
BUILDING ON HISTORY

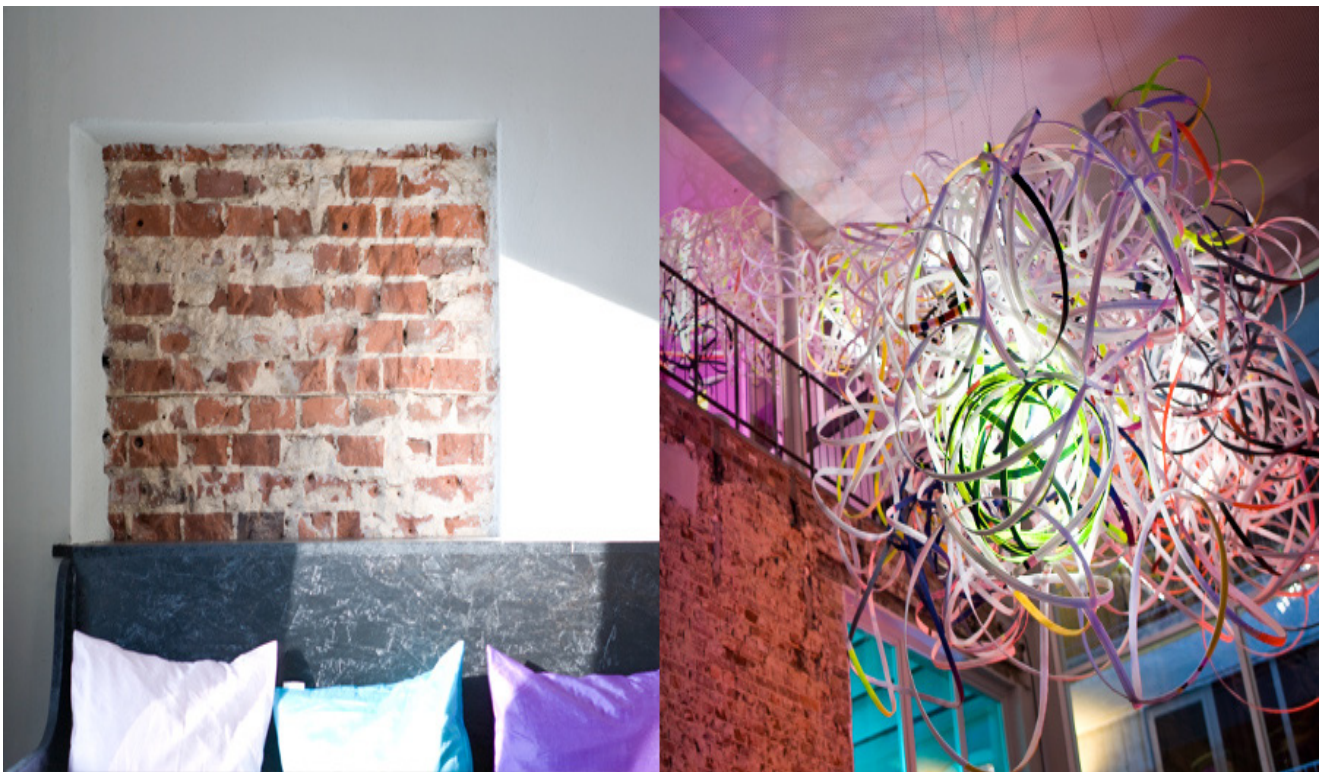
“You can really see the whole history of the building — the old bricks, the tiles from the swimming pool time, the graffiti of the nightclub people — it tells a great story.”

— DAVID DEILMANN

The Germania Brewery isn’t just a beautiful old building, it’s a key part of Münster history. Although its founding company originated in the nearby town of Ascheberg in 19th century as the ambitious dream of a family of bakers, it soon became a Münster institution. The bakery owner’s son, Friedrich Dieninghoff, built his first brewery in the center of Münster. When the company outgrew even that, they moved to Grevenor Strasse in 1898, where they constructed the buildings that would become, many decades later, the Germania Campus/Factory Hotel.

“It was such an important employer back in the day, that, after the brewery closed down,” says David Deilmann, referring to the plant’s decommissioning in 1984, “a lot of people in Münster were very interested in seeing what would come out of it.”

For a long time, the answer was: Not much. The space has been, at different times, a swimming pool complex, a nightclub, and a series of small “pop-up clubs” that didn’t quite take off. And when Deilmann and his architect/real estate developer father agreed to take it on, the building had largely been empty for decades. But as a local, David Deilmann was very aware of the brewery’s place’s history. “I think it’s important that if you find something with a history, you try to preserve it,” he explains.



When it came to transforming the century-old building into a modern hotel, the Deilmanns brought in the well-respected German hotel design team of Tombusch und Brumann and emphasized that as much of the original architecture should be showcased as possible—modern touches should be subtle and avoid overwhelming the building’s old industrial aesthetic.

The result is a hotel that feels simultaneously elegant and edgy. The soaring lobby, with its exposed red brick and intricate hanging ceiling sculptural element, seamlessly melds the old and the new. The hotel’s rooms, which occupy a new building on the site, use reclaimed materials from the old building, including the wood for their floors.

“We wanted only to change it a bit,” says Deilmann. “Of course, we wanted people to be comfortable while eating or drinking, but aside from that, we really wanted to preserve what was there. It tells a great story.”

