



Austrian Builder-Owner Award 2014

From 18 November 2014 until 16 January 2015

- Concept:** Adolph Stiller
- Exhibition venue:** Exhibition Centre in the Ringturm
1010 Vienna, Schottenring 30
- Opening hours:** Monday to Friday: 9 am to 6 pm, free admission
(closed on public holidays as well as 24 and 31 December)
- Press tour:** Monday, 17 November 2014, 11.00 am
- Speakers:** Adolph Stiller, Otto Kapfinger
- Official Opening:** Monday, 17 November 2014, 6.30 pm (by invitation only)
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Presented by the Central Association of Austrian Architects since 1967, the annual Austrian Builder-Owner Award is presented to constructions which stand out for their exceptional architectural language and design. The award-winning projects are the result of close collaboration between the builder-owners and architects involved, and also make a contribution to enhancing the respective locality. This year, Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein's Architektur im Ringturm exhibition series will showcase the Austrian Builder-Owner Award for the fourth time, offering a snapshot of the country's contemporary architectural landscape.

A nomination panel in each of Austria's nine federal provinces shortlisted up to four constructions from the total of 110 projects submitted. Following inspections of the 27 nominated projects, the seven prizewinners were selected by the main jury, which included several acclaimed international architects. This approach ensures that the award-winning developments live up to international standards.

The award-winning projects

PaN urban housing project, intercultural living, Vienna

Builder-owner: Neues Leben Gemeinnützige Bau-, Wohn- und Siedlungsgenossenschaft, Karl-Heinz Stadler, Wolfgang Reitterer, Johann Gruber (directors)

Architects: Werner Neuwirth, Vienna / von Ballmoos Krucker Architekten, Zurich / Sergion Bates, London

Landscape architects: D\D Landschaftsplanung ZT KG; Anna Detzlhofer

Affordable and attractive living is a rare commodity. Subsidised housing is not immune to spending cuts, meaning that large swathes of the population have only limited access to appealing residential properties. As a result, unorthodox developments such as the PaN Wohnpark, located on the site of the former Nordbahnhof station in Vienna's Leopoldstadt district, stand out all the more. PaN – the abbreviation stands for Partner aller Nationen (Partner of all Nations) – is an association dedicated to promoting the harmonious coexistence of Viennese residents from various ethnic backgrounds. The 90 subsidised rental apartments are spread across three buildings grouped around a central courtyard, forming an independent urban space. Shared facilities such as a reading lounge, a café with a cosmopolitan feel, communal rooms and children's playrooms help to create a meeting place as well as generating a sense of togetherness.



VinziRast-mittendrin shared housing for homeless people and students, Vienna

Builder-owner: Verein Vinzenzgemeinschaft
St. Stephan, Cecily Corti, Doris Kerbler
Architects: gaupenraub +/-, Vienna;
Alexander Hagner, Ulrike Schartner

In 2009 Austrian students took to the streets to defend the principle of universal access to higher education and to fight against tuition fees. Protesters occupied the main lecture theatre at the University of Vienna for months, under the banner “unibrennt” (“the uni’s burning”). Many homeless people also found refuge in the lecture halls, forging close ties with the students through communal cooking, discussions, music and day-to-day organisation – all of which play an integral part at the VinziRast-mittendrin facility in Vienna. Students, Austrian charity Verein Vinzenzgemeinschaft and architects gaupenraub +/- joined forces to come up with a unique concept: a residential community in the city’s Währinger Strasse where students and former street people live and work together. The development includes a rooftop garden and art studio, as well as ground-floor carpentry and bike repair workshops. There is also a café – complete with outdoor seating in the courtyard – which is open to the public, and visitors are not obliged to buy food or drinks. The café is run as a separate company by the project stakeholders. The revitalised old building brings people together in a climate of respect where prejudice has no place.



Generalate of the School Sisters of St. Francis Hallein, Salzburg

Builder-owner: HSF Immobilien GmbH Oberalm, Sister
Emanuela Resch, Sister Benedicta Lienbacher,
Manfred Steinlechner
Architect: Heinz Tesar, Vienna

Simplicity, reflection, charity and philanthropy – the role models for the Franciscan Sisters of Hallein are St Francis and St Clare of Assisi, who devoted their lives to working for the good of society. The order has been dedicated to caring for orphans and helping those members of the community who are unable to afford a proper education for their children since the 18th century. The Franciscan way of life, where thrift is a guiding principle, is reflected in the construction project commissioned by the order. Viennese architect Heinz Tesar designed the new addition to the existing complex, which comprises Kahlsperg Castle and the Kahlsperg old people’s home, in collaboration with the sisters. Their requirements included a pared-down room design, use of the most basic materials, and an easily maintained property that could be adapted to future needs – all of which have been fulfilled to the letter.



Cultural Centre Ischgl, Tyrol

Builder-owner: Municipality of Ischgl, Werner Kurz (mayor), Christian Schmid

Architects: parc ZT GmbH, Innsbruck, Michael Fuchs, Barbara Poberschnigg

Over the past 30 years the once-poor mountain village of Ischgl has been transformed into a magnet for tourists. But this mecca of winter sports has much more to offer. Village life is still reflected in Ischgl's social fabric, which comprises a wide and varied range of associations and societies. Such a fabric must be nurtured and needs space in which to thrive. The new focal point for community life, on Widum Platz in the heart of Ischgl, is a barrier-free facility that houses the local choir, as well as a library and the town archives. A large Stube or parlour with bar (there is no obligation to order) serves as a meeting venue for the town's societies. From day one, local residents have had a say in the development, which has consequently been well received on all sides.



Exhibition and Assembly Hall of the Werkraum Bregenzerwald, Andelsbuch, Vorarlberg

Builder-owner: Werkraum Bregenzerwald, Renate Breuss, Anton Kaufmann

Architect: Peter Zumthor, Haldenstein

Werkraum Bregenzerwald provides a platform for the 84 regional craft businesses behind the project. The venue is also a stage for presenting and discussing contemporary craftsmanship. Regular exhibitions, competitions and lectures enable the companies to share ideas, as well as encouraging them to use primarily local and recyclable raw materials. As a display window to the outside world coupled with a knowledge forum inside, the groundbreaking property allows the builder-owners to showcase their own enterprises and serves as a model for similar projects, both locally and worldwide.



Gurk Treasury, Gurk Cathedral, Carinthia

Builder-owner: Diocese of Gurk, Klagenfurt, Fritz Breiffuss, Msgr Gerhard Christoph Kalidz, Eduard Mahlknecht

Architects: winkler + ruck architekten, Klagenfurt

Gurk Cathedral, which houses the tomb of Carinthia's patron saint Hemma, is not a cultural tourism hotspot by any stretch of the imagination. But it is well worth a visit for lovers of European Romanesque architecture. The relocation of the diocesan treasury, which was previously hidden away in a barely accessible house in the town, has led to the creation of an exceptional museum – and given tourists another reason to include Gurk on their itineraries. Spatial, technical and functional adaptations to the fabric of the 1,000-square-metre, listed provost's residence enabled the builder-owner to exploit the full potential of the property and put together a finely tuned collection of exhibits from both past and present.



**"Office OFF" office building Steinberg-Dörfel,
Burgenland**

Builder-owner: Johannes Stimakovits, FOB-face of buildings

Architects: heri&salli, Vienna, Josef Saller, Heribert Wolfmayr

Steel and glass facade specialist FOB moved into uncharted territory for the design of its new company headquarters, as Vienna architects heri&salli chose wood for the construction. Prompted by the idea of creating an environment for both working and living, the designers came up with an energy self-sufficient, cost-effective property. Integrated meeting zones, and rest and relaxation areas take the traditional concept of the workplace to its limits, blurring the border between work and leisure.



The exhibition

Besides showcasing the winners of the 2014 Austrian Builder-Owner Award, the exhibition in the Ringturm also turns the spotlight on the projects shortlisted by the honorary juries in the various federal provinces. It paints a picture of contemporary Austrian architecture using plans, photos and models, as well as offering an insight into the collaboration between builder-owners and architects.

Catalogue

Architektur im Ringturm XXXVIII. Bauherrenpreis 2014. Published by the Central Association of Austrian Architects; approx. 85 pages. Price: EUR 18

Accompanying events in the Ringturm

Panel discussion, 25 November 2014, 4pm

Guided tour with the jury members, 2 December 2014, 4pm

Round table discussion: The role of builder-owners in subsidised housing construction, 8 January 2015, 4pm