

A photograph of the Colditz Castle courtyard in Saxony, Germany. The image shows several white stone buildings with yellow accents around the windows. A prominent feature is a tall, cylindrical tower with a dark, conical roof and a golden weather vane. The sky is clear and blue. The foreground is a cobblestone courtyard.

HISTORICAL FIRE PROTECTION

Colditz Castle

The recently renovated ‚schloss Colditz‘ in Saxony, Germany is a great example of how to reconcile the often conflicting demands of historic preservation and fire-protection. The Renaissance castle, built in the 1520s, lies in the triangle between Leipzig, Dresden and Chemnitz. The Colditz castle in the heart of Saxony is a magnet for tourists and, with its white gables, is one of the most beautiful 16th century buildings in Central Germany.

The Castle

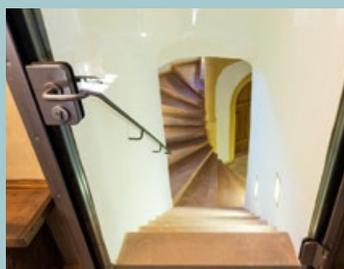
The majority of the splendid architecture dates back to the early Renaissance period with some portions having a late Gothic influence. Both periods are easily recognisable. The castle is not only famous for its architecture but also for the role it played during the Second World War. It was used as a prisoner-of-war camp for allied officers, including Winston Churchill's nephew. Today the „escape museum“ shows the original locations of camp life and displays tools made by the captives. Concerts and guided tours are also part of the cultural programme at Colditz as the castle is home to the Saxony state music academy and a youth hostel. The building was successfully restored between 1997 and 2005. During this time the prisoner-of-war camp was rebuilt along with repairing signs of wear and tear from the war era. The 2013 to 2015 renovations focused on the castle's chapel.



The fire protection

The renovation has not just fulfilled fire-protection requirements but the planners have used extremely discreet solutions that fit with historic preservation requirements. For example, many of the passageways have been fitted with the TeckentrupT30 all-glass doors, which combine functionality with aesthetics and maximum transparency.

Museum, tourist attraction, youth hostel - all these areas required high level fire protection which needed to be balanced with the historical preservation requirements of the building. The designer found a non-standard solution which fulfilled both sets of requirements - installing frameless Teckentrup T30 all-glass doors in the passageways. They combine modern fire protection with demanding aesthetic requirements and blend discreetly into the background. There was no problem in getting approval from the preservation authorities to install the T30 all-glass doors in Colditz castle. Thanks to their transparency they were integrated unobtrusively into the historical building.

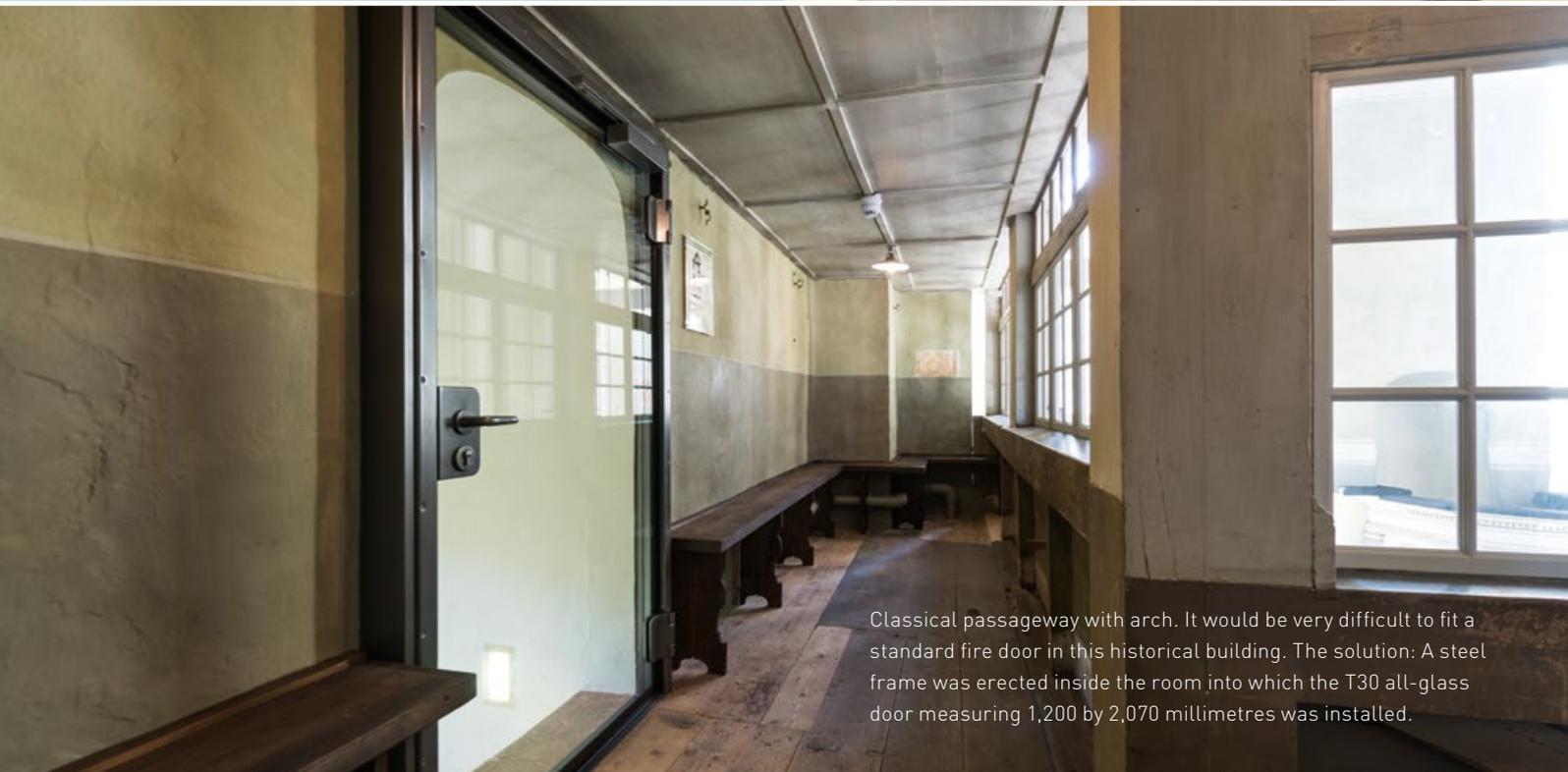


Creative scope.

The T30 all-glass door adapts easily to the structural conditions of any building, whether a new build or a renovation. In the Colditz castle, besides the old masonry and the more modern dry wall construction, a transparent door also had to be built into a stone wall. The appropriate frame solution facilitates installation into nearly all types of wall.

The all-glass door is available in a single or double leaf design. There is also an extensive range of accessories, such as door drives, stainless steel slide rail door closers and a selection of frames (corner frames, counter frames, closed frames, block frames), which make it possible to install the door in almost any type and thickness of wall. The smoke-proof version of the door has a retractable bottom seal. Also, different level handle sets can be used including those from other doors. The result is a uniform look across all the internal doors, whether they are fire doors or not.

In the wider entrance passageway the door was manufactured in a double leaf construction with the outline of the castle being etched onto the glass.



Classical passageway with arch. It would be very difficult to fit a standard fire door in this historical building. The solution: A steel frame was erected inside the room into which the T30 all-glass door measuring 1,200 by 2,070 millimetres was installed.



Teckentrup assisted the building owner throughout the planning process to ensure that the installation ran smoothly. Intelligent accessories such as specific transport/assembly trolleys ensured that the building site did not pose any problems. The aim in the castle was to not fill it with fire protection barriers despite installing fire protection throughout. This has been achieved in an exemplary way with the glass-door: the transparency preserves the view of traditional and historical construction.

BRANDSCHUTZ
100%
TRANSPARENZ

Construction board

Object	Schloss Colditz, Sachsen
Building owner	SIB Staatsbetrieb Sächsische Immobilien- und Baumanagement Leipzig
Architects	Architekturbüro Dipl.-Ing. Jens Fischer, Dresden
Installer	Metallbau Dietze, Chemnitz

Teckentrup GmbH & Co. KG
Industriestrasse 50
33415 Verl-Sürenheide
Phone +49 (0) 52 46 | 504 - 0
Fax +49 (0) 52 46 | 504 - 230
E-Mail info@teckentrup.biz
www.teckentrup.biz

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