

"Home at Last": The Polish House During the Transition. 8th edition of the Warsaw Under Construction festival

October 22 – November 20, 2016

Venue: ul. Nowogrodzka 84/86, Warsaw

Organizers of the Warsaw Under Construction festival, co-organizers of the exhibition:

Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw, Museum of Warsaw

Exhibition organizer, partner of the 8th edition of the Warsaw Under Construction festival:

Institute of Architecture

www.warszawabudowie.pl

"We are home at last. Don't stop, don't wait. What can you do? Help!" Those words, proclaimed by famous actors and other participants of public life, could be heard from TV sets in the time of the Tadeusz Mazowiecki government. This phrase will serve as the motto for the 8th edition of the annual Warsaw Under Construction festival organized by the Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw and the Museum of Warsaw. The main purpose of this year's exhibition is to show how houses and the living environment changed in Poland during the country's transition from a socialist state to a market economy, and to present the functioning of the new model with its connections to global neoliberalism. The exhibition poses questions about the style and environment of where Poles choose to live. It is on view at the former printing house at Nowogrodzka 84/86 in Warsaw between October 22 and November 20, 2016.

The economic changes of the 1990s brought about the quite literal realization of the festival's motto: many Poles actually did get to have their own houses. After years of living in apartment blocks or identical "cube" houses, they got the chance to fulfil their dreams of individualized housing, usually in the suburbs. The process was made easier by new financial mechanisms, including newly introduced mortgage loans.

But can a mortgaged house really be called your own home? What are the consequences of processes that took place on a massive scale in Polish cities and villages: suburbanization, gentrification, the appearance of ubiquitous gated communities? Where and how do Poles live, and why did the government back out of its active role in such a socially significant field?

The processes that shaped Polish homes are presented in chapters on various problems of dwelling, including urban planning, neighbourhoods, typologies of single- and multi-family architecture, as well as interiors and materials. The analysis focuses on Warsaw and its agglomeration as a model of post-transformation changes, but the exhibition presents similar phenomena from all over Poland as well.

One of the key phenomena of Poland's political transformation is the birth of the middle class. This social group's ethos, aspirations and mentality have an enormous influence on public debate, and in the context of housing are tangibly reflected in living spaces. The lifestyle of this social class serves as a reference point to show the living situation of other layers of Polish society. There is a strong focus on studies of Polish identity expressed through lifestyle. One of the major questions the exhibition asks is about the role of the media in promoting a new "big stabilization," which meant having a house with a garden outside the city or in the suburbs, as a symbol of success.

The exhibition is based on research on visual testimony of the transition period (magazines, books, publications, TV series, films, typical house catalogues), an analysis of quantitative data, interviews and consultations with experts, as well as photographic and film projects documenting the transformation of Poland's living spaces after 1989. The works of Polish contemporary artists presented in the exhibition show that the post-transition iconosphere and living space were also an important subject for the visual arts.

ARTISTS AND ARCHITECTS:

+48 Architecture, Krzysztof Arciszewski, Milena Banaszewska, BudCud, Łukasz Biederman, Rafał Bujnowski, Maciej Chodziński, Jakub Danilewicz, Norbert Delman, Natalia Dołgowska, Dworek Polski, Krzysztof Eberle, Natalia Fiedorczuk, Małgorzata Goliszewska, Nicolas GrosPierre, Daniel Gutowski, Ewa Hevelke, Łukasz Izert, Michał Januszaniec, Leszek Jasiński, Paweł Jaworski, JEMS Architects, joko+nawrocki architects, André Jaque/Office for Political Innovation, Kacper Kępiński, Szymon Kobyliński, Justyna Koeke, Bartosz Kokosiński, KontrPlan/Katarzyna Czarnota and Radosław Stoliński, Klementyna Świeżewska, Jarosław Kozłowski, Łukasz Kniter, KWK Promes Robert Konieczny, Artur Malewski, Jarosław Matla, Kuba Maria Mazurkiewicz, Medusa Group, Michalina Musielak, Palce Lizać/Barbara Nawrocka and Dominika Wileczyńska, Pracownia Architektury Głównacki PAG, Mariola Przyjemska, Raster, Maciej Rawluk, Łukasz Skąpski, Jędrzej Sokołowski, Szymon Szewczyk, Underconstructed/ Agata Pankiewicz and Marcin Przybyłko, Wojciech Wilczyk, Zorka Wollny, Jakub Woynarowski, Krzysztof Zieliński

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Museum of Warsaw – Michał Bogumił, Mateusz Gołos, Ksenia Gōreczna, Marek Lisik, Krzysztof Hernik, Dawid Łukasiak, Artur Miniewicz, Leszek Sokołowski, Krzysztof Świerczewski, Michał Tański, Marcin Wronecki

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„JA-HO” ROBIMY TO... NAJLEPIEJ

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ORGANIZERS OF THE FESTIVAL AND EXHIBITION:**PARTNER AND EXHIBITION ORGANIZER:****PARTNERS:**

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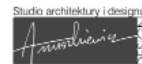
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The **Warsaw Under Construction festival** was initiated in 2009 by the Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw. Since 2013 it has been organized together with the Museum of Warsaw, which is responsible for production of the exhibition as well as makes objects from its vast collection accessible for the purpose of the exhibition. From the very beginning the festival has focused on design in its broadest sense – from industrial design and graphic design to architecture and urban planning. The exhibition organized as part of last year's edition, "Reconstruction Disputes" – recognized in the Sybilla contest for the best museum event of the year – was devoted to the post-war reconstruction of the Polish capital and the issue of denationalization. This year's 8th edition, organized with the cooperation of the Institute of Architecture, looks at how Poles' living spaces changed after 1989.

Previous editions:

- 2015 Warsaw Under Construction 7 "Reconstruction Disputes"
- 2014 Warsaw Under Construction 6 "The City of Artists"
- 2013 Warsaw Under Construction 5 "Profession: Architect"
- 2012 Warsaw Under Construction 4 "City for Sale"
- 2011 Warsaw Under Construction 3 – City Design Festival
- 2010 Warsaw Under Construction 2 – City Design Festival
- 2009 Warsaw Under Construction. Trailer for new urban design festival

The **Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw** (Muzeum Sztuki Nowoczesnej w Warszawie) presents the latest phenomena in art, architecture, photography and design. It was established in 2005. Since the end of a four-year lease of the Emilia pavilion in May 2016, exhibitions have been organized at the museum's location at ul. Pańska 3. It is currently hosting the "Creativity Exercises" exhibition, on view through September 4. Between September 21 and October 30, 2016, it will be presenting the programme "On the Tip of the Tongue: Performance and the War of Words." The museum initiated the Warsaw Under Construction festival, co-organizes the Bródno Sculpture Park, and supports the house of Zofia and Oskar Hansen in Szumin. It organizes exhibitions abroad. In March 2017 an additional exhibition space will be opened: the Museum on the Vistula, near the end of ul. Lipowa, next to the Copernicus Science Centre and the University of Warsaw Library.

The **Museum of Warsaw** (Muzeum Warszawy) was established in 1936. It is located in 11 historic tenement houses on the Old Town Market Place, which is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Museum of Warsaw also has 9 branches, including the Museum of Praga, the Historic Monument Interpretation Centre, and the Museum of Printing. For 80 years the Museum of Warsaw's mission has been to assemble, store, compile and

make accessible Warsaw-related collections. With its exhibitions, research, publications, as well as educational and cultural activities, the museum helps visitors learn more about the phenomenon of Warsaw. A project called OdNowa, which includes the modernization, preservation and digitalization of the museum's historical objects, as well as the development of a new main exhibition, began in 2014. The reopening of the Museum of Warsaw in its new form will be celebrated in May 2017.

The **Institute of Architecture** (Instytut Architektury), organizer of the exhibition and partner of this year's edition of the Warsaw Under Construction festival, popularizes selfless thinking about spaces by promoting architectural education and modern architecture, organizing interdisciplinary exhibitions on architecture, and publishing activities. It was founded in Kraków in 2011. It has organized exhibitions in cooperation with the National Museum in Kraków: "In-habitation 2012: Garden City, Gated City" (2012) and "Reaction to Modernism: The Architecture of Adolf Szyszko-Bohusz" (2013). In 2014 curators from the Institute of Architecture cooperated with Jakub Woynarowski on the "Impossible Objects" exhibition at the Polish Pavilion at the Venice Architecture Biennale.

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