Baukultur policy - the key facts



Zentralplatz Biel / Bienne © FOC / Photo: Rolf Siegentaler

The creation of the interdepartmental *Baukultur* policy started in 2016. It is being developed jointly by fifteen federal agencies under the leadership of the Federal Office of Culture and will be completed in 2020. The policy clusters the *Baukultur*-related activities of the central federal administration and ETH Domain, which aims to ensure the sustainable promotion of a high-quality *Baukultur* in Switzerland to improve the design of its entire space.

The Confederation influences *Baukultur* in many ways in its role as developer, owner, operator, regulator and sponsor. It procures construction and planning services, manages building construction and civil engineering work and acts as a role model. Furthermore, normative standards are set and project and programme subsidies discussed at a federal level.

Vision: a high-quality Baukultur for Switzerland

Baukultur is multi-faceted. It refers to the past, present and future. Baukultur starts with the open landscape and includes the built and unbuilt environment plus everything in between. Baukultur also applies to planning processes and influences how people live together. All the

planning and implementation work from the details to settlement design are an expression of *Baukultur*. That is why it must be approached in a holistic manner as opposed to through the restrictive scope of a particular discipline.

The term *Baukultur* itself does not actually communicate anything about the quality of the built environment. A high quality of *Baukultur* is the only way to ensure a desirable environment equipped to meet changing social requirements while preserving its historical character at the same time. High-quality *Baukultur* is inclusive, establishes a sense of identity, has a positive impact on individual well-being and creates shared values. It thus makes a valuable contribution to the sustainable development of the living environment.

The interdepartmental policy has the following goals:

- 1. For society to address the issue of quality in the designed environment.
- 2. To have normative standards oriented towards a high-quality living environment.
- 3. For construction projects and planning to be of a high quality commensurate with the purpose and location.
- 4. For professionals to have Baukultur-related skills.
- 5. The establishment of *Baukultur* research.
- 6. For the Confederation to act as a role model for Baukultur.
- 7. For the Confederation to promote networking and cooperation in the field of *Baukultur*.

Specific measures to promote contemporary *Baukultur* during the 2020-2023 legislative term are set out in an action plan. Most of these measures can be achieved simply by making the most of the skills already in evidence at the federal agencies and by exploiting synergies, i.e. without extra funding. The Federal Office of Culture, which is in charge of the project, has additional requirements and they are requested within the scope of the 2021–2024 culture message.

Baukultur is...

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The *Baukultur* policy can be downloaded here (in German, French and Italian): www.bak.admin.ch/strategie-baukultur