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City of Valletta (Malta) (C 131)
Year of Inscription on the World Heritage List: 1980

State of Conservation Report

Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport
Malta
January 2010
City of Valletta (Malta) (C 131)

Year of Inscription on the World Heritage List: 1980

State of Conservation Report

This Report was prepared by a Specialist Working Group, appointed by the Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport in October 2009.

The report addresses the questions posed by the World Heritage Committee to the Maltese Government, which questions formed part of Decision 33 COM 7B.113 on the state of conservation of the World Heritage property, City of Valletta (Malta), adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 33 Session in June 2009 in Seville, Spain.

Valletta, Malta, January 2010
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1 Preamble

Valletta, the capital city of Malta is alive, vibrant and dynamic. Valletta hosts 6,300 residents, the House of Representatives, the President’s Palace, Government ministries, the major public and commercial entities together with cultural, entertainment, educational and tourist facilities. An average 40,000 (ie ten percent of the population) comprising workers, shoppers and visitors, together with 25,500 cars enter the city each day. Over one million foreign tourists visit Valletta annually.

Valletta is the heart and centre of the Maltese Islands. As a result, the Maltese authorities have had to balance the need to conserve the rich architectural heritage of the capital with the every-day realities of an enterprising, ever evolving community. The Maltese authorities have succeeded in maintaining a sustainable equilibrium between the needs of conservation on one hand and the demands of on-going socio-economic progress on the other.

This report explains how Malta is safeguarding the Outstanding Universal Value of the City of Valletta, and at the same time guaranteeing that the city remains alive, vibrant and dynamic, in a manner consistent with the principles and guidelines laid down in the World Heritage Centre’s (2005) *Vienna Memorandum on World Heritage and Contemporary Architecture, Managing the Historic Urban Landscape*.

Professor Charles Farrugia,
Chairman, Valletta Working Group,
Chairman, Maltese National Commission for UNESCO
2 Acknowledgements

2.1 Members of the Working Group

Professor Charles Farrugia, Chairman,

Architect Claude Borg, Director, Valletta Rehabilitation Project (VRP),

Dr Anthony Pace, Superintendent of Cultural Heritage (SCH),

Dr Reuben Grima, Maltese National Commission for UNESCO,

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Mr Joseph Magro Conti, Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA),

Mr Joseph Said, Chairman, Heritage Malta (HM),

Architect Herman Bonnici, Restoration Unit (RU) and Architect Chris Paris, Grand Harbour Regeneration Consortium (GHRC) were co-opted members, and

Mr Victor Battistino, Executive Secretary of the Maltese National Commission for UNESCO, acted as Secretary.

2.2 The Working Group acknowledges contributions by:

Heritage Malta (HM),

Malta Environmental & Planning Authority (MEPA),

Maltese National Commission for UNESCO (NatCom),

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA),

The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage (SCH), and

Valletta Rehabilitation Project (VRP).

2.3 The Working Group also acknowledges input from:

Grand Harbour Regeneration Consortium (GHRC),

Restoration Unit (RU),

Superintendent of Fortifications (SF), and

Valletta Local Council (VLC).
3 Introduction

3.1 Malta’s Capital City

Valletta is the only national capital that has been designated in its entirety as a World Heritage Site. As Malta’s capital city, Valletta is the seat of Government and commerce, and serves as the centre from which most public services are provided. Valletta was originally conceived in 1566 as a city that could make good use of two adjacent harbours. Since the Middle Ages and especially after 1566 the Grand Harbour remained one of the Malta’s most significant industrial areas focusing on heavy industry, ship repair, maritime commerce and tourism. In addition, the areas around Valletta and its harbours have for centuries served as Malta’s major urban centre. It is here that a large portion of the country’s population still lives and works. It is here that significant aspects of Malta’s international branding takes place through the vital ingredients of the island state’s tourism and international financial services sectors.

Valletta and its harbours environs are the heartland of modern Malta. They provide the economic force that makes the Maltese Islands viable. Without this dynamic political/economic nexus, the Maltese islands would seize to function as a state or remain sustainable to support viable human populations.

The modern history of Valletta reveals gradual responses to political, economic and social circumstances. Yet, as the photographs in this dossier show, the city has not changed significantly since the nineteenth century. The major impacts sustained in Valletta were those inflicted by enemy bombing during the Second World War when Malta was one of the most heavily bombarded spots in Europe. Valletta and its harbour areas assumed high military importance during the War because of the presence of the Admiralty dockyards and attracted heavy enemy activity. Prominent buildings such as the Auberges of the Knights of St John, churches and large houses were totally destroyed. Tracts of fortifications also suffered heavy damage by enemy bombing. Historic buildings in Valletta and the Three Cities were devastated, requiring a programme of rapid reconstruction in the post-war decades. Mercifully, important cultural landmarks, such as St John’s Co-Cathedral, the Grand Master’s Palace and the National Library were spared.
Malta’s recovery in the decades immediately after the Second World War came to depend on long-term economic programmes, housing development for a growing population, reconstruction of war damage and the establishment of viable economic policies that rested on the revival of industry, services and tourism. Valletta and its harbour areas resumed their importance as economic hubs and urban centres. At the same time, Malta’s acquisition of Independence in 1964 meant that the island state had to pursue development strategies that did not rely on foreign military spending. Socio-economic priorities in sectors vital to a modern independent state such as education, social welfare, health and infrastructure together with the new foreign relations with Europe and the Mediterranean, attracted almost all available human and material resources.
Malta possesses a unique cultural heritage, yet the country’s capacity to maintain its inherited patrimony remains a challenge. Most of what is now considered to be heritage was originally created by direct foreign investment by the Order of St John and by the British military establishment. In modern economic terms, this investment was so vast that it far surpassed the capacity of Malta’s post-colonial economy to support the large-scale heritage-oriented upkeep. It was only during and after the 1970s that the first steps were taken to remedy the shortcoming. Today, Malta boasts a series of institutions and investment frameworks which enable large-scale projects of rehabilitation and restoration. This substantial investment will be highlighted in other sections of this report.

At this point we wish to emphasise the existence of a contemporary movement towards rehabilitation and restoration across the Maltese Islands. Government and civil society (including several NGOs) are engaged in conservation projects designed to protect and save the archipelago’s cultural heritage fabric. This movement results from the timely establishment of institutions and governing frameworks. A planning mechanism, first through the Planning Authority and later through the Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA), together with the consolidation of a Restoration Unit to undertake strategic restoration projects of places, fortifications and heritage sites, were major steps forward. The setting-up of the Valletta, Mdina and Cottonera Rehabilitation Projects, the formation of Heritage Malta and the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage to promote, manage and safeguard cultural heritage, were other key elements in this nation-wide concern with restoration and preservation. The impact of these measures on the population at large has been to heighten people’s appreciation and care for the environment and heritage.

This movement is therefore more than a mere awareness programme. Public policy has directly led to an unprecedented growth in the Government investment to establish the necessary infrastructural and operational frameworks in the heritage sector.

3.2 Inscription History of the City of Valletta (Malta) (C 131)

The City of Valletta was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1980: Island of Malta N35 54 02 E14 30 52 Ref: C 131.
3.3 Inscription Criteria and World Heritage Value

The capital of Malta is inextricably linked to the history of the military and charitable Order of St John of Jerusalem. Valletta's 320 monuments, all within an area of 55 ha, make it one of the most concentrated historic areas in the world.

Valletta was inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of two criteria:

Criterion (i): “to preserve a masterpiece of human creative genius”, and

Criterion (vi): “to be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance.”

When interpreting and applying these criteria it must be emphasised that the World Heritage property of Valletta is a complex one due to a number of factors:

i. It is located on a peninsula with access limited to one pedestrian access point and three roads for vehicular traffic, none of which is wider than twelve meters;

ii. There is an intermingling of different chronologies of history such as the 16th Century Knights Period with the 19th Century British Period. These are exemplified on one side by such acclaimed monumental buildings as St John’s Co-Cathedral and the Auberges, and on the other side by the simpler Baroque style housing architecture and more recent post-war buildings;

iii. The important overall topography and landscape; and

iv. The need for Valletta to maintain its role as Malta’s main economic and administrative centre.

The legislative measures implemented by the Maltese authorities are in keeping with UNESCO, ICCROM and ICOMOS Management Guidelines for World Cultural Heritage Sites, with UNESCO World Heritage Operational Guidelines (2008, & previous editions), and with European conventions on the protection of the architectural and archaeological heritage by the Council of Europe.
The difficulties of balancing the needs of a historic capital city and those of national economic development are perhaps best captured by Feilden and Jokilehto:

“Conservation implies keeping in safety or preserving the existing state of a heritage resource from destruction or change. However in relation to urban areas or cultural landscapes, conservation is part of an integrated approach to management. It is necessary, therefore, to accept a degree of gradual change with due consideration to the values and authenticity for which these areas have been classified a protected areas”. Feilden, Bernard M, & Jokilehto, Jukka, 1993: Management Guidelines for World Cultural Heritage Sites, ICCROM, UNESCO, ICOMOS, Paris.

The desired balance has been well maintained by the Maltese authorities.

3.4 Draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

The following Draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value is presently being considered by the State Party for formal adoption:

Valletta was conceived, planned and realized as a single project, in the wake of a titanic confrontation between the two world empires that dominated Europe and the Mediterranean throughout the 16th century. The result was not only a singularly coherent and masterful example of late sixteenth-century town planning, which has been remarkably well-preserved. It was also an iconic expression of the fears, visions and aspirations of 16th century European civilization. The associative value of the city acquired further resonance during its subsequent history, which continued to epitomise the turbulent history of the Mediterranean, and in which the city often played a pivotal role.

The topography and configuration of the city, built as it is on the tip of a narrow peninsula between two of the finest natural harbours in the world, helped to shape it, firstly by determining its extent, and secondly by ensuring that its walled boundaries have hardly changed since its creation, circumscribed as they are by water.

The urban fabric of the city, in spite of considerable reconstruction and reinterpretation over the centuries, represents a unique ensemble of civil, military, domestic and religious architecture. While the successive centuries since the building of the city are reflected in its fabric, the whole is united by the homogeneity of materials, building traditions and
massing, resulting in a remarkable microcosm of western architecture, endeavour and memory.

The State Party emphasises that this is a draft and the final statement will be adopted at a later stage.

3.5 Valletta Master Plan and Management Plan

During the late 1980s, the first Master Plan for Valletta since the 1940s was undertaken by Architect Renzo Piano. In 2005, the VRP commissioned a series of studies to form the basis of a Master Plan and Management Plan for the Property. These studies and the plans, which are being undertaken and coordinated by the Institute of Baroque Studies of the University of Malta, are now at an advanced stage and are expected to be completed in 2010. This will include, for example, a detailed study with proposals for the regeneration of streets, pavements and squares.

3.6 Other Current Studies and Documentation Projects

Other initiatives that are presently being undertaken to document and study the Property, include a number of EU-funded actions, such as:

- Entrust, see: http://www.ensure.org/entrust/download/conference_materials/Presentation_Jesmond%20Mugliett.pdf


  PAGUS is a recent study of various factors including accessibility, socio-economic issues and training of conservators in relation to the fortifications of Valletta.

- A 3D laser-scanning documentation of Valletta & a 3D digital visualisation, including developments of the city over time is being undertaken by YMCA Homeless (Malta) with financial assistance from UNESCO’s Participation Programme and the Maltese National Commission for UNESCO (info@ymcahomeless.org).
3.7 Examination of the State of Conservation of the Property

In recent years, various projects were undertaken so as to rehabilitate and conserve the various elements of Valletta while respecting and retaining the property’s Outstanding Universal Value and Integrity.

The larger interventions in the past few years included the reuse of property that either was not utilised or was under-utilised. Two such prominent undertakings were the rehabilitation of St James Cavalier, which now functions as the Islands’ foremost centre for creativity, and the Garrison Church, which currently serves as Malta’s Stock Exchange. Two other examples are the Maltese Government’s plans for City Gate and the improvement of St George’s Square in the most prominent site in the City, facing the President’s Palace, and which was completed in December 2009. The Square has been converted from a conspicuous car park into a paved, pedestrian space with lights and fountains for people to enjoy.

The Maltese Government is committed to protect and rehabilitate Valletta and is honouring its commitment with appropriate funding. For example, it has allocated €900,000 over 2009-2010 to the Valletta Rehabilitation Project for the city’s restoration. A further €1.5 million have been allocated to the Restoration Unit for enhancement works at the Presidential Palace, the Auberge de Castille, and St John’s Co-Cathedral. Further substantial investment amounting to €2.3 million through EU funds is being made by Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna, one of Malta’s leading NGO’s, focused on the rehabilitation of Valletta’s historic Second World War Rooms.

Other outcomes from these investments can be seen in the works listed in Appendix II. These include the restoration of palaces, Auberges, churches, prominent houses and fountains throughout the city. The re-surfacing of streets with lava and franka stones together with the repairing of kerbs with hard stone edges have rendered streets safer and more attractive. These developments in turn led to the extension of a larger number of squares and streets in Valletta to be designated as pedestrian areas. The greater part of Merchants’ Street, the area of St John’s Co-Cathedral, and St George’s Square are primary examples. The restoration of wooden balconies, the removal of electricity and telephone wires, the camouflaging of air-conditioning units, and the installation of street
furniture contribute to render the Capital more environmentally attractive. A good example of such embellishing works includes the cleaning of the National Library facade and the restoration of the arches in Treasury Street as well as the reduction and rearrangement of the catering tables and chairs in Pjazza Regina to allow for a better appreciation of the National Library facade and the statue of Queen Victoria. Furthermore, the removal of all illegal buildings in the fortifications is continuously in progress.

Valletta must retain its dynamics as an urban centre and a political and economic focal point. The Maltese authorities must intervene, and have intervened, through projects that enhance the legibility of this World Heritage site. At the same time they must ensure that such projects contribute to the city’s well-being and viability while respecting the Outstanding Universal Value of its built form and landscape setting.
4 Extract from Decisions of World Heritage Committee at its 33rd Session (2009, Seville, Spain)

City of Valletta (Malta) (C 131)

Year of Inscription on the World Heritage List: 1980

Decision: 33 COM 7B.113

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-09/33.Com/7B,

2. Notes the boundary definition of the property as provided in the report by the State Party;

3. Requests the State Party to:

   a) Provide a clear map showing the boundary of the property,

   b) Establish a declared buffer zone in accordance with Paragraph 103 of the Operational Guidelines, with height controls around the property as a means of protecting the skyline configuration of the city and prepare a “Views and Vistas Analysis” from strategic points within and outside the property,

   c) Establish clear policies in relation to height controls within the property as a means of protecting the skyline configuration of the city, by means of a “Views and Vistas Analysis” covering key area and streetscapes,

   d) Submit detailed information on the proposed large scale developments within the property to the World Heritage Centre in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

4. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2010, a state of conservation report on the issues above and in particular on the progress made with the establishment a buffer zone and height controls within the property, together with information on the proposed large scale development projects.
5  **Response by the State Party to the Specific Requests by the World Heritage Committee**

5.1  **Map of the Boundary of the Property**

The boundary of the City of Valletta as inscribed in 1980 is defined by the shoreline of the Valletta peninsula on three sides and includes all the land exposed at Lowest Astronomical Tide. On the fourth (south-western) side, the boundary was defined by the outer limit of the ditch protecting Valletta’s land-front, and separating it from the suburb of Floriana as indicated on [Map 1: Valletta World Heritage Site Inscription Boundary (1980)].

Apart from defining Valletta’s boundary, the Maltese Government through its agency MEPA statutorily protected all the fortifications individually, the most significant buildings, monuments and features of Valletta through a formal process of inventorisation and the issue of Government Notices published in the Malta Government Gazette (see Appendix I). Additionally, MEPA is continuing this process for the protection of other heritage buildings and features within Valletta. Protection is also provided by The Antiquities List, published as Subsidiary Legislation (S.L.54.01) of the Cultural Heritage Act (CAP 445).
The boundaries of Valletta are defined by the shoreline of the Valletta peninsula on three sides. The shoreline is defined to include all land exposed at Lowest Astronomical Tide. On the fourth (South-Western) side, the boundary was defined by the outer limit of the ditch protecting Valletta's land-front, and separating it from the suburb of Floriana.
5.2 Buffer Zone

5.2.1 Initial Considerations

As can be seen below, the sea surrounding the Valletta peninsula forms a natural buffer zone.

![Image 1](Marsamxetto_Harbour_with_Manoel_Island_and_Tigne_on_the_left)

Marsamxetto Harbour with Manoel Island and Tigne’ on the left

![Image 2](The_Valletta Peninsula_flanked_by_the_Grand_Harbour_and_Marsamxetto_Harbour,_the_Three_Cities_in_the_foreground_and_Manoel_Island_and_Tigne_in_the_background)

The Valletta peninsula flanked by the Grand Harbour and Marsamxetto Harbour, the Three Cities in the foreground and Manoel Island and Tigne’ in the background.
5.2.2 Proposed Buffer Zone

In keeping with the requirement in paragraph 103 of the Operational Guidelines to establish a buffer zone as “… an area around the nominated property which has complementary legal and/or customary restrictions placed on its use and development to give an added layer of protection to the property …” the State Party is proposing that the buffer zone for the inscribed property be the following:

- **On land,** the immediate entrance to Valletta, as part of the fortifications scheduled as Grade 1 National Monuments in terms of the Structure Plan Policy UCO 7 as published in the Malta Government Gazette in accordance with Malta Government Gazette notice133/01. This area is indicated on Map 4 and as a scheduled area that benefits from substantial protection against further development and increased efforts for restoration of areas that are in need;

  and

- **The sea area** surrounding the inscribed property, calculated at 250 meters from the baseline of the coast.

On the basis of a combination of the two areas mentioned above, the proposed buffer zone is therefore to be made up of the area as indicated in Map 2.

The State Party emphasises that due consideration has given to all relevant factors in determining the area being proposed as the buffer zone to the inscribed property, including both the size of the inscribed property and the size of Malta as a whole and the natural boundaries of the inscribed property, positioned as it is as a peninsula. Comparisons were also drawn with other World Heritage Sites of a similar nature, such as islands, archipelagos and peninsulas.
5.2.3 Additional Protection around the Inscribed Property

Since 1995, the State Party has implemented a series of measures that safeguard the area around the Property through several Government Notices.


Policy UCO 1 of the Structure Plan for the Maltese Islands (1990) defines Conservation Areas as: '... areas of special architectural or historical interest, the character and appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance’ Explanatory Memorandum, Structure Plan for the Maltese Islands, Government of Malta, Malta, 1990.

The Valletta Urban Conservation Area includes a series of outworks forming part of the landward defences of Valletta, which do not form part of the inscribed property itself.


Article 46 (1) of the Development Planning Act, 1992 defines scheduling as:

“...The Authority shall prepare, and from time to time review, a list of areas, buildings, structures and remains of geological, Palaeontological, cultural, archaeological, architectural, historical, antiquarian, artistic or landscape importance, as well as areas of natural beauty, ecological or scientific value (hereinafter referred to as “scheduled property”) which are to be scheduled for conservation and may in respect of all or any one or more of the scheduled property make conservation orders to regulate their conservation” Explanatory Memorandum, Structure Plan for the Maltese Islands, Government of Malta, Malta, 1990.
The 2001 scheduling of the Valletta fortifications provided for their protection within the inscribed property and the outworks preserved above ground level, falling within the 1995 UCA. It also protected the original full extent of the land-front fortifications of Valletta, as indicated on Map 4.

5.2.4 Protection of Areas Adjacent to the Inscribed Property and Buffer Zone

MEPA declared the Area of High Landscape Value (AHLV) around the Property by means of Government Notice 133/01, published in the Malta Government Gazette dated 9th February 2001. The Authority defines an Area of High Landscape Value (AHLV) as:

“... a cultural area of conservation value that encompasses an array of diverse components considered to be culturally significant. Distinct geographical areas or properties uniquely representing the combined work of nature and of man”. Explanatory Memorandum, Structure Plan for the Maltese Islands, Government of Malta, Malta, 1990.

The AHLV around the Property incorporates all the fortified areas around the two major harbours on either side of the Valletta peninsula, namely Grand Harbour and Marsamxetto Harbour, as indicated on Map 5.

Map 6 shows the composite boundaries of successive protection measures since 198
Malta Environment & Planning Authority

(title)

MAP 3
Valletta
Urban Conservation Area
1995

Ref No. -

Valletta Urban Conservation Area Boundary


Net effect of this measure:
The counterguards in front of the Valletta bastions and the breakwaters were also included and protection extended to these areas in augmentation to that of the 1980 WHS boundary.

Form No. - MU004
MALTA ENVIRONMENT
& PLANNING AUTHORITY

(c) Copyright Planning Authority

Bounding Co-ords of Map -
Min E55888, N72605
Max E56814, N73438

Title: MAP 4
Valletta
Scheduling of
Fortifications
2001


Net effect of this measure:-
Protection of the Valletta fortifications was yet again extended through scheduling to include further frontworks in augmentation to that of the 1980 WHS boundary.
Malta Environment & Planning Authority

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Bounding Co-Ords of Map:
Min E55688, N72605
Max E55914, N73438

Title: MAP 5
Valletta Harbours
Scheduled Fortifications & Area of High Landscape Value 2001


Net effect of this measure:
The AHLV includes already developed, urban, industrial, and port related areas, and others which have already been committed for re-development/ regeneration by means of development plans and planning permits prior to 2001. As of 2001, the AHLV boundary seeks to better guide development control.
Malta Environment & Planning Authority

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Title: MAP 6 Valletta + Environ Composite Protection Boundaries 1980 - 2010

Valletta World Heritage Site as per property description in the 1979 nomination.

Valletta WHS Proposed Buffer Zone 2010.


Urban Conservation Area

Net effect of these measures:
This map shows the effective measures taken by the Malta Government to better guide protection and development.

Form No.: MU004
5.3 Policies on Height Controls & the Protection of the Skyline Configuration


The three Planning Policies that are most relevant in this context are cited below:

5.3.1 GV13 Urban Conservation Areas

“All of Valletta, including the waterfront zones, is designated as an Urban Conservation Area. Developments will only be approved if they respect this status and include it as an important consideration in their proposals.

Encouraging good design is considered important whatever the context, but this issue assumes a major significance in the case of Valletta, already identified as a ‘World Heritage City’. All development applications will therefore be expected to take this aspect into account. The question of what constitutes ‘good design’ is invariably subjective to some extent.

Less room for debate exists, however, when a firm and pleasing architectural context is already in place or where, often through local building practices unrelated to formal or academic design concepts, a strong vernacular tradition has developed which is visually pleasing.

Urban Conservation Areas are intended to indicate where this tradition is particularly strong and where context should influence building design. This does not mean following slavishly the architectural language of the area, but rather considering the design of the building in a wider context. The Planning Authority will need to be assured that such a contextual analysis is apparent in the design of any new development, and in the repair and restoration of existing buildings. In Valletta, of course, a strong precedent for building and design control already exists; the Valletta Commission, dating back to the Order of St. John in the 16th century, enacted a series of regulations covering key aspects of development, which have resulted in the form and layout of the City today.
Since Valletta was conceived as a whole, the Urban Conservation Area boundaries have been drawn accordingly and encompass the site of the City in its entirety.”


**5.3.2 GV14 Urban and Architectural Design**

“Valletta instils a unique sense of place. In order to maintain the positive characteristics of the City, all new re/development schemes will be expected to observe the following design requirements:

- the discipline imposed by the existing street and building block grid should be maintained;
- the context of existing, adjacent building heights and the relationship to the ‘skyline’ prospect of the City will strongly influence acceptance of the project. The ‘skyline’ view will however be paramount;
- massing, fenestration and ornamentation should respect the street and townscape context, based on a dynamic dialogue with the surrounding urban context;
- there will be a presumption against bridging of streets;
- in most instances, use of traditional materials will be required. This will apply without exception where a building follows an archetypal design approach. In the rare case where a ‘contemporary’ solution is accepted by the Authority, other materials may be introduced by agreement and as long as this does not result in a dissonant contrast with the surroundings;
- major development schemes should incorporate accessible spaces and enclosures for the benefit of the general public; and
- pedestrian access arrangements should have priority over vehicular.

It is not the intention of the Authority to inhibit good design, or to impose unreasonable conditions on development proposals. However, it is important to consider the context,
and architectural design solutions should be sensitive to the unique historical significance of the City.

Persons or organisations wishing to undertake development projects in Valletta do so in the knowledge that the city is an Urban Conservation Area and a World Heritage City, derived partly from the unity of approach determined by the Knights. This places an obligation on the Authority, and on developers, to observe urban design and architectural ‘good manners’ in relation to the rest of the urban fabric when undertaking development or redevelopment schemes. The policy attempts to formulate the main considerations, whilst leaving some scope for an individual approach. Any new development should aim at consolidating and enhancing even further the City’s architectural heritage.” Grand Harbour Local Plan, Malta Environment and Planning Authority, Malta, 2002, cited at http://www.mepa.org.mt/ghlp-docs.

5.3.3 GV15 Building Heights

“In the consideration of applications which include changes to existing building heights, the Planning Authority will adopt a flexible approach which will take account of the following criteria:

- the Urban Conservation Area status;
- the streetscape through a consideration of the buildings on the same facade and those on facades on the opposite side of the street/s concerned;
- the general massing of the building;
- the roofscape;
- the skyline when seen from outside the site area;
- the topographical features and consideration of the sloping nature (including buildings in the background);
- any other relevant planning consideration.

Due to the historic nature of Valletta, and the marked differences in storey heights between old and new buildings, it is considered a very difficult task to try and give a
blanket height for the City. The approach adopted in this instance is to determine requests in changes in heights on an individual basis.

This assessment, however, has to consider all the relevant planning issues, including those mentioned in the policy, and other relevant planning guidance already issued by the Planning Authority. The stepped nature of the blocks between the waterfront and the central area will be maintained.” Grand Harbour Local Plan, Malta Environment and Planning Authority, Malta, 2002, cited at http://www.mepa.org.mt/ghlp-docs.

Further information on the State Party’s policies and institutional framework for the preservation and management of the property is provided in Appendix I.
6 Views and Vistas Analysis

The following is a diachronic comparison of archival images of streetscapes and views of the property with the same viewpoints today. It demonstrates how the skyline configuration, the shoreline, and iconic views of the Valletta peninsula have barely changed over the centuries, particularly since the inscription of Valletta on the World Heritage List in 1980. This level of conservation was maintained regardless of the City's continuous use and the socio-economic changes that it has had to adapt to. The Key Plan below indicates the viewpoints included in the analysis.
Pinto Stores, circa 1940

1. Pinto Stores, 2009
2. Republic Street, 2009
3. The Law Courts constructed in 1971 on the same site
St. John Street, circa 1930

4. St. John Street, 2009
St Lucia Street, circa 1930

St Lucia Street, 2009

5. St Lucia Street, 2009
Merchants Street, circa 1900

Merchant’s Street, 2000
Old Customs House, circa 1914

Old Customs House, 2009
Ta’ Liesse Hill, 1883

Ta’ Liesse Hill, 2009
Barriera Wharf, circa 1930

9. Barriera Wharf, 2009
St Christopher Bastion, circa 1930

10. St Christopher Bastion, 2009
11. St Michael Bastion, 2009. The ring road skirting the Valletta Bastion was built towards 1910. The hotel in the foreground lies outside the boundaries of the inscribed property, and was constructed in the 1960s, and rebuilt in the early 1990s.
12. South Street, 2009. The Opera House (left of pictures) was destroyed during World War II.
Valletta seen from l-Isla, early 19th century

13. Valletta Harbour from l-Isla, 2009
Valletta from Tigné Point (Sliema), early 19th c.

14. Valletta from Tigné Point (Sliema), 2009
Auberge de Castille, early 19th century

Auberge de Castille, 2009

15. Auberge de Castille, 2009
Valletta from Sliema Ferries, late 19th century

16. Valletta from Sliema Ferries, 2009
Valletta from Ricasoli (Kalkara), early 19th c.

17. Valletta from Ricasoli (Kalkara), 2009
Auberge de Provence from south, early 19th c.

Auberge de Provence from south, 2009

18. Auberge de Provence from south, 2009
Christopher Street, early 19th century

20. Christopher Street, 2009
Grand Master’s Palace, mid-19th century

Old Customs House and Great Ditch, circa 1940

Old Customs House and Great Ditch, 2009

22.  Old Customs House and Great Ditch, 2009
Floriana from Senglea Point, late 19th century

Floriana from Senglea Point, 2009

23. Floriana from Senglea Point, 2009
24. Old Theatre Street, early 20th century

Old Theatre Street, 2009
7 Large-Scale Developments within the Inscribed Property, the Envisaged Buffer Zone and the Area of High Landscape Value

The State Party is submitting below detailed information on the large-scale developments that are in progress or are being proposed within the inscribed Property, or that are within the envisaged buffer zone, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

7.1 Large-Scale Developments IN PROGRESS within the Inscribed Property

There are currently no large-scale developments whatsoever in progress within the envisaged buffer zone of the Inscribed Property.

7.1.1 St John’s Co-cathedral Museum

The proposal for an underground museum at St John’s Co-Cathedral (planning applications PA 0167/08 and PA 0168/08), referred to in the state of conservation report submitted by the state party on 3 February 2009, has been withdrawn. This event followed the concerns that were expressed during the public consultation stage regarding the potential impacts of the project on the Co-Cathedral

7.1.2 Underground Car Park in St George’s Square

The proposal for a one-level underground car park in St George’s Square, referred to in the state of conservation report submitted by the state party on 3rd February 2009, was withdrawn in response to concerns about the protection of archaeological remains in the form of historic tunnels. It has been replaced by a non-intrusive project for the pedestrianisation, surfacing improvements and restoration of the square. The entire project was completed in December 2009 and has since become a popular meeting place for Valletta’s residents and visitors.
St George’s Square in 2009

St George’s Square in 2010
7.1.3 Barrakka Lift Project

In 1905 a vertical lift was built to link Valletta with the Grand Harbour, however, this important means of communication was dismantled in the early 1970s leading to increased traffic impact on the city. The proposed project aims to reinstate the vertical connection, a key ingredient in successive master plans to regenerate the City by encouraging pedestrian mobility between the city and its waterfront.

7.1.4 City Gate Project

This project aims to upgrade the area of the main gate into the City, which was extensively damaged during the Second World War. The area comprises the gate itself, the site of the former Opera House, and a large square currently being used as a car park. Architect Renzo Piano has been commissioned to develop designs for this project with the objective of improving the legibility of the entrance gate in relation to the original 16th century fortifications. The original bridge of the city will be restored and all accretions will be removed. Furthermore, the current 1960s entrance gate does not respect the original line of the curtain fortifications and will be replaced by an entrance that is correctly aligned and reintegrated within the original curtain wall, very close to the earliest entrance gate. The current large square car park will be transformed into the site of the new Parliament building.

The upgrading project of the entrance of to Valletta should lead to a number of benefits. For example, it will free St James Cavalier from the present accretions and provide visual permeability through the proposed Parliament Building. The planned stairs will improve access to the Cavalier, now the seat of Malta’s National Arts Centre.

The preservation of the Opera House ruins will be another positive aspect of the project since it will make a public statement of conservation ethics and values.

7.1.5 St Elmo Project

The Maltese Government is currently conducting preparatory studies and examining possible strategies for the active use of the St Elmo fort complex, located on the tip of the Valletta peninsula. A key objective of this particular initiative aims to ensure sustainable conservation of this major landmark through appropriate and sustainable use. For this
purpose, the Government has appointed a Steering Group, and more detailed proposals will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre in due course.

7.2 Large-Scale Developments PROPOSED within the Inscribed Property

There are currently no large-scale developments whatsoever proposed within the envisaged buffer zone to the inscribed Property.

7.3 Large-Scale Developments IN PROGRESS within the Envisaged Buffer Zone

There are currently no large-scale developments whatsoever in progress within the envisaged buffer zone to the inscribed Property.

7.4 Large-Scale Developments PROPOSED within the Envisaged Buffer Zone

7.4.1 Bus Terminus /Floriana Hinterland

This is an ancillary component to the City Gate Project described above, extending outside the boundary of the inscribed property. It aims to downscale the role of the Valletta Bus Terminus from that of the national bus terminus to a regional one. This should lead to a dramatic reduction in the volume of buses accessing the area immediately outside City Gate with a concomitant reduction in the associated stresses on the urban environment.

The Maltese Government took other effective measures to reduce the number of cars entering Valletta. The Park-and-Drive facility outside Valletta, operated under the Controlled Vehicular Access (CVA) scheme, is one successful venture.
7.5 Developments OUTSIDE the Envisaged Buffer Zone, In Areas Adjacent to the Inscribed Property and the Buffer Zone

7.5.1 Grand Harbour and Marsamxett Harbour Regeneration

In 2008, a series of documents outlining a number of proposals for the regeneration of the harbour region outside the envisaged buffer zone encompassing the harbours on either side of the Valletta peninsula were issued for public consultation. Components of some of these proposals are being actively considered as described in detail above.

7.5.2 Valletta Waterfront Regeneration Project

Another focus of regeneration efforts in recent years has been the waterfront of the harbours in the Valletta region. A key component of this initiative that has already been completed is the restoration, pedestrianisation, and rehabilitation of the Valletta waterfront, comprising the eighteenth-century Pinto Stores. The high standards of conservation and creative use of the historic environment that characterised this project received recognition in the form of an Europa Nostra Award.

7.5.3 Redevelopment and Regeneration of Brown Field Site at Tigné

The eastern tip of the Tigné peninsula contained a number of buildings and had various uses including social housing within the former British military barracks. It also contained a reverse osmosis plant, located within Fort Tigné itself and a football pitch. The site deteriorated extensively when it stopped serving its military function, and the area begun to attract a number of undesirable activities causing further decline. On the basis of a 1992 Development Brief for the regeneration of Tigné and Manoel Island, permits were issued to restore a number of historic structures, including Fort Tigné, St Luke’s Garrison Chapel, the Garden Battery and the surviving elements of the original Victorian military barracks. The demolition of derelict buildings and plant, and the redevelopment of part of the site for a mixture of uses including new housing, offices, and other commercial developments were approved. The objective was to regenerate the whole area and create a modern living and working environment, set adjacent to the heritage assets located there. Part of the project site is within the Area of High Landscape Value. See Manoel Island/Tigné Point Development Brief, Malta Environment and Planning Authority, Malta, 1992, cited at
Further to the information in the state of conservation report submitted by the state party on 3rd February 2009, it is reiterated that the development which has attracted debate lies just outside the boundary of the Area of High Landscape Value. The monuments that have been restored as part of the heritage gain in this project are the eighteenth-century Fort Tigné and its underground countermines, a Second World War coast artillery battery, and the nineteenth-century Garden Battery, Church and the British Barrack Blocks.

7.5.4 Manoel Island Project

The Manoel Island project has been conceived as a public-private partnership to deliver a comprehensive solution to the conservation, regeneration and land-use issues posed by the site, which lies within Marsamxett Harbour north of the Valletta peninsula. Apart from the restoration of important heritage features, the project aims to rationalise the current industrial activity and the dilapidated buildings on the island, as well as to regenerate this space through leisure activity and sustainable use.

The regeneration and redevelopment of Manoel Island were established by the 1992 Development Brief for Tigné and Manoel Island referred to earlier. In 1999 a master-plan for a limited redevelopment of the site was approved and, in conformity with this plan, permits were issued for the restoration of a number of important historic structures, particularly the eighteenth-century Fort Manoel. Indeed, as part of the heritage gain associated with the project, a condition was imposed in the permit stipulating that the restoration of this unique fort had to be completed before the re-development of the brown field areas on this island could commence. In November 2009, an Open Day was held for the public to visit, experience, and appreciate the Fort’s restoration works, which are nearing completion. Other historic buildings within the site, which will be restored and re-used include the seventeenth-century Lazzaretto Quarantine Hospital, the Cemetery Chapel, the seventeenth-century Cattle Quarantine Sheds and an early twentieth-century naval establishment. Furthermore, an underground complex of military installations dating back to the eighteenth century, but which were developed and extended during the Second World War and the subsequent Cold War period, is included in the heritage features. The project includes the demolition of derelict buildings and plant/storage areas. This will be
followed by the redevelopment of parts of the site into a small modern village to include new residential units, a limited commercial development, the improvement and extension of the existing mooring facilities into a yacht marina, and the incorporation of the conserved heritage elements into heavily landscaped areas.
8 Conclusion

The Maltese Government’s aims and policies on the conservation and enhancement of Valletta are clear and consistent: they recognise the State’s responsibility to safeguard the City as a World Heritage Site as well as to ensure that it remains the nation’s living and functional capital. This report has explained how the State Party is fulfilling this dual responsibility.

On leaving Malta in 1798, the Knights of St John left Valletta, its buildings and fortifications practically intact. In contrast, the City and its harbours suffered severe bombardment during the Second World War. Following the war, Malta had to clear the debris, salvage the salvageable, repair the damage, restore defaced architecture, and conserve what mercifully remained whole. This was not an easy task at a time when Malta was obliged to fight massive unemployment due to the post-war slump, and at the same time striving to gain political and economic independence as a sovereign state. By the end of the 1970s, most major rebuilding projects were complete and Malta was in a position to nominate Valletta for World Heritage inscription, achieved in 1980.

Malta is justifiably proud of its Capital’s World Heritage status, and successive Governments have done their utmost to fulfil the obligations this entails. The legislative, institutional and practical measures undertaken over the past thirty years and reported herein bear witness to Malta’s commitment to safeguard the Outstanding Universal Value of Valletta.

At the same time, the Maltese acknowledge that Valletta is a lived-in city. It is the nerve-centre of the political, administrative and business sphere. It is also a major tourist attraction where foreign visitors mingle with the locals to shop, eat, relax, be entertained, visit historical sites and attend cultural events. The mundane, day-to-day demands of a modern thriving community exert heavy demands on the institutional bodies entrusted with safeguarding, conserving and enhancing national monuments most of which are in daily use. Equally heavy and persistent demands are made on the housing and business premises of the city. Its inhabitants justifiably seek homes with better conditions, suitable working environments, up-to-date retail facilities, attractive street furniture as well as the latest in educational and recreational services. In Valletta, conservation and modernisation have to
evolve side by side. This challenge is even more acute in the envisaged Buffer Zone around
the Property.

As reported above, the State Party is dealing with these demands in a balanced and
cohherent manner, consistent with the Vienna Memorandum. Its policies reflected in
legislative, institutional and tangible measures ensure that the guidelines covering the
inscription of Valletta as World Heritage Site are scrupulously respected, while at the same
time allowing Valletta to function efficiently and successfully as the contemporary capital of
an enterprising nation.

January 2010,
Valletta, Malta.
Appendix I: Legal and Institutional Framework

I.1 Legal Framework Concerning Conservation of the City of Valletta

An understanding of the historic context of the State’s commitment to the conservation of the City of Valletta and of the development of the legal framework on conservation established in Malta is necessary in order to achieve a proper understanding of the issues involved.

In 1910, a Preservation of Antiquities Ordinance was introduced. Following amendments, the Act was enacted in 1925. The Antiquities Committee was responsible for a list of buildings that required protection.

In 1979, Malta proposed Valletta for inscription as a World Heritage site and the city was inscribed in 1980.

In the 1990s two laws governing heritage issues were enacted. The first was the Environment Act of 1991, the second, The Planning Development Act of 1992 to regulate and establish modern planning procedures. This important Act established critical principles of scheduling and grading of historic buildings. The Act also introduced the concepts of urban conservation areas and protective zoning. Although these policies relate to the whole of Malta and Gozo, they have particular relevance to Valletta. The Grand Harbour Local Plan, in force since 2002 and undergoing a partial review, contains policies that specifically protect the World Heritage property.

The Cultural Heritage Act of 2002 paved the way for the formation of three entities, namely The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, Heritage Malta and the Malta Centre for Restoration. The Act also provides for the creation of Religious Cultural Heritage Commissions, which have the same powers and responsibilities of the Superintendent of Cultural Heritage. However the latter has no jurisdiction over Church property.

From 1995 to date the most significant buildings, monuments and features of Valletta were afforded statutory protection individually and collectively by means of a scheduling scheme as published in the Government Gazette (see hyperlinks below). It should be noted that all
the additional statutory controls were established after the inscription of the site on the World Heritage List.

Additional and detailed information on the above measures can be found on the following web-sites:

Main scheduling webpage (all Malta and Gozo):
http://www.mepa.org.mt/schedschedulingsearch

Valletta scheduling (All items):

Valletta Wooden Shopfronts:
http://www.mepa.org.mt/LpDocumentDetails?syskey=%20544

Valletta French Occupation Bi-centennial:

Valletta Fortifications and Area of High Landscape Value:
http://www.mepa.org.mt/LpDocumentDetails?syskey=%20707

Amendment (addition) to Fortified Harbour Area of High Landscape Value:

Valletta Cast Iron Letter and Phone Boxes:

Valletta's Most Significant Buildings:
http://www.mepa.org.mt/LpDocumentDetails?syskey=%20793

Valletta Urban Conservation Area - Valletta (Floriana, Mdina, Cittadella fortified cities):

Grand Harbour Local Plan - All document including Valletta Policies:
http://www.mepa.org.mt/ghlp-docs

I.2 Institutional Framework

In addition to the measures listed above, the Maltese Government has established national entities to ensure that its aims of conservation and rehabilitation of Valletta are achieved. These are:
I.2.1 Valletta Rehabilitation Project

The Valletta Rehabilitation Project (VRP) is generally accepted as the steward of the Property, and historically performs the functions of site manager in synergy with the other relevant authorities.

In 1986 an office for Valletta Urban Renewal was set up under the Office of the Prime Minister. The Valletta Rehabilitation Project and Committee replaced the earlier body a year later with the aim of rehabilitating and coordinating projects within the City. This initiative led to the setting up, on a permanent basis, the Valletta Rehabilitation Project, which has achieved remarkable results. The main role of this Project, now under the responsibility of the Ministry for Resource and Rural Affairs, remains to manage the City of Valletta and to ensure that its World Heritage status is protected.

In 1989, through the help of the Italian Government, the office of Architect Renzo Piano was commissioned to prepare guidelines for the City’s master plan.

The projects undertaken by the VRP form a long list (included in Appendix II). They constitute restoration and conservation projects as well as what the entity terms ‘environment improvement’ projects. In its first years the VRP dealt with structural problems at St John’s Co-Cathedral and the President’s Palace as well as other buildings including all the Auberges and Churches in Valletta. Environment improvement projects were directed towards the paving of the pedestrian areas such as Republic Street, Merchants Street, Pjazza Regina and St John Street and Square, as well as the installation of a new lighting system throughout the city. VRP personnel also provide consultancy advice over applications to MEPA for development in Valletta. VRP initiatives have resulted in the upgrading of shop-fronts, the removing of protruding shop signs, the replacing of aluminium shop fronts with more traditional materials, and the screening of air conditioning units. A land registration programme that has been initiated by the Valletta Rehabilitation Project and the Lands Registry Department will help the Maltese authorities identify under-utilized or abandoned buildings in Valletta and Floriana.
I.2.2 Restoration Unit

The Restoration Unit was established in 1997, and is now within the Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs. It carries out various specialised restoration works, and provides project management services to various Ministries and other departments located in historical buildings. The Restoration Unit is currently involved in numerous projects throughout the Maltese Islands: in Valletta – in close collaboration with the VRO- it is involved in the restoration works on the Presidential Palace and the Auberge de Castille facades, St John’s co-Cathedral and the Sa Maison Bastions.

I.2.3 Superintendence of Cultural Heritage

The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage is Government’s national heritage regulator as established by the Cultural Heritage Act (CAP 445). It is de jure involved in sanctioning or otherwise all development in Maltese territory. It is also responsible for the implementation of the special powers the state in the regulation of cultural heritage in the Maltese islands. These special powers comprise the establishment of a national inventory of cultural property, the protection of movable objects of cultural heritage value, the regulation of movement of cultural objects, as well as the regulation of the protection of the built heritage.

The Superintendence is obliged to evaluate all major and minor projects that involve cultural assets and their environs. In such deliberations, the Superintendence may sanction or refuse development proposals, as well as it recommend changes to proposed project design. The decisions of the Superintendence are transmitted to the Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA) which is the government agency that issues building and development permits.

In addition, the Superintendence carries out surveillance of on-going works by imposing special monitors that report directly to the Superintendent of Cultural Heritage. These monitors ensure that developments proceed according to the issued permits, and they are required to report any discoveries or infringements to the Superintendent for immediate action.
In the case of Valletta, the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage is always directly involved in the various consultation stages of major and small projects. For instance in the case of the proposed underground museum development at St John’s Co-Cathedral, now abandoned, the Superintendence imposed rigorous Terms of Reference on the studies that were required in the planning process. The Superintendence did not sanction the proposed underground car-park development of St George’s Square because of the location of old tunnels and archaeology features under the square. Government revised its plans for this project by eliminating the underground car park altogether. Similarly, the Superintendence is closely involved in the processing of development application for the City Gate area project. The Superintendence undertakes close monitoring of the conservation component as well as the various implementation methods used in development projects.

I.2.4 The Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA)

Statutory Obligations: MEPA is the official State organization that plans and controls development. As an integral part of the planning process MEPA is also responsible for the statutory protection of immovable cultural heritage assets in the Maltese Islands. MEPA executes its functions by virtue of the Development Planning Act 1992 and through a number of policies and programmes detailed in the Structure Plan and Local Plans for the Maltese Islands. These policies promote the protection and conservation of the built heritage, the ongoing compilation of the National Protective Inventory for immovable heritage (buildings, archaeological sites and sites of ecological/scientific importance), the designation of Urban Conservation Areas, and the statutory protection at an appropriate level of buildings of architectural and historical interest included in the National Protective Inventory.

Conservation Designations: Since its inception in 1992 MEPA has undertaken its statutory obligations by designating a number of protective measures to safeguard the cultural significance of Valletta, and at the same time allow the further economic and social growth of this historic capital city. In 1995, MEPA declared Valletta ‘an Urban Conservation Area’ and scheduled rare wooden shop fronts to save them from extinction. In 2001, MEPA scheduled the harbour fortifications of Valletta and the surrounding fortified cities; and designated Valletta as an Area of High Landscape Value in 2001 (see Maps 3, 4 and 5
above). In 2008, MEPA finalized an inventory and scheduled the 160 most significant properties in Valletta as Grade 1 monuments. This grade is the highest protection level allowed by local legislation.

**Development Permitting:** The commercial potential of Valletta as the capital city of Malta has for long been recognized by the authorities. Similar to other capital cities worldwide, Valletta’s commercial potential has never stopped, though in some years it showed a decrease in activity. After the Second World War the population of Valletta declined and most houses were left in neglect or abandoned or were sold as offices. In the Grand Harbour Local Plan MEPA introduced a policy to encourage residential rehabilitation to counteract the increased number of offices squeezing out residents from the Capital. The policy is bearing fruit since people are coming back to live in Valletta at considerable expense since they have to rehabilitate old buildings many of which still lack sanitary facilities and are in dire need of restoration. Notwithstanding these needs, all interventions require a planning permit from MEPA, which often demands a restoration method statement, follows up by the monitoring of works. Planning permits are issued with specific conditions (a number of which provide safeguards to the various heritage aspects) and often include bank guarantees. In cases of a breach in the conditions imposed, the defaulter forfeits the bank guarantee and MEPA takes enforcement action as provided by law.

**Initiatives:** Between 1996 and 2009 MEPA contributed over €170,000 in grants for the restoration of wooden balconies in Valletta. Since 2006 the Authority removed nearly 400 air-conditioning units (over 70%) from facades of historic buildings in Valletta, and work is in progress to remove the rest. In 2007 MEPA contributed €600,000 for the establishment for the Park and Ride facilities outside Valletta as a measure to reduce vehicular traffic within the city, thus decreasing congestion, parking visual impact and pollution, and at the same time improve pedestrianisation.

**Heritage:** MEPA executes its functions in the cultural heritage sector through a number of policies and programmes as laid out in the Structure Plan and Local Plans for the Maltese Islands. These policies contemplate the protection and conservation of the built heritage, through the creation of Urban Conservation Areas, the listing of buildings of architectural
and historical interest on a National Protective Inventory, the scheduling of such buildings at an appropriate level for their protection.

I.2.5 Heritage Malta

Heritage Malta is the national agency for museums, conservation practice and cultural heritage. Created by the Cultural Heritage Act of 2002, the national agency replaced the former Museums Department. Originally Heritage Malta was entrusted with the management of museums, sites and their collections but in 2005, the agency was also charged with the management of the former Malta Centre for Restoration to become the national agency responsible for conservation. Heritage Malta is sensitive to the fact that cultural heritage can act as a catalyst for Malta’s tourism potential and consequently contribute significantly to the economy.

The Agency has a dedicated section with special educational programmes targeting children of different age groups as part of organised school visits. Such programmes are based on the national curriculum and address specific areas of study. Furthermore, the Agency operates the Institute of Conservation and Management of Cultural Heritage which runs undergraduate and post-graduate courses in the field of conservation in conjunction with the University of Malta. It collaborates with the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST) to offer vocational courses in conservation. In addition, the Institute also offers a number of short courses available to the general public.

I.2.6 Grand Harbour Regeneration Consortium (GHRC)

GHRC was set up in August 2007 as a government entity within the Ministry for Infrastructure, Transport and Communication. GHRC’s mission is to formulate and co-ordinate strategies and major projects for the regeneration and development of the Grand Harbour and its environs in line with the government’s policy and strategy for the Grand Harbour and Marsamxetto Harbour.

GHRC also acts as the Government’s agent to co-ordinate all the activities related with the implementation and delivery of selected projects. Its functions include, but are not necessarily limited to commissioning of studies, both technical and financial in relation to each individual project. The Consortium remains responsible for the overall budgeting and
structuring of project funding, including the promotion of Public-Private Partnerships and co-investment in risk sharing ventures. The Company’s shareholders are Malta Government Investments Ltd and MIMCOL.

I.2.7 The Government Property Division

The Government Property Division has assisted the Restoration Unit of Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs in practically all the spade work concerning the conservation/restoration of certain buildings in Valletta. This has included the provision of detailed information on whether properties were subjected to leases or otherwise; the identification of extents of properties where required and the provision of plans; The termination of leases where this was necessary; the provision of alternative accommodation where this was necessary; and helping to identify and terminate unlawful occupation of buildings.
Appendix II: Conservation Works in Valletta

The following is a list of the principal conservation and maintenance works on public monuments, historic buildings and historic spaces in Valletta carried out by the State Party over the past decade.

- Restoration of Auberge d’Italie
- Restoration of St Paul’s statue in Melita Street
- Restoration of National Library
- Restoration of façade of Mediterranean Conference Centre
- Restoration of the Monte di Pieta`
- Restoration of Maisons Demandolx
- Restoration of fountains in St. John Street
- Restoration of Ball’s Monument
- Restoration of Auberge de Castille
- Restoration of Church of St Catherine of Italy
- Restoration of Banca Giuratale
- Restoration of façade of Palazzo de la Salle
- Restoration of Ta’ Liesse Church
- Restoration of St Augustine’s Church
Restoration of various street niches and statues
Restoration of Palazzo Parisio
Restoration of monuments in Upper Barrakka Gardens

Restoration of side elevation of Auberge de Provence
Construction and cleaning of Culverts
Dismantling of rooms next to Victoria Gate
Restoration of fountains in St George's Square
Restoration works at St Elmo Church
Paving works at Zachary Street
Plastering and Painting of Museum of Fine Arts
Supply and installation of Franka Flagstones
Supply and installation of Lava Pellets
Restoration of Castellania Palace
Restoration of St Augustine Church
Restoration of St Ursula’s Convent
Restoration of Main Guard
Restoration works at St Francis Church
Supply and installation of hard stone kerbs
Maintenance works on Siege Bell Monument
Works at the School of Music in Old Bakery Street
Restoration of Our Lady of Pilar Church
Restoration of Ta' Giezu Church
Restoration of ‘Halfway House’ at 23 North Street
Conservation of the bust of Christ the Saviour by Alessandro Algardi
Hard stone Paving at Old Theatre Street
Repaving and embellishment of Lower Barrakka Gardens
Repaving and embellishment of Upper Barrakka Gardens
Repaving and embellishment of Hastings Gardens
Paving and embellishment of Great Siege Square
New electrical system at Republic Street
Hard-stone surface for Republic Street
Uplifting and replacing original lava slabs at Old Theatre Street
Plastering, painting and restoration works at Jesuits’ Church
Restoration of Lunettes Paintings
Greenery and maintenance of Plants in Valletta and Floriana
Laying of Hard-stone at Victoria Gate
Re-Decoration of Arcades at Pjazza D’Armi, St Elmo
Works at Ta’ Giezu Church façade
Restoration Works at Our Lady of Victory Church
Waterproofing of three churches: Our Lady of Pilar, St Roque and St James
Restoration of wooden balconies in Valletta and Floriana
Maintenance work to St John’s Co-Cathedral
Restoration of Fountain in St George’s Square,
Construction of toilets at Lower Barrakka Gardens
Installation of floodlighting systems
Re-paving of sidewalks at St Anne Square, Floriana
Supply and installation of a Pigeon Protection System for St James Church
Restoration works at Castellania Palace
Repaving and pedestrianisation of city centre
Repaving around Auberge de Castille
Repaving and embellishment of St George’s Square
Restoration of the Palace of the President
Restoration of St Paul’s Shipwreck Church
Restoration of St James Church
Restoration of Our Lady of Victory Church
Restoration of Valletta Fortifications
Restoration of Biagio Steps - Biagio Steps Examination Centre, in Valletta, is to be transformed into an interactive Interpretation Centre because of its location and vast interior spaces. Moreover, it is central and provides direct access to Valletta’s bastions, as well as excellent views of the Marsamxett harbour defences - namely Fort Manoel and Fort Tignè. The proposal will also use computer technology to create a unique experience combining rich multimedia and traditional displays. The permanent display will feature large scale models of Malta's fortifications, explanatory and multilingual interpretational panels, as well as interactive multimedia display points to explain the history and technicalities of military architecture to the public. The exhibition entitled ‘The Fortress Builders’ will also serve to showcase the Work Division's major projects of fortification restoration.
The boundaries of Valletta are defined by the shoreline of the Valletta peninsula on three sides. The shoreline is defined to include all land exposed at Lowest Astronomical Tide. On the fourth (South-Western) side, the boundary was defined by the outer limit of the ditch protecting Valletta’s land-front and separating it from the suburb of Floriana.
MAP 3
Valletta
Urban Conservation Area 1995

Valletta Urban Conservation Area Boundary


Net effect of this measure:
The counterguards in front of the Valletta bastions and the breakwater were also included and protection extended to these areas in augmentation to that of the 1980 WHS boundary.
Title: MAP 4
Valletta
Scheduling of Fortifications
2001


Net effect of this measure:
Protection of the Valletta fortifications was yet again extended through scheduling to include further frontworks in augmentation to that of the 1980 WHS boundary.