THE NEW ROOF GARDEN AT THE HOTEL BAYERISCHER HOF
HAVE BREAKFAST AND ENJOY EVENTS HIGH ABOVE THE MUNICH SKYLINE

The story behind the roof garden
In 2012, owner Innegrit Volkhardt initiated an architecture competition for the renovation and redesign of the universally popular breakfast room on the sixth floor of her hotel, designed by Siegward Graf Pilati in the 1980s. The modification was inspired by the desire to match the location to the current circumstances of the hotel. The idea was to provide an additional à la carte offering to suit the fact that the breakfasting behaviour of guests had changed in recent years and smaller dishes were preferred. In addition to the wide product selection of the breakfast buffet, the new room was to have an à la carte breakfast area and a modern lounge and bar section with an open fireplace. Furthermore, the positive reaction to the attractive Blue Spa designed by Andrée Putman made an expansion of the location a tempting option. The aim of the renovation was to create a large-area event location that combined the two worlds of the roof garden and the Blue Spa above Munich’s rooftops.

The architecture competition
The French design studio Jouin Manku emerged as the victor of the architecture competition arranged by Innegrit Volkhardt, with their submission meeting the requirements of the owner. Since taking over the hotel from her father in 1992, she had always been committed to both renovating rooms and suites and implementing high-quality, extraordinary construction projects. Following the successful cooperation with Andrée Putman for the Blue Spa and Axel Vervoordt’s renovation of the Atelier and Garden restaurants and the cinema lounge between 2005 and 2011, Innegrit Volkhardt’s goal in renovating the roof garden was, ‘as with the other architecture projects, to create a further highlight on the gastronomy scene, to underline the forward-looking nature of the hotel and to enrich it with the unmistakable signature of another internationally renowned design studio.’

The Jouin Manku design studio
Patrick Jouin and Sanjit Manku have made their name on both a national and international level with private and public constructions and are known in the business as absolute perfectionists and aesthetes. Jouin Manku examined the city of Munich and the Blue Spa designed by Andrée Putman in detail as part of the project and set itself the aim of integrating the natural, constructional and historical elements of the city: ‘This is a very intimate project, as we have developed a close working relationship with Innegrit [Volkhardt], […] this is not some undertaking by a hotel Group. It is not a commercial project, it is a passionate project. The essence is very personal […].’ Their ambition was to create ‘a cosy, relaxed space that is, at the same time, extraordinary and modern – another piece in the puzzle of the hotel’s architectural collection, following on from Putman and Vervoordt […].’
**The project**
As of July 2013, the original premises, which stretch across 530 sq. m on the sixth floor, were gutted out: all non-load-bearing components, the floor lining and the suspended ceiling were completely removed and the window constructions were torn down. For the newly created lounge area, part of the terrace was extended and partly covered with a glass roof.

**The entrance**
As soon as you exit the lift on the sixth floor, you are already treated to a completely new view: from the natural stone flooring to the wall panelling finished with American walnut, the lift lobby captivates with its bright and friendly appearance. Sophisticated lighting elements dominate the entrance area and provide a vista of the new roof garden. The feel of the room is altered throughout the day by varying light intensities.

**The roof garden**
The unique view of the Frauenkirche through the large panoramic window stretching to the floor gives the space a very special atmosphere. The curved timbers and wall panelling further enhance this ambience. The American walnut continues from the floor to the walls and the ‘fingers’ running into the ceiling. The accordion partition, which makes it possible to split the room in two, is made of the same material.
The decorated alcoves, which show stylised mountains and snowdrifts and are fitted with special light effects, give the space a certain intimacy. A further alcove, finished with American walnut, conceals an architectural element. With a simple rotation, it transforms into a set of foldaway stairs made of the same material, which links the roof garden and the Blue Spa pool.
The room is energised by the varying light intensities, which change depending on the time of day. The lighting also plays a significant role in the ceiling design.
In addition to the architects’ idea of taking the heaviness out of the ceiling by bringing the surrounding nature into the room with ‘fingers’ made of American walnut and light Rubelli-covered panels, the spots of light give the space a more airy feel.
The chairs and tables are all handcrafted based on Jouin Manku designs, and the same goes for the tailor-made service points and guéridons.
Furthermore, a large, 50 sq. m terrace area with 48 seats stretches out to the south. As of autumn, this will be matched to the landscape design of the Blue Spa terrace.

**The kitchen**
The kitchen represents a central element. Two live-cooking stations, which can be made visible as required by moving enamelled wall panels in the buffet area, provide more flexibility in the gastronomic options on the one hand, and involve the guests in the cooking on the other. According to Innegrit Volkhardt, ‘The mixture of breakfast buffet, à la carte breakfast and live cooking should ensure that new standards are also set in the gastronomy sector.’ The demand for quality was also very high in the materials for the kitchen and the two buffet islands made from Italian Pietra Piasentina natural stone. These also stand out because of their elaborately crafted buffet covers made from enamelled copper elements, which continue into the entire surrounding ceiling area of the room. The natural stone flooring and panelling around the buffet islands, as well as in the lift lobby and roof garden lounge, were made with Pietra Piasentina natural stone from Italy. Val Verde stone from Portugal was used for the floor and wall panels. These materials were also used in the Blue Spa renovation and thus act as connecting elements to the neighbouring rooms.
The roof garden lounge

The roof garden lounge also impresses through the use of the finest materials, such as green fabric coverings from Kvadrat and Rubelli. Architecturally, however, this room differs from the roof garden and represents a clear separation. The à la carte breakfast is served here, and during the day and evening it can, as the name suggests, be used for a wide variety of purposes. The centrepiece is the open fireplace, which catches the eye with its size and exceptional shape. Based on the design by Patrick Jouin and Sanjit Manku, it symbolises comfort and elegance and stands out as the central element. Munich firm Weißenhööck were responsible for the sculptural implementation, while the porcelain trim rounding off the fireplace was specially produced in France. The same decorative porcelain elements can be found on the bar counter, which was also designed by Jouin Manku. Kirchheimer Muschelkalk, a natural stone from Bavaria, was used for the floors and the fireplace cladding. The custom-made lounge tables were manufactured from wood and stone-glass by Erlacher from South Tyrol (Italy), who also created the tables and service points in the roof garden. The lounge tables are height-adjustable as required and, like the carpeting, are based on the design by Jouin Manku. The carpet, from Hong Kong company Tai Ping Carpets, is weaved in a design that runs from the roof garden to the lounge and picks up on the different colours in the rooms.

The bird’s nest as a connecting element

The ‘bird’s nest’ on the right outer corner of the Blue Spa terrace represents a real innovation for Munich. Developed from an idea of Innegrit Volkhardt’s, it now represents a further link between the new roof garden and the Blue Spa by Andrée Putman, incorporating architectural elements of both locations. The inspiration came from the bird’s nests that are widespread and popular in the Maldives, offering as they do a certain peace and isolation from events. In this way, the bird’s nest further improves the already extremely peaceful Blue Spa lounge and terrace in the heart of Munich and is unmatched as an intimate, secluded retreat.

The lighting concept

The New York lighting design company L’Observatoire International, which very often works together with the Jouin Manku design studio, also picked up on the bird’s nest idea in the lighting concept: ‘Like a bird’s nest high in a tree, the newly designed roof garden is enthroned above Munich: a place with a unique atmosphere, where people from all over the world come together to meet: for a meal, for various special occasions, for events and celebrations,’ says Solenn Borchers regarding the unusual approach. The lighting concept of the roof garden was inspired by this extraordinary place – people meet here at various times, day or night. The room and light are inseparably connected.

The lighting gives the room its specific character, defines the space, sets the stage for the forms and materials, creates moods. It is often not the individual architectural elements of a building that you recall – what sticks in the memory is the impression of an atmosphere, an experience that remains ingrained in our subconscious. The illumination of the new roof garden provides the visitor with different lighting moods that vary according to the time of day and the function required.

The lighting emphasises the architecture in the roof garden. The illumination of the ceiling panels creates a connection between the interior and exterior, between the hotel and the city. In this respect, the roof garden is already visible to passers-by and customers from the street. The mood of the lighting is not only adjusted to suit the time of day, it can also be altered with different light intensities and, depending on the weather, made softer in warm, white light or stronger in cool light. Targeted placement of spotlights lights the tables, bringing lustre to the room a creating a pleasantly contrasting mood. Soft backlighting welcomes guests in the side alcoves, where the light increases the depth of the wall landscapes. The sumptuous breakfast buffet is presented in the mornings and is transformed into a platform that provides space for art in the evenings. The roof garden lounge provides a more intimate lighting mood that invites guests to see out their evening by the roaring fireplace.
The investment volume
The costs for the renovation of the roof garden total 4.5 million euros. The period from the running of the architecture competition to the official opening on 9 January 2014 lasted two years, including actual construction time of six months.

Like the opening of the Blue Spa in 2005, the introduction of the Garden and Atelier restaurants in 2009 and the cinema lounge in 2011, the new roof garden will be another highlight in the history of the hotel, which always looks to surprise its guests with new, luxurious additions.

On-site realisation of the reconstruction project
The Munich-based interior designer Gregor Baur, together with Köhler Architekten, was put in charge of the project management and on-site planning. Mr Baur had previously been involved in several Bayerischer Hof reconstruction projects, such as the Blue Spa, the Atelier and Garden restaurants, the cinema lounge and the installation of the new rooms and corridors, and has been self-employed since 2005. Gregor Baur played a definitive role in the implementation of the concept. As in the past, it was a challenge to fulfil all building regulations and safety-relevant stipulations and fit them harmoniously into the design. With his many years of experience and numerous creative ideas, he added to the concepts of the owner and architects and ensured perfect interaction between those involved in the project.

Links
Jouin Manku, www.jouinmanku.com
L’Observatoire International, www.lobsinl.com
Hotel Bayerischer Hof, www.bayerischerhof.de

Please contact us if you require further information or photographic material.

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The award-winning traditional Hotel Bayerischer Hof, owned by the Volkhardt family for four generations, is one of Germany’s leading hotels and offers 340 rooms, including 65 suites. The ballroom and 40 banquet rooms provide space for events with up to 2,500 people. The Blue Spa, designed by top architect Andrée Putman, is a refuge of well-being and beauty with a stunning view over the city of Munich. The Hotel Zur Tenne in Kitzbühel and Volkhardts Wein und Bistro also belong to the corporate Group.