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Press Release

A Unique Retreat

Bauwerk Parquet outfits a rather unusual building with warm wooden floors: The *Casa Sant'Agnese*, idyllically perched above Lake Maggiore, serves as a refuge for the sisters of a Catholic religious order in the later years of their lives.



Designed by Ticino architect Cristiana Guerra, this new building in Muralto, near Locarno, looks as if it has been there throughout the ages. Its reserved design radiates a timeless sense of calm. Exposed concrete dominates the facade of this monastery-like building complex, which offers a wonderful view of the lake and the city. Inside, there are white and light-grey sections on the ceilings and walls; above all, wood is the stand-out material used. Wooden fittings and furniture, coupled with the wooden floors from traditional Swiss manufacturer Bauwerk Parquet, impart a warm ambiance to the rooms. The sisters from the Order of the Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross of Ingenbohl will be spending their well-deserved retirement in the twenty modestly furnished rooms and varied common areas in the Casa Sant'Agnese.

Cristiana Guerra craftily embedded the *Casa Sant'Agnese* into a terraced vineyard. Parts of the building shelter a calm inner courtyard, which the sisters use as a garden for growing medicinal plants. A statue of Saint Francis overlooking a panoramic view standing in a small forecourt welcomes the residents and

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ushers them inside. The entrance hall leads to the chapel, which fascinates with an impressive play of light and shadow and is completely clad in wood. For Bauwerk Parquet, the project presented the challenge of matching the colour of the wooden flooring to the panelling on the walls and ceilings, and to the many items of built-in wooden furniture. "We have always felt very well advised by the professionals at Bauwerk Parquet," says the architect Cristiana Guerra, who has previously worked with this high-quality parquet manufacturer from Eastern Switzerland on several projects.

Wood for Better Well-Being

The architect ultimately chose the Monopark parquet format. This short-strip oak parquet has a natural oiled surface and a calm grading, blending in well with the interiors of *Casa Sant'Agnese*. Cristiana Guerra planned it as a long-lasting floor covering for the common rooms, such as the library and the refectory, as well as the corridors and the nuns' rooms. "In *Casa Sant'Agnese*, the parquet floor's warm radiance supports a sense of well-being for the mind and soul," says the architect.

Modern, Eco-friendly, Real Wood Floors

The Monopark parquet collection by Bauwerk was installed in *Casa Sant'Agnese* in a classic shipdeck pattern. The 2-layer parquet has a very compact 9.6-millimetre structure and is extremely hard-wearing. Precise manufacturing guarantees a quick, reliable installation process. The Swiss manufacturer specifically developed Monopark for the commercial sector with the classic strip parquet look. The parquet underlay features the dimensionally stable and resilient HDF panel technology. The resource-saving top layer consists of three millimetres of fine wood – durable oak for the *Casa Sant'Agnese* – and can be renovated several times to sustain long periods of use. Like all of Bauwerk's parquet products, this wood is sourced from sustainable forestry. Monopark is *ecobau* certified and meets the strict criteria for the eco-INSTITUT-label – something architect Cristiana Guerra and the nuns appreciate – and represents the parquet's ecological quality and perfect suitability for healthy living.

Isidori Pavimenti, a second-generation family-run floor installer operating in Ticino, processed around 1,200 m² of Monopark in the 470 x 70 mm short strip format at the *Casa Sant'Agnese*. They produced the skirting and steps for the elegant stairs using the same oak wood supplied by Bauwerk Parquet.

The *Casa Sant'Agnese* is very popular with the nuns. Well-known Swiss architect Mario Botta thanked Cristiana Guerra for her work in Muralto in an essay (titled *luce e gravità*). In the *Casa Sant'Agnese*, she "created a humble yet refined space for quiet meditation".

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Details & Facts

Project: Casa Sant'Agnesse della Congregazione delle Suore di Ingenbohl, Muralto
Architecture: Studio di architettura Cristiana Guerra, Bellinzona, www.cristianaguerra.ch
Commissioned: 2020
Floor installer: Isidori Pavimenti, Cadenazzo, www.isidoripavimenti.ch
Parquet: Natural oiled oak Monopark by Bauwerk Parquet
Photos: Marcelo Villada Ortiz, www.marcelovillada.ch

St. Margrethen (CH), August 2022
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1 The sisters from a Catholic religious order spend their well-deserved retirement in the Casa Sant'Agnese, overlooking Lake Maggiore. Photo: Marcelo Villada Ortiz

2 This new building was designed by Ticino architect Cristiana Guerra, who carefully embedded it into the Muralto vineyards. Photo: Marcelo Villada Ortiz

3 While the facade is dominated by exposed concrete, white and light-grey sections adorn the ceilings and walls and, above all, wood is the defining material used inside. Photo: Marcelo Villada Ortiz

4 The Monopark parquet collection by Bauwerk was installed in *Casa Sant'Agnese* in a classic shipdeck pattern. "In the *Casa Sant'Agnese*, the parquet floor's warm radiance supports a sense of well-being for the mind and soul," says the architect, Cristiana Guerra. Photo: Marcelo Villada Ortiz

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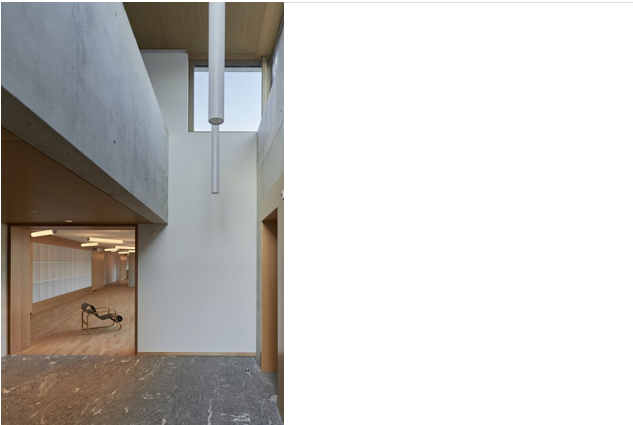
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5 The eye-catching feature of the *Casa Sant'Agnese* is the chapel, which fascinates with an impressive play of light and shadow and is completely clad in wood. Well-known Swiss architect Mario Botta thanked Cristiana Guerra for her work in Muralto in an essay. In the *Casa Sant'Agnese*, she "created a humble yet refined space for quiet meditation". Photo: Marcelo Villada Ortiz

6 The steps of the elegant staircase were crafted using the same oak wood as the Bauwerk parquet. Photo: Marcelo Villada Ortiz

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About Bauwerk Parquet

Bauwerk Parquet is a Swiss brand with a long tradition of making parquet with reliability and precision, satisfying even the most demanding requirements. Bauwerk is proud of its origins, but also focuses on innovation. The company has undergone many changes in recent years, and is now treading a new path. Originally a technology and product-oriented enterprise, it has developed a market focus, working to promote such issues as healthy living, sustainability and design.

Bauwerk's range includes more than 350 products: from 2- and 3-layer to solid wood parquet. More than 60% of all Bauwerk products are made in St. Margrethen (Switzerland). Its parent company, the Bauwerk Group, operates two additional plants in Europe (Lithuania & Croatia) and two production facilities in the USA (Kentucky & Tennessee). In 2021, the Bauwerk Group sold some 9.3 million square metres of parquet.

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QR code for media references



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