

An impressive history

In 1874, the Hotel Halm opened its doors. Ferdinand Halm founded at that time with 90 beds one of the largest hotels on Lake Constance. The architecture - designed by architect Holzmann - is characterized by late classicism and neo-Renaissance. Only 9 years before, the Constance railroad station had been inaugurated and - built in the neo-Gothic style - represented the new and representative entrance gate for the first vacation guests of the Lake Constance metropolis.

The location of the Hotel Halm is excellent: close to the lake and directly opposite the new train station in high-quality surroundings. The Constance newspaper writes on 21.10.1888:

"and the stranger, on stepping out of the station, will be pleasantly surprised at the imposing metropolitan picture which presents itself to him here."

The northern extension of the first construction phase can be realized in 1887/88. The well-known Stuttgart architect Emil Otto Tafel - at the same time responsible for the conversion of the Dominican monastery into the Inselhotel - creates the "Moorish Hall" here, which is one of the outstanding hotel interiors of the 19th century ("Belle Epoque") on Lake Constance. The use of oriental decorative forms is a variety of historicism and stands for exotic wanderlust and cosmopolitan educational ideal of the nobility and bourgeoisie of the 19th century. The largest wall mirrors from one piece 4.50 m x 2.00 m available in Central Europe at that time are installed.

The reception or staircase hall and the Moorish Hall represent the preserved historical elements in the interior to this day. Despite the external continuity of the building, the history of the "Halm" has its ups and downs. When Ferdinand Halm died around 1900, no new concession was granted to his widow. Although concessions to other operators are not revived, the hotel business seems to have continued. After changing ownership, Julius Augenstein is granted a license to operate the Hotel Halm inn in 1919. He made the hotel a center of social and convivial life in the town with many parties and dances. From time to time, socializing may have been a bit too much in the foreground, because an extensive file "Augenstein" proves that the hotel often had parties with dancing guests without Augenstein having called in time for dance events.

After his death in 1934, the business was continued first by his wife Frieda then by his son-in-law Otto Senger until 1959. On November 01, 1959, Otto Senger deregisters the business due to closure. In the deregistration it literally says: "A hotel successor does not move up". And so it is. The venerable hotel ekes out a sad existence in the following decades. Even its exterior was badly damaged, and the once social and sociable center of the city soon became an object of speculation. The magnificent façade disappears behind wooden fences and the place of former festivities visibly deteriorates. Finally, however, there is a light on the horizon.

Thanks to the initiative of a private investor, the Hotel Halm is now showing its best side again after successful renovation, expansion and conversion. The exterior shines in all its splendor and the interior has been carefully renovated.

The "Halm" with its 101 rooms including 5 suites with all comforts and its various function rooms for meetings, conferences and seminars is now again one of the outstanding hotels in Constance. In July 1994 the former "Hotel Halm" is reopened as "Ramada Hotel Halm". Many a Constance resident must have breathed a sigh of relief that this house had been returned to its original purpose. But peace was not to return. In the following years international hotel chains run the house and again the owners and operators change several times. Only the name "Halm" always remains.

In April 2011, the traditional house is sold again. This time the "Halm" comes into private Constance hands of the families Scheidtweiler-Ruppaner, Kohm and Faouzi, the long-time hotel director of the Hotel Halm is as a managing partner the good and individual development of the Hotel Halm very close to his heart. Cordial hospitality in the good, old sense is to be maintained. The traditional "Moorish Hall" is to be brought more into the focus of the guests with culinary specialties of the "Moorish cuisine" and "local cuisine" and corporate customers and conferences are to be inspired for the "Halm". Modernizations and last but not least investments in the energy sector shall make the "Halm" attractive for the many visitors of Constance.

May we succeed in combining tradition and modernity in the spirit of the founder Ferdinand Halm, so that the "Hotel Halm" will once again become the social center of the city.