



querkraft

## Memorable architecture for museums and houses

**To put querkraft's architecture into a few words: Powerful, simple, memorable and alive. The Vienna-based architects build houses and offices as well as museums, one of which has already been declared part of the Austrian cultural heritage.**

TEXT: JESSICA HOLZHAUSEN

Three architects founded querkraft in 1998: Jakob Dunkl, Gert Erhartt und Peter Sapp. Situated in the Austrian capital Vienna, approximately 30 employees work for and with them today. "When we founded our architectural office in 1998 we had three aims: First humanity, secondly building culture and third to earn money. In that exact order. Today we have the feeling everything is moving in the right direction," says Jakob Dunkl.

Today, in 2013, the architects celebrate their 15th anniversary. "We are building according to human needs. We do not only do our best for our clients but also for those who will later live in those buildings," says Gerd Erhartt to explain their philosophy. "We admire Le Corbusier – he was innovative and poetic," adds his colleague Peter Sapp. Other works taken as paragons in practice are those of Lacaton Vasall, MVRDV, BIG, Sanaa or Herzog & de Meuron. Sapp describes querkraft's own style as surprising. "We were told our work is powerful, simple, memorable and alive."

In 2013 querkraft won the state prize for architecture and sustainability for their housing project U31 in Vienna. While querkraft

has great expertise in constructing housing buildings they have also realized museums. The most prominent example: The Museum Liaunig in the Austrian province of Kärnten. It was finished in 2008 and in 2012 was already declared a building to be preserved as a site of historic and cultural interest. At the moment the architects are planning and constructing the building's extension. "This extension we are currently planning was already listed as worth protecting – something that has never happened before," says Gerd Erhartt.

"We think architecture is relevant for society. Even if people are not aware of their building culture it is essential for them. That is why we do not only design new buildings but above that engage, for example, in the platform for building culture," says Jakob Dunkl. And that is only one of the reasons to commission querkraft architects. Peter Sapp gives another: "We try to think like those who are using our buildings and try to find out how to make their lives easier, what gives them joy and fun. We create space for people's own histories."

[www.querkraft.at](http://www.querkraft.at)



Above:  
Hoerbiger (Headquarters Vienna). Rendering querkraft

Below:  
Museum Liaunig. Photo: Pawel Ulatowski  
Adidas Brand Center. Photo: Gerhard Hagen  
ACW office building. Photo: Manfred Seidl

