

Brno, 20 October 2013

An exhibition about Villa Tugendhat is subject of great interest abroad

2012 was marked by the reopening of Villa Tugendhat to the public, 2013 is in token of the dissemination of information about this unique building of classical architectural modernism. Due to great interest among the professional and lay public, the Study and Documentation Centre at Villa Tugendhat prepared an exhibition about Villa Tugendhat, which presents the history of the villa from its inception to the present day. The exhibition which is intended primarily for foreign audiences is offered by the Brno City Museum in its English version (and in German and Czech version from February 2014).

Villa Tugendhat was designed for Greta and Fritz Tugendhat in 1929-1930 by German architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe. Today, this building is considered the most important Mies' pre-war work and at the same time his most authentic surviving building in Europe. It is a unique work of art in terms of design, layout, interior equipment, technical facilities and integration into the natural environment. For the first time in the history of architecture, a steel bearing structure was used in a private house. The interiors contain rare materials - onyx from Morocco, Italian travertine, veneer of exotic Asian woods. The architect also designed the interior of the house - especially the seating furniture which now belongs among designer icons of the 20th century. The technical facilities of the villa were quite exceptional for their time - air heating and cooling, electric retractable windows, a photocell at the entrance. In 2010-2012, the building and garden underwent thorough restoration and renovation which brought it to the appearance from the time of its origin in 1930. Since March 2012, the villa is open to the public again as an installed monument of modern architecture.

"The concept of the exhibition was first presented in the accompanying programme of an international conference, Mies Here and There, held in Chicago in January 2012. It was subsequently repeated with great success and acclaim at the RIBA Royal Institute of British Architects in London (3 July to 31 August 2012) and in expanded form also in the Bohemian National Hall on Manhattan (1 to 31 October 2012). The first destinations where we sent the show in its final form was Utrecht, the Netherlands. Thanks to the cooperation with Czech Centres, the exhibition will be shown in Rotterdam and then in Eindhoven in the coming months. Interest in the exhibition was already shown also by our Austrian and Slovak neighbours so it will go there next year " said Villa Tugendhat director, Iveta Černá.

The exhibition consists of 14 comprehensive topics. The history of the villa from its inception to the present day is summarized on large-format panels with archival and contemporary photographs and accompanying text. The exhibition concept was designed by the Villa Tugendhat Study and Documentation Centre in Brno in cooperation with Atelier Židlický graphics studio. The exhibition is complemented by an illuminated 1:50 model of the building. A lecture and/or a film screening of a docudrama "The Fate of Tugendhat" produced by Czech Television can be arranged as accompanying programme, by prior agreement.

Visitors to Villa Tugendhat can choose from two guided tours:

I. - basic, 60-minute tour (the bedroom floor and the main living area, preparation area, kitchen and garden). Entrance fee 300,- CZK (reduced fee 180,- CZK, family ticket 690,- CZK).

II. - extended, 90-minute tour including the air-conditioning room, boiler room, engine room for electrical windows, laundry room, darkroom and fur chamber. Entrance fee 350,- CZK (reduced fee 210,- CZK, family ticket 805,- CZK). For 50,- CZK you can buy a ticket only to the garden.

Tours in 2014 can be booked from 15 November 2013.

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