



2017 Austrian Builder-Owner Award – Excellent Environments

7 December 2017 to 12 January 2018

- Curator:** Adolph Stiller
- Venue:** Ringturm Exhibition Centre
Schottenring 30, 1010 Vienna
- Opening hours:** Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm, free admission
(closed on public holidays)
- Press tour:** Wednesday, 6 December 2017, 10am
- Speakers:** Franziska Leeb (architecture journalist and jury member) and Adolph Stiller
- Official opening:** Wednesday, 6 December 2017, 6.30pm (by invitation only)
- Enquiries to:** Romy Schrammel
T: +43 (0)50 350 21224
F: +43 (0)50 350 99 21224
E-mail: presse@wst-versicherungsverein.at



50th anniversary of the Austrian Builder-Owner Award at the Ringturm

The winning projects in the 2017 Austrian Builder-Owner Award, which celebrates its 50th jubilee this year, combine sacred tradition with modern vision – three of the six prizewinners are religious buildings. All 23 projects shortlisted for the 2017 prize will be on display at the Ringturm until 12 January 2018, with a focus on the six winners.

Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein turns the spotlight on the Austrian Builder-Owner Award for the seventh year in succession as part of its Architektur im Ringturm series. The award has been presented annually by the Central Association of Austrian Architects since 1967, and is one of the country's most prestigious architectural prizes. All 23 projects shortlisted for the 2017 prize will be on display, with a focus on the six winners:

- Erste Campus, Vienna
- Catering Pavillon Cloud 7, Grafenegg
- Protestant Church, Mitterbach
- Basilica and Spiritual House, Mariazell
- Chapel of Salgenreute, Krumbach
- Sägerbrücke bridge, Dornbirn

The structures offer fascinating insights into Austria's contemporary architectural landscape. In 2017, 82 projects from all over Austria were submitted, and the winners were selected by the jury, which comprised TU Wien professor and architect Tina Gregorič, architecture journalist Franziska Leeb and architect Richard Manahl. All of the shortlisted projects will feature in an exhibition that opens on 7 December at the Ringturm. The focus is on the six award-winning entries.

In profile: the six winners of the 2017 award

Award winner

Erste Campus, Vienna
Am Belvedere 1, 1100 Vienna

Builder-owner

Erste Group Bank AG, Vienna

Architects

Henke Schreieck Architekten ZT GmbH, Vienna

Exterior spaces

Auböck + Kárász Landscape Architects, Vienna

Photo: Haller & Haller



Construction of Vienna's new Hauptbahnhof station provided an opportunity to bring the city's Favoriten and Wieden districts – which are separated by southern and eastern railway lines – closer together. The Erste Campus, Erste Bank's new headquarters to which 25 former sites have relocated, is central to this plan. The development represents an architectural and urban-planning milestone that meets the highest international standards. In terms of urban planning, the location is complex, with a new residential and office district to the west, as well as the Schweizergarten park. Around 5,000 people work at this urban development, which interacts closely with its surroundings. The curved, graduated buildings form an ensemble that encloses a landscaped garden and opens out onto the city centre. Thanks to the materials used, the site exudes a sensuous air. With a cocktail of outstanding architecture and public art, the border between the campus and the city has become blurred.

Award winner

Catering Pavillon Cloud 7, Grafenegg
Grafenegg 10, 3485 Grafenegg
Lower Austria

Builder-owner

Grafenegg Kultur Betriebsges.m.b.H.

Architects

the next ENTERprise Architects ZT GmbH, Vienna

Exterior spaces

Land in Sicht, Vienna

Photos: Lukas Schaller



The Wolkenturm open-air stage in Grafenegg Castle gardens – one of Austria's most impressive outdoor concert venues – was built a decade ago by the same architects. It hosts the very best in cultural entertainment, and the path to the arena also takes in an architectural highlight. The extravagant design is a welcome sight for culture vultures, foodies and architecture fans alike. The curved roof is supported by dainty-looking steel pillars. The thin, in-situ concrete roof with its undulating form elevates the natural flowing curves of the surroundings to a design principle, and is a masterpiece of interdisciplinary collaboration between architects and engineers. The ground mirrors the shape of the roof, while soft granulate minimises the risk of broken glasses and produces outstanding acoustics. The design facilitates communication, and the shape of the bar counter encourages face-to-face conversations.

Award winner

Protestant Church, Mitterbach
Kirchengasse 9, 3224 Mitterbach
Lower Austria

Builder-owner

Mitterbach evangelical parish

Architects

Ernst Beneder/Anja Fischer, Vienna

Photo: Adolph Stiller



Mitterbach evangelical church was built in 1785, shortly after Emperor Joseph II issued the Patent of Toleration, which largely legalised the practice of the Protestant faith. It is the oldest Lutheran house of worship in Lower Austria, and the only church built after the issue of the Patent that has been preserved. The 2015 Lower Austrian State Exhibition, which was devoted to the history of Protestantism in the region, and this year's 500th anniversary of the Reformation provided the impetus for the urgently needed restoration of this historically significant church. Various renovations were carried out, but the most eye-catching is the new gallery. The long west gallery was removed and replaced by two new lengthways galleries, bringing a sense of balance to a space which previously left an asymmetrical impression owing to the position of the pulpit. The newly sculptured composition blends the old and the new. The degree of care, detailed planning and small-scale design, as well as the tight budget, mean that this project leaves a mark well beyond the parish limits.

Award winner

Basilica and Spiritual House, Mariazell
Benedictusplatz 1, 8630 Mariazell
Styria

Builder-owner

Mariazell Superiorate

Architects

Feyferlik/Fritzer, Graz

Photo: Adolph Stiller



The builder-owner and architect worked on this project for around a quarter of a century. Numerous large-scale and small-scale adaptations were implemented over the years, as part of an overarching design concept. Taking into account the history and spiritual significance of the location was a key consideration – Mariazell is Austria's most important pilgrimage site, attracting more than a million visitors each year. A new space, colour and acoustic concept was devised for the basilica, extending from the sanctuary to the towers. The outdoor spaces were made wheelchair-accessible. Old and new elements dovetail attractively, combining to form an experience for all the senses. The same applies to the clergy house, where the historic spaces have been restored. Rooms that had fallen into disrepair over the years have been reinvigorated, and appropriate, customised sanitary facilities and kitchenettes installed where necessary.

Award winner

Salgenreute chapel, Krumbach
 Salgenreute 4, 6942 Krumbach
 Vorarlberg

Builder-owner

Municipality of Krumbach, Arnold Hirschbühl (mayor)

Architects

Architekt Bernardo Bader ZT GmbH, Dornbirn

Photo: Adolph Bereuter



Used since time immemorial for May devotions and “Wetterläuten” – the custom of ringing bells to drive away bad weather – the chapel, which was designed by local architects, has only 24 seats, exactly the same number as its predecessor. The new chapel’s layout is based on that of the previous construction, which dated back to 1880. Instead of a nave and tower, the new building has a tall pitched roof and no tower. The plinth is made from limestone from the Alberschwende region and the roof features hand-cut larch shingles. The entrance is set back to create a sheltered porch. A door with wrought brass fittings leads into the interior, and in the oratory 12 frames accentuate the steepness of the roof. The wall panelling, flooring and understated pews are made from untreated fir. Closer inspection reveals the skill and workmanship that went into this architectural masterpiece, a collaboration between craftsmen and volunteers, where a complex design serves to encapsulate the spirit of the location.

Award winner

Sägerbrücke bridge, Dornbirn
 Stadtstrasse, 6850 Dornbirn
 Vorarlberg

Builder-owner

City of Dornbirn/Federal Province of Vorarlberg,
 Department of Roads

Architects

Architekturwerkstatt Dworzak-Grabher, Lustenau

Photo: Günter König



The Sägerbrücke bridge spans the Dornbirn Ach river, linking the town centre with the Hatlerdorf district. In every sense it is a unique, highly frequented public space with an exemplary design. Seemingly cast in one piece, the bridge stands out from the road, thanks also to the light colour of the granite mixed into the concrete. A concrete construction was a requirement of the Department of Roads, which prompted the architects to take their design ideas a step further and capitalise on the material’s potential. Minimal height differences highlight the equality of all road users and also have a traffic calming function. The lighting concept, with indirectly lit parapets and bus stops, and two diagonally-opposite pylons next to the bridge, helps to create a pleasant mood after dark. The structure is not simply a traffic route, but also a place where pedestrians are encouraged to spend time: wooden backrest benches are an ideal spot for watching the river below, while recesses in the parapets serve as retreats from the flow of traffic.

Catalogue

Architektur im Ringturm XLIX. 2017 Austrian Builder-Owner Award, Austrian Architects Association (ed.); 84 pages. Price: EUR 20