MICROSOFT HEADQUARTERS VIENNA
OFFICE PROJECT

ARCHITECT
INNOCAD Architektur ZT GmbH,
Graz

LIGHTING DESIGNER
INNOCAD Architektur ZT GmbH,
Graz

PHOTOGRAPHER
Paul Ott

Project Description

You have to know how your employees work and what they want in order to create the ideal constellation of physical, social, and virtual work environments for them. This is exactly why Microsoft has conducted several studies on this topic in recent years. The result is the Workplace Advantage Concept, which analyses the employee structure of every branch office on the basis of five categories, from the resident (fixed workstation, always in the office) to the nomad (hardly ever in the office), and uses this information to create a custom-tailored interior programme. An average of 10% greater employee satisfaction, a 12% increase in productivity and efficiency, improved CO₂ footprints, and many similar benefits can be expected – and some can even already be measured. The complete renovation of the 4,500-square-metre head-quarters in Vienna took this concept to heart and even went one step further: The “sealed-off” employee floors were opened up and arranged in a transparent manner. An architectural lifeline traverses the entire building in the form of accessible, multi-functional furniture, providing a spatial bracket around all of the floors and facilitating a variety of functional settings. The greatest possible flexibility is also provided in the closed meeting rooms. Every employee can select their ideal environment according to their needs and mood.

All circulation areas such as corridors and foyers were designed to be intentionally dynamic. The striped vinyl floor and a slide that allows quick access from the second to the first floor both symbolise movement. The accompanying green walls in all of the floors have both an atmospheric and positive effect on the climate of the space. The lighting concept works with as few light sources as possible. Neutral, uniform lighting in the form of linear light elements in the “lifeline” creates an atmospheric undertone. The different settings of the meeting rooms are also reinforced by direct and indirect lighting with pendant, floor-standing, and table luminaires, and even LED walls and light curtains.

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suspended

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Project Photos
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