Description of Intervention

The 1.6 km long street is divided into three zones. Pedestrians rule the heart of the street. Local traffic, buses and suppliers are allowed in, but they have to behave like guests. Here people can stroll and linger freely. The two outer zones are designated ‘shared spaces’. In the shared space principle, the street is considered to be a place to be, rather than a place to pass. Cars, bikes and pedestrians all use the same space, causing everybody to be more considerate.

The new Mariahilfer Strasse is paved from facade to facade on a single level, using the granite from a nearby quarry. The street is divided into different zones by subtle lines in the pavement; a fast lane in the middle and slow lanes on the sides. The fast lane goes straight through the middle of the street, ignoring the curbs. This way, the slow lanes vary in width, creating natural city lounges on the broader spots. Here the outdoor furniture is placed: benches, water elements and planters with flowering trees. The city lounges are islands of tranquility in the lively shopping street.