

SAXON ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE IN TRANSYLVANIA
A Research Project: The Ensemble of Sighișoara Fortress - area inscribed
on the World Heritage List – Part II¹

Lecturer Ph.Dc. Arch. Corina LUCESCU*
Prof. Ph.D. Arch. Sorin MINGHIAT
Lecturer Ph.D. Eng. Ana Maria BIRO

Abstract

Since 1999, the HISTORIC CENTRE OF SIGHIȘOARA, formed by THE FORTRESS, a fortified settlement located on a rather steep hill that overlooks the valley of the Târnava River, and part of THE LOWER TOWN, situated at the bottom of this hill, is included on the World Heritage List, position 902. Continuously being inhabited till the present day, the structure of the urban space (streets, parcels) together with the architectural quality of the buildings, that compose the HISTORIC CENTRE OF SIGHISOARA, have been preserved unaltered by time. The town developed during the middle ages and it was fortified with an approximately 930 meter long wall that surrounds the hill on the contour of its two planes. It initially had 14 defense towers from which only nine exist today. The fortified ensemble, preserved in a proportion of 90%, is inscribed on the Historical Monuments List/2004 at position MS-II-a-A-15805.

In 2004-2007, the Architecture Faculty of the Spiru Haret University has carried out a complex research of the built environment from the Ensemble of Sighișoara Fortress - area inscribed on the World Heritage List. Results of the research were part of the project Rehabilitation and Revitalization of the Assembly of Sighișoara Fortress, Area included on the World Heritage List, FEASIBILITY STUDY / PART II - building fund and public spaces, included in The National Program of Restoration 2007.

The results of the complex research formed an extensive documentation, five volumes that contain 298 objective files, a photographic documentation which contains 2130 photos, and graphic syntheses of the entire data that highlight the need for interventions across protected areas.

This kind of research can be a model for the monitorization of other historical centers from Romania.

Key words: *Saxon architectural heritage, historical centre, medieval architecture, Transylvania*

* Lecturer Ph.Dc. Arch. Corina LUCESCU, Prof. Ph.D. Arch. Sorin MINGHIAT, Lecturer Ph.D. Eng. Ana Maria BIRO, Spiru Haret University, Faculty of Architecture, Bucharest, Romania.

¹ Translation: Assist. Lecturer PhDc. Arch. Andreea Biro, Lecturer Ph.Dc. Arch. Corina Lucescu.