

WINNERS // DAS BESTE HAUS 2015

BURGENLAND: HOUSE MARKT 67

Building type: continuous (terrace) development pattern

Special aspect: deliberately unassuming exterior, sophisticated interior spaces

Footprint (built-up area): 64 m²

Floor area: 68 m²

Architect/Planner: Claudia Cavallar

This project in Weiden am See, which increases the existing density, is spectacularly unassuming. A farmhouse, on the verge of collapsing, which stood in one of the oldest lanes in the town, was replaced by a holiday home. The house with the address Markt 67 harmonises with its neighbours in terms of the materials chosen and the volume; the roof pitch is somewhat less steep so that the solar thermal panels can yield the maximum harvest. "We didn't want to stand out but to form a part of a whole that had developed over time", says client Ulrike Tschabitzer-Handler. The former classic Burgenland Halbwirtschaft (literally: half farmhouse) stands on a semi-private street that separates the house from the tiny garden. Fibre cement, render with a brush finish, timber- frame windows and a grey painted façade allow the house to blend with its immediate surroundings in stylistic terms. The loft-like interior with a sloping ceiling is articulated by changes in level and recalls a barn with a hay loft. Deliberately simple materials such as painted brickwork and plywood create an appealing atmosphere. The way the building is used is also special: the clients share the property; different families live in the house at different times.



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CARINTHIA: HOUSE AND STUDIO IN ZELL/SELE

Building: free-standing

Special aspect: low-tech construction method, old and new in harmony

Footprint (built-up area): 212 m² (new)

Floor area: 155 m² (new)

Architect/Planner: Ferdinand Certov

Tradition and pioneering building technology here engage in an unusual symbiosis, the surroundings are also an important part of the ensemble. The house of the clients' grandparents, which is more than 200 years old, was converted into a studio. Through the use of plenty of thermal insulation it now achieves a low energy standard, its external appearance remains unchanged. In order to retain the planted area of the site, the new extension was built into the slope at a distance of 50 metres. This building, which like old farmhouses combines solid construction methods with timber elements, is supplied with geothermal heat and is, for the most part, embedded in the ground. The rooms on the slope side are lit from a central atrium. The ground cools in summer and warms in winter, the timber and glass element at the top regulates the climate in the entire building. Flowing spatial sequences, alternating wide and narrow spaces, a soothingly reduced selection of materials, and then the breathtaking view of the Karawanken mountain range.



© certov architects

LOWER AUSTRIA: RAMPHOUSE

Building type: free-standing

Special aspect: selection of materials, form, ramp as central element

Footprint (built-up area): 135 m²

Floor area: 160 m²

Architect/Planner: WILLL Architektur with Bernd Leopold

The Ramphouse is deliberately inconspicuously integrated in the established development pattern of a small village and allows a way of living that is both spectacular and practical. Outside and inside, living and adventure space blend to a flowing continuum with hardly any defined boundaries and a close relationship to nature. A ramp that can be used by a tricycle connects ground and first floor; it is a playroom, lounge and central element. There is a work area on the landing where the ramp changes direction, it opens onto the south terrace for sunbathing, further up there is space for a large book shelf. The upper floor with the slit-like ribbon window appears to hover and rests on just three points. An open living area on the ground floor and a glazed terrace allow the changing moods of nature to be experienced. When thick snowflakes fall softly above, a fireplace directly below provides pleasant warmth.



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UPPER AUSTRIA : HOUSE SONNBERGER

Building type: free-standing

Special aspect: comfortable, economical house built in a difficult location

Footprint (built-up area): 240 m²

Floor area: 130 m²

Architect/Planner: Hammerschmid, Pachtl, Seebacher – Architekten

A narrow vacant plot on a difficult sloping site. With their project House Sonnberger HPSA demonstrate how, in this situation, it is possible to build an economical house to a high ecological standard, offering fine views and rooms with plenty of light. The challenging starting point led to the decision to build a single-storey timber frame house raised on steel columns. This construction method allowed living and parking to be placed on one level and a large garden to be made. The U-shaped plan responds to the dense settlement pattern. Living areas and bedrooms are oriented towards a terrace. The steel columns are laid out on the timber construction grid, but, as they are tilted different angles, this grid is visually dissolved and an irregular appearance created. Depending on the light conditions the façade of the house changes between different shades of black and brown, recalling the wooden façades of typical barns in the region.



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SALZBURG: HOUSE MAIER

Building: free-standing

Special aspect: solid timber construction method

Footprint (built-up area): 172 m²

Floor area: 133 m²

Architect/Planner: LP architektur ZT GmbH

Questioning conventions, dismantling them and rethinking things: this is how the architect and client approached this project. An old desolate timber building once stood on the sloping site, now its foundation is one multi-functional outdoor area. On the ground floor is the living and working space, the two levels above are connected by a void that allows the height of the house to be experienced in the interior. Special spatial sequences and contexts as well as an experimental approach to timber building – 28cm thick solid cross laminated timber exposed both inside and outside – are addressed in the interior and in the design of the façade. Thanks to its small dimensions the new building occupies a minimum of the natural setting, which it cleverly integrates with the different levels in the interior. And so the client got what he wanted: “Not a smart yuppie pad. The materials and technology should be recognizable. Timber building without hazardous waste.”



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STYRIA: HOUSE HM

Building: free-standing

Special aspect: concept of three “arms”, balance between openness and shelter

Footprint (built-up area): 228 m²

Floor area living space: 138 m²

Architect/Planner: yes-architecture (Marion Wicher)

The snow-clad peaks of the nearby mountains and a locomotive shed shape the nature of the location. The architect responded to this harsh setting with a concept that emanates a playful lightness. White and dark grey fibre cement shingles transfer the snow and rock to the façade of the small villa of an elderly couple. The heavy, glacier-like skin opens with an apparently natural generosity. The life beneath it is connected with nature through large areas of glazing. The floor plan of the house is a star with three “arms”, each of which contains a different function. The entrance is as the intersection of these arms. The house is a single-storey concrete structure; the walls and ceiling slab provide a loadbearing structure without any intermediate elements, ensuring a free, open space. The geometric volumes can be clearly perceived. The living room can be screened off from the rest of the house by a swivelling wall. All areas can be reached without having to traverse any barriers.



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TYROL: HOUSE WALDE

Building: free-standing

Special aspect: skilful handling of the existing architecture, harmonious connection of exposure and the private realm

Footprint (built-up area): 190 m²

Floor area: 286 m²

Architect/Planner: Gogl Architekten

In Kitzbühel Monika Gogl has skilfully inserted a residence into a scenario consisting of a slope, a stream and an existing house under a preservation order. The new building is confidently presented as a contemporary counterpart to the venerable existing architecture. Flat roofs with cantilevered canopies give it the character of an open structure embedded in the landscape. A change of level on all three storeys that is adapted to the nature of the terrain creates differentiated zones within an open system of space. On the ground floor the ceilings slabs are of exposed concrete, a successful modern contrast to the earthy materials wood and stone. The large area of south-facing glazing offers a variety of views of the Kitzbühel Alps. Interlocking interior spaces are expanded by terraces that open without thresholds. Sliding wooden façade elements allow spatial openness, while at the same time screening the residents' private realm. Showing great sensitivity for materials and proportions, the planning and execution are convincing down to the smallest detail.



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VORARLBERG: HOUSE HOHLEN

Building: free-standing

Special aspect: extension and renovation with an exemplary added value in terms of design and ecology

Footprint (built-up area): 127 m²

Floor area: 204 m²

Architect/Planner: Jochen Specht

What should be done with a building erected in 1961 that did not offer sufficient space for the family and whose façade needed to be renovated? Client and architect Jochen Specht built a new building envelope at a certain distance to the old house, in this way increasing the usable floor area from 85 to 204 m². In a fascinating way the old building can be experienced in the new one. What were once window and door openings are now only ways through, a serving hatch in the kitchen, a niche for a wash-hand basin. The old building, massive and white, is clearly identifiable in the interior. The new wooden building envelope ensures low energy consumption and additional space. Its dark colouring harmonises with the woods in the background. Large areas of glazing respond to the building's setting in the midst of nature, offering views of the valley and into the woods. Solid elements between the glazing help create a playful façade pattern, which in the interior defines some areas that more open and others that are more protected.



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VIENNA: HOUSE CJ_5

Building: continuous (terrace) development pattern
Special aspect: extreme density, space-saving design solutions
Footprint (built-up area): 171 m²
Floor area: 104 m²
Architect/Planner: caramel architekten (Martin Haller)

Increasing the density of existing urban areas is an important socio-political theme and a challenge for architects. Caramel architekten developed a successful pilot project that is extremely easy to insert. From outside you enter a relatively closed white spatial sculpture that opens upwards from the front area – studio and garage – towards the living area and atrium garden. Despite the constricted nature of the site that is 35 metres long and only 5 metres wide interwoven, space-saving design solutions are developed. Like on a yacht individual areas serve several functions. The work area, which is also the access to the terrace and a dressing room, projects into the void like a theatre box. The atrium is a garden and wellness area, the garage a workshop and studio. The basement is a fully functioning living area with video screen. A spatial continuum extends to the sleeping area on the upper floor; the bathroom and the WC are independent islands of colour connected at the sides. The kitchen podium (cj5 = cooking-jay, 5 metres wide) is part of the staircase space. Almost autonomous in energy terms thanks to photovoltaic elements and an air and water heat pump.



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NOMINATIONS // DAS BESTE HAUS 2015

Burgenland

Summer house Südburgenland / ArchitektIn/PlanerIn: 24gramm Architektur

Carinthia

House in Lower Carinthia / ArchitektIn/PlanerIn: HERTL.ARCHITEKTEN

Lower Austria

House VITIS / ArchitektIn/PlanerIn: m²architekten (Georg Marterer)

House at the Venusgarten / ArchitektIn/PlanerIn: Inprogress Architektur Consulting & thesoph||oft

Upper Austria

House D / ArchitektIn/PlanerIn: LP architektur ZT GmbH

House Wichert / ArchitektIn/PlanerIn: Architekturbuero1 ZT GmbH (Paul Wichert)

Salzburg

House Gastein / ArchitektIn/PlanerIn: Imgang Architekten ZT GmbH

Styria

Atelier am Kogl / ArchitektIn/PlanerIn: Johannes Kaufmann Architektur

House MuT / ArchitektIn/PlanerIn: mia2/Gnigler/Wilhelm/Architektur

Tyrol

House s / ArchitektIn/PlanerIn: michaela mair

House Bout / ArchitektIn/PlanerIn: Madritsch Pfurtscheller

Vorarlberg

House 37 m / ArchitektIn/PlanerIn: juri troy architects

House Immler / ArchitektIn/PlanerIn: ARSP – Architekten Rüd Stasi Partner

Vienna

Stadthaus im 18. / ArchitektIn/PlanerIn: bogenfeld architektur

House Black Pearl / ArchitektIn/PlanerIn: FLATZ ARCHITECTS

BUNDESKANZLERAMT  ÖSTERREICH

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