

**ARCHITECTURE IN THE RINGTURM IV**

**New Architecture in Austria**

**Constructions, critique, communication 1994 – 1999**

**24 February 1999 – 16 April 1999**

**Press day:** Tuesday, 23 February 1999, 10.00

**Opening:** Tuesday, 23 February 1999, 18.30

**Exhibition site**

Wiener Städtische Allgemeine Versicherung AG

Ringturm exhibition centre

A-1010 Vienna, Schottenring 30

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**Curators:** Otto Kapfinger, Walter Zschokke, Bettina Schlorhauser

Mandated and financed by the Office of the Federal Chancellor, arts section II

**Opening times**

Monday to Friday: 9.00 to 18.00; no admission charge

**Public transport**

Underground: Schottenring U2,U4

Tram: Schottenring 1, 2, 31

Bus: Schottenring 3A

**Enquiries**

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A catalogue and CD-ROM have been produced to accompany the exhibition

Photographic material available on request

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**The fourth exhibition in the "Architecture in the Ringturm" series has been mandated by the Office of the Federal Chancellor, and presents a selection of contemporary Austrian architecture produced over the last five years, together with a cross-section of publicity material for and critiques of architecture in Austria.**

Current architecture in Austria is not presented as a "hit parade of the most beautiful buildings". The aim, rather, is to present a selective cross-section of works in order to demonstrate the thematic competence of new architecture and the challenges it places on society, and vice versa. Austria does not only have a relatively high number of good and very good buildings, but also a dedicated and much-heeded review of architecture in the mass media and a widely-held architectural debate. To this end, 50 constructions completed in the last five years have been documented and arranged in seven thematic categories (Dwelling, Housing developments, Learning, Production, Enjoyment, Provision and Movement). By way of introducing each theme, one building from each category is presented in detail with plans, photographs, accompanying texts and specially-produced video tapes.

In addition to the presentation of the buildings, books on architecture published in Austria are available for viewing in a small library, together with a selection of Austrian architectural journals. Critiques of architecture in the Austrian printed media can be found on the Internet using the terminals placed at the disposal of visitors.

As publicly-funded centres of communication, the "houses of architecture" in the individual provinces of Austria are also presented in depth, as well as other institutions that are involved in contemporary architecture and, likewise, form an interface between the professional world and the broader levels of society which are concerned or interested.

**The CD-ROM:** An essential part of the exhibition, this CD-ROM presents the first comprehensive look at contemporary architecture in Austria in detail, and large numbers of it will be made available to state schools and other relevant institutions by the Office of the Federal Chancellor as a learning aid and source of information.

After the introduction of the respective themes 50 buildings from the current architectural scene in Austria are presented in graphic form with photographs, texts and plans, and short video and interview inserts. The individual program

modules are produced in digitised format and can be user-navigated on any PC.

The activities of the individual Provinces with regard to architecture and those of their "houses of architecture" are also documented in the same format – supplemented by statistical information and cuttings from the daily press. The total running time is several hours.

New Architecture in Austria. Constructions, critique, communication. Althaler & Oblasser – Neue Medien OEG (production), Otto Kapfinger (editor). pc/mac-compatible, ATS 150.

**The videos:** Individual videos featuring the "key constructions" to each of the seven themes have been produced by Team ZONE (Vienna), and will be shown at the exhibition on eight monitors. Excerpts are also included in a separate section of the CD-ROM and can be called up interactively.

**The catalogue:** The introductory text sets out the criteria and intentions for selecting the works in this exhibition, and outlines the current situation of architecture in Austria. Each of the 50 works selected from the total output of the last five years is presented with a short text and a bibliography for further information. Quotations taken from the daily press also accompany these presentations.

Like the exhibition, the selection is arranged according to seven themes, and each theme is introduced with a foreword and an in-depth presentation of one project.

The appendix contains an additional source of information in the form of an annotated bibliography containing details of the printed media published in Austria on the subject of architecture and a description of the centres of discussion – the regional "houses of architecture" – and other relevant associations.

New Architecture in Austria. Constructions, critique, communication. Otto Kapfinger, Walter Zschokke (authors), Adolph Stiller (editor). Verlag Anton Pustet, Salzburg 1999. English/German, 148 pages, ATS 290.

## **Seven "key constructions" to the seven themes**

### *Dwelling:*

Haus Larcher, Weerberg, Tyrol, 1996

Architect: Margarethe Heubacher-Sentobe

### *Housing developments:*

Multi-storied timber accommodation block, Judenburg, Steiermark, 1998

Architect: Hubert Riess

### *Learning:*

Absberggasse Secondary School, Vienna-Favoriten, 1994

Architect: Rüdiger Lainer

### *Production:*

Vetterhof farm, Lustenau, Vorarlberg, 1996

Architect: Roland Gnaiger

### *Enjoyment:*

Festival Hall, St. Pölten, Lower Austria, 1997

Architect: Klaus Kada

### *Provision:*

M-Preis outlets, Steinach; St. Johann; Thaur; Tyrol, 1997

Architects: Helmut Reitter; Wolfgang Pöschl; Karl Heinz, Dieter Mathoi, Jörg Strelt

### *Movement:*

Re-development of the main square, Wiener Neustadt, Lower Austria, 1997

Architects: Eichinger oder Knechtl