

# VIEWS:



**Admonter**

**STIA Holzindustrie GmbH**

8911 Admont, Austria

Tel: ++43 (0) 3613-3350-0

Fax: ++43 (0) 3613-3350-17

e-mail: [info@stia.at](mailto:info@stia.at)

[www.admonter.at](http://www.admonter.at)



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# PRO JEC TRE POR T





ARCHITECTURE TOUCHES WOOD.

# THE PRO JEC T:



## **Naturhotel „Waldklausen“. A dream made entirely of timber, glass and stone.**

In 2003 Mr and Mrs Auer, the owners of the Waldklausen restaurant which is situated in Längenfeld in the Austrian province of Tyrol and renowned for its culinary delights, decided to expand their business and build a high quality spa hotel.

This new Naturhotel Waldklausen was opened in October 2004. It is positioned on a breathtaking stretch of forest land right next to the restaurant and is equipped with 120 beds as well as a sauna area.

Built entirely of timber this unique 4 star hotel fulfills the high ecological demands of its guests, satisfies their recreational expectations and offers an absolutely new and exceptional experience.

Inside the Naturhotel a natural scent of the timber prevails. The room climate is both refreshing and sound as wood not only absorbs humidity but at the same time continuously returns some of this humidity to the air in the rooms.

The main focus during the planning and construction stages was placed on creating a warm and cosy atmosphere, on utilizing a light-flooded architecture which incorporates the surrounding landscape and on keeping a good balance between the materials timber, glass and stone.





ARCHITECTURE FINDS AN ANSWER TO ALL QUESTIONS.

# THE O W N E R

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**Mr Auer, you are the builder-owner of the Naturhotel Waldklaus. How satisfied are you and your family with the guests' response so far?**

Our concept – nature in its purest form – is being very well accepted by the guests. This fact is underlined by the guest numbers which are continuously increasing since our opening in October 2004 - as I am pleased to say.



**Why did you opt for this “nature in its purest form” concept?**

Well, because that is what I believe in. In our area we live in a very natural environment and day after day everyone here tries to live in line with nature in order to preserve this balance. Moreover, wood creates this warm and cosy atmosphere that we were always aiming for and which no other building material can create. But we also wanted to do something entirely new in the hotel sector which would absolutely distinguish us from all the others.

**Did your choice of material make the construction easier or more difficult?**

It definitely made the construction more difficult. Building a hotel entirely of wood was not only a novelty for me but also for the local authorities. As a consequence approvals for fire protection or statics, for example, took a lot longer than they usually do. But even during the construction period we were faced with interesting and demanding challenges. Wood, for example, is an ideal conductor of sound and it took us quite some time to figure out how to best handle the acoustic noise. Actually I think this is the only negative property which wood as a building material possesses. Nevertheless, various isolations and innovative ideas enabled us to solve this problem to the complete satisfaction of everyone.

**Which architect did you work with?**

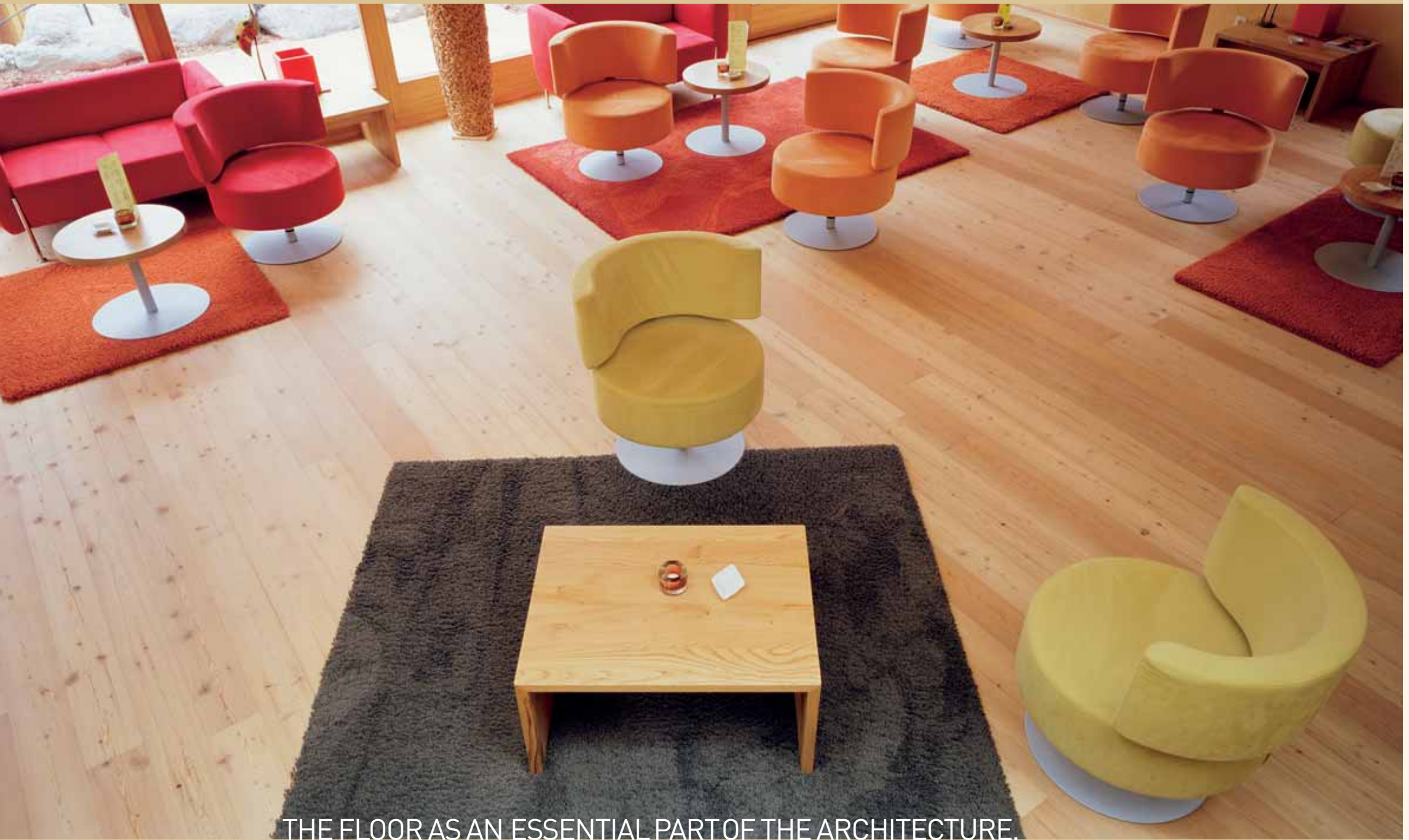
I worked with Markus Kastl an architect from Mieming in Tyrol.

**You have chosen Admonter Natural Floors not only for the rooms and suites but also for the sauna and recreational area. Why did you install a wooden floor in these areas?**

Well, we focused on consistently following our concept in order to create a healthy, cosy and comfortable atmosphere in every room. As a consequence we chose Admonter Natural Floors - a 100% natural product.

**Do you think this trend to use natural materials in architecture will continue?**

Actually, I think this trend will even increase. Nowadays everyone is exposed to stress and unhealthy environmental conditions. Therefore, it will become always more important to live in natural environment which promotes the personal wellbeing.



THE FLOOR AS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE ARCHITECTURE.

# THE FLOOR: OR:



### **Siberian Larch knotty one-strip**

LARCH 3-layer-construction; micro-bevelled edges, top and bottom layers made of same specie for improved stability and balance. Coniferous middle layer promotes a flat surface, which enhances durability. Colour: yellow-orange, closely grained structure with small knots, occasional knot plugs, small filled knots and resin pockets are possible - greater occurrence of natural shakes in comparison with Mountain Larch.