

press release

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“My home is my castle” – ABUS security in an architect house at a prime Cologne location

In the middle of an urban setting, just a few hundred metres away from the Cologne cathedral, architect Martin Wendling has created a little jewel of relaxed isolation for himself and his family. The former workers’ accommodation unit from the 60’s has been upgraded to a stylish single-family home with a brick facade. The new residential property fits in beautifully with its historic surroundings. The architect also attaches great importance to the integration of security technology from ABUS. An alarm system, video surveillance cameras and an access control system were discretely installed with the aid of comprehensive experience, flair and an understanding of sophisticated design.

Contact
ABUS Security-Center
GmbH & Co. KG
Florian Lauw
Public Relations
+49 (0)82 07 959 90 0
presse@abus-sc.com
Linker Kreuthweg 5
86444 Affing
Germany
www.abus.com

Big cities are notoriously loud, fast-paced and often overcrowded. Oases of tranquillity are usually only found at least a few kilometres away from the city limits. However, architect Martin Wendling achieved on around 150 m² of living space in the Cologne city centre what others only dream of: a small single-family home with a garden, nestled in the historic old town of Cologne, close to the Cologne cathedral and within walking distance of the Rhine river banks. After Wendling received the building permit in 2014, the project “House 13a” was carried out from 2015 to 2016. Due to its special appearance in an exquisite location, the building was even presented on the “Day of architecture” show on the national channel ZDF.

However, the inner-city location doesn’t just have advantages – after all, the notorious cathedral square and the Cologne train station with its usual station quarter issues are also close by. There was recently even an issue of breaking and entering in the direct vicinity. “When selecting a property, the central location was naturally a big bonus. However, this also has its drawbacks which make safety precautions absolutely essential,” says Wendling. After all, “House 13a” is

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not just an architectural showpiece, but also the home of Martin Wendling and his family. As a result, he was particularly concerned about security in addition to creating comfortable and modern living spaces: he wanted an alarm system, video surveillance and electronic access control from one source which would fit in harmoniously with the architecture. The security experts from HV-Braun in Bonn were able to bundle together a fully worry-free package with high-quality products from ABUS which was implemented in 2018.

A custom solution that leaves no wish unfulfilled

“House 13a” is located on a rear courtyard, directly adjoining the enclosing wall of the parish garden of the “St. Heribert” cathedral in Deutz and a public playground, and has been secured according to the highest standards of preventative security solutions.

A Secvest Touch wireless alarm system with various components reliably protects the house against breaking and entering to swiftly rout criminals. The system can easily be activated and disarmed as needed from the front door using an electronic CodeLoxx cylinder. Furthermore, several ABUS network cameras (whereby the images are captured by a recorder) secure the exterior of the house. “Various different technologies are being used but the operation is very easy and convenient because everything is controlled through the central cylinder at the front door,” says Wendling happily. “I can also use the app to see if everything is okay at home when I’m out and about.”

Security technology at its best

The ABUS products selected with HV-Braun are not just state-of-the-art security technology, they also fit in beautifully with the sleek elegance of the new but historic-looking building. The camera wires are hidden in the grooves of the brick facade; furthermore, the camera housings were painted in discreet anthracite. “It was of particular importance for me that the security technology fit as harmoniously as possible with the overall architectural appearance”, explains Wendling. The balancing act between the optimal installation location and the visual harmonisation with the surroundings was perfectly achieved.

“HV-Braun and ABUS were able to fully meet my requirements. My dream house is now a real eye-catcher as well as featuring top-quality security – and all this

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was achieved in a discreet manner, exactly like I wanted”, summarises Wendling.

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