

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Vienna, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2009**

### **Culture Minister Claudia Schmied Appoints Eric Owen Moss as Curator for Biennale Architecture**

*International Expert Shows Openness and Potential of Austrian Architecture*

Culture Minister Claudia Schmied has appointed American star architect Eric Owen Moss as curator for the Austrian exhibit at the Architecture Exhibition at the Venice Biennale in 2010.

Federal Minister Schmied considers Eric Owen Moss an expert with a profound knowledge of Austrian architecture: “Eric Owen Moss has a keen eye for the strengths in Austrian architecture. He is aware of the intensive discourse in the development of architecture and urban planning in our country, which is open to innovative and foreign concepts. He also sees the wide array of excellent architects in Austria, who are creating and building around the world.”

The title of the Austrian exhibit is “AUSTRIA UNDER CONSTRUCTION: AUSTRIAN ARCHITECTURE AROUND THE WORLD; INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE IN AUSTRIA“.

The central theme of the exhibit’s concept is Austrian architectural exports and imports as one of our country’s essential strengths. Austrian architects working all over the world and international architects planning and building Austrian projects are an important factor in architectural discourse, which derives from this exchange and its related transformations and the close examination of architectural concepts:

Moss is already working on a detailed concept for the exhibition, which will depict Austria’s potential in the field of architecture. The concept will be presented officially together with Cultural Minister Claudia Schmied in Spring/Early Summer 2010.

Eric Owen Moss has been running his own studio in Los Angeles, California since 1973. Over the last 30 years, Eric Owen Moss Architects has built a wide variety of award-winning buildings, and has helped shape the discourse of architecture internationally. That discussion continues to manifest itself both in his numerous lectures, exhibitions, publishing, and teaching around the world. Eric Owen Moss is the Director and Principal of the internationally renowned SCIARC – Southern Californian Institute of Architecture, a university and breeding ground for future architects.

*Eric Owen Moss* has developed his understanding of the Austrian architectural scene thanks to his repeated stays in our country and participation in tenders for buildings in Austria, such as the reconstruction of the Vienna Gasometers.

For more information on Eric Owen Moss, please go to: [www.ericowenmoss.com](http://www.ericowenmoss.com)  
Interview with Mr. Moss: <http://www.archdaily.com/39065/ad-interviews-eric-owen-moss/>

For the first time in history, the Biennale board has appointed a woman, Japan's Kazuyo Sejima, as Director of the Venice Biennale's Architecture section for 2010. The international architecture exhibition will open its gates to the public from 29.08.2010 to 21.11.2010.

The Austrian exhibit will be opened on 27.08.2010

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