

Special Theme
Top German
Architects



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'Haus Kralling', - Copyright: Michael Heinrich

Architecture coined by humans and surroundings

Since 1999, Munich-based **Unterlandstättner Architekten** has created exceptional buildings which are as authentic as humans and places. Impressing with a clear, reduced design language and precise implementation, their buildings orientate themselves towards two essential criteria: the inhabitants and the location.

TEXT: NANE STEINHOFF

Unterlandstättner Architekten design, plan and realise contemporary single-family houses, residential constructions, apartments, public buildings, interior fittings and conversions. "We show that the jointly developed ideas, which we create alongside our clients, don't solely stay dream castles on paper. After all, our aim is that the design intention is perceptible in the built object. This also includes perfectionist detail planning and the choice of materials, surfaces and executing companies," notes Thomas

Unterlandstättner, managing director of Unterlandstättner Architekten.

He adds: "Based on the intensive dialogue with our clients, we develop powerful, independent objects. We create timeless houses and rooms which stand in an exciting relationship with their surroundings. The best outcome is achieved when the project is a symbiosis between landscape, open space, spatial development, interior design and user needs." While their projects comprise

of clear design language and precise implementation, they always consider the surroundings and the inhabitants. "Projects only are good when they are seen as a whole and aren't confined to individual interests," Unterlandstättner explains. He adds: "It's still a new challenge every time to implement the clients' and our own emotions, needs and ideas in the buildings."

During construction projects, the experienced team of Unterlandstättner Architekten does everything from the initial idea and needs assessment to the design and planning process up until implementation and construction site management. Thereby, the architectural office is not restricted to building but also offers interior design and garden planning.

Portfolio

The so-called 'Fels am Hang' in Gauting, near Munich, is a prime example of Unterlandstättner Architekten's expertise. The single-family home is a new building with an exceptional exposed concrete surface and was put in front of a landmarked building from 1890. In the level of the monolithic concrete wall, no disrupting technical elements such as façade anchors or window elements are visible: the concrete material becomes the mediator between landscape and the historical building's base, while the contemporary architecture of the new building interlinks with the historic structure and the landscape. Cavernous breaks in the rock wall coin the new building and lighten up its interior. The white floor coating in the new building is a contrast to the façade's 'hart shell' and the historical building's floor. Furthermore, the spacious garden gives the historic object a base which is used as a terrace. Unterlandstättner explains: "The additional storey isn't visible from the outside so that the individual building component doesn't steal the historical building's show. We have put special emphasis on an authentic reversal of the historic building details and managed to create a great example of contemporary architecture." Thus, it seems no wonder that this exceptional building

has won numerous awards, such the Wessobrunner Architecture Award in 2012.

Another project worth mentioning is the single-family home 'Haus Krailling' in Würmtal, near Munich, which impresses with its unconventional, black plaster façade and an enchanting lighting mood. Here, Unterlandstättner Architekten have put special emphasis on the location of the new building. "We considered that the street lies on the south of the property and that the neighbours are in close proximity to the building. Despite this, we tried to give the building a high degree of privacy," says Unterlandstättner. Thus, the building looks like it has no windows from the outside, but is in fact very light from the inside due to the smart placing of the windows. "In the dining area, for example, we placed the windows so that the inhabitants look on their garden, and not on the neighbouring properties," adds Unterlandstättner.

The new building is a home for one family with three children and has a guest area and home office. It is coined by an individual room structure on the inside, as well as the outside. Through considering the surrounding area and focusing on increasing privacy, a building was

developed that respects the development plan's requirements, that integrates itself typologically into its surroundings and develops an independent and distinctive character which refers to the location.

Furthermore, Unterlandstättner Architekten put special emphasis on using unconventional materials. This can also be seen in the Notary in Munich. Not only is the reception desk made out of exposed concrete, but 28 prism-like concrete steles form a subtle differentiation between the employee desks and the corridor area. This exceptional design language in combination with a great team of experienced, young and innovative architects is the reason for winning numerous awards, such as the Façade Prize of Munich in 2013.

www.u-architekten.de

Below Left: Thomas Unterlandstättner. - Copyright: Unterlandstättner Architekten
 Below Middle: 'Haus Krailling'. - Copyright: Henning Rogge
 Below Right: 'Fels am Hang'. - Copyright: Michael Heinrich
 Bottom Left: Notary in Munich: swinging concrete. - Copyright: T. Jochim
 Bottom Right: New construction of a villa. - Copyright: Unterlandstättner Architekten

