

Exposé

The news that Villa Beer, a key work of Viennese modernism designed by Josef Frank and Oskar Wlach, would soon be renovated and opened to the public provided the occasion for this international symposium. In Vienna, Josef Frank was the leading figure of the generation succeeding Adolf Loos and Josef Hoffmann, and although he maintained a critical distance to the post-WWI international avantgarde, he was one of the few Austrian architects to be counted among its protagonists. Villa Beer, erected from 1929 to 1930 on the western edge of Vienna, is considered both Frank's most important residence and – as set forth in his seminal text, "The House as Path and Place" (1931) – a manifesto of his conception of modern living.

The spaces humans inhabit and the "changing demands" placed on them – a programmatic platform in the work of Josef Frank and many of his colleagues – might at first glimpse appear to be irreconcilable with the notion of a restoration adhering to the tenets of historic preservation. The testimony provided by iconic modernist houses is, however, not just a consequence of the masterful resolution of formal aspects, but, perhaps more importantly, of the historical significance of their programmatic aims. What, then, will be communicated – and to whom – when this work of architecture is made accessible to the public? Which instruments are employed, and how does an "inverted design process" – which begins with an analysis and then turns to the conservation and presentation of the existing substance – deal with current technical and functional requirements?

The symposium – structured in thematic sessions, each featuring two lectures, followed by brief responses and a discussion – will delve into these and other questions. It starts off with an evening lecture introducing some of the overarching themes. On the first full day, we will address essential questions and conduct an in-depth examination of Villa Beer. On the second day, by juxtaposing case studies of prominent museum/houses, we will explore a variety of topics relevant to refurbishing modernist houses and opening them to the public. The final panel will return to the issue of "museum houses of Viennese modernism."

Imprint

In the Festival Hall of ÖIAV
Eschenbachgasse 9, 1010 Vienna
and online, hosted by
DOCOMOMO Austria and ÖGFA

Zoom-Meeting:



oegfa.at
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ÖGFA
Österreichische Gesellschaft
für Architektur
do.co.mo.mo.at

Curating:

Claudia Cavallar, Albert Kirchengast,
Andreas Vass, Anna Wickenhauser

Cooperation Partner:

VILLABEER
IMMOBILIEN GMBH

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Open Modernism The Future of Villa Beer

24.–26.2.2022

Symposium on restoring
and presenting an
„Architecture to live in“



Program

Symposium
in the Festival Hall of ÖIAV
Eschenbachgasse 9, 1010 Vienna
and online

Hosted by:
DOCOMOMO Austria and ÖGFA

Moderators:
Claudia Cavallar
Albert Kirchengast
Andreas Vass
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Th, 24.02.

Prelude

18:00

Arthur Rüegg

Im Konflikt der Doktrinen:
Renovation, Restauration, Rekonstruktion

Fr, 25.02.

Part 1: Fundaments

09:00

Come Together

09:30

Introduction

Session 1

Conveying Modernism's Essence

10:00

Wilfried Wang

Rekonstruktion als Neubewertung

10:40

Franz Graf

A Material History of Buildings

11:20 – 12:00

Respondents:
Birgit Knauer und *Felix Siegrist*
Discussion

Lunch break

Session 2

Strategies for Building Stock

14:00

Hermann Czech

Das Haus Beer als Zeitmaschine

14:40

Thomas Will

Zu einem Hausmuseum der Moderne

15:20 – 16:00

Respondent:
Astrid Staufer
Discussion

Coffee break

Session 3

Josef Frank and Villa Beer

16:30

Christopher Long

An Alternative Reading of Space and Path

17:10

Ulrike Krippner

Ein Garten der Wiener Moderne

17:50 – 18:30

Respondent:
Maria Welzig
Discussion

Sa, 26.02.

Part 2: Case Studies

Session 4

Built Manifestos

09:30

Pavel Kuznetsov

The Melnikov House: Icon, Home, Museum

10:10

Frank Escher and *Ravi GuneWardena*

Eames House Conservation

10:50 – 11:30

Respondents:
Eva Kuss und *Adolph Stiller*
Discussion

Coffee break

Session 5

Authenticity und Reconstruction

11:40

Franz Graf and *Giulia Marino*

Restoring A Palimpsest by Le Corbusier

12:20

Burkhardt Rukschcio

Restaurierung einer Ikone: E.1027

13:00 – 13:40

Respondents:
Nott Caviezel und *Johanna Runkel*
Discussion

Lunch break

Session 6

Use and Programming

15:00

Wita Noack

Haus Lemke als Denk- und Erfahrungsort

15:40

Maruša Zorec

Plečnik House: A Living Museum

16:20 – 17:00

Respondents:
Elise Feiersinger und *Christian Kühn*
Discussion

Coffee break

Session 7

Modern Life

17:10

Judith Sheine

The Schindler House

17:50

Mikael Bergquist

Josef Frank in Falsterbo and Stockholm

18:30 – 19:10

Respondents:
Otto Kapfinger und *Elana Shapira*
Discussion

19:30

Final Panel

with *Sebastian Hackenschmidt*,
Paul Mahringer, *Andreas Nierhaus*
and *Monika Platzer*