

PRESS RELEASE



ML
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ML Museum Liaunig

Vienna, June 2022

Task

A museum for Herbert Liaunig's extensive, private art collection that regarding its remote location needs to attract visitors and create a space for contemplative indulgence in art. At the same time, the budget and the building operating expenses should be kept to a minimum.

Opening in 2008

In order to keep the expenses low and the energy strategy optimal, 95% of the building is underground – the excavated earth has been distributed on the site. When entering the building one passes by a large viewable storage area, a wine cellar for art, which leads to the light filled main hall, the central space of the building. As a contradictory to the contemplative viewing of art, in this space visitors get a dramatic orchestration intensified through the views of the surrounding terrain. The impression of being underground does not occur.

Minor expansion in 2010

The client could be persuaded to give up the idea of constructing a detached hall on the edge of the forest which was intended for storage of sculptures and equipment. Rather than the original idea, a cone shaped room was efficiently molded out of fermentation tanks and is perceived as a small mound in the landscape from the outside. Primarily this room was not constructed for the public viewing; however, this sacral-like storage has quickly found its function being changed to an exhibition space.

Class listed monument 2012

The museum was opened in 2008 and was declared as a listed monument in 2012. With that, the building became the youngest building in Austria to be placed under preservation order.

Press inquiries

T +43-1-548 77 11 33

E public@querkraft.at

The big expansion in 2015

This expansion that was already a part of the 2006 competition proposal, could finally take its form in 2015. In addition to storage areas and the sculpture garden, a new space for temporary exhibitions has been added by the main entrance. A long, underground corridor connects the existing sculpture storage area built in 2012 with the rest of the museum. Attached to the gold collection room, the new underground rooms for glass and miniature collections have been added and made accessible through a long ramp. With the new measures it was important to create a relationship to the outside, providing the visitors with an experience related to the surrounding scenery as well as the building itself. With that in mind, the selective skylights, a glass gate on the end of the long corridor and the triangular atrium are an important part of the concept. The temporary exhibition space, with the inclusion of a library-gallery, has been optically enlarged from 500 m2 exhibition space to 700 m2 suspended ceiling covering the exhibition space and the library.

DATA

City	Neuhaus
Size	7.500m²
Completion	2015
Client	HL Museumsverwaltung Gmbh
Building physics	Dr. Pfeiler Gmbh
Landscape architecture	3:0 Landschaftsarchitektur
Structural engineering	Werkraum Wien
HVAC engineering	Strabag Technik
Art	Brigitte Kowanz; Esther Stocker

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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