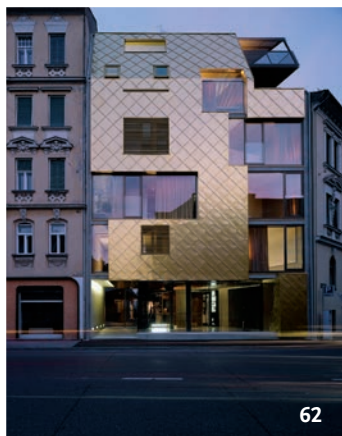




Jakominiplatz



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TOUR 6: JAKOMINI & ST. PETER



Lines: 4, 6, 16

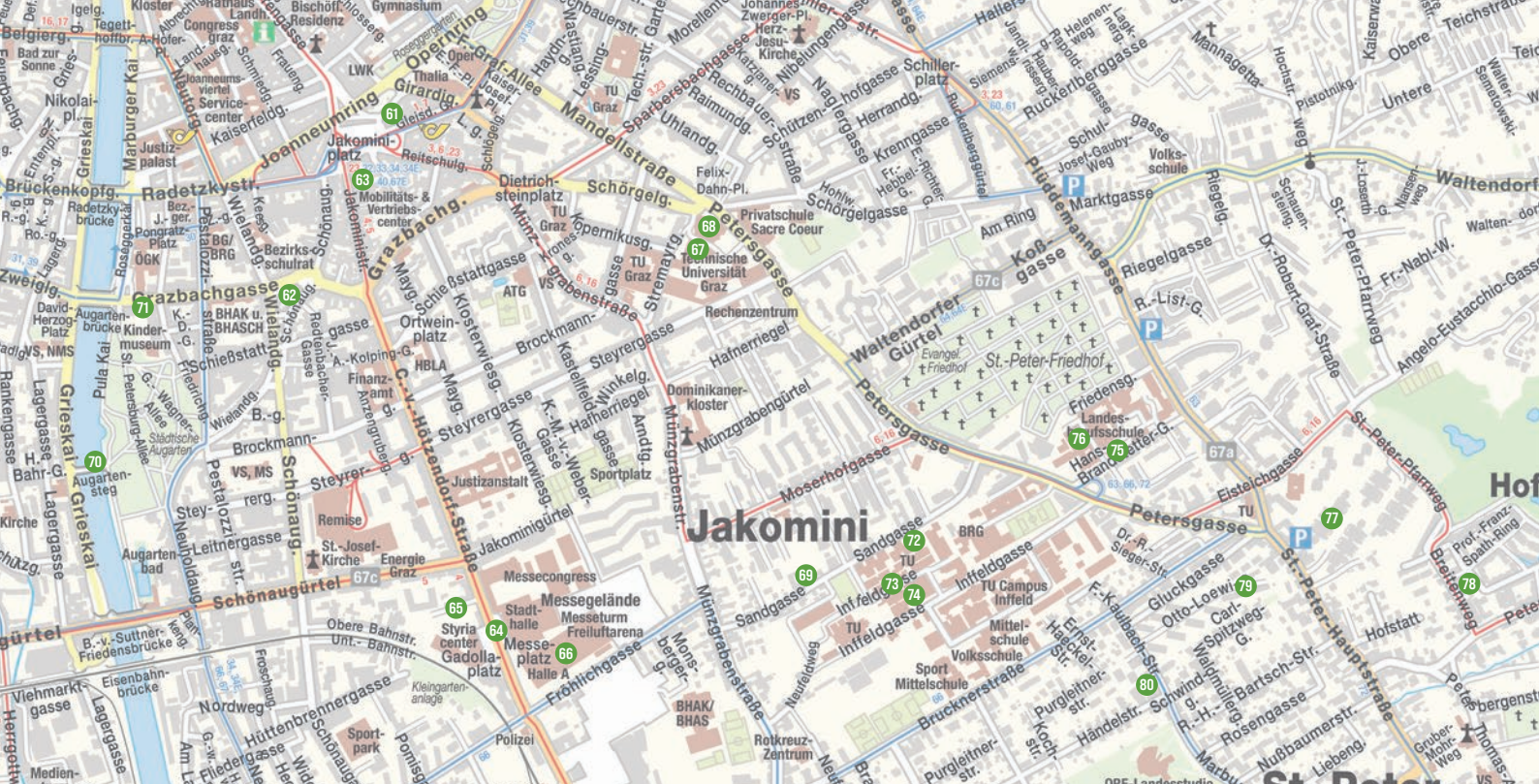
Starting from *Jakominiplatz*, you will experience all sorts of things: commercial buildings, large-scale projects by the *Messe Congress Graz*, university buildings of the *TU Graz* which have been relocated from the city centre, and a school complex. A highlight in St. Peter: residential developments 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 the original 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)

(H) 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) (H) 4–Stadthalle

Gadollaplatz 1 | Architektur Consult (2014)



66 MESSE GRAZ HALL A (H) 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 stacked vertically, 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-skin façade. 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)

(H) 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)

(H) 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 (H) 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 INFFELDGASSE

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

Inffeldgasse 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

Inffeldgasse 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), Kreutzer & Krisper (1997)

H 6, 16 – Professor-Franz-Spath-Ring

The settlement with its “Nordic living atmosphere” (architect: Erskine) can be seen as the counterpoint to 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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