

Nussbaum live

State-of-the-art systems in old buildings

It is well-known in the building trade: a refurbishment is generally more challenging than a new construction. This maxim is all the more applicable here, because the project in question involves an historic, listed building. That is why the best specialists and building systems were employed for the total refurbishment of a venerable patrician house in Solothurn's old town.

The oldest parts of the structure date back to the 15th and 16th centuries although in the course of its existence the imposing building has undergone numerous alterations. Since the 19th century, the property has been used as business premises by various tradespeople. Most recently, it underwent a complete change of use, involving the creation of seven apartments together with commercial premises on the ground floor. The internal construction, including the building services infrastructure, was entirely renewed, with the exception of the constructional elements covered by the preservation order.

Not everything is square

A well-known problem when deal-



ing with old buildings is not knowing what might come to light beneath the surface and what surprises one might have to deal with as a planner or contractor.

It is not at all unusual to discover

that things are not «square» from a constructional perspective. This demands great flexibility and improvisational skills on the part of the tradesman and, not least, the right building systems.

By choosing all fittings from Nussbaum, together with Optipress and Optiflex for the drinking water distribution in the riser zones and on the floors, the installing company R. Saudan employed optimally coordinated systems for the entire building. The logical consequence of this choice of products is that all components are compatible, all joints can be pressed together, thus saving time, and everything comes from the same manufacturer. The Nussbaum fittings in the Easy-Top look employed throughout with their typical blue, elegant handwheels, also live up to the requirement for bright and cheerful cellar rooms.





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Project participants

General contractor:
Unirenova Lucerne, 6003 Lucerne

Sanitary planners:
IKP AG, 3053 Münchenbuchsee

Sanitary installers:
R. Saudan, 4500 Solothurn

Project start:
Spring 2004

Project completion:
Autumn 2005



Fits like a glove

The Optivis-Tec masking wall system, which greatly facilitated the work carried out by R. Saudan in the apartments' wet cells, proves especially effective in this elegant old building. Since no two corners are the same and no lines truly straight, the fitters had to be able to rely on the adaptability of Optivis-Tec. This consists of profile rails and corner joints that make light work of positioning and installing wash-basins, bathtub and WC modules, flush-mounted valves, water meters and other fittings in almost any constructional situation. The low weight of this masking wall design adds no extra load on the

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building structure – an important factor in old buildings.

The contractor

R. Saudan is regarded as one of the leading sanitary and plumbing companies in Solothurn and its surrounding area. This specialist company, which was founded in 1947, has a workforce of around 85 employees and 17 apprentices. The company offers the entire



spectrum of work and services in this sector. This encompasses consultancy and planning, the preparation of energy concepts and expert's reports as well as undertaking work in the sanitary, heating, air conditioning and ventilation, plumbing, flat roof and lightning protection areas, together with customer service and maintenance. For many decades, the two companies Saudan and Nussbaum have formed a good team, offering mutual support to each other. This trust has also been expressed in product improvement suggestions which are always well received by Nussbaum and demonstrate the practical experience contained in its systems.