

Press Info - Long Version (3,815 characters)

## **PRIVATE MUSEUM OF 1920S ARCHITECTURE IN BERLIN CELEBRATES 5TH ANNIVERSARY**

### **A Place for Architecture Lovers**

Suitable for up to four guests, "Taut's Home" is a real-life experience of design history. It is a small museum-like accommodation that was named after the architect Bruno Taut and offers a unique time-travel experience. Staying at the house feels like being locked up in a museum without being restricted by guards and ropes. The frequently awarded private project revives the fine architecture and interior design of the "Golden Twenties" and is part of a high-profile housing estate from the Bauhaus era.

### **Famous Icon of the Social Housing Development**

Built in 1925-30, Bruno Taut's "Hufeisensiedlung" (Horseshoe Estate) is probably the most outstanding example of innovative German town planning from the early 20th century. The estate in the south of Berlin was designed to alleviate the rampant shortage of housing during the 1920s and enjoys international renown as a milestone of modern urban housing policy. It is fun to stroll through this mixture of carefully arranged townhouses and modernistic apartment blocks to experience the rural charm of the carefully woven fabrics of streets and public spaces. Together with five other developments from that time, the "Horseshoe Estate" was awarded UNESCO World Heritage status in 2008. But it is not just the special color scheme and the wide range of visual design on the buildings exterior that are really impressive – the same is true for the clever room layouts and subtle details inside. Up to now few outsiders could ever see just how high living standards are behind these colorful facades. This is what a private couple, long standing residents dedicated to monument preservation, wanted to change. Landscape architect Katrin Lesser and her husband, exhibition designer Ben Buschfeld, accidentally visited the terraced house when it went for sale. Enthusiastic about how much original material had been preserved here, they bought the highly down-to-date house. After two years of research, planning and restoration – all carried out without public funding –, a monumental specimen was created in which visitors can now lodge themselves to experience the high quality of Bruno Taut's design by heart.

### **Living in Bruno Taut's Era – in a house that takes you on a time-travel journey**

Taut's Home – named after a common German saying and a wordplay on a 1920s dictum referring to architect's design principles – is a cultural treasure with the character of a museum. All furnishings are either hand-picked originals or made to measure from vintage 1920s models. This is probably the closest you can get to the spirit of emerging Modernism in Berlin. But unlike a museum the site isn't designed just to be looked at. It was carefully laid out as an accommodation following strict conservation practice, but is also equipped with hidden modern amenities and designed for self-supply. The large front yard has been restored according to the original blueprint too including a small terrace, several fruit trees, lilac bushes and a hedge of wild roses. With this innovative exhibition concept, the two monument-minded operators close a gap in the Berlin museum landscape and act as private ambassadors of the cities' heritage: In 2013 the 65 sqm house not only received the Berlin Monument Prize, but was also bestowed the highest monument award of the European Union. After five years of renting to enthusiastic guests from all over the world, the landlords have organised a small program to celebrate the project's fifth anniversary. This will take place around Pentecost and the UNESCO World Heritage Day, installed to raise the awareness about monument preservation: From 2nd to 4th June, the owners offer guided tours, a small exhibition and a lecture about the restoration as well as a house concert next to the tiled stoves. All information can be found at [www.tautshome.com](http://www.tautshome.com).

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Additional information and press photography:

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