In every project, the answer to the question is and remains people. Always. Here we have come full circle because at the end of the day it is always about Places for People. Protecting privacy and opening up to a community can take different forms. The decisive thing is that one has a choice.

5 MIN
50 €
is the average cost of this project for each person needing protection.
A Vacant Office Building in Vienna

A huge advertising banner hanging on the traffic roundabout behind the building gives no indication of what lies beyond the glass façade. The windows can only be seen from below. The presence of the building – which is certainly no object of desire – has not escaped notice. It looks like one of those many deserted industrial buildings which are familiar from the outskirts of cities all over the world. The façade, made of steel and glass, is also holding the space in a certain way, and does not let in any light. The presence of the building is practically invisible from the front and not in the bedrooms. Children’s playrooms and, indeed, anywhere, where the object is to work but not to be seen. Children are not permitted anywhere in the building and, below this, the logo and telephone number of the company are displayed in large letters. The site is undoubtedly a stopover for an uncertain period of time, a “camp” as they call it. It is a place where people dream of a lifestyle which is somewhat different, yet not entirely out of reach. The building is a place where they can stay, where they can work and live. It is a place where they can meet and exchange ideas. It is a place where they can create something which someone is looking for. It is a place where they can create something which someone is looking for. It is a place where they can create something which someone is looking for. It is a place where they can create something which someone is looking for. It is a place where they can create something which someone is looking for. It is a place where they can create something which someone is looking for. It is a place where they can create something which someone is looking for. It is a place where they can create something which someone is looking for. It is a place where they can create something which someone is looking for. It is a place where they can create something which someone is looking for. It is a place where they can create something which someone is looking for. It is a place where they can create something which someone is looking for. It is a place where they can create something which someone is looking for.
Music could suddenly be heard in the building, children took over the sewing room as a playroom.

It was up to each family or room-group to design their own sleeping and living area and they modified existing spaces to suit their needs. For example, the internal framework of the former office doors was left intact, and the walls were partly opened on the fourth floor. The initial dilution was now replaced by a mixing of levels and spaces across the entire building. It is clear that one stands on the threshold to occupy it themself?

The architects, Douglas Craig, Say the architects. “We are using the physical, social, and emotional structure that already exists as a basis for our work every day in an improvised kitchen, which is delivered by the army or charitable organisations. Now, although there are still no walls to separate the spaces in which one might not see anybody but one still feels immediately obliged to place one’s shoes next to them at the entrance. In reality, one has been in a room for a while but only now does one feel as if one is entering an apartment. The same old carpet is found throughout the entire building in this improvised

The communal form of the basic structure that enforces the boundaries between individual groups and allows families to strengthen the need to pay more attention to such informal places. The processes triggered by these temporary interventions show that a building like this which was originally an office building and then stood empty for some time can be a future building block of the future city that Doug Craig Fraser has described as inhabited by “insecure bodies” who have priority over the global globe. The idea that some of the spaces which are needed across the globe, the way in which the basic functions and networks emerge from human relationships is unclear.

In order to explain building blocks that are available despite its empty look of free spaces. Caramel used a further variation on the theme of improvisation and put an end to the simpleornamental lantern, which was installed on the plate, in Hallein. This is a plate with an ornamental lantern in addition of connection on the edge of the building which is intended to regularise the appearance and the visibility of the residential community. Eight months of building work were spent there.

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Throughout our first visit to the emergency shelter in Pfeffergasse in December 2015, it became clear to us that the use of the building was limited to the four months between then and the end of April. For this reason, we decided to realise an intervention that would have a positive influence on the living conditions of the 280 residents. We developed a minimal design repertoire for dividing up the space and creating privacy in the former open plan offices and then extended this simple formal language to the communal areas, internally and externally, where it is used to create bar elements, forecourt objects and garden furniture. In parallel with the development work in Haus Pfeffergasse, we have already used the “Home Made” Tool Set to meet a range of professional and private needs. This closed-loop approach delivers original, innovative solutions that can be used by all.
### Intervention / Factsheet

The three initiatives known as part of “PlACES for PeoPLe” from the focus of the overall project and, correspondingly, of the presentation in the Austrian Pavilion and in this publication.

The preceding pages, which were conceived and composed by Caramel architects themselves, contain not only the guiding themes, central ideas and impetus behind their intervention but also their working processes and results as well as an outlook on future developments. The term “interventi-on” was chosen because it appears to come closest to covering both the character of the various strategies and the breadth of their areas of action.

The text contribution is from Gabrielle Kaiser, a well-known Austrian architecture expert, who is particularly familiar with the work and the approaches of Caramel architects and with the issues they are addressing here.

This final page presents a summary of the most important facts and figures from the intervention in order to offer the reader both a quick overview and some means of comparison.

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**CREDITS**

caramel architects zt gmbh  

**Project leader:**  

Lena Schönleber,  

**Team:**  

Martin Koletti  

Gabriele Kaiser  

**Sponsors:**  

Nick Abrams  

The Noun Project,  

**For Illustration:**  

Cj-5 House in Vienna which was completed in 2014 and in which the ingenious spatial programme and solid detail enabled them to obtain five times as much usable space as the surrounding residential buildings despite the minimal area of the site. The team readily uses convincing counter-examples as a means of criticising existing relationships. Caramel’s energy and clear social agenda together with the consistently innova-tive character of their work led to the invitation to participate in “PlACES for PeoPLe” and the 2016 Architecture Biennale.

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**HOM MADE**

**Title of Intervention:** HOME MADE

**Startpoint:**  

vacant 1970s office building (total area 2,056 m²)  

from types  

Family rooms 30-50 m²  

open-plan rooms 100 m²  

External area: forecourt, 100 m² garden

**User groups:**  

60% (2016): 760 people (110 men, 90 women, 60 children)  

from 50% Afghanistan, 20% Syria, 20% Iraq, 5% Iran and 5% other nationalities

**Short description:**  

Creation of privacy, improvement of living quality, atmosphere and functionality in communal and external areas

**Objectives:**  

Privacy for 260 people by implementing 52 paraskta set up in 5 minutes and for 50 euros per person

**Central features:**  

Communal utilisation, individual appropriation by residents

**Environment:**  

Callable for expansion in the urban realm

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**ACCESSIBILITY**

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**TIMELINE: PROJECTED USE 2015-2016**

**Project start:** Mid-January 2016

**Construction first room prototype:** January 25th 2016

**Construction final room:** February 26th 2016

**Fitting out bar/café:** Feb. 11th-15th 2016

**Start of construction work in garden:** April 4th 2016

**Completion of garden including noise barrier:** May 11th

**Placecourt design:** ---

**Investment:**  

Total gross budget on April 30th 2016: £ 14,000!

Cost of care/person and day: £ 21

Exemplary cost of one mattress: £ 30

Cost of care/person and day: £ 21

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**Photo:** Andreas Gaber

Breaking new ground with every project is one of the objectives of the office founded in 2001 by Giuamer Kafka, Martin Haller and Ulrich Aparbeiger.

In the event, the trio and their currently twelve employees have spent the intervening years realising an impressive number of buildings – from self-built projects to universi-ty buildings – and have never ceased to surprise with their unorthodox approaches and clever concepts, powerful forms and unusual materials.

A lack of respect for conven-tion coupled with an absolute respect for the needs of users, a distinct eagerness to experi-ment and deep personal and political commitment are further characteristics of an ac-tive and sometimes activist architectural understanding that the team also convincingly shows in their publications, lectures and teaching.

The latest example of Caramel’s cleverness when dealing with limitations is the

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**CARAMEL ARCHITEKTEN**

**Cj-5 House in Vienna**

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**Biennale Architecture 2016, Austrian Pavilion**

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