

An aerial view of a historic town, likely Dubrovnik, featuring numerous buildings with red-tiled roofs. A prominent church tower with a dome is visible in the center. The foreground shows a stone wall, possibly part of the city's fortifications. The overall scene is a dense, historic urban landscape.

VELUX®

Renovating
historic buildings



Make room for the future

Buildings reflect the time and history that created them. More than roofs and walls, they are imprints of human thoughts. As such, they must be treated with care and respect.

Throughout European history, new generations have found ways to create and remodel their surroundings. From Prague Castle to St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, even iconic buildings have undergone significant changes in order to meet new demands or reflect shifts in power and technology. Today, the needs of

citizens and businesses are just as important as those of kings and priests. A fast-changing economic life and high expectations of comfort and health create demands for buildings that are both usable and flexible. Reconstructing existing houses is an opportunity to meet these demands. A carefully prepared reconstruction project can preserve valuable architecture while making the building suitable for new activities. It creates a chance to attract new investments and increases property value in the surrounding area.

Making new use of empty or unused spaces inside a city can limit the dispersion of urban sprawl, thereby reducing traffic problems, time-consuming commuting and the need for new, costly infrastructure.

The densely populated European city centres possess timeless qualities: accessibility, diverse trade and cosy environments, just to mention a few. But old constructions, though charming, are often not suited to the needs and expectations of today's users.

Cover photo:
Bell tower of church in old Dubrovnik



Altering a building with roof windows is a mindful way of creating liveable spaces in existing historic buildings without spoiling the original roof construction or changing the height of the building. Roof windows provide daylight and fresh air, thereby extending the useable area.

In addition, when old roof constructions are made visible, new generations can discover the amazing skills of past time craftsmen and artisans skills of craftsmen and artisans of the past.

The following pages show examples of how rethinking unused attic spaces with roof windows in historic buildings can be thoughtful and innovative. From a medieval

convent to a 19th century university, the balance between preserving and developing can be maintained, when architects, craftsmen and building owners collaborate. History has taught us to learn from the past while having an eye for the future. This principle is valid also when reconstructing historic buildings. When applied, we can create rooms for the future in buildings of the past.



School of Architecture

Where:
Gdansk, Poland.

Aim of rebuilding:
To build new classrooms in the attic and to adjust the entire building to modern functional requirements and regulations; to improve thermal insulation and ventilation.

Rebuilding completed in:
2004.

Photo: Adam Mørk

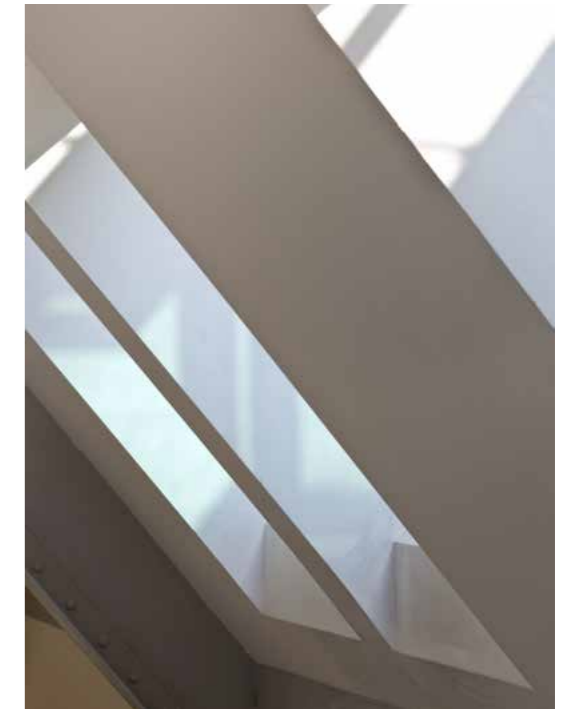


Photo: Adam Mørk



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Photo: Adam Mørk

Red-brick phoenix.

A renaissance-inspired construction from 1904, the University of Technology in Gdansk has survived fires during World War II and several political turmoils. Today, the university's School of Architecture is offering students daylight studios and comfortable work spaces. Through roof windows, users can enjoy the detailed stonework and sculptures decorating the surrounding buildings.



Photo: Tomáš Berg



The Not-So-Sleeping Beauty

From the fairy tale ornaments on the outside to the imaginative interior design, created by activists of the Velvet Revolution, art hotel Besidka embodies Czech history. The hotel is even equipped with a Sleeping Beauty staircase, leading up to a rebuilt attic full of natural light.

Hotel Besidka

Where:
Slavonice, Czech Republic.

Aim of rebuilding:
To transform an ordinary bed-and-breakfast establishment into a 3-star hotel while retaining the special "Besidka" atmosphere.

Rebuilding completed in:
2005.

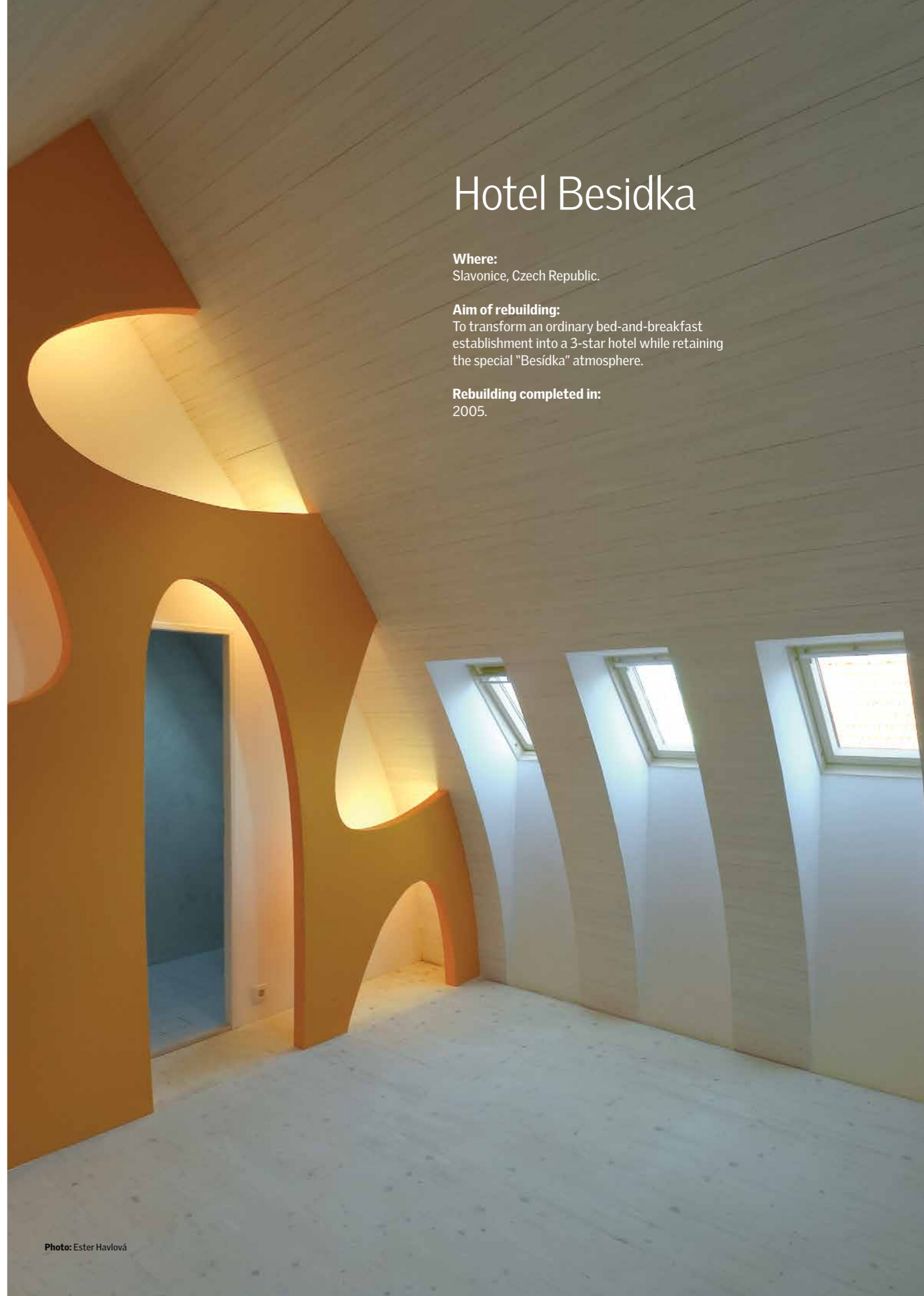


Photo: Ester Havlová

Mogens Dahl Concert Hall

Where: Copenhagen, Denmark.

Aim of rebuilding:

To restore a building dating back to 1901 and construct three concert halls in it. The central roof beam was revealed and the necessary additional heat insulation applied.

Rebuilding completed in:
2006.



Photo: Adam Mørk

**History preserved in every detail.
Except for the horses.**

The music might make you forget about time and space, but the carefully restored building tells the story of changing times. From barn doors to cobblestones, the former horse stable and car workshop is now an intimate concert and conference venue.



Photo: Adam Mørk



Photo: Adam Mørk

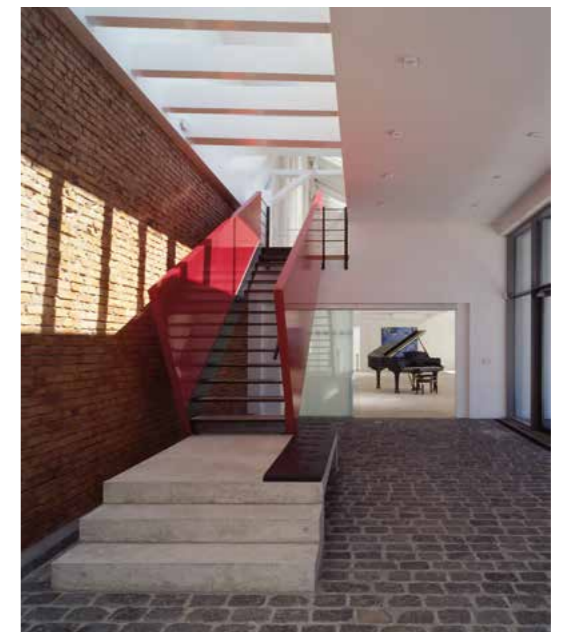


Photo: Adam Mørk

Creating a crisp atmosphere

Like architecture, confectionery is both craft and art. In Zila Coffee House, visitors can enjoy delicious treats in historic surroundings. The popular café and sweetshop is located in a building that formerly hosted a shooting range and a public bath.



Zila Coffee House and Confectionery

Where:
Budapest, Hungary.

Aim of rebuilding:
To provide a 100-year-old confectionery with natural light through roof windows.

Rebuilding completed in:
2002.





Neo-Renaissance villa

Where:
Brno, Czech Republic.

Aim of rebuilding:
To restore a historic listed residence
into a modern family home

Rebuilding completed in:
2004.



Luxury restored

In close cooperation with institutions for the preservation of historical monuments, Czech architects FORM ARCH have rebuilt a villa originally constructed at the turn of 19th and 20th century. With carefully chosen materials and colour ranges, the atmosphere of the two-storey terraced house has been preserved, while the current owners can enjoy a wealth of modern amenities.



Heavenly light
Dating back to the 12th century, Utstein on the island of Monerøy is regarded as one of the most well-preserved medieval monasteries in Norway. Today, the former home of monks has been turned into a museum and an atmospheric conference venue.



Utstein Monastery

Where:
Mosterøy, Norway.

Aim of rebuilding:
To provide visitors' rooms and chambers with abundant daylight, while preserving the simple and austere look of the medieval construction.

Rebuilding completed in:
1950ies and 1960ies.



Rectorate residence

Where:
University of Montpellier, France.

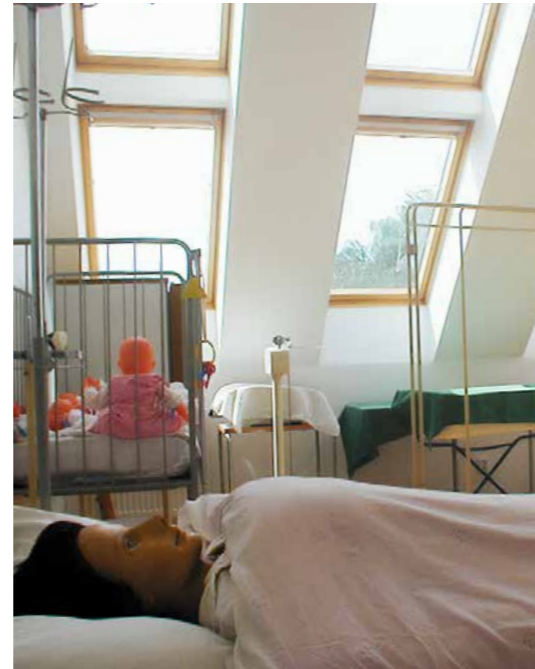
Aim of rebuilding:
To transform a university library into offices for the Rectorate of Montpellier (Regional Education Administration), while preserving the history of the building.

Rebuilding completed in:
2003.

**Good science is constantly evolving.
So is good design.**

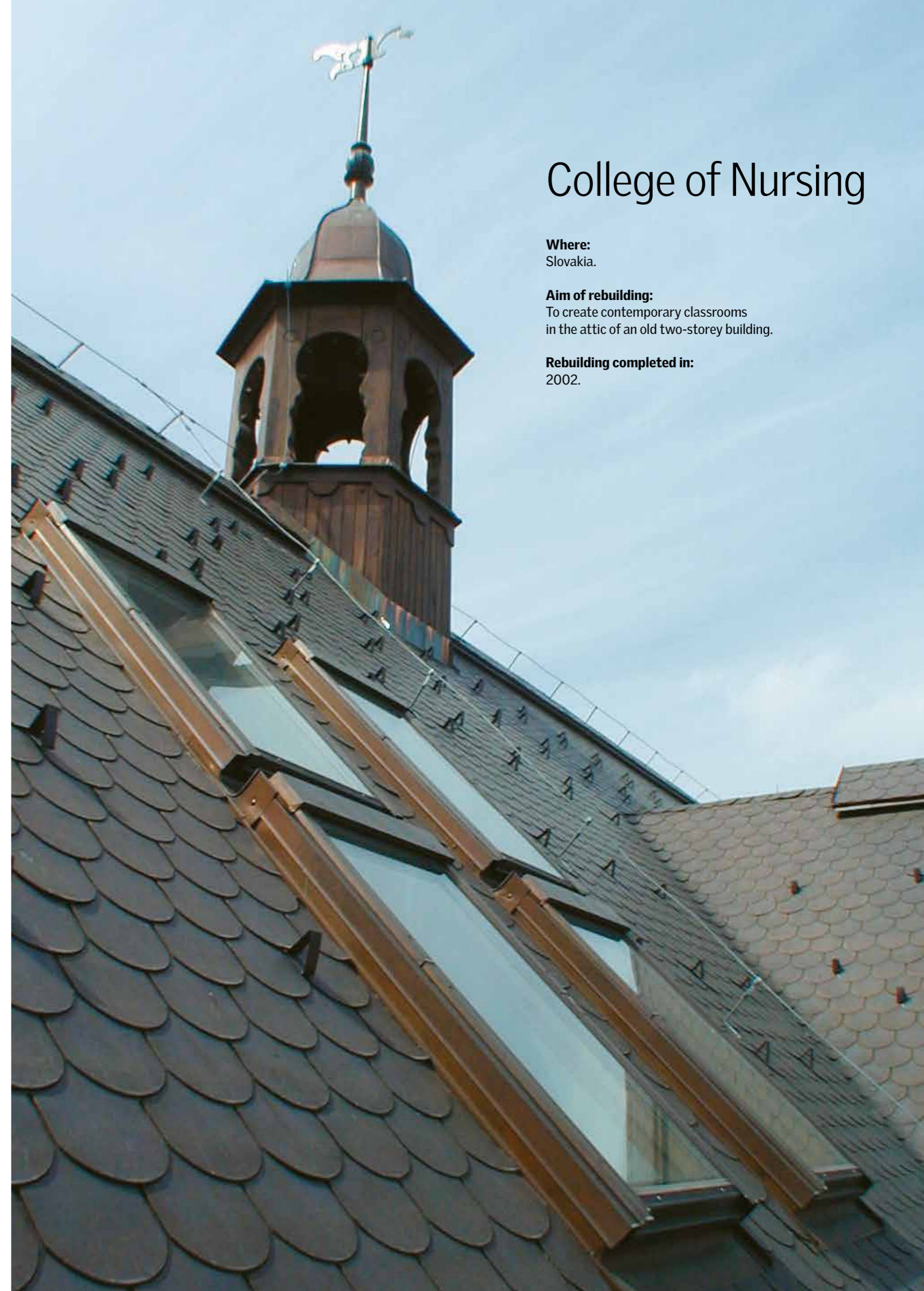
When the university of Montpellier needed a new office building, automatically controlled roof windows turned out to be a perfect solution. They enabled the construction of an atrium, while the automatic roller shutters provide shading and cooling when needed.





Healthy future

Details could hardly be more important than when nurses are under training. Thanks to the extensive use of roof windows, the student nurses can enjoy a work environment with fresh air and masses of natural light. The flashings on the roof windows match and patinate with the traditional copper roofing on the Central school built in Art Nouveau style around 1910.



College of Nursing

Where:
Slovakia.

Aim of rebuilding:
To create contemporary classrooms
in the attic of an old two-storey building.

Rebuilding completed in:
2002.

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