

# Graz Europaplatz

## A square in pin-stripe

Europaplatz in front of Graz Main Railway Station is going to be redesigned. Viennese architectural firm Zechner & Zechner plans to move the tram stop underground and redesign the free space above ground. Planned transport facilities are combined with a lined, quasi pin-striped urban landscape, while polygonal plant plots and an undulating lawn topography will not only enhance the place, but create additional possibilities of use.



3:0 landschaftsarchitektur



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In order to improve traffic organisation in Europaplatz, it is planned to move the tramlines underground. As an outward representation of the invisible tramlines, four staircases appear beneath a filigree construction made of steel and glass. This floating roof sculpture resembling a kind of light-weight aluminium doughnut will ensure that tram passengers have access to the train station without getting wet.



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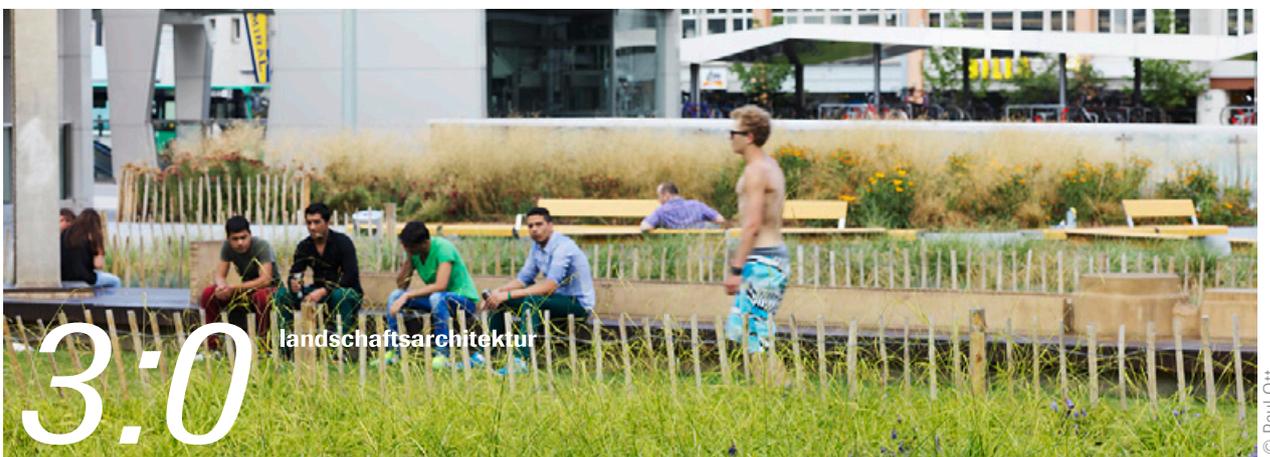
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Between Zechner & Zechner's new highrises, 3:0 weaves a striped landscape in green and grey. Concrete slabs in three different colours create a pavement for pedestrians. Beyond the traffic flow, dynamically bent strips form slightly elevated

floral islands containing grasses and shrubs. The lively image of this newly designed layout is reflected in the greenery, the planted area alternating between high and low, soft and hard, green and gaudy.



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Arranged in waves from north to south, this potpourri of plants ranges from sedges and fescues, yarrows and sunhats, to more colourful kinds of crocuses and daffodils. Even sunflowers are planned. However, the most important side-effect of this blossoming cocktail is that it offers an assortment of plants that flower in different seasons throughout the year.



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The flower beds are bordered by steel-plated edges equipped with seating modules, wherever possible. A grey elastomer surface ensures that the seats are more comfortable. While Gerhardt Moswitzer's "Memorial in Remembrance of 1934" will be moved to one of the lawns, the other green areas will be available for summertime lazing and children's games. Balancing bars and jumping boards are ready to use.



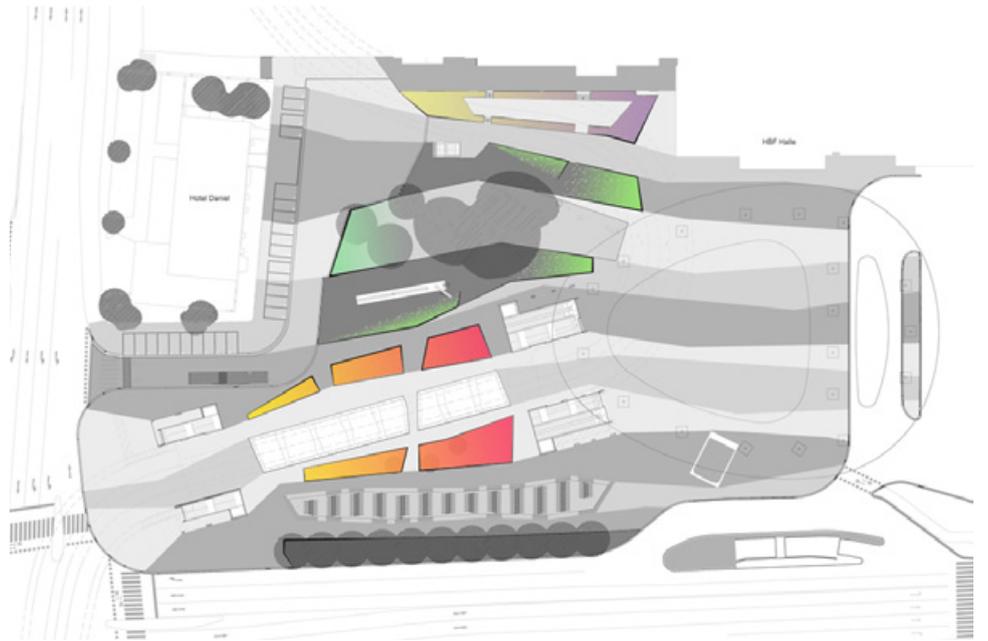
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The new Europaplatz is bordered by a car park in front of Hotel Daniel (25 parking lots) and a bicycle garage along Bahnhofgürtel with a total of 250 covered bicycle stands. A hedge running around the area conceals infrastructural shortcomings behind blossoming virtue. Various sorts of maple trees and cherry laurels screen off views of the busy road to the south.



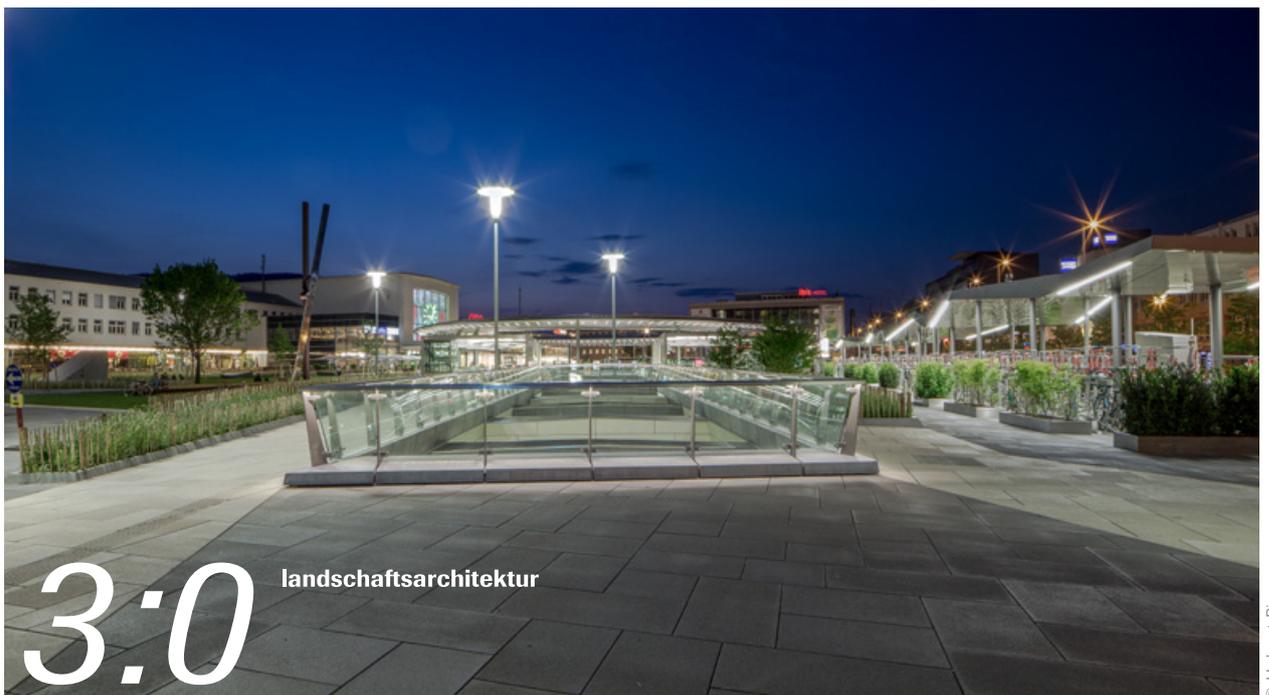
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|                   |   |                                   |                         |
|-------------------|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Design:           | 3:0 Landschaftsarchitektur<br>Nestroyplatz 1/1, 1020 Wien<br>T +43 (0)1 969 06 62<br>www.3zu0.com | Survey Europaplatz Graz:          | 2000                    |
| Client:           | ÖBB, Stadt Graz   | Start of construction station:    | 2011                    |
| Function:         | Redesign Main Station   | Start of construction free space: | Spring 2012             |
| Redesign Station: | Architects Zechner&Zechner, Vienna  | Opening:                          | November 2012           |
| Realization:      | Ing. Georg Kainersdorfer  | Finalization:                     | April 2013              |
| Address:          | Graz, Europaplatz   | Area:                             | 17.000m <sup>2</sup>    |
|                   |   | Text:                             | Wojciech Czaja          |
|                   |   | Photos:                           | Helmut Pierer, Paul Ott |



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