

**THE HOTEL ALBANA IN WEGGIS
ON LAKE LUCERNE / CENTRAL / SWITZERLAND
(formerly „Villa Köhler“ built in 1895/96) –
under Heritage Protection of the Canton of Lucerne.**

By: Dr. Ing. Volkhart Fischer / Dresden, 30th May 2005

1

Introduction

During the years 1895-1896 the *Hotel Albana* was constructed as the second Pension Villa Köhler (picture 1) in the then prevailing style of „Historismus“. It was built by the Saxon industrialist, Carl Gottlieb Köhler (1840-1907) on land he had acquired in the Swiss village of Weggis, Lake Lucerne. It is presumed that the building enterpriser engaged an architect from Saxony to do the planning, and that in turn, this same architect took the „Spitzhaus“ on the vineyard hills of Oberlössnitz as creative model for his design. Oberlössnitz is one of the ten Lössnitz communities that since 1935, form the City of Radebeul, west of Dresden, the capital city of Saxony.

In order to comply with the demands of the Building Insurance Institution of Canton Lucerne, in winter 1960/1961 the distinctive tower, focal point of the Hotel Albana, was broken off, the remaining roof landscape straightened and important parts of the architectural façade decoration removed. The historic exterior of the house thus disappeared. Most likely these re-building programmes were also based on the general architectural taste prevalent at that time.

Taking into account that within the hotel building itself, numerous historically interesting constructional work and planning details have been carefully preserved and decorative embellishments date back to the building year, the present owners, Family Wolf, have been working for a long time on the idea of restoring the historic exterior appearance of the building. For the re-vitalizing of the lost exterior façade, it would be necessary to have sketches or building plans and, if at all possible, the name of the architect – this is a prerequisite.

At the wish of the Family Wolf, individual and cultural guests from all over the world, the Albana team, the Weggis Village Council, the Heritage Protection Institution of Lucerne as also the Pro Patria Protection Society of Central Switzerland and the well-known Monument Conservator, Dr. Roland Flückiger-Seiler, (who was, among many other activities, the initiator of the marketing association www.swiss-historic-hotels.ch and www.hotelarchiv.ch), the author of this following study, Dr. Ing. Volkhart Fischer from Dresden was entrusted with the task of researching the building history of this hotel and the life of the man who built it. This research work was carried out in the area of Saxony between November 2004 and May 2005. Information about the hotel construction as also about the person who built it were researched in meticulous detail, together with the search for sketches or building plans of the hotel, and no endeavours were spared trying to discover the name of the architect who designed the building.

The building enterpriser Carl Gottlieb Köhler

To date, all efforts by the present owners and the Heritage Protection Institution of Lucerne to discover the building plans of the *second Pension Villa Köhler* as also the architect involved, have remained fruitless. Therefore the author has first completed the attached personal curriculum vitae and based on this, a short biography of the building enterpriser, Carl Gottlieb Köhler. The aim was that in combining biographical dates with indications of still existing building documents of the *second Pension Villa Köhler* it might be possible to trace the architect who designed it. The tabularized curriculum vitae and the short biography are based upon these findings.

1. Details about the Family Köhler were given to the author by by the great-grandson of the building enterpriser, Mr. Werner Stauffer from Sigriswil/County of Berne and the Family Wolf from Weggis.
2. Results and details of the conversations held between the author and the grandson of the building enterpriser, Mr. Hans Köhler from Radebeul, on 15.11.2004, 02.03.2005 and 30.04.2005
3. Results of the author's researches:
 - City Archive Radebeul 30.11.2004 / 01.12.2004 / 02.03.2005 / 06.12.2005
 - Radebeul Building Archives / Monument Administration 30.11.2004 / 01.03.2005 / 03.01.2006 / 13.03.2006
 - Inheritance of Building firm Ziller Brothers, Radebeul > Mr. Morzinek on 06.12.2004
 - Inheritance Meissen Stove and Potter's Clay works, Teichert > Herr Förster, City Museum on 20.01.2005
 - City Archive Freiberg on 06.01.2005/14.01.2005/ and Freiberg Building Deeds Archive on 18.02.2005
 - Saxon Land Administration for National Heritage Preservation, Dresden on 28.02.2005 / 02.03.2005

- German Monument Topography, Monuments of Saxon, City of Radebeul, Sax publisher 2007, on August 7th, 2007
- Church Register Administration Dresden, Evangelical Lutheran Landchurch Saxony on 04.05.2005/11.05.2005
- Saxon Main State Archives, Dresden, 11.05.2005
- City Archives Chemnitz 23.03.2006
- Archive of the Evangelical Lutheran Parish, Nossen, SA 17.07.2006
- National Heritage Archive, Lucerne 23.11.2006 (arranged by author on 08.11.2006)
- Conversation about Blasewitz Villa > Citizens Initiative Blasewitz on 28.02.2005 - Mr. Mosch

Tabulated curriculum vitae of the building enterpriser Carl Gottlieb Köhler

1840	<p>Carl Gottlieb Köhler was born on 21.04.1840 in Fürstenthal near Freiberg/Saxony <u>Source:</u> Baptism Register no. 34 Kreuzkirche, Dresden. Extract dated 10.05.2005. Church Book Administration, Dresden</p> <hr/> <p>Father: Karl Gottlieb Köhler born 1812 Trade Registration 13.01.1865 describe him as victuals merchant in Freiberg aged 53 years. <u>Source:</u> Freiberg Trade Register 1862-1874 / State Archive Freiberg (SAF)</p>
1846 - 1854	Presumably school period
1854 - 1858	Presumably apprenticeship as copper-smith.
1858 - 1861	Presumably wander years as copper-smith mate
1861 - 1864	Presumably working as a copper-smith with a master in Freiberg
1864	<p>Domicile certificate no. 113 dated 24.09.1864 confirms do as resident copper-smith mate <u>Source:</u> Freiberg City Council / SAF</p> <hr/> <p>First marriage 30.10.1864 Evangelical Lutheran Parish Church, Nossen / Saxony to Anna Maria Friederika Nagel (born 1842) from Nossen / Saxony. <u>Source:</u> Marriage Register Evangelical Lutheran Parish, Nossen, year 1864, page 323, no. 59. Excerpt: 27.07.2006.</p>
1865	<p>Application 10.03.1865 to the Freiberg Council, requesting citizenship as copper-smith As new citizen, payment of the sum of 19 Talers and 19 Ngr. <u>Source:</u> Regarding Duties of New Citizens – Deed dated 05.02.1858 / SAF City Archive Freiberg</p> <hr/> <p>Request for registration on 10.03.1865 as self-employed professional copper-smith in house 51 of the Freiberg Property Registration Survey Office, presumably with his own smithy, Freiberg, Burgstrasse 247 <u>Source:</u> Freiberg Trade Registration 1862-1874 / SAF City Archive Freiberg</p>
1866	<p>Entry 14.05.1866: Freiberg resident and copper-smith with wife and children Name of wife and children not given in detail <u>Source:</u> Residents' book of the Freiberg inner city 1844 / SAF City Archive Freiberg</p>
1867	<p>16.09.1867: Objection lodged with the Freiberg Council and on 26.09.1867 with the Area-Direction Dresden against trading prohibition in the court-yard of the Burgstrasse 247 in Freiberg. <u>Source:</u> Deeds relating to Trade Plants, 1865 / SAF City Archive Freiberg</p> <hr/> <p>First prize medal awarded to. <i>C.G. Köhler</i> in the Chemnitz Industrial Exhibition 1867, <i>machine, copper and brassware factory, boiler manufacturer and iron foundry.</i></p>

Source: Cost estimate made by the factory for a complete distillery industrial plant
Guide to Trade & Industry Exhibition Chemnitz 1867 / City Archives Chemnitz

- 1868 Registered as resident of Freiberg, copper-smith at the Burgstrasse 247
Source: City of Freiberg address-book, 1868 / SAF State Archive, Freiberg
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- The acquisition of 4,470 m² land in Freiberg suburb at Anna-bergerstrasse 221
> now Brander Strasse 12. This was occasioned by the trading prohibition of 1867
against work in the court-yard of the Burgstrasse 247
Source: Building Deeds of the Freiberg City Council no. 2014 / FBA
Freiberg Building Deeds Archive
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- 1868 Construction of *dwelling house* on the site in the Freiberg suburb,
Annaberger Strasse 221 K
Planning 16.03.1868 by master carpenter Wilhelm Stecher
Friedrich Oskar Haller, architect and master builder was appointed to examine and
approve the plans
Source: Freiberg City Council Building Deeds, no. 2014 / FBA
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- For health reasons, first visit to Weggis, on Lake Lucerne and to French Switzerland
Source: History of the Hotel Albana, Weggis, Lake Lucerne,
Central Switzerland, Wolf family.
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- 1870 Registered as Freiberg resident and copper-smith at the Annaberger Strasse 221 K
Source: City of Freiberg address-book dated 1870 / SAF
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- 1871 Construction of Machine and *Spirit Factory Köhler & Stölzner* on site
in the Freiberg suburb, Annaberger Strasse 221L and 221M
Situation plan 17.03.1871, master carpenter Wilhelm Stecher
28.03.1871 Friedrich Oskar Haller, architect and master builder was appointed
to examine and approve the plans
Source: Building Deeds of the Freiberg City Council / FBA
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- Trade notification 13.11.1871: *Spirit Factory Köhler & Stölzner*, now together with
business-man and partner, Gustav Adam Stölzner (born 1843)
Source: Freiberg Trade Notification Register 1862-1874 / SAF
-
- 1872 09.09.1872 record of partner Gustav Adolph Stölzner (1843) as fellow-lodger in the
dwelling house situated in the Freiberg suburb, Annaberger Strasse 221 K
Source: Residents' Registration Book Freiberg suburbs 1797-1867 / SAF
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- 1873 Entry as copper-smith and spirit manufacturer in Freiberg suburb,
Annaberger Strasse 221L / 221M
Source: City of Freiberg address Book 1873 / SAF
-
- Extension of *spirit factory Köhler & Stölzner*
Planning: 05.04.1873 master carpenter Ernst Louis Prau
Source: Building Deeds of Freiberg City Council / FBA
-
- 1875 Extension of *machine factory*
Planning: 31.03.1875 architect and master builder Friedrich Oskar Haller
Source: Building Deeds of Freiberg City Council / Freiberg FBA
-
- Extension of *spirit factory Köhler & Stölzner*
Planning: 29.05.1875 and 03.06.1875 Hermann Meinig
Source: Building Deeds of Freiberg City Council / FBA
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1876	<p>1. Entry as resident of Freiberg, trade, copper-smith in the Annaberger Strasse 221 K, Freiberg 2. Entry as resident of Freiberg and private citizen <u>Source:</u> Freiberg City Address book 1879 / SAF</p>
	<p>03.05.1876 Sale of <i>dwelling-house</i> in Freiberg suburb, Annabergerstrasse 221K Buyer: Partner Gustav Adolph Stölzner (born 1843) <u>Source:</u> Residents' Register Freiberg suburb, no. 201-250 1797-1867 / SAF</p>
1876	<p>07.06.1876 Change of dwelling from Annaberger Strasse 221K in Freiberg suburb to Freibergsdorf nr. Freiburg <u>Source:</u> Residents' Register Freiburg suburb, no. 221 1864 / SAF</p>
	<p>21.11.1876 Trade notice of departure as Freiberg copper-smith and spirit manufacturer <u>Source:</u> Trade Register Freiberg, 1862-1874 / SAF</p>
1877	<p>Evident sale of <i>machine factory</i> in the Freiberg suburb, Annaberger Strasse 221L E. Leinhaas, formerly <i>C.G. Köhler machines, copper-smith and foundry</i>, informed the Freiberg Council on 13.12.1877 about the new factory order valid from 01.01.1878 <u>Source:</u> Deeds relating to Workers and Factory Rules covering the years 1868-1892 / SA</p>
	<p><i>History of the Hotel Albana, Weggis, Lake Lucerne, Switzerland.</i> Last visit for health reasons to Weggis on Lake Lucerne and visit to French Switzerland <u>Source:</u> History of the Hotel Albana, Weggis, Family Wolf</p>
1879	<p>Change of residence from Freibergsdorf near Freiberg to French Switzerland Source: City of Freiburg address-register 1870 / SAF</p>
1880	<p><i>History of the Hotel Albana, Weggis, Lake Lucerne, Central Switzerland</i> Acquisition of a large land property between the upper and lower village of Weggis, on Lake Lucerne. <u>Source:</u> History of the Hotel Albana, Weggis, Lake Lucerne, Family Wolf</p>
1881	<p><i>History of the Hotel Albana, Weggis, Lake Lucerne</i> Construction of the Pension <i>Belvédère</i> in Italian Neo-Renaissance style. In 1919 alteration. Interior restructuring to become the Village Council House, Weggis <u>Source:</u> No. 1: Inventory of Hotel and Tourism buildings 1800-1900 Canton Lucerne / Switzerland No. 2: History of the Hotel Albana, Weggis, Lake Lucerne / Family Wolf</p>
	<p>Sale of business shares in the <i>Spirit Factory Köhler & Stötzner</i>, Freiberg, Annaberger Strasse 221M. Buyer 31.12.1881 was the partner Gustav Adolph Stölzner (born 1843) <u>Source:</u> Residents' Register, Freiberg suburb No. 201-250 from 1797-1867 / SAF</p>
1882	<p>Extension of <i>Spirit Factory Köhler & Stötzner</i> > from year 1881: <i>Spirit Factory Stötzner</i> 13.03.1882 planning by architect and master-builder Friedrich Oskar Haller <u>Source:</u> Building Deeds of Freiberg City Council/FBA</p>
1884	<p><i>History of the Hotel Albana, Weggis, Lake Lucerne</i> Construction of the <i>first Pension Villa Köhler</i> in Weggis as romantic-type of framework house. 1978: Re-construction. Now apartment house and Doctor's practice, Dr. A. Knüsel <u>Source:</u> No. 1: Inventory of Hotel and Tourism buildings 1800-1960 Canton Lucerne/Switzerland No. 2: History of the Hotel Albana, Weggis, Lake Lucerne, Family Wolf</p>

1891	<p>Probable change of dwelling from French Switzerland to Blasewitz nr. Dresden</p> <hr/> <p>02.03.1891 as retired widower from Dresden, second marriage in the Dresden Kreuzkirche to Selma Johanna Margarethe Nagel (1873-1934) from Nossen / SA <u>Source:</u> No. 1: Marriage certificate no. 146 dated 07.02.1929 Registry Office, Dresden 1/ according to information given by grand-son, Hans Karl Köhler from Radebeul No. 2: 10.05.2006 excerpt from marriage register no. 34 Kreuzkirche, Dresden Dresden Churchbook Ad-ministration No. 3: 27.07.2006 excerpt from Baptism Register year 1873, no. 24 S 323 no. 59, Evangelical Luthern Parish, Nossen</p> <hr/> <p>Birth of daughter Margarethe Katharina on 19.03.1891 in Blasewitz nr. Dresden <u>Source:</u> Köhler Family book</p>
1892	<p>Presumed change of dwelling from Blasewitz, nr. Dresden to Radebeul, Russenstrasse 86 i <u>Source:</u> Address and Business Handbook 1893 / 1896 of the Lössnitz townships, Kötzschenbroda with district Fürstenhain, Niederlössnitz, Oberlössnitz, Radebeul, Serkowitz, Naundorf, Lindenau, Wahnsdorf and Zitzschewitz City Archive Radebeul / SAR</p> <hr/> <p>Birth of twins: Richard and NN in Radebeul <u>Source:</u> Köhler Family Book</p>
1892	<p>Probable acquisition of land sites 621, 621a and 621b in Radebeul, Hermannstrasse > now Goethe-Strasse 7-9 <u>Source:</u> Building Deeds Administration, Dresden-Neustadt / Council Board, Radebeul Landzone 621, Fire Insurance Register Survey Office 157, Goethestrasse 7 Building Deeds Archive Radebeul (RBA)</p>
1893	<p>Construction of <i>dwelling-house</i> on property 621 > building application 10.01.1893 Planning: Architect and Master Builder Gustav Röder, Radebeul / Dresden 31.01.1893: Plan expertise by Government Master Builder Lehnert, Loschwitz, nr. Dresden Building permission 10.06.1893 Council Board, Radebeul The house still exists in the Goethestrasse 7, Radebeul Building plans are stored in Radebeul Building Archive / RBA <u>Source:</u> Building Deeds Administration, Dresden-Neustadt/Council Board, Radebeul Landzone 621, Fire Insurance Register Survey Office 157, Goethestrasse 7</p> <hr/> <p>Birth of daughter Elsa Margarethe on 10.03.1893 in Radebeul <u>Source:</u> Köhler family book</p>
1894	<p>Construction of <i>dwelling-house on site 621a</i> > Building permission sought 27.02.1894 Planning carried out by master builder Friedrich Wilhelm Eisold (1861-1942) Plan expertise 14.03.1894 Government Master Builder Lehnert, Loschwitz nr. Dresden The house still exists in the Goethestrasse 9, Radebeul. Building records missing in RBA <u>Source:</u> Building Deeds Administration, Dresden-Neustadt/ Council Board Radebeul Landzone 621 Fire Insurance, Register Survey Office 157, Goethestrasse 7 / RBA</p> <hr/> <p>26.05.1894 birth of daughter Charlotte Johanne in Radebeul <u>Source:</u> Köhler family book</p>

1895	<p>07.05.1895 announcement Council Board Radebeul > Building Deeds Administration, Dresden-Neustadt 1. Completion of building work, <i>dwelling house on site 621 (Goethestrasse 7)</i> 2. Notification of leaving: Carl Gottlieb Köhler moves to Switzerland 3. Building representative is the Radebeul building contractor, Moritz Philipp <u>Source:</u> Building Deeds Administration, Dresden-Neustadt/Council Board, Radebeul Landzone 621, Fire Insurance Register Survey Office 157, Goethestrasse 7 (RBA)</p>
	<p>History of the Hotel Albana, Weggis, Lake Lucerne, Central Switzerland Construction of the <i>second Pension Villa Köhler</i> (1911 re-named Hotel Albana) in Weggis. The model for this historic building is presumably the Spitzhaus in Radebeul Since 1911, named Hotel Albana. Various re-constructions. <u>Source:</u> 1. Inventory of Hotel and Tourism buildings 1800-1960 Canton Lucerne / Switzerland 2. History of the Hotel Albana. Family Wolf</p>
1896	<p>12.01.1896 daughter Elisabetha Helena born in Weggis 23.12.1896 daughter Marie Elfriede born in Weggis <u>Source:</u> Köhler family book</p>
1898	<p>03.11.1898 daughter Gertrud Susanna born in Weggis <u>Source:</u> Köhler family book</p>
1898	<p>On 13.03.1898 C.G.Köhler informs the Radebeul Council Board that a public auction of his Radebeul land property no. 616 will take place on 05.04.1898 <u>Source:</u> City Archive Radebeul</p>
1898	<p>Construction of the <i>Dependance Villa Anna</i> in Weggis > after building, it was part of the Hotel Albana <u>Source:</u> Inventory of the Hotel and Tourism buildings 1800-1960, Canton Lucerne, Switzerland</p>
1899	<p>Extension of existing <i>Chalet Villa Helena</i> in Weggis > dwelling house of the Köhler family and later, dwelling-house of the Wolf family <u>Source:</u> Inventory of the Hotel and Tourism buildings 1800-1960 Canton Lucerne / Switzerland</p>
1901	<p>06.02.1901 birth of son Hans Karl in Weggis <u>Source:</u> Köhler family book</p>
1904	<p>09.06.04 birth of daughter Hildegard Erna in Weggis <u>Source:</u> Köhler family book</p>
1905	<p>Sale of Pension Belvédère (present-day Council House) and the first Pension Villa Köhler (present-day doctor's practice, Dr. A. Knüsel) Buyer: Retired sea captain Gustav Brand (1847-1918) from Hannover <u>Source:</u> History of the Hotel Albana, Weggis, Lake Lucerne, Switzerland Family Wolf</p>
1907	<p>13.10.1907 birth of daughter Erna Amalia in Weggis <u>Source:</u> Köhler family book</p>
1907	<p>19.10.1907 death of Carl Gottlieb Köhler in Weggis <u>Source:</u> Köhler family book</p>

Short Biography of enterpriser Carl Gottlieb Köhler

Carl Gottlieb Köhler was born on 21.04.1840 in Fürstenthal nr. Freiberg in Saxony. His father was most likely Karl Gottlieb Köhler, born 1812, later registered in Freiberg as grocery/provisions trader. After having been at school – certainly from 1846 until 1854 – Carl Gottlieb Köhler presumably learned the trade of copper-smith handwork during the years 1854-1858. His obvious ability and excellent craftsmanship/workmanship combined with his enterprising talent became even more evident during his travels (Walz) from 1858 to 1861. After his return from the „Walz“ Carl Gottlieb Köhler worked as copper-smith henchman, most likely with a Freiberg Master.

In the year 1864 he was granted a domicile certificate as working copper-smith henchman in Freiberg (attachment 1). The year following - 1865 – he was granted citizen's rights when he registered his trade as self-employed copper-smith on Burgstrasse 247 in Freiberg inner city. In the year 1864 there is documentation of his marriage to Anna Maria Friederike Nagel (born 1842) in the Church Register of the Evangelical Luthern City Church of Nossen/SA (Attachment 2). In the Freiberg Residents' book, Köhler is registered as citizen with his wife and children. The names and birth details of these children were not found.

Probably due to noise emission from the copper smithy situated in the inner city, a City Council prohibition forbidding work in the court-yard forced Carl Gottlieb Köhler to acquire his own property on the Annaberger Strasse 221 (present-day Brander Stasse 12) in the Freiberg suburb. Here in the year 1868 he constructed his two-storey dwelling-house, which has been preserved until today (picture 2). In this same year, he went for the first time to Weggis on Lake Lucerne for a cure. The reasons are not clear why a young man as he then was, needed to convalesce. It is possible that this can be attributed to the early death of his wife and children, although it also could be due to illness caused by working with copper.

On the new site in 1871 he constructed a production plant and moved the *C.G Köhler machines, copper and brassware factory, boiler-maker and iron foundry* (attachment 3) from the inner city. This factory specialized in the manufacture and installation of complete distillery equipment. For the finished products made in the factory, Köhler had already been awarded a coveted prize in the Chemnitz Industrial Exhibition in 1867 (attachment 4). In 1871, Carl Gottlieb Köhler and his partner, business-man Gustav Adolph Stölzner (born 1843) registered the trade *Spirit Factory Köhler & Stölzner*. This was on the same property, where the infrastructure for the manufacture of complete distillery plant equipment already existed.

A year later, his partner came to live in Köhler's dwelling-house. It is most likely that his wife and children were already dead by that time, especially as, from then on, he appears in the Residents' Register without family.

In the year 1876 the experienced and successful building enterpriser, Carl Gottlieb Köhler announced surprisingly that he was giving up his trade as copper-smith and spirit manufacturer. There must have been some serious reason for this decision – perhaps his ailing health. He sold his dwelling house and moved to nearby Freibergdorf as private citizen. A year later, he sold the very efficient *Freiberg machine factory, copper-smithy and foundry*, which, from then on, was known as *E.Leinhaas, formerly C.G. Köhler machine factory, copper-smith and foundry*, firm signatory E. Leinhaas.

1877, for a second time, Carl Gottlieb Köhler goes for a cure to Weggis, and in 1879, according to the Freiberg Residents' Register, he settles down in French Switzerland. In the year 1881 he sold his share of the Freiberg *Spirit factory Köhler & Stölzner*, because it was subjected to very tough competition. Later, Gustav Stölzner appears as signatory for the enterprise and successor to Spirit Factory, Freiberg. The main building is still standing until this day. (picture 3)

In 1880, after having acquired a property excellently situated between the upper and lower village in Weggis, on Lake Lucerne, Köhler constructed the Pension Belvédère 1881 and the first Pension Villa Köhler 1884. Both buildings were constructed in the prevalent historical architectural conception of that period.

In 1891 Carl Gottlieb Köhler apparently changed his residence from Switzerland back to Saxony. The reasons were probably difficulties experienced by a single widower to integrate in a foreign environment, as also his preference to seek a new life's partner in his Saxon homeland. Another reason was most likely the vital necessity for this untiringly active building enterpriser to keep in contact with the architects in Saxony. He took up residence apparently in Blasewitz, a suburb of Dresden. This area of Dresden was the favoured and preferred dwelling zone for the successfully educated, middle class intellectuals of Dresden, well-off civil servants of the Residence city as also for retired German industrialists. The area was very much in the line of action for all architects who were engaged in planning the many villas, most of which exist to this day. All these villas were planned in the style of „Historismus“ and early Art Nouveau.

On the 02.03.1891, the pensioner and widower, Carl Gottlieb Köhler from Dresden married Selma Johanna Margarethe Nagel from Nossen/SA (1873-1934) in the Evangelical Luthern Kreuzkirche in Dresden (attachment 6). Three weeks later, in Blasewitz, a daughter was born, Margarethe Katharina (1891-1960).

Presumably at the beginning of the year 1892 Carl Gottlieb Köhler again changed residence from the eastern suburb Blasewitz to the Lössnitz Community Radebeul, West of Dresden. With his family he apparently lived here as pensioner on the Russenstrasse 86 i until 1895. In April 1892 twins were born, one called Richard, the other name is not recorded. Both children died in the year of their birth. In the following year 1893, a daughter was born, Elsa Margarethe (1893-1960) and in 1894 daughter Charlotte Johanne (1894-1973), both children were born in Radebeul.

Already in 1892, apparently Carl Gottlieb Köhler had acquired a big land property on the Hermannstrasse (today Goethestrasse 7 – 9) in the Lössnitz Community Radebeul. Here, in 1895, he arranged for the construction of the Villa Goethe-Strasse 7 (picture 4) and also most likely, in 1894 the Villa Goethe-Strasse 9 (picture 5), according to plans drawn up by Saxon architects. Both villas exist to this day.

Between 1895 and 1896 Carl Gottlieb Köhler was responsible for the construction of the *second Pension Villa Köhler* in Weggis. This project was almost certainly planned and carried out by a Saxon architect. After the building had been completed, the whole family finally moved to Weggis, where three more daughters were born, Elisabetha Helena (1896-1977), Marie Elfriede (1896-1962) and Gertrud Susanna (1898-1963).

In the year 1898 the restless building enterpriser, Carl Gottlieb Köhler constructed the *Dependance Villa Anna* and renovated the existing *Chalet, renaming it Villa Helena*. A son Hans Karl (1901-1981) and a daughter Hildegard Erna (1904-1968) were also born in Weggis.

1905 saw the sale of the *Pension Belvédère* and the *first Villa Köhler*. It is evident the reason for the sale was either financial or lay in the burden of work entailed by the construction and management of a considerable amount of property spread over wide distances. In addition to this, Köhler was the father of a very big family and over a number of years, he had been ailing in health.

One week after the birth of another daughter, Erna Amalia (1897-1992), Karl Gottlieb Köhler died in Weggis on the 19.10.1907.

The house in Weggis – Hotel Albana

During the period 1892 to 1895, while Carl Gottlieb Köhler was still residing in the Lössnitz Community Radebeul, he arranged the planning and construction of the

second Pension Villa Köhler (from 1911 onwards Hotel Albana)

on his property in Weggis on Lake Lucerne: this is referred to as the Weggis House. If one takes into consideration that at this time he lived in Radebeul, it is easy to accept the supposition that a Dresden architect was engaged for the planning and that, in designing the Weggis House, this architect's project was very strongly influenced by the Dresden style of the period and the prevailing trend of „Historismus“. It has been claimed that the „Spitzhaus“ in Oberlössnitz was taken as a creative model for the Weggis House. The influences, modelled on the then existing historical buildings in the Dresden area, may be made clear by details of the following three buildings.

„Spitzhaus“ in Oberlössnitz

This baroque building, above the vineyard of Oberlössnitz, was built in 1670 by the Saxon Oberland master builder, Wolf Kaspar von Klengel (1630-1691) for the family von Wolfframsdorf. It served as „*Pointed House as also Pleasure House*“. After 1706, the „Spitzhaus“ was owned by General Fieldmarshal and Saxon Cabinet Minister, Jacob Heinrich Graf von Flemming /1667-1728). In 1707, Flemming presented the building to Anna Consantia von Cosel (1680-1756) probably to mark the occasion of her being elected to the „Reichsgräfinnenstand“. In 1710, the Elector of Saxony and King of Poland, Friederick August (1670-1733, referred to as „the Strong“), acquired it from his Favourite. It was only in the year 1889 the „Spitzhaus“ changed from the Saxon autocratic dynasty into private hands.

Approximately 1893, at the time when the Weggis house was being planned, the „Spitzhaus“ presented itself as a two-storey, very simple baroque building on a quadratic ground lay-out, with a double storeyed, crowned lantern on the curly-bracketed roof (picture 6).

According to oral tradition, the side wings with small corner towers and the projecting verandas that characterize the present-day „Spitzhaus“ (picture 7), influenced the form of the Weggis House. But these were only added in the year 1901-1902. At that time, the Weggis House was long since built, so it would seem that, neither as prototype in its original form, nor in its present-day appearance, does the „Spitzhaus“ come into question as the creative model.

The Blitz-Sanatorium for natural healing in Oberlössnitz

In the year 1895 – the year when the Weggis House was commenced – the Bilz-Sanatorium was constructed for the enterpriser, Friedrich Eduard Bilz (1842-1922) in Oberlössnitz, near the residence of Carl Gottlieb Köhler. The four-storey red-brick clinker building with side miniature gables is tipped with a one storey tower, including a cambered, pyramid-type roof-crown cupola. On each floor, communicating wooden verandas extend along the façade. In accordance with the design, *the Dresden Architecture and Building offices of Oskar Wend & Paul Eger* (attachment 6), constructed the Sanatorium as an historic bath-architecture of the Founding Period and its original exterior remains to this day.

The villa Goetheallee 22 in Dresden-Blasewitz

In the year 1895 - again in the same year as the construction of the Weggis House – the publican, Emil Otto Finke had a villa constructed in the noble Dresden suburb of Blasewitz, the former dwelling place of Carl Gottlieb Köhler. The villa stood in a grand garden enclosure (picture 9). The villa is 2 ½ storeys high with „souterrain“ basement and attic roof and has a sandstone fitted clinker (red-tile) façade and a loggia in the upper floor. A side risalite with balcony, a tower construction with platform, as also a further crowned gable side risalite characterize this historic building. Unfortunately, the building deeds were lost when Dresden was destroyed by fire on the 13.02.1945, so that neither the architect who drew up the plans nor the building firm who carried out the work could be traced.

In the architectural details, as well as in the general appearance of the villa, this building comes very near the style and appearance of the Weggis House.

The architect of the Weggis House

Reading Carl Gottlieb Köhler's biography, no mention appears of any Swiss architect who might have worked on the plans for the Weggis House.

Based on the biography and the researches carried out by the author in the Archives of Freiberg, Dresden, Chemnitz and Radebeul there is no mention of the name of a Saxon architect for the Weggis House, nor were sketches or building plans found.

The master builders and carpenters listed in the tabularized curriculum vitae, i.e. those craftsmen who drew up the construction plans for the simple dwelling- house and factory building owned by Carl Gottlieb Köhler in the Freiberg suburbs, cannot even be considered as architects who planned the sophisticated and demanding Weggis House. It is well possible, however, that the architect and master builder commissioned by the Freiberg Council to examine all building plans, was also active in Carl Gottlieb Köhler's constructions in Weggis. Köhler knew this expert in connection with the planning and construction of his Freiberg buildings. It would therefore be reasonable to think that the architect engaged in planning, or perhaps those commissioned for the expertise on Köhler's villa in the Goethe-Strasse, Radebeul, also worked for him in Weggis.

Nevertheless, much nearer is the supposition that Carl Gottlieb Köhler engaged an architect from the Dresden area for the concept and plans of his Weggis House. On one hand, at the time the Weggis House was being planned, Köhler's residence was Blasewitz, then in Radebeul; on the other hand, due to the the number of building projects the enterpriser had carried out, the relationship to many Saxon architects was an established fact. In the Founding Period, countless architects settled in the Dresden area, because it offered them demanding and remunerative activity, complying with the wishes of rich master builders who required representative residences in excellent locations. Moreover, here we are talking about graduates of the *Königlich Polytechnischen Schule Dresden*, the *Dresdener Königlichen Baugewerkeschule* and the *Königlichen Akademie der bildenden Künste in Dresden*, who, being excellently educated and trained, were either working free-lance, or were engaged part-time in addition to their profession. All had leading positions in construction firms.

In spite of numerous discussions held and researches made in Saxony by the author of this document, as also investigation in the Archives of the Heritage Protection authorities of the County of Lucerne, we failed to find sketches, building plans or any other building documents. Therefore the name of the architect who designed and built the Weggis House cannot be stated with any certainty. Nevertheless, results of the investigation into the Weggis House building history made by the author make it very probable that the building enterpriser, Carl Gottlieb Köhler commissioned an architect from the Dresden area to plan and design the Weggis House. The following architects and master builders can be taken into consideration:

Gustav Ludwig (1842-1901) and Moritz Gustav Ferdinand Ziller (1838-1895)

The brothers were master brick-layers and carpenters as well as being graduates of the Königlichen Baugewerkeschule in Dresden, as also the Königlichen Akademie of bildenden Kunst in Dresden. They also owned the construction firm Gebrüder Ziller in Oberlössnitz nr. Dresden. Towards the end of the 19th century, the brothers planned and built numerous villas and land houses – most frequently in the Italian architectural conception and in Swiss house style. In 1892 they tendered alternative concept plans for the historic Bilz-Sanatorium for Natural Healing in Oberlössnitz, but these were not accepted. This building was completed in 1895.

Oskar Wend & Paul Eger

At the time the Weggis House was built in 1895, Wend & Eger were architects and master builders with their own Dresden offices for architecture and construction. Biographical dates in regard to both architects are unknown.

In 1892 this firm tendered for the design and construction of the historic Bilz-Sanatorium for Natural Healing in Oberlössnitz. These plans were accepted and the work carried out in 1895.

Friedrich Oskar Haller & Paul Eger

Architect and master builder, who, in the year 1868 was commissioned as expert by the Freiberg Council to examine the construction plans presented by the building enterpriser, Carl Gottlieb Köhler. These plans covered the construction of his Freiberg dwelling-house and in 1871, the extension project for the Freiberg Machine Factory & Spirit Factory. Biographical details about this architect are unknown. Later, Haller also submitted his own building plans for the extension of both Freiberg factories, this at the request of Carl Gottlieb Köhler in 1875 and also of his partner, Gustav Adolphe Stölzner in 1882. The factory plans tendered by Haller were minor, at a lower functional level and therefore not very exacting in quality, style or form. This should not imply, however, that the architect was not capable of more demanding designs.

Conclusion

In spite of intensive investigation no success resulted in the search for sketches, drafts or building plans of the Weggis House and in tracing the name of the architect who designed it.

Additionally, what could be done in order to discover such documents and also the architect's name ?

1. Pre-requisites for the construction of a building are either the original planning specifications or a building survey of the property before further building. What we know as a fact is that building permission was granted to Carl Gottlieb Köhler on May 20th 1895 in Lucerne. No plans or building permission were found relating to the Dependance built in 1898.
2. Insurance firms who insured the building against fire, lightning, hail, etc. required technical documentation of the building in order to draw up the insurance policy. Perhaps a further enquiry about relevant building documents could be sent to the „Gebäudeversicherung“ of Canton Lucerne as they insured the property before the re-construction 1961/1962.
3. A feasibility study for a professional restoration of the original, historic main building based on accepted standards as laid down by the „Denkmalpflege“, this in co-operation with the Heritage Protection Society of Canton Lucerne and Dr. André Meyer/ Office of architecture and the preservation of Historic Buildings and Monuments, Lucerne.

Attachments

1. Freiberg domicile certificate (24.09.1864) C.G.Köhler
2. Situation/site plan (1871) Freiberg factory buildings C.G. Köhler
3. Quotation for the Freiberg factory C.G. Köhler
4. Extract from Marriage Register (1864) C.G. Köhler and A.M.F. Nagel
5. Extract from Marriage Register (1891) C.G. Köhler and S.J.M. Nagel
6. Sketch of façade Bilz-Sanatorium Oberlössnitz (app. 1892) Wend and Eger
7. Sketch of façade Bilz-Sanatorium Oberlössnitz (app. 1892) Ziller Brothers

Pictures

1. Building on C.G. Köhler's site in Weggis (Aquarelle)
2. Spitzhaus Oberlössnitz before re-building (1902)
3. Spitzhaus Oberlössnitz after re-building (1902) (photograph 19.04. 2005)
4. Dwelling-house (1868) C.G. Köhler, Freiberg, Brander Strasse 12 (photograph 18.02.2005)
5. Spirit factory, former Köhler & Stölzner, Freiberg, Brander Strasse 12 (photograph 18.02.2005)
6. Villa (1895) C.G. Köhler, Radebeul, Goethestrasse 7 (photograph 04.01.2006)
7. Villa (1894) C.G. Köhler, Radebeul, Goethestrasse 9 (photograph 14.02.2006)
8. Bilz-Sanatorium Oberlössnitz (1895), Radebeul, Strakenweg 86 (photograph 04.02.2005)
9. Villa (1895) Dresden-Blasewitz, Goetheallee 22 (photograph 04.02.2005)

Photographic reference

All photographs taken by the author, Dr.- Ing. Volkhard Fischer, Dresden

Publication

- Attachment 1: publication only with authorization of the State Archives Freiberg, Saxony
- Picture 2: publication only with the authorization of Copper Etchings Cabinet, Dresden
- Picture 1: Building on C.G. Köhler's site in Weggis (aquarelle)
- Picture 2: „Spitzhaus“ Oberlössnitz before re-construction (1902)
- Picture 3: „Spitzhaus“ Oberlössnitz after re-construction (1902) (Photo: 19.04.2005)
- Picture 4: 1868: Dwelling-house C.G. Köhler in Freiberg, Brander Strasse 12 (Photo: 18.02.2005)
- Picture 5: Spirit factory, formerly Köhler & Stölzner, Freiberg, Brander Strasse 12 (Photo:18.02.2005)
- Picture 6: 1895: Villa C.G. Köhler, Radebeul, Goethestrasse 7 (Photo: 04.01.2006)
- Picture 7: 1894: Villa C.G. Köhler, Radebeul, Goethestrasse 9 (Photo: 14.02.2006)
- Picture 8: Bilz-Sanatorium Oberlössnitz (1895), Radebeul, Strakenweg 86 (Photo: 04.02.2005)

English translation: Una Wolf-Brennan

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Picture 8: Bilz-Sanatorium Oberlössnitz (1895), Radebeul, Strakenweg 86
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Picture 9: Villa (1895) Dresden-Blasewitz, Goetheallee 22
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