



Winner of city.people.light award 2013

## Case Study

# Historic Rietberg opts for ultramodern lighting in an ancient city center

Location  
Philips Lighting

Rietberg, Germany  
Architectural floodlighting, CitySpirit LED and CityTouch



**PHILIPS**



The new lighting concept in Rietberg means another step towards enhancing the quality of life for citizens and visitors in the historic city center. The illumination of prominent properties in the town center helps to create a special ambience in Rietberg.



## Background

Rietberg is a medium-sized German city of around 30,300 inhabitants and is made up of seven districts, each with their own individual characters. The city is situated 25km south west of Bielefeld on the upper Ems River, in the north-east of the federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia. The historic center of Rietberg has many half-timbered houses dating from the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Centuries. Following a successful bid for a grant from the national "Communities in a new light" competition, judged in Frankfurt at Light and Building fair in April 2010, Rietberg completed a scheme for relighting the city center, using nothing but LED's. The scheme covers the entire historic city center, delineated by the Ems River and the course of the river diversion channel.

## The project

In the battle between preserving historic city centers and building out-of-town shopping centers, people are able to choose between the experiences of a stroll round the city or a boring trip to the shops to buy necessities. City centers can secure their futures and attract visitors by sharpening their unmistakable, evolved profile and emphasizing their special characteristics. In this sense the old city center of Rietberg has an image of exceptionally high quality, like few other cities of this size.

The elegant triad of historic streets and squares, precious building facades and the green, surrounding ring of water characterize the city's image. These three elements are now bathed in an inviting, ecologically desirable LED light during the many hours of darkness, particularly between autumn and spring. The area of the LED lighting concept embraces the entire historic city center, as delimited by the Ems River and the course of the so-called diversion channel. This green ring is also the natural boundary of the historic nucleus of the origin of Rietberg. Against this background, the LED changeover concept with Philips LED lighting solutions, for the historic city center is a tailor-made addition to previous urban development measures. The motto was: ultramodern lighting in an ancient city center.

The professional organization of lighting for buildings, main shopping streets and green spaces has significantly upgraded Rietberg's image and atmosphere; it also encourages tourism and promotes the local economy. The lighting scheme is a perfect example of total master planning for a mid-sized city where citizens have been highly involved in the creative process, ensuring that their lives are improved. The regular, inclusive participation of the citizens has been consistently and consciously guaranteed by means of meetings, district discussions and an integrated city marketing process. The participation resulted in special care for impaired people, installing guidance lighting solutions in specially-developed paving blocks, that give guidance and orientation by acoustic, tactile and visual means along certain walkways.

# Historic Rietberg opts for ultramodern lighting in an ancient city center.



The lighting accents complement the materials used in the typical style of architecture.

The complete lighting network is controlled and managed by Philips's CityTouch lighting management software. This system enables every luminaire position to be individually monitored



for serviceability and its light output controlled to the level of lighting needed, saving considerable amounts of energy.

## Benefits

Rietberg enjoys the benefits of both worlds - better lighting to improve the quality of life for citizens and tourists, and green credentials with associated cost savings for the municipality. The new lighting complements a historic city. Rietberg's citizens and visitors now enjoy the benefits of lighting that not only gives guidance and orientation, complies with standards, and provides a greater feeling of security during the hours of darkness, but also makes the city center an even more attractive area in which to shop and linger as well as a place for conversation and meeting, stimulating the economical growth in Rietberg.

The energy saving associated with Philips high-efficiency luminaires, plus the ability to control and dim lights at night when there is little traffic by CityTouch, will produce estimated savings of 49.5% of previous energy consumption for the municipality.

CO<sub>2</sub> emissions will be reduced by 29.3 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>/year. Assuming a 3% increase in energy prices and a 1% increase in the cost of maintenance, a total saving in maintenance and energy of €117,476 will be achieved after 10 years.



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