

UMAK – (University Mozarteum at the Kurgarten)

The architectural firm BERGER + PARKKINEN has been commissioned to design and plan the new institute building at the University Mozarteum in the Kurgarten, Salzburg [AT].

The building, for now christened UMAK (University Mozarteum at the Kurgarten), is located in the immediate vicinity of the Paracelsus Bad & Kurhaus, which was also designed and planned by BERGER + PARKKINEN, that opened in 2019. Thanks to their clear and identity-creating architectural language, the two buildings will form a focal point of the historical core of Salzburg's old town. The abundant student life, in conjunction with the streams of locals and tourists visiting the Bad and Kurhaus, will enable the sustainable revitalization of the northwestern quarter of the Kurgarten.

The architects have paid particular attention to the morphology of the Kurgarten; acknowledging its former fortifications and the accentuation of its open spaces. The principal idea of the design is to make the transition from the baroque complex of the Mirabell Castle to the Wilhelminian Markus-Sittikus-Strasse tangible to all that see it and walk it.

The location

The underpinnings of the integration plan for the UMAK, into its surrounds, extend beyond the immediate boundaries of the site: considering the potential of the entire area of the three main inner-city parks – the Kurgarten, the Zwirgerlgarten, and the Mirabellgarten. The main building of the Mozarteum University is situated at the southwest end of this area.

The UMAK is part of an urban design that interweaves the heterogeneous structures from the Baroque, Wilhelminian, and 20th century that equally mediates between the Kurgarten and the streets. To this end, the UMAK is divided into two buildings, which in

their cascading height and size mediate between the closed development on Auerspergstraße and the open structure of Schwarzstraße.

Like the Paracelsus Bad & Kurhaus, the new buildings will be accessed from a new entrance square located at the corner of Schwarzstraße and Auerspergstraße.

The Interior

In keeping with its use as a university, the first floor of the building is open to the public. The centerpiece of the building is the hall with a natural skylight that extends to the top floor.

The division of the building into two structures allows for the accommodation of large halls and rehearsal rooms with special ceiling heights. The mighty cantilever of the upper floors above the entrance area emphasizes the importance of the square in front of it and provides a view of the neighboring Paracelsus Bad & Kurhaus.

The façade

The façade system of the UMAK consists of curtain-like ceramic panels that emphasize the structure's ensemble effect. In contrast to the façade at the baths, which was designed with open lamellas, a closed, rear-ventilated ceramic façade is used for the UMAK.

The façade is an expression of the special use of the building as a music institute for which the specific requirements for daylight and sound insulation go hand in hand. The structure combines naturally lit individual rooms with window ventilation, halls with glazing, and studios with and without daylight. The ceramic louvers of the bathhouse are cited in the UMAK's material, color and proportion. They are closed, however, at the UMAK for sound insulation; only the large-glazing of the ensemble rooms are protected from sunlight by fixed vertical louvers. A uniform standing window format with integrated sun and glare protection is developed for the illumination of the individual rooms. The entrance area and the interconnection between the two structures are glazed.

In spite of the complex technical requirements of the building, special efforts to future-proof the building were made — ensuring it is sustainably flexible in relation to shifts in the

way the building might be used. The building is equally sustainable in relation to its energy efficiency and thermal footprint; thanks to the compactness of its two structures.

ABOUT BERGER+PARKKINEN

In 1995 Tiina Parkkinen and Alfred Berger founded Berger+Parkkinen Associated Architects. In the same year they won the international competition for the Embassies of the Nordic Countries in Berlin.

Numerous successful competitions and distinctions followed, including finalists of the Mies van der Rohe Awards, short-list for the State Awards for Architecture and Sustainability, the Architecture Prize Salzburg. Regular lectures and exhibition activities in Europe, India, Mexico, and USA, i.a. Venice Architecture Biennale, London Architecture Biennale, Galerie Aedes, Berlin.

Berger+Parkkinen fabricates individual and sustainable solutions to a wide range of programs. The office has vast experience in all planning phases and as General Planner. The practice has developed specialist expertise in all major areas of architectural design and urbanism. Transdisciplinary approach to each project combines different professionals working on innovative ideas. This vast expertise provides clients with the confirmation of a far reaching track record for successful project delivery and design excellence. Respect for various backgrounds and cultures is a key feature of the office philosophy.