

Hot Questions – Cold Storage

The new Permanent Exhibition at the Architekturzentrum Wien

From 03.02.2022, Exhibition Hall 1

Opening: Wed 02.02.2022, 19:00

Press conference: Wed 02.02.2022, 11:00

The opening and the press conference will take place along the current Covid-19 measures!

The Architekturzentrum Wien opens its new permanent exhibition in February 2022, providing insights into the most significant and extensive collection on Austrian architecture of the 20th and 21st centuries. This exhibition recontextualizes items – some of them high-profile, others lesser known – from our collections. Seven 'Hot Questions' bring the 'Cold Storage' to life.

The Architekturzentrum Wien is the only museum in Austria devoted solely to architecture. The new Architekturzentrum permanent exhibition replaces 'a_show', a chronological narrative of building in Austria that ran from 2004 to June 2021, and which still had to rely predominately on reproductions. However, over these 17 years the Collection has grown to include over 100 architect's archives as well as an extensive collection of project-related material. Many of these original exponents will be shown to the public for the first time in the new permanent exhibition 'Hot Questions – Cold Storage'. Each chapter is introduced by one of the hot questions of the present context, from the impact of globalisation on our towns and villages to the question "How do we want to live?" to the contribution that architecture can make to our survival on this planet. At the same time, 'Cold Storage' allows visitors to take a glance behind the scenes – a dynamic trip through the Depot.

We've woven together a complex narrative made up of models, drawings, furniture, textiles, documents, and films. Building in Austria, with all of its cultural, social, political, economic and technical implications, is shown in a striking manner. The contents covered range from the special significance of Red Vienna to architectural pedagogic experiments in the wake of the 1968 movement or architectural revolts in Vorarlberg, to historical and current examples of environmental rethinking.

The exhibition also reframes Austria's architectural canon by taking an egalitarian look at cultural achievements. It examines the ideological instrumentalization of architecture and spatial planning, introduces us to new players, and uncovers new sources.

This plurality is also reflected in the design. A sheer variety of landscapes for the exponents make a visit to the exhibition both a sensual and a rich atmospheric experience.

The aim of the Architekturzentrum Wien is to show and ask: What can architecture accomplish? Similarly, this is the background to the new permanent exhibition. At the same time, we ask: What can collections accomplish?

Museum collections are not simply storehouses of vestiges of the past. Their societal relevance is manifest in the inquiries and revelations, and in the link between research and

conservation. 'Hot Questions – Cold Storage' also opens up Az W's own actions for discussion and constitutes an enterprising step on the way to a museum of the future.

7 Chapters – 7 Questions

The seven 'Hot Questions' situate the collections in the present day and bring the 'Cold Storage' to life.

CAPITAL:	Who shapes the city?
HABITAT:	How do we want to live?
COMMON GOOD:	Who provides for us?
IMAGE:	Who are we?
PLAYERS:	Who gets involved?
ELEMENTS:	How is architecture produced?
PLANET:	How can we survive?

Cold Storage

We invite you to take a look at the Cold Storage. This dynamic trip through the Depot provides a glimpse of the extent of our collections – a body of knowledge. The aim is to present the collections not as sedimentation of times past, but as a scenario for a future that encourages us to think of and about architecture.

Concept: Angelika Fitz, Monika Platzer

Curator: Monika Platzer

Curatorial assistance: Sonja Pisarik, Iris Ranzinger, Katrin Stingl

Producer: Andreas Kurz

Finances und conversion: Karin Lux

Assistant: Barbara Kapsammer

Exhibition design: tracing spaces/ Michael Hieslmair and Michael Zinganel;
seite zwei / Christoph Schörkhuber, Stefanie Wurnitsch

The press release as well as high-resolution, rights free press photographs are available for download at www.azw.at.

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