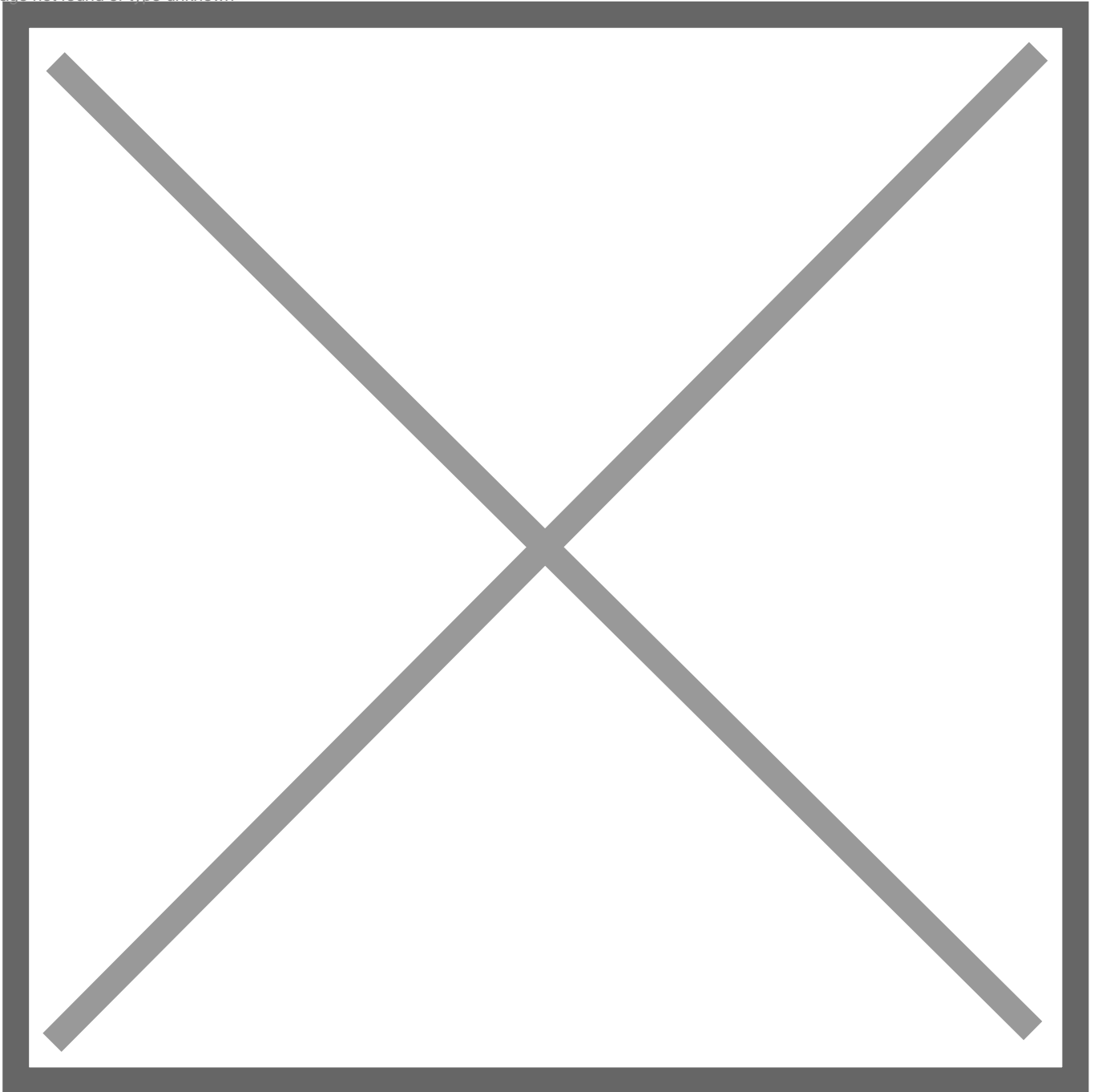


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NMS III Weiz (Neue Mittelschule III) Hauptschule, Bundesgymnasium und Bundesrealgymnasium

Austria

Offenburger Gasse 23
Steiermark (Bundesland) Styria (State) Weiz
(District) 8160 Weiz

Commission

1968

Completion

1978

Original name

Hauptschule und Bundesrealgymnasium
[Secondary modern School and Federal High
School]

Other denominations

Schulanlage Weiz [Schulanlage Weiz]

Original use

Education/school

Current use

Education/school

Architects

Viktor Hufnagl

Concrete by reinforcement

Reinforced concrete

Construction method

Cast-in-place concrete, in-situ concrete

Architectural concrete

Architectural concrete

Structural types

One-dimensional/concrete frame, Two-
dimensional/[waffle] slab, Vertical wall structure

Description

The Viennese architect Viktor Hufnagl was notable for his typological investigation of school architecture, an effort he undertook mainly during the 1960s and 1970s. His school designs originated from both architectural and philosophical arguments, and they were articulated based on an in-depth knowledge of pedagogical and didactic innovations. For Hufnagl, a school was a protective microcosm in which to practice social interactions; for him, it should be, above all, a cultural center – dynamic and stimulating.

This educational complex located in the town of Weiz, in the mountainous region of Styria, is one of the most solid examples of the author's intensive research, which had a remarkable influence on Austrian school architecture in subsequent years. In the words of the author: "The people of Weiz wanted the most modern school in Austria, and I wanted to bring the sum of all my school-building experience to the project and develop it further." V.H.

Here, the usual hallway outside the classrooms becomes a broad central space with careful architectural detail; it serves as both a lobby and an assembly hall – a setting for the school's

public and cultural life. It is a spacious interior space, surrounded by balconies and bleachers, with entrances to the classrooms that open onto it; it is lit from overhead through a concrete waffle slab, which spans the entire space without the need for central supports.

The second innovation in the complex has to do with the extraordinary versatility of the interior. This is achieved by using a simple modular structure, with a small number of pillars, which allows for multiple subdivisions using a lightweight construction system of folding partitions made from wood and glass.

Links

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