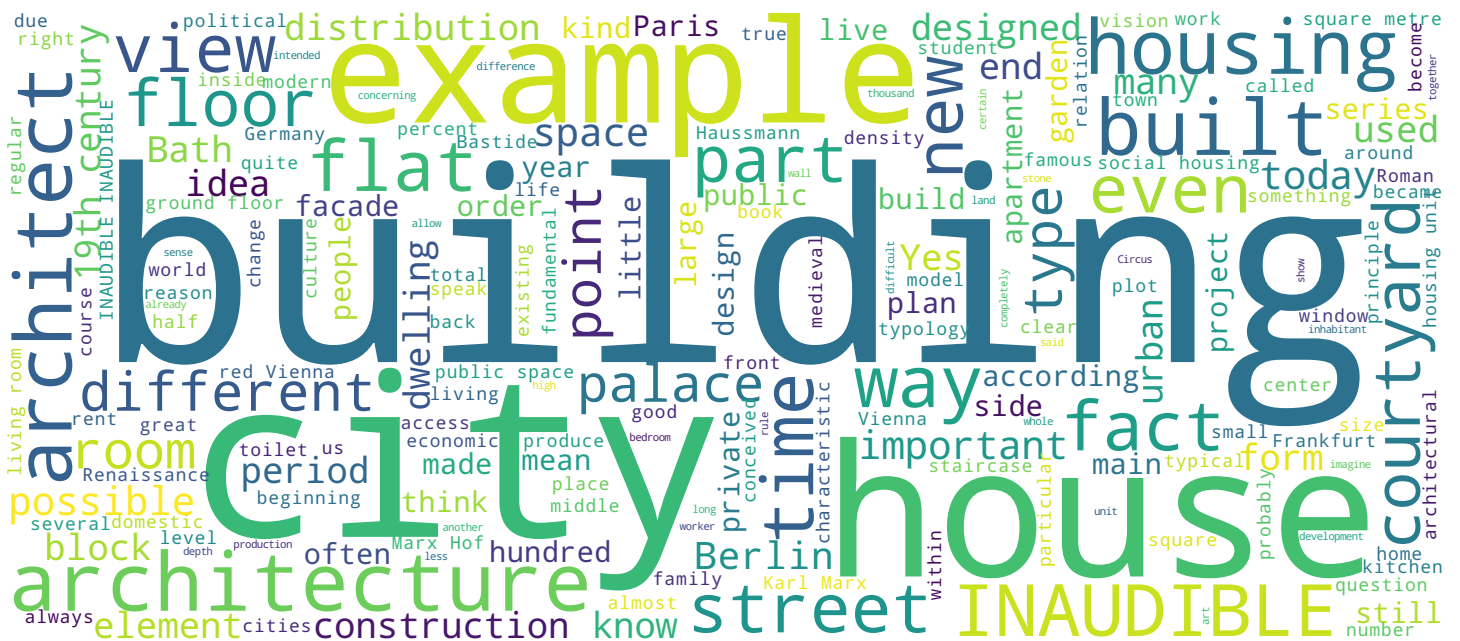
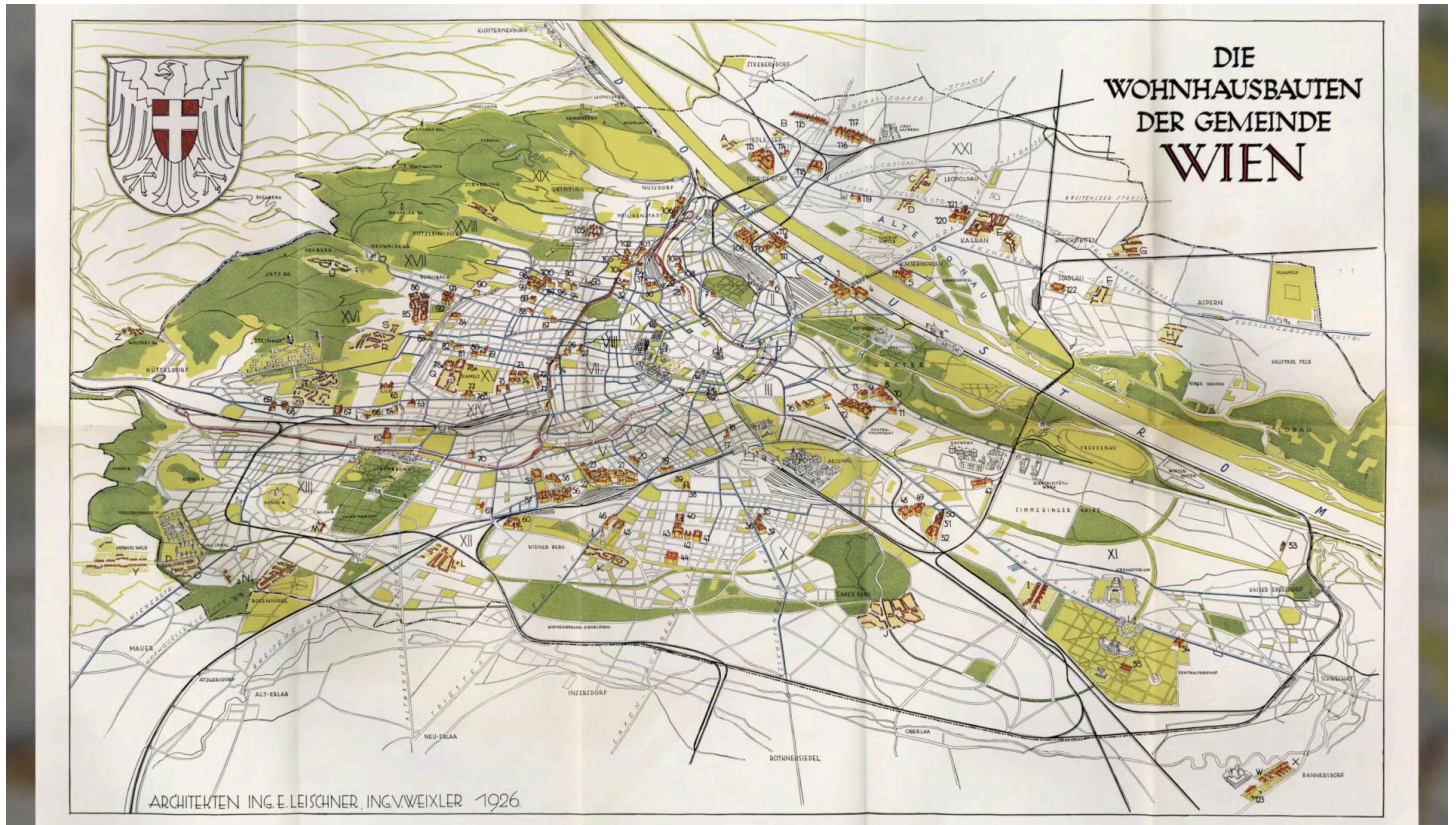


a Housing and Cities course video



EPFL



In 1923, the municipality of Vienna prepared a master plan to build five thousand housing units per year. In 1927, this number was brought up to thirty thousand for the period between 1928 and 1933.

Notes

Summary





Reumannhof, 1924-1926; Metzleinstalerhof, 1920/1923-1924; Matteottihof, 1926-1927; Herweghof, 1926-1927; Julius Popp-Hof, 1925-1926

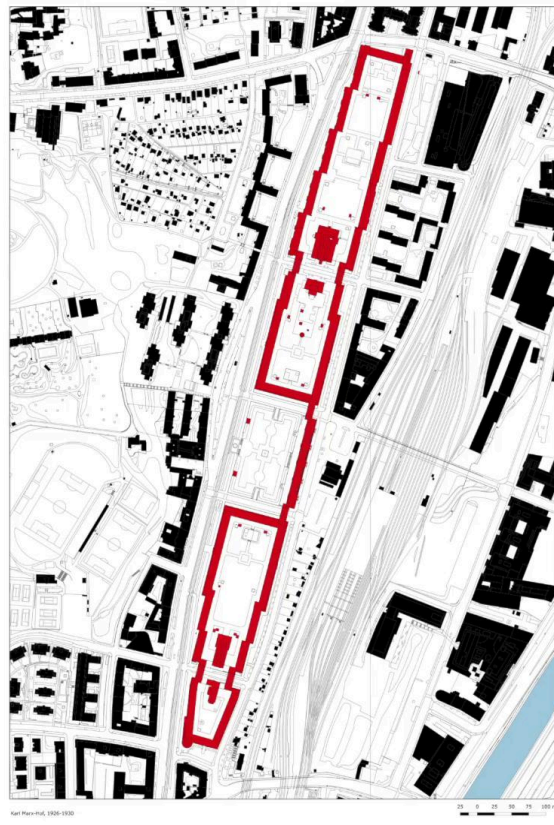
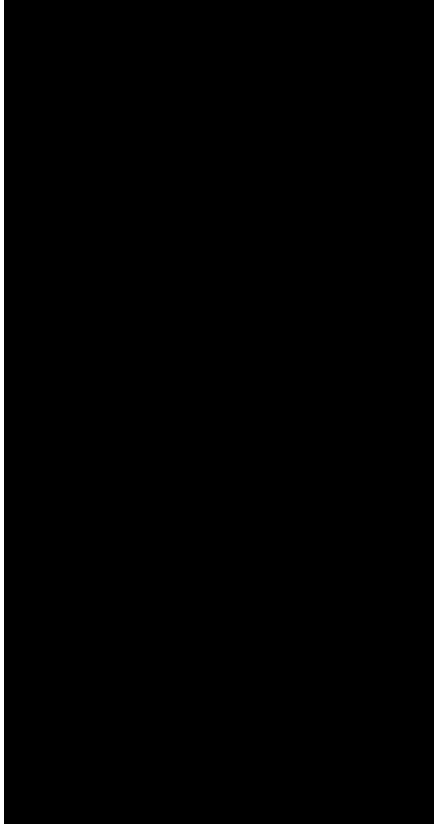
25 0 25 50 75 100 m

By the end of 1933, the municipality built and administered sixty six thousand two hundred and seventy social housing units. An extraordinary number in the European context. Red Vienna was designed by as many as a hundred and ninety nine different architects. The most famous were students of well-known late 19th century architect Otto Wagner, a group of architects called Wagner-Schüler. Today we will look more closely at some examples that illustrate the outstanding characteristics of the production of the so-called Höfe. Red Viennasblock with a central courtyard.

Notes

Summary





The Phoenix population doubled in the second half of the 19th century and living conditions, in particular for workers, were notoriously bad. The typological research for the Hofe aimed to improve comfort conditions and address social issues. The depth of the buildings was generally around 10 meters; a dimension used in social housing in most parts of Europe during the first decades of the 20th century. This was a reduced building depth, in comparison to the speculative 19th century buildings which therefore resulted in a lower density. However, the density of the Höfe were still higher than the comparable typology of the period, the Siedlungen. Between 1923 and 1927, the Höfe had a maximum built area of 50 percent. From 1928, large super blocks were built, such as the Karl-Marx-Hof were the building area of around 30 percent. A later third phase reduces this figure even further.

Notes

Summary

1m 28s





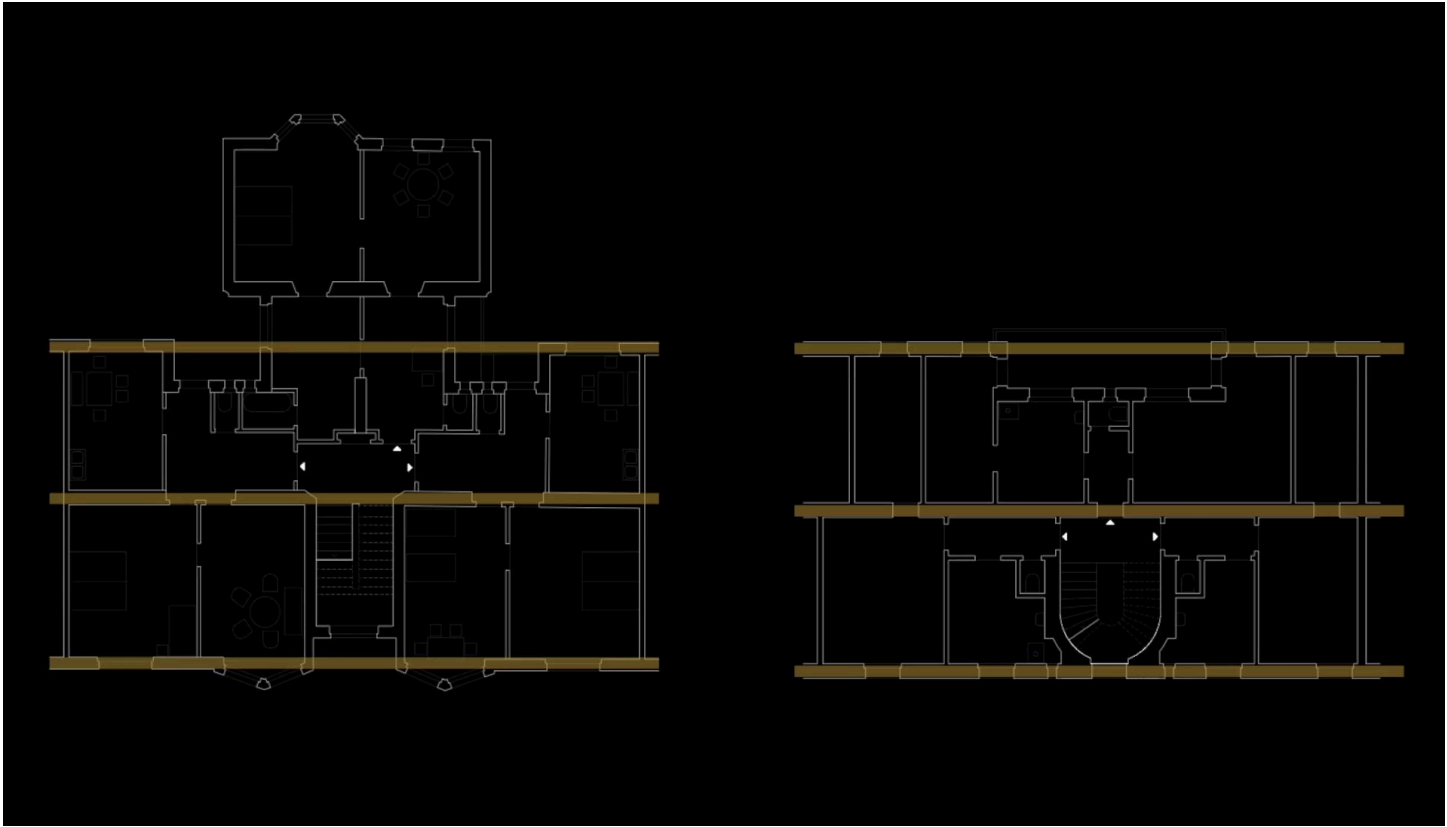
The George-Washington-Hof being one such example. Particular flat types were not specified by the City Council, but were rather developed by the architects themselves. Nevertheless, the flats were intended for the working class and the size initially fixed at thirty eight or forty eight square metres. Until 1927, 75 percent of the flats had a floor area 38 square metres, consisting of a whole a kitchen, a bedroom and a toilet. Twenty five percent of flats had an additional bedroom and a floor area 45 to 48 square metres. The projects were required to be economic using traditional masonry construction methods with a load bearing facade and also to develop highly efficient systems of access and circulation. One restraint was the central structural wall which often meant that units only had a single orientation. Another critical point is the construction, because even in Frankfurt we can find very often buildings realized using prefab elements and standardization, what was a myth in that period of Grobius, Meier and other actors of modern architecture in Germany. Here, from the point of view of construction, there is nothing more than the efficient use of traditional techniques.

Notes

Summary



2m 37s



So, INAUDIBLE be bearing facades and in the middle of the volume another bearing walls defining very often some difficulty in the distribution of rooms. But it is important to say that it was possible for people working on the building size to loan an apartment.

Notes

Summary

4m 23s





So, I have also the impression that the fact of not using prefabrication was once again a political choice, allowing people building the building to leave within the building they have built. And from a symbolic point of view, it is quite important. But coming back to our concern, we have due to this building system a typical depth, the total depth of of Vienerhof is about ten, eleven metres. It is clear that this bearing wall in the middle is not a deal from the point of view of distribution, but it is very efficient and economic. The main typological improvements were the elimination of the distribution corridor, the introduction of a small entrance hall in the flats, the living kitchen or Wohnküche and mainly the introduction of toilets in the houses which were often ventilated. Each flat were served with electric light fittings, running water, a flush toilet, gas stove and a gas cooker. According to city building officials, The kitchen was where viennese workers spend most time at home and therefore it was initially combined with the living room. Leaving kitchen example is taken from the first Hof built under the new tax system and according to the city's new planning guidelines. Fuchsenfeldhof located in Vienna's 12th district.

Notes

Summary

4m 55s





It has a total of 481 flats built between 1922 and 1925 and was designed by architect Heinrich Schmidt and Havemann Heikinger. Fuchsenfeldhof was organized around four successive courtyards. The ground floor offered centralized services for the residents, such as a central laundry and bathrooms, as well as children's play rooms located adjacent to the playground in the third Hof. Originally, the third courtyard contained a children's peddling pool which was used in winter for ice skating. A flower garden was planted on the roof of the laundry within adjacent pavilion. Fuchsenfeldhof was followed by the second adjacent Hof, and Fuchsenfeld built between 1924 and 1926 and designed by the same architect. In 1949, the name was changed to Heizmann Hof after Edmund Heizmann the Vienna City Councillor who died at Auschwitz. Heizmann-Hof encompasses a series of building blocks offering around 640 flats. In order to optimize the urban composition, the diagonal crossing formed by the two streets Crazy Gasse and Neuwell Strasse were simplified and the second part of Crazy Gasse closed. In this way, a central square was created, reinforced by building around its perimeter and across the street. The entrances accentuated by two towers. The Metzleinstalerhof was built between 1923 and 1924, according to the design of the architect Hueber Gesner, a student of Otto Wagner.

Notes

Summary

6m 51s





It was the first Hof at the Margaretengürtel-Ensemble which went on to be built with a total of eight Höfe. One half of the Metzleinstalerhof was preexisting, designed by architect Robert Calesi. Gesner's project of 143 flat closed the Hof. Although not yet officially within the housing program and therefore with larger flat, Metzleinstalerhof developed many of the characteristic traits of the Vienerhöfe. The courtyard was a communal space but also opened to the public. Facilities such as toilets inside the flats, running water, electricity, the stove and cooker were offered. All rooms were naturally lead, including the stairwells, the mix of public facilities and workers drownings, the scale and density of the building and the access to the flats through the courtyard. Dealing with distribution, I want to underline once again that we can speak about the distribution from two different points of view. The first one is the way rooms are organized within a defined perimeter. And in Vienna, the architects were completely free to conceive the distribution of the dwellings. They just had to respect a total surface which was very little about 35 38 square meters or 45 for the bigger ones.

Notes

Summary



8m 42s



But we can also speak about distribution concerning a very important point which is how people enter the building where they live, and how they can reach their own apartment. It is fundamental, still today, from this point of view. A fantastic point which is characteristic of many many examples in Vienna is that one enters the building from the courtyard. And this fact reinforces the collective meaning of the courtyard itself. And from there, there is a staircase, and today also to distributing 2, 3, 4, in certain cases six apartments which is really fantastic. We can criticise because it is probably too dense, there is two small apartments whatever, but from the technical point of view of how it is possible to distribute a INAUDIBLE starting from a staircase. Here we have fantastic examples.

Notes

Summary

10m 22s





Franz Domes Hof



Metzleinstaler Hof



Bebel Hof



Julius Popp Hof



Fuschsenfeld Hof



Professor Jodel Hof



Herwegh Hof



Klose Hof



Karl Marx Hof



Karl Seitz Hof



Winarsky Hof



Schütttau Hof

The Margareten Gürtel ensemble included the Reumannhof built from 1924 to 1926. The Herweghof and Julius-Popp-Hof which were conceived as a pair in 1925 and the Matteottihof, which was completed later. Reumannhof was also designed by Hueber Gessner including a public space and two courtyards. There was almost a literal transposition of a palace recalling Viennese 18th Century Garden palaces that combined with a local presence by accommodating shops, cafes, parks spaces and benches for pedestrians and daily life. The massive volumetric expression of the building was very important in communicating a proud presence for workers housing. The Reumannhof was definitive and nicknaming the Margareten Gürtel the ringroad of the proletariat. In this case, we have one of the most famous example, the Reumannhof which were at this time criticized because the urban form is much more inspired by our royal palace, then related to a social housing block. It was at a certain point a clear intention of the architect to design something which had to be imposing. So, the idea is not so... it's not so stupid that we wanted to give the worker classes a dwelling system which is proud of its presence within the city.

Notes

Summary

11m 52s





The architectural language of red Vienna's Hofe was rich, sculptural, expressionist sometimes showing the influence of Czech Cubism. In fact, the architects were sometimes criticized for adopting a so-called bourgeois architectural language and not developing a new modern aesthetic. Therefore, architectural elements such as Bay Windows or lodgers were used to enrich the space. This was not a rationalist approach, but these elements gave added qualities to the relatively small rooms together with the adjacent Otto- Haus-Hof. The Winarskyhof contained five hundred and thirty four flats plus many communal facilities including a library, meeting rooms, Kindergarten, workshops and shops.

Notes

Summary

13m 48s





Winarskyhof integrated an existing school and maternity hospital into the ensemble which also contained a smaller interior courtyard. The complex crosses over the central Leichtstrasse, a total of four times contributing to its highly urban character. It was built by different architects including Yosef Hoffman, Yosef Frank, INAUDIBLE INAUDIBLE and Peter INAUDIBLE. Winarskihof was conceived as an example of the city housing program executed by the grand masters. And despite the different architectural approaches, the complex achieves a unified compositional and overall coherence. The architectural details are less expressionist than other Höfe. The facades reduced to a composition of the central elements and surfaces. An example of these changes is the Karl Seitz-Hof, a large complex on the periphery designed by about Huebert Gesner and built between 1926 and 1933. It was intended to be a city within the city and the center of a new district in an industrial area north of the Denau River. It has a very large autonomous complex, a super Hof containing 1700 flats over four floors, but it's less dense than previous examples. It's organized around a monumental square and a curved facade.

Notes

Summary

14m 42s





Then a series of courtyards behind, located north and south of a central boulevard. This orientation meant that most of the flats had an advantageous East-West orientation, as in the Karl Seitz-Hof. The changes after 1926 influenced flat layout as described by INAUDIBLE in The architecture of red Vienna 1919 to 1934. In the new plan, the Wohnküche, central space of the proletarian dwelling was eliminated and replaced by a working kitchen, Arbeitsküche, and separated self-contained living room. The cooking INAUDIBLE or scullery also disappeared, so that the linked Spülküche, Wash area and toilet that had been a feature of many of the earlier apartments was also dispensed. In the new plans, the toilets all opened off the small entrance hall. Finally it's important to mention the Karl Marx-Hof designed by city architect Karl Inn and built between 1927 and 1930.

Notes

Summary

16m 18s





It is a further very famous example of a super block creating a city in the city with a total length of over one thousand two hundred meters which created two large courtyards and a central square. The flats themselves were planned with four entrances per floor and single sided orientation. The Karl Marx-Hof also represents a type of fortress, an image accentuated by the facade treatment of the central section. In fact the Karl Marx-Hof, as well as other Höfe played an important role in resisting the Austro fascists. After 1932 until the Anschluss. That is the voluntary annexation of Austria to Hitler's Germany in 1938. This event would also mark the end of an extraordinary period of housing production in the red Vienna.

Notes

Summary

17m 29s

