

STUDIO COMPLOJ

Extension and Remodeling in an Existing Building

The Austrian-Finnish architecture firm Berger + Parkkinen executed a highly distinctive project for the studio building of glassblower Studio Comploj in Vienna's 18th district. The emphasis was on sustainable construction within the existing buildings, preserving the existing structures and old trees while simultaneously introducing a new purpose.

This project illustrates how unused vacant spaces can be transformed into functional production facilities—in this case, a craftsman's studio—in urban surroundings. Through skillful measures, they achieved something special and adapted the buildings to contemporary comfort and energy standards.

BERGER + PARKKINEN architects are recognized for their extensive knowledge of sustainable construction, as demonstrated by their recent award-winning residential quarter, Wientalterrassen, honored with environmental and architectural accolades (including klimaaktiv GOLD, the Austrian Concrete Prize winner, and the Solar Prize 2023).

This charming jewel in Vienna-Währing highlights that sustainable construction is not solely dependent on scale but can be realized and made affordable based on specific requirements.

Under the leadership of glassblower Robert Comploj, Atelier Comploj utilizes this newly created oasis as a workshop, showroom, salesroom, and home with an idyllic garden for his family.

In the backyard of the property were three existing houses from the post-war era, designated here as House A, B, and C. House A, a hall with a reinforced concrete frame, is positioned on three sides along the property boundary and illuminated through roof glazing.

Adjacent House B, with a ground floor in brickwork and wooden ceiling, featured a wooden roof truss construction and was connected to the eastern property boundary by an extension with a shed roof. House C was a single-story flat-roofed building, pictured in the upper right, originally used as an office.

Thanks to the imaginative renovation by Berger + Parkkinen, the previously unremarkable backyard has become a true gem. Nestled among post-war residences on neighboring plots, the redesigned ensemble enhances the quality of stay for all. The existing tree population was preserved and tastefully expanded through new plantings.

The workshop with the furnace forms the centerpiece inside. Skylights allow daylight into the studio, turning the production facility into a spectacular backdrop for the creations of Robert Compoj.

Connected to this is the showroom and salesroom, also on the ground floor and oriented towards the garden. Designed as a gallery space with floor-to-ceiling doors, it provides ample space for glass sculptures, which are accentuated by light.

This project not only exemplifies the successful preservation and transformation of existing buildings but also the creation of an inviting, versatile environment for art, craftsmanship, and family.

STUDIO COMPLOJ

Extension and Remodeling in an Existing Building

Client: Bull Bau GmbH

Operator: Glashütte Comploj

Architects and General Planners: Berger+Parkkinen Architekten, Vienna

Architecture: Alfred Berger, Tiina Parkkinen

Project Manager: Lucas Schuh

Project Team: Lukas Rückerl, Frane Trebotic, Fanni Aliz Florian, Domna Maria Katsani

Consultants: Landscape

Architecture: Lindle Bukor OG

Structural Engineering: DI. Reinhard Schneider

HVAC Planning: TB I. Obkircher

Building Physics: iC consulenten Ziviltechniker GesmbH

Fire Protection: Building Master Dipl. Ing. Alexander KUNZ, MSc

Building Data: Gross

Floor Area: 850 m²

Usable Area: 760 m²

Built Area: 566 m²

Plot Size: 1360 m²

Planning Commencement: 2019

Construction Commencement: 2022

Completion: 2023

Manufacturer/Products Metalworker: Unterfurner GmbH

Carpenter: GCT GmbH