

Castle Saunderson – The Bridge Project

Vision Paper I - Draft Proposal



Castle Saunderson - The Spiritual Castle Project: Vision Paper I - A Living Foundation of Transformation and Reconciliation

Jana and Ray are the co-creators of a visionary initiative grounded in the spiritual and historical energy of an ancient Irish castle. This sacred place, positioned on the symbolic border between Ireland and the UK and overlooking a river that both divides and unites, is being reimagined as a *living sanctuary* - a bridge between past and future, nations and souls, inner peace and societal transformation.

While this project holds deep meaning for both, **Jana** sees it as a lifelong commitment, rooted in presence and care for the land. For **Ray**, it aligns with his broader mission of creating conscious spaces and founding spiritual schools for personal and social transformation. His background in **human-centered transformation for corporates**, combined with a lifelong path of **mental and spiritual growth**, serves as a core foundation of this vision.

The castle itself holds an undeniable spiritual presence, surrounded by signs of higher guidance. Along the path to the hill, **ancient beech trees**, scarred by history, whisper silent stories. One of them, a **blood beech**, stands in memory of brutal conflicts - most notably the war of 1921, when this land returned to the Republic of Ireland. Hundreds were killed here - drowned or struck down in the river below. The land still remembers. That memory now calls for healing and transformation.

This is the Bridge Project.

A spiritual, historical, and human bridge:

- **A bridge for a new Europe**, not just united economically or politically, but spiritually and culturally.
- **A bridge for forgiveness**, for releasing generational pain and extending one's hand again.
- **A bridge between the physical and metaphysical**, the visible and the unseen.
- **A bridge for individuals** seeking healing, meaning, and inner renewal.

The castle is envisioned as more than a retreat center. It will be a **school and spiritual foundation**, a place for those ready to engage in deep inner work, find clarity, connect with higher consciousness, and contribute to a more conscious world. It will host teachings, silent retreats, wisdom gatherings, and programs aimed at rebuilding a world in harmony with nature, spirit, and soul.

The Spiritual Castle Project is not a museum of the past - it is a vessel of what is to come.

This document is not a final concept, but a calling - an early seed of something timeless.

And as the river flows - quietly and endlessly - the castle waits.

For the hands that will rebuild not just walls,
but the bridge within.

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Background

Castle Saunderson has a long and fascinating history. Once the seat of the Saunderson family, it later became an **International Scouting Centre** before falling into disrepair. Nestled in the tranquil landscapes of **County Cavan**, along the border with Northern Ireland, its symbolic and practical potential is immense. After years of stalled initiatives, the castle now stands at a crossroads—awaiting new energy, vision, and purpose.

Our Motivation

We - **Ray Michael** and **Jana Trnkova** - visited Castle Saunderson together twice, spending extended time in nature, walking, listening, and connecting deeply. We both experienced its silent power and spiritual resonance. The vision became clear.

Having consciously stepped away from our former professional and private lives, we are not **financial investors**. We are **life investors** - bringing our presence, lifetime, passion, and professional capacities to co-create a **peaceful, healing, and future-oriented space**.

We see the opportunity to reawaken Castle Saunderson as a **renewed European spiritual site** - a place of **peace, presence, and regeneration**.

Our Intent

We **do not seek to own** Castle Saunderson. Our intent is to **support and facilitate** its restoration and transformation. We are open to working in **collaboration with all existing stakeholders**. This is not a commercial project - it is a **unique opportunity for Europe** to reclaim a spiritual home of reconciliation and renewal.

What We Are Looking For

Castle Saunderson needs **realignment with its deeper purpose**. We are seeking individuals and institutions who feel the call and wish to co-create:

- Local authorities (County Cavan, Irish Government, North-South Bodies)
- Former/current owners or legal entities linked to the property
- People with positive memories and lived experience of the castle
- Visionaries, peacebuilders, educators, artists
- Spiritual communities and retreat leaders
- Funders, philanthropic foundations (public/private)
- Ecological architects, landscapers, cultural experts
- Sustainable tourism and educational institutions

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Core Vision

Castle Saunderson – A European Place of Peace, Presence and Purpose

Under this umbrella, various complementary initiatives can be developed:

- **Peace & Healing Retreat Centre:** Trauma healing, cross-border reconciliation, grief work, nature reconnection
- **Youth & Scouting Education:** Honouring the site's scouting past with youth empowerment programs
- **Leadership & Vision Training:** Ethical leadership rooted in clarity, values, and presence
- **Nature & Silence:** Walking trails, meditative spaces, forest bathing
- **Arts & Creativity:** Residency programs for aligned artists, musicians, and writers
- **European Dialogue Hub:** A venue for political, social, and interfaith bridge-building
- **Spiritual School Network:** Deep inner work, mental strength, resilience, and modern transformation journeys

Common Questions Answered

1. Is this a business venture?

No. This is a non-commercial, mission-driven initiative. Financial sustainability is necessary but not profit-oriented.

2. Who owns the land?

We are gathering information. Our aim is cooperation with current owners and stakeholders.

3. What is your role?

We are initiators, vision-holders, facilitators. We are ready to co-lead, without seeking ownership.

4. Is this religious?

No. The project is *interspiritual* - open to all traditions, not bound to any.

5. How will it be financed?

Initial commitment is our own time, energy, and expertise. Later funding will come from grants, foundations, and aligned supporters.

6. Who are you?

- **Ray Michael** is a German-born business coach and initiator of a European human-centered transformation program, bridging corporate, personal, and spiritual growth.
- **Jana Trnkova**, originally from the Czech Republic, is a systems thinker and nature-based practitioner with deep spiritual insight and community-building experience.

Together, we bring the vision, clarity, and hands-on presence to activate Castle Saunderson's higher calling.

Our Next Step

We warmly invite conversations, site visits, and visionary round tables. Whether you're nearby or across Europe - if you feel the call, let's connect.

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Appendix: Engagement & Foundation Plan

Our Foundation – *Beth Nousaya* (in pre-registration planning) will be a charitable Irish trust supporting:

- Spiritual development and education
- Mental wellbeing and clarity training
- Nature-based healing and ecological preservation
- Restoration of heritage sites for public benefit
- Leadership development for European decision-makers, political figures, and organizational leaders in philanthropy and conscious business

Legal Setup: Irish CLG (Company Limited by Guarantee), eligible for charitable status, governed by a board.

Intended Roles:

- Jana as live-in steward and site caretaker, developing garden-based healing spaces
- Ray as project developer and spiritual curriculum lead
- Both co-leading stakeholder engagement, funding development, and organizational setup

Our Contribution: Time, presence, life energy, and expertise - not financial capital, but full-scope project realization support.

Leadership Transformation Synergy: The foundation will serve as a hub for values-based leadership transformation—offering retreats and training programs designed for European leaders, conscious politicians, and executives from philanthropic and corporate sectors, fostering human-centered governance and systemic impact.

Synergies: We propose non-conflicting cooperation with Scouting Ireland, shared programming calendars, and complementary nature education.

Environmental Ethos: Regenerative, biodiversity-conscious, community-inclusive.

Tourism Link: Integration with Ulster Canal, greenways, and regional heritage trails - creating a spiritual tourism destination in harmony with nature and culture.

Final Words

We are not coming to build something new.

We are here to **remember** what this place once was - and what it can become again.

A castle not of stone alone, but of **spirit, peace, and purpose**.

With deep respect and wholehearted commitment,

Ray Michael

Founder - *Beth Nousaya* Spiritual School Movement

Consultant for ESG & Human-Centered Transformation

Jana Trnkova

Nature Practitioner, Site Steward & Healing Gardener