



ICCRROM

**The Old Town of Vilnius and the Historic Urban
Landscape Approach: 20 Years of Progress and the
Challenges Ahead**

International Cultural Heritage Forum
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4 December 2014

Historic Urban Area

Historic Centre



Urban Heritage

Historic Town

Heritage District

Urban Ensemble

Historic Village

Historic Quarter

Historic Neighborhood

Cultural Landscape

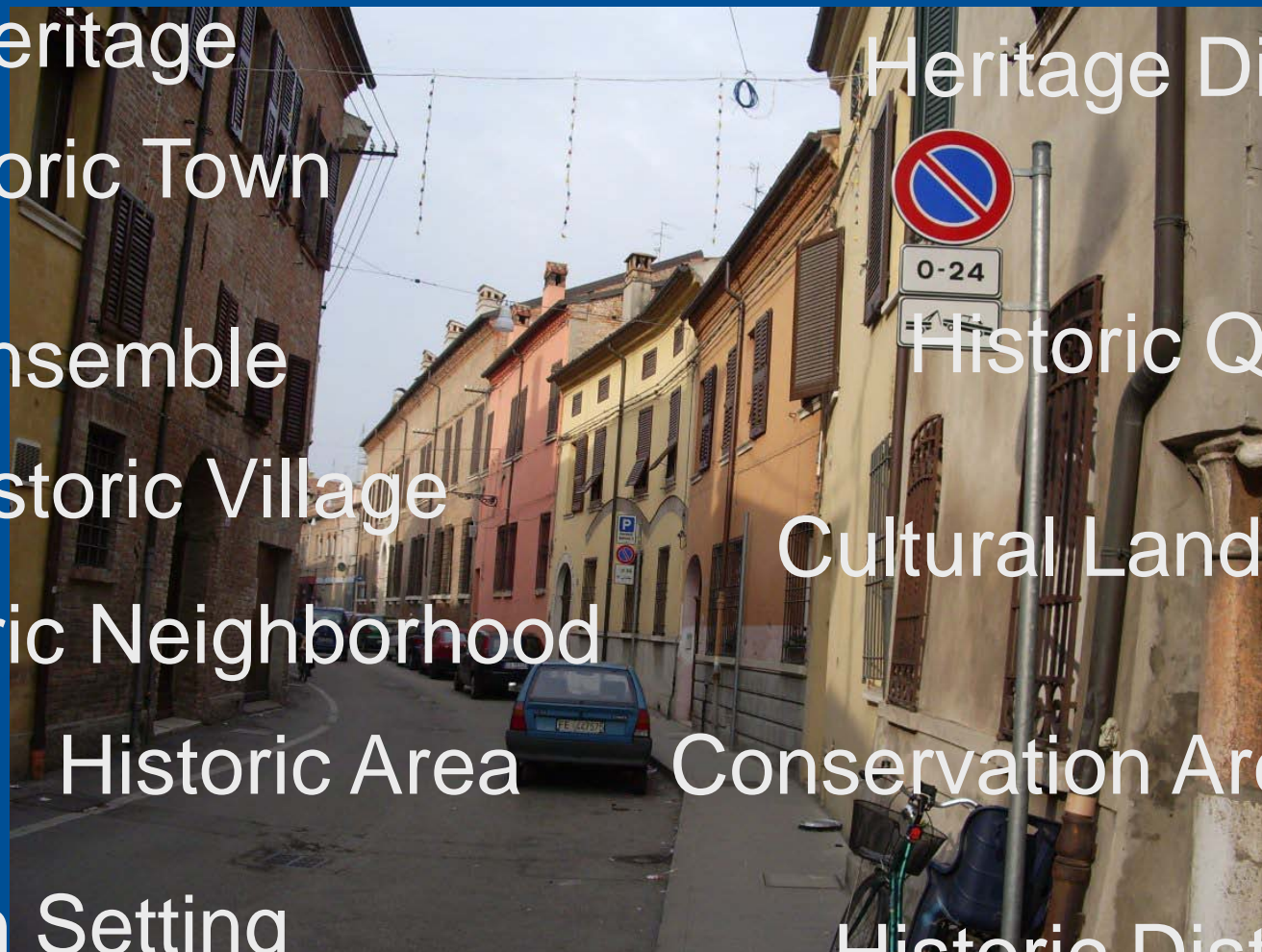
Historic Area

Conservation Area

Urban Setting

Historic District

Historic Urban Landscape





Le Corbusier's Paris

The Radiant City - 1935



Jacques Tati's Paris

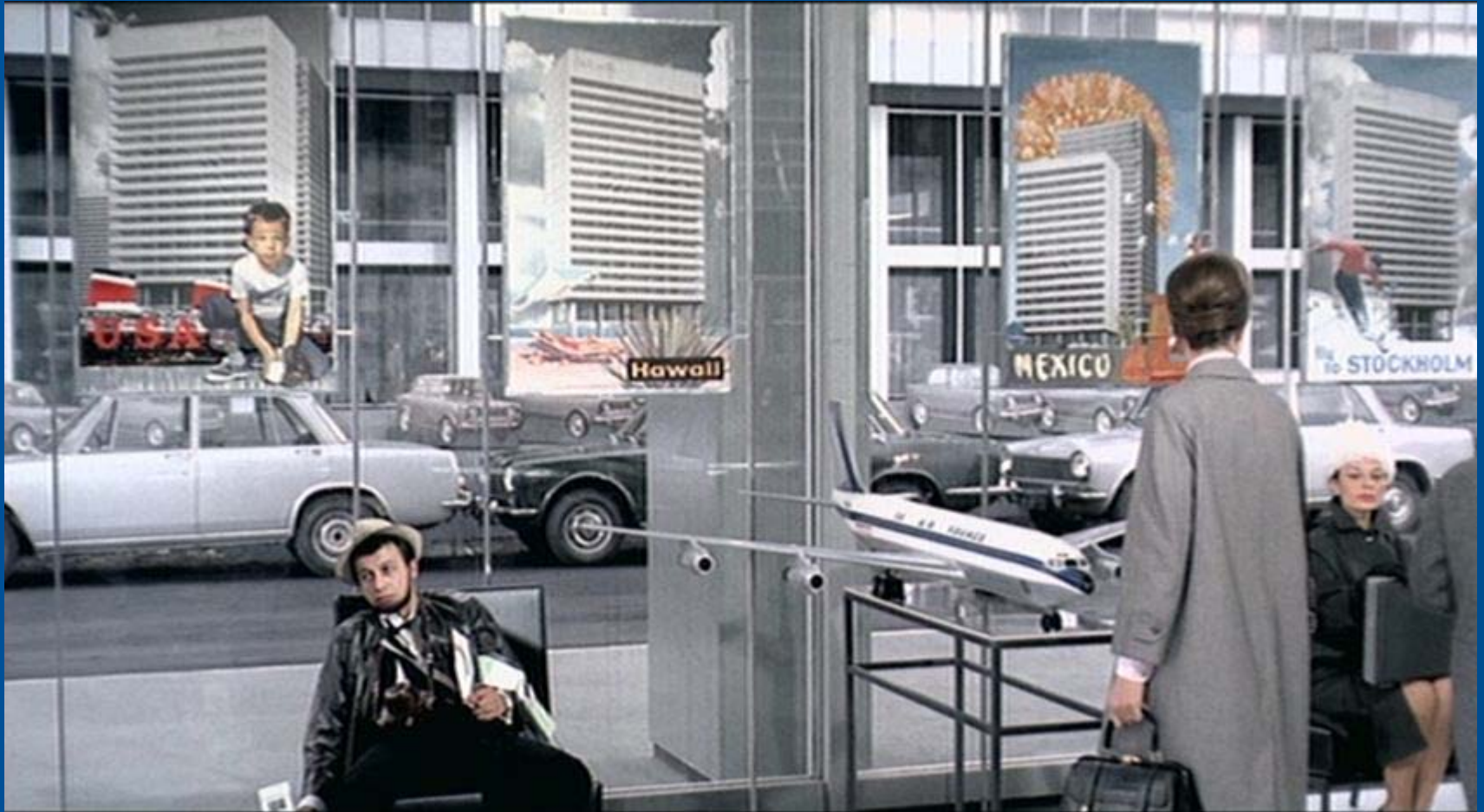
From *Playtime* - 1967



Jacques Tati's Paris



Jacques Tati's Paris



Jacques Tati's Paris



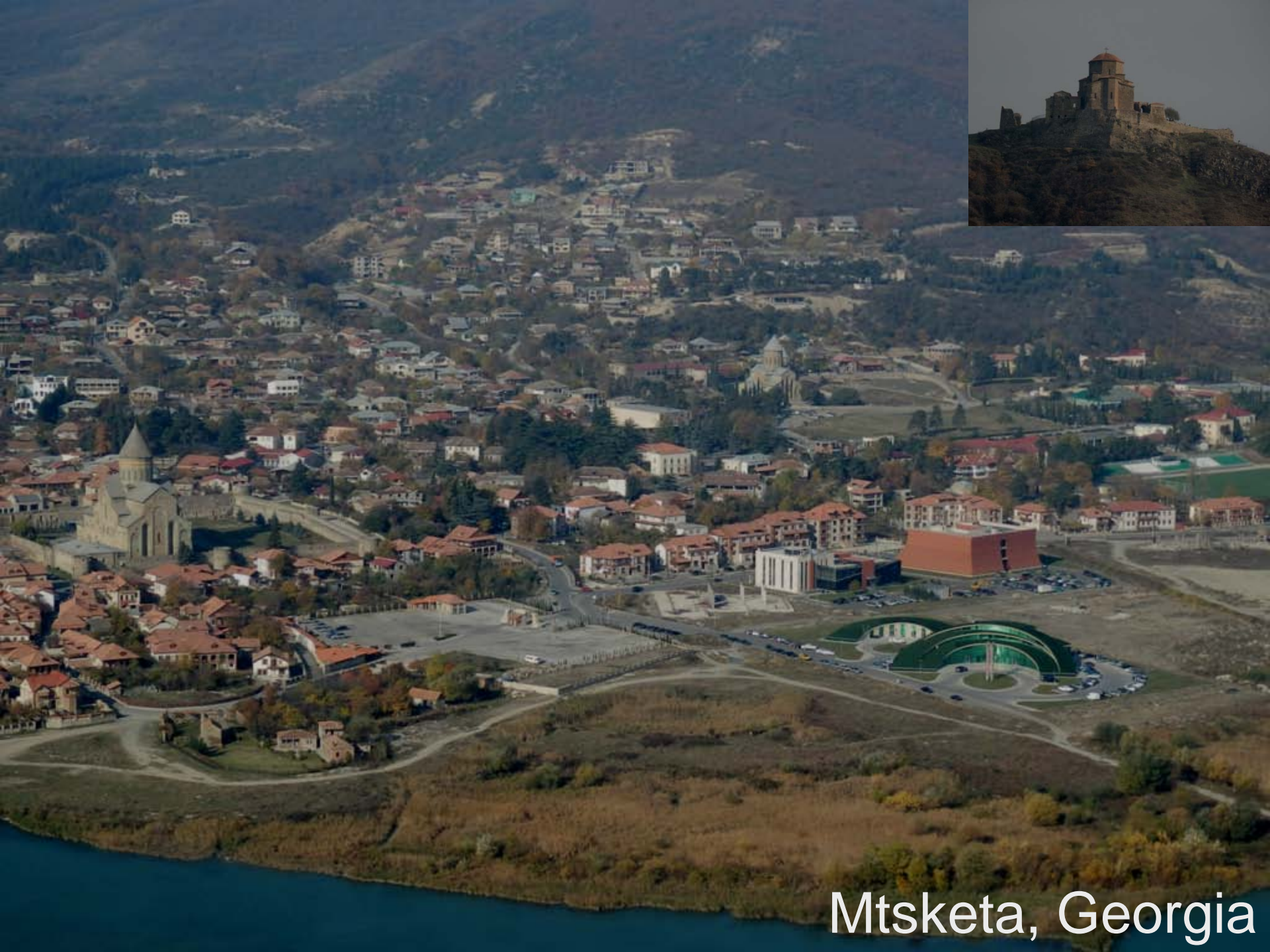
Challenge: Rapid Urbanization



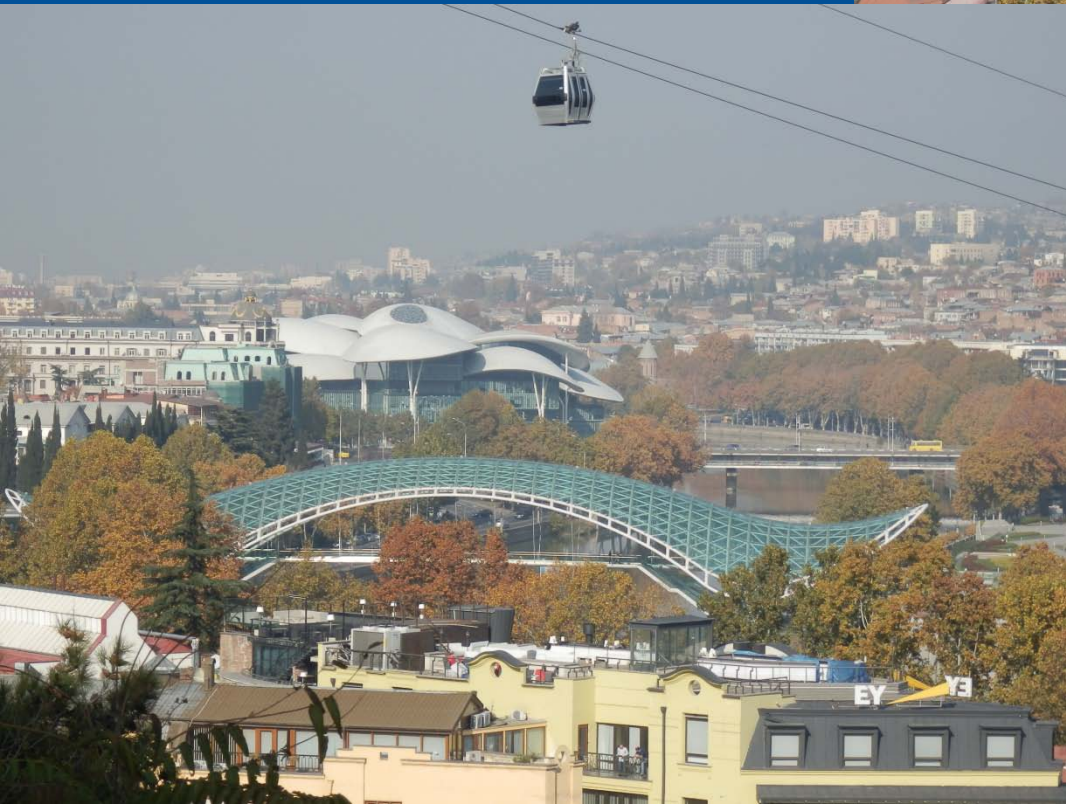
Challenge: Urban
Degradation



Challenge: Pressure for New Development



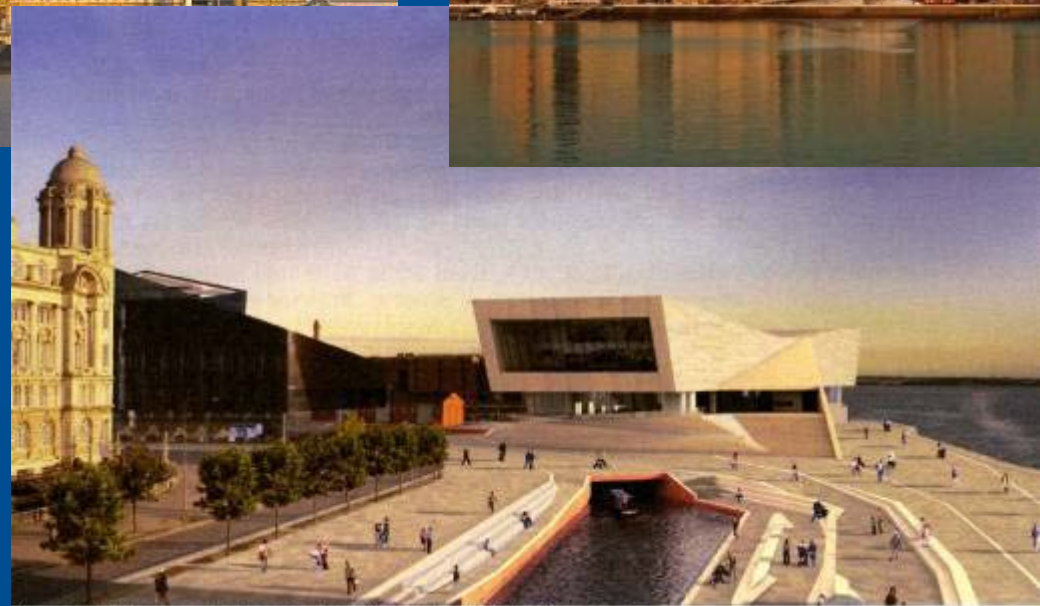
Mtsketa, Georgia



Tbilisi, Georgia



Philadelphia, USA



Proposed Museum of Liverpool and Canal Link at the Pier Head



St. Petersburg, Russia



Istanbul, Turkey



Challenge: Quality of Life



Integrated Approaches to Heritage Management: Historic Urban Landscape

- Definitions for Cultural Heritage
 - Monuments
 - Groups of buildings
 - Sites
- Operational Guidelines under the title: Historic Towns and Town Centres
 - Towns which are no longer inhabited
 - Towns which are still inhabited
 - New towns of the 20th century



- Based on the Vienna Memorandum
- Problem of tall buildings near World Heritage properties
- Problems of CONTEXT
- Problems of setting
- Problems of including contemporary architecture in a heritage environment
- Not a typology of heritage, but rather an approach to thinking about the historic urban environment, understanding it, managing it, and ensuring that it has ongoing use in the life of the community

Historic Urban Landscape Approach: Background

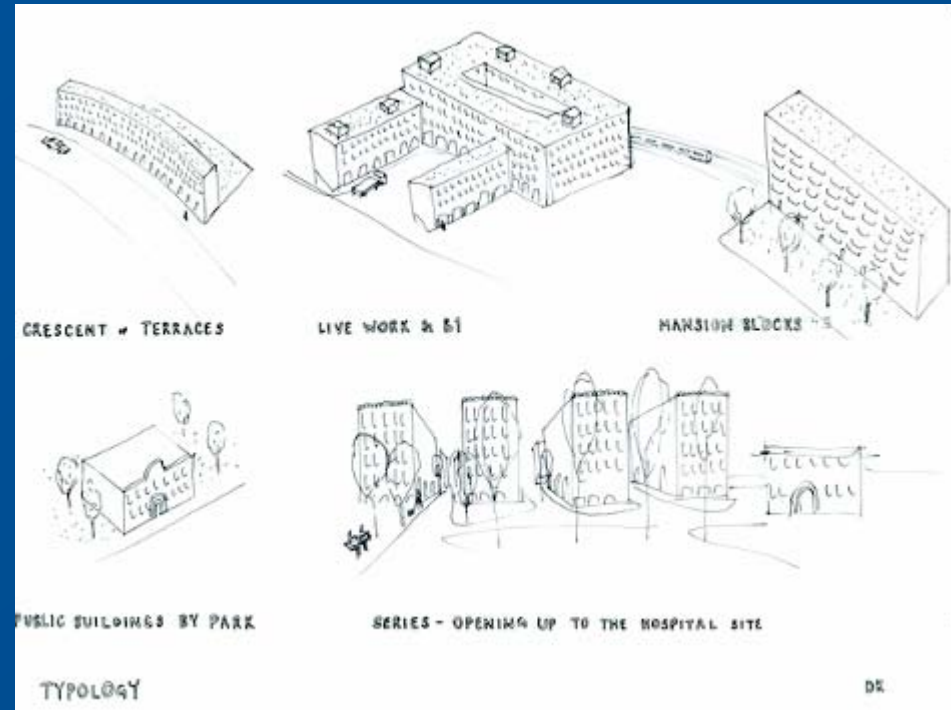


Context:
Single Buildings in the Urban Environment



Context: Historic Cities in Their Setting

- Condition
- Typology
- Visual aspects
- Physical characteristics (massing, height, scale, use, materials, special characteristics, etc.)
- Street patterns, streetscapes, street furniture, etc.



From a Major Focus only on the Physical Fabric

- Economic conditions
- Social conditions /organization
- Community and individual needs
- Educational needs
- Infrastructure
- Quality of life issues
- Environmental concerns



To Looking at the Whole of the Urban Context

The historic urban landscape is the urban area understood as the result of a historic layering of cultural and natural values and attributes, extending beyond the notion of “historic centre” or “ensemble” to include the broader urban context and its geographical setting.

- Topography
- Geomorphology
- Hydrology and natural features
- Built environment, both historic and contemporary
- Infrastructure
- Open spaces and gardens
- Land use patterns, spatial organization
- Perceptions and visual relationships
- Social and cultural practices, economic processes, and intangible dimensions
- Other elements of the urban structure

Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape

1. assessment of the city's natural, cultural, and human resources;
2. participatory planning and stakeholder conversations to decide on conservation aims and actions;
3. assessment the vulnerability of urban heritage to socio-economic pressures and impacts of climate change;
4. integration of urban heritage values and their vulnerability status into a wider framework of city development;
5. prioritization of policies and actions for conservation and development, including good stewardship;
6. establishment of the appropriate (public-private) partnerships and local management frameworks;
7. development of mechanisms for the coordination of the various activities between different actors.

Historic Urban Landscape Approach



- A World Heritage City
- A Historic Urban Landscape
- Both???

Criterion (ii): Vilnius is an outstanding example of a medieval foundation which exercised a profound influence on architectural and cultural developments in a wide area of Eastern Europe over several centuries.

Criterion (iv): In the townscape and the rich diversity of buildings that it preserves, Vilnius is an exceptional illustration of a central European town which evolved organically over a period of five centuries.

- The three castles (Upper, Lower and Curved)
- The area that was encircled by a wall in the Middle Ages
- The town plan (circular, radiating out from the original castle site) including the medieval street pattern with small streets dividing it into irregular blocks, but with large squares inserted in later periods



Vilnius: Key Attributes (as found in the SOUV)

- The historic buildings (Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque and Classical) constituting a townscape of great diversity and yet at the same time demonstrating an overarching harmony
- The elements of the urban pattern in relation to its natural setting also determine the specific silhouettes, panoramas and vistas that are preserved today



Vilnius: Key Attributes (as found in the SOUV)

- Inscription in 1994 in Phuket, Thailand
- Inscribed at a moment of sharp transition from Soviet state driven, centralized planning to western style, free market driven forces



Inscription of Vilnius on the World Heritage List

- Lack of administrative frameworks and legal instruments to foster conservation
- Lack of clarity within government institutions in regard to responsibility for conservation
- Lack of clear responsibility for newly privatized owners
- Lack of financial capabilities of the private sector to invest in conservation
- Building and infrastructure conditions in the Old Town were often poor

Key Challenges at Inscription

- Unprecedented Partnership
 - Ministry of Culture of Lithuania
 - Municipality of Vilnius
 - UNESCO World Heritage Centre
 - UNDP
 - World Bank
 - ICCROM
 - European Union
 - Edinburgh Old Town Renewal Trust
 - The Nordic World Heritage Office (now Foundation)
 - Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC)
 - Government of Italy
 - Government of Denmark
 - others



Nordic World Heritage Foundation



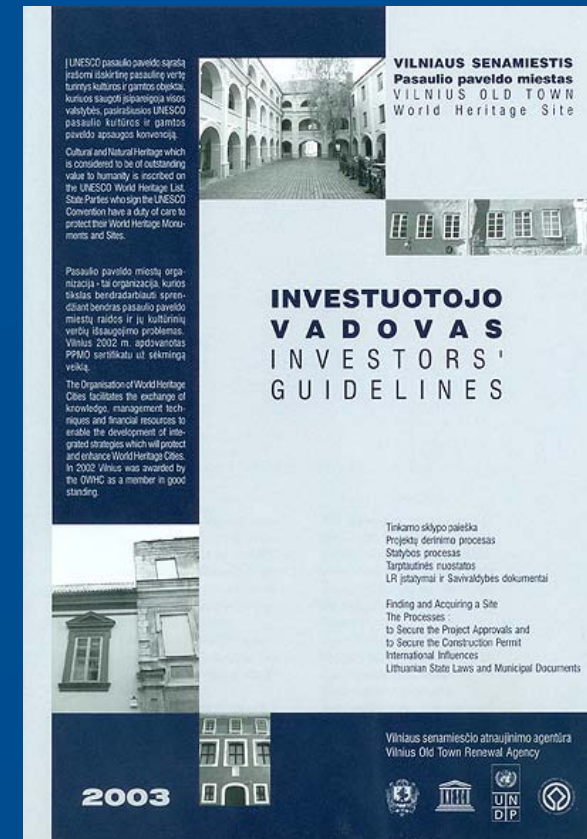
National Stakeholders / International Community

- 1996 Vilnius Old Town Revitalization Strategy
- 1997 (Feb) Donor Conference of Potential Donors and Investors for the Revitalization of the Old Town of Vilnius
- UNESCO – UNDP Technical Assistance Programme
- ICCROM – ITUC Northeastern Europe Programme

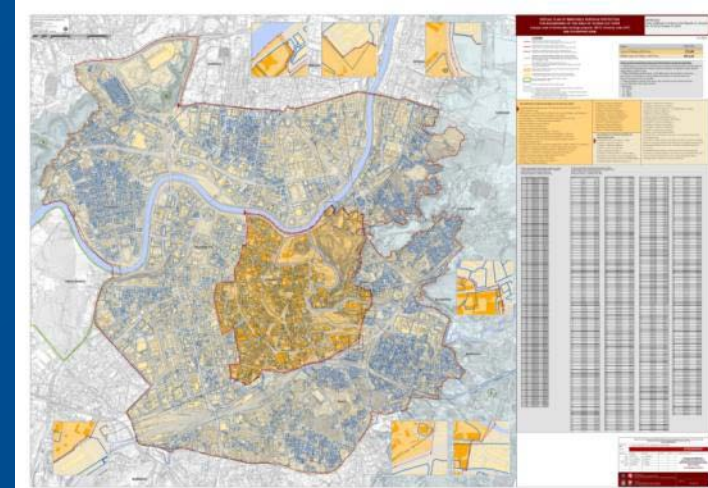
- Property ownership
- Services and infrastructure
- Traffic and parking
- Parks and green space
- Legal and administrative frameworks confusing and sometimes contradictory
- Approval and permits for work
- Public investment
- Private investment
- Economic development

Key Challenges in the Revitalization Plan

- Creation of the Old Town Revitalization Agency
 - Carried out project management for restoration works
 - Public awareness and information (information centre)
 - Publications such as the Investors Guidelines, Conservation Guidelines
 - Place for professional development
 - International exchange



- Rehabilitation and upgrading of most of the building stock
- Improvements in infrastructure provision
- Provision of a more clear legal, administrative, and management framework for conservation
- Buffer zone for the property established and a minor boundary modification has been approved by the World Heritage Committee
- Retrospective Statement of OUV approved



Key Achievements

- Revitalized public spaces and the atmosphere of a living, vital city



Key Achievements

- High rise building development
- Dealing with urban infill and normal urban development (Park of Architecture and other projects)
- Relationship of the World Heritage property to surrounding environment including other heritage
- Inappropriate reconstruction (Royal Palace)
- Some rehabilitation still needed

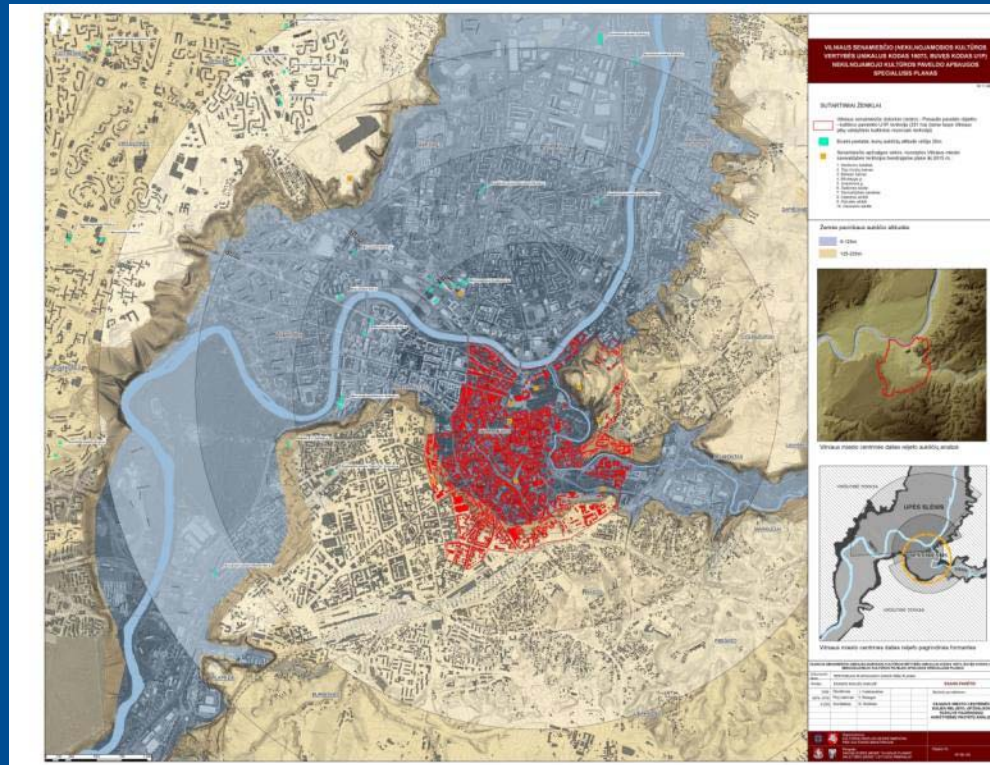


Relationship between national and municipal authorities in regard to conservation and management

- Need to develop both municipal and national policies (and international systems) that both work and can be processed in a timely manner
- Change from not enough investment, to too much development pressure (need to find the right kind of investment – sustainable, resilient)
- Public involvement in decision-making
- Communication, negotiation, conflict resolution, problem solving



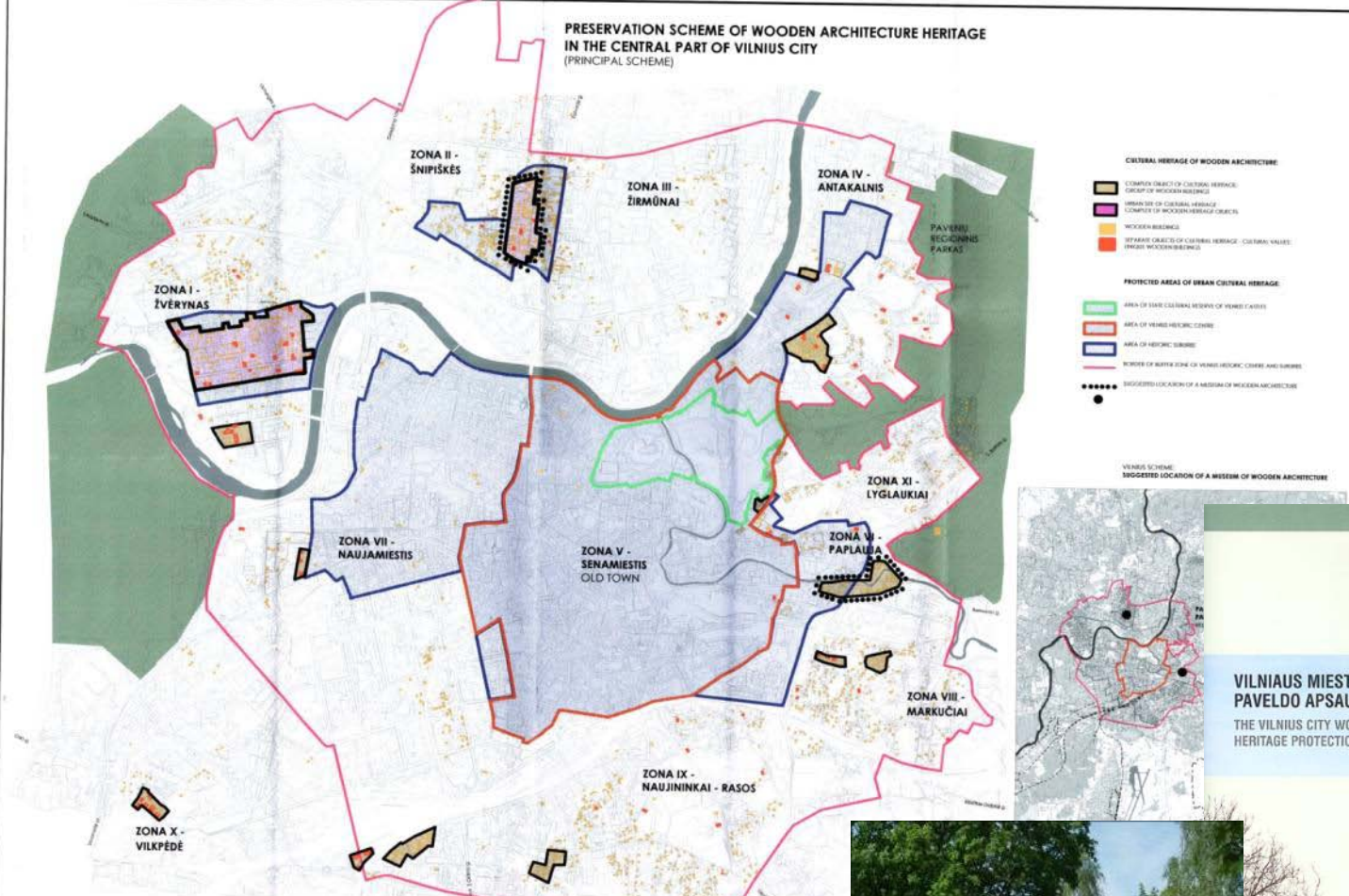
1. Civic engagement tools
 - Consensus building on values and outcomes
2. Knowledge and planning tools
 - Buffer Zones
 - Heritage/ Environmental Impact Assessment
 - Visual Analysis
3. Regulatory systems
4. Financial tools
5. Integrated Planning Tools



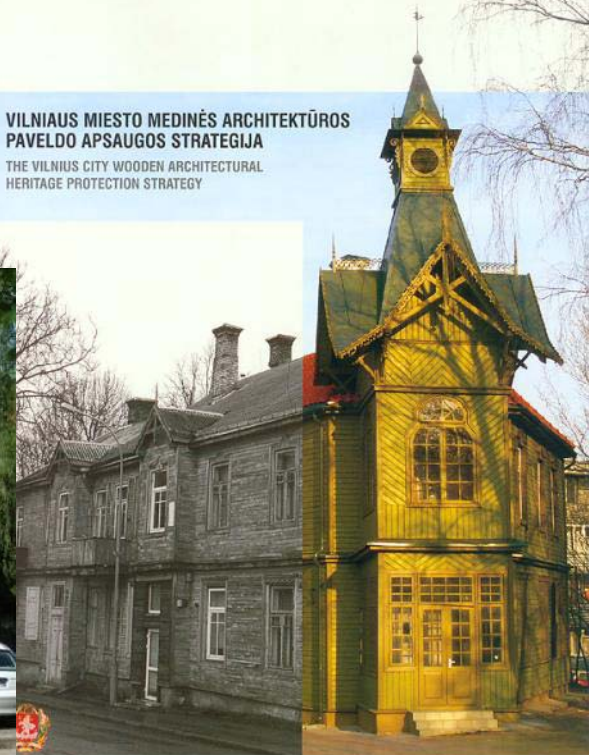




**PRESERVATION SCHEME OF WOODEN ARCHITECTURE HERITAGE
IN THE CENTRAL PART OF VILNIUS CITY
(PRINCIPAL SCHEME)**



**VILNIUS MIŠTO MEDINĖS ARCHITEKTŪROS
PAVELDO APSAUGOS STRATEGIJA**
THE VILNIUS CITY WOODEN ARCHITECTURAL
HERITAGE PROTECTION STRATEGY



1. Vilnius must ensure contemporary planning efforts which reflect traditional patterns and layouts

Assessment should look at the degree to which contemporary planning and design is based on efforts to understand and to meaningfully re-employ existing urban forms, building vestiges and patterns

2. Vilnius must maintain and strengthen its craft traditions (and other intangible heritage)

Assessment should look at the degree to which traditional craftsmanship and related support systems have been sustained and made available to strengthen maintenance of the existing and a base for contemporary expression

3. Vilnius must *authentically* reflect its significant heritage values

Understanding the degree to which the attributes of the historic city may be seen to reflect the significant heritage values of the historic city

4. Vilnius must maintain and strengthen the *integrity* of its components, its systems and the relationship between them

Understanding the degree to which wholeness and intactness of the historic city and its operating systems may be seen to be present

5. Vilnius must maintain and strengthen its sources of *continuity*

Understanding the degree to which continuity of form, layout, living traditions and patterns of use are present in the historic city

6. Vilnius must ensure community participation in decision-making

Assessment involves looking at the degree of involvement of the community in defining heritage values and in determining forms of appropriate care

7. Vilnius ensure its defined heritage values serve as the key reference in evaluating development options

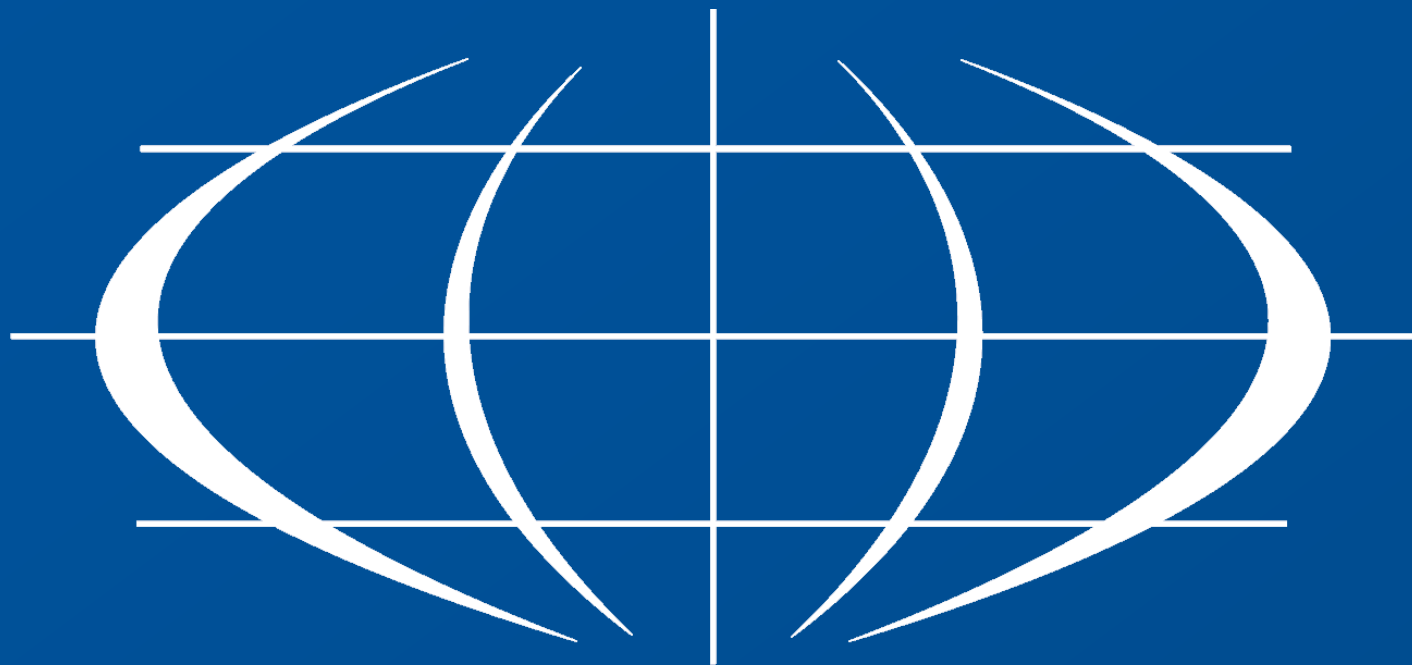
Assessment involves looking at the degree to which the values of the historic city serve as a core criterion in evaluating development options

8. Vilnius must have mechanisms in place to strengthen decision-making at local levels

Assessment involves looking at the degree to which decision-making has been moved to the local level (and therefore the degree to which local heritage interest has been strengthened and local ownership assured).

9. Vilnius must promote heritage conservation as an instrument of social inclusion (and resilience)

Assessment involves looking at the degree to which conservation policy and programmes promote social and cultural diversity, mutual respect and sustained co-existence.



ICCROM

Conserving culture, promoting diversity

for more information:

www.iccrom.org