

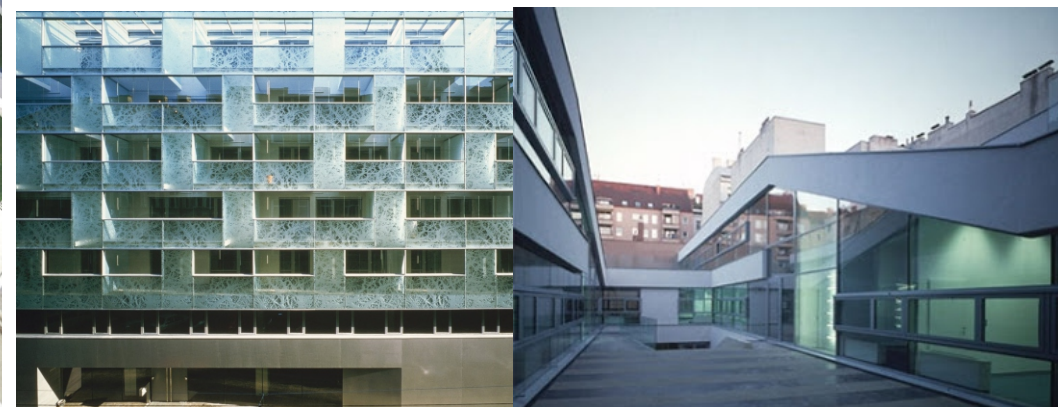
Fujian Tulou

Fujian Tulou is a set of 46 buildings constructed between the 15th and 20th centuries. The Tulou are earthen houses. Several storeys high, they are built along an inward-looking, circular or square floor plan as housing for up to 800 people each. They were built for defence purposes around a central open courtyard with only one entrance and windows to the outside only above the first floor. Housing a whole clan, the houses functioned as village units and were known as “a little kingdom for the family” or “bustling small city.” The most elaborate structures date back to the 17th and 18th centuries. The buildings were divided vertically between families with each disposing of two or three rooms on each floor. In contrast with their plain exterior, the inside of the tulou were built for comfort and were often highly decorated. They are inscribed as exceptional examples of a building tradition and function exemplifying a particular type of communal living and defensive organization, and, in terms of their harmonious relationship with their environment, an outstanding example of human settlement. The Fujian Tulou are the most representative and best preserved examples of the tulou of the mountainous regions of south-eastern China. The elaborate compartmentalised interiors, some with highly decorated surfaces, met both their communities’ physical and spiritual needs and reflect in an extraordinary way the development of a sophisticated society in a remote and potentially hostile environment. The relationship of the massive buildings to their landscape embodies both Feng Shui principles and ideas of landscape beauty and harmony.



Townhouse Wimbergergasse

The Wimbergergasse Townhouse occupies a building gap that arose in the dense urban grid of Gründerzeit buildings. Despite its compactness as a part of a classical block development, the complex has an open, permeable character and is communicative, both in respect to the dialogue between the two wings, and the relation between old and new. The design displays two dominant design motifs – the accentuation of topography and the space-containing feature of the facade – that are merged fluidly both formally and functionally: in the horizontal plane to the rear of the complex, office zones are arranged on two to three levels, flat, like ice floes stacked on top of one other, while vertically it is not the street-side facade of the residential wing that forms the outermost boundary, but a modular system of loggias and open spaces which extends beyond it, accentuated into a strong visual impulse. Building consist of 43 apts & 11 offices.



Habitat 825 / Lorcan O’Herlihy Architects

Located adjacent to Rudolf Schindler’s Kings Road House, Habitat 825 draws inspiration from Schindler in developing new forms of contemporary lifestyle through the use of light, materials, color and common open space. This open space also serves as a natural climate control for the interior corridors by allowing air to pass through and regulate the temperature. Additionally, private outdoor areas are set within this main space. Massed into two L-shaped buildings that surround a common courtyard, the 19-apartment complex was designed to facilitate outdoor gathering among its residents. Two entrances into the courtyard, one from the street, and another that faces the Schindler house provide excellent circulation for both people and air. The complex is set back slightly from the front sidewalk, leaving public open space and a well-defined entrance. Access to each apartment is gained through the central courtyard, which eliminates the need for climate-controlled corridors. This also encourages communication and chance meetings between the residents. A sub-grade parking deck takes care of cars and storage. In deference to the Schindler House nearby, a number of design elements were included to be sensitive to the famous house. To avoid casting a shadow on the Schindler House, the north side of Habitat 825 was reduced to 2 stories, while the south has 3 stories. The complex also bends inwards, away from the Schindler House to “allow it more breathing room” which incidentally, also draws more attention to the open space. Habitat 825’s architectural style also compliments the Schindler House’s modern style with its own clean lines and courtyard space.