

ITALY

Piazza del Duomo, Pisa

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.

1. Introduction

Year(s) of Inscription **1987**

Agency responsible for site management

- Opera Primaziale Pisana
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2. Statement of Significance

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

Justification provided by the State Party

La place doit être considérée comme un bien culturel de valeur universelle et exceptionnelle, puisque les œuvres d'art qu'elle contient sont des témoignages uniques en leur genre de l'esprit créateur de l'homme entre le XI^e et le XIV^e siècle. Ses monuments ont eu une telle importance dans l'histoire de l'architecture médiévale qu'ils sont devenus des points de repère pour l'étude du style « roman pisan ». De surcroît, le Campo Santo, avec ses cycles de fresques est un édifice unique au monde par sa typologie et son utilisation et s'avère un point de repère fondamental pour l'histoire de la peinture médiévale italienne entre le XIV^e et le XV^e siècle.

As provided in ICOMOS evaluation

ICOMOS shall confine itself to recommending that the group of monuments of the Campo del Miracoli in Pisa be included on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria (i), (ii), (iv) and (vi).

- *Criterion (I)*. Artistically unique because of its spatial design, the Campo dei Miracoli contains four absolute architectural masterpieces: the Cathedral, the baptistery, the campanile and the Campo Santo. Within these monuments are such world-renowned art treasures as the bronze and mosaic doors of the cathedral, the pulpits in the baptistery and cathedral, the frescoes of the Campo Santo, and many others.

- *Criterion (II)*. The monuments of the Campo del Miracoli considerably influenced the development of architecture and monumental arts at two different times in history.

1) First, from the 11th century up to 1284, during the epitome of Pisa's prosperity, a new type of church characterized by the refinement of polychrome architecture and the use of loggias was established. The Pisan style that first appeared with the Cathedral can be found elsewhere in Tuscany (notably at Lucques and Pistoia), but also within the Pisan maritime territory, as shown in more humble form by the "pieve" in Sardegna and Corsica.

2) Later, during the 14th century, architecture in Tuscany was dominated by the monumental style of Giovanni Pisano (who sculpted the pulpit of the Cathedral between 1302 and 1311), a new era of pictorial art -the Trecento- was ushered in after the epidemic of the black death (Triumph of Death, a fresco by Francesco Traini at the Campo Santo, c. 1350).

- *Criterion (IV)*. The group of monuments of the Campo dei Miracoli, composed of typical religious buildings constructed for distinct and specific functions, constitutes an outstanding example of medieval Christian architecture.

- *Criterion (VI)*. It was at the Cathedral of Pisa that Galileo Galilee (1564-1642), observing the oscillations of the bronze chandelier created by Battista Lorenzi, discovered at the age of 19 the theory of isochronisms of small oscillations, a prelude to his pioneering work on dynamics. From the top of the campanile, he conducted experiments which led him to formulate the laws governing falling bodies. Two of the principal buildings of the Campo dei Miracoli are thus directly and tangibly associated with a decisive stage in the history of physical sciences.

Committee Decision

The Committee made no statement.

- Statement of significance does not adequately defines the outstanding universal value of the site
- Proposal for text has been made by State Party: to use the Outstanding Universal Value, as defined by the advisory Body in its evaluation
- Additional change proposed by State Party: change of the name of the site to: Piazza del Duomo or Piazza dei Miracoli (not Campo)

Boundaries and Buffer Zone

- Status of boundaries of the site: inadequate.
- The site perimeter is identified by two historical buildings that bound it: the Bishop's Palace and the former Ospedale della Misericordia. Although the latter lies within the limits of the site area, it is not mentioned in the explanation of the application. The same applies to the Palazzo dell' Opera, which houses the premises of our board and closes the prospective of the area and the Museo dell' Opera del Duomo. In particular, the latter, which currently houses masterpieces of sculpture, painting, graphics and inlays from the monuments of Piazza del Duomo di Pisa, at the time of the application was placed within the perimeter but not mentioned in the explanation. As to defining the site area of Piazza del Duomo, it is the extremely important the role played by the Bishop's Palace as an intersection of roads for access to the site, connected in perspective with the square itself as a privileged viewpoint to look at its masterpieces
- No buffer zone has been defined.
- The site lies within the historical centre of Pisa and therefore it is restricted by the applicable regulations on city centres and by the city planning regulations, which only allow for the preservation, restoration and reclamation of historical areas, insofar as consistent with the overall improvement of the city, and also by the prescriptions of the Listed Buildings Sections of the Soprintendenza, for which all and any plan regarding monumental assets must be submitted for authorisation. In addition, the site, is defined by the Ronchey Decree in the following sites of interest: Cathedral, Baptistery, Cemetery, Belfry, the Lawn of the Cathedral, Museo dell'Opera, Palazzo dell'Opera, Bishop's Palace, are subject to the following restrictions: installation of permanent or temporary structures; traffic and parking of cars and motor vehicles, except emergency or police vehicles; shows, events and exhibitions which might even temporarily interfere with the full

understanding and enjoyment of the monumental assets; street trade is forbidden, in the forms laid down by the law

Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- World Heritage site values have been maintained

3. Protection

Legislative and Administrative Arrangements

- Ronchey Decree 1992, as converted into Act 1993. In the structural plan approved by resolution of the Municipal Council in 1998 Piazza del Duomo is subject to a restriction pursuant to Ministerial Decree 1957 due to the declaration of public interest of all green areas inside the city walls. In addition, as is known, the area is also subject to an archaeological restriction of 1939 and following, Consolidation Act. The sites of UNESCO architectural interest - Piazza dei Miracoli area - are marked in the city plan as A, B, C, i.e.: -A: ordinary maintenance -B: extraordinary maintenance -C: restoration and conservative reclamation As to their intended use, the above-mentioned sites of architectural interest are marked as "urban facilities" and in particular the Monumental Cemetery is considered acting as a Museum. As to the lawn areas, they are marked in the same Plan as "gardens of historical, architectural or natural value": the city planning regulations put them in the class value A, "Preservation area", which rules that their design and all historical parts be preserved
- The protection arrangements are considered highly effective

4. Management

Use of site/property

- Visitor attraction, religious use

Management /Administrative Body

- Steering group was set up in 01/01/1063; Opera della Primaziale Pisana; The Opera is run by the Deputation (Board of Directors) which is composed of seven members: they are appointed for three years, two by the Diocesan Ordinary and five by the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Legally constituted
- The Opera della Primaziale Pisana pursues exclusively social solidarity purposes, in the following areas: a) care, protection, preservation and maintenance, promotion of the image and development, by taking care in particular: 1) of the administration, maintenance,

preservation and restoration of the property and temporary assets intended for the above; 2) of purchasing and maintaining the furnishings, furniture and equipment b) of promoting the knowledge of history and art in all their forms and cultural manifestations, as referred to the monumental complex and the other assets under its jurisdiction

- Management under protective legislation; under contractual agreement between the State Party and a third party
- Site manager with responsibilities added to an existing job
- Levels of public authority who are primarily involved with the management of the site: national; regional; local
- The current management system is highly effective

5. *Management Plan*

- Management plan under preparation; As the building cannot be interpreted individually without considering the whole setting in which they are fitted, the monumental complex of Piazza del Duomo of Pisa has been equated to a museum system. Therefore, the adopted reference legislation, containing guidance on technical-scientific criteria and operating and development standards for museums. Implementation commence: 04/2006
- Responsibility for over-seeing the implementation of the management plan and monitoring its effectiveness: Opera Primaziale Pisana

6. *Financial Resources*

Financial situation

- Funds used by Opera Primaziale Pisana to manage the site basically come from the admission tickets. Other funds come from proceeds
- When the Tower was strengthened, a special fund was allocated for the activities planned by the International Expert Committee, set up by Decree 1990, for the development of general and executive projects for the strengthening of the Tower
- Very Sufficient

7. *Staffing Levels*

- Number of staff: 80

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

- Very good: conservation, management, promotion
- Good: education
- Average: interpretation, visitor management

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

- Permanent and temporary staff of the board: Preservation: -Technical manager; -Restoration assistant; Management: Direction Secretary; Technical manager; Secretariat ; Supplies officer; Accounting officer; Artistic Heritage Officer; Promotion; multimedia laboratory; Education; Visitor Management: Security; permanently-employed restorers; external staff. Permanent and temporary staff is encouraged to attend training courses when the need is felt for some unexpected specialist skill, provided such need is shared by the staff

9. *Visitor Management*

- Visitor statistics: 2.482.099 (ticket counting), 2003
- Visitor facilities: educational workshop, multimedia stations, accessible website, historical archives, bookshop, tourist information, ramps for disabled people, guidance signs and posters. An accessibility-based rearrangement of the reception areas for delivery of practical and historical-cultural information has been planned
- Visitor needs: An analysis of tourist needs is in progress, alongside a process of appointments of internal staff in the attempt to create professionals who will be able to meet requirements

10. *Scientific Studies*

- Monitoring exercises, condition surveys, archaeological surveys, visitor management
- Monitoring of the state of preservation of the monuments within the site (Cathedral, Baptistry, Monumental Cemetery, Leaning Tower) carried out in accordance with the planned schedule. As to the static and structural state of the Tower, monitoring activities are coordinated by an expert committee, which was already on the International Committee for Protection of the Leaning Tower. Surveys on the state of

preservation: Closely related to the above. Archaeological surveys: Studies conducted on each ashlar that composes the walls of the monuments for detection of building techniques and processes, and for installation and source of supply of the materials used. In addition, studies conducted on the materials found during the excavations of the lawns in piazza del Duomo. Visitor management: Statistics on the trends of admissions to monuments, for measurement of customer satisfaction when opening new multimedia trails

- Every monument is a sort of site, which is monitored all the time and which therefore changes all the time. Especially significant was the experience of the site of the Tower, which led, for the first time, to establishing an international multidisciplinary committee for searching and solving the serious static problems that had caused the monument to be closed

11. Education, Information and Awareness Building

- An adequate number of signs referring to World Heritage site
- World Heritage Convention Emblem used on some publications
- Adequate awareness of World Heritage among: visitors, local communities, local authorities
- Need for awareness rising: More coordination between the trade activities that open onto the Piazza del Duomo, which attracts huge tourist flows, with the cultural activities promoted and carried out by the Opera on the monumental site. For instance, shops, restaurants and bars are closed during the international festival of sacred music, "Anima Mundi", when world-known directors and orchestras play in the Cathedral in a high number of events, now in its fifth year
- No particular promotional plan associated with the World Heritage Designation has been implemented
- Web site available

12. Factors affecting the Property (State of Conservation)

Reactive monitoring reports

- World Heritage Bureau sessions: 18th (1994)

Conservation interventions

- Many works have been carried out for preservation of the site at the time of application. The main ones are: 1. adjustment

of the Leaning Tower to safety standards and current restoration of wall and decorative surfaces 2. Restoration of wall and decorative surfaces of the Baptistery 3. Restoration of wall and decorative surfaces of the façade of the Cathedral: the head of the apse is currently being restored, and such restoration is expected to continue on the side walls 4. Restoration of internal wall and decorative surfaces of the Monumental Cemetery; in addition, restoration of ancient sarcophagi and funeral monuments leaning against the inner walls. A major restoration work is in progress on the cycle of mediaeval frescoes. 5. Archaeological excavations. The Opera Primaziale Pisana permanently monitors these major conservative restoration works

- Present state of conservation: Very good

Threats and Risks to site

- Development pressure; environmental pressure; visitor/tourism pressure
- Specific issues: Pressure from socio-economic development: visibility of the site is impaired by the presence of street sellers that infringe the Ronchey Act. Environmental risks: ordinary and exceptional risk factors that can endanger the state of preservation of the monuments located on the site. Pressure from visitors/tourists flows: in conditions of extreme crowding, since the monumental complex of Pisa is the prime destination of tourist flows, the factors to be monitored are closely related to the safety of the complex and the visitors' safety

Emergency measures taken:

- Fulfilment of Ronchey decree; Enforcement of appropriate measures to fulfil the prescriptions set forth by the Ronchey Decree
- Monitoring; Enforcement of appropriate measures to monitor the state of preservation of the monuments
- Inclusion, in the permanent staff of Opera Primaziale Pisana, of a 24h security service and adoption of a video surveillance system; Enforcement of appropriate measures for checking and monitoring tourist flows in cooperation with the police, to avoid damages/vandalism to the monuments, as well as assisting tourists

13. Monitoring

- No formal monitoring programme
- Measures taken/planned: Site specific key indicators are being defined in the management plans

14. Conclusions and Recommended Actions

- Main benefits of WH status: social
- Strengths/Weaknesses of management: The main problem is the infringement of the Ronchey Decree that declares “of extremely important interest”, the monumental complex of Piazza del Duomo of Pisa. By infringing this decree, the site remains in a state of decay which is caused by the interference of trade activities, which formally are street trades but are in fact permanent ones, and which impair the full visibility and integrity of the perspective, setting and decorum

Future actions:

- At present, the Municipal Administration seems to be willing to relocate the trade activities elsewhere; this plan is connected with the establishment of the future Museum of Roman Ships. Organisation responsible: Municipal Administration. Timeframe: not deadline has been fixed for the implementation of this plan