

# **Zámecké muzeum v Linci na jeho cestě k „univerzálnímu muzeu“ /**

The Linz Castle Museum on Its Way to “Universal Museum” of Upper Austria

## **Renate Goebel**

Project Culture & Education, Vídeň / Vienna

### **The Upper Austrian State Museum**

To understand the mission of the new Castle Museum as a “Universal Museum” we start with a brief history of the institution. It goes back to 1833 when a historical association was founded: In 1835 the “Association of the National Museum for Austria above the Enns including the Dukedom of Salzburg” defined the following departments:

1. the historical and topographical
2. the artistic (art)
3. the natural historical
4. the technological (applied art, devices, machines, models etc.)

In 1839 Archduke Franz Karl took over the protectorate of the museum association and the museum which was meant to be a place for collections and research dealing with regional studies and provincial history.

Valuable works of art and objects of cultural history arrived as gifts by aristocracy, high clergy, monasteries and wealthy bourgeoisie. Systematic excavations of Roman artefacts were made, and during the period of Romanticism great attention was also paid to collecting weapons; the numismatic collection was maintained with great intensity. At the same time foundation was laid for the collection of graphic works, with special attention on Upper Austrian sites, prints and drawings. Glass collections were part of the growing technological department. The collection of antique musical instruments was started during these first years as well. The natural sciences collections were established including machines and apparatuses of the so-called “Museum Physicum” – founded in 1756 in Linz and containing over 600 items in 1826; also during these years the mineralogical-geological, botanical and zoological collection was started.

With the opening of the “Museum Francisco Carolinum” in Museumstraße 14 in 1895 there was a substantial increase of donations.

In 1920 the museum was transferred to the property of the province of Upper Austria as “Upper Austrian Provincial Museum”.

After 1938 the museum received new tasks especially in the field of Applied Natural History; the department of Folklore was established.

Lack of space became a growing problem and therefore the dedication of the Linz Castle to the “Regional Museum of Upper Austria” in 1959 was highly appreciated. From 1966 on the cultural historical collections were displayed in the Castle Museum where also special exhibitions were organised.

1993 the biological collections moved from Museumstraße 14 to the newly opened Biology Centre in Linz Dornach, with only restricted exhibition space.

Since 1997 the Museum houses, mainly the State Gallery, which represents a major point in contemporary cultural life in Linz with a permanent presentation of the collection, temporary exhibition projects and numerous events. The Museum Library's rich "special collection", the Graphic Art collection and the remarkable Kubin-Collection were also kept in this building.

## **The Castle**

For the first time mentioned in a Passau document in 799, emperor Friedrich III. made it the seat of his old age in the 1480s.

In 1604 Emperor Rudolf II. began the construction "of a new castle building", in which he intended to reside.

In 1800 a devastating fire destroyed the southern and chapel tracts. Only provisionally restored it served as imperial-royal provincial prison, and afterwards as barracks for an Upper Austrian Regiment.

## **From Castle to Castle Museum**

In 1952 decision was taken for use of the castle for cultural purposes. 1953 architect Clemens Holzmeister planned a concert hall to replace the missing south wing. The project was cut down and the castle transferred to the "Upper Austrian Provincial Museum". In 1960 Karl Heinz Hatinger started necessary adaptations planned by. In 1963 north and east wings were opened to the public and 1966 saw the opening of the completed Castle Museum. These collections were displayed in 37 rooms, the stairways and corridors:

- *Historical Weapons* (weapons and armours from middle ages and early modern times);
- *Ancient Art* (Upper Austrian Art from Romanesque to Baroque; European Art of Renaissance, Baroque, 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries);
- *Historical Handicraft* (15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century);
- *Folklore* (Folk culture in Upper Austria, rooms in rustic style, furniture and household equipment, domestic trade and industry, ceramics, clothes and bonnets, Toys, Popular Piousness...);
- *Numismatics*;
- *History of Technology*.

In 1965 already part of the first Upper Austrian Provincial Exhibition, "The Art of the Danube School from 1490 to 1540", took place in the castle. In 1976 "The Upper Austrian Peasants' War of 1626" followed and in 1990 the county's exhibition "Man and Cosmos".

As a result of the increasing number of special exhibitions and the generous donation of the Walther Kastner collection in 1975 the presentation of various collections have been restructured and in 1987 the entire ground floor was changed into a space for special exhibitions.

With the extension of the basement, space for presenting Ancient and Early History as well as Roman Empire and Early Christianity was created.

In 2002 began the renewal of heating, electricity and fuse system as well as the installation of the elevator. These works afforded a partial closure of the building, especially of the permanent exhibitions area.

In 2003 the redesigned "Archaeology of Upper Austria" presented the results of an interdisciplinary research project.

## The "South Wing Project" and the new Castle Museum

The idea of completing the Castle building and adapting the Castle Museum to a richer and more attractive cultural institution never died.

With the Election of Linz as Cultural Capital of Europe 2009 director Assmann together with his curators started the concept for a new South Wing to replace the one destroyed in the fire of 1800 and to transform the Castle Museum into Austria's largest "Universal Museum" within one building.

The Upper Austrian Government's Resolution for the project was declared in January 2006. The new building should offer:

- *a new infrastructure* (Foyer with Ticket Office and Shop, Restaurant, Information and Education facilities and Lounges);
- *most recent museological quality* in the *new Galleries* "Nature Upper Austria" and "Technology Upper Austria";
- *a special exhibition area* and a *spacious room for special events (Festival Hall)*.

The complete new building would offer about 6.000 m<sup>2</sup> budgeted at € 24.000.000.

An international competition saw 109 projects by architects from Germany, Italy, England, Greece, Switzerland and Austria. In July 2006 "HoG-architektur" (Martin Emmerer, Clemens and Hans Jörg Luser) from Graz/Styria was elected as winner and commissioned with the general planning of the South Wing.

The foundationstone was ceremonially laid in July 2007, the Topping-out in a ceremony in June 2008. As next milestones were defined: The *Great South Wing Opening* (3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> of July 2009) and the first special exhibition: "The European Green Belt" (July 4<sup>th</sup> 2009). The opening of the permanent exhibition "Nature Upper Austria" (30<sup>th</sup> of August 2009) and "Technology Upper Austria" (17<sup>th</sup> of January 2010).

One of the reasons for the jury's decision for this project was the general concept based on transparency and the very subtle suggestion of connecting the two quite contrasting architectural envelopes. Instead of closing the courtyard by a building corresponding to the historical one, a steel construction is partly swaying and offers a splendid view over the city of Linz. A bridge and two passages all made of glass underline the airiness of the building which allows – finally again! – a great round tour across the upper level galleries of the whole Museum. Transparency is only allowed in passage ways and facilities spaces as Foyer, Shop and Restaurant at the entrance level that corresponds to the first floor of the historical castle. Due to the sloping ground and the existing fortification walls, two exhibition levels are partly ("Nature Upper Austria") or completely (the one with the special exhibition space) under ground. Here too passages to the exhibitions in the Castle-Wings were created: one at level -1 from the special exhibition space to "Prehistory, Roman Era and Early Middle Ages" and the elevator in the Castel-Wings. This is designed as a "path of evolution" via a long corridor. The other one at level 0 leading from "Nature in Upper Austria" to the West Wing to a "20<sup>th</sup> Century – Art and Daily Life" Gallery (to be opened in early 2011) where the workshops were. (These have been reinstalled in the South Wing next to the new special exhibition space.)

One room in the southwest corner at level 0 that had disappeared after the big fire will be excavated and is part of the complex excavation project that was undertaken at the beginning of the construction works for the South Wing. Findings will be presented in the room dedicated to the Linz Castle where the "old" Castle Museum's Ticket Office used to be.

Another new room is dedicated to the history of the institution "Upper Austrian State Museum" with its three buildings in Linz and eight dislocated museums. It is also kind of a passage connecting the historical structures with the bridge to the South Wing at level 2. Transparent transitions connect the South Wing with the West Wing (Ancient Art, mainly 19<sup>th</sup> century, to be reopened in January 2010) and the East Wing (Folklore). The main stair is connecting all four levels with public spaces in a construction which offers transparency; the elevator and additional staircases are situated in two concrete blocks that bear level two with the new Festival Hall and the "Technology Upper Austria" Exhibition (opening January 17<sup>th</sup> 2010). The gallery space has transparent and semitransparent sections. For the latter a special aluminium grid ("Streckmetall") was chosen for climate and aesthetic reasons (the same solution as for the whole south wall of the Festival Hall). The steel construction is kept visible what reduces the possible use of the remaining walls for presentation purposes at a moderate extent – a challenge for the exhibition designers (Manuel Schilcher and Richard Steger from "argeMarie" in Linz).

Transparency is as well one of the leading principles for the concept of both new permanent exhibitionspaces of over 1.400 m<sup>2</sup> ("Nature Upper Austria") and about 1.000 m<sup>2</sup> ("Technology Upper Austria") where thematic interdependencies or contrasts are therefore visible from any visitor's view point.

Original objects of the rich collections, models, hands-on installations and the whole range of text and audiovisual media are carefully combined and an Audioguide opens additional perspectives. Exploration, surprise, raise of curiosity and serious knowledge transfer should open new views and create a differentiated understanding of Upper Austria. An interactive map of Upper Austria will be continuously growing and allows an individual approach to information about any municipality in the federal state.

The Museums' focus on high quality education is obviously reflected by the programmes offered for various target groups. For these activities two new workshop rooms and a group room can be used.

Thanks to the governor's decision for an additional budget the whole New Castle Museum will be ready by the end of 2010 / beginning of 2011.

With the South Wing begins a new era of the Linz Castle Museum that takes up the original mission of the foundation times and offers a universal approach to the cultural heritage of Upper Austria. The architectural frame corresponds with the welcoming aim of the institution that invites to discover and enjoy the rich collections.

**Online odkaz:** <http://www.landesmuseum.at>

## **Resumé**

Bývalý císařský zámek zažil nejvýznamnější období za vlády císaře Fridricha III. kolem roku 1480 a za Rudolfa II. na začátku 17. století. V roce 1800 přišel při rozsáhlém požáru o své jižní křídlo. Od 60. let 20. století je zámek součástí Hornorakouského regionálního muzea, založeného v roce 1833 a jsou v něm umístěny bohaté sbírky kulturní historie provincie od neolitu po počátek 20. století. Myšlenka připojit nové „Jižní křídlo“ dostala šanci na realizaci, jakmile byl Linz zvolen Evropským hlavním městem kultury 2009. Prezentace pojednává o novém křídle, koncepci „univerzálního muzea“ a o novém Zámeckém muzeu.



1: Linz Castle from South in 2006 (Photo: OÖ Landesmuseen)



2: Linz Castle Museum "South-Wing": Model of the Winner Project, HoG-architektur (Photo: Gernot Humer)



3: The Bridge – 21<sup>st</sup> century meets historical castle (Photo: OÖ Landesmuseen, Ernst Grilnberger)



4: Connections South-Wing – East-Wing at level 1 and 2 (Photo: Renate Goebel)

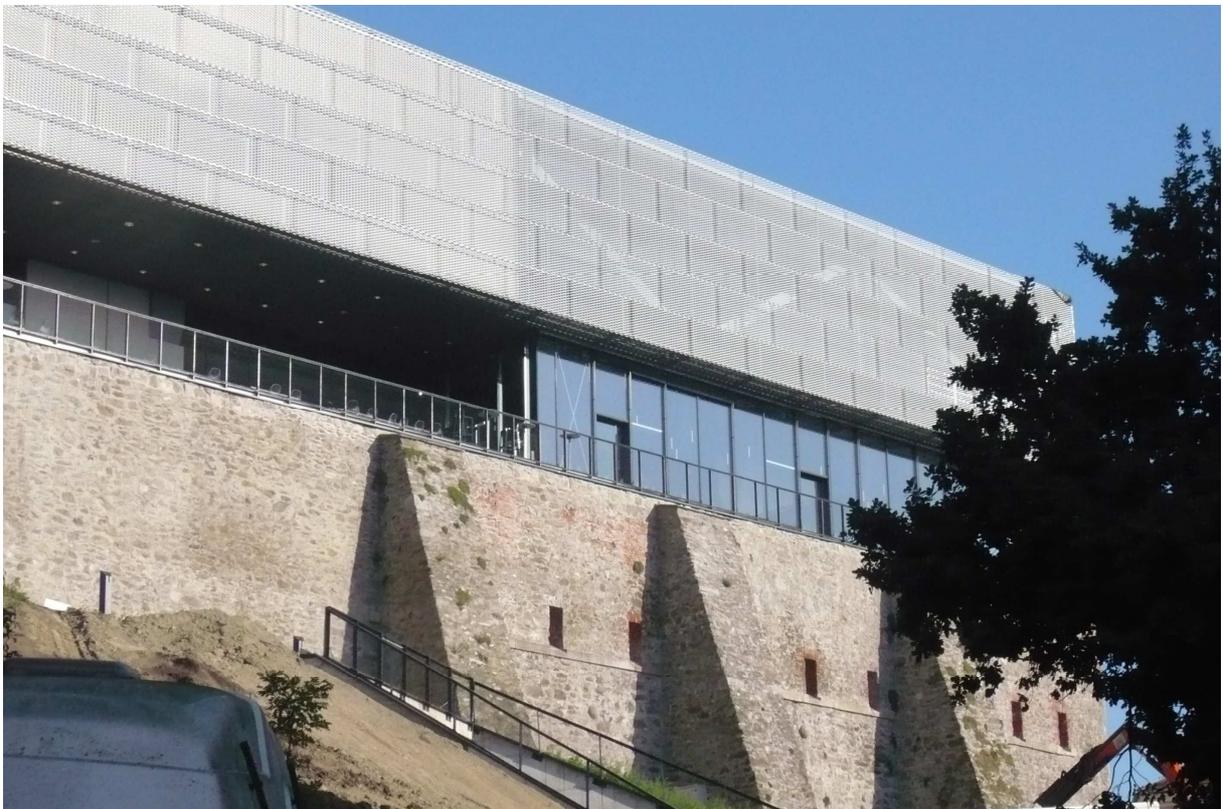


5: Connection South-Wing – West-Wing at level 2 (Photo: Renate Goebl)

Ebene 1



6: Floorplan level 1: Entrance/Foyer/Shop/Restaurant – permanent exhibition rooms in the Castle-Wings



7: South elevation (Photo: Renate Goebel)



8: Main stair construction connecting level 1 and level 2 (Technology Upper Austria space) – structural works (Photo: Renate Goebel)



9: "Technology Upper Austria" – western section, model (concept and model: argeMarie, photo: Renate Goebel)



10: "Nature Upper Austria", model (concept and model: argeMarie, photo: Renate Goebel)



11: "Nature Upper Austria", the exhibition (Photo: OÖ Landesmuseen, Ernst Grilnberger)