

Angeleno

A full-page photograph of Naomi Campbell is the central focus. She has long, straight blonde hair and is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. She is wearing a short-sleeved, knee-length dress with a high collar and a large, ornate black and white patterned bow at the neck. The dress features a scalloped hem and a matching patterned skirt. Her hands are resting on her hips.

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WALTZING IN Austrian architects Herwig Baumgartner, Christoph Kapeller and Andrea Lenardin Madden at the Schindler House in West Hollywood.

Holy Schnitzel!

Vienna on the Pacific?
Following in the footsteps of Puck and Schwarzenegger, A-list Austrian architects are storming L.A.

| By Marissa Gluck |
| Photography by By Peden + Munk |

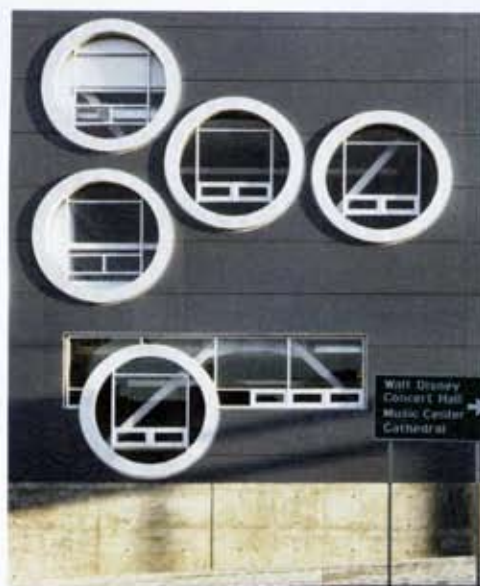
When architect Andrea Lenardin Madden moved here from Vienna in 1996, she fell in love with L.A.'s sunshine and wide-open spaces. "I drove a convertible that first year and never put the top up," says the designer of the light-filled, modern cupcake mecca Sprinkles in Beverly Hills. At the time, Lenardin Madden was one of the first artists to join a then-new residency program at the MAK Center, a satellite of the Austrian Museum of Applied Arts/Contemporary Art housed in architect Rudolph Schindler's former West Hollywood home. The program lasted just six months, but she never left.

In the last decade, a growing cadre of Austrian architects like Lenardin Madden have made this city their home. Call it Chapter Two in the strange spiritual

connection between L.A. and Vienna. In the 1920s and '30s, some of our most iconic architecture was built by Schindler and Richard Neutra, the Vienna-born progenitors of indoor/outdoor SoCal living. Émigré Victor Gruen, who established his firm in L.A. in 1951, is credited with pioneering the suburban shopping mall.

Today, a new generation is arriving. "Los Angeles still feels like a place where anything can happen," says CK Architecture's Christoph Kapeller, an architect/professor who settled in L.A. eight years ago and designs all over the world, including such places as Norway, Egypt and Berlin. Adds Herwig Baumgartner, a principal at BplusU in downtown L.A.: "You're not under a magnifying glass the way you **CONTINUED...**

While many Austrian architects are drawn to L.A.'s weather and whimsy, they bemoan the lack of Viennese pastries, especially their beloved apricot Marillenknödel.



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Much of the credit for the current kinship can be traced to Peter Noever, the MAK Center's CEO and artistic director. An unofficial ambassador for cultural exchange between the two regions, he established the artist-in-residency program that first brought Lenardin Madden to Los Angeles. For the center's current show, *Fractional Systems*, Noever has brought together prominent artists and architects from Vienna and L.A., such as Raymond Pettibon, Franz Graf and Hernan Diaz Alonso to create site-specific works.

In the past few years, L.A. designers have begun winning commissions in Austria. Pritzker Prize winner Thom Mayne created a massive mixed-use project in Vienna. Last year, UCLA architecture chief Hitoshi Abe won a competition to design a new university campus in the capital city. And SCI-Arc director Eric Owen Moss was appointed Austria's curator for the Architecture Exhibition at the 2010 Venice Biennale, the first time a foreign architect was awarded that honor.

The influence goes both ways. Vienna-based Coop Himmelb(l)au designed downtown's controversial LAUSD High School #9. With its spiral staircase looming over the 101, the school, completed last year, fits neatly in the realm of architecture as sculpture. The firm's Wolf Prix—who worked on the project and has opened a satellite office here—has tried to figure out this peculiar bond between the cities. Says Prix: "Maybe it's because they both have a lot of shrinks." **A**

SISTER CITIES Clockwise from above: The recently opened Sprinkles in Chicago, designed by L.A. architect Andrea Lenardin Madden. Two views of Vienna-based Coop Himmelb(l)au's downtown L.A. high school. Los Angeles firm BplusU's sculptural design (proposed) for the Performing Arts Center in Taipei.

... CONTINUED would be in Vienna." Like so many architects experimenting here, Baumgartner worked with Frank Gehry early in his career. Today, Gehry's influence is apparent in BplusU's ethereal designs for projects like downtown event space Soundcloud.

Austria's sway goes beyond architecture: Our "Governator" is from a village near Graz. The man who arguably invented California cuisine, Wolfgang Puck, is from a small town outside Salzburg. So what connects these two disparate places? It seems to be a case of opposites attracting. Perhaps it's the contrast between preservation and experimentation. Density versus sprawl. While many Austrian architects are drawn to L.A.'s weather and whimsy, they bemoan