

Press Information

Offenburg's new Hotel liberty features stylish bathrooms by AXOR

Enjoying the Luxury of Liberty Behind Old Prison Walls

Schiltach, September 2017. If these walls could speak—for over 160 years, Offenburg's prison was a place where no one would have wanted to spend a single night. Baden revolutionaries of 1848 were imprisoned here, as were army deserters and political prisoners later on. But thieves, scammers and murderers also served their sentences in the *Grabenallee*. The prison, built between 1840 and 1845, was in use until 2009. After years of being vacant and following recent renovations, a new spirit has swept through the building's thick walls: on 30 September 2017, Hotel liberty will open its doors. The bathroom fittings of this exclusive jewel in southwestern Germany were manufactured right nearby; the developers opted for perfection from the Black Forest with products by AXOR, the luxury brand of the Hansgrohe Group.

From Cell to Suite

Hotel manager Marc Aeberhard makes sure that guests in the hotel's 38 rooms and suites feel comfortable and free. The Swiss born hotelier specialises in innovative high-end hotel management and has already received multiple international awards for projects around the world. The concept for the metamorphosis from prison to luxury boutique hotel evolved in years of collaboration. Stand-out features include a modern glass cube connecting the two wings of the building where Michelin-star chef Jeremy Biasiol will be serving haute cuisine with international and regional touches. Hotel guests can also enjoy an excellent glass of wine—for instance from one of the many award-winning vineyards in the *Ortenau* region or neighbouring *Alsace*—while browsing through the library with its more than 3,000 books; they can go for a run in the *Bürgerpark* right outside the door, or stroll through the picturesque old town, with its baroque architecture and half-timbered houses. The interiors of this elegant hotel were created by Knoblauch design studio based in Markdorf on Lake Constance. Dimly lit cells with hard plank beds have given way to stylishly furnished rooms where guests now slumber on thick, thirty-centimetre premium mattresses.

Patricia Urquiola Merges Tradition and Modernity

The bathroom space has also been elegantly furnished. The molded mineral bathtubs and washbasins of the AXOR Urquiola collection are a tribute to old-fashioned washtubs—with practical detailing: their lateral slits double as towel holders. By incorporating a free-standing washtub, Patricia Urquiola has succeeded in creating a bathroom ensemble whose playful details and modern simplicity bridges the past and the present—what could be more appropriate to a historical venue with a new-found purpose? With this choice, the interior designers have shown a sense of perfection and willingness to experiment. The architect and product designer Patricia Urquiola is a true master when it comes to mixing styles. The Milan-based Spanish designer, who has been working with AXOR since 2008, has developed a collection that blends retro and modern elements, creating a unique synthesis. Her objects, which are housed in museums around the world, owe their success to their modern style and sensuous appeal. And she is always good for a surprising detail.

Bathroom Fittings by Antonio Citterio Provide the Perfect Balance

Patricia Urquiola's tubs and washbasins form a harmonious duet with fittings from the AXOR Citterio E collection. The single-lever washbasin taps, the shower sets and thermostat units, and the floor-standing bathtub taps all have a 'Black Chrome' special surface finish. These are complemented by bathroom fittings from the AXOR Universal Accessories programme designed by Antonio Citterio. Like Patricia Urquiola, the celebrated Italian designer Antonio Citterio also merges the classic and the modern in his designs. He balances the proportions of round and rectangular shapes in a way that would have thrilled the Pythagoreans of ancient Greece. With gently flowing curves and a pleasant feel, the taps offer the level of comfort that guests expect to find in a high-end hotel room.

AXOR develops, constructs and produces taps, showerheads and accessories for luxurious bathrooms and kitchens to perfection. At the highest aesthetic and technological levels, avantgarde, one-of-a-kind pieces and collections are created. Some of them are considered classics of bathroom design to this day. Collectively they embody the claim „Form follows Perfection“: not ending the developmental process until nothing more can be added or removed. Pace-setting design objects have been developed with this recipe for more than twenty years with world-renowned designers, among them Philippe Starck, Antonio Citterio, Jean-Marie Massaud and Patricia Urquiola. AXOR is a brand of the Hansgrohe Group.



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iF Design Leader in the Sanitation Industry

In the current ranking of the International Forum Design (iF) of the best companies in the world for design, the Hansgrohe Group, with its brands AXOR and hansgrohe, ranks 6th among 2,000 listed companies. The 1040 points earned by the Schiltach-based fixtures and shower specialist outperform famous brands such as Audi, BMW or Apple and reconfirm the company's leading position in the sanitation industry.

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Images Overview

Offenburg's Hotel liberty Features Stylish Bathrooms by AXOR



Copyright:

Located in a former prison building, the "Hotel liberty" hosts discerning travellers with an appreciation for historical ambiances.



Copyright:

Behind tinted glass windows and the original jailhouse doors lie 38 comfortable rooms and suites with AXOR bathroom fittings, washbasins and tubs.



Copyright:

The former prison was completely gutted, but the character of the landmarked building was conserved.



Copyright:

The interiors of this elegant hotel were created by Knoblauch design studio based in Markdorf on Lake of Constance. Dimly lit cells with hard plank beds have given way to stylishly furnished rooms where guests now slumber on thick, thirty-centimetre premium mattresses.



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The molded mineral washbasins and tubs from the AXOR Urquiola collection are a homage to the traditional washtubs – practical as their lateral slits double as towel holders.



Copyright:

Perfect symbiosis: Washbasin from the AXOR Urquiola collection and single-lever taps from the AXOR Citterio E collection in the special surface finish „Black Chrome“. In combination with the free-standing bathtub, Patricia Urquiola creates a bathroom ensemble that, with playful detailing and contemporary straightness, bridges the gap between past and present.

Images for downloading: <http://www.axor-design.com/press>

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