



**PALAIS  
LIECHTENSTEIN**  
*The Princely Collections*

# LIECHTENSTEIN CITY PALACE PRINCELY GEM & EVENT HIGHLIGHT

After around five years of extensive renovation work the CITY PALACE of the Princely family of Liechtenstein has appeared in all its former glory since April 2013. The advantageous situation in Vienna's inner city, the exceptional staterooms and selected masterpieces from the Princely Collections dating from the Neoclassicism and Biedermeier era combine to make the Liechtenstein CITY PALACE a new highlight and the insider's tip for exclusive events. Guided tours give those interested in art an opportunity to view this architectural gem.

"It was very important to us to renovate the CITY PALACE, which has belonged to our family since 1694. I feel that we have a certain obligation to preserve it for posterity. Elaborate detailed work has been carried out to bring the palace up to modern standards, whilst preserving all of its historic charm. Now we are delighted to be able to hire the house out for wonderful events and to bring it back to life with guided tours," explains the owner, HSH Prince Hans-Adam II von und zu Liechtenstein.

## THE RENOVATION. PRESERVATION OF MONUMENTS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL

The revitalisation of the CITY PALACE was the most comprehensive restoration following scientific principles for the preservation of monuments to be undertaken in Vienna in recent years. The highly demanding nature of the restoration explains the high number of staff employed during the renovation works: "On average there were 200 to 250 people on the site per day, and on peak days up to 500. In general, when it comes to restoration work, about two-thirds of the costs are to cover labour, and only one third is spent on materials or machinery. At a total cost of around 100 million Euro, this project has made a definite contribution to the safeguarding of employment in Austria," architect Prof. Manfred Wehdorn explains the economic significance of the project.

Before the renovation work began in 2008, subsidence and war damage had left the CITY PALACE in such a bad state that had only been superficially remedied, that the first thing that was necessary was to introduce a steel skeleton to support the structure. The building was further strengthened by the construction of a three-storey underground storage vault. Only then could the restoration work finally begin, relying heavily on the use of authentic materials and the building techniques of the original period. Thus, for example, any damage to the world-famous Thonet flooring was repaired through painstaking handcrafted intarsia work. In order to replicate individual silk wallhangings, a loom was specially adapted, which was capable of weaving more than 20,000 warp threads.

Furthermore, the restoration should be seen as an important example of the preservation of monuments in Vienna, where particular emphasis is placed on Alterswert (the value of aging and the importance of marks of usage). For that reason the gilding was only replaced where replenishment was necessary, otherwise the approximately 170-year-old gilding was merely cleaned. A total of 1.5 kilograms (approx. 150,000 pieces) of gold leaf were used, taking around 54,000 working hours to apply.

## THE TECHNOLOGY. HISTORIC REFINEMENTS CONTINUE TO IMPRESS

Even back in the Biedermeier era, the Liechtenstein CITY PALACE impressed with its furnishings and technical refinements: among other things, the doors to the large Ballroom could be either raised or rotated vertically. One side of the door was decorated in white and gold, the other with mirrored glass, so that, in a matter of seconds, the room could be transformed into a hall of mirrors. This historic technology has been restored as part of the restoration work. In addition to this, the palace now meets the highest modern technological standards: the whole house is fully air conditioned, all rooms offer disabled access,

approximately 1,200 LED lights have replaced the historic candlelight, and even the security arrangements meet the most demanding requirements.

## THE CONCEPT. EXCLUSIVE EVENTS & BOOKED GUIDED TOURS

“We set ourselves the goal of ensuring long-term public access to both the Liechtenstein GARDEN and CITY PALACES through a sustainable economic concept. For that reason the newly founded Palais Liechtenstein GmbH has been responsible for the marketing of both houses since the start of 2012,” explains HSH Prince Constantin, Chief Executive Officer of the Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation.

Around 250 m<sup>2</sup> of magnificent historic rooms on the first (upper) floor and around 320 m<sup>2</sup> on the second floor are available in the CITY PALACE for exclusive events. The luxurious ambience of the palace ensures moments to remember – at elegant cocktail receptions, weddings, gala dinners, seminars, congresses, award ceremonies, fashion shows and concerts.

Baroque stucco ceilings combine with opulent Rococo Revival interiors, original furniture, massive chandeliers and colourful silk wallhangings to create a harmonious whole. In addition, the Minoritenhalle on the ground floor, with its light wood cladding, own kitchen and direct access to the courtyard, offers an attractive and modern alternative, covering around 150 m<sup>2</sup>. A goods lift and dedicated catering area on each floor ensure that your event runs smoothly and professionally. “Our team specialises in working with our customers to realise individual designs for exclusive events. However, we always attach a high level of importance to protecting the historic venues in order to preserve them in the long term,” states Kathrin Siegert, M.A., MAS, Head of Events Management & Marketing.

## THE THONET FLOORING - PROTECTING A RARITY

The second floor of the CITY PALACE features the original wooden floors by Michael Thonet, which date back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. They constitute a rarity which - following completed restoration - is now to be permanently preserved. For this reason, the area of the floor in the event areas has been covered with an imitation flooring, a costly and time-consuming undertaking whereby photographs were taken of each square metre of magnificent patterning, the colours harmonized and the end result then printed on wooden panels. Ventilation grilles and doors have been adjusted accordingly and, between the original flooring and the imitation overlay, sensors constantly measure humidity and temperature in order to avoid damage to the original floor. "Through making an impression of Thonet's original designs, the historical appearance of the room has been preserved, and in the neighbouring gallery rooms, the original flooring can still be admired," explains Kathrin Siegert.

## THE ART. FROM AMERLING TO WALDMÜLLER

Members of the public with an interest in art have the opportunity to view the unique splendour of the CITY PALACE through a programme of booked guided tours. As in the GARDEN PALACE, guided tours are available twice a month on selected Fridays - revealing insights into aristocratic life and a tradition of collecting that spans 400 years (advance booking required!). It is, of course, also possible to arrange individual appointments for group tours.

On view in the CITY PALACE are paintings and furniture from one of the most productive and independent periods in the history of Viennese art, the, in the case of Vienna, almost inseparable Neoclassicism and Biedermeier era, including masterpieces from the works of Friedrich von Amerling, Friedrich Gauermann and Ferdinand Georg Waldmüller. They will create an interesting dialogue with the original interior of the building, the first Rococo Revival building in the world. “For the first time it will be possible to experience the full stylistic range of the Biedermeier period in this palace, from its apparent simplicity to the most opulent Rococo Revival style, both of which belong equally to this period,” opines Dr. Johann Kräfner, Director of LIECHTENSTEIN. The Princely Collections.