ATP
– a new DNA for integrated design

ATP architects engineers, short ATP, is one of Europe’s leading architectural offices. What makes ATP special is its design culture: The architectural office is known as a pioneer of integrated design throughout Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

TEXT: JESSICA HOLZHAUSEN

The renowned British architecture magazine BD listed ATP among the top three offices in continental Europe and amongst the top 35 worldwide. In 2013, IDA, the US-American Int’l Design Award, nominated ATP as architect of the year in the field of sustainable design and planning. A year later, in 2014, ATP were honoured with the Green Building Integrated Design Award.

Integrated design
520 architects and engineers work for ATP at eight independent offices in Europe – five of which are situated in Germany, Switzerland and Austria. On average the ATP supervises 155 projects in 14 countries. What all the offices have in common is their planning culture and the desire to make the world a little bit better by creating outstanding buildings.

ATP is a pioneer in the area of integrated design, which involves the perfect interaction between architects, structural engineers as well as the engineers for building services and object monitoring – all of them in-house and integrated in the ATP offices’ teams. For the past 35 years ATP have been developing and refining this planning method that is uncommon for the DACH-area. Today, ATP is the only architectural office worldwide with an ISO 9001 certified integrated design process. This also explains the group’s constant growth, the well-developed structures and the outstanding know-how in this field of architecture.

A European architecture network
ATP works internationally but has a clear focus on the European market. “We like to work together with people who have the same cultural identity and live for European values,” says Thomas Mattesich, Partner at ATP Munich, the first ATP office to open in Germany in 1989.

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ATP Munich
– a big player in the south of Germany

ATP Munich was the first ATP office in Germany and today it is still one of the company’s main pillars. ATP Munich has been designing production and research facilities for the automotive industry for years, working for brands like Daimler, MAN or BMW. ATP Munich have also developed a prize-winning prototype for the German supermarket chain EDEKA Süd.

Even before the ATP office in Munich was founded in 1989, ATP’s activity on the German market represented 50 per cent of the group’s overall work. Munich became the third ATP office after Innsbruck and Vienna. “To open an office in Munich was the right decision,” says the company reflectively.

ATP Munich is a success story. Soon after opening, the office won first place in a competition run by the Süddeutsche Verlag and could therefore be counted among the first league of design offices in Bavaria. Temporary offices in Leipzig, Dresden and Prague followed, cooperating closely with the office in Munich. Today ATP Munich has 70 members of staff, making it one of the big players in the Southern German architecture scene – especially when it comes to designing buildings for automotive or retail use, as well as office buildings and hotels.

Munich’s “Schwabinger Tor” is set to be a fine example of a five star plus hotel with approximately 280 rooms. Central to the hotel is a building integral to the whole quarter as it links the surrounding buildings and functions in an energy-saving capacity.

To work most effectively on projects such as the Schwabinger Tor project, ATP uses modern planning tools. In 2008 ATP architects and engineers were one of the first offices in the German-speaking regions to use Building Information Modelling – an important step into the future. Today, all of the ATP offices work with virtual BIM building models that optimally depict the integrated design process, allowing obstacle-free planning and a smooth process promising strong results for clients as the process runs much more smoothly. Clients can virtually walk through the 3D-model of their buildings even during the early planning stages and simulate possible overheads in advance.

Even though ATP Munich’s main focus may be in the German region, the office works internationally too. “Often enough our German clients want us to accompany them to foreign countries,” says Thomas Mattesich, partner at ATP Munich. German companies operating in other European countries or worldwide rely on ATP to design their buildings not only in their home country but also abroad.

Below: Thomas Mattesich, Partner, ATP Munich. Photo: ATP/Becker Lacour
Below middle: BMW-GAZ, Munich. Photo: ATP/Sandra Goldschmidt
Bottom: Kemмелpark, Murnau. Aesthetic design for a retail park. Photo: ATP/Florian Holzherr
Bottom left: E-center, Ingolstadt. Award-winning design: Corporate architecture EDEKA Süd. Photo: ATP/Engelhardt/Sellin
ATP Frankfurt
– a fast growing member of the ATP group

ATP Frankfurt, formerly ATP N+M, is one of the most successful ATP offices. With its origins as a well-known Frankfurt architectural office, it has been reborn as part of the ATP group and the office has since gained a wider architectural spectrum and witnessed a return to success.

In 2007 the well-known architectural office N+M – best known for its skyscrapers in “Mainhattan” in Frankfurt – needed to redefine itself when the founding fathers left the office. It became a member of the ATP group and therefore part of one of the leading architectural and engineering offices in the DACH area.

Back in the fast lane in only five years
“After being a full member of the ATP group for five intensive years, we can say today that we are able to plan and design outstanding buildings integrated and up to the highest standards,” says Ulf Bambach, partner at ATP Frankfurt. “In this short time we have brought the office back into the fast lane and increased our staff from 25 to 70. “This increase went hand-in-hand with the widening of their performance spectrum; ATP Frankfurt now also works with existing building stock in the housing industry, trade, industry and science alongside its previous (but ever present) competences of designing new high-rise offices and administration buildings. In the last three years ATP Frankfurt has won eight architectural competitions and is today expanding its portfolio towards healthcare buildings by establishing ATP health.

Integrated design is well perceived
“In our experience integrated design for complex challenges is well perceived especially in Germany, Austria and Switzerland,” says Ulf Bambach. “We are able to find individual solutions according to place and situation. We have a lot more potential – either with new buildings or in existence with current building structures.” This includes questions of sustainability and modern technology. With ATP sphere and ATP sustain, ATP runs its own research facilities. New insights and technological developments find their way into ATP planning processes – regardless of whether the projects are conducted by ATP Frankfurt, Munich or another of the younger offices.

Ulf Bambach, Partner, ATP Frankfurt. Photo: Becker Lacour
ATP Zurich
– a competence centre for residential buildings

By integrating the domestic Zurich architectural office kfp into the ATP group some years ago, the new office strengthened ATP’s presence on the Swiss market, although ATP had worked for regular clients there before.

Today 35 employees work for ATP Zurich, more than twice as much as in the founding year of 2010. ATP Zurich functions as a competence centre for “residential construction”. Working together with other ATP offices they support each other in realising projects or exchanging staff and expertise. This network – of which ATP Zurich is part of – makes ATP unique. “Using the same planning tools company-wide enables a smooth and non-stationary staff employment,” says the ATP Zurich general manager Matthias Wehrle.

Strategies according to the clients’ needs
Clearly defined strategies and a full understanding of the client’s requirements are the basis for a successful project: “We know our clients’ needs and processes before we even make the first draft. If necessary, we help our client to develop a strategy and initiate a project.” All of this happens in a simultaneous and integrated process. “At the end of every stage we ensure that we are on track to meet the project’s aims, which are outlined and defined before embarking on a project.”

Successful projects
In summer 2012 one of ATP Zurich’s more recent projects was finished: The BMG MIS research and production complex in Ulm, Germany – an industrial building requiring sound interaction of architecture, technical and media equipment. One of the key areas of their design was to make sure that this building did not resemble a factory, instead it should fit the urban context.

Currently ATP Zurich is constructing a complex of 150 flats in Cham, Switzerland and a residential and commercial building for the Losinger Marazzi AG Zurich in Lenzburg, Switzerland. Situated in a former industrial area, the second example requires the firm to integrate the historical identity into a new and modern environment.

Last but not least, ATP Zurich is planning a new watch production facility for IWC Schaffhausen. Together with the client, ATP is designing the manufacturing complex in line with the corporate identity and supports an optimised process layout by design.

For Matthias Wehrle there is no recognisable “ATP-style” – rather, every project is unique and therefore treated as such to make it even more specific. “A project’s aim is the optimised synthesis of functionality, genius loci and the client’s own identity.”

Above: Matthias Wehrle, Managing Director, ATP kfp Zürich.
Photo: ATP/Becker Lacour
Bottom left: Morges – Gare Sud, Morges, CH. Competition.
Rendering: ATP/Nightnurse
Bottom middle: Zürcher Kantonalbank ZKB, Steinfels, CH.
Photo: ZKB
Bottom right: Im Lenz, Lenzburg, CH.
Rendering: ATP/Atelier Achermann