

PRESS RELEASE

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'My Home' is the region's first, short-term residential quarter and the inspiration of temporary living company Wohnen auf Zeit MAX Wertheim GmbH. The building blocks for this pioneering project with its challenging and sustainable architecture are twenty one modules that have been transformed into refined living space by Containerwerk.

From the start of 2020, the first, twenty one My Home apartments in the town of Wertheim are awaiting their new occupants. The basic component of each cost-conscious and flexible living space with hotel-like comfort is a recycled freight container. The offer is aimed at companies, business travellers and tourists to the Taubertal holiday region who favour their own four walls as opposed to the standard hotel room.

Even within a week or two of the construction phase, it was evident from the progress being made how environmentally friendly, cost effective and efficient working with container architecture can be. In order for on-schedule completion to be achieved in January 2020, all containers were fully finished at the factory and delivered as ready-to-connect units. At the same time, the building plots were prepared with strip foundations and all necessary connections. Due to the high degree of prefabrication, the onsite setup time could be reduced by four to five days. During the final building only roofing elements and facade had to be added.

Development of a contemporary 'building block'

If it were not for Containerwerk's pioneering technological work, building with recycled freight containers to such an extent and in such a short space of time would not be possible. Three developments have been decisive to their upgrading process: the patented, high-performance insulation method, series production at the German production plant, and extremely detailed prefabrication.

By adopting decommissioned freight containers as the proverbial building block for countering resource shortages and supporting environmental sustainability, CONTAINERWERK began an intensive period of experimentation. After eight years of research, the German company is today producing a new generation of container modules. Thanks to the automated, high-tech insulation, the walls are only around 10cm thick and thus offer significantly more living space than traditionally converted containers.

"The method that we've been working on for a long time is an unprecedented, complete insulation technique that is compact and monolithic, in other words thermal bridge-free. It's multi-patented, automated and incomparably fast," explained Michael Haiser, joint CEO of CONTAINERWERK. "Thousands of modules can be produced each year – ready for occupancy. Installing the slender, high-tech insulation together with acoustic decoupling and a thermally reinforced floor only takes two hours leaving them ready for the interior fittings."

The 21 energy-efficient, full-comfort micro-apartments for the My Home project in Wertheim were also produced in series on a production line with 40-foot high-cube containers as their basis. It is an industrial prefabrication process that has pushed back the boundaries that have applied until now for conventional container conversion.

'Second life' with a sustainable message

Sustainability and innovation – these are the two key factors for all concerned with the future-oriented residential park and its 2700 square metre area. The developers Felix von Knobelsdorff and his colleagues Clemens Müller and Nicolas de Fejer have known each other for almost twenty years through their activities in construction and interior design. It was through joint projects that the contact to Containerwerk was first made. All three were fascinated by the resource-friendly approach of combining sustainability with a modern atmosphere and flexible living. “Besides this, we all travel a lot on business and are fed up with the dark, stuffy corridors and restrictive rooms typical of many hotels,” explained structural engineer Müller. “The curiosity of putting something entirely new and environmentally sound into practice unites us all,” added Nicolas de Fejer.

“The whole project is sustainable. Even the first step sees valuable resources being conserved due to decommissioned and scrapped freight containers being used. Besides this, containers allow for building projects that use strip foundations. The ground is therefore not completely sealed and the living units can be fully deconstructed.” Felix von Knobelsdorff’s sustainable and unique boarding house project and its use of upcycled modules proved highly convincing even at the planning stage with interest and approval at a political level and from the building authorities.

Of particular importance to the officials was the sustainability strategy. “We wanted the residential units to fit in well with the surroundings optically, hence sufficient space for green strips will be kept between the units. Attached facades made of untreated, regional timber will also create an aesthetic overlap between the surrounding nature and the trendy look that the containers bring with them,” explained Felix von Knobelsdorff.

Valuable support for the project has also come from the Mayor of Wertheim Markus Herrera Torrez. “The idea of converting disused freight containers into micro-homes is particularly appealing as it involves operating in an environmental and resource-friendly way. Something new but also something that is environmentally sound is being created here. This fits in well with Wertheim. It will enhance the quality of our town as a residential and a business location. This offer is ideal, particularly for Wertheim companies – which include ten global market leaders – who need short-term accommodation for employees, consultants, technicians and suppliers. The units can also be used by tourists and travellers.”

Aesthetics and living comfort

The low tare weight of each individual container means they can be stacked in a number of ways. At My Home they have been assembled in groups of three with all

units featuring characteristic full-length windows in the front end from which an unobstructed view can be enjoyed.

With a 26-square-metre interior, each private unit offers more space than most hotel rooms and includes a fully-fitted kitchenette, a private terrace, a separate entrance, a light and airy dining and working area for up to 4 people, a car parking space next to the entrance and “the satisfying feeling of living in your own home,” says developer Felix von Knobelsdorff. Other comforts such as free Wi-Fi and a flat-screen TV are of course also provided. The popular self-catering accommodation option is complemented with hotel-like services such as the regular changing of bed linens and towels and room cleaning. “What is important to me is that every guest feel at home,” reiterated von Knobelsdorff. The apartments offer a feel-good factor, privacy and also maximum flexibility.

About CONTAINERWERK

The company CONTAINERWERK eins GmbH, with sites in Wassenberg and Stuttgart, employ innovative, automated, series production techniques to convert disused sea freight containers into long-lasting, high-quality living space. As a result, the company that was founded in 2017 is making increasing inroads into the market for contemporary building/living space modules. The container modules are characterised by a high degree of mobility.

Further information can be found at: www.containerwerk.com.

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21 container modules from Containerwerk have been used for the first temporary living quarter created by MAX Wertheim GmbH in Wertheim, Baden-Württemberg.



Architecturally sophisticated and with plenty of free space for greenery, the boarding house area fits into its surroundings.



The fully finished containers were delivered using normal site logistics with the entire group in place after four days of onsite assembly.



Strip foundations are sufficient.
Completely sealing the ground is therefore avoided.





Fully equipped residential units each with 25.5 square metres of space and a private outdoor area.

