures, exhibitions, etc.) with regard to the preservation, restoration and adaptation of historically valuable city and village centres. Moreover, the *Städteforum* contains the archives for the annual “Europa Nostra“ competitions.

“**steirischer herbst**“ numbers among the most important international festivals of contemporary art. Held annually since 1966, its extensive multi-section programme creates impulses that have a considerable impact on the international art scene.

Since 1963, the **Trigon** exhibitions are being organised every two years, presenting contemporary works of art from Slovenia, Croatia, Italy, Austria, and Hungary.

For several decades, **Forum Stadtpark** has stimulated the avant-garde of literature, visual arts, and photography, documented by the renowned literary periodical “**manuskripte**“ or in the international photography journal “**Camera austria**“.

International art of the 20th century is presented in the **Kulturhaus der Stadt Graz** (Cultural Centre of the City of Graz).

The newly established **Haus der Architektur** (Centre of Architecture) has quickly gained world-wide renown as a forum of discussion of the latest architectural trends (“**Grazer Schule der Architektur**“ / Graz School of Architecture).

styriarte, a highly reputed festival for classical music, was founded in 1985.

An **opera house** and a **theatre**, the **Vereinigten Bühnen** (Theatre Association), with their permanent companies, orchestra, choir and ballet offer a rich and diversified spectrum.

The **Provincial Museum Joanneum** (oldest Austrian regional museum, founded in 1811) with its 16 departments has been awarded the European Council award “**European Museum of the Year 1984**“. It includes the Baroque gem **Eggenberg Palace** as well as the Styrian armoury, the largest collection worldwide of weapons from the time of the Turkish wars. The **City Museum of Graz** is an institution that studies and presents the history of the city.

Other current promotional activities:

Image boosting and promoting of the historic centre of Graz by funding events such as **La Strada**, *Graz erzählt* (Graz tells a story), **AIMS**, **Classic in the City**, **Advent of the Regions**, **Styriarte**, **Jazz Summer** (approximate costs of ATS 15 million per year).

See documentation, pp. 30, 31.

- g) For purposes of preservation, conservation and restoration, the **Historic Centre Conservation Fund** has an annual sum of ATS 4.4 million at its disposal. Additional resources include ATS 3.175 million provided annually by the revitalising fund of the province of Styria, as well as the aid

granted by the Federal Office of Historic Monuments and the Federal Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs under the Monument Protection Act.

A major part of the conservation activities is still being financed by the owners of the buildings themselves.

Together with the additional financial means listed in item 3e, the available resources can be considered sufficient.

- h) Experts for art history, architecture, archeology, restoration, city planning and economy are in charge of conservation and management in the agencies with management authority mentioned above. Two central restoration workshops (for the care of architectural and artistic monuments) in the Federal Office of Historic Monuments provide special training in the fields of conservation and restoration and arrange ICCROM courses.
- i, j, k) The historic centre of Graz is not a museum showpiece but a much-favoured centre of cultural life (see item 4f). However, the municipal administration is according special priority to the creation of an infrastructure for “gentle tourism“. All visitors’ facilities mentioned in the explanatory notes (chapter 6, item 4.6, I-VIII) are available.

5) Factors Affecting the Property

- a) Legal provisions exclude undesirable encroachment factors with regard to the historic building material (see item 4b).

The historic centre of Graz enjoys maximum protection against development pressures and environmental pressures due to the structure of its ground plan, the expansion zones of the 19th century that surround it, and the extensive protected green belt. Thanks to the balanced social structure there is little pressure for changes in the residential area. Precautions have been taken against negative tourism pressure (see items 4i, j, k).
- b) The following measures have been taken for the reduction of environmental pressures: general traffic limitations, creation of pedestrian zones, speed reduction of public transport (campaigns “*Platz für Menschen*“ (Room for

people), “Speed 30/50“) and a restrictive supervision of limited parking zones.

- c) Regulations of the river Mur carried out in the past prevent the occurrence of dangerous floods.
- d) Tourism is being kept within reasonable limits through an active urban policy (see item a).
- e) The number of inhabitants has not changed recently; it is 5,863 within the core zone and 4,603 in the buffer zone.

6) **Monitoring**

a-c) The state of conservation is being monitored permanently: by the Graz Historic Centre Conservation Commission, the building authority, the Federal Office of Historic Monuments, the Styrian Conservation Office (see items 4d, e). The Municipality of Graz is responsible for the townscape generally, the Federal Office of Historic Monuments for the monitoring of the protected objects.

Over the last years, conservation and restoration works were carried out on more than 50 per cent of the 450 historic monuments and on almost all of the protected objects, with the purpose of preserving their fabric, traditional appearance and artistic effect. Rehabilitation measures concerning further structures are being prepared or have already been launched (see also documentation, pp.31 f.) This ensures care of the monuments on a permanent basis.

The Historic Centre Conservation Commission is handling about 600–700 interventions per year.

7) **Documentation**

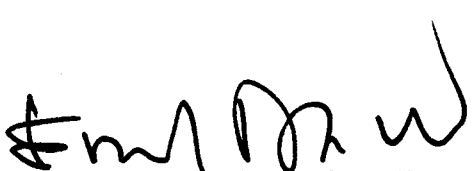
a) Photographs: see documentation, annex

Slides: A series of slides has already been submitted with the documentation, a second one is being enclosed.

Video: already submitted.

- b) The Austrian Monument Protection Act and an extract of the Graz Historic Centre Conservation Act is being enclosed (see also item 4b).
- c) See documentation pp. 38 ff.
- d) *Bundesdenkmalamt* (Federal Office of Historic Monuments)
Hofburg, Säulenstiege, A-1010 Wien
Bundesdenkmalamt, Landeskonservatorat für Steiermark
(Federal Office of Historic Monuments, Styrian Conservation Office)
Schubertstrasse 73, A-8020 Graz
Stadtarchiv Graz (Graz City Archives)
Hans-Sachs-Gasse 1, A-8010 Graz
Steirisches Landesarchiv (Styrian Archives)
Karmeliterplatz 3 (head office of the archives), A-8010 Graz
Bürgergasse 2 (National Archives), A-8010 Graz
Hamerlinggasse 3 (Landscape Archives), A-8010 Graz
Landesbibliothek (Styrian Library)
Kalchberggasse 2, A-8010 Graz
Stadtmuseum Graz (City Museum Graz)
Sackstrasse 18, A-8010 Graz
Landesmuseum Joanneum (Provincial Museum Joanneum) (head office)
Raubergasse 10, A-8010 Graz

Wien, am 04.09.1998


Generalkonservator Univ.Prof.Dr. Ernst Bacher



REPUBLIK ÖSTERREICH

THE WORLD HERITAGE

**Documentation for the
nomination of**

Graz – historic center

The present study is based on various contributions
compiled by the Bundesdenkmalamt

A-1010 Vienna, Hofburg, Säulenstiege

Vienna 1998

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I. General data; Identification of the Property

The historic center of Graz is the core of the Styrian capital of the same name, Styria being one of the provinces (Länder) of the Republic of Austria. In geographical terms, Graz is located within the following co-ordinates:

Southernmost point:	degree of longitude	15° 27' 42"
	degree of latitude	47° 00' 44"
Westernmost point:	degree of longitude	15° 21' 03"
	degree of latitude	47° 06' 25"
Northernmost point:	degree of longitude	15° 24' 07"
	degree of latitude	47° 08' 06"
Easternmost point:	degree of longitude	15° 32' 07"
	degree of latitude	47° 06' 00"

At about a quarter of a million inhabitants, Graz is the second largest city of Austria and lies in between the tensional areas of Danubian and Adriatic nations, at the intersection of west and south-east Europe.

This city at the border is also a place of encounter, a function that has made Graz a major multi-cultural pivot within the Alpine Adriatic region since medieval times. A university city, a city of the arts, Graz is junction to a cultural city network reaching from Munich to Temesvar and Pecs, from Lvov to Pula and Trieste, from Brno to Sarajevo and Dubrovnik, from Krakow to Ljubljana and Zagreb.

Due to its geographical location, the city has had a tradition of cultural and spiritual leadership since the 14th century.

In those times Graz was the residence of Inner Austria. As such it gained spiritual pre-eminence within the entire Alpine Adriatic region, developing an open-mindedness towards unknown and novel ideas and the ability to absorb them to enrich its own identity. This mental disposition, this specific Graz phenomenon, unparalleled by any other European city, is expressed in the most elementary way in the city's architectural heritage.

Located at a junction of transit routes used since early history, the Schlossberg-protected Mur ford was first settled in the Bronze Age. It took until the Middle Ages for these settlements to evolve into a town proper.

However, not the Middle Ages but rather 16th century Renaissance did coin the city.

Its heyday was in the 16th and 17th centuries when Graz was once again a residence, when the fortifications against the Turks – who never besieged the city – were generously enlarged, when the whole city was renewed based, in most instances, on Italian builders' designs. This was also the time when Graz was crystalliser to the global policy conflict between Protestants and Catholics. This great era is still reflected in today's historic building fabric in the town centre.

After the expulsion of the Protestants and the move of the imperial court to Vienna, the city experienced quieter times of Baroque alterations and mo-

dest growth. However, this period continued to be under the influence of Italian artists and craftsmen.

The decline in political significance had a definitely conservational impact on Graz. It was only when the enormous fortification walls had to be razed to fulfil the condition of a peace treaty that the character of the city changed: the vacated areas were turned into a green belt, whereas 19th and early 20th century construction activities focused on surfaces outside the former glacis. This is why Graz boasts a largely unspoilt old-town ensemble unparalleled in its integrity. This assembly is witness to the natural properties of the terrain, the remote effects of European history and the creative will of the Graz people.

The area of the historic center of Graz proposed for inscription on the World Heritage List covers 719,700.60 m²; the area of the buffer zone covers a total of 757,233.34 m² (maps I–IV).

For defining the boundaries of the zone (map II, red line) of the historic historic center area, we have used as a reference the sites of the former fortifications built as from 1546 by mainly Italian master builders. They are still partially in place at the eastern end of the historic center and can be easily seen in the line of buildings along Burgring – Opernring – Kaiserfeldgasse. Also, parts of the left Mur banks, the so-called Murvorstadt or Mur village, have been included in the nominated property. They are located along the streets running from Lendplatz to Griesplatz in a north-south direction. This line of streets (Mariahilfer Strasse – Griesgasse) follows the former topography of the Mur banks and is bordered on both sides by an almost uninterrupted array of historic buildings. Projecting the zone into the "bridgehead" of the right Mur bank – this is the place of the former ford from where the city has spread – we pay due regard to the uniform cityscape on both sides of the river.

The buffer zone (blue line) shown in map II encompasses the wooded northern flank of the Schlossberg, that part of the City Park that is not included in the nominated property, plus a major portion of the buildings constructed in the first half of the 19th century following the demolition of the city fortifications. They are buildings of late Classicism and early Historicism encircling the historic center core. On the right Mur banks the buffer zone covers the historic buildings of the Andrä quarter, the Burghers' Hospice Foundation and the ecclesiastical precinct of the hospitallers' church and monastery (Barmherzigenkirche and Barmherzigenkloster).

II. Justification for inscription of the historic center of Graz on the World Heritage List

With its historic characteristics, Italian kind of atmosphere, the interplay between narrow streets and bright wide squares, its specific charm and recently growing attraction for visitors and guests, the historic center of Graz is among the most significant town ensembles of Austria.

The historic center area has, despite examples of post-war and contemporary architecture in its surroundings, remained agreeably sheltered by the Schlossberg, as well as by the grid-type suburb of the 19th century, which could be preserved in its entirety and integrity (ill. 1, 65–68)

Centuries of development have formed the city structure and architecture around two urban cells. The one is the former market with the main square, a systematic medieval arrangement, i.e. the historic center at the foot of the Schlossberg (ill. 1–12, 68). The other, majestically elevated above the town, unites spiritual and worldly power, church and ducal residence (Burg), into a unique ensemble called crown of the town or Stadtkrone (ills. 38, 39).

How the ground plan of the first street market looked can still be seen in the earliest arrangement of homesteads (ill. 35). The medieval town fortifications, the so-called ring wall, can be perfectly reconstituted not only based on 19th century maps but also on its existing in-situ remnants: fortified medieval towers and town gates are preserved, as are remnants at the eastern end of the historic center (ills. 2–4, 6, 41, 42).

The original medieval material is mostly preserved in the masonry of unplastered cellars and in the ground floors of the secular burgher houses, even more so in the Burg and abbey courtyards (ills. 13, 42, 44). Graz boasts extraordinary examples of late Gothic and Renaissance architecture. A culmination in the town's development constitutes the Jesuit College of Graz, the most significant building of the Counter-Reformation. Aside from Augsburg, Munich and Koblenz, this is the largest College building in the German-speaking world (ill. 45). Of major artistic relevance for the urban prospect is the ensemble formed by Landhaus and Armoury with the magnificent arcaded yard, one of the most important examples of monumental Renaissance architecture north of the Alps (ills. 21–23).

The Renaissance buildings, whose original look is still apparent in the vault structures of the ground floor zones and especially in the arcaded inner courtyards, remind us of the specific flair of a northern Italian Renaissance town. Of note are the Renaissance portals and sgraffitto surfaces, some of them uncovered only recently in the course of restorations. Other finds are still to be expected (ills. 16–20, 25, 36, 37, 43).

Seen from afar are two monumental buildings from the 17th century: the Jesuit university and the internationally unique and historically significant Mausoleum of the Habsburgs right next to the Gothic cathedral (ills. 38, 39, 46, 49).

Of Baroque origin are a number of townhouses of the aristocracy with their characteristic oriels and painted and stuccoed facades, so typical of their times, and the Graz-specific generous staircases (ills. 27, 29, 30, 32, 34, 47). Also numerous high-quality burgher houses of the 18th century enliven the townscape with remarkable stucco exteriors and impressive portals, while in many instances also displaying fine wall and ceiling decorations inside (ills. 15, 24, 26, 33).

A variety of monuments of Baroque, Renaissance and medieval times thus form a unique urban ensemble with the Schlossberg as its unmistakable landmark and the Mur river as its picturesque waterline. Among the varied and impressive silhouette of spires, towers and domes of numerous churches (ills. 48–64), we find the unspoiled facade prospects of aristocratic townhouses and burgher houses which line pretty squares and crooked, narrow streets in the city's historic parts and feature an intact roofscape (ills. 7, 8, 28, 35, 38, 53, 54).

When taking a closer look at both the zone of the nominated property and the buffer zone, we may recognise the historical borderline, as defined by the dismantled fortifications, between the historic center and the suburbs or boom-time (*Gründerzeit*) town development respectively. As already mentioned, the buffer zone results both from the geographic situation (Schlossberg) and from the uniform 19th century city development, a unique example of an intact townscape in its own right. This grid-type suburb also includes a number of remarkable buildings, such as the medieval Lechkirche, one of the most important ecclesiastical buildings of Graz, or the opera house (ills. 48, 65).

Graz is also called "garden city". It owes this name to its numerous parks and green areas of outstanding design (totalling 10,000 ha or 78% of the city's area, an internationally unparalleled ratio). A cultural landscape featuring its own flora and fauna of rare plants and animals, the Schlossberg is the culmination of the green City Park oasis and a popular recreation area for the people of Graz. Much has been spent on extensive rehabilitation operations on all important buildings, ways and paths in this area.

By way of summary one may say that the integrity and the variety of architectural styles and epochs displayed in Graz's historic center, which is of extraordinary cultural value, make it one of the most beautiful and outstanding properties within Europe. As hardly anywhere else, the town prospect mirrors the city's historical development clearly and completely. Each style is represented by a characteristic group of monuments which complement each other to unite into a uniform and undisturbed whole: the late

Middle Ages have left three mighty hall churches, Renaissance times a great number of arcaded yards full of atmosphere, and the predominant Baroque period has left magnificent facades.

It is this differentiated look of the historic center of Graz which is always stressed in scientific papers and studies. The co-existence of a great variety of styles and their components, the integrity of rows of buildings from different epochs, and last but not least the extensive parks and gardens greatly contribute to the specific flair of the historic center.

In terms of its historic building material and fabric, Graz can be compared to the historic centers of Salzburg, Bamberg or Strasbourg.

III. Description of the historic center of Graz including Schlossberg

1. Historical development

Prehistoric times – Alpine Slavs – Colonisation

The earliest traces of human development found in today's municipal area date from the Neolithic period. These as well as other finds of graves and deposits of prehistoric artifacts indicate the existence of prehistoric settlements on the western border of the Grazer Feld at the foot of the chain of hills topped by Plabutsch mountain.

Unlike several other Austrian cities, Graz does not go back to a Roman settlement.

The only remnant of antiquity is a local trading route, known as "strata hungarica" in the Middle Ages, which came from the east (Pannonia), entered the Grazer Feld near St. Leonhard (Roman grave finds), then joined another road from Weiz at today's junction of Hofgasse and Sporgasse. Further to the west, at the foot of the Schlossberg, this road crossed the river Mur at a ford, then continued through the Grazer Feld, meeting in the west the important Roman road running from north to south.

The fall of Rome was followed by the period of the migration of peoples. The Alpine or Carantanian Slavs, dependent on the Avars, came to Styria and Carinthia and established the Duchy of Carantania. After Charlemagne had subjugated the Avars at the end of the 8th century, Carantania came under Frankish rule. However, the beginnings of German colonisation in the Eastern March were abruptly ended by the Hungarian invasion in c. 900. It was only after the Hungarians had been defeated in 955 in the Battle on the Lechfeld that the territory of Graz could be incorporated into the newly established system of marches. It was now part of the "Carantanian March". This changed the entire situation of the land surrounding Graz which on its eastern fringes already touched upon Hungarian territory.

This frontier situation also explains the construction of a small fort on the Schlossberg in the second half of the 10th century which has since vanished. One of the usual explanations given for the name of the town, Graz, is that it was derived from this fort (gradec=small fortress).

At that time, the land of Graz did not belong to the sovereign but to a local dynasty, the allodiaries of Stübing, who traced their descent from the Aribones. They built themselves a castle on the Schlossberg between 1125 and 1130, as well as domestic buildings including farm quarters and a church in the place of today's Burg-Cathedral complex (see "Stadtkrone"). It was at this time that Graz was first mentioned in a deed (1128/29).

Market town and town life

The manorial complex soon gave rise to a street market which developed between 1130 and 1140 in the area of today's Sackstrasse (1st section or "Sack"; ill. 8).

When Otakar III of Steyer (Styria), Margrave of the Traungau, took possession of the land, this marked the beginning of the development of Graz into the capital of Styria. One sign of its new standing was the generously dimensioned trapezoidal Hauptplatz (= main square – originally extending as far as Landhausgasse) that was built in c. 1164 next to the old street market. Its size was unsurpassed in the whole of the land (ills. 5, 8).

Apart from the nobility, the major part of the population consisted of artisans and tradesmen. The Jews, who lived in a ghetto until their expulsion at the end of the 15th century, fulfilled an important function, primarily as money lenders.

The first villages outside the town walls appeared in the vicinity of Mehlplatz and Färberplatz. Monasteries formed outside the first town wall of 1233. The Teutonic Order founded the "Leech Commendam" on the so-called Leech Hill which had been used as a grave mound since the Bronze Age (today's Leechkirche). The monasteries also had well-fortified town residences inside Graz, which are among the oldest buildings still in existence (see Reinerhof, oldest documented building of Graz; ills. 13, 31).

Of the buildings which form part of the old centre, the parish church of St Ägydius (today's Cathedral) lay outside the town walls. It was not incorporated into the municipal fortifications until 1336, when the town appropriated large parts of the land to the east. Reflecting its geographic position, Graz had town gates only at the eastern and western walls (Paulus Gate, Burg Gate, both still existing, while the Mur Gate was demolished; ills. 42, 43).

The land of Graz was first ruled by the Traungau and Babenberg dynasties. They were followed in 1260 by the great patron of urban development, Przemysl Ottokar II, King of Bohemia. Graz received the status of a town and was granted the use of the Traungau panther in its coat of arms. In 1281 Rudolf I of Habsburg succeeded him, also as the ruler of the town.

Graz – the court residence

The Treaty of Neuberg (1379), which provided for the partition of the Habsburg Empire, also determined the urban development of Graz. The town became the seat of the Habsburg line established by Leopold III, the administrative capital and cultural and intellectual centre of "Inner Austria", which included Styria, Carinthia, Carniola, Istria, Trieste, Gorizia and Gradisca and which were independent counties in the 16th and 17th centuries.

The town came into its own under the Habsburg emperor Frederick III (1453–93), who made Graz his favourite residence. He granted the town many privileges and enriched the townscape with a proliferation of splendid buildings.

From 1438 onwards, he had a town castle built at the eastern corner of the town (today's Burg), which served as the emperor's residence (see "Stadtkrone"), and he ordered the rebuilding of the church of St. Ägydus in the new Gothic style (today's Cathedral, 1438–1462; ills. 49–52).

In the Mur village, construction of the Burghers' Hospice Church was begun in the second half of the 15th century. The town had at last opened up to the south (Iron Gate), where the Dominican Monastery (today's Parish Church) was built. The second Sack quarter developed in the north.

Town and country became involved in serious armed conflicts with the Hungarians and the Turks. As a result, the medieval fortifications were reinforced. In 1480 the Turks arrived at the town-gates. These events are captured in a fresco entitled "God's Plagues" on the southern wall of the Cathedral, painted by Master Thomas von Villach (ills. 40, 41) which ranks among the highest-quality frescoes of the Gothic period.

Emperor Maximilian, the son of Frederick III, spent very little time in Graz but continued to add annexes to the Burg complex (double spiral staircase in 1499, see "Stadtkrone").

The 16th century was dominated by the constant threat of a Turkish invasion, the advance of the Reformation (from 1525 onwards), and by a gradually accelerating economic decline.

As a countermeasure, King Ferdinand I of Habsburg, after 1543, called in architects and craftsmen from Lombardy to rebuild and renew the entire medieval system of fortifications in line with the state of the art of fortress design, turning the town into the "main stronghold of Inner Austria".

At that time the town acquired the characteristic features of a Renaissance fortress with broad bastions advancing across the entire line of defence. The old castle on Schlossberg was pulled down and replaced by a new building (today's casemates). In c. 1559, the Clock Tower, landmark of Graz, received its characteristic appearance that has been preserved to this day (older substructures from the Gothic period were discovered only recently) (ills. 1, 2). The works were supervised by Domenico dell'Aglio from Lugano, who also constructed the most important Styrian Renaissance building, the so-called Landhaus (1557–65; ills. 21, 22) for the Styrian estates (Styrian diet).

Graz – capital of Inner Austria

Another partition of the Habsburg lands, among the sons of Ferdinand I in 1564, made Graz once again the capital of Inner Austria, an association of territories that now extended from the Alps to the Adriatic Sea and was charged with guarding the military frontier against the Turks.

The most important period of urban development doubtlessly occurred under Archduke Charles II of Inner Austria (1564–90) and his wife, Maria of Bavaria, and their son Ferdinand. They maintained a complete household in Graz, created new administrative authorities and helped the town to achieve a new cultural and intellectual heyday.

The political scene was dominated by the defensive measures against the Turks and the conflicts between the Catholic prince and the predominantly Protestant estates. The latter tried to use their tax granting privileges in order to secure their religious freedom.

In 1568 about three quarters of the population of Graz were Protestants. They maintained the so-called Protestant foundation school (Paradeishof, today the department store of Kastner und Öhler) where several distinguished men from Protestant Germany taught, among them (from 1594 to 1598) Johannes Kepler, astronomer and mathematician, and the Protestant theologian David Chyträus.

The most important chapter of urban development began when the Jesuits were called to Graz in 1572. By patronising the Jesuit Order, Archduke Charles II prepared the way for the Counter-Reformation in Graz.

The Order took over the grammar school in Hofgasse, built the Jesuit College (today's Seminary, Bürgergasse; ill. 45) next to the court residence, and was given the parish church of St. Ägydius (Cathedral; ill. 49). The municipal parish was moved to the former Dominican monastery in Herrengasse (today's Parish Church; ill. 62). In addition, Graz was the seat of a permanent papal legate from 1580 until 1621. As a consequence of their activities pressure on the Protestant burghers began to increase noticeably after 1582.

In 1585 Archduke Charles founded the Jesuit University, not least as a Catholic reaction to the success of the Protestant foundation school (ill. 46). Owing to the excellent teachers from the Jesuit Order the university soon became an intellectual focus, its influence reaching far beyond the borders of Inner Austria into the Pannonian and Carpathian regions.

These measures were soon crowned with success: the Catholic restoration of Graz was completed under Charles' son. The Protestant foundation school was closed, and the Protestant burghers were expelled in 1600, a fate that befell the aristocratic estates only in 1628.

However, the Counter-Reformation had resulted in enormous building activities in the town, such as the construction of new churches and monasteries. The Capuchin Monastery and its St. Anthony's Church were built outside the Paulus Gate. It was in front of this building that the Jesuits burnt about 10,000 Protestant books, accompanied by much publicity and

propaganda; nevertheless what they burned were duplicates; the originals remained safely stowed away in the university library.

In 1615, Archduke Ferdinand commissioned his court artist Pietro de Pomis to build a monumental mausoleum adjacent to the court church, which became the largest and most impressive Habsburg mausoleum in Austria, as well as the country's most important historical building from the period of transition from Mannerism to Baroque (ills. 38, 39, 59, 60).

When Archduke Ferdinand was elected Holy Roman Emperor in 1618, this marked another turning point of urban development. In 1619 the Court moved to Vienna, taking along the treasury, the court orchestra and the Lipizaner horses, yet for the time being it remained the Court of Graz living in Vienna. The departure of the Court from Graz spelt a gradual economic and cultural decline, and it also provides an explanation of why the high Baroque style did not take hold in Graz. However, Graz remained the capital of Inner Austria until 1749.

The 17th century

As has already been mentioned, it was originally Italian (so-called "welsch") masters who carried out the construction works. From the second half of the 17th century onwards, however, local artists were increasingly being commissioned. The great Baroque architect Johann Bernhard Fischer von Erlach was incidentally born in Graz, in 1656.

Several burgher houses made way for notable Renaissance and early Baroque palaces for the nobility, such as Palais Kollonitsch, Palais des Effans d'Avernas and Palais Stubenberg, later Welsersheimb (ills. 25, 27, 34). The burghers tried to emulate the new fashion by remodeling facades and adding on arcaded courtyards to older buildings.

In the western part of the town, the governor of Inner Austria, Hans Ulrich von Eggenberg, built a magnificent ducal residence in 1625–56. Eggenberg Palace, with its interior decoration of great artistic merit, is the most important Baroque palace in Styria.

In the late 17th century Graz was again confronted with the Turkish peril, aggravated by Hungarian insurgents and a plague epidemic of horrendous proportions, with a death toll in 1680 of about 25% of the population. In 1664 the Turks were defeated by Count Montecuccoli in the battle of Mogensdorf–St. Gotthard, in commemoration of which feat the grateful inhabitants of Graz donated Our Lady's Column on Europaplatz.

The town possessed three armouries; one of them, the Estate Armoury in Herrengasse, exists to this day as the most complete collection of weapons of that time (ill. 23). It was built in 1643/44 by Antonio Solar; the stone dressing work was carried out by Giovanni Mamolo. Inside, four storeys divided by wooden joist ceilings serve as display rooms for the collection which constitutes one of the few armouries still existing in Europe.

In 1673, Emperor Leopold I married Claudia Felicitas of Tyrol in the court church, and the wedding celebration took place at Eggenberg Palace.

The 18th century

The 18th century finally saw the end of the Turkish peril for Graz. The town began to be sidelined from the political stages of world affairs.

However, under Charles VI and his mercantilist policy, Graz was made a stage of the Imperial Commercial Road from Vienna to Trieste, which gave the town a new orientation towards the south and south-east. Factories and the first banking houses appeared.

Reforms that made Austria a more centralistic state deprived the magistrature of most of its independence; the Inner-Austrian authorities were dissolved.

In the town, the number of outstanding new palaces (such as Palais Attems, from 1702; ills. 29, 30, and Palais Wildenstein, 1710–15) dwindled, while existing places of pilgrimage were developed into monumental shrines (Maria Hilf, Maria Trost).

The suppression of the convents undertaken by Joseph II led to the closing of nine monasteries out of 16, and to a new system of parishes in Graz. At the same time, the books from 40 Styrian and Carinthian monasteries were brought to Graz, enlarging the stocks of the university library.

In 1786 the Bishop of Seckau moved his residence to Graz, the church of St. Ägydus became a cathedral, and the diocese of Graz–Seckau was founded. The Jesuit order had been dissolved in 1773, and its university was converted into a state university.

From 1784 onwards, the fortifications were gradually demolished, so that the historic center began to merge with the adjacent villages. To the south of the Iron Gate, Caspar Andreas von Jakomini built a suburb which was later to bear his name.

The beginnings of a favourable economic development were considerably impaired by the Wars of the Coalitions against France. The French occupied Graz three times, in 1797 (when Napoleon stayed in the town), 1805, and 1809, and demanded harsh contributions from its inhabitants. In 1809 they laid siege to the Schlossberg, without much success thanks to the brave defence led by Major Hacker. Under the provisions of the Peace of Schönbrunn, however, the fortifications had to be pulled down. From 1839 onwards, a park was laid out on the barren Schlossberg rock by Baron von Welden that has given the appearance of the town its special appeal ever since.

The prerevolutionary *Vormärz* period is also characterised by the manifold activities of Archduke John (died in 1859), who laid the foundations for several cultural and economic institutions that are still active today (Joanneum, Styrian archives and library, Technical University, agricultural and insurance institutions, savings banks, etc.)

The revolution of 1848 turned out to be a moderate affair in Graz. The middle classes, predominantly of German-nationalistic convictions, took over until 1918. At that time Graz enjoyed popularity among pensioners, attracting many musicians and writers, such as Robert Hamerling, Peter Rosegger, Wilhelm Kienzl or Hugo Wolf.

For the municipality, this was a period of changes towards modern urbanity. The city purchased the sites of the military glacis to create the city park, developed district and street plans, numbered the houses, and regulated the development of new quarters by zoning ordinances. The decision not to build on the glacis made it possible to create the city park, and incidentally preserved the historic center more or less in its original state, while the grand Historicist buildings rose in the new urban enlargement areas. The urban extension which began in the *Biedermeier* period was intensified in the so-called *Gründerzeit* (boom time). Urban planning concepts could be put into effect in the grid building system, green policy found its expression in the creation of the city park on the glacis sites, of the Volksgarten in the Mur village, and of the Augarten in the southern extension area.

The inner city became the commercial and social centre of Graz. Important Historicist structures were built, such as the City Hall (1888–93; ills. 8, 10), the Technical University, Karl-Franzens University (1885), the City Theatre (opera), the neo-Gothic Herz-Jesu-Kirche, the synagogue, banks, hotels, and the Provincial Hospital, a monumental assembly with *Jugendstil* elements that was considered a “wonder of the world” when it opened in 1912.

The assassination of the successor to the imperial throne, Archduke Francis Ferdinand, who had been born in Graz in Palais Khuenburg (today's City Museum), was the immediate occasion that sparked the outbreak of the First World War. With the new Austrian borders drawn in 1818/19, Graz lost its hinterland and was relegated to the background economically as well as geographically.

After the Second World War, a period of slow normalisation set in. The surrounding municipalities, 17 districts all told, had been united into today's Greater Graz already in 1938. Graz became a modern city, an industrial and cultural centre, a city of universities and gardens.

Today, the unique historic center, and the newer streets and areas with their outstanding buildings of Historicism, *Jugendstil* and modern architecture, all combine to make Graz a living showpiece of the art of architecture.

2. The urban development of Graz

The medieval town

History first takes notice of Graz at the beginning of the 12th century. The owner of the land, Bernhard von Stübing, began after 1122 to clear the river forest and establish villages (in the chronicle of Rein Abbey, Graz is first mentioned in a deed dated 1128). The Slavic name *gradec* (=small fortress), from which the name of Graz is derived, indicates the original function of the place, i.e. to provide protection and refuge.

The second half of the 12th century was decisive for the development of Graz. In 1156 Otakar III of Traungau acquired the land of Graz. The

Traungau dynasty, the margraves of Steyer (Styria), made Graz the centre of commerce and trade as well as the seat of the Styrian administration. Between 1130 and 1140 the first street market evolved as a planned medieval market complex between Hauptplatz and Schlossbergplatz, at right angles to the old highway, protected by the Burg hill. It was later replaced by a new market square, built together with Herrengasse and Schmiedgasse.

Graz now presented itself as a small but promising settlement at the southern and western inclines of the Schlossberg, with the parish church – dedicated to St. Ägydius (later Graz Cathedral) – situated towards the east. St. Ägydius is the patron saint of travellers, who may have already watched the old Roman road that came from the east and continued through a Mur ford, joining in the west of the Grazer Feld another Roman road that ran from north to south (along what is now Hofgasse and Sporgasse over the Mur bridge).

Otakar IV, seriously ill and without issue, was the first and last of the Traungau dynasty on whom the title of duke was bestowed. In the famous “Georgenberg Treaty of Inheritance” (1186) he appointed the Babenberg duke Leopold V as his successor in Styria, thus bringing Styria to Austria.

The Babenbergs encouraged the rapid development of the place. When their dynasty became extinct, the Habsburgs (beginning with Rudolf I, 1282) were to determine the fate of Graz for almost 650 years.

In the Treaty of Neuberg of 1379, the brothers Albrecht III and Leopold III divided the Habsburg lands between themselves, creating the basis for an independent Inner Austrian territory that comprised Styria, Carinthia, Carniola and Istria.

Graz became the capital of Leopold and his successors. Its first period as the seat of the court was overshadowed by discord among the Habsburgs. It was only when Duke Frederick, the future Emperor Frederick III, came to the throne of Inner Austria in 1435 that a building boom set in. Frederick favoured Graz and supported the building of several ecclesiastical and secular structures. Burghers at that time were heavily indebted to the Jews, which occasioned their expulsion in 1438/39 and the dissolution of the ghetto, which was located in the southern precincts of Herrengasse. In the following years, the Jews’ houses were sold to the burghers of Graz.

Frederick’s urban planning activities culminated in the building of a new residence, a town castle, on the site of his former agricultural estate which was expanded by the purchase of several burgher houses. He also ordered the rebuilding of the old parish church of St. Ägydius and had it linked with his residence via a passage above Hofgasse. The town castle and Gothic parish church (today’s Cathedral) formed the nucleus of the so-called Stadtkrone, a building assembly that is unique in Central European ecclesiastical architecture (see “Stadtkrone”; ill. 38, 39).

To sum up: in the early to late Middle Ages the town and market were primarily of economic importance, as is reflected in the fact that Graz had no ecclesiastical centre within its town walls. The churches of St. Paul (today’s

Stiegenkirche) and St. Ägydius had no appreciable influence on urban development. Nevertheless, Graz already possessed the qualitative criteria that determined its urbanity: the Burg as the prince's residence, the market complex surrounded by a ring wall, and the church of St. Ägydius as its ecclesiastical centre.

Typologically, Graz was a farming town, i.e. the majority of inhabitants were engaged in agriculture in addition to their trades. This is evident to this day from a prevalence of so-called homestead buildings – a stretched-out form of house-cum-farmstead consisting of a front building facing the street and a rear building ("Stöckl"), usually connected in the courtyard by a narrow central building with corridors. The townscape of Graz in the early Middle Ages was probably not much different from a rural settlement. Several homestead courtyards were not built up but used as gardens up to the 15th century.

The long homestead buildings are best preserved in the row of houses from the Reinerhof in Sackstrasse to Stempfergasse; they number among the oldest and most valuable building stock of the historical historic center. With their self-contained design and homogenous rooftop assembly featuring a succession of steep roofs, they testify to a unique co-existence of urban and rural life in a medieval society (ills. 7, 8, 28, 35, 53, 54).

Late Gothic and early Renaissance

Emperor Frederick III died in 1493. Under his son and successor Emperor Maximilian I Graz lost its standing as residence of the court, since Maximilian – unlike his father – rarely visited the town. The period until Maximilian's death (1519) was characterised by peasants' revolts and a general moral decline of the clergy that formed the nurturing ground for the subsequent period of Reformation.

Late Gothic secular architecture has left Graz a unique and world-famous work of art. The stairwell that Maximilian had built houses the double spiral staircase (ill. 44), whose dog-legged stone steps represent an architectural masterpiece of the late Middle Ages unparalleled in the German-speaking world (see "Stadtkrone").

Further examples of high-quality secular architecture are to be found in the courtyards of Sporgasse 22 (so-called house of the Teutonic Order) and Hauptplatz 15 (ill. 14).

The death of Emperor Maximilian spelt the end of an epoch. Emperor Charles V, Maximilian's grandson and successor, ceded the Austrian territories to his brother Ferdinand at the Imperial Diet of Worms held in the year 1521.

Ferdinand's first years were characterised by wars against the peasants and the Turks, as well as by the advance of Protestantism into Styria. Although Ferdinand had prohibited the spreading of Luther's writings, Graz had practically become a Protestant town by the middle of the 16th century.

To combat the constant Turkish peril, Ferdinand decided to develop Graz into a major stronghold of Inner Austria (as from 1544), in keeping with the

latest achievements of weapon technology. For this purpose he called upon the Italian master builder Domenico dell'Aglio to come to Graz and supervise the construction works on the fortifications.

The arrival of Italian craftsmen in Graz marked the transition from the Middle Ages to the modern times that was to be reflected in architecture from the second quarter of the 16th century until the 18th century (ills. 3, 4, 6).

Early Renaissance forms had already made their appearance in Graz early in the second quarter of the 16th century when Domenico dell'Aglio was commissioned in 1555 by the Styrian estates to renew the wing of the Landhaus facing Herrengasse (ill. 23).

The Landhaus building, influenced by a type of palace originating in Venetia, represents the most important early Renaissance building of Styria. Thanks to its forceful Upper-Italian main facade with the characteristic portal axis and the spacious courtyard with the arcaded piers the Landhaus is of far more than regional importance (ills. 21–23).

The Renaissance – Graz as the capital of Inner Austria 1564–1619

The Renaissance marked the most important period in the history of Graz. The 16th century was determined by the conversion of almost all the nobles and burghers of the town to the Lutheran teaching, the sufferings of the people when Hungary was conquered by the Turks (who almost entered Graz in 1532) and the development of the town into the main stronghold of Inner Austria.

In his will, Ferdinand I stipulated the partition of the Austrian lands; his youngest son, Charles, was to receive the territories of Styria, Carinthia, Gorizia, Trieste and the Austrian part of Istria. From 1564 onwards, Archduke Charles resided in Graz as the sovereign of Inner Austria. Subsequently this led to the establishment of a central authority with chancellery, court chamber and an independent Inner Austrian council of war.

Charles' rule was dominated by the conflict between Protestants and Catholics. He and his wife, Maria of Bavaria, strove to achieve a Catholic restoration in accordance with the terms of the Religious Peace of Augsburg. As a countermove to the establishment of the Protestant foundation school (nine out of ten burghers of Graz were Protestants), Charles called in the Jesuits, who began their teaching activities in the spirit of the Counter-Reformation in 1572.

The period from 1564 to 1619 signified a culmination of urban development, both historically and architecturally. The arrival of Archduke Charles and the government officials who had come with him from Vienna gave rise to extensive building activities, on the part of the sovereign as well as by private citizens. Construction work at the Burg continued almost without interruption under Archduke Charles until the death of his wife, Maria.

In the immediate vicinity of the Burg and parish church, the Jesuits began to unfold their sphere of influence. They built the Jesuit college (Seminary)

and the Old University (ills. 45, 46). Under the sovereign's patronage the College was extended by the addition of a convict, a grammar school, and the Ferdinandeum. In 1607–09, the complex was crowned by the building of a university (see "Stadtkrone").

As a result of the refortification in line with the Italian system of bastions, the municipal area was considerably enlarged. Above all, this concerned the north, where the construction of two bastions created a new part of the town – the Paulus Gate quarter.

This part of the town, located as it was at the back of the Burg, must be seen not only as destined to furnish some protection against the Turks, but also against the Protestant burghers, since only Catholic courtiers and monasteries were granted plots of land.

When we consider the stock of buildings still remaining from that period, i.e. monumental and Jesuit buildings, public and private houses, adding the fortifications (remnants of which still exist) and the newly established Paulus Gate quarter, it becomes obvious that in the second half of the 16th century the municipal area was undergoing extensive enlargement as well as renewal. For four decades, more than half of the town was one large building site, which involved material and manpower resources of an almost unimaginable scope even by today's standards.

A number of monumental buildings from that time have been preserved in their Renaissance splendour, in particular the Burg structures and the Jesuit College (see "Stadtkrone").

In the historic center, about 50 galleried courtyards were created in that period, giving the historic center the special appeal of an Italian Renaissance town, a feature that cannot be found anywhere else in the entire German-speaking world.

The buildings dating from the second half of the 16th century have to be seen in the context of the master builders and masons who were called to Graz to construct the fortifications. The medieval town was mostly made of wood. According to a report dated 1531, even the castle on Schlossberg was "quite old and wooden". When the town wall was refortified in the 16th century, brick construction finally prevailed. The metalwork, timberwork and paintwork were performed by local craftsmen whereas masons and stonemasons were almost exclusively from Italy.

As far as can be ascertained, most of the mason and stonemason families came from the region between Lake Como and Lake Lugano; i.e. from Como (Bertoletti) to Val d'Intelvi (dell'Aglio, Ferrabosco) to Lugano (della Porta de Pone) and its small neighbouring village, Gandria (Tadei and de Verda families).

These building craftsmen were generally called "maestri comacini" or "Comasken" in the local parlance. This name had become established during the first big immigration wave in the 16th century. Most of the master build-

ders, masons and stonemasons called in from these regions primarily for the building of fortifications subsequently settled down in their new homes. This fact is substantiated by the building of a church at Griesplatz (the so-called "Welsche Kirche") and by the establishment of their own guild.

Apart from the outstanding Landhaus facade, many houses in the historic center still have Renaissance facades that are largely intact. Renaissance houses from the second half of the 16th century typically show corner oriels, of which there still exist a large number, and Lombardic decorative features, such as grotesques. Wall surfaces are still adorned by sgraffito work (ills. 16–20, 25, 26).

It is generally assumed that the craftsmen who worked here introduced the sgraffito technique from their native places at Lake Lugano, where the scratchwork ornaments originating in Florence had already become established around the year 1500. Sgraffito work can be found on the facade of the Records Wing of the Burg, in the courtyard of the Franciscan Monastery, and in the arcaded courtyards located in Sackstrasse 10 and Hauptplatz 16 (ills. 16, 56).

Whereas these facades are to be ascribed to the Italian master builders from the region of Lakes Como and Lugano, the narrow facade of Hofgasse no. 10 (ill. 36) shows the influence of Roman High Renaissance. It was probably created by Salustio Peruzzi, the son of the Roman master builder Baldassarre Peruzzi, who was in charge of the fortifications as from 1569. Unparalleled in the townscape of Graz, this typical specimen of a Roman house facade transcends regional boundaries and is of importance for the entire German-speaking world. The buildings constructed by Archduke Charles for his personal use, on the other hand, are characterised by simplicity and unpretentiousness. The plan for the Charles Wing of the Burg, with Renaissance stone window framings as the sole articulating element, was designed by the Viennese court architect Pietro Ferraboso from Laino (Val d'Intelvi).

In 1596, Charles' eldest son Ferdinand came to the throne and abolished the Lutheran system of schools and churches. In 1600 the citizens of Graz had to choose whether to convert to the Catholic faith or to emigrate. In 1619, Archduke Ferdinand of Inner Austria was elected Emperor in Frankfurt on the Main (Ferdinand II, 1619–37), upon which he transferred his residence to Vienna.

17th century architecture between Renaissance and Baroque

Although Graz ceased to be seat of the court when Ferdinand was elected emperor, it remained the capital of Inner Austria. The authorities, newly organised in 1625, continued to administer the Austrian lands.

Following the expulsion of the Protestant burghers at the turn of the century, the Emperor decreed in 1628 that the Protestant nobility should be similarly expelled from Inner Austria. With this, Catholic restoration was essentially complete.

Two monumental buildings were created at the beginning of the century – the Jesuit University and Ferdinand's Mausoleum with St. Catherine's Church (see "Stadtkrone"; ill. 38, 39, 46, 59, 60).

Old engravings show that, unlike the extremely unpretentious Jesuit College, the university building (Bürgergasse 2a, now housing the Styrian archives) already featured an ornamental wall with gable windows, inscription tablets and niches for statues (lost during refacading works carried out c. 1780), which can be interpreted as a manifestation of the victorious Counter-Reformation.

This effect is enhanced in the Mausoleum, in whose dome ensemble the cross and the imperial crown jewels demonstrate the close association between church and monarch. In 1614, Ferdinand commissioned the court artist Giovanni Pietro de Pomis to build a church dedicated to Saint Catherine, as well as a mausoleum (see "Stadtkrone"). The artist came from Lombardy, had studied painting in Venice and had been working in Graz since 1595/96.

The building complex of St. Catherine's Church and the Mausoleum that was erected on an oval base – the largest Habsburg mausoleum – represents an imperial building whose importance for art history lies in its unique synthesis of heavy three-dimensional architecture topped by a light and airy landscape of domes inspired by Venice. While the details are rooted in Mannerism, the structure as a whole already anticipates Baroque elements.

The townscape underwent a further substantial change when new monasteries, having been invited to Graz to assist the Counter-Reformation, were established in the first half of the 17th century. Capuchins and Carmelites both received large tracts of land in the Paulus Gate quarter, which was still rather sparsely settled at the beginning of the 17th century. The Augustinian hermits settled in Sporgasse behind long stretched-out monastery facades on either side of the stairs leading to Stiegenkirche. On the side bordering the river Mur, the Protestant foundation school where Johannes Kepler had been teaching was turned over to the order of St. Clare who founded the "Clarissen zu Allerheiligen im Paradeis". In the middle of the 17th century the Carmelite nuns received a large area in the quarter known as "Kälbernes Viertel" (ill. 5). In addition to these large monastic settlements, the Franciscans started a tower in 1636 which further emphasised the ecclesiastical presence in a municipal area hitherto characterised almost exclusively by secular structures (ills. 54, 55).

Although Graz had lost its function as the seat of the court, several noble families built their palaces in the town in the second quarter of the 17th century, prominent among them Catholic noblemen who had aggrandised themselves in the wake of the Counter-Reformation and confiscation of property entailed by it. Foremost among them are the palais of the Eggenbergs in Sackstrasse 16 (today's New Gallery) and the mighty four-winged building of Palais Kollonitsch (Schmiedgasse 21; ill. 25) with an arcaded

inner courtyard. The lower third of Schmiedgasse is dominated by its late Renaissance facade with the cant-bay corner oriels resting on columns.

One of the outstanding buildings of this period is the Styrian armoury built by Santino Solari from 1642 onwards. It derives its unique position primarily from its role as an arsenal (ill. 23). The plain functional structure is accentuated by the monumental late Renaissance portal by the stonemason Giovanni Mamolo. The statues in the niches at its sides, Mars and Minerva, can be ranked as the best sculptures to adorn buildings in Graz. Stylistically, they already belong to early Baroque.

The Baroque period from Emperor Leopold I to Maria Theresa

In 1660, three years after his accession to the throne, the magnificent ceremony of the oath of allegiance to Emperor Leopold I took place in Graz. His decision to hold his wedding with Claudia Felicitas of Tyrol in Graz gave rise to further sumptuous celebrations. The festivities were held at Schloss Eggenberg, Styria's most beautiful Baroque palace, located in the western part of Graz.

Activities of a different kind became necessary when in 1663 the Turks declared war on Austria. The fortifications had to be repaired, and all buildings located outside the town were demolished. The Turkish peril was further aggravated when the Black Death struck, killing about one fifth of the population (the inhabitants of Graz numbered approximately 15,000 in 1680). After the Turks had been defeated in 1683, the surviving people of Graz erected plague columns, which are still very essential features of the squares, such as, e.g., the Baroque Our Lady's Column on the square in front of the Iron Gate.

Emperor Leopold died in 1705. 1728 was another important year for the history of Graz. After the Inner Austrian estates had recognised the succession of women (Pragmatic Sanction) in 1720, Emperor Charles VI came to Graz for the festivities arranged for the ceremony of the oath of allegiance. The town used the occasion of the celebration of 1728 to have the streets newly paved and street lighting installed. Four days before the Emperor's arrival, the streets of Graz were illuminated for the first time by lanterns. This celebration, which was to be the last of its kind held in Styria, was captured in a collection of copperplate engravings paid for by the Styrian estates. This work, published by Deyersberg in 1740, features detailed views of the town, which makes it one of the most important sources for the history of architecture in Graz. Its best-known town vedute are the copper engravings by Andreas Trost, who depicted the town in 1699 from the east and west with an almost perfect topographic accuracy (ill. 4).

While the fashion for articulated palace architecture began in Vienna already under Leopold I in the 1760s, Graz received its first Baroque facade arrangement with floor-by-floor pilasters only when St. Lambrecht's Court was built in Raubergasse (1665–74). Its major feature is the row of pilasters representing herms at the second upper storey with the plastically shaped

cornice. St. Lambrecht's Court is a late work of Domenico Sciassio (1599/1603–1679) from Roveredo in the Vale Mesolcina (the Grisons). It is strongly influenced by the forms and designs of the Renaissance style of the Como and Lombardy region which Sciassio had imbibed from various theoretical works on architecture and on a journey to Rome made with Abbot Pierin of St. Lambrecht in 1652 and which are particularly expressive in the grotesquely sculptured cornice of St. Lambrecht's Court (ill. 26).

Another typical feature are the stucco facades with their scrolls (Hauptplatz 16) and acanthus tendrils with fruit festoons (Hauptplatz 9, Luegg-Haus), which cover the wall surfaces for purely ornamental purposes. The facade of the second Luegg-Haus, (Hauptplatz 11) shows an interesting mixture of plaster bands with vegetable stucco forms (ill. 12). These houses were not rebuilt but converted and given new facades, while parts of the old buildings, such as the late-Gothic ground-floor arcades of the Luegg Houses, were retained and integrated in the conversion. This architecture reminds us of South Tyrolean and Upper Italian galleried houses and represents one of the most interesting architectural elements at the Hauptplatz.

In parallel to the early Baroque facade designs which were increasingly used in the last quarter of the 17th century, secular architecture showed a growing preference for stucco ceilings, which progressed along the same lines as the facades: flat plaster bands forming strictly geometric patterns were juxtaposed with naturalistic putti, fruit festoons with scrolls and spirals to form strongly plastic framings enclosing central mirrors or cartouches (Mehlplatz 1; ill. 33.)

Just as the master builders of the 16th century came almost exclusively from the region between Lakes Como and Lugano, the stuccoists of the 17th century were from the Vale Mesolcina (Grisons).

Italianite early Baroque stuccoing of ceilings reaches its peak in the last third of the 17th century, with the ceilings of the stairwell of Palais Stubenberg (Hans Sachsgasse 7; ill. 34), Palais Kollonitsch (Schmiedgasse 21; ill. 25) and Palais Dietrichstein (Burggasse 9).

Much decorative care was also devoted to the staircases, most of which had stone balustrades with banisters of a characteristically angular form (houses on Karmeliterplatz and in Hans Sachsgasse 1).

When the Herberstein family built their town palais in c. 1690, four houses were joined together, retaining a Renaissance oriel and the entrance gate. Little attention was paid to the facade, but much more was lavished on the double-flight staircase in the courtyard: due to its loggia conception it presents one of the most noteworthy Styrian staircases of the late 17th century and suggests Italian models, presumably from Genoa or Venice (ill. 27).

The two most important town palais of the Baroque period were built shortly after the turn of the century: Palais Wildenstein (1702–03, Paulustorgasse 8) and Palais Attems (1702–05, Sackstrasse 17; ill. 28–31). The former is a design unique in Austria: colossal columns articulate the facade, rising from the ground floor socle in 22 elliptical columns sunk in the pilaster recesses of a curtain wall that hides the original wall.

Palais Attems, built in the place of six older houses, also features a Baroque room arrangement, as well as the only wall and ceiling furnishings in the town that has been preserved largely intact. The facades of the U-shaped main body of the building are instrumented above the two-storey socle zone by a small pilaster arrangement with richly detailed window framings, while the entrance axis is accentuated by the monumental portal ensemble that extends over three axes and is crowned by a balcony.

The two palais are entirely at variance in their architectural principles, and cannot be explained from local tradition. Their general conceptions appear to have originated from the ducal clients themselves who, influenced by works on architectural theory, derived ideas from internationally renowned buildings, but achieved solutions in their own right that are known as "Kavaliersarchitektur", architecture by noble dilettanti.

Structures to be judged on their own merits are the Baroque portals added on to older buildings, such as the atlas-flanked portal of Hans Sachsgasse 1 and the projecting portal of Palais Khuenburg (Sackstrasse 18), whose balustrade supported by columns and slanting wall pillars makes it one of the highest-quality portals of the high Baroque.

The change in stucco styles at the beginning of the 18th century is clearly noticeable on interior walls as well as on the facades of the burgher houses. This break manifests itself in particular in the Palais Attems: while the facade stucco work with its plastic vases, festoons and grimacing heads still show the influence of Italian forms, the stucco ceilings inside are already characterised to a large extent by a purely ornamental foliage which is bound to the surface. The most beautiful and probably latest example of a Baroque stucco facade with a recessed Madonna is the burgher house on Kapunplatz 2, whose richly structured foliage, strapwork and latticework already show the first signs of the new Rococo style.

3. The main buildings of the historic center: „Stadtkrone“ (Ills. 38, 39, 42, 43, 45, 46, 49–51, 59, 60)

The so-called Stadtkrone ("Crown of the Town") is a cluster of major buildings: Burg, Cathedral, Mausoleum, Old University and Seminary, a unique ensemble of great importance in terms of architecture and art, grown over centuries of urban development. It takes its name and resemblance to a crown mainly from the domes that arise from the Mausoleum and hover above the variegated roofscape of the historical town centre. The assembly delimits the grown core of the historic center towards the City Park and provides for a deft counterpoint to the bustle in the streets around the main square and Schlossberg. But the Stadtkrone is more than just an architectural ensemble. In no other provincial capital of Austria has there been such a close association between spiritual and temporal centres, manifesting itself outside and apart from the burghers' settlement.

Today, the Burg is the residence of the Styrian provincial government, and the Old University is the cradle of its modern successor, Karl-Franzens University, which celebrated its 400th anniversary in 1985.

Historical and structural development

We find the first records of the Stadtkrone in the 12th century, when Bernhard von Stübing, allodial and demesne lord of the land on which Graz was to develop, had villages built into the pristine forests along the left river bank soon after 1122 and ordered a manor seat for himself on the Schlossberg.

At about the same time, the manorial farm was established at the place where later the Burg was to rise, together with the proprietary church of St. Ägydius and the first street market between Schlossberg and the river Mur. As in many other medieval towns of Styria, the parish church thus was located outside the market settlement. The original church of St. Ägydius appears to have been very much smaller than today's Gothic cathedral church. Encircled by a cemetery and fortifying wall, the Romanesque parish church should be conceived as a cross between a church and a castle that looked down on the busy market life in the little town at its feet.

A milestone in the development of Graz was reached by Emperor Frederick III when he built his new residence in the north-eastern corner of the medieval town wall and rebuilt the old parish church (today's Cathedral church), linking the two by a corridor across Hofgasse.

Emperor Maximilian followed with the double-spiral staircase (ill. 44), a gem of late Gothic architecture of global fame.

The sovereign state of Inner Austria was governed from the Charles Wing of the Burg. Other buildings soon gathered nearby, among them the Seminary, the Old University of the Jesuits and the Mausoleum of Emperor Ferdinand II (ills. 45, 46, 59, 60). Jesuits contributed most to the construction activities, putting their mark on the area for two centuries: their buildings still make up a major part of the assembly.

In its building styles, the Stadtkrone is dominated by the Gothic of Frederick and Italian Renaissance. The Mausoleum and St. Catherine's Church (ill. 60) are the most interesting complex in architectural terms. While the structure as a whole and its striking facade are unique expressions of a building fashion at the threshold from Renaissance to Baroque, it is the domescape (ill. 38), visible from afar, that lends the city its characteristic silhouette. The might and power of the Baroque period is displayed mainly in the interiors of the Cathedral and St. Catherine's (Mausoleum, ills. 51, 59). Actually, the only building of the Stadtkrone to be visibly Baroque in its outside appearance is the Domherrenhof, the former Jesuit convent which was converted for use of the canons of the cathedral.

The builders of the Stadtkrone

Little is known of the builders of the Gothic period presided over by Frederick III. The Cathedral appears to have been built by Hans Niesenberger from Swabia, who presented himself as the Master of Graz at the Regensburg assembly of stonemason's lodges in 1459. Recent archaeological investigations excavated five stonemason's marks from the earliest construction period in the Frederick Chapel of the Burg.

More information is available from the Renaissance buildings which are still the most numerous of the Stadtkrone ensemble. They were almost certainly built by Domenico dell'Aglio, who was called in by the Emperor to serve as the senior supervisor when the fortifications were built and whose fame is further enhanced by the Landhaus for which he was responsible.

For his own wing in the Burg, Archduke Charles commissioned designs from Pietro Ferrabosco, court builder in Vienna. His brother, Marco Antonio Tadei, supervised the construction of another annex, the Records Wing.

The Jesuit college could be ascribed to Vinzenz de Verda.

These master builders, together with the masons and stonemasons, whose names have come down to us, arrived in Graz in the second half of the 16th century when the fortifications were built. Virtually all of them came from the region between Lake Como and Lake Lugano, which originally belonged to the diocese of Como before it was divided between Italy and Switzerland in the early 16th century. Usually several members of a family worked in Graz, and some of them returned after many years or even settled down in Graz. Known locally as the "Welschen" (Italians) and to architectural history as the "maestri comacini", they were employed not just to build the fortifications but also carry out generous reconstruction work at the town buildings when Graz was the seat of the dukes of Inner Austria (see historic center).

Burg

Of the castle originally inhabited by Emperor Frederick III, the Gothic hall, a late Gothic chapel and the unique Gothic double-spiral staircase, built by his son, Emperor Maximilian, in c. 1499, have survived.

The Gothic double-spiral staircase (ill. 44)

The polygonal stairwell of 1499, sitting across the passage to the second castle court is the only part that still remains from the wing built by Maximilian to connect the castle buildings raised under his father's rule (its upper third is decorated with Roman tombstones that Maximilian had placed there in 1506).

A late Gothic door made of red marble offers access to the four-storied double-spiral staircase which winds upwards in steep turns. The two flights of the staircase, running in opposite directions, join at the shared landings. With its dog-legged design and the mostly self-supported stone structure, the double-spiral staircase at the Graz Burg ranks among the major late Gothic staircases in Europe, a masterpiece of stonemasonry marking the close of an epoch.

The "Karlsbau" or Charles Wing, which Archduke Charles built in 1570–71, has remained largely intact. Used today as the Styrian governor's residence, its rooms and in particular its ceremonial halls constitute the spiritual core of the Burg. The wing was fitted in between Frederick's building at the north-eastern corner of the medieval town wall and the eastern town gate,

the so-called Burgtor. This Gothic gate, constructed in 1336–39, with its pointed stone frames on either side, is the oldest surviving town gate of Graz (ill. 42).

It is contrasted by the monumental Renaissance portal (Domenico dell'Aglio, 1554), which grants access to the first castle court and which attracts by its plain, unadorned grandiosity and the precision of its parallelepipedal stones (ill. 43). Its design mirrors the portals drawn by Sebastiano Serlio whose oeuvre on architectural theory had a profound influence on the Italian master builders working all over Europe.

The Records Wing

The "Registraturtrakt", a long drawn-out wing to house government records, was built by Marc Antonio Tadei, also of Italy, under Archduke Charles II, in 1581–85. An interesting feature from the viewpoint of art history is the ornamental sgraffito scratchwork decorating the facade. Tadei, another member of the group of Italian architects, brought the sgraffito technique from his home at Lake Lugano, where the fashion, originating in Florence, had taken hold already around 1500.

The Seminary (former Jesuit college; ill. 45)

In 1572, Archduke Charles II, the Catholic prince of Inner Austria, called upon the Jesuits of Ingolstadt (Germany) to come to Graz in order to mount an effective attack against the growing Protestant movement.

Construction on their mighty complex began in 1572. It was built by Vinzenz de Verda, who came from Gandria near Lugano and who was also employed with the fortifications. The theological college of Graz is one of the first of the Society of Jesus in the German countries, and it counted among the largest of the century, next to Augsburg, Munich and Coblenz. While most of the 16th century colleges were later converted into the Baroque style, the one in Graz retained most of its original structural features and is therefore a major example of early Jesuit architecture of importance for the entire German province of the Order.

The sheer size of the building registers only when the visitor enters the austere inner courtyard, the largest in the historic center of Graz. Passing along the corridors that enclose the courtyard, one gets a particularly vivid impression of its monumentality. Floor upon floor, the long corridors, reminiscent of a monastic cloister, run around the courtyard, willing those who brave the passage to be transplanted into a remote world. The attic offers an overwhelming view of the red rooftops of Graz.

The exterior appearance is that of a plain, severe Renaissance building, but the interior is alive with the exuberance of the Baroque age, which left its touch everywhere, and most impressively in the grand hall, the refectory and – first and foremost – the grand staircase (ill. 47).

The walls of the second and third floors were covered in colourful stucco-lustro, the severies of the stair flights and the landing were framed in lavish

stucco frames with painted emblems (small symbolic paintings with bande-rols).

The Old Jesuit University

The long facade of the seminary abuts the monumental building of the Old University (Bürgergasse 2a, today the Styrian archives). Placed at the corner of Hofgasse and Bürgergasse, the complex draws back to leave a small square which was once known as University Square. Across the street, the western facade of the Cathedral comes into view.

The university was founded by Archduke Charles II in 1585, and the building was ceremonially opened by Archduke Ferdinand in 1609. When the Jesuit order was dissolved in 1773, this spelled the end of the Jesuit university, but operations as such continued under state control.

The library (ill. 46)

In order to rescue the library stock of the Styrian Jesuit colleges (Graz, Leoben, Judenburg) after their dissolution, Empress Maria Theresa in 1780 instructed her court builder Joseph Hueber to convert the former aula and theatre of the university into a library, which today is the showpiece of the Styrian archives. The furnishings and decoration of the library have survived fully intact and are a major manifestation of the transition period from Rococo to Classicism. The library boasts oil portraits of Jesuit teachers and Habsburg rulers, and its severies, transverse arches and window recesses are covered with delicate decorative paintings in which dainty rococo flowers are harmoniously placed in Classicist vases to give the room its special touch.

The Cathedral (ills. 46–51)

The mighty Gothic cathedral sits at the heart of the Stadtkrone assembly, and it is this church which is at the root of the assembly's development.

Built under Emperor Frederick III in 1438–64, the cathedral replaced the parish church of St. Ägydius which had been first mentioned in 1174. The new Gothic building continued to serve as the parish church and was incorporated in the city fortifications. The main portal carries the coats of arms of Frederick and Eleonora, his Portuguese wife, above the deep doorcasing of the ogee arch of the stone door.

Inside the southern side entrance, a fragment of a fresco survives which depicts St. Christopher carrying the Christ child across a river. The saint is clearly recognisable as Frederick wearing the Styrian ducal coronet – at a time when he was already German emperor. There is deep symbolism in the fact that Frederick lent his features to the saint carrying Jesus Christ.

The southern external wall of the Cathedral is decorated with a fresco known as "God's Plagues", probably painted by Thomas von Villach in 1480. It was donated by the burghers of Graz to ask God's forgiveness for their sins. God's punishment manifested itself in the three plagues sent by him: locusts, the Turks and the Black Death, shown on the lower part of the painting. Above it, a marvellous view is given of divine and human hierarchies. The programmatical painting, unique for the close of the Middle Ages, also offers the first view of Graz (above the Turkish siege).

The fate of the parish church of Graz was decided when Graz was raised to become the residence of the rulers of Inner Austria in 1564.

Charles II, the Catholic archduke who resided at the Burg in 1564 to 1590, called the Society of Jesus to Graz to check the progress made by the Protestant religion. For 200 years, the church of St. Ägydius was controlled by the Jesuits as the centre of the Counter-Reformation.

During this period, the best local and foreign artists put their efforts into furnishing the church, creating an impressive *Gesamtkunstwerk*. Gifts by the Styrian prince, such as the precious reliquaries, masterpieces of early Italian Renaissance, foundations and epitaphs contributed their share. The pulpit, whose programme was defined by Georg Lindemayr of the Society of Jesus, the pews, choir stalls and high altar basically rounded off the transformation into the Baroque style in the early 18th century which today characterises the magnificent interior.

In 1773, Pope Clement XIV suppressed the Jesuit order for political reasons. When Joseph II revised the scheme of dioceses in 1786, moving the bishop's seat from Seckau to Graz, the church of St. Ägydius, attended by only a handful of former Jesuits, was ideally placed to become the new cathedral of the diocese of Graz-Seckau. In this way, a parish church turned court church and then Jesuit church at last was raised to cathedral status.

The Mausoleum of Emperor Ferdinand II (ills. 59, 60)

The Mausoleum and St. Catherine's Church (1614–87) contribute the most interesting – in terms of architecture and art history – components to the Stadtkrone assembly. While the overall design of the complex and the striking facade are unique indicators of an architectural fashion at the threshold from Renaissance to Baroque, it is the characteristic domescape that lends the city's silhouette its distinctive touch.

The Mausoleum, placed on an oval groundplan and the Habsburgs' largest tomb, in combination with St. Catherine's provides for an imperial edifice whose important place in art history derives from its unique synthesis of heavy, plastically conceived architecture and the hovering, Venice-inspired lightness of its domes. Rooted in Mannerism in its details, the complex nevertheless anticipates various elements of the new Baroque style.

For his Mausoleum, Archduke Ferdinand retained Giovanni Pietro de Pomis from Lombardy, who proved to be a skilled architect and rose to become court builder.

The complex consists of two buildings which are linked but differ in their utilisation: a church dedicated to St. Catherine above a cruciform ground plan, and the mausoleum proper, a centralised, oval building. In this way, the traditional cross-shaped church is juxtaposed with a centrally designed building whose oval base design was only just gaining ground in Italy and which was a striking novelty in northern architecture.

Leaving only a small passage inbetween, the church, marked out by its characteristic facade, fits tightly against the Cathedral.

For the Mausoleum, which consists of a forcefully rising domed structure and a tomb underneath, de Pomis made skilful use of the precipitous terrain. Exploiting the natural terrace, he forces visitors to descend from the brightness of the church into the gloom of the stuccoed tomb, thereby anticipating the art of effective stage-setting, a key element of the Baroque in Central Europe, by decades.

Apart from the famed and much praised domes, which echo memories of de Pomis' apprenticeship in Italy, it is mostly the facade of the Mausoleum which excites special interest and which dominates the square flanked by the Cathedral and the Domherrenhof close. Innumerable painters and photographers have captured the image, countless publications have wallowed over the abundance of its architectural detail.

In this connection it should be noted that de Pomis, a genius and universal artist, consciously planned the visual impact of his building on the urban environment. The Mariahilferkirche (ill. 61) at the opposite banks of the river Mur had been designed for its distant effect, like the Venetian island church San Giorgio Maggiore, while the Mausoleum facade, with its wealth of fine details, obviously was to cater to a nearer view.

Conceived like a triumphal arch, the facade rises on half columns towards an attic terminated by a segmental arch pediment, inscribed with a triangular pediment – a motif taken from the Jesuits' founding church Il Gesù in Rome. The overwhelming wealth of architectural details ranks the facade foremost among the Mannerist church facades in Austria.

When Ferdinand moved to Vienna in 1619, construction work faltered. After de Pomis' death in 1633, his successor Pietro Valnegro completed the choir tower. In 1637, Ferdinand, the second emperor of this name in Germany, died in Vienna. His funeral procession was accompanied to the Styrian border by 320 horsemen. After many days spent on funeral ceremonies, Ferdinand was at last laid to rest in the Mausoleum of his native town. His grave is indicated by a plain tablet to the right of the altar. The vault itself is dominated by a precious sarcophagus of red marble, with the statues of Archduke Charles II of Inner Austria and his wife Maria of Bavaria placed on top. The room is decorated with stucco redolent with symbols of the transience of life.

None of the mausoleums erected by the various members of the Habsburg dynasty surpasses that in Graz in sheer size and expressiveness. Ferdinand, whom the pope had awarded with the honorary title of "most fervent defender of the faith", used it as an opportunity to immortalise himself. As such, the building should also be seen as Austria's most important monument, in terms of art and culture, of the Counter-Reformation in the first half of the 17th century.

Inside St. Catherine's, stuccoed all over in motifs to glorify the Habsburgs, the most splendid item is the altar created by Fischer von Erlach, a native of Graz who went on to become a leading exponent of the Baroque style. It was the first masterpiece that the architect was to give to his home town.

IV.-VI. Management – Factors Affecting the Property – Monitoring

The historic town centre of Graz, as proposed for inscription on the World Heritage List, includes 450 monuments.

This historic center of Graz is subject to monument protection under sections 1, 2 and 3 of the Austrian Monument Protection Act (*Österreichisches Denkmalschutzgesetz*, a 1923 federal law as amended in 1978, Federal Law Gazette No. 167/1978, and in 1990, Federal Law Gazette No. 473/1990). The preservation of monuments (property of historic, artistic and other cultural significance) owned by the Republic of Austria, by the *Länder* (provinces) or local communities, by church/religious communities, etc. will remain a matter of public interest unless the Bundesdenkmalamt (Federal Office of Historic Monuments) takes a contrary view. Thus, all the important publicly owned monumental buildings and other monuments, as well as all the ecclesiastical monuments (churches, monasteries, convents, etc.) within the historic center of Graz are under protection. Pursuant to section 3 of the Austrian Monument Protection Act (privately owned monuments), 125 monuments in the city of Graz are protected.

According to the provisions of the Austrian Monument Protection Act protected monuments are subject to a number of restrictions and thus the control of the Bundesdenkmalamt: their demolition, or any alteration that may impinge on the original material (fabric), traditional appearance or artistic effect will require the written approval of the Bundesdenkmalamt. Approval is also required for any selling of historic buildings. If privately-owned property is to be sold, the Bundesdenkmalamt must be notified. If there is any danger of an ancient monument being destroyed or impaired in its original material or appearance by modifications to its setting, the Bundesdenkmalamt may apply for safeguarding measures with the district admini-

strative authorities. Any infringements of the Monument Protection Act carry legal and/or administrative penalties.

Within the options available under finance laws, the Bundesdenkmalamt may grant subsidies to the cost incurred in conserving, consolidating or studying monuments.

A second level of legal protection for the historic center of Graz is afforded through the Graz historic center Conservation Act (*Grazer Altstadterhaltungsgesetz*) of 1974, repromulgated in 1980 (Provincial Law Gazette No. 33/1980). It specifically stipulates that those Graz city zones delimited by provincial government regulations are subject to authorisation beyond the one laid down in the building code, and that they are subject to greater conservation obligations. Moreover, any buildings of significance for the town's appearance are under a demolition ban – except for extremely costly maintenance operations that cannot be reasonably expected from their owners –, and standards have been adopted on how to preserve the public surfaces and how to use buildings.

The obligation to conserve ancient monuments is subject to different regulations in line with the four protection zones that have been established (promulgated in Provincial Law Gazette No 17/1980 for zones I and II, Provincial Law Gazette No. 26/1979 for zone III and Provincial Law Gazette No. 90/1982 for zone IV). For core zone I also a conservation order has been issued for building interiors. This core zone I is identical with the zone proposed for inscription on the World Heritage List. Zone II corresponds to the proposed buffer zone. To afford an even more efficient protection to ancient heritage, the provincial government adopted three additional implementation regulations in 1986, one containing specifications for roofscapes, one for notification procedures (regarding any intended operations on protected buildings), and one for windows.

Aside from approval procedures and reinstatement measures under building law competences, the Graz historic center Conservation Act – through the creation of an historic center Conservation Fund – also provides for the possibility of subsidising construction operations within the meaning of conservation and preservation of ancient material.

The Graz historic center Conservation Act is enforced by the competent authorities, i.e. the construction authority (*Baupolizeiamt*), the municipal planning and design office (*Stadtplanungsamt*) and the building law authority (*Baurechtsamt*), whereas the municipal senate of the Styrian capital of Graz, being the first instance construction authority, has reserved the right to counsel (impose duties) in building matters concerning historic center ensembles.

The appeals authority is the Graz appeals commission (*Grazer Berufungskommission*).

For proceedings under public law it is necessary to produce, in addition to the usual documents, a binding expert opinion of the historic center Administration Commission (*Altstadtverwaltungskommission*), a statutory expert advisory board.

Protection of the characteristic view of the property is to be ensured by the construction authorities within their enlarged building law competence, with additional rights to proper hearing having been introduced and design regulations having been decreed. The historic center Conservation Fund and its administration are supposed to provide, aside from the regular activities of public authorities, incentives for conserving the traditional appearance of the historic center of Graz.

The office responsible for decisions on subsidising building measures from the Graz historic center Conservation Fund is the *Magistratsabteilung 10/7*.

Subsidies granted by the Graz historic center Conservation Fund for construction measures pursuant to section 21 of the Graz historic center Conservation Act, Provincial Law Gazette No. 48/1993, are meant to cover additional cost arising for the owner of a subsidisable property within the protection zone when he/she does not only preserve the outer shape and decoration of the building but also the structural parts and interior of the building (such as entrance halls, stairways, structural embellishments, small monuments). A condition for getting such a subsidy is a positive expert opinion of the historic center Administration Commission on whether the property merits such subsidy.

In the past term of the Graz municipal council (1993–1998), 240 applications for subsidies have been answered in the affirmative by the board of the historic center Conservation Fund. In real terms, this amounts to disbursed funds of more than ATS 10 million.

Within the said term, the city also granted its 1000th subsidy, i.e. since the creation of the historic center Conservation Fund (1974) a total of around ATS 43 million was disbursed.

For the year 1998, as many as 87 (as at March 1998) objects have been submitted for subsidisation, which implies a further increase in counselling activities.

It may be assumed that the intention to conserve the historic center of Graz will in future mainly consist in proper expert monitoring of any building measures demanded by a change of function, but in particular it will focus on preserving monuments on a permanent basis as stipulated in articles 4 and 6 of the Venice Charter. For any interventions affecting the historic building material the provisions of the Monument Protection Act and/or the Graz historic center Conservation Act ensure proper expert monitoring.

Measures designed to preserve the historic center of Graz have always been subsidised by public funds granted by the Republic of Austria (monument protection subsidies) and both by the province of Styria and the city of Graz (monies disbursed under the Graz historic center Conservation Act).

These are the foundations on which historic monuments will be preserved in future as well.

Over the past decade more than 50 per cent of the ancient monuments and almost all objects under preservation order have been subject to conservation and restoration work designed to maintain the original fabric, traditional appearance and artistic effect. Only around two dozen old-town houses in private ownership still require major rehabilitation; the necessary measures have already been prepared and/or launched.

Reference is made within this context to the revitalisation campaign for the houses in Griesgasse and the model restoration of the Reinerhof, the oldest house of Graz.

To quote a few other examples, we refer to the special funding arrangement adopted by the city of Graz for three significant privately-owned houses (the so-called painted house, the *Weiss'sche* house and the *Luegg* house). As an incentive for restoration of these still a bit desolate buildings, the city grants the owners an extraordinary funding subsidy of one third of the rehabilitation cost, a total of ATS 1 million for each building.

The urban renewal programme URBAN co-funded by the European Union also covers the city of Graz. URBAN Graz is designed to improve the residential and economic quality of Graz's traditional inner city district of Gries, i.e. the southern part of the Mur village situated on the right bank of the Mur. Subsidies are granted to projects launched at private people's own initiative. For the entire programme, a public investment volume of over ATS 150 million has been set aside.

The overall Schlossberg and City Park complex, whose preservation is currently within the ambit of nature preservation regulations, is soon to become one of 55 selected Austrian park grounds to be put under a monument protection order. A contract between the Republic of Austria and the federal province (Land) of Styria will regulate the future protection of this cultural landscape, which is significant also in ecological terms.

Thus, as explained, the historic center of Graz enjoys maximum protection: in addition to the comprehensive protection afforded under the Austrian Monument Protection Act, there are the protective provisions of the Graz historic center Conservation Act and the special protection soon to be realised for the Schlossberg/City Park complex.

The construction of contemporary buildings in the historic center area is pursued with utmost care. The "Graz school of architecture" enjoys world

renown and provides excellent architects for the design of high-quality new buildings. Moreover, whenever ancient building material is to be combined with new structures, the city will invite architects to a design competition to find the most subtle solution. Reference is made here to the building ensemble in the Botanical Gardens of the Graz University, which consists of an old (Rezori, 1890) and new university building (Klaus Kada, 1995), old glasshouse (1888) and new glasshouses (Volckmar Giencke, 1995).

Agent responsible for the preservation/conservation:

„Bundesdenkmalamt“ (Federal Office of Historic Monuments)
A-1010 Vienna, Hofburg, Säulensiege

Amt der Steiermärkischen Landesregierung
(Office of the Land Government Steiermark)
A-8020 Graz, Burg

Magistrat Graz, Amt für Stadtentwicklung und Stadterhaltung
(Office for city development and city preservation)
A-8020 Graz, Europaplatz 20

For monuments listed under the Austrian Protection Act:

Bundesdenkmalamt, Landeskonservatorat für Steiermark
A-8020 Graz, Schubertstraße 73

For the historic center under protection of the Graz Old Town Preservation Act:

Altstadterhaltungskommission beim
Amt der Steiermärkischen Landesregierung
A-8020 Graz, Burg

VII. Documentation

List of the main references used in this study

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F. Posch, Die Besiedelung des Grazer Bodens, in: 850 Jahre Graz, Graz 1978

G.M. Dienes, Bilder einer Stadt, Graz 1991

Stadtarchitektur, Architekturstadt Graz, Graz 1997 (Amt für Stadtentwicklung, Graz)

Overall view and maps

- I. Aerial photograph of the Old Town and Schlossberg
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- III. a, b Map of the Old Town showing building periods; a) northern part; b) southern part
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4. Eastern view of Graz, Andreas Trost, engraving, 1695
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Video

„Graz Vision“ (cultural office of the city of Graz)

Production of the photographs, the slides and the video: VISIONAS (Dr. A. Scheucher), Graz 1998.

Overall view and maps: Magistrat Graz, Amt für Stadtentwicklung und Stadterhaltung (Office for city development and city preservation), A-8020 Graz, Europaplatz 20

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MONUMENT PROTECTION ACT

as amended in
1978 by Bundesgesetzblatt (BGBl.) (Federal Law Gazette)
No. 167/1978) and
1990 by Bundesgesetzblatt (BGBl.) (Federal Law Gazette)
No. 473/1990)

BUNDESDENKMALAMT
(FEDERAL MONUMENT OFFICE)
A-1010 Vienna, Hofburg, Säulenstiege

Denkmalschutzgesetz (Monument Protection Act)

This Federal Act of 1923 (BGBI. No. 533/1923) as amended in 1978 (BGBI. No.167/1978) and 1990 (BGBI. No. 473/1990) determines the protection of monuments as a concern of the entire state (i.e. a federal concern) (Section 10 of the Federal Constitutional Law of October 1st, 1920). The determination of the historic, artistic or other cultural significance of an object (Section 1 of the Monument Protection Act) as well as the public interest in its preservation is, in the first instance, a matter of the Bundesdenkmalamt as the administrative agency concerned with the protection of monuments. It is possible to appeal against such a decree to the Federal Ministry for Science and Research (second instance). The Bundesdenkmalamt is, however, not solely an administrative agency. The basis of its work is the research into the existant body of monuments; thus, this agency is also a scientific institution (in accordance with the scope of the "monument" concept, the monument research covers all disciplines of history). Finally, the "public interest" in preservation embodied in the Act also assigns practical tasks of conservation and restoration to the Bundesdenkmalamt.

Section 1.

(1) The restrictions contained in this Federal Act apply to man-made immovable and movable objects (including vestiges and traces of creative human intervention as well as artificially constructed or moulded ground formations) of historic, artistic or other cultural significance if their preservation, by virtue of this significance, is a matter of public interest. While this significance may be due to the objects *per se* it may also arise from their relationship or location with respect to other objects. The provisions regarding individual monuments shall also apply to groups of immovable objects (ensembles) and collections of movable objects which form a homogenous whole by virtue of their historic, artistic or other cultural context including their location if, due to this context, their preservation as a unit is within public interest.

(2) Taking into consideration the results of relevant scientific research, it shall be incumbent upon the Bundesdenkmalamt to decide whether the preservation of an individual monument, an ensemble or a collection is a matter of public interest. If research into monuments of this type - in particular in the case of non-excavated archeological monuments - has not yet been completed to a sufficient extent, the listing of the monuments as of public interest shall only be permitted if scientific research documents that it is at least probable that the requirements for listing the monuments as worthy of protection will be met, and if in the adverse case the preservation of the monuments in their intactness would be put in jeopardy.

(3) Inasmuch as procedures according to Section 2; Section 3, paragraph 1; Section 6, paragraph 2 and Section 10, paragraph 3, concern the designation of immovable monuments as of public interest, only the owner (Section 3, paragraph 3), the governor of the respective Land (province), the municipality and its mayor as well as the holder of the building rights (if such have been assigned) shall be heard as parties.

(4) The governor of the respective Land shall be entitled to submit to the Bundesdenkmalamt requests for the purpose of determining whether the preservation of monuments (including ensembles and collections) is within public interest or not, but also for altering or demolishing them or for suspending their listing as monuments (Section 2, paragraph 1; Section 3, paragraph 1; Section 5, paragraphs 1 and 6) if they have already been listed as such.

Section 2.

(1) In case of monuments (Section 1, paragraph 1) owned wholly or predominantly by the Bund (federal government), a Land or by other public bodies, authorities, foundations as well as by legally recognized churches or religious communities including their institutions, public interest in their preservation is taken for granted (i.e. they fall under monument protection) for as long as the Bundesdenkmalamt does not pass a decision to the contrary, either following a request submitted by the owner or *ex officio* (paragraph 2) (listing as monument by virtue of legal presumption. Legal presumption shall apply even if sole or predominant ownership in the above sense should merely be a result of the co-ownership shares of a majority of the abovementioned persons or entities. Legal presumption pursuant to this paragraph shall not supersede any decree issued by the Bundesdenkmalamt in accordance with the last sentence of Section 1, paragraph 1, with respect to the existence of a homogenous whole of several immovable or movable monuments (ensembles, collections).

(2) Moreover, the Bundesdenkmalamt may decide *ex officio* whether the preservation of such a monument is in fact a matter of public interest.

(3) Decrees confirming public interest in the preservation of a monument in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 2 above, with Section 4, paragraph 2 (as amended by BgBl. No.167/1978); Section 6, paragraph 2 and Section 10, paragraph 3, shall entail all legal consequences, without any limitation in time, of decrees in accordance with Section 3, paragraph 1 (listing of monuments by decree), even if it should be determined at the same time that the monument in question is a homogenous whole according to the last sentence in Section 1, paragraph 1.

Section 3.

(1) In case of monuments not under monument protection by virtue of legal presumption (Section 2, paragraph 1; Section 6, paragraph 1), public interest in their preservation shall be presumed to exist only if thus decreed by the Bundesdenkmalamt (designation as monument by decree).

(2) The fact that an immovable monument has been designated as such by decree (Section 2, paragraph 3 and Section 3, paragraph 1) shall be made public, *ex officio*, by means of an entry into the deed book (Grundbuch), *ex officio*, by the Bundesdenkmalamt. In case of a lapse of the decreed public interest in preservation (Section 2, paragraph 3 and Section 3, paragraph 1), the notice entered by the Bundesdenkmalamt shall be deleted *ex officio*. The Bundesdenkmalamt is obligated to issue a notice according to this paragraph only if corresponding procedures were instituted by the Bundesdenkmalamt. The notice shall be issued six months after entry into effect at the latest.

(3) In case of immovable objects, the owner according to the deed book (Grundbuch) shall be considered as the owner for the purposes of this Act.

Section 4.

(1) Any demolition or alteration that might influence the condition (built volumes), historic appearance or artistic effect of any monument under monument protection in accordance with Section 2; Section 3, paragraph 1; Section 6, paragraphs 1 or 2 (or before the amendment by BGBl. Nr. 167/1978 in accordance with Section 4, paragraph 2) or Section 10, paragraph 3, shall be prohibited unless a permission in accordance with Section 5, paragraph 1, was issued. If the owner or any other person or entity responsible for the upkeep of the monument purposefully neglects to perform the measures that are essential for its conservation with the obvious intention of demolishing it, this shall be considered equal to the demolition of the monument. In particular, the following shall apply:

a) The demolition of a monument shall be tantamount to its actual complete destruction. Such a monument shall be regarded as destroyed even in the case that individual essential parts are still existant. If only parts of an object are under monument protection, the above sentences shall apply *mutatis mutandis*. For the purpose of determining whether ensembles or collections that were assigned monument status as units (last sentence in Section 1, paragraph 1) and, as such, demolished or merely altered, these provisions shall apply as for individual monuments. The demolition of a monument listed as such solely as part of such a unit (and not as an individual monument) is only tantamount to an alteration of the ensemble or collection.

b) In case of imminent danger, essential safety measures which are actions within the meaning of the first sentence of paragraph 1 may be taken without the prior approval of the Bundesdenkmalamt upon simultaneous notification of the Bundesdenkmalamt.

(2) The voluntary sale or alienation of monuments designated as such by legal presumption (Section 2, paragraph 1; Section 6, paragraph 1) without a permission according to Section 6, paragraph 1, shall be prohibited.

(3) The voluntary sale or encumbrance of individual objects from a collection without a permission according to Section 6, paragraph 5, shall be prohibited if the Bundesdenkmalamt has assigned monument status to this collection as a unit (last sentence of Section 1, paragraph 1).

(4) In all other cases regarding a sale or alienation of objects listed as monuments that were not mentioned in paragraphs 2 and 3, the seller or alienor shall immediately notify the Bundesdenkmalamt of this fact in accordance with Section 6, paragraph 4, including an identification of the alienee or buyer, as well as advise the alienee or buyer of such a monument that it is subject to the restrictions of this Federal Act.

Section 5.

(1) Any demolition or alteration of a monument according to Section 4, paragraph 1, shall require the permission of the Bundesdenkmalamt unless these measures were taken due to imminent danger (Section 4, paragraph 1 lit.b). The onus of proof that the reasons put forward for the demolition or alteration are justified shall rest with the applicant. Each party within the meaning of Section 8 of the General Administrative Procedure Law of 1950 as well as the governor of the respective Land (Section 1, paragraph 4) shall be entitled to submit a request. Apart from these persons or entities, the mayor shall also be heard as a party in all procedures regarding the demolition of a monument in accordance with this paragraph.

(2) In the procedures according to paragraph 1 regarding requests for the alteration of a monument, the Bundesdenkmalamt may determine, in a permission issued as a decree, which measures in detail shall be additionally required by the Bundesdenkmalamt; these measures may also be communicated verbally.

(3) Before permitting the demolition of a monument according to paragraph 1, the Denkmalbeirat (Monument Advisory Board) (Section 16) shall be heard.

(4) Any permission according to paragraph 1 shall lapse if not actually made use of within a period of three years.

(5) Notwithstanding the provisions contained in paragraph 1, the request for the alteration of a monument devoted to the religious service of a legally recognized church or religious community including its institutions shall be permitted in any case insofar as the change is necessary for holding the religious service according to the liturgical provisions stipulated by the legally recognized church or religious community. Proof of the type and extent of this necessity shall be submitted, upon request of the Bundesdenkmalamt, by means of an attestation issued by the competent superior body of the respective church or religious community. This attestation shall also comment on the counterproposals, if any, suggested by the Bundesdenkmalamt.

(6) Monuments (including ensembles and collections) which were listed as such and demolished or altered in the course of time, accidentally or unlawfully without permission (paragraph 1) or for other reasons have lost the significance owing to which they were originally designated as monuments shall continue to be designated as such (this includes mere vestiges) until the Bundesdenkmalamt, upon request of the owner (a co-owner), the governor of the respective Land or *ex officio*, has stated in a decision that the preservation of the monument is no longer within public interest (procedure for the revocation of monument protection).

(7) Subsidies (including interest subsidies) may be granted, within the framework of financial legislation, for expenses arising from the safeguarding, preservation and research of monuments (including their surroundings, if these are of significance for the monuments) or caused by an alteration. The significance of a monument and the economic problems connected with its proper restoration shall especially be considered in this context. Subsidies may also be granted to owners and other persons or entities disposing of real rights in a monument in case of considerable impairments caused in the course of works undertaken by the Bundesdenkmalamt in execution of the Act (in particular according to Sections 10 and 12). All details of the directives covering the granting of subsidies within the meaning of this paragraph shall be issued by the Federal Minister for Science and Research in agreement with the Federal Minister of Finance.

Section 6.

(1) The voluntary sale or alienation of monuments designated as such solely by virtue of legal presumption (Section 2, paragraph 1) shall require the permission of the Bundesdenkmalamt. If such monuments are voluntarily sold or alienated without the permission of the Bundesdenkmalamt in such a way that at least half of the monument passes into the ownership of persons or entities not specified in the first sentence of Section 2, paragraph 1, they continue to be subject to the provisions of Section 2, paragraph 1, including the legal

consequences arising therefrom. As far as the voluntary sale or alienation occurs by law, this continuation ends five years after passage of ownership.

(2) Permission for sale or alienation according to paragraph 1 shall only be granted if the buyer or alienee is simultaneously identified as such. When granting permission for sale or alienation to a person or entity not specified in Section 2, it shall also be ascertained whether the preservation of the monument is a matter of public interest. In this procedure, the buyer or alienee shall be heard as a party.

(3) Any permission according to paragraph 1 shall lapse if not actually made use of within a period of two years.

(4) The alienor or seller of a monument listed as of public interest by virtue of a decree according to Section 3, paragraph 1, or by virtue of another procedure mentioned in Section 2, paragraph 3, shall, with simultaneous identification of the alienee or buyer, immediately notify the Bundesdenkmalamt of the alienation or sale. The designation as of public interest shall not be affected by the passage of ownership. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 3, paragraph 2, the alienor or seller shall be obligated to notify the alienee or buyer of such a monument that it is subject to the restrictions of this Federal Act.

(5) The voluntary sale or encumbrance of individual objects from a collection as defined by Section 4, paragraph 3, shall require the written permission of the Bundesdenkmalamt. Any voluntary sale or encumbrance without this permission shall be prohibited and, in accordance with Section 879 of the General Civil Code, considered null and void. Any attachment of individual objects of such a collection shall be suspended upon request of the Bundesdenkmalamt. If the attachment extends to all objects of such a collection, they may only be realized in one body if the Bundesdenkmalamt notifies the court in due time that the collection comes within the meaning of Section 4, paragraph 3. The fact that the objects of a collection are owned (or co-owned) by several persons or entities or have passed (e.g. by the devolution of the estate of a deceased person) into the ownership (co-ownership) of several persons or entities shall have no bearing whatsoever on a possible designation as a monument or the continuation of this designation as a unit.

Section 7.

(1) If there is danger of monuments being demolished, altered or alienated (in particular in contravention of the provisions contained in Sections 4 to 6), thus causing a considerable impairment to the interests of monument preservation, the competent district administrative authority, upon request of the Bundesdenkmalamt or - in case of imminent danger - ex

officio, shall take suitable measures (including construction work) and issue decrees and prohibitions in order to avert this danger.

(2) If directed at an unspecified group of persons, the measures, decrees and prohibitions according to paragraph 1 shall be taken and issued by ordinance, or otherwise, by decree. In this procedure, the Bundesdenkmalamt shall be heard as a party.

Section 8.

(1) In order to avoid any danger to or impairment of the existence or appearance of an immovable monument by way of alterations of its surroundings (e.g. by the erection of billboards, showcases, signs, kiosks, gas stations and other intrusive constructions), the district administrative authority, upon request of the Bundesdenkmalamt or - in case of imminent danger - *ex officio*, shall issue prohibitions.

(2) If directed at an unspecified group of persons, all prohibitions and decrees according to paragraph 1 shall be issued by ordinance, or otherwise, by decree. In this procedure, the Bundesdenkmalamt shall be heard as a party.

Section 9.

(1) If such objects are discovered beneath the earth or water surface (chance finds) which by virtue of their position, shape or structure may be expected to be subject to the restrictions of this Act (archeological monuments), the Bundesdenkmalamt shall be notified of their discovery forthwith, but at the latest on the day following the discovery. The same shall apply to archeological monuments uncovered, in part or entirely, merely as a result of events such as rain, ploughing or similar. Within the abovementioned period, the discovery may be also reported to the district administrative authority of the finding place, to one of the nearby police stations, to the competent mayor or a public museum subject to a territorial authority; these authorities shall immediately inform the Bundesdenkmalamt of the report so that notification of the discovery will be presented to the Bundesdenkmalamt on the third workday after delivery of the report at the latest.

(2) The following are obligated to report on the find: the finder, the owner of the property, the person or entity holding the building rights (if any), the tenant or lessee of the concrete part of the property as well as - in the case of works being carried out on the property - the local responsible construction supervisor.

Section 10.

(1) The condition of the finding place and of the objects found (finds) shall be left unchanged for a period of up

to five workdays after delivery of the report unless organs of the Bundesdenkmalamt or an authorized representative of the Bundesdenkmalamt should suspend the restriction or permit continuation of the works, inasmuch as there is no imminent danger to human life or health or the preservation of the finds. In the case that a permission is granted in view of the fact that the interests of monument preservation are not impaired or not appreciably impaired, the drawing-up of minutes shall be deemed sufficient.

(2) Notwithstanding the provision contained in paragraph 1, movable finds shall be taken in safekeeping by the finder or consigned to e.g. the mayor for keeping if there is danger that these finds might be lost. In any other case, the Bundesdenkmalamt or its authorized representatives shall be entitled to recover the finds and take the necessary measures in order to clarify the circumstances of the find as well as to safeguard any other archeological monuments which exist or are presumed to exist on the property.

(3) From the moment of finding until the completion of the works defined in paragraph 4 but for a maximum period of six weeks after delivery of the report on the find (Section 9, paragraph 1), the archeological monuments found shall be subject to the restrictions of this Federal Act; for this period, this shall apply uniformly in accordance with the provisions for listing by decree (Section 3, paragraph 1). Until the end of this period, it is incumbent on the Bundesdenkmalamt to decide, even with respect to objects subject to the provisions contained in Section 2, paragraph 1 in any case, whether the archeological monuments shall continue to be subject to the restrictions of this Act (in any case according to the legal consequences of listing by decree pursuant to Section 3, paragraph 1); remedies against this decree shall have no suspensive effect. Inasmuch as the archeological monuments were listed as of public interest even before their concrete discovery (excavation) according to Section 3, paragraph 1 or another procedure mentioned in Section 2, paragraph 3, no further decree by the Bundesdenkmalamt according to this provisions contained in this paragraph shall be necessary.

(4) Notwithstanding the provisions contained in Section 12, paragraph 1, the finder, owner, holder of real rights or actual holder of the property where the find occurred shall be obligated to make available to the Bundesdenkmalamt, upon its request, all movable objects found on the property for the purpose of scientific evaluation and documentation for a period not exceeding two years.

(5) If, in the course of excavations and other forms of scientific investigation carried out by organs of territorial authorities including museums, collections and other scientific institutions or by order of or by request of these authorities, movable objects are found

or discovered which before their discovery were hidden in the ground for so long a period that it is impossible to determine their owner, these territorial authorities shall be obligated to pay compensation for the part of the property due to the owner of the property according to the provision contained in Section 399 of the General Civil Code. The right to compensation shall be asserted in writing within two years after the discovery or total excavation of the object. The same shall apply in those cases where the share of the owner, in accordance with Section 400 of the General Civil Code, has fallen to the federal government (Bund) as a result of an unlawful act committed by the finder. In case of a total or partial exercise of the right to compensation, the property owner is entitled to an *bona fide* indemnity payment amounting to the highest selling price for final purchasers realizable on the domestic market. The excavation (investigation) cost shall not be offset in the calculation of this price. If no agreement is reached, the matter shall be settled by way of arbitration pursuant to the provisions contained in Sections 577 ff. of the Code of Civil Procedure; in this, three arbitrators shall be consulted, at least one of which shall formerly have sat as a judge. More detailed regulations of the arbitration proceedings shall be issued by ordinance of the Federal Ministry for Science and Research in consideration of Section 6 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, BgBl. No. 210/1958.

(6) Notwithstanding all other legal consequences, the provisions of this paragraph shall equally apply to excavations carried out in contravention of the excavating provisions laid down in Section 11.

Section 11.

(1) All investigations entailing an alteration of the earth surface or of the underwater ground as well as all other on-the-spot investigations carried out in order to discover and examine movable and immovable monuments located underground or underwater may only be carried out by permission of the Bundesdenkmalamt unless paragraph 2 provides otherwise (research excavation). Such a permission shall be exclusively granted to persons who have completed a course of university studies relating to the subject or - if they submit evidence of another relevant, nonacademic education - have presented proof of their ability in the form of an examination taken before a commission consisting of representatives of the Bundesdenkmalamt, of the relevant university institutes and of at least one federal and one provincial museum concerned. The type and procedure of this examination shall be determined by the Federal Minister for Science and Research by decree. Permissions in accordance with this paragraph may entail restrictions, enjoinders and special regulations (with respect to area and depth, manner of execution, obligations to notify, inspections

etc). The provisions of this Act do not embody any legal claim to be granted permission to carry out excavations.

(2) Officials of the Bundesdenkmalamt, of federal and provincial museums, of university institutes, of the Austrian Archeological Institute and the Austrian Academy of Sciences who have completed a course of studies specified in paragraph 1 require no permission pursuant to paragraph 1 in order to carry out excavations provided they are active on behalf of these institutions.

(3) Persons authorized according to paragraphs 1 and 2 shall immediately notify the Bundesdenkmalamt in writing of the commencement of the excavation work (as well as of all previous investigations, if any) carried out on a property or on several adjacent properties.

(4) Finds shall principally be reported in accordance with the provisions of Section 9. While permissions and notifications for the purposes of paragraphs 1 and 3 shall in no way act substitute this obligation to notify, only the head of the excavation party, the finder and the person or entity on whose behalf the excavation is carried out (if there is such a person or entity) are under the obligation to notify, provided that the excavation is carried out in compliance with the provisions of Section 11. Any subsequent finds shall be notified to the Bundesdenkmalamt once per year only, at the latest three months after expiry of the year in which the relevant find occurred. The form and extent of the notification shall correspond to scientific principles of research and documentation. The second sentence of Section 9, paragraph 2, shall apply *mutatis mutandis*. The provisions contained in Section 10, paragraphs 3, 4 and 5, shall apply analogously. The term pursuant to Section 10, paragraph 3, shall end six weeks after delivery of these reports to the Bundesdenkmalamt.

(5) Persons authorized in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 2 shall be permitted to carry out alterations and demolitions only to an extent that is unavoidable and necessary for the purposes of scientific excavation work. Inasmuch as archeological monuments were decreed, however, as of public interest pursuant to Section 3, paragraph 1, or pursuant to another procedure enumerated in Section 2, paragraph 3, all excavations, due to the alterations and demolition they entail, shall require a permission by the Bundesdenkmalamt in accordance with Section 5, paragraph 1.

(6) Apart from the notifications pursuant to paragraphs 3 and 4, a comprehensive report on the excavation work undertaken, including all drawings, plans, photographs and further documentary material, shall be presented to the Bundesdenkmalamt on a regular basis (at least three months after expiry of each calendar year).

(7) The Bundesdenkmalamt shall collect all notifications and reports submitted in accordance with Sections 9 to 11

(including the results of the finds made by the Bundesdenkmalamt itself) from the entire area of the Federal Republic of Austria in an inventory of finds (Fundkartie) and, inasmuch as they are of scientific relevance, summarize them in an annual publication in the form of a comprehensive overall documentation. The time elapsed between the uncovering of the find and the inclusion into the documentation shall not exceed five years.

(8) Inasmuch, however, as archeological monuments, even if they are still below the earth's surface, were decreed as being of public interest pursuant to Section 3, paragraph 1, or pursuant to another procedure specified in Section 2, paragraph 3, any utilization of metal detectors or other detecting devices on the property for any purpose whatsoever - with exception of detecting work carried out by the persons or entities specified in paragraphs 1 and 9 (and those authorized by them) in the course of their excavations and investigations - shall require a permission by the Bundesdenkmalamt unless it is the objective of these activities to eliminate sudden and unexpected danger to human life, health and property. In this case, the activities may be carried out provided that the authorities or institutions specified in Section 9, paragraph 1, are immediately notified; they, in their turn, shall refer this notification forthwith to the Bundesdenkmalamt.

(9) Excavations carried out on behalf of the Federal Minister for Science and Research or the governor of the respective Land shall require no permission by the Bundesdenkmalamt in accordance with Articles 5 and 9 to 12 if they are carried out, to the absolutely essential extent, in the course of appeal proceedings or in the discharge of supervisory obligations. The obligation to notify contained in these provisions shall apply inasmuch as the Bundesdenkmalamt shall be notified of the commencement of excavation work in accordance with paragraph 3; furthermore, the Bundesdenkmalamt shall be notified, in accordance with the third sentence in paragraph 3, of all finds, if any, within six months after termination of the excavation work.

Section 12.

(1) The obligation to disclose all required information regarding the identification and discovery of monuments and the recording, supervision (checks and controls) and preservation (salvaging) of existing monuments of the type specified in Section 1 to the Bundesdenkmalamt and its organs as well as to permit them (and their assistant personnel) the inspection and scientific examination of the monuments in question and of the presumed archeological finds shall extend to everybody. This shall also include the permission to take restoration samples and photographs and to carry out excavations. In case of indirect federal administration, the governor of the Land concerned and the district administrative authority and

their organs (and assistant personnel) shall thus be authorized as well if imminent danger is present and if excavations in accordance with Section 11, paragraph 9, are being carried out.

(2) Owners or other persons responsible for the maintenance of listed monuments shall furthermore be under the obligation, upon request of the Bundesdenkmalamt, to specify all damage and defects of these movable or immovable monuments as well as to provide information regarding the cause of this damage and defects. In case of danger, the abovementioned persons or entities shall in their turn notify the Bundesdenkmalamt of the damage observed.

(3) The Bundesdenkmalamt shall be entitled to carry out the competent supervision of (or have supervised by authorized persons) all restorations, excavations and similar inasmuch as these are subject to the Federal Act.

(4) The Bundesdenkmalamt shall be entitled to make available the results of its research and documentation work - as far as this is possible without prejudice to its further obligations, and within the bounds of all other legal provisions, such as e.g. data protection - chiefly for scientific purposes.

(5) Movable and immovable objects listed as monuments may be fitted with a sign (plaque, adhesive label, stamp etc) indicating that they are protected monuments. More detailed specifications regarding the shape and distribution of the signs, the obligation to put them up etc. shall be laid down by the Federal Minister for Science and Research by decree.

Section 13.

(1) All decrees issued by virtue of this Federal Act shall be enacted in writing.

(2) All decisions regarding appeals against decrees issued by the district administrative authority shall rest with the governor of the respective Land while appeals against decrees issued by the Bundesdenkmalamt and the governor of the respective Land shall be addressed to the Federal Minister for Science and Research.

Section 14.

(1) Whoever in contravention of the provisions contained in Section 4, paragraph 1, and Section 5, paragraph 1, demolishes an individual monument or more than one monument (ensemble, collection) shall be fined for an amount of up to 360 days' income (360 Tagessätze/per diem rates) by the court provided that no other provision requires that the offence be punished more strictly by the law. In addition to this fine, offenders shall be subject to a compensation fine (Wertersatzstrafe/i.e. a

fine equal in amount to the cost of the reconstruction of the monument) in the case that the reconstruction provided for in paragraph 6 was not ordered or, if ordered, was not carried out in spite of a formal reminder. Under these circumstances, the offender shall be subject to a compensation fine even if, in accordance with another provision, a stricter penalty is laid down by the law for the offence. The amount of the compensation fine shall correspond either to the presumptive cost for the reconstruction or reproduction of an object equal in value, or to the difference in value of the financial or other advantage achieved as a result of the offence. All persons involved in the offence shall be subject, on a *pro rata* basis, to the compensation fine with consideration paid to the principles of determination of a penalty (Sections 32 to 35 of the Penal Code). In case of irrecoverability of the compensation fine, the offender shall alternatively be sentenced to a term of imprisonment (Ersatzfreiheitsstrafe/imprisonment for failure to pay a fine) for a period not exceeding six months. The prosecution shall be incumbent upon the courts of first instance. Section 207a of the Fiscal Penalty Law, BGBl. No. 129/1958, in the version of the Federal Act BGBl. No. 335/1975 shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

(2) Whoever in contravention of the provisions contained in Section 4, paragraph 1, and Section 5, paragraph 1, intentionally alters a monument or attempts to prevent or render ineffective the measures initiated in accordance with Section 7 or paragraph 6 below shall be fined up to an amount of 700,000 ATS by the district administrative authority provided that the act does not constitute a set of facts equivalent to a punishable offence coming within jurisdiction of the courts. Whoever in contravention of the provisions contained in Section 4, paragraph 1, and Section 6, paragraph 5, intentionally sells, encumbers or acquires a monument forming part of a collection, or whoever in contravention of the provisions contained in Section 11, paragraph 1, carries out investigations (excavations) without the permission provided for this purpose, shall equally be fined an amount of up to 350,000 ATS. Moreover, objects which form part of a collection according to Section 4, paragraph 3, and are sold without a permission according to Section 6, paragraph 5, as well as objects discovered in the course of such an excavation, may be declared forfeited. With exception of a possible imprisonment for failure to pay the fine, the provisions of paragraph 1 shall equally apply for legal proceedings instituted on the basis of this paragraph.

(3) Whoever

1. sells or alienates a monument without a permission in accordance with Section 4, paragraph 2 and Section 6, paragraph 1;

2. fails to notify the Bundesdenkmalamt, in accordance with Section 4, paragraph 4, of the sale or alienation of a monument or fails to advise the buyer or alienee of the fact that the monument has been designated as such;

3. attempts to prevent or render ineffective the measures initiated according to paragraph 8;

4. fails to report or reports incorrectly on finds in a manner according to Section 9, paragraph 1;

5. changes the condition of the place of a find or of the objects found in contravention of the provisions contained in Section 10, paragraph 1;

6. attempts to prevent or render ineffective the safeguarding or recovery of finds as well as all other measures in accordance with Section 10, paragraph 2;

7. does not make available finds in contravention of the provisions contained in Section 10, paragraph 4;

8. attempts to impede the assertion and enforcement of the right of compensation in accordance with Section 10, paragraph 5;

9. utilizes metal detectors or other devices for the location of objects hidden below the earth's surface in contravention of the provisions contained in Section 11, paragraph 8;

10. fails to submit or incorrectly submits reports or notifications in accordance with Section 11;

11. fails to submit or incorrectly submits information or notifications in accordance with Section 12, paragraphs 1 and 2;

12. attempts to prevent or render ineffective the inspection and scientific investigation of monuments and presumed archeological finds, or the supervision by the Bundesdenkmalamt provided for in Section 12, paragraph 3;

shall be fined an amount of up to ATS 70,000 by the district administrative authority.

(4) Whoever intentionally incites another person to perform an unlawful act according to paragraphs 1, 2 or 3 or aids and abets this other person in the unlawful act shall be subject to the punishment laid down in above paragraphs.

(5) For unlawful acts enumerated in paragraphs 2 to 4, the period of limitation according to Section 31, paragraph 2 of the Property Tax Law of 1950 shall commence as of the moment when said unlawful acts have come to the knowledge of the Bundesdenkmalamt and the guilty person has been identified; in any case, the period ends three years after termination of the act.

(6) Upon request of the Bundesdenkmalamt, the competent district administrative authority may decree that the guilty person shall, at his own cost, reconstitute the last condition of the monument or the condition of the monument which preceded any unlawful alteration or demolition caused by him previously, as far as this is possible, with respect to its former condition or at least its former appearance, under the given circumstances. Appeals against such decrees shall be addressed to the governor of the respective Land while appeals against his decisions shall be addressed to the Federal Minister for Science and Research.

(7) In legal proceedings instituted in accordance with paragraphs 1 to 4 as well as in proceedings instituted in accordance with paragraph 6, the Bundesdenkmalamt shall be heard.

(8) All sums received pursuant to Section 14 accrue to the federal government and are appropriated for the purposes of monument preservation.

Section 15.

(1) For the purposes of additional financing of measures pursuant to Section 5, paragraph 7, in particular for the salvaging of immovable objects listed as monuments and directly threatened by dilapidation, a "Monument Fund" (Denkmalfonds) shall be instituted as an administrative fund administered by the Federal Minister for Science and Research. Money will accrue to this Fund by virtue of contributions, proceeds of events organized for the benefit of the Fund, sums received pursuant to this Federal Act (Section 14, paragraph 8) as well as other revenues and donations.

(2) These funds shall be used, within the meaning of Section 17, paragraph 5 of the Federal Budget Law, for the measures specified in paragraph 1. Contributions to the Fund are donations to the Bundesdenkmalamt within the meaning of Section 4, paragraph 4, line 6, lit.c of the Income Tax Law of 1988.

(3) The funds shall be distributed by the Federal Minister for Science and Research for the purposes specified in paragraph 1 as provided in the directives according to Section 5, paragraph 7. The Denkmalbeirat (Monument Advisory Board) (Section 16) shall be heard before allocation of the funds (with exception of imminent danger).

Section 16.

(1) The Denkmalbeirat (Monument Advisory Board) is a body concerned with advising the Bundesdenkmalamt in the solution of questions regarding the protection and preservation of monuments. Permanent members are appointed by the Federal Minister for Science and

Research from representatives of the respective scientific disciplines (art history, architecture, civil engineering, regional planning, business management etc) for a period of six years. The Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, the Federal Chamber of Engineers and the Kunstsenat (Art Senate) may nominate one member each. Depending on the type and location of the monument, one representative each of the respective Land and municipality, of the tourism sector (Chamber of Commerce and Industry), in case of church-owned monuments a representative of the respective legally recognized church or religious community, and finally representatives of societies concerned with the preservation of the cultural heritage (including such of local significance) shall be furthermore heard as temporary members. The Monument Advisory Board may also convene commissions. Details regarding the composition and tasks of the Monument Advisory Board shall be determined by decree of the Federal Minister for Science and Research. Upon request of the Federal Minister for Science and Research or the Bundesdenkmalamt, each permanent member of the Monument Advisory Board may be called in for advisory purposes (as consultant) or to submit an expert opinion (as expert).

(2) For the elaboration of expert opinions (in writing) required for statements pursuant to the provisions contained in Section 5, paragraph 3, as well as for expert opinions in writing elaborated due to requests made by the Bundesdenkmalamt or the Federal Minister for Science and Research, the members of the Monument Advisory Board are entitled to professional fees analogous to the fees paid to expert witnesses according to the Fees Law of 1975.

(3) If the Monument Advisory Board should present no opinion within a period of three months for cases pursuant to Section 5, paragraph 3, and within a period of six weeks for cases according to Section 15, paragraph 3, it shall be assumed that the Monument Advisory Board has no reservations regarding the planned measures.

Section 17.

In all cases concerning archival documents, the Bundesdenkmalamt shall be substituted by the Record Office, while the Federal Minister for Science and Research shall be substituted by the Federal Chancellor.

Section 18.

(1) The publications directly caused by this Federal Act are exempt from stamp duties.

(2) Outstanding achievements in the field of monument preservation may be recognized by the Federal Minister for Science and Research through the awarding of medals and diplomas but also by way of financial remuneration.

Section 19.

The enforcement of the Federal Act is incumbent upon the Federal Minister for Science and Research, and in cases concerning archival documents, upon the Federal Chancellor. In cases pursuant to Section 2, paragraph 1, and Section 3, paragraph 2, (inasmuch as they concern matters relating to the deed book) as well as in cases pursuant to Section 14, paragraph 1, the enforcement of this Federal Act is incumbent upon the Federal Minister of Justice, in cases pursuant to the second sentence of Section 15, paragraph 2, and Section 18, paragraph 1, the Federal Minister of Finance. In cases pursuant to Section 5, paragraphs 7 and 8 and Section 15, paragraph 3, (inasmuch as they concern the issuing of allocation directives) as well as in cases pursuant to the first sentence of Section 15, paragraph 2, the enforcement is incumbent upon the Federal Minister for Science and Research in agreement with the Federal Minister of Finance.

Excerpt from the 1980 Graz Historic Centre Conservation Act¹

The preservation of the historic centre of Graz in terms of its appearance, building structure, fabric and material, as well as the activation of its manifold urban function, shall be of priority public interest.

I. Protection of the historic centre of Graz

Section 1 General provisions

- (1) The local scope of the present law shall apply to those town quarters of Graz that coin the urban prospect through their landscape and construction features and whose appearance and building material, as well as their manifold urban function, shall thus be preserved (protection zone).
- (2) Any matters coming under the competence of federal authorities – in particular the protection of monuments – shall not be affected by the present law.
- (3) As far as acts of executing the present law concern buildings owned by the federal government and serving public purposes, these acts of execution shall come under indirect federal administration (para. 5 of Article 15 of the Federal Constitutional Act).
- (4) The city's tasks regulated under the present law – with the exception of matters regulated in paragraph 3 and section 22 – shall be those of the city's own sphere of activity.

Section 2 Protection zone

- (1) The protection zone (para. 1 of section 1) shall consist of a core zone (zone I), a buffer zone (zone II) and other zones pursuant to para. 3.
- (2) Zones I and II are represented in an appendix which forms an integral part of the present law (boundary of zone I red; boundary of zone II blue).
- (3) Under the conditions mentioned in para. 1 of section 1 the provincial government shall be authorised to include by regulation other town quarters into the protection zone after hearing the city; these shall be numbered consecutively (zones III, IV, etc.).

Section 3 Preservation of buildings

- (1) In the protection zone (para. 1 of section 1) the property owners shall, subject to the worthiness of protection, preserve fully or partially the appearance of those buildings whose building characteristics are of significance to the townscape. The appearance shall include any

¹ Grazer Altstadterhaltungsgesetz 1980 - GAEG 1980

architectural features of the building, such as height of the building, floor height, roof shape, pitch and cladding of roof, the facades including articulation, portals, doors, windows, window framings and subdivisions, cornices, balconies and oriels, as well as passageways, courtyards and defences.

(2) Within zone I, also the structure or interior parts of buildings which, such as stairs, stairwells, porches etc., affect the appearance shall be preserved subject to the worthiness of protection.

(3) The provisions of paras. 1 and 2 shall not exclude structural alterations which serve to remove any impairment to the appearance resulting from some previously performed redesign of the building or of any parts thereof. They shall, however, require – notwithstanding the provisions that are otherwise applicable for such cases – authorisation under the present law. Also any major repairs or improvements to a building shall come under this obligation to seek authorisation, such as in particular rendering or painting of facades, replacement of doors, windows and roof gutters, major roofing jobs and the affixing of advertisements (billboards, posters, etc.). The authority shall be notified of any minor repairs. If, within a delay of six weeks, the notified project is not declared subject to authorisation by the authority, it shall be deemed not subject to authorisation. Before any authorisations are granted within the meaning of this paragraph, the Expert Commission (section 11) shall be heard.

(4) For buildings or parts of buildings that are worthy of protection a demolition permit pursuant to subpara. e of para. 1 of section 57 of the 1968 Styrian Building Code, or a demolition order pursuant to para. 3 of section 70 of the said code, may be granted only if there is evidence of the technical non-feasibility of remedial action for the structural damage, or if remedial action is economically unreasonable despite promised subsidies. Before granting such permits or giving such orders, the Expert Commission (section 11) shall be heard.

(5) For any construction or dedication applications within the protection zone the Expert Commission shall receive, in addition to the documents required under the provisions of sections 2 and 58 of the 1968 Styrian Building Code, copies of all drawings and written documents to be submitted to the commission without delay.

Section 4 **Use of the buildings**

(1) For buildings within zone I that are built as residential buildings or residential cum commercial buildings, the building authority may grant a change in use for office and business purposes only for up to half of the total usable floor space for the purpose of preserving the historic centre in its manifold organic function (para. 1 of section 1).

(2) Whenever a permit pursuant to para. 1 is granted, the provisions of para. 2 of section 3 concerning the preservation of the basic structure of the building in its original fabric shall be taken into account.

(3) When the usable floor spaces pursuant to para. 1 are calculated, houses that are adjacent to one another, have a common structural context and the same owner in the land register may be treated as one single unit. Such a regulation may concern two buildings at most.

Section 5

Preservation of public surfaces

Within zone I, any public surfaces (traffic surfaces, green areas, Mur banks) shall be conserved in terms of their landscape and structural characteristics including fountains, statues, wayside shrines, light fittings, etc. and, in the case of renewal, designed in a way that befits this setting. The erection of stationary structures for selling, advertising and announcement purposes (showcases, outdoor advertising pillars, billboards, etc.), as well as of other structures on these surfaces, shall – irrespective of the provisions of the 1968 Styrian Building Code – not be permitted without previous proceedings pursuant to para. 2 of section 7.

Section 6

New buildings, additions, structural alterations, measures contrary to regulations

(1) For the purposes of reconstruction of demolished buildings and the development of gap sites and other non-built-up land within the protection zone (section 2), the buildings shall be given such an outer shape and design that they fit in with the appearance of the respective town quarter; the same shall apply to structural changes, as well as to additions to and alterations of existing buildings. The dimensions of portal and shop window openings must be of such a size that they leave visible the loadbearing function of the exterior masonry walls.

(2) If measures regulated under sections 3, 4, 5 and 6 are taken without any permits as required by the present law, the discontinuation of such activity shall be ordered.

(3) Any measures taken in contradiction to the provisions of the present law shall be removed and/or undone. Any buildings or parts of buildings demolished without official permit or order shall be reinstated in their former outer design and shape. The duty for removal or reinstatement shall lie with the owner of the property and, if he had or must have had knowledge of the measures taken in contradiction to the provisions of the present law, also with his legal successor. If the measure was taken without the authorisation of the property owner, the duty shall lie with the one who initiated the measure.

(4) The public authority shall order by public notice the obliged party to remove the measure or reinstate the former appearance. This notice shall define deadlines which must not exceed six months regarding the submission of an application for a building permit supported by drawings pursuant to para. 5 of section 3, and which must not exceed two years regarding the execution of reconstruction. Upon entry into force of the public notice, the public authority shall file with the land register court an application for inclusion of the said procedure in the respective property's entry in the land register, the same shall apply to the withdrawal of public notices. The land register court shall carry out the appropriate entries in the land register.

Section 7

Procedural provisions

(1) Regulations pursuant to para. 3 of section 2 and to section 10 may be promulgated only after having obtained an expert opinion of the Expert Commission (section 11).

(2) Public notices pursuant to the provisions of sections 3, 4, 5, 6 and 18 (para. 2) of the present law and – as far as they concern protection zones - public notices pursuant to the provisions of sections 2, 3, 57 (subpara. e of para. 1), 62 and 70 (para. 3) (except when there

is imminent danger) of the 1968 Styrian Building Code may be promulgated only after having obtained an expert opinion of the Expert Commission (section 11).

(3) Public notices promulgated without having obtained this expert opinion previously, or public notices contradicting the provisions of sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 18 and 19 may become null and void (subpara. d of para. 4 of section 68 of the 1950 Act on General Administrative Procedures) and can be cancelled by the provincial government in the exercise of the right of supervision pursuant to section 107 of the 1967 Statute of the Provincial Capital of Graz, Provincial Law Gazette No. 130.

(4) The Expert Commission (section 11) shall be notified of any public notices promulgated under the present law.

Section 8

Property owned by individual storeys

(1) If construction measures taken within the protection zone in the interest of maintaining the appearance of the town (para. 1 of section 1) concern properties owned in material proportions (by storeys) within the meaning of the law of 30 March 1879, Law Gazette No. 50, this property shall be treated as though the storey owners were property owners within the meaning of section 361 of the Austrian Civil Code in that the co-ownership share relates to the proportion in which the parts of the property are jointly owned by all storey owners. Within this context, such construction measures shall be deemed in any case measures designed to preserve the property or provide better use for the property within the meaning of section 834 of the Austrian Civil Code.

(2) Whether a construction measure pursuant to para. 1 above is in the interest of conserving the appearance of the historic centre shall be determined by the building authority upon request and irrespective of whether the construction measure serves the purpose of conserving the building within the meaning of section 70 of the 1968 Styrian Building Code.

Section 9

Records of the stock of buildings

(1) The municipality shall create and keep records of the stock of buildings located within the protection zone. These records shall be made accessible for inspection to the general public in the municipal office (*Magistrat*) during office hours.

(2) The property owners and/or parties authorised to dispose of the property shall provide information and access to the official representatives of the city and the members of the Expert Commission (section 11), as far as this is necessary for fulfilling the functions they have under the present law and does not conflict with restrictions under public law.

Section 10

Authorisation by regulation

The provincial government shall, as far as this is necessary for reaching the aims set forth in sections 3, 5 and 6, and provided that safety (para. 1 of section 15 of the 1968 Styrian Building Code) is ensured, issue by regulation more detailed provisions that may also deviate from the

other normally applicable provisions. Before promulgating such a regulation, the Expert Commission (section 11) must be heard.

II. Expert commission²

Section 11 Composition and tasks

(1) An Expert Commission shall be created at the office of the provincial government (*Amt der Landesregierung*). This commission shall have the task of delivering expert opinions before any regulations pursuant to para. 3 of section 2 and pursuant to section 10, as well as official notices pursuant to sections 3, 4, 5, 6 and first sentence of para. 2 of section 19, are promulgated. It shall also be obliged to deliver an expert opinion upon the request of parties filing an application for a subsidy (second sentence of para 2 of section 19).

(2) If there is reason to believe that the owners of buildings do not perform their obligation pursuant to para. 2 of section 70 of the 1968 Styrian Building Code or any more extensive conservation obligation pursuant to paras. 1 and 2 of section 3, or contravene the provisions of section 4, the commission shall have the duty to report to the building authority.

(3) The commission shall be entitled to submit to the provincial government proposals as to other zones (para. 3 of section 2) and to the board of trustees (para. 1 of section 13) proposals as to the allocations from the Historic Centre Conservation Fund (section 12).

III. Historic Centre Conservation Fund³

Section 12 Purpose, name and headquarters of the fund

(1) For the purpose of promoting construction measures designed to conserve the historic centre within the meaning of para. 1 of section 1, a fund shall be created having separate legal personality.

(2) This fund shall have the name of Graz Historic Centre Conservation Fund and shall be headquartered in Graz.

Section 13 Administration and management of the fund

(1) The fund shall be administered by a board of trustees (*Kuratorium*) composed of the mayor of the city or his appointed representative as chairman, two representatives of the city delegated by the municipal council and three representatives of the province (Land) delegated by the provincial government, and this board shall have as members at least one representative each of the finance departments of the municipality (*Magistrat*) and the office of the provincial government (*Amt der Landesregierung*). Upon request, the chairman of the Expert Commission (section 11) shall be called in to attend meetings in an advisory capacity.

² Sachverständigenkommission

³ Altstadterhaltungsfonds

Section 14
Monies of the fund

(1) The monies of the fund shall be raised through

- a) grants of the city;
- b) grants of the Land;
- c) grants of the federal government;
- d) grants of credit institutions;
- e) borrowings made by the fund;
- f) proceeds from the assets of the fund;
- g) foundations and other grants and income.

(2) The grants of the city and the Land shall be made at a ratio of 55:45 in a calendar year.

(3) The monies of the fund shall be invested to earn interest, and such investment shall be done separately from other money holdings of the city.

Section 15
Provisions governing subsidies

(1) The kinds of subsidies granted are:

- a) subsidies to construction cost;
- b) assumption of interest or annuities of loans;
- c) granting of subsidies to interest or annuities;
- d) granting of loans at preferential interest rates;
- e) assumption of sureties.

Section 16

The subsidisation of construction measures that are based on an order of the building authority (para. 3 of section 70 of the 1968 Styrian Building Code) shall be dealt with by the fund before any other cases of subsidy. Subject to its capacity, the fund may fix the maturity of subsidies regarding other construction measures for a date within five years after receipt of the application for subsidy.

7. If some and not all of the windows are replaced, the new windows shall be adjusted in shape, construction and dimension to the predominant appearance of the existing stock.

Section 3

For buildings to be preserved pursuant to section 3 of the 1980 Graz Historic Centre Conservation Act it shall, because of any impairment to the appearance, be inadmissible to grant a permit for the following measures:

1. change in size and proportion of windows;
2. attachment to the exterior windows of glazing bars of a glued-on, clamped-on or similar type and/or glazing bars not directly connected to the glass surface or inserted in between insulation-grade panes;
3. attachment of antisen slats in front of the outer sashes;
4. replacement of window sashes that open towards the outside by windows that open otherwise if this changes the situation of the outer glass plane to the facade plane;
5. use of externally visible silvered or other tinted glass unless in the latter case the purpose (hospitals, museums, etc.) justifies an exception;
6. permanent removal or architecture-incompatible replacement of exterior hinged shutters.

1986 Regulation on the Architectural Features of Windows⁴

Regulation of the Styrian provincial government of 25 November 1985 on the architectural features of windows within the protection zone pursuant to the 1980 Graz Historic Centre Conservation Act, Provincial Law Gazette 1986/1

Owing to section 10 of the 1980 Graz Historic Centre Conservation Act, Provincial Law Gazette No. 17, the following shall be regulated:

Section 1

(1) Under the 1980 Graz Historic Centre Conservation Act any windows, French doors and their combinations shall have such architectural features that they correspond to the appearance of the building, the ensemble and the street and town prospect with regard to their components (all kinds of shutters, inner and outer sashes, blinds, louvres, etc.), their surrounds and frames, their position within the facade and/or the facade plane, their construction and dimensioning of construction, their height, width, proportion and subdivision, the way in which the windows can be opened, their material and colour.

(2) The provisions of this regulation shall not apply to shop windows on the ground floor and inside windows as far as these cannot be seen from the outside.

Section 2

According to the aims set forth in section 1 the following shall apply subject to the worthiness of protection and with due regard to the appearance of the town quarter in question:

1. The position of the exterior glass surfaces in relation to the facade plane (before, within or behind the facade plane) shall fit in with the appearance.
2. Frame and sash subdivision shall be provided only by transomes, mullions or glazing bars.
3. For construction only wood shall be used. Other materials shall be considered only if the windows can be repaired, replaced or modelled in wood in the same shape at any time.
4. In terms of shape, construction and dimensioning of profiles, windows shall have such architectural features that they correspond to that epoch of style that dominates the facade. Any necessary larger cross-sections have to be profiled accordingly on the exterior.
5. The number of movable outer window sashes and the ways in which they can be opened towards the outside or inside ought to be compatible with the appearance. Bottom-hinged, top-hinged or side/bottom hung sashes may be used only in fanlights for windows having transomes.
6. The colours of window construction, shutters, outer blinds and louvres ought to fit in with the overall composition of the facade.

⁴ Fenstergestaltungs-Verordnung 1986

7. If some and not all of the windows are replaced, the new windows shall be adjusted in shape, construction and dimension to the predominant appearance of the existing stock.

Section 3

For buildings to be preserved pursuant to section 3 of the 1980 Graz Historic Centre Conservation Act it shall, because of any impairment to the appearance, be inadmissible to grant a permit for the following measures:

1. change in size and proportion of windows;
2. attachment to the exterior windows of glazing bars of a glued-on, clamped-on or similar type and/or glazing bars not directly connected to the glass surface or inserted in between insulation-grade panes;
3. attachment of antisun slats in front of the outer sashes;
4. replacement of window sashes that open towards the outside by windows that open otherwise if this changes the situation of the outer glass plane to the facade plane;
5. use of externally visible silvered or other tinted glass unless in the latter case the purpose (hospitals, museums, etc.) justifies an exception;
6. permanent removal or architecture-incompatible replacement of exterior hinged shutters.

1986 Regulation on the Preservation of the Roofscape⁵

Regulation of the Styrian provincial government of 25 November 1985 on the preservation of the roofscape within the protection zone pursuant to the 1980 Graz Historic Centre Conservation Act, Provincial Law Gazette 1986/2

Based on section 10 of the 1980 Graz Historic Centre Conservation Act, Provincial Law Gazette No. 17, the following shall be regulated:

Section 1

Pursuant to the 1980 Graz Historic Centre Conservation Act care shall be taken for any openings and structures on top and other changes of the roof skin within the protection zone to fit in with the traditional appearance of the Graz roofscape. For this purpose the roofscape shall comprise the entirety of the architecturally effective features of the roof zone, such as size, shape, construction, pitch, cornice and/or eave design, roofing material, component shape, roofing colour, structures on top (dormers, transverse roofs, chimneys for smoke and flue gases, chimney accesses, etc.), as well as intersections of roofs. Special importance shall be attributed to the visibility of the roofscape from public traffic surfaces, from any other publicly accessible open areas (courtyards and the like), from the Schlossberg, as well as from the surrounding hillside of the Graz basin.

Section 2

According to the aims set forth in section 1 the following shall apply subject to the worthiness of protection and with due regard to the appearance of the town quarter in question:

1. structures on top for daylighting purposes shall be designed as single dormers.
2. above and below dormers a sufficiently dimensioned, non-articulated roof strip shall remain. Dust-pan dormers shall be applied mainly to roofs with a pitch of more than 45°.
3. the use of sheet metal as roofing material shall be admissible if otherwise the tightness of the roof skin cannot be ensured owing to structural conditions. Metal sheet roofs shall fit in with the roofscape in terms of colour.

Section 3

For buildings to be preserved pursuant to section 3 of the 1980 Graz Historic Centre Conservation Act it shall, because of any impairment to the appearance, be inadmissible to grant a permit for the following measures:

1. flat roofs in zone I except for accessory buildings or annexes of minor importance;
2. for new roofing jobs within zone I, the non-use of clay-tile roofing;
3. for new roofing jobs within zone I, the non-use of the roofing material that predominantly coins the respective roofscape of the ensemble;

⁵ Dachlandschafterhaltungs-Verordnung 1986

4. large-size roofing members that are not to be found in the majority of roofings of neighbouring properties;
5. roofings that have an asymmetric effect in relation to the line of gradient;
6. roof windows that do not have a uniform shape subject to their visibility;
7. roof windows in more than two levels;
8. roof windows that are not arranged so as to reflect the rhythm of rafters or window axes of the facade;
9. chimney access routes subject to their visibility.

1986 Regulation on the Design of Announcements⁶

Regulation of the Styrian provincial government of 25 November 1985 on the design of announcements within the protection zone pursuant to the 1980 Graz Historic Centre Conservation Act, Provincial Law Gazette 1986/3

Based on section 10 of the 1980 Graz Historic Centre Conservation Act, Provincial Law Gazette No. 17, the following shall be regulated:

Section 1

Pursuant to the 1980 Graz Historic Centre Conservation Act care shall be taken that all announcements (advertisements, designations, inscriptions, indications), including the facilities used for their attachment, are designed in such a way that they do not cause, owing to their shape, size, material or type of attachment, any impairment, especially any obstruction of vision, to the appearance of the building, the ensemble as well as the street and city prospect.

Section 2

According to the aims set forth in section 1 the following shall apply subject to the worthiness of protection and with due regard to the appearance of the town quarter in question:

1. Preferably such individual, expertly designed announcements shall be used where the makers resort to formerly used symbols, house names, craft signs, etc. If, as an exception to the rule, prefabricated products are used, large-size announcements shall be avoided. If the announcement needs illumination, the latter shall be provided in the form of a background (indirect) illumination.
2. Any inscriptions on the facade shall be broken down into individual letters. Letterings (emblems, signboards, etc.) of smaller dimensions may also be attached directly onto the wall surfaces in between openings.

Section 3

For buildings to be preserved pursuant to section 3 of the 1980 Graz Historic Centre Conservation Act it shall, because of any impairment to the appearance, be inadmissible to grant a permit for the following measures:

1. Attachment of announcements
 - a) above the bottom edge of the cordon cornice between ground floor and 1st upper floor and/or the floor height of the ground floor, on the roof border, on the roof surface and the ridge, except for the replacement of already existing announcements which are to be deemed as integral parts of a top-quality facade;
 - b) on window shutters, blinds, louvres, unless these are shop windows on the ground floor, as well as on, in between and behind windows of the upper storeys;
 - c) of an ostentatious kind (waving dummies, luminous paints, specially glaring paints, intermittent illumination, etc.);

⁶ Ankündigungsgestaltungs-Verordnung 1986

2. Attachment of announcements causing the facade elements to be cut up in optical terms (pillars, pilasters, lesenes, cornices, openings, etc.), as well as street spaces to be cut up in optical terms, or architecturally diverse building fronts to be connected in optical terms, except for temporarily applied flags and banners that are directly and factually connected to a specific event;
3. Attachment of outside awning blinds that do not serve the purpose of sunshading (but are mere advertising media);
4. Attachment of advertisements that are not factually connected to the use of the building.

Graz (Austria)

No 931

Identification

Nomination City of Graz – historic centre

Location Province of Styria

State Party Austria

Date 18 June 1998

Justification by State Party

The historic centre of Graz, with its group of well preserved buildings dating back to several periods, is an outstanding example of an historic Central European city. Its authenticity has not been affected by the wars or the subsequent periods of economic expansion. An "urban organism," between the river and the Schlossberg, emerged from the Middle Ages, and was to play an important role in Europe as a princely court and as a bastion of the Empire against the Ottomans.

The various stages of urban development can be clearly identified. Each epoch is represented by typical architectural styles which form a harmonious whole. Even now, the city is a melting pot for an unusual mixture of Mediterranean and Nordic influences, evidence of the vast expansion of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, reflected in its urban structure, in the atmosphere of its streets and squares, and in the elaborate architecture of its churches, monasteries, palaces and big houses.

When the city spread in the 19th and 20th centuries it left behind a green zone all round the historic centre on the site of the old fortifications. The social structure of the historic centre has been preserved to a high degree by adapting areas of traditional life within the walls of old buildings.

The Middle Ages bequeathed churches with vast naves, as well as an urban system and large houses clustered around the foot of the Schlossberg and on the two banks of the river Mur. The Renaissance and Baroque periods are represented by numerous religious buildings, imposing aristocratic residences, courtyards enclosed by elegant arches, and splendid facades. Finally, the Classical period left numerous buildings of interest in the south and east of the historic centre. The heart of Graz therefore has exceptional value as an urban structure and as an example of remarkably well preserved traditional architecture.

Criterion iv

Category of property

In terms of the categories of cultural property set out in Article 1 of the World Heritage List of 1972, the historic centre of Graz is a *group of buildings*.

History and Description

History

The first traces of continuous human settlement of the site goes back to the Neolithic period. The site was not used as a Roman settlement, even though a few roads crossed it. After the fall of the Roman Empire, it was invaded, first by Alpine Slavs, the Avars, a horse-riding nomadic people subjugated by Charlemagne; then by the Hungarians, who were defeated at the battle of Lechfeld in 955; and finally by German settlers. Graz was thus included in the march of Carinthia. A small fortress (*gradec* in Slavic, hence the name of Graz) was erected on the Schlossberg hill, while a few houses and a church were constructed around it. Graz was mentioned for the first time in an official deed of 1128/29.

It was around this time that an open market began to thrive, leading to the first urban development with the immigration of Bavarian settlers. Besides the local nobility, the population consisted of traders and artisans, as well as a Jewish community which remained there until the 15th century. Graz was governed by the Houses of Traungau and Babenberg, and was given the status of a city.

After the Treaty of Neuberg in 1379 and the first division of the Habsburg heritage, the city came under the rule of the line established by Leopold III. Graz became the capital of Inner Austria, composed of Styria, Carinthia, Carniola, Istria, and Trieste. Graz also became a favourite royal place of residence, particularly for Frederick III (1453-93), who granted it many privileges, had many buildings erected, and rebuilt the Church of St Aegidius, now the cathedral.

The city and region then became involved in serious armed conflicts with Hungarian and Turkish invaders. In 1480, the Turks even arrived the gates of the city: this episode is portrayed in a fresco in the cathedral entitled "The Scourges of God," a Gothic masterpiece by Master Thomas von Villach. The 16th century was marked by constant threats from the Turks, as well as religious turmoil. To confront these threats, the medieval fortifications were completely reorganized and modernized according to the rules in force during the Renaissance. In 1559, the Clock Tower, the symbolic monument of Graz, was given its characteristic appearance, which has remained unchanged to these days.

In 1564, as a result of a new partition of the Habsburg lands, Graz became the capital of Inner Austria, despite the danger of Turkish invasions and the advances made by the Reformation. Three-quarters of the inhabitants were Protestants, active in the burgeoning Protestant Foundation where Kepler, the famous astronomer and mathematician, taught.

However, the city was soon to undergo the most important phase of its development with the arrival of the Jesuits in 1572. Archduke Charles II supported the Counter-Reformation, established the Jesuit University and went to great lengths to undermine the Protestant Foundation, which disappeared in 1600. His son Ferdinand had a monumental mausoleum built by the artist Pietro de Pomis. However, on his election as Emperor in 1618, he transferred his court to Vienna and Graz underwent a relative economic recession.

During the 17th century, several mansions were built in the Renaissance or early Baroque styles: the Kollonitsch Palace, the Effans von Avernas Palace, and the Stubenberg palace, the last-named passing on to the Welscherheim family. Facades were remodelled in these styles and courtyards enclosed by arches were added to existing buildings. In the western part of the city, the Governor of Inner Austria, Hans Ulrich von Eggenberg, built a ducal palace of great artistic interest; it is the most important Baroque palace in Styria. The great architect Johann Bernhard Fisher von Erlach, was born in Graz in 1656. When the danger from the Turks was finally averted thanks to two decisive victories, Saint Gothard in 1664 and Vienna in 1683, the economy boomed once again. Aristocrats and bourgeoisie competed with each other in their aspirations for honours and culture.

Graz subsequently expanded towards the south and south-west. Factories and banks were set up and started to thrive. However, the movement to centralize Austrian power, ending in the abolition of Inner Austria, weakened the institutions of Graz. At the same time, pilgrimage centres, such as Maria Hilf and Maria Trost, became monumental sanctuaries. The suppression of convents undertaken by Joseph II led to the closing of nine out of sixteen monasteries, whilst the University Library as enriched with works from forty monasteries in Styria and Carinthia. In 1786, the Bishop of Seckau transferred his residence to Graz and turned the Church of St Aegidius into a cathedral. The Jesuit Order was dissolved in 1773 and their university turned into a State university.

The economic growth of the city was severely affected by the wars between the Coalition and France. French troops occupied Graz on several occasions, in 1797, 1805, and 1809, imposing heavy war levies. They besieged the Schlossberg, which put up a brave resistance; however, under the terms of the Treaty of Schönbrunn, the fortifications had to be demolished. In 1839, a public park was laid out over the Schlossberg, giving it its present aspect.

The 1848 Revolution was a fairly moderate one. The pro-German middle class governed the city until 1918. It was a flourishing period for modern town planning. The city acquired military land to create green areas for the public and declared them as *non aedificandi* zones. Urban expansion was channelled outside this green belt and influenced by the *Biedermeier* style and then the *Jugendstil*, whilst the historic centre continued to be the social and commercial hub of the town.

The assassination of the heir to the throne, Archduke Franz-Ferdinand, who was born in Graz in the Khuenburg Palace, triggered off the hostilities of World War I in 1914. When the new frontiers were drawn up in 1918-19, Graz lost its hinterland and to a certain extent was relegated to the fringe from the geographical and economic points of view. In 1938, the seventeen surrounding municipalities formed a town incorporated into Greater Graz. World War II was followed by a slow return to normal, and Graz once again became a modern garden city, a cultural and industrial centre, and a university town.

Description

The inscription of the city of Graz on the World Heritage List is justified, above all, by the exceptional character of the urban complex as such and by the harmonious example of town planning and architectural styles

reflecting successive periods in the history of the city and its development.

Among the hundreds of buildings of great historic and architectural interest, a few particularly remarkable edifices are worthy of note.

- The Castle

Of the original castle where Emperor Frederick III resided, all that remains is a Gothic hall, a Late Gothic chapel, and a double spiral staircase going back to 1499. The wing constructed by Archduke Charles in 1570 has remained largely intact. A monumental Early Renaissance portal leading to the inner courtyard is the work of Domenico dell'Aglio, and shows the influence of Sebastiano Serlio which had spread all over Europe.

- The Seminary (former Jesuit College)

Unlike other colleges, this impressive complex, started in 1572, was not remodelled in the Baroque style and is therefore an important illustration of the severe Renaissance architecture adopted by the Order when it was first established in the German Province.

- The Old Jesuit University

After the dissolution of the Order in 1773, the University came under public control. In order to safeguard its collection, the library was installed in the old *magna aula* and in the theatre, on the orders of Empress Maria Theresa. Its decoration and furnishings make it a significant manifestation of the transition from the Rococo to the Classic style, and it now serves as a show case for the Styrian Archives.

- The Cathedral

Frederick III built the present cathedral in the Late Gothic style (1438-64) alongside a Romanesque church dedicated to St Aegidius. It contains admirable frescoes such as the "Scourges of God" (the Plague of Locusts, the Turkish Invasion, and the Black Death) attributed to Thomas von Villach (1480). Following the transfer of the bishopric from Seckau to Graz, the church of St Aegidius, used for 200 years as a centre for the Counter-Reformation, became the cathedral of the new diocese in 1786.

- The Mausoleum of Emperor Ferdinand II

Started in 1614 by Giovanni de Ponis, the mausoleum was only consecrated in 1714 when the interior decoration, entrusted to Johann Bernhard Fischer von Erlach, was completed. The facade, in particular, reflects the transition from the Renaissance to the Baroque style and is an original synthesis between a powerful architecture topped by light domes.

Management and Protection

Legal status

The area proposed for inscription on the World Heritage List covers 72ha and includes 450 buildings. Most of them are privately owned and are regularly maintained. Many buildings of major importance belong to the Austrian Federal Government, the Province of Styria, and to several churches and other public institutions.

The area is subject to legal and statutory protection at federal, regional, and local levels. Very strict directives

are based, in particular, on the Act on the Protection of Monuments (*Denkmalschutzgesetz*) of 1923, amended in 1978 and 1990, as well as the Act for the Conservation of the Historic Centre of Graz (*Grazer Altstadtverwaltungsgesetz*) of 1980.

Management

The above-mentioned directives are supervised by the Bundesdenkmalamt, which is also responsible for the direct management of public buildings. Any transfer of property or changes made to the buildings must be authorized by this government service, through the Landeskonservatorat of Styria, which has its seat in Graz. In compensation, subsidies are granted for restoration works.

The Act for the Conservation of the Historic Centre defines four zones of protection of various degrees. The first zone covers the perimeter proposed for inscription and is subject to the highest degree of protection, whilst the three others serve as a buffer zone. The Government of Styria took complementary steps in 1986 to protect the "roofscape" and traditional windows. Special subsidies have been granted for conservation and restoration work in the protected zones, the expenses being borne by the Fund for the Conservation of the Historic Centre.

Two specialized services are responsible for safeguarding the historic centre. The first permanently monitors the works undertaken and the changes of attribution. The other one oversees major rehabilitation projects and manages a Programme of Urban Renovation.

Among the urban protection measures, the following should be mentioned:

- overall control of traffic and parking of cars, and definition of the areas reserved for pedestrians;
- monitoring of the flow of the river Mur to prevent flooding;
- efficient handling of tourism to make it compatible with the aspirations of the inhabitants.

Complementary arrangements will be added to protect the natural heritage, such as the Schlossberg and the City Park.

The construction of modern buildings is authorized with elaborate precaution. In this respect, the Graz School of Architecture enjoys an international reputation. Such operations are usually the outcome of a competition.

Several protection associations are involved in the conservation of the city of Graz, the most important being the *Internationales Städteforum Graz*.

Conservation and Authenticity

Conservation history

For decades respect for the original urban plans and traditional architecture has been common practice; this has been institutionalized by protective laws and regulations. A comprehensive documentation has been compiled showing the care paid to maintenance and conservation works with a view to preserving both the configuration and the social functions of the historic centre, especially after the wars of this century.

In the course of the last ten years, the controlling bodies have supervised works in over half of the historic monuments and most of the public areas, on the basis of preliminary historical and architectural studies.

Authenticity

The historic centre of the city of Graz has a high degree of authenticity, given normal urban dynamics. The city has not suffered much from war damage, and changes have usually been limited and harmonized with the existing constructed environment.

The historic centre has retained its morphology and traditional structures. The boundaries of the districts and old fortifications are still very visible. The two urban focal points, the old market and the ducal residence, still have their original character. The detailed survey has been fully preserved, and the same applies to the boundaries of the glacis, transformed into a green area.

The major historic monuments have kept their architectural and decorative authenticity - for instance, the Armoury with its original weapons, or the vast Stadtkrone complex of the Palace, University, Cathedral and Mausoleum.

The authenticity of the 19th century districts is of a different nature, but just as genuine. The houses of the *Gründerzeit* offer greater flexibility for changes of attribution over time.

There is a problem of authenticity over the transformations of ground-floor windows which contrast with the historic architectural environment. Nevertheless, the urban integrity is not compromised and, moreover, corrective measures are being implemented within the framework of the rigorous management procedures described above.

Evaluation

ICOMOS action

An ICOMOS expert mission visited Graz in January 1999.

Qualities

The historic centre of the city of Graz is an exceptional example of town planning over the centuries, with a harmonious integration of buildings constructed in successive architectural styles. The centre therefore has a value as a historic monument while continuing to lead a contemporary and dynamic social life. Surrounded by green areas, the old city has kept its urban configuration and urban scale, as well as an atmosphere marked by the fruitful encounter between different cultural and artistic movements.

Comparative analysis

The city of Graz is part of a fairly diversified network of central European cities in the south-west. Its origins are medieval. It is distinguished by architectural expressions of an age-old emulation between the high aristocracy and a very active merchant middle class. It also clearly illustrates the episodes of resistance to invasions from the east, the historic tensions between religions, and the synthesis of cultural influences from the Danube, the Balkans, and the Adriatic.

Brief description

The historic heart of the city of Graz is a central European urban centre marked by the centuries-old presence of the Habsburgs. The old city forged an unusual image through a harmonious integration of architectural styles and artistic movements which have succeeded each other since the Middle Ages, as well as the different cultural influences of the neighbouring regions.

Recommendation

That this property be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria ii and iv*.

Criterion ii The historic centre of the city of Graz reflects artistic and architectural movements originating from the Germanic region, the Balkans, and the Mediterranean, for which it served as a crossroads for centuries. The greatest architects and artists of these different regions expressed themselves forcefully here and thus created brilliant syntheses.

Criterion iv The urban complex forming the historic centre of the city of Graz is an exceptional example of a harmonious integration of architectural styles from successive periods. Each age is represented by typical buildings, which are often masterpieces. The urban physiognomy faithfully tells the story of its historic development.

ICOMOS, September 1999



DSP
GRAZ

**Digitaler Stadtplan
 GRAZ**

Magistrat Graz
 A10/6 - Stadtvermessungsamt

DSP-Katasterdaten
 Stand Nov. 97

Projekt : **UNESCO - Weltkulturerbe**

Auftraggeber : **A10/7**

M 1:11000

GZ : **A10/6-36/1-1999**

	Datum	Name
Bearbeiter:	09.03.99	Demschner
Graphische Bearb.:	09.03.99	Demschner
Geproft:		

Graz, am 09.03.1999
 Der Abteilungsvorstand :

PLAN GZ
36/99-2

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Legende:

zone _____

buffer zone
 (corresponding with
 the protected areas
 of the city) } _____

Ville de Graz – centre historique / City of Graz – Historic Centre :
Plan indiquant la zone proposée et la zone tampon / Map showing nominated property and buffer zone

Graz (Autriche)

No 931

Identification

<i>Bien proposé</i>	Ville de Graz – Centre historique
<i>Lieu</i>	Länder de Styrie
<i>Etat Partie</i>	Autriche
<i>Date</i>	18 juin 1998

Justification émanant de l'Etat Partie

Avec un ensemble d'édifices datant de plusieurs époques et très bien préservé, le centre historique de Graz représente un témoignage singulier d'une ville historique d'Europe centrale. Son authenticité n'a pas été affectée par les guerres ou par les périodes d'expansion économique subséquentes. Entre le cours d'eau et le Schlossberg, un "organisme urbain" a émergé du Moyen Age qui allait remplir un rôle important en Europe comme cour princière et comme bastion de l'Empire contre les Ottomans.

Les étapes du développement urbain peuvent être clairement discernées. Chaque époque est représentée par des constructions architecturales caractéristiques, qui forment un ensemble harmonieux. Jusqu'à ce jour, l'atmosphère de la cité réalise un mélange singulier d'influences méditerranéennes et nordiques, témoignages de la grande expansion de la monarchie austro-hongroise, et qui s'expriment dans la structure urbaine, dans l'atmosphère de ses rues et de ses places, comme dans la richesse de l'architecture de ses églises, monastères, palais et maisons bourgeoises.

L'extension de la ville aux XIX^e et XX^e siècles a ménagé une zone verte tout autour du centre historique sur l'emplacement des anciennes fortifications. La structure sociale du centre historique, avec l'accommodation des espaces de vie traditionnels, dans l'enveloppe des édifices anciens, a été conservée à un haut degré.

Le Moyen Age a légué des églises aux vastes vaisseaux ainsi que la trame urbaine et ses maisons bourgeoises agglutinées au pied du Schlossberg et sur les deux rives de la rivière Mur. La Renaissance et le baroque sont représentés par de nombreux édifices ecclésiastiques, d'imposants hôtels de l'aristocratie, des cours fermées par d'élégantes arcades et de splendides façades. Enfin, la période classique a pourvu le sud et l'est du centre historique de nombre d'édifices de qualité. Ainsi le centre de Graz forme un ensemble d'une valeur exceptionnelle, à la fois en tant que structure urbaine et en tant que témoignage

d'architectures traditionnelles remarquablement préservées. **Critère iv**

Catégorie de bien

En termes de catégories de biens culturels, telles que définies à l'article premier de la Convention du Patrimoine mondial de 1972, le centre historique de Graz constitue un *ensemble*.

Histoire et description

Histoire

Les premières traces d'une occupation humaine continue du site datent du Néolithique. Le site ne fut pas retenu pour un établissement romain, quoique des chaussées s'y croisent. A la chute de l'Empire romain, se produisirent des invasions : d'abord des Slaves alpins, les Avars, peuple de chevaliers nomades qui fut soumis par Charlemagne ; ensuite les Hongrois, qui seront défaits à la bataille de Lechfeld, en 955 ; enfin des colons germaniques qui permettront d'intégrer Graz dans la Marche de Carinthie. La colline du Scholssberg voit s'ériger une petite forteresse ("gradec" en slave, qui donnera l'appellation Graz), tandis que s'élèvent quelques constructions domestiques et une église et qu'un acte officiel mentionne pour la première fois le nom de Graz, en 1128-1129.

Un marché ouvert va dès lors se développer, qui entraînera un premier développement urbain, avec l'immigration de colons bavarois. A côté de la noblesse locale, il s'agit d'une population de commerçants et d'artisans, avec une communauté juive qui se maintiendra jusqu'au XV^e siècle. Graz est alors dirigée par les maisons Traungau et Babenberg et reçoit le statut de ville.

Après le Traité de Neuberg, en 1379, et la première partition de l'héritage des Habsbourg, la ville échoit à la lignée établie par Léopold III. Graz devient la capitale de l'Autriche Intérieure, comprenant la Styrie, la Carinthie, la Carniole, l'Istrie et Trieste. Graz devient surtout un lieu de résidence de prédilection, notamment de Frédéric III (1453-93) qui lui octroie de nombreux privilèges, y fait élever de nombreux édifices et fait reconstruire l'église Saint-Gilles, l'actuelle cathédrale.

La ville et la région sont alors impliquées dans de sérieux conflits armés avec des envahisseurs hongrois et turcs. En 1480, les Turcs menacent même les portes de la ville : cet épisode a été représenté dans la fresque "Les fléaux de Dieu" dans la cathédrale, chef d'œuvre gothique, par le Maître Thomas von Villach. Le XVI^e siècle sera ainsi marqué par la constante menace turque, de même que par des troubles religieux. Pour y faire face, le système de fortification médiévale est complètement remanié et modernisé selon les règles en vigueur à la Renaissance. En 1559, la Tour de l'Horloge reçoit sa configuration caractéristique, préservée jusqu'à nos jours, qui en a fait le monument emblématique de Graz.

Un nouveau partage des biens des Habsbourg, en 1564, rend à Graz le rôle de capitale de l'Autriche Intérieure, malgré la menace turque et les avancées de la Réforme. Les trois quarts des habitants sont protestants et animent une rayonnante Fondation protestante où vient enseigner Kepler, le célèbre astronome et mathématicien. Mais bientôt la ville va connaître la phase la plus importante de son développement, avec l'arrivée des Jésuites en 1572. L'Archiduc Charles II appuie la Contre-Réforme, installe une Université jésuite, et s'emploie à miner la Fondation protestante, qui disparaîtra en 1600. Son fils Ferdinand se fait construire un mausolée monumental par l'artiste Pietro de Pomis. Mais il est ensuite élu empereur en 1618 et transporte sa cour à Vienne, ce qui va entraîner une relative récession économique pour Graz.

Durant le XVII^e siècle, plusieurs hôtels particuliers furent construits dans le style Renaissance ou baroque initial : palais Kollonitsch, palais des Effans d'Avernas, palais Stubenberg qui passera à la famille Welsersheim. Des façades furent remaniées dans ces styles et des cours fermées à arcades furent ajoutées aux édifices existants. Dans la partie occidentale de la ville, le gouverneur de l'Autriche Intérieure, Hans Ulrich von Eggenberg, fit construire une résidence ducale de grand intérêt artistique, qui est le plus important palais baroque de Styrie. En 1656 naquit à Graz le grand architecte Johann Bernhard Fisher von Erlach. Après l'éloignement définitif du péril turc grâce à deux victoires décisives, saint Gothard en 1664 et Vienne en 1683, l'économie redevient florissante. Aristocrates et bourgeois rivalisent dans leur aspiration aux honneurs et à la culture.

Graz connaît ensuite une expansion vers le sud et le sud-ouest. Des manufactures et des banques se développent. Mais le mouvement de centralisation du pouvoir autrichien, qui aboutira à la suppression de l'Autriche Intérieure, a pour conséquence un affaiblissement des institutions de Graz. Parallèlement, des lieux de pèlerinage comme Maria Hilf et Maria Trost, deviennent des sanctuaires monumentaux. La suppression des couvents entreprise par Joseph II conduit à la fermeture de 9 monastères sur 16, tandis que la Bibliothèque universitaire s'enrichit des ouvrages provenant de 40 monastères de Styrie et de Carinthie. En 1786, l'évêque de Seckau transporte sa résidence à Graz et fait une cathédrale de l'église Saint-Gilles. L'ordre des Jésuites est dissous en 1773 et leur université transformée en université d'Etat.

L'expansion économique de la ville fut gravement affectée par les guerres entre la Coalition et la France. Les troupes françaises occupèrent Graz à trois reprises, en 1797, 1805 et 1809, lui imposant de lourdes contributions de guerre. Elles mirent le siège devant le Schlossberg, qui résista avec vaillance. Mais les dispositions du Traité de Schönbrunn imposèrent le démantèlement des fortifications. A partir de 1839, un parc public fut aménagé sur le Schlossberg, qui lui donnera son aspect actuel.

La Révolution de 1848 s'exprima avec modération. La classe moyenne pro-allemande gouverna la ville

jusqu'en 1918. Ce fut une période d'ouverture à l'urbanisme moderne. La ville acquies les domaines militaires pour créer des espaces publics verts et les décréter zones *non aedificandi*. L'extension urbaine fut canalisée hors de cette ceinture verte, dans une expression marquée par le style *Biedermeier* puis par le *Jugendstil*, tandis que le centre historique restait le centre social et commercial de l'agglomération.

L'assassinat de l'héritier du trône, l'archiduc François-Ferdinand, qui était né à Graz dans le palais Khuenburg, déclencha les hostilités de la Première Guerre mondiale. Avec le tracé de nouvelles frontières en 1818/19, Graz perdit son hinterland et fut quelque peu marginalisée au plan géographique et économique. Les 17 municipalités alentour formèrent en 1938 l'agglomération intégrée du Greater Graz. La Deuxième Guerre mondiale fut suivie d'une période de lente normalisation, avant que Graz redevienne une cité moderne, centre culturel et industriel, ville universitaire et de jardins.

Description

L'inscription de la ville de Graz sur la Liste du Patrimoine mondial se justifie avant tout par le caractère exceptionnel de l'ensemble urbain comme tel et par le témoignage harmonieux de l'urbanisme et du style architectural des époques successives de l'histoire du développement urbain.

Il convient toutefois de mentionner, parmi les centaines d'édifices de grand intérêt historique et architectural, quelques constructions particulièrement remarquables.

- Le château comtal

Du château originel habité par l'empereur Frédéric III subsistent la salle gothique, une chapelle du gothique tardif et une cage d'escalier à double spirale datant de 1499. L'aile construite par l'Archiduc Charles en 1570 est restée largement intacte. Un monumental portail Renaissance donne accès à la cour interne ; il est l'œuvre de Domenico dell'Aglio et traduit l'influence que Sebastiano Serlio a exercée partout en Europe.

- Le séminaire (ancien collège des Jésuites)

Cet imposant complexe entamé en 1572 n'a pas été, comme les autres collèges, transformé en style baroque et constitue par conséquent un exemple majeur de la sévère architecture Renaissance des débuts de l'implantation de l'Ordre dans la Province allemande.

- L'ancienne université jésuite

Après la dissolution de l'Ordre en 1773, l'Université passa sous contrôle public. Pour assurer la sauvegarde de ses collections, sur ordre de l'impératrice Marie Thérèse, sa bibliothèque fut aménagée dans l'ancienne *magna aula* et dans le théâtre. Par sa décoration et son mobilier, elle est une manifestation majeure de la transition du rococo au classicisme et est aujourd'hui la vitrine des archives de Styrie.

- La cathédrale

A l'emplacement d'une église romane dédiée à saint Gilles, l'empereur Frédéric III fit construire l'édifice actuel de style gothique tardif (1438-64). On peut y admirer des fresques anciennes dont celle des "Fléaux de Dieu" (les sauterelles, les Turcs et la peste) attribuée à Thomas von Villach (1480). Suite au transfert du siège de l'évêché de Seckau à Graz, l'église Saint-Gilles, contrôlée pendant 200 ans comme centre de la Contre-Réforme, devint la cathédrale du nouveau diocèse en 1786.

- Le mausolée de l'empereur Ferdinand II

Entamée en 1614 par Giovanni de Ponis, l'édifice ne fut consacré qu'en 1714 avec l'achèvement de la décoration intérieure confiée à Johann Bernhard Fischer von Erlach. Il illustre, notamment dans sa façade, la transition de la Renaissance au baroque et constitue une synthèse originale entre une architecture puissante et la légèreté de ses dômes.

Gestion et protection

Statut juridique

Le périmètre proposé pour inscription sur la Liste du Patrimoine mondial couvre 72 ha et compte 450 édifices. La majorité de ces immeubles sont des propriétés privées qui connaissent un entretien régulier. De nombreux bâtiments d'importance majeure appartiennent à l'Etat fédéral autrichien, à la Province de Styrie, à diverses Eglises et autres institutions publiques.

Le périmètre est soumis à une protection légale et réglementaire de niveau fédéral, régional et local. Des prescriptions très strictes se fondent, notamment, sur l'Acte de protection des Monuments (*Denkmalschutzgesetz*) de 1923, modifié en 1978 et 1990, ainsi que sur l'Acte de conservation du centre historique de Graz (*Grazer Altstadterhaltungsgesetz*) de 1980.

Gestion

Le contrôle des prescriptions mentionnées plus haut est assuré par le Bundesdenkmalamt, qui assure par ailleurs la gestion directe des bâtiments publics. Tout transfert de propriété et toute modification apportée aux immeubles doivent être autorisés par ce service gouvernemental, via le Landeskonservatorat de Styrie, qui a son siège à Graz. En compensation, des subventions sont accordées pour les travaux de restauration.

L'Acte de conservation du centre historique définit 4 zones de protection de divers degrés. La zone I correspond au périmètre proposé pour inscription et est soumise au degré de protection le plus exigeant, tandis que les 3 autres remplissent un rôle de zone tampon. Le Gouvernement de Styrie a pris des mesures complémentaires en 1986, relatives à la protection du "paysage des toitures" et des fenêtres traditionnelles. Des subventions particulières sont

accordées pour les travaux de conservation et de restauration dans les zones protégées, à charge du Fonds pour la conservation du centre historique.

Deux services spécialisés veillent à la sauvegarde du centre historique. Le premier assure un contrôle permanent sur les travaux et les changements d'affectation. L'autre supervise les grands projets de réhabilitation et gère un Programme de rénovation urbaine.

Parmi les mesures de protection urbaine, il convient de souligner :

- le contrôle général du trafic et du stationnement des véhicules et la définition de zones réservées aux piétons ;

- le contrôle du cours de la rivière Mur afin de prévenir les inondations ;

- la maîtrise de la fréquentation touristique en vue de la rendre compatible avec les aspirations des habitants.

Des dispositions complémentaires vont encore s'ajouter pour les richesses naturelles, comme le Schlossberg et le Parc de la Ville.

La construction de bâtiments contemporains n'est autorisée qu'avec de grandes précautions. Dans ce domaine, l'Ecole d'Architecture de Graz jouit d'une renommée internationale. De telles interventions font en général l'objet d'un concours.

Plusieurs associations de sauvegarde oeuvrent à la conservation de la ville de Graz, dont la plus importante est l'*Internationales Städteforum Graz*.

Conservation et authenticité

Historique de la conservation

Depuis des décennies, prévaut une pratique usuelle de respect de l'urbanisme original et de l'architecture traditionnelle, qui a été institutionnalisée par les lois et règlements de protection. Une documentation a été constituée, qui révèle le soin apporté aux travaux d'entretien et de conservation en vue de garder au centre historique à la fois sa configuration et ses fonctions sociales, en particulier après les dernières guerres.

Au cours des dix dernières années, les organes de contrôle ont supervisé des travaux dans plus de la moitié des monuments historiques et la majeure partie des espaces publics, sur base d'études historiques et architecturales préalables.

Authenticité

Le centre historique de la ville de Graz présente un haut degré d'authenticité, compte tenu d'une dynamique urbaine normale. La ville n'a pas trop souffert de destructions de guerre et les modifications ont en général été limitées et harmonisées au bâti existant.

Le centre historique a gardé sa morphologie et sa structure traditionnelles. Les limites des quartiers et des anciennes fortifications restent bien visibles. Les deux pôles urbains, l'ancien marché et la résidence ducale, ont gardé leur caractère. Le parcellaire a été conservé intégralement, de même que les limites du glacis, transformé en espace vert.

Les monuments historiques majeurs ont conservé toute leur authenticité architecturale et décorative, comme l'Arsenal, avec les armes originales ou, le vaste ensemble Stadtkrone qui groupe le palais, l'université, la cathédrale et le mausolée.

L'authenticité des quartiers du XIX^e siècle est de nature différente, mais bien réelle. Les maisons du "Gründerzeit" offrent plus de flexibilité pour des changements d'affectation dans le temps.

Un problème d'authenticité se pose dans les transformations des vitrines de rez-de-chaussée qui font contraste avec l'environnement architectural historique. L'intégrité urbaine n'en est pas pour autant compromise et, d'ailleurs, dans le cadre de la gestion attentive décrite plus haut, des mesures correctives sont en cours d'application.

Evaluation

Action de l'ICOMOS

Une mission d'expertise de l'ICOMOS s'est rendue à Graz en janvier 1999. L'ICOMOS a également consulté son Comité scientifique international des Villes et Villages historiques.

Caractéristiques

Le centre historique de la ville de Graz est un exemple exceptionnel de développement urbain à travers les siècles, avec intégration harmonieuse des immeubles édifiés en styles architecturaux successifs. L'ensemble ainsi formé a une valeur de monument historique, tout en gardant une vie sociale contemporaine dynamique. Entourée d'espaces verts, la ville ancienne a gardé sa configuration et son échelle urbaine, ainsi qu'une atmosphère marquée par les courants culturels et artistiques qui s'y sont rencontrés et fécondés.

Analyse comparative

La ville de Graz fait partie du réseau assez diversifié des villes de l'Europe centrale du Sud Ouest. Ses origines sont médiévales. Elle se distingue par les témoignages architecturaux d'une émulation séculaire entre l'aristocratie la plus élevée et une bourgeoisie commerçante et très active. Elle illustre aussi de manière singulière les épisodes de résistance aux invasions venant de l'Est, les tensions historiques entre religions et une synthèse des influences culturelles du Danube, des Balkans et de la Mer Adriatique.

Brève description

Le centre historique de la ville de Graz est un ensemble urbain d'Europe centrale marqué par la présence séculaire des Habsbourg. La ville ancienne a forgé son image singulière par l'intégration harmonieuse des styles architecturaux et des courants artistiques qui se sont succédés depuis le Moyen Age, ainsi que des influences culturelles variées des régions voisines.

Recommandation

Que ce bien soit inscrit sur la Liste du Patrimoine mondial sur base des *critères ii et iv* :

Critère ii Le centre historique de la ville de Graz témoigne des courants artistiques et architecturaux dont il a été le carrefour durant des siècles, provenant de l'aire germanique, des Balkans et de la Méditerranée. Les plus grands architectes et artistes de ces diverses régions s'y sont exprimé avec force et y ont réalisé des synthèses brillantes.

Critère iv L'ensemble urbain que constitue le centre historique de la ville de Graz offre un exemple exceptionnel d'intégration harmonieuse des styles architecturaux des époques successives. Chaque période est représentée par des édifices caractéristiques qui sont souvent des chefs d'œuvre. La physionomie urbaine reflète fidèlement l'histoire de son développement historique.

ICOMOS, septembre 1999



DSP
GRAZ

**Digitaler Stadtplan
 GRAZ**

Magistrat Graz
 A10/6 - Stadtvermessungsamt

DSP-Katasterdaten
 Stand Nov. 97

Projekt : UNESCO - Weltkulturerbe

Auftraggeber : A10/7

M 1:11000

GZ :	A10/6-36/1-1999	
	Datum	Name
Bearbeiter:	09.03.99	Demschner
Graphische Bearb.:	09.03.99	Demschner
Geproft:		
Graz, am 09.03.1999	PLAN GZ	
Der Abteilungsvorstand :	36/99-2	

(Signature)

Legende:

zone _____

buffer zone
 (corresponding with
 the protected areas
 of the city) } _____

Ville de Graz – centre historique / City of Graz – Historic Centre :
 Plan indiquant la zone proposée et la zone tampon / Map showing nominated property and buffer zone