

DAS BESTE HAUS 2013

Architecture prize for Single-Family Houses in Austria



Award Ceremony and Exhibition Opening:

Wednesday 24 April 2013, 7pm

Prizes awarded by:

Bernd Hartmann, Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, the Arts and Culture
Josef Schmidinger, CEO of s Bausparkasse
moderated by Dietmar Steiner, director of the Architekturzentrum Wien

Exhibition Dates: 25 April – 13 May 2013

Architekturzentrum Wien, 1 Museumsplatz, im MQ, 1070 Vienna, Austria

Opening Hours: daily 10am – 7pm

The Bausparkasse of the österreichischen Sparkassen AG seeks out the best houses in Austria, in cooperation with the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, the Arts and Culture and the Architekturzentrum Wien, and with the active support of the regional architecture institutions in Austria.

A wide and varied range of different building types completed under the most varied of topographical conditions have been submitted for the accolade the Best House of 2013. The jury of experts, chaired by Karoline Mayer, Architekturzentrum Wien, consisted of a representative from each of the nine federal states of Austria. The jury selected 29 houses from 112 entries to the competition in the initial round of adjudication, from which the winners in each of the nine federal states were subsequently singled out in a second round of judging. Prizes are awarded to outstanding examples of everyday architecture. The majority of prize-winning projects engage in a densification of the existing substance, conversions, additions and also renovations. An increasing sensitivity for the contextual interaction between the old and the new is to be ascertained here. There is a remarkable range of different conceptual and architectural approaches in this particular sector. Regardless of whether an old or a new building, there is a clear trend towards natural and, above all, locally sourced raw materials to be seen, accompanied by a renewed interest in experimentation. When the prize was first awarded positive emphasis was still put on a concept's ecological sustainability; happily in the meantime this has become a standard feature.

Each winning project is awarded prize money of 6,000.- euros (3,000.- euros for the architect and for the client), donated by the s Bausparkasse and the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, the Arts and Culture.

This year, for the first time, an **Audience Prize** is also to be awarded to the project that has received the most votes online.

THE AUSTRIAN FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR EDUCATION, THE ARTS AND CULTURE PROMOTES THE DIVERSITY OF TYPES OF BUILDING IN THE FIELD OF SINGLE-FAMILY HOUSES

With the architecture prize for Das beste Haus (The Best House), the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, the Arts and Culture in cooperation with the s Bausparkasse and the Architekturzentrum Wien clearly show how broad the spectrum is of solutions and ideas for one- and two-dwelling houses already being realised in Austria. The examples of best practice given by the winning projects show exceptionally high quality as architecture, so making a significant contribution to the culture of building in this country.

The prize is an exemplary initiative to increase sensitivity among the general population for the subject of home building and the surrounding culture, and to create awareness of quality architecture for people

planning to build their own homes. It also makes a contribution to the mediation of everyday architecture and of contemporary architecture.

The initiative shows the advantages of building with the support of professional architects. As this can not only ensure the completion of functional and attractive homes but also the financial viability and environmental sustainability of their use.

The prize stands for a sustained improvement in the culture of building in Austria, and shows that all of the architects, clients and financial partners who are actively contributing to the culture of building also regard the issues involved as social issues.

S BAUSPARKASSE EMBRACES HIGH QUALITY FAMILY HOMES

Quality homes combined with the desire to realise one's own ideas is the motivating force that leads clients and architects to find surprising solutions. Regardless of whether new buildings or extensions to existing ones, ties to the setting, energy-efficiency, the use of natural materials and intelligent decisions regarding sustainability are combined with creativity and ability. This year, too, the high quality of the submitted projects proved that the prize has had a sustained impact on initiatives in the housing sector, and that new solutions for single-family houses are always to be found in the existing and ongoing development of the countryside. Houses are being completed in this context that exercise a positive influence on nature and people in their immediate vicinity based on their features and handling of energy while fitting into or providing a striking accent for their setting. It is in this context that what architecture is capable of can be most clearly seen. Our environment needs the architect's organising touch more than ever. Especially where individual wishes run into more extensive regional planning criteria. The current generation of young architects and home owners are confidently realising their own ideas for individually tailored housing.

The s Bausparkasse is committed to promoting privately owned houses as the material basis for — i.e. as provision for — the future, as well as to the promotion of contemporary architecture in Austria that has people and the environment as its core considerations.

THE ARCHITEKTURZENTRUM WIEN — IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF THE HOUSES IN AUSTRIA

As a long-standing partner and co-organiser of the 'Das beste Haus' architecture prize for quality building in the single-family house segment, the Architekturzentrum Wien once again has the pleasure of collaborating with the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, the Arts and Culture and the s Bausparkasse on this competition. As a mediator between the clients and the architects, key criteria for the

Architekturzentrum Wien are improving the quality of Austria's cultural identity and the promotion of a quality-conscious approach to architecture.

DAS BESTE HAUS ON TOUR IN AUSTRIA

The high quality and diversity of the prize-winning houses are intended to provide inspiring examples of best practise for prospective clients wanting to build their own homes. Accordingly, the winning houses are to be shown in collaboration with the architecture institutions in the different federal states of Austria, branches of the Sparkasse bank and at other selected locations around the country.

These events provide opportunities to talk with experts on topics ranging from the development of the architecture of single-family houses, the intelligent use of materials or the responsible treatment of the surrounding countryside, to optimised energy concepts. A catalogue of the exhibition provides an overview of all of the houses selected as favourites.

FURTHER INFORMATION IS AVAILABALE ONLINE AT WWW.DASBESTEHAUS.AT

Charlotte Harrer, s Bausparkasse, public relations
Tel. 05 0100-29326; E-Mail: charlotte.harrer@sbausparkasse.co.at

Alexandra Viehhauser, Architekturzentrum Wien, press contact/PR
Tel. 01 522 31 15-27, E-Mail: viehhauser@azw.at

Karoline Mayer, Architekturzentrum Wien, project coordination
Tel. 01 522 31 15-28, E-Mail: mayer@azw.at

bm:uk Bundesministerium für
Unterricht, Kunst und Kultur

Az W Architekturzentrum
Wien

 **BAUSPARKASSE**

