

**Biennale
Architettura
2018
Austrian
Pavilion**

**Thoughts
Form
Matter**



la Biennale di Venezia

**16. Mostra
Internazionale
di Architettura**

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www.labiennale2018.at

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www.labiennale.org

**16th International
Architecture Exhibition
La Biennale
di Venezia
Austrian Pavilion**

Team



Commissioner and Curator

Verena Konrad



Invited architectural and design offices

LAAC | Innsbruck (AT)

Kathrin Aste and Frank Ludin

www.laac.eu

Henke Schreieck | Vienna (AT)

Dieter Henke and Marta Schreieck

www.henkeschreieck.at

Sagmeister & Walsh | New York (US)

Stefan Sagmeister and Jessica Walsh

sagmeisterwalsh.com



Curatorial Assistance

Wolfgang Simma-Wallinger



Production Management

Katharina Boesch, Christine Haupt-Stummer | section a.



Visual Communication

Peter Felder, Maria Mascher-Felder | Felder Grafikdesign

Many thanks to Roland Stieger and Clemens Theobert
Schedler



Photography

Martin Mischkulnig, Darko Todorovic



Press and Sponsoring

Susanne Haider, Sarah Hellwagner,

Clemens Kopetzky, Claudia Bochinz,

Florentina Renko | art:phalanx, Culture & Urbanity



Copy editing and Translations

Michaela Alex-Eibensteiner, Rupert Hebblethwaite,

Claudia Mazanek, Susanna Piccoli

Introduction

→ The Austrian contribution **Thoughts Form Matter** is a plea for the power of architecture as an intellectual analysis of the world and for the freedom to design spaces that are not subject to functional and economic constraints. LAAC, Henke Schreieck and Sagmeister & Walsh are creating a conceptually and materially complex spatial installation which draws together inside and outside, vertical and horizontal, the historic pavilion and the language of contemporary architecture and design.

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Thoughts Form Matter gives rise to spatial metaphors. Concepts such as "deviation", "atmosphere" and "beauty" become tangible in the three-part, converging spatial installation. The three teams interpret the general subject of the Biennale Architettura 2018 "Freespace" as both a spatial and a spiritual construct, as a complex dynamic system and as a versatile realm which is shaped by coexistence.

Austrian Contribution to Biennale Architettura 2018

Gernot Blümel

Federal Minister for EU, Art,
Culture and Media

→ “Thoughts Form Matter” is the title of the Austrian Contribution to the 16th International Architecture Exhibition La Biennale di Venezia. This places the intervention in the Austrian Pavilion in the context of the general subject – “Freespace”. In the manifesto that they published in 2017 the curators of the Biennale Architettura 2018 and joint directors of Grafton Architects, Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara, describe Free Space or Free Spaces as “generosity of spirit”. They place humanity in the sense of intellectual openness at the core of their architectural agenda and interpret this approach in their work as the mindful use of resources and, in particular, the aspiration to create spaces of the highest quality. The Biennale Architettura 2018 enables the energy and beauty of architecture to be revealed through the complexity and materiality of surfaces and through the quality of architectural production as an expression of underlying approaches.

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I am delighted that it was possible to persuade Verena Konrad to act as the responsible Curator and Commissioner of the Austrian Pavilion. As participants she has selected LAAC, Henke Schreieck and Sagmeister & Walsh, architects and designers in whose work conceptual and creative free spaces play a central role.

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Austria’s participation in the Biennale Architettura represents an important contribution to the international discourse on architecture and the built environment. At the same time one of the best-known architecture exhibitions offers the unique opportunity to draw attention to the current state of the architectural scene here at home and to position this in the international debate. I would like to take this opportunity to thank LAAC, Henke Schreieck, Sagmeister & Walsh and Verena Konrad and to wish the exhibition every success and I am very much looking forward to the assuredly positive reaction of visitors.

Thoughts Form Matter Curator's Statement

Verena Konrad

Commissioner and Curator
of the Austrian Contribution
to Biennale Architettura 2018

→ The Austrian contribution to Biennale Architettura 2018 is a plea for an approach to design that understands itself as the formulation of ideas. Architecture as a cultural activity is based on content rather than the physical realisation of functional diagrams: content that is a vision of living together and the ability to question and reinvent existing rules. This search for continuous contextual reinvention enables things of importance to emerge. Large and small. In relationship with the existing. Things that look back upon and forwards to all that we can imagine.

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Today, architecture is a broad field with links to many other disciplines. The complexity of the requirements facing today's architects and designers means that permanent, intellectual reassurance is required if architecture and design are not to dwindle to pragmatism or merge into a neoliberal logic that is dominated by moments of rationalisation and a search for efficiency in which architecture finds its niche as a servant of an aesthetic economy. Designers need theories, concepts, a formulated approach in order to be able to critically reflect upon the political, social and cultural implications of their own actions. LAAC, Henke Schreieck and Sagmeister & Walsh describe their work as an abstract thought-process that seeks a concrete form in which aesthetic, function and construction are in equilibrium. The basis of this is always an analysis of the task in its widest social context and of the production conditions which are equally part of this cultural setting.

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The contribution "Thoughts Form Matter" draws attention to this complexity. To this end, the three invited teams have addressed the spatial and the historic context of La Biennale di Venezia, the general subject of "Freespace", the location and its references, La Biennale di Venezia as a significant institution and the pavilion as a setting to which visitors also respond. In three installations, which overlap and interact both spatially and contentually, LAAC, Henke Schreieck and Sagmeister & Walsh approach the principle of architecture and design as the creation of a new context and as a relational dimension. Thereby we interpret "Freespace" as a spatial and spiritual construct, a complex dynamic system, a versatile realm, characterised by coexistence. Three spatial installations, which partly merge into each other, materialise and visualise concepts such as "deviation", "atmosphere" and "beauty" as formulations of this set of ideas that invites visitors to position themselves as actors in this structure and to adopt their own approach.

LAAC | Innsbruck (AT) Kathrin Aste and Frank Ludin

→ The internationally active architectural office has been developing, researching and teaching innovative answers to urban and landscape challenges for more than a decade. The office is headed by Kathrin Aste and Frank Ludin and works in teams made up of architects, artists and graphic designers and with a network of partners and experts from a range of disciplines. In addition to public buildings in the fields of culture, education and sport and high-profile and functional office and industrial projects LAAC has a special focus on the design of landscapes and free spaces which ranges from landscape interventions and the design of public squares to the development of large-scale masterplans.

→ Selected projects
Landhausplatz Innsbruck (2010), Stadtnaht Dornbirn (2017), MPREIS Weer (2017), Pema 2 library, public space, housing, Innsbruck (under construction), Copa Cagrana Neu, Vienna (under construction)

www.laac.eu

→ Team
Kathrin Aste, Frank Ludin, Simon Benedikt, Simone Brandstätter, Julian Fahrenkamp, Daniel Luckeneder, Ufuk Sagir, Felix Steinbacher, Teresa Stillebacher, Tobias Dorsch

→ Construction team
Jakob Breitenlechner, Michael Gassebner, Raphael Hanny, Hannes Höck, Lisa Höck, Fabian Lanzmaier, Lino Lanzmaier, Thomas Obererlacher, Ufuk Sagir, Teresa Stillebacher, Matthias Trobos, Franz Sam (Konsulent)

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"Sphere 1:50.000"

Installation, 2018

In the work "Sphere 1:50.000" LAAC addresses free space in the form of a spatial deviation. A curved, circular surface is inscribed within the pavilion, revealing itself as the segment of a sphere. A reference to the earth at a scale of 1:50,000, the spherical volume decentralises the symmetrical building. The reflective surface of the curved floor opens up a multitude of spatial relationships. One sees oneself where one isn't while, at the same time, one visualises the place in which one is standing. Thus, the mirror becomes an instrument of deviation rather than symmetry and opens up visual and notional spaces of possibility. This place oscillates between the absolute spatial idea of the pavilion and a relative approach which establishes relationships between and combines the various elements of the exhibition.

Henke Schreieck | Vienna (AT) Dieter Henke and Marta Schreieck

→ Dieter Henke and Marta Schreieck studied at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. In line with their guiding principle "architecture is urban planning" their 35-year partnership has produced a wide range of buildings that have fulfilled their obligations to their clients and to society in equal measure. They have also received numerous prizes, awards and invitations to participate in international exhibitions. Contributions by Henke Schreieck already featured at the Biennale Architettura 1996 and Biennale Architettura 2008.

→ Selected Projects

ÖBV residential building, Vienna (1993), Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Innsbruck University (1998), Parkhotel Hall (2003), OMV office tower, Vienna (2008), Borealis Innovation Headquarters, Linz (2009), House with 2 courtyards, Burgenland (2012), Erste Campus, Vienna (2015), Triple high-rise residential buildings, Vienna (from 2012)

www.henkeschreieck.at

→ Team

Dieter Henke, Marta Schreieck, Buğra Çeteci, Danijel Dukic, Conal Mc Kelvey, Gavin Rae, Bo Ye, Martin Huber, Anna Rubin

→ Construction team

Light Space: Anna Rubin, Ramal Tien, Ulrich Scuhr, Corrado Battori, Enrico Fabris

Construction: Stefan Gatterer, Miroslav Hudec, Pavol Juhas, Manuel Kostner, Elias Moroder, Fabian Oberhofer, Oliver Prossliner, Mario Sacco, Kevin Schieder, Martin Senoner, Klaus Vieider, Günther Runggatscher

Wall coating: Gerold Ulrich, Paolo Pepe, Massimo Pepe



"Layers of Atmosphere"

Installation, 2018

"Layers of Atmosphere" is a two-part spatial installation with which Henke Schreieck create different atmospheres in two identical volumes: bright and dark, dense and light, structural and poetic, west and east encounter each other as contrasts. Constructional method, materiality, colour and atmospheric lighting generate dual spatial qualities. Visitors step from an accessible wooden structure onto a bridge and then plunge into the light space made out of paper, a space whose materiality adds noise, time and movement as one moves across it. Free space is not just unbuilt space but also the effect of atmospheres that result from perception, connection and context.

Sagmeister & Walsh | New York (US) Stefan Sagmeister and Jessica Walsh

→ Stefan Sagmeister and Jessica Walsh are the creative directors and partners of Sagmeister & Walsh. Stefan Sagmeister became well-known through his work for The Rolling Stones, Talking Heads, HBO, OK Go, BMW, The Guggenheim Museum, Aerosmith and many others and has lectured widely and participated in numerous exhibitions. Following the success of the "Happy Show" and the "Happy Film" which he presented together with Ben Nabros at the Tribeca Film Festival in 2016 the office is currently working on a project dedicated to the subject of "Beauty". The work of Jessica Walsh has been widely exhibited and published and she has lectured at numerous festivals, congresses and conferences. Her design work includes campaigns for Snapchat Spectacles, Cinépolis, The Aldrich Museum and The Jewish Museum New York.

sagmeisterwalsh.com

→ Team

Creative Direction: Stefan Sagmeister and Jessica Walsh

Sound Design: Antfood

asmr Readings: Gwen Swinarton

3D Type&Animation: Andreas Wannerstedt, Alexa Sirbu,

Ben Fearnley, Bureau Klaus Alman, foam Studio,

Lukas Vojir, Lioncolony, Machineast, Martín Salfity,

Phillip Reisch

Edit: Jason Bergman

2d Type/ Design: Matteo Pani, Daniel Brokstad, Shy Inbar,

Chen Yu, Zak Tebbal, Gabriela Nami, Rachel Denti

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"Beauty = Function"

Installation, 2018

"Beauty = Function" raises the question of the aesthetic quality of architecture and the need for the beautiful in daily life. In two projections enriched with imagery from contemporary (pop) culture they address the controversial subject of function and beauty. Here, materiality and time play a completely different role and the focus is on digital beauty and its influence on how architecture is received.

Commissioner and Curator Biography



Verena Konrad, born 1979, studied history of art, history and theology at the University of Innsbruck and worked as an assistant at the Institute for Architectural Theory and History of Building, Innsbruck. She has lectured at the University of Innsbruck (architectural theory, history of art) and the University of Art and Design Linz (space & design strategies).



She has worked as a curator at the Galerie im Taxispalais and Kunsthalle Wien and as a freelance art historian. Verena Konrad has headed the vai Vorarlberger Architektur Institut since 2013.

www.v-a-i.at

Quotes

Verena Konrad

Commissioner and Curator
of the Austrian Contribution
to Biennale Architettura 2018

→ Architects require theories, concepts, a formulated approach. This is why LAAC, Henke+Schrieck and Sagmeister & Walsh also describe their work as an abstract thought-process that leads to a concrete form in which aesthetic, function and construction are in equilibrium.

→ Thoughts Form Matter. Three words that, read together, form a sentence. A construct. The Austrian contribution to Biennale Architettura 2018 is a plea for an approach to design that understands itself as the formulation of ideas. Architecture as a cultural and social activity is based on content rather than the physical realisation of functional diagrams: content that is the (spatial) programme, a vision of living together and the ability to question and reinvent existing rules. This search for continuous contextual reinvention enables things of importance to emerge. Large and small. In relationship with the existing. Things that look back upon and forwards to all that we can imagine. Only in this way can spaces or objects be created that inspire and have the quality to trigger positive emotions.

Gernot Blümel

Federal Minister for EU, Art, Culture and Media

→ Austria's participation in the Biennale Architettura represents an important contribution to the international discourse on architecture and the built environment. At the same time one of the best-known architecture exhibitions offers the unique opportunity to draw attention to the current state of the architectural scene in Austria.

Quotes

Kathrin Aste and Frank Ludin

LAAC

→ *For us, being architects also means finding room to design architecture that celebrates the quality of space and in-between space and creates a further opportunity for the extraordinary to happen. Free space incites resistance against the absolute and necessitates deviation from the norm.*

Dieter Henke and Marta Schreieck

Henke Schreieck

→ *For us, free space means the examination of space itself, of the relationships between spaces and with the outside world. It has to do with the quality of space, with spatial sequences, atmosphere, light, material, surface, haptic and with the experience of making space tangible for all the senses.*

Stefan Sagmeister and Jessica Walsh

Sagmeister & Walsh

→ *By beauty we mean form that has been considered, that is intentional. What all good work has in common is that the people who were behind it cared about form deeply.*

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Press contact



Press contact

Susanne Haider and Sarah Hellwagner
art:phalanx, Culture and Urbanity

E architekturbiennale@artphalanx.at
T +43 (0)1 524 9803 – 11 or – 17
M +43(0)699 120 517 00



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#thoughtsformmatter



Press Office La Biennale di Venezia

Ca' Giustinian, San Marco 1364/A
30124 Venezia

E infoarchitettura@labiennale.org
T +39 (0)41 521 8846
F +39 (0)41 521 8812

www.labiennale.org/en/press



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www.labiennale.org