

**DAS BESTE HAUS 2009 / THE BEST HOUSE 2009**  
**ARCHITECTURE AWARD FOR SINGLE-FAMILY HOUSES IN AUSTRIA**



**Prize-giving ceremony and exhibition opening:**

Wednesday, 29 April 2009, 7 pm

**The prizes will be awarded by:**

Bernd Hartmann, Federal Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture

Josef Schmidinger, managing director s Bausparkasse

Dietmar Steiner, director Architekturzentrum Wien

The exhibition runs from 30 April – 18 May 2009

Architekturzentrum Wien, Museumsplatz 1, in the MQ, 1070 Vienna

Opening hours: daily 10 am –7 pm

In cooperation with the Federal Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture, the Architekturzentrum Wien and with the collaboration of the regional architecture institutions in the Austrian provinces the Bausparkasse (building society) of the Austrian savings banks searches for Austria's best single family houses. For "Das beste Haus 2009" ("The Best House 2009"), in addition to the classic freestanding house, entries consisting of extensions to, conversions of or the addition of a further floor to single family houses were

also accepted. The jury of specialists, chaired by architecture journalist Gabriele Kaiser from the Architekturzentrum Wien, was made up of a representative of each of the nine architecture institutions from the different Austrian provinces. In the first phase the jury selected the best 28 from a total of 124 competition entries, in the second round the nine regional winners were chosen from this group. The prizes were awarded to excellent examples of everyday architecture that range from the reinterpretation of traditional building forms and typologies, the intelligent use of materials, responsible handling of the surrounding landscape to optimised energy concepts and the sensual and haptic qualities of a building. What was sought were private homes that make a contribution to improving the culture of building and living. Entries for the competition came from throughout Austria, their diversity and range represents a cross-section of the young (for the most part) Austrian architecture scene.

The prize per project funded by the s Bausparkasse and the Federal Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture amounts to 6,000 euro (3,000 euro each for the architect and the client)

### **DAS BESTE HAUS TOURS AUSTRIA**

Through their quality and diversity the prize-winning buildings are intended to function as “best-case” examples that will provide stimuli and impulses for those thinking about building their own home. With this aim in mind the prize-winning projects will be shown in the Austrian Sparkassen (savings banks), in their wohn<sup>2</sup>-Centers, in the Bauspar-Centers of the s Bausparkasse as well as in a number of other selected institutions.

Within the framework of a series of events there an opportunity will be offered to discuss with experts the development of architecture in the area of the single-family house, the responsible handling of the surrounding landscape as well as optimised energy concepts. An exhibition catalogue provides an overview of all the houses selected for the circle of favourites.

On the one hand the s Bausparkasse, inspired by the concept of provision for the future, declares its commitment to the private home as a material basis for the future, while on the other hand also demonstrating its support for a contemporary architecture in Austria that firmly places people and the environment at the centre of its efforts.

### **FEDERAL MINISTRY UNDERLINES ADVANTAGES OF BUILDING WITH ARCHITECTS**

Of all the new dwellings erected annually in Austria around half are privately built in the form of single-family or paired houses. Consequently such projects must be seen as being of major economic and cultural significance.

One of the duties of politics and politicians is to encourage a sense of quality among all those involved in this area: starting with the clients, extending to those responsible in landscape, regional and housing planning and those bodies that provide finance, and including the architects. It is only by means of collaboration that all those involved in this process can contribute to improving the culture of building in our country.

A particularly welcome aspect is the fact that the prize for "Das Beste Haus" is being awarded for the third time in cooperation with the s Bausparkasse and the Architekturzentrum Wien. This prize is an important medium in efforts to underline more strongly the advantages of building with professional architectural support. Such an approach not only enables a functional and aesthetically valuable house to be built, but also ensures the economic and ecological sustainability of its function. Thanks are due to all prize-winners for their courage and commitment. The result of this commitment are private homes with exceptional architectural quality that at the same time represent an important contribution to the culture of building in this country.

### **S BAUSPARKASSE ACCLAIMS QUALITY OF SINGLE-FAMILY HOUSES**

The quality of the projects submitted proved that this award provides a lasting stimulus in the area of own-home building and that new solutions for single-family houses can be discovered within the existing and constantly growing development of the landscape. The entries showed the use of new materials for the external envelopes of the buildings, combined with great care in the treatment of natural resources both in terms of energy consumption and the amount of land built upon. What architecture is capable of achieving is presented in a particularly demonstrative way. Our environment needs the architect's ordering hand more than ever before, precisely at the point where individual wishes come up against a more comprehensive kind of land-use planning. The generation of young architects and house owners realises their vision of individual living in a self-confident manner.

### **ARCHITEKTURZENTRUM WIEN AS MEDIATOR BETWEEN CLIENTS AND ARCHITECTS**

Once again the Architekturzentrum Wien takes up its role as mediator between clients and architects and is delighted to be able to organise this prize in conjunction with the Federal Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture and the s Bausparkasse. This architecture award, presented this year for the third time, contributes to enhancing this country's architectural identity and encourages an approach to and way of dealing with architecture that demonstrates a feeling for quality.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT [WWW.DASBESTEHAUS.AT](http://WWW.DASBESTEHAUS.AT)**

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