



Karlheinz Hora Hof – new public housing by querkraft
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New public housing for Vienna on Handelskai

querkraft architekten designed the Karlheinz Hora Hof in Vienna with plenty of outdoor space and room for community

Vienna – October 2022.

400 metres long, a good 20 metres wide – an unusual site, on which viennese social housing was envisaged. in 2017 querkraft architekten won the limited entry implementation competition with their design for a continuous garden deck out of which seven residential blocks develop.

the main aim of querkraft was to create quality for both the existing and the new residents. the central element in this regard – “a view of the danube for all” was to be achieved through slender buildings and by adapting the different heights of the new buildings. the inviting shared outdoor space functions as a fifth facade that encourages new and existing users to spend time there, to garden, or to exercise.

the existing public housing behind was treated with respect. the top floor of the garage block in front of it was removed so that more light and sun can penetrate than previously. the undulating rhythm of the existing buildings is continued by the stepped heights of the seven new blocks. the intelligent positioning of these blocks also guarantees sufficient light for the living areas in the buildings behind them.

the activated - and consequently enhanced - residential street that runs between the existing buildings and the new public housing is both a connecting and a structuring element for the entire complex. generously sized outdoor staircases provide access to the garden deck of the new buildings on which attractive leisure time facilities encourage communication and exchange. as a kind of planted connecting platform these outdoor spaces create communicative zones where all the residents can spend time. the connection to the surroundings is improved and attractive visual relationships are created. the outdoor space comes alive and invites interaction.

the cantilevered loggias are perhaps the most immediately striking feature of the new housing. these prefabricated concrete elements are mounted on the north-western and south-eastern fronts of each building. by swivelling them the views outside and into the private area are deliberately directed towards the danube. consequently, the outdoor space remains private, and the special view is given the attention that this site calls for.

each loggia with its tapering walls was produced as a single piece in the concrete works. the loggias were hung in place on site, fixed to just 4 bearing points. through a clever variation of the geometry a lively hybrid of balcony and loggia type apartment was made. special fixtures for equipping the balcony area encourage the new residents to become actively involved in shaping their private outdoor space.

in close collaboration with artist ingo nussbaumer, who in his work deals intensively with colours and their effects, a colour palette was developed that is specially adapted to the site and the surroundings. as one walks through the complex, differently coloured spaces are created, which, depending on the light and the time of day, have a different effect on the viewers.

on the building site handelskai 214a in july 2022 new public housing in vienna has been made that relates to the city's social housing tradition, while also responding to the specific local situation with a considerable degree of sophistication. a virtue was made of necessity – the view towards the danube, the attractive connecting outdoor space, the striking exterior encourage the residents to make the buildings their own and to identify with the karlheinz hora hof designed by querkraft architekten.

Quote Peter Sapp

"The 400-metre-long communicative garden deck is not only a connecting element between the existing and the new buildings but is also a communal area of action to which all visitors are invited by the three outdoor staircases and the bridge that connects to the Danube banks. Reducing the height of the garage block enabled the residential street to be upgraded and greened, communicative zones where people can spend time were made, and outdoor areas for all age groups were created."

DATA

completion	06/2022
country	AUT
city	Handelskai 214A, 1020 Wien
size (NFA / WNFL/ GFA)	WNFL 19.287 m ² BGF gesamt 45.770 m ² BGF oberirdisch 37.120 m ²
use	living
client	WIGEBÄ
project architect	Zsuzsanna Takacsy, Robert Haranza
team	Magdalena Süß Guillermo Alvarez Irene Carles Michael Voit Johannes Zotter Franziska Däuble
structural engineering	Dorr-Schober & Partner
building physics	Dorr-Schober & Partner
landscape planning	Kieran Fraser Landscape Design
HKLS	Kainer Gebäudetechnik GmbH
electronical planning	PHI
general contractor	GERSTL BAU GmbH & Co KG
building coordination	Fuith Werner Baumeister
colour concept	Ingo Nussbaumer
fire protection	Norbert Rabl
photos	Hertha Hurnaus, Tollerian
modell building	Gerhard Stocker Modellwerkstatt

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querkraft architects

The Vienna-based architecture office querkraft was founded in 1998. Around 100 projects, competition entries and buildings in Austria and abroad provide ample evidence of the successful work by this team that currently comprises around 45 staff members. The mission statement formulated by querkraft is “giving people space”, which expresses a constant striving for generosity in the field of spatial design and for the kind of freedom that facilitates users’ personal development. In the area of housing, in particular, querkraft has realised many projects that embody this philosophy of poetic pragmatism. Office and museum buildings or projects in public space are also a fixed part of the work of querkraft as is shown by, for instance, the Liaunig Museum in Carinthia, which has already been placed under monument protection. querkraft have received numerous sustainability awards for the first car-free IKEA in Vienna and the Austrian pavilion for the world Expo in Dubai. Respect, friendliness and joy in the work are the credo of Jakob Dunkl, Gerd Erhartt, Peter Sapp and their team.

Awards (extract)

Short List “EU prize for contemporary architecture - Mies van der Rohe Awards” – IKEA Wien Westbahnhof
global architecture & design award – Taborama, residential high rise
Stateprize Architektur – IKEA Wien Westbahnhof
BHP23 nomination – HAK municipal building
European Property Award – ML museum Liaunig, IKEA Wien Westbahnhof
Fiabci Prix D'Excellence Gold-Winner – IKEA Wien Westbahnhof
gebaut 2022 – HAK municipal building
Austria Green Planet Building Award – EXPO Pavilion
Rethinking the Future Award – IKEA Vienna western-station
German Design Award ‘architecture’ / ‘eco design’ / ‘conceptual architecture’ –
BAT residential high rise / EXPO Pavilion / IKEA Vienna western-station
AIT award education for school campus Friedrich Fexer
Stateprize for Architecture & Sustainability 2013 for the apartment building U31
nomination - International Highrise Prize for Citygate Tower

Current Projects

RLBK Raiffeisen State Bank Kärnten – wooden construction, Klagenfurt, AUT; NBH8 Taborama
Residential Highrise , Vienna, AT; ING - The Museum of Concrete Art Ingolstadt, GER; HOS - University
campus and House of Schools Johannes Kepler University Linz, AUT; HAS – residential, Munich, GER;
IKEA “the good neighbour” in Vienna, AUT; HAK municipal residential building Vienna, AUT; IWC –
International Welcome-Center, Linz, AUT; Austrian EXPO Pavillon 2020/2021 Dubai, UAE;etc.

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