

# THE HERITAGE VALUE OF THE AUBERGES OF THE ORDER OF ST JOHN IN VALLETTA, MALTA

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**Abstract.** *The work of conservators and decision-makers in the field of conservation is often challenging as it contributes directly to the social process of value association and transferring historical assets to future generations. At the basis of every decision that is taken there are a number of interlaced principles or values which may vary over time and become open to interpretation. This paper applies the Heritage Value Calculation to the auberges of the Order of the Knights Hospitaller of St John which still stands in Valletta. These architectural gems are all scheduled as Grade 1 listed buildings. The final heritage value computed for each auberge illustrates not only the applicability of this method but provides an insight into the intrinsic factors relative to one another.*

**Keywords:** *Auberge de Castille, Auberge d'Aragon, Auberge d'Italie, Auberge de Provence, Auberge de Bavière, Valletta.*

## Introduction

Over the past four decades, substantial discourse has emerged among heritage professionals with regards to heritage value. Values attributed to heritage have expanded in scope and nowadays include increased sensitivity to divergent historical and cultural practices. Such values are the core drivers for decision-making processes such as scheduling.

A recent study undertaken by one of the authors attempts to develop a heritage value calculation geared towards a holistic system for heritage valorisation which utilises mathematical multicriteria analysis.<sup>1</sup> The aim of this article is to apply this mathematical formula to compute the heritage value of the auberges of the Order of the Knights Hospitaller of St John in Valletta who ruled over Malta until 1798, when it was expelled by the French. The Order was made up of knights from a number of European nations, grouped according to tongues or langues (“languages”), which numbered eight in total. Each had its distinct stately palace, or auberge. “Each tongue of knights vied with another in rendering their auberges splendid.”<sup>2</sup> Such geographic-cultural subgroupings of the members of the Order functionally approximates branches of other religious orders.

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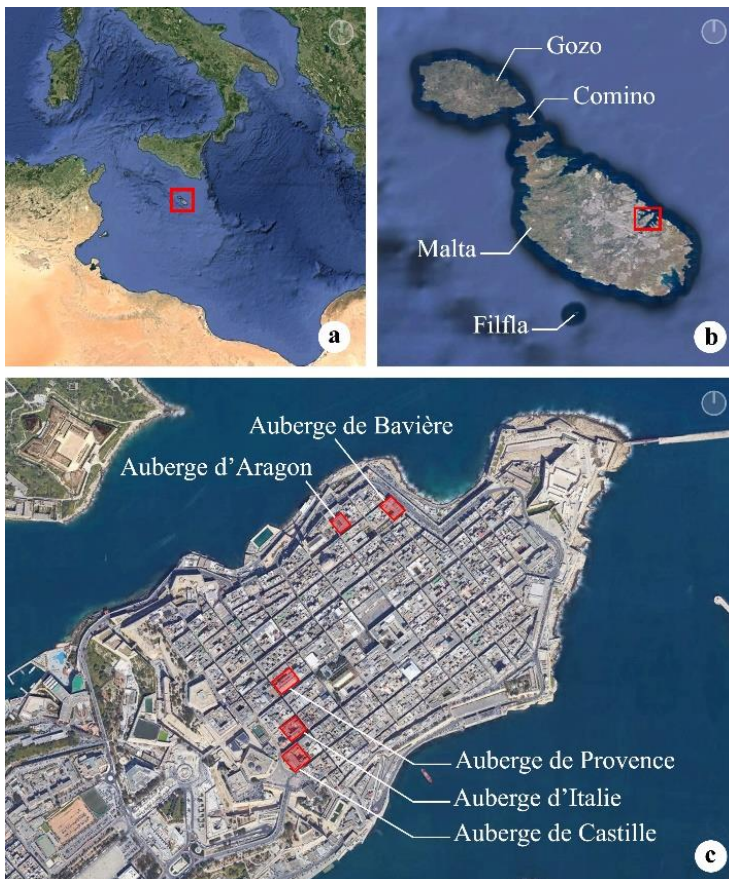
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<sup>1</sup> Zammit 2022.

<sup>2</sup> MacGill 1839, p. 41.

Valletta, the capital city of mainland Malta and the largest island in the Maltese Archipelago (**fig. 1**), founded in 1566, was founded primarily through donations of large sums of money by members of the Order. It was inscribed by UNESCO in its entirety as a World Heritage Site in 1980.<sup>3</sup> To be included on the World Heritage List, and thus considered of outstanding universal value, a site must fulfil at least one of the ten selection criteria. Valletta fulfilled criteria (i) and (vi); the former implies that the city represents “a unique artistic or aesthetic achievement, a masterpiece of the creative genius,” whilst the latter requires the city to “be most importantly associated with ideas or beliefs, with events or with persons, of outstanding historical importance or significance.”<sup>4</sup>



**Fig. 1.** Site location: The Maltese Archipelago with respect to Europe and Africa (a); Malta and its dependencies (b); Valletta and the locations of the auberges covered in this study (c) © Google Earth)

<sup>3</sup> UNESCO 1980.

<sup>4</sup> UNESCO 1978.

## Theoretical background

The Heritage Value Calculation attempts to establish the final heritage value of a given site through a multitude of interlaced value benchmarks.<sup>5</sup> Based on the work of Mason,<sup>6</sup> Yung and Chan,<sup>7</sup> de la Torre,<sup>8</sup> Doğan,<sup>9</sup> Chen and Li<sup>10</sup> and Olukoya,<sup>11</sup> 37 leading publications were evaluated to determine the value typologies covered in each. These publications included Reigl,<sup>12</sup> charters,<sup>13</sup> declarations<sup>14</sup> and other significant official texts,<sup>15</sup> and works of seminal authors. Relevant scholarly works issued in the last half century include Kalman,<sup>16</sup> Feilden,<sup>17</sup> Lipe,<sup>18</sup> Carver,<sup>19</sup> Darvill and Wainwright,<sup>20</sup> Frey<sup>21</sup> and Ashley-Smith,<sup>22</sup> whilst those issued since the year 2000 were Kerr,<sup>23</sup> Throsby,<sup>24</sup> Pye,<sup>25</sup> Mason,<sup>26</sup> Keene,<sup>27</sup> Appelbaum,<sup>28</sup> Roders,<sup>29</sup> Orbaşlı,<sup>30</sup> Stubbs,<sup>31</sup> Robles,<sup>32</sup> Szmelter,<sup>33</sup> Lertcharnit,<sup>34</sup> Yung and Chan,<sup>35</sup> and Gielen et

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<sup>5</sup> Zammit, Bianco 2022.

<sup>6</sup> Mason 2002.

<sup>7</sup> Yung, Chan 2013.

<sup>8</sup> de la Torre 2013.

<sup>9</sup> Doğan 2020.

<sup>10</sup> Chen, Li 2021.

<sup>11</sup> Olukoya 2021.

<sup>12</sup> Reigl 1903.

<sup>13</sup> Australia ICOMOS 1999; Council of Europe 2005; ICOMOS 1931; ICOMOS 1964; ICOMOS 2010.

<sup>14</sup> ICOMOS 1975; ICOMOS 1994; ICOMOS 1996; ICOMOS 2008.

<sup>15</sup> Antiquities Board 1976; Antiquities Office 2004; English Heritage 1997; English Heritage 2008; Federal Review Office 2009; UNESCO 2017.

<sup>16</sup> Kalman 1980.

<sup>17</sup> Feilden 1982.

<sup>18</sup> Lipe 1984.

<sup>19</sup> Carver 1996.

<sup>20</sup> Darvill, Wainwright 1995.

<sup>21</sup> Frey 1997.

<sup>22</sup> Ashley-Smith 1999.

<sup>23</sup> Kerr 2000.

<sup>24</sup> Throsby 2001.

<sup>25</sup> Pye 2001.

<sup>26</sup> Mason 2002.

<sup>27</sup> Keene 2005.

<sup>28</sup> Appelbaum 2007.

<sup>29</sup> Roders 2007.

<sup>30</sup> Orbaşlı 2008.

<sup>31</sup> Stubbs 2009.

<sup>32</sup> Robles 2010.

<sup>33</sup> Szmelter 2010.

<sup>34</sup> Lertcharnit 2017.

<sup>35</sup> Yung, Chan 2012.

al.<sup>36</sup> In total, 24 value typologies were identified and used as a baseline for evaluating the significance of a given heritage site. These 24 value benchmarks enable a thorough analysis and broad-spectrum system of heritage valorisation which may be applied to various heritage sites. The resulting heritage value typologies include those frequently discussed in conservation theory such as historic, aesthetic, social, cultural and economic value. Others which emerged in the latter part of the twentieth century, such as typological value, option value, newness value and authenticity, are also included. These 24 value criteria were classified into four categories: (i) form and physicality, (ii) socio-cultural, (iii) economic and use, and (iv) informational value.

A heritage value grid was developed from the Nara Grid; 4 heritage values – form and physicality, socio-cultural, economic and use, and informational – are tabulated versus 6 heritage dimensions, namely, design, materiality, function, location and context, tradition and techniques, and spirit and memory. All the dimensions of heritage and heritage values have equal weighting.

In terms of the Heritage Value Calculation, the final heritage value,  $F$ , of a given site is defined by:

$$F = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^K y_k$$

where  $K = 6$  (the six dimensions of heritage) and  $y_k$  is the outer average of a given heritage dimension. For a given heritage site,  $0 \leq F \leq 1$ ; the closer to the upper limit, the higher the heritage value of the site.

The outer average,  $y_k$ , of a given heritage dimension, is given by:

$$y_k = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N z_i^k$$

where  $N = 4$  (the four heritage value categories) and  $z_i^k$ , the average within the value category of each dimension, is given by:

$$z_i^k = \frac{1}{M_i} \sum_{j=1}^{M_i} x_{ij}$$

where  $M_1 = 7$  (represents form and physicality values),  $M_2 = 7$  (represents socio-cultural values),  $M_3 = 4$  (represents economic and use values) and  $M_4 =$

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<sup>36</sup> Gielen et al. 2014.

6 (represents informational values). Whilst **z** ensures equal weighting to all values, **y** ensures equal weighting to all value categories, and **F** ensures equal weighting to all heritage dimensions.

### Materials and methods

Of the eight original auberges in Valletta, Auberge d'Allemagne was demolished in the nineteenth century to erect the Anglican Cathedral of St Paul. Auberge d'Auvergne and Auberge de France were destroyed by aerial bombardment during the Second World War.<sup>37</sup> Today, the former has been replaced by the Law Courts whilst the latter site is where the Worker's Memorial Building stands.<sup>38</sup> Thus, the Heritage Value Calculation has been applied to remaining auberges, namely, Auberge de Castille, Auberge d'Aragon, Auberge d'Italie, Auberge de Provence and Auberge de Bavière.<sup>39</sup>

A guide to Malta published in the 1840s states that all eight auberges were "remarkable for their magnificence, and for the extreme beauty of their architecture: that of Provence for its chaste and elegant style, and that of Castille for its imposing effect and elaborate ornament, may be particularly mentioned."<sup>40</sup> The present-day five auberges, a detailed description of each of which is given by Hughes,<sup>41</sup> were included on the Antiquities List of 1925.<sup>42</sup> They were all scheduled as Grade 1 national monuments,<sup>43</sup> and in 2012 they were listed on the National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands (NICPMI). This inventory is the national heritage register, established in 2011 to list the cultural property of Malta. As per NICPMI, the cultural heritage type and value and property value assessment for these auberges is architectural/historical and very high, respectively. The inventory numbers assigned by the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage (SCH) with respect to each building are stated in (table 1).

### Auberge de Castille

Located at Castille Place, at the highest point of Valletta and overlooking the Grand Harbour area, the Auberge de Castille belonged to the knights of the langue of Castille, León and Portugal (**fig. 2**). Erected in the Spanish Baroque

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<sup>37</sup> Braun 1946, p. 41.

<sup>38</sup> Leaver 1985, p. 553.

<sup>39</sup> These auberges are covered in the latest publication on the city entitled *Encounters with Valletta: A Baroque City through the Ages* (Bonello et al. 2018). The study on the Auberge de Castille was penned by Richard Cachia Caruana (Cachia Caruana 2018) whilst the remaining auberges are covered by Denis De Lucca (De Lucca 2018).

<sup>40</sup> Murray 1840, p. xx.

<sup>41</sup> Hughes 1967.

<sup>42</sup> Laws of Malta 1932.

<sup>43</sup> DOI 1998, p. 5336.

style in the 1740s to the design of Andrea Belli (1703–1772), it replaced a 1574 building by Girolamo Cassar (c. 1520–c. 1592).<sup>44</sup> This auberge “is a strikingly fine building; its entrance and staircase are much admired”;<sup>45</sup> “the rich central focus is obtained by a magnificent doorway linked vertically to an elaborate central window, capped ... by ... ostentatious coat-of-arms, and a crowning centre-piece with the Languè’s heraldic paraphernalia.”<sup>46</sup>

Case Study	Inventory Number
Auberge de Castille	1127 <sup>47</sup>
Auberge d’Aragon	1125 <sup>48</sup>
Auberge d’Italie	1129 <sup>49</sup>
Auberge de Provence	1135 <sup>50</sup>
Auberge de Baviere	1128 <sup>51</sup>

**Table 1.** National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands: Auberges in Valletta



**Fig. 2.** Auberge de Castille

After the expulsion of the Order, the French utilised the auberge for the Commission for National Property. Following the French capitulation to Britain in 1800, it became the headquarters of the British Armed Forces and

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<sup>44</sup> Hughes 1967, p. 181–183.

<sup>45</sup> MacGill 1839, p. 62.

<sup>46</sup> Ellul 1983, p. 3.

<sup>47</sup> SCH 2012a.

<sup>48</sup> SCH 2012b.

<sup>49</sup> SCH 2012c.

<sup>50</sup> SCH 2012d.

<sup>51</sup> SCH 2012e.

provided accommodation for British officers. After 1954 it was used as General Headquarters of the Army for Malta, Libya and Cyprus. Today the auberge hosts the office of the Maltese Prime Minister, which was moved from the Auberge d'Aragon in 1972.

The right side of the building was repaired following damage caused during aerial bombardment in 1942. Several restoration works were undertaken between 1987 and 1996; the elevations were restored between 2009 and 2014.<sup>52</sup>

### **Auberge d'Aragon**

Erected in 1571, the Auberge d'Aragon housed knights from the langue of Aragon, Navarre and Catalonia (**fig. 3**). It is the oldest and only surviving auberge the original Mannerist design of Cassar.<sup>53</sup> It never saw a major renovation other than the portico to the main entrance,<sup>54</sup> an attempt to add prestige to an otherwise austere building. The auberge was intended as functional religious accommodation; prestige was not the objective.<sup>55</sup>

In the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, it housed in turn the government printing press, the residence of the Chief Secretary to Government, a school and a hospital during the Second World War. During the periods 1921–1933 and 1947–1972 it accommodated the Office of the Prime Minister; since then it has served a number of government ministries.



**Fig. 3.** Auberge d'Aragon

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<sup>52</sup> Miceli Demajo 2019, p. 81.

<sup>53</sup> Hughes 1953, p. 107; Hughes 1967, p. 138–140.

<sup>54</sup> Ellul 1989, p. 112.

<sup>55</sup> De Piro 1993, p. 4.

The main and the south-eastern elevations sustained damage due to the 1693 earthquake. It was not damaged during the Second World War.<sup>56</sup> During restoration works carried out in 2019, an early eighteenth-century bakery oven, some wells and water canals were discovered buried under debris in an underground part of the auberge.<sup>57</sup>

### **Auberge d'Italie**

Originally designed in the sixteenth century to house knights from the langue of Italy in a Mannerist style by Girolamo Cassar,<sup>58</sup> the Auberge d'Italie was subsequently modified by a number of architects throughout the seventeenth century; the last major renovation, which gave the building a Baroque character, took place in the 1680s (**fig. 4**).<sup>59</sup>



**Fig. 4.** Auberge d'Italie

The auberge, the second largest, had an entrance from Jean de Valette Square but it was blocked when the square was built up. The present square was recreated in 2012. The layout of the building is a typical of Cassar's auberges, such as Auberge d'Aragon – the classic model of Italian Renaissance palazzi, rectangular in plan with rooms around a central

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<sup>56</sup> Braun 1946, p. 41.

<sup>57</sup> Arena 2019.

<sup>58</sup> Hughes 1967, p. 143–145.

<sup>59</sup> De Lucca 2013, p. 47.



courtyard. According to an 1839 guide to Malta, this auberge “is a large building, but without architectural beauty.”<sup>60</sup>

Since the expulsion of the Order, the auberge has been used for a number of military and civilian purposes, housing a military headquarters, an officers’ mess, a museum, a school of arts, a temporary courthouse, the General Post Office and various government departments. At present, it is the National Community Art Museum which hosts the national collection of fine arts. When stationed in Malta as Army Medical Staff, John Davy (1790–1868) – brother of the reputed chemist, Sir Humphry Davy (1778–829) – established a public dispensary for the treatment of the poor, the forerunner of the contemporary Government Polyclinics, locally referred to as *il-Berġa*, the Maltese word for “the Auberge.”<sup>61</sup>

The auberge was hit by enemy bombardment during the Second World War. The damaged part was subsequently reconstructed soon after. Extensive renovations were undertaken approximately half a century ago. The building was redecorated and restored by 2002. The auberge’s elevation, together with the building’s interior, was restored between late 2015 and July 2016.

### **Auberge de Provence**

Located in Republic Street, the Auberge de Provence was designed to house the knights from the langue of Provence. It is the third largest auberge. The present building, which includes shops, was finished in the early part of the seventeenth century in French classical style under the direction of Antonio Garsin (**fig. 5**). This significantly modified the original sixteenth century building completed by Cassar.<sup>62</sup> The incorporation of street-level shops, a trend at the time, changed the overall dynamics of the use of the building. It was during this period that the Gran Salon on the first floor started taking shape. The garden of the auberge which was accessible from Strait Street, was sold as a revenue-generating initiative. Other structural alterations were carried out later to accommodate subsequent uses of the auberge, notably as a military barracks, as the Malta Union Club – whose members included Sir Walter Scott (1771–1832), Benjamin Disraeli (1804–1881) and Prince George of Wales, later King George V (1865–1936),<sup>63</sup> as a hotel and, from the 1950s, as part of the National Museum, housing the archaeological collection (ground floor) and fine arts collection (first floor).<sup>64</sup> It currently houses the National Museum of Archaeology.

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<sup>60</sup> MacGill 1839, p. 48.

<sup>61</sup> Cassar 2006, p. 48.

<sup>62</sup> Hughes 1967, p. 145–147.

<sup>63</sup> Wilkinson 1948, p. 11–16.

<sup>64</sup> Sultana 2016, p. 68–70, 73–74.



**Fig. 5.** Auberge de Provence

The Gran Salon is one of the most elegant halls in Malta. It served as a refectory and banqueting hall at the time of the Order. Under British rule, it was used as a ballroom and banqueting hall. A guide to Malta published in 1839 describes this auberge as a “fine building of good architecture, the upper part is devoted to the service of the Union Club, and its extensive and fine hall to a ball room, the lower part is an Auction room.”<sup>65</sup>

Michele Cachia (1760–1839) was engaged in 1800 to undertake restoration works on the building. These endeavours were a far cry from being scientific as understood nowadays. During the Second World War, the auberge suffered minor damage<sup>66</sup> and Francis Borg was commissioned to repair it in 1947. His signature and date were discovered during the ongoing conservation works on the east wall. Recent works uncovered an earlier pictorial scheme to the current in Pompeian floral style.

### **Auberge de Bavière**

Formerly known as Palazzo Carnaro, this 1696 building overlooks the entrance of Marsamxett Harbour and from 1784 it was the auberge of the Anglo-Bavarian langue (**fig. 6**).<sup>67</sup> This “superb building,”<sup>68</sup> designed by Carlo

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<sup>65</sup> MacGill 1839, p. 63.

<sup>66</sup> Braun 1946, p. 41.

<sup>67</sup> Hughes 1967, p. 174–175.

<sup>68</sup> MacGill 1839, p. 63.

Gimach (1651–1730), was erected in an austere style, one of the last, prior to the rise of interest in the Baroque.<sup>69</sup>



**Fig. 6.** Auberge de Bavière

During the French occupation, the auberge served as a military hospital for venereal diseases.<sup>70</sup> Under British rule, it was used by the military and, for a short stint in the First World War, as a military hospital. Later it was utilised as a hostel for people who had lost their homes during the Second World War, a school, and by a number of government agencies, the latest being the Lands Authority.

The auberge sustained minor damage to a side-façade during the Second World War, but remains, for the most part, in its original state.<sup>71</sup> It was repaired prior to being utilised as a government school in the 1960s. The auberge was rehabilitated and restored in 2001. Further restoration was undertaken in 2018 when similar works were being undertaken on the adjacent fortifications of Valletta.

## **Results and discussion**

With respect to all the five auberges, a binary valuation to the Heritage Value Calculation was applied. This implies that if a particular dimension of heritage fits one of the 24 criteria, a value of 1 is allocated, otherwise the value is 0. The resulting scoring of heritage value criteria for all the auberges is given in

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<sup>69</sup> Ellul 1989, p. 112.

<sup>70</sup> Cassar 1965, p. 233.

<sup>71</sup> Braun 1946, p. 41.

**table 2** and **table 3**. The combined heritage value grid, inclusive of the final value F, is given in **table 4**. Values are given to one significant figure.

Dimensions of Heritage	Value Criteria																			
	Form & Physicality					Socio-Cultural					Economic & Use					Informational				
	Auberge de Castille	Auberge d' Aragon	Auberge d' Italie	Auberge de Provence	Auberge de Baviere	Auberge de Castille	Auberge d' Aragon	Auberge d' Italie	Auberge de Provence	Auberge de Baviere	Auberge de Castille	Auberge d' Aragon	Auberge d' Italie	Auberge de Provence	Auberge de Baviere	Auberge de Castille	Auberge d' Aragon	Auberge d' Italie	Auberge de Provence	Auberge de Baviere
Design	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0						0	0	0	0	0
	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0										
$Z_t^1$	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.6	1.0	1.0	0.6	1.0	0.8	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	
Materiality	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1						1	1	1	1	1
	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0						0	0	0	0	0
	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0										
$Z_t^2$	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	
Function	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	
	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	
	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						1	0	1	1	
	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1						0	0	0	1	
	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1						0	0	0	0	
$Z_t^3$	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.8	

**Table 2.** Binary scoring of heritage value for the following dimensions of heritage: design, materiality and function

Dimensions of Heritage	Value Criteria																			
	Form & Physicality					Socio-Cultural					Economic & Use					Informational				
	Auberge de Castille	Auberge d' Aragon	Auberge d' Italie	Auberge de Provence	Auberge de Baviere	Auberge de Castille	Auberge d' Aragon	Auberge d' Italie	Auberge de Provence	Auberge de Baviere	Auberge de Castille	Auberge d' Aragon	Auberge d' Italie	Auberge de Provence	Auberge de Baviere	Auberge de Castille	Auberge d' Aragon	Auberge d' Italie	Auberge de Provence	Auberge de Baviere
Location & Context	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						1	1	1	1	1
	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0						0	0	0	0	0
	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0										
$N_{r^4}$	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.3	1.0	0.9	0.3	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Traditions & Techniques	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1						1	1	1	1	1
	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1						0	0	0	0	0
	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1										
$N_{r^5}$	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Spirit & Memory	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1						0	0	0	0	0
	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1										
$N_{r^6}$	0.7	0.4	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3

**Table 3.** Binary scoring of heritage value for the following dimensions of heritage: location and context, traditions and techniques, and spirit and memory

Case study	Dimensions of Heritage	Heritage Value Criteria				y <sub>k</sub>	F
		Form and Physicality	Socio-Cultural	Economic and Use	Informational		
Auberge de Castille	Design	0.857	1.000	1.000	0.833	0.923	0.649
	Materiality	0.571	0.429	0.000	0.833	0.458	
	Function	0.286	1.000	0.500	0.333	0.530	
	Location & Context	0.857	0.857	1.000	0.833	0.887	
	Traditions & Techniques	0.429	0.714	0.250	0.833	0.557	
	Spirit & Memory	0.714	0.857	0.250	0.333	0.539	
Auberge d' Aragon	Design	0.857	0.571	0.750	0.833	0.753	0.537
	Materiality	0.571	0.143	0.000	0.833	0.387	
	Function	0.286	0.857	0.250	0.000	0.348	
	Location & Context	0.857	0.286	1.000	0.833	0.744	
	Traditions & Techniques	0.286	0.714	0.250	0.833	0.521	
	Spirit & Memory	0.429	0.857	0.250	0.333	0.467	
Auberge d' Italie	Design	0.857	1.000	1.000	0.833	0.923	0.642
	Materiality	0.429	0.429	0.000	0.833	0.423	
	Function	0.286	1.000	0.500	0.167	0.488	
	Location & Context	0.857	1.000	1.000	0.833	0.923	
	Traditions & Techniques	0.429	0.714	0.250	0.833	0.557	
	Spirit & Memory	0.714	0.857	0.250	0.333	0.539	
Auberge de Provence	Design	0.857	1.000	1.000	0.833	0.923	0.670
	Materiality	0.571	0.429	0.000	0.833	0.458	
	Function	0.286	1.000	0.500	0.833	0.655	
	Location & Context	0.857	0.857	1.000	0.833	0.887	
	Traditions & Techniques	0.429	0.714	0.250	0.833	0.557	
	Spirit & Memory	0.714	0.857	0.250	0.333	0.539	
Auberge de Bavière	Design	0.857	0.571	0.750	0.833	0.753	0.537
	Materiality	0.571	0.143	0.000	0.833	0.387	
	Function	0.286	0.857	0.250	0.000	0.348	
	Location & Context	0.857	0.286	1.000	0.833	0.744	
	Traditions & Techniques	0.286	0.714	0.250	0.833	0.521	
	Spirit & Memory	0.429	0.857	0.250	0.333	0.467	

**Table 4.** Heritage value grid

The Heritage Value Calculation allocates the final value of a heritage site in a multifaceted way, where aspects such as the informational value resulting from the function of the building has as much weighting as aspects such as design aesthetics. In the design dimension, all auberges obtained comparable values with respect to form and physicality and informational value. Auberges de Castille, d'Italie and de Provence were attributed a maximum for all values pertaining to the socio-cultural category, whilst the remaining two auberges scored four out of the seven value benchmarks, lacking cultural/symbolic value, prestige and commemorative value. The former three also scored a maximum score in tourism value under the economic and use category.

In terms of the materiality dimension, all auberges obtained comparable scoring in the category of form and physicality, with Auberge d'Italie scoring the lowest in material authenticity due to its major post-war reconstruction. With respect to the dimension of function, auberges de Castille, d'Italie and de Provence scored maximum for all socio-cultural values, whilst the remaining two lacked symbolic value in terms of function. The former three also scored the highest score in tourism under the economic and use category which resulted in a higher value within that category. For the location dimension, all auberges obtained similar scoring in all value typologies associated with the economic and use, form and physicality, and informational value. When compared with auberges d'Aragon and de Bavière, the location of auberges de Castille, d'Italie and de Provence at the core of Valletta accounts for their higher scores for social and symbolic value. This is due to the collective memory associated with their setting.

Regarding the dimension of traditions and techniques, all auberges obtained comparable scoring in the various aspects within the socio-cultural, economic and informational value categories, although the auberges d'Aragon and de Bavière scored slightly lower in the traditions and techniques dimension when it came to the form and physicality of the buildings. With regard to the spirit and memory of the place, all auberges scored equally in the socio-cultural, economic and informational value categories. Due to their symbolic and community value, the auberges de Castille, d'Italie and de Provence scored higher than the remaining auberges in the same category.

The Auberge d'Aragon and the Auberge de Bavière received the lowest scores (0.537). These buildings ranked marginally lower than the others in design, function, and spirit and memory. The Auberge de Castille and the Auberge d'Italie obtained similar scores of 0.649 and 0.642, respectively. The Auberge de Provence received the highest rating (0.670). It marginally surpassed the Auberge de Castille, described as “probably the finest building

in Malta,<sup>72</sup> in aspects such as function. The current use of the Auberge de Provence as the National Museum of Archaeology has provided the building with comparatively more informational value in that dimension (refer to **table 4**).

### **Conclusions**

The heritage value calculation system stated in Section 2 above provides a relative, not absolute, value which can be used to determine the heritage value of a particular site in comparison with a number of other, preferably typologically similar, heritage assets.

Applying binary valuation to the prototype system to the present auberges in Valetta, one may argue that a final value of 0.67 is low for Grade 1 buildings such as these. This value illustrates the broad spectrum of criteria considered in the computation, whereby even the most valuable site cannot score the maximum final value. Overall, the highest rating was obtained by the Auberge de Provence. It scored high on all four aspects and in a number of dimensions including design, location and function. Following this was Auberge de Castille which scored comparatively highly yet was somewhat lacking in the dimension of function. The Auberge d'Italie ranked third, with an overall scoring distribution similar to the former auberges, though slightly lower with respect to the dimension of materiality. Auberge d'Aragon and Auberge de Bavière obtained the lowest scores in all dimensions, notably in design and function. The quantifiable results would have been more accurate if a non-binary valuation of these examples of built heritage was undertaken.

Given that heritage values change as perception of heritage varies, the final heritage value reflects a process of reflexivity whereby one re-assesses the original scheduling of a given heritage asset.

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<sup>72</sup> Ellul 1983, p. 3.



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<b>AA</b>	– American Antiquity. Society of American Archaeology. Washington DC.
<b>AAMT</b>	– Advances in Archaeological Method and Theory. Elsevier, Amsterdam.
<b>AAntrop.</b>	– American Anthropologist. American Anthropology Association. Arlington.
<b>ACSS</b>	– Ancient Civilizations from Scythia to Siberia. Leiden.
<b>ActaMN</b>	– Acta Musei Napocensis. Muzeul Național de Istorie a Transilvaniei. Cluj-Napoca.
<b>AEE</b>	– American Economic Review. American Economic Association. Pittsburgh.
<b>AHC</b>	– Art History & Criticism / Meno Istoriija ir kritika. Vytautas Magnus University. Kaunas (Lithuania).
<b>AIIAI/AIIX</b>	– Anuarul Institutului de Istorie și Arheologie „A. D. Xenopol” Iași (din 1990 Anuarul Institutului de Istorie „A. D. Xenopol” Iași). Iași.
<b>AIM</b>	– Arheologicheskie issledovaniya v Moldavii. Chișinău.
<b>AJP</b>	– American Journal of Philology. University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia.
<b>AM</b>	– Ancient Mesoamerica. Cambridge University Press. Cambridge.
<b>AMJ</b>	– The Academy of Management Journal. Academy of Management. New York.
<b>AHR</b>	– The American Historical Review. The American Historical Association. Washington DC.
<b>AIIN</b>	– Anuarul Institutului de Istorie Națională. Universitatea din Cluj.
<b>Am. Anthropol.</b>	– American Anthropologist. Wiley. Hoboken (New Jersey).
<b>Angustia</b>	– Angustia. Muzeul Național al Carpaților Răsăriteni. Sfântu Gheorghe.
<b>Antiquity</b>	– Cambridge University Press. Cambridge (UK).
<b>AÖG</b>	– Archiv für österreichische Geschichte. Viena.
<b>Apulum</b>	– Apulum. Acta Musei Apulensis. Muzeul Național al Unirii. Alba Iulia.
<b>ARES</b>	– Annual Review of Ecology and Systematics. Palo Alto.
<b>Arhitectura</b>	– Arhitectura. Uniunea Arhitecților din România. București.
<b>ArhMed</b>	– Arheologia medievală. Muzeul Banatului Montan. Reșița.
<b>ArhMold</b>	– Arheologia Moldovei. Institutul de Arheologie. Iași.

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- Arkheologicheskie vesti** – Arkheologicheskie vesti. Institut istorii material’noj kul’tury Rossijskoj akademii nauk. Moscova.
- Arkheologiya** – Arkheologiya. Natsional’na akademiya nauk Ukraini. Institut Arkheologii. Kiev.
- ASGE** – Arkheologicheskiy sbornik Gosudarstvennogo Ermitazha. Ermitazh. Sankt-Petersburg.
- ASUAIC** – Analele Științifice ale Universității „Al. I. Cuza” din Iași”. Istorie.
- AUASH** – Annales Universitatis Apulensis. Series Historica. Universitatea „1 Decembrie 1918” din Alba Iulia.
- AVSL** – Archiv des Vereins für Siebenbürgische Landeskunde, Sibiu
- BASP** – Basic and Applied Social Psychology. Taylor & Francis.
- BHAUT** – Bibliotheca Historica et Archaeologica Universitatis Timisiensis, Universitatea de Vest. Timișoara.
- BP** – Biology & Philosophy. Springer. Zurich.
- București** – București – Materiale de istorie și muzeografie. Muzeul Municipiului București.
- Byzantion** – Byzantion. Revue Internationale des Études Byzantines. Peeters Publishers.
- CA** – Current Anthropology. University of Chicago. Chicago.
- Carpica** – Carpica. Complexul Muzeal „Julian Antonescu” Bacău.
- CHR** – Comparative Humanities Review. Bucknell University.
- CICSA** – Centrul de Istorie Comparată a Societăților Antice, buletin trimestrial al Universității din București, Facultatea de Istorie. București.
- Civilization** – Publishers Enterprises Group. Hamrun (Malta).
- CMC** – Consumption Markets & Culture. Taylor & Francis.
- Corviniana** – Corviniana. Acta Musei Corvinensis. Muzeul Castelului Corvineștilor. Hunedoara.
- CMAS** – Conservation and Management of Archaeological Sites. Taylor & Francis. Abingdon-on-Thames (UK).
- Dacia** – Dacia. Recherches et découvertes archéologiques en Roumanie. București, I (1924)-XII (1948). Nouvelle série: Revue d’archéologie et d’histoire ancienne. București.
- DH** – Diplomatic History. Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR). Oxford.
- EJST** – European Journal of Social Theory. SAGE Publications.
- Empiria** – Empiria. Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia. Madrid.
- EMúz** – Erdélyi Múzeum. Erdélyi Múzeum az Erdélyi Múzeum-Egyesület, Kolozsvár (Cluj), 1, 1874-1948, 1991 și urm.
- EphNap** – Ephemeris Napocensis. Institutul de Arheologie și Istoria Artei Cluj-Napoca.

<b>Eurasia Antiqua</b>	– Eurasia Antiqua. Deutsche Archäologisches Institut, Eurasien-Abteilung. Berlin.
<b>Facilities</b>	– Facilities. Emerald. Bingley (UK).
<b>HA</b>	– Human Affairs. The Slovak Academy of Sciences Bratislava.
<b>Heritage</b>	– Heritage. MDPI AG in Switzerland.
<b>HI</b>	– Habitat International. Elsevier. Amsterdam (The Netherlands).
<b>Historia</b>	– Historia: Zeitschrift für Alte Geschichte. Steiner. Stuttgart.
<b>HS</b>	– Heritage & Society. Taylor & Francis. Abingdon-on-Thames (UK).
<b>HSD</b>	– Heritage and Sustainable Development. Research and Development Academy. Ilijaš.
<b>IRSPSD</b>	– International Review for Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development. Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development. Kanazawa City, Ishikawa, Japan.
<b>ISPRS</b>	– ISPRS – International Archives of the Photogrammetry, Remote Sensing and Spatial Information Sciences. International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing.
<b>Istros</b>	– Istros. Buletinul Muzeului Brăilei "Carol I". Brăila.
<b>Îndrumător bisericesc</b>	– Îndrumător bisericesc. Mitropolia Ardealului. Sibiu.
<b>JAA</b>	– Journal of Anthropological Archaeology. Elsevier. Amsterdam.
<b>JAC</b>	– Journal of Architectural Conservation. Taylor & Francis. Abingdon-on-Thames (UK).
<b>JAHA</b>	– Journal of Ancient History and Archaeology. Institutul de Arheologie și Istoria Artei, Universitatea Tehnică. Cluj-Napoca.
<b>JAMT</b>	– Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory. New York.
<b>JAR</b>	– Journal of Archaeological Research. Springer. Zurich.
<b>JCWS</b>	– Journal of Cold War Studies. Harvard Project on Cold War Studies. Cambridge.
<b>JEE</b>	– Journal of Evolutionary Economics. Springer. Zurich.
<b>JP</b>	– The Journal of Philosophy. Elsevier. Amsterdam.
<b>KSIA</b>	– Kratkie soobshcheniya Instituta arkheologii AN SSSR. Moskva.
<b>LAA</b>	– Latin American Antiquity. Society of American Archaeology. Washington DC.
<b>Materials</b>	– Materials. MDPI AG in Switzerland.
<b>MH</b>	– Melita Historica. Malta Historical Society. Floriana.
<b>MMJ</b>	– University of Malta Medical School. Msida (Malta).

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<b>Monumente istorice</b>	– Monumente istorice – Studii și lucrări de restaurare. Direcția Monumentelor Istorice. București.
<b>MTT</b>	– Magyar Történelmi Tár. Magyar Tudományos Akadémia Történelmi Bizottsága. Budapesta.
<b>NAV</b>	– Nizhnevolzhskij arkheologicheskij vestnik. Volgogradskij gosudarstvennyj universitet. Volgograd.
<b>PAV</b>	– Peterburgskij arkheologicheskij vestnik. Sankt Peterburg.
<b>Plural</b>	– Plural. Revista Departamentului de Istorie și Geografie a Universității Pedagogice de Stat „Ion Creangă”. Chișinău.
<b>PNAS</b>	– Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America. Washington DC.
<b>ProCIPA</b>	– Proceedings of CIPA. Comité International de la Photogrammétrie Architecturale.
<b>ProSPIE</b>	– Proceedings of SPIE - The International Society for Optical Engineering. International Society for Optics and Photonics. Washington DC.
<b>PS</b>	– Philosophy of Science. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
<b>RA</b>	– Rossijskaya Arkheologiya. Institut arkheologii Rossijskoj akademii nauk. Moscova.
<b>RArhiv.</b>	– Revista Arhivelor. Arhivele Naționale ale României. București.
<b>REA</b>	– Research in Economic Anthropology. Society for Economic Anthropology. Washington DC.
<b>Representations</b>	– University of California Press. Berkeley (California).
<b>RESEE</b>	– Revue des Études Sud-Est Européennes. Institutul de Studii Sud-Est Europene al Academiei Române. București.
<b>RHSEE/RESEE</b>	– Revue historique du sud-est européen. Academia Română. București, Paris (din 1963 Revue des études sud-est européennes).
<b>RI</b>	– Revista de Istorie (din 1990 Revista istorică). Academia Română. București.
<b>Riv.M</b>	– Rives méditerranéennes. Presses universitaires de Provence. Aix-en-Provence.
<b>RREI</b>	– Revue Roumaine d'Études Internationales. Academia Română. București.
<b>RRH</b>	– Revue Roumaine d'Histoire. Academia Română. București.
<b>SA</b>	– Sovetskaya Arheologiya. Institut arkheologii Akademii nauk SSSR. Moscova.
<b>SAI</b>	– Svod Arkheologicheskikh Istochnikov. Moscova.
<b>Sargetia</b>	– Sargetia. Acta Musei Devensis. Muzeul Civilizației Dacice și Romane. Deva.



<b>Science</b>	– Science. American Association for the Advancement of Science. Washington DC.
<b>SJA</b>	– Southwestern Journal of Anthropology. University of Chicago.
<b>SMIM</b>	– Studii și materiale de istorie modernă. Institutul de Istorie „Nicolae Iorga” al Academiei Române. București.
<b>StCl</b>	– Studii clasice. Societatea de Studii Clasice. București.
<b>Stratum plus</b>	– Stratum plus. Arkheologiya i kul'turnaya antropologiya. Vysshaya Antropologicheskaya Shkola. Chișinău.
<b>Studia Litterarum</b>	– Studia Litterarum. Institut Mirovoy literatury imeni A. M. Gor'kogo Rossiyskoy Akademii Nauk. Moscova.
<b>Studii</b>	– Studii. Revistă de istorie (din 1974 Revista de istorie și din 1990 Revista istorică). Academia Română. București.
<b>Sustainability</b>	– Sustainability. MDPI. Basel (Switzerland).
<b>Századok</b>	– Századok. Magyar Történelmi Társulat. Budapesta.
<b>Tabor</b>	– Tabor. Revistă de cultură și spiritualitate românească. Mitropolia Clujului, Albei, Crisanei și Maramuresului. Cluj-Napoca.
<b>TörSze</b>	– Történelmi Szemle. Bölcsészettudományi Kutatóközpont Történettudományi Intézet. Budapesta.
<b>Terra Sebus</b>	– Terra Sebus. Acta Musei Sabesiensis. Muzeul Municipal „Ioan Raica” Sebeș.
<b>Thraco-Dacica</b>	– Thraco-Dacica, serie nouă. Institutul de Arheologie „Vasile Pârvan”. București.
<b>VDI</b>	– Vestnik drevnei istorii. Institut vseobshchej istorii Rossijskoj akademii nauk. Moscova.