

The History of Palace Eschenbach

The ÖGV (Austrian Business Society) which was established in 1839 decided in the 1860's to build a clubhouse according to the plans of the famous Viennese architect, Otto Thienemann, in the architectural style of Palladianism. The Palace was officially opened by Franz Joseph I of Austria in 1872 and is located near the famous Ringstraße, the most magnificent boulevard in Vienna. Michael Matscheko, Wilhelm Exner, Franz Wertheim and many more have influenced the history of Palace Eschenbach.

Many crucial projects like e.g. the Viennese Urania, Vienna's School of Engineering (TGM), and the Vienna World Exhibition of 1873 were conceived and later made a reality in this very building. The piano nobile, which is the principal floor of the Palace¹, was not only used for meetings, celebrations, and balls, but also for presentations of brand new technological innovations. In 1868, for example, the first public test flight of the model aircraft invented by Wilhelm Kress took place in the ballroom of Palace Eschenbach.

After a number of renovations and several decades later it was high time to improve its image and to breathe new life into Palace Eschenbach. It was destined to be more than just an ordinary clubhouse.

A change of direction had to take place. Instead of being the site of poetry readings for elderly people or club members the Palace Eschenbach became a new location for events and became famous for its "After Work" parties. Every week Palace Eschenbach attracted the Viennese high-society with its famous parties and events, which were unique at that time. Thus Palace Eschenbach quickly became one of the top locations for parties and other events.

It did not take long until the Palace started to receive requests from other clubs to rent it for an event. However, it had no lessee who could make that possible. Gerhard Podbrany, one of the co-organizers of the "After Work" parties, could see above and beyond and realized the potential of Palace Eschenbach and became its first lessee.

After the takeover the pace of things picked up quite a bit. Palace Eschenbach opened its doors to a broad audience and enjoyed a good reputation as one of the best locations for events and parties. Today, the Palace looks back on a rich history of various events.

The foundation of **any.act** – the company operating Palace Eschenbach – which took place 2006, was another milestone in the history of Palace Eschenbach. Gerhard Podbrany, together with his new partner Philip Keller dared to start this independent business. In addition to managing Palace Eschenbach the company has

also specialized itself in the planning and the organization of events of all kinds, even in locations other than Palace Eschenbach.

No matter whether it is a company event or an exclusive one, a party or a classical concert, a school dance or a university party, a conference or a symposium – Palace Eschenbach offers you individually available rooms and the necessary technical equipment to make your event perfect.