



The Barcode

Greetings from the roaring '60s! A few highlights include: Willy Brandt becoming chair of Germany's Social Democratic Party, the birth control pill coming onto the market, Jean-Paul Sartre rejecting the Nobel Prize, Star Trek celebrating its premiere and the Rolling Stones releasing their first LP. In Vienna, however, a twenty-storey reinforced concrete staff accommodation tower was built between 1964 and 1967. Now after almost a decade of partial vacancy, this dormitory tower is being converted, turning it into a modern office building for the Vienna Health Association and the Vienna General Hospital.

The challenges of adding to an existing structure

The conversion of an out-of-date concrete shell into a contemporary work environment presents particular challenges. The tower is to be entirely gutted, leaving only the reinforced concrete frame. Despite structural and geometric constraints, a new room arrangement that offers great flexibility and efficiency is incorporated into the existing structure. Essential components of the renovation include a seminar centre on the ground floor and modern offices on the upper storeys as well as structural and technical renovation. The building plant will be renovated and relocated to the roof, creating an open landscape on the top floor that meets contemporary work requirements. The new, thermally optimized façade will be constructed of metal panels that change white in a barcode pattern and will be crowned by a one and a half storey high glass element. The pavement of the redesigned forecourt takes up the barcode theme, while street furniture, benches, water basins and planters for four trees and porches are made of precast reinforced concrete elements. The overall atmosphere brings the subtle charm of the sixties to the 2020s.

Attractive architecture for a contemporary work space

Glazed partition walls bring light right to the heart of the building, creating a transparent, contemporary work space. The seminar centre can seat a hundred people or be divided into smaller units to match various meeting configurations, thanks to the use of mobile folding walls. Various versatile spaces on the office floors can be used for spontaneous meetings, alternative work spaces or relaxation zones. Vienna Health Association's Corporate Identity is reflected in the colour scheme of the project. Thus petrol, green, mint and blue-grey are used liberally, whilst wood, metal and glass create an elegant and pleasant atmosphere for all employees.

Project description	Conversion of an accommodation tower to an office tower
Location	Vienna
Client	Wiener Gesundheitsverbund und AKH Wien
Scope of services	Conceptual design / Planning application / Technical design
Planning	2020 – 2023
Construction / completion	2021 – 2023
Usable floor area	13,500 m ²
Gross floor area	16,400 m ²
Volume	45,700 m ³
Structural engineer	Zivilingenieur Krapfenbauer ZT-GmbH
HVAC and services planning	Vasko+Partner

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