

Changes over time

Generally speaking, the buildings of today are similar to their original versions in terms of their nucleus only.

By nucleus, we mean something along the lines of a “shell”, a term which is used in connection with present day (residential) buildings and which includes the primary load-bearing structures.

In (earlier) brick buildings, the term is not as clear-cut, but in this context it should be taken to mean exterior walls, interior walls with load-bearing function, storey partitions, roof frame and foundations.

General descriptions of the nucleus or shell can be found in the literature on building technique available at the time of construction, in the building legislation from earlier periods and lastly, and especially in the case of individual buildings, in the archives of the local building authorities.

With regards to later interventions, they are predominantly carried out on the basis of the building techniques and commonly available materials of the time. However, they are not always carried out in compliance with the applicable regulations or with due respect being given to or with (sufficient) knowledge of existing building materials and building conditions. This applies especially in the case of isolated interventions and those carried out by residents themselves.

Over time, interventions have involved whole buildings as well as individual apartments.

In addition to radical restoration and/or the replacement of building elements, these are interventions that have been either statutory or the result of changing needs over time. The latter were mainly due to increased prosperity and the social development that came about during the second half of the 1900s.

In summary, we are primarily talking about interventions that have raised the standard of utilities and enlarged and (radically) changed the design of homes.