

PRESS RELEASE - Embargoed until 8 May 2008

The six best European cultural heritage projects

Brussels/The Hague, 8 May 2008

The six winners of the 2008 "European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Awards" are outstanding projects in the Czech Republic, Greece, the Netherlands, Spain and Romania. The prizes announced today serve as recognition of exceptional conservation, research and education efforts and are each worth € 10 000. The prizes are awarded jointly by the European Commission and Europa Nostra, the pan-European Federation for Cultural Heritage. They will be presented at the European Heritage Awards Ceremony on 12 June 2008 in Durham Cathedral in the United Kingdom.

The *European Heritage Awards* were jointly launched in 2002 by the European Commission and Europa Nostra, in the framework of the Commission's **Culture Programme**, to celebrate outstanding initiatives among the many facets of Europe's cultural heritage in categories ranging from the restoration of buildings and their adaptation to new uses, to urban and rural landscape rehabilitation, archaeological site interpretations, and care for art collections. Also awarded are prizes for research and, **for the first time in 2008, education projects** related to cultural heritage, and dedicated service to heritage conservation by individuals or organisations.

This Awards Scheme aims to promote high standards and high-quality skills in conservation practice, and to stimulate the trans-frontier exchanges in the area of heritage. By spreading the "Power of Example", the Prize also aims to encourage further efforts and projects related to heritage throughout Europe.

This year, a total of **109** applications and nominations from **29 countries** were received in the various categories and assessed *in situ* by independent experts. The most outstanding of these were selected by the Heritage Awards Jury in a series of meetings which took place over the past months.

Six Prizes have been awarded, in the following categories:

Category 1 — Conservation:

The conservation of the **Southern façade of Horní Hrad (Upper Castle) of the Český Krumlov State Castle, Czech Republic:** Awarded for establishing new standards in the Czech monument care and appreciated as an excellent example of a respectful conservation.

The conservation of the **archaeological site of Skarkos on the Island of Ios in Greece:** Awarded for the outstanding quality of conservation work and above all the minimal and extremely sensitive character of the interventions, having no detrimental impact on a unique landscape.

The restoration and adaptive re-use of the **Van Nelle Factory in Rotterdam, the Netherlands:** Honoured as an exemplary approach to the restoration of, and finding new uses for, an iconic building of European and world importance.

Category 2 — Research:

The **Inventory of the Fortified Military Architecture in Spain by the Asociación Española de Amigos de los Castillos, Spain:** Appreciated as an excellent example of raising awareness of Spain's military heritage that is not only important to Spain, but highly significant on a European level as well.

Category 3 — Dedicated service:

Stichting Stadsherstel Hoorn, the Netherlands: A very successful example of civil society's involvement in safeguarding Europe's historic city centres and in highlighting the importance of volunteers.

Category 4 — Education, training and awareness-raising:

The **International Built Heritage Conservation Training Centre at Bánffy Castle in Bontida, Romania:** Highly valued for its double approach: training for conservation and conservation through training. It is an excellent example of cross border exchange of knowledge and a worthy winner of this award in the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue.

In addition to the six Prizes, twenty-one 2nd prize Medals will be awarded to the following achievements:

category 1 - Conservation

- The conservation and redevelopment of the Tour & Taxis Site in Brussels, BELGIUM
- The restoration of the Tapiola Swimming Pool in Espoo, FINLAND
- The restoration of the *Grande Forge* in Buffon, FRANCE
- The restoration of the church of Saint Julien l'Hospitalier-Saint Blaise in Longsols, FRANCE
- The restoration, reconstruction and adaptation of the Max Liebermann Villa and Garden in Berlin-Wannsee, GERMANY
- The conservation and restoration of the Archaeological Site of Galerius' Palace in Thessaloniki, GREECE
- The conservation of the Mediaeval Bridge over the *Río Truchas* at Pobleta de San Miguel, SPAIN
- The restoration of the choir of the Church of San Nicolás de Bari in Madrigal de las Altas Torres, SPAIN
- The restoration of the building and collections of the *Museo Cerralbo* in Madrid, SPAIN
- The conservation of The Grange in Ramsgate, UNITED KINGDOM

category 2 - Research

- The Somlóvár Park Conservation Plan by Gábor Alföldy, HUNGARY
- *Do Palácio de Belém* by the Museum of the Presidency of the Portuguese Republic, PORTUGAL

category 3 - Dedicated Service

- Emil van Brederode, THE NETHERLANDS
- Sherban G. Cantacuzino CBE FSA D.Univ (York) MA (Cantab) FRIBA, ROMANIA

category 4 - Education, Training and Awareness Raising

- *Classes d'éveil au Patrimoine et à ses métiers*, BELGIUM

- The *Jugendbauhütten* (Youth Mason's Guilds) of the *Deutsche Stiftung Denkmalschutz e.V.*, GERMANY
- The *Schatten van Amsterdam* television series, THE NETHERLANDS
- The International Heritage Photographic Experience (IHPE)

Europa Nostra will present three **Europa Nostra Awards** to three remarkable projects in countries that are not eligible for an EU Prize:

category 1 - Conservation

- The restoration, reconstruction and re-use of Kaliningrad Cathedral, RUSSIAN FEDERATION
- The Archaeological Site of Saint Pierre Cathedral in Geneva, SWITZERLAND

category 3 - Dedicated Service

- Valéria Suruceanu, MOLDOVA

For more information on the Award laureates, please go to www.europanostra.org/awards2008.html.

Not for publication

For more information on the Award laureates and the Awards Scheme, please contact:

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For press accreditation for the European Heritage Awards Ceremony in Durham Cathedral on 12 June 2008, please contact **Laurie Neale**, Communications, Europa Nostra, T +31 70 302 40 55, E co@europanostra.org