

The Old and New Town Hall

Heidenheim has two town halls, the old one and the new one. Only the new one functions as the town hall today in terms of administration.

The Old Town Hall was completed in 1846 on the main street. It is built very simple and made of jurassic limestone from Heidenheim's stone quarries. On the second floor there is a big balcony and on the top is a Glockenspiel, which plays melodies three times a day.

The Old Town Hall was the administration office till 1972. After that it was turned into the cultural center and housed the public library, the adult education center and the tourist information office, where you can get tickets for all major events in Heidenheim, book city tours, get maps and souvenirs. The current name of the building is Elmar-Doch-House and it is named after Elmar Doch, who was Lord Mayor in Heidenheim from 1957 to 1969.

In front of the Old Town Hall is the bronze fountain of the *Knöpfleswäscherin*. The story behind is that a local woman once wanted to bring her husband *Knöpfe* (a kind of dumplings) for lunch to work. But on her way she stumbled and the dumplings fell on the street. But she didn't throw them away, she went to wash them in the river Brenz. Some people saw what happened and spread the story. Since then the Heidenheimer have the nickname *Knöpfleswäscher*.

The new town hall was completed in 1972. For the design a competition was made and a group of architects from Stuttgart won. It is much bigger than the Old Town Hall and all departments are in one place. It was built in the architectural style of the 70s and has a very special thing: This is a big "Piercing Ring" with a diameter of 2.4 meters, which was made in an art contest in 2001. It also has a big roof terrace and one can have a great view over the city.

by Anna Lena and Paula

Sources:

- <https://hdh.mobi/wh/>
- http://www.museum-im-roemerbad.de/site/Heidenheim-2/get/params_E-1288209585/13762412/SBKEN16_Web.pdf