

Nomination of  
**The GREAT**  
*SPAS of Europe*



for inclusion on the  
**World Heritage**  
List

Volume I: Description of the Property





Ceramic panels by Basilio  
Cascella in the Tettuccio.  
Montecatini Terme



## 2. Description

### 2.a.1 Description of Property

*The Great Spas of Europe* is a transnational serial property of eleven towns located in seven European countries: *Baden bei Wien* (Austria); *Spa* (Belgium); the 'Bohemian Spa Triangle' of *Karlovy Vary*, *Františkovy Lázně* and *Mariánské Lázně* (Czech Republic); *Vichy* (France); *Bad Ems*, *Baden-Baden* and *Bad Kissingen* (Germany); *Montecatini Terme* (Italy); and *City of Bath* (United Kingdom).

European spa towns are centred on natural 'curative' mineral water springs that act as nuclei for a specialised urban form and function designed for the combined medicinal, social and leisure use of mineral water. The spatial planning and architecture of this mono-functional urban typology facilitated such a combined use, and has no earlier parallel. The specialisation of each function, and its integration into specific buildings and spaces, is a defining characteristic. A 'Great Spa' is distinguished from any other spa town by its dimension, complexity and integrity of the various elements of the urban typology.

*The Great Spas of Europe* epitomises the grandest and most international resorts of the many hundreds of towns that are testimony to the European spa phenomenon that flourished from around 1700 to the 1930s. The network illustrates, as a whole, all of the attributes of proposed Outstanding Universal Value, including the representation of the geographical spread of the phenomenon, through time, and continued function as the embodiment of a living tradition. These are the most fashionable and successful 'Great Spas', those with a 'culture-creating' impact in terms of their contribution to science (medicine, geology and hydrology), high-art (especially music and literature), and a cultural tradition that lays at the foundation of modern tourism. Intangible values further differentiate them as a distinct and closely linked thematic group. They are also the most significant examples that survive with the highest levels of integrity and authenticity.

View north to the model  
spa 'new town' of  
*Františkovy Lázně*



In their prime, the influence of ‘Great Spas’ in matters of European cultural and artistic life, medicine, science, humanities, politics and the development of polite society was beyond that of any other form of urban settlement, except the greatest of the European capitals. A distinctive range of physical elements, described in section 2.a.2, conveys these key attributes.

The eleven towns are each made up of a single component part. Each contributes in a specific way to the overall compositional integrity of the series. As a group they represent the pinnacle of the European spa phenomenon. Some possess both archaeological testimony to ancient origins, and modern interventions that facilitate a living spa tradition that continues into the twenty-first century. Their predominant heritage, however, relates to their collective heyday that spans the eighteenth, nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The European spa evolved a new, unique, and widespread urban typology, which today we can consider in terms of a distinctive historic urban landscape.

The principal spa ensemble includes springs and their various styles of taps, fountains and pavilions, the pump rooms and drinking halls, bathing and treatment facilities, colonnades and galleries, hospitals and sanatoria, assembly rooms, casinos, theatre and concert houses, arcades of shops, hotels, lodging houses and villas, churches (characteristically a range of Established churches/various denominations), and support infrastructure such as salts extraction and funicular railways. This is set within a green environment of promenades and parades, parks and gardens, pleasure grounds, rides and woodland walks. It is these elements that convey the attributes that contribute to the proposed Outstanding Universal Value.

The Nominated Property, as a unit, is described in section 2.a.2. The approach uses the concept of the ‘anatomy of a spa’. It outlines the ensemble of essential and characteristic physical elements that convey attributes of potential Outstanding Universal Value, and references special contributions made by particular component parts. This highlights the compositional integrity of the series - the property as a whole - whereby it is the eleven selected component parts, in total, that includes all essential elements. Whilst reference is made to all component parts, each component part – or individual ‘Great Spa’ - is described separately in section 2.a.3.

*The Great Spas of Europe* illustrates a new typology of historic urban landscape - the European spa town. Each component part displays variations on a common structure that is characterised by functional zoning. This zoning is influenced by geographical and topographical constraints and historical geopolitical and socio-economic influences. It displays ensembles of exceptional buildings (including architectural prototypes) and spaces (particularly green spaces) that are functionally linked to meet the daily needs of spa guests.

Colonnade of the Sadový  
(Park) Spring, a detail. *Karlovy Vary*



Detail. Brass tap,  
Source des Célestins. *Vichy*



Glauber Springs Hall.  
*Františkovy Lázně*







Tržní (Market)  
Colonnade.  
Karlovy Vary

## 2.a.2 Anatomy of a spa

The historic urban landscape of a ‘Great Spa’ is summarised diagrammatically in figure 2. The simplified diagram acts like a theoretical concentric ring (or concentric zone) model. The broad structure of *The Great Spas of Europe* is thus seen to comprise a distinct spa quarter centred on the springs, from which other zones with specific features radiate outwards. There are, of course, many variations on such zones due to geography, topography and diverse historical context.

Whilst each spa town is different, and each makes a specific contribution to the series through distinctive variations in shared attributes, all the spas developed around natural ‘curative’ hot and cold mineral springs of variable composition and application. The springs are therefore in the middle of the concentric ring. Where the source is singular, or where several sources are co-located in a cluster, the form of the spa quarter tends to be broadly monocentric: examples include the *City of Bath*, and the principal spa quarter at *Bad Ems*. Where there are a number of sources, the form of the principal spa quarter tends to be polycentric: for example linear and distributed for a kilometre or more along a fault line/the river valley at *Karlovy Vary*, at *Bad Kissingen* a second spa quarter developed along with the integration of brine into the spa culture when water was then pumped to the more distant spa quarter in the south, apparently randomly distributed over several square kilometres as at *Františkovy Lázně*, or a much larger area such as in the town and adjacent forest in *Spa*. Sometimes, thermal water was historically piped from the source to a somewhat distant spa quarter that was developed in a more suitable space, for example in *Baden-Baden*. Depending on mineral content and temperature, some water sources were suitable for drinking, some for bathing, and some for inhalation. Such applications clearly determine the types of spa buildings that are found in the different spa towns.

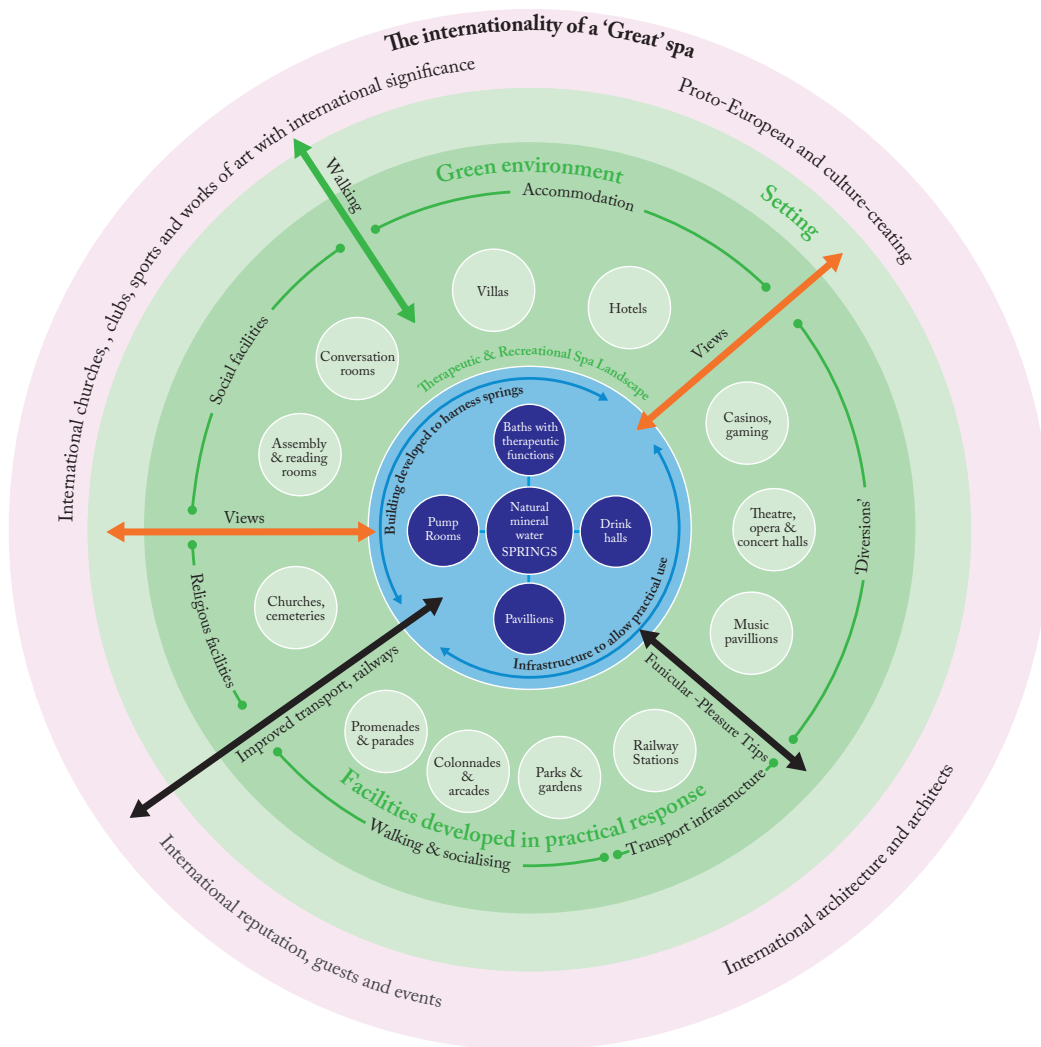


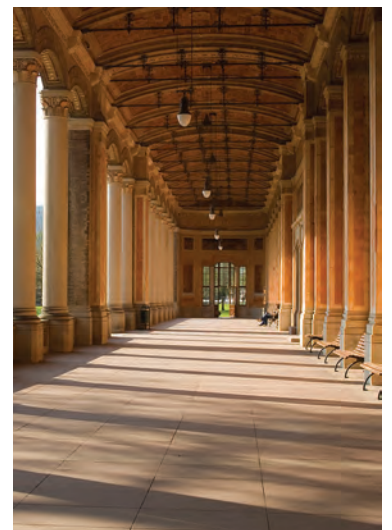
Figure 2. Theoretical historic urban landscape of a 'Great Spa': zones will not be concentric in practice, but will depend on factors such as the distribution of springs, topography and historical development.

Each spa town shares common elements, yet their structure and spatial layout varies. Some towns have springs known to ancient tribes and the Romans, like *City of Bath* and *Baden-Baden*, and have grown organically with major planned spa developments taking place in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Others are spa 'new towns', like newly designed *Františkovy Lázně*, a plan that was approved in the early 1800s, and *Mariánské Lázně*, created from the ground up in 1817-22, its urban layout well-preserved with springhouses, pump room and promenade laid out transverse to a generous landscape park surrounded by planned guest houses arranged in this way for the first time in history. Such towns may also include broad tree-lined avenues, for example in *Montecatini Terme*, designed to provide views that connect with landscape features.

Ensembles of spa buildings include architectural prototypes such as the 'kurhaus' and 'kursaal', pump rooms, drinking halls ('trinkhalle'), colonnades and galleries designed to harness the natural mineral water resource and to allow its practical use for bathing and drinking. *The Great Spas of Europe* displays exceptional examples in a range of architectural styles.

'Taking the cure', externally and internally, was complemented firstly by exercise. Facilities developed in practical response within, and around, the spa quarter and involved: walking, or promenading, whilst commonly drinking the waters (importantly to meet, and be seen by, others) along paved and covered colonnades and galleries, those in the series representing many architectural exemplars, such as in *Karlovy Vary* and *Vichy*; strolling in landscape gardens and 'kurgartens', such as in *Baden bei Wien*, one of

Trinkhalle/Pumproom.  
Baden-Baden



Austria's most beautiful gardens, or in *Bad Kissingen* where the kurgarten - one of the earliest introductions of the new concept of a cure garden built outside a walled city - has preserved its original measurements; gentle riverside walks (for example *Vichy*, *Baden-Baden* and *Karlovy Vary*) or walking networks of formal park-like pathways and woodland trails which remain as popular today as they ever were (for example the level former moorland of *Františkovy Lázně* and the gently sloping forests in *Spa*; in each case the paths linking springs); or more strenuous steeply wooded trails that ascended rocky hillsides and cliffs (such as in *Bad Ems*) - where perhaps a donkey, or a funicular railway, might be opted for to join others at hilltop scenic overlooks and restaurants. Sports facilities, such as golf, tennis, horse-racing and others, were also provided for. A number of courses and courts remain in use and are historically distinguished as some of the first to appear in their respective countries (for example *Baden-Baden*).

*Bad Ems*, spa quarter  
at the River Lahn

Next came the all-important social activity. Spa gardens and cure parks were early developments designed for public social interaction. Facilities also developed for mixing and socialising in conversation and assembly rooms. The earliest examples, and indeed those that may be considered prototypes, can be found in the *City of Bath* and *Spa*. Such socialising was complemented by 'diversions' such as in casinos. Gaming was endemic throughout Europe, and the creation of casinos (and sometimes their prohibition) played an essential role in spa life, for example in the famous casino at *Baden-Baden*. They were also crucial to the economic viability of the spas, and particular component parts host some of the earliest examples in the world (for example *Spa* and *Bad Ems*). Elaborate theatres, opera houses, concert and dance halls, may be encountered in most of the series.



Hotels, lodging houses and villas form discrete zones within both the urban spa quarter (in most component parts) and in the more distant therapeutic and recreational spa landscape (for example *Spa*). Some hotels are monumental in scale and architecture (for example in *Karlovy Vary*), whilst numerous villas in most component parts display a wide range of international architectural styles. Their ubiquitous high quality, sheer numbers, and high rate of authentic preservation, is a distinctive attribute of *The Great Spas of Europe*.

The spa historic urban landscape also includes certain infrastructure that is especially linked to spas, such as hospitals based on mineral springs (for example the Royal Mineral Water Hospital in the *City of Bath*), and funiculars (for example at *Bad Ems* and *Montecatini Terme*) that accessed lookout towers, restaurants and specific features of interest. Rivers were used for public transport and as tourist attractions in themselves, for example the steamboat line in *Bad Kissingen*. Railways were also extended to spa towns to promote better access and increased visitation (several spa railway stations are included, for example *Bad Ems*, with its associated station quarter of hotels and villas).

Buildings and spaces connect visually and physically with their picturesque setting of idealised nature, a green environment used regularly for exercise as a contribution to the therapy of the cure, and for relaxation and enjoyment.



Following the description of the historic urban landscape of a 'Great Spa', specific elements have been grouped, as follows, in order to give a more detailed explanation of the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value that are embodied in the proposed Statement of Outstanding Universal Value as defined in Chapter 3 of this Nomination Document:

- Location and Setting
- Springs
- Urban ensemble of the spa town
- Therapeutic and recreational spa landscape
- Spa infrastructure
- Internationalism, scientific, artistic and literary values, events and cultural tradition

### 2.a.2.1 Location and Setting

Steep forested hills that surround many of the spa towns provide an impressive background. As the late eighteenth century Romantic Movement became established, an appreciation of landscape aesthetics encouraged a greater value to be placed on dramatic or picturesque landscapes (for example *Baden bei Wien*, *Bad Ems*, *Baden-Baden* and *Karlovy Vary*). The romantic landscape of Helenental (*Baden bei Wien*) was transformed into the attractive landscape park with paths and views - an example for the landscape gardens at *Bad Ems*.

Settings of the component parts are generally consistent with each other, with most towns lying in a river valley below high ground or below a steep edge of a plateau. Two component parts are exceptions to this: *Vichy* lying in a broad river valley, and *Františkovy Lázně* built on relatively level ground. Setting variously contributes to significance and distinctive character of the whole property. For some component parts, in certain directions, the setting of the spa ensemble is now modern commercial or suburban development.

The topographical setting of each spa town influences its form and character and contributes to historical context. For example, *Montecatini Terme* is framed by high and steep hills to the north, its principal boulevard being purposely aligned with the old town of Montecatini Alto perched high on the rim overlooking the new spa town. This aspect of setting adds drama and 'background' to the spa. It also provides a seamless belt of greenery that reaches out from this 'garden spa' to create a 'landscape spa'. At the same time, there is an impressive prospect from the high ground over the spa town and beyond to the expansive plain.

Individual settings are included within component part descriptions in 2.a.3

Tettuccio Thermal Baths, *Montecatini Terme* with Montecatini Alto on the hillside above



### 2.a.2.2 Springs: natural mineral water sources (thermal and cold)

Springs (mineral water sources/outlets) are the catalyst for a pioneering and innovative urban structure demonstrated by *The Great Spas of Europe*. They are at the functional



centre of a model of spatial organisation, built features and open spaces that exemplify processes that served, and continue to serve, curative, therapeutic, recreational and social functions.

Spa towns coalesced around these springs. Depending on the variable qualities of the spring and its water (capacity/flow rate, pressure, purity, chemical composition, temperature, taste, clarity etc.), a range of specific conditions or clusters of ailments were targeted. Spa doctors specified the healing properties and recommended procedures for ‘taking the cure’. This was either externally (by bathing) or internally (by drinking, and inhaling) and involved a highly structured and timed daily regime. These parameters directly influenced urban form and prompted architectural prototypes.

The effective and safe harnessing of spring water, together with facilities to promote its daily use, were essential to the thousands of spa guests who came to ‘take the cure’ – daily - often for weeks, months or the entire annual season. Spa guests might visit different springs in the same resort, for different purposes, or visit multiple resorts depending on what each had to offer. Capacity planning was vital, and spas thus developed, or were planned, very much akin to modern tourist resorts in terms of visitor hospitality. The European spa - particularly *The Great Spas of Europe* - provided models for the latter.

*The Great Spas of Europe* represent a large-scale, sustainable, natural healing resource. More than 160 springs and gas-sources, together with 10 peloid (mud or peat) deposits, are used for therapeutic procedures. The genesis of such a large amount of springs, distributed across a wide-ranging geological context, differs significantly from a hydrogeological point of view, including chemical parameters, temperature, and the yield of spring structures.

Mineral waters are divided according to the content of dissolved solids (total mineralisation), dissolved gaseous substances (CO<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>S, CH<sub>4</sub> etc.), content of important chemical elements (I, F, S, etc.), temperature at the outlet and radioactivity (usually due to the presence of <sup>222</sup>Rn). *The Great Spas of Europe* contains examples of all the major ‘curative’ spring types that cover a wide range of qualities: from heavily mineralised and high in trace elements to relatively pure; from ‘sparkling’ to ‘still’; from cold to hot; and with varying degrees of (minor) radioactivity.



Hot spring Vřídlo.  
Karlovy Vary

Component part	Number of springs	Total mineralisation	Dissolved gasses	Important elements	Temperatures at outlet	Radioactivity
<i>Baden bei Wien</i>						
<i>Spa</i>						
<i>Karlovy Vary</i>						
<i>Františkovy Lázně</i>						
<i>Mariánské Lázně</i>						
<i>Vichy</i>						
<i>Bad Ems</i>						
<i>Baden-Baden</i>						
<i>Bad Kissingen</i>						
<i>Montecatini Terme</i>						
<i>City of Bath</i>						

Fig 3. Summary table of the range of spring qualities represented by the Nominated Property.

The hydrochemical types of waters used in nominated component parts range from simple Na-Cl types, to very complicated types such as CaNa-SO<sub>4</sub>Cl, Na-HCO<sub>3</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>Cl and CaNaMg-SO<sub>4</sub>ClHCO<sub>3</sub>S. Total mineralisation ranges from 30 mg.l<sup>-1</sup> (Reine spring, *Spa*) to 22400 mg.l<sup>-1</sup> (Glauber IV spring, *Františkovy Lázně*). Temperature is in the range from only 10° (Spa) to the hottest at 73.4 °C (Vřídlo in *Karlovy Vary*).

These waters are derived from various types of sedimentary, metamorphic and igneous rocks. The depth of catchment is very different, ranging from surface outflows, and shallow shafts of just a few metres at many sites, to deep boreholes (up to 584m, for example Schönbornsprudel, *Bad Kissingen*). There are big differences in the total yield among spring structures, with the maximum of more than 55 l.s<sup>-1</sup> (*Spa*). More detail on the genesis of springs is provided in chapter 2b (History and development).

The use of thermal water in certain component parts has undergone changes over the centuries. Some facilities and features (for example in the *City of Bath* and *Baden-Baden*) document a long duration, from the Romans to the present. In other component parts the age of principal features is more recent (for example *Františkovy Lázně*, or the early twentieth century regeneration of the Great Spa tradition at *Montecatini Terme*). From the Roman Age until today, a wide range of balneological and physiotherapeutical treatments have been developed to enable the treatment of diseases. The implementation of commercial wellness, in all component parts, is a typical feature in recent decades. New facilities, and adapted historic facilities, continue to offer spa treatments, including the use of spring gas and peloids (predominantly in the form of bathing and packs) and brine (such as in *Bad Kissingen*). Traditionally, special technical facilities are connected with the development of spa localities. Various levels of complication are present in catchment constructions, such as the Quellenturm in *Bad Ems*.

Distribution systems of mineral water primarily comprise pipeline networks (for example *Baden-Baden* and *Karlovy Vary*) with, for example, an exceptionally well-preserved example at *Bad Kissingen*. This transported brine from the upper to lower spa quarters and the graduation tower, and mineral water to the Kurhaus and later the Brunnenhalle and large hotels. Systems also included sophisticated accumulation tanks, systems for heating or cooling the water (the springs in *Bad Kissingen* and *Spa* were cold, so bathing was introduced over 500 years and 200 years ago, respectively, by heating the water in baths) or moor (such as in *Františkovy Lázně*), disinfection devices (for example in the *City of Bath*) and, last but not least, special medical equipment and devices (historical examples still seen in hospitals, institutions and museums in most component parts).

An important advancement of all component parts is the existence of protection zones for exploited curative sources. Protected areas normally cover up to several hundred square kilometres. Protective conditions differ considerably in each protected area but the common principle is the same - to maintain the quantity and quality of the water resource, permanently. Whilst some catchments happen to be in the buffer zone of certain component parts, the purpose of respective coincident buffer zones is not related to protection of the sources as legal and effective protection has been in force – in many cases – for a long time. Further detail is provided in chapter 5.b (Protective designation).

The positions of springs sometimes presented limited opportunities for a planned urban development. However, in other locations (for example *Bad Kissingen*, *Františkovy Lázně*, *Vichy* and *Montecatini Terme*) the setting of springs enabled spa buildings, promenades and green spaces to be laid out in substantial planned spa developments.



Source of the Ursprungsquelle. Baden bei Wien



Quellenturm. Bad Ems



### 2.a.2.3 Urban ensemble of the Spa Town; with specific references to ‘spa architecture’

The approach to urban design in spa towns can be seen to be concentrated on spa buildings and activities to provide an efficient building ensemble as a cultural space or ‘civic space’. Most of these buildings and their associated functions are associated directly with the springs but also centred on the main promenade. Spa buildings are completely in harmony with their surroundings of parks and gardens, and surrounding landscape. Parades and promenades lead from the springs and fountains to parks and gardens.

Bathhouses date from the classical world of Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome; extensive remains of Roman baths survive beneath nineteenth century baths in the *City of Bath* and *Baden-Baden*. The first spa district in *Baden-Baden* (on the market square, from the Roman period to Weinbrenner) was complemented by a more generous and landscaped spa district in which the thermal water is delivered in long pipework. No large bathhouses with distinctive architectural expressions were constructed in Europe during the Middle Ages. Although some developments take place from the late seventeenth century and during the eighteenth century, it is particularly after 1800 when specialisation in public spa buildings takes place.

The form of the spa town was intended to cultivate sociability. Characteristic are the baths and drinking places linked to assembly rooms, colonnades, promenades, parks and gardens. These spaces provided a venue to meet other visitors, to be seen, but also spaces to enjoy away from the company providing privacy and contemplation. Spa buildings, social buildings, promenades, gardens had a close relationship with nature and the surrounding countryside. Together they form a healing landscape.

*The Great Spas of Europe* were established, and thus evolved, as healing environments. Spa buildings are intentionally designed to create a comfortable and confident sense of place. This determined the choice of architectural styles, and the relationship of urban spaces to the surrounding landscape.

*The Great Spas of Europe* displays exceptional examples of ‘spa architecture’ (German: *Bäderarchitektur*) in a range of architectural styles. ‘Spa architecture’ is the collective term for a genre of buildings that provide facilities for the spa function: buildings connected to ‘curative waters’ and buildings for sociability, leisure and pleasure that originated with the European spa phenomenon. Many of these buildings are special structures and are not seen in other towns. These include drinking halls, pump rooms and treatment rooms, conversation rooms or halls, assembly rooms etc. The *City of Bath*, as did other spas, played a decisive role in the development of spa architecture. Such buildings appeared at the end of the seventeenth century (for example in *Bath, Spa* and *Bad Ems*), had their heyday in the nineteenth century (all component parts), and their last flourish in the 1920s and 1930s (for example *Montecatini Terme* and *Bad Kissingen*).

*Glauber Springs Hall.  
Frantiskovy Lázně*





Luisa Spring and Cold Spring.  
*Františkovy Lázně*

Ensembles of spa buildings in *The Great Spas of Europe* include architectural prototypes popularised across Europe, such as the spring pavilion (for example in *Františkovy Lázně, Spa* and *Vichy*), pump room/drinking hall or 'trinkhalle' (for example in *Bath, Baden-Baden, Baden bei Wien, Bad Kissingen* and *Vichy*), colonnades and galleries (for example in *Mariánské Lázně, Karlovy Vary, Montecatini Terme, Františkovy Lázně, Vichy* and *Bad Ems*). These were designed to harness the natural mineral water resource and to allow its practical use for drinking and exercise as part of the 'drinking cure'. This development represents a step change in the introduction of new types of spa building. Early public spa buildings dedicated to sociability and entertainment include the conversation house/assembly room/'kurhaus' (the earliest examples being the Assembly Rooms at the *City of Bath*, the *Spa Waux-Hall* and the *Bad Ems Kurhaus*) and 'kursaal', another architectural prototype, (for example *City of Bath, Bad Ems, Spa, Baden bei Wien, Bad Kissingen, Karlovy Vary, Mariánské Lázně* and *Františkovy Lázně*). These often included the casino - its modern gaming form being substantially originated in the spa towns (exemplars in *Baden-Baden, Spa, Vichy* and others). The largest enclosed foyer (Wandelhalle) in Europe, with its adjoining spring hall (Brunnenhalle) is in *Bad Kissingen*, and forms a stylistic transition from the nineteenth to twentieth centuries. Modern spa architecture appeared in the later 1930s. More recent additions, including those from the 1960s and 1970s that may be seen in some componentparts (for example *Karlovy Vary*), are joined by twenty first century additions (for example in the *City of Bath*) that represent a continuing, living, tradition.



The Waux-Hall. *Spa*

All component parts contain a range of architectural styles that are influenced by chronology, geography, geo-politics and local factors. Many buildings are designed by architects of international or national acclaim, enlisting an architectural language that reflected the then values of 'cultured living' in Western and Central Europe. This draws generally on classical architectural styles that reflect the glory of a classical past and principally that of ancient Rome; also, after the decay of the Ottoman Empire in the early nineteenth century, of ancient Greece. When we look at the numerous nineteenth



century buildings, the ideals of the Renaissance have been set to one side, Gothic and Baroque styles were generally rejected, and fashionable architectural values and styles became confused. At the end of the nineteenth century other architectural styles began to make an appearance and particularly with the introduction of new building materials such as iron and steel, and concrete (the earliest examples are in *Bad Kissingen* and comprise the Wandelhalle, built in concrete, the Kurhaus, assembled in pre-cast concrete parts and the former cast-iron spring house, some of the first spa buildings utilising these materials).



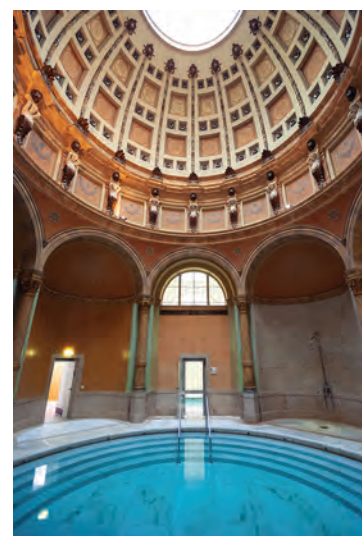
There are other buildings that are seen in other towns, but that are nonetheless an essential part of the spa ensemble. These include churches (commonly multi-denomination due to a preponderance of international guests and a general spirit of tolerance), theatres (sometimes initially incorporated into the kurhaus), pavilions and kiosks in gardens and parks, and observation towers that provide prospects in the surrounding landscape. Spa architecture is different to seaside resort architecture and, since the early nineteenth century, their apparent parallels of architectonic expression reveals spa towns as both origin and influence.

### Buildings connected to 'curative waters': spring outlets and pavilions

Where treatment was primarily through drinking, mineral water is provided from purpose-made fountains. At first, these were in the open air, or within small freestanding pavilions (examples such as in *Spa, Františkovy Lázně, Baden bei Wien, Bad Kissingen* and *Vichy*). In many spa towns drinking was undertaken in purpose-built colonnades (examples such as in *Mariánské Lázně, Karlovy Vary, Františkovy Lázně, Montecatini Terme* and *Vichy*).

### Buildings connected to 'curative waters': baths

The first use of water generally involved bathing, especially at spas with thermal springs. However, at *Spa*, crenotherapy (drinking chalybeate water) was the preferred treatment from earliest times. Where bathing was offered, at first this was undertaken in communal baths (examples at *Bad Ems, Baden bei Wien, City of Bath* and *Karlovy Vary*). The concentration of baths in large bath house ensembles was followed by the introduction of individual treatment rooms with personal tubs. These required changes to the design of treatment buildings and in some spa towns these buildings are large palatial ensembles (examples in *Baden-Baden, Bad Kissingen, Mariánské Lázně* and *Karlovy Vary*). The most important thermal bath of the nineteenth century was the Friedrichsbad (*Baden-Baden*).



Friedrichsbad,  
*Baden-Baden*

### Buildings connected to 'curative waters': pump rooms and drinking halls ('trinkhalle')

Later, drinking facilities were provided for increasing numbers of spa guests within large purpose-built halls. In *Bad Ems*, a large hall, the Brunnenhalle, contains several springs and is incorporated within the present Kurhaus. Three pump rooms relate to each of *Bath's* three springs and were places for drinking water. The spa ensemble in *Baden-Baden* is located away from the sources, and drinking water is piped using the natural pressure head into the purpose-built Trinkhalle.



The Wandelhalle,  
*Bad Kissingen*

Some component parts include very large drinking halls (examples at *Mariánské Lázně*, *Vichy* and *Montecatini Terme*) and these also offer a choice of different waters. The pump room in *Bad Kissingen* (1910–12 over the Rakoczy and Pandur springs) is directly connected to the Wandelhalle which is capable of administering to a large number of curists at a time.

### Buildings as part of ‘taking the cure’, and for leisure and pleasure: parades, colonnades and galleries

Drinking large quantities of water was a cure recommended by doctors in all the spa towns. For this treatment to be effective, time and associated gentle exercise came to be part of the cure, and an essential part of the daily routine for spa guests. Grand colonnades were built, some that incorporate spring fountains from which curists could drink water as well as promenade (for example the stone-built Mlýnská Colonnade in *Karlovy Vary* and the Colonnaded Temple at the Cross spring at *Mariánské Lázně*). Representative examples of stone-built colonnades also include the Trinkhalle at *Baden-Baden* and the



The Mlýnská (Mill) Colonnade. *Karlovy Vary*

Tettuccio Thermal Baths in *Montecatini Terme* – an ensemble that presents a triumphant essay of interconnected colonnades and fountains. Later in the nineteenth century colonnades were built with cast iron and glass (exemplars include those at *Spa*, *Mariánské Lázně*, *Karlovy Vary* and *Vichy*). Some other colonnades and galleries are basically covered promenades that provide shelter from inclement weather and protected the fine clothes of the many who paraded to also be seen by others (for example at *Vichy*, and the Wandelhalle of *Bad Kissingen* where the basilica floor plan with three naves has underfloor heating installed for the comfort of guests in inclement weather. This was complemented by a rotating orchestra shell as an apse). Sometimes colonnades include shops (in *Bath* terraces of shops survive along Bath Street and the early parades, whilst stalls and small shops along promenades may also be seen in *Mariánské Lázně* and *Bad Kissingen*). At *Baden-Baden*, a bazaar of small shops may be seen associated with the first promenade close to the Conversationhaus. There is also an example, at *Bad Ems*, of a colonnade built for promenading. Short colonnades that provided shelter for promenading spa guests in wet weather may be seen for example in the wooden Tržiště Colonnade in *Karlovy Vary*. In the *City of Bath* former ‘parades’ take the form of wide pavements in front of terraces and crescents.

### Social facilities and buildings for leisure and pleasure: conversation, assembly and reading rooms

All component parts contain substantial buildings and designed spaces for entertainment and recreation. After baths, drinking halls and treatment rooms, the next most significant building in the spa towns was the principal function room which hosted assemblies and balls.



As well as drinking as a communal activity, eating together was a shared experience. The two early assembly rooms in the *City of Bath* provided communal breakfasts as part of the beginning of the routine of the day. Socialising was all-important, and early facilities for mixing and socialising in conversation and assembly rooms may also be found in *Spa*, *Baden bei Wien* and *Bad Kissingen*.



Assembly Rooms Ball Room,  
built by John Wood the Younger,  
1771. *City of Bath*

## Places for therapeutic exercise, leisure and pleasure in an urban context: parks and gardens

Exercise as part of 'taking the cure' commonly took the form of strolling along wide gravelled paths in landscape gardens and 'kurgartens', such as in *Baden bei Wien*, one of Austria's most beautiful gardens, or in *Bad Kissingen* where the kurgarten has preserved its original measurements. Such public gardens within or next to the spa quarter are a prototype in the history of the garden and its function. In contrast to palace or private gardens, where design was according to the patron's individual taste, spa gardens were designed to be used by others, in large numbers, and for a specific purpose or function. Such strolling was often accompanied by a band playing in the background. Music was an essential contribution to the cure, and in close proximity to the promenades are bandstands or similar pavilions from which bands played music throughout the day to visitors (examples may be seen in *Baden-Baden*, *Baden bei Wien*, *Bad Kissingen* and *Karlovy Vary*). In these gardens, in addition to entertainment, refreshments were also provided as seen today in restaurants and kiosks.

In many of the spa towns, extensive landscaped gardens may be seen laid out as 'English Gardens' - with meandering paths, secluded bowers, seats, small pavilions and occasional kiosks providing refreshments. These informal landscape settings contrast with public promenades and earlier formal garden designs (examples include those in *Baden bei Wien*, *Vichy* and *Františkovy Lázně*). Many of the outlying mineral springs at *Spa* are surrounded by modest and intimate pleasure gardens on what had been hitherto high and exposed moorland. An exemplar of pleasure grounds and ornamental gardens set out along a valley may be in *Mariánské Lázně*, where the town surrounds an extensive central park and open space. The two spring ensembles here are connected by a road lined with two rows of linden trees on both sides, these avenues being the town's main promenades.



Central Park, view on the  
Swan Lake.  
*Mariánské Lázně*

In *Baden-Baden*, the impressive Lichtentaler Allée is an extensive promenade that reaches eastwards from the Conversationhaus and Trinkhalle ensemble to follow the course of the River Oos (the surrounding grounds survive as a municipal park south east of the Trinkhalle and spa ensemble, whilst to their west an extensive park survives on the slopes of Michaelsberg). The Allée leads to the Monastery 'Lichtenthal Abbey', a Cistercian Abbey which has been one of the most famous and attractive destinations in the

nineteenth century. In the *City of Bath*, Sydney Gardens survived as a Vauxhall or pleasure garden and is now a civic park. In *Spa*, several promenades may be seen alongside parks and gardens where parading was encouraged at particular places and at chosen times of the day - so that the names of the parades took on their appointed hour such as in La Promenade de Sept Heures and La Promenade de Quatre Heures (now private property including houses). In this resort, other walks in the town are the promenades Grüne, des Montagnes Russes, Annette et Lubin and Reickem. These are older walks in the north of the city and directly link with the centre of the town. Above the town is the Promenade d'Orléans, Promenade des Artistes and the Promenade de Meyerbeer situated in the south of the city on the more gentler slope. They are part of a network of walks outside the town that link spring fountains scattered on woodland slopes. Parks are also an essential feature of the spa quarter of *Montecatini Terme* with the spa buildings standing in a parkland setting.



Promenade Meyerbeer. *Spa*

### 'Diversions': casinos and gambling, theatre, opera and concert halls, music pavilions

General socialising was complemented by 'diversions' such as casinos. Gaming was endemic throughout Europe, and the development of casinos (and sometimes their prohibition) played an essential role in spa life. They were (and are) crucial to the economic viability of the spas, and particular component parts host some of the earliest examples in the world (for example *Spa*, *Baden-Baden* with its casino being the oldest established in Germany, *Bad Ems* and *Vichy*). Elaborate theatres, opera houses, concert and dance halls may also be seen in all component parts.



The ornate casino.  
*Baden-Baden*

### Accommodation: hotels, lodging houses and villas

Hotels, lodging houses and villas form discrete zones within both the urban spa quarter (in most component parts) and in the more distant therapeutic landscape (for example in *Spa* and *Karlovy Vary*).

Some hotels are monumental in scale and architecture (for example in *Karlovy Vary*), whilst numerous villas in most component parts display a wide range of international architectural styles. Their ubiquitous high quality, diversity of architectural style, sheer numbers, and high rate of authentic preservation, is a distinctive attribute of *The Great Spas of Europe*.



The Imperial Hotel. *Karlovy Vary*



From early times to the end of the eighteenth century, accommodation for visitors was found generally in inns and lodgings (examples such as in the *City of Bath* and *Spa*). In some of the component parts, a few very old hotel buildings survive (for example the 'Four Towers' in *Bad Ems*, now no longer an hotel, the Royal York Hotel in the *City of Bath*, the first purpose built hotel constructed outside London, and the former Capuchin monastery converted into the Badischer Hof hotel in *Baden-Baden*, an early example of a hotel designed for longer stays). Hotels of a palatial scale are found in all component parts (especially *Karlovy Vary*, *Baden-Baden*, *Bad Kissingen* and *Baden bei Wien*). The guide for *Vichy* of 1900 lists some 122 hotels (including substantial hotels such as the Ambassadeurs Hotel), and these provide many examples of international variety (names of hotels and guests). Many of these, whilst retaining their outward façades and form, have now been converted internally into apartments.

Villa Biedermann.  
Baden bei Wien

From the end of the eighteenth century, middle class Viennese enjoyed staying in the countryside outside of Vienna during the summer, especially in *Baden Bei Wien* – the sommerfrische. Many palatial villas survive today. All component parts of *The Great Spas of Europe* include a ring of early nineteenth century villas spread around the earlier core (exemplars in *Karlovy Vary*, *Spa* and *Baden bei Wien*). In *Spa*, the fire of 1807 destroyed many buildings and was an opportunity to rethink the planning of the town centre. Many fine villas were subsequently built in the surrounding countryside during *Spa's* second 'golden age'. Spa villas are associated with, in Italy - villeggiatura - taking holidays, and in France - villégiature - the habit of going to a spa.



By the middle of the nineteenth century, many visitors opted for long stays in the spa or indefinitely in villas that surround the spa towns. Such villas took on a special significance by providing fashionable accommodation for middle class visitors and the elite who required some privacy or solitude for the duration of their stay. Similar substantial villas were formerly summer residences for elite visitors (for example in *Baden-Baden*), whilst in *Montecatini Terme*, villas that are associated with a major regeneration scheme for the town once housed spa doctors and professionals working in the spa industry. In other spa towns, doctors provided lodgings in their villas for their patients (for example in *Bad Kissingen*).

### Religious buildings and facilities

Former monasteries owned some of the springs in *The Great Spas of Europe* (for example in the *City of Bath*, *Baden bei Wien*, *Mariánské Lázně* and *Vichy*). In many places the early Church adopted a healing mission and this used spa water. In the *City of Bath*, eighteenth century visitors and patients started and ended their day with prayers in the Abbey. In *Spa* a mass was included in the routine of the visitor's day. Masses, church services and prayers were held and said in all churches and synagogues for both spa visitors and the resident population. The Christian Church and its buildings held a central place in spa towns in the mind of visitors. The close physical association of church buildings to springs and baths is demonstrated in the *City of Bath*, *Baden-Baden*, *Baden bei Wien*, and *Karlovy Vary*. In the *City of Bath*, the Abbey of Saints Peter and Paul occupies a central position adjacent to the King's Spring and occupies a site of a Roman temple, a Norman Cathedral and Benedictine monastery. The two

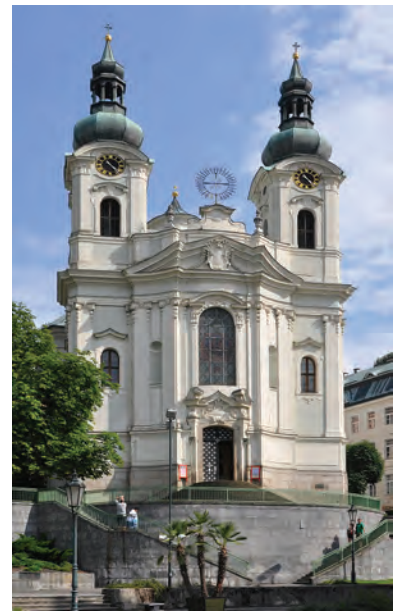
other hot springs had smaller churches associated with them. In *Baden-Baden* the mineral springs issue from high ground of the old town where the Catholic Collegiate named ‘Liebfrauen’ is located. The former Jesuit Monastery close to the Collegiate church became the conversation house/Kurhaus until 1825 and afterwards the Town Hall. The former Augustan monastery is the site of the present Josefsbad in *Baden bei Wien*. The massive Baroque church of St Mary Magdalene stands high above the Vřídlo Hotspring in *Karlovy Vary*, matching the once fortified castle opposite and on the left bank of the River Teplá.

New churches (found in all component parts, and dating from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries) accommodated the spiritual needs of an increasing number of visitors from other countries that were attracted to spa towns. These demonstrate an unusual range of different denominations and faiths for towns of that period, and often concerning the respective country. An early example may be the chapel Maria Königin in *Bad Ems* (1661) for Catholic guests in the otherwise Protestant spa (other such new churches include examples in *Baden bei Wien*, *Bad Kissingen* and *Vichy*). Most of the spa towns illustrate a sequence of church building during the nineteenth century, the sequence being an indicator of the growth of the town and the rise in importance given to foreign visitors; together with the respective predominant origins of international guests: in the Czech spas and all German spas, Russian churches were introduced and these have become a notable landmark because of their markedly different architectural style. These Russian Churches retained the Byzantine style of building and this contrasted with the generally neo-classical architecture in the rest of the town (exemplars at *Karlovy Vary*, *Františkovy Lázně*, *Bad Ems* and *Baden-Baden*). The Evangelical church in *Mariánské Lázně* served a protestant congregation, whilst the English Church of St Lucas was built with funds donated by one of the spa’s regular guests British King Edward VII (similar English churches may be seen in *Baden-Baden*, *Františkovy Lázně*, *Karlovy Vary* and *Spa*).

Early churches that were built close to the springs remain significant landmarks that indicate the centre of the town (examples are the *City of Bath*, *Bad Ems*, *Františkovy Lázně*, *Bad Kissingen* and *Montecatini Terme*). New churches introduced during the nineteenth century as part of an urban composition that created new landmarks to complement buildings of the old towns may be seen in *Bad Ems*, *Františkovy Lázně* and *Montecatini Terme*. In *Bad Ems*, the Catholic Church of St Martin was introduced as part of a considered urban composition closing the west end of the promenades and spa gardens. In *Františkovy Lázně* the Catholic Church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross closes the view to north end of the Jiráskova Street and provides a landmark to the town centre for visitors walking from the north towards the springs. In *Baden-Baden’s* new nineteenth century spa quarter the neo-gothic Protestant church is a significant landmark with its two tall spires.

## 2.a.2.4 The green environment of the ‘therapeutic and recreational spa landscape’

A distinctive attribute of *The Great Spas of Europe* is that the urban space connects physically and visually, via parks and gardens, to a picturesque setting of idealised nature. The characteristics of such a landscape generally include magnificent scenery, hills or mountains, attractive views, water and trees. These make contributions to a ‘sense of place’ and this includes feelings of warmth, identity, rootedness, and authenticity. At the same time, complex cultural values are associated with landscape around spa towns including the role of the landscape as a contribution to the ‘cure’.

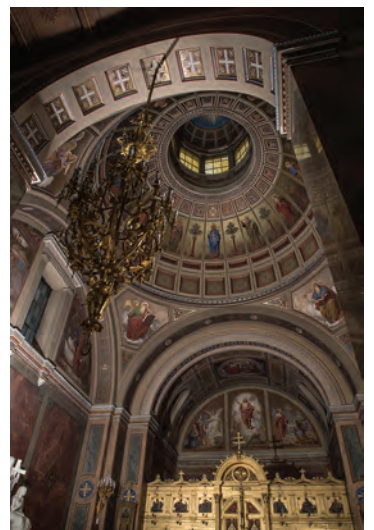


Decanal Church of St. Mary Magdalene. Karlovy Vary



The Russian Church. Bad Ems

Romanian Orthodox Church. Baden-Baden





In many component parts, avenues and promenades lead from the springs to peripheral gardens and kurparks, and then onwards via pathways into the surrounding countryside. In *Baden bei Wien* paths represent varying degrees of severity and were historically way-marked to indicate which was appropriate for the condition of patients. Woodland trails remain as popular today as they ever were (for example in *Spa* where the oldest of the routes, created in 1749, is the Tour des Fontaines where historic paths connect several of important springs in the gently sloping forests that are set away from the main spa quarter). More strenuous steeply wooded trails ascend high hills (for example at *Montecatini Terme*) and rocky hillsides and cliffs (for example in *Bad Ems*) – where, for some less energetic (or perhaps just beginning the cure), a donkey, or funicular railway (also in *Baden-Baden* and *Montecatini Terme*), might have been chosen to join others at hilltop scenic overlooks and restaurants. *Karlovy Vary* has some 130km of historic therapeutic trails, whilst a similar network was cut through the forests around *Mariánské Lázně* (where four of these routes survive and are way-marked and promoted). Walking networks of formal park-like pathways are a distinctive feature of *The Great Spas of Europe*, too. In *Františkovy Lázně*, for example, a triple belt of parks and an inner and outer therapeutic spa landscape host many kilometres of such walks on relatively level ground. In *Baden-Baden* the River Oos is central to the linear English-style landscape garden of the Lichtentaler Allée, with its long and relatively straight pathways suitable for promenading. Destinations also include Altes Schloss and Ebersteinburg.



*Montecatini Terme*  
funicular railway on  
the slopes of  
Montecatini Alto.

Such walks offer a range of opportunities for exercise. *The Great Spas of Europe* contains a number of rivers, and they provide the distinctive character of a strong natural element in an urban setting. They also provide both opportunities and constraints. Complementing spa gardens (for example *Baden-Baden*, *Baden bei Wien*, *Bad Kissingen* and others), gentle but long riverside walks are very much part of spa life (for example in *Vichy*, *Baden-Baden*, *Bad Ems* and *Karlovy Vary*; in the latter, the River Teplá - Czech for 'warm' - is heated by numerous thermal springs and, therefore, does not freeze even in the harshest of winters. Some rivers, for example the Lahn (a tributary of the Rhine) in *Bad Ems*, were once highways for spa guests, long before the arrival of the railways. They remain popular with cruises and, as in many spa towns, the river was very much part of spa life. In *Bad Ems*, an ornate pedestrian 'spa-bridge' spans the River Lahn to connect the old spa quarter with a new spring harnessed in the mid-nineteenth century. The river both constrained and influenced the placement of many spa buildings in the narrow valley. It is an omnipresent picturesque feature – present in views within the town and a dominant one from the many prospects on the flanking high hills. The river, like others in the series, has been partially reclaimed (including several springs that once emerged within the river bed) and partially 'canalised' by the creation of its masonry 'banks' as it passes through the town. Other rivers in the series have also been heavily modified for the purposes of enhancing the 'natural' spa environment. In *Vichy*, the River Allier (a tributary of the Loire) was dammed at its lower end as it passes through the spa town to create 'Lake Allier'. This 200m-wide expanse of water contains the spa quarter from the west, and daily pedestrian spa life, but provided a new dimension for water sports. Two widely spaced road bridges span the river, and the green landscape on the left bank (important setting in the buffer zone) is devoted to destination sporting facilities such as the golf course and hippodrome. In *Spa*, the river has been covered (historic hygienic reasons) for its entire length through the spa town.



The ornate pedestrian 'spa-bridge'  
crossing the River Lahn. *Bad Ems*

Sports facilities, such as golf, tennis, horse racing and others, are also characteristic of wider spa provisions. A number of courses and courts remain in use and are historically distinguished as some of the first to appear in their respective countries. *Baden-Baden* is an exemplar, its racecourse founded in 1858 (and which celebrates its 160<sup>th</sup> year in 2018), and facilities in the *Lichtentaler Allée* such as the tennis club founded in 1877 (and that held the *Baden-Baden* International tournament from 1896 to 1966) and the golf club founded in 1901 by an English vicar (golf being earlier played informally in the *Allée*).

Besides the healing aspect and meeting other spa guest, tourists went out to the surroundings to visit monuments, ruins and natural phenomena such as the caves in *Bad Ems* and small waterfalls and designed water leisure features such as the *Kaskadental* in *Bad Kissingen*. Views to, and from, the picturesque natural, and cultural, landscape were key in the original designs of the spa town as a historic urban landscape. They remain so today.

## 2.a.2.5 Spa infrastructure

A range of infrastructure survives in all component parts, but only that which is particularly distinctive and relevant to the spa ensemble is described.

In some of the component parts early spa hospital buildings survive. In the *City of Bath* are a number of important examples: Hospital of St John the Baptist, Catherine's Hospital, Bellots Hospital and the Leper Hospital survive from the twelfth, fifteenth and seventeenth centuries (but now in new uses); the Mineral Water Hospital, a product of enlightened thinking from 1739 and one of the first of its kind as a 'National Hospital'. This hospital is of world importance because of its role pioneering the discipline of diagnostic medicine.

*Vichy* was one of the first French spa towns to introduce special baths for the poor.

The spa historic urban landscape also includes infrastructure common to many spas, such as funiculars (for example at *Bad Ems*, *Karlovy Vary* and *Montecatini Terme*) that accessed lookout towers, restaurants and specific features of interest that include monuments, castle ruins etc. Steamboat shipping on the Rhine was popular before the introduction of railways that, from the 1840s, opened new markets and attracted more and different visitors (it was also a catalyst for intensive tourism). Railways were extended to all component parts, an action mostly by private initiative. Those spas located near a main route (for example *City of Bath*, *Baden bei Wien* and *Baden-Baden*) gained early connections (in the 1840s, for example the branch line from *Baden-Oos* to the city centre from 1845), whilst *Karlovy Vary*, *Mariánské Lázně* and *Bad Kissingen* were connected much later (in the 1870s). These railways were the main transport means for spa guests for a century or more, and direct trains crossed national borders (for example *Baden-Baden* with Paris, since 1869, and *Karlovy Vary* with Vienna, Oostende, Cologne and Paris. From 1914 there were direct train connections from *Bad Kissingen* to Paris, Strasbourg and Vienna. These railways remain in use. Several spa railway stations – the most prominent element of the railway – are included, and they are commonly a starting point for an urban ensemble (for example *Bad Ems*, with its own distinct railway



Former Leper Hospital.  
*City of Bath*



quarter of hotels and villas, and its square pointing towards the spa quarter with which it is connected by road). The station building itself was a portal and first impression of the spa town for many arrivals, and therefore high standards of architecture were usually demanded.

*Bad Kissingen* makes an exceptional contribution through a range of spa infrastructure. This includes:

Two former salt production sites of the Untere and Obere Saline (lower and upper saltworks). The buildings ensemble of the Untere Saline preserves the nucleus of the large-scale industrialised salt production in *Bad Kissingen*. The architecture is of the late-Baroque period and, with the exception of only a few buildings most of them date to the time of Prince Bishop Franz Ludwig von Erthal (1779-95).

The Obere Saline was erected as a second salt production site from 1764. Its developer and owner was Prince Bishop Adam Friedrich von Seinsheim (1755-79), and he equipped his own spa quarters in the administrative buildings of the saltworks in 1772. After completion of salt production in the nineteenth century, Obere Saline was transformed into a spa accommodation and lost its character as a salt production site. It now hosts the municipal museum (Upper Saltworks) together with the Bismark Museum.

An exceptional brine pumping infrastructure survives together with its original equipment. In 1993-94 the graduation tower was partially rebuilt in its traditional appearance and structure.

Krugmagazin (1838), a former bottled mineral water warehouse.

The Abattoir (1925) built as a high hall, similar to a basilica, the high roof concealing the chimney and thus its industrial appearance within the spa landscape. This guaranteed the adequate supply of meat for citizens and spa guests, and a gallery inside was available for visitors who wished to observe the hygienic production. Adjacent is the Lindesmühle (Lindes Mill) erected in the form of a castle to disguise an industrial building in the vicinity of the spa park.

The steamboat line (established in 1877), with landing places to create a better connection between the spa district in the north and the old town. The river here has been canalised, whilst in the landscape garden of the spa quarter the river follows its natural line.

Salt reservoir at Untere Saline. *Bad Kissingen*



The former Abattoir. *Bad Kissingen*



## 2.a.2.6 Internationalism, scientific, artistic and literary values, events and cultural tradition

*The Great Spas of Europe* can be viewed as 'culture-creating' resorts: in terms of science (medicine, geology and hydrology); high-art (music, literature and painting); and a cultural tradition that lays at the foundation of modern tourism.

At their scientific core, spa doctors, physicians and balneologists brought forward advances in medicine, medical diagnostics and analytical chemistry of world significance. They devolved to being different, and substantial evidence of their houses and places of work survive. The springs, and their geological and hydrological characteristics, also became the subject of seminal works, too (for example in the *City of Bath, Spa* and *Montecatini Terme*).

*The Great Spas of Europe* attracted an unusual and exceptional concentration of leading artists, composers and musicians, writers and poets who found inspiration and a congenial place in which to work and perform. If Vienna was home to Mozart, Beethoven and Strauss, *The Great Spas of Europe* was their workplace. Today, numerous buildings bear plaques dedicated to many of Europe's cultural elite who made the spas their preferred workplace and regular home for the season (usually extending to several months each year). Squares, promenades, parks and scenic overlooks host many figurative sculptures and memorials; where even heads of state are portrayed in unprecedented casual attire.

"Taking the cure" became predominantly the regimen and behavioural etiquette of the middle-class adult, rarely of children, often in less than robust health. They also featured state charity and fashionable philanthropy that admitted the poor. These were also places for walking, gathering and socialising (they remain so) and included gathering spaces (promenades and open spaces, such as in *Františkovy Lázně*), riversides (for example in *Vichy, Bad Ems* and the *City of Bath*) or enchanting hills (for example in *Spa* and *Bad Ems*) with medieval walls and old castles (such as *Baden bei Wien* and *Baden-Baden*) retained as picturesque ruins to entice the traveller with interest in antiquity and a sense of place. Such popular, fashionable, ambitious, trend-setting and high-capacity resorts, with high standards of hospitality, became important centres for diplomatic activity that helped to shape modern Europe. Hotels and palatial villas, the conference centres of their time, are testimony to such historic events that changed the world. Not that this kind of activity did not occur in most capital cities, of course, but it is the unique combination of attributes that highlights the group, or network, of spas as being special.

## Internationalism

Internationalism was omnipresent in these "Cafés", "Salons" and "Summer Capitals" of Europe, differentiated as somewhat neutral places, a network of cultural coexistence that avoided the vagaries of politics and which was characterised by an ease with which ideas and resort actors flowed across geographic boundaries. Resort actors shared a very early circulation of ideas, habits, medical innovations and architectural models - from spa doctors, architects, urban planners, resort and casino managers to visitors ("curists" and tourists) who most often travelled to a number of notorious Great Spas, becoming "vectors of a transnational culture". International marketing listed fashionable pastimes and practices that defined themselves in relation to an intersecting international cultural system of European values associated with the Enlightenment. Gaming was a most important activity, and a lucrative resort that sustained the development of some spas economically.

Zander Hall, Lázně I  
(Imperial Spa). *Karlovy Vary*





Internationalism is displayed in various ways, from the flamboyant to more subtle and humble guises: Magnificent and luxurious architecture, where all the international trends of architecture find in spa towns a place to blossom, for example Lázně I (1893–95) in *Karlovy Vary* by Viennese architects Fellner and Helmer (perhaps the most significant thermal bath of the nineteenth century), Tettuccio Thermal Baths (1781/1928) that bear a classic example of Liberty style in *Montecatini Terme*, Spa Colonnade (1888–89) by Miksch and Niedzielski in *Mariánské Lázně* (colonnades and pavilions become emblematic in central Europe), the innovative Wandelhalle (1910–12) by Littmann in *Bad Kissingen*, Waux-Hall (1770) in *Spa*, Palais des Sources (1898–1902) in *Vichy*, Kurhaus with Casino (1821–24) by Weinbrenner in *Baden-Baden* (German spa casinos acting as exemplars for others to follow, including Monte Carlo in 1862), Casino (1863–65) by Badger in *Vichy* and Royal Crescent (1767–75) in the *City of Bath* by Wood the Younger (the triumph of Palladian architecture in England); Buildings that belonged (and some that still belong) to international communities, from the Russian Orthodox churches of *Karlovy Vary* (1893–97) and *Bad Ems* (1876) to the Protestant temple (1876) in *Spa*, and from the many international hotels and villas (that catered to international visitors and residents, including foreign royalty and emperors, composers and poets) to the international clubs in *Spa*, *Vichy*, *Baden-Baden* and *Karlovy Vary*; Parks and facilities such as Skalník's or Central Park (1817–20s) in *Mariánské Lázně* with English garden designs and later (around 1900) those by a Swedish landscape architect where international sports were introduced or where international tournaments became part of the spa calendar, such as golf in the “American Park” in *Karlovy Vary*, tennis in the Lichtentaler Allee of *Baden-Baden*, horse shows, tennis and golf in the Saale meadows of *Bad Kissingen*. Horse racing was characteristic in the setting of many spas.

The elegant spa ensemble, *Vichy*, with radiating aisles from the Thermal Baths to the Casino

In the *Spa* region even car racing (from the 1920s), with the fastest road circuit in Europe at the time (6km to the southeast of *Spa*, today's Spa Francorchamps venue for Formula One), monuments that collectively reflect specific international aspects of life in each component part; The spas network contributed to the extension of a dense international network of railways, with special lines and transnational connections. What is further evident, in the archives, is the internationality of guests proven by detailed spa registers such as the many nationalities that frequented *Baden-Baden* (where in 1860 half the spa guests came from France, Russia, the Netherlands and the UK), or the Bohemian Spa Triangle that was predominantly tri-national in character (German, Austro-Hungarian and Russian). The spoken language was commonly multi-lingual, essential for the quality of welcome and hospitality to a cosmopolitan clientele, so too the written language in guidebooks, publications and papers. Foreign money was routinely accepted, and post offices were essential.

As resort models *The Great Spas of Europe* contributed substantially to the foundation of modern tourism. From the architect to the garden designer, and from the casino to the music pavilion, spas became important vectors of transnational cultural transfer.

