

Stadthaus Ballhausgasse

Graz, Austria

The residential building 'Stadthaus Ballhausgasse' fills a long-time void on a street in the historic city centre of Graz, Austria. Developed by HoG architektur, the street elevation interprets the design principals of the late 19th century using a contemporary language. The plasticity created by a game of light and shadow on the cornices, protruding windows and surrounding frames, as well as their arrangement, is achieved by the absorption and continuation of these elements in the mirror-effect façade. A three-dimensional appearance, in the form of slightly inclined triangular planes, emerges and links the different ledge heights of the neighbouring buildings, thus making the reduced number of stories less recognizable within the context. The result is a differentiated interaction between exterior and window surfaces on several

levels, which reveal new details from different perspectives. As a representative view, the street façade complex design and higher expenditure on materials contrasts with the unadorned courtyard walls.

This void was the only vacant site in a continuous, homogeneous and unbroken row of houses. The structure explores a game of integration and mere imitation, using a new type of material in the form of mirror-finished, high-gloss polished stainless steel — a high-quality component that has a subtle life of its own, as it is not as perfectly smooth and hard as glass. Through its properties, the collection of panels reflects the nearby architecture, which appear refracted as in a kaleidoscope due to the slightly different inclination. The new building has the paradoxical effect of having both a strong presence and absence via dematerialization.

Environment:	urban
Material:	316L stainless steel, 3D polished, 3.0 mm thick
Manufacturer:	Bogner Edelstahl
Architect:	Hope of Glory
Photographs:	Paul Ott
More information:	hog-architektur.com



