



## **The New Austrian Post at Rochusmarkt**

Press Information  
December 2017

## The New Austrian Post at Rochusmarkt Timeless Architecture in Dialogue with the City

Schenker Salvi Weber and feld72 shape the new corporate headquarters of Post AG on Vienna's Rochusmarkt. The building ensemble is a composition of the highest quality which not only skilfully combines old and new but also features contemporary interior architecture which is distinguished by the open communication areas in the offices and the design of the mall. The integration of the building into the urban context enables it to enter into dialogue with its surroundings.

In 2013, Österreichische Post AG launched an open, EU-wide, two-phase, anonymous general planner competition in the search for concepts for its new corporate headquarters on Rochusmarkt. The brief included the refurbishment of existing parts of the building and the construction of new office and commercial areas with the aim of creating workplaces for around 1,000 employees as well as a post office and further service and retail space. The objective was to enhance the range already offered by the neighbouring Rochusmarkt as well as to upgrade and strengthen the location more generally. More than 100 interested architecture studios requested the competition documents and 23 projects were entered for the first phase of which eight were selected for further development. Of these the joint design by Schenker Salvi Weber and feld72 was named the winner.

### **A high-quality urban building block**

One focus for the architects was the contextual development of the design. This enabled them to create elegant, timeless and high-quality architecture whose convincing sense of composure is transported from the façade grid deep within the interior. The building volume adapts to the polygonal form of the site and both its urban stance and its sculptural expression do justice to its role as an important institution in the public realm. The ensemble is an urban building block which slips harmoniously and with a clear sense of proportion into its surroundings and becomes part of the urban environment: The open square of the Rochusmarkt continues within the building in the form of a shopping mall and then as a public passage leading to Grete-Jost-Park. The entrances to the post office and the mall combine with the façade to establish a dialogue with the city.

By occupying a previously empty plot the building fills a gap in the cityscape and becomes a natural part of the urban fabric. The historically protected existing building was integrated into the new ensemble. With its haptic materiality and calmly nuanced façade solution, the new ensemble provides a serene yet strong background to the life of the Rochusmarkt.

### **Social and ecological qualities**

The spatial structure of the building can be read and used in a number of ways with a view to ensuring its long-term operation. From the starting point of the historically protected existing building, the new spaces have been designed to permit a range of alternative uses and extensive adaptations to the building services infrastructure.



Despite this flexible internal organisation the powerful image of the façade lends the building a sense of continuity and timelessness – and hence sustainability. The development of the prefabricated concrete elements from orthogonal to conic cross-sections is a simple device for creating a dynamic façade structure which, based on repetition and variation and strengthened by perforation, offers unique views from every office. It is in these parametric elements that the design and the function of the building become one.

Alongside the social sustainability associated with this long-term flexibility, the high ecological quality of the lifecycle-oriented design also meets DGNB/ÖGNI criteria. The new post office headquarters is expected to be awarded gold certification, which would ensure its position as a landmark project across Austria.

### **The design of the mall**

The mall was conceived as a generous, three-storey and centrally-lit galleried space that stretches from the entrance on Rochusmarkt to the rear of the building on Grete-Jost-Park. The retail areas of the mall occupy around 5,000 m<sup>2</sup> of the newly built part of the complex while the interface with the original building in Rasumofskygasse is formed by a light-filled volume rising over several storeys. The uniformly designed display windows are naturally lit via two large, oval skylights. The dynamic form of the galleries creates a space that lends the complex its identity and establishes a spatial relationship within the mall from the basement to the second-storey courtyards. The ambience is distinctly refined. The elegant glazed portals are enhanced by the light terrazzo flooring and the sweep of the white, illuminated ceiling. The balustrades to the oval galleries and skylights are accentuated by strips of artificial lighting and a dark wooden handrail. The overall result is a harmonious spatial experience.

### **Ample space for communication**

A part of the existing building (Rasumofskygasse 29) is historically protected due to both its Art déco 1920s façade and a number of special technical features. This part was refurbished and converted into an office landscape which is tailored to support activity-based work and flexible occupation. At the interface between new and old the architects are creating a joint in the form of a multi-storey, light-flooded atrium for meeting and communication. At the same time, this space between the original and new buildings acts as an element of distribution within the ensemble. The competition jury was especially positive in its evaluation of this internal circulation space for the office areas and of the main entrance to the post office. Together, the new building and this preserved, historically valuable element form a compact and self-assured ensemble.



### Interior and exterior from a single hand

Post AG demonstrated its enormous faith in the ability of the architects by also inviting them to design the office areas. The brief for the layout of the new corporate headquarters required the creation of not only working spaces but also social spaces with extensive room for communication. Hence, the project opted for an open, contemporary office concept which encourages communicative exchange between employees while also offering space for individual work.

### New worlds of work

The post office is introducing a desk sharing strategy which allows employees to determine their own working environment. Rather than having a fixed workplace, employees choose - on a day-by-day basis - the team around them or the surroundings appropriate to the task in hand. This requires both a "clean desk policy" and the provision of a range of spaces that respond to a variety of needs, from individual work to dynamic group activity. This resulted in the development of a series of highly differing zones which cover the spectrum from open communication areas to private spaces and whose flexibility permits a wide variety of spatial situations. At the same time, great attention was paid to ensuring that the design was in harmony with the overall architectural concept: The organisation of the internal spaces creates clearly differing areas which have their own atmospheric quality but which, as dignified and sustainable "settings" for everyday activities, are part of the broader architectural idea. In this way, the interior design is seen not as a series of elements imposed from outside but as an integrated and coherent part of the building.



## The architectural offices

### Schenker Salvi Weber Architekten

Schenker Salvi Weber Architekten ZT GmbH was founded by Andres Schenker, Michael Salvi and Thomas Weber in Vienna and Bern in 2009. Its 25 employees are currently realising office, school and housing projects in Austria, Germany and Switzerland. The office's objective is to work in a cooperative process with clients and all other participants to ensure the development of the ideal project. The quality of the team's work is embodied by the way in which it continuously readdresses projects until the best and most creative solution has been found. In addition to Post am Rochus, further examples of current projects by Schenker Salvi Weber include educational buildings (Absam Dorf, Wolfurt primary schools and the FvS Rösrath-Köln school complex), care buildings (Heime der Franziskanerinnen Vienna, Stiftung Aarhus, Bern) and residential projects like Sillblock in Innsbruck and Wohnen am Eisweiher in Lörrach. [www.schenkersalviweber.com](http://www.schenkersalviweber.com)

### Selected projects



Absam Dorf primary school / AT  
Project Competition  
2014 – 2016  
Client: Municipality of Absam



Cotton Residence Vienna / AT  
Project Competition, 1st prize  
In cooperation with feld72 and FCP  
2016 – 2018  
Client: Österr. Post AG



Wohnen am Eisweiher - Lörrach / D  
EU-wide realisation competition with  
preliminary application process, 1st place,  
2018 – 2020  
Client: Städtische Wohnbaugesellschaft  
Lörrach mbH, Lörrach



Heime der Franziskanerinnen Vienna / AT  
Project Competition, 1st prize  
2017 – 2019  
Client: Franziskanerinnen von der  
christlichen Liebe



Sillblock residential  
complex  
Innsbruck / AT  
Project Competition  
2011, 1st prize  
2012 – 2014  
Client: Innsbrucker  
Immobilien



Bütze Wolfurt primary school / AT  
Project Competition  
2015 – 2019  
Client: Municipality of Wolfurt



## The architectural offices

### **feld72**

The work of feld72 pivots on the interface of architecture, applied urbanism and art since the founding of the office in 2002. feld72 (partners: Anne Catherine Fleith, Michael Obrist, Mario Paintner, Richard Scheich, Peter Zoderer) has implemented numerous projects of various dimensions both in the national and international context, which range from master plans, urban studies, buildings, interior and exhibition design to urban strategies and large-scale interventions in the urban environment. The multiple award-winning works are remarkable for a socially responsible, innovative and sustainable approach to architecture and urbanism. Tracking down and reinforcing the potential of places and (social) environments is a fundamental element of feld72 projects. Current projects by feld72 include a number of residential projects in Vienna (Neu Leopoldau, Quartiershaus at Helmut-Zilk-Park, WoGen Quartiershaus, Kapellenhof, Viola Park, Cotton Residence), residential buildings in the Alps (Eppan and Brunnenfeld housing complexes), educational buildings in South Tyrol (Educational Ensemble Terenten, Kindergarten Niederolang) and two plots in the Quartier am Spielbudenplatz in Hamburg (subculture cluster and co-housing). [www.feld72.at](http://www.feld72.at)

### **Selected projects**



Neu Leopoldau, Vienna / AT  
Two-phase developer competition, 1st prize  
Planning start: 2015  
Client: Schwarzatal



Cooperative Housing Complex in Eppan / I  
Invited competition, 1st prize  
Completion: 2015  
Client: Arche im KVW



Educational ensemble Terenten / I  
Negotiation process  
Completion: 2011 (kindergarten), 2017 (refurbishment of primary school)  
Client: Municipality of Terenten



Kindergarten Niederolang / I  
Invited competition, 1st prize  
Completion: 2016  
Client: Municipality of Olang



Quartier am Spielbudenplatz, Hamburg / D  
Invited two-phase competition,  
1st prize for plot 2 (subculture cluster) and plot 5 (co-housing)  
Planning start: 2016  
Client: Bayerische Hausbau



Niederösterreichhaus Krems / AT  
Invited competition, 1st prize  
In cooperation with AllesWirdGut and FCP  
Completion: 2011  
Client: LIG NÖ – Landesimmobiliengesellschaft

## Facts & figures related to the project

Client: Österreichische Post AG  
Location: Vienna  
Competition: EU-wide, 2-phase

Concept and design: Schenker Salvi Weber with feld72  
Design start: 2013  
Completion: 09/2017  
Gross floor area: 47,300 m<sup>2</sup>  
Energy efficiency: Passive house standard

### Project partners:

Full Service General Contractors ARGE HABAU Hoch- und Tiefbaugesellschaft m.b.H.  
and ÖSTU-STETTIN Hoch- und Tiefbau GmbH.  
Structural engineering: Gmeiner Haferl Bauingenieur  
Building physics & acoustics: IBO – Österreichisches Institut für Bauen und Ökologie  
Building services: Teamgmi Haustechnik / Ingenieurbüro Braun  
Fire protection: IMS Brandschutz / DBI Düh Beratende Ingenieure  
Lighting design: Christian Ploderer  
Landscape design: DnD Landschaftsplanung  
Model making: Modellbauwerkstatt Gerhard Stocker  
Visualisation: Miss3  
Photography: Bengt Stiller

### Team Schenker Salvi Weber

Stefan Dobnig, Balthasar Freise, Sven Mayer-Schwieger,  
Martin Maidl, Alexandros Merkouris, Teresa de Miguel, Andreas Grasser,  
Thomas Morgner, Hans Reumann, Tiago Santana, Pia Schmidt, Katalin Toth,  
Maria Luisa de Villalonga, Eva Andrasova, Simona Masarova

### Team feld72

Nicol Bolletta, Norbert Engelhardt, Christoph Frantes, Andreas Grasser,  
Astrid Jagersberger, Edoardo Nobili, Gerhard Oberhofer,  
Kayhan Önder, Wilhelm Scherübl, Wenzel Witt-Döring

### Press contact

Susanne Haider  
art:phalanx - Agentur für Kultur & Urbanität  
Neubaugasse 25, A - 1070 Vienna

T +43 1 524 98 03 - 11  
presse@artphalanx.at

www.artphalanx.at  
www.facebook.com/artphalanx  
[https://www.instagram.com/art\\_phalanx/](https://www.instagram.com/art_phalanx/)

You can find **downloadable images** at: <http://presse.artphalanx.at/en/post-am-rochus/>

Photos Post am Rochus: Lukas Schaller