

NEW NEEDS takes place at the Wittmann House (built 1970-75) designed by Austrian architect Johannes Spalt.

Johannes Spalt's oeuvre can be classified as belonging to the "Third Generation" of Modernists whose achievement it was to re-establish references to architectural history (especially achievements of High Cultures in Asia and the Orient) which Modernism had broken with before. Lightness, the constructive, the modular, the umbrella and skin are constitutive as well as recurring motives in Spalt's vocabulary, which are also protagonists in the architectural language of the Wittmann House.

The exhibition aims to create a dialogue between the works and the architecture of the house in order to fathom potential contemporary meanings of Spalt's principles which were visionary at their time. Within the exhibition each work should open up its own cosmos of references and meanings of the former.

What meaning do concepts as lightness, the constructive, the modular, poetry and folly have today; how can they be thought of today against the backdrop of the digital era? How are terms as umbrella and skin understood in view of an increasing disembodiment? How can challenging visions and experimentations manifest themselves today?

Is it possible to speak of new needs?

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