

PRESS RELEASE



IKEA the good neighbour
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The good neighbour

urban, car-free IKEA furniture store and hostel with public roof terrace

Car-free + urban

The world's first car-free IKEA is centrally located at Vienna's Westbahnhof station and offers an excellent connection to public transport. The building contributes significantly to sustainable urban development and is a symbol of a more vibrant and greener future.

A good neighbour

IKEA already expressed their aspiration in the briefing: 'We want to be a good neighbour.' In the three-stage architectural competition, querkraft was able to succeed with a concept that goes beyond retail and creates genuine added value for the neighbourhood. Lush green façades and a publicly accessible roof terrace invite people to spend time here - whether it's having a cup of coffee, relaxing or enjoying the view over the city. While the IKEA retail area is located on the lower floors, the Jo&Joe hostel with 345 beds is located on the upper two floors. This versatile mix of uses creates a vibrant building that remains active 24/7. All these elements make the new IKEA a really good neighbour.

A building like an open shelf

A 4.5 metres deep structure encloses the building like a shady shelf and at the same time provides space for terraces and greenery on every level. The arcades created on the ground floor extend the pedestrian area along Mariahilferstrasse and bring life to the retail area in front. The building has no fixed core, which means that the areas can be flexibly designed and utilised. The generous open space (void) in the interior enables visual connections between the storeys.

Open floor plan and efficient building services

The prefabricated reinforced concrete columns follow a grid of around 10 x 10 metres. This allows for flexible usage and customised room design by moving the infrastructure to the edge of the building. The air conditioning of the building is based on a simple but effective principle: short distances and direct access. All technical elements such as elevators, emergency staircases and building services are integrated into the outer structure and remain visible, which not only facilitates maintenance but also increases the space that can be experienced.

Green all over

With 160 trees on the façade and roof, this IKEA makes a noticeable contribution to improving the microclimate. The three-dimensional greenery enables a far greater density of plants than otherwise possible on only one level alone. As part of its Urban Heat Island strategy plan, the city of Vienna is specifically focussing on greenery - a concept that has also been implemented here. The climbing plants and trees act like a natural air conditioning system: they provide shade, cool the surroundings and increase the humidity. Even at street level, the planting ensures a more pleasant climate. Computer simulations show that the temperature in the neighbourhood is reduced by up to 1.5 °C as a result.

DATA

Location	1150 Vienna
Size (GFA/NFA) building) Completion	29,480 m ² / 26,200 m ² (entire 08/2021
Client	IKEA Österreich
Building physics	Ingenieurbüro P. Jung
Green space	Kräftner Landschaftsarchitektur Green4Cities
Structural engineer	Thomas Lorenz ZT GmbH
Building services	RHM GmbH
Cost management / calls for tender	Werner Consult ZTGmbH
Electrical engineer	TB Eipeldauer + Partner GmbH
Fire protection	FSE Ruhrhofer & Schweitzer GmbH

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.

further information

T +43-1-548 77 11 33
E public@querkraft.at