

ARCHITECTURE DAYS 2008: A HUGE SUCCESS

Under the motto “experiencing architecture”, **Architecture Days 2008 (Architekturtag 2008)** invited all Austrians to more excursions, bus tours, events, open studios, discussions, film screenings, and festivities than ever before – and most events were free of admission!

The program aims to make architecture – understood in a broad sense of the built and designed environment – accessible to a wide spectrum of the interested public, enabling people to easily experience it’s various facets.

More than 1000 program events took place throughout all nine federal provinces of Austria. Excursions to Bratislava, Liechtenstein, and eastern Switzerland were also organized. A total of over 600 buildings were viewed, studied, and discussed.

More than **1000** events on the program

More than **40** activities for children and young adults

Almost **300** open studios

Over **600** buildings

The **Architecture Days** (Architekturtag) have taken as a goal the raising of awareness of architecture and its permanent presence in our daily lives, sharpening our appreciation of its qualities.

Architecture Days 2008 also placed special emphasis upon informing about the possibilities and opportunities that architecture now has available to ensure that the world’s resources are cared for responsibly.

A unifying theme throughout all events is the creation of opportunities for architects and architecture aficionados to freely interact - during excursions, building tours, discussions, festivities, or during a visit to one of the 300 open studios. The joy of directly experiencing architecture, the thrill of discovering and learning about architecture, and communication are always at the heart of our countless events.

Program events that allowed a peek behind the scenes into otherwise inaccessible places were especially popular. Opportunities to personally view new housing estates and rooftop apartments were literally overrun. Directly experiencing modern ways of living is the best way to learn about new concepts and to begin questioning conventional beliefs within an engaging and relaxed atmosphere.

Thanks to its expanded, exciting, in-depth, and trans-border program, **Architecture Days 2008** were able to welcome over a quarter more architecture enthusiasts than two years ago: a total approximately 28,000 visitors participated (compared to 22,000 in 2006) and were educated during guided tours, in exhibitions, and by lectures throughout Austria, in Bratislava, in Liechtenstein, and in eastern Switzerland about the current developments and trends of architecture. They also visited open studios and enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere of the numerous festivities, architecture theater and cabaret. For the first time during **Architecture Days 2008**, film media also played a role during several events.

Tours to neighboring regions were also very successful: both the bus tour to Bratislava and the drive through the Rhein Valley with stops in Vorarlberg, eastern Switzerland, and Liechtenstein were very popular with the public.

For the first time in the history of the Architecture Days, a rich and varied children and young adults program was organized.

During more than 40 exciting events, children and young adults of all ages could actively and creatively discover architecture. The program proved to be a great success and will now have a permanent place in Architecture Days to come.

In Vienna, there was over a third more interest in events. Shuttle buses had to be added in advance to many tours due to the great rush of interest. More than 2,700 Viennese participated in a total of 64 Vienna tours and also did not miss the chance to learn about current urban design and architectural developments in their direct living environment during neighborhood tours.

In Vienna alone, more than 250 children and young adults came together in the Museumsquartier to build their own island, design a movie set, test the carrying capacity of a homemade bridge, and design their own box town.

The next opportunity to enjoy Architecture Days throughout Austria will be in 2010 – when the fifth Architecture Days will take place.