

Education. Community. European Heritage

Pro Patrimonio.

23 years of cultural heritage
in Romania

ACTIVITY REPORT 2023



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I joined Pro Patrimonio out of sheer sympathy for their cause. I had great respect for what they did and I was happy when I had the chance to meet the president of the organization, Serban Cantacuzino, when he was editor-in-chief of the Architectural Review magazine.

I then had a few projects, my own ideas about things like the project 60 Wooden Churches or the one related to traditional trades and the organization board adopted them as main project and, with their help, what seems like a mere thought or personal theory about how one might act became more doable and developed either along this line, or in partnership with other organizations and institutions.

The solutions to cases and interventions are always atypical and I couldn't say there is one particular procedure that solves the issue of heritage, not even in our intervention projects. We are overwhelmed by reality and we always need help and support because degradation is faster than our power to intervene. And mentalities or this way of understanding an intervention or broadly put, heritage itself, as a living, unmuseified, real activity you use naturally is sometimes difficult to understand.*



* Extract from an interview for Historia:
historia.ro/sectiune/general/articol/patrimoniul-cultural-din-romania-este-o-chestiune-de-siguranta-nationala

Vision

Architecture serves society. Saving heritage buildings and naturally integrating them in the economy of contemporary life, education for young people, recovered crafts and strengthened communities are the fundamental areas where Pro Patrimonio Foundation is extremely active.

The foundation searches, designs models, finds and offers solutions for heritage as an economic, cultural and environmental resource. Pro Patrimonio is a private non-profit organization founded in 2000, which offered through its projects expertise or direct assistance, upon request, where state institutions showed neglect or were not interested in intervening.

In the vision of the Pro Patrimonio Foundation, tradition is not a set of rigid values, it teaches us to learn about our own identity and culture that has shaped us, continues shaping us now and invites us to a balanced and practical way of critical thinking adapted to contemporary life. Thus, it encourages us to innovate, which applies to the cultural landscape to which we belong.

One of the fundamental objectives for which the Pro Patrimonio Foundation carries out a sustained activity involves the education and information of owners, communities and the general public in a spirit of respect for heritage buildings and historic sites.

What We Do

The foundation carries out a series of complex projects that span several years and whose main objective is the conservation, saving and reactivation of cultural heritage, especially architectural. The actions focus on practical projects for heritage protection and rehabilitation, as well as on the involvement and raising awareness in communities regarding their own identity, memory and the value of their cultural heritage.

An important part of the activities initiated by Pro Patrimonio is addressed especially to children and young people in sometimes poor and off-balance areas where we carry out projects to save, conserve and rehabilitate the architectural heritage.

The workshops aim at direct education and learning through experiment and creativity, regarding the heritage of architecture, memory, local identity, relationships between people, nature, buildings and cultural values.

The foundation is currently running several programs of national and international importance, along with a permanent advocacy activity with the authorities and consulting and information for the general public on Baukultur (built environment culture).

What We Need

The foundation's activity needs financial support and human resources. The period we all live in is extremely difficult for society, the priority being to keep our health and protect those around us. Culture, education and heritage values are part of the environment we live in and are essential for wellbeing - which includes a quality life -, for healthy and sustainable cities, for a mature and responsible society.

Our entire approach - all civic and administrative activity, program development, as well as the development of projects we undertake - is the result of a joint effort, supported financially and in nature by private entities or by winning project competitions.

We want to increase the community around our business and disseminate Pro Patrimonio examples, ideas and values.

In order for this to happen, we need support: you can become a member, you can donate, you can voluntarily support projects, and you can further promote our ideas and activities

Team

Permanent team in Bucharest



RALUCA MUNTEANU

Project coordinator for the foundation since 2011, architect with 20 years of experience in the field of architecture. Graduate of the Ion Mincu University of Architecture and Urbanism, Master's course from the Fachhochschule in Cologne through a DAAD scholarship, Conservation and wood restoration techniques course organized by Riksantikvaren Norway and ICCROM, from June 2020 expert member of ICOMOS.



MIRELA DUCULESCU

Volunteer since 2011 / Pro Patrimonio program coordinator since 2016, art historian, PhD lecturer at the National University of Arts in Bucharest. Research activity in the history of architecture and design, author and publisher of books and specialized articles, curator of national and international exhibitions of architecture and design, jury in design competitions, interested in the revitalization of architectural heritage, crafts, urban regeneration and public space.



RALUCA MARTIŞ

Communication and PR manager for the foundation since 2017, engineer and economist, 20 years of MARCOM experience. Her responsibilities include the integrated communication of Pro Patrimonio and the distinct communication for projects; fundraising; creating editorial content for the foundation's newsletters and constant communication. Passionate about heritage, architecture and society, she has been immersed for over 18 years in supporting and creating bridges between these fields and the business environment.



ANDREEA MACHIDON

Coordinator of educational programs since 2015, event organizer and coordinator of the Honest Goods project in 2016, interior designer, graduate of UAUIM Bucharest and Master student of the Adrianea Academy of Architecture and Archeology in Rome. Specialized in cultural management, trainer of educational programs for children ("De-a arhitectura", EEMATICO & Himalaya Travel), tourist-mountain guide, project coordinator in the Historical Garden project.



ADRIAN HARIGA

Program coordinator since 2017, sociologist, with over 150 projects, conferences, exhibitions and cultural events implemented in the last 18 years, interested in the use and capitalization of heritage objectives, local community development, education and digitalization.

FLORENTINA TRANDAFIR

Economic director of Pro Patrimonio since 2004, licensed economist in finance, banks, accounting; worked as an economist at the Guerrilla radio station, was economic director at Ziarul Cotidianul and chief accountant at Realitatea Media Together, currently is economic director at Rezolvator Team.

Permanent remote team

Neamţu Manor in Olari, OT:

Mariana Stancu, administrator

Nicolae Vărzaru şi **Dan Olaru**, carekeepers

Laura-Cristina Barbu, local coord. „Future Acceleration Program”

Golescu Villa in Câmpulung, AG:

Lucica Muraru, administrator

Enescu House in Mihăileni, BT:

Paula Gavriluţă, music teacher

Adelina Ifrim, local coord. „Future Acceleration Program”

Ruben Mardaru, administrator

Other close collaborators

Mona Petre, graphic design and digitalization

Mihai Puică-Petrescu, education program collaborator

Cristian Popescu, lawyer, juridic consultant

Ruxandra Sacaliş, arhitect, colaborator documentare

Marius Moldovan, art historian

Smaranda Ilie, **Andreea Tincea**, **Luiza Simion**, **Anamaria Apostoiu** şi

Irina Novac, trainers for the education workshops in Enescu House,

Alin Iacob, video editing and production

Izabel Prundaru şi **Sorin Prundaru**, caretakers of the Golescu park

Florin Ganea, wood carpenter

Aura Pandeale, **Nona Henţi**, translations

Cristian Dorobăntescu, IT & programing aid

Board



ȘERBAN STURDZA (b. 1947)

vice-president of PP Romania since 2010, well-known architect and restoration specialist, President of the Order of Romanian Architects (2002-2008), correspondent member of the Romanian Academy / Department for Art, Architecture & the Audiovisual (2010), promoter of learning through experimental workshops, interested in crafts, cultural routes, urban regeneration & public-space rehabilitation. Over time, he has gathered around him interdisciplinary communities in the spirit of cultural landscape.



NICOLAE RAȚIU (b. 1948)

Founder of Pro Patrimonio and Chairman of the directive board of Pro Patrimonio Romania, university degree in Naval Transport and Economy, businessman, philanthropist and lover of Romania, son of former Peasant's Party leader Ion Rațiu. President of the Ratiu Family Charitable Foundation, of the Ratiu Center for Democracy in Turda, of the Romanian Cultural Center in London, Member of the Order of the British Empire (2015).



CAROLINE D'ASSAY (b. 1951)

President of Pro Patrimonio France, member of Pro Patrimonio Romania directive board, painting restoration specialist, tireless ambassador of Romanian built heritage and craftwork.



COSTIN BORC (b. 1965)

Member of Pro Patrimonio's directive board, graduate of the Polytechnic University of Bucharest with a diploma in Energy Engineering (1989), MA and PhD at the University of Wisconsin Madison (1997 and 2001). Since 2000, he has been working in the private business environment.



ANDREI POPOVICI (b. 1973)

Member of Pro Patrimonio's directive board; diploma in Computer Science from Darmstadt Technical University, Germany, PhD at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, specialist in extensive transformation programs in the telecom and financial sectors.



In memoriam

ȘERBAN CANTACUZINO (1928-2018†)

Founder of Pro Patrimonio, architect, historian and critic of architecture, son of George Matei Cantacuzino (1899-1960, a great personality who left a strong mark on Romanian architectural modernism), member of the Royal Institute of British Architects, Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE, UK) (1988), executive editor of the reputed magazine Architectural Review specialist in heritage conservation, editor and author of valuable specialized books, awarded for his dedicated services at the European Prize for Cultural Heritage (2008).



In memoriam

MARINA STURDZA (1944-2017†)

Member of the Pro Patrimonio Board of Directors, awarded for her work in the field of child protection with Save The Children Prize (România, 2010), winner of the EU European Women of Achievement Humanitarian Award (2005).

Advisory Board



ALEXANDRU TOMESCU (b. 1976)

Ex-member of Pro Patrimonio's directive board, outstanding Romanian violinist, winner of several national and international awards in classical music festivals; involved in saving architectural heritage through concerts and music workshops.



NICOLAS TRIBOI (b. 1979)

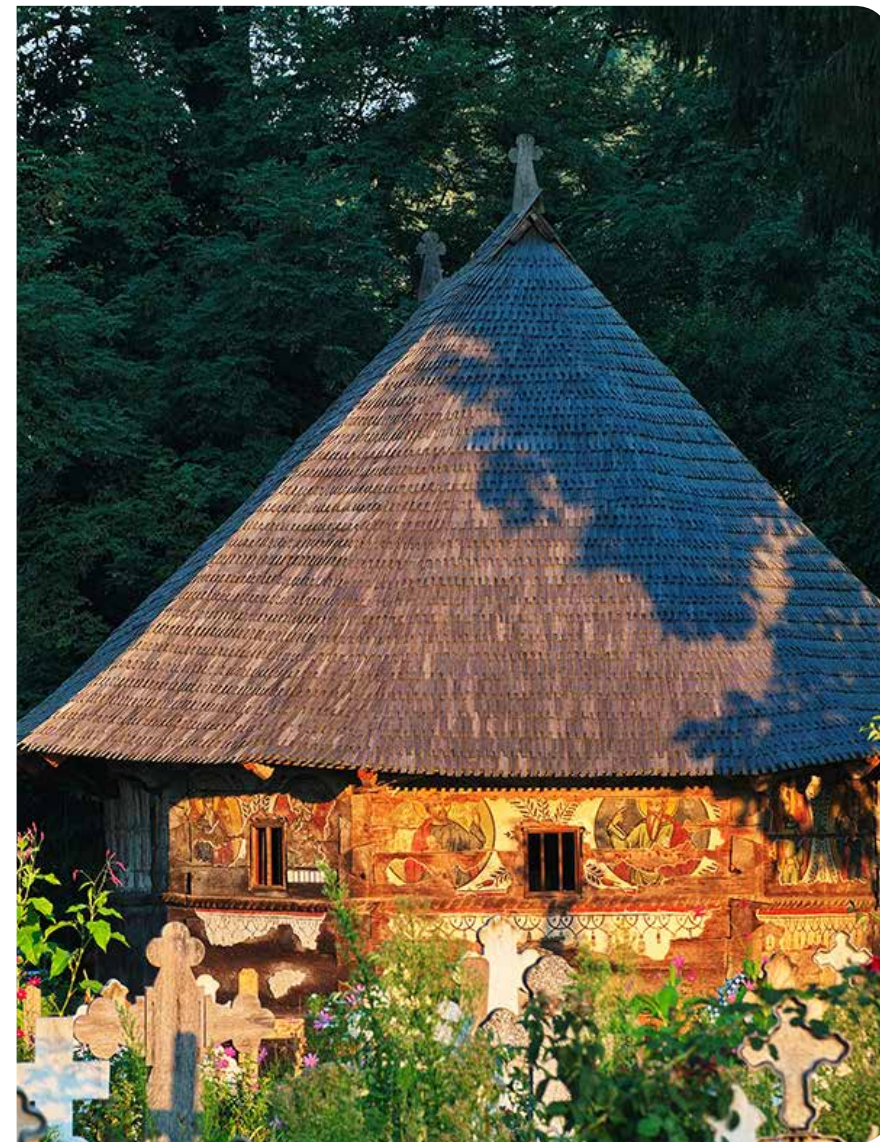
Ex-member of the Pro Patrimonio directive board, urban landscape planner, was formed at the French School of Blois. Since 2001, he has been working in Romania in the field of landscaping on various projects, being well-acquainted with the Romanian issues related to landscape.

Projects



* Pro Patrimonio property.

60 Wooden Churches



The program began in 2009 and consists of emergency interventions and technical advice for wooden churches in 4 counties (Vâlcea, Gorj, Sibiu, Hunedoara), most of them cemetery chapels, often abandoned, all classified as historical monuments and in a serious state of structural and artistic degradation.

The program is carried out in partnership with the Order of Architects of Romania, the National University of Arts in Bucharest, World Monuments Funds and is included on the list 7 most endangered al Europa Nostra.

The name 60 Wooden Churches suggests the scale of the phenomenon; in reality, the reserve of wooden churches identified and taken into account is much larger. First aid-type actions take

place with a lot of voluntary work on the part of priests and young people, with funds from private donations and with the involvement of the local community. All these rescue operations also have a social component, which aims to reintegrate the church as a valuable heritage object in the life of the parish, through the reopening, use and constant maintenance of the building.

1, 2. Wooden Church in Urși, photo Camil Iamandescu. Europa Nostra Award 2021, Grand Prix and Public Choice Award.

Wooden Church in Șirineasa, jud. Vâlcea

Included since 2014 in the project 60 Wooden Churches (next to the church in Urși, 10 km away) the wooden church in the cemetery of Șirineasa village, Vâlcea county (19th century), is a special case, which incorporates rare techniques in the construction system: a plastered and painted vault, made on wickerwork; the church plan imitates the three-lobed plan of wall churches (with three apses), a solution very rare in wooden churches; foundation and buttresses (on the west side) made of brick.

- **April:** the Foundation initiates a campaign to raise the minimum sum of 30,000 euros needed for urgent repairs to the roof and vaults to stop their accelerated deterioration.
- **June:** In partnership with the National University of Arts in Bucharest, the consent of the Archdiocese of Vâlcea is requested and obtained for the conservation work as well as for dismantling the iconostasis for restoration purposes at the UNArte quarters.
- **October-December:** The Storck House Foundation, through the Fondation de France, provides financial support for the construction of a protective superstructure, which is necessary to protect the structure of the church against the elements and to allow repairs to begin on the roof, the wooden structure, the conservation of the vaulting and the paintings. The superstructure is 90% complete with the structure roofing due to be completed in January 2024.



Pag. 14. Șirineasa Church, S-W side, summer 2012, photo Pro Patrimonio archive.

Pag 15. 1. Șirineasa Church, summer 2012, photo Pro Patrimonio archive. 2, 3. Șirineasa Church with protective structure, november 2023, photo Raluca Munteanu.

Education for Heritage



One of the fundamental objectives for which the Pro Património Foundation carries out a sustained, constantly diversified activity is to educate and inform owners, communities and the general public in the spirit of respect for heritage buildings and historical sites.

Education is correlated with improving and expanding public access to historical monuments and the built fund.

Naturally, all our activities, put into practice through many workshops with

themes growing in terms of variation, aim at direct education and learning, through experiment and creativity, about the heritage of architecture, memory, local identity, relationships between people, buildings and cultural values.

A large part of the workshops initiated by Pro Património are addressed especially to children and young people in areas, sometimes poor and destructured, where we carry out projects to save, preserve and rehabilitate the architectural heritage (Golescu Villa in Câmpulung, Neamțu Manor in Olari, Enescu House in Mihăileni, etc.).



1, 2. "Heritage in Package" kits, details, photo Pro Património archive.

Heritage Caravan

This year we launched a new kind of heritage education kit, where crafts and technology together fix a future map of Romania, "adorned" with paper models of the houses that light up in the communities where we run projects. The houses "provide" directions and complement children's curiosity with auxiliary materials embedded with associated details and stories: history and architecture, nature, design or gastronomy.

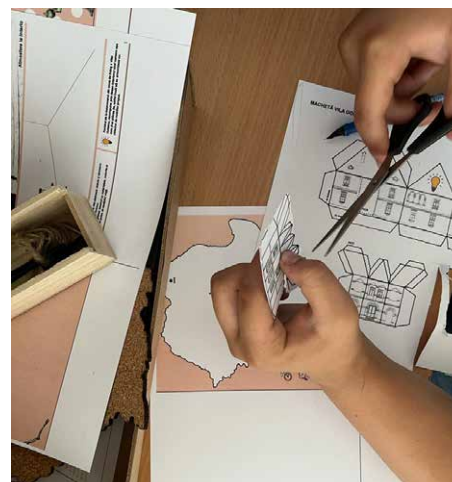
- **June:** 70 packages with DIY materials, fun information and practical items were sent to the communities of Olari and Botoșani. The 30 children from Salt către Viitor gathered at a workshop in the Olari courtyard to work on the Golescu Villa kit. Children from around the Enescu House met in their own communities under the guidance of the local coordinator. On this occasion, the children learnt more about another Romanian county and another heritage house that Pro Patrimonio Foundation cares for: Villa Golescu in Câmpulung Muscel.
-
- **December:** The project "Heritage Kit and Caravan - houses and communities working together" wins funding for 2024 when we will continue with five work stations in communities where the Foundation owns heritage houses or is involved in supporting objectives: the George Enescu House, Viscri 18 House, Villa Golescu, Neamtu Manor, as well as the community near the Church of Pojogi, Stroești village, Vâlcea county.



Page 18. 1, 2. Moments during heritage education workshops, Conacul Neamtu in Olari, photo Pro Patrimonio archive.

Page 19. 1. Moments during the heritage education workshops, Conacul Neamtu in Olari, photo Pro Patrimonio archive. 2, 3, 4.

AMoments during the heritage education workshops held in Mihăileni, Botoșani county, photo Pro Patrimonio archive.



George Enescu House



The rehabilitation project of George Enescu's House in Mihaileni, BT, started in 2013 from the initiative of pianist Raluca Știrbăț, president of the George Enescu International Society in Vienna. The adobe building has not only memorial value, it is also an expression of the vernacular architecture of the first half of the 19th century.

Since 2014, the Pro Patrimonio Foundation has coordinated the conservation process, involving volunteers from all over the country, the community and the central and local administration. By rehabilitating the Enescu House, the *George Enescu International Academy of Music and the Study in Mihăileni*.

The academy will involve musicians from all over the world, but also children from

the area, giving them a chance at quality education and a cultural environment close to their homes. The piano existing piano in the house, a Bösendorfer from 1928, is also a donation: it belonged to the philosopher Mircea Vulcănescu. His descendants, Sandra and Măriuca Vulcănescu, through Despina Slătineanu, donated it to Vanda Sturdza, which, in turn, donated it to the George Enescu House. At the beginning of 2020 together with UiPath Foundation we launched the partnering program The Children's Academy of Music and Education, held in the George Enescu House in Mihăileni. The aim of this project is to develop the potential of children from nearby rural communities and the use of the George Enescu house, a historical monument, for educational purposes.



1. George Enescu House in Mihăileni, photo Pro Patrimonio archive.

2. George Enescu House in Mihăileni, intervention stage autumn 2023, photo Pro Patrimonio archive.

Intervention and urgent works at the George Enescu House in Mihăileni

- February:** We notice the infestation of one of the rooms of the Enescu House with an extremely harmful fungus - *Merulius Lacrymans*, whose development is favoured by humidity, a common problem in wooden structures. The Enescu House becomes the object of a study, an emergency intervention site, and we work with specialists to help us understand the extent of the phenomenon and how to repair it. Research and intervention are communicated on an ongoing basis to give everyone access to the results we obtain.
- May:** We start a donation campaign. This is a very difficult situation, which we are managing by carefully investigating and researching both clean-up and prevention solutions.
- July:** The xylophagous and biological attack on the wooden structure of the George Enescu House in Mihăileni, which required the opening of the emergency intervention site, also required the interruption of the educational activities carried out in the house; as a result, the piano masterclass and the related concerts can no longer be held there.
- August:** Emergency intervention to eradicate the fungus is undertaken under the floor under which it appeared. A careful drainage operation is undertaken so that the groundwater is directed away from the house and no longer comes into contact with the foundation. Afterwards, the team of biologists carry out a careful survey of every element, whether building or finishing, even plaster, to identify if the fungus is still active.
- September-October:** Survey researches to detect the presence of the fungus in the depths of the outer walls have been carried out with the constant assistance of biologist Ionela Melinte. The structure of the house was supported with metal posts to allow interventions on the walls. Undercuts were made where necessary. The external drains were completed and the systemization works were completed by creating a slope and a stone platform in the northern area. All infested wood was burned so as not to carry the pest to other places, and unattached wood material was treated preventively with Bochemit solution. As a solution adapted to the place and the construction site, samples were made with a press for bricks in the ground, the resulting bricks to be used for repairs.
- November:** The home rescue work site progresses against the clock to keep us out of winter. Local materials are being used, but with rigorous removal of all contaminated items. A new earth brick wall is built.

Pag. 23. George Enescu House in Mihăileni, autumn 2023, photo Pro Património archive.

1. drainage ditch;
2. building slope and land compaction;
3. restoration of W wall.



Concerts on the Siret River

The concerts on the Siret River are dedicated to the emergency works needed at the George Enescu House in Mihăileni. In 2023, they were held in Călinești, with the support and under the coordination of the Maria Association, in the spaces generously offered by the Miclescu Manor in the village of Călinești, town of Bucecea, Botoșani county.

- **August:** August: an industrial-agricultural hall in Călinești is being refurbished with minimal intervention to host the music education classes of the masterclass coordinated by pianist Prof. Dr. Raluca Știrbăț from Vienna.
- The concert stars are the pianists participating in the masterclass, students of the national music colleges of Botoșani, Suceava, Iași, Bacău, Piatra-Neamț and Bucharest.
- The unconventional and reconverted former agricultural area of Călinești generously welcomes more than 170 participants who enjoy an event of the highest artistic quality.
- At the same time, an exhibition presents the work stages that the Enescu House in Mihăileni, the pivotal element of the Concerts on the Siret, has gone through. The context of the Călinești farm complemented the concert's ambience with a small exhibition selling local products.

1, 2, 3. Concerts on the Siret River 2023, Călinești, photo Raluca Știrbăț.



Strategic partnership with UiPath Foundation

Future Acceleration Program has entered its fourth year of collaboration and is the flagship intervention of UiPath Foundation, carried out in Botoșani and Olt counties, with the support of Pro Patrimônio. By means of this programme, 70 children from five communities in the vicinity of the Enescu House and the Neamțu Manor benefit from an integrated support package – monthly scholarships, weekly classes in Romanian language and literature, mathematics and English, clothes, school supplies, books, games, food packages, digital equipment, camps - and participate in various activities to develop digital skills and non-formal education. *The Future Acceleration Program* supports access to education and therefore highlights the potential of these children and we hope to continue to be close to them in the communities where we are present.

- **April:** Books, food and gifts for children and their families arrive around Easter in the communities we support. Packages sent by the UiPath Foundation with support from Pro Patrimônio bring joy to 40 children near the George Enescu House in Botoșani.
- **June:** 40 packages with DIY materials, fun information and practical objects, which tell the story of the Golescu Villa in Câmpulung Muscel in an interactive way, reach the children of Botoșani.
- **July-August:** U&I Summer Camp are a landmark in the children's journey through the Salt Către Viitor (Jump to the Future) program. Guided by UiPath community volunteers, coordinators and educational trainers, children stepped into the world of robots and automation; explored sustainable design, the needs of a community and designed new cities; painted, crafted; learned to save money, manage their emotions and be empathetic; participated in sports activities, expressed themselves to the fascinating rhythms of traditional African drumming and made new friends at the talent show.
- **September-December:** Weekly classes held for Romanian language and literature, Mathematics and English. More parcels of essential food, clothing, shoes, books, games, school supplies and hygiene products reach children and their families.
- **December:** In the fourth year of our partnership, we see the first generation of children becoming Future Acceleration graduates and we are happy that their journey continues to high school in another educational program. We celebrate the achievements of 2023, with all the children and volunteers who have been with them, and set goals for next year.



Activities during the U&I Summer Camp within the Future Acceleration Program, photo Cătălin Georgescu.

Golescu Villa



Vhe Golescu Villa and dendrological park in Câmpulung Muscel, AG, owned by Pro Patrimônio, represent an exceptional architectural and landscape ensemble. It offers a living model of saving, knowing and maintaining the cultural heritage through different ways in which to use and inhabit it.

Following the donation made by Irina Maria Golescu († 2002), the foundation received the mission to preserve, study and promote heritage values, taking over not only the architectural and landscape ensemble, but also all the original furniture, various objects for daily use, paintings, decorative art, carpets, lighting fixtures, library, letters and the family archive.

Pro Patrimônio tries to reuse a historical moment not by turning it into a museum, but by inhabiting and integrating it in everyday life.

This is one of the first practical examples, adapted over time to the local context that

the foundation faced in its attempt to implement its strategy of conservation and protection of heritage and landscape. In the vision of Pro Patrimônio, the Golescu ensemble works as a Cultural Landscape Observatory, with all its components (natural, anthropically modified - architecture, landscape, social values, community relations, housing practices, etc.), through projects and workshops carried out annually.

Vasile Golescu (1875-1920), the father of the Golescu twin sisters, built the villa with ground floor and first floor in 1909, as a holiday home on the western hill, overlooking the town of Câmpulung Muscel, and named it the Ștefan Villa, in memory of his son who died during the war of 1914. As a forest engineer who graduated in 1897 from the École des Eaux et Forêts de Nancy, Vasile Golescu designed the terraced park around the house (a garden park), adapting exotic and rare species, brought at the beginning of the last century from abroad, starting from the local natural forest.



1, 2. The Golescu Villa in Câmpulung Muscel, photo Cristian Radu.

Under the direct management of Pro Patrimonio Foundation, the Golescu Villa was opened for historical housing, mainly during the warm season. Additionally, throughout 2023, the Golescu Villa Observatory Ensemble has been included in the Circular Catalysts project carried out by the British Council Romania, in partnership with the Romanian Cultural Institute. This is a programme designed to generate new collaborations between Romanian and UK designers, artists and craftspeople and to facilitate dialogue around sustainable production practices and processes.

- **February:** The story of the restoration and activation of the Golescu ensemble, villa and dendrological park, interwoven with objects, people, biodiversity, design processes and craftsmanship travels scientifically to Finland at the University of Turku where it is the subject of a scientific communication at *The 3rd International Artifact Conference*.
- **March:** Residency of British artist Anoushka Cole at the Golescu Villa as part of the *Circular Catalysts* project, together with the Pro Patrimonio team. The project team visited iconic places in the area and took inspiration from established local artisans. At the villa they experimented with textile printing using natural pigments obtained from local flora
- **May:** Pro Patrimonio participates in the collective exhibition *Circular Catalysts* at the Romanian Design Week, Amzei Square in Bucharest. In the RDW Creative Corner space in Amzei Square, Pro Patrimonio organises intergenerational workshops on textile printing with plants, as a result of the residency of British artist Anoushka Cole.
- **June-July:** The exhibition *Circular Catalysts* travels to HEI - House of European Institutes, Timișoara.
- **November:** The *Circular Catalysts* programme arrives at the Romanian Cultural Institute in London where the open exhibition includes the Pro Patrimonio objects created with Anoushka Cole. The foundation team organises a botanical print workshop.

Page 28. 1, 2. Pro Patrimonio project, part of the *Circular Catalysts* exhibition, Romanian Design Week 2023, photo Mirela Duculescu.

Page 29. 1 & 3. *Circular Catalysts* Project, November 2023, photo Romanian Cultural Institute London. 2. Participation in the *Artefacta* international conference, Turku, Finland, February 2023, photo Andreea Machidon.



Neamtu Manor



A large part of the mansions in the southern part of Romania have disappeared in the past 30 years due to the faulty property restitution, disinterest and precarious education towards heritage, manifested both by the public authorities and the population.

The Neamtu Manor from Olari village, OT, (historical reference from 1841, probably before 1800), included in the List of Historical Monuments, is one of the few examples of civil architecture preserved in southern Romania. The mansion is part of the Neamtu Manor Ensemble, whose owner is now Pro Patrimonio, comprises a grain warehouse, a glacier, a communist canteen, partial traces of the former stables and annexes.

Donated to the Pro Patrimonio Foundation in 2016, the manor is in a state of degradation, having suffered from vandalism and neglected for a long time. As a result, it requires extensive and urgent conservation and consolidation works; it is a practical example of what Pro Patrimonio faces in implementing its strategy of saving cultural heritage and integration into the community.

In this case, the foundation adopted the following method of intervention: conservation and gradual rehabilitation, step by step; education workshops for children; adult education and awareness-raising workshops; community integration; creating over time a possible regional center for experimental studies and education.

Currently, Pro Patrimonio faces the following issue: a long process with many

unknown variables; insufficient funds; remoteness from Oltenia; complex search for a sustainable economic model for the manor and land; the village is located in a poor area, mainly agricultural (cereals, viticulture), with desertification tendencies due to climate change; in the locality there is a strong aging and depopulation wave.

The mansion is a landmark in the cultural landscape of the village and the area.



1. Neamtu Manor garden, photo Pro Patrimonio archive. 2. Neamtu manor loggia, photo Raluca Munteanu.

Works on the manor

- Throughout the year the construction site is stopped due to insufficient funds. We receive furniture from private donors that will be used to furnish the interior spaces.
- In spring, summer and autumn, agricultural works are carried out on the land around the manor house. In the autumn about 500 pumpkins were harvested..

Experimental Centre for Studies and Education at the Neamțu Manor in Olari

- **January:** The partnership between Pro Patrimonio Foundation and UiPath Foundation continues with the project "Experimental Centre for Studies and Education at the Neamțu Manor in Olari". This programme aims to develop a sustainable educational ecosystem in Ilt County, in the communities in the vicinity of the Neamțu Manor, in parallel with the attempt to continue the restoration (and refurbishment) of the historical monument.
- **March:** During the local school's celebration of Green Week, children from Olari visited the Neamțu Manor. They collected the rubbish that had gathered in the large manor courtyard as a result of the winter wind. They were taken on a tour of the manor's newly restored rooms and recounted the history of the place and its former owners.

Page 32. Manor garden, agricultural works, autumn 2023, photo Pro Patrimonio archive.

Page 33. Visit to the manor during Green Week, photo Pro Patrimonio archive.



Strategic partnership with UiPath Foundation

Throughout the year we have provided support to the Future Acceleration Program run by the UiPath Foundation, a program through which 30 children from socially vulnerable families in two communities - Bârza and Osica de Sus - near Neamțu Manor receive monthly scholarships, weekly classes in Romanian language and literature, Mathematics and English, material support consisting of school supplies, books, games, seasonal clothes and shoes, sanitary materials, food packages and holiday gifts, tablets with dedicated software and support to use them safely, as well as various activities to develop digital skills and non-formal education.

- **April:** Books, food and gifts for children and their families arrived in the communities we support around Easter. Packages sent by the UiPath Foundation with the support of Pro Patrimonio brought joy and hope to 30 children near Neamțu Manor in Ilt. The Future Acceleration Program supports the education of these children and we hope we can continue to be close to those who so desperately need support.
- **June:** 30 packs with DIY materials, games and practical objects that tell the story of the Golescu Villa in Câmpulung Muscel in an interactive way are delivered to communities in Ilt county.
- **July-August:** For six days, the 30 children in the program participate in different groups in the U&I Summer Camp.
- **September-December:** Weekly classes are held in Romanian language and literature, Mathematics and English. Several parcels of essential food, clothing, shoes, books, games, school supplies and hygiene products reach the children and their families.

We celebrated with the children and the volunteers who have been with them, the achievements of 2023 and set goals for next year.



Historical plasterwork. Practical research



In 2023 we continue the Pro Patrimonio program initiated in 2019 and materialized with the publication "Forgotten Textures: Interwar Bucharest. Plasterwork Booklet with the project Forgotten Textures. Research and practical studies for repair and maintenance", winner of a grant paid from the architecture stamp tax.

This research project aims to study methods of repairing deterioration by collecting and carrying out more extensive samples, material analysis, access to restoration sites for study and testing, collaboration with public institutions, material suppliers and contractors.



1, 2. Facade cleaning during the Historical Plasterwork research project, photo Pro Patrimonio archive.

- **February-April:** Pro Patrimonio is looking for collaborators among public institutions, material suppliers, entrepreneurs or beneficiaries for a study as diversified as possible.
- **April-May:** The field is vast and the problem very complex, so the study framework is delimited: plasters of the similar type will be analysed.
Several buildings have been identified on site or allowing practical tests on the façade both in Timișoara and Bucharest.
- **July:** Practical tests take place at the Dauerbach Palace in Timișoara where tests are carried out on the consolidation and cleaning of façade plaster.
- **August:** Practical tests are carried out in Bucharest and Timișoara at the István Nemes Palace. Part of the experiments focused on repairs to an existing plaster of similar thickness.
A second research direction aims at cleaning of the simlipierre surfaces from dirt deposited over time or organic deposits (mosses and lichens grown over time).
- **October:** Halfway through the project period, some of the observations and recommendations of the project team are made available to a wide audience.
- **November:** Practical tests are carried out on a building on Mătășari Street in Bucharest for repairs to the façade plasterwork. Using the analysis results of the façade mortar, an attempt was made to reproduce the plaster to fill in missing areas.
A visit is made to the restauration site for the Military Circle building façade in Bucharest and discuss the problems encountered and the solutions adopted for the restoration.
- **December:** The analysis results received from the laboratory in Vienna at the University of Applied Sciences are discussed and analysed. Prof. Johannes Weber meets the project team in Bucharest and visits some façades studied by the project, discussing practical ways of intervention.

Pages 36-37. Façade cleaning during the Historical Plasterwork research project, photo Pro Patrimonio archive.



SOS Heritage

- **February:** In order to speed up the official inventory and evaluation of the movable and immovable heritage - Astra Română Refinery in Câmpina, we send an open letter to the Prahova County Directorate for Culture, the Ministry of Culture and the National Commission of Historical Monuments.
- **June:** Pro Patrimonio submits an urgent request for the classification of the „Gheorghe Coman” memorial house, 7 Baia Baciului Street, Slănic Prahova, Prahova County.
- **November:** Following complaints from the local community and the initiative group Lugoj - lost identity, Pro Patrimonio submits an urgent request for the classification of the the former Textile Enterprise Lugoj (ITL) to the County Directorate for Culture Timiș and to the National Heritage Institute for science. The arguments for classification are its average age, since 1907, and its high architectural, artistic and urban value.



Page 38. 1. Former Textile Enterprise Lugoj, photo Facebook page *Lugoj - lost identity*. 2. "Gheorghe Coman" memorial house, Slănic Prahova, photo Pro Patrimonio archive.

Page 39. 1 & 2. Steaua Română refinery in Câmpina, photo Pro Patrimonio archive.

Creative Residency Accelerator Programme

Cărturești Foundation in partnership with Pro Patrimonio Foundation and Maria Association run the "Cărturești Fellowships and Residencies" programme which sprang from the desire to promote and encourage the development of contemporary Romanian literature, starting with support for its authors. Three years in a row, 5 writers and poets stay in residence at the Golescu Villa in Câmpulung Muscel and at the end each produces an event for the local community entitled "Readings in Residence".

- **May-June:** As part of the third session of the Cărturești Fellowships and Residencies, the Golescu Villa in Câmpulung Muscel hosts three new residents: writers Iulian Popa, Diana Bădica and Ana Alexandrescu.
- **July:** The call for projects for the first edition of the Viscri visual creation residencies is launched. For the first time we are offering visual creation residencies at the 18th century Saxon house owned by Pro Patrimonio in Viscri. Organized by Bucharest Graphic Days and the Cărturești Foundation, together with the Pro Patrimonio Foundation, the residencies aimed to explore the Viscri local heritage as a graphic resource and to render it in a new, contemporary form, compatible with new media.
- **September:** First impressions by the three residents of the Golescu Vills are published on the Cărturești blog.
- **October:** Cărturești launches "Books and Honey" (Carte și miere) podcast dedicated to residency periods. The three interviews are filmed in the living room and courtyard of the Golescu Villa in Câmpulung Muscel.
- **October-November:** Cărturești, Bucharest Graphic Days, Flavia Chicin și Radu Spulber pun în practică la Librăria Cărturești Verona din București o expoziție cu materiale rezultate din rezidența de la Viscri. Cărturești, Bucharest Graphic Days, Flavia Chicin and Radu Spulber open an exhibition of material from the Viscri residency at the Cărturești Verona Bookshop in Bucharest.



Page 41. 1, 2, 3. Residences at Golescu Villa, 3rd edition, May-June 2023, photo Ana Alexandrescu.

Miscelanea

- **May:** Following the request of the priest from Pojogi village, Stroești commune, Vâlcea county, Pro Patrimonio gets involved by offering advice and surveying a historical house in the village in order to save it.
A team of 6 architecture students from Bucharest go and make the survey of the house. A community museum has been set up in the former school, located near the church and the house under study.
- **May:** The European School of Art Ironwork and the Association Maria in Țibănești organize the exam for the students of the European School of Art Ironwork, with tests of analysis, theory and practice through Pro Patrimonio France, a collaboration project with the Association Ouvrière des Compagnons du Devoir et du Tour de France and the Coubertin Foundation has started.
- **May-September:** Asociația Biserici Înlemnite, a partner of Pro Patrimonio Foundation, is carrying out an inventory of about 40 wooden churches in Gorj County, located between the rivers Jiu and Motru.
- **August:** The Gellu Naum Foundation organises an open day at the Gellu Naum House in Comana. Pro Patrimonio complements the event with a dialogue on modernist heritage, diversity and aesthetics of modernist façade textures.
- **August:** Pro Patrimonio participates with a lecture on the significance of "60 Wooden Churches" programme and the recent challenges related to the case study on the wooden church of Șirineasa, Vâlcea County, at the "Oglinda de lemn II" (Wooden Mirror II) conferences, organised by the Asociația Biserici Înlemnite, Ștefania Palace in Timișoara.
- **October:** Macadam Gallery, the Romanian Cultural Institute in Paris, in partnership with the Romanian Embassy in France, organizes the second edition of "Cycle Patrimoine – 2nd edition", which includes a dense program of exhibitions and conferences on the enhancement of Romanian heritage. The exhibition on the theme of safeguarding and reusing a specific architectural typology – the manor house – was created and curated by Caroline d'Assay, President of Pro Patrimonio France.
- **October:** Release of a new Secolul 21 magazine issue dedicated to Mariana Celac (Volume II) including a collection of articles, interviews, reminiscences about a remarkable architect, a close friend of Pro Patrimonio Foundation, whose ideas and advice were fundamental for many of our projects.



1. Historic house in the village of Pojogi during the relief, photo Ana Martiș.
2. The European Art Ironwork School and Maria Association from Țibănești, photo Maria Association.
3. The museum in Pojogi village, Vâlcea county, photo Ana Martiș.
4. Les Manoirs de Roumanie exhibition poster, Romanian Cultural Institute, Paris.

	Euro	Sponsors/ Donors	
Heritage Education	6,640		3.12%
Heritage Caravan	6,640	Partners	3.12%
Practical research	28,400		13.36%
Historical plasterwork	23,200	OAR through the stamp tax & PSC Group	10.92%
60 Wooden Churches. Şirineasa Case	5,200	Fondation de France, Casa Storck Foundation, private donors	2.45%
Casa George Enescu	69,780		32.84%
Children's Music Academy + Future Acceleration Program	26,780	Partners and private sponsors	12.60%
Maintenance and current works	43,000	EGGER Group, Dedeman, donors and private sponsors / members	20.24%
Neamţu Manor	23,880		11.24%
Garden maintenance work + machinery	1,800	Partners and private sponsors	10.39%
Centre for Studies and Experiments + Future Acceleration Program	22,080	Donors and private sponsors / Members	0.85%
Golescu Villa	16,500		7.76%
Historic housing	5,800	Donors and private sponsors	2.73%
Literary residency	1,400	Cărtureşti Foundation	0.66%
<i>Circular Catalysts</i> residency	2,300	British Council	1.08%
Maintenance and current works	7,000	Donors and private sponsors	3.29%
SOS Heritage	0		0%
Administration	67,300	Donors and private sponsors/ members, Romanian Boyard Ball 2023	31.67%
Total	212,500		

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Support

Thanks to the outstanding support of the Foundation's members, as well as sustained fundraising efforts, the projects carried out in 2023 by Pro Patrimonio were made possible.

Donations, however large or small, are vital to the continuation of the Foundation's work.

propatrimonio.org/donate/

From 2021, you have a unique opportunity to enjoy free and equal rights across the International National Trusts Organisation Places network, taking advantage of our Pro Patrimonio membership rate discount. Support the core activities of the Foundation by paying the annual minimum fee of 300 lei / 60 euro which will cover the period 1 January - 31 December 2023.

Any Romanian contributing member will pay significantly less for access privileges in the INTO Places network compared to members in the UK, Italy, Canada etc. A Romanian Pro Patrimonio applicant member automatically qualifies him/her or their entire family for completely free access rights or – in rare cases - with significant discounts on properties. In the UK alone, for example, the National Trust owns almost 250,000 acres of land, 780 miles of coastline, over 200 historic houses, 41 castles and chapels, 47 industrial monuments and mills, factory and mine sites, 9 lighthouses, 56 villages, 39 public houses and 25 medieval barns.

Please send an email to propatrimonio.romania@gmail.com with your name and contact email address so that we can thank you and keep you informed of our activities.

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