PRESS INFORMATION

Venice, 26th August 2010

Minister of Culture Claudia Schmied and Commissioner Eric Owen Moss Present Austria's Contribution to the 2010 Architecture Biennale in Venice

Dr. Claudia Schmied, Federal Minister of Education, Arts and Culture, and Commissioner Eric Owen Moss presented the Austrian Pavilion, under the curatorship of the top US architect, at a press conference on the occasion of the 12th International Architecture Exhibition at la Biennale di Venezia today.

"Eric Owen Moss has demonstrated that Austria is a cosmopolitan nation and pledged to discussion and discourse. He has also shown that our country welcomes foreign architecture and expertise, while promoting international discourse," said Claudia Schmied, Minister of Culture.

Concept and Design of the Austrian Contribution

The Austrian contribution is entitled AUSTRIA UNDER CONSTRUCTION: ÖSTERREICHISCHE ARCHITEKTUR IN DER WELT; INTERNATIONALE ARCHITEKTUR IN ÖSTERREICH and exhibits the architectural and teaching activities of Austrian architects abroad and those of foreign designers in Austria. Under Eric Owen Moss's curatorship, the Hoffmann Pavilion presents itself as a building surrounded by scaffolding. Modular, open scaffolding has been erected, running the entire length of the pavilion to give the impression of a building under construction. Similarly, in the interior of the pavilion, additional open scaffolding has been mounted throughout the pavillon.

The exterior of the Hoffmann Pavilion is hung with drapes with prints of current projects being carried out by Austrian Architects abroad (e.g. AllesWirdGut, Coop Himmelb(l)au, Atelier Hollein, Carl Pruscha). The drapes inside the pavilion feature images of current and past projects by international architects in Austria (e.g. Atelier Hitoshi Abe, Zaha Hadid Architects, Matteo Thun & Partners). There are pictures of the projects by the foreign architects along a giant spiral across the room. In addition, auditorium seats have been installed in the wings and the entry area, filled with an "audience" of objects created by the architects invited to take part. A total of 64 positions are represented here.

The curatorial objective at the Austrian Pavilion is to use an imaginative design medium to communicate contemporary Austrian architecture and global urban design. Austria presents its architecture to the world and is represented as open-minded land of culture providing international architects with ample space to develop.

T +43 1 503 23 03 M office@comma.at www.labiennale.at

Austria's Contributions to the Architecture Biennale

Austria has been taking part in the Architecture Biennale in Venice with its own contribution since 1991. The Austrian Pavilion was built by architect Josef Hofmann in 1934 and has been the venue of the country's art and architecture presentations in Venice ever since.

Austria has had the following commissioners since the beginning of the Architecture Biennale in 1991: Hans Hollein was the commissioner of the first three Austrian contributions in 1991, 1996 and 2000. He was also the Director of the entire Biennale in 1996. He was succeeded by Dietmar Steiner (2002), Marta Schreieck (2004), Wolf D. Prix (2006), Bettina Götz (2008)

This year, the Federal Ministry of Education, Art and Culture is financing the conception, planning and organization of the Austrian exhibition in the pavilion with 625,000 euros.

Commissioner Eric Owen Moss

This year, for the first time in the history of Austrian contributions at the Architecture Biennale, a foreign commissioner has been appointed by Culture Minister Claudia Schmied; namely Eric Owen Moss, to take an independent and impartial look at the country's architecture scene from outside.

Eric Owen Moss was born in Los Angeles, California, in 1943. He received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of California at Los Angeles and continued his education, earning his Masters of Architecture from Harvard University Graduate School of Design in 1972.

Eric Owen Moss has held teaching positions at major universities around the world and has also been a longtime professor at the Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI-Arc), where he has served as its director for the past six years. In addition, Mr. Moss has been running his own architect's office EOMA (Eric Owen Moss Architects) in Los Angeles for 37 years and has been the recipient of over 90 local, national, and international design awards. Projects have included buildings in the "Hayden Tract" the oldest industrial area in Culver City; the "Sony Offices"; and the "Beehive" conference centre in Culver City.

Eric Owen Moss's Contribution as Stimulation for further Developments

Culture Minister Claudia Schmied particularly values the stimulus emanating from this year's design of the

T +43 1 503 23 03 M office@comma.at www.labiennale.at

"Commissioner Moss demonstrates that architecture influenced by social processes, technological innovations and social developments is subject to constant renewal, that is >under construction<. At the same time, he emphasizes that Austrian architecture is always top-notch. By superimposing his installation onto the Hoffmann Pavilion, Mr. Moss exhibits the new image of architecture corresponding to the here and now, showing a great deal of respect to the revolutionary tradition of the past. The dialectic of object and subject, of the old and the new, from the inside and outside are categories which turn the Austrian Pavilion into a place of excitement and one of engaging modern architecture."

The exhibition will be opened in the presence of Austrian President Dr. Heinz Fischer, Culture Minister Dr. Claudia Schmied and Commissioner Eric Owen Moss on 27th August, 2010. The exhibition will be open to the public from 29th August to 21st November, 2010.

Contact for further queries:

Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Art and Culture

Sigrid Wilhelm

Tel.: +43 (0)1 / 53 120-5030

sigrid.wilhelm@bmukk.gv.at

You can find pictures of the Austrian Pavilion at

www.labiennale.at

The exhibition catalogue can be acquired at the Austrian Pavilion in Venice or can be ordered at www.labiennale.at.

AUSTRIAN ARCHITECTURE AROUND THE WORLD;

INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE IN AUSTRIA

TRAJAN OVER NERO

"When the roof caved in,

And the truth came out,

I just didn t know what to do……..."

-Jason Derülo/Whatcha Say

Some years ago, the Roman emperor Nero constructed his domicile on a hillside not far from the Coliseum. The emperor Trajan followed soon after, strategically loading his vast new baths and gardens on the roof top of the Domus Aurea, partially collapsing Nero's (heretofore) flying vaults.

Architecture's oracle:

An antagonistic, committal present disassembles a once committal past, and, in so doing, suggests a future prospect.

Sympathy for history stalls architecture.

Architecture moves dialectically – thesis and anti-.

Architecture needs enemies.

Adverse proceedings propel the discourse.

The act of displacing the present that announces the future.

It's a privilege to organize the Austrian Pavilion in Venice for the Federal Republic of Austria and Ministry of Education, Arts, and Culture for the Biennale Architettura 2010.

The existing pavilion was thoughtfully imagined, and meticulously crafted by architect Josef Hoffmann in 1934.

And it's a privilege to engage Professor Hoffmann (and all the antecedent commissioners), (and all the commissioners who will follow):

Thesis/anti-.

Trajan and Nero.

The introvert – mid-20th century, mid-European Austria;

The extrovert – Austria at the start of the 21st century:

Central Europe now central to the international architecture discourse.

Austria pursues a didactic role in the global architecture debate:

Its architects build around the world;

Its architect/educators teach, exhibit, and lecture internationally.

Reciprocally, Austria offers venues for international architects to build in Austria, and to international architect/educators who teach, lecture and exhibit in Austrian universities and museums.

So: "Austria('s) Under Construction".

Here's the 2010 Venice Austrian Pavilion Case:

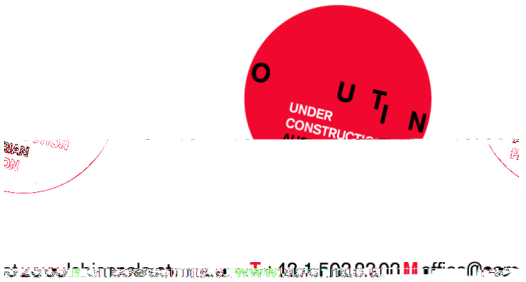
Architecture builds its pedagogy.

Scaffolds signify construction.

Austria's building.

Ergo we will scaffold the building inside and out.

Teaching obligates discourse.



We gerrymander the scaffolding to construct auditorium seating inside the pavilion and out.

Scaffold is the anti-Hoffmann-thesis.

The drape.

Drapes cover the scaffold.

On the Hoffmann Pavilion exterior, drapes carry the printed images of current projects by Austrian architects building outside Austria.

On the interior drape, the printed images represent projects by international architects currently building in Austria.

The anti- to the scaffold seating?

The “audience of objects”.

Contrary to the traditional academic forum, the seats will not be filled with the usual attentive and scholarly audience.

Rather the “audience” is the objects.

The audience is the architecture.

Discourse between the objects.

Here’s how that object/audience will be assembled:

Architect/student teams, organized by international architects teaching in Austria, will produce physical models – speculations on conceptual design, engineering, fabrication, and construction – commissioned for the Biennale.

These experimental object/audiences will be “seated” on the scaffold seats constructed in the pavilion’s two interior galleries.

Reciprocally, exterior seating, constructed at the rear of the pavilion, will hold object/audiences designed by Austrian architect/student teams, organized by Austrian architects who teach internationally.

The Austrian Pavilion, 2010, Venice:

Hoffmann as thesis.

Scaffold as anti-.

Drape as anti- the anti-.

Auditoria as thesis.

Audience of objects as anti-.

Trajan and Nero.

Nero and Trajan.

Disassemble yesterday,

and provoke tomorrow.

Eric Owen Moss

Los Angeles

May, 2010

Eric Owen Moss Architects

Eric Moss was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. He received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1965. Moss continued his education, earning his Masters of Architecture from the University of California at Berkeley, College of Environmental Design in 1968 and a second Masters of Architecture from Harvard University Graduate School of Design in 1972.

Over the last 37 years Eric Owen Moss Architects has built a wide array of award-winning buildings, and has

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

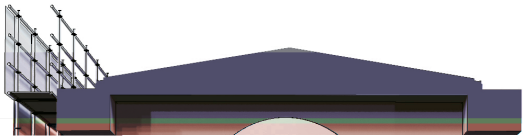
AN EXHIBITION AT THE AUSTRIAN PAVILION FOR THE 12. INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF ARCHITECTURE / LA BIENNALE DI VENIZIA 2010

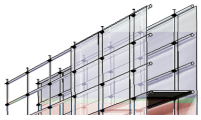
Austria Under Construction:
Austrian Architecture Around the World; International Architecture in Austria

Austrian Pavilion, 12th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia

Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture of the Federal Republic of Austria

Commissioner:
Eric Owen Moss





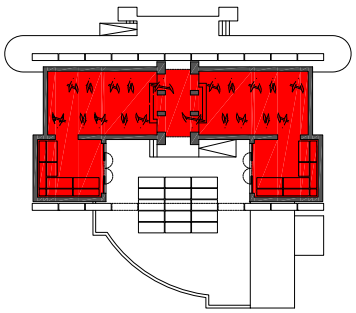
The Prospect and The Promise
Architecture at its best suggests that the world could be other than it is, that the world progresses, and that architecture can facilitate that progress: New prospects for the city. New visions for design and building. A new built world for the inhabitants of a new world. Hope and optimism. That's the promise.

Innovative conceptions from Austria's architects extend around the globe, from East Asia to Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Central and South America. Reciprocally, contributions from our colleagues abroad are constructed in Austria. Austria re-imagines the art of building and city making in the world. Foreign architects re-imagine buildings and cities in Austria. Austria exports. Austria imports. New architecture "under construction".

The Exhibit
That dual capacity to contribute inventively and to welcome new possibilities openly are the essential strengths of the Austrian architectural mind, and the subject of this exhibition proposal for the Austrian Pavilion in Venice, 2010.

The Content
Austrian culture at its best is culture "under construction" – re-conceiving, re-evaluating, re-imagining its meanings. That on-going exploration can never appear simply as a homogeneous body of built work. Rather there are several powerful, alternative prospects which reflect an enduring debate regarding priorities: Architecture as poetry? Architecture as sociology? Architecture as culture? Architecture and urbanism? Architecture as an amalgamation of possibilities?

Architecture and urbanism propel cultures, re-inform sociologies, and explore technologies. Austrian architects at work internationally, and international architects at work in Austria are producing investigatory work which challenges the conventional pro forma with respect to aesthetics, technical means, relationships of art/media/architecture, ordering and organizational strategies, and alternative energy systems. Architects are also at work on the re-conception of the systems and methods that have traditionally governed contemporary cities - transportation, housing, and the use of natural resources; the inter-relationship of social, economic, and political concerns with the form of the city; and the integration of imported conceptions with local customs, traditions, and aspirations.



29. August – 21. November 2010

AUSTRIA
UNDER CONSTRUCTION

AN EXHIBITION AT THE AUSTRIAN PAVILION
FOR THE 12TH INTERNATIONAL
ARCHITECTURE EXHIBITION / BIENNALE ARCHITETTURA

la Biennale di Venezia

12. Mostra Internazionale di Architettura

Partecipazioni nazionali

AUSTRIAN PAVILION
Biennale Architettura 2010

Ministry of Education, Arts, and Culture

Commissioner:
Eric Owen Moss

PARTICIPANTS:

BUILDING
AUSTRIAN ARCHITECTS
BUILDING INTERNATIONALLY

1. Raimund Abraham
2. AllesWirdGut
3. B+U
4. C.P.P.N.
5. Coop Himmelb(l)au
6. Dietmar Feichtinger Architects
7. driendl*architects
8. feld72
9. Anna Heringer
10. Hans Hollein
11. the next ENTERprise
12. rainer pirker architeXture
13. Carl Pruscha
14. soma
15. ZottlBuda

EDUCATION
AUSTRIAN ARCHITECTS
TEACHING INTERNATIONALLY

16. Raimund Abraham
    SCI-Arc, Los Angeles
17. Herwig Baumgartner
    B+U
    SCI-Arc, Los Angeles
18. Mark Blaschitz
    SPLITTERWERK
    Staatliche Akademie der Bildenden Künste Stuttgart
19. Gregor Eichinger
    eichinger oder knechtl
    ETH, Zürich
20. Dietmar Feichtinger
    Dietmar Feichtinger Architectes
    University of Paris, La Villette
21. Ernst Fuchs
    the next ENTERprise
    Academy of Fine Arts, Bratislava
22. Bettina Götz
    ARTEC Architekten
    Universität der Künste Berlin
23. Marie-Therese Harnoncourt
    the next ENTERprise
    Ecole Speciale d'Architecture, Paris
24. Barbara Imhof
    LIQUIFER
    ETH, Zürich
25. Rainer Pirker
    rainer pirker architeXture
    Southeast University, Nanjing
26. Wolf D. Prix
    Coop Himmelb(l)au
    SCI-Arc, Los Angeles
27. Klaus Stattmann
    Büro für Architektur und Forschung
    Dayeh University, Taiwan
28. Hannes Stiefel
    Stiefel Kramer
    State University of New York, Buffalo
29. Wolfgang Tschapeller
    Wolfgang TSCHAPELLLER GmbH
    State University of New York, Buffalo
30. Susanne Zottl
    ZottlBuda
    SCI-Arc, Los Angeles

BUILDING
INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTS BUILDING IN AUSTRIA

31. Atelier Hitoshi Abe
Japan

32. BEHNISCH Architekten
Germany

33. Crab studio
United Kingdom

34. Odile Decq Benoit Cornett
France

35. Zaha Hadid Architects
United Kingdom

36. Steven Holl Architects
USA

37. MACK Architect(s)
USA

38. MORPHOSIS Architects
USA

39. NO.MAD
Spain

40. Ateliers Jean Nouvel
France

41. Terry Pawson Architects
United Kingdom

42. ESTUDIO CARME PINÓS
Spain

43. Michael Sorkin Studio
USA

44. Eric Owen Moss Architects
USA

45. Matteo Thun & Partners
Italy

46. UNStudio
Netherlands

47. Lebbeus Woods
USA

48. Xefirotarch
USA

EDUCATION
INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTS TEACHING IN AUSTRIA

49. Hitoshi Abe
Atelier Hitoshi Abe
MAK, Vienna

50. Marcos Cruz & Marjan Colletti
marcosandmarjan
Technical University of Innsbruck

51. Hernan Diaz Alonso
Xefirotarch
University of Applied Arts, Vienna

52. Zaha Hadid
Zaha Hadid Architects
University of Applied Arts, Vienna

53. Craig Hodgetts and Hsinming Fung
Hodgetts+Fung
MAK, Vienna

54. Hirami Hosoya and Markus Schaefer
Hosoya Schaefer Architects
Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna

55. Tom Kovac
Tom Kovac Architecture
University of Applied Arts, Vienna

56. Greg Lynn
FORM
University of Applied Arts, Vienna

57. Elena Manferdini,
atelier manferdini
Technical University of Graz

58. Thom Mayne
Morphosis
University of Applied Arts, Vienna

59. Alexis Rochas
I/O
Technical University of Graz

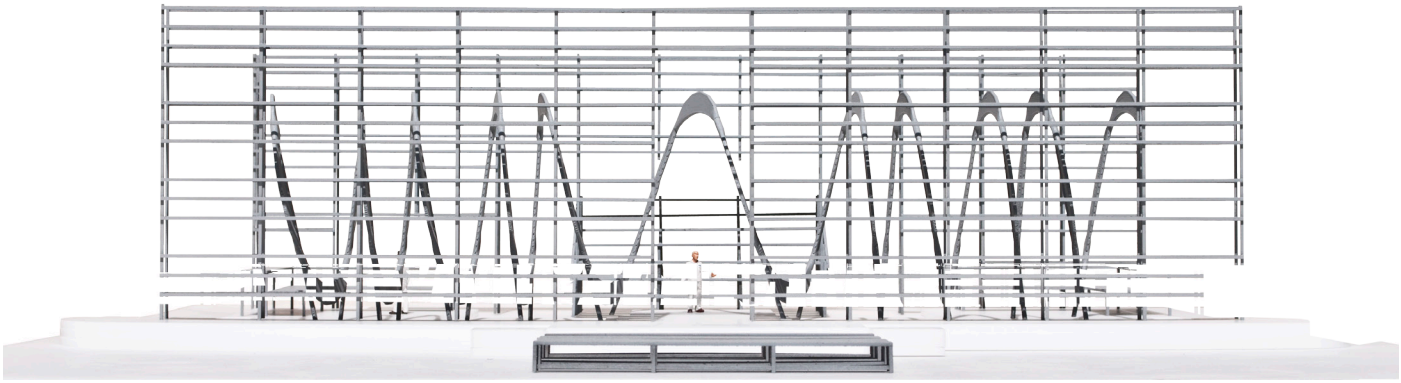
60. Francois Roche
R&Sie(n)
University of Applied Arts, Vienna

61. Patrik Schumacher
Zaha Hadid Architects
Technical University Innsbruck

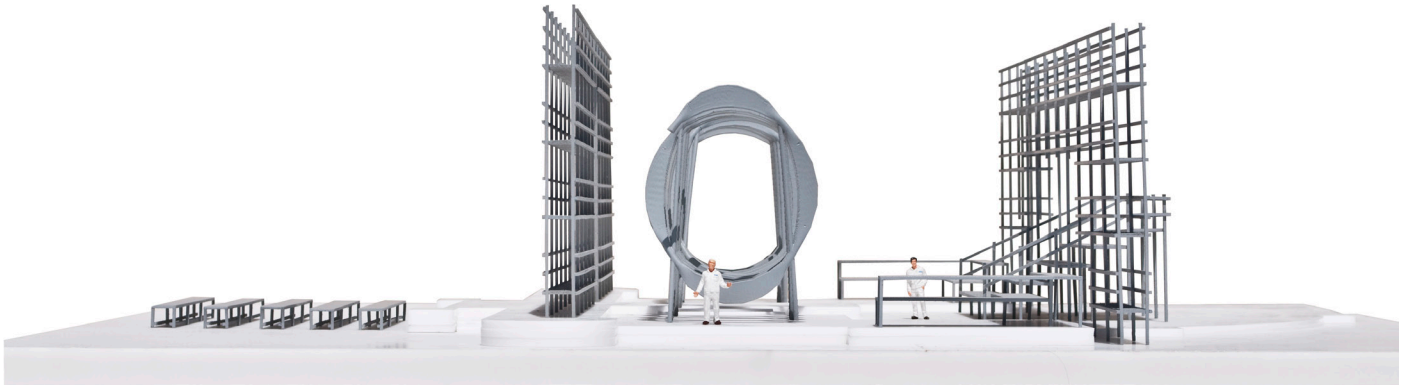
62. Marcelo Spina
PATTERNS
Technical University of Graz

63. Kjetil Thorsen
Snøhetta
Technical University Innsbruck

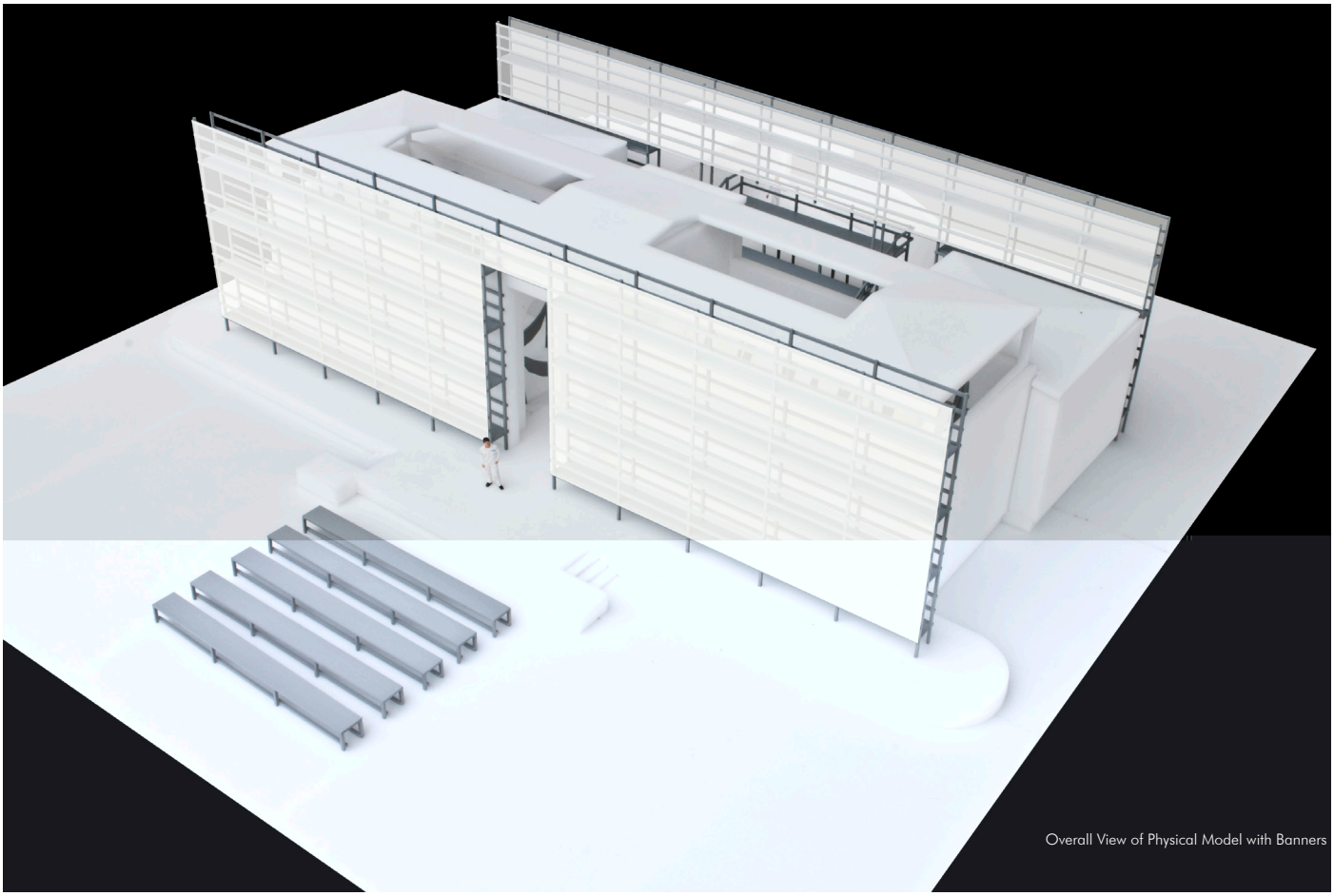
64. Lebbeus Woods
MAK, Vienna



Front View of Physical Model - Scaffolding Only



Side View of Physical Model - Scaffolding Only



Overall View of Physical Model with Banners

29. August – 21. November 2010

AUSTRIA UNDER CONSTRUCTION

AN EXHIBITION AT THE AUSTRIAN PAVILION
FOR THE 12TH INTERNATIONAL
ARCHITECTURE EXHIBITION / BIENNALE ARCHITETTURA

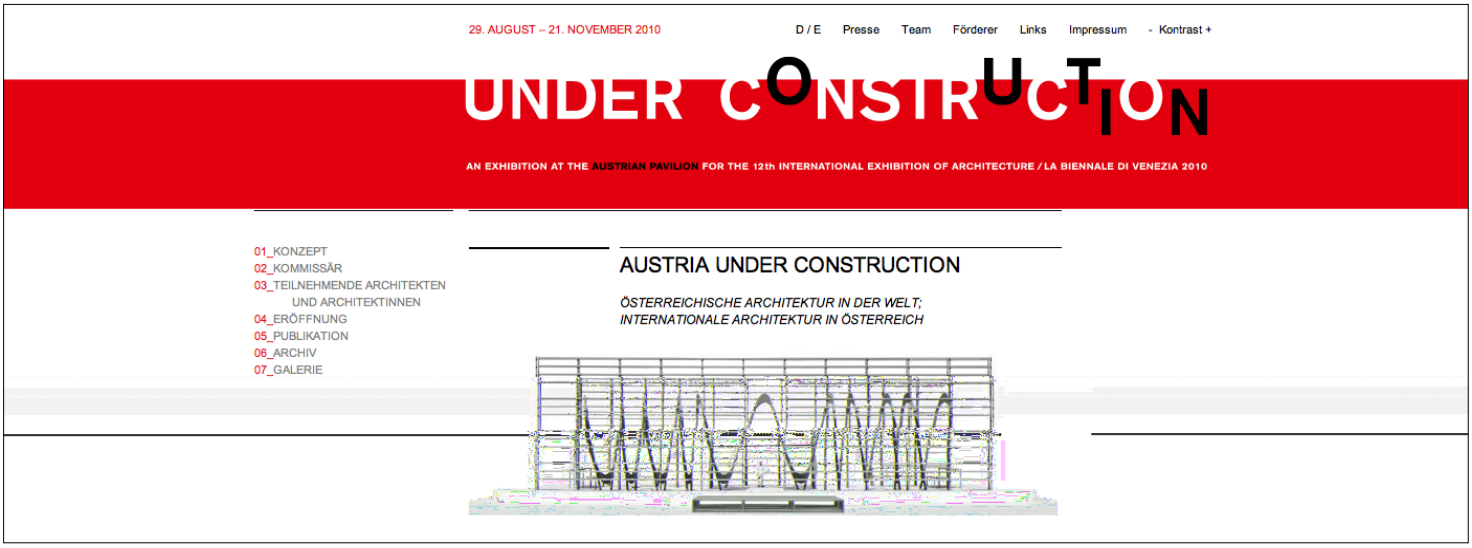
la Biennale di Venezia

12. Mostra Internazionale di Architettura

Partecipazioni nazionali

Visit our website under www.labiennale.at

There you will find all press releases and pictures for download.



WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR SPONSORS FOR THEIR FRIENDLY SUPPORT

METAL SUPPLY INC.
Carbon Steel, Stainless Steel and Aluminum

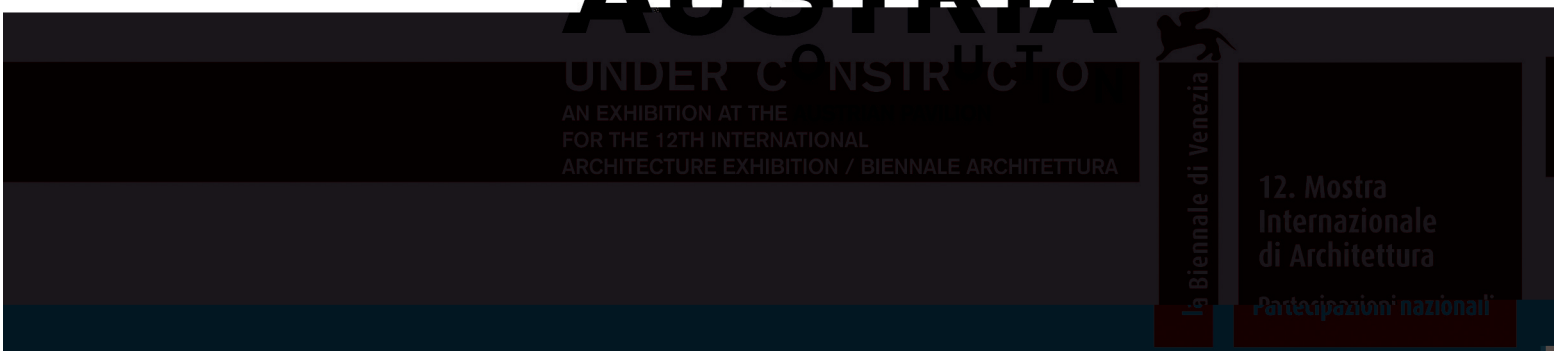
DIETL
INTERNATIONAL

Buro Happold

Becker´s Sheet Metal, Inc.

AAA Flag and Banner

29. August – 21. November 2010





Publication of the Austrian contribution to the 12th International Architecture Exhibition

Under Construction

The lavishly laid out, double-bound bilingual catalogue is designed as a lasting contribution to the theme „Austrian Architecture Around the World, International Architechture in Austria“. It contains additional information on the participating architects and their projects.

Edited and Designed by Betty Kassis
Project Management: Eric McNevin, Peter Menasse, Petra Eibensteiner, Anita Papay
Publisher: Wiener Zeitung GmbH / Edition Atelier - Wolfgang Renner
Translation: Alison Flint-Steiner
ISBN 978-3-902498-38-0
Price: EUR 20,00 (excl. mailing expenses)

You can order the catalogue here:
Edition Atelier
julia.kaldori@wienerzeitung.at
or
office@comma.at
Cash on delivery.