

Timber iQ

Design & Construction

June - July 2016 // Issue: 26 // Price: R40,00 incl.

ISSN 2226-7883



Ian Fuller Agencies

EXOTIC LUMBER AND BOARD SUPPLIES (Pty) Ltd

YOUR GUIDE TO TIMBER



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A befitting residential care home

This welcoming care home 'Andritz' for 105 elderly residents, by Dietger Wissounig Architekten, has been constructed on Stattegger Strasse in Graz, Austria, on a park-like plot in the immediate vicinity of the Andritzbach brook.

The passive house has no basement due to the challenging ground conditions and because of its location being within the Andritz flood zone. It is a composite construction and features controlled domestic ventilation. Load-bearing ceilings and walls are made of concrete while all other structural elements are wood. The façade elements, each extending across two rooms, were prefabricated, their size determined by the maximum dimensions suitable for transport.

The two-storey building consists of four wings arranged around a semi-public 'village square,' designed to host various events. This is also the location of the roofed vestibule, the central nurses' station, an oratory, a cafe, a hairdresser, as well as an open, tended atrium.

Three residential areas on the ground floor and four on the top floor host one carer and 15 residents each, primarily in single rooms, thereby creating a manageable and friendly atmosphere.

A large common living area for each residential group, wide loggias and zoned gardens (some of which are suitable for dementia patients) on the ground floor, and atria with tower galleries on the top floor, all serve as additional living zones. Special attention has been paid to ensure that sufficient natural light floods the entire building.

Nurses' stations and secondary rooms are always nearby, making work processes highly efficient. Shorter and longer walks around the building with varying visual references and pleasant, quiet zones ensure diverse and free movement opportunities – even outside set therapy sessions.



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The interweavement of the building with the outside space has been assigned particular significance. The green and open space was designed with the typology of the care home in mind and is based on a sequence of gardens which differ in size and character.

The gardens also form the passage into the park bordered by the Andritzbach to the east. A particularly attractive space for recreation has been created by designing a wooden platform that juts out over the water, which, together with the manifold zones of a manageable scale inside and around the building, generates a familiar yet invigorating atmosphere.



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PROJECT DETAILS

CLIENTS: Gemeinnützige Wohn- u. Siedlungsgenossenschaft Ennstal reg. Gen.m.b.H. Liezen

ARCHITECT:

Dietger Wissounig Architekten ZT GmbH

TEAM: Dietger Wissounig, Bettina Gossak-Kowalski, Patrick Steiner, DI Stephan Brugger, Vojka Mocnik, Thomas Wadl

LANDSCAPE:

Dietger Wissounig Architekten ZT GmbH

LOCATION: Graz, Austria

GROSS FLOOR AREA: 6,950m²

YEAR: 2015

PHOTOGRAPHS: © Helmut Pierer, © Paul Ott