



## **MAX FABIANI. ARCHITECT OF THE MONARCHY**

22.10.2015 – 30.11.2015, ALTE HALLE

OPENING: WED 21.10.2015, 7PM | PRESS CONFERENCE: WED 21.10.2015, 11AM

Opening speeches by:

Dietmar Steiner, Director of the Az W

Andrej Hrausky, Curator of the Exhibition

Boris Podrecca, Architect

Josef Ostermayer, Federal Minister for Arts and Culture, Constitution and Media

Julijana Bizjak Mlakar, Minister of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia

On 1 May 1865 Emperor Franz Joseph officially opened the Vienna Ringstrasse. In 2015 Vienna is celebrating the boulevard's 150th anniversary. 1865 was also the year in which Max Fabiani was born, and the Az W is delighted to present the exhibition 'Max Fabiani. Architect of the Monarchy'.

Born in Slovenia, Max Fabiani is considered one of the fathers of modern architecture in Vienna. He worked at Otto Wagner's Vienna Stadtbahn studio, where he designed the Portojs & Fix premises on Ungargasse (1898–1900) and the Artaria Verlag publishing house on Kohlmarkt (1900–1901).

In 1910 Fabiani demonstrated his modernity and willingness to compromise with the construction of the Urania. This adult education facility and observatory was one of the first of its kind, and also marks the end of the Ringstrasse.

Max Fabiani was, alongside Josef Plečnik, probably the most important Slovenian architect of international stature in the 20th century. Even though greater significance is ascribed to Plečnik in the world of architecture it cannot be overlooked that Fabiani was ranked high in the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, and enjoyed the highest respect as an architect in the artistic circles of Vienna. He was an associate of Otto Wagner's, a member of the Vienna Secession, a senior functionary in the Architect's Association, the first architect to qualify in the monarchy, personal advisor to Archduke Franz Ferdinand, and a professor at the Vienna technical college. He also supported and promoted Slovenian architects, such as Josip Costaperario, Janez Jager and Josef Plečnik. With his many years of teaching at the technical college he was a decisive figure for the subsequent generation of architects, including Josef Frank, Oskar Strnad, Oskar Wlach and Walter Sobotka.

The extent of Fabiani's influence on Plečnik, who implemented a number of the former's ideas in Ljubljana, is slowly coming to light. So too, are the many parallels in the two architects' lives. Both turned away from Vienna and returned to their homeland after the First World War. They were both untouched by trends in the modern architecture of their time, preferring instead to follow their own artistic convictions. Both were awarded Golden Doctorates in Technical Sciences at the same time by the Vienna technical college (on



22.02.1952). Prior to the outbreak of the First World War, Fabiani completed numerous major projects in Vienna, Ljubljana, Trieste and other cities in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Furthermore, he published regularly. For a long time Fabiani's work has, sadly, received too little attention. This exhibition aims to provide a reassessment of the architect's full legacy, and to reintroduce him as the expert he was to the three cultural spheres that meet in this context, Slovenia, Italy & Austria.

The exhibition includes presentations of the following projects: the Portois & Fix building, the Artaria Verlag publishing house, the Urania and Palais Palmer in Vienna, but also projects from Slovenia, such as the Krisper House or Hribar House in Ljubljana. Projects in Italy include the Trieste National Hall and Bartoli House, also in Trieste, or the Haus des Handels in Gorizia. Fabiani also authored the plan for the reconstruction of the city of Ljubljana following its destruction by earthquake, plans which are also shown in the exhibition. The plan was not implemented entirely, but remained decisive for the city's further development.

Guided tours of the exhibition: Sat 24.10.2015 and Wed 25.11.2015, at 5.30pm

Curator: Andrej Hrausky

Project coordination, Az W: Alexandra Viehhauser

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**The press release for the exhibition as well as high-resolution, rights free press images are available online at [www.azw.at/press\\_fabiani](http://www.azw.at/press_fabiani)**

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