

## A castle restoration project that emphasized historical accuracy



The young Berlin-based architect **Bodo Ebhardt** was appointed by **Wilhelm II** to supervise the project. Both an architect and a specialist in fortresses, he worked according to **a strict set of principles**.

Firstly, he kept and analyzed the remaining ruins and wall façades. Then he looked up and analyzed many old documents and records. &nbsp;Finally, he examined other European castles and drew comparisons between them and Haut-Koenigsbourg.

All this research enabled him to identify the different parts of the château, to create interior designs of a type that could have featured in the original building and to rebuild the ruin in a way that was historically as accurate as possible.

The parts of the wall that were still standing were checked, stone by stone and the weaker sections were replaced with identically-sized and shaped stones. A coating gave a uniform look to the finished walls. In order to show which parts had been newly restored, B. Ebhardt created a new set of 'mason's marks' - each replacement stone had **a special mark** carved into it. Different years were given different marks, there being a total of eight different marks used between 1901 and 1908. Even today these marks can be easily identified and can be seen throughout the castle.