Oslo builds a piece of history
Playful tribute

LUDWIGSBURG (DE) — 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 door mat 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 Tienker 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 conquer lost territory.

[Ursula Bass]

RENOVATION OF "LINDEN APOTHEKE" PHARMACY, 2007
Info: www/group.org