



What to do if my building is "ranked"?

As an extension to the Federal Inventory of Protected Heritage Sites of Switzerland (ISOS), Neuchâtel's Cantonal Architectural Ranking (RACN) allows us to define architectural and heritage interest in specific buildings.

This evaluation plays a key role in granting building permits for buildings situated in long-term inhabited zones (ZAL), just as much as for constructions outside urbanised zones (HZ) (sometimes referred to as the "agricultural zone" or "outside of the zone").

What is subject to the advice of the Heritage Conservation Office?

In long-term inhabited zones (ZAL):

- All buildings of the cantonal architectural ranking (RACN)
- Legal framework: Cantonal Director's plan, Communal town planning rules

Outside urbanised zones:

- The buildings deemed worthy of protection, ranks 0-4 in Neuchâtel's Cantonal Architectural Rankings (RACN)
- Legal framework: Federal Act on Spatial Planning (LAT)

The legal dispositions occasionally superimpose on each other. For example: buildings of all categories that are "protected" are subject to the Cantonal Protection of Cultural Heritage Law (LSPC) and are consequently objects of departmental decisions, according to the advice of the Heritage Conservation Office.

Practical implications

A ranked or recognised building deemed worthy of protecting (according to its RACN rank) does not necessarily qualify for subsidies, unlike protected buildings (LSPC).

Is technical support available?

The Heritage Conservation Office has a long history of expertise in conservation/restoration work, as well as diverse technical competencies with regards ancient constructions. It can, case by case, introduce proprietors or architects to the cantonal or federal experts in specific domains.

① Refer to the French page and know more about Ethical/Technical rules