

PRESS RELEASE
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Living as *Gesamtkunstwerk* – Labvert Remodels Viennese Apartment for Design Lovers

When Stephan Vary and his architecture and design studio Labvert were recently contracted to redecorate an apartment in a nineteenth-century building in the 8th district of Vienna, there was a special challenge in store for them. The clients were friends of Vary's, a cosmopolitan married couple with residences in Paris and Vienna and a great passion for design. This undoubtedly made the assignment more demanding, but simultaneously more appealing as well—for it offered the possibility of a creative exchange at eye level. The result is a uniquely holistic approach in which architecture, layout organization and furniture design harmonize perfectly.

Instead of a heterogeneous mix-and-match, all materials, colours and shapes are meticulously coordinated throughout the entire apartment. Taking inspiration from the mid-century style, the overall concept pays tribute to the heyday of interior design in the 1950s and 60s. Using natural materials and colours wherever possible, a contemporary and one-of-a-kind living space was created. As such, a hint of *Wiener Werkstätte* is discernible in the approach as well, since a significant number of furniture items, installations and accessories were exclusively designed and hand-made for the occasion.

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To be able to compose an entire apartment from scratch like this is rare. I greatly enjoyed developing an overall vision together with the clients that leaves nothing to chance and is adapted to the needs of the apartment owners in every detail.

Stephan Vary

Located in a typical Viennese *Gründerzeit* building, the heart of the apartment is an expansive cooking, dining and living area that forms a flowing continuum of space. Historical details like the mirrored doors and tall double windows with interior wooden shutters were carefully restored and integrated into the new design concept. To ensure maximum functionality without detracting from the generous spaciousness, the kitchen was partitioned off with a delicate steel-and-glass wall that can be closed as needed with two sliding doors or opened up to create a commodious eat-in kitchen. The cooking area is characterized by clear-cut shapes and high-quality surfaces, with countertops made of a gentle grey terrazzo that harmonizes pleasantly with the new light-coloured oak floors laid down throughout the apartment. Some of the cupboard doors are made of warm teakwood, while others feature lightly reflective structured glass fronts to lend additional emphasis to the depth of the room. The interiors of the cupboards are lined with light maple wood and natural leather.

This combination of open-pored teakwood exteriors and maple interiors complemented with nickel-plated metal details is encountered throughout the entire apartment. The dining table is a special highlight which was designed for the clients by Stephan Vary: Its slanted legs made of solid wood and nickel-plated steel playfully pick up the mid-century theme, thereby harmonizing perfectly not only with the classic designer chairs by Arne Jacobsen, but also with the hand-crafted sideboard. The ensemble is complemented by a black leather sofa group drafted by Johannes Spalt for Wittmann in the 1960s and a rug with stripes of red, light brown and gold that was designed by the apartment owners themselves.

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For our apartment, it was important to us to create a place that exudes peace and offers a sensual experience with a variety of natural materials. You will find nothing here that glares or gleams too brightly. An apartment should be like a favourite piece of clothing that you slip into and immediately feel comfortable with—a home like a cashmere sweater.

Susanne and Thomas Mick (clients)

All of the style elements are repeated in the remaining rooms in a playful richness of variations and adaptations. The adjoining office, for instance, features a further sideboard with the characteristic slanted legs and a purpose-built desk, both made of teak. The bedroom, which faces the interior courtyard, continues the concept of steel-and-glass constructions as room dividers. In addition, both the sleeping area and the walk-in closet make use of a high-tech textile weave to create a more intimate and peaceful atmosphere, and the full-length curtains in sand-coloured cashmere emphasize this impression even more. Finally, the bathroom takes up the harmonious combination of terrazzo and teakwood once again, with both the mirror lights and the mustard-yellow rug being exclusive Labvert-designs.



LABVERT Architecture & Design

Founded in 2005, Labvert is an architecture and design studio based in Vienna that realizes projects worldwide. The team of ten architects and designers supporting Stephan Vary specializes in retail architecture, interior design and brand design in the luxury segment and works for numerous national and international companies. Dior, Hennessy, Bulgari and Römerquelle are among the studio's long-standing customers. The projects

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focus on the development and further enhancement of exclusive, strong brand names and the staging of sales and product experiences. New media and communication technologies are key elements for achieving this.

Labvert offers a wide range of services, covering every project step from the initial conceptual design to the final roll-out. In close cooperation with our customers, we develop and realize individual and distinctive solutions. The implementation of a versatile portfolio, including both interior design and architecture as well as jewelry and furniture design, is the result of a playful leap in dimensions between spatial concepts and object design.

FACTS

Design: Labvert, www.labvert.com

Client: private

Location: 1080 Vienna

Completion: Spring 2019

Total area: 130 m²

Executing companies for Labvert-designed elements:

Furniture: Kattun, Eisenberg/Raab

Kitchen & divider: Stand-Art, Warsaw

Plumbing fixtures: Fantini

Terrazzo: Gierer, Pöchlarn

Rugs: Tai Ping Carpets

Bathroom mirror lights: individually produced by Jakob Uhl, Vienna

Additional furniture:

Dining chairs: Fritz Hansen/Arne Jacobsen

Sofa group: Wittmann/Johannes Spalt

Lounge chair: Vitra/Charles Eames

Office chair: Vitra/Charles Eames

Kitchen stools: Knoll International/Harry Bertoia

Bathroom stool: Knoll International/Warren Platner

Spherical ceiling lamps: Classicon

Standing lamp & desk lamp: Oluce/Joe Colombo

Headboard lamps: Occhio

Sun blinds: Kvadrat

Artworks:

Peter Kogler, Max Piva, Margherita Spiluttini and Michael Dürr

PHOTOS

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Project text and images available for download at <https://press.labvert.com>

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