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Parquet

Press release

Helping hands

As its contribution to the rebuilding of Ahrtal, which suffered from a flooding disaster in 2021, Bauwerk Parquet donated wooden floors to three families in the region. Their stories are moving.



The lives of countless people in Ahrtal changed in just a few hours in mid-July 2021. Even a year later, you can still see and feel the results of the devastating flood. The rebuilding of the houses and the gradual return to normality in the region is slowly progressing, thanks to the collective effort of many people who offered a helping hand, with donations of money and goods. Bauwerk Parquet dedicated its Parquet Magic campaign this year to the affected families in Ahrtal and Stolberg region, donating a total of 150 square metres of authentic oak floors to buildings in severe need of renovation.

Parquet Magic has been taking place since 2017, as a Christmas campaign of the Swiss parquet manufacturer Bauwerk Parquet, during which the company supports charitable projects. Between November and February, institutions and associations are invited to submit their applications, for the chance to receive a parquet donation for their social projects if they are selected. This year, Bauwerk Parquet dedicated the campaign to some of the families affected by the flood disaster that occurred in the

Bauwerk Group Schweiz AG
Neudorfstrasse 49, CH-9430 St. Margrethen
T +41 (0)71 747 74 74, F +41 (0)71 747 74 75



info@bauwerk.com, www.bauwerk-parkett.com

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Ahrtal/Aachen region of Western Germany in 2021.

Soon after the flood, Sandra Ehrenthaler and Vanessa Schoon founded the Paten für Katastrophenopfer e.V. volunteer association, whose purpose was to enable uninsured and underinsured victims to ask for help. Since then, the founders and the many supporters of the association have worked hard to improve the fate of individual victims of the flood in various parts of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia. Sandra Ehrenthaler and Vanessa Schoon's participation in Parquet Magic 2021 led to the installation of high-quality new parquet in the homes of two families affected by the flood, living in Sinzig and Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler. Another family found out about Parquet Magic online, and directly applied to join Bauwerk Parquet's Christmas campaign.

One step at a time on new flooring

The stories of these people are like those of Nadja and her eleven-year-old son Stefan who in the night of 14 and 15 July 2021 were surprised by huge masses of water. In their house, water stood three metres high, completely flooding the basement and the ground floor. "From that point, water destroyed or snatched away all of our furniture, the kitchen, the washing machine, the drier in the basement, all our valuable memories," Nadja explained, expressing her deep gratitude for the generous support she had received since the disaster. Once the immediate clean-up and the arduous recovery of the basic infrastructure were over, the affected parts of her house, as well as the two floors above them, were going to become an extensive renovation project. The house was not insured to cover natural disasters, and the repairs of the structure could only take place gradually, with many volunteers helping Nadja and Stefan make their home liveable and worth living in within just a year after the catastrophe. With its donation of more than 60 square metres of installed oak parquet, the Swiss manufacturer Bauwerk Parquet added its own contribution to this renovation.

Countless victims, personal stories

Sinan's family of five was fortunate amidst the flood. They fled their home just in the nick of time with the barest necessities in hand, at 1 AM, after a warning from the fire service, and a discussion with their neighbour. Soon after, water stood 3.30 metres high in their house, as the flooding continued as high as the first floor, reaching an 80-centimetre mark there. The immediate vicinity of their house in Sinzig saw 14 of the total 130 deaths in the region. According to the Supervision and Service Directorate (ADD) of Rhineland-Palatinate, the disaster affected 42,000 people, of which 17,000 lost a significant part of their property. 70 percent of houses along the river Ahr have been damaged such a shocking result. Sinan's

Bauwerk Group Schweiz AG
Neudorfstrasse 49, CH-9430 St. Margrethen
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family, too, could no longer live in their home and spend a year in an improvised tiny house settlement nearby. However, their house is about to be ready to move into, and Bauwerk Parquet contributed to this with a donation of some 50 square metres of parquet.

Angela from Zweifall, a neighbourhood in the city of Stolberg, went through a nightmare. The devastating flood destroyed the lower parts of her house, and the powerful masses of rainwater coming from above penetrated the roof, affecting the roof structure and both the upper floors of the house. Her insurance coverage was going to take effect on 1 August 2021. Despite this, and thanks to generous donations, the roof structure has been completely restored, saving the house. Among other things, Angela's house saw the installation of 40 square metres of oak parquet by Bauwerk.

The new round of the Bauwerk Parquet's Parquet Magic Christmas campaign begins in November 2022. You can apply for a donation of parquet until February 2023. For participation conditions and more details, see: bauwerk-parkett.com/parquet-magic

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