ERNST & YOUNG, IZD Tower
OFFICE PROJECT

ARCHITECT
Andreas Burghardt, Vienna

LIGHTING DESIGNER
Andreas Burghardt, Vienna

PHOTOGRAPHER
Reinhard Öhner

Project Description

Since 2001, the Austrian branch office of EY has resided in the IZD Tower in Vienna. After 15 years, the continuous expansion of the company and the conversion to the "workplace of the future" concept required a reorganisation of the facilities, which were accommodated on seven floors encompassing 11,000 square metres.

Depending on the department and task area, the employees are now divided among individual and double offices as well as open spaces with 8 to 10 workplaces apiece. The desk sharing areas are loosened up with shear walls, conference rooms, and cafeterias, as well as regeneration areas and informal meeting points. The most noteworthy element is the linear file cabinet in the centre zone, which with its black-white look and prominent rounded edges not only underscores the elegance of the entire interior design but is also used as an encounter zone and informal meeting point.

The most important and at the same time least visible element of the new interior design is the lighting. The entire concept is based on LED technology, with the greatest value having been placed on a differentiation between office and general use areas. While the workplaces are lighted diffusely in a cool light colour with direct and indirect light, there is a warm point-focused light with lighter and darker zones in the halls and general use areas. The modulation of the lighting, which was planned in cooperation with XAL, corresponds to the high-quality light design of exclusive residential and hotel spaces and it creates a pleasing feel-good ambiance. "The lighting makes up 80% of the atmosphere," says architect Andreas Burghardt, "there is not a single fluorescent tube in all of the 11,000 square metres. And that makes me proud."

In addition to the carefully-selected light sources, another highlight of the illumination design is the high-pile, acoustically highly effective carpet. It has extremely thin metal threads that reflect the light composition, so it mutates into an 11,000-square-metre lampshade that you can walk on.
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