



Optimising space

Munich-based architects and urban planning experts bodensteiner · fest, named after certified architects Christian Bodensteiner and Annette Fest, are dedicated to identifying and delivering the ideal solution for each project, while focussing on adding value and keeping a close eye on special details.

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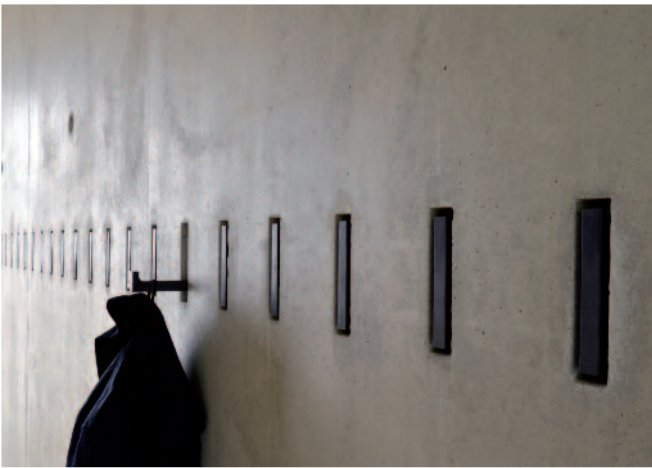
Following a conceptual approach, their works are defined by an overall quality. The award-winning team is renowned for finding unusual and innovative solutions, be it for public buildings, religious, educational, commercial or residential structures. "Good urban planning can get along with mediocre architecture, but poor urban planning can not be mended with great architecture," Bodensteiner explains. Interior design, exhibition and colour concepts, tailor-made furniture and especially lighting solutions are also part of the portfolio. The team is also committed to lecturing at universities and acting as jury members for architecture competitions.

Every bodensteiner · fest project starts with the so-called 'phase 0'. During this phase, they aim to find the best possible solution before the visualisation even starts in the form of a think tank. "It is absolutely crucial



to figure out how we can create added value to a project. When we get a new project on our desks, first we deeply analyse its actual state before we figure out how we can maximise its features," Fest explains. And this is where the urban planning expertise kicks in. "How do you position a building? What character has the new building in the public space? We strongly believe that a building is defined by the type of how it is embedded into the public space," Bodensteiner continues.

A prime example of urban planning is the Alte Ziegelei [old brickyard] in Straubing. Measuring a 3.2-hectare large area, a mixed use complex for commercial, as well a residential, use was required. "In our proposal we turned the entire ground floor into a commercial zone, while the upper two floors were turned into apartments, terraced houses or maisonettes," Fest explains. Dedicating the entire ground floor to com-



mercial use adds a lively high street feeling to the area. The cubic architecture cleverly shields the yard from the street noise. "We abandoned objectionable balconies and created loggias instead to give the units a private space," Bodensteiner explains. "Often the living room and its outside space are facing the boardwalk, resulting in no privacy. Thus a private space is no longer private and the public space is no longer

public. We believe that this can be avoided, so we clearly define private, public and semi-public space in our work," his partner adds.

The Luisiengymnasium in Munich shows how to bring out the best in an existing structure. When the German high school education system was changed from G9 to G8, schools were required to offer full-day facilities for the students. In the case of the Luisiengymnasium a new cafeteria had to be created. Adjoining retail space was acquired and made part of the school to create a space, where the youngsters could spend their lunch

breaks or spare hours in the afternoon. "It was very important to us, that the students got a room where they do not feel that they are in school, a place to gather and be with friends, more like a living room," Fest explains. Up to 12-metre long upholstered lounges have been erected for the students to chill and relax and provide an inviting atmosphere. "When we took the plastering of the wall, we discovered really good-quality

concrete underneath. The client was in favour of our idea to sand the concrete walls to make them shine in their natural splendour," Bodensteiner continues. "We established an exciting contrast between the wooden floor, the cosy lounge and the concrete walls - overall a very stylish room solution," Bodensteiner concludes.

When it comes to details, bodensteiner · fest act meticulous, as the recently completed Pfarrheim Herz Jesu parish hall in Ingolstadt shows. One of the many challenges of the new build was the entry situation. "While the original competition comprised of a larger project, the realisation lead to a higher quality and slightly smaller size. The original plan included a vestibule and a coat rack, but in the new situation we aimed to maximise space. Flexible coat racks were not an option, so we came up with the idea to include the wall. In cooperation with Munich-based artist and metalsmith Sebastian Hepp, we developed the hooks that disappear in the wall when not in use," Fest explains. And this is exactly what inspires the team bodensteiner · fest over and over again, from the large structures to the very tiny details. Fest puts it in a nutshell: "Creating added value, a contemporary atmosphere and unique finishing touches."

www.bodensteiner-fest.de

Main image & left: Herz Jesu parish hall, Ingolstadt. © Florian Holzherr

Portrait: Annette Fest & Christian Bodensteiner. © Florian Holzherr

Bottom: Luisiengymnasium, Munich. © bodensteiner fest (left) Berufsoberschule, Munich. © bodensteiner fest (middle) Alte Ziegelei, Straubing. © bodensteiner fest (right)

