

# g.o.y.a. (group of young architects)

## Freispiel

Guntramsdorf, Austria

Photographs: Kurt Hörbst

Freispiel kindergarten is located in a beautiful setting, nestled in a grove of chestnut trees. Its rustic design celebrates a sense of open space and connection with its environment.

To meet the various needs of the children the building is organized as a series of structures, each connected visually with the trees. Classrooms are arranged around a hallway which, like the activity area, branches out from the foyer. Clad in larch wood, and with floor to ceiling windows affording panoramic views of the surroundings, the foyer was designed as a multi-purpose area that provides additional space to enable different kinds of activities to take place simultaneously in the various sections of the building. The wall it shares with the gymnasium is flexible and can be folded back to create a larger, open events room when needed.

The interior of the building is also clad in larch wood to harmonize with the environment. Load bearing walls of spruce cross-laminated timber are faced with triple-layered spruce panels finished with a bright white varnish. Each classroom has a large panoramic window set at child's-eye level with ample lower sills that double as benches. In contrast to the airy classrooms, the gallery offers a more intimate experience; light floods in from a skylight through which the tops of trees can be glimpsed.

The upright trunks of the old trees around the kindergarten suggest strength and perseverance, and these characteristics are expressed in the language of the building with its preponderance of wood. Footbridges and terraces link the classrooms, imparting a sense of well-being. Three themed play areas – Balance and Equilibrium, Calm and Nature, and Sand and Water – are distributed around the garden of the property.

Conceived as a low-energy building, the school is heated in winter and cooled in summer by a ground water heat pump feeding under floor piping. CO2 concentration controlled ventilation ensures optimum air quality.

**Architecture:**

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**Project leader:**

Paul JE Preiss

**General planner:**

ARGE KS + g.o.y.a.

**Site area:**

3,644 sqm (39,224 sqft)

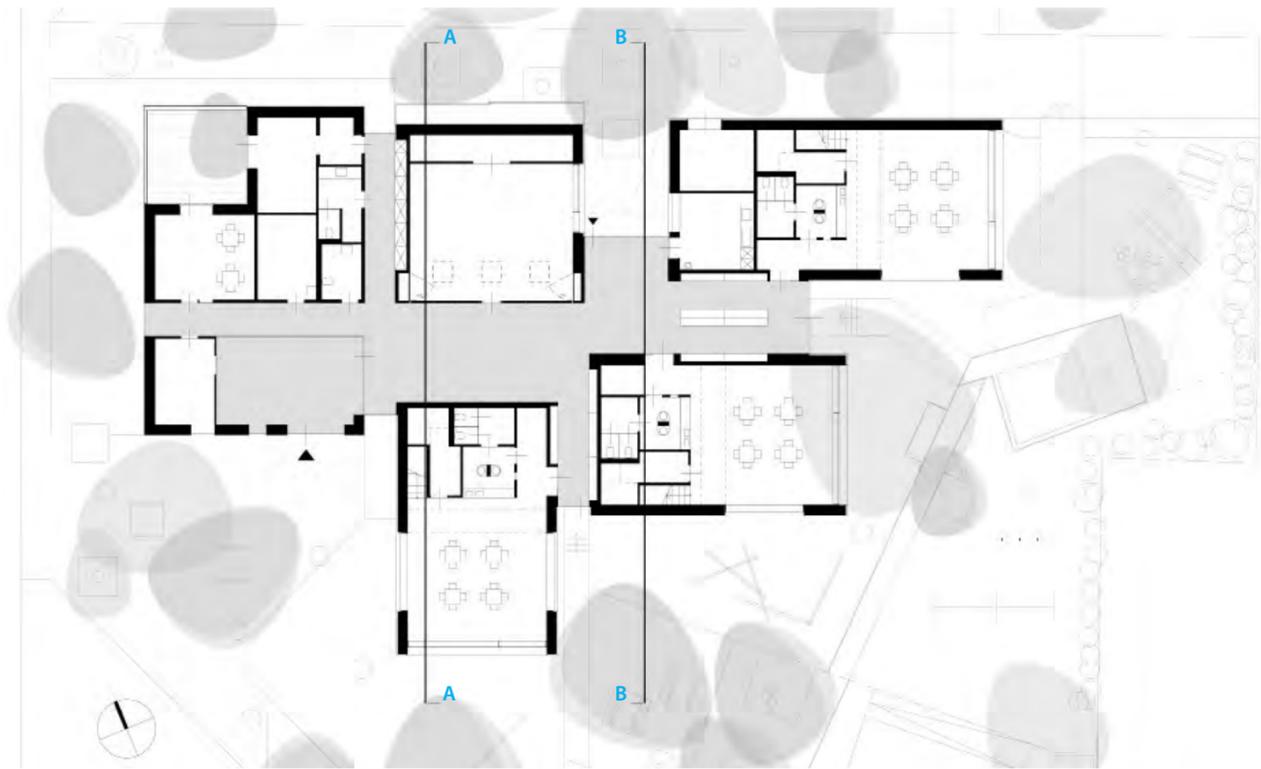
**Project area:**

730 sqm (7,858 sqft)

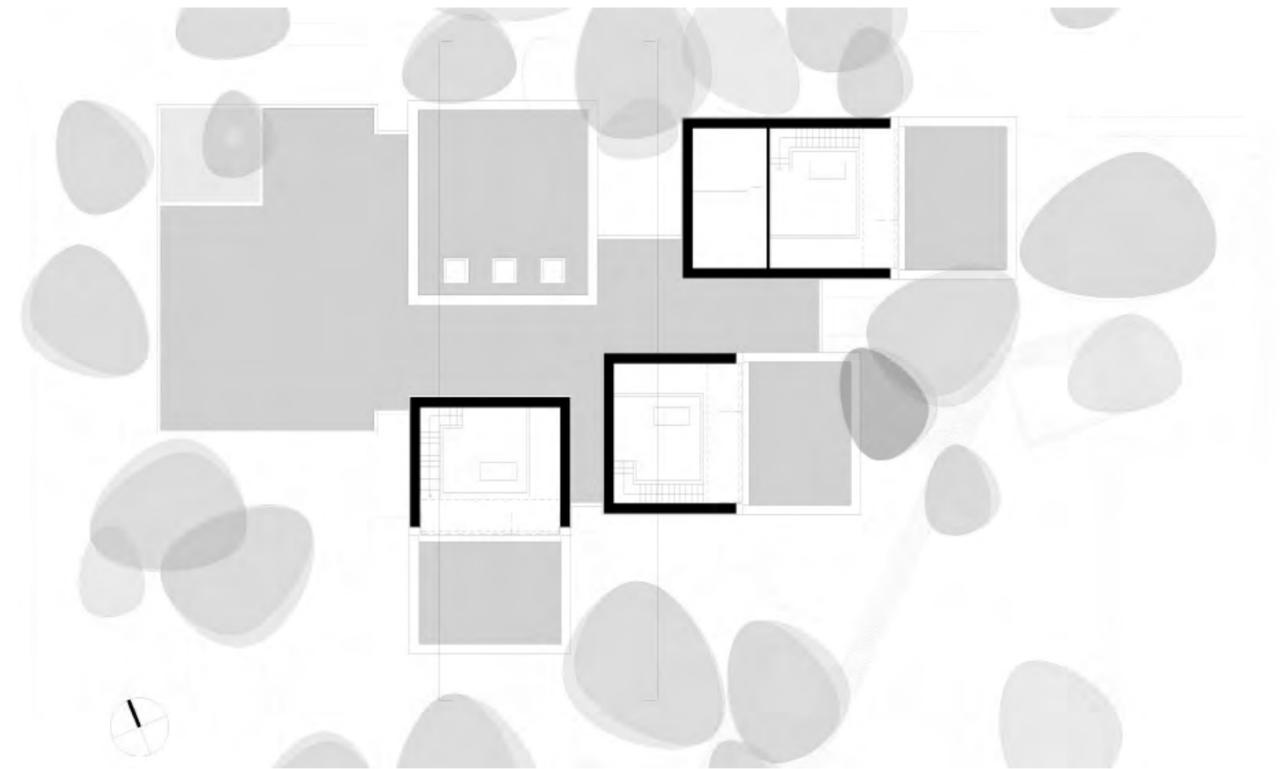


Designed as a multi-purpose area, the foyer provides additional space to enable different kinds of activities to take place simultaneously in the various sections of the building, but the wall it shares with the gymnasium is flexible and can be folded back to create a larger, open events room.





Ground floor plan



First floor plan







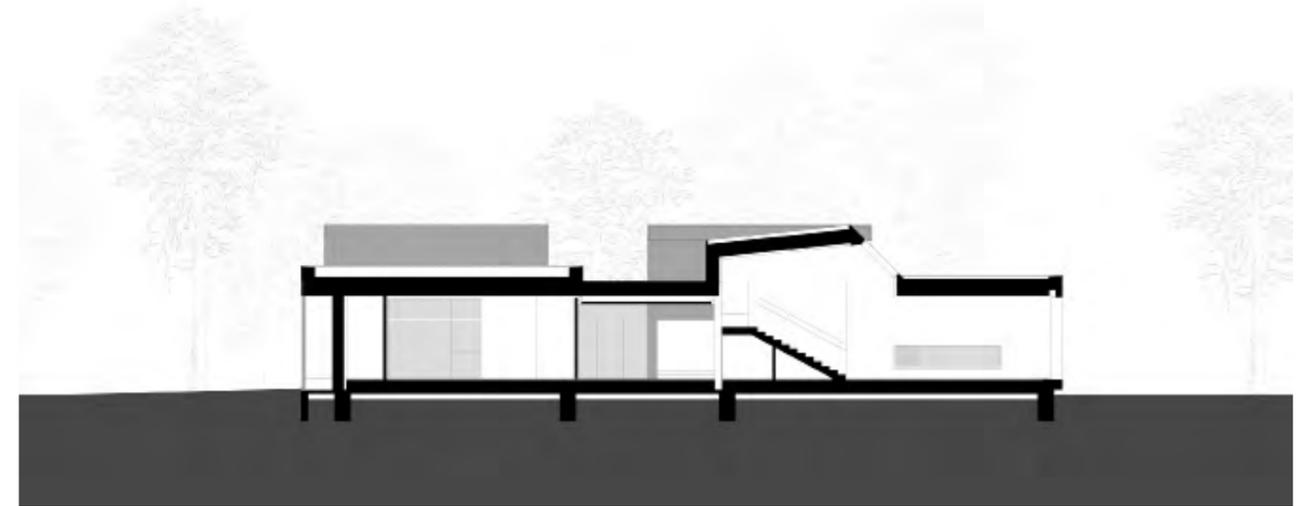
North elevation



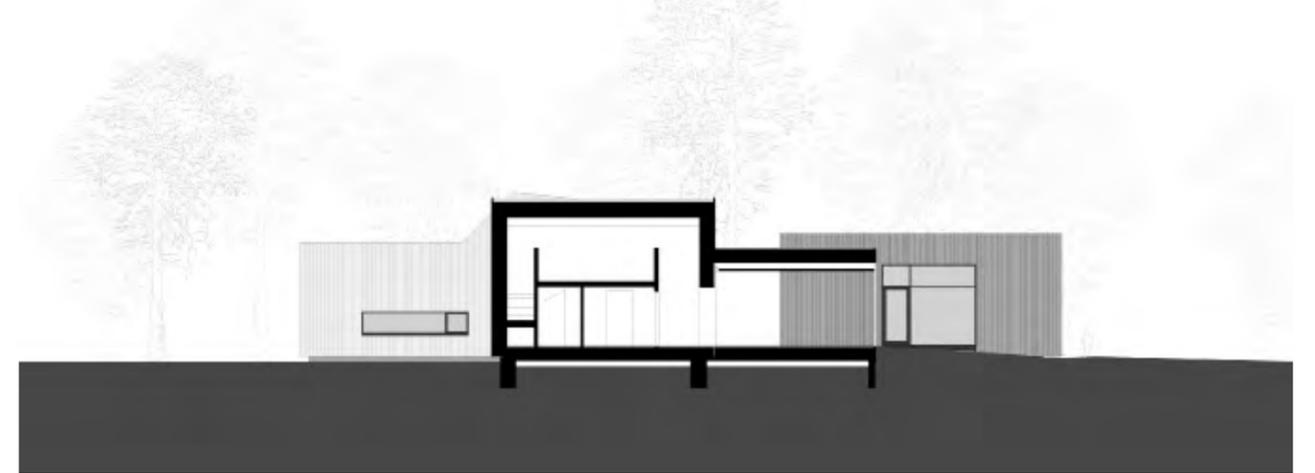
South elevation



West elevation



Section AA

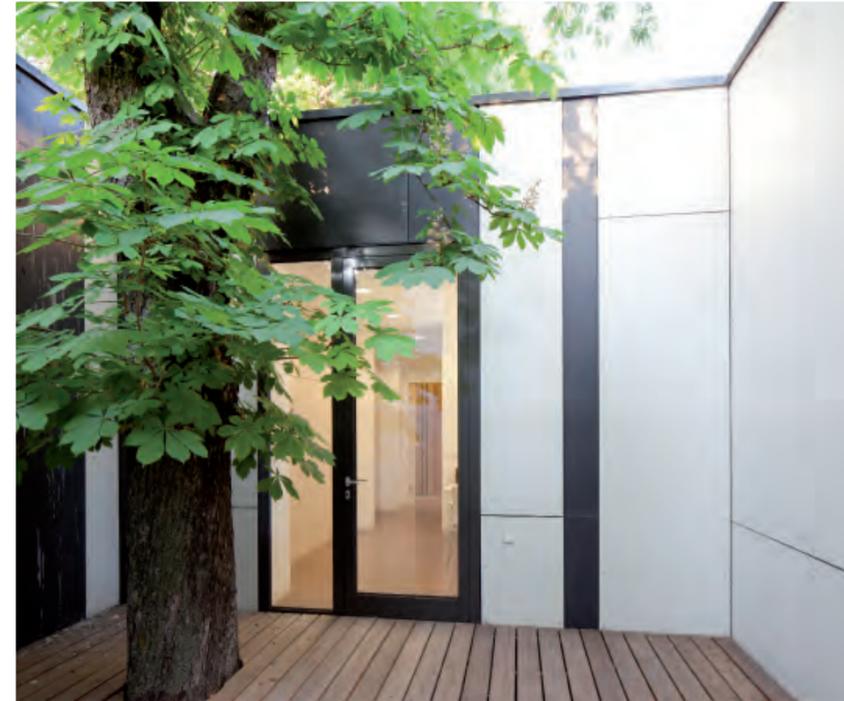


Section BB



East elevation

The interior of the building is clad in larch wood to harmonize with the environment. Load bearing walls of spruce cross-laminated timber are faced with triple-layered spruce panels finished with a bright white varnish.



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