

Making the cultural heritage useful and accessible - St Nicolas in Visby goes Cultural

Ulrika Mebus, Gotlands Museum, Sweden



An important part of the world heritage



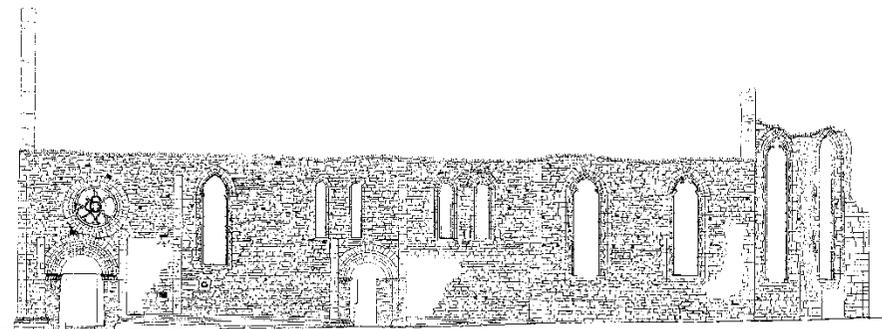


Dominican Order to
Visby ca 1227

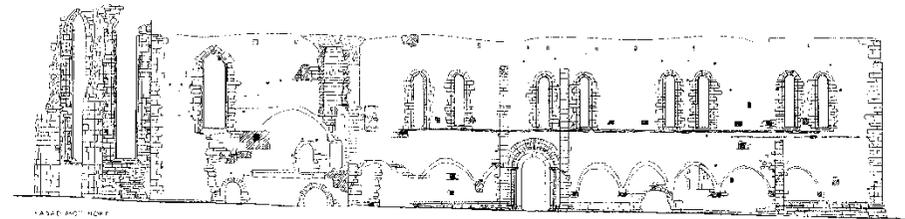
An already existing
church

The hall-church
(pseudo-basilica)
1270

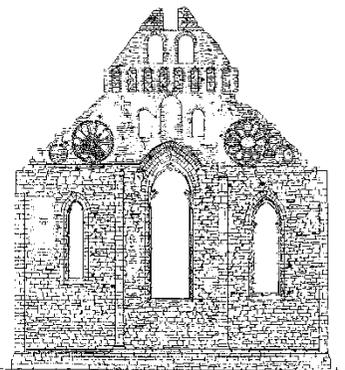
The polygonal choir
1390's



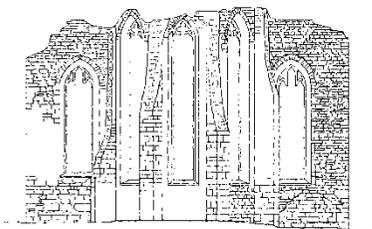
FASAD MOT SÖDER
H:1. Sydfasaden. Skala 1:300 Uppn R. Andersson 1934-35, kimpl. I Söderberg 1974.
S front.



FASAD MOT NÖRST



FASAD MOT VÄSTRA



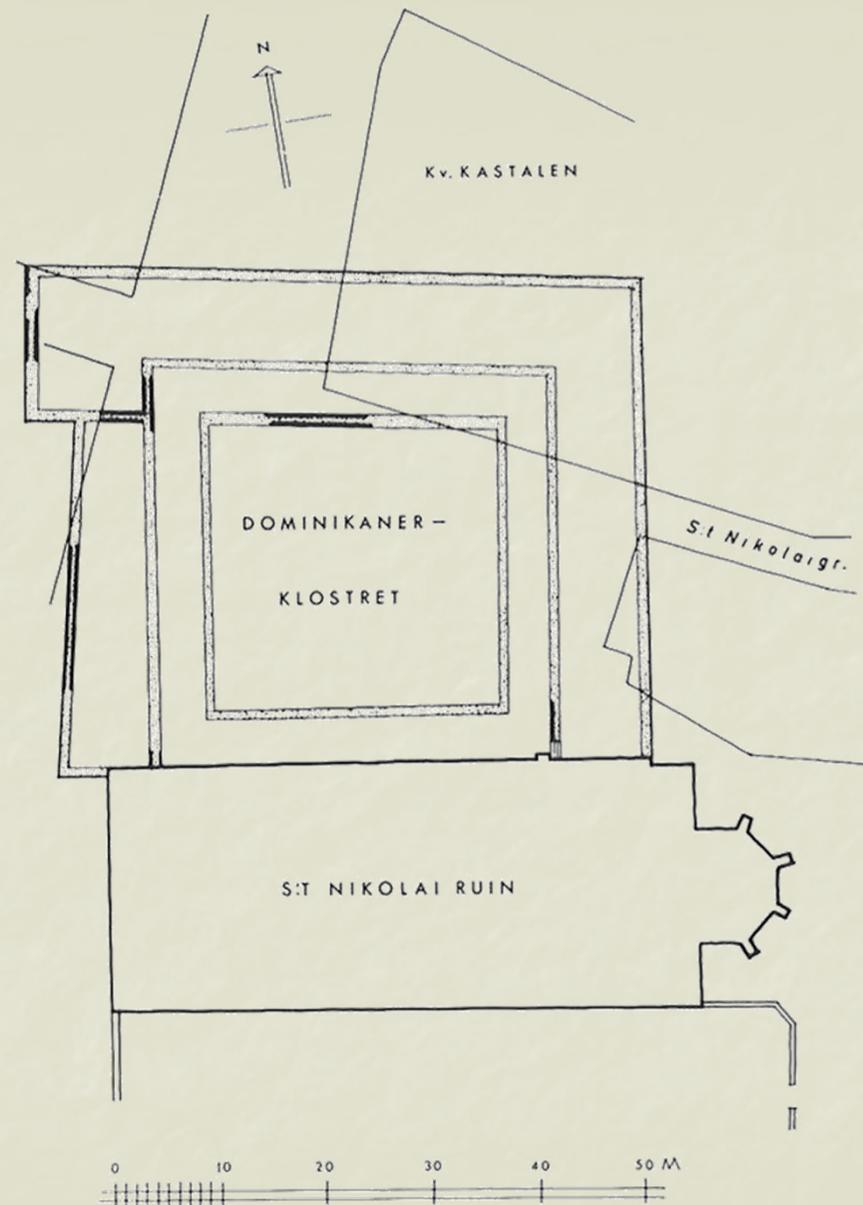
FASAD MOT ÖSTRA

0 5 10 15 20 M.



The Convent at
the northern side
of the church

Hypothetic plan
from 1976
(Bohrn)





The romantic approach:
untouched,
original state
“Let it be”

An illusion -
Because then
they will decay
and fall down





Continuous
maintenance –
minor works
without
changing the
ruin



Conservation – expensive and often rude to the original



New additions – new uses – new possibilities?





A combination, unique
for each monument

A creative process
respecting the cultural
heritage as a part of
our society today and
in the future

“The cultural heritage
of each is the cultural
heritage of all”



Cultural
tourism –
already in
the 18th
century





A sustainable society
with a diversity of
vibrant and
accessible cultural
environments which
are preserved,
used and developed.



1. The object must be the Prima Donna!
 - Evaluating and defining the cultural values, tangible and intangible.



The process

Identification of the values:

- Studies in the archives
- Studies/documentation in situ
- Interviews
- Comparisons
- Discussions, seminars
- Experience



The values

- **Historical values**: art of building, building-techniques, patina, architectural, society, social, persons etc.

- **Aesthetical and experienced values**: architectonical, artistic, environmental, identity, continuity, traditional, symbolic, emotional etc

Add aspects on quality, authenticity, truthfulness, pedagogical value, rareness and typicality.

Priorities -draw a conclusion where the most important values are described and exemplified.



Formulate the antiquarian guidelines for the object

Aspects on:

- Art of conservation/preservation level
- Which time-layer(s) is (are) to have higher priorities
- Materials and methods to be used
- Skills needed by those who are to work with and manage the object
- The use & management of the object
- Protection by law?
- Accessibility
- Environmental impact
- Need for research
- etc



Present the results in an inspiring and accessible way!

The readers/users are most likely non-professionals.
Concise descriptions – avoid superlatives . Relevant level

Awake an interest!



2. A well-defined need, a public request and a clear motivation and goal.
What is to be achieved and why?



3. Cooperation!

- Communication
 - Diplomacy
 - Trust
- Common interest
 - Antiquarians
 - Politicians
 - Authorities
 - Entrepreneurs
 - The public



4. Engaging a good staff!



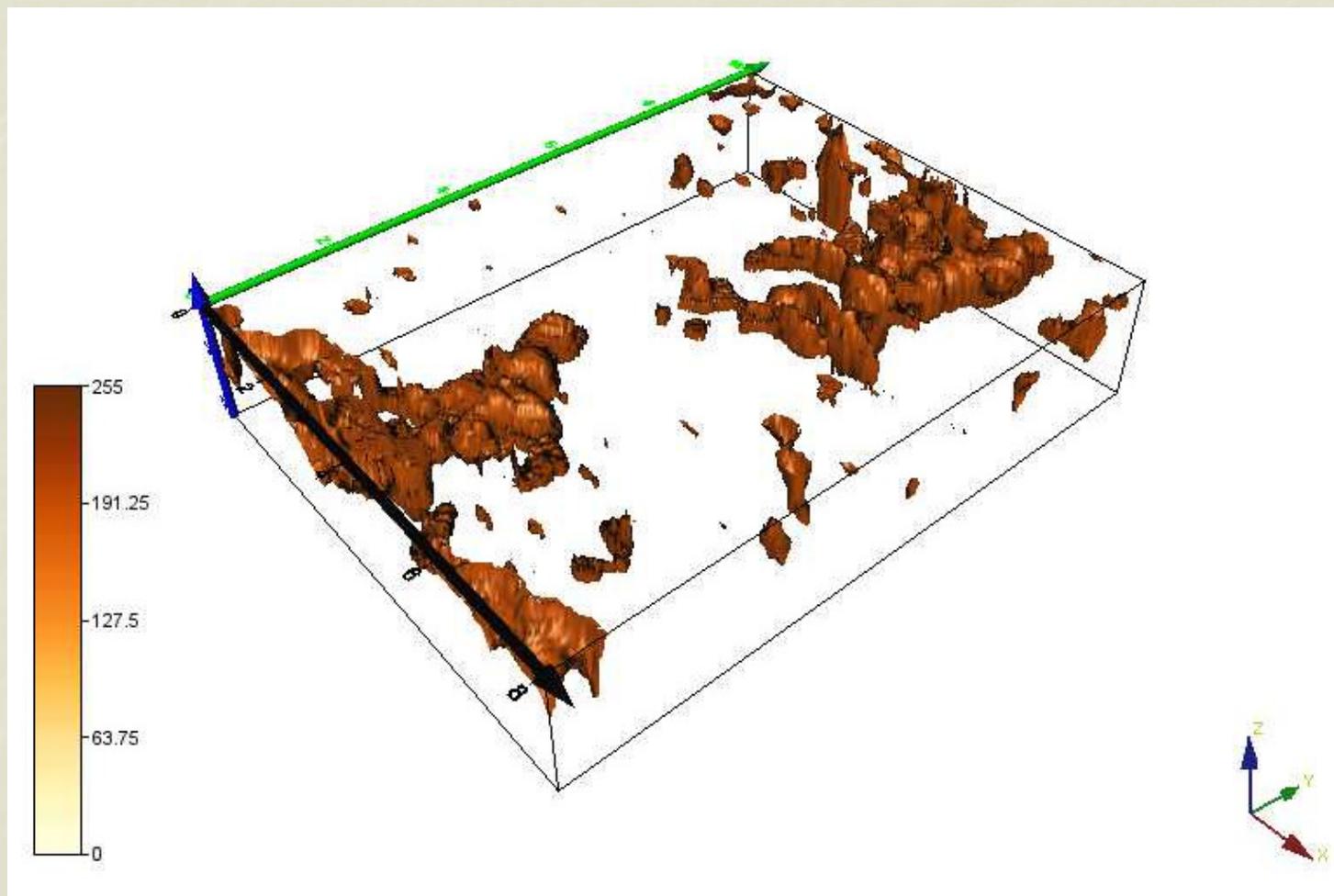
5. Knowledge!

Scientific approach
Making it public

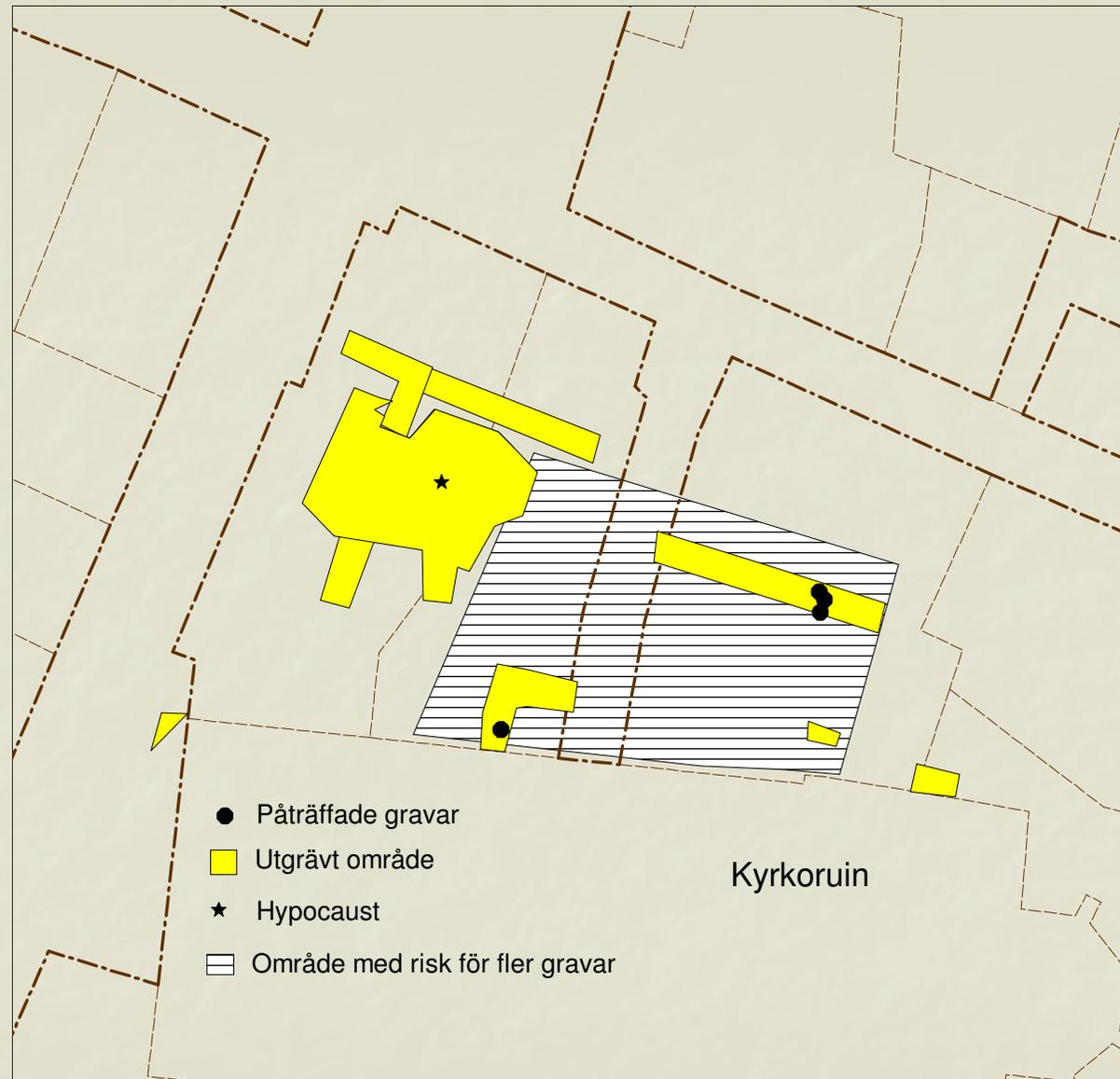
- Archeology
 - Building Archeology
- Historic research
- Static and materials
- Needs



Georadar April 2008



Excavations in 2008



Scientific Project: Increased use of ruins through secured masonry and comfortable climate

Historic Masonry Structures as Load Bearing Structures

- How to make sound assessments based on modern analytical methods in a practical and applicable way?
- How can the complex geometry of historic vaults be described and managed?
- How can the uncertainties regarding material, material composition, load etc. be handled?
- What kind of computational models and software is to be used for computations of historic masonry structures?

The materials of stone monuments

- Methods to define the composition and status of stones and mortars in old masonry and which restoration/conservation methods and materials is to be used in order to secure and preserve them?
- Where new materials must be added, which materials and methods are proper to use in order to prolong the expected lifetime of the ruin
- How must the craftsmanship be performed in order to create durable solutions for restorations of historic masonry?

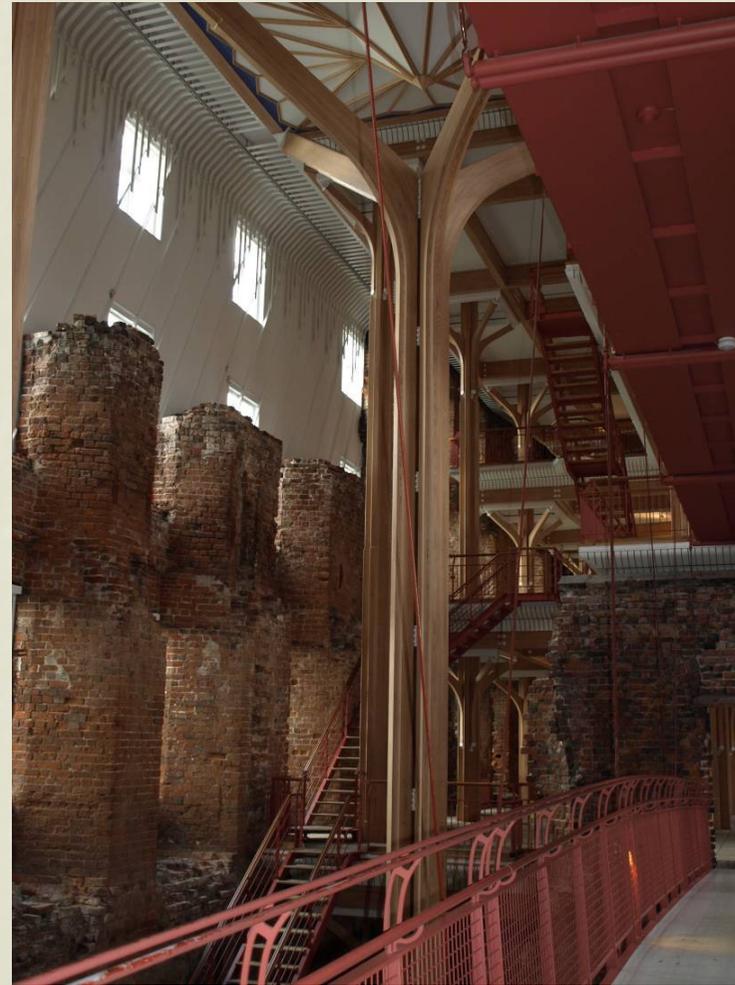
A comfortable climate in a ruin

- What is the preferred/indoor climate (taking into the account the full complexity of this question)
- How can we achieve no 1 with a minimum intervention and energy consumption?





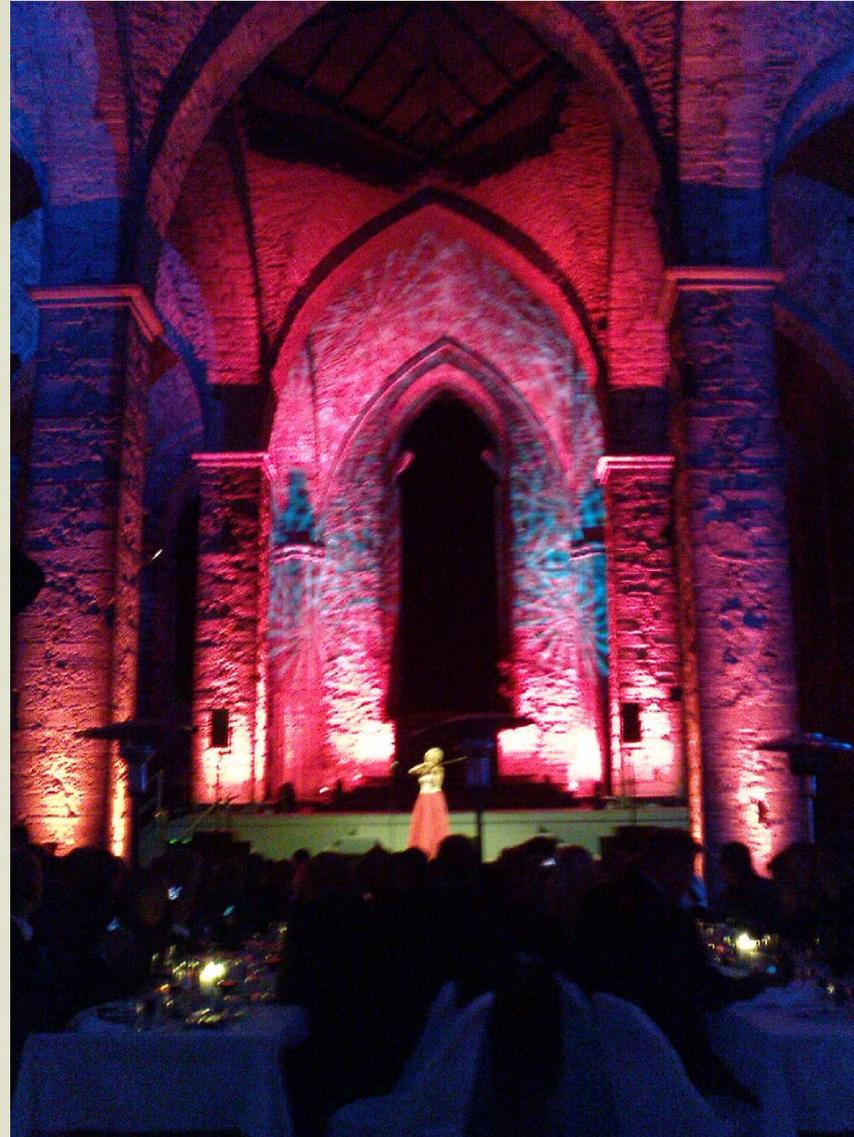
6. Networking, travels, contact



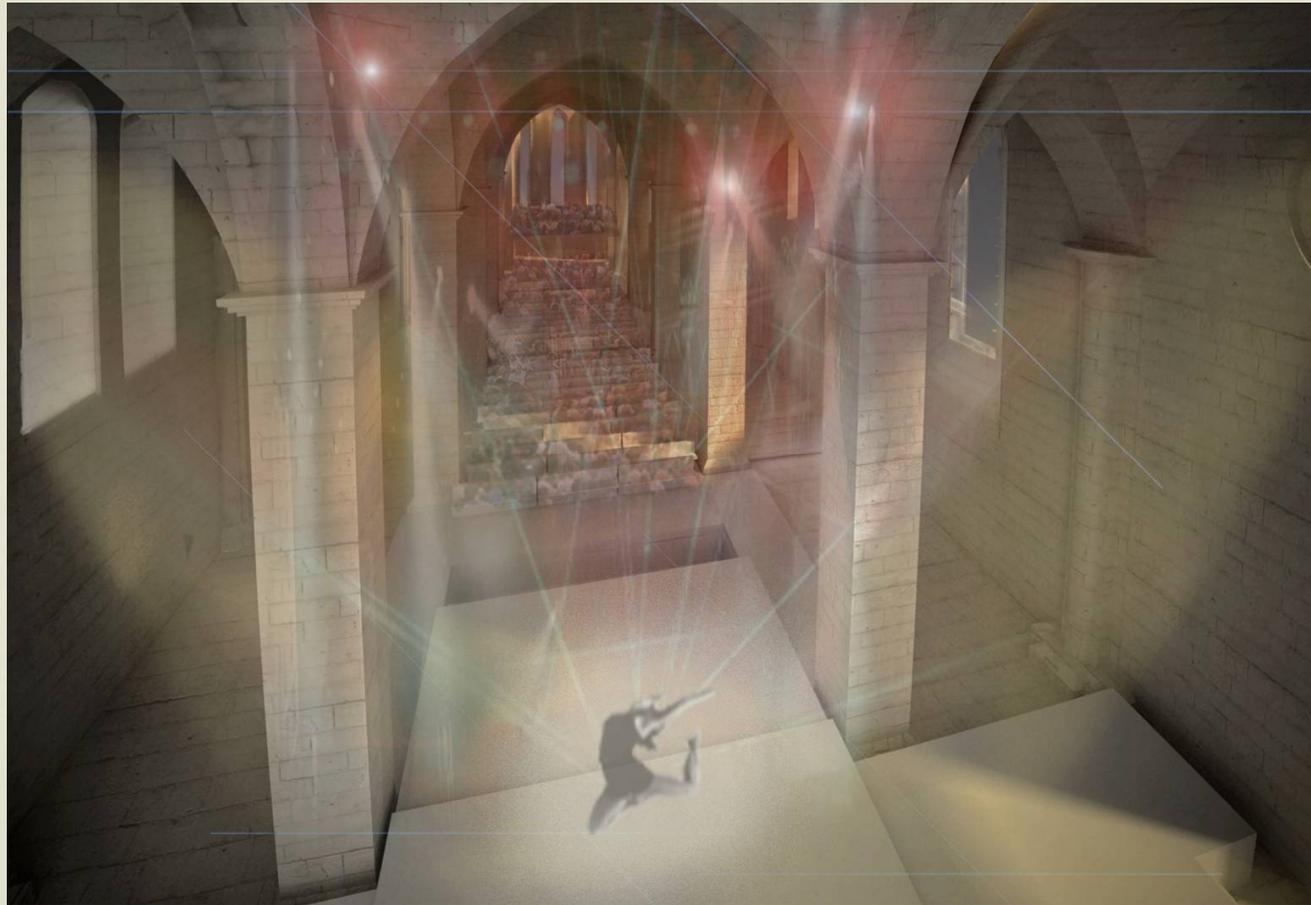
7. Finances

Engaging private
donators/partners,
commerce and
public funding

Be creative!



8. - Building the organization to run the business as a parallel process.
- Long-term thinking



9. Have fun!







Thank you for your attention!

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