

**CALL FOR HELP to save an ICONIC PIECE OF ARCHITECTURE :**  
**The VILLA BEER by Josef Frank (in cooperation with Oskar Wlach)**  
**SERIOUSLY ENDANGERED !!!**

As a part of the Josef-Frank-exhibition „Against Design“, which had taken place in Vienna from December 2015 until March 2016, visitors had the opportunity to enter the Villa Beer, 1130 Wien, Wenzgasse 12, on April 2nd and 3rd. Now, only six months later, parts of this iconic landmark of the Austrian Modern Movement are in danger to be irreversibly destroyed.

To “ensure a proper preservation of the protected monument” an actual brutal conversion is going on to destroy a large and significant part of the original rooms and their links, due to profit optimization through square-meter-maximization. (See also attachment)

The Villa Beer (1929-30) is one of the most important buildings in the nineteen-twenties' and nineteen-thirties' private housing. Together with buildings by Le Corbusier and Mies van der Rohe the Villa Beer stands in the European architecture's first row. In this sense, the Villa Beer's entire preservation is a “Must” for all culture enthusiasts and especially for the “cultural nation Austria” !?

A widespread international mobilization by means of signature lists, demarches, statements, etc. addressed to the Austrian Minister of Culture Thomas Drozda is urgently necessary !

It is not acceptable to enlarge profit-margin at the cost of this treasure. The “Villa Tugendhat” in Brno is an international example to show a different approach to a proper handling.

The Villa Beer survived the Second World War, the dangers of a traumatizing era and also the post war period. It seems like a bad spirit's triumph if - more than 70 years after the end of the war and within the meaning of the at-that-time-ideology - this monument of the European and Austrian Modern Movement should now be irreversible damaged.

**All cultural interested parties and first of all the responsible authorities, organizations and administrative bodies are asked to take action in favour of this unique architectural masterpiece.**

Vienna, October 2016

DOCOMOMO Austria is the Austrian working party of a worldwide cooperation of experts, with the intention of 'Documentation and Conservation of buildings, sites and neighbourhoods of the Modern Movement'. This cooperation counsels UNESCO in questions of preservation and conservation of modern architecture.