

The Az W Programme, 2023

In 2023 the Az W celebrates its 30th anniversary, and opens the year with an appeal for a sustainable future. The world's first exhibition on Pakistani architect Yasmeen Lari shows her impressive path from iconic modern buildings to zero-carbon architecture. Where the emerging generation of Austrian architects wants to go in the future is shown in the Autumn in the Az W Gallery, while the Main Hall invites all to a summit with Hans Hollein. And the much acclaimed touring exhibition 'Land for Us All' approaches its finale after three years.

"Architecture shares responsibility for the future. And the relationship to the future has changed since the Az W was founded. Today it is increasingly about decarbonising and decolonising architecture," says Az W director Angelika Fitz. This is demonstrated by the first exhibition of the new year, which is on Yasmeen Lari, the first woman to open an architectural practice in Pakistan, in 1964. When one third of Pakistan was flooded in the summer of 2022, the over eighty-year-old Lari tirelessly provided architectural disaster relief. The exhibition 'Yasmeen Lari. Architecture for the Future' covers her life's work, from star architect to founder of a zero-carbon self-build movement. "In the future, we need architecture that enables a life of dignity and security for all while treading lightly on the planet," says Yasmeen Lari.

"The Architekturzentrum Wien highlights the social significance of architecture and is regarded internationally as a seismograph and a role model for architecture museums," says Az W president Hannes Swoboda. This also applies to the work with the collection, where Austrian architecture is always placed in its present day context. The work of Austria's only Pritzker Prize winner Hans Hollein is re-evaluated in the autumn of 2023, in the exhibition 'Hollein Calling. Architectural Dialogues'. Groundbreaking projects by Hans Hollein are presented alongside current buildings by 15 European architectural offices. The starting point are his extremely extensive archives, the Archiv Hans Hollein, Az W and MAK, which has been processed at the Az W over several years.

And what are the issues for the emerging generation of architects? How do they envisage their future? In the autumn, a group of young architects presents their concerns and demands in the Az W Gallery under the title 'Back and Forth Cost Estimates, Breastfeeding and Turnaround Strategies'. Until the end of January, the best buildings from all over Europe are on show at the Az W, also providing hope for a building turnaround. And in its third year, the tour of the exhibition 'Land for us All', which continues to make headlines with its appeal for a courageous land policy, is entering its finale with stops in Vienna and at venues in Carinthia, Lower Austria and Burgenland.

The book on the new permanent exhibition 'Hot Questions — Cold Storage', which is presented in February, is eagerly awaited. In summer it's time to roll the projectors once again, at the Architektur.Film.Sommer in the courtyard of the Az W. A dense programme of educational events is planned throughout the year, much of which can be found on the Az W Media Channel, which has attracted a new and often international audience in recent years. On-site excursions make it possible to experience new buildings on a 1:1 basis, while workshops also mediate architecture to our youngest visitors.

Looking Back at 2022

After several years of preparation, in February 2022 the new permanent exhibition at the Az W 'Hot Questions – Cold Storage' opened with great success, replacing the previous permanent exhibition 'a_show' after 17 years. It provides insights into the most important and most comprehensive collection on Austrian architecture of the 20th and 21st centuries. Seven hot questions bring the silent depot to life. Varied landscapes of objects add sensuality and atmosphere to a visit to the exhibition. "Vienna has been enriched by yet another top attraction", wrote Christian Kühn in the newspaper 'Die Presse' on the opening of the new permanent exhibition. While Maik Novotny wrote in 'Der Standard': "This exhibition marks a turning point both in terms of the underlying concept and in its presentation."

The exhibition 'Serious Fun. Architecture & Games' invited visitors to marvel, play and reflect, so reaching a broad, young audience. To what extent are architectural narratives to be found in dolls' houses, according to which guidelines do cities grow in computer games, and what kind of buildings offer first-person shooters protection from their assailants? The exhibition made it possible for visitors to immerse themselves in well-known and lesser-known games while also encouraging them to take a critical look at the world of games and their constructed realms. The extremely popular exhibition of 'Europe's Best Buildings', which is presented every two years, opened in October. For the first time, the Mies van der Rohe Award 2022 spotlighted an educational building, the Town House of Kingston University by Grafton Architects, as the winner while community residential buildings were also strongly represented. Conversions, flexible building concepts and regional processes mark the path towards a building turnaround.

In what was already its second year on tour, the exhibition 'Land for us All' was on show at venues in Dornbirn, Ebensee, Gleisdorf, Graz, Innsbruck, Kirchberg am Wagram, Klagenfurt, Kobersdorf, Lassnitzhöhe, Linz, Tulln, Waidhofen an der Ybbs and Vienna – at the Bauen + Wohnen trade fair and at the Camillo Sitte Bautechnikum. It reached large numbers of people, especially in rural communities where land consumption is a particularly acute issue, hopefully having inspired some local authority representatives to rethink. While the exhibition 'Critical Care. Architecture for a Broken Planet' continued its international tour with a venue at the renowned De Singel in Antwerp.

"The work on the new permanent exhibition was an effort by the entire team, while the exhibition hall in the baroque imperial stables was completely refurbished after 20 years of continuous operation. The focus was on low-tech and nature-based solutions that create a good climate for the objects and visitors while conserving resources as much as possible," says Karin Lux, executive director of the Az W. Other areas of the Az W urgently need environmentally friendly renovation over the coming years. And certification with the Austrian Eco-label in the summer of 2022 marked an important step towards becoming a green museum.

"Our thanks to the great team at the Az W and, in view of inflation and the need for renovation, we hope we can rely on continued partnership with the federal government and the City of Vienna. Now, in particular, there is a real need for a cultural location where the potential for a good future can be experienced by all," say Hannes Swoboda, Angelika Fitz and Karin Lux.

Exhibitions 2023

Yasmeen Lari. Architecture for the Future

09.03.–16.08.2023, Exhibition hall 2

Opening: Wed 08.03.2023, 19:00

Yasmeen Lari is Pakistan's first woman architect. She designed iconic modernist buildings before initiating a zero-carbon self-build movement for the poorest of the poor. This exhibition uses Lari's oeuvre as an example to show how the relationship of architecture to the future has changed.

The impact of the Man-made climate catastrophe around the world is dramatic. Pakistan, one of the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world, is disproportionately hard-hit. In the summer of 2022, when one-third of the country was flooded, the over eighty-year-old architect Lari worked tirelessly to provide architectural disaster relief. For Lari, architecture has to balance individual survival and dignity with the protection of the planet as a whole. "It is about finding out which method is the most cost-effective, safest, and most ecological, and then implementing it en masse," says Lari.

Over the past two decades, she has developed and implemented her system of zero-carbon architecture based on local economies, on innovating traditional building techniques, using the climate-neutral materials of bamboo, lime, and mud, as well as providing training in self-building and women-centered ways of working. Together with climate refugees and the landless, Lari has built tens of thousands of flood- and earthquake-resistant houses, sanitation infrastructure, smokeless stoves, and community facilities.

This is the first monographic exhibition on Yasmeen Lari ever. Previously unpublished photographs, drawings, and documents from the architect's own archives show her impressive journey from international modernism to zero-carbon architecture. Having completed her education in England, Lari opened her architectural practice in Karachi in 1964, going on to become Pakistan's woman star architect. As a pioneer of Brutalism, she built houses for the new lifestyle of the urban middle class in an independent Pakistan. She created urban landmark buildings, as well as social housing. Together with her husband Suhail Zaheer Lari, she founded the Heritage Foundation of Pakistan, dedicated to the research and conservation of the architectural heritage of their country – both the World Heritage Sites in Makli and Lahore, as well as everyday buildings.

Modern architecture was based on the claim to build a better future – today we are living with the consequences: extreme weather events, fossil fuel dependence, and destruction on a planetary scale. Architecture is challenged to become co-responsible and not to give up working towards ecological justice. Yasmeen Lari's credo for an architecture for the future: "We must tread lightly on the planet."

Curators: Angelika Fitz, Elke Krasny, and Marvi Mazhar

Design: Alexandra Maringer and Alexander Schuh

Project coordination: Agnes Wyskitensky

The exhibition is accompanied by the book Yasmeen Lari: Architecture for the Future, published by the MIT Press. With contributions by Angelika Fitz, Elke Krasny, Marvi Mazhar, Chris Moffat, Helen Thomas, Anila Naeem, Abira Ashfaq, Raquel Rolnik, Anne Karpf, Runa Khan, Cassandra Cozza, and Rafia Zakaria.

Hollein Calling. Architectural Dialogues

21.09.2023–12.02.2024, Exhibition hall 2

Opening: Wed 20.09.2023, 19:00

Hans Hollein, the only Austrian to win the Pritzker Prize and a self-proclaimed avant-gardist in the 1960s, was a meticulous curator of his own work throughout his life. At the same time, however, the reception of his work was often overshadowed by his personality. The exhibition „Hollein Calling. Architectural Dialogues” explores the Hollein phenomenon from today's perspective. A dialogue with the positions of a younger generation of architects launches a reappraisal that brings Hollein's work back into the current discourse.

In the exhibition, groundbreaking projects by Hans Hollein meet new buildings and projects by 15 European architectural offices* whose work is currently shaping the discourse. Visitors can resonate with alternating poles of agreement and dissonance. The objects from Hollein – sketches, models, prototypes, and documents – are all from the extremely extensive Archive Hans Hollein (Az W and MAK), which has been undergoing processing at the Az W for several years. In the exhibition “Hollein Calling. Architectural Dialogues” there is a juxtaposition with selected exhibits from the younger architectural offices. The focus of the dialogue is to convey the working methods and processes involved. The curators consciously decided against a linear and project-related reading. Instead, large tables create fields of associations where the objects meet along the lines of related themes, methods, and interests. Slide projections provide insights into Hans Hollein's extensive archive of images. Many of the sources of the images shown here publicly for the first time provide new insights and access to alternative strands of thought and unrealized concepts for a previously 'unknown' Hollein. Again in dialogue with this, large-format photographs convey the positions taken by the European architectural offices.

* Hans Hollein in conversation with: Reem Almannai and Florian Fischer (Almannai Fischer Architekten, Munich) / Pier Paolo Tamburelli (Baukuh, Milan) / Dirk Somers (Bovenbouw Architectuur, Antwerp) / Claudia Cavallar (Vienna) / Aslı Çiçek (Brussels) / Maria Conen and Raoul Sigl (Conen Sigl Architekt:innen, Zurich) / Stefanie Everaert and Caroline Lateur (Doorzon, Ghent) / Martin Feiersinger (Vienna) / David Kohn (David Kohn Architects, London) / Wilfried Kühn, (Kühn Malvezzi, Berlin) / Oliver Lütjens and Thomas Padmanabhan (Lütjens Padmanabhan Architekten, Zurich) / Beate Hølmebakk (Manthey Kula, Oslo) / Job Floris (Monadnock, Rotterdam) / Kersten Geers (OFFICE, Brussels) / Andreas Rumpfhuber (Expanded Design, Vienna)

Curators: Lorenzo De Chiffre, Benni Eder, and Theresa Krenn

Publication: The exhibition is accompanied by a book developed from the interview project „Dialogues on Hans Hollein“.

Back and Forth Cost Estimates, Breastfeeding and Turnaround Strategies Positions of our Generation

05.10.– 20.11.2023, Gallery
Opening: Wed 04.10.2023, 19:00

What is on the minds of the emerging generation of Austrian architects? Their burning issue is: How to help shape the building revolution. This question is closely linked to issues of sustainability and of intersectional feminism, leading to a series of follow-up questions: What possibilities does the circular economy provide in the planning of architectural projects? How do young architects get desirable commissions? How can we initiate projects ourselves? What collective working structures can sustain and improve our practice? What shapes does architecture take when we follow our concerns? What does this future architecture look like?

The concerns and demands of a new generation of Austrian architects are rendered audible and visible in this exhibition. They are currently being compiled and examined in a series of interviews by the two co-curators Ella Felber and Silvester Kreil, before being collectively condensed and processed in a series of workshops throughout Austria. In the Az W Gallery, the burning issues covered in this exhibition are presented as a temporary extension to the permanent exhibition 'Hot Questions – Cold Storage'.

Curators: Ella Felber and Silvester Kreil in collaboration with Solveig Furu Almo, Anna Firak, Gunnar Grandel, Lukas Pankraz Mähr, Natascha Peinsipp, Theresa Reisenhofer and Felix Steinhoff.

Europe's Best Buildings.

European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture. Mies van der Rohe Award 2022

Until 23.01.2023

With a total of 80,000 euros in prize money, the EU Mies Award is the premier European architecture prize. It is a seismograph for architectural developments in Europe and even for the inspirational capacity of the transformative potential of architecture.

Every two years, the ever increasingly popular exhibition 'Europe's Best Buildings' puts the focus on outstanding architecture projects from Europe: developments with visionary character, providing orientation or even serving as manifestos for the development of contemporary architecture. For the third time, remarkable residential projects have made it into the final round, while for the first time the main prize goes to an educational building: the Town House – Kingston University in London, by Grafton Architects from Dublin. The outstanding architecture creates a distinctive atmosphere for studying, dancing, meeting up and sharing experiences. The open structure and the interlocking mesh of volumes convey a feeling of being in one continuous spatial structure. The winner of the award for Emerging Architecture 2022 is the La Borda cooperative housing complex by the Lacol collective in Barcelona, currently the tallest wooden building in Spain. Among the finalists are the Frizz23 cultural commercial building group in Berlin-Kreuzberg, by Deadline (Britta Jürgens & Matthew Griffin); Railway Farm in Paris, by Grand Huit and Melanie Drevet Paysagiste, where social housing is combined with agricultural production; the renovation and extension of the Z33 House for Contemporary Art, Design and Architecture in Hasselt, Belgium, by Francesca Torzo; 85 social housing units in Cornellà de Llobregat, Spain, by peris+toral.arquitectes. The finalist of the Emerging Prize is the conversion of the 1960s Enrico Fermi School in Turin by BDR bureau.

The distinguished jury, chaired by Mexican architect Tatiana Bilbao and which included the Austrian architect Georg Pendl, selected a total of 40 projects for the exhibition from over 500 nominations in 41 countries. These include five projects from Austria: Neustift school campus in the Stubaital valley, by fasch&fuchs; Neue Galerie and Kasematten, by Bevk Perovic Arhitekti; the Stadthaus conversion and extension in Linz, by mia2 Architektur; Gleis 21 construction group project, by einszueins architektur; Atelierhaus C21, by Werner Neuwirth.

An exhibition by the Fundació Mies van der Rohe, Barcelona and Creative Europe at the Architekturzentrum Wien.

Land for Us All

The exhibition "Land for Us All" tours Austria (with over 20 locations)

Two mobile variations of the exhibition 'Land for Us All', curated by the Architekturzentrum Wien, are touring Austria from May 2021. At the Az W the exhibition was on show from 09.12.2020 to 19.07.2021. Land policy impacts on us all, and the touring exhibition is intended to wake people up while presenting alternatives.

Land is our most precious resource. The Earth's surface is limited. A careless or purely capital-driven treatment of this resource has been changing the shape and function of our towns and villages in recent decades. The progressive sealing over of the soil is contributing to the climate crisis while speculation in land and its hoarding are pushing up the price of housing, threatening public space and hampering transport policies that makes sense. The displacement of urban manufacturing is promoting monofunctionality and threatening jobs. Outside the major centres, weak or unenforced spatial planning legislation have resulted in a landscape of shopping centres, chalet villages and a broad carpet of single-family homes while town centres are becoming deserted, traffic is exploding and the loss of agricultural land is threatening our food security. Politicians and local authorities are urgently called upon to act in order to achieve a balance between individual interests and the common good.

We are so close to finding the key to an environmentally friendly and resource-conserving use of our Earth even though this remains somewhat abstract in a context of our everyday lives. The use of land is determined by multiple political, legal and economic factors. With the exhibition 'Land for Us All', the Architekturzentrum Wien sheds light on the thicket of backgrounds, fields of expertise and the responsible agents involved. How does grassland become building land? Why is the price of land rising? What does all this have to do with our lives and dreams? Comparisons between different countries illustrate strengths and weaknesses in the existing system, while examples of international best practice present us with viable alternatives. A collection of existing, workable 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.

Curators: Karoline Mayer, Katharina Ritter

The two-year exhibition tour through the federal provinces is made possible by a grant from the Department of Building Culture of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Arts, Civil Service and Sport (BMKOES).

Venues and dates 2023:

Camillo Sitte Bautechnikum, Vienna, till 30.01.2023

Architektur Haus Kärnten, Klagenfurt, till 28.02.2023

NÖ Landesbibliothek, St. Pölten, 08.02. – 24.03.2023

Schlossquartier Esterhazyplatz, Eisenstadt, 10.03. – 21.04.2023

The press release as well as high definition and rights free press photographs are available at www.azw.at

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