

# Arnulfpost

DECEMBER 2024







## HELLO, MUNICH

Here at the historic Arnulfpost, we've just reached a key milestone: Our base building is now complete, and we're starting work on the interior of what will be our new engineering center.

Given the complex's 100 year-old infrastructure, our teams have tackled numerous challenges to achieve our ambitious renovation goals. When it was first constructed, the Arnulfpost was a beacon of innovation, and we want to bring that spirit into the present – and the future. When completed at the end of 2026, the building will once again be state-of-the-art, providing both new workspaces for Googlers and public areas for the people of Munich.

In this sixth edition of our Arnulfpost newsletter, you can find out more about the complex base-building work and the next steps for construction. Until the engineering center opens its doors, this newsletter will continue to be our primary communication channel with locals and others interested in our work. (If you missed the first few editions, you can find them at [realestate.withgoogle.com/arnulfpost/.](https://realestate.withgoogle.com/arnulfpost/))

Our team is always eager to hear any ideas, questions, or suggestions you may have. You can reach my colleagues at [arnulfpost@google.com](mailto:arnulfpost@google.com).



Sincerely,  
Dr. Wieland Holfelder  
Site Lead Google Munich



The bay windows are clad in new, shiny copper.

## “SOON, WE’LL BE FILLING THE ARNULFPOST WITH LIFE EVERY DAY”



Jason Harper is Google’s project executive for the Arnulfpost renovation. In this interview, he discusses the biggest challenges faced in the base-building phase.

### **Jason, how would you describe the Arnulfpost’s relationship to its surrounding community in Munich?**

My impression is that the people of Munich love this building, that they have a real connection to the Arnulfpost. Especially because it’s been around for so long. We want to deepen that connection. Parts of Arnulfpost will be open for locals to use once the building is complete: outdoor areas and some spaces inside the building, too. Our future neighbors will be able to hold workshops there, for example. We’ve already started getting inquiries, which is wonderful.

**The base building has just been completed.**

**Which features are you most proud of?**

It's an old building, so the structural work proved to be a big challenge. Finishing the big, hemispheric skylight in the dome was an important step. I think it looks spectacular. And as the last part of the base building to be completed, it also holds a special symbolism. The construction and renovation of the entire roof were very complex, too, but look at it now! The roof is a beautiful, shining copper, and part of it has already been planted with greenery. It looks fantastic.

**Why do you think Arnulfpost is a good fit for Google?**

When it was first built about 100 years ago, Arnulfpost was considered a high-tech building. Now we're taking the skeleton of that building, which was state-of-the-art in its time, and making it into today's version of a high-tech building. It's a really exciting transformation, from a sustainability perspective as well. I come from Baltimore, and there are a lot of buildings sitting empty in my hometown. Many of them eventually deteriorate, because no one's taking care of them. It's a real shame. A building like the Arnulfpost is a big part of the fabric of its neighborhood, so to me it's essential for such a great building to be put to use. And I'm thrilled that soon, we'll be able to fill the building with life every day.



Both the Link Building and Column Hall have greened roofs.



## The base building is done, and now work continues on the interior. What are the next steps?

Right now, we're working on tenders for the construction companies that will help us with the interior work. So, we're drawing up a lot of designs and descriptions of the rooms-to-be. How should the work areas and meeting rooms be configured? There will be multiple restaurants and cafés throughout the campus; what will they look like? We're addressing all these questions now, and then we'll go directly to execution. Before the Arnulfpost opens at the end of 2026, we also have to build and install all the work equipment for the Googlers: things like desks, office chairs, and video conferencing systems. Our facilities team has to get to know the building, too. How does the air conditioning work? How do we control the heating? I'm very clear on one thing: We have so much left to do in the next two years, we won't be bored for a single second.



The roof of the Link Building can also be used for an active break.





Due to the unique geometry the construction of the lantern posed a special challenge.



## “THE ARNULFPOST CALLS FOR THE FULL SPECTRUM OF CONSTRUCTION EXPERTISE”



**Petra Nöthiger**

*Deputy team leader for  
technical building equipment  
at Amstein + Walthert AG*



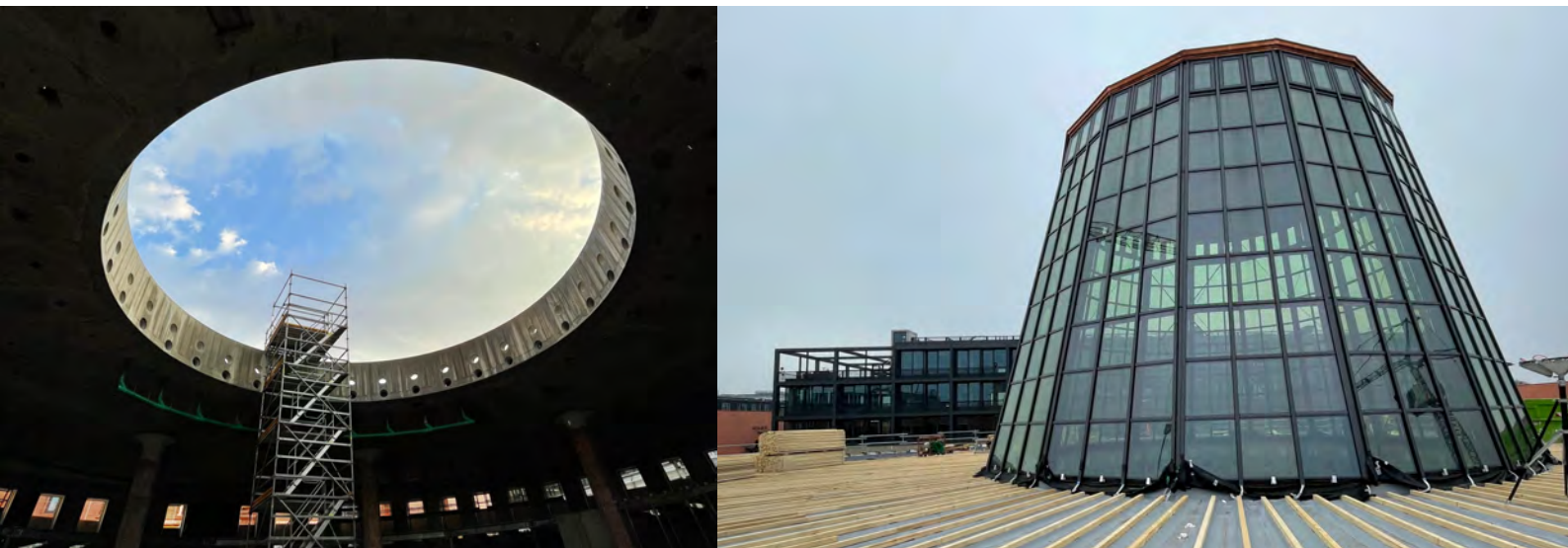
**Karin Mai**

*Project manager for  
structural engineering at  
Ingenieurbüro Aster GbR*

According to Karin Mai and Petra Nöthiger, the success of the Arnulfpost conversion is largely down to one factor: great teamwork. Mai is a structural engineer at Ingenieurbüro Aster GbR, and her team is responsible for the structural design of the entire building complex. Nöthiger works for the Swiss firm Amstein+Walthert AG, where she's deputy head of the team in charge of all the building's technical systems, including ventilation and air conditioning, sanitary systems for drinking water and wastewater, heating, and electricity, including building automation.

Karin Mai recalls one particular moment when good teamwork was essential to making headway on construction. “We needed to set up a crane in the Arnulfpost’s inner courtyard to continue work on the roofs. But Petra and her team needed the courtyard at the same time; they had to dig a huge hole to put in a trench system for underground rainwater infiltration.” So, what to do when two teams need a space at the same time?

Ingenieurbüro Aster quickly came up with a solution: They set up the crane on a platform of concrete piles. That way, in the next phase, the excavator could dig the rainwater infiltration ditch in between the piles, while the crane could continue operating overhead.



The sky lantern is impressive from the inside as well as from the outside.

For Petra Nöthiger, combining the Arnulfpost’s old buildings with historic preservation status and newly constructed elements is a particularly exciting aspect of the project. “When we go to put in pipes and cables, we often find that’s not possible in the building’s original state,” explains the engineer. “Old buildings usually don’t have space for all the systems that a building needs today.” Together, Nöthiger, Mai, and their teams have overcome many challenges in this area, too. For instance, since the existing basement was too low to house all the cables and pipes, they lowered part of the external building by a meter and a half.





The glass lantern spans an opening of 12m.

Connecting the old and new parts of the building also poses structural challenges for Karin Mai. “We have to know the exact loads which the historic components of the building can bear,” explains the structural engineer. Normally, this information can be found in construction drawings and building documentation, but there were gaps in the Arnulfpost’s records. As a result, Mai’s team had to examine the existing building structure to determine its load-bearing capacity.

Of all the projects they’ve worked on throughout their careers, the Arnulfpost is a very special site for both Mai and Nöthiger. “The Arnulfpost calls for the full spectrum of construction expertise,” Mai says. Nöthiger adds, “This project has made me realize that there’s a solution to every problem. It may sound clichéd, but where there’s a will, there’s a way.”





## “GOOGLE IS COMING OF AGE IN MUNICH WITH THE ARNULFPOST”



**Eva Radman**

*Project lead for fit-out  
at Turner & Townsend*

If you ask Eva Radman what strikes her most about the Arnulfpost, she doesn't have to think for long. “Time and again, I'm overwhelmed by the enormous complexity of the various parts of the building,” she says. Radman works for Turner & Townsend, who manage large-scale real estate and infrastructure projects worldwide. She's the project manager in charge of the interior design of Arnulfpost, coordinating a large team of architects, designers, lighting technicians, and engineers.

This means Radman not only has to keep track of big-picture progress across the site, but also has to delve into many of the finer details. Her team is concerned with preserving the atmosphere of this historic landmark with its rich history. At the same time, they want to connect that history to today's digital working world. To achieve the right balance, they've kept many of the historical elements, like the interior doors in the main corridors. The iconic rotunda also features a historic skylight dome, essentially huge ceiling windows in the form of a hemisphere. “The building's history will remain present throughout,” Radman says. “And at the same time, these will be state-of-the-art, multifunctional workplaces.”

Radman's team is working with muted colors, clean shapes, and lots of greenery. “This is what I keep hearing from Googlers themselves: ‘Google is coming of age in Munich with the Arnulfpost.’ I can only agree.”

Sustainability also plays a major role in the conversion and expansion of Arnulfpost: The entire project aims to be LEED-certified. The LEED certification system – which stands for “Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design” – is internationally recognized and renowned in ecological construction.



Dozens of historic columns lend the Column Hall its name.

The Arnulfpost is targeting LEED Platinum certification, the highest level. And the assessment isn't just about the building itself; it also considers questions like how sustainably rubble and waste are disposed of during construction. "To achieve Platinum status, we've been working closely with sustainability experts since the very beginning of the project," explains Radman.

Radman's favorite spot at the Arnulfpost is the room known as the Column Hall. It's one of the historic parts of the complex, a hall two stories high that was used as a workspace even back in the building's post-office days. Radman's team has been able to keep the old columns, and they've even put in a second level in parts of the hall, interrupting sightlines here and there in the massive space with smaller meeting rooms and separated work areas. "This allows us to create a cozy atmosphere despite the vast dimensions of the hall," Radman says. "That's what makes this place a prime example of the interplay between history and modernity."

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