

# South Seas' paradise in Bavaria

Paradise needs natural stone. So the planners of the thermal spa in Bad Wörishofen say. The bathing scenery designed true to the motto "Holidays in the South Seas with a bonus for your health" was recently expanded by the sauna paradise.

*By Anne-Marie Ring*

Five years ago the thermal spa Bad Wörishofen was opened. The bathing scenery designed true to the motto "Holidays in the South Seas with a bonus for your health" offers a combination of state-approved thermal spring water, exotic holiday feeling under natural palm trees as well as an extensive wellness and beauty program.

On the occasion of the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary the spa was expanded by the sauna paradise comprising an area of 2000 sqm. Natural stone plays a big role in design – not only as covering for walls and floors, but also as rock. The entire stone laying was done by company Eberle Natursteine, Bad Grönenbach.

STEIN spoke with Ludwig Eberle about a non-routine order.

## Step-by-step construction

### **STEIN:**

Mr. Eberle, the expanded sauna paradise is designed very elaborately with natural stone. Which natural stone was laid in which areas?

**Ludwig Eberle:** We installed about 200 sqm of chloride slate in large-size slabs of 100 x 50 x 2 cm as well as approx. 600 sqm of Padang yellow, mottled and brush-finished, format 60 x 40 x 1.2 cm.

**STEIN:** In which areas did the constructor decide against natural stone, and why?

**Ludwig Eberle:** In the pool surrounds where tiles were installed because of their insensitivity under exposure to wetness. In the palm garden a flooring in parquet design was laid. Padang yellow was used for the beach area, its colour and structure gives the guests the feeling of being at the beach.

**STEIN:** Can you describe in single steps the work process – starting with preparing the substrate until installing the large-size natural stones?

**Ludwig Eberle:** Concrete blocks were put up on the insulation boards on the floor covered by flagstones, 40 x 40 cm. A channel system was thus created carrying warm air to keep the floor at a warm temperature. The flagstones were smoothed with PCI Carrament and reinforced by integrating a reinforcement fabric. After thorough curing the top covering (Padang yellow) was laid in a medium-bed adhesive. This construction is well proven, both the original spa and the spa Erding are constructed according to the same principle. The area around the showers where floor and walls are covered with chloride slate the substrate was made of concrete. We have here applied the bonded waterproofing PCI Seccoral and waterproofing tapes where necessary. The chloride slate was laid in a medium bed and fixed to the wall.

**STEIN:** Where do the stones for the showers come from, how did they find their way to Bad Wörishofen and how were they installed?

**Ludwig Eberle:** The stones selected by an engineer and a technical drafter of the architect is a serpentine from Northern Italy, that's all I am allowed to say. The stones were transported to Bad Wörishofen and installed by means of a building crane before the roof was closed.

After the floor and wall coverings were laid our stonemasons sculptured the rocks according to the architects' ideas.

**STEIN:** Were instructions and tests in the preliminary stages required concerning compatibility and adhesion? What kind of support did you get here from the construction chemicals producer?

**Ludwig Eberle:** Due to the fact that we already installed the same material in the thermal spa Erding preliminary tests were not necessary. As a basic principle we have every new covering tested by PCI on their premises as to bonding tensile strength and other parameters. But nevertheless the PCI salesman visited the jobsite on a regular basis.

**STEIN:** You have realized the entire project with products from PCI. Where do you see the advantage of this system solution?

**Ludwig Eberle:** For us the major advantage of PCI is the proximity to the customer. In the thermal spa Erding for instance we had to lay slabs onto green concrete, however it still shrinks. A PCI technician arrived within a short time to take adhesion values of the concrete, then we received a written recommendation for installation. We can thus exclude any risk of liability towards the constructor and the architect. That gives us an enormous security.

**STEIN:** How many employees were involved in laying the stones and how long did the project take?

**Ludwig Eberle:** Eight employees on average were at the jobsite who had been engaged in the interior construction for about 12 weeks.

**STEIN:** What was the biggest challenge for you in this project?

**Ludwig Eberle:** That was certainly the tuff wall which we installed outdoors. The wall is about 40 meters long and four and a half meters high. We had to meet special requirements concerning the wind loads, and the architects involved us in their planning right from the start. Now the wall is supported by steel beams and clad with Italian tuff. Being practising experts our suggestions were well accepted. Another project inside is still upcoming, the so-called colosseum, an oval building made of tuff, approx. 25 meters and 6 meters high, with arches, profiles and a cornice for an intermediate storey, so two arches on top of each other. This will take another six weeks.

**STEIN:** And a last personal question: Have you already visited the thermal spa as a private visitor?

**Ludwig Eberle:** I am almost a regular customer! This was a great order for us and I like visiting the spa. Several times a year on Saturdays with the entire family and at least once a month to meet friends and colleagues at the pool bar or in the sauna. Especially at night when there's not so much going on any more the atmosphere in the spa is quite special.

Mr. Eberle, we thank you for this interview.

## Unique sauna offers

The new sauna paradise was designed with the demand to bring a piece of paradise to the thermal spa Bad Wörishofen. The sauna guests can choose between 15 different sauna and wellness offers on over 2000 sqm – four times as big as the previous range of attractions.

Be impressed by the "Alhambra" designed in Moorish style. Inhale mystic fragrances and spices and relax your body in the meditation sauna.

Sauna guests can relax their bodies in a Japanese ambience on loungers made of cedar wood while admiring the colourful kois in the aquarium. In the steam sauna "Blue Grotto" guests relax around a rock crystal shining in a soft light while enjoying aromatic fragrances. The "Backhäusle" with a temperature of 60°C invites the visitors to bake their own bread and enjoy the smell of fresh bread and dry heat on the skin. Indulge yourself with different aromatic fragrances in the 90°C hot "Kelo-Stadl". The rare and therefore very precious Kelo wood evolves from parching over decades in the dry polar climate after the tree ceased to grow due to its age. After visiting the sauna rushing waterfalls of the stone showers offer a nice refreshment. Plenty of loungers under more than 50 palm trees in the Garden of Eden invite to relax. From here you can enjoy a fantastic view on the sauna lagune sparkling in turquoise colour. Daydream under a green roof of leaves in the spring garden and enjoy the sun deck and cosy loungers at the white sand beach. Thanks to the glass dome which can be opened the sauna paradise advances to a palm garden under blue sky on warm summer days.

## Project data

### Architects:

Wund Objektbau, Friedrichshafen, [www.wund.de](http://www.wund.de)

### Natural stone laying:

Eberle Natursteine GmbH, Bad Grönenbach  
**Construction chemicals:**  
PCI Augsburg GmbH, [www.pci-augsburg.de](http://www.pci-augsburg.de)

[Additional information](#)

## Product & practice

In wet locations waterproofing with PCI Seccoral 2K.  
Installation of large-size natural stones in medium-bed with PCI Carrament.  
The walls were partly smoothed with PCI Pericret.  
Grouting with PCI Carrafug, on floors grouting with PCI Durafug NT.  
More information under [www.pci-augsburg.de](http://www.pci-augsburg.de)