

Dear AIR – Niederösterreich and ORTE Team,

I highly appreciated the professional opportunities of the AIR – Niederösterreich program, which includes first of all the fantastic studio 21, the monthly *Get Togethers* functioning like a *Think Tank* and giving a broad survey of different media and the individual artist's mode of work. The general effort of AIR, to link artists not just to Krems, but with institutions all over Lower Austria, is a welcome and vulnerable target.

My personal needs and expectations of an artist's residency, a period of time which always means to transfer my "whole office", are fulfilled, as it was possible to withdraw from the daily work and to focus on it in the stimulating and quiet atmosphere of the studio on the one hand. On the other I have had the chance to meet and contact people in a cultural context, to visit many places in Lower Austria and Vienna dealing with art and architecture – might they be historic or temporary.

My favorites around Krems are the *Stift Melk* and the medieval castle *Schloss Buchberg (Kunstraum Buchberg)* in the Kamp valley. First one with its amazing library, baroque gardens and mineral collection (crystals = body, volume, geometry, space). Last one is housing the outstanding collection with site-specific works of the Bogner family and a visit there should be part of every residency program. Maybe this can be arranged for coming generations of artists in residence!?



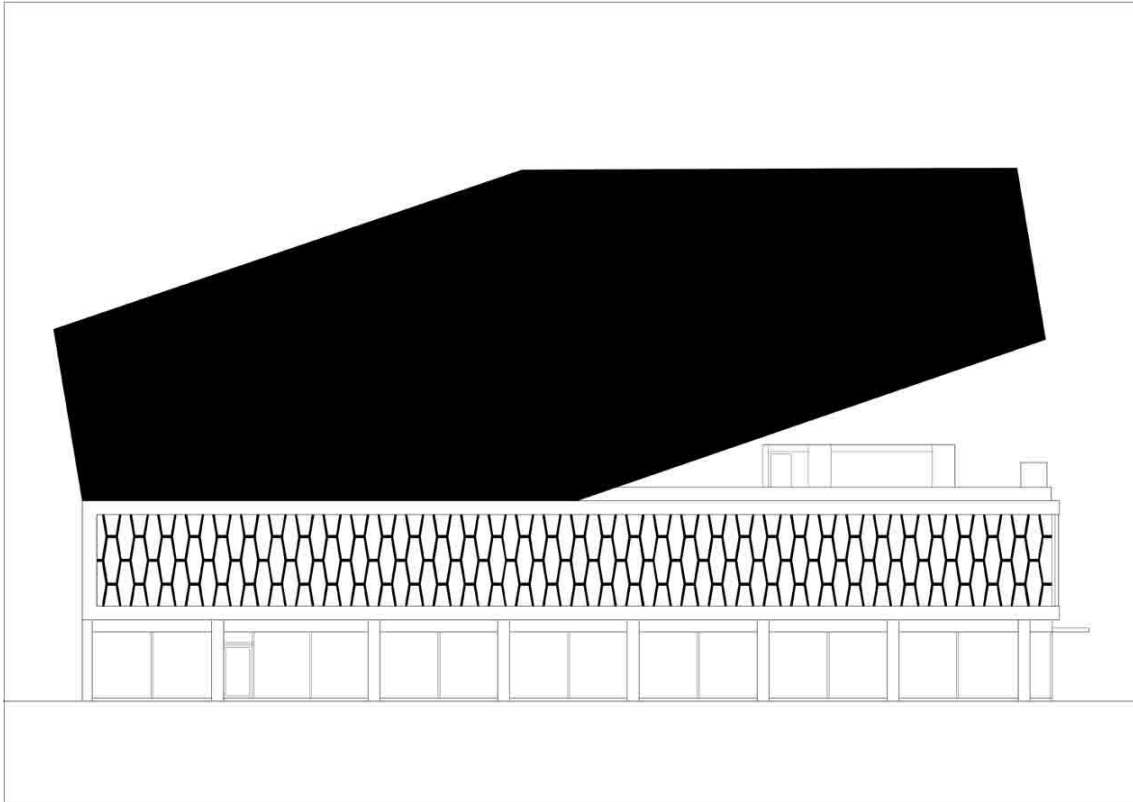
*Schloss Buchberg (Kunstraum Buchberg), Kamp Valley*

Except the periods of extreme summer heat under the roof top of the AIR building, my time in Krems was very productive and I have had a full time table concerning different future projects – as there are:

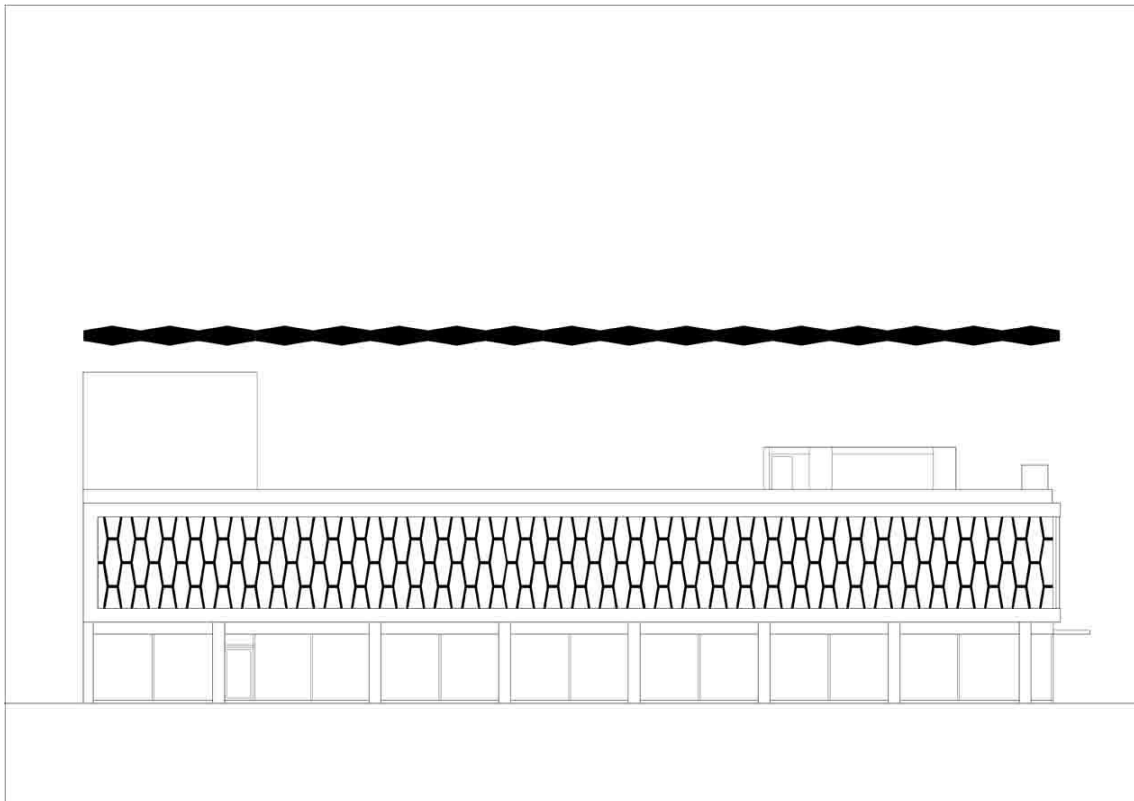
– On initiative of Heidrun Schlögl, ORTE, I was mainly working on a project dealing with the Wesely-House in St. Pölten. The former car dealers building with its striking honeycomb façade, was supposed to be the *House of Future* (the counterpart of the already existing *House of History* in St. Pölten), but as this plan was cancelled, it is facing a not defined future yet. Hopefully there will be a realization of some of my sketches/ ideas in the future. In forms of a *Kunst am Bau* project, temporary installation, cooperation between architect and artist – whatever.



Wesely-House, St. Pölten, 2018

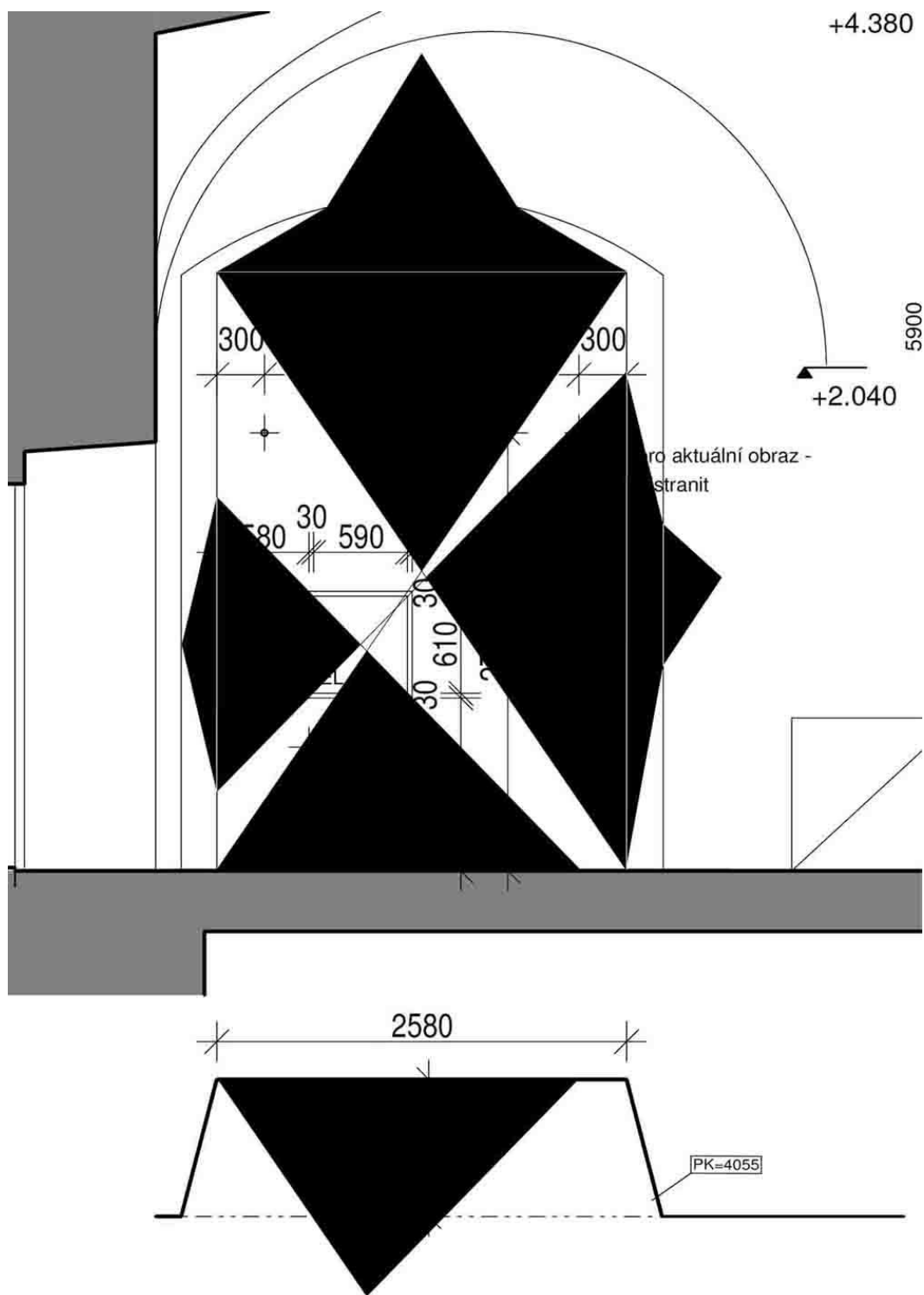


*Sketch, Wesely-House, St. Pölten, 2018*



*Sketch, Wesely-House, St. Pölten, 2018*

– My upcoming show *White Star* that will be opened in November 2018. It will feature two new works for the Dominican Monastery in Prague/ CZ. The works are supposed to be a reaction upon historical and recent architectural changes of the monasteries fabric.



Project-sketch, "White Star", wall painting, Foyer in the Dominican Monastery, Prague, 2018

– An applied commission for the Künstlerhaus Lauenburg/ Elbe/ Germany, planning the layout/ concept for a new *Stadtgalerie* and a *Künstlerwohnung* – both will be added to the existing spatial opportunities of the Künstlerhaus Lauenburg.

– Last but not least I started to work on my Kunsthalle Krems 2020 project. It will feature two new site-specific works, for the Kunsthalle`s *Oberlichtsaal* and the Kunsthalle`s project space *Dominikaner-Kirche*. I am happily looking forward to realize this project.

Finally – I want to say thank you to the whole AIR – Niederösterreich team, but mainly to Nadja and Sabine for their all-time friendly and productive support, Andreas for guiding us artists to Spitz and Gugging and Florian`s great Kunsthallen-Tour. Many thanks go out to Regina and Manfred from the ORTE office. They gave me refuge in their office during the summer heat. Very special thanks go out to Heidrun for her ambitious interest and support, concerning my work on the interface of art and architecture.

Christian Helwing