

Käercher Schlassfrënn

**Gréiweschlass
Koerich Castle**

The association “Friends of Koerich Castle” (Käercher Schlassfrënn) was founded in 1993 to help mitigate further deterioration of the Gréiweschlass. Supported by many volunteers and supporters the Friends of Koerich Castle work to breathe new life into the only freely accessible, moated castle in the Valley of the Seven Castles.

The commune of Koerich has approximately 2.600 inhabitants (2019) and comprises the 4 localities Koerich, Goebange, Goetzingen and Windhof. At the entry to the Valley of the Seven Castles, in a landscape filled with forests and meadows, you will not only find the ruin of the Gréiweschlass, but also other historic cultural treasures such as the Baroque Church of Koerich and the Gallo-roman villa in Goebange-Miecher.



The friends of Koerich Castle

Renaissance of a moated castle

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Painting of Michel Rodange from 1864 with view on the east side of the Gréiweschlass
(Source «Centre National de Littérature de Mersch»)



PREFACE

Publication of the Friends of Koerich Castle on the occasion of the reopening of Koerich Castle

Luxembourg is often depicted as the land of fortresses and castles. As tangible remnants of a bygone era, these fascinate many.

Our fortresses and castles are important witnesses of our national, but also European history. Today, they make up a large part of the charm of our country, creating characteristic landscapes and contributing to the unmistakable attractiveness and identity of our localities and regions.

The Valley of the Seven Castles in the west of the country is known far beyond the borders of the region. Through the valley of the river Eisch, visitors can follow traces of the past among these seven castles. Koerich is often considered the starting point of this exciting voyage of discovery and Koerich Castle, together with the baroque church and its onion tower, comprise the calling card of this beautiful town.

Historic places like this offer a very special setting for cultural events that allow residents to come together. Within the localities, the creation of such important shared experiences, foster the cohesion of our society and add value to the regional heritage.

Although Koerich Castle was closed to the public for the last few years, for security reasons, its doors are now open once again. This has been possible thanks to the work of the National Sites and Monuments Service, completed this past year, which will pave the way for cultural and social use that importantly meets the requirements of monument protection. In addition to several necessary interventions to comply with the latest safety standards, the addition of information panels and a covered

open-air stage have significantly enhanced this exceptional heritage monument.

In the end, the long wait has paid off and the reopening of the Castle of Koerich will be appropriately celebrated this year. After working for the preservation and restoration of “their” castle for more than 25 years, the Friends of Koerich Castle, have prepared a promising program for this festive occasion, which will fill the castle with cultural life.

We wish the Friends of the Castle, as well as the cultural committee of the municipality of Koerich and the many hardworking hands that helped set up this program around the reopening of Koerich Castle, the well-deserved success that will surely not fail. Enjoy the party!

Sam Tanson
Minister of Culture



PREFACE

It has been worth waiting for

Koerich Castle has certainly already experienced quite a lot. The fact that Siegfried inhabited it, is probably a sign, even though Siegfried was never Count of Koerich. Over more than a thousand years, the castle has changed hands many times either through inheritance, marriage, or sale and in the last few centuries, various reconstruction works have been carried out, depending on its purpose.

After the French Revolution, once our country was no longer subject feudal rule and the citizens became free, Baron de Wyckersloht, sold the roof of the castle, as he did not live here, but in Brussels. The citizens of the area then used the castle as a quarry.

In December 1949, Pierre Flammang bought the castle. He also made various modifications to the castle, making it a place where many festivals could be celebrated and the village youth could use it as a playground. In 1985 however, Mr. Flammang's heirs sold the castle, which had already been classified as a «National Monument» in 1938, to the state.

After a long time, during which our castle's ruins, situated in the middle of the village, fell more and more into disrepair, in 1993 a large number of interested citizens founded «The Friends of Koerich Castle» and advocated for our castle. As a result of their efforts and the collaboration of the Ministry of Culture, the National Sites and Monuments Service and the Fabeck office, we can now celebrate the reopening of our castle in September 2019. Throughout the works on our castle, we often asked ourselves: when will it finally be finished? But the wait was worth it. Now we have a unique site where we can organize all kinds of great activities.

A big thank you to everyone who helped give our castle a new lease of life.

Jean Wirion
Mayor of the commune of Koerich



PREFACE

It was on the 23rd of September 1993, when 45 people met in Koerich's town banquet hall to establish the Friends of Koerich Castle society. Everyone was of the opinion that something had to happen with the «Grevenburg», as was said at the time. It seemed to them as if the state did not have many ideas nor interest to do anything about it.

The goal of the Friends of Koerich Castle was to preserve «the Grevenburg», to maintain it, restore it and develop it further. Today we talk about the Gréiweschlass, which fits the historical context better. When the Friends of Koerich Castle was founded, the castle had already under Luxembourg state ownership for around 8 years. It was in 1985 in fact, when, under the minister for cultural affairs Robert Krieps, the state bought the castle and its surroundings from the heirs of the former mayor and owner Pierre Flammang. The state's purchase of the castle had no effect on its ongoing degradation, even under the delegated minister for cultural affairs René Steichen. As such, the working group for the 'Town Development Plan', was set up under the mayor Robert Goniva at the beginning of the 90s. They came up with the idea of not letting everything just happen and established a non-profit organization «Les amis du château» to support the goal of making the historical and cultural potential of Koerich Castle visible. As early as November 22, 1938, the castle was classified as a national monument by ministerial decree.

The Friends of the Castle had their first meeting of the new committee on October 21, 1993 under the leadership of their president Marie-Josée Agosta.

One year later, on September 25, 1994, the castle could be admired in the light of headlights, for the first time in its approximately 750-year history.

After that, even under the Minister for Cultural Affairs Marie-Josée Jacobs, there was still no real progress at the Koerich Castle. That was to change quickly in 1995, with the Minister of Culture Erna Hennicot-Schoepges and in this year, the emergency works on the castle began.

In the middle of 2000, archaeological excavations began. That was a week before our president Jean Kayser, who took over the leadership of the Friends of Koerich Castle in March 1996, left us forever. He had fully committed himself to infuse new life in the old walls of Koerich Castle.

In 2002, the Friends of Koerich Castle launched a survey among the residents of the Koerich community, as well as their associations to find out what the general expectations for the future use of the castle were. As it turned out, the majority of people wanted to use Koerich Castle for cultural purposes. We therefore coordinated with the municipal leadership under the mayor Jean Everard and together with the municipality, went to the Minister of Culture Erna Hennicot-Schoepges, with a coherent proposal for the use of the Koerich Castle as a cultural castle; a proposal that was well received by herself and the Commission of National Sites and Monuments.

In the summer of 2003, the archaeological excavations came to an end, and it was possible to start working on the realization of the project 'Cultural Castle Koerich'.

In 2004, under the Minister of Culture François Biltgen, the project went into a phase of new and longer reflection. Throughout this time, it was the mayor Léon Eschette, who kept tirelessly intervening at the Ministry of Culture to remind them of our project 'Cultural Castle Koerich'. In 2009, the project was relaunched by the Minister of Culture Octavie Modert and from then on it continued consistently, with some more or less controversial phases, the normal and the more fundamental. It was during one of the more contentious situations that Culture Minister Maggie Nagel did not hesitate for long. She organized a round table here in Koerich, listened to the problems with a lot of patience and then made the necessary decisions in favor of 'Cultural Castle Koerich'. Additionally, with the delegated Secretary of State for Culture, Guy Arendt, we always found an open ear for our concerns. This allowed very important changes to still be made during the realization phase of the project, such as the tent roof over the stage.

The Infrastructure of our project 'Cultural Castle Koerich' has now been completed under the Minister of Culture Sam Tanson and Mayor Jean Wirion. However, it is up to all of us now to ensure that the old walls of Koerich Castle with its new structures are filled with an active cultural life.

Georges Simon
President of the friends of Koerich Castle
(Käercher Schlossfrënn)



KOERICH CASTLE, IT'S ORIGINS, IT'S LORDS



The Koerich castle

KOERICH CASTLE, IT'S ORIGINS, IT'S LORDS

Koerich Castle

Expanded, rebuilt, then abandoned, and finally renovated: Koerich Castle looks back on an eventful past, before it was finally abandoned as a residence at the beginning of the 19th century. The construction work carried out for structural stabilization and restoration will bring Koerich Castle back into the present and give it a new purpose.

From the present back to the origins

The town of Koerich is located in the west of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, about twelve kilometers from Arlon in Belgium.

The church of St. Remigius Empor, is a jewel of the Luxembourgish Baroque. At the foot of the church lie the castle ruins of the «Gréiweschlass» (German «Grafenschloss»). Together with the baroque church and the old houses of Koerich, the castle forms a remarkable unit.

The castle ruins are a typical example of a flatland castle.

With its impressive keep, the outer castle walls form an almost perfect square. In addition, the castle used to be surrounded by a ten- to twelve-meter-wide moat, which was fed by a stream running along the castle. Remains of this moat can still be seen on the east side. Today, a stone bridge leads over the moat into the castle. Visitors enter the first courtyard through an arched gate.

If you enter the castle through the main gate, you arrive in the first courtyard and you can see the remains of the farm buildings, barns and stables, as well as the remains of a room with two ovens on the right.

Further to the left, north of the keep, you reach the place where a gate used to separate the first courtyard from the inner courtyard of the castle. The remains of the partition wall are still visible, as well as traces of the place where the trapdoor was inserted.

The significance of the remains on the right side have not yet been clearly clarified.

Here, visitors have a view of the outer wall of the 'palas' with its baroque windows, under which a concrete slab replaces the original floor. Below this plate lies the entrance to a large, vaulted cellar, which extends under the entire 'palas' and reaches under the square tower in the southwest (chapel tower). From this point there is a wonderful view of the baroque church located on a hill. If visitors turn to the right, they will reach the angular southwest tower. On the ground floor of the tower used to be a chapel dedicated to St. Michael. Although the ceilings

are no longer present, the plinths in which the Gothic buttresses were embedded can still be seen.

The guard room used to be located on the first floor. Today, only the stately fireplace from 1585, the large windows and some building elements of military architecture bear witness to its original splendour. When visitors step out of the chapel, they will find themselves directly in front of the imposing keep, which after the restoration work is once again accessible via a metal staircase. On the south side, the old entrance to the keep can still be seen, which used to only be accessible via ladder. The remarkable floor of both courtyards consists of the original pavement, which was hidden for a long time under a protective layer of earth.



The fireplace in the chapel tower (2019)

A second castle in Koerich

In the beginning, next to the dominion of Koerich, there used to be a second dominion, named «Schillbach» or «Schillwet». This were named after the stream that ran through Schlossbering. At the beginning of the 15th century, Elisabeth, one of the descendants of the Herren von Schillbach, married Jakob Fock von Hübingen, and the estate received the name of Fock. Through marriage this passed into the possession of a branch of the Nassau family from Vianden in 1953. After two brothers, both knights of Saint-Bassaut, had obtained possession of the dominion, Charles, one of the two, bequeathed it to his nephew Charles Christophe von Reiffenberg on July 23, 1722. By deed dated June 3, 1738, Herr von

Reiffenberg sold the Fock estate with all the associated goods to the Baron and future Count Lambert Joseph von Marchant und Ansemburg.

Today, only remains of the foundation, which are sometimes found during excavations, remind us of Fock's Castle in Koerich. The site retained the name «Focke-gaart» (Fock's Garden).



On the map of JJ of Ferraris about 1775, you discover the Gréiweschlass and the Fockeschlass as a ruin

The construction phases of the castle

According to the most recent findings from the excavations and the dendrochronological investigations of wood found from the foundation walls of the castle, it is thought to be Gottfried II, lord of Koerich and Bertrange and supreme knight judge of the county of Luxembourg, who first had the moated castle built in Koerich in 1340.

Originally, the castle formed a quadrangle with a two-part courtyard, each surrounded by 2 m thick protective walls. The first courtyard, located directly behind the main entrance, included barns and other farm buildings; the living rooms were located in the actual castle courtyard and were protected by a metal trapdoor in the partition wall.

The keep with its floor area of 12 x 11.6 m and a wall thickness of 3 to 3.5 m is still 11 m high today. However, its original height is estimated at 25 to 30 m - which would make it one of the most imposing in the region. A spiral stone staircase leads to the respective floors; with access being via an opening on the south side approx. 6 m above the inner courtyard.

The keep - popularly known as the «witch tower» - is built in the Romanesque style, just like the outer walls of the castle.

Around 1480 under Schiltz II von Elter, the residential area was rebuilt for the first time in a Gothic style, and the defense facilities of the castle were expanded. In the course of these works, the long rectangular Palas building was built.

Between 1580 and 1585, Jakob von Rollingen carried out extensive changes and renovations to transform the castle into a worthy manor seat. He had the remains of the previous buildings demolished but kept the keep and the outer walls. He also had the castle courtyards filled in and a 'palas' with Renaissance-style windows built. The south side was flanked by two square towers, one of which is still standing and has a well-preserved fireplace on the first floor. The fireplace bears the year 1585 and the coats of arms of both Jakob von Rollingen and his wife Margareta von Bettstein. The outer walls of the two square towers were equipped with embrasures on each floor, so that the entrances to the castle could be controlled and defended.

After this, hardly any changes were made. For a while, the castle was even completely abandoned by the lords. In 1722, Lothar Friedrich von Rollingen undertook extensive renovation work to make the castle habitable again: the Renaissance windows on the south side were replaced by Baroque windows.

In 1739 the new owner, Lambert Joseph von Marchant und Ansemburg left Koerich Castle, which was gradually falling into disrepair.

In the year 1786, under Freifrau Elisabeth de Lefèbve, some fortification work was undertaken, and the dilapidated southwest corner tower was demolished.

At the beginning of the 19th century, an agricultural farm was established here, and only sporadic maintenance work was carried out.

In 1864, only the palas, the angular southwest tower and the southwest buildings still had their roofs.

By ministerial decree of November 22, 1938, the ruins of Koerich Castle were placed under monument protection. In the 1950s, the last private owner, Pierre Flammang, had further fortification work carried out on the outer walls. In 1950, he had the vaulted cellar covered with a concrete floor in order to protect it at least somewhat from the infiltration of rainwater.

In 1985, the Luxembourgish state took over as the final owner of the castle.

As the buildings eventually became more and more dilapidated, the entire area had to be closed to the public. In view of the dilapidated state of the castle, the association "Friends of Koerich Castle" was founded in 1993. This association was established with the aim of convincing government agencies that the precious cultural heritage in Koerich must be saved from irreversible damage. As a result, the state assumed its responsibility, as shown by the stabilization and renovation work carried out.

After the completion of these works, the castle area is open to the public again and can be used for cultural and ceremonial events.

Entrance to the dungeon (2018)





View of the west side with the chapel tower



View of the east side of the Gréiweschlass



South view with the baroque windows



North view with view on the deanship church



South-west entrance to the Gréiweschlass

The Lords of the Castle

The origins of the Koerich dynasty have not been established with certainty. They are first mentioned in a document in connection with a 'Wirich von Koerich' in the year 1259. In 1260 Wirich is mentioned as a steward in the Court of Luxembourger.

As he remained without male descendants, his daughter Johanna inherited the dominion. She married Gottfried II von Bertringen from near Diedenhofen (France), who became Lord of Koerich. He also brings the dominion of Greiveldingen into the marriage.

Around 1330, her son Gottfried became Lord of Koerich. From 1340 to 1351 he was a judge in the knightly court. He was followed in 1354 by his son Wirich II, who married Irmgard von Hollenfels.

Their daughter Marie inherits the manors of Koerich, Bertringen and Greiveldingen. In 1380 she married Schiltz von Elter, who retained the name and coat of arms of the Lords of Elter. Thus ends the direct line of the Lords of Koerich.

Marie survived her husband (+ 1414/15) as well as her three sons. Her daughter Margaretha married Bernhard von Burscheid, who in 1433 claimed the lordship of Koerich for himself - regardless of the legal claims of the children of his brother-in-law Johann von Elter, the eldest of Marie's three sons. After several court proceedings and armed confrontations, Gilles II., the son of Johann von Elter, was recognized as the rightful ruler of Koerich in 1466. He was followed in 1491 by his son Johann II. His heirs were his sons Wilhelm, who remained childless, and Georg, who died in 1569. His only daughter married Johann von Landscheid in the Eifel, to whom the dominion of Koerich now passed.

In 1580, Johann von Landscheid sold the castle and the dominion of Koerich to Jakob von Rollingen, who came from Lorraine. He settled in Koerich and converted the dilapidated castle into a feudal manor, of which the ruins remain to this day. In 1588, Jakob von Rollingen was promoted to chairman of the provincial council, and in 1590 was appointed knight judge of the nobility. From his marriage with Margareta von Bettstein, who came from Lorraine, their son Peter Ernst von Rollingen und Koerich emerged, who in turn married Anna von Pallant. Peter Ernst pushed forward the construction of the Jesuit Church in Luxembourg. Additionally, the parish church in Koerich - the predecessor of today's church - was built under his rule. Despite his wealth and the income from his various activities, he died heavily in debt in 1623.

Peter Ernst von Rollingen und Koerich left behind six children ; his eldest son Johann Franz succeeded him as Lord of Koerich. He sold some goods to improve his financial situation and pledged the dominion of Koerich: first to a certain Herr von Mouzay, then in 1641 to the Counts of Suys. For almost a century, the estate remained in the possession of the von Suys family. Peter Ernst's successor Johann Franz, then Florenz Hartard and finally Johann Ernst retained the title of Lords of Rollingen und Koerich.

In 1714 Johann Ernst transferred all rights to his cousin Lothar Friedrich von Rollingen, who became Lord of Koerich. Lothar Friedrich married Helena Charlotte von Thüngen, but their marriage remained childless. Following the death of Lothar Friedrich in 1735 in Mechelen (today Belgium), Helena Charlotte became the sole hei-

ress. She died in Koerich Castle in 1738 and bequeathed her entire fortune to her two children from her first marriage with Baron Schloederer von Lachen.

On May 4, 1739, the dominion of Koerich, together with all associated rights, was sold to Baron Lambert Joseph von Marchant, Lord of Ansemburg, who took possession of his new dominion on July 7, 1740. Empress Maria Theresia of Austria elevated him to the rank of count on October 1, 1749. From that time until today, Koerich Castle has borne the name «**Greiweschl**» (in German: Grafenschloss). Already in 1738, Lambert Joseph von Marchant had acquired the second existing dominion in Koerich – the dominion of Fock. From then on it reverted to only single rule in the hands of the Count of Ansemburg.

Ansemburg Castle



Under the pressure of the creditors of the deceased count, the double dominion of Koerich was auctioned in 1776. The new owner would be the mistress of the castle of Sterpenich, Freifrau Elisabeth de Lefèbve. In 1789 her niece, Freifrau Anne Marie Auguste von Tornaco, became the new owner of Koerich ; in 1794 the castle passed to her son-in-law Johann Georg von Pfortsheim, Lord of Colpach.

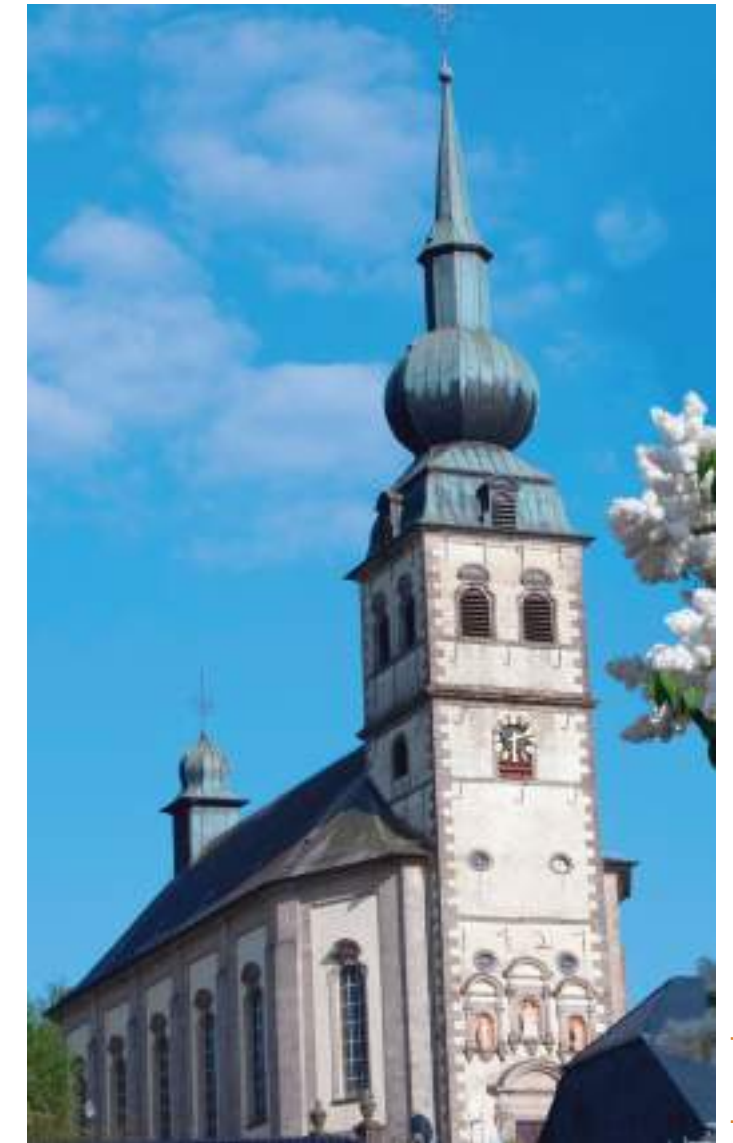
During the French Revolution, Luxembourg was captured by French troops in 1795 after a long siege. The feudal rule was thus ended. Georg von Pfortsheim renounced his title and became a citizen of Pfortsheim, and a farmer in Colpach. In this way he could keep his lands and forests in Koerich. His daughter Maria Justina von Pfortsheim brought the estates of Koerich, Colpach and Schoppach into the family through her marriage in 1817 with Baron Marie Alphonse Philippe von Marches, Lord of the Castle of Guirsch. In 1834 they also acquired Schloss Ell.

Koerich then passed into the possession of the eldest son of the Baron von Marches, Gustave Alexandre Ferdinand, then in 1892 to his son-in-law, Baron Emile Henri Florent Ghislain de Wykerslooth de Rooysteyn. From 1931, his son, Freiherr Frédéric de Wykerslooth, sold all his land and forests in Koerich.

The ruins of the castle, as well as the adjacent buildings, were acquired on December 2, 1949 by the Pierre Flam-mang, an entrepreneur from Koerich. In 1985, his heirs sold the ruins of the castle as well as the outbuildings to the Luxembourg state, to which it still belongs today.



Peter Ernst von Rollingen and his wife Anna von Pallant found their final resting place in the respective family chapels of the former church of Koerich. At the beginning of the 20th century, their gravestones were found during the restoration work of the Church of St. Remigius and placed under the gallery. They are still there today. A third tombstone (of Anna Beatrix von Nassau) is located in the sacristy behind the altar.



The Friends of Koerich Castle

The non-profit association «Käercher Schlassfrënn a.s.b.l.» (Friends of Koerich Castle) was founded in 1993 by a group of dedicated people. Their goal remains the protection, preservation, restoration, and promotion of the «Gréiweschlass» in Koerich.

The medieval festival «Tempus Mediaevale», which was organized every year in September from 2004 to 2013, was an outstanding success from the beginning and attracted thousands of visitors to the castle, which is ideally suited for such events. Due to the restoration and repair work, the event was suspended; however from 2020 Tempus Mediaevale will take place again.

With the support of the Ministry of Culture, as well as the municipality of Koerich, the Friends of Koerich Castle, in cooperation with the cultural commission of the municipality of Koerich, also organize the «Concerts de Koerich» in the magnificent church St. Remigius.

In the future, the Friends of Koerich Castle will take over the administration of Koerich Castle and, in cooperation with the associations of the municipality, the region and the greater region, will organize high-quality performances and parties on the renovated castle grounds.

Written by board members of the Friends of Koerich Castle

«Les concerts de Koerich» at the deanship church in Koerich



The medieval festival Tempus Mediaevale around Koerich castle





Front of the palace with the baroque windows (2014)

PHOTO REPORT

Koerich Castle
Gréiweschlass
from 1993 to 2019



Gréiweschlass 1993 ...



... and july 2019





1993: Founding and first activities of the Käercher Schlossfrënn (information sessions and cleaning actions)



1995: First stabilization works at the east entrance and the dungeon





1999 : Gréiweschlass



2000: Beginning of the excavations in the Gréiweschlass





From 2000: Uncovering of the historical cobbles in the Gréiweschlass



2006 : Gréiweschlass





2007: Works inside and outside of the Gréiweschlass



2009: The Minister for Culture Octavie Modert at the Gréiweschlass





06.03.2013
Minister for Culture Octavie Modert at the general meeting of the
Käercher Schlossfrënn



10.09.2013
Symbolic laying of the foundation stone in presence of the
Minister of Culture Octavie Modert

28.07.2014
The Minister of Culture Maggy Nagel at the Gréiweschlass



September 2016: Archeological finds on the west side of the Gréiweschlass

Spring 2017: Stabilizing works on the north side





Summer 2017: Completion of the works on the north side



Novembre 2017 :
November 2017: Foundations for the reception building





April 2018 :
Concrete works at the Gréiweschlass are completed



April 2018:
A new subsoil for the former main building





July - October 2018:
The first iron girders are mounted in the Gréiweschlass

November 2018 at the Gréiweschlass





December 2018 / January 2019:
The castle moat is cleaned and cleared from hedges and bushes



March 2019:
Construction of the ramps and the platform near the pavilion



April 2019:
At the west side wing, the walls are pointed





April / May 2019:
The ramps to the stage are installed and
the walls to the cellar are pointed



April - June 2019:
The stone bridge in the castle moat is renovated

June 2019:
Archeological finds on the east side of the Gréiweschlass





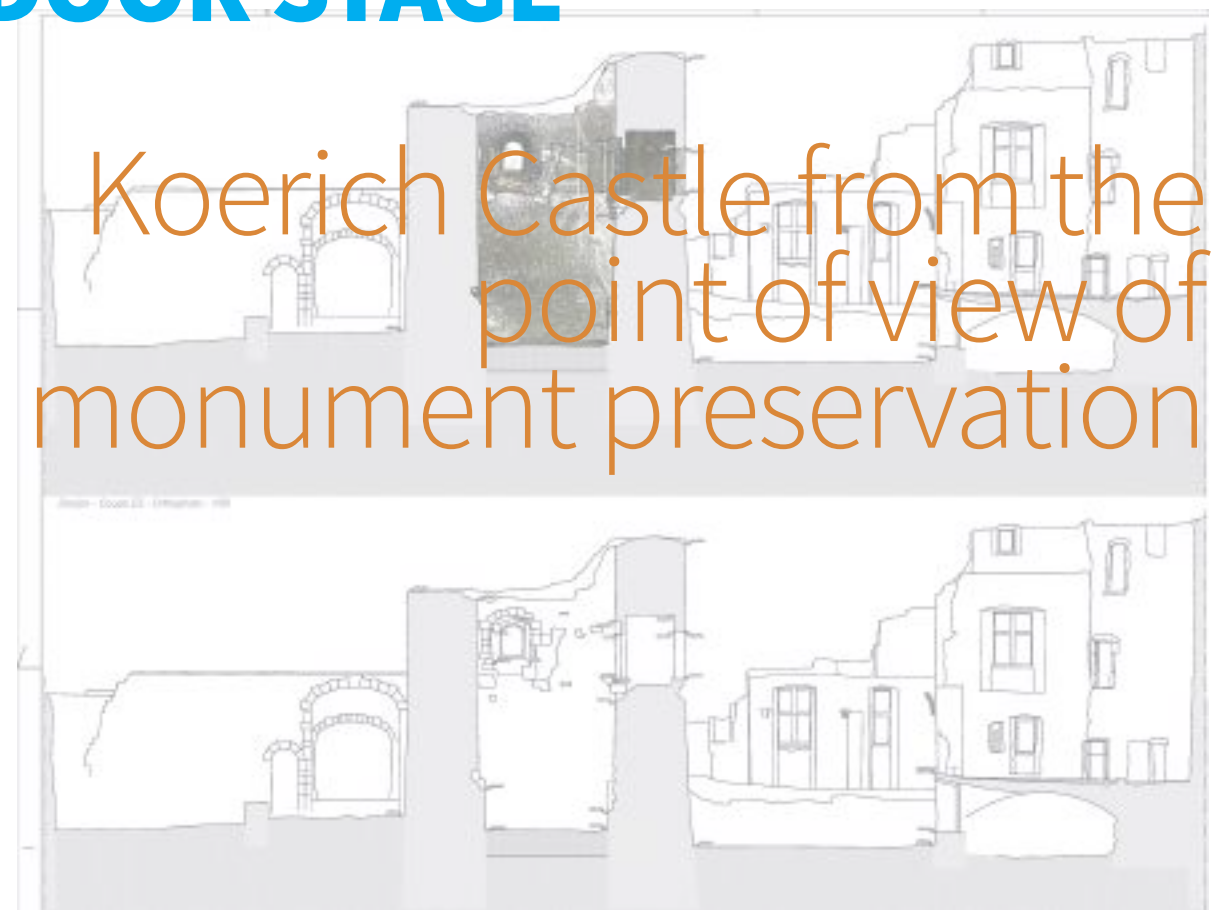
June 2019:
Beginning of the works of the outside installations of the Gréiweschlass



On the whole site of the Gréiweschlass, works enter the final stage at high pressure and are only completed beginning September 2019.
That's the reason you only find pictures until 26 June 2019.
A complete pictorial documentation of the works at the Gréiweschlass can be found under www.ksf.lu



FROM THE MEDIEVAL CASTLE TO THE SECURED RUINS WITH OUTDOOR STAGE



FROM THE MEDIEVAL CASTLE TO THE SECURED RUINS WITH OUTDOOR STAGE

Object description

The castle complex in Koerich is a low-lying castle with moats which today are mostly filled. The dimensions of the facility at its largest and still preserved extent are approx. 50 x 34m. In addition to the outer walls, a keep on the east side, a southwest corner tower with a castle chapel, and a residential building on the west have been preserved. The Koerich castle ruins have been protected as a national monument by ministerial decree since the 22nd of November 1938.

The most important phases of construction

In the years 2000-2002, archaeological excavations were carried out inside the castle and in the area of the former entrance bridge. In addition, in 2017/2018 there were archaeological surveys in the northwestern outer area. For the scientific list of the construction phases, reference can be made to the publication «Die Burgen des Luxemburger Landes» volume 3 (The fortresses of Luxembourg vol. 3). The most important construction phases can be summarized as follows: A first period of construction of the 'Palas' located to the southwest and the keep already standing to the east, could be dated to the year 1338, on the basis of a structural element made of oak. Likewise,

a dendrochronological dating of scaffolding timbers to the year 1481, corresponds to the time of a reconstruction of the defense system. Approximately one century later the courtyard level was changed to be a new and higher paved surface. Further renovations in the 16th and 17th centuries led to the facade that is still recognizable today with large Renaissance windows, which led to the common name of 'castle' today. Towards the middle of the 18th century, the facility was abandoned as a manor house. But the castle was still bused for agriculture for some time until it eventually became a ruin.

Preservation of a castle ruin - historical building materials and modern methods

After the inner areas of the castle had been archaeologically excavated, the National Service of Sites & Monuments, were able to start with the work to secure the existing building from 2006 onwards. Along with the reconstruction works, further documentation of the building was carried out. In the rarest of cases, however, the restoration of a castle ruin was only limited to the preservation of the historically intact building substance fol-

lowing archaeological excavations. As with many castle ruins, work in Koerich in previous decades only partially slowed down degradation of the building. Thus, the preservationists with their planning team of architects, engineers and restorers were faced with the challenge, in addition to the restoration of stability, to deal with damage caused by previous non-professional and inappropriate measures.

In Koerich, in the second half of the 20th century, the western castle wall underwent a safety measure in which cement mortars were used. In the 1990s, due to the risk of collapse, emergency safety work had to be undertaken. These were carried out in the eastern entrance area, as well as in the northern side of the Belfry. Unfortunately, a certain amount of cement was added to the mortar used.

For construction measures in the 20th century cement mortars were mostly used, but these have a detrimental effect on the water circulation in natural stone masonry. These extremely strong and dense mortars prevent the escape of moisture, which in the form of rainwater reaches the inside of the masonry via damaged and unsealed wall crowns. Walls that are today exposed to the weather in the open air, were in earlier times covered by a protective roof. This applies above all to former residential buildings and residential towers, but defensive walls were also partly covered with roofed defense corridors or with larger stone slabs so they could be walked. The facades of residential buildings and towers never had a stone-like surface, but during their historical period of use were always protected with a moisture-permeable lime plaster, which of course required regular maintenance and repair. Due to the lack of maintenance

caused by the abandonment of the castle as a seat of nobility, a place of administration or refuge, the roofs became leaky, the load-bearing elements of the wooden roof trusses became rotten. In Koerich therefore, rainwater, snow and the frost-thaw cycle were able to cause damage to the medieval masonry over a long period of time, and reduce the building to the state in which it was before the safety measures were implemented.

During the development of the conservation concept for the ruins of Koerich castle, the greatest importance was placed on preserving its character as a ruin. This basic concept was taken into account throughout all safety work and is continued in the architectural project development for cultural use. However, the generally widespread image of a castle ruin does not include a newly plastered wall, but rather the visible natural stone masonry. Today, optical requirements have to be included in the common catalogue of materials and measures together with the specifications for restoring stability and future protection against weather influences.



The Luxembourgish sandstone used for the castle in Koerich most likely originates from a quarry located north of the town of Koerich, where sandstone has been quarried for a long time. This historical quarry was identified on a geological map by J. Hansen from the beginning of the 20th century. The bricks uncovered during the excavations, which came from, among other things, the collapsed court-side north facade of the palace building, made it possible to use historical building materials for most of the safety work. The exterior facade with large Renaissance windows of this former, representative residential building is fortunately still preserved. Due to the good remaining availability of Luxembourgish sandstone today, almost identical material from other quarries could be delivered for the corner blocks.

The plasters and mortars used during the historic construction process of the castle were lime compounds to which local aggregates had been added. In some cases, historical lime plaster and lime mortar remains can still be found on the surface of masonry. Various mortar samples were taken and evaluated in a laboratory. In some samples, a lean lime mortar was detected, i.e. many aggregate grains only slightly surrounded by the binding agent lime. It has also been found that mortar-fired clay or brick chips had been added.



The renewal of the top wall layers and wall crowns serves exclusively to restore stability and protection against the weather. These works, in compliance with the Charter of Venice, required the demolition of only loosely stacked bricks, the new placement of these in a lime mortar, or trass lime mortar bed, as well as their covering with a so-called sacrificial layer. These wall and joint mortars, developed for several decades especially for the preservation of monuments and used for all new works in Koerich since 2005, are lime-based, modelled after the medieval mortar. On the one hand, this gives the stacked bricks the necessary cohesion, but on the other hand, they enable the unhindered escape of any moisture from the masonry. The top wall layer is made with a special wall crown mortar, which has water-repellent properties, but is better adapted to natural stone masonry than cement mortar. The lime and trass-lime mortars used to secure the castle ruins in Koerich are mostly ready-made mixes, which are manufactured and delivered to order, by specialized mortar manufacturers. The grain size of the aggregates and any colour adjustments based on the selection of appropriate natural sands were determined by the SSMN together with the construction management. The so-called dry spraying method, which is best suited for lime mortar and historic building materials, is also used for vault protection. The collaboration with the Institut für Steinkonservierung e.V. as well as HLG Engineers' Council to determine the choice of materials, as well as restoration methods for the securing the vault securing and the planning of anchoring, deserves a special mention.



Northern castle wall

The restoration of the stability of the northern castle wall was made possible by the addition of the missing bricks in the carefully built wall shells. On both sides, these surround a core of so-called fill-in masonry, consisting of a mixture of irregular and lightly hewn stone and lime mortar. Securing the crown of the north wall was more difficult. The fill-in masonry, as the actual core of the wall, overhangs the lateral wall shells along its entire length. A protection of some carelessly built fill-in masonry was only possible by new surfacing. Particular care was also required when covering the crown of the wall, as future



ingress of water between the wall core and outer shells would inevitably lead to new structural damage in the medium term.

Chapel tower

A barely visible stabilization concerns the collapsed facade of the chapel tower of the moated castle, above a window opening. This incision, already existing for many decades, and even becoming a kind of a landmark of the ruin, was supported for a few years with transverse braces. The aim of the measure was to stabilize the situation for future use as much as possible without visible additional elements. For this, so-called needling, in other words, the lengthwise insertion of stainless steel rods into the masonry with a low-vibration method and locked in with mortar, was used. Forces in the masonry that would lead to further crack formation are therefore now absorbed and diverted as tensile forces via the mentioned needling to small visible plates to the tower corners.

The historic floor covering in the chapel tower was designed as a checkerboard-like paving. Long-term conservation under the open sky is not possible, and a roof over the chapel tower is not compatible with the monument. Waterproofing and controlled drainage of rainwater from the chapel floor are, however, of the utmost importance for the permanent protection of the vaulted basement below. As a result, the paved floor was covered with a protective layer consisting of a levelling layer and a waterproofing layer, permanently preserving them for posterity. The original condition following the archaeologi-



cal excavation will remain available to future interested visitors through the photogrammetric documentation.

‘Palas’ buildings, cellars and cellar vaults, facades and walls

The basement vaults already showed deformation at the time of the archaeological excavations, i.e. the apex of the vault had sunk down with the load-bearing so-called belt arches. As a result, a small part of the vault of the ‘palas’ even collapsed. Parallel to this, a strong shift of the courtyard-side outer wall from the basement floor (lower part of the interior facade of the palace building, which is missing nowadays) can be observed in the direction of the inner courtyard.



These two interconnected deformations of the vault are the result of the missing load on the facade, which no longer exists today. As a stabilizing measure, the damaged parts of the belt arches of the basement vaults were replaced, and the vaults themselves were secured with trass-lime mortar, using a dry spraying process [Fig. XX]. Since these measures were applied, the vaults can now bear their own weight again. However, due to the continued strong deformation of the vault, the additional load from above, as a result of the construction of the open-air stage with its new floor covering, and the traffic loads occurring during events, is not possible. A metal structure detached from the vault will divert these loads into the lateral areas of the vault, thus preventing any renewed overloading and risk of collapse.



deliberately avoided. This is without a doubt the most permanent solution and the best adapted to the historical situation. The occasional use of the cellar must simply be adapted to these circumstances.

Residential building in the southwestern castle area and western castle wall

The southwest former residential building showed large cracks in a corner area. The detached corner was secured by restoring the masonry bond, and together with the entire facade facing the inner courtyard, it was re-grouted using a dry spraying method. Unnecessary heavy stress on the historic facade is prevented by additionally supporting the new access road running along it on vertical steel supports.



The ground water level, which regularly appears as a visible water surface in the basements, required the maintenance of a water-permeable floor structure. Filling the area with gravel and the installation of drainage pipes enables unimpeded movements of groundwater. To prevent any risk of uneven settling of the castle walls on the inside and additional damage to the building, regulation of the groundwater level by means of pumps was

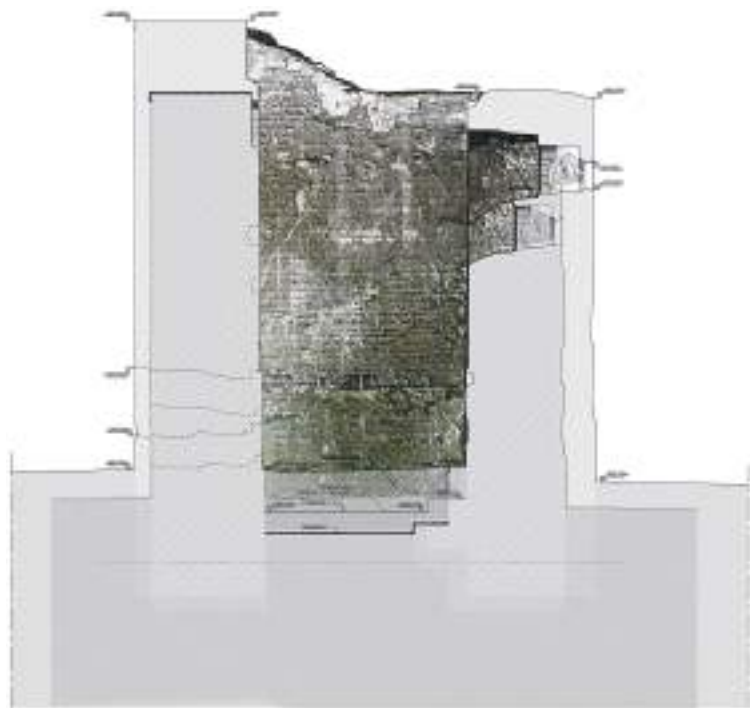


In the western castle wall, window openings and relief arches have been secured at specific points, and the wall approach of the palace building extending over 2 floors was re-anchored. At the beginning, the previously mentioned older safety works with cement were removed. Although cement joints can lead to masonry damage, it needed to be weighed on a case-by-case basis and the decision had to be made as to whether a new joint was justified. Considering the damage that occurs in the bricks during the mechanical removal of the cement joints, it is not always justifiable to extend the measure beyond damaged surfaces from a monument preservation point of view. The proportionality between effort and benefit must not be lost sight of. Without serious damage and problems regarding stability, it is better to monitor the area and, if necessary, intervene only to a limited extent. At Koerich Castle, both procedures were chosen depending on the condition and future requirements.

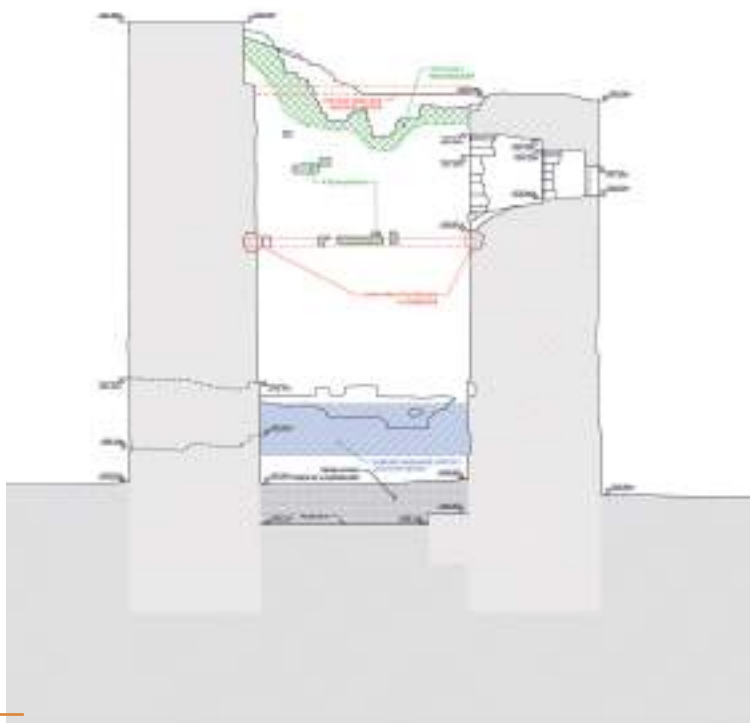


Belfry

The historic entrance to the keep is located on an elevated level, oriented to the south, and used to be accessible via a wooden staircase or ladder. A more recent opening in the masonry visible at courtyard level has no known historical context. As this does not pose a threat to the strength of the masonry, it has not been necessary to close this opening and hence it remains accessible to facilitate maintenance work. The construction documentation enabled the identification of former supports of the wooden beams inside the tower. In the interior of the tower, the use of as little new construction as possible, renders the experience of the secured ruin as particularly authentic. The new development takes into account conservation and architectural concerns in equal measure. The spiral staircase inside the masonry is extremely damaged and will therefore not be accessible to visitors on the secure route through the castle.



Dorjón - Coupe E1 - Orthophoto - 1/50



66 Dorjón - Coupe E1 - 1/50

Historic paving in the Courtyard

As previously mentioned in the brief description of the construction phases, the still preserved historical paving corresponds to a first construction phase. Consequently, access to, and use of, the castle should remain possible, regardless of the historical occupation layer, via new walkways. Damaged surfaces and defects in the paving have been supplemented with small-grained gravel, which also takes on the function of a protective and levelling layer. In this way, careful use remains possible, and the long-term protection of the paving is guaranteed. Nevertheless, the historical paving requires regular maintenance and inspection.

Entrance bridge, castle moat and outdoor facilities

The south side of the stone entrance bridge was uncovered during the archaeological work. Significant deformation and damage to a relief arch justify stabilization through limited additions to restore stability. Furthermore, the historical structure now serves as a support for the architectural design of the entrance, including a parapet as fall protection. The moat, visible next to the entrance bridge, has been included in the upgrading and design of the outdoor facilities. The other areas of the moats of the castle are now largely filled with earth. These areas are designated as tall grass meadows in a close-to-nature concept. A pedestrian path, kept clear by



regular mowing, enables visitors to walk around the ruin. The access roads and peripheral areas of the square on the eastern entrance side of the castle are designed with flowing transitions between paved areas and green areas and less strictly organized open spaces close to nature with local vegetation.

Conclusion and outlook

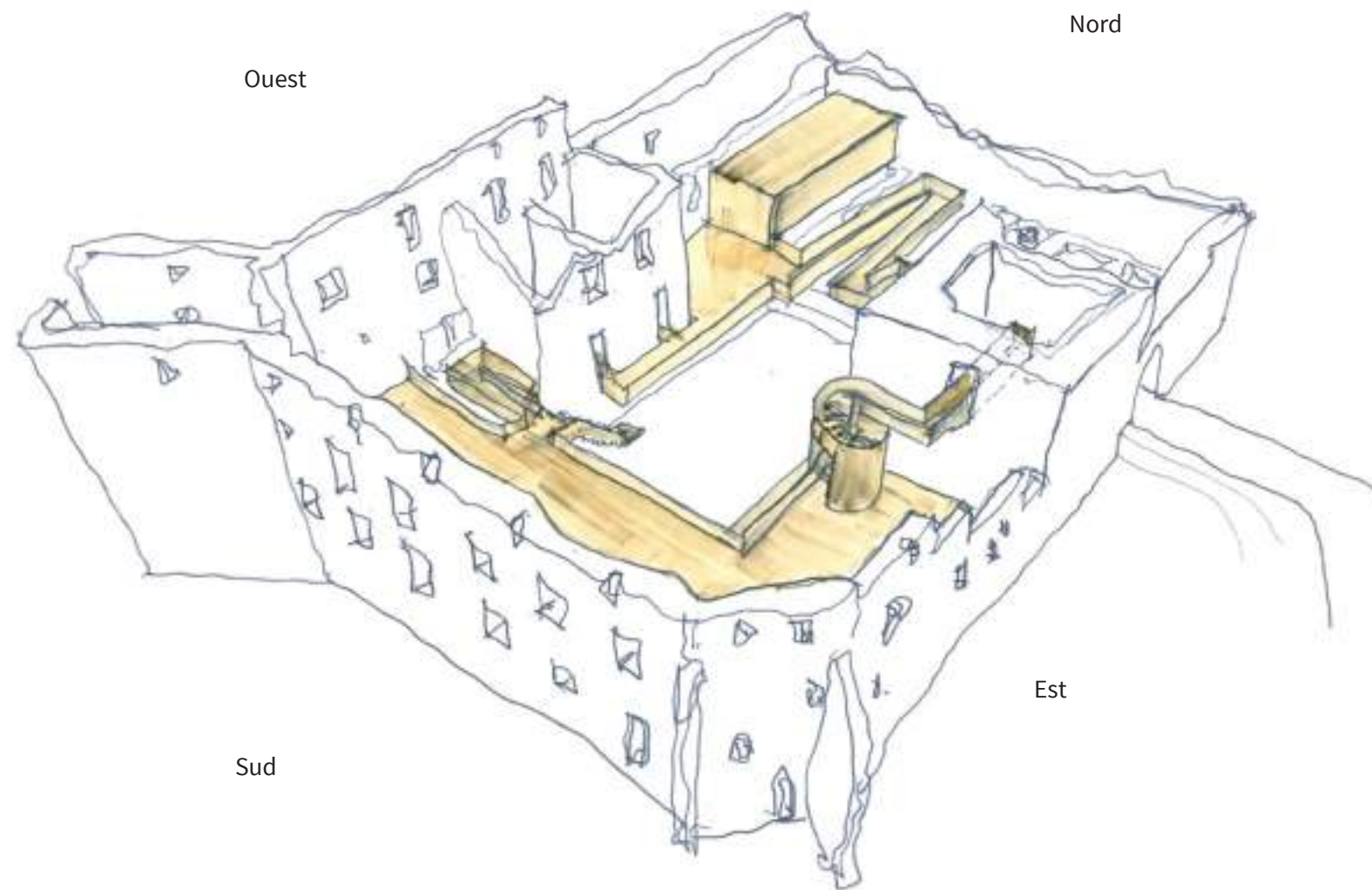
In Koerich, conservationists and the planning team have been faced with the challenge of preserving a ruin threatened by decay, already partially collapsed, needing to repair the damage, and at the same time wanting to strengthen the building structure for new use. Auxiliary constructions were created to meet new requirements of safe use. The intensive project development that the SSMN as the client, together with the architecture office FABECKARCHITECTES' was able to provide, enabled the enhancement of the historical building through restrained, functional, and contemporary architectural elements. In the future, Koerich Castle will be able to be used both as a walkable ruin, and as an open-air stage.

Jean-Jacques List
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 National Service for Sites & Monuments (SSMN)*

NEW LIFE IN OLD BUILDINGS

The restoration of
Koerich Castle from the
architect's point of view
Tatiana Fabeck

NEW LIFE IN OLD BUILDINGS



The restoration of Koerich Castle from the architect's point of view

The demands and objectives of the Friends of the Castle were to provide the necessary infrastructure to «revive» this extraordinary place. This also included the consideration of reconstructing various parts of the ruins. After a thorough analysis of the various possibilities, it was, however, decided to first secure the castle in its existing condition.

My point of view, as the architect entrusted with the restoration of Koerich Castle, was clear from the first sketch. It was important to respect the emotional value of the place for the villagers, as well as its historical significance, therefore no invasive interventions should be made in the architectural structure.

The «Gréiweschlass», located in the centre of the village and surrounded by a large, undeveloped open area, truly forms the core of the village. The goal of making this core and the castle a place of cultural life, has been pursued by the Friends of Koerich Castle with boundless energy.

Our considerations were based on the requirements of the location, the morphology of the structure and the required infrastructure for the planned activities.

First, it had to be thoroughly investigated how the castle could be made more accessible for people with reduced mobility, those using prams, and elderly people. As a result, the idea came to create a circular path through the castle complex, connecting the different areas. This was achieved with the help of walkways and platforms, ramps and stairs, which can also be used as a stage for the planned cultural events.

Numerous excavations and archaeological investigations on behalf of the Ministry of Culture revealed that the level of today's inner courtyard had changed again and again, due to the removal of the paving stones. In order to protect the existing paving, only a minimal number of support structures were used for the various walkways.

The tour through the castle ruins should not only connect different areas and make them accessible to as many visitor groups as possible, but at the same time tell a story. Over the years, the idea arose to make the walkway an integral part of the staging, so that the entire area can be used for cultural events and not just the main stage. Instead of working in a place that is geared towards a single stage, several places were created in which a small orchestra, a singer or even an acrobat can enliven the entire area. The south facade with its beautiful window openings forms an impressive and harmonious backdrop for the main stage.

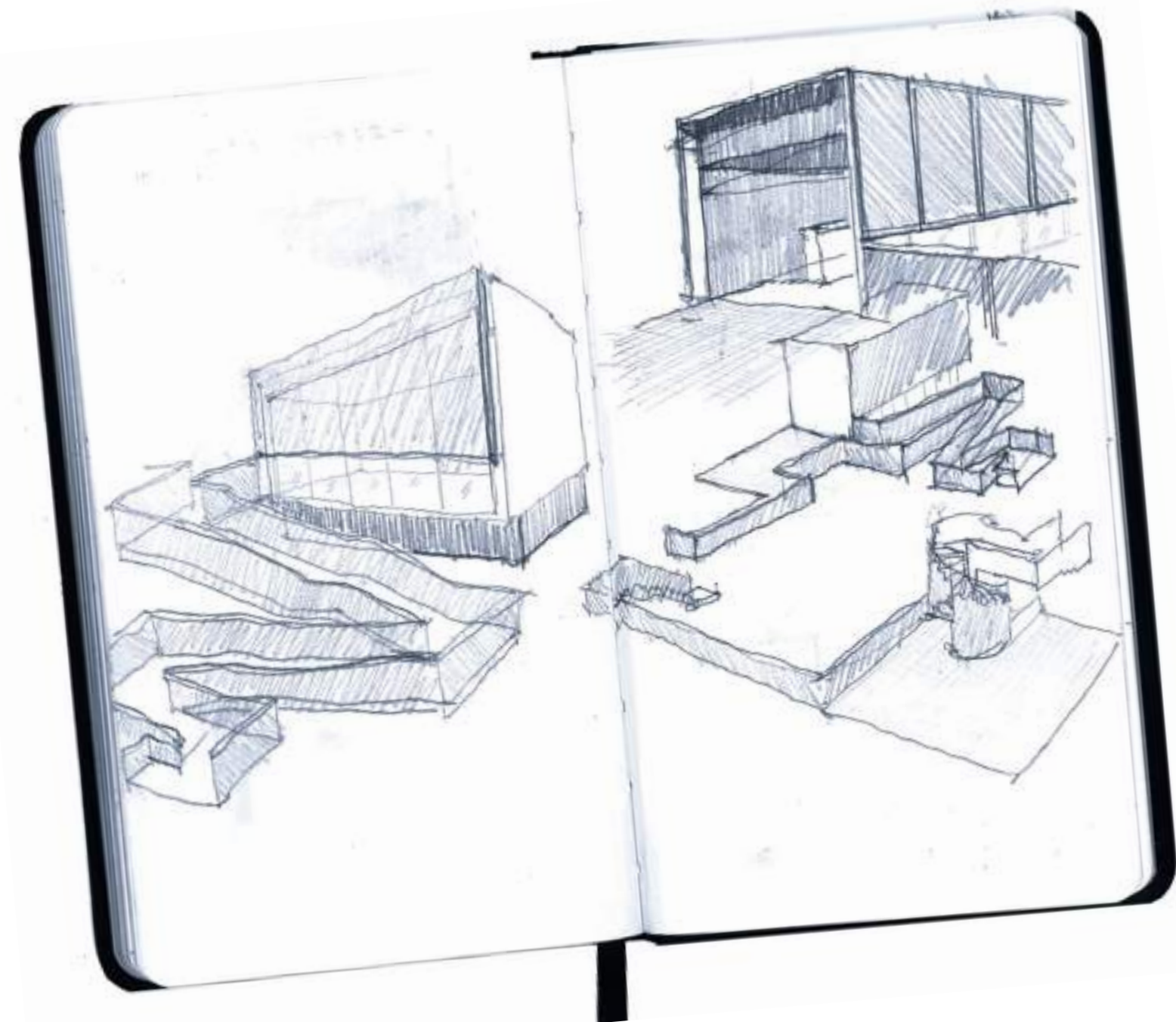
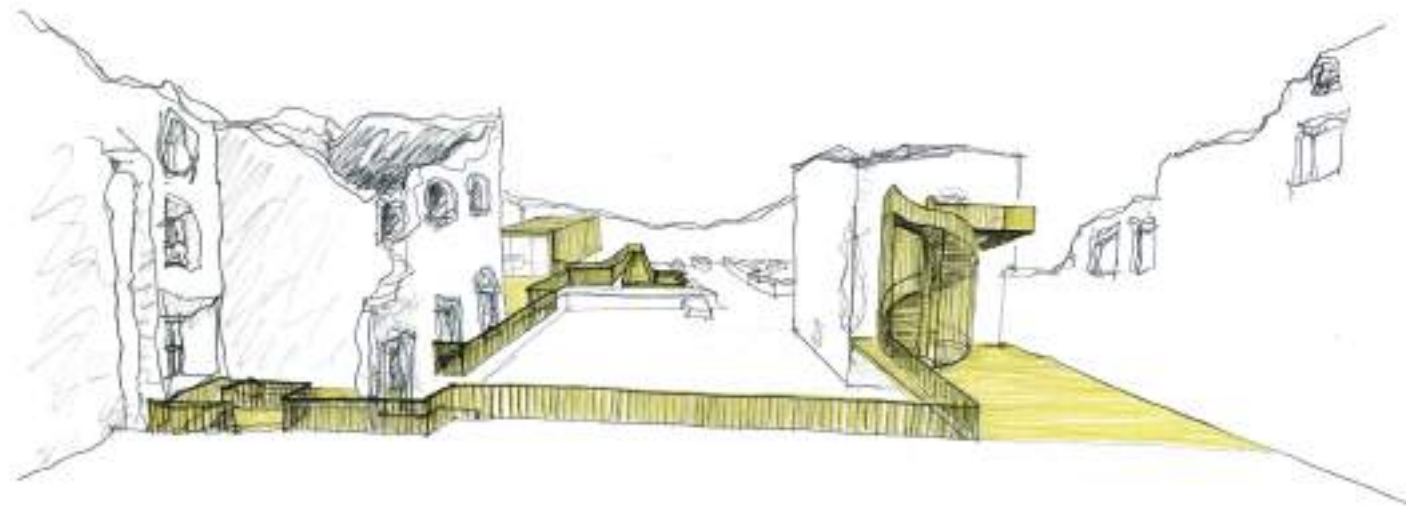
Our goal was to intervene in the existing structures in such a way that one day the add-ons can be removed without leaving any traces. This aspect is important insofar as our generation has the duty to respect past buildings on the one hand and to anticipate future, possibly changed needs on the other.

The next step was the choice of materials. We decided to mainly use steel because it can be used delicately and precisely. Concrete was only used for the basement of the pavilion and for the foundations and the substructure of the monumental staircase. The smooth surface was roughened to match the feel of the old stone walls.

The intended cultural and architectural historical walkway can be used in different ways. During the tour, there are always new and interesting perspectives on the castle. In order to make the visit even more pleasant, the Friends of the Castle wanted to provide visitors with a small room,

which can be used both for smaller seminars or meetings, but also offers the opportunity to stop by and have something to eat or drink. We complied with this wish and built a pavilion in the less historically significant, northwestern part of the site. Glazed on three sides, the pavilion uses an open area, enclosed by the west and north facades as well as by low interior walls. In the basement of the pavilion there are technical rooms, as well as the sanitary rooms and on the ground floor a disabled toilet and a small multi-purpose room with a counter.

This area, even if it is modest, enriches the village community with a public space that can be used by different groups. In this way, the northern part of the “Greiweschlass” is filled with life. To the south of the pavilion is a terrace that can also be used as a small stage or as a spectator area.



From here, visitors can decide whether they want to go down into the courtyard or continue up the ramp to the stage. The stage that covers the basement rooms is clear and versatile.

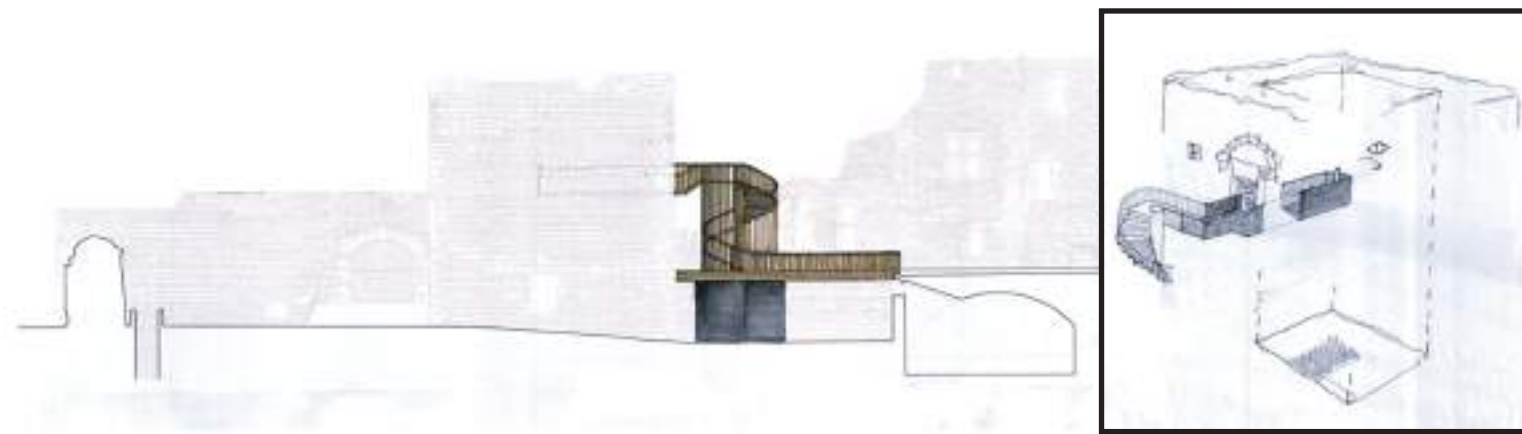
Initially, we had planned to cover the entire courtyard with a metal floor to compensate for the difference in height between the courtyard and the stage. However, this idea was rejected because it would have greatly affected the overall impression. After all, Koerich Castle should also be an attractive place when no performances are taking place.

At the end of the tour, via a narrow path, visitors reach the eastern tower (Witches Tower), which was previously inaccessible. A wide spiral staircase also leads up to the tower from the courtyard, in addition to connecting it to the stage. Arriving at the top, i.e. halfway up the tower, where

an existing narrow opening provides access, visitors experience a special sense of space. The different perspectives, with their different light conditions, make the tour a unique experience.

The visit to the eastern tower offers visitors a completely new view. Until now, it was difficult and only accessible from the ground floor. This spiral staircase, like the walkways and the platforms can be used by singers or dancers during a performance.

From the beginning, there were debates considering whether to put a roof over the stage or not. Originally this was not planned, however during the course of the project, all those involved agreed that the partial covering of the stage had considerable advantages.



For our architects, it was important that the design of the roof followed the same guidelines as the overall project - respect for the existing building substance and the ability to remove it without leaving traces.

The delicate and light roof designed by Büro Ney fits into the architectural concept and leaves the existing building structure intact.

The vaults below the stage have been secured and are now an integral part of the tour. In the summer, when it gets very hot, parties, concerts or readings may be imagined here, in this extraordinary setting.

The formulation of the project concept pursued the goal of re-awakening the soul of Koerich Castle, making it accessible to all through the new walkway.



We have adapted the project several times in order to meet the requirements of the presenting circumstances and to respect the intent of the rich cultural project of the Friends of Koerich Castle.

It was a great honour for us to be able to work on this project, and we hope that we were able to contribute to equipping Koerich Castle for the coming years and making it a lively meeting place for the residents of the village, the whole country and beyond.

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THE ROOF OF KOERICH CASTLE

THE ROOF OF KOERICH CASTLE

A special attraction of Koerich Castle is that concerts, performances and other events can take place in the elevated area of the former residential area. This approximately 31 x 10 m² area has a total area of 306 m².

The area is enclosed by three 12.8 m high side walls. Most importantly, the long side of the south facade forms - seen from the inner courtyard - a grandiose stage background and should therefore be absolutely preserved and brought to the fore.

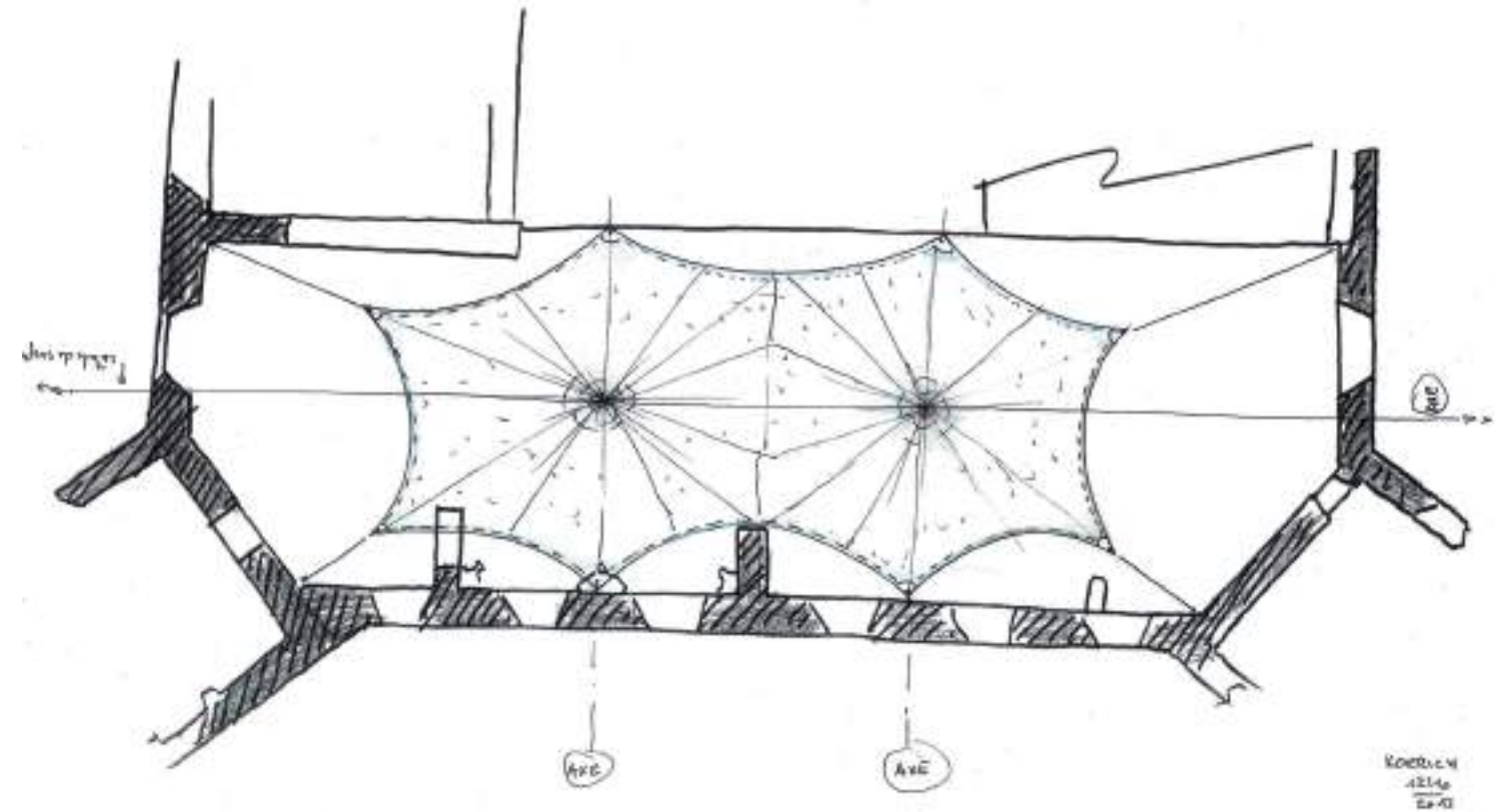
To be able to carry out events regardless of the weather, covering of the stage surface is essential. In this context, the engineering office Ney & Partners was commissioned with the creation of a design, which provides multiple possibilities for protection against the various weather conditions.

Thanks to the massive walls on the east, south and west sides, a light span construction could be considered for the roof. A main support cable, which runs along the axis of the residential section, is stretched between the east and west facades. The membrane roof is supported by the support rope at two high points. By means of an edge rope, which is attached at various points, the entire membrane can be tightened downwards. This ultimately determines the size of the covered area.

To maximize the covered area, six low points of the membrane reach up to 80 cm into the inside of the Castle. The two low points facing the courtyard are in turn supported by two round masts with a diameter of 168 mm and a length of 7 m, which are each supported on a bearing with a diameter of 40 mm.

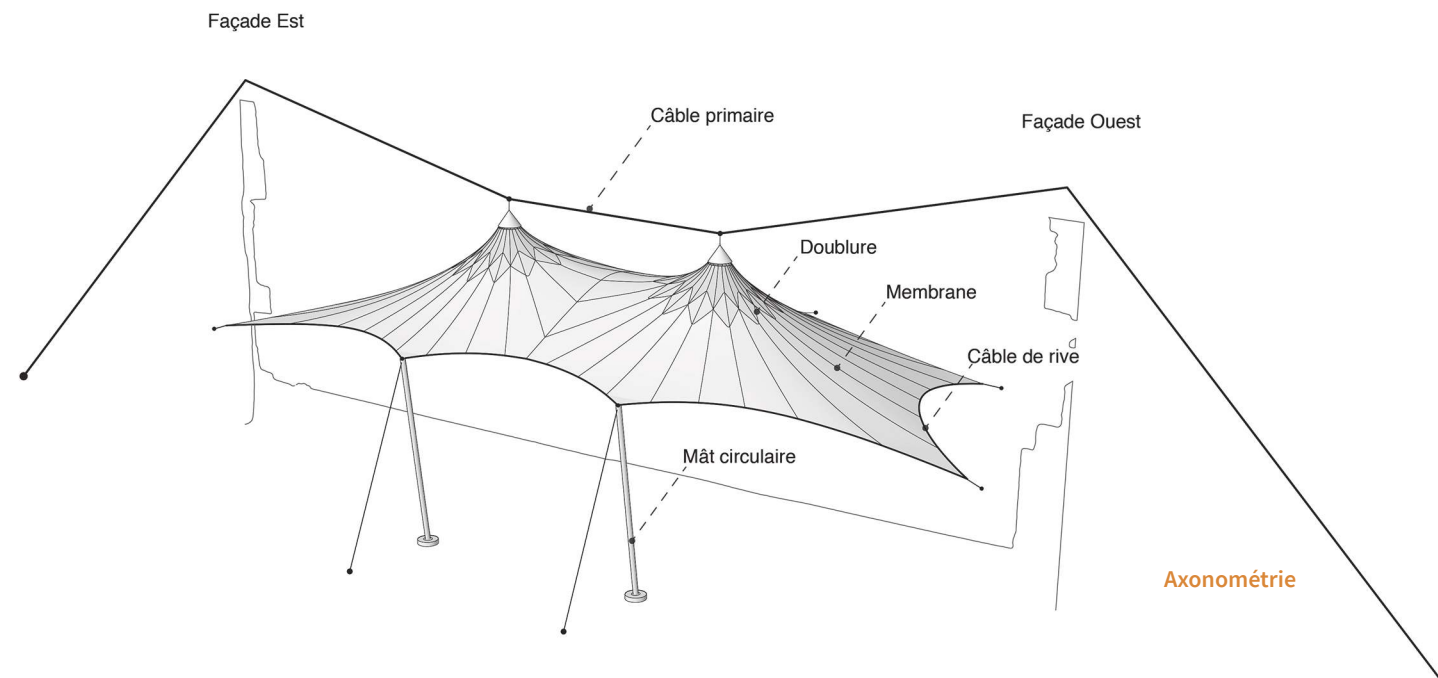
Since no building element rests on the elevated space, several arrangements are conceivable. The chosen geometry with an area of 240 m² determines two equal rooms, which can either be divided into an audience and a performance room or can be used entirely as a stage area.

From the point of view of architectural integration, the advantage of this concept lies in its lightness, the avoidance of structures in the true sense and a modern form of expression that makes its temporal character clear. The new elements are perfectly integrated into the existing masonry, because with their natural, airy and delicate shape they stand in contrast to the solid walls with their strict geometry.



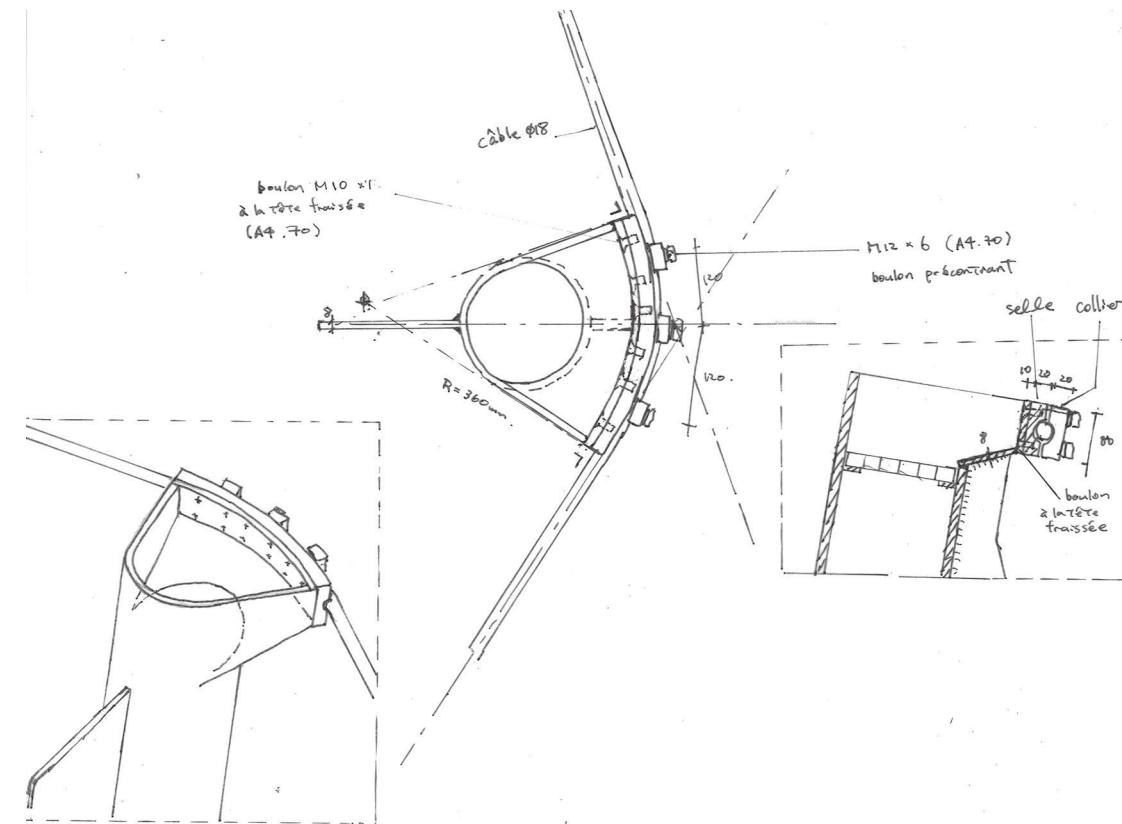
Water drainage is provided by the eight low points of the membrane roof. Since the membrane is raised by 40 mm along the edge ropes, the water can be kept on the membrane surface. Along the inside, the water can drain into six low points in stainless steel pipes. At the two low

points on the side of the courtyard, the water can drain into the two masts. In addition to the load-bearing function and the drainage of rainwater, these supports also serve to illuminate the stage area. At the upper end of the support, several light fixtures are installed. Other light points independent of the structure of the roof complement the lighting of the room.

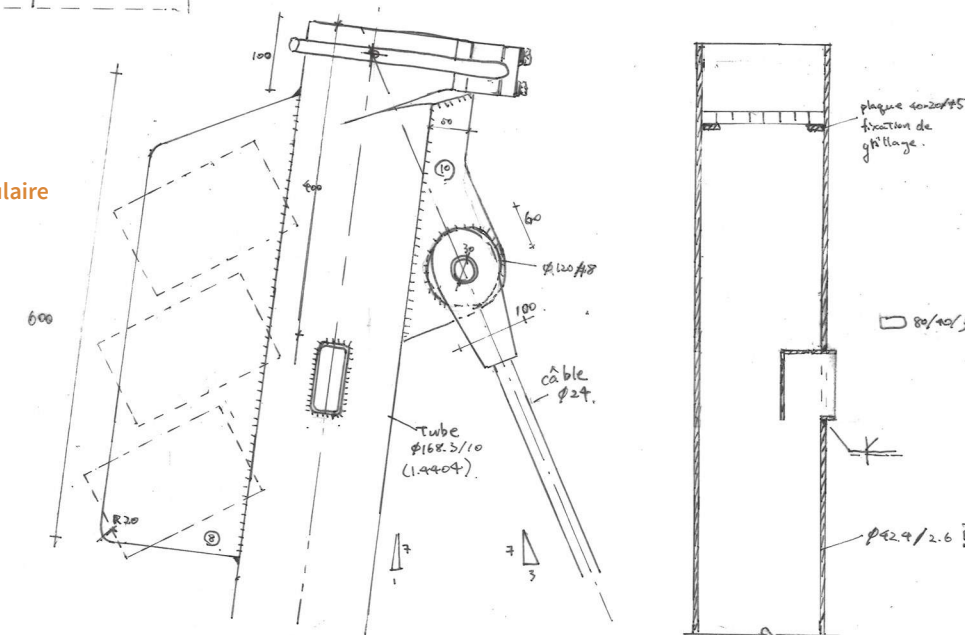


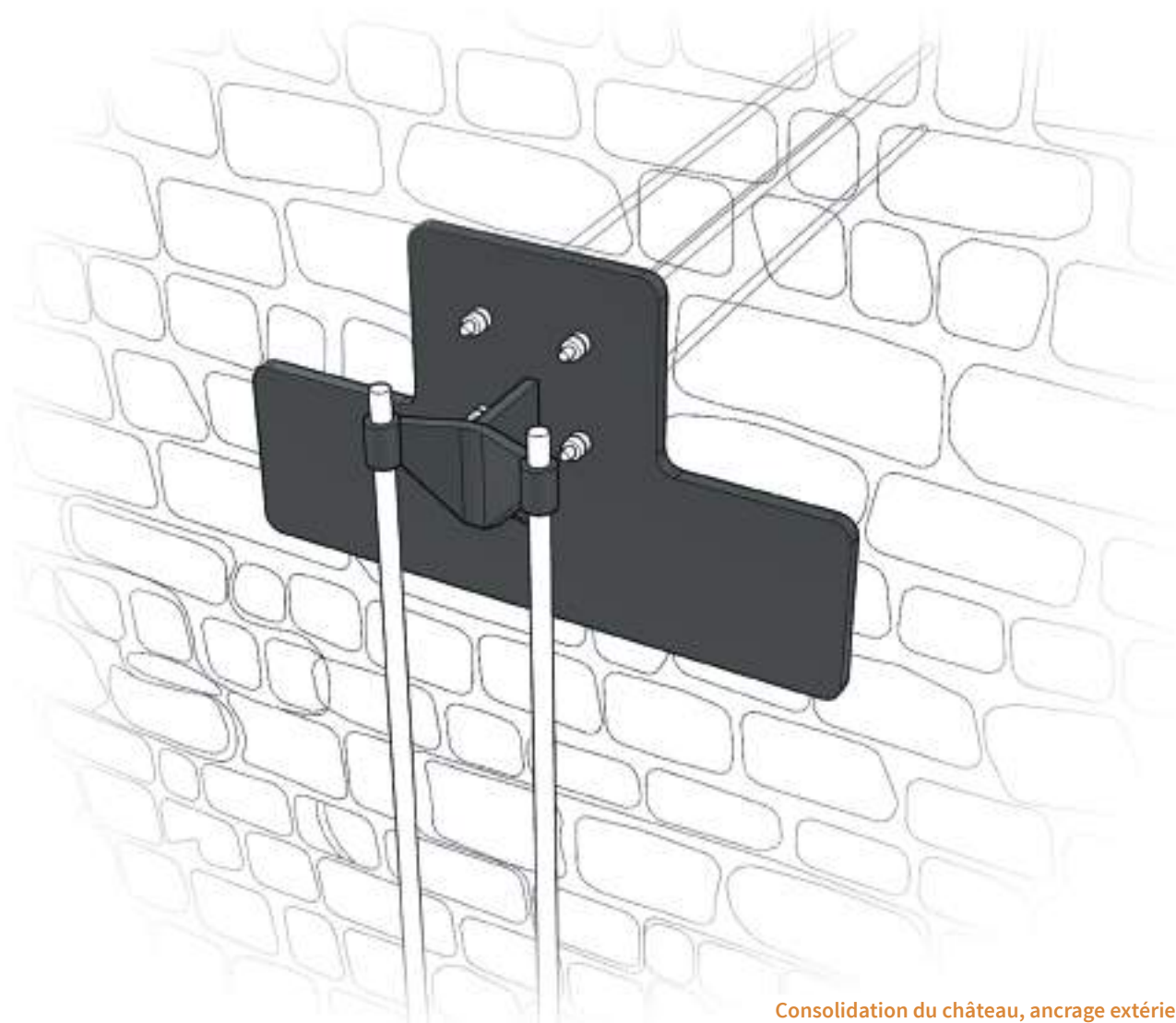
In order to be able to tighten the membrane between both sides of the castle, several reinforcements were required. Beams were installed on the east and west facades to guide the rope upwards and distribute the load on the masonry. The anchors of the six low points run through the facades and distribute the load onto micro-supports, which are anchored in the ground outside the castle.

Such a structure requires controlled tension of the surface. Adjustable clevises are installed at various connection points to enable an optimal distribution of the tensile forces in the ropes and the membrane. The detailed static calculation shows a significantly greater stress concentration in the two high points compared to the rest of the membrane. To take this into account, the membrane was reinforced at the high points, using a semi-transparent (20%) material. The two reinforcement areas are designed in a geometric, radial shape and play with shadows and changing views around the critical points of the membrane.

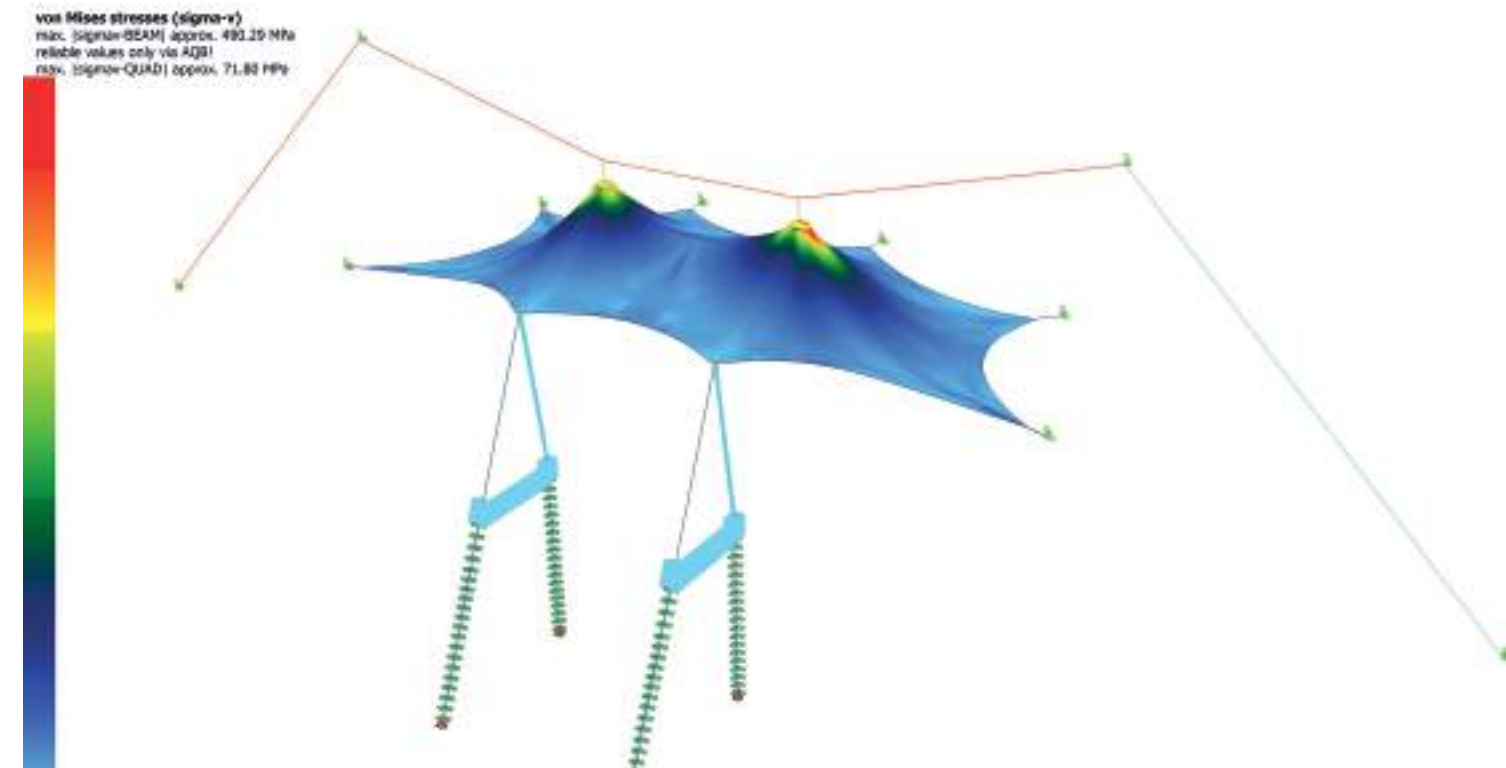


Détail colonne circulaire





Consolidation du château, ancrage extérieure

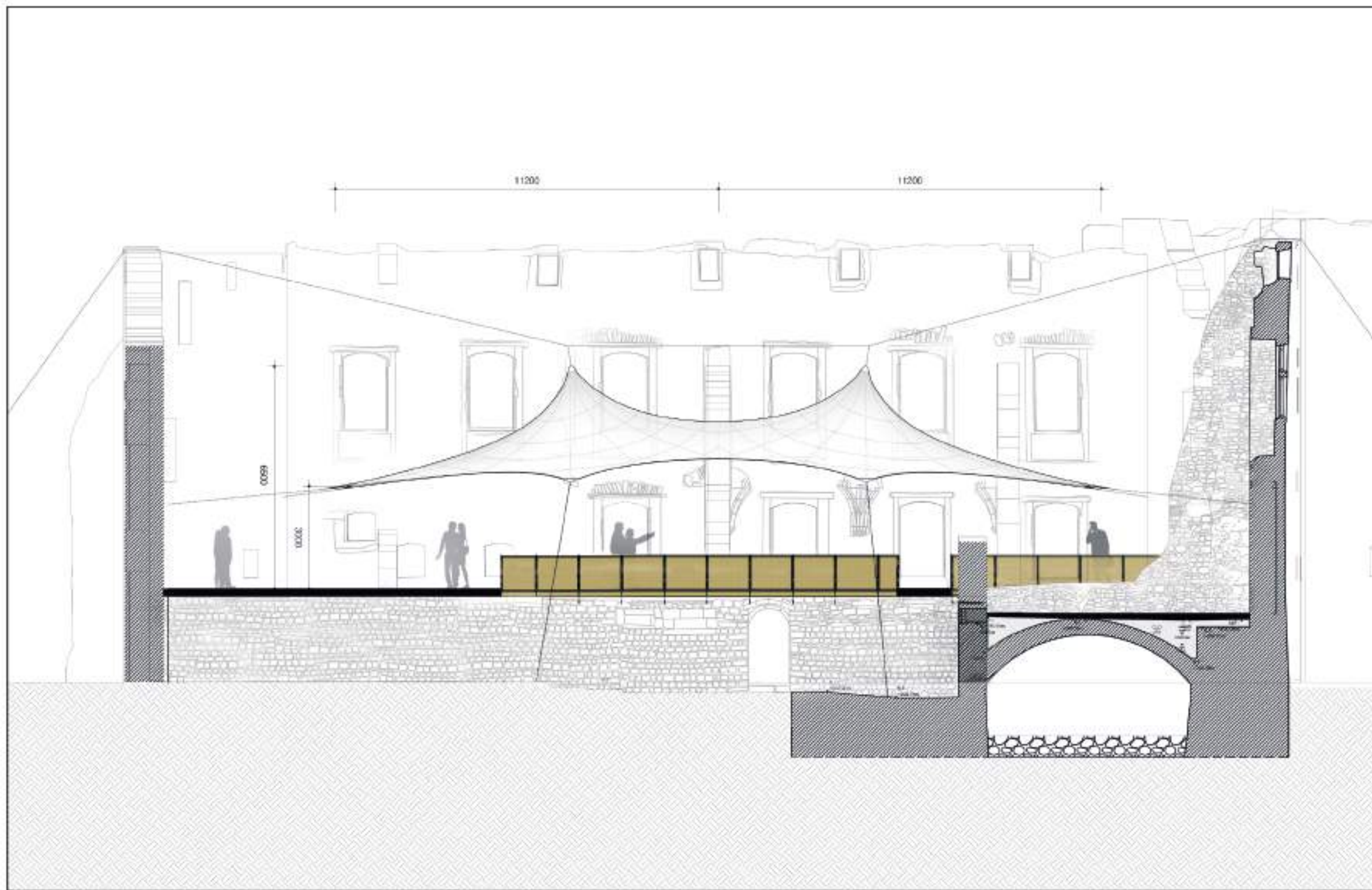


Tension de la membrane

Particular thought was given to the choice of materials. Strong and durable materials were used for the canopy and metal elements: The canopy membrane is made of a PTFE mesh fabric with a smooth, stain-resistant fluorine coating. Almost all metal components of the construction are made of high-quality stainless steel to protect

against the weather. Two finishes were used: black (like all new constructions designed by the Fabeck architectural studio) for the components that are in direct contact with the existing structure, and bead-blasted stainless steel for the steel elements that make up the membrane.

Said Sahmaoui and Laurent Ney
NEY & PARTNERS



Esquisse de la toile tendue



NATURE & CULTURE, CULTURE & NATURE

Redesign of the green area
around the castle

Redesign of the green area around the castle

Located in the heart of Koerich, the Koerich moated castle has a unique, privileged location that has developed over the centuries to be the nucleus of the village. Enclosed by its moats, the castle, which stands as an independent building, characterizes the village, especially because it has not been surrounded by new buildings. It has a pleasant outdoor space all around, which serves as a green buffer, thus also guaranteeing the necessary visibility.

A stream flows south of the castle, to the north, the site is framed by the higher main road, to the west towards the community centre, the castle wall encloses the area. To the east of the castle lies an estate that once served as a castle farm. Between this farm (today known as “Halleschhaus”), which is also registered as a ‘monument historique’, and the castle, there is a large central square.

Dealing with the outer area of the castle followed the same guidelines as those that characterize the castle: a deliberately careful approach that never competes with the castle. Since it was not possible to fill the moats with water again, the idea came up to let the green space grow naturally all around and only cut paths that make it possible to walk all the way around the castle. These tall grasses move with the wind, making them appear similar to the silvery shimmering surface of water.

The guiding principle was that the castle should remain surrounded by this somewhat wild, natural ambience. Clearly, the approach to nature is subject to the imposing nature of the mighty walls. The lighting concept was developed with the same approach.



The space between the farm and the castle should also remain usable as a polyvalent space, both as a parking lot and as a marquee for the “Tempus Mediaevale” and other events. However, it can also be seen as an extension of the new, still to be designed community square. A footpath leads from here along the stream to neighbouring Goebange. A few trees are planted to make the course feel a little less mineral and to provide some shade. These were arranged in such a way that they do not interfere with the various possible uses.

In the north, the large poplar was deliberately preserved and supplemented with other trees, so it can continue to serve its role as a useful protection against street noise.

After lengthy discussions with the monument protection authorities, there is now the possibility of opening the wall at a second point towards the town hall, in order to make the area even more accessible and to connect the square in front of the town hall directly with the outside area of the castle.

Elements that are too imposing were avoided in order to respect the very natural character of the surroundings, in contrast to the walls as much as possible. Accordingly, transitions between the mineral surface and the meadow do not occur through sharp edges.

It is also important to note that this is not an intrusive concept. It can ‘grow’ with the castle over the years and adapt to the new requirements of the next generation.

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LIGHTING CONCEPT FOR KOERICH CASTLE AND ITS OUTDOOR FACILITIES



LIGHTING CONCEPT FOR KOERICH CASTLE AND ITS OUTDOOR FACILITIES

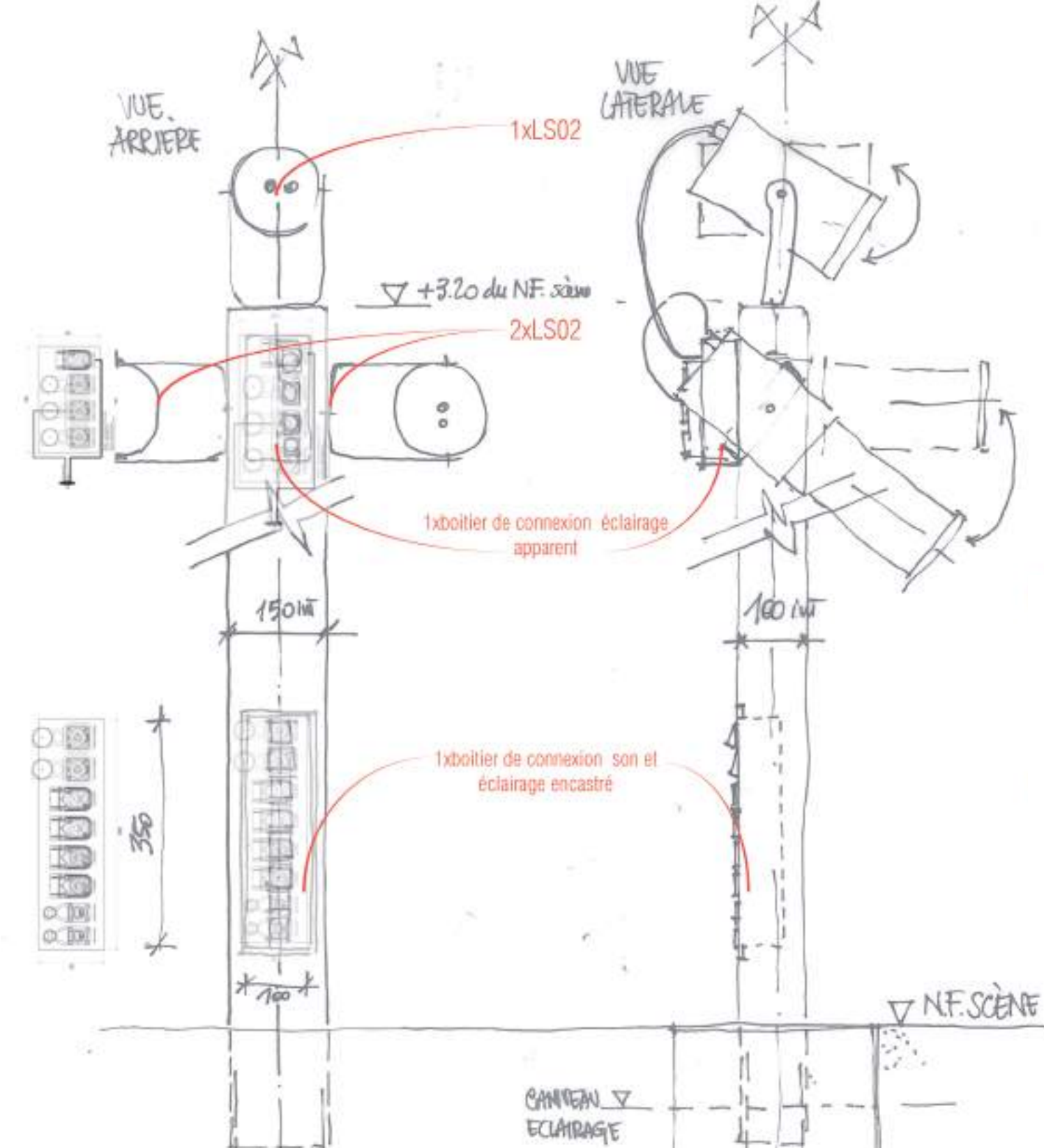
We wanted to create an expressive nocturnal image while avoiding the castle being «flooded with spotlights». Rather, we want to bring the interior of the historic building to life and invite people to visit the site.

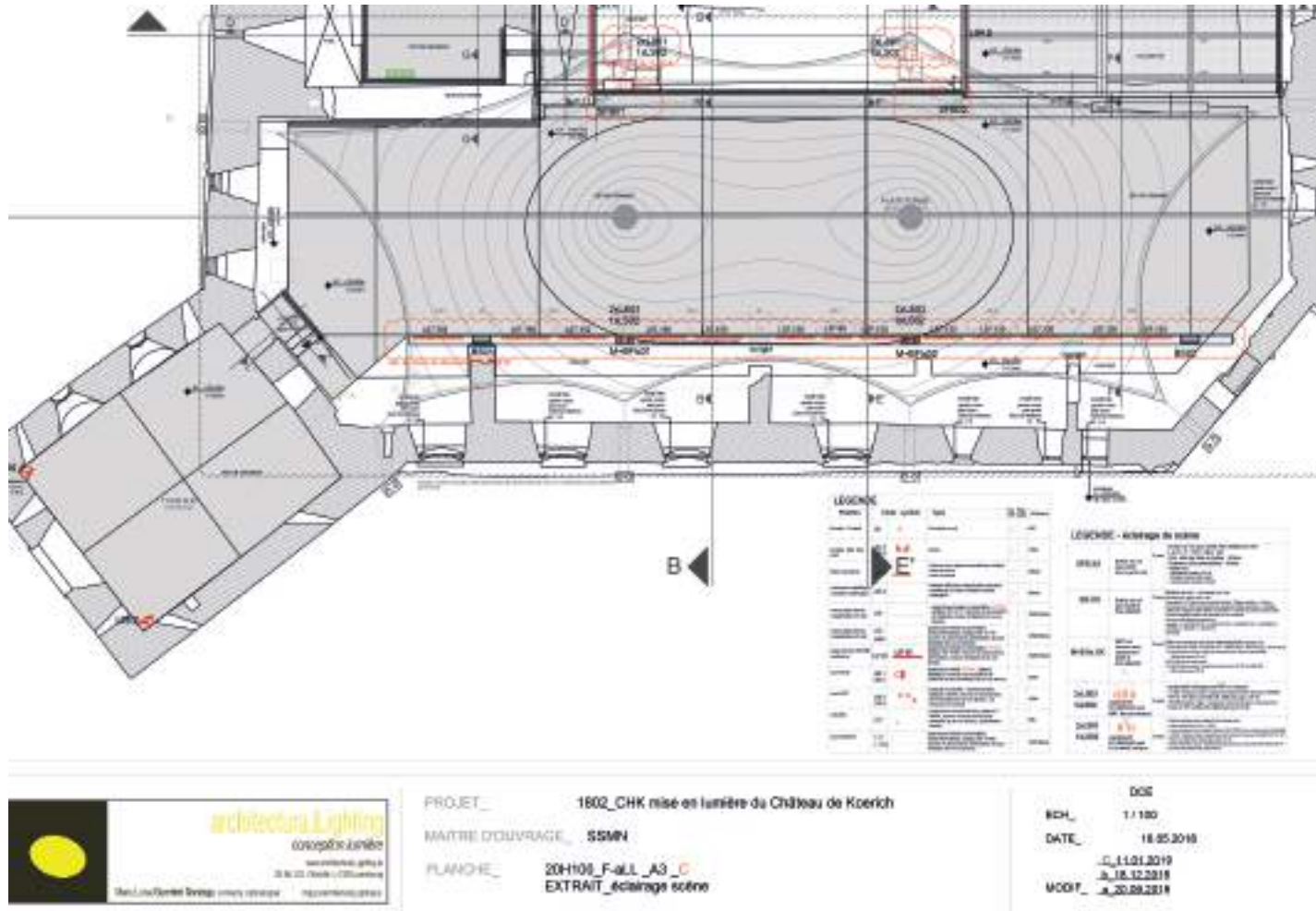
We see the lighting concept as an addition that supports the architectural project on various levels. The castle was to be “anchored” by means of soft lighting with warm-light spotlights. At the same time, the entrance to the parking lot is marked by lights embedded in the floor. In addition, empty pipes are provided at various points for possible later supplementary measures. The access bridge to the castle is highlighted by a more intensive use of light; the lighting integrated into the handrail is intended to invite visitors to explore the interior of the castle.

First level of light - visitor guidance: contrast of ramp and inner courtyard

The lighting integrated into one of the two handrails is oriented to make it easier to see the access ramps to the different levels; at the same time, the stairs leading to the entrance in the east tower («Witches' Tower») are illuminated vertically.

A warm light with a particularly deep beam of light brings out the original cobblestones of the inner courtyard without glaring or overlapping with other light sources.





The buildings

The two towers and the former buildings of the castle shine through the window openings and the gap of the western tower towards the street. Spotlights are installed on the middle wall of the western buildings, which

also illuminate the inner vertical surfaces. In this way, the interior of the castle appears alive and impressive elements, such as the fireplace in the chapel tower, are shown to their best advantage.

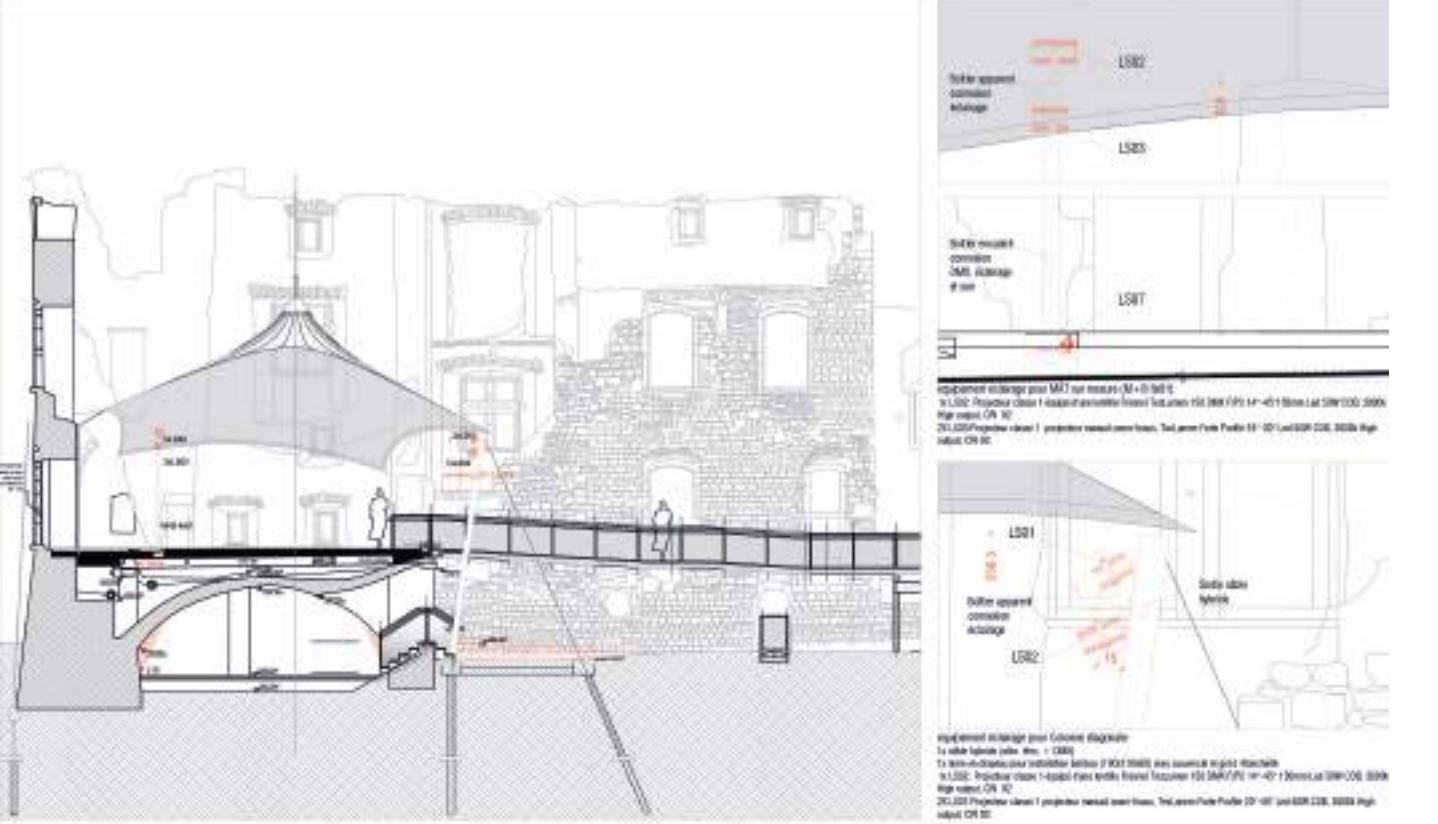
The stage

The extraordinary background of the stage is emphasized by mood and event lighting. The linearly aligned spotlights, which provide continuous lighting along the inner façade, are installed a little lower in a channel and are invisible to visitors during the day. This effect is repeated in the window frames, which are thus highlighted and can be seen from the surrounding wall, both from the inside and from the outside. This channel also contains floor sockets with audio plugs and suitable plugs for lighting and sound technology around the stage area.

Spotlights are mounted on the steel pillars that support the roof and are only used during special events. Together with the lights installed in the south tower, they create interesting lighting scenarios.

Finally, the deliberately simple controls should also be mentioned. The «everyday» lighting of the castle is controlled via a brightness sensor. Depending on the time of year, the number of hours of lighting per day/night can be set, thereby reducing disruptive light pollution.

Maria Luisa Guerrieri Gonzaga
 architecturaLLighting





PRESS REVIEW

Tempus Mediaevale am 19. September

Mittelalter-Fest in Koerich

»Käercher Schlössfrënn« feiern 10-jähriges Bestehen rundum das »Gréiveschlass«

Mit einem mittelalterlichen Fest, wie es Koerich – gelegen zwischen Capellen und Steinfurt – bis dato nicht erlebt hat, begehen die »Käercher Schlössfrënn« am Sonntag, dem 19. September, ihr zehnjähriges Bestehen. »Tempus Mediaevale« nennen die Organisatoren das Volksfest, das von 10 Uhr vormittags bis in die Abendstunden dauert und bei freiem Eintritt zu besichtigen ist.

Rund um die 800 Jahre alten mächtigen Gemäuer der in der Ortsmitte von Koerich gelegenen Wasserburg »Gréiveschlass« werden den ganzen Tag über Artisten und Kunsthandwerker aus dem In- und Ausland zeigen, wie die Menschen aus unserer Gegend vor Jahrhunderten bis etwa 200 n. Chr. gelebt, gearbeitet und gefeiert haben. Vor der traumhaften Kulisse der alten Wasserburg leben wieder die Bräute und Geflochtenen in der Atmosphäre längst vergangener Zeiten auf.

Zentralpunkt ist ein mittelalterliches Lager in dem Menschen leben und arbeiten. In einem einzigartigen Ambiente wird das Mittelalter wieder lebendig. Hier bereiten Frauen in ihren langen Gewändern auf offenem Feuer in primitiven Pfannen und Töpfen kanarische Mahlzeiten zu; schärfen rauhbare Männer mit dem Wetzstein ihre Sichen und

Sensen; striegeln, füttern und tränken Kinder und Jugendliche Haus- und Nutztiere.

Hautnah können die Besucher miterleben, wie ein Schmied in seiner Esse glühendes Eisen zu einem Kunstgegenstand hämmert. Töpfer aus leuchtendem Lehm Vasen, Schüsseln und Tassen fertigt; ein Kaligraph mit dem Federkiel Kunstschrift auf Papier zeichnet; ein Alchemist durch dampfend-glühende Substanzen Gold herzustellen versucht und sein Publikum mit seinen Tricks in Staunen versetzt; eine Kunstschneiderin Schmuck und Zierat im Modetrend von Anno Dazumal anfertigt.

An weiteren Ständen werden mittelalterliche Gebrauchsgüter und Gezeugs zum Verkauf angeboten: Kleider, Hemden und Kopfbedeckungen, Dekorationsartikel aus Stein oder Holz, selbstgebastelte Landhörn, Heilpflanzen aus heimischen Wäldern und Wiesland. Zu den Aktivitäten des Festes gehört ein Eselreiten für die kleinen Gäste.

Musik des Mittelalters, romantisch, frisch, möglichst authentisch auf zeitgenössischen Spezialgetränken wie Rittertrunk, Knappenbrun, Feentrun und Hexengewiss. Seit ihrer Gründung im

Le château de Koerich en rénovation

Calais à l'ordonnée de l'habitat. Koerich, qui est une à faire réinventer les arts traditionnels. Au village, le château de Koerich ne tombe pas dans l'oubli.

Le château de Koerich, qui est une à faire réinventer les arts traditionnels. Au village, le château de Koerich ne tombe pas dans l'oubli.

Optimismus nach bitterer Enttäuschung

»Käercher Schlössfrënn« zeigen Bilanz / Stabilisationsarbeiten am »Palaisgebirg« für Frühjahr angekündigt

Georges Simon, Präsident der »Käercher Schlössfrënn«, eröffnete die diesjährige Generalversammlung mit einer Rede, in der er die Mitglieder der »Käercher Schlössfrënn« für ihre Unterstützung dankte. Er erwähnte die finanzielle Lage der »Käercher Schlössfrënn« und die Notwendigkeit, die Stabilisationsarbeiten am »Palaisgebirg« für das Frühjahr 2012 zu planen. Er erwähnte auch die finanzielle Lage der »Käercher Schlössfrënn« und die Notwendigkeit, die Stabilisationsarbeiten am »Palaisgebirg« für das Frühjahr 2012 zu planen.

Von der Burgruine zur Freilichtbühne

Im März 1999 wurde die Burgruine zur Freilichtbühne. Von der Burgruine zur Freilichtbühne. Im März 1999 wurde die Burgruine zur Freilichtbühne.

Gefahrlose Burgbesichtigung ab 2008

»Käercher Schlössfrënn« stellen das jährliche Kulturprogramm vor

Im September 2008 wurde das jährliche Kulturprogramm der »Käercher Schlössfrënn« vorgestellt. Es umfasst eine Reihe von Veranstaltungen, die das kulturelle Erbe der Region fördern und die Öffentlichkeit einbinden. Das Programm umfasst eine Reihe von Veranstaltungen, die das kulturelle Erbe der Region fördern und die Öffentlichkeit einbinden.

Freude über Fortgang am »Gréiveschlass«

Zuversicht bei den »Käercher Schlössfrënn«

Es habe sich eine Menge um das »Gréiveschlass« bewegt, so der äußerst zufriedene Präsident Georges Simon in seinem Rückblick 2011 während der diesjährigen Generalversammlung der »Käercher Schlössfrënn«. Erfreut zeigte sich der Vorsitzende auch über die dritte Ausgabe des »Buergebund« von John Zimmer mit einer 32-seitigen Detailanalyse über das »Käercher Schlass«. Einen großen Dank richtete Georges Simon an »Sites et monuments«, und vor allem an Jean-Jacques List, an den ONT und die Gemeinde Koerich für die Unterstützung sowie an seinen Vorstand, an die lokale Feuerwehr für die gute Zusammenarbeit beim »Tempus Mediaevale« sowie alle ehrenamtlichen Helfer während der Großveranstaltung. Neben ihrer Hauptmission, den Fortgang der Arbeiten am »Gréiveschlass« voranzutreiben, werden die »Käercher Schlössfrënn« sich 2012 unter anderem erneut an der »Kulturwoche am Westen« am 5. Mai beteiligen. Das Jahreshighlight »Tempus Mediaevale« findet im September statt. Die »Käercher Schlössfrënn« setzten sich zusammen aus 293 Mitgliedern, davon 252 Sympathisanten und 41 »Membres associés« (rfg)

Zur Erinnerung an das »Fockeschlass«

Gedenkplakette für Notizenbuch Hermanns in Koerich erhalten

Im September 2011 wurde eine Gedenkplakette für das Notizenbuch Hermanns in Koerich erhalten. Die Plakette erinnert an die historische Bedeutung des Notizenbuchs und die Rolle der »Käercher Schlössfrënn« bei der Erhaltung dieses kulturellen Erbes.

Neues Leben in alten Gemäuern

2004/2005 war die Restaurierung der »Käercher Schlössfrënn« im Gange

Im Jahr 2004/2005 wurde die Restaurierung der »Käercher Schlössfrënn« im Gange. Die Arbeiten umfassten die Sanierung der Mauern, die Erneuerung der Dachstuhl und die Restaurierung der Inneneinrichtung. Die »Käercher Schlössfrënn« sind stolz auf den Fortschritt der Arbeiten und die Unterstützung der Gemeinde und der Bevölkerung.

Aufwertung des »Gréiveschlass« in Koerich: Licht am Ende des Tunnels

»Käercher Schlössfrënn« feiern 20. Jubiläum

Im September 2011 wurde das 20-jährige Jubiläum der »Käercher Schlössfrënn« gefeiert. Die Feierlichkeiten umfassten eine Reihe von Veranstaltungen, die das kulturelle Erbe der Region fördern und die Öffentlichkeit einbinden. Die »Käercher Schlössfrënn« sind stolz auf den Fortschritt der Arbeiten und die Unterstützung der Gemeinde und der Bevölkerung.

Mehr als nur eine Kulisse

»Käercher Schlössfrënn« zeigen die Arbeit am »Gréiveschlass«

Im Jahr 2011 wurde die Arbeit am »Gréiveschlass« der »Käercher Schlössfrënn« gezeigt. Die »Käercher Schlössfrënn« sind stolz auf den Fortschritt der Arbeiten und die Unterstützung der Gemeinde und der Bevölkerung.

»Gréiveschlass« in Koerich sollte Kulturstätte werden

800 Jahre alte Wasserburg für nachfolgende Generationen erhalten

Im Jahr 2011 wurde die Arbeit am »Gréiveschlass« der »Käercher Schlössfrënn« gezeigt. Die »Käercher Schlössfrënn« sind stolz auf den Fortschritt der Arbeiten und die Unterstützung der Gemeinde und der Bevölkerung.

SUDEN

Baustopp als Stein des Anstoßes

Architektur- und Baustoffmarkt stehen vor großen Herausforderungen

Der Baustoffmarkt steht vor großen Herausforderungen. Die Preise für Baustoffe sind in den letzten Monaten stark gestiegen. Dies hat zu einem Baustopp in vielen Projekten geführt. Die Bauherren sind gezwungen, die Kosten zu senken, um die Projekte fortzusetzen zu können.



(K)eine Baugenehmigung für die Renovierungsarbeiten am »Gräweschloss«?

Die Renovierungsarbeiten am Gräweschloss sind im Gange. Die Baugenehmigung ist jedoch noch nicht erteilt worden. Die Behörden sind der Meinung, dass die Arbeiten nicht im Einklang mit den geltenden Vorschriften stehen.



Das Kriegsbeil ist begraben

Stufenwiese wird in einen Park umgewandelt

Die Stufenwiese wird in einen Park umgewandelt. Die Arbeiten sind im Gange und werden in den nächsten Jahren abgeschlossen sein. Der Park wird einen schönen Aufenthaltsort für die Besucher bieten.



Die Rückkehr der Ritter ist ungewiss

Die Rückkehr der Ritter ist ungewiss. Die Organisatoren sind sich nicht sicher, ob die Ritter zu dem Fest kommen werden. Die Entscheidung wird in den nächsten Tagen getroffen werden.



Gemüter wieder beruhigt

Aus den »Käercher Schlassfrënn« soll neue Struktur entstehen

Die Gemüter sind wieder beruhigt. Eine neue Struktur wird für die »Käercher Schlassfrënn« geschaffen. Dies wird die Zusammenarbeit verbessern und die Arbeit erleichtern.



Les pierres et le traitement des lacunes

Journée du patrimoine au château de Koerich

Die Journée du patrimoine am Château de Koerich wird am nächsten Sonntag stattfinden. Es werden verschiedene Aktivitäten angeboten, um die Geschichte des Schlosses zu entdecken.



Schlossrenovierung fast beendet

Schlassfrënn hoffen auf Einweihung im September

Die Schlossrenovierung ist fast beendet. Die Organisatoren hoffen auf eine Einweihung im September. Die Arbeiten sind in vollem Gange und werden in den nächsten Wochen abgeschlossen sein.



Renaissance einer Wasserburg

Die Renaissance einer Wasserburg wird im Gange. Die Arbeiten sind im Gange und werden in den nächsten Jahren abgeschlossen sein. Die Wasserburg wird zu einem beliebten Ort für Veranstaltungen werden.



„Käercher Schlassfrënn“ hoffen auf Renovierungsende

„Concerts de Koerich“ wieder auf dem Programm

Die »Käercher Schlassfrënn« hoffen auf ein Renovierungsende. Die »Concerts de Koerich« werden wieder auf dem Programm sein. Die Organisatoren sind sich sicher, dass die Arbeiten in den nächsten Jahren abgeschlossen sein werden.



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KOERICH CASTLE FOR EVERYONE!

KOERICH CASTLE FOR EVERYONE!

Tourism for all: why is it important?

Everyone in Europe is talking about demographic change. Although Luxembourg is one of the few European countries whose population will grow in the future, whereas a significant decrease in population size is to be expected in all important countries of tourist origin, such as Germany, the Netherlands or France.

But the changes in population structure will not go unnoticed in Luxembourg either. «We're getting older, more individual and more colourful!» - This much-quoted statement also applies to Luxembourg. The number of older people is increasing in Luxembourg and across Europe. For tourism, this means an increase in older guests – both from foreign markets and in the domestic market. As a result, many more people with disabilities or chronic illnesses will go on vacation in the future.

In addition, as a consequence of increasing individualization the demands of the guests are changing. «Off-the-shelf» offers, which might have appealed to a large group of guests in the past, are in less demand today.

Tourism providers must adapt to these changing framework conditions if they want to survive the competition. They have to be able to serve the wide range of

requirements of today's guests. Tourism for all offers an important approach: it takes into account the diversity of guests and puts their different needs in the foreground, trying to offer all guests an unforgettable holiday experience. A barrier-free infrastructure is just as important as good, individual service.

Who benefits from the accessibility of the Koerich Castle?

Most of the time, accessibility is associated with disabled people. And of course, they benefit in a very special way. Wheelchair users and guests with walking difficulties need a level access, sufficiently large movement areas and a barrier-free toilet. For blind and visually impaired guests, a high-contrast design and easy orientation are of great importance, while deaf people need information that is not only given acoustically.

But in fact, all guests appreciate the comfort of a barrier-free attraction. It doesn't matter whether it's families with prams, older visitors or guests with reading glasses and hearing aids: well thought-out design, in combination with accessibility, creates the extra advantage that makes the Koerich Castle an excellent experience for all visitors. At the same time, attractiveness and aesthetics

must not be neglected. Tourism for all is about holiday experiences and not just about purely functional accessibility. Therefore, offers should not only be barrier-free, but also chic and attractive.

What makes the Koerich Castle an attraction for all guests?

The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg is more committed to tourism for all than almost any other country in Europe. The Ministry of Economy has set up a working group with tourism experts from all over the country and supports individual projects to improve accessibility. Many offers have barrier-free access for guests and can be used comfortably.

Disabled parking spaces are available at the nearby town hall of Koerich, further parking spaces are available in the immediate vicinity of the castle. The park-like area around the castle with numerous seating areas invites guests to linger.

The interior of the castle can be reached at ground level. Wheelchair users, walker-users, families with prams, and all guests who find climbing stairs uncomfortable, can easily reach both the pavilion with its terrace and the stage on the south and east sides via a wide ramp. Only access to the castle keep (witches' tower) is only accessible on foot via a spiral staircase. There is a barrier-free toilet in the pavilion.

The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg offers many other tourist highlights for everyone. For example, the castle in Useldange has made a name for itself as an attraction for visitors with visual impairments. In the nearby city of Luxembourg, one finds excellent museums and elevators that enable access to the old town for guests with walking difficulties. It is a charismatic destination with a distinct European appeal for everyone. Koerich Castle thus joins a wide range of attractive offers.

Kai Pagenkopf,
NEUMANNCONSULT
in cooperation with the Ministry of Economy





WORDS OF THANKS

Words of thanks

We thank

- the municipality of Koerich,
- the Ministry of Culture,
- the Ministry of Economy

and the following companies:

A.Thilman & Fils succ. Patrik Thilman - Équipement cuisines professionnelles – www.thilman.lu

ARCHEO Constructions S.A. – info@archeo.lu

Burg & Kirch S.à.r.l. Maler-, Verputz- und Trockenbauarbeiten - www.burg-kirch.lu

FABECKARCHITECTES, Koerich - www.fabeckarchitectes.lu

FD ELECTRIC S.A. – Groupe WagnerTech – Installations électriques - www.fde.lu

LUCAS S.à.r.l. – Carrelage, Sanitaire, Equipement climatique - www.lucas.lu

LUX-ECHAFAUDAGES S.à.r.l. – Echafaudages tout genre – www.lux-echafaudages.lu

MABILUX S.A. – Constructions métalliques - www.mabilux.lu

MEBOLUX S.à.r.l. - Constructions métalliques – www.mebolux.lu

MICHAEL KLEIN GFLPLAN, Landschaftsarchitekt, Saarlouis - www.gfl-plan.de

POECKES S.à.r.l. – Entreprise de Constructions - www.poeckes.lu

RINNEN CONSTRUCTIONS GÉNÉRALES S.à.r.l. – www.rinnen.lu

Schreiber S.A. – Fabrication et location bâches et châpiteaux - www.schreiber.be

SGI Ingénierie S.A. Luxembourg - www.sgigroupe.lu

VIKTOR S.à.r.l. – Entreprise de Constructions - www.viktor.lu

Thank you also to everyone who has contributed to giving a renewed future to Koerich Castle.

Last but not least, a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has supported us in one way or another over the years and has always remained loyal to us.

Only in this way was it possible to find the motivation again and again, even in difficult times and despite all resistance and hurdles, to work towards the preservation of this unique castle in the heart of Koerich.

Special thanks go to Emily Jacobs and Marc Jacobs for the English translation of the book “Das Gréiweschlass in Koerich”

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Photos and plans:

architecturaLLighting, Centre National de Littérature de Mersch, FABECKARCHITECTES, HLG Ingenieure-Conseils,
Ney & Partners, Oliver Haffner, Service des sites et monuments nationaux, SGI Ingénierie et maîtrise d'oeuvre S.A.
Luxembourg, Käercher Schlassfrënn

Press

Luxemburger Wort, Tageblatt, La Voix, Journal, Quotidien, Télécran

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Site visits: open daily
Guided tours by appointment (inquiries by e-mail)

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Impressum

Titel:	DAS GRÉIWESCHLASS IN KOERICH - Renaissance einer Wasserburg
ISBN	978-99959-0-450-0
Herausgeber:	Käercher Schlassfrënn (Koerich - Luxemburg), Juli 2019
Art direction & layout:	msdesign by myriamschmit
Druck:	imprimerie centrale, Luxemburg
Copyright:	Dieses Buch ist urheberrechtlich geschützt und darf nicht ohne Einwilligung des Herausgebers vervielfältigt werden

When was the Gréiweschlass in Koerich built?

Who lived there over the centuries?

Where was located the Fockeschlass?

How did the current castle concept develop?

Why does the project promote barrier-free tourism?

what can be realised in the renewed Gréiweschlass?

**You will find answers to these questions
and much more in this book!**

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