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Olly-Schwarz-Schule in Vienna

Interplay of blocks and joints for a school building in Viertel Zwei

Situated in a prominent neighbourhood next to the Grüner Prater park, Ernst-Happel-Stadion and the historic Krieau trotting track, the Viertel Zwei urban development project in Vienna's Leopoldstadt continues to grow. Up to 15,000 people will live and work in the new district, which also brings an increased need for educational institutions. Back in 2021, architect Martin Kohlbauer gave the district a striking look with a residential and office complex called "Korso". A school building is now carrying forward and complementing this architectural style to form a finely composed ensemble. Transoms, joints and window strips framed in wood characterise the vibrant exterior of the primary school. Slim profiles and fire protection elements from Forster Profile Systems create a striking contrast on the facades and in the interior.

The Olly-Schwarz-Schule – named after the 20th century educator and women's rights activist – occupies a plot of around 1,000 square metres at Josefine-Lauterbach-Platz 1. The unusually small area for a school building meant a taller development was needed at approximately the scale of the neighbouring residential complex. The all-day primary school has up to six floors, providing space for 17 cluster-based classes and around 400 pupils. In addition, there is a 2,300-square-metre open space to the west of the "Korso", which can be used together with the neighbouring school "Volksschule in der Krieau". Nestled in a car-free district concept with numerous green areas and a lake, the children then have access to expansive and varied surroundings.

Extraordinary urban buildings

Architect Martin Kohlbauer from Vienna won the architectural competition for designing the "Korso" and school building back in 2016. The buildings have many design principles in common, including their role in an urban setting, their finely structured facades and the appropriate integration of existing listed buildings. For example, the Olly-Schwarz-Schule neighbours the "Zuckerlhaus" in the south-west – the historic main building of the old stables that has been preserved close by. On the same side of the school building is the glazed main entrance, which is set back significantly and features high, filigree columns and an overhanging superstructure.

Playing with joints

As with the facade design of the neighbouring building, contrasts and geometric shapes play a key role in the school building. For example, slightly projecting transoms set in wood alternate with the dark intermediate floors, which makes it look like the number of floors is halved. While the "Korso" is framed in ceramic elements in similar colours for fire protection reasons, the elongated floors of the school building are clad in pre-patinated larch.

The 22-metre-high Olly-Schwarz-Schule has five floors plus an attic floor and two basement floors. Differences in height are compensated for by stairs and filigree columns in different lengths below the cantilevered parts of the building – this also parallels the design and function of its sister buildings. On the school building, however, it is not only the horizontal joints that are clearly emphasised. Deep vertical incisions and building parts that protrude to different extents reinforce the ubiquitous impression of stacked blocks.

Slim profiles with added value in terms of building physics

Facing the U2 railway line to the north, the set-back intermediate floors are designed as mullion-transom constructions. Forster thermfix vario EI90 facade profiles in anthracite form a homogeneous surface together with the windows and thus create the desired contrast to the wood. With this construction, sections both with and without fire protection requirements were brought together in a single surface. The elements made of powder-coated steel, containing both transparent and opaque fillings, are characterised by slim face widths. The forster unico portals used at various places to link to the outdoor space – such as terraces or the entrance area – complement the heat insulation and design specifications perfectly.

Slim contoured glass elements on the inside

Inside the building, dark, subtly contoured doors and glazing continue the contrasting interplay. Around 40 forster fuego light fire protection portals in the EI30 and EI90 versions are found throughout the building. In the stairwell, tall glazing is lined up to form an inner facade that provides light to the brightly designed rooms. Flush forster presto elements were used, which are suitable for room closures without special requirements in terms of heat protection. According to architect Martin Kohlbauer, the choice of profiles both inside and outside was determined by their proportions, finesse and refinement.

Another special feature of Viertel Zwei is the innovative solution for energy use in the district. Renewable sources of geothermal energy, groundwater, waste water, waste heat and photovoltaics form what is known as an anergy network. This covers around 85% of the district's heating and cooling needs and is free from emissions. The primary school with its flexible skeleton construction is open to possible changes in use. In this way, the Olly-Schwarz-Schule is a state-of-the-art building that – quite literally – stands out, both technically and in terms of design.

For further information, please visit www.forstersystems.com

Project information

Products:	forster thermfix vario EI90 fire protection facade forster unico entrance portals forster fuego light EI30 and EI90 fire resistant doors forster presto E30 fire resistant doors and glazing
Architecture:	Architekt Martin Kohlbauer ZT-Gesellschaft m.b.H, Vienna, Austria
Metal constructor:	MBM Metallbau Mörtl GmbH, Grafenstein, Austria
Client:	WIP Wiener Infrastruktur Projekt GmbH, Vienna, Austria
Realisation:	2024
Photography:	Rupert Steiner

Forster Profile Systems – Steel is our nature.

Forster Profilsysteme AG develops and produces secure and energy-efficient solutions made from steel and stainless steel for doors, windows and facades. Forster is a partner in the property sector and offers individual advice and project support on site around the globe. The products and system solutions from Forster for the building shell and interior applications meet the most stringent requirements and standards, with heat insulation and safety features such as fire protection, burglary resistance and bullet resistance. The portfolio is rounded off by accessories and comprehensive services for customers and business partners in architecture, planning and the construction industry.

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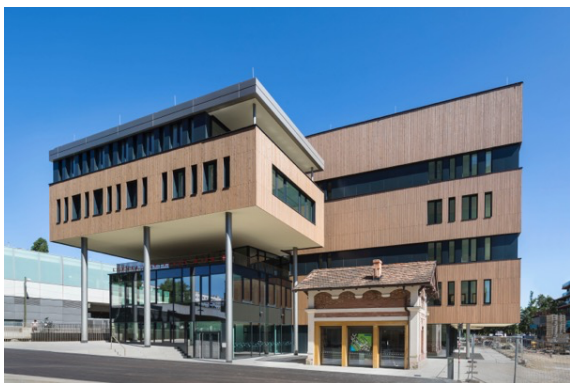
Figures



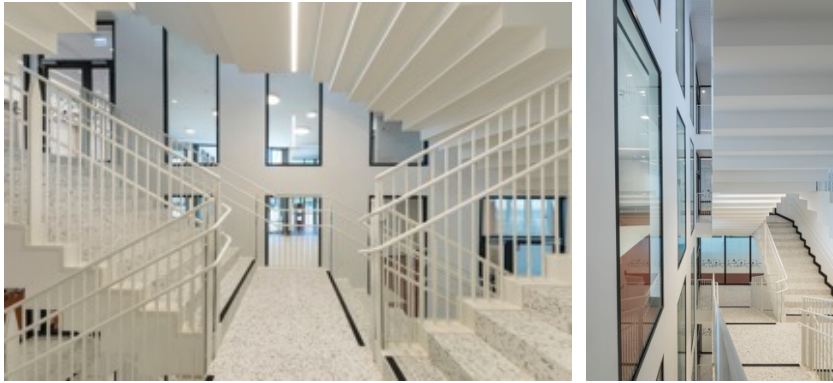
The new Olly-Schwarz-Schule building forms an entry point to the southern end of Viertel Zwei in the immediate vicinity of the “Stadion” underground station. Similar to the urban concept of the neighbouring “Korso” building, the school grounds form a transition running from north to south, which ensures excellent flow through the district. Photos: Rupert Steiner



Facade profiles along the so-called intermediate floors and the recessed entrance feature Forster profiles, which form a deliberate contrast to the light wooden battens of the transom elements as dark lines. Photo: Rupert Steiner



The “Zuckerlhaus” – a listed main building of the former stables – is located in the immediate vicinity of the school grounds. This contrasts with the geometric and clearly organised structure of the new building. Photo: Rupert Steiner

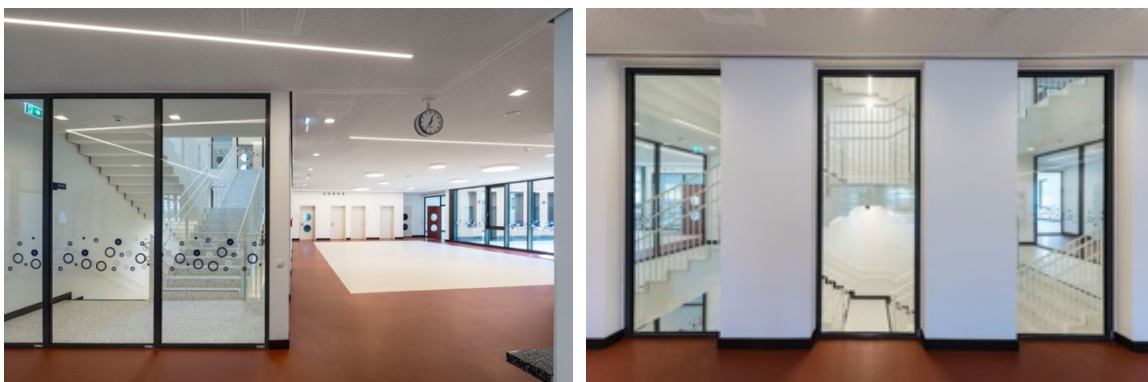


The stairwell is closed off by floor-to-ceiling forster presto glazing. The filigree framed elements allow light to penetrate and provide clear views into the brightly designed rooms.

Photos: Rupert Steiner



The forster thermfix vario mullion-transom constructions complement the matching forster unico door profiles in anthracite, which together with the window surfaces offer a homogeneous appearance and thus enhance the contrast to the warm colour of the wood. Photos: Rupert Steiner



Forster fuego light fire resistant doors and glazing meet the physical requirements relevant to building and blend in with the filigree appearance. Photos: Rupert Steiner