

Deutsches Nationalkomitee von ICOMOS e.V.

Buzludzha Monument, Georgi Stoilov, 1981, Hadzhi Dimitar Peak, Bulgaria



Buzludzha Monument. Photo © ICOMOS Germany

The Buzludzha Monument was built in 1981 to commemorate the ninetieth anniversary of the Bulgarian Socialist movement.

Influenced by the Brutalist style that had become popular in Western Europe, Bulgarian architect Georgi Stoilov designed the monument as an expansive disc-shaped body, with a free-standing steel roof and a dramatic tower. A mix of raw concrete, white marble, colorful interior mosaics, and granite plates adds textural variety to the structure, which can be seen from miles away in its mountain-top location.

From 1981 to 1989, the monument

was one of the most popular sites in Bulgaria, until it closed with the end of communist rule. Local, regional, and national Bulgarian government representatives have recently expressed support for preserving the monument, and the process for listing the building as a national heritage site has already begun.

A Getty grant will fund a conservation management plan that builds on this momentum in order to preserve the building for future generations. German preservation specialists and local experts will produce a digital Building Information Model (BIM), a robust online platform that incorporates laser scans, archival materials, and more to create a shared knowledge resource for decision-making about the monument. Another critical aspect of the project will be the exploration of viable options for adaptive reuse of the landmark. Throughout the project, the team will lead an awareness campaign to demonstrate that this national heritage monument is a masterpiece of architectural engineering, an integral part of Bulgarian history, and a public site with great potential for continued use with a new function.

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Source: [Getty Foundation](#)