

„Libelle“ Museumsquartier Vienna

2007 – 2020



The new pavilion hovers atop the Leopold Museum, nimble as a dragonfly. Its glass wings peering over the edge of the stone museum cube, a narrow shaft stretches long and thin into the courtyard, linking the glass body with the earth below. Open to the public, visitors can take a free-standing panorama elevator up to the viewing deck. The pavilion is raised up from the rooftop terrace of the Leopold Museum and creates space for events and presentations. With a wonderful view of the surrounding museums and the city center right across, the open-air bar provides space to enjoy it all.

To really comprehend the MQ in its entirety, one needs this view from above. Without the bird's eye perspective, it's impossible to imagine the uniqueness of the area and the singular urban setting. The dragonfly is both shimmering light and powerful due to its position atop the terrace of the Leopold Museum. Like an urban intellectual salon in festive garb, the place stimulates the exchange of ideas and opinions. Are not beacons of this sort needed to awaken the hidden spirits of a rich and abundant city?

Two contemporary artists were invited to join, turning the architectural project into a Gesamtkunstwerk. The façade, designed by Eva Schlegel, envelops the dragonfly in a shimmering web of millions of white points, large and small, abstractly imbuing the glass surface with the graceful draping of a silk scarf. Brigitte Kowanz's three „Lichtkreise“ (Light Circles) on the roof of the Leopold Museum create a signal for the Museumsquartier that can be seen from afar. Set on slanting supports, they seem to hover above the deck. Shape, size, and placement are based on the footprint of the dragonfly, which contains three circles within it. The light circles look very different by day and night, with the sculptural aspect coming to the forefront by day.

With the opening of the „Libelle“, the first major expansion of the Museumsquartier takes place.

Project start	2007
Start of construction	2018
Completion	2020
Gross floor area	500 m ² Pavillon 900 m ² Open area
Client	MuseumsQuartier Errichtungs- und BetriebsgesmbH
Architect	O&O Baukunst
Partner	Laurids Ortner
Project leader	Willi Fürst
Project team	Rhett Schweiger, Harald Lutz, Angelika Franke, Carina Keller, Luise Dennig, Nataliia Dnes, Ievgenii Kalinovych
Art installation	Brigitte Kowanz - „Lichtkreise“ (light circles) Eva Schlegel - Glass façade
Projektmanagement	Johann Brandstetter, Markus Spiegelfeld
General Technical Planner, Site Super- visor	Arge FCP & Vasko+Partner Ingenieure

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