





"The life I lead would be inconceivable without the Swiss guardsmen. They are always at my side — day and night. Their professionalism, discipline, discretion, and friendliness fill me with great gratitude. These young men lead a regimented daily life, working around the clock for my personal safety. So it is all the more important that they can rely on modern and secure accommodations at the Vatican — which becomes a second home for their wives and children, too."









Dear Readers,
Dear Prospective Donors,

Twice I have had the privilege of being received at the Vatican for a private audience: once by Pope Benedict and once by Pope Francis. Both times I experienced the Swiss guardsmen up close and was very proud of our men. They perform their job dependably and with impressive precision. With alert eyes and open hearts, the guardsmen protect the pontiff as well as important Vatican buildings, and they can always be found in the central settings where heads of state, pilgrims, and visitors from all over the world rub shoulders.

The barracks for the Swiss Guard, which today comprises 110 men, is located in close proximity to the pontiff's living quarters. The 150-year-old building has long since become obsolete, needing considerable repair work in recent years, and the available space is increasingly precarious. Pope Francis has decided to increase the guard to 135 men again in view of growing risks; moreover, guardsmen today can marry earlier and start a family. This privilege was formerly reserved for the leadership level from corporal upward. These two developments mean that more space is urgently required. More and more families have had to be accommodated outside the Vatican, which complicates organizational matters and is not conducive to a close-knit community.

Several engineers and experts have carried out feasibility studies and concluded that renovating the current barracks makes no sense in structural and financial terms, so that building new barracks is unavoidable. I now invite you to browse through the following pages for an overview of the future-ready, ecologically sustainable project of which I am a staunch advocate. The Swiss Guard embodies basic values that are more important than ever in our uncertain, fast-paced world. On behalf of everyone involved, I would like to express my sincere thanks for your support.

Doris Leuthard

Former member of the Swiss Federal Council & President of the Patronage Committee





A warm guardsman's greeting from the Vatican to our readers

Acriter et fideliter — brave and faithful: This is how we Swiss guardsmen have been fulfilling our mission ever since 1506. It is a wonderful privilege to serve the Holy Father, and I assure you, dear readers, that I will do everything in my power to carry on this tradition with the greatest care and dedication. To this end, in addition to constantly updating our training concept and arrangements, structural adaptations have now become unavoidable. Although we are prepared to live simply, the crowded conditions are putting an increasing strain on our everyday lives.

The demands placed on a modern security service are constantly growing; with today's troop numbers, we can only meet these demands by working in shifts. The necessary increase in the Guard will further exacerbate our acute space problems. We have no room to house our new colleagues and their families, and fear that our large Guard family will be increasingly torn apart.

We therefore need modern accommodations for today's Guard as well as future generations. I am convinced that new quarters will make it easier to recruit enthusiastic young Swiss men. On behalf of my fellow-corps members and their families and children, I would like to thank you for accompanying the Swiss Guard on its journey into the future.

Commander Christoph Graf

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"The Swiss Guard embodies values that are no longer self-evident in today's fast-paced world. For centuries, the members of the corps have stood for bravery and loyalty; they are physically and mentally prepared to serve a higher cause. They have been entrusted with an extraordinarily honorable and vital duty at the center of the world church. I wish the project to build a new barracks every success and the Guard a secure future." Felix Gmür, Bishop of Basel



Vatican City, 28 January 2019

To the Friends of the Swiss Pontifical Guard

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Pontifical Swiss Guard has faithfully and with great efficiency ensured the safety of the Holy Father for centuries. His Holiness Pope Francis is very grateful to the Guards and has expressed his appreciation for their dedication on many occasions.

In the coming years, the numbers of Guards will be increased to allow a better organization of the service. In addition, their rules on marriage have been relaxed which will mean more families will need to be accommodated in the barracks area.

The Swiss Guards' barracks date from the 19th century. They are now obsolete and no longer provide the framework and equipment needed to house the Guards in conditions which meet current standards. An on-site reconstruction is necessary. It is an ambitious project for which we are happy that a specific Foundation has been created in Switzerland. It supports us in carrying out the project and in the search for funds required for its realization.

The Holy See supports and encourages the project, and recommends a generous response, in particular by Swiss donors.

I thank all generous donors who will support us in this great endeavor. The Swiss Guards are young people who engage with conviction and dedication in a noble mission. We will be very pleased to offer them a better living environment and accommodation for their families.

With cordial regards

Peter Card. Parolin Secretary of State of His Holiness



"SOON I WILL BE ABLE TO HAVE MY FAMILY CLOSE TO ME"



Sergeant Heinz Eggli lives with his wife in an apartment outside the Vatican and rides his bicycle through Rome to report for duty. The Egglis will soon become parents.

6:15 a.m.: Wake-up time in the family apartment in Rome 6:30 a.m.: Breakfast 6:45 a.m.: 20-minute bike ride to the Vatican, changing into uniform in the Passetto 7:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.:

Patrol duty, supporting the guardsmen

2:30 p.m.: Lunch at the guardsmen's canteen or the family apartment

6:15 p.m.: Leave the apartment

ment

7:00 p.m.: Office work at the Guard's headquarters
8:00 - 10:00 p.m.: On duty

"Adventure and foreign lands called to me from a young age. My sister says I was already raving about the Swiss Guard in the fifth grade.

Fortunately I am exactly one meter seventy-four tall, so I could apply to the Guard. I was thrilled when I was accepted, and when I saw St. Peter's Basilica for the first time in all its splendor, I got chills down my spine.

I threw myself into my new work and have never regretted for a moment being a guardsman. Of course it's hot in the summer and cold in the winter, and certainly we sometimes stand guard for long hours and our feet get swollen. But that doesn't really bother me. I devote myself to my tasks and never have any second thoughts. I like working in a hierarchy, being organized and on time, and having good comrades all around me. We can count on each other, and that means a lot. And of course the proximity to the present pontiff is wonderful and very special.

My housing situation is divided: I have a small apartment in Rome with my wife where she was already living before our wedding two years ago. Before we got married, I had to return to the barracks in the evenings. Now we live there together — unless I am on call or have special duties. That's the case about eight nights a month. Then I spend the night alone in one of the four small rooms in the Passetto. To take a shower I have to cross a terrace and share the sergeants' facilities. If I'm unlucky, there's no hot water.

The surest way to get to work on time is to cycle back and forth between our apartment outside the walls and the Vatican. During rush hour, the bus takes much longer than scheduled, and sometimes it doesn't come at all. Being late for duty is unthinkable, so I have to be really organized. Sometimes it's a little tedious. That's why I'm so looking forward to the new barracks. Then I will be able to see my wife — and soon our child — more often and have both of them close-by."

The guardsmen have the mission of protecting the pontiff in every situation and guaranteeing the security of the papal residence. Organized according to military principles, the corps guards the entrances to Vatican City and ensures peace and order in the Apostolic Palace.



12. CANCELLO SANT'ANNA:

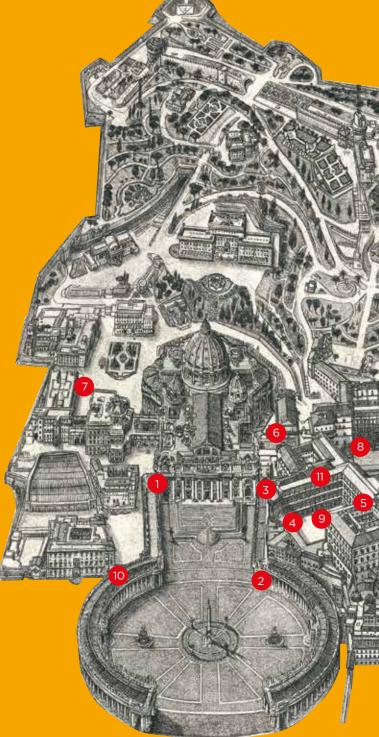
This entrance is right next to the Guard's barracks. Hundreds of the 3,500 Vatican employees pass through this narrow entranceway daily, along with people on their way to the Vatican City pharmacy, bank, supermarket, or post office.



11. Loggias: The three high archways set around the St. Damasus courtyard, which are painted with frescoes by Raphael and other artists, are known as loggias and are among the oldest still-existing Swiss Guard posts.



10. CANCELLO PETRIANO: This entrance leads to the hall where the Pope holds general audiences during the winter months. The guardsmen carry out security checks on persons entering and provide information to pilgrims and tourists.



9. SCALA NOBILE: Here there are three guard posts: on the ground floor when the Pope enters or leaves the Apostolic Palace; on the first floor to control access to the private rooms and offices of the Cardinal Secretary of State; outside the Pope's residence (temporarily discontinued).





7. DOMUS SANCTAE MARTHAE:

The cardinals stay overnight during the conclave in this simple hotel. As Pope Francis enjoys contact with other inhabitants, he decided to live permanently in the Domus Sanctae Marthae instead of in the papal apartment in the Apostolic Palace.



2. PORTONE DI BRONZO: The bronze gate is the main entrance to the Apostolic Palace. Every day the entrance opens at 7 a.m., and at 8 a.m. an honor guard arrives, which changes every two hours. During the conclave (election of a new Pope), the gate remains closed and only opens again with the "Habemus Papam" ("We have a new Pope").



3. CONSTANTINO: This post is located at the foot of the Scala Regia staircase.



4. CORTILE SAN DAMASO: The St. Damasus courtyard is the majestic inner courtyard of the Apostolic Palace, where new guardsmen are sworn in on May 6th each year. To monitor the various entrances to the palace, the Guard occupies several posts in the courtyard.

6. SALA REGIA: In this historic room with its barrel vault decorated with golden cassettes, numerous kings and heads of state have been received for papal audiences. The most important task of the guardsmen here is to prevent access by unauthorized persons from the adjacent Vatican Museums.

5. SALA CLEMENTINA: This room is one of the largest in the Apostolic Palace and forms the anteroom of the Pope's private reception room. During the swearing-in ceremony, the guardsmen are received by the Pope for an audience in the presence of their parents.

WHY AN ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE NEW BUILDING IS ESSENTIAL

Swiss punctuality on Vatican soil: The Swiss railway clock with its clear black minute markings and red second hand welcomes all those who enter the barracks courtyard with a reminder of the Swiss homeland.

Welcome to the world behind the pale rose façade of the buildings where the guardsmen live, train, and eat, where their headquarters and armory are located, and where five Polish nuns cater to the Swiss men's culinary needs and tailors painstakingly sew their uniforms by hand. Welcome to the buildings whose basements house the classrooms where the guardsmen have their Italian lessons and in whose courtyards the children of the married guardsmen play on school-free afternoons — while in the background the dull slam of a billiard ball can perhaps be heard resounding from the "Réduit," the underground bar run by the guardsmen themselves.

The elongated buildings surrounding the cobblestone forecourt, adorned with flags bearing the coats of arms of the Swiss cantons, were built in the mid-nine-teenth century. They took on their present form in 1932, when the former gendarmerie building was converted into a barracks and a canteen and kitchen were installed in the assembly hall. Between 1929 and 1932, a new building housing offices and apartments for the officers was erected on the opposite side of the forecourt.

No fundamental renovations have been carried out since then on the three buildings. Wherever the glance falls, the ravages of time are impossible to overlook. The building fabric is in poor condition, its inadequate insulation and poor state of repair leading to disproportionately high maintenance costs. Even when the old wooden windows are closed, the curtains still billow in the wind, and "in winter, drafts come in through all the cracks," says a guardsman. One of the main problems is the dampness rising up from basements made of rammed concrete. Despite every effort and numerous dehumidifiers, the rooms remain damp, causing serious damage all the way up to the upper floors.

Even recently painted ceilings are already peeling again, and mold must be constantly kept in check in many places. In new wall paneling in the Guard's canteen,









Poor building fabric, lack of space, serious moisture problems: There is a pressing need to take action.

space for air circulation was left open above and below, but the panels still buckled after only a few months. In the armory, which houses valuable 400-year-old armor, halberds, and helmets, the dehumidifiers rattle on around the clock to stop rust from forming. The recruits have their instruction in damp and gloomy basement rooms into which hardly any daylight penetrates. In the Guard head-quarters, every square centimeter of space is utilized, and the small, high-ceilinged offices often hold three desks and several tall stacks of paper and documents.

The guardsmen's laundry is hung to dry in narrow passageways, with 80 people sharing four washing machines and tumble dryers. The lack of space means that every free corner is filled with self-built shelving for urgently required storage. Intermediate floors have been inserted in the rooms, some of which are six meters high, and in some cases four recruits have to share a room. But even this new room layout no longer offers enough space for the entire Guard and their families.

"There's no privacy in the barracks," says one halberdier. "We have little opportunity to be alone after duty." One of his colleagues interjects that they are after all here to serve: "We are simple people and are willing to do without any form of luxury." And yet the present conditions are not tenable in the long run. A third colleague adds that the paint in the shared shower in the hallway is peeling, even though it is repainted every year. And in the three-bed room he shares with his colleagues, it's "Sahara up above and Siberia down below" — despite built-in air conditioning. "That makes us susceptible to colds."



A PROJECT FOR TODAY, TOMORROW, AND FUTURE GENERATIONS



The new building designed by the architects Durisch & Nolli from Ticino is an ecofriendly structure geared to the future needs of the Guard. The multi-award-winning duo has realized important public projects that take into consideration both urban planning and cultural heritage.

In 2017, the board of the Foundation for the Renovation of the Barracks of the Pontifical Swiss Guard in the Vatican enlisted the architect couple Pia Durisch and Aldo Nolli from Massagno, who have a great deal of experience in public buildings, to carry out a comprehensive feasibility study. The results were presented in early 2018 to the Vatican authorities, the Pope, and the State Secretariat. In line with another study conducted by Schnetzer Puskas International, a Baselbased engineering firm that is highly respected in professional circles, the experts came to the conclusion that the defined project objectives could only be achieved with a new building. Characteristic elements worthy of protection such as the forecourt, the Passetto, and the fountain, are to be preserved.

PROJECT GOALS

MORE APARTMENTS

Due to new regulations on when guardsmen are permitted to found families. \Rightarrow 30 percent more floor area is needed. This additional space cannot be created in the existing buildings even with radical interventions.

CONTEMPORARY STANDARDS

The guardsmen's quarters are to be modernized and new meeting areas created. \rightarrow Simple single rooms with bathroom/toilet are necessary, but will require more space. Gutting the current buildings to change their layouts would be disproportionately expensive and would not solve the structural problems and building physics issues.

EFFICIENCY, SAFETY, AND WELL-BEING

Workflows must be made more efficient if the Guard is to optimally fulfill its mission today and in the future. → The floor plans have to be reorganized and adapted to today's needs.

INTEGRAL MAINTENANCE

The current buildings suffer from high humidity, damp basements, low earthquake resistance, and fire protection systems that are not up to code. \rightarrow A new building is the most efficient solution to address these serious deficiencies.

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The goal is a more economical use of resources and better room ecology. → Room hygiene can only be optimized by eliminating the moisture problems and implementing a modern building engineering concept. A new building would incorporate these aspects into the integral planning.

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"TODAY'S SITUATION IS PRECARIOUS"



Pia Durisch and Aldo Nolli, the architects in charge of the project, will take into account security needs (based e.g. on their experience in designing the Federal Criminal Court in Bellinzona,) and functionality (experience with student residences), as well as the need to adapt the modern building to its historical surroundings. The most cost-effective solution is a new building.

You are familiar with the situation on the ground very well by now. What are the main problems with the old building?

Pia Durisch: Today's situation is precarious. The barracks no longer meet modern standards in any respect, not only in terms of privacy and comfort but above all in terms of safety. The basement rooms and the training hall are subject to regular flooding, with damp rising up from below. The canal that runs under the buildings is more or less an untamed torrent. We can say without exaggeration that the buildings are in danger of collapse. What's more, they are neither earthquake-proof nor fireproof, and the indoor climate and mold that inevitably forms are harmful to health. And there is an increasingly urgent space problem.

Aldo Nolli: This project is in no way a luxury but a much-needed solution for an acute lack of space, efficiency, and functionality. We plan to erect a building whose standard can be compared to that of a dormitory. The new apartments for guardsmen and their families will be small and modest.

What are the biggest challenges?

Aldo Nolli: This is a highly complex project at the center of one of the foremost UNESCO World Heritage Sites, with special geological and archaeological features. Moreover, housing for the guardsmen and the security of the pontiff and his residence must be ensured at all times during the construction work. We are building on a site where much is undocumented, plans are missing, and the current condition is often unclear. This means we urgently need radiographs and measurements. During probes in the forecourt, for example, we came across a canal that nobody knew about. Pia Durisch: Security is a major issue. The Guard is inadequately protected at present. There are no distinct partitions, no double-door systems to control entry. It's just not right that those responsible for the pontiff's safety are themselves left so vulnerable.

Space in the Vatican is limited, meaning that you have to build on the same footprint while creating 30 percent more volume.

Aldo Nolli: In general, the cramped conditions in the existing quarters make planning and building the new barracks demanding and costly.

Pia Durisch: The thick walls of the heritage buildings take up a lot of space. In the future, the walls will be thinner and there won't be so many of them. The Guard will therefore have more freedom in the use of the space. In typological and urban planning terms, our building has to fit in with the surrounding structures. We are also limited in terms of height, but will perhaps have to go a little higher than today — without of course affecting the appearance of the World Heritage Site St. Peter's Square and its horizon with Bernini's colonnade. We can therefore exceed the maximum height of the existing building fabric only minimally.

Sustainability is a top priority for the new building.

Pia Durisch: Yes, respect for the environment will be central — analogous to what Pope Francis wrote in his encyclical on the environment. We will put his thoughts into practice in this building. For example, we will try to recycle the rubble from the demolition by making it into concrete. One of our goals is for the Swiss Guard building in Vatican City to attain an ecological certification.

What do you attach particular importance to in this project?

Aldo Nolli: We have to know exactly what routes the guardsmen take during their daily routine, as well as those of their wives and children, of suppliers and visitors. In general, we want to create more zones for encounters. The building should be more transparent and brighter and establish a link with the Old Town.

Pia Durisch: We are aiming for a simple building using just a few basic materials, such as concrete, which is extremely robust and requires little maintenance.

With minimal means, we want to create something enduring that will radiate a congenial atmosphere both inwards and outwards. Not a prestigious edifice but a down-to-earth, modest building reduced to the essentials.

What do you see as the major opportunities offered by this project?

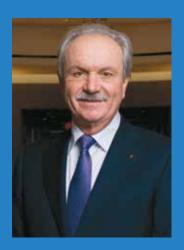
Pia Durisch: Over the last centuries, many architects from Ticino have built in the Vatican. We now have the privilege of carrying on this tradition. The main thing for us is that people will be able to live and work well there. If they feel comfortable, they will be happy in their work and will be kind to others. That is something useful for society.



The new building will create much-needed places where the guardsmen can spend private time and also socialize with others.







We are all proud of the trust that has been placed in our compatriots for centuries to ensure the safety of the Holy Father around the clock. For over five hundred years, the guardsmen have stood for the same Swiss values that our Foundation regards so highly: integrity, loyalty, a sense of duty. These are ideals that make our country a symbol of excellence envied by so many and which contribute to Switzerland's outstanding international reputation. In this sense, the members of the Guard are important and valuable ambassadors of our country who are respected worldwide.

It is an honorable task to work for the further preservation of these vital traditions and at the same time advocate for modern, secure accommodations for the Guard corps. Together with the Foundation Board and the Patronage Committee, I have taken up this challenge with conviction and eagerness.

Some CHF 55 million in donations is needed to build the new barracks, and we are working with the Vatican to raise these funds. And thus my sincere appeal to you: Please join us in ensuring that the one-of-a-kind Swiss Guard can continue to serve in the future — and that Switzerland will continue to have a congenial and meaningful presence in the Vatican."

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Dr. Jean-Pierre Roth

President of the Foundation for the Renovation of the Barracks of the Pontifical

Swiss Guard in the Vatican

Some CHF 55 million in donations is needed to build the new barracks.

TEMPORARY HOUSING: container village during construction TOTAL	CHF	5,000,000 54'506'000
FURNISHINGS AND FITTINGS: furniture	CHF	1,480,000
ADDITIONAL BUILDING COSTS AND TRANSITION COSTS: e.g. permits, fees, samples, models, insurance, reserves, fees for architects and experts	CHF	10,510,000
GROUNDS: construction and expansion work, hookup to supply lines	CHF	890,000
BUILDING FACILITIES: sanitary facilities, kitchen equipment	CHF	690,000
BUILDING: excavation, building shell, electrical system, heating, ventilation, air conditioning, fitout	CHF	33,260,000
PREPARATORY WORK: e.g. subsoil investigations, probes, demolition, securing the site, adaptation to the existing sewer system, groundwater sealing, underpinning, anchors	CHF	2,676,000



"I feel safe near the Pope. And we do everything we can to make him feel safe near us." Halberdier

FOUNDATION FOR THE RENOVATION OF THE BARRACKS OF THE PONTIFICAL SWISS GUARD IN THE VATICAN

The renovation of the barracks is long overdue but was outside the authority of the Foundation of the Pontifical Swiss Guard. Therefore, the Foundation for the Renovation of the Barracks of the Pontifical Swiss Guard in the Vatican was established in 2016. Its sole goal is the modernization of the barracks buildings. Once this goal is achieved, the Foundation will be dissolved and its capital will flow into the Foundation of the Pontifical Swiss Guard. Both foundations are subject to federal and cantonal supervisory authorities.

FOUNDATION OF THE PONTIFICAL SWISS GUARD IN THE VATICAN

Since its founding in 2000, the Foundation of the Pontifical Swiss Guard in the Vatican, chaired by the former Swiss Federal Councilor Ruth Metzler-Arnold, has been committed to the long-term survival of the Guard. The Foundation supports the guardsmen financially, materially, and socially: for example by providing financial support for guardsmen with family and children, or through education and training for the guardsmen.



"The Pope is like a grandfather to us. When we keep watch outside his room at night, he always checks the cookie jar on the table outside his door before he goes to sleep to make sure there are enough cookies left. We are happy to devote all our energy to this task."

Halberdier

The Foundation for the Renovation of the Barracks of the Pontifical Swiss Guard in the Vatican advises the local authorities on the planning and implementation of the construction work and is responsible for achieving the fundraising goal. The Foundation Board members have wide-ranging experience in the construction and finance sectors and are volunteers:

DR. JEAN-PIERRE ROTH, PRESIDENT*

Former president of Swiss National Bank

STEPHAN KUHN, VICE-PRESIDENT
Former Managing Partner EMEIA, EY (Ernst & Young)

DR. BERNHARD HAMMER, MANAGING DIRECTOR
Former member of the BOD, SPS (Swiss Prime Site)

PROF. DR. PETER BLOME

Archeology professor; former director of the Antique Museum, Basel

DR. RICCARDO BOSCARDIN

Former Head Global Real Estate-Switzerland, UBS

THIERRY FAUCHIER-MAGNAN*

Former partner at Mirabaud & Cie. Ltd., Geneva

RUTH METZLER-ARNOLD*

Former Swiss Federal Councilor: president of the Foundation of the Pontifical Swiss Guard

DR. CHRISTIAN REY

President of Reygroup; former president of Hôtellerie Suisse

DR. J. MAURICE ZUFFEREY

Headhunter and executive coach

COLONEL CHRISTOPH GRAF

Commander of the Pontifical Swiss Guard in the Vatican (ex officio)

LOUIS FAUCHIER MAGNAN

Secretary of the Board of Trustees, Mirabaud & Cie. Ltd.

 $^{^{*}}$ Also a member of the board of the Foundation of the Pontifical Swiss Guard in the Vatican





