



CONSULTING

NEWSLETTER 2019/3

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Barcelona

## THE VIENNA MODEL EXHIBITION



By invitation of the Catalanian Architects´ Chamber (COAC) the exhibition “The Vienna Model 2” by Push- Consulting (editors Wolfgang Förster and William Menking) will be shown at the COAC in late autumn. It is expected that the presentation will stimulate the discussion on how to overcome the housing crisis in the Catalunya capital. Push thanks Wiener Wohnen for their generous support in bringing the exhibition to Barcelona.

For more information see:  
<https://www.arquitectes.cat>

Minneapolis, MN

## NO MORE SINGLE FAMILY HOUSING?



While cities worldwide struggle with urban sprawl and its often disastrous effects on budgets and on the environment Minneapolis, MN is now working on a different solution in the course of its ambitious Minneapolis 2040 Plan. According to the draft plan presented to the city council in December 2018 with the review to be completed till summer 2019 zoning for single family housing should come to an end, and even in existing single family housing zones multi family housing shall be encouraged to

increase density and to enhance social mix. This policy is based on findings that large single family housing areas contribute not only to environmental problems – as land consumption and car traffic – but also to social and racial segregation. The future Land Use Plan should therefore reflect the diversity of the city by offering a better housing choice for all citizens in all urban areas.

For more info see: [www.minneapolis2040.com](http://www.minneapolis2040.com)

Vienna, Austria

## WORLD'S TALLEST TIMBER BUILDING OPENS

The world's highest timber building "Hoho" (standing for "Holzhochhaus", literally Timber Highrise) opened in June 2019 at Vienna's Seestadt (Lake City) area, currently Europe's biggest urban development project. Designed by Rüdiger Lainer (RLP architects) its 24 levels offer a functional mix of office space, restaurants, fitness center, and up-market housing. Although some parts are in concrete about 75 percent of the building components are in timber – mostly cross laminated elements which were completely prefabricated limiting the construction period to less than two years. As Austria has lot of forests and as the use of wood is supported for environmental reasons Austria is now internationally leading in innovative timber construction, with Austrian companies building from the United Arab Emirates to the Italian Alps and to London. Hoho is therefore expected to become a new Vienna architectural land mark and flagship project for Austria's timber construction industry.

For more info see:  
[www.hoho-wien.at](http://www.hoho-wien.at)



## HOUSING FOR ALL EUROPEAN CITIZENS' INITIATIVE

As the housing crisis has been hitting cities all over Europe citizens of the European Union still have the chance to sign the European Citizens' Initiative aiming at improving the legal and financial framework conditions to facilitate access to housing for everyone. Please note that only EU citizens have the right to sign. The aim is to reach one million of signatures to ensure the European Parliament has to deal with this matter.

For more info and for signing see:  
[www.housingforall.eu](http://www.housingforall.eu)



**SUPPORT OUR  
EUROPEAN CITIZENS'  
INITIATIVE!  
#HOUSINGFORALL**

[WWW.HOUSINGFORALL.EU](http://WWW.HOUSINGFORALL.EU)

Vienna, Austria

## **BIOTOPE CITY: RESILIENCE TO THE CLIMATE CHANGE**

The Dutch Biotope City Foundation has long been working on the response of cities to global warming focussing on new models of urban greening. With the Vienna Biotope City project, a 1,000 unit affordable housing residential area built within the IBA context the foundation and its founder Prof. Helga Fassbinder transfer these ideas into reality for the first time. Accompanied by a research project by BOKU(The Vienna University of Biotechnology) the ambitious subsidized housing project aims at reducing the local air temperature by about four degrees Celsius. This is mainly achieved by intensive greening, of all surfaces and by strengthening the biodiversity while other measures include rain water management and learning by (future) residents. The estate replaces a former Coca Cola plant. It was built by seven – mostly limited-profit – housing associations who also share the generous common facilities ( including a roof top pool). First residents are expected to move in in summer 2019.

For more info see:  
[www.iba-wien.at](http://www.iba-wien.at)  
[www.biotopecity.wien](http://www.biotopecity.wien)



## Zurich, Switzerland 2000 WATT AREAS



For more info see:  
<https://www.2000watt.swiss>

The concept of the “2000 Watt Society” was first introduced by ETH Zürich (Federal Institute of Technology) in 1998. The idea itself is simple: If the current world average rate of total primary energy use is 2000 watts (i.e. 2 kWh per hour) it should be the same in the wealthy part of the world. In fact, however, it is currently about 6,000 in Western Europe, 12,000 in the USA as compared to 1,500 in China and only 300 in a country like Bangladesh. The Swiss average is just over 5,000. The aim, first adopted in plans in the cities of Basel (2001) and Fribourg, and later (2008) in the canton of Geneva, is to judge all future planning under the aspect of reaching the 2000 watt level. When Zurich joined the project in 2005 it wanted to demonstrate how to achieve the ambitious goal in a large city. In the following years “Minergie” or passive housing were strongly enhanced. Now Zurich is taking a further step with the declaration of 2000 watt areas with a concentrated effort on these goals where citizens are closely involved into the development of related measures and their implementation.

Vienna, Austria

## OWHC CONFERENCE

Founded in 1993 in Fez/ Morocco, OWHC (Organization of World Heritage Cities) represents a collective intelligence on all issues related to the management of a world heritage property. OWHC connects with more than 300 cities having on their territory a site inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. While most of these cities may profit from their heritage status by increased tourism others feel it an obstacle to their urban development as UNESCO puts monument protection clearly before further development, leading to various conflicts. An OWHC conference (“Preservation, Development and Management of World Heritage in Dynamic Cities”) held in Vienna in February 2019 adopted a declaration of 18 points to clarify the relation between the preservation of cultural heritage and city development. The declaration is expected to enhance further discussion with UNESCO.

For more info see:  
[www.owhc.org](http://www.owhc.org)



Bologna, Italy

## TRAINING THE DESIGNERS OF THE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



SOS -School of Sustainability in Bologna/Italy has now started a post graduate program committed to training of a new generation of professionals in the field of sustainability. Focussing on projects which have a positive impact on society the school defines itself as a creative platform to build a shared culture of sustainability. Courses are open to graduates and professionals in architecture, engineering, and related disciplines.

For application and more info see:  
<https://www.schoolofsustainability.it/>

## OPEN HOUSE DAY 2019

Those who are interested to see exciting new architecture also from the inside should mark September 15/16, 2019 in their agendas as on open House Day 2019 hundreds of buildings will be open to the public in various cities in Europe, mostly for free and with guided tours available (London and Vienna among them but some cities may have their own date!).

For more infos check at your own city or see for example here:

<https://openhouselondon.org.uk/>  
[www.openhouse-wien.at](http://www.openhouse-wien.at)



### SANDRA HOFMEISTER: MY BAUHAUS

(Detail, 2018 English/German)

With the Bauhaus celebrating its 100th anniversary a large number of books have been published mostly focusing on the school's groundbreaking design principles and teaching methods. This one, however, is different. Hofmeister has assembled 100 statements about how the Bauhaus is influencing their work today by architects worldwide, some of them famous (Norman Foster and Wolf Prix among them), others less known. In total this book shows the continuing influence of the Bauhaus, though often criticized for its strict (very German?) doctrine, on contemporary architecture and interdisciplinary planning. Edition Detail, English/German, ISBN 978-3-95553-451-6)



## Recommended Reading

### SALVATORE SETTIS: IF VENICE DIES

Pallas Athene Publishers, Bologna  
2016 ( English edition)

Venice is not only one of the world's most unusual cities but it is also, as the Italian archeologist and philosopher Salvatore settis argues, a metaphor for the traditional (European) city in peril by neoliberal speculation. As most of the younger residents have left there is now only one permanent resident for every 140 visitors as the "invisible city" has been sacrificed to a hit-and-run tourism. Settis as illustrated the outcome of Italy's privatization policies where even buildings like st.Mark's Cathedral or the Rome Colosseum have been given price tags. Venice thus has two (bad) options: mummification in the interest of of tourism or modernization with sky scrapers and a subway system, both destroying the city. Settis reminds of Henri Lefèbres 1968 "Right to the City" as a counter strategy. "Because if Venice dies, it won't be the only thing that

dies: the very idea of a city -as an open space where diversity and social life can unfold, as the supreme creation of our civilization, as a commitment to and promise of democracy – will also die with it."

