



# Report

Vienna University of Technology  
department of Urban Design

Excursion to Vienna for  
master-students from Lviv  
Polytechnic National University

May 19th - 26th 2013



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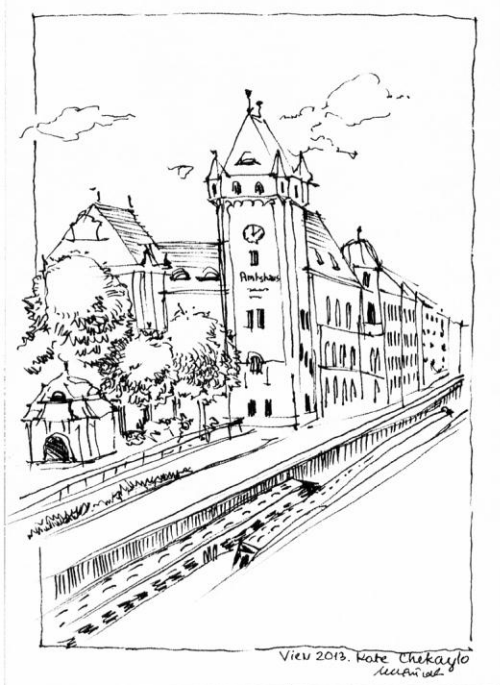
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*Everyone had his own vision of Vienna before the excursion and during 5 days discovering the city, everybody managed to see such Vienna, which he expected. Of course, dweller Vienna distinguishes from Vienna for tourist, architect or student. Nevertheless, during excursion we have an opportunity to see the city and to learn it from different point of views.*

## 20. May, Monday



Our main location in Vienna was lovely youth hostel on the Rechte Wienzeile in the concentrated architectural environment.

Architectural manifesto - Secession hall, Otto Wagner's metro stations, his and his student's buildings were situated near us. And the most popular market in Vienna - Naschmarkt created special multicultural atmosphere.

Our first excursion and exploring the city occurred on the day of arrival and started at 19:00 o'clock. We began discovering the city from the middle - the Bahnhof Wien Mitte, junction of all important local public transport lines. Emergence of such object in the middle of the city was the first sign, that Vienna is the city of interesting combinations of new and old. After passing the trade pavilions of Wien Mitte, we found ourselves in front of Justice Center, followed by many interesting buildings, situated along Vienna-river, such as University of Applied Arts, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Transport, etc. And of course, as we convinced later, buildings of Otto Wagner create spirit of the places. In this case it was Stadtbahn Bridge and pedestrian bridge crossing.

First prominent building that we noticed on the Franz-Josef Street was observatory Urania, which was opened by Franz Josef and built due to Max Fabiani - Otto Wagners student project. Life on the river sides became more and more active; it is a place of emergence of many new buildings, mainly offices and recreations. Among them - Media Turm, Badeschiff, Motto am Fluss, Sofitel Vienna.





After walking along Danube, we took metro to the Spittelau station, which was opened in 1995. Our destination was Spittelau District Heating Plant with Hundertwassers redesigned exterior. Factory building looked even more spectacular in twilight. It proved that technological, ecological and art issues are harmonically combined in Vienna.

The last object of our first excursion was Spittelau Viaducts Housing Project by Zaha Hadid, situated at the point of overlapping of the most important roadways, Danube Canal, active bike path and Otto Wagners viaduct. This urban development, which contains diverse typologies and functions - apartments, offices and artists' studios, was the one of many other specialized housing projects, which we visited within excursion time and which created our vision of Vienna housing.

## 21. May, Tuesday



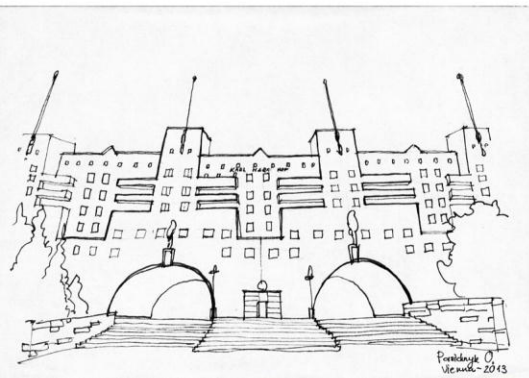
Tuesday started with long-expected, excursion to the Vienna University of Technology, to the place, where the first rector of Lviv Polytechnic National University Julian Zachariewicz studied. Our first acquaintance and meeting at the department of Urban Design with Dr. Elisabeth Leitner and Prof. Andreas Hofer took place at 10:00. After this meeting we have absorbing excursion through interesting university places, which are actively used by students of architecture and not only by them. In particular, we visited Urban Design department, model workshop spaces, main lecture halls, exceptionally students' spaces and spaces for co-working, arranged inner yards, which are in use like recreational spaces, reconstructed technical building into students café and open space terraces for workshops and installations. After the excursion through the university we had an opportunity to learn more about education in Austria, Vienna University of Technology and Architectural institute from the prof. Andreas Hofer presentation.



After getting answers for many questions on the topic, we have a break, after which we had presentation of pre-arranged posters about housing in Vienna.

So after the break, at 15:00 o'clock we started our presentations, which, due to task, had to concern comparative analysis of two urban structures - old and new. Combination of such structures gave an opportunity to find new features in every object, which could be impossible in separate analysis. Every presentation was followed with discussion and growth of wish to visit analyzed structures.

In the evening at 19:00 excursion to Kahlenberg was planned, which enable us to look at the city from one more point of view, from the one of the most popular destinations for day-trips from Vienna. After we took a bus near Karl Marx Courtyard - one of the most significant housing structures of Vienna of the beginning of the XX century - we start our trip to the fairy wood - mountain Kahlenberg, where we could explore Vienna skyline from the panorama-cafe during heavy shower. Our way back to the nearest transport station lied across Kahlenberger Strasse, vineyards, which slowly shifted to the one family housing.



## 22. May, Wednesday

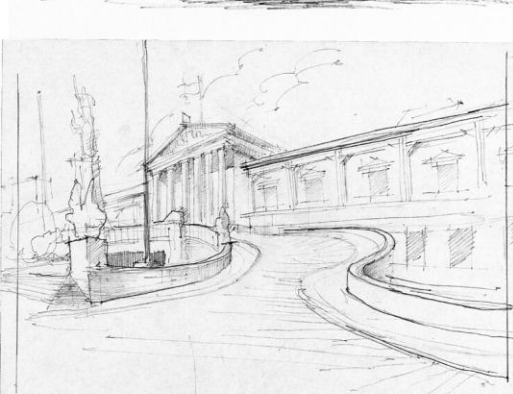
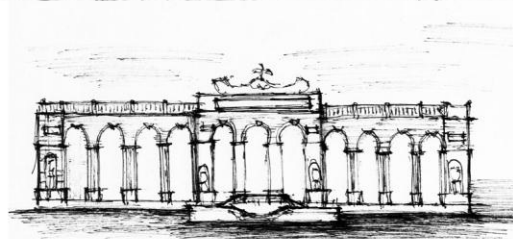


At 9:00 in the morning we had an excursion to the Westbahnhof railway station and railway yards behind it. It was a preparation for the Thursday task about analyses and evaluation of student's competition projects of the territory reuse.

After that time was set aside for the visiting library and for individual excursions to the objects for the new poster.

At 14:00 o'clock we met to discover together few residential developments. At first we visited unique residential development Kabelwerk, which emerged on the location of closed-down cable factory. As we convinced after our week of excursions, there are a lot of pilot projects of residential structures in Vienna. Their features





are innovative, social and ecological aspects, and also aspect of reuse of degraded structures.

Residential district Kabelwerk, which was erected in 2002-2007 impresses by its diversity of typologies of buildings and spaces between them, functional infrastructure and ability to unite different urban structures. Whole district is a car-free zone and have direct access to two Underground stations.

The next visited object was perceived on the contrast with Kabelwerk, but the common feature of these two projects is social component. Generally, history of social housing of Vienna is rich and has a lot of successful examples. One of them was a project, due to which Wohnpark Alt-Erlaa was built in 1970th. This project interested bigger part of group on the poster presentation. After visiting this complex, we also familiarize with the nearest residential structures and after that held a course to Liesing.

Liesing Brewery housing complex proved one more time that such principles of residential housing policy as innovative and ecological approach are really crucial. As we noticed during walking around, that it is interestingly integrated in context and is in a dialog with mounting skyline. Also we visited Breitenfurter Strasse housing complex, which was designed by Rob Krier, Hedwig Wachberger, Peter Gebhart in 1980 with another, but still very interesting and humanistic approach and accordingly - open space around.

After this housing review, group has an opportunity to survey one of the most important cultural monuments and the most notable architectural constructions of Austrian baroque - Schoenbrunn Palace.

After the break at 20:00 we planned to make completely another tempered excursion to the central part of Vienna. Thus we visited Ringstrasse and city core. Ringstrasse was built to replace the city walls. A large number of important public and private buildings were erected there.





For our group, familiar with Lviv, was especially interesting to visit and experience all the monumental solemnity of this architectural ensemble. Since Lviv was a capital of Austrian province, influence of Viennese architecture is really noticeable. Even its strategies like location of new streets, replacing city walls. Common surnames of both Viennese and Lviv, which often appear in architectural life of both cities, were Johann Salzman, Franc Tresher, Hermann Helmer, Goldarbeiter Helmer, Theophil Hansen, etc.

Among objects, that we visited during this excursions were Opera house, University, City hall, Burgtheater, Parlament, Volkstheater, Museums of nature and art history, Museumsquartier, Stephansdom, Hofburg, Loos house and many others.

## 23. May, Thursday



On Thursday we met at 9:00 o'clock at our starting point - hostel near the Naschmarkt to visit Herzberg - residential development, which together with others housing projects arose in the East of Vienna like a part of the general urban conception. In 2010 six new stations of U2 were opened, linking Aspernstrasse to the subway system, which gave additional advantages to the housing developments there. Adjacent territory to the new stations is good equipped and creates qualitative open space.

Housing development Herzberg surprised us by its diversity of types, combined into one structure. It easily allows you to live differently and integrates different social groups. Moreover, it has good location in the diverse urban context. Together with the surrounding residential estates they create comfortable residential complex, full of greenery and with good public transportation connections. After visiting adjacent housing areas, we went to another, very special by structure - Estate near Pilotengasse, which was erected in 1992 year due to projects of Adolf Krischanitz, Herzog & de Meuron, Otto Steidle, Oskar Putz.





After that we had time for individual excursions and at 15:00 we met in the Vienna University of Technology.

This time we got the role of jury to evaluate and analyze 8 students' projects, proposed by Dr. Elisabeth Leitner and Prof. Andreas Hofer, dedicated to the reuse of the territory of Westbahnhof railway station and the railway yards behind it. Main task was to estimate the urban structures, which were proposed by every project and to analyze pluses and minuses of each. Purposely, we were divided into three juries. Each jury should give first, second and third place for the best three projects. After the long analyses of the projects, representative of each jury took the floor to make public their decision and take part in discussion with Prof. Christoph Luchsinger, Dr. Elisabeth Leitner, Prof. Andreas Hofer and the rest of the our group.

After that, all together, we visited one of Heurigers, and become acquainted with the peculiarities of Viennese wine taverns.

## 24. May, Friday

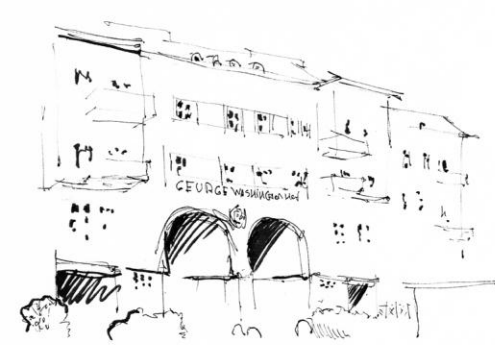


On the day before departure, we had an opportunity to visit those objects that reflect themes of our thesis individually. After that at 14:00 we had an excursion to the Wohnen am Park - another pilot housing project of Vienna, which evoked big interest in our group. As we noticed, in this project was managed to do really successful combination of applying big open spaces with active social interaction of residents, intensive bicycle infrastructure and at the same time was avoided monotony of such a big structure. Also art was integrated here under the motto 'Collective Housing - The Other Museum'.

Also we visited residential structures, which were located directly near Bike City and Rudolf-Bednar-Park, among them - Coop Himmelb (l) au building.

Besides, everybody was looking forward to visit lecture





in the Viennese architectural bureau Alles Wird Gut. And at 16:00 we were at that place, from which we started our acquaintance with Vienna on the beginning of the week, in particular - not far from observatory Urania, in the Untere Donaustraße near the new location of Alles Wird Gut office. Visit of bureau and lecture became one of the most vivid moment of acquaintance with architectural Vienna. Presentation about birth and first steps of architectural bureau, architects ideological position during the student's time and after, the way of conveying message of first projects was made by one of the bureau founders Herwig Spiegl. At our request, he described the process of creating an object that we visited the day before - living estate Herzberg. In addition, as an example of his own experience of living in a variety of housing types, he showed that it is important to count on residents needs at first, and then perceive from the architects point of view. By this narration he makes us understand what is actually guiding their process of creation. After presentation we went on a friendly drink near Danube, where we had an opportunity to ask a hundred questions that we didn't asked at the presentation. An official part of our trip was ended.

*Owing to the research tasks, meetings at university, lecture in architectural bureau and active excursions we manage to get closer to the architecture of Vienna, including the process of its development and strategies that are used, and learn from many interesting innovative projects. Selected objects for posters helped us to see the city from different points of views and owing to discussions and excursions make architectural puzzle of our perception more complete. And of course, we had the opportunity to learn more about the educational process, to visit and experience the atmosphere of Vienna University of Technology - an important object for each Lviv Polytechnic National University student of architecture.*