

New fire for the Ritz-Carlton, Wolfsburg

FLEXWELL® Safety Pipe as supply line for the propane fireplaces at the Ritz-Carlton, Wolfsburg



It caused a sensation in the hotel world when the first European hotel of the Ritz-Carlton chain was opened at the end of the 1990s in Wolfsburg, and not in one of the better known big German cities. The five star luxury hotel belongs to the Volkswagen Group, which has its headquarters there, and the hotel is the accommodation of choice for its invited guests. Some 250 staff from 29 nations make sure that every wish of the hotel guests is fulfilled.

Regular renovation and expansion of the hotel are always carried out very discreetly, taking care not to disturb the guests' stay or the efficient running of the hotel. Thus extensive renovation was carried out in 2013 which included the complete reconstruction of the originally wood-burning fireplaces. Each fireplace was to be in future fuelled by a continuous, but individually adjustable, flow of liquefied gas (propane).

In order to fulfil the demands of this ambitious retrofitting programme while complying with all the legal requirements and environmental aspects, it was planned to use the existing piping system, which was designed with the intended extension in mind. There was already a feed line from the external propane tank into the facility control room. The technical department had already taken care of the pipework for the fireplace in the reception and breakfast areas. The task now was to connect additional fireplaces.

A fixed schedule was drawn up for work which caused a lot of noise, and this had to be adhered to strictly. That meant organizing the logistics of the work schedule in minute detail and daily conferences on the state of progress with the other trades involved. In the interests of the hotel, the exact sequence of work was to a great extent already fixed in preliminary discussions. Nothing was to disturb the smooth continued functioning of the hotel at any time of the day or night.



Project engineer U. Pieruschka (P&A) is convinced of the excellent job done

The demands on the laying of the pipes were very high. Low corridors, pits and several wall openings meant that a high degree of project management skill and discipline from everyone involved were of the essence. FLEXWELL® Safety Piping passed the test of all the demands made on it with flying colours – whether tight turns in various directions in the routing or extremely limited freedom of movement in installing the system, not to mention temperatures of up to 50 °C. And the installation crew was no less flexible on the job than the FSR 30/48 itself.

The well laid out routing scheme planned beforehand showed once again when work began that every theory is only as good as the actual conditions encountered in practice on site permit. The pipe routing was constantly being altered because it transpired that the routing plan was not feasible. In the basement area, the double-walled pipes had to be laid through utility rooms, corridors and sanitary facilities; and this always meant running them directly beneath the ceiling, mostly suspend-



Simple securing of the piping with our systems technology



Ideal routing for the new propane feed lines



Excellent flexibility – it is no problem to lay the piping through multiple changes of direction



Cosy in front of the propane fire

Solutions for the future



PIPESYSTEMS
Flexible solutions

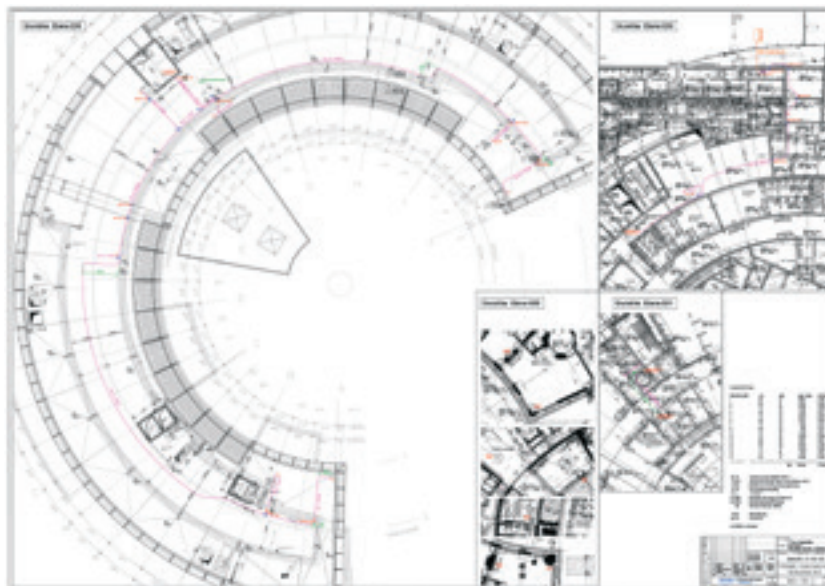
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ed ceilings which did not permit a clear view of what was happening. Waste water pipes, cable ducts and girders also got in the way of the originally planned routing.

But the order of the day was: "There's no such word as "can't". Our client, PA Propan & Ammoniak Anlagen GmbH, found, together with the planning engineer and BRUGG Rohrsysteme GmbH, a route leading to the riser shaft. And they did it always keeping the tight schedule in mind. The riser shaft contains all the main supply lines necessary for the operation and continuity of the vital functions that keep a hotel running. Every operation on this beating heart of the hotel requires very careful thought. At the end of the riser shaft, the piping branches to serve the individual fireplaces via integrated T-pieces in the attic. The advantage of using integrated T-pieces is that the pipe can still be continuously leak monitored even when the route is interrupted. And that in turn means that any spillage can be detected without any delay and repaired.

Thanks to the carefully executed expansion and retrofitting, the Ritz-Carlton in the carmakers' city of Wolfsburg can continue to guarantee its guests a relaxing stay. The piping laid from the facility control room to the fireplaces in the hotel suites comprised:

- 340 m of FSR 30/48 pipes
- 9 non-welded connections
- 7 integrated T-pieces
- 2 integrated through-connections
- 14 fire resistant penetrations and
- 12 annular space seal systems



Routing of the FLEXWELL® Safety Pipe through the Ritz-Carlton, Wolfsburg

To contact us and for further information, please fill in the following details and send them by fax to +49 (0)5031 170-170.

- Please send me detailed information material
 I have a project I am currently working on and would like to speak to you personally

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