Twenty Years of the World Monuments Watch
Angkor, included on the first Watch in 1996, is one of World Monuments Fund's longest-running and successful projects.
Two Decades of Advocacy

In October 2015 World Monuments Fund announced its eleventh biennial World Monuments Watch marking 20 years of advocating for heritage sites around the world facing urgent threats. The Watch program was created with specific goals:

- to focus public concern on the survival of heritage sites that were being thoughtlessly destroyed and/or poorly maintained;
- to save these sites through the catalytic effects of recognition and seed funding that WMF hoped to make available;
- to help attract more resources to the cause.

Through the Watch, WMF hoped to identify sites that represented the priorities and challenges facing the global field of heritage conservation, in order to address these challenges through its conservation fieldwork.

When the World Monuments Watch was conceived in the mid-1990s, there was a turning point in world events. The end of the Soviet era and its satellite regimes throughout the world revealed vast swathes of cultural heritage that had been neglected or intentionally decimated as part of the Communist obsession to obliterate symbols of privilege and to repress religion. There was much to do and very little sense of where to start. WMF hoped the Watch would focus governments on identifying priorities that might open opportunities for partnership with the private sector.

American Express helped launch the World Monuments Watch as its Founding Partner and remains the major corporate sponsor of the program today. This partnership helped to underscore a connection between the Watch and the development of responsible cultural tourism. Indeed, increased tourism has proved to be a primary goal for a vast majority of the sites on the World Monuments Watch. This suggests that WMF should focus in the future on developing more vigorous partnerships around the Watch with the tourism industry and with governmental authorities responsible for tourism, not just those responsible for culture.
Only sites nominated by outside organizations and agencies are eligible for inclusion on the Watch and the selection is made by a panel of external jurors. Between 1996 and 2010, 100 sites were chosen for each Watch cycle, and the program was initially subtitled “100 Most Endangered Sites.” In 2010 both the number 100 and the subtitle were retired. WMF felt that a smaller group of Watch sites could be more comprehensible to the public and allow WMF a more focused response. The Watch has become a barometer in identifying the range and relative importance of issues that confront heritage conservation, which have been consistent from the beginning. Heritage sites are victims of conflict, and this has been seen from nominations of sites in Georgia, Vietnam, Cambodia, and the Balkans to the current array of disastrous events in the Middle East. The impact of pollution and urban expansion, and the pressures of increasing population have been seen at many urban heritage sites over the history of the Watch, from Agra and the impact of pollution on the Taj Mahal in 1996 to Yangon in 2014. These Watch listings have been complemented with new thought leadership in the heritage world concerning these problems and Watch case histories have contributed to this dialogue.

Cultural heritage has seen its share of natural catastrophes, which continue to accelerate with the impact of global warming. Although natural catastrophe was the primary cause for listing only 10% of the sites on the Watch, the profound impact of these events on local society, community, and culture elevates the importance as well as the cost of recovery and makes such sites primary focal points for mitigation work. WMF has tried to respond quickly to these events—in Bhutan and Haiti in 2010, in San Francisco following a catastrophic storm in 1996, on the historic neighborhoods of New Orleans in 2006 and 2008, and now in Kathmandu in 2016.

Other themes, especially the preservation needs of modern and industrial architecture, religious buildings, and sites of conscience have recurred and have given rise to special programs within WMF to address these themes, such as the Modernism at Risk and Jewish Heritage programs.

In recent years, the Watch has also highlighted a number of sites that are not in grave and urgent danger, but display timely opportunities for improvement and reintegration into community life. The Watch has highlighted the opportunities, when they have arisen, to reintegrate cultural heritage into the planning process as a priority for practice of conservation. Examples include cultural landscapes such as Cinque Terre in Italy (2000, 2002), traditional cultural ensembles such as Taos Pueblo (2010), and Basgo Gompa in India (2000).

The World Monuments Watch is premised on the overriding principle that in some circumstances only recognition from outside a community will galvanize support that results in saving an asset that has great value on many levels, both local and global. Twenty years after the launch of the World Monuments Watch, there is still no global system for monitoring for state of heritage conservation, as there is for the environment—no equivalent to the Endangered Species List. This fact has continued to make the World Monuments Watch relevant.
Since its inception, the program has included 790 sites in 135 countries and territories. Overall, nearly 80% of the Watch sites showed improvement after listing.

This book analyzes the Watch through a series of case histories, the evaluation having been conducted by WMF staff and external reviewers. 63% of listed sites were threatened by lack of financial resources, and another 3% by unmanaged tourism. These are management challenges, and the vast majority of Watch sites could be preserved with more resources and better management. Of the remaining 35%, half were impacted by development, and this threat could be mitigated through greater awareness and better planning within the development construct. Only 15% of listed sites were impacted by external factors such as conflict, looting, and natural catastrophes. However, the damage caused by these events is much more extensive and recovery more difficult.

Over 10 Watch lists, 790 sites have been included on the Watch. Over the years, two out of five Watch sites received project support from WMF. More than a third of the remaining sites show clear improvement since the time of Watch listing, thanks to a combination of increased external funding, greater public recognition, greater community engagement, or improved public access. Overall, nearly 80% showed improvement after listing. Of the remaining 20%, the majority have experienced prolonged stasis or a mix of positive and negative developments. A small number of sites that were threatened with complete destruction were irretrievably lost.

By almost any measure, the program has been a success. WMF’s global investment in the conservation of Watch sites has been over $100 million, and WMF has tracked an additional $245 million in known counterpart funding. However, more resources are needed. In the publication of the first Watch list, WMF stated that the cost to successfully address the threats facing every site in any given cycle would not exceed the budget of one major building project or the proceeds of one successful Hollywood film. This remains true today. What is lacking is a clear commitment on the part of many to share this burden, and of a clear idea of who should play what party, and why.

The use of the Watch as a launching pad for fundraising efforts has been regularly discouraged by selection panels, which have emphasized urgency and the declining condition of Watch sites. Perhaps in the future, acknowledging that lack of funding is the biggest threat facing the preservation of historic architecture and sites, the Watch selection panels will view this differently.

In the absence of a formal process for monitoring heritage sites globally, the Watch plays a crucial role. To know the full impact, more cooperation with authorities is needed. Each heritage site on the Watch represents a huge resource of cultural capital. To squander these resources makes no sense. To preserve and validate them will require a more focused effort. What we have learned over 20 years has made this abundantly clear. The case histories that follow will hope to elucidate the nature of the challenges and the solutions.

Major Threat to Site
Watch Success Stories

Since 1996, the World Monuments Watch has brought attention to the conservation needs of 790 cultural heritage sites around the world. The first 20 years of the program have provided opportunities to discover little known places, as well as gems hiding in plain sight. The Watch program has highlighted that treasured architectural masterpieces, no matter how beloved, can have tremendous conservation challenges. At the same time, the Watch program served as a catalyst for action at hundreds of sites, leading to improved safeguarding of heritage sites, better tourism management, and increased community engagement. Twelve success stories are highlighted on the next pages, followed by 32 featured sites as examples of places that have benefited from inclusion on the Watch.

Gingerbread Neighborhood

PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI

Only a few months after the announcement of the 2010 Watch, Haiti was struck by a devastating earthquake, which wrought immense destruction to the country’s built fabric and infrastructure. The gingerbread houses demonstrated the value and contemporary relevance of their hybrid design, as they withstood the tremors and protected many lives. To the Haitian people they are reminders of a time of prosperity, and their survival in Port-au-Prince is an inspiration for a future when Haiti will flourish once again.

Shortly after the earthquake, World Monuments Fund began working with local and international partners to build capacity for the revitalization of this historic district. WMF assisted with training for local artisans in restoration and seismic mitigation techniques for the gingerbread houses, through the rehabilitation of the Dufort House as a conservation model and neighborhood resource center. Based on the experience of restoring the Dufort House, WMF is preparing a set of illustrated technical briefs about the restoration process. These French-language briefs capture local knowledge gained at the site and serve as a valuable guide for craftsmen and artisans, owners of Gingerbread houses, and preservation advocates in Port-au-Prince and beyond.

The elegant, turn-of-the-century “gingerbread” houses of Port-au-Prince, detailed with fretted wood and intricate latticework, were first included on the World Monuments Watch in 2010.
Sumda Chun Monastery

India

Sumda Chun holds immense regional and international significance, as it represents the cultural influences of Tibetan Buddhism in northern India. Sumda Chun was a part of the strenuous pilgrimage route that linked with two other temples of the same period; merit was gained by pilgrims who prayed at all three temples on a single day. Once a sprawling monastery complex covering an entire hill, Sumda Chun is now especially regarded for its surviving structures and interior decorative features, including wall paintings and stucco sculptures.

Inclusion on the 2006 Watch highlighted Sumda Chun’s vulnerable condition due to aging materials, its remote location, the impact of increased rainfall in the region, and the increasing number of hikers reaching the sacred site. Following the Watch announcement, WMF supported a four-year conservation program that included site surveys, conditions mapping, repairs, and the development of a conservation and maintenance plan. Structural repairs were carried out in 2008 and in 2009 work continued on the exterior of the temple and adjacent structures, including the stupas. In 2011, the project at Sumda Chun received a UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Award for excellence in cultural heritage conservation. In 2013, a project to conserve one of the earliest recorded painted stupas at Sumda Chun marked the culmination of the long and successful program WMF carried out at the monastery complex.
Temples of Hercules and Portunus
ROME, ITALY

The Temple of Hercules—a second-century round building with 20 elegant Corinthian columns marking its periphery—was included on the 1996 World Monuments Watch. The delicate structure was restored with the support of WMF through a grant from American Express in the inaugural year of the Watch program. The neighboring Temple of Portunus, a rectangular building on a high podium with a single flight of steps leading to a portico and a single-room sanctuary, dates from the first century B.C. and was included on the World Monuments Watch in 2006. It became the object of another large-scale restoration program, under the direction of the Special Superintendency for Archaeology of Rome, with the support of the Robert W. Wilson Challenge to Conserve Our Heritage.

More than revealing the classical beauty of these celebrated works of Roman architecture, and ensuring that future generations will continue to appreciate them, WMF’s work helped elevate the visibility of the Forum Boarium and improve public access to this ancient commercial space. Traditionally thought to have functioned as the city’s cattle market, the Forum Boarium must have been a bustling hub of traffic in antiquity, and it is no less so today, separated from the urban fabric by busy avenues that cut through the historic city. Today, the forum and its monuments can be enjoyed by residents and visitors alike, and help us imagine what a restless Roman market and port looked, sounded, and felt like.
The machiya have long defined the urban character of the ancient capital of Kyoto, incorporating centuries of Japanese principles of architecture and design, traditional craftsmanship, materials, and functionality. Although Kyoto survived World War II with relatively little damage, twentieth-century development pressures put these buildings at risk. With construction of new wooden buildings prohibited, restoration of the historic structures is the only way for Japanese carpenters and craftsmen to maintain a link with the rich building tradition they represent.

The Machiya Townhouses were included on the Watch in 2010 and 2012 to support the ongoing efforts of local groups to protect the structures and to encourage long-term policy changes to alleviate threats to the machiya. In 2010, WMF partnered with a branch of the Kyoto government and a local nonprofit organization to restore a typical machiya, demonstrating to private owners that thoughtful restoration can breathe new life into this historic building type. The restored townhouse—now owned by a neighborhood association—houses a resource center for owners of similar buildings.

In 2012, WMF supported the restoration of the Furaibou, a large-scale machiya in Kyoto, addressing the challenges of restoring and preserving larger buildings. The project also studied how to help families incorporate a public use to make ownership of these historic structures financially sustainable. This is exemplified by the adaptive use of Furaibou as the Kyoto Machiya Museum.
Qusayr 'Amra's richly decorated painted surfaces depict leisure activities such as hunting, dancing, and playing music. These remarkable wall paintings—unparalleled examples of early Islamic art—were a significant factor in the inscription of Qusayr 'Amra on the World Heritage List in 1985. Of particular note in the decorative cycles is an image of six kings paying their respects to the prince and an image of the prophet Jonah, whose story is narrated both in the Bible and in the Qur’an.

Qusayr 'Amra was included on the 2008 World Monuments Watch and since that time WMF has worked with Italy’s Istituto Superiore per la Conservazione ed il Restauro and the Department of Antiquities of Jordan to document and conserve the building and its wall paintings. The work led to opportunities for conservation workshops, partnerships with Hashemite University, and the completion of a management plan for Qusayr 'Amra. The collaborative project has led to renewed interest in this extraordinary monument in the desert, as well as offered innumerable opportunities for discovery about the site’s history, materials, iconography, and potential as a tourism and educational resource.
The towering structures of Ruta de la Amistad decorated the landscape in the outskirts of Mexico City, serving as permanent markers of the 1968 Summer Olympics for which they were commissioned. The area has since developed into a major highway and urban sprawl engulfed many of the iconic sculptures. Over time, neglect, deterioration, and the expanding cityscape pushed the sculptures from beloved to forlorn and obscure dots on the map. Over the last two decades, local advocates, led by the Patronato Ruta de la Amistad A.C., successfully rescued and restored most of the sculptures.

In 2012, the Watch called attention to the threat facing some of the sculptures that would have been displaced or demolished to accommodate construction of an elevated level above an existing highway. An award from American Express supported the restoration of two sculptures: Janus, by Australian sculptor Clement Meadmore, and Articulated Wall by Austrian artist Herbert Bayer.

The conservation work was important, but what was remarkable was the renewed public attention to these sculptures and the reminder of how inventive a public program it had been. The 2012 Watch Day included numerous activities to allow the public to enjoy these sculptures, but the greatest moment was seeing 1,500 people participate in a celebratory bicycle ride to see the ensemble of sculptures and rediscover the route and its connection to the Olympics. Mexico City residents and visitors have the opportunity once again to enjoy these works of art that celebrate Mexico City’s history and welcoming spirit.
San Pedro Apóstol Church had been gradually deteriorating over the centuries due to exposure to the elements and the nature of its construction. Seismic activity and inappropriate interventions caused structural instability of the façade, balcony, and bell tower. The paintings and reliefs on the ceiling had become detached due to rainwater and vibrations from earthquakes. The roof structure also suffered from fatigue and wood-eating insects. The high altar and Chapel of the Holy Sacrament inside of the church were in need of cleaning and maintenance.

Following inclusion of San Pedro Apóstol de Andahuaylillas Church on the 2008 Watch, WMF and WMF Europe provided funding for restoration work at the church. The project began in 2008 with the goal of developing a comprehensive conservation plan for the church structure and artwork, as well as promoting landmark designation and protection for the historic town. The restoration work at the church acted as a catalyst for a subsidiary project focusing on the development of the community itself. The local youth group Grupo Patrimonio Cultural Identidad y Desarrollo Comunitario was created in 2009 with support from WMF and the parish of Andahuaylillas to combat the loss of identity that was taking place due to globalization and the increase in tourism. Grupo Patrimonio was honored with a Travel + Leisure Global Vision Award in 2012, offering further international recognition to the importance of Andahuaylillas and the work of this community group.
Inclusion on the 2014 Watch brought much needed attention to the precarious state of the Great Synagogue of Iași where conservation work had been stalled since 2008. Exposure to the elements resulted in structural deterioration and the inability to restart the conservation program was exacerbating the building’s condition. Much progress followed the site’s inclusion on the Watch, including the successful celebration of a Watch Day event that commemorated Jewish religion and tradition at the site. The Ministry of Culture resumed the conservation of the synagogue, spurred by the government’s financial commitment to the project and pressure from the Federation of Jewish Communities in Romania. The scaffolding that had covered the synagogue for almost a decade was removed in 2015, finally revealing the restored façade and roof. In addition, through an award from the David Berg Foundation, WMF supported the emergency stabilization and conservation of the aron kodesh (holy ark).
The history of Viipuri Library reveals a near-tragic struggle to survive challenges including war, shifting national borders, abandonment, inappropriate repairs, and attempts at restoration. Not until the dissolution of the Soviet Union did a clear picture of the library’s conditions emerge. Inclusion on the Watch brought significant validation to the efforts of the Finnish-Russian restoration team, who began an international campaign that evolved into a 21-year project. Although intermittent funding resulted in the restoration occurring in phases, the Russian government committed the funds to complete the restoration of the building in 2011. The restoration principle of the project was to restore the original architectural values of the building while meeting the continuing operational needs of the library and supporting energy efficiency. The successful restoration of the library, completed in 2013, represents a stellar example of international cooperation in the efforts to restore a modernist architectural landmark.

The Library was included on the Watch in 2000 and 2002 to draw attention to the need for full conservation and necessary resources. Following this, WMF made a grant through its Robert W. Wilson Challenge to Conserve Our Heritage to restore the 58 signature skylights over the reading room and lending library, thus restoring a key feature of the building’s distinctive exterior. In 2014, the architects responsible for the restoration of Viipuri Library received the WMF/Knoll Modernism Prize.

Considered a milestone in the history of modern architecture, Alvar Aalto’s library is one of the celebrated touchstones of modernist design with notable features such as the incorporation of undulating surfaces, a free flowing plan and sectional spaces, and the use of natural building materials, especially wood.
Historic Sites of Kilwa

TANZANIA

Significant structures survive at Kilwa from the thirteenth to the nineteenth centuries, making Kilwa one of the most significant historic sites along the Swahili coast. Kilwa was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1981. Over time, the historic sites on the island were left unprotected from the elements. Additionally, the sites were threatened by coastal erosion and rising sea levels exacerbated by the reduction of mangrove forests. Kilwa fort was included on the World Monuments Watch in 1996; in 2008, the historic sites were included collectively. That same year, WMF took action to address immediate dangers and facilitate future preservation activities.

In 2011, Kilwa received a grant from the U.S. State Department’s Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation to conserve additional buildings and limit coastal erosion. The ruins of the Palace of Husuni Kubwa and a collapsed section of the original town wall were rebuilt, and the conservation team restored 13 structures. In addition to preserving the island’s rich built heritage, WMF focused on developing opportunities for training local craftspeople and expanding cultural tourism. In 2014, the World Heritage Committee removed the ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani from the UNESCO List of World Heritage in Danger, noting the critical steps taken in the management and safeguarding of the site.

Located on an island off the southern coast of Tanzania, Kilwa Kisiwani was once a thriving Swahili seaport. Through the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, Kilwa grew rich because of its location along a significant gold trade route. Today, the standing ruins of Kilwa represent centuries of East African history, from the high point of the trading post civilization, through decline under Portuguese control, to annexation by the Omani Empire.
Ani Archaeological Site

Turkey

Ani was included on the inaugural Watch in 1996, and again in 1998, 2000, and 2002, to highlight the ongoing need for emergency conservation work, long-term planning measures, and site documentation. Ani Cathedral, completed in 1001, and the Church of the Holy Redeemer, built in 1035, became the focus of a long-term WMF conservation program, which is still ongoing. The Church of the Holy Redeemer was particularly vulnerable, as it had been left structurally unsound when a lightning strike in 1930 caused one side to collapse. Vandalism contributed to the weakened state of the church.

Inclusion on the Watch, in addition to WMF’s extensive work at the site, helped leverage considerable funding from other sources to mount a more extensive program of documentation, planning, and conservation. As the work progresses, more and more has been revealed about Ani as a center for religious, architectural, and artistic heritage. In 2013, a program to understand more about Ani and its environs was launched through a workshop entitled Ani in Context, which brought together art historians, archaeologists, historians, architects, engineers, and others to visit more than 20 sites in the region that speaks to the great legacy still to be discovered.

Located in eastern Turkey, Ani archaeological zone contains an impressive collection of ruins from the tenth and eleventh centuries. Two of the most significant structures are Ani Cathedral and the Church of the Holy Redeemer (far right), both leading examples of the origins of Armenian ecclesiastical architecture.
Taos Pueblo
NEW MEXICO, UNITED STATES

Taos Pueblo, a remarkable ensemble of adobe structures that has retained its traditional forms and materials, was nominated to the 2010 World Monuments Watch by the U.S. National Park Service primarily to draw attention to the need to develop a site management plan to maintain its status as a World Heritage Site. As the relationship developed with the Taos Tribal Government, it was apparent that a more immediate need was the development of a training program for ten tribal members that resulted in the conservation of an 11-unit dwelling adjacent to the entrance of the pueblo that was in a state of partial collapse. This project enabled the pueblo to qualify for additional funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to continue conservation and training efforts. One of the most remarkable moments during the Watch cycle was recognizing that the act of renewing the adobe structures on the pueblo offered much more to the community than the conservation of physical materials. The acts of harvesting wood from the sacred forest, of creating adobe, and applying traditional materials to renew the structures offered the occasion to say certain prayers, utter special words, and connect language, spiritual practice, physical work, and community traditions in profound ways that prevent the loss of cultural traditions.
More Watch Success Stories

**Buenos Aires Historic Center, Argentina**

Local advocates leveraged inclusion on the Watch to pressure the government to introduce heritage protection into legislation. They developed workshops and a symposium to advocate for the preservation of the city’s built heritage. As a result, the legislature approved the expansion of the Historic District protecting 200 historic buildings.

**Jesuit Guarani Missions, Argentina**

Since their inclusion on the Watch, World Monuments Fund has been involved with the missions through several field projects as well as a capacity-building program. The program trained local site managers in conservation, documentation, management, and tourism development.

**Ushuaia Prison, Argentina**

After repairs to the building following its inclusion on the Watch, today the prison houses a museum dedicated to the maritime history of Tierra del Fuego, the building’s own history, and the history and biology of Antarctica. The museum, working in conjunction with Ushuaia’s Department of Culture and Education, has created an interactive program for schoolchildren.

**Rio Lauca Burial Towers, Bolivia**

WMF helped support a program for the emergency stabilization and conservation of 17 burial towers, called chullpas. The rehabilitated chullpas, now part of the Rio Lauca Ecotourism Route, have become a popular tourist destination within the Sajama National Park, listed on Bolivia’s Tentative List for World Heritage inscription.

**Paranapiacaba, Brazil**

In the nineteenth century, the village housed was a railway workers in wooden buildings similar to those of British mining towns. Included on the Watch to raise awareness of efforts to rehabilitate the village, WMF successfully implemented several sustainable development plans. The town is now a popular tourist destination.

**Wortel Colony Estate, Belgium**

This agricultural colony, established in 1822 to improve the living conditions of the lower classes, failed by 1843 when it was found that most occupants had little experience with farming. Following inclusion on the Watch, national, regional, and local authorities transformed the site into a park, which has been embraced by the community.

**Mind’s Eye, Cayman Islands**

A week after the announcement of the 2012 World Monuments Watch the Ministry of Culture pledged $500,000 to further assist the restoration of the site. After a year-long restoration effort in which the traditional house was stabilized and the interior painted surfaces were conserved, the house opened again in December 2012.
Chiloé Churches, Chile
The wooden churches of the Chiloé archipelago dot the coastline of the islands. They were constructed by local craftsmen using the techniques used by shipbuilders as part of the Jesuits’ system of itinerant missions. For many years after their inclusion on the Watch, WMF assisted in restoring several of the churches.

Shaxi Market Area, China
The Shaxi Market Area on the historic caravan trail that links Tibet with Southeast Asia, is the most complete surviving example of a trading center along this route. Following its inclusion on the Watch, WMF supported a multi-phased restoration project to recover lost significances and traditions and promote cultural tourism.

National Art Schools, Cuba
These dramatic buildings represent a fleeting moment in Latin American modernism. Shortly after the schools were first included on the Watch, the Cuban government vowed to restore them. The renewed interest facilitated the declaration of the buildings as a Protected Area. They have been on the tentative list for UNESCO World Heritage since 2003.

Walled City of Famagusta, Cyprus
Once considered the richest city in the world, Famagusta has been largely overlooked by much of the world for most of the last century. Recent efforts to draw attention to the importance of the city and its built heritage, such as inclusion on the Watch, have encouraged international collaboration and the creation of a revitalization plan for Famagusta.

Orongo, Easter Island, Chile
The ceremonial village of Orongo features dozens of petroglyphs and stone houses dating from the Huri-Moai period (c. 1680–1867). Impacted by increasing numbers of tourists, WMF helped develop a conservation and interpretation program that resulted in the construction of a new visitor center near the village that serves as an introduction to the park.

Todos Santos Complex, Ecuador
Through the Watch and the financial support provided by WMF, areas of the convent that were previously closed were restored and converted into a café and bakery. The historic oven that was an important feature in the neighborhood became functional again, and the spaces provide a source of income to the nuns to fund their social programs.

Festspielhaus Hellerau, Germany
One of the birthplaces of modernism and an important artifact of European architectural history, the building suffered neglect and deterioration during Soviet occupation. Now restored, the Hellerau houses a number of different arts institutions, which hope to transform the building into an important center for contemporary art for the second time in its history.

Jaisalmer Fort, India
Built in 1156, Jaisalmer Fort dominates the countryside in the northwestern corner of Rajasthan. The fort is deteriorating, and the introduction of modern plumbing has accelerated the process. Studies produced by WMF following its inclusion on the Watch were instrumental in the design of upgrades to the site’s drainage infrastructure.
Taj Mahal, INDIA

The Taj Mahal was included to draw attention to the need for ongoing maintenance, tourist management, security, and improved interpretation. WMF helped counsel the site in data management, architectural conservation, and documentation. This guided the restoration of the gardens and the fountain’s water-supply system.

East Japan Earthquake Sites, JAPAN

The sites are on the Watch in two consecutive cycles to underscore the magnitude of the recovery effort, and to highlight its importance for the affected communities. With support from American Express, WMF carried out conservation projects in the towns of Sawara and Kesennuma, aimed to boost the community as it continues to recover.

Tomo Port Town, JAPAN

The Japanese port town of Tomo, Fukuyama, was threatened for many years by a proposed landfill and bridge project that would have negatively impacted the historic waterfront. Following inclusion on the Watch in 2002 and 2004 and local campaign efforts, the project was eventually halted by the Prefecture of Hiroshima.

Damiya Dolmen Field, JORDAN

These Bronze Age tombs throughout Jordan are being lost at an alarming rate, and the landscape of Damiya is threatened by developmental pressures from quarrying operations. Following inclusion on the Watch, the Department of Antiquities announced the creation of the Damiya Dolmen Archaeological Park, which will protect many of these rare artifacts.

Petra Archaeological Site, JORDAN

Petra was included on five Watch cycles to draw attention to the site’s need for tourism management. WMF helped fund several initiatives, including a comprehensive survey, new signage, and a climate change study. Conservation interventions were carried out, and the ancient water channels were reconstructed to prevent future flooding.

Kampung Cina River Frontage, MALAYSIA

Kampung Cina is the oldest street in Kuala Terengganu, one of Malaysia’s largest cities. The street is lined with traditional nineteenth-century Chinese shop houses that originally functioned as both homes and businesses. A development plan was created to prevent the demolition of these vernacular timber structures to ensure conservation of the district.

Santa Prisca Parish Church, MEXICO

An active silver mine lies beneath the 250-year-old church. Vibrations from the blasts, earthquakes, and automobile traffic have caused cracks in Santa Prisca’s vaults. In 1997, a local campaign mobilized to preserve the church. Inclusion on the Watch helped the strong local initiative already in place and gained the attention of the regional government.

Terraces of Battir, PALESTINIAN TER.

These 4,000-year-old irrigated terraces are of great cultural significance to both Israeli and Palestinian communities that live along their borders and work collectively to protect them. In 2014, they were inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. A Watch Day in 2015 celebrated the halt of a proposed separation barrier that threatened the site.
Teatro Capitólio, Portugal
Opened in 1931 and featuring a visionary design that heralded a new age of Portuguese architecture, the theater was slated for demolition when a local advocacy group nominated it to the Watch. Inclusion on the Watch helped the group’s efforts to increase public support to save the important Modern building. The theater is once again open to the public.

Endless Column Ensemble, Romania
Erected in 1934, exposure to the elements and poor maintenance during the Communist era took their toll on Brancusi’s iconic sculptures. The Watch led to a partnership between WMF, the Romanian government, and the World Bank to finance the preservation of the ensemble’s three sculptures and revitalize the landscape that had once connected them.

Stow House, UK
A Georgian palace located on 400 acres of landscaped park, Stowe House was shaped by the finest talents of the time. Following its inclusion on the Watch, Stowe House became a major WMF project site for more than ten years. Today open to the public, skills training, children’s charities, and education through theater and arts have all resulted from the project.

Barrio del Cabanyal-Canyamelar, Spain
This coastal settlement in Valencia boasts an eclectic collection of nineteenth- and twentieth-century buildings, their styles ranging from historicist to modernist and later rationalist designs. Inclusion on the Watch renewed local advocacy to prevent a municipal project that would have destroyed large sections of the historic neighborhood.

Strawberry Hill, UK
Horace Walpole’s Gothic Revival structure—the first to be built in Europe—was started in 1749 and rebuilt over the next quarter century. The Watch acted as a catalyst for a variety of study and training programs at the site. Extensive repairs and restoration works were completed in 2010, and the house was reopened to the public.

St. George’s Bloomsbury, UK
With a diminishing congregation unable to fund the much-needed repairs, inclusion on the Watch was key in mobilizing resources. Generous donations enabled WMF to restore the building, enhancing its architectural significance. Today the building is a vibrant religious space and community facility with many different users and a growing congregation.

A. Conger Goodyear House, USA
Renowned architect Edward Durell Stone’s 1938 house was slated for demolition when it was nominated to the Watch. Following the site’s inclusion, WMF led collaborative efforts to ensure its long-term preservation. Working with local funders, WMF secured funds to buy the house and secure a preservation easement on the property.

Route 66, USA
Inclusion on the Watch provided needed attention to the historic route. WMF supported several projects for Route 66, including an online travel itinerary, an economic impact study that demonstrates the positive impact of heritage preservation along the route, and a roundtable discussion that explored future opportunities for sustainable development.
World Monuments

[Map of World Monuments with red markers indicating locations]
Watch 1996–2016
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<td>Santi Ambrogio e Carlo al Corso, Rome, 1996</td>
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<td>Santi Quattro Coronati Cloister, Rome, 2000</td>
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