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== green pearls® – unique places ==

3. October 2023

LOCAL ARCHITECTURE AND SUSTAINABLE BUILDING



This article is an update to our September 4, 2020 article.

Our Green Pearls are located all over the world in a variety of places. This diversity is also reflected in the way the hotels are built. We have taken a closer look at hotel buildings and present some architecturally unique Green Pearls.

BENEFITS FOR PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Sustainable construction uses natural and regional materials, blends harmoniously and gently into the environment, and provides a healthy living environment for people. For the renowned German architect Professor Matthias Loebermann, “smart” architecture is one that serves people while being “simple and sustainable”. So not a house full of technology that tells you via app if the fridge is empty 😊

EXISTING ARCHITECTURE IS GREENER THAN NEW CONSTRUCTION

A very important part of sustainable building is the use of existing buildings. It encompasses three core sustainable ideas at once:

- Reuse
- secondary use
- Extended service life

In Bernkastel-Kues on the Mosel River in Germany, for example, Heiner Buckermann transformed a disused zero-star bus hotel into the **Lifestyle Resort Zum Kurfürsten** (<https://www.greenpearls.com/hotels/lifestyle-resort-zum-kurfuersten/>) in 2001. The conversion into a wellness hotel gave the building a new lease of life and saved many resources compared to a new building.

MODERN DESIGN INSTEAD OF '70S CHARM

In 1976, Christa Schule Dieckhoff's father had built a 43-room hotel in Mellrichstadt (then still close to the border with East Germany). Later she bought it together with her husband Matthias and transformed the nine-storey red brick building from the 70s into the bio-certified eco-hotel **STURM** (<https://www.greenpearls.com/hotels/hotel-sturm/>). The couple brought in renowned architect Professor Matthias Loebermann for the architectural redesign. He not only completely whitened the red brick, but also erected a modern wooden facade – a kind of paravan – in front of the first floor. The lobby and restaurant were also renovated with lots of wood.



Together with the “Nadelstreifen Haus” in Memmingen, the wooden facade of the STURM is one of the most famous “Loebermann facades” in Germany. © Ralf Dieter Bischoff

Over time, a natural swimming pond and a 30,000-square-meter nature park with an organic snack garden were added. In 2022, the STURM opened twelve new “[Garden View Rooms \(https://www.greenpearls.com/newsroom/en/new-rooms-at-biohotel-sturm/\)](https://www.greenpearls.com/newsroom/en/new-rooms-at-biohotel-sturm/)” in an extension. All twelve rooms were built ecologically and climate-neutrally. The dominant material is wood – sustainable solid wood from Switzerland. There is [no television \(https://green-travel-blog.com/sustainable-hotels-and-vacation-rentals-consciously-avoid-televisions-in-rooms/\)](https://green-travel-blog.com/sustainable-hotels-and-vacation-rentals-consciously-avoid-televisions-in-rooms/) in the new rooms. Architect Loebermann was again responsible for the planning. In July 2023, the hotel’s sustainable architecture won the prestigious “best architects award”.



Award winner: The new rooms with garden view set new standards in sustainable hotel architecture. They offer all the necessary comforts and connect the guest directly with nature. © STURM

OLD HOTEL BUILDINGS IN NEW SPLENDOR

NEW HOTEL ROOM CONCEPT BASED ON THE CRADLE TO CRADLE® PRINCIPLE

High above Bad Herrenalb, the [SCHWARZWALD PANORAMA \(https://www.greenpearls.com/hotels/schwarzwald-panorama/\)](https://www.greenpearls.com/hotels/schwarzwald-panorama/) can be seen from the train station. The many terraces and balconies offer a magnificent view of the spa town. The building was built in the 1970s as a rehabilitation clinic and has been owned by Stephan Bode since 2013, who has gradually developed it into a sustainable hotel.

Together with the interior designers of Fritz Schlecht | SHL, an entirely new hotel room concept based on the Cradle to Cradle® principle was developed in three years. 24 “Circular Living” rooms were opened in 2023. All construction materials are 100 percent biodegradable or 100 percent recyclable. Next year, the entire 4th floor will be renovated according to these green building principles. The lobby and restaurant will follow in the future.

The architectural project recently won the **Sustainable Hospitality Award** and is the prestige project of Fritz Schlecht | SHL.



"We are using almost every possibility to ensure that the work, production and facilities are truly sustainable." – Hotel interior designer Fritz Schlecht | SHL

SCHWARZWALD PANORAMA in the Black Forest © Foto Fabry

OLD AND NEW AT TIMMENDORFER STRAND

At Timmendorfer Strand in

the lifestyle hotel **SAND**



The hotel at the Baltic Sea in its spacial SAND-Look. © Lifestylehotel SAND

(<https://www.greenpearls.com/hotels/sand-lifestylehotel/>), the name speaks for itself, because the exterior design, as well as the interior decoration, reflects the atmosphere of the beach and the sea. Many pieces of furniture are made of recycled teak wood. The building was already a hotel in former times.

Renovated and not demolished, true to this sustainable idea, it was extensively and environmentally friendly renovated. In the newly built extension, there are 30 more rooms, some with sea view.

ARCHITECTURE AS A CULTURAL ASSET

LOCAL ARCHITECTURE: SLOVENIAN INFLUENCE IN FRIULI



Using many regional materials, a small hotel in Friuli, Italy, was built in the style of a village, the La Subida Relais

©La Subida Eco Hotel

(<https://www.greenpearls.com/hotels/la-subida-relais/>). The owner family Sirk was inspired by their Slovenian roots. Existing buildings were also maintained. The result is cottages with individual charm. The newer rooms are made of 100% natural wood and make you feel like in a forest. At La Subida Relais you will stay overnight in the middle of nature and still enjoy modern luxury. We especially love all the windows with a clear view of the garden.

LOCAL ARCHITECTURE: HISTORICAL BUILDINGS

The historic mansion of Inkaterra La Casona (<https://www.greenpearls.com/hotels/inkaterra-la-casona/>) is immediately recognizable. The site where the hotel now stands was a training ground for the Inca army in the 16th century and later hosted Spanish conquistadors. The impressive building was painstakingly restored over a five-year period, and delights guests and us alike with its many great details, such as the wood carvings on the doors, some of which are 400 years old!

“The hotel is a gateway to the city’s past, a living museum with the coziness of an aristocratic Peruvian home.” – Denise Guislain Koechlin (wife of Inkaterra founder José Koechlin von Stein and responsible for the interior design).

Inkaterra Hacienda
Urubamba



©Inkaterra La Casona

(<https://www.greenpearls.com/hotels/inkaterra-hacienda-urubamba/>) is nestled in the mountains of the Sacred Valley of the Incas. The local architecture is inspired by the Cusco region and incorporates elements of both Inca and colonial history. The stone houses in earth tones are complemented with wooden details, especially in the interiors. Surrounded by rolling green hills, adventure and relaxation await you in equal measure.

THE HOTEL IS BUILT ON A 500-YEAR-OLD CONVENT WALL



Above the pool you'll see the old bell. © Hotel Klosterbräu – Photographer: David Johansson

Another hotel with centuries of history is **Hotel Klosterbräu** (<https://www.greenpearls.com/hotels/hotel-klosterbraeu/>) in Tyrol, Austria. A monastery stood here in Seefeld in 1516, and its walls are now part of a luxurious and sustainable wellness hotel. The hotel has been family-owned for more than 200 years, with nine family members involved in the current operation. The history of the monastery is still present in the modern facilities. For example, the fitness room is located in the former monks' choir, and an old monastery bell hangs above the outdoor pool.

In addition to preserving its history and using old stone walls, Hotel Klosterbräu is taking other sustainable building measures. In 2023, 28 new natural rooms (<https://www.greenpearls.com/newsroom/en/sustainable-architecture-nature-rooms-at-hotel-klosterbraeu-set-new-standards/>) have been introduced, 95 percent of which have been made of materials from the immediate region. For example, the wood comes from the hotel's own forest, and the walls are plastered with clay.

AN EXAMPLE OF SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION: ADLER SPA RESORT SICILIA



The architecture of the ADLER Spa Resort SICILIA focuses on harmony and fusion with nature. ©AlexFilz

When a new hotel is built, sustainable hotels take care to minimize the impact on nature and use building materials from the region. At the **ADLER Spa Resort SICILIA** (<https://www.greenpearls.com/hotels/adler-spa-resort-sicilia/>), which opened in 2022, the planners made sure that the architecture “does not rise above nature, but becomes part of it”. The resort’s buildings are terraced into the hillside and all have direct views of the sea. Surrounding the resort is a large garden planted with native Mediterranean plants (many of which are the ingredients for the farm-to-table cuisine).

The ADLER Spa Resort SICILIA was built using traditional Italian materials. On the outside, many buildings are clad in tufa stone, which is found in the Etna region of Sicily. Inside, the floors are made of “Cocciopesto” (a natural and typical building material made of brick fragments and air-lime mortar) and the walls are covered with “Terracruda”. The clay walls are not only natural, but also moisture regulating.

“The large glass facades evoke a feeling of freedom and lightness, blurring the boundaries between inside and outside.” – ADLER Spa Resort SICILIA



LOCAL AND AUTHENTIC

For the villas of Gili Lankanfushi

“Meera Spa” @ Gili Lankanfushi

(<https://www.greenpearls.com/hotels/gili-lankanfushi/>) in the Maldives, only regional building materials were used. The houses are built with recycled wood or wood from sustainable forestry, the overhanging roofs provide shade. The luxury resort offers you a unique retreat with its 45 overwater villas in the middle of a beautiful lagoon.

Gili Lankanfushi treats seawater for its water supply. This conserves the country’s groundwater reserves, which would otherwise be pumped from wells.

HOW TO RENOVATE SUSTAINABLY? A LOOK AT THE CURRENT RENOVATION WORK AT NATURRESORT SCHINDELBRUCH

The Naturresort Schindelbruch (<https://www.greenpearls.com/hotels/naturresort-gerbehof/>) in the southern Harz Mountains is another Green Pearls® partner that was created by renovating an existing building. The Princes of Stolberg built the “Schindelbruch Hunting Lodge” here. During the GDR era, the castle was converted into a holiday home and later into a sustainable nature resort by the current owner, Dr. Clemens Ritter von Kempfski. From the very beginning, he brought his vision of an ecological hotel to the table, and the renovations were made with an eye to conserving resources.



©Naturhotel Schindelbruch

In August 2023, new renovations were completed. The Naturresort Schindelbruch has now started a cooperation with the German porcelain manufactory Meissen (<https://www.schindelbruch.de/de/meissen-im-naturresort>) and shows different porcelain figures in an exhibition, which is distributed in different rooms of the hotel.

Sustainable hotels play a pioneering role in ecological hotel architecture. Hotels are responding to the wishes of eco-conscious travelers (i.e., YOUR wishes) and are reaching out to architects, who are now putting “sustainability in construction” at the top of their agendas.

This could also interest you:



Modern Spa-Area at the Naturresort Schindelbruch ©
MAXIMILIAN MEISSE



How to identify sustainable accommodation? (7-Point-Check)

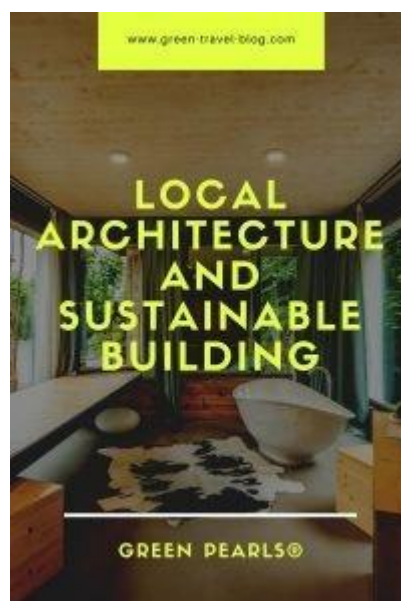
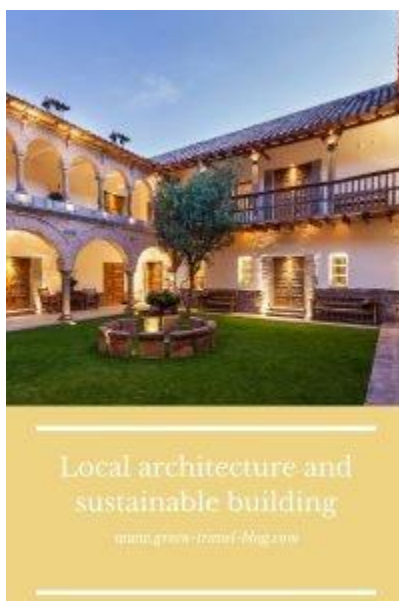
Not everything that calls itself green is green. Because terms like "sustainable" or "eco" are not protected, anyone can use them for anything. We also see a lot of "greenwashing" in hotels and accommodations. Others are very committed without showing it. In this article we ... Continue reading



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