



Press Release

APPLIED ARTS. NOW

soma architecture. Immanent Elasticity

A Cooperation of MAK and University of Applied Arts

Opening	Monday, 12 May 2014, 8:00 p.m.
Exhibition Venue	MAK Gallery MAK, Stubenring 5, 1010 Vienna
Exhibition Dates	13 May – 14 September 2014
Opening Hours	Tue 10:00 a.m.–10:00 p.m., Wed–Sun 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. Free admission every Tuesday 6:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m.

With the extraordinary walk-in installation *Immanent Elasticity*, a lightweight weave of elastic fibers developed especially for the MAK Gallery, soma architecture invites visitors to immerse themselves in an adaptable, cloud-like spatial structure. This solo exhibition, which was conceived as part of the series *APPLIED ARTS. NOW*, is based on intensive studies of elastic material systems by the architectural office of soma architecture and departs from conventional methods of design. Architecture manifests itself in *Immanent Elasticity* as an elastic discourse in the sense of an open, individual interpretation and perception of space.

This visionary work consists of fiberglass-reinforced plastic cells, a material that, through internal stresses, produces a kinematic potential and can be reshaped in a variety of ways through movement. Externally applied forces cause parts of the work to fold out of their three-dimensional shape to form a flat structure. The chain-like construction allows local changes to affect neighboring cells, which results in characteristic, repeating patterns. The node principle behind the installation's complexly woven, elastic material system is based on a project by students at the Department of Architecture Theory at the Vienna University of Technology (students: Kristoffer Stefan and Nikola Witzmann). It makes it possible to adjust the work to the spatial conditions of the MAK Gallery, thus allowing for improvisation and site-specific differences.

With *Immanent Elasticity*, soma architecture has once again pursued a speculative conception of space that deals with the complex interactions between perception and geometric principles. The spatial structure of the exhibition can be described by “L-systems” (named after the Hungarian biologist Aristid Lindenmayer), which, based on the reproduction of basic rules, are also used to simulate plant growth, among other things. The installation at the MAK is reminiscent of a living, growing organism despite

the artificial nature of the material, and appears chaotic and ambiguous in spite of its stringent adherence to rules and clear geometric structure.

Innovative conceptual models and methods of implementation as well as the development of visionary, spatial and formal concepts are characteristic of the work of soma architecture. Among the team's most experimental projects are the mobile art pavilion *White Noise* for the state of Salzburg (2011) or the *Theme Pavilion* for the Expo 2012 in South Korea. The elastically adaptable, kinetic facade for the Expo was not only a technological world first, but an emotionally moving spatial experience.

soma architecture was founded in 2007 by Stefan Rutzinger, Kristina Schinegger, Martin Oberascher and Günther Weber. The team's activities range from developing investigative design strategies and experimental methods of implementation to technical and theoretical research. They question and draw connections between aesthetic categories of form, concept and experience to a large degree through feedback from analogous material properties and digital simulations. The team, which has received several awards, was represented at the Architecture Biennale in Venice (2010) and *ArchiLab 2013: Naturalizing Architecture* at the FRAC Centre in Orléans, among other events. soma currently maintains offices in Vienna and Salzburg.

www.soma-architecture.com

soma architecture. Immanent Elasticity is the sixth part of the series *APPLIED ARTS. NOW*, which aims to create a platform for contemporary forms of applied art and thus increase the visibility of graduates of the University of Applied Arts who live and work in Austria. The series began with the exhibition *PATRICK RAMPELOTTO. Adventures in Foam* (25 January – 26 May 2012). This was followed by *STIEFEL & COMPANY ARCHITECTS. Faux Terrains* (23 May – 16 September 2012), *taliaYsebastian. The Committee of Sleep* (3 October 2012 – 6 January 2013), *MARCO DESSÍ. STILL LIFE* (30 January – 5 May 2013) and *Lisa Truttmann. MY STAGE IS YOUR DOMAIN* (19 June – 6 October 2013). This autumn the series will continue with *Valentin Ruhry* (8 October 2014 – 11 January 2015).

Press photos on the exhibition are available for download at MAK.at/press.



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Universität für angewandte Kunst Wien
University of Applied Arts Vienna

Press Fact Sheet

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Curator	Marlies Wirth
Related Events	Tuesday, 27 May 2014, 6:00 p.m. Discussion of the exhibition with the architects and the curator Thursday, 11 September 2014, 5:00 p.m. Tour with the curator and the architects
exhibition catalog	In preparation
MAK Admission	€7.90 / reduced price: €5.50 / family ticket: €11 Free admission for children and teens up to 19
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Vienna, 17 July 2014