



The philosophy of holistic simplicity

Our conditions of living and the houses we live in are manifold. Today, we are not content with merely being sheltered from the elements, but very consciously make our decisions on where and, even more importantly, how we want to live.

TEXT: SILKE HENKELE | PHOTOS: UNTERLANDSTÄTTNER ARCHITEKTEN

Founded in 1999, Munich-based architecture office Unterlandstättner Architekten's primary goal is to build homes that their clients can truly call their home. "From very early in my education as an architect, I was fascinated by the holistic and versatile process of designing architecture. Architecture, in my understanding, constitutes a very important factor in society and social spaces alike, and I want our designs to be a meaningful part of these social lives," says Thomas Unterlandstättner, founder and owner of Unterlandstättner Architekten. "Here, one of our guiding principles is 'simplicity,'" Unterlandstättner further explains. "Nothing beats the simplicity of forms or material. The simple and unobtrusive speaks for itself and therefore, nat-

urally, does not need explaining; and that is how we want our design to function. We want it to be understood right away," Unterlandstättner succinctly sums up his and his team's mission.

Keeping it simple, holistic, and unique

Unterlandstättner Architekten consciously opts for visual as well as material reduction in their design. "Through experiences gained in many projects, I have found that the discreet is not only self-explaining, but also, thanks to its neutrality, offers remarkable leeway for individuality," enthuses Unterlandstättner.

But Unterlandstättner Architekten is not on the lookout for simple and quick

solutions. "While our design is dedicated to simplicity, the planning process is the exact opposite," says Unterlandstättner. "From the very beginning we actively involve our clients in the design process. We want them to be open for and enthusiastic about the possibility to actively implement ideas and ideals of space and material. We discuss their wishes and requirements and also the feasibility of both. This intense dialogue creates an incredibly artistic atmosphere that actively facilitates a productive planning process from which originates a powerful and at the same time uniquely original output," says Unterlandstättner, further explaining the advantages of an approach that holistically takes into account the clients as well as the location of the project at an early stage.

In keeping up this holistic approach, Unterlandstättner Architekten is fully dedicated to design and the search for the best solution. "Compromises are not an

option,” stresses Unterlandstättner. “Our projects are always the cross sum of various demands, which, at the beginning of each design phase, may look incompatible. While technical and legal specifications, of course, constitute the framework for each project, the space within this framework is a blank sheet, which is gradually filled by the outcome of intense dialogues between Unterlandstättner Architekten and the client. Our end products, the finished buildings and rooms, will never breathe even an inch of dissonance, but instead represent a highly intense symbiosis built in stone. Our designs are timeless and smooth originals - as original and unique as their inhabitants,” says Unterlandstättner, describing the distinctive marks of his office’s designs.

Prize-winning architecture

Unterlandstättner Architekten’s services are not limited to the planning phase of a design project. “We are a team of eight

to ten architects and designers who are prepared to support our clients in all phases of a building project if the client so wishes. We offer to oversee the planning, building as well as interior design phases of a multitude of projects of differing sizes, while at the same time keeping up with our premise to never lose sight of the individual, namely the inhabitant,” says Unterlandstättner, explaining the scope of the office’s services.

In taking on various types of projects ranging from restoration and reconstruction to interior fitting of single or multi-family homes as well as commercial properties, Unterlandstättner Architekten is keeping up with a multitude of differing requirements of its clients. The success of these designs has been honoured by innumerable awards, prizes, and recognitions; one of the latest being the prize for winning a competition for the design of residential house

building, awarded by LBBW Immobilien. The planning for this project, a seven-storey residence tower in Bogenhausen, one of Munich’s most-distinguished districts, has just begun. “We are very much looking forward to the realisation of this interesting and, above all, very demanding project. Our design will perfectly blend in with the listed buildings from the 1960s and will become a valuable addition to Parkstadt Bogenhausen’s distinctive silhouette,” says Unterlandstättner, explaining his office’s latest design project.

There is no denying that we shape buildings in the same way as they shape us - a statement that certainly matches Unterlandstättner Architekten’s approach as for them the individual and its demands are the benchmark for the memorable projects they design.

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