Central Park Monte Laa

Urban design / Monte Laa is a city district in the south of Vienna initially located on two separated properties which were divided through the city highway A23 (Südosttangente). In 1994 an urban competition with the goal to overcome this caesura and to unite the city parts was conducted. The construction began in 2000. The master plan creates a compact city quarter which parts are located around a new central park with a size of approximately 12,000m². The area is differentiated in three zones: an office area in the South, following Laaer Berg Straße, a residential zone in the North and the lengthy park in between. In total the “city within the city” accommodates 1,200 residential units and 4,000 workplaces.

Monte Laa provides two visual sides: from the outside the city quarter presents itself with a glassy, transparent shield under which the city highway submerges. From the inside Monte Laa shows a closely linked unit of architecture and generous green and free spaces with the central park at its core. The new park reaches from Urselbrunnengasse in the East to Absberggasse in the West. The main connections throughout the park are accompanied through columnar rows of trees and light pillars.

The changes of material [slabs of concrete are succeeded through water bound floors] raise the user’s visual orientation and provide a discreet guiding system for the blind or people with sight impediments. The prudently chosen colour scheme provides additional aid to orientation and increase identification with the city quarter.

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