



Martini Church Bielefeld



Name of project:

Martini Church in Bielefeld
www.glueckundseligkeit.de

Building owner:

**Restaurant proprietor Achim Fiolka,
Living Event GmbH, Werther**
www.x-living.de

Typology:

Restaurant

**Karl Siebold and Friedrich Gräbner,
Bielefeld (1897);
brunsarchitekten, Bielefeld**
(renovation and conversion 2005)
www.brunschitekten.de

Location:

Artur-Ladebeck-Straße 57, Bielefeld,
Germany

Architect:

Dieter Anders, Bielefeld

Completion:

2005

Facilities planner:

Technical planners:
Structural design: Figge Engineers, Bielefeld
Facilities execution: Fritz Michel Gas Wasser Licht, Bielefeld
Air conditioning systems: Kissing, Gütersloh
Refrigeration technology: Ronald Althoff, Hiddenhausen
Electrical technology: Elektro Becker, Oerlinghausen

Area:

620 m² guest area

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Ventilation system with thermal recovery
In-floor heating in the nave
Static heating in the utility rooms

Technology:

Energy concept:

ecoCRAFT cascade consisting of two modular gas condensing boilers. Each boiler is equipped with seven separate burner/blower/heat exchanger modules with a total output between 16.7 and 300 kW

The good feeling of doing the right thing.

In 2004, the former Martini Church was purchased by Living Event GmbH and converted by the Bielefeld-based architects brunsarchitekten into a 620 square metre gourmet restaurant. Installed as a roof heating system, a weather-proof ecoCRAFT gas condensing cascade from Vaillant, consisting of two modular gas condensing boilers with in-floor heating, helped turn the high-ceiling rooms of the church into a cosy guest area with atmosphere.

Restoration instead of demolition

In the restaurant programmatically named "GlückundSeligkeit" (Happiness and Bliss) by proprietor Achim Fiolka and considered by some people to be provocative, guests are served since 2005 in the stylishly renovated church with an unusual lounge atmosphere. And yet, the acquisition and conversion of the Martini Church were anything but easy. As an alternative to selling the church to the restaurant proprietor from Bielefeld, the only other choice was demolition of the sacred building that was used for 30 years by the Greek Orthodox community. The decision was therefore made to preserve the building for its unusual purpose.

Careful handling of the existing building

The church, erected by architects Karl Siebold and Friedrich Gräbner in the neo-Gothic style, was consecrated around the turn of the century. Initially consisting only of the nave and sacristy, the side aisle on the south side was added at the beginning of the 20th century, in addition to the 43 metre high bell tower. Gothic style elements on the windows and buttresses adorn the solid brick building. Special features are the leaded-light windows in the choir, which were designed in the 1930s by the artist Hellmut Assmann.

The building owner has now converted the church into an exclusive gastronomical venue, with a restaurant, lounge and beer garden in a brilliant combination of history and modernity. The organ gallery today is the location of a bar and lounge for 45 guests. While the nave and side aisle of the ground floor provide space for 250 guests, the adjoining restaurant area, with 70 seats, is suitable for

private celebrations and conferences. In the case of summer temperatures, the beer garden, facing away from the street, offers additional seating for 350 guests. Despite all the conversion work, the church was restored to its former splendour with a great deal of sensitivity and financial investment.

Warm atmosphere among cold walls

The first step of the conversion was removal of the intermediate ceiling installed during use of the church by the Greek Orthodox community and of a wall partitioning off the side aisle. This opened the ground floor and upper floor of the side aisle to the nave. In the side aisle, the small hall was created on a gallery, almost invisibly separated from the nave by means of window elements in the pointed arches. The former wooden organ gallery - now the cocktail lounge - was replaced by a reinforced concrete construction. The entire furnishings and the neo-Gothic elements, which were enhanced through colour and light, create a harmonious overall impression.

After nine months of construction the centrally located restaurant and event venue went into business in the year 2005. Architects, technical planner Dieter Anders and sanitary, heating and ventilation specialists contributed to the stylish extensive renovation of the 29 metre long and 18 metre wide nave with a clear height of 15.5 metres. With an integrated heating and ventilation concept Fritz Michel Gas Wasser Licht GmbH, the planning and executing company, provided for an atmosphere of well-being down to the last corner of the former house of worship.

Individual solutions for special requirements

The unusual nature of the building with its special thermal conditions presented a challenge. This was made even more unusual by its use as a restaurant: among other things, due to the highly fluctuating occupancy and constantly changing indoor climate conditions as result of open doors. Also, the fast exchange of air burdened with cigarette smoke and the smell of food was necessary. To achieve pleasant distribution of heat in all areas, an accordingly designed in-floor heating system was the only choice, in combination with a powerful ventilation system. Vents installed in the entry area at a height of 10 metres above a gallery blow fresh air longitudinally through the nave into the apse. Precise calculation of the velocity and height of the air flow provide for air circulation that goes unnoticed by the guests. The circulating air also distributes the heat evenly and exchanges the air volume in the building with no drafts.

For heat generation a Vaillant ecoCRAFT cascade with two modular gas condensing boilers was chosen, especially due to the convincing energy-saving construction. A crane was used to install the space-saving system in a small garret in the church roof. This complex system consisting of a gas condensing cascade, ventilation system with thermal recovery, in-floor heating in the nave and static heating in the utility rooms obviously functions reliably, since the restaurant is open even during extreme outdoor temperatures. This system ensures that the building will continue to be well-equipped for its unusual purpose in the coming years.