

Annual Press Conference 2020

Architekturzentrum Wien

The climate crisis, social conflicts and sustainable economics: The central challenges for our future are closely tied to architecture and planning, so the building sector is responsible for using a large part of the world's resources. The affordability of housing, integrative mobility and energy concepts, a low-impact land policy, material cycles, spaces for new forms of production in the modern digital age, architecture that creates identity and promotes health, platforms for encounter and participation — a prominent location is required for engaging with these topics on a trans-disciplinary level.

This is why the Architekturzentrum Wien is calling for a **new type of architecture museum**, a hybrid museum for architecture and the future that combines different know-how from research, culture and civil society, so counteracting the fragmentation of society. Such an architecture museum is knowledgeable about the past and shapes the future, it combines research and everyday life and becomes an experimental testing ground itself. Why can't a museum produce energy or run greenhouses? How can a museum be a public living room and a place of learning? How can an architecture museum become a laboratory for climate justice? The Architekturzentrum Wien wants to keep working on this vision with partners from politics and civil society. The goal is a museum that changes the future!

With its **2020 Programme the Architekturzentrum Wien** affirms a resolute societal perspective and again poses the question of what architecture can contribute to repairing the future. This year there is a particular focus on housing as a human right, and conserving that endangered resource land.

The exhibition season begins in March 2020 with an exceptional international architect. In 2018, Balkrishna Doshi was the first Indian architect to be awarded the prestigious Pritzker Prize. The 92-year-old architect, urbanist and teacher is among the key proponents of "a different modernism". His visionary works in the affordable housing sector, which include projects for factory workers and slum-occupants, as well as his strong commitment to education are central to his approach. The exhibition **'Balkrishna Doshi, Architecture for the People'** compiles a wealth of original material from six decades, including Doshi's famous drawings inspired by Indian miniatures. Recent photographs and film footage show the continuing life of his architecture.

In Summer 2020 the very popular **'Europe's Best Buildings'** comes to the Az W again. The two-yearly Mies van der Rohe Award is a seismograph for events in the European architecture sector. The current prize goes to a pioneering housing development project: an inspiring transformation of three apartment blocks from the 1960s in Bordeaux, by Lacaton & Vassal in collaboration with Frédéric Druot and Christophe Hutin. Alongside the housing issue, the best 40 European projects selected engage with the subjects of public space, education and the treatment of the original substance. This includes three projects from

Austria: the state school in Seestadt aspern by Fasch&Fuchs and a housing development by Vlay Streeruwitz in Vienna-Floridsdorf as well as the Haus der Musik by Erich Strolz and Dietrich Untertrifaller in Innsbruck.

In September 2020, the area of Vienna to the north of the Danube is the subject of the sixth SammlungsLab. Since their inclusion within the city limits, the two Districts of Floridsdorf and Donaustadt have served as a testing field for the development of modern housing projects. Much of what later went into production in institutional housing developments was originally tested in the Transdanube Region, where land was available at low cost and in sufficient quantity. Today two out of ten of the inhabitants of Vienna live on the 'other' side of the Danube, this is where the city is growing most rapidly. The exhibition **'Transdanubia: The Northern Periphery as the Testing Ground for Vienna'** shows prototypical housing projects and debates over nine decades.

Starting in November 2020, the big Autumn exhibition **'Land for Us All'** engages with one of the pressing issues of our time. Land is our most valuable resource. The surface of the Earth is limited. A careless or purely capital-driven treatment of this resource has changed the design and function of our towns and villages over recent decades. The progressive sealing over of surfaces is contributing to the climate crisis, increasing the cost of housing, making it more difficult to have sensible traffic and transport policies, and threatening food security. With the exhibition 'Land for Us All', the Architekturzentrum Wien sheds light on the tangle of the relevant competencies and responsibilities, such as spatial planning regulations, Austria's system of financial equalization between federal states, urban development, zoning, interest rate policy and the distribution of wealth. At the same time, the effectiveness of alternative local and international models is being tested too. A deeper understanding of the land policy context is essential for the transition to a climate-friendly and socially just development of our society. The exhibition prepares the ground for just that.

The sixth edition of **Collection with a View** is dedicated to the 150th birthday of **Adolf Loos**. To mark the occasion appropriately the Az W is organising an architectural excursion to Loos' houses and apartments in Prague and Pilsen. In fact, the architectural excursion format is being expanded. In 2020 tours are also being offered to India and Vorarlberg, among other destinations.

In addition, once again in 2020 and together with the exhibitions there is a diverse programme of events, educational activities and excursions throughout the year that really shows what architecture can do!

Exhibitions 2020

Exhibition hall 2

Balkrishna Doshi

Architecture for the People

29.05.–29.06.2020 | Exhibition hall 2

The Indian architect, urbanist and teacher Balkrishna Doshi is among the key proponents of an Indian modernity although he has achieved world ranking and influence well beyond this. His visionary work in the low-cost housing and urban planning sectors as well as his strong commitment to education are central to his approach. In 2018, he became the first Indian architect to be awarded the prestigious Pritzker Prize, the Nobel Prize for architecture.

In over 60 years Balkrishna Doshi (*1927, Pune, India) has realised a wide variety of projects, including the well-known Indian Institute of Management in Bangalore, the Aranya social housing estate and the architecture school he founded in Ahmedabad. Having worked with Le Corbusier and Louis Kahn in the 1950s, he has developed a vocabulary of his own that combines modern principles with traditional Indian techniques. By covering the spectrum from industrial to local craftsmanship, he adapts his architecture to suit local conditions. Doshi's humanist approach is influenced as much by his Indian roots as by his Western education. The interdependence of the outdoor and indoor spaces, flexibility and openness are recurring motifs. Inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's teachings, Doshi developed new approaches to social and experimental housing based on the participation of prospective residents and enabling adaptation to changing needs and requirements — key-words "growing house". His ideas of sustainability, which integrate the social, ecological and economic dimensions of architecture, are highly topical.

The exhibition brings together a wealth of original material, such as architectural models, plans and drawings, as well as Doshi's famous visualisations based on Indian miniatures. Recent photographs and films show how his architecture goes on living.

Curator: Khushnu Panthaki Hoof

Curator for the Vitra Design Museum: Jolanthe Kugler

The exhibition is a project by the Vitra Design Museum and the Wüstenrot Stiftung in cooperation with the Vastushilpa Foundation.

Europe's best Buildings
The European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture
Mies van der Rohe Award 2019
 30.07.–12.10.2020 | Exhibition hall 2

Every two years, the exhibition 'Europe's Best Buildings' focuses on outstanding architectural projects from Europe and has thus become a magnet for the public. It honours projects whose visionary character serves as an orientation, if not a manifesto for the development of contemporary architecture.

This year's award goes to a pioneering housing development project: the transformation of three apartment blocks from the 1960s in Bordeaux with a total of 530 units, by Lacaton & Vassal in collaboration with Frédéric Druot and Christophe Hutin. The other finalists' projects range from a public square in Tirana, Albania, to new combinations of living and working in Berlin. The Emerging Architect Prize was awarded to BAST for the extension of a village school in Montbrun-Bocage, France. From the almost 400 projects nominated from 36 European nations, a total of 40 projects were selected for the exhibition by the distinguished jury, of which the Az W Director Angelika Fitz was a member. These include three projects from Austria: the state school in Seestadt aspern by Fasch&Fuchs and a housing development by Vlay Streeruwitz in Vienna-Floridsdorf as well as the Haus der Musik by Erich Strolz and Dietrich Untertrifaller in Innsbruck.

An exhibition by the Fundació Mies van der Rohe – Barcelona

Land for Us All
 19.11.2020–05.04.2021 | Exhibition hall 2

Land is our most valuable resource. The Earth has a finite surface. A careless or purely capital-driven treatment of this resource has changed the design and function of our towns and villages in the past decades.

The progressive sealing of the soil is contributing to the climate crisis while speculation and the hoarding of land increases the price of housing, threatens public space and makes it more difficult to have sensible traffic and transport policies. Outside the major centres weak or unapplied spatial planning regulations result in a landscape with shopping centres, chalet villages and a broad carpet of single-family houses while village centres become deserted, traffic explodes and lost arable land threatens food security.

But a lot has changed in recent years. Public awareness for the climate crisis and the lack of affordable housing has been raised. City administrations and politicians are slowly becoming aware of their responsibilities and have started taking action, not least because the financial pressure has increased and the scarcity of land is no longer an abstract matter. Where the pressure was strongest, new approaches and instruments are already being tested. This is a good time to analyze the state of our country, to identify the most pressing problems and to test the efficiency of various national and international concepts and projects.

The key to an environmentally sound, just and beautiful Earth is so close and yet remains abstract in everyday life. With the exhibition 'Land for us All', the Architekturzentrum Wien sheds light on the complex relationships between land policy, spatial planning, the economic background, social issues and climate goals. It graphically explains common concepts such as the division of competencies, Austria's system of financial equalization between federal states, spatial planning regulations and zoning, as well as mechanisms such as the influence of interest rate policy on land prices or the connection between private land ownership and wealth distribution. After all, a deeper understanding of the land policy context is essential for the transition to climate-friendly and socially just development of our society. The exhibition prepares the ground for it.

Curators: Karoline Mayer & Katharina Ritter, Az W
Assistance: Christina Kirchmair

Exhibitions 2020

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 #6: Adolf Loos – Nachleben

Showcase to the Courtyard

Opening: Wed 02.09.2020, 19:00

03.09.2020–Spring 2021

Adolf Loos is one of the most famous Austrian architects. His striking buildings still characterise the Viennese cityscape today, his architectural language has had a global influence. In 2020 his birthday will be 150 years old - reason enough for Az W to dedicate a showcase and an exhibition to this pioneer of modernism within the a_schau. **'Adolf Loos – Nachleben'** examines Loos' charisma for the following generations up to the present day. Based on an original find, we will open the birthday party with a showcase to the courtyard. In the in-depth exhibition, we want to trace the architects and buildings from our collection who were clearly inspired by Adolf Loos.

Curators: Sonja Pisarik and Monika Platzer, Az W

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

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