

Designing Hygiea (Wien, 1–2 Oct 20)

Wien, Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Institut für die Erforschung der Habsburgermonarchie und des Balkanraumes, Oct 1–02, 2020

Registration deadline: Sep 28, 2020

Dr. Oliver Sukrow

"Designing Hygiea" (Benjamin Ward Richardson, 1876) – Architecture, Urbanism, and the Sanitized City in 19th-century Central Europe

Concept: Dr. Oliver Sukrow (TU Wien) - Dr. Richard Kurdiovsky (IHB)

The event will be held in a mixture of German and English. Participation is only possible online! Please contact prior Dr. Richard Kurdiovsky (Richard.Kurdiovsky[at]oeaw.ac.at).

Abstract:

In the course of Vienna's emergence as a modern metropolis in the second half of the 19th century, critical questions regarding the health and hygienic living conditions of its inhabitants became more widely known to experts as well as to a broader public. Influenced by progress in the natural sciences and medicine, and particularly by the "Viennese Medical School", the fields of medicine, architecture and urban planning intersected at this time in Vienna. Up until now, the main focus of work in the history of science has been on the training and development of expert medical knowledge after the Josephinian reforms of the Enlightenment, and references to architecture and urban planning have been infrequent. On the other hand, work in the history of 19th century architecture only rarely addresses medical issues, or the influence of medical developments on architectural design. Nevertheless, the problem of "healthy" or "hygienic" space was linked to urban planning and architectural considerations at an early point. For example, the doctor Carl Böhm developed a remarkable ventilation system for the Court Opera, whose principle was adopted by many public buildings on the Ringstrasse. Similarly, issues of health and hygiene influenced the building regulations of 1868, as well as Eugen Faßbender's regulatory plan for Vienna from 1893. While in Vienna living in the suburbs or the countryside during the summer had been firmly established since the 18th century, the subsequent expansion of the city due to industrialisation and population growth led to new forms of health oriented accommodation outside the city (the "Sommerfrische" [summer resort]). Certain regions such as the Semmering or the Wienerwald were structured and architecturally designed as "health landscapes," and consumed as such through the media. On the one hand, these places marked a move outward from the city, but on the other they were closely interwoven with it (eg., the users, architects and operators of the sanatoriums in Purkersdorf or Pernitz [Sanatorium Wienerwald]), and so also had an inward effect on Viennese discussions about health and hygiene. There was then, a reciprocal relationship between the urban representation and use of architecture, and ideas of hygiene that emerged in the countryside around Vienna. In addition, these health spots in and around Vienna utilised various architec-

tural modes depending on their target audience, and were employed in different ways depending on the social class of their guests.

In addition to discussing concrete architectural manifestations of ideas about hygiene such as sanatoriums, hospital buildings, mental asylums, baths, etc., we will also discuss the spatial and regional context in and around Vienna in which a topography of health developed (river baths in the Danube wetlands, Kursalon on the Glacis, hospital facilities on the slopes of the Vienna Woods, etc.). Since these places have often been transformed and are no longer perceptible, the workshop will also contribute to an archaeology of ideas of health and hygiene in 19th century Vienna. The workshop will discuss both the complex relationship between the built environment and ideas of hygiene in the second half of the 19th century and its methodology. While Vienna and Austria are the focus of the workshop, they will be contextualised by international perspectives on other cities.

Programme:

Thursday, 1 October 2020

Venue: OeAW, 1010 Vienna, Vordere Zollamtsstraße 3, Seminar room 3 (ground floor, right wing)

15.00 1st Block: Short Presentations

Moderation: Richard Kurdiovsky and Oliver Sukrow

Welcome: Oliver Sukrow | TU Vienna

15.05 Oliver Sukrow (TU Vienna): „In unserem Reiche gibt es hundert und aberhundert geeignete Orte für Sommerfrischen, aber nur ein einziges Gräfenberg“ – Eugen Faßbender's regulatory plan for the spa town of Gräfenberg / Lázně Jeseník and the hygienic town planning in the late Austrian-Hungarian Empire

15.15 Vendula Hnídková (Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague): Town Escapes: Garden City or Sanatorium in Prague

15.25 Anna Cabanel (University of Amsterdam): 'Le Terme dei Mussolini': Urbanism and Health Resorts in Fascist Italy

15.35 Richard Kurdiovsky (OeAW Vienna): Hygiene as a task and topic for state building - things that went on the desks of the Ministeriums für öffentliche Arbeiten (1908–1918)

15.45 Friedrich Hauer (TU Vienna) and Gertrud Haidvogel (BOKU Vienna): Rivers, water engineering and urban design – public baths on the Danube in 19th century Vienna

15.55 Diego Caltana (Vienna/Trieste): Closed or open? The architecture of Viennese hospitals before 1918

16.05 Leslie Topp (Birkbeck, London): The Institution and the City: Modernism and the Lesson of the Asylum

16.15 Maria Harman (TU Vienna): Light, Air, Sun - The modern Sanatoria

16.25 Anselm Wagner (TU Graz): Otto Wagner's Fountain project for the Karlsplatz and his hygienic intentions

16.35–16.45 BREAK

16.45 2nd Block: Discussion

Moderation: Richard Kurdiovsky and Oliver Sukrow

17.45–18.00 BREAK

18.00 3rd Block: Discussion "UNESCO, Science, Cultural Heritage"

Moderation: Caroline Jäger-Klein

Discutants (in addition to the presenters of the 1st block)

Caroline Jäger-Klein (ICOMOS Austria)

Walter Juraschek (Vienna)

Ulrike Krippner (BOKU Vienna)

Florian Meixner (UNESCO Austria)

Andreas Nierhaus (Wien Museum)

Christian U. Noack (University of Amsterdam, HERA Project Leader "European Spas")

Ruth Pröckl (BMKÖS)

Gustav Schäfer (TU Vienna)

Michael Schiebinger (Austrian Federal Chancellery Vienna)

Anna Stuhlpfarrer (Vienna)

Hermann Zeitlhofer (Library of the Society of Doctors in Vienna)

Friday, 2 October 2020

Excursion to the former Niederösterreichische Landes-Heil- und Pflegeanstalt Am Steinhof (Lower Austrian Provincial Sanatorium and Nursing Home)

10.00 Meeting point main entrance (Baumgartnerhöhe 1, 1140 Vienna; terminus of the autobus line 48A)

10.10–12.30 Tour of the site

13.00 Lunch

14.30–15.45 Lupus sanatorium Wilhelminenspital (Ottakring clinic)

For more information see: <https://www.oeaw.ac.at/ihb/detail/event/designing-hygiea/>

Reference:

CONF: Designing Hygiea (Wien, 1-2 Oct 20). In: ArtHist.net, Sep 16, 2020 (accessed Mar 28, 2026), <<https://arthist.net/archive/23549>>.