

THE PRESERVATION QUARTERLY OF THE WORLD MONUMENTS FUND

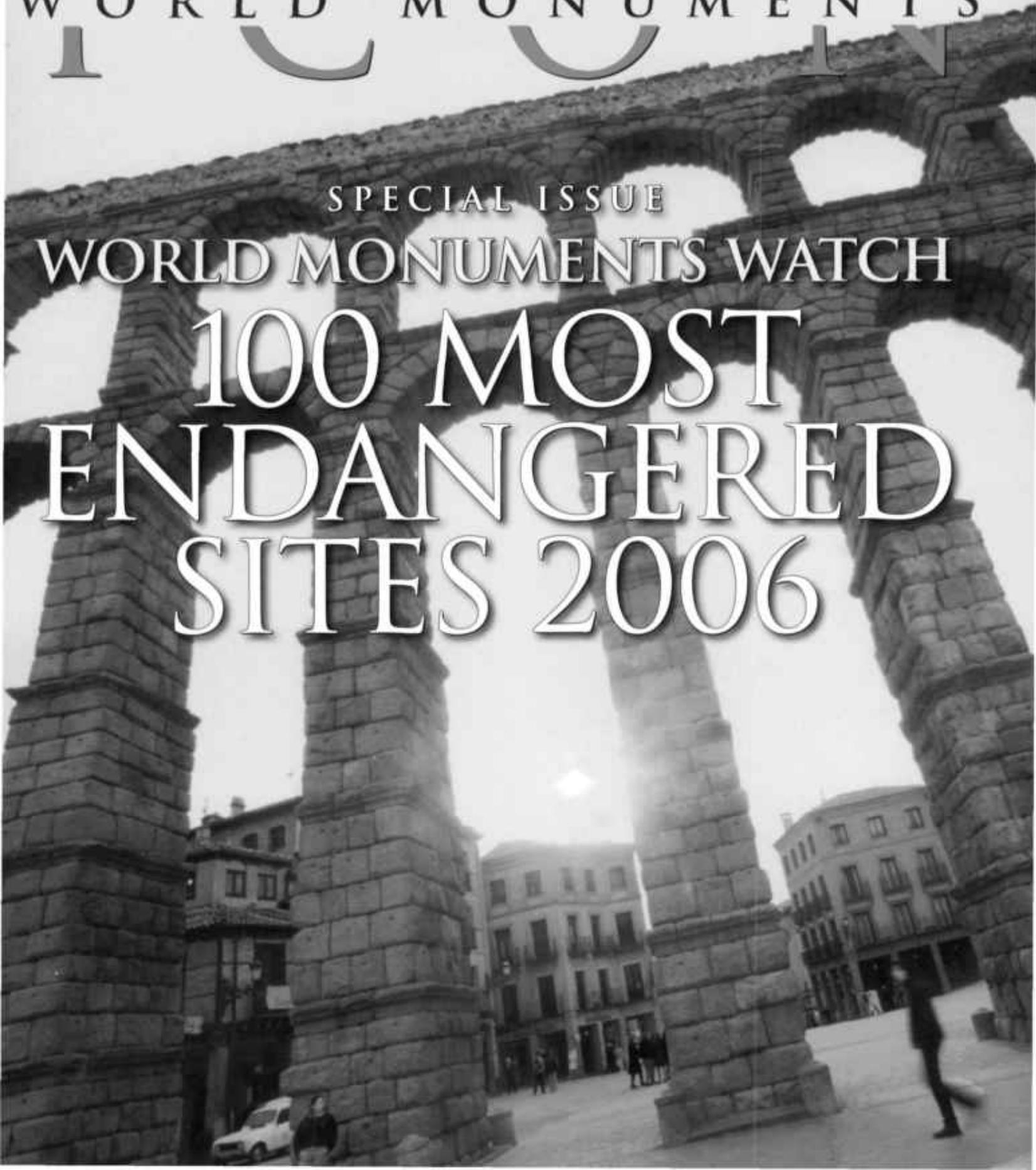
SUMMER 2005  
\$4.95

# WORLD MONUMENTS

SPECIAL ISSUE

WORLD MONUMENTS WATCH

# 100 MOST ENDANGERED SITES 2006





*What time and neglect are ruining,  
the World Monuments Fund is fighting to preserve.*

The World Monuments Fund and founding sponsor American Express created the World Monuments Watch in 1996 to raise public awareness of the plight of the world's most endangered sites and attract the funding needed to help save them. American Express has committed \$10 million over ten years to the Watch. For the past six years, American Express Publishing's Travel + Leisure magazine has devoted a special section to the Watch, contributing ten percent of all net advertising revenue to the cause. We are proud to be associated with the World Monuments Watch initiative and the vital work of the World Monuments Fund.

AMERICAN  
EXPRESS

**TRAVEL  
+LEISURE**

ICON is funded in part through the generosity of the Brown Foundation, Inc. of Houston, the Paul Mellon Education Fund, and Paul Beirne

## SPECIAL ISSUE

## World Monuments Watch 100 Most Endangered Sites 2006

10

### The Watch at Ten: What a Difference a Decade has Made

Noted author Andrew W. Solomon writes on why sites matter and the impact the Watch has had on saving our most treasured relics

12

### Past Successes, Future Challenges

A decade after launching the Watch list, WMF reflects on the accomplishments of the program and meeting the needs of historic preservation in the years to come.

24

### Watch 2006: The Sites

Fifty-five countries on all seven continents are represented by a portfolio of extraordinary sites spanning 10,000 years.

## DEPARTMENTS

2

From the President

5

From the Editor

6

Inside WMF

8

Preservation News

46

Ex Libris

48

Expedition: China

## ON THE COVER

Built 2,000 years ago, the Roman aqueduct in Segovia, Spain, met the freshwater needs of that city well into the twentieth century.

Photograph © Bo Zaunders/Corbis

Founded in 1965, the World Monuments Fund is dedicated to the preservation of imperiled works of art and architecture worldwide through fieldwork, advocacy, grantmaking, education, and training. A New York-based organization, WMF has affiliates and offices in France, Italy, Portugal, Spain, and the United Kingdom.



THE SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY HARBOR FACILITIES AT SANDVIKEN BAY, BERGEN, NORWAY

## In the Beginning...

### THE WATCH PROGRAM IS BORN, OPENING A NEW CHAPTER IN THE FIELD OF PRESERVATION

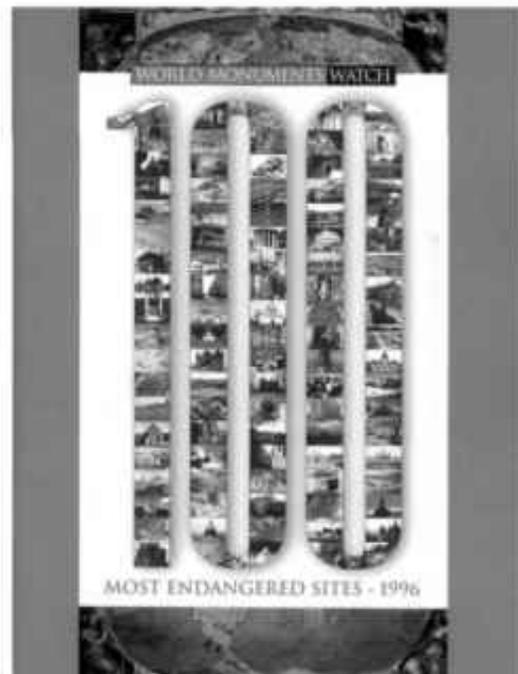
**I**t was December 1995, and anxiety was high at WMF as we waited for the submissions to arrive. The first World Monuments Watch deadline was fast approaching, and we had no idea what to expect.

As the January 15 due date neared, visits from UPS and FedEx began to increase dramatically. As the packages flowed in, we realized we had touched a vein of real need in the heritage conservation field. By creating the process of listing endangered sites, we had hoped to identify the most basic needs of the field. We had no idea, however, that we would uncover such a wealth of fascinating places, desperately on the brink of loss, or that we would be opening a new era not only in the history of WMF, but in the field of historic preservation.

Scores of applicants responded from dozens of countries—frustrated civil servants trying to attract attention from superiors; managers of key monuments whose revenues were siphoned off and redistributed elsewhere; struggling young non-profits; U.S. ambassadors from their posts abroad; scholars conducting research in the field; and even laypeople, counseled by professionals, all reached out to try to gain attention for sites facing destruction or irreversible decay. Countries that we feared would spurn the idea of nominating sites to a Watch list were among the most enthusiastic respondents. Italy alone produced 55 applications in the first round of the Watch program; other culture-rich countries such as Mexico, China, India, and Turkey were not far behind. But what impressed us most was the staggering array of human expression that came to light through the submissions to the Watch program.

The first Watch panel responded to this diversity with awe and respect, choosing sites that represented unique local styles alongside some of the most revered monuments in the world. When the first Watch list was chosen in the spring of 1995, the staff was elated with the opportunity it represented. We joyfully cited a range of countries from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, and an improbable lexicon of threats from aardvarks (burrowing animals resembling anteaters) to xylophages (microscopic insects that consume wood). The catalogue, published in the fall of 1995, sported on its cover a mosaic in the form of the number 100, with a small black-and-white photograph of each site on the list. We were proud that we could identify them all, knew their vital statistics, understood their needs, and nurtured the hope that we could help save them. It seemed like a lot to do, but we were energized by the magnitude of the challenge.

Over the course of a decade, the Watch and WMF have grown more than five-fold; WMF, having placed some \$2.5 million in the field in 1995, spent \$15 million in 2005. In that time, we have also learned far more about the nature of the threats that challenge the global architectural heritage and about how best to save specific types of sites and to address different kinds of problems they face. But the process remains much the same, and the excitement is high as we now publish our 2006 Watch list. Ten years of experience have given us the confidence to set new goals for ourselves—to make a material difference for each and every site on the list and to leave no avenue unexplored. With a network of relationships built over a decade of working with local partners, we are ready for the challenge, even as we are once again sobered by the magnitude of its importance.



IN THE DECADE SINCE THE FIRST WATCH CATALOG WAS ISSUED, WMF HAS GROWN MORE THAN FIVE-FOLD, HAVING PLACED SOME \$15 MILLION IN THE FIELD IN 2005.

*Bonnie Burnham*

Bonnie Burnham  
PRESIDENT

# The world's most modern fleet



**MEXICANA** 

The world's most modern fleet  
Airline sponsor of World Monuments Fund projects in Mexico.

*A Gala Evening to benefit  
the restoration of Ostankino Palace,  
St. Petersburg, Russia*



*Organized by World Monuments Fund Europe  
and the Moscow World Fine Arts Fair  
to take place during the  
2nd Annual Moscow World Fine Arts Fair*



*Featuring a visit to the fair,  
followed by a concert in the Kremlin  
and a reception in the Kremlin Palace State Rooms*

*Thursday, September 22nd*

*For information and tickets contact  
World Monuments Fund Europe  
at (33 1) 47 20 71 99 or [arozwadowska@wmf.org](mailto:arozwadowska@wmf.org)*

*Ostankino Palace, built at the end of the 18th century by Count Nikolai Chheremetiev, features one of the most striking surviving examples of 18th century theater rooms, and is considered one of the gems of the heritage of the Russian Federation. Other Russian projects of the World Monuments Fund include the theater at Arkhangel'skoié, the Alexander Palace in Tsarkoie Selo, and the Chinese Palace in Oranienbaum.*



ICON EDITOR, ANGELA SCHUSTER, SECOND FROM LEFT, AND WMF'S TECHNICAL DIRECTOR (AKA BUILDING DOCTOR), MARK WEBER, SECOND FROM RIGHT, ARE JOINED BY CONSERVATION TEAM MEMBERS AND BUDDHIST MONKS FROM HEMIS MONASTERY AT THE TENTH-CENTURY TEMPLE OF SUMDA CHUNG IN THE HIMALAYAN KINGDOM OF LADAKH ON INDIA'S NORTHERN FRONTIER.

## Extreme House Calls

Each time WMF solicits nominations for its biennial list of 100 *Most Endangered Sites*, the organization's offices are flooded with applications, each making a case for a given site—its importance, the damage it has sustained, and the measures that must be taken to preserve it for future generations. In many cases, those nominating a site chosen for inclusion on the Watch list will have stated up front their lack of technical expertise in addressing conservation problems, believing their sites could be saved if only they knew how.

In such instances, WMF will often dispatch a member of its field program's staff to visit a site, assess the damage, determine its root causes, and formulate a conservation plan, outlining the specialists required, the methods to be used, and a guess-timate of the cost of implementation. Such was the case with Sumda Chung, an architectural gem in the Himalayan kingdom of Ladakh on India's northernmost frontier, which was recently placed on WMF's 2006 Watch list. Within the Buddhist temple is an extraordinary cycle of murals rendered nearly a millennium ago by Kashmiri artisans. Water seepage, however, had caused delamination of the paintings' plaster ground and substantial pigment loss; surviving renderings had been all but obscured by centuries of soot from ever-burning butter lamps.

WMF sent technical director, aka building doctor, Mark Weber, who handles many of the organization's Indian projects, to check out the site, located at an elevation of more than 5,000 meters, four hours' hike on a boot-wide trail from the nearest road head. Without hesitation, Weber accepted the assignment on which he would be joined by Delhi-based paintings conservator Sanjay Dhar, photographer Tejbir Singh, and a trio of monks from Hemis Monastery, which has jurisdiction over the site. For two days, Weber, Dhar, and Singh explored the temple inside and out, documenting every crack, crevice, and delamination of paint surface. Close examination of the data will enable the team to chart a course of action to ensure the temple's preservation for centuries to come. It will require painstaking work carried out over a series of field seasons by a dedicated team living on site, far from the comforts of home. Yet, the prospect of saving Sumda Chung is more than worth it. You will be reading more about the quest to preserve this Himalayan treasure and other sites in extreme locales in future issues of ICON.

Angela M.H. Schuster  
EDITOR

ICON

**EDITOR**

Angela M.H. Schuster

**ART DIRECTOR**

Ken Feisel

**COPY EDITOR**

Susan Siegmund

**CONTRIBUTING EDITORS**

Colin Amery  
Eve M. Kahn  
Leila Hadley Luce  
John Julius, Viscount Norwich  
Patwant Singh  
Andrew W. Solomon  
Gavin Stamp  
Anthony M. Tung

**WORLD MONUMENTS FUND**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**HONORARY CHAIRMAN**

John Julius, Viscount Norwich

**OFFICERS**

Marilyn Perry, Chairman  
The Honorable Ronald S. Lauder,  
Vice Chairman  
H. Peter Stern, Vice Chairman  
Robert W. Wilson,  
Vice Chairman and Treasurer  
Robert J. Geniesse,  
Secretary & General Counsel

**PRESIDENT**

Bonnie Burnham

**TRUSTEES**

Paul Beirne  
Brook Berlind  
Peter W. Davidson\*  
Peter Stormouth Darling  
Mica Ertegun  
Ashton Hawkins\*  
Prince Aynur Aga Khan\*  
Peter Kimmelman  
Nina Joukowsky Köprülü  
Steve Kossak\*  
Jonathan S. Linen  
Lois de Ménéil  
Samuel C. Miller  
Nancy B. Negley  
Bernard Seltz  
Peter M.F. Sichel  
Andrew W. Solomon\*  
Nicholas Thaw

\*External Affairs Committee

## WATCH SITE UPDATE

### Future of Durell Stone's Goodyear House Secured

The landmark A. Conger Goodyear House, designed by Edward Durell Stone and built in 1938-1939, has been sold with a preservation easement that will protect its architectural integrity in perpetuity. Located in Old Westbury, New York, and designed for A. Conger Goodyear, first president of the Museum of Modern Art, the house is considered by many to be one of Stone's most important residential buildings and one of the most important Modernist houses in the northeastern United States. Despite its architectural value, the house was slated for demolition in 2001 to make way for new development.



Soon after the house was placed on WMF's 2002 list of *100 Most Endangered Sites*, it was purchased with funding from the Barnett and Analee Newman Foundation and held in trust by a partnership created by WMF with the Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities (SPLIA). The house has since been inscribed on both the New York State and National Registers of Historic Places.

"The successful conclusion to our three-year effort to save the Goodyear House adds impetus to our efforts to draw attention to the special issues facing modern buildings," said WMF's president Bonnie Burnham, adding that, "A lack of recognition and legal protection, combined with a fragility of materials, makes these buildings especially vulnerable. We are proud to have been able to save this one."

The Goodyear House has been purchased by Troy Halterman, a noted designer and retailer of contemporary furniture in New York City, who plans to restore this icon of modernist architecture.



## ONE-OF-A-KIND OFFER

### WMF to Benefit from Sale of David Linley Desk

Hailed as one of the finest furniture makers of our day, David Linley is known for his extraordinary, one-of-a-kind pieces, among them the Pavlovsk Desk, the design of which was inspired by the late eighteenth-century Pavlovsk Palace just outside St. Petersburg. "I visited the Pavlovsk Palace some five years ago, and the sheer beauty, romance, and elegance of the palace made such a marked impression on me that I chose to replicate it as a one-off piece," Linley told ICON. The palace was almost

completely destroyed during the Second World War then subsequently restored through skilled craftsmanship and labor to its former glory. "As the palace itself is a story of hope and renewal," he says, "it seemed highly fitting that a percentage of its proceeds should go to WMF to help them restore other great buildings around the world, thus protecting our heritage for future generations." For sales enquiries, please contact Lucie Kitchener at LINLEY +44 207 730 7300, or e-mail [l.kitchener@davidlinley.com](mailto:l.kitchener@davidlinley.com)

## EVENT

### John Julius Norwich to Receive WMF's Highest Honor

On the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the World Monuments Fund, the 2005 Hadrian Award will be presented to noted author, Byzantine scholar, and WMF Honorary Chairman, John Julius, Viscount Norwich, who has dedicated his life to the cause of preserving our great architectural heritage. Lord Norwich has committed his time, enthusiasm, writing, and broadcasting talents to sites ranging from Venice to Mt. Athos and from the plight of Britain's parish churches to archaeological treasures of Anatolia. In addition to pre-

senting Lord Norwich with the Hadrian Award, WMF will be recognizing its long-time partner in preservation, American



Express, with its inaugural Corporate Leadership Award.

The Hadrian Award luncheon, which will be held October 28th at the Pierre Hotel in New York City, is sponsored in part by Tiffany & Co., which has graciously redesigned and donated this

year's Hadrian Award, WMF's highest honor. For information on attending the event, contact Brittany Parks, 646-424-9594 or [bparks@wmf.org](mailto:bparks@wmf.org).

## WATCH SITE RESTORED

### Britons Rally to Save Roman Brading

One of the most important Roman antiquities in Western Europe, Brading on the Isle of Wight was reopened by the Duke of Edinburgh at the end of July following a £3.1 million mission to prevent its decay.

Discovered in the 1880s, the spectacular third-century mosaic floors of an opulent villa, which remain in near-pristine condition, were threatened when their protective building was found to be unsafe.

Following the inclusion of Brading Roman Villa on WMF's 2002 list of 100 Most Endangered Sites and English Heritage's register of buildings at risk, an article was published in *The Times* of London, which prompted British readers to take up the cause of the site, contributing more than £100,000 toward its preservation.

Engineers had reported that the protective building, which was damaged by flood waters during a freak storm in the 1990s, was unlikely to last more than another two years. The charitable trust that owns the villa hoped for lottery funding to build a new structure, but needed to raise matching funds before they could apply. This was a daunting

task on an island with a population of 134,000 and one of the highest unemployment rates in the south of England.

Kenneth Hicks, the managing trustee of the villa, said that *The Times* had raised awareness of Brading's plight. "People as far afield as America and Canada responded as a result of reading *The Times*," he said. "As a result, the new building was a rare lottery project to have finished on time and within budget."

The villa is one of the few domestic Roman buildings in Britain where mosaic floors can be seen in situ. They depict classical scenes unparalleled in the Romano-British world, including peacocks, signifying eternal life, and Tritons, or sea beasts, carrying reclining nymphs. The villa's luxury suggests that it was owned by the wealthiest of Roman Britons. Such is the extraordinary quality of the mosaics, and the rare materials used, that they have been likened to an art gallery in stone. Research at the villa has detected evidence of burning, suggesting that the villa was damaged by fire ca. A.D. 290. One theory is that the villa's owner was Allectus, who in A.D. 293

murdered his predecessor Carausius, a Roman army commander who had proclaimed himself emperor of Britain. Allectus reigned for only three years before he himself was killed.

A Victorian unearthed the site, which had been preserved under soil and leaf mold, after being shown antiquities that had been found in the area by children. The mosaics were thought to date from the fourth century A.D., but new research has put them at 100 years earlier.

Kevin Trott, the villa's archaeologist, said: "There are very few Roman villas of the third century with mosaics in Britain; this is causing quite a stir."

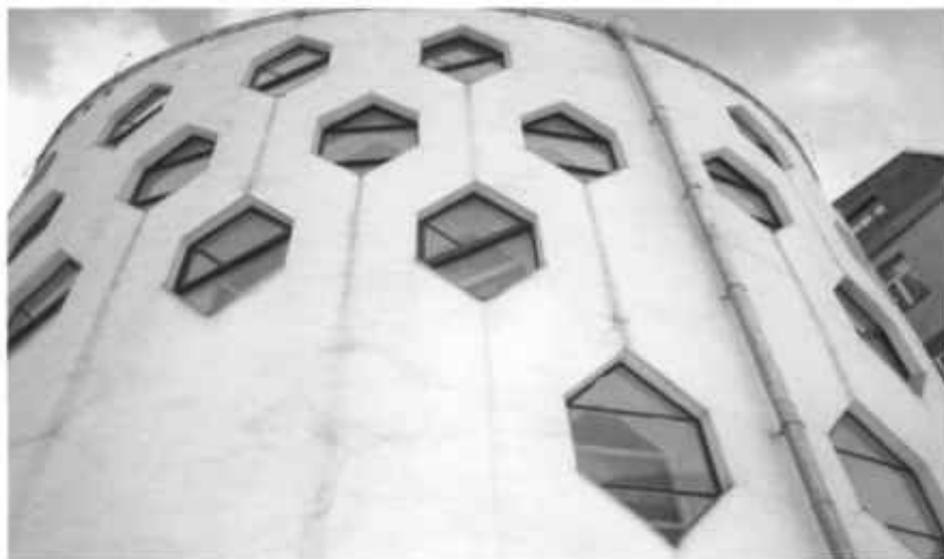
Further excavations are planned if funds can be raised. The discovery of painted plaster suggests that another building as important may be unearthed.

When the Duke formally opened the new building—an award-winning, single-story, grass-roofed design by the architects Rainey Petrie Johns—he returned five Roman clay-fired flue tiles of the third century. They had been given to Princess Beatrice, a daughter of Queen Victoria, in 1915, when she was governor of the Isle of Wight.

—DALVA ALBERGE, *The Times*, London



A NEW BUILDING, LEFT, NOW PROTECTS THE EXTRAORDINARY MOSAICS WITHIN BRADING ROMAN VILLA ON THE ISLE OF WIGHT AND PROVIDES FOR BETTER SITE INTERPRETATION.



#### CONFERENCE TO HIGHLIGHT PLIGHT OF AVANT-GARDE ARCHITECTURE Modernist Moscow at Risk

It is well known that Russian Avant-garde and Constructivist architecture of the 1920s and early 1930s made one of the most important contributions to the International Modern Movement. But the deadline for rescuing some of these buildings is fast approaching.

Many iconic buildings of the Avant-garde have been deteriorating for several decades. In Moscow, these include Konstantin Melnikov's workers' clubs and communal housing such as Ivan Nikolaev's student hostel. Most of these buildings have had little maintenance since their construction. The most tragic example of this is Moisei Ginzburg's Narkomfin apartment building (1928-1930), which had been included on WMF's 2004 and 2006 lists of 100 Most Endangered Sites.

Nearly all of these buildings have only local or regional listed status in Russia's state heritage register. This means that they are vulnerable to the worst sort of conservation practice: façadism and crude refurbishment. As a result, many of these buildings have lost their historical authenticity, and therefore cannot be included on the World Heritage List, which would protect them from further mutilation.

Russian specialists and foreign

architects have been aware of the plight of the treasures of the Russian Avant-garde for years. Unfortunately, this architecture is not appreciated inside Russia itself. Russia's professional community has tried hard to lobby the cause of these buildings, but with few results.

The Russian Academy for Architecture and Building Sciences, Russia's Ministry for Culture and Mass Communication, the Moscow Chamber of Architects, the Moscow Committee on Architecture and Town-planning, the Moscow Committee for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage, and the Schusev Architecture Museum, with the support of Russia's UNESCO Commission, ICOMOS International, and DOCOMOMO International, are organizing an international conference devoted to the issue of contemporary preservation methods for twentieth-century architecture.

The conference will take place in Moscow, April 17-20, 2006. Working languages are Russian and English. For information and registration, contact: rector@marhi.ru, or the Moscow Architecture Preservation Society (MAPS); [www.maps-moscow.com](http://www.maps-moscow.com)

—CLEMENTINE CECIL, MAPS

#### WATCH SITES RECOGNIZED Chilean Saltpeter Factories and Mostar Make World Heritage List

Two late nineteenth-century sodium nitrate factories in Chile's Atacama Desert—Humberstone and Santa Laura—and the Ottoman city of Mostar, damaged by decades of war and ethnic intolerance, are among the 17 cultural heritage sites added to UNESCO's World Heritage List during the 29th session of the World Heritage Committee, which met in Durban, South Africa July 10-17. The Chilean industrial installations, which once supplied Europe and North America with saltpeter, used initially in



SODIUM NITRATE FACTORIES HUMBERSTONE  
(ABOVE) AND SANTA LAURA



the manufacturing of explosives and later as fertilizer, appeared on WMF's 2004 list of 100 Most Endangered Sites. Mostar, the historic center of which has been the subject of a major restoration campaign carried out in large part by WMF and the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, was included on WMF's 2000 and 2002 lists (see ICON, Fall 2004). For a complete listing see: [whc.unesco.org](http://whc.unesco.org). —AMHS

## CHILEAN CONFERENCE TO FOCUS ON INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE

### Curating the Industrial Age

This Spring, Santiago, Chile, will be the backdrop for an international symposium focusing on the study, preservation, presentation, and interpretation of industrial sites both in Europe and the Americas. Topics range from best practices in conservation to capitalizing on industrial site tourism. Working languages for the conference

will be Spanish, Italian, and English. For more information on the conference, which will be held March 21-23, contact: TICCIH-Chile, Chilean National Committee for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage, Av. Apoquindo Nr. 6275, Las Condes, Santiago, Chile, Phone/Fax: (562) 201 7193, e-mail: ticcihchile@gmail.com



## MODERNISM ON VIEW

### Corbu's Weissenhof House To Open As A Museum

Long considered an icon of Modernist architecture, the two-family Weissenhof House by Le Corbusier and Pierre Jeanneret at Rathenaustrasse 1 and 3 in Stuttgart will soon reopen to the public as House Le Corbusier, a museum dedicated to architectural innovation.

Commissioned as part of the 1927 Deutsche Werkbund exhibition, the Weissenhof House is one of 33 dwellings that offered revolutionary alternatives to urban living as envisioned by some of the most progressive architects of the early twentieth century—among them Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, Walter Gropius, Le Corbusier, and Hans Scharoun. Nearly all of the 17 participating architects from Germany, France, Holland, Belgium, and Austria were, at the time, under the age of 45, the youngest being Mart Stam, who was then only 28.

For the Weissenhofsiedlung project, fully functional experimental buildings were erected, each furnished in accordance with ideas of *Neues Bauen* (Functionalism). Sections of the exhibition were devoted to innovative construction techniques and building materials and displays offering the latest in home appliances and furniture.

Despite significant destruction of the ensemble during World War II, the buildings are critical documents in the history of architecture.

Upon completion of the restoration of the Le Corbusier House as museum, slated to open in April 2006, visitors will be greeted by extensive information on the building history of Weissenhofsiedlung, its architects, and its influence on twentieth-century design and construction. For more information see: [www.weissenhof.de/](http://www.weissenhof.de/)

## WMF LECTURES

John Curtis

*What happened to Babylon? The Destruction of Iraqi Cultural Heritage*  
Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2005, 7:00 P.M.  
Royal Geographical Society, London  
Ring 44 20 7730 5344 to purchase tickets.  
The Keeper of Department of Ancient Near East at the British Museum, Curtis discusses the current state of some of the world's most important architecture. WMF recently placed the whole country of Iraq on its 2006 Watch list of 100 Most Endangered Sites.

Alexander McCall Smith

*Remembering Good Places in the Year of Africa*

Thursday, Oct. 20, 2005 7:00 P.M.  
Royal Geographical Society, London  
Ring 44 20 7730 5344 to purchase tickets.  
Some authors rely heavily on place for the creation of atmosphere which does 'moral work' in the story. The best-selling author of *The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency* series looks at how the sense of place may help to convey the author's message.

Michael Snodin

*Strawberry Hill – A Thames-side Arcadia A Paul Mellon Lecture\**

Frick Collection, Fifth Ave. and 70th St., New York, Monday, Nov. 14, 6:00 P.M.  
The Head of Designs Collection at the Victoria & Albert Museum, Snodin will discuss the importance of Horace Walpole's extraordinary residence, its important collections, and the process of restoring one of Britain's great houses.  
\* Open only to WMF members at the Field Sponsor level and above

Henry Tzu Ng

*The Restoration of the Qianlong Garden in the Forbidden City, Beijing*

Monday, Nov. 28, 2005 6:30 P.M.  
English Heritage Lecture Theatre, New Burlington Place, off Regent Street, W1  
The garden (1771-1776) was designed for the anticipated retirement of Emperor Qianlong, China's longest reigning sovereign. WMF is helping to restore the garden, a process that will take 12 years to complete. Henry Tzu Ng, Executive Vice President of WMF, discusses the gardens, buildings, interiors, and the particulars of the restoration process.

Sue Prideaux

*Edvard Munch; Behind the Scream*

Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2005 7:00 P.M.  
Royal Geographical Society, London  
Ring 44 20 7730 5344 to purchase tickets.  
What kind of man created the universal image that so vividly expresses the uncertainties of the twentieth century? Art historian and biographer of Munch Sue Prideaux explores the psychological experiences that he so vividly expressed in his work, to coincide with a major exhibition at the Royal Academy and Prideaux's own biography of Munch.

# What a Difference a Decade has Made

The cause of preserving the world's great monuments has several components, all of which the World Monuments Fund addresses. Primary energy must be given to actual physical preservation of edifices that are becoming decrepit. They must be made structurally strong; and they must be made legible. But WMF cannot work on all the monuments in the world. Part of our mission is to educate people about preservation and awaken popular interest in making the grandest artifacts of the past permanent. The project of raising consciousness is served by our educational programs, by this magazine, and most of all by the World Monuments Watch list. The sites that appear on the list tend to get a great deal of attention in their own countries, to be newly and well appraised by the people who live in proximity to them. Governments lend their support to the conservation of monuments to which they had paid little attention. Things that might have been knocked down are saved from the wrecking ball. The Watch list is a call to arms, and over the last ten years, it has proved an exceptionally effective one. Seventy-five percent of the more than 400 sites that have been on the Watch list are on their way to being out of danger, with more than \$160 million spent to ensure their salvage.

The word "watch" is not a matter of happenstance. The Watch list focuses on the efforts of a vast body of observers, people from within and outside the conservation community. They keep their eyes peeled, vigilant at signs of rot or abrasion in the world's most beautiful and important sites and structures. The Watch list is about seeing what is happening in such places before it is too late, about analyzing the dangers that afflict any particular location, about recognizing what makes something great and what makes it fragile. We need the eyes of thousands of educated witnesses to the process of decay; the fine quality of their attention ensures that such decay is arrested or reversed. The Watch list has created a forum to organize and prioritize the world's multitude of worthy sites and projects, seen by a galaxy of bystanders.

It is the nature of man-made structures to crumble, so as some sites come out of danger, others settle into it. Preservation is not a finite project; it is a permanent commitment to keeping for the future the legacy of the past. The Watch List is effective at drawing attention to the individual structures it lists. Moreover, it wakes in a broad swath of people an interest in the idea of conservation. Nominations to the list pour in, put together by those with personal and professional commitments to sites around the globe. In communities that have not traditionally been preoccupied with preservation, people fix up a particular temple; they are likely to look at the next sacred site they stumble on with new eyes, and to endorse further conservation efforts. Almost three hundred sites have been helped as a direct consequence of being on the Watch list, but there are without doubt hundreds more that are the indirect beneficiaries of the heightened awareness of conservation that the very existence of the Watch list brings. These direct projects will find echoes wherever great buildings are frail. ■



## ADVOCACY

Controversy over the proposed demolition of Brussels' transportation hub, Tour and Taxis, erupted with the 1996 Watch listing. The proposal to destroy this rich district of nineteenth-century cast-iron architecture was described by experts as "the scandal of Europe." The complex has since been saved, finding new life as a cultural and recreational hub for the city.

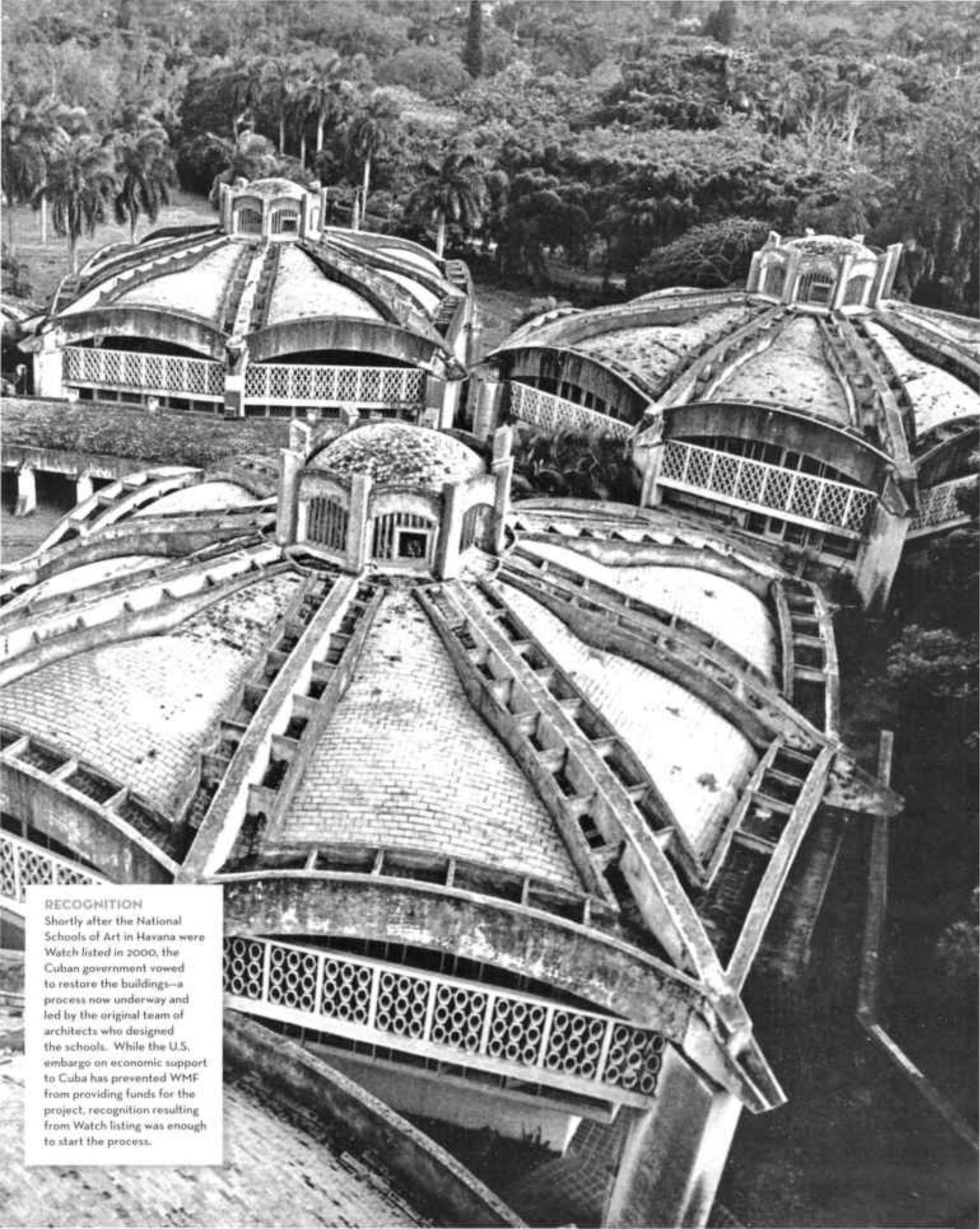
## LEVERAGE

The fifteenth-century Temple of Agriculture in Beijing, used by Chinese emperors for springtime rites in honor of the "father of agriculture," had long since lost its original function by the time of its first Watch listing in 1996. WMF funding for the restoration of Jufu Hall (pictured), leveraged substantial support from the Chinese government. Today, the complex is being fully restored as a tourism destination with two museums.



## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The rock-hewn church of St. Emilion in France was filled with a forest of concrete pillars to prevent its collapse when it was Watch listed in 1996. WMF supported a technical study to address structural issues. Church piers were later reinforced with tensile bands to increase their strength. Funds from state and local governments have sponsored the restoration of the former hermitage, which is now open to the public.



#### RECOGNITION

Shortly after the National Schools of Art in Havana were Watch listed in 2000, the Cuban government vowed to restore the buildings—a process now underway and led by the original team of architects who designed the schools. While the U.S. embargo on economic support to Cuba has prevented WMF from providing funds for the project, recognition resulting from Watch listing was enough to start the process.



SUCCESS STORY: MOSTAR, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

# Past Successes, Future

100 MOST ENDANGERED SITES 2006

by MICHELLE L. BERENFELD

With each new list of 100 *Most Endangered Sites*, the World Monuments Fund is presented with, and in turn presents to the world, a unique snapshot of the history of humanity as it is manifest in the architectural legacy that has come down to us. At first glance, this picture may appear to be a random sampling of interesting buildings and site types, yet as we learn more about each place on the list, we find common denominators in terms of nature of the sites and the threats they face that will enhance our ability to preserve these cultural relics and others like them.

## CONFLICT

Many sites on the list are located in areas currently in the midst of or emerging from conflict. Beyond damage incurred as a direct consequence of warfare, many of these sites face threats such as looting and vandalism that arise in the aftermath of war or as a result of a lawless environment in the absence of any governing authority. Yet, monuments in war-torn areas can be potent reminders of our long and shared history and of a future beyond conflict. That such sites are a key part of who we are is un-



**CONFLICT** WAR AND ETHNIC INTOLERANCE HAD TAKEN THEIR TOLL ON THE OTTOMAN CITY OF MOSTAR, LEFT, BY THE TIME IT FIRST CAME ONTO THE WATCH LIST IN 2000, TODAY, THE CITY IS WITNESSING REBIRTH AS A CENTER OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY. THE FUTURE OF ANCIENT SITES ON THE 2006 LIST SUCH AS BABYLON IN IRAQ, ABOVE, AND THE NINTH-CENTURY A.D. NOH GUMBAD MOSQUE IN AFGHANISTAN, BELOW, IS LESS CERTAIN AS WAR AND CIVIL UNREST CONTINUE TO DOMINATE THE POLITICAL LANDSCAPE IN THOSE COUNTRIES. THE ERITREAN PORT OF MASSAWA, BOTTOM, STILL BEARS SCARS FROM DECADES OF WAR WITH THE NEIGHBORING NATION OF ETHIOPIA.



# Challenges

derscored time and again by the fact that most are presented to us by local nominators who, despite the immediate challenges they face simply surviving and rebuilding their lives, are committed to helping to build the future of their countries by preserving their pasts.

Unfortunately, the description of "sites in conflict" or "emerging from conflict" could be applied to many sites on the list. The East African nation of Eritrea, which was ravaged by war throughout much of the twentieth century, is represented by three sites on the 2006 list—a fourteenth-century church in Senafe erected using building techniques long since forgotten; the Modernist metropolis of Asmara, preserved whole since it was conceived by Italian architects in the 1930s; and the ornate ruins of Ottoman, Egyptian, and Italian architecture in the historic port city of Massawa.

Despite centuries of tumult in Afghanistan, that country's



oldest mosque, the Noh Gumbad at Balkh, one of the oldest Islamic monuments in Central Asia, has survived as a picturesque and still ornately decorated ruin since its construction more than a thousand years ago. Yet, looting and illegal excavations now threaten its survival into the next decade.

The extraordinary toll conflict can exact on cultural heritage sites is perhaps most keenly felt right now in Iraq, where decades of political isolation, a protracted war with Iran, and, most recently, the 2003 invasion and continuing conflict there have put this extraordinary heritage at risk. Some of the oldest and greatest achievements of humankind are being lost daily as countless sites in the Cradle of Civilization are damaged by war. Among these are such famous sites as the Assyrian capital of Nineveh, the ziggurat at Ur, the ancient city of Babylon, and a ninth-century spiral minaret at Samarra, which have been scarred by violence and military activity. Other important ancient sites, particularly in the southern provinces, are being ravaged by looters who work day and night to fuel an international art market hungry for antiquities. Historic districts in urban areas are also suffering from vandalism, looting, and artillery fire. The magnitude, range, and unpredictability of threats to cultural heritage sites in Iraq have led to the inclusion of the entire country on the Watch list, a first for the program and part

The great achievements of the Romans and the sheer size of their empire are represented in three sites on this year's Watch list. The aqueduct in Segovia, Spain is one of the few remaining well-preserved aqueducts—perhaps the most recognizable type of Roman engineering—and has stood for almost 2,000 years in the heart of that World Heritage City, for which it provided fresh water well into the twentieth century! It was built of precisely cut, large granite blocks—ashlar masonry—with no mortar, unlike many Roman structures, which were often made of smaller stones or rubble blocks, held together with mortar or concrete. Ashlar masonry is perfectly stable if the blocks are cut precisely, but if the blocks erode and their cut surfaces are worn away, as is the case in Segovia, then the structure becomes very vulnerable. A careful approach to monitoring and stabilizing the aqueduct must now be set in motion in order for this extraordinary and evocative monument to survive another century.

The Temple of Portunus in Rome—a building that is presented in every introductory course on ancient architecture as the canonical example of a Roman temple—stands in the center of that thriving metropolis and, like so many monuments in the city, is suffering from exposure to pollutants and vibrations from traffic.

Over the years, WMF has helped to draft plans for the conservation and sustainable development of some of the world's most famous ancient sites—from the Roman houses sealed by Vesuvius at Pompeii to the extraordinary rock-hewn Nabataean temples of Petra.

of WMF's continued efforts to help Iraqis gain the capacity to preserve their heritage.

WMF's past work in Cambodia, Bosnia, and Croatia has enabled the organization to develop a comprehensive program to help war-torn nations rebuild the communities of scholars and technicians who care for their cultural treasures and ensure the preservation of their monuments for generations to come.

## ANTIQUITY IN A CHANGING WORLD

Given the unrelenting assault on our shared architectural heritage around the globe, it is hard to imagine how so many monuments have survived so long. Extraordinary buildings and feats of engineering built by Roman emperors and Egyptian pharaohs have managed to stand for millennia and it is difficult to imagine the world without them. It is easy to take these sites for granted and to assume that if they lasted this long then they will continue to do so, without our help, for eternity. Nothing, however, lasts forever, and the remnants of the ancient world that survive represent just a fraction of what had been built. Pollution, road and railway construction, industry, and urban expansion have hastened the process of natural aging of our most ancient sites. Pollutants eat away at stone, roadways cause vibrations that destabilize fragile structures, and the ever-growing need for land and resources threaten sites, not only those that are well-known, but those yet to be discovered.

In the eastern empire, where provincial towns flourished under the pax Romana, modern threats, including development, put whole cities at risk. Aphrodisias in southwestern Turkey, one of the best preserved of these cities, was filled with marble buildings and statues made by its world-class sculptors. The monuments of Aphrodisias were largely uncovered in excavations of the 1960s through the 1980s, and most were left exposed without conservation or reconstructed using inappropriate methods. These monuments are now in dire need of conservation in order for future visitors to be able to see and experience them as we do now. Although Aphrodisias is located in a rural valley, the site is also threatened by uncontrolled development. In recent years, what was once a small road that ran past Aphrodisias has been expanded into a four-lane highway and developers have been prospecting for land around it to build new housing and hotels.

Long before the rise of the Roman Empire, the ancient Egyptians had built what are still revered as some of humanity's greatest artistic and architectural achievements, many of which are in danger of disappearing within our lifetime.

The West Bank of the Nile, just across the river from the city of Luxor, is home to many of the most important tombs and temples of the New Kingdom pharaohs, including the tomb of King Tutankhamun and the temple of the only female pharaoh, Hatshepsut. Yet today, an elevated water table, a byproduct of the construction of the Aswan Dam, has invited agriculture



**SUCCESS STORY: TEMPLE OF HERCULES, ROME**

**ANTIQUITY IN A CHANGING WORLD** SET AMID BUSTLING ROME, THE SECOND-CENTURY B.C. TEMPLE OF HERCULES, ABOVE, HAD WEAKENED TO A POINT OF NEAR COLLAPSE WHEN IT APPEARED ON WMF'S FIRST WATCH LIST IN 1996. IT HAS SINCE BEEN RESTORED WITH FUNDS FROM AMERICAN EXPRESS THROUGH WMF AND THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT. THE ASHLAR BLOCKS OF THE ROMAN AQUEDUCT IN SEGOVIA, BUILT NEARLY 2,000 YEARS AGO, BELOW, ARE ERODING FROM EXPOSURE TO POLLUTANTS AND BEING WORKED APART BY VIBRATIONS FROM PASSING AUTOMOBILE TRAFFIC.



onto newly arable lands in and around the monuments, conspiring to weaken the foundations of standing buildings and to create humid environments in tombs where millennia-old paintings and sculpted decorations are now in danger. In addition, the well-deserved fame of these monuments has, in recent years, brought increasingly large groups of tourists to the area, compounding development pressures with the construction of new hotels and amenities, and increasing pollution and wear and tear to the monuments. These factors, taken together, present the greatest challenge to the preservation of this unparalleled cultural resource that it has ever faced, and it is up to the current generation of conservators to save it.

While it is impossible to protect antiquity completely from the threats of the modern world, we can help these few tangible pieces of our shared history survive so that we can continue to enjoy and learn more about them.

Over the years, WMF has helped to develop sustainable plans for the conservation of some of the world's most famous ancient sites—from the Roman houses sealed by Vesuvius at Pompeii to the extraordinary rock-hewn Nabataean temples of Petra. These sites, and those on the list this year, present special challenges, requiring creative and cooperative solutions that incorporate not only stabilization, but community support, educational outreach, and long-term planning so that local groups and the international community can work together to preserve our shared cultural heritage.



**SUCCESS STORY: A. CONGER GOODYEAR HOUSE, LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK**



**MODERN WORKS AT RISK** EDWARD DURELL STONE'S 1938 HOUSE FOR A. CONGER GOODYEAR, THEN PRESIDENT OF NEW YORK'S MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, ABOVE LEFT, WAS SLATED FOR DEMOLITION WHEN ITS PLIGHT WAS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF WMF IN 2001. TODAY, AFTER CAREFUL NEGOTIATIONS AND DONOR SUPPORT, THE HOUSE IS A REGISTERED LANDMARK WITH A NEW OWNER WHO IS COMMITTED TO ITS RESTORATION AS AN ICON OF MODERN ARCHITECTURE. UNFORTUNATELY, A SIMILAR FATE IS NOT IN STORE FOR 2 COLUMBUS CIRCLE, ALSO BY STONE, ABOVE RIGHT, WHICH IS TO BE RADICALLY ALTERED, AND RICHARD NEUTRA'S CYCLORAMA CENTER AT GETTYSBURG, LEFT, WHICH WILL SOON BE RAZED.

## MODERN MARVELS

As the great monuments of the distant past are threatened by increased exposure to the modern world, the architectural achievements of the Modernist movement are at risk because they are not old enough. This year's Watch list includes nine modern sites, ranging from a now dilapidated monument to the socialist ideal in Moscow, the Narkomfin Building, to a much-maligned and alternately much-beloved late modern totem in Manhattan, 2 Columbus Circle. The modern structures on the list, many designed by the twentieth-century's most famous architects, are threatened by demolition made possible because these buildings have not been around long enough to gain the legitimacy of age.

The World Monuments Fund has been working for years to raise public awareness of the plight of modern architecture and our responsibility as the stewards of this period of history to help it survive. Just this summer, WMF completed its largest and most challenging effort to preserve modern architecture to date—the rescue of the A. Conger Goodyear house in Old Westbury, New York. The house was designed in 1938 by Edward Durrell Stone, who, with Philip Goodwin, also designed the original Museum of Modern Art in New York. It was commissioned by Goodyear, the first President of MoMA and a distinguished collector of modern art, much of which he kept in the house. The Goodyear House is a masterpiece of International Style architecture and represents a key point in the development of Modern architecture in the United States. In 2001, not long after it was selected for inclusion on the 2002 World Monuments Watch list, WMF engineered a dramatic rescue

of the house, sparing it from imminent demolition. Through a partnership created by WMF with the Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities (SPLIA) and underwritten by the Barnett and Analee Newman Foundation, WMF purchased the house and saved it from destruction. This summer, the house was sold to a private buyer with a preservation easement that protects it in perpetuity. It is now also on the New York State and National Registers of Historic Places.

## SACRED SITES

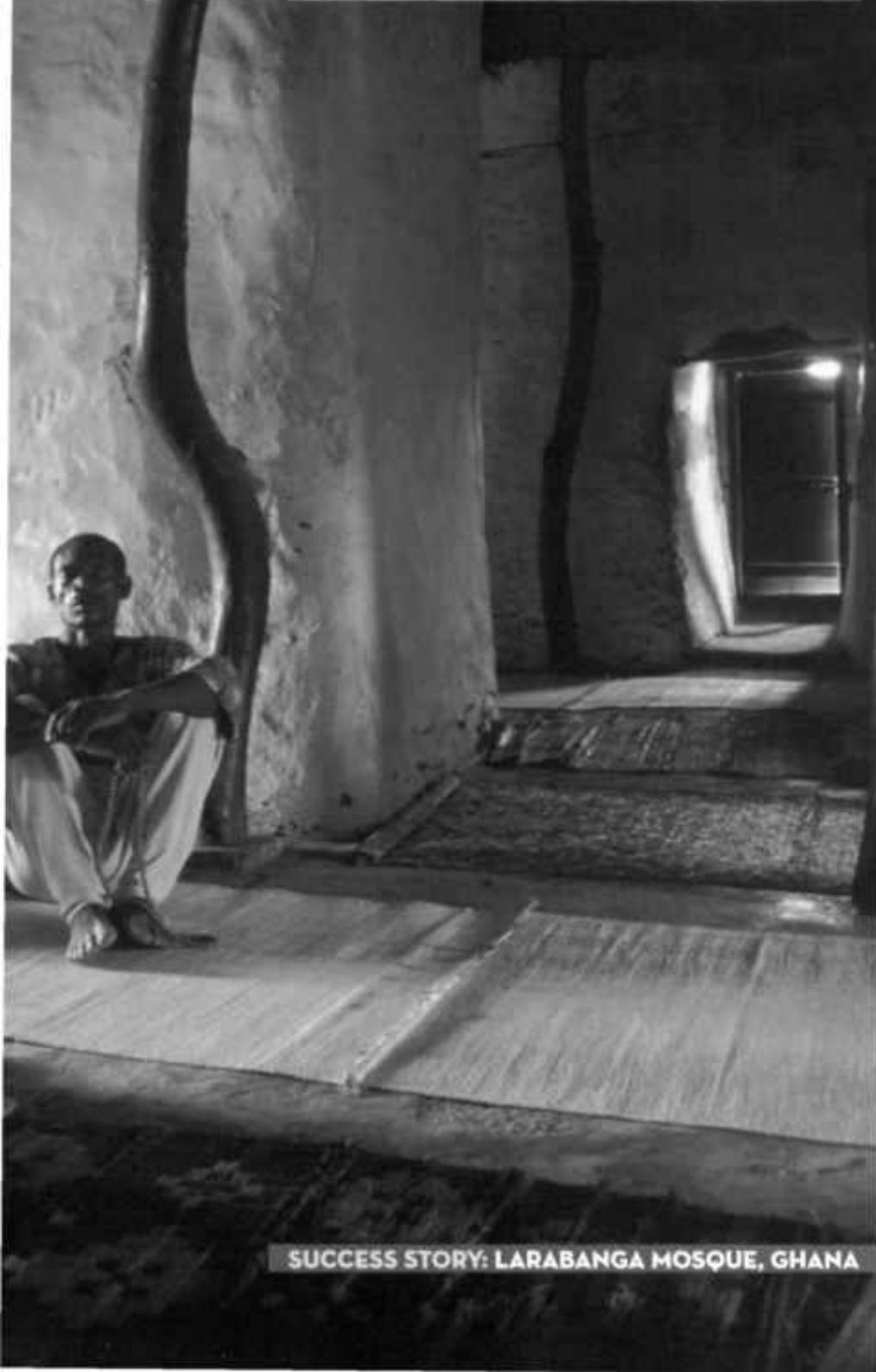
Many important modern sites—museums, houses, airports, theaters—are secular buildings and therefore do not have a group or association of people who feel responsible for them. Built for private owners or as public amenities, they are often left unprotected when their original patron dies or sells the property. An unlikely parallel for this problem is the plight of sacred sites—churches, synagogues, mosques, and temples—that no longer serve their intended purposes or whose congregations have dwindled so substantially that they cannot sustain a house of worship.

From the Chinguetti Mosque in the Western Sahara of Mauritania to a Byzantine monastery in Macedonia with only one monk left to care for it, to the Church of Saint Blaise in the heart of downtown Dubrovnik, religious architecture is well represented on the 2006 Watch list. Some of these buildings are still very much in use, but are threatened by the effects of age and exposure to harsh elements, while others face the added danger of having lost their caretakers.

Small Buddhist temples such as Sumda Chung and Guru



**SACRED SITES** HEAVY RAINS HAD DELIVERED A FINAL BLOW TO GHANA'S SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY LARABANGA MOSQUE, LEFT, WHEN IT WAS PLACED ON WHF'S 2002 WATCH LIST. ONCE WEAKENED AND DISFIGURED BY INAPPROPRIATE REPAIRS MADE WITH MOISTURE-TRAPPING CEMENT, THE SANCTUARY HAS SINCE BEEN RESTORED USING TRADITIONAL MATERIALS, HAVING SERVED AS A TRAINING GROUND FOR ARTISANS LEARNING AGE-OLD CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES. THE BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SUMDA CHUNG IN THE HIMALAYAN REGION OF LADAKH, ABOVE, IS IN DIRE NEED OF STRUCTURAL STABILIZATION BEFORE RESTORATION ITS EXTRAORDINARY MURAL CYCLE CAN BEGIN. A DUTCH REFORMED CHURCH IN NEWBURGH, NEW YORK, BELOW, HAS SUFFERED AS A RESULT OF ECONOMIC DECLINE.



**SUCCESS STORY: LARABANGA MOSQUE, GHANA**



Lakhang that dot the hills and valleys of Ladakh on India's Himalayan frontier are threatened by dwindling monastic populations, harsh climate, loss of craftsmanship, and paucity of maintenance and local resources to conserve them. These buildings, which from the outside appear as simple mud-brick-and-timber structures, house extraordinary medieval paintings and relief decoration, rendered all the more compelling when viewed in the context of their extraordinary landscapes on the Roof of the World. For more than a decade, WMF has worked in the Himalayan region, helping local communities to conserve their sites and steward them in the face of ever-increasing tourism.

Though far more accessible, numerous parish churches of England are now in dire need of conservation, damaged by decades if not centuries of dwindling congregations with diminished resources, which have left many of these historic and architecturally significant buildings in disrepair. The Minster Church of Saint Mary in Stow, England, is but one example of this phenomenon and was included in the 2006 Watch list in hopes that the concerted efforts by its nominator will help not only this building, but will encourage public support for the preservation of parish churches throughout Britain, which represent centuries of English ecclesiastical and architectural history.

The slow abandonment of English churches stands in stark contrast to the sudden and forced removal of Jewish congregations in Europe during World War II. Synagogues that had served as focal points for once-thriving communities are now cared

Although the Watch list is an announcement of threats and dangers to some of the world's most important monuments and sites, it also provides an opportunity to discover some of the little-known treasures of the world that might never have been noticed until it was too late.

for by the few who survived or those who returned the region in the late twentieth century. These buildings present special challenges as many are unlikely to ever serve a sizeable congregation; their preservation is dependent on the development of innovative adaptive reuse schemes. A remarkable synagogue in Subotica, Serbia-Montenegro, is just one of a number of extraordinary Jugendstil buildings preserved in a town where approximately 100 Jews currently reside. The preservation of this structure and its reintegration into the life of the town will help to preserve both the building and the history of those who worshipped there.

In Upstate New York, the Dutch Reformed Church of Newburgh, a neo-classical landmark designed by A.J. Davis (1803-1892), has fallen on hard times as a result of economic decline and a diminished congregation. Modeled on Greek classical architecture, particularly the Erechtheion, an idiosyncratic temple on the Athenian Acropolis, the stately building overlooking the Hudson River is now dilapidated and threatened by vandalism. With the fortunes of the town improving, renewed attention from the local community and public awareness generated by its placement on the Watch list, we hope that a new life for this important building can be secured.

Since the first Watch list was issued a decade ago, WMF has helped to find renewed life for sacred sites through the revival of the methods used to construct them, reinvigoration of the congregations that support them, and heightened public awareness of the value of these community anchor points. Only recently, WMF witnessed the reopening of the seventeenth-century Larabanga Mosque in Ghana, a traditional rammed-earth structure that had been damaged by heavy rains and inappropriate repairs. Following its inclusion on the 2002 list, American Express provided a grant that enabled WMF to work with local craftsmen to restore this marvel of Sudanese architecture, which has resumed its place in the spiritual lives of its community.

## AN INSPIRED PARTNERSHIP

American Express' Beth Salerno looks back on a decade-long effort.

Ten years ago American Express and the World

Monuments Fund realized that they were both looking for a way to intensify their involvement with the cause of historic preservation worldwide. American Express was already known as a funder of preservation. In fact, we had frequently worked with WMF in the past, but we wanted to support the cause in a more systematic fashion.

Meanwhile, we discovered that WMF felt the need to expand its work, making the public more aware of the threats to historic sites and growing its already considerable network of relationships with nonprofits and government agencies around the world.

Months of discussion between us led to a partnership in a new program, the World Monuments Watch. From the beginning, we were both committed to the idea of publishing a list of 100 Most Endangered Sites as key to galvanizing greater public support. Happily, we were able to convince American Express senior management that the company should not only underwrite the creation of the list but also provide funds each year to help save a certain number of the sites that were on it. The result was a five-million dollar pledge on our part for the first five years of the program. In 2000, the success of the program led us to renew our support, bringing our total commitment to \$10 million over 10 years.

The launch of the Watch in 1995 immediately attracted media attention and led to a rush of applications for listing. Since then, more than 1500 sites have been nominated to the biennial Watch list, of which 447 have been selected for listing. Of these, 117 sites in 59 countries have received funding from American Express.

The program worked in ways that both American Express and World



Monuments Fund had hoped for when we embarked on this adventure. But it also produced results that no one had expected. For example, the passionate concern of nominators for their sites resonated with American Express staff in the field, who took up the cause. Our office managers around the world began to compete to obtain Watch funds for sites in their countries and even to work with local agencies to nominate sites for inclusion on the list of 100 Most Endangered Sites. Ian Fish, the American Express country head in the Philippines, made it his mission to preserve an ancient petroglyph site on the first list that was in danger of development by brokering its protection by the site's owner, a developer who was building a golf course. The entire staff of the American Express office in Alaska signed a petition to secure an American Express grant for the preservation of icons in the oldest Russian orthodox church in the U.S., located in the westernmost port town of the Aleutian Islands.



Meanwhile, American Express senior management enthusiastically served on an annual panel to choose listed sites for Amex grants, and they made funds available to local offices to publicize the grants. Across the company people took great pride in a project that was yielding positive results within our communities while at the same time helping to promote good relations with local governments and customers.

Another surprise was the diversity of the sites nominated to the Watch list. Although many sites were world renowned—the Taj Mahal in India, Hagia Sophia in Turkey, and the Valley of Kings in Egypt—many

were little-known but equally intriguing in their way, like Sir Ernest Shackleton's hut in Antarctica and the cemeteries of New Orleans. The Watch list came to stand for the diversity of heritage that communities around the world care deeply about. Speaking of the first list in 1996, *New York Times* critic Herbert Muschamp wrote, "What we are seeing now is a history based on modern encounters with [monuments from the past]. It's a history of the present, one that is likely to increase in value as a global culture continues to emerge. We won't leave home without it."

A key contribution to the Watch was made by *Travel + Leisure* magazine, part of American Express Publishing, which early on adopted the program as its special cause. For the past nine years, *Travel + Leisure* has published a special section on Watch sites in one of its fall issues, with a percentage of the advertising dollars for the insert supporting the Watch. This year they have added a section commemorating the first decade of the Watch. *Travel + Leisure* also teamed up with American Express each year to underwrite a golf match at the American Society of Travel Agents annual conference, helping to spread the message that preserving places from which the industry benefits is good business. The Watch program also gained recognition among our colleagues in the corporate world as an outstanding example of "doing well by doing good."

By helping to create and sustain this program, we know we have made a difference. For one thing, each dollar that we have invested in the Watch program has brought in \$15 more from other sources. Among these sources have been American Express banking partners who have stepped up to the plate to add to our grants and help save local sites. We are proud that through our partnership with World Monuments Fund in this endeavor, so many sites have been saved from imminent danger.

I have been lucky enough to visit several of the Watch sites at the time of the press events we held to announce each American Express grant. Each time I have visited one of the sites, be it the Russian church in Alaska, the terraced hillsides of the Cinque Terre in Italy, Mesa Verde in Colorado, or



the Temple of Agriculture in China, I have been struck not only by their fragility but also by how much people really care about these places. Even when the site was far away from large media centers, the press response was amazing.

People realize that we are responding to their values and their priorities. They are proud of their heritage and they are thrilled that through the Watch the places they love have gained the recognition they deserve.

I can think of no better testimony to this fact than a statement by my colleague Adriana Rivera, director of public affairs in our Mexico office, who said "It may be hard for people to realize, but in Mexico, these sites are so tied to our past that, for us, they are who we are, and that's why the Watch program has meant so much to us."

In the end, none of this could have happened without the extraordinary work and dedication of the WMF staff and the preservation experts around the world who are the guardians of these silent witnesses to a past that we all share. It is also important to acknowledge the excellent work of my long-time colleague at American Express, Connie Higginson, who has managed the program internally from the very beginning.

On a personal note, I want to add that our relationship with the WMF team has been one of the most satisfying of my years in philanthropy at American Express. The company is proud to have been associated with them in the Watch and while I may be stepping down, I know that my colleagues look forward to continuing our long association with WMF in the urgent task of protecting the world's endangered heritage. ■



## DEVELOPMENT PRESSURES

While many sites are lost because there are too few people to care for them, far more are razed to make way for development, proponents of which are unable or unwilling to find a way to accommodate urban or agricultural expansion without destroying cultural heritage sites.

In China, which is experiencing unprecedented economic growth, countless historic buildings and often whole towns are being razed or radically transformed in the name of progress. Five historic districts in China are included in the 2006 Watch list, some threatened by their obsolescence, others with transformation into inauthentic "theme parks" for tourists. In the Shanxi Province, the eighteenth-century town of Qikou was established as a trading town on the Yellow River and was a key transition point between water and overland transport. The town plan was designed to adapt to the dramatic and challenging landscape using terraces as well as traditional urban buildings. While still inhabited, Qikou's role in trade has all but vanished; riverine trade was displaced by rail transport in the 1930s. Yet, Chinese officials now envision the town as a quaint theme park devoted to times past. Residents, however, are determined to preserve the town and to develop a comprehensive and sustainable plan for its preservation and economic viability.

Far away from Chinese freight trains, but also threatened by uncontrolled development, is a land best known for its race horses and its Bourbon, the historic Bluegrass Cultural Landscape of Kentucky. The rolling blue-green hills of central Kentucky are home to the grazing and training grounds of the

world's finest race horses and to fast-disappearing rural American traditional buildings. In the past decade this region has been threatened by aggressive development, particularly suburban sprawl. A lack of regulations to protect the area and its agrarian industries and to manage development on a region-wide scale has resulted in the loss of more than 328 square kilometers.

Threats to cultural landscapes are not new to the Watch list. In 2002, WME was first informed of the plight of Tomo Port Town in Japan, a picturesque coastal town preserved from the Edo period in the middle ages. Its traditional fishing industry as well as its medieval buildings and town plan were threatened by the proposed construction of a highway that would have cut off the town from the water. Watch listing in 2002 and 2004 allowed the local advocates to stop this construction while a grant from American Express provided support for the study and rehabilitation of a traditional building in Tomo that will serve as a visitors' center.

## REMOTE AND AT RISK

Although the Watch list is an announcement of threats and dangers to some of the world's most important monuments and sites, it also provides an opportunity to learn about some of the little-known treasures of the world that might never have been noticed until it was too late.

This year, the Watch list includes a marvel of industrial engineering that recalls the adventurous spirit of the Old West. Snaking along the side of a cliff in Montrose County, Colorado, is the Hanging Flume, more than 21 kilometers of track that was



**SUCCESS STORY: GREAT WALL OF CHINA CULTURAL LANDSCAPE**

## DEVELOPMENT PRESSURES

ENCROACHMENT, UNMANAGED TOURISM, VANDALISM, AND THEFT OF BUILDING MATERIALS WERE JUST A FEW OF ASSAULTS ENDURED BY THE FAMED GREAT WALL OF CHINA WHEN IT CAME ONTO THE WATCH LIST IN 2002. WHILE THE WALL, WHICH STRETCHES OVER MORE THAN 6,500 KILOMETERS OF THE CHINESE LANDSCAPE, IS NOT YET OUT OF DANGER, MEASURES TO PROTECT THIS ENGINEERING MARVEL ARE NOW BEING ADOPTED BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AT THE LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS. TODAY, THE BLUEGRASS REGION OF KENTUCKY, KNOWN FOR ITS BREEDING OF PRIZED RACE HORSES AND AGRICULTURAL FECUNDITY, IS AT RISK AS HECTARE BY HECTARE THE SUBLIME LANDSCAPE IS YIELDING TO DEVELOPMENT.





**SUCCESS STORY: MADERA CAVES, MEXICO**

built to carry the more than 30 million liters of water used each day to mine gold in the nineteenth century. When the Montrose Placer Mining Company went bankrupt in the 1890s, the flume was abandoned and has been slowly falling apart ever since. The Bureau of Land Management in Colorado is now seeking to stabilize the structure and to provide access to it for industrious tourists.

The Pulemelei Mound, a Polynesian Pyramid, one could say, on the Pacific island of Samoa, is well known to local citizens and Australian tourists who get lost in the jungle. But the ancient and mysterious monument has not gained much fame beyond the island. Thought to have been built between A.D. 1000 and 1600, the mound existed before the first Dutch settlers arrived and is perhaps the largest pre-colonial monument on the island. A massive structure measuring 60 by 65 meters, it is in danger of being engulfed by the jungle.

In the last ten years, the Watch list has brought WMF to countless faraway places. Among these have been a suite of cave dwellings nestled in a series of deep gorges in the Mexican state of Chihuahua and a group of traditional houses on the Indonesian island of Nias, whose method of construction had been declared obsolete until traditional methods proved far more resilient than modern construction techniques when a tsunami struck in December 2004, followed by an earthquake in March 2005. In the wake of disaster, the island is experiencing a renewal of age-old ways.

Each Watch list presents 100 opportunities to revel in the variety and beauty of human innovation. It also presents 100 opportunities to intervene before such treasures are lost forever. ■

**REMOTE AND AT RISK** BUILT A MILLENNIUM AGO, EARTHEN DWELLINGS NESTLED IN THE CANYONS OF MEXICO'S WESTERN SIERRA MADRE. ABOVE, HAD SUFFERED NOT ONLY THE EFFECTS OF AGE BUT DAMAGE INFLICTED BY LOCAL RANCHERS WHO HAD USED THEM TO SHELTER LIVESTOCK AND DRUG TRAFFICKERS HIDING FROM THE LAW. SOON AFTER THEIR INCLUSION ON WMF'S 1998 LIST, TWO GROUPS OF ANCIENT DWELLINGS WERE RESTORED WITH FUNDS FROM WMF, THE J.M. KAPLAN FUND, AND THE CHIHUAHUA OFFICE OF MEXICO'S INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ANTROPOLOGÍA Y HISTORIA. COLORADO'S NINETEENTH-CENTURY HANGING FLUME, BELOW, HAS ENDURED A CENTURY OF NEGLECT AND PILLAGE FOR BUILDING MATERIALS.

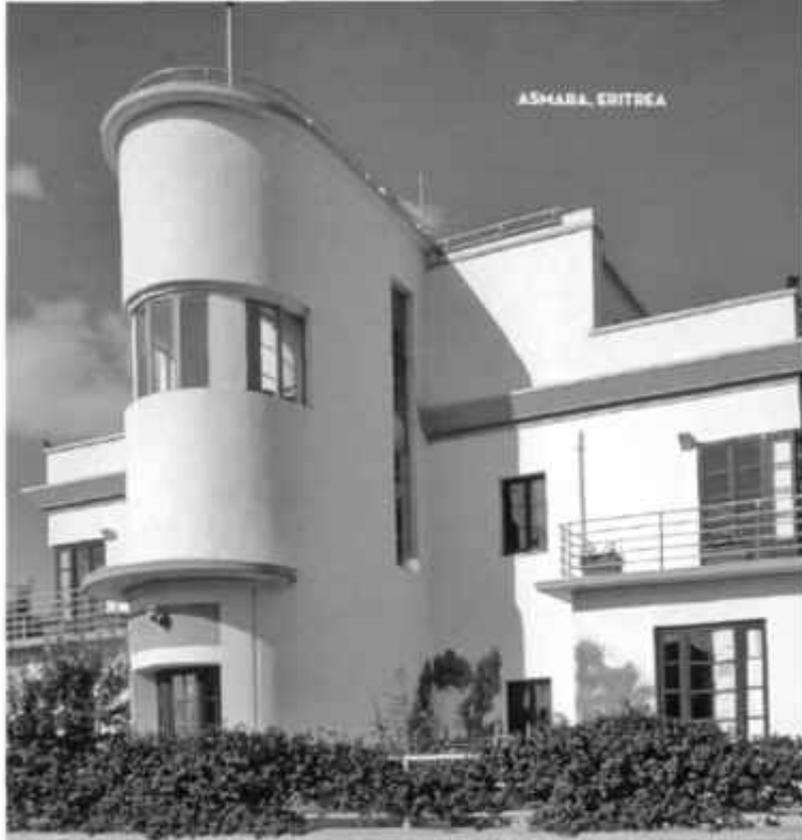


Photo by the author

## THE WORLD MONUMENTS WATCH

The World Monuments Watch, a biennial listing of the 100 Most Endangered Sites, whose loss or destruction would impoverish us all, is one of WMF's most effective tools in its quest to safeguard humankind's cultural legacy. Launched in 1995 with founding sponsor American Express, the list highlights the plight of individual sites by raising their visibility and attracting the financial and technical resources they so desperately need. For many communities around the globe, the Watch is the only hope they have of saving the sites that mean the most to them.

Watch listing differs from landmark designation, a permanent recognition established by governments or regulatory agencies, in that it serves not to convey an honorary designation, but to effect change by targeting key problems and devising solutions for sites at risk. Since the program's inception, 443 sites have been listed, ranging from the famous and familiar to the unexpected and remote. Ideally, WMF hopes to remove sites from any given list within the two-year cycle of each list, knowing that their issues have been addressed and that they are making significant progress toward sustainability.



ASHMARA, ETHIOPIA



MIAN HASID MOHAMMED  
GRAVEYARD, PAKISTAN

## SELECTING THE LIST

Sites included on the Watch list have been nominated by government agencies, non-governmental organizations, conservation professionals, or concerned individuals from all walks of life through a formal application process. Reporting from the front lines, site nominators gather data about the significance of a monument, its current condition, and what it will take to preserve it for the future.

In many countries, this is a daunting task as sites are often located in areas where preservation must be balanced with pressing human needs. But, as we have learned through the Watch Program, investing in the heritage of even the poorest nations has a dramatic affect on the lives of people whose cultural heritage is at risk. In many communities, revered monuments provide an essential link to the past and act as beacons of hope.

To be considered for inclusion on the list, sites must meet three criteria:

- **Significance:** Is a site important in terms of its intrinsic artistic, architectural, historic, or social value?
- **Urgency:** Is a site in need of immediate attention or does it face imminent destruction?
- **Viability:** Is there a workable solution to save a site by removing a threat through advocacy or with financial or technical assistance?

Sites meeting these criteria are presented to an independent panel of internationally recognized experts in the field of preservation, which convenes every two years to evaluate applications and select the list of 100 Most Endangered Sites.

# WORLD MONUMENTS WATCH 100 MOST ENDANGERED SITES 2006



## FUNDING THE RESCUE

Since 1996, WMF has made some 315 grants totalling more than US \$25 million to 185 Watch sites in 72 countries, support which has been complemented by a commitment of US \$10 million from American Express. Collectively, these funds have leveraged more than US \$127 million from other sources as a result of the momentum created by inclusion of sites on the Watch list. As a result, sites that have appeared on the Watch list have received support totalling \$162 million.

WMF is committed to its cause and will strive to see that no site in need is left to disappear forever. To carry out its work, WMF counts on the support of its donors—corporations, foundations, and private individuals—as well as the many international and local experts in the field of preservation to conserve sites included on the Watch list.

For more information on how you can support the Watch program or how to nominate a site for inclusion on the 2008 list of the 100 Most Endangered Sites, please contact the World Monuments Fund, 95 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10016 or visit our website at [wmf.org](http://wmf.org)



WONDERFUL BASH, IRELAND



# The Sites

Since WMF issued its first list of 100 *Most Endangered Sites* in 1996, 443 sites in 109 countries have appeared on the list. This year's Watch list features sites in 55 countries on all seven continents with 32 in Europe, 26 in the Americas, 22 in Africa and the Middle East, 18 in Asia, 1 in Antarctica, and 1 in Australia.

The sites on the 2006 list represent a diverse array of architectural forms, from the most ancient of buildings to structures erected within our own time. While each list has presented its own challenges, certain themes continue

to emerge time and again—the types of buildings at risk and the threats they face. Among these are sites damaged during conflict or catastrophe; ancient monuments within growing metropolises; sacred sites with diminishing congregations; and those so remote they have been spared demolition but whose location has made maintenance all but impossible to carry out.

Herewith is WMF's 2006 list presented alphabetically by country. Full descriptions of each site, their needs, and some of the proposed measures to save them can be found on our website at [wmf.org](http://wmf.org).

## AFGHANISTAN

### Haji Piyada Mosque, Balkh

Thought to be the earliest Islamic building in Afghanistan—and one of the earliest structures in the eastern Islamic world—the Mosque of Haji Piyada at Balkh was built in the ninth century, shortly after the introduction of Islam into Central Asia. Also known as the Mosque of Noh Gumbad, for the nine cupolas that once covered its sanctuary, the remains of Haji Piyada are adorned with exquisite, deeply carved stucco designs that exhibit a unique blend of imported Abbasid artistic elements and local traditional styles.

Although the mosque is of unparalleled historic value, it is threatened by looting, high humidity, erosion, and a lack of maintenance due in part to civil unrest, which continue to take their toll on what has survived.



## ANTARCTICA

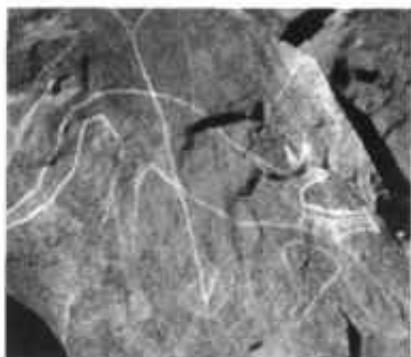
### Sir Ernest Shackleton's Expedition Hut, Cape Royds, Ross Island

Built in 1908, Shackleton's Hut at Cape Royds is one of six building ensembles on Earth's southernmost continent from the heroic age of Antarctic exploration. While designed to withstand extreme weather, a century of Antarctic blizzards and increased human visitation have taken their toll on the site. Emergency conservation measures have been carried out on the hut, but far more must be done before it is out of danger.



- AFGHANISTAN**  
Haji Piyada Mosque, Balkh
- ANTARCTICA**  
Sir Ernest Shackleton's Expedition Hut, Antarctica
- AUSTRALIA**  
Dampier Rock Art Complex, Dampier, Burrup Peninsula
- BANGLADESH**  
Sonargaon-Panam City, Sonargaon
- BOSNIA/HERZEGOVINA**  
Mehmed-Pasha Sokolovic Bridge, Visegrad
- BRAZIL**  
Convent of San Francisco and Historic Olinda, Olinda, Pernambuco
- CAMEROON**  
Bafut Palace, Bafut
- CAPE VERDE**  
Tarrafal Concentration Camp, Tarrafal
- CHILE**  
Tulor Village, Antofagasta  
Cerro Pintados, Tarapaca
- CHINA**  
Cockcrow Post Town, Cockcrow Post, Huailai  
Lu Mansion, Dong Yang  
Qikou Town, Shanxi Province  
Stone Towers of Southwest China, Various  
Tianshui Traditional Houses, Tianshui, Qincheng, Gansu  
Tuanshan Historical Village, Yunnan Province
- CROATIA**  
Novi Dvori Castle, Zaprudic, Croatia  
Saint Blaise Church, Dubrovnik
- CUBA**  
Finca Vigia (Hemingway's House), San Francisco de Paula
- EGYPT**  
Sabil Ruqayya Dudu, Cairo  
Tarabay al-Sharif, Cairo  
West Bank, Luxor
- EL SALVADOR**  
San Miguel Arcangel and Santa Cruz de Roma, Panchimalco and Huizucar
- ERITREA**  
Asmara Historic City Center and Theater, Asmara  
Kidane-Mehret Church, Senafe  
Massawa Historic Town, Massawa
- FINLAND**  
Helsinki-Malmi Airport, Helsinki
- GEORGIA**  
Jvari Monastery, Mtshekta
- GREECE**  
Helike Archaeological Site, Rizomylos and Eliki, Achaia
- GUATEMALA**  
Naranjo, El Peten
- INDIA**  
Dalhousie Square, Calcutta  
Dhangkar Gompa, Himachal Pradesh  
Guru Lhakhang and Sumda Chung Temples, Sumda Chung  
Watson's Hotel, Mumbai
- INDONESIA**  
Omo Hada, Nias Island
- IRAN**  
Bam, Bam
- IRAQ**  
Cultural Heritage Sites, Country-wide
- IRELAND**  
Wonderful Barn, Kildare
- ITALY**  
Academy of Hadrian's Villa, Tivoli  
Cimitero Acattolico, Rome  
Civita di Bagnoregio, Bagnoregio  
Murgia dei Trulli, Murgia dei Trulli  
Portici Royal Palace, Naples  
Santa Maria in Stelle Hypogeum, Verona  
Temple of Portunus, Rome
- KENYA**  
Mtwapa Heritage Site, Kilifi, Mtwapa
- LAOS**  
Chom Phet Cultural Landscape, Luang Prabang
- LATVIA**  
Riga Cathedral, Riga
- LEBANON**  
Chehabi Citadel, Hasbaya  
International Fairground at Tripoli, Tripoli
- MACEDONIA**  
Treskavec Monastery and Church, Treskavec
- MAURITANIA**  
Chinguetti Mosque, Chinguetti
- MEXICO**  
Chalcatzingo, Morelos  
Mexico City Historic Center, Mexico City  
Pimeria Alta Missions, Sonora  
San Juan Bautista Cuauhtinchan, Puebla  
San Nicolás Obispo, Morelia, Michoacán
- NEPAL**  
Patan Royal Palace Complex, Patan
- NIGERIA**  
Benin City Earthworks, Edo State
- NORWAY**  
Sandviken Bay, Bergen
- PAKISTAN**  
Mian Nasir Mohamad Graveyard, Dadu District  
Thatta Monuments, Thatta
- PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES**  
Tell Balatah (Shechem or Ancient Nablus), Nablus, West Bank
- PANAMA**  
Panama Canal Area, Panama Canal Area
- PERU**  
Cajamarquilla, Lima  
Presbitero Maestro Cemetery, Lima  
Quinta Heeren, Lima  
Revash Funerary Complex, Santo Tomas de Quillay  
Túcume Archaeological Site, Lambayeque
- POLAND**  
Jerusalem Hospital of the Teutonic Order, Malborka  
Mausoleum of Karol Scheibler, Łódź
- PORTUGAL**  
Teatro Capitolio, Lisbon
- ROMANIA**  
Oradea Fortress, Oradea
- RUSSIA**  
Melnikov's House Studio, Moscow  
Narkomfin Building, Moscow  
Semenovskoe-Otrada, Moscow Region
- SAMOA**  
Pulemelei Mound, Palauli, Letolo Plantation
- SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO**  
Prizren Historic Center, Prizren  
Subotica Synagogue, Subotica
- SIERRE LEONE**  
Old Fourah Bay College, Freetown
- SLOVAKIA**  
Lednické-Rovne Historical Park, Lednické-Rovne
- SOUTH AFRICA**  
Richtersveld Cultural Landscape, Northern Cape Province
- SPAIN**  
Segovia Aqueduct, Segovia
- SUDAN**  
Suakin, Suakin Island
- SYRIA**  
Amrit Archaeological Site, Amrit  
Shayzar Castle, Shayzar  
Tell Mozan (Ancient Urkesh)
- TURKEY**  
Aphrodisias, Aphrodisias  
Little Hagia Sophia, Istanbul
- UNITED KINGDOM**  
Saint Mary's Stow Church, Stow, Lincolnshire  
Saint Vincent's Street Church, Glasgow, Scotland
- UNITED STATES**  
2 Columbus Circle, New York, New York  
Bluegrass Cultural Landscape of Kentucky, Central Kentucky  
Cyclorama Center, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania  
Dutch Reformed Church, Newburgh, New York  
Ellis Island Baggage and Dormitory Building, New York, New York  
Ennis Brown House, Los Angeles, California  
Hanging Flume, Montrose County, Colorado  
Mount Lebanon Shaker Village, New Lebanon, New York
- Venezuela**  
La Guaira Historic City, Vargas

Sir Ernest Shackleton's Expedition Hut ↓



**AUSTRALIA**  
**Dampier Rock Art Complex,**  
**Dampier, Burrup Peninsula**

For more than 10,000 years, the Aboriginal peoples of the Dampier Archipelago in northwestern Australia carved petroglyphs into the region's numerous rock faces and outcroppings. Collectively, these ancient renderings constitute the largest corpus of rock art in the world. Although the rock art complex is listed as an endangered site by the National Trust of Australia, it is subjected to disturbance and exposure to greenhouse gases and dust from a major industrial complex, begun four decades ago and the construction of which destroyed portions of the site. The government of Western Australia is now planning an expansion of the industrial complex that will further compromise the rock art area unless measures are taken to arrest further development at the site and a conservation program for the Dampier is adopted.

**BANGLADESH**  
**Sonargaon-Panam City, Sonargaon**

The architecture of Sonargaon, former capital of Bengal state, chronicles a broad sweep of Bangladeshi history, from the rise of Sultanate dynasties to the period of British colonial rule. Its oldest structure is the early fifteenth-century tomb of Sultan Ghiyasuddin Azam Shah. Later Mughal monuments include the Sonakanda fort, the Daishmands tomb complex, and Abdul Hamid's mosque. Among the British colonial buildings are Bara Sardar Bari, the Ananda Mohan Piddar House, and other street-front houses. This rich architectural legacy will continue to be threatened by vandalism, illegal development, poor maintenance, flooding, and damage wrought by earthquakes unless measures to conserve it are put in place.



**BRAZIL**  
**Historic Olinda and the Convent**  
**of San Francisco, Pernambuco**

Lying just outside the World Heritage district of Olinda, the Convent of San Francisco, constructed in 1631, is known for its decorative tilework, polychrome murals, fountain, and collection of rare books. Four friars occupy the convent. However, large portions of it have been damaged by structural instability, water infiltration, and fire. The site should be conserved within the overall context of the World Heritage site.



**BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**  
**Mehmed-Pasha Sokolovic Bridge,**  
**Visegrad**

Spanning the waters of the Drina River, the sixteenth-century Mehmed-Pasha Sokolovic Bridge was designed by Sinan (1489-1588), considered by many to have been the finest architect of the Ottoman Empire. The subject of Ivo Andric's 1945 Nobel Prize-winning book *The Bridge on the Drina*, the bridge retains much of its original fabric despite being damaged during WWI and WWII and subsequently restored. The more recent construction of two hydroelectric power plants and a reservoir nearby, together with sub-surface instability, however, have caused the water level of the Drina to rise, straining the load-bearing capacity of the bridge pillars. The substantial erosion of the submerged sections of the pillars and their bases threatens the stability of the entire structure.

## CAMEROON

### Bafut Palace, Bafut

Bafut Palace Complex, which serves as the residence of the Fon, or local ruler, has long been a focal point of community life among the Grassland peoples of Cameroon. Much of the complex was rebuilt in 1907-1910, following its destruction by fire during the German administration of Cameroon in the early twentieth century. Its buildings, which represent colonial and indigenous vernacular styles, are now in need of emergency repairs, having been damaged by poor drainage and a prolonged lack of maintenance.



## CAPE VERDE

### Tarrafal Concentration Camp, Tarrafal

Built by Portuguese dictator Antonio de Oliveira Salazar in 1933, the prison camp of Tarrafal on Santiago Island housed political opponents and Africans rebelling against colonial rule in Cape Verde, Angola, and Guinea-Bissau, who were imprisoned and tortured here until Cape Verde won its independence in 1975. Since then, the complex, which contains prison cells, administrative facilities, and a small railway for the transport of supplies and fuel, has been used as a military base, a refugee camp, a storage facility, and a school, functions that have damaged and disfigured the site. Most of its buildings lack windows and doors and many of the buildings' roofs are missing or badly damaged.

While it is often difficult to find support for places that highlight dark chapters in human history, sites such as Tarrafal serve as important reminders of the history of humankind's quest for freedom.

*Sites in 55 countries on all seven continents are on the 2006 list, including, for the first time, Bangladesh, Cape Verde, Eritrea, Iran, Mauritania, Samoa, and Sierra Leone.*

## CHILE

### Cerros Pintados, Tarapaca

Cerros Pintados, or "painted hills," is an extraordinary site that boasts more than 350 geoglyphs that were rendered on the region's barren hills between ca. A.D. 500 and 1450 to serve as guideposts for caravans crossing the Atacama Desert from the Andes to the Pacific Ocean. Although Cerros Pintados is within the National Reserve of Pampa del Tamarugal, the site has been damaged by illegal mining, erosion, and uncontrolled tourism. There are no tourist facilities or guards to monitor visitors, some of whom have vandalized the site with graffiti and removed archaeological material as souvenirs.



## CHILE

### Tular Village, Antofagasta

Settled 2,500 years ago and located in an ancient oasis once supported by the San Pedro River, Tular Village is the most important of a suite of ancient villages in the Atacama Desert. The site, which has numerous circular adobe structures surrounded by a perimeter wall, was abandoned ca. A.D. 300 when the oasis dried up and dunes advanced. Since 1998 the site has been managed as an eco-tourism destination, yet little has been done to preserve Tular, resulting in damage to the archaeological remains through erosion, sand encroachment, and lack of maintenance.

**CHINA**  
**Cockcrow Post Town, Huailai**

The largest town on the former postal road between Beijing and Datong, Cockcrow was constructed in 1420 to protect the military and public post stations that served the northwest region of the Chinese empire. Although the Ming Period town suffered during the Cultural Revolution, locals managed to preserve a number of houses and temples whose carvings and wall paintings they protected by covering them with mudplaster and newspaper. Cockcrow is still inhabited,

however, its buildings are in various states of decay. Seven out of 17 remaining original temples in the town are in danger of being lost unless a conservation masterplan for the site is developed and funds for its implementation are found.



**CHINA**  
**Lu Mansion, Dong Yang**

An extraordinary domestic complex that spans the equivalent of several city blocks, Lu Mansion is the best preserved traditional Chinese residential complex of its type in southeast China, and only one of 20 to have survived in the country. Although constructed between the fifteenth and nineteenth centuries, the Lu Mansion follows an architectural style of the region that originated in the seventh century. After suffering severe damage during the Cultural Revolution, Lu Mansion, which currently houses 330 families, was designated a national-level cultural relic in 1988. Despite the designation, the site continues to be compromised by floods and inappropriate repairs. As a result, portions of the Lu Mansion are in danger of collapse. The Chinese government is committed to conserving Lu Mansion, but the site requires substantial funding for the conservation work it needs.



**CHINA**  
**Qikou Town, Shanxi Province**

For more than two centuries Qikou, a unique terraced townscape carved into a steep hillside on the banks of the Yellow River, served as a vital trading point marking the eastern terminus for river-bound freight. From Qikou, goods would be transferred to camel caravans heading to points north and east. Following the introduction of rail transport in the 1930s, Qikou no longer played a role in cross-country trade. As a result, the town fell into economic decline and was eventually abandoned. While the process spared the site from redevelopment, the recent "rediscovery" of Qikou by China's tourism industry has opened the door to potentially harmful forms of cultural and eco-tourism. Rapid economic development in China has brought the threats of superhighway access to Qikou and a proposed riverfront highway that would sever its historic access to the waterfront.



**CHINA**  
**Stone Towers of Southwest China, Various Locations**

Some 250 mysterious monumental freestanding towers dot the landscape of five geographic regions in China's Sichuan Province and the Tibet Autonomous Region. The cut-stone and timber buildings, located in areas populated by a number of minority (non-Han) populations, are not well understood as there are no known records describing their origin, construction, or use. Chinese and Tibetan scholars speculate that the towers were built between 600 and 1,800 years ago and may have been used for defense, storage, as status symbols, or as beacons. The towers have weathered numerous earthquakes over the years, yet have survived in large part due to their innovative method of construction, in which stones were interspersed with wood planks or beams. More recently, they have suffered from inappropriate reuse, vandalism, and neglect.

**CHINA****Tianshui Traditional Houses, Qincheng, Gansu**

According to legend, the town of Tianshui was founded long ago when a crack opened in the Earth from which poured sweet water, creating a lake and springs that would never run dry. Today, Tianshui, whose name means "water from heaven," is a city distinguished by a collection of historic courtyard houses built in traditional styles. Constructed between 1644 and 1949, the 55 surviving houses are characterized by their ornately carved wooden gates and screens, and their multiple courtyards linked by corridors. Although Tianshui was declared a "Historically and Culturally Famous City" in 1994, only ten of its surviving structures are landmarked. All of them are threatened by the lack of funds and technical assistance needed to preserve them.

**CROATIA****Saint Blaise Church, Dubrovnik**

Dedicated to Dubrovnik's patron saint, the church of Saint Blaise was built between 1706 and 1717 by Venetian architect and sculptor Marino Gropelli on the site of an earlier Romanesque church that was destroyed by an earthquake. While the church has long been a prominent landmark in this World Heritage City, Saint Blaise has suffered in recent decades—rocked by an earthquake in 1979, repaired, and then damaged again by the shelling during the Balkan Conflict of 1991 and 1992. While emergency repairs were made in the mid 1990s, the structure continues to deteriorate. The church was forced to close its doors in 2003 after blocks fell from the east façade and interior west wall.

**CROATIA****Novi Dvori Castle, Zaprešić**

Founded in 1611, the sprawling Novi Dvori estate 17 kilometers west of Zagreb was redesigned by its most famous occupant, Ban Josip Jelačić, governor of Croatia from 1848 until his death in 1859. Jelačić is best known for his military career in the service of the Hapsburg Empire, including a successful invasion of Hungary with 40,000 troops. He is also revered for having abolished serfdom in Croatia. The estate, bequeathed to the Croatian people in 1934, comprises the castle, a Neo-Gothic family tomb, a chapel, farm buildings, and extensive landscaped grounds. Despite its historical importance, the castle, now abandoned, suffers from natural aging, lack of maintenance, and vandalism. The building windows and doors are in large part missing and its interiors have been heavily damaged.

**CHINA****Tuanshan Historical Village, Yunnan Province**

A rare surviving example of a traditional walled Yunnan village compound in southwestern China, Tuanshan was founded as a mining center in the late fourteenth century. Most of its well-preserved residences, gateways, temples, ancestral halls, and walls date from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, when the village prospered from trade



with southeast Asia, made possible by the Yunnan-Vietnam railroad. Although Tuanshan survived the tumult of the Cultural Revolution due to its political connections to the Communist Party, the city is now threatened by uncontrolled redevelopment as a tourism destination and invasive conservation and repair schemes that have done much to damage the existing historic fabric.

**CUBA****Finca Vigia (Hemingway's House), San Francisco De Paula**

For more than two decades, famed author Ernest Hemingway occupied Finca Vigia, a hilltop villa 20 kilometers east of Havana. Built in 1886 by the Catalan architect Miguel Pascual y Bagueer, the house was acquired in 1939 by Hemingway, who lived there until 1960. Today, Finca Vigia, which houses the Ernest Hemingway Museum, is in danger of collapse due to geotechnical instability and exposure to high humidity, wind and rain from hurricanes, aging, uncontrolled vegetation, and inappropriate renovations. A group of U.S. citizens founded the Hemingway Preservation Foundation, Inc. to restore the house and its collections. While the U.S. Treasury Department has granted the organization a license to carry out work, efforts to raise funds have been thwarted by the economic embargo against Cuba.

**EGYPT****Sabil Ruqayya Dudu, Cairo**

Among the most ornate eighteenth-century structures still standing in the historic center of Cairo, the Sabil Ruqayya Dudu is a rare example of Rococo-influenced Ottoman-period architecture. Built in 1761 in memory of Ruqayya Dudu, a daughter of Badawiyya Shahin and the prince Radwan Bek, the interior of the structure, which served as a public water fountain, has a painted wooden ceiling bearing numerous inscriptions, sacred and secular. The exterior facade is distinguished by its use of Turkish ceramic tiles, its wooden canopy, segmented arches, and muqarnas, or stalactites, as well as abundant geometrical and floral ornamentation engraved in stone. Little conservation work has been done, apart from a few repairs made early in the twentieth century. The building now suffers from widespread decay.

**EGYPT****Tarabay al-Sharify, Cairo**

Located on the southern edge of historic Cairo, the sixteenth-century Tarabay al-Sharify Complex is an extraordinary ensemble of late Mamluk architecture featuring high-quality stone carving, polychrome marble, and gypsum decoration. The complex has deteriorated as a result of socio-economic decline and lack of maintenance, damage compounded by the 1992 earthquake. Loss of parts of the roof and deteriorating stone have also compromised the building's structural stability. The site has the potential to become a focal point of an area that has witnessed revitalization in recent years with the renovation of Al-Azhar Park and the restoration of the nearby mosques of Sultan Sha'aban and Khayer Bek. However, much will need to be done to bring such a plan to fruition.

**EGYPT****West Bank, Luxor**

The Theban Necropolis includes the Valley of the Kings and Valley of the Queens, the burial places of Egypt's New Kingdom rulers (ca. 1540-1075 B.C.), Dier al-Madinah, home to the artisans who created the monuments; more than 5,000 nobles' tombs; and some 40 temples. Despite their fame, the monuments are threatened by theft, vandalism, uncontrolled tourism, development pressure, and rising groundwater in the wake of the construction of the Aswan Dam, which has invited agricultural encroachment onto newly fertile lands. Increased soil salinity has weakened numerous temple foundations while heat from brush fires set to clear land has caused even massive stones to split.

## EL SALVADOR

### San Miguel Arcangel and Santa Cruz de Roma, Panchimalco & Huizucar



The eighteenth-century adobe churches of San Miguel Arcángel in Huizucar and Santa Cruz de Roma in Panchimalco are among the few surviving buildings of the colonial era in El Salvador. While rather humble on their exteriors, the sanctuaries house exquisite Baroque wooden altarpieces and coffered wooden ceilings of a type seen in Andalusian mudjar buildings of the period in Spain. In the 1970s, both churches were declared national monuments. Although time had taken its toll on the buildings since their construction, most of the damage was wrought by earthquakes that struck the region in early 2001. Following the earthquakes, the Consejo Nacional para la Cultura y el Arte, which oversees the sites, surveyed the damage and undertook emergency repairs. A lack of economic resources, however, has hindered the development of a conservation program for the sites as well as efforts to protect the buildings from further degradation. Technical assistance and financial support are critical to preserving these sacred spaces.



## ERITREA

### Asmara Historic City Center

Asmara, which boasts one of the world's highest concentrations of early modern architecture, represents a bold attempt by Italian colonists under Fascist rule to create a utopian environment based on modernist planning and architectural ideals. This rare fusion of European modernism with African culture on the Red Sea coast is at risk of being lost unless needed legal measures are taken to preserve it.



## ERITREA

### Kidane-Mehret Church, Senafe

A rare representation of medieval Eritrean religious architecture, the Orthodox Church of Kidane-Mehret was constructed using the so-called monkey-head style, an architectural form that dates to the Axumite Empire (A.D. 100-700). Used for both religious buildings and prestigious residences throughout the middle ages, the style takes its name from the appearance of the rounded ends of wooden support dowels that emerge from coursed rubble masonry



*When the 2006 Watch list was announced, a private donor stepped forward with a grant to fund training and emergency repairs on the Kidane-Mehret Church in Eritrea.*

## ERITREA

### Massawa Historic Town



With its deep anchorage, the port of Massawa on the Red Sea served countless traders over the centuries when it was ruled by the Ottomans, Egypt, and more recently, Italy. The city's complex history is evident in its buildings, including Ottoman fortifications, the sixteenth-century Sheik Hamal Mosque, and a governor's palace commissioned in 1872. Decades of war during Eritrea's struggle for independence, which it won in 1991, have taken their toll on Massawa's buildings, many of which are now on the brink of collapse.

exterior walls. For all the popularity of the construction technique, the church, which was in continuous use until the 1970s when a new sanctuary was built a few meters away, is the only example of this style to survive from the medieval period, albeit in a ruinous state. The roof collapsed in 1997 and little has been done to protect the building from the elements. Surviving roof beams are rotting, paintings on interior pillars are deteriorating, and the building's structural integrity has been compromised. Due to the current political climate, funds for any sort of restoration are non-existent, while skilled masons and laborers are scarce.

## FINLAND

### Helsinki-Malmi Airport, Helsinki

With its acclaimed functionalist architecture, Finland's Helsinki-Malmi airport, which opened in 1936, played a key role in the development of commercial aviation in Europe. Today, Helsinki-Malmi is the second busiest airport in Finland and the most important pilot training center in the country. Although the site has two landmark buildings, the local government and the municipalities surrounding Helsinki plan to demolish much of the site to make way for a new housing development to accommodate up to 10,000 people.



## GEORGIA

### Mtskheta

Mtskheta was the birthplace of Christianity in the Black Sea nation of Georgia, the religion having been brought there by St. Nino, a female evangelist who placed a cross atop Mtskheta's highest peak in the fourth century A.D. In A.D. 545, construction began on a small church—Jvari ("holy cross")—near Nino's cross site. Between A.D. 586 and 605, a



second church, the Great Church of Jvari, was built nearby and remains in use to this day. Despite their importance, the Jvari buildings have suffered over the centuries from age, lack of maintenance, and erosion caused by acid rain, and are now in dire need of conservation.

## GUATEMALA

### Naranjo, El Petén

The Maya city of Naranjo was settled in the mid-first millennium B.C., reaching its apogee in the Late Classic Period (ca. A.D. 600-900) when most of its monuments were built. Inscriptions on stelae and altars at the site chronicle some 345 years of history, from which it is clear that the city's fortunes were tied to its success in war against its rivals Tikal, Caracol, and Calakmul. The site, which has not been fully mapped, is threatened by forest fires, erosion, population encroachment, and looting, which has stripped it of archaeological material and destabilized surviving remains.



## INDIA

### Dalhousie Square, Calcutta

Dalhousie Square, a two-square-kilometer area at the heart of Calcutta, functioned as the political, financial, and social nerve center of Britain's Indian empire until the capital was moved to New Delhi in 1911. Originally named in honor of James, Marquise of Dalhousie, the Governor General of India from 1847 to 1856, the square was renamed Binoy Badal Dinesh Bagh in honor of three national leaders that were killed during India's struggle for independence from British rule, which it won in 1947. Although Dalhousie Square has retained many of its original colonial-period buildings and is one of a few remaining city centers of its kind in South Asia, many of its structures are in poor condition due to lack of maintenance, weathering, and a shortage of funds despite being landmarked by the government of West Bengal. Although listing in 2004 created awareness of the plight of the site, much remains to be done if Dalhousie Square is to be preserved.



## GREECE

### Helike Archaeological Site, Achaia

In 2001, after years of searching, archaeologists came upon the long-lost site of Helike, a Classical Greek city buried under meters of silt on the southwest shore of the Gulf of Corinth when an earthquake struck the region in 373 B.C. Test trenches have yielded pottery as well as gold and silver ornaments, suggesting that the buildings at Helike may belong to a royal megaron, or palace residence.

Beyond the Classical city, excavators have found the remains of an Early Bronze Age site with artifacts dating to ca. 2500-2300 B.C., as well as evidence of a road that, during the



Roman period, linked Helike with the cities of Patras and Corinth.

Although Helike has been preserved for more than 2000 years, the site may soon be destroyed. The Greek National Railway is planning to streamline travel time between Patras and Corinth by straightening an existing rail line. The improved rail link is slated to cut through the heart of what remains of the ancient Greek city, most of which has yet to be excavated.



**INDIA**  
**Dhangkar Gumpa, Himachal Pradesh**

The Dhangkar Gumpa is one of five major Buddhist monastic centers in the remote region of Spiti near the Tibetan border. Portions of the gumpa, or temple, are still being used for worship, while other sections have been closed. Located a short distance above the gumpa, the Dhangkar fortress served as the traditional home of the royal family of Spiti, the Nonos, for several generations before falling into disrepair in the late 1800s. Built using traditional materials of mud, stone, and timber, the monastery contains a series of fifteenth-century wall paintings. The gumpa is in an advanced state of deterioration caused by geotechnical instability as well as neglect and inadequate maintenance.

**INDIA**  
**Guru Lhakhang and Sumda Chung Temples, Phiyang and Sumda Chung**

The eleventh-century Tibetan translator of Buddhist texts, Rinchen Tsangpo, who brought Buddhism to the Western Himalaya, is credited with founding 108 temples in the region. Of these, five have survived, including Sumda Chung and Guru Lhakhang, both of which are still



in use. Built of mudbrick and timber, each temple houses an extraordinary mural cycle. Guru Lhakhang, perched on a hillside overlooking the Phiyang monastery, was built in the late thirteenth century, while the twelfth-century Sumda Chung is one of the most significant early temples in Ladakh. Although Sumda Chung's main hall and side chapels have survived, the adjacent monastery collapsed during heavy rains in 1997.



**INDIA**  
**Watson's Hotel, Mumbai**

Located in Mumbai's Kala Ghoda Art District, Watson's Hotel may be the earliest surviving example of cast-iron architecture in India. Named for its initial owner, John Watson, the building was fabricated in England and erected onsite between 1867 and 1869. Once popular with colonists, Watson's Hotel is considered a forerunner to such luxury hotels in India as the Taj.

After the hotel closed in the 1960s, a private owner subdivided the building into residences and commercial spaces. More recently, tenancy laws have made it difficult for the owner to collect rents sufficient to maintain the building. After years of neglect, inappropriate additions, and minimum repairs, the cast iron structure is now failing; a portion of the building collapsed shortly after Watch listing.



**INDONESIA**  
**Omo Hada, Nias Island**

The early nineteenth-century Omo Sebua, or traditional chief's house, in the Omo Hada complex in Hilinawalö Mazingo is one of only five surviving buildings of its type on the island of Nias. Erected on stilts and towering more than 20 meters above the ground, the house, which served as both a royal residence and community meeting house, has a steep pitched roof and skylights and is adorned with some of the finest wood carvings in Indonesia. Visitors enter the house through a door in the underside of the main audience hall, a design feature intended to protect the occupants from enemy infiltration of the building.

Although the chief's house has survived for nearly two centuries, it is in desperate need of conservation, having fallen victim to intense sun, tropical rains, insect infestation, and neglect. Carvings that once graced its interior have been sold off while the methods used to build such structures have in large part been forgotten, with concrete having displaced wood as the island's preferred construction material. The traditional building methods are particularly resistant to earthquakes to which the region is prone.

Following previous listings of the site, American Express, through WMF, contributed funds toward the restoration of the Omo Hada complex, a project made all the more urgent in the wake of the earthquake and tsunami that struck the Indian Ocean on December 26, 2004. A second quake with its epicenter near Nias struck in March 2005.



## IRAN Bam

Thought to have been founded as a Parthian military outpost in the Dasht-e Desert sometime in the third to second centuries B.C., the Arge-Bam, or citadel of Bam, is the largest extant mud-brick complex in the world. It was built and rebuilt several times during its turbulent history, particularly during the Sassanian (A.D. 224-637) and Safavid periods (1502-1736), when Bam flourished as a trading hub and pilgrimage center.

After a devastating Afghan attack in 1722, many of Bam's citizens fled. The city later became a military garrison and was eventually abandoned. The ancient city had been remarkably well preserved until a devastating earthquake that struck the region on December 26, 2003, leaving in its wake 40,000 dead and 85 percent of Bam's standing architecture in ruins, including the citadel. Buildings damaged in the recent quake are particularly susceptible to wind erosion and biological attack and must be stabilized. Moreover, an unanticipated consequence of the disaster and subsequent debris-clearing efforts was the discovery of previously unknown archaeological remains, which must also be stabilized and conserved.



## IRAQ Country-wide Cultural Heritage Sites

Ten thousand years ago, the foundations of human civilization were laid in the fertile floodplain between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers in what was Mesopotamia and is now the modern nation of Iraq. Within its borders are an estimated 10,000 sites that chronicle thousands of years of human history, including many of its greatest cultural achievements.

Decades of political isolation, a protracted war with Iran, and, more recently, the invasion and conflict, which



began in 2003, have put this heritage at risk. Today, sites such as the Assyrian capital of Nineveh, the ziggurat at Ur, the temple precinct at Babylon, and a ninth-century spiral minaret at Samarra have been scarred by violence, while equally important ancient sites are being ravaged by looters. Historic districts in urban areas have also suffered from vandalism, looting, and artillery fire.

*In July, a substantial portion of Watson's Hotel in Mumbai collapsed, the building weakened by structural additions and lack of maintenance over the years.*



## IRELAND Wonderful Barn, Kildare

One of only a few buildings of its kind to survive in Ireland, the Wonderful Barn was built in 1743 as part of a famine-relief project, and was intended to serve as both a functioning grain barn and as an English garden-type folly for nearby Castletown House. Rising 21 meters, the conical-shaped barn is not only a prominent feature in the rural landscape, but considered a technical and engineering achievement for the period in which it was built. Now separated from its original estate, the barn is threatened by urban encroachment and neglect.

## ITALY Academy of Hadrian's Villa, Tivoli

In the second century A.D., the Roman emperor Hadrian built a country villa east of the capital to escape the pressures of Rome. Covering some 80 hectares, the complex included typical Roman structures as well as monuments that echo the architecture that Hadrian had seen in his travels abroad. The Academy is a lesser-known collection of sacred and secular buildings, including a circular temple of Apollo, erected on an upper hill of the villa grounds.

Abandoned in A.D. 544, the villa was "rediscovered" in the fifteenth century when Pope Pius II began excavations there. A century later, the land that housed the Academy became the property of the Bulgarini family, who destroyed many of the structures to make way for an olive grove. While today the central monuments and gardens of the emperor's villa are a popular World Heritage site, the overgrown remains of the Academy, which is on private land, languish from lack of funding needed for documentation and conservation work.



**ITALY****Cimitero Acattolico, Rome**

Established in the late eighteenth century for the city's growing Protestant community, Rome's Cimitero Acattolico, located south of the Aventine Hill, was the final resting place for diplomats, scholars, artists and writers, including the English poets John Keats (1795-1821) and Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822). Today, the more than 2,500 funerary monuments that dot the garden landscape are falling prey to air pollution, biological growth, and intrusive vegetation. Although select individual monuments have been restored in recent years, far more will be needed if the literary and cultural legacy of this forgotten cemetery is to be preserved.

**ITALY****Civita di Bagnoregio**

Established by the Etruscans in the sixth century B.C., Civita di Bagnoregio was one of many towns in central Italy that were hewn from tufa, the soft volcanic rock that distinguishes the region's natural landscape. Built in part for defensive purposes, most of the hill towns retain extensive networks of carved underground passages and chambers. The town is threatened by erosion of the tufa upon which it is built. A large section of the northwest bluff of the site is in danger of collapse. A secondary threat to Civita di Bagnoregio and other nearby hill towns is the decrease in the year-round populations, due to the abandonment of the traditional agrarian lifestyle that gave rise to such towns and an increase in uncontrolled tourism, which has dramatically altered their social and cultural fabric. Today, the town has less than 12 year-round occupants, but receives as many as 3,000 tourists a day on summer weekends. A conservation masterplan and tourism management plan are urgently needed if such ancient settlements are to weather another century.

*A conservation and management plan is now being developed for Rome's Cimitero Acattolico, underwritten in part by the Keats-Shelley House in Rome and the Samuel H. Kress Foundation.*

**ITALY****Murgia dei Trulli**

The whimsical appearance of *i trulli* with their domed or conical roofs have attracted the attention of architects and tourists for centuries. These small structures, which first appeared in the southeastern region of Puglia ca. A.D. 500, were the dominant building style of this region until A.D. 800. While a number of them are still used as dwellings or for agricultural purposes in the six towns that make up the Murgia dei Trulli, many of the structures are uninhabited and suffer from inadequate maintenance, neglect, or abandonment. Others are threatened by urban encroachment. Without increased public support for their preservation, these rare examples of trullo architecture may soon be lost to urban redevelopment, which is reclaiming the ancient landscape at an ever-increasing pace.

**ITALY****Portici Royal Palace, Naples**

In 1740, King Charles III embarked on the construction of the Royal Palace of Portici as a summer residence for the court. Some of the finest architects of the period worked on the house, including Antonio Medrano, who planned the original design, Antonio Canevari, who directed the first phase of construction, and Vanvitelli and Fuga,

responsible for later eighteenth-century interventions. During the nineteenth century, the royal palace was a stop on the Grand Tour. Today, however, it is in poor condition and suffers from inappropriate interventions and a general lack of maintenance.



**ITALY**  
**Santa Maria in Stelle Hypogeum, Verona**

A innovative example of adaptive reuse, the early Christian sanctuary of Santa Maria in Stelle was originally built by the Romans in the third century A.D. as a water tank fed by a freshwater stream. When the stream began to dry up, the subterranean tank was abandoned. A century later, it was appropriated as a chapel, at which time its walls were adorned with extraordinary murals, thought to be the earliest of their kind in northern Italy.

The building has suffered major architectural losses and its decoration was extensively damaged over the centuries by water and a lack of maintenance—damage that was further compounded by an attempt to restore the frescoes with moisture-trapping cement and resin in the 1960s. The continued presence of water on the painted surfaces is visible in the summer months and is responsible for continual lime deposits. The layering of lime will eventually obscure the frescoes and require harsh removal measures, which could be avoided with preventative work.



**KENYA**  
**Mtwapa Heritage Site, Kilifi**

With its vast architectural remains, abundant wildlife, and idyllic location, the ancient port of Mtwapa is one of the most important sites on Kenya's Swahili Coast. Occupied between A.D. 1100 and 1750, the site, 25 kilometers north of Mombasa, covers approximately eight hectares. The site provides an important window on the evolution of town planning and the commercial development of coastal Kenya. Since the site's abandonment more than two centuries ago, its perimeter wall has cracked in numerous places and is on the verge of complete collapse. Coral used in the construction of the building walls has suffered from exposure to the elements, a situation aggravated by growth of moss. Perhaps the greatest threat to the once-thriving port is real estate development, as Mtwapa has become one of Kenya's fastest growing beach resort areas.

**ITALY**  
**Temple of Portunus, Rome**

Built in the late-second to first century B.C., the Temple of Portunus is perhaps the most frequently cited example of Roman Republican temple architecture in the world. Constructed of local tufa and travertine, the temple was converted into a church in the ninth century and its interiors were decorated with frescoes. Despite its architectural renown, the temple suffers from exposure to corrosive airborne pollutants, which have eaten away at architectural elements, and water infiltration, which has damaged surviving frescoes, causing detachment and flaking of the pictorial layer.



**LAOS**  
**Chom Phet Cultural Landscape, Luang Prabang**

The Chom Phet cultural landscape, just across the Mekong River from Luang Prabang, onetime capital of the Lao kingdom, is an important religious center with numerous temples and meditation buildings, some dating to the sixteenth century. Commissioned by the royal family of Lao, many of the surviving temple-complexes remain in use by Buddhist holy men and local villagers. Since the greater Luang Prabang area was designated a World Heritage Site in 1995, it has witnessed a dramatic increase in tourism that has facilitated the restoration of many structures within its urban core. Numerous buildings in rural areas such as Chom Phet, however, have been in large part ignored and left to deteriorate despite being part of the World Heritage Site. The whole of Chom Phet Cultural Landscape needs a conservation and tourism management plan, as well as emergency work if it is to survive.

## LATVIA

### Riga Cathedral, Riga

Towering over the Doma Laukums ("Dome Square") in the Old Town, Riga Cathedral was consecrated in 1211 by Bishop Albert of Riga, who played a key role in the Christianization of Latvia. Initially constructed in the Romanesque style, the church was modified over time with added Gothic and Baroque details. Although WMF, through a Kress grant, supported the restoration of the cathedral's portal, a recent assessment of the building revealed that a number of the vaults, particularly in the side aisles, show signs of structural failure, including substantial cracks and displaced ribs. Since 2004, parts of the cathedral have been closed to the public until emergency stabilization can be carried out and a plan for the building's restoration can be developed.



## LEBANON

### Chehabi Citadel, Hasbaya

Overlooking the modern village of Hasbaya in south Lebanon, the Chehabi Citadel occupied a strategic location for the armies of the First Crusade, who are believed to have built its original fortifications in the eleventh century. The outpost was also used by the Chehabi emirs, who ousted the

Crusaders from the area in the 1170s and rebuilt much of the citadel complex for military and residential use. Expanded and renovated over the course of some eight and a half centuries, the building retains elements of Mamluk and Ottoman architecture and interior decoration. Nearly a millennium of occupation and war, combined with a lack of maintenance and drainage problems, however, have resulted in portions of the building now being in danger of structural failure. A recent conditions assessment revealed that numerous load-bearing walls are under stress and cracking. Some of the interior vaults and ceilings have collapsed or are nearing collapse, and architectural and interior decoration require emergency repairs.

## MAURITANIA

### Chinguetti Mosque, Chinguetti

Embraced and sometimes nearly inundated by the ever-shifting dunes of the western Sahara, the 800-year-old village of Chinguetti served as an entrepôt for caravans laden with gold, salt, dates, and ivory. Chinguetti, a World Heritage Site, is home to an extraordinary collection of important Islamic manuscripts. Its mosque, thought to have been founded in the thirteenth century, features a prayer room with four aisles and a double-niched mihrab, as well as a courtyard. The sanctuary is best known for its massive square minaret, which towers over the town and is built of rubble masonry without mortar. The minaret is capped by four acroteria, or decorative pedestals, each topped with a stone ostrich egg. For the people of Chinguetti, the encroaching desert is a constant concern, as are seasonal rains, which flood the city's most important buildings, including the mosque. While the structure seems to be largely stable, measures to conserve the extant building and prevent further deterioration are urgently needed if the mosque is to survive for future generations. The Director of the National Foundation for the Safeguard of Ancient Towns in Mauritania, part of the Ministry of Culture, is hoping to implement a long-term preservation program for the mosque. Watch listing may assist in its development and implementation.

## LEBANON

### International Fairground at Tripoli

Commissioned in 1963, the International Fairground at Tripoli, designed by renowned modernist architect Oscar Niemeyer (b. 1907), was abandoned mid-construction at the outbreak of the Lebanese civil war in 1975. Known for his minimalist, geometric forms and modern urban planning ideals, Niemeyer designed the oval-shaped fairground on a large-



scale with simple concrete forms and a vast, open-air pavilion, with a curved plan reminiscent of the overall plan he drafted for Brasília, the modernist capital of Brazil. Until recently, the fairground, now unoccupied, was used by the military. The site generally suffers from years of neglect and deferred maintenance, and there is now pressure to demolish many of its extant structures and convert the site into a theme park as Lebanon steadily mends its war-torn landscape.



## MACEDONIA

### Treskavec Monastery and Church, Treskavec

Sited atop a mountain, Treskavec Monastery has been in continued use since the twelfth century. Its thirteenth-century Church of the Dormition of the Virgin features a cross-in-square plan and a central dome. A narthex and an exonarthex with symmetrically arranged domes were added in the fourteenth century. The church preserves a significant body of Byzantine paintings, including the first-known representation of the Heavenly Court. Fifteenth-century paintings executed by a workshop at Kastoria in Greece are preserved in the nave. Marble blocks reused in the altar parapet provide evidence for an early Christian structure on the site. The monastery also retains portions of its fourteenth-century kitchen and dining room, as well as important inscriptions and historical portraits that link it to both



Byzantine and Serbian patronage.

A leaking roof together with aging and lack of maintenance have resulted in water infiltration, which has compromised the structure of the church. The frescoes have suffered water damage and prior attempts to conserve them have failed.



## MEXICO

### Mexico City Historic Center

Founded in 1524 atop the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlan—sited on a suite of islands amid the waters of Lake Texcoco—Mexico City's Historic Center covers some 680 square blocks within which are more than 1,000 important buildings, among them the Metropolitan Cathedral, built between 1573 and 1810, and the late seventeenth-century Palacio Nacional, built on the site of Moctezuma II's palace.

Mexico City presents one of the world's great conservation challenges, having been built on the ever-shifting silts and clays of a former lakebed in an area of unrelenting seismic activity. Damage wrought by decades of air pollution, population stress, failed economic policies, a soaring crime rate, and the continued depletion of the city's freshwater aquifer, which has caused the Historic Center to drop ten meters in the past century alone, was further compounded by a devastating earthquake in September 1985. While some believe the earthquake prompted a renewal of the city that continues to this day, the Historic Center will remain at risk until its water-supply problem can be solved.

*Watch sites in Mexico have received \$2 million in grants from American Express, thanks to the enthusiasm of the company's local staff.*

## MEXICO

### Chalcatzingo, Morelos

Founded in the mid-second millennium B.C., the ancient Olmec ceremonial center of Chalcatzingo has yielded abundant sculptures that have provided a wealth of information about this early Prehispanic culture, which flourished in central Mexico and along the Gulf Coast in what are now the states of Tabasco and Veracruz between 1500 and 100 B.C. A series of temples, plazas, and a ballcourt have survived at the site, although they are not well preserved.

Despite its importance, Chalcatzingo, which has been poorly investigated, faces an uncertain future as its architectural remains continue to be harvested for modern building projects.

Much of the archaeological zone is regularly overrun by cattle from an adjacent ranch. The Morelos state office of Mexico's Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia hopes to build shelters over vulnerable remains and control access to the site. Chalcatzingo will remain at risk until plans are drafted for its long-term management and conservation.



**MEXICO****Pimeria Alta Missions, Sonora**

Built by the Jesuits between 1687 and 1692, and occupied by the Franciscans following the expulsion of the Jesuits a century later, the Pimeria Missions were established to indoctrinate the indigenous peoples of the Pimeria Alta region, which straddles the Mexican state of Sonora and the American state of Arizona. The eight missions—Dolores, Cucurpe, San Ignacio, Caborca, Oquitos, Pitiquito, Tubutama, and Cocóspera—range from archaeological ruins to churches still in use by their local communities. Cocóspera has retained much of its original architecture despite its abandonment for more than 150 years. The riverside sanctuary of Caborca, which was restored in 1953 and declared a national historic monument in 1987, remained in use until 1997, when it was damaged by floodwaters. While these buildings collectively chronicle a doctrinal and architectural history worthy of preservation, they have been overlooked in statewide conservation efforts.

**MEXICO****San Juan Bautista Cuauhtinchan, Puebla**

The Franciscan Convent of Cuauhtinchan, built between 1528 and 1554, includes a church, an atrium, a pilgrims' portal, a garden, and a cemetery. A large triptych that adorns the main altar is the oldest surviving work of its kind in Mexico. Although the convent is an important monument, it suffers from a host of conservation problems as a result of high humidity, which has caused the main altar to crack and its structural elements to be displaced. An accumulation of dirt and guano together with natural aging, biological attack, and inadequate maintenance have further damaged the complex.

**NEPAL****Patan Royal Palace Complex**

Located within the World Heritage Site of Patan Darbar, the seventeenth-century Patan Palace is one of the three remaining major palace complexes in the Kathmandu Valley, and the only one that retains its original configuration and overall urban context. The palace complex preserves a wealth of historic architectural detail, including the courtyard of Sundari Chowk, which features elaborate wood ornamentation and an ornate carved stone bath. The palace's northern and southern wings, erected in 1792 and 1820,



*While the needs of each site differ greatly, it takes an average of \$170,000 per site to remove the most urgent threats to its preservation, according to a U.S. ICOMOS assessment of the Watch program.*

**MEXICO****San Nicolás Obispo, Morelia, Michoacán**

Built in 1591, San Nicolás Obispo, an important example of a Franciscan *viato*, or pilgrimage church, retains much of its original architecture. The upper portion of its façade was added in 1736, at which time a Baroque altar and a woodwork ceiling were installed in the sanctuary; a sacristy was added in 1886.

Over the centuries, the church has been damaged by age, insects, moisture, and an attempt to restore the site in 1975, at which time the original mud plaster was replaced with moisture-trapping cement and its side altars were destroyed.

respectively, are the earliest surviving examples of European influence on Nepali architecture. Today, the Patan Palace is in a state of advanced decay. Nepal's Department of Archaeology, although expanding its capacity, lacks the expertise and resources to conserve and maintain the site. The traditional roof and stone elements of the palace are in urgent need of conservation to arrest water infiltration and structural settlement. The historic monuments of the Kathmandu Valley, including Patan's royal palace, were placed on UNESCO's World Heritage in Danger List in 2003, citing the threat of uncontrolled urban development.

## NIGERIA

### Benin City Earthworks, Edo State

The Benin City Walls consist of a set of inner and outer interlocking rings originally built to delineate the royal precinct of the Oba, or king, from the surrounding area. Built to an original height of more than 18 meters and a length of 1,200 kilometers, the earthworks attest the development of urbanization and the rise of state societies in Sub-Saharan Africa, a process that began in the seventh century A.D. and culminated with the founding of the Benin Kingdom in the fourteenth century. Damaged by the British in 1897, portions of the walls have gradually vanished in the process of modernization; large segments have been cannibalized for the construction of new buildings. Significant stretches remain, however, enclosing red-earth shrines and other architecture. Though the walls and moats have been protected by national legislation since 1961, a management plan and public awareness campaign were developed for the site only after it was included on the 2002 Watch list. Emergency conservation work is still desperately needed.



## NORWAY

### Sandviken Bay, Bergen

Established around 1650, the Sandviken Bay settlement served as the original site of fishing-industry warehouses and roperies in the southwestern city of Bergen. From the eighteenth through the twentieth century, the harbor grew to include clusters of fishing-industry buildings and a variety of residences ranging from humble fishmongers' dwellings to the manor houses of prosperous merchants.



Today, the area contains one of the highest concentrations of historic wooden buildings in Norway, although the number of such buildings in the area has been significantly reduced over time (from 297 in the nineteenth century to 45 preserved today). From its roots as a small fishing center, Bergen is now the second-largest city in Norway, and centuries-old wooden buildings mix with twentieth-century industrial structures, offices, and apartment buildings. The Society for the Protection of Historical Sandviken, a volunteer advocacy group, has fought for years to save the remaining historic buildings in the harbor area with only modest success as the government continues to grant building permits for large-scale new construction in the area. Additionally, those historic wooden structures that do survive are deteriorating.

## PAKISTAN

### Thatta Monuments, Thatta

Located about 100 kilometers east of Karachi, this windswept World Heritage Site in the Indus Valley was once a well-watered and revered destination for medieval worshippers and celebrants. Thatta was controlled by Samma rulers in the fourteenth century when the earliest Sufi monasteries and mosques at the site were built, several of which still stand. In time, numerous tombs and funerary monuments were added to the complex.

The monuments, which are spread over more than ten square kilometers and located on a ridge, are exposed to harsh winds and rain while shifting of the local riverbed has caused a loss of ground water and topsoil erosion. Despite its designation as a World Heritage Site, the government lacks the resources to conserve or effectively manage Thatta.





**PAKISTAN**  
Mian Nasir Mohammed Graveyard,  
Dadu District

Mian Nasir Mohammed, a member of the Kalhora clan that wrested control of Sindh from the Mughal Empire in 1736, gained the support of disaffected Sindhis by espousing agricultural cooperation and other egalitarian ideas. Following his death, many of his followers were buried near him in a graveyard, which contains some 60 tombs dating to the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Cracks in some of the tomb domes have allowed rainwater to seep into their interiors, damaging ornate frescoes and mosaics. Poor drainage and salt build-up within the walls have also compromised the bonding capacity of the interior plaster work.

**PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES**  
Tell Balatah (Shechem or Ancient Nablus)

Located near the West Bank town of Nablus, Tell Balatah has long been associated with the ancient city of Shechem, mentioned throughout the Bible and in numerous Egyptian documents. An influential commercial center, the city prospered from trade in locally produced grapes, olives, wheat, and livestock from the Middle Bronze Age to the Late Hellenistic Period (ca. 1900-100 B.C.). Among the city's visible remains are a series of defensive walls and gates, a palace or governor's house, a residential quarter, as well as a fortified Canaanite temple and a portion of a temple to Zeus commissioned by the Roman Emperor Hadrian in the second century A.D.

In addition to continued political unrest in the West Bank, the site suffers from a lack of maintenance as well as vandalism and encroachment of agricultural fields and urban development, while heavy rains have taken their toll on the site's mudbrick architecture.



**PANAMA**  
Panama Canal area

Built between 1882 and 1914, the Panama Canal stands as one of the world's greatest engineering achievements. With its monumental locks, the 80-kilometer-long canal cuts through a cultural landscape of colonial ruins, towns, sweeping vistas, and dense tropical jungle. Prior to the return of the Panama Canal Zone to Panamanian custodianship in 1999, the 1,400-kilometer strip

of land surrounding the canal was administered by the United States. Over the past few years, however, the zone has witnessed dramatic change with the initiation of large-scale infrastructure projects, the building of transportation hubs, port expansion projects, radical alterations to historic structures, and housing developments that have begun to intrude on previously pristine lands. While legislation has been drafted to protect specific sites such as the historic zone of Colón and three national parks, few measures have been taken to manage the region's cultural and natural resources as a whole.

**PERU**  
Cajamarquilla, Lima

A large urban center on the outskirts of Lima that reached its apogee on the eve of the Spanish conquest, Cajamarquilla was first settled by the Huari, whose culture flourished along the Peruvian coast ca. A.D. 400-600. The extensive remains of the city include blocks of mud-brick housing units and pyramids thought to have been grand residences of Huari warriors. From surviving occupation debris, it is clear that these ancient structures were appropriated by later peoples, including the Ychma, who moved into the area in the early second millennium, and the Inca, whose empire controlled most of the Andean region when the Spanish arrived in 1532.

Although Peru's Instituto Nacional de Cultura has recognized the importance of Cajamarquilla, the archaeological site has been treated with anything but respect. Land around the site is dotted with houses built by peasants fleeing the political violence wrought by the Shining Path, which engulfed much of the highland region during the 1980s and 1990s. Much of the site has been used as a latrine and dump as well as a grazing area. An estimated 25 percent of the site has already been destroyed and more is being lost annually through urban encroachment.



**PERU****Presbitero Maestro Cemetery, Lima**

Commissioned by Viceroy Fernando de Abascal and built between 1805 and 1808 on the outskirts of Lima, the Presbitero Maestro was the first municipal cemetery in Latin America. The final resting place of many important historical figures, the Neoclassical complex is still in use and contains one of the largest collections of nineteenth-century European marble sculpture in Latin America.

Although the site was designated a National Historic Monument in 1972, sculptures and mausolea in the cemetery are threatened by aging, pollution from nearby factories, population pressure, and vandalism. A long-term preservation program,



as well as re-zoning of the area to clear it of polluting enterprises are necessary if this important site is to be preserved. Lima was declared a World Heritage City in 1988.

**PERU****Revash Funerary Complex, Santo Tomas de Quillay**

Used as a sacred burial ground by the Chachapoya, whose culture flourished in the cloud forests of Peru from the beginning of the ninth century until their subjugation by the Inca in the 1470s, the Revash site is composed of a series of *chulpos*, or stone tomb chambers, nestled in the limestone cliffs overlooking the Utcubamba River. The Revash *chulpos* are built of small stones set in mud mortar, plastered and painted in cream and red. Some chambers have two levels and contain hundreds of funerary bundles.



Until the discovery of the Chachapoya fortress of Kuelap in 1843, the Amazonas region was relatively unknown. Scientific interest and public curiosity, however, resulted in an influx of visitors. The *chulpos* are relatively accessible, making them easy to plunder and vandalize. Water infiltration has also damaged or destroyed chambers and their contents.

*Seventy-five percent of the sites that have appeared on the Watch list have been helped through training, technical assistance, advocacy, and financial support.*

**PERU****Quinta Heeren, Lima**

An innovative residential area built between 1888 and 1930, the Quinta Heeren was the brainchild of German-born businessman and diplomat Oscar Heeren. With its blend of European eclectic architecture, Japanese aesthetics, and open spaces,

the Quinta was envisioned as a bridge between urban and suburban living.

This unique architectural ensemble has not fared well since its construction. Some houses were abandoned when affluent owners left the area in the 1930s. Earthquakes, exposure to the elements, and poor drainage have caused several houses to collapse; those that still stand may soon be razed.

**PERU****Túcume Archaeological Site, Lambayeque**

Built of mudbrick, the imposing site of Túcume on Peru's arid North Coast was in use for nearly a millennium, having been built by the Lambayeque in the early tenth century, conquered by the Chimú in 1375, and subsumed into the Inca Empire in 1470, under which it flourished until the arrival of the Spanish in 1532. The site, which is spread over more than 220 hectares, boasts 26 enormous pyramids.



Eroded by centuries of El Niño, Túcume's monuments are a mere shadow of their original form. Fragile construction, aggressive climate, and lack of economic resources have resulted in deterioration of the site. While Túcume has been slated for tourism development, concerns have been raised over the exploitation of the site without proper attention to conservation.

**POLAND****Jerusalem Hospital of the Teutonic Order, Malborka**

A rare example of a Teutonic Order hospital structure, the former Jerusalem Hospital in Malborka was built in the late thirteenth century to care for the region's sick and needy. Bricks were added to the half-timbered structure in 1626; three years later it was incorporated into another larger hospital, the Spital Saint Georgi. The Jerusalem Hospital was used briefly to house Polish refugees during WW II, at which time rooms were subdivided and skylights were installed. Since then, water seeping in through the badly decayed roof has caused supporting beams to collapse and wood floors to rot. The building has also been quarried for brick and tiles. Urgent repairs are needed to stabilize the building if this unique monument of medieval Eastern Europe is to be preserved.

**POLAND****Mausoleum of Karol Scheibler, Łódź**

Karol Scheibler, textile magnate and philanthropist, oversaw the transformation of Łódź from a quiet agricultural town into a major industrial center in the nineteenth century. After his death in 1881, his wife commissioned a chapel-mausoleum inspired by the architecture of the St. Chapelle in Paris and St. Stephen's Dome in Vienna. Covered with decorative stonework, the monument is a fine example of Eastern European Neo-Gothic architecture. The mausoleum remained in the Scheibler family until WWII, when it became the property of the local church. After the war, the crypt was raided and the remains inside destroyed. Today, the building, although structurally stable, suffers from neglect, water infiltration, and vegetation growth. Trusses have rotted, stained glass windows have been filled in with bricks, and ornamental metalwork has been stripped from the site.

*Since the World Monuments Watch was launched in 1995, 443 sites in 109 countries have appeared on the list.*

**PORTUGAL****Teatro Capitólio, Lisbon**

Designed by Portuguese architect Luís Cristiano da Silva (1856-1976) and structural engineer José Belard da Fonseca (1899-1969), the Teatro Capitólio (1925-1931) featured numerous design and technical innovations, including a naturally lit performance hall and a roof terrace accessed by moving ramps for outdoor film screenings. Despite being a nationally recognized landmark, the theater, closed to the public since the 1980s, suffers from water ingress and delamination of its concrete and stucco exterior. Unsympathetic alterations, such as the enclosure of the original roof terrace with a gable roof, have marred the original architecture. While municipal authorities expressed interest in restoring Capitólio as recently as 1999, in 2003 the Lisbon city council announced plans to raze the theater and replace it with a performing arts center designed by Frank O. Gehry & Associates, Inc.

**ROMANIA****Oradea Fortress, Oradea**

Located near the Hungarian border, the Oradea Fortress was built atop earlier earthen fortifications and an eleventh-century cathedral commissioned by King Ladislaus, credited with Christianizing Transylvania. In 1618, the Princely Palace was erected within the fortress that included a church, warehouses, and stables. Under Romanian rule, the fortress housed the state and secret police and national archives until the dissolution of the socialist state. Today, the fortress suffers from water infiltration, vegetation overgrowth, and lack of maintenance, which have caused portions of the complex to collapse. Some emergency repairs have been made, but far more is needed for the fortress to be preserved.



**RUSSIA**  
**Melnikov's House Studio, Moscow**

An icon of Russian constructivist architecture, the house-studio of Konstantin Melnikov (1890–1974) served as the architect's retreat and was the only single-family dwelling to be built for a private citizen during the Soviet era. Constructed between 1927 and 1929, the house, composed of two interlocking cylinders, dates to a highly innovative period in Soviet architecture that produced the nation's most significant modern buildings.

The original layout and furnishings have been preserved by the architect's son, Viktor Melnikov, along with the archive of Melnikov's architectural drawings and paintings. The area in which the house is located, in Moscow's desirable Arbat district, has undergone

intense development in the last five years. A newly constructed underground parking lot in the neighboring building destroyed the house's drainage system, resulting in water infiltration. Damp conditions have led to plaster loss and damage to floors. Inappropriate conservation work carried out in 1998 compounded the problems, leading to cracking in the ceiling and deterioration of the ground floor.

**RUSSIA**  
**Semenovskoe-Otrada, Moscow Region**

A fine example of eighteenth-century Russian Classicism, the Semenovskoe-Otrada Palace is one of the largest non-royal residences in Russia and the largest in the Moscow region. The estate was founded by the brother of Count Grigory



Grigorievich Orlov (1734–1783), the famous co-conspirator of Catherine the Great who helped her seize the throne. The palace interior was painted in the 1830s by renowned Russian artist Karl Brullov. Édouard André, one of the best-known French landscape architects of the late-nineteenth century, designed the palace park.

Although the estate was restored at the time of the collapse of the Soviet Union, it has since fallen into dereliction and is continually attacked by vandals and looters. If the building deteriorates further, its protected status could be removed, clearing the path for its demolition.



**RUSSIA**  
**Narkomfin Building, Moscow**

Behind the Narkomfin building's austere bands of double-height windows unfolds a six-story blueprint for communal living as ingenious as it is humane. Built between 1928 and 1930 by a team of architects and engineers led by Moisei Ginzburg, the apartments range from small dwellings—a living room with kitchen and bath “cabins” and a split-level bedroom above—to spacious duplex apartments. The building consists not only of private living quarters, but also contains communal facilities.

The reinforced concrete structure is now deteriorating. Collapsed walls have rendered a number of units uninhabitable while heating, water, and drainage system malfunctions have caused leaks that have led to decomposition of the building fabric of this monument of Revolutionary Rationalism.



**SAMOA**  
**Pulemelei Mound, Palauli, Letolo Plantation**

Although its original purpose and the identity of its creators remain mysteries, the pyramid-like Pulemelei Mound is the largest ancient structure in Polynesia. Built on a stone base measuring 65 by 60 meters that appears to have been oriented to the cardinal directions, the earthen superstructure of the mound now rises 12 meters high over the island of Savai'i, which is considered by some to be the cradle of Polynesian civilization. Settlements dating to ca. A.D. 1000–1600 are associated with the site, but the actual date of its construction is unknown. Despite the fact that Pulemelei Mound is an important monument to the people of Savai'i and attracts visitors to Samoa, the site is being swallowed by the jungle and is difficult to see when surrounding vegetation has not been recently cleared. Its earthen superstructure is especially susceptible to erosion and weathering, and its stone components are also unstable and subject to rock falls.



**SERBIA/MONTENEGRO**  
**Prizren Historic Center, Prizren**

The most important town in Kosovo, Prizren became the regional seat of the Ottoman Empire in the Balkans in 1360, when Sultan Murad I extended the empire into Europe. Built on an Ottoman town plan, Prizren's architecture reflects both Christian and Islamic traditions, with Orthodox monuments dating from the thirteenth century and Ottoman sites from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. In 1881, Prizren became the capital of a league that loosely united Albania and southern Kosovo. Although Kosovo was later integrated into Yugoslavia, Prizren did not recover. Although the historic center had been spared during the Balkan War of 1999, a lack of maintenance had put many buildings at risk, decay that was exacerbated by the breakup of Yugoslavia. More recently, a number of structures sustained substantial damage during the riots of March 2004.

**SERBIA/MONTENEGRO**  
**Subotica Synagogue, Subotica**

Hailed as one of the best surviving examples of Secessionist, or Jugendstil, architecture, which saw a brief flowering before WW II, the Subotica Synagogue served as a focal point for the region's Jewish community. Designed by Marcel Komor and Deszo Jakab of Budapest.



the 1902 building, topped by a glazed tile roof and quincunx of zinc-clad domes, was one of the first to employ concrete and steel construction, which did not become commonplace until later in the twentieth century. Eight steel columns support the vast central dome. Its interior is decorated with elements inspired by Hungarian folklore and Secessionist-style floral motifs. Prior to its first Watch listing in 1996, the building had been partially restored. However, its settling in fractured—now former—Yugoslavia placed it in a fragile and precarious position, resulting in a shortage of materials and a suspension of conservation efforts. Although work recently resumed, the sanctuary remains at risk.

**SIERRA LEONE**  
**Old Fourah Bay College, Freetown**

Soon after its establishment in 1822, Fourah Bay College in Freetown became a magnet for English-speaking Africans on the West Coast and remained the only European-style university in western Sub-Saharan Africa for more than a century.

The building, made of local laterite and iron, was badly damaged by fire in 1999, the year a peace accord ended Sierra Leone's nine-year civil war. Only the exterior stone shell and decorative iron entryway survived. Over the past five years, the roofless building has stood exposed to the elements and slowly deteriorated. Portions of it have been appropriated by squatters.



**SLOVAKIA**  
**Lednické-Rovne Historical Park, Lednické-Rovne**

The 10.5-hectare park of Lednické-Rovne, created in the eighteenth century by Count Jan Gobert Aspremont Linden, boasts numerous English garden follies such as a Gothic-style gate, medieval turret, and a Roman-style temple to Minerva. The park also contains the ruins of a church and several tombs, including the mausoleum of Jozef Schrieber, founder of the famous glass factories of the region, who bought the estate in 1822.

Confiscated during WWII, the park has received minimal maintenance in recent decades and has been vandalized, leaving much of it in an advanced state of decay.



## SOUTH AFRICA

### Richtersveld Cultural Landscape, Northern Cape Province

For thousands of years, the Khoesan peoples of South Africa and Namibia maintained a pastoral way of life. Following the discovery of diamonds at the mouth of the Orange River in the 1920s, prospectors moved into the region, establishing towns at Alexander Bay and Port Nolloth, accelerating the appropriation of traditional lands that had begun early in the colonial period. Under apartheid, remaining pastoralists were encouraged to abandon traditional ways in favor of village life. In Namaqualand, however, old ways survive. The Nama still move with the seasons, speak their ancient tongue, and live in *!haru oms*, or portable rush-mat covered huts.

In 1991, part of Namaqualand became the Richtersveld National Park. In 2002, these ancestral lands, along with the park, were returned to the community and the governments of South Africa, Namibia, and Angola have since embarked on the creation of a transfrontier ecological park that will absorb Richtersveld. Despite these moves to protect the ecosystem, little is being done to preserve its vanishing culture.



## SPAIN

### Segovia Aqueduct, Segovia

Constructed around A.D. 50, the Segovia aqueduct is one of the best preserved Roman aqueducts in Europe. A masterpiece of ancient engineering, it provided water to this Spanish city into the twentieth century and remains the city's most prominent symbol. The workings of the Segovia Aqueduct extend for 14 kilometers under an urban complex that was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985. Above ground, 120 pillars supporting its two-story arcade are preserved. Of these, 14 were rebuilt between the fourteenth and nineteenth centuries. Despite its high profile and Segovia's inscription as a World Heritage Site, the aqueduct is threatened by lack of maintenance, differential decay of stone blocks, water leakage from the upper viaduct, and pollution, which has caused the granite ashlar masonry in some areas to deteriorate and crack. Some preservation remedies have addressed the most urgent problems at the site in recent years, but a comprehensive management plan remains to be developed, which would include the systematic documentation of the condition of the aqueduct, monitoring and recording of the condition of individual ashlar blocks of the exposed portions of the aqueduct, and reduction of threats caused by bird and bat nesting, vegetation growth, and pollution.

*Ancient sites within urban settings often suffer from exposure to pollution and destabilization caused by vibrations from roads and railways.*

## SUDAN

### Suakin, Suakin Island

Thought to have been the Roman port of *Evangelon Portus* mentioned by Ptolemy, Suakin Island on the Red Sea began to attract Arab traders in the tenth century. By the fifteenth century, it had become a key mercantile center for Mamluk Egypt, attracting Venetian and Indian merchants, who traded there until the Ottoman invasion of 1517. It was during the Ottoman occupation that many of the distinctive coral buildings for which the island is known were built. Although the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 briefly revived trade in and around Suakin, prosperity was not to last. The island was all but abandoned with the opening of Port Sudan in 1922.

Today, too few residents remain on Suakin to maintain the island's historic coral and stone buildings, many of which have fallen into ruin as a result of water infiltration and exposure to corrosive airborne salts, which have damaged wooden elements of doorways and windows.



**SYRIA****Amrit Archaeological Site, Amrit**

Founded in the early second millennium B.C., Amrit has the only remaining Phoenician temple in the Near East. Remains at the site, though fragmentary, reflect an architectural style influenced by the Achaemenid Persians. For most of its history, Amrit was controlled by Arwad, an island nation three kilometers off shore. In the third century B.C., under the Seleucids, Amrit attempted to free itself of the Arwadian domination. In retaliation, Arwad destroyed Amrit, leaving it in ruins. Among the visible remains are two towers built atop burial vaults, several Roman tombs, and a Byzantine church.

High humidity and abundant vegetation have damaged the stone towers. Amrit is open to visitors, yet no security exists to prevent vandalism. Recently, nearby roadwork has damaged parts of the site, including newly discovered first- and second-century A.D. tombs decorated with wall paintings, which came to light when the road connecting Tripoli to Tartous was widened.

**SYRIA****Shayzar Castle, Shayzar**

The late tenth-century Shayzar Castle was one of several fortresses built in the region during the Crusades. Taken over by the Banu Munqidh clan in the late eleventh century, the castle was the object of a major siege led by the Byzantine emperor John II Komnenos in 1138.

Although damaged by an earthquake in the 1170s, the castle was in use until the fourteenth century. Today, the site is deteriorating as a result of geological instability, exposure to strong winds, vegetation, and neglect. The twelfth-century fortification walls have begun to separate from the castle. Those on the west side have collapsed; others are in danger of falling on the village below.

**TURKEY****Aphrodisias, Aphrodisias**

Famous in antiquity for the sanctuary of its patron goddess Aphrodite, Aphrodisias prospered from the first century B.C. until the Middle Ages. Ironically, the remarkable level of preservation at this Greco-Roman site, where mosaic floors, painting, and finely carved marble decorations are common, leaves it especially vulnerable.

While most of the visible buildings at



*Since 1995, 197 sites in 72 countries have received grants from WMF and its global partners totalling \$162 million.*

**SYRIA****Tell Mozan (Ancient Urkesh)**

Set within a stark landscape, Tell Mozan has recently been identified as the third-millennium B.C. city of Urkesh, religious seat of the Hurrians, lesser-known contemporaries of the Hittites. Excavation at Tell Mozan began in 1984, but the site's identity was not confirmed until 1995, when

a number of seal impressions came to light. Several structures have been found, including a palace, a temple, and an underground building thought to symbolize a passage to the Netherworld.

The site has been damaged over time by plowing and quarrying for building materials. More recently, local settlements have expanded toward the site while a power line and a new road are to be built within its limits in the near future.

Aphrodisias were uncovered less than 50 years ago, many were conserved with inappropriate materials following excavation or not treated at all. After decades of exposure a number of the site's most important buildings are deteriorating and some are in danger of collapse. Portions of the stage building and seats of the first-century B.C./A.D. theater have come apart and pose a danger to visitors. Baths at the site have lost marble revetments and interior mosaics as a result of aging and vegetation growth. In order to survive another century, a major effort to conserve and stabilize these monuments must be undertaken.

## TURKEY

### Little Hagia Sophia, Istanbul

The oldest surviving Byzantine monument in Istanbul, Küçük ("Little") Hagia Sophia was constructed under the emperor Justinian near the southern city walls on the shores of the Sea of Marmara in A.D. 527-536.

In 1504, the building was converted into a mosque. In the 1950s, the area in front of the city walls near the building was claimed from the sea and opened to traffic. A railway was later built next to the building. Although the sanctuary was restored in 1996, it was damaged by an earthquake in 1999, resulting in a series of cracks in the central dome that have allowed rainwater to seep in. This damage has been compounded by differential settlement, rising damp, and constant vibrations from the railway and road. Construction of a new sea wall nearby also raised the water table and affected the foundation of the mosque.



## UNITED KINGDOM

### Saint Mary's Stow Church, Stow, Lincolnshire

The Minster Church of Saint Mary's Stow is one of Britain's first parish churches. Founded on the site of the Roman settlement of Sidnacester, the church's cruciform plan and portions of the crossing and south transept were constructed in A.D. 975. The nave and chancel were rebuilt

in the mid-eleventh and twelfth centuries, respectively. Supported by Gothic arches, the central tower was reconstructed in the early fifteenth century. Rare among the thousands of surviving parish churches, Saint Mary's retains a substantial portion of its Anglo-Saxon elements. The church is a Grade I listed monument in Britain, and English Heritage has designated Saint Mary's as a "Scheduled Ancient Monument."

Exemplifying the situation of many of Britain's rural parish churches, Saint Mary's is threatened by the loss of parishioners due to the area's declining population, and lacks funds necessary to undertake much needed conservation work and routine maintenance.

## UNITED KINGDOM

### Saint Vincent's Street Church, Glasgow, Scotland

Commissioned in 1856 and dedicated in 1859, St. Vincent's Street Church is the sole survivor of a trio of churches designed for the city of Glasgow by the renowned Scottish architect Alexander "Greek" Thomson, who designed the building as an Ionic temple, placed upon a colossal plinth that forms an undercroft with an attached tower.



Poorly maintained for half a century, the church was placed on the 1998 Watch list, after which WMF found funding for a first phase of restoration. At that time, it seemed the building was finally receiving the care it needed. Yet, today the church remains at risk. Not only has the city of Glasgow failed to produce a plan for the preservation of the building, it has refused to install basic fire protection despite offers by others to pay for it.

## UNITED STATES

### 2 Columbus Circle, New York, New York

The former Huntington Hartford Gallery of Modern Art, 2 Columbus Circle was designed in the early 1960s by Edward Durrell Stone (1902-1978), one of America's most prolific architects and an early exponent of International Style Modernism. By the 1950s, however, Stone had developed a new approach to design that retained the function-driven space planning of International Style modernism, but abandoned its austere, industrial-based aesthetic in favor of rich materials and classical ornamentation. Commissioned by philanthropist Huntington Hartford to house his personal collection of modern art, the building has been controversial since its construction. Due to lack of funds, the gallery closed in 1969, five years after it opened.

The City of New York, owner of the building since 1980, has sold it to the Museum of Art and Design, which plans to remove its exterior marble cladding and ornamentation and reconfigure its interior. Despite the objections of leading conservation organizations, the city's Landmarks Commission has refused to schedule public hearings on the significance of 2 Columbus Circle. Its inclusion on our 2006 list highlights the failure of public authorities to consider the architectural merit of postwar buildings and sites as part of our collective cultural heritage.





**UNITED STATES**  
**Bluegrass Cultural Landscape**  
**of Kentucky, Central Kentucky**

Covering an area of some 3,000 square kilometers, the Bluegrass Region is one of America's most distinctive landscapes. Named for the color of its calcium- and phosphate-enriched grass, the region was settled by Europeans in the 1780s. By the mid-nineteenth century, agrarian-based industries such as tobacco farming and bourbon distillation sprang up there, along with breeding and racing of prized horses.

In recent decades, the region has witnessed rapid suburbanization through unregulated development. Between 1997 and 2002, more than 300 square kilometers of Bluegrass land were appropriated for other uses, compromising the region's distinct sense of place and undermining traditional industries such as horse breeding and farming, and endangering historic structures associated with the landscape.

**UNITED STATES**  
**Cyclorama Center,**  
**Gettysburg, Pennsylvania**

Opened in 1963, the Cyclorama Center at Gettysburg was built as part of an ambitious postwar government initiative to improve America's national parks with new facilities and memorials by famed architects. Richard Neutra (1892-1970) was chosen to design the Cyclorama, considered one of his most important commissions. The building takes its name from a large, 360-degree painting by French artist Paul Philippoteaux that depicts Pickett's Charge, the last battle of Gettysburg. To house the work, Neutra designed a cylindrical drum, 109 meters in circumference and eight meters high, accessed by a ramp. While the Cyclorama was "determined eligible" for the National Register of Historic Places in 1998, it was never included. The structure, which suffers from lack of maintenance and sits atop what many consider hallowed ground, is now slated for demolition. A new museum and visitor center will be built near the historic site.



**UNITED STATES**  
**Dutch Reformed Church,**  
**Newburgh, New York**



Designed by one of America's most prolific nineteenth-century architects, Alexander Jackson Davis (1803-1892), Newburgh's Dutch Reformed Church (1835-1837) is an early example of the Greek Revival Style. Siting the church on a bluff with its imposing portico of Ionic columns facing the Hudson River, Davis intended the building to "...serve as a conspicuous and characteristic landmark, indicative of the taste, discrimination, and sense of classical beauty of the inhabitants of Newburgh," a Revolutionary

War outpost that later prospered from commerce along the Hudson. Following a period of socio-economic decline in the mid-twentieth century, the Dutch Reformed Church was abandoned by its congregation. Although some repairs have been carried out, the building is in poor condition. Its foundation, floor, balcony, and roof require immediate stabilization. Unoccupied, the church is also threatened by vandalism and fire.

**UNITED STATES**  
**Ellis Island Baggage and Dormitory Building,**  
**New York Harbor**



Ellis Island's Baggage and Dormitory Building (1908-1913) was built to accommodate an ever-growing population of immigrants, most often detained on the island for health or legal reasons. The design of the building follows the Beaux Arts and Neoclassical styles established by the complex's architects, Boring & Tilden. From the 1920s on, the building was increasingly used to house immigrants awaiting deportation because of criminal or suspected subversive political action. An abundance of graffiti in the building—the last such in situ scrawlings on the island—attests this use. The Baggage & Dormitory Building suffers from neglect. Its structural systems are failing as a result of water infiltration and its interior finishes, including the surviving graffiti, are deteriorating at an alarming rate.

**UNITED STATES**

**Ennis House, Los Angeles, California**

Frank Lloyd Wright's theories of organic architecture mandated that buildings draw materials from their natural environments. In Los Angeles, this resulted in the creation of four textile block houses, the largest of which is the Ennis House, built in 1924. Wright used decomposed granite from the site so the house's exterior matched the color and texture of the surrounding hills. Wright also designed 27 art glass windows for the house, all of which remain in situ. Unfortunately, the materials Wright used to build the house have contributed to its deterioration. This damage was compounded by the 1994 Northridge Earthquake and, more recently, by torrential rains that struck southern California in early 2005, which destabilized the house's retaining wall and west terrace, compromising the roof and damaging interiors.



**UNITED STATES**

**Hanging Flume, Montrose County, Colorado**

Among the more remarkable remnants of America's nineteenth-century gold rush is the Hanging Flume, a 21-kilometer track built along the walls of Colorado's Dolores River Canyon that was used to transport more than 30 million liters of water a day for use in hydraulic gold mining. To construct the Hanging Flume, trestles were built over ditches while sections suspended over the river were attached to the sheer rock faces with the aid of cantilevered iron placements.

Shortly after the Montrose Placer Mining Company, which commissioned the flume, went bankrupt in the 1890s, it was abandoned. Over the years, local miners and scavengers have carried away its wooden elements for use in other projects, creating large gaps in the length of the structure. Stretches that have survived have been damaged by biological growth and erosion of the sandstone cliff face.



*Soon after the 2006 Watch list was released, the Ennis House Foundation was established to restore the famed dwelling, an effort spearheaded by actress Diane Keaton.*



**UNITED STATES**

**Mount Lebanon Shaker Village, New Lebanon, New York**

Once the spiritual and physical center of Shaker society, the village of Mount Lebanon was at its height in 1860 home to some 600 believers who lived in more than 120 buildings spread over 6,000 acres. The Shakers eschewed marriage and the traditional family structure in favor of celibate communal living.

After the last of the Shakers left in 1947, Mount Lebanon fell into decline. Today, 32 buildings are all that remain of the village. While work has begun on the North Family Site, a small portion of the historic district, most of its buildings are in an advanced state of decay.

**VENEZUELA**

**La Guaira Historic City, Vargas**

Located on the Caribbean Sea, the sixteenth-century port of La Guaira served as the main port for Caracas and remains one of the most important ports in all of the Caribbean. Although substantially fortified to protect it from invasion, La Guaira was sacked by English pirates in 1739 and 1743. Many of La Guaira's eighteenth- and nineteenth-century buildings are considered national historic monuments, including the San Pedro Apostle Cathedral, the Carmen Chapel, the Guipuzcoana Company building, and the house where the painter Emilio Boggio (1857-1920) was born. Most are now in a perilous state, having been no match for the torrential rains and deadly mudslides that struck the region in December 1999.



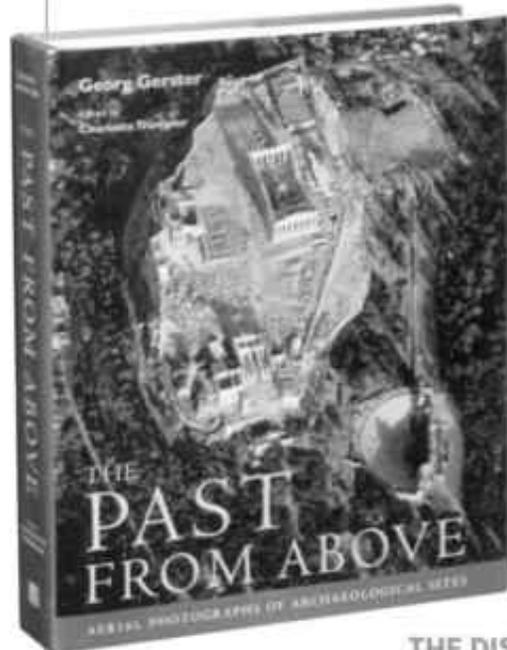
# EX LIBRIS

SELECTIONS FROM THE WMF BOOKSHELF

## THE PAST FROM ABOVE

BY GEORG GERSTER • J. PAUL GETTY MUSEUM • 415 PP. • \$65

**B**y accident in 1906, a British lieutenant named P. H. Sharpe snapped photos of Stonehenge while aloft in an experimental military balloon. Archaeologists quickly realized that aerial views revealed patterns and outlines—traces of ramparts, fields, burial mounds, irrigation systems—not discernible from the ground. Since then, aerial photography has come into its own, as evidenced by the recently released *Past From Above*, by Georg Gerster, who has indeed mastered the art, despite having to cope with hostile government officials and provincial airports that shut down at dusk, just as the sunlight reaches ideal low levels. The 516 crystalline reproductions in this book are organized thematically, with chapters devoted to the likes of palaces or bulwarks or geoglyphs. One can make out individual loose stones at some Meroitic pyramids in Sudan, palm tree fronds beside Iraq's Tower of Babel, and the archaeologists' paperwork piles at a Dacian sacred circle of limestone blocks in Romania. The volume is gorgeous enough for coffee tables, but buyers should be forewarned that they'll have trouble getting guests to put it down. The captions are thorough and arrestingly written; each is a mini-tale of a site's settlement, flourishing, abandonment, rediscovery, and looting.

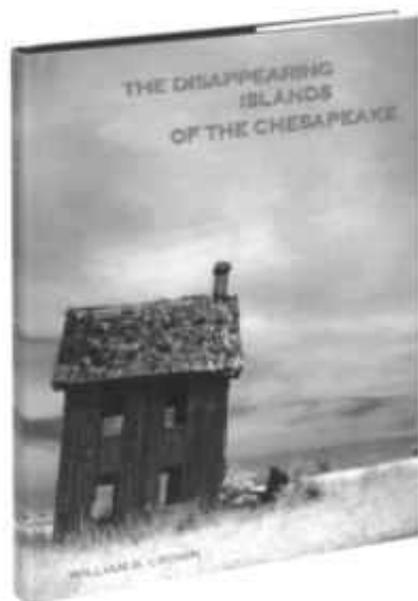


## THE DISAPPEARING ISLANDS OF THE CHESAPEAKE

BY WILLIAM B. CRONIN • JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY PRESS • 182 PP. • \$35

**T**ides and storms are cutting into Maryland and Virginia's Chesapeake Bay islands faster than the government can lay out bulkheads or pile up layers of dredge. William B. Cronin, a retired staff oceanographer at Johns Hopkins University, explains how 50 of the region's hundreds of islands have fared since Captain John Smith started mapping them around 1608.

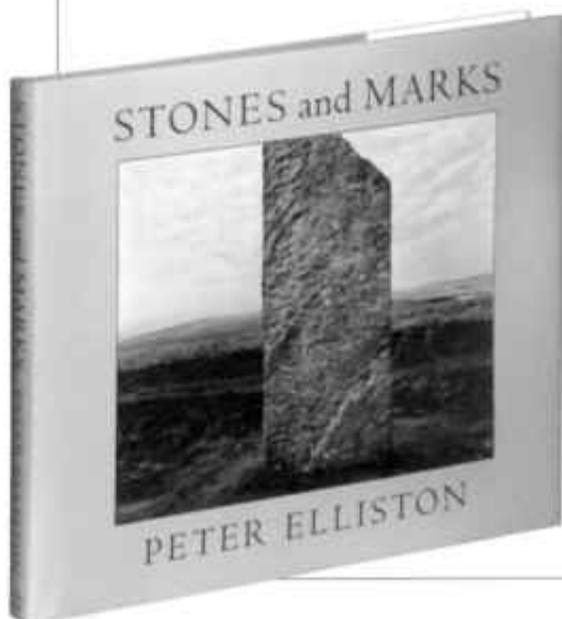
Cronin has pored through land records and archaeological reports, taken circuitous sailing trips on a 25-foot Coronado, and had a pilot friend fly him over sinking land masses. In unadorned, almost folksy prose, he chronicles British and Dutch soldiers fighting over skinny peninsulas, entrepreneurs futilely dreaming of creating island resorts, and townspeople fleeing swamped neighborhoods, taking their schools and churches with them. He's especially impressed by coastal heroes—a team of railroad workers who dropped bales of hay from a bridge to feed a stranded herd of deer and lighthouse keepers who stayed at their posts even after ice knocked the building downstream. "The keepers rode the lighthouse for 16 hours until it grounded," Cronin calmly writes. "They were rescued along with some furniture and the lens."



## STONES AND MARKS

BY PETER ELLISTON • LODIMA PRESS • 172 PP. • \$65

**A**ustralian physicist Peter Elliston has been carrying his 8-by-10-inch view camera worldwide for a decade, focusing on rocks that humans inscribed somewhere between 150 and 6,000 years ago. This book's 77 quadtone plates reveal details as fine as a sneaker print in the sand beside a Petra columbarium, and lichens on recumbent moai on Easter Island. Elliston is equally fond of the big geological picture, stepping back to capture the radial layout of an Icelandic sheep corral or a colonnade stretching to the horizon at Palmyra. Wherever the rocks were meant to tell a story we can still decode, Elliston recounts it. A Greek inscription on a Jordanian tomb lintel lists its occupants from the Germanus family, and nineteenth-century settlers newly arrived in Sydney would carve their names into cliffs while quarantined and bored at a headland near the Harbor. But what do six-toed footprint petroglyphs mean at a Utah sandstone creek bed, and what foodstuff or coloring did Aborigines grind in deeply indented flat stones at what is now the Northern Territory's Kakadu National Park? In the background of many Elliston images are signs of huge-scale modern interventions—kilometers-long bulldozer tracks, dammed-up rivers—that may well erode and prove inscrutable to our descendants.





**ROMANTIC MODERNIST:  
The Life and Work of Norman Jaffe, Architect**

BY ALASTAIR GORDON • MONACELLI PRESS • 240 PP. • \$50

**N**orman Jaffe designed some 50 houses in the Hamptons, and hundreds elsewhere. No one's sure of the exact count, because he kept no formal records and often neglected to label drawings. He was a charismatic, dashing, and controversial practitioner in the Hamptons from the 1970s until 1993 when he mysteriously drowned while swimming in Bridgehampton. Architectural historian Alastair Gordon has written the first monograph about Jaffe, covering the early shingled cantilevers and the later, somewhat bombastic glass swerves and shards. Period photos document the interiors in all their post-hippie glory, furnished in inflatable armchairs, raw pine paneling, and Marimekko fabrics. The inimitable Jaffe quotes are also worth the book's cover price. In midlife he veered toward Eastern mysticism-speak, and he'd compare a roof to "a reservoir that holds snow and gathers moisture from the clouds." Preservationists are now trying to shield Jaffe's better works from the teardown threat and real estate ads often boast of Jaffe provenance. Yet in 2003, Gordon notes somberly, the owners of a low-slung 1985 beach house by Jaffe let tag-sale buyers tear the place apart and pay for whatever fragments they could carry home.



*To purchase titles featured here, click on WMF's Amazon.com link on our website at [www.wmf.org](http://www.wmf.org). Commissions on books purchased through our website support WMF field projects.*

# EXPEDITION

## CHINA

With every new Watch list come surprises in the form of imperiled monuments that, until the Watch announcement, were largely unknown, even among professionals in the preservation community. The 2006 list was no exception. On it is a collection of mysterious stone towers, 250 of which dot the landscape of a remote Texas-sized area of southwestern China that straddles Sichuan Province and the Tibet Autonomous Region. We certainly had never heard of the towers—brought to our attention by Frederique D'Arragon, a vibrant French national who has nominated them to the list—but then neither had most of our Chinese colleagues. The few who had heard of the towers had never actually seen them. So when an opportunity to visit these ancient wonders arose this past May, I jumped at the chance.

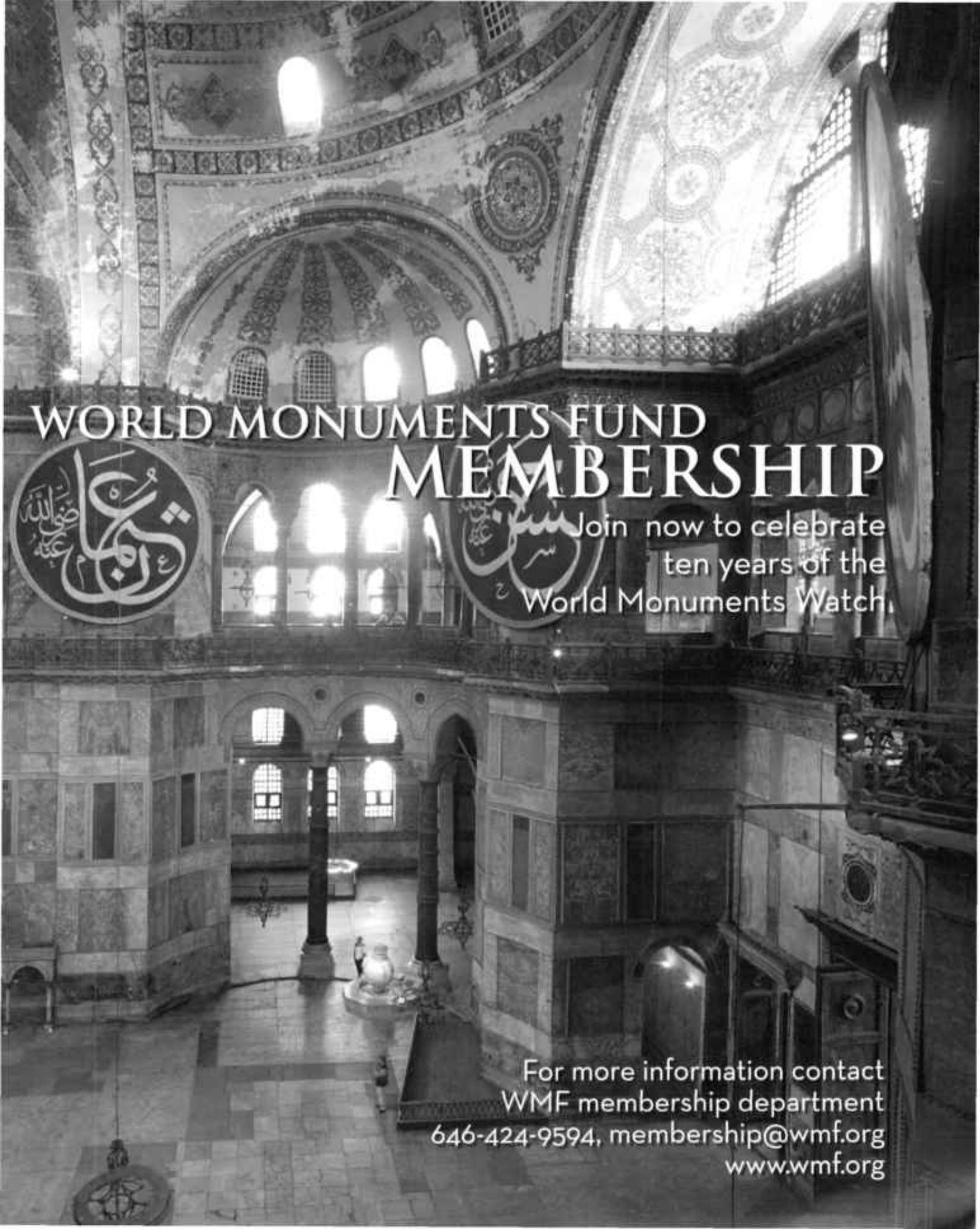
From Beijing, Frederique and I took a three-hour flight to the bustling metropolis of Chengdu, the largest city in Sichuan Province, and, with a population of 10 million, the 58th largest city in China. From there, it is nine-hour drive to Danba, the nearest city to the towers—a journey requiring four-wheel drive to negotiate an unpaved road that skirts rapidly flowing streams and rivers, winds through narrow mountain passes, and transits the Wolong Panda Reserve.

Sichuan literally means four rivers, (*si*, four; *chuan*, rivers), reflective of the number and size of headwaters that crisscross its landscape. From the lush panda reserve, we began our ascent of Balangshan (Balang Mountain). At 1,200 meters the trees of the once-lush mountainside disappear, the air gets thinner, and the temperature continues to drop until we reach Balangshan Pass, which, at an elevation of 4,550 meters, is perpetually blanketed by snow. On the far side of the pass is a landscape that is decidedly non-Han, dotted with Tibetan stupas and flat-roofed structures covered in whitewash, brightly decorated farm houses, and villages that cling to steep hillsides. Any flat land that does exist is reserved for farming. Danba lies in a valley at the junction of five rivers—the Daduhe, Big Gold, Small Gold, Dongguhe, and Geshizhahe. Stone towers rise from the mist on the mountains that embrace us.

Thought to have been built 600 to 1,800 years ago, the cut-stone and timber buildings are not well understood—as there are no known written records describing their origin, construction, or use. Some have speculated they were used for defense, storage, as status symbols, or as beacons. While some towers have survived numerous earthquakes over the years, due in part to their innovative method of construction. Others are in imminent danger of collapse. The conservation problems they suffer are relatively easy to address. Bringing a team into this remote part of the world is sure to be one of our greatest challenges.

—HENRY TZU NG





# WORLD MONUMENTS FUND MEMBERSHIP

Join now to celebrate  
ten years of the  
World Monuments Watch.

For more information contact  
WMF membership department  
646-424-9594, [membership@wmf.org](mailto:membership@wmf.org)  
[www.wmf.org](http://www.wmf.org)



© 2011 T&C

TIFFANY & CO.