

'CITY FOR CHILDREN' FACES POSSIBLE DEMOLITION!



Your support is needed!

According to the Vienna district councilor and Member of Parliament Sabine Gretner, on June 25th 2008 the Municipal Housing Committee will decide if the 'City for Children' should be partially demolished.

The 'City for Children' was designed by the architect Anton Schweighofer in 1969 and planned as a residence and community for children without a home life.

The architecture aimed to create an environment that gave these children an opportunity to become part of a community, a microcosm of urban society. The progressive nature of the design and the social concept awarded the work international recognition at the time.

It is the opinion of many architects and academics that the 'City for Children' represents an important modernist monument and contribution to the development of architectural history. So it is of great concern that this structure now faces partial demolition.

The current owners are the development companies ARWAG and WIENER HEIM (MISCHEK) which closely collaborate with the Vienna City Council. This relationship could be considered a conflicting interest when concerned with the decision the Council will make on June 25th 2008. Until now there has been a basic agreement that the building complex would remain as a whole structure staying true to the original concept and allowing only for some minor restoration where needed.



However our efforts over the last years to maintain the facility appear to be in vain. On the 25th of June 2008 the Municipal Council of Vienna will decide if the contract between the Council and the private owners should be altered allowing for the possibility of partial demolition.

Docomomo Austria strongly disagrees with a decision that would allow the brutal destruction of the 'City for Children'. This building complex represents a part of Austria's cultural heritage and in recent years has gained much international attention as an example of the modernist period during the 60's in Vienna.

We are calling for the international protest against the partial demolition of this modernist monument.

The board of Docomomo_austria

June 11th 2008

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