

Architecture in Vorarlberg

Portrait of a Regional Building Culture

Book Release



Cover | pictured: the project Kriechere 70, architecture: Innauer-Matt Architects | photo: Adolf Bereuter

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In Austria's westernmost federal state, a unique building culture has developed over many years. It is characterized by an appreciation of the built environment, a high quality of craftsmanship, and a respectful engagement with architecture on the part of many of its protagonists. Beginning with the sensitive use of wood as the traditional building material of the Alpine region, the early ecology movement became a defining influence on architecture in Vorarlberg from the 1960s onward. The region developed into a pioneer of resource-efficient construction and an interdisciplinary approach that actively involves all actors participating in the building process.

The new book »Architecture in Vorarlberg. Portrait of a Regional Building Culture« builds precisely on this foundation and asks: How have building culture and the architectural landscape in Vorarlberg evolved over the past 25 years? What themes, challenges, and potentials exist?

To answer these questions, editors and authors Verena Jakoubek-Konrad (Director of the vai Vorarlberg Architecture Institute) and Sandra Hofmeister (former Editor-in-Chief of DETAIL) have assembled 50 outstanding architectural positions and compelling building portraits from the years since 2000—from Dornbirn to the Montafon and from the Bregenzerwald to the Vorarlberg Rhine Valley. What unites them is their ecological profile, their cultural ambition, their contribution to technological and procedural innovation, and their engagement with social issues. The range of typologies extends from biomass heating plants to mountain chapels, and from subsidized housing to schools built in timber construction. Each project is presented with an information box, a brief description, as well as photographs and plans.

The book is divided into four chapters, each focusing on a subregion of Vorarlberg: In the Rhine Valley, Mountains and Valleys, In the Bregenzerwald, and On Lake Constance. Supplementary essays illuminate the background of Vorarlberg's building culture and highlight current focal points. Complementing the project section, they discuss aspects of ecological building, regional craftsmanship, community buildings, and urbanization in the four-country region. In addition, interviews with protagonists from Vorarlberg provide insight into the vibrant workshop of architectural practice and into the working methods of architects, offices, and collaborative groups.

»Architecture in Vorarlberg. Portrait of a Regional Building Culture« documents the architectural diversity that has emerged in Vorarlberg over the past 25 years. The book situates architectural activity within its historically evolved context, critically examines developments, presents solutions, and thus delivers a comprehensive survey of recent trends.

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Ökonomiegebäude Josef Weiss | Architecture:
Julia Kick Architects | © Photo: Michael Nußbaumer
Photography

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Book Sales:

The book is now available from bookstores, at the vai, or directly from the publisher.

The Editors:

Verena Jakoubek-Konrad is an art and architectural historian. Since 2013 she has been Director of the Vorarlberg Architecture Institute in Dornbirn. Previously, she worked as a curator and author and taught at the University of Innsbruck and the University of Art and Design Linz.

Sandra Hofmeister is an architectural journalist and Editor-in-Chief of DETAIL. For many years she has accompanied architectural developments in Vorarlberg through publications, professional articles, and lectures. She holds a PhD in philology and currently teaches at the University of Applied Arts Vienna.

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Architecture in Vorarlberg.**Portrait of a Regional Building Culture**

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