**Media info**

**Tradition pairs with innovative design to create a resplendent new look for Volksoper Wien**

*Utl.: A modern makeover for an historic setting – public cloakrooms at Volksoper Wien revamped by REISINGER KUTSCHER with Peter Weisz.*

Vienna – Working together with designer Peter Weisz, planners Rita Reisinger and Doris Kutscher, REISINGER KUTSCHER, are breathing new life into the public cloakrooms at Volksoper Wien. With this ambitious project, the illustrious opera house is continuing its policy of giving historic substance a contemporary new look, with exquisite materials and sophisticated lighting in a subtle dialogue with the building's iconic pink facade.

**A breath of fresh air for a traditional establishment**

For a number of years now, Volksoper Wien has been pursuing targeted initiatives aimed at attracting a younger audience. Alongside the repertoire of high-quality musical theatre productions, an ongoing series of striking design projects have focussed on the building itself: from the eye-catching flagship facade to the café-bars designed by architect Hermann Czech and the distinctive metal ceilings and wall lamps by architect Helmut Richter. The latest milestone in this modernisation drive is the redesign of the public cloakrooms dating from the 1960s – implemented by the well-known planning duo REISINGER KUTSCHER in collaboration with designer Peter Weisz.

"The Volksoper is Vienna's most eclectic opera house, presenting musical theatre without boundaries for an audience without boundaries. We want people to feel welcome here at the Volksoper. Before the curtain goes up, visitors are greeted by our customer service team in our newly refurbished cloakrooms, whose elegant, timeless design reflects the special atmosphere of our establishment," explains Christoph Ladstätter, Commercial Director of the Volksoper.

**Dynamic shapes and exquisite materials**

The layout of the six new cloakrooms – two each at the level of the stalls, dress circle and upper circle – responds to the building's rounded frontage. In the cloakrooms for the stalls and dress circle, the new counters are deliberately aligned along a convex curve, in counter-movement to the line of the façade. "It was important to us to be sensitive to the architectural particularities of the building while simultaneously making a modern statement," emphasises Rita Reisinger.

While the original cloakroom counters stretched from wall to wall in an unbroken line, the new ones stand completely free of the walls and have been divided into individual segments. This new layout lends fresh structure to the space and gives the whole cloakroom area a tangibly more lively feel. Constructed from solid wood with a cladding of deep red rosso levanto marble, the counters radiate timeless elegance. At the same time, the strong colour and intricate patterning of the marble make them a striking design feature.

"The appeal lies in the interplay between existing built fabric and timeless design. The existing Volksoper building was thus the basis for our project as well as the inspiration behind it," adds Doris Kutscher.

**Dialogue with the facade**

The ensemble is rounded off by curved wall panels in an understated pale dusky pink which form an enclosing backdrop to the freestanding counters and hold the space together visually. The colour corresponds to that of the distinctive external facade of the Volksoper, creating a harmonious dialogue between interior and exterior. Besides their aesthetic effect, the wall panels also serve a practical function, incorporating holders for brochures and leaflets and unobtrusive storage space for essential items like seating units, umbrella stands and fire extinguishers.

**Sustainability with a sensuous look**

REISINGER KUTSCHER have made their name with sustainable redevelopment and refurbishment concepts for existing buildings. In line with this ethos, existing furnishings and fittings were closely examined and partially incorporated into the new design. The existing cloakroom hangers were recoated and retained, and the metal ceiling and spotlights have likewise remained in place. The latter are complemented by dramatic new pendant lamps for atmospheric illumination.

**Design and craftsmanship, hand in hand**

Working in close collaboration with REISINGER KUTSCHER, Peter Weisz contributed to the project with his expertise in material aesthetics and precision craftsmanship. The deep red rosso levanto marble thus plays a starring role as the centrepiece of the new cloakroom spaces, its vibrant veined pattern in dialogue with the architecture. A special nanocoating was also applied to the lighting installations, its subtle colour shading lending an extra atmospheric dimension – a fine interplay of light and surface that underlines the elegance of the material and gives the space a timeless warm glow.

"The function of light here is not purely to illuminate, but to provoke an emotional response – just as stage lighting is used in the theatre to create particular moods. The furnishings are classy and elegant, reflecting the dignity of this respected institution – a stage for everyone, for the people," explains designer Peter Weisz.

With this compelling project combining historic architecture with contemporary design, Volksoper Wien is setting a further prominent milestone on its pathway into the future.

*We would very much appreciate your coverage of the story and will be happy to answer any enquiries and organise interviews.

High-definition photos and media info are available for download here:*

[*https://www.reisingerkutscher.com/en/press*](https://www.reisingerkutscher.com/en/press)

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