

Piazza del Duomo, Pisa (Italy)

No 395

1. BASIC DATA

State Party: Italy

Name of property: Piazza del Duomo, Pisa

Location: City and Province of Pisa, Tuscany

Inscription: 1987

Brief Description:

Standing in a large green expanse, Piazza del Duomo houses a group of monuments known the world over. These four masterpieces of medieval architecture – the cathedral, the baptistery, the campanile (the 'Leaning Tower') and the cemetery – had a great influence on monumental art in Italy from the 11th to the 14th century.

2. ISSUES RAISED

Background

The State Party considers that the original nomination and subsequent inscription did not fully recognise the value of the Piazza del Duomo as a spatial composition, formed by precise artistic and ideological concepts. Instead it states that it focused exclusively on four medieval monuments, Cathedral, Baptistery, Campanile (the 'Leaning Tower of Pisa') and Campo Santo.

Modifications

- Boundaries

In the light of recent research and study on visual axes, the State Party now proposes that the inscribed area is enlarged by 1.3 ha to include all three visual axes:

- i) The approach from the south along the Via Santa Maria to the Duomo;
- ii) The subsequent eastern approach through a second gate opened in the 15th century by the Florentines, which radically changed the perception of the square shifting the first views from the Cathedral to the new Archbishop's Palace, symbol of new political power;
- iii) The 19th century approach, also from the east, along a new street the Via Torelli focused on the campanile.

To encompass these three axes, the proposed extensions include a portion of Via Santa Maria, traced in the 11th century to frame the view of the new Cathedral's apse and

transept, the square in front of the Archbishop's Palace, as well as the city walls facing the square and the buildings that delineate the square, and part of the Via Torelli (now Via Maffi).

All of the main buildings in the proposed extension as well as the walls and the buildings facing the square are already protected for their artistic and historical interest, being designated in 1994, and 2006 respectively.

ICOMOS commends the Party for proposing these sensitive additions to the boundaries of the inscribed property which enhance the justification for inscription of the property.

- Buffer zone

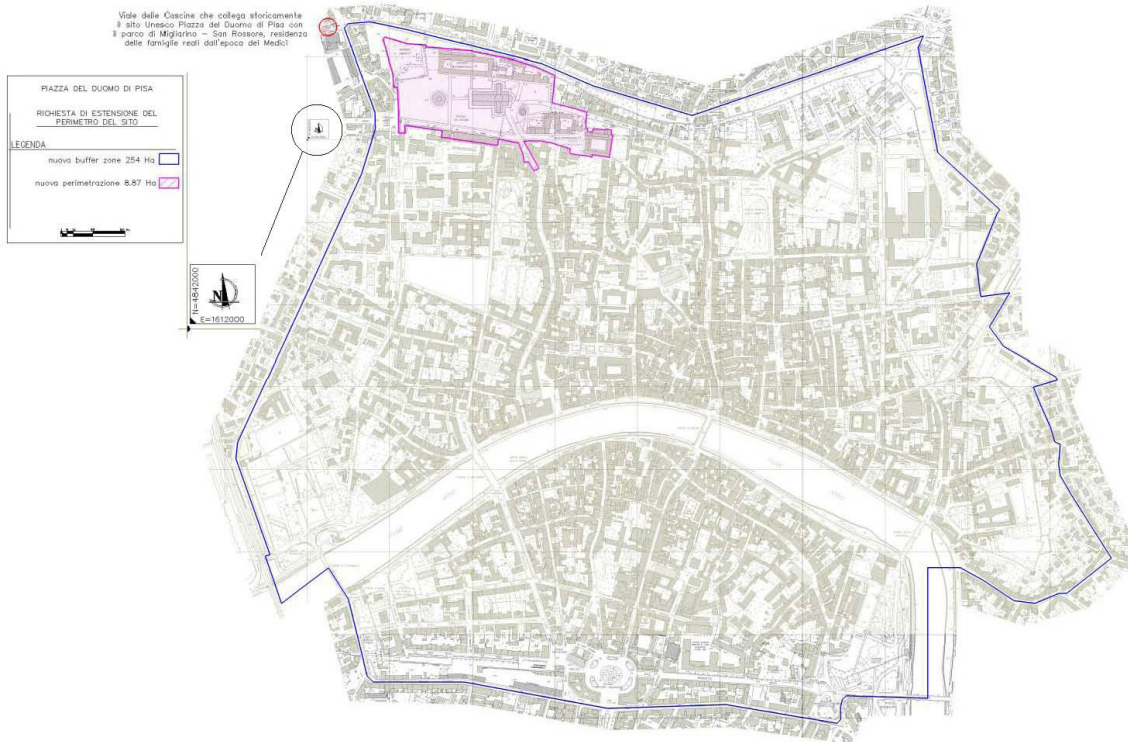
As at the time of inscription, no buffer zone was proposed, the State Party proposes to adopt the limits of the protected historic city centre as the buffer zone. This area is mainly to the south and east of the inscribed property and encompasses 245.1 ha.

ICOMOS considers that this extra protection is welcome but suggests that the State Party might wish to consider extending protection in the form of a buffer zone to the north and west of the property.

3. ICOMOS RECOMMENDATIONS

ICOMOS recommends that the minor modification to the boundaries of the Piazza del Duomo di Pisa (Italy), and the proposed buffer zone be approved.

ICOMOS also recommends that the State Party consider putting in place further protection to the north and west of the inscribed property.



Map showing the proposed minor modification to the boundaries of the core zone and the suggested boundaries of the buffer zone