

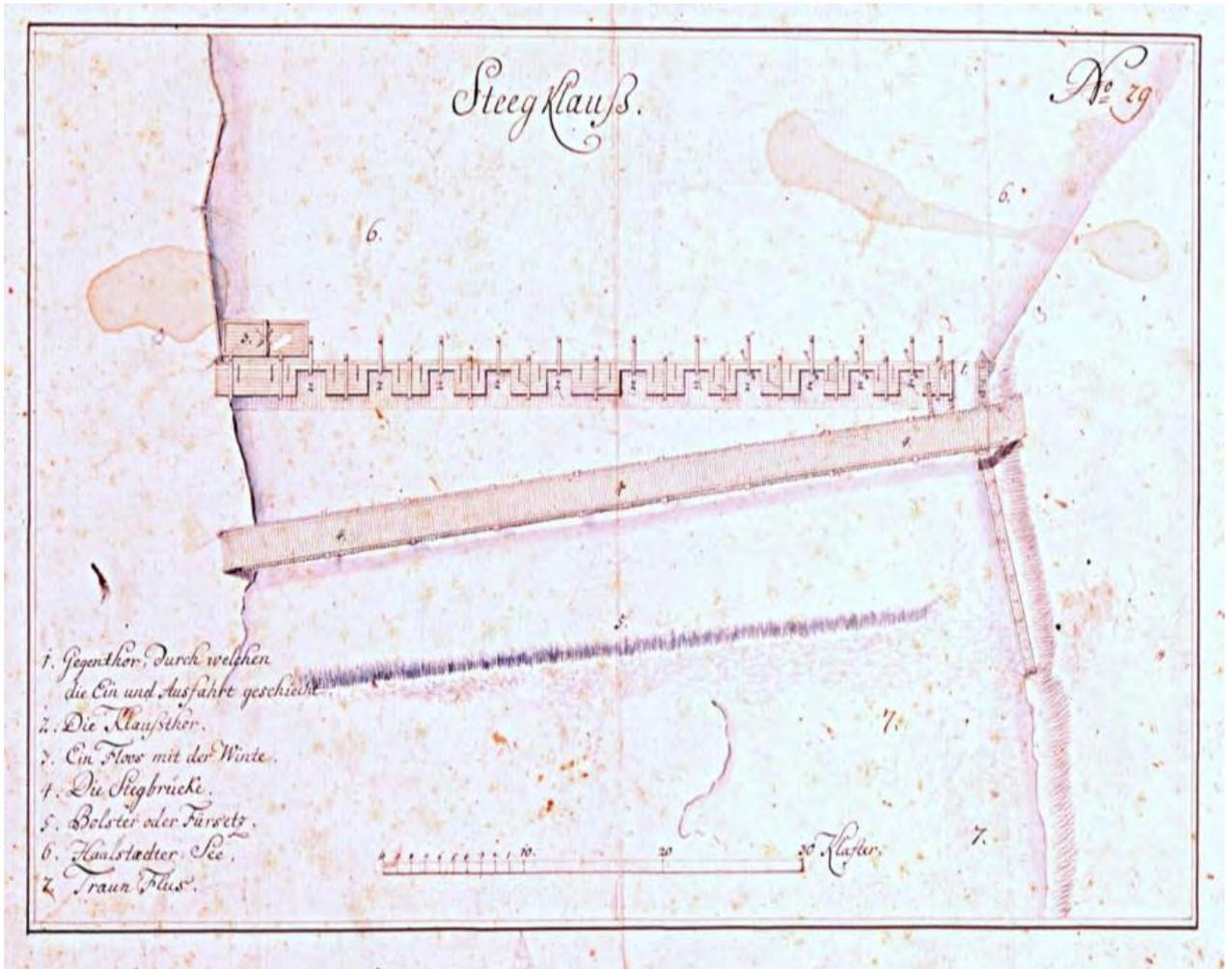
The Seeklause at Hallstätter See, Austria

The weir system Seeklause at the outflow of the lake Hallstätter See in Steeg / Municipality of Bad Goisern, is one of the oldest technical monuments of Austria. Since 1997 it forms part of the World Heritage property *Hallstatt / Dachstein – Salzkammergut Cultural Landscape*. Constructed around 1540, it represents the most important installation of this kind in Europe. Since centuries it raises or lowers the water level of the lake what enabled once shipping and the drift of tree trunks on the river Traun. Still it ensures the protection against floods. As it has been maintained on regular basis, proportions, design and material of the construction remained unchanged throughout the centuries. Only some years ago a gate construction of reinforced concrete was made, which should enable an automatized functioning of the installation.

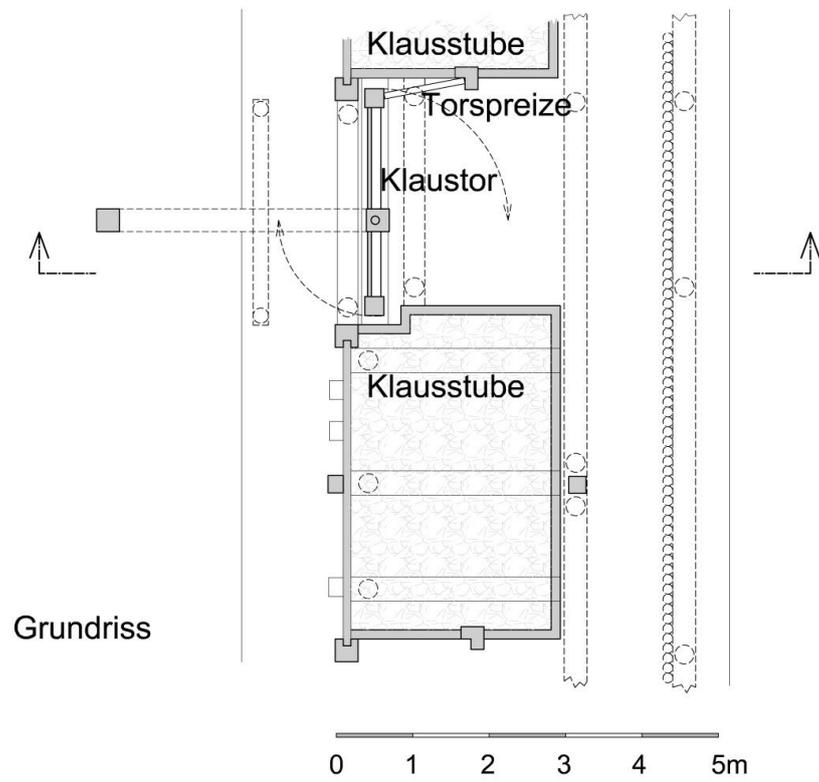
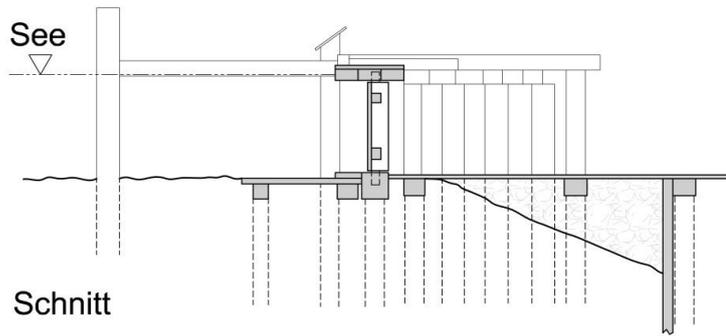
However, currently there are demands raised by politicians to adapt the Seeklause according to the technical state of the art which would cause the demolition of this unique technical monument.

The Seeklause consists of two individual, separated constructions, the weir system “Klause” and the “Polster”. The Polster represents a counter-weir system some 40 meter downstream of the Klause. The Klause is formed by twelve wooden boxes. The eleven openings between the boxes can be closed by gates. Through the downstream located Polster, the downstream water-level will be raised what leads to the reduction of the pressure on the upstream gates.

Prof. Gerhard Stadler from Vienna University of Technology proposed the implementation of a modern weir system-regulation as legal basis of an operating method which has been already successfully applied at Thuner See, Switzerland: Through pre-lowering of the lake level at short notice according to the weather forecast the surplus water could be deduced during a couple of days. As a result, this unique technical monument could be preserved.



Ground plan of the Seeklause, around 1800, format: 41,0 x 29,0 cm, ©Ö. Landesarchiv Linz.



Horizontal plan and sectional view of a logging dam pass, plan by F. Idam



The "Seeklause" Photo by F. Idam



Polster with Doggen (© Gerhard Stadler)