

We Like Platform Austria



La Biennale di Venezia

17. Mostra
Internazionale
di Architettura
Partecipazioni Nazionali

AUSTRIAN CONTRIBUTION TO THE 17TH INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE EXHIBITION –
LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA 2021

p. 1

PLATFORM AUSTRIA

FUTURE AND REVIEW

The 17th International Architecture Exhibition of the Biennale di Venezia has now come to an end. Despite restrictions necessitated by the pandemic, the Biennale Architettura 2021, which was curated by Hashim Sarkis and had more than 300,000 visitors, proved to be the most well attended Venice Biennale of Architecture to date.

Peter Mörtenböck and Helge Mooshammer, the curators of the Austrian contribution, PLATFORM AUSTRIA, were able to utilise the high level of international response to the Biennale and to their contribution in order to lay the foundation for a four-year exhibition and research project. The coming year will see them continue their work on the impact of digital platform technologies on our social coexistence. In the course of the pandemic, this impact has become significantly more pronounced, increasing the need for clear and detailed forecasting with regard to the future of our societies.

Research Project “Platformed City”

The research project titled “Platformed City” has been granted a budget of 400,000 euros by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) and will run until the year 2026. The project explores spatial typologies that are used for the platform-driven design of our environments in order to turn the city as we know it into a “platform city.” The goal of the project is to highlight these profit-driven typologies and develop tools to help citizens to identify such typologies as well as to express their own needs and desires in spatial compositions. A central aim is to lend visibility to the strengths of social engagement in the context of urban design.

To this end, patterns of platform urbanism are first visualized by way of graphics, collages, computer simulations, interactive cartographies, films and animations. The resulting works, which are in the tradition of open source architecture, citizen-centered design, sharing practices, and civic computing, can range from the development of interactive tools for designing urban environments (apps) to resources for improving the legibility of spatial typologies and ways to strengthen participation in planning processes.

The Austrian Biennale team will collaborate with leading scholars, architects and artists from the California College of the Arts in San Francisco and Goldsmiths College, University of London. A series of exhibitions is planned, including an update of the exhibits shown in Venice, to keep the public informed about developments in platform urbanism.

The curators will also continue presenting international talks and lectures, with several already scheduled for December: Berlin (Pro qm, 3 December), Santo Domingo (Universidad Iberoamericana, 7 December), Hong Kong (Hong Kong Collateral Event City Gallery, 10 December) and Munich (Jung Architecture Talks, 14 December).

REVIEW OF PLATFORM AUSTRIA, THE AUSTRIAN CONTRIBUTION TO THE 17TH INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURAL EXHIBITION OF THE BIENNALE DI VENEZIA

PLATFORM AUSTRIA, the Austrian contribution, focused on the development of our cities and aimed to become a platform for active engagement with issues around the potentials of the future and its architectures. With its six informational events in the lead-up to the Biennale, an extensive multimedia installation in the pavilion, hundreds of blog contributions by more than 50 international experts, over ten panel discussions in Venice, a branch in the MAK in Vienna, and an impressive response in national and international media, PLATFORM AUSTRIA can be unequivocally described as a great success.

“No one can expect a single architecture exhibition to change the world. Nevertheless, the Biennale Architettura 2021 has had an astonishing impact. Not only did it achieve record numbers of visitors and go down in history as Venice’s best-attended architecture biennial, despite pandemic-related constraints. The Biennale Architettura 2021 has also led to speculation as to whether this extraordinary edition of the Architecture Biennale will be remembered as merely exceptional, or whether it has brought about fundamental changes in architectural thinking.

Curator Hashim Sarkis’s guiding question “How Will We Live Together?” was answered with a turn to new forums of collaboration: the many architectural collectives contributing to the exhibition; the recurring Meetings on Architecture; the self-initiated Curators Collective of the curators of the Biennale country pavilions; the transnational midissage we organized at the end of August this year, in which more than 30 country pavilions participated. In a climate of social tensions and segregation, the Venice Architecture Biennale succeeded in attracting architects, scholars and curators from all over the world as ambassadors for living in shared structures.

In the Austrian pavilion, we addressed the far-reaching consequences of the digital platform economy for our coexistence. We were able to convince dozens of established theorists, architects, cultural workers and art collectives to elaborate with us a kaleidoscope of diagnoses regarding individual aspects of platform urbanism. We hope that the results of these analyses, reflections, and speculations, which are also available in book form, represent a comprehensive alternative to the data-mining bustle of platforms and will also prove useful to a wide range of interested parties in the longer term.

In addition to all those who, despite the pandemic, worked tirelessly on the organizational, content-related, media-related and spatial realization of the Austrian contribution to the Biennale, we would especially like to thank the many people whose works were on display in the Austrian Pavilion and who, together with us, engaged so intensively in a critical examination of the interaction between digital platforms and urban development. Last but not least, special thanks are due to Hashim Sarkis for his insistence on keeping hold of the Architecture Biennale (delayed by one year). As he emphasized in his closing statement on the Biennale:

Words and images have their own ways of travelling and they often arrive before we attribute meaning or value to them. They seduce us, they create desire and then they find a way to latch on to meaning, to a certain spirit of the time, and they become the illustrations of this spirit. These, our nascent times, are looking for images, and they are also looking for a spirit. Let us hope that the projects of the Biennale Architettura 2021 will generate such imagery.

All visitors to the exhibition in Venice will recall how the Austrian pavilion staged the interplay of images and ideas using monumental slogans such as ACCESS IS THE NEW CAPITAL and THE PLATFORM IS MY BOYFRIEND. We now cordially invite everyone else to take a look at our exhibition on our website: www.platform-austria.org

During the Architecture Biennale, the extensive international attention attracted by our work enabled us already to secure funding for an artistic research project running from 2022 to 2026 in which we aim to trace new developments in platform urbanism and update the exhibits shown at the Biennale exhibition. We are already discussing the possibilities presented by this project with various exhibition venues and are gratified to see not only a high degree of interest in our own work but also the emergence of a new phase of engagement with architecture. Architectural practice, research and curation seem to be entering into a new relationship with one another in order to track the urgencies of our time and in the process to discover new possibilities of collective action inside and outside architecture.“

Peter Mörtenböck and Helge Mooshammer

Team

Commissioner:	Republic of Austria, Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport
Curators:	Peter Mörtenböck and Helge Mooshammer Centre for Global Architecture www.global-architecture.org
Curatorial assistance:	Carmen Lael Hines Centre for Global Architecture
Research assistance:	Christian Frieß, Pieter de Cuyper, Lovro Končar-Gamulin, Julius Bartz, Ruth Köchl, Centre for Global Architecture
Exhibition design Spatial concept:	Peter Mörtenböck and Helge Mooshammer
Design wooden elements:	mostlikely sudden workshop www.mostlikely.at
Design installation:	Pretterhofer Arquitectos www.prearq.at
Visual communication:	Christof Nardin, Bueronardin www.bueronardin.com
Online platform programming:	Philipp Daun www.philippdaun.net
Video production:	RAUM.FILM www.raumfilm.at
Production management:	Katharina Boesch, Viktoria Pontoni section.a, www.sectiona.at
Press:	Susanne Haider, Catharina Cramer art:phalanx, www.artphalanx.at
Fiscal project management:	Georg Geyer Kanzlei Geyer & Geyer

On behalf of

Susanne Haider, Catharina Cramer
art:phalanx – Culture & Urbanity
E: architekturbiennale@artphalanx.at
PH: +43 (0)1 524 98 03 – 11

PRESS MATERIAL

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

SOCIAL MEDIA

www.instagram.com/austrianpavilion
www.facebook.com/AustriaAtVeniceBiennale
#platformaustria #austrianpavilion
#österreichpavillon

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

Curators Collective

→ curatorscollective.org

With the support of



Many thanks to our partners of the Biennale Architettura 2021



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



We Like