

# BATUZ FOUNDATION

## SOCIÉTÉ IMAGINAIRE

Batuz, President

20 February 2003

International  
Advisory Board:

Prof. Stanford Anderson,  
Head Architecture M. I. T.  
Marcos Aguinis, Argentina  
Stanislav Baranczak, Poland  
Manfred Baumgärtel, FRG  
Jochen Boberg, FRG  
Jacek Bochenski, Poland  
M. Pastrana Borrero, form.  
President Columbia  
Ricardo Busso, Argentina  
Michel Butor, France  
Ing. Lucio Caceres, Ministro  
Obras Publicas, Uruguay  
Rodolfo M. Camero, Arg.  
Amb. Walter L. Cutler, USA  
Jorge Edwards, Chile  
Amb. Jiri Grusa, CR  
Toshio Hara, Japan  
Stratis Haviaras, USA  
Olga M. Hirshhorn, USA  
Enrique V. Iglesias, USA  
Prof. Kurt Jankowsky, USA  
Amb. J.-John Jova, USA  
Bruce Kaiser, USA  
Prof. Timothy Keating, USA  
General H.P. v. Kirchbach, FRG  
Alexander Kliment, CR  
Lothar Kraft, FRG  
Hanna-Renate Laurien, FRG  
Amb. Herbert Limmer, FRG  
Andras Mahr, USA  
Miklos Meszöly, Hungary  
Günter Meyer, FRG  
Henry A. Millon, USA  
Enrique Molina, Argentina  
Inge Morath, USA  
Alvaro Mutis, Columbia  
Amb. F. v. Nordenskjöld, FRG  
Olga Orozco, Argentina  
G. Bernd Oschatz, FRG  
Ricardo Pascale, Uruguay  
Octavio Paz, Mexico  
Juan Sanchez Pelaez, Ven  
Pierre Restany, France  
Franz-Josef Reuter, FRG  
Julio-Maria Sanguinetti,  
President of Uruguay  
Kajo Schommer, FRG  
Gerhard Schweiger, Arg.  
W. D. Snodgrass, USA  
Amb. Ulrich Spohn, FRG  
Mark Strand, USA  
Alois Streich, FRG  
J.-J. Szczepanski, Poland  
Abdon Ubidia, Ecuador  
Gerhard Wahlers, USA  
Helmut Wittelsbürger, FRG  
Elmar Zorn, FRG

Herr Ministerpräsident Prof. Dr. Georg Milbradt  
Staatsregierung des Freistaates Sachsen  
Archivstr. 1  
01097 Dresden  
Germany

Re: Batuz Foundation, Altzella

Dear Ministerpräsident Milbradt:

I write to you in my role as the President of the Batuz Foundation USA and out of concern for the continuity of the establishment and the activities of the Batuz Foundation at Altzella.

One readily recognizes the generosity of the State of Saxony in placing the monastery of Altzella in the service of Batuz and his Foundation, and then providing annual financing in support of the activities that are engendered there. Given my own location, many of my experiences of the work of the Batuz Foundation and the Société Imaginaire have been in the relations from Altzella to North and South America. Even when these events have taken place in the Americas, their achievements redound to the honor of the Altzella home and thus to Saxony.

Still speaking from my personal experience, I have been involved in two distinctive projects at Altzella and in Dresden. The first of these was collaboration between my university, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the TU Dresden with city planners of Dresden and Saxony. This was a year-long activity that brought MIT faculty and students to Altzella and Dresden and a smaller number of German professors and planners to MIT. Later, Altzella served as a meeting place for the planning of international symposia in Montevideo, Uruguay, and at MIT. These symposia, which engaged architects and engineers from Germany and the Americas, were highly successful and will soon result in a major publication. I could also mention the young artists we have sent from MIT to Altzella for collective summer activities.

I mention the activities above as evidence of my direct knowledge of some of the achievements of Batuz, his foundation, and his Altzella facility. But of course I am aware that these are only a small part of the Batuz Foundation achievements and understandably not those that would most interest the people and the government of Saxony. For this I must turn to what I know of other activities of the Batuz Foundation. In my own visits, I have seen impressive summer art studios involving high school students from Saxony and eastern Europe. I have seen mature artists from Israel and South America in extended creative work in the ateliers of Altzella. I know of many more activities that bring people of all ages and social standing to Altzella from Saxony, South America, and eastern Europe for events in arts, crafts, music, dance, and more. While on visits at Altzella, I have been party to the visits of notable politicians, scholars, and artists from the three main areas of Batuz' connections: Germany with eastern Europe and the two Americas. Recently there was the dramatic activity occasioned at the frontier of Saxony and Poland. In brief, the decade of Altzella has seen not just the physical revitalization of the monastery's subsidiary buildings, but the creations of a dynamic center of international communications.

Adresse: Batuz Foundation Sachsen  
Kloster Altzella  
01683 Nessen

Tel: (49) 35242-421-0  
Fax: (49) 35242-421-19  
e-mail: [Batuz-Foundation-Sachsen@t-online.de](mailto:Batuz-Foundation-Sachsen@t-online.de)

The government of Saxony has reason to be proud of its courageous and generous support of a fledgling idea that Batuz turned into the extraordinary phenomenon of the Batuz Foundation seat at Altzella. Altzella has assumed a new and honored stage in its long and diverse trajectory. This fact is established through the museums, ateliers, exhibition sites, meeting places, and works of art that now make up Altzella. Still more, these physical facilities made possible the many fruitful events to which I have alluded, including the engagement of children, people of quite ordinary backgrounds, and noted scholars, poets, artists, and politicians. Batuz is the catalyst by which his supporters and colleagues worked collectively for international understanding and peace by communication across both national boundaries and those of artistic, cultural, and social domains.

In the current period of problematic globalization and rapidly diminishing understanding among nations, we need efforts such as those of the Société Imaginaire more than ever. While small in the global perspective, the efforts of the Batuz Foundation are important seeds in the continuing hope for a better world. It is a great pity that it is just at this time of greatest need for open communication that there should be a hiatus in the support of Batuz' efforts at Altzella.

I speak for the members of the International Advisory Board of the Batuz Foundation in urging ardently that the government of Saxony recognize its own achievement in creating a seat for the Batuz Foundation at Altzella. This is an accomplishment and an investment that should not be lost through inattention at this time that, more than in decades, threatens dissolution of international understanding.

On a more personal note, but also in the name of the Advisory Board, I hope that we will have the honor of your presence, and participation, at future events of the Batuz Foundation and Société Imaginaire.

Respectfully,



Stanford Anderson  
President, Batuz Foundation USA  
Head, Department of Architecture; Room 7-337  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139 USA  
soa @MIT.edu