

ARCHITEKTUR.FILM.SOMMER

Resisting Architecture

A cooperative undertaking between the Az W, wonderland – platform for european architecture, frame[o]ut – digital summer screenings and the MuseumsQuartier Wien

On six different evenings in August the fourth Architektur.Film.Sommer offers a high quality programme of short films, essay films and documentaries in the framework of frame[o]ut, shown in the courtyard of the Architekturzentrum Wien in the MuseumsQuartier Wien.

This year's theme "Resisting Architecture" can be looked at from two different perspectives: on the one hand the focus is on resistance to planned building projects, the rejection of built structures and boundaries, while on the other a look is taken at the idea of resistance that is innate to self-determined building. The festival shows that own-initiative and self-organization harbour the potential to produce new forms of architecture and also to renew the social system within such architecture.

In the open-air setting visitors and passers-by are invited to linger, enjoy the programme and to join in discussions with the film-makers present.

Jury/Open Call: Karoline Mayer, Marlene Rutzendorfer, Martina Theininger
Screening: St. Balbach & Oliver Schmidt

Location: courtyard of the Architekturzentrum Wien in the MuseumsQuartier Wien

Alternative bad-weather location: Az W Podium

Tickets: admission is free

PROGRAMME:

MOVING MOUNTAINS

FRI, 12.08.2016, FROM 8PM

BERG

AT 2016, 25 mins, original with English subtitles

Dir: Ella Raidel

During the Festival of the Regions in 2015 a floating object in the form of a mountain undertook a ten-day expedition on the Traunsee and served as a platform for artistic collaboration. Working together, the crew

and passengers got things moving and became the protagonists in a narrative. Director Ella Raidel made the film that is based on this journey, using texts, sounds and performances produced in the process.

DLRG

DE 2013, 12 mins, original with English subtitles

Dir.: Antje Buchholz, Sven Flechsenhar, Maja Weyermann

This animated film examines one of the outstanding buildings of post-war Berlin, which was designed by architect Ludwig Leo for the Deutsche Lebens-Rettungs-Gesellschaft (DLRG) and was completed in 1973. The building served on the one hand as a base for rescue services on land and water, and on the other as a place to keep rescue boats in winter, which were stacked in the eight storeys of the building. On the basis of the impressive original plans the film reveals the complex spatial relationships in this highly unusual building. By animating individual elements of the section drawings and then using them in moving scenes Leo's inventive details and mechanisms and functional sequences involved are made clearly legible.

ANDERMATT – GLOBAL VILLAGE

CH 2015, 90 mins, original with German subtitles

Dir.: Leonidas Bieri, Robin Burgauer

An Egyptian businessman buys a valley in the heart of Switzerland in order to set up a luxury resort for the international jet-set there. This is the history of Andermatt, a mountain village in a state of crisis, awakened from its deep slumbers by a billion-dollar kiss which makes native land and hope into marketable goods. Over a period of six years the film accompanies supporters and opponents of the project from the village, design architects, calculating investors and loquacious sales agents. How will a village community that has developed over the centuries deal with the avalanche of change – in a world in which financial crises, revolutions and take-over of power no longer respect any frontiers?

PERMANENT TRANSITION

SAT, 13.08.2016, FROM 8PM

GRANICA

AT 2009, 6 mins, original version

Dir.: Eni Brandner

Granica / Grenze / Border describes the separating line between two religions and two cultures – between areas with a Serbian majority and those with a majority of Croatian residents. Twelve years after the end of the conflict about the “Republic of Serbian Krajina” the traces of the confrontation are still apparent. The decayed, destroyed buildings are unwanted monuments against forgetting, which in some cases stand directly beside mine fields or in the middle of the city, awaiting their residents. But the former residents or their descendants are returning only very slowly to the areas economically devastated by the Yugoslav war.

There are still some villages that are half deserted and in the hinterland, far from the tourist centres, sparsely inhabited cities, which, twelve years later, have still not recovered from the damage they suffered in the war.

EUROPE ENDLESS

AT/MT 2015, 30 mins, original version

Dir: Gunther Blauensteiner, Valentin Langer, Penelope Reindl

"Europe Endless" is a 30 minute documentary about migrants trying to get to mainland Europe by boat. The Island of Malta is one of the most densely populated nations in the world and is situated right in the path of refugees desperately trying to reach Europe. Many survivors are stranded on the small island stuck in detention and neglected by most people. "Europe Endless" does not try to paint a broad picture of the catastrophe. It deals with the individual horrors of loneliness and neglect.

BEHÖRDENGANG

AT 2012, 5 mins, no dialogue

Dir: Dawid Liftinger

Director Dawid Liftinger presents a portrait of the Neues Rathaus (City Hall) in Linz and of the municipal administration itself. A building which, given its function, should actually make an open and inviting impression, seems closed and hostile. This video work relates the complex and often obscure "municipal administration system" to the building's equally complicated directional system and its almost labyrinthine architecture.

FLOTEL EUROPA

DK/RS 2015, 70 mins, original with English subtitles

Dir.: Vladimir Tomic

Flotel Europa – a floating giant in the port of Copenhagen. At the beginning of the 1990s director Vladimir Tomic fled to Denmark from the war in Sarajevo together with his mother and his older brother. Upon arriving there the family lived in a container ship, which provided temporary accommodation for about one thousand refugees from former Yugoslavia who, despite the difficult circumstances, mastered their daily lives there and celebrated special occasions. The family sent video messages to the father in the old country. The film is based on a montage of this video material and looks back at the life of a teenager between windowless cabins, communal kitchens and a TV room with news from the war zones and excursions to "dry land".

REDUNDANCY

WED, 17.08.2016, FROM 8PM

ESTATE, A REVERIE

GB 2015, 83 minS, English original version or original with German subtitles

Dir.: Andrea Luka Zimmerman

„Estate, a Reverie“ is a portrait of a community struggling to survive in a boarded-up London council estate, long slated for demolition. The Film immerses us in a dreamlike lost-world of misfits, outcasts and survivors - a lyrical and gripping vision of the loneliness and disempowerment that haunts life even in the world's wealthiest cities. Filmed over seven years, the film reveals and celebrates the resilience of residents who are profoundly overlooked by media representations and wider social responses. Andrea Luka Zimmerman's film explores the death of a utopian dream that is social housing, the reconfiguration of East London's landscape, and a group of people who refuse to be defined by economic or social brackets, even acting out stories from the past to keep the spirit alive.

POSLEDNIY LIMUZIN (THE LAST LIMOUSINE)

RUS/DE 2014, 74 mins, original with English subtitles

Dir: Daria Khlestkina

Faced with the relentless demise of the factory they work at, Mikhail, Andrey, Nina, Vladimir, Nadia and Luda – bosses, foremen, engineers and workers of the giant Moscow automobile plant ZIL – cling to established routines and professional pride to stay upright in a world which crumbles around them. When an order comes in for the production of three of the factory's legendary hand-made limousines, once the center-piece of Soviet military parades on Moscow's Red Square, Mikhail's team of hand-picked specialists throws itself at the opportunity to show what they are worth.

FROM ACADEMY TO AUTONOMY

FRI, 19.08.2016, FROM 8PM

Guests: Lisa Schmidt-Colinet, Alexander Schmoeger, Tino Glimmann, Jan Gollob

INSTITUTE ABOVE-GROUND

DE/CU 2015, 22 minS, Original with English subtitles

Dir.: Lisa Schmidt-Colinet, Alexander Schmoeger, Florian Zeyfang

Institute Above-Ground is a documentary film about one of the early, euphoric building experiments made directly after the Cuban revolution. The architecture of Vittorio Garatti's "Instituto tecnológico de suelos y fertilizantes André Voisin" has a futuristic feel to it. Walkways hovering above the landscape connect buildings that only touch the ground at certain places. The complex was designed for 2000 students, who,

lived, worked, slept and ate there. It was later transformed into a military prison and now stands empty. The ruin lies like a stranded spaceship in the flatlands near Güines, an ark for ideas yet to be realized.

SENSING SPACES: ARCHITECTURE RE-IMAGINED; DIÉBÉDO FRANCIS KÉRÉ

GB 2014, 8 mins, English original version

Dir.: Candida Richardson

Made for the exhibition Sensing Spaces: Architecture Re-Imagined at the Royal Academy in London where Kéré was invited to create an installation. His idea for the project referenced the new primary school in his home village of Gando, Burkina Faso. His buildings are made using low-tech sustainable techniques enabling the participation of the whole community. Kéré describes the use of traditional architecture within the village compound and goes on to explain the functionality of the school building through effective ventilation and the use of bricks made from local clay.

MICROBRIGADES - VARIATIONS OF A STORY

DE/CU 2013, 31 mins, original with English subtitles

Dir: Florian Zeyfang, Alexander Schmoeger, Lisa Schmidt-Colinet

Building troops made up of layperson known as "Microbrigadas" were set up around 1971 in Cuba in response to the housing shortage. Groups of workers were released from their duties for periods of time to erect their won housing blocks in a self-build process. The apartments in these blocks were then allocated to the workers. Up until 1975 this system was used to erect between 18,000 and 20,000 apartments annually in Cuba, until the programme was finally dropped due to shortage of construction materials. In brief fragments the film follows the changing and contradictory histories of the construction brigades and provides independent pictorial space for two large housing developments in Havana – San Agustín und Alamar. Architecture shots, archive material and interviews are combined to form an experimental collage about this phenomenon of a revolutionary modernism.

BATUSHAS HAUS

CH/KO 2015, 68 mins, original with English subtitles

Dir.: Tino Glimmann & Jan Gollob

Kadri Batusha has been building his house in the outskirts of Prishtina in Kosovo for 15 years; without any plans, architects or building permits. The architecture of this enormous building, with all its little towers, stairs and mazy corridors is a manifestation of his biography: A life story shaped by political activism, prison, the years as an asylum seeker in Switzerland but also by the war in Kosovo. The movie takes the viewer on a «guided tour» through the house, gives a voice to the Batusha family, some of the more than 300 inhabitants of the house. All of them shine a light on another facet of this man and his biography, all of them are necessary to understand this unique building, its architecture, and what led to it.

PREFAB NOSTALGIA
SAT, 20.08.2016, FROM 8PM

APPEARING SCULPTURAL | EBNI BRIDGES

AT 2015, 11 min, no dialogue

Dir.: Marte.Marte Architekten and Andreas Waldschütz

The short film "Appearing sculptural | Ebnit Bridges" is part of a visual and acoustic series which was produced in collaboration with photographer and avant-garde film-maker Andreas Waldschütz. Here the most sculptural works by Marte.Marte Architekten are re-staged in an unusually experimental and sensuous manner. The music to the individual films is based exclusively on field recordings made on site.

VORORT

DE 2015, 8 mins, original with English subtitles

Dir.: Laura Engelhardt

In this essay film, the director examines the suburb of Bremen in which she was born, which over the course of time developed from a rural village into a collection of new-build housing estates. The film confronts the standardised buildings, their details and their placing in the surroundings with the large advertising billboards that signify wastelands or empty fields which are destined for further building projects. The film-maker reflects on the process of increasing urban sprawl and the role played by private houses and sites in responding to the wish for security and investment in the future. The focus is on the disappearance of the real and of childhood memories, on the overwhelming strength of images that seem to promise so much and on the question about how people actually live in such places.

BETON BRUT

GB 2014, 5 mins, original version

Dir: Timothy Smith

Béton brut celebrates both the fine detail and monumental scale of London's Brutalist structures. The film attempts to portray these structures as settings for the future (whether that be utopian or dystopian) – devoid of humans, ultimately embraced by nature. The only evidence of human involvement is in the construction – the impact on the materials and the textures that they left behind.

EXCUSE ME, WHILE I DISAPPEAR

ZA/AO 2014, 20 mins, original with English subtitles

Dir.: Michael MacGarry

The film portrays a young municipal worker who works as a caretaker in the test-tube town Kilamba Kiaxi outside the Angolan capital, which was built by Chinese investors and construction companies. At night he

has to travel the long distance back to the old-town of Luanda, where he lives. The new city, designed for more than 210,000 people, is still largely empty. A sleeping giant with no real relationship to its surroundings.

CONCRETE STORIES

CZ 2015, 72 mins, original with English subtitles

Dir.: Lorenz Findeisen

As a way of dealing with the housing shortage in Europe from 1948 the "Plattenbau" (system building) promised a simple and fast way of building thousands of apartments and was used widely and gladly, not only in the Soviet Union but also in the West. The entertaining film "Concrete Stories" tells the story of these prefabricated buildings on both sides of the Iron Curtain. It gives a voice to the people who erected these buildings and, above all, to those who live in them. The stories, many of them very personal, succeed in modifying the stigma often attached to the monotonous buildings, to which Shostakovich even dedicated an operetta.

HOME

WED, 24.08.2016, FROM 8PM

THE BABUSHKAS OF CHERNOBYL

UKR/US 2015, 72 mins, original with English subtitles

Dir.: Holly Morris & Anne Bogart

In the radioactive Dead Zone surrounding Chernobyl's Reactor No. 4, a defiant community of women scratches out an existence on some of the most toxic land on Earth. They share this hauntingly beautiful but lethal landscape with an assortment of interlopers—scientists, soldiers, and even 'stalkers'—young thrill-seekers who sneak in to pursue post-apocalyptic video game-inspired fantasies. Why the film's central characters, Hanna Zavorotyina, Maria Shovkuta, and Valentyna Ivanivna, chose to return after the disaster, defying the authorities and endangering their health, is a remarkable tale about the pull of home, the healing power of shaping one's destiny and the subjective nature of risk.

YAMA

AT/JP 2010/11, 8 mins, no dialogue

Dir.: Claudia Larcher

This video animation uses a fictive camera tracking shot to offer an insight into the spaces of a traditional Japanese house, composed of fragments of very different rooms, which the artist lived in during her stay in Japan. This was combined with excerpts from old Ukiyo-e's and scenes from Kabuki-theatre. In her work Claudia Larcher deals with rooms and spaces that for her are connected with feelings of home, familiarity and memory. "Heimat" (home) stands for identity, connection and history in the sense of a lived past.

Therefore the spaces that the artist examines are on the one hand topographical givens, but on the other spaces of memory and imagination.

TOMORROW WE DISAPPEAR

IN/US 2014, 82 mins, original with English subtitles

R: Jimmy Goldblum & Adam Weber

Due to legal reasons, we had to withdraw this film from our programme.

INSTA-FILM COMPETITION #RESISTINGARCHITECTURE

Undertaken jointly by the Az W and Instagramers Austria / #igersaustria

The best contributions will be publicly shown on 12.08. at Architektur.Film.Sommer in the courtyard of the Az W. Further information at www.azw.at/resistingarchitecture

The press release as well as high-resolution, rights free press images are available online at www.azw.at/press_architekturfilmsommer

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