

# GRAZ

## CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE

Field studies across Graz. On foot through the city centre and by tram to the east, west and south.

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## OUR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMBINING THE TOURS

If you haven't had enough of Graz's architectural diversity after Tour 2, then you're in for a treat with Tours 3 and 4: They are designed to be inspiring additions to Tour 2 and can be easily incorporated into it.

Tours 3 and 4 are also great stand-alone tours too, though. They are compact, short tours which are ideal for anyone who is short on time or those who want to explore specific architectural highlights.

Whether you experience them as an extension to your existing itinerary or as stand-alone excursions, both routes invite you to discover Graz from new perspectives, providing inspiration with their blend of tradition and contemporary architecture.

## GUIDED TOURS ON CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE

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## IN GRAZ, A IS FOR ARCHITECTURE.

**Or more precisely, contemporary architecture.**

Graz is home to such a concentration of contemporary architecture that it puts other major European cities to shame. With a diversity that proves that there is a long tradition of welcoming creative free spirits here.

And with a quality that makes it clear at first glance that old and new have long coexisted in harmony.

This brochure will be your travel companion on a journey of discovery to explore the most exciting examples of contemporary architecture in Graz. Take your pick from: a leisurely stroll through the city centre, taking you up to the Schlossberg, the city's historical "crown", and into the city park.

Or one of three routes to the east, west or south of the city – all easily accessible by tram and starting from the Kunsthaus museum. Or would you rather explore from a different starting point? No problem: You choose the buildings that interest you the most – and we'll tell you how to get there.

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- 3 Hotel Kai 36
- 4 Schlossbergbahn Funicular
- 5 Schlossberg Restaurant
- 6 Graz Museum Schlossberg
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- 8 Pfauengarten Development
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- 14 Boarding House Argos
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- 17 Universalmuseum Joanneum
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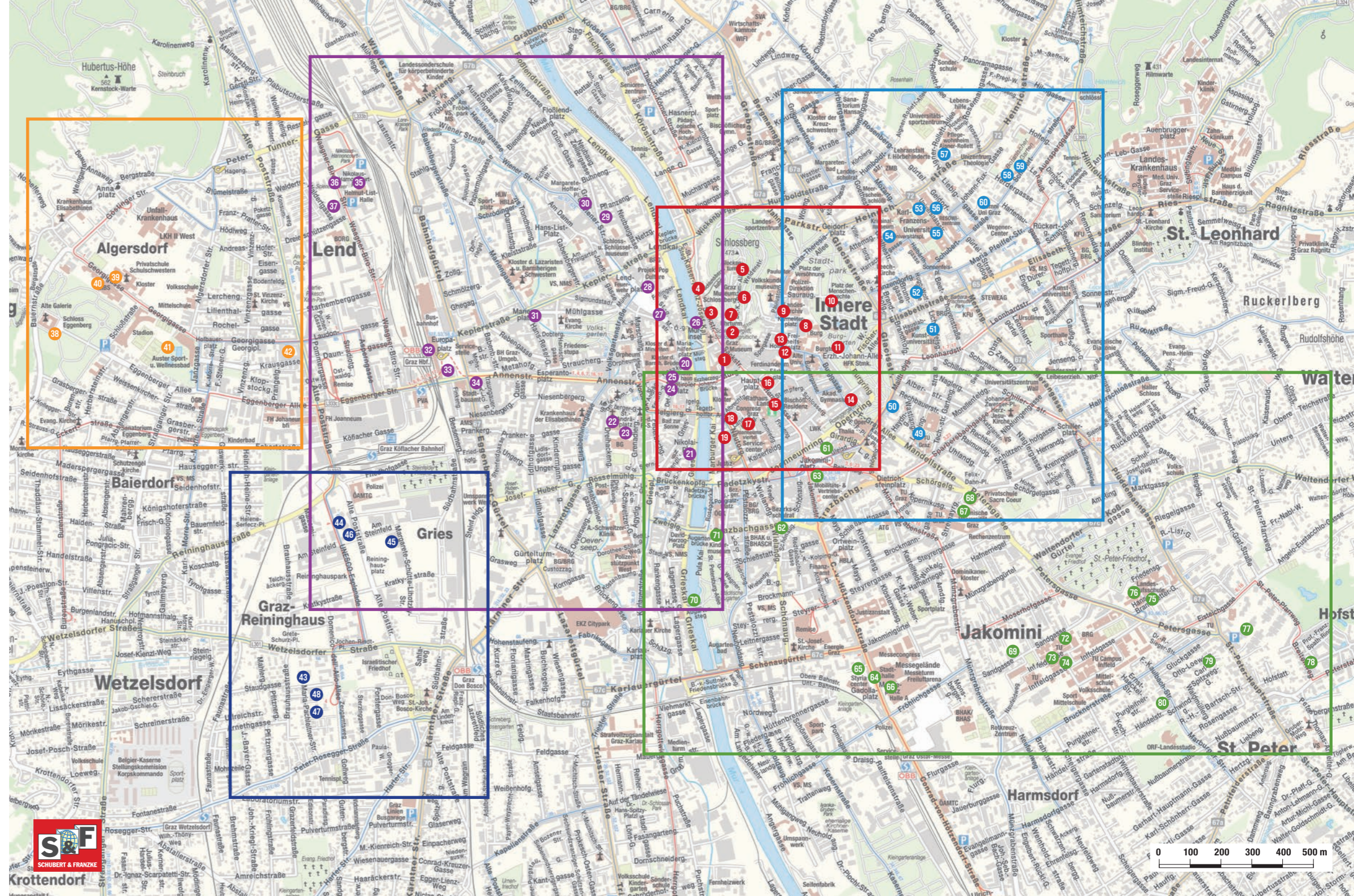
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## TOUR 1: CITY CENTRE

On the trail of a successful synthesis of old and new – a stroll through the city centre

It is not just the jewel that is the almost completely preserved historic *Altstadt* (old town) that makes Graz so special – it is the successful blend of old and new. From buildings steeped in history that have been sensitively restored, to contemporary additions – buildings that make bold statements, skilfully integrated and always of high quality. We'll start in the middle, at *Hauptplatz*.

### HAUPTPLATZ

*Hauptplatz* | Markus Pernthaler (2002)

Building façades dating back to the Gothic period frame a space that bustles with activity every single day. To restore the striking triangular shape, the area was cleaned up, organised and divided into zones. By relocating the tracks, the *Weikhard Uhr*, a popular meeting point for locals, was given a fitting new forecourt. The standardised steel and glass design concept for the bus shelters and kiosks elevates the square, with the mobile market stalls also adapted to reflect its importance.

### 1 DEPARTMENT STORE KASTNER & ÖHLER

*Sackstraße 7-13, Kaiser-Franz-Josef-Kai* | Szyszkowitz-Kowalski (-2003), Nieto Sobejano (2010)

Through skilful expansion policies, the traditional department store grew into an empire. The acquisition of numerous properties around the original Fellner & Helmer flagship store demanded a restructuring of the building fabric and the skilful art of integration. Throughout the many years of renovations, Szyszkowitz-Kowalski displayed an extraordinary degree of finesse. Lightweight glass roofs are confidently integrated, while bridges in a delicate steel-and-glass construction and glass courtyard roofs form sophisticated linking elements within the diverse mix. The *Sporthaus am Kai*, the only new building, showcases the characteristic style of the married architect couple. The underground garage was – in a spectacular feat – built largely beneath a 400-year-old palace. A quantum leap forward in the ongoing expansion came in 2010 with the roofscape by Spanish architects Nieto Sobejano. It is still awaiting completion. But even now, the view from the rooftop terrace is magnificent.

### SCHLOSSBERGPLATZ & SCHLOSSBERGSTIEGE STAIRS

incl. (2) *Dom im Berg* and (2) *Schlossberg Lift*

*Schlossbergplatz* 1

To connoisseurs, *Schlossbergplatz* is one of the most beautiful squares in the city. A key element of its harmonious character is its framing by historic monuments. As well as the *Reinerhof*, the oldest building mentioned in historical

records, this also includes the staircase leading up the *Schlossberg*, which was built during the First World War by prisoners of war. The way the path winds through and is integrated into the rock make it a masterpiece of landscape architecture, designed – remarkably enough – by a city official. The *Schlossbergplatz* is also the gateway to an extensive labyrinth of air-raid shelters. In 2000, two of them were converted into the (2) “*Dom im Berg*”, an archaic-looking, soundproof hall for events of all kinds. Architect: Reiner Schmid. A wide variety of attractions, both gastronomic and cultural, make the *Schlossberg* a must-see. To create the quickest way up, the (2) **glass lift** (Reiner Schmid, 1999), 5000 cubic metres of rock had to be blasted out of the mountain. Take a look up during the rapid ascent!

### 3 HOTEL KAI 36

*Kaiser-Franz-Josef-Kai 36 | Lam Architektur (2020)*

A 16th century house with an overhanging pent roof and courtyard wings – a listed ensemble, set with its back to the very steep slope of the *Schlossberg*. It was no easy feat to transform it into a stylish hotel. The architect exposed the historic structure and created a new staircase that now connects all wings from within. The radical new design is only revealed when you step into one of the upper terraced slopes: The roof structures and a small new building are clad in copper, masterfully moulded as if by a sculptor. The cafe on the ground floor has also been given a fresh, urban touch.

### THE SCHLOSSBERG

After the defensive structures on the dolomite cliff were demolished on Napoleon’s orders in 1809, leaving behind a devastated fortress hill, work began to plant vegetation on the previously barren rock and transform it into a landscape park. With the start of industrialisation, such recreational areas became important for the population. In 1894, a (4) **Standseilbahn** was opened, a funicular railway now furnished with modern carriages that ascends the mountain from the west to the delight of thousands of tourists. On the plateau, the (5) **Schlossberg Restaurant** (not shown, last renovation: Anderson & Moosbrugger, Erich Prödl, 2007) soon replaced the “*Schweizerhaus*”, which had been burned down. In a clear, unadorned design language, the space is divided into coveted window seats and quiet corners, crowned by a “sky bar” offering uninterrupted panoramic views. The former garrison museum at the *Stallbastei* was transformed into the new (6) **Graz Museum Schlossberg** (studio WG3, 2020), which focuses on the mountain and its history. The exhibition within the historic building has been expanded to include the impressive underground casemate and the garden has been redesigned and opened as a welcoming space for visitors of all ages. Unfortunately, you do need to buy a ticket to gain access.

### 7 CAFÉ BAR AIOLA UPSTAIRS

*Schlossberg 2 | Siegfried Frank, Michael Rieper (2003)*

A place of exceptional urban quality has been created here. With just a few elements, a light and transparent space has been defined. A flat roof on slender steel supports, floor-to-ceiling glass façades that disappear silently into the floor at the touch of a button, seamlessly uniting the interior and exterior space. What more could the heart desire?



## KARMELETERPLATZ

The ancient avenue offers an all-weather route back to the city centre, leading down to the historic city crown, the **Karmeliterplatz** (Norbert Müller, 2002). This design, realised as part of the “*Platz für alle*” initiative, is arguably the most urban of them all. It offers plenty of space, with different zones for strolling and relaxing, splashing around or enjoying a drink in the sun. Dominating the square is a high-end residential complex with hotel, the **(8) Pfauengarten Development** by Pichler & Traupmann (2015, 2018), and the **(9) Karmeliterhof** by LOVE architecture and urbanism (2011, not shown). An administrative building, in which three interconnected historic structures have been joined together by a new “connecting piece” to form a unit. Well done! This made it possible to remedy both design and functional shortcomings and create additional office space.

## 10 FORUM STADTPARK

*Stadtpark 1 | Werner Hollomey (1960), Peter Zinganel, Ernst Giselbrecht (2000)*

As a cultural institution, the *Forum Stadtpark* is almost venerable – as a hub for the artistic avant-garde, it is as fresh and irreverent as ever. After years of pulsating vitality, the building had become too small and demanded a clever solution, since a general construction ban in the *Stadtpark* ruled out any horizontal expansion. The building was extended upwards. The new workspaces in the added storey are part of a striking structure in brilliant white, composed of steel beams and horizontal slats. A widely visible emblem that reflects the building’s adaptability.

## 11 CAFÉ PROMENADE (not shown)

*Erzherzog-Johann-Allee 1 | F. X. Aichinger (1836), Atelier Thomas Pucher (2015) u.a.*  
Originally built as a castle guardhouse, the neoclassical building was converted into a coffeehouse as far back as 1870 and, after several refurbishments, has become a popular cafe with a shaded garden right next to the *Stadtpark*.

## 12 OLD UNIVERSITY

*Hofgasse 14, Bürgergasse 2a | Bramberger Architects (2007)*

The cathedral, mausoleum, castle, late-Gothic double spiral staircase, or the old university: each of these historic buildings in Graz’s “*Stadikrone*” reveals the genius of the old masters. The most recent example of a successful integration of old and new is the adaptation of the former Jesuit university and its magnificent library into a prestigious event venue. Notice the details!

## 13 STADTWOHNHAUS BALLHAUSGASSE (not shown)

*Ballhausgasse 6 | Hope of Glory Architektur (2013)*

A gap in the heart of the World Heritage site. The demand for new living space. Strict regulations to preserve the *Altstadt* and architects with a passion for the contemporary. What appeared to be an insurmountable hurdle had an unexpected outcome: the slightly inclined façade of polished stainless steel, combined with the mirrored windows (like in a crime film), creates a fascinating interplay of light and shadow with the building on the opposite side of the street. Artful enough for the strict *Altstadtkommission* to approve the project.



## 14 BOARDING HOUSE ARGOS

Burggasse 15 | Zaha Hadid (2019)

With its dozens of “eyes”, Argos, the distinctive building at the crossroads, rather than the giant from Greek mythology, attracts everyone’s attention. After the 2004 competition, it was clear that a signature work by the star architect would soon enrich Graz – with free, digitally designed shapes. Since 2019, the boarding house apartments have been a place of legendary dreams for lovers of parametric architecture.

## HERRENGASSE

Every day, thousands of people stroll along *Herrengasse* between the trams and shopfronts. The highlight is undoubtedly the (15) **Landhaus**, which, with its magnificent arcaded courtyard, is one of the most significant Renaissance buildings in Central Europe and, having been renovated and modernised, is still a centre of political activity to this day. Behind a number of historic façades, contemporary gems are concealed, among them the famous (16) **Painted House**. First documented in 1360, the *Herzoghof* underwent a careful refurbishment (Gangoly & Kristiner, 2007), receiving the *Fischer-von-Erlach-Preis*. In contrast, the expressive glass elements of the *Schuhhaus Spitz* (*Generalihof*) from 1991 were destroyed and replaced with historicising shopfronts. A demolition that does not do justice to Graz, a city renowned for its architecture.

## 17 UNIVERSALMUSEUM JOANNEUM

Neutorgasse | Arge Nieto Sobejano + eep architekten (2011)

2011 was an important year for Graz: The Joanneum, Austria’s oldest and second-largest museum, turned 200 years old. This festive occasion provided not only an opportunity to consider restructuring the collections, but also to launch an international architectural competition. Two museums and the *Landesbibliothek*, historical buildings from different eras, were to be integrated into a functional entity, with a shared entrance created for visitors. The Spanish architects’ solution: the basement beneath the museum courtyard was transformed into an attractive, light-filled visitor centre through its distinctive conical glass structures.

## 18 STEIERMÄRKISCHE SPARKASSE FACELIFTING (not shown)

Sparkassenplatz, Andreas-Hofer-Platz | Szyszkowitz-Kowalski (2006, 2011)

**Tip:** Don’t overlook the (19) **Stadtwerkehaus** (not shown) just because it’s 90 years old. When electric light replaced gas lamps, the era of historicist architecture also came to an end. This modernist gem (Rambald von Steinbüchel-Rheinwall, 1935), the result of an open competition, is well worth a closer look. The glass ground floor, subtle rows of windows and smooth rendered façade still characterise the headquarters of Holding Graz to this day. It is worth noting how the use of scale distortion on the stairwell – with two rows of windows per floor – has been used here to create the impression of greater height.



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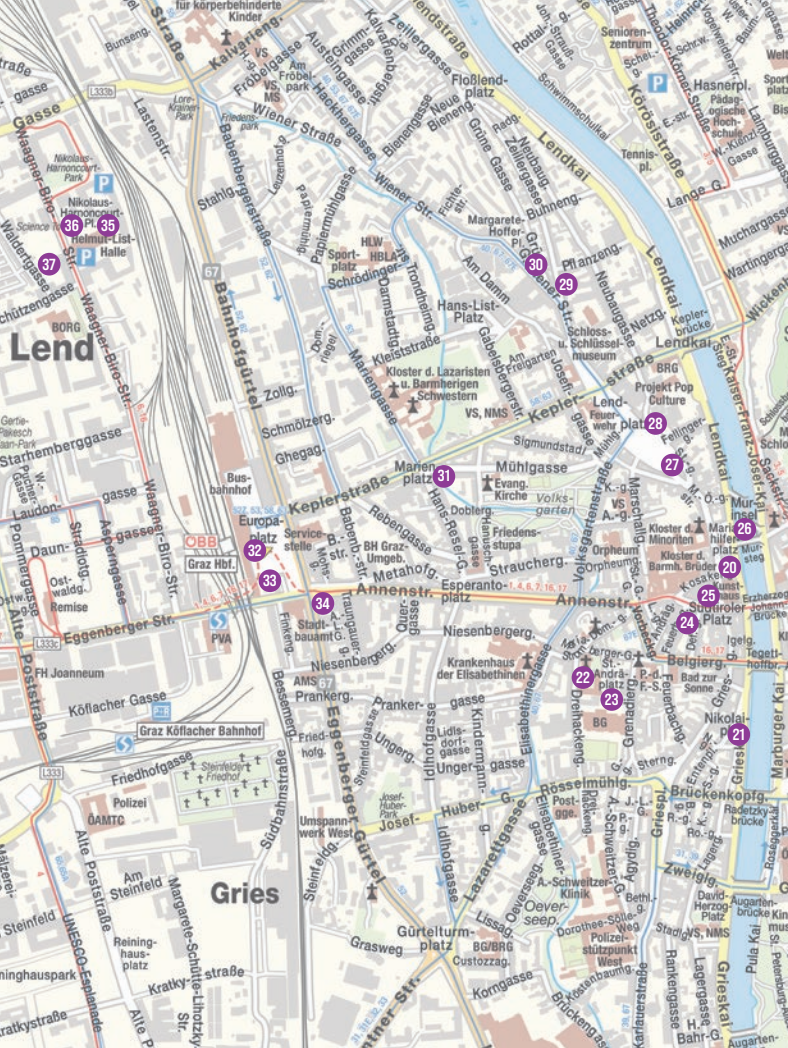
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## TOUR 2: GRIES & LEND

 Lines 1, 4, 6, 16, 7, 17

**How a run-down artisan quarter is reinventing itself since 2003, the year in which Graz was European Capital of Culture**

No longer bathed in red light, the outskirts on the right bank of the Mur – formerly an industrial and working-class district – are now a colourful place. From farmers' markets to haute cuisine and local pubs, there's something here for everyone. In this multicultural and multinational melting pot, spectacular architecture and fashionable residential quarters sit alongside the small-scale idyllic charm of the suburbs.

### 20 KUNSTHAUS

Südtiroler Platz 2 | Peter Cook, Colin Fournier (2003), J. B. Withalm (1848)

 1, 4, 6, 7 – Südtiroler Platz/Kunsthaus

Whatever you choose to call this deep-blue, otherworldly structure, it rapidly became the city's most famous building, a second landmark. The "Bubble" rests on a glass plinth, appearing to float weightlessly. Its outermost "skin" consists of more than a thousand uniquely curved acrylic panels, which are illuminated from behind. And "nozzles" that are designed to bring soft light from the northern side to the upper level. Highly functional at its core: two exhibition levels, accessed via sloping walkways, are situated one above the other. The gallery of the upper, domed space leads to the "Needle", a city loggia made of glass. It provides the visual link between the "Bubble" and the listed building next door, the *Eiserne Haus*. Its cast-iron construction and flat roof were a source of great amazement as far back as 1848.

## 21 OFFICE BUILDING NIKOLAIPLATZ

Nikolaiplatz 5 | Atelier Thomas Pucher, Bramberger Architects (2010)

In an age of plurality, the demand for new buildings within existing stock can only be met through the highest architectural quality. This steel structure achieves it: built to fit precisely atop an existing underground garage, it stands out with confidence in a contemporary design, defined by beautiful detailing and a sculpture-like aesthetic.

## GRIESPLATZ

During the day, the central square of Graz's most populous district is bustling with people between the bus stations and goods from all over the world. In the evening, the bustling daytime activity switches over seamlessly to the area's nightlife – with neighbouring clubs, kebab shops and unique venues, such as the listed Postgarage. Both the controversial urban redevelopment on the site of the former *Rösselmühle* and the planned redesign of *Griesplatz* reflect the political will to create a liveable setting for the area's vibrant activity. What might such efforts look like? This can be seen in the neighbouring Lend district.

**Tip:** From the outside alone, the façade makes it clear that the (22) **Parish Church St. Andrä** (not shown) was shaped by unconventional thinking. Step inside and discover how the former parish priest turned the need to replace the church windows into something remarkable. As an art historian, he was able to enlist several artist friends to contribute to the embellishment of the devotional space, originally built in 1627 and repeatedly renovated. Examples include Otto Zitko's powerful spatial drawing in the Dominican Chapel (2003), or Manfred Erjautz's poetic work in the baptistry, which makes an invisible force perceptible.

## 23 HOUSING COMPLEX GRENADIERGASSE

Grenadiergasse 14 | Machné Architekten (2019)

Ⓜ 16, 17 – Bad zur Sonne/Stadtbibliothek

Surprising. This is the best way to describe the building that rises above the courtyard of the former barracks dating from 1812. The four storeys of the new residential building rest on solid concrete columns that also dominate the space below. They open up views from the street onto the historic structures around the building, which is one reason why this design won the EU-wide competition. The revitalised building, which served as a student hall of residence as early as 1945, is characterised by its open arcaded walkways – a typical feature of Graz's inner courtyards.

## 24 RESIDENZ ZUM SILBERNEN ELEFANTEN

Südtirolerplatz 13 | Günther Domenig, Gerhard Wallner (2010)

Ⓜ 1, 4, 6, 7 – Südtiroler Platz/Kunsthau

The former trade union headquarters – converted into a mixed-use building with residential, office and retail spaces, and complemented by a multi-storey residential building in a quiet courtyard setting. The special feature: two rooftop storeys designed as a sculpture, glinting in silver, sleek and aerodynamic like the body of a sports car.



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## 25 HAUS DER ARCHITEKTUR AT PALAIS THINNFELD (not shown)

*Mariahilferstraße 2 | ifau und jesko Fezer (2007)*

Ⓜ 1, 4, 6, 7 – Südtiroler Platz/Kunsthhaus

## 26 ISLAND IN THE MUR

*Kaiser-Franz-Josef-Kai, Lendkai | Vito Acconci (2003)*

Created in 2003 as a temporary “eye-catcher”, it has since become permanent – an artificial, shell-shaped island, connected to both banks by solid bridges. Its complex steel-tube construction serves both as a dome roof for the futuristic-looking cafe and as a concave structure for an open-air grandstand. The *Murinsel* holds up well against flooding, as its bridges are flexibly mounted and the floating bodies are fixed in place by a post. Island or ship? That is the question.

## LENDPLATZ (not shown)

Few districts have experienced such dynamic development in the past two decades as Lend, once characterised by blue-collar workers and industry. The opening of the Kunsthhaus during Graz’s 2003 European Capital of Culture year is considered a turning point. This new era is also evident at *Lendplatz*:



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Renovations and new builds with names like (27) “**Goldener Engel**” (Pentaplan, 2012) or (28) “**Schwarze Rose**” (not shown, Innocad, 2008) enrich the existing fabric around the square, which was redesigned in 2021 (Norbert Müller). The traffic-calmed zone to the south leads to the popular farmers’ market and the many popular pubs and eateries surrounding the market. And although traces of the former red-light district are only apparent at second glance, a vibrant nightlife and lively atmosphere still characterise today’s trendy district.

## 29 LENDHOTEL (not shown)

*Grüne Gasse 2 | Lam Architektur (2017)*

## 30 HOUSING COMPLEX PRINZESSIN VERANDA

*Wiener Straße 20 | Pentaplan (2017)*

The entrance and outdoor areas of the house – generous loggias and balconies – as if made for a princess? At its heart lies the oval, finely crafted atrium with its entrances, while loggias, serving as summer rooms, give structure to the façade of refined white exposed concrete. The floor plan follows the boundaries of the site. On the raised ground floor, alongside shops and offices, there is a “squatting” bicycle garage, signalling a shift in mindset.



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### 31 HOUSING AND COMMERCIAL BUILDING RONDO

Marienplatz 1 | Markus Perenthaler (2008)

**H** 1, 4, 6, 16, 7, 17 – Esperantoplatz/Arbeiterkammer/tim

The first thing that catches the eye is a strikingly curved, sloping building shell made of plastic multi-wall sheets. It conceals the spacious entrances, which are planted with shrubs and trees, leading to offices, apartments and studios distributed across seven storeys above the ground floor. The boomerang-shaped residential and commercial complex stands on the site once occupied by the Graz *Marienmühle*. The living areas, featuring large windows and wide, open-plan balconies, open out into the garden, through which the mill stream still flows. What has emerged from an urban problem area now combines high residential and recreational value with a distinctly metropolitan atmosphere.

**EUROPAPLATZ** **H** 1, 4, 6, 16, 7, 17 – Hauptbahnhof

Its name says it all, as all railway station squares in Europe's capitals are similar: a diverse urban fabric, with a few prominent hotels, bustling activity and heavy traffic. But there's still new things to discover for those who remember the square from before. The busy junction has been made less congested, as the trams now dive downwards before they reach it. This has allowed the construction of spacious, naturally lit platforms, allowing passengers to make it to their train in time.



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### 32 MAIN STATION **H** 1, 4, 6, 16, 7, 17 – Hauptbahnhof

Europaplatz 2-10 | Christoph Zechner, Martin Zechner (2003)

It has been widely accepted, even made popular, since it was renovated in a cool, technoid architectural style and expanded to include a small shopping centre. The large hall, which was preserved as a monument to the 1950s, has been especially popular with travellers since it was given a striking new interior by the artist Peter Kogler during the year of Capital of Culture. It was so well received that people voted for the installation to remain after 2003. The redesign of the platforms and the forecourt was both completed in 2015. Opinions differ on the oversized ring-shaped canopy, which now obscures both the entrance to the hall and the clock.

**33 HOTEL DANIEL** **H** 1, 4, 6, 16, 7, 17 – Hauptbahnhof

Europaplatz 1 | Georg Lippert (1955), Werner Aisslinger (2005, 2014)

This typical post-war building has become a must-see after its recent renovation, even for the people of Graz. Its motto: a return to the retro style of the design-savvy 1950s. The rooms: understatedly chic. If you can't spend the night here, we recommend visiting the espresso bar with its pastel-coloured coffee tableware – just like the night-time light effects in the loggias of the main façade.

**34 HOTEL RADISSON** (not shown) **H** 1, 4, 6, 16, 7, 17 – Hauptbahnhof

Annenstraße 67 | Atelier Thomas Pucher (2024)



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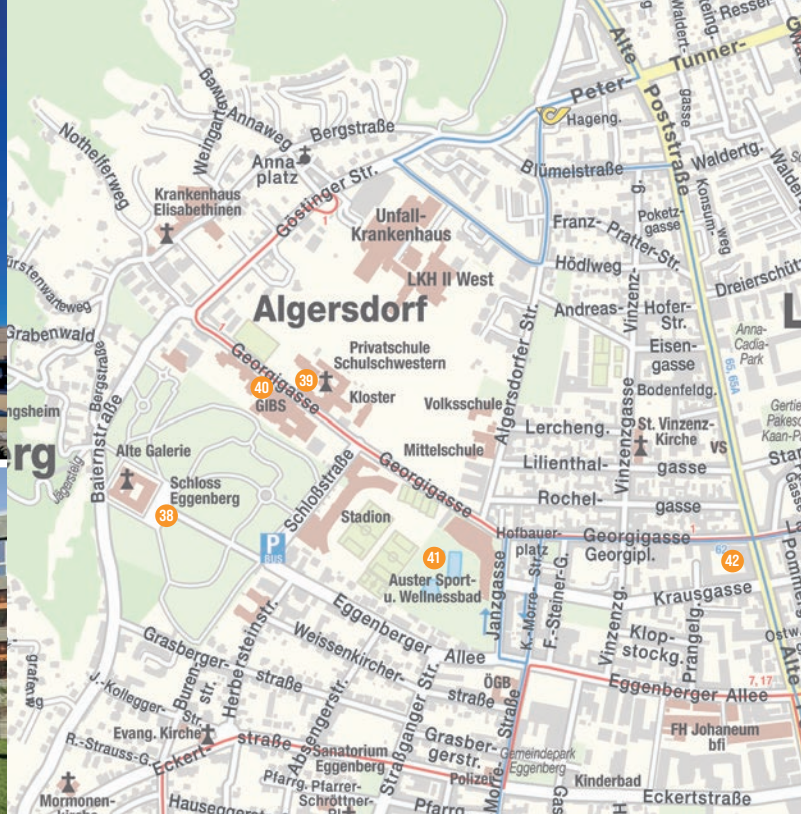
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35 + 36



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### 35 HELMUT-LIST-HALL 6, 16 – Dreierschützengasse/Helmut-List-Halle

Wagner-Biro-Straße 98a | Markus Pernthaler (2003)

New life for a former locomotive production hall. A flexible event space was required, in which both old and new music sound equally good. A challenging design task, which was resolved in an exemplary and integrative manner. The central part of the hall was replaced by a new concert hall, a double-shell box with solid timber cladding. In contrast, the delicate steel trusses have been preserved in the foyer, which has been transformed into an airy break area.

### THE SMART CITY 6, 16 – Smart City/Peter-Tunner-Gasse/tim

There was a time when every major European city that wanted to keep up with the times planned a “Smart City” – energy-optimised urban planning combined with technological innovation. The result can be seen first-hand in the west of Graz. The development began with the Helmut-List-Hall and the **(36) Science Tower** (Markus Pernthaler, 2017), which works well as a landmark but is not economically viable as an office building. The residential buildings themselves – block developments with large inner courtyards and a central building adorned with containers – appears haphazard and rather uninviting. One redeeming advantage: the new tram line through the district was already in place when the first residents moved in. The most recent project to open, in 2019, was the district’s new **(37) Elementary School** (Architektur Alexa Zahn).

## TOUR 3 – EGGENBERG



If you follow the streets from the *Graz Burg* straight westwards, you travel along the former procession route taken by nobility as they made their way from the city centre to *Schloss Eggenberg*. Together, these two sites form Graz’s World Heritage Site. Once dominated by the iron and steel industry, it is fascinating to see how the transformation of this working-class neighbourhood has been and continues to be planned.

### 38 EGGENBERG PALACE, LAPIDARIUM, ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM (not shown) 1 – Schloss Eggenberg

Eggenberger Allee 90 | Purpur (2004), BMW Architekten (2009)

Eggenberg is synonymous with its distinctive palace and vast park. At its northern edge, the Lapidarium, which houses the Roman stone collection. Purpur’s design is more than a protective casing for the valuable artefacts. The concept behind this airy structure, which spans the space between room-defining panels and transparent partitions, is the layout of the routes across multiple levels. Going down into the earth below it, with an understated choice of materials and colours, is an exhibition hall with varied levels and a continuous skylight, in which the Prehistory and Early History Collection is not only shown in its best light, but also provided with a fitting setting (BMW Architekten, 2009).

### 39 SCHULSCHWESTERN MULTI-PURPOSE HALL

Georgigasse 84 | Günther Domenig, Eilfried Huth (1977)

📍 1–Schloss Eggenberg

What you can discover in the courtyard of the monastery, if you gain access, is a key building of the Grazer Schule. The *Mehrzwecksaal der Schulschwestern*, a multi-purpose hall with an organically shaped structure with ribs and wart-like protrusions designed to let in light, resembles the anatomy of an animal. A lack of experience in working with waterproof sprayed concrete made it necessary to subsequently clad the structure in zinc sheeting. Remarkably, it still serves as a dining hall today, features original Alvar Aalto furniture and remains an impressive spatial experience.

### 40 PEDAGOGICAL ACADEMY GRAZ-EGGENBERG

Georgigasse 85-89 | Günther Domenig, Eilfried Huth (1969), W. Goltnik (2010, 2019)

📍 1–Schloss Eggenberg

Here too, the Church once acted as a patron of progressive architecture. In a loose sequence, the architects stacked volumes of exposed concrete that intersect and house different functions. In 2010, when the Graz International Bilingual School moved in, extensions were added to the brutalist architectural landscape, which blend in remarkably well with their weathered wooden façade.

### 41 THE AUSTER

Janzgasse 21 | fasch&fuchs (2010)

📍 1–Auster Sport- und Wellnessbad

Protection from the outside, facing the street, and a generous opening into the spacious outdoor area. This is how fasch&fuchs design their buildings, including the water park, which was built in 2010. The two wings of the building are reminiscent of an oyster. Curved and opening towards the sun, they house the spa and swimming facilities. In the centre are the entrance hall and the restaurant, with changing rooms below and administrative offices above. The swimming hall in its steel construction is softly embedded in the landscape. The sauna and relaxation area are modelled as a landscape of islands, hills and plateaus, water features and grottoes. Enjoyment for the body, soul and eyes.

### 42 DIE EGGENBERGE

Alte Poststraße 122 | Pentaplan (2016)

📍 1–Georgigasse

Here, the popular typology of Graz's Gründerzeit district, the spacious perimeter block development, is being reimagined. The roofscape is shaped by generous recesses for terraces, which turn away from the busy streets and provide privacy. This has created a rise and fall of two to seven storeys in the upper apartments, with a noise-reducing peak at a busy junction. Inside, above the ground-floor garage, there is a calm green courtyard, into which balconies extend at nearly the same level. The street-facing commercial space still needs to be brought to life. Still, the office's exercise in reinterpreting tried-and-tested ideas to meet contemporary requirements is a success.



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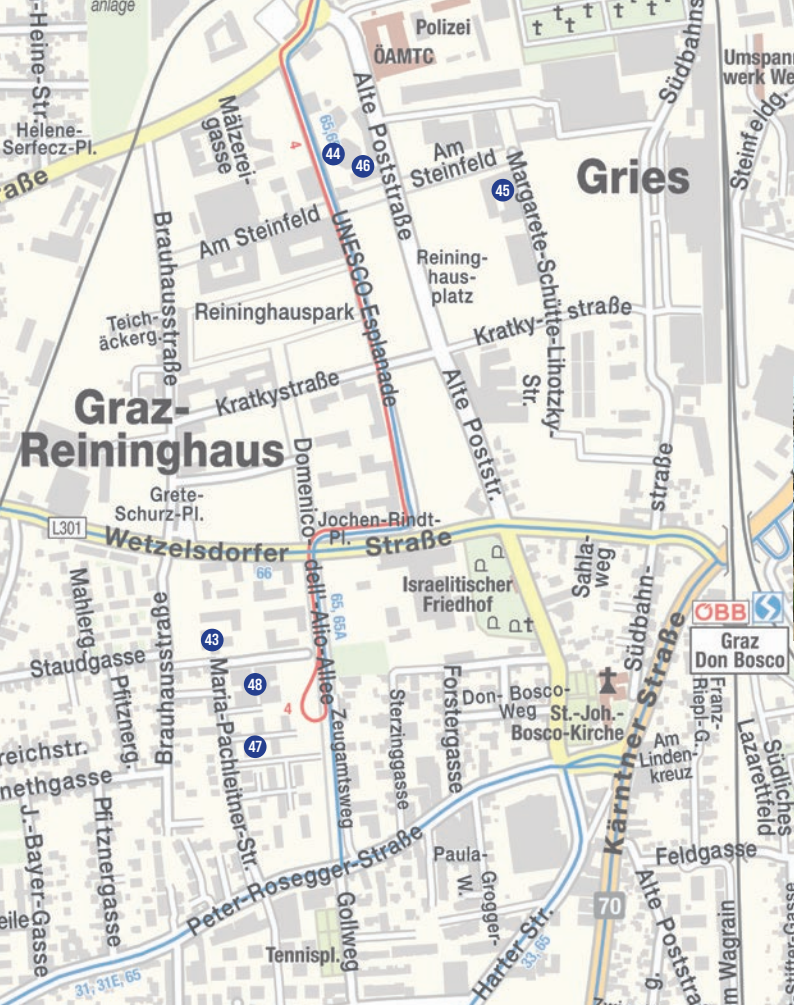
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## TOUR 4 – REININGHAUS



The history of the young city district is a varied one: a lot has happened here since the Reininghaus family acquired the land in 1853. By 1900, beer production had increased a hundredfold but the brewery was on the brink of bankruptcy during the First World War. In the Second World War, the Allied forces bombed the armaments factory supposedly housed in the cellars and in the post-war period, the brewery was closed down – a stroke of luck for the growing town.

### THE REININGHAUS DISTRICT 4 – Reininghausstraße/Reininghauspark/tim

After the population of Graz voted against the city's purchase of the 52-hectare site in a survey, the space was divided up and sold to housing developers. From the (43) **Quartier 7** social housing made of wood (not shown), to a relaxed perimeter block development (balloon architekten, Hohensinn Architektur, 2020), to striking residential towers on the UNESCO Esplanade such

as the (44) **Green Tower** (not shown, Atelier Thomas Pucher, 2023), which is reminiscent of Milan's Bosco Verticale, or the (45) **School** (not shown, Janser Castorina, 2024) with its state-of-the-art learning environments which opened in 2024. Interesting information about this can be found in the listed (46) **Tennenmälzerei** (not shown), the only building remaining of the former brewery, which now houses the district office.

### 47 SOCIAL HOUSING HUMMELKASERNE 4 – Reininghaus

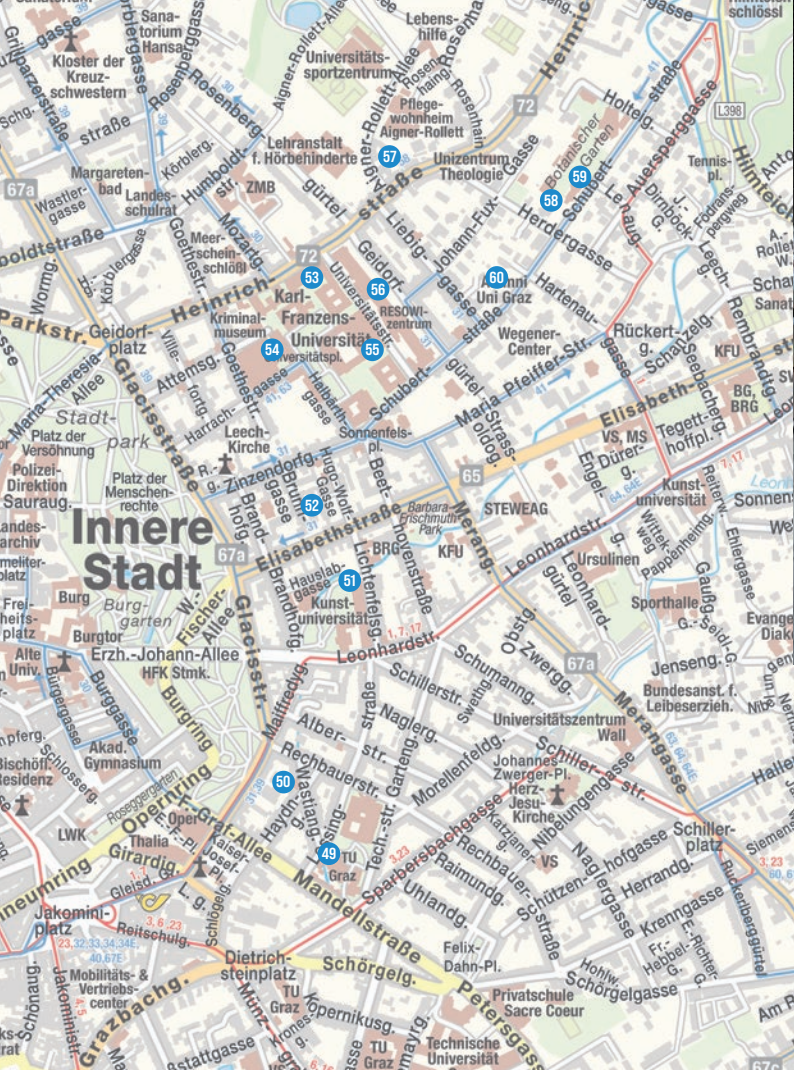
*Maria-Pachleitner-Straße 22–28 | SPS-Architekten (2016)*

The City of Graz commissioned the construction of 92 social housing units on the site of the former barracks. What makes the four blocks special is that they are the first residential buildings in Austria whose six storeys are constructed entirely in timber (with the exception of the escape staircase). This project was planned with limited resources but great efficiency. Every housing unit has a spacious balcony and all the larger ones are oriented to the east and west. Photovoltaic systems on the roofs, a party room, covered bicycle parking, an underground garage, and a car-free site are further advantages of the development, which also boasts very low heating costs.

### 48 PETER ROSEGGER NURSING HOME 4 – Reininghaus

*Maria-Pachleitner-Straße 30 | Dietger Wissounig Architekten (2014)*

The design responds to its diverse surroundings with a two-storey building set on an almost square footprint. A recess forms the entrance, a courtyard for deliveries and several small gardens, each connecting two households. The residential units are arranged around a central area that forms a kind of “village square” on the ground floor. Each of the 8 shared homes is set back from the street facing an atrium, yet the rooms, private retreats, look out onto the urban hustle and bustle. At the heart of it all is a shared living and dining room with a kitchenette, which creates an almost family-like feeling. Timber is used not only structurally, but also deliberately to create atmosphere.



## TOUR 5: ST. LEONHARD & GEIDORF Lines 1, E1, 7, 17

### A walk through the city's most beautiful *Gründerzeit* and mansion districts

Starting at the Oper, our third tour takes us through the “Univiertel” and ends at the green oasis of *Hilmteich*. You can stop for refreshments at *Kaiser-Josef-Platz* along the way. It has linked the city centre, the *Stadtspark*, and the *Gründerzeit* districts since 1879. On Saturdays in particular, the country's oldest farmers' market bustles with visitors and regulars. Here, bourgeois chic meets urban youth culture, Aperol meets aperitifs, and in the afternoon skateboard aficionados gather on the hot asphalt.



### 49 CAMPUS BUILDING LESSINGSTRASSE I TUG (not shown)

Lessingstraße 25 | Günther Domenig, Hermann Eisenköck (1993), Gerhard Wallner (2016)

 1, 7, 17 – Maiffredygasse

In the courtyard of the Alte Technik campus, Professor Günther Domenig won the competition to design a new building for the Faculty of Architecture. Above a base housing workshops, the institute and office levels intersect and overlap at acute angles. A lecture hall sits like a beetle attached to the stairwell, with a long ramp that once led into the park, before being ruthlessly dismantled by one of Domenig's students and successors.

### 50 KIOSK WOHNUNGSSERVICE (not shown) 1, 7, 17 – Maiffredygasse

Rechbauerstraße 4a | Friedrich Moser (1957)

### 51 MUMUTH – HOUSE OF MUSIC AND MUSIC THEATRE

Lichtenfelsgasse 14 | UNStudio (2008)

 1, 7, 17 – Lichtenfelsgasse/Kunstuniversität

A renowned architectural critic once remarked that Ben van Berkel's spectacular *Mercedes-Museum* in Stuttgart is reminiscent of Baroque theatrical architecture. At that time, buildings were designed primarily with the interior in mind, with their external appearance being comparatively simple. The same applies to MUMUTH, the long-awaited new venue for rehearsals and performances at the *Kunstuniversität Graz*. Its casing, a monochrome mesh of metal fabric, but the interior – wow! The light-filled main foyer in front of the large hall on the upper floor is dominated by the so-called “Twist”, a solid concrete core with an intricate shape that runs through both main levels. It supports the star-shaped ceiling beams and the winding staircase, and – makes you dizzy!

## 52 ELISABETH HOCHHAUS

Hugo-Wolf-Gasse 10 | Friedrich Zotter, Karl Raimund Lorenz (1966)

## KARL-FRANZENS-UNIVERSITÄT

Walking along the vibrant Zinzendorfsgasse and across Sonnenfelsplatz, a “shared space”, you arrive at the imposing entrance of the *Karl-Franzens-Universität*, a pavilion complex for which a design competition was held in 1871. After years of construction delays, the imposing main building, designed in the Neo-Renaissance style, was finally completed in 1895. The spacious, green campus for teaching and sport allowed room for new buildings and extensions, which became necessary from the mid-1980s due to rapidly growing number of students. The first of many was the ...

## 53 G.A.Ma

Heinrichstraße 36 | Kapfhammer, Wegan, Kossdorff m. Adolph-Herbert Kelz (1991)

The *Institutsgebäude für Geografie, Anglistik und Mathematik* is situated at the edge of the campus, and its layout addresses the heavily trafficked street through a clear organisation of functions. Three specialist libraries, standing as isolated, seemingly closed buildings, provide shelter from the noise, while research and teaching activities (in part) are housed in a fragmented wing facing the park. The connecting element is an atrium open across all floors, with a staircase that extends the perspective of the room. Experience the Finesse!

## 54 CENTER OF PHYSICS

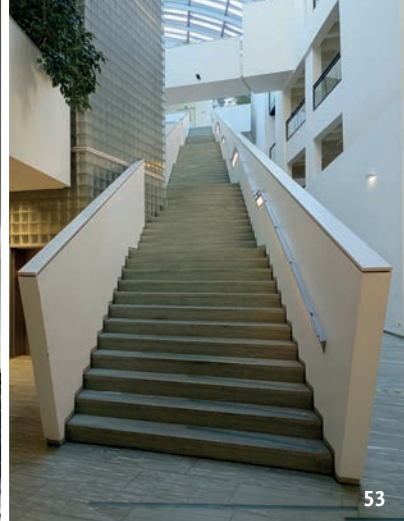
Harrachgasse 21 | faschärfuchs (bis 2030), Wettbewerb 2021

The *Graz Center of Physics* is one of Austria's largest university construction projects. It will unite the physics institutes of the *Uni Graz* and *TU Graz* – both teaching and research – in six upper and two underground storeys at a single location. Above a uniform building housing laboratories, there will be an open-plan floor with a city terrace and cafe, linking the building to the city. At the same time, this urban space creates a separation from the structure above it, which is set back and breaks up the vast expanse of the *Center of Physics*.

## 55 UNIVERSITY LIBRARY OF THE KFU

Universitätsplatz 3a | Wilhelm von Rezori (1895), Atelier Thomas Pucher (2019)

In the era of digitalisation and AI, libraries also have to reinvent themselves. Following the relocation of the book storage facility to the Andritz district, the new building of the *Universitätsbibliothek Graz* is now entirely dedicated to computer-based work, study and collaboration. The extension from the 1960s, which had concealed the historic façade from 1885, has been removed. This created a new campus square, shaped by the new building's spectacular cantilever and its central location. Like a glass bridge, a new foyer now connects the main building to the library. Its heart has been preserved: the listed reading room with its surrounding gallery and historic interior in the Neo-Renaissance style. Above it, separated by a glass luminous ceiling, is the two-storey Add-On. Generous stepped seating in the atrium, a reading room with gallery, as well as study furniture and bookable group rooms make studying a varied spatial experience.





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## 56 CAMPUS BUILDING RESOWI OF THE KFU

Universitätsstraße 15 | Günther Domenig, Hermann Eisenköck (1996)

The University as a machine. A prime example is how the great master of the Grazer Schule, together with his partner, managed to create the vast campus facilities required to accommodate the 14,000 students of the faculties of law, social sciences and economics. The magnitude calls for clear principles – a 300 m long, orthogonal block was planned as the backbone for this reason. In contrast, variation creates excitement – here, with lecture halls, the refectory and the library as formally independent elements with great flexibility. Connected or – snap!, inserted into the overall form. Refreshingly unacademic.

## ROSENHAIN

The extensive park at Rosenhain is situated on a south-facing slope and is therefore a lovely place to stroll and relax at any time of the year. The network of paths is extensive and for pedestrians only. A stroll through the beautiful beech forest can be combined perfectly with a visit to *Café Rosenhain* or the playground.

## 57 HOUSING COMPLEX AIGNER-ROLLETT-ALLEE

Aigner-Rollett-Allee 6 | Nussmüller Architekten (2018)

The geometry of the site and its unique location on the green slope of the Rosenhain led to the distinctive design of this social housing development. You arrive at a lower level and climb up to the atmospheric inner courtyard, from which the apartments are accessed. There are 38 in total, all with dual aspect, oriented inwards towards the social hub with communal area and outwards towards the bright open space with views of greenery. The cross-wall construction with axial spacings of up to six metres provides the optimal span for the load-bearing system in solid timber construction.



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## 58 INSTITUTES OF PLANT PHYSIOLOGY OF THE KFU

Schubertstraße 51 | Wilhelm von Rezori (1899), Klaus Kada (1998)

When the stately *Gründerzeit*-style villa, which had been used for teaching and research, showed signs of bursting at the seams, Klaus Kada was commissioned to design an extension. He ensured that the protected botanical garden was treated with the utmost care and also created the exceptional architecture. His ingenious solution was the division of the building into an extension and a finely detailed new build for the research laboratories. The curved bridge connecting the two is multi-functional. It offers an unobstructed view of the garden at ground level, curves elegantly around the sequoia and ginkgo trees, and is a structural masterpiece – 36.4 metres without any supports.



59



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## 59 BOTANICAL GARDENS OF THE KFU

Schubertstraße 59 | Volker Giencke (1995)

**H** 1, E1 – Hilmteich/Botanischer Garten

The architect's keen interest in innovative technologies coincided with the realisation that the history of glass buildings is characterised by structural bravery, the pursuit of dematerialisation and a deliberate engagement with nature. Giencke used both technical know-how and creativity: in the supporting structure, a highly economical parabolic arch made of aluminium, in the curved acrylic glass elements with optimal light penetration and in the layout of the paths, which offers a variety of views and creates an experience from a simple stroll amongst the plants. Remarkably ingenious: the organic-looking shape, which "is in fact based on strict geometry" according to Friedrich Achleitner. It is no surprise that this building has been featured in all major architecture magazines worldwide.

## 60 WERKBUNDHAUS (not shown)

Schubertstraße 31 | Hans Hönel (1928)

**Tip:** Take a break at the *Hilmteichschlössl*, where there is a cafe amongst the flowers and lush greenery. From plants to garden shears, everything is available to buy here. Those who wish to enjoy the pleasures of nature can stroll around the pond or continue walking through the Leechwald, perhaps even as far as the *Wallfahrtskirche Mariatrost*.



Jakominiplatz



61



62

## TOUR 6: JAKOMINI & ST. PETER Lines: 4, 6, 16

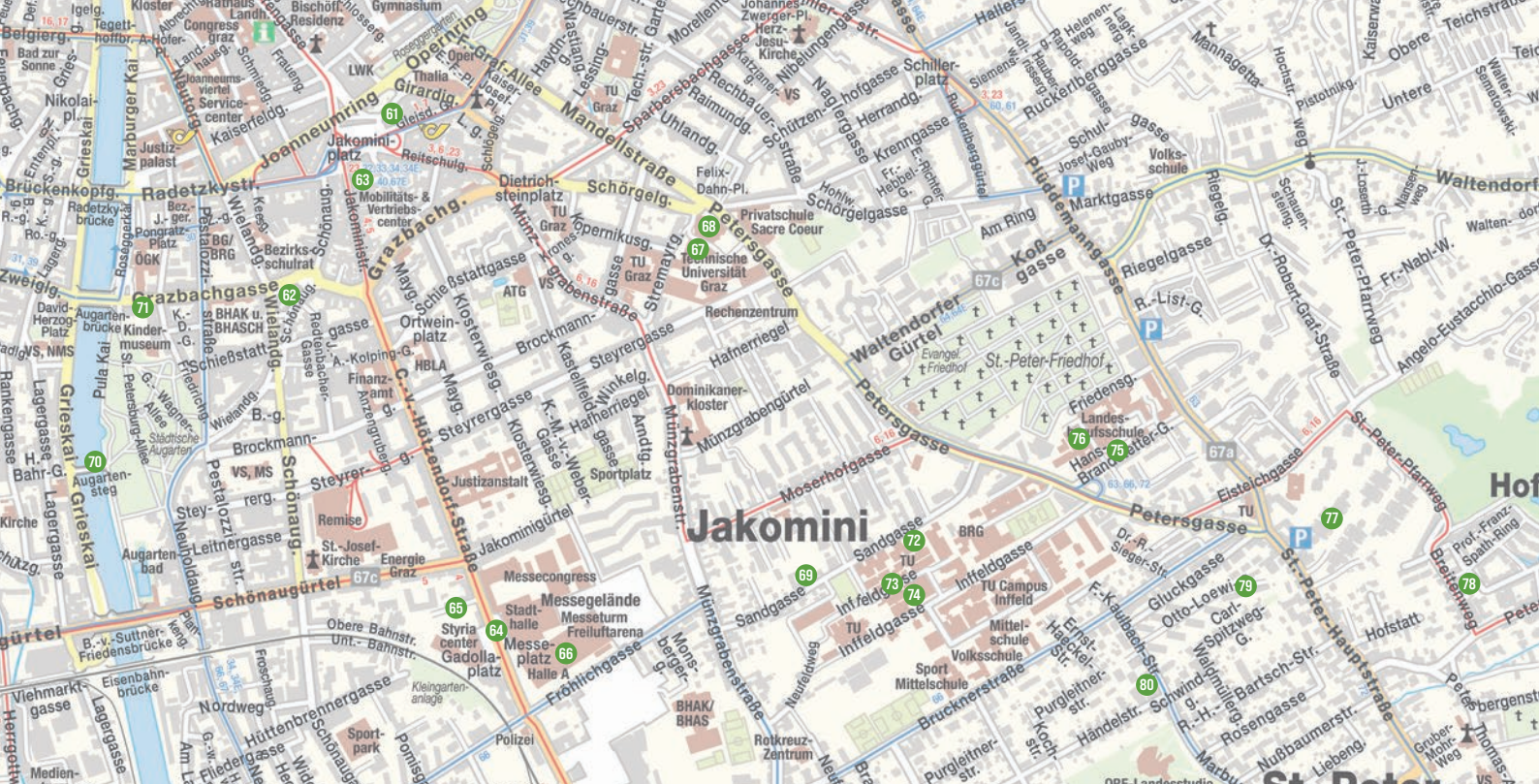
Starting from *Jakominiplatz*, you will experience all sorts of things: commercial buildings, large-scale projects by the *Messe Congress Graz*, university buildings of the *TU Graz* which have been relocated from the city centre, and a school complex. A highlight in St. Peter: residential developments from every period since the spectacular beginning of "experimental housing", with the *Terrassenhaussiedlung* visible from afar.

### JAKOMINIPLATZ

If you travel by public transport in Graz, you will inevitably pass *Jakominiplatz* – where tram and bus routes converge and the city pulses with life. The *Steirerhof*, completed in 1993, was one of the first new buildings in the historic centre. In 1996, the "Platz für Menschen" initiative was launched with the redesign of the square by Jörg and Ingrid Mayr (in collaboration with Johannes Fiedler). Recently, a new building has appeared that, on closer inspection, is actually a conversion of the *Dorotheum*. As **(61) Motel One** (Hohensinn Architektur), it shed its exposed-aggregate concrete façade in 2022 and now, inspired by its 1910 façade, is a testament to continuing to build within what already exists.

### 62 OFFICE AND RESIDENCE GOLDEN NUGGET

Grazbachgasse 65a | INNOCAD (2005)



**63 OFFICE AND RESIDENCE WILDER MANN** (not shown)

Jakoministraße 3-5 | Wilhelm Jonser (1967), LOVE architecture (2017)

**CONRAD-VON-HÖTZENDORF-STRASSE**

Along the axis stretching south from Jakominiplatz, the ancient postal route of the entrepreneur Jakomini, a number of buildings line up like pearls on a necklace: the *Stadthalle* and the *Messegelände*, a media centre, insurance offices, former industrial premises and new housing developments and – last but not least – the *Stadion Liebenau*, a football arena that repeatedly transforms the boulevard into a pilgrimage route for football fans.

**64 STADTHALLE CIVIC HALL**

Messeplatz 1 | Klaus Kada (2002)

4–Stadthalle

When designing this multi-purpose hall, the architect envisaged a new hub along the axis leading to the stadium. Its distinctive roof was intended to become a visible emblem of urban densification. A simple hall design was not enough for him; Kada sought both a structural and a design challenge. The result showcases the skilful use of high-quality materials, outstanding detailing and an exquisite sense of colour. The roof of the 6500 m2 hall extends 46 metres over the forecourt and is supported by no more than four massive reinforced-concrete columns. Its supports are taller than a storey

and its footprint is the size of 15 plots of single-family houses. Eleven rotating gates, each 18 metres high, open up the entire width of the hall into the *Messepark*. Enough superlatives?

**65 STYRIA MEDIA CENTER** (not shown) 4–Stadthalle

Gadollaplatz 1 | Architektur Consult (2014)



## 66 MESSE GRAZ HALL A 4 – Stadthalle, Fröhlichgasse/Messe

Messeplatz 1 | Riegler Riewe (2008)

It is a neighbour that makes no attempt to steal the show from the *Stadthalle*. Although attached to it, it steps back from the notional linear extension, leaving the hall, which was here first, fully visible from the south. The building, with two halls one above the other, is unadorned and functional. Quality is evident in the foyers. Clearly demarcated zones for the ticket office, cloakrooms and access help to manage visitor flows and improve navigation. An added value is the structure's double-layered cladding. Escape stairs and lifts are concealed between the walls that enclose the space and the suspended façade of softly shimmering expanded metal. The desired effect is one of noble restraint achieved through reduction.

## 67 INSTITUTES OF BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING I TUG

Stremayrgasse 16 | Karl Raimund Lorenz (1962), Gangoly & Kristiner (2015)

 6, 16 – Neue Technik

An outstanding example of the intelligent energy-efficient refurbishment and modern adaptation of a building which, with its beautiful natural stone façade, is a listed building. The architects insulated the façade from the inside, used natural ventilation, removed suspended ceilings, fittings and structures, thereby creating open-plan layouts and flexible office spaces. The impressive central foyer with its staircase has been preserved in its original state, whilst a cafeteria has been built on the roof, offering magnificent views.

## 68 INSTITUTES OF BIOCHEMISTRY & BIOTECHNOLOGY I TUG

Petersgasse 10 – 12 | Szyszkowitz-Kowalski (1991) (not shown)

 6, 16 – Neue Technik

If ever a building is associated with the Grazer Schule, the Graz School of architecture, then this is it. With its forecourt designed along a central axis, its horseshoe-shaped symmetrical floor plan and its lavish exterior design, the building is somewhat reminiscent of a small Baroque palace that has accidentally found its way into the 1990s. In the summer, the chirping of birds can be heard behind the elaborate façade cladding. Intentional structural damage or an experimental architectural gem? Judge for yourself. Either way, there is much to discover.

## 69 HOUSING COMPLEX SANDGASSE 6, 16 – Moserhofgasse

Sandgasse 17, 19, 21 | Szyszkowitz-Kowalski (1991)

## AUGARTEN

Paths leading south are usually interesting, though by no means obligatory. When the weather is fine, the popular *Augartenpark*, with its newly landscaped bay at the river Mur, is the perfect spot for a stroll, bustling with locals on both sides of the river. Those on the other side of the river cross the **(70) Augarten Footbridge** (not shown) by Herwig Illmaier (1998) on foot to reach it. Entire school classes flock through the park, on their way to a place of discovery and activity, tailored entirely to the needs of its young visitors – the **(71) Children's Museum FRida & freD** by fasch&fuchs (2003). A sloping plane, stairs, ramps and a bridge connect multiple levels into a multi-layered spatial continuum with moveable walls. The idea of having space for movement is taken quite literally here. An unconventional building without a conventional roof, slightly sunken and thus embedded comfortably among the towering trees. As such, the building itself becomes, almost incidentally, a lesson in architectural quality.



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## CAMPUS INFELDASSE

At its decentralised campus in St. Peter, the *TU Graz*, from which the Graz School of architecture emerged, is once again highlighted as both a place of research and teaching, and a test site for contemporary architecture. The monumental, rhythmically arranged building of the (72) **SAL Building and Data House** (not shown, everySIZE, Zinterl, 2022) is impossible to miss in *Sandgasse*. There are functional buildings, interspersed with forecourts, green spaces and short tree-lined boulevards created by the Lisbon-based firm.

### 73 I.T. INSTITUTES I TUG

*Infeldgasse 16 | Riegler Riewe (2000)*

**H** 6, 16 – Moserhofgasse/St. Peter Friedhof

In their minimalist form and materiality (exposed concrete), the three-storey wings of the *Institute Informationstechnologie und Elektrotechnik* create a contrast to the expressive style of the *Grazer Schule*. Four dual-aspect buildings are held together not only by a central corridor, but also by bridges, projecting wings and recesses that create an urban fabric of alleys, bays and small squares. It is a shame that the original design was not fully implemented and the “densely woven carpet” remained only a fragment.

### 74 ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING INSTITUTES I TUG

*Infeldgasse 18 | Hubert Hoffmann (1972)*

**H** 6, 16 – Moserhofgasse/St. Peter Friedhof

The cube is striking – not only due to its size and dark colour, but also due to its folded steel sheets, which are supported by an external steel framework structure. As the doors swing open, you’re greeted by – wow! a test hall filled with huge high-voltage measuring apparatuses – a field in which the institute remains a world leader to this day, thanks in part to this innovative facility.

### SCHULZENTRUM ST. PETER **H** 6, 16 – Schulzentrum St. Peter

Architecture of varying patina and highly diverse quality can also be found in the *Bundesschulzentrum* east of *Petersgasse*. A striking example that must be seen as an artefact of its time is the former (75) **Training Center of the Handelskammer** at *Hans-Brandstetter-Gasse 4a*. In 1972, Günther Domenig and Eilfried Huth created the spatial design, including a cafeteria and common rooms, as a two-storey structuralist space station, which is nestled into a basin. Following protests from local residents, the design had to be amended and the building was sunk into the ground. A diagonal corridor cutting across the area, with a curved staircase in a double-glass steel frame structure, acts as a purely formalist device. Characteristic of the *Grazer Schule*, which gained international recognition at the time, yet is still in use today.

Located at *Hans-Brandstetter-Gasse 6*, the (76) **Central Workshop of Landesberufsschule VI** is a training centre for painters, decorators, varnishers, and gilders. It was designed by Bernhard Hafner in 1993 and built from 1997 to 2000. Its structure is extremely complex. The four-storey base structure arises from a cylinder sunk into the ground (again!) with an external steel supporting structure, which is penetrated at its core by a truncated cone.

The delicate-looking beams and columns, together with the large glass areas, create light-filled workspaces, whilst the storage areas are located within towards the core. Black, parasite-esque structures housing the building infrastructure are attached to the outside. A design that is strong in both function and formal expression. A place that makes vocational training especially appealing.

## RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION AS AN EXPERIMENT

It is no coincidence that this was the place where an “experimental housing project” was able to emerge, attracting droves of students, housing cooperatives and municipal housing authorities since the 1980s. The architects, fresh from the drawing studios of the *Technische Hochschule*, set out to reinvent residential construction, as they were dissatisfied with the poor-quality modernism of post-war residential developments. Every daydream needs a counterpart, and had the politicians not been so open-minded to the ideas of the “young wild ones”, the fame and reputation of the local housing projects would not exist today.

### 77 HOUSING COMPLEX TERRASSENHAUSSIEDLUNG

*St. Peter-Hauptstraße 29–31, 33–35 | Werkgruppe Graz, Walter Laggner, Peter Trummer (1978)*

**H** 6, 16 – Plüddemangasse/Eisteichgasse

This housing project, built as a demonstration development with 529 residential units, is a megastructure of the kind constructed in the 1970s as an experiment in urban densification, as far afield as Montreal. Traffic is banished to an underground garage below the expansive pedestrian zone, while the residences are divided into four staggered blocks of varying heights. Clear structural decisions, such as an economical cross-wall system, the repeated stair towers, and the strict regulation of vertical infrastructure (water and heating), even made it possible to purchase individually customised residences. Initially widely debated in public, this complex, now a listed heritage site since 2025, has become a highly sought-after residential location.

### 78 HOUSING COMPLEX WIENERBERGER-GRÜNDE

*Prof.-Franz-Spath-Ring 3–87 | Ralph Erskine, Hubert Rieß (1987), Kreuzer & Krisper (1997)*

**H** 6, 16 – Professor-Franz-Spath-Ring

The settlement with its “Nordic living feel” (architect: Erskine) can be seen as the antithesis of the *Terrassenhaussiedlung*. Graduated scale defines the complex, with courtyard-like clusters of houses and small-scale open spaces that create a sense of community and encourage neighbourly interaction.

### 79 HOUSING COMPLEX CARL-SPITZWEG-GASSE

*Otto-Loewi-Gasse 18–34 | Volker Giencke (1994)*

A consortium of building enthusiasts, together with a brief legislative loophole that allowed building cooperatives to access subsidies, made it possible to create one of the most beautiful housing developments in the area, which is still strikingly modern today, more than 30 years after its completion. Structural decisions are clearly expressed and understandable from the outside: The cross-wall construction makes it possible to create a variety of apartment sizes, the shallow building depth ensures natural lighting from two aspects, the raised floor slab above the garage creates a sense of privacy on the ground floor, and the high-quality development gives the impression of living in your own terraced house. Note the use of materials – everything is exactly where it belongs.

### 80 THE MARBURGERHÖFE

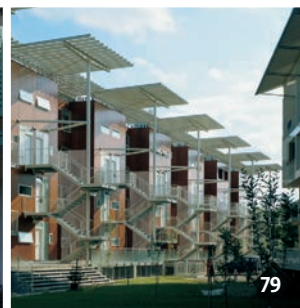
*Marburger Straße 10 | balloon architekten (2023)*



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80



## TOUR 7: OUT OF GRAZ

### Because architectural heritage doesn't end at the city limits

For the curious who want to see for themselves that good architecture can be found in many places throughout the region. And for those tired of the city who need a change of scenery or want to cool off by the lake and in the neighbouring park.

#### 81 LEGERO HEADQUARTER

*Legero-United-Straße 4 | Dietrich Untertrifaller, Kieran Fraser (2019)*

Everything here is of the highest quality: design studios, offices and retail spaces as light, luminous timber hybrid structures in perfect circular form – embedded in the landscape.

#### 82 GRAZ AIRPORT/FLUGHAFEN GRAZ-THALERHOF

*Feldkirchen bei Graz | Riegler Riewe (1994), Pittino & Ortner (2. Ausbaustufe 2005)*

"If you're going to fly, fly from here," a critic once wrote, referring to the *Flughafen Graz*, which, following its first phase of expansion in 1994, received the functional elegance befitting a cosmopolitan city like Graz. Ten years later, Pittino & Ortner continued the project with a significantly curved, freely cantilevered roof.

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