

EXHIBITION PREVIEW 2019

Vitra Design Museum

Victor Papanek: The Politics of Design

Until 10.03.2019

Balkrishna Doshi: Architecture for the People

30.03. – 08.09.2019

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Permanent exhibition

Vitra Design Museum Gallery

Lake Verea: Papparazza Moderna

02.02. – 07.07.2019

Alexandra Daisy Ginsberg: Better Nature

20.07. – 24.11.2019

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Vitra Design Museum

Main building and space for major exhibitions (Architect: Frank Gehry, 1989)

Victor Papanek: The Politics of Design

Until 10.03.2019

»Victor Papanek: The Politics of Design« is the first major retrospective focusing on one of the twentieth century's most influential pioneers of a socially and ecologically oriented approach to design. The exhibition is on display at the Vitra Design Museum until 10 March 2019. Victor Papanek's key work, »Design for the Real World« (1971), remains the most widely read book about design ever published. In it, Papanek makes a plea for inclusion, social justice, and sustainability – themes of greater relevance to today's design than ever before. The exhibition includes exhibits such as drawings, objects, films, manuscripts, and prints, some of which have never before been presented. These are complemented by works of Papanek's contemporaries from the 1960s to 1980s, including George Nelson, Richard Buckminster Fuller, Marshall McLuhan, or the radical design initiative »Global Tools«. Contemporary works from the areas of critical and social design provide insight into Papanek's lasting impact.

Balkrishna Doshi: Architecture for the People

30.03. – 08.09.2019

Press Conference: 28.03.2019, 2 p.m.

Opening: 29.03.2019, 6 p.m.

With the exhibition »Balkrishna Doshi: Architecture for the People«, the Vitra Design Museum presents the first international retrospective about the 2018 Pritzker Prize laureate Balkrishna Doshi (born 1927, Pune, India) outside of Asia. The renowned architect and urban planner is seen as the most important pioneer of modern architecture of his home country. During over 60 years of practice, Doshi has realized around 100 projects, including pioneering buildings like the Indian »Institute of Management« (1977–92), his own architectural studio »Sangath« (1980), and the low-cost housing project »Aranya« (1989). Inspired by working with masters like Le Corbusier and Louis Kahn, Doshi adopted elements of modern architecture and adapted them to local culture, traditions, resources, and nature itself. The exhibition will present numerous key projects realized between 1958 and 2014, ranging from entire cities and town planning projects to large public buildings, from private residences to interiors. Exhibits will include a wealth of original works such as drawings, models, and art works from Doshi's archive and studio, but also photography, film footage, and several full-scale installations. An extensive timeline will give an overview of the architect's career from 1947 until today, attesting to his close relationships with other influential architects and visionaries such as Le Corbusier and Christopher Alexander.

Objects of Desire: Surrealism and Design 1924 – Today

28.09.2019 – 19.01.2020

Press Conference: 26.09.2019, 2 p.m.

Opening: 27.09.2019, 6 p.m.

Surrealism was one of the most influential art movements of the twentieth century. Many works of Surrealists like Salvador Dalí, René Magritte, Meret Oppenheim, and Man Ray were inspired by everyday objects and explored the world of dreams, emotions, and the unconscious embedded in our material culture. Since the 1930s, Surrealism has had a strong impact on design, from furniture, interiors, and fashion to film and graphic design. In fall 2019 the Vitra Design Museum will devote the first major exhibition to the fascinating creative dialogue between Surrealism and design that continues to this day. »Objects of Desire« will juxtapose surrealist art works with design icons by some of the most prominent artists and designers of the past one hundred years to reveal fascinating parallels and cross-pollination. With works by Gae Aulenti, Björk, Claude Cahun, Achille Castiglioni, Giorgio de Chirico, Le Corbusier, Salvador Dalí, Marcel Duchamp, Ray Eames, Front Design, Frederick Kiesler, Shiro Kuramata, René Magritte, Carlo Mollino, Isamu Noguchi, Meret Oppenheim, Man Ray, Jerszy Seymour, and many others.

Vitra Schaudepot

Exhibition space of the Collection (Architects: Herzog & de Meuron, 2016)

Anton Lorenz: From Avant-Garde to Industry

22.02. – 19.05. 2019

Opening: 21.02.2019

To mark the 100th anniversary of the Bauhaus, the Vitra Design Museum will devote the first exhibition ever to entrepreneur and designer Anton Lorenz. In 1925, Marcel Breuer was the first to use tubular steel to construct furniture at the Bauhaus in a move that would revolutionize modern living. Lorenz however was one of the first to realize the material's potential, and his deft use of patents and founding of new companies made him a key figure for the global expansion of the modern tubular steel furniture industry. The exhibition will present important documents from the Lorenz archive kept at the Vitra Design Museum, as well as tubular steel furniture by Marcel Breuer, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, Le Corbusier, and other designers, in a fascinating behind-the-scenes look at the avant-garde.

Living in a Box: Design and Comics

24.05. – 20.10.2019

Opening 23.05.2019, 6.30 p.m.

Since their inception in the early 20th century, comics have become an inherent part of global visual culture. The exhibition »Living in a Box« demonstrates the close relationship of comics to design. Design items or interiors depicted in these genres can reflect the personalities of certain characters: they may be subject to acerbic irony or used to create futuristic visions, often combined with references to political and social issues. The exhibition will present both well-known and less familiar comics that made design history, and objects that have been featured in or influenced by comics.

The Collection of the Vitra Design Museum: 1800 until today

Permanent exhibition

The Vitra Design Museum's collection is one of the most significant design collections worldwide. It holds around 20,000 objects, including 7,000 pieces of furniture, more than 1,000 lighting objects and numerous archives, as well as the Collection of the Eames Office and the estates of Verner Panton and Alexander Girard. The Vitra Schaudepot makes part of the collection accessible to the public. Up to 400 key pieces of furniture design from 1800 to the present day are on display in the main hall on the ground floor. Smaller temporary exhibitions present collection-related themes. Details on the items on show can be found in the digital catalogue. The basement provides a look at selected collection highlights. There you will also find the Schaudepot Lab, where you can learn more about materials, processes, and prototypes. As a »transparent design museum«, the Schaudepot provides a comprehensive insight into the history of modern furniture.

Vitra Design Museum Gallery

Exhibition space for contemporary and experimental topics (Architect: Frank Gehry, 2011)

Lake Verea: Paparazza Moderna

02.02. – 07.07.2019

Opening 01.02.2019, 6 p.m.

In Spring 2019, the Vitra Design Museum Gallery will present the first solo exhibition of the Mexican artist duo Lake Verea in Europe. For their ongoing »Paparazza Moderna« project, they create poetic portraits of single-family houses designed by renowned modernist architects. Francisca Rivero-Lake and Carla Verea approach these buildings like paparazzi – unannounced and spontaneous – with the aim of capturing them in an unembellished, private state. Lake Verea's evocative photographic compositions of buildings by Walter Gropius, Marcel Breuer, Richard Neutra, Rudolph M. Schindler, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, and Philip Johnson were taken between 2011 and 2018 during their journeys throughout the USA. The exhibition will show 24 works, including photography and a video. Each of the compositions, which Lake Verea refer to as »architectural portraits«, consists of two to ten photographs. The artists treat the houses as living characters and offer a playful, at times voyeuristic take on the myths that surround the intertwined relationships between some of the great architects of the twentieth century.

Alexandra Daisy Ginsberg: Better Nature

20.07. – 24.11.2019

Opening: 19.07.2019, 6 p.m.

British designer and artist Alexandra Daisy Ginsberg explores our relationship with nature and technology through what we design. For the past decade, she has researched possibilities for the design of living matter, also referred to as »synthetic biology«. For projects like » Designing for the Sixth Extinction « (2013), she transcended the traditional boundaries of the design discipline, actively pursuing collaborations with scientists, engineers, artists, historians, and social scientists. Her exhibition at the Vitra Design Museum Gallery gives insight into how humans seek to shift, bend, and change natural matter, addressing synergies between design and biotechnologies that might shape our future ways of living.

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