



Nazi Focus at the Architekturzentrum Wien

Three different programmes in mid-September approach the subject of Nazi ideology and architecture. The aim is to trigger off a long overdue reflection on the taboo presence of the Nazi architectural legacy. A serious basis to address the topic has been created for the first time, as The Bundesdenkmalamt (the national conservation authorities) is currently in the process of documenting the buildings completed in the Nazi era, for the first time since the War. In the symposium *Heritage Rejected* – a collaboration between the Architekturzentrum Wien and the Bundesdenkmalamt – experts analyse and discuss the issues involved. The exhibition *The Atlantic Wall* is dedicated to other remains of Nazi architecture, and shows the vast scale of the defensive wall along the Atlantic coastline running from France to Norway built by the Germany military. The *sonntags excursion* visits examples of Nazi architecture in Vienna.

Admission is free to both the exhibition *The Atlantic Wall* and the *Heritage Rejected* symposium.

Exhibition:

14.09 – 09.10.2006, F3

The Atlantic Wall

Cast Concrete Insanity – 12,000 German bunkers along the coast

Wednesday 13.09.2006, 7pm: opening of the exhibition

Admission free

Symposium:

15.09 + 16.09.2006, Podium

Friday 15.09. Commences at 2pm / Saturday 16.09. Commences at 10am

Heritage Rejected

Austria and Nazi Architecture

Admission free

sonntags Excursion:

17.09.2006

sonntags 177/vienna nazi walls



The Atlantic Wall
Cast Concrete Insanity – 12,000 German bunkers along the coast

14.09 – 09.10.2006

OPENING: WEDNESDAY 13.09.2006, 7pm

Opened by Dietmar Steiner, Director of the Az W / Lorenzo Bini, studiometrico, Milan / Heidemarie Uhl, Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften

In the years from 1942–1944 the German military erected a gigantic defensive wall along the Atlantic coast, running from France to Norway. The project swallowed up enormous quantities of resources, and vast numbers of labourers were forced to work on the construction. The coastline was divided into sectors with the varying requirements for the fortifications calculated according to the level of the perceived threat. The length planned with the highest density was the north coast of France, where eleven complexes per kilometre were envisaged.

The exhibition runs at the Az W from 14.09 – 9.10.2006, in the F3 hall. It has been compiled by the DPA-Politecnico di Milano in collaboration with institutions in France and Belgium, and shows all of the various types of building, from the smallest nook to the largest U-boot hangar, for the first time. The documentation of the individual bunkers is on the basis of old plans and photographs. A walk-in plan of the coastline with all of the bunker complexes shows the full scale of the project. The completed buildings still dominate long stretches of the Atlantic coast and show a broad diversity of architectural approaches ranging from the astonishingly well thought-through in form and function to the simple and rather clumsy. They are, though, all the conspicuous legacy of Nazi Germany's attempt to force its authority over a space and the society within it. A position must be taken regarding the buildings, and they provide fuel for discussion. The show is supplemented by a series of photographs of the complexes by Guido Guidi – traces of a Nazi variation of the Fortress Europe.

An exhibition by the DPA-Sezione di Museografia, Politecnico di Milano in collaboration with GRAI, Ecole d'Architecture de Versailles and Raymond Lemarie ICC, Katholieke Universiteit, Leuven

Curator: Gennaro Postiglione, DPA-Politecnico di Milano
Exhibition design: studiometrico/Lorenzo Bini, Gennaro Postiglione, Giulio Padovani

Sponsors:
EU programme Culture 2000
Directorate General
Education and Culture

Exhibition organisation Az W: Sonja Pisarik



Heritage Rejected Austria and Nazi Architecture

15.09. and 16.09.2006

Friday, 15.09. Starts at 2pm / Saturday, 16.09. Starts at 10am

— Nazi architecture in Austria is not just comprised of the Flak Towers in Vienna, the *Führerstadt* Linz or the currently controversial Hitler Room at the Vienna Volkstheater. During the seven years of Nazi rule in Austria barracks, factories and works buildings, schools, administrative buildings and, above all, numerous housing complexes and estates were completed that are still in use today as a matter of course. Frequently well functioning and often idyllic and harmless in appearance, the context in which the architecture was originally made is now unknown to many people.

The symposium, organised by the Architekturzentrum Wien and the Bundesdenkmalamt (the Austrian Federal conservation authorities) in collaboration, poses questions about the appropriate treatment of these buildings, looking at the tense dialectic between the history of their creation and their everyday use. German and Austrian experts analyse and discuss the history this architecture's completion and its usage since then.

Full programme details are available on our homepage at www.azw.at, or please request a copy from purtauf@azw.at, +43 1 522 31 15-23.

sonntags 177/17.09.2006/vienna nazi walls

Also topical is this Sunday's sonntags Excursion, when a series of military buildings, civilian shelters and housing estates or even municipal structural interventions can be explored
The tour guide is Klaus Steiner, the leading Nazi architecture expert in Vienna.

— Rendezvous: 1.45pm at the Az W Shop / Guided Tour of the exhibition *The Atlantic Wall* / departure from the Az W archway 2.45pm / return: 6.30pm / Tickets € 16 (students € 11,50)

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Wednesdays 10am – 9pm
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