

MAK over Vienna

On the Basis of a Feasibility Study, the MAK Is Planning Large-Scale Structural and Constructional Measures

Almost twenty years ago, a comprehensive overhaul in content, structure, and construction ushered in the redefinition of the MAK and informed its unique new identity. Based on a space use study entitled "Current State and Reorganization", the MAK underwent general refurbishment in which a generous repository and additional exhibition spaces were created. In an interplay of artistic heritage and contemporary intervention that can be called unique, the MAK's historical collections were newly presented. A new contemporary art collection put the MAK in a position to establish itself as a first address for the art of our time. This conjunction of tradition and innovation has been articulated by the MAK also in the public realm with signals of high visibility in the urban fabric.

Today, the MAK is the center of a global network of contemporary art and architecture. With its branches and cooperation partners from Moscow to Los Angeles it is a laboratory of art production and a research center of social insight.

To keep this center of competence in art, architecture, and design viable in the future and able to meet the fundamentally changed requirements that the museum faces after the autonomization in 2000, once more a reconfiguration is needed. In addition, a number of repairs are inevitable after twenty years.

EMBACHER/WIEN was commissioned by Peter Noever, Director MAK, to produce a feasibility study that provides the basics for these necessary structural measures. Taking into account the historical building elements and the harmonious proportions of Ferstel's architecture, the study mainly focuses on the lack of exhibition floor space and repository spaces.

The study suggests a platform across Wien River in close proximity of the museum to provide for urgently needed repository space with an entirely new urban surface on top. Situated next to Stubenbrücke, it will be an important link in the urban axis extending from the city center to Wien Mitte station. In conjunction with Chris Burden's light sculpture "Vienna SHINING" it will be agleam with new lights. An artistic competition is planned to be held for the surface design of the new square.

The showcase repository "MAK Terminal" that the MAK plans in the leisure zone along the Donaukanal will offer new repository and exhibition spaces and an entirely new public access to the museum. Situated at the confluence of Wien River and Donaukanal, the MAK Terminal opens up innovative ways of art communication, taking art directly where the people are.

In the existing buildings, internal processes will be optimized through a restructuring of the layout plan. Reconfiguration measures will also include an adaptation of exhibition areas, a new visitor guidance system, and a new security concept.

With the radical gain in floor space that it brings the architectural master plan facilitates a number of MAK projects. The transfer of artworks from the Flak Tower in Arenbergpark to the MAK Terminal provides free space in the Flak Tower to accommodate the CAT – Contemporary Art Tower project. The MAK Terminal also is the ideal location to implement the MAK+ project which is intended to establish Vienna as an international design center. In the MAK main building on Stubenring, a Center of Architecture and exhibition spaces for the 20th and 21st century collection of architecture, art, and design will be created. Thus the MAK will have adequate facilities to present its competencies in architecture, and moreover, a survey show of all epochs will be possible in one building.

Peter Noever, Director MAK, will continue to urge for the implementation of these structural measures so as to make sure that the MAK will be able also in the future to fulfill its mission and to develop today what will be the basis of tomorrow.



"VIENNA SHINING" with MAK Platform (above) and MAK Terminal (below)

