

ELEMENTS

Adam Štěch's Perspective on Architectural Details

MAK – Press and PR

presse@MAK.at

Press Information

Vienna, 17.9.2024

Press Conference

Tuesday, 17.9.2024, 10 am

With the exhibition *ELEMENTS: Adam Štěch's Perspective on Architectural Details*, the MAK invites visitors on a unique photographic journey through decorative and functional details of outstanding works of Modernist architecture. From 18 September 2024, some 2,500 photographs, taken by the Prague design and architecture theorist, author, and curator Adam Štěch in more than 40 countries around the world, will be displayed in the MAK Works on Paper Room.

The exhibition has been created by Adam Štěch together with his OKOLO Collective colleagues Matěj Činčera and Jan Kloss. An adaption of the exhibition *Elements: Unique Details of the 20th Century Architecture and Interior*, presented in the *Dropcity* series as part of this year's Salone del Mobile in Milan, the MAK exhibition concentrates in particular on Austrian architecture.

In 2006, Adam Štěch, then 20 years old, began to direct his photographic eye at often little considered elements created by Modernist architects and designers as part of their buildings' overall artistic concept. His archive, now numbering more than 7,000 images and still growing, draws our attention to lighting, seating, storage spaces, tables, railings, doors, handles, windows, floors, walls, and other details of outstanding buildings created by such names as Gio Ponti, Frank Lloyd Wright, Le Corbusier, and Adolf Loos, as well as by forgotten and little known architects.

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Inspired by Hilla und Bernd Becher's photographs of historical industrial architecture, arranged as in typecases, Štěch documents the formal elements of Modernism. The aim of his ambitious project is to create the hitherto biggest database of methodically researched architectural details—a systematic collection of morphological images from which people are excluded.

The exhibition *ELEMENTS: Adam Štěch's Perspective on Architectural Details* presents the photographs as paper prints grouped into typological categories and arranged on simple aluminum displays designed by Štěch's colleagues from the OKOLO Collective, Matěj Činčera and Jan Kloss. In this setting, the public is encouraged to trace stylistic changes in 20th-century architecture and design.

Born in Děčín in the Czech Republic in 1986, Adam Štěch completed the master class in art history at Prague's Charles University. His work focuses on architecture and design. As co-founder of the creative collective OKOLO, since 2009 he has been implementing publication and exhibition projects in the Czech Republic and abroad. He is editor of the Prague-based journal *Dolce Vita* and author of numerous books and texts on design and architecture. His articles have appeared in such international periodicals as *Wallpaper*, *Modernism*, *Damn*, *Cool Hunting*, *Domus*, *Architonic*, *Mark*, *Frame*, *Form*, *A10*, and *SightUnseen*. Štěch teaches design history at the Scholastika in Prague and at the FUD—Faculty of Art and Design—of the Jan Evangelista Purkyně University in Ústí Nad Labem.

The idea for the *Elements* exhibition arose from a smaller presentation in London's Brompton Design District in 2017. An initial comprehensive overview of Štěch's photographic archive was presented in *Modern Architecture and Interiors* published by Prestel in 2020.

In the context of VIENNA DESIGN WEEK 2024, the MAK extends an invitation to an Architecture Talk with Adam Štěch on Saturday, 21.9.2024, chaired by Rainald Franz, Curator of the MAK Glass and Ceramics Collection and of Štěch's exhibition. The talk will focus on design components of Modernist architecture and the significance of Adam Štěch's photographic work for the world of contemporary architecture.

Press photos are available for download at MAK.at/en/press.



Press Conference

Tuesday, 17.9.2024, 10 am

Opening

Tuesday, 17.9.2024, 6 pm

Free admission to the exhibition opening

Exhibition Venue

MAK Works on Paper Room

MAK, Stubenring 5, 1010 Vienna

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Exhibition Dates

18.9.2024–2.3.2025

Opening Hours

Tue 10 am–9 pm, Wed to Sun 10 am–6 pm

Curators

Adam Štěch, Design and Architecture Theorist, Author and Curator (OKOLO)

Rainald Franz, Curator, MAK Glass and Ceramics Collection

Graphic Design

Matěj Činčera, Jan Kloss (OKOLO)

Accompanying Program

VIENNA DESIGN WEEK in the MAK

Architecture Talk accompanying the exhibition *ELEMENTS: Adam Štěch's Perspective on Architectural Details*

Sat, 21.9.2024, 2 pm

MAK Admission

€ 16.50/15.50*; reduced € 13.50/12.50*; every Tuesday 6–9 pm:

admission € 8/7.50*

Admission free for kids and teens under 19

* Online ticket price

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