

noncon:form & MAGK synn

Visitors Centre National Parc Danube



The principle of "furcation" provided a basis for the concept of this project. Furcation originates from the Latin name furca – fork, it indicates the branching of rivers into two or more creeks with almost the same profile. The new access to the castle and the internal circulation was all carried out in accordance with this principle. Also corresponding to the furcation principle is the coverage of the building and route organization, which is based upon the definition of one main path. This starts at the beginning of the bridge, splits up inside the building, and eventually comes together again in the courtyard.

Ramps along the path, guide visitors, both in terms of where they walk and where they look. The ramps help to accommodate level changes between the inside and outside of the building and generate areas where visitors can sit and relax. The "vista" staircase visually completes the courtyard.

The most obvious indication from the outside is the aforementioned newly constructed access to the castle. The clients required a kind of gate to the national park which would be visible from far away. Coming from either direction on the main street the access is clearly perceived as a new element, and generates interest. It begins as a kind of optical illusion formed from the entrance canopy and develops in height as it leads away from the street and approaches the castle. Handrails have been included which appear at intervals as the pathway rises and falls and snakes its way towards the entrance of the castle.

The design of the entrance construction, clad in perforated steel sheets, serves as an indication, focusing the gaze and framing the surrounding nature for the visitors.

Under an extremely tight budget the architects were able to produce an eye-catching introduction to this beautiful national park, thereby encouraging visits here.

Location:

Orth an der Donau, Austria

Architecture:

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Clients:

Nationalpark Donauauen
GesmbH 2304 Orth an der
Donau, Schlossplatz 1
Gemeinde Orth an der Donau,
2304 Orth an der Donau,
Am Markt 26
Burgauptmannschaft
Österreich 1010 Vienna,
Minoritenplatz 9

Construction year:

May 2004 – June 2005

Costs:

conversion of the Castle:
ca. 2 Mill Euro
reconstruction of the façade:
ca. 960.000,- Euro

Material used:

plaster out of lime, steel, perforated metal plate, artificial stone with pebble out of the Danube glass, wood from the larch tree, wood from the oak tree

Photographs:

Rupert Steiner













