

ARSENAL WIEN

FOTO

FOTO ARSENAL WIEN

Arsenal Objekt 19A, 1030 Wien

Vienna Is Getting a New Exhibition Center for Photography!

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Vienna is getting a new exhibition center in a location that was once the point of departure for trucks transporting sets to the opera! Located on the grounds of the former arsenal in the southeast of Vienna, FOTO ARSENAL WIEN is the long-awaited center of photography and lens-based media that fills a large thematic gap in the spectrum of Viennese cultural life. Following the complex, two-year renovation of a workshop building, the future-oriented, modern museum building will be inaugurated on March 21, 2025, at Objekt 19A in the Arsenal, 1030 Vienna.

The Building

The new home of FOTO ARSENAL WIEN is a spacious, three-story building. The ground floor contains around one thousand square meters of modern exhibition space, with a well-appointed museum shop and an inviting restaurant area. On the floors above are the department of education, which includes workshop spaces and has its own darkroom. The offices of the FOTO ARSENAL WIEN team are also located here.

FOTO ARSENAL WIEN shares the building with the LAB of the Austrian Film Museum, a center of expertise for conserving, archiving, processing, digitizing, developing, and promoting film.

The History of Objekt 19 at the Arsenal

In the nineteenth century, workshop buildings of the military arsenal stood on the site of the new center of photography. Subsequently used as an armory, the buildings were badly damaged during World War II. Between 1959 and 1963 the main set workshops of the Federal Theater of Austria were built after plans by architects Erich Boltenstern and Robert Weinlich. The building section that now houses FOTO ARSENAL WIEN was used as an administrative wing and garage.

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Since 1999 the building, which is listed as a protected monument, has been owned by ART for ART, the service organization of the Federal Theater of Austria. FOTO ARSENAL WIEN has leased the space for a period of twenty-five years.

A schedule for the Vienna Opera Ball was still hanging on the wall when renovation work began in 2023, bearing witness to the decades-long use of the building by the Federal Theater of Austria and the Vienna State Opera, whose nearby workshops are still in use. The garages were full of vestiges of the repair shop and the cleaning stations for the theaters' trucks.

The Architects

The renovation was planned by Malek Herbst Architekten, Vienna, and Meyer Voggenreiter Projekte with Wolfgang Zeh, Cologne, in collaboration with the owner, ART for ART.

The Project and Its Costs

In the first phase, all later additions were removed from the basic structure of the building, which was constructed in the style of postwar modernism. The brick façade and the basic volumes were retained. Due to the use of heavily contaminated materials such as tar and asbestos, as is typical of structures from this period, very little of the original fittings could be retained.

At this point, one floor was added to the building. Great importance was attached to using sustainable materials in the wooden construction, and the latest developments in energy technology were applied to the building.

The outdoor areas were also designed with criteria of sustainability in mind, using permeable materials and creating a green oasis in the courtyard. This, along with the park complex around the building, contributes an overall naturalistic impression. Sealed areas in the forecourt were renatured and replaced with permeable pavement in the form of gravel. Planters and patches of trees complete the green space and contribute to improving the microclimate. Since a photovoltaic system already exists on the grounds of

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ART for ART, it was not necessary to add a new system to the new roof. The one-time investment costs amounted to a total of three million euros.

From VW Beetle to Rolls-Royce

Interior Design and Heating/Cooling

All spaces were renovated and fitted following the latest museum standards. They are fully air-conditioned with humidification and dehumidification systems. An underfloor heating system with low-temperature implementation allows the heating of each room to be controlled separately using the existing remote heat with optimally insulated pipes to keep losses of warmth to a minimum. Cooling of the space is achieved through multisplit air conditioners.

Ventilation

Energy-efficient ventilation systems are equipped with a highly efficient heat-recycling system and an integrated heat pump. The heat pump cools or warms the preconditioned fresh air and distributes it into the spaces.

Accessibility

The building was designed and equipped following the guidelines of accessibility and has inclusive signage. The main entrance is stepless and equipped with a door that opens automatically. From there, the exhibition space on the ground level has seating and fully accessible restrooms.

Two parking spots for people with limited mobility are available in the adjacent courtyard.

Our website contains detailed information on accessibility.

Ecolabel

FOTO ARSENAL WIEN was awarded the Austrian Ecolabel for museums in March 2025.

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About FOTO ARSENAL WIEN

FOTO ARSENAL WIEN is Austria's new center for photographic images and lens-based media. Initiated by the city of Vienna in fall 2022, the institution explores all manifestations and uses of contemporary photography. FOTO ARSENAL WIEN also organizes the platform FOTO WIEN, Austria's largest, biennial festival of photography, and the festival Vienna Digital Cultures with the Kunsthalle Wien.

www.fotoarsenalwien.at
www.fotowien.at

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