

TERRA. Revista de Desarrollo Local

e-ISSN: 2386-9968

Número 6 (2020), 148-178

DOI 10.7203/terra.6.16680

IIDL – Instituto Interuniversitario de Desarrollo Local

# **The restoration of the Zambullón tower: opportunity to recover an Asset of Cultural Interest and promote local development**

**José Ramón Sánchez Holgado**

Dr. en Historia e Historia del Arte y Territorio

[j.r.sanchez-holgado@hotmail.com](mailto:j.r.sanchez-holgado@hotmail.com)

<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7017-7341>



Esta obra se distribuye con la licencia Creative Commons  
Reconocimiento-NoComercial-SinObraDerivada 4.0 Internacional

## ARTICLE SECTION

### **The restoration of the Zambullón tower: opportunity to recover an Asset of Cultural Interest and promote local development**

*Abstract:* Territorial heritage constitutes a fundamental resource whose exploitation, with defined objectives and with the appropriate strategies, can provide different possibilities of cultural, natural and tourist promotion, mainly at local and regional level. With the intention of enhancing and assessing Zambullón tower (Motril, Andalucía, Spain), an intense documentary search and field days have been carried out, which have allowed us to know its past and analyze its possibilities of integration in the society of which it is part. Once some general proposals for intervention have been presented and taking into account the conclusions reached, this research study has the conviction that with an adequate restoration, the recovery of a good of unique cultural interest in the Coast of Granada would be achieved, contributing simultaneously to sustainable territorial development.

*Key words:* Geography of Memory; Mapping; Heritage Interpretation; Cultural Landscape.

Recibido: 15 de febrero de 2020

Devuelto para revisión: 15 de abril de 2020

Aceptado: 22 de mayo de 2020

*Citation:*

Sánchez, J. R. (2020). The restoration of the Zambullón tower: opportunity to recover an Asset of Cultural Interest and promote local development. *TERRA. Revista de Desarrollo Local*, (6), 148-178. DOI 10.7203/terra.6.16680

## IDEAS CLAVE / HIGHLIGHTS / IDEES CLAU

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Durante siglos, el uso de torres y atalayas para la custodia del territorio resultó habitual en la cuenca mediterránea.</li><li>2. Este sistema defensivo tuvo una gran incidencia en la costa granadina, con su propio Reglamento promulgado por Carlos III.</li><li>3. Durante el siglo XIX, salvo las fortalezas reutilizadas para los nuevos requerimientos de seguridad, el resto se abandonó.</li><li>4. En la actualidad, la mayoría de las fortalezas de la costa granadina están protegidas por la figura de Bien de Interés Cultural.</li><li>5. Con una intervención adecuada e integración en la oferta patrimonial cultural, contribuirían a la dinamización del territorio.</li></ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. For centuries, the use of towers and watchtowers to guard the territory was commonplace in the Mediterranean basin.</li><li>2. This defensive system had a great impact on the coast of Granada, with its own regulations promulgated by Carlos III.</li><li>3. During the 19th century, except for the fortresses that were reused for the new security requirements, the rest were abandoned.</li><li>4. At present, most of the fortresses on the Granada coast are protected by the figure of Asset of Cultural Interest.</li><li>5. With appropriate intervention and integration in the cultural heritage offer, they would contribute to the dynamization of the territory.</li></ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Durant segles, l'ús de torres i talaies per a la custòdia del territori va resultar habitual en la conca mediterrània.</li><li>2. Aquest sistema defensiu va tindre una gran incidència a la costa granadina, amb el seu propi Reglamento promulgat per Carles III.</li><li>3. Durant el segle XIX, excepte les fortaleses reutilitzades per als nous requeriments de seguretat, la resta es va abandonar.</li><li>4. En l'actualitat, la majoria de les fortaleses de la costa granadina estan protegides per la figura de Bé d'Interés Cultural.</li><li>5. Amb una intervenció adequada i integració en l'oferta patrimonial cultural, contribuirien a la dinamització del territori.</li></ol> |
|--|---|---|

## EXTENDED ABSTRACT<sup>1</sup>

Taking into account the repercussion of the territorial heritage as a main source of local and regional exploitation, the possibility of restoring the Zambullón Tower has been analysed. Keeping in mind its age and its interesting past, it could become an asset of cultural interest of Granada coast. In this way, Zambullón Tower contributes to the sustainable territorial development.

In order to do so, it was essential to know the geographical and historical context in which the Zambullón Tower is located, carrying out an extensive collection and a deep cartographic and documentary analysis that takes place between the 16th and 19th centuries. We would continue with a current valuation of the conservation status, and we would present some general intervention proposals and some conclusions.

In order to achieve an ideal development of this research, it was first of all indispensable to set different research periods that included the measurement and evaluation, both internally and externally, of the possible transformations experienced in the Zambullón Tower and its immediate surroundings, of which it took part as a fundamental element of the defensive system. The documents consulted confirm that its importance extended over centuries, with greater emphasis on the objective of protecting the port of Calahonda.

After an interesting laboratory phase, the data provided from the research periods were compared with the conclusions from the analysis of the planimetry of the time. These were adapted to blueprints in editable formats (AutoCAD). Later, the plans allowed a simulation of the perspective and virtual recreation that could represent this fortress during the period of its maximum effectiveness, coinciding with those years when it could be converted into a tower with a battery for two artillery cannons.

The main results show that from the 16th century the pier and subsequent dock, protected from the East winds, located near the cliffs of Calahonda beach, could become the main point of access and communication by sea of Granada coast. For this reason, the successive people responsible for the design and permanence of the defence system of the Kingdom of Granada gave it a special significance.

Since then, due to its location and task in the custody of this coastal strip and especially in the port of Calahonda, the Zambullón Tower was readjusted to the different defensive needs that during the period of its maximum effectiveness included the incorporation of a battery to the primitive defensive tower, which enabled to include artillery with the disposition of two cannons.

Recent visits made during the preparation of this research study have shown that, unfortunately, this asset of cultural interest has been abandoned to its fate, isolated on the same edge of the cliffs that it guarded for so many years, in a continuous process of advanced deterioration caused by the lack of any use and social recognition.

Owing to this fact, some general intervention proposals have been presented. Firstly, they are directed towards the recovery of this patrimonial element, having in mind another recovery strategies carried out in the same region as well as the important citizen engagement.

Aware of the importance of the promotion provided by the latest information technologies, their presentation and social participation will contribute to increase their

---

<sup>1</sup> Authors' exclusive translation. The full version of the article is available in Spanish.

