Project Description

The roof conversion at the Raiffeisen Zentralbank building in central Vienna shows how a purpose-built structure can be subsequently upgraded, both functionally and atmospherically. When considering how to renovate the building services hub on the roof of the office complex, the architects recognised the extraordinary potential of this location – the view over Vienna here is unique – and convinced the bank’s management to go ahead with a project that makes logical use of this asset. As the bank previously only had one conference room without natural lighting on the ground floor, it seemed a good idea to convert the roof level into a multi-functional, prestigious conference centre. Fortunately, it turned out that the maximum permissible building height had never been fully exploited. It was therefore used by the architects to erect a structure on top of the existing building that functions simultaneously as a sculpture and spectacular highpoint of the building and that can be seen from afar. Along the long axes, the conference areas have large, slanting glass surfaces that face towards the Danube Canal and third district. Veneered wooden walls and natural materials are used in the rooms to create muted elegance, which ideally supports the three-fold lighting concept.

A multi-functional, variously dimmable and controllable lighting system has been integrated into the curved, refined metal ceiling in a strict geometric arrangement for which a mix of LED, halogen, and discharge lamps was used to achieve a variety of lighting moods. Both the conference areas and the foyers can be given individual lighting moods via a central lighting control system as required. The light reflected from the illumination of the walls additionally reinforces the extraordinarily pleasant feeling of space. At the same time, the special design of the lighting solution integrates this into the air-conditioning: Waste air ducts in the luminaire housings provide for the efficient removal of waste heat generated by the lamps. A shade system makes a considerable contribution to climate comfort and adequately reduces the amount of sunlight entering through the large glazed surfaces.

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