

Cables under the Hood Everyone knows that there are at least two sides to everything, even the high-tech office. All the cables that computers require nowadays are generally referred to as “cable spaghetti”. Given the aesthetic headaches this proliferation of electric wiring can trigger, the term is practically euphemistic. The town council of Nidau near Biel was only too familiar with the bothersome jumbled masses of cables. The council’s offices are located in a renovated former school, where tall, floor-to-ceiling windows offer plenty of light, nice views and, of course, a view into the offices from outside. Because people tend to operate according to the motto, “out of sight, out of mind,” thereby simply removing from view whatever they find visually unappealing, the cables were stowed behind employees’ desks where, of course, they were indeed out of sight – for the employees, that is. But because of the building’s unique windows, the “cable spaghetti” was all the more visible from outside! In a one-of-a-kind project, USM brought order to chaos with its new, matte black cable channels, documenting the results photographically. The “before and after” picture shows how the cables were literally channeled. Thanks to the new cable channel by USM, it is now possible to completely and invisibly stow away a power strip with inserted plugs and to install the cover, which snaps open on both sides, to be flush with the table surface. A cutout for the power strip can also be integrated into the cable channel cover so that sockets remain freely accessible from above. A total of five workstations were equipped with five meters of cable channels. Now order has once again returned to the town council’s offices in beautiful Nidau – ignoring, for a moment, the all-too-human tendency to place the occasional random object next to our desks.

USM Haller Table

**Case Study
Cables duct**

Nidau Town Council



Before



After

