

Press Release eichinger offices – Café Prückel, Vienna

December 2024

The traditional and much-loved Café Prückel, founded around the turn of the century and designed by architect Oswald Haerdtl in 1955, is a protected historical monument and remains untouched in its design as a significant piece of Viennese cultural heritage. Haerdtl, renowned for his elegant formal language and influential contributions to post-war Viennese architecture, created a harmonious blend of modernity and coziness.

Following a change in ownership, a gentle renewal has now been initiated, carefully executed by Gregor Eichinger and his team from eichinger offices. Eichinger, known for decades for interiors and architectural designs that stand out with their atmospheric sensitivity and timeless aesthetic, stays true to his craft in this project, once again demonstrating his expertise.

At first glance, the changes at Café Prückel are barely noticeable – the coffeehouse simply feels brighter, tidier, and more vibrant. “With all adjustments, we proceed with utmost care and great respect for the historical legacy,” explains Managing Director Manfred Stallmajer. Windows were restored, walls freshly painted, and the furniture reupholstered with fabric matching the original from 1955 – a custom-made material that even required the reconstruction of a machine. The resulting quality ensures that the furniture will withstand decades of heavy use.

Gregor Eichinger emphasizes that it’s the details that make the space shine, as well as the (re)establishment of spatial symmetry, aided by the glass partition. Key elements – the entrance, the cake display, the newspaper area – have all been carefully refined without altering the distinctive atmosphere. Modern amenities have been added, such as power outlets for laptops at seating areas, improved climate control, and clarity in accessories.

In the coming months, the kitchen and basement, including the restrooms, will also be renovated. (Eichinger offices always pay special attention to restrooms – learn more in the podcast.)

With the renovation of Café Prückel, eichinger offices deliver another outstanding example of architectural preservation. Tune into the podcast episode to hear more from the architect about this and other projects.