

Astronomers in Germany turned this observatory into R2-D2

By Mike Wehner, BGR

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The Zweibrücken Observatory in Germany

Hochschule Kaiserslautern - credit

People who study science day in and day out usually have some fondness for science fiction, and Professor Hubert Zitt is no exception. Zitt, who lectures at Germany's University of Kaiserslautern, happens to be a huge fan of Star Trek and Star Wars, and when he looked at the Zweibrücken Observatory, he clearly saw what it resembled.

The dull, gray observatory served an important purpose for scientists, but it was also a bit drab-looking. So, with the help of painter Klaus Ruffing and some of Zitt's own students, the tall dome got an extreme makeover, and **now it sports** some serious Star Wars flair.

The observatory was already the perfect shape to be turned into the lovable Star Wars droid R2-D2, and aside from the lack of legs fixed to its side, it's a dead ringer for the quirky robot.

In a **series of photos on Facebook**, we get a good idea of how the process unfolded. The final product, standing in all its geeky glory, bears a pretty remarkable likeness.

In fact, the team did such a remarkable job that the legendary Luke Skywalker himself took notice, giving the mega-R2-D2 a nod on Twitter:



The unexpected art installation has drawn plenty of Star Wars fans eager to post their own photos on Instagram and elsewhere, and it's become something of an attraction for particularly devoted sci-fi diehards. It's easy to see why.