ARCHITECTURE FACT SHEET

AUSTRIAN CULTURAL FORUM

Project
The new Austrian Cultural Forum tower in midtown Manhattan provides a state-of-the-art home for an institution devoted to international cultural exchange. The building is the first major United States project for Austrian-born New York architect Raimund Abraham, whose design was selected in an open competition hosted by the Republic of Austria from among 226 participating architects in 1992. Facilities of the Forum tower include exhibition galleries; a flexible theater for performances, screenings, and lectures; a library; loft-like presentation areas and seminar rooms; reception and meeting spaces; staff offices; a multi-level residence for the Forum’s director; and an open-air loggia at the tower’s pinnacle. Occupying the diminutive (25 feet wide by 81 feet deep) mid-block site of the institution’s former townhouse, the new building rises to a 24-story height with the authority of a landmark, expressing the contextual relevance of both the architecture and the Forum’s mission to connect European and American creative visions.

Location
11 East 52nd Street, between Fifth Avenue and Madison Avenue, New York City

Schedule
Construction commences: September 1998
Construction complete: January 2002
Dedication: April 18, 2002
Public Opening: April 19, 2002

Owner
Republic of Austria, Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Developer
Bundesimmobilien-gesellschaft m.b.H. (BIG), Vienna, Austria
Dr. Hartwig A. Chromy, Managing Director
Dipl.-Ing. Gerhard A. Buresch, Managing Director

Developer Representative
Hanscomb Inc., New York, United States

Architect
Atelier Raimund Abraham, New York, United States
Raimund Abraham, Principal
Project Coordinators: Simone Giostra, Peter Leeb, John Veikos, Jeff Brown
Collaborators: Anders Abraham, Chris Barlieb, Jennifer Whitburn, Catherine Seavitt, Frank Thinius, Mike Derker, Maya Ballen

Engineers & Consultants
Ove Arup & Partners, New York, United States
Mahadev Raman, Principal in Charge
Project Manager: Steve Walker
Structural: Guy Nordensen, Dieter Feurich, Pete Tillson, Ricardo Pittella, Leo Argris
Mechanical: Ray Quinn, Louis Arzano, Rebecca Welch, Greg Giannalvo, Fiona Cousins
Electrical: Tom Smith, Varughese Cherian, Peng Si

Drafting
Ash Chawal, John Giammundo, Sam Lee, John Miller, Goel Ramos, Margarita Guelova
Administration: Gina Wall, Tania Flavia
Plumbing and Fire Protection: Igor Kitagorsky
Construction Management  
Barney Skanska Construction Co., New York, United States

Curtain Wall Consultant  
RA Heintges Architects Consultants, New York, United States

Curtain Wall Manufacture  
GIG Fassadenbau GmbH, Attnang-Puchheim, Austria

Site Dimensions  
Width: 25 feet  
Depth: 81 feet, 4 inches

Height  
278 feet, 6 inches

Number of Floors  
Below grade: 2 floors  
Above grade: 24 floors (including roof terrace, mechanical and machine floors and water tank floor)

Floor Area  
Gross: 33,000 square feet  
Net: 24,850 square feet

Interior Breakdown (Major Features)  
Lobby: 755 square feet  
Gallery: 1,650 square feet  
Lounge/Café: 413 square feet  
Theater: 1,105 square feet  
Library: 1,505 square feet  
Communal Space: 800 square feet  
Office Space: 2,770 square feet  
Loft Space: 1,200 square feet  
Apartment Space: 5,490 square feet

Exterior Materials  
Sub- and Superstructure: concrete with partial steel crossbracing  
South Elevation (façade): glass, steel and aluminum curtain wall  
North, East and West Elevations: Rheinzinc panels and architectural concrete

Interior Finishes  
Public Areas: bluestone pavers, ceramic tiles, painted gypsum board walls, brushed aluminum, stainless steel detailing, painted metal cladding and wood paneling  
Offices and Private Residence: wood flooring, painted gypsum board walls, brushed aluminum and stainless steel detailing, painted metal cladding and glazed partitions

Elevators  
2 electric traction elevators  
1 sidewalk material elevator

HVAC  
HVAC system uses floor-by-floor heat pumps for all levels above level 2. Lower levels are conditioned using central air handling units, also incorporating heat pumps. Modular boilers and cooling towers temper the heat pump loop. Special use spaces include an acoustically sensitive theater and temperature- and humidity-controlled art gallery.
**Electrical Systems**
High standard electrical systems include an emergency generator at the roof level, intrusion and access control, CCTV, audiovisual communications system, state-of-the-art communications network cabling systems.

**Audiovisual and Acoustic Consultants**
Ove Arup & Partners, New York, United States
Neill Woodger
Amir Yazdaniyaz
Teleplan, Vienna, Austria

**Security Consultant**
Ove Arup & Partners, New York, United States
Al Palumbo
Ron Ronnacher

**Communications Consultant**
Ove Arup & Partners, New York, United States
Al Lyons
Vadim Ovchinnikov

**Furnishings**
Atelier Raimund Abraham, New York, United States
Project Coordinator: Roland Eckl
List Möbelwerk GmbH, Olbersdorf, Austria
World Audio Visual Enterprises (WAVE), Mountainside, New Jersey, United States

**Photography**
David Sundberg, Esto Photographics, New York, United States

**Publications**