

## PRESS INFORMATION

### **The redesign of the Hotel InterContinental, Vienna Ice Skating Club and Vienna Concert Hall site will create a new urban hot spot in Vienna.**

Vienna, March 2015. The site surrounded by the Vienna Concert Hall (built in 1913), the Vienna Ice Skating Club (WEV; established in 1899) and the InterContinental Vienna (built in 1964) documents the (architectural) history of Vienna in the 20<sup>th</sup> century like no other part of the former Glacis.

In 2012, the Vienna InterContinental property in the centre of Vienna was acquired by WertInvest, a Viennese real estate development company, specialized in the restoring of classical Viennese houses. WertInvest has a strong focus on a demanding architectural approach and cautious handling of protected historical substance.

In close cooperation with InterContinental, Vienna Ice Skating Club and Vienna Concert Hall, WertInvest started an unprecedented cooperative planning process, which involved the local population as well as the urban authorities and led to an architecture competition with international participation.

At the beginning of 2014, a jury of experts selected the Brazilian star architect Isay Weinfeld as the winner of this architecture competition. Isay Weinfeld is not only among the most sought-after contemporary architects but is also successful in the areas of exhibition design, stage set, and furniture and object design and, in particular, as a filmmaker. Like no one else, he has succeeded in developing a sensitive, elegant and modern architectural style with a Brazilian stamp.

Weinfeld's conceptions will unite the three separate institutions InterContinental, Vienna Ice Skating Club and Concert Hall, to form a harmonious architectural ensemble. The currently unattractive and closed-off area will become an attractive public and multifunctional place.

In the centre of the site: The outdoor ice-skating rink measuring approx. 6,000 m<sup>2</sup>, which offers multiple uses for sporting and cultural activities in the summer. Facilities of the Ice Skating Club will be modernised and completed by an indoor ice rink available all year round. New sporting facilities – including an indoor swimming pool - will additionally be established and dedicated to the public. "Openness" is one of the key ideas of the architectural and landscape design; passages and paths will improve the connection between the first and the third district. Furthermore, the concept foresees a generous public place for relaxation and enjoyment and will offer a harmonious balance between gastronomy and consumption-free areas.

The refurbishment of the Hotel InterContinental seeks to display and underline the beauty of the building designed by C. Appel and W. Jaksch: the clear and spacious design of the building, the elegance of the great entrance hall, the carefully thought-out room design, the simple and relaxed luxury that stands for a certain lifestyle. The number of rooms will remain constant at approx. 450.

# WERTINVEST

A new and generous congress and event centre, offering a wonderful view of the ice rink, creates a valuable addition to Vienna's facilities as a congress city. An event room about 1,000 m<sup>2</sup> in size as well as several small to medium-sized event rooms, equipped with up-to-date technical standards in line with today's requirements, will make the InterContinental Vienna one of the leading Viennese congress hotels again.

An additional building next to the InterContinental, measuring about 73 metres offers 7,700 m<sup>2</sup> for apartment use.

A boulevard will arise - the space located in front of the site will in future offer more space and will be tree-lined. Therefore it is planned to move the lanes on Lothringerstraße in the direction of the first district and to create an attractive and wide space.

Sustainability, energy efficiency and ecology in construction and operation are a strict guideline of the development.

The development of the site is due to start in 2018 - after the ice skating season - and will be finished in 2020.

## **About WertInvest:**

Since 1998 WertInvest group has successfully developed properties in exclusive inner-city locations, focusing on architecturally demanding buildings, combining historical substance and modern architecture according to international standards. In addition, WertInvest implements special projects such as a street greening in Vienna's sixth district or the 25hours Hotel. WertInvest was awarded the "Stadterneuerungspreis der Stadt Wien" (prize for redevelopment awarded by the city of Vienna) for the refurbishment of the "Heumühle", the oldest secular property in Vienna. WertInvest manages a portfolio of around 180,000m<sup>2</sup>.

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