

Programme 2021

Questions for the collection and for the 21st century at the Az W

This year, the most significant architecture collection in the country is sending a strong sign of life with the opening of the new Permanent Collection on view at the Az W. The exhibition 'Land for Us All' makes a plea for a courageous land policy, and the solo show by Mexican architect Tatiana Bilbao brings her seismographic works to Austria for the first time. Meanwhile, the Az W website continues to offer even more diversity online.

"We've had to do a great deal of rethinking and there's still more needed ahead in the current pandemic. Instead of shifting, central issues in architecture and urban planning have become more pressing, such as the climate crisis, affordable housing and an intelligent land policy," according to President of the Az W, Hannes Swoboda. "So I'm all the more delighted that we're starting 2021 off with the exhibition 'Land for Us All'."

Clearly and with specific examples, the **exhibition 'Land for Us All'** shows why we have to change the way we treat this valuable resource, and what this could look like. Urban sprawl has been the subject of discussion for decades, however planning permission is still being granted to more land, where shopping centres are going up on greenfield sites and chalet villages in the Alps. The exhibition 'Land for Us All' aims to shake things up and to show alternative approaches. The exhibition will tour the provinces over the year, where it is also sure to be the subject of controversy. 'Land for Us All' at the Az W has been extended until 19.07.2021.

"What can architecture do? What can architecture contribute to raising the quality of everybody's life? Answers to these questions are not only to be found in the current exhibitions, but also in the Az W Collection. With the Permanent Collection on view, the Az W has designed a blueprint for an architecture museum of the future", says Az W Director Angelika Fitz.

In the **Permanent Collection on view** at the Az W under the title '**Hot Questions – Cold Storage**', which is scheduled to open in **October**, many original objects are going on public display for the first time, some of which are better known and some less so. Seven hot questions bring cold storage to life, from the impact of globalisation on our towns and villages, via the question 'How do we want to live?' to the contribution that architecture can make to our survival on this planet.

Opening in **August**, the Az W introduces the **Mexican architect Tatiana Bilbao**, whose projects embody environmental and social concerns as well as great poetry. "When you come from a country where many people have very little in the way of economic resources, you are used to not wasting them," as Tatiana Bilbao says.

The **exhibition 'Critical Care. Architecture for a Broken Planet'** continues to be on tour in 2021 with venues, among others, in Dornbirn and Zurich.

In **August** the popular **Architektur.Film.Sommer** is scheduled to occupy the courtyard, this time around the topic 'Earth Without Land – what will we build on tomorrow?'

Our programme is packed with events and educational activities throughout the whole year, whether in digital, analogue or hybrid formats.

2020 in Review

The year 2020 was also a challenging year for the Architekturzentrum Wien, and called for a new approach to much of our work. So we are all the more delighted that almost the entire planned programme went according to schedule, even if some things had to be held in virtual space," to quote Executive Director of the Az W, Karin Lux.

As at other museums, 2020 saw a drastic reduction in the numbers of visitors to the Az W premises of around 60%. While at the same time the Az W Online Programme and the accompanying online contact rose exponentially. The exhibition 'Balkrishna Doshi. Architecture for the People' could sadly only be shown briefly due to the Corona measures, although it drew a large public in the few weeks that it was open. 'Europe's best Buildings' proved particularly fitting in light of the shared experience of home schooling and home offices, with the winning project by Lacaton & Vassal as an appeal for a new generosity in social housing.

The Az W collection generated the exhibitions "Cold War and Architecture. Contributions to Austria's Democratization after 1945" and "Vorarlberg — an intergenerational Dialogue", which placed positions of the legendary Vorarlberger Baukünstler in relation to the current generation. It also guested at the vai in Dornbirn following its presentation at the Az W. The Az W exhibition 'Critical Care. Architecture for a Broken Planet' also went on tour to other venues, and was shown with great success in Berlin and Dresden.

At the start of September the series 'Collection with a View' was dedicated to the influence of Adolf Loos' work on contemporary architecture, to mark his 150th birthday. And shortly before Christmas, the research of many years was presented to the public in the exhibition 'Land for Us All', although it had to close again after only three weeks due to the lockdown. 'Land for Us All' is now being extended in 2021.

In addition to the planned educational programme, the Architektur.Film.Sommer, symposia, lectures, guided tours and excursions, special digital formats have been created, such as the international series of discussions under the title 'Bread & Roses' or the series fed from the Az W Collection 'Architekt*innen reisen' (Architects Travel).

"My special thanks in this challenging year go, above all, to the whole of our terrific team and all of our supporters, old and new, without whom we would never have been able to carry on with our work properly", as Executive Director of the Az W, Karin Lux, said.

"Culture is not a luxury at such a time, it is a human right, we are convinced of that. We regard the museum as a central place of societal reflection and of public life. Accordingly, we sincerely hope to be able to keep the museum open in the coming months as a concrete space of experience and as a place for personal encounters", concludes Az W Director Angelika Fitz.

Exhibitions 2021

Land for Us All

until 19.07.2021 | Exhibition hall 2

The earth's surface is a finite resource, and soil is our most precious commodity. Careless or capital-driven treatment of this resource has massively changed the shape and function of our towns and villages in recent decades. In view of the threat of a climate catastrophe and rising housing prices, the question arises as to whether the current path, with maximum compromises and minimum adaptation, is still sustainable. An extensive and courageous land policy is called for, where is it?

The progressive urban sprawl of the countryside has been the subject of discussion for decades. Meanwhile, everybody in Austria could be housed in the single-family homes that already exist¹, although yet more land is still being approved for building on, new shopping centres are going up on greenfield sites and whole chalet villages in the Alps. Progressive sealing of the surface is contributing to the climate crisis and endangering food security. Speculation with land is increasing housing prices and leading to a creeping privatisation of public space. Weak or unenforced spatial planning regulations, a partly misguided tax law and subsidy system, and a despondent policy perpetuate the status quo instead of developing a vision for the future.

The exhibition explains the political, legal and economic background clearly and vividly, critically and sometimes inadvertently absurdly. How does rural land become building land? Why is the price of land rising? What does all this have to do with our lives and dreams? Case studies and explanations of the relevant terminology bring light into the thicket of responsible agents involved. International comparisons illustrate strengths and weaknesses, international examples of best practice show alternative approaches. A collection of existing and feasible new tools points the way to spatial planning that conserves land as a resource, mitigates climate change, helps with housing issues and facilitates good architecture. We are all being called upon to think and act along new lines – and this exhibition is preparing the way.

The 'Land for Us All' exhibition is accompanied by a comprehensive and lavishly illustrated catalogue with essays by: Saskia Sassen, Gerhard Senft, Vandana Shiva, Robert Temel and Gerlind Weber. Available at the Az W Shop, or may be ordered directly from eshop@azw.at
Editors: Karoline Mayer, Katharina Ritter and Angelika Fitz, Architekturzentrum Wien
published by Park Books
Book design: Manuel Radde & LWZ; illustrations: LWZ

Curators: Karoline Mayer & Katharina Ritter, Az W
Curatorial assistants: Lisa Gallian, Christina Kirchmair
Exhibition design: PLANET architects

¹ With an average of 4.16 people per house (8,837,707 inhabitants in 2,123,597 detached and semi-detached houses). Source: Statistik Austria, status 2018

Exhibition graphics: LWZ & Manuel Radde; Illustrations and animations: LWZ

Mapping the City's Land

11.02.–22.02.2021 | Gallery

Digital Opening: Wed 10.02.2021, 19:00

Research into property ownership in the Spittelau/Althangrund area dug deeply and yielded some complex results. Students at the Institute of Art and Architecture at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna present a complex piece of urban space in the form of a multimedia map in 35 fragments.

When the railway tracks were built over, the Spittelau/Althangrund area gained a great deal of urban land. No longer parcelled with the natural city ground, today it forms a complex structure with horizontal stratification — in spatial and legal terms, and also in terms of everyday accessibility and use.

Following the restriction of possibilities to survey the site itself imposed in early 2020, the area described became increasingly imaginary. On a speculative level, the dry land register map was overlaid with poetic urban images from Italo Calvino's book *Invisible Cities*. The dislocated place was digitally reconstructed, imagined, distorted and re-narrated. Memories collide with images from the Internet, historical maps elicit fictional narratives. The result is a multi-layered portrait of an inaccessible and enigmatic terrain: Mapping Althangrund — an approach from a distance.

Tatiana Bilbao

19.08.2021–17.01.2022 | Exhibition hall 2

Opening: Wed 18.08.2021, 19:00

The exhibition introduces the Mexican architect Tatiana Bilbao (born 1972 in Mexico City), her approach and her philosophy, along with her most important building projects.

Tatiana Bilbao researches and interprets the historical culture and building traditions of her homeland. The landscape, which she works with on various levels, plays a crucial role in her work — from the Mexican countryside through an urban landscape to the "internal landscape" of an individual building.

Bilbao's work is highly diverse and frequently interdisciplinary, produced in collaboration with other architects, landscape architects and artists: from a pilgrimage route in Mexico and a botanical garden in Culiacán, to housing developments. The analysis of the landscape and social conditions also forms the basis for a small but important project in Mexico City, where the crime rate is high: a line of light that enables women to walk safely through remote parts of the city.

The Mexican cultural, artistic and building tradition — involving for instance the use of rammed earth — plays a key role in Bilbao's works. The basic idea is that architecture must

have an immediate impact on the people who have to use it. "When you come from a country where many people have very little in the way of economic resources, you are used to not wasting them." (Tatiana Bilbao)

On show in the exhibition are different scale models as well as room-sized installations complete with sketches, collages and samples of raw materials that provide extremely sensual access to the projects in a 'cabinet'.

This exhibition was realised in collaboration with the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebæk, Denmark.

Hot Questions – Cold Storage

The new Permanent Collection at the Architekturzentrum Wien

Opening: Wed 20.10.2021 | Exhibition Hall 1

In Autumn 2021 the new Permanent Collection of the Architekturzentrum Wien opens, providing insights into the most significant and extensive collection of Austrian architecture of the 20th and 21st centuries. The focus is on the investigation of key objects, both high-profile and lesser-known items. Seven hot questions bring cold storage to life.

The Architekturzentrum Wien is the only museum in Austria devoted exclusively to architecture. The new Permanent Collection of the Az W replaces the existing 'a_show', which opened back in 2004. While the 'a_show' shows the whole story of architecture in Austria brilliantly in a chronological order the display is largely based on reproductions. As the Az W Collection has expanded over the last 17 years and consists of over 85 architects' estates as well as an extensive collections of individual projects, a large number of objects are being shown for the first time in the new Permanent Collection 'Hot Questions – Cold Storage'. Selected models, drawings, furniture, fabrics, documents and films develop new threads in seven thematic episodes. Each episode is preceded by one of today's burning issues, from the impact of globalisation on our towns and villages, or the question of how we want to live, to the contribution that architecture can make to our survival on this planet. At the same time, 'Cold Storage' provides visitors with a view behind the scenes, in all the activities involved working in a collection.

The nation's building activity with all of its cultural, social, economic and constructive ramifications is made strikingly visible. The contents covered range from the special significance of Red Vienna to architectural pedagogical experiments in the wake of the 1968 movement, or architectural revolts in Vorarlberg to historical and current examples of environmental rethinking. The exhibition also engages with the ideological instrumentalisation of architecture and spatial planning and the active collaboration of architects in authoritarian systems, as well as their resistance. At the same time, the exhibition challenges deficits in the canon of Austrian architectural history, for instance from a perspective of gender equality. New players are featured, light is shed on previously little known sources and the key focus is on multiple perspectives instead of on a national historical narrative. This diversity is also reflected in the exhibition design, which is by Michael Hieslmair and Michael Zinganel (tracing spaces). The sheer variety of the exponents and their display makes a visit to the exhibition a sensual and atmospheric experience.

The Architekturzentrum Wien aims to show and enquire into what architecture can do, which also forms the basis of the new Permanent Collection on display at the Az W. At the same time, we ask what collections can do. Museum collections are far more than the mere flotsam and jetsam of history. Their social relevance is shown in their questioning and visualisation, in the connection between the mandate to undertake research and to maintain a collection. The new permanent exhibition 'Hot Questions – Cold Storage' from the Az W Collection takes a critical approach to its own practice and makes an active contribution to a museum of the future.

Concept: Angelika Fitz, Monika Platzer

Curator: Monika Platzer

Curatorial Assistance: Sonja Pisarik, Iris Ranzinger, Katrin Stingl

Assistance: Barbara Kapsammer

Exhibition architecture: Michael Hieslmair and Michael Zinganel / tracing spaces

Graphics: Christoph Schörkhuber, *seite zwei*

For more information on the exhibitions and high resolution press photographs:
www.azw.at/presse

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