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Plan to promote and preserve the fortifications of Pamplona

José Vicente Valdenebro García

Pamplona City Council, Pamplona

Public University of Navarre, Pamplona

Spain

j.valdenebro@pamplona.es

jvw@unavarra.es

With the demographic growth at the end of the 19th century, the ancient walls in most cities were demolished with relish in order to permit the enlargement of their urban layout. Pamplona, an important fortified city in northern Spain, was not averse to doing so either. However, perhaps the actual geography of the city, or perhaps fate itself, has resulted in the fact that at present it has maintained most of its defensive elements practically intact. Nowadays, far from being a hindrance to its inhabitants, some modern facilities have been incorporated into the old walls at the same time as turning them into an entertainment area. An important action plan is permitting their value to be exposed together with the integration into them of amenities and accessibility improvements, which contribute to the transformation of the old quarter of the town.

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Introduction

The city of Pamplona is located in the North of Spain. With an area of 25 km² and a population of 199.700 inhabitants, it is the capital of the autonomous community of Navarre (the old Kingdom of Navarre). Pamplona is situated on a plain surrounded by a circle of medium altitudes mountains. The rivers Arga and Sadar cross the city through the east-west direction and they converge before leaving the basin. Both rivers flank a terrace that is sharply cut to the north and east over the river Arga, and descends in rapids slopes toward the river Sadar over the south. The terrace is singled out in the northeast corner, slightly elevated and vertically cut on the borders of the river. From there it is possible to dominate a wide area, the valley, the surrounding mountains and the passage routes. The natural configuration defines a protected area that has water in the basement and good accessibility to the river. On the terrace, just at the northeast edge, the city was founded.

Since Pompey set up camp at the site of the current Cathedral in 74 BC, Pamplona acquired the status of stronghold. Its strategic position overlooking the passage to the Iberian Peninsula via the Western Pyrenees towards Aragon and La Rioja meant that it came to be considered "one of the chief keys to Spain and its safest bastion this side of the border" (Madrado, 1886). Consequently, since Roman times, and save a few specific moments in which the walls were destroyed, Pamplona has always been fortified, being a Stronghold until the beginning of the XX century.

Since first built, following the first Roman settlement, the walled enclosure was modified and extended in Mediaeval times, the period in which two new distinct burghs with populations of different origins drawn by the consolidation of the Way of St James were built next to the city. From then on, there existed, in what should have been a single city, three distinct towns, each with its own walls and separated by moats or "no man's land": the city of Navarrería, the Burgh of San Cernin and the Town of San Nicolás. With the unification of the burghs in 1423, in the reign of Carlos III, through the "Privilege of the Union", these defences were adapted to create a single walled enclosure to defend the entire city,

joined to the already-standing palaces and Mediaeval castle. At this time, the city belonged to what was originally the Kingdom of Pamplona (later Kingdom of Navarra), strategically located between the Kingdoms of Castile, Aragon and France.



Figure 1. Orthophoto of Pamplona, 2011.

At the end of the XV century, after conquering the Kingdom of Navarra, Ferdinand the Catholic ordered that the Castle of Santiago be built and the walled enclosure of the Mediaeval city modernised. In 1571, with the arrival of artillery, Philip II of Spain ordered that a modern, functional Citadel be built to replace the old castle. Thanks to its pentagonal geometry, the Citadel was the first of its kind on the Iberian Peninsula.

The engineer of fortifications Jacobo Palear el Fratrín and Capitan General Vespasiano Gonzaga y Colonna, who would later be named Viceroy of Navarra, took part in the work. They both came from Italian circles, where military engineering had progressed spectacularly over recent decades. Following the model of the Antwerp citadel, work began that same year on the Pamplona building, which was to have a twofold function: to defend the stronghold from external attack and to prevent potential internal uprising. Work continued into the next century and, following successive improvements to the fortifications, concluded in the XIX century.

The position of the citadel, somewhat further from the town than experts had initially advised, meant that it was necessary to build two new entire defensive faces for the city to link it up with the New Castle. And so, the South and West faces of the city's walled enclosure became redundant and were almost entirely pulled down. On the southern side, this meant demolishing the old Castle of Santiago and the Bastion of San Antón, which, despite being two of the city's most modern defences, had actually fallen behind the times in the face of new military techniques.



Figure 2. Citadel of Pamplona, 2012.

The new defensive line comprised four new bastions on the western side: the Bastion of Gonzaga, now barely recognisable; the Bastion of Taconera, which can still be seen in the gardens of the same name; and the Bastions of San Nicolás and la Reina, which were demolished in around 1920. Four new gateways were also opened: the Gateway of Tejería, in 1640; the Gateways of la Taconera and San Nicolás, in 1666, and the Gateway Puerta Nueva, in 1675.

In 1685, in the reign of Charles II of Spain, work began on ravelins and counterguards to strengthen the exterior defences of the citadel: those of Santa Clara and Santa Isabel, equipped with counterguards, and the simple Ravelins of Santa Lucía and Santa Ana. The Ravelin of San Roque, between the Bastions of Taconera and Gonzaga, also dates from this period.

Later, during the reign of Philip V, the recently created Engineer Corps performed significant exterior reinforcement work. In around 1730 and following the plans of Jorge Próspero de Verboom, who belonged to the school of Vauban, work began on the advanced Forts of San Roque, el Príncipe and San Bartolomé. Only the last of these is still in a good state of repair. The French Front was also strengthened with the Low Bastions of Guadalupe and el Pilar, and the Kings Ravelin.

We can say that the fortifications of Pamplona have universal relevance for two main reasons: firstly, those who came to the city to build and improve its defences were the finest builders of their day in Europe; and secondly, the 'trial and error' approach employed in Pamplona provided a melting pot of theoretical and practical knowledge of the three European schools of fortification: Italian, Flemish and French. The Pamplona complex was the maximum exponent of the transition from the Mediaeval system to Renaissance modernity in terms of military engineering and the city became a place for technical innovation and the exportation of talent.

These defences have suffered many ups and downs before reaching our day. As in other cities of this kind, strong demographic growth, together with a drop in the defensive effectiveness of the walls, meant that they became a hindrance to the city and, consequently, something to be got rid of.

Development of the urban grid led to the elimination of some defensive components of the fortification, which, as a sign of modernity, was even celebrated by the local population. Such was the case with the demolition of the Bastions of San Antón and la Victoria in the Citadel in 1888, and part of the walled enclosure's southern curtain wall in 1915.

However for various different reasons, the majority of Pamplona's defensive elements currently remain almost completely intact. By Ministerial Order of 25 September 1939, the walled complex was declared a Historic-Artistic Monument of National Interest and by Decree of 8 February 1973 the Citadel achieved the same status.



Figure 3. Aerial view of Pamplona.

Since then, the loss of the defensive function meant that the preservation and maintenance works were not a priority. This led to the progressive deterioration of its walls as much by the accumulation of dirt as by the roots laid down by a great deal of vegetation between its ashlar blocks. Additionally, the old town that had grown inside the walls of the fortification had become out-dated and inadequate in terms of its infrastructure, something which became more evident towards the boundaries of the fortification. This situation, which can sometimes be used as a reason for opting not to agree decisive measures, can end up becoming an opportunity to increase the value of those actions carried out.

On the other hand, we could not forget the close relationship that Pamplona walled area have with their immediate environment and especially the River Argia Corridor Park. Throughout the north of the city, where the terrace ends with a large scarp over the river, natural heritage (of the river) melts with cultural heritage of the city walls. This great landscape quality area is an important resource for the welfare of citizens and therefore it was necessary to promote it, making it accessible and enjoyable, to ensure its sustainability.

Following these premises, the Pamplona City Council began working in 2006 on a major action plan to restore the fortified complex and to improve its surrounding environment. Amongst its main objectives the following are the most important:

Manage, preserve and enrich the historic urban landscape of the walled city – the old town of Pamplona. Contemporary architecture will be integrated into the historic urban landscape in order to avoid altering its original design.

Adapt the patrimony to new functions and demands. The functional restoration of the patrimony will turn it into a cultural, tourist and economic attraction by creating attractive spaces in which to live, visit and invest. In order to achieve this it is essential to overcome the existing tensions between legal frameworks, social demands and political action.

Understand and organise the historic city for the well-being of its residents and visitors. New functions and activities will be integrated, incorporating functional improvements in areas such as housing, parking, public premises and public spaces.

Make the walled area accessible throughout its entire route. The walls have gone from being an insurmountable barrier for defending the town to becoming a place for meeting and recreation for Pamplona's residents. The next challenge is to ensure that everyone can freely enjoy this space.

Raise awareness within the citizens of Pamplona and Navarre about the tangible and intangible importance of its capital's fortifications, as well their historical and future value.

Turn Pamplona into an international point of reference for the tangible and intangible heritage linked to the fortifications, in turn promoting the city as a cultural tourism destination through its heritage resources.

This strategic plan for the city has been developed within the regulatory framework defined as much by current planning regulations – the Municipal Plan of Pamplona [2002] and the PEPRI (Local Government Protection and Reform Program) of the Old Town of Pamplona [2001] - as by the

Fortifications of Pamplona Action Plan [2006], written especially for this purpose. All of these actions seek to consolidate the recommendations from the different documents of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), or UNESCO such as the European Charter of Architectural Heritage of Amsterdam [1975], the Declaration of Amsterdam [1975], the Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe or Granada Convention [1985], and especially the Vienna Memorandum on World Heritage and Contemporary Architecture - Managing the Historic Urban Landscape [2005], framework for the discussion about the functional changes and integration of new architecture into the historic city, and within which the necessity to organise and preserve the historic urban landscape was established.

Three central lines of action

The restoration plan for the walled area has been designed around three central lines of action. The first of these is aimed at implementing specific measures to preserve and restore tangible goods. The second is to carry out functional improvements to the environment in areas such as housing, public premises, public spaces and improvements in mobility and accessibility. The third focuses on promoting and revitalising the walled enclosure by displaying its historical and architectural values to both the citizens of Pamplona and its visitors.

In turn, coinciding with these actions, archaeological work has been carried out to investigate and document the remains of some stretches of wall that had been demolished many years before and have only now come to light during the construction of new infrastructures.

The works already completed and that are currently underway come to a total of over 25 actions. Although usually dominated by one of the central themes, the majority of these measures have enjoyed a certain cross-over in such a way as to resolve a number of shortages at the same time. These actions have been carried out with a vision of heritage in which the monument is not a simple cultural reference but an opportunity for sustainable development.

Preservation and restoration of the monument

The loss of the defensive function of Pamplona's walled area combined with the needs of the city to expand led to the walls becoming a problem for the city. Some of these defensive elements, such as San Antón and Victoria Bastions, the Santa Teresa and Santa Lucía of the Citadel's Ravelins or the Queen's Bastion on the southern front, were destroyed to allow the city to expand. The remaining part, which was still standing, was left abandoned and vegetation gradually began to cover the walls, creating a green wall on the stone wall itself.



Figure 4. Citadel of Pamplona during the restoration work.

Preservation was practically non-existent and at the start of the 21st century the progressive deterioration of the monument became apparent. From this moment on the search for funds to address this major investment began.

In the first instance, between 2003 and 2008, restoration works on the France Front were undertaken, comprising some of the most outstanding defensive fronts of all the walled area (the Redín, Guadalupe and Abrevador Bastions and the Kings Ravelin), as well as the reconstruction of the Santa Lucía Ravelin together with the construction of the new bus station in Pamplona, more of which will be detailed later.



Figure 5. France Front.

In 2009, attention turned to the whole Taconera area. The moats of the Taconera Bastion, San Roque Ravelin and the remains of the old Gonzaga Bastion, in which the Paseo de Ronda, a sentry walk, on the north front of the city has been redesigned.

In mid-2010 the restoration work on the Santa Clara Ravelin in the Pamplona Citadel was completed (with its counterguard, moat, counterscarp and covered pathway), which together with the Taconera Ravelin is one the defensive elements requiring the most urgent intervention due to the deterioration caused by the vegetation.



Figure 6. Santa Clara Ravelin: before and after the restoration works.

At the end of 2011 the restoration works on the Santa Ana Ravelin and the Santa Isabel Ravelin (and Counterguard and the Socorro Gateway) of the Citadel were completed. With this, the restoration the Citadel's exterior defences were completed.



Figure 7. Santa Isabel Ravelin: before and after the restoration works.



Figure 8. Santa Isabel Ravelin: after the restoration works.



Figure 9. Santa Ana Ravelin: before and after the restoration works.



Figure 10. Santa Ana Ravelin: before and after the restoration works.

In all of these actions the processes followed have been very similar: numbering and removing those ashlar blocks at risk of detachment, removing the existing vegetation and applying biocides, replacing the blocks, cleaning the stretches of wall with brushes and re-joining them with hydraulic lime mortar.

Functional improvements

The constructive and social quality of the historic centre inside the walled enclosure has always seemed to be linked to the inherent quality of the walled complex. Of the different studies carried out into the issues surrounding Pamplona's Old Town, it is clear that the deterioration of the Old Town increases as it approaches the boundaries of the walled area (paseo de Ronda). This is due, in a large part, to the "cul-de-sac" effect generated by its orography, making it difficult to connect with the rest of the city and therefore making it a less travelled area.

However, these are the areas which hold the greatest potential for tourism and leisure, as much for their historical values as for their spatial characteristics and excellent location.

Within the regeneration policies for cities and historical centres, it is essential to take decisive action to provide them with appropriate functional conditions whilst still preserving the cultural values that characterise them. This has worked in four main areas: mobility and accessibility, public spaces, parking and public premises.

Mobility and accessibility

In order to transform the walls into a place for walking and leisure, measures aimed at improving mobility and accessibility have been prioritised. At the moment the entire paseo de Ronda, which goes along the upper stretches of the wall, is passable and for the most part accessible. It follows a circuit which is almost five kilometres long in which the fortification's stretches of wall provide a boundary to the urban park alongside.

In this line of action the route corresponding to the Media Luna Park, Barbazana Walk and El Redín Bastion, France or Rochapea Front and front of the ancient Gonzaga Bastion have been redeveloped, achieving a recovery of the lost historical continuity.

Mechanical elements have also been incorporated to cover the existing 30-metre gap between the northern areas of the city situated outside of the walls. In 2008 the construction work on two lifts that cross the slope and stretch of wall was completed, covering the difference in height between the Rochapea area and the Old Town, with the unloading point in a public building that incorporates a restaurant-viewing point and several galleries.



Figure 11. Descalzos urban lifts.

This action, along with others recently carried out, has led to the creation of a major commercial hub that crosses the Old Town in the north-south direction, linking in with the other pedestrian areas of the Second Enlargement.

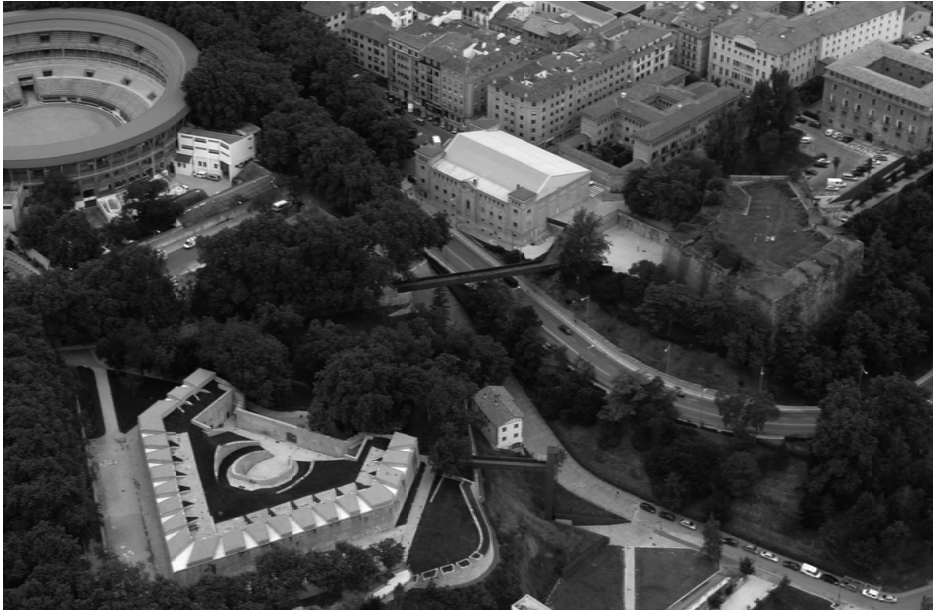


Figure 12. New pedestrian footbridge and urban lift next to the San Bartolomé Fort.



Figure 13. New pedestrian footbridge next to the San Bartolomé Fort .



Figure 14. New urban lift next to the San Bartolomé Fort.

Also within the measures implemented in the improvements in mobility has been the building of a pedestrian footbridge which will connect the Second Enlargement of the city with the Old Town in a more immediate and barrier-free way, whilst at the same time improving the continuity of the paseo de Ronda. It is a simple Corten steel structure which crosses a distance of over 70 metres between both points.

Another initiative which has followed this line of action has been the construction of an urban lift in the same area, which improves the mechanical connection between the Old Town and the Second Enlargement with the River Arga Park, crossing the existing 20-metre gap between the wooded area of the river and the city.

Parking and public spaces

It is common for walled enclosures to correspond geographically with historic town centres, so that interventions in these areas are often linked to pedestrianisation efforts and redevelopments in these centres, as is the case in Pamplona.

The progressive elimination of parking areas as a result of this work requires the construction of new car parks in nearby areas, therefore facilitating parking for visitors and residents. It is a necessity that directly affects its attractiveness.

On the other hand, the need to respond to population growth within the fortified area meant that housing developments were built upwards; resulting in a very dense pattern formed by very deep buildings with only one bay and very narrow streets.

While a series of measures to boost the building renovations has been promoted, it has also been necessary to recover public spaces for the neighbourhood to oxygenate the buildings in the urban area. Between these spaces it is important to enhance the results of the paseo de Ronda development or the recovery of a green area of over 30,000 metres squared restoring the old glacis of the Citadel, which had been turned into a car park for vehicles in the area, an action linked to the construction of the new bus station.



Figure 15. Recovery of the Santa Lucía of the Citadel of Pamplona Glacis and Ravelin (Citadel of Pamplona).

Public premises

Ambitious measures have been achieved that affect the preparation for use of those empty spaces that at one time or another supported structures belonging to the walled area and that were demolished in order to allow the evolution of the city or the construction of more modern military facilities.

The construction of the new bus station has been a brilliant exercise in integrating new public premises that recover the formal structure of the monument itself. In 2005 work began on this infrastructure that is "hidden" behind the monument, occupying the subsoil of its missing glacis. The roof of the station became a large green sheet that folds together with the structure, as if it were a piece of origami, to rebuild the defensive elements of the Santa Lucía Ravelin of the Citadel of Pamplona – glacis, covered pathway, counterscarp and moat – that years before had disappeared to enable the development of the city during the building of the First Enlargement and the new military barracks.

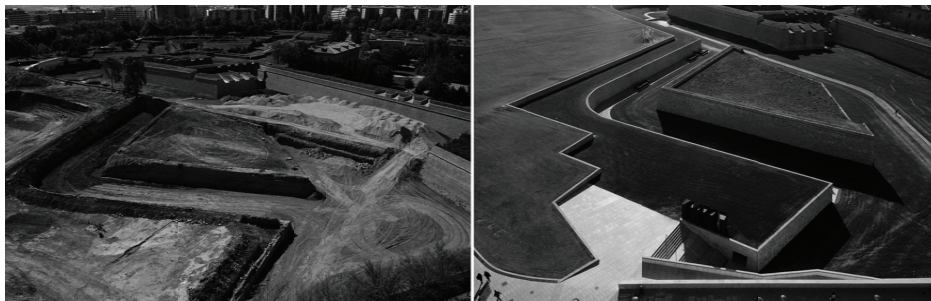


Figure 16. Santa Lucía Ravelin: state during and at the final stage of the excavation.

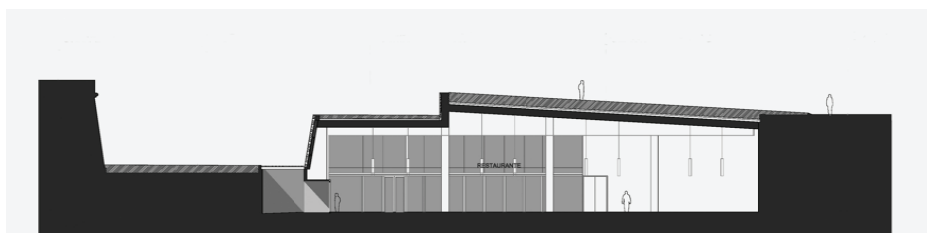


Figure 17. Cross-section of the bus station.

In this case, although the function and construction had to be compatible, they remain true to the original design. All of this derived from the need for an accurate reconstruction of the monument's surrounding area.

The restoration of other buildings, some linked to the fort itself, into public premises has allowed them to be used in a capacity that generates activity in the area surrounding the walls. This includes the renovation of the old Royal Palace as the General Archive of Navarre or the former military hospital as headquarters of the Department of Education of the Foral Government. In front of the latter and joined to the Bastion of Parma, a public space will be built that will be able to accommodate a car park and sports centre in its underground level, following a similar process to that of the bus station.

The incorporation of new public premises next to the walled area, and on occasions next to the rest of the foundations of the stretches that had been destroyed many years ago to allow the development of the city's urban weft, has become an opportunity to perform work with added value. While incorporating the relevant archaeological remains has presented complications in some actions, their inclusion has also meant that they have been returned to the fortification and are visible again after being hidden from sight for many years. In the case of the aforementioned building of the new bus station, for example, it prompted the Ravelin of Santa Lucía to once again form part of the citadel, or in the construction of the underground car park located underneath the Carlos III Avenue and Roncesvalles Avenue. The completion of these new facilities and public premises has enabled the restoration and preservation of the affected stretches of walls to be funded.



Figure 18. Incorporation of archaeological remains into the underground car park in the Carlos III Ave.

Promotional and revitalizing improvements

A city with this potential must be proud of the walls on which its history is written and that end up defining its urban development. The historical evolution of the city is largely the history of the interventions of its walls, in a continuous process of construction, improvement, transformation, and also of destruction (Barcina, 2009). It is therefore essential to promote this information in such a way as to make it an element of the cultural and tourist attraction of the city.

In this sense, one of the last projects undertaken is the restoration and renovation of the Fort of San Bartolomé, the last element of the fortification built and which stands as entity by itself, as the Interpretation Centre for the Pamplona Fortifications.

Apart from becoming known in itself, the incorporation of various audiovisual exhibition resources in its vaulted interior spaces will form the basis for the explanation of the birth, evolution and maintenance of the city's fortifications through the centuries in a way that is educational, participative and tailored to different audiences. Additionally, the aim is to bring the visitor closer not only to the fortifications as a work of military architectural with its corresponding constructive explanation, but also to give an overview of the society of the time, the human environment, the way of life, traditions and culture for the people who lived there, as well as to relate them to other Spanish, European or American fortifications of the time.



Figure 19. San Bartolomé Fort – Interpretation Centre for the Pamplona Fortifications.



Figure 20. San Bartolomé Fort – Interpretation Centre for the Pamplona Fortifications.



Figure 21. San Bartolomé Fort – Interpretation Centre for the Pamplona Fortifications.

Other actions that have been worked on in order to support the promotion of and research into the fortifications are: the installation of signage along the route around the walls as well as at its unique elements; the creation of a website dedicated to the fortifications of Pamplona

www.murallasdepamplona.com; the organisation of scientific lectures and conferences; the arrangement of guided tours of the restoration sites to see the traditional building techniques; the dissemination of information about the monument in groups (schools, families, researchers,...); and promotional tourism campaigns.



Figure 22. Santa Isabel Ravelin and Socorro Gate.

Conclusions

The urban walls form part of the everyday life of cities, making them difficult to understand without taking into account their walled enclosures. Today the patrimonial, environmental, touristic and cultural value of these fortified systems is indisputable.

As part of the policies for revitalising cities and historic centres it is essential to act decisively to equip them with the appropriate functional conditions, whilst at the same time preserving the cultural values that characterise them. It is possible to simultaneously retain the cultural heritage of cities whilst carrying out improvements to infrastructure and public spaces that prevent a loss of vitality.

Following the example of measures taken in the fortifications of Pamplona it has been shown that it is possible to make the walls, which in their day were designed as a barrier, become a link between neighbourhoods in a city capable of adapting itself to the new times and incorporating new public premises. Since the end of 2011, the almost five kilometres which Pamplona's city walls cover formed an accessible route.

There has been much discussion and planning about how to act on walled areas, but there are few cities in which this has passed from ideas to reality. Pamplona is one of these; it is a point of reference as much as in the preservation of its patrimony as in the integration of new uses for its walls, achieving a perfect balance between preservation and functionality. It has prevailed over a strategic approach oriented towards action, as opposed to in other cities where there is still debate over how to approach their monumental patrimony whilst their monuments continue to deteriorate.

The new uses are an opportunity for the renovation and enrichment of the historic urban landscape. Without the integration of new public premises and infrastructures, it is probable that the archaeological research into and renovation of some monuments would not have been possible. While other priorities exist in cities, solely restorative measures which were not accompanied by actions of greater magnitude could have at times been questioned.

Today is the day that, far from being a nuisance for the citizens, the walls of Pamplona have been able to incorporate modern public premises whilst becoming a space of recreation for its inhabitants.

Recently, this project was laureated in the 2012 edition of the European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage | Europa Nostra Awards and was also the winner of the special prize "Public Choice Award", chosen in an online poll from among the 28 overall laureates for 2012. The jury commented: "the restored fortifications are no longer a defensive wall, but a meeting place and a symbol of unity for the citizens and for the town".

Pamplona is currently working with the French town of Bayonne in "FORTIUS. Project for the improvement of tourist and cultural values of the fortified heritage in Pamplona and Bayonne". This project aims to increase the attraction of the western Pyrenees valuing the fortified heritage of Pamplona and Bayonne. These cities will increase and diversify its tourist attractions, creating a quality product

around assets. To do this, with its eyes set on 2014, various actions will be organized together as a landscape management plan, restoration of key elements of both city walls, working together on the dissemination of its value and significance, the deepening in the tourist potential of it and creating joint tourism product offerings around the interpretation, art, gastronomy and leisure. The project will promote business innovation linked to the fortified heritage enhancement and its sustainable management. This project is funded by the European Union by the European Regional Development Fund [ERDF] within the Operational Programme for Territorial Cooperation Spain-France-Andorra [POCTEFA] managed through the Comunidad de Trabajo de los Pirineos - Working Community of the Pyrenees [CTP].

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