

solarCity Linz-Pichling – Sustainable City Development

Authors:

Herbert Pointner

Helmut Pointner

pointner | pointner architekten

Pastoral Center

Client: Stiftung zum Zweck der Förderung der Entwicklung und Erhaltung kirchlicher Immobilien, Linz, A

Planning: pointner | pointner architekten, Freistadt - Vienna, A

Artistic design: Herbert Friedl, Pregarten, A, Ingeborg Kumpfmüller, Vienna, A

Completion: 2006

Usable floor area: 725 m²

Energy demand: 23.60 kWh/(m²a)

Concept

A COURTYARD BUILDING CONCEPT responds to the heterogeneous surroundings, using many-faceted relationships to the internal and external world, to the public areas as well as to the groups of spaces in the interior. This allows the diverse spatial and functional areas to be organized in such a way that they are related to certain courtyard spaces or open spaces. The combination of flexibility, the opening of the pastoral center to the outside and the intimacy of liturgical celebrations is made possible by the differentiated relationships to the various individually treated courtyard areas.

Works by artists:

Herbert Friedl: liturgical fittings, design of the meditation courtyard

Ingeborg Kumpfmüller: works based on text elements on the facades and ceilings

Building design and construction

Three COURTYARD TYPES characterize the transition between public space and the building:

FORECOURT (1st COURTYARD): The forecourt is oriented towards the public space of the infrastructure center and the boulevard, and invites people to enter and to use it. The way in which it is spatially defined by the "Solar Portal" clearly identifies it as part of the building structure. Here the first step is made away from the public space of the street, but the intensive spatial relationship to this public space is still preserved. The forecourt is raised slightly above the level of the footpath and can be reached without barriers by means of short ramps.

GARDEN (2nd COURTYARD): The garden – which is visible from the forecourt through the glazing of the vestibule/foyer – is intended as an internal communication space as well as an outdoor space. Directly associated with the entrance area/foyer, it permits a variety of diverse uses. The planting, which overtops the western courtyard wall, makes it possible to perceive the presence of the garden from outside.

MEDITATION COURTYARD (3rd COURTYARD): The meditation courtyard – given its character by a work by the artist Herbert Friedl – retains a relationship to nature and the changing weather conditions for the liturgical celebration space and the chapel but is not visible from the public space. Through its intimacy and closed nature it forms part of the interior yet at the same time it is a visual, blooming continuation of internal space into the outdoors.

The building and the courtyard structures are framed and contained by restful areas of plastered wall. The simple and almost humble material of the plastered walls has a certain strength and expressiveness amid the confusing diversity of materials used in the surrounding buildings. Only the center of the complex is emphasized, its red-brown shimmering copper panels forming a contrast to the subdued plastered walls.

The spatial definition of the forecourt – the portal between public space and the forecourt – was conceived as a "SOLAR PORTAL", a light, translucent steel and glass construction with integrated solar panels that conveys the image of the solarCity to the public. In the evening, during events or simply when the pastoral center is being used for different functions, the "Solar Portal" begins to glow from within. The use and provision of energy in the building is thus made visible and noticeable. The building displays the degree of activity inside as a welcoming gesture to the public realm.

Structural design:

- Reinforced concrete, in-situ concrete construction
- Steel skeletal frame construction

Energy concept

Central ventilation system with heat recovery

Underfloor heating by means of district heating system

Rainwater is used for utility water

Ventilation – Heating:

Ground heat exchanger, natural ventilation concept with night-time ventilation to supply cooling fresh air during the night without the need for a mechanical ventilation system

Contact :
Stadtteilbüro solarCity
Heliosallee 84
A-4030 Linz
Tel: +43 (0)732 / 320071-30
e-mail: solarcity@mag.linz.at
Internet: www.solarcity.linz.at