Architektur im Ringturm

Global Cities: Vienna – Budapest

Urban Spaces in Times of Change 1970-2026

10 November 2026 to 5 March 2027

Press tour:	Monday, 9 November, 10am
Speakers:	Adolph Stiller and Máté Tamáska
Press photos:	Photos solely for use in reports on the exhibition and crediting the copyright holder are available for download free of charge at www.airt.at.
Curators:	Adolph Stiller and Máté Tamáska
Venue:	Ringturm Exhibition Centre Schottenring 30, 1010 Vienna
Opening hours:	Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm, free admission (closed on public holidays and on 24 December and 31 December)
Official opening:	Monday 9 November, 7pm (invitation only)
Enquiries to:	Romy Schrammel T: +43 (0)50 350 21224 E-mail: presse@wst-versicherungsverein.at

Catalogue
Architektur im Ringturm LXXI. Máté Tamáska Global Cities: Vienna – Budapest. Urban Spaces in Times of Change 1970-2026 (German/Hungarian); Adolph Stiller (ed.). 190 pages. **Price**: EUR 36

Cities in transition

"Global Cities: Vienna – Budapest" is the concluding instalment of a three-part exhibition series focusing on parallels in the development of the two cities on the Danube. Following on from *Metropolis Along the Danube* (1870-1920) and *Metropolises* (1920-1970), the third part looks at the past five decades. The focal point is 1989 and the fall of the Iron Curtain, although the period covered by the show stretches from the 1970s to the present day.

In the mid-1970s, the Helsinki Process ushered in a period of rapprochement between East and West. Back then, Vienna and Budapest served as gateways in a divided world: Vienna as the capital of a nominally neutral, westward-looking country; Budapest the capital of a socialist state which permitted a tentative opening to the West. At the same time, recollections of the cities' shared past within the Austro-Hungarian monarchy moved back more sharply into public consciousness.

Architecture tells the story of society

The exhibition profiles the recent history of Vienna and Budapest, but not through the prism of the cities' architecture alone. Instead, it shows how societal and political change have moulded the appearance of both capitals – and how, in turn, the built environment has changed the lives of their inhabitants.

From cityscape protection and new transportation systems, through housing construction, suburbanisation and consumption, to public spaces, greening and climate change – the evolution of both cities has been shaped by parallel processes, while contrasting modernisation and adaptation strategies are also revealed. Behind the architectural designs, one thing above all becomes clear: the transformation of urban lifestyles.

Vienna and Budapest in dialogue

As in the two previous exhibitions, Vienna and Budapest are compared directly using pairs of photographs. Covering eight topics, the photos and accompanying texts portray the changes in both cities, highlighting commonalities as well as diverging developments.

Many of the contemporary photos were taken by the curator, Dr Máté Tamáska, himself. Consequently, they provide insights on the cities from the viewpoint of an academic as well as a keen-eyed observer of urban environments – the exhibition condenses impressions and insights gained while strolling through the streets and squares of Vienna and Budapest.

The comparison opens up fresh perspectives on two cities with close historical ties, cities which have evolved against differing political and social backdrops over the decades. "Global Cities: Vienna – Budapest" initiates a new discourse between them, illustrating how closely urban development and societal transformation are intertwined.