

Filmfestival Architektur.Film.Sommer 2025

Suburbia. From the American Dream to Peak Oil

Wed 30.07., 06.08., 13.08., 20.08., from 20:30 in the Az W courtyard

In case of bad weather in the Az W Podium

Admission free

The thirteenth edition of the international film festival invites all you film and architecture buffs to drop in, hang out, watch and chat in the great outdoors. The focus this year is on: The Suburbs.

The dream of having a house in the suburbs: quiet streets, friendly neighbours, front gardens and garages, of course, as far as the eye can see. At the beginning of the 1950s a rapid wave of suburbanisation began in the United States, which continued shortly afterwards in Europe and Austria. The emergence of the suburbs was accompanied by shopping malls, business parks and a constantly growing road network. Dependency on cars also increased.

What does Suburbia represent? The idyll of a residential neighbourhood, or excessive land consumption? What impact has the associated transport planning had, and continued to have, on cities, on the countryside and on the global climate? What about the historical development of the suburbs and the structural inequalities that are manifested in such spaces, such as the gender roles and inherent racism that are practised there? Who is part of this ostensibly 'ideal world' and who is not?

Curators: Lene Benz, Marlene Rutzendorfer

In cooperation with: wonderland – platform for european architecture und dem Museums-Quartier Wien

PROGRAMME

American Dreams

Wed 30.07.2025, 20:30

Tupperware, an American marketing phenomenon, US 2003, 58:33 min, Eov, D: Laurie Kahn-Leavitt

Tupperware: a plastic product, a company and a marketing phenomenon. A Tupperware party is held somewhere in the world every 2.5 seconds. The film uses rare archive footage and home movies to explore the origins of this phenomenon with the women who helped shape the beginnings of this silent revolution in the suburbs.

20th Century, CA 2020, 02:14 min, no dialogue, D: Jake Greenup

Greenup finds an experimental approach to the American dream in suburbia in this short film.

What You'll Remember, US 2021, 11:53 min, Eov, D: Erika Cohn, Marcia Jarmel

The video diary of a family in the San Francisco Bay Area: a narrative characterised by housing insecurity and the parents' attempt to create a home even under difficult circumstances.

Building the American Dream, US 2019, 60:00 min, Eov, D: Chelsea Hernandez

The expansion of the suburbs in Texas is being driven by an unstoppable construction boom. The building work is undertaken by migrants under the most dire working conditions. A movement is forming to fight injustice in the construction industry.

Peak Oil – To the Last Drop?

Wed 06.08.2025, 20:30

Nenets vs Gas, FR/BE/FI/NO 2023, 52:00 min, ov with English subtitles, D: Sergio Ghizzardi

The Yamal Peninsula in the heart of the Arctic is the largest gas production area in the world – a symbol of Russia's energy hyperpower. But the Yamal Peninsula is also the ancestral home of the Nenets, who have been grazing their livestock here for over 200 generations. But for how much longer?

Bis zum letzten Tropfen, AT 2022, 02:03 min, no dialogue, D: Lisa Prosegger, Jonathan Moser

The oil pumps continue relentlessly drawing resources from the earth.

A Road not Taken, CH 2010, 52 min, ov with German subtitles, D: Christina Hemauer, Roman Keller

As early as 1979, US President Jimmy Carter installed a solar system on the roof of the White House in a visionary move. His successor, Ronald Reagan, had the panels removed. The filmmakers track down these solar panels and bring them back to Washington, D.C.

From the Front Garden to the Motorway
Wed 13.08.2025, 20:30

Split Lives, HK 2021, 5:23 min, ov with English subtitles, D: Joshua Bolchover, John Lin
 In China today, urbanisation and standardised construction methods are displacing traditional techniques and craftsmanship, and the architecture has become homogenous.

Not Just Roads, IN/CH/DE 2020, 67:00 min, ov with English subtitles, D: Nitin Bathla, Klearjos Eduardo Papanicolaou
 Bharatmala, the Indian Garland Project, is an Indian government programme under which motorways are being built at the unprecedented speed of 23 kilometres per day. The film tells the story from the perspective of those who are being displaced by the project.

Lärm, AT, 1:35 min, no dialogue, D: Andrea Milanovic, Jakob Aumayer, Sara Popelak
 A collage of sounds and images from the Stellantis works in Aspern Seestadt.

Die Wüste lebt, AT 2022, 55:00 min, ov in German, D: Oliver Ressler
 On 6 September 2021, construction plant was blocked at the Hausfeldstraße U2 station to halt the construction of the Lobau motorway and the so-called Stadtstraße (City Road). The film follows the occupation, known as the 'desert', over five months, bringing the activists involved in front of the camera.

Get together! Models of Togetherness
Wed 20.08.2025, 20:30

Bürger*innenKRAFTwerk – the story of an energy community, AT 2024, 8:00 min, ov with English subtitles, D: Yilmaz Vurucu, Bahanur Nasya
 This short film highlights the path of a citizens' initiative that is engaging with sustainable living and local energy production in their community.

Blickpunkte Portrait Almgrün, AT 2024, 10:00 min, ov in German, D: Arian Lehner & Dominik Kastner / Mies.Magazin
 The aim of the Almgrün farming partnership is to cultivate green spaces fairly and ecologically and not to continue sealing over the land.

Haus-Heyden-Hof, Herzogenrath, DE 2023, 32:28 min, ov in German, D: Luisa Seliger, Johanna Steukers
 This short documentary portrays the communal building process and coexistence with a wooden housing estate as an alternative to the isolation of single-family houses in the suburbs. A joint project by students Luisa Seliger and Johanna Steukers and lecturers Marius Helten, Leonard Wertgen and Florian Fischer-Almannai.

Living Together: The Story of De Warren, NL 2023, 75:00 min, ov with English subtitles, D: Sam van Zoest
 The film accompanies a group of young people as they establish a cooperative that aims to provide affordable and sustainable social housing. This ambitious project is the first of its kind in the Netherlands, and none of the young pioneers has ever built a house before.

The press release, as well as high-resolution press photos, are available free of charge for download at www.azw.at/press.

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