

a_show. Austrian Architecture in the 20th and 21st Centuries

Private tours with an architecture coffee break

In March of this year the Architekturzentrum Wien opened the first part of its semi-permanent exhibition showing a survey of **Austrian architecture of the 20th and 21st centuries**. Due to the sheer breadth of the content, **a_show** is being opened in three stages (Phase 1: March 2004, Phase 2: September 2004, Phase 3: March 2005).

The focus in the first phase of **a_show** is devoted to building activity in Vienna between 1850 and 1918, which includes the Ringstrasse Architecture, Historicism and the proponents of early-modernism.

We delve into and analyse the bustle of the metropolis of Vienna around 1900. The way people lived at the time and the social changes that were underway are expressed, among other things, in the architectural language of the fin de siècle. The prestigious and impressively urban elements that make-up a city, such as public transport lines, banks, exhibition halls, churches, commercial and apartment blocks, coffee houses and hospitals, were built by the most distinguished architects of the day in the lively cultural climate of the Danube metropolis. These were the pioneers of Viennese Modernism, who broke with what they saw as the obsolete formal repertoire of Historicism. The various design elements employed are discussed on the basis of selected examples.

Living conditions in the tenements at the fin de siècle were abysmal, as the industrial revolution was driving millions of workers to Vienna, until the Red Vienna housing policy eventually contributed to a radical improvement in these conditions. Innovations in housing are discussed on the basis of various floor plan structures and compared with contemporary housing requirements and conditions. Discussed as examples are: the turn-of-the-century tenement, the Red Vienna superblock, Haus Beer by Josef Frank, one of the major achievements of 'New Viennese Housing', and the fast-lane housing programme of the 1960s.

The introductory tour, which includes eye-witness reports of events and descriptions of personal experiences, provides an approach to the topic. The individual positions are then discussed at the end in the group during an architectural coffee break.

Information / Reservations

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Guided tours with architecture coffee breaks can be booked for 10 people or more (Euro 3.50 per person), or a fixed price of Euro 35.- if for under 10 participants.

— **Minimum Duration:** 90 mins.