



## Educational Programme for age group 6 – 10

### **a\_show. Austrian Architecture in the 20th and 21st Centuries**

from 13.10.2005

#### **The Exhibition**

With the opening of the 3rd stage of 'a\_show' the Architekturzentrum Wien is bringing its comprehensive documentation of 20th century Austrian architecture up to the present day. While the first stage of the exhibition (opened in March 2004) was dedicated to the PROPONENTS OF EARLY MODERNISM, and the second stage (opened in September 2004) addressed the topics RED VIENNA, POWER, LANDSCAPE and POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION, i.e. the period from 1918 – 1955, the third and final stage of the exhibition spotlights key urban development and architectural issues of the latter half of the century.

Under the headings INTERNATIONAL, SYSTEM, UTOPIA, COLLAGE and THE PRESENT, the key themes and buildings of the post-war Modernist period are introduced along with 'interdisciplinary' visionary designs from the 1960s that reinterpreted the socio-political and artistic relevance of architecture. This era of manifestos and architectural change, also a period in which functionalism was criticised and of the revision of Modernism, forms the basis for the most varied of developments in the 1970s and '80s, including the increasing prevalence of circles of architects in the provinces. This provides the background before which 'a\_show' continues to cover the historical palette up to the present day, and to show that the diversity of contemporary architectural production also rests on equally varied foundations.

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### **1. Glass Palaces and Concrete Castles. Architects' Building Materials and Techniques**

Marble, stone and iron all crack – what is reinforced concrete? A comparison is made of different building materials, like bricks, concrete, wood, glass and straw, followed by an examination of their properties. We use our own bodies for experiments that show us the basic principles of static: columns, beams and trusses are discussed, and we find out what the differences between solid buildings and frame constructions are. Amazing examples in the exhibition illustrate the uses of different materials and techniques in architecture. In the ensuing practical exercise in the workshop, the participants' deepen their understanding of the topics addressed, and try their hand at design.



## 2. A Trip Through Time – The History of Housing from 1850 to 2005

How did family one of Vienna's People's Palaces? What does 'codetermination' mean in housing? And, what are our living conditions like today?

The participants are led through the exhibition by a game of Pelmanism (Pairs), which tells them more about topics, such as the conditions most people lived in, the post-war fast-lane building programme, Red Vienna, terraced houses, innovative lifestyles, and much more. This is accompanied by a casual introduction to the scale, floor plans and symbols used on plans. In the ensuing model-making session participants work in teams to plan a housing development of terraced houses. *Trotzmüller* live over 100 years ago in Vienna? In what kind of substandard conditions did people live in Vienna until not so long ago? Who among the participants has a grandmother still living in

### Information / Reservations

Architekturzentrum Wien: +43 (0)1-522 31 15, [office@azw.at](mailto:office@azw.at)

School groups are restricted in size to no more than 15 participants per workshop. Duration: 2 hours

**Admission:** for school groups, includes educational programme, Euro 3.50 per head