

Castle Rabenstein: When Future Encounters Middle Ages

You enter a round glass cabine and at the push of a button you will be transported at a height of 52 meters with a rotation of either 180 or 540 degrees. Two minutes of science fiction, past an overhanging rock face into a dizzy height, offering a fantastic view over the surrounding landscape.

The location is the 800 years old Castle Rabenstein, enthroned majestic on a rock near the picturesque small town Frohnleiten to the north of the styrian provincial capital Graz. The way is the access to the Castle from the parking lot level 52 meters lower. Client of this development project of superlatives is Werner Hochegger, owner of the castle since 2005 and the last of 40 owners of Castle Rabenstein so far, amongst others Emperor Maximilian I and the architects Reininghaus.



His performance requirements for the general planner and contractor Strobl Bau Weiz sounded like an offensive command in the Dark Ages. The authorized planner architect Hans-Walter Tanos in close collaboration with the State Office of Historical Monuments designed a project causing sensation, consisting of a more than 50 meters long tunnel with a closing concrete hopper, with a glass elevator and a connecting bridge to the best rooms designed with in the basement of the castle.

Already in the tunnel – the „Arthus gate“ – 1150 m³ concrete were built in, on more than a half of the 51 m length the rocky underground necessitated mining techniques in tunnel boring. On precious natural stone, passing aesthetic presented exhibits, you will get closer to the main attraction of the whole project in fact – the “Transformation sluice gate” – the glass elevator serving only two stations: the tunnel at entrance level and at exit level Castle Rabenstein at a dizzy height. At this length were usually 15 stops planned.

The company OTIS has designed and produced a worldwide unique result for this project: an elevator cabin turning around its own axle. The construction of the elevator coating was designed by Lackner + Loibnegger Consulting Ges.m.b.H. consciously tender, so as not to disturb the view. The same applies to the connection bridge between elevator tower and Castle, the footpath of 11 meters will be an adventure in dizzy height and visitors with acrophobia will estimate particularly the best rooms with their thick stone walls and arches.



All in all is the „Atlantis Shuttle“ a constructional and architectural sophisticated extension to the existing building fabric and an exciting example of the successful combination of past, present and future. Completion date is after one year of construction and planning over months end of May 2007, the test run will presumably start in late summer 2007.

Due to the innovative owner of the castle the matter “new meets old” gets more interesting, because the whole castle (impressive 2.500 m² net effective area!) will be heated with heat pumps, which, as well as the objective project, displays a global premiere.

Links:

<http://www.burg-rabenstein.at>

<http://www.strobl.at>

<http://www.tanosarchitektur.at>

