

Integrated Architecture

[...]

* No universal theoretic basis underlies our designs – and we don't believe that there is only one theory that can provide the solution for new projects. Of course we –like almost everybody else - are affected by theories and tendencies which influence us more or less one time or another.

These different theories and tendencies build the foundation of our considerations and lead, together with our own experiences and impressions to the concepts we regard right for the particular building task. The ideas for these concepts can originate from the most different realms – from mathematics, fine arts, physics, biology, sociology, and so on.

Therefore the formal result is not predictable and can range from the simple box, over polygonal or curved surfaces, folds and waves to superficially not noticeable interventions. Important for us is a design that is reduced corresponding to its concept and an integrated materiality. While developing the technical details we try to react to the special situation and to answer with an adequate level of complexity.

Adequacy of input and output as far as we understand it is relative and changes from project to project – we try to achieve an appropriate quality of space, which responds to the financial limitations.

* To demonstrate these connections we have classified the following projects in 4 groups. In each group the available resources have been applied differently to achieve spatial, content related and financially appropriate results.

*** High density concepts – high efficiency**

The first category contains simple appearing concepts which are easy to comprehend through their composition and their sequence of rooms. These designs feature a kind of added value or specific characteristic, emerging from interaction with landscape, urban environment or the future occupants.

* **Haus N** – the white cubes [...]

- * **Komic** – The small museum [...]
- * **Kramergasse** – The boarding house [...]

Expanded space concepts – low efficiency

contains buildings where a high level of representation or a high atmospheric density is required. The high quality of space legitimates the generous handling with resources. Form and configuration of space have great influence on the user - in some cases this influence is exerted on a financial.

- * **Kunsthistorisches Museum** – the grid distortion [...]
- * **Church in Oberrohrbach** – the golden band (together with Georg Marterer) [...]

* Multifunctional surfaces

For the projects in this category it was important to maximize the space-economy by multi usage. Looking at the first project it is limited to the symbolism of the elevated garden, which got a parking space underneath. In other projects additional uses were generated by assigning one element more than one meaning.

This aspect can be seen obviously at the Visitor's center in Ennstal. In this case the office building is raised to create an expanded roofed public space. Originally all of the wavelike grass covered roofs should be walkable, but this addition fell victim to cost pressure.

- * **Bastiengasse** – park your car underneath your garden [...]
- * **The Vote-Float Bar** (with noncon:form) accessible logo [...]
- * **IsoMax** – the sunlounger [...]
- * **TUB** – distribution zone as public place (with MAGK architecture) [...]

Each building impacts its surrounding and the people that use it. Of course these impacts vary a great deal with size and use of the object – a single-family house impacts mainly the family that lives in it and indirectly those who pass the house. Considerably bigger are the effects of public buildings and town planning. Here

accordingly more attention is necessary to space economy, interaction with the user and assignment of available resources. .

We believe that every client has a social responsibility, which increases with the size of the project and has to be demanded by the architect und must then be realized. Concretely this means for us to create for example a maximum of benefit for as many users as possible by providing multiple use of rooms and space.

Added value by abundance of space

As a matter of principle, the optimization of floor space with regard to the optimal use of the building has always been a goal for us. The desire of a surplus can necessitate a seemingly waste of space and resources.

mo.na – the winding path [...]

European Culture Center Aachen – The digital sponge [...]

Orth – the flow of the visitors (with noncon:form & MAGK) [...]

* Needless to say that each project is affected by considerably more factors, like for example, requests of the client, interactions with the surrounding area, official regulations and so on. We try to merge all of these factors to a most times simple, conclusive concept, which should result in what we call integrated architecture.

Integrated architecture means for us the spacial, content related as well as formal integration of the project into the local and human environment and demands scale spanning consideration from landscape planning to designing of furniture.

[...]