

KLOSTER HAYDAU

OLD WALLS REIMAGINED





HISTORICAL SITE IN NORTHERN HESSE

Nestled in the beautiful Fulda valley, Kloster Haydau is a protected historical site comprising a former convent, church, service buildings, manor house, orangery, and park. B. Braun commissioned the complete restoration of the buildings surrounding the former convent between 2009 and 2013. The medical device and pharmaceutical manufacturer invested € 37 million in large portions of the complex. The renovation created 63 new permanent jobs.

The former service wing, manor house, and orangery are now a modern conference and seminar center with 27 function rooms. The new Kloster Haydau Hotel with 136 rooms rounds out the building ensemble. Today, Kloster Haydau represents a successful symbiosis of past and present.



A GLIMPSE INTO THE PAST

The Haydau complex features architecture from numerous periods. After it was given to Cistercian nuns in the 13th century, the convent quickly became the spiritual, cultural, and economic center of the Fulda valley. Following the Reformation in the 16th century, the convent was converted into a hunting lodge by Hessian landgraves.

Landgrave Moritz commissioned the construction of the stunning Engelsaal (Hall of Angels) in the south wing at the beginning of the 17th century, and in 1695 the manor house and orangery were erected under Landgrave Karl. In 1830, Haydau became the property of the state of Hesse and later served as an agricultural research institute. The property began to fall into disrepair starting in 1940, yet extensive renovation was not undertaken until 1986. Nowadays Haydau is one of the best-preserved Cistercian convents in Hesse.





CONVENT AND CONVENT CHURCH

The convent was built in multiple stages in the 13th and 14th centuries. Cistercian nuns lived, prayed, and worked here, above all in the library and herb garden – convents were essentially the pharmacies of the Middle Ages. Over the course of the centuries, the convent was expanded many times and experienced a variety of different uses. The site has been home to a country palace for local landgraves with late Renaissance architectural features, a residence, and service buildings that once included a dairy.

The convent finally opened its doors again in 2001 following a complete renovation. Today it is a popular event location and a highlight of Morschen's cultural and social scene thanks to the efforts of the Förderverein Kloster Haydau e. V. (Kloster Haydau Development Association).



A chapel and cemetery predate the construction of the convent. It cannot be definitively proven whether the contemporary convent church contains remnants of these earlier structures. It is however certain that construction work on the convent church was completed around 1280. It was later used as a pilgrimage church, castle church, and parish church and was remodeled many times.



SERVICE WING

The former service buildings were commissioned by Moritz, Landgrave of Hesse, at the beginning of the 17th century. The convent barn served as a two-story stable for livestock, the coach house contained the noble family's coaches, and the „Hofmeister“ resided on the upper floors. The stables were used as a service building and as servants' quarters. The burgrave's residence served as his administrative center and had a private apartment on the second floor.

From 2010 to 2012, the dilapidated buildings underwent a complete restoration under observance of the regulations for historical monuments. The internal supporting structure had to be retrofitted to meet modern requirements and the roof trusses needed extensive repair. Today the service wing is a unique and modern conference and seminar center. The buildings nevertheless retain their original character as manorial stables and barns from the Renaissance era.



MANOR HOUSE AND ORANGERY

At the end of the 17th century, Karl, Landgrave of Hesse-Kassel, ordered the construction of the manor house in the style of the French baroque. Originally intended as a guest house for members of the court, the house had multiple tenants before becoming public property. It housed the League of German Girls during World War II, an American military headquarters, a shelter for postwar refugees, and later a school and the local municipal administration. In 2009 and 2010, the property was remodeled and now offers space for seminar rooms.



The orangery was built as an annex to the manor house and protected the landgrave's valuable collection of Mediterranean plants from frost. The collection was dispersed at the end of the 18th century and the Morschen community later used the space as a gymnasium and ballroom. After its restoration in 2010, the orangery is now a modern ballroom and conference center.



PARK

Under Landgrave Moritz, the convent garden was transformed into a castle garden and arboretum. Karl, Landgrave of Hesse-Kassel, reimagined it as a baroque garden complete with terraces, axes, a grotto, fountains, and staircases. There are no records documenting the garden design during its time as a convent. In their reconstruction of the park, which was financed by the Förderverein Kloster Haydau e. V. (Kloster Haydau Development Association) with support from the European Union, restorers are basing their efforts on an 18th century garden plan. The landgraves' gardeners also kept detailed inventories, which provide an insight into the plant selection of the time.



Since 2014, the kitchen garden is located on the historic wall of the monastery. The kitchen garden is operated by the Bau-natal Diakonie (bdks). The idea: use the site economically and give people with disabilities the chance of employment. They grow vegetables like cucumbers, peppers, tomatoes, salad, herbs and flowers in the garden. Trees in the meadows provide locally grown fruit. The employees sell the regional products at the garden shop.



HOTEL

The newly constructed hotel with 136 rooms is part of the central concept of preserving the historical convent complex while at the same time creating an attractive event location with an adjoining hotel. The construction of the hotel was advertised in an architectural competition in 2009 and the build was completed between 2011 and 2013. Its clean, angular appearance is intended to harmonize with the convent wall and offer a beautiful view of the convent.

The hotel and the seminar and conference center are open to the public as well as corporations for overnight stays, celebrations, conferences, and other events. Guests will find this the perfect retreat away from the stresses of everyday life, whether to work, celebrate, or relax. B. Braun also uses the hotel and conference center to further educate its employees from all over the world. The company Food affairs who is part of the globally-operated Compass Group, manages the establishment.

MORE ENGLISH INFORMATION | and booking details
are available on www.hotel-kloster-haydau.de

B. Braun Melsungen AG | www.bbraun.com