

Annual Press Conference 2019

Architekturzentrum Wien

Heatwaves, storms and heavy snowfall: Extreme weather is dominating the news here too. Man-made climate change is posing a threat to our planet on a global scale, and ecological, economic and social inequalities are on the rise. From April 2019 at the Architekturzentrum Wien, the exhibition '**Critical Care. Architecture and Urbanism for a Broken Planet**' shows how architecture and urbanism can contribute to resuscitate the planet — Critical Care alluding to both the work of an intensive care unit and a considered act of caring. The exhibition gathers together projects such as for the further development of local building techniques in Pakistan and China, the conversion of modernist megastructures in Europe, new concepts for public spaces in Brazil and Kenya as well as examples from Vienna.

Prior to this, in March the exhibition '**Rural Moves — The Songyang Story**' is dedicated to new concepts to combat rural depopulation in China that Europe would do well to learn from. The architect Xu Tiantian has developed a strategy of precise and networked interventions in collaboration with the local Songyang administration that combines local producers with communal functions and soft tourism.

With its fourth edition of SammlungsLab, in June the Az W pays tribute to one of the most influential architects in Austria. To mark the 85th birthday of Hans Hollein (1934-2014), the exhibition '**Hans Hollein Unpacked. The Haas-Haus**' opens up his archives and brings a wealth of material relating to what is probably his best known building in Vienna to light. Known as the 'Nation's Corner House', the Haas House directly opposite Stephansdom was controversial even before and during its construction. Models and drawings show the genesis of the project from urban development considerations to the setting, from extensive studies for the façade and atrium to the site fencing.

In the autumn of 2019, the exhibition '**Cold War and Architecture. Contributions towards the Democratization of Austria after 1945**' shows how international debates had an impact on building projects in Austria, and especially in Vienna, after World War Two. Following the liberation by the Allies, each of the four occupying powers established a varied cultural and 'educational' programme. Britain, France, America and the Soviet Union used architecture exhibitions to push their own cultural, ideological, economic and technological agendas. The exhibition provides a portrait of postwar modernism and the ideological conflicts involved, drawing on the numerous architects' estates in the Az W Collection.

In December, the '**Vorarlberger Baukunst**' is the subject of the fifth exhibition in the series SammlungsLab. The British lifestyle magazine *Wallpaper* once described Vorarlberg as "the most progressive part of the planet when it comes to new architecture". The westernmost federal state of Austria is known for its liberal building regulations, adventurous clients and innovative architects — a situation that has produced five decades of groundbreaking architecture.

In addition, there is a wide-ranging programme of events and excursions which in conjunction with the exhibitions is geared once more, in 2019, to show what architecture can do!

Exhibitions 2019

Exhibition hall 2

Critical Care

Architecture and Urbanism for a Broken Planet

25.04.–09.09.2019 | Exhibition hall 2

Opening: Wed 24.04.2019, 19:00

Press conference: Wed 24.04.2019, 11:00

Architecture and urbanism are dominated today by the interests of capital, the man-made climate crisis is threatening our planet, environmental and social injustice are on the rise. The exhibition assembles examples of architecture and urban planning which show that it is possible to care for a planet in a state of crisis.

In summer 2017 the curators examined ways that architecture and urban planning can repair the future at the Vienna North railway station grounds. In the Az W public workspace, international teams developed Care+Repair prototypes in collaboration with partners from the neighbourhood. The exhibition 'Critical Care' now extends the local view to include a planetary perspective, showing 20 international examples.

The exhibition is based on a radical care perspective that always starts with the given in the midst of things, and shows ideas and practices from an extraordinarily diverse group of protagonists. Among these are projects such as the sustainable development of villages in China, new public spaces in Sao Paulo, the revitalization of traditional irrigation systems in Spain, a community land trust in a favela of Puerto Rico, the conversion of modern megastructures in Europe, new alliances in Nairobi, or the resilient ongoing development of local building techniques in flooded areas of Pakistan. The projects prove that architecture and urbanism are capable of resuscitating the planet – "critical care" alluding to both the kind of work done in an intensive care unit, and a considered act of caring.

Curators: Angelika Fitz, Elke Krasny

A book is being published by MIT Press to accompany the exhibition.

Parts of the exhibition as well as the accompanying programme are part of the three-year research and development project Mischung: Nordbahnhof (lead TU Wien), sponsored by Klima- und Energiefonds as part of the Smart Cities Initiative.

Cold War and Architecture**Contributions towards the Democratization of Austria after 1945**

17.10.2019–24.02.2020 | Exhibition hall 2

Opening: Wed 16.10.2019, 19:00

Press conference: Wed 16.10.2019, 11:00

This exhibition constitutes the first attempt to situate Vienna's post-war architecture in the context of the Cold War. In contrast to Berlin, Vienna is not generally viewed as an arena of politicised architecture debate during the Cold War era.

Following the liberation by the Allies, each of the four occupying powers established a varied cultural programme of its own. Britain, France, America and the Soviet Union used architecture exhibitions as a propaganda platform for cultural, ideological, economical, and technological transfers. The architecture exhibited and the accompanying discourses became instruments of an 'educational programme' for a new social and world order that reflected the global competition of the Cold War.

The impact this had on the Austrian architecture scene is almost or totally disregarded. During this time, the intellectual elite established itself, and both the office of city planning and the architecture community set out in search of exemplars for a new urban identity.

An overview of the cultural offensives by all four occupying powers shows the different approaches they took. Alongside the various political motives of the Allies, the measures they took to gain cultural control were directed at different target groups. In doing so they were met with local traditions, heterogeneous interest groups and networks that used the cultural transfer and potential for conflict of the Cold War to advance their own careers.

The aim of this undertaking is to re-contextualize the national narrative with respect to enquiries at a global level on the architecture of the postwar era. The exhibition therefore not based exclusively on an architecture-historical analysis, but adheres, methodologically speaking, to the interdisciplinary approach of cultural studies and includes aspects of several branches of history: discourse, economics, society, institutions and politics. In addition, taking a close look at protagonists' biographies will shed light on international contacts, continuities, ruptures, omissions, reinventions, and career-advancing ambitions. The main focus is on the inclusion of previously unexplored primary and secondary sources. First and foremost among these are architects' estates in the Az W Collection, in which a large number of written documents have been preserved; viewed together they yield a portrait of the cultural consciousness of postwar modern architecture.

Curator: Monika Platzer

Exhibitions 2019

Gallery

Rural Moves – The Songyang Story

14.03.–23.04.2019 | Gallery

Opening: Wed 13.03.2019, 18:00

Press conference: Wed 13.03.2019, 11:00

The development of rural space is an urgent global challenge. Best practice examples from China show which strategies the young Beijing architect Xu Tiantian adopts to counter the rural exodus in the region of Songyang.

Dynamic urbanisation processes dominate large parts of the world. In China the structural transformation is not only being met with new high-speed railway lines and broadband access in the most remote of mountain villages, but also with small-scale architectural interventions. Buildings that integrate existing resources and often already forgotten traditional craftsmanship create positive perspectives for the future of cultural, social and economic development.

Songyang is a rural district in the southeast of Zhejiang Province, with over 400 villages, dominated by mountains and the Songyin river. The special landscape of gentle hills, craggy rock faces, paddy fields and tea plantations is to be found in traditional Chinese literature and in many paintings. This is where the architect Xu Tiantian has realised a large number of 'acupuncture points' in the countryside with her office DnA_Design and Architecture in collaboration with the village communities, the communal government and local craftsmen.

The exhibition features selected projects, and illustrates them with models, plans and photographs. Films show the new architecture in context, providing insight into the culture and also the history of the people of Songyang.

Exhibition design: Xu Tiantian, DnA_Design and Architecture, Beijing, in cooperation with Aedes Architekturforum, Berlin

Curators: Eduard Kögel, Hans-Jürgen Commerell

Hans Hollein Unpacked. The Haas-Haus SammlungsLab #4

13.06–19.08.2019 | Gallery

Opening: Wed 12.06.2019, 19:00

Press conference: Wed 12.06.2019, 11:00

Even before and during its construction the Haas-Haus directly opposite Stephansdom caused many a controversy. On the occasion of Hans Hollein's (1934-2014) 85th birthday we open up his archives and offer insight into the conception of what is probably his most famous Viennese building.

Initially commissioned as a conversion study, a new building, completed in 1990, proved more cost-effective. In the fourth episode of the Architekturzentrum Wien SammlungsLab series, a diversity of models and drawings show the genesis of the project considering urban analysis, extensive studies for the façade and atrium as well as the lettering and the colour of the site fencing. The abundance of preserved material provides an insight into the work process at Atelier Hollein. Discarded ideas, alternatives, different approaches, the references and the metaphors are revealed with a depth never shown before. Press reports document the at times intense debate.

In 2002 the five-storey atrium was removed while the building's external appearance was retained. The Haas-Haus has been a listed building since 2013.

The Archive Hans Hollein

An extensive part of Hollein's estate was acquired by the Republic of Austria in 2016 for the MAK, and has been entrusted to the Az W on permanent loan. Ever since, the 'Archive Hans Hollein, Az W and MAK, Vienna' has been accessible to the Architekturzentrum Wien for inventory and analysis. The exhibition not only examines the complexity of the design but also demonstrates the significance of architects' estates in providing a deeper understanding of the culture of the built environment.

Curator: Mechthild Ebert

An Intergenerational Dialogue: Vorarlberger Baukunst SammlungsLab #5

05.12.2019–21.01.2020 | Gallery

Opening: Wed 04.12.2019, 19:00

Press conference: Wed 04.12.2019, 11:00

Liberal planning and building laws, adventurous clients, innovative architects and an open and interested population are behind five decades of ground-breaking architecture in Vorarlberg.

The roots of this culture of building lie 'in the synthesis between structural and spatial rationality', as Friedrich Achleitner concluded in reference to the work of Hans Purin, one of the co-founders of the Vorarlberger Baukünstler. In 2000 the British lifestyle magazine Wallpaper described Vorarlberg as 'the most progressive part of the planet when it comes

to new architecture. ...The hills are alive with outstanding architecture'. The Architekturzentrum Wien is in the fortunate position of having in its collection work by key protagonists from among the Vorarlberger Baukünstler, such as Hans Purin, Rudolf Wäger, Gunter Wratzfeld, or the architecture collective C4. In SammlungsLab #5 we ask young architects to take a look back into the past at the formative buildings by this first generation of architectural artists in Vorarlberg, to reappraise their work and relate it to their own current projects. Many issues from the 1960s have not lost their topicality to this day, such as the terraced house as a response to resource-intensive single-family housing. What approaches from back then could provide inspiration for construction projects now? Where is the common ground for a dialogue between the generations?

Curators: Sonja Pisarik, Katrin Stingl

Exhibitions 2019

Exhibition hall 1

a_show. Austrian Architecture in the 20th and 21st centuries **Permanent exhibition**

The 'a_show' is the permanent exhibition of the Az W. It offers a compact overview of the development and history of the architecture of the 20th and 21st centuries in Austria along with a unique view of 150 years of architectural production.

In ten episodes the most relevant phenomena and tendencies are shown, while still leaving room for autonomous positions. Starting with Vienna's growth into an imperial metropolis, the exhibition brings visitors into the field of tension between socio-political experiment, the 'conquest' of areas of alpine landscape, the interwoven power structures of the Nazi period, and the rebuilding programme after 1945.

The year 1958 is significant for the development of architecture in Austria. At that time a number of key buildings were completed which signalled the somewhat late arrival of international modernism. Subsequently space travel, the worldwide ascendancy of pop culture and mass media made an impact on the production of architecture. The oil crisis in 1973 brought an abrupt end to utopian concepts, while at the same time marking the start of a variety of experiments in both formal and constructional terms. Current positions from throughout Austria are an important part of the exhibition and are presented in digital form.

Curators: Gabriele Kaiser, Monika Platzer

Collection with a View #5: A Picture of Austria

Showcase to the Courtyard

Opening: Wed 22.05.2019, 19:00

9 positions from 9 federal provinces – as an Austrian architecture museum we have an Austria-wide collection at our disposal. From 5 June our Showcase to the Courtyard presents an architectural picture of Austria with an array of buildings from the North to the South and from the East to the West in all of their regional diversity.

The range of structures covered is broad – from the hotel to the industrial building, from the housing complex to the leisure facility, from the church to the representational structure, together depicting the vitality of the Austrian culture of building.

Innovative, resource-conserving and ground-breaking construction projects of previous decades testify to the heterogeneity of the Austrian architecture scene, and the sensitivity of this structural and material diversity in responding to use-related issues and topographical peculiarities. Architecture never stands alone, it is always embedded in the cultural, environmental and social context of a region.

In the Showcase to the Courtyard, Collection with a View #5 provides an overview that conveys an architectural portrait of this country, a fascinating architectural journey through the nine federal states – a picture of Austria. You're in for a surprise!

Curators: Sonja Pisarik, Katrin Stingl

Exhibition 2019**Az W on Tour****Margherita Spiluttini, photographer. Portraits of Vienna**

13.11.2019–16.03.2020

An exhibition by the Architekturzentrum Wien in the Cité de l'architecture & du patrimoine

In Autumn 2019 the prestigious Cité de l'architecture & du patrimoine museum in Paris launches a series of architecture exhibitions about Vienna, among which is the exhibition 'Otto Wagner' originally held at the Wien Museum. For this focus on Vienna, in Paris, the Architekturzentrum Wien is curating the exhibition 'Margherita Spiluttini, photographer. Portraits of Vienna', and with it transplanting historical Vienna into the present day. The focus of the exhibition is on neuralgic urban transformation processes that the photographer has accompanied over her career and documented in her own personal manner. Around 35 years ago Margherita Spiluttini redefined architectural photography in Austria, and is today undoubtedly one of the internationally most significant proponents of the genre. It is thanks to her that architectural photography in Austria can lay claim to an independent artistic value of its own.

**The press release as well as rights free press photographs are available for download at:
www.azw.at/presse**

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