



Roof windows for the  
World Heritage Site Bern's  
historic old town





Dating all the way back to 1191, the city of Bern was founded as a town by the House of Zähringen. Starting in 1218, the city carried the title of a free city. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, Bern was the largest city state north of the Alps.

Bern's historic old town is situated in a loop of the river Aare and, to this day, is considered to be one of the most beautiful areas of the city. The original shape of the historic old town and the whole city of Bern in parts actually still exists today. For that reason, in 1983, the UNESCO listed the historic old town of Bern as a World Heritage Site.

UNESCO has assigned the city of Bern the task to preserve certain areas in their entirety as a whole, such as the complete so-called "lower historic old town" that stretches from the Nydegg-Bridge and the Zytglogge to the living quarters called Matte.

Consequently the houses in the Brunnengasse which is situated right behind the town hall, are part of this protected area and therefore are subjected to the specific building regulations of the city of Bern. That is also where use of attics and their conversion is regulated.

Between 2006 and 2007, the house located in Brunnengasse 16 was remodeled into a residence with a light and open feel by the co-operative "Haus sein"<sup>1</sup>. It was the first "Minergie"<sup>2</sup> house in Bern's historic old town. The central area and courtyard is a linking element and, as such,

reflective of the "Haus sein" co-operative's idea of communal living. As a result, there are delightful outlooks and views. The area really is the meeting area of and in communal living.

In order to direct enough light into the 6-storied building, a part of the roof was removed and replaced with a louver roof window s:201 in the format 3275mm x 2180 mm.

By using a louver window, the structure of the roof is preserved and the window's size provides light for the interior all the way down.

A Stebler-roof window can be installed into an existing roof structure – even in inaccessible areas. The roof window incorporates the existing roof tile structure and becomes an integral part of the roof in a very discrete way when viewed from the outside, without protruding frame, noticeable buildup or prominent glass surface.

In terms of functionality, the roof window leaves nothing to be desired. The louvered construction allows for automatic ventilation and the regulation of the room temperature via an electronic remote control, which can be adapted precisely to the customer's requirements. Thanks to the integrated rain sensor, windows close automatically with the onset of rain. The size of the windows is unlimited. Stebler roof windows are custom-made to particular measurements and requirements.

- 1 „Haus sein" literally means „house be" or „be house"
- 2 Minergie is a Swiss building standard describing highly energy-efficient buildings.

#### BUILDING OWNER

Genossenschaft AWF «Haus Sein»

#### ARCHITECTS

A. Furrer + Partner, Bern

#### PHOTOGRAPHER/PICTURES

Rob Lewis, Bern und Rolf Siegenthaler, Bern

#### WINDOWS

s:201

#### SIZE OF WINDOW

2180 x 3275 mm, 10 louvres that can be opened and one fixed louver

#### INSULATING GLAZING

HM-triple glazing U<sub>g</sub>-value 1,1 W/m<sup>2</sup>K

**s: stebler**

stebler glashaus ag  
kehrer stebler ag  
Südringstrasse 6 | CH-4702 Oensingen  
Fon +41 62 388 42 42 | Fax +41 62 388 42 40  
info@stebler.ch | www.stebler.ch