





A FAIRY-TALE CASTLE IN ROMANIA

THE "CLAY CASTLE OF THE FAIRY VALLEY" WAS BUILT FROM CLAY,
SAND AND STRAW USING ECO-SUSTAINABLE CRITERIA



IN THESE PHOTOS. MAPE-ANTIQUE LC was used for pointing among river stones and constructing new dehumidifying renders for interiors in the restaurant.



A new hotel, inspired by the world of the fairies, will be opening shortly in the Romanian region of Transylvania. The hotel is called Castelul de Lut Valea Zanelor (Clay Castle of the Fairy Valley) and is located around 40 km from the medieval city of Sibiu, which is reached by following the Transfăgărășan, a famous road running for 90 km through the Carpathian Mountains (see *Realtă Mapei International* no. 49).

The idea of building such a particular hotel came from a Romanian couple - Razvan and Gabriela Vasile – who left Bucharest in 2014 and went back to live in the Carpathian Mountains. The architect Ileana Mavrodin designed the building according to eco-sustainable principles, favouring natural materials such as clay and straw.

The castle consists of several buildings standing in a row and inside the hotel the spaces are arranged over two floors of around 320 m²: the ground floor and another floor under the pitched roofs. Each of the ten rooms has its own style of doors and windows, as well as its own private entrance. The owners and designers of the hotel also chose to use builders and craftsmen familiar with the materials and building techniques typical of Northern Transylvania.

A COMPLETELY ECO-SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION

The design for the hotel and the enclosed restaurant required materials which were as eco-sustainable as possible. The foundations were made from concrete and stones, the pillars were made from wood covered with clay, the render was made from clay, sand and water and the towers, which add movement to the profile of the construction, were made from river cobbles rendered with lime and sand. Another particular feature of the castle is the roofs topped with wooden shingles. The external walls (which are 60 cm thick) were built using a mixture made from sand, clay, water and straw. The same materials were also used for the 45 cm thick internal walls. Thanks to the thickness of the walls the entire complex is not only well insulated, but it also has excellent soundproofing. Construction of both the hotel and the enclosed restaurant



proved to be a very ambitious project and a challenge which also involved the Technical Services Department from Mapei Romania. After carrying out a technical analysis and a series of surveys on the site, MAPE-ANTIQUE LC cement-free binder made from lime and Eco-Pozzolan was proposed as masonry mortar for pointing among river stones and for constructing new dehumidifying renders for interiors in the restaurant area. The product was mixed with water to form a mortar which is difficult for the rainwater to penetrate but which, at the same time, remains highly permeable to vapour, so that any moisture rising by capillary lift from the foundations is gradually released.

The hotel will be opened very soon and the restaurant will serve products sourced exclusively from local markets.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

MAPE-ANTIQUE LC

It is a salt-resistant, hydraulic binder based on lime and Eco-Pozzolan, to be mixed with aggregates in various grain sizes to make de-humidifying renders and masonry mortars.

It is ideal for repairs to masonry deteriorated by the presence of capillary rising damp and soluble salts, including on buildings of historical and artistic interest; rebuilding lime-based renders deteriorated by the action of atmospheric agents and environmental conditions or by ageing; building new load-bearing and buffer walls or rebuilding old walls; pointing stone, brick, tuff and mixed "natural-finish" masonry.



TECHNICAL DATA
Clay Castle of the Fairy Valley, Sibiu (Romania)
Period of Construction: 2014-2016

Period of the Mapei Intervention: 2015-2016

Intervention by Mapei: supplying products for pointing stones and building dehumidifying renders in the restaurant

Design: Ileana Mavrodin
Client: Razvan Vasile
Mapei Distributor: Profelis
Mapei Co-ordinator: Cristi Horia, Mapei Romania

MAPEI PRODUCT
 Mape-Antique LC

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