

Construction in existing buildings:

Frequently mentioned concerns:

- It is less expensive to demolish and build a new building
- A new building is significantly more energy efficient than an existing one
- It is impossible to reach the passive house standard
- The remediation of pollutants, such as asbestos is too costly
- It is better to create facts rather than considering preservation of monuments
- The existing building cannot be extended

The Facts:

- It heavily depends on the existing building. The amount of material and man hours are usually underestimated significantly.
- With an insulation planned professionally, each building's energy and sound absorbing performance can usually be increased significantly.
- The actual passive-house standard might not be available in every building, but for each project, passive-house elements, such as windows can be used, increasing the building's performance by a factor of up to 10.
- Depending on the actual amount of pollutants contained in a building, the remediation needed can be relatively small or executed easily without taking out a large amount of materials. A precise examination of the existing building for pollutants, also for a possible radon pollution is mandatory.
- To protect a building or parts of a building by getting it into the list of preserved monuments, might enable access to government supported funding or tax reductions, that are not available for non-listed buildings.
- Especially for multi-story residential buildings it is relatively easy to add a staggered floor with a light-weight structure not requiring significant reinforcements of the load-bearing capacity of the existing building.

For planning and execution of deconstruction, refurbishment, extension and reconfiguration of existing buildings, please contact Atelier Winkler at:

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