



SEMPER-DEPOT

1060 Vienna, Lehargasse 6-8
Former k. k. Hoftheater Kulissendepot
(Court theatre scenery depot)
Gottfried Semper and Karl Hasenauer,
1874-77

Since 1996:
Academy of Fine Arts studio building
Architect: CARL PRUSCHA
Head of restoration: Wolfgang Baatz
Client: BIG-Bundesimmobilien Ges.m.b.H.

Unused for decades, and once even threatened with demolition, the former Court theatre scenery depot has been given a new lease of life as a studio building for the Academy of Fine Arts.

The only surviving utilitarian building by Gottfried Semper in Vienna is marked by its unusual ground plan in the form of a triangle with the corners cut off, while a transversal wall with large doors divides the interior into two sections, the "Prospekthof" open up to the roof, and the hall-like rooms above each other on either side of the central wall, each with three rows of cast-iron columns.

The restoration is characterised by subtle sensitivity for the preservation of the monument. Wherever possible, the natural patina was left unchanged, and the facades were also preserved in their original condition. Bullet holes, blunted corners and the patina are today living testimony to the building's age and eventful past.



Fire Escape on the north wall



"Prospekthof"



Studio Room

