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MEDIA INFORMATION

Boutique Hotel Märthof – the desire to travel and sojourn

Burckhardt+Partner have completely renovated the historic Märthof building in Basel city center and converted it into an exclusive boutique hotel. The architects were inspired by the vision of combining the mood of travel and a hotel stay in the 1920s with contemporary architectural design. Burckhardt+Partner have combined the design language of the original period with elements that clearly reflect modern design.

The architectural concept picks up on one of the original uses of the Märthof as an inn and takes it a step further. Burckhardt+Partner's concept to convert the building most recently used as a department store into a boutique hotel with a restaurant and bar will revitalize Basel city center and provide a venue where both hotel guests and the public can meet. By embracing this vision, Burckhardt+Partner have designed and created a vibrant urban building which will also fill the historic Marktplatz with life in the evenings.

Built in 1897, the building has undergone structural work during various stylistic periods. In the 1980s, the five previously independent buildings were combined into one. The transitional spaces in the hotel's interior between the individual areas of use on the ground floor – the reception area, bar and restaurant – have been given an open design where the sequence of spaces seems lavish and seamless.

The façade was freed up as all functional rooms for the hotel's operation are arranged centrally around the building's main access area. The outcome is that Burckhardt+Partner's architectural concept removes the boundaries between the interior and exterior. Generous new window openings at street level mean the unique location on one of Basel's most central squares can be experienced inside the building as well. A new, exclusive roof terrace provides remarkable views over the city.

The 1897 façade – the style-defining landmark on Marktplatz – was enhanced as part of the renovation. The color selection and details of the new or modified façade elements were determined with the historic structure in mind and in consultation with the heritage conservation authorities. The architects attached great importance to both durable and high-quality materials, as well as design.

In collaboration with Iria Degen Interiors and Nader Interior, an exclusive overall concept was created which turns a stay at the hotel into an experience and captures the vibrant mood of the 1920s with rich interior design; featuring a wide array of color shades, opulent textures and exquisite furnishings, while translating it into contemporary design.

The history of the Märthof

The Märthof once consisted of five independent buildings. The first three buildings were constructed in 1897 as a residential and commercial development with an inn on Marktplatz. The neo-Baroque tower completes Marktplatz with an exhilarating silhouette. The end structure was completed in 1900 with another building in the direction of Eisengasse. The façade on Eisengasse adopts the same overall arrangement as the older original. It only differs in terms of the shape of the windows and architectural detail. The “zum Helm” commercial premises with an inn on the ground floor, at what was then Eisengasse 16 in 1927, shows how the ‘*Neues Bauen*’ or New Objectivity style of architecture was embraced and reflects the functional design of business property in Basel. In 1981, the five interior structures were completely demolished and merged into one building and the façade received heritage-protection status.

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About Burckhardt+Partner

Burckhardt+Partner are a renowned international architectural office and a technological leader. The company was founded in Basel in 1951 and has since achieved constant development. In the 1970s, Burckhardt+Partner not only had a major influence over architecture in Switzerland, but also established themselves on the international stage.

Burckhardt+Partner currently have five offices in Switzerland and three in Germany.