**INTERVENTION 2**

**EOOS Biennale Architettura 2016**

**Eda, Co-curator of the Austrian Pavilion**

**Elke Delugan-Meissl, Sabine Drehber, Christian Mülle**

*Haus Erdberg, Vienna* II

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**SOCIAL FURNITURE**

**LIVING, COOKING, WORKING**

**Text: Elke Rauch**

**Questions by EOOS**

For though they made themselves masters of all the good inventions that were among us, yet I believe it would be long before we should learn or put in practice any of the good institutions that are among them.

Thomas More, *Utopia*, 1516

Utopia is located in Erdberg, one of Vienna’s oldest settlements. The Romans were at home here and the Celts before them, while archaeological finds stretch back to the Neolithic Age. Here, on Erdbergstraße, which was the terminus of lines three of the underground for many years and is just seven underground minutes from downtown, the city unravels into the Zwischenstadt, with its typical jumble of administrative buildings, sports facilities, empty plots, corporate headquarters, residential buildings, logistics centres and traffic arteries. One doesn’t come here for a stroll. One comes here to do something.

In one of these buildings, a largely disused administration block, EOOS have had their temporary atelier since February 2016. The designers describe their workplace, which has exactly the same dimensions as the rooms that are available to the regular residents, as their “Field Office”. Located in a former school for customs officers that occupies around 21,000 m2 of a building complex measuring 68,000 m2, Haus Erdberg has been accommodating refugees from the world’s humanitarian crisis almost continuously since September 2014. Most come from Afghanistan, Nigeria, Syria, Somalia and Iraq. Around 40 nationalities live here, washed up after fleeing from turmoil and war zones around the world, stranded for an indeterminate period on this secluded island, their Utopia. The lowest common denominator: the desire for a life without misery, a safe, peaceful and free existence.

“Our first task was to explain why we as designers were needed at all in this context. Crisis situations are dominated by emergency thinking and even experienced aid organisations are mostly overwhelmed with urgent needs which are principally pragmatic and scarcely aesthetic. However, the transformation of emergency shelters into accommodation for asylum-seekers creates a new situation: Everyday life requires other structures and opportunities if it is going to be feasible for residents to stay for longer.”

Managed by the NGOs Caritas and the Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund, the complex is now being transformed from an emergency shelter into a primary care facility for families. The language of crisis and emergency should be replaced by a new everyday normality which supports the act of arrival in the new homeland. This creates a need to adapt both the social and spatial structures of the building on which EOOS has been working in a number of ways since November 2015.

EOOS, one of the flagships of Austrian design with their prizewinning oeuvre stretching back more than 20 years, describe their interventions in Haus Erdberg as Social Furniture. Sub-titled Living, Cooking, Working, their Biennale contribution engages with central aspects of life in the accommodation while simultaneously testing social alternatives. Living includes the creation of spatial quality, orientation, security and the opportunity of self-organisation; Cooking understands the act of preparing food as an integrative, communicative and structuring element of daily life and the kitchen as an island of control over one’s own existence as much as a place of togetherness; Working is dedicated to the key issue of work and occupation, analysing available resources and creating spaces for acting and sharing in the context of a manyfolds barrier economy.

EOOS contribution to the Architecture Biennale materialises in a catalogue of simple DIY furniture, their help of residents in a specially installed workshop. The comprehensive assembly instructions have been published by the designers for non-commercial use as a creative commons in order to make the furniture available for use in a variety of contexts.

Far beyond the current situation, EOOS’ multifaceted contribution to the Architecture Biennale also serves as a laboratory for the investigation of potential solutions to looming social challenges and, thereby, the development of a viable model for sustainable living. The burning questions also open the window of opportunity to innovation, with architecture and design being seen as central disciplines in shaping social transformation. The declared objective: a good life for all.

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**Haus Erdberg**

**EOOS, one of the flagships of Austrian design**

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**Kitchen wall panel SF 09**
1. Accommodation in suitable facilities with due regard to human dignity and the family unit (…).

2. Primary care comprises:

§3. (1) Primary care comprises:

3. Design as a tool for creating a better

6. The only official activity in the Office building in Vienna Erdberg, the top four floors are used as a primary care hospital for the 2.6 billion people in growing informal settlements around the world who have no access to safe sanitation.

7. “Poetical Analysis” is how EOOS describe the mix of users in the 1980s building complex which, since January 2014, has been responsible for asylum decisions. (…)erecting the frames of all three different living modules, EOOS are in the process of designing and constructing a residential building in the Forstgasse area of the current site. This is a challenge that has been set in the context of the current situation of affordable housing and the need for new building spaces. The building is designed as a place for creating new communities, a space for social interaction, and a place for social change. (…)
Breaking through walls to improve communication

COOKING

horizontal-01.jpg

Through eating I celebrate my existence. “

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Through eating I celebrate my existence.
The inclusion of refugees. As a determining factor for residents to earn a little money on top of their meagre this, opportunities to work which arise in organised from the monotony of everyday life. In addition to Learning centre, computer desk

Internal courtyard of Haus Erdberg (2,300 m²).

Thomas More, Utopia, 1516

the community in the accommodation may be earned rather long, high quality local raw materials are selected very important in the resulting relationship building, sticking together commercial organisations, meant provides opportunities for successfully practicing freshly adopted language skills. The residents: Tell us what you can do and where you want to get involved.”

At the same time, the 60 residents who are currently involved are only the first step and the further access to offer more people to provide the opportunity to occupy their time in the temporary accommodation as part of a comprehensive field study, the assumption alternative use and sustainable organisation use, was presented at the 2012 ArchitekturBiennale in Venice and published in a Tyrolean journal. Information of alternative use, the idea, new uses was taken to Chinese citizens and shared by the public organisation of the informal sector for an entire year as part of a comprehensive field study, the assumption alternative use and sustainable organisation use, was presented at the 2012 ArchitekturBiennale in Venice and published in a Tyrolean journal. Information of alternative use, the idea, new uses was taken to Chinese citizens and shared by the public.

EOOS have invested vast amounts of time in developing these simple light-weight and low-cost tools, making it possible while still staying within the law, EOOS are experimenting with the introduction of a moneyless barter economy for which a digital platform is being developed in partnership with a large technology company. The scalability of the application is again ensured from the start: by adjusting the introduction of a digital barter currency system which makes it possible not only to exchange goods and services but also to do things for free and direction since more representatives are attempting to create a framework for meaningful social interaction.

EOOSLIVING, COOKING, WORKING

Living, Cooking, Working

In order to overcome the fact that space is a core concept and space for the residents is rather tight and space is limited. For example, a façade space is used to support self-organization.

EOOSLIVING, COOKING, WORKING

The legacy of Torre David for Haus Erdberg. The case of temporary use for alternative uses. The legacy of Torre David for Haus Erdberg. The case of temporary use for alternative uses. In order to make these forms of self-organisation possible while still staying within the law, EOOS are experimenting with the introduction of a moneyless barter economy for which a digital platform is being developed in partnership with a large technology company. The scalability of the application is again ensured from the start: by adjusting the introduction of a digital barter currency system which makes it possible not only to exchange goods and services but also to do things for free and direction since more representatives are attempting to create a framework for meaningful social interaction.

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SOCIAL FURNITURE

**EOOS**

The three initiatives launched as part of “Places for People” form the focus of the overall project and, correspondingly, of the presentation in the Austrian Pavilion and in this publication.

The preceding pages, which were conceived and compiled by EOOS themselves, contain not only the guiding themes, central ideas and inspirations behind their intervention but also their working processes and results as far as possible in an outlook on future developments. The term “intervention” was chosen because it appears to come closest to covering both the character of the various strategies and the breadth of their areas of action.

The text contribution is from Elke Rasch, a well-known Austrian architecture expert, who is particularly familiar with the work and the approaches of EOOS and with the issues which they are addressing here.

This final page presents a summary of the most important facts and figures from the intervention in order to offer the reader both a quick overview and some means of comparison.

**Objective**

Catalogue of strategic furniture DIY-manufactured on site. Social design through the creation of work

**Introduction of new functions such as communal kitchens, workshops, high planting beds and shops**

**User groups**

- 20 years old men (74% < 26 years)
- 34% Somalia, 5% Iraq, and 35% other nationalities
- across Families planned

**Short description**

Intervention of design and new and imaginative. The results are reduced, highly functional and prominent design teams, furniture and their activities – from the creation of commercial economy to the entire spectrum of research and design approach.

**Concept**

Aspects of the discipline.

**Research**

Initiated by Harald Gründl in 2008 and is particularly devoted to the social and ecological aspects of the discipline. Projects such as the “Blue Diversion Toilet”, together with the reflective design approach which is embodied in all their work, formed the basis of the decision to invite the design team EOOS to participate in the 2016 Architecture Biennale Vienna and to develop a concrete intervention for “Places for People”.

**CRedit**

**EOOS**

Martin Bennewitz, Bernd Adam, Martin Seidler, Project leader. Lotta Karvonen

Team: Yuan Fen Chang, Liang Cheng, Marco Politi, Ilias Basilikis, Sophie Hilligoss, Sabine Jonas, Jochen Scholz, Margus Stigl, Jens Wilhelm

**Building and team management**

Caritas ASB 21,000 m²

Erdbergstraße

2015

**Title of Intervention**

**Sustainability**

The design studio EOOS was established in Vienna in 1995 by the three partners Martin Bennewitz, Gernot Bohmann and Harald Gründl.

With around ten employees and a prestigious, international client the EOOS is currently also one of the most productive and prominent design teams in Europe. Central not only to EOOS’s design language but also to its self-image is a research and design approach which the designers themselves describe as “Prêt-à-Porter” analysis and in which they apply to the entire spectrum of their activities – from the creation of product, furniture and interior to social design.

As the name suggests, this is an approach which combines strict analysis with poetic imagination. The results are reduced, highly functional and technically innovative products which are not only anchored in a long cultural tradition but which also embody this same tradition in its form and scale. The latest result of EOOS’ intense examination of both the cultural and social dimensions of design and new and sustainable technologies is a mobile toilet which, as it connects to neither a water supply nor a drainage network, is especially suitable for use in developing countries. The “Institute of Design Research Vienna” which was initiated by Harald Gründl in 2008 is especially devoted to the social and ecological aspects of the discipline. Projects such as the “Blue Diversion Toilet”, together with the reflective design approach which is embodied in all their work, formed the basis of the decision to invite the design team EOOS to participate in the 2016 Architecture Biennale Vienna and to develop a concrete intervention for “Places for People”.

www.eoos.com

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