

PRESS RELEASE

Paracelsus Bad & Kurhaus, Salzburg, Austria

The new public bath designed by [Berger+Parkkinen Associated Architects](#) highlights Salzburg's landmarks and mountains, and represents a visionary architectural project in the city's historical center. *"The building's outstanding impact is a result of the dialogue between the new spaces and existing surroundings — the baroque gardens known as Mirabellgarten, the old town and the surrounding mountains. The indoor swimming pool is conceived as an expansion of the park on the third floor,"* states architect Alfred Berger.

In terms of urban design, the new "Paracelsus Bad & Kurhaus" forms a joint between the late 19th century block structures of Auerspergstraße, the open development along Schwarzstraße, the landscape of the Kurgarten and the Mirabellgarten. The geometry of the building is swivelled towards the park, making a reference to the geometry of the vanished fortification-walls of the baroque period.

Swimming & the City

The "Paracelsus Bad & Kurhaus" was conceived as a three-dimensional landscape with the building's main elements forming a clearly legible vertical layering. The rather introverted plinths of the bath contain on three floors the city's health and spa services and the pool's changing rooms. The entire roof level, used for the sauna facilities and their spectacular outdoor pool, features a view of the entire city. A layer of ceramic louvers surrounds the "Paracelsus Bad & Kurhaus", screening it from passersby.

Between these two introverted layers the swimming level is entirely glazed and opens on the trees of the gardens and the city. This transparency underlines the idea of the swimming platform as an integrated raised continuation of the Kurgarten, with unforgettable views of the town, the impressive fortress and the mountain peaks in the background.

Architect Tiina Parkkinen: *“In our projects, references to the built environment, natural surroundings and the social context are extremely important.”*

Panoramic View and Surrounding Countryside

Wide central stairs lead in a continuous movement from the main entrance in the west through the three plinths floors to the swimming level's. The daylight shining through guarantees consistent natural lighting. The swimming level features four different pools, from a sports pool to a diving pool, a kiddie pool and the relaxation pool. A continuous band of large, storey-height glass elements forms the boundary to the outside bringing the urban surroundings' beauty deep into the space.

The materialization of the waterscape is provided by ceramic surfaces, water and light, bordered from above by the gentle shapes of the wavy ceramic ceiling. The animated ceiling with its different heights underscores the variety to be found in the spatial and atmospheric context.

The Sauna Facilities “Naked Above the City”

The gastronomic and sauna facilities are located at the top of the building. Three saunas face the city with panoramic views, while the central and largest sauna is both, sauna and lounge, focusing on the Pfarrkirche Mülln (Mülln Parish Church). A relaxation zone provides an unobstructed view of the hilly

landscape to the North and Maria Plain. In the outdoor pool, guests have the sense of bathing above the city's rooftops, its highest point. As Architect Alfred Berger states: *"Through the visual integration of the city's treasures the project offers a unique combination of physical relaxation and cultural inspiration."*

Leader for Sustainability—Klimaaktiv GOLD Certification

As a reflection of this standard, project planning aimed for a highly efficient building from the very beginning. A comprehensive sustainability analysis was performed, the first time ever for an indoor pool in Austria. The goal, achieving the highest level of certification, Klimaaktiv GOLD, was met. The Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism's Klimaaktiv building standard stands for energy efficiency, ecological quality, comfort and high-quality assurance for realization. Finished objects that have been awarded gold are—in line with the city of Salzburg's Smart City strategy—pioneers for climate protection and a comprehensive transition to renewable energy.

ABOUT Berger+Parkkinen

In 1995 Tiina Parkkinen and Alfred Berger founded Berger+Parkkinen Associated Architects with offices in Vienna and Helsinki. 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-listed of the State Awards for Architecture and Sustainability. 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 pro-grams. 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.

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