

Schindler Award

Friday, 21 September 2007

Announcement of the Schindler Award for Architecture 2007/2008 «Access for All»

Vienna – city of culture, emperors and ballrooms – is the location of the third Schindler Award for Architecture 2007/2008 «Access for All». With the motto «To Reclaim the Public Ground», the competition is now open and architecture students across Europe can register to participate on this website. A key aspect of the competition is «Access for All», i.e. ensuring unobstructed access to buildings for everyone, regardless of physical abilities. The Schindler Award architecture competition 2007 / 2008 is open to all students in their last year of study on a bachelor's course or enrolled on a master's course at a European university or college of architecture. The competition task encompasses both urban planning and architecture, and participants, as «Designers of the Future», must address the issue of accessibility for people with disabilities. Students can register for the competition online on this website until April 25, 2008. Entries must be submitted by August 1, 2008.

To Reclaim the Public Ground Amid its impressive city planning, Vienna has its share of derelict areas. At the intersection of the western belt (Westgürtel) and the Vienna River Valley (Wiental), two major city thoroughfares, two metro lines and the channeled Vienna River enclose a large, neglected area, divorced from the hustle and bustle of city life. An impressive steel-trussed metro bridge by Otto Wagner towers above this waste land and mesh of urban infrastructure. With imaginative repositioning and some adjustments to the traffic infrastructure participants should be able to bring the existing potential of the site to life. The competition aims at improvements that will transform this neglected site into an attractive place of public activity and give a positive impulse to the revival of the adjoining residential and business areas. Participants are required to incorporate four elements into their projects: a public common, residential buildings, a community center and a riverside park with outdoor sport facilities. The aim is to create space that meets three criteria: Quality of life, Sustainability, and Economic viability / Environmental Economics.

The key challenge: «Access for All» As a contribution to the «European Year of People with Disabilities» the Schindler Group decided in 2003 to launch the Schindler Award. The response was so favourable that Schindler decided to stage the competition every two years. By making «Access for All» the primary task of the competition, Schindler is encouraging future architects to create a better-designed world in which well-considered architectural design and intelligent elevator technology overcome the remaining barriers.

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