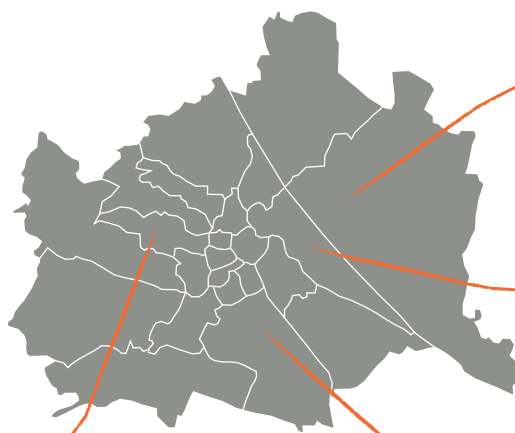


SPORT & FUN Vienna, Austria

An urban strategy to build low-threshold sports halls

Brief description

The 'Sport & Fun' halls are easy to access with low entrance fees (flat rate system) and are located close to public transport stations (metro, tram) in deprived neighbourhoods. The 'sport & fun' concept provides a high potential to equally supply all residents but especially youngsters with infrastructure for sports and fitness. All costs are kept low – starting from planning and building to the management and maintenance of the halls. However, the equipment of the facility has high quality.



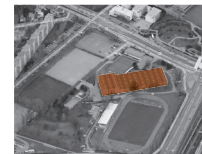
Sport & Fun 'Ottakring'

This hall shares the outdoor facilities with a school next door. The photos below are taken at this site.



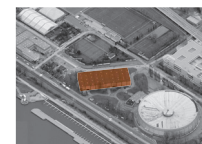
Sport & Fun 'Donaustadt'

This hall is connected to Vienna's biggest boulder hall - a booming sport at the moment.



Sport & Fun 'Dusika Stadium'

The first hall built in 2004, next to the Prater area - a big recreation area with forests, walking, cycling and horse riding tracks, facilities of various sports clubs, as well as facilities for high performance sports (e.g. football and cycling stadium)



Sport & Fun 'Eisring Süd'

Connected to a competition for social housing the 4th hall is planned and will be built in 2011/2012

From experiment to urban strategy

The idea of the 'Sport & Fun'-Halls in Vienna started in 1995 by reusing an old convention hall as temporary sports hall as an alternative site for youngsters on rainy days from May to October. The initiator is the youth worker Wilhelm Göppert. Right from the beginning the concept was a big success and after some years - when the old convention hall could not be used any longer - the concept altered to a permanent sports facility to be used throughout the whole year. The first permanent 'Sport & Fun' hall was opened in 2004, after it was used the year before as a warm-up hall for track and field championships. Today three permanent 'Sport und Fun'-Halls exist - mainly in deprived neighbourhoods, a 4th one is projected.

Low-threshold indicators of 'Sport & Fun'

* Low entrance fees

The entrance fees for the halls are not dependent on a membership: Children and youngsters until the age of 18 pay Euro 2.50/day, adults pay Euro 4.00/day. All halls can be used by school classes between 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. for the special rate of only Euro 10.00/day per group.

* User groups

People of all ages, gender, social as well as ethnic backgrounds but especially youngsters use the facilities. Up to some visits especially girl groups seem to use this hall intensively, who are in public urban space highly underrepresented at facilities for physical activity and sports (e.g. parks, ball game opportunities, etc). The 'Sport & Fun' halls seem to have potential to support this female user group.

* No equipment needed:

The halls can be used with outdoor shoes and street cloths, which is another indicator that it is easy to access without big individual investment in sports equipment. Nevertheless, one can find changing rooms and showers there. A great variety of sport equipment - balls, rackets, etc - can be borrowed for free.

* Various types of sports are offered:

Street soccer, streetball, volleyball, beach volleyball, badminton, table tennis, inline hockey as well as a fitness area (must not be used under the age of 18). Some 'Sport & Fun' halls also offer outdoor facilities.

Sustainable urban development and building

The 'Sport & Fun' halls are connected to other infrastructures: At 'Sport & Fun Ottakring' the outdoor sports facilities are also planned and built for the school next-door. The 'Sport & Fun Donaustadt' is connected to a big boulder hall in cooperation with a different provider. The projected 4th hall is connected to a new social housing area. The 'Sport & Fun'-Halls are multiple sports halls, constructed as low-energy-buildings. The economic concept is organized with clear responsibilities: The loan of the personal working at the 'Sport & Fun'-halls - 2 attendants at one time in each hall - is fully covered by the earnings of the entrance fees. The maintenance of the hall (cleaning, repair) and the acquisition of new equipment is fully subsidised by the Municipal Dept. of Sport, MA51, Vienna.

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