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"TAUT'S HOME" WINS BERLIN CULTURAL HERITAGE AWARD

Suitable for up to four guests, the accommodation "Taut's Home" is a real-life experience of design history. It is a stimulating place to visit and offers a viable alternative for Berlin travelers looking for more than just another impersonal hotel and mainstream tourist attractions in the German capital. This hidden little treasure was now awarded with the Berlin Cultural Heritage Award, a medal named after the first Prussian State Minister for Monument Preservation "Ferdinand von Quast".

The focus of the award lies on the accurate research and restoration the two private owners, landscape architect Katrin Lesser and graphic designer Ben Buschfeld, carried out in order to create Taut's Home. But the choice of the jury also reflects other aspects of their long-time engagement for the preservation of the famous housing estate of the 1920ies.

Built in 1925-30, Bruno Taut's "Hufeisensiedlung" is probably the most outstanding example of innovative German town planning. The estate in the south of Berlin enjoys international renown as a milestone of modern urban housing policy. In 2008 the "Horseshoe Estate" was awarded UNESCO World Heritage status. It was named after the impressively curved, 350 meter long structure which is just a few steps away from Taut's Home.

Up to 2012 few outsiders could ever see just how high living standards are behind the famous and colorful facades. The couple decided to do something about this, so that architecture lovers from all over the world can enjoy these qualities in full. When the house with garden and veranda went up for sale, the couple – both long-standing residents of the estate were absolutely thrilled how much original material had been preserved inside. Over a two-year period, they invested to restore Taut's typically lush wall and floor colors, and meticulously renovated the historic tiled stoves, cupboards, flooring and windows. They stripped away newer layers of construction, researched in libraries, gathered original furnishings and even designed numerous pieces themselves, based on historical patterns of the Bauhaus era.

For this passion Lesser and Buschfeld already received the "European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Award" earlier this year. But their driving force was to honour the original design and its originator: architect Taut, who planned around 10,000 Berlin homes and four of the city's six UNESCO-listed estates of the classical modern era, has finally been given his own monument – a time-capsule of a house for architecture and design fans seeking to spend a few nights in Berlin's latest World Heritage property. More details at www.tautshome.com.

Keywords and topics

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