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The Vienna Ringstrasse – A world-Class street

Ringstrasse is an essential part of Vienna's history and future. Formed on the glacis of Vienna it represents the emperor's vision of how the city should showcase all of what it had to offer in terms of culture, education and civic functions – as well as the palace. This borderland between the historic centre and the living quarters around hosts the most important buildings in Vienna and some of the most important events. As such Ringstrasse is part of defining Vienna, not only to residents but also to visitors.

In a global perspective Ringstrasse is a unique urban design element that has been developed as a strong vision on how buildings and public spaces can be developed as a whole resembling the identity of Vienna. It is bold and made to impress.

Today Ringstrasse itself is not so impressive. Time has worn Ringstrasse down and has added layers and layers of former decades design traditions and not least transport decisions.

Vision

In our sketch for Ringstrasse 2025 we are looking to restore the former grandness of Ringstrasse by creating a public space – a street – that responds to the grandness of the buildings that line it and provide them with generous forecourts and plazas in front as well as with a street that has a beautiful design profile and is iconic.

Re-instating design principles for street trees, paving, pavillons, light rail stops and crossings that cover the entire length of Ringstrasse is an essential part of celebrating Ringstrasse as a great street and of creating a street that supplements and add extra value to the buildings surrounding it.

The focus of our work has been on the areas between the buildings and the tram lines, which should have been an elegant interface between the grandest street of Vienna and some quite spectacular buildings but which today is occupied by parking spaces, service lanes, clutter and available unused road space.

We propose to re-think this area to become the most important part of Ringstrasse, where the hidden treasures from within the buildings can be reflected in the new open foyer space on Ringstrasse.

A symphony between city, street, buildings, people, culture and knowledge.

A place for people to meet and enjoy what Vienna has to offer and a Ringstrasse to be proud of as a unique and world class street, which no other city can offer.