Building Regulations have come to be an increasingly pervasive force in architecture, and they are often dismissed as oppressive and ordinary. However the relation between the building stock, everyday architecture and building regulations is not straightforward and it is not fully explored. As part of the Research Project MWB - Hindernisfreies Wohnen: Mobilisierungspotenzial des Wohngebäudebestandes am Beispiel des Kantons Basel-Stadt, ([http://www.fhnw.ch/habg/iarch/forschung/mwb](http://www.fhnw.ch/habg/iarch/forschung/mwb)) we study building regulations in the city of Basel from 1862 to 2001. We develop a methodology that enables us to define the representative building types that characterize the building stock of the city of Basel as well the periods of its building history. In this sense we argue that the building regulations are strongly related with the building stock of the city and they structure the building history as well as the image of the city.

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