



MAK

Press Release

VILLA TUGENDHAT

Opening Tuesday, 20 October 2015, 7 p.m.
Exhibition Venue MAK FORUM
MAK, Stubenring 5, 1010 Vienna
Exhibition Dates 21 October – 29 November 2015
Opening Hours Tue 10 a.m.–10 p.m., Wed–Sun 10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Free admission on Tuesdays from 6–10 p.m.

The Villa Tugendhat in Brno, Czech Republic, counts as an icon of modern architecture. It embodies the social-utopian aspirations of the architect Mies van der Rohe and the cosmopolitan, upper-middle-class lifestyle of his clients, Grete and Fritz Tugendhat. In cooperation with the city of Brno, the Villa Tugendhat team, and the city of Vienna, the MAK is hosting the first Austrian showing of the traveling exhibition VILLA TUGENDHAT, which was conceived by the Study and Documentation Centre of the Villa Tugendhat (SDC-VT) in response to widespread public interest in the restoration (completed in 2012) of this singular edifice. Financed by the Brno City Museum, the exhibition gives a comprehensive view of the architecture and history of this exceptional Gesamtkunstwerk with information plaques, large-format photographs, and a documentary video. This MAK exhibition under the honorary patronage of the Embassy of the Czech Republic will be shown in the MAK FORUM from 21 October to 29 November 2015.

The villa, built 1929–1930 by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe for Mr. and Mrs. Tugendhat, counts as the architect's most important work of the pre-War years and as the most authentically preserved building in Europe. The innovative construction, the arrangement of rooms, the interior design, the technical furnishings, as well as the placement of the three-story building into the sloping site are still considered to be standard-setting. Conceived to have a single story on the street-facing side, the house opens up to the steeply sloping garden side with an enormous windowed façade and two wholly lowerable window elements.

At that time, the employment of steel frame construction for a private dwelling and the use of rare materials for the interior, such as Moroccan onyx, Italian travertine, and exotic wood veneers, were regarded as novelties. Mies van der Rohe also designed the entire interior; the seating furniture in particular still counts among design classics of the 20th century.



Following last year's presentation in the MAK of the film and book *Das Haus Tugendhat*, the MAK evinces its ties to the city of Brno and to the Villa Tugendhat, a UNESCO World Heritage site, with a further activity. Since March of 2012, the house is once again open to the public as a modernist architectural monument.

As a MAK on TOUR event accompanying the exhibition, a day trip to the Villa Tugendhat is planned for Saturday, 7 November 2015 (9 a.m. to ca. 7 p.m.). For more information about the program and to register (the number of participants is limited), contact marketing@MAK.at or +43 1 711 36-231 by 3 November 2015.

Images for the exhibition may be downloaded at MAK.at/press.

Press Data Sheet

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MAK Admission	€ 9.90 / Reduced € 7.50 / Family Ticket € 13 Free admission for children and teens up to 19
Project Coordination	Rainald Franz, Curator, MAK Glass and Ceramics Collection
Expert-Guided Tour	Thu, 29 Oct 2015, 12 noon with Rainald Franz, Curator, MAK Glass and Ceramics Collection
MAK Press and PR	Judith Anna Schwarz-Jungmann (Head) Sandra Hell-Ghignone Veronika Träger Lara Steinhäuser T +43 1 711 36-233, -229, -212 presse@MAK.at , www.MAK.at

Vienna, 20 October 2015