

Press Release

SPACE AND EXPERIENCE Architecture for Better Living

An exhibition of the MAK in cooperation with
Wienerberger

Exhibition Venue	MAK Works on Paper Room and MAK Columned Main Hall (1st floor) MAK, Stubenring 5, 1010 Vienna
Exhibition Dates	29 May – 6 October 2019
Opening Hours	Tue 10 a.m.–10 p.m., Wed–Sun 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

Architecture as design is always an expression of social and cultural structures, codes, and values. It is never just a function but shapes and influences living environment. According to French cultural theorist Michel de Certeau, a place becomes space only through the practices of people. The demands on living space, working space, and urban space are subject to societal and technological changes. Over the past 20 years, digitalization has reconfigured this arrangement. The exhibition *SPACE AND EXPERIENCE: Architecture for Better Living* shows various approaches of current architecture facing up to these new demands.

Even though the basic functions of buildings still oscillate between living, education or work, and leisure, and these functions remain apparent in building typologies, a whole range of digital activities and new interactions have led to the emergence of heterogeneous spaces. Why do people frequent which places and use them for which purpose for their practices and activities? Which routes do they choose through a building, through a city, or through a landscape, and in which spaces do they like to stay? The answers to all these questions not only depend on particular user behavior but are also always a condition of architecture.

Architecture brings structure and form, creates spaces, and as a designed environment directly impacts on the various areas of human life. It has an influence on emotions, perception, and behavior, and enables collective experiences and individual experience. However, the latter is determined by specific expectations and, above all, by personal virtues and social values. But if values are changing, as is the case today, then this change, in turn, has an impact on our notions of quality of life and, consequently, on future tasks for architecture.

The exhibition *SPACE AND EXPERIENCE: Architecture for Better Living* gives insight into a wide range of approaches of current architecture. The common theme of the 23 projects is space and experience as designed architecture for better living.

The exhibition centers around the question how architecture will want to perceive its role in the future and what constitutes this “better living”—specifically with regard to materiality, ecology, design of atmospheres, participation, hospitality, design of communities, and perspective.

Architectural contributions as well as projects that highlight space and experience as design tasks and offer more inclusion, more accessibility, and more uniqueness are presented.

Ten international architecture and design firms are represented with drawings, layouts, renderings, videos, and photographs of their projects. The aforementioned quality characteristics of these projects aim towards “better living.” The majority of the projects exhibited are designed for the wider public and are new buildings, reconstructions, annexes, or extensions that have already been realized or are currently in the planning phase; but also applications and prototypes developed in research projects.

Among other projects, MVRDV’s *Skygarden* (2017) is shown. Formerly an elevated part of the city highway in Seoul, it was transformed into public green space and today presents itself as a botanical garden with Korean plants and trees in the middle of the city.

Mostlikely’s *Sudden Workshop* projects (2015/16) highlight the social and cultural value added by collaborative building actions. Without requiring a lot of material, space-encompassing urban furniture creates impulses to revitalize community and urbanity in Vienna.

Civic Architects demonstrate what a public forum can look like today with *LoCHal* (2019), an old train assembly hall in Tilburg in the Netherlands that was converted into a library, a place to work and study, and a space for exhibitions and events.

SPAN (del Campo Manning) give an outlook on the digitally expanded possibilities of experiencing space with their work *Augmentations of the Real* (2018), which visitors can explore themselves at the exhibition with the provided app.

With *H.O.R.T.U.S. XL Astaxanthin.g* (2019), a spacious 3-D printed bio-digital prototype, ecoLogicStudio impressively illustrates the potential of cyanobacteria (blue algae). This living architecture will grow over the course of the exhibition and by means of photosynthesis produce oxygen and biomass in the MAK Works on Paper Room.

The exhibition is a cooperation with Wienerberger and—on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the enterprise—is complemented by a presentation on the cultural-historical significance of Wienerberger.

Among other things, plates from around 1900 made of ceramic tiles are displayed, which are exhibited as printed postcards to take along. Visitors can actively engage in *SPACE AND EXPERIENCE: Architecture for Better Living* and are invited to point out places and spaces historical ceramic tiles can still be encountered today.

The exhibition design by Tzou Lubroth Architects also alludes to the topic *SPACE AND EXPERIENCE: Architecture for Better Living*. Five especially designed pavilions, covered with glazed Wienerberger roof tiles in different colors, illuminate the arcaded gallery of the MAK Columned Main Hall with different nuances of light. The pavilions not only function as guideposts to the MAK Works on Paper Room but also set the mood for the different topics of the exhibition with regard to space, acoustics, and themes.

The MAK Works on Paper Room itself is lined with plastic pipes by the company Pipelife, which reveal new insights. Depending on your perspective and where you are standing, the room appears framed or enshrouded, thus creating an entirely new effect.

Three expert meetings and a symposium themed "Space and Experience" already took place in the run-up to and in preparation of the exhibition. Video recordings of all symposium talks can be found on the MAK YouTube channel.

Architects and designers: Civic Architects, ecoLogicStudio, Energy Design Cody, Liquifer Systems Group, mostlikely, MVRDV, Realarchitektur, Space Popular, SPAN (del Campo Manninger), Tzou Lubroth Architects

Curator: Nicole Stoecklmayr, Scenes of Architecture
Advisory board of international experts: Brian Cody, Gert Kwekkeboom, Mark Neuner, Claudia Pasquero, and Petra Petersson
Exhibition design: Tzou Lubroth Architects
Graphic design: Maria Prieto Barea

#spaceandexperience

Image material on the exhibition at MAK.at/press and viennabiennale.org

Main sponsor

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For Change

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