

Austrian Pavilion
Biennale Architettura 2021

Curators: Peter Mörtenböck
& Helge Mooshammer

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La Biennale di Venezia

17. Mostra
Internazionale
di Architettura
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AUSTRIAN CONTRIBUTION TO THE 17TH INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE EXHIBITION –
LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA 2021

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PLATFORM AUSTRIA
ON THE PHENOMENON OF PLATFORM URBANISM

Changes to the programme due to postponement until 2021

Platform urbanism is one of the most controversial topics of discussion in the field of architecture. Digital platforms such as Facebook, Google and Amazon are increasingly permeating all areas of our lives and beginning to dissolve old orders and structures. PLATFORM AUSTRIA will inquire into the development of our cities associated with the rise of platform urbanism and will transform the pavilion itself into a platform for active critical engagement with the potentials of the future and its architecture.

Until now the built form of cities has been regarded as the organisational structure best suited to the fulfilment of public tasks. This is witnessed not least by the ongoing growth of metropolitan cities. In their contribution to the Austrian Pavilion at the Biennale Architettura 2021 the curators **Peter Mörtenböck** and **Helge Mooshammer** will investigate the role digital platforms could play in the future. Will they assume a higher status than cities, and how will these two organisational models relate to one another? Are we seeing the rise of a “platform urbanism” for which virtual connections are more important than our lives in real space? Will the urban space dissolve into island-like zones in which only fragments of social exchange remain?

Platforms are increasingly determining the character of our coexistence, our economy, our health and education systems and our culture. They are forming powerful monopolies whose most important resource is our participation. However, this participation is highly restricted, as many people are experiencing first hand in the current COVID-19 crisis.

With PLATFORM AUSTRIA the two curators are reclaiming the right to co-determination of the basic conditions governing these developments. Due to current circumstances, the programme format will be adapted over the coming months to ensure access to this debate that is as broad and focussed as possible.

In the course of this preparatory work the interconnection of the exhibition in the pavilion with the different online channels of PLATFORM AUSTRIA will be made even more central.

The original exhibition concept relied heavily on the political power of physical presence. PLATFORM AUSTRIA aimed to provide a locus of congregation. But it is precisely this possibility that the COVID-19 pandemic has curtailed. The adapted exhibition concept will utilise the power of images and signs in order to generate a communicative presence and to facilitate urgently required discussions. The goal of PLATFORM AUSTRIA remains the same: to take full advantage of the unique forum provided by the Biennale Architettura and to search collaboratively for the architecture we would like to see in the future.

Given that the form taken by platform urbanism ultimately concerns the fundamental question of what forms of society we aspire to, PLATFORM AUSTRIA hopes to provide a significant response to the question posed by chief curator Hashim Sarkis: “How will we live together?”

“We welcome the announcement that the Biennale is to be postponed until 2021. This is an important strategic decision, one that will allow the Austrian contribution to be realised in a way that does justice to the status of the Biennale as the world’s most important architectural exhibition. We hope that the planned changes will allow the exhibition to be experienced by a larger public under more agreeable conditions.”
(Peter Mörtenböck and Helge Mooshammer, curators of the Austrian contribution to the 17th International Architectural Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia)

CURATORS

Peter Mörtenböck is Professor of Visual Culture in the Architecture Faculty at the TU Wien and Research Fellow at Goldsmiths College, University of London. His current work focuses on urban speculation, global resource consumption and new data publics.

Helge Mooshammer works on urban and cultural research at the TU Wien und is also a Research Fellow at Goldsmiths College, University of London. He has initiated numerous international research projects around issues relating to (post-)capitalist economies and urban informality.

Both curators are founding directors of the Centre for Global Architecture, an interdisciplinary platform for the study of global changes in the contemporary production of architecture and cities.

Peter Mörtenböck and Helge Mooshammer live in London and Vienna.

→ www.global-architecture.org

Team and Press Contact

TEAM

Commissioner:	Federal Ministry, Republic of Austria, Arts, Culture, Civil Service and Sport
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PRESS MATERIAL

<http://presse.artphalanx.at/en/architecture-biennale-2021/>

SOCIAL MEDIA

www.instagram.com/austrianpavilion
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On behalf of

 Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Arts, Culture,
Civil Service and Sport

OPENING OF THE AUSTRIAN PAVILION IN VENICE

Preview days: 20 and 21 May 2021

→ www.platform-austria.org

BIENNALE ARCHITETTURA 2021

17th International Architecture Exhibition

Exhibition duration: 22 May – 21 November 2021

„How will we live together?“

Curator: Hashim Sarkis

→ www.labiennale.org

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Many thanks to our partners of the Biennale Architettura 2021



Many thanks to our co-operating partners in the opening events

