

Press Release | Exhibition

feld72, Vienna

**Social. Spaces. Matter.**



*Kindergarten Niederolang, Olting, IT, 2016; Architecture: feld72 © Hertha Hurnaus*

**Exhibition:** 27 May – 5 July 2023

**Opening:** Friday, 26 May 2023, 6.30pm

**Venue:** Aedes Architecture Forum, Christinenstr. 18–19, 10119 Berlin

**Opening hours:** Mon 1–5pm, Tue–Fri 11am–6.30pm, Sundays and public holidays 1–5pm, Sat 27 May 2023, 1–5pm

**Download press material:**

<https://bit.ly/3UD7XMt>

The Vienna-based architecture collective feld72 universally examines (social) space in its work. Besides building designs and their realisations, there are also theoretical and experimental projects by feld72 that take up overarching topics with respect to social challenges. The focus is thus on designing locations for coexistence in the city and the countryside, on educational buildings and public spaces. The exhibition titled *Social. Spaces. Matter.* provides insights into the collective's multi-layered practice. A selection of realised projects illustrates that feld72 is particularly concerned with social interaction in built structures and with recognising and activating spatial potentials. Last but not least, it is also about materiality, thus about the concrete implementation of concepts and strategies in architecture.

A large tent forms the central element of the exhibition. As a temporary structure, the 'space in a space' is representative of feld72's experimental projects – the ones that go beyond the rules of conventional architecture. Urban strategies and large-scale interventions in public space are ultimately what the Vienna-based architecture collective made a name for itself within the first years after its founding in 2002.

More recent projects include the multi-use *raiffeisen corner* bank offices in St. Pölten (2022), the *Collective Housing Maierhof* in Bludenz (2019) built in the wood-hybrid construction method; the subsidised *Berresgasse Residential District* (2022) in Vienna, with its 100 per cent climate-friendly energy supply; the *Kindergarten Algund* (2022), built entirely with ecological construction methods; or the *Quartiershaus am Stadtbalkon*, with its urban mixture of work and alternative forms of housing, which is currently being completed in the Sonnwend district of Vienna.

Already in 2006, feld72 reanimated a southern Italian village, affected by rising vacancy rates, with the *Million Donkey Hotel* by involving the residents and using local resources and economy. feld72 has also participated in numerous exhibitions with contributions dedicated to questions regarding the use and perception of public space, like the autobahn intervention *FILEKit©* (traffic supply bundle) at the *International Architecture Biennial Rotterdam* (2003) or the perception tool *urbanism for sale!*, the Austrian contribution to the *International Architecture Biennial São Paulo* (2007).

In the *Social. Spaces. Matter.* exhibition, photographs, plans and texts on the exterior facade of the tent present a chronological look back at feld72's projects over roughly twenty years of practice. This retrospective is overlaid with statements and questions that crystallise repeatedly the central points of reference for the architecture collective. Separated from the concrete projects, they are interwoven to create a fragmentary manifesto. Inside the tent, an atmospheric film installation is dedicated to the current state of the buildings and locations created. The footage developed by David Schreyer shows the use of architecture and also captures contextual aspects.

Further films are presented in the exhibition: "Zukunftsgespräche" (Conversations about the Future) between feld72 and protagonists as well as companions reflect on experiences with respect to pressing questions. In dialogue, they open up new perspectives and outlooks – not least with attention to the relevance of good design in the production of spaces.

## About feld72

The work of feld72 pivots on the interface between architecture, applied urbanisms and art. The team has implemented numerous projects of various dimensions internationally, ranging from urban-development studies and master plans to buildings, space and exhibition designs to urban strategies as well as large-scale interventions in public space.

The multiple award-winning works (et al. several times the Austrian *Staatspreis Architektur* as well as the *Gold Medal of Italian Architecture*) are distinguished by a socially responsible, innovative, and sustainable approach to topics in architecture and urbanism. Sensing the potentials of locations and (social) spaces and strengthening them is a fundamental element of feld72's projects.

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Further information:

[www.aedes-arc.de](http://www.aedes-arc.de)

Speaking at the opening

**Hans-Jürgen Commerell** Aedes, Berlin

**Christoph Schmidt** ifau - Institut für angewandte Urbanistik, Berlin

**Peter Zoderer** feld72, Vienna

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## We thank the Aedes Cooperation Partners



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## For further information and image material please contact

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## Appendix – Selection of Exhibition Projects

### **Kindergarten Algund**

Extension of a kindergarten by 2 groups and 2 common rooms  
Lagundo, IT, 2022

The extension of the kindergarten was designed continuing the dialog between flat and pitched roofs of the existing with a two-story gable roofed building and a two-story flat roofed structure. It connects in the north-eastern part of the property which was designed by architect Gutweniger Willy in 1976. The aim of the extension was a holistic ecological construction method from the start, with the annexe designed as a glue-free solid wood building with a wooden façade and green roofs. The solid wooden walls creating a pleasant indoor climate due to their mass and texture. Another consideration was the spatial integration of the open learning landscape shared by German and Italian speaking groups. The focus of the extension being on the encounter zones, opening up the possibility of togetherness, not only architecturally but also pedagogically.

### **raiffeisen corner**

A hybrid banking headquarters  
St. Pölten, AT, 2022

The new Raiffeisenbank headquarters in St. Pölten – the *raiffeisen corner* – is located on a prominent urban corner in the north of the city, not far from the railway station. The concept of the building allows for hybrid use and accommodates not only a bank branch and an advisory centre, but also a public restaurant and café, an event space, a co-working space and terraces on multiple floors. A formulated joint divides the building into two volumes. It marks the main entrance and contains the access to the four-storey building. The glass body serves as a vertical connection, allowing views to the outside into the street space and the quiet inner courtyard. The façade oscillates between openness and closedness. Horizontal cornices made of glass-fibre concrete wrap around the building over several storeys, contrasting generous glass surfaces, which are rhythmically broken by pilaster strips.

### **Kapellenhof**

450 flats, 5 communal spaces, a midwifery practice, city forest  
Vienna, AT, 2019

The *Kapellenhof* in Vienna's 22nd district offers affordable housing with a high quality of life. A perforated block perimeter with a spacious inner courtyard is reminiscent of traditional Viennese municipal housing. Bright rooms, far-reaching views and green spaces are offered by the apartments whilst the courtyard in the heart of the complex is an open playground, offering fluid transition between areas of retreat and places that encourage social interaction. Courtyard-facing entrances together with communal rooms and terraces complete this inviting ensemble. A raised plinth, that grounds the body of the building, the stringent structure of the

French window, polygonal balconies and the colorfulness of the different architectural elements create homogeneity in a heterogeneous environment.

## **Neu Leopoldau**

65 subsidised flats, 1 communal space and communal kitchen  
Vienna, AT, 2019

On the site of the former Leopoldau gas works, the residential quarter *Neu Leopoldau* is being built along the theme of “Young Living”. At the entrance to the area, the monolithic building with its facade of prefabricated elements of fair-faced concrete sets an urbanistic accent. The design was based on the idea of creating an open and lively building. The so-called “plus spaces” — the zone between the glazed entrance doors and the apartments — play a special role. These transitional areas, with their openness to the staircase, promote communication within the building, which the residents themselves define — from a studio to a hairdressing salon to a home office. A common room as well as the summer kitchen, which is available to the entire quarter, create further meeting places for residents in the house.

## **Maierhof**

67 subsidised flats and 1 communal space around a communal courtyard  
Bludenz, AT, 2019

Eight houses in wood hybrid construction form an ensemble around a green inner courtyard. With the existing listed building the different dimensions and orientations of the buildings allow a variety of views of the surrounding mountainscape and strengthen the character of a grown village. An underground car park keeps the majority of the settlement car-free. The central inner courtyard with its playground as well as the new neighbourhood square are available to the entire neighbourhood as well as the residents. In addition to the varied open spaces a common room promotes living together within the settlement and beyond.

## **Haus am Park**

29 flats, 4 communal spaces, 3 offices, 1 dance studio and 2 communal terraces  
Vienna, AT, 2018

The building emphasises its prominent location at the park with a high point at the corner. The staggering appearance gives the building significance and at the same time optimises the incidence of light. In typology, the building incorporates the characteristics of old town houses, which in the long term allows for a variety of uses: the public ground floor with the dance studio and the office floor above it form a lively base. The residential floors above are connected by a projecting and recessed transparent joint. This combines naturally lit access space with common rooms arranged one above the other. A modular construction structure allows architectural freedom and changeability in the life cycle of the building.

## **Post am Rochus**

New corporate headquarters: renovation of the listed existing building, new office and commercial spaces  
Vienna, AT, 2017

The building adopts the plot's polygonal layout and develops it into a compact structure with two courtyards. The ensemble of the new building and the partly listed old building closes the gap with regards to urban development and blends subtly into its surroundings. A public passageway on the ground floor creates a new connection between Rochusmarkt and Grete-Jost-Park. At the interface between old and new, a multi-storey, light-flooded atrium serves as circulation space as well as meeting area. The rooms have been designed to allow for future alternative uses, thus ensuring long-term and flexible utilisation.

## **Kindergarten Niederolang**

Kindergarten for 2 groups  
Olang, IT, 2016

The kindergarten illustrates the local mesh of tradition, contemporary life and nature within the slowly grown village structure of Niederolang. The wooden building sits like a treasure chest within the solid surrounding wall and embraces the garden in a friendly gesture. The wall changes materiality and volume — it accommodates, frames, hides, invites to play and provides insights and views. The building itself remains clear and yet appears multi-layered. The rooms can be connected to form a coherent spatial structure or, alternatively, they can be used individually — the proposed spatial concept allows attractive variations in the implementation of the pedagogical model.

## **Collective Housing Eppan**

23 cooperative flats and 1 communal space around a communal courtyard  
Eppan, IT, 2015

The compact village structure typical of South Tyrol was adopted: five houses are grouped around a common green inner courtyard, as one knows it from hamlets or the so-called Anger. The buildings are restrained and simple in form and expression. Diversity is created in the variation of the openings; room-high windows and structured ceiling bands structure the facades. Prefabricated and exposed concrete elements in warm earthy tones give the complex a sculptural character. The future residents were involved in the planning from the very beginning through a comprehensive participatory process.

## **Hochstapler**

A temporary festival centre for the steirische herbst  
Graz, AT, 2010

Is it possible to establish a maximum of attention and concrete new possibilities of use and play for an existing location — the Forum Stadtpark — in a resourcesaving way? Yes, with a re-usable deposit and return object, infinitely available, with enormous potential: the Euro

pallet. Diverted from its normal purpose it becomes the component for temporary architecture just as well as the brick for a durable house. The architecture with expiry date crosses and breaks the existing building, spatially, typologically and aesthetically. A productive disturbance. Especially in its ephemerality it strives for great presence.

## **Educational Ensemble Terenten — Kindergarten**

Kindergarten for 3 groups  
Terenten, IT, 2010

Building in the Alps has always been characterised by a search for the elementary, the simple and an intelligent treatment of its specific topography. The kindergarten was embedded in the slope — which is on the one hand a building, but on the other hand already an integral part of the surrounding landscape. The new building was created out of consideration for the village scale as well as for the perspective of the youngest children. On the inside a variety of spatial sequences promote the children's own activity, orientation and communication, but also their social interaction and aesthetic awareness. In the sense of: the room is the third pedagogue.

## **Collective Housing Kaltern**

25 cooperative flats around a play street  
Kaltern, IT, 2010

The housing estate with eight houses takes up various patterns of older agglomerations in Kaltern and interprets them in a participatory planning process to create a contemporary, new settlement in a rural context. The architecture appears familiar, simple and clear. Nevertheless, in its spatial use and movement it reveals its complexity and surprises. Nature and architecture merge seamlessly at certain points. A residential and play street forms the heart of the complex and becomes the defining element of the social space. Small paths surround the complex and, together with the residential street and natural corridor, form a complex network of paths, which both expose the most diverse (semi)public spaces for communication and interaction, as well as invite people to retreat.

## **PublicTrailer©**

Bike trailers for public space  
Shenzen, CN, 2009 / Milan, IT, 2009 / London, UK, 2010

*PublicTrailer©* is an armada of special bike trailers developed for specific urban situations. Due to their flexibility, they can easily react and be adapted to the most varied conditions on site. They allow the use of hidden areas of the city with a new poetry of everyday life. Monofunctional urban areas can be temporarily expanded to include new uses beyond commercialism. In combination with each other, they are more than the sum of their individual parts and create a piece of the city through the actors using them.

## 15/32

Forecourt design of the Vienna Chamber of Labour  
Vienna, AT, 2008

The staircase is the most urban module in the square design. An architectural element evoking hierarchy and authority is transformed into a new landmark. It stands for an “open” institution. The now merged areas create a zone for hanging-out, for utilisation and encounter. By “exaggerating” its characteristics, an ambiguous element is created, which undermines the former monofunctionality and allows multiple uses. A stairway is a stairway is a stairway?

## urbanism — for sale!

Perception tool for public space  
São Paulo, BR, 2007

*urbanism — for sale!* was the contribution to the Austrian exhibition by feld72 at the 7th Architecture Biennale in São Paulo, Brazil. The project takes the 2007 ban on advertising for the entire urban space of São Paulo as an opportunity to address consumer mechanisms and the question of public and private space. Does public space even still exist? Where do the boundaries between public and private blur? 20,000 magenta-coloured stickers with 15 different questions and statements were distributed during the exhibition. Visitors were invited to place the stickers all over the city, thereby appropriating the public space. The snapshots as evidence of public territorial markings could be published on an online photo platform.

## Wolkon

Village square design of Paasdorf  
Mistelbach-Paasdorf, AT, 2007

Village square and parking lot are not separated into monofunctional zones, but are merged into a multi-layered, readable and usable whole. Depending on requirements, which vary greatly over the course of a day as well as seasonally, the square changes its appearance depending on its use. Almost every parking space is different in its state of not being used — from a wooden terrace, to a water basin, a playing field or a seating area. A landmark and at the same time an information compass for the “cultural landscape Paasdorf” is the bus stop *Wolkon*, which has been transformed into a public balcony.

## Winecenter Kaltern

Wine-selling, bar, lounge and degustation  
Kaltern, IT, 2006

At the entrance to the village of Kaltern, a new sales outlet was built for the winery cooperative which at the same time became a landmark along the South Tyrol Wine Route. The monolithic angular structure spans an inner courtyard to the existing buildings and acts as a mediator through its height development. Tension is created between the perception of the uniform shell made of glass fibre-reinforced concrete and the only large interior space it encloses, in which a

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sculptural landscape of terraces unfolds. Its height development alone creates a complex sequence of atmosphere and spatial impressions.

## **Million Donkey Hotel**

Vacancy activation through participation  
Prata Sannita, IT, 2006

The empty spaces of this shrinking village in the south of Italy with hardly more than 1500 inhabitants was seen as potential: the multitude of empty rooms were perceived as possible rooms of a scattered hotel. Within a month, with the help of more than 40 volunteers from the village — the “local heroes” and a material budget of 10.000 Euro, several bedrooms and a bathroom were built. One year later the hotel was extended by an amphitheatre, a terrace and a bar, which are used by the Pratesi as an extension of their public space. The *Million Donkey Hotel* is now run by an association of “local heroes” — a situationist approach has developed into a sustainable project that takes local resources and economics into account.

## Press Pictures

Download: <https://bit.ly/3UD7XMt>



*Kindergarten Algund*, Algund, IT, 2022 © David-Schreyer



*Collective Housing Maierhof*, Bludenz, AT, 2019 © Hertha Hurnaus



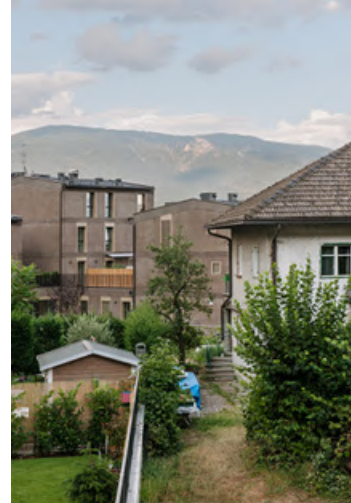
*Kindergarten Niederolang*, Olang, IT, 2016 © Hertha Hurnaus



*raiffeisen corner*, St. Pölten, AT, 2022 © Hertha Hurnaus



*Haus am Park*, Vienna, AT, 2018 © Hertha Hurnaus



*Wohnsiedlung Eppan*, Eppan, IT, 2015 © Hertha Hurnaus



*Kapellenhof*, Vienna, AT, 2019 © tschinkersten fotografie



*Haus am Park*, Vienna, AT, 2018 © Hertha Hurnaus



*Hochstapler* – A temporary festival centre for the steirische herbst, Graz, AT, 2010 © Hertha Hurnaus



*Neu Leopoldau*, Vienna, AT, 2019 © Hertha Hurnaus



*Post am Rochus*, Vienna, AT, 2017 © Lukas Schaller



*Kindergarten Niederolang*, Olang, IT, 2016 © Hertha Hurnaus



*Kindergarten Terenten*, Terenten, IT, 2010 © Hertha Hurnaus

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*Collective Housing Kaltern*, Kaltern, IT, 2010 © Hertha Hurnaus



*urbanism – for sale!*, São Paulo, BR, 2007 © feld72



*Million Donkey Hotel*, Prata Sannita, IT, 2006 @ feld72



*PublicTrailer*®, Shenzhen, CN, 2009/2010 © feld72



*Village square design Wolkon*, Mistelbach-Paasdorf, AT, 2007 © Hertha Hurnaus



feld72 Team © Vilma Pflaum



*Winecenter Kaltern*, Kaltern, IT, 2006 © Hertha Hurnaus



feld72 partners Peter Zoderer, Mario Paintner, Anne Catherine Fleith, Michael Obrist, Richard Scheich (from left to right) © Vilma Pflaum



*15/32 – Forecourt design* of the Vienna Chamber of Labour, Vienna, AT, 2008 © Hertha Hurnaus



*Winecenter Kaltern*, Kaltern, IT, 2006 © Hertha Hurnaus



*Million Donkey Hotel*, Prata Sannita, IT, 2006 @ Hertha Hurnaus