



**MAK**

Press Release

**FOCUS ON COLLECTING 4: Drawings by Josef Hoffmann.  
Presentation of a Donation**

Opening	Tuesday, 5 July 2016, 7 p.m.
Presentation Venue	MAK FORUM MAK, Stubenring 5, 1010 Vienna
Presentation Dates	6 – 31 July 2016
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.

In the show *Drawings by Josef Hoffmann. Presentation of a Donation*, the MAK will present 55 late graphic artworks of the renowned architect and designer Josef Hoffmann (1870–1956). A generous donation of the Wittmann Möbelwerkstätten GmbH, encompassing design drafts and architectural drawings extending from the 1930s into the 1950s, will thus be officially handed over to the MAK. The presentation in the MAK FORUM (6 – 31 July 2016) will open on 5 July 2016, 7 p.m. in the presence of Ulrike Wittmann and Heinz Hofer-Wittmann.

“Thanks to the generous donation of the Wittmann Möbelwerkstätten, it is possible for the MAK to close a gap in its Josef Hoffmann collection, that of his late work. The to-date unknown design drawings for two major architectural projects for Addis Ababa and Ankara illustrate the conceptual path of Hoffmann from the site plan to the detailed sketch: 55 studies are now available to be discovered. We thank the Wittmann Möbelwerkstätten for this addition to the collection, which represents a valuable expansion to the extensive Hoffmann inventory of the MAK Library and Works on Paper Collection,” says MAK Director Christoph Thun-Hohenstein.

“We are pleased to see these drawings find a home at a place in which they are accessible not only to the eyes of art and design experts, but also to those of an interested public. The cultural-creative legacy of Josef Hoffmann, which is also reflected in these drawings, is ideally preserved for the future under ideal scientific and conservation conditions in the MAK,” according to Ulrike Wittmann and Heinz Hofer-Wittmann.

The MAK collection of Josef Hoffmann, which already encompasses 7 000 drawings, is enriched by the donation in the form of, among other items, extensive studies for

the furnishings of the residential and business building of the Stern family, as well as for his unrealized major project, the city hall of Addis Ababa in Ethiopia. Also among the highlights are design drawings and detailed studies for the competition project for the *Palace of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey in Ankara* (1936), one of the most monumental projects of the interwar period. These also include preliminary sketches for nearby buildings, such as the presidential palace, the police precinct, or the printing house.

The 14 design drawings for the interior design of the business and residential building of the Stern family in Langenzersdorf in Lower Austria originate from 1952. Veneer panels to door height, sophisticated shelving systems, framing, and molding with stucco decoration, as well as carved finials make reference to the detailed planning of the private commission and the typical design features of the 1950s.

Josef Hoffmann received the commission, the city hall in Addis Ababa together with the architects Anton Ubl (1904–1979) and Hubert Matuschek (1902–1968). The designs from the years 1954 to 1955 demonstrate the typical design forms of his late work, such as the casual stringing together of architectural elements. The monumental project, in which Hoffmann's clear striving toward the greatest possible objectivity becomes apparent, was not executed.

The MAK has been promoting public interest in Josef Hoffmann as one of the most important architects and designers of the 20th century with a number of activities, such as exhibitions, publications, and scientific research projects involving his work. The birth house of Josef Hoffmann in the Czech Republic has been operated jointly by the MAK and the Moravian Gallery in Brno as the Josef Hoffmann Museum since 2006 and has hosted exhibitions regularly.

Press photos are available for download at [MAK.at/press](https://www.mak.at/press).

Press Data Sheet

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Curator	Kathrin Pokorny-Nagel, Head, MAK Library and Works on Paper Collection/Archive
MAK Admission	€ 9.90 / Reduced € 7.50 / Family Ticket € 13 Free admission for children and teens under 19
MAK Press and PR	Judith Anna Schwarz-Jungmann (Head) Sandra Hell-Ghignone Veronika Träger Lara Steinhäuser T +43 1 711 36-233, -229, -212 F +43 1 711 36-227 presse@MAK.at www.MAK.at
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