

BALKANOLOGY. NEW ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN PHENOMENA IN SOUTHEAST EUROPE

22.10.2009 – 18.01.2010

An exhibition by the S AM — Swiss Architecture Museum, Basel, in cooperation with the Az W
With the kind support of ERSTE Stiftung

OPENING: WED 21.10.2009, 7PM

PRESS CONFERENCE: WED 21.10.2009, 11AM



This year the spotlight at the Architekturzentrum Wien is on the Balkans, and reaches its climax with the exhibition 'Balkanology. New Architecture and Urban Phenomena in Southeast Europe'. The show puts the rapid process of urban transformation and the architecture in the former-socialist republics of Southeast Europe into focus. Selected examples in a range of locations concentrate on the new and unique development of architecture and urban development in these countries – as a deliberate alternative to attempting to provide a valid representation of the urban development for the entire region.

Supported by ERSTE Stiftung from the outset, the exhibition opens up a new field, shedding light on the less well-known architecture of the post-socialist era as well as the result of unregulated and uncontrolled urban growth in the countries of Southeast Europe. The focus of the exhibition is on the most recent socio-political changes and the impact that these have had on architecture and urban development in the region.

Extensive informal construction that began with the end of the socialist economic system has resulted in a radical transformation of urban structures and a new form of urbanisation. With examples from Belgrade, Bucharest, Kotor, Pula, Prishtina, Sofia, Tirana and Zagreb, the exhibition 'Balkanology. New Architecture and Urban Phenomena in Southeast Europe' shows how architects, urbanists and activists engage with the rapid processes of urban transformation in a context of their cultural, social and political dimensions in the Balkan countries. Research projects, concrete interventions, architectural analyses and planning strategies are introduced – along with little known exceptional Yugoslavian modern socialist buildings in a dialogue with contemporary architecture.

The situation in Southeast Europe is prototypical of urban development that ensues as a result of radical socio-political change, or even wars, and where a lack of or weak institutional structures render any regulation of building activity only barely if at all possible – a situation that applies as equally to Prishtina as it does to Belgrade. At the same time, independently of any regional peculiarities these urban developments are indicative of new structures that contrast in essence from informal settlements in



countries outside Europe. The specific form that they adopt are the result of a new meshing of spaces with the imagery conveyed by the media, migrational movement and the flow of financing.

SUPPLEMENTARY PROGRAMME TO ACCOMPANY THE EXHIBITION

ost klub goes Az W

Opening event

The opening event is followed by a party with the southern Balkan rhythms of DJ Sid Data & das Ost-Kollektiv.

from 10pm, admission free

Open House at the Az W

Admission free all day

Mon October 26 2009, 10 – 19 Uhr

On Monday 26 October you are the guests of the Architekturzentrum Wien's Architecture Lounge: admission is free to all exhibitions and a varied programme for young and old.

4.10pm: guided tour of the exhibition 'Balkanology. New Architecture and Urban Phenomena in Southeast Europe'

More information on the detailed programme: www.azw.at

Other Markets

Symposium + panel discussion

Sat 31.10.2009, 2pm – 8pm, Admission free

A cooperation by the Architekturzentrum Wien with the Institut für Kunst und Gestaltung, Vienna University of Technology

New prototypes for extreme spatial configurations have emerged from informal structures in the wake of the economic deregulation and exploding mobility. Rapidly spreading informal markets on the peripheries in Europe, for instance, form urban nodes for the networks of global migration. Are these architectures of informal exchange the forced low-cost counterpart for the success of the global capital market, or is their creativity showing the way to more sustainable ecologies? The symposium on the FWF research project 'Relational Architecture' addresses critical questions on the participation of architecture in this



reconstruction of our political and economic environment, from the local scale of neighbourhoods to the dimensions of civil society in transnational regions.

2pm Peter Mörtenböck, professor of visual culture, Vienna University of Technology, welcome address and introductory speech (A)

2.30pm Helge Mooshammer, FWF project manager, Vienna University of Technology, speaks on: 'Relational Architecture' (A)

3.30pm Marjetica Potrč, artist and architect, speaks on: 'Catalysts of Change in Cities of Transition' (SLO)

4.30pm break

5pm Teddy Cruz, architect and professor of public culture & urbanism, UC San Diego, speaks on: 'Radicalizing the Local: Post-Bubble Urban Strategies' (USA)

18:00 Irit Rogoff, professor of visual cultures, Goldsmiths, University of London, Goldsmiths, speaks on: 'Regional Imaginings — A Political Practice?' (GB)

7pm panel discussion

Event held in English

17th Vienna Architecture Congress

Fri 20 – Sat 22 November 2009

The 17th Vienna Architecture Congress is dedicated to two key phenomena in the urban development of Southeast Europe that have accompanied the dissolution of the socialist economic system: the extensive informal development, which represents a new form of urbanisation, and the prestige projects required by every town or city if they are to participate in the global competition for star architecture. Architects, urbanists and experts from a range of cities in southern Europe pursue these phenomena in the largely unregulated processes of urban transformation, and discuss the suitability for the future of the individual models with a focus on the 'worldwide economic crisis'.

The congress will be held in English.

! Detailed information on the speakers, the schedule and the programme are available online at www.azw.at !



Visitors Photo Competition

We invite our interested public to send in their own images on the topic of Architecture and Urbanism in Southeast Europe. Have you spent a weekend in Belgrade, Zagreb or Ljubljana, or your summer vacation at one of the beautiful holiday residences on the Adriatic coast? If so, we look forward to seeing your entry!

Attractive prizes await – from Kodak cameras to memory cards and digital picture frames. A jury will select the 10 best photographs.

The winners will be informed by Email, and presented on the Az W website.

Deadline for submissions: 30.11.2009

Supported by KODAK

Double Pack. Guided tours at the Az W and MUMOK

Architecture and art in a double pack guided tour

The Az W and MUMOK are providing guided tours of the exhibitions 'Balkanology. New Architecture and Urban Phenomena in Southeast Europe' and 'Gender Check' on the following days:

Sat 14.11 + 05.12.2009 / 09.01.2010, at 2pm

Starts: Az W; ends: MUMOK

Duration: 90 min.

Double Pack ticket + guided tour: 11 Euro

(in German)

PLEASE NOTE – PRESS PHOTOS

High-resolution press images of the exhibition are available online in the press section of our website free of charge.

Architekturzentrum Wien



Curator: Kai Vöckler

Co-curators: Vladimir Kulić and Maroje Mrduljaš

Exhibition design: Revolver Creative Services — Thilo Fuchs & Oliver Mayer

Photographs: Wolfgang Thaler

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