

Press release

Vienna, 27 November 2025

A 16-metre-high butterfly for health

WIEHAG receives the AGPB Technology Award 2025 for the timber construction of the SZMC Helmsley Cancer Centre in Jerusalem, Israel.

Designed by Canadian star architect Tye Farrow, the butterfly-shaped extension to the Shaare Zeedek Medical Centre integrates health promotion into its architectural design. The award-winning timber construction was created by the Austrian company WIEHAG.

The butterfly wings of the 16-metre-high timber construction were formed from 350 m³ of precision-manufactured glulam elements made of larch. The high degree of prefabrication of the timber elements contributed to a fast production time. As the first timber construction of its size in Jerusalem, the SZMC Helmsley Cancer Centre stands out simply because of its chosen design. The importance of architecture for well-being is becoming increasingly recognised in the healthcare sector. Wood, as a 'warm' material, supports the concept of health-promoting architecture. This is where timber construction 'made in Austria' comes into its own!

The Austrian Green Planet Building® (AGPB) Award focuses on energy efficiency and the supply of renewable energy. This transfers the objectives and criteria of the national climate protection initiative klimaaktiv for the construction and property industry to an international environment. AGPB honours the outstanding achievements of Austrian planning offices, consultants, construction companies and production companies abroad in the field of sustainable building.

AGPB is an initiative of the Austrian Federal Ministry for Innovation, Mobility and Infrastructure (BMIMI), the Austrian Federal Ministry for Economy, Energy and Tourism (BMWET), and ADVANTAGE AUSTRIA.

Project description, photos video, factsheet and press release: agpb.at/en/szmchelsley.htm

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