

CITYGATE

DRIENDL*ARCHITECTS

Residential building with 84 units
Innsbruck / Tyrol
2003
Glass facade, low energy house, noise protection concept

“The noise is deafening. On the street one can communicate only by shouting at each other. When you enter the property behind the sound absorbing wall there's a strange moment, the moment when you suddenly realise the silence - unreal and irritating. And I'm not talking about entering the building itself, just the property.”

Liesbeth Waechter-Böhm Spectrum, 02.08.2003

floor area: 6.700m²

completion: July, 2003

Description „city gate“

“City gate” is a subsidized residential building situated at a very noisy road in the outskirts of Innsbruck with a high traffic density. To avoid any noise pollution, a 210m long noise protection wall was built along the whole length of the complex. Behind that wall one gets the feeling of being on an “island of silence”, you can hardly hear the traffic noise from the other side. The complex itself consists of 5 buildings, all of them 3 storeys high. The buildings are reinforced concrete constructions with very dark blue, almost black glass facades. The façades reflect the surrounding mountains and therefore offer some very interesting light effects.

With its curved roofs, coloured balcony glasses and generously glazed apartments the whole complex creates a very friendly atmosphere and a timeless elegance – rather unusual for subsidized building with a low budget.

All of the 87 apartments are facing east and west, so they have direct sunlight the whole day. The size of the apartments vary from 75 to 95m² (3 or 4 rooms), all of them have either a balcony (upper levels) or a private garden (ground floor).

If you pass the housing amraserseestraße by driving on the Südring into Innsbruck city, you primarily recognize the prominent 200 meters long noise abatement- wall. This particularly slender and horizontal accentuated construction separates and saves the housing from the high frequented noisy main road. This protection makes a quite spacious living-situation implemented through five orthogonal arranged building parts with three floors possible.

Curved roofs, coloured balcony glasses and generous glazed apartments create a cheerful appearance. A trough nearly black and mirroring glass facade seems the built mass rather dematerialised so an unusual view of the impressive surrounded mountains is given.

Functions	87 apartments and 95 carports
Construction	reinforced concrete column-free (flexible use) Glass facade Curved roof construction Own developed prefabricated facade units
Energy	low energy standard
Specials	Noise protection- wall (200m)