Secured for the future

Combined locking system secures Michaelsberg Abbey and Forum, Siegburg

To secure the historical Abbey and the new Forum, a combination of electronic and mechanical locking systems is being used. The hotel is accommodated in the historical section, and the administration and conference rooms in the modern section.

After more than 900 years, the Archdiocese of Cologne has decided to convert and extend the former Benedictine abbey at Michaelsberg, Siegburg. With the Catholic Social Institute (KSI) moving in to the Abbey, spiritual life there is entering a new phase.
The challenge for the architects — to combine the established and the new — also confronted the craftspeople involved in the project.

Two systems, one key

The solution proposed by the specialist dealer Sectec to secure the buildings and control access convinced the Archdiocese of Cologne. It uses a combined key, benefiting from the some 200 electronic components of the CES Omega Flex system, together with classic mechanical locking technology, with around 350 cylinders.

Many tasks, one solution

The locking system on the Michaelsberg has to perform a number of tasks: the refurbished Abbey section houses the new hotel and meeting rooms. The challenges here are the constantly changing hotel guests.
The new building, dubbed the Forum, accommodates the Catholic Social Institute (KSI) with its offices, seminar rooms and conference rooms. Guests also have a restaurant with a roof garden which affords a unique panoramic view over the Siegburg area.
While the modern Forum mainly employs a mechanical system, the electronic components are used in the hotel section.
With the combined key (mechanical key with electronic key head), staff have access to both areas.
The electronic locking system for the hotel and conference areas is programmed and managed with VNET (virtual network) technology. At reception, hotel guests receive a programmed room card which allows them to access their room. This means hotel staff can be flexible in allocating room cards, and can respond quickly and inexpensively if any keys are lost.
Where once a drawbridge would have protected against unauthorised access to a fortress of this type, today this is done by the electronic CES wall terminal at the main entrance. Staff, hotel guests and conference delegates who have already checked in can identify themselves at the terminal using their locking medium (combined key or guest card), and enter. Anyone who is not registered has use the intercom to ask to enter.

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Top: view from the Forum to the Abbey
Bottom: knob cylinder on a hotel room door