

STATE PARTY

Greece

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STATE, PROVINCE OR REGION

Greece, Ionian Islands Region, Corfu Prefecture

NAME OF PROPERTY

The Old Town of Corfu

GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES TO THE NEAREST SECOND

Geographical Length : N 19° 55' 38''

Geographical Width : E 39° 37' 15''

UTM / WGS 84 :

Zone 34 NORTH

Easting : 409 064

Northing : 4 386 556

NB: Triangulation point, the Old Fortress (point number 158769)

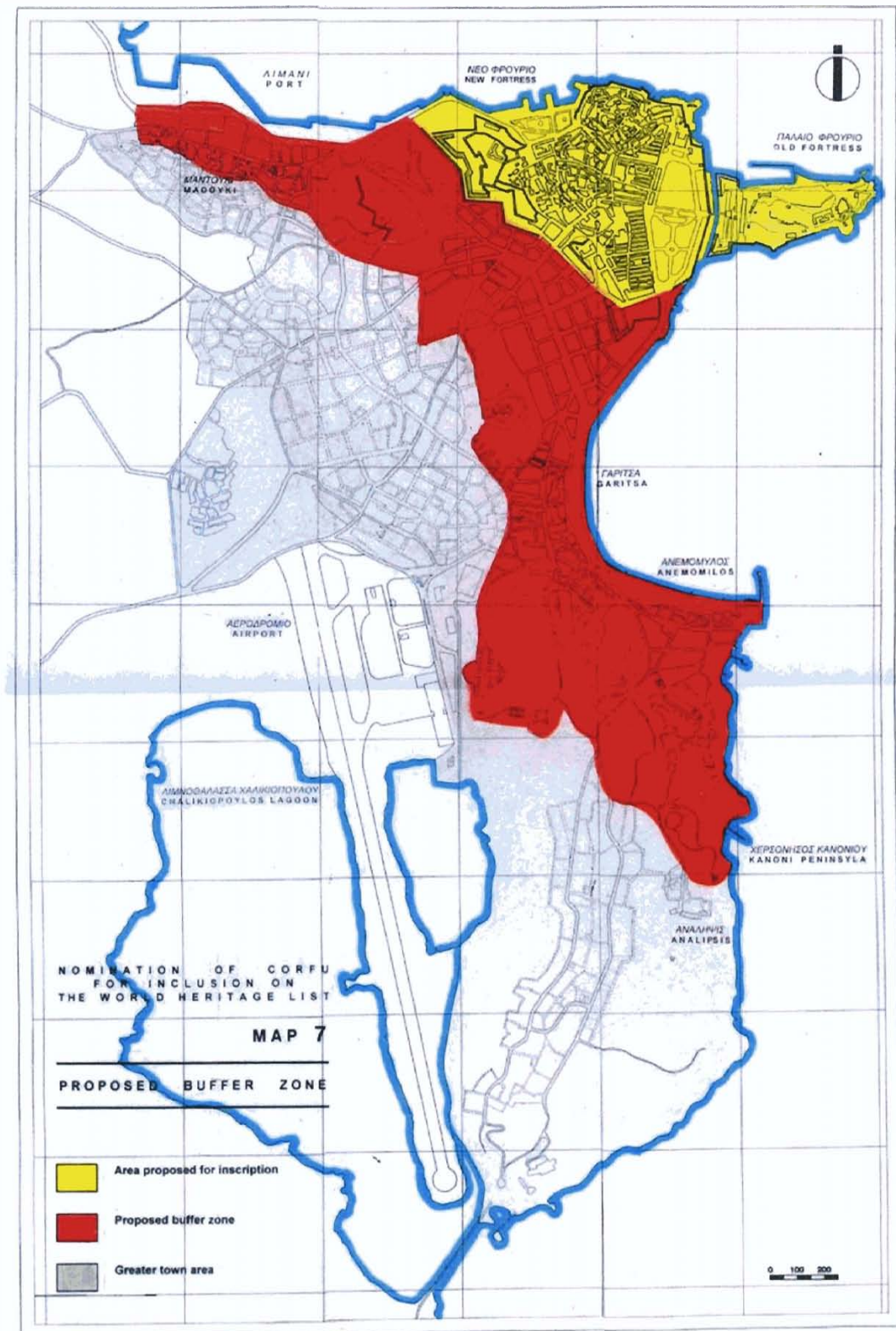
TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION OF THE BOUNDARIES OF THE NOMINATED PROPERTY

i. The nominated property

The nominated property is defined by the sea to the north and east sides, while to the south and west the boundaries are marked out by the roads that follow the course of the fortification walls, namely Lochagou Vlaikou, Stamatiou Desilla and Akadimias Streets.

ii. The buffer zone of the property

The boundaries of the buffer zone cut across the urban fabric along the course of several streets — Pol. Konstanta, Kolokotroni, Kiprou, Anapafseos, Dörfeld, Analipseos.



- Area of nominated property: 70 ha.
- Buffer zone: 162 ha.
- Area of the remaining modern town: 275 ha.
- Total area of town: 507 ha.

JUSTIFICATION / STATEMENT OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

The nominated Property consists of the space that corresponds to the once-walled town of Corfu, as it developed both dynamically and as a result of geometric planning. Influencing factors included successive, large scale interventions into the urban plan that were related to the defense system, most notably between the 15th and 18th centuries, during the period of Venetian dominance and finally in the 19th century, mainly by the British.

The fortifications with their crowning elements, the Old and New Fortresses, constitute a large scale technical work that was constructed to support the critical maritime and strategic role played by Corfu in the protection of the interests of the Serene Republic of Venice, but also for the projection of her moral authority and grandeur. A monument of military architecture of utmost significance, it was designed and built by some of the most famous architects and military engineers working for Venice. Moreover, its effectiveness was proven by successive repulses of Turkish attacks. In addition to embodying all the developments in defensive science over the course of the four hundred years when the Venetians ruled the island, the fortification works of Venetian Corfu also influenced the development of the residential ensemble. The importance of Corfu's fortifications for the history of defensive architecture is huge. From both the technical and aesthetic point of view they constitute one of the most glorious examples preserved, not only in Greece, but across the Eastern Mediterranean more widely. Among other things they are considered of tremendous importance for the study of the principles for the mapping out and execution of fortifications with bastions thanks to the vast archival material that has survived, mainly in the archives of Venice.

b. The urban ensemble developed within the confines of the land and sea. Clearly defined by the perimeter walls, it consolidates all the features of urban planning distinctive to walled towns in the West, making it today a vivid and exceptionally fine example of a town's organization in relation to its defenses. The planning framework, in conjunction with a dense and multi-storey construction style and a building morphology that assimilates, in full harmony and continuity, characteristics of a diachronic cultural process, create together a unique entity with international worth and particular importance for the history of architecture, urban planning and the fine arts. In particular, subsequent to the disasters of 1953 that almost completely destroyed the two other large Ionian urban centres (Zakynthos and Cephalonia) Corfu's importance for the history of architecture is priceless and unique.

The town's buildings dating from the period of Venetian rule are a rare example of architecture that developed on Greek soil, but was directly dependent on foreign contemporary standards, thereby representing Greek participation in the western movements (Renaissance and Baroque styles). At the same time, Corfu, being one of the few areas of Hellenism in which civilization progressed smoothly and without abrupt discontinuations, is a uniquely preserved example of an easy transition to Neo-Classicism. The latter emerged in the West as well as the natural continuity of previous styles and blended with them in a unique homogeneity. Moreover, the relationship with Neo-Classical architecture is of special importance for the history of Modern Greek architecture, since it was on Corfu that this style first appeared on Greek soil.

The early date of the Neo-Classical buildings on Corfu is indicative of the differences which existed at that time between the island on the one hand, and any other area of the Balkans on the other, that is, places and peoples who almost in their entirety were at that time the European provinces of a major empire, that of the Turkish Sultans. Lastly, in addition to its morphological interest, Corfu is also important for studying the development of urban multi-storey buildings, since it is the first Greek city in which the idea of horizontal ownership appeared.

The picture of the town today is in effect a map of the history of the different phases of its development and the creative coexistence of many cultures to which it played home in turns. The special European and cosmopolitan character of the town oriented the development of the arts, and in particular its intellectual and social life, towards an independent form of expression for the Ionian islands, with major influences from the Venetians who had given the locals the rich visual tradition of the West from the Renaissance period.

Overall, the Old Town of Corfu, is a unique cultural entity of a high aesthetic value:

- The aesthetic value it encompasses is recognised in the structure and form of the town, as well as in its arts, letters and social life
- The Old Town developed diachronically, through the osmosis of features of the two worlds of the Mediterranean, the East and the West
- It has been preserved, alive and substantially unaltered, until the present day.

CRITERIA

The "Old Town of Corfu" meets the following qualification criteria for inscription on the World Heritage List:

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Criterion i. | It represents a masterpiece of human creative genius |
| Criterion ii. | It exhibits an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town planning or landscape design |
| Criterion iv. | It is an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history. |

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OFFICIAL LOCAL INSTITUTION

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1a. STATE PARTY Greece

1b. STATE, PROVINCE OR REGION Greece, Ionian Islands Region, Corfu Prefecture

1c. NAME OF PROPERTY The Old Town of Corfu

1d. GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES TO THE NEAREST SECOND

Geographical Length : N 19° 55' 38''

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1e. MAPS AND PLANS SHOWING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE NOMINATED PROPERTY AND BUFFER ZONE

Maps 1-7 of the ANNEX:

- Map 1: The location of the Ionian Island Region in Greece and Europe
- Map 2: The location of the town of Corfu within the Island
- Map 3: The location of the nominated property in the greater urban context
- Map 4: The boundaries of the property
- Map 5: The geographical coordinates of the property
- Map 6: The buffer zone of the property
- Map 7: The nominated property and the buffer zone

i. The nominated property

The “historic town” of Corfu, which is here nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List, consists of the once-walled town in the form it had reached by the end of the Venetian period, in other words, the 18th century. Located at the northeastern end of today’s urban ensemble, the historic town is defined by the sea to the north and east, while to the south and west stand the remnants of fortifications along the western front that once completed the town’s defense.

The actual boundaries of the nominated property are now marked out by the roads that follow the course of the fortification walls on the western and southern sides, namely Lochagou Vlaikou, Stamatiou Desilla and Akadimias Streets.

ii. The buffer zone of the property

In the area surrounding the nominated property there are today various important archaeological sites, Byzantine or more recent monuments and urban complexes, all of which—in addition to their inherent worth—bear incontestable witness to the co-existence of cultures and the continuous inhabitation of the town of Corfu by different peoples from the prehistoric age to the present day.

The inscription of the “Old town of Corfu” in the World Heritage List would include an integrated buffer zone, that embraces the old town on the south and west.

For detailed description of the elements belonging to this protected area, see Chapter 2.

The existence of this buffer zone is deemed necessary for the following reasons:

- control of land use, so as to ban incompatible exploitation of the area.
- control of construction that would obstruct views toward the property.
- control of the design of constructions, so as not to offend the special historical character of each part of the property.

The boundaries of the buffer zone cut across the urban fabric along the course of several streets — Pol. Konstanta, Kolokotroni, Kiprou, Anapafseos, Dörpfeld, Analipseos.

1f. AREA OF NOMINATED PROPERTY (HA.) AND PROPOSED BUFFER ZONE (HA.)

- Area of nominated property: 70 ha.
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2a i. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

The “historical town inside the walls” is built at the northeastern end of a peninsula located on the island’s eastern coast. It nestles between two fortresses and is circumscribed by both sea and land with the result that the historical town was forced to grow upwards. The historical town forms just a part of the whole picture presented by the urban fabric that today stretches to the south and west of it.

The overall plan of the historical town is irregular given its cramped position between the two fortresses. It consists of an area of 295,000 sq.m. (29.5 hectares), roughly triangular in shape, with the New Fortress (Neo Frourio; Fortezza Nuova) at its summit, the Old Fortress (Palaio Frourio; Fortezza Vecchia; c. 800 m. long) as its seaside base and, constituting the historical town’s two sides, the irregular shoreline (c.650 m.) on the north and the land wall (c.850 m.) on the west. The western boundary of the old town is easily distinguished as it is marked by two high masses of wall that abut a ring road that was built along the line of the old wall. Viewed from the sea, this town that covers such a small surface area is amphitheatrical in appearance, with its densely built houses squeezed in between its two fortresses. (Annex, Exhibits 1, 2).

It is an architectural assemblage composed of various elements. Imposing mansions, adjacent to non-descript, undated constructions, charming churches with their belfries, austere public buildings as well as later Neo-Classical ones that appeared as the natural successors of earlier forms—all together under the dominating presence of the Fortresses these structures form an unified whole.

This synthetic architectural quality is the town’s most important characteristic. Its obstinate unity makes the description of each individual element a difficult task. If we were to separate the constituent elements from the whole, we would deprive them of their actual value, the fact that they form a continuity and a unity. However, the organisation of our description demands this exact classification, which we will attempt below.

♦ OLD FORTRESS

One of the town's most distinctive features is formed by the two peaks of the rocky end at the eastern side that create an 'island on the island' and allow a wide prospect over the sea passage. One can distinguish the imposing, well-preserved Venetian fortifications from the later simple and massive buildings of the British period built on three landscaped levels. (Annex, Exhibit 3).

Access to the town is via a 60 metre long iron bridge that replaced the old drawbridge over the sea moat (contra-fossa), and is located on the symmetrical axis of the west side, between the salients known as Martinengo (left) and Savorgnan (right). The entrance is composed of a central vaulted passageway and two vaulted halls, one on either side, while the single, arched doorway with its monumental exterior construction, still preserves the old wooden, nail-studded door as well as the slits for the chains that operated the drawbridge.

Along the external sea canal runs a 22 metre wide dry moat, bridged by an arched stone bridge (1603), whence the walls of the main part of the Fortress begin. Today this position is occupied by an imposing, oblong building with exposed brick masonry, dating from the British period, while access to the remaining spaces is through three vaulted passages located at the base of the building. Perpendicular to the passage runs the supporting wall of the upper level in whose successive vaulted niches coats of arms belonging to eminent citizens of the Venetian Republic were displayed. Two stone staircases flank the passage and lead to the higher level. To the right is the open space known as the **Versiada** at the far end of which is the Doric style **Church of Agios Georgios**.

On the left side a sloping corridor leads down to the dry moat, while above visitors are directed through successive platforms, small ramps and a vaulted arcade towards a small gate in the perimeter walls to the **Port of Mandraki**, which currently functions as a marina. An underground passage that begins at this point leads to the fortified **Cape Kavosidero**.

The highest level of the citadel comprises the two fortified peaks, the **Land Tower** and the **Sea Tower**, as well as the intermediate area, the **Cittadella**. Still surviving are buildings that housed the Venetian Prisons with an additional storey constructed by the British, as well as a large barracks from the period of British rule, which presents a very interesting penthouse arrangement. From this point on, a narrow uphill path skirts the rock leading to the entrance of a curving tunnel, formerly secret, and offers access to the top of the rock and magnificent views of both the town and the Fortress itself.

All parts of the Fortress are currently accessible (except for the interiors of the two entrance ramparts), thus allowing an extremely interesting tour over both open air and covered areas of different construction periods, through narrow arcades and passages, revealing the greatness of the past. The carved Venetian emblems with the marble winged lions of St. Mark, the various inscriptions, the coats of arms and the scattered canons enhance the overall picture.

The Old Fortress today houses the Archives of the Prefecture of Corfu, the Public Library, Offices of the Ministry of Culture, Departments of the Ionian University, rooms devoted to exhibitions or other events and it operates, in general, as an open air monument.

In the open spaces of the Fortress (Versiada) musical events are held, while there are also a cafe, a store selling items of cultural interest and a restaurant in Mandraki.

The above description is accompanied by the maps 8 and 9 of the Annex.

♦ NEW FORTRESS

The imposing fortifications of the New Fortress dominate the northwestern part of the Old Town, on the Hill of Agios Markos, above the old port, thus framing the western side of the town (Annex, Exhibit 4).

Although smaller in size than the Old Fortress, it is in no aspect inferior. Its austere stone volume emerges from behind the roofs of the houses balancing the complexity of form that characterizes the Old Fortress on the opposite side of the town. Its location on the ring road surrounding the old town ensures a satisfactory degree of road accessibility to the property. Visitors today reach the Fortress by foot via three different routes converging at a point that does not correspond to any of the old entrances. The main entrance to the New Fortress, when it served as fortification, was the monumental **gate of the Port** (with equivalent morphology to Porta Nuova and Porta Palio in Verona, both works of M. Sanmicheli) Secondary access was the elegant **Town gate**. Both of them remain intact up to the present day.

The New fortress is organised in two levels, the lower and upper. On the lower level, which includes a pentagonal rampart, an additional salient and the little fort of "Punta Perpetua", is an imposing three-storey building with exposed brick masonry dating back to the 19th century, currently in use as a naval base. The upper level of the fortifications is formed by two ramparts on the west side, known as the **"Seven Winds"**. They support a three storey stone building of the time of the British rule (1854), which thanks to its size and imposing structure, completes the composition of the Fortress' other two masses in a special way. This important building, with its magnificent interior, currently houses rooms devoted to exhibitions as well as a municipal cafeteria.

The interior of both the outer and inner walls, across the length and breadth of the Fortress, is riddled with a complex network of underground tunnels, the enhancement of which remains a steady local choice during the recent years. The completion of the enhancement program of the underground tunnels of the New Fortress and bringing to light, so to speak, the cultural values they encompass, will facilitate our understanding and better communicate the monument's overall character.

Visitors are offered the opportunity of an enjoyable tour through the arcades and passages in all parts of the Fortress (except for parts of the underground tunnels), while, at the same time, they discover magnificent views of the town.

The above description is accompanied by maps 10 and 11 in the Annex..

◆ HISTORIC CENTRE

* Residential Structure - Urban Morphology (Exhibits 5 & 6)

The built-up area is divided into three large sections, which according to the geomorphology of the ground are defined by three hills (Campielo, Agion Pateron, Agiou Athanassiou). These three sections are sub-divided into ten individual units characterised by a particular internal organisation and urban morphology.

The arrangement of the urban areas of the old town is shown on map 12 of the Annex.

The density of the three basic sections varies. The northwestern hill, Campielo, has the highest residential density, whereas construction at the two edges of the town, the southern edge and the neighbourhood around the New Fortress, is essentially sparse. Each of the individual units (neighbourhoods) has specific, distinctive features: the square, which constitutes its centre and the heart of communal activity, with the church and tall belfry, from which in most cases the area takes its name.

The residential network varies. In most cases it follows a strict linear succession of elongated building blocks, orientated along an east-west axis (mostly in edge areas), while in the areas of the inner hills, where the old residential cores were probably located, it appears irregular and fragmentary, with a labyrinthine road network full of multiple junction points (squares, two- and three-way junction points).

* The road network (Exhibit 7)

The two main streets running across the lower areas, which are basically ravines formed by three hills are orientated along an east-west axis (Old Fortress to Porta Reale = main gate of the surrounding wall towards the island's interior and Old Fortress to Spilia Gate = port) and designed with sharpness, strictness and simplicity. Another main street, perpendicular to the abovementioned, together with the ring road along the perimeter of the surrounding wall, constitute the basic road network, directly related to the four gates of the once walled town.

The simple and austere basic road network coexists with an extremely dense and complex system of secondary streets (kantounia), 1 to 3 m. wide, arranged in a somewhat random and flexible manner. They often

run uphill, following the morphology of the terrain, they form stairs, gradients, vaulted passageways, small successive squares, and they are rarely straight. These charming features create one of the most interesting characteristics of the historic centre.

The central streets present equally great interest from the architectural point of view. The alignment method, the variety of width and height of the surrounding buildings and above all the arcades and archways, with the various openings and heights, create a particularly harmonious whole that is in never monotonous and fully functional.

The road network and its evaluation are shown on map 13 of the Annex.

* Open areas - Squares (Exhibit 8)

One-third of the surface of the historic centre is occupied by the **Spianada**, lying between the Old Fortress and the built-up area. The square reached its present size in 1628 for purposes of defence. Today it is divided into two levels, the upper and lower square. It is the historic centre's only open area to speak of, with trees, interesting garden landscaping and features typical of urban centres where people can take a walk or watch open air events.

Two important squares are located in the central area of the Historic Centre: **Dimarchion (Town Hall) Square**, surrounded by noteworthy buildings, and **Plateia Iroon (Heroes' Square)**, with two important churches located adjacent to the small square in front of the church dedicated to Agios Spiridonas, Saint Spyridon, the patron saint of the town.

Within the residential area there are no other open spaces large enough to be considered proper squares. All smaller squares date back to the medieval planning of the town and are scattered across the older neighbourhoods. Their arrangement is very interesting and some of them are reminiscent of the Venetian **Campielli**. Typical features of such diminutive squares are a church, one or more mansions, dwellings of the prosperous bourgeoisie and sometimes a well, which is in fact the mouth of a cistern. A characteristic example is **Kremasti Square**, the most beautiful in the area of Campiello.

Usually smaller squares and simple, irregular open areas serve also as junctions through which traffic is distributed in two or more directions (two- and three-way junction points, etc.). Typical examples are the squares of Agia Eleni, of Pantokratora and the old square of Taxiarchis.

The open areas of the Historic Centre and their evaluation are shown on map 13 in the Annex.

* Building infrastructure

Not all the buildings of the Historic Centre of Corfu were constructed at the same period. Besides those built during Venetian rule, there are a great number built during the short period of French rule and of the Septinsular Republic (1797-1814), while many others belong to the period of the British Protectorate and a few date back to the first decades after the Union with Greece (1864) until the first years of the 20th century.

The following conclusions can be drawn with regard to morphology and on account of the historical conditions of each period that in turn have influenced the prevailing architectural orders:

- constructions of the Venetian period combine in their facades Renaissance, Mannerist and Baroque elements;
- the only known example of building activity in the period between Venetian and British rule (the uniform arrangement of the Spianada buildings) presents Mannerist elements, whereas
- buildings constructed during British rule were influenced by Neo-Classicism at its early stages (classicising elements, with Renaissance - Palladian details).
- finally, a few earlier constructions display characteristics of eclecticism and later of Art Nouveau, or elements of the late Athenian Urban Classicism.

The dating of the buildings of the Historic Centre is presented on map 14 in the Annex.

Public Building Architecture (Annex, Exhibits 9,13)

The public buildings of the Venetian period, whether public, military or designed to house the important families of the island, were obviously constructed with utmost care because they were designed and constructed by architects and technicians called in by the Venetians especially for that purpose.

The most significant buildings of the town surrounded the present square of the Dimarchion (Town Hall), the town's social and cultural centre during Venetian rule. On its eastern side stands **the Latin Cathedral of San Giacomo**, an elegant 17th century building adorned with Baroque-style roof ornamentation, tower and belfry. The southern side is occupied by the **residence of the Latin Archbishop** (reconstructed in 1754), with an elegant balcony and balustrade along the facade (today it houses a branch of the Bank of Greece). On the northern side stands the most important building of Venetian rule, the **Loggia Nobilei** (1663-9), constructed of local dressed stone from Sinies. The simple, robust form of this building with its large, arched openings bespeaks its significance. In the 18th century the **Loggia** was transformed into a theatre, which was named after the adjacent cathedral (Teatro San Giacomo). Since the beginning of the 20th century it has housed the Town Hall.

During Venetian rule a number of public buildings were constructed, some of which survive until the present day: **the entrance portal to one of the two granaries** (1592) in the Spilia area, the **pawn shop** (1630), today part of the Commissioners Palace, as well as the **barracks of Spilia**, which, having undergone subsequent additions are still preserved today, and the **Grimani barracks** on the southern edge of Spianada (final form c.1725), also known as the **Ionian Academy**, because they housed for a short period of time the first Greek university.

The influence of French and British rule on the urban plan of the town has been minimal, as previously mentioned. On the other hand, they determined to a great extent the architectural character of the town. The residential complex of Spianada, called **Volta** or "**Liston**", with its elegant colonnade, where the Corfiots still take their public stroll, is the most characteristic sign of the French presence on the island. The rhythmical succession of elements reflects the monumental urban planning standards of the Napoleonic period, with straight, uniform arrangements like those of rue de Rivoli. The morphological elements nevertheless follow earlier standards. It is important to mention that the Spianada complex, part of a greater composition, was designed and partially constructed by a Greek civil engineer, Ioannis Parmezan.

The period of the British Protectorate left obvious signs all over the town. A great number of buildings, both unassuming and formal, were built by gifted architects who adopted the spirit of Classicism to offer fresh colour to the capital of the Ionian Islands. The most significant works from the beginning of this period were constructed by foreign engineers. Both the **Palace of SS. Michael and George** (1819-23), residence of the British Commissioners, a Georgian monument and a prelude to Neo-Classicism in Greece, as well as the **Maitland monument** are works of the British colonel and engineer George Whitmore. The palace facade, a monumental composition inspired by Palladian models, is adorned with a **Doric colonnade** interrupted by the magnificent portals of Agios Michael and Agios Georgios and curving at the ends to embrace the northern edge of the Spianada square.

After 1830 things changed: a number of Greek technicians took over the official architecture and undertook the staffing of the technical department. The architect who played the leading role was Ioannis Chronis, one of the first scientifically trained technical experts in Greece. All the major buildings of the town constructed for social purposes—and which bear witness to the particular cultural boom of the 19th century—are connected with the name of this talented Corfiot architect: the Neo-Classical buildings of the Ionian Bank, the Ionian Parliament and the Stock Exchange, as well as many dwellings of major or minor importance, and above all the mansion which belonged to the family of I. Capodistrias, the first Greek President, which formerly housed the Prefecture of Corfu. The marble facade of the latter building, with its elegant Corinthian pilasters, places it among the most beautiful modern Greek monuments.

Religious architecture (Annex, Exhibits 10, 10a)

Corfu was cut off from the Byzantine tradition as early as the 13th century. One hundred years of Angevin rule followed by four centuries of close contact with Venice meant that foreign influence played a dominant role in the development of religious architecture. With only a few examples from the Byzantine period, Corfiots built their churches based on Western artistic standards. This did not in any way weaken their Orthodox beliefs, which remained deeply rooted. The building type that dominated in Corfu (but also in Ionian ecclesiastical architecture more generally) was the single aisled, timber-roofed, rather than the three aisled, basilica. The borrowing of typological, morphological and decorative elements from contemporary Italian art, namely Renaissance and Baroque art, and the very restricted use of traditional Byzantine forms came as natural results of the historical circumstances.

Churches were to a great extent owned by private individuals or by a fraternity of families or guilds, while a few were state-owned. These were granted by the Venetian administration, together with the right to collect the profits, to private individuals who, in turn, had specific financial obligations towards the authorities. Another case of privately owned churches consisted of those built by wealthy Corfiots who left their entire property to these churches. Churches owned by fraternities were supported by their members, who were also buried there. The numerous private churches that have survived to this day are symbols of the piety of the town's aristocratic families and professional guilds. For the professional guilds and rich townsfolk their honour and dignity depended on the cost of decoration of their churches.

A result of this conduct is the unique collections of post-Byzantine icons that exist on Corfu. The many commissions for icons turned the town into a true centre for artists from the post-Byzantine world (Peloponnese and Crete) and under orders from their patrons they had to combine Byzantine elements with elements of Italian piety. The result was a further osmosis of cultures and sensitivities that provided the history of art with a separate school, that of Ionian art, which soon moved beyond its insular borders and spread during the 18th century to southern Italy (Bari, Lecce) and to Venice, Trieste and many Dalmatian towns.

In morphological terms, the town monuments built between the 13th and the 15th cent (which no longer exist or whose original phases are no longer identifiable) must have been dominated by Gothic elements. Those built during the 16th and 17th century (most of which still exist), follow mainly Renaissance and Mannerist standards. In those monuments the single aisle basilica type often preserves an unusual feature, a perimetrical corridor in the shape of the Greek letter Π (known here as the **exonarthex**). Corfiot churches are always associated with the priest's residence, which is either attached to the main structure or an independent one or two-storey annex. Three-aisled basilicas are also encountered, though not as often as the single aisle ones.

Corfiot churches differ substantially in terms of size and decorative wealth from Western examples. In general their facades are simple, set off with the help of stone frames set around their apertures, even in the most important structures. In cases of monuments with a perimetrical corridor, the main body of the church is raised one level higher and its long sides are lit, at least in earlier examples, through two large semi-circular lunettes (mezzalune), a typical element of Venetian religious building construction. The end of the period established tall windows on side walls. The woman's balcony (gynaikonitis) was usually lit through two arched windows, located on the narrow side, while above these a circular lunette (a purely western element) supported the lighting or served the ventilation of the roof, at the same time lending emphasis to the facade axis. Attached to the churches are tall belfries, tower-like or in the form of a pierced wall with spiral ornamentation.

During the 18th century few new monuments were built, whereas a great number of older ones underwent reconstruction (horizontal and vertical extensions, external renovation). The architectural type which continued to prevail was that of the single-aisled, rarely that of the three-aisled basilica. The complete dominance of western standards is obvious in both new and renovated monuments.

The simple facades contrast with the elaborate and deeply evocative church interior, as this developed after the 17th century. The stone iconostasis with carved decoration, the portable icons, in many cases the painted ceiling (known as the ourania, or 'heavens'), the carved wooden stalls, the candelabra and various offerings combine to create an atmosphere of devotion.

The proportions of the nave are roughly 1:2. The sanctuary, which reaches a width equal to one fourth of the main space, ends in one or three usually large, semi-circular or semi-hexagonal niches. There is usually a stone ciborium above the altar, a feature imported from the West, as are also the prie dieu each standing to either side of the iconostasis. At the other end of the church, opposite the sanctuary, there is the elevated gynaikonitis (balcony reserved for women only), isolated from the main nave by a wooden balustrade, according to eastern tradition. The floor usually forms three levels: the upper level belonging to the sanctuary and the middle one reaching the side doorways. The entrance is always protected by a wooden windbreak. The orientation of churches located in towns is not fixed, but follows the urban planning arrangement distinctive to every individual case. Churches are usually closely surrounded by dwellings, so that only some of their side walls are left free. As a result the main entrance is located either on the narrow or on the long side, depending on the orientation of the church.

The church of **Agios Spyridonas**, patron saint of the town, is the most famous in Corfu and is where the saint's relic is kept. It was built in 1590, replacing an older church that had been demolished because of the fortification works. Its very tall tower-like belfry dominates the town and recalls the almost contemporary belfry of S. Giorgio dei Greci in Venice. Its ceiling (ourania) was painted on the 18th century by the distinguished church painter Panagiotis Doxaras (his work was destroyed and later a copy took its place). Other examples of architectural interest are the churches of **Antivouniotissa** and **Agios Ioannis** which preserve the perimetrical exonarthex, the church of **Agios Andreas**, attached to a three-storey dwelling, and the only surviving three-aisled churches: the **Cathedral Panagia Spiliotissa** and the **Panagia ton Xenon**.

The few Catholic churches of the town are also of great interest. Except for the **Duomo**, there is the chapel (Katholikon) of the old **Agios Franciscos** monastery, the church of **Panagia tis Tenedou**, of major architectural interest thanks to its Renaissance dome over the sanctuary (reminiscent of the Duomo in Florence), and the tower-like belfry that is the only surviving part of the very old **Annunziata**.

In the 19th century, Classicism prevailed in the town, influencing also the few new religious buildings, the church of **Agii Pantes** (1850) and the church of **Agia Sofia** (1848), which was rebuilt on the designs of the architect Ioannis Chronis.

Dwellings (Annex, Exhibits 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and Maps 15, 16, 17)

The dwellings of the town can be classified according to the social status of their owners into mansions, upper middle class and lower middle class/popular dwellings. The multi-storey urban dwelling is the dominant and most interesting architectural type encountered in Corfu. Lack of space and high population density left the Corfiots with no choice other than horizontal property ownership long before this became a practice of modern urban planning.

♦ Venetian Rule

The urban dwellings of Corfu at the time of Venetian rule were either multi-storey buildings resembling three or four-storey apartment blocks, as dictated by the lack of space, or, in fewer cases, detached houses with one or more storeys. Mansions usually had two storeys.

This succession of buildings with broad or narrow fronts created a continuous facade along the streets, interrupted by few courtyards or gardens. They were constructed on small building plots with a coverage of almost 100% (houses built on plots which were not free on all sides used "kanizelles" for the ventilation of their back rooms). After the additional construction of the much larger buildings of British Rule the average surface area covered by the buildings was, according to the census of 1940, 84 m.² while the minimum surface reached 30 m.².

Although there must have been a great number of mansions in town (112 noble families were listed in the Libro d' oro), very few of them are identifiable today and those bear the characteristics of an official building, while in most of them isolated parts that bear witness of their initial use can be identified. Two of the best preserved **mansions (Ricchi and Yallina [17th cent])** have a Renaissance porch at the front that forms a balcony at the first floor level.

Generally speaking, the facades of the dwellings of this period display Renaissance, Mannerist and Baroque features, albeit expressed in a simple and sometimes popular manner on account of differences in scale compared with the western prototypes. The extent to which these architectural elements were used and interest was invested in compositional organisation depended on the type of the structure. The models followed in the construction of official buildings and the Old Fortress exerted great influence in terms of morphological details. Individual elements also illustrate interaction between urban and religious architecture. General features of the appearance of the preserved buildings' exteriors (most of which underwent extensions during British rule or later as well) include the use of mainly flat surfaces, emphasis on horizontality (with rows of windows, bands, cornices, etc.) and articulation of forms on a symmetrical system of axes, not necessarily followed in simpler structures. The colours used on the facades are the same as in Venice, red or ochre for the plastered surfaces, off-white or yellowish for the carved members and green for the shutters.

The architectural configuration of the ground floor was considered very important. The main entrance, the portico etc. were set off visually by the distinctive rhythmic juxtaposition of apertures, a fact justified by the narrowness of the streets, which made it impossible to gain an overall view of multi-storey buildings.

Some of the most interesting elements of the facade designs are the Renaissance porticoes with arcades, single or successive, located mainly along commercial streets, but also the portonia (main entrances) with carved doorframes and occasionally a Baroque finial, the windows, which are surrounded by frames decorated with mouldings, and the cornices. The flat facade surface is also decorated and given a sculptural quality by the projecting porches that create an open air veranda on the first floor, the stone balconies and the external stone staircases providing access to the first floor where a covered landing/balcony is formed (a kind of porch, or "botzos"). Last but not least, other remarkable morphological elements included brackets, quoins (when these are formed as dressed masonry), protruding kitchen chimney breasts and chimney tops, the coats of arms etc.

The ground floor of dwellings were often used as shops or storerooms, whereas the main residence was located on the upper storeys. Most dwellings have an attic, which usually covers a large part of the area beneath the roof and could be used as a residential space. The staircase, which is usually inside the building, is built either on the axis of the structure and is surrounded by the individual spaces, or runs along one of the sides. Only few examples of dwellings—all of them detached—have an external stone staircase to the first floor level. Access to the rooms was not by means of corridors, but through a central space leading to the staircase. The kitchen usually occupied the corner of a room and included a stone hearth and a chimney (which protruded externally onto the facade). Since no separate lavatories were available, a hole next to the sink that lead to the sewage network served that purpose. The furniture of the urban houses of the nobility was brought in from Venice or Trieste. Typical pieces were the rotonda (round table) and, of course, the Venetian mirror.

◆ British Rule

The urban landscape of Corfu was greatly influenced by the building fever of the British period. Older structures were extended and a great number of new, upper middle class mansions and lower middle and popular dwellings presented the town with a new face over the course of those 50 years. The type of typical urban dwelling was again the apartment block, this time reaching in most cases a greater height than in the Venetian period (up to 6 storeys), while there are examples of multi-storey mansions/detached houses with 3 to 5 storeys, as well as simple structures of one or two storeys.

In terms of typology this period initiates an evolution in the design of ground plans. The lavatory appears for the first time as a separate room. Many houses preserved the independent vertical sewage pipe next to the sink. Most of the new dwellings had replaced an earlier building. The covered surface is usually larger compared to the earlier period. This was usually achieved by uniting two or more plots or by taking up the surface area of the courtyard.

Broad front arrangements with numerous openings (there are examples with eleven openings in a row) are more frequent than in the Venetian period. Only a very few new buildings were constructed on a site with no previous structure. An effort to impose uniform arrangements, especially on central arteries of the town is also detectable. In the case of the N. Theotoki street opposite the church of Agios Francisco, a uniform design - in terms of general features as well as of details in the pillars of the arcades - was imposed, which had been drawn by the municipal civil engineer by order of the Senate. Another example were the buildings of this period at the beginning of Evg. Voulgareos street, where the element of uniformity is visible in the height of each storey, the formation of the ground floors with almost uniform porticoes etc. A last example of design unity were the buildings erected near the rampart of Agios Athanassios after the first demolitions of the external fortifications by the British. These buildings represent the town's the first expansion in the 19th century. Unfortunately they were destroyed during World War II.

Morphologically, the facades of dwellings from this period show features distinctive to Classicism, though rendered in a simple manner with no emphasis on decoration, and with particular use of Neo-Renaissance features (arches etc.). Corfiot Classicism, the earliest expression of this style in Greece, was not imposed by foreign agents in a radical contrast to the existing traditional forms, as in the case of Athens or elsewhere. It came as a natural transition from one order to the next. Derived mainly from British Palladianism and Italian Classicism, it blended uniquely with the already existing built environment.

Both Greek and foreign architects created this historically distinctive morphology that was followed in official buildings as well as urban dwellings to a certain degree (always according to financial status and needs), forming a uniform style of architecture, which, in addition, was significantly different from that in other Greek urban centres, mainly influenced by Athens. The works of Renaissance theoreticians, especially Palladio, as well as the relevant publications of the 19th century were the basic sources of morphological elements for the architects who were professionally active on Corfu.

Important buildings of the period, above all the Commissioners Palace, set the standards for the individual elements of the middle class dwellings (windows, doorways, frames and finials, balcony and staircase balustrades, painted decoration on ceilings etc.).

Just as in the buildings of the Venetian period, the kind of structure determined the wealth of morphological details and the cost of the materials used for the construction of the exteriors. In general the use of orders in the design of dwelling facades is discreet or minimal (the only exception is the Capodistrias mansion where the influence of Palladianism is obvious), whereas in the design of official buildings it is a basic element (Commissioners Palace, Ionian Bank etc.). Elements associated with orders (almost always Tuscan in dwellings) are used mainly in pilasters, pillars, cornices (of doorways, quoins, finials, arcades etc.).

The facades are almost flat, exactly as in the Venetian period (they continue to be formed in association with the successive arrangement of buildings alongside the streets) with a tendency to horizontal configuration. Great importance is laid on symmetrical organisation and rhythmical regularity, without necessarily setting emphasis on the central axis. Broad-fronted arrangements, in particular, are characterised by a tripartite division with a slightly projecting sculptural element on the edge of each part, which draws attention to the central section. The axes appear generally in equal intervals, while openings are not arranged into groups. The large number of storeys provides a great space for morphological expression, allowing the application of order solutions that are repeated on the vertical axis. In later examples the design organisation is based on the use of balconies in various arrangements.

The tendency towards horizontal configuration (typical of early Classicism as well as Renaissance style), is illustrated by the rhythmical rows of windows, porticoes and arcades, by horizontal zones between stories, usually under window sills and rarely at floor level. In relatively late structures these horizontal zones - originally a main element of ordinary dwellings' facades - are largely abandoned, something that can be associated with the extensive use of the balcony. Nevertheless they are preserved as an element distinguishing the ground floor from the rest of the structure, in the form of a zone decorated with mouldings, usually at the level of the main entrance cornice. In other examples the cornice is combined with a band running right under the window sills of the first floor, thus forming a wider zone which sets off the division between the ground floor and the rest of the building. This zone is often interrupted by balustrades placed directly underneath the windows, creating a kind of parapet. The horizontal tripartite division of buildings into base, main body and crown is rather rare (except for the Capodistrias mansion). Nevertheless the ground floor of certain buildings is constructed in a way that resembles a base (dressed masonry structure). The use of the arch is widely applied to ground floors, doorways, windows or rows of arched openings typical for shop entrances along commercial streets.

♦ Construction materials and techniques

The basic construction materials used in the buildings of Corfu are stone, brick and wood.

The quarries are located mainly on the eastern side of Mount Pantokrator in the northern part of the island (Sinies, Nisaki etc.). They produce a hard white or reddish limestone, suitable for dressed masonry, pavements, frames etc. (used mainly during the Venetian period), as well as limestone suitable for the production of lime. Some other quarries located on the central part of the island produce a yellowish sandy stone while others further south produce reddish tufa. Sand, clay and other materials used to produce bricks and tiles are also available in large quantities on the island. The brick factories of Manduki were known since as early as the Venetian period.

Corfiots imported stone also from Epirus and Paxi (for pavements), as well as from Trieste (for relatively elaborate constructions e.g. fireplaces). In the British period Malta stone was also used. Supplementary quantities of timber (beams, boards etc. of fir-wood and larch), and of course iron, were imported from Trieste and Venice, Ragusa, Fiume etc.

Stone was used mainly in the construction of lower storeys. Walls were constructed with the use of rubble masonry and were always plastered. Some cases of Venetian period buildings present a poor quality mixed masonry of bricks or quarry stone, sometimes even fieldstones. There are also some cases of masonry with mud mortar, whereas the top quality constructions used lime mortar. Dressed masonry was used only in particular parts of the structures for stability and decorative purposes (quoins, cornices, frames, arcades etc.). There is only one example of the Venetian period made entirely of stone. (Sinies stone).

In the British period the use of dressed masonry was extended mainly in the construction of ground floors. The palace and the small circular monument of Spianada (both associated with the first Commissioner Sir T. Maitland) were constructed entirely of Malta tufa.

The walls of upper storeys were usually made of bricks. The same material was used in the construction of relieving arches, vaulted structures and cornices.

2a ii. DESCRIPTION OF THE BUFFER ZONE (Annex, Map 6)

In the area surrounding the property to be inscribed there is today a scatter of remarkable archaeological sites, Byzantine and modern monuments and residential complexes which in addition to their particular importance are also undisputed witnesses to the changing populations that inhabited Corfu from prehistory to today and to the coexistence of cultures.

a. Archaeological sites (Exhibit 17 of the Annex)

These sites are relatively scattered throughout the area of the ancient city particularly at the inlet of the peninsula of Canoni, but also along the entire peninsula which is today a suburb of the modern town.

This area is a characteristic example of a modern town atop an ancient one. When the residents of Corfu built the future of their town in this area they were also exposing their past, ancient Corfu. Rescue excavations revealed that an entire city was at rest under the ground with sacred groves, ruins of temples, houses, workshops, baths, public markets, shipyards, works of art, daily objects and devotional items. All these are the remains of the life of those people who passed through the town and were later buried with them under the layers of soil accumulating over time.

The picture revealed by the excavations is one of a well designed city with powerful walls and defensive towers; a city with an impressive urban fabric dating from the 8th century BC until the 4th century AD, built using the Hippodamian system along the length of two major roads that correspond approximately to modern roads crossing the Canoni peninsula heading north to south. These roads are intersected by smaller ones heading east/west and forming building blocks.

The city, a powerful maritime and commercial power, had two main ports, Yllaico and Alcinous, and perhaps a third one near the port of Alcinous. The latter possessed paved central agora, stoas where people could rest or conduct commercial transactions, as well as important public buildings, pottery and ironware workshops, and shipyards with huts for protecting and building vessels. At the boundaries were many large sacred groves or shrines with elaborate temples or altars for outdoor worship and auxiliary devotional buildings. There were temples too in the agora and at other central points throughout the city.

Outside the walls to the northwest spread the archaic, classical and Hellenistic necropolis while the Roman one is probably located in the Anemomylos area, in other words, in the areas of the Alcinous port that filled in with alluvium during the Roman period. In the Roman period the area of the agora together with Anemomylos and part of Canoni were transformed into a massive Roman quarter with luxury baths.

As can be seen from the findings of the excavations, the area of Paleopolis, or the ancient city of Corfu or Corcyra as it was known, began to be abandoned from the 1st century AD (although never entirely), due to population transference to the more modern Byzantine city, Coryfo, located within the Old Fortress. Paleopolis was gradually transformed into Hersoupolis.

The most important recognized archaeological sites are listed below:

- **Mon Repos Estate** where the following have been excavated :
 - The Heraion (Temple of Hera) and surrounding area and in particular the temple dating from 400 BC that was destroyed in the 1st century AD. The foundations of this temple were built on top of part of the foundations of an archaic temple (600 BC) whose exact layout and dimensions have not been confirmed. Only the bed of the foundations and the SW corner have survived, spread out over five graduated surfaces.
 - Parts of auxiliary buildings.
 - Parts of ancient retaining walls: the main walls date from the mid 5th century BC.
 - Parts of the precinct of an early sanctuary from the late archaic period (6th century BC) as well as a later one (4th century BC).
 - A small outdoor archaic sanctuary ascribed to Apollo Corcyreo (end of 6th – beginning of 5th century BC). Three sides of the small precinct with a square altar in the middle have survived.
 - Part of a Doric temple dated 510 BC known as the temple of Kardaki. It is the best preserved Corfiot monument, a characteristic example of early Corinthian architecture and that of Magna Grecia. For this reason it is intended to stabilize and restore it in full.
 - Ancient protective wall for the Kardaki spring below the aforementioned temple.

- **Ancient agora** : Part of the paving has survived, part of a stoa and the bouleuterion from the Hellenistic and Roman periods. There is also an early Christian Basilica of Jovian in the same area built using material from ancient structures.
- **Baths** : Parts of the Roman baths have been excavated with mosaic floors and hypocausts (3rd – 4th century AD).
- **Temple of Artemis** : The foundations of the temple have survived (590-580 BC) with part of the retaining wall of the shrine and the ancient altar. The famed archaic gorgon pediment on display in the Archaeological Museum of Corfu comes from this temple and is the oldest stone pediment identified to date in Greece.
- **Neratzichas Tower** : Dating from the classical period (5th century BC) this is part of the ancient fortification walls of the city, another part of which was recently identified and excavated in the area of the Yllaico Port (near and parallel to the airport runway).
- **Port facilities** : Parts of the port at Alcinous have been excavated as well as buildings (7th – 1st century BC) and parts of the paving of the nearby agora.

A programme to unify these archaeological sites is currently underway and includes a series of individual projects with the aim of creating walking routes in this impressive area of Paleopolis through the remarkable, verdant environment and the monuments dating from the 8th century BC to the early Christian period and more recent times.

b. Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Monuments (Exhibit 18 of the Annex)

The area where the town of Corfu was located and flourished in antiquity, the Roman and the early Byzantine periods and that is known today as Paleopolis was in effect never fully abandoned despite the gradual transfer of the town from Paleopolis to the nearby area known as the Old Fortress from the 7th century AD, the place where the Byzantine town of Coryfo flourished. Scattered monuments are still visible today throughout the entire area and come from both the ancient and Byzantine periods.

It is equally characteristic and quite normal for the area that there were many later monuments, Byzantine for example, erected with the use of building materials from earlier archaic or Roman structures, thus clearly expressing the historical continuity and allowing the different cultures which flourished here to be read. Among them the early Christian basilica of Jovian is the largest and most important monument of the early Byzantine period while from the same period (5th –6th century AD) there is also the catholicon, or main church, of the nearby Monastery of Agii Theodori, a three-aisled basilica that is still in use today. The almost adjacent church of Agii Iason and Sosipatros, dated to around 1000 AD, also belongs to the Byzantine period while the ruins of the church of the Virgin Hodegetria, built on a section of the ancient wall (Neratzichas), date to the 11th or 12th century, as well as the small domed church of Pantokrator on Pontikonissi.

- ♦ **The Church of Agii Iason and Sosipatros (c. 1000 AD)** : This is the most important monument from the middle Byzantine period (monastery catholicon in the late Byzantine period). One of the oldest examples of a two-columned inscribed cruciform church (rectangular church with a dome) and one of the best-preserved churches of this type in Greece. The normal style of church during the 11th – 14th centuries, it has certain special features specific to this church. The three conches which protrude on the east do not have the same shape. The triple arch (*tribilus*) by means of which the narthex communicates with the central space is a survival from the early Christian era. The octagonal dome reconstructed in the 17th century has small built-in columns where it comes into contact with the body of the building.

At the lower levels the church is built of large tufa blocks from the ruins of the ancient city and higher up of stone and brick (square stones surrounded by rows of bricks). Serrated strips are interspersed between the horizontal joints while on vertical joints there are carved bricks with Kufic letters constituting part of the rich ceramic decoration.

The built Baroque iconostasis dating from the 18th century is made up of curved surfaces with elliptical elements and upright marble slabs and it displays noteworthy Byzantine icons. The two large portable icons of the honoured saints are by E. Tzannes. The preserved fragments of wall paintings belong to the 11th – 14th centuries. Outside, the annex on the NW corner belongs to the post Byzantine period and is used as a residence for the priest.

- ♦ **Agii Theodori Monastery (between 5th – 6th century)** : An early Christian monument directly adjoining the ruins of the temple of Artemis Gorgous. A three-aisled basilica was limited during Byzantine times to the central aisle, which is today the catholicon of a convent. A characteristic feature of the early Christian phase is the semicircular apse with a graduated roof and a trilobate arched window with heavy proportions. The church was converted into a monastery probably during the 16th century with an open square court (which was normal for the catholicon complex). The courtyard is surrounded by arched colonnades with Renaissance morphology along two floors on three of its sides while the fourth consists of the catholicon and the bell tower. A particular feature of the entire morphology are the two fortified towers within the complex. That the church once had three aisles can be seen today by the existence of sealed arched colonnades.

- ♦ **The Basilica of Jovian and its grounds (5th century)** : This is the most important early Christian monument. A five- or three-aisled basilica built on the ruins of the Roman agora with a protruding transept, a semicircular apse, two narthexes and an annex. It was limited during the Byzantine period to the central aisle. Interventions were carried out during the 16th and 17th centuries. The great age of the monument visible from the successive interventions made to it and its claim to be the great church of Paleopolis indicate its significance.

- ♦ **The Church of Panagia Neratzichas (11th – 12th century)** : Located a short distance from the Agii Theodori Monastery, this is a tower from the ancient walls transformed into a church. Only the northern wall survives. The Byzantine addition to the ancient wall is built using slipshod stonework encased in bricks with three characteristic arched vaults.

- ♦ **The Church of Agios Athanasios:** Also an important monument whose development over time can be easily read, in the lower zone one can clearly make out the bulky building materials that belong to a port tower from the port of Alcinous – mythical king of the Phaeacians – from ancient Corfu. This was the foundation for building a small church dedicated to St. Athanasios dating from before the 15th century. At least two building phases can be identified in the church. During the second (18th century) the church's height was increased, a bell tower was added and a two floor annex to the north, the entrance was rebuilt next to the spring and it took on its present day form. The wall paintings inside the church can be dated to the 17th century while the marble relief that is built into the wall above the western entrance comes from the neighbouring church of Agii Iason and Sosipatros and dated from the mid Byzantine period (11th – 12th century).

c. Historic suburbs

These are Manduki, Sarocco, Garitsa, Anemomylos and Fortia (Neapolis).

They are residential areas outside the walls of the 18th century town in the area surrounding the walls to the west and heading from north to south. Furthest north is Manduki, in the middle Sarocco and Fortia and to the south Garitsa and Anemomylos. With the exception of Fortia which is a special case (since it is the sole planned expansion of the town) the remaining four areas acquired their present day layout spontaneously from the mid 18th century onwards, despite reports and depictions of their prior existence.

Attempting an abstract overview of the site, we may assume that the southeastern suburbs already existed with the town itself, since they were located on the shortest route between the site of the ancient city and the initial fortified residential area of the old fortress. Indications for such an assumption are the existence of a Byzantine monastery dating from the 10th century and, later on, other churches in Anemomylos and Garitsa.

Until the beginning of the 19th century these suburbs were independent of the town due to the closed form imposed on them by the Venetians. An exception was Sarocco, the present day town centre, on the main road into the town, which developed in line with the town. The town planning morphology in all four suburbs follows the linear pattern on which the town was laid out.

During the period of British rule new development trends emerged while the island followed the industrial revolution in terms of demography, technology and economics. The role of the town changed. It ceased to be a powerful fort. Thanks to successive demolitions, large sections of the walls, mainly of the supplementary fortifications, were removed. The role of the port defined the development of the town from thereon. With the demolition of **Porta Raimonda** in 1837 by the English and the opening up of the Garitsa coastal road, and later demolitions of parts of the walls following unification with Greece, the town—now unimpeded by its old boundaries—was finally united with its surrounding suburbs during the 20th century.

The historic suburbs and their development over time are witness, inter alia, to the continuity of the town between the 19th and 20th centuries since all residential or functional needs that could not be served within the limited space of the walled town developed there.

Garitsa & Anemomylos

Today these are consecutive quarters which are laid out linearly around the round network from the centre of the town towards Paleopolis. They stand out for the fact that they coexist with the remarkably exceptional archaeological finds at Paleopolis since they were built atop the ancient city. It is certain that Kyprou St., one of the three main streets of Garitsa, follows the ancient path that would once have led to and passed through the archaic and classical graveyard of the ancient city.

During the period of British rule following the demolition of the southern gate in the **walls (Porta Raimonda** in 1837) a coastal road was created giving the town an additional port to meet the needs of the first industrial plants that had established themselves in the area during the 19th century and beginning of the 20th century.

Low income bracket population groups from classical times onwards had mainly been involved here in manufacturing ceramic items as well as ship building and repair.

The image of Garitsa and Anemomylos today is one characterized by popular architectural style buildings along a contiguous front with low single storey, two or three floor storey, tiled houses with small or large gardens behind them. There are few town houses (multi-storey blocks from the period of English rule) and quite a few interesting examples of large urban detached houses dating from the time when the affluent and the new middle class moved here following industrial development. Indicative of the built wealth of these suburbs is that, in addition to the recognized archaeological sites and the Byzantine and post Byzantine monuments in the area, there are 110 more modern buildings (dating from 1830 onwards) characterized as listed buildings and works of art.

Manduki

This is a separate suburb on the NW coast of the old town which pre-dates the wall of the town of Corfu (1588) and which was part of the outer town (Exopolio).

Families of Cretan refugees following the fall of Candia (Heraklion) to the Turks in 1669 and later refugees from the Peloponnese and Parga settled in Manduki under Venetian rule. The residents were engaged in maritime activities, fisheries, building and repairing boats and caiques. They were also engaged in transporting merchandise and passengers. Up until 1960 the area was the main industrial and handicrafts centre on Corfu (producing oil, soap, leather, ice, salted preserves and pottery) with a large number of factories of which a small number have been preserved.

The architecture of this linear settlement too is characterized by an alternation between contiguous fronts of single storey, two and three storey popular style houses with others more urban in character which retain the morphological features of houses in the town.

Manduki today has more than 100 buildings characterized as listed and works of art in addition to important churches and the Platytera Monastery where the Corfiot politician and first President of free Modern Greece, Ioannis Capodistrias is entombed.

Sarocco

Today it is difficult to see Sarocco as a distinct suburb of the town, rather than its commercial centre, since all roads to and from the hinterland of the island converge here.

The area of Sarocco was traditionally a meeting place for the residents of the countryside before entering the walls of the historic city via the **Porta Reale**. Following the demolition of parts of the walls it was united with the old town and all central commercial operations of the expanded town that could no longer develop within the old town gathered in Sarocco.

Characteristic of the image of the area are the arched colonnades on the ground floor of the consecutive buildings along Polychroniou Konstanta and Donatou Dimoulitsa Streets among which there are a large number of listed buildings.

Fortia (Neapolis)

This is a separate residential area lying directly next to the old town with a characteristic town planning layout and morphological elements.

Intense residential pressures during the last years of British rule over Corfu led to the preparation of a town expansion plan inspired by the classic perception of 19th century town planning (wide avenues, rectangular building blocks, wide pavements, rows of trees, etc). Implementation of the plan began in 1873 following the withdrawal of the English and was linked with the name of the Corfiot architect Ioannis Chronis (1800-1879).

The buildings with their tiled roofs do not exceed four storeys with a *habitante* on the roof. The morphology of the façades is of exceptional interest following basic neoclassical elements: taenia, cornices, stone surrounds, symmetrical doors and windows. Characteristic elements are the stone balconies with elaborate railings or stone balustrades, arched windows on the ground floor with railings, German style shutters and a large range of chimneystacks which given the grey coloured roofs a certain charm.

d . I s o l a t e d b u i l d i n g s

In addition to the above, the historicity of the area surrounding the old town is enriched by important scattered, isolated buildings which each in their own way pay testament to the importance of this place over time:

- **The Prison Building**

Built during the British presence on the island (first half of the 19th century) and reflecting the *Panopticon* model designed by the English politician Jeremy Bentham with the aim of reforming the prison system. Bentham's central idea was to oversee the inmates with the guard having direct visual contact with all cells. The particular layout of prison buildings of this type (pericentric buildings) for the development of European prison and confinement systems has been analyzed in detail by philosophers such as Michel Foucault. Corfu Prison, still in use, with many additions to the original building, was erected shortly after the age of radical utilitarianism propounded by Bentham, not based precisely on his design but clearly influenced by it.

- **Platytera Monastery (1714)**

A significant monastic complex associated with many famous families (Capodistrias). The main courtyard of the monastery is marked on one side by the catholicon, or main church, and on the other three by monks' cells laid out on the ground and first floor. On the ground floor there is also a three-sided arcade with a central spring.

- **Anastaseos Kimitiriou Church (1840)**

Based on the designs of the Corfiot architect, Ioannis Chronis, the façade of the church has a clear classical character with a central portico in the Tuscan style with a triangular pediment while inside there is a classical style iconostasis (in the form of a four-columned Ionic temple) decorated with icons from other churches in the town. Among these are important works from the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries.

- **The Psychiatric clinic**

- **The Old People's Home building**

e . Green areas

Between the area surrounding the Property and the remaining modern town, there are three important green areas (the Girokomio Hill, Philakon Hill, Agion Theodoron Hill), which constitute a kind of physical barrier to the hinterland.

The aforementioned elements with regard to the area surrounding the Property are shown on map 6 of the Annex.

2b. HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

2bi. Mythology

The history of the island is lost in the time of myths. The island was known by many and various names during antiquity. **Drepani** or **Makris** were names used due to its shape and are the most ancient names for the island associated with Greek mythology. Drepani relates to the weapon with which Cronus killed his father Uranus. Other names are **Kassopaia**, **Argos** or **Cerauna**.

The name **Kerkyra** prevailed, which according to mythology comes from the bride Corcyra (Kerkyra), daughter of the river Asopos beloved of the god of the sea, Poseidon, who brought her to the island. From their union was born Phaeacas who gave the island one of its mythological names and after which its residents were also named (Phaeacians), a name also used in Homer.

The island was named **Scheria** by Homer, if we assume that Kerkyra is the famous island of the Phaeacians described in the *Odyssey*. In Books VII and VIII of the *Odyssey* Homer relates of Odysseus' most lovely adventures on Kerkyra with the princess Nausicaa, daughter of Alcinous, king of the Phaeacians.

The name **Kerkyra** has prevailed in modern Greek while **Korkyra** comes from a Doric dialect spoken by its ancient residents, the Korkyraians. **Korifo** or **Korifi** or **Korfi** or Corfu were names used during the Middle Ages, possibly due to the two fortified peaks of the medieval city, korifi being the Greek word for peak. Corfu is the most well known outside of Greece.

2b ii. Main Historical Events (Annex, Exhibit 19)

The following part refers to the basic historical events that have determined the development of the Monument area, since the transformations of the urban landscape of Corfu were as many as the different historical periods of the town, from the time of its initial settlement until today.

♦ Ancient times

The site of Paleopolis, the city of ancient times, has been identified in an area neighbouring the later centre of the present day town on the Canoni peninsula in a modern day suburb. It seems that the area was inhabited from the prehistoric period as can be seen from the stone artifacts scattered about the area of Paleopolis and the graveyards dating from the archaic and classic periods.

The city experienced its zenith during the second half of the 8th century BC with the arrival first of the Euboeans (pre-colonization phase) for a brief period, according to sources and certain comparative archaeological indications. Quite a few scholars have identified them with the Phaeacians of the Odyssey. Following them the development of the city was determined by the Corinthians (colonization phase) who brought with them characteristic examples of their pottery and the architectural style that was so indicative of their later development.

The ancient city developed between two natural ports, was walled and became wealthy and powerful, and played an important role in the commercial transactions with the West. An important indication of the cultural level of the ancient town is the large Doric temple of Artemis (47.50 x 22m) made of tufa at the beginning of the 6th century (590-80 BC). Its sculptured western pediment places it among the most unique art works of the classical antiquity. During the Roman period the area of the ancient city was transformed into an enormous Roman settlement with luxury bathing complexes.

♦ **Byzantine and Post Byzantine period**

The fall of the Roman Empire (337 AD) finds Corfu in the western part of the state that later became the Byzantine Empire. The new religion was preached on the island by Apostle Paul's disciples, Iason and Sosipatros (later saints).

In the dark centuries that followed, the island was successively raided by Vandals, Goths and Saracens (Arabs) from the 5th to the 7th and in the 9th century AD. After the invasion of the Goths under Totila in 551 AD, the site of the ancient town was gradually abandoned (although never completely) and the people found a much safer shelter in the natural fort of what today is the Old Fortress, with the distinctive morphology of the two imposing rock peaks ("korifi"), an element which determined the name of the new town. The medieval town with the name "Korifo" or "Korfi", "Corfu" for the West, developed closely related to the fate of the Byzantine State, being an integral part of the Empire. The early Christian basilicas preserved until today, the Byzantine castles, numerous ecclesiastical monuments and historical records are signs of the Byzantine presence on the island.

The gradual weakening of the Byzantine State and at the same time the strengthening of the Western powers made Corfu the subject of continuous disputes. From 1081 to 1202, the island was governed in turn by the Byzantines and the Normans.

The 4th Crusade (1202 - 1204) radically changed the power balance in the Greek area, since the Byzantine State fell to the Franks. Corfu was awarded to the Venetians (1207-1214), who divided the island into 10 manors. These were granted to Venetian nobles, with the obligation to pay an annual tax to the Venetian Republic and to maintain the fortifications. In addition, privileges were granted to the Venetian merchants of the island and some rights of the inhabitants were recognised, such as the right to preserve the Orthodox religion, provided they remained loyal to Venice.

In 1214 Corfu broke away from the Venetians and was annexed by the Despotate of Epirus, one of the three independent post-Byzantine states (together with Nicaea and Trebizond). The Corfiots supported this change for a long period of time, because they enjoyed many privileges (tax exemptions, independence of the clergy, reinforcement of the fortifications) and were not seriously threatened by the Venetians, who continued to conduct trade in the area.

But good times do not last forever. In 1267 Corfu became part of the Angevin Kingdom of Sicily (Charles d' Anjou the First , King of Naples and the two Sicilies).

♦ **Angevin Rule (1267 - 1386)**

This period, which lasted over one century, brought prosecutions and the humiliation of the Orthodox Church in a violent effort to impose Catholicism, which included the abolishment of the Metropolitan see and transformation of the major churches into Catholic ones. In addition, a new administrative organisation was established on the island in order to serve the feudal structures of production that dominated Europe.

The internal conflicts of the Angevins in the years that followed, the civil wars in Naples and their impact on Corfu, along with the general discontent of the Corfiots, prepared the way for the Venetian Republic, which had always wanted to take control of the island. The town was taken over by the Venetian Admiral of the Adriatic Sea Fleet in 1386, during its siege by the duke of Padua. Venice officially legalised its control over the island in 1402, buying it from the Kingdom of Naples for 30.000 golden ducats.

♦ **Venetian Rule (1386 - 1797)**

Corfu was governed by Venice for four centuries, accepting it as its 'master and protector'. This period largely determined the unique character of the island because, unlike the rest of Greece, it was never under the Ottomans. The Venetians received an island with a strong aristocratic and feudal system, which they chose to preserve, granting higher offices to Venetian nobles for a two-year period and establishing a local noble class, access to which was strictly controlled (Libro d' oro). Centralisation and recognition of relative autonomy, which was practically intended to serve the interests of the local aristocracy, were the main characteristics of the Venetian administrative organisation.

The geographical position of Corfu was very important for the Venetians. Located on the route to the East, it was to become their base in the Adriatic and the eastern Mediterranean, from which they would expand and develop their commercial activities. As a result, a large-scale fortification works project was implemented, aiming to protect the town primarily from Ottoman attacks. Some of the most renowned architects and engineers of the Venetian Republic who specialised in fortification works were called in Corfu for this purpose. Applying their experience from the fortification of Italian towns, they turned Corfu into a vast building site: hills were leveled, ports were opened, naval bases were constructed, walls and fortresses were erected, proving the triumph of art over nature.

In return for the security they provided, the Venetians demanded strict obedience from the inhabitants. Nevertheless, the Republic exhibited understanding and tolerance towards the Orthodox Church, mainly because of its tendency to become independent from the Pope. The financial returns from Corfu came primarily from taxation, the control of transit trade, the tenure of public land, the salt monopoly and to a great extent from the cultivation of olive trees, which was generously subsidised.

This four century period was not a peaceful one for Corfu. One attack in 1403 by the Genoans, who forever kept their eye on the island, followed by a second one in 1431, caused the villages to be deserted. The part of the town outside the Fortress was burnt down, but the fort managed to keep the enemy out. The successive Ottoman efforts to conquer the town in 1431, 1537, 1571, 1573, 1716, although unsuccessful, had devastating consequences for the town's inhabitants living outside the Fortress, as well as for all the villages, which were burnt down while thousands of people were slaughtered or taken prisoners. To deal with the dramatic population decrease which resulted from the raids, which grew even worse after two awful plague outbreaks (1629 and 1673), the Venetians brought in settlers from other parts of Greece, Constantinople, Epirus, Nauplia (Navplio) and Crete.

In addition, serious internal conflicts shook Corfu in the 17th century, resulting in the loss of thousands of lives, as well as in the financial and defensive weakening of the island. A first sign of turbulence in 1610 followed the first ever refusal of the farmers to deliver their share of the crop to the Venetians, escalated into a real revolution in 1640, rekindled in 1642 and 1652, which was crushed by additional armed forces called in from Venice.

♦ The French Republican Period (1797-1799)

The doctrines of the French Revolution reached Corfu soon and infected it with a passionate wish for national independence and establishment of a Greek Republic in the Ionian Islands. The inhabitants welcomed the French Fleet to the island as a liberation from the Venetian yoke. But this atmosphere of euphoria was soon to disappear since the appointed administration consisted once more of nobles, and the financial exploitation was this time even more cruel than before.

After the Treaty of Campo Formio, by which the Ionian Islands became a French colony, on account of confiscations and cruel acts on the part of the French soldiers who were left unpaid and had started to loot churches, the people considered French rule worse than Venetian and turned against it.

♦ Russian-Turkish Rule and the Septinsular Republic (1799-1807)

The climate of discontent among the inhabitants and the propaganda of the Russian-Turkish alliance against the "French atheists" forced the latter to a cease-fire with the Russian fleet, after four months of resistance and continuing conflicts. The Ionian Islands were given over to the Admirals of the two allied fleets.

On 24th April 1799, the two admirals declared the establishment of the "State of the Ionian Islands", with Corfu as its capital. The Constantinople Convention (May 21st, 1800), signed by Russia, Turkey and Great Britain, declared the Ionian Islands an autonomous unified state, under tribute to Turkey.

The constitution of 1800, which restored the old form of the aristocratic regime, and the disturbing presence of foreign armed forces, especially Turkish, created social turbulence that continued in spite of the 1801 elections of representatives, the drafting of a more democratic constitution in 1803 and its revision in 1806. The declaration of the Russian - Turkish war followed and the Septinsular Republic appeared on the side of Russia, to be awarded to France under the terms of the Treaty of Tilsit (1807).

♦ **The French Empire (1807 - 1814)**

The second period of French rule was very well received by the people because it laid great emphasis on the improvement of agriculture, the introduction of new crops, the development of education (establishment of the Ionian Academy), the organisation of public utilities and the reconstruction of the town. The fall of Napoleon (1814) weakened French control over the Ionian islands and as a result the French troops were withdrawn and the island surrendered to Great Britain.

♦ **The British Protectorate (1814 - 1864)**

The request of the Septinsular Republic for independence was strongly supported in the Vienna Conference (1815: Russia, Great Britain, Austria, Prussia) by Ioannis Capodistrias (Corfiot diplomat and later the first President of Greece), who participated as a Russian representative, but was never accepted by the other states.

The Treaty of Paris (1815) recognised the "United States of the Ionian Islands" as a free and independent state, under the direct and exclusive protection of Great Britain. It was soon proved that the protection was tantamount to rule. London might have indicated a friendly attitude towards the Greek people, but the British administration used terrorist-like measures against the inhabitants, who manifested their support for the national liberation struggle of 1821 as well as their wish to become part of the newly established Greek state.

Despite all these facts, the period of the British rule in Corfu had many positive aspects, among which were the economic recovery, the construction of important public works, such as the road network and the aqueduct. In addition, all the levels of the educational system were organised and a new Ionian Academy, the first Greek university, was founded in 1824.

♦ **The integration of Corfu in the Greek State (1864)**

The Ionian Islands were awarded to Greece in return for the appointment of a king who was loyal to Great Britain. Corfu was no more the capital of the State of the Ionian Islands. It saw its university and parliament close when everyone was rejoicing over the Unification with Greece. From then on it was a mere prefecture of the Greek state.

Due to its geographical position it was to become the base of the Allied troops in 1916-18, and would provide shelter to the exiled Serbian government with the remains of its army in 1916. For two years Corfu was the capital of the Serbian state under Prime Minister Pasits. The Serbians were granted use of the Municipal Theatre for meetings where the Declaration of Independence of Greater Yugoslavia was drawn up, as well as

the Church of Agios Nikolaos Geronton where mass was said in Serbian. Serbs also published their own newspaper in Serbian on Corfu on a special printing press brought there from the French occupation authority buildings.

In 1923 the Italian army claimed the island after a short seizure and in 1940-1943 it suffered bombardments, during which the theatre and a library of great significance were destroyed.

2b iii. Brief History

Corfu is presented in its history as a staging post between the main body of the Greek world and the cultures that developed beyond the Adriatic Sea on the Italian peninsula and the cultures that developed in Illyria and its hinterland. The function of the city as a staging post becomes obvious if we analyze the different ways in which it facilitated transactions and movements of people and goods between cultures that were never sealed off from their surroundings. It is also seen by the strategic role it played, since any political power based on the island could exert control over the passage at which it is located. This function as a staging post allowed peoples who passed through the island to be welcomed, peoples such as the Illyrians, Greeks and Italians.

The city's position and activities attributed to it the character of a settlement with minimal farming, but one involved in trade, a city of services that abandoned its hinterland and focused on its shore. Only when the Mediterranean was 'closed off' for a time and controlled by the Arabs to the detriment of the Byzantine state did the town of Corfu, like so many other areas in the state, turn to its hinterland. Thus the town managed to ensure adequate food supplies and a somewhat safe investment of its wealth. At this time the Corfiot villages developed production mechanisms that became a factor in the history of the island, acquiring for it in one way or another a role equally as important as that of the town, an importance that has survived to this very day.

The geography of Corfu, although related in geological terms to that of the nearby coast of the mainland, is not marked by prohibitive mountainous massifs or by a harsh climate. Forested, yet not inaccessible, it was ideal for settlement without its geomorphology allowing for the formation of closed, isolated residential complexes which would have permitted segregation between mountain and plain, or the development of separate cultural units (for example, gorges are completely absent from the island). The island is surrounded by beaches easily accessible from the sea and which all lead via relatively accessible paths to the interior of the island and its most mountainous regions after only a few hours walking. The sea was always the island's focus since there are finds dating back to 6000 BC from a coastal area facing west, while there are also finds from 2000 BC. These are indications of settlements focused on the sea and facing west. The mountainous interior was not in the slightest bit attractive for the island's early residents.

The Greeks included the island in their geopolitical system from early on, from the first colonization phase in the 9th or 8th century BC, and they acknowledged it as a city focused on their world. Homer in his tales is not far from reality and both Odysseus' trip to the almost mythical island of the Phaeacians and the tradition that antiquity's great explorer Jason and his Argonauts passed by Corfu are evidence that Corfu had begun to take on the character mentioned above, in other words a staging post between the emerging Greek world of the 9th and 8th century BC and the worlds it was attempting to expand into, in other words the Illyrian and the Italian. The presence of Odysseus and Jason on Corfu represent the geopolitical thinking of that time, that is to say, they are a way of integrating Scheria into the existing economic and cultural system. The Corinthians who directly colonized the island during the second half of the 8th century BC went several steps further. They conquered part of Corfu integrating it finally into their political and power-based system. This fact still has repercussions today. In large part this system was retained for the following centuries.

The ancient Greek city of Corfu was always a wealthy city from its transactions and its innovations and it participated in the good and bad moments of Greek civilization. One of the worst moments was the major war from which the Greek cities never fully recovered, the Peloponnesian War, which in one way showed the limits of the city-state, the struggles between ranks within the city and their inability to form a compact political system in the way the initially marginalized states of the Macedonians and Romans had done.

Corfu's dilemma was 'by whom to be absorbed?' By the Romans or the Macedonians? The Romans got there first (229 BC).

If the worst moment of Greek civilization was its political weakness, its finest moments were surely its culture. And Corfu benefited from Greek culture and its main feature, the insistence on survival. Part of a Latin empire, Corfu remained Greek-speaking and retained its character and, through it, its dedication to the institutions which marked out Greek cities even after Roman conquest. The town of Corfu retained the public institutions that marked each Greek city throughout the centuries of Roman political power, such as the Bouleuterion, patrons, the insistence on theatre and rhetoric. The roles from the time of Greek freedom were only slightly altered and the town remained the staging post it always was.

Christianity, the second unifying ideology of the Roman state following imperialism, took on both its Latin and Greek manifestations. Corfu was associated with the latter of these regardless of the ecclesiastical administrative geography that at certain times placed it under western structures. This was also the case with its political administrative geography. For a time at least the island was included in the western part of the Empire. But the island remained primarily part of the Eastern Empire, at least as long as it existed. It certainly assumed its characteristics since, if we accept the extensive Greek tradition deriving from antiquity, the present physiognomy of the island is due to its Byzantine history. Let us explain this.

A characteristic of Byzantine organization is the policy toward villages. An importance was attached to the countryside, which downplayed slightly the importance of the towns, thereby limiting them and, in some cases, leading to their complete abandonment. There were of course many reasons for this and one was the limited security offered by border towns. These were frequently converted into castles and moved to higher ground.

The Byzantine town of Corfu moved to higher ground, leaving the old town at the foot of the hill. The old town spread out along the sea without the protection offered by height. In relation to the ancient town, the Byzantine one was certainly smaller and inaccessible, placed as it was atop a hill. It must have held no attraction other than its safety. No known buildings survive, nor do the chronicles mention anything and archaeology has revealed nothing to date that is at least comparable with the beautiful ancient temples of pagan worship or the grandiose and ambitious basilicas which can still be seen today on Paleopolis, the ancient city of Corfu. Of course, the fortress still stands on the foundations of Medieval Corfu but has undergone too many changes and much rebuilding work to leave clear marks of the buildings. Only their foundations now survive.

One thing is certain, however. The area under plough outside the walls increased, since the village communities multiplied across the entire island (if we are to judge from the Byzantine castles that have survived) in order to protect the fields. They are castles such as Kassiopi, Angelokastro and Gardiki and, of course, the Old Fortress which was the medieval town itself.

The landowners and the families involved in the administrative system developed into a privileged part of the society in relation to the taxation system of the Byzantine state. The Byzantine archons were not only residents of the town, but we can assume their spread throughout the countryside. Following the conquest by the Angevins, a French branch that had dominated Sicily and the Kingdom of Naples, a new aristocracy developed, mixed with the existing privileged class of landowners.

Whether it was the archons of the Byzantines or the feudal lords of the Westerners, the main group which arose was the same: the powerful landowners involved in the political game played out primarily in the city. The main loser, at least during the first phase of Angevin conquest, with the Angevins being supporters of the Pope and having aided him in his endless struggles with the Holy Roman Empire, was the Orthodox Church, which lost estates. Apart from the church, certain leading archon families, who were openly anti-Angevin, moved across to the Greek Despotate of Epirus.

In other respects the medieval period was one of stability. Landowners played a vital role (both in terms of taxation and power), were involved in politics, together with the church that played a secular role in relation to its estates, and became a political force to be reckoned with. Another activity, namely trade, remained the occupation of the merchants, a class also associated with feudalism. The merchants usually invested profits from trips in land.

The Angevin forces were replaced by the Venetians when for reasons of radical change in their policy they decided no longer to hold onto Corfu - reconquest of the Byzantine Empire or even mainland sections of it no longer had meaning and so the possession of Corfu which would have been used as a base, no longer held any meaning. However, it did acquire meaning for the Venetian State, which had every reason, and the forces too, to control the route from Venice to Constantinople (1386).

Venetian political power played a major role in the history of Corfu, since it left Greek culture on the island unaffected. The countryside was not influenced and the Venetians simply limited themselves to controlling whatever could be a threat to state security. On the other hand, it politicized the economic forces on the island,

among which the most important families were Greek. The elite that was to be formed mainly came from landowners who settled in the town and became the local authorities. With the passage of time they multiplied and formed a true political body.

The town itself during the years of Venetian rule, began to spread out from around the Byzantine castle and took up part of the countryside, becoming a symbol of the new power of the Venetian aristocracy which represented the body politic, with the town of Corfu being considered its heart. The metaphor of the body politic transformed Corfu into a form of state. The town was designed according to this perception. The walls were extended to cover the settlements located outside the old town since it was the new state's duty to protect all its 'citizens'. Note that this term was widely used to replace the term 'subject' since the latter seemed medieval and outdated.

Corfu benefited to a certain extent from the commercial activities of Venice, its products being primarily channeled to the Venetian market, and it benefited too from its role as a staging post for the Venetian fleet on the route from Venice to the East and as a staging post for a permanent Venetian naval presence. Bureaucratic services in parallel with local ones and administrative techniques developed around these forces which would play an important role during the 19th century when the town was transformed into the capital of the State of the Ionian islands.

The productive structures during the period of Venetian rule of the island (1386-1797) were not very different from those of the previous period. Land was concentrated in the hands of a relatively few powerful landowners, certain of whom held it on fief, in other words it had been granted to them by the state in return for services – that is to say they could collect part of the taxes the state would normally collect and they could exploit the land by assigning it to farmers. The farmers, depending on their contract, handed over part of their crops in return, but were frequently obliged to pay supplementary taxes either to the landowner or to the state related to production. Since money was relatively rare they were obliged to borrow to make rudimentary investments in their land or cover their debts, which resulted in their getting even further into debt and falling into slavery. The winners seem to be those who cornered a large part of production and managed to trade it. Most of these people did so via companies set up jointly, putting in capital and products, while there were also major intermediaries with large vessels and adequate capital so they could play with the prices, trading directly with Venice. Lending techniques were thus developed and of course usury flourished (merchants frequently practicing this activity too).

Nonetheless, the village communities flourished as they were stable and demographically powerful. Despite the difficulties and unfairness of the exploitation it suffered, the countryside was left to its own devices to a large extent. It was able to accept a new world, that of immigrants. Through the middle ages and the modern age too immigrants from mainland Greece, Albania and even Crete and elsewhere in the Ionian Islands, never stopped arriving on the island. They settled on public land or on large estates and cultivated using the well-known sharecropping system. Despite its failings, the agricultural system kept people in the countryside who in turn supported the culture the farmers had brought with them or which they encountered in situ. An intact village and countryside culture with its own traditions and dialect had survived next to Corfiot urban culture. For

centuries it was a culture somewhat cut off from the town, forgotten outside its walls. It took on a new lease of life in the 19th century with the extension of suffrage and the expansion of the urban political game outside the context of the town.

The result came late. The countryside came to dominate in cultural and economic terms in a process being completed at present. This fact has many consequences but the most important is that, since the countryside had preserved the Greek culture and its traditions, when it came to dominate in cultural terms over the town, it gradually extinguished the unique Venetian culture that had developed within the town. Italian gradually retreated as the language of the elite and of administration (the process began in 1797 and was completed in relation to administration at least in 1864). The unique urban traditions even if retained in some cases no longer have their purely urban meaning.

The town of Corfu had managed during the period of Venetian rule to develop a Greek – Italian culture that is worth preserving. A town of bureaucracy and military affairs, political and military elites, a port and merchant's town, a town of ecclesiastical institutes, it was given adequate attention by its governors so as to acquire important walls and buildings which made it stand out and become famous. A cultivated town it saw its townsfolk govern wisely and frequently saw them rise to prominence outside the borders of the island. From this viewpoint, Corfu was not cosmopolitan because it could welcome foreigners but because its townsfolk could stand out abroad. It is said that an Italian troupe had ever reason to try itself out on Corfu before daring an Italian tour. The Corfiot audience was more demanding.

Everything in the town, its roads, its mansions and more humble abodes, its churches and lanes exude a special atmosphere even today. Its neighbourhoods were organized around their local church and administration lay in the hands of the most socially powerful parishioners, the aristocracy of the neighbourhood.

The population was identified by the 'society' it belonged to, whether it was a guild with its specific banner and privileges or a fraternity (adelfato) of nobles that had its own church. The weakest in society, though, depended on informal aid from a powerful house. They met in wider social circles outside the set of relatives and friends and dedicated followers of the family. Frequently the groups thus formed had major disputes or rivalries between each other while remaining unified on the inside.

Publicly, everything emphasized the differences in social class and standing. Archons were distant and were accompanied by their servants who frequently carried them. They wore wigs while their carriage bore their emblems as did the servants' uniforms. Lace was common on women's clothing as well as expensive fabrics. The lower classes dressed in rags and were often barefoot. However, on official occasions in the presence of the Venetian authorities, the costume was black and austere, recalling that they were patricians and not showy knights. The accent and of course the vocabulary differed from class to class. Among the aristocracy, Italian words were common when Italian itself was not being spoken, while the popular vocabulary was simply dressed with Italian words, primarily from the technical vocabulary. The archons kept their distance, which more than once outraged the lower classes and caused them to challenge the status quo.

However, even more isolated from the lower classes were perhaps the Jews who with their hard work and their relations with the art of money had been restricted to their quarter, even though outside of it everyone had need of them. Their clothing and their accent, too, could distinguish them. They had their own family and commercial networks that united them with the Jews of Venice.

A large part of life was conducted in the street, particularly for the lower classes, where a series of attractions were to be seen. For the most part the houses had few comforts and no insulation, since many rooms were communal and the people packed close together, so that it was easy for someone to hear and follow the life of another. These scenes were preserved almost intact until the last great war. The town gradually changed character, but for many reasons, the unique characteristics of its old history have remained unchanged.

2b iv. Development of the urban landscape (Annex, Exhibits 20, 21)

The transformations of the urban landscape of Corfu are characterised in almost all historical phases by a transfer of its centre, in each case according to the view of its leading urban group.

The ancient coastal town (Paleopolis)

The ancient city of Paleopolis developed gradually on the site of the present day suburb on the Canoni peninsula. The picture revealed by the excavation is one of a well designed city with powerful walls and defensive towers; a city with an impressive planning fabric dating from the 8th century BC until the 4th century AD that was built using the Hippodamian grid system along the length of two major roads which approximately correspond to modern roads crossing the Canoni peninsula heading north to south. These roads are intersected by smaller ones heading east – west that form building blocks.

The city, a powerful maritime and commercial power, had two main ports, Yllaico and Alcinous and perhaps a third one near the port of Alcinous, a central agora which was paved, stoas where citizens could rest or conduct commercial transactions and important public buildings, pottery and ironware workshops, shipyards with huts for protecting and building vessels. At the boundaries were many large sacred groves or shrines with elaborate temples or altars for outdoor worship and auxiliary buildings of a religious nature. There were temples too in the agora and at other central points throughout the city. Outside the walls to the northwest spread the archaic, classical and Hellenistic necropolis while the Roman one is probably located in the area of the Alcinous port, which became filled with alluvial deposit during Roman years.

Slightly extended towards the hinterland, in early Byzantine times, and later totally confined on the rock between the two peaks (Old Fortress), is the:

Middle-Byzantine and Angevin town

Although we know little about Byzantine fortifications, the historical sources reveal that Byzantines, and later on, the Despots of Epirus and the Angevins fortified the acropolis and its peaks, by constructing two towers (Castrum Veter or Castel da Mare or simply Vecchio and Castrum Novum or Castel da terra or simply Nuovo). The medieval settlement did not differ from typical fortified little towns of the time, with the typical morphological features of thin walls with ramparts interrupted by tall square and circular towers.

For a view of the Medieval Town and its fortifications of that period see drawings 1& 2 of Exhibit 20.

The Venetian Period

This period is without doubt the most important for the town's development, due to its duration (411 years), but also to the historical conditions. The town was expanded outside the Fortress (borgo), to the extent that it gradually replaced the town of the Fortress, thus limiting its function for defence purposes only. Its development was essentially influenced and defined by the successive fortification works, carried out on the basis of a specific programme, so as to cover the various defence needs, as differentiated throughout history.

♦ Development of the fortifications

The fortification works, in addition to their significance for the town's development, constitute outstanding examples of architecture and technique of that time. The Venetian Republic contracted the construction to some of the most important and well-known architects and engineers.

Old Fortress

The Venetian defence policy, during the first 200 years approximately, was limited to the restructuring of the defence system of the already fortified medieval town, while, the settlement of "**Xopoliou**" (**borgo**) existed in parallel, which was densely landscaped and developed following the end of the Byzantine period.

The Venetian works during the 15th century refer to the separation of the small peninsula from the remaining island with a **sea moat**, **Contrafossa**, and to the radical changes of the previous fortification, which was useless as a means of confronting artillery. More specifically, new, low fortified walls were built, surrounding, on the one hand, the coast at the lower level, and on the other hand, the two peaks at the higher level (levelled and replaced by new forts on the same place). Parallel to this, an artificial port was constructed in Mandraki.

The 15th century fortifications are shown in drawings 3 and 4 of Exhibit 20.

However, the evolution of war tactics, at the beginning of the 16th century, led to the modernisation of the facade of the western side, opposite the **Contrafossa**. The project was carried out by **M. Sanmicheli**, a recognized architect and theorist of the new defence system of salients, presenting the advantage of side-protection, thus allowing the guns to fire in parallel to the wall. A new defence facade was constructed in front of **Contrafossa** with two identical pentagonal ramparts (**Savorgnan** and **Martinengo**), while an impressive entrance was opened in the intermediate wall (**cortina**) in the centre. Access to the land was by a wooden drawbridge. Furthermore, the free area of the "Spianata" was expanded between "borgo" and the fort, while its limits were more precisely defined. The works were completed in 1558 and gave the Fortress the final imposing

form with the typical symmetry of the western side. Supplied with gun emplacements, barracks, administrative buildings, warehouses, arsenals, cisterns and many underground communication channels, it became impregnable.

Following the town's fortification, the “**Old Fortress**” “**Fortezza Vecchia**” was gradually transformed, from the 17th cent, into a military base, preserving certain religious and clerical buildings, of which the most important is the Palace of “Provveditore”.

The fortifications and the buildings as formed according to the final modifications and completions by the Venetians are shown on a detailed plan of the Fortress (Annex, Exhibit 20).

The town's surrounding walls

The expansion of the initial central core of the medieval town by the Venetian administration was carried out in the end of the 16th century, when borgo was recognised as the main centre of the island, following its fortification, which was completed in 1588. The fortification was organised along the lines of the design prepared by the engineer Ferrante Vitelli, whose primary aim was the military control of the entire complex. The plan was blind to influences and limitations imposed by the actual size of the already dense built area, of the greater regional and residential settlements and of the physical configurations of the ground (hills of Ag. Markou and Garitsas –Castrate-). However, it took under consideration pre-existing conditions such as basic routes outside the surrounding wall, establishing them firmly by associating them with gates. Besides, the fortification of the wall with the Venetian ramparts, in addition to rationalizing the existing morphology of the terrain, based on the new approaches to military fortifications, together with the restriction on construction in Spianada and the defence gaps - *quasti* - around the walls, eliminated any possibility for future expansion of the town.

The walls of the 16th century had a direct influence and defined for centuries the form of the Historic Centre. Indeed, by imposing restrictions on development in terms of height, it eliminated any possible ground exploitation, during the 17th and 18th century. The fortification is organised as follows: in the west, the defence line commenced by a half salient, while two salients followed (**Raimonda** in the south and **Sarandari** in the north, next to the New Fortress), and a platform (**Ag. Athanassiou**) between them with the necessary **curtain walls** (*cortine*) (between the salient of Raimondou - platform of Ag. Athanassiou and the salient of Sarandari - platform of Ag. Athanassiou). The salients as well as the platform had carved side sections (**orecchioni**) (no longer rectangular, as in the Old Fortress) and were secured by a dry moat, along which there was a covered street (**Strada coperta**). From the middle of the salient, SE, the walls of Spianada commenced (which took its final form in c.1630) and extended towards the north to end at the sea walls (**Mouragia**) which were not strengthened in any particular way.

The defence works of the town were completed in the middle of the 17th century, based on the plans of the military engineer **Filippo Verneda** with a second complementary line of forts on the west side, while the last supports under the Venetian rule were made in the 18th century (following the Turkish siege in 1716) by Marshal **Schulemburg**, who fortified the hills **Avrami**, **Sotiros** and **San Rocco**, located near the western wall.

Map 4 of Exhibit 20 shows the dates of fortifications of the town as supplemented at the end of Venetian rule.

New Fortress

The town's fortification included a new fortress to complete its fortification works. Constructed by the military engineer **Ferrante Vittelli**, who also designed the surrounding walls, it was completed in 1576. It is smaller than the Old Fortress, and served purely defensive purposes and consists of two basic levels. The lower, which protected the new port has, on the NE side, a small central (pentagonal) salient and two curtain walls which connect it to the town's walls and to a small fort (**Punta Perpetua**) while the higher level, which protected the side of the countryside has in the west two large salients (**Sette venti**) and the intermediate wall.

The New Fortress has two entrance portals: the impressive main portal with the Venetian lion facing the port, and a second portal facing the town.

♦ Urban development of the historic town (Annex, Exhibit 21)

The determining contribution of the fortification works to the town's development may be easily ascertained by the observation of the residential organisation of areas built prior and following the surrounding wall. The remains of mass demolitions which were effected so as to carry out the fortification works are marked by a fragmentary and irregular residential network, with a road network, full of multiple direction selection points (squares, two-way, three-way streets), with sparse narrow free spaces (small squares – local centres) highlighting urban planning techniques prior to the surrounding walls.

In areas built following the fortifications, a regular residential network is observed where the successive radial settlement of linear building units above the road alignment previously defined is worth mentioning. The design, which was carried out parallel to the fortification by transforming the prior organisation of the borgo ('Xopoliou'), was probably implemented following land re-distribution for defence and ideological reasons, with the aim of promoting the Old Fortress as the power and military control centre of the town.

In both cases, the form of the urban fabric is defined by the linear succession of building units, composing a residential network which characterises the western late medieval tradition; a form imposed both by local ownership structures and allotment procedures and by traditional urban area formation processes.

The first form of urban organisation in the area directly outside the Old Fortress (borgo) is considered to have been established around the oldest churches that functioned as poles of attraction for the stabilization of the residents, thereby establishing the foundations for a first mode of organizing space in a way that in its inception was independent from the other construction cores. In that way, the oldest neighbourhoods (contrade) of Xopoliou were formed.

It should be pointed out that the wall surrounded 24 neighbourhoods, which took their names from that of their church (e.g. Contrada S. Salvator, Antivuniotissa, Chieropula). One of the "preferred" areas of the initial settlements was Campiello, which had many churches and constituted the nearest area that was "easy" to defend, near the initial entrance of the medieval town. The gradual density of the first urban structure gave rise, along the basic connection routes of initially independent neighbourhoods, to the typical transitional construction 'a borgo'. Buildings, in this case, were erected in a repetitive way, in a continuous system over junction 'axes', creating a kind of 'wall', which separated the route from the remaining semi-rural area.

The next natural thickening in the inner area of neighbourhoods gave rise to the typical linear succession of building units of different size. The course of lines must be identified mainly in the directions of individual junction routes, in the morphology of the terrain and in the previous exploitation of the ground, and not in the implementation of a design following the fortifications. Examples of a primary rural structure, mainly derived from extended ownership, are identified in large compact and irregular shapes of building units, usually around churches.

The closed urban form of the fortified town and the limited area defined the dominant residential typology. The typical linear oblong form of building units consists of smaller basic building units, lined up, thus constituting samples of “inferior quality” architecture, by using urban one-storey dwellings or popular multi-storey dwellings, in opposition to the “monumental”, though simple, architecture expressed in public buildings, mansions and churches, which include more than one basic building unit.

It should be noted that the Historic Centre of Corfu does not present areas organised on the basis of social class criteria, although a Jewish neighbourhood does exist. There are no areas of exclusive use by nobles or traders. The different residence categories (nobles, traders, artisans) are mixed together, a fact that supports the stable survival of the linear successive residential type (with its individual differentiations) in the greater area of the town over the centuries. We can say that there are zones, or more than one road, with a dominant commercial character and other roads which are characterised by typical residential constructions with workshops on the ground floor, as well as purely residential areas with the typical example being the Campiello.

The road network of the Historic Centre depends on the closed form of the fortified town, where the streets are defined as simple routes and not as a clearly hierarchically based road network. Routes are defined in relation to gates and terminals, primary and secondary reference points. Secondary routes are smaller roads of local importance (kantounia) that ensure the connection of various units, through graded points of secondary importance (parishes, mansions, local centres, squares).

The 19th century

The most essential interventions affected in the first half of the 19th century in the defensive system are due to the British. They commenced the implementation of a programme (not completed), aiming at the conservation of only three fort positions, the Old Fortress, the New Fortress and the small island of Vidos (already under fortification by the French, as it constituted the basic control point of the port). The plan provided for the demolition of all the western forts. The British demolished fortification works on the SW side, in 1837 (Porta Raimonda), where a coastal road was opened up to Garitsa, and in 1838 the fort of Sotiros was levelled, where the prisons were built.

In the Old and New Fortress the interventions of the British mainly relate to internal restructuring and additions of new building constructions.

Following the unification of the island with Greece in 1864, the fortresses were disarmed and, following this, parts of the walls and of other fortification works of the town were gradually demolished.

The town's structure in the 19th century presented changes in the building scale, with plot mergers, different morphological facades and a considerable increase in building height, in total. It is estimated that approximately 70% of existing old buildings, built prior to the 20th century are reconstructions or additions from the British period.

In any case, the transformations of the 19th century did not constitute differentiated urban systems within the Historic Centre. The form of the town's urban fabric, despite the individual restructuring interventions, through demolitions of walls and forts and collapses of a high percentage of buildings along important roads and free spaces, shows the long medieval order of things. The criteria of large openings, which developed under the culture of the 19th century, were not applied in Corfu.

On the contrary, the constructions of this period defined the urban landscape, composed regularities, monumental perspectives and classical orders at 'privileged' points, which were favoured by the arrangements imposed, from time to time, along important roads or on the perimetric front of the Spianada - Mouragia - Port and the streets Zambeli and Ioniou Akademias. Hence, the general sense of the three-dimensional space exudes an atmosphere of the late-medieval age, expressing, depending on the architectural style of the buildings prevailing, a simple mannerism with Renaissance and Baroque elements or a Classicism with Neo-Palladian and Neo-Classical characteristics.

A typical intervention of the 19th century in the town's development was the planned development of the residential area outside the walls (fortia), based on the classical urban planning conceptions of that period, given that following the demolition of the western walls, it directly neighboured the densely built area. Despite increased residential pressures, the British plan was only implemented in 1873.

The 20th century (Annex, Exhibit 22)

Following the decline in the importance of the walls and the Fortress, the town continuously expanded towards the west, towards nearby villages, having first integrated the historical suburbs (Garitsa, Anemomylos, Manduki, Sarocco) that had developed in parallel to the section inside the walls.

The gradual expansion of the town was accelerated by the emergence of tourism, which today has already exhausted the reserves of unoccupied spaces.

It should also be noted that the destruction of many buildings from the 1940-1943 bombardments had an important effect, during the 20th century, on the property's development. The effects of this loss, however, have not been totally restored.

2b.v. Social – Intellectual life

The development of the urban landscape is related directly to the social and political organisation of space and with the people located within it. In this respect, a definitive factor is the land regime that affected the development of the history of the island.

Land was distributed among fiefs (baronies), which in effect belonged to the state and were granted to private citizens or the Church. The existing landowners were subjected to the same land use system to which the feudal estates were subject, in other words they were assigned in perpetuum for use in exchange for an annual tithe or on short-hold in exchange for part of the agricultural crops (a tenth or eighth of produce) where the land was cultivated. Of course, the estates were also burdened with supplementary obligations that even included personal servitude. Although the owners did not make significant investments in order to expand and develop the area under cultivation, investments in this area were made by the intermediaries who leased the land to villagers. The phenomenon by which farmers would fall into debt appeared very early on since they were forced to take out loans to cover their obligations before harvest time. The lenders imposed low prices on the products in settlement with the result that they collected in kind two or three times more than the value of the loan.

The political aristocracy also came from the landowners. They were a leading, dominant group on Corfu who from time to time were known by different names such as 'citizens', nobles or bourgeois. They were culturally mixed since they included Catholics and Orthodox. They also included many jurists or notaries who in addition to being landowners were also public notaries since they knew how to read and write Greek and Italian.

The members of the families of these nobles were a closed circle winning the right to represent the island before the political master from the end of the 14th century, Venice. A corollary of this right was the ability to elect members of the Council to one of the numerous offices belonging to the council's jurisdiction.

The administrative and political experience of this group was to be the main cause of its survival under French rule in 1797-1799 and under the subsequent period of Russo-Turkish rule (1799-1807). They also formed a British-friendly party under the British Protectorate (1814-1864). From among their ranks came many leading intellectuals and politicians with the outstanding figure being **Ioannis Capodistrias** (1776-1831), an officer of the State of the Ionian islands, Minister of the Russian Empire and first President of Greece.

Corfu gradually became a point of reference for 16th century humanism. The reasons are multiple: starting with a Byzantine tradition of scholars and manuscript scribes from the 16th century (which had intense repercussions throughout all of Europe from the 15th century onwards) and, then, because Corfiot manuscripts were sent to many Italian and French libraries (including the Vatican and that of Francis I of France) and because of the Corfiot Scholar **Nikandros Noukios** who was personal secretary to Emperor Charles V. Schools were systematically founded during the 17th and 18th centuries, and education involved personalities such as **Antonios Eparchus**. It also became a point of reference for religious Anti-Reformationism with leading figures such as Cardinal **Peter Arcudius** and for the Enlightenment, since from among the patrician classes one of the leading figures of the Greek letters emerged, **Nikiforos Theotokis**.

The level of cultural preparedness was such that the more modern ideas of the 19th century led to and facilitated the establishment of the first university in Greece by the British Lord Guilford. It was one of the first towns in the Adriatic to acquire a neo-classical style during the 19th century thanks to British interventions, while at the same time it was a hotbed of modern Greek Romanticism since **Andreas Calvos** and **Dionysius Solomos** both lived and worked there, both shining figures of Greek literature.

A haven for those persecuted by the Ottoman Empire, a centre for the spread of revolutionary ideas and printed material to the peoples of the East, the town was also a haven to the supporters of Garibaldi during the century of Italian unification. Corfu is consequently associated with the liberation movements of the century of revolutions making it a monument complementing world history. It is no chance thing that to this day the '**Reading Society**', one of the characteristic Jacobin clubs dating from 1818, has survived. Today it houses one of the most important libraries in Greece.

As an old administrative centre it has a unique archive of 10,000 linear metres of shelves full of documents. The oldest date back to the 14th century written in Greek and Italian documenting the history of the island and the wider area: Dalmatia, Istria, Albania, Southern Italy and Venice, Epirus and mainland Greece, the Ionian Islands and Crete.

In particular the Corfu Archives contain a document signed by Napoleon Bonaparte as witness at the wedding of one of his officers during his short stay on the island. Moreover the entire correspondence of Ioannis Capodistrias, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Empire and author of the federal constitution of the Swiss Confederation are to be found in the archives. Next to the aforementioned documents are hundreds of documents from the State of the Ionian islands, the first constitutional state to be born following the fall of the Venetian and under the protection of the Russian and Ottoman Empires (1799-1807). There follow numerous documents from the French (1807-1814) and British (1814-1864) administrations and of course the Greek administration established on the island in 1864.

The archives include unique documentation related to the European dimension of Corfu, given the fact that from the middle ages it changed administrations with each force that settled in the area: the Byzantines, Angevins, Venetians, French, Ottomans, Russians, British and Greeks.

Corfiot religious sensitivity remains true to Byzantine traditions since for centuries its art has been dedicated to Paleologian forms of inspiration despite borrowings from Italian art, while at the same time it immortalizes the art of Crete. Corfu welcomed the Cretan artists of the Diaspora when Crete passed into Ottoman hands in 1669. The work of **Michail Damaskinou**, an artist who lived between Crete, Venice and Corfu, was particularly loved on Corfu as is testified by the large number of his works that have survived. The work of **Georgios Klontzas**, **Emmanuel Lambardou** and **Jeremiah Palladas** was also well liked.

During the 17th century scenes featuring many figures were popular, as well relaxed compositions, light colours and soft angles in the depiction of clothing. Corfu went down its own artistic path showing its preferences for specific iconographic themes and subjects that were to become distinctive, such as the allegory of the Holy Communion or the Holy Confession which were particularly popular among Corfiot artists and which are repeated in a many icons.

Prominent figures of the 19th and 20th centuries

Ioannis Capodistrias (1778-1831) was the greatest figure of 19th-century Corfu. He studied medicine in Padua, but was drawn to diplomacy and rose to the position of foreign minister in Tsarist Russia. He was the inspiration behind the system of cantons current in Switzerland. Capodistrias was the first president of the new Greek state and helped lay the foundations for major social and political changes for subsequent generations.

Pavlos Prosalentis (1784-1837), sculptor and painter, studied at the school of the famous Antonio Canova. At the age of 25 he became a professor at the Ionian Academy of Sciences, founded by the French, and later founded his own school of painting and sculpture (1813). His sculpture Eros, Leander and Aphrodite is today in London. His paintings of Saint Dimitrios and Saint George are at the Platytera Monastery in the town of Corfu. His best known sculpture is the bust of Lord Adam, High Commissioner of the Ionian Islands under the British Protectorate, which is located in front of the Palace of Saint Michael and Saint George, now housing the Museum of Asiatic Art.

His son, **Spyros Prosalentis** (1830-1876), was also a painter, better known for his icons, some of which adorn the icon-screen of the town's church of Saint Spyridon.

Andreas Moustouxis (1775-1860), studied law at Padua and at the age of 19 wrote an account of the history of Corfu that remained the classic historical source for many generations to come. He was a member of the Imperial Institute of France and the Imperial Academies of Berlin and Munich.

National composer **Nikolaos Chalikiopoulos-Mantzaros** (1795-1872) wrote the music for the Greek national anthem based on the poem "Ode to Liberty" written by his friend, the poet Dionysios Solomos. Mantzaros studied at the famous music school of San Sebastian in Naples and later taught at the Philharmonic Society of Corfu. He was a prolific composer who wrote 24 symphonies, 5 liturgies, pieces for piano, marches, waltzes, songs as well as other works.

Dionysios Solomos (1798-1857) was indisputably the greatest figure of Greek letters during the first half of the 19th century. Although he was born on Zakynthos, he lived his last thirty years on Corfu. Together with Mantzaros he influenced an entire generation of poets, composers and translators who continued his work. The Solomos museum on Odos Arseniou in Corfu town houses objects belonging to the poet, as well as his archive.

Ioannis Chronis (1800-1879) was one of the leading architects of the new Greek state (1830). He studied at Corfu, Venice and at the famous Accademia di San Luca in Rome. Corfu boasts important architectural work by him: public buildings, mansions and country villas that are today considered as both historical monuments and works of art.

Iakovos Polylas (1826-1898) was a well-known politician, master of many European languages as well as ancient Greek, and director of the Public Library. He translated Shakespeare's *Tempest* and published many poems by the national poet, Dionysios Solomos.

Giorgios Theotokis (1844-1916) studied law at the Ionian Academy and in Paris. He served as minister of the commercial fleet, minister of education, minister of the interior and, finally, prime minister.

The poet **Giorgios Kalosgouros** (1853-1902) commanded various European languages as well as Latin. He translated works by Aeschylus, Theophrastes, Schiller, Torquato Tasso, Shakespeare, Ugo Foscolo and the Italian poems of Solomos. His most important translation was that of Dante's *Inferno* into demotic Greek.

Angelos Yiallinas (1857-1939) is considered the most important representative of the Ionian School. His 1906 exhibition in Paris received lavish praise and today his water-colours catch high prices at art auctions in London and Athens.

Nikos Venturas (1899-1990), engraver, painter and printer, was inspired in his work by the countryside and history of Corfu though he lived a large part of his life in London.

From a background of classical studies, philosophy, linguistics, German and Sanskrit, **Lorentzos Mavilis** (1860-1912) was known as a poet of sonnets and translator of Homer's *Odyssey* and *Iliad* as well as Dante's *Divine Comedy*. He also translated poems of Byron, Shelley and Tennyson.

The composer **Spyros Samaras** (1861-1917) belonged to the "verisimo" movement, together with Leoncavallo and Puccini. He composed many operas, but attained international recognition with the debut of his opera *Rhea*, with poetry by Kostis Palamas, which was performed at the opening ceremonies of the Olympic Games.

Author **Konstantinos Theotokis** (1827-1923) was one of the most important figures in the literary scene of the Ionian Islands. He traveled widely in Europe and studied in Paris and Berlin. His extraordinary linguistic knowledge embraced not only European languages, but also Latin, Russian, Hebrew and Sanskrit literature. He translated Shakespeare, Flaubert, Roussel, Heine and Schiller.

Eirini Dendrinou (1879-1971) was an outstanding literary figure in 20th-century Corfu, editor of the *Corfu Anthology*, fighter for the emancipation of women, and philanthropist.

Foreign personalities and Corfu

Corfu also attracted many foreign artists and writers who were inspired by the beauty of the island's monuments and natural features.

Joseph Cartwright (1789-1829), who served as general treasurer of the British Protectorate in Corfu (1816-1820), was one of the most important painters of life and nature in the island.

Edward Lear (1812-1888) was one of the most talented and evocative landscape painters of his generation and a great traveler in Greece as well as Corfu.

In the 1930s, the English writer **Lawrence Durrell** (1912-1990) and his family lived in their own house on Corfu. It was at that time that he wrote *Prospero's Cell*. His brother, **Gerald Durrell**, who also lived on the island, wrote two books: *My family and other animals* and *The garden of the Gods*.

2b vi. The cultural character of Corfu (Annex, Exhibit 23)

The values accumulated since antiquity have always given the town of Corfu an exceptional grandeur such that it has been and is still considered a leading centre for the wider area. Capital of the State of the Ionian Islands at the beginning of the 19th century, seat of a Greek prefecture since 1864 and seat of the wider administrative region since the 1980s the town was host to the European Summit in 1994.

The first Greek University was founded in the town in 1825 where Greek and Italian professors taught during its first years in operation. Today the town continues to play host to the Ionian University and the historic, first university building has been restored subsequent to the bombardments in 1944. It now houses the offices of the archaeological service charged with protecting the architectural style of the town, and is also home to many museum collections and works of art dating from prehistory to the modern day.

Primarily, though, it remains a lively and enduring administrative centre with importance for the wider area of the Ionian Islands and Western Epirus since it is seat to the region, allocating significant funds and determining the planning of important works. Placed directly opposite one end of the Egnatia and Ionian roads it represents today what it has always represented in history: a town at the crossroads between East and West, North and South.

A place of holidays for millions of people it is a meeting place too for thousands of academics and people with special interests who choose to host academic and other conferences here.

Its composite character, the lack of all manner of national or religious conflict, the non-existent crime levels, all make the town an attractive point of reference for the wider area since neighbouring Albania was always aided in times of trouble by the Corfiot population, who greeted their neighbours with a friendly and humane attitude. It is characteristic that in times of major exoduses from that country not even the slightest violent episode was noted in contrast to what has occurred in neighbouring countries. This phenomenon finds its root in the distant past since from prehistory the island has been host to populations from Greece, Illyria, Italy and elsewhere.

Flint tools such as blades and spearheads, flakes and arrows and variously decorated vessels (engraved or painted) from the Neolithic period are evidence of the relations between its residents and Thessaly during the same period (6000 – 3000 BC) and with Italy too. The vessels were made by people for storing food or for cooking and are similar to those from Macedonia to the east and Dalmatia to the north or those found in Southern Italy, Sicily or Malta to the west. The main inhabited area of the island of Corfu was always its town and it was used as a base in the relations between its inhabitants, whether permanent or passing, and Italy and Sicily. Archaeological finds from the Roman city indicate the central position it had in their culture as is also the case with the Paleo-Christian churches.

The location of the city in the Homeric epic as an exemplary kingdom ruled by a hospital lord indicates its role as a staging post for populations from other Ionian islands, the mainland, Sicily and Italy. In a sea where navigation is difficult, capable of inspiring one of the most enduring wandering myths worldwide, Corfu is the only port of haven that Odysseus comes across. Its residents were Illyrians and Libyrnians according to Strano, Kerkyrians according to Alcmanas. What is certain for the Homeric world is that the island was known for composite coexistence. The town was always a place of refuge for Byzantines when Constantinople fell to the Turks (1453), for Greeks seeking a new life in the West (1669), for Albanians and Slavs pressurized by the Ottoman expansion into Albania and Dalmatia in the 15th and 16th centuries and many members of the island's aristocracy came from these nations. It was too a safe haven for the persecuted people of Souli (1800-1815) and the Italian revolutionaries of the 19th century.

For several days too the blood sister of the French king Louis XVI found refuge in its port from the persecutions of the Jacobins. All those who passed through left their imprint, leaving behind memories of themselves, memories that are accorded their due respect since no monument has ever been willingly destroyed and the residents of the island have never wiped out the worship or forms of expression of any minority.

Thanks to its history and perhaps a generous helping of luck, all the above were impressed into its buildings, its museums, its libraries and archives to preserve the memory that peaceful coexistence is possible in an area so tried and tested in terms of war and conflicts throughout world history.

On Corfu there are no monuments to persecution only to sanctuary.

3. a CRITERIA UNDER WHICH INSCRIPTION IS PROPOSED

The "Old Town of Corfu" meets the following qualification criteria for inscription in the World Heritage List:

Criterion i. It represents a masterpiece of human creative genius

The Old Town's two Fortresses, known as the Old and the New, fall into this category. They are highly important monuments of military architecture that manifest all the basic developments in the art of defense from the 15th to the 19th century. Works of the leading architects and engineers, the fortresses are among the most accomplished complexes constructed in the Mediterranean. They have been preserved unchanged until today and are supplemented by the perimeter wall, which is preserved in parts (the coastal and western walls).

The construction of these monuments required all the creative genius of those involved to be united in an organized effort in which Science and Art triumphed over Nature. The Venetian senator Nicolo Zeno declared that, 'The place that was by its nature very strong, with skill and expense, we made impregnable.'

Corfu's fortifications alone among all others in the Eastern Mediterranean withstood five Ottoman sieges (1430, 1537, 1571, 1573 and 1716), proof of their uniqueness with regard to their defensive purpose. But the natural setting, ingenious military architecture and dedication of the population to the costly work of construction and maintenance speak for their wider importance.

Criterion ii. It exhibits an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town planning or landscape design

From an early date, the extraordinary geographical position of Corfu in the Mediterranean determined the historical role it would play throughout the ages. A crossroads between peoples, a place of encounter and coexistence, it was also an environment in which ideologies became acclimatized, a melting pot of cultures that managed to mingle harmoniously in even their most difficult contacts and exchanges.

In a manner that is unique, the 8th century city of Corinthian colonists became Macedonian, Roman, Byzantine, Angevin, Venetian, French, British and Greek. The ground preserves traces left by all these peoples either on the surface or just a few metres below. Thanks to archaeological excavation and good fortune, one can now visit the city of the Corinthian colonists, as well as their harbour, the archaeological remains of all the cultures that pre-dated them. One can see the agora of the city that inspired Thucydides about the pathology of war, Hellenistic and Roman city, with its special penchany for the theatre and games, the early Christian city with its impressive churches and venerable relics of its patron saints, the city that knew Gothic incursions, Byzantine campaigns of reconquest, Norman campaigns as these 'People of the North' infiltrated the East, the city that was efficiently administered by the Venetians who perpetuated Byzantine landownership but respected the Jews, that French enlightenment that overturned age-old social structures, the British administration that led the city from its medieval character to the Neo-Classicism that is evident in the façades of the town today, while leaving untouched its labyrinthine interior layout.

Throughout history, if rivalries existed among the communities that established themselves in Corfu, whether defined by religion or race, they never led to armed racial conflict, or reached the point of racial hatred, certainly never to extermination. Unto this day Corfu has never known racial, political or religious hatred. Today the old town of Corfu is an open air museum of cultures, a composite of different cultural traditions that has never been tainted by intolerance.

A sequence of different human establishments, each with co-existing with and contradictory cultural spheres—Byzantium, Venice, France, Great Britain and other Mediterranean powers—were interwoven over the course of their historical presence in Corfu, making the city a paradigm of cultural synthesis. And they did this together with the Jews and the waves of refugees from Turkish-held mainland Greece and Crete, after the fall of Candia in 1669. This cultural synthesis is expressed in the city's architecture, social life, painting, sculpture, icon painting and music.

The western-influenced style of the buildings, the survival of customs (such as the processions, window decorations with scarlet fabrics known as damaschi, banners, Easter celebrations, Carnival), the artistic flowering of the 18th and 19th century, the cultural foundations, the musical tradition, particularly lyric opera, are all tangible expressions of this process of osmosis from the West that went on in Corfu and only through this prism can we today approach contemporary social and cultural realities.

Criterion iv. It is an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history.

The structure and form of the Old Town of Corfu as it is preserved more or less unchanged until the present day concentrates all the features of late medieval and Renaissance walled towns in the West. It is a vivid and distinctive example of town planning and the organization of a town in relation to defensive needs.

The selective use and more general adaptation of these features to this singularly interesting physical context, as well as other local elements, accurately described the historical conjuncture that elicited this continuous and constructive dialogue of East with West, which avoids outright imitation of the powerful western models. Harmonious integration with the natural environment, a sense of proportion, a variety of elements, the complete identification of the space with the requirements that transform it, all point toward an architectural whole that is balanced, simple and comprehensive and that invites us to discover it.

The Corfiot urban dwelling that took the form of a multi-storey building, as it came to be in the Venetian period and continued to develop during the 19th century, is a very interesting building type, unique in Greece for its early appearance and valuable for the study of the historical development of horizontal property ownership from its beginnings to the particular form it takes today.

3b. STATEMENT OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

The nominated Property consists, essentially, of the space that corresponds to the once-walled town of Corfu, as it developed both dynamically and as a result of geometric planning. Influencing factors included successive, large scale interventions into the urban plan that were related to the defense system, most notably between the 15th and 18th centuries, during the period of Venetian dominance and finally in the 19th century, mainly by the British.

The Property includes : **a. the fortifications and** **b. the urban ensemble**

a. The fortifications with their crowning elements, the Old and New Fortresses, constitute a large scale technical work that was constructed to support the critical maritime and strategic role played by Corfu in the protection of the interests of the Serene Republic of Venice, but also for the projection of her moral authority and grandeur. A monument of military architecture of utmost significance, it was designed and built by some of the most famous architects and military engineers working for Venice. Moreover, its effectiveness was proven by successive repulses of Turkish attacks.

Until the end of Venetian rule (1797), the Old Fortress (which served also as the first residential core created during the Byzantine period, c. 6th century) witnessed all stages in the development of the defensive architecture. It was constantly under improvement. From the old medieval system with high, square towers and lower towers between them, they passed to the transitional system of the age of the cannon, with low, thick walls and round bastions of the same height and then the perfected system with polygonal bastions. This final form taken by the defenses, and which is preserved today almost unaltered, boasts impressive western front and two identical pentagonal bastions flanking a curtain wall (1537-1557), in accordance with the new construction techniques dictated by advances in weaponry, notably the perfection and development of cannons. This latest phase was marked by the involvement of the great Mannerist architect MICHELE SANMICHELI and his nephew GIAN GEROLAMO SANMICHELI. The former was the superintendent overseeing all fortification works in the domain of the Venetian Republic and was famous, among other reasons, for his fundamental advice concerning the evolution of fortifications and, in particular, in the area of the configuration and execution of the most distinctive feature, the system of bastions.

The enormous job of walling the town that was formerly a suburb of the medieval core and erecting the New Fortress (1576-1588) fell to the military engineer FERRANTE VITELLI, who both designed and oversaw the project. The engineer FILIPPO VERNEDA and Marshal SCHULEMBURG undertook supplementary fortification in the form of, respectively, a second line of defense (1669-1682) and a strengthening of the surrounding hills (1716-1726). These outstanding engineers and military men created a magnificent defensive complex, strikingly geometric in design and equipped with all the contemporary improvements and advances in the science of fortification (walls with a system of salients, new fortifications beyond the moat, known as rivellini and mezzalune, and arrangements for covered retreats, or ritrate, to mention just a few).

In addition to embodying all the developments in defensive science over the course of the four hundred years when the Venetians ruled the island, the fortification works of Venetian Corfu also influenced, or we should say determined, the development of the residential ensemble. The importance of Corfu's fortifications for the history of defensive architecture is huge. From both the technical and aesthetic point of view they constitute one of the most glorious examples preserved, not only in Greece, but across the Eastern Mediterranean more widely. Among other things they are considered of tremendous importance for the study of the principles for the mapping out and execution of fortifications with bastions thanks to the vast archival material that has survived, mainly in the archives of Venice.

b. The urban ensemble developed within the confines of the land and sea. Clearly defined by the perimeter walls, it consolidates all the features of urban planning distinctive to walled towns in the West, making it today a vivid and exceptionally fine example of a town's organization in relation to its defenses: large squares (fortified open spaces – Spianata) between the Old Fortress and the town, streets that along the first blocks of houses radiate outwards from the centre of the Fortress, principal routes leading directly to the gates, distinct residential cores that gradually grow denser on the basis of a planned or spontaneous construction system and make use of the terrain's main passages and morphology, a labyrinthine complex of narrow streets inside the cores. This planning framework, in conjunction with a dense and multi-storey construction style and a building morphology that assimilates, in full harmony and continuity, characteristics of a diachronic cultural process, create together a unique entity with international worth and particular importance for the history of architecture, urban planning and the fine arts. In particular, subsequent to the disasters of 1953 that almost completely destroyed the two other large Ionian urban centres (Zakynthos and Cephalonia) Corfu's importance for the history of architecture is priceless and unique.

The town's buildings dating from the period of Venetian rule are a rare example of architecture that developed on Greek soil, but was directly dependent on foreign contemporary standards, thereby representing Greek participation in the western movements (Renaissance and Baroque styles). At the same time, Corfu, being one of the few areas of Hellenism in which civilization progressed smoothly and without abrupt discontinuations, is a uniquely preserved example of an easy transition to Neo-Classicism. The latter emerged in the West as well as the natural continuity of previous styles and blended with them in a unique homogeneity. Moreover, the relationship with Neo-Classical architecture is of special importance for the history of Modern Greek architecture, since it was on Corfu that this style first appeared on Greek soil.

The 19th century buildings, characterized by the frugality of expression and the Neo-Renaissance elements, not only blend in harmoniously with other buildings since they followed the characteristics of the earliest phase of Classicism, but are also particularly carefully constructed due to the high quality techniques employed by the British.

The early date of the Neo-Classical buildings on Corfu is indicative of the differences which existed at that time between the island on the one hand, and any other area of the Balkans on the other, that is, places and peoples who almost in their entirety were at that time the European provinces of a major empire, that of the Turkish Sultans. Lastly, in addition to its morphological interest, Corfu is also important for studying the development of urban multi-storey buildings, since it is the first Greek city in which the idea of horizontal ownership appeared.

A massive body of drawings and documents relating especially to urban architecture during the 19th century, and also to public and private works during the period of Venetian rule, unique in Greece for its wealth, is today preserved in the Historical Archive, thus allowing full, in-depth academic studies to be carried out.

The symbolic character of the town

The picture of the town today is in effect a map of the history of the different phases of its development and the creative coexistence of many cultures to which it played home in turns.

Corfu, at the crossroads of caravans and transport, was always a mix of populations and ethnicities, always between two worlds—East and West—and its society had to survive amidst such diversity. The composite character of the town that resulted from its history and the ability to assimilate differences without conflict led to the development of a particular cosmopolitan atmosphere with intense European symbolism.

For more than 120 years (1669-1797) Corfu was the eastern capital of the Republic of Venice, the last European bastion, together with Vienna, against the Ottoman expansions of the 17th and 18th centuries. All Venetian efforts to retain the town were marked by the anxiety to defend a culture that depended on the endurance of its fortresses. It is no chance thing that its defense between 1716 and 1717 was taken up by Marshal Schulemberg, a military genius in the Europe of his time.

From this vital relationship between the town and the history of Europe a characteristic European feeling about Corfu arose from early on, whereby sacrifices for the survival of the Venetian state were considered to be sacrifices for the survival of a culture. The result was that the new Corfiot culture viewed itself as European. Corfu had chosen to view itself as part of European culture without eradicating those special features which made it up, its Greek, Latin and Jewish traditions.

Evidence of this is the development of opera during the 17th century and the subsequent large-scale development of the opera house in the town, which took on such dimensions that Italian troupes appeared here first before staging productions in Italy. The impression Corfu made on Casanova, the most famous cosmopolitan of the 18th century, during his stay for two to three years (around 1726) as a lieutenant in the Venetian Navy, is characteristic. In his Memoirs he writes that he felt completely at home there.

Empress Sissy chose Corfu to retire to, marking her stay on the island with a characteristic monument that combines Austrian culture with the empress's personal style. Her elegant villa, the Achilleon, remains to this day one of Corfu's most famous monuments, attracting a large number of visitors from all over the world.

However, as far as elegant villas and gardens are concerned, the British come first. It is not coincidental that the British High Commissioner, Thomas Maitland, had been named "King Thomas" for gracing Corfu (not without a sense of megalomania) with the Palace of SS. Michael and George and, with explicit references to the British knights, with a unique peristyle aqueduct and the summer villa at Mon Repos, monuments all excellently preserved and part of the town's symbolic language.

This special European and cosmopolitan character of the town oriented the development of the arts, and in particular its intellectual and social life, towards an independent form of expression for the Ionian islands, with major influences from the Venetians who had given the locals the rich visual tradition of the West from the Renaissance period.

From the 18th century onwards, the presence of a stable local upper class was obvious in local society. It was a feudal aristocracy, which absorbed foreign nobles and retained its relative independence from central power. At the same time, the Church (both Catholic and Orthodox) possesses limited administrative importance as a result of the competition between Venice and the Pope, which contributed to the emergence of a different social structure from the rest of Greece and can be identified as a unique, composite form with its origin in the West. This form of society, with a permanent commitment for development, gave rise to leading personalities who marked developments and were influenced by the political and cultural tumult of Italian universities.

In the years that followed the withdrawal of the Venetians (1797), under the influence of the French revolution, democracy was established, radicals emerged, scholars of national importance were produced, and the first Greek Public School was established in Tenedos (1805 by Ioannis Capodistrias), followed later by the Ionian Academy (the first Greek university), the Public Library (1800), the first Greek printing press, the Seminary (1820), the Greek School of Fine Arts (1810), the Bible Society (1819), the Reading Society (1836), and the Philharmonic (1840).

Following unification with Greece (1864) the entire special cultural wealth of Corfu was subjected to the choices of the centre, while bequeathing later generations important cultural influences that can still be seen today.

Overall, the Old Town of Corfu, internationally renowned, is a unique cultural entity, of a high aesthetic value:

- The aesthetic value it encompasses is recognised in the structure and form of the town, as well as in its arts, letters and social life
 - The Old Town developed diachronically, through the osmosis of features of the two worlds of the Mediterranean, the East and the West
 - It has been preserved, alive and substantially unaltered, until the present day
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3.c COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

The historic area of the Old Town cannot be regarded as absolutely comparable to any other late-medieval Mediterranean town, due to the complexity and the transformation of the cultural environment in which it is set; the cultural values embodied in the historic centre of Corfu were the result of the osmosis of Western civilizations with the Byzantine tradition and formed peculiar features which, however, cannot be substantially identified with either of its components, and are not repeated in any other place.

The features of the civilizations of the East (Byzantium/ 337-1267) and of the West (the Angevins, the Venetians, the French, the British/ 1267-1864) are integrated in the local ones, yet cannot be recognized in their entirety.

In Greece, similarities to Corfu as regards the fortification architecture, especially of the time of Venetian occupation, can be located in the major cities of Crete (mainly in Heraklion) which, however, after the fall of the island to the Turks (1669) followed a different cultural course.

The only Greek urban ensemble, which is already inscribed on the World Heritage List is **the Medieval town of Rhodes (1988)** which was, however, shaped through a culturally different, or even reverse historical course (Byzantium up to 1309, the Order of the Knights of St. John 1309-1522, Ottoman domination 1522-1912, the Italians 1912-1944). In Rhodes the already existing medieval town of western features (with mainly Gothic style monuments which were to a large extent restored during the period of Italian occupation) was subject to Turkish influences for about 400 years.

In the broader Mediterranean area analogies to Corfu can possibly be sought in the old town of **Valetta on the island of Malta**, which has also been inscribed on the World Heritage List since 1988. The town of Valetta, due to its position, served as a “port-fort” like Corfu. In Valetta one can recognize fortification and Fortresses, characteristic public buildings in the settled area lying within the walls, which were the result of multiple cultural influences due to successive conquerors (the Order of the Knights of St. John 1530-1798, the French 1798-1800, the British 1800-1964).

The town of Dubrovnik (medieval Ragouza) **and of Trogir** (on the ancient site of the Roman Tragurium) - inscribed on the World Heritage List the former in 1979 and the latter in 1997- although located on the Dalmatian coast and in geographical proximity with Corfu, differ significantly from the monument proposed to be inscribed on the list, both as regards the historical development and the general area organization.

In the town of Corfu monuments survive (some of them still in use, such as the remnants of the ancient wall in Panagia of Neratzihia and the Church of Saint Athanasios) as well as important archaeological sites (such as the Jovian basilica and the temple of Artemis, a part of which has been integrated into the medieval monastery of Saint Theodore) which distinctly and clearly indicate that the area has been incessantly inhabited since the 5th century B.C. During all those centuries Corfu has constituted an important urban center.

In addition, the fact that the island was never occupied by the Ottomans differentiates not only the historical development of the island from the neighboring Dalmatian coast, but the area organization itself: the historic centre is densely built with high edifices, thus following and reminding one of its contemporary western models (from the Renaissance era onwards) rather than the respective Ottoman ones, as is the case with the Dalmatian inland (Bosnia).

Follows an elaborate comparison between the Old Town of Corfu and the afore-mentioned late-medieval Mediterranean towns :

i. The Medieval Town of Rhodes :

The Medieval Town of Rhodes was shaped, as a remodelling of the older Byzantine town, following the patterns of the medieval towns established in Europe in the 14th and 15th century, and displays significant similarities to them. It was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1988 on the basis of criteria C (ii), (iv), (v) as one of the best ensembles of Gothic architecture in the Mediterranean, to which buildings of Islamic architecture were added in subsequent times.

Main differences : Different cultural and historical development:

- The Byzantine Rhodes was shaped in the last quarter of the 7th century AD, on the remnants of the magnificent Hellenistic settlement. Towards the end of the 11th century or the beginning of the 12th, the fortification expanded and included the settlement lying within the walls. After its occupation by the Order of the Knights of St John (1306-1309) the town acquired, as regards its defense organization, the typical form of almost all medieval towns. After the end of the Knights occupation and the surrender of the town to the Ottomans in 1522, a modest building activity followed with the exception of the old buildings and fortification maintenance. Temples and baths (hammam) as well as public utility buildings (imaret, mendreses) were integrated in the town fabric as it was shaped by the Knights. In the subsequent centuries, Rhodes will develop in a different manner, as a provincial town of the Ottoman empire. The period that followed the

cession of the Dodecanese to Italy in 1912 was important because works aiming at restoring monuments were carried out and new eclectic style buildings were erected.

- The medieval town is distinguished for its western elements, with mainly gothic style monuments, which after the final surrender of the Knight town to the Ottomans in 1522, are mixed with edifices of a typical Eastern architecture.

ii. The Old Town of Heraklion in Crete (the Chandakas of the Byzantines, the Candia or Candida of the Venetians, the Big Castle of recent times):

The first major town planning and defense organization of the old town of Heraklion which lies within the walls dates back to the time of the Arab domination (823/824-961). It is redefined ab initio during the time of the second Byzantine period (961- beginning of the 13th century) when the foundations of the town planning organization of Chandakas are laid: the town is shaped around the port, stretches to the south and further west now, and is fortified according to the standards of the era. This is the town with its medieval fortification, as it was found by the Venetians when they occupied Crete at the beginning of the 13th century and started enhancing their positions and establishing their domination on the island. The Venetians later perfected the defense system of the town, which was adjusted to the new developments dictated by the development of artillery, with the establishment of the bastions system. In addition, the fortress architecture follows the course of the historical events it is called upon to face.

Main differences:

- The existence of an organized settlement on the site of modern Heraklion dates back to the 9th and 10th century AD, according to the current archaeological evidence.
- After the occupation of Heraklion (Chandakas) by the Ottomans in 1669, the town followed a different cultural course: during the period of the Ottoman rule (1669 - beginning of the 20th century), new buildings take the place of the ruined ones, which bear the features of the architecture developed in the area of the Balkans during the time of the Turkish domination. In modern Heraklion very few buildings from the time of the Venetian rule survive and the urban fabric of the medieval town is hardly discernable amidst the subsequent modifications and buildings.

iii. The Old Town of Valetta on the island of Malta:

Valetta, the capital of Malta, is linked to the history of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. Due to the importance of its position, the town was successively occupied by the Phoenicians, the Greeks, the Carthaginians, the Romans, the Byzantines, the Arabs, and by the Order of the Knights of Malta. The monuments that survive in the town nowadays reflect the multiple cultural influences exerted on Malta (the Order of St John 1530-1798, the French 1798-1800, the British 1800-1964) during the centuries. The town of

Valetta was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1980 on the basis of criteria C (i) and (vi) as one of the most important fortified towns-ports of the Mediterranean.

Main differences:

- Malta, like Rhodes, mainly conserves its medieval character, while the dominant elements in the Old Town of Corfu are those of 18th century Italian architecture.

iv. The Town of Dubrovnik in Croatia :

The town of Dubrovnik on the Dalmatian coast, has been an important power of the Mediterranean since the 13th century. It was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1979 with an extension in 1994 on the basis of criteria C (i), (ii), (iv) concerning the originality and the conception of its urban ensemble.

Main differences:

- The historic Dubrovnik urban ensemble includes all buildings within the fortified wall, which was built between the 12th and 13th centuries. It covers an area of 15.2 hectares and the limits of the historic urban ensemble are precisely designated by the fortified wall, the old moats and the cliff to the south.

v. The Town of Trogir in Croatia :

The town of Trogir was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1997 on the basis of criteria C (ii) and (iv) as an important medieval town where fortification and public buildings dating from the Hellenistic and the Roman periods are complemented by Renaissance and Baroque buildings from the Venetian period.

Main differences :

- Like Dubrovnik, Trogir is an important urban ensemble with fortifications on the Dalmatian coast, yet the area it covers is not as big as that of the Corfu ensemble and was established much later than the proposed for inscription site did.

The historical trajectory, as it is reflected both in the town planning and the architecture of Dubrovnik and Trogir, is much more limited than that of Corfu.

The characteristics that distinguish the Old Town of Corfu can be summarized as follows :

- ♦ Archaeological sites worth visiting in the Palaiopolis area: this town existed from the 8th BC up to the 4th century AD with a well-planned urban fabric. Parts of the town lie under more recent buildings. During the Byzantine period, despite the fact that the town gradually moved from Palaiopolis to the current Old Fortress area, where the Byzantine Coryfo flourished, Palaiopolis was never deserted. The historical continuity of the town is witnessed by the fact that many of the erected Byzantine monuments integrated building elements of already existing buildings. The Old Town was shaped outside the Old Fortress with large scale town planning interventions from the 15th up to the 18th centuries. Its protection was ensured both by the two major fortresses, the Old and the New one, and the defensive line with bastions in its periphery. The Old Town of Corfu lies in between its two fortresses, the Old one and the New one. The Old Fortress, which was the initial settlement core was built during the Byzantine period, circa the 6th century, was preserved up to the end of the Venetian occupation period (1797) and underwent all the stages of the defensive art development. The final form of its fortifications which remain intact until the present is due to the mannerism architect Michele Sanmicheli and to his nephew Gian Gerolamo Sanmicheli. The New Fortress which is smaller than the Old one, dominates the northwestern part of the Old Town and inside it there is a rich network of underground arcades.
- ♦ The Venetian fortification works of Corfu are significant because on the one hand they constitute fine examples of the military architecture of the period and on the other hand they played a major role in the town development and indicate that Corfu was one of the most important military bases of Venice.
- ♦ The urban ensemble, with its limits designated through land and sea and its perimeter fortifications clearly defined, bears all the features of the walled cities of the West, while its town planning fabric still remains intact. In the historic centre of Corfu, one can discern the style of its various historical periods in the architecture of its buildings. Thus, there are buildings dating to the Venetian-occupation period which integrate Renaissance, mannerist and Baroque elements, buildings erected during the period that intervened between the Venetian and the British occupation, buildings erected during the British-occupation period which are influenced by neoclassicism, and finally some more recent buildings which bear the features of eclecticism and Art Nouveau.
- ♦ The splendor of Corfu lies in its European influences, since it was the crossroads of many civilizations. Its cultural identity is the result of a creative synthesis of diverse features.
- ♦ During more recent times (14th -19th centuries), Corfu initially and then all the other islands of the Ionian sea were severed from the rest of Greece, with which, apart from the geographic bond, they had common historical and ethnological roots and followed a completely different course. By avoiding Ottoman occupation, the Ionian Islands turned to the West and developed administrative, economic and social bonds with it, since for a long time they were part of the possessions of some Western states, especially of Venice.

- ♦ The important geographical position of Corfu, namely the fact that it is situated in the extreme of the country, in the entrance to the Adriatic, close to Italy with a special strategic, naval and commercial significance, played a major role in its development. Due to this, although it was often the target of the imperialist wishes of other peoples and despite the fact that the various foreign conquerors left their traces mainly in the architecture, it is one of the few Hellenism areas where civilization developed smoothly, without being violently interrupted, with self-reliance and a significant presence of the local element. Its architecture is distinguished for its western formal elements, which, however, undergo the necessary changes so as to be adjusted to the Greek area. Although the buildings follow the western forms they are built by local craftsmen, who adjust them to the human scale, according to the Greek perception of measure and the Byzantine tradition.
- ♦ The society that resulted from the cohabitation for a period of six centuries of the native population of Corfu with the Latin West, is distinguished for its peculiar features, which prevent one from identifying it both with the societies of the West and those of the rest areas of Greece. The result of this cohabitation is still discernible today, through the marked multiculturalism which is a significant feature of Corfu.
- ♦ Unlike other urban ensembles of the Eastern Mediterranean it is compared to, Corfu is one of the few areas in the Balkans which was free from the Ottoman influence and developed a civilization based on the Greek traditions albeit with major Western and especially Italian influences.

3d. AUTHENTICITY AND / OR INTEGRITY**3d i. Authenticity**

The development of the small Byzantine town of the Middle Ages along the lines of a western, urban model has created a complexity and originality that can be distinguished on all cultural levels and in a manner that is independent and complete, displaying itself in the town's structure and form, as well as its intellectual and social life.

The urban morphology and the residential typologies of the town inside the walls faithfully served its strategic-defense role and utilized the distinctive relief of the naturally defended position, but also the local building materials, the techniques of the more developed western civilizations, as well as the local property systems and customary procedures. All together these contributions constitute an authentic expression of the synthesis of two civilizations and avoid the risk of simple imitation of the strong aesthetic standards of the West. The application of western architectural styles is more evident in the public buildings that aspired to be monumental. However, other constructions that satisfied the needs of the mainly Greek and Orthodox local society bear witness to a gradual blending of the local and of imported elements, thus giving birth to a particularly interesting and picturesque result. This result bears the seal of the love for simplification, the sense of proportion and constitutes, culturally speaking, the marriage of East and West.

The natural environment, whether in its raw, natural form, or considered as the product of human intervention (squares, parks, groves or gardens), with its many features and the harmony in their interchange, forms a characteristically fragile small-scale environment, ideally complementing the built area of the Old Town and the clear-cut masses of the two Fortresses.

Emerging from the mixture of western rationalism and eastern spontaneity, the town's distinctiveness is highly pronounced even to this day. The town has remained a living organism through the centuries. In continuous evolution, adapting to new situations and emerging needs, the current "historical centre" came into being and is clearly distinguished from the modern city developing on its periphery. To future generations the town conveys the elements of well-rounded quality.

The 20th century interventions are related mainly to the building up of scattered open spaces created by the bombardments of World War II and have resulted in localized alterations of the city's original picture. However, these interventions represent a particular juncture in history (use of concrete, lack of peaked roofs), express the aesthetic attitudes of their time, are clearly distinguished from previous buildings and add to the historicity of the area.

As regards interventions to existing buildings or communal areas, the existence of rich records concerning the older form of both the town and its buildings, including information dating from the 14th century in the Archives of the Prefecture of Corfu, ensures the requirements for full documentation. Furthermore, the multiple ownership status of multi-storey buildings is an important contributor to the preservation of their original structural form. As a rule, repairs are only partial (individual flats), while major interventions with the use of concrete and of other modern materials are quite uncommon.

3d.ii Integrity

While the protection of Corfu's Fortresses was promptly enacted by the Ministry of Culture in 1938 following their recognition as "historic monuments scheduled for preservation", it was only recently that the Historical Centre acquired adequate terms of protection.

The reasons contributing to the good state of conservation of the Historic Centre in the post-World War II years are to be sought, in the period 1958-1967, in the existence of legal disincentives for its alteration and, since 1967, to the implementation of legislated protection measures.

The prompt enactment in 1958 of measures for land exploitation that were stricter than those already existing, combined with the multi-ownership status of buildings, have discouraged the demolition of decrepit buildings. It also acted as a brake on the implementation of urban planning attitudes in the 1950s that would have put in train the alteration of the town's traditional urban fabric in exchange for ensuring easy road traffic flow. Later on, in 1967, the classification by the Hellenic Ministry of Culture of the Old Town as "a historic monument subject to preservation and site of outstanding natural beauty or site of architectural and historical interest" has enhanced the protection policy and instituted control over the content of interventions planned for any building shell or public space, within the delimited Historic Centre.

However, the character of this national protection policy proved to be vulnerable in restraining the intense pressures instituted by the violent penetration of tourism and the subsequent social trend for "development" and modernization.

The signing of the Programme Contracts (1990, 1995, 2005) between central and local government aims to disprove such modern trends and to trace the path for the implementation of measures and projects for overall protection, controlled development and qualitative improvement - promotion of the Fortifications as well as of the urban ensemble of the Old Town.

The Office of the Old Town, the coordinating body in the Programme Contract, is becoming the body that will implement the protection policy, specify in each instance the legislated protection and manage the terms and the measures for its implementation.

As regards the confrontation of problems attributed to the intense tourist development of the area and the rational visitor management in particular, local concern has managed to produce an informal, for the time being, "visitor management scheme", which, on the basis of a local government initiative, has ensured the participation of all parties, organizations and professional industries involved.

4.a PRESENT STATE OF CONSERVATION

The present state of conservation of the historic part of Corfu's Old Town is judged as a whole as satisfactory.

- **The urban plan of the town** inside the walls is preserved essentially intact as it was at the end of the 18th century, that is, from the time when its development was completed at the end of the Venetian period. Small changes in the urban fabric are sporadic and occur in places that suffered damage from bombardment of the area in 1943. These places were either not built up again and remain empty lots, or they were rebuilt under different planning conditions. However, as a whole the street network is preserved in its original form and the residential quarters have retained the same outlines. (Map 18th c., Correr Library, Venice).
- **The functional nature of the town** has resisted the strong pressures exerted by tourist development over recent decades and, with alterations only at certain points, the range of uses has evolved naturally to include areas of habitation, commercial streets, services and entertainment.
- **The development of the urban tissue**—the consequence of cultural influences from the Venetian period (14th-18th c.) that were enriched especially during the 19th century—preserves the morphological characteristics of the historical styles that formed it and convincingly perpetuates the feeling of a late medieval town, formerly surrounded by defensive walls.
- **The two Fortresses** preserve their fortifications intact and while deterioration on account of age is gradually restored thanks to a particular programme, at the same time they are also enriched by a series of new compatible uses focusing on culture, education, tours and entertainment.

From a more detailed analysis of elements from recent inventories related to the established state of conservation of certain parts of the property, it is interesting to note the following features:

i. The condition of communal spaces:

Over recent decades a sequence of upgrading projects have been implemented in the public spaces of Corfu's Old Town (streets, squares, open spaces) both at the level of the urban grid and of street pavements, with the result that today the overall portrait of the public space can be described as quite satisfactory. Works of this sort came about as the highest priority of the Action Plan of the 14-09-1995 Programme Contract between central and local government, which established at that time a clear imbalance between the appearance of the central commercial and touristic streets that were well-tended on the one hand and, on the other, the inner regions of the town that were at the same time a place of everyday existence for the inhabitants (Annex, Exhibit 24).

To restore this imbalance and improve the quality of habitation, eight (8) entire upgrading projects for the public spaces of the most problematic areas of the Old Town were completed thanks to either the Programme Contract or the Municipality of Corfu, which made use of both national and EU funds with a total value of 10,550,000 euros.

Works sponsored by the Programme Contract :

1. Development and remodeling of the Tenedos neighbourhood, (Annex, Exhibit 25)
budget 450,000 euros funded by the 2nd Community Support Framework.
2. Upgrading of the Agios Spyridon area, (Annex, Exhibit 26)
budget 340,000 euros funded by the 2nd Community Support Framework.
3. Development and remodeling of Taxiarchis Square, (Annex, Exhibit 27)
budget 400,000 euros funded by the 2nd Community Support Framework.
4. Upgrading of the street network of Corfu's Old Town, (Annex, Exhibits 28, 29)
budget 4,100,000 euros funded by EFTA.

Works sponsored by the Municipality of Corfu :

5. Restoration-Promotion of the Porta Remounda neighbourhood,
budget 450,000 euros funded by 2nd Community Support Framework.
6. Upgrading of the streets in the NW Campiello quarter,
budget 1,500,000 euros funded by the Municipality of Corfu.
7. Upgrading of the central areas of Porta Remounda neighbourhood,
budget 1,500,000 euros funded by the 3rd Community Support Framework.
8. Upgrading of the Jewish quarter of the Old Town,
budget 1,800,000 euros funded by the 3rd Community Support Framework.

The projects involved interventions at two levels:

♦ **At the level of the substructure of urban networks:**

- The replacement of the old, non-separating and antiquated drainage system with a new, separating one that directs dirty water to the water treatment plant and rain water to the sea.
- The replacement of the antiquated water supply network with a new fire fighting system.
- The installation of a new underground grid for public lighting.
- The installation underground of both electrical and telephone lines.
- The establishment of a substructure for the underground installation of television cables.

♦ **At the level of the street pavements:**

- The replacement of the old pavements with the old materials that were removed during the course of excavations
- The repaving of sections previously covered with cement or asphalt with new paving stones of natural materials that are compatible with the character of the town and with sensitivity toward the differences between the old and the new materials.
- The upgrading of a variety of areas to facilitate their smooth functioning, such as walls, supports, stairs, ramps, parking barriers, and the aesthetic upgrading of the neighbourhoods with beds for trees and plants.

In progress today is the project for the **“Integrated interventions in the urban development of the neighborhoods of the Jewish Quarter and Spilia in the Old Town of Corfu”**. The Municipality of Corfu has provided a total budget of 4,300,000 euros from the 3rd Community Support Framework to this project, which is sponsoring a series of interventions to public spaces and building façades, mobilizing private collaboration along the way. At the same time this project is boosting commercial activity with timely initiatives and contributing to the general economic invigoration of the area.

It is estimated that after the execution and realization of these projects the necessary interventions for the upgrading of the public space of Corfu's Old Town will basically be complete and only a small number of streets (roughly 3 km.) will also require upgrading in the future.

ii. The condition of the urban tissue :

The 1510 buildings that are inscribed within the boundaries of the Old Town of Corfu constitute one of the fundamental cultural treasures of the nominated Property and, as is to be expected, they display a varying degree of conservation. A complete, analytical record of their condition was made in 1997-1998 with the creation of an architectural file for each building within the context of the work made possible under the 14-09-1995 Programme Contract between the Ministry of Culture – the Ministry of the Environment, Spatial Planning and Public Works – the Ministry of Economy and Finance – the Public Corporation for Urban Development and Housing (DEPOS S.A.) and the Municipality of Corfu, so that projects would be realized and measures taken for the upgrading and promotion of the historic area (Annex, Exhibit 30) .

In accordance with this record, from the total of 1510 buildings in the Old Town, only 55 (3.6%) are make-shift (8) or abandoned structures (25), or ruins (22), while the remaining 455 buildings (96.4%) are renovated buildings in use.

The numbers confirmed the view expressed in other chapters of this application that the Old Town of Corfu is a living organism that has steadily preserved its dynamism.

The 1455 buildings in use differ as to their state of conservation in the following manner: 150 buildings are fully renovated, 540 have parts that are renovated and others that present problems related to the disposition and ability of the owners in each case, 95 are in a poor state of repair or display morphological changes that require structural restoration, while the overwhelming majority of buildings (670) are in moderate condition, in the sense that they preserve intact their basic structure (walls, roof, floors), but have problems either deriving from changes that can be easily undone (door frames, signs, air conditioning units, television antennas, external wires or pipes, awnings etc.), or because of infrequent maintenance (plaster, paint, railings, shutters).

Since the year when the record of the condition of the buildings was made (1997) to the present day, a total of 305 cases have been recorded of buildings that have been issued building permits for repairs upon the request of the property owners. These permits were issued according to the requirements of the Urban Planning Office of the Municipality of Corfu. The architectural files for each property are kept in electronic form at the Office of the Old Town and whatever changes are made to the basic architectural elements are reported to that Office so that the record is kept up-to-date and can function as an effective data base for the programming of future works.

Until recently efforts toward the preservation, restoration and promotion of historic buildings was exclusively the result of private initiatives. Except for public buildings that belong to the public or municipal sector, or to a foundation in private law, and are looked after by the relevant owners in a systematic way with scheduled procedures, all the remaining, privately-owned historic buildings are in the hands of their owners, who run up against problems because of the fact that many buildings have multiple owners, and also on account of the rising costs of repairs that require special attention.

The first organized intervention by the State for the upgrading of the architectural wealth of the Corfu's Old Town is the programme operating within the framework of the 14-09-1995 Programme Contract and is currently being implemented. The aim of the intervention is to restore the building façades along the streets of the Old Town where work on the communal spaces has already been completed and electrical and telephone wires belonging to the owners have been removed and the substructure for a central television aerial is in place. Certain pilot projects are being completed at municipal expense (100%). These include 250 selected historic buildings that meet particular conditions (static sufficiency, multiple ownership, consistency in façade design etc.).

The first of the programmed works earmarked for immediate execution has already been completed and the results of the upgraded appearance of the space overall are satisfactory. The work involved plasterwork, cornices, eaves, balconies, door and window frames, painting and the installation of a central television aerial. The works are financed mainly by national and partly by EU (3rd Community Support Framework) revenues. It is estimated that this initiative by the State will mobilize private involvement as well and will constitute a visible paradigm in the Old Town of the quality and character of restoration work to be done on historic buildings.

iii. The condition of the two Fortresses:

During the course of the 1980s, the recognition of the gravity of the problems posed by the condition of the two Fortresses, both at the level of consolidation and operation, set in motion a system of cooperation between the state and local administrations in order to confront the situation. After the signing of a Programme Contract between the Ministry of Culture, the Archaeological Receipts Fund and the Municipality of Corfu in April 1990, a series of works and activities were begun based on a particular programme, with the result that today the situation has been radically improved. The basic principles and directions of the Programme Contract were:

1. To record and evaluate the problems of consolidation and restoration in the two Fortresses.
2. To organize and complete systematic conservation and restoration works.
3. To execute rescue works and implement urgent measures to save parts that were at risk.
4. To organize the guarding and protection of the Fortresses.

In the context of the Programme Contract over the past 15 years, the following work has been accomplished:

1. Investigative studies on:

- ♦ The cause of decay and methods of conservation of the building materials used in the Old Fortress in Corfu, Chemical Engineering Department, National Technical University of Athens.
- ♦ The technical-geological status of the Old Fortress, Applied Geology Department, University of Patras.
- ♦ The static sufficiency and durability of building materials in the Old Fortress, Department of Reinforced Concrete, National Technical University of Athens.

2. Establishment of an Office for the Conservation and Restoration of the Fortresses:

The Office undertakes the designing and overseeing of studies and also looks after the collection of all types of historical documentation relevant to the Fortresses and the town's fortification (organization of an archive of old photographic material, research into the archival material, recording of old maps and drawings). In addition, the Office collaborates closely with the 21st Ephorate of Byzantine Antiquities of Corfu, the Directorate of Conservation of Ancient & Modern Monuments, the Ministry of Culture and the Municipality of Corfu in the study and execution of projects related to other monuments and sites.

3. Executed Projects:

- ♦ Support of the S-SW gradients of the western fortified hilltop of the Old Fortress.
- ♦ Clearing of vegetal growth within the Old Fortress.
- ♦ Excavation at various points in the area.
- ♦ Earth removal in the underground sections of the Savorgnan bastion.
- ♦ Beautification of the area around the church of Saint George (Agiou Georgiou).
- ♦ Repair work to the building of the church of Saint George and supervision of the implementation of a museological study in the church's interior.
- ♦ Restoration of the appearance and surroundings of the complex that housed the British ovens and kitchens in the Versiada of the Old Fortress, and arrangement of the interior space to accommodate the presentation of an audiovisual exhibition.
- ♦ Permanent exhibition of Venetian reliefs (coats of arms) from the walls and the buildings of the Old Fortress.
- ♦ Organization of an exhibition about the fortifications of Corfu in the complex that housed the British ovens and kitchens in the Versiada of the Old Fortress.
- ♦ Restoration of the metal cross of the Old Fortress.
- ♦ Remaking of the entrance to the north hall into a ticket office of the Archaeological Receipts Fund.
- ♦ Stabilisation-restoration of the bell-tower of the Old Fortress (Annex, Exhibit 31).
- ♦ Conversion of a storeroom to a refreshment bar in the Versiada of the Old Fortress and tidying up of the surrounding area (Annex, Exhibit 31).
- ♦ Cleaning and promotion to visitors of the Kavosidero area.
- ♦ Development of the surrounding area around the new refreshment bar.
- ♦ Renovation of the service buildings in the Versiada of the Old Fortress.
- ♦ Restoration of a supporting wall in the Versiada area.
- ♦ Restoration of the Outer Gate of the Old Fortress and landscaping of the grounds (Annex, Exhibit 32).
- ♦ Restoration of the Maitland Rotunda and development of the surrounding area (Annex, Exhibit 33).

4. Studies undertaken

♦ Conducted by the Office staff :

- Study concerning the conversion of the Castel di Terra to a refreshment bar and development of the surrounding area.
- Study concerning the restoration of the Portal of the Old Fortress and rearrangement of the surrounding area.
- Study concerning the restoration of the prison complex in the Old Fortress.
- Composition of a volume of prescriptions for the announcement of a study of the restoration-promotion of the Savorgnan bastion and fore-bastion.
- Study concerning the renovation of the service buildings in the Versiada of the Old Fortress and the development of the surrounding area.
- Composition of a list of requirements for the announcement of the competition for showing interest in the designing of a study "Restoration of the defensive walls in the Kavosidero area of the Old Fortress".
- Study concerning the functions and uses of the archaeological site, the Old Fortress, and a study of furnishings and sign posting.

♦ Conducted with contributions from outside collaborators :

- Study concerning the restoration-promotion of the Savorgnan bastion and fore-bastion (Annex, Exhibit 34).
- Study concerning the restoration of the defensive walls and the promotion of the archaeological site in the Kavosidero area (Annex, Exhibit 35).

The activities of the Office are on-going and follow the annual schedule of works approved by the Joint Committee of the Programme Contract.

At the present time a programme of consolidation and functional interventions is underway in the New Fortress under the supervision of the Office.

The Office's immediate schedule of activity includes:

- Designing a study concerning the restoration of the Martinengo bastion.
- Execution of the restoration of the prison complex.
- Execution of the restoration of the Savorgnan bastion and fore-bastion.
- Execution of the restoration of the defensive walls of the Kavosidero area and development of the surrounding area.

Finally, as a positive contribution to the general appearance and condition of the Fortresses today, it is recognized that allowing use to be made of these highly valued buildings guarantees, on the one hand, the continual maintenance and overseeing of the particular establishments and, on the other, the addition of life and purposefulness to the fortifications that link them with the town's functional aspect, as was typical throughout the Fortresses' existence.

4b. FACTORS AFFECTING THE PROPERTY

The two elements (the Fortresses and the residential area) that make up the Old Town of Corfu are affected by different factors and their preservation is threatened by dangers that differ in force.

- As for the two Fortresses, it is safe to classify them as “no longer in danger”. After a fifteen year course (since 1990) of systematic tracking and concern for the fortification works it is estimated that they have been definitively rescued from dangers of breaches, demolition and disintegration that were previously wrought by both overgrown vegetation and the sea. The situation today is continuously monitored, while a significant part of earlier decay has already been restored or its restoration is planned.
- As for the Historic Centre, a living organism receiving multiple influences and evolving pressures, the situation does not permit a relaxed approach, but demands a more coordinated effort to facilitate the timely confrontation of verified or potential dangers. The most important visible dangers are:

4b i. RESIDENTIAL – DEVELOPMENT PRESSURES

A trend toward the demolition of the multi-storey, historic buildings has not been recorded, (since the legally recognized prospects for exploitation of the empty plots are much smaller than the actually exploited ones), but pressures arise primarily from the requirements that stem from the desire to fit a contemporary way of life into an antiquated building shell, as well as from the introduction of new uses that would replace the old. The danger emerging from this sort of pressure takes the form of morphological alterations to the building façades. The suspension of air-conditioning units and television aerials on the façades of buildings, the replacement of wooden shutters with aluminum, the over-elevation of roofs in order to exploit the space beneath the roof, signs, shelters and the enlargement of ground floor openings to accommodate extensions for shops—these are the most common expressions of the trend, which is manifested above all in the central, touristic area, but also penetrates elsewhere. Even though these alterations are easy to undo because they are not radical, they do affect the overall appearance of the Historic Centre and call for vigilance.

In the “inner town”, the problems are more complex in origin. The downgraded residential conditions of the aging buildings in many inner neighbourhoods of the Historic Centre (very old buildings with the complications of multi-ownership, densely built neighbourhoods with no communal spaces or services, problems of parking and other services) turned inhabitants with the financial means and a desire for the modern conditions of “quality housing” away from the area, to the suburbs instead. Once these owners were replaced, their place was taken by poorer social strata with lower demands and limited ability to afford expensive repairs to the multi-storey buildings. In this way, changes to the social fabric and the abandonment especially of the ground and top floors (spaces with the greatest structural problems) are the basis of the most serious problems in the Historic Centre.

Over the past decade the above-mentioned dangers have been stabilized to a significant degree, thanks to the implementation of a series of projects aimed at upgrading the communal areas and the restoration of building façades and, most of all, through the promotion of the cultural worth and developmental potential of cultural heritage when its authenticity and integrity are preserved.

The trends toward functional and morphological changes that were particularly striking in the 1980s have been visibly reversed. There is now evidence of a trend in which higher income inhabitants are returning to these buildings and their interventions serve as a paradigm for how the shells of historic buildings can be made into “quality housing”. In order to stimulate local discussion of how to reuse historic buildings, the Municipality of Corfu participates in a network of historic European towns for the creation of a EU programme (Interreg III – B’ Cadses Villas) that is concerned with the issue of compatible reuse of historic buildings and has a pilot mathematical model that is available to all interested parties, public or private. This model evaluates the consequences and maximizes the profit that would be derived from plans for reuse.

4b ii. ENVIRONMENTAL PRESSURES

Despite the fact that at present there are no studies related to the possible consequences of the deterioration of environmental conditions with respect to the urban tissue of the Old Town, a possible danger that could be reported from a macroscopic examination would be the increase of rainfall and humidity, which by Greek standards is already high. If the situation arises it can only be confronted by strengthening buildings through regular maintenance programmes using suitable insulation materials and applying sophisticated techniques.

Other sorts of environmental problems do not seem likely since the property is on an island that usually experiences rather strong winds that disperse possible accumulations of air pollution from traffic and there are no industrial installations in the area. Finally, the quality of the marine environment is continually improving over recent years around nearly all the coastal settlements since the installation of water treatment plants.

4b iii. NATURAL DISASTERS AND RISK PREPAREDNESS

The natural disasters that are considered a possible threat to the Property in the future are earthquakes, fires and, to a lesser degree, floods.

Earthquakes :

Although the island of Corfu is not located on any of the known faults in the Ionian Sea (tangible proof of which is the present conservation of its architectural wealth), earthquakes are in general unpredictable and no prediction of the time, strength, duration and exact location of this phenomenon can be considered certain.

Fires :

More usual for Corfu, at least in living memory, are the fires that in most cases affect the forested regions outside the built areas. Cases of fires in historic buildings on account of neglect or damage cannot be excluded, but are rare. The archives of the fire brigade record 4 such cases in isolated, privately owned houses in the Old Town over the past 20 years, but in these cases the threat did not spread. In all instances, both the installed fire-fighting system and the immediate action of the fire brigade proved highly effective.

Floods :

Because the Old Town of Corfu is in large part surrounded by the sea where rainwater naturally collects and the inner part of the Old Town is built on three natural elevations (the Campiellou, Agion Paterion and Agiou Dimitriou hills), the risk of flooding is not especially likely. The only exception would be in the case of the malfunctioning or poor maintenance of the draining system that deals with rainwater, especially in the area of the Jewish Quarter, which is located at the lowest elevation.

In order to deal with the sum total of natural disasters as potential dangers there is the General Emergency Plan (code name “XENOKRATES”) was drawn up by the General Secretary for Civil Protection in line with the responsibilities assigned to it in N 3013 / 01-05-2002 ΦΕΚ 102 / Α / 02-05-2002. The General Plan takes into account the peculiarities of every Municipality in the country and local plans, the whole being coordinated by the Directorate of Civil Protection, which forms part of each administrative region.

The city of Corfu organizes its own protection against natural disaster according to the included rulings in the LOCAL PLAN FOR CIVIL PROTECTION “XENOKRATES”, which is divided into dangers from earthquakes, fires and floods. For each instance, the PLAN organizes what action all involved sectors will take (state authorities and services, self-regulating local organs, all varieties of state, municipal and private initiatives, the scientific sector and, in general, all citizens of the region). Action is divided into two phases:

1st phase : Planning-Preparation-Prevention

2nd phase : Execution-Intervention

For each stage the participation of every involved party is organized with clear responsibilities, lists of personnel and their contact information, lists of equipment, routine preparedness exercises etc.

4b iv. VISITOR / TOURISM PRESSURES

Despite the fact that the town of Corfu is the only point of entrance-departure for visitors to the island (harbour, airport) and it is also the administrative, economic, commercial and cultural centre, it attracts only 6%, on average, of the annual number of visitors to the island. According to recent records (1996), 46% of the visitors to the island visit the town of Corfu only once, while 16% did not visit it at all. The town’s “carrying capacity”, with all its consequences—since the environmental disruption is not offset by equivalent financial profit—has been over the past years a regular subject of discussion at the local level concerning, on the one hand, the redefinition of the dominant touristic model (mass summer tourism) and, on the other, the improvement of the available rooms with regard to their number, type and age.

Despite the findings with regard to the town’s “carrying capacity”, nevertheless the flow of tourists exerts serious pressures on an everyday basis on the local community and its developmental trends, pressures that can by and large be defined in the following manner:

- ♦ **As an environmental burden**, the result of disproportionate population increase that (despite its brevity, during only the summer months) significantly afflicts the town’s structure and form, for example:
 - **the use to which property is put** is influenced by the development of tourist-related activities (shops, refreshments, other services) at the expense of small scale retail businesses, workshops, small industry, even homes, which are limited on account of the disturbance created
 - **the prices of the property have increased** prohibitively for the lower economic strata, thereby disrupting the town’s social fabric

- **basic operations in the town are complicated**, especially traffic patterns and parking, which are seen today as the most serious problems in the everyday functioning of the town
- ♦ **As social and sociological mutations** to the extent that traditional professions are abandoned in favour of tourism, customs are commercialized, the way of life bifurcates into two rhythms, summer and winter, and the previously closed, bourgeois society has become especially permissive.

In the last decade, the above findings constituted the basis for the redefinition of the type of tourism sought as well as the way in which it will be attracted. Clearly economic profit from tourism is not directly related to the increase in quantity, but to the upgrading of quality. The development of thematic varieties of tourism (cultural attractions, conferences) for the town of Corfu is a unanimous local choice that brings together the concern of all involved parties.

In the framework of a EU programme (DG XVI, "Culture" ERDF Article 10) that under the title "**Programme for Multi-Cultural Tourism**" was elaborated by the Municipality of Corfu (1997-2000) for the promotion of this choice:

- a complete record and evaluation of the cultural wealth was created,
- a network of guided tours for the full promotion of this wealth was organized (Annex, Exhibit 36),
- the establishment of a "management sector" was set in motion in order to accommodate recommended measures aimed at the general upgrading of the existing quality of services.

The activities of this programme by which information was made available in lectures, printed and electronic material, exhibitions and small conferences, set in motion both the participation of involved parties (hotels, tourist agencies, tour guides, shop owners) and the systematic promotion of the advantages to be gained from the necessary reorientation of the tourist industry.

4b v. NUMBER OF INHABITANTS WITHIN THE PROPERTY AND THE BUFFER ZONE

The estimated number of inhabitants is as follows:

Area of the nominated Property	7,200 inhabitants
Buffer zone	13,800 inhabitants
City of Corfu	28,185 inhabitants
Year	2001

5 a. OWNERSHIP

Ownership of the two parts of the nominated property differ in the following way:

- ♦ **The two Fortresses**, both the fortifications and the buildings, are the property of the Greek State and have been conceded to the Ministry of Culture. By a 1995 decision of the Ministry, certain buildings of the Old Fortress were granted for use by the Ministry of Culture to other parties:

- two buildings to the Ministry of Education for housing the Archives of the Corfu Prefecture and the Public Library
- two buildings to the Ionian University for housing the Department of Musical Studies and the Department of Archive and Library Science

According to the same 1995 resolution, both the fortifications and buildings of the New Fortress were granted for use to the Municipality of Corfu.

- ♦ **The Historic Centre** (in other words, the communal spaces) belongs to the Municipality of Corfu and is managed by it exclusively. Parties with a significant number of properties in the Historic Centre are:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| • The Greek State, | through its qualified legal representative, the Greek Public Real Estate Corporation, the Greek State owns a considerable amount of real estate used to house public services as well as for exploitation. |
| • The Municipality of Corfu, | also owns a likewise considerable amount of property, usually gifts from private individuals, that is used to house services as well as for exploitation. |
| • The Charitable Foundations, | of the Old People's Home and Orphanage, the legal representatives in private law, also own a considerable amount of real estate. |
| • The General Hospital, | the legal representative in public law, own a considerable amount of real estate, mostly scattered apartment buildings. |
| • The Psychiatric Hospital, | the legal representative in public law, own a considerable amount of real estate, mostly scattered apartment buildings. |
| • The Ionian University, | owns a considerable number of buildings in the Historic Centre, although some of these have only been conceded to the University for its own use. |

Details of ownership appear on map 18 of the Annex.

5 b. PROTECTIVE DESIGNATION

At present, policy governing the Property's protection falls under the jurisdiction of a series of different legal entities:

♦ Responsible for protection : Hellenic Ministry of Culture

Ministerial Decision B1 / Φ33 / 29925 / 828 / 27-05-80 / Government Gazette 512 / B / 04-06-80

By special declaration (Y.A. 4701/3-3-67/ΦΕΚ/183/Β/16-3-67) the Property was classified as a "historic monument scheduled for preservation and a site of outstanding natural beauty and interesting from an architectural or historical point of view". The boundaries of the declared area were amended three times and the current definition can be found in the amendment of 1980, Ministerial Decision B1/Φ33/2925/828/27-5-80/Government Gazette 512 /B/4-6-80.

By means of special declarations that commenced in 1922 (Old Fortress), the Ministry of Culture austere protects 35 highly significant monuments (fortifications, churches, buildings, important architectural elements of various constructions) within the abovementioned area and 21 in the surrounding zone. In addition, many important, "recent" (post 1830) buildings both inside and outside the Historic Centre are protected by the Ministry of Culture by special declarations:

Declared "recent" buildings inside the Property:	9
Declared "recent" buildings outside the boundaries of the Historic Centre area:	302

The total of the declared monuments appears on map 19 of the Annex.

♦ Responsible for protection : Ministry of the Environment, Spatial Planning and Public Works

Presidential Decree 22-04-80 / Government Gazette 274 / Δ / 05-05-1980

The nominated Property has been classified by the Ministry of the Environment, Land Use and Public Works in the above P.D. as a "traditional settlement".

♦ Responsible for protection : Municipality of Corfu

Presidential Decree 07-09-81 / Government Gazette 552 Δ / 02-10-81

Over the past decade, as part of the process of decentralization, significant responsibilities of the Ministry of the Environment, Spatial Planning and Public Works have been transferred to the local government, which inspects the development of construction activity through its Urban Planning Office. The construction of new buildings, additions to pre-existing ones, as well as repairs and alterations are regulated by Presidential Decree 07-09-81 / Government Gazette 552 Δ / 02-10-81 concerning the "coefficients of building surface", in combination with Royal Decree 09-04-64 / Government Gazette 37 / 14-04-64 concerning "building terms and limitations of plots of land and on the height of buildings".

Recently the town council of the Municipality of Corfu with its Resolution 23-682/24-11-2005 approved the Management Plan for the Old Town of Corfu 2006-2012.

5 c. MEANS OF IMPLEMENTING PROTECTION MEASURES

At present, the protection measures that are implemented with regard to the Property (by the relevant legal means recorded in the previous section, 5b) are different in each instance:

♦ Responsible for protection: Ministry of Culture

Ministerial Decision B1 / Φ33 / 29925 / 828 / 27-05-80 / Gouvernement Gazette 512 / B / 04-06-80

The protection enforced by this particular declaration within the boundaries of the nominated Property includes:

- a ban on demolition
- control of construction related to the exterior appearance of all buildings
- control of interventions in communal areas

Any construction work within the confines of the designated Historic Centre that falls into the above categories can proceed with the issuing of the relevant approval from the 21st Ephorate of Byzantine Antiquities, which follows the course of construction with on-site supervision.

Besides the above protection that is enforced in the entire area of the Old Town, specially declared buildings and architectural elements—either within the Property or Buffer Zone—are austere protected, with supervision extended to all construction works in the interior as well.

Because the Property's Buffer Zone embraces scattered declared archaeological sites, 21 isolated declared monuments and 302 “recent” (post 1830) declared buildings with a buffer zone ranging from 150-500m., the result is that nearly the entire buffer zone requires some sort of inspection:

- in the case of properties adjacent to archaeological sites, excavation is inspected in order to determine whether antiquities are present before a new structure is built on the site
- the size and design of the planned new building is checked in order to determine whether it is compatible with the adjacent Monument/Property

♦ Responsible for protection: Ministry of the Environment, Spatial Planning and Public Works **Presidential Decree 22-04-80 / Government Gazette 274 / 05-05-1980**

Direction and control of urban planning for the protection and development of the area, a procedure currently evolving, is the responsibility of the centralized services of the Ministry.

The regional services of the Ministry have control over studies of environmental effects and approve the positions of new constructions and the development of works.

Additionally, in accordance with the above declaration, all interventions to modify communal spaces in the town must be approved by the Municipal Committee for Architectural Inspection, which operates within the framework of the Prefectural Administration.

♦ **Responsible for protection : Municipality of Corfu**

Presidential Decree 07-09-81 / Government Gazette 552 D / 02-10-81 and

Royal Decree 09-04-64 / Government Gazette 37 D / 14-04-64

The decrees that determine the boundaries within which construction can take place legislate a small potential for the development of existing plots within the Historic Centre. These ensure the protective designation of the area in that they

- discourage the demolition of old, multi-storey buildings
- ban, as a rule, sizeable additions to pre-existing buildings threaten to alter the town's appearance

Recently, in recognition of the complex nature of the problems facing the Old Town, the Municipality of Corfu, in collaboration with the Corfu Branch of the Technical Chamber of Greece, drew up a "Management Plan for the Old Town of Corfu 2006-2012" for the concerted and long-range management of the area for its protection and development. The Plan made use of the lengthy (15 years) experience of the Municipality, together with the other parties involved with the issues of protection (the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of the Environment, Spatial Planning and Public Works), and determined a plan of action for all the relevant local and state authorities.

5 d. EXISTING PLAN RELATED TO MUNICIPALITY AND REGION IN WHICH THE PROPOSED PROPERTY IS LOCATED

Plans already approved which influence to a greater or lesser degree the development of the Property and its existing uses are as follows:

(the title of the plan, the authority responsible and the permit number are noted)

**1. General Urban Planning Scheme ♦ Ministry of the Environment, Spatial Planning and Public Works
♦ Ministerial Decision 78140 / 3271 / 12-11-86 / Government Gazette 55D / 05-02-87**

This regulates land use, determines the size of building plots and the building coefficient, and defines the mechanisms by which the plan will be applied.

2. Town Plan ♦ Ministry of Reconstruction ♦ Royal Decree 04-06-58 / Government Gazette 88 A / 10-06-58

Determines which areas may be developed. Under revision.

3. ♦ Royal Decree 09-04-64 / Government Gazette 37 D / 14-04-64

Fixes the requirements for building sites and determines the height to which buildings may legally be constructed. (Annex, Exhibit 41)

4. ♦ Ministry of the Environment, Spatial Planning and Public Works ♦ Presidential Decree 07-09-81 / Government Gazette 552 D / 02-10-81

Determines building coefficients throughout the urban area. (Annex, Exhibit 42)

5. Programme for local development, Municipality of Corfu ♦ ANEDK / 8 / 13-08-98

Keeps detailed records (demography, production, urban planning, etc), elaborates development goals, and programmes and prioritizes the necessary development works.

6. Action Plan for the Old Town ♦ Municipality of Corfu

Refines the development goals in the Historic Centre, determines the features of its protective designation, the development to follow, and suggests a series of means, methods and projects to meet these goals.

7. Action Plan for the Fortifications

Records the problems, defined the promotion and reuse of the facilities that need to be adjusted, prioritizes goals and selects a series of projects to be realized.

8. Programme for Multi-Cultural Tourism ♦ ANEDK

Keeps a detailed record of the cultural and functional dimensions of the Old Town, establishes a network of guided tours to allow a fuller appreciation of the wealth of the Old Town, and puts into effect a series of measures and actions necessary for its implementation.

5 e. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT PLAN OR OTHER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The Municipality of Corfu, in collaboration with the Corfu Branch of the Technical Chamber of Greece, has drawn up a Management Plan in order to confront problems effectively and guarantee the development prospects of Corfu's Old Town. The "Management Plan for the Old Town of Corfu 2006-2012" was composed by a two-member team of architects who took into account the state of the Property as well as their own experience as co-ordinators of Programme Contracts between state and local authorities that were concerned with the Historic Centre and the Fortifications, respectively, and framed the initial Plan.

This initial Management Plan was presented to specialized committees of the two parties that were responsible for its composition (the Corfu Branch of the Technical Chamber of Greece and the Municipality of Corfu) and was further elaborated and developed. After its acceptance by these two parties, it was presented to the local community (in electronic and printed format, professional and citizens' councils) and forwarded to other relevant parties—the Directorate of Byzantine and Post Byzantine Antiquities of the Ministry of Culture, the Regional Government of the Ionian Islands, the Prefectural Administration of Corfu—for their approval. Finally, once it had been the subject of discussion and consideration, it was ratified by the town council.

The Management Plan is a systematic guide to the protection of all the cultural wealth contained within the Old Town of Corfu. It isolates 32 issues that impact on the nominated Property and for each issue it records the conditions as "acknowledged". The Plan's 140 "acknowledged" issues recognize all the dangers and risks that threaten the Property today, as well as the problems of the existing management techniques, and formulate possible ways of confronting the problems. The sources behind the composition of the catalogue of acknowledged issues are multiple and derive from different development policies: urban planning and regulation, scientific research and, especially, practical experience from the everyday running of the town and a full awareness of the cultural wealth involved.

In order to deal with the 32 issues, an equal number of targets were set, which in turn led to the formulation of 88 measures to be taken in order to meet these targets. The measures that are not classified as "on-going" are scheduled for completion on a short (maximum 2 years), medium (maximum 6 years) and long (ten years or more) time frame. There are many authorities involved in the realization of these measures, and they are different in character, including state agencies, first and second level local administration, public organizations.

The Management Plan is, above all, a programme of action for all involved agencies and organizations and it is aimed at the same goal, namely, the coordinated management of the Property.

The Management Plan is divided into five (5) chapters:

Chapter 1 : INTRODUCTION

The nominated Property, the necessity of a Management Plan and its preparation, the aims, content and parameters of its application.

Chapter 2 : DESCRIPTION AND IMPORTANCE OF THE PROPERTY

Brief description and history of the nominated Property, listing its cultural worth and importance, documentation for its inscription in the World Heritage List, status ownership and management.

Chapter 3 : ISSUES FOR MANAGEMENT AND TARGETS

Pin-pointing of the issues confronting the Property, recording of the “acknowledged” status of each issue and of the targets designed to deal with the problems, dangers and threats.

Chapter 4 : MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Programming of measures for the achievement of the Plan's goals, delimitation of the time frame for implementation and the agencies involved in each measure.

Chapter 5 : APPENDIX

Bibliography, detailed historical documentation, documentation regarding the development of the urban tissue, description of the buffer zone, approved plans related to the Property.

5 f. SOURCES AND LEVELS OF FINANCE

Activated sources and available allocations of funding for the Property derive chiefly from the Office of the Old Town that is provided for by the Programme Contract 2006-2012 between the Ministry of Culture – Ministry of the Environment, Spatial Planning and Public Works – Archaeological Receipts Fund – Municipality of Corfu.

The annual budget of the Programme Contract totals 600,000 euros (as provided for in article 7 of the Programme Contract) derived from sources from 4 contributing Members, as followed:

a) from the Ministry of the Environment, Spatial Planning and Public Works,	150,000.00 euros
b) from the Archaeological Receipts Fund,	170,000.00 euros
c) from the Ministry of Culture,	130,000.00 euros
d) from the Municipality of Corfu,	150,000.00 euros

The above annual budget is supplemented, on a one-off basis, by non-absorbed grants under the Old Town Programme Contract of 14.09.1995, in order to facilitate completion of the works planned under the present Programme Contract. These grants are as follows:

From the Ministry of the Environment, Spatial Planning and Public Works / ETERPS :

2,612,000 euros for projects restoring building façades

From the Ministry of Culture :

645,630 euros for the restoration of the Agia Aikaterini complex

The funding listed above is stable and essentially covers the running costs of the Office, the salaries of its employees and a part of the expenses of funding studies allocated to external collaborators. It is the joint obligation of the Office of the Old Town and all the other contributing Members to find additional sources so that projects can be undertaken by means of EU and state funding, a practice that over the past decade has proven quite successful.

For example:

- between 1995 and 2005, the Old Town Office executed projects in the Old Town of Corfu with a total budget of 10,550,000 euros with funding from the 2nd and 3rd Community Support Framework, the EFTA and the Municipality of Corfu, in accordance with the list in chapter 4a i.
- from 1993 to 2003, the Programme Contract for the Fortifications, utilizing funds from the Ministry of Culture and the Municipality of Corfu (60% the former and 40% the latter), put into operation projects concerning the general order of the fortifications for the annual sum of 300,000 euros drawn from the relevant programme. In addition to the above funding, the Office managed to procure supplementary funds, with the result that it was possible to undertake the works referred to in chapter 4a iii.

Other agencies invested funds in the Property for the undertaking of projects with either direct or indirect impact on its promotion:

- **The Ministry of Culture**, through two regional offices that are active in Corfu—the 21st Ephorate of Byzantine Antiquities and the 8th Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities—supports projects annually with considerable budgets:

For example, during the five year period from 1995-2000, the 8th Ephorate of Byzantine Antiquities (now the 21st) invested 2,050,000 euros in projects.

In addition, from 1998-2000 with the collaboration of these two Ephorates, the Ministry of Culture carried out significant interventions to the physical plant and organization of the Museum at the archaeological site of Palaioiopolis, to the cost of 5,282,500 euros.

- **The Ionian University**, having operated for twenty years in facilities granted it in the Old Fortress and Old Town, has carried out a series of restoration works of important buildings, thus contributing to the promotion of the overall appearance of the town. For example, between 1994 and 1999 the completed work of restoring four important edifices in the Old Town came to 13,210,000 euros.

5 g. SOURCES OF EXPERTISE AND TRAINING IN CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES

The state decision to make the town of Corfu the seat of the Ionian University, with a focus of interest on historical studies, archival and library science, musical studies and translation/interpretation, points to a first recognition at the national level of the town's cultural character. Its historical environment, rich archival material centered at the Archives of the Prefecture of Corfu, the Public Library and the libraries of other local foundations, the musical tradition and the local society's steady orientation in recent years towards tourism constitute a clear stimulation to found the University and with the abovementioned studies at its focus. At the same time, the University enriches Corfu directly by the presence of scholars specializing in subjects that relate to the protection and management of the Property and, in addition, creates an "open" environment locally, with lectures and collaborations with other cultural foundations and the scholarly world more generally.

The most systematic of these collaborations can be considered that between the Faculty of History at the Ionian University and the School of Architecture at the National Polytechnic School of Athens, which commenced in 1999 and is on-going. Fruit of this collaboration includes the formation of a Faculty of Post-Graduate Studies at the Ionian University that is addressed to engineers, archaeologists and historians and has as its theme the "recognition and confrontation of problems related to urban planning and construction in the town from the 16th century onwards".

Another way in which specialized knowledge is communicated to the local sphere is through the Corfu Branch of the Technical Chamber of Greece, which frequently organizes scholarly lectures, meetings and both small and large conferences on subjects related to the character and problems of the town, the preservation of the Historic Centre, the management of problems related both to the buildings themselves and to development.

Similar activities are initiated by the Archives of the Prefecture of Corfu in collaboration with the National Archives of Greece, or other European universities or scholarly authorities, or the 6th Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities together with the relevant direction from the Ministry of Culture, or the 21st Ephorate of Byzantine Antiquities of Corfu.

The Municipality of Corfu participates in a network of historic Mediterranean towns and organizes quite regularly working meetings and scholarly conferences focused on issues that preoccupy the town of Corfu. The Municipality also maintains a respectable level of collaboration with ICOMOS, scientific associations of engineers and architects, the scholarly arm of the relevant ministries.

5 h. VISITOR FACILITIES AND STATISTICS (Annex, Maps 20, 21)

Over the most recent decades, tourism has been the most important source of income for the town of Corfu, and for the entire island as well. Even though the town of Corfu is the only place of entrance-departure for visitors to the island, it manages to keep in its accommodations only 6% from the annual wave of roughly 1,100,000 visitors, while 46% visit the town only once and 16% not at all. Apart from the reorientation of the dominant tourist model toward one with emphasis on quality and culture—an issue that greatly preoccupies the local people in recent years—the relationship between tourism and local society also needs rebalancing and conflicts resolved, especially in the light of necessary protection and support required by the town's monumental character.

Given this approach, not only do the sought-after increase of the tourist wave, both in quantity and quality, that the town is undergoing and the lengthening of the tourist season—since culture does not have particular seasons when it can be enjoyed—not collide with the protection the Property requires and its operational framework, but to the contrary, these developments assist the town since they guarantee the terms for the invigoration of the local economy and the support for the local society, whose participation in the protection and preservation of the town as a single, living organism is fundamental.

It is collectively appreciated that the town of Corfu today possesses the potential to ensure in a satisfactory way all the necessary tourist services, such as:

- ♦ **Visitor information**, either before or during a visit to the town. This information is available by means of:
 - Electronic publicity on the website of the Municipality, the Corfu Branch of the Technical Chamber of Greece and other websites concerned with tourism
 - A series of tour guides and special pamphlets available on the market
 - Public information kiosks located in strategic positions in the town
 - Touch-screen machines at significant places
 - Public notices of events
 - Signs posted at sights and important monuments
 - Programmes of guided tours organized by tourist offices
 - The local office of the Hellenic Tourism Organization (EOT) and the tourist police

Accommodation

Within the boundaries of the Municipality of Corfu, there are 8,200 beds divided into the categories Luxury (21.4%), A (23.71%), B (16.22%), C (29.58%), D (5.64%) and E (3.44%). It is worth noting that 4 of the 5 units in the Luxury category on the island are in the Municipality.

Of the above numbers, a small percentage (17%, or 1420 beds) are within the Old Town, with Luxury (14%), A (6%), B (23%), C (42%), D (11%) and E (4%).

Leisure

There are many refreshment facilities (cafés, pastry shops, restaurants, tavernas, bars) clustered together with shops along the central streets of the Old Town. It is worth noting in particular the existence of three popular cafés in fine positions in the Old Town and a restaurant on the island of Vido, as well as the café-restaurant facility in the Old Fortress and the refreshment bar in the New Fortress, which further enhance the quality of a tour through the Property.

Shops

The central area of the Historic Centre today possesses a large number of small retail shops oriented toward the entire town and island that over mainly the last decade have replaced the everyday shops (grocer, butcher, fish monger), which are now significantly reduced in number. Shops specializing in tourist wares (gold, leather, ceramics and gifts) are now mixed in with the aforementioned type and are increasing in number, while a considerable number of streets are given over entirely to this type of shop.

It is generally appreciated that the development of the tourist trade has reached saturation point, that the capacity of the Historic Centre has been exhausted and, consequently, the sought-after upgrading of tourist activity, as well as the quality of life for the inhabitants, must deter numerical increase and focus on the upgrading of the quality of the existing units.

Sports

Beyond the boundaries of the Historic Centre lie the facilities of the Municipal Gym, with an indoor gymnastics hall as well as open spaces for training and sports, and courts for basketball and volleyball.

Part of the northern section of the Spianada is given over seasonally to preparations for cricket matches (organized championship with English teams).

The facilities of the Yachting Club are at the Mandraki of the Old Fortress where there is a school for open sea sailing that had enjoyed considerable development in recent years (organized Mediterranean Games). In addition, the Corfu Club of Marine Sports, an organization with a long history and wide appeal in the community, plays a part in the training of young people in water sports (rowing, sailing, swimming, water polo).

In the “Greater City”, so to speak, there are ample tennis courts (belonging to private individuals or clubs). With their constant activities and initiatives (organization of international competitions) tennis clubs have done well at involving school-age children in the sport, creating the conditions for high ambitions.

Local sports’ enthusiasts make a concerted effort at the Sports Centre where associations for the classic track and field sports take their training seriously and support warmly the water polo matches (the local team is in the top national category) that are held in the indoor pool as well as the football and basketball matches in the outdoor facilities.

Health Care

Local needs are basically covered by the General Hospital of the Prefecture and recent construction and extensions at the Hospital have improved and widened the health services available on the island. In addition to this facility, the Corfu Health Centre operates at the centre of the Old Town, with out-patient facilities for first aid care.

The private sector supplements Public Health Care, especially during the height of tourist season, and has a significant number of beds, while a relatively large number of private clinics cover all the specializations, thus guaranteeing that the “first degree” of health care is provided at a satisfactory level.

Other Services

All the administrative services at the prefectural level are established in the “Greater City” of Corfu and many have more than one subdivision that is located in the central area of the Old Town. For visitors’ needs, in particular, branches of the Greek Postal Service, Hellenic Tourism Organization, Olympic Airways, Telecommunications Organization, and Tourist Police exist in the Old Town. Nearly all Greek banks, as well as many foreign ones, have local branches that served the increased needs of the whole population during the summer period for bank transactions such as currency exchange, while nearly all offer the availability of Automatic Banking Machines for swift service round the clock. The town’s orientation towards tourism is confirmed by the significant rise in tourist agencies, which are located primarily along the street west of the Spianada, and by the large number of pharmacies that are aimed at a population much larger than the permanent one. Finally, Consulates of all European countries as well as many others exist to serve the needs of the foreign visitors.

♦ Cultural Activities (Annex, maps 22 and 23, Exhibits 21 and 22)

Structures serving cultural purposes in the town today include:

- **7 Museums**, located both within and outside the Historic Centre and covering different areas of interest, constitute the most systematic promotion of the local cultural identity. The activities of the museums also include, according to the resources of each institution, exhibitions on certain themes, educational seminars as well as special, guided tours for students.

❖ **The Solomos Museum, Arseniou Street (Mouraya).** Located in the house where the national poet of Greece, Dionysios Solomos lived most years of his life (1798-1857), the Solomos Museum was founded by the Society for Corfiot Studies and operates both as a museum as the Centre for Solomos Studies.

The Museum contains the poet’s study, a small autograph and a rich photographic archive of places, personalities and events relating to his life, work and age. There is in addition a fine library dedicated to matters related to Solomos, which includes among other things all the old editions of the “Ode to Liberty” (the Greek National Anthem) and a series of portraits of the poet and members of the so-called Solomos School.

❖ **Archaeological Museum of Corfu, Arm. Vraïla Street 1.** It was built in the 1960s to house the ancient material that has been brought to light and constitutes the most direct witness to the art and culture of the great marine power of the Ionian Sea, which reached the apex in the 6th and first half of the 5th c. B.C.

The archaic works of small and large scale sculpture, and the metal and ceramic objects displayed in the Museum support the view that toward the end of the archaic period the artistic school of Corfu attained its peak, with its own style and without the influence of its mother city Corinth.

Among the exhibitions in the Museum are archaic funerary monuments and funerary gifts from the town’s necropolis in Garitsa, archaic kouroi and korai, the Dionysos pediment with a depiction of a symposium, ceramic objects and tools, a rich numismatic collection, marble statuary from the Roman period. The most impressive object displayed in terms of size and artistry is the Gorgon pediment (585 B.C.) that adorned the western end of the great Doric temple of Artemis and is the earliest surviving stone pediment.

❖ **Museum of Banknotes, Ionian Bank building, Plateia Iroon.** Unique in Greece and one of the most interesting of its kind in the world, the Museum has functioned under the auspices of the Ionian Bank since 1981.

A rich collection of rare banknotes from the history of Greek currency, from the mid 19th century to the present, the Museum also has on display engraving plates, proofs, bank documents, stamps etc.

In addition, the process by which a modern banknote is produced, largely unknown to the general public, is reproduced in detail: the engraving of the sketch on metal plates, the preparation of special paper, the method of watermarking, the printing process on modern machines, as well as storing and distribution.

❖ **The Antivouniotissa Museum, Arseniou Street (Mouraya).** Housed in the Church of the All-Holy Mother of God, Lady Antivouniotissa (single-aisled, wooden-roofed basilica with a narthex on three sides), this Museum is one of the oldest and richest ecclesiastical monuments in Corfu. Representative of the so-called Ionian Island basilica type, it was probably built in the 15th century.

From 1984 a wealthy collection of portable icons and treasures has been exhibited there, with important works (15th-19th c.) by named and anonymous artists that bear witness at high artistic and aesthetic levels to the mingling of the Byzantine tradition and western influences.

From Tzafouris, Michail Damaskinos and Emmanouil Lampardo to Emmanouil Tzanne, Viktor and Michail Avramis, the Antivouniotissa Museum represents a full five centuries of religious art.

❖ **Museum of Ceramic Art (English Barracks, New Fortress).** The Museum gathers together a large number of surviving examples of Corfiot ceramics, an art that once experienced a special flowering.

Starting with ceramic production from the mid 16th century, it gained distinction at the end of the 18th and early 19th centuries with the first income of Corfu from industrialized production—80,000 pots per year and large quantities of tiles and bricks—that not only met local requirements in everyday life and construction, but great numbers were exported.

Without ever reaching a high artistic level, Corfiot ceramics were respectable works of popular art that were distinguished for their simple, elegant shapes, variety of designs and spare painted decoration.

❖ **Museum of Asian Art (Palace of Saints Michael and George).** Unique of its kind in Greece, the Museum has been housed from 1927 in the now renovated, important building of British rule, the Palace of Saints Michael and George.

The initial donation of the Collection of Ambassador G. Manos, which included 10,500 works from the Far East (China, Korea, Japan) was later augmented with new gifts (the N. Chatzivasiliou, Ch. Chiotakis, PI Almanachos and I. Siniosoglou collections), which expanded the geographical coverage of the Museum to include India, Pakistan, Indochina, Tibet and Nepal.

Today the Museum houses 11,000 objects in total, from which can be distinguished, from the Chinese collection, early cult vessels of bronze (1200-1027 B.C.), a collection of cult images from the Tang dynasty (6th-9th c.), porcelain from the 14th-19th c. and painted cylinders from the 12th-18th centuries. From the Japanese collection we may mention the arms and parts of Samurai armour (16th-18th c.), No theatre masks (1338-1578 A.D.), lacquered wood articles and unique impressions on fabric and paper (17th-19th c.). The Japanese and Korean paravents are impressive as well as the Chinese and Japanese miniatures in ivory and semi-precious stones.

Of special interest is the unique Helleno-Buddhist collection with sculpture from Gandara in Pakistan, dated from the 1st-5th centuries A.D., which show traces of Hellenistic influence. This collection was a gift of M. Alexandrou who spent time in the region.

❖ **Museum of Palaioiopolis-Mon Repos:** Located in the archaeological site of Mon Repos, this new museum is essentially a diachronic museum of the town. On the one hand, the Museum displays the character of the Villa and Estate as a monument of cultural and natural heritage, presenting the historical period in which it was built and used, while on the other hand it demonstrates more generally the history of Palaioiopolis as a town with an extensive past that can be seen, somewhat fragmentarily and impressionistically, in the monuments. The Museum offers the visitor a well-rounded view of the town of Corfu from antiquity to the present.

- **11 Public exhibition spaces** in the Historic Centre and the two Fortresses, with varying potential in terms of size and organization, contribute to the cultural sphere by offering permanent and periodical exhibitions and organizing related events. Among these spaces are:

❖ **Municipal Picture Gallery, Palace of Saints Michael and George.** Housed in the special wings of the palace, the Gallery hosts a permanent exhibition of works by Corfiot painters in the greatest age (19th c.) of painting, as well as special exhibitions of works by more recent artists.

The works in the Gallery's permanent exhibition derive mainly from gifts from private associations and constitute the most incontestable evidence of the artistic and cultural flowering of Corfu in periods where the rest of Greece did not yet exist as a state, as well as of the yoking of currents and trends, ideas and important personalities who were living and active in this place. The dominant trends were academic, but also those the artists absorbed from Italian painting.

Among the Gallery's best known works are the *Murder of Capodistrias* by Ch. Pachis, *Markas and the flock* by Angelos Yiallinas, *Sphinx* by S. Skarveli, *Fighter in the Greek War of Independence* by S. Prosalenti, *Arab Musician* by P. Prosalenti, *Piano Tuner* by G. Samartzi, works that sum up the basic directions of modern Greek art of the 19th century.

❖ **Reading Society.** Founded in 1836, the Reading Society is the oldest cultural foundation of modern Greece, based on the homonymous society in Geneva, of which Capodistrias, Calvos and other Ionian Islanders were members. Besides their general library, the Society possesses an invaluable library related to the Ionian Islands, unique of its kind and in its richness, with collections of paintings, old maps and engravings, old printed material, pamphlets, broadsheets and photographs. The Society organizes or hosts exhibitions of artists, lectures, seminars, scholarly conferences and musical concerts, as well as publishing an annual journal with studies related to the Ionian Islands and especially Corfu.

❖ **Archives of the Corfu Prefecture in the English Barracks of the Old Fortress.** The Archives contain priceless material for the study of collective memory, placing it among the richest and largest archives in Greece, second to the General State Archives. Since 1998 they have been housed in the north wing of the recently renovated Old Fortress.

The 10,000 linear meters of archival material covers the period from 1320 to the present.

Legislated for the first time in 1443 by Venice after local initiative, the main series of documents starts from after 1537 since the Archive of Corfu was almost entirely destroyed during the Turkish siege.

Today there are more than 67 archival sequences, of those classified, and the catalogue includes many examples of unique documents. Venetian Domination, Venetian Administration, Health Board, Head Priests, French Republicans, Russo-Turks, Imperial French, General Public Prosecutor's Office, Home Administration, Provincial Ionian Government: these are some of the titles in the series.

- **10 Exhibition and conference spaces**, 3 of which belong also to the previous category. The remaining 8 are used either for smaller gatherings of 40-50 people or larger ones of 600 (Municipal Theatre). Together the spaces provide for a satisfactory cross-range of needs. The imminent completion and functioning of the Conference Centre of the Holy Metropolitan See, as well as the recent establishment of the Hall at Mon Repos, complement the spaces already available, thereby ensuring a quite satisfactory infrastructure for conferences.
- **8 Outdoor spaces for events** in the Historic Centre and the Fortresses where mass gatherings can be held in the summertime. Customary spaces include the Versiada of the Old Fortress (4000 spectators) and the Spianada (2,000-3,000 spectators), while for smaller gatherings the small squares of the Old Town can be used.

Parking

In the greater area of the Historic Town, 4,150 legal public parking spaces are available, of which 973 are controlled parking spaces either off-street or on-street. The existing parking spaces become 4,950 if illegal ones are included. The demand for parking spaces in the central area by the people who live there is for 4,450 private cars, which means that only 500 spaces remain free for use by visitors.

There are 3 locations of public, controlled off-street parking areas (Spilia - Old port with a capacity of 230 spaces), Spianada with 248 spaces and Laiki Agora with 97 spaces. The turnover rate varies between 2.67 and 3.36 vehicles per parking space daily. The parking pricing is limited to the 3 controlled off-street parking areas and to the limited locations with on-street parking cards.

5 i. POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES RELATED TO THE PRESENTATION AND PROMOTION OF THE PROPERTY

The policy related to the protection of the Property, which aims at its preservation and development, goes hand in hand with a policy for the presentation and promotion of its features and merits. It is an established fact that the question of measures and methods of promotion has been an ever greater concern over recent years for local and national programming. Even though this search is being conducted mainly for reasons that have to do with the economy-tourism and development, nonetheless it contributes also to the develop of activities that at the same time facilitate the transmission of cultural values to coming generations.

There is a shared awareness that the safest way to transmit cultural values is by preserving life in the Open Museum, that is, Corfu today.

This goal, which determines the policy pursued, is attained through strategies such as:

- The enrichment of new uses to which the old shells of historic buildings are put, especially those located in the two Fortresses, in order to preserve their integration with communal life and their role in everyday survival.
- The modernization of residences and spread of the availability of conveniences that are considered to be essential to the modern way of life, so that the inhabitants remain living there.
- The solution of functional problems in the town related to traffic so that the necessary use of vehicles can be ensured without undesirable side effects.
- The guarantee of good conditions for the delivery of all services at the municipal level.
- The upgrading and promotion of the appearance of the communal areas.

Supplementary measures that reinforce understanding of the cultural values of Corfu as a total monument and publicize it are as follows:

- **The organization of special exhibitions on particular themes**, with archival material or that from collections, as well as other documentary material, which is made possible either by state or local authorities, or by various schemes of collaborating Greek and foreign scholarly and cultural organizations. These exhibitions usually are accompanied by special publications (catalogues) and other printed materials (pamphlets, posters) that serve to inform a wider audience.
- **The organization of conferences (international and Greek)** on subjects related to the history and culture of Corfu.
- **The promotion of research programmes**, with EU or state funding, aimed at either the documentation of the place, or the adaptation of new technologies of conservation and development that would enhance the architectural wealth of Corfu.
- **The promotion of special educational programmes**, that are integrated into school materials in order to sensitize young people, such as the organization of school trips to museums, exhibitions and other cultural spaces.
- **The promotion of programmes dedicated to instruction and education** of the local population, both scientists and technicians, in the state of repair of the Historic Centre, so as to ensure the proper circumstances for its preservation.
- **The increase in the number of museums**, by enriching the existing museums with others focused on different fields of interest, which are lacking today, such as a Museum of the Town of Corfu, Folklore Museum, Museum of Technology, so as to better organize and transmit knowledge.
- **The participation in international organizations** (ICOM, ICOMOS, ICRROM) that are concerned with cultural heritage in order to exchange experiences, spread information, promote the treasures of Corfu among specialists.
- **The use of electronic and printed communication-updating** in order to promote the Property among a wider audience, such as television and radio programmes, special issues of periodicals (specialist and not), circulating relevant CD-ROMs, creating an electronic archive in an information bank, developing websites, etc.
- **The support of historical research** through funded programmes since the enrichment of existing knowledge and different approaches to the material make it more interesting and acquaintance with it more attractive.

5 k. STAFFING LEVELS (PROFESSIONAL, TECHNICAL, MAINTENANCE)

At the local level, the technical staff specialized in protection and conservation consists of 400 members of the local branch of the Technical Chamber who are scientifically trained, of which 100 are architects, while at the level of technicians there are 4200 members of the Technical Chamber of Corfu who are occupied with construction projects.

The Office of the Old Town of the Programme Contract 2006-2012 between the Ministry of Culture- Ministry of the Environment, Spatial Planning and Public Works- Archaeological Receipts Fund- Municipality of Corfu, is the authority occupied exclusively and systematically with the many-faceted issues related to the Old Town. This Office is staffed with people from the two previous Programme Contracts, thereby making the most of their cumulative experience. A considerable number of talented, specialized collaborators, both scientific and technical, have been assembled and make up the permanent personnel of the two Offices.

The Office of the Fortifications Programme employs 9 people on a permanent basis -one architect, two secretaries, three construction workers and three guards.

The Office collaborates on a permanent basis and is supported by the local Office of the 21st Ephorate of Byzantine Monuments.

The Office of the Old Town employs 10 people on a stable basis -three architects, three civil engineers, one archaeologist, one computer draughtsman, and one secretary. The office is supported on a permanent basis by other means such as:

- The Technical Services of the Municipality the oversee projects
- The Development Enterprise of Municipality of Corfu (ANEDK), which is involved in the field of development policy.

The specialization of the technical personnel involved with the realization of projects is by and large derived from experience, without particular support of formal study. Restoration work or repairs to buildings in Corfu, as well as the on-going job of paving the communal areas, are executed at a very satisfactory level, especially thanks to the use of traditional techniques that have been acquired and employed over time.

6 a. KEY INDICATORS FOR MEASURING STATE OF CONSERVATION

A detailed record of the state of the elements of the Property was made as part of the activities of the Old Town Office in 1997-1998 and architectural files were prepared. The information recorded in these files is concerned with all features of each construction, describing all structural elements and their condition, the problems that require attention (deterioration and alterations), the date of construction, the architect or engineer (if known), all morphological features worth mentioning, the use of the building by floor, the owners (if applicable), etc. The material in the files is preserved in both printed and electronic form in the Old Town Office and since the files' creation there has been an effort to keep them up-to-date with whatever changes are made, although this process is not at present systematic or complete.

From the information gathered in the files it is possible to arrive at many indicators, both general and more specialized, which are considered helpful for measuring the state of conservation of the parts of the Property, such as :

- number of unused buildings,
- number of buildings in use,
- number of completely renovated buildings,
- number of partially renovated buildings,
- number of buildings in need of restoration,
- number of buildings with problems relating to damp,
- number of buildings with problems relating to plaster,
- number of buildings with reversible morphological changes,
- number of buildings with permanent morphological changes,
- number of buildings with structural changes.

It is possible to ascertain numerically, with the available material, some of the above indicators, whereas for others further processing of the information available on file is required. This activity is programmed to be undertaken by the Old Town Office, as is the systematic tracking of the evolution of the Property's condition.

Besides the above indicators that are related to the condition of the buildings' potential, there are also useful indicators that measure the status of communal spaces, the financial magnitude of interventions designed to upgrade or promote the Property and the origin of the necessary funding, the evolution of projects to upgrade the Fortresses and the improvement of the Fortress' visitability.

The useful indicators for monitoring the Property are plotted in the following chart:

ID. No.	INDICATORS	SIZE/YEAR	PERIODICITY	AVAILABLE ARCHIVE
1	Number of unused buildings	55/1998	5 years	Corfu Old Town Office
2	Number of buildings in use	1455/1998	5 years	Corfu Old Town Office
3	Number of completely renovated buildings	150/1998	5 years	Corfu Old Town Office
4	Number of partially renovated buildings	540/1998	5 years	Corfu Old Town Office
5	Number of buildings in need of restoration	765/1998	5 years	Corfu Old Town Office
6	Number of buildings with problems relating to damp		5 years	Corfu Old Town Office
7	Number of buildings with problems relating to plaster		5 years	Corfu Old Town Office
8	Number of buildings with reversible morphological changes		5 years	Corfu Old Town Office
9	Number of buildings with permanent morphological changes		5 years	Corfu Old Town Office
10	Number of buildings with structural changes		5 years	Corfu Old Town Office
11	Number of buildings repaired with private initiative		2 years	Corfu Old Town Office
12	Number of buildings repaired with state initiative		2 years	Municipality Urban Planning Office, Corfu Old Town Office
13	Length of the network to be replaced and put underground		5 years	Corfu Old Town Office
14	Surface area of the pavements to be replaced		5 years	Corfu Old Town Office
15	Budget of upgrading projects with state funding		2 years	Corfu Old Town Office, Municipality Financial Services
16	Budget of upgrading projects with EU funding		2 years	Corfu Old Town Office, Municipality Financial Services,
17	Length of galleries in the New Fortress that can be visited		5 years	Corfu Old Town Office
18	Length of galleries in the New Fortress that need repair and outfitting		5 years	Corfu Old Town Office
19	Length of streets in the Old Fortress with signs, lighting and other conveniences		5 years	Corfu Old Town Office
20	Length of streets in the Old Fortress that require signs, lighting and other conveniences		5 years	Corfu Old Town Office
21	Number of visitors to the Old Fortress		5 years	Archaeological Receipts Fund
22	Number of visitors to the New Fortress		5 years	Development Enterprise of the Municipality of Corfu (ANEDK)

6 b. ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR MONITORING PROPERTY

The Old Town of Corfu Office is responsible for the monitoring of the Property. The Office is the coordinating organ of the Programme Contract 2006-2012 between the Ministry of Culture – Ministry of the Environment, Spatial Planning and Public Works – Archaeological Receipts Fund – Municipality of Corfu.

It is requisite that the archive of architectural files that is kept in the Office of the Old Town be informed systematically of every modification made to the features that have been recorded, so that the files will remain up-to-date. At the same time, entrusted with the coordination of the whole of the works undertaken in the Old Town of Corfu, the Office is able to note and record the changes made to all parts of the Property.

Information gathering is done in different ways and by different authorities:

- **by autopsy**, which is highly efficient due to proximity
- **by Urban Planning Office of the Municipality**, either by the section that issues building permits or that concerned with illegally built structures where charges regarding modifications are placed
- **by the Municipal Police**, which oversees the enforcement of resolutions
- **by the Ephorate of Byzantine Antiquities**, which inspects construction projects and guarantees that they conform to the plans that they have approved

6 c. RESULTS OF PREVIOUS REPORTING EXERCISES (Annex, Exhibits 39, 40)

Previous reports on the conservation condition of the Property's buildings have been made:

- **in the "Master Plan of the Town and the Development Zones"**, carried out by BASIL-OPAM Ltd., in 1976-77, on a special contract from the Ministry of Co-ordination.

A characteristic observation from the study with regard to the buildings' condition is that in the Historic Centre, 11% of the buildings were in optimum conservation condition, 55% in good condition, 31% in moderate condition and the 3% in poor condition.

The classification of the buildings into the above categories was made taking into consideration the construction materials and techniques, but also the buildings' age according to the statistical data of the National Statistical Service of Greece (1971), based on specific criteria, which the study selects and follows.

Plan H10 of the study in question, showing the building's condition and,

Plan H9 of the study in question, describing the structural elements, are presented in the Annex.

- **in the Revision Study of the existing town plan**, carried out by OPAM Ltd., in 1983-1985, within the framework of the Urban Planning Restoration Enterprise.

Subject to the buildings' recorded data, identified by an on-the-spot survey carried out by researchers, the existing building resources can be classified in four categories, depending on the building's conservation condition: good, poor, in ruins.

The study points out that the Historic Centre consists mainly of old buildings (before 1920) in good condition (30%), in moderate condition (55%), while a lower number of buildings were in poor condition (15%).

It should be mentioned that the classification of the buildings according to their conservation condition (good, moderate, poor), as effected in the above two studies, is considered to be highly "subjective".

The studies describe the evaluation criteria applied to each category, however, it is not feasible to analyze them in this report.

Id. No.	Format (Slide /print/ video)	Caption	Date of Photo (mo/yr)	Protographer/ Director of the video	Copyright owner	Contact details of copyright owner	Non exclusive cession of rights
1	CD-ROM	Contents of the volume "Nomination for Inclusion on the W H List"	12/2005	M. Mitropia	Technical Chamber of Greece / Department of Corfu - Municipality of Corfu	as 8.c	X
2	CD-ROM	Maps of the Annex "Nomination for Inclusion on the W H List"	07/1998	M. Mitropia	Technical Chamber of Greece / Department of Corfu - Municipality of Corfu	as 8.c	X
3	CD-ROM	Corfu Town - Urban Trail Routes	10/2000	K.Zitis	Development Enterprise of Corfu Municipality	as 8.c	X
4	DVD	City of Corfu - Asian Art Museum	09/2003	N. Guli	Municipality of Corfu	as 8.c	X
5	CD-ROM	Images & documents from the historic collection of Correr Museum			Correr Museum / Venice	as 8.c	X
6	CD-ROM	Requirements for building in Corfu urban area	10/2003	Working Team	Technical Chamber of Greece / Department of Corfu	as 8.c	X
7	CD-ROM	Old Town of Corfu - photographs	12/2005	Various	Municipality of Corfu	as 8.c	X
8	slide 1-12	General views of the Property	1998	G. Rapsomanikis - K. Tsirigakis	Municipality of Corfu / Old Town Office	as 8.c	X
9	slide 13-20	General views of the Fortresses	1998	G. Rapsomanikis - K. Tsirigakis	Municipality of Corfu / Old Town Office	as 8.c	X
10	slide 21-40	Architecture	1998	G. Rapsomanikis - K. Tsirigakis	Municipality of Corfu / Old Town Office	as 8.c	X
11	slide 41-64	The Maps of the Annex	2000	K. Tsirigakis	Municipality of Corfu / Old Town Office	as 8.c	X
12	slide 65-72	Historic Maps - Engravings	2000	K. Tsirigakis	Municipality of Corfu / Old Town Office	as 8.c	X
13	print	Post cards / Multicultural Tourism Project	1999	Terra Editions	Development Enterprise of Corfu Municipality	as 8.c	X
14	print	Post cards / Multicultural Tourism Project	1999	Terra Editions	Development Enterprise of Corfu Municipality	as 8.c	X
15	print	Brochure of Corfu Town (Greek - English)	2005	Terra Editions	Municipality of Corfu	as 8.c	X
16	print	Brochure of Corfu (French - Italian)	2005	Terra Editions	Municipality of Corfu	as 8.c	X
17	print	Urban Trail Routes - Multicultural Tourism Project	1999	Terra Editions	Development Enterprise of Corfu Municipality	as 8.c	X

7 b. TEXTS RELATING TO PROTECTIVE DESIGNATION, COPIES OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT PLANS OR DOCUMENTED MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS AND EXTRACTS OF OTHER PLANS RELEVANT TO THE PROPERTY

i. Declarations relevant to the Property :

NAME: Old Town of Corfu (D)

PREFECTURE: Corfu

PROVINCE: Corfu

MUNICIPALITY OR COMMUNITY: Corfu

SETTLEMENT: Corfu

LOCATION (ADDRESS):

N.S.S.G.: 22100100/01

GOVERNMENT GAZETTE ISSUE DECLARATION DECISION:

7) AMENDMENT: Ministerial Decision F18/ 46592/2305/24-7-79 (GOVERNMENT GAZETTE ISSUE 52/ B/ 21-1-80)

8) RE-CLASSIFICATION: Ministerial Decision B1/F33/29925/828/27-5-80 (GOVERNMENT GAZETTE ISSUE 512/B/ 4-6-80)

TEXT OF DECLARATION

7) AMENDMENT: "We amend as follows Ministerial Decision 24946/26-8-67 (Government Gazette Issue 606/B/ 3-10-67) which designates the limits of the old town of Corfu which has been classified as a historic monument scheduled for preservation and a site of outstanding natural beauty as well as a site interesting from an architectural and historical point of view: Instead of the limits designated by the aforementioned decision, the limits run along the line which from NW to SE runs through the following streets: Xenophontos Stratigou (port coastal avenue), Ioannou Theotoki (ex- Avramiou Street), east side of the G. Theotokis Square (ex - Saroko Square), G. Theotoki Street, Mantzarou Street, Vraila Street and Vas. Constantinou Street (Garitsa bay coastal avenue).

8) RE-CLASSIFICATION: "We modify Ministerial Decision B1/ F33/ 16547/ 601/ 21-6-79 (Government Gazette Issue 731/ B/ 30-8-79) as follows :

We re-classify the central part of the old town of Corfu, lying between Montsenizos Street - Angelos Psoroulas Square - Angelos Psoroulas Street- Stefanos Padovas Street – Georgios Theotokis Street – Soulemvourgou Street – Solomos Street – 4th Nikiforos Theotokis side street - Themistokles Kottardos Street - Corinthion Street - Agias Varvaras Street - Agiou Vasiliou Vrachlioti Street - Eugenios Voulgaris Street - Montsenizos Street as historic monument scheduled for preservation."

P.L. 5351/1932, article 52, L. 1469/1950, articles 1,5.

ZONES:

PROTECTION AGENT: MINISTRY OF CULTURE – 8TH Ephorate of Byzantine Antiquities (Ioannina)

PROPRIETORSHIP:

REMARKS:

CORFU**Presidential Decree Dated 22.4/5.5.1980 (Government Gazette Issue 274D)****On classifying the old town of Corfu as a traditional settlement**

Taking into consideration:

1. The provisions of paragraph 6, article 79, Legislative Decree 8/1973 "on General Settlement Code" as it was replaced by paragraph 1, article 4, Law 622/1977 "on collection by the State Revenue Office of the tax payable for issuing a building permit etc." (Government Gazette Issue 171/A)
2. The provisions of Law 1032/1980 "on the establishment of a Ministry of Physical Planning, Settlement and Environment" (Government Gazette Issue 57/A) and specifically articles 2 (par. 2) and 3 (par. 1, section a) of the Law in question
3. The Directorate of Traditional Settlements and Environment explanatory report dated 6-2-1980 (G7).
4. The Council of State opinion no. 280/1980, upon a Minister of Physical Planning, Settlement and Environment proposal, we decide as follows:

Article 1

The area of the old town of Corfu, lying to the NE of the line, which in the North starts from the point where the coastal Xenophon Stratigos Street intersects with the New Fortress moat, the line running along the New Fortress moat, along with the retaining wall lying to the West up to the point where it intersects with Gerasimos Markoras street, in the SE running along the West side of the Raymond Bastion on St. Desyllas Street, the east side of the new archaeological museum site, and up to the coastal Vas. Constantinou Street (Garitsa), as it appears in the relevant original diagram on a 1:500 scale attested by the General Director for Settlement by virtue of no. C. 2464/1980 Act, a concise copy of which is published along with the present document, is classified as a traditional settlement.

Article 2

For the repair, restoration, re-building and arrangement of the interior of old buildings representative of traditional architecture, (which is evidenced by means of photographs, properly attested by the competent authority for the issuance of building permits), a building permit is granted upon approval of the Committee responsible for Architectural Inspection, even if the works for the carrying out of which an application is filed run contrary to the provisions of the Presidential Decree dated 4.1.79 "on establishing the coefficient of building surface and building terms in the area of Corfu lying within the approved town plan" (Government Gazette Issue 78D) as well as to the provisions of Legislative Decree 8/1973 "on General Settlement Code."

However, as a result of the aforementioned works the coefficient of building surface concerning the building in question shall not be exceeded in case the coefficient of building surface is higher than the one designated by the aforementioned 4.1.79 Presidential Decree.

The Minister of Physical Planning, Settlement and Environment is responsible for publishing and putting into effect the present Decree.

Athens, April 22nd 1980

TECHNICAL INSTITUTE OF GREECE

ii. Approved Plans

**GOVERNMENT GAZETTE
OF THE KINGDOM OF GREECE****ATHENS 14th April 1964 4th ISSUE No. OF ISSUE 37****TOWN PLANNING
ROYAL DECREES****(6)**

On revising the building terms and limitations of plots of land and on the height of buildings and the maximum number of storeys in the town of Corfu.

**CONSTANTINE
KING OF GREECE**

(Annex, Exhibit 41)

**GOVERNMENT GAZETTE
HELLENIC REPUBLIC**

Athens, 2 October 1981

4th Issue

No of Issue 552

**TOWN PLANNING
DECREES**

(4)

On amending the Presidential Decree dated 4.1.79 "on determining the coefficients of building surface in the area of Corfu lying within the approved town plan."

**THE PRESIDENT
OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC**

Taking into consideration:

1. The provisions of Legislative Decree dated 17th July 1923 "on town plans etc." as they were subsequently amended and supplemented, and specifically articles 9,11 (par. a) and 85/A of the said Decree.
2. The provisions of Legislative Decree 8/1973 "on General Settlement Code" as it was subsequently amended by virtue of Legislative Decree 205/1974 (Government Gazette Issue 363/A) and specifically articles 21 (par. 3), 22, 31 and 35 of the said Decree.
3. The provisions of Law 1032/1980 "on the establishment of a Ministry of Physical Planning, Settlement and Environment" (Government Gazette Issue 57/A) and specifically articles 2,3 and 7 of the said Law.
4. Document no. 41279/4970/8.12.1980 of the C3 Directorate.
5. The Council of State opinion no. 1099/1981, upon a Minister of Physical Planning, Settlement and Environment proposal, we decide as follows:

Article 1

Article 1 of Presidential Decree dated 4.1.1979 "on establishing the coefficient of building surface and building terms in the area of Corfu lying within the approved town plan" (Government Gazette Issue 78/D) as regards the diagram mentioned in the said Decree (Act no. C.35749/1978 of the Director of General Settlement) is amended by establishing: a) A new sector named IIB within sector II. b) new sectors named IIIA and IIIB within sector III and c) by classifying parts of sectors III and IV within sector II, as denoted in the original diagram on a 1:500 scale attested by the Deputy General Director of Settlement by virtue of no. 41953/1981 Act, a concise copy of which is published along with the present.

Article 2

The maximum number of storeys permitted to be built as well as the coefficient of building surface in the new sectors established by virtue of the aforementioned article 1 are designated as follows:

		Coefficient of building surface	no of storeys
Sector	IIB	1,8	4
Sector	IIIA	1,6	3
Sector	IIIB	1,4	3

Article 3

1. The construction of industrial facilities buildings within the new sectors IIB, IIIA and IIIB established by virtue of aforementioned article 1 of the present is not allowed.
2. The construction of small and medium size enterprises facilities building is allowed only within sectors IIIA and IIIB.

The Minister of Physical Planning, Settlement and Environment is responsible for publishing and putting into effect the present Decree.

Halkidiki 7th September 1981

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

CONSTANTINE G. KARAMANLIS

THE MINISTER OF PHYSICAL PLANNING, SETTLEMENT AND ENVIRONMENT
GEORGIOS PLYTAS

(Annex, Exhibit 42)

LAW No. 3028/2002

ON THE PROTECTION OF ANTIQUITIES
AND CULTURAL HERITAGE IN GENERAL

On the Protection of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage in General

THE PRESIDENT OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC

We hereby promulgate the law enacted by Parliament:

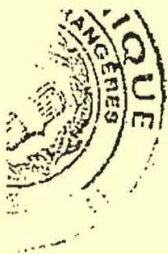
CHAPTER ONE

BASIC PROVISIONS

Article 1

Scope

1. The protection afforded by the provisions of the present law covers the cultural heritage of the country from ancient times up to the present day. This protection aims at preserving historical memory for present and future generations and enhancing the cultural environment.
2. The cultural heritage of the country consists of cultural objects found within the boundaries of Greek territory, including territorial waters and other maritime zones over which Greece exercises relevant jurisdiction in accordance with international law. The term cultural heritage also includes intangible cultural heritage.
3. Within the framework of international law, the Greek State shall care for the protection of cultural objects originating from Greek territory whenever they may have been removed from it. The Greek State shall also care, within the context of international law, for the protection of cultural objects, which are connected historically with Greece wherever they are located.



Definitions

For the purposes of the present law:

- a) "Cultural objects" shall mean testimonies of the existence and the individual and collective creativity of humankind;
- b) "Monuments" shall mean cultural objects which constitute material testimonies and belong to the cultural heritage of the country and which deserve special protection on the basis of the following distinctions:
 - (i) "Ancient monuments or antiquities" shall mean all cultural objects dating back to prehistoric, ancient, Byzantine and post-Byzantine times up to 1830, subject to the provisions of article 20. Archaeological monuments shall also include caves and paleontological remains, for which there is evidence that they are related to human existence.
 - (ii) "Recent monuments" shall mean cultural objects dating after 1830, which deserve protection due to their historical, artistic or scientific significance, in accordance with the distinctions of article 20.
 - (iii) "Immovable monuments" shall mean monuments which have been attached to, and remain on the ground or on the seabed or on the bed of lakes or rivers, as well as monuments which are found on the ground or on the seabed or on the bed of lakes or rivers and cannot be removed without damage to their value as testimonies. Immovable monuments shall also include installations, structures and the decorative and other elements, which form an integral part of the monuments, as well as their surroundings.

- c) "Archaeological sites" shall mean areas on land or at sea or in lakes or rivers which contain or there is evidence that they contain, ancient monuments, or which have constituted or there is evidence that they have constituted monumental, urban or burial groups from ancient times up to 1830. Archaeological sites shall also include the necessary open space so as to allow the preserved monuments to be considered in an historical, aesthetic and functional unity.
- d) "Historical sites" shall mean areas on land or at sea or in lakes or rivers which have constituted, or there is evidence that they have constituted, the site of exceptional historical or mythical events, or areas which contain or there is evidence that they contain monuments dating after 1830, or combined works of man and nature dating after 1830, which constitute distinctive, homogeneous and topographically definable sites, and which deserve protection due to their folk, ethnological, social, technical, architectural, industrial or in general historical, artistic or scientific significance.
- e) "Intangible cultural heritage" shall mean expressions, practices, knowledge and information, such as myths, customs, oral traditions, dance, rituals, music, songs, skills or techniques which constitute testimonies of the traditional, folk and literary culture.
- f) "Service" shall mean the competent Central or Regional Service of the Ministry of Culture.
- g) "Council" shall mean the *ad hoc* competent advisory collective body, as defined in articles 49-51.

Content of protection

- 
1. The protection of the cultural heritage of the country consists primarily in:
 - a) the location, research, recording, documentation and study of its elements;
 - b) its preservation and prevention of destruction, disfigurement or in general any kind of damage, direct or indirect, to it;
 - c) prevention of illegal excavations, theft and illegal export;
 - d) its conservation and, in appropriate circumstances, restoration;
 - e) facilitation of access to and communication of the public with it;
 - f) its enhancement and integration into contemporary social life, and
 - g) education, aesthetic enjoyment and public awareness of the cultural heritage.
 2. The protection of monuments, archaeological and historical sites shall be included among the objectives at all stages of town and country planning, environmental and development plans or plans of equivalent effect or their substitutes.

Article 4

National Inventory of Monuments

1. The monuments shall be recorded, documented and registered in the National Inventory of Monuments, which shall be kept at the Ministry of Culture.
2. The organization and functioning of the National Inventory of Monuments shall be determined by presidential decree, issued upon proposal by the Minister of Culture, which shall specify the manner of recording monuments and protecting data, the conditions of the

purposes, as well as any other necessary detail. In the National Inventory of Monuments shall be registered, at the latest every three years, a report on the condition of each immovable monument, which shall be prepared by the competent Service of the Ministry of Culture.

Article 5

Protection of intangible cultural heritage

The Ministry of Culture shall care for the textual as well as the sound or visual or sound and visual recording, listing and documentation of intangible cultural heritage of traditional, folk and literary culture presenting special interest. The manner of listing and recording intangible cultural heritage, the competent services and bodies for implementing such activities, as well as any other necessary detail shall be determined by presidential decree, issued upon proposal by the Minister of Culture.

CHAPTER TWO

IMMOVABLE MONUMENTS AND SITES

FIRST PART

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 6

Distinctions of immovable monuments – Classification

1. Immovable monuments shall include:
 - a) antiquities dating up to 1830;
 - b) recent cultural objects more than one hundred years old, which are classified as monuments due to their architectural, urban, social, ethnological, folk, technical, industrial or in general historical, artistic or scientific significance;



are classified as monuments due to their particular architectural, urban, social, ethnological, folk, technical, industrial or in general historical, artistic or scientific significance.

2. Classification of an immovable monument may include movables that are related to a certain use of the immovable, uses compatible with its character as a monument, as well as its surroundings or its elements.
3. The Minister of Culture, following an opinion of the Council, shall decide on the possibility of removing the monuments referred to in article 2, paragraph b(ii), as well as on their character as immovables.
4. Ancient immovable monuments are protected by law, without need for the issuance of any administrative act. The immovables referred to in paragraph 1(b) and (c), shall be classified as monuments by a decision of the Minister of Culture, issued following a recommendation of the Service and an opinion of the Council and published in the *Official Gazette*.
5. The recommendation shall be promptly notified care of the Service to the owner, possessor or holder* of the monument, who may submit his objections within two months from the date of notification. If notification turns out to be impossible because the owner, possessor or holder cannot be traced by the Service, an announcement of the recommendation shall be published in a daily or weekly newspaper issued in the capital of the province where the immovable to be classified or its main part is located, and if such a newspaper does not exist, in a daily newspaper of Athens or Thessaloniki, for the provinces of Central Macedonia, Eastern Macedonia and Thrace. At the same time, the announcement shall be affixed on the wall of the immovable to be classified and the Service shall prepare a report thereon. In such

* *Translator's note:* Greek law distinguishes between the exercise of physical control over a thing with the intent to own it (possession *stricto sensu*/possessor) (in Greek "nomi") and the exercise of physical control over a thing absent such an intent, i.e. by recognizing that the thing belongs to a third party (possession/holder) (in Greek "katochi"). In the few instances, where the law refers to the notion of "possession *stricto sensu*", the term appears in italics (cf. articles 7, 21 and 30(1) respectively).

date of publication of the announcement.

6. The owner or anyone with real property rights over the immovable to be classified, as well as the possessor, holder or user shall allow even prior to the issuance of the decision the employees of the Service to visit and inspect the immovable. He shall also provide them with all the relevant information.
7. The effects of the classification shall apply from the date of notification or publication of the announcement in the newspaper and shall cease to apply if within one year thereafter the decision on classification has not been published. Within the same period, any intervention or activity on the immovable to be classified shall be prohibited.
8. Any necessary detail for the implementation of the preceding paragraphs shall be determined by a decision of the Minister of Culture.
9. The decision to classify an immovable monument, which has been issued in accordance with the preceding paragraphs, may only be revoked due to material error. The decision on revocation shall be issued in accordance with the procedure provided for in paragraphs 4 and 5 and shall become effective upon publication in the *Official Gazette*. The decision on classification or its revocation shall be communicated to the competent town planning service, the relevant municipality or community as well as to *Ktimatologio* S.A (Land Registry).
10. The demolition of recent immovables more than one hundred years old or the execution of works for which a building license is required, shall not be permitted without authorization by the Service, even if these immovables have not been classified as monuments. For this purpose, the interested party shall notify the Service of his intentions. Authorization shall be deemed to have been given, if within four (4) months from the date of notification, the publication requirements of the

have not been completed.

11. The Minister of Culture, following an opinion of the Council, shall decide on the necessity to waive the protection of an immovable monument, either in whole or in part, on a permanent or on a temporary basis, so that another monument can be protected.

Article 7

Ownership of immovable monuments

1. Ancient immovable monuments dating up to 1453 belong to the State in terms of ownership and *possession*, are *extra commercium* and imprescriptible.
2. Immovable antiquities, which have been or are revealed during excavations or in the course of other archaeological research belong to the State in terms of ownership, are *extra commercium* and imprescriptible.
3. The right of ownership of other immovable monuments dating after 1453 shall be exercised in accordance with the terms and conditions of the present law.
4. Immovable antiquities dating up to 1453 shall not be subject to confiscation. The provisions of article 22, paragraph 2 to 4 apply *mutatis mutandis*.

Article 8

Declaration, indication of the location of immovable antiquities and reward

1. Any person who discovers or finds an immovable antiquity must declare it without undue delay to the nearest archaeological, police or port authority. The declaration must contain the exact location where the antiquity was discovered or found and any other useful detail. The

the aforementioned authority. If the antiquity is discovered or found in an immovable where works are carried out, these must be stopped immediately until the Service renders its decision.

2. The Service shall inspect and record the antiquity without undue delay and shall take all the necessary measures for its protection and safeguarding, after notifying the owner of the immovable where it was found, if possible.
3. By a decision of the Minister of Culture, following an opinion of the Council, the person who declares the existence of an immovable antiquity in accordance with paragraph 1 shall receive monetary reward commensurate to the importance of the antiquity and his contribution to its discovery and rescue.
4. Reward may also be granted with a similar decision to anyone indicating the location of immovable antiquities unknown to the Service, which shall be commensurate to the importance of the antiquities and his contribution to their discovery and rescue.
5. If the declaration or indication is made by more than one person, the reward shall be divided between them in percentages which shall be stipulated in the same decision in accordance with the relative contribution of each one of them and, in case of doubt, in equal shares. If the antiquity is discovered or found in a private immovable and the person declaring it is not owner or lessee of the immovable, the reward shall be divided between the person who declared it and the owner or lessee of the immovable in equal shares. With respect to underwater antiquities, if the person who declares them is not owner or lessee of the means by which they have been located, the reward shall be divided between the owner or lessee of the means and the person who declared them.
6. Reward shall not be paid if:
 - a) the antiquity is already known to the Service;



archaeological site or an archaeological site to be designated, in the course of excavations or other activities requiring the presence of a representative of the Ministry;

- c) the person who declares it or indicates its location is an employee of the State, local government agencies or other legal persons of public law or legal persons of private law of the broader public sector as it may be occasionally defined, and acting within the framework of his duties.

Likewise, reward shall not be paid to the person who discovers or finds an antiquity while acting in violation of the legislation on the protection of the cultural heritage and, in the case of paragraph 5, to the person who attempts to conceal the antiquity or proceeds to activities which may damage it; in such a case, the reward shall be paid proportionally to the other person.

Article 9

Preservation of immovable antiquities

1. It shall be the responsibility of the Service to decide by a reasoned report on the preservation or not of an immovable antiquity, following a preliminary excavation, if so required. If the issue is considered to be of primary importance, it may be referred to the Council within two (2) months after finding or discovery of the antiquity at the latest, which shall render its opinion within two (2) months from the date of referral at the latest. In such a case, the Minister shall decide on the issue of preservation.
2. Whenever it is decided to inter the antiquity or not to preserve it *in situ*, the same shall be previously photographed, recorded and documented and a comprehensive scientific report along with a detailed list of the finds shall be submitted.

may be obliged to allow its visit under conditions to be determined by decision of the Minister of Culture, following an opinion of the Council.

4. If the antiquity is found in a private immovable, the right-holder shall be entitled to compensation for the deprivation of its use in accordance with the provisions of article 19, three (3) months after declaration or finding of the antiquity, if the relevant decision has not been issued.
5. If it has been decided to carry out a preliminary excavation, the right-holder shall be entitled to compensation for the deprivation of the use of the immovable and for any damage resulting from excavation at the latest one (1) year after declaration or finding of the antiquity.
6. The right-holder shall be indemnified for the expenses incurred for protecting the antiquity in accordance with the instructions of the Service until the issuance of the decision on its preservation.

SECOND PART

INTERVENTIONS ON IMMOVABLE MONUMENTS AND THEIR SURROUNDINGS

Article 10

Activities on immovable monuments and their surroundings

1. Any activity on an immovable monument that may result directly or indirectly in its destruction, damage, pollution or disfigurement shall be prohibited.
2. The exploitation of quarries, the extraction of building material, the conduct of mineral exploration, the exploitation of mines as well as the designation of mining sites shall be prohibited without authorization by the Minister of Culture, following an opinion of the Council which shall be granted within three (3) months from the date of receipt at the Ministry of Culture of the application and the plans required by the legislation on minerals and mines. If the aforementioned time limit has elapsed, it shall be presumed that there are no prohibitive reasons.



immovable monument, the visual contact with it, the morphology of the ground and the nature of the activities for which authorization has been requested, the monument is threatened with direct or indirect damage.

3. The establishment or operation of an industrial, handicraft or commercial enterprise, the installation of telecommunications or other structures, the execution of any kind of technical or other work as well as building activity in the vicinity of an antiquity shall be permitted only upon authorization by the Minister of Culture, following an opinion of the Council. Authorization shall be granted if the distance from an immovable monument or the relationship with it is such that the monument is not threatened with direct or indirect damage due to the nature of the work or the type of business or the activity.
4. For any work, intervention or change of use of immovable monuments, even if the same does not result in any of the consequences referred to in paragraph 1, authorization shall be required pursuant to a decision of the Minister of Culture following an opinion of the Council.
5. In case of emergency and in order to prevent an immediate and serious danger, reparation work, provided that it does not disfigure the existing architectural, aesthetic and other related elements of the monument, may be undertaken without the authorization required under paragraphs 3 and 4, after fully and promptly informing the Service, which in turn may stop the work upon providing notice thereon.
6. Where authorization is required pursuant to the preceding paragraphs, the same shall take precedence over all licenses issued by other authorities with respect to the businesses in question or the execution of the work and its particulars shall be recorded in these licenses upon penalty of nullity. Authorization shall be granted within three (3) months from the date of submission of the relevant application.
7. For the protection of immovable monuments, restrictions may be imposed on their use and function as well as on their building terms in

Culture, following an opinion of the Council.

8. By presidential decree, issued upon proposal by the Ministers of the Environment, Town Planning and Public Works, and Culture, following an opinion of the respective advisory bodies, special terms may be imposed on building and use for the purpose of protecting monuments.

Article 11

Duties of the owners, possessors or holders of immovable monuments

1. The owner, the possessor or the holder of an immovable monument or an immovable where an immovable antiquity is preserved, shall cooperate with the Service and follow its instructions for the preservation, enhancement and protection of the monument in general. He shall also allow periodic or *ad hoc* inspection of the monument by the Service, following notification in writing and shall inform it without undue delay of every incident, which may endanger the monument.
2. The owner or the possessor of a monument shall be responsible for undertaking prompt conservation, consolidation or protection measures for a dilapidated monument without undue delay, at his own expense, under the supervision and instructions of the Service and in accordance with the provisions of articles 40 and 41. If the owner or the possessor takes no action, the holder shall be under the same duty and may turn against the owner or the possessor. If the Service considers that conservation or consolidation work has been delayed for any reason or has proved inadequate, it may take all the necessary measures, while reserving the right to recover the total amount or part of the expenses from the person liable in accordance with the provisions on the collection of public revenues. The State or local government agencies shall pay the total amount or part of the expenses incurred for conservation, consolidation or other works for the protection of a monument which does not belong to them, provided that the expenses relate to a monument which has been determined to

following an opinion of the Council and exceed a reasonable amount of money, that the owner, the possessor or the holder shall not be responsible for the deterioration which the monument has suffered and the financial situation of the person liable does not allow him to defray the expenditure. In such a case, the owner, the possessor or the holder shall allow public access to the monument under certain conditions and for a time period to be specified by a decision of the Minister of Culture, following an opinion of the Council.

3. The owner, the possessor or the holder of an immovable monument or an immovable where an antiquity is preserved, shall facilitate its photography and study by the Service or by specialists who have been granted a relevant permit by the Service.
4. The provisions of the preceding paragraphs shall apply *mutatis mutandis* with respect to other real property rights holders.

PART THREE

TERRITORIAL REGULATIONS

Article 12

Designation of archaeological sites

1. Archaeological sites shall be declared and designated or re-designated on the basis of data derived from archaeological research *in situ* by a decision of the Minister of Culture, issued following an opinion of the Council, accompanied by a topographic plan and jointly published in the *Official Gazette*.
2. If archaeological sites have not been designated within areas to be covered by pending General Town Plans or Territorial and Urban Organization of Open Cities Plans or other plans with territorial regulations, they shall be designated temporarily pursuant to a plan of a scale of at least 1:2000 prepared by the Service on the basis of adequate scientific data and in particular finds bearing witness to the

Culture by a decision published in the *Official Gazette*. The relevant act together with the plan shall be communicated to the competent authority within six (6) months from the date of receipt by the Service of the relevant request, and shall apply until the decision referred to in paragraph 1 has been issued.

3. If there has been no delimitation of legally existing settlements, which is necessary for the application of articles 13, 14, 16 and 17, the Minister of Culture shall request the competent body, while sending the relevant plan, to proceed with absolute priority to the delimitation of the settlement to the extent that is necessary for the application of the aforementioned articles. Until this takes place, by a joint decision published in the *Official Gazette*, the Ministers of Culture, and Environment, Town Planning and Public Works shall delimit it temporarily to the extent above referred to and shall regulate any issue relating to the protection of the part of the archaeological site which falls within its temporary limits, such as suspension of building activities and issuing building licenses, or permissible activities.
4. The provisions of article 10, paragraphs 1 to 6, apply *mutatis mutandis* to archaeological sites. Before issuing the decision referred to in paragraph 1, the opinion of the competent Minister *ratione materiae* shall be required for existing activities falling under his competence, in order to determine whether and under which conditions they shall continue to operate within the context of article 10. This opinion shall be rendered within two (2) months from the day on which the relevant request was sent. If the aforementioned time limit has elapsed, the decision of the Minister of Culture shall be issued without this opinion.

Archaeological sites beyond settlements

Protection zones

1. In archaeological sites on land located beyond "city plans" or beyond the limits of legally existing settlements, agriculture, stock-breeding, hunting or other related activities as well as building activity may be carried out upon permit being granted by a decision of the Minister of Culture, following an opinion of the Council. The conditions for exercising agriculture, stock-breeding, hunting or other related activities may also be established normatively by a decision of the Minister of Culture.
2. Within the sites referred to in the preceding paragraph, an area may be designated, where building shall be totally prohibited (*Protection Zone A*), by a decision of the Minister of Culture, following an opinion of the Council and the conduct of a survey by some of its members or a committee composed of its members and specialists, accompanied by the relevant plan and jointly published in the *Official Gazette*. In this area, only the construction of edifices or additions to existing buildings may be allowed, where necessary for the enhancement of the monuments or sites as well as for facilitating their use, upon a decision of the Minister of Culture specifically justifying the *rationale* behind it, following an opinion of the Council. The same decision shall determine the location of the edifice within the zone or the part of the building where the addition shall be made. Within the sites referred to in paragraph 1, provided that they are extensive, an area may be designated by a decision of the Minister of Culture, following an opinion of the Council and the conduct of a survey by its members or a committee established by it, accompanied by the relevant plan and published in the *Official Gazette*, in which or in a part of which special rules shall apply pursuant to the joint decision referred to in the following section with respect to building terms, land use or permissible activities or all the aforementioned restrictions (*Protection Zone B*). A

minister, issued following an opinion of the respective advisory bodies, shall further determine special building terms, land uses, permissible activities, as well as the conditions under which the operation of existing legal activities may be continued. The joint decision shall be issued within three (3) months from the date that the Ministry of Culture sent the draft to the co-competent Ministries.

3. The limits of a protection zone may be re-designated by the same procedure on the basis of data derived from archaeological research and the conditions for the protection of archaeological sites or monuments. Immovables which contain visible antiquities and fall within a *Protection Zone A'*, shall be expropriated if they are subject to article 19, paragraph 3.

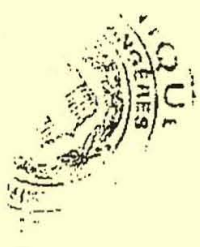
Article 14

Archaeological sites within settlements

Settlements constituting archaeological sites

1. In archaeological sites located within "city plans" or within the limits of legally existing active settlements, protection zones may be established in accordance with the provisions of article 13. In non-active settlements or in their parts which are located within "city plans" or within the limits of legally existing settlements which constitute archaeological sites, subject to the preceding section, it shall be prohibited to erect new buildings, while it shall be permitted to restore ruined edifices and to demolish those which have been characterized as dilapidated under the conditions provided for in paragraphs 2(b) and (c) of the present article respectively. In all other respects, the remaining provisions of paragraphs 2, 3, 4 and 5 of this article shall be applicable.
2. In active settlements constituting archaeological sites or in their parts, any intervention impairing the character and the urban web of the buildings or disrupting the relationship between the buildings and open

the Minister of Culture, following an opinion of the respective advisory body, it shall be allowed:

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- a) to erect new edifices provided that they are compatible in terms of size, structural material and function with the character of the settlement;
 - b) to restore ruined edifices provided that their original form can be established;
 - c) to demolish existing edifices provided that the character of the settlement shall not be impaired or that they have been characterized as dilapidated pursuant to the provisions of article 41;
 - d) to execute any kind of work on existing edifices, private unbuilt spaces and spaces of common use always taking into account the character of the settlement as an archaeological site;
 - e) to use an edifice and/or its free spaces, provided that such use is in harmony with their character and structure.
3. In case of emergency and to prevent an immediate danger, reparation work may be undertaken without the aforementioned permit after informing the Service, which in turn may stop the activities upon providing notice thereon.
 4. The permit required under the preceding paragraph shall be issued prior to all licenses by other authorities relating to the execution of the work and, in any case, within sixty (60) days from the date of submission of the relevant application, its particulars being recorded, upon penalty of nullity, in these licenses. The permit for a change of use shall be issued within ten (10) days.
 5. In the aforementioned archaeological sites, all activities and uses of the edifices and their free spaces or spaces of common use which are not in harmony with the character and structure of individual edifices or spaces or the settlement as a whole shall be prohibited. For the

Culture, following an opinion of the Council.

6. Within archaeological sites which are active settlements, special rules shall apply with respect to restrictions to ownership, land use or use of buildings, building terms or permissible activities pursuant to a presidential decree, issued upon proposal by the Ministers of Culture, the Environment, Town Planning and Public Works and any other *ad hoc* co-competent Minister.

Article 15

Underwater archaeological sites

1. In underwater archaeological sites, fishing, anchorage and underwater activities with respiratory apparatus shall be prohibited, unless a permit has been granted by the Minister of Culture, following an opinion of the Council.
2. The conditions for the exercise of these activities in underwater archaeological sites shall be determined by a decision of the Minister of Culture and the *ad hoc* co-competent Minister, following an opinion of the Council.
3. By a similar decision, the conditions for the exercise of underwater activities with respiratory apparatus, submersibles or other means of surveying the seabed or the bed of lakes or rivers shall be determined for reasons relating to the protection of the underwater cultural heritage.
4. Around underwater monuments and archaeological sites, a zone may be established where the aforementioned activities shall not be allowed without a prior permit (*Protection Zone*), granted by a decision of the Minister of Culture, following an opinion of the Council.
5. The execution of any type of harbor works shall be prohibited without a prior permit having been granted by a decision of the Minister of

upon penalty of nullity in the other licenses required.

Article 16

Historical sites

Upon decision of the Minister of Culture, issued following an opinion of the Council, accompanied by a delimitation plan and jointly published in the *Official Gazette*, areas or combined works of man and nature pursuant to the more specific distinctions of article 2(d) shall be designated as historical sites. In historical sites, the provisions of articles 12, 13, 14 and 15 shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

Article 17

Protection zones around monuments

1. Around monuments, a *Protection Zone A'* may be established in accordance with article 13.
2. The designation of a site in an area beyond "city plans" or legally existing settlements as Zone A' shall entail its compulsory expropriation if its original use is suspended.
3. Around monuments, a *Protected Zone B'* may also be established in accordance with article 13.

Article 18

Expropriation

1. Where necessary for the protection of monuments, the State may proceed, pursuant to a joint decision of the Ministers of Economy and Finance, and Culture, following an opinion of the Council, either to the expropriation, in whole or in part, or the direct purchase of a monument or an immovable which contains monuments, as well as adjacent immovables or monuments.
2. By a similar decision issued under the same procedure, there may be an expropriation in whole or in part or direct purchase of an immovable, if this is considered necessary for the protection of archaeological or historical sites or for carrying out excavations. The purchase shall be effected in accordance with the procedure provided for in article 2 of Law 2882/2001, while in the committee referred to in article 15 of the said law, instead of an expert, an employee of the Service shall participate in case the pecuniary value of a monument must be assessed.
3. It shall be the responsibility of the Service to preserve and protect immovable monuments which are located within immovables owned by local government agencies or other legal persons of public law or ecclesiastical legal persons without the State having to proceed to expropriation.
4. The expropriation or direct purchase shall be effected on behalf of the State at its expense or at the expense of another legal or natural person.
5. The decision referred to in paragraph 1 may be challenged within thirty (30) days from the date of its notification to the interested party; this issue shall be determined by the Minister of Culture, following an opinion of the Council.

of direct purchase of an immovable shall include the justified rejection of other solutions for protecting the monuments, archaeological or historical sites, as well as basic guidelines on their preservation and enhancement within the immovable to be expropriated.

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7. Provided that the owner consents to it, the amount of compensation may be paid in installments, bonds or in kind or by another arrangement, as specifically stipulated in the joint decision of the Ministers of Economy and Finance, and Culture.
 8. Provided that the owner consents to it, a private immovable may be exchanged with another immovable of the same value, owned by the State or a local government agency, or compensation may be paid by other legal means. In such cases, a joint decision by the Ministers of Economy and Finance, and Culture shall be issued to be implemented care of the Public Real Estate Company and part of the price of the immovable or the compensation assessed may be paid. The provisions of paragraph 7 shall apply *mutatis mutandis*. In case of issuing bonds, the special terms and conditions for their issue shall be determined by a decision of the Minister of Economy and Finance.
 9. The unconditional acceptance of the compensation in kind or the bonds or the first installment or the object of the arrangement under paragraph 7 or the part of the compensation under paragraph 8, shall be deemed to constitute written consent.

Article 19

Compensation for the deprivation of the use of an immovable

1. For the protection of monuments, archaeological or historical sites or for carrying out excavations, the Minister of Culture may order the temporary or permanent deprivation or restriction of the use of an immovable.

deprivation of the original use of an immovable as a whole, full compensation shall be paid. The latter shall be assessed on the basis of the average original return of the immovable before the restriction or deprivation of use, taking into account the character of the immovable as a monument, if applicable.

3. In case of substantial permanent restriction or permanent deprivation of the original use of an immovable as a whole, full compensation shall be paid. In this case too, the character of the immovable as a monument shall be taken into account, if applicable.
4. In case of temporary deprivation of the original use of the whole or part of an immovable containing monuments or other adjacent immovables, where necessary for the protection of the monuments, anyone affected may apply for compensation, which shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 2.
5. In case of substantial permanent restriction or permanent deprivation of the original use of part of the immovable required for the protection of the monument, compensation shall be paid for this part only, if the restriction or deprivation does not result in a substantial permanent restriction or permanent deprivation of the original use of the immovable as a whole; in such a case, the compensation provided for in paragraph 3 shall be paid.
6. By a decision of the Minister of Culture, following an opinion of a committee, it shall be determined whether compensation is payable pursuant to paragraphs 1 to 5, as well as the amount of compensation. The composition and competence of the committee, the procedure for rendering its opinions, the elements to be taken into account, the kind and the manner of payment of compensation as well as any other relevant detail shall be determined by a joint decision of the Ministers of Economy and Finance, and Culture.
7. In case the amount which has been or shall be paid as compensation for the deprivation or restriction of the use of an immovable

subject to expropriation.

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8. The protection or the enhancement of monuments which are located within immovables owned by local government agencies, legal persons of public law, ecclesiastical legal persons, legal persons of private law of the broader public sector, institutions or non-profit-making associations that aim *inter alia* at enhancing and promoting the cultural heritage, shall be deemed to be included within the original use of these immovables.
 9. In case substantial restrictions have been imposed on the building terms of an immovable for which there is no provision for compensation or transfer of the coefficient of building surface, non-monetary compensation may be paid to the owner. The kind of compensation, the conditions and the procedure for its assessment shall be determined by presidential decree, issued upon proposal by the Ministers of Economy and Finance, Environment, Town Planning and Public Works, and Culture.
 10. The provisions of paragraphs 2 to 9 of this article shall also apply in case of establishing zones in accordance with articles 13, 14, 16 and 17.

CHAPTER THREE

MOVABLE MONUMENTS

PART ONE

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 20

Distinctions of monuments – Classification

1. Movable monuments shall include:
 - a) monuments dating up to 1453;

from excavations or other archaeological research, or have been removed from immovable monuments, as well as icons and other religious objects used for worship, dating from the same period;

- c) monuments dating after 1453 and up to 1830 which are not subject to subparagraph b' and are classified as monuments due to their social, technical, folk, ethnological, artistic, architectural, industrial or in general historical or scientific significance;
 - d) recent cultural objects more than one hundred years old which are classified as monuments due to their social, technical, folk, ethnological, artistic, architectural, industrial or in general historical or scientific significance, and
 - e) recent cultural objects less than one hundred years old which are classified as monuments due to their particular social, technical, folk, ethnological or in general historical, artistic, architectural, industrial or scientific significance.
2. Ancient movable monuments referred to in paragraph 1(a) and (b) are protected by law, without need for the issuance of any administrative act. Cultural objects referred to in paragraph 1(c), (d) and (e) shall be classified as monuments by a decision of the Minister of Culture, issued following a recommendation of the Service and an opinion of the Council and published in the *Official Gazette*.
 3. A summary of the recommendation shall be sent to customs, port and police authorities. The recommendation shall be notified to the owner and/or the holder, who may submit their objections within one (1) month from the date of notification. The effects of classification shall apply from the date of notification of the recommendation and shall cease to apply, if the decision on classification is not published within six (6) months from notification.
 4. Any necessary detail for the implementation of this provision shall be determined by decision of the Minister of Culture. For the classification of monuments referred to in paragraph 1(3), the prior consent of their

monuments.

5. The decision on classification, issued in accordance with the preceding paragraphs, may only be revoked due to material error. The decision of the Minister of Culture on revocation shall be issued in accordance with the procedure provided for in paragraphs 2 and 3 and published in the *Official Gazette*.
6. A decision of the Minister of Culture, issued upon the recommendation of the Service, following an opinion of the Council and published in the *Official Gazette*, may exceptionally classify as monuments categories of movable cultural objects of the same kind that present particular social, technical, folk, ethnological or in general historical, artistic or scientific interest, provided that they are rare, their identification is difficult and there is danger of being lost or damaged.
7. Revocation of the decision to classify an individual monument that has been issued pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 6, may be allowed upon a decision of the Minister of Culture issued following an opinion of the Council and published in the *Official Gazette*, if the movable in question lacks the historical, artistic or scientific significance, for which the relevant category of monuments has been classified.

Article 21

Ownership of movable monuments

1. Movable ancient monuments dating up to 1453 belong to the State in terms of ownership and *possession*, are imprescriptible and *extra commercium* according to article 966 of the Civil Code.
2. The right of ownership of imported antiquities dating up to 1453 shall be recognized under the terms and the conditions of article 33, paragraph 3 and article 28, paragraphs 5 and 7.
3. Ancient movable monuments, which constitute finds from excavations or other archaeological research, regardless of their dating, belong to

and imprescriptible

4. The right of ownership of other movable monuments dating after 1453 shall be exercised in accordance with the terms and conditions of this law.
5. The exception referred to in the second section of article 1039 of the Civil Code shall not apply to movable monuments.

Article 22

Confiscation of movable monuments

1. Movable antiquities dating up to 1453 shall not be subject to confiscation and shall not constitute bankrupt's property.
2. The confiscation of more recent monuments belonging to private individuals shall be effected in the presence of an employee of the Service. For this purpose, the employees executing the confiscation shall notify it to the Service in time. The value of the monuments shall be determined by the Committee referred to article 73, paragraph 11.
3. The State shall be appointed as the sequestrator, while the confiscated monuments shall remain in the location where they are found, unless the Service decides otherwise. A copy of the confiscating report shall be submitted to the Service as soon as confiscation has been completed. The Service shall be summoned at any hearing for the correction of the confiscating report, if the latter concerns monuments referred to in paragraph 2, in which case the relevant decision shall be notified to it.
4. The affixing of seals on monuments that constitute bankrupt's property shall be effected in the presence of an employee of the State. The State shall be appointed as the sequestrator. The monuments shall remain in the location where they are found, unless the Service decides otherwise and shall be evaluated at the inventory in

Any decision on their sale shall be notified to the Service in time.

5. Upon petition by the State to be adjudicated under the procedure on provisional remedies, the price of a confiscated monument or a monument belonging to bankrupt's property shall be determined by a decision of the Single-Member Court of First Instance. Upon submission of the petition, the monument shall be taken by the Service. In the trial shall be summoned the creditor who has initiated the proceedings of bankruptcy or the receiver respectively, who shall be entitled to inspect the monument by a person of their choice in order to evaluate it. The court shall take into account the price determined by the Committee referred to in article 73, paragraph 11, as well as data on the value of the monument submitted by the creditor or the receiver. The State shall acquire ownership of the monument whose price has been determined, upon payment of the amount to the employee of the auction within thirty (30) days from the date of publication of the decision. Only if the amount has not been paid, shall the monument be auctioned. Any necessary detail for the implementation of the aforementioned provisions shall be determined by a joint decision of the Ministers of Culture and Justice.

Article 23

Possession of movable monuments

1. By a decision of the Minister of Culture, following an opinion by the Council, a permit for possession of an ancient movable monument, the ownership of which belongs to the State, may be granted to a natural or legal person.
2. A permit for possession shall be granted to the person who declares, in accordance with the provisions of article 24, paragraph 1, a movable antiquity dating up to 1453, upon his application, unless:

significance and must be under the direct protection of the State;

- b) the applicant does not ensure its satisfactory safeguarding and preservation, particularly if he does not indicate a suitable location for its safeguarding; or
 - c) the applicant does not provide the necessary safeguards of compliance with the duties of the holder, in particular if he has been sentenced irrevocably for a felony, violation of the legislation for the protection of the cultural heritage, forging, bribery, theft, embezzlement or receiving products of crime. Such impediment shall exist also for as long as criminal proceedings are pending for any of the aforementioned acts. The application may also be rejected if stay of execution of the penalty which has been imposed for any of the aforementioned acts has been ordered or if criminal proceedings for any of those acts have finally ceased due to prescription. If the applicant is a legal person, the aforementioned impediments must not be applicable to the persons who are or have been administering it.
3. When the holder of an antiquity dating up to 1453 dies, a permit of possession shall be granted to his heir, provided that the heir submits a relevant application, unless the negative conditions under subparagraphs (b) and (c) of the preceding paragraph are applicable. The relevant decision shall be issued within reasonable time.
4. The permit of possession may be revoked by a decision of the Minister of Culture if one of the conditions for its issuance has ceased to exist in accordance with paragraph 2 or there has been a violation of the provisions of articles 27, 28 and 29. The permit shall be revoked *ipso jure* if the holder has been sentenced irrevocably for one of the offenses referred to in paragraph 2(c). The permit may also be revoked if it is determined *ex post facto* that the antiquity presents particularly

protection of the State. In such a case, the reward provided for in article 24, paragraph 3, shall be payable as compensation. In any other case of revocation, the antiquities shall be taken by the State without compensation.

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5. If the movable antiquity which has been declared in accordance with the provisions of article 24, paragraph 1, is considered to be of very small scientific and commercial value, it shall be recorded by the Service and left in the free use of the applicant by a decision of the Minister of Culture, following an opinion of the Council.

Article 24

Declaration, indication of the location of movable monuments and reward

1. Any person who finds or acquires possession of a movable ancient monument dating up to 1453 shall declare it without undue delay to the nearest archaeological, police or port authority and shall make it available to them. The declaration shall include the exact location where the antiquity was found, the manner in which it came to the possession of the person who declared it, the personal data of the previous holder and any other useful detail. The particulars of the declaration shall be recorded in a report drawn up by the aforementioned authority. If the antiquity is discovered or found in an immovable where works are being carried out, these must stop immediately until the Service renders its decision.
2. Any person who acquires ownership of a monument dating after 1453 and subject to article 20, paragraphs 1(b) and 6, shall submit without undue delay to the authorities referred to in the preceding paragraph a declaration on the manner in which it came to his possession and the personal data of the previous holder.
3. When possession of the antiquity passes to the State, reward shall be paid to the person who made the declaration in accordance with

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decision of the Minister of Culture, following an opinion of the Council, and shall be commensurate to the importance of the antiquity and the contribution of the person, who declared it, with regard to its discovery and rescue. The Service shall promptly pay the reward, if it considers that the pecuniary value of the antiquity does not exceed €1,500. This amount may be re-adjusted by a decision of the Minister of Culture.

4. The aforementioned reward shall also be paid to the person who indicates the location of movable antiquities unknown to the Service, by a similar decision, following an assessment of his contribution to their discovery and rescue, as well as the importance of the antiquities.
5. If the declaration or indication is made by more than one person, the reward shall be divided between them in percentages which are stipulated in the same decision in accordance with the relative contribution of each one of them or in case of doubt in equal shares. If the antiquity is found in a private immovable which does not belong to the person who declared it, the reward shall be divided in equal shares between that person and the owner or lessee of the immovable. With respect to underwater antiquities, if the person who declares or indicates them is not owner or lessee of the means by which they have been located, the reward shall be divided between the owner or the lessee of the means and the person who indicated them.
6. Reward shall not be paid if:
 - a) the antiquity is already known to the Service;
 - b) the antiquity is found or discovered in a designated archaeological site or an archaeological site to be designated, in the course of excavations or other activities requiring the presence of a representative by the Ministry;
 - c) the person who declares or indicates an antiquity is an employee of the State, local government agencies or other legal person of public law or legal person of private law of the broader public sector, as it may be occasionally defined, and acting



paid to the person who finds an antiquity while acting in violation of the legislation on the protection of cultural heritage and in the case of paragraph 5, to the person who attempts to conceal the antiquity or proceeds to activities which may damage it, in which case the reward shall be paid proportionally to the person who acts lawfully.

Article 25

Loan and exchange of movable monuments which belong to the State

1. The loan of published movable monuments, which belong to the State and are in its possession, to museums or educational organizations for display or educational purposes may be allowed in exceptional cases upon decision of the Minister of Culture, following a recommendation of the Service and an opinion of the Council. The loan to museums shall take place on condition of reciprocity. The loan for educational purposes may be allowed only if the monuments are not of particular significance to the cultural heritage of the country. The loan shall be agreed for a definite period of time, which shall not exceed five (5) years and may be renewed under the same procedure.
2. By a decision of the Minister of Culture, following a recommendation of the Service and an opinion of the Council, the exchange of published movable monuments which belong to the State and are in its possession may be allowed on condition that they are not of particular significance to the cultural heritage of the country, that they are not needed for the completion of collections of other museums in the country and that the unity of important collections is not affected *vis-à-vis* cultural objects of equal importance, which belong to other States or foreign legal persons of non-profit character and are of particular significance to the collections of the public museums of the country.

Activities on movable monuments

Any activity on a movable monument that may result directly or indirectly in its destruction, damage, pollution or disfigurement shall be prohibited.

SECOND PART

RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF OWNERS AND HOLDERS OF MOVABLE MONUMENTS

Article 27

Safeguarding and conservation of movable monuments

1. The holder of a movable antiquity and the owner of an antiquity or other movable monument shall be responsible for its safety and preservation. They shall notify the Service of the exact location for its safeguarding, any intention to remove it or its eventual loss. They shall also allow its periodic or *ad hoc* inspection by the Service following notification in writing, inform it without undue delay of every incident likely to put it at risk and follow its instructions. If the monument is threatened by an imminent danger of deterioration, loss or destruction, the Service may take all the necessary measures and charge the relevant expenses to the owner or the holder of the monument or decide to transfer it for its safeguarding to a public museum or other appropriate place, until it is definitely out of danger.
2. The holder of a movable antiquity and the owner of an antiquity or other movable monument shall take all the necessary conservation measures, in accordance, *inter alia*, with the provisions of article 43. If the Service considers that preservation is inadequate, it shall take all the necessary measures, while reserving the right to charge the relevant expenses, in whole or in part, on the person liable in

revenues.

3. If the holder of a movable antiquity or the owner of an antiquity or other movable monument dies, the heir or the executor of the will or the receiver of vacant succession, shall notify without undue delay the Service and shall safeguard the objects temporarily, until the latter takes over. In case of dissolution of the legal person, which is the owner or the holder of a monument, these duties shall devolve on its legal representatives at the time of dissolution.

Article 28

Transfer of possession or ownership of movable monuments

1. The holder of a movable monument dating up to 1453 may transfer his possession, after notifying the Service of his intention and the personal data of the candidate holder, who shall submit an application for a permit of possession to be granted in accordance with the provisions of article 23. The relevant act shall be issued within reasonable time. Any transfer effected without this permit shall be null and void and the movable monuments shall be taken without formalities by the State.
2. Any *causa mortis* transfer of possession of the monuments referred to in the preceding paragraph may be effected under the terms and the conditions prescribed in article 23, paragraph 3; otherwise the antiquities shall be taken by the State.
3. The transfer of ownership of a movable monument which belongs to a legal person of public law, a local government agency or a legal person of private law of the broader public sector as it may be occasionally defined, shall be effected by a decision of the Minister of Culture, following an opinion of the Council; otherwise it shall be null and void. By the aforementioned decision, conditions may be imposed with respect to the person to whom the monuments are to be transferred. In case of sale, the State may exercise a right of preemption at the same

relevant application.

4. The transfer of monuments which belong to ecclesiastical legal persons or other legal persons or associations representing religions or confessions may be allowed upon a decision by the Minister of Culture, following an opinion of the Council, to other similar legal persons or associations, the State, local government agencies, legal persons of public law, or to legal persons of private law which constitute recognized museums under the provisions of article 45; otherwise, it shall be null and void.
5. The transfer of ownership of movable monuments other than those mentioned in paragraphs 3 and 4 may be allowed upon prior notification to the Service of the relevant intention, the personal data of the transferee and, in case of sale, the price, provided that one (1) month has elapsed from notification without the State exercising the right of pre-emption at the same price. Any transfer effected without this notification shall be null and void.
6. In case of sale of monuments by public auction, the State, the museums referred to in article 45 and collectors shall be preferred at the same price in the listed order of priority.
7. Anyone who acquires ownership of a monument *causa mortis* shall notify the Service without undue delay thereof.
8. The owner of a monument may transfer it to the State at an agreed price; otherwise, the price shall be determined by the assessment Committee provided for in article 73, paragraph 11.

Duties of holders and owners of movable monuments with respect to their study and exhibition

1. The holders of movable antiquities dating up to 1453 as well as the legal persons of public law and legal persons of private law of the broader public sector which are owners or holders of movable antiquities or recent monuments shall facilitate the photography and study of the monuments by specialists who have been granted a relevant permit by the Service.
2. The persons referred to in the preceding paragraph shall make the aforementioned monuments available to the Service for a reasonable time, if so requested, for their exhibition to the public within or outside Greek territory. If the monuments suffer deterioration or are lost during the period that they are not in their possession, the State shall be liable to pay compensation.

Article 30

Assistance for the location and claim of movable monuments

1. The holder of a movable antiquity shall be protected against third parties as possessor and shall enjoy the autonomous protection of *possession*; he shall also be entitled to exercise in parallel with the State the eviction action or the action for the disturbance of *possession*. If the antiquity has been illegally exported, the claim shall be assumed by the State. Following its return, the antiquity shall be given to the holder, unless the export was due to his willful misconduct or negligence. In such a case, possession of the returned antiquity passes to the State without compensation of the holder. The holder shall bear the costs incurred by the State, including any compensation paid to the *bona fide* possessor, if the antiquity after its return has been given to him.

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for its location as well as restitution or return, in case it was stolen or illegally exported. Following its return, the monument shall be given to the owner, unless he has exported it himself or allowed its export due to willful misconduct or gross negligence. In such a case, ownership of the returned monument shall be vested in the State without compensation. The owner shall pay the expenses incurred by the State for its return, including any compensation paid to the *bona fide* possessor, if the returned monument is given to him.

3. The owner and the holder of a monument which has been returned in accordance with the aforementioned provisions shall allow its exhibition to the public under certain conditions and for a time period to be stipulated by a decision of the Minister of Culture, following an opinion of the Council.

COLLECTORS AND ANTIQUE DEALERS

Article 31

Collectors of monuments

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1. The legal holder or owner of movable antiquities as well as the owner of recent movable monuments which constitute a unity from an artistic, historical or scientific point of view may be recognized as a collector, upon his application, by a decision of the Minister of Culture, following an opinion of the Council. The relevant act shall be issued within a reasonable time. The decision shall be issued after the character and the importance of the collection has been assessed on condition that the applicant provides the necessary guarantees for the protection, safeguarding and preservation of the objects forming part of the collection, as well as compliance with the other duties of the collector.

The applicant will not provide these guarantees in particular if he has been irrevocably sentenced for a felony, violation of the legislation on the protection of cultural heritage, forgery, bribery, theft, embezzlement or acceptance of the products of crime. Such impediment shall exist for as long as criminal proceedings are pending for any of the aforementioned acts. The application may also be rejected if stay of execution of the penalty which has been imposed for any of the aforementioned acts has been ordered or if criminal proceedings for any of those acts have ceased finally due to prescription. If the applicant is a legal person, the aforementioned impediment must not be applicable to the persons who are administering it.

2. A natural person whose occupation is related or was related to the protection of monuments or is an antique dealer or merchant of recent monuments or an employee or partner of natural or legal persons with a similar business, cannot be recognized as a collector of antiquities.
3. Collectors shall have the same rights and duties with the holders or owners of monuments subject to the following provisions.

or the objects of the collection and shall submit a copy of this register to the Service and at least every six (6) months thereafter a list with any new additions to the collection.

5. Collectors may enrich their collections with monuments imported from abroad or acquired in Greece in accordance with the provisions of the present law. For these monuments, it shall be required to submit the declaration provided for in article 24 or 33 as the case may be.
6. Collectors shall be prohibited from acquiring cultural objects suspected of deriving from theft, illegal excavation or other illegal act, or which have been acquired or exported in violation of the legislation of the country of origin, and shall inform the Service of any such offer without undue delay.
7. Collectors shall facilitate the photography and study of the monuments of their collections by specialists who have been granted a relevant permit by the Service. They shall be entitled to reproduce and dispose of photographs or other representations of these monuments. They shall also be entitled to make casts or other reproductions following approval by the Service and in accordance with its instructions, and to dispose of them.
8. Collectors may assign the right of first publication of any newly appearing antiquity in their collection for three (3) years, following notification of the Service.
9. Collectors shall facilitate the visit of a collection, which is considered to be important by the Service. For the visit, admission may be required following approval by the Service.
10. Collectors shall be responsible for the safeguarding of the unity of a collection. The collection may be dispersed upon permit granted by the Minister of Culture, following an opinion of the Council, after the importance of the collection and the consequences of its dispersal have been studied. The permit shall be deemed to have been granted provided that four (4) months have elapsed from the date of

granting a permit for the transfer of individual monuments of the collection, the provisions of article 28 shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

11. Collectors may transfer the objects of their collection in their entirety either to the State or to museums referred to in article 45 or to persons who are recognized collectors, after notifying their intention to the Service and the personal data of the transferee as well as the price, in case of sale. The transfer may take place within six (6) months from the date of notification, provided that the State or subsequently in case of sale to collectors, the museums do not exercise a right of pre-emption at the same price. In the case of a collection which belongs to a legal person of public law, a local government agency, or a legal person of private law of the broader public sector as it may be occasionally defined, transfer may be allowed either to the State or, upon authorization by the Minister of Culture, following an opinion of the Council, to such other persons having the qualifications specified in the first section. The provisions of the second section shall apply *mutatis mutandis*. If the aforementioned conditions are not fulfilled, the transfer shall be null and void.

12. If the collector dies, his heir shall be entitled, within six (6) months from the date of acceptance of the inheritance or the lapse of the time limit for its rejection, to submit an application for his recognition as a collector. The recognition shall be effected, unless the impediments referred to in paragraphs 1 or 2 are applicable to his person. In the case of a particularly important collection, if the safeguarding of its unity is absolutely necessary and this is not ensured, the monuments may be vested in their entirety to the State, by a decision of the Minister of Culture, following an opinion of the Council. In such a case, compensation shall be paid to the beneficiaries, the amount of which shall be determined by the assessment Committee referred to in article 73, paragraph 11, on the basis of the importance of the objects of the collection.

and the monuments of the collection are to be transferred, the provisions of paragraph 11 shall apply *mutatis mutandis*. If the safeguarding of the unity of a particularly important collection is considered to be of absolute necessity and this is not ensured, the provisions of the two last sections of paragraph 12 shall apply.

14. If the collector ceases to satisfy one or more of the requirements on the basis of which this identity was recognized or there has been a violation of the provisions of this article, the decision on recognition may be revoked temporarily or permanently. The decision shall be automatically revoked if the collector has been irrevocably sentenced for any of the offenses referred to in paragraph 1, in which case the antiquities in his possession shall be taken by the State. If revocation is effected for another reason, possession may be retained.

Article 32

Antique dealers and merchants of recent monuments

1. An antique dealer is a person who systematically acquires possession or ownership of movable monuments which have been legally acquired for the purpose of further transferring them or mediates in the transfer of their possession or ownership. A merchant of recent movable monuments is the person who systematically acquires ownership of recent movable monuments which have been legally acquired for the purpose of their further transfer or mediates in their transfer. For the exercise of these activities a special permit shall be required.
2. The permit referred to in the preceding paragraph shall be granted upon application by the interested person, by a decision of the Minister of Culture, following an opinion of the Council, to natural or legal persons, who:
 - a) have relevant professional experience;

the services of the Ministry of Culture competent for the protection of the cultural heritage are based;

- c) have not been recognized as collectors of monuments and have not exercised a profession that is related or was related to the protection of monuments;
 - d) provide the necessary safeguards for compliance with the duties of the antique dealer or the merchant of recent monuments. The applicant will not provide these safeguards, in particular if he has been irrevocably sentenced for a felony, violation of the legislation for the protection of the cultural heritage, forgery, bribery, theft, embezzlement or receiving products of crime. Such impediment shall exist also for as long as criminal proceedings are pending for any of the aforementioned acts. The application may also be rejected if stay of execution of the penalty which has been imposed for any of the aforementioned acts has been ordered or if criminal proceedings for any of those acts have ceased finally due to prescription. If the applicant is a legal person, the impediment must not be applicable to the persons who are administrators or members of the administrative bodies.
3. With respect to individual objects that are found in the premises of the aforementioned persons, the provisions of articles 21, 23, 27 and 28 as well as article 29, paragraph 1 shall be applicable.
4. Antique dealers and merchants of recent movable monuments shall keep books authorized by the Service, where they shall register movable monuments after their entry into their premises. Registration shall include description, photography and the place of origin of the monument, the personal data of the previous possessor or owner of the monument and the transferee, the details of the permit of possession, the price and the date of transfer. This information shall be notified to the Service without undue delay.

the antique dealers and merchants of recent movable monuments shall issue the requisite legal papers, where it shall be recorded that the aforementioned movables cannot be exported from the country without a permit or that they may be exported in accordance with the provisions of article 34, paragraph 9.

6. Antique dealers and merchants of recent movable monuments shall be prohibited from acquiring or trading cultural objects suspected of deriving from theft, illegal excavation or other illegal activity or which have been acquired or exported in violation of the legislation of their country of origin and shall inform the Service without undue delay for any such offer.
7. Antique dealers and merchants of recent movable monuments shall be prohibited from trading in the same premises, casts, representations or reproductions of cultural objects.
8. For the organization of auctions or other relevant activities concerning antiquities or recent monuments, either by the persons referred to in paragraph 1 or by others, a permit by the Service shall be required to be issued *ad hoc* for the specific list of objects.
9. Antique dealers and merchants of recent objects shall be under the supervision of the Service and shall facilitate inspection of their premises and storage facilities.
10. If the antique dealer or merchant ceases to satisfy one or more of the requirements referred to in paragraph 2, or violates other provisions of the present law or proceeds to the sale of forged works due to willful misconduct or gross negligence, the permit may be revoked temporarily or permanently. The permit shall be revoked automatically if the antique dealer or the merchant has been irrevocably sentenced for any of the offenses referred to in paragraph 2(d). The provisions of the last two sections of article 31, paragraph 14, apply *mutatis mutandis*.

procedure and the bodies organizing auctions as well as any other details for the implementation of the present article, shall be determined by a decision of the Ministry of Culture.

12. The personnel of the Ministry of Culture and of museums referred to in article 45 which belong to the State, legal persons of public law or legal persons of private law of the broader public sector shall not be allowed to participate directly or indirectly in the trade of monuments or other cultural objects. They shall not be allowed to issue authenticity certificates or proceed to an assessment of the pecuniary value of such objects, unless they have been so assigned by their supervisory authority or they have been requested to do so by another public authority.

CHAPTER FOUR

IMPORT AND EXPORT OF CULTURAL OBJECTS

Article 33

Import of cultural objects

1. Cultural objects may be imported freely into Greek territory subject to the provisions of the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (Paris, 1970), ratified by Law 1103/1980 (*Official Gazette A' 297*), as well as to other rules of international law.
2. The holder of imported cultural objects which constitute monuments pursuant to the provisions of article 20, paragraphs 1(a), 1(b) and article 20, paragraph 6 shall, without undue delay, declare to the Service their import as well as the manner in which they came to his possession.
3. The right of ownership of antiquities dating up to 1453, which have been legally imported, shall be reserved, provided that they had not

import and that they had not been illegally removed from a monument, an archaeological site, church, public collection, collection of religious monuments, storage places of finds from excavations or other similar places located within Greek territory, or that they are not the products of clandestine excavations within Greek territory regardless of the time of their export. The interested person shall provide evidence of their acquisition or import and shall prove their origin, if the Service considers that they had been exported from Greek territory during the last fifty years before import or that they are the products of the aforementioned illegal acts. If it is proven that the imported antiquities belong to one of the aforementioned categories, they shall be fully equated with the antiquities mentioned in article 21, paragraph 1. If it is not possible to prove their origin in accordance with the aforementioned provisions, a permit of possession shall be granted to the interested person, unless one or more of the impediments referred to in article 23, paragraph 2(c) are applicable to his person.

4. The right of ownership of antiquities dating up to 1453 which are imported for a certain period of time shall be preserved without the need to follow the procedure referred to in the second section of the preceding paragraph.
5. The manner of proving import and ownership of the imported antiquities referred to in the present article, as well as any other necessary detail, shall be determined by a joint decision of the Ministers of Economy and Finance, and Culture.

Article 34

Export of cultural objects

1. The export of monuments from Greek territory shall be prohibited, subject to the provisions of the following paragraphs.

country and the unity of important collections shall not be affected.

3. With respect to monuments which are less than one hundred years old, an export permit may be granted, if their presence is not considered necessary for the cultural heritage of the country.
4. The export of cultural objects for which the procedure of classification has been initiated in accordance with the second section of article 20, paragraph 2, shall not be allowed before the expiration of the time period required for the issuance of the final decision on classification.
5. The export of monuments which have been confirmed to have been imported temporarily in the country and are legally in the possession or ownership of the interested person shall be allowed.
6. The export of monuments referred to in article 20, paragraphs 1(a), (b) and 6 which have been confirmed to have been imported legally into Greek territory before the last fifty years shall be allowed, provided that they had not been exported from Greek territory beforehand. The provisions of the second section of article 33, paragraph 3, shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.
7. The export permit shall be granted by a decision of the Minister of Culture, following an opinion of the Council. The decision shall be issued within a time period of four (4) months or in exceptional cases within six (6) months from the date of submission of the relevant application.
8. In case an export permit has not been granted, the provisions of article 28, paragraph 8 may apply.
9. An export permit for specific monuments may be granted to antique dealers and merchants of recent movable monuments, which shall be valid for two (2) years.
10. The export of monuments, which belong to the State, shall be allowed only if the conditions of article 25 are fulfilled.

exhibition in museums or similar institutions, on condition that the necessary guarantees are provided for their safe transport, exhibition and return and after the significance of the exhibition for the enhancement of the cultural heritage of the country or eventual reciprocity has been assessed, or for conservation, educational or scientific purposes, provided that equivalent guarantees are offered and the relevant conservation work and study cannot take place in Greece. The same decision shall specify the terms of the temporary export and in particular its duration. The provisions of paragraph 4 shall also apply in case of temporary export.

12. The procedure for the export of cultural objects in accordance with the preceding paragraphs shall be determined by a joint decision of the Ministers of Economy and Finance, and Culture.

CHAPTER FOUR

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH AND WORKS FOR THE PROTECTION OF MONUMENTS

PART ONE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH *IN SITU*

Article 35

Definition of archaeological research *in situ*

"Archaeological research *in situ*" shall mean the exploration of the ground, the subsoil, the seabed or the bed of lakes or rivers for the purpose of locating or discovering ancient monuments, whether such research constitutes excavation on land or underwater, surface research or scientific research carried out by geophysical or other methods.

1. Systematic excavations shall be carried out by the Service, by domestic scientific, research or educational institutions specialized in the field of archaeological or paleontological research, or by foreign archaeological missions or schools established in Greece. For the carrying out of excavations, a decision of the Minister of Culture shall be required, issued following an opinion of the Council.
2. Foreign archaeological missions or schools established in Greece may manage a maximum of three excavations or other archaeological research *per annum*, and carry out another three in cooperation with the Service.
3. The conditions for the issuance of the decision referred to in paragraph 1 are the following: a) submission of an analytical report providing *prima facie* evidence of the existence of monuments, defining the site to be excavated and documenting the expected contribution of the specific research to scientific knowledge and the need to proceed to excavation, b) the standing and reliability of the body undertaking to carry out the excavation, c) the experience in excavations and the scientific authority of the director, d) the intra-scientific composition of the team, e) the experience of the members of the scientific team in consolidation, conservation, protection and publication of the finds from the excavation, f) adequacy of the technical infrastructure, and g) adequacy of the budget and the program for excavation, conservation and publication of the finds.
4. The direction of the excavation shall be undertaken by an archaeologist with at least five years experience in excavations and at least two comprehensive scientific publications on excavations or finds of excavations. "Experience in excavations" shall mean the experience acquired after university graduation.
5. The direction of an excavation, which also involves paleontological deposits, shall be undertaken jointly by an archaeologist who has the

three years experience in excavations. If paleontological deposits are discovered in an on-going archaeological excavation, the director must notify the Service of such discovery without undue delay. The direction of an excavation, which is carried out by the Service in co-operation with foreign archaeological schools, shall be undertaken by an archaeologist appointed by the Service.

6. The direction of an excavation cannot be undertaken by a person who:
 - a) has violated the time limits for submitting one of the studies mentioned in article 39, or b) has been irrevocably sentenced for a felony or for violation of the legislation on the protection of cultural heritage or for forgery, bribery, theft, embezzlement or receiving the products of crime.
7. Excavations carried out by bodies other than the Service shall be under its supervision; in this respect, the Service shall be represented by an archaeologist having at least three years of experience in excavations.
8. The director shall carry out the excavation within the framework of the prescribed timetable, ensure that, as far as, possible non-destructive methods are used, care for the guarding of the site, the preservation of the finds preferably *in situ*, their consolidation and conservation, as well as ensure compliance with the rules concerning the safety of the project team and third parties. Care shall also be taken to ensure the undertaking of appropriate measures for the restoration of the monuments, if so required, in cooperation with specialists, technicians or conservators. Finally, the director shall care for the landscape designing of the excavated site and, where necessary, for its enhancement, shall complete the work within reasonable time and declare completion of the excavation.
9. The director of the excavation shall facilitate the access of specialists to the excavation site subject to the provisions of article 39.

storage under the supervision of the Service and shall be accessible under the conditions referred to in article 39, paragraph 8.

11. The decision referred to in paragraph 1 shall specify the duration of the excavation, which cannot exceed five (5) years. For its extension a new decision shall be required, which shall be issued under the same procedure for a maximum period of five (5) years. A condition for the issuance of the decision of the preceding section shall be the submission of an analytical report which shall entail:

- a) the results of the first excavation period, as well as the expediency of continuing the research;
- b) compliance with the duties referred to in paragraphs 8 and 9 of this article, as well as in article 39, paragraphs 2 and 3;
- c) any changes in the composition of the research team and the degree of diligence that it has displayed in consolidating, preserving and protecting the finds during the previous excavation period;
- d) the adequacy of technical infrastructure;
- e) an analytical account of the previous excavation period and the adequacy of the budget, as well as the adequacy of the program for the continuation of the excavation, the conservation and the publication of the finds.

12. The decision referred to in paragraph 1 may be revoked if the director does not comply with the duties provided for under paragraphs 8 and 9 of this article and article 39, paragraph 3. The decision shall be revoked *ipso jure* if the director of the excavation has been condemned finally for one of the offenses provided for in paragraph 6.

13. If an incomplete excavation has been abandoned for more than two (2) years ("vacant excavation"), a new decision shall be issued for carrying out the excavation in accordance with the provisions of the

14. After the completion of the excavation, for the carrying out of a new excavation in the same site, the provisions of the preceding paragraphs shall apply *mutatis mutandis*. The decision shall be issued preferably in favour of the same director, unless he has not complied with the duties provided for under paragraphs 8 and 9 of this article and article 39, paragraph 3.
15. Excavations may be carried out in an immovable that has not been expropriated for a limited period of time following notification in writing to the owner by the Service. The owner shall allow the carrying out of the excavation and shall be entitled to compensation for the temporary deprivation of the use of the immovable and for any damage that might be brought to his immovable pursuant to the provisions of article 19. After the completion of the excavation and provided that the finds shall not be preserved *in situ*, the body which is carrying out the excavation shall restore the site to its previous condition.
16. In case the owner of the immovable is entitled to compensation for the carrying out of an excavation in a private immovable, the compensation shall be paid in accordance with the provisions of articles 18 and 19 by the body that is carrying out the excavation. Eventual expropriation shall take place in favour of the Greek State.

Article 37

Rescue excavation

1. Excavation for rescuing a monument that has been revealed in the course of a technical work, public or private, accidentally or due to natural causes or illegal excavation activity ("rescue excavation"), shall be carried out by the Service.
2. For the carrying out of rescue excavation, an archaeologist shall be appointed by the Service who has at least three years experience in

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3. The Service shall ensure the conservation and safeguarding of the finds in cooperation with specialists, technicians and conservators, the safety of the area which has been excavated, as well as the undertaking of safety measures for the project team and third persons. For the conservation of the immovable finds the provisions of article 9 shall be applicable.
 4. The Service shall facilitate the access of specialists to the excavation site, subject to the provisions of article 39.
 5. In case rescue excavation exceeds the aim of immediate rescue, the provisions of the preceding article shall apply.
 6. The rescue excavation, the conservation and publication of the finds included, shall be financed by the owner of the work, if it is a public technical work under the terms of Law 1418/1984 (*Official Gazette A' 55*) as applicable or a private work with a budget of more than € 587,000. This amount may be readjusted by a decision taken by the Minister of Culture. Financing shall also cover the costs of conservation, study and publication of the finds. A work with a budget of less than € 587,000 may also be financed, following an application by the owner of the work, upon a decision of the Minister of Culture, following an opinion of the Council.

Article 38

Other archaeological research

1. The provisions of article 36 shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to surface or other archaeological research, taking into account its non-destructive character. As directors shall be appointed scientists with a specialization and experience which shall ensure the satisfactory carrying-out of excavations. The institutions referred to in article 36, paragraph 2 may carry out annually three (3) surface or other

2. The use of metal detectors or other scanners for surveying the subsoil, seabed or bed shall not be permitted without a permit by the Service. Issues relating to the possession and use of such devices, as well as the procedure for granting the relevant permits, shall be determined by a decision of the Minister of Culture.
3. A decision of the Minister of Culture shall determine the formalities required for issuing the decision referred to in article 36, paragraph 1, the specific duties of the bodies carrying out excavations or other archaeological research and those of the directors of systematic excavations or other archaeological research, the conditions and the manner of implementation of article 37, paragraph 6, the regulations on excavations and any relevant detail for implementing articles 35 to 38.

Article 39

Publication of the results of excavations and other archaeological research

1. The directors of systematic excavations or other archaeological research and those carrying out rescue excavations shall publish the results of their research within the time limits provided for below. Within these time limits, they shall have the exclusive right of publication.
2. The aforementioned persons shall submit to the Service annual scientific reports, at the latest in April of the following year, for their publication in a scientific journal or for their electronic registration.
3. The director of systematic excavation shall submit an initial presentation for publication within two (2) years from the beginning of the excavation, which shall contain a list of the movable finds and drawings of the immovables, and a final publication within five (5) years from the completion of the excavation. With regard to long-term excavations, the director shall additionally submit for publication a



presentation, while the final presentation with the signed contributions by the members of the research team shall be submitted within five (5) years from the completion of the excavation.

4. The person carrying out rescue excavation shall submit a final report with a list of the finds, photographs and drawings within nine (9) months from its completion. If he does not wish to undertake the final publication of the results of the excavation, he shall declare so in writing, in which case the Service shall care for the assignment of the publication. In the opposite case, the person who has carried out the excavation shall submit within six (6) years from its completion the final publication with the signed contributions by the members of the research team.
5. The director of surface or other archaeological research shall submit the final publication within two (2) years from its completion.
6. Finds from excavations or other research *in situ* or parts thereof may be the object of other special publications, following permission from the person who has the exclusive right of publication, within five (5) years from the date of granting the permit, if it concerns a publication of a part of the excavation, and within two (2) years, if it concerns a publication of an individual find.
7. The time limits mentioned in the preceding paragraphs shall be double with respect to underwater archaeological research.
8. Following the lapse of the time limits for the submission of the final publication referred to in paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 7, the exclusive right of publication of the results of the excavation shall cease to exist. The person carrying out rescue excavation shall submit to the Service all the documentation material that he has in his possession, while the director of a systematic excavation or other archaeological research shall submit a copy of all the documentation material. The Service shall facilitate the access of interested researchers to the finds and the

other archaeological research shall be under the same duty with respect to the material which they possess and which is no longer subject any more to an exclusive right of publication.

9. Matters pertaining to the submission and publication of the studies referred to in this article as well as any other necessary details for its implementation shall be determined by a decision of the Minister of Culture. The same decision shall also determine issues relating to the electronic registration of the annual scientific reports or other elements.

SECOND PART

WORKS FOR THE PROTECTION OF MONUMENTS

Article 40

Works on immovable monuments

1. Works on immovable monuments and in particular conservation, consolidation, restoration, anastylosis, interment, installation of protective sheds, landscape designing, as well as works directed at rehabilitation or re-use, shall aim at the preservation of their material existence and authenticity, their enhancement and protection in general. They shall be carried out pursuant to a study approved by the Service, following an opinion of the Council or, if the works are of major importance, by a decision of the Minister of Culture, following an opinion of the Council. For the approval of the study, prior documentation of the monumental character of the immovable shall be required.
2. Emergency conservation and consolidation work shall be carried out care of the Service without undue delay and without further formalities.
3. If the works referred to in the present article and in articles 41 and 42 are to be carried out by the Service, no building license shall be required.

determined by a decision of the Minister of Culture. More specifically, they shall refer to recording, listing, documentation and survey of monuments, elaboration of the relevant architectural, structural and diagnostic studies, as well as studies for the preservation, protection, restoration, enhancement, management and the integrated use of monuments, application of quality control systems in conservation and restoration work and any other relative issue.

Article 41

Protection of dilapidated monuments

1. If the bearing structure of a monument dating after 1453 has suffered serious damage and is on the verge of collapse, a five-member committee shall be established by a decision of the Minister of Culture, comprising an architect, a conservator and a civil engineer, employees of the Minister of Culture, an archaeologist and an historian or an art historian or two archaeologists, employees of the Ministry of Culture in case of a monument dating up to 1830, or an architect from the competent town planning authority, and an historian or an art historian in case of a recent monument. The committee shall inspect their condition and propose measures, provided that the authenticity of the monument is preserved, which may include, *inter alia*, the necessary reinforcement of foundation, the temporary consolidation of the building, dismantling of dilapidated parts, collection of architectural members, removal of any decorative elements which are in danger, as well as safety measures for the tenants and third persons.
2. In exceptional cases, when the committee considers that preservation of the monument as a whole or a part thereof is not possible, it may recommend pursuant to a study its partial or total demolition, which shall be decided by the Minister of Culture, following an opinion of the Council; demolition shall be preceded by a detailed description of the

members and decorative elements.

3. Urgent protective measures for dilapidated monuments shall be carried out care of the Service, without undue delay and without further formalities.
4. If demolition of the monument is considered necessary pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 2 and its owner has deliberately made it or let it become dilapidated, the erection of a new building shall be allowed only if it has at most the same size and building surface with the monument. The relevant building license shall be issued following an opinion of the committee referred to in paragraph 1.
5. Special issues pertaining to the implementation of the preceding paragraphs shall be determined by a decision of the Minister of Culture.

Article 42

Removal of an immovable monument –

Detachment of parts thereof

1. The removal of an immovable monument or a part thereof shall be prohibited without a permit by the Minister of Culture, which shall be issued following an opinion of the Council on condition that the necessary guarantees are provided for its transfer and reinstatement at a suitable location. In the case of monuments of particular significance which are classified by a decision of the Minister of Culture, following an opinion of the Council, a permit may be exceptionally granted if it is considered that their removal is imperative for their material safeguarding from natural causes or the execution of major technical works which are required for reasons of national defense or which are of major importance for the national economy and satisfy vital needs of the society. The removal of the monument due to the execution of a



has been excluded.

2. The detachment of items of sculpture, paintings, decorations, mosaics or other elements from an immovable monument which form an integral part thereof shall be prohibited. In exceptional circumstances, the detachment and removal of such elements may be allowed only if it has been determined by a decision of the Minister of Culture, following an opinion of the Council that it is absolutely necessary for their rescue.
3. The aforementioned works shall be executed pursuant to a study approved by the respective decision.
4. In case of emergency, the activities shall be carried out with the care of the Service, without undue delay or further formalities.

Article 43

Conservation works on monuments

1. Conservation works on movable monuments and on items of sculpture, paintings, decorations or other elements that form an integral part of immovable monuments, shall be carried out by the Service or by persons listed in the Registers of Conservators of Antiquities and Works of Art mentioned in article 9, paragraph 6 of Law 2557/1997 (*Official Gazette A' 271*) under the supervision of the Service, pursuant to a study approved by it or, if it is of primary importance, by a decision of the Minister of Culture, following an opinion of the Council. For the approval of the study, prior documentation of the monumental character of the movable or the immovable shall be required.
2. In case of emergency, conservation works shall be undertaken *in situ* by a conservator appointed by the Service without undue delay and with no further formalities.

decision of the Minister of Culture, following an opinion of the Council.

4. A decision of the Minister of Culture shall specify the terms and conditions for the establishment and operation of laboratories of conservation of antiquities and works of art.

Article 44

Publication of the results of works

The persons carrying out the works referred to in articles 40 to 43 shall submit annual reports on projects of their specialization at the latest in April of the following year and the final report or publication within fifteen (15) months from the completion of the projects.

CHAPTER FOUR

MUSEUMS

Article 45

1. "Museum" shall mean the service or the organization of non-profit character with or without legal personality which acquires, accepts, safeguards, conserves, records, documents, researches, interprets and primarily exhibits and promotes to the public collections of archaeological, artistic, ethnological or other material evidence of people and their environment, for purposes of study, education and enjoyment. As museums may also be considered services or organizations with similar objectives and functions, such as open-air museums.
2. For the establishment and operation of a museum by the State, a decision shall be issued by the Minister of Culture, following an opinion by the Council, provided that the functions and the objectives referred to in the preceding paragraph are ensured, in the wider context of



collections, adequacy and suitability of the premises, of the employed personnel and of the other means for achieving the objectives of the museum shall, *inter alia*, be required.

3. A museum established by or belonging to another legal person may be recognized by a decision of the Minister of Culture, following an opinion of the Council, upon submission of a relevant application, provided that the functions and the objectives referred to in paragraph 1 are ensured. In this respect, the importance of the collections, the adequacy and suitability of the premises and the employed personnel, as well as the other means and manners for achieving the objectives of the museum shall be taken into account.
4. A decision of the Minister of Culture, issued following an opinion of the Council, shall determine further the conditions which must be fulfilled by museums for the issuance of the decision referred to in paragraph 2 and in paragraph 3. These conditions may be specified by categories of museums on the basis of such criteria as the content of collections, the geographical area that they cover or the bodies to which they belong. The same decision shall determine the procedure for the establishment or recognition of museums, the studies and the certificates that must be submitted, the publication given to recognition and any other necessary detail.
5. Museums shall be open to the public in predetermined days and hours. They shall also facilitate access to their collections for study and research purposes.
6. Museums shall be governed by an internal regulation, which shall be adopted by a decision of the Minister of Culture following an opinion of the Council, with respect to State museums, and notified to the Service with respect to other museums.
7. The objects that are deposited in museums shall be registered in the National Inventory of Monuments with the responsibility of the Administration of Museums.

annually or any change in the condition of the objects forming part of their collections, their eventual loss, and of the enrichment of their collections with new objects. If an object is under an imminent danger of damage, loss or destruction, the last section of article 27, paragraph 1 shall apply. In case of theft or illegal export, the provisions of article 30 shall apply.

9. The provisions of article 31, paragraph 5 shall apply with respect to the enrichment of the collections of museums that do not belong to the State with monuments. These museums shall be prohibited from acquiring or accepting as loan or trust, cultural objects suspected of deriving from theft, illegal excavation or other illegal activity in violation of the legislation of their country of origin, and, without undue delay, shall inform the Service of any such offer. The prohibition against acquisition or acceptance of cultural objects suspected of having been acquired or exported in violation of the legislation of their country of origin, shall also apply for State museums.
10. Objects forming part of museum collections shall not be subject to confiscation.
11. The transfer of ownership of objects forming part of collections of State museums is not allowed, subject to the provisions of article 25, paragraph 2 applying *mutatis mutandis* with respect to cultural objects, which do not constitute monuments. The transfer of ownership of objects forming part of collections of recognized museums which belong to a legal person of public law or local government agencies or legal persons of private law of the broader public sector may be exceptionally allowed either to the State or, upon authorization by the Minister of Culture and the *ad hoc* competent Minister, following an opinion of the Council, preferably to such other legal persons for the purpose of being deposited to another museum collection. The exchange of objects forming part of collections of recognized museums which are not of particular significance to the collections or to the cultural heritage of the country with objects forming part of collections



exceptionally allowed by a decision of the Minister of Culture, following an opinion of the Council. The restrictions of the present paragraph shall not apply to renewable and replaceable specimens in natural history collections. Any transfer effected in violation of the provisions of the present paragraph shall be null and void.

12. The loan and temporary export of objects forming part of museum collections may be allowed under the terms and the conditions provided for in article 25, paragraph 1 and article 34, paragraph 11, respectively.
13. Recognized museums shall operate under the supervision of the Minister of Culture, who may revoke the decision referred to in paragraph 3, following an opinion of the Council, if the conditions for its issuance have ceased to be satisfied or if other provisions of the present law have been violated.
14. Recognized museums under paragraph 3 may be financially supported by the Ministry of Culture and may also enjoy the privileges referred to in the provisions of article 28, paragraph 6, article 31, paragraph 11 and article 47, paragraph 1. Monuments, according to these provisions, shall be acquired by recognized museums with the same legal personality or by legal persons to which recognized museums belong on condition that they shall be deposited in their collections.
15. For the purpose of erecting, expanding, establishing, enhancing and operating a museum there may be an expropriation or direct purchase of buildings or land in accordance with the provisions of article 18 and a protection zone may be established in their surroundings, in accordance with the provisions of article 17.

CHAPTER SIX

ACCESS TO AND USE OF MUSEUMS AND SITES

1. A decision of the Minister of Culture, issued following an opinion of the Council, shall determine for the entire category of organized archaeological sites, historical sites or immovable monuments or separately for important sites or monuments: a) the terms and conditions for the visit of the public thereto, b) the cultural or other events which may be organized therein, compatible with their character as monuments or protected sites. The organization of an event or the use of the aforementioned sites or monuments is possible in the context of the aforementioned decision, upon permit by the Minister of Culture, following an opinion of the Council, which may stipulate specific conditions for such activities. For the use of the aforementioned sites and immovable monuments during these events, a fee shall be paid to the Archaeological Revenues and Expropriations Fund. By a decision of the Minister of Culture, non-profit-making events may be exempted from the obligation to pay the fee. "Organized archaeological site" shall mean the archaeological site, which belongs to the State and requires special care for its enhancement and promotion. An organized archaeological site may also be an excavation site. An archaeological site shall be declared as organized by a decision of the Minister of Culture, following an opinion of the Council.
2. A joint decision of the Ministers of Economy and Finance, and Culture, shall specify the price to be paid by the public for visiting monuments, museums, organized archaeological sites and historical sites, which belong to the State and are protected by the present law.
3. The Service shall facilitate the access of specialists who have been granted a relevant permit to movable monuments deposited in public museums and places of storage under its supervision for the purpose of photographing, studying and publishing them, provided that there is no danger for the deterioration of the monuments and subject to the provisions of article 39 with respect to rights of publication.

purpose, of casts, reproductions or representations of monuments which belong to the State, whether the same are immovable monuments located within archaeological and historical sites or individual or movables deposited in museums or public collections by any manner or means, including electronic and digital, *internet*, networks of telecommunication or other connection, and the creation of a data base with photographs of the aforementioned monuments, from bodies or persons other than the State, the Archaeological Revenues and Expropriations Fund and the Organization for the Promotion of the Hellenic Cultural Heritage S.A. The permit shall be granted on payment of a fee in favour of the Archaeological Revenues and Expropriations Fund legal or natural persons by a decision of the Minister of Culture which shall specify the duration of the permit, the conditions under which it shall be granted and the payable fee.

5. The production, reproduction and use of the aforementioned products for other purposes, such as artistic, educational or scientific, may be allowed on payment of a fee in favour of the Archaeological Revenues and Expropriation Fund, from which there may be an exemption by a decision of the Minister of Culture.
6. Article 14 of Law 1947/1939 shall be abolished.
7. A decision of the Minister of Culture, following an opinion of the Council, shall specify the terms and conditions for granting the permit referred to in paragraph 4, including any technological measures and standards as well as any other relevant detail.
8. A joint decision of the Ministers of Economy and Finance, and Culture shall determine the amount of the fee referred to in the preceding paragraphs, the procedure and the means of collecting it, the cases and the conditions of exemption from the obligation to pay it as well as any other relevant detail.

FINANCIAL INCENTIVES

Article 47

Tax incentives

1. In article 31, paragraph 1(a)(iii) of Law 2238/1994, seven new sub-sections are added after fourth section as follows:

"The value of movable monuments, as defined by the legislation in force, which shall be transferred by way of donation to the State or to museums recognized by the Minister of Culture under the same legislation. In case of transfer to the State, the acceptance of the donation shall be effected by a joint decision of the Ministers of Economy and Finance, and Culture, following an opinion of the competent advisory Council of the Ministry of Culture, following an estimation of the pecuniary value of the monuments by a special assessment committee and acceptance of the value by the donor. The decision shall include the personal data of the donor, description and pecuniary evaluation of the monument. The monuments shall be deposited with State museums. In case of transfer by way of donation to museums, which do not belong to the State, the acceptance of the donation shall be effected, after the pecuniary evaluation of the monuments has been determined by the special assessment committee referred to in the sixth section of the present article. The amount deducted cannot exceed 15% of the total net income or profits appearing at the balance sheet of the accounting period, from the gross income of which it is deducted. In case the decision of the special assessment committee is issued in a financial year after that of the donation, the amount of the previous section shall be deducted from the gross income of the accounting period within which the decision is issued."

2. Article 23(23) of Law 2459/1997 (*Official Gazette A' 17*) shall be replaced as follows:



built up archaeological zone and which have been reserved by the Archaeological Service of the Ministry of Culture."

3. The provisions of article 2, paragraph 4 of Law 2557/1997 shall be replaced as follows:

"In case of imposing succession, legacy or donation tax on movable monuments, works of fine art or other works of art, the tax levied may be paid in kind by the persons liable by transferring to the State movable monuments or works of fine art or other works of art of equal value. A special assessment committee shall determine the pecuniary value of the movable. Special issues relating to procedure, competent authorities, museums or other scientific or cultural bodies to which the monuments or other cultural objects shall be deposited, as well as any other detail for the implementation of the present provision shall be determined by the decision referred to in the next paragraph."

4. A joint decision of the Ministers of Economy and Finance, and Culture shall determine the composition of the special assessment committee referred to in paragraphs 1 and 3 of the present article for the estimation of the pecuniary value of the monuments, the procedure, the terms and conditions as well as any other detail for the implementation of the provisions of Law 2238/1994 and Law 2459/1997, as added or modified by preceding paragraphs 1 and 2 respectively, and the provisions of preceding paragraph 3.

Article 48

Other financial incentives

1. The owner of an immovable monument shall be entitled to transfer the coefficient of building surface which has not been covered by the immovable in accordance with the applicable law.
2. The procedure, the terms and conditions required for granting subsidies and/or other financial incentives to the owners or possessors

accordance with the provisions of the present law or article 4, paragraph 2 of Law 1577/1985, or which are located in sites or urban areas, which have been designated as archaeological sites, historical sites or traditional settlements pursuant to the provisions of the present law and article 4, paragraph 1 of Law 1577/1985 respectively, shall be determined by presidential decree, issued upon proposal by the Ministers of Economy and Finance, Environment, Town Planning and Public Works and Culture. The aforementioned incentives and subsidies shall be granted whenever due to the deterioration of or damage to the buildings referred to in the previous section, even if the latter is attributed to *force majeure*, there is need for their conservation, restoration, rehabilitation, restoration, reconstruction or enhancement or for the preservation of individual architectural, static or other elements thereof of historical and artistic significance, or for carrying out works aimed at facilitating their accessibility, in case they are monuments. The same presidential decree may stipulate that the criteria for selecting the buildings may be specified in a proclamation, in cases where this is provided for, as well as specify the amount of the subsidy as a percentage of the expenses required for the works for the aforementioned purposes. The percentage may vary on a case-by-case basis when the buildings are located within settlements upon criteria pertaining to the density or rarity of the buildings therein, the character of the settlement in connection to the danger, the degree and rate of its disfigurement, as well as the financial situation of the owner or possessor. Finally, the same presidential decree shall determine the sanctions to be imposed for acts or omissions in violation of its provisions.

Article 49

Local Councils of Monuments

1. By a decision of the Minister of Culture, Local Councils of Monuments shall be established at the seat of every administrative region and in insular regions, where necessary.

The Local Councils of Monuments shall be composed of eleven (11) members as follows:

- a) An Associate Judge to the Legal Council of the State, to be replaced by another Associate Judge, as President.
- b) Three archaeologists, employees of the Ministry of Culture, to be replaced by other employees with the same specialization.
- c) One architect, employee of the Ministry of Culture, to be replaced by another employee with the same specialization.
- d) One conservator, employee of the Ministry of Culture, to be replaced by another employee with the same specialization.
- e) One architect, employee of the Ministry of the Environment, Town Planning and Public Works, to be replaced by another employee with the same specialization appointed by the Minister of the Environment, Town Planning and Public Works.
- f) Three members of the Teaching and Research Staff of university-level institutions, or research associates at recognized research centers or specialists with at least five years research experience following their doctorate (PhD) in the field of archaeology, architecture, ethnology, folk archaeology, social anthropology, art history or other fields related to the protection of the cultural heritage, to be replaced by persons having the same qualifications.

Communities, who is appointed along with his deputy.

2. The Local Councils of Monuments shall render advisory opinions on all issues pertaining to the monuments and sites within their municipalities, with the exception of those referred to in article 50, paragraph 5(c). Upon application by anyone interested, the Local Councils may examine anew an issue that has already been decided, only if new substantial evidence has emerged *ex post facto*.

Article 50

Central Archaeological Council

Central Council of Recent Monuments

1. By a decision of the Minister of Culture, the Central Archaeological Council shall be established, composed of seventeen (17) members as follows:
 - a. The Secretary-General of the Ministry of Culture as President.
 - b. The Legal Councillor of the State to the Ministry of Culture, to be replaced by another Legal Councillor or Associate Judge at the office of the Legal Councillor to the Ministry of Culture.
 - c. The Director-General of Antiquities and the Director-General of Restoration of Monuments and Technical Works of the Ministry of Culture, to be replaced by persons having similar qualifications.
 - d. Five archeologists, heads of regional or special regional services of the Ministry of Culture at the level of a Directorate with specialization relating to the competence of the Central Archeological Council, to be replaced by persons having similar qualifications.
 - e. Seven professors or associate professors of university-level institutions, research associates of a comparable level at



authority, whether employees or not of the Ministry of Culture, with at least ten years professional and scientific experience following the acquisition of their doctorate (PhD) in archeology, architecture, conservation of antiquities, art history, geology, science and technology of materials, structural engineering and soil-mechanics or other sciences related to the protection of ancient monuments and sites, to be replaced by persons having similar qualifications.

- f. One architect, employee of the Ministry of the Environment, Town Planning and Public Works, to be replaced by an employee with the same specialization appointed by the Minister of the Environment, Town Planning and Public Works.
2. By a decision of the Minister of Culture, the Central Council of Recent Monuments shall be established composed of seventeen (15) members as follows:
- a. The Secretary-General of the Ministry of Culture as President.
 - b. The Legal Councillor of the State to the Ministry of Culture, to be replaced by another Legal Councillor or Associate Judge at the office of the Legal Councillor to the Ministry of Culture.
 - c. The Director-General of Antiquities and the Director-General of Restoration of Museums and Technical Works of the Ministry of Culture, to be replaced by persons having similar qualifications.
 - d. Three heads of regional or special regional services of the Ministry of Culture at the level of a Directorate with specialization relating to the competence of the Central Archeological Council, to be replaced by persons having similar qualifications.
 - e. Six professors or associate professors of university-level institutions or research associates of a comparable level at recognized research institutions or other scientists of recognized authority, whether employees or not of the Ministry of Culture,

removing their qualifications (112) in archaeology, architecture, conservation of antiquities, art history, geology, science and technology of materials, structural engineering and soil-mechanics or other sciences related to the protection of ancient monuments and sites, to be replaced by persons having similar qualifications.

- f. One architect, employee of the Ministry of Environment, Town Planning and Public Works, to be replaced by an employee with the same specialization appointed by the Minister of Environment, Town Planning and Public Works.
 - g. One architect representing the Technical Chamber of Greece.
3. With the decision establishing the Central Archaeological Council and the Central Council of Recent Monuments, the deputy of the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Culture as President of the Central Archaeological Council and the Central Council of Recent Monuments shall be appointed. When the Secretary-General is replaced by another member of the Council, the deputy of this member shall be called in his position as a Council member.

As *Rapporteurs* in the Central Archaeological Council and the Central Council of Recent Monuments shall be appointed the heads of the *ratione materiae* competent Directorates of the Central Service of the Ministry of Culture.

4. All matters pertaining to the protection of ancient monuments, archeological sites and historical sites which have constituted the site of exceptional historical or mythical events up to 1830 shall fall within the competence of the Central Archaeological Council. All matters pertaining to the protection of recent monuments and the remaining historical sites shall fall within the competence of the Central Council of Recent Monuments.
5. Subject to the provisions of the preceding paragraph, the Central Councils shall:

aspects of the protection of the cultural heritage, as stipulated in article 3.

b. Recommend to the Minister the annual programs of expropriations or direct purchases, excavations, restoration, conservation, as well as other works on monuments.

c. Give advisory opinion on issues relating to:

- i) monuments and sites located within more than one municipality, at sea or in rivers and lakes;
- ii) the protection of monuments entered in the World Heritage List, as well as other monuments, archeological and historical sites of outstanding importance;
- iii) interventions of major importance on monuments and sites;
- iv) the designation and establishment of archeological and historical sites and protection zones in accordance with the provisions of articles 12 to 17;
- v) the compulsory expropriation or direct purchase or exchange of immovables for reasons relating to the protection of the cultural heritage;
- vi) the removal of immovable monuments or a part thereof or the detachment of elements from monuments of outstanding importance;
- vii) the issuance of a permit for demolition in accordance with the provisions of article 6, paragraph 10;
- viii) the classification of categories of movable monuments;
- ix) the export of monuments;

belonging to the State,

- xi) the recognition of collectors and the acquisition of collections by the State in accordance with the provisions of article 31;
- xii) the loan, temporary export, exchange and transfer of antiquities forming part of museum collections referred to in article 45;
- xiii) any other important issue referred to them by the Minister of Culture.

6. a) For the implementation of the provisions of article 6, paragraph 11, if both monuments are antiquities, the competent body shall be the Central Archaeological Council, while if both monuments are recent, the competent body shall be the Central Council of Recent Monuments.

b) For any other issue relating to the implementation of these provisions, competent shall be a special body to be established by the Central Archeological Council and the Central Council of Recent Monuments sitting together in Plenary. The members referred to in paragraph 1(a), (b) and (c) as well as in paragraph 2(a), (b) and (c) shall have one vote, as the other members. In case of a tie of votes, the vote of the President shall decide the issue.

This body shall also give advisory opinion on the classification of an immovable located within an archeological site or an antiquity as a monument, in accordance with article 6, paragraph 1(b) and (c), without waiving their protection.

Council of Museums

1. By a decision of the Minister of Culture, the Council of Museums shall be established composed of fifteen (15) members as follows:

- a. The Secretary-General of the Ministry of Culture as President.
- b. The Director-General of Restoration of Museums and Technical Works, the Director-General of Antiquities, the Director-General of Cultural Development and the Head of the competent Service of the Ministry of Culture, to be replaced by persons having similar qualifications.
- c. Six (6) directors of museums of different categories, among those at least three (3) of State museums, to be replaced by persons with the same status.
- d. Two (2) persons having a scientific specialization or professional experience in matters pertaining to museum organization and function, to be replaced by persons having the same qualifications.
- e. One (1) representative of the Hellenic Branch of the International Council of Museums (ICOM), with his/her deputy.
- f. One (1) representative of the Central Union of Municipalities and Communities of Greece with scientific specialization or professional experience in matters of organization and operation of museums, with his/her deputy.

2. The Council of Museums shall:

- a. Recommend to the Minister principles governing the museums policy of the State and measures to support and further elaborate it, as well as cooperation between museums and coordination of their activities;
- b. Give advisory opinion on issues relating to the implementation of the provisions of article 45, subject to the provision of article 50, paragraph 5(c)(ii);

reciprocity, in the event of loan for the organization of exhibitions in museums;

- d. Give advisory opinion on the establishment of State museums as special regional services of the Ministry of Culture pursuant to the provisions of article 7, paragraph 28 of Law 2557/1997, and
 - e. Give advisory opinion on any issue relating to museums and being referred to it.
3. The provisions of article 6, paragraph 1 of Law 2557/1997 (*Official Gazette A' 271*) shall be abolished.

Article 52

Common rules for the composition and functioning of the Councils

1. The term of office of the members of the Councils referred to in articles 49 to 51 shall be three (3) years.* The term of office of at least half of the members of the Councils who do not participate *de jure* shall be renewed every six (6) years.
2. The Councils may be assisted in their work by assigning, upon their recommendation and a decision of the Minister of Culture, the examination of *ad hoc* issues to committees comprised of some of their members or other specialists or experts, which shall render advisory opinions.
3. The scientific and secretarial support of the Councils shall be undertaken by a secretariat to be established at the Ministry of Culture at the seat of each Council.
4. The *Rapporteurs*, the members of the Councils and their secretariat shall be entitled to remuneration, the amount of which shall be determined by a joint decision of the Ministers of Economy and

* As amended by article 80, par. 13a of Law 3057/2002, *Official Gazette A' 239*.

5. A decision of the Minister of Culture shall determine all matters pertaining to the organization and functions of the Councils and their secretariats, the possibility of their composition and functioning in chambers as well as every other relevant detail. A presidential decree, issued pursuant to a proposal by the Minister of Culture may establish new Councils, allocate competence, merge or abolish Councils and determine every other relevant detail.
6. Members of the Councils and the *Rapporteurs* shall participate in the Councils' sessions. In the sessions of the Central Councils the *Rapporteurs* shall participate without a right to vote.* The individuals whose cases are brought before the Council may appear in person and/or be represented by a lawyer as well as use technical advisors in order to present their views and reply to any questions raised by the members or the *Rapporteurs*.

CHAPTER NINE

CRIMINAL LAW PROVISIONS

Article 53

Theft of monuments

1. Theft shall be punished by a temporary term* not exceeding ten (10) years (article 372 of the Penal Code), if the stolen property is a monument of especially high value or a monument which has been removed from an immovable monument, an excavated site, a museum, storage places of antiquities or a place where a collection is kept.
2. If theft has been committed by two or more persons joined together for the purpose of committing thefts or armed robberies or for committing

* As amended by article 80, par. 13b of Law 3057/2002, *Official Gazette A'* 239.

* As amended by article 10, par. 22 of Law 3207/2003, *Official Gazette A'* 302.

* *Translator's note:* Greek law distinguishes between the sentence of *temporary term* (five to twenty years) and *imprisonment* (ten days to five years).

imposed. The same penalty shall be imposed if the offender commits thefts of monuments habitually or by profession.

Article 54

Embezzlement of monuments

Embezzlement shall be punished by a temporary term not exceeding ten (10) years (article 375 of Penal Code), if the property embezzled is a monument of especially high value or if the offender commits the act of embezzlement of monuments by profession or habitually.

Article 55

Receiving and disposing of monuments constituting products of crime

The act of receiving and disposing of products of crime (article 394, paragraph 1 of Penal Code) shall be punished by a temporary term not exceeding ten (10) years, if its object is a monument of especially high value and the offender knew that it was the product of an indictable offense. If the offender commits the act mentioned in the previous section by profession or habitually, a term of imprisonment shall be imposed.

Article 56

Damage to a monument

1. Any person who destroys, damages, pollutes, renders impossible or obstructs the use of or disfigures a monument or a cultural object forming part of a museum collection or a cultural object which has been deposited in open or enclosed public, municipal or communal areas shall be punished by a term of imprisonment of not less than two (2) years, if the act is not punishable more severely pursuant to another provision.



three (3) years shall be imposed.

2. If it concerns a monument of especially high value and the act has been committed in the context of an organized criminal activity or by two or more persons joined together for committing such an activity, a temporary term not exceeding ten (10) years shall be imposed.

Article 57

Damage to a monument due to negligence

The act referred to in the first section of preceding article 56, paragraph 1 shall be punished by a term of imprisonment not exceeding two (2) years if it has been committed due to negligence.

Article 58

Breach of the duty to declare a monument

Any person who fails to make a declaration pursuant to the provisions of article 8, paragraph 1 and article 24, paragraph 2, shall be punished by a term of imprisonment not exceeding three (3) years. Any person who fails to make a declaration pursuant to the provisions of article 24, paragraph 2 and article 33, paragraph 2, shall be punished by a term of imprisonment not exceeding two (2) years. In the case of monuments which are classified in accordance with article 20, paragraph 6 of this law, the crime of the previous section shall be committed only if the person responsible for the declaration had knowledge beyond any doubt of the administrative act on classification. In the case of the previous section, the offender shall be punished by a pecuniary penalty not exceeding € 50.000 and on recidivism by a term of imprisonment not exceeding two (2) years.

or acquires ownership or possession of a monument without the permit, authorization or notification, required by law, shall be punished by a term of imprisonment not exceeding two (2) years. An imprisonment of at least two (2) years shall be imposed in case of an ancient monument that has not been lawfully declared. These penalties shall be imposed, provided that the act is not punishable more severely pursuant to another provision.

Article 60

Illegal trading in monuments

Any person who without a permit exercises the profession of an antique dealer or a merchant of recent monuments, as provided for in article 32, paragraph 1, shall be punished by a term of imprisonment.

Article 61

Illegal excavation or other archeological research

1. Any person who carries out excavation for the purpose of finding or revealing antiquities without a prior permit shall be punished by a temporary term not exceeding ten (10) years.
2. If the acts mentioned in the preceding paragraph have been committed within archeological sites or if the offender commits them by profession or habitually, a temporary term shall be imposed.
3. Any person who carries out other illegal archeological research for the purpose of finding or revealing antiquities without a prior permit shall be punished by a term of imprisonment of not less than one (1) year. If the offender commits the act of the previous paragraph by profession or habitually, a temporary term not exceeding ten (10) years shall be imposed.



Illegal use of a metal detector

1. Any person who uses a metal detector or other detection equipment without the permit required under article 38, paragraph 2, shall be punished by a term of imprisonment of not less than three (3) months.
2. If the act mentioned in the preceding paragraph has been committed within archeological sites or if the offender commits the act by profession or habitually, a term of imprisonment of not less than three (3) years shall be imposed.

Article 63

Illegal export of cultural objects

1. Any person who exports or attempts to export from Greek territory in violation of the provisions of the present law, a monument or a cultural object with respect to which the classification procedure has been initiated in accordance with article 20, paragraph 2, second section, shall be punished by a temporary term not exceeding ten (10) years. The acquisition of the monument as a result of a criminal act shall constitute an aggravating circumstance.
2. Any person who violates the terms of the decision according to which a permit for the temporary export of a monument forming part of a museum collection has been granted and especially if he does not re-import it within the specified time-limit, shall be punished by a term of imprisonment. Nonetheless, if violation of the terms is not substantial, the court may impose no penalty. The act of overdue re-importation shall be expunged, if the offender voluntarily and prior to being questioned in any manner for this act by the authorities re-imports the monument or the cultural object.
3. The offender of the act of the first section of the preceding paragraph shall be punished by a temporary term not exceeding ten (10) years, if

- the movement from the limits of Greek territory.
4. Any person who exports or attempts to export from Greece beyond the limits of the customs territory of the European Union in violation of the provisions of Council Regulation (EEC) 3911/1992 and Commission Regulation (EEC) 752/1993 and their implementing presidential decrees, as applicable, cultural objects under the terms of Regulation 3911/1992, shall be punished by a term of imprisonment of not less than three (3) months if the act is not punishable more severely by another provision.
 5. Article 3 of Presidential Decree 423/1995 (*Official Gazette A' 254*) shall be abolished.

Article 64

Illegal import of cultural objects

Any person who imports into Greek territory cultural objects under the terms of the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (Paris, 17 November 1970) ratified by Law 1103/1980 (*Official Gazette A' 297*), which have been illegally removed from museums or other similar institutions or religious or public monuments situated within the territory of other States parties to the said Convention and which are documented as appertaining to the inventory of those institutions shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than one (1) year, if the act is not punishable more severely by another provision.

Article 65

Illegal non-return of cultural objects

Any person who does not comply with an enforceable judgment of a court or arbitral tribunal ordering the return of cultural objects which have been illegally removed from the territory of another State pursuant to



Article 66

Illegal intervention or execution of works

Any person who, without the permit required by law or in excess of it, commits an act from those mentioned in the provisions of articles 10, paragraphs 2-4, 13, 14 and 15 with respect to a monument, archeological site or historical site, shall be punished by a term of imprisonment not exceeding three (3) years. The same penalty shall be imposed on anyone who carries out an act or activity in protection zones in the surroundings of monuments or sites, as provided for in articles 15 and 17, in violation of the applicable terms and restrictions. The same penalty shall be imposed to anyone who commits the acts mentioned in articles 42, 43 paragraph 1 and 46 paragraph 4, without the permit required by law or in excess of it.

Article 67

Negligent safeguarding, preservation or conservation of a monument

The owner, the possessor or the holder of a monument who complies with his duties of safeguarding, preserving or conserving negligently and as a result exposes the monument to danger, shall be punished by a term of imprisonment not exceeding three (3) years.

Article 68

Actions of investigative bodies

The provisions of article 25B of Law 1729/1987 (*Official Gazette A' 144*), which has been added by article 22 of Law 2161/1993 (*Official Gazette A' 119*), shall apply *mutatis mutandis* also with respect to the crimes of theft of monuments, embezzlement of monuments, damage to monuments, receiving and disposing of monuments that constitute products of crime,

actions that are absolutely essential for the verification of these crimes, the commission of which must in any event have been premeditated by the offender.

Article 69

Forfeiture and pecuniary penalty

1. Forfeiture of cultural objects which have been illegally exported or have been attempted to be illegally exported, as well as the instruments of commission of this act, illegal excavation or other research for the purpose of discovering or revealing antiquities is mandatory, if the objects are owned by the offender or a participant.
2. If, for any reason, forfeiture of the means of commission of the offenses provided for in the present law is not imposed, a pecuniary penalty shall be imposed which may amount to half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of the value of such means.

Article 70

Extension of the application of the provisions of Law 2331/1995

Section xviii of article 1 of Law 2331/1995 (*Official Gazette A' 173*) shall be replaced as follows:

"xviii) of criminal offenses which have a monument as their object"

Article 71

Jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal

1. Prosecution of acts that constitute the felonies of theft of monuments, embezzlement of monuments, damage to monuments, receiving and disposing of monuments constituting products of crime, illegal



for the purpose of finding or revealing antiquities, falls under the jurisdiction of the three-member Court of Appeal.

2. As soon as summary investigation proceedings for the acts of the preceding paragraph have been completed, the file shall be referred by the Public Prosecutor of the Multimember Court of First Instance to the Public Prosecutor of the Court of Appeal, who, if he considers that there is not sufficient evidence for a trial, may refer the case with a motion to the Judicial Council of the Court of Appeal, which shall render its decision in accordance with the provisions of articles 309-315 of the Code of Penal Procedure.

If the Public Prosecutor to the Court of Appeal judges that there is sufficient evidence for the file not to be returned for completion, provided that the President of the Court of Appeal also agrees, he shall refer the case directly to trial with a motion against which no appeal shall be permitted.

Article 72

Treatment of pecuniary penalties and objects forfeited

1. Pecuniary penalties, fines, the amounts from conversion of custodial penalties into pecuniary penalties, as well as the amounts for the pecuniary satisfaction of the State due to moral prejudice which are imposed pursuant to the provisions of the legislation for the protection of the cultural heritage shall constitute revenue of the Archeological Revenues and Expropriations Fund. Objects forfeited as instrument of commission of criminal offenses shall be given to the Ministry of Culture.
2. A joint decision of the Ministers of Economy and Finance, Justice and Culture shall determine the procedure for verifying, collecting and transferring the aforementioned amounts to the Archaeological

CHAPTER TEN

SPECIAL, TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 73

Transitional and special provisions

1. The existing rights of ownership, at the time of entry into force of the present law, of the ecclesiastical legal persons of the Church of Greece, the Church of Crete, the Dioceses of Dodecanese, the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, the Patriarchates of Alexandria, Antiocheia and Jerusalem, the Holy Monastery of Sinai, the Holy Monasteries of Mount Athos, the Patriarchal Monasteries of Aghia Anastasia Pharmakolytria in Chalkidiki, of Vlatadhes in Thessaloniki and Ioannis the Evangelist Theologos in Patmos, other legal persons or associations representing religions or confessions, of ancient monuments of religious character, even those dating up to 1453, shall be reserved.
2. The provisions of the present article shall not affect the special provisions of law governing Mount Athos (Aghio Oros).
3. Anyone who has in his possession an ancient movable of those mentioned in article 20(1)(a') and (b'), shall declare it to the Service within one (1) year from the date of publication of this law. Declaration made within the aforementioned time limit shall constitute, for the person making it, grounds of excuse from the initiation of criminal proceedings for non-timely declaration.

Anyone who declares in accordance with the preceding paragraph that he possesses an antiquity dating up to 1453 may submit, along with the declaration, an application for a permit of possession of antiquities in accordance with the provisions of the present law. The permit shall be granted unless the negative conditions provided for in article 23(2)c'



necessary measures for the safeguarding and preservation of the monument shall be determined.

4. If, pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 2, possession of an antiquity imported from abroad and dating up to 1453 has been declared, a right of ownership shall be recognized under the terms and the conditions provided for in article 33, paragraph 3.
5. Those having a permit of a private collection of antiquities pursuant to the provisions of Cod. Law 5351/1932 may apply for their recognition as collectors in accordance with the provisions of the present law. The applicants shall be recognized as collectors unless the impediments mentioned in article 31, paragraph 1 or 2 are applicable. The decision on recognition shall determine all the necessary measures which the collector must take for the safeguarding and preservation of the objects forming part of the collection within a time limit of eighteen (18) months from the date of recognition at the latest. After the lapse of eighteen (18) months from the date of publication of this law, the permits of private collections of antiquities which have been issued pursuant to the provisions of Cod. Law 5351/1932 shall cease to exist *ipso jure*, unless an application for the recognition as collector in accordance with the provisions of the preceding section is pending.
6. Those having a permit to trade antiquities pursuant to the provisions of Cod. Law 5351/1932, if they wish to exercise the profession of the antique dealer, must apply for the relevant permit in accordance with the provisions of the present law, within a time limit of eighteen (18) months from the date of its publication. After the lapse of eighteen (18) months from the date of publication of this law, the permits for trading antiquities which have been granted pursuant to the provisions of Cod. Law 5351/1932, shall cease to exist *ipso jure*, unless an application for the permit of an antique dealer in accordance with the provisions of the preceding section is pending.

publication the initial presentation within two (2) years from the date of publication of the present law. If the excavation has been completed, the director shall submit the final publication within five (5) years from the date of publication of the present law.

8. Museums operating at the time of the entry into force of the present law and established by law, shall be deemed to be recognized museums under the provisions of article 45, paragraph 3. However, they must comply with the provisions of this article and the normative acts provided for herein, within a time period to be specified by a decision of the Minister of Culture.
9. Legally operating mines and quarries shall continue lawfully their operations after the entry into force of this law, until the expiration of the respective licenses, which may thereafter be renewed.
10. Cultural objects, which have been declared to be protected pursuant to the provisions of the pre-existing legislation shall be henceforth protected in accordance with the provisions of the present law. Cultural objects, which have already been classified *per* categories shall be classified anew in accordance with the procedures and under the conditions provided for in the present law. Until then, they shall be protected in accordance with the provisions of the present law, which shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.
11. The pecuniary value of movable monuments shall be determined by a three-member committee of specialists established by a decision of the Minister of Culture, following an opinion of the Council. If the private party does not accept the price determined by the aforementioned committee, a committee shall be established consisting of one specialist representing the private party, the head of a department of the Ministry of Culture or a museum director appointed by the Minister of Culture and a specialist appointed by the President of the Supreme Court.

than once, the provisions of the present law shall prevail so far as monuments, archeological and historical sites are concerned.

13. Archeological sites declared before the entry into force of this law, which have not been designated in accordance with the conditions provided for under article 12, paragraph 1, shall be permanently designated within (3) three years from that date within the framework of a program elaborated pursuant to a decision of the Minister of Culture, following an opinion of the Council. With respect to underwater archeological sites, the aforementioned time limit shall be double to the one referred to above.

14. Whenever in the present law and in the legislation for the protection of cultural heritage in general it is provided that:

- a) a permit or authorization by the competent service or the Minister of Culture is required for the execution of works or for the carrying out of any other activity, or
- b) the carrying out of works or other activities is prohibited or imposed either by law or pursuant to an act by the Service or the Minister of Culture, or
- c) legal consequences may result due to the violation of provisions thereof, notices may be issued temporarily and protocols permanently certifying compliance with the conditions from which the legal consequences provided for in the law or in normative or administrative acts issued pursuant to this law result, especially the cessation of works, appointment of contractors or teams of workers for the execution of the works, levy of compensation or fee, eviction from an immovable, confiscation of a movable or an immovable monument. These notices and protocols shall be issued by the Minister of Culture, who may authorize in this respect the Secretary-General or employees of the Ministry of Culture. Police authorities and any other public or local government authority shall offer any

administrative protocols referred to in the present paragraph. With respect to serving and enforcement of the aforementioned notices and protocols, the provisions of article 7(9)b', sec. 4 and 5 of Law 2557/1997 shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

15. A presidential decree, issued upon proposal by the Minister of Culture, shall specify the additional administrative sanctions to be imposed for acts or omissions in violation of the provisions of the present law or the normative acts, which have been issued pursuant to its provisions.
16. The corporation mentioned in article 6, paragraph 2a of Law 2557/1997 (*Official Gazette A' 271*), which was added by article 6, paragraph 1 of Law 2819/2000 (*Official Gazette 84 A'*), shall change its registered name from "Corporation for the Promotion of the Hellenic Cultural Heritage S.A." to "Organization for the Promotion of Hellenic Culture S.A."
17. At the end of article 6(2)(a)iv of Law 2557/1997 (*Official Gazette A' 271*), which was added by article 6, paragraph 1 of Law 2819/2000 (*Official Gazette A' 84*), insert the following section:

"As regards activities relating to the Cultural Olympiad and the promotion of the culture of the country, the company may operate also on a non-profit basis."

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 74

Codification of the legislation

By presidential decree, issued upon proposal by the Minister of Culture, the legislation on the protection of the cultural heritage may be codified in its entirety, the order or the enumeration of its provisions may be altered, similar provisions may be unified and in general any amendment necessary for its administrative codification may be effected.



The present law shall enter into force as from its publication in the *Official Gazette*, unless otherwise provided for in separate provisions. Every provision of law that is contrary to the provisions of the present law shall be abolished.

We order the publication of the present law in the *Official Gazette* and its execution as law of the State.

Athens, 28 June 2002

THE PRESIDENT OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC
CONSTANTINE STEPHANOPOULOS

THE MINISTERS

ECONOMY AND FINANCE
N. CHRISTODOULAKIS

DEVELOPMENT
A. TSOCHATZOPOULOS

ENVIRONMENT, TOWN PLANNING
AND PUBLIC WORKS
V. PAPANDREOU

JUSTICE
F. PETSALNIKOS

CULTURE
E. VENIZELOS

Authenticated and sealed

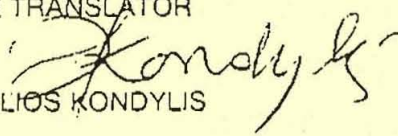
Athens, 28 June 2002

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE
F. PETSALNIKOS

Athens, 17 September 2004

Certified true translation into English of the attached original

THE TRANSLATOR


STELIOS KONDYLLIS

REPUBLICQUE HELLENIQUE
MINISTERE DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES

Vu pour legalisation de la signature ci-dessus
du Traducteur du Ministère des Affaires
Etrangères ayant traduit le texte ci-joint.

Athènes le, 20 SEP 2004



PAR DELEGATION DU MINISTRE
Le Directeur p.m.

NICOLAOS CHRISTODOULPOULOS
Secrétaire



7 c. FORM AND DATE OF MOST RECENT RECORDS OR INVENTORY OF PROPERTY

Recent records (1995 - 2005) relating to the Property have been kept by involved authorities and the contents can be described briefly as follows:

i. Projects for the recording and investigation of the Property

- Inventory Report of the buildings in the Historic Centre / DEPOS S.A. - Programme Contract / 1996
- Architectural Files on the buildings in the Historic Centre / DEPOS S.A. - Programme Contract / 1997-98
- Plotting of the buildings (200) in the Historic Centre / DEPOS S.A. - Programme Contract / 1997-98-99
- Photographic and drawn plotting of streets and communal spaces of the Historic Centre / DEPOS S.A. - Programme Contract / 1997
- Preliminary Programme for the Projects of the Programme Contract / DEPOS S.A / 1996
- Documentation of the morphological features of the British Protectorate / A.. Agoropoulou-Birbili / 1997
- Recording and historical documentation of the post-1830 monuments and works of art / B. Alektoridou – Ministry of Culture / 1989-1999.
- Lexicon of architectural terms, / A.. Agoropoulou-Birbili / 1998.
- Configuration of the residential ensemble until the mid-18th century/ N.E. Karapidakis / 1997
- Programme for Local Development of the Municipality of Corfu / MENTOR – XOPOLI/ 1995-1996
- Development of the New Fortress of Corfu / Municipality of Corfu / 1997
- Exploratory excavation of the area of the Holy Church of the Archangel Michael in Campiello / Programme Contract /1998
- Plotting and documentation of the Agia Aikaterina Monastery / DEPOS S.A / 1997
- Urban development of the city of Corfu / R. Roungeri / 1996
- Plotting, recording and investigation of the Old Fortress of Corfu / Ephorate of Byzantine Antiquities – Corfu Office / 1996-8
- The Historic Centre without automobiles / Municipality of Corfu / 1997
- Programme for Multi-Cultural Tourism / Development Office of the Municipality of Corfu/ 1997-2000
- Development of Harbour-Museum, proposal on the EU Programme URBAN / Municipality of Corfu / 2000
- “Public Ceremonies in Corfu during the period of Venetian Rule, 14th-18th c.” (in Greek) / Aliki Nikiforou / 2002.
- “Embassies of Venetian-ruled Corfu, 16th-18th c.” (in Greek) / Elli Yiotopoulou-Sisilianou / Archives of the Prefecture of Corfu / 2003.
- “Passports of the 19th c.” (in Greek) / Aliki Nikiforou / Archives of the Prefecture of Corfu / 2003.
- “Efficient reuse of historic buildings” (in Greek) in the framework of the EU Programme INTERREG – III VILLAS – B’ CADSES / Municipality of Corfu / 2004-2005.
- “Wood as a building material and its use in historic constructions” (in Greek) P. Touliatos / Technical Chamber of Greece – Corfu Branch, Corfu Association of Architects / 2005.

ii Conferences

- Tourism and Environment in Island Regions / Technical Chamber of Greece, Technical Chamber of Greece – Corfu Branch / 1996.
- “The Russian presence in the Ionian Islands, 18th-19th c.” / Archives of the Prefecture of Corfu / Old Fortress / 1998
- “Corfu, a Mediterranean synthesis” / Archives of the Prefecture of Corfu / Old Fortress / 1997
- “Venice of the Greeks and Greece of the Venetians” / Historical Archive of Venice – Biblioteca Marciana – Museo Correr / Athens 1999.
- “The Septinsular Republic 1807, the major issues” / 2000
- “Business networks in the diaspora” 1000-2000 / 2001
- “Protection and Development of historic towns in the 21st century” / ICOMOS – Technical Chamber of Greece – Municipality of Corfu / 2002
- “The Ionian Islands from Byzantium to Venice” / Hellenic Institute of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Studies, Venice – The Ionian University / 2002.
- “Seismic risk and anti-seismic support of buildings” / Technical Chamber of Greece – Corfu Branch / 2003.
- 4th International Conference of Maritime History / Archives of the Prefecture of Corfu / 2004.
- Polity – Land use and urban planning / Region of Ionian Islands – Prefecture of Corfu – Municipality of Corfu – Technical Chamber of Greece – Corfu Branch / 2005.

iii Exhibitions

- International exhibition of archival material from the Archives of the Prefecture of Corfu, with the theme “Corfu: Corfu: History, Urban life and Architecture 14th-19th c. / Achilleio / 1994
- “Icons itinerant, Corfu 14th-18th c.” / Directorate of Byzantine Monuments, 8th Ephorate of Byzantine Antiquities, Corfu Office – Holy Metropolitan See / 1994
- “The life and work of the architect Ioannis Chronis” / Technical Chamber of Greece – Corfu Branch / Palace of Saints George and Michael / 1997
- “Stamatis Vougaris, the first Greek urban planner” / Technical Chamber of Greece – Corfu Branch / Palace of Saints George and Michael / 1997
- “The Byzantine Collection of Corfu” / 8th Ephorate of Byzantine Antiquities, Corfu Office / 1997
- Exhibition of archival material from the Archives of the Prefecture of Corfu, with the theme “The Septinsular Republic, the first independent Greek State, 1800-1807” / Old Fortress / 1998
- “Corfu: Protection and Development” / ICOMOS – Technical Chamber of Greece – Municipality of Corfu / 2002
- “Corfu during the period of foreign rule” / Archives of the Prefecture of Corfu / 2004
- Exhibition on the conservation of archival material / Archives of the Prefecture of Corfu / 2003

7 d. ADDRESS WHERE INVENTORY, RECORDS AND ARCHIVES ARE HELD

Corfu Old Town Office
6a Alexandras Avenue,
Corfu 49100 – Greece

National Archives / Archives of the Prefecture of Corfu
Old Fortress of Corfu,
Corfu 49100 – Greece

21st Ephorate of Byzantine Antiquities
Old Fortress of Corfu
Corfu 49100 - Greece

8th Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities
Armeni Vraila str.
Corfu 49100 - Greece

Development Enterprise of Corfu Municipality
Ag. Nicolaou Gate – Faliraki
Corfu 49100 – Greece

Technical Chamber of Greece – Corfu Branch
13, Alexandras Avenue
Corfu 49100 – Greece

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HELLENIC MINISTRY OF CULTURE

The Director General of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage

Lazaros Kolonas



Athens, January 20th 2006

Old Town of Corfu



MANAGEMENT PLAN **2006-2012**



The Management Plan for the Old Town of Corfu was drawn up on the initiative of the Corfu Branch of the Technical Chamber of Greece and the Municipality of Corfu, by the architects:

Mary Mitropia,	co-ordinator of the 1995-2005 Programme Contract for the Old Town of Corfu (between the Ministry of the National Economy, the Ministry of the Environment, Planning and Public Works, the Ministry of Culture, the Public Corporation for Urban Development and Housing / DEPOS SA and the Municipality of Corfu)
Leonidas Stanellos,	co-ordinator of the 1989-2003 Programme Contract for the Fortifications (between the Ministry of Culture – the Archaeological Receipts Fund – the Development Enterprise of Corfu Municipality/ANEDK and the Municipality of Corfu)

The final version of the Plan was edited by the following full-time employees of the Office of the Old Town:

- Maria Dimengeli, secretary (editing the text)
- Spyros Voutselas, draughtsman (editing the photographs)

The content of Section 2, 'Description and Significance of the Proposed Site', was based on the data in the nomination papers supporting the application for inscription of the Old Town of Corfu on the World Heritage List. Those data were further elaborated by the editorial team to conform to the standards required for the Management Plan as laid down in Bernard M. Feilden & Jukka Jokilehto, *Management Guidelines for World Cultural Heritage Sites*, ICCROM, Rome, 1993, and the requirements of the new UNESCO Operational Guidelines published in February 2005.

The Management Plan has been translated into English by Timothy Cullen and the rest of the documentation by Elizabeth Fowden and Despina Lambrou

Foreword

by the President of the Corfu Branch of the
Technical Chamber of Greece

For the Corfu Branch of the Technical Chamber of Greece it is a signal honour to be participating in the demanding joint endeavour of having the Old Town of Corfu inscribed on the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites.

It is beyond dispute that our town was in need of a comprehensive Management Plan, for that is the best way for it to safeguard its character as a living historic monument which, through the ages, has managed to preserve intact the civilization that has left an indelible mark on this part of the Mediterranean region and the history of the Ionian Islands, Greece and Europe as a whole, and to hand down that civilization to successive generations, unimpaired by the passage of time.

For the Management Plan to be implemented successfully it is essential to secure the active participation of all the organizations and individuals involved, and especially the willing consent of the local community, to ensure that day-to-day life and activity in the town is fully compatible with the interests of its unique cultural values.

I would like to thank all those who have worked tirelessly on the preparation of the Plan, especially the architects Mary Mitropia and Leonidas Stanellos, and also Konstantinos Vlassis, my predecessor as President of our Corfu Branch, whose contributions were of immeasurable value both in the conception of the idea and in preparing the first draft of the nomination file concerning the inscription of Corfu on the World Heritage List.

The responsibility for seeing that the Plan is implemented rests with all of us, and Corfu expects to see evidence of loving care and attention and constructive development in every neighbourhood, always in line with the criterion of protecting our cultural heritage and the environment.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized capital 'N' with a horizontal stroke extending to the right and a vertical stroke extending downwards.

Nikolaos Spingos
Chairman of the Administrative Committee

Foreword

by the Mayor of Corfu

The Old Town of Corfu now has an integrated Management Plan covering the period 2006-2012. That is a major advantage which is most gratifying and holds great promise for a town that deserves and is entitled to expect a better future.

Our town has always been a meeting-point between East and West and has fostered civilization in its own special way, steering a finely-judged course along the path of cultural coexistence that has made it what it is, and now it is able to rise to the challenges of the twenty-first century with a co-ordinated, precisely-calculated, holistic policy.

In today's difficult and competitive economic conditions, the conservation and promotion of our rich cultural heritage creates excellent opportunities for development. In the last few years, the decision to apply for the inscription of the 'Old Town of Corfu' on the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites and the international recognition and publicity given to our town's cultural values in the documents accompanying the application have received strong local backing. Conditions are now right for measures and actions to ensure that the normal functions of the town's everyday life are fully in keeping with its historic character.

The Management Plan lays down the guidelines for our actions in the coming years. By co-ordinating the actions of several different departments, organizations and agencies involved in the life and working of the town, it arranges development options in the correct order of priority so as to strike a balance between the policy of holistic protection of cultural assets and the need for development and prosperity.

For the purposes of the challenging task that we are ready to undertake, active participation by everyone is the only guarantee of a successful outcome.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a final vertical stroke, representing the name Ioannis Trepeklis.

Ioannis Trepeklis, Architect,
Mayor of Corfu

Foreword

by the Secretary General of the Hellenic
Ministry of Culture

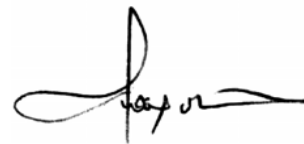
Twenty years after the inscription of the first Greek monument, the Acropolis of Athens, on the World Heritage List, I am particularly proud to present the Management Plan for the Old Town of Corfu.

The island of Corfu lies in a strategically important geographical position, in the extreme of Greece, at the entrance to the Adriatic sea. The Old Town of Corfu and its surroundings has been from the beginnings of the Ancient Greek civilization and through the ages an important cultural, social and intellectual crossroads. Adorned by its two Fortresses, the Old and the New one, the Old Town of Corfu is a living urban, residential, architectural and commercial ensemble. This exceptional ensemble bears witness to all the cultures that have left an imprint on its architectural style. Furthermore, the osmosis of those cultures has generated the most important features of Corfu.

This Management Plan is the result of a combined effort between central and local bodies, it addresses all key issues and outlines the necessary actions and measures for the protection enhancement, promotion, integrated conservation and future development of the Old Town of Corfu. The proposed Management Plan takes into consideration the needs of and involves all stakeholders of the Old Town, be it local authorities, residents, professionals or visitors.

Fully aware of the responsibility that this nomination entails, I take this opportunity to express the strong commitment of Greece to safeguard in the best possible way the unique site of the Old Town of Corfu.

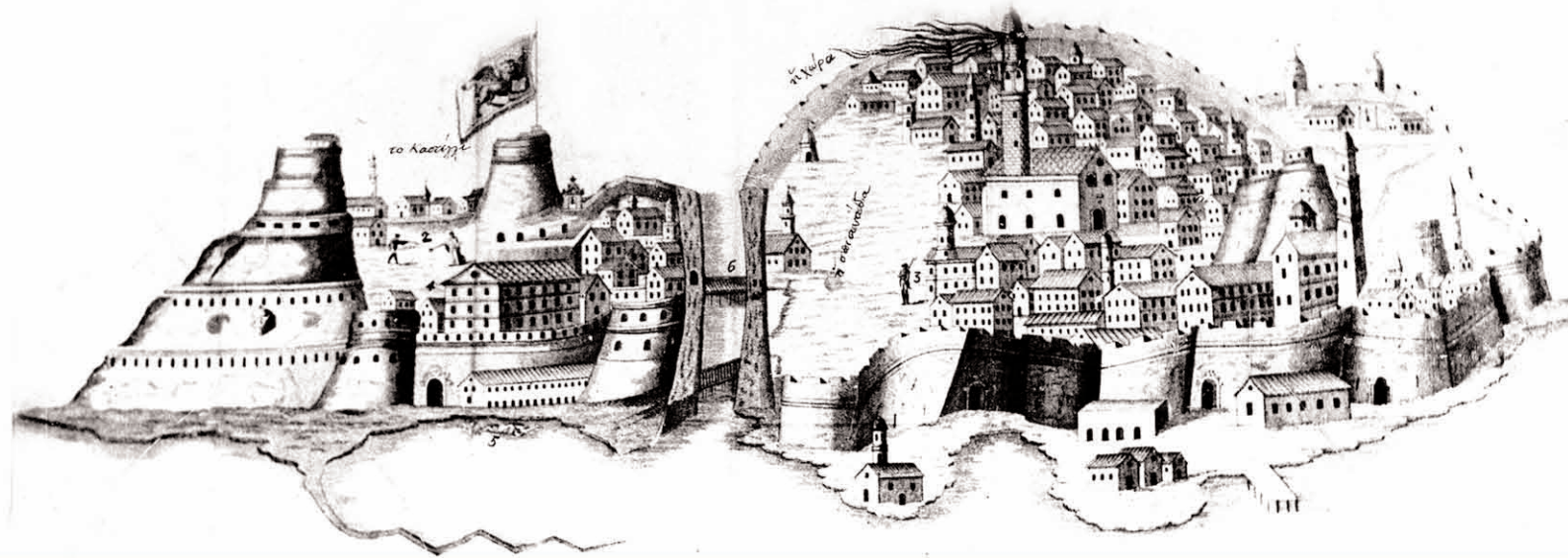
Finally, I would like to convey my deep gratitude to the Municipality of Corfu, the Technical Chamber of Greece - Corfu Branch and all those involved in promoting the nomination of the Old Town of Corfu, for their dedication, hard work and faith in the success of this project.



Christos Zachopoulos
Secretary General of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture

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Κωνσταντίνος ἄντ' εὐρυόφρωνος ἑὸς ὁ ἄρχων Βασιλείανος εἶδε τὴν νύκτα αὐτὴν ἐβήμην γέφυρα ἀπὸς τὸ καστέλλο· 2) ὅς οὐκ ἔστιν ἡ γέφυρα καὶ ὁ στρατός συμπέσκει διὰ τὴν πλεονεξίαν· 3) ἡ ἐπιχειρήσις ἐν τῷ πεδίῳ ἀπὸ τοῦ καστέλλου· 4) τὸ καστέλλο ἐν τῇ πόλει· 5) ὁ ἀρχὸς τῆς πόλεως· 6) ἡ γέφυρα ὅπου περὶν δὲ αὐτῆς τὸ καστέλλο ἀπὸ τῆς χώρας.

Πεζάντις: Εὐρυόφρωνος Τὴν Νύκτα αὐτὴν 11 πρὸς 12 Νοεμβρίου 1718.

INTRODUCTION

1.1. THE PROPOSED SITE

- 1.1.1. The 'Old Town of Corfu', which is proposed for inscription on the list of World Heritage Sites, is today a unique cultural entity, of great aesthetic value, which has developed continuously through the ages, absorbing elements from the two worlds of the Mediterranean: the East and the West. It possesses significant distinctive features in the structure and form of the town and in its social and cultural life. The Old Town of Corfu and its immediate and broader surroundings contain a body of data attesting to human activities from the late Palaeolithic to our own times.
- 1.1.2. From the very outset, the geographical position of Corfu (Kerkyra) gave it certain important natural advantages which meant that it was never likely to be overlooked in the great wave of Greek colonization in the West from the eighth century B.C. onwards. Colonists from Eretria and Corinth made ancient Kerkyra into what it was, and what it has been ever since: a staging-post between the Aegean archipelago and the Italian peninsula, in other words between East and West, since the Orient (extending all the way to India and China) began and begins at the Aegean, and the Far West began and begins at the Ionian Sea.
- 1.1.3. The city founded by Corinthian colonists in the eighth century B.C. has undergone a remarkable series of vicissitudes, passing through the hands of the Macedonians, the Romans, the Byzantines, the Angevins, the Venetians, the French and the British before finally being reunited with Greece. Each of these phases has left ample traces on the ground or a few metres below the surface. Thanks to archaeological excavations and historical circumstances, all the following are still identifiable and can be seen by visitors:
- the city of the Corinthian colonists and their harbour,
 - archaeological traces of all the cultures predating the Corinthian colonization,
 - the Agora of the ancient city, which inspired in Thucydides his analysis of the causes and conditions of war,
 - the Hellenistic and Roman city, where drama contests were particularly popular,
 - the Early Christian city with its imposing churches and the relics of its patron saints,
 - the city that endured raids by the Goths, campaigns for its recapture by the Byzantines and expansionist campaigns by the Normans, those northlanders intent on establishing a foothold in the East,
 - the efficient Venetian administration, which retained the Byzantine system of property ownership but respected the town's Jewish community,
 - the French Enlightenment, which demolished centuries-old social structures,
 - the British imperial administration, which overlaid the town's medieval character with the Neoclassical face that it presents today, while leaving untouched the maze-like street plan displaying all the characteristics of a medium-sized Mediterranean town.

The modern town

- 1.1.4. Corfu town has remained a living organism through the ages. The picture it presents nowadays could be described as a historical chart illustrating the various phases of its development and the creative coexistence of the cultures that have occupied it at various times. During all those phases, the past and the needs of contemporary life have been in continuous dialogue, transforming and enlarging the town and adapting it to current ways of thinking.
- 1.1.5. The Old Town of Corfu, with its 7,000 inhabitants, is now the 'historic centre' of an urban district extending inland to the south and west of the Old Town, with a total population of 25,000, which is the administrative, social and economic centre of the surrounding area and occupies an important place in the life of all the Ionian Islands as well as western Epiros on the mainland. At the same time it is an international tourist destination attracting about 1,100,000 visitors a year, mostly in summer. Situated as it is exactly opposite the starting point of the Via Egnatia and Via Ionia highways, and with direct connections by ferry to Italy and by air to most of the capitals of Europe, it is today what it has always been in the past: a town at the crossroads between East and West, North and South. In the conditions of the modern world it is trying to decide on the best direction for its future balanced development.

- 1.1.6. With this in mind, the protection and enhancement of the cultural heritage is a factor of fundamental importance. Not only for reasons of historical sentimentality but also to ensure the prospects of real economic development, the existing culture needs to be preserved and given prominence. The local community, yet once more in its history, needs to build on its past in order to face the future, while adapting itself to the new conditions. What is more, culture and development are closely related and most definitely interact reciprocally. Just as development relies on culture, so too culture – if it is to be maintained meaningfully in the long term – depends on the stability of the local social framework; and that stability can only be achieved against a background of economic development.



1.2 THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Objectives

1.2.1. The Management Plan aims to provide systematic guidelines for the conservation of all the cultural heritage assets present in the Old Town of Corfu. This wide remit includes:

- protection and enhancement of the existing architectural wealth, the fortifications, the distinctive structure of the town and the natural environment,
- creating conditions for a better understanding of the Site's monumental character and its use as an educational resource,
- supporting the local community in its cultural, social and economic vitality.



1.2.2. The Management Plan identifies the main issues that challenge the proposed Site and the potential opportunities of that status. Analysis and elaboration of those issues have resulted in the formulation of a series of objectives and actions intended to fulfil the main aims of the Plan. These are:

- To promote sustainable management of the proposed Site;
- To ensure that the unique values of the Site are understood and are sustained in the future;
- To protect and promote the Old Town of Corfu as a living and working city which will benefit from its status as a World Heritage Site;
- To improve the functioning of the urban infrastructure, so as to make it easier for residents and visitors alike to enjoy and understand the Site;
- To promote public interest and involvement in the heritage of Corfu, achieving a common local, national and international awareness of the Site's management.

Contents of the Management Plan

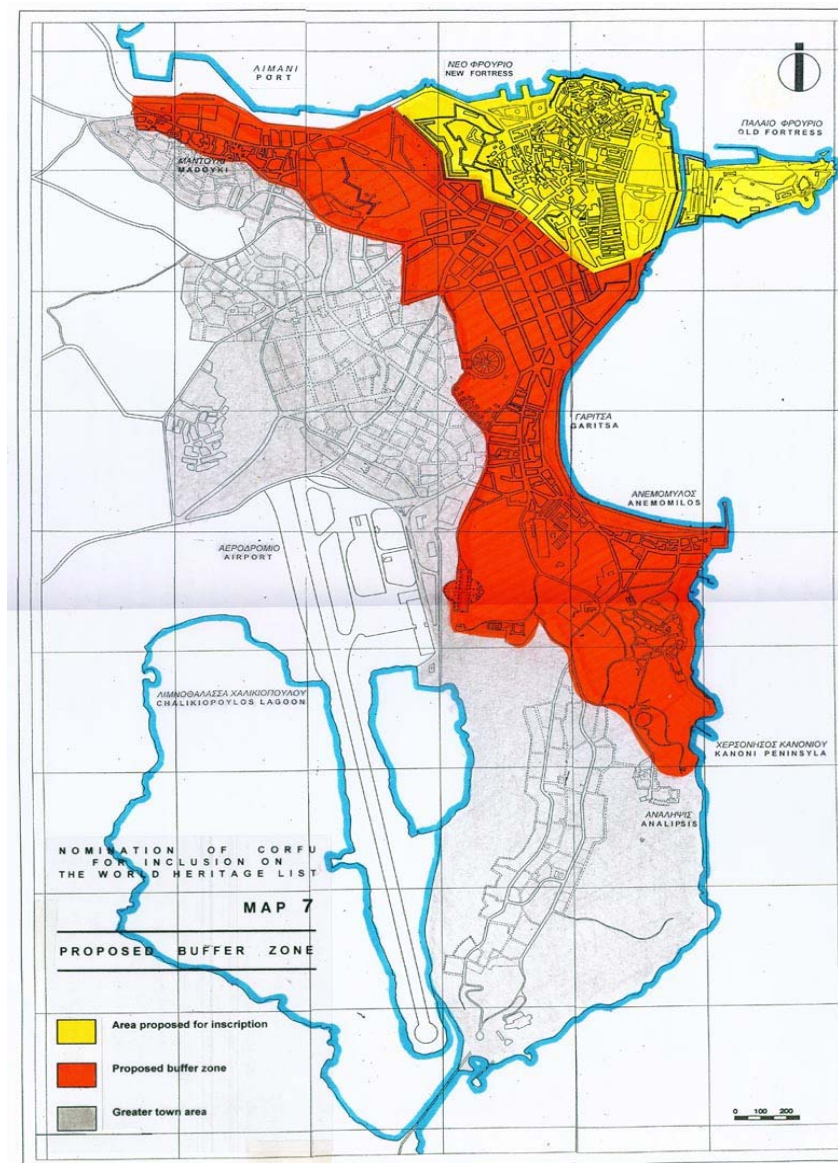
- 1.2.3. The Management Plan is a programme of action involving many partners and organizations in pursuit of a common objective, namely the co-ordinated management of the Site, and as such it is a collective tool. It represents the consensual view of the partners that took the initiative in its preparation, and it has been subject to consultation with the local community and relevant organisations and agencies. The successful implementation of the Plan will rely largely on the active participation of the organisations and individuals involved in achieving its aims, as set out in Section 4.
- 1.2.4. The issues and objectives set out in the Management Plan are expected to retain their relevance for at least five to ten years, some for longer. In order to keep the Management Plan as relevant as possible, provision has been made for the issues it addresses to be reviewed at least every six years, when the objectives may be revised to reflect any changes in circumstances.



- 1.2.5. The Old Town of Corfu is the only historic town of its size in Greece that has remained more or less unchanged to the present day, as an authentic testament to the historical circumstances that brought it into being. The cultural values of the proposed World Heritage Site of Corfu are recognized by the Greek authorities and protected under the terms of Ministerial Decision B1/Φ33/29925/828/27.5.80 of the Ministry of Culture (*Government Gazette* 512/II/4.6.80), whereby the Old Town of Corfu was declared a 'historic monument scheduled for preservation' and mandatory regulations for its protection were laid down.
- 1.2.6. Inscription on the list of World Heritage Sites will confer international recognition on these values and focus worldwide interest on Corfu, since the preservation of the town to ensure that its cultural heritage is passed on intact to future generations will be monitored constantly. From the local viewpoint, inscription on the World Heritage List will function simultaneously as an incentive and a brake: as an incentive for greater care and effort to be expended on protection and conservation, and as a brake on certain types of modernization which might prove hazardous and incompatible with the town's status as a historic site with acknowledged universal values.
- 1.2.7. Particulars of the conservation policy being pursued at the present time and the statutory designations currently in force in the proposed Site are given in Section 2.5 of this Management Plan.

Geographical scope of the Management Plan

- 1.2.8. The application for the inscription of the Old Town of Corfu on the World Heritage List, as it was submitted in the nomination file, specifies the precise geographical limits of the proposed Site. The boundary follows the line of existing roads and encloses an area of seventy hectares more or less corresponding to the area of the former walled town as it was at the end of the Venetian period in the eighteenth century.
- 1.2.9. The nomination papers also define precisely the buffer zone as an area of 162 hectares surrounding the proposed Site, containing evidence (archaeological sites, Byzantine monuments, historic suburbs) attesting to the continuous habitation of the town of Corfu by different cultures from prehistoric times to the present day.
- 1.2.10. The scope of the Management Plan is not limited to the areas within the two boundaries mentioned above. The Plan provides for a package of parallel actions in the wider urban district of Corfu which, owing to differences in their scope, will sometimes affect a relatively small and sometimes a relatively large area. In the final analysis, implementation of the actions proposed in the Management Plan will have an impact not only on the town of Corfu but on the whole island and the rest of the Ionian Islands.



Need for the Management Plan

1.2.11. In recent years it has been more and more widely recognized internationally that a concerted plan is required for the management of a complex organism such as a living historic town. A balance needs to be struck between the two roles of a historic town, first as an 'open museum' containing numerous cultural heirlooms that it has to preserve and promote, and secondly as a living organism with needs for development and modernization which it has to satisfy in order to be economically viable. This can only be achieved by means of a system of strategic partnership between all the stakeholders, be they corporate institutions or private individuals.

1.2.12. In the case of Corfu, there are several factors pointing to a concerted management plan as the only way forward for the town's future development. Among them are the multiple ownership of many of the privately-owned historic buildings, the heavy concentration of shops and prefectural offices in a small area and the mounting pressure of tourism in the last few decades. Co-operation between the central government, local government, local organizations and individuals who live and work in the town is a necessary condition – and indeed the only guarantee – of efficient management. This is reflected in UNESCO's current programme, in which the existence of a Management Plan is included among the requirements for applications for the inscription of historic

monuments on the World Heritage List. This Management Plan has therefore been prepared as an absolute local necessity and a prerequisite for submission of an application to UNESCO. It aims to provide systematic guidelines for addressing all the complex problems involved in protecting and developing the Old Town of Corfu.



Preparation of the Management Plan

1.2.13. The Management Plan has been drawn up on the initiative of the Municipality of Corfu and the Corfu Branch of the Technical Chamber of Greece, the two bodies that originally (in 1999) conceived the idea of proposing the Old Town of Corfu for inscription on the World Heritage List.

1.2.14. The preliminary preparation of the Plan was entrusted to two architects, who drew up the first draft on the basis of the data concerning the Site and their own experience as co-ordinators of contracts between central and local government for Programme Contracts relating to the historic town centre and the fortifications. The Plan follows the guidelines laid down in Bernard M. Feilden & Jukka Jokilehto, *Management Guidelines for World Cultural Heritage Sites*, ICCROM, Rome, 1993, which is included on the CD-ROM of the best World Heritage Site Management Plans supplied by the World Heritage Centre to signatory states of the World Heritage Convention. The structure of the plan is modelled on that of the best Management Plans included on the same CD-ROM.

1.2.15. That first draft of the Management Plan was submitted to select committees of the two bodies responsible for its preparation (the Corfu Branch of the T.C.G. and the Municipality of Corfu) and was then revised and expanded. Once it had been accepted by the two bodies in question, it was presented to the local community (by electronic and printed mass media, professional associations and residents' associations) and sent to the Ministry of Culture (Directorate of Byzantine and Postbyzantine Antiquities), to other parties involved in the management of the Site and to the Regional Authority of the Ionian Islands and the Prefecture of Corfu for their assent. Finally, after widespread consultation and discussion, it was approved by the Municipal Council under permit No. 23-682/24-11-2005.

1.2.16. The Management Plan describes the proposed Site and sets out its special significance so that the management requirements outlined in the Plan can be understood. It then identifies the key management issues that arise and prescribes objectives for addressing those issues. Finally, the Management Plan presents a programme of action to fulfil the objectives and ensure that the Site is managed according to its needs.

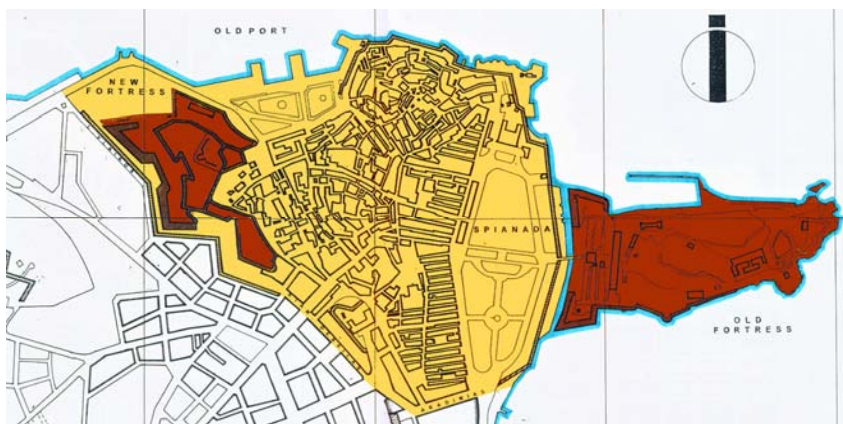


DESCRIPTION & SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SITE

2.1. PARTICULARS OF THE SITE (Annex, Maps 1-5)

- 2.1.1. Name: Old Town of Corfu
- 2.1.2. Country: Greece
- 2.1.3. Region: Ionian Islands
- 2.1.4. Prefecture: Corfu
- 2.1.5. Longitude: 19° 55' 38" N
Latitude: 39° 37' 15" E
UTM / WGS 84: Zone 34 NORTH Easting : 409 064
Northing: 4 386 556

NB: Triangulation point, the Old Fortress (point number 158769)



2.2 BOUNDARY OF THE SITE

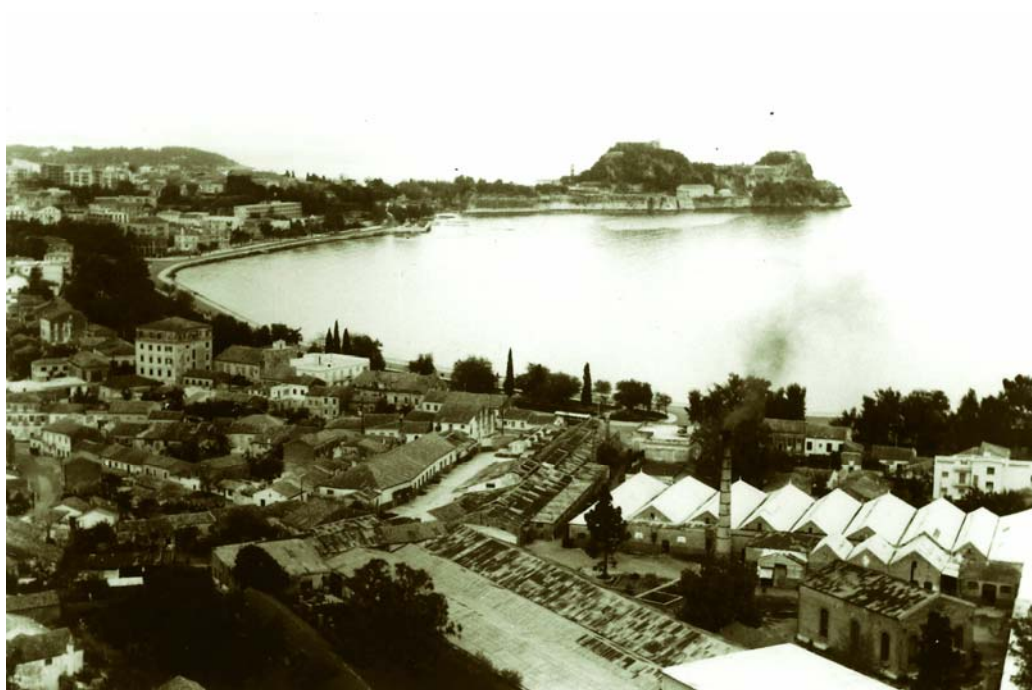
- 2.2.1. The 'historic town' of Corfu, which is proposed for inscription on the World Heritage List, more or less corresponds to the area of the old walled town as it was at the end of the Venetian period in the eighteenth century. Situated at the north-east end of the modern built-up area, it is bounded on the north and east by the sea and on the west and south by the ruined fortifications of the west front that formed the outermost circuit of the town walls.
- 2.2.2. The actual boundary of the Site proposed for inscription runs along existing roads skirting the fortifications on the west and south sides, namely Lochagou Vlaikou, Stamatiou Desylla and Akadimias Streets. The proposed Site covers an area of seventy hectares and may be described as the nucleus or 'historic centre' of the modern town, which covers a total area of 507 hectares.
- 2.2.3. Of this total area, a belt of land surrounding the proposed Site, varying in width and having an area of 162 hectares, is designated as the buffer zone. Scattered about this zone are some noteworthy archaeological sites, Byzantine and later monuments and outlying residential areas which, in addition to their historic significance, attest to the continuous habitation of the town of Corfu by different populations from prehistoric times to the present day and the continuous coexistence of different cultures in this locality. Detailed descriptions of the features of the buffer zone are set out in Chapter 5, Appendix 1 of the Management Plan.

2.2.4. The statutory designation of an unbroken buffer zone surrounding the proposed Site on the south and west and comprising all the features mentioned above, is necessary for the following reasons:

- to control land uses so as to ensure that incompatible uses are not permitted,
- to control building construction so as to ensure that sight lines to and from the Site are not obstructed,
- to control building designs so as to ensure that the distinctive historic character of each entity is not marred.

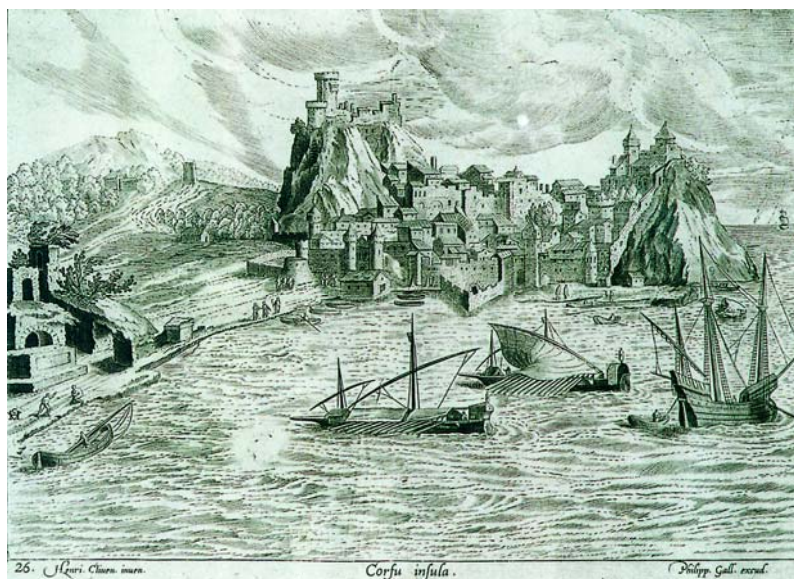
2.2.5. The boundary of the buffer zone follows the existing road network along Polychroniou Konstanta, Kolokotroni, Kyprou, Anapafseos, Dörpfeld and Analipseos Streets.

The position of the buffer zone in relation to the proposed Site is shown on Maps 6 and 7 in volume A3 (Annex) accompanying the nomination file submitted to UNESCO. Particulars of the cultural features of the buffer zone are given in Chapter 5 of the Management Plan, Appendix 4.



2.3 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

- 2.3.1. This section comprises a summary description of the proposed Site, a review of the major events in its history and an outline of the type of cultural assets that now make up the site, give it its character and support the case for its inscription on the World Heritage List.
- 2.3.2. More detailed information concerning the above is given in Chapter 5 of the Management Plan: the main historical events and a historical summary are set out in Appendix 2; an inventory of major buildings and churches, with brief descriptions, in Appendix 3; descriptions of the archaeological sites and Byzantine monuments in the buffer zone in Appendix 4; and a summary of the development planning legislation in Appendix 5.
- To complement all the above, more detailed information concerning the evolution of the Site is given in the nomination file for the inscription of the Old Town of Corfu on the World Heritage List and in the Annex of visual aids accompanying the nomination file.
- 2.3.3. The Old Town of Corfu is one of those ancient towns in the Mediterranean basin which at one time or another in their history moved away from their ancient location on the coast to a better protected site nearby, for the sake of greater safety in turbulent times.
- 2.3.4. After a raid by the Goths in A.D. 551 the ancient city of the Archaic, Classical, Hellenistic, Roman and Early Christian periods (situated on the peninsula now called Palaio polis) was gradually moved to a safer, naturally fortified position a little further north, where the Old Fortress (Palaio Frourio) now stands. The new town took its name from the two rocky crags which are the most striking feature of that site, for the medieval town was called Koryfó, Korfí or (in the accusative) Korfoús, meaning 'peaks': hence the name Corfu by which it is known in the West. From then on it shared the fate and the vicissitudes of Byzantium through the ages, as an integral part of the Empire.
- 2.3.5. When the power of the Byzantine Empire was in decline, Corfu was a bone of contention between the Empire and various Western powers. From 1081 to 1202 the island was ruled alternately by the Byzantines and the Normans. After the Fourth Crusade (1202-1204) and the subjugation of the Byzantines by the 'Franks' (i.e. Western Europeans), it passed into the hands of the Venetians in 1207. In 1214 it was annexed by the Despotate of Epiros, which held it until 1267, and it then belonged to the Angevin kingdom of Sicily for over a century, until 1386.
- 2.3.6. Although little is known about the Byzantine fortifications, historical sources record that first the Byzantines and then the Despots of Epiros and the Angevins fortified the acropolis and its twin peaks. Two towers were built: the Castrum Veter or Castel da Mare (or simply the Vecchio) and the Castrum Novum or Castel da Terra (or simply the Nuovo).

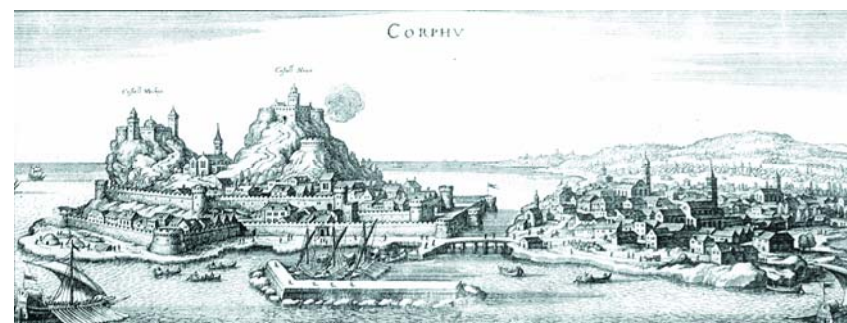


Medieval Corfu was a typical fortified small town of the Middle Ages, with such characteristic features as thin walls with battlements broken at intervals by tall square or round towers. Next to the fortified medieval town, which grew rapidly in population and soon had an overcrowding problem because of its small size, a small but steadily-growing settlement grew up just outside the walls in the Late Byzantine period: this was called the *xopoli* ('outer town') or, in Italian, the Borgo.

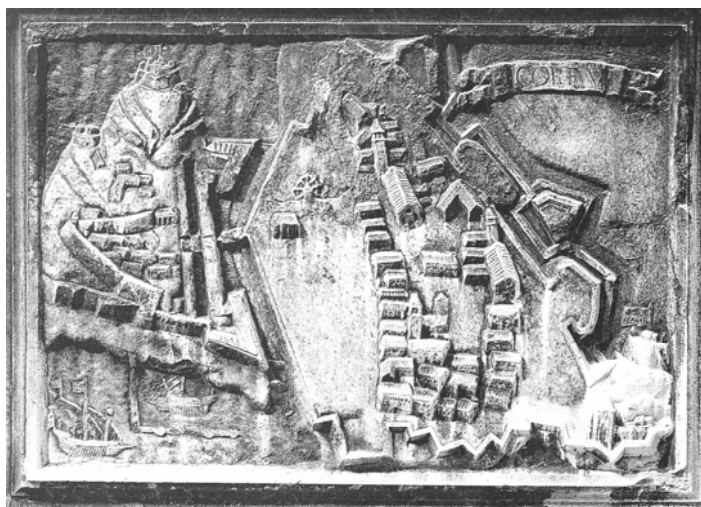
- 2.3.7. For the next four centuries (1386-1797) Corfu was ruled by Venice, which the islanders accepted as their 'ruler and protector'. It was chiefly in this period that the island acquired its distinctive characteristics, because, unlike all the rest of the Greek world, it was never subjected to the Ottoman yoke.

The Venetians attached great importance to Corfu on account of its geographical position and earmarked it as their base of operations in the Adriatic and the Eastern Mediterranean, guarding the trade route to the East. And, since commerce was the lifeblood of the Venetian Republic, they put in hand a continuing programme of large-scale fortification works to protect the town, chiefly against possible attack by the Turks. These fortifications influenced and to a large extent determined the town's development and structure, and consequently it is very important to understand them in order to understand the town as such.

- 2.3.8. The Venetians' defensive policy, for the first two hundred years of their presence on the island, was limited to restructuring the defences of the already fortified medieval town. During that period they cut off the small peninsula of the citadel from the rest of the island by digging a sea moat, the *Contrafossa*, and made drastic alterations to the existing fortifications, which were now ineffectual for defence against cannon fire. Stout new walls of no great height were built, one running fairly low down all along the seaward side and another higher up enclosing the twin peaks, on which the old towers were demolished and new redoubts built in their place. At the same time a man-made harbour was constructed at Mandraki.



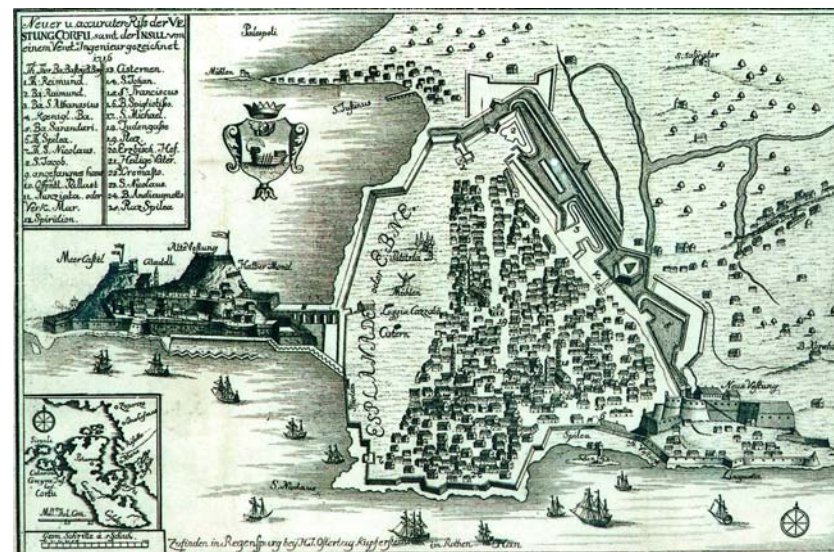
2.3.9. Before long, however – early in the sixteenth century – new advances in military tactics necessitated the modernization of the west front facing the Contrafossa. The project was carried out by Michele Sanmicheli, one of the best architects and theorists of the new bastion system of defence, which possessed the advantage of allowing the cannons to direct enfilade fire against an attacking force, parallel with the line of the walls. A new outer rampart was



built on the landward side of the Contrafossa, with two large, identical bastions (the Savorgnan and Martinengo Bastions), and an imposing gate was made in the centre of the curtain wall (*cortina*). A wooden drawbridge giving access to the citadel was built across the moat. The construction works were completed in 1558, giving the Old Fortress its impressive final appearance with its symmetrical west front. Furnished with gun emplacements, barracks, administrative buildings, storehouses, an arsenal, cisterns and numerous interconnecting underground tunnels, it was virtually impregnable.

2.3.10. Towards the end of the sixteenth century a fortification wall was built round the Borgo, which had finally been acknowledged as the island's main town, having gradually supplanted the walled town inside the citadel; the latter was now a purely military and administrative centre. The construction of the Borgo walls, designed primarily to ensure military control of the whole town and completed in 1588, was supervised by the engineer Ferrante Vitelli. The design of these walls:

- took into account such aspects of the existing situation as the layout of the main through roads, to which it gave permanence by the siting of the gates,
- rationalized the existing configuration of the terrain in accordance with the latest thinking on fortification design, and
- ruled out any possibility of the town's future expansion.



2.3.11. The fortifications constructed for the new town included what is now known as the New Fortress (Neo Frourio), in addition to the circuit wall and other works. Built by the military engineer Ferrante Vitelli, like the circuit wall, it was completed in 1576. It is smaller than the Old Fortress, having been designed for defence purposes only, and is basically on two levels: the lower level guarded the new harbour, while the upper level guarded the side facing the open country inland. The fortifications were supplemented in the mid seventeenth century by the construction of a second outer line of defences on the west side, designed by the military engineer Filippo Verneda, and the last reinforcements of the Venetian period were carried out in the eighteenth century (after the Turkish siege of 1716) by Marshal Schulemburg, who also fortified the Avrami, Sotiros and San Rocco hills near the west wall.



2.3.12. The fortifications, combined with building height restrictions, have naturally had a direct influence on the structure of the town, and not only that: for centuries they have shaped its general appearance. By the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries every square metre of land inside the walled town had been utilized to the full. In the



seventy hectares enclosed by the walls there came into being a town with a blend of Greek and Italian characteristics, and therefore many distinctive features. As a town of bureaucrats and armed forces, of civilian and military élites, of docks and commerce and religious foundations, its governors were sufficiently interested in it to build formidable walls and fine buildings that lent it distinction and boosted its prestige. As a town of culture, it produced citizens who governed it wisely and often distinguished themselves beyond the confines of the island. In this connection it should be said that Corfu was a cosmopolitan town not because it was able to make foreigners feel welcome there, but because its own sons were able to win distinction abroad. Corfu is said to have been an ideal place for Italian theatre companies to try out their shows before taking them on tour in Italy: the Corfiot theatregoers were demanding.

2.3.13. The street system developed in the Venetian period has remained almost unchanged to the present day, with only a few minor alterations, and as such it affords irrefutable evidence of the medieval way of life. It was shaped by the closed structure of the walled town, where roads came into being simply as lines of communication, rather than being planned as a graded network: they led from the gates in the wall to major or secondary points of reference in the town. The straightforward, simple network of main roads is supplemented by a dense warren of minor roads, lanes and alleys (*kantounia*), from 1 to 3 metres wide, in a haphazard layout.



2.3.14. The departure of the Venetians in 1797 was followed, as so often in the history of Corfu, by yet another period of jostling for control of the island, when the great powers of European politics followed each other in quick succession as its rulers: republican France (1797-1799), Russo-Turkish occupation and the Septinsular Republic (1799-1807), imperial France (1807-1814). The fall of

Napoleon in 1814 weakened France's hold on the Ionian Islands and the French were nothing loth to withdraw their forces. The Treaty of Paris (1815) brought into existence the United States of the Ionian Isles as a free and independent state under the direct and exclusive protection of Great Britain.

2.3.15. **In the nineteenth century** as a whole, such changes as occurred in the urban landscape – without creating differentiated planning systems in the interior of the town – resulted mainly from the alterations made to the defences by the British (1814-1864). The street plan remained virtually unaltered and, although some ramparts and other defensive works and numerous makeshift structures in major roads and open spaces were demolished to improve the appearance of the town, it still remained (and remains to this day) reminiscent of the way things were in the Middle Ages. The fashion for broad boulevards brought about by the trend of nineteenth-century learning was not adopted in Corfu. On the contrary, the buildings erected during that period set the tone of the urban landscape by creating norms for monumental perspectives and classical styles in prime locations; and these were favoured by regulations introduced at various times for major thoroughfares and the 'ring road' formed by the Spianada, the boat anchorage (*Mourayo*) and the harbour front. Thus the general impression of the old town's three-dimensionality is today redolent of periods more recent than the Middle Ages: depending on the architectural style of the most conspicuous buildings, it embodies an understated mannerism with Renaissance and Baroque elements or a classicism with neo-Palladian and Neoclassical features.



2.3.16. In 1864 Corfu was integrated into the Greek state. It ceased to be the capital of the Ionian state and, in the burst of enthusiasm accompanying reunion with Greece, its university and its parliament were closed down. Since then it has been one of the prefectures of Greece. However, thanks to its strategic position, it was used as one of the main Allied bases from 1916 to 1918 and was the temporary home of the Serbian government in exile and the remnants of its army. In 1923 it was claimed by the Italians, who invaded and briefly occupied the island, and from 1940 to 1943 it suffered badly from bombing by both Axis and Allied forces, which destroyed the theatre and the library, with its very important collection of books, as well as a substantial number of houses (113 bomb sites).

2.3.17. **In the twentieth century**, by which time the fortification walls were of little importance, the town expanded further and further inland, to the west, having previously swallowed up the historic suburbs of Garitsa, Anemomylos, Mandouki and Sarocco, which had in any case been growing hand in hand with the walled town. Although the 1958 town plan had limited new building construction to the area enclosed by the three hills (Avrami, Sotiros and Ayii Theodori), in practice it was powerless to prevent unplanned construction outside urban limits, and a rash of new buildings spread rapidly all along the western boundary as the available land within limits was gradually used up. With the growth of tourism, starting in the 1970s, the demand for new housing became still more pressing and illegal building outside urban limits was the only way that growing demand could be met.



2.3.18. Today, the town of Corfu is an integrated urban ensemble covering a total area of 507 hectares, with a population of 25,000, extending southwards and westwards from the Old Town and separated from it by a ring road which, for most of its length, runs along the line of the old fortification walls. The two sectors of the town (the old and the modern), differing noticeably from each other, represent spatial expressions of the conditions existing in the periods that formed them and the differences of outlook between those periods. Now they have to coexist in a symbiotic relationship and make the most of their opportunities to satisfy their needs; and this parallel advance of two entities differing in their origins, both wishing to march forward into the twenty-first century without loss, is the challenge of today that needs to be answered.

2.3.19. The Old Town of Corfu is now proposed for inscription on the list of World Heritage Sites. Part of the later town is designated as the buffer zone for the proposed Site, since it contains valuable evidence of its origins. It is important to be able to distinguish, in the features of the Old Town as it is today, the elements that testify to its historical past, especially those elements that reflect its image during the Venetian period and the British Protectorate and have been handed down, with alterations of greater or lesser significance, to our own time. These elements carry a unique nexus of cultural values the significance of which extends beyond the local and national level.



Cultural Assets

2.3.20. The cultural assets of the proposed Site may be considered as the sum total of those elements, in five different categories, which make a greater or lesser contribution to its unique character.

- i. The Old and New Fortresses*
- ii. Urban Plan and Roads*
- iii. Open Spaces, Squares and Parks*
- iv. Buildings*
- v. Cultural Characteristics*

The Old Town as it is now consists of an amphitheatrical sprawl of houses closely packed together between the two forts. It really is an architectural mass, but with a variety of different features. The imposing town houses of the gentry jostled by the anonymous, timeless architecture of humbler dwellings, the attractive churches with their bell-towers, the austere public buildings and the later Neoclassical edifices which follow on naturally from their predecessors, all overlooked by the commanding presence of the two forts – all these disparate elements form a unified whole. That is the most noticeable characteristic of the town, the lasting unity that makes it hard to describe any single element. To separate individual elements from the whole is to rob them of that which actually brings out their true value, namely their gift for creating continuity and unity. Later in this document, to fit in with the structural arrangement of our description, we shall attempt that very separation.



i. The Old and New Fortresses

- 2.3.21. A characteristic visual feature of the town is the twin-peaked rocky outcrop at its east end, that 'island within the island' which commands an all-round view of the channel. Still intact are the imposing Venetian fortifications enclosing the plain, massive, later buildings of the British period, which stand on three different levels. The whole of the Old Fortress is now open to visitors with the exception of the interior of the two bastions flanking the



entrance. This means that an extremely interesting walk can be had, some of it in the open air along narrow arcades and alleyways, some of it through buildings of various periods, revealing all the grandeur of past ages. The relief plaques with the winged lion of St. Mark (the emblem of Venice), the variety of inscriptions, the coats of arms and the scattered cannons all add to the interest of the scene. The Old Fortress now houses the Record Office of the Prefecture of Corfu, the Public Library,

various offices of the Ministry of Culture and departments of the Ionian University, exhibition rooms and auditoriums, and for the rest it serves as a sort of open museum. Open-air concerts are held in summer and there are a souvenir shop, a café-bar and a restaurant at Mandraki.

See Maps 8-9 in the Annex.

- 2.3.22. The impressive fortifications of the New Fortress dominate the north-west side of the Old Town, forming a backdrop to the view over the town to the west. Though smaller than the Old Fortress, it carries on a dialogue with it on equal terms, for its massive blocks of masonry rising above the roofs of the houses form a counterbalance to the more complex forms of the Old Fortress on the other side of the picture. The interior of the bastions and other fortifications, in almost all parts of the fort, is honeycombed with underground galleries: opening these to visitors will improve the presentation of the fort's overall style, which at present is incomplete. Pleasant walks are to be had along arcades and alleyways throughout the fort (except for the underground galleries), and there are wonderful views of the town. (Maps 10-11 in the Annex)



ii. Urban Plan and Roads

2.3.23. The urban structure of the Old Town is that which evolved during the long period of the late Middle Ages and – with only changes of detail, which themselves reflect historical moments and contemporary ways of thinking – has come down to our own time. The built-up area is divided into three main sectors, which follow the configuration of the land and are defined by the three hills (Campiello, Ayion Pateron and Ayiou Athanasiou). The three sectors are subdivided into a total of ten neighbourhoods characterized by their distinctive internal planning and organization. Each neighbourhood has its own square, which is the centre of local life and the only more or less open space, with a church and a tall campanile; most of the neighbourhoods are named after their parish churches. The urban plan differs from one neighbourhood to another. In most cases, especially in the areas near the periphery of



the town, it is an austere repetition of linear blocks aligned on an east-west axis, forming a grid characteristic of the late medieval tradition in the West. On the hills nearer the centre, where the earliest settlements were probably located, one finds an irregular, fragmented layout with a maze of narrow streets full of small piazzas, forks and crossroads offering a choice of ways. The positions of the various neighbourhoods of the Old Town are shown on Map 12 in the Annex.

2.3.24. The street network remains to this day as it was shaped by the defensive planning of the old walled town, making use of pre-existing lines of communication leading to and from the gates in the walls. Following the terrain, many of the roads have steep gradients with flights of steps and ramps, and with arched alleys leading off them; sometimes they are almost straight, with a succession of small piazzas. All in all, they are enchanting in their variety and among the most interesting features of the historic town centre. From an architectural point of view the main roads are equally

interesting. The way they are laid out, the variable ratio of road width to building height and, most of all, the many colonnades and arcades with their varied openings and differing heights, form an extremely harmonious whole that fulfils its functional purpose well without the least suggestion of monotony. The roadways are certainly older than the surviving houses along their sides; and it is the roads which, echoing and retaining a clear system of communication do most to create the strong feeling of continuity with the distant past that now emanates from the Old Town. The street network is marked and presented on Map 13 in the Annex.



iii. Open Spaces, Squares and Parks

- 2.3.25. One third of the area of the historic town centre is taken up by the Spianada (Esplanade), which lies between the Old Fortress and the built-up area and was enlarged to its present size by the demolition of numerous buildings in 1628, for defensive reasons.



It was used at first as the main 'civic centre' of the medieval town (the agora or bazaar) and later as a parade ground for official ceremonies. It took its final form in the nineteenth century, laid out on two levels with avenues of trees, interesting gardens and street furniture, and since then it has been used for walks, games, outdoor concerts and similar activities. The main squares in the central part of the Old Town are the Platia Dimarchou, with a number of fine buildings, and the Platia Iroön, which has two churches and is adjacent to the piazza in front of the Church of Ayios Spyridon, the town's patron saint. There are no other open

spaces big enough to be called squares or piazzas within the urban ensemble. All the small squares - perhaps piazzas would be a



better word – date from the medieval phase of the town's development; they are to be found dotted about in the older neighbourhoods. Their structure is reminiscent of the Venetian *campielli* and is most interesting. The typical features of a square in Corfu are a church, one or more grand town houses of the *haute bourgeoisie* and sometimes a well, which is

actually the mouth of a cistern. A typical example is the Platia Kremastis, the most beautiful square in the Campiello quarter. Very often the smaller squares and the simple, irregularly-shaped piazzas are mere widenings of the street to facilitate the traffic flow at a crossroads or intersection: typical examples are the Platia Ayias Elenis, Platia Pantokratora and the old Platia Taxiarchi.

The open spaces in the historic town centre are marked and presented on Map 13 in the Annex.

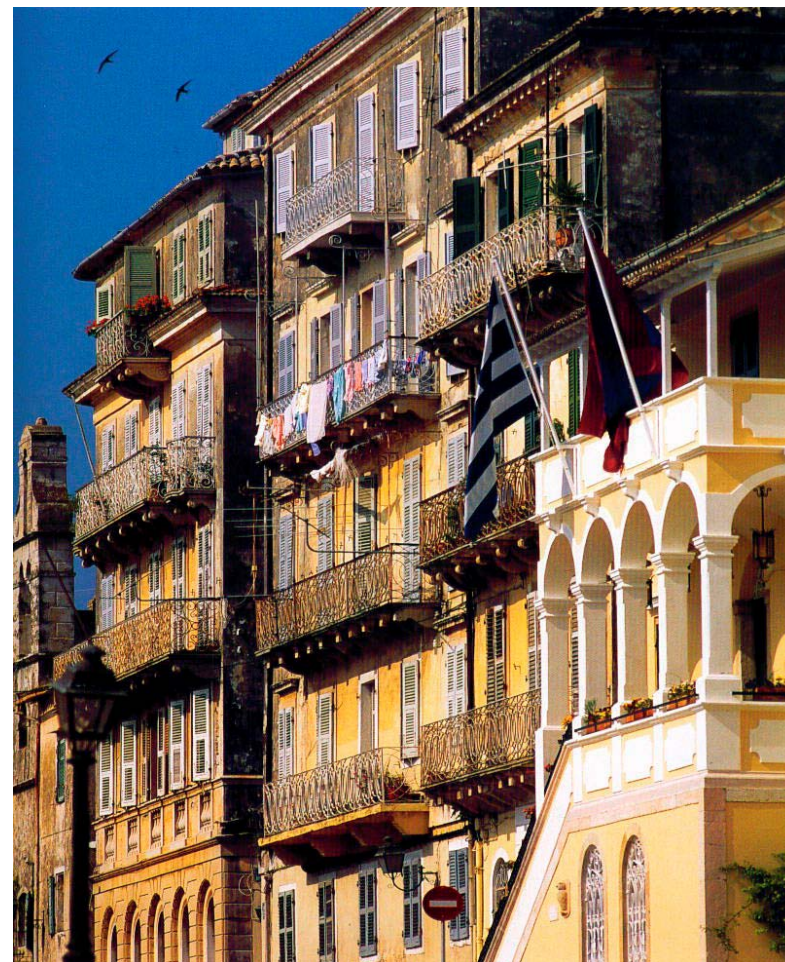


iv. Buildings

2.3.26. Needless to say, not all the buildings in the historic centre of Corfu date from the same period. Besides all those of the Venetian period, there are a number of buildings erected in the few years from 1797 to 1814 (under the French and the Septinsular Republic), numerous buildings dating from the British Protectorate and some from the first few decades after union with Greece (from 1864 to about 1900). Morphologically, owing to the historical circumstances of each period, which determined the prevalent architectural styles:

- the buildings of the Venetian period have absorbed elements of the Renaissance, Mannerist and Baroque styles in their façades,
- the only known example of building activity in the years between the Venetian period and the British Protectorate (the homogeneous complex of buildings on the Spianada) contains elements of Mannerism,
- the buildings constructed under the British Protectorate, on the other hand, show the influence of Neoclassicism in its earliest manifestation (a leaning towards Classicism, with details borrowed from Renaissance and Palladian architecture, and
- a few of the more recent buildings have features characteristic of eclecticism and, later, of Art Nouveau, or else elements of late Athenian Urban Classicism.

The dates of the buildings in the historic town centre are shown on Map 14 in the Annex.



Architecture of Public Buildings

2.3.27. The public buildings of the Venetian period, whether government offices, official residences or military buildings, all bear the hallmark of high-quality construction, because they were designed and built



by architects and usually masons sent out from Venice for the purpose. The most important buildings were those in what is now the Platia Dimarchiou, which was the centre of the town's social and cultural life: the Catholic Cathedral of St. James, an elegant seventeenth-century building with Baroque-style roof ornamentation, a tower and a belfry; the residence of the Catholic

Archbishop (rebuilt in 1754) with an elegant balustraded balcony in the centre of the façade; and the most important building of the Venetian period, the Loggia Nobilei (1663-1669), built of local stone from Sinies. The plain, robust mass of the Loggia and its large arched doors and windows clearly indicate its purpose and importance. It was converted into a theatre (the Teatro San Giacomo) in the eighteenth century, and since the beginning of the twentieth century it has been used as the Town Hall. Other public buildings of the Venetian period, or parts of them, survive in various parts of the town. They include the gateway of one of the two granaries (1592) in Spilia; the pawn office (1630), now incorporated in the palace of the Lords High Commissioners; the Spilia barracks, which have undergone considerable alteration; and the Grimani barracks at the south end of the Spianada, which took its final form

in 1725. The last of these buildings is commonly known as the Ionian Academy, because for a time it housed that institution which was the first Greek university.

2.3.28. Although, as already mentioned, the two periods of French occupation and the British Protectorate made very little difference to the town plan, they substantially altered its architectural character. The row of houses along the Spianada known as the Volta or the Liston, with its elegant arcade where the Corfiots take their social strolls, provides the main evidence of the French presence. The rhythmical repetition of its architectural features reflects the Napoleonic period's monumental approach to town planning, with uniform rectilinear elements resembling those of the rue de Rivoli. The British Protectorate left its mark much more noticeably throughout the town.

Numerous private and official buildings were put up by talented architects who introduced the Classical trend and thus gave the capital



of the Ionian Islands a new look. The major buildings of the early part of that period were designed by foreign engineers, outstanding among them being the Palace of St. Michael and St. George (1819-1823), which was the residence of the British Lords High Commissioners: it is a splendid example of Georgian architecture and the precursor of Neoclassicism in Greece. Both it and the Maitland Monument were the work of George Whitmore, a colonel of the Royal Engineers.

2.3.29. From about 1830 onwards the contracts for official buildings were awarded to a succession of Greek architects and engineers, who were taken on to work in the administration's technical department. First and foremost among them was the architect Ioannis Chronis, one of the first graduates of the technical sciences to work anywhere in Greece. All the large buildings in the town intended for the service of the local community – which reflect its very high cultural standards in the nineteenth century – are associated with the name of that gifted Corfiot architect. He was responsible for the Neoclassical buildings of the Ionian Bank, the Ionian Parliament and the Stock Exchange as well as numerous private houses, whether grand or more modest. One of those was the family home of Ioannis Kapodistrias, the first Governor ('President') of independent Greece, which was used for a time as the offices of the Prefecture: with its marble façade adorned with elegant Corinthian pilasters, it is considered one of the finest buildings erected in modern Greece.



Religious Architecture

2.3.30. Since the island was cut off from the Byzantine tradition from the thirteenth century onwards and then had a hundred years of Angevin rule followed by four centuries of contact with Venice, outside influences played a dominant role in church architecture on Corfu. There being only a few examples still standing from the Byzantine period, the Corfiots built their churches in accordance



with the artistic trends prevailing in the West; though that did not weaken their allegiance to the Orthodox faith, which was very strong. The type that eventually came to predominate on Corfu and the rest of the Ionian Islands was the wooden-roofed single-nave basilica, with a few examples of the three-aisled basilica. The adoption of typological, morphological and decorative elements taken from contemporary Italian art – that is

Renaissance and Baroque art – and the very limited use of forms taken from the Byzantine tradition were a natural consequence of historical circumstances. The osmosis of culture and taste between the two worlds also produced some superb religious art, with the result that Corfu now boasts a number of very fine collections of Postbyzantine paintings and a distinctive school of art came into being: the Heptanesian school, which soon spread beyond the confines of the island. In the eighteenth century it reached as far afield as southern Italy (Bari, Lecce), Venice, Trieste and many towns on the Dalmatian coast.

2.3.31. Most of the surviving churches were built in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, generally in conformity with Renaissance and Mannerist styles. Among them are several single-nave basilicas with the unusual feature of an ambulatory (exonarthex) running along three sides. Another feature of Corfiot churches is that they always go together with the priest's residence, which is sometimes integrated with the church itself and sometimes a separate single-storey or two-storey house. Attached to the church is usually a tall belfry in the form of a tower or an openwork wall with spiral finials. Although the exterior walls of the churches are unadorned, the interior, especially from the seventeenth century onwards, is lavishly decorated and inspires a deep sense of religious awe.



Urban Architecture

2.3.32. The urban dwelling-houses of Venetian Corfu were either apartment buildings, usually of three storeys – a type necessitated by the shortage of space – or, less often, single-family houses of one or more storeys; the *archontika* (the grand houses of the aristocracy and the wealthy) usually had two storeys. The buildings formed a solid frontage on to the street, only occasionally broken by courtyards or gardens. Most of them were built on small plots, with nearly 100 per cent site coverage. Although there must have been a large number of *archontika* (for 112 noble families are listed in the *Libro d'oro*), very few are still recognizable as such. The façades of Corfiot houses of the Venetian period generally possess the characteristic features of Renaissance, Mannerist and Baroque architecture, but here they are less ornate and are sometimes rendered with a touch of the vernacular idiom: these differences are due at least in part to the fact that the scale is smaller than in the West. Among the general characteristics of the exterior design of the surviving buildings – most of which have additions dating from the British Protectorate or later – are a mostly flat surface, often the



predominance of fullness over a void, an emphasis on horizontality (with rows of windows, horizontal bands, cornices, etc.) and their arrangement on a symmetrical system of axes, though that is not always strictly adhered to in buildings that are closer to the vernacular idiom. The most interesting features of the façade design are the Renaissance-type arcades, found either singly or in continuous rows, mostly in the shopping streets; the *portonia* (main entrances), with frames of dressed stone and sometimes with a Baroque crowning element; the windows, which sometimes have moulded frames; the cornices; the corbels supporting the balconies; the corners of the buildings; the protruding kitchen chimneys running up the wall to the roof; and the coats of arms. The urban landscape of Corfu was considerably altered by the spate of building construction under the British Protectorate. In the housing sector, besides the additions to existing buildings, the many new houses built during those fifty years (of varying size and quality, depending on the means of their occupants) changed the face of the town. The typical middle-class dwellings were again apartment buildings, but now they were generally higher (up to six storeys); there were also grand multi-storey houses for the *haute bourgeoisie* (from three to five storeys) and ordinary single-storey and two-storey houses. Most of the new dwellings were built on the site of old ones. Often they covered a



larger area than their predecessors: this was usually achieved by amalgamating two or more plots into one, but sometimes by building over what had been an open courtyard. A few of them occupied sites where there had previously been no building. Morphologically, the façades of the new houses followed the pattern of Classicism, but in a sober style without emphasis on ornamentation and with chiefly Neo-Renaissance features (arches, etc.). Corfiot Classicism was the earliest manifestation of the style in Greece, but here it was not an exogenous importation causing an abrupt break away from the forms traditionally used until then, as it was in Athens and elsewhere: it evolved naturally through a process of transition from one style to the next. It sprang primarily from English Palladianism and to a lesser extent from Italian Classicism, and consequently it fitted in better with the existing built environment. In general, the use of styles in the design of house façades was discreet, often minimal. The stylistic elements (nearly always Tuscan in dwelling-houses) were used mainly in pilasters, piers, cornices, door and window frames, recesses, crowning elements, arcades and so on. The fronts of the houses are almost flat, with a tendency towards horizontality in the arrangement of their features. The aim was symmetrical design and pleasing regularity, not necessarily with emphasis on the central axis. The general result is an even distribution of the axes rather than grouping of the openings. Undoubtedly the large number of storeys plays an important part in the morphological expression: it leads to rhythmical design solutions, repeated vertically, with the use of balconies in various arrangements.



2.3.33. The basic materials used in Corfiot buildings are stone, bricks and wood. The quarries on the island produce a hard white or pinkish limestone suitable for ashlar masonry, flagstones, door and window frames and the like, which was used mainly in the Venetian period, as well as limestone suitable for calcining. There are also quarries producing a yellowish sandstone and a pinkish porous limestone. Besides these, the island has sand, clay and other materials in large quantities, which means that there is an abundance of the raw materials for bricks and tiles. The Corfiots imported stone from Epiros and Paxi (for paving) and from Trieste (for use in relatively costly work such as fireplaces), and in the British period stone was also imported from Malta. Extra timber (fir and larch for rafters, planks and so on) and, of course, iron, were imported from Trieste, Venice, Ragusa (Dubrovnik), Fiume (Rijeka) and elsewhere. Stone was used mainly in the construction of the lower storeys. The walls were of rubble and were always plastered. There are still a fair number of houses where the walls are mortared with mud, but of course in the better-constructed buildings lime mortar was always used. Ashlar masonry was used only in certain parts of the structure, both to give strength and for decorative reasons, and also in the creation of cornerstones and in cornices, frames, arcades and so on. In the British period ashlar masonry was more widely used for the walls of the ground floor, and porous limestone from Malta was used throughout in the construction of the Palace and the small rotunda in the Spianada, both built in the time of the first Lord High Commissioner, Sir Thomas Maitland. The walls of the upper storeys were usually made of bricks, and bricks were also used for relieving arches, vaults and cornices.



v. Cultural Characteristics

2.3.34. The enduring values inherited from antiquity have given the town such a prestigious aura that it could always and still can justifiably be regarded as a dominant centre of the surrounding region.



2.3.35. Capital of the Ionian state from the beginning of the nineteenth century, the seat of a Prefecture of Greece since 1864, capital of one of the administrative regions of Greece since the 1980s, venue of the European summit meeting in 1994. In this town the first Greek university was founded in 1825, with a faculty of Greeks and Italians from the first years of its existence. Now Corfu is again the home of the Ionian University, having successfully restored the historic original building of the Ionian Academy, destroyed by bombing in 1944. Here too are the offices of the Archaeological

Service, responsible for the conservation of the town's architectural style, as well as several museums containing collections of works of art ranging in date from prehistory to the present day.

2.3.36. First and foremost, however, it is a living and enduring administrative centre of importance to the whole region of the Ionian Islands and Western Epiros, since the Regional Authority based here allocates substantial amounts of funding and decides on the planning of major projects. Situated as it is directly opposite the starting point of the Via Egnatia and Via Ionia highways, it is today what it has always been in the past: a town at the crossroads between East and West, North and South. Nowadays, too, it is a holiday destination for millions and a meeting-place for thousands of scholars, scientists and members of special interest groups who choose it as the venue for their conferences.



2.3.37. The multi-faceted character of Corfu, the absence of any kind of racial or religious conflict and the non-existence of crime make the town a positive point of reference for a wide area round about, for nearby Albania has always been helped by the Corfiots and its people have always been given a kind and friendly welcome when they have had to leave their country for any reason. It is a striking fact that whenever there has been a mass exodus from Albania there has never been the smallest violent incident, in contrast to what has happened in other neighbouring countries. This is a phenomenon that goes back an extremely long way, for the island has attracted settlers from Greece, Illyria, Italy and elsewhere ever since the prehistoric era. Flint tools such as cutters, spearheads, blades and needles, as well as pottery with incised or impressed decoration in various styles, attest to the islanders' relations both with Neolithic Thessaly (6000-3000 B.C.) and with Italy. The vessels made for the storage or preparation of food resemble those found in Macedonia to the east, Dalmatia to the north and Southern Italy, Sicily and Malta to the west. The island of Kerkyra – at all events the town of Corfu, where its population mainly settled, served as the base for the islanders' long-standing or temporary relations with cities in Italy and Sicily. The remains of the Roman city prove that it had an important place in the Roman civilization, as do the island's Early Christian churches.



2.3.38. The status of the town in Homer's *Odyssey*, as a model kingdom with a hospitable ruler, points to its role as a mediator between the peoples of the other Ionian Islands, the Greek mainland and Sicily and Italy. In an archipelago of doubtful navigation, which has inspired one of the world's most enduring tales of epic wandering, the *Odyssey*, Kerkyra was the only safe haven that Odysseus found. Whether its inhabitants were Illyrians and Liburnians, as Strabo says, or Kerkyres, as stated by Alcman, one thing is certain: that in the Homeric world the island was already equated with a mode of coexistence.



2.3.39. Corfu has always been a place of refuge: for the Byzantines when their city fell to the Ottomans (1453), for Greeks escaping to the West (1669), for Albanians and Slavs forced out by Ottoman expansion in Albania and Dalmatia in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries (and not a few members of the Corfiot aristocracy were descended from Albanians and Slav stock), for oppressed Souliots (1800-1815), and for Italian revolutionaries in the nineteenth century. For a few days a princess of royal blood, the sister of Louis XVI of France, took refuge on the waterfront of Corfu harbour when she was fleeing from the Jacobins. All who passed through left traces of their passing, leaving behind the imprint of their memory: a memory that receives the respect it deserves, for none of the monuments to their presence has ever been wilfully destroyed, nor have the islanders ever suppressed the religious worship or cultural practices of a minority.

2.3.40. Thanks to its history and perhaps to a measure of good fortune, all the above have left their mark on the buildings and fortification walls, and in the museums, libraries and archives of Corfu, as a reminder that peaceful coexistence is possible in a region scourged by war and conflict as few others have been in the history of the world. Corfu preserves memories not of persecutions but only of refuge.



2.4 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SITE

- 2.4.1. This section of the Management Plan sets out the cultural significance of the proposed Site through an assessment of the World Heritage values according to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee's criteria, and other values of local, regional, national and international importance.
- 2.4.2. Understanding the full significance and the cultural values of the Old Town of Corfu is the basis for making informed and effective management decisions, and this assessment is therefore a fundamental part of the Management Plan. It will assist in ensuring, first, that the outstanding universal values of the proposed Site are protected so that they can be bequeathed intact to future generations, and secondly that the Site is managed properly in the context of its existence as a city with wider values.
- 2.4.3. The assessment that follows is divided into three parts. The first is a summary statement of the Site's significance. The second deals with the justification for inscription of the Old Town of Corfu as a World Heritage Site, and sets out to demonstrate that it qualifies for inscription under the criteria on which its application will be judged. The third part outlines the wider significance of the town, particularly its functions as a modern living town.

i. Summary statement of significance

- 2.4.4. The significance of Corfu throughout its long history has been informed by its role as a port and a fortress town. Its pivotal geographical position gave it strategic importance from a very early date, since whoever exercised power there would be able to control the channel on which the town stands. Because of its geographical importance, its successive rulers all took very good care of it. They fortified it as effectively as possible, they laid out the town to ensure that it functioned efficiently and they beautified it to make it more welcoming.
- 2.4.5. In both parts of the proposed Site, namely the fortifications and the urban ensemble, there is still ample evidence of the care and attention bestowed upon it.
- 2.4.6. **The fortifications**, in which the Old Fortress and the New Fortress take pride of place, are large-scale engineering works constructed mainly to strengthen Corfu in its extremely important capacity as a naval and military guardian of Venice's interests, but also to draw attention to the prestige and greatness of the Serenissima, as the Venetian Republic was called. They are major monuments of military architecture, designed and built by some of the most illustrious architects and military engineers in the Venetian service, and indeed they constitute one of the most excellent defensive systems in the Eastern Mediterranean: their effectiveness was proved many times when the local garrison successfully repelled attacks by the Turks.

2.4.7. The Old Fortress, which was the site of the first settlement established in the Byzantine period (probably in the sixth century), went through all the phases in the evolution of defensive architecture right down to the end of the Venetian period (1797), undergoing successive improvements at every stage: from the old medieval system of high, square towers and lower curtain walls, to the transitional system of the age of the cannon, with low, stout walls and round bastions of the same height, and finally to the perfected system with polygonal bastions. The fortifications in this final form remain almost unaltered to this day: the west front is particularly imposing, with two pentagonal bastions and a curtain wall between them (1537-1557) in conformity with the new construction technique necessitated by the development and improvement of artillery weapons. This phase bears the signature of the great Mannerist architect Michele Sanmicheli and his nephew Gian Gerolamo Sanmicheli. Michele Sanmicheli was the Inspector-General of the fortifications in all the territories belonging to the Venetian Republic and was famous, among other things, for his vital contribution to the development of defensive architecture, especially as regards the design and improvement of its most characteristic feature, the system of bastions.

2.4.8. The enormous project of walling the outer town – until then a suburb of the medieval nucleus – and constructing the New Fortress (1576-1588) was designed and supervised by the military engineer Ferrante Vitelli. The supplementary fortifications of the second line of defence (1669-1682) and surrounding hills (1716-1726) were the work of the engineer Filippo Veneda and Marshal Schulemburg respectively. These two great engineers and soldiers created a majestic defensive system characterized by marked geometricity, in

which they incorporated all the improvements and achievements of contemporary defensive architecture: walls with a system of bastions, new outworks (ravelins and demilunes) beyond the moat, covered retreats (*ritirate*) and so on.

2.4.9. The fortifications of Corfu, besides incorporating all the new developments in defensive architecture devised in the four centuries of Venetian rule, influenced or even determined the evolution of the urban ensemble. They are of the utmost importance to the history of defensive architecture, for they represent one of the finest surviving examples of such work not only in Greece but in the whole of the Eastern Mediterranean, from both the technical and the aesthetic point of view. Apart from anything else, they are very important for the study of the layout and construction of ramparts with bastions, on which there is an enormous amount of archival material available, mostly in the archives of Venice.

2.4.10. **The urban ensemble**, whose expansion was limited both by the terrain and by the sea, is precisely bounded by the perimeter walls. Its planning displays all the characteristics of the walled towns of Western Europe, and it is now a living and distinctive example of a town planned according to the considerations of defence. Thus there is a large esplanade (a level space left open for defensive reasons, in Italian *spianata*) between the Old Fortress and the houses of the town; the streets leading off the Spianada are aligned with the centre of the Old Fortress; the main streets lead directly to the gates in the town walls; the town is structured around discrete neighbourhood units, in which the building density gradually increased through planned or spontaneous new construction along the main lines of communication and according to the lie of the

land; and each neighbourhood is intersected by a maze of narrow lanes and alleys. This urban structure, combined with the density of multi-storey buildings and the types of architectural form in use – which have assimilated characteristic features of diachronic cultural development, in complete harmony and with unbroken continuity – add up to a unique whole that possesses universal values and is of great importance to the history of architecture, town planning and the fine arts. More especially since the disastrous earthquakes of 1953, which almost completely destroyed the other two large towns in the Ionian Islands (the main towns of Zakynthos and Kefallinia), Corfu has been of incomparable value to the history of architecture.

2.4.11. The buildings of the Venetian period are rare examples of a type of architecture which, although it developed in Greek territory, was based directly on foreign models and thus represents the Greek contribution to the trends prevailing in the West (Renaissance and Baroque). At the same time Corfu, being one of the few places in the Greek world whose culture developed smoothly with no violent interruptions, is the only surviving example of a smooth transition to Neoclassicism: here, as in the West, it followed on as a natural continuation of the forms that had gone before, blending with them in a remarkably homogeneous manner. Indeed, its relationship to Neoclassical architecture is of particular importance to the history of Modern Greek architecture, because it was in Corfu that that style made its first appearance on Greek soil.

2.4.12. Not only do the nineteenth-century buildings tone harmoniously with those that had preceded them, because they possess the characteristics of Classicism in its earliest phase, including

economy of expression and chiefly Neo-Renaissance features; but their construction is of excellent quality, thanks to the high structural standards required by the British. The early date of the Neoclassical buildings in Corfu is indicative of the differences that once existed between this island and almost all the rest of the Balkans, nearly all of which were then the European provinces of an otherwise great empire, that of the Ottoman sultans.

2.4.13. Lastly, besides its morphological interest, Corfu is important for the study of the development of the urban apartment building, as it was the first Greek town to adopt the system of horizontal ownership. A corpus of drawings and documents of a size and richness unrivalled in Greece, mostly relating to the urban architecture of Corfu in the nineteenth century but also to the public and private buildings of the Venetian period, is preserved in the town's Historical Archives, making possible a thorough, in-depth, scientific examination of the documentary evidence.

ii. Justification for inscription

- 2.4.14. For inscription on the World Heritage List, it must be shown that the proposed Site meets one or more of ten criteria set by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee as an essential requirement. The Site must also fulfil two additional tests: of authenticity and of integrity.
- 2.4.15. The application for the inscription of the Old Town of Corfu as a World Heritage Site is backed by evidence of its eligibility under criteria i, ii and iv. It is also submitted that the Site meets the two further tests of authenticity and of integrity.

Authenticity

- 2.4.16. The development of the small Byzantine town of the Middle Ages into an urban ensemble on the Western pattern gave it a diversity and an originality that are conspicuously present at every level of a complete and self-contained culture in the structure and form of the town and in its cultural and social life.
- 2.4.17. The street plan of the walled town and the architectural forms of its buildings are ideally suited to its military role as a garrison town, and they also make good use of the lie of the land in the naturally fortified site, the native building materials found locally, the techniques in use in the more highly-developed cultures of Western Europe which have left their imprint on the town, and the local regulations and traditional customs relating to property ownership. This has resulted in an authentic expression of the synthesis of the two cultures, avoiding the risk of sterile imitation of the aesthetic trends strongly prevalent in the West.

- 2.4.18. The adoption of Western architectural forms in Corfu is definitely more noticeable in public buildings, which were intended to be monumental in appearance. The other buildings, intended for the needs of a population that was predominantly Greek and Orthodox Christian, show evidence of the gradual process of interaction between indigenous and imported elements. The final result is an extremely attractive and picturesque whole characterized by a tendency towards simplification and a feeling for moderation, and serving as a cultural link between East and West.
- 2.4.19. In the natural environment, whether left in its natural state or altered by human intervention (in the form of green open spaces, parks, woodlands and gardens), the pluralism of visual features and the harmony of their interplay creates a characteristic fragile microcosm which perfectly complements the buildings of the Old Town and the massive bulk of the two Fortresses.
- 2.4.20. The distinctive character of the town, resulting from the blend of Western rationalism with a more oriental spontaneity, is still clearly recognizable. The town has remained a living organism throughout the ages, constantly evolving in response to changing conditions and to meet new needs. The outcome of this process is what is known as the 'historic centre' which, physically separated from the modern town surrounding it, has preserved the characteristics of holistic quality for later generations.
- 2.4.21. New buildings erected in the twentieth century, mostly to fill the gaps where old ones had been destroyed by bombing in the

Second World War, have considerably altered the original picture of the town. Yet these too, being authentic expressions of a particular set of historical circumstances (use of concrete, flat roofs) and reflecting the aesthetic taste of their time, are distinctly different from the older buildings and enrich the historic character of the urban landscape. Where alterations have been made to older buildings or the public realm, the existence of voluminous records of the past form of the town and individual buildings in the Archives of the Prefecture of Corfu, with documents going back to the fourteenth century, meets all the requirements of full documentation. Moreover, the multiple ownership of apartment buildings is strongly conducive to the retention of their original structure, as repairs are usually partial (affecting only one horizontal property) and drastic alterations using concrete and other modern materials are not common.

Integrity

2.4.22. Unlike the Corfu Fortifications, which were placed under the statutory protection of the Ministry of Culture at a relatively early date (1938) after being designated as a 'historic monument scheduled for preservation', the historic town centre has only quite recently been given adequate statutory protection.

2.4.23. The high degree of preservation of the historic town centre since the end of the Second World War was due at first (from 1958 to 1967) to the introduction of statutory counter-incentives to the alteration of its appearance, and later (from 1967 to the present day) to the enactment of statutory measures for its protection. The timely enactment (in 1958) of legislation setting much stricter limits on the utilization of land, combined with the system of multiple property

ownership, acted as a deterrent to the demolition of superannuated buildings and as a brake on the adoption of the 1950s approach to town planning, whereby the existing urban fabric was sacrificed to the improvement of traffic flow. Then in 1967 the Ministry of Culture designated the Old Town of Corfu as 'a historic monument scheduled for preservation and an area of outstanding natural beauty and architectural and historical interest': this reinforced the protection and conservation policy then in force by placing controls on the nature of planned alterations to the shells of buildings and the public realm within the area designated as the 'historic centre'.

2.4.24. However, the character of this protection and conservation policy at the national level proved too weak to withstand the strong pressures caused by the advent of mass tourism and the concomitant social trend towards 'development' and modernization.

2.4.25. The signing of Programme Contracts between government agencies and the local government in 1990, 1995 and 2005 set in motion a process of systematic, ongoing co-operation between the state and the local community in accordance with a specific programme of action, with the object of resisting the negative pressures of the modern era. This the Programme Contracts set out to do by implementing measures for the overall protection, controlled development, improvement and enhancement both of the Fortifications and of the urban ensemble of the Old Town. The Old Town Programme Contract Office, as Project Co-ordinator, is the agency responsible for implementing the protection and conservation policy. It specifies the statutory protection afforded in each individual case and manages its terms and conditions and the measures to be taken for its implementation.

2.4.26. To deal with the specific problems of large-scale tourist development and efficient visitor management, after taking soundings of current local opinion, the authorities have devised what is at present an unofficial system of 'visitor movement management' which, on the initiative of the local Council, has secured the participation of all the agencies, organizations and professional associations involved.



Criterion i. Represent a masterpiece of human creative genius

2.4.27. This criterion applies to the two Fortresses in the Old Town, the Old Fortress and the New Fortress. Both are masterpieces of military architecture embodying all the major developments in the art of defence from the fifteenth to the nineteenth century, and both were designed by leading architects and engineers. They are among the most superb fortification works ever made in the Mediterranean basin and they remain unaltered to this day, supplemented by the outer wall, only parts of which survive (the sea wall, the west wall).

2.4.28. The construction of the Fortress called for the utmost human creative genius to be deployed in a concerted attempt by science and art to triumph over nature. Hills were razed, harbours were built, artificial islands were made, walls and fortresses were built and the triumph of civil engineering was achieved, prompting the Venetian Senator Nicolò Zeno to say, 'It was a naturally strong position, but we, using technical skill and money, have made it impregnable.'

2.4.29. The Corfu Fortifications are the only defensive system in the whole of the Eastern Mediterranean basin to have withstood five Ottoman sieges (in 1430, 1537, 1571, 1573 and 1716), so proving their unique efficacy for the purpose for which they were designed. The combination of a naturally fortified position, brilliant military architecture and the dedication of the local people to the very costly work of the construction and continuous maintenance of the Fortifications demonstrate their outstanding significance.

Criterion ii. Exhibit an important interchange of human values

- 2.4.30. From a very early date, Corfu's excellent strategic position in the Mediterranean determined the historic role the island was to play through the ages. It is a crossroads, a place where people meet and coexist, a suitable environment for the acclimatization of ideologies, a melting-pot of different cultures, which was able to effect a harmonious balance between the most widely differing contacts and interchanges of values. Uniquely, the city founded by Corinthian colonists in the eighth century B.C. passed through successive stages of being Macedonian, Roman, Byzantine, Angevin, Venetian, French, British and Greek. Each of these phases has left ample traces on the ground or a few metres below the surface. Thanks to archaeological excavations and historical circumstances, all the following are still identifiable and can be seen by visitors: the city of the Corinthian colonists and their harbour; archaeological traces of all the cultures predating the Corinthian colonization; the Agora of the ancient city, which inspired in Thucydides his analysis of the causes and conditions of war; the Hellenistic and Roman city, where drama contests were particularly popular; the Early Christian city with its imposing churches and the relics of its patron saints; the city that endured raids by the Goths, campaigns for its recapture by the Byzantines and expansionist campaigns by the Normans, those northlanders intent on establishing a foothold in the East; the efficient Venetian administration, which retained the Byzantine system of property ownership but respected the town's Jewish community; the French Enlightenment, which demolished centuries-old social structures; the British imperial administration, which overlaid the town's medieval character with the Neoclassical face that it presents today, while leaving untouched the maze-like street plan.
- 2.4.31. The various communities that settled on Corfu during its long history – communities defined by religion or race – may have had their mutual antagonisms, but those never led to armed civil conflict or developed into racial hatred or genocidal strife. To this day Corfu has never known racial, political or religious hatred. Today the Old Town of Corfu is an 'open museum' of different cultures and a synthesis of different cultural behaviour patterns, one which has never been sullied by religious bigotry.
- 2.4.32. The history of Corfu has witnessed a series of different human settlements coexisting with other, conflicting, cultural spheres of influence – Byzantium, Venice, France, Britain and other Mediterranean presences – as well as Jews and waves of refugees from Turkish-ruled Greece and Crete (after the fall of Candia in 1669), turning the town into a place of exemplary diversity: a diversity reflected in the architecture, social life, painting, religious art, sculpture and music of Corfu.
- 2.4.33. The Westernized style of the buildings, the survival of customs (such as religious processions, the practice of decking windows with *damaschi* (scarlet fabrics), the ecclesiastical banners, Easter festivities, the carnival), the flourishing of the arts in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the scholarly and cultural institutions and the musical (especially operatic) tradition are all tangible manifestations of that process of osmosis between Corfu and the West; and all this has to be borne in mind if one is to understand the reality of Corfu's social and cultural life today.

Criterion iv. Be an outstanding example of a type of building or architectural ensemble which illustrates significant stages in human history

2.4.34. The structure and form of the Old Town of Corfu as it is now, having remained more or less unchanged to the present day, display all the features of the late medieval and Renaissance walled towns of Western Europe and constitute a remarkable living example of town planning with defence as a major consideration. The selective use of those features and their general adaptation to the distinctive and interesting natural environment, and to other local elements as well, perfectly describe the historical circumstances that gave rise to them: that is, the continuous, constructive dialogue between the East and the West, steering clear of sterile imitation of the aesthetic trends strongly prevalent in the West. Sympathetic integration into the surrounding landscape, the feeling for moderation, the variety of component elements and the complete identification of the town with the needs that brought it into being have created an architectural entity that is well-balanced, simple and comprehensive, with no verbosity of expression. The challenge is to discover this place.

2.4.35. The urban apartment building as it took shape in the Venetian period and was further developed in the nineteenth century is a particularly interesting type of building, unique in that it first appeared in Corfu much earlier than anywhere else in Greece, and valuable for the insight it gives into the institution of horizontal ownership as it evolved historically before settling into the specific form it now has.

iii. The Wider Significance of the Town

2.4.36. The picture that the town presents nowadays could be described as a historical chart illustrating the various phases of its development and the creative coexistence of the cultures that have occupied it at various times. Corfu, lying as it does on major seaways and on the routes taken by migrant populations, has always been home to a mixture of populations and races; it has always been situated between the two worlds of East and West, and its inhabitants have had to coexist with them. The diversity of the town throughout its history, and its ability to assimilate different elements without conflict between them, gave it a strongly cosmopolitan character from an early date, with pronounced overtones of Western Europe.

2.4.37. For more than 120 years (from 1669 to 1797) Corfu was the 'capital' of the Venetian Republic in the East and was, with Vienna, the last bastion of Europe against the Ottoman expansion of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries: a town identified with defence and the survival of European civilization. Behind all the Venetians' determined efforts to hold on to the town was the agonizing knowledge that the defence of a whole civilization depended on the endurance of its fortresses. It was no mere chance that the defence of Corfu in 1716-1717 was commanded by Marshal Schulemburg, one of Europe's leading authorities on the art of warfare in his day. It was Corfu's vital connection with the history of Europe that gave the town such a characteristically European outlook, for the Corfiots realized very early on that the sacrifices of the Venetian Republic were sacrifices for the survival of a civilization. The result was that Corfiot culture in the modern era has taken the form of an aspect of European civilization.

- 2.4.38. Corfu chose to ally itself definitively with European civilization without expunging its distinctive features derived from the Greek, Latin and Jewish traditions. This is attested by the popularity of opera there from the seventeenth century and the sophistication of its opera-goers thereafter, which was such that Italian opera companies chose to try out their productions there before putting them on in Italy. It is also worth mentioning the impression that Corfu made on the eighteenth century's most famous cosmopolitan, Casanova, when he was stationed there as a lieutenant in the Venetian navy for two or three years around 1726: as he says in his *Memoirs*, he felt absolutely at home there.
- 2.4.39. It was to Corfu that Empress Elisabeth (Sissy) of Austria chose to withdraw from the limelight, and she left a monument to her presence in the form of a striking building that combines Austrian taste with the personal charm of the Empress herself. The elegant villa called the Achillion remains one of the best-loved monuments on Corfu, attracting large numbers of visitors from all over the world. But in the matter of elegant villas and gardens pride of place goes to the British. It is no accident that Sir Thomas Maitland, the British Lord High Commissioner, was nicknamed 'King Thomas', for he bequeathed to Corfu – not without a touch of megalomania – the Palace of St. Michael and St. George (named after the British order of knighthood), a splendid colonnaded aqueduct and the summer villa of Mon Repos. All three still stand in perfect condition, making their own contribution to the symbolism of the town.
- 2.4.40. This distinctive European and cosmopolitan character of the town steered the development of the arts, and cultural and social life in general, towards an autonomous Heptanesian mode of expression influenced mainly by Venice. The Venetian influence transmitted to local artists the rich artistic tradition of the West going back to the Renaissance.
- 2.4.41. From the eighteenth century onwards the topmost stratum of the local community was a permanent ruling class, a feudal aristocracy, which assimilated foreign noblemen into its ranks and enjoyed a measure of independence from the central government. Meanwhile the Churches, Catholic as well as Orthodox, saw their administrative importance declining as a result of the antagonism between Venice and the papacy. Out of these two developments there evolved a social structure different from that of the rest of Greece, recognized as a composite phenomenon with its own peculiar characteristics, with its origins in the West. This kind of society, always conscious of its obligation to promote development, produced persons who left their mark on Greek history, having been nurtured in the political and intellectual ferment of Italian universities.
- 2.4.42. The years following the departure of the Venetians (1797), with the momentum of the French revolution, saw the laying of the foundations of democracy, the birth of the Radical movement, the emergence of scholars of nationwide standing, the founding of the first Greek public school (the Tenedos School in 1805, organized

by Ioannis Kapodistrias) and the Ionian Academy (the first Greek university) not long afterwards, the Public Library (1800), the first Greek printing press, the seminary (1820), the Greek School of Fine Arts (1810), the Book Society (1819), the Reading Society (1836) and the Corfu Philharmonic (1840). After union with Greece in 1864 all these local cultural institutions were brought under the control of the central government, though of course they have bequeathed to future generations a cultural background, the evidence of which is still apparent today.

2.4.43. **All in all, the Old Town of Corfu**, which is known internationally, is now a unique cultural entity of great aesthetic value. Its unique character

- is recognizable in the structure and form of the town and in its social and cultural life,
- has evolved continuously through the ages, absorbing elements from the two worlds of the Mediterranean: the East and the West, and
- has remained alive and largely unaltered to the present day.



2.5 OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT OF THE SITE

- 2.5.1. The system of property ownership and the management of the town of Corfu in the present day are fairly complex problems. Since these factors are due to parameters and conditions arising in earlier periods of history, they provide us with important evidence concerning the nature and special characteristics of the area to be managed.
- 2.5.2. The great majority of the buildings and the available land are in private ownership. This fact, coupled with the system of multiple property ownership, means that the number of acceptable options for the management of the Site is considerably greater than it would otherwise have been. There are also a few corporate bodies (the state, the Municipality of Corfu and various public entities such as the orphanage, the hospital and the mental hospital) which, between them, own a substantial number of properties, but the great majority of those property holdings are fragmented in the form of single apartments on different floors in buildings under multiple ownership. The case of the Fortresses is different: they belong to the state, which has assigned the responsibility for their management and protection to the Ministry of Culture, while some of the buildings in the Fortresses are leased to public organizations and other bodies (Ministry of Education, Ionian University, Municipality of Corfu). The pattern of property ownership is shown in detail on Map 18 in the Annex.
- 2.5.3. Responsibility for the conservation, protection and management of the Old Town of Corfu was until recently shared by two bodies, the Ministry of Culture and the Municipality of Corfu, which utilized their departmental structures and their own funds in dealing with the affairs of the Old Town, each having a separate area of responsibility.
- 2.5.4. Responsibility for conservation and protection continues to rest with the Ministry of Culture, the Directorate of Byzantine and Post Byzantine Antiquities being responsible for the Old Town of Corfu. The regional departments concerned are the 21st (Corfu) Ephorate of Byzantine Antiquities and the 6th Ephorate of Modern Monuments. In the matter of management, responsibility lies with the Municipality of Corfu. Under the supervision of the Municipal Council and the Mayor, the municipal departments concerned are the Planning Office (for building construction), the Office of Shop Operating Permits (for monitoring commercial premises), the Technical Departments (for the execution of technical projects) and the Municipal Police (which monitors compliance with the relevant municipal regulations).
- 2.5.5. Since the separation of responsibilities outlined above has proved to be not particularly efficient, and since there is some overlapping and not always a precise demarcation line between the two areas of

responsibility, in the last few decades a system of collaboration between the lawful representatives of the agencies in question, in the form of 'Programme Contracts', has been instituted.

- **The Programme Contract for the Fortifications** has been in operation since 1990. The parties to this contract, which include the Ministry of Culture and the Municipality of Corfu, have overall responsibility for the protection, improvement and management of the Fortifications. A Fortifications Programme Contract Office has been set up in the Old Fortress, with a permanent staff and its own budget.
- **The Programme Contract for the Old Town** between the Ministry of Culture, the Municipality of Corfu, the Ministry of the National Economy, the Ministry of the Environment, Planning and Public Works and the Public Corporation for Urban Development and Housing (DEPOS SA), was in operation from 1995 to 2005. The parties to this contract have overall responsibility for the protection, improvement and management of the Old Town. The contract is administered by the Office of the Old Town, which has a permanent staff and its own budget.
- **The current Programme Contract for the Protection and Enhancement the Old Town of Corfu (Urban Ensemble and Fortifications)**, 2006-2012, between the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of the Environment, Planning and Public Works, and the Municipality of Corfu, integrates the structures of the two earlier Programme Contracts and the experience gained from them. It has an annual budget of 500,000 euros from the funds of the contracting parties and additional grants from funding

programmes of the European Union and the Greek state. This contract assumes overall responsibility for co-ordinating the protection and conservation policy in force and for planning and executing improvement projects, and more generally it covers all current issues to do with the management and promotion of the Old Town.

- 2.5.6. Details of the activities completed or planned under the Programme Contracts, and of the funding that has been used, are set out in Chapter 5f of the nomination file submitted to UNESCO for the inscription of the Old Town on the World Heritage List.

Corfu as a Modern Town

- 2.5.7. At the 2001 census the town of Corfu had a population of 28,185, of whom about 7,200 lived within the boundaries of the proposed Site and 13,800 within the buffer zone. These figures, when compared with the population statistics for the preceding decades, show that the sharp decrease in the population of the Old Town between 1981 and 1991 (from 8,774 to 6,206 inhabitants, a decline of 30 per cent) has been halted.
- 2.5.8. The economically active population of the municipality in 2001 accounted for 36.8 per cent of the total population, a slightly higher percentage than in 1991. The overwhelming majority are employed in the tertiary sector, which includes commerce, the service industries, administration and tourism. The local economy has been heavily reliant on tourism for the last three decades at least, but in recent years the tourist industry has come to a juncture.

2.5.9. Although Corfu town is the only port of entry to the island, whether by sea or air, and although it is the administrative, economic, commercial and cultural capital, its capacity in hotel and guesthouse beds covers only 6 per cent of the average annual number of visitors to the island. Quite recent surveys have shown that 46 per cent of the visitors to the island visit Corfu town only once, while 16 per cent do not visit it at all. The 'visitability deficit' of the town has wide-ranging consequences, as the strain on the environment is not balanced by comparable economic benefits, and this has been a subject of continuing debate locally in recent years. The targets under consideration include improving the hotel and guesthouse capacity, in terms both of the number of beds available and the type and age of the accommodation, and, more importantly, focusing on a different pattern of tourism rather than the prevailing mass summer tourism on a bed-and-breakfast basis, by setting in motion a series of initiatives and interventions.

Current protection and development policy

2.5.10. The protection measures currently in force within the proposed Site derive from a series of statutory tools enacted by the various agencies involved, each covering a different area of the problem:

Organization responsible: Ministry of Culture

2.5.11. Under the terms of Ministerial Decision 4701 / 3.3.67 (*Government Gazette* 183 / II / 16.3.67) the Site was designated as 'a historic monument scheduled for preservation and an area of outstanding natural beauty and architectural and historical interest'. Since then

the boundary of the designated area have been amended three times: the latest amendment, which is in force now, is Ministerial Decision B1 / Φ33 / 29925 / 828 / 27.5.80 (*Government Gazette* 512/II/4.6.80). The protection afforded by the designation includes:

- a ban on demolition,
- controls on the nature of alterations to the exterior of buildings (protection of the shell), and
- controls on the nature of alterations in the public realm.

Any building activity within the designated 'historic centre' that falls into one of the above categories can only be carried out with written authorization from 21st (Corfu) Ephorate of Byzantine Antiquities. The same agency affords the strictest protection, under the terms of designations dating back to 1922 (Old Fortress), to thirty-five outstanding monuments in the 'historic centre' and twenty-one in the surrounding area, by means of controls that apply to the interior as well as the exterior. This degree of protection is given chiefly to the Fortresses, churches, major architectural features of certain buildings, and to individual buildings.

2.5.12. In addition, many important modern (post-1830) buildings within the historic town centre and outside its boundaries are protected *en masse* by the Ministry of Culture, this protection covering both the exterior and the interior.

Scheduled modern buildings within the Site:	9
Scheduled modern buildings outside the boundary of the Site:	302
All the scheduled buildings are marked on Map 19 in the Annex.	

2.5.13. Lastly, nearly all of the buffer zone is controlled by the Ministry of Culture, because it contains several designated archaeological sites, twenty-one individual scheduled monuments and 302 modern (post-1830) scheduled buildings, which have a buffer zone ranging in width from 150 to 500 metres, depending on the property. The controls in force vary according to the circumstances:

- For sites adjacent to an archaeological site, excavation work is monitored to ascertain the presence of antiquities before construction of a new building can go ahead;
- The form and mass of any proposed new building are controlled to ensure that it will be compatible with the adjacent scheduled building.

Organization responsible: Ministry of the Environment

2.5.14. The part of the town within the boundary of the proposed Site was designated as a 'traditional settlement' by the Ministry of the Environment, Planning and Public Works under the Presidential Decree of 22nd April 1980 (*Government Gazette* 274/IV/5.5.80). The protection and development of the area is controlled by the Ministry in Athens; this process is currently being revised. The Ministry's regional offices vet the Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and their approval is required for the siting of any new structures and development projects. Also, under the terms of the aforesaid Presidential Decree, all alterations to the public realm have to be approved by the Prefectural Architectural Vetting Committee, an arm of the Prefectural Authority.

Organization responsible: Municipality of Corfu

2.5.15. In the last ten years, in accordance with the policy of decentralization, some important responsibilities of the Ministry of the Environment have been transferred to local authorities, which are now responsible for monitoring building activity. The construction of new buildings, additions to existing buildings and repairs and alterations are regulated by the Presidential Decree of 7th September 1981 (*Government Gazette* 552/IV/2.10.81) 'Re: Building Restrictions' and the Royal Decree of 9th April 1964 (*Government Gazette* 37/IV/14.4.64).

The statutory instruments that apply building restrictions by limiting the possibility of exploiting existing plots within the 'historic centre' are deemed to reinforce the protection policy by

- discouraging the practice of abandoning old multi-storey buildings and leaving them derelict, and
- generally banning the addition of new architectural masses to existing buildings and averting the risk of alteration to their form.

2.5.16. The Municipality of Corfu, recognizing the complexity of the problems facing the Old Town and working in collaboration with the Corfu Branch of the Technical Chamber of Greece, has recently prepared a 'Management Plan for the Old Town of Corfu, 2006-2012', setting out plans for the co-ordinated long-term management of the Site to promote its protection and development. In drafting the Plan, good use has been made of the Municipality's long (fifteen-year) experience of co-operating with the other organizations involved in protection and conservation (Ministry of Culture, Ministry of the Environment, Planning and Public Works) and an action plan has been drawn up for all the relevant organisations and agencies at the local and national level.

2.5.17. Another of the Municipality's responsibilities, whereby it can prevent alterations to the town's functional structure, is the issuance of shop operating permits. By means of this process it can forbid land uses likely to cause a nuisance or to be otherwise incompatible in the 'historic centre', and it can control the conditions and impact of other uses. The formation of the Municipal Police in 1990 has contributed to more effective control over the enforcement of the law and the special measures in force, which either promote the official protection policy or are connected more generally with the running of the town.

Chapter 5, Appendix 5 of the Management Plan lists the approved plans for the Site and the statutory instruments currently in force for the protection of the Site.





MANAGEMENT ISSUES & OBJECTIVES

3.1 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1.1. The Old Town of Corfu, with its fortresses and its urban ensemble, is a living town with all the demands and needs of modern life and, at the same time, the vulnerabilities and distinctive characteristics of a historic monument under threat from the contemporary way of life and the pressures of its users for modernization, urban renewal and development.
- 3.1.2. The Management Plan needs to achieve a balancing act that is difficult and challenging by any standards. On the one hand it has to protect the Site and its unique values, to enhance the distinctive elements of its character, to restore those elements that have been lost or impaired and to further the knowledge and understanding of its values through research and education. On the other, it has to provide its users with the prerequisites for a good quality of life in keeping with modern standards, to improve the existing conditions, to improve the infrastructure, to provide opportunities for development and investment, to keep the local economy vibrant and to meet the need for the socio-economic development and progress of the town and its users.
- 3.1.3. The need for protection and the need for development are two desiderata that are not entirely compatible with each other but are both necessary for the conservation of the Site on the one hand and the survival of the town on the other.
- 3.1.4. Besides this conflict of interest, there is another factor to be taken into consideration. The existence of the historic Site is an asset to the island. The great range of its values opens up splendid opportunities for sound, rational development, and development by means of sensible investment can establish the right conditions for the conservation and protection of the Site, to ensure its survival for future generations.
- 3.1.5. This being the object in view, what we know about the Site is of the greatest importance. As in all fields of research, documentation is the foundation stone of analysis, for it is the source of our knowledge of the thing we are studying. Comprehensive, holistic knowledge of all the issues affecting the Site is very important; in fact it is the basis for all sound management decisions. Documentation should first cover all the areas in which deficiencies exist and then be extended to fields that have not been examined as yet. Furthermore, the knowledge thus gained must be disseminated and must be the key to raising awareness of the unique values of the Site among the general public, and not only among scholars.
- 3.1.6. Visitors are of fundamental importance to the Site and the town, first because they invigorate the local economy and contribute to economic development, and secondly because their familiarity with the Site and its values helps to spread knowledge of the Site and promotes issues related to the Cultural Heritage.

- 3.1.7. The Management Plan also has to find an answer to a different dilemma. On the one hand, visitors are a basic source of income and create opportunities for the dissemination of the Site's unique values; on the other, they put a strain on the Site and may in some cases cause material wear and tear, directly or indirectly.
- 3.1.8. Visitors must be given easy access to the Site and the ability to move about easily within the Site. In the first place, this helps the visitors to see as much of the Site as possible, to gain as much knowledge about it as possible, to enjoy themselves and to come away satisfied. At the same time the local community reaps manifold benefits, because a satisfied visitor is more receptive to the useful messages he will receive. As a result, he will do more for the invigoration of the local economy and the protection of the Site, as he will help to spread awareness of its unique values. All in all, the provision of high-quality services to visitors is essential for the comprehensive management of the Site.
- 3.1.9. In the light of the principles outlined above, the issues that arise, which the Management Plan needs to address in the best possible way, can be classified in five main categories under the following headings:

- 1 : Implementation and Impact of the Plan
- 2 : Protection and Conservation of the Site
- 3 : Documentation, Education and Research
- 4 : Physical Access and Transport
- 5 : Visitor Management

- 3.1.10. In addressing these issues, priority must always be given to the protection of the Site in accordance with long-term planning and organization, and wherever possible every effort must be made to secure the participation of the public, including visitors as well as the local community.
- 3.1.11. The sources for the recognition and documentation of the issues to be addressed are fairly numerous and cover a variety of subjects. Some of them are listed below:

i. Research papers:

Systematic research projects to record the features of the historic parts of the town have been under way since 1990 in the case of the fortifications and since 1995 in the case of the 'historic centre', following activation of the corresponding Programme Contracts. The particulars recorded to date are considered to present a reasonably complete picture of the historic Site. Further projects for the evaluation, scrutiny, documentation and other processing of those particulars are currently in progress.

(For abbreviations see Key at the end of Section 3.1.11)

- Inventory Report relating to the buildings in the Historic Centre / Public Corporation for Urban Development and Housing (DEPOS SA) – Programme Contract (PC) / 1996
- Architectural file cards relating to buildings in the Historic Centre / DEPOS SA– PC / 1997-98
- Plotting of 200 buildings in the Historic Centre / DEPOS SA– PC / 1997-98-99

- Photographic and drawn plotting of streets and public spaces in the Historic Centre/ DEPOS SA– PC / 1997
- Preliminary Programme of Projects under the PC / DEPOS SA/ 1996
- Documentation of morphological features of the British Protectorate / A. Agoropoulou-Birbili / 1997
- Listing and historical documentation of buildings and works of art since 1830 / V. Alektoridou – Ministry of Culture / 1989-99
- Entries for a Dictionary of Morphological Terms / A. Agoropoulou-Birbili / 1998
- Development of residential ensembles to the middle of the 18th century / N.E. Karapidakis / 1997
- Municipality of Corfu Local Development Programme / Mentor - Xopoli / 1995-96
- Exploitation of the New Fortress at Corfu / Municipality of Corfu / 1997
- Excavations in the area of the Church of Taxiarchis Michail in the Campiello quarter / PC / 1998
- Plotting and documentation of the Monastery of Ayia Aikaterini / DEPOS / 1997
- Urban development of the town of Corfu / R. Rougheris / 1996
- Plotting, recording, surveys in the Old Fortress of Corfu / Ephorate of Byzantine Antiquities (Corfu Office) / 1996-98
- The Historic Centre with No Motor Traffic / Municipality of Corfu / 1997
- Multicultural tourism programme / Development Enterprise of Corfu Municipality / ANEDK / 1997-2000
- Development of the Port as a Museum: a proposal submitted to the EU 'URBAN' Programme / Municipality of Corfu / 2000

- 'Public Ceremonies in Corfu during the Period of Venetian Sovereignty, 14th-18th centuries' / Aliki Nikiforou / 2002
- 'Embassies in Corfu under Venetian Rule, 16th-18th centuries' / Elli Yiotopoulou-Sisilianou / ROPC / 2003
- 'Passports in the 19th Century' / Aliki Nikiforou / ROPC / 2003
- 'Profitable Re-use of Historic Buildings', in the framework of the EU 'INTERREG – III VILLAS – B' CADSES' Programme / Municipality of Corfu / 2004-05
- 'Wood as a Building Material and its Use in Historic Building Construction' / P. Touliatos / TCG-CB, Corfu Architects' Association / 2005

ii. Conferences

- Tourism and the Environment in the Islands / TCG, TCG-CB / 1996
- 'The Russian Presence in the Ionian Islands, 18th-19th Centuries' / ROPC / Old Fortress / 1998
- 'Corfu, a Mediterranean Synthesis' / ROPC / Old Fortress/ 1997
- 'The Venice of the Greeks and the Greece of the Venetians' / Corfu Historical Archives – Biblioteca Marciana – Museo Correr / Athens, 1999
- 'Septinsular Republic 1807: The major historical issues' / 2000
- 'Business Networks of the Diaspora, 1000-2000' / 2001
- 'Protection and Development of Historic Towns in the 21st Century' / ICOMOS – TCG – Municipality of Corfu / 2002
- 'The Ionian Islands from Byzantium to Venice' / Greek Institute of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Studies in Venice – Ionian University / 2002
- 'Seismic Hazards and Antiseismic Reinforcement of Structures' / TCG-CB / 2003

- 4th International Conference on Maritime History / ROPC / 2004
- Land Use Planning & Town Planning / Regional Authority of the Ionian Islands – Municipality of Corfu – TCG-CB / 2005

iii. Exhibitions

- International exhibition of archival material from the ROPC, entitled 'Corfu: History, Urban Life and Architecture, 14th-19th Centuries' / Achillion / 1994
- 'Icons itinerant, Corfu 14th-18th c.' / Directorate of Byzantine & Post Byzantine Monuments, 8th Ephorate of Byzantine Antiquities, Corfu Office – Holy Metropolitan See / 1994
- 'The Life and Work of the Architect Yannis Chronis' / TCG-CB / Palace of St. Michael and St. George / 1997
- 'Stamatis Vourgaris, the First Greek Town Planner' / TCG-CB / Palace of St. Michael and St. George / 1997
- 'Byzantine Collection of Corfu' / 8th EBA, Corfu Office / 1997
- Exhibition of archival material from the ROPC, entitled 'Septinsular Republic: The first independent Greek state, 1800-1807' / Old Fortress / 1998
- 'Corfu: Protection and Development' / ICOMOS – TCG – Municipality of Corfu / 2002
- 'Corfu During the Period of Foreign Rule' / ROPC / 2004
- Exhibition on the conservation of archival material / ROPC / 2003

Key:	ANEDK	Development Enterprise of Corfu Municipality
	DEPOS	Public Corporation for Urban Development and Housing
	EBA	Ephorate of Byzantine Antiquities
	EU	European Union
	ICOMOS	International Council on Monuments and Sites

PC	Programme Contract(s)
ROPC	Record Office of the Prefecture of Corfu
TCG	Technical Chamber of Greece
TCG-CB	Technical Chamber of Greece, Corfu Branch

3.1.12. In the following paragraphs we look first at the several issues in each of the five main categories and then list the objectives that the Management Plan will aim to achieve in addressing the issues. For each issue the facts taken as 'premises' are given in the first column: these either describe identified problems affecting the Site and its wider setting, or they outline suggested ways of addressing the problems, so contributing to a broader understanding of the problem and definition of the objectives. The objectives are set out in the second column: for each issue there is one objective, which sums up the needs and requirements to be met. In this way 32 objectives have been written to cover all the issues : these objectives are carried over into Chapter 4.



3.2. IMPLEMENTATION AND IMPACT OF THE PLAN

- 3.2.1. This first category deals with the issues connected with the implementation of the Management Plan, some of which relate to procedures preparatory to implementation while others arise as consequences of implementation. It is important that the issues in this category should be addressed early, firstly to ensure that the agencies involved in the implementation of the Plan are properly organized and co-ordinated, and secondly so that the changes to the town resulting from implementation should be foreseeable and controllable. For these reasons the issues in this category are examined before the others.
- 3.2.2. One of the first parameters that needs to be verified under the Management Plan is the adequacy and appropriateness of the existing statutory framework for the protection and development of the Old Town of Corfu. Possibilities for reinforcing, expanding or updating the measures and policies currently in force are matters that need to be explored and examined, and an up-to-date, effective Management Plan needs to exhaust all such possibilities.
- 3.2.3. Projects for landscaping and improving the presentation of the Site create exciting new opportunities. Improvements to the appearance of the Site, access routes, infrastructure, facilities and so on can initiate trends that may endanger and alter its character. Adopting a system of overall monitoring of the actions for the improvement of the Site is one important aspect of the Management Plan. Guidelines on the planning principles and specifications for development options, which will be based on careful analysis of the unique values of the Site's natural and built environment, can make a positive contribution.
- 3.2.4. Systematic monitoring is a protection and management tool considered by the World Heritage community to be of great value and importance. Accordingly, UNESCO has implemented a system of six-yearly Periodic Reporting. These Reports will assess the current condition of all World Heritage Sites and the arrangements for their management at both national and local level. Frequent monitoring at the local level is also very useful, because it can prevent undesirable wear and tear to the Site and ensure the successful implementation of the Management Plan. Monitoring also increases the knowledge base for the Site and enables a better understanding of the Site and its requirements.

3.2.5. The local community's contribution to the effectiveness of the monitoring arrangements for the protection and proper management of the Site should not be underestimated. The majority of the historic properties are in private individual ownership. Engaging with the local community, which will benefit from the enhancement and improved presentation of the Site, and securing its active participation in management procedures are crucial to the success of the Plan.

3.2.6. The main issues in this category are the following:

1. Administration
2. Funding
3. Risk Management
4. Information Management
5. Monitoring
6. Boundary
7. Local Community
8. Statutory Protection
9. Assessing Change
10. Development Control
11. Contemporary Development



PREMISES**OBJECTIVES****Issue 1 : ADMINISTRATION****Objective 1**

- The Management Plan can only be successfully implemented through efficient partnership working by all the organizations and individuals involved. The experience gained in the last fifteen years from the forms of partnership already in use (Programme Contracts) between the agencies involved in the protection and development of the Old Town of Corfu (Ministry of Culture, Ministry of the Environment, Archaeological Receipts Fund, Municipality of Corfu, municipal corporate enterprises, local agencies, public interest organisations) is valuable and can be turned to advantage.
- The Office of the Old Town, established in 1996 as the Co-ordinator of the Programme Contract for the Old Town of Corfu, can be the core element of the administrative arrangements for the efficient management of the Site.
- The Joint Committee of the Programme Contract for the Old Town, whose eleven members represent all the organizations involved (Ministry of Culture, Ministry of the Environment, Municipality of Corfu), can be the core of the main advisory body on the administrative arrangements for the management of the Site.

- To ensure that appropriate administrative arrangements are in place for the efficient management of the Site. These arrangements will be based on partnership between central government, local government and the local parties involved and will encourage active participation by the local community.

PREMISESIssue **2** : **FUNDING**

- The resources available at present for the performance of the 2006-2012 Programme Contract, amounting to 500,000 euros per annum, come from the funds of the parties to the contract (Ministry of Culture, Ministry of the Environment, Municipality of Corfu). This funding can be augmented by the engagement of the Office of the Old Town in selected commercial activities, such as publishing and selling publicity material about the town.
- The available funding resources earmarked for public works projects in the Site will have to be increased, so as to cover a larger proportion of the identified needs.
- In addition to state grants and EU funding programmes, it will be advisable to devise appropriate incentives for private investment and grant funding and generally more active participation by the private sector, by emphasizing the reciprocal benefits to be gained by such actions.
- By encouraging the view, at the local and national level, that projects connected with World Heritage Sites should have priority in the selection of items to be funded, the desired increase in funding is more likely to be achieved.

OBJECTIVESObjective **2**

- To systematically seek out opportunities of raising funds for all areas of activity relating to the values of the Site by encouraging the view that cultural heritage projects in general, and especially projects connected with the Site, should have priority in the selection of items to be funded.

PREMISES**OBJECTIVES****Issue 3 : RISK MANAGEMENT****Objective 3**

- The General Emergency Plan codenamed 'Xenocrates' and the specific local sub-plan, the 'Local Civil Defence Plan', embody the arrangements now in force for dealing with the potential dangers to the Old Town from natural disasters such as earthquakes, fires and, to a lesser extent, floods.
- The existing plans for coping with the hazards of natural disasters need to be regularly updated and must take into consideration the peculiarities and significance of a World Heritage Site.
- Since natural disasters are not the only actual or potential hazards facing a World Heritage town, the vulnerabilities of and threats to the Site's unique values need to be fully assessed and arrangements need to be made for timely action – especially preventive action – to deal with them. This being so, plans must be made to deal with the potential hazards of changes in land use, shifts in the social structure, stresses caused by visitors and housing construction and, more generally, all the risks from the changes in the condition of the Site that may arise from the implementation of the Management Plan.
- Implementation of the Management Plan needs to be protected from political and administrative changes that may jeopardize the continuity and consistency of those actions.

- To update, co-ordinate and expand existing plans designed to overcome potential risks to the survival of the Site.

PREMISES**OBJECTIVES****Issue 4 : INFORMATION MANAGEMENT****Objective 4**

- A large quantity of archival material relating to the Site is presently available from various sources (government departments, agencies, organizations and private individuals) and there are probably more such records in existence which have not been located as yet.
- The available archival records are not all equally accessible to would-be researchers, they are not necessarily mutually compatible and in a number of cases they are not kept in the right storage conditions, since the use of modern technological methods is relatively limited.
- Since the comprehensive gathering and efficient dissemination of all information relating to the Site is a fundamental prerequisite for the successful management of the Site as a whole and its individual elements, the co-ordination of archives and the acquisition of an easily accessible, comprehensive information system should be high priorities.
- Information about the Site held by private individuals (oral testimonies, private papers, old prints, books, articles and photographs), which at present is widely dispersed, needs to be efficiently utilized by being gathered together and recorded, to enrich our knowledge and understanding of the various parts of the Site.

- To make full use of modern information and communication technology to ensure the gathering, storage and analysis of comprehensive data concerning the Site, accessible to all who may be interested.

PREMISES**Issue 5 : MONITORING**

- Up to now, the national framework of statutory designations for the protection of the Site has made no provision for keeping regular, detailed records of the condition of the Site, with the result that the knowledge presently available comes from sporadic records taken for specific purposes (e.g. the collection of data required for project studies or the implementation of specific planning regulations) and is therefore fragmentary.
- Records of the condition of the Site, and also of the success of the Management Plan's implementation, can be made more objective by the use of key monitoring indicators, as listed in Chapter 6, Section (a) of the nomination file submitted to UNESCO for the inscription of the Old Town of Corfu on the World Heritage List.
- The data systematically gathered for the monitoring indicator questionnaires will be fed into the six-yearly reports to the monitoring agencies and will also ensure that the Management Plan can be adapted without delay to interim changes in the situation.

OBJECTIVES**Objective 5**

- To establish a comprehensive and accurate picture of the current condition of the Site and investigate methods for the systematic monitoring and documenting of future developments, to ensure that the periodic reports to the monitoring agencies are explicit and complete.

PREMISESIssue **6** : **BOUNDARY**

- The proposal for the inscription of the Old Town of Corfu on the list of World Heritage Sites contains a detailed definition of the boundaries of the Site and the buffer zone.
- During the period of implementation of the Management Plan, ongoing development of the Site may lead to a revision of the boundary of the buffer zone, should that be considered necessary in the light of the recording and assessment of the impact of the Management Plan. It is therefore vitally necessary that all changes occurring in the buffer zone be monitored regularly and frequently.

OBJECTIVESObjective **6**

- To implement an ongoing programme of monitoring and assessing the impact of the Management Plan on the area surrounding the Site, with the aim of taking timely action and perhaps revising the boundary of the buffer zone.

PREMISES**Issue 7 : LOCAL COMMUNITY**

- The local community is in direct daily contact with the historic site of the Old Town and is fully aware of the special qualities and cultural values it contains.
- The prospect of the Old Town of Corfu's inscription on the list of World Heritage Sites is a source of pride to the local community, which makes it easier to gain local consent for measures to promote the improved presentation of the Site and its conservation in good condition.
- Thanks to its cultural orientation, the town can promote its image as a magnet for a wide range of activities (education, culture, recreation, communications, sport).
- Further analysis of the economic and social benefits likely to accrue to the local community from the wider promotion of the town's cultural values will encourage the participation of all sections of the community in projects for its rehabilitation and improvement.

OBJECTIVES**Objective 7**

- To inform the local community of the cultural and economic benefits of upgrading and publicizing the Site, and to obtain the local community's consent for measures designed to promote its rehabilitation and enhancement and its maintenance in good condition.

PREMISES**Issue 8 : STATUTORY PROTECTION**

- The existing framework for the statutory protection of the Site, as laid down by the Archaeology Act (Law 3028/2002 on the 'Protection of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage in general') and the acts designating the Old Town of Corfu as 'a historic monument scheduled for preservation and an area of outstanding natural beauty and architectural and historical interest' (by the Ministry of Culture) and as a 'traditional settlement' (by the Ministry of the Environment, Planning and Public Works), covers the whole area proposed for inscription on the World Heritage List and has proved its efficacy in practice.
- Such problems as have arisen in the implementation of the official protection policy are not due to the inefficacy of the statutory framework but to flaws in the way it has been implemented, mainly because of understaffing in the departments concerned.
- Differences in the provision of statutory protection in the various parts of the buffer zone (archaeological sites, historic suburbs, individual scheduled buildings) can be eliminated by consolidating the protective measures into a single statutory framework.
- The Town Plan is at present in the process of being revised. The revised Plan, when completed, will eliminate occasional contradictions in the existing framework of statutory designations, mainly in the Jewish quarter (*Evraiki* area).

OBJECTIVES**Objective 8**

- To revise and make more specialized the existing framework of statutory designations so that it makes the most appropriate provision for the multidimensional needs of the Site: not only the need to maintain its special character but also the requirements of a living, contemporary town.

PREMISES**OBJECTIVES****Issue 9 : ASSESSING CHANGE****Objective 9**

- The proposed Site is a living town, an organism in a continuous process of evolution. Change resulting from the development process in each case is necessary to safeguard the health of the town, and hence of the Site.
- Change may represent, at one and the same time, an opportunity for the improvement of the Site and a threat to its unique values.
- Managing change successfully depends on accurately assessing the impact of each development project, but also on determining the limits of the Site's endurance to ensure that its special character is not threatened.

- To ascertain how much change and what kind of change the Site can sustain before its unique values are threatened.

PREMISES**OBJECTIVES****Issue 10 : DEVELOPMENT CONTROL****Objective 10**

- Development plans large and small, both in and around the town, can have a major impact on the image, character and historic structure of the Site.
- Most development projects in the Site are matters of repairs to old buildings, usually in private ownership. New building construction is confined to the outer parts of the town and is always carried out with respect for the existing designations (archaeological sites, scheduled buildings and churches, historic ensembles and the buffer zone round them).
- All such development projects are monitored by the Municipality of Corfu (Planning Office) and the Ministry of Culture: not only do the plans have to be approved, but the manner of their implementation is also monitored. These monitoring agencies have architects and archaeologists in their employ, but in order to raise the standards of the monitoring process they need staff with more specialized qualifications, chiefly in the field of the conservation and enhancement of historic buildings.
- The existing procedure for monitoring development projects is more efficient when it also involves recording the impact of any such projects, especially large-scale projects, carried out in the Site and the buffer zone.

- To establish a rigorous, explicit, detailed monitoring system to check on the impact of all development projects in progress within the Site and buffer zone. This monitoring system needs to ensure the protection of the cultural heritage while at the same time leaving the way open for high-quality development proposals.

PREMISES**Issue 11 : CONTEMPORARY DEVELOPMENT**

- Although modern architecture, at least as it manifested itself between the two World Wars, is unquestionably capable of fitting in well with the historic environment as a natural continuation in the life and development of the town, the buildings erected in Corfu in the first few decades after the Second World War include relatively few significant examples of such architecture.
- This afore-mentioned reality, which has taken root in the local collective consciousness, often leads architects to fall back on 'easy architecture', in which morphological elements of historic buildings are unthinkingly repeated in contemporary buildings.
- In recent years the monitoring agencies at the local and national level (Municipal Planning Office, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of the Environment, Architectural Monitoring Committee, Local and Central Archaeological Boards) have been coming round more and more to the view that it is quite possible for high-quality contemporary architecture to blend with a historic environment, side by side with historic buildings of great architectural value.
- It would be helpful if Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), already a statutory requirement for the issue of a building permit, included architectural style among the specifications submitted for inspection.

OBJECTIVES**Objective 11**

- To broaden the requirements of Environmental Impact Assessments, so as to ensure that they serve as an effective tool for assessing the impact of large-scale development and engineering projects on both the natural and built environment.

3.3. PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

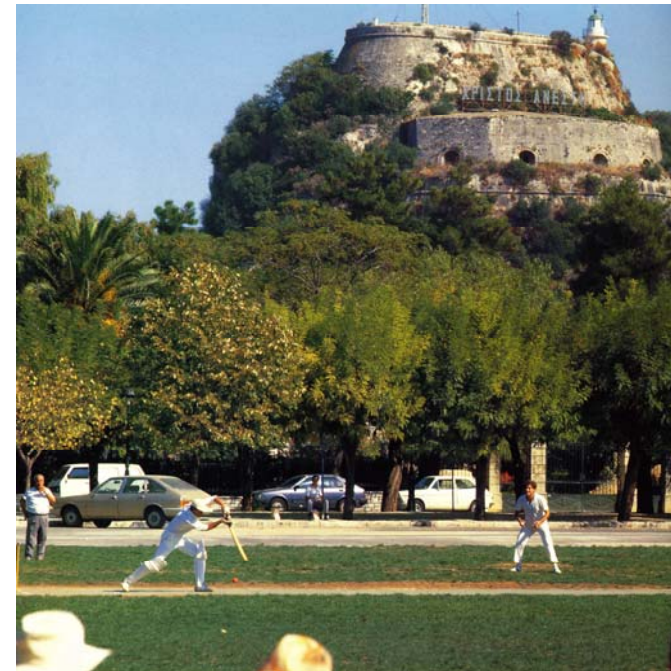
- 3.3.1. The protection and conservation issues, which ensure that the Site will survive in the best condition possible and that the reasons for its inscription on the World Heritage List are maintained, are given high priority in the Management Plan.
- 3.3.2. This section sets out the issues relating to all the component elements of the Site, namely the fortresses, fortifications, buildings, roads, squares, parks and gardens and the natural environment. It is also influenced by a number of factors determining the terms and conditions for the pursuit of a specific policy in this field, such as ownership and funding. The main issues are:
1. Ownership
 2. Funding
 3. Historic Environment
 4. Buildings
 5. Open Spaces, Natural Environment
 6. Fortresses and Fortifications
 7. Public Realm
- 3.3.3. The Old Town of Corfu, in its present position and with its present layout, has been inhabited continuously since the sixteenth century, and the age of its buildings ranges from three hundred to one hundred years. The present condition of the historic area of the Old Town of Corfu is generally satisfactory.
- 3.3.4. The urban fabric of the walled town has remained virtually unaltered since the end of the eighteenth century, that is since the end of the Venetian period, when it stopped growing. Such minor changes as there are in the urban fabric are scattered here and there, in the areas hit by bombing in 1943: some of the bomb sites have not been built on and still remain as empty plots, others have had buildings erected on them in accordance with a different urban planning regime. In general, however, the street plan remains as it was originally laid out and the blocks of buildings still follow the same outlines. (Eighteenth-century map, Biblioteca Correr, Venice.)
- 3.3.5. The town's functional structure has withstood the mounting pressure of tourist development in the last few decades and has kept alive, with only occasional alterations, the pattern of land uses that evolved over time (purely residential areas, shopping streets, services, recreation).
- 3.3.6. The buildings, as produced by the succession of cultural influences starting in the Venetian period (14th-18th cent.) and enriched mainly in the nineteenth century, retain the morphological characteristics of the historical styles that formed them and strongly convey the feeling of the old town of the late Middle Ages.
- 3.3.7. The two forts, two of the most important monuments of sixteenth-century military architecture, are still quite unmistakably fortresses with their original features intact. Their age-related wear and tear is gradually being made good under a restoration programme, while at the same time they are being enriched with a number of new, compatible uses (culture, education, tourism, recreation).

3.3.8. In the last ten years a number of projects have been carried out to enhance the public realm (roads, squares, piazzas), with regard both to urban infrastructure (piping etc.) and to road surfaces, and these have improved the condition of the public realm in the Old Town. Besides these, a major part in shaping its general image is played by the decisions taken in the management of the newly-improved public realm. Finding solutions to problems such as residents' parking, the provision of open-air tables and chairs and street furniture, and improvements to pedestrian zones to facilitate movement by persons with special mobility requirements are all issues that the Management Plan needs to tackle.

3.3.9. Until recently the work of maintaining, restoring and improving historic buildings was done entirely by private enterprise. Public buildings owned by public or municipal agencies and those belonging to private law legal entities are looked after by their owners fairly systematically, with planned maintenance programmes, but all the privately-owned historic buildings are managed by their private owners, who have problems both because of the system of multiple property ownership and because of the rising cost of specialized repair and maintenance work.

3.3.10. The first organized plan by the state for upgrading the buildings in the Old Town of Corfu, set out in the Programme Contract of 14th September 1995 and still in progress, is expected to involve public-private partnership and will be a sample of what can be done to improve the quality and nature of restoration work on historic buildings. It is a pilot programme financed entirely out of public funds, covering 250 selected historic buildings that meet certain

requirements (static stability, multiple ownership, contribution to the appearance of a street frontage, etc.). The bulk of the funding comes from Greek national sources and the remainder from the European Union under the Third Support Framework.



PREMISESIssue **12** : **OWNERSHIP**

- The pattern of property ownership in Corfu town is complex. Building maintenance is made problematic by the system of multiple ownership combined with the absence of standing regulations for the operation of buildings where the system of horizontal ownership is not in use (because the age of the buildings is such that they are subject to the Ionian Civil Code).
- At present, responsibility for the repair and maintenance of historic buildings lies with private individuals and various public and private organizations that own properties in the Old Town. It is often the case that the co-owners of a building do not have the same views on the maintenance, restoration and improvement of their property and find it difficult to reach decisions.
- Explaining to the local community the benefits of restoring buildings and maintaining them in good condition will create a climate that encourages co-owners to take initiatives.
- Public works projects currently under way for the restoration of street frontages composed of privately-owned historic buildings, financed by funds earmarked for the purpose under the Programme Contract for the Old Town, are a good advertisement for the logic of partnership between co-owners and the state to tackle the problems of shared cultural assets.

OBJECTIVESObjective **12**

- To provide incentives to the co-owners of historic buildings to encourage them to adopt the system of horizontal ownership, so that all buildings are governed by standing regulations; and to launch a publicity campaign to raise awareness of the overall benefits of restoring buildings and keeping them in good condition.

PREMISESIssue **13** : **FUNDING**

- Projects for the improvement or maintenance of historic buildings and monuments, especially large ones, require a high level of funding. As the situation stands at present, the funding made available is not sufficient, for it consistently fails to cover all the needs. Supplementing state subsidies by the use of alternative forms of funding (such as grants, European Union and Greek state funding programmes, commercially viable investment, private participation) will create a more robust framework for tackling a number of issues.
- Private owners bear virtually all the costs of caring for historic buildings, although their financial resources are generally limited. It is very important to seek and find steady sources of financial assistance for private individuals, both for the sake of the town's overall appearance and for the implementation of a management policy.
- Current projects for the 'Restoration of Street Frontages' are financed entirely out of public funds and cover 250 selected historic buildings that meet certain requirements (static stability, multiple ownership, contribution to the appearance of a street frontage, etc.). This central government initiative is expected to involve public-private partnership and will be a sample of what can be done to improve the quality and nature of restoration work on historic buildings.

OBJECTIVESObjective **13**

- To take advantage of all funding opportunities for the restoration of historic buildings and to work out a framework for the offer of financial assistance to property owners who apply high-quality specifications in their restoration projects.

PREMISES**Issue 14 : HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT**

- The historic environment of the Old Town of Corfu is composed of a number of individual elements (Old Fortress, New Fortress, perimeter fortifications, roads, buildings, urban infrastructure, the appearance of the town, traditional customs, etc.) which, linked together into an interlocking whole, shape the overall character of the proposed Site. The protection and conservation of these individual elements requires an understanding of the way they are connected with the values of the Site.
- The individual component elements of the Site have their own special characteristics which make them unique and authentic.
- One of the factors giving the Old Town its special character consists in the traditional land uses, which have been showing a tendency to change in recent years, either under the pressure of tourism or as a result of the need to modernize the way of life. Curbing these trends has to be given a high priority.
- High priority also needs to be given to the conservation and restoration of disused buildings and areas whose use is problematic because they deteriorate faster than the others and thus lower the tone of the Site's historic environment.

OBJECTIVES**Objective 14**

- To make a methodical assessment of the condition of all the individual elements of the proposed Site (fortresses and perimeter fortifications, roads, buildings, urban infrastructure, the appearance of the town, traditional customs, etc.) and periodically to update the relevant records so that the maintenance, restoration and enhancement projects can be prioritized objectively and accurately.

PREMISESIssue **15** : **BUILDINGS**

- Historic buildings require scientifically correct and technically expert maintenance and repair work. Our accumulated knowledge of the construction of the historic buildings of Corfu and of traditional construction methods and traditional techniques needs to be written down, evaluated and filed. The materials, construction methods, decorative techniques and the stonemason's arts and skills used in the construction of historic buildings are of paramount importance in preserving the authenticity, aesthetic merit and homogeneity of the Site.
- Where modern maintenance or development has altered the form of historic buildings, either by misguided actions or by the addition of modern facilities such as air-conditioning units, television aerials, pipes and so on, such alterations need to be undone forthwith, in co-operation with the owners.
- Where the interior of a historic building contributes to the better understanding of the Site's values, it is an equally important element and should be treated no less seriously than the frontage.

OBJECTIVESObjective **15**

- To establish agreed standards for techniques and materials to be used in the restoration of historic buildings and keep property owners informed about those approved for use, and to establish a procedure for limiting exterior alterations to buildings resulting from the use of modern materials.

PREMISES

- Owing to the high cost of high-quality repairs to historic buildings, repair and maintenance work is usually done after the problem has arisen rather than preventively in accordance with a periodic maintenance programme.
- The adoption of a funding policy in favour of owners wishing to restore their properties, by offering either subsidies or long-term loans, will not only encourage them to proceed with the necessary repairs but will virtually ensure that the repairs are compatible with the character of the building, provided that the project so funded is monitored throughout.
- Historic buildings are at one and the same time homes, business premises and places of recreation. For this reason it is imperative that a balance is struck between the preservation of the Site's values and the preservation of the natural activities of a living town.

OBJECTIVES

PREMISES**Issue 16 : NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**

- The Spianada, the largest open space within the Site, which is planted with fine trees and nineteenth-century ornamental gardens and is closely associated with the town's history, is at present encumbered with through traffic and parked cars. Special measures urgently need to be taken to deal with this issue holistically, taking into consideration the needs and problems of the modern town.
- The coastline of the Site has not been promoted and exploited as much as it should, with the result that many stretches of this interesting area are neglected and run-down. The sea is an important element of the Site's natural environment: it is closely associated with the town's history and development, and at the same time residents and visitors alike are likely to use it as a means of travel, thus relieving congestion in the town.
- Some features of the Site's buffer zone which are closely associated with the town's history have not yet received the necessary attention and protective measures. They are the historic cemeteries, Sotiros Hill, Avrami Hill and the parks of Garitsa and Anemomylos.
- The trees, woodlands, olive groves and other vegetation of the Site's landscape setting, which are a part of its history, need to be given the appropriate protection.

OBJECTIVES**Objective 16**

- To evaluate the natural environment on the edges of the Site and in the buffer zone, and to initiate and manage projects to restore and enhance the town's unique historic characteristics, giving priority to:
 - the Spianada, which needs to be restored for pedestrian use and activities traditionally performed there,
 - unification and improvement of all features of the seashore, and
 - beautification of Avrami Hill, Sotiros Hill and the parks of Garitsa and Mon Repos.

PREMISES**Issue 17 : FORTRESSES AND FORTIFICATIONS**

- The Old and New Fortresses of Corfu are two of the most important monuments of sixteenth-century fortress architecture. Besides being monuments of major importance, they are places of rare natural beauty harmoniously integrated into the likewise unique urban ensemble of the Old Town of Corfu.
- From April 1990 to December 2003 a Programme Contract for the protection and improvement of the Old Fortress was in force between the Ministry of Culture, the Archaeological Receipts Fund and the Municipality of Corfu. Under the terms of this contract, works projects and project studies were carried out in the Old Fortress. The works projects have radically altered the appearance of the Old Fortress in the last ten years, with the result that most of the fort (classified as an archaeological site) is now open to visitors and most of its buildings have undergone maintenance and been integrated into the site: they are used for purposes that respect its historic character and help to make the fortress a living part of the town.
- The New Fortress is in a fairly good state of preservation. Its good appearance and state of preservation are largely due to the work done on it by the Municipality of Corfu in partnership with the Ministry of Culture since 1994 and the continuous presence of a team working on cleaning and maintenance.

OBJECTIVES**Objective 17**

- To complete the projects for the restoration and improvement of all the defensive works (fortresses and perimeter fortifications) of Corfu town and to proceed with further excavations in order to shed light on an important period in the town's history.

PREMISES

- In contrast to the two fortresses, much work remains to be done on the ruins of the perimeter fortifications in order to bring out the character of the old walled historic town.
- The Old Fortress was the area of the Byzantine town and citadel. As a result of its reinforcement with major new fortifications from the fourteenth to the nineteenth century, the construction of numerous military and other buildings and the continuous use of the fort as a barracks from the nineteenth century until nearly the present day, all trace of the sixth-century town has disappeared. Excavations to locate the sixth-century remains will shed a good deal of light on an unknown part of the town's history.
- The ancient city – the city of the Classical, Hellenistic, Roman and Early Christian periods, which was moved to the location of the Old Fortress in or about the sixth century A.D. – was not in the area of the proposed Site but in the buffer zone. To obtain fuller documentation of the ancient city, the 8th Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities has been carrying out systematic excavations for several years. The finds from the excavations are adding steadily to our knowledge of that period in the town's history.

OBJECTIVES

PREMISES**Issue 18 : PUBLIC REALM**

- In the last ten years a number of projects have been carried out in the Old Town of Corfu to enhance the public realm, with regard both to urban infrastructure and to road surfaces, with the result that the overall condition of the public realm can now be described as fairly satisfactory.
- A total of eight projects for the enhancement of the public spaces have been carried out in the most problematic areas of the Old Town, either by the parties to the Programme Contract or by the Municipality of Corfu. About 10,550,000 euros of Greek state and European Union funding have been spent on these projects.
- When the projects currently under way are completed, in addition to those already finished, it is estimated that almost all the necessary improvements to the public realm in the Old Town of Corfu will have been carried out, with only a fraction of the total (about three kilometres of road) still in need of further upgrading.
- Once the projects for the improved presentation of the public realm have been completed, a major part in shaping its general image will be played by the decisions taken in the management of the newly-improved public realm. Finding solutions to problems such as residents' parking and the provision of open-air tables and chairs and street furniture are all key issues that the Management Plan needs to tackle.
- In every case, in taking decisions on the issues outlined above, which the local community sees as highly relevant and of crucial importance, priority must be given to the protection and enhancement of the Site's monumental character and no steps should be taken without the prior consent of the local community as a whole.

OBJECTIVES**Objective 18**

- To enhance the visual condition of the town's public realm and its accessibility to pedestrians, cyclists and persons with special mobility requirements, and to improve the presentation of historic features by means of clear signage, on-street information panels, lighting and street furniture.

3.4. DOCUMENTATION, EDUCATION AND RESEARCH



3.4.1. Making the Site comprehensible to as wide a range of people as possible is a key component of its efficient and comprehensive management. This section examines the ways in which the value of the Site can be made clear and comprehensible to as many people as possible, and the best ways of using of the Site for educational purposes and leisure activities, or for formal study and research, or simply as a tool for raising awareness of the protection of the cultural heritage. The issues examined here, in the order in which they are presented, are:

- Documentation
- Education
- Research

3.4.2. Ensuring that the general public understands the special characteristics and values of the Site is complementary to the work of protection and conservation and is intimately connected to providing physical access and managing the appearance of the public realm.

3.4.3. Documentation should be available to anyone who might be interested, whether a resident or a visitor. It also forms the basis for the analysis whereby a comprehensive understanding of all the parameters connected with the Site can be achieved, an essential step towards its efficient and comprehensive management.

3.4.4. The Site is a unique and invaluable resource for learning and enjoyment which can be used in many different educational approaches.

3.4.5. Libraries, local study centres, archives, local organizations, special interest groups and museums all play a valuable role in providing resources for research, often carrying out research themselves. They are also important because they preserve current and historical archives relating to the Site.

3.4.6. The role of museums in presenting the Site is very important. Some of the museums are devoted to subjects connected with the documentation of the past (Archaeological Museum, Byzantine Museum), others have collections of specialist interest (Museum of Asian Art), and others again are concerned with the life and work of individuals (Solomos Museum). The local community is conscious of the need for some overall presentation of the town's history, and a 'Corfu Town Museum' needs to be established to fill this gap. It is also necessary to improve and modernize the existing museum facilities.

PREMISES**OBJECTIVES****Issue 19 : DOCUMENTATION****Objective 19**

- Although Corfu has a number of official agencies, organizations and institutions possessing large archives of documentary material relating to various parts of the Site, not enough is done to make non-specialists aware of their existence.
- The activities (lectures, exhibitions, conferences, publications) of the Archives of the Prefecture of Corfu, which has what is now one of the fullest and oldest collections of archival material in Greece, puts the Site in a privileged position as regards access to documentation.
- For the last fifteen years the Ionian University has been running a Department of Archival Studies and Librarianship at Corfu. This offers great potential for scientific study of the available archives, which has not yet been used to full advantage by local institutions.

- To collect the existing documentation of individual elements of the Site and develop a database accessible to all, making use of all the capabilities of digital technology.

PREMISESIssue **20** : **EDUCATION**

- The existing museums run a number of educational programmes for primary and secondary school pupils, with satisfactory results. Such programmes could certainly be further expanded and reinforced.
- The National School Education Programme concentrates on some elements of the Site only: those that are promoted at the national level. Local schools make no special provision for the study of the town's history – not even the two particularly important periods, the Venetian (1380-1797) and the British Protectorate (1814-1864) – nor for the study of many other factors that have helped to give the Site its unique character (theatre, music, other arts and so on).

OBJECTIVESObjective **20**

- Systematically to project the cultural assets of the Old Town of Corfu at all levels of education, so as to make the younger generation more aware of issues relating to the protection of their cultural heritage in general or the Site in particular.

PREMISESIssue **21** : **RESEARCH**

- The wide fame of Corfu serves as a constant stimulus for research projects by individual researchers and educational institutions, such as the Architecture Schools of Greek universities, technical colleges in all parts of Greece, the History Departments of Greek universities, and so on.
- The History Department of the Ionian University has been in operation for the last fifteen years and has organized various activities such as conferences, lectures and other scholarly gatherings. This creates conditions likely to stimulate research on elements of the Site.
- Although large numbers of research projects have been carried out, the results are not always accessible to interested parties and the general public.

OBJECTIVESObjective **21**

- To encourage research projects and programmes dealing with issues relevant to the Site, with the object of furthering knowledge of its history, architecture, general character and present condition, in order to inform management decisions.

3.5. PHYSICAL ACCESS AND TRANSPORT

- 3.5.1. Physical access to the Site and movement within it are two parameters of great importance to its management. Visitors and other users must be able to enter the Site and move about easily within it, and to enjoy high-quality services. Ease of access and movement has a great impact on the condition and conservation of the World Heritage Site, on people's ability to navigate, understand and enjoy the Site, and on the Site's viability as a modern, economically active town.
- 3.5.2. This section deals with issues relating to the physical accessibility of the Site to residents, workers and visitors and the ease of movement within it. The treatment of these issues needs to ensure that access arrangements take into account the special character and sensitivity of the Site's cultural assets. The main issues discussed in this section are:
- Traffic
 - Parking
 - Entry Points
 - Coaches
 - Public Transport
 - Pedestrians and Cycling
 - Access for All
- 3.5.3. The traffic and transport problems faced by a modern town are complex and chronic and will require drastic, radical solutions that are likely to take many years to implement. In addition, these problems involve an area extending well beyond the boundary of the Site itself.
- 3.5.4. The physical ability of the city to accommodate modern traffic requirements without detriment to the historic environment is limited. The historic town was not built to accommodate the size, weight or volume of modern vehicles. The traffic problem is aggravated by the fact that Corfu town is the capital of the prefecture and the entry and exit point of visitors to the island.
- 3.5.5. The town of Corfu, being at once a historic monument and a modern town, needs to be accessible to a variety of transport modes. It must provide the appropriate facilities, such as car and coach parks, access for freight transport and deliveries to shops and offices, and the necessary infrastructure for directing traffic to ring roads (traffic lights, central reservations, etc.). All of these must be integrated into the town without detracting from the values of the Site.
- 3.5.6. At present, traffic and parked vehicles hinder the proper functioning of the town, inhibit the free movement of pedestrians when traffic is heavy and cause air and noise pollution. The network of pedestrianized roads introduced since 1994 in the centre of the Old Town has had fairly satisfactory results, but it needs to be extended to cover nearly all of the Old Town, so long as adequate provision is made for deliveries to shops and dwelling-houses at specified times of day.

- 3.5.7. The provision of improved public transport could help to relieve the problems of traffic congestion. At present, public transport services are inadequate: they are unsuited both to the scale and the character of the town (large buses running on through roads) and they do not cover existing needs, since services are infrequent and there are few bus routes. In addition, the time taken for buses to complete their journey is considerably lengthened in peak hours. All these deficiencies discourage people from changing their mode of transport from private to public.
- 3.5.8. The best way to explore and appreciate the Site, and the many smaller details which make it so special, is on foot. Walking should be a safe and enjoyable experience, but all too often the intrusion from traffic is a deterrent.
- 3.5.9. In these conditions, greater use of bicycles is crucial to improving the quality of life in the Site. Many residents and visitors already use bicycles as a means of transport, but much needs to be done to improve safety, signage and the network in order to encourage their wider use.
- 3.5.10. Owing to the irregularity of the terrain in some parts of the 'historic centre', Corfu is not an ideal town for those with differing mobility requirements. Heavy traffic on the through roads, especially at peak hours, the ubiquity of parked cars on pavements and in other public places (owing to the insufficiency of car parking facilities) and the narrow, steep roads in some parts of the 'historic centre' all impede the ability of people with mobility problems to explore the town.
- 3.5.11. Any action taken in this connection must strike a balance between the need to improve physical access and travel within the Site and the need to protect the values of the Site.
- 3.5.12. A traffic study for the town of Corfu is at present in preparation, with the aim of addressing all the complex problems mentioned above in accordance with the specified objectives. Implementation of the public works projects and other arrangements proposed in the study will need precise planning and concerted action by all the organizations and agencies involved.



PREMISESIssue **22** : **TRAFFIC**

- Owing to the absence of bypass roads, some of the through traffic passes very close to the boundary of the Site, causing unnecessary interference with its smooth functioning.
- The presence of government offices in the site, or very close to it, accounts for a considerable increase in traffic, especially at peak hours.
- Traffic congestion reduces the reliability of public transport (buses and taxis).
- Motorcycles are allowed on most of the roads in the Site. Motorcycle traffic, which continues round the clock, poses a great danger to pedestrians and causes annoyance and noise pollution.
- Most of those travelling round the perimeter of the Site do so in private cars. The presence of such a very large number of cars and heavy vehicles on the roads not only causes congestion but also impedes the free and safe movement of pedestrians and detracts from the residents' quality of life.

OBJECTIVESObjective **22**

- To give priority to easing the town's traffic problems by promoting a series of parallel actions, such as the construction of a bypass to keep through traffic out of the town, the removal of government offices from the town centre, the improvement of public transport services and the expansion of pedestrian zones within the Site.

PREMISESIssue **23 : PARKING**

- In general, more car parks are badly needed within and outside the town, as those in existence are inadequate.
- The four car parks in the 'historic centre' (at Kato Platia, Spilia, the town market and the country bus station) are operating at full stretch, especially during peak hours. Although these car parks do relieve the Old Town's acute parking problem to some extent, they are unsuitably located in sensitive parts of the town (the Spianada, the old port, the moat of the New Fortress, the town walls). Since they degrade parts of the town that are very important to its overall appearance, the question of their operation needs to be re-examined and stricter terms and conditions need to be imposed on them.
- As the situation stands today, there is a clamorous demand for parking from all sections of the local community who have any connection with the Site: from residents, who demand to be allowed to park outside or very close to their homes; from businessmen and traders, who likewise demand to be allowed to park outside or very close to their offices or shops; from shoppers, who want to park near the main shopping streets and the streets with restaurants, cafés and places of entertainment; from visitors, who travel in groups by coach and want their coaches to park at the entrance to the place they are visiting (at the entrance to the Old Fortress, in the Spianada). Obviously the Old Town cannot satisfy all these demands: it can only assess the priorities.

OBJECTIVESObjective **23**

- To discourage visitors from using cars and increase the amount of parking space available, either in underground car parks near the perimeter of the Site or in ground-level car parks along the Site boundary. To introduce special regulations for permanent residents.

PREMISES

- In this perspective, priority should certainly be given to parking for permanent residents, who should be allowed to park in selected places not far from their homes. For all the other groups, the problem should be addressed in a different way: the use of cars should be discouraged, park and ride services should be provided, buses should pick up at one place and set down at another, and so on.

OBJECTIVES

PREMISES**OBJECTIVES****Issue 24 : ACCESS ROADS AND ENTRY POINTS****Objective 24**

- The three main access roads to the town from the surrounding countryside are sensitive areas, since they give visitors their first and last impressions of the Site. Their condition is considered unsatisfactory at present, but the necessary improvements are chiefly a matter of modifying the regulations imposed under existing legislation.
- Most of the problems with the access roads to the town are located either in the open plots of land (covering the area in front of buildings) or in the expropriated road verges. They are problems connected with cleanliness, permissible land uses, parking, pavements, advertising hoardings, makeshift structures and goods stored in the open air.
- The condition of the points of entry (port, airport, town bus station, country bus station) is equally important, as it is from them that visitors to the Site gain their first impressions. Not only must they be aesthetically pleasing and functionally efficient, but they must provide all the facilities, information and other services that visitors will need before going to the Site.

- To improve the appearance of the vehicular entry points into the town and to provide more information for visitors to the Site at the entry points.

PREMISESIssue **25** : **COACHES**

- The large number of tourist coaches, especially in the high season, causes considerable traffic congestion and detracts from the historic natural and built environment.
- The coach park in the Spianada is unsuitable, because in the high season it creates a serious traffic problem, wastes a large area of roadside parking and is a visual blot on the frontage of the Old Fortress, since the bodywork of the coaches hides much of the fort from pedestrians walking towards it.
- Guided tours for visitors arriving by coach are a controversial feature of the city's tourist industry. On the one hand they make a major contribution to the local economy, but on the other they impact upon the quality of life for residents and the quality of the environment.
- The balance that needs to be struck between these conflicting factors calls for the introduction of measures based on definitions of the limits of the Site's endurance and of the purposes for which it is to be used, and on strict observance of those limits.

OBJECTIVESObjective **25**

- To take steps, in collaboration with coach operators, to reduce the manifold negative impact of large numbers of tourist coaches on the historic environment, especially in the high season.

PREMISESIssue **26 : PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

- The present state of the public transport services is considered unsatisfactory, although improving the public transport system is the only way of reducing the mass use of private cars and relieving road congestion in the town.
- Bus services are not sufficiently frequent; very often the timetable is not adhered to, owing to congestion in the streets; the buses used on some routes are old; and there is no co-operation between the different modes of public transport.
- Improvement and modernization of the public transport network will make a considerable contribution towards improving the quality of life for residents and visitors and will inject fresh vigour into the Site.

OBJECTIVESObjective **26**

- To make provision for an integrated transport system that will unify and co-ordinate all the available means of transport, i.e. town buses, country buses, taxis, ships and aircraft, and will supply reliable services providing adequate access to and transport within the Site.

PREMISES**OBJECTIVES****Issue 27 : PEDESTRIANS AND CYCLING****Objective 27**

- Ease of pedestrian circulation can be affected by traffic, roadworks, signage, street furniture and the quality of the environment. The general condition of the town as regards the free movement of pedestrians and cyclists is not satisfactory.
 - The creation of cycle routes within the Site may be difficult, owing to limited space and the special conditions prevailing in the 'historic centre', but the existing network of cycle routes needs to be extended.
- To enlarge the system of pedestrian zones in the Old Town and to improve the facilities in existing pedestrian zones so as to provide safe and attractive routes for touring the Site, and to encourage cycling.

PREMISESIssue **28** : **ACCESS FOR ALL**

- Moving about the town is not always easy for persons with differing mobility requirements. The narrow, steep roads in the Site and the heavy traffic on the through roads impede the safe movement of people with special needs.
- The planning of the urban environment, as it has evolved gradually over the centuries, has generally made no provision for solutions geared to the movement of persons with differing mobility requirements. Projects carried out in recent years have addressed this problem to some extent, for example by the construction of special ramps from the street to the pavement, but more of these improvements are needed since they do not cover the whole of the town.
- Many buildings in the 'historic centre' are accessible only by way of external flights of steps. The provision of unstepped ramps to all the historic buildings could damage them or mar their appearance, and special care is needed in the design and construction of such ramps. Priority should be given to access to public buildings.

OBJECTIVESObjective **28**

- To provide access for persons with differing mobility requirements to all public spaces in the Site and all public buildings.

3.6 VISITOR MANAGEMENT

- 3.6.1. This section is concerned with supporting and providing opportunities for tourism, in balance with the need to protect and conserve the Site and the needs of residents and the business community.
- 3.6.2. In recent decades tourism has been the principal source of income for the town, and indeed for the whole island. Corfu town is the main point of entry and exit to and from the island, yet out of an annual total of about 1,100,000 arrivals it accounts for only 6 per cent of the total overnights, while 46 per cent visit Corfu town only once and 16 per cent do not visit it at all.
- 3.6.3. The economic and social benefits of tourism to the Old Town of Corfu at present show a negative balance in relation to the environmental and functional disruption inevitably caused by a very heavy influx of visitors for only a short period of the year.
- 3.6.4. Besides shifting the pattern of tourism to a different model in which the criteria of quality and cultural interest play a larger part – a matter which has been a subject of continuing debate locally in recent years – there is a need to strike a better balance in the relationship between tourism and the local community and to resolve the conflicts between them, giving top priority to the need to protect and conserve the town's monumental character.
- 3.6.5. The indiscriminate orientation of the town's activities towards tourism, with all the attendant impact on the town's functional, social and morphological structure, does not hold out the prospect of a better future for the historic site. On the contrary, visitors are more attracted by the idea of taking a pleasant stroll through a historic town that has retained its character, communing with its cultural values, being caught up in contemporary cultural events and having a consistently interesting and full experience.
- 3.6.6. Viewed in this perspective, the desired goal of effecting a quantitative and qualitative increase in the town's share of the tourist trade and lengthening the tourist season (for culture is not something available only in certain months) certainly does not conflict with the need to protect the Site and its functional structure: on the contrary, it helps to achieve that end, since it establishes the right conditions for invigorating the local economy and supporting the local community, whose active participation in the protection and conservation of the town as a living organism is of fundamental importance.
- 3.6.7. The main areas of concern in this respect are:
- Visitor Facilities
 - Visitor Dispersal and Travel
 - Marketing
 - Local Community

PREMISESIssue **29** : **VISITOR FACILITIES**

- All measures that help the local residents by resolving the town's functional problems, and all measures that promote the protection and enhancement of the Site, are at the same time helpful to visitors, as they enable them to enjoy an undisturbed tour of the town yielding cultural benefits. In this sense, all the measures proposed in the Management Plan turn out in the final analysis to be of benefit to visitors.
- Those of the town's facilities that are directed chiefly at visitors (transport, tours, the provision of information, signage) are at present not up to the standard of which the town is capable. Measures to facilitate movement about the Site, the provision of appropriate signage and reliable information, all of which will enable the visitor to appreciate the Site's distinctive features, are actions that can be taken forthwith at an affordable cost.
- Persons involved in business activities connected with tourism (hoteliers, travel agents, proprietors of small businesses in various parts of the town) are demanding action to provide 'tourist facilities' of short-term interest. Allowing coaches to park in central locations, allowing shopkeepers to display their wares on pavement stalls outside their shops and similar demands cannot be deemed to improve the quality of tourism, and none of them would do anything to promote the kind of tourism the town has chosen to aim at, namely cultural tourism.

OBJECTIVESObjective **29**

- To improve visitor facilities with regard to movement within the Site, information and signage, having previously enlisted the firm co-operation of businesses and individuals involved in tourism.

PREMISES**Issue 30 : VISITOR DISPERSAL AND TRAVEL**

- The available information facilities, combined with the type of tourism that the town currently attracts (mainly guided tours of short duration), do not encourage visitors to explore the wider areas or aspects of the Site, either physically or intellectually.
- The majority of visitors only see and learn about a small part of the Site on a brief and superficial tour of the most publicized attractions. The essential 'inner' town, the town of history, with its many special characteristics, its maze of streets, its smells and its traditional customs, remains remote and unknown.
- The goal of dispersing visitors more widely about the town, which would give them more incentive to stay longer and visit the town more often, coincides with the need to give visitors more in-depth knowledge about the proposed Site and to promote its values. Visitor dispersal is not expected to make the town even more tourism-oriented, and in any case the town is safeguarded by statutory and management framework.
- The European Union's pilot Multicultural Tourism Programme drawn up (1997-2000) by the Municipality of Corfu finally arrived at the proposal of seven routes designed to familiarize visitors with the town's distinctive character and proposals for familiarization routes for visitors staying in the town for one day, two days or three days. The utilization and promotion of the printed and electronic publicity material resulting from that programme helps to disperse visitors more widely and to enhance the historic character of the town.

OBJECTIVES**Objective 30**

- To create more routes for access to and movement within the Site, so as to make it easier for tourists to find and visit not only the best-publicized attractions but also those of more specialized interest, which will enable them to obtain a better knowledge of the Site by making its cultural assets more widely known.

PREMISESIssue **31** : **MARKETING**

- Only a very small percentage of visitors (6 per cent) stay overnight in the town, while 46 per cent visit the town only once and 16 per cent do not visit it at all.
- Partnership between the state and local organizations and agencies to promote Corfu as a tourist destination is vitally necessary in order to shift the pattern of tourism away from the prevailing model, which does not make the most of the Site's cultural values.
- Improving the standard of the available tourist accommodation and increasing the capacity of other types of accommodation besides hotels (such as small guesthouses in historic buildings, family-run pensions, etc.) will help to reorient tourism towards a different model.
- The problem with the tourist market of Corfu town at present is not so much a problem of quantity as of quality. Accordingly, if the local market is to aim at a better class of visitors, measures need to be put in hand for the improvement of standards in all businesses engaged in the tourist trade: not only the premises in which they operate but also the services they provide and above all the goods they sell.

OBJECTIVESObjective **31**

- To promote theme-based tourism (culture, sport, conferences, etc.) by means of appropriate initiatives in the tourist market, and to create opportunities for longer-stay visits.

PREMISES

- Corfu is a popular destination for annual school excursions. Although schoolboys and schoolgirls do make a contribution to the local economy by opening the 'summer season' a few weeks before Orthodox Easter, they impose a strain on the Site in many ways without gaining much of educational value from their visits to the various parts of the Site.

OBJECTIVES

PREMISES**OBJECTIVES**Issue **32** : **LOCAL COMMUNITY**Objective **32**

- The present conflict between the interests of visitors and those who live and work within the Site can be easily resolved, provided that a comprehensive long-term management policy is adopted. What tourists are interested in is visiting and getting to know a well-ordered historic town with happy inhabitants.
- Local communities have need of facilities which visitors do not, such as shops supplying everyday needs (not tourist shops selling commonplace souvenirs, etc.), short-stay on-street parking, affordable properties for residential and business purposes and easy access to homes and business premises. The provision of these facilities should be given top priority.
- Specific cultural events, arranged on a regular basis, not only attract large numbers of visitors but also satisfy the needs of local residents.
- To maintain a balance between the benefits of tourism to the local community and the disruptive impact of development on the inhabitants' day-to-day lives and the Site itself.



ACTION PLAN

4.1. INTRODUCTION

- 4.1.1. To achieve the objectives of the Management Plan as set out in the previous chapter, it is essential to plan and implement a package of Actions which – in the short, medium or long term as the case may be, singly or all together – will contribute to the comprehensive implementation of the Management Plan.
- 4.1.2. In the first phase a number of basic actions need to be completed before the Management Plan starts being implemented. The aim of these actions, chiefly in the fields of administration and funding, is to ensure that the mechanisms for effecting and supervising the implementation of the Management Plan can be put in place promptly and efficiently. The success of the Management Plan will depend largely on the efficient co-ordination of the partners involved in implementing the Actions.
- 4.1.3. One of the first actions that needs to be carried out is to establish the committee which will be responsible for enabling, supervising and monitoring the implementation of the Plan. Similar committees have been at work in the last fifteen years in the context of the two Programme Contracts for the Old Fort and the Fortifications, with relevant administrative responsibilities. The eleven-member Joint Committee which is the co-ordinating body for the Programme Contract for the Protection and Enhancement of the Old Town of Corfu, 2006-2012, is currently in operation. It is composed of representatives of the parties to the contract (Ministry of Culture, Ministry of the Environment, Municipality of Corfu), representatives of the organizations and agencies statutorily concerned with the official protection policy and other experts. This committee can form the core of the *Management Plan Steering Group*, which will meet at least once every three months and will examine all current issues relating to the implementation of the Plan.
- 4.1.4. Most of the responsibility for enabling the implementation of the Plan will lie with the Municipality of Corfu, which will either perform or co-ordinate a high proportion of the Actions itself. A major part in the efficient implementation of the Plan is given to local residents, members of the business community and other local organizations and individuals, who are the 'users' of the Site. The Municipality will be responsible for forming the *Stakeholder Group*, composed of representatives of groups of users of the Site. Its purpose is to ensure the active participation of the local community in the implementation of the Management Plan.
- 4.1.5. Since the implementation of the Plan involves numerous organizations and individuals, a body to be known as the *Project Co-ordinator* will need to be established from the outset. Its function will be to organize and co-ordinate all the actions called for by the Plan. It will also be responsible for forming the *Working Groups* needed for the implementation of the detailed plans specified by the Programme of Action. The Working Groups, composed of persons with scholarly, scientific and engineering qualifications appropriate to the task in hand, will help with the drafting and implementation of plans, either by the preparation of designs and similar work or by offering expert advice and technical support. The Working Groups will be organized according to the demands and time schedule for implementation of the Plan.

- 4.1.6. Other tasks falling within the remit of the Project Co-ordinator are: to advise on the overall programming of the Plan's implementation; to co-ordinate the activities of the Steering Group, Working Parties and the individuals and other organizations involved; to monitor, supervise and update the Management Plan as and when necessary; to monitor the condition of the Site continuously; and to secure funds for the implementation of the Plan.
- 4.1.7. The Office of the Old Town, established in 1996 as the Co-ordinator of the Programme Contract for the Improvement and Enhancement of the Old Town of Corfu, signed in September 1995 between the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of the Environment, Planning and Public Works, the Ministry of the National Economy, the Public Corporation for Urban Development and Housing (DEPOS) and the Municipality of Corfu, can be the starting-point for the formation of the Management Plan Steering Group. The Office of the Old Town was recently merged with the Fortifications Programme Contract Office, and the resulting unified Office is the co-ordinating body for the Programme Contract for the Protection and Enhancement of the Old Town of Corfu, 2006-2012, which covers both the urban ensemble and the fortifications. Building on its experience, and having an infrastructure of staff and equipment already in place, the Office of the Old Town can serve as the body responsible for implementing the management policy set out in the Management Plan, under the guidance and supervision of the Steering Group. Its functions include monitoring the yearly programmes of action laid down by the Steering Group.
- 4.1.8. The Management Plan has a six-year lifespan, though some elements of the Plan will be relevant for longer. The lifespan of the programme of action depends on the success of implementation. To ensure flexibility in the implementation of the Plan during this six-year period, and to ensure that the Plan can be adapted promptly to any changing circumstances that may affect it, the progress of the programme of action will need to be closely monitored on the basis of the yearly Implementation Plans drawn up by the Steering Group. This process will enable any short-term updates to take place to ensure the most effective implementation of the Plan. To keep the Plan up-to-date and still relevant beyond its six-year lifespan, there will be a formal review of the description of the Site, statement of significance, issues and objectives every six years.
- 4.1.9. One of the fundamental concerns of the Management Plan is to set out a clearly-defined system of objective monitoring, both of the state of the Site and of the implementation of the Plan. Such a systematic monitoring process will involve a number of individual actions, first and foremost among them being to select a set of monitoring indicators to suit every eventuality: this will be the responsibility of the Steering Group. Thereafter, the condition of the Site will be monitored and recorded for the purpose of filling in the monitoring indicators. The resulting records, besides providing data for the six-yearly reports to UNESCO on the state of measures for the protection of the Site, also stipulate the conditions for any interim modifications and improvements to the Management Plan designed to maximize its effectiveness.

4.1.10. Securing the necessary funding is an essential prerequisite for implementation of the Actions specified in the Management Plan. For the first phase of operation of the Management Scheme the funds set aside for the 2006-2012 Programme Contract out of national resources can be considered adequate. As soon as the bodies responsible for the implementation of the Plan (the Steering Group and Project Co-ordinator) have been established, top priority will have to be given to systematically securing additional funds. Potential funding opportunities exist from the budget and Support Frameworks of the European Union, sundry EU funding programmes, donations, sponsorship, etc., and all partners need to act to secure such funding to enable implementation of the Actions specified in the Plan.

4.1.11. Once the basic activities have been completed, the other Actions required for implementation of the Management Plan will have to be phased into effect in accordance with the approved yearly Implementation Plans. The Actions are defined on the basis of the objectives laid down in the previous chapter and are divided into the same main categories. They may be implemented by a single partner or by multiple partners, which are specified in each case, though the partner or group of partners responsible for any particular Action may be altered if necessary. The actions have all been given a timescale as a guideline for when they should be carried out. These are:

- Short-term, up to two years
- Medium-term, up to six years
- Long-term, up to ten years or more
- Ongoing, continuous work

4.1.12. In general, there are more Actions required for implementation of the Management Plan than there are objectives, though it is quite possible for two or more objectives to be covered by a single Action. In the following sections the Actions are set out category by category and issue by issue, with the objectives laid down in the previous chapter listed in the next column for the sake of methodological continuity.



4.2. IMPLEMENTATION AND IMPACT OF THE PLAN

OBJECTIVES

Objective **1** : **ADMINISTRATION**

- To ensure that the appropriate administrative arrangements are in place for the efficient management of the Site. These arrangements will be based on partnership between central government, local government and stakeholders and will encourage active involvement by the local community.

ACTIONS

Action **1**

- 1.1. Establish the Steering Group, on the initiative of the Municipality of Corfu.

Short-term Ministry of Culture
Municipality of Corfu
Ministry of the Environment, Planning and Public Works
Development Enterprise of Corfu Municipality/ANEDK

- 1.2. Establish and staff the Project Co-ordinator.

Short-term Steering Group
Municipality of Corfu

- 1.3. Establish the Stakeholder Group.

Short-term Project Co-ordinator
Steering Group
Municipality of Corfu

- 1.4. Draw up a yearly programme of Actions for implementation of the Management Plan.

Short-term Project Co-ordinator
Steering Group

OBJECTIVES

ACTIONS

Objective **2** : **FUNDING**Action **2**

- To systematically seek out opportunities of raising funds for all areas of activity relating to the values of the Site by encouraging the view that cultural heritage projects in general, and especially projects connected with the Site, should have priority in the selection of items to be funded.

- 2.1. Draw up a funding programme for the Actions necessary for implementation of the Plan, following the priorities listed under Action 1.4 and utilizing all potential sources of funding (national and EU funds, sponsorship, donations, private investment).

Short-term Project Co-ordinator
Steering Group
Municipality of Corfu

- 2.2. Distribute publicity material about the Site and its identified needs to all potential sources of funding, encouraging the view that projects connected with World Heritage Sites should have priority in the selection of items to be funded.

Short-term Project Co-ordinator
Steering Group
Municipality of Corfu

OBJECTIVES

ACTIONS

Objective **3** : **RISK MANAGEMENT**Action **3**

- To update, co-ordinate and expand existing plans designed to overcome potential risks to the survival of the Site.

3.1. Review and update existing contingency plans for natural disasters (earthquakes, fires, floods) in collaboration with the government departments concerned.

Short-term Project Co-ordinator
Municipality of Corfu

3.2. Prepare a study assessing the risks (other than the risks of natural disasters) that threaten or may in future threaten the Site, and prepare plans for preventing and dealing with them.

Medium-term Project Co-ordinator
Steering Group
Municipality of Corfu

OBJECTIVES

ACTIONS

Objective **4** : **INFORMATION MANAGEMENT**Action **4**

- To make full use of modern information and communication technology to ensure the gathering, storage and analysis of comprehensive data concerning the Site, accessible to all who may be interested.

- 4.1. Prepare a study for the compilation of a database with references to a Geographical Information System (GIS), in which all available information relevant to the Site from the various sources is to be entered as work progresses.

Medium-term Project Co-ordinator
 Ministry of Culture
 Municipality of Corfu
 Ministry of the Environment, Planning & Public Works
 Ministry of Education
 Technical Chamber of Greece, Corfu Branch

- 4.2. Form a Working Group to ensure access and systematically gather information relating to the Site, available from various sources, for entry into the unified database.

Medium-term Project Co-ordinator
 Ministry of Culture
 Municipality of Corfu
 Ministry of the Environment, Planning & Public Works
 Ministry of Education
 Technical Chamber of Greece, Corfu Branch

OBJECTIVES

ACTIONS

Objective **5** : **MONITORING**Action **5**

- To establish a comprehensive and accurate picture of the current condition of the Site and investigate methods for the systematic monitoring and documenting of future developments, to ensure that the periodic reports to the monitoring agencies are explicit and complete.

5.1. Formulate monitoring indicators for the Site.

Short-term

Steering Group

Project Co-ordinator

5.2. Form a Working Group to gather information relating to the Site as it arises, for the purpose of filling in the monitoring indicators.

Short-term

Steering Group

Project Co-ordinator

OBJECTIVES

ACTIONS

Objective **6** : **BOUNDARY**Action **6**

- To implement an ongoing programme of monitoring and assessing the impact of the Management Plan on the area surrounding the Site, with the aim of taking timely action and perhaps revising the boundary of the buffer zone.

- 6.1. Form a Working Group to record systematically all changes occurring in the Site's buffer zone (such as changes in land use, large-scale development projects, increases in the volume of traffic).

Medium-term

Project Co-ordinator
Municipality of Corfu

OBJECTIVES

ACTIONS

Objective **7** : **LOCAL COMMUNITY**Action **7**

- To inform the local community of the cultural and economic benefits of upgrading and publicizing the Site, and to obtain the local community's consent for measures designed to promote its rehabilitation and enhancement and its maintenance in good condition.

- 7.1. Establish a Press Office in the Office of the Old Town to supply information for a special column in the local press and a website relating to the protection and enhancement of the Site's monumental character.

Short-term

Project Co-ordinator
Municipality of Corfu

- 7.2. Establish active citizens' forums to enable the local community to participate in the work of managing the Site, and launch a publicity campaign informing the public of the values of the cultural heritage and the impact of and benefits from the value of the Site and encouraging public participation in the ongoing processes.

Short-term

Project Co-ordinator
Municipality of Corfu

OBJECTIVES

Objective 8 : STATUTORY PROTECTION

- To revise and make more specialized the existing framework of statutory designations so that it makes the most appropriate provision for the multidimensional needs of the Site: not only the need to maintain its special character but also the requirements of a living, contemporary town.

ACTIONS

Action 8

- 8.1. Commission a new land register for the Old Town of Corfu whose baseline information can be fed into a Geographical Information System (GIS) to form the basis of all the databases to be created as the Management Plan is implemented.

Short-term Project Co-ordinator
Steering Group
Municipality of Corfu

- 8.2. Complete the study for revision of the existing Town Plan on the basis of existing specifications.

Medium-term Project Co-ordinator
Steering Group
Ministry of Culture
Ministry of the Environment, Planning & Public Works
Municipality of Corfu

- 8.3. Standardize the statutory limits and restrictions in force in the buffer zone.

Long-term Project Co-ordinator
Steering Group
Ministry of Culture
Ministry of the Environment, Planning & Public Works
Municipality of Corfu

OBJECTIVES

ACTIONS

Objective **9** : **ASSESSING CHANGE**Action **9**

- To ascertain, before it is too late, how much change and what kind of change the Site can sustain before its unique values are threatened.

- 9.1. Prepare a feasibility study assessing the impact of the Plan on the various aspects of life in the town, and assess how much change can be sustained without altering the character and values of the Site.

Short-term

Project Co-ordinator

Steering Group

Municipality of Corfu

OBJECTIVES

ACTIONS

Objective **10** : **DEVELOPMENT CONTROL**Action **10**

- To establish a rigorous, explicit, detailed monitoring system to check on the impact of all development projects in progress within the Site and buffer zone. This monitoring system needs to ensure the protection of the cultural heritage while at the same time leaving the way open for high-quality development proposals.

- 10.1. Form a Working Group to assess the existing procedures for monitoring development projects, on the basis of data available from the existing monitoring agencies (Ephorates of Antiquities, Planning Office of the Municipality of Corfu, Prefecture of the Ionian Islands [Department of the Environment, Planning and Public Works]), and formulate proposals for their improvement.

Medium-term Project Co-ordinator
 Ministry of Culture
 Municipality of Corfu
 Technical Chamber of Greece, Corfu Branch

- 10.2. Organize in-service training courses to give the scientific staff of the monitoring agencies specialized instruction in the protection and enhancement of the cultural heritage.

Medium-term Project Co-ordinator
 Ministry of Culture
 Municipality of Corfu
 Technical Chamber of Greece, Corfu Branch

OBJECTIVES

ACTIONS

Objective **11** : **CONTEMPORARY DEVELOPMENT**Action **11**

- To broaden the requirements of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), so as to ensure that they serve as an effective tool for assessing the impact of large-scale development and engineering projects on both the natural and the built environment.

- 11.1. Form a Working Group to compile a register of all building work done since 1960 in the Old Town of Corfu, to assess the condition of the buildings affected and to present proposals for improvement and enhancement.

Medium-term Project Co-ordinator
 Ministry of Culture
 Municipality of Corfu
 Technical Chamber of Greece, Corfu Branch

- 11.2. Institute prizes for the best designs and best practice in integrating contemporary architecture into the historic environment, to encourage contemporary modes of expression.

Medium-term Project Co-ordinator
 Technical Chamber of Greece, Corfu Branch
 Ministry of Culture
 Municipality of Corfu

4.3. PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

OBJECTIVES

Objective **12** : **OWNERSHIP**

- To offer incentives to the co-owners of historic buildings to encourage them to adopt the system of horizontal ownership, so that all buildings are governed by standing regulations; and to launch a publicity campaign to raise awareness of the overall benefits of restoring buildings and keeping them in good condition.

ACTIONS

Action **12**

- 12.1. Form a Working Group to draft a legislative framework for offering incentives for owners to adopt the system of horizontal ownership and standing regulations for buildings in multiple ownership.

Short-term Project Co-ordinator
Municipality of Corfu
Technical Chamber of Greece, Corfu Branch
Lawyers' Association
Notaries' Association

- 12.2. An advisory service to be offered by the Office of the Old Town to co-owners of historic buildings who have already adopted standing regulations for the running of their buildings and are intending to repair, restore and/or improve their properties, to help them with the co-ordination of activities, the preparation of technical studies (designs) and the procedure for issuing permits.

Medium-term Project Co-ordinator
Municipality of Corfu

- 12.3. Organize public presentations of projects for the restoration and improvement of historic buildings and offer annual prizes for the best such projects.

Medium-term Project Co-ordinator
Municipality of Corfu
Technical Chamber of Greece, Corfu Branch

OBJECTIVES

ACTIONS

Objective **13** : **FUNDING**Action **13**

- To take advantage of all funding opportunities for the restoration of historic buildings and to create a framework for the offer of grants to property owners who apply high-quality specifications in their restoration projects.

- 13.1. Investigate possibilities for sourcing and securing funding programmes for the restoration and improvement of the Site and its individual elements, and prepare studies with this end in view, following the priorities set out under Action 1.4.

Ongoing Project Co-ordinator
 Steering Group
 Municipality of Corfu

- 13.2. Form a Working Group to investigate the possibility of offering grants to the owners of historic buildings to enable them to restore and improve their properties, and formulate the appropriate terms, conditions and restrictions.

Short-term Project Co-ordinator
 Steering Group
 Municipality of Corfu

OBJECTIVES

ACTIONS

Objective **14** : **HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT**Action **14**

- To make a methodical assessment of the condition of all constituent elements of the Site (fortresses and perimeter fortifications, roads, buildings, urban infrastructure, the appearance of the town, traditional customs, etc.) and periodically to update the relevant records so that the maintenance, restoration and enhancement projects can be prioritized objectively and accurately.

- 14.1. Form a Working Group to locate and compile records of disused buildings and run-down areas, and investigate the possibilities for dealing with them.

Medium-term Project Co-ordinator
Municipality of Corfu
Ministry of Culture

- 14.2. Formulate up-to-date, detailed specifications (materials, techniques, design) for the restoration work being done in the Site, and circulate them to engineers and technical operatives at all levels, the business community and the local community generally.

Medium-term Project Co-ordinator
Municipality of Corfu
Ministry of Culture
Technical Chamber of Greece, Corfu Branch

OBJECTIVES

ACTIONS

Objective **15** : **BUILDINGS**Action **15**

- To establish agreed standards for techniques and materials to be used in the restoration of historic buildings and keep property owners informed about those approved for use, and to establish a procedure for limiting exterior alterations to buildings resulting from the use of modern materials.

- 15.1. Form a Working Group to update the index cards relating to buildings by entering the latest data on their condition, for entry into the computer database.

Medium-term Project Co-ordinator
Municipality of Corfu
Ministry of Culture

- 15.2. Prepare a study examining the extent to which modern amenities (air-conditioning units, television aerials, pipes, awnings, air extractor fans, lifts, central heating) can be installed on the exterior or in the interior of historic buildings without morphological alterations.

Medium-term Project Co-ordinator
Municipality of Corfu
Ministry of Culture

- 15.3. Publish a guide to the alterations acceptable in accordance with the provisions of section 15.2.

Medium-term Project Co-ordinator
Municipality of Corfu
Ministry of Culture

OBJECTIVES

ACTIONS

Objective **16** : **NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**Action **16**

- To evaluate the natural environment on the edges of the Site and in the buffer zone, and to initiate and manage interventions to restore and enhance the town's unique historic characteristics, giving priority to:
 - the Spianada, which needs to be restored for pedestrian use and activities traditionally performed there,
 - unification and improvement of all features of the seashore, and
 - beautification of Avrami Hill, Sotiros Hill and the parks of Garitsa and Mon Repos.

- 16.1. Draw up a plan for the restoration and enhancement of the traditional character of the Spianada in combination with action to resolve the traffic and parking problems (Actions 22 and 23).

Long-term Project Co-ordinator
 Municipality of Corfu
 Ministry of Culture

- 16.2. Draw up a plan for the protection of the Site's shoreline, the improvement of the main localities and harbours and their functional unification.

Long-term Project Co-ordinator
 Municipality of Corfu
 Ministry of Culture
 Corfu Port Fund

- 16.3. Implement a plan for the improvement of the town's green open spaces (specifying what kinds of trees and flowerbeds are to be planted in parks and gardens and at other points in the Old Town).

Medium-term Project Co-ordinator
 Municipality of Corfu

OBJECTIVES

ACTIONS

Objective **17** : **FORTRESSES AND FORTIFICATIONS**Action **17**

- To complete the projects for the restoration and improvement of all the defensive works (fortresses and perimeter fortifications) of Corfu, and to proceed with further excavations in order to shed light on an important period in the town's history.

- 17.1. Expedite the incorporation of existing studies for the restoration and improvement of individual elements of the two fortresses into a financing scheme, and carry out the necessary restoration and improvement work.

Short-term Project Co-ordinator
Steering Group
Ministry of Culture

- 17.2. Draw up a plan for the management of the Old Fortress as a monument in its own right with a substantial number of visitors and a number of facilities suitable for use by various groups of users (the University, government offices, local community for sports and leisure activities).

Medium-term Project Co-ordinator
Steering Group
Ministry of Culture

- 17.3. Draw up an integrated plan for using the New Fortress for a variety of compatible activities, and prepare studies for restoring the existing buildings and bringing them back into use.

Medium-term Project Co-ordinator
Steering Group
Municipality of Corfu

OBJECTIVES

ACTIONS

17.4. Carry on the activities of the team already working in the New Fortress on clearance, cleaning and small-scale conservation projects.

Ongoing

Project Co-ordinator
Steering Group
Municipality of Corfu

17.5. Initiate a programme of excavations in the Old Fortress to discover evidence of the Byzantine city of the sixth century AD.

Long-term

Project Co-ordinator
Steering Group
Ministry of Culture

17.6. Form a Working Group to compile systematic records of the condition of all elements of the perimeter fortifications and to prioritize the restoration and enhancement projects.

Long-term

Project Co-ordinator
Steering Group
Ministry of Culture
Municipality of Corfu

OBJECTIVES

Objective **18** : **PUBLIC REALM**

- To enhance the visual condition of the public realm and its accessibility to pedestrians, cyclists and persons with differing mobility requirements, and to improve the presentation of its historic features by means of clear signage, on-street information panels, lighting and street furniture.

ACTIONS

Action **18**

- 18.1. Carry on the activities of the Office of the Old Town on projects concerned with backbone networks (electricity, telecommunications, water supply, sewerage) and road surfaces in the Old Town, on the basis of existing plans, until the identified needs are met in full.

Medium-term Project Co-ordinator
Steering Group
Municipality of Corfu
Public Utilities

- 18.2. Form a Working Group to prepare measures and regulations for the functional restoration of the public realm in areas with conflicting uses (e.g. car parking and provision of tables and chairs in streets, squares and piazzas; motor traffic and pedestrians, etc.).

Short-term Project Co-ordinator
Steering Group
Municipality of Corfu
Ministry of the Environment, Planning & Public Works

- 18.3. Draw up an integrated plan for the installation of lighting to enhance the Site (lamp posts in streets, squares and car parks, illumination of the forts and important buildings, etc.).

Medium-term Project Co-ordinator
Steering Group
Municipality of Corfu
Ministry of Culture

OBJECTIVES

ACTIONS

- 18.4. Install signage and on-street information panels in the historic area, providing directions to and information about the elements that give it its historic character (historic walks, important buildings, architectural features, historical events).

Medium-term Project Co-ordinator
Steering Group
Municipality of Corfu
Ministry of Culture
Ionian University

- 18.5. Improve the existing plan for the cleanliness of the public realm, with reference both to rubbish collection and to the cleaning of streets, squares and so on, in support of the municipal Cleaning Department's own programme.

Short-term Project Co-ordinator
Municipality of Corfu

4.4. DOCUMENTATION, EDUCATION & RESEARCH

OBJECTIVES

Objective **19** : **DOCUMENTATION**

- To collect the existing documentation of individual elements of the Site and develop a database accessible to all, making use of all the capabilities of digital technology.

ACTIONS

Action **19**

- 19.1. Create a website with documentation and information relating to the Site, on which all available information from the various agencies and departments is to be co-ordinated, as a follow-up to Actions 4.1 and 4.2.

Medium-term

Project Co-ordinator
Municipality of Corfu
Technical Chamber of Greece, Corfu Branch

- 19.2. Install additional information kiosks and expand the range of information provided.

Medium-term

Project Co-ordinator
Municipality of Corfu

OBJECTIVES

Objective **20** : **EDUCATION**

- Systematically to project the cultural assets of the Old Town of Corfu at all levels of education, so as to make the younger generation more aware of issues relating to the protection of their cultural heritage in general and the Site in particular.

ACTIONS

Action **20**

- 20.1. Form a Working Group to submit a proposal for the expansion of the educational programmes provided in schools at all levels on the history of the Site and the cultural heritage in general.

Short-term Project Co-ordinator
Municipality of Corfu
Ministry of Education
Ionian University

- 20.2. Promote training programmes for the support and development of traditional local arts and crafts relevant to the Site and its individual elements.

Medium-term Project Co-ordinator
Municipality of Corfu
Ministry of Culture
Ionian University

- 20.3. Form a Working Group to formulate a proposal for the foundation of a 'Corfu Town Museum' displaying a substantial number of exhibits relating to the history of the town: artefacts, archival papers, books, photographs, collections, etc.

Medium-term Project Co-ordinator
Steering Group
Municipality of Corfu
Ministry of Culture

OBJECTIVES

ACTIONS

Objective **21** : **RESEARCH**Action **21**

- To encourage research projects and programmes dealing with issues relevant to the Site, with the object of continuously furthering knowledge of its history, architecture, general character and present condition, in order to inform management decisions.

21.1. Establish a Research Co-ordination Committee, under the supervision of the Steering Group, to be composed of representatives of the Project Co-ordinator, the Municipality of Corfu, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Culture, the Ionian University and the Corfu Branch of the Technical Chamber of Greece. The remit of the Committee will be:

- To gather together the results of all research projects relevant to the Site in order to form a unified 'Research Register' easily accessible to any institution or individual researcher who may be interested;
- To co-ordinate the activities of those doing research on the various elements of the Site, to ensure that it is directed at fields of study that have not been adequately covered;
- To promote co-operation between institutions with archives and libraries and the relevant department of the Ionian University, in order to improve the method of collecting and publicizing the material.

Medium-term Project Co-ordinator
 Municipality of Corfu
 Ministry of Education
 Ministry of Culture
 Ionian University

4.5. PHYSICAL ACCESS AND TRANSPORT

OBJECTIVES

Objective **22** : **TRAFFIC**

- To give priority to easing the town's traffic problems by promoting a series of parallel actions, such as the construction of a bypass to keep through traffic out of the town, the removal of government offices from the town centre, the improvement of public transport services and the expansion of pedestrian zones within the Site.

ACTIONS

Action **22**

- 22.1. Form a team to oversee the traffic study now in preparation, to ensure that all the factors involved in easing the traffic problems are addressed in the most appropriate manner. Such factors include: the construction of bypass roads; the removal of government offices and public transport from the town centre; access for emergency service vehicles; deliveries to homes, shops and offices; car parks; coaches. When completed, the traffic study has to be approved by the Municipal Council.

Short-term Project Co-ordinator
Municipality of Corfu

- 22.2. Prepare plans for the performance of individual public works projects and the taking of measures, once the objectives have been prioritized, in order to ensure full implementation of the traffic study.

Medium-term Project Co-ordinator
Steering Group
Municipality of Corfu

OBJECTIVES

ACTIONS

Objective **23** : **PARKING**Action **23**

- To discourage visitors from using cars and increase the amount of parking space available, either in underground car parks near the perimeter of the Site or in ground-level car parks along the Site boundary. Special regulations for permanent residents.

- 23.1. In implementation of the provisions of Action 22 with regard to parking, prepare preliminary studies for the construction of the car parks envisaged therein, and investigate the possibilities for a funding scheme.

Medium-term Project Co-ordinator
Municipality of Corfu

- 23.2. Form an interdepartmental municipal committee to work out the practical details of implementing the parking policy measures and regulations recommended in the traffic study (Action 22).

Medium-term Project Co-ordinator
Municipality of Corfu

OBJECTIVES

Objective **24** : ENTRY POINTS

- To improve the appearance of the vehicular entry points into the town and to provide more information for visitors to the Site at the entry points.

ACTIONS

Action **24**

- 24.1. Form an interdepartmental team to co-ordinate the measures intended to improve the appearance of the verges of the access roads to the town.

Medium-term Project Co-ordinator
Municipality of Corfu
Prefecture of Corfu

- 24.2. Plant trees and other vegetation along the verges of the main roads.

Short-term Project Co-ordinator
Municipality of Corfu
Prefecture of Corfu

- 24.3. Carry out additional work on the reconstruction of pavements along the access roads to the town.

Medium-term Project Co-ordinator
Municipality of Corfu
Prefecture of Corfu

- 24.4. Improve the appearance and expand the stock of the information kiosks at the points of entry (port, airport, town bus station, country bus station), in combination with Action 19.2.

Medium-term Project Co-ordinator
Municipality of Corfu
Bus Companies
Corfu Port Fund
Civil Aviation Authority

OBJECTIVES

ACTIONS

Objective **25** : **COACHES**Action **25**

- To take steps, in collaboration with coach operators, to reduce the manifold negative impact of large numbers of tourist coaches on the historic environment, especially in the peak season.

- 25.1. Form a joint committee for co-operation between the Municipality and coach operators, with the object of looking for alternative solutions for the removal of coach parks on the roads bordering the Site. This Action is combined with Action 22.1.

Medium-term

Project Co-ordinator

Municipality of Corfu

Travel Agents and Coach Operators

OBJECTIVES

Objective **26** : **PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

- To make provision for an integrated transport system that will unify and co-ordinate all the available means of transport, i.e. city buses, long-distance buses, taxis, ships and aircraft, and will supply reliable services providing adequate access to and transport within the Site.

ACTIONS

Action **26**

- 26.1. Form a joint committee to improve the services provided by all modes of public transport (town and country buses, taxis and ferries) and co-ordinate their activities, with regard both to the routes served and the timetables.

Short-term

Project Co-ordinator
Municipality of Corfu
Bus companies
Corfu Port Fund
Corfu Port Authority
Professional Drivers' Association

- 26.2. Form a committee to explore the possibilities of modernizing all public transport and perhaps modifying the existing infrastructure by introducing up-to-date, high-technology modes of transport.

Medium-term

Project Co-ordinator
Steering Group
Municipality of Corfu
Ministry of the Environment, Planning & Public Works
Bus companies
Professional Drivers' Associations
Corfu Port Authority

OBJECTIVES

ACTIONS

Objective **27** : **PEDESTRIANS AND CYCLISTS**Action **27**

- To enlarge the system of pedestrian zones in the Old Town and to improve the facilities in existing pedestrian zones, so as to provide safe and attractive routes for touring the Site and to encourage cycling.

The actions necessary to achieve this objective flow from completion of Action 22.1 (traffic study) and then Actions 18.1 and 18.2 (Public Realm).

27.1. Form an interdepartmental team of the Municipality of Corfu, with the participation of the Steering Group, to prepare and apply measures and regulations to promote the unimpeded and efficient functioning of the pedestrian zones (cleaning up the entry and exit points, clearing obstacles to parking, specifying the permitted hours for deliveries to shops, offices and private houses, circulation and parking of motorcycles).

Medium-term Project Co-ordinator
Municipality of Corfu

OBJECTIVES

ACTIONS

Objective **28** : **ACCESS FOR ALL**Action **28**

- To provide access for persons with differing mobility requirements to all public spaces in the Site and all public buildings.

28.1. Carry on and complete the projects for adapting pavements to allow free movement for persons with differing mobility requirements.

Medium-term Project Co-ordinator
Municipality of Corfu

28.2. Form a Working Group to compile a register of public buildings that do not provide access for persons with differing mobility requirements, and submit proposals for remedying this discriminatory treatment, taking each building one by one.

Medium-term Project Co-ordinator
Municipality of Corfu
Ministry of Culture

28.3. Form a Working Group to devise incentives for owners of historic buildings to effect the alterations necessary to make their buildings accessible to persons with differing mobility requirements.

Medium-term Project Co-ordinator
Municipality of Corfu

4.6. VISITOR MANAGEMENT

OBJECTIVES

Objective **29** : VISITOR FACILITIES

- To improve visitor facilities in the way of movement within the Site, information and signage, having previously enlisted the firm co-operation of businesses and individuals involved in tourism.

ACTIONS

Implementation of Actions 18.1 and 18.2 (appearance of the public realm), 18.4 (signage and on-street information panels in the public realm), 19.2 (information kiosks), 20.3 (founding of a 'Corfu Town Museum', 22.2 (traffic) and 23 (parking) will provide a number of basic visitor facilities.

Action **29**

- 29.1. Form a permanent joint committee of the organizations, individuals and professional associations involved in tourism, to prepare and apply measures and regulations for the provision of additional visitor facilities.

Short-term

- Project Co-ordinator
- Municipality of Corfu
- Prefecture of Corfu
- Travel Agents
- Hoteliers' Association
- Professional Associations
- Tourist Guides' Association

- 29.2. Form a Working Group to investigate the possibility of sourcing and securing investment programmes and sponsorship for the improvement of visitor facilities, and explore ways of ensuring that the visitors themselves make a financial contribution towards this goal.

Medium-term

- Project Co-ordinator
- Municipality of Corfu
- Travel Agents
- Hoteliers' Association

OBJECTIVES

ACTIONS

Objective **30** : **VISITOR DISPERSAL**Action **30**

- To create more routes for access and movement within the Site, so as to make it easier for tourists to find and visit not only the best-publicized attractions but also those of more specialized interest, which will enable them to obtain a better knowledge of the Site by making its cultural assets more widely known.

- 30.1. Supplement the work of the Working Group specified in Action 29.2 by seeking funding for the promotion of printed and electronic material, compiled under the European Union's Multicultural Tourism Programme (ANEDK, 1997-1999), suggesting routes designed to familiarize visitors with the town.

Short-term Project Co-ordinator
Municipality of Corfu

- 30.2. Supplement the work of the joint committee specified in Action 29.1 by preparing and applying measures for the dispersal of visitors in the 'inner' town on the routes promoted under Action 30.1.

Medium-term Project Co-ordinator
Municipality of Corfu
Prefecture of Corfu
Travel Agents
Hoteliers' Association
Professional Associations
Tourist Guides' Association

OBJECTIVES

Objective **31** : **MARKETING**

- To promote theme-based tourism (culture, sport, conferences, etc.) by means of appropriate initiatives in the tourist market and to create opportunities for longer-stay visits.

ACTIONS

Action **31**

- 31.1. Form a Tourist Publicity Committee to promote attractive holiday packages in the national and international market and implement measures to improve the way in which the Old Town is publicized as a very widely-renowned scheduled historic monument.

Medium-term Project Co-ordinator
 Municipality of Corfu
 Prefecture of Corfu
 Travel Agents
 Greek National Tourist Organization

- 31.2. Supplement the work of the joint committee specified in Action 29.1 by devising measures and incentives for improving the standard and increasing the number of beds available for tourists in the Old Town and creating additional capacity in alternative types of accommodation (small guesthouses in historic buildings, family-run pensions, etc.).

Medium-term Project Co-ordinator
 Municipality of Corfu
 Travel Agents
 Hoteliers' Association
 Greek National Tourist Organization

- 31.3. Devise measures, incentives and counter-incentives to improve the standard of tourist shops with regard both to the appearance of the premises and the services provided, and above all the quality of the goods for sale.

Short-term Project Co-ordinator
 Municipality of Corfu
 Chamber of Commerce
 Professional Associations

OBJECTIVES

Objective **32** : **LOCAL COMMUNITY**

- To maintain a balance between the benefits of tourism to the local community and the negative impact of tourist development on the inhabitants' day-to-day lives and the Site itself.

ACTIONS

Achievement of this objective will be furthered mainly by implementation of the Actions designed to relieve the town's functional problems, making allowance for the exacerbation of those problems resulting from increased tourist traffic. Relevant Actions include 22.1 (traffic), 23.1 (parking) and 18 (public realm), among others.

Action **32**

32.1. Organize appropriate cultural events at interesting venues in the Site on a regular basis, to attract visitors and at the same time to satisfy the local residents' needs for entertainment.

Medium-term Project Co-ordinator
 Municipality of Corfu
 Travel Agents
 Greek National Tourist Organization



APPENDIX

5.1. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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5.2. HISTORY

5.2.1. The following part refers to the basic historical events that have determined the development of the Monument area, since the transformations of the urban landscape of Corfu were as many as the different historical periods of the town, from the time of its initial settlement until today.

♦ Ancient times

5.2.2. The site of Paleopolis, the city of ancient times, has been identified in an area neighbouring the later centre of the present day town on the Canoni peninsula in a modern day suburb. It seems that the area was inhabited from the prehistoric period as can be seen from the stone artifacts scattered about the area of Paleopolis and the graveyards dating from the archaic and classic periods. The city experienced its zenith during the second half of the 8th century BC with the arrival first of the Euboeans (pre-colonization phase) for a brief period, according to sources and certain comparative archaeological indications. Quite a few scholars have identified them with the Phaeacians of the Odyssey. Following them the development of the city was determined by the Corinthians (colonization phase) who brought with them characteristic examples of their pottery and the architectural style that was so indicative of their later development. The ancient city developed between two natural ports, was walled and became wealthy and powerful, and played an important role in the commercial transactions with the West. An important indication of the cultural level of the ancient town is the large Doric temple of Artemis (47.50 x 22m) made of tufa at the beginning of the 6th century (590-80 BC). Its

sculptured western pediment places it among the most unique art works of the classical antiquity. During the Roman period the area of the ancient city was transformed into an enormous Roman settlement with luxury bathing complexes.

♦ Byzantine and Post Byzantine period

5.2.3. The fall of the Roman Empire (337 AD) finds Corfu in the western part of the state that later became the Byzantine Empire. The new religion was preached on the island by Apostle Paul's disciples, Iason and Sosipatros (later saints). In the dark centuries that followed, the island was successively raided by Vandals, Goths and Saracens (Arabs) from the 5th to the 7th and in the 9th century AD. After the invasion of the Goths under Totila in 551 AD, the site of the ancient town was gradually abandoned (although never completely) and the people found a much safer shelter in the natural fort of what today is the Old Fortress, with the distinctive morphology of the two imposing rock peaks ("korifi"), an element which determined the name of the new town. The medieval town with the name "Korifo" or "Korfi", "Corfu" for the West, developed closely related to the fate of the Byzantine State, being an integral part of the Empire. The early Christian basilicas preserved until today, the Byzantine castles, numerous ecclesiastical monuments and historical records are signs of the Byzantine presence on the island.

5.2.4. The gradual weakening of the Byzantine State and at the same time the strengthening of the Western powers made Corfu the subject of continuous disputes. From 1081 to 1202, the island was governed in

turn by the Byzantines and the Normans. The 4th Crusade (1202 - 1204) radically changed the power balance in the Greek area, since the Byzantine State fell to the Franks. Corfu was awarded to the Venetians (1207-1214), who divided the island into 10 manors. These were granted to Venetian nobles, with the obligation to pay an annual tax to the Venetian Republic and to maintain the fortifications. In addition, privileges were granted to the Venetian merchants of the island and some rights of the inhabitants were recognised, such as the right to preserve the Orthodox religion, provided they remained loyal to Venice. In 1214 Corfu broke away from the Venetians and was annexed by the Despotate of Epirus, one of the three independent post-Byzantine states (together with Nicaea and Trebizond). The Corfiots supported this change for a long period of time, because they enjoyed many privileges (tax exemptions, independence of the clergy, reinforcement of the fortifications) and were not seriously threatened by the Venetians, who continued to conduct trade in the area. But good times do not last forever. In 1267 Corfu became part of the Angevin Kingdom of Sicily (Charles d' Anjou the First, King of Naples and the two Sicilies).

♦ Angevin Rule (1267 - 1386)

5.2.5. This period, which lasted over one century, brought prosecutions and the humiliation of the Orthodox Church in a violent effort to impose Catholicism, which included the abolishment of the Metropolitan see and transformation of the major churches into Catholic ones. In addition, a new administrative organisation was established on the island in order to serve the feudal structures of production that dominated Europe. The internal conflicts of the Angevins in the years that followed, the civil wars in Naples and their impact on Corfu, along with the general discontent of the Corfiots, prepared the way for the

Venetian Republic, which had always wanted to take control of the island. The town was taken over by the Venetian Admiral of the Adriatic Sea Fleet in 1386, during its siege by the duke of Padua. Venice officially legalised its control over the island in 1402, buying it from the Kingdom of Naples for 30.000 golden ducats.

♦ Venetian Rule (1386 - 1797)

5.2.6. Corfu was governed by Venice for four centuries, accepting it as its 'master and protector'. This period largely determined the unique character of the island because, unlike the rest of Greece, it was never under the Ottomans. The Venetians received an island with a strong aristocratic and feudal system, which they chose to preserve, granting higher offices to Venetian nobles for a two-year period and establishing a local noble class, access to which was strictly controlled (Libro d' oro). Centralisation and recognition of relative autonomy, which was practically intended to serve the interests of the local aristocracy, were the main characteristics of the Venetian administrative organisation.

5.2.7. The geographical position of Corfu was very important for the Venetians. Located on the route to the East, it was to become their base in the Adriatic and the eastern Mediterranean, from which they would expand and develop their commercial activities. As a result, a large-scale fortification works project was implemented, aiming to protect the town primarily from Ottoman attacks. Some of the most renowned architects and engineers of the Venetian Republic who specialised in fortification works were called in Corfu for this purpose. Applying their experience from the fortification of Italian towns, they turned Corfu into a vast building site: hills were leveled, ports were opened, naval bases were constructed, walls and fortresses were

erected, proving the triumph of art over nature. In return for the security they provided, the Venetians demanded strict obeisance from the inhabitants. Nevertheless, the Republic exhibited understanding and tolerance towards the Orthodox Church, mainly because of its tendency to become independent from the Pope. The financial returns from Corfu came primarily from taxation, the control of transit trade, the tenure of public land, the salt monopoly and to a great extent from the cultivation of olive trees, which was generously subsidised.

5.2.8. This four century period was not a peaceful one for Corfu. One attack in 1403 by the Genoans, who forever kept their eye on the island, followed by a second one in 1431, caused the villages to be deserted. The part of the town outside the Fortress was burnt down, but the fort managed to keep the enemy out. The successive Ottoman efforts to conquer the town in 1431, 1537, 1571, 1573, 1716, although unsuccessful, had devastating consequences for the town's inhabitants living outside the Fortress, as well as for all the villages, which were burnt down while thousands of people were slaughtered or taken prisoners. To deal with the dramatic population decrease which resulted from the raids, which grew even worse after two awful plague outbreaks (1629 and 1673), the Venetians brought in settlers from other parts of Greece, Constantinople, Epirus, Nauplia (Navplio) and Crete. In addition, serious internal conflicts shook Corfu in the 17th century, resulting in the loss of thousands of lives, as well as in the financial and defensive weakening of the island. A first sign of turbulence in 1610 followed the first ever refusal of the farmers to deliver their share of the crop to the Venetians, escalated into a real revolution in 1640, rekindled in 1642 and 1652, which was crushed by additional armed forces called in from Venice.

♦ The French Republican Period (1797-1799)

5.2.9. The doctrines of the French Revolution reached Corfu soon and infected it with a passionate wish for national independence and establishment of a Greek Republic in the Ionian Islands. The inhabitants welcomed the French Fleet to the island as a liberation from the Venetian yoke. But this atmosphere of euphoria was soon to disappear since the appointed administration consisted once more of nobles, and the financial exploitation was this time even more cruel than before. After the Treaty of Campo Formio, by which the Ionian Islands became a French colony, on account of confiscations and cruel acts on the part of the French soldiers who were left unpaid and had started to loot churches, the people considered French rule worse than Venetian and turned against it.

♦ Russian-Turkish Rule and the Septinsular Republic (1799-1807)

5.2.10. The climate of discontent among the inhabitants and the propaganda of the Russian-Turkish alliance against the "French atheists" forced the latter to a cease-fire with the Russian fleet, after four months of resistance and continuing conflicts. The Ionian Islands were given over to the Admirals of the two allied fleets. On 24th April 1799, the two admirals declared the establishment of the "State of the Ionian Islands", with Corfu as its capital. The Constantinople Convention (May 21st, 1800), signed by Russia, Turkey and Great Britain, declared the Ionian Islands an autonomous unified state, under tribute to Turkey. The constitution of 1800, which restored the old form of the aristocratic regime, and the disturbing presence of foreign armed forces, especially Turkish, created social turbulence that continued in spite of the 1801 elections of representatives, the drafting of a more democratic constitution in 1803 and its revision in 1806. The declaration of the

Russian - Turkish war followed and the Septinsular Republic appeared on the side of Russia, to be awarded to France under the terms of the Treaty of Tilsit (1807).

♦ **The French Empire (1807 - 1814)**

5.2.11. The second period of French rule was very well received by the people because it laid great emphasis on the improvement of agriculture, the introduction of new crops, the development of education (establishment of the Ionian Academy), the organisation of public utilities and the reconstruction of the town. The fall of Napoleon (1814) weakened French control over the Ionian islands and as a result the French troops were withdrawn and the island surrendered to Great Britain.

♦ **The British Protectorate (1814 - 1864)**

5.2.12. The request of the Septinsular Republic for independence was strongly supported in the Vienna Conference (1815: Russia, Great Britain, Austria, Prussia) by Ioannis Capodistrias (Corfiot diplomat and later the first President of Greece), who participated as a Russian representative, but was never accepted by the other states. The Treaty of Paris (1815) recognised the "United States of the Ionian Islands" as a free and independent state, under the direct and exclusive protection of Great Britain. It was soon proved that the protection was tantamount to rule. London might have indicated a friendly attitude towards the Greek people, but the British administration used terrorist-like measures against the inhabitants, who manifested their support for the national liberation struggle of 1821 as well as their wish to become part of the newly established Greek state. Despite all these facts, the period of the British rule in Corfu had many positive aspects, among which were the economic

recovery, the construction of important public works, such as the road network and the aqueduct. In addition, all the levels of the educational system were organised and a new Ionian Academy, the first Greek university, was founded in 1824.

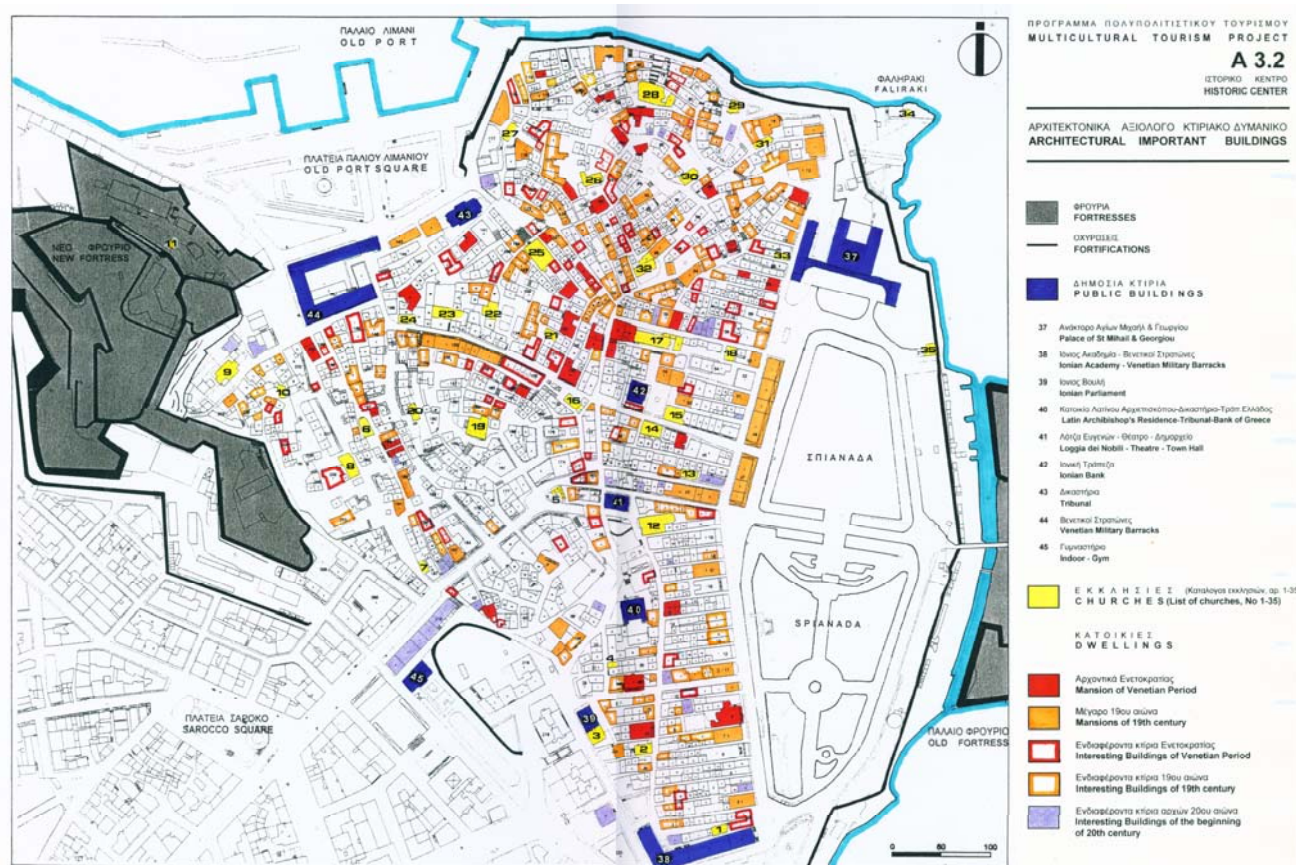
♦ **The integration of Corfu in the Greek State (1864)**

5.2.13. The Ionian Islands were awarded to Greece in return for the appointment of a king who was loyal to Great Britain. Corfu was no more the capital of the State of the Ionian Islands. It saw its university and parliament close when everyone was rejoicing over the Unification with Greece. From then on it was a mere prefecture of the Greek state. Due to its geographical position it was to become the base of the Allied troops in 1916-18, and would provide shelter to the exiled Serbian government with the remains of its army in 1916. For two years Corfu was the capital of the Serbian state under Prime Minister Pasits. The Serbians were granted use of the Municipal Theatre for meetings where the Declaration of Independence of Greater Yugoslavia was drawn up, as well as the Church of Agios Nikolaos Geronton where mass was said in Serbian. Serbs also published their own newspaper in Serbian on Corfu on a special printing press brought there from the French occupation authority buildings. In 1923 the Italian army claimed the island after a short seizure and in 1940-1943 it suffered bombardments, during which the theatre and a library of great significance were destroyed.

5.3. ARCHITECTURE

5.3.1. List of Churches

5.3.2. Indicative List of Buildings



5.3.1. LIST OF CHURCHES

Agia Triadabegin of 17th c.

Privately owned by the Cretan family of the Giakarola. After the bombardments of 1943 remains abandon. Inscription of 1680, possibly states reconstruction.

Anglican Church19th c.

Housed in a secular 19th c. building.

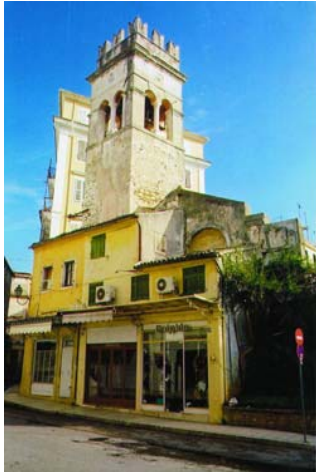
Agia Paraskevi & Agios Ioannis “o Theologos” begin of 17th c.

Initially privately owned. Owners: Monk Christoforos and Christofora. Renovated at about 1900.

Panaghiopoula

Small church privately owned by Rachapidi family. Later became chapel of the Platitera Monastery.

5.3.1. LIST OF CHURCHES

Evaghelismos "S.S. Annunziata"**13th c.**

Catholic monastery, with a large land property. Inaugurated in 1394. Three-aisled timber-roofed basilica with gothic arches. The tower-like belfry, altered by later lean-tos at its base, and a small part of the facade with relief carvings survived the bombardments of 1943.

Agia Sophia & Agios Iosiph**(1650)**

Initially privately owned. Since 1846 owned by fraternities (carpenters and builders guilds). Rebuilt in 1848, based on plans of the architect Ioannis Chronis.

Hypsili Theotokos & Agios Ioannis "o Eleimon"**(1730)**

Ownership of the Theotoki family, since 1790 owned by the wine-makers and wine merchants guild.

Synagogue "Sinagoga Vecchia"

The older of the two existing. Greek (vecchia), reconstructed after the war. The Venetian basement with groin vaults is preserved.

5.3.1. LIST OF CHURCHES

Panaghia Tenedos**begin of 18th c.**

Catholic Monastery. The present church was built between 1710 - 1723 to replace an older one. From architectural aspect, it is the most important vaulted church, with a Renaissance dome above the sanctuary (reminds of the Duomo in Florence).

Panaghia “Spiliotissa” (New Fortress)

Located inside the New Fortress. Very old state-owned church built inside a rock hollow. Extended and reconstructed in 1739.

Kyra “ton Aghellon”**(1637)**

Privately owned, initially by the Amorgou family, later by the Rouva family. Renovated at the end of the 18th c.

Catholic Cathedral of St. Giacomo – Duomo**end of 16th c.**

Restructured and extended in 1622. Since 1632 a catholic Cathedral. Restructured in the 18th and 19th c. and restored after the bombardments of 1943. Elegant building with the typical 17th c. pediment curve, the denticulated tower and its tall belfry.

5.3.1. LIST OF CHURCHES

Agioi Pantes & Panaghia “ton Vlahernon”**17th c.**

Owned by the fraternity of butchers and abattoirs. reconstructed in 1850.

Phaneromeni Panaghia “ton Xenon”**begin of 18th c.**

Built by the Monk Nikodimos. Was the parish of Corfiot Epirots . Owned by fraternities (Furriers and goldsmiths guilds). Three-aisled timber-roofed basilica. Restructured (vertical extension) in 1832, based on plans of I. Chronis. The wooden iconostasis was reconstructed in 1875 by Neapolitan technicians. The ourania was painted by N. Koutoulis (18th c.)

Agios Ioannis “ o Prodomos”**before the 16th c.**

One of the first Cathedrals of the Great Deans. With a peripheral exonarthex. Extended vertically and horizontally westwards from 1757 to 1760 (belfry repair 1784, demolition 1804, reconstruction 1807). Some of its icons were painted by E. Tzane Bountalis and G. Chrisoloras (17th and 18th

c.)

Agios Vassilios & Agios Stephanos

Owned by a fraternity (shoe-makers guild)

5.3.1. LIST OF CHURCHES

Agios Spyridon**(1589)**

Replaced an older church located in S. Rocco square. Patron saint of the town and the island. He was a Cypriot Bishop and took part to the 1st Ecumenical Synod (325 BC). Ownership of the Voulgari family. The initial stage was completed in 1594. Distinctive feature: the tower-like belfry, square-shaped with a tall body ending in a pierced section for the bells (reminds of the S. Giorgio dei Greci belfry in Venice), built in 1590. The church was restructured again in 1670. The ourania was painted by P. Doxaras, 1724 - 1727. The marble iconostasis and the luxurious, silver-plated shrine, containing the Saint's relic and constructed in

Vienna, date from the 19th cent.

Agios Charalabos**begin of 8th c.**

Κτίστηκε τον 18^ο αι. και ακολουθεί τον τύπο της μονόκλιτης ξυλόστεγης βασιλικής εξωτερικά, είναι εντελώς απλής μορφής.

Agioi Pateres & Agios Arsenios**before the 16th c.**

Owned by a fraternity (a few merchant families). Built for the Epirots refugees. Since 1860, ownership of the Epirot Monk Zamanos, later dependency of the Panaghia "ton Xenon". Destroyed during the 2nd World War bombardments. Recently restored. Reconstructed (vertical extension, new facade) in 1768. Facade presenting Tuscan-doric pilasters in a tripartite composition reviving palladian standards and reminding of late Baroque monuments in Venice.

Agioi Apostoli**begin of 17th c.**

Owned by Petronikos, later by the Dimoulitsa family.

5.3.1. LIST OF CHURCHES

Evaghelistria “dei Greci”**17th c.**

Privately owned by the Tourlinou family.

Agios Antonios & Agios Andreas**before the 14th c.**

Owned by a fraternity, constructed in 1753. Existed in a different form in 1439. Aisleless basilica covered by a groin vault. The iconostasis made of Karrara marble dated back to 1777 (design by Al. Trivolis-Pierris).

Monastery of Agios Franghiskos**13th c.**

Catholic. Initial stage 13th - 14th c. The older part and the chapel of Aghios Angelos probably dated back to the 13th c. (today extremely altered). The Church has been restructured in the 17th and 18th c. Only the chapel of the monastery and the courtyard with the arcade and the lean-tos survive, though altered. Minimal remainings of an interesting decoration preserved at the side of the cloitre.

Catholic. Initial stage 13th - 14th c. The older part and the chapel of Aghios Angelos probably dated back to the 13th c. (today extremely altered). The Church has been restructured in the 17th and 18th c. Only the chapel of the monastery and the courtyard with the arcade and the lean-tos survive, though altered. Minimal remainings of an interesting decoration preserved at the side of the cloitre.

Panaghia “Spiliotissa” & Agios Vlassios, The Orthodox Cathedral (1577)

Owned by a fraternity (noble families). Replaced an older church of Aghios Vlassios. An Orthodox Cathedral since 1841. Imposing architecture. Three-aisled basilica. Located on a high point with entrance from the port and the New Fortress, with an impressive stair access covering the width of the facade. Very tall belfry. Precious icons decorate the interior, e.g. Aghios Georgios by Ioannis Damaskinos (16th c.), the martyr Gavdelas by Emmanuel Tzane Bountalis (17th c.), as well as the oldest and most important double face icon of Panaghia Dimosiana and the icon of Aghios Arsenios. Interior and exterior interventions in 1913.

5.3.1. LIST OF CHURCHES

Panaghia Kremasti**before the 16th c.**

Owned by a fraternity, with a large land property. Only the western part of the peripheral exonarthex survives. Characteristic decoration of the northern exterior wall in the place of the exonarthex with relief geometrical patterns on the plaster reminding of Italian sgraffito.

Remarkable stone monument with impressive italian style icons by Spiros Sperantzas (18th c.). The church is located on the famous two-level square of Kremasti, with a sculptured marble well of the 16th c. Reconstructed in 1675 - 1693.

“Hypapandi”**end of the 16th c.**

Owned by a fraternity.

Panaghia “Antivouniotissa”**within the 15th c.**

Owned by a fraternity (noble families) with a large land property. One of the richest churches in town. The typical form of the Corfiot Church with the peripheral exonarthex is excellently preserved. Many nobles were buried there, as indicated by the coats of arms

decorating the grave stones. Access to the entrance, which is situated towards the north coastal road (Mouragia) is gained through broad stairs ascending between the facades of the adjacent dwellings. The pierced belfry stands at the southern side of the church. Precious icons decorate the interior (17th c.), painted by the acknowledged religious painters of that time, Em. Tzane Bountalis, Stefanos Tsagkarolas and E. Lombardos. The ourania is decorated with wainscots and gold-plated ornaments. Today it houses the Byzantine Museum.

Agios Andreas**(1753)**

Owned by the Kouvara and Barbati families, later by the Linardos family. An interesting structure, adjacent to the three-storey residence of the priest.

5.3.1. LIST OF CHURCHES

Church of Pantdoktrator (Metamorphosis) begin of the 16th c.

Owned by a fraternity. In 1900 owned by 6 families. Reconstructed probably in 1572 - 1574. Radically renovated from 1716 to 1728. Restored by the Archaeological Department. With an exonarthex only at the northern side and a two-storey lean-to, the first floor of which was used as the priest's residence. Distinctive feature: the vertical axis of the facade, set off by the arched main entrance door, the two circular windows and the sculptured angel on the roof top. The 18th c. iconostasis was painted by G. Chrisoloras. There are also paintings by E. Tzane Bountalis (17th c.).

Agios Nikolaos “ton Yerondon” (S.Nicolo dei Vecchi) begin of the 16th c.

One of the richest churches owned by fraternities (noble families) and the Cathedral of Great Deans until 1712. More oblong than usual, resembling the form of the Antivouniotissa and Kremasti churches, with some variations due to the inclined ground. One of the few

examples with a pulpit. The Royal Door is decorated with precious icons attributed to Em. Tzane Bountalis (17th c.). The priest's residence is adjacent to the northern side of the exonarthex. The exterior part is altered following the successive repair works.

Panaghia Limniotissa

Owned by a fraternity. Initially owned by the Kouartanou, Palatianou, Ventoura and Balbi families.

Agia Aikaterini**(1671)**

Initially privately owned by N. Kariofilaktos. In 1704, together with the adjacent building formed a small monk monastery (6 monks). Today state-owned.

5.3.1. LIST OF CHURCHES

Agios Nikolaos “ton Loutron”**(1579)**

Private church of the Katsina's family. Integrated into a group of buildings. Later on, it became property of the State. It has recently received a radical intervention with an essential alteration of its character.

Hyperagia Theotokos Limniotissa**about the 17th c.**

Owned by a fraternity (bakers guild). Renovated in the 19th c. Restructured, based on plans of I. Chronis (1860).

Agios Georgios - Old Fortress**19th c.**

One of the largest churches of Corfu. Anglican church for English soldiers. Built based on the plans of Antony Emmet (engineer of the royal army). Three-aisled basilica, divided by a double row of cast iron pillars which supported a loft extending along the three sides of the building in the shape of the Greek letter Π. The

initial interior structure is deteriorated due to the bombardments of 1943. After the Unification, it became orthodox. The stone iconostasis of Ag. Spyridonas was placed there, having been replaced by a new one.

“Mandrakina”**17th c.**

Owned by a fraternity (bakers guild). Renovated in the 19th c. Restructured, based on plans of I. Chronis (1860).

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Palace of SS. Michael and George (1819-23), architect G. Whitmore:

The most important monument of British Rule, one of the first neoclassical structures in Greece. Built with Malta stone. The façade is decorated with a Doric colonnade, interrupted by two majestic gates forming triumphal arches at curves at its ends, delineating the northern edge of the Spianada. The central part over the cornice is adorned with reliefs by the Corfiot sculptor Prosalendis, while the walls and ceilings of the main halls have rich relief and painted decoration

Loggia Nobilei, 17th cent.:

It remained a theatre until 1903, when it became the Town Hall after the addition of an extra storey.

One of the most important buildings of the town. Constructed between 1663 and 1693 with Sinies stone, the only town building with dressed masonry. In 1891 the bust of Morozinis was incorporated in the eastern facade. In 1720 it was transformed into a theatre, hosting melodrama performances from 1773.

Ionian Academy, Grimani Barracks (early 17th cent.)

This building was originally designed to house barracks, in combination with the residence of the Military Commander during the Venetian Rule, and is known as the Ionian Academy. After 1840 it housed the first University of the modern Greek State. After the unification of the Ionian islands with Greece, it served as Public Library, which burned down in 1943. Currently under restoration, it is intended to house the administrative services of the Ionian University.

Ionian Parliament (1854)

the building still houses the Anglican Church, while the rest is used by the Municipality of Corfu for various events.

Built by the Corfiot architect I. Chronis. Its neoclassical style facade with the Tuscan-Doric porch recalls the facades of the wings of the Commissioner's Palace. The unification of the Ionian Islands with Greece was decided by vote in this building. After unification, the building was donated to the British community and turned into an Anglican Church. It suffered major damage in 1943 and was restored in 1960, with several alterations. One section of

Residence of the Catholic Archbishop (1754)



The building formerly used as the residence of the Catholic Archbishop stands on the hill of Ayios Athanasios, near the Catholic Cathedral and opposite the *Loggia Nobilei*, at the other end of what is now Dimarcheiou Square. It was later used as a Lawcourt; it was restored after the bombardment of 1943 and now houses the Bank of Greece. The palace was built in 1754 to replace an earlier building of 1630 that had been destroyed by earthquake; this latter had been erected for one of the two *consiglieri* of the town, and was ceded to the Catholic Archbishop in 1632, when the Catholic Cathedral was transferred to the church of San Giacomo.

Spilia Barracks:



Building with an L-shaped plan. At the end of one of the legs, which is set parallel with the fortification wall, is the gate of the same name, which leads to the town harbour. The present form of the building is the product of radical modification and additions, made both in the British period and later. The building had already been abandoned and fallen into ruins at the end of the Venetian period. The ground floor now houses municipal services, shops, etc., while the upper floors have been converted into residential accommodation.

Lawcourts:



In the British period the lawcourts were housed in the palace built in the 18th century as the residence of the Catholic Archbishop. The present building, which probably dates from between the two World Wars, is on the coast road, near the harbour. It is in a severe Classical style that gives expression to its official character. The entrance is in the projecting central section, and there is an Ionic portico on the first floor above

Building of the Corfu Gymnastic Association (1893):



Building of Classical style with neo-Renaissance elements, erected in 1893. The facade is divided into equal parts by tall Corinthian pilasters with archways between them. The composition is crowned by a pediment.

Building of the Ionian Bank (Iroön Square):

Built about 1846 on one of the few large squares in the centre of the town, formerly called Sternon Square. An important work by the architect I. Chronis. The building combined the rooms needed for the functioning of the bank on the ground floor with the residence of its director on the two upper storeys. Externally, it has a Classical monumental character with a clear inclination towards British Palladianism. The ground floor acts as a kind of 'base' with rusticated masonry and archways; this appears to support the upper part, which takes the form of a temple with Ionic columns crowned by a pediment.

ARCHITECTURE-DWELLINGS: *Venetian period***Ricci mansion at Moustoxydou Street no. 15 (Strada Larga – Broad Street – in the Venetian period):**

This is one of the most interesting mansions in the town dating from the Venetian period (probably 17th century). It was originally a two-storey building. The ground floor on the facade has a characteristic arcade, in which the keystones of the arches are adorned by sculpted male and female heads, recalling the decoration of the Loggia. The upper storey has a spacious balcony above this arcade. During the Venetian period, it was from this balcony that the town officials watched the jousting contests held in the streets during carnival. The building has storeys added later, and the interior is completely altered.

Cobici mansion (1680) at N. Theotoki Street nos. 43-49

(Calle d' Erbe) :



Built at the heart of the town, opposite the church of Ayios Vasilios. It has the typical portico at ground-floor level that is repeated along most of this street and is the main feature of the commercial areas of the town. According to an inscription dating from 1680 on the side door, it was built by Daniel Cobici and restored in 1728, after which there were further modifications. The interior form of the piano nobile is very luxurious, and the main facade is carefully designed, with horizontal zones at various levels, and with emphasis placed on the main axis of symmetry. The portico is marred by later buttressing.

Yiallinas mansion at Kapodistriou Street no. 26:

This is the same type of building as the Ricci mansion, with a portico and a balcony on the upper storey. There are a large number of building phases as early as the Venetian period. The main structure is the result of unifying two other buildings, to which the portico was then added in the 17th century. In the 19th century the structure was increased in both height and width to designs by the architect I. Chronis. It originally belonged to the Quartano family. In the 19th century it was occupied by the famous water-colourist Angelos Yiallinas.

Building of the Reading Society at Kapodistriou Street no. 120:

This building, which houses the Corfu Anagnostakis Society, one of the earliest cultural foundations in modern Greece (founded in 1836), stands almost directly opposite the High Commissioner's palace. The original construction of this building, which was a residential mansion, goes back to the Venetian period, but it has been subjected to a series of modifications and additions in the 19th century and later. It is one of the most characteristic buildings in the town, and has an exterior staircase with a covered landing emphasised by an elegant arcade.

Mansion in the first side street off Prosphorou Street, nos. 4-6:

Three-storey residence dating from the Venetian period. It has a characteristic exterior staircase ending in a broad landing that was once covered, as is clear from the surviving traces. The landing is supported on two barrel-vaults that give access to the ground floor, which formerly housed the ancillary areas of the building. Over the entrance is a coat-of-arms with three stars and three lilies.

Saoulis mansion at Prosphorou Street nos. 25-23:

Two-storey detached residence with a garret and an exterior staircase leading up to the first floor. A rare example of a house with a garden at the rear. The entrance to the staircase and the first floor is by way of an imposing arched entrance, the keystone of which is adorned with a mask. The garret serves as a kind of crowning feature and is flanked by two baroque [elikota pterygia].

Mansion at Guilford Street no. 10

Three-storey residence of the Venetian period with an upper storey added later. Its most characteristic feature is the portico at ground-floor level, the pillars and arches of which are built with rusticated blocks; the keystone has relief decoration.

Mansion at the 4th side street off Ypapandis Street no. 4:

One of the finest houses of the Venetian period. Two further storeys were later added to what was originally a two-storey structure. The doorway at the entrance is combined with the balcony on the first floor, after Renaissance models. The balcony has a finely carved parapet with Venetian-type balusters, which is the only surviving example in a residence in the town.

Mansion at Kottardou Street no. 41:

Three-storey residence with an elegant arcaded portico covering the first two storeys, now the only surviving example in the town. The ground floor of the building formerly housed shops and warehouses. Entrance to the residential areas was by way of an exterior side staircase.

ARCHITECTURE-DWELLINGS : 19th century**Kapodistrias Mansion at Kapodistriou Street no. 122α (1832):**

This building is near the High Commissioner's Palace on the coast road leading to the harbour. It was built about 1832 on the site of an earlier mansion owned by the family, in which the first prime minister of the modern Greek state, Ioannis Kapodistrias, was born. The building later came into the possession of the Septinsular

Republic and was used as the residence of the President of the Senate. After the unification of the Ionian islands with Greece it housed the prefecture offices for a time, and is now the home of the administration of the Ionian University. It is considered the finest work by the Corfiot architect Ioannis Chronis, because of its morphological and technical excellence. The composition of the facade has a monumental character of Classical inspiration, with the central section slightly advanced and the main storeys emphasised by very tall Corinthian pilasters of red local stone. The main rooms in the building have ceilings decorated with early modern paintings.

Kandonis Mansion at Kapodistriou Street no. 36 (1850):

This building, another notable work by the architect I. Chronis which stands on the Spianada, was the residence of one of the wealthiest merchants of Corfu in the 19th century. It was built about 1850 on a site created by the unification of six smaller plots. Its facade, though much later in date than that of the Kapodistrias mansion is of a Renaissance rather than Classical character, and has an imposing main doorway that is combined with the balcony on the first floor.

'Liston' between Kapodistriou and Eleftherias Streets (early 19th c.):

Residential building complex on the Spianada, which was begun under the French empire and forms the main testimony to the French presence on Corfu. The rhythmical repetition of features on the main facade, especially the elegant arcade, reflects the monumental concept of urban design of the Napoleonic period in straight,

identical layouts like that of the Rue des Rivioli. The ground floor was from the first given over to recreation rooms. The design and to some extent the supervision of the construction were by the Corfiot military engineer Ioannis Parmesan.

Mansion at the corner of Kapodistriou Street no. 24 and Apollodorou Street:

This is the residence of the Palatianos family. The building was remodelled about 1862 to a design by the architect Ph. Rivellis, and was given an additional storey. The symmetrical, harmonious facade is articulated by archways at ground-floor level and balconies on the upper storeys. The interior of the building is in an excellent state of preservation.

Mansion at Kapodistriou Street no. 8 (Cavalieri hotel 1859):

This was built on the site of two smaller houses. Originally owned by the Dimas family, it later came into the possession of the Flambouriaris family. Despite the damage it suffered in the bombardments of 1943, the facade is in an excellent state of preservation. The design is of a predominantly Neo-Renaissance character (balcony with balusters, archways on the ground floor, etc.), and the building has many features of dressed white stone. The interior has been completely altered and two further storeys have been added to the structure.

Residence at the corner of Kapodistriou Street no. 122 and Soph. Dousmani Street:

Three-storey building of simple form built next to the Kapodistrias mansion on a privileged site. It was restored in 1840, to a design by the architect I. Chronis, by Theodoros Kostas Kondis, scion of a wealthy family that owned the largest brick-factory on Corfu at Mandouki.

Palace at Kapodistriou Street no. 18, between Moustoxydi Street and Idromenon Street:



This building occupies a sizeable area created by the unification of five smaller plots. It was built about 1850 and originally belonged to the N. Maciedo family. The facade has the typical arcade at the ground floor and a number of balconies on the upper storeys.

Residence at Donzelot Street nos. 7-9:

This consists of two five-storey buildings with a unified facade and two separate entrances. The more recent was built about 1856 to a design by the architect Balsamo and belongs to the Paramythiotis family. The structure has the formal features associated with the mansions of the British period (symmetry, balconies on the upper storeys, etc.). It has an interesting volume produced by the trapezoidal shape of the plot, which lies at the junction of three streets. Edward Lear lived in this building for a time.



Building at Donzelot Street no. 15 (Constantinople Hotel 1860) :



Built about 1860 on one of the largest building plots in the town. It was owned by Ant. Kandonis, one of the wealthiest merchants of his day. The facade has a tripartite articulation with a projecting central section and archways on the ground floor.

ARCHITECTURE-DWELLINGS : 20th century**Building at Ay. Spyridonos Street no. 47:**

Interesting building with features of the decorative Art Nouveau style. (Entrance with a fine asymmetrical railing and elements that generally speaking do not fall within the styles commonly found.)

Building at the corner of Kapodistriou Street and Ay. Pandon Street no. 1:

Interesting example of a mansion with features of late Historicism (pilasters with a strong Mannerist character, etc.). It is a structure of extrovert style, of a type commonly found at this period in similar buildings in large urban centres.

Building at Kapodistriou Street no. 64:

One of the few structures in the town preserving the features of apartment blocks built in the period between the two World Wars (simple cubic shapes, solid balconies, flat roof).

Building at Arseniou Street no. 37 (Laskaris mansion):

Impressive, large, four-storey neoclassical building of the late 19th or early 20th century. The facade has a tripartite articulation. The surfaces are divided by elements of the Classical orders. The central part is emphasised by balconies supported on columns and a grand arched entrance on the ground floor.

OUTSTANDING FEATURES

Gateway of the New Fortress (1577)



The main entrance to the New Fortress is a highly monumental structure (columns with Tuscan-Doric elements) by Ferrante Vitelli, a great military architect who drew up the plans for the first fortifications of the town.

Well-head in Kremasti Square (1669):



Very elegant well-head with relief decoration. Presented to the Community by Antonios Kokkinis, it stands at the centre of one of the most beautiful squares in the old town, in front of the church of the Kremasti at Campiello.

Spilia Gate



The gate leading to the harbour. It survives incorporated into the Spilia Barracks, a building that has undergone much modification.

Maitland cloisters:



Small circular monument (rotunda) on the Spianada, in the type of a circular monopteral Ionic temple, built in honour of the first High Commissioner of Corfu, Sir Thomas Maitland. It was the work of the British military engineer G. Whitmore, executed in Maltese stone, with sculptural decoration by the Corfiot sculptor Prosalendis. Built above a cistern of Venetian date, it continued for a time to fulfil this utilitarian function.

Ayios Nikolaos Gate



The second gate leading to the sea. Once incorporated into the military hospital.

5.4. DESCRIPTION OF THE BUFFER ZONE

5.4.1. In the area surrounding the property to be inscribed there is today a scatter of remarkable archaeological sites, Byzantine and modern monuments and residential complexes which in addition to their particular importance are also undisputed witnesses to the changing populations that inhabited Corfu from prehistory to today and to the coexistence of cultures.

i. Archaeological sites

5.4.2. These sites are relatively scattered throughout the area of the ancient city particularly at the inlet of the peninsula of Canoni, but also along the entire peninsula which is today a suburb of the modern town. This area is a characteristic example of a modern town atop an ancient one. When the residents of Corfu built the future of their town in this area they were also exposing their past, ancient Corfu. Rescue excavations revealed that an entire city was at rest under the ground with sacred groves, ruins of temples, houses, workshops, baths, public markets, shipyards, works of art, daily objects and devotional items. All these are the remains of the life of those people who passed through the town and were later buried with them under the layers of soil accumulating over time. The picture revealed by the

excavations is one of a well designed city with powerful walls and defensive towers; a city with an impressive urban fabric dating from the 8th century BC until the 4th century AD, built using the Hippodamian system along the length of two major roads that correspond approximately to modern roads crossing the Canoni peninsula heading north to south. These roads are intersected by smaller ones heading east/west and forming building blocks.

5.4.3. The city, a powerful maritime and commercial power, had two main ports, Yllaico and Alcinous, and perhaps a third one near the port of Alcinous. The latter possessed paved central agora, stoas where people could rest or conduct commercial transactions, as well as important public buildings, pottery and ironware workshops, and shipyards with huts for protecting and building vessels. At the boundaries were many large sacred groves or shrines with elaborate temples or altars for outdoor worship and auxiliary devotional buildings. There were temples too in the agora and at other central points throughout the city. Outside the walls to the northwest spread the archaic, classical and Hellenistic necropolis while the Roman one is probably located in the Anemomylos area, in other words, in the areas of the Alcinous port that filled in with alluvium during the Roman period. In the Roman period the area of the agora together with Anemomylos and part of Canoni were transformed into a massive Roman quarter with luxury baths. As can be seen from the findings of the excavations, the area of Paleopolis, or the ancient city of Corfu or Corcyra as it was known, began to be abandoned from the 1st century AD (although never entirely), due to population transference to the more modern Byzantine city, Coryfo, located within the Old Fortress. Paleopolis was gradually transformed into Hersoupolis.

5.4.4. The most important recognized archaeological sites are listed below:

- **Mon Repos Estate** where the following have been excavated :
 - The Heraion (Temple of Hera) and surrounding area and in particular the temple dating from 400 BC that was destroyed in the 1st century AD. The foundations of this temple were built on top of part of the foundations of an archaic temple (600 BC) whose exact layout and dimensions have not been confirmed. Only the bed of the foundations and the SW corner have survived, spread out over five graduated surfaces.
 - Parts of auxiliary buildings.
 - Parts of ancient retaining walls: the main walls date from the mid 5th century BC.
 - Parts of the precinct of an early sanctuary from the late archaic period (6th century BC) as well as a later one (4th century BC).
 - A small outdoor archaic sanctuary ascribed to Apollo Corcyreo (end of 6th – beginning of 5th century BC). Three sides of the small precinct with a square altar in the middle have survived.
 - Part of a Doric temple dated 510 BC known as the temple of Kardaki. It is the best preserved Corfiot monument, a characteristic example of early Corinthian architecture and that of Magna Grecia. For this reason it is intended to stabilize and restore it in full.
 - Ancient protective wall for the Kardaki spring below the aforementioned temple.
- **Ancient agora** : Part of the paving has survived, part of a stoa and the bouleuterion from the Hellenistic and Roman periods. There is also an early Christian Basilica of Jovian in the same area built using material from ancient structures.
- **Baths** : Parts of the Roman baths have been excavated with mosaic floors and hypocausts (3rd – 4th century AD).

- **Temple of Artemis** : The foundations of the temple have survived (590-580 BC) with part of the retaining wall of the shrine and the ancient altar. The famed archaic gorgon pediment on display in the Archaeological Museum of Corfu comes from this temple and is the oldest stone pediment identified to date in Greece.
- **Neratzicha Tower** : Dating from the classical period (5th century BC) this is part of the ancient fortification walls of the city, another part of which was recently identified and excavated in the area of the Yllaico Port (near and parallel to the airport runway).
- **Port facilities** : Parts of the port at Alcinoos have been excavated as well as buildings (7th – 1st century BC) and parts of the paving of the nearby agora.

5.4.5. A programme to unify these archaeological sites is currently underway and includes a series of individual projects with the aim of creating walking routes in this impressive area of Paleopolis through the remarkable, verdant environment and the monuments dating from the 8th century BC to the early Christian period and more recent times.

ii. Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Monuments

5.4.6. The area where the town of Corfu was located and flourished in antiquity, the Roman and the early Byzantine periods and that is known today as Paleopolis was in effect never fully abandoned despite the gradual transfer of the town from Paleopolis to the nearby area known as the Old Fortress from the 7th century AD, the place where the Byzantine town of Coryfo flourished. Scattered monuments

are still visible today throughout the entire area and come from both the ancient and Byzantine periods. It is equally characteristic and quite normal for the area that there were many later monuments, Byzantine for example, erected with the use of building materials from earlier archaic or Roman structures, thus clearly expressing the historical continuity and allowing the different cultures which flourished here to be read. Among them the early Christian basilica of Jovian is the largest and most important monument of the early Byzantine period while from the same period (5th – 6th century AD) there is also the catholicon, or main church, of the nearby Monastery of Agii Theodori, a three-aisled basilica that is still in use today. The almost adjacent church of Agii Iason and Sosipatros, dated to around 1000 AD, also belongs to the Byzantine period while the ruins of the church of the Virgin Hodegetria, built on a section of the ancient wall (Neratzichas), date to the 11th or 12th century, as well as the small domed church of Pantokrator on Pontikonissi.

- ♦ **The Church of Agii Iason and Sosipatros (c. 1000 AD)** . This is the most important monument from the middle Byzantine period (monastery catholicon in the late Byzantine period). One of the oldest examples of a two-columned inscribed cruciform church (rectangular church with a dome) and one of the best-preserved churches of this type in Greece. The normal style of church during the 11th – 14th centuries, it has certain special features specific to this church. The three conches which protrude on the east do not have the same shape. The triple arch (*tribilus*) by means of which the narthex communicates with the central space is a survival from the early Christian era. The octagonal dome reconstructed in the 17th century has small built-in columns where it comes into contact with the body of the building. At the lower levels the church is built of large tufa blocks from the ruins of

the ancient city and higher up of stone and brick (square stones surrounded by rows of bricks). Serrated strips are interspersed between the horizontal joints while on vertical joints there are carved bricks with Kufic letters constituting part of the rich ceramic decoration. The built Baroque iconostasis dating from the 18th century is made up of curved surfaces with elliptical elements and upright marble slabs and it displays noteworthy Byzantine icons. The two large portable icons of the honoured saints are by E. Tzannes. The preserved fragments of wall paintings belong to the 11th – 14th centuries. Outside, the annex on the NW corner belongs to the post Byzantine period and is used as a residence for the priest.

- ♦ **Agii Theodori Monastery (between 5th – 6th century)** : An early Christian monument directly adjoining the ruins of the temple of Artemis Gorgous. A three-aisled basilica was limited during Byzantine times to the central aisle, which is today the catholicon of a convent. A characteristic feature of the early Christian phase is the semicircular apse with a graduated roof and a trilobate arched window with heavy proportions. The church was converted into a monastery probably during the 16th century with an open square court (which was normal for the catholicon complex). The courtyard is surrounded by arched colonnades with Renaissance morphology along two floors on three of its sides while the fourth consists of the catholicon and the bell tower. A particular feature of the entire morphology are the two fortified towers within the complex. That the church once had three aisles can be seen today by the existence of sealed arched colonnades.
- ♦ **The Basilica of Jovian and its grounds (5th century)** : This is the most important early Christian monument. A five- or three-aisled basilica built on the ruins of the Roman agora with a protruding transept, a semicircular apse, two narthexes and an annex. It was limited during the Byzantine period to the central aisle. Interventions

were carried out during the 16th and 17th centuries. The great age of the monument visible from the successive interventions made to it and its claim to be the great church of Paleopolis indicate its significance.

- ◆ **The Church of Panagia Neratzichas (11th – 12th century)** : Located a short distance from the Agii Theodori Monastery, this is a tower from the ancient walls transformed into a church. Only the northern wall survives. The Byzantine addition to the ancient wall is built using slipshod stonework encased in bricks with three characteristic arched vaults.
- ◆ **The Church of Agios Athanasios:** Also an important monument whose development over time can be easily read, in the lower zone one can clearly make out the bulky building materials that belong to a port tower from the port of Alcinous – mythical king of the Phaeacians – from ancient Corfu. This was the foundation for building a small church dedicated to St. Athanasios dating from before the 15th century. At least two building phases can be identified in the church. During the second (18th century) the church's height was increased, a bell tower was added and a two floor annex to the north, the entrance was rebuilt next to the spring and it took on its present day form. The wall paintings inside the church can be dated to the 17th century while the marble relief that is built into the wall above the western entrance comes from the neighbouring church of Agii Iason and Sosipatros and dated from the mid Byzantine period (11th – 12th century).

iii. Historic suburbs

5.4.7. These are Manduki, Sarocco, Garitsa, Anemomylos and Fortia (Neapolis). They are residential areas outside the walls of the 18th century town in the area surrounding the walls to the west and

heading from north to south. Furthest north is Manduki, in the middle Sarocco and Fortia and to the south Garitsa and Anemomylos. With the exception of Fortia which is a special case (since it is the sole planned expansion of the town) the remaining four areas acquired their present day layout spontaneously from the mid 18th century onwards, despite reports and depictions of their prior existence. Attempting an abstract overview of the site, we may assume that the southeastern suburbs already existed with the town itself, since they were located on the shortest route between the site of the ancient city and the initial fortified residential area of the old fortress. Indications for such an assumption are the existence of a Byzantine monastery dating from the 10th century and, later on, other churches in Anemomylos and Garitsa. Until the beginning of the 19th century these suburbs were independent of the town due to the closed form imposed on them by the Venetians. An exception was Sarocco, the present day town centre, on the main road into the town, which developed in line with the town. The town planning morphology in all four suburbs follows the linear pattern on which the town was laid out.

5.4.8. During the period of British rule new development trends emerged while the island followed the industrial revolution in terms of demography, technology and economics. The role of the town changed. It ceased to be a powerful fort. Thanks to successive demolitions, large sections of the walls, mainly of the supplementary fortifications, were removed. The role of the port defined the development of the town from thereon. With the demolition of **Porta Raimonda** in 1837 by the English and the opening up of the Garitsa coastal road, and later demolitions of parts of the walls following unification with Greece, the town—now unimpeded by its old boundaries—was finally united with its surrounding suburbs during

the 20th century. The historic suburbs and their development over time are witness, inter alia, to the continuity of the town between the 19th and 20th centuries since all residential or functional needs that could not be served within the limited space of the walled town developed there.

Garitsa & Anemomylos

5.4.9. Today these are consecutive quarters which are laid out linearly around the round network from the centre of the town towards Paleopolis. They stand out for the fact that they coexist with the remarkably exceptional archaeological finds at Paleopolis since they were built atop the ancient city. It is certain that Kyprou St., one of the three main streets of Garitsa, follows the ancient path that would once have led to and passed through the archaic and classical graveyard of the ancient city. During the period of British rule following the demolition of the southern gate in the **walls (Porta Raimonda** in 1837) a coastal road was created giving the town an additional port to meet the needs of the first industrial plants that had established themselves in the area during the 19th century and beginning of the 20th century. Low income bracket population groups from classical times onwards had mainly been involved here in manufacturing ceramic items as well as ship building and repair. The image of Garitsa and Anemomylos today is one characterized by popular architectural style buildings along a contiguous front with low single storey, two or three floor storey, tiled houses with small or large gardens behind them. There are few town houses (multi-storey blocks from the period of English rule) and quite a few interesting examples of large urban detached houses dating from the time when the affluent and the new middle class moved here following industrial development.

Indicative of the built wealth of these suburbs is that, in addition to the recognized archaeological sites and the Byzantine and post Byzantine monuments in the area, there are 110 more modern buildings (dating from 1830 onwards) characterized as listed buildings and works of art.

Manduki

5.4.10. This is a separate suburb on the NW coast of the old town which pre-dates the wall of the town of Corfu (1588) and which was part of the outer town (Exopolio). Families of Cretan refugees following the fall of Candia (Heraklion) to the Turks in 1669 and later refugees from the Peloponnese and Parga settled in Manduki under Venetian rule. The residents were engaged in maritime activities, fisheries, building and repairing boats and caiques. They were also engaged in transporting merchandise and passengers. Up until 1960 the area was the main industrial and handicrafts centre on Corfu (producing oil, soap, leather, ice, salted preserves and pottery) with a large number of factories of which a small number have been preserved. The architecture of this linear settlement too is characterized by an alternation between contiguous fronts of single storey, two and three storey popular style houses with others more urban in character which retain the morphological features of houses in the town. Manduki today has more than 100 buildings characterized as listed and works of art in addition to important churches and the Platytera Monastery where the Corfiot politician and first President of free Modern Greece, Ioannis Capodistrias is entombed.

Sarocco

5.4.11. Today it is difficult to see Sarocco as a distinct suburb of the town, rather than its commercial centre, since all roads to and from the hinterland of the island converge here. The area of Sarocco was traditionally a meeting place for the residents of the countryside before entering the walls of the historic city via the **Porta Reale**. Following the demolition of parts of the walls it was united with the old town and all central commercial operations of the expanded town that could no longer develop within the old town gathered in Sarocco. Characteristic of the image of the area are the arched colonnades on the ground floor of the consecutive buildings along Polychroniou Konstanta and Donatou Dimoulitsa Streets among which there are a large number of listed buildings.

Fortia (Neapolis)

5.4.12. This is a separate residential area lying directly next to the old town with a characteristic town planning layout and morphological elements. Intense residential pressures during the last years of British rule over Corfu led to the preparation of a town expansion plan inspired by the classic perception of 19th century town planning (wide avenues, rectangular building blocks, wide pavements, rows of trees, etc). Implementation of the plan began in 1873 following the withdrawal of the English and was linked with the name of the Corfiot architect Ioannis Chronis (1800-1879). The buildings with their tiled roofs do not exceed four storeys with a *habitante* on the roof. The morphology of the façades is of exceptional interest following basic neoclassical elements: taenia, cornices, stone surrounds, symmetrical doors and windows. Characteristic elements are the stone balconies with elaborate railings or stone balustrades, arched windows on the ground floor with railings,

German style shutters and a large range of chimneystacks which given the grey coloured roofs a certain charm.

iv. Isolated buildings

5.4.13. In addition to the above, the historicity of the area surrounding the old town is enriched by important scattered, isolated buildings which each in their own way pay testament to the importance of this place over time:

• The Prison Building

Built during the British presence on the island (first half of the 19th century) and reflecting the *Panopticon* model designed by the English politician Jeremy Bentham with the aim of reforming the prison system. Bentham's central idea was to oversee the inmates with the guard having direct visual contact with all cells. The particular layout of prison buildings of this type (pericentric buildings) for the development of European prison and confinement systems has been analyzed in detail by philosophers such as Michel Foucault. Corfu Prison, still in use, with many additions to the original building, was erected shortly after the age of radical utilitarianism propounded by Bentham, not based precisely on his design but clearly influenced by it.

• Platytera Monastery (1714)

A significant monastic complex associated with many famous families (Capodistrias). The main courtyard of the monastery is marked on one side by the catholicon, or main church, and on the other three by monks' cells laid out on the ground and first floor. On the ground floor there is also a three-sided arcade with a central spring.

- **Anastaseos Kimitiriou Church (1840)**

Based on the designs of the Corfiot architect, Ioannis Chronis, the façade of the church has a clear classical character with a central portico in the Tuscan style with a triangular pediment while inside there is a classical style iconostasis (in the form of a four-columned Ionic temple) decorated with icons from other churches in the town. Among these are important works from the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries.

- **The Psychiatric clinic**

- **The Old People's Home building**

v . Green areas

5.4.14. Between the area surrounding the Property and the remaining modern town, there are three important green areas (the Girokomio Hill, Philakon Hill, Agion Theodoron Hill), which constitute a kind of physical barrier to the hinterland.

The aforementioned elements with regard to the area surrounding the Property are shown on map 6 of the Annex.

5.5.EXISTING PLANS RELATED TO THE PROPERTY

Plans already approved which influence to a greater or lesser degree the development of the Property and its existing uses are as follows:

(the title of the plan, the authority responsible and the permit number are noted)

1. **General Urban Planning Scheme ♦ Ministry of the Environment, Spatial Planning and Public Works ♦ Ministerial Decision 78140 / 3271 / 12-11-86 / Government Gazette 55D / 05-02-87**

This regulates land use, determines the size of building plots and the building coefficient, and defines the mechanisms by which the plan will be applied.

2. **Town Plan ♦ Ministry of Reconstruction ♦ Royal Decree 04-06-58 / Government Gazette 88 A / 10-06-58**

Determines which areas may be developed. Under revision.

3. **♦ Royal Decree 09-04-64 / Government Gazette 37 D / 14-04-64**

Fixes the requirements for building sites and determines the height to which buildings may legally be constructed. (Annex, Exhibit 41)

4. **♦ Ministry of the Environment, Spatial Planning and Public Works ♦ Presidential Decree 07-09-81 / Government Gazette 552 D / 02-10-81**

Determines building coefficients throughout the urban area. (Annex, Exhibit 42)

5. **Programme for local development, Municipality of Corfu ♦ ANEDK / 8 / 13-08-98**

Keeps detailed records (demography, production, urban planning, etc), elaborates development goals, and programmes and prioritizes the necessary development works.

6. **Action Plan for the Old Town ♦ Municipality of Corfu**

Refines the development goals in the Historic Centre, determines the features of its protective designation, the development to follow, and suggests a series of means, methods and projects to meet these goals.

7. **Action Plan for the Fortifications**

Records the problems, defined the promotion and reuse of the facilities that need to be adjusted, prioritizes goals and selects a series of projects to be realized.

8. **Programme for Multi-Cultural Tourism ♦ ANEDK**

Keeps a detailed record of the cultural and functional dimensions of the Old Town, establishes a network of guided tours to allow a fuller appreciation of the wealth of the Old Town, and puts into effect a series of measures and actions necessary for its implementation.

2006 - 2012

Old Town of Corfu Management Plan Summary



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The Municipality of Corfu and the Corfu Branch of the Technical Chamber of Greece, working in collaboration, have prepared a Management Plan designed to deal effectively with the problems confronting the old town of Corfu and to improve its development prospects.

What follows is a summary of the Management Plan.

The Management Plan is for submission together with the application to UNESCO for the inscription of the 'Old Town of Corfu' on the World Heritage List.

The Property



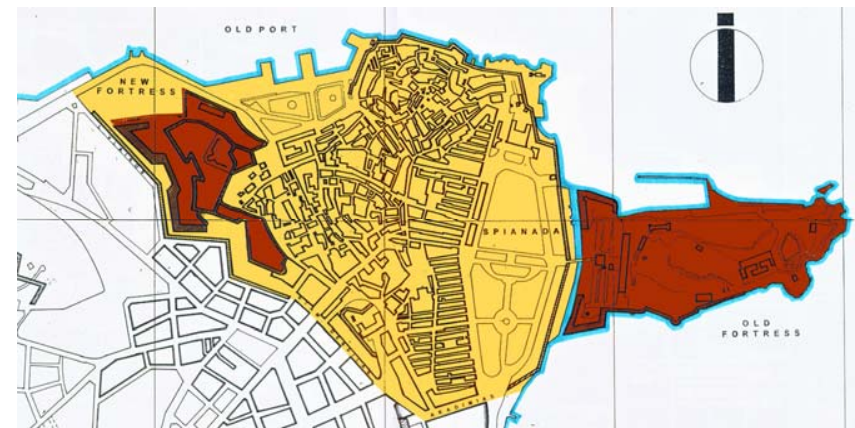
The 'Old Town of Corfu', which is proposed for inscription on the World Heritage List, is today a unique cultural entity, of great aesthetic value, which :

- ♦ *has developed continuously through the ages, absorbing elements from the two worlds of the Mediterranean: the East and the West,*
- ♦ *possesses significant distinctive features in the structure and form of the town and in its social cultural life, and*
- ♦ *has remained alive and largely unaltered to the present day.*

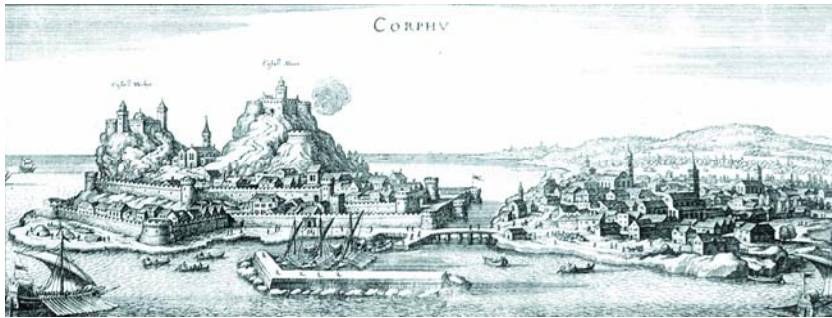
The 'Old Town of Corfu' and its immediate and broader surroundings contain a body of data attesting to human activities from the late Palaeolithic to our own times.

Throughout its long history Corfu has served a dual function, as port and as fortress. Its pivotal geographical position gave it strategic importance from a very early date, since whoever exercised power there would always be able to control the channel on which the town stands. Because of its geographical importance, its successive rulers all took very good care of it. They fortified it as effectively as possible, they laid out the town to ensure that it functioned efficiently and they beautified it to make it more welcoming.

In both parts of the proposed World Heritage Site, namely the fortifications and the urban ensemble, there is still ample evidence of the care and attention bestowed upon it.



The fortifications, in which the Old Fort and the New Fort take pride of place, are large-scale engineering works constructed mainly to strengthen Corfu in its extremely important capacity as a guardian of Venice's interests, but also to draw attention to the prestige and greatness of the Serenissima, as the Venetian Republic was called.



They are major monuments of military architecture, designed and built by some of the most illustrious architects and military engineers in the Venetian service, and indeed they constitute one of the most excellent defensive systems in the Eastern Mediterranean: their effectiveness was proved many times when the local garrison successfully repelled attacks by the Turks.

The fortifications of Corfu, dating from the fifteenth to the nineteenth century, are today of considerable value for historians of military architecture inasmuch as they exemplify all the advances made in defence technology during the four hundred years of Venetian rule.

The urban ensemble, whose expansion was limited both by the terrain and by the sea, is precisely bounded by the perimeter walls. Its planning displays all the characteristics of the walled towns of Western Europe, and it is now a living and distinctive example of a town planned according to the considerations of defence:

- *There is a large esplanade (a level space left open for defensive reasons), known as the Spianada, between the Old Fortress and the houses of the town;*
- *The streets leading off the Spianada are aligned with the centre of the Old Fortress;*
- *The main streets lead directly to the gates of the town walls;*
- *The town is structured around discrete neighbourhood units, in which the building density gradually increased through planned or spontaneous new construction along the main lines of communication and according to the lie of the land;*
- *Each neighbourhood is intersected by a maze of narrow lanes and alleys.*



The urban structure, combined with the density of multi-storey buildings and the types of architectural form in use – which have assimilated characteristic features of diachronic cultural development, in complete harmony and with unbroken continuity – add up to a unique whole that possesses universal values and is of great importance to the history of architecture, town planning and the fine arts. More especially since the disastrous earthquakes of 1953, which almost completely destroyed the other two large towns in the Ionian Islands (on Zakynthos and Kefallinia), Corfu has been of incomparable value to the history of architecture.

The street plan of the walled town and the architectural forms of its buildings are ideally suited to its military role as a garrison town, and they also make good use of the lie of the land in the naturally fortified site, the native building materials found locally, the techniques in use in the more highly-developed cultures of Western Europe which have left their imprint on the town, and the local regulations and traditional customs relating to property ownership. This has resulted in an authentic expression of the synthesis of the two cultures, avoiding the risk of sterile imitation of the aesthetic trends strongly prevalent in the West.

Corfu town has remained a living organism through the ages.

The picture it presents nowadays could be described as a historical chart illustrating the various phases of its development and the creative coexistence of the cultures that have occupied it at various times.



The old town of Corfu, with its 7,000 inhabitants, is now the 'historic centre' of an urban district extending to the south and west of the old town, with a total population of 25,000, which is the administrative, social and economic centre of the surrounding area and occupies an important place in the life of all the Ionian Islands as well as western Epiros on the mainland. At the same time it is an international tourist destination attracting about 1,100,000 visitors a year, mostly in summer.

Situated as it is exactly opposite the starting point of the Via Egnatia and Via Ionia highways, and with direct connections by ferry to Italy and by air to most of the major capitals of Europe, it is today what it has always been in the past: a town at the crossroads between East and West, North and South. In the conditions of the modern world it is trying to decide on the best direction for its future balanced development.



Inscription on the World Heritage List



The old town of Corfu is the only historic town of its size in Greece that has remained more or less unchanged to the present day, as an authentic testament to the historical circumstances that brought it into being.

The cultural values of the proposed World Heritage Site of Corfu are recognized by the Greek authorities and protected under the terms of Ministerial Decision B1/ 33/29925/828/27.6.80 of the Ministry of Culture (*Government Gazette* 512/II/4.6.80), whereby the old town of Corfu was declared a 'historic monument scheduled for preservation' and mandatory regulations for its protection were laid down.

Inscription on the World Heritage List will confer international recognition on these values and focus worldwide interest on Corfu, since the preservation of the town to ensure that its cultural heritage is passed on intact to future generations will be monitored constantly.

From the local viewpoint, inscription on the World Heritage List will function simultaneously as an incentive and a brake: as an incentive for greater care and effort to be expended on protection and conservation, and as a brake on certain types of modernization which might prove hazardous and incompatible with the town's status as a historic site with acknowledged universal values.



Need for the Management Plan



In recent years it has been more and more widely recognized internationally that a concerted plan is required for the management of a complex organism such as a living historic town.

A balance needs to be struck between the two roles of a historic town, first as an 'open museum' containing numerous cultural heirlooms that it has to preserve and promote, and secondly as a living organism with needs for development and modernization which it has to satisfy in order to be economically viable. This can only be achieved by means of a system of strategic partnership between all the stakeholders, be they corporate institutions or private individuals.

In the case of Corfu, there are several factors pointing to a concerted management plan as the only way forward for the town's future development. Among them are the multiple ownership of many of the privately-owned historic buildings, the heavy concentration of shops and prefectural offices in a small area and the mounting pressure of tourism in the last few decades.

Co-operation between the central government, local government, local organizations and individuals who live and work in the town is a necessary condition – and indeed the only guarantee – of efficient management.



Preparation of the Management Plan

The Management Plan has been drawn up on the initiative of the Municipality of Corfu and the Corfu Branch of the Technical Chamber of Greece (T.C.G.), the two bodies that originally (in 1999) conceived the idea of proposing the old town of Corfu for inscription on the World Heritage List.

The preliminary preparation of the Plan was entrusted to two architects, who drew up the first draft on the basis of the data concerning the Site and their own experience as co-ordinators of programme contracts (contracts between central and local government relating to the historic town centre and the fortifications).

That first draft of the Management Plan was submitted to select committees of the two bodies responsible for its preparation (the Corfu Branch of the T.C.G. and the Municipality of Corfu) and was then revised and expanded. Once it had been accepted by the two bodies in question, it was presented to the local community (by electronic and printed mass media, professional associations and residents' associations) and sent to other parties involved and to the Ministry of Culture (Directorate of Byzantine and Postbyzantine Antiquities), the Regional Authority of the Ionian Islands and the Prefecture of Corfu for their assent. Finally, after widespread consultation and discussion, it was approved by the Municipal Council.



Main Aims of the Management Plan

The main aims of the Management Plan are defined as follows:

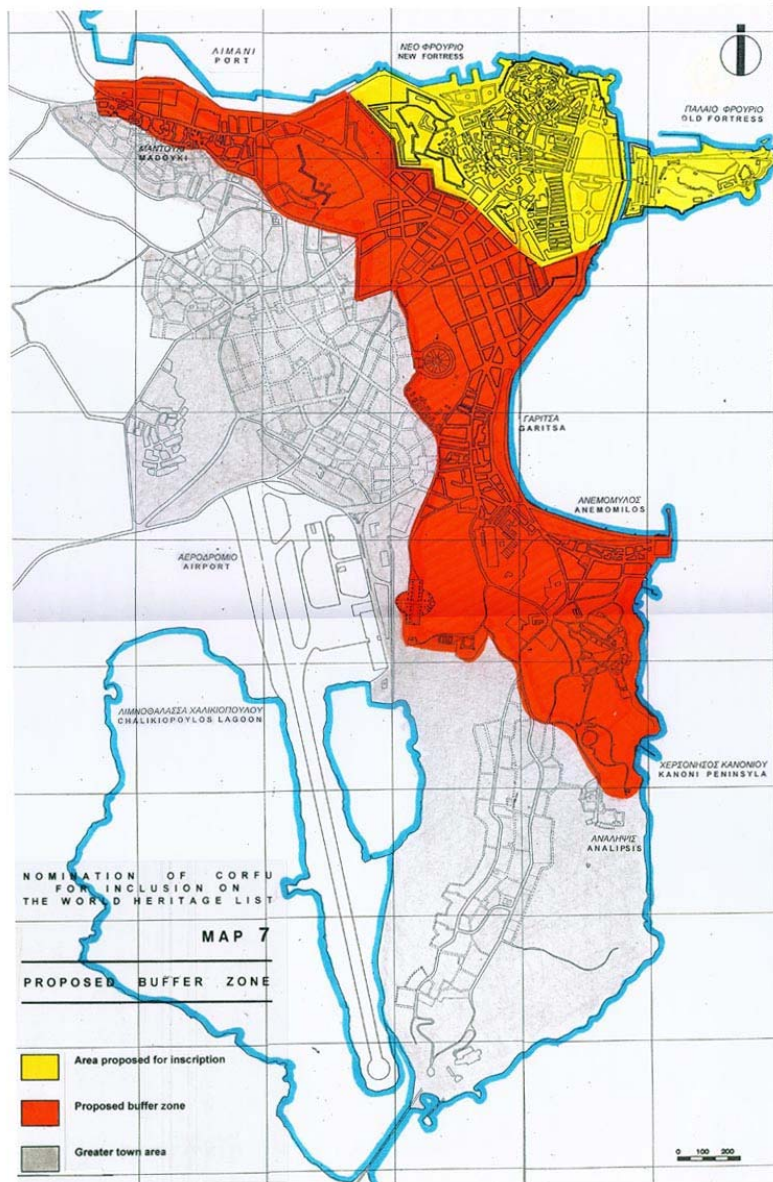
- *To promote sustainable management of the proposed World Heritage Site;*
- *To ensure that the unique values of the Site are understood and are sustained in the future;*
- *To maintain and promote Corfu as a living and working city which will benefit from its status as a World Heritage Site;*
- *To improve the town's functional efficiency, and thus to create the conditions for all people to enjoy and understand the Site;*
- *To develop public interest and involvement in the heritage of Corfu, thus promoting local, national and international awareness of the Site's management.*

The main aims of the Plan are broken down into 32 specific objectives arising from the need to address the 32 identified issues.

At the same time, the 32 specific objectives form the framework that will form the basis for the programme of action.



Boundaries of the Property and the Buffer Zone



Property Proposed for Inscription **area 70 ha**

East and North of Lohagou Vlaikou St., Stamatiou Desila St. and Akadimias St.

Buffer Zone of the Property **area 162 ha**

East and North of Polihroniou Konstanta St., Kolokotroni St., Anapafseos St., Dairpefid St., and Analipseos St.

Greater Town Area **area 507 ha**

C o n t e n t s o f t h e M a n a g e m e n t P l a n

The Management Plan is a systematic guide to the protection of all the cultural values possessed by the old town of Corfu. Its subject matter covers:

Protection and enhancement of the existing architectural assets, the fortifications, the distinctive structure of the town and the natural environment;

Improvement of the conditions for awareness of the town's historic character and for treating it as a source of knowledge;

Sustaining the cultural, social and economic prosperity of the local community.

The Management Plan identifies 32 issues affecting the proposed Heritage Site and lists the existing conditions relating to each issue as 'premises'. The 140 'premises' listed in the Management Plan enumerate all the present vulnerabilities of and threats to the Site and the problems caused by the current system of management, and suggest possible ways of dealing with them.

The information base from which the lists of issues and premises were extracted is wide and varied in format. It includes development policies, planning documents and regulations, surveys, research and, above all, practical experience of the day-to-day running of the town and a full understanding of the cultural values involved.

For each of the 32 issues a corresponding objective is proposed. These 32 objectives are addressed through 88 actions intended to fulfil the aims of the Plan. The time-scale envisaged for completion of those actions not listed as 'ongoing' is defined as either short-term (up to two years), medium-term (up to six years) or long-term (up to ten years, or sometimes more).

Many and various agencies are involved in the implementation of the actions: central government departments, local authorities at the primary and secondary level, public organizations and agencies.

The management plan is primarily intended to ensure that the organizations and individuals involved act together with the same end in view, namely the co-ordinated management of the Site.



The Management Plan is divided into five (5) sections:

Section 1: INTRODUCTION

The proposed World Heritage Site, the need for the Management Plan and the process of preparing it, the aims, contents and geographical scope of the Plan.

Section 2: DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROPOSED SITE

Summary description and history of the Site, inventory of its cultural values and significance, documentation required for its inscription on the World Heritage List, ownership and management.

Section 3: MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND OBJECTIVES

Identifying the issues affecting the Site, listing the 'premises' relating to each issue and the objectives designed to deal with the problems, vulnerabilities and threats.

Section 4: ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Drawing up a programme of action to achieve the objectives of the Plan, defining the time-scale of its implementation and specifying the partners involved in each action.

Section 5: APPENDICES

Bibliography, detailed historical data, indicative particulars of the buildings, description of the buffer zone, plans already approved for the Site.



The issues listed in the Management Plan, which the Plan is intended to address in the best possible way, have been defined under the following five (5) headings:

1. Implementation and Impact of the Plan

This covers the issues connected with the implementation of the Plan, whether relating to preparatory procedures or to the impact of its implementation.

Administration, Funding, Risk Management, Information Management, Monitoring, Boundary, Local Community, Statutory Protection, Assessing Change, Development Control, Contemporary Development

2. Protection and Conservation of the Site

The issues under this heading are high priorities in the Management Plan: they are the issues concerned with ensuring that the Site survives in the best possible condition and that the reasons for its inscription on the World Heritage List are maintained.

Ownership, Funding, Historic Environment, Buildings, Open Spaces, Natural Environment, Forts and Fortifications, Public Realm

3. Documentation, Education & Research

These issues, which are concerned with ensuring that the Site's values are understood by as many people as possible, are of great importance to the successful comprehensive management of the Site.

Documentation, education, research

4. Physical Access and Transport

Under this heading are the issues concerned with physical access to the Site and movement within it: these parameters are deemed to be the greatest functional problems facing the town today.

Traffic, Parking, Entry Points, Coaches, Public Transport, Pedestrians and Cycling, Access for All, Travel Planning and Awareness

5. Visitor Management

Issues relating to visitor management, that is issues concerned with maintaining and ensuring the flow of tourists, always keeping a balance between the need to protect the Site and the needs of residents and local businesses.

Visitor Facilities, Visitor Dispersal, Marketing, Local Community

IMPLEMENTATION AND IMPACT OF THE PLAN

- 1** To ensure that the appropriate administrative arrangements are in place for the efficient management of the Site. These arrangements will be based on partnership between central government, local government and stakeholders and will encourage active involvement by the local community.
- 2** To systematically seek out opportunities of raising funds for all areas of activity relating to the values of the Site by encouraging the view that cultural heritage projects in general, and especially projects connected with the Site, should have priority in the selection of items to be funded.
- 3** To update and co-ordinate existing plans designed to overcome potential risks to the survival of the Site.
- 4** To make full use of modern information and communication technology to ensure the gathering, storage and analysis of comprehensive data concerning the Site, accessible to all who may be interested.
- 5** To establish a comprehensive and accurate picture of the current condition of the Site and investigate methods for the systematic monitoring and documenting of future developments, to ensure that the periodic reports to the monitoring agencies are explicit and complete.
- 6** To implement an ongoing programme of monitoring and assessing the impact of the Management Plan on the area surrounding the Site, with the aim of taking timely action and perhaps revising the boundary of the buffer zone.

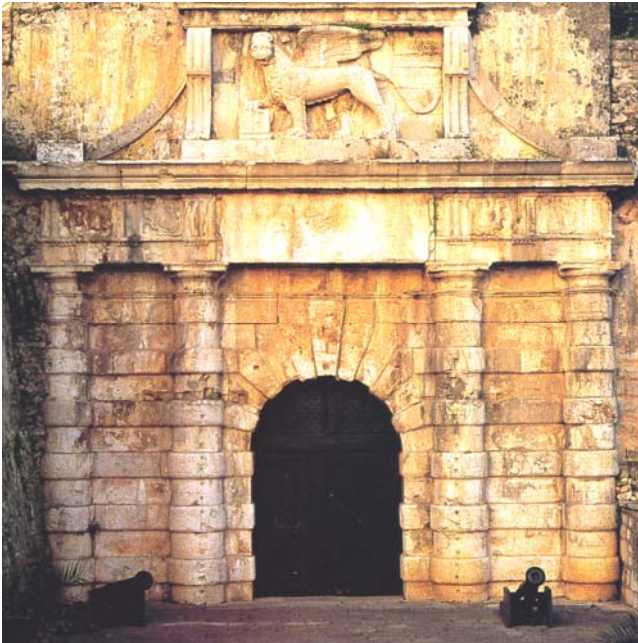


- 7** To inform the local community of the cultural and economic benefits of upgrading and publicizing the Site, and to obtain the local community's consent for measures designed to promote its rehabilitation and enhancement and its maintenance in good condition.
- 8** To revise and make more specialized the existing framework of statutory designations so that it makes the most appropriate provision for the multidimensional needs of the Site: not only the need to maintain its special character but also the requirements of a living, contemporary town.
- 9** To ascertain, before it is too late, how much change and what kind of change the Site can sustain before its unique values are threatened.
- 10** To establish a rigorous, explicit, detailed monitoring system to check on the impact of all development projects in progress within the Site and buffer zone. This monitoring system needs to ensure the protection of the cultural heritage while at the same time leaving the way open for high-quality development proposals.

- 11** To broaden the requirements of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), so as to ensure that they serve as an effective tool for assessing the impact of large-scale development projects and programmes.



PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION



- 12** To offer incentives to the co-owners of historic buildings to encourage them to adopt the system of horizontal ownership, so that all buildings are governed by standing regulations; and to launch a publicity campaign to raise awareness of the overall benefits of restoring buildings and keeping them in good condition.
- 13** To take advantage of all funding opportunities for the restoration of historic buildings and to create a framework for the offer of grants to property owners who apply high-quality specifications in their restoration projects.
- 14** To make a methodical assessment of the condition of all constituent elements of the proposed Heritage Site (forts and perimeter fortifications, roads, buildings, urban infrastructure, the public image of the town, traditional customs, etc.) and periodically to update the relevant records so that the maintenance, restoration and enhancement projects can be prioritized objectively and accurately.
- 15** To establish agreed standards for techniques and materials to be used in the restoration of historic buildings and keep property owners informed about those approved for use, and to establish a procedure for limiting exterior alterations to buildings resulting from the use of modern materials.

16 To evaluate the natural environment on the edges of the Site and in the buffer zone, and to initiate and manage interventions to restore and enhance the town's unique historic characteristics, giving priority to:

- the Spianada, which needs to be restored for pedestrian use and activities traditionally performed there,
- unification and improvement of all features of the seashore, and
- beautification of Avrami Hill, Sotiros Hill and the parks of Garitsa and Mon Repos.

17 To complete the projects for the restoration and improvement of all the defensive works (forts and perimeter fortifications) and to proceed with further excavations in order to shed light on an important period in the town's history.

18 To enhance the visual condition of the town's public spaces and their accessibility to persons with differing mobility requirements (pedestrians, cyclists, people with disabilities), and to improve the presentation of historic features by means of clear signage, on-street information panels, lighting and street furniture.



DOCUMENTATION, EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

- 19** To collect the existing documentation of different elements of the Site and develop a database accessible to all, making use of all the capabilities of digital technology.
- 20** Systematically to project the cultural assets of the old town of Corfu at all levels of education, so as to make the younger generation more aware of issues relating to the protection of their cultural heritage in general and the Site in particular.
- 21** To encourage research projects and programmes dealing with issues relevant to the Site, with the object of furthering knowledge of its history, architecture, general character and present condition, in order to inform management decisions.



P H Y S I C A L A C C E S S A N D T R A N S P O R T

- 22** To give priority to easing the town's traffic problems by promoting a series of parallel actions, such as the construction of a bypass to keep through traffic out of the town, the removal of government offices from the town centre, the improvement of public transport services and the expansion of pedestrian zones within the Site.
- 23** To discourage visitors from using cars and increase the amount of parking space available, either in underground car parks near the perimeter of the Property or in ground-level car parks along the Site boundary. Special regulations for the inhabitants.
- 24** To improve the appearance of the vehicular entry points into the town and to provide more information for visitors to the Site at the entry points.
- 25** To take steps, in collaboration with coach operators, to reduce the manifold negative impact of large numbers of tourist coaches on the historic environment, especially in the peak season.
- 26** To make provision for an integrated transport system that will unify and co-ordinate all the available means of transport, i.e. city buses, long-distance buses, taxis, ships and aircraft, and will supply reliable services providing adequate access to and transport within the Site.
- 27** To enlarge the system of pedestrian precincts in the old town and to improve the facilities in existing pedestrian precincts, so as to provide safe and attractive routes for touring the Site and to encourage cycling.
- 28** To provide access for persons with differing mobility requirements to all public spaces in the Site and all public buildings.



V I S I T O R M A N A G E M E N T

- 29** To improve visitor facilities in the way of movement within the Site, information and signage, having previously enlisted the firm co-operation of businesses and individuals involved in tourism.
- 30** To create more routes for access and movement within the Site, so as to make it easier for tourists to find and visit not only the best-publicized attractions but also those of more specialized interest, which will enable them to obtain a better knowledge of the Site by making its cultural assets more widely known.
- 31** To promote theme-based tourism (culture, sport, conferences, etc.) by means of appropriate initiatives in the tourist market and to create opportunities for longer-stay visits.
- 32** To maintain a balance between the benefits of tourism to the local community and the negative impact of development on the inhabitants' day-to-day lives and the Site itself.



Implementation of the Management Plan

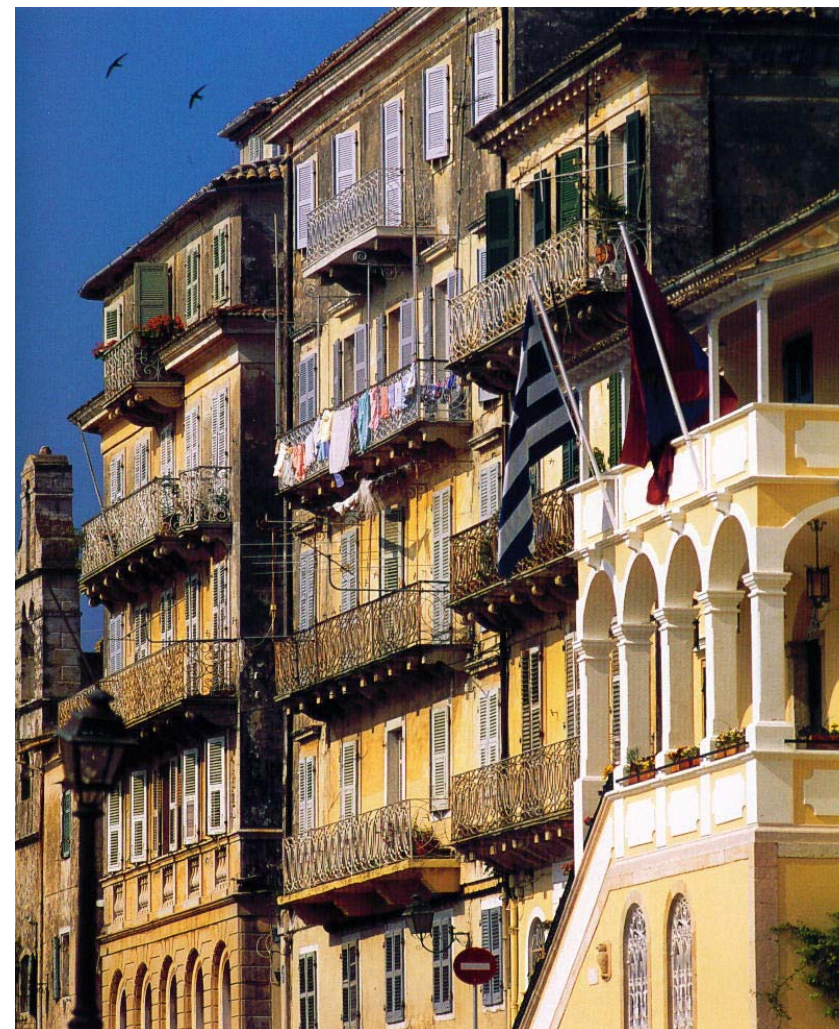
Programme of Action

To achieve the objectives of the Management Plan it is essential to plan and implement a package of actions which – in the short, medium or long term as the case may be, singly or all together – will contribute to the comprehensive implementation of the Management Plan.

In the first phase a number of basic actions need to be completed, chiefly in the fields of administration and funding, so that the mechanisms for effecting and supervising the implementation of the Management Plan can be put in place promptly and efficiently.

The success of the Management Plan will depend largely on the efficient co-ordination and mobilization of the stakeholders, while most of the responsibility for enabling the implementation of the Plan will lie with the Municipality of Corfu, either performing or co-ordinating a high proportion of the actions itself.

The Management Plan relies on the following bodies for its efficient implementation:



Steering Group :

composed of representatives of the organizations involved in the management and supervision of the Site, the Municipality of Corfu, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of the Environment, Planning and Public Works, the Regional Authority of the Ionian Islands and the Prefecture of Corfu. The Steering Group bears overall responsibility for the supervision and official monitoring of the Plan's implementation.



Project Co-ordinator :

responsible for organizing and co-ordinating all the actions called for by the Plan.

It is responsible for forming the Working Groups needed for implementation of the various plans. Other tasks falling within the remit of the Project Co-ordinator are: to make recommendations to the Steering Group concerning the overall programming of the Plan's implementation; to prepare yearly work programmes and other programmes of action; to monitor, supervise and update the Management Plan; to monitor the condition of the Site continuously; and to secure funds for the implementation of the Plan.

The Project Co-ordinator is also responsible for the six-yearly reports to UNESCO on the state of measures for the protection of the Site, as well as interim reports.

Stakeholder Group :

composed of representatives of groups of users of the Site. Its purpose is to ensure the active participation of the local community in the implementation of the Management Plan.

Funding

For the implementation of the 88 actions proposed in this Management Plan it will be necessary to secure ongoing funding.

These activities will be carried out by the Project Co-ordinator, which will be responsible for securing funding to supplement the funds currently available.

Potential funding opportunities exist from the budget and structural funds /community support framework programs of the European Union, sundry EU funding programmes, donations, sponsorships, etc., and all parties involved in the management of the Site need to act to secure such funding to enable implementation of the Plan.

Reviewing the Plan

The Management Plan has a six-year lifespan, though elements of the Plan will be relevant for longer. The lifespan of the programme of action depends on the success of implementation.

To keep the Plan as up-to-date and relevant as possible, there will be a formal review of the description of the Site, statement of significance, issues and objectives every six years.

To ensure the flexibility of the Plan during implementation, and to ensure that the Plan can be adapted promptly to any changing circumstances that may affect it, an annual review will take place, based on the yearly Implementation Plans. This will enable any short-term updates to take place to ensure the most effective implementation of the Plan.



SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT WITH REGARD TO CORFU - SUPPLEMENTARY COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Further to document ref. nbr. GB/MA978/20.12.2006, concerning the nomination of Corfu, we send herewith the requested supplementary material in which Corfu is compared with other harbours in the Mediterranean and the Adriatic seas.

The abovementioned document lays emphasis upon the comparison of Corfu with other harbours in the Mediterranean basin. On account of its strategic position in the Ionian Sea, Corfu did indeed come to serve as an important harbour city, especially after the fall of Cyprus (1571) and Crete (1669) to Ottoman control.

However, we propose Corfu as a World Heritage monument not only because of its importance as a harbour in the Mediterranean, but on account of its nature as an architectural complex of diachronic significance in which, in our opinion, the osmosis of various cultures has produced a unique result. We would like to underline how this architectural complex is preserved not only amidst an impressive natural environment, but also in particularly good condition. In addition, it remains a vibrant city to this day.

Making the most of the harbour city's vital geographical position on commercial routes, Corfu flourished greatly from the 13th to the 19th centuries, embracing the West and turning its back on the Ottoman territories. Consequently, city harbours of lesser importance, such as Kos (see below p. 5-6), are not offered as comparative material as they followed a different historical course and developed along different lines.¹

In the text that follows, we have endeavoured, on the one hand, to offer an overview of the basic elements that contribute toward Corfu's unique character and, on the other, to situate the differences which exist between Corfu and other monuments, especially those already inscribed on the World Heritage List.

¹ It should be mentioned here that many other coastal cities and islands of what is now Greece preserve isolated monuments of the type found on Kos, namely, fortifications, acropoleis etc. in various states of preservation (for example, at Parga, Bonitsa, Methoni, Koroni, Chios, Mytilene).

I. BRIEF HISTORICAL SURVEY AND DESCRIPTION OF THE MONUMENT NOMINATED FOR INSCRIPTION IN THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

The historical course followed by Corfu and which has left its traces in the city's distinctive character has been charted analytically in the nomination file already submitted and can here be recalled briefly as follows:

The historical course from the 8th c. B.C. until the present:

Throughout Corfu's long history, its centre can be seen as a reflection of the conditions that prevailed during each period. The ancient coastal Greek city of the 8th c. B.C. was transformed into the fortress or *kastro* of the Byzantine period; during its four centuries under Venetian rule (1386-1797) the settlement grew into a fortified city surrounded by impenetrable defensive works, acting as the last bulwark of the Venetian Republic in the East; in the early 19th c. the city became the capital of the independent government of the Septinsular Republic with its own role to play in the great events of European political history; during the fifty years of the British Protectorate the city harbour was adorned with impressive buildings and cultural institutions; and finally in 1864 the island became part of the newly established Greek State, remaining, as always, a bridge for communication between the Greek East and the European West.

**The distinctive features of the city consist of the following elements:
the harbour, the defensive works, and the urban complex as a whole.**

A. The harbour: Thanks to its strategic position at the point where the Adriatic and Ionian Seas merge, Corfu's harbour acquired a great importance from the time of Greek colonization that continues to the present day.

Under Venetian rule it was elevated to a naval base of decisive strategic significance. From the 16th c. Corfu served as the base of the Capitano Generale da Mar who represented the highest military and political authority over the Adriatic domains with a permanent flotilla of the Venetian fleet. Especially significant was the harbour's commercial activity, from the medieval period until the 19th c., which brought Corfu into longterm contact with the most important harbours of the Mediterranean. With the prevalence of olive oil production on the island and its increase after the 17th century when production became industrialized, the greatest role was played by Venetian merchants, Jews especially, who possessed the means of exporting the island's goods. At the same time, the harbour of Corfu served as a port of transit for goods continuing to markets in Epirus and other Ottoman harbours.

II. COMPARISON OF THE OLD CITY OF CORFU WITH OTHER FORTIFIED HARBOUR CITIES

A) in the Mediterranean Sea and B) in the Adriatic Sea

A. THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Genoa (Italy)

The relationship between Corfu and Genoa could be considered that of a metropolis and its territory². But in the present case, the comparison is more aptly drawn with Venice, which played a definitive role in the formation of the city of Corfu. In any case, although Genoa, as is well known, possesses one of the largest historic centres dating from the medieval period, it is not distinguished by the diachronic breadth or unity characteristic of Corfu's Old City. The architectural style and the impression made on the visitor to Corfu are entirely different from that made by Genoa, whose architecture preserves overwhelmingly Renaissance characteristics. In addition, the present state of preservation of Genoa's historic centre is not equal to that of Corfu³.

Valetta (Malta)

A comparative analysis between Malta and Corfu has already been submitted with the nomination file. But with regard to architecture, it is worth noting that the buildings of Valetta that belong to the 18th and 19th centuries are characterized by their architectural unity and singularity, which is in part determined by the ease with which the local stone can be cut. The style can be described as a local phenomenon with influences drawn from Baroque and English architecture.

While in the case of Valetta the architectural physiognomy of the city bears witness to the protracted influence of British rule, the buildings of Corfu's Old City reflect clearly the Venetian period with British influence limited mainly to the large public buildings (the Palace of SS. Michael and George, the Spianada) – although of course the introduction of Neoclassicism to the wider area was indeed an important influence from that period.

² Genoa was an important city in the Middle Ages that participated in the great military and economic conquests in the East. There can be no comparison between it and Corfu with regard to the cities' size, urban plan and internal organization. Common ground can be found with the eastern harbour cities in Genoa's possession such as Chios (1346-1566) and Ammochostos (1373-1464).

³ It may be noted that only one part of the historic centre of Genoa, rather than the centre as a unity, has been declared a World Heritage monument.

Ammochostos (Cyprus)

From the end of the 12th to the 16th century Cyprus followed a similar course to that of Corfu (Frankish rule 1197-1473, Venetian rule 1473-1571).

The only harbour city of Cyprus with which one could compare Corfu is Ammochostos, a highly important medieval harbour which was strengthened by the Venetians with the intervention of Gian Girolamo Sanmicheli who had previously worked on the Old Fortress (Palaio Frourio) of Corfu. The Venetian walls are preserved in good condition to the present day, as well as isolated monuments from the same period.

After the Ottoman conquest of Cyprus in 1571, however, Ammochostos fell under the influence of the Ottoman Empire, in contrast to Corfu which remained constant in its westward orientation. This different historical course taken by Cyprus from the 16th century considerably distanced it from the historical circumstances that worked upon Corfu and distinguishes the more easterly island's architectural history as well as its appearance today. Except for the abovementioned isolated remnants from the Venetian period, the historical centre of Ammochostos has been considerably altered.

Cos (Greece)

The city of Cos, located at the northeastern corner of the island, is built around a natural harbour and has been inhabited continuously from the prehistoric period until today⁴. Beyond the vast archaeological sites, other monuments are visible, chief among which is the Nerantzia Castle (the Kastro), built on an islet at the entrance to the harbour. Its present form belongs to the time of the Knights of Saint John, the first phase dating to the 15th c. (the inner enclosure wall) and a second, final phase from 1495 to 1514 (the outer enclosure wall)⁵. Around the end of the 15th c., the fortification was extended onto the mainland as well and made to include the Chora of Cos, that is to say, the medieval city. Sections of Chora's defenses are preserved on the southern, western and northern sides. Both the Kastro itself and the Chora are today part of an extensive archaeological site.

Despite the undisputed importance of the Kastro of Cos for the development of defensive architecture as well as the area's significance for the commercial routes

⁴ Traces of this uninterrupted habitation have come to light through excavations which have been undertaken continuously since the beginning of the 20th c. and have resulted in the creation of extensive archaeological sites, among the largest in Greece in proportion to the surface area of the city.

⁵ References to the Kastro exist already from the 14th c., while it is probable that the islet was also fortified during ancient and Byzantine times.

that lead from Egypt to Constantinople, it cannot be compared with Corfu. The Kastro of Cos is a solitary monument that is part of a modern city, in contrast with Corfu where an extensive urban complex is preserved with its fortifications and its urban fabric as well as the buildings themselves.

Halicarnassus (Turkey)

A somewhat parallel history to Cos is shared by the fortress of Agios Petros in Halicarnassus (modern Bodrum), located on the Turkish coast opposite the island. Also constructed in the 15th c.⁶ by the Knights Templar, its purpose in conjunction with the Kastro on Cos was to guard the passage between the coast and the island. In 1523 the fortress of Halicarnassus was handed over to the Ottomans.

As with Cos, despite the obvious importance of the fortress and the other monuments of Halicarnassus such as the Mausoleum, these are nonetheless isolated monuments that are not part of a monumental whole of the size or extent of that preserved at Corfu.

Acre (Israel)

The city of Acre was founded in the Hellenistic period on a peninsula with a natural harbour and belonged in succession to the Jewish Hasmonean kingdom, the Roman and Byzantine Empires, the Caliphate of Cairo, the Crusaders, Mameluks and Ottomans⁷. In the 20th c. the city first passed into the hands of the British and subsequently the independent state of Israel.

⁶ Like the Kastro of Cos, first the inner enclosure wall was constructed, at the beginning of the 15th c., and then the outer one (in the second half of the 15th c.). The fortress at Halicarnassus, which reused an enormous amount of ancient material from the Hellenistic city and the Mausoleum, also shows signs of later repairs and additions that continued until the end of the Knights' rule.

⁷ Acre was founded in the 3rd-2nd c. by Ptolemy II of Egypt. After a brief period when it belonged to the Jewish Hasmonean kingdom (1st c. B.C.), the city was ruled by the Romans (63B.C.). In A.D. 330 it passed into Byzantine control and experienced a period of economic prosperity. From the 7th to the 11th centuries Acre (now Akko, from the hill named Tel Akko on which the ancient city was founded) was part of the Fatimid Caliphate based in Cairo. During this period the city's significance as an international harbour diminished and its boundaries shrunk so that the settlement was confined to a few quarters around the harbour. The city's economic upswing began in the 10th and 11th centuries when the harbour walls and city walls were rebuilt. In 1104 Acre entered into its Crusader period, during which time the city grew into a multi-cultural commercial centre (with merchants from different parts of Europe, knights from different orders etc.) and many important public buildings were erected. In 1187 it fell to Muslim control for four years until in 1191 it was recaptured by the Crusaders under Richard Coeur-de-Lion and made the capital of his kingdom (the second Crusader Kingdom). In 1291 the city was captured by the Mamelukes and remained in their possession until 1517. During this time the city was destroyed and abandoned, and remained a ghost town into the early centuries of Ottoman rule (16th-17th c.)

At Acre today the two main historical periods of prosperity coexist: the Crusader (1104-1291) and the Ottoman (18th – 19th c.). Reconstruction undertaken during the Ottoman period during the 18th and 19th centuries meant that the remains of the Crusader city⁸ were buried and are preserved today beneath the Ottoman city.

As is clear from the above, both the history and architectural style of Acre diverge entirely from that of Corfu. The Crusaders brought with them construction technology and used the local materials to create western architectural styles (Romanesque and Gothic). During the Crusader period the city's character was a mix between fortress and station en route to Jerusalem, in contrast with Corfu with its pronounced urban character.

Additionally, the historic city of Corfu is characterized by continuous habitation, with significant transformations during the Venetian period (15th-19th c.). Western influences in architecture were absorbed always in dialogue with the Byzantine tradition and these influences belong to the Venetian period, not earlier, while the island never fell to Ottoman control. During this same period Acre was either abandoned or experienced reconstruction as an Ottoman city. In the 18th and 19th centuries, when the two cities both featured in a wider context, Acre was an important Ottoman harbour while Corfu was ruled successively by French and British governments with their corresponding influences that can still be discerned in its architectural heritage.

- A comparison may also be attempted between Corfu and three properties in Syria, one of them, Aleppo, already inscribed on the World Heritage List, although not situated near the sea, Tartus and Latakia.

Aleppo

Aleppo is one of the greatest "harbours of the desert", inhabited continuously from 2000 B.C. Its successive inhabitants have included the Hittites, Assyrians, Akkadians, Greeks and Romans. The 7th c. saw the city's inclusion in the new Islamic empire of the Arabs; in 962 it was captured by Nicephorus Phocas; in the 11th c. it came under Fatimid rule; while in 1260 Aleppo was laid low by the Mongols. In 1517 the city became Ottoman, as it remained until that empire's dissolution. More recently, Aleppo was for a time a French colony. A significant defensive complex is preserved on the city's acropolis, which was constructed after the siege of 1260.

⁸ The economic prosperity enjoyed by the city in the 19th c. is reflected in the numerous public and private buildings (mosques, bathhouses, khans).

Important religious monuments, khans and quarters dating to the 17th c. are also preserved.

It may be noted that an application for nomination was submitted to UNESCO in 1978 and reviewed in 1981, 1983 and 1986, when it was finally accepted. The reasons for the application's original rejection were the poor state of preservation of the monuments and insufficient institutional protection of the historic city. The lack of a development plan for the modern city that would preserve the historical remains has resulted in the shrinking of the old quarters, some of which disappeared completely while those that remain are under pressure from modern multi-storey buildings.

As for comparison with Corfu, obviously these are two utterly different cases, as each is associated with different cultures, Aleppo with Ottoman and Corfu with Venetian, as well as British and French, culture. Naturally, the result is a radically different architectural appearance.

Tartus

Tartus, which today is a city of 150.000 inhabitants, lies on the Mediterranean coast of Syria opposite of the Arwad island. The city, which is the second most important Syrian port after Latakia, has a long history. Founded during the 2nd millennium B.C. by the Phoenicians on Arwad,⁹ Tartus remained an important settlement during the Hellenistic and Roman times. In 346 A.D. the city was rebuilt by the Emperor Constantine and then begins its economic growth. In the end of the 11th century A.D (1099 A.D.) the city was occupied by the Crusaders, who named it Tartosa. They built fortresses to protect the city against the Muslim troops. In 1291 the Crusaders were driven out by the Arabs and the city became part of the Mameluke Kingdom. Tartus' economic decline began when the Ottomans conquered Tartus in 1516. In the beginning of 20th century Tartus became, together with the rest of Syria, a French colony, until 1945 when Syria gained its independence and Tartus became part of this new state.

The city walls and the fortress of the Crusader era inside of which is enclosed the historic centre of Tartus -which consists of more recent buildings- are still preserved.

⁹ It was founded with the name Antarados as a mainland colony of Arados that lay on Arwad island and was also a Phoenician colony.

Outside the fortress there are few historic remains, the most important of which is the ancient cathedral ('Our Lady of Tortosa'), built by the Crusaders (1123)¹⁰.

Latakia

Latakia, the principal port of Syria with 554.000 inhabitants today, was first a Phoenician town (named Ramitha). The city was later refounded and named Laodicea after the mother of its founder, Seleykos I Nicator. It was one of the four cities of the Syrian tetrapolis. Later, in 638, it was captured by the Arabs. In 1097 the Crusaders took control of the city until 1188 when it was taken by Saladin. From the 16th century until the First World War it was part of the Ottoman Empire. After a period of French dominion, Latakia with its region was incorporated into the state of Syria.

The modern city still exhibits traces of its former glory (old gateway, sarcophagi, inscriptions). However, it seems that these remains are dispersed in the modern city and do not constitute a unity. Furthermore, the castle of Saladin claims to be one of the most impressive medieval castles, but is located on the mountain range, at 37 Km away from Latakia.

The history of Latakia is similar to that of Tartus and reminds us also of the other important historic cities of the region, Aleppo and Acra (in Israel).

The history of the above-mentioned cities is different from the history of Corfu. They are connected to Crusaders and Ottomans and preserve ruins from those eras, while Corfu remained under the Venetian influence and as we have already stressed, it was never under ottoman occupation.

B. THE ADRIATIC SEA

Of the harbour cities of the Adriatic, we will focus on Butrint (Buthrotum), Kotor and Split, all World Heritage Monuments.

In terms of their history, the harbour cities of the Dalmatian coast, in particular Kotor (Cattaro) and Split (Spalato), both possessions of the Venetians from the 16th c., present the greatest similarities to Corfu. On account of their strategic importance, the Venetians took special interest in the fortification of these positions, often employing the same engineers specializing in military architecture who worked at Corfu, such as Gian Girolamo Sanmicheli, who designed the Old Fortress (Palaio Frourio) of Corfu and was also responsible for the design of the walls at Sebenico and Zara.

¹⁰ The first chapel dedicated to the Virgin was built in the 3rd century.

Butrint (Buthrotum), Albania

Butrint is built on a hill by the shore of a lake linked by a canal with the sea. Habitation dates back to the prehistoric period and subsequently (8th-7th c. B.C.) a Greek colony was founded there. In 44 B.C. the settlement was conquered by the Romans and developed (providing an urban grid, water supply, fortifications), while during the Christian period it was elevated to an episcopal see with important early Christian buildings including basilicas and a baptistery. With the Slavic invasions of the 7th century the city was abandoned to be reinhabited only after 1204 when it came under the Despotate of Epirus rule. The area devolved to Venetian control in the 14th c. and was governed by the castellan of neighboring Corfu. At the end of the 15th c. it was taken by the Ottomans. During this period the city was abandoned by its inhabitants on account of the extensive marshes that surrounded the lake. The result is a city with remains dating from the Graeco-Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman periods.

The city's most recent phase that survives today is the Ottoman, though the early Christian phase is of special importance. In contrast, Corfu did not, as we have noted, experience Ottoman rule. And although Corfu also retains material evidence of her ancient, early Christian and Byzantine phases, the nomination for inscription on the World Heritage List is not founded on that but more particularly on the harbour city's appearance today, which was created above all from the 15th century onwards, under the influence of Venice originally, and then by the Baroque and Neoclassical elements introduced by the island's French and British rulers during the 18th and 19th centuries. Furthermore, Corfu has been inhabited continuously to the present day and remains today a vibrant city.

Kotor(Montenegro)

Included in the World Heritage List are the Gulf of Kotor, the city of Kotor itself, but various smaller settlements as well, namely Perast, Dobrota, Risan and others. The largest urban complexes are Kotor and Perast.

The area was inhabited in antiquity by the Illyrians, was later conquered by the Romans¹¹ and subsequently became part of the Byzantine Empire (476-1185)¹². The Slavs appeared in the region in the 10th c. and their presence grew steadily with the

¹¹ The Roman city is first referred to in 168 B.C. under the name Acrvium and belonged to the Roman province of Dalmatia.

¹² After driving back the Goths, Justinian constructed a fortress in 535 on the site of the Roman city which served as the focal point of the second city that grew up around it.

foundation of the first Serbian kingdom (1186-1367). Later the region would be ruled, successively, by the Venetians¹³ (1420-1797), Austrians¹⁴ (1797-1806), Russians¹⁵ (1806-07), French (1807-1813), and again Austrians¹⁶ (1813-1818)¹⁷. In 1918, after the First World War, Kotor was included in Yugoslavia, and today it belongs to Montenegro. Among these cities' monuments are churches (mainly Romanesque), palaces from the 17th and 18th centuries, military architecture and fortifications, and the Old City of Kotor. Kotor and Perast are particularly fine examples of small cities whose urban fabric is still well preserved.

Differences between these cities and Corfu are not many, nor are they immediately discernable, but they are in fact critically important. In the case of the Kotor area, we are dealing with a network of towns among which Kotor is the most prominent¹⁸. These towns have not enjoyed the same importance throughout the region's history, but have taken turns at playing the leading role in the Gulf area. This stands in contrast with the history of Corfu, where a single urban complex has developed continuously across time. There are of course other differences of size and scale between Corfu and the towns of the Kotor Gulf. The latter are small in comparison with Corfu which during its periods of greatest prosperity was a large city. The city of Kotor itself reached its acme in the medieval period and for this reason it is characterized above all by its Romanesque architecture (12th-13th c.)¹⁹. Again, this stands in contradistinction to Corfu where influences from the West do not exist from this period, but date to the 15th century and onwards.

Split (Croatia)

Split is known mainly for the Palace of Diocletian (A.D. 284-305) with which the city's history begins, although there is evidence that a Greek colony pre-existed in the

¹³ As a result of Serbia's demise in 1389, the city fell first to Venice, then to Hungary and again in 1420 to Venice.

¹⁴ In accordance with the Campo Formio treaty.

¹⁵ In accordance with the Pressburg treaty, however, the region remained under Russian influence until 1819 when it was united with the Illyrian provinces of the French Empire.

¹⁶ After the Vienna Conference (1814).

¹⁷ The above information is in accordance with the evaluation of the Kotor nomination file by ICOMOS in which further clarifications were requested, given that the file was considered insufficient in its historical content.

¹⁸ However, according to the evaluation of ICOMOS (ref. 125), 'If in fact, many of the monuments of the cities of the gulf of Kotor (churches, palaces, military architecture) have a true architectural value of these towns is beyond dispute, none of them can claim to be of outstanding universal value...'. The inscribed site's universal value consists rather of the consolidation of the abovementioned monuments around the Gulf of Kotor, their adaptation to the natural environment and their incorporation into town plans of considerable worth.

¹⁹ The Kotor nomination file notes that architectural solutions derived from Romanesque architecture were in fact transmitted into the Balkan interior through Kotor.



Paris, 26 February 2007

8.4.1 Kerkyra / AS 158

Subject : World Heritage List 2007 – Nomination of «The Old Town of Corfu » - Greece

Dear Mrs Durighello,

The Hellenic Ministry of Culture has replied to your last query about the possibility of extending the buffer zone of the proposed site in order to include in this zone the modern port and the coastal areas which form part of the setting.

The Greek Ministry underlines in its reply that this very area is protected. Any building intervention therein in this area is subject to the provision of the specific master plan, approved by all the local and central authorities (including the Hellenic Ministry of Culture).

Although the Hellenic Ministry of Culture considers the above- mentioned protection measures as more than sufficient, it does nevertheless express its intention to take the necessary actions in accordance with the Greek legislation on heritage protection, and to include this specific area into the buffer zone.

The full text of the reply of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture to your question follows :

Yours Sincerely

The Permanent Delegate



George Anastassopoulos
Ambassador

Mrs Regina Durighello

Director

World Heritage Unit - ICOMOS

49-51 rue de la Fédération - 75015 Paris

Cc : UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Paris

Mrs Diamanto Rigakou, 21 Ephorate of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Monuments of Corfu

World Heritage List 2007
- Nomination of «The Old Town of Corfu» -
Greece

Additional report concerning the buffer zone
of «The Old Town of Corfu»

After having carefully examined the ICOMOS observations concerning the protection to the northwest of the nominated area and of its seascape setting, we would like to state the following:

1. According to the submitted proposal, the buffer zone constitutes a stretch of land of varied width in the south as well as in the west of the nominated area. The surface of the proposed buffer zone is 162 hectares, which is more than double the size of the nominated area (70 hectares) and its boundaries are clearly defined by the surrounding roadwork.

Moreover the proposed buffer zone includes every remarkable cultural property of the area (archaeological sites, Byzantine monuments, historic suburbs, important buildings and green hills) which are described in detail in chapter 2 of the nomination file. The properties mentioned above, apart from their special importance, attest beyond argument to the multicultural character of the area.

- In any case, the nominated area falls under the protection of the Greek Ministry of Culture, within the legal framework of Law 3028/2002 on the «Protection of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage in general», through the respective agencies of Prehistoric, Classic, Byzantine and Contemporary & Modern Antiquities (that is the 8th Ephorate of Prehistoric & Classical Antiquities, the 21st Ephorate of Byzantine Antiquities and the Ephorate of Contemporary & Modern Monuments of the Ionian islands).

2. We estimate that your remark regarding the 'lack of protection' of the proposed zone refers to the New Port area, from the New Fort to the boundaries of the city, as marked (in white) on map 7 of the annex A3, accompanying the nomination file. We would like at this point to state that this very area is protected and has the following characteristics:

- It belongs to the Greek state and it is administrated by the Port Authority, a Body supervised by the Ministry of Mercantile Marine
- It is a fenced area with a main and two secondary entrances and has a special use as 'port installations'. Any building intervention therein is subject to the provisions of a specific master plan, approved by all the local and central authorities (including the Hellenic Ministry of Culture).

Although we consider the above-mentioned protection measures more than sufficient, we nevertheless intend to take the necessary actions, in accordance with the Greek legislation on heritage protection, in order to include this specific area into the buffer zone.

3. With reference to the coastline of the city (and of the island in general) it should be mentioned that, according to the legal framework in force, any type of intervention within a distance of 500 meters from the coastline is examined for compatibility of the building itself and its architectural design by the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of the Environment, Spatial Planning and Public Works - Architecture Committee of Corfu, before issuing the building permit. In this case environmental impact studies are being carried out. Furthermore, any constructions or other undertakings in the sea are subject to prior approval by the Ministry of Culture (through its special regional service, the Ephorate of Underwater Antiquities).

4. Finally, there is a provision in the 'Old Town of Corfu' Management Plan 2006-2012 -Action 6 which ensures the constant 'monitoring and assessment of the impact of the Management Plan on the area surrounding the Site, with the aim of taking timely action'.

Submitted by the:

Hellenic Ministry of Culture
General Directorate of Antiquities & Cultural Heritage
Directorate for Byzantine & Post Byzantine Antiquities

Corfu (Greece)

No 978

*Official name as proposed
by the State Party:*

The Old Town of Corfu

Location:

Ionian Islands Region, Corfu
Prefecture

Brief description:

The Old Town of Corfu is located on the Island of Corfu (*Kerkyra*), off the western coasts of Albania and Greece. It is an ancient site, which was in a strategic position at the entrance to the Adriatic Sea. The fortifications of Corfu were designed by renowned Venetian engineers, and they were used for four centuries to defend the maritime trading interests of the Republic of Venice against the Ottoman Empire. In the course of time, the fortifications had to be repaired and partly rebuilt several times, more recently under the British rule in the 19th century. The mainly neo-classical housing stock of the Old Town is partly from the Venetian period, partly of later construction.

Category of property:

In terms of the categories of cultural property set out in Article 1 of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, this is a *group of buildings*. In terms of the *Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention* (2 February 2005) Annex 3 (14, ii), the property is an *inhabited historic town*.

1. BASIC DATA

Included in the Tentative List: 28 June 1999

*International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund for
preparing the Nomination:* No

*Date received by
the World Heritage Centre:* 31 January 2006

Background:

An earlier nomination was presented in 1999. ICOMOS completed its evaluation of the property and recommended that the property should not be inscribed on the World Heritage List. The State Party withdrew the nomination dossier before its examination by the 24th session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee (Paris, June 2000). The new dossier differs mainly from the first by the presence of a substantial comparative analysis and by a change in the vision of the buffer zone.

Consultations: ICOMOS has consulted its International Scientific Committees on Historic Town and Villages and on Fortifications and Military Heritage.

Literature consulted (selection):

Puppi, L., *Michele Sanmicheli, architetto di Verona*, Padua, 1971.

Agoropoulou-Birbili, A., *The Architecture of the town of Corfu under Venetian rule*, Athens, 1976; *The work of the Corfiot architect I. Chronis*, Technical Chamber of Greece – Corfu Branch, Corfu, 1997; *Documentation of archaeological features during British rule* (in Greek), Corfu, 1997.

Concina, E., *Città e fortezze nelle tre isole nostre del Levante*, Venice, 1986.

Corfu: History, urban life, architecture, 14th-19th c., Cultural Association of Corfu, Corfu, 1994.

Corfu: a Mediterranean synthesis, Acts of the International Conference, Cultural Association of Corfu, Corfu, 1998.

Technical Evaluation Mission: 18-21 September 2006

Additional information requested and received from the State Party: ICOMOS sent a letter to the State Party on 20 December 2006 and the State Party provided additional information on 18 January 2007. ICOMOS sent another letter on 30 January 2007 and the State Party supplied additional documentation on 26 February 2007.

Date of approval of this report: 11 March 2007

2. THE PROPERTY

Description

The island of Corfu (in Greek: *Kerkyra*) lies in the Adriatic Sea off the western coast of Greece and Albania. The Old Town of Corfu lies between two fortresses midway along the island's eastern coastline. The Old Citadel and the New Fort form two remarkable monuments in the urban fabric. To the east, the canal dug by the Venetians has transformed the rocky promontory on which the Old Citadel was founded into an island looking down over the tiny harbour of Mandraki. The citadel retains the imposing Venetian fortifications, restructured by the British, laid out on three levels on the far side of the canal linked by a footbridge to the Spianada. A first outer wall leads to the frontal fortification, consisting of two orillon bastions (Martinengo and Savorgnan) and a curtain through which the main gate enters (around 1550). A stone bridge crosses a broad ditch along which runs a 19th century barracks. A second wall protects the base of the two fortified peaks, and access to it is via a series of ramps and stairs. A vaulted passage leads to the harbour of Mandraki which itself also retains a monumental gate, now closed. Some buildings on various levels, mainly dating from the 19th century, have been preserved. These include the former Venetian prisons, raised in height by the British, four powder magazines, the hospital, which stretches from one peak to the other, two barracks, and the Church of St George in the form of a Doric temple (1840).

The imposing structure of the New Fort dominates the north-western sector of the Old Town. A pentagonal salient, a half-salient, and the small fort of Punta Perpetua are connected by a rampart and command the old harbour. Long sloping tunnels lead to the British barracks and the two bastions of the Seven Winds linked by a curtain wall and looking out over the countryside. These look down on

a broad ditch and two bastions preserved from the second Venetian perimeter wall. The two gates of the New Fort still exist, as does the church of Panagia Spiliotissa (rebuilt in 1739). The ring road around the Old Town follows the line of the ancient town wall, some traces of which remain to the west and south and one gate, the Spilia Gate, of the original four (Royal Gate, St Nicholas Gate, Raimonda Gate).

The outlines of the Old Town were determined by lack of space and the needs of defence. The urban fabric forms a compact core consisting of ten quarters, differentiated by their form. The quarters which range over the three low hills (Campiello, Agion Pateron, and Agiou Athanassiou) are irregular and fragmentary in their make-up, a sure sign of the original suburbs preserved from the demolition necessary for the construction of the perimeter wall. They are characterised by a network of radial streets, small squares, and compact blocks of housing clustered around the churches. The outskirts of these areas, in transition, and the quarters built in continuation of the perimeter wall present a more regular framework, especially those which open out behind the Spianada in a grid of straight lines running east-west.

The two main streets running east-west and the north-south axis which once connected the Old Citadel to the four gates of the perimeter wall follow an ancient outline. This simple traffic system, dictated by strategic imperatives, contrasts with the secondary alleys (the *kantounia*, between 1m and 3m wide) which form a complex network of stairs and vaulted tunnels running through a series of small squares, of which Kremasti Square is a typical example.

The restricted space within the perimeter dictated the construction of multi-storey dwellings ranged indiscriminately in serried ranks along the streets. Though the Old Town must have numbered many a patrician dwelling during the Venetian period, only a few of these can be identified in the present day, such as the houses of the Ricchi and Yallina families (17th century). The house fronts of this period are characterised by regular rows of windows, stone balconies, ground-floor arcades, and a red and ochre rendering that contrasts with the stone door and window jambs. Many feature doorways ornamented with sculptures. Some public buildings from the Venetian period still survive: the door of one of the grain stores (1592), the pawnbroker's (1630) that forms part of the Commissioners' Palace, part of the Spilia barracks, and the Grimani barracks to the south of the Spianada.

The trend towards building upwards was accentuated in the 19th century when the old buildings were raised to anything up to six storeys or, in most cases, replaced by new buildings which often occupied more space than in the past by annexing the courtyards. The wider frontages were divided into three vertical sections, always with many windows, but tended to become more uniform, particularly along sections of the main streets, while remaining sober in their classically inspired ornamentation. Balconies on every floor created a sense of movement and variety in the facades.

Spianada, the esplanade which divides the town from the Old Citadel, takes up one-third of the surface area of the

Old Town. Once the most populous of the suburbs in the 16th century, it attained its present size in the 17th century for military reasons and is still bordered by 18th century barracks. In the late 18th and early 19th centuries it became an architectural showcase dedicated to leisure activities and civil functions. The French embellished it by constructing arcade-fronted buildings, the Liston, to the west and planting trees. Under the British it became a monumental open space with the Neo-Classical Palace of St Michael and St George (1819-23), once the residence of the Commissioners, to the north and to the south the circular Ionic temple dedicated to Maitland: both are the work of George Whitmore (1775-1862).

At the centre of the Old Town stand two large squares, each leading off one of the two main streets. On Dimarchion Square, once the social and cultural centre of the Venetian town, which lies on the slopes of the hill of Agiou Athanassiou, stand the 18th century Cathedral of St James, the former residence of the Latin Archbishop (rebuilt in 1754), and the *Loggia Nobilei* (1663-69), converted into a theatre in 1720 and home of the Town Hall since the early 20th century.

On Heroon Square stand the churches of St John (pre-16th century) and *Phaneromeni*, a basilica with three aisles dating from the early 18th century and altered in 1832 by Corfiot architect Ioannis Chronis, who designed many public buildings in the Neo-Classical style for the Old Town, including the Ionian Bank which stands on the same square, the home of Ioannis Kapodistrias, the first Greek governor, and the Ionian Parliament (1854, then restored after the bombings in 1943). To the north of this square stands the Church of St Spyridon (1589-94, altered in 1670), which houses the relics of the patron saint of the town and the island. Although the Orthodox faith was upheld during the centuries of foreign occupation, contact with the Latin West also influenced the religious architecture of the Old Town, which shows a strong Byzantine tradition. The example of the single-aisled church, often with a low exterior narthex running around the exterior, is much more common than the three-aisled basilica, although both reflect the repertoires of the Renaissance and the Baroque style. The simplicity of the facades offers a remarkable contrast to the elaborate interior decoration. Many ancient churches were enlarged and renovated in the 18th century.

History and development

Corfu, the first of the Ionian Islands encountered at the entrance to the Adriatic, was annexed to Greece by a group of Eretrians (775-750 BCE). In 734 BCE the Corinthians founded a colony known as *Kerkyra* to the south of where the Old Town now stands. The town became a trading post on the way to Sicily and founded further colonies in Illyria and Epirus. The coast of Epirus and Corfu itself came under the sway of the Roman Republic (229 BCE) and served as the jumping-off point for Rome's expansion into the east. In the reign of Caligula two disciples of the Apostle Paul, St Jason, Bishop of Iconium, and Sosipater, Bishop of Tarsus, introduced Christianity to the island.

Corfu fell to the lot of the Eastern Empire at the time of the division in 336 and entered a long period of unsettled fortunes, beginning with the invasion of the Goths (551).

The population gradually abandoned the old town and moved to the peninsula surmounted by two peaks (the *korifi*) where the ancient citadel now stands. The Venetians, who were beginning to play a more decisive role in the southern Adriatic, came to the aid of a failing Byzantium, thereby conveniently defending their own trade with Constantinople against the Norman prince Robert Guiscard. Corfu was taken by the Normans in 1081 and returned to the Byzantine Empire in 1084.

Following the Fourth Crusade and the sack of Constantinople by the Crusaders in 1204, the Byzantine Empire was broken up and, in return for their military support, the Venetians obtained all the naval bases they needed to control the Aegean and the Ionian Seas, including Corfu, which they occupied briefly from 1204 to 1214. For the next half-century, the island fell under the sway of the Despots of Epirus (1214-67) and then that of the Angevins of Naples (1267-1368), who used it to further their policies against both the Byzantine Empire now re-established in Constantinople and the Republic of Venice. The tiny medieval town grew up between the two fortified peaks, the Byzantine *Castel da Mare* and the Angevin *Castel di Terra*, in the shelter of a defensive wall fortified with towers. Writings from the first half of the 13th century tell of a separation of administrative and religious powers between the inhabitants of the citadel and those of the outlying parts of the town occupying what is now the Spianada.

In order to assert its naval and commercial power in the Southern Adriatic, the Republic of Venice took advantage of the internal conflicts raging in the Kingdom of Naples to take control of Corfu (1386-1797). Alongside Negropont (Chalcis), Crete, and Modon (Methoni), it would form one of the bases from which to counter the Ottoman maritime offensive and serve as a revictualling station for ships en route to Romania and the Black Sea.

The ongoing work on defining, improving, and expanding the medieval fortified perimeter reflects the economic and strategic role of Corfu during the four centuries of Venetian occupation. In the early 15th century activity concentrated on the medieval town, with the development of harbour facilities (docks, quays and arsenals) and continued with the renovation of the defence works. Early in the following century a canal was dug, cutting off the medieval town from its suburbs.

Following the siege of the town by the Turks in 1537 and the burning of the suburbs, a new programme of works was launched to isolate the citadel further and strengthen its defences. The strip of land (now the Spianada) cleared in 1516 was widened by demolishing houses facing the citadel walls, two new bastions were raised on the banks of the canal, the elevation of the perimeter walls was lowered, and the two *castelli* were replaced by new structures. The work, based on plans drawn by Veronese architect Michele Sanmicheli (1487-1559), were completed in 1558, bringing the town's defences up to date with the rapid progress made in artillery in recent decades.

Yet another siege by the Turks in 1571 decided the Venetians to embark on a vast project covering the medieval town, its suburbs, the harbour, and all the military buildings (1576-88). Ferrante Vitelli, architect to

the Duke of Savoy, sited a fort (the New Fort) on the low hill of St Mark to the west of the old town to command the surrounding land and at sea, and also the 24 suburbs enclosed by a ditched wall with bastions and four gates. More buildings, both military and civil, were erected and the 15th century Mandraki harbour was restructured and enlarged. At the same time, the medieval town was converted to more specifically military uses (the cathedral was transferred to the new town in the 17th century) to become the Old Citadel.

Between 1669 and 1682 the system of defences was further strengthened to the west by a second wall, the work of military engineer Filippo Vernada. In 1714 the Turks sought to reconquer Morea (the Peloponnese) but Venetian resistance hardened when the Turkish forces headed towards Corfu. The support of Christian naval fleets and an Austrian victory in Hungary in 1716 helped to save the town. The commander of the Venetian forces on Corfu, Giovanni Maria von Schulenburg, was inspired by the designs of Filippo Vernada to put the final touches to this great fortified ensemble. The outer western defences were reinforced by a complex system of outworks on the heights of two mountains, Abraham and Salvatore, and on the intermediate fort of San Rocco (1717-30).

The treaty of Campo Formio (1797) marked the end of the Republic of Venice and saw Corfu come under French control (1797-99) until France withdrew before the Russian-Turkish alliance that founded the State of the Ionian Islands, of which Corfu would become the capital (1799-1807). The redrawing of territorial boundaries in Europe after the fall of Napoleon made Corfu, after a brief interlude of renewed French control (1807-14), a British protectorate for the next half-century (1814-64).

As the capital of the United States of the Ionian Islands, Corfu lost its strategic importance. Under the governance of the British High Commissioner Sir Thomas Maitland (1816-24), development activity concentrated on the Spianada; his successor, Sir Frederic Adam (1824-32), turned his attention towards public works (building an aqueduct, restructuring the Old Citadel and adding new military buildings at the expense of the Venetian buildings, reconstruction and raising of the town's dwellings) and the reorganisation of the educational system (the new Ionian Academy was opened in 1824), contributing to the upsurge in intellectual interests sparked during the French occupation. At the same time, the British began demolishing the outer fortifications on the western edge of the town and planning residential areas outside the defensive walls.

In 1864 the island was attached to the Kingdom of the Hellenes. The fortresses were disarmed and several sections of the perimeter wall and the defences were gradually demolished. The island became a favoured holiday destination for the aristocracy of Europe. The Old Town was badly damaged by bombing in 1943. Added to the loss of life was the destruction of many houses and public buildings (the Ionian Parliament, the theatre, and the library), fourteen churches, and a number of buildings in the Old Citadel. In recent decades the gradual growth of the new town has accelerated with the expansion of tourism.

3. OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE, INTEGRITY AND AUTHENTICITY

Integrity and Authenticity

Integrity

The Old Town of Corfu is a fortified Mediterranean harbour retaining traces of Venetian occupation, including the Old Citadel and the New Fort, but primarily of the British period.

The strict legal measures enacted after World War II, and the listing of the town for protection as a cultural monument in 1967 have provided the basis for the control of changes and the possibility to retain the integrity of the town. During the British period, three forts were preserved: the Old Fortress, the New Fortress and the small island of Vidos. The plan provided for the demolition of all the western forts. The British did demolish the south-west side in 1937 and fort of Sotiros in 1938 to give space for prisons. In the old and new fortresses, the British intervention related to internal restructuring and some new additions.

The overall form of the fortifications has been retained. Nevertheless, like most fortifications, Corfu has faced many severe military attacks, causing destruction, demolition and rebuilding. The interventions of the 19th century and the rebuilding after the World War II have in fact reduced the historic fabric of the property. Only a relatively small part of the structures actually dates from the Venetian period.

Authenticity

Corfu developed from a small Byzantine town along the lines of a western urban model, which can be seen on all cultural levels and displayed in the town's structure and form. The Old Town of Corfu today occupies the same area as the ancient town whose overall design it still reflects, with the two fortifications, the open space of the Spianada, the compact urban core with its different quarters and the streets. This urban fabric has been shaped by centuries of demolition and reconstruction dictated by military needs. In the 19th century the British were the first to begin dismantling the complex Venetian defence system, the scale of which is amply illustrated by the many maps still extant. The British example was followed by the Greek government after 1864.

About 70% of the pre-20th century buildings date from the British period. There were no large openings made in Corfu as was the case in many other fortifications. Some of the dwellings have undergone further modifications in the 20th century, such as the addition of an extra floor.

World War II bombing destroyed some houses and buildings in the Old Town, particularly in the western section, where whole blocks were destroyed. The buildings thus lost were in part replaced by new constructions in the 1960s and 1970s.

These interventions represent a particular juncture in history and express the aesthetic attitudes of their time,

clearly distinguished from previous buildings. The existence of rich records on the old form of the town has ensured full documentation in the case of interventions to existing buildings.

The fortifications of Corfu and the historic urban areas have been subject to various armed conflicts and consequent destruction. The present form of the ensemble results from the works in the 19th and 20th centuries, even though based on the overall design of previous phases, particularly in the Venetian period.

ICOMOS considers that the fortified ensemble of Corfu is authentic, despite the many structural alterations resulting from its major strategic importance as a military position. It has been actively involved in many conflicts which took place at the point of contact between the West and the Mediterranean East from the 15th to the 20th centuries. It has been rebuilt several times, and altered to allow for developments in weapons of attack and principles of defence, successively by the Venetians and by the British. The integrity of the fortified ensemble, in its current state of conservation, is satisfactory in terms of expressing its outstanding value.

ICOMOS considers that the urban site of Corfu is representative of an urban history which is closely associated with the structure of forts and ramparts. ICOMOS considers however that the authenticity and integrity of the urban fabric are primarily those of a neo-classical town.

In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that the authenticity and integrity of the fortified ensemble of Corfu enable the expression of its outstanding value.

Comparative analysis

The comparative analysis in the 2006 nomination document refers to the following Mediterranean fortified cities: Rhodes, Valletta, Dubrovnik, Trogir, and Heraklion. In the supplementary information provided by the State Party, the comparison has been extended to several other port towns in Italy, the Near East and the Dalmatian coast. Corfu is distinguished partly due to archaeological evidence of history from the 8th century BC and from the Byzantine period.

It is argued by the State Party that Corfu is characterised due to its European influences and for its identity resulting from its role as a crossroads of civilisations. The fortifications of the Venetian period, designed by architects Sanmicheli, gave Corfu a major role as one of the strategic military bases of Venice at the entrance to the Adriatic Sea. It is also one of the few areas that avoided Ottoman occupation keeping its western character.

There are a number of important fortifications in the eastern Mediterranean region. Of these, Valletta and Dubrovnik are certainly the most impressive. The maritime republic of Venice established its reign through a series of fortifications along the Dalmatian coast, and Corfu was one of these. The Ottoman Empire ruled in the inland of the Balkans and in the eastern part of the Mediterranean, including the old town of Rhodes and the town of Heraklion on the island of Crete. From the mid 14th

century Dubrovnik became an autonomous republic and a rival to Venice. Valletta instead was ruled by the Knights of Malta and remained the most important fortified port in this part of the Mediterranean until the 20th century.

ICOMOS considers that Corfu certainly had an important strategic position at the entrance to the Adriatic Sea. For this reason it also had to face the many attacks by the Ottomans. Historically, the property has its origins in antiquity, but architecturally the fortification represents a typical Renaissance fort, which was rebuilt several times. The housing stock is in neo-classical style, but without special architectural features for which it could be distinguished.

ICOMOS considers that the comparative study that accompanies the new dossier is satisfactory, and that it enables a suitable assessment of the value of the property.

Justification of the Outstanding Universal Value

The State Party considers that Corfu has an Outstanding Universal Value for the following:

The Old Town of Corfu, internationally renowned, is a unique cultural entity of a high aesthetic value: the aesthetic value is recognised in the structure and form of the once-walled town, as well as in its arts, letters and social life. The Old Town developed diachronically, through the osmosis of features of the two worlds of the Mediterranean, the East and the West. It has been preserved, alive and substantially unaltered, until the present day.

The defence system and the urban fabric were designed and developed during the Venetian period, from the 15th to the 18th centuries, and then by the British Empire during the 19th century.

The importance of Corfu's fortifications for the history of defensive architecture is huge. From both the technical and aesthetic point of view they constitute one of the most glorious examples preserved, not only in Greece, but across the Eastern Mediterranean more widely. At various occasions, Corfu had to defend the Venetian maritime empire against the Ottoman army.

Neo-classical in its architecture, the old town bears witness to the duration of European architectural and cultural influence in the Balkans, which were mainly dominated by the Ottoman empire. Corfu is also important for studying the development of urban multi-storey buildings, since it is the first Greek city in which the idea of horizontal ownership appeared. The composite character of the town that resulted from its history and the ability to assimilate differences without conflict led to the development of a particular cosmopolitan atmosphere with intense European symbolism.

Criteria under which inscription is proposed

The property is nominated on the basis of criteria i, ii and iv.

Criterion i : According to the State Party, the forts of Corfu are highly important in military architecture, from

15th to 19th centuries. Work of the leading architects and engineers, the fortifications required all the creative genius of those involved to be united in an organised effort in which science and art triumphed over nature.

ICOMOS considers that the fortifications of Corfu are an illustration of the military architecture of the late Renaissance period, in a remarkable geographical position. The defensive site has maintained its general structure over several successive sieges and reconstructions. It would however be going too far to say that criterion i is fully illustrated by the site.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has not been justified.

Criterion ii: According to the State Party, Corfu is unique in preserving traces since the 8th century of Corinthian, Macedonian, Roman, Byzantine, Angevin, Venetian, French, British and Greek influences. Corfu has never known racial, political or religious hatred.

ICOMOS considers that the main features of the property are its fortifications and the old town, which are the result of modern influences. The reference to the Venetian, British and Greek periods is common to most places in the Mediterranean. As such, there are not enough elements to support this criterion.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has not been justified.

Criterion iv: According to the State Party, the structure and form of Corfu has been preserved more or less unchanged keeping its late medieval and Renaissance features. The Corfu urban dwelling that took the form of a multi-storey building, as it came to be in the Venetian period and continued to develop during the 19th century, is a very interesting building type, unique in Greece for its early appearance and valuable for the study of the historical development of horizontal property ownership from its beginnings to the particular form it takes today.

The State Party refers to the neo-classical multi-storey building of the old town as being of interest in the Greek context. ICOMOS does not consider that this is sufficient to justify this criterion.

On the other hand, the comparative analysis set out in the nomination dossier of 2006 highlights the remarkable nature of Corfu's defence system, which is characteristic of fortifications of the Venetian period.

ICOMOS considers that Corfu does represent one of the significant fortifications in the eastern Mediterranean. Designed by the Venetians, it has demonstrated the quality of its design through the many attacks to which it has successfully resisted. Even though the property has been repaired and rebuilt after the various damages, it has still retained its overall form.

ICOMOS therefore considers that this criterion is applicable.

ICOMOS considers that the Outstanding Universal Value has been demonstrated and that the nominated property meets criterion iv.

4. FACTORS AFFECTING THE PROPERTY

The nomination dossier includes an identification of the following factors.

Development pressures are seen particularly in the need by inhabitants to make alterations to existing buildings, such as building new upper floors. In the old town, part of the building stock has been taken over by poorer social strata with limited ability to afford expensive repairs. Some of the problems that have required special intervention relate to weak structural conditions. However, recent renovation works have already improved the situation.

Environmental problems relate to high humidity and dampness, and the risk of heavy rains, which can result in floods. Corfu is not located in serious earthquake hazard area. Fire is noted as a possible hazard but has been rare. Only 6% of the visitors to the island actually visit the old town area.

In addition to these factors, ICOMOS has concerns regarding the large size of the buffer zone. Particular attention is required to ensure that no tall buildings are built in the buffer zone.

ICOMOS considers that the main threat facing the site is the risk of uncontrolled private initiatives affecting housing stock inside the site and in the buffer zone. ICOMOS recommends great vigilance in this matter.

5. PROTECTION, CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone

The site nominated consists of the two fortresses and the old town located in between them; it occupies a surface area of 70 hectares.

ICOMOS considers that the proposed site is appropriately defined.

The buffer zone in its new definition covers an urban area which is relatively large and homogeneous. It includes many elements of the neo-classical town, green zones and more recent urban extensions. It also includes ancient monuments, Byzantine monuments, many archaeological excavation areas, and museums. Forming a homogeneous whole, the buffer zone occupies a surface area of 162 hectares. The coastal strip, to the north of the buffer zone but not included in it, is public property under the supervision of the Ministry of Marine Commerce, and is managed by the Corfu port authority. It is therefore a closed space with the function of a port. Any intervention modifying the built structure must be submitted for approval to the local and ministerial authorities, including the Ministry of Culture.

ICOMOS considers that the buffer zone is appropriately defined, and that the regulatory arrangements for its management are also appropriate.

Protection

Legal Protection

The responsibility for protection is shared by several institutions and relevant decrees. These include the Hellenic Ministry of Culture (ministerial decision of 1980), the Ministry of the Environment, Spatial Planning and Public Works (Presidential decree of 1980), and the Municipality of Corfu (Presidential decree of 1981).

Furthermore, the Greek law on the shoreline of towns and of islands in general applies to the whole length of the site and its buffer zone, for which the control distance is up to 500 m for any intervention which could modify the urban landscape, the natural landscape and the archaeological situation. The parties concerned by the application of these provisions are the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of the Environment, and the Architectural Committee of the Municipality of Corfu through the building permit scheme. Furthermore, any modification involving an action affecting the sea bed is subject to the approval of the Antiquities Department of the Ministry of Culture.

ICOMOS notes that there are two new provisions that affect Corfu. One is the law on the protection of antiquities and cultural heritage in general (n° 3028/2002), which is linked with town and country planning and will improve protection around listed monuments. The other is the establishment of a new independent Superintendence for Byzantine and post-Byzantine antiquities, in 2006.

Conservation

History of Conservation

The intervention of the Greek government concerning fortresses, to ensure their preservation and restoration in the interest of history and heritage, began in 1922.

As indicated earlier, the town suffered from bombing during World War II. The reconstruction of the old town was then managed by the Greek Ministry of Reconstruction, until 1967. Various decisions concerning the reallocation of premises and areas in the old citadel or urban palaces have been taken since then, concerning for example the Archives of Corfu, the Public Library, University of the Ionian islands and the Music Academy. From 1967 onwards, the town has been classified as a historic urban ensemble and the fortresses as historic monuments.

The setting up of a proactive policy of heritage conservation dates from the early 1990s, with programmes of actions based on historic studies respecting restoration standards in line with international criteria. Nineteen conservation and enhancement programmes have been drawn up since then for the citadel and the new fort. The programmes have been implemented or are in progress, under the supervision of the Fort Restoration and Conservation Office. The work carried out has primarily

concerned the fortification system and the restoration of buildings which are today used for public activities.

Present state of conservation

The proactive policies of restoration and enhancement of the fortifications and of the citadel, which have been under way for some fifteen years, have resulted in a generally acceptable state of conservation, enabling the expression of the outstanding value of this part of the property.

Notable results have been achieved in the rehabilitation to heritage standard of the most significant parts of the urban fabric. Many works however have still to be completed or started.

The current status of the maintenance of the buildings in the old town is as follows: 11% of buildings in excellent condition, 55% in good general condition, 31% in mediocre condition for which intervention will ultimately be required, and 3% in a situation requiring urgent intervention.

Active Conservation measures

At present, nine additional restoration programmes are being considered for the fortifications, of which seven are autonomous programmes of the Office, and two are cooperation projects.

The restoration of the urban fabric of the town is covered by eight restoration programmes, either completed or in progress, representing an amount of more than ten million euros. Four are being conducted by the municipality on its own, and four in cooperation, the two main ones being the restoration of the streets of the town (4.1m euros) and the rehabilitation of the Jewish quarter (1.8m euros).

Various funds have been allocated and programmes implemented over the last ten years of so, aimed at restoring the town's many public buildings and encouraging private owners to carry out heritage conservation actions, particularly on facades. Actions under the urban rehabilitation programme over this period have amounted to an average of 1 million euros per year, with 0.3 million euros a year for the fortresses, and 0.4 million euros a year for the archaeological programmes. The restorations and works on properties carried out by the University amount to 13m euros.

The application of new legal protection provisions (in particular, the law of 2002) have led to a consolidation of the funds committed to the restoration and maintenance of the old town and the fortresses.

ICOMOS considers that all the measures taken have contributed to the good state of conservation of the property, enabling it to express its outstanding value.

Management

Management structures and processes, including traditional management processes

The Ministry of Culture is responsible for the protection of historic monuments and archaeological sites (law of 1967,

amended in 1980). This is reflected in provisions to prohibit the demolition of buildings under its protection, recommendations for restoration, particularly concerning facades, and conformity controls of actions by the municipal and regional authorities. It directly protects 35 historic monuments and 9 contemporary buildings (i.e. constructed since 1830) in the nominated site, and 21 historic monuments and a large number of contemporary buildings in the buffer zone.

The Ministry of the Environment controls all projects affecting the natural environment and landscape (Law of 1980). It controls the application of the building permit provisions by the municipalities (Decentralisation Law of 1981).

The Municipality of Corfu monitors building development and manages various town planning and property management plans in concertation with the ministerial departments. The plans include: the General Urban Planning Scheme (1987), the Town Plan (1958), Programme for Local Development (1998), and Action Plans for the Old Town, the Fortifications, and Tourism.

An urban action plan, which is in line with the management plan of the nominated site, has just been adopted (2005) for the period 2006-2012.

ICOMOS considers that the management system is satisfactory, in view of the concertation procedures linked to the management plan.

Management plans, including visitor management and presentation

In connection with the new nomination for UNESCO World Heritage status, a management plan has been drawn up by the various parties already mentioned (Ministries, Municipality), joined by the Region of the Ionian Islands and the Technical Chamber of Greece (TCG). Since then they have constituted an official Steering committee, endowed with planning powers and in charge of the general monitoring of the projects and programmes associated with the site. A coordinator is in charge of examining dossiers and financial monitoring; he is also in charge of making proposals to the Steering committee.

The coordinator also works in conjunction with the Committee of owners and users of the site, to determine future actions.

The main objectives of the 6-year plan are:

- The protection and conservation of the site, and in particular the monitoring and evaluation of the heritage and its condition; a programme of technical recommendations for building facades (architecture, materials, etc.) and of support for property owners; ensuring that the main balances are maintained so that balanced urban life can continue.
- To work on the various points of access to the town and urban traffic control (selective entrance authorisations, car parks for local inhabitants,

public transport); and on the establishment of protected pedestrian routes and cycle paths inside the old town.

- A programme of scientific documentation and pedagogical action for the public (signs, information at entrances, general documentation and heritage routes, etc.); the development of tourist facilities and targeted actions (themed routes, concerted projects with tour operators, etc.).
- A heritage tourism promotion action, as only 6% of tourists arriving on the island (1.1 million) currently visit the site of the old town and forts.

ICOMOS recognises the recent efforts made in the 6-year management plan, including a Steering committee and a Committee of users and owners, and the presence of the coordinator. ICOMOS considers that the management plan proposed is satisfactory, while recommending that attention should be paid to the technical competency and the quality of the executive team working with the coordinator, and its links with the municipal departments in charge of the old town.

Involvement of local communities

The Municipality of Corfu has always played a leading role in maintaining and enhancing its urban, military and archaeological heritage. The legal decentralisation provisions together with all the concerted actions proposed in the management plan strengthen this major role played by the Municipality. The Municipality intervenes through the Technical Department of the old town, and an Architecture Committee.

The prefecture of Corfu is also involved in the 2006-2012 plan.

The 6-year management plan takes into account users and owners, and professional actors in the field of tourism.

Resources, including staffing levels, expertise and training

The financial resources are provided by the Ministry of the Environment, Spatial Planning and Public Works, the Archaeological Receipts Fund, Ministry of Culture, and Municipality of Corfu. We have seen that the various institutional partners have committed significant amounts of funding for recurrent actions or specific programmes over a period of several years. The management plan strengthens these efforts in terms of amounts of funding and concerted actions for the future.

The human resources centre on local companies which already have considerable experience of working with the municipality and the relevant ministries, while complying with heritage criteria. A substantial effort is also being made to have executives (historians, archaeologists and technicians) trained by the University of the Ionian Islands. Agreements have been signed in this regard with the School of Architecture and the Polytechnic School of Athens. The Technical Chamber of Greece is capable of playing a role of advice and scientific guidance.

Corfu has good contacts with various academic institutions. It also participates in a network of historic Mediterranean towns and organises regularly working meetings and scholarly conferences focused on issues that concern the built heritage of Corfu.

ICOMOS considers that the active mobilisation of the funds necessary for conservation, together with the available human resources and expertise, are satisfactory.

In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that the measures taken for the protection and conservation of the site are appropriate, and that they will fully benefit, over the coming years, from the management plan drawn up for 2006-2007.

6. MONITORING

Sixteen monitoring indicators have been defined for the built structure and town planning of the old town, most of which apply for five years; the most important indicators are however revised every two years, and this applies in particular to works to be undertaken and costings. Six indicators concerning works on the forts have been defined.

Monitoring of heritage and its indicators are under the direct responsibility of the Municipal Department of the old town, and for archaeological matters the Ministerial Antiquities Department. These indicators are also examined by the Ministries of Culture and the Environment, which intervene through financing in particular.

The management plan strengthens the concertation of scheduling between the various bodies, and also between the various levels of technical expertise.

ICOMOS considers that the monitoring indicators and policy are favourable for the expression of the outstanding universal values of the site.

7. CONCLUSIONS

ICOMOS considers that the application of the continuous buffer zone, as proposed in the new dossier, constitutes an acceptable level of protection.

ICOMOS considers that the application of the management plan as defined in the final version of the nomination constitutes a good management tool in terms of expressing the outstanding universal value of the property.

Recommendations with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that The Old Town of Corfu, Greece, be inscribed in the World Heritage List on the basis of ***criterion iv*** :

Recommended Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

The ensemble of the fortifications and the Old Town of Corfu is located in a strategic location at the entrance to the Adriatic Sea. Historically, its roots go back to the 8th century BC and to the Byzantine period. It has thus been

subject to various influences and a mix of different peoples. From the 15th century, Corfu was under Venetian rule for some four centuries, then passing to French, British and Greek governments. At various occasions, it had to defend the Venetian maritime empire against the Ottoman army. Corfu was a well thought of example of fortification engineering, designed by the architects Sanmicheli, and it proved its worth through practical warfare. Corfu has its specific identity, which is reflected in the design of its system of fortification and in its neo-classical building stock. As such, it can be placed alongside other major Mediterranean fortified port cities.

Criterion iv: The urban and port ensemble of Corfu, dominated by its fortresses of Venetian origin, constitutes an architectural example of outstanding universal value in both its authenticity and its integrity.



General view of the town



Old Fortress



Street of Corfu



Venetian dwellings

Corfou (Grèce)

No 978

Nom officiel du bien tel que

proposé par l'État partie : La vieille ville de Corfou

Lieu :

Région des îles Ioniennes,
préfecture de Corfou

Brève description :

La vieille ville de Corfou est située sur l'île de Corfou (*Kerkyra*), au large des côtes occidentales de l'Albanie et de la Grèce. Ce site ancien occupait une position stratégique à l'entrée de la mer Adriatique. Les fortifications de Corfou furent conçues par des ingénieurs vénitiens renommés et furent utilisées pendant quatre siècles pour défendre les intérêts du commerce maritime de la République de Venise contre l'Empire ottoman. Au fil du temps, les fortifications durent être réparées et en partie reconstruites plusieurs fois, plus récemment sous la domination britannique au XIX^e siècle. Les bâtiments pour la plupart de style néoclassique de la vieille ville datent en partie de la période vénitienne et en partie d'époques de construction plus tardives.

Catégorie de bien :

En terme de catégories de biens culturels telles qu'elles sont définies à l'article premier de la Convention du patrimoine mondial de 1972, il s'agit d'un *ensemble*. En référence à l'annexe 3 (14, ii) des *Orientations devant guider la mise en oeuvre de la Convention du patrimoine mondial* (2 février 2005), le bien est une *cité historique vivante*.

1. IDENTIFICATION

Inclus dans la liste indicative : 28 juin 1999

Assistance internationale au titre du Fonds du patrimoine mondial pour la préparation de la proposition d'inscription : Non

Date de réception par le

Centre du patrimoine mondial : 31 janvier 2006

Antécédents :

Une première proposition d'inscription a été présentée en 1999. L'ICOMOS a réalisé l'évaluation du bien et recommandé qu'il ne soit pas inscrit sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial. L'État partie a retiré le dossier de proposition d'inscription avant son examen par la 24^e session du Bureau du Comité du patrimoine mondial (Paris, juin 2000). Le nouveau dossier diffère principalement du premier par la présence d'une importante analyse comparative et par une vision renouvelée de la zone tampon.

Consultations : L'ICOMOS a consulté ses Comités scientifiques internationaux sur les villes et villages historiques et sur les fortifications et le patrimoine militaire.

Littérature consultée (sélection) :

Puppi, L., *Michele Sanmicheli, architetto di Verona*, Padoue, 1971.

Agoropoulou-Birbili, A., *The Architecture of the town of Corfu under Venetian rule*, Athènes, 1976 ; *The work of the Corfiot architect I. Chronis*, Technical Chamber of Greece – Corfu Branch, Corfu, 1997 ; *Documentation of archaeological features during British rule* (en grec), Corfu, 1997.

Concina, E., *Città e fortezze nelle tre isole nostre del Levante*, Venise, 1986.

Corfu: History, urban life, architecture, 14th-19th c., Cultural Association of Corfu, Corfu, 1994.

Corfu: a Mediterranean synthesis, Acts of the International Conference, Cultural Association of Corfu, Corfu, 1998.

Mission d'évaluation technique : 18-21 septembre 2006

Information complémentaire demandée et reçue de l'État partie : L'ICOMOS a envoyé une lettre à l'État partie le 20 décembre 2006 et l'État partie a fourni des informations complémentaires le 18 janvier 2007. L'ICOMOS a envoyé une deuxième lettre le 30 janvier 2007 et l'État partie a fourni des informations complémentaires le 26 février 2007.

Date d'approbation de l'évaluation par l'ICOMOS : 11 mars 2007

2. LE BIEN

Description

L'île de Corfou (en grec : *Kerkyra*) se trouve dans la mer Adriatique au large de la côte occidentale de la Grèce et de l'Albanie. La vieille ville de Corfou s'étend entre deux forteresses, au milieu de la côte orientale de l'île. L'ancienne citadelle et le Fort Neuf forment deux monuments remarquables dans le tissu urbain. À l'est, le canal creusé par les Vénitiens a transformé le promontoire rocheux sur lequel la vieille citadelle a été fondée en une île surplombant le petit port de Mandraki. La citadelle conserve les imposantes fortifications vénitiennes, restructurées par les Britanniques, disposées sur trois niveaux à l'extrémité du canal relié par une passerelle à la Spianada. Une première enceinte extérieure conduit à la fortification frontale constituée de deux bastions à orillons (Martinengo et Savorgnan) et à une courtine dans laquelle fut percée la principale porte d'entrée (vers 1550). Un pont de pierre enjambe un large fossé le long duquel s'élèvent des casernes datant du XIX^e siècle. Un second mur protège la base des deux pics fortifiés. L'accès se fait par une série de rampes et d'escaliers. Un passage voûté conduit au port de Mandraki, qui lui-même conserve une porte monumentale, aujourd'hui fermée. Quelques bâtiments sur différents niveaux, datant principalement du XIX^e siècle, ont été conservés. Parmi ceux-ci, les

anciennes geôles vénitiennes, surélevées par les Britanniques, quatre magasins de poudre, l'hôpital, qui s'étend d'un pic à l'autre, deux casernes et l'église Saint-Georges qui a la forme d'un temple dorique (1840).

La structure imposante du Fort Neuf domine le secteur nord-ouest de la vieille ville. Un saillant pentagonal, un demi-saillant et le petit fort de Punta Perpetua sont reliés par un rempart et commandent l'ancien port. De longs tunnels en pente conduisent aux casernes britanniques et aux deux bastions des Sept Vents reliés par une courtine et orientés vers la campagne. Ceux-ci surplombent un large fossé et deux bastions préservés du deuxième mur d'enceinte vénitien. Les deux portes du Fort Neuf subsistent, de même que l'église Panagia Spiliotissa (reconstruite en 1739). La route circulaire autour de la vieille ville suit l'ancien mur d'enceinte, dont il reste quelques vestiges à l'ouest et au sud, et une seule porte, la porte Spilia, sur les quatre d'origine (porte Royale, porte Saint-Nicholas, porte Raimonda).

Les contours de la vieille ville furent déterminés par le manque d'espace et les besoins de défense. Le tissu urbain forme un cœur compact comprenant dix quartiers différenciés par leur forme. Les quartiers alignés sur les trois collines basses (Campiello, Agion Pateron et Agiou Athanassiou) sont de composition irrégulière et fragmentée, le signe évident de quartiers d'origine ayant survécu à la démolition nécessaire pour la construction des murs d'enceinte. Ils se caractérisent par un réseau de rues radiales, de placettes et de pâtés de maisons compacts groupés autour des églises. Les faubourgs de ces zones, qui font transition, et les quartiers construits dans la continuité des murs d'enceinte sont de forme plus régulière, en particulier ceux qui se déploient derrière la Spianada en un réseau de lignes droites courant d'est en ouest.

Les deux rues principales orientées est-ouest et les axes nord-sud qui autrefois reliaient la vieille citadelle aux quatre portes ouvertes dans le mur d'enceinte suivent un contour ancien. Ce système simple de circulation, dicté par des impératifs stratégiques, contraste avec les ruelles secondaires (les *kantounia*, entre 1 m et 3 m de large) qui forment un réseau complexe d'escaliers et de tunnels voûtés traversant une série de placettes, dont la place Kremasti est un exemple typique.

L'espace restreint de ce périmètre a imposé la construction de maisons d'habitation à plusieurs étages alignées sans distinction en rangs serrés le long des rues. Bien que la vieille ville ait dû compter de nombreuses maisons patriciennes pendant la période vénitienne, seules quelques-unes d'entre elles peuvent être identifiées aujourd'hui, telles que les demeures des familles Ricchi et Yallina (XVIIe siècle). Les façades des maisons de cette époque se caractérisent par des rangées régulières de fenêtres, des balcons en pierre, des arcades au rez-de-chaussée et un revêtement rouge et ocre qui contraste avec les montants en pierre de la porte et des fenêtres. Nombre de maisons possèdent des embrasures ornées de sculptures. Quelques bâtiments publics de la période vénitienne ont survécu : la porte d'un des magasins de grains (1592), la maison du prêteur sur gages (1630) qui fait partie du palais des gouverneurs, une partie des casernes Grimani au sud de la Spianada.

La tendance à construire en hauteur s'accroît au XIXe siècle lorsque les anciens bâtiments furent surélevés jusqu'à six étages ou, dans la plupart des cas, remplacés par de nouveaux bâtiments qui occupaient souvent plus d'espace que dans le passé en annexant les cours. Les façades plus larges étaient divisées en trois sections verticales, dotées de nombreuses fenêtres, mais tendaient à l'uniformisation, en particulier le long des rues principales, tout en restant sobres dans leur ornementation d'inspiration classique. Des balcons à chaque étage créaient une impression de mouvement et de variété sur les façades.

La Spianada, l'esplanade qui sépare la ville de l'ancienne citadelle, occupe un tiers de la superficie de la vieille ville. Elle fut le plus peuplé des faubourgs au XVIe siècle et atteint sa taille actuelle au XVIIe siècle, pour des raisons militaires. Elle est encore aujourd'hui bordée de casernes du XVIIIe siècle. À la fin du XVIIIe siècle et au début du XIXe siècle, elle devint un modèle architectural dédié aux activités de loisir et aux fonctions civiques. Les Français l'embellirent en construisant des bâtiments à arcades - le Liston, à l'ouest -, et en plantant des arbres. Sous la domination britannique, elle devint un espace ouvert monumental avec le palais néoclassique Saint-Michel-et-Saint-Georges (1819-1823), autrefois la résidence des gouverneurs, au nord, et au sud le temple ionique circulaire dédié à Maitland : ces deux ouvrages sont l'œuvre de George Whitmore (1775-1862).

Au centre de la vieille ville se trouvent deux grandes places, chacune d'elles partant de l'une des deux rues principales. Sur la place Dimarchion, autrefois le centre culturel et social de la ville vénitienne, qui se trouve sur les pentes de la colline Agiou Athanassiou, s'élèvent la cathédrale Saint-Jacques du XVIIIe siècle, l'ancienne résidence de l'archevêque latin (reconstruite en 1754) et la *Loggia Nobilei* (1663-1669), transformée en théâtre en 1720 et abritant l'hôtel de ville depuis le début du XXe siècle.

Sur la place Heroon s'élèvent les églises Saint-Jean (antérieure au XVIe siècle) et *Phaneromeni*, une basilique à trois nefs datant du début du XVIIIe siècle et modifiée en 1832 par l'architecte corfiote Ioannis Chronis. Ce dernier a conçu de nombreux bâtiments publics de style néoclassique dans la vieille ville, notamment la Banque ionienne, qui se trouve sur cette même place, le domicile du premier gouverneur grec Ioannis Kapodistrias et le Parlement ionien (1854, restauré après les bombardements de 1943). Au nord de cette place se dresse l'église Saint-Spyridon (1589-1594, modifiée en 1670), qui abrite les reliques du saint patron de la ville et de l'île. Bien que la foi orthodoxe ait été maintenue pendant les siècles d'occupation étrangère, le contact avec l'occident latin influença aussi l'architecture religieuse de la vieille ville, qui présente une forte tradition byzantine. L'église à nef unique, possédant souvent un narthex extérieur plus bas, est beaucoup plus courante que la basilique à trois nefs, bien que chacune reflète les répertoires des styles Renaissance et baroque. La simplicité des façades offre un contraste remarquable avec la décoration intérieure travaillée. De nombreuses églises anciennes ont été agrandies et rénovées au XVIIIe siècle.

Historique et développement

Corfou, la première des îles Ioniennes rencontrée à l'entrée de l'Adriatique, fut annexée à la Grèce par un groupe d'Érétriens (775-750 av. J.-C.). En 734 av. J.-C., les Corinthiens fondèrent une colonie connue sous le nom de *Kerkyra* au sud de l'emplacement actuel de la vieille ville. Cette ville devint un comptoir de commerce sur le chemin de la Sicile et fonda de nouvelles colonies en Illyrie et en Épire. La côte de l'Épire et Corfou elle-même passèrent sous l'influence de la république romaine (229 av. J.-C.) et servirent de point de départ à l'expansion de Rome vers l'est. Sous le règne de Caligula, deux disciples de l'apôtre Paul, saint Jason, évêque d'Iconium, et Sosipater, évêque de Tarse, introduisirent le christianisme sur l'île.

Corfou passa sous la domination de l'Empire d'Orient au moment de la division en 336 et connut une longue période de troubles, qui commença avec l'invasion des Goths (551). La population abandonna progressivement la vieille ville et s'installa sur la péninsule surmontée de deux pics (les *korifi*) où s'élève aujourd'hui l'ancienne citadelle. Les Vénitiens, qui commençaient à jouer un rôle plus décisif au sud de l'Adriatique, vinrent en aide à une Byzance affaiblie, et par la même occasion défendirent leur propre commerce avec Constantinople contre les intérêts du prince normand Robert Guiscard. Corfou fut prise par les Normands en 1081 et retourna à l'Empire byzantin en 1084.

À la suite de la quatrième croisade et du sac de Constantinople par les croisés en 1204, l'Empire byzantin fut démantelé et, en échange de leur soutien militaire, les Vénitiens obtinrent les bases navales dont ils avaient besoin pour contrôler les mers Égée et Ionienne, y compris Corfou, qu'ils occupèrent brièvement de 1204 à 1214. Au cours du demi-siècle suivant, l'île tomba sous la domination des despotes d'Épire (1214-1267), puis sous celle des Angevins de Naples (1267-1368), qui l'utilisèrent pour appuyer leur politique contre l'Empire byzantin, alors rétabli à Constantinople, et la République de Venise. La petite ville médiévale grandit entre les deux pics fortifiés, le *Castel da Mare* byzantin et le *Castel di Terra* angevin, à l'abri d'un mur défensif fortifié avec des tours. Des écrits de la première moitié du XIII^e siècle relatent une séparation des pouvoirs administratif et religieux entre les habitants de la citadelle et ceux des parties excentrées de la ville occupant ce qui est aujourd'hui la Spianada.

Afin d'affirmer sa puissance navale et commerciale dans le sud de l'Adriatique, la République de Venise profita des conflits internes qui faisaient rage dans le royaume de Naples pour prendre le contrôle de Corfou (1386-1797). Aux côtés de Negroponte (Chalcis), Crète, et Modon (Méthoni), elle formerait l'une des bases à partir desquelles contrer les offensives maritimes ottomanes et servirait à l'avitaillement des navires en route pour la Roumanie et la mer Noire.

Les travaux continus d'amélioration et d'extension du périmètre fortifié médiéval reflètent le rôle économique et stratégique de Corfou au cours des quatre siècles de l'occupation vénitienne. Au début du XV^e siècle, l'activité était concentrée dans la ville médiévale, avec le développement des équipements portuaires (docks, quais et arsenaux) et se poursuivait avec la rénovation des ouvrages de défense. Au début du siècle suivant, un canal fut creusé, séparant la ville médiévale de ses faubourgs.

À la suite du siège de la ville par les Turcs en 1537 et de l'incendie des faubourgs, un nouveau programme de travaux fut lancé pour isoler davantage la citadelle et renforcer ses défenses. La bande de terre (aujourd'hui la Spianada), dégagée en 1516, fut élargie par la démolition des maisons faisant face aux murs de la citadelle, deux nouveaux bastions furent érigés sur les rives du canal, les murs d'enceinte furent abaissés et les deux *castelli* furent remplacés par de nouvelles structures. Les ouvrages, basés sur des plans dessinés par l'architecte véronais Michele Sanmicheli (1487-1559), furent achevés en 1558, modernisant le système de défense de la ville pour répondre aux progrès rapides de l'artillerie dans les dernières décennies.

Pourtant un autre siège des Turcs en 1571 décida les Vénitiens à se lancer dans un vaste projet couvrant la ville médiévale, ses faubourgs, le port et tous les bâtiments militaires (1576-1588). Ferrante Vitelli, architecte du duc de Savoie, implanta un fort, le Fort Neuf, sur la colline de Saint-Marc à l'ouest de la vieille ville, commandant le territoire environnant et la mer, ainsi que les 24 banlieues protégées par un mur entouré d'un fossé avec des bastions et quatre portes. Des bâtiments militaires et civils furent construits et le port de Mandraki du XV^e siècle fut restructuré et agrandi. Dans le même temps, la ville médiévale fut convertie à des usages plus spécifiquement militaires (la cathédrale fut transférée dans la nouvelle ville au XVII^e siècle) et devint l'ancienne citadelle.

Entre 1669 et 1682, le système de défense fut encore renforcé vers l'ouest par un second mur, l'œuvre de l'ingénieur militaire Filippo Vernada. En 1714, les Turcs cherchèrent à reconquérir Morea (le Péloponnèse) mais la résistance vénitienne se durcit quand les forces turques s'approchèrent de Corfou. Le soutien de la flotte de la chrétienté et une victoire autrichienne en Hongrie en 1716 aidèrent à sauver la ville. Le commandant des forces vénitiennes à Corfou, Giovanni Maria von Schulenburg, s'inspira des dessins de Filippo Vernada pour mettre une touche finale à ce grand ensemble fortifié. Les défenses externes occidentales furent renforcées par un système complexe d'ouvrages en avancée sur les hauteurs de deux montagnes, Abraham et Salvatore, et sur le fort intermédiaire de San Rocco (1717-1730).

Le traité de Campo Formio (1797) marqua la fin de la République de Venise et vit Corfou passer sous domination française (1797-1799) jusqu'à ce que la France se retire devant l'alliance russo-turque qui fonda la république fédérative des Sept-Îles, dont Corfou devint la capitale (1799-1807). Le nouveau tracé des délimitations territoriales en Europe après la chute de Napoléon fit de Corfou, après une nouvelle et brève occupation française (1807-1814), un protectorat britannique qui dura un demi-siècle (1814-1864).

En tant que capitale des États-Unis des îles Ioniennes, Corfou perdit son importance stratégique. Sous le gouvernement du lord haut-commissaire britannique, Sir Thomas Maitland (1816-1824), l'activité de développement se concentra sur la Spianada ; son successeur, Sir Frederic Adam (1824-1832), tourna son attention vers des ouvrages publics (construction d'un aqueduc, restructuration de l'ancienne citadelle et ajout de

bâtiments militaires aux dépens des bâtiments vénitiens, reconstruction et surélévation des immeubles d'habitation de la ville) et la réorganisation du système éducatif (la nouvelle Académie ionienne fut ouverte en 1824), qui contribua à la montée des intérêts intellectuels que l'occupation française avait suscités. À la même époque, les Britanniques commencèrent à démolir les fortifications extérieures à l'extrémité ouest de la ville et à construire des zones résidentielles à l'extérieur des murs de défense.

En 1864, l'île fut rattachée au Royaume des Hellènes. Les forteresses furent désarmées et plusieurs tronçons du mur d'enceinte ainsi que les défenses furent progressivement démolis. L'île devint une destination de vacances prisée par l'aristocratie d'Europe. La vieille ville fut gravement endommagée par des bombardements en 1943. Aux pertes humaines s'ajouta la destruction de nombreux bâtiments d'habitation et publics (le Parlement ionien, le théâtre et la bibliothèque), quatorze églises et plusieurs édifices dans l'ancienne citadelle. Dans les dernières décennies, la croissance progressive de la nouvelle ville s'est accélérée avec l'expansion du tourisme.

3. VALEUR UNIVERSELLE EXCEPTIONNELLE, INTEGRITÉ ET AUTHENTICITÉ

Intégrité et authenticité

Intégrité

La vieille ville de Corfou est un port méditerranéen fortifié qui conserve des traces de l'occupation vénitienne, dont l'ancienne citadelle et le Fort Neuf, mais surtout de la période britannique.

Des mesures légales strictes promulguées après la Seconde Guerre mondiale et l'établissement d'une liste des villes à protéger en tant que monuments culturels en 1967 ont fourni la base pour le contrôle des modifications et la possibilité de conserver l'intégrité de la ville. Pendant la période britannique, trois forts furent préservés : l'ancienne forteresse, le Fort Neuf et la petite île de Vidos. Le plan prévoyait la démolition de tous les forts occidentaux. Les Britanniques ont en effet démoli le côté sud-est en 1937 et le fort de Sotiros en 1938 pour laisser de l'espace aux prisons. Dans les anciennes et nouvelles forteresses, l'intervention britannique s'est rapportée à des restructurations et à quelques ajouts.

La forme globale des fortifications a été conservée. Néanmoins, comme la plupart des fortifications, Corfou a subi de nombreux et sévères assauts militaires, entraînant des destructions, des démolitions et des reconstructions. Les interventions du XIXe siècle et la reconstruction après la Seconde Guerre mondiale ont en fait amenuisé le tissu historique du bien. Seule une partie relativement petite des structures date réellement de la période vénitienne.

Authenticité

De petite ville byzantine, Corfou s'est développée selon un modèle urbain occidental, qui se reconnaît à tous les niveaux culturels ainsi que dans la structure et la forme de la ville. La vieille ville de Corfou occupe aujourd'hui le même espace que l'ancienne ville dont elle reflète encore

la disposition, avec les deux fortifications, l'espace ouvert de la Spianada, le noyau urbain compact avec ses différents quartiers et ses rues. Le tissu urbain a été formé par des siècles de démolition et de reconstruction dictés par les besoins militaires. Au XIXe siècle, les Britanniques furent les premiers à démanteler le système complexe de défense vénitien, dont l'échelle est amplement illustrée par de nombreux relevés cartographiques. L'exemple britannique fut suivi par le gouvernement grec après 1864.

Environ 70 % des bâtiments antérieurs au XXe siècle datent de la période britannique. Il n'y a pas eu de grandes ouvertures à Corfou comme cela s'est souvent fait dans de nombreuses fortifications. Quelques habitations ont connu des modifications au XXe siècle, comme l'ajout d'un étage supplémentaire.

Les bombardements de la Seconde Guerre mondiale ont détruit quelques maisons et bâtiments de la vieille ville, en particulier dans la partie ouest, où des pâtés de maisons entiers ont été détruits. Les bâtiments ainsi perdus ont été en partie remplacés par de nouvelles constructions dans les années 1960 et 1970.

Ces interventions représentent un moment particulier de l'histoire ; elles expriment les préférences esthétiques de leur temps qui les distinguent clairement des constructions précédentes. L'existence d'une riche documentation sur l'ancienne forme de la ville a permis d'effectuer des interventions documentées sur des bâtiments existants.

Les fortifications de Corfou et les sites urbains historiques ont subi différents conflits armés et les destructions en résultant. La forme actuelle de l'ensemble résulte des travaux entrepris aux XIXe et XXe siècles, même s'ils ont respecté le dessin global des phases précédentes, en particulier l'époque vénitienne.

L'ICOMOS considère que l'ensemble fortifié de Corfou est authentique en dépit de ses nombreuses restructurations dues à sa position militaire d'une importance stratégique majeure. Il a été impliqué activement dans de nombreux conflits, qui ont pris place à ce point de contact entre l'Occident et l'Orient méditerranéen, du XVe au XXe siècle. Il a été reconstruit à plusieurs reprises et modifié en fonction de l'évolution des armes d'attaque et des principes de la défense, successivement par les Vénitiens et les Britanniques. L'intégrité de l'ensemble fortifié, dans son état de conservation actuel, exprime de manière satisfaisante sa valeur exceptionnelle.

L'ICOMOS considère que le site urbain de Corfou est représentatif d'une histoire urbaine en étroite association avec le dispositif des forts et des remparts. L'ICOMOS considère toutefois que l'authenticité et l'intégrité du tissu urbain sont principalement celles d'une ville néoclassique.

En conclusion, l'ICOMOS considère que l'authenticité et l'intégrité de l'ensemble fortifié de Corfou permettent d'exprimer sa valeur exceptionnelle.

Analyse comparative

L'analyse comparative inclue dans le dossier de proposition d'inscription de 2006 se réfère aux villes fortifiées méditerranéennes suivantes : Rhodes, La Valette, Dubrovnik, Trogir et Héraklion. Dans les informations

complémentaires fournies par l'État partie, la comparaison a été étendue à plusieurs autres villes portuaires d'Italie, du Proche-Orient et de la côte Dalmate. Corfou se distingue en partie par ses vestiges archéologiques datant du VIII^e siècle av. J.-C. et de la période byzantine.

L'État partie affirme que Corfou se distingue par les influences européennes qui l'ont marquée et par son identité façonnée par son rôle à un carrefour de civilisations. Les fortifications de la période vénitienne, conçues par les architectes Sanmicheli, conférèrent à Corfou un rôle majeur en tant que l'une des bases militaires stratégiques de Venise à l'entrée de la mer Adriatique. C'est aussi une des rares zones qui, ayant échappé à l'occupation ottomane, a conservé son caractère occidental.

Il y a un grand nombre de fortifications dans la région orientale de la Méditerranée, parmi lesquelles La Valette et Dubrovnik sont certainement les plus imposantes. La République maritime de Venise établit son règne par une série de fortifications le long de la côte Dalmate, et Corfou en faisait partie. L'Empire ottoman dominait l'intérieur des Balkans et la partie orientale de la Méditerranée, y compris la vieille ville de Rhodes et la ville d'Héraklion sur l'île de Crète. À partir du XIV^e siècle, Dubrovnik devint une république autonome, rivale de Venise. La Valette fut dominée par les chevaliers de Malte et demeura le port fortifié le plus important de cette partie de la Méditerranée jusqu'au XX^e siècle.

L'ICOMOS considère que Corfou occupait certainement une position stratégique importante à l'entrée de la mer Adriatique. Pour cette raison, elle a dû aussi faire face aux nombreuses attaques des Ottomans. Historiquement, le bien trouve ses origines dans l'Antiquité, mais architecturalement le bien représente un fort typique de la Renaissance, reconstruit plusieurs fois. Le parc immobilier est de style néoclassique, mais ne présente pas de traits architecturaux particuliers qui pourraient le distinguer.

L'ICOMOS considère que l'étude comparative associée au nouveau dossier est satisfaisante et qu'elle permet une évaluation convenable de la valeur du bien.

Justification de la valeur universelle exceptionnelle

L'État partie considère que Corfou présente une valeur universelle exceptionnelle pour les raisons suivantes :

La vieille ville de Corfou, de renommée internationale, est une entité culturelle unique d'une grande valeur esthétique, laquelle se reconnaît dans la structure et la forme de la ville qui fut autrefois entourée d'un mur d'enceinte, ainsi que dans ses arts, ses lettres et sa vie sociale. La vieille ville se développa historiquement, en osmose avec les caractéristiques des deux mondes de la Méditerranée, l'Orient et l'Occident. Elle a été conservée, vivante et en grande partie intacte, jusqu'à nos jours.

Le système de défense et le tissu urbain ont été conçus et développés pendant la période vénitienne, du XV^e au XVIII^e siècle, puis par l'Empire britannique au cours du XIX^e siècle.

L'importance des fortifications de Corfou pour l'histoire de l'architecture défensive est immense. Du point de vue technique et esthétique, elles constituent un des plus glorieux exemples préservés, non seulement en Grèce mais dans tout l'Est méditerranéen. À plusieurs occasions, Corfou eut à défendre l'empire maritime vénitien contre l'armée ottomane.

Néoclassique dans son architecture, la ville ancienne témoigne dans la durée de l'influence architecturale et culturelle européenne dans les Balkans, alors principalement dominés par l'Empire ottoman. Corfou est aussi importante pour l'étude du développement des immeubles à plusieurs étages, car c'est la première ville grecque dans laquelle l'idée de propriété horizontale est apparue. Le caractère composite de la ville, résultant de son histoire et de sa capacité à assimiler différentes influences sans conflit, a conduit au développement d'une atmosphère cosmopolite particulière au symbolisme européen marqué.

Critères selon lesquels l'inscription est proposée :

Le bien est proposé pour inscription sur la base des critères i, ii et iv.

Critère i : Selon l'État partie, les forts de Corfou sont d'une haute importance pour l'architecture militaire du XV^e au XIX^e siècle. Les ouvrages et les fortifications ont requis tout le génie créateur des grands architectes et ingénieurs qui ont uni et organisé leurs efforts grâce auxquels la science et l'art ont triomphé de la nature.

L'ICOMOS considère que les fortifications de Corfou illustrent l'architecture militaire de la Renaissance tardive, dans une position géographique remarquable. Le site défensif a gardé sa structure générale à travers plusieurs sièges et reconstructions successifs. Il serait toutefois excessif de dire que le critère i est pleinement illustré par le site.

L'ICOMOS considère que ce critère n'a pas été justifié.

Critère ii : Selon l'État partie, Corfou est unique pour sa conservation de traces, depuis le VIII^e siècle av. J.-C., des influences corinthiennes, macédoniennes, romaines, byzantines, angevines, vénitienes, françaises, britanniques et grecques. Corfou n'a jamais connu la haine religieuse, politique ou raciale.

L'ICOMOS considère que les principales caractéristiques du bien sont ses fortifications et la vieille ville, qui résultent d'influences modernes. La référence faite aux périodes vénitienne, britannique et grecque est commune à la plupart des sites méditerranéens. Il n'existe donc pas suffisamment d'éléments pour confirmer ce critère.

L'ICOMOS considère que ce critère n'a pas été justifié.

Critère iv : Selon l'État partie, la structure et la forme de Corfou ont été gardées en état plus ou moins inchangé et ont conservé leurs caractéristiques de la fin du Moyen Âge et de la Renaissance. Les bâtiments d'habitation de Corfou qui prirent la forme d'immeubles à plusieurs étages, comme cela s'est pratiqué durant la période vénitienne et

continua de se développer au XIX^e siècle, sont un type de bâtiment très intéressant, unique en Grèce de par son apparition précoce, et précieux pour l'étude du développement historique de la propriété horizontale depuis ses origines jusqu'à la forme particulière qu'elle revêt aujourd'hui.

L'État partie se réfère aux bâtiments néo-classiques à plusieurs étages de la vieille ville comme étant d'un intérêt particulier dans le contexte de la Grèce. L'ICOMOS ne considère pas que cela soit suffisant pour justifier ce critère.

En revanche, l'analyse comparative fournie par le dossier de proposition d'inscription de 2006 met en évidence le caractère remarquable du système défensif de Corfou, caractéristique des fortifications de l'époque vénitienne. L'ICOMOS considère que les fortifications de Corfou figurent parmi les plus importantes de l'Est méditerranéen. Conçues par les Vénitiens, elles ont démontré la qualité de leur conception par les nombreuses attaques auxquelles elles ont résisté avec succès. Même si le bien a subi des réparations et des reconstructions après divers dommages, il a conservé sa forme globale.

L'ICOMOS considère par conséquent que ce critère est applicable.

L'ICOMOS considère que la valeur universelle exceptionnelle est démontrée et que le bien proposé répond de manière satisfaisante au critère iv.

4. FACTEURS AFFECTANT LE BIEN

Le dossier de proposition d'inscription comprend une identification des facteurs suivants.

Les pressions du développement se lisent en particulier dans le besoin qu'éprouvent les habitants d'apporter des modifications aux bâtiments existants, en particulier des surélévations. Dans la vieille ville, une partie du parc immobilier a été repris par des couches sociales plus pauvres qui ont des moyens limités pour payer des réparations coûteuses. Les problèmes qui ont requis des interventions spéciales concernent les faiblesses structurelles des bâtiments. Toutefois, de récents travaux de rénovation ont déjà amélioré la situation.

La ville connaît des problèmes d'environnement liés à l'humidité et aux risques de fortes pluies susceptibles de provoquer des inondations. Corfou n'est pas située sur une zone à sérieux risques sismiques. Les incendies sont retenus comme un risque possible mais ont été rares par le passé. Seuls 6 % des touristes sur l'île visitent la vieille ville.

En plus de ces facteurs, l'ICOMOS s'inquiète de la superficie importante de la zone tampon. Une attention particulière est requise pour s'assurer qu'aucun bâtiment élevé n'est construit dans la zone tampon.

L'ICOMOS considère que la principale menace pesant sur le site réside dans le risque d'initiatives privées mal contrôlées affectant le parc immobilier, à l'intérieur du site

et dans la zone tampon. L'ICOMOS recommande une grande vigilance sur ce point.

5. PROTECTION, CONSERVATION ET GESTION

Délimitations du bien proposé pour inscription et de la zone tampon

Le site proposé à l'inscription est formé des deux forteresses et de la ville ancienne située entre elles ; il occupe une surface de 70 hectares.

L'ICOMOS considère que le site proposé pour inscription est défini de manière appropriée.

La zone tampon dans sa nouvelle définition couvre un espace urbain assez important et homogène. Elle comprend de nombreux éléments de la ville néoclassique, des espaces verts et des extensions urbaines plus récentes. Elle comprend aussi des monuments anciens, byzantins, de nombreux espaces de fouilles archéologiques et des musées. Formant un ensemble homogène, la zone tampon occupe une surface de 162 hectares. La bande côtière, au nord de la zone tampon mais n'en faisant pas partie, est une propriété publique sous la tutelle du ministère du Commerce maritime et géré par l'autorité du port de Corfou. À ce titre, c'est un espace clos à fonction portuaire. Toute intervention modifiant sa structure bâtie doit être soumise à l'approbation des autorités locales et ministérielles, dont le ministère de la Culture.

L'ICOMOS considère que la zone tampon définie ainsi que les dispositions réglementaires pour sa gestion sont appropriées.

Protection

Protection légale

La responsabilité de la protection est partagée par plusieurs institutions et les décrets y afférents : le ministère de la Culture (décision ministérielle de 1980), le ministère de l'Environnement, de l'Urbanisme et des Travaux publics (décret présidentiel de 1980) et la municipalité de Corfou (décret présidentiel de 1981).

Par ailleurs, la loi grecque sur le rivage des villes et des îles en général s'applique sur toute l'étendue du site et de sa zone tampon, pour laquelle la distance de contrôle va jusqu'à 500 m pour toute intervention risquant de modifier le paysage urbain, le paysage naturel et la situation archéologique. Les parties concernées par l'application de ces dispositions sont le ministère de la Culture, le ministère de l'Environnement et le Comité architectural de la municipalité de Corfou à travers la délivrance du permis de construire. Par ailleurs, toute modification impliquant une action sur les fonds marins est soumise au département des antiquités du ministère de la Culture.

L'ICOMOS remarque qu'il y a deux nouvelles dispositions qui concernent Corfou. La première est la loi sur la protection des antiquités et du patrimoine culturel en général (n° 3028/2002), qui est liée aux plans pour l'urbanisme et le paysage et améliorera la protection

autour de monuments inscrits. La seconde est l'établissement d'une nouvelle Commission pour les antiquités byzantines et post-byzantines indépendante en 2006.

Conservation

Historique de la conservation

L'intervention du gouvernement grec concernant les forteresses, pour en assurer la conservation et la restauration dans l'intérêt de l'histoire et du patrimoine, a commencé en 1922.

Comme indiqué ci-avant, la ville a souffert de bombardements pendant la Seconde Guerre mondiale. La reconstruction de la ville ancienne a alors été gérée par le ministère de la Reconstruction grec, jusqu'en 1967. Différentes décisions concernant la réaffectation des locaux et des espaces de l'ancienne citadelle ou de palais urbains ont été prises depuis, par exemple pour les archives de Corfou, la bibliothèque publique, l'université des îles Ioniennes, l'académie de musique. À compter de 1967, la ville a été classée comme ensemble urbain historique et les forteresses comme monuments historiques.

La mise en œuvre d'une politique de conservation patrimoniale active remonte au début des années 1990, par des actions programmées basées sur des études historiques et dans le respect de normes de restauration suivant les critères internationaux. La citadelle et le Fort Neuf ont fait depuis l'objet de dix-neuf programmes de conservation et de mise en valeur. Ils ont été mis en œuvre ou sont en cours de réalisation, sous la conduite de l'Office de restauration et de conservation des forts. Ces travaux ont porté principalement sur le système des fortifications et sur la restauration des bâtiments aujourd'hui affectés à des activités publiques.

État actuel de conservation

Les politiques actives de restauration et de mise en valeur des éléments fortifiés et de la citadelle, conduites depuis une quinzaine d'année, ont apporté un état de conservation généralement acceptable, permettant l'expression de la valeur exceptionnelle de cette partie du bien.

Des résultats notables ont été obtenus dans la remise au niveau des normes patrimoniales des parties les plus importantes du tissu urbain. Il reste cependant de nombreux travaux à compléter ou à entreprendre.

Le bilan actuel de l'entretien des bâtiments de la vieille ville est le suivant : 11 % de bâtiments sont en excellent état, 55 % en bon état général, 31 % en état médiocre nécessitant à terme une intervention, 3 % dans un état réclamant d'urgence une intervention.

Mesures de conservation actives

Actuellement, neuf programmes complémentaires de restauration des ensembles fortifiés sont en cours d'étude, dont sept sont des programmes autonomes de l'Office et deux des projets en coopération.

La restauration du tissu urbain de la ville fait l'objet de huit programmes de restauration achevés ou en cours, pour un montant de plus de dix millions d'euros. Quatre sont conduits par la municipalité seule et quatre en coopération, les deux principaux étant la restauration des rues de la ville (4,1 millions d'euros) et la réhabilitation du quartier juif (1,8 million d'euros).

Différents fonds ont été alloués et les programmes appliqués depuis une dizaine d'année, dans le but de restaurer les nombreux bâtiments publics de la ville et d'encourager les propriétaires privés à mener des actions de conservation patrimoniale, sur les façades notamment. Les actions du programme urbain de réhabilitation se sont élevées pendant cette période à une moyenne de 1 million d'euros par an, avec 0,3 million d'euros par an pour les forteresses, 0,4 million d'euros par an pour les programmes archéologiques. L'ensemble des restaurations et travaux immobiliers menés par l'Université s'élève à 13 millions d'euros.

L'application des nouvelles dispositions légales de protection (loi de 2002 notamment) ont entraîné une consolidation des fonds engagés dans la restauration et l'entretien de la ville historique et des forteresses.

L'ICOMOS considère que l'ensemble des mesures prises ont contribué à un bon état de conservation du bien, lui permettant d'exprimer sa valeur exceptionnelle.

Gestion

Structures de gestion et processus, y compris les processus traditionnels de gestion

Le ministère de la Culture assure la protection des monuments historiques et des sites archéologiques (loi de 1967, amendée en 1980). Cela se traduit par des dispositions pour interdire la destruction des bâtiments sous sa protection, des prescriptions pour la restauration, en particulier des façades, et le contrôle de la conformité des actions des autorités municipales et régionales. Il protège directement 35 monuments historiques et neuf bâtiments contemporains (construits depuis 1830) dans le site proposé pour inscription, et 21 monuments historiques et de nombreux bâtiments contemporains dans la zone tampon.

Le ministère de l'Environnement contrôle tous les projets affectant l'environnement naturel et paysager (loi de 1980). Il contrôle l'application des dispositions concernant le permis de construire par les municipalités (loi de décentralisation de 1981).

La municipalité de Corfou assure le suivi du développement des constructions et gère différents plans d'urbanisme et de gestion de biens en concertation avec les services ministériels. Les plans comprennent : le programme général d'urbanisme (1987), le plan d'urbanisme (1958), le programme pour le développement local (1998) et des plans d'action pour la vieille ville, les fortifications et le tourisme.

Un plan d'action urbaine en accord avec le plan de gestion du site proposé pour inscription vient d'être adopté (2005), pour la période 2006-2012.

L'ICOMOS considère que le système de gestion est satisfaisant, en tenant compte des procédures de concertation associées au plan de gestion.

Plans de gestion, y compris la gestion des visiteurs et la présentation

Dans le cadre de la nouvelle proposition d'inscription au Patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO, un plan de gestion a été élaboré entre les différentes parties déjà évoquées (ministères, municipalité), rejointes par la Région des îles Ioniennes et la Chambre technique grecque (TCG). Ils constituent depuis lors un Comité de pilotage officiel, doté des pouvoirs de planification et en charge du suivi général des projets et programmes associés au site. Un coordinateur est en charge de l'instruction des dossiers et du suivi financier ; il a aussi pour mission de faire des propositions au Comité de pilotage.

Le coordinateur travaille également avec le Comité des propriétaires et usagers du site, pour déterminer les actions à venir.

Les objectifs principaux du plan à six ans concernent :

- La protection et la conservation du site, en particulier le suivi et l'évaluation du patrimoine et de son état ; un programme de préconisations techniques pour les façades d'immeubles (architecture, matériaux, etc.) et d'accompagnement des propriétaires ; le maintien des grands équilibres pour conserver une vie urbaine équilibrée.
- Un travail sur les accès à la ville et le contrôle du trafic urbain (autorisation sélective d'entrée, parkings pour les riverains, transports en commun) ; sur la mise en place de voies piétonnes protégées et de pistes cyclables au sein de la vieille ville.
- Un programme de documentation scientifique et d'action pédagogique envers le public (signalétique, informations aux entrées, documentation générale et parcours patrimoniaux...) ; le développement de l'accueil des touristes et d'actions ciblées (parcours à thèmes, projets concertés avec les voyageurs, etc.).
- Une action de promotion du tourisme patrimonial, car seulement 6 % des touristes de l'île (1,1 million) visitent actuellement le site de la vieille ville et des forts.

L'ICOMOS reconnaît les efforts récents du plan de gestion à six ans, incluant un Comité de pilotage et un Comité des usagers et propriétaires, ainsi que la présence du coordinateur. L'ICOMOS considère que le plan de gestion proposé est satisfaisant, tout en recommandant de veiller à la compétence technique et à la qualité de l'équipe exécutive autour du coordinateur, ainsi qu'à ses liens avec les services de la municipalité en charge de la vieille ville.

Implication des communautés locales

La municipalité de Corfou a toujours joué un rôle moteur dans l'entretien et la mise en valeur de son patrimoine urbain, militaire et archéologique. Tant les dispositions légales de décentralisation que l'ensemble des actions concertées proposées dans le plan de gestion renforcent ce rôle majeur de la municipalité. Elle intervient à travers un service technique de la vieille ville et un comité d'architecture.

La préfecture de Corfou est également impliquée dans le plan 2006-2012.

La prise en compte des usagers et des propriétaires ainsi que des professionnels du tourisme est inscrite dans le plan de gestion à six ans.

Ressources, y compris nombre d'employés, expertise et formation

Les ressources financières sont allouées par le ministère de l'Environnement, de l'Urbanisme et des Travaux publics, le Fonds de financement archéologique, le ministère de la Culture et la municipalité de Corfou. Nous avons vu que ces différents partenaires institutionnels ont engagé des fonds significatifs dans des actions récurrentes ou des programmes spécifiques depuis plusieurs années. Le plan de gestion les renforce en termes de montants alloués et d'actions concertées à venir.

Les ressources humaines reposent sur des entreprises locales déjà entraînées à travailler avec la municipalité et les ministères compétents, en se conformant aux critères patrimoniaux. Un effort important est également effectué pour avoir des cadres (historiens, archéologues et techniciens) formés par l'université des îles Ioniennes. Des accords ont été signés à ce sujet avec l'École d'architecture et l'École polytechnique d'Athènes. La Chambre technique grecque est à même de jouer un rôle de conseil et d'orientation scientifique.

Corfou entretient de bonnes relations avec diverses institutions académiques. Elle participe aussi à un réseau de villes méditerranéennes historiques et organise régulièrement des réunions de travail et des conférences universitaires sur les problèmes que rencontre le patrimoine bâti de la ville.

L'ICOMOS considère que la mobilisation active des fonds nécessaires à la conservation, ainsi que les ressources humaines et les compétences disponibles, sont satisfaisantes.

En conclusion, l'ICOMOS considère que les mesures prises pour la protection et la conservation du site sont appropriées, et qu'elles bénéficieront pleinement, dans les années à venir, du plan de gestion élaboré pour 2006-2007.

6. SUIVI

Seize indicateurs de suivi ont été définis pour le bâti et l'urbanisme de la vieille ville, la plupart à cinq ans ; mais les plus importants sont révisés tous les deux ans, les travaux à faire et les devis en particulier. Six indicateurs de travaux ont également été définis pour les forts.

Le suivi du patrimoine et ses indicateurs sont sous la responsabilité directe du service municipal de la vieille ville, et, pour l'archéologie, du service ministériel des antiquités. Ces indicateurs sont également examinés par les ministères de la Culture et de l'Environnement, qui interviennent notamment par leurs financements.

Le plan de gestion renforce la programmation concertée entre les différentes instances, mais aussi entre les différents niveaux de compétences techniques.

L'ICOMOS estime que les indicateurs et la politique de suivi sont à même de favoriser l'expression des valeurs universelles exceptionnelles du site.

7. CONCLUSIONS

L'ICOMOS considère que l'application de la zone tampon continue, telle qu'elle a été proposée par le nouveau dossier, constitue un niveau de protection acceptable.

L'ICOMOS considère que l'application du plan de gestion tel qu'il a été défini dans la dernière version de la proposition d'inscription constitue un bon outil de gestion afin d'exprimer la valeur universelle exceptionnelle du bien.

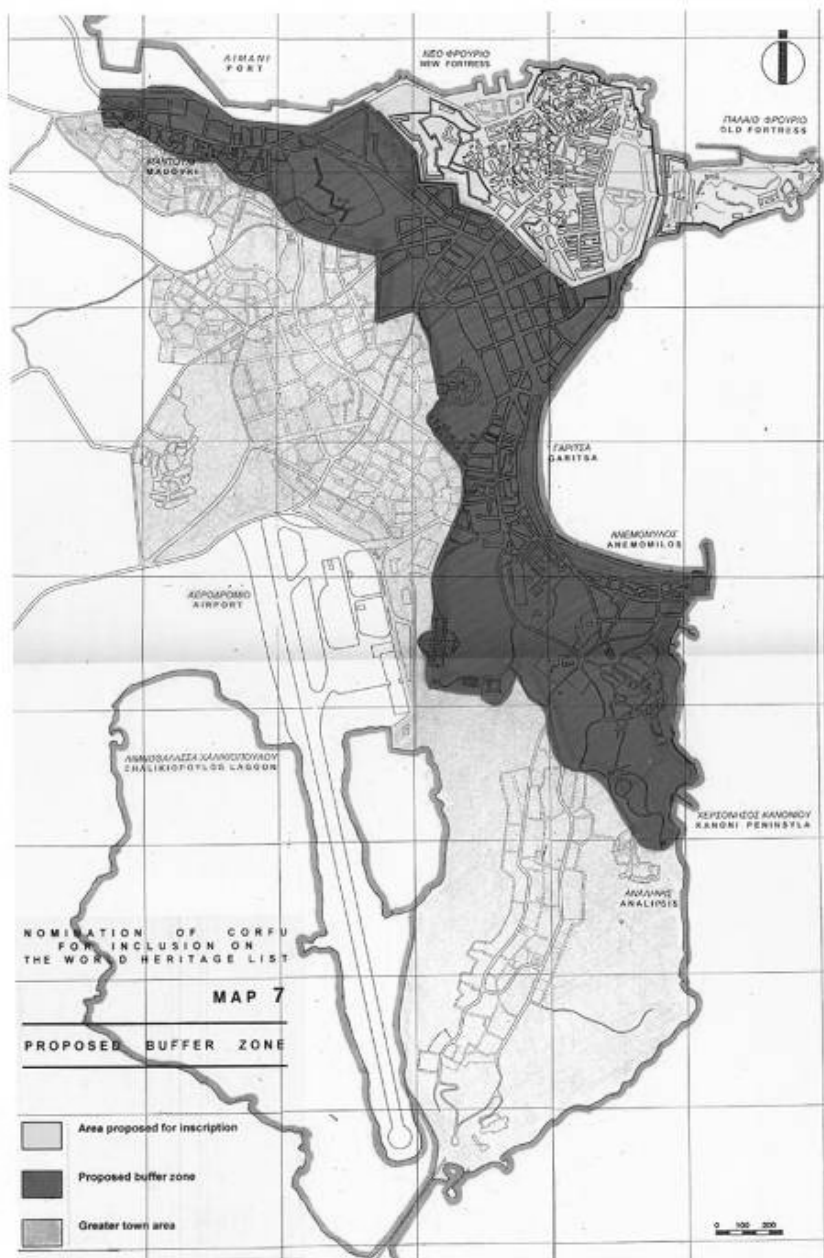
Recommandations concernant l'inscription

L'ICOMOS recommande que la vieille ville de Corfou, Grèce, soit inscrite sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial sur la base du **critère iv** :

Déclaration de valeur universelle recommandée

L'ensemble des fortifications et de la vieille ville de Corfou occupe un emplacement stratégique à l'entrée de la mer Adriatique. Historiquement, ses racines remontent au VIII^e siècle av. J.-C. et à l'époque byzantine. Il a donc été soumis à des influences diverses de différents peuples. À partir du XV^e siècle, Corfou fut sous domination vénitienne pour une durée de quatre siècles, puis passa sous l'autorité des gouvernements français, britannique et grec. À plusieurs reprises, Corfou eut à défendre l'empire maritime vénitien contre l'armée ottomane. Les fortifications de Corfou formaient un exemple bien pensé d'ingénierie militaire, conçu par les architectes Sanmicheli, et ont prouvé leur valeur à l'épreuve du feu. Corfou possède une identité spécifique qui se reflète dans la conception de son système de fortification et dans son ensemble de bâtiments néoclassiques. Corfou se range par conséquent aux côtés d'autres grandes villes portuaires fortifiées de la Méditerranée.

Critère iv : L'ensemble urbain et portuaire de Corfou, dominé par ses forteresses d'origine vénitienne, constitue un exemple architectural de valeur universelle exceptionnelle à la fois par son authenticité et son intégrité.



Plan indiquant les délimitations du bien proposé pour inscription



Vue générale de la ville



Ancienne Citadelle



Rue de Corfou



Habitations vénitiennes