

# Report on the ICOMOS/UNESCO Advisory Mission to City of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto (C 712bis)

28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017



**ICOMOS**  
international council on monuments and sites



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Particular thanks go to the Mayors of several municipalities involved and in particular to Mr Achille Variati, Mayor of Vicenza, for meeting the mission team several times and providing information concerning the different realisations and projects in question. The fact that the Vice-Mayor, Jacopo Bulgarini d'Elci, was ready to accompany the members of the mission during the visits and meetings was much appreciated.

Furthermore, the members of the mission would like to thank Ms Grazia Rostello, the person in charge of the office for the UNESCO-site "City of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto" of the Municipality of Vicenza. Ms Rostello organized the mission and provided valuable information on the current situation of the World Heritage property during the meetings, presentations and site visits. During the redaction of the report, she answered the numerous questions of the members of the mission.

Special thanks go to all officials and specialists at the level of the state, the region and the province and, furthermore, to private persons and institutions involved in the preparation and the success of this mission.

Finally, the members of the mission thank all representatives of Non-Governmental Organisations and civil society actively involved in the protection of the property who met with the mission and submitted substantial information regarding particular issues.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The World Heritage property "City of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto" is primarily composed of buildings, palaces and villas. However, in the perception of Andrea Palladio, the surroundings in their very large extent are as important as the built volumes. So, preserving his heritage means preserving the inseparable entity of architecture and landscape. For that reason, within this property, the wider setting has a highly important significance.

The report recalls the basic information about the property. The decision for listing the City of Vicenza and the following extension are described. The various decisions of the World Heritage Committee are noted. The legal and administrative framework is sketched.

A joint World Heritage Centre-ICOMOS advisory mission was conducted at the property in March 2005 to assess the impacts of a highway project in the vicinity of the Villa Saraceno.<sup>1</sup>

Civil society began sharing its concern in 2008, however, sufficient action was not taken by the municipal or national authorities to mitigate threats to the World Heritage property, as recommended in the 2005 mission report and the decisions of the World Heritage Committee (see section 7.3).

For two important projects that have been realised since, the military base Del Din and the Cotonificio Cotorossi quarter redevelopment: Borgo Berga, the mission could only state their negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). These projects adversely affect the authenticity of the property, its location and setting and its intangible heritage, spirit and feeling and visual integrity. For these realisations, the mission makes recommendations for some mitigation measures; for Del Din they can only be marginal, but for Borgo Berga, with some effort, the impact on the landscape can be at least attenuated.

For the new Railway Line Connection AC Milan-Venice, the mission concluded that the current state of planning does not negatively impact the property in an essential manner, neither for the historic city nor for the villas concerned. For that project, therefore, all that was formulated was recommendations for finalising the results of the evaluation of several options and suggestions for further development, especially for the two bridges nearby the railway-station.

The project for Parco della Pace, adjacent to Del Din, is an interesting initiative to give a counterbalance to the military base. The project has been discussed with the citizens on the occasion of round tables; as presented, it is an unacceptable base for more detailed planning. However, it should be developed further in order to prevent the Parco from becoming an additional inappropriate element in the rural-agricultural landscape.

The ring road-project named "Tangenziali" includes on the one hand essentially unproblematic parts on the east and west sides of the city and on the other hand a part to north that would essentially harm the intact landscape. The deletion of this part, including the connection from the western part to the military base "Del Din", is recommended.

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<sup>1</sup> Mission Report available at the following link: <http://whc.unesco.org/document/7781>

For the rehabilitation of the area San Biagio no comments are necessary as far as its relation to the World Heritage property is concerned. Nevertheless, some few remarks concerning the further development of the project are made.

The mission has concluded that the existing urban plans near Villa Trissino Cricoli have a highly negative impact on the World Heritage property. They would essentially damage the surroundings of the villa and it is recommended that they should be entirely cancelled. The mission recommends that the grounds should remain in agricultural use.

The mission concluded that there are gaps in the congruence of overall management and protection arrangements for the property and that some changes are desirable to protect and sustain the OUV of the property and its attributes. In particular, planning controls should be considered for areas outside the buffer zones to prevent inappropriate developments; further on, the villas and the related landscape should be re-assessed. The composition, roles and responsibilities of the Steering Committee require review; changes should occur to enable the Manager to function more effectively and to strengthen the role and resources of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism. Heritage Impact Assessments are required for every project which may affect the OUV of the property and notifications about new projects should be provided to the World Heritage Centre in accordance with the *Operational Guidelines*.

The mission members are convinced that the State Party and the regional and local authorities have learnt from previous mistakes and are aware of the challenges involved in properly conserving the World Heritage property. It is hoped that the mission recommendations will assist the State Party and the municipal authorities in taking appropriate measures to maintain the OUV of the property.

Finally, the mission's experts considered several topics not included in the Terms of Reference (TOR), but intensively discussed during the mission with the representatives of the authorities and associations.

## **1. BACKGROUND TO THE MISSION**

### **1.1 Justification of the Mission**

The State Party of Italy invited a WHC - ICOMOS advisory mission to assess two major projects as are the US Army military base Del Din- Dal Molin airport (wider setting) and the Residential building complex in the former Cotonificio Cotorossi (adjacent to the buffer zone, proximity to Villa Valmarana dei Nani and Villa Capra) already developed and the newly-planned HD/HC railway line and related major infrastructure works and modification to road access and traffic circulation (wider setting, buffer zone).

The city of Vicenza proposed to extend the mission to related major infrastructure works proposed for development within the buffer zone and wider setting of the World Heritage property, projects which were included in the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA):

- the system of ring roads in Vicenza,
- the project for the redevelopment of the former complex "San Biagio" in Vicenza,
- the forecasts regarding the Intervention Plan in the vicinity of Villa Trissino in Vicenza.

Related major infrastructure works proposed for development within the buffer zone and wider setting of the World Heritage property, projects which were included in the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), the system of ring roads in Vicenza, the project for the redevelopment of the former complex "San Biagio" in Vicenza, the plans regarding the Intervention Plan in the vicinity of Villa Trissino in Vicenza, were also examined.

The advisory mission experts comment on the overall state of conservation of the property, review the detailed plans for the three projects and related works on the basis of site visits and documentation provided, assess the potential impacts of the three projects and related works on the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property, evaluate the extent to which redevelopment of the Cotonificio Cotorossi has already eroded the value of the landscape setting of Vicenza and of the villas located in its vicinity and any consequent impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property.

They evaluate the cumulative impacts of plans already carried out, the three projects and related major infrastructure, as well as other projects, either planned or deriving from revisions to planning / programming instruments on the local, regional or national level.

They suggest any possible mitigation measures which may remove or reduce potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property.

They assess the congruence of overall management and protection arrangements for the property with the objective of protecting and sustaining the OUV of the property and its attributes, considering in particular the Management Plan for the property and any other relevant planning tool (general town plan - *Piano regolatore comunale*, territorial planning, landscape planning, etc.).

In order to achieve these objectives, the advisory mission experts reviewed all

the necessary technical documents, undertook site visits and participated in technical on-site meetings with Italian authorities and project architects and engineers in order to gain insights into the context of and justification for the proposed projects.

The mission experts also met with other stakeholders, including members of the civil society in order to understand concerns in the community about the proposed projects.

In preparation for the advisory mission, the State Party, in advance of the mission, as well as during and after the mission, provided WHC and ICOMOS with all the necessary background technical material on the three major projects and related infrastructure works, among other the following:

- Heritage Impact Assessment for all three projects, in accordance with the *ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties* (2011);
- Justification for each of the three projects outlining how each relates to policies and strategies within the Management Plan for the property, and the planning tools for the property;
- All current documents relating to the protection and management arrangements of the World Heritage property with their current status.

On the basis of site visits and meetings with representatives of the State Party and NGO's, the advisory mission prepared this report including an analysis of the abovementioned points and recommendations for the State Party.

The drafting of the report of the mission was shared. Whilst chapters 1 to 4 (except for 3.5 Heritage Impact Assessment) were formulated by Ms Anastasia Tzigounaki, the other chapters including the Executive Summary were formulated by Mr Bernhard Furrer who was also responsible for the layout.

## **1.2 Terms of Reference**

The TOR of the mission are reproduced in annex 7.1.

## **2. The Word Heritage Property "City of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto"**

### **2.1 History of inscription**

#### **2.2.1 Inscription**

15 December 1994, 18th session of the WHC in Pukhet, Thailand

Name: City of Vicenza

23 monuments in the old town and 3 Villas: Villa Almerico Capra called "La Rotonda", Villa Gazzotti Grimani and Villa Trissino Trettenero.

#### **2.2.2 Extension of the property**

2-7 December 1996, at the 20th session of the WHC in Merida, Mexico, were added 21 villas in the Veneto Region and changed the name of the World Heritage property "The City of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto (Italy)"

Serial site: 47 Elements, 23 monuments, 24 villas  
Authorities: 1 Region, 3 Superintendence's, 6 Provinces, 21 Municipalities  
The list of the component parts of the property is reproduced in annexe 7.2.

### **2.2.3 Adoption of retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value**

The retrospective statement of Outstanding Universal Value of the property was adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 39<sup>th</sup> session in 2015 (see document WHC-15/39.COM/8E.Rev) as follows:

#### ***Brief synthesis***

*The city of Vicenza and the Palladian villas of the Veneto is a serial site including the city of Vicenza and twenty-four Palladian villas scattered in the Veneto area. Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1994, the site initially comprised only the city of Vicenza with its twenty-three buildings attributed to Palladio, as well as three villas extra muros. Twenty-one villas located in several provinces were later included in the 1996 site extension.*

*Founded in the 2nd century BC in northern Italy, Vicenza prospered under Venetian rule from the early 15th to the end of the 18th century. The work of Andrea Palladio (1508–80), based on a detailed study of classical Roman architecture, gives the city its unique appearance. The palazzi, or town houses, were fitted into the urban texture of the medieval city, creating picturesque ensembles and continuous street facades in which the Veneto Gothic style combines with Palladio's articulated classicism.*

*The definitive Palladian country villa synthesizes, both figuratively and materially, the functional aspects of management of the land and the aristocratic self-glorification of the owner. Its core is the house-temple, embellished with a monumental staircase and crowned by a pediment supported by columns of the loggia. Porticos extend alongside the wings starting from the main building, and often end with towers. The different components are linked by a common classical language and are ordered according to a well-defined hierarchy.*

*Vicenza is widely, and with justification, known as la città di Palladio. However, he was the central figure in an urban fabric that stretches back to antiquity and forward to Neoclassicism. As such, Vicenza has acquired a world status that has long been recognized and reflected in the literature of architectural and art history. Basing his works on intimate study of classical Roman architecture, Palladio became the inspiration for a movement without parallel in architectural history.*

*Vicenza, birthplace of this movement, retains many of Palladio's original buildings and as such is a unique survival of a total humanist concept based on a living interpretation of antiquity. The property extends the recognition of the Outstanding Universal Value of the work of Andrea Palladio to the other manifestations of his creative genius in the Veneto region, covering his versatility in applying his principles to rural as well as urban contexts.*

**Criterion (i):** *Vicenza represents a unique artistic achievement in the many architectural contributions of Andrea Palladio, integrated within its historic fabric and creating its overall character. Scattered in the Veneto, the Palladian villas are the result of this Renaissance master's architectural genius. The numerous variations of the villa pattern are evidence of Palladio's constant typological experimentation, carried out by means of the reworking of classical architecture patterns.*

**Criterion (ii):** *Palladio's works in the city of Vicenza and in the Veneto, inspired by classical architecture and characterized by incomparable formal purity, have exerted exceptional influence on architectural and urban design in most European countries and throughout the world, giving rise to Palladianism, a movement named after the architect and destined to last for three centuries.*

### **Integrity**

*The property is composed of several elements, all showing its exceptional value: the perimeter includes the city of Vicenza with its twenty-three most representative Palladian buildings erected in the urban area and twenty-four of the most representative extra-urban villas. The 21st-century industrial development resulted in a strong transformation of the areas surrounding the city, affecting the original relationships between city and countryside. The villas have kept their integrity and are well preserved, within a territorial context which underwent several changes and for this reason was excluded from the site perimeter. Various parts of the property have been exposed to development pressures and the impact of agricultural and forestry regimes. There is some risk of flooding but these issues are being addressed by the property managers.*

### **Authenticity**

*When applied to an urban area, authenticity includes a consideration of the urban structure, the form of the individual buildings that make up the townscape, the use of traditional building materials and techniques, and the functions of the buildings. In these terms Vicenza as a whole has preserved its authentic character, especially in relation to la città di Palladio.*

*The form of Palladio's buildings is documented in his *Quattro Libri dell'architettura* (1570) and it has changed relatively little since they were constructed in the 16th century. The function of many of the palaces in Vicenza has changed from domestic to commercial, with consequent internal changes. The urban fabric of the city has undergone remarkably little change, and still retains the historic townscape known from early engravings.*

*The authenticity of the villas is also high. Detailed archival, technical and scientific studies have aimed at identifying the original forms of the villas. From these, it has been possible to specify the appropriate materials and techniques for use in restoration and conservation projects.*

### **Protection and management requirements**

*The protection of the site is guaranteed by several legal measures of protection. The Palladian buildings in Vicenza and the Palladian Villas listed in the property are all protected under the Decreto Legislativo 42/2004, Codice dei Beni Culturali e del Paesaggio: a safeguarding measure which ensures any activity on the site must be authorized by the relevant Soprintendenza (local office of the Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities).*

*Special protection plans applied to all the buildings ensure careful preservation, according to the theoretical principles of restoration works. The urban planning tool for the city of Vicenza has defined some special measures for the preservation of the twenty-three Palladian buildings located in the historic centre.*

*The site Management Plan was developed by several public and private institutions. The UNESCO office, set up inside the Municipality of Vicenza, takes care of technical and administrative aspects and is charged with the monitoring of the site Management Plan. Given the site's complexity, the general coordination is shared between the Ministry of Culture and the Veneto Region, while the Province of Vicenza coordinates provinces and municipalities. The coordination system aims to overcome the fragmentation of initiatives, fostering synergetic relationships between institutions.*

*The principal aims of the Management Plan are to recover and revitalize the urban image, characterized by a strong Palladian mark, through the definition of intervention priorities inside the historical centre and the buffer zone, to restore and preserve the villas and the surrounding open spaces, and to define a study for identifications of buffer zones around the villas. It encourages the growth of awareness of heritage value in the local population by means of spreading knowledge and allowing participation in the choices and the management of the heritage. As well, the management plan defines further actions for the UNESCO site, aimed to support its successful management, such as improvement of accommodation and leisure facilities and initiatives, and also of infrastructure and transport systems.*

#### **2.2.4 Clarifications of property boundaries and sizes 2009**

**WHC-08/32.COM/24Rev Quebec City, Canada 31 March 2009**

**Clarifications of property boundaries and sizes provided by the State Party of Italy in response to the Retrospective Inventory, as presented in the Annex of Document *WHC-08/32.COM/8D*:**

##### **ITALY**

Property	City of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto
Identification	712bis
Date of inscription	1994 / 1996
Area of the inscribed property	333.87 ha
Area of the buffer zone	100.8 ha

### **Technical Summary:**

The State Party has provided a clear map of the property, displaying the boundaries of the inscribed property. This map is complementary to the map provided in 2008, Decision **32 COM 8D**.

Clarifications of property boundaries and areas by States Parties in response to the Retrospective Inventory.

## **2.2.5 Clarifications of property boundaries and sizes 2015**

### **WHC-15/39.COM/19 Bonn, 8 July 2015**

Clarifications of property boundaries and areas provided by the State Party of Italy as presented in the annexes of Document WHC-15/39.COM/8D: City of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto.

## **2.3 Examination of the state of conservation by the World Heritage Committee**

The list of examination of the state of conservation by the World Heritage Committee is reproduced in annex 7.3.

## **2.4 Second Cycle Periodic Report**

Second cycle of the Periodic Reporting Exercise extract:

### **Boundaries and Buffer Zones**

The boundaries of the World Heritage property are adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value.

The property had no buffer zone at the time of its inscription on the World Heritage List.

The boundaries of the World Heritage property are known by both the management authority and local residents / communities / landowners.

The buffer zone was identified only for Vicenza historical centre and not around the 24 Palladian Villas. The Management Plan refers to a specific in progress study for identifications of villas' buffer zones.

There are not specific surveys that allow testing the knowledge level, however it is possible to presume a fair level.

The buffer zone was identified only for Vicenza historical centre and not around the 24 Palladian Villas.

### **Legal Framework**

The legal framework for the area surrounding the World Heritage property and the buffer zone provides an adequate or better basis for effective management and protection of the property, contributing to the maintenance of its Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity.

There is excellent capacity / resources to enforce legislation and / or regulation in the World Heritage property.

There is a medium capacity/resources to enforce legislation and/or regulation on World Heritage property.

### **Management Plan**

There is coordination between the range of administrative bodies / levels involved in the management of the property but it could be improved.

The management system/plan is only partially adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value.

The management system is only partially being implemented

No annual work / action plan exists.

Local communities have some input into discussions relating to management but no direct role in management.

There is little or no contact with industry regarding the management of the World Heritage property, buffer zone and / or area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone.

The available budget is acceptable but could be further improved to fully meet the management needs.

Existing sources of funding are not secure.

There is some flow of economic benefits to local communities.

There are adequate equipment and facilities and basic maintenance of equipment and facilities

A range of human resources exist, but these are below optimum to manage the World Heritage property.

No capacity development plan or programme is in place; management is implemented by external staff and skills are not transferred.

Knowledge about the values of the World Heritage property is sufficient

There is considerable research but it is not directed towards management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value.

Research results are shared with local partners but there is no active outreach to national or international agencies.

The World Heritage emblem is displayed in many locations and easily visible to visitors.

The accessibility of Vicenza historical city centre is good, while the localisation of Villas is distributed in 21 towns and in decentralised positions far from public transport services; there is not a dedicated transport service that link Villas among them.

There is a planned education and awareness programme but it only partly meets the needs and could be improved.

World Heritage status has influenced education, information and awareness building activities, but it could be improved.

The Outstanding Universal Value of the property is adequately presented and interpreted but improvements could be made.

The Management Plan approved does not have a monitoring plan.

### **State of Conservation**

The authenticity of the World Heritage property has been preserved.

The integrity of the World Heritage property is intact.

The World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value has been maintained.

Other important cultural and / or natural values and the state of conservation of the World Heritage property are predominantly intact.

The legislative/regulatory framework has been reinforced on landscape context around Palladian Villas tutelage. Important renovation works have been made for some Palladian monuments in Vicenza (Basilica Palladiana, Palazzo Chiericati, Chiesa di S. Corona) and for other important historical/architectural buildings in the historical city centre.

### **3 NATIONAL POLICY FOR THE PRESERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY**

#### **3.1 Legal Framework**

##### **3.1.1 Legislative and Administrative Arrangements as in Periodic Reporting Section II**

With regards to territorial planning, the Regional Authority of the Veneto has set down a Regional Territorial Plan of Co-ordination approved in 1992 under the existing Regional Urban Law 61/85, which also has its effects on landscape planning. The procedure to update the plan has been started. Moreover, so as to meet the new Regional Urban Law 11/04, this plan establishes general guidelines for the protection of the main historic centres, including Vicenza, and of communities dispersed throughout the territory having a historic-architectural property, such as the villas. Other regional planning tools aimed at protecting and promoting especially valuable cultural and landscape zones are the Area Plans. The heritage buildings listed in the site all have planning restrictions for monument protection under the *Cultural Heritage and Landscape Code*.

The 23 buildings in the historic centre of Vicenza fall within the zone of Historic Centre and are subsumed under the provisions of the Detailed Plan for the Historic Centre that classifies all of them as monumental buildings, thus ensuring their conservation.

- The protection arrangements are considered sufficiently effective by the State Party.

Actions taken/proposed:

- Valorisation of the protected property and safeguards of the settings.

##### **Periodic Reporting Exercise II, Section II:**

With regards to territorial planning, the Regional Authority of the Veneto has set down a Piano Territoriale Regionale di Coordinamento (P.T.R.C.- Regional Territorial Plan of Co-ordination) approved in 1992 under the existing Regional Urban Law 61/85, which also has its effects on landscape planning. The procedure to update the plan has been started, moreover, so as to meet the new Regional Urban Law 11/04 this plan provides general guidelines for the protection of the main historic centres, including Vicenza, and of communities dispersed throughout the territory having a historic – architectural property, such as the villas.

Other regional planning tools aimed at protecting and promoting particularly valuable cultural and landscape zones are the Piani d'Area – Area Plans. Some of these include properties listed in the WHL: Piano d'Area della Laguna e dell'Area Veneziana (P.A.L.A.V. – Area Plan for the Venice Lagoon and Venice Area), has been approved and covers Villa Malcontenta at Mira (VE);

the Piano d'Area dei Monti Berici (P.A.M.O.B. – Area Plan for the Berici Hills) has also been approved, covering part of the city of Vicenza, with its outstanding landscape and great characterisation of the image of its historic centre, and what's more, directly involves Villa Almerico Capra (la Rotonda) and Arco della Scalette.

The heritage buildings listed in the site all have planning restrictions for monument protection under the Legislative Decree 22 January 2004, n°42 - *Cultural Heritage and Landscape Code*. This Statutory regulation has adjusted and updated previous legislation protecting cultural and landscape heritage, adding the management and valorisation objectives to the traditional concept of protection, which nevertheless remains the priority requirement over all action related to cultural heritage. Restriction decrees concerning buildings belonging to the site have been implemented under the previous regulations and their effect has been confirmed by the current Cultural Heritage and Landscape Code. In many cases the villas fall under specific landscape protection restrictions, which again are covered by the Cultural Heritage and Landscape Code: e.g. Villa Almerico Capra at Vicenza, Villa Barbaro at Maser, Villa Emo at Fanzolo di Vedelago, Villa Zen at Cessalto, Villa Pojana at Pojana Maggiore.

The town urban planning tools usually place the WHL listed buildings under specific protection restrictions, in accordance with the restrictions prescribed by the Cultural Heritage and Landscape Code, and in some cases, they even extend the protection beyond those given by the restriction regulations. A brief outline of the urban planning regulations concerning the listed buildings is given below:

- The 23 buildings in the historic centre of Vicenza fall within zone RSA1 (Historic Centre) and come under the provisions of the Piano Particolareggiato per il Centro Storico (Detailed Plan for the Historic Centre), which classifies all of them as monumental buildings, ensuring their conservation.
- The 3 villas located on Municipality of Vicenza territory are all classified as historic – architectural heritage, which guarantees their conservation and an adequate protective girdle.
- Villa Angarano at Bassano del Grappa (VI): the area falls under building restriction.
- Villa Caldogno at Caldogno (VI): area under planning restriction.
- Villa Badoer at Fratta Polesine (RO): the building is protected as historic zone. The surrounding area falls under building restriction.
- Villa Godi Malinverni and Villa Piovene at Lonedo di Lugo di Vicenza (VI): the area of the two villas is under planning restrictions, while a large area around them falls under an environmental and landscape restriction and building is prohibited.
- Villa Barbaro at Maser (TV): current urban regulations ensure the villa is protected and safeguarded.
- Villa Forni Cerato at Montecchio Precalcino (VI): building restrictions in the surrounding area.
- Villa Thiene at Quinto Vicentino (VI): the area is under planning restriction.
- Villa Serego at Santa Sofia di Pedemonte (VR): a protective wedge of the view of the villa with building restrictions.

- Villa Emo at Fanzolo di Vedelago (TV): protective restrictions complying with heritage building protection.

### **3.1.2 Presentation by the City of Vicenza – UNESCO Office, Ms Grazia Rostello**

The protection of the site is guaranteed by several legal measures of protection.

All villas are protected under the Decreto Legislativo 42/2004, Codice dei Beni Culturali e del Paesaggio: a safeguarding measure which ensures any activity on the site must be authorized by the relevant Soprintendenza (local office of the Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities).

Special protection plans applied to all the buildings ensure careful preservation, according to the theoretical principles of restoration works. The urban planning tool for the city of Vicenza has defined some special measures for the preservation of the twenty-three Palladian buildings located in the historic centre.

### **3.1.3 National government regulations**

#### **Law n. 77 of 20 February 2006**

"Special measures for the protection and use of the Italian sites of cultural, landscape and environmental interest, listed in the WHL, under the UNESCO protection"

#### **Leg. Decree n.42 of 22 January 2004**

"Code of Cultural Heritage and Landscape"

Direct and indirect monument constraints

Landscape constraints

Archaeological constraints

Co-planning MIBACT-Region: Landscape Plan, Territorial Plan with environmental significance

### **3.1.4 Regional government regulations**

#### **R. L. n.11 of 23 April 2004 – Rules for the government of the territory**

#### **Regional Territorial Coordination Plan (PTRC)**

Indicates the objectives and main lines of organization and structure of the region.

Indicates the criteria for the conservation of cultural heritage, architecture and archeology, as well as for the protection of historical and cultural identity of places, regulating the forms of protection, enhancement and upgrading of the territory depending on the level of integrity and importance of landscape values.

Co-planning MIBACT-Region: Landscape Plan, Territorial Plan with environmental significance

#### **Area Plans (Piani d'Area)**

#### **Strategic Projects (Progetti Strategici)**

#### **Provincial Territorial Coordination Plan (PTCP)**

Outlines the objectives and the fundamental elements of the provincial territory configuration, in line with the guidelines for the provincial socio-economic development.

Defines the perimeter of the historical city centers.

Identifies the Veneto villas, the complexes and buildings of architectural merit, its appurtenances and figurative contexts.

### **3.1.5 Municipal plans**

#### **Inter-municipal Urban Development Plan (PATI)**

#### **Urban Development Plan (PAT)**

Prepared on the basis of ten-year forecasts, set sustainability objectives and conditions for the interventions and admissible transformations and, in particular: discipline, giving specific protection legislation, the invariants of nature: geological, geomorphologic, hydro geological, landscape, environmental, historical, monumental and architectural, in accordance with the objectives and guidelines laid down in the territorial planning of higher level and set a specific discipline in relation to historical centres, the protection zones and buffer zones and agricultural areas.

#### **Implementation Plan (PI)**

The PI in coherence with the implementation of the land use plan (PAT) and based on updated knowledge framework defines:

the division of the municipality into homogeneous territorial areas;

the specific regulations in relation to the historical city centers, the buffer zones and agricultural areas.

#### **Activating Urbanistic Plans (Piani Urbanistici Attuativi)**

#### **Agreements between public and private parties (art. 6 L.R. 11/04)**

#### **Project Agreement (Accordi di Programma) (art. 7 L.R. 11/04)**

However, the mission was informed that the Ministry of Culture do not have any legislative tools to intervene in case of the construction plans and other territorial changes or to make morphological controls on architectural studies, outside the limits of buffer zones, irrespective of whether they could have major negative effects of visual or noise pollution or any other impact on the world heritage properties.

### **3.2 Institutional Framework**

Ownerships:

City of Vicenza: Municipality of Vicenza: Basilica Palladiana, Loggia del Capitaniato, Palazzo Chiericati, Teatro Olimpico, Arco delle Scalette, Chiesa S. Maria Nuova, Loggia Valmarana, Cappella Valmarana in S. Corona

State property: Palazzo Barbaran da Porto

Dioceses of Vicenza: Cathedral

Twelve private owners

Palladian Villas:

Four of the twentyfour Villas are public property, Villa Pojana of Veneto Region, Villa Badoer of Province of Rovigo, two Municipalities, Villa Caldogno a Caldogno and Villa Thiene a Quinto Vicentino.

### **3.3 Management system**

Management System, as stated by the State Party at Periodic Reporting Exercise II, section II.

The *Unesco Site Management Plan "The city of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto"* has evolved under the aegis of the Unesco Office of Municipality of Vicenza, which has gathered and put in order the information, predictions and suggestions coming from numerous organisations and persons participating in the property's management. The plan was drawn up and completed in December 2006, and subsequently, the result was sent for approval to all the organisations involved. The plan was finally approved of in Vicenza on 30 May 2007.

The complex articulation of the property, during the first decade of its inclusion in the WHL, prevented the execution of a coordinated policy of management and enhancement. Over the last few years, the work initiated to activate the management plan has offered the chance to build an agreement amongst the many organisations involved in different ways within the property. Already at the end of 2003 a rapport was activated between Municipality of Vicenza and the Superintendence for Monuments and landscape of Verona, Vicenza and Rovigo for the drawing up of a Periodic Report on the state of conservation of the site. With the start of the second phase of work devoted to the elaboration of the present plan, in the spring of 2005, the Municipality of Vicenza took on the initiative of involving the institutional partners concerned in the pursuance of these aims and has also promoted a first meeting with interested organisations, thanks to the collaboration of the Regional Authority of the Veneto. Thus, on the 19th July 2005 the Protocol for the elaboration of the *UNESCO site management plan "The City of Vicenza and the Palladian villas of the Veneto"* was subscribed to, coordinated by an appropriate steering committee. The Protocol of understanding also specifies the main participants: Regional Authority of the Veneto, Regional Directorate for Cultural Heritage and Landscape of the Veneto, Province of Vicenza, and Municipality of Vicenza.

The management of the property involves Authorities that operate on different decision-making levels. The relationships between these institutions are governed by the Draft Agreement, both in drawing up the Management Plan and in the actuation of action assigned to each party entering the agreement. The pilot committee is responsible for supervising and directing the above activities, its wide composition ensures comprehensive influence on all the institutional and territorial entities involved in managing the site. The members of the committee are listed in Annexe 7.7.

### **3.4 Management Plan**

**2003** UNESCO Office of Municipality of Vicenza

**2005** Memorandum of understanding between the responsible parties of the site

**30 May 2007**, Approval of the Management Plan

**12 July 2007**, Identification of the Site Manager of the Site (Municipality of Vicenza)

It is articulated in 4 parts:

General frame of reference of the management plan

The territorial information system

### Protection and Conservation

Plan for intervening on structures

Plan for maintenance and recuperation intervention

Protection plan

Plan for adjusting urbanization practices

### The model of the local cultural development

Plan for scientific and technological research

Plan for involving local communities

Accessibility and permeability plan

Plan for training and diffusion

Plan for receiving cultural tourism

Plan for typical local activities

Plan for cultural events and activities

Territorial marketing plan

The property's Management Plan was developed by several public and private Institutions. The UNESCO office, set up inside the Municipality of Vicenza, takes care of technical and administrative aspects and is charged with the monitoring of the property's Management Plan. Given the site's complexity, the general coordination is shared by the Ministry of Culture and the Veneto Region, while the Province of Vicenza coordinates provinces and municipalities. The coordination system aims at overcoming the fragmentation of initiatives by fostering synergetic relationships between institutions.

The principal aims of the Management Plan are to recover and revitalize the urban image, characterized by a strong Palladian mark, through the definition of intervention priorities inside the historical centre and the buffer zone, to restore and preserve the villas and the surrounding open spaces, and to define a study for the identification of buffer zones around the villas. It encourages the growth of awareness of heritage value in the local population by means of spreading knowledge and allowing participation in the choices and the management of the heritage. In addition, the management plan defines further actions for the UNESCO site aimed at supporting its successful management, such as improvement of accommodation and leisure facilities and initiatives, and also of infrastructure and transport systems.

The Management Plan was approved on 30 May 2007 (DEC 39 COM 8E\_2015). It was signed by all subjects directly involved in the heritage management: 21 local authorities, 6 provinces, the Superintendence of architectural and landscape heritage, the Superintendence of archaeological heritage, the Veneto Region, the Cultural and landscape heritage Regional Direction, Vicenza Diocese, Regional Institute of Venetian Villas (IRVV), Regional Association of Venetian Villas, CISA Palladio. The Piloting Committee is responsible for actuation.

A short-term, medium-term & long-term planning cycle with a focus on the factors affecting the property and their mitigation actions foreseen is needed. It should include regular meetings of the steering committee, taking into consideration HIA, mission reports and decisions of the World Heritage

Committee, to ensure the effective protection of the nominated property for present and future generations<sup>2</sup>.

### 3.5 Heritage Impact Assessment

#### 3.5.1 HIA Report

The Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) was requested by ICOMOS by letter on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2016. The municipality reacted immediately by opening a European tender published on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2016 by the Municipality of Vicenza.<sup>3</sup> The work was assigned on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2016 by commissioning the Grouping “SYSTEM - K.LISITZIN” (Katia Basili, Architect MA/PhD, Heritage Manager and Consultant (Venice Italy), Katri Lisitzin, Architect SAR/MSA, Heritage Consultant (Uppsala, Sweden) and Francesco Sbetti, Dr. Urban Planner Consultant Sistema s.n.c. - Documenta on, Research, Design (Venice Italy) with the collaboration of Michael Kloos, Prof. Dr., Architect and Urban Planner AKNW/SRL (Aachen Germany).<sup>4</sup> The HIA was completed at the end of February 2017.<sup>5</sup>

Essentially, the HIA assessment presented follows the “ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties” (2011). The Terms of Reference of the HIA consist of the ICOMOS Technical Review (2015) and the Tender documentation prepared by the City of Vicenza. Its baseline consists of reference documents on UNESCO World Heritage (Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (2015), *Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention* (2016)) and records, documents and reports concerning the World Heritage property.

The World Heritage Centre requested the HIA in order to have an assessment of the cumulative impact of potential impacts of realised and planned developments within the property, its buffer zone and its wider setting, referring to ICOMOS Technical Review (2015). This request prompted the Italian government to submit to the Heritage Impact Assessment the three following projects:

1. Military Settlement USA SETAF “Del Din” (formerly Airport Dal Molin), including the nearby Parco della Pace;
2. P.I.R.U.E.A. Former Co on Mill Cotorossi (Borgo Berga);
3. Railway line AV/AC “Verona Padua”.

The site manager, the City of Vicenza, added three further projects to be assessed in the HIA:

4. Project of Vicenza bypass “Tangenziali”;
5. Redevelopment project of the former complex San Biagio;
6. Urban development plan – Villa Trissino Cricoli.

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<sup>2</sup>*Operational Guidelines 2016, II.F, 109, 112.*

<sup>3</sup>*Tender N°: CIG 6726186048.*

<sup>4</sup>*Contract registered at n. 0146112/2016.*

<sup>5</sup>*HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY “CITY OF VICENZA AND THE PALLADIAN VILLAS OF THE VENETO. FEBRUARY 2017.*

Beside the former complex of San Biagio, all projects are located outside the World Heritage property and buffer zone boundaries. However, all of them have a considerable impact on the wider setting of the property.

Methodologically, the present HIA follows the usual structure. The description of the World Heritage Outstanding Universal Value is based on the official definition valid for the property. The basis is the information in the World Heritage documentation of the property (including Periodic Reporting (First and second cycle), the recommendations of the UNESCO/ICOMOS Mission in 2005 and the Management Plan (2007). The integrity and authenticity of the property are assessed following the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* (2016). Among other contents, the history and development of the property is briefly described. Further information was provided by the bodies responsible for the property management; furthermore, public and private stakeholders and the local community were involved (citizen's committees and cultural and environmental associations).

The systems of protection with the instruments of legislation, territorial and urban planning are described. The conservation measures for cultural heritage buildings and landscape are listed and the management plan of the World Heritage property is analysed.

The detailed description of the planned transformations is provided. It is followed by an identification of the impacts and the assessment of their scale and severity.

At its end, the HIA proposes several mitigation measures and recommendations. They intend to minimize the loss of Outstanding Universal Value.

Essentially, the HIA concludes that the following proposals are necessary:

1. World Heritage Management Plan: Update,
2. Buffer zone of the World Heritage property: Definition of buffer zone for all components of the serial property,
3. Awareness and capacity building about World Heritage property as a base for value based management,
4. Attention to the visual and perceptual impacts of development proposals,
5. A sustainable policy to secure the World Heritage property's contribution to the cultural and ecological sustainability.

### **3.5.2 Comment on the HIA Report and its Conclusions**

First of all, it must be taken into account that the time provided for the elaboration of the report was extremely short. After five month for the tender-process, only three months were left for investigation and the drafting of the report. The time allocated to the elaboration is definitely too short.

Nevertheless, the document is well structured and permits easy access to information about the pending questions. In its detailed documentation about the facts and figures, it is very precise and so the present report can keep the part of presentation of the single projects at a strict minimum.

The report with its 200 pages is rather extensive and much attention has been given to its presentation. It is to be noted that its structure quite often leads to reiterations that can be detrimental to its concision and easy understanding.

A lot of room is given to the descriptions of both the property and the six projects to be assessed. This basic material is very helpful. The analytical part, on the other hand, is dealt with rather cursorily and some of the assessments are rather poorly justified.

The visual impacts are strongly emphasized and the influence of the single projects onto the socio-cultural network is clearly described. The recommendations for future action and improvement remain quite general.

Obviously, the original language of the report is Italian. The English version at the mission's disposal, in some parts, is not easily understandable and contains some passages that have remained in Italian.

The HIA report is a most valuable instrument for an introduction into the problems of the property. It describes the facts of every topic with considerable precision; therefore, in this present report, the external preconditions are only summarised.

## **4 STATE OF CONSERVATION**

### **4.1 The Historic City of Vicenza and the Villas of Palladio**

It is important to underline, that the inscription not only includes the buildings of Palladio, but the entire historic city of Vicenza. It is the result of a long process of urbanisation that led to a rich and diversified urban landscape. In its delicate balance this tridimensional entity is most vulnerable.

The mission was not in a position to survey the state of conservation of the urban structure. However, the members noted some interventions of the last two decades that do not properly respect the urban scale and texture. The municipality should ensure that all interventions fully respect the urban scale, the texture and the materials of the historic city.

The mission noted the continuous conservation activities realised and programmed by the Ministry, Municipalities and private owners. Such components of the serial World Heritage property as were visited are in a good or acceptable state of conservation.<sup>6</sup>

### **4.2 Conservation Activities**

#### Actions realized:

Restoration of the Basilica Palladiana

Extraordinary maintenance for the facades of the Loggia del Capitaniato

Restoration of Palazzo Chiericati

Restoration of the Chapel of Valmarana

Restoration of the Venetian column of the Piazza dei Signori

Completion of the restoration of the Palazzo Vescovile

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<sup>6</sup> Since years, Villa Chiericati is out of use. However, it is not in a preoccupant state of conservation. It needs a conservation study and plan to be implemented.

Restoration and consolidation of the Basilica dei SS. Felice e Fortunato and of its bell tower  
Restoration of Villa Emo Capodilista in Fanzolo di Vedelago  
Functional recovery of the entire architectural complex of Villa Pisani in Bagnolo di Lonigo  
Maintenance of the Scalette di Monte Berico  
Recovery, revitalisation, and redevelopment of the system of piazzas around the Basilica Palladiana  
Redevelopment of Piazza Duomo  
Redevelopment of the Valmarana-Salvi Garden  
Redevelopment of the two parts of Campo Marzo (completion) of Viale Roma and Piazzale de Gasperi  
Redevelopment of the Corso Fogazzaro and completion of the redevelopment of Piazza San Lorenzo  
Environmental recovery and redevelopment of the context of Villa Godi Malinverni and Villa Piovene in Lonedo di Lugo in Vicenza  
Redevelopment of areas pertaining to Villa Emo in Fanzolo di Vedelago.  
Restoration of the frescoes on the main floor of Villa Badoer in Fratta Polesine.  
Constant monitoring of the state of conservation of the villa.

Actions in progress:

Restoration of the Loggetta Valmarana  
Restoration of the city wall section of the breach from Porta Nova to Porta S. Croce  
Completion of maintenance and redevelopment works to Querini Park (recovery of the former greenhouses)

Actions partially realized:

Restoration of the Teatro Olimpico  
Restoration and architectural recomposition of the Convent of Santa Corona complex  
Extraordinary maintenance of the Archaeological and Naturalistic Museum of Santa Corona  
Recovery, revitalisation, and redevelopment of the system of structures of fortification of the city

Actions yet to start:

Restoration and functional reuse of the Rocchetta  
Restoration of the buildings aggregated to the Church of San Silvestro  
Willingness on the part of the Municipality of Montecchio Precalcino to acquire the Villa Forni Cerato  
Extraordinary maintenance of Palazzo del Territorio  
Extraordinary maintenance of Palazzo Trissino  
Redevelopment of the area of the church square of the Basilica dei SS. Felice e Fortunato  
Restoration and consolidation of the Basilica dei SS. Felice e Fortunato and of its bell tower  
Ordinary and extraordinary maintenance of Villa Thiene in Quinto Vicentino

## **5 TRANSFORMATION PROJECTS**

### **5.1 Preliminary Remarks**

### **5.1.1 A critical general public**

Within the last decade, several transformations of great impact have been realised in Vicenza and its surroundings. Other important interventions are planned. The multitude of changes and their extent, as well as the way, by whom and how decisions were made, has led to a very critical attitude to new projects of a part of the population.

A considerable atmosphere of distrust can be sensed in discussions with citizens. It was and is the reason for the formation of many active associations for protection in Vicenza. The mood of distrust became manifest during the mission in numerous written interventions addressed to the experts before and after the mission and in the great commitment and motivation of the representatives of associations during the meeting of the mission with the NGOs in Vicenza.

A critical civil society as it exists in Vicenza is an important asset for an appropriate development of a city. Disagreement between the elected persons (parliament and executive authority) and administration on one hand, the associations and NGOs on the other hand can lead to a real dialogue that essentially improves dealing with the existing and any new projects. An open policy of information and deep respect for the partners are the prerequisite for such a dialogue.

Often, it was necessary to recall that the mission's task is limited to assessing the impacts on the OUV of the World Heritage property and that it cannot take position on all other topics that may worry the population and which, certainly, are to be handled with care.<sup>7</sup>

### **5.1.2 Property – Buffer Zone – Wider Setting**

The majority of the transformations dealt with in this report is not situated within the perimeter of the World Heritage property or its buffer zone. However, in the policy related to the World Heritage Convention for many years, reflections on the importance of the local population, their relationship with cultural heritage including their traditions and feelings have had a great influence. These reflections have led to an important readjustment of the content of built heritage: while it is still the material substance that is considered as carrier of the historical testimony, the notion of immaterial contents together with the emotional involvement of the present local population is added. That also means that any impact on a World Heritage property coming from outside the property and the buffer zones can also have a major influence on its authenticity and integrity and in consequence on its OUV. Within this widely-accepted understanding of cultural heritage, the so-called "wider setting" has become essential for the handing on of an intact World Heritage property to following generations.

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<sup>7</sup>*The most widely cited examples of open questions were the building-permit for a villa near the Portico di Monte Berico (Francesco Muttoni, 1715), the different projects around the garden of the former psychiatric hospital, the transformation of the church San Rocco with its cloister and the future destiny of the ancient slaughterhouse (Carlo Morseletto, 1891).*

If they are in an essentially bigger scale than usual, important changes in the landscape or built volumes within the wider setting may have a great influence on the property. Its material aspects are important but also other aspects such as the views, the spirit of the place, the attachment of the inhabitants (and visitors). Consequently, they may become important factors for the preservation of the World Heritage property. The scale of any intervention is essential.

There seems to be a lack of awareness that influences from outside the limits of the property and its buffer zone can represent major threats to the property itself. For the Italian State the answer cited in WHC-10/34.COM/7B.Add Paris, 22 June 2010 clearly shows this lack of understanding: "...The World Heritage Centre also received information from NGOs concerning the new Dal Molin military base, which is located 1,5km outside the World Heritage property. On 31 May 2010, the World Heritage Centre was informed by the Italian authorities that the proposed Dal Molin military base will be situated far outside of the buffer zone of the World Heritage property and that it will not have any negative impact on the property. The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies consider that details of the proposed Dal Molin military base need to be assessed for any potential impact on the property."

### **5.1.3 The Importance of Volumetry and Location**

The mission in Vicenza allowed to clearly understand how important a compatible definition of height or length may be and how, in certain cases, while acknowledging the existing values, no further built volumes can be accepted. In fact, for both an urban ensemble and the surroundings of a single monument like a villa, the question of the volume and the exact location of a building-intervention is a crucial point. In a given context, volume means the mass of building, expressed primarily in its height, but also in its length, while the location is determined essentially by the potential obstruction of views.

Once the volume and location, also in relationship with the urban landscape, is correctly and compatibly defined, the quality of architecture is an important further step to making an intervention not a deteriorating element but, in the best case, an added value.

### **5.1.4 Cumulative effect of damage to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)**

Major damages to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of any World Heritage property are not lessened over time. They remain important and if new damage were to follow, it is the totality of adverse effects that must be considered.

The question if the property has maintained its OUV is to be assessed considering all damages that have occurred. For the property "City of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto" it is to note that – as it will be shown below – especially realised interventions, the military base "Del Din" and the new building-complex Borgo Berga have an important negative impact on the OUV. Mitigations of this impact are now only possible to a very limited extent.

### **5.1.5 The World Heritage property in its entirety**

The mission was limited by its terms of reference to the questions raised within the City of Vicenza and its immediate surroundings. However, the World Heritage property includes a further 21 villas of Andrea Palladio in 6 provinces. They are not included in this report.

During the mission, the experts' attention was drawn to the fact that some of these villas are inadequately dealt with. The following two examples stand for more indications received:

The Villa Caldogno in Caldogno (1542) seems to have been subject to heavy urban interventions in its buffer zone. Intense building-activity at the east area, with an obtrusive building, the municipal swimming pool and a business centre that interrupt the views have been constructed. Further interventions seem to disturb the relationship between the villa and the historic landscape. The architectural interventions in the interior of the basement of the villa seem to go quite far and to damage the historic character of the spaces destined for servants.

The villa Forni Cerato in Montebelluna (1565) seems to be abandoned and no care taken of it. Especially the northern front seems to have suffered. The farm buildings seem to be partially ruined.

The experts suggest that all Palladian villas inscribed within the property "City of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto" be assessed. Particular attention should be given to the relationship of the buildings with the wider landscape. The question of a possible introduction or extension of the buffer zones for the single villas should be discussed.

## **5.2 US Army Military Base Setaf "Del Din"**

### **5.2.1 Facts and Figures**

The US military base "Del Din" is situated in the north of the city on flat ground. It occupies the western part of the former airport "Dal Molin" built in 1921 as an airport of the Italian Air Force. Heavily bombed towards the end of World War II, it was later reopened with, after the 90s, a military and civilian mixed use.

The NATO headquarters for Southern Europe (Southern European Task Force - SETAF) are located in the barracks "Carlo Ederle", situated in the district of St. Pius X to the east of the historic centre of Vicenza. As of 2004, a new US Army Military Base (wrongly declared to be an enlargement of Ederle-barracks) was built on a state-owned terrain of about 580,000 sqm, the western part of the former airport "Dal Molin".

The base was built between 2009 and 2013 by the US government. In comparison to first proposals, the realisation intended to introduce several improvements (height, decreasing volumes towards East).

### **5.2.2 Comments on the impact of the Realised Building-complex**

The built area – with constructions of up to 6 floors on a length of towards 2

km<sup>8</sup> – has an important visual, functional and immaterial impact within the wider area of the property, the historic landscape, as a most relevant part of the Palladio-related heritage.

It forms an important and insurmountable visible barrier in the flat land between the city and the mountains. The mountains to the north of Vicenza form a highly important part of the setting in terms of historical meaning, landscape and cultural understanding. The deterioration of the landscape is obvious. It is mainly recognisable from the surrounding hills; especially from Monte Berico it can't be overlooked and compromises the views of the historic centre and the whole territory of Vicenza.

The wider setting of the city is damaged by the sheer mass of the built volumes and their extent in length. The scale of the "city of Palladio" is disregarded and the military base is somehow competing with the historical urban structure. In fact, the densely-built core of the city gradually opens to the landscape, the structures become permeable. In the adjacent open landscape, the military base puts an entirely foreign element with a wrong scale. The authenticity and integrity of the property is damaged and thus the intervention is affecting the OUV.

The new (and additional) military base strongly preoccupied the local institutions and associations and the entire community before its implementation. The urban community as a whole expressed its strong opposition to the new installation. The problem was reported to the World Heritage Centre in time and the failure to obtain a substantial answer in due time led to great disappointment.<sup>9</sup> During the mission, the issue was strongly emphasized by the associations. It is evident that the existence of the new base still has and will have a negative impact on the socio-cultural relationship of the inhabitants with the World Heritage property. Even years after the completion of the base, the socio-cultural impact of the military base on the local society is present.

The construction of the military base has caused important changes in the hydrological system since for security-reasons it is based on the impermeability of the area's soil. This caused relevant changes in the general water-flow affecting the area outside the perimeter. Thus, for the Parco della Pace, critical hydraulic conditions have been identified at the boundary of the area. Special measures are necessary in order to ensure the hydrography of the territory and to mitigate the remaining risk of flooding.

On the functional level, the military base generates heavy vehicle traffic. It uses the existing urban roads. The experts' question about potential danger related to the nature of the transported goods could not be clearly and satisfactorily answered.

However, the military base is a reality, the damage is done. Most probably, it

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<sup>8</sup>The military base occupies an area of ca. 0.5 km width and 1.7 km length.

<sup>9</sup>It should be mentioned that the recommendation at the draft decision WHC-10/34.COM/7B.Add prepared by the WHC: "5. Requests the State Party to provide plans which allow an assessment of any potential impact of the Dal Molin military base on the property;" was not included by the World Heritage Committee at the decision 34 COM 7B.90. The mission was not in a position to verify the reasons for that deletion.

will not be possible to change its buildings, its exploitation or its strict closure in the sense of "impermeability" within the next decades – so, for instance, proposals to reconvert it within the immediate future into a University-campus are wishful thinking.

### **5.2.3 Comments on the procedures**

All questions concerning the new military base and related to the World Heritage should have been discussed and evaluated during the project-phase and within the processes set down by the World Heritage Convention. The State Party should have advised the UNESCO World Heritage Centre about the project in time.<sup>10</sup> However, it seems that it was not aware of the importance of the wider setting (beyond the property and the buffer zone). As it is, an assessment in due time and based on clear plans was not made.

### **5.2.4 Comments on possible improvements**

In the case of the military base Del Din, fundamental improvements of the current situation of the built complex are not possible.

However, one possible threat to the property can be reduced. It consists in the transportation of goods from the railway-station to the military base. As mentioned before, no clear answer as to the material and goods transported could be given to the experts. It is essential that no material be transported that could harm the property in case of an incident.

Studies on hydraulic consequences seem to have been made. However, it does not seem to be entirely clear if the intrusion of the fundamentals into the extremely high groundwater-level and the modifications to the banks of the river Bacchiglione have an influence on the extremely important reservoir of water in this area and/or on the likelihood of flooding.

## **5.3 Parco della Pace (Peace park)**

### **5.3.1 Facts and Figures**

After the government's decision to have the new American base built, the municipality, as of 2008, requested compensational measures for the impact. In 2011, it obtained the grant of the remaining east area of Dal Molin airport where the municipality is about to install a city park, called "Parco della Pace" (Peace Park) with a size of 650,000 sqm. The intention is to build a sort of bulwark to separate military and civil zones and to ensure that the base will not

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<sup>10</sup>Operational Guidelines, paragraph 172: "The World Heritage Committee invites the States Parties to the Convention to inform the Committee, through the Secretariat, of their intention to undertake or to authorize in an area protected under the Convention major restorations or new constructions which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. Notice should be given as soon as possible (for instance, before drafting basic documents for specific projects) and before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, so that the Committee may assist in seeking appropriate solutions to ensure that the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is fully preserved."

be enlarged. The initial ceding of the terrain for 50 years was recently changed into a definitive transfer of ownership.

In order to find a large public consensus for the project, the municipality established a 'Participation Forum' uniting all interested associations, the planners<sup>11</sup> and the officials. Many, but evidently not all the elements of discussions concerning the choices of project-design and use of the Park and environmental impact were integrated within the project. The discussions are not finished and further consultation is planned.

So far, the cleaning of the soil and the improvement of the drainage-system perturbed by Del Din has been finished. The project is to be executed soon. It is based on hydrologic-hydraulic analyses creating wetlands, canals, with parts of traditional agricultural use and areas for animal protection. Only small soil-modulations are provided. As the area is rather part of the landscape, its use and ecological context than an urban park, the question of accessibility is important and a sustainable mobility-network with public transport and cycling lanes is planned.

The existing preliminary project is to be revised by summer 2017. The execution is supposed to start at the beginning of 2018.

### 5.3.2 Comments on the impact of project

In its conception, the *Parco della Pace* is a valuable instrument for keeping the negative impact of the military base of Del Din within its current limits. Mainly, its function is to ensure that the military base is clearly limited in its extent. Furthermore, it is essential that the park remain part of cultural memory, i.e. the memory of the former air base.

It will be important to fully meet the challenge of hydraulic flows within the project. This issue is directly linked with the hydraulic changes arising from the construction of the military base Del Din.

For the planned project, the design should be developed further towards a closer link with traditional agricultural aspects of the landscape in order to avoid a non-related exclave within the wider surroundings. A big area foreign to the historic anthropicated landscape would have a negative impact on the authenticity of use and function and the visual integrity of the wider setting of the property, thus reinforcing instead of diminishing the damage caused by the military base. So, in the further work on the project, it is important to achieve the park's close link with the agro-rural system of the landscape, which is a crucial element of the World Heritage property. In addition, the aspect of continuous change of the features will be important in order to integrate the area in a process of appropriation by the inhabitants.

The solution of the problems related to the transportation of visitors to the park is indispensable. It should also be taken into consideration that the area will attract visitors from outside the near Vicenza-region.

The mission's experts consider that the involvement of citizens with a "Table of Participation" as a consultative body can considerably improve the acceptance

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<sup>11</sup>*Pan Associati Studio.*

of the park. It is important to clearly define in which type of considerations the table can and should use its influence.<sup>12</sup> Strength and clearness of the project should not be weakened by the process of participation.

## 5.4 Building Complex in the Former Cotonificio Cotorossi Area: Borgo Berga

### 5.4.1 Facts and Figures

The area concerned, called Borgo Berga, is located in the southeast of the city. It is adjacent to the World Heritage property and its buffer zone and is situated at 500 meters from the site of Villa Capra "La Rotonda". Together with rows of common houses along the right bank of Retrone and a small church (Sta. Caterina in Porto, 1677), the area marks the most important historical entrance to the city from the south.

The eastern side of this entrance was occupied by the cotton-mill Rossi, situated on a peninsula at the confluence of the rivers Retrone and Bacchiglione. The huge ensemble of low-rise, interrelated industrial construction (about 100,000 sqm) had gone out of use by 1990.

In 1999, the area of the former cotton mill Cotorossi was inserted into the PRUSST (*Programma di Riqualificazione Urbana e di Sviluppo Sostenibile del Territorio* – Urban Renewal Program for the Sustainable Development of the Territory).<sup>13</sup> In 2003 the construction of new headquarters of the Tribunal was decided. A year later, the P.I.R.U.E.A. (*Programma di Riqualificazione Urbanistica, Edilizia ed Ambientale* – Program for Urban, Building and Environmental Requalification) "Cotorossi" was approved; it regulates not only the utilisation rate of the peninsula, but also of the terrains on the right side of the river Retrone (shopping centre) and the left side of the river Bacchiglione (so-called lot E). It allows the construction of important floor-areas: Residential 18.500 sqm, directional, accommodation, service crafts 16.800 sqm, commercial 9.600 sqm, public exercises 2.100 sqm, tribunal-building 19.500 sqm. In addition, the parking lots of two storeys height cover 30% of the floor area.<sup>14</sup>

The cotton-mill Rossi was demolished in 2005/06.<sup>15</sup> The preservation-office didn't attribute any historical or architectural value to the ensemble, apart from the old chimney which reflects a memory of the 19<sup>th</sup> century factory, but is now a strange element within the complex. The Environmental and Architectural Heritage Department had demanded the preservation of a building of the pre-existing historical factory from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but it has

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<sup>12</sup> Not less than 41 persons representing 30 associations have participated at the round table. Their remarks on the preliminary project show how broad the expectancies to the park may be. It is evident, that they need to be bundled. *Documento di sintesi / Parere progetto preliminare parco della pace da parte del tavolo della partecipazione. A cura di Irma Visalli, 27 dicembre 2016.*

<sup>13</sup> D. G. C. 669 of August 25, 1999.

<sup>14</sup> The indicated surfaces are those of version 2009. In 2003, the numbers were slightly different.

<sup>15</sup> 1885: Realization of the first industrial building of Cotonificio Cotorossi – 1939-1945: During World War II destruction of the whole complex by bombing, only the chimney and some few buildings or parts of buildings remaining intact – 1945-1980: Reconstruction of the buildings – 1983: End of industrial activity within the building – from 1984: Closing-down sale process – from 2005: Demolition of the complex.

been demolished. It appears that a compulsory recommendation from the authority responsible for monuments was disregarded, which suggests that there may be limited effectiveness in implementation of the legal framework and that breaches may have no significant consequences.

The enormous tribunal-building was constructed by a private firm in 2006-12 with municipal and state funding. It is based on a project of poor architectural value.<sup>16</sup>

In 2009, a revision of the P.I.R.U.E.A. "Cotorossi" was approved. It essentially modifies the urban-architectural design of residential and economic buildings south of the built tribunal, the allowed surfaces and the open-space-design, maintaining the quantity of floor-area of the plan.<sup>17</sup>

The height of the tribunal is of 27 m, the height of the privately used buildings of 16.50 m. These heights are measured from the parking-basement, the "altitude of reference"; beyond two floors with a total height of almost 8 m were built.

Currently, the area is in state of realisation. The tribunal, the supermarket on the western side of the river Retrone, several offices and residences and the entire parking-facility have been completed and are in use, other constructions have been initiated but not finished (buildings at the head of the peninsula), while the lot on the right-hand side of the river Bacchiglione has not even been planned in its details (Lot E). This lot was put under requisition following an investigation aimed at verifying "the alleged unlawfulness of the plan" in November 2015.<sup>18</sup> During the mission, the municipality and the owner of the lot explicitly expressed their intention to preserve this lot by means of an exchange of land.

#### 5.4.2 Comments on the impact of the realised building-complex

The new complex is immediately adjacent to the Buffer Zone of the City, some 100 m away from the *Arco della Saletta* and less than 500 m away from the *Villa Rotonda*, both of them World Heritage buildings of Andrea Palladio. The situation is very delicate.

For several reasons, the effect of the building-complex is devastating in its local context. The most important reason is its visual predominance. It is the result of an erroneous implantation. The first fundamental mistake is the height of the so-called "reference level of the project". The existing ground level of the flat land is at an altitude of about 33 meters above sea-level. With the definition of the reference level as 40 meters<sup>19</sup>, the investor was allowed to

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<sup>16</sup>It is astonishing that the urban and architectural concept of a building of the given importance could be assigned directly, without architectural competition. Developer FINVI S.R.L., Architect Michele Valentini, Rome.

<sup>17</sup>Architects Gonalo Byrne e Joao Nues.

<sup>18</sup>Courthouse of Vicenza Office of the judge for preliminary investigations. Preventive requisition decree art. 321 Criminal Procedure Code - common protocol of Vicenza n 0214679/2015 - 11.06.2015.

<sup>19</sup>Different sources speak about a wrong altitude of the point of reference based on the fourth step of the Arch of "Scalette di Monte Berico" indicating a height of 39.31 meters above the sea level. It was fixed (it seems heightened) to 40 meters.

erect a base with an enormous amount of building volume (mainly used for car parking);<sup>20</sup> as a result, the entire area became predominant in the surrounding landscape. It is inexplicable that the public authorities involved didn't forbid this volumetric abuse but, on the contrary inscribed it in the planning documents. The visual predominance of the complex is deeply affecting the authenticity of the location and the setting and the visual integrity of the World Heritage property. The dimensions (length and especially spot-height) of the complex represent a scale that is in competition with the historic town.

The second problem arises from the relationship between the built area and the river Retrone. Whilst, normally, it is lined by greened banks in gentle slopes, in the northern part of the new complex it has become an entirely artificial canal of concrete.<sup>21</sup> However, it will not be possible to change this deeply erroneous dealing with the river and its banks.<sup>22</sup>

A third problematic issue is the volume of the buildings rising upon the base. The tribunal-building towers over the urban landscape. Even if the impact from viewpoints nearby, directed towards a traffic surface, is similar to many urban situations, seen from the city or the open landscape, the building is clearly out of proportion with the built urban fabric. That aspect is even worse for the buildings at the head of the peninsula to the south. Definitely, they are much too high, dominating the plain in front of them. This effect is mainly due to the excessive height of the base – the four floors would not be problematic if they rose from the level of surrounding land. As it is, the excessive height in this position is not acceptable.

All three adverse effects have to be considered in the context of a constituting element in the work of Andrea Palladio: the intense relationship between landscape and architecture. It can be acknowledged in exemplary fashion in the nearby *Villa Rotonda*. The open space of agricultural land and its anthropicated nature is the one most important starting point of the development of the architect's projects. The relationship between the open space and the city or a single piece of architecture is essential – if it is disturbed, the whole Palladian spatial perception is disrupted.

It is such a disruption that the Borgo-Berga-complex provokes both for the city of Vicenza and for the *Villa Rotonda*. It represents a drastic negative visual impact that harms the authenticity and integrity of the World Heritage property<sup>23</sup>. The assessment shows that the property suffers heavily from the adverse effects of the development of Borgo Berga.

Other negative impacts are secondary or not relevant in the assessment of the OUV. For instance, they concern the additional amount of traffic of the complex, with the surplus of pollution it comes with or the questions related to

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<sup>20</sup> *By no means, the fact that the area is polluted by Cotorossi can justify this decision. In the immediate vicinity of the two rivers, it would have been particularly important to replace the polluted soil.*

<sup>21</sup> *Decree n. 523/1904 would establish a hydraulic buffer zone of 10 metres from the rivers in which no construction is allowed. Parts of the new constructions seem to go beyond this limit.*

<sup>22</sup> *On the southern part, the project in execution improves the fault with greened slopes and footpaths.*

<sup>23</sup> *"Integrity is a measure of the wholeness and intactness of the natural and/or cultural heritage and its attributes." Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention, par. 87.*

the "compatibility hydraulic study" and the necessary compensatory measures (detention basins).

The building-complex of Borgo Berga causes significant and important damage to the World Heritage property. If, to a certain extent, it is irreversible, some correction-measures are still possible and should be executed.

#### 5.4.3 Comments on possible improvements

In its essential parts, the building-complex of Borgo Berga has been realised. It will not be possible to essentially correct it within the next decades, unless it were to be demolished (in whole or part). The impacts of the tribunal building in particular illustrate the necessity of revising planning controls for the areas outside the limits of the buffer zones of the property's components in order to ensure the protection of the views and visual integrity of the wider setting of the property.

However, in several parts improvements are still conceivable. All efforts should be made to realise them, even if the measures to be taken can be expensive. The value of the World Heritage is such that no effort should be spared in correcting the gross errors committed in the planning.

The first action is already envisaged. The area on the left side of the river Bacchiglione (so-called lot E) should be left without any construction. It should be converted for agricultural exploitation in order to maintain the link with the plain to the South. Obviously, first discussions between the owners of the land and the municipality have led to either side declaring its intention to exchange this lot with another piece of land. Concrete negotiations can begin once the requisition is suspended.

A further measure is of equal importance. The "head" of the quarter, the buildings that form a sharp angle above the confluence of the rivers Bacchiglione and Retrone is the most exposed spot of the quarter Borgo Berga. It is the component with the strongest negative impact on the flat landscape belonging to the city, its southern entrance and the *Villa Rotonda*. Its highly negative impact can only be diminished by lowering the buildings at the head of the peninsula to the South by two floors. As the construction is still at the stage of the constructive skeleton-structure, technically, an intervention of this type can be realised without difficulty, although, admittedly, it will require compensations for the owners.<sup>24</sup>

It may be objected that the architectural design of the new complex is weakened by such a measure. In fact, it is based on an open interior space between houses of identical height of 4 floors, with small openings between the houses to the exterior. Somehow, this concept of considerable density adopts a principle of urban design of Venetian cities. Undoubtedly, it has its qualities that can easily be perceived in the interior open courtyard; these qualities are appreciated by the experts.

However, the super-elevation of the housing complex over the landscape has disastrous consequence for the exterior. The height over the river is not of 4,

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<sup>24</sup> They could be included within the negotiations concerning lot E.

but of 6 floors, which leads to a heavy and not acceptable intervention into the landscape and a disturbance of the equilibrium between one side and the other of the two rivers. It is the mere consequence of the erroneous decision to shift the "altitude of reference" to the top of the two parking floors. In other terms, the building-complex is located on an artificial hill, that is no less than more than 7 m. above the natural terrain.<sup>25</sup>

Ultimately, the problem boils down to the question whether it is the architectural concept of the new buildings or the intactness of the World Heritage property with its relationship with the landscape that is more important. If the status of the city of Vicenza as World Heritage property is considered important, the answer to this question must be clear.

Slight as it may appear, a third element of improvement should be considered, which is the materialisation and the structure of the façades of the last houses to be completed. Their façades of two floors should be designed in such a way as to integrate themselves smoothly into the background of the surroundings. That doesn't mean that they should be "traditional"; like the already finished façades much rather they should express the time of their construction, but be toned down and "pacified".

## 5.5 Railway Line Connection AC Milan-Venice

### 5.5.1 Facts and Figures

The strategic project of a High Capacity system (AC = Alta Capacità) aims at connecting Vicenza with the European railway network and allowing the development of local public transport through the creation of the Metropolitan Regional Railway Service (SFMR). It is planned by RFI (Italian Railway Network) in coordination with the municipality and the Chamber of Commerce of Vicenza and together with the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport and Veneto Region.<sup>26</sup>

Following the study of numerous alternatives including entirely modified layouts of the line with new tunnels (also under the Monte Berico), finally, three different solutions were examined.<sup>27</sup> Essentially, all three of them are based on the alignment of the AC-line to the existing historic line, without new galleries. The altitude of the tracks will be exactly maintained and the clearance-gauge will not be altered.<sup>28</sup>

During the presentation of the current state of project it was confirmed that – after public consultation – the so-called solution 3 was definitely chosen. The existing railway-station in Vicenza would be preserved; the area to the West

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<sup>25</sup> Before the demolition of Cottorossi, the level of ground of the peninsula was around 32.00 meters above sea-level; it was raised about 1 m with the material of demolition of the industry-buildings. The minimal altitude to respect for the "reference level of the project" would have been these 33 meters above sea-level, the level of floods expected by the competent authority (Autorità di Bacino) once a hundred years. Indeed, during the "great flood" in November 2010 the area remained unflooded.

<sup>26</sup> Memorandum of Understanding of 29.7.2014 and following Addendums.

<sup>27</sup> City Council resolution on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

<sup>28</sup> RFI, ITALFERR: STRATEGIC RAILWAY INFRASTRUCTURE DEFINED BY LAW No. 443/01, as amended. HS/HC LINE VERONA - PADUA FUNCTIONAL LOT II: CROSSING OF VICENZA. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS BETWEEN ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS. March 2016.

will be exempted from the existing numerous warehouses and will be transformed so as to become a public space (mainly a parking-area). The stretch east of the railway-station will not be widened, but will be kept in the present dimensions. The solution also ensures hydraulic precautions and improvements.<sup>29</sup>

West of the current station, a new bridge is envisaged. It will cross the many railway tracks in an acute angle and, thus, will be long and high. That is also the case for a pedestrian crossover planned near the station.

### 5.5.2 Comments on the impact of the planned Railway Line

Building the additional line seems to be imperative – the question of the experts whether a similar improvement in capacity could be obtained by modernising the existing tracks was clearly denied.

Even if, evidently, it will cause some minor problems, the current solution as it was presented during the mission, in principle, is compatible with the authenticity and integrity and thus the OUV of the World Heritage property. It will be important to eliminate the formerly evaluated alternatives from the respective plans (e.g. the tunnel under Monte Berico).<sup>30</sup> The current impacts of the existing line (noise, vibrations) are not or only slightly reinforced. This observation is valid both for the city-area and for the Palladian villas directly concerned, the villa Chiericati (Grumolo delle Abbadesse) and the villa Trissino (Sarego).<sup>31</sup>

However, the planning of the details will be essential. Special attention must be given to new or renewed/lengthened overpasses and also to elements for noise-reduction. Furthermore, it is to be made sure that the new line maintains the existing altitude of tracks and does not have a higher clearance.

An element that has not yet been well defined, but could have a negative impact, are the planned new overpasses, one to the west of the railway-station, the other (for pedestrians) near the railway-station. Due to their height and length, their position and direction, the two overpasses may well become predominant elements within the urban landscape and in relation to the historical city. Alternative solutions should be studied and these elements of the related projects should be reviewed and re-assessed.

## 5.6 Vicenza Bypass "Tangenziali"

### 5.6.1 Facts and Figures

The project includes the construction of a ring-road around the city of Vicenza. The already built southern part of it is connected with the highway A4 Torino-Trieste, joining the cities of Verona and Padua. This part of the ring-road is to be completed first with a connection to the highway A31, which, in the East of

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<sup>29</sup> So-called solution 3.

<sup>30</sup> Area Plans (Piani d'Area) – Strategic Projects (Progetti Strategici) – Provincial Territorial Coordination Plan (PTCP).

<sup>31</sup> However, it is not valuable for other villas nearby the railway line. Their protection from negative effects should be examined closely.

Vicenza, connects the city to the North of the Province. Furthermore, the important traffic in the direction of the localities in the Northwest (especially Caldogno, Thiene and Schio) is to be taken out of the urban road-net. Finally, a northern branch would form a link between the new roads in the East and in the West.

The construction of the additional parts of the ring-road is planned in four sections. The western part ("*stralcio n° 1*" – relation with the localities in the Northwest as Caldogno, Thiene and Schio) is under construction; an additional part giving access to the military base "Del Din" is in the planning stage. The eastern part ("*stralcio n° 2*" - relation with A31) is planned but its execution has not yet been decided on. The two northern parts ("*stralcio n° 3 and n° 4*") have been submitted to a technical economic feasibility-study that is in progress.

### 5.6.2 Comments on the impact of Vicenza Bypass "Tangenziali"

In the interior of the medieval wall, the core of the city is largely free of motorised traffic – as in other towns of Northern Italy, bicycles are widely used. The picture changes radically in the adjacent quarters. The roads are rather narrow, designed for internal accessibility, but nowadays used for an intense transit traffic. Daily, there are heavy traffic congestions and the situation for residents is difficult to bear. Although it could be considered as a mere shifting of problems (risk of accidents, noise, air pollution, effluent from leaks), the necessity of improvement of this situation is given.

The two new roads South-North don't represent a major problem for the authenticity and integrity of the property. It is important to note that they don't have road connections in the open landscape between their respective ends, which means they will not attract further industrial development as could be a problem.<sup>32</sup>It is evident that the projects in their details have to follow the current prescriptions and be integrated as far as possible into the rural landscape. In order to maintain the rural landscape, the number of overpasses should be reduced to a minimum and they should be carefully designed.

The branch between the Northern end of the road in the direction of Caldogno, Thiene and Schio ("*stralcio n° 1*") and the military base "Del Din" was intensively discussed during the mission. It certainly would facilitate the access to the base, which nowadays is assured only by one road that passes through inhabited quarters. However, traffic to the base is not very intense. More important than the improvement for traffic is the fact that this connection would represent a first stage and a precedent for the Northern part of the ring-road.<sup>33</sup> The reflections here-after concerning the Northern part of the ring-road are entirely applicable to this first stage of the Northern part of the ring-road. The mission's experts consider the damage made to the landscape be so essential that the advantages of the branch between the Northern end of the road in the

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<sup>32</sup>Regulations to prevent further urban development between the built environment and the new road should be fixed.

<sup>33</sup>The effects of the new road on the charge of the other roads should be registered precisely during some years before taking further decisions.

direction of Caldogno, Thiene and Schio ("*stralcio n° 1*") and the military base "Del Din" are not important enough to justify building the connection.

This Northern part of the ring-road should be cancelled. It would cut through the as yet intact landscape. Nodes of hydrogeological protection in environmental and landscape terms and villas of remarkable importance would be affected. The landscape in this area is particularly precious as it has preserved different typologies of indigenous plants and is characterised by limited urbanization. In addition, in this significantly scenic landscape, the river Bacchiglione and its banks are in a rare pristine and unspoiled state of integrity. As the level of groundwater is very high and the risk of flooding is present, the road's level would be well visible, even further accentuated by the many crossovers. The visual approach to the World Heritage property from the North, already impaired by the military base "Del Din", would be further perturbed.

## **5.7 Redevelopment Project of the Former "San Biagio" Complex**

### **5.7.1 Facts and Figures**

The former monastery of San Biagio is located in the historical city at Contrà Pedemuro San Biagio and Piazza San Biagio, next to the river Bacchiglione; it makes part of the World Heritage property.

The municipality and the State Party Agency own the different parts of the building-complex. The buildings have been abandoned and are in bad condition, most of the newly built sections are of no historic interest, others are of greater value and merit. The complex is mainly in disuse, a garage is located in the church.

The State Party Agency intends to locate the Polo State archives in the complex. In addition, new residential and commercial or tertiary uses are planned with green parts and paved squares of the open spaces. A Master Plan will be developed on the basis of a public tender procedure.

### **5.7.2 Comments on the impact of Redevelopment Project of the Former "San Biagio" Complex**

According to the information received, the procedure seems to be appropriate to assuring an intervention that does not affect the OUV of the World Heritage property.

However, the project does not contribute to the coherence of the city nor provide benefits for its citizens. That effect could be an important goal for a project on publicly owned land.

The intention to build two underground levels for parking and storage should be reconsidered (hydraulic problems, problems of car-traffic).

In any case, it will be important to assure within the tender that a project of high architectural quality is chosen (which requires an architectural competition).

## 5.8 Urbanistic Plans near Villa Trissino Cricoli

### 5.8.1 Facts and Figures

The Villa Trissino Cricoli was the home of Giangiorio Trissino, the patron of Andrea Palladio;<sup>34</sup> it is part of the World Heritage property. The villa is located at the north side of the historical centre of Vicenza, along the road SP248 to Marostica. Despite its location within a rather urbanised zone, the villa has kept its green surroundings with mainly agricultural use to the South, East and North. The area is characterised by the river Bacchiglione that is lined by shrubberies and trees.

In the immediate surroundings of the villa, the Plan of Intervention envisages several urban densifications.

To the east of the villa, beyond the river Bacchiglione, a new settlement is planned, containing residential, commercial and administrative spaces. The dense building-complex "A Square for Saviabona" is organised along an inner open space. The heights of buildings vary from 13.45 to 16.65 meters, i.e. the buildings will contain up to 6 floors.

To the north of the villa, a zone for equipment, infrastructure and facilities of public interest is envisaged. There is not yet a concrete plan, but during the mission the information was given that a possible use would be a private hospital facility combined with residential use. The possible height of buildings has not yet been determined.

To the north-west of the villa, beyond the road to Marostica, an urban expansion area called "Executive Plan of Laghetto" is being considered. The plans are not yet concrete. The maximum height is of 12 meters.

### 5.8.2 Comments on the impact of Urbanistic Plans near Villa Trissino Cricoli

For any Urbanistic Plan near Villa Trissino Cricoli it is important that an understanding of OUV and potential impact guide the design and approval processes. Therefore, thorough Heritage Impact Assessments should be prepared and proper notifications should be made in accordance with the *Operational Guidelines*.<sup>35</sup>

The planned new settlement "A Square for Saviabona" east of the villa is in straight visible connection with the villa. The argument that the shrubberies and trees lining the river Bacchiglione would hide the new buildings is wrong: the height of the buildings exceeds the height of the greenery and, what's more, in winter-time, when there are no leaves, the visual influence definitely is important. The value of the villa is closely linked to the open landscape in the main directions; if it was overbuilt, the position of the monument would be heavily damaged and its natural context would be essentially harmed. The planned new settlement "A Square for Saviabona" would dramatically affect

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<sup>34</sup> A possible contribution of Andrea Palladio in the design of the villa is uncertain. Primarily, the villa forms part of the Site because of the importance of Giangiorgio Trissino in his support for Andrea Palladio that was extremely important for him and his career.

<sup>35</sup> *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*, paragraph 172.

the authenticity of the location and setting of the villa and its visual integrity as perceived from and to the villa.

These considerations are no less valid for the second buildings planned, the zone for equipment, infrastructure and facilities of public interest to the North of the villa. The already built shopping-centre beyond the agriculturally used plain shows drastically how the setting of the villa is to be altered and heavily disturbed. A constructible zone in this area would permit buildings that dramatically would affect the authenticity of the location and setting of the villa and its visual integrity as perceived from and to the villa.

Both interventions would make the villa lose the indispensable vastness of the villa's park and would surround it by buildings. The important green space, one of the few remaining in the city centre, would be lost.

On the other hand, the expected building rights west to the road to Marostica, provided by the "Executive Plan of Laghetto" do not have a direct consequence for the villa. The existing ecological corridor is interrupted and the hinge-function of the area between the river parks of Bacchiglione and dell'Astichello would be strongly affected. While, this problem doesn't directly affect OUV, other values are also relevant considerations and general principles of modern town-planning should apply. Evidently, the point should be reconsidered when further developing the plan.

## **5.9 Further realisations and projects**

### **5.9.1 Recent realisations and deficiencies**

Several efforts on the part of the municipality (together with other authorities) for a rehabilitation of public buildings are to be specially mentioned – a complete list of preservation measures is given in chapter 3.3.

The restoration of the Basilica of Palladio, where essential parts are opened to the large public, provides new opportunities to experience the heritage. Especially, the restoration of the roof's-construction and the opening of the terrace are to be noted. Attention should be given to upholding inadequate quality of commercial offers on municipal ground, including questions of acoustic environment.

The Palazzo Chiericati has been restored and more recent parts have been transformed in order to host the municipal gallery of art, which contains important works of local artists up to the present. The result is impressive; it also leads to an increasing number of visitors. Transformation-work is being continued.

An important realisation is the "Palladio Museum", located within the Palazzo Barbaran da Porto. Inaugurated in 2012, the institution not only hosts the famous *Centro Internazionale di Studi di Architettura Andrea Palladio* but also gives visitors an excellent introduction to Andrea Palladio and his work, including questions of the process of construction. Temporary exhibitions complete the program.

A further realisation to be mentioned is the restoration of the church of St. Corona with the cappella Valmarana of Andrea Palladio.

On the other hand, during the mission, the town-walls, the generating element of the medieval town and sign of the identity of the historic centre, were mentioned several times as a negative example of dealing with the cultural heritage. Indeed, in an individual visit, the mission came across fenced parts to prevent pedestrians from danger, parts where vegetation is causing damage to the masonry and some inappropriate buildings in close proximity (e.g. an abandoned service station). Continuous efforts of the municipality to maintain the walls in a good state of conservation and to ensure adequate surroundings are necessary.

During the mission, on several occasions, the plantation of a dense row of plane trees, in 2008, to replace poplar trees, along the road east of *Villa Rotonda* was mentioned. Presently, the plants are already obstructing the views from and to the villa. Once full-grown, they will reach up to 30 meters' height. They undo the fundamental context of the landscape described by Palladio in "I Quattro Libri dell'Architettura". The replacement of these trees with appropriate species should be considered.

A positive signal for the *Villa Rotonda* comes from the Implementation Plan, which prescribes not only maintaining the historical and cultural complex of the villa, but also the protection of the rural areas of agricultural and environmental value and, most importantly, the background of the villa, the "Valle del Silenzio".

### 5.9.2 Projects

The building of the *Teatro Olimpico* is in a fairly good state of conservation. However, its presentation for visitors is far from being satisfactory. The flow of visitors is crossing, the bookshop inadequately occupies one of the major halls, the exit leads into an entirely unattractive traffic artery at the back of the building and visitors' guidance is lacking. First reflections about how to better the situation have been made. They include a new building for the shop in the entrance-courtyard. It will be very demanding to develop an architectural solution that doesn't harm the courtyard and its specific character. If an optimal solution cannot be found, it will be better to do without it entirely. Any project should be submitted to the WHC for assessment.

In the valley west of *Villa Rotonda* (*valle del silenzio*), a connection way that has been redesigned and is to be completed with a car-parking-area, has met with harsh criticism. The inspection has shown that, even if the charms of the old situation are partially lost, the problem is marginal. The parking-area is very limited and only used for the exploitation of the existing sport-grounds and an ecological educational trail (parking for school-busses). However, the planned service-buildings in the area are of a dimension that would be inconsistent with maintaining the authenticity and integrity of the property and they should therefore be reconsidered.

### 5.10 Overall Comment on Recent Realisations and Development Projects

During the advisory mission, on several occasions groups of inhabitants expressed their great dissatisfaction with the actions of the municipality, particularly in dealing with the military base "Del Din", the related *Parco della*

*Pace* and the development of Borgo Berga. Some of them explicitly demanded that the World Heritage property should be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The mission noticed that many decisions that led to the unsatisfactory situation for the cited realisations were taken by the former municipal administration in close connections with the Italian government of that time. Since then, awareness for the importance of maintaining the intrinsic Outstanding Universal Values of the World Heritage property has grown considerably both on a local level and on the level of the province and the region. The present municipality of Vicenza tries to do its best to protect the authenticity and integrity of the historic city and the villas on municipal ground.

The mission came to the conclusion that the military base "Del Din" and the development of Borgo Berga do indeed represent a major adverse impact on the OUV of the property. Given that the decisions leading to the damage were taken in different political circumstances and that the awareness has substantially grown in the meantime, the mission can expect that all recommendations made in the present report will be implemented.

However, urgent and substantial changes in approach to the location, size and design of new development and the processes for notification and assessment of heritage impact must be made.

## **5.11 Questions of Governance**

During the mission, it was possible to discuss the applied procedures and the effectuated governance for the World Heritage property with a great number of representatives of different levels of the Italian political system. It was generally underlined that the Italian state-system is extremely complex and that quite frequently, difficulties arise from overlapping roles and competences.

For the governance of the World Heritage property "City of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto" two suggestions can be made.

The attribution of the function of manager to the City of Vicenza should be reconsidered. The function should have more backing. Not only does its subordination under the municipality of Vicenza leave it quite alone in respect to the other levels of the state entities (region, province and other involved communes) but it can also lead to conflicts of interest. It would be important to directly involve the region and the province, the levels that are responsible for the main legal bases and many decisions.

The Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism (MIBACT) also has an important role, as landscape protection is the responsibility of the State, even where it is although delegated to the regions. There is therefore a need to strengthen the role of the peripheral and central offices of the MIBACT, including those of the expert bodies of the region and the province.

The steering committee seems not to be functioning properly. The fact that, after its formation in 2005, its first meeting was only held a couple of months before the arrival of the mission proves that it has not yet found its role to play. It would be important to rethink its composition and functioning.

Its members should not only be representatives of their bodies, but should be designated in function of their professional competences. As the committee is not a politically operational body but has eminent strategic and professional tasks, all members should represent the top of the represented body.<sup>36</sup> The participation of independent specialists in matter and an adequate NHO's representation within the committee could be considered. It might be helpful to think about strengthening its organisation with a sort of management board.

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<sup>36</sup> *That also means that there should not be the possibility for a substitution by a delegate.*

## 6 LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The mission recognised the difficulties the State Party envisages for the management of the serial property. It also noticed the necessity to bring together in a more appropriate way the different bodies, individual owners and others interested for different reasons in the management of the site, towards the achievement of the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property, with respect of its components, not only regarding their buffer zones, but also in regard with all the surrounding areas which could affect negatively the WH property with the execution of not adequate projects. The mission underlines that the State Party should ensure the maintenance of all the components of WH property's OUV.

The experts have deliberately limited the following recommendations to those regarding the most important topics. These succinct points should be read in conjunction with the further suggestions made within the text of various chapters.

**Recommendation 1 (US Army Military Base Setaf "Del Din"):**

**No dangerous goods, which could harm the World Heritage property (and/or persons) in case of an incident, should be transported to and from the US Army Military Base Setaf "Del Din".**

**Recommendation 2 (US Army Military Base Setaf "Del Din" and Parco della Pace):**

**In the area of and around the US Army Military Base Setaf "Del Din" the flow of ground-water and its quality should be intensively monitored and steps should be taken to ensure that modifications to the drainage-system and/or the banks of the river Bacchiglione cannot increase the risk of flooding.**

**Recommendation 3 (Parco della Pace):**

**The design of Parco della Pace should be better integrated within the agricultural setting in order to avoid a contrast separating the park-area from the general features of the historic landscape in the area.**

**Recommendation 4 (Building Complex Borgo Berga):**

**"Lot E" of P.I.R.U.E.A. "Cotorossi" should be spared from any construction and converted for agricultural use.**

**Recommendation 5 (Building Complex Borgo Berga):**

**The buildings at the head of the peninsula to the south of P.I.R.U.E.A. "Cotorossi" should be lowered to two floors.**

**Recommendation 6 (Building Complex Borgo Berga):**

**The materials and structure of the façades of the last houses of P.I.R.U.E.A. "Cotorossi" should be completed in a manner which integrates them into the surroundings.**

**Recommendation 7 (Railway Line Connection AC Milan-Venice):**

**Planning of the new Railway Line Connection AC Milan-Venice should continue with the solution based on the alignment of the AC line to the existing historic line, on the same altitude of tracks and the same clearance-gauge as well as on the preservation of the current railway-station in Vicenza. In order not to interrupt the continuity of the landscape and to reduce the impact to the minimum, special attention should be given to all engineer-constructions, especially all overpasses, and the elements of noise-protection.**

**Recommendation 8 (Railway Line Connection AC Milan-Venice):**

**Alternative solutions should be developed to avoid the high and long bridge over the tracks west of the railway-station and the pedestrian overpass near the railway-station and provide the plans to the World Heritage Centre for consultancy.**

**Recommendation 9 (Vicenza Bypass "Tangenziali"):**

**The Western part of the ring-road of Vicenza Bypass "Tangenziali" ("stralcio n° 1") should be implemented without the connection to the military base "Del Din".**

**Recommendation 10 (Vicenza Bypass "Tangenziali"):**

**The intention to realise the Northern part of the ring-road ("stralcio n° 4 and 5") should be abandoned and the planning process be stopped.**

**Recommendation 11 (Urbanistic Plans near Villa Trissino):**

**The plans for the new urbanistic settlement "A Square for Saviabona" to the East of the villa Trissino Cricoli should be abandoned and the area should be left unconstructed.**

**Recommendation 12 (Urbanistic Plans near Villa Trissino):**

**The planned zone for equipment, infrastructure and facilities of public interest to the North of the villa Trissino Cricoli should be abandoned and the area should not be built upon.**

**Recommendation 13 (Planning controls for the wider setting)**

**The planning controls that apply in areas outside the limits of the buffer zones of the components of the property should be revised to: prevent inappropriate developments, such as the Complex of Borgo Berga and especially the tribunal building; ensure the protection of the views and visual integrity of the wider setting of the property; and enable the competent authorities, and especially Ministry of Heritage and Activities and Tourism (MiBACT), to intervene where development proposals or other activities could have major negative effects on the OUV of the property.**

**Recommendation 14 (Villas)**

**All of the Palladian villas within the property and their relationship with the wider landscape should be assessed, and consideration should be given to extending the buffer zones for single villas.**

**Recommendation 15 (Heritage Impact Assessments)**

**Heritage Impact Assessments should be prepared for all projects which have potential to affect the OUV of the property in accordance with the 2011 ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties.**

**Recommendation 16 (Notification to the World Heritage Centre)**

**The World Heritage Centre should be notified about all projects which have potential to affect the OUV of the property in accordance with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.**

**Recommendation 17 (Steering Committee and Management Plan)**

**The roles and responsibilities and operating procedures of the Steering Committee should be reviewed and it should develop procedures for more active implementation of the Management Plan, including a short-term, medium-term & long-term planning cycle with a focus on the factors affecting the property and appropriate mitigation actions, including matters identified in this mission report.**

**Recommendation 18 (Role of Manager)**

**The role and subordination of the Manager should be reviewed and its functions strengthened.**

**Recommendation 19 (MiBACT)**

**The role and resources of the peripheral and central offices of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism (MiBACT) including those of the expert bodies of the region and the province should be strengthened.**

## 7 ANNEXES

### 7.1 Terms of Reference for the Mission

#### ICOMOS Advisory Mission for the World Heritage Property of City of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto (Italy)

The State Party of Italy has invited an ICOMOS advisory mission to assess three major projects and related major infrastructure works proposed for development within the buffer zone and wider setting of the World Heritage Property.

The major developments are the following:

- US Army military base Dal Din- Dal Molin airport (wider setting);
- Residential building complex in the former Cotonificio Cotorossi (adjacent to the buffer zone, proximity to *Villa Valmarana dei Nani* and *Villa Capra, la Rotonda*); and
- Newly-planned HD/HC railway line and related major infrastructure works and modification to road access and traffic circulation (wider setting, buffer zone).

The major infrastructure works include a proposed large tunnel under the Monte Berico and modifications to road access and traffic circulation.

The advisory mission expert shall:

- Comment on the overall state of conservation of the property;
- Review the detailed plans for the three projects and related works;
- On the basis of site visits and documentation provided, assess the potential impacts of the three projects and related works on the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property;
- Evaluate the extent to which redevelopment of the Cotonificio Cotorossi has already eroded the values of the landscape setting of Vicenza and of the villas located in its vicinity and any consequent impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property;
- Evaluate the potential cumulative impacts already carried out, the three projects and related major infrastructure, as well as other projects, either planned or deriving from revisions to planning / programming instruments at local, regional or national level;
- Suggest any possible mitigation measures which may remove or reduce potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property;
- Assess the congruence of overall management and protection arrangements for the property with the objective of the protection and sustenance of the OUV of the property and its attributes, having particular regard to the Management Plan for the property and any other relevant planning tool (general town plan - *piano regolatore comunale*, territorial planning, landscape planning, etc.).

In order to achieve these objectives, the advisory mission expert shall review all necessary technical documents, undertake site visits and participate in technical on-site meetings with Italian authorities and project architects and engineers in order to gain insights into the context and justification for the proposed projects. The mission expert may also meet with other stakeholders, including members of civil society in order to understand community concerns about the proposed projects.

In preparation for the advisory mission, the State Party shall provide ICOMOS, in advance of the mission, with all necessary background technical material on the three major projects and related infrastructure works, including, but not limited to the following:

- Heritage Impact Assessments for all three projects, in accordance with the ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties (2011) to be provided even in draft form if necessary;
- Justification for each of the three projects that sets out how each relates to policies and strategies within the Management Plan for the property, and the planning tools for the property;
- All current documents relating to the protection and management arrangements of the World Heritage property with their current status.

On the basis of site visits and meetings with representatives of the State Party, the advisory mission shall prepare for the State Party a report including analysis of the abovementioned points and recommendations. ICOMOS shall deliver this report six weeks after the conclusion of the advisory mission.

## 7.2 List of the component parts of the property

ID	Name & Location	State Party	Coordinates	Area	Year Inscription
712-001	City of Vicenza (including 23 buildings constructed by Palladio) Vicenza, Province of Vicenza, Veneto Region, Italy	Italy	N45 32 57.00 E11 32 58.00	218 ha	1994
712-002	Villa Trissino, now Trettenero, Cricoli Cricoli, Province of Vicenza, Veneto Region, Italy	Italy	N45 33 55.00 E11 32 49.00	13 ha	1994
712-003	Villa Gazzotti Grimani Bertesina (Vicenza), Province of Vicenza, Veneto Region, Italy	Italy	N45 33 13.00 E11 34 30.00	0.9 ha	1994
712-004	Villa Almerico Capra, called Vicenza, Province of Vicenza, Veneto Region, Italy	Italy	N45 31 54.00 E11 33 36.00	9 ha	1994
712-005	Villa Angarano Bassano, Province of Vicenza, Veneto Region, Italy	Italy	N45 46 50.00 E11 43 25.00	3.58 ha	1996
712-006	Villa Caldogno Caldogno, Province of Vicenza, Veneto Region, Italy	Italy	N45 36 26.00 E11 30 24.00	2.77 ha	1996
712-007	Villa Chiericati Grumolo delle Abbadesse, Province of	Italy	N45 30 16.00 E11 39 12.00	11.75 ha	1996

<b>ID</b>	<b>Name &amp; Location</b>	<b>State Party</b>	<b>Coordinates</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Year Inscription</b>
	Vicenza, Veneto Region, Italy				
712-008	Villa Forni Cerato Montecchio Precalcino, Province of Vicenza, Veneto Region, Italy	Italy	N45 39 11.00 E11 33 40.00	2.23 ha	1996
712-009	Villa Godi Malinverni Lonedo di Lugo Vicentino, Province of Vicenza, Veneto Region, Italy	Italy	N45 44 44.00 E11 31 43.00	4.66 ha	1996
712-010	Villa Pisani Ferri Bagnolo di Lonigo, Province of Vicenza, Veneto Region, Italy	Italy	N45 21 31.00 E11 22 10.00	1.6 ha	1996
712-011	Villa Pojana Poiana Maggiore, Province of Vicenza, Veneto Region, Italy	Italy	N45 16 54.00 E11 30 3.00	6.14 ha	1996
712-012	Villa Saraceno Agugliaro, Province of Vicenza, Veneto Region, Italy	Italy	N45 18 38.00 E11 35 12.00	0.59 ha	1996
712-013	Villa Thiene Quinto Vicentino, Province of Vicenza, Veneto Region, Italy	Italy	N45 34 22.00 E11 37 47.00	0.38 ha	1996
712-014	Villa Trissino Sarego, Province of Vicenza, Veneto Region, Italy	Italy	N45 25 42.00 E11 24 49.00	3.78 ha	1996
712-015	Villa Valmarana Zen Bolzano Vicentino, Province of Vicenza, Veneto Region, Italy	Italy	N45 35 1.00 E11 36 41.00	4.34 ha	1996
712-016	Villa Valmarana Bressan Monticello Conte Otto, Province of Vicenza, Veneto Region, Italy	Italy	N45 34 58.00 E11 35 40.00	3.29 ha	1996
712-017	Villa Badoer called Fratta Polesine, Province of Rovigo, Veneto Region, Italy	Italy	N45 1 48.00 E11 38 46.00	1.41 ha	1996
712-018	Villa Barbaro Maser, Province of Treviso, Veneto Region, Italy	Italy	N45 48 20.00 E11 58 48.00	6.57 ha	1996
712-019	Villa Emo Vedelago, Province of Treviso, Veneto Region, Italy	Italy	N45 42 43.00 E11 59 23.00	14.54 ha	1996
712-020	Villa Zeno Cessalto, Province of Treviso, Veneto Region, Italy	Italy	N45 42 11.00 E12 38 20.00	7.71 ha	1996
712-021	Villa Foscari, called Mira, Province of Venice, Veneto Region, Italy	Italy	N45 26 7.00 E12 12 4.00	5.87 ha	1996
712-022	Villa Pisani Montagnana, Province of Padua, Veneto Region, Italy	Italy	N45 13 37.00 E11 28 7.00	0.21 ha	1996
712-023	Villa Cornaro Piombino Dese, Province of Padua, Veneto Region, Italy	Italy	N45 36 14.00 E11 59 57.00	7.44 ha	1996
712-024	Villa Serego San Pietro in Cariano, Province of Verona, Veneto Region, Italy	Italy	N45 29 58.00 E10 55 32.00	2.78 ha	1996

ID	Name & Location	State Party	Coordinates	Area	Year Inscription
712-025	Villa Piovene Lugo Vicentino, Province of Vicenza, Veneto Region, Italy	Italy	N45 44 48.00 E11 31 36.00	1.33 ha	1996

### 7.3 Examination of the state of conservation by the World Heritage Committee

#### 2004

##### **WHC-04/28.COM/26, Paris, 29 October 2004<sup>37</sup>**

##### **City of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto (Italy)**

Document: WHC-04/28.COM/15B

##### **28 COM 15B.91** The World Heritage Committee

1. Recalling paragraph 56 of the Operational Guidelines (2002),
2. Requests the States Party to provide full information to the World Heritage Centre about any construction plans of the highway of Valdastico Sud, which may impact on the integrity and the outstanding universal value of the property;
3. Notes the information provided by the State Party, in particular that the final studies on the highway of Valdastico Sud have not been carried out;
4. Strongly urges the State Party to submit details of any building projects which may impact on the property for consideration by the Committee before commencing any construction;
5. Requests the State Party to prepare a management and conservation plan including measures foreseen to minimize the impact of any development on the integrity of the property;
6. Further requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to undertake a mission to the property, in co-operation with the State Party, to assess and evaluate the potential impact on the outstanding universal value of the property;
7. Urges the State Party to submit a detailed technical report on planned or completed projects in the vicinity of the World Heritage property to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2005 in order that the World Heritage Committee can examine its state of conservation at its 29th session in 2005.

#### 2005

##### **A WHC/ICOMOS joint monitory mission took place to the World Heritage property, 23-24 March 2005<sup>38</sup>**

The monitory Mission of 2005 prepared the following Draft Decision 29.

If the World Heritage agrees with the above recommendations, it may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

##### Draft Decision: 29 COM

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-05/29 COM/7 B,

<sup>37</sup>Decision adopted without discussion.

<sup>38</sup><http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2005/mis712-2005.pdf>

2. Recalling its Decision 28 COM 15B.91, adopted at its 28th Session (Suzhou, China 2004),
3. Thanking the State Party for the submission of a detailed technical report,
4. Acknowledges the efforts by the State Party to amend the initial Highway construction project;
5. Takes note of the results of the UNESCO-ICOMOS mission to the property;
6. Requests the State Party to ensure that the management and conservation plan of the area is being finalised by early 2006;
7. Further requests the State Party to take measures to prevent any illegal or inappropriate construction within the property;
8. Urges the State Party to ensure that a strict control is exerted on land uses in the area surrounding the Villa, in order to avoid urban sprawls or development of industrial constructions that may affect the landscape;
9. Further urges the State Party to send to the World Heritage Centre a complete dossier on the project including the design of each component of the infrastructure in the area concerned;
10. Requests the State Party to prepare for each of the components of the World Heritage site of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto a management and conservation plan including buffer zones and specific measures to protect the historic landscape.

**Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.66**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC- 05/29.COM/7B.Rev,
2. Recalling its Decision 28 COM 15B.91, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Thanks the State Party for the submission of a detailed technical report,
4. Acknowledges the efforts by the State Party to amend the initial Highway construction project;
5. Takes note of the results of the UNESCO/ICOMOS mission to the property;
6. Requests the State Party to ensure that the management and conservation plan of the area is being finalised by early 2006;
7. Further requests the State Party to take measures to prevent any illegal or inappropriate construction within the property;
8. Urges the State Party to ensure that a strict control is exerted on land uses in the area surrounding the Villa, in order to avoid urban sprawls or development of industrial constructions that may affect the landscape;
9. Further urges the State Party to send to the World Heritage Centre a complete dossier on the project including the design of each component of the infrastructure in the area concerned;
10. Requests the State Party to prepare for each of the components of the World Heritage property of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto a management and conservation plan including buffer zones and specific measures to protect the historic landscape;
11. Further requests the State Party to submit a progress report on the implementation of the mission's recommendations and the management and conservation plan for the World Heritage property and its buffer zone to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2007 for examination by the Committee at its 31st session in 2007.

**Decision: 29 COM 7B.66**

**66. City of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto (Italy) (C 712 bis)**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev,

2. Recalling its Decision 28 COM 15B.91, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou,2004),
3. Thanks the State Party of Italy for the submission of a detailed technical report;
4. Acknowledges the efforts by the State Party to amend the initial Highway construction project;
5. Takes note of the results of the joint UNESCO/ICOMOS mission to the property;
6. Requests the State Party to ensure that the management and conservation plan of the area is being finalized by early 2006;
7. Further requests the State Party to take measures to prevent any illegal or inappropriate construction within the property;
8. Urges the State Party to ensure that a strict control is exerted on land uses in the area surrounding the Villa, in order to avoid urban sprawls or development of industrial constructions that may affect the landscape;
9. Further urges the State Party to send to the World Heritage Centre a complete dossier on the project including the design of each component of the infrastructure in the area concerned;
10. Requests the State Party to prepare for each of the components of the World Heritage property of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto a management and conservation plan including buffer zones and specific measures to protect the historic landscape;
11. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2006 a progress report on the implementation of the mission's recommendations and the management and conservation plan for the World Heritage property and its buffer zone for examination by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006).

## 2006

### **Draft Decision: 30 COM 7B.85**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-06/30.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **29 COM 7B.66**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),
3. Notes the efforts made by the authorities to strengthen control on developments in the immediate environment of the Villa Saraceno;
4. Requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre further clarification on how the proposed buffer zone planned near the Villa Saraceno would ensure the control of development processes and the integrity of the setting near the World Heritage property and encourages the State Party to submit the revised buffer zone in accordance with the procedures established in the Operational Guidelines;
5. Acknowledges the progress being made in the development of the management and conservation plans (including buffer zones), however, regrets that the management and conservation plan for the area concerning the Villa Saraceno has not been finalized as requested (Decision **29 COM 7B.66** paragraph 6);
6. Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, as soon as available, the detailed technical drawings concerning the highway, and notably of the interchange infrastructure foreseen in the section closest to the Villa Saraceno, so as to assess its impact on the integrity of the landscape, before proceeding with the construction of the section of the highway closest to the Villa Saraceno;
7. Encourages the State Party to continue the efforts towards the finalisation of the management and conservation plans, including the establishment of appropriate buffer zones, for all the components of this serial World Heritage property;
8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1February 2007**, a progress report on the implementation of the management and conservation plan for the World Heritage property and its buffer zones, as well as

detailed designs and drawings of the interchanges, and of the landscaping of the highway in the vicinity of the Villa, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session in 2007.

**Decision 30 COM 7B.85**

**85. City of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto (Italy) (C 712 bis)**

**Decision 30 COM 7B.85**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-06/30.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decision **29 COM 7B.66**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),
3. Notes the efforts made by the authorities to strengthen control on developments in the immediate environment of the Villa Saraceno;
4. Requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre further clarification on how the proposed buffer zone planned near the Villa Saraceno would ensure the control of development processes and the integrity of the setting near the World Heritage property and encourages the State Party to submit the revised buffer zone in accordance with the procedures established in the *Operational Guidelines*;
5. Acknowledges the progress being made in the development of the management and conservation plans (including buffer zones), however, regrets that the management and conservation plan for the area concerning the Villa Saraceno has not been finalized as requested (Decision **29 COM 7B.66** paragraph 6);
6. Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, as soon as available, the detailed technical drawings concerning the highway, and notably of the interchange infrastructure foreseen in the section closest to the Villa Saraceno, so as to assess its impact on the integrity of the landscape, before proceeding with the construction of the section of the highway closest to the Villa Saraceno;
7. Encourages the State Party to continue the efforts towards the finalization of the management and conservation plans, including the establishment of appropriate buffer zones, to reflect the cultural setting, for all the components of this serial World Heritage property;
8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2007, a progress report on the implementation of the management and conservation plan for the World Heritage property and its buffer zones, as well as detailed designs and drawings of the interchanges, and of the landscaping of the highway in the vicinity of the Villa, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session in 2007.

**2007**

**Draft Decision: 31 COM 7B.113**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document *WHC-07/31.COM/7B*,
2. Recalling Decisions **29 COM 7B.66** and **30 COM 7B.85**, adopted at its 29th (Durban, 2005) and 30th (Vilnius, 2006) sessions respectively,
3. Acknowledges the efforts made by the authorities to establish specific protection measures and in preparing the management plan;
4. Welcomes the progress made in addressing concerns raised by the 2005 mission with a series of technical solutions proposed for the minimization of the visual impacts of the highway project;
5. Recalls its previous requests for finalizing the management plan and requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2009**, the final version of management plan for the World Heritage property including conservation

plans and buffer zones as well as an update report for examination by the Committee at its 33<sup>rd</sup> session in 2009.

**Decision 31 COM 7B.113. WHC-07/31.COM/24 Paris, 31 July 2007**  
**113. City of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto (Italy) (C 712 bis)**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **29 COM 7B.66** and **30 COM 7B.85**, adopted at its 29th (Durban, 2005) and 30th (Vilnius, 2006) sessions respectively,
3. Acknowledges the efforts made by the authorities to establish specific protection measures and in preparing the management plan;
4. Welcomes the progress made in addressing concerns raised by the 2005 mission with a series of technical solutions proposed for the minimization of the visual impacts of the highway project;
5. Recalls its previous requests for finalizing the management plan and requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2009**, the final version of the management plan for the World Heritage property, including conservation plans and buffer zones, as well as an updated report for examination by the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

**2009**

***Draft Decision: 33 COM 7B.109***

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC-09/33.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.113**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),*
3. *Notes with appreciation the submission of the final management plan of the property and the activities towards its implementation;*
4. *Notes with concern the advanced stage of the highway project, and urges the State Party to submit as soon as possible the revised plans to ensure that they are in line with the recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission of 2005;*
5. *Requests the State Party to halt the project until an assessment of the revised plans has been made to ensure that they are in line with the recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission of 2005;*
6. *Also requests the State Party to submit, to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2011**, an updated report on the implementation of the project of the A31 motorway Valdastico-South for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011.*

**Decision: 33 COM 7B.109**

**WHC-09/33.COM/20 Seville, 20 July 2009**

**109. City of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto (Italy) (C 712 bis)**  
**Decision: 33 COM 7B.109**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-09/33.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.113**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Notes with appreciation the submission of the final management plan of the property and the activities towards its implementation;

4. Notes with concern the advanced stage of the highway project, and urges the State Party to submit as soon as possible the revised plans to ensure that they are in line with the recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission of 2005;
5. Requests the State Party to halt the project until an assessment of the revised plans has been made to ensure that they are in line with the recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission of 2005;
6. Also requests the State Party to submit, to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2010**, an updated report on the implementation of the project of the A31 motorway Valdastico-South for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010.

## 2010

### **Draft Decision: 34 COM 7B.90**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-10/34.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **33 COM 7B.109**, adopted at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009),
3. Takes note of the information provided by the State Party on actions taken to counter impacts of the ongoing A-31 Valdastico-South highway construction project on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
4. Notes the measures taken by the State Party to amend the design of the highway and toll infrastructure in line with the recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS mission of 2005;
5. Requests the State Party to provide plans which allow an assessment of any potential impact of the Dal Molin military base on the property;
6. Also requests the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre if any significant changes are made to the plans submitted and reviewed for the highway in the final approval process.

### **Decision: 34 COM 7B.90**

**WHC-10/34.COM/20 Paris, 3 September 2010**

### **City of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto (Italy) (C 712bis)**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-10/34.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **33 COM 7B.109**, adopted at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009),
3. Takes note of the information provided by the State Party on actions taken to counter impacts of the ongoing A-31 Valdastico-South highway construction project on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
4. Notes the measures taken by the State Party to amend the design of the highway and toll infrastructure in line with the recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission of 2005;
5. Requests the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre of any significant changes to the plans submitted and reviewed for the highway in the final approval process, in particular in the context of their contribution to the periodic reporting process.

## 7.4 Composition of Advisory Mission Team

### ICOMOS representative

Bernhard Furrer

### UNESCO representative

Anastasia Tzigounaki

## 7.5 Agenda of the Mission

As Ms Tzigounaki couldn't be present on 28<sup>th</sup> March, site visits and presentation of the contributions of the first day of the mission was made for her on 31<sup>st</sup> March.

CONTEXT	TIME	PLACE	THEME	What	HOW	WHO	ORGANISATION
<b>29 MARCH 2017 – PALAZZO TRISSINO + OTHER LOCATIONS (Vicenza, Grumolo delle Abbadesse, Sarego)</b>							
MEETINGS & VISITS	8.30 - 8.45	Hotel	Departure from hotel by car		Transfer from Hotel by car	Mission Team	Municipality of Vicenza
	9.00 - 10.00	Villa Chiericati (Grumolo delle Abbadesse)	Visit to Villa Chiericati	Visit the context of Villa Chiericati	By car and on foot	Mission Team + MIBACT peripheral offices + Villa Chiericati owner + Municipality of Grumolo delle Abbadesse	Municipality of Vicenza
	10.00 - 13.00	Cotorossi area	Visit to Cotorossi area and illustration of state of execution	Visit to Cotorossi area, Villa Capra "La Rotonda", surroundings and main points of view	By car and on foot	Mission Team + MIBACT peripheral offices + Villa Rotonda owner	Municipality of Vicenza
	14.00-15.00		Light lunch				
VISITS	14.00 - 16.00	Visit to the monuments (Villa Trissino (Sarego))	Visit to the Barhesse of Villa Trissino	Visit the context of the Barhesse of Villa Trissino	By car and on foot	Mission Team + MIBACT peripheral offices + Villa Trissino owner + Municipality of Sarego	Municipality of Vicenza
MEETINGS	16.00 - 19.00	Palazzo Trissino	Meeting with stakeholders and Ngo on the subjects in evaluation	Meeting on the subjects: AV/AC line, Cotorossi area, Ciserma "Del Din" and others	Collective colloquia	Mission Team + MIBACT peripheral offices + NGOs	Mission Team + MIBACT peripheral offices + NGOs
	21.00		Dinner (mission delegation)				

CONTEXT	TIME	PLACE	THEME	What	HOW	WHO	ORGANISATION
<b>29 MARCH 2017 – PALAZZO TRISSINO + OTHER LOCATIONS (Vicenza, Grumolo delle Abbadesse, Sarego)</b>							
MEETINGS & VISITS	8.30 - 8.45	Hotel	Departure from hotel by car		Transfer from Hotel by car	Mission Team	Municipality of Vicenza
	9.00 - 10.00	Villa Chiericati (Grumolo delle Abbadesse)	Visit to Villa Chiericati	Visit the context of Villa Chiericati	By car and on foot	Mission Team + MIBACT peripheral offices + Villa Chiericati owner + Municipality of Grumolo delle Abbadesse	Municipality of Vicenza
	10.00 - 13.00	Cotorossi area	Visit to Cotorossi area and illustration of state of execution	Visit to Cotorossi area, Villa Capra "La Rotonda", surroundings and main points of view	By car and on foot	Mission Team + MIBACT peripheral offices + Villa Rotonda owner	Municipality of Vicenza
	14.00-15.00		Light lunch				
VISITS	14.00 - 16.00	Visit to the monuments (Villa Trissino (Sarego))	Visit to the Barhesse of Villa Trissino	Visit the context of the Barhesse of Villa Trissino	By car and on foot	Mission Team + MIBACT peripheral offices + Villa Trissino owner + Municipality of Sarego	Municipality of Vicenza
MEETINGS	16.00 - 19.00	Palazzo Trissino	Meeting with stakeholders and Ngo on the subjects in evaluation	Meeting on the subjects: AV/AC line, Cotorossi area, Ciserma "Del Din" and others	Collective colloquia	Mission Team + MIBACT peripheral offices + NGOs	Mission Team + MIBACT peripheral offices + NGOs
	21.00		Dinner (mission delegation)				

CONTEXT	TIME	PLACE	THEME	What	HOW	WHO	ORGANISATION
<b>Day 3: 30 MARCH 2017 : PALAZZO TRISSINO + OTHER LOCATIONS (Vicenza)</b>							
MEETINGS & VISITS	8.45 - 9.00	Hotel	Departure from hotel by car		Transfer from Hotel by car	Mission Team	Municipality of Vicenza
	9.30 - 11.00	"Del Din" military base	External, internal, visit to U.S.A. military base "Del Din"	Visit to the U.S.A. military base "Del Din"	By car and on foot and colloquia	Mission Team + MIBACT peripheral offices + U.S.A. Authority	Comune di Vicenza USA Authority
	11.00 - 12.00	Parco della Pace	Visit the "Parco della Pace"	Visit the "Parco della Pace"	visit by car and on foot	Mission Team + MBACT peripheral offices	Municipality of Vicenza
	12.00 - 13.00	Villa Trissino at Cricoli	Visit the Villa Trissino at Cricoli	Visit to Villa Trissino and surrounding context	visit by car and on foot	Mission Team + MBACT peripheral offices + Villa Trissino owner	Municipality of Vicenza
	13.00 - 14.00		Light lunch				
MEETINGS & VISITS	14.00-16.00	Palazzo Trissino	Presentation of the railway line project AV/AC and Vicenza bypass "Tangenziale"	Presentation of the railway line project AV/AC and updates	Ppt presentations, colloquia and visit	Mission Team + MBACT peripheral offices + AV/AC team (RFI, Italferr), ANAS	Municipality of Vicenza
MEETINGS & VISITS	16.00 - 17.00	Palazzo Trissino	Meeting or visit on requested	Meeting or visit on requested	Ppt presentations, colloquia and visit	Mission Team + MBACT peripheral offices	Municipality of Vicenza
ENDING OF THE MEETING	18.00 - 18.30	Palazzo Trissino	Final meeting		Colloquia	Mission Team + MBACT peripheral offices	Municipality of Vicenza
	21.00		Dinner (mission delegation)			Mission Team	

CONTEXT	TIME	PLACE	WHAT	WHAT	HOW	WHO	ORGANIZATION
<b>Day 4: 31 MARZO 2017 - Palazzo Trissino (C.so Palladio 98)</b>							
INCONTRI	9.00 - 12.00	Palazzo Trissino	Summary meeting with Ms Anastasia Tzigounaki	Management Plan of the Site: property's state of conservation and updates Presentation and comparison on the findings of HIA	Colloquia	Mission Team + Hia Team	Municipality of Vicenza

## 7.6 List of Persons and Institutions met

**MiBACT – State Party:** FRANCESCA RICCIO, Functionary architect of UNESCO Office (General Secretary, Service I, coordination e international relations)

**City of Vicenza:** ACHILLE VARIATI, Mayor City of Vicenza and President Province of Vicenza  
JACOPO BULGARINI D'ELCI, Vice-Mayor, Assessor for Museum, Culture and Tourism with mandate of UNESCO

GRAZIA ROSTELLO, Functionary urban planner UNESCO Office (Culture and Museum Dept.)]

LORETTA SIMONI, Firector of Museum, Culture and Tourism

ANTONIO CAPORRINO, General Secretary

ANTONIO MARCO DALLA POZZA, Urban planning Assessor

FILIPPO ZANETTI, Assessor

MAURIZIO TIRAPELLE, Director of Private Building Sector

DANILO GUARTI, Director of Territory Department

CARLO ANDRIOLO, Director of Transport and Mobility Sector

DIEGO GALIAZZO, Director of Infrastructures and Public Works Sector

ALESSANDRO CEOLA, Functionary architect

DAMIANO SAVIO, Functionary architect

RAFFAELLA GIANELLO, Functionary architect

**Veneto Region:** GIULIO BODON, Functionary of Culture Sector

SANDRO BALDAN, Functionary of Land and Strategic Planning Sector

**Province of Vicenza:** FRANCESCO ENRICO GONZO, Assessor for Culture and Tourism

**Superintendency of Archaeology, Fine Arts and Landscape for the City of Verona,**

**Rovigo and Vicenza:** FABRIZIO MAGANI, Superintendent

GIOVANNA BATTISTA, Functionary architect, delegated for province of Vicenza

**Superintendency of Archaeology, Fine Arts and Landscape for the City of Venice and its Lagoon:** FRANCESCO TROVÒ, Functionary architect

**Diocese of Vicenza:** FRANCESCO GASPARINI, Director of Diocese

**Regional Institution of Venetian Villas (IRVV):** GIUSEPPE MANOLI, Functionary architect

**C.I.S.A. "Andrea Palladio":** GUIDO BELTRAMINI, Director

MARCO RIVA, Secretary

**Municipality of Caldogno (VI):** PAOLA DE FRANCESCHI, Assessor

**Municipality of Bassano del Grappa (VI):** MARCO POLO, Functionary

**Province of Padua:** ROBERTO ANZALDI, Director of Planning Sector

**Municipality of Veduggio:** SERGIO SQUIZZATO, Assessor

**Province of Verona:** GIANLUIGI SCAMPERLE, Functionary

**Province of Rovigo:** MARINA PAPPARELLA, Functionary

**Consorzio Vicenza è:** CARLA PADOVANI, Destination management Organization

**HIA Team:** KATRI LISITZIN, Architect, HIA author

**Palazzo Thiene, Immobiliare Stampa del Gruppo Banca Popolare di Vicenza:** DENIS

PONCATO, General Director

PIERPAOLO ROSSETTO, Technical representative

LUISA VIOLA, Director for communication

**Villa Chiericati:** DOMENICO RIGO, Villa Owner

GLORIA BAGNARA, Property contact person (Studio Bertuzzo)

GIAMPIERO BETTIO, Property technical referent (studio Bertuzzo)

**Municipality of Grumolo delle Abbadesse:** FLAVIO SCARANTO, Mayor  
MIRIAM SCARAMUZZA, Director  
PAOLA BERTOLASO, Assessor

**Courthouse – Tribunal:** ALBERTO RIZZO, President

**Borgo Berga:** ZULIAN ALESSANDRO, Construction site manager  
ATTILIO BRICHETTO, Administrator of Sviluppo Cotorossi S.p.a. (ownership of Borgo Berga)

**Villa Capra "La Rotonda":** NICCOLÒ VALMARANA, Owner junior  
LODOVICO VALMARANA, Owner senior

**Municipality of Sarego:** ROBERTO CASTIGLION, Mayor

**Villa Trissino in Sarego:** MARTA ROSSI PERTILE and family, Owner

**Caserma Del Din:** RICCARDO LUCIA, Lieutenant Colonel Italian Army, (SETAF Italian Military personnel logistic office responsible, representing of the Italian Base Commander)  
MICHELE LO VERDE, Responsible for project coordination

MARCO BELLOT, Engineer, responsible for the maintenance and management of the SETAF infrastructures

MR. PETER BROWNFELD, Political advisor for US Army Italy

WILLIAM R. ORKINS, Major US Army, representing of the United States Army Garrison Commander

**Planers of Parco della Pace Team (Pan Associati):** FRANCO ZAGARI  
BENEDETTO SELLERI  
CLAUDIO BERTORELLI

**RFI S.p.A. [Railway HS/HC]:** LUIGI DE AMICIS, Engineer, Investments project Dept.  
Responsible for the section Verona-Padova

**Italferr [Railway HS/HC]:** GIUSEPPE STRABIOLI, Engineer, Project Unit responsible for the section Verona-Padova HS/HC

BIANCA MARIATERESA, TdC Tratta AV/AC Verona-Padova, Project Engineer

RAFFAELE MARINO, Architect, Stations and Territory Unit Responsible

**ANAS S.p.A. [Bypass Extension - Tangenziale]:** GIOVANNI MAGARÒ, Responsible for environmental issues

#### **Non-Governmental Organisations**

**Committee against environment and construction infringements for Vicenza:** PAOLO CRESTANELLO, Representative

**Italia Nostra Vicenza section:** GIOVANNA DALLA POZZA PERUFFO, Resident  
ROBERTO RECH, geologist

**Eastern Vicenza citizens' committee:** FRANCESCA CORÀ, Representative

**Unesco 4 Vicenza:** FRANCESCA LEDER, architect, Representative  
ALBERTO PERUFFO, Representative

**Cristians for Peace:** GIOVANNI MARANGONI, Representative

**Pomari Committee:** VALTER FABRIS, Representative

**Presidio Nodalmolin Committee:** ENRICO MARCHESINI, Representative

**Olimpic Accademy:** MARIANO NARDELLO, Secretary

**San Giovanni neighbourhood Committee:** GIORGIO SINIGAGLIA, Representative

**Committees coordination:** GIANCARLO ALBERA, Representative

**Vicenza Libera:** CINZIA BOTTENE, Representative

**Alternativa Nord/Sud per il XXI secolo (ANS-XXI ONLUS):** MARCO CANTARELLI, Representative

**Interprets:** VITTORIA RUBINO  
VITTORIA DE BONI

## 7.7 List of members of the Steering Committee

**Comune di Vicenza:** JACOPO BULGARINI D'ELCI, Vicesindaco e Assessore ai Musei, cultura e turismo con mandato per UNESCO

**Provincia di Vicenza:** FRANCESCO ENRICO GONZO, Consigliere Provinciale

**Regione del Veneto:** FAUSTA BRESSANI, Dirigente Servizio Beni Culturali (eventuale delegato: GIULIO BODON, funzionario)

**Segretariato Regionale del Ministero dei Beni e delle Attività culturali e del Turismo per il Veneto:** RENATA CODELLO, Segretario e Presidente della Commissione Regionale (eventuale delegato: MICHELE CASTELLI, funzionario architetto)

**Soprintendenza archeologia, belle arti e paesaggio per le province di Verona, Rovigo e Vicenza:** FABRIZIO MAGANI, Soprintendente (eventuale delegato: arch. GIOVANNA BATTISTA, funzionario architetto)

**Soprintendenza archeologia, belle arti e paesaggio per il Comune di Venezia e Laguna:** Emanuela Carpani, Soprintendente (eventuali delegati: GIUSEPPE RALLO, funzionario architetto, FRANCESCA VENDITTELLI, funzionario architetto)

**Soprintendenza archeologia, belle arti e paesaggio per l'area metropolitana di Venezia e le province di Belluno, Padova e Treviso:** ANDREA ALBERTI, Soprintendente

**Diocesi di Vicenza:** Mons. FRANCESCO GASPARINI, Direttore dei Beni culturali

**Istituto Regionale Ville Venete (NOTA: è attualmente commissariato):** membro pro-tempore: GIUSEPPE MANOLI, Regione Veneto, Funzionario della Direzione Urbanistica e Paesaggio, architetto

**Associazione Ville Venete:** ALBERTO PASSI, Presidente (eventuale delegato: Carlo Della Barbera, Segretario Generale)

**Centro Internazionale di Studi Andrea Palladio:** GUIDO BELTRAMINI, Segretario organizzativo e istituzionale

**Rappresentanti Enti Locali Provincia di Vicenza: Comune di Caldogno:** PAOLA DE FRANCESCHI, Assessore ai Lavori Pubblici

**Comune di Bassano del Grappa:** GIOVANNA CICOTTI

**Assessore promozione territorio e cultura:** (eventuale delegato: MARCO POLO, funzionario tecnico)

**Rappresentante Enti Locali Provincia di Padova:** Provincia di Padova: STEFANIA MALPARTE, Segretario Generale

**Rappresentante Enti Locali Provincia di Venezia:** Comune di Mira: LUCIANO CLAUT, Funzionario Settore Lavori Pubblici

**Rappresentante Enti Locali Provincia di Treviso:** Comune di Veduggio: Sergio Squizzato, Assessore (Eventuale delegato: EMILIANO BELTRAME, funzionario)

**Rappresentante Enti Locali Provincia di Verona:** Provincia di Verona: GIANLUIGI SCAMPERLE, funzionario tecnico

**Rappresentante Enti Locali Provincia di Rovigo:** Provincia di Rovigo: MARCO TROMBINI, Presidente (eventuale delegato: MARINA PAPPARELLA, Direttore Servizio Progettazione Patrimonio Immobiliare e Strade)

Esperto discipline giuridiche e amministrative

**Comune di Vicenza:** ANTONIO CAPORRINO, Segretario Generale

**Esperto settore del turismo:** Consorzio Vicenza è: CARLA PADOVANI, Segretario generale

## 7.8 Photos and Illustrations



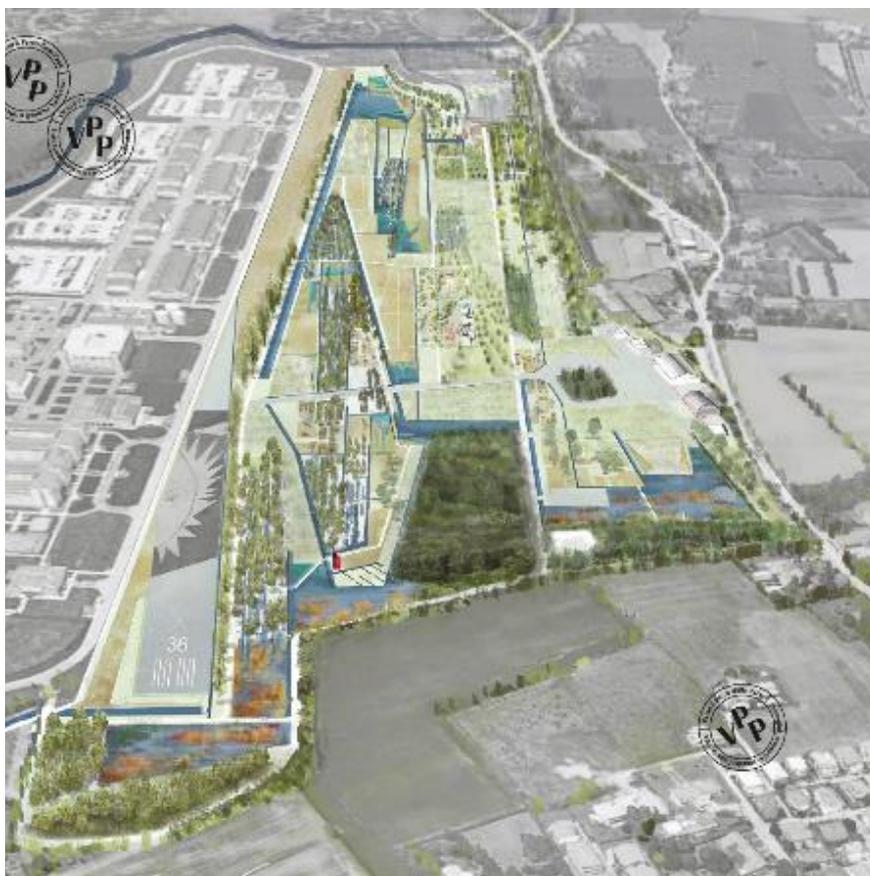
**The military base "Del Din", western part, its narrow (!) side.**  
(Bernhard Furrer)



**The military base "Del Din", the western half, seen from the Parco della Pace area.** (Bernhard Furrer)



**The military base "Del Din", the eastern half, seen from the Parco della Pace area. (Bernhard Furrer)**



The buildings of the former airport are on the right side.

The former runway is left, beneath.

The military base on the left side.

**The project for Parco della Pace. (ppt-presentation of the planners)**



**Building Complex in the Former Cotonificio Cotorossi Area: Borgo Berga: The exceeding scale of the new tribunal-building. (Bernhard Furrer)**



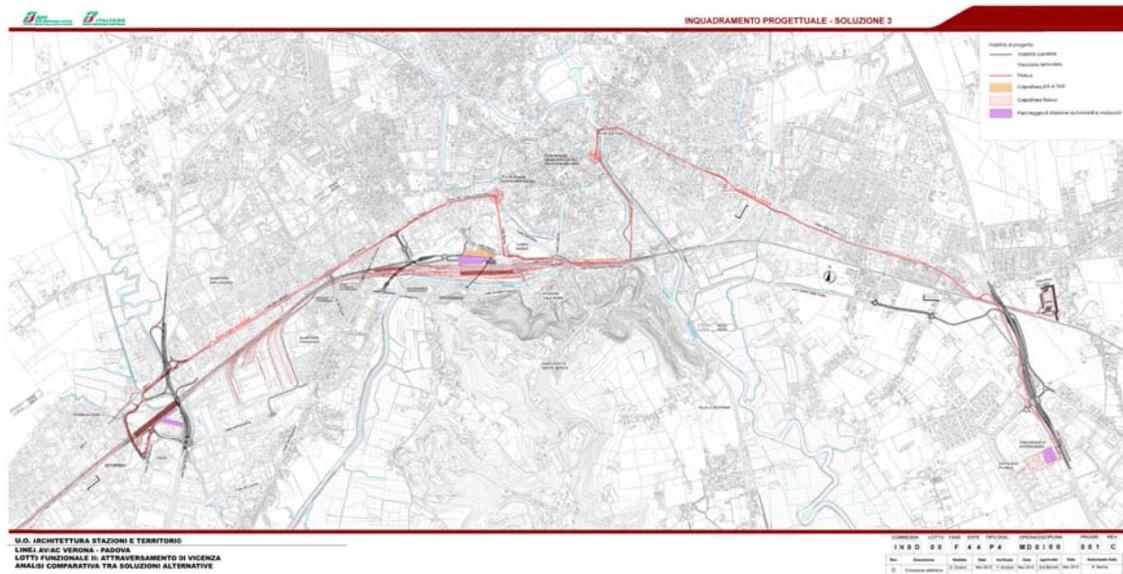
**Building Complex in the Former Cotonificio Cotorossi Area: Borgo Berga: The facade of the new tribunal-building with offensive elements (tower and buttress walls) (Anastasia Tzigounaki)**



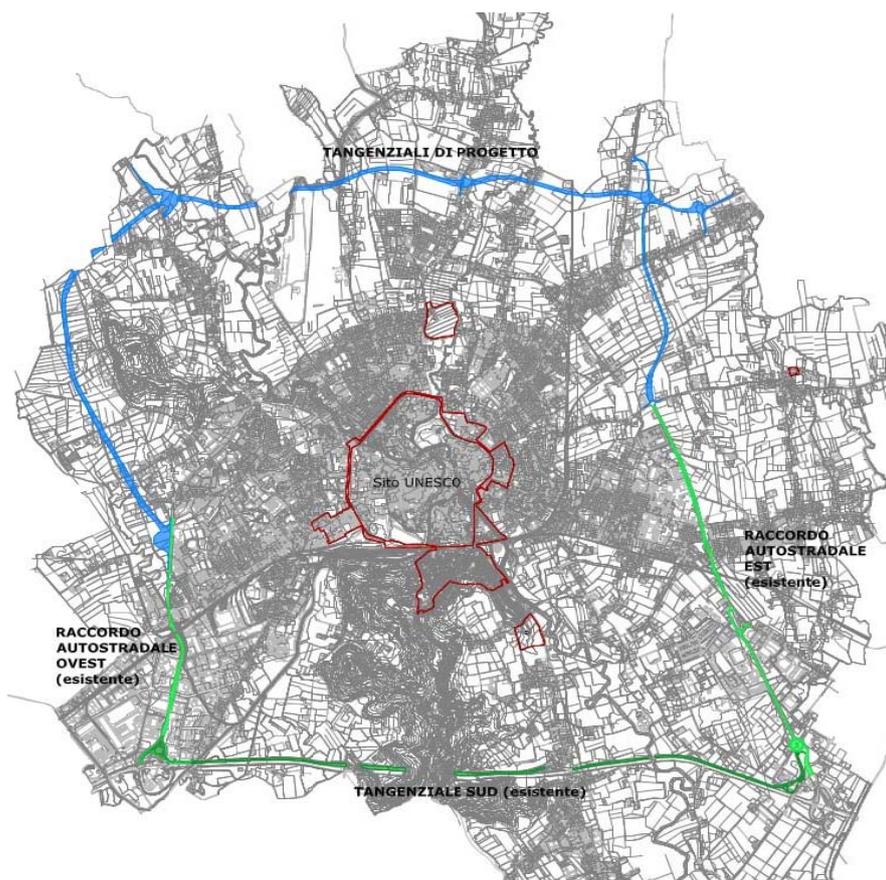
**Building Complex in the Former Cotonificio Cotorossi Area: Borgo Berga: The excessive height of the buildings in context with the open Palladian landscape. (Bernhard Furrer)**



**Building Complex in the Former Cotonificio Cotorossi Area: Borgo Berga: The buildings under construction (Anastasia Tzigounaki)**



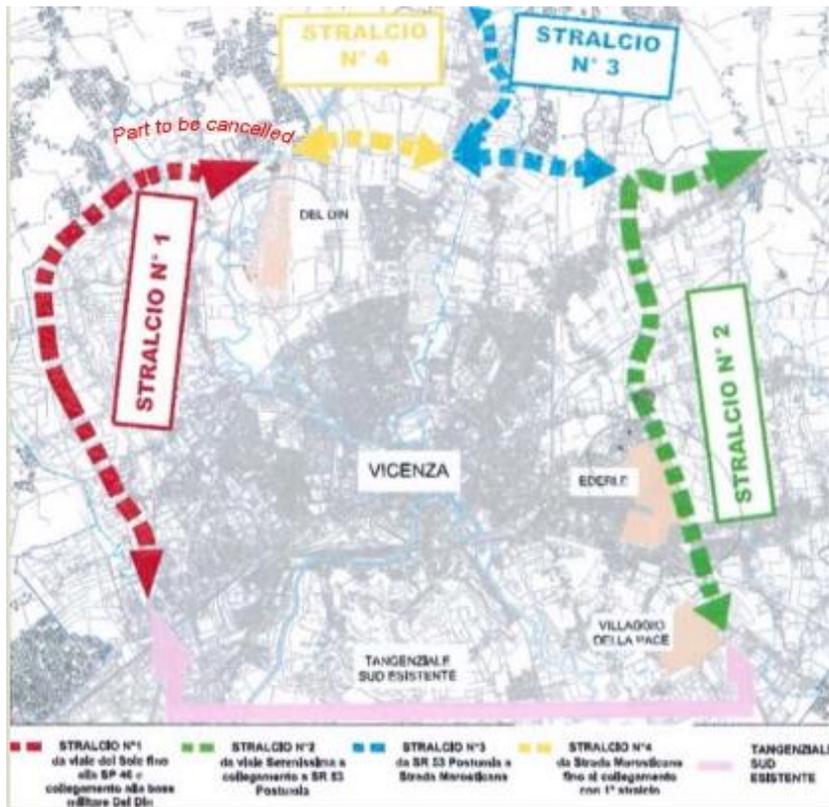
**Railway Line Connection AC Milan-Venice: the new tracks follow the existing line. (HIA report)**



Green: the existing parts

Blue the planned parts

**Vicenza Bypass "Tangenziali": the entire system. (ppt-presentation)**



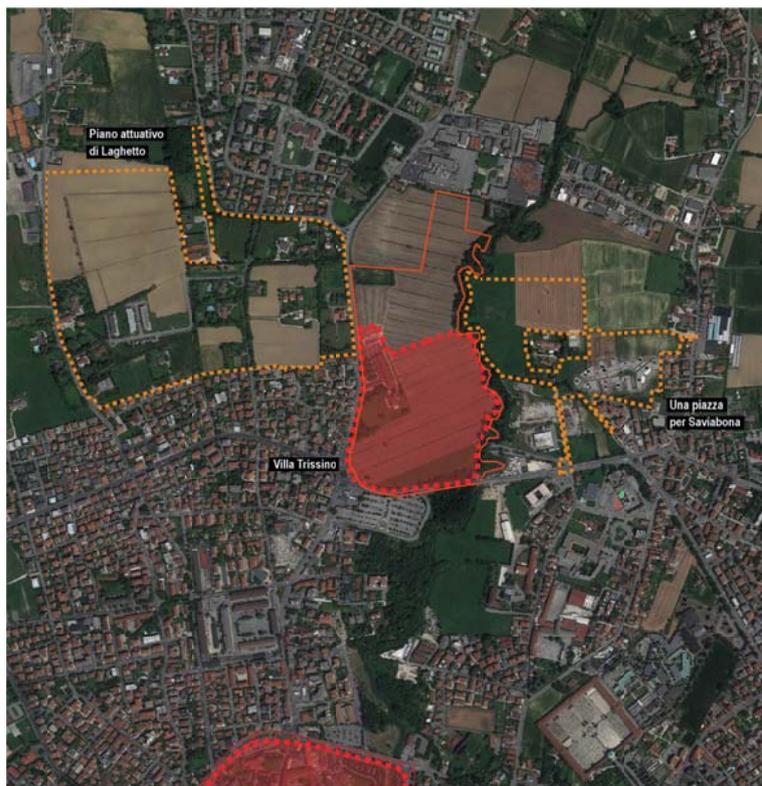
The part of stralcio N° 1 that is recommended to be cancelled is indicated.

Stralcio N° 3 and N° 4 are recommended to be entirely cancelled.

### Vicenza Bypass "Tangenziali": the four planning units. (ppt-presentation)



### Redevelopment Project of the Former "San Biagio" Complex. (HIA report)



At right (east) of the villa location of the settlement "A Square for Saviabona"

Above (north) of the villa zone for equipment, infrastructure and facilities of public interest

At left (the north-west) of the villa urban expansion "Executive Plan of Laghetto"

**Urbanistic Plans near Villa Trissino Cricoli.**  
(HIA report)



**Villa Trissino Cricoli, view to East: the houses of the settlement "A Square for Saviabona" would be visible through and over the shrubberies and trees lining the river Bacchiglione.**  
(Bernhard Furrer)



**Villa Trissino Cricoli, view to North: buildings of the “zone for equipment, infrastructure and facilities of public interest” would have a similar size as the existing commercial centre, but be located much nearer to the villa.**

(Bernhard Furrer)