

Hariri sisters take Salzburg

Residents of Salzburg, Austria, birthplace of Mozart, will soon experience a harmonious composition of a different sort: a cutting-edge architectural addition from Hariri & Hariri. In August, the New York-based firm won the commission for a mixed-use urban development in an invited competition. The project will rise on the former site of Salzburg's Stern Brewery and create approximately 100 mixed-income housing units, facilities for a postgraduate school, and a large gallery. The jury unanimously praised the design's "clear urbanistic tenor" and its integration of new and old structures.

Where other proposals called for tall towers, the winning design spreads a cluster of angular buildings, none more than eight stories tall, over the 5-acre, hourglass-shaped site. "Scale was a major issue because the city is already so dense and has a scale of its own," says Gisue Hariri,

who founded the firm with her sister Mojgan. "It's very different from most of the larger cities we know."

Rainberg Mountain hems in one side of the site with a vertical rock face. Inspired by the quarrying that took place there, the Hariris placed rectangular volumes around a shared garden that are reminiscent of stacked blocks of stone. "We proposed blocks that looked like they were chiseled from the rock face, which gave us the opportunity to form each one differently," says Gisue. "Even though it may look a bit random, the planning of each one was done very carefully in terms of location and angle to take advantage of views and light."

A new canal will be cut between the mountain and the site, with a public promenade snaking along its route. The upper floors of the buildings are designed to can-



The Hariris' design nestles up to one jagged side of Rainberg Mountain.

tilever over the footpath to preserve privacy for apartment dwellers and create dramatic spaces at grade for a spa and restaurant.

On the eastern section of the site, an existing brewery building will be renovated to house classrooms and residences for the school. Behind it, sculptural skylights will

pierce a grassy public square to bring sunlight deep into the old brewery's underground vaults, which will contain the House of Architecture, a gallery and lecture space to be run by Initiative Architektur Salzburg. Construction of the \$57 million project is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2007. *Tim McKeough*

