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Start

- Health centre, Kiev
- Pavilion, Meudon
- Civil registry office, Madrid
- Residential and retail development, Druskininkai
- Conference centre, Cracow

Ready

- Bus and administrative centre, Thiais
- Community centre, Mannheim
- House, Majorca
- Rotermann Complex, Tallinn
- School extension, Zurich
- Science building, Nicosia
- Theatre, Copenhagen
- Student residences, Azores
- Residential building, Belgrade
- Warehouse conversion, Rotterdam

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Playful tribute

GERMANY — The client's main priority was to enlarge the shop space of the old-established **corner pharmacy** and to highlight its specialization in naturopathy and natural cosmetics. The laboratory was switched from the street front to the rear and the sales counter set back far enough to create a large, clearly structured space that invites customers to look around. Behind the automatic sliding door, a large doormat is followed by snow-white epoxy resin steps leading up to the main level. This is paved with granite cobbles of the kind widely used in the baroque city of Ludwigsburg. With this and other allusions to baroque themes, the renovation pays playful tribute to the city's history.

The white walls merge into a large moulded recess in the ceiling containing a delicate, colourful painting by Monika Trenkler showing eleven medicinal herbs. The (also) white-painted MDF shelves extend as far up the walls as the arm can reach; three walk-round display units set between floor and ceiling on islands in the shop space, zone the room without fragmenting it. With their unconventional, cheerful design, the architects outperformed professional pharmacy outfitters, proving once more that architects can always reconquer lost territory.

(URSULA BAUS)

RENOVATION OF 'LINDEN APOTHEKE' PHARMACY, 2007

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