



The Whole Village Project

An integrated approach to cultural heritage conservation
in Saxon Transylvania



Culture 2000

ACTIVITY 1: RESTORATION OF 52 REPRESENTATIVE SAXON BUILDINGS

Goal: Restoration of 50 representative Saxon buildings in 12 villages in Transylvania.

Achieved: 52 buildings restored in 12 villages and towns.

List of projects: **Malancrav** (Catholic Church, Catholic parish house, orthodox school and houses numbers 76, 261, 270, 315 and 429); **Floresti** (Saxon Church, Orthodox parish house and houses numbers 31 and 77); **Laslea** (house no. 344); **Sighisoara** (house no. 10, Cojocarilor Street); **Prejmer** (house no. 13); **Apold** (Saxon church, work on fortification wall, white tower and parish house); **Hosman** (houses numbers 211 and 230); **Bunesti** (house no. 50 and the Saxon church tower); **Crit** (houses numbers 178, 174, 102, 176, 20, 185 and 183); **Mesendorf** (Orthodox parish house and houses numbers 116, 36 and 56); **Saschiz** (houses numbers 306, 155, 152 and 448); **Viscri** (houses numbers 8, 9, 11, 14, 15, 16, 19, 35, 53, 76, 83, 126, 131, 146, 147, 164 and 197).

All buildings were restored using only traditional materials (mainly lime mortar, wood, stone and bricks), and traditional building skills.

In addition to saving these 52 endangered traditional buildings (two more than we proposed originally), our work contributed to improving the general atmosphere and ambiantal value of these villages. It is quite extraordinary what an impact a row of 3-4 restored houses can have on the overall feeling of a place, as seen below, in Viscri and Malancrav. Thus we have achieved our second objective for this activity, which was to contribute to the preservation of the traditional **streetscape** of the Saxon villages of Transylvania.





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Finally, by engaging local craftsmen and using local resources and materials, we have raised awareness among the villages about the advantages of using simple, traditional, locally-available materials and techniques, developed and refined by their forefathers over the past centuries. Our restoration projects have attracted the curiosity and interest of local inhabitants, thus proving their **demonstrative value**, as shown by our Malancrav conservation team:



We also succeeded in improving the quality of craftsmanship in achieving traditional decorations and high-level work in repairing and restoring **architectural details**.





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Our partner “Horizon Foundation” from The Netherlands, through Mr Jeremy Amos, provided valuable expertise and consultancy in selecting the restoration projects, writing project specifications, choosing patina and decoration elements and inspecting the quality of completed projects. “Corona Association” of Germany focused on the complex restoration works of the Saxon fortified church in Apold, while “Fundatia Mihai Eminescu Trust” (and its two village-based daughter organisations – “Fundatia Mihai Eminescu Trust – Filiala Viscri” and “Fundatia Mihai Eminescu Trust – Filiala Floresti”) took care of the practicalities of purchasing materials and tools and employing conservation craftsmen and architects.

Overall, 56 local conservation craftsmen and architects contributed to the accomplishment of these 52 projects. We would like to mention their names in order to thank them for their extraordinary efforts and commitment: Gabriel Lambescu (architect, deceased), Jan Huelsemann (architect), Robert Farczadi (architect), Ernst Linzing (Malancrav), Herman Baak (Malancrav), Wolfgang Baak (Malancrav), Cristian Cintar (Malancrav), Octavian Gangal (Malancrav), Cristian Kraft (Malancrav), Gavril Malancravan (Malancrav), Alexandru Neagu (Malancrav), Valentin Neagu (Malancrav), Cristian Onetu (Malancrav), Vasile Roman (Malancrav), Johann Schapes (Malancrav), Erich Schirkonger (Malancrav), Herman Schuster (Malancrav), Romulus Harbada (Floresti), Vranceanu Vasile (Floresti), Florin Cosorean (Floresti), Apostol Cristinel (Floresti), Bolboaca Mihai (Floresti), Goga Viorel (Floresti), Moldovan Claudiu (Floresti), Munteanu Mirel (Floresti), Munteanu Alexandru (Floresti), Munteanu Cosmin (Floresti), Zubascu Ioan (Floresti), Zubascu Vasile (Floresti), Pallo Zoltan (Sighisoara), Dominic Boldizsar (Hosman), Silviu Dumitru Titu (Hosman), Alexandru Hatos (Hosman), Radu Trifan (Brasov), Florin Brebeanu (Brasov), Sebastian Bethge (Apold), Anna B. Tomczac (Apold), Marius Mailat (Saes), Molnar Ioan (Viscri), Poncu Ovidiu (Viscri), Panait Marius (Viscri), Purghel Lucian (Viscri), Purghel Traian (Viscri), Vladescu Laurentiu (Crit), Pavel Adrian (Bunesti), Slava Fabian (Crit), Zaharia Vasile (Mesendorf), Ghilea Victor (Viscri), Wagner Helmuth (Viscri), Radu Costel Ioan (Cloasterf), Stoica Tudor Aurel (Cloasterf), Chereches Aurel (Cloasterf), Boholtean Ioan (Viscri), Mognea Sorin (Bunesti), Nemeth Ioan Catalin (Bunesti), Sandru Ioan (Bunesti).