

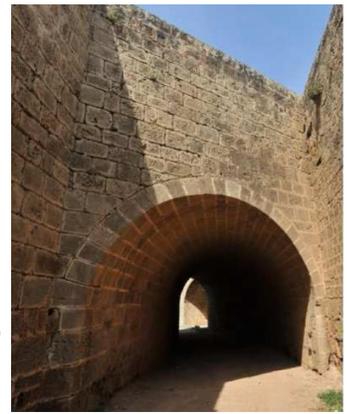
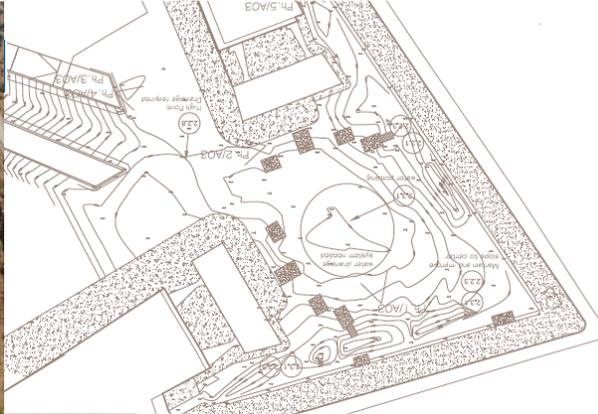


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Martinengo Bastion

This is a project of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage



Martinengo Bastion is a prime example of state of the art renaissance military architecture. This is in stark contract to its peaceful and secluded setting, which is some distance from the centre of Famagusta. Unfortunately, it seems to be little known and rarely visited by residents and visitors alike. This includes both the exterior and interior. The Bastion was created by the Venetian architect Giovanni San Michelle over a period covering almost 10 years. The Venetians realised that this corner of Famagusta city’s defences was weak and this structure was designed to strengthen the northwest corner. Access to the interior is through dual ramps designed to allow easy access for horses and heavy munitions to supply the cannon in its interior.

Within the framework of the EU funded and UNDP implemented [“Support to cultural heritage monuments of great importance for Cyprus”](#) project, a study *“Survey, Investigations, Assessment and Project Design”* was carried out between April and January 2015.

The condition assessment report describes the Martinengo Bastion as “generally very stable”, but identified a series of issues such as large and small holes in the bedrock base and undercut of the bedrock right over the earthen floor of the moat, cracks in the bedrock on which some parts of the bastion sits, capillarity water action occurring in many places, stains and salts in the vaults and interiors coming from water percolation from above, stone ashlar at the apex of the vault ceilings in all diagonal passageways suffering from significant loss of material; lack of visitor safety and control measures, particularly on the upper portions. The conservation project addresses all the points identified above.

The project is funded by the European Union and implemented by the UNDP in partnership with the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage.

The following works were carried out:

External and internal works:

- Upgrade and improvement of drainage of the bastion on the upper parts, as well as at the lower areas and the moat
- Selective site demolition – removal of concrete caps on skylights and metal fixtures.
- Reconstruction of skylights.
- Removal of site vegetation and rubbish. Plant removal from the top of all walls. Treatment of the surfaces where organic growth is present.

- Structural stabilisation works on the wall surfaces.
- Masonry stabilisation works at the areas where there were losses/collapses.
- Wood restoration of historic wood elements.
- New ashlar stone to fill bedrock undercut.
- Installation of rigid hydraulic lime concrete pavement.
- Replacement of bollards.
- Installation of electrical distribution system.
- Provision of new emergency doors/gates.
- Provision of visitor safety and control measures.
- Provision of access for persons with disabilities.
- Installation of didactic informational materials.
- Provision of bird control measures.

Additional works to the Bastion and its courtyard:

The Cavalier's walls, the storage room adjacent to the Cavalier and a portion of the Walls extending behind the two Churches at the East side of the Bastion:

- Repair or replacement of stones that suffered significant loss of material.
- Provide structural stability and retain earth backfills and repair undercuts of Walls.
- Repair of joints where the mortar has deteriorated at the elevations of the Curtain walls and the store's Walls.
- Cleaning of earth and vegetation.
- Provide safer areas for the access of visitors and facilitate public activities.

Courtyard:

- Construction of pedestrian pathway from the main road up to the Martinengo Bastion.
- Provision of drainage channel.
- Removal of existing fencing system.
- Construction of fencing system and gate.

The conservation works were completed in June 2017. Additional works to the Bastion and its courtyard will be completed in May 2018.

The project is funded by the European Union and implemented by the UNDP in partnership with the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage.

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European Union

Since 2012 approximately €14.7 Million have been provided by the European Union through the Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community to implement the priorities of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage for the preservation of the island-wide cultural heritage in Cyprus. The European Union is the largest contributor to the work of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage in Cyprus. For more information visit the following:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/overview-funding-programmes/aid-programme-turkish-cypriot-community_en
[EU Infopoint on Facebook](#) - <http://www.abbilgi.eu/en> - <http://www.abbilgi.eu/tr/>

The Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage

The Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage works in line with the mutually agreed mechanism for the preservation of the island's common heritage. In 2009 the Advisory Board was set up by a decision of the two leaders as the executive body of the Committee. The aim of the Board is to protect, preserve and facilitate the preservation, physical protection and restoration (including research, study and survey) of the immovable cultural heritage of Cyprus. This mechanism allows for the practical aspects of preservation to be considered in a non-political manner so that practical measures can be taken to improve the situation on the ground.

United Nations Development Programme

The Agreement on the establishment of the Advisory Board for the Preservation, Physical Protection and Restoration of the Immovable Cultural

Heritage of Cyprus recognizes a special role to **UNDP in Cyprus** as a **politically accepted implementation body** by both communities. For this reason, UNDP was requested by the European Commission to become the lead coordinator under which the project would be implemented fostering dialogue, cooperation and confidence building between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots.

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