



08.06 – 19.06.2006

WONDERLAND

Young European Architects

Opening: Wednesday, 07.06.2006, 7pm. Press conference: Wednesday, 07.06.2006, 11am

In September 2002 eleven teams of young Austrian architects presented recent work of theirs in an extraordinary exhibition at St. Veit an der Glan. Over the next two years this had grown into the concept for a European touring exhibition that was duly launched in June 2004 under the title *WONDERLAND* and hosted by venues in eight European countries and cities: Bratislava, Prague, Berlin, Amsterdam, Paris, Venice, Zagreb and Ljubljana. The exhibition was extended by eleven local teams of architects in each of the host countries. What began as an exhibition project has grown – accompanied by an intensive programme – in the meantime to become an active continental network.

Now from 7–19 June in Vienna, 99 teams of young European architects are to gather in a specially conceived setting and discuss their work in a spirit of exchange during a varied supplementary line-up.

The Idea – The Concept – The Selection

In physical terms, *WONDERLAND* is a specially developed exhibition landscape that can adapt perfectly to any location. It consists of 440 quadratic display boards mounted horizontally or vertically as the primary information carriers. These have been called Pixels. The teams present themselves on these Pixels with plans, photographs, text or even models. The *WONDERLAND* Territory retains a constant 440 Pixels, and these are reallocated among the participants each time.

In each of the selected countries there were initially two or three 'Trusted Teams', locally based architecture offices that went to form the basis for the international network. They decided independently on a mode for selecting the other teams to be invited to participate in the *WONDERLAND* Tour from their country. The only stipulation was that the selection should contain a broad diversity of recent architecture.

Network Europe –The Conditions for Recent Architecture Today

The idea of *WONDERLAND* is more than merely the sum of the work and objects shown. It pursues, above all, the aim of promoting networking among the emerging generation of European architects. The exhibition should demonstrate that Europe is far more than an economic syndicate. The younger generation is being called upon to see and experience Europe as a culturally diverse conglomeration with ground-breaking possibilities. *WONDERLAND* is sponsored by the European Commission as a networking project. The aim is to share experiences, to find partners for projects, to develop new projects or simply to extend one's own horizons with like-minded people. Variations in the local conditions for production are shown in the exhibitions. To recover this capital hidden in *WONDERLAND*, to use the broad range of experiences as an asset and to expand the network, each show is accompanied by an intensive line-up of workshops, lectures and open dialogues not intended to come to an end within the



time-frame of this project. To ensure that the network also survives beyond the timeframe of this project, the foundation stone has been laid with a *WONDERLAND* magazine. The first issue of the magazine is being published in cooperation with A10, it will be available in newsstands all over Europe from May 2006.

WONDERLAND provides a unique reflection of the conditions under which new architecture is created in Europe and sheds light on the way members of the next generation of architects see themselves. Particularly palpable is that young people making architecture are working in teams increasingly often. This is, above all, because the accompanying interdisciplinary approach and capability to delegate required in an increasingly complex building sector make it easier to enter the profession as a group. 80% of the architects participating in WONDERLAND are organised in just such teams.

VIENNA – The exhibition and the accompanying programme at the Az W

The Viennese venue on the WONDERLAND tour at the Architekturzentrum Wien is to have a new unfamiliar presentation. Instead of Pixels, standard lamps are to serve as information carriers. The teams are having their work printed onto lampshades, and so presented in the right light.

In Vienna the usual workshops are being replaced by four keynote speeches and power lectures by all of the participating teams. The intensive additional line-up is also being celebrated with the ARCHITEKTUR.FEST.EUROPA on 08.06 and a lecture by Renier de Graaf on 09.06 and, and then rounded-off with a 'sonntags' architecture excursion to examples of projects by participating teams of architects based in Vienna on 11.06.

The full programme with all details of the participating teams at:
www.azw.at or www.wonderland.cx

PUBLICATION

A book is to be published to accompany the exhibition *WONDERLAND. Young European Architects*. 288 pages, approx. 1000 illustrations. Authors: Marco Biraghi, Anneke Bokern, Gabriele Kaiser, Henrietta Moravcikova, Maroje Mrduljas, Anh-Linh Ngo, Dietmar Steiner, Jan Tabor, Maja Vardjan.

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