



Architecture: bernardo bader architekten | Design task: new chapel | Client: inhabitants of the parcels Au, Zwing, Salgenreute | Realisation: 2015 - 2016 | Structure: wooden construction, massive base | Awards: Piranesi Award 2017 | Bauherrenpreis Österreich 2017 | The International Architecture Award 2017 | best architects award 18 | Honourable Mention International Prize for Sustainable Architecture 2019

Salgenreute Chapel | AT-6780 Krumbach

The Salgenreute Chapel is located on an alpine conglomerate near Krumbach. The old chapel could no longer be restored, though it was not the aim to completely redo the existing structure. The chapel is a free-standing building displaying expressive architecture. It was the result of a creative process of planning and construction, characterized by an outstanding collaboration. Only when more than a hundred people see their work time and organizational skills as quality and added value of „doing“, can this bring about the opportunity to realize such a project and help fund it.

The chapel is built of wood and stone. The basic shape harks back to the existing 200-year-old chapel and includes a main aisle as well as an apse. The shape of the space is new - a steep rising spatial fold made out of wood, cantilevered above the ground. It generates appeal without the traditional tower top via its significance and symbolic value to the place and the overall theme. The foundation of regional limestone was placed as a dry-stone wall, while the walls and ceilings above feature hand-sawn larch shingles to protect against the elements. The sunlight will turn them dark over time.

The wall paneling, floors and simple pews are of untreated fir. The sidelight - entering through the apse glazing - makes the white stained, rough-sawn wood paneling in the altar area appear like a white textile covering. The statue of the mother God, which originates from the existing building, is not centrally arranged like in traditional concept, but is on the side. This leaves an unobstructed view straight ahead through the apse and draws the eyes out onto the natural landscape. Whoever enters the chapel leaves solid ground and proceeds on a reflective journey.