Project Description

The fact that an office building on an exposed site on the boundary of the Liebenau and Jakomini districts of Graz bears the nickname “black panther” is not only due to the conspicuous colour of its facade. Indeed, when the architects wanted to send a powerful structural design message to the outside world, they were also keen to make their vision tangible in the offices. Thus the cat shows its true colours, in extreme contrast to the daring, pithy exterior, in the rooms of the Michael Pachleitner Group, where the fabric-covered walls and ceilings gently snuggle up against the visitor in the conference room, which was inspired by the design of a spectacles case.

A large window opens the room towards the protruding part of the building, making the hard shell and soft interior literally appear to blend into each other. Elsewhere, bands of windows reach up to the underside of the suspended ceiling, allowing daylight to penetrate deep into the space. Showrooms, meeting rooms, open-plan offices, individual offices, and service rooms are arranged so that they appear to flow around the centre of the development. The lighting concept emphasises this flow and the respective directions of the rooms and buildings, giving the impression that the offices and business world never come too far to the fore, but are entirely intended to serve the philosophy that work should also be fun.

At night, the overall form of the building is displayed outwardly by constantly moving tracks of light while the symbolic power of the dancing lights reminds passers-by that the “black panther” is only the ambitious “beginning” of the projected expansion of an area that holds enormous development potential for the city of Graz.

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