

Programme

Neubau Wohn- und Geschäftshaus mit Warenhaus und kleineren Ladenflächen sowie zwei Wohngeschossen

Concept

On the western edge of St. Gallen's old town, where the urban structure gradually becomes more heterogeneous, the Webersbleiche occupied an entire city block. Apart from its large horizontal expanse, the flat brick building once resembled a courtyard building. Today, a four-storey building with an urban character stands in its place. The lower two floors and the first basement level are occupied by shops, a department store and supermarket, while the top two floors are occupied by rented apartments. The stacked arrangement of the two uses can be clearly read in the facade. The two-storey plinth building evokes the dimensions of the previous building, which gave the area its name.

The varied apartment plans are brought to life by the interior atriums, terraces and loggias to the alley spaces. The precise urban placement of the rectangular building creates open street spaces. The structure of the building is also immediately striking, consisting of a screen-like, solid plinth structure and a transparent superstructure that because of its reflections appears light. The filigree concrete lattice of the base, in which large shop windows and the striking entrances are set, gives the department store its own characteristic expression. This is especially true at dusk and at night, when the velvety light that illuminates the public alleyways streams out of the lattice and the shop windows.

The building's upper structure, which is stepped back towards the supporting structure, is intended to contrast with the plinth to a greater or lesser extent, depending on the viewpoint and the lighting conditions. In the alleyways, it sometimes almost appears to dissolve due to reflections and seems light and permeable to the surrounding buildings.

