

„Viewing, understanding and applying successfully“

European Competence Centre for the Energy-saving Renovation of Old Buildings and the Preservation of Monuments, Benediktbeuern

In times of rising energy prices, growing ecological consciousness and climate change the saving of energy is becoming more and more important. How can we save energy in historical buildings without detriment to their historical value? What possibilities are there for applying environmentally friendly measures under these conditions?

The Competence Centre Benediktbeuern was founded with the idea of providing answers to these important questions. As an information centre providing expert advice it will deal with topics related to the renovation and preservation of historical buildings and monuments. In particular, the problems of energy efficiency and related structural damage as well as the application of sustainable materials and of procedures with regard to cost-efficiency will be addressed. In response to the current demands of the European construction industry new research is needed, underlining the importance of such a demonstration centre on a European level. The Centre in Benediktbeuern is being established in cooperation with the Fraunhofer Institute for Building Physics, the Fraunhofer Information Centre for Planning and Building, the Bavarian State Office for the Preservation of Historical Monuments and the International Association for Science and Technology of Building Maintenance and Monument Preservation. The various problems and applications will thus be demonstrated directly on the building „Alte Schöfflerei“ itself; different heating systems and interior insulation will be realized and compared; regular exhibitions will take place on site. The scope of activities of the Competence Centre includes not only the model renovation of a significant historical building, but also micro-climate measurements, research on building services and materials as well as independent counseling on preservation and energy-efficient retrofitting.

Benediktbeuern Monastery is one of the oldest in upper Bavaria, its roots going back to 8th century AD. After the 1803 secularisation, the researcher, inventor and entrepreneur Joseph von Fraunhofer (*1787, † 1826) was working in a glass workshop in Benediktbeuern, where he also did his most important research on the so called Fraunhofer lines in the solar spectrum. Since 1930 the cloister is run by the Salesians of Don Bosco. The „Alte Schöfflerei“ from the second half of the 18th century belongs to the former craftsmen court of the monastery and is the ideal place for such a centre.

The most important aspect of the new Competence Centre is the close interaction of craftsmanship, science and monument preservation as well as the use of new, innovative materials and technologies for historical buildings. For the first time, knowledge in building physics and experience in the fields of building maintenance and monument preservation will be combined in a public information and counseling centre accommodated itself in a historical building.

Architects, monument conservators, craftsmen, builders and stakeholders have a chance to obtain information and advice on energy-efficient renovation and monument preservation. The Competence Center in Benediktbeuern will be facing the world wide challenge of energy efficiency in historic buildings by offering innovative solutions suitable in cooperation with renowned European partners.

Contact: Dr. Britta von Rettberg, britta.von.rettberg@ipb.fraunhofer.de



Benediktbeuern Monastery



"Alte Schäflerei", Benediktbeuern Monastery



"Alte Schäflerei", Benediktbeuern Monastery



"Alte Schäflerei", ground floor, old smithy



"Alte Schäflerei", first floor



“Alte Schäferei”, roof framework



“Alte Schäferei”, roof framework



“Alte Schäferei”, Tile and roof framework



“Alte Schäferei”, historic freight elevator



“Alte Schäferei”, historic freight elevator