Pazo de San Miguel das Penas

Monterroso, Spain
7th, 18th Centuries

World Monuments Watch List: 2004

SIGNIFICANCE & BACKGROUND

Constructed in the hills of northwestern Spain, the Pazo de San Miguel das Penas chronicles 12 centuries of architectural development in Galicia. The oldest portions of the villa date back to the 7th Century, and reflect the early architectural traditions and influences of the Swabians and Visigoths who conquered the region after the collapse of the Roman Empire. Eventually, a church and defensive tower were added to the structure; during the 18th Century, the building was converted into a *pazo*, or manor house, for the Marquisate of Camasara. The *pazo* is thought to be the only remaining 7th Century Swabian civil building in the region. It also contains the most significant Renaissance mural paintings in Galicia and the only known example of scrafitto decoration in the province.

CONDITIONS & THREATS

Many of the walls have been seriously damaged by vandalism or neglect. Missing sections of the roof have allowed water to infiltrate the building, saturating floors and walls, which has led to the loss of fresco and scraffito decoration. Some emergency measures have been carried out in recent years, including the installation of temporary supports to brace floors and what remains of the roof structure. However, a new use for the site has yet to be found, and the interior murals have yet to be studied and conserved.

PROPOSED PROJECT

Some emergency measures have been carried out in recent years, including the installation of temporary supports to brace floors and what remains of the roof structure. However, a new use for the site has yet to be found. The current owner, a private foundation, is hoping to attract support to restore this jewel of Spanish architecture and find a use for the building that also honors its illustrious past.

BUDGET & REQUEST

Project Budget:	$207,183
Request:	$207,183