

PRESS INFORMATION

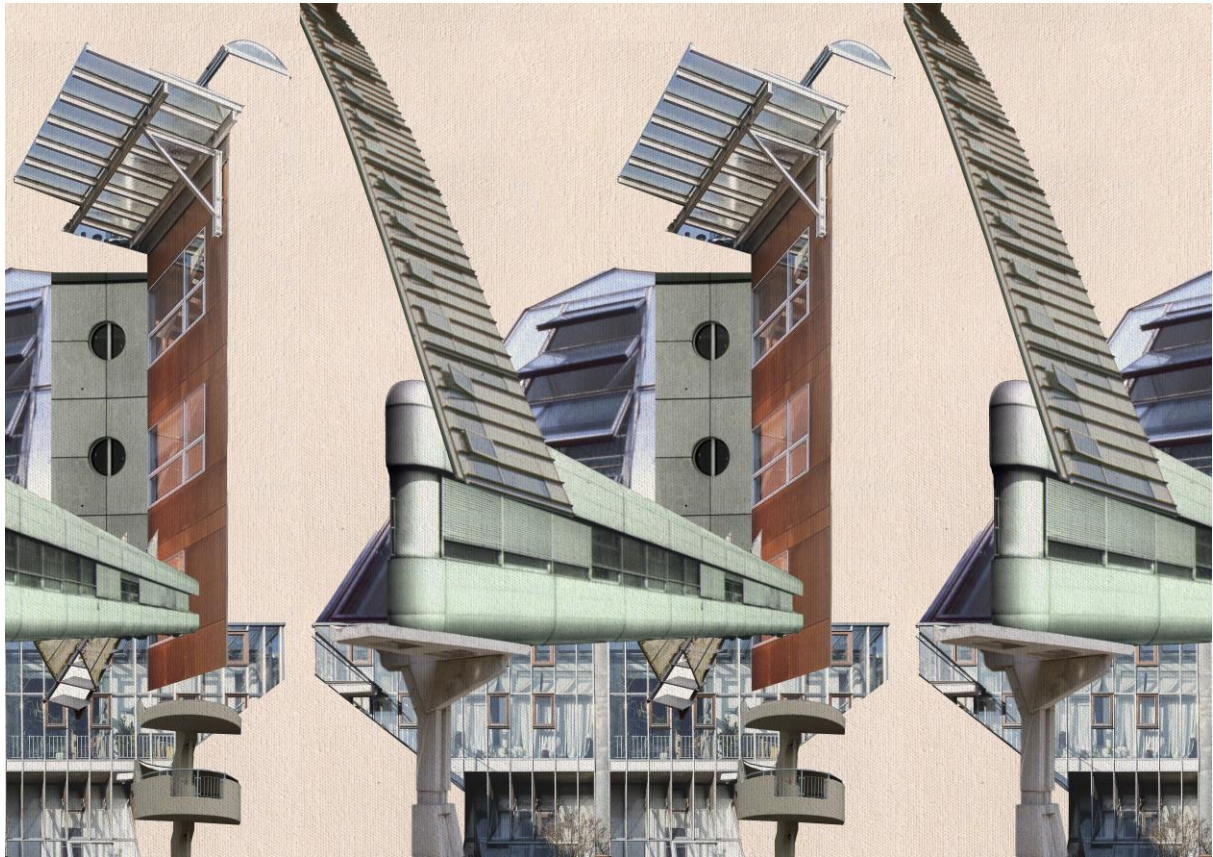
Grazer Schule. Style & Value of a Phenomenon

Reflections on the Building Era 1960–2000

Exhibition opening: 22nd March 2023, 7 p.m., HDA, Mariahilferstraße 2, 8020 Graz, Austria

Exhibition: 23rd March – 28th May 2023, Tue-Sun 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Podium discussion: 19th April 2023, 7 p.m., HDA, Mariahilferstraße 2, 8020 Graz, Austria



Collage © Clara Neuhold

Impressive cubatures, multi-faceted façades or refined details - the works of the "Grazer Schule (Graz School)" is still shaping the image of the city today. Nevertheless, many of these buildings are threatened with demolition. In the exhibition "Grazer Schule. Style & Value of a Phenomenon", students of the Institute for Architectural Theory, Art and Cultural Studies (akk) at Graz University of Technology dedicate themselves to this important architectural heritage.

The „new architecture“ of the years between 1950 and 2000, from post-war modernism to the turn of the millennium, represents a particularly formative era in Graz and Styria. Among the best-known buildings of this period are those of the so-called "Grazer Schule". In cooperation with students from the Institute for Architectural Theory, Art and Cultural Studies at Graz University of Technology, selected examples of post-war architecture in Graz and their history of development will be presented.

Many of these buildings do not meet current energy standards and are currently in a poor state of preservation or have been extremely altered in their appearance through conversion. The exhibition and accompanying event want to stimulate a discourse on how to deal with buildings from this era. When is a building worth preserving? How important is the preservation of these projects as a "figurehead" for the internationally renowned "Grazer Schule" in Styria? How can these buildings be energetically upgraded and put to new use?

Nine selected projects are on display. In addition to the already destroyed **Haus Fuchs** (Heinz Wondra) or the **WIFI Werkstättenbau** (Christine & Walther Kordon), which is about to be demolished, these include the **Wienerstraße student residence** (Klaus Kada), the **Institute for Biochemistry & Biotechnology** (Michael Szyszkowitz & Karla Kowalski), the **Rettenbach housing estate** (Bernhard Hafner), **Haus Rosegger** (Konrad Frey), the **Mathematics & Geodesy extension** (Günther Domenig & Hermann Eisenköck), the **Carl-Spitzweg-Gasse housing estate** (Volker Giencke) and the **Raiffeisenkasse Andritz** (Team A). The projects will be shown and illustrated by plans, photos and models.

The presentation of the projects was developed by students of architecture at Graz University of Technology as part of a seminar led by **Margareth Otti-Wagner**. The exhibition is based on the publication "SOS Grazer Schule", produced in 2021 at the Institute for Architecture and Art and Cultural Studies (akk) at Graz University of Technology under the direction of Anselm Wagner.

Curated and designed by: Lara Aichholzer, Angelika Alberer, Annalena Arminger, Marius Birnbreier, Gabriel Deinhammer, Esther Dullnigg, Julian Lança Gil, Kim Melissa Luu, Salim M'Barki, Clara Neuhold, Kerstin Neuhold, Katharina Platzer, Natalie Resch, Florentine Rom, Anna Söllinger, Sandra Sulzer, Katharina Weigl

Exhibition in cooperation with Institute for Architectural Theory, Art and Cultural Studies, Graz University of Technology

OPENING

Exhibition opening

22nd March 2023, 7 p.m., HDA – House of Architecture, Mariahilferstraße 2, 8020 Graz

with:

Beate Engelhorn, Director HDA – House of Architecture, Graz

Judith Schwentner, Vice mayor, City of Graz

Margareth Otti-Wagner in discussion with the students

ACCOMPANYING PROGRAMME

Podium discussion

19th April 2023, 7 p.m., HDA – House of Architecture, Mariahilferstraße 2, 8020 Graz

A panel discussion with experts from the fields of monument preservation, research and architectural history in dialogue with protagonists and contemporary witnesses of the "Grazer Schule" will accompany the exhibition. The panelists will explore the questions: How is the overall ensemble of the "Grazer Schule" to be evaluated in Graz and within Styria - and who can, may, should be allowed to make this evaluation? How should we deal with this architectural heritage of the late 20th century? What "treasure" do these architectural icons mean for the city of Graz alongside the buildings in the city centre that have been declared UNESCO World Heritage Sites?

With:

Anna Wickenhauser, docomomo, Vienna

Robert Walle, Federal Monuments Authority Austria, Department for Styria, Deputy Head of Department

Olaf Gisbertz, Institute for architectural history, Technical University of Braunschweig | Speaker DFG-Network Building Research Younger Building Stock 1945+

Moderation:

Anselm Wagner, Institute for Architectural Theory, Art and Cultural Studies, TU Graz

FREE GUIDED TOURS

Free guided tours of the exhibition are offered each weekend, at 3 p.m. on Saturdays and 11 a.m. on Sundays. Registration is not required.

For further information, please visit the HDA website:

<https://hda-graz.at/en/programme/exhibition-grazer-schule>

Press images are available at:

<https://hda-graz.at/en/press-area-hda/press-information-exhibition-grazer-schule>

Press contact:

Birgit Bauernfeind

+43 316 323500-16

presse@hda-graz.at