



## 2019 Austrian Builder-Owner Award – Excellent Environments

4 December 2019 to 17 January 2020

---

- Press tour:** Tuesday, 3 December 2019, 10am
- Speakers:** Maria Auböck (President of the Central Association of Austrian Architects) and Adolph Stiller
- Official opening:** Tuesday, 3 December 2019, 6.30pm (by invitation only)
- Curator:** Adolph Stiller
- Venue:** Ringturm Exhibition Centre  
Schottenring 30, 1010 Vienna
- Opening hours:** 9am to 6pm, free admission (closed on public holidays and on 24 December and 31 December 2019)
- Enquiries to:** Romy Schrammel  
T: +43 (0)50 350 21224  
F: +43 (0)50 350 99 21224  
E-mail: [presse@wst-versicherungsverein.at](mailto:presse@wst-versicherungsverein.at)
- Photos:** solely for use in reports on the exhibition and crediting the copyright holder are available for download free of charge at <https://www.airt.at/en/projects/bhp2019/>

## **Award-winning contemporary Austrian architecture**

*For the ninth year in succession, Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein is turning the spotlight on the Austrian Builder-Owner Award as part of its popular Architektur im Ringturm series. Presented by the Central Association of Austrian Architects, the award is one of the country's most prestigious architecture prizes.*

*Of the 132 projects submitted from across Austria, 24 were shortlisted, from which the jury – architects Andreas Cukrowicz (Bregenz) and Donatella Fioretti (Berlin), as well as architecture journalist Albert Kirchengast (Vienna) – selected the six award winners for 2019.*

*The 2019 Austrian Builder-Owner Award pays tribute to outstanding projects completed within the past three years that stand out for the exceptional collaboration between builder-owners and architects. The projects include remarkable buildings, landscape architecture and urban development solutions.*

*All 24 shortlisted projects are on display at the Ringturm, with a focus on the six award winners, including a detailed look at their backgrounds and evolution.*

---

## **The winners of the 2019 Austrian Builder-Owner Award**

(The projects are presented in alphabetical order by federal province and project; the descriptions are based on the jury's statements)

### **Burgenland**



**Award winner:** Streckhof farm building with schnapps distillery

**Builder-owner:** Elisabeth and Claus Schneider

**Architects:** Juri Troy Architects, Vienna

Photo: Markus Bstieler

*The L-shaped 'Hakenhof' farmhouse typically found in Burgenland is an organic entity. Room by room, it expands into the furthest reaches of a long, narrow plot of land, often having taken shape over generations. Here and there, it sprouts transverse sections looking onto the road or the rear of the property backing onto the characteristic lane known locally as the "Hintaus". The next-door barn prompted a brilliant idea: an extension free from ostentation. Brick wall, infill wall, brick wall – this austere yet poetic rhythm is brought to life and continues into the structure of the new ground plan. Room, stairs, room – a triple-time composition featuring half-metre-thick wall brackets that provide surrounding storage space and loggias that form serviceable buffer spaces. A solid wood structure was installed within these walls. The result is a spartan, but at the same time welcoming home open on both sides, with a layout tailored to the needs of a young family.*

---

## Upper Austria



**Award winner:** Wagyu cow barn on the Hausruck hills

**Builder-owner:** Hubert and Diana Huemer

**Architects:** Atelier Herbert Schrattenecker, Vienna

**Structural engineering:** DI Weilharter ZT GmbH, Ried im Innkreis

**Carpentry:** Schmid Holzbau, Schwanenstadt

Photo: Stefan Gruber

*The architects' brief was to come up with a design featuring lots of wood and creature comforts for the Wagyu cows. This was the cue for a pagoda-like barn that brings something of the cattle's exotic essence to the Hausruck region, but by no means seems out of place. People also enjoy spending time in the barn, climbing up to the "balcony" where the straw is kept, marvelling at the sleek wooden trusses, and analysing the structure, which has something alien but also familiar to it. The path that the processed, knot-free spruce and pine took from the forest to here is plain to see. The wood was not industrially processed – cut and glued – and the structure includes supports up to nine metres long, clamped at the base and joined together using local carpentry techniques. The diagonal bracing stands out, and the roof sits atop the generously proportioned, airy barn like a rudimentary canopy. Long ago, the architect studied wooden constructions in Turkey. This appealing load-bearing structure reflects the family's self-perception: knowing your limits and going to the limits to make things better.*

---

## Vorarlberg



**Award winner:** Haus obd'r Lech hotel

**Builder-owner:** Clemens Schmölz

**Architects:** HEIN Architekten | Matthias Hein, Bregenz | Gernot Thurnher, Feldkirch

**Load-bearing structure – engineering:** Master carpenter Helmut Feuerstein | Holzbau Feuerstein, Au | Andreas Gaisberger, Dornbirn

Photo: David Schreyer

*From the outside, there are no signs of the transformation that this two-storey 'Einhof' (a traditional Alpine building combining living space and livestock stalls) with its flat sloped tin roof has undergone. Dating back to the 14th century, it was originally a typical Walser region house with a rare plank and beam ceiling. The timber structure was preserved as far as possible. On the eastern side, a solid wood extension was built on the site of former farm buildings, which had been lost in the 1950s. The aim was to restore the original cubic volume, although only a 10% increase was permitted under the building regulations. This was achieved thanks to a reinterpretation of the traditional farm outhouse – airy loggias or cubicles cut into the structure which give the impression of a surprisingly roomy interior. The switch from vertical formwork to weatherboarding has remained recognisable in the extension, a clear transition between the old and the new. Larger window apertures with sliding shutters were cut into the new structure, while double windows with shutters and state-of-the-art thermal insulation still define the overall appearance. This effective interplay becomes even more obvious in the interior, which is neither faux traditional, nor is the old clumsily set alongside the new. The rooms exude a spirit of appreciation and inquisitiveness. Above all, there is a sense of cosiness, with an imposing, ceiling-high fireplace in the middle corridor reaching up into the central recreation room.*

---

## Vorarlberg



**Award winner:** Schendlingen school

**Builder-owner:** Bregenz City Council | Planning and Construction Department, Bernhard Fink

**Architects:** studio bär, Bregenz | bernd riegger architekten, Dornbirn Querformat, Dornbirn

**Load-bearing structure – engineering:** Manfred Plankel, Bregenz

Photo: Adolf Bereuter

*This building – a school for pupils aged between six and 14 – won over the judges thanks to a design concept that permeates the project's structure and form. Flexibility, multiple uses and cluster formation – the architectural team's interpretation of the wide-ranging requirements gave rise to a serene but also austere structure which won a two-stage, EU-wide competition. There is no visual hierarchy, but the principle of visibility plays an important part, promoting a sense of care and attentiveness when dealing with the people and objects around us. Reducing barriers to access is a theme running through the entire construction. The headmaster's office does not have an anteroom, there is no secretary's office, the staffroom is a classroom, and the rooms for specialised subjects always appear neat and tidy. The style is a kind of neo-brutalism combined with tectonic architecture; concrete, glass and wood, with suspended felt acoustic panels supplying a little ornamentation – of a kind. The design concept is encapsulated in the light, beautifully grained, rough-cut ash and extensive concrete surfaces (double-leaf exposed concrete) – not unwieldy, but straightforward and unadorned. A highly effective discourse between modern educational approaches and charming design.*

---

## Vienna



**Award winner:** Stadtelefant office and residential property

**Builder-owners:** Bloch-Bauer-Promenade 23 Real GmbH, Franz&Sue, PLOV, SOLID, A-Null + Hoyer

**Architect:** Franz&Sue, Vienna

**Load-bearing structure – engineering:** Petz ZT-GmbH, Vienna

Photo: Andreas Buchberger, Louai Abdul Fattah

*In the Sonnwendviertel area behind Vienna's Hauptbahnhof station, a new kind of multifunctional neighbourhood hall, set apart by its modest appearance, is taking shape – a robust, eight-floor structure, a place to live and work, that is seeing the benefits of multi-use, light-filled rooms with high ceilings, and a resilient structure. A property pared down to its core, but nevertheless eloquent, as it holds up a mirror to the contemporary era. It almost goes without saying that it is also efficient – a sandwich system comprising an industrial construction with aesthetically-pleasing finished concrete surfaces, prosaically joined with broad, dark silicon grouting. Just like the skin of an elephant – only with protruding balcony slabs. Located on an awkward plot, cornered on one side by an underground car park, it looks onto a small, tree-lined square. A cafeteria open to the public occupies the ground floor. But still the property stands out amid the heterogenous look of*

*this urban ensemble, harking back to the achievements of the Gründerzeit era of the 19th century: precise planning to offset cost pressures, a distinctive selection of materials, smart fundamental choices, common-sense building utilities (the availability of ventilation, and radiant heating), and sacrificing one storey in favour of higher ceilings, which enhances quality for building users.*

---

## Vienna



**Award winner: University of Applied Arts, Vienna**  
[extension at Vordere Zollamtsstrasse 7, 1030 Vienna]

**Builder-owner:** BIG Bundesimmobiliengesellschaft m.b.H. Universities Division | Wolfgang Gleissner, Hans Peter Wiess, Andreas Stampfer

**Architect:** Riepl Kaufmann Bammer Architekten, Vienna

**Load-bearing structure – engineering:** PCD ZT-GmbH, Vienna; Conzett Bronzini Partner, Chur

Photo: Bruno Klomfar

*This project involved the radical, but justified transformation of a Gründerzeit-era property, including the removal of two transverse wings in the courtyard. The result was substantial spaces with little paraphernalia. This has enriched university life by emphasising the atrium of the customs office building, which in turn enhances its powerful impact and underlines this outstanding structural and architectural feat. Created in collaboration with a well-known Swiss engineer, this is a minor tectonic masterpiece made from sublimely cast exposed concrete. It has an archaic feel, but also leaves a modern impression. The stylish yet simple formal language, comprising beams and pillars, and tapering upwards across several floors, envelops the university's new forum (which includes the main lecture theatre), creating an expansive and distinctive meeting point in the heart of Vienna. Here, the architecture is based on the concept of dialogue, both with future users and with the existing Gründerzeit-era and late-modern fabric of the building. The determined sense of artistic intention is highlighted in the architectural statements that demonstrate respect for the building stock.*

---

## Catalogue

**Architektur im Ringturm LVII: Bauherrenpreis '19.** Edited by the Central Association of Austrian Architects. Presentation of all nominated projects; detailed look at the winning entries with text and pictures. All properties with details of location, builder-owners and planners. Approx. 90 pages. Price: EUR 18 (German only)