European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards (2025)
838-Conservation and Adaptive Reuse 1. Conservation & Adaptive Reuse

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The medieval tower roof of the parish church of St. Mauritius in Spitz an der Donau. A lighthouse project in the Wachau World Heritage Site.

Entry details

General information

Main country of application	Austria
Name of the building, site or work of art	The medieval tower roof of the parish church of St. Mauritius in Spitz an der Donau. A lighthouse project in the Wachau World Heritage Site

Address of the building, site or work of art

> Kirchenplatz 12
> 3620 Spitz an der Donau
> Austria

Type (select one type only, as applicable):	✓ Building

Brief description of the project

> The medieval Church of St. Mauritius in Spitz an der Donau with its vibrant polychrome-tiled tower roof, is a renowned landmark in the UNESCO World Heritage Cultural Landscape of Wachau.
> The project aimed to preserve the historically significant roof structure. It includes comprehensive scientific investigations in a European context due to its groundbreaking approach to the conservation of medieval polychrome roofs, offering a model for similar heritage restoration initiatives.
> These findings not only informed the meticulous repair work but also uncovered the roof's symbolic significance, featuring a flower meadow motif and the coat of arms of Emperor Maximilian I.

Start date of the project	2022-01-01
Completion date of the project	2023-08-31
Website(s) of the project/nominee	https://www.bda.gv.at/themen/ich-bin-denkmal/2024-11-05-wh-115-noe-spitz-pfarrkirche-st-mauritius.html
Facebook page of the project, if any	https://www.facebook.com/mittelalterarchaeologie/posts/wissenswertes-%C3%BCber-die-bunten-gotischen-spitzen-dachziegel-am-turmspitz-von-spit/985108520323280/
Does the site or heritage in question have national/regional/local cultural heritage designation or protection status in its country?	Yes

If yes, please specify:

> The Parish Church of St. Mauritius in Spitz an der Donau holds national cultural heritage protection status in Austria. It is officially listed as a protected monument, recognizing its historical and architectural significance.

Is the site or heritage in question included on the UNESCO World Heritage List, either as a single World Heritage Site or as part of one larger site?	Yes

If yes, please specify:

> The Parish Church of St. Mauritius in Spitz an der Donau, perched above the Danube, is a renowned landmark and integral element in the UNESCO World Heritage Cultural Landscape of Wachau.

If relevant, is the site/heritage accessible to the public?	Yes

If relevant, is the site/heritage accessible to people with disabilities?

> The church is accessible to the people with disabilities but the tower, itself is unfortunately not.

Contact details

Name of the entrant	Gerold Eßer
Entrant's position	Deputy Regional Conservator
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Name of the owner	Krzysztof Nowodczynski
Owner's position	Priest and the representative of the Parish Church St Mauritius' owner
Organisation of the owner	Roman Catholic Parish of St Mauritius
Email address of the owner	spitz@dsp.at
Name of the project leader	Gerold Eßer
Project leader's position	Deputy Regional Conservator
Organisation of the project leader	Federal Monuments Office (Bundesdenkmalamt)
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Concise summary

Concise summary

The Parish Church of St. Mauritius in Spitz an der Donau, perched above the Danube, is a renowned landmark in the UNESCO World Heritage Cultural Landscape of Wachau. This medieval church, with its vibrant polychrome-tiled tower roof, serves as a prominent symbol of the region's cultural and architectural heritage. The restoration of the church tower (2020–2023) was urgently initiated following storm damage in 2020, highlighting the need for immediate conservation measures.

The project aimed to preserve the historically significant roof structure and its unique polychrome tiles, which were revealed through extensive research to date back to 1505—making it the only fully preserved example of this late medieval roofing style in Austria. The restoration process included comprehensive scientific investigations, such as dendrochronology, building archaeology, and mineralogical studies. These findings not only informed the meticulous repair work but also uncovered the roof's symbolic significance, featuring a flower meadow motif and the coat of arms of Emperor Maximilian I.

In collaboration with local, regional, and national institutions, as well as the community, the restoration achieved its goal of preserving 80% of the original roof tiles. Additional replacement tiles were crafted to replicate the originals faithfully. The work incorporated modern advancements, such as invisible ventilation, ensuring the structure's longevity while respecting its historical integrity.

The project stands out in a European context due to its groundbreaking approach to the conservation of medieval polychrome roofs, offering a model for similar heritage restoration initiatives. The results were widely disseminated through public symposiums, academic publications, and community engagement, fostering awareness and pride in the Wachau region's heritage.

The restoration's impact extends beyond preservation, revitalizing the church as a focal point for both residents and

visitors, reinforcing cultural identity, and supporting sustainable tourism within the World Heritage Site.
The project's total cost was €440000, supported by the Federal Monuments Office, federal ministries, the regional government, the Diocese of St. Pölten, local associations, and private contributions.
This exemplary project demonstrates the power of collaboration between scientific research, skilled craftsmanship, and community involvement, ensuring the preservation of an irreplaceable European cultural treasure.

Historical background

Historical background with dates

The Parish Church of St. Mauritius in Spitz an der Donau, situated in the UNESCO World Heritage Cultural Landscape of Wachau, has been a central landmark since its construction in the 14th century. The church's Gothic tower, with its polychrome glazed tile roof, dates back to around 1505. Recent research revealed that this roof is the only fully preserved example in Austria of a late medieval roofing style used on prominent European buildings.
The tiles feature a vibrant floral motif, symbolizing the kingdom of heaven, and the coat of arms of Emperor Maximilian I, highlighting its cultural and historical significance. Constructed as a collaborative effort between the Niederaltaich Monastery, the Parish of Spitz, and the local community, the church embodies both spiritual and artistic heritage. Over the centuries, it has stood as a symbol of cultural identity, resilience, and architectural excellence in the Wachau region.

Value and significance in its local/regional/national context

The Parish Church of St. Mauritius in Spitz an der Donau holds immense value as a cultural, spiritual, and architectural icon. Locally, it serves as a central landmark, embodying the identity of Spitz and its community. Its vibrant polychrome roof has become a symbol of local pride, connecting the past with present generations.
Regionally, the church is a key feature of the UNESCO World Heritage Cultural Landscape of Wachau, drawing visitors to the area and supporting sustainable tourism. Its preservation enhances the region's reputation as a steward of cultural heritage.
Nationally, the restoration of its unique late medieval roof tiles, the only fully preserved example of their kind in Austria, underscores the country's commitment to safeguarding its architectural legacy. The project highlights Austria's expertise in conservation, serving as a benchmark for preserving heritage sites across the nation.

Former and new use of the building/site, if applicable

The building has been always, former and later, used as a parish church.

State of conservation of the building/site/work of art before the project commenced

Before the restoration began, the Parish Church of St. Mauritius and its iconic polychrome roof were in a vulnerable state. A severe storm in 2020 caused significant damage to the roof structure, exposing the need for urgent conservation measures. The roof tiles, dating back to 1505, showed signs of wear, degradation, and structural instability, while the roof truss and battens required reinforcement.
The site lacked modern protective features, such as adequate ventilation, contributing to the deterioration. Without intervention, the church's unique architectural and historical elements were at risk of irreversible loss, jeopardizing its role as a cultural landmark.

Conservation work undertaken

Aims and objectives of the project.

The conservation project for the Parish Church of St. Mauritius in Spitz an der Donau focused on preserving its late medieval polychrome-tiled roof, a unique example of European architectural heritage dating to around 1505. The key aims were to address storm damage from 2020, ensure the structural stability of the roof, conserve the maximum amount of original material, and enhance its durability while maintaining historical authenticity.
Preparatory work involved thorough scientific investigations to understand the building's condition and historical context. Deformation mapping of the roof structure and surface, drone flights, and dendrochronological studies dated the woodwork, while building archaeological and mineralogical analyses confirmed the tiles' origin. Archival research provided insight into the construction's historical significance, particularly its connection to Emperor Maximilian I and the symbolic floral motif representing the kingdom of heaven. Comprehensive documentation was conducted, including a full mapping of the roof tiles (8,000 pieces) by the Federal Monuments Office.
The implementation phase prioritized minimal intervention to preserve authenticity. Approximately 2,000 replacement tiles were crafted by specialists to replicate original designs. Original tiles were meticulously cleaned, consolidated, and retouched. The roof truss and battens were stabilized, and invisible modern ventilation systems were integrated to improve building physics without altering its historic appearance.
The project successfully preserved 80% of the original roof, reconstructing the lost areas with precision. Beyond its technical achievements, the project aimed to revive the church as a landmark and cultural hub, strengthening community identity and supporting the heritage of the Wachau World Heritage region.

Historical and technical research undertaken for the project.

Extensive historical and technical research was foundational to the restoration of the Parish Church of St. Mauritius in Spitz an der Donau. These studies provided crucial insights into the building's significance, guiding every step of the conservation process.
The Federal Monuments Office led architectural history research that revealed the roof's remarkable origins. Previously believed to date from the 19th century, the polychrome-tiled roof was identified as a rare late medieval masterpiece from around 1505. Archival research connected the roof's design and symbolism—a floral motif representing the kingdom of heaven and the coat of arms of Emperor Maximilian I—with its cultural and historical context.
On the technical side, deformation mapping of the roof truss and tile covering, drone-based photographic surveys, and photogrammetry documented the structure and design. Dendrochronology dated the wood components of the roof, whilebuilding archaeological and mineralogical analyses confirmed the age and composition of the tiles. A comprehensive "tile book" was created to map all 8,000 tiles, documenting their condition and placement.
This interdisciplinary research established the roof's European significance and informed precise restoration methods. The findings were shared through publications, congresses, and symposiums, contributing to both local knowledge and broader European conservation practices.

Stages of implementation of the project.

The restoration of the Parish Church of St. Mauritius followed a meticulously planned, multi-stage approach to ensure the preservation of its unique medieval polychrome-tiled roof.

1. Damage Assessment and Initial Planning (2020–2021):
   After storm damage in 2020 revealed the roof's vulnerable condition, a comprehensive assessment was conducted. The Federal Monuments Office initiated deformation mapping of the roof truss and tile covering, alongside drone surveys to document the structure. The findings emphasized the urgency of intervention while setting the foundation for informed conservation.
2. Historical and Technical Research (2021–2022):
   Interdisciplinary studies included dendrochronology to date the roof truss, building archaeology to analyze tile origins and date, and mineralogical investigations of tiles and glazes. Photogrammetric analysis helped to reconstruct the original 80% preserved layout. The results highlighted the roof's late medieval origins, making it a rare cultural artifact.
3. Preparatory Work and Prototyping (2022):
   A prototype restoration was conducted on a test section of the roof to refine the techniques and materials. A tile specialist produced 2,000 historically accurate replacement tiles, replicating the original designs.

4. Implementation of Restoration (2023):
   Conservation work included stabilizing the roof truss, cleaning and consolidating original tiles, and reconstructing damaged sections while preserving as much historical material as possible. Invisible modern ventilation systems were integrated to improve roof physics without altering its appearance.
5. Community Engagement and Dissemination (2023–2024):
   Restoration progress was shared through tours, media, and symposiums. Following the project's completion, findings were presented at a regional symposium to foster public awareness and appreciation.

Design and conservation work carried out.

The restoration of the Parish Church of St. Mauritius in Spitz an der Donau focused on conserving its medieval polychrome-tiled roof, a significant example of late Gothic architectural design. The work emphasized preserving original materials and integrating modern techniques to ensure long-term durability while maintaining historical authenticity.
Design and Planning Phase:
Extensive preparatory studies informed the restoration strategy. Drone flights and photogrammetry captured detailed visual data, while deformation mapping assessed the roof structure. The Federal Monuments Office created a "tile book," documenting the condition and layout of all 8,000 tiles. Historical analyses revealed the roof's origins (circa 1505) and its symbolic elements, including a floral motif representing the kingdom of heaven and the coat of arms of Emperor Maximilian I.
Conservation Phase:
The conservation work prioritized minimal intervention. Approximately 80% of the original tiles were preserved, cleaned, consolidated, and retouched using steam cleaning of the whole roof surfaces, laser Cleaning of about 100 severly spoiled dark black tiles and careful restorative techniques. Damaged or missing tiles were replaced with 2,000 newly crafted replicas, produced by a specialized ceramist to replicate the historical tiles in material, color, and design.
Structural and Technical Improvements:
The roof truss and battens were stabilized, addressing deformation and structural weaknesses. Modern invisible ventilation systems were discreetly integrated to improve the roof's thermal and moisture regulation, ensuring longevity while preserving its historic character.
Execution and Quality Assurance:
The restoration was implemented with precision, guided by photogrammetric and cartographic documentation. This approach ensured that even reconstructed sections adhered to the original layout.
Outcome:
The project successfully preserved the roof's historic and aesthetic integrity. The restored tower and its vibrant roof now stand as a landmark of European cultural heritage, fostering local pride and enhancing the church's role within the Wachau UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Problems encountered and justification for the decisions taken to overcome these problems, both before and during the project.

The project faced several challenges, including structural damage from a severe storm in 2020, the fragile condition of the original polychrome tiles, and the complexity of preserving a historically significant late medieval roof.
During the preparatory phase, deformation in the roof truss and extensive wear on the tiles posed risks to stability and material conservation. Comprehensive structural analysis building archaeologyand scientific investigations (dendrochronology, and mineralogical studies) were conducted to understand the roof's condition and guide precise restoration strategies.
Reproducing the intricate polychrome tiles was another hurdle. Skilled ceramists crafted 2,000 replacement tiles that replicated the originals in composition, color, and design, ensuring historical accuracy while meeting modern durability standards.
Balancing historical preservation with functional improvements required integrating modern ventilation systems discreetly to enhance the roof's building physics without altering its appearance.
Finally, the need for community and stakeholder engagement was met through transparent communication and public outreach.

Building and conservation techniques and materials employed and any traditional crafts and skills that were used.

> The restoration of the Parish Church of St. Mauritius in Spitz an der Donau combined traditional craftsmanship with modern conservation techniques to preserve its unique late medieval polychrome-tiled roof.
> Roof Truss and Structure:
> The roof's wooden truss, dated to the years shortly after 1490 through dendrochronology, was stabilized using traditional carpentry techniques, ensuring the structural integrity of the original framework.
>
> Tile Conservation and Replacement:
> Approximately 80% of the original tiles were preserved through meticulous conservation techniques. These included hot steam cleaning to remove dirt and deposits, consolidation to strengthen fragile areas, and retouching to restore their vibrant appearance. For the 20% of tiles that were beyond repair or missing, 2,000 replacements were crafted by skilled ceramists. Using traditional methods, these tiles replicated the originals in size, color, and glaze, preserving the roof's historic aesthetic.
> Photogrammetry and Mapping:
> Advanced photogrammetry was used to map the roof's inner and outer surfaces, ensuring accurate reconstruction of the original layout and design.
> Ventilation and Modern Enhancements:
> Invisible up to date ventilation details were discreetly incorporated to improve thermal and moisture regulation, enhancing the roof's durability without altering its historical appearance.
> Traditional Crafts and Skills:
> The project engaged specialists in traditional masonry, tile-making, and decorative roofing. Experts in historical building conservation worked alongside ceramists and carpenters, ensuring the use of authentic materials and techniques.
> By blending traditional craftsmanship with modern innovations, the project preserved this rare example of European medieval roofing while ensuring its resilience for future generations.

Results and impact

Summary of the main results achieved and knowledge that has been gained. List the ways that the project/initiative contributes to the preservation and/or enhancement of the historical, cultural, environmental, educational and/or social values of the heritage in question. Mention the project's impact on conservation policy and practice, if any.

> The restoration of the Parish Church of St. Mauritius in Spitz an der Donau achieved significant results in heritage conservation, community engagement, and advancing knowledge in the field.
> Main Results and Knowledge Gained:
> The project preserved 80% of the original late medieval polychrome tiles, ensuring the authenticity of Austria's only fully intact example of this roofing style. Scientific research revealed the roof's origins (circa 1505) and cultural significance, including its floral motif symbolizing the kingdom of heaven and the coat of arms of Emperor Maximilian I. The findings enhanced understanding of medieval craftsmanship, tile-making techniques, and the symbolic language of Gothic architecture.
> Contributions to Preservation and Values:
> • Historical and Cultural Values: The project safeguarded an architectural and cultural icon in the UNESCO World Heritage Cultural Landscape of Wachau, strengthening its role as a regional and national landmark.
> • Environmental Sustainability: The integration of up-to-date ventilation systems improved the roof's building physics, ensuring long-term durability while maintaining its historic character.
> • Educational Outreach: Findings were disseminated through public tours, lectures, and regional symposiums, fostering community pride and raising awareness of heritage conservation.
> • Social Impact: The restoration revitalized the church as a community hub, reinforcing local identity and promoting sustainable cultural tourism.
> Impact on Conservation Policy and Practice:

The project set a benchmark for the restoration of historic tiled roofs, combining traditional craftsmanship with scientific methodologies. The Federal Monuments Office has already incorporated these practices into broader conservation strategies, influencing policy discussions and serving as a model for similar projects across Austria and Europe.
Evaluation Methodology:
The project was evaluated through a combination of scientific analysis, community feedback, and expert reviews. A "tile book" documented every tile's condition and placement, while stakeholder surveys gauged public and professional response. The outcomes are being further disseminated through academic publications and conferences.

Aspects of the project that can be considered innovative within its area or field.

The restoration of the Parish Church of St. Mauritius introduced several innovative approaches in heritage conservation.

1. Scientific Integration: The project combined advanced scientific techniques, such as photogrammetry, building archaeological dating, and mineralogical analyses, with traditional craftsmanship to ensure precision in restoring the late medieval polychrome roof. This interdisciplinary approach deepened understanding of historical materials and informed conservation strategies.
2. Modern Ventilation Systems: Invisible ventilation features were discreetly integrated into the roof structure, enhancing thermal and moisture regulation without compromising the building's historical appearance. This balance between historical preservation and modern functionality is rare in heritage projects.
3. Community Engagement and Knowledge Sharing: Public tours, lectures, and symposiums ensured continuous community involvement and shared the project's findings widely. The creation of a "tile book," documenting every roof tile, serves as an educational and reference tool for future projects.

Measures to ensure the sustainability/future viability of the project (in terms of future plans and funding).

1. Enhanced Durability: The integration of modern, invisible ventilation systems significantly improved the roof's thermal and moisture regulation, reducing the risk of future deterioration while preserving its historical integrity.
2. Ongoing Maintenance Plan: A detailed maintenance schedule has been established, supported by the Federal Monuments Office and local authorities, to monitor and address any emerging issues promptly.
3. Community Involvement: Local stakeholders, including the parish, regional associations, and volunteers, are committed to supporting the upkeep of the church, ensuring that it remains a focal point of cultural identity and pride.
4. Knowledge Dissemination: Findings from the project are shared through publications and symposiums, fostering expertise in historic tile roof conservation. This knowledge aids in securing future funding and technical support for ongoing conservation efforts.
5. Sustainable Tourism: The church's prominence in the Wachau UNESCO World Heritage region supports cultural tourism, providing a revenue stream for future preservation activities.

Environmental sustainability of the project and contribution to climate action (in terms of results, techniques, materials employed, methodologies etc.), if relevant.

The restoration of the Parish Church of St. Mauritius incorporated several environmentally sustainable practices and contributed to climate resilience:

1. Conservation of Original Materials: By preserving 80% of the original roof tiles, the project minimized the need for new materials, reducing resource consumption and waste.
2. Use of Sustainable Materials and Techniques: Replacement tiles were crafted using traditional, low-impact methods that replicated historic processes, avoiding environmentally harmful industrial production.
3. Improved Building Physics: The integration of modern, invisible ventilation systems enhanced thermal regulation, reducing the risk of moisture damage and the need for frequent interventions, which conserves energy and materials over time.

4. Mitigation of Urban Overheating: As part of the UNESCO World Heritage region, the project supports sustainable cultural tourism and promotes heritage as a climate-friendly alternative to modern development, fostering awareness of the role of traditional architecture in climate action.

Project's interaction with the surrounding community and landscape.

The restoration process fostered a strong connection with the local community and its cultural landscape in the Wachau UNESCO World Heritage region.

1. Community Engagement: From the outset, local stakeholders—including the parish, regional associations, and volunteers—were actively involved in the project. Public tours, lectures, and guided visits during and after the restoration built local pride and awareness of the site's heritage value. Beneficiary events, such as fundraising and educational activities, strengthened community bonds.
2. Integration with the Landscape: The restored church tower and its vibrant polychrome roof continue to serve as a prominent landmark in the Wachau Valley, harmonizing with the surrounding cultural and natural environment. The project underscores the importance of preserving architectural heritage as part of the region's identity.
3. Tourism and Education: The project's completion bolstered cultural tourism in the area, attracting visitors and fostering economic growth while promoting the church's historical significance.

Dissemination of the project's results and knowledge gained and any outreach or educational activities.

The restoration of the Parish Church of St. Mauritius emphasized sharing its results and insights through extensive outreach and educational initiatives.

1. Public Engagement: Guided tours, lectures, and community events were organized throughout the project to keep the local population informed and involved. A regional symposium held in October 2024 showcased the project's findings, targeting both experts and the public.
2. Professional Dissemination: Results were shared with the academic and conservation communities through presentations at conferences (e.g., Konstanz 2022) and publications in scientific journals. A Federal Monuments Office symposium in November 2023 focused on historic tile roof restoration, highlighting the methodologies and discoveries of the project.
3. Educational Materials: A comprehensive "tile book," documenting every roof tile's condition and placement, serves as an invaluable resource for future conservation projects.

Involvement of youth, community, non-traditional audiences and/or people with disabilities.

The restoration of the Parish Church of St. Mauritius actively involved diverse groups, fostering inclusive engagement with the project:

1. Youth Participation: Local schools were invited for guided tours and educational workshops during the restoration process, introducing young people to heritage conservation and its importance in preserving cultural identity.
2. Community Engagement: The project included the active participation of volunteers in tasks such as tile cleaning and event organization. Fundraising initiatives, including benefit events and a community "brick donation" campaign, enabled residents to directly support the restoration, strengthening their connection to the church.
3. Outreach to Non-Traditional Audiences: Public lectures and exhibitions targeted audiences beyond traditional heritage circles, including tourists, local artisans, and residents.
4. Accessibility: Efforts were made to ensure events and tours were accessible to people with disabilities, including audio guides and physically accessible pathways where possible.

Transferability of the initiative to other contexts and its scalability potential.

The restoration of the Parish Church of St. Mauritius serves as a model for conserving historic tiled roofs and integrating modern techniques with traditional craftsmanship. Its methodologies are highly transferable and scalable

to similar heritage projects in Europe and beyond.

1. Scientific Approach: The interdisciplinary research methods, including photogrammetry, building archaeological , and detailed material analysis, provide a replicable framework for investigating historic structures.
2. Conservation Techniques: The combination of preserving original materials, crafting authentic replacements, and incorporating discreet modern systems (e.g., ventilation) offers a balanced strategy applicable to diverse heritage contexts.
3. Community Involvement: The project's engagement with local stakeholders and volunteers demonstrates how community participation can be leveraged in heritage initiatives, fostering ownership and reducing costs.
4. Knowledge Sharing: The detailed documentation, including the "tile book," and dissemination through publications and symposiums ensure the project's lessons are accessible to other conservation efforts.

Any related work that still needs to be completed, if applicable.

While the primary restoration of the Parish Church of St. Mauritius, including the polychrome-tiled roof, has been successfully completed, a few related tasks remain to ensure the project's long-term impact:

1. Conference Volume Publication: The results of the 2024 regional symposium and additional research findings will be compiled into a comprehensive conference volume, scheduled for publication by the end of 2025. This will further disseminate the project's methodologies and insights to the global heritage community.
2. Ongoing Maintenance: Regular inspections and minor maintenance tasks, including monitoring the condition of the roof tiles and ventilation systems, will be essential to sustain the structure's durability.
3. Additional Accessibility Improvements: Enhancing accessibility features for individuals with disabilities, such as improved pathways and informational aids, remains a priority to ensure inclusivity.

European and international dimension

European significance of the project/initiative/nominee.

The restoration of the Parish Church of St. Mauritius highlights Europe's shared cultural heritage through its unique polychrome-tiled roof, a rare example of late medieval craftsmanship linked to prominent European architectural traditions. The roof's vibrant design, featuring a floral motif symbolizing the kingdom of heaven and the coat of arms of Emperor Maximilian I, reflects the cultural and artistic connections of 16th-century Europe.
The project fosters a sense of European identity by preserving a heritage site that embodies cross-border influences in design, materials, and symbolism. The collaborative efforts among Austrian institutions, local stakeholders, and international experts underline Europe's collective responsibility to safeguard its cultural treasures.
By sharing its methodologies and findings at international conferences and through publications, the project contributes to Europe's social cohesion, advancing heritage conservation as a shared practice. It serves as a model for preserving historic architecture across Europe and strengthening cultural unity.

Costs of the project/initiative

Costs of the project (in euro), financial and management arrangements, funding partners and/or the type of funding.

The total cost of the restoration project for the Parish Church of St. Mauritius in Spitz an der Donau was €440000. The funding was sourced from a combination of public, private, and community contributions, reflecting a collaborative approach to heritage preservation.
Funding Partners:

1. Public Institutions: The Federal Monuments Office (Bundesdenkmalamt), Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, Civil Service and Sport, and the regional government of Lower Austria (Amt der NÖ Landesregierung) provided

substantial financial support.
2. Diocese and Local Authorities: The Diocese of St. Pölten and the Market Town of Spitz contributed funds and coordination efforts.
3. Private Contributions: Local associations, community members, and private donors supported the project through fundraising campaigns, benefit events, and individual donations, such as the "brick donation" initiative.
Management Arrangements:
The Federal Monuments Office led the project, coordinating research, conservation efforts, and stakeholder engagement. A dedicated project team ensured efficient planning and implementation, with regular reporting to funding partners and the community.
This multi-faceted funding and management model underscores the importance of public-private partnerships in heritage conservation and highlights the collective commitment to preserving cultural landmarks for future generations.

Funding provided by the European Union or the EEA/Norway Grants (including programme, year and amount of the Grant), if any.

The restoration of the Parish Church of St. Mauritius in Spitz an der Donau did not receive direct funding from the European Union or the EEA/Norway Grants. Instead, the project relied on national, regional, and local contributions. Key funding partners included the Federal Monuments Office (Bundesdenkmalamt), the Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, Civil Service and Sport, the regional government of Lower Austria, the Diocese of St. Pölten, the Market Town of Spitz, and contributions from local associations and private donors.
Although no EU or EEA/Norway grants were utilized, the project aligns with the European Union's goals of preserving cultural heritage and fostering community engagement. It serves as an exemplary case of cross-institutional collaboration at the national and regional levels, with methodologies and findings that contribute to the broader European knowledge base on heritage conservation.
The restoration project demonstrates how locally driven initiatives can achieve significant cultural and environmental impact, complementing EU priorities for sustainable development and cultural preservation, even without direct EU funding.

Additional information

How would winning the European Heritage Award / Europa Nostra Award benefit you, your project and/or your organisation?

Winning the European Heritage Award / Europa Nostra Award would greatly enhance the recognition of our project as a benchmark in heritage conservation, showcasing the innovative methods and collaborative approach used to restore the Parish Church of St. Mauritius. It would bring international attention to Austria's cultural heritage, inspiring similar projects across Europe. For our organization, it would strengthen credibility, attract future funding, and foster partnerships, enabling continued advocacy for preserving Europe's shared cultural treasures.

In case this submission is the winner of the Grand Prix, what will the monetary award be used for?

If awarded the Grand Prix, the monetary prize will be used to support ongoing maintenance and conservation efforts for the Parish Church of St. Mauritius, including accessibility improvements and educational initiatives. Additionally, funds will be allocated to produce the conference volume, ensuring wider dissemination of the project's findings and methodologies.

In case this submission is the winner of the Grand Prix, who will be the recipient of the monetary award?

In this case, the monetary award will be received by the Federal Monuments Office (Bundesdenkmalamt), which led the project. The office will allocate the funds to further conservation initiatives, ongoing maintenance of the Parish Church of St. Mauritius, and dissemination of the project's findings through publications and outreach.

How did you find out about the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards?	Europa Nostra website
Is this the first time that this entry has been submitted to the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards?	Yes
On a scale of 1-10, how satisfied are you with this online submission form?	✓ 10
By submitting your data, photographs and other material to the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards you agree to the processing and sharing of your data in accordance with Europa Nostra's Privacy Policy. Please check the box to indicate you agree with the Privacy Policy.	✓

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02.jpg 789 KiB



03.JPG 3.0 MiB



04.JPG 1.3 MiB



05.jpg 3.4 MiB



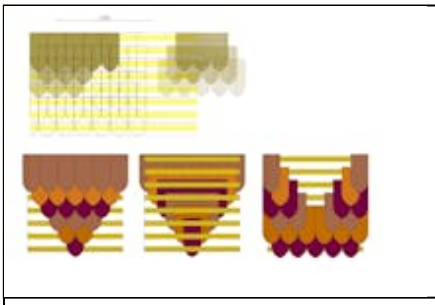
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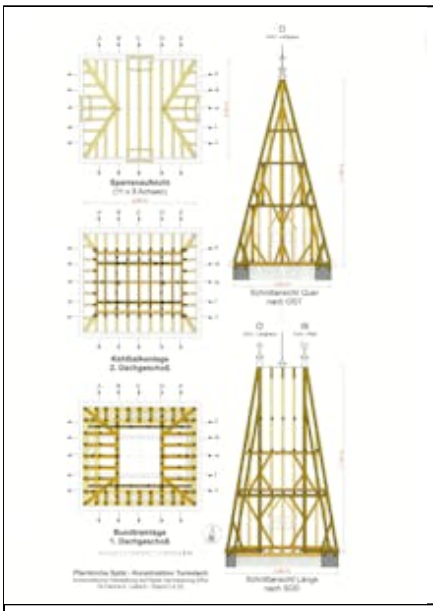
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08.JPG 831 KiB



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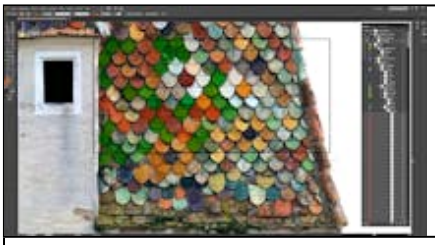
11.jpg 925 KiB



12.JPG 1.1 MiB



13.jpg 1.3 MiB



14.jpg 1.2 MiB



15.jpg 1.3 MiB



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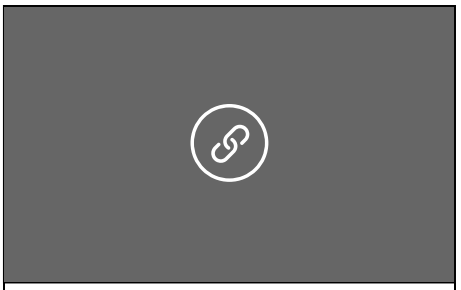
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