COOP HIMMELB(L)AU

PRINCIPAL ARCHITECT: WOLF D. PRIX AIA, BDA, RIBA

LOCATION:
AKRON, OHIO
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
VIENNA, AUSTRIA
GUADALAJARA, MEXICO
HONG KONG, CHINA

FIRM OPENED: 1968

EMPLOYEES: Countless across various firms

FIRM PHILOSOPHY
Coop Himmelb(l)au grounds its philosophy in the role it plays in urban planning. When faced with limited funds, cities found themselves unable to play an active role in urban planning. Instead, lands were being bought out by investors, who bought the best in the city. As it was for seen, architecture would become merely a means to house the infrastructure to the global economy. Coop Himmelb(l)au revives architecture in urban planning. In addition, the firm attempts to create a radical design truth using a realistic approach.

HISTORY
The name “Coop Himmelb(l)au” is derived from German words. In German, “coop” has a meaning similar to “co-op.” “Himmel” means sky or heaven in German, and “blau” means “blue” while “bau” means “building.” So, the name can be interpreted as “Blue Heaven Cooperative” or “Sky Building Cooperative.”

In 1968, COOP HIMMELB(L)AU was formed by Wolf D. Prix, Michael Holzer, and Helmut Swiczinsky in Vienna, Austria. Within the next couple of years, Michael Holzer left the team. In 1988, the LA firm was opened. They then gained a new member of the team, Karolin Schmidbaur. In 2000, Wolfdieter Dreibholz was named CEO and became a partner of the firm. Currently, Wolf D. Prix is the Design Principal/CEO. Harald Krieger is the Chief Financial Officer, and Karolin Schmidbaur is the Design Partner.

PROJECT TYPE
The firm creates buildings that vary from commercial buildings to residential projects. Many of these include: churches, cultural and educational buildings, exhibition/stages, high-rises, hotel/spas, building interiors, museums, offices, opera and concert halls, sports complexes, and urban planning.

COMPLETED PROJECTS
Martin Luther Church, Hainburg an der Donau, Austria
Akron Art Museum, Akron, Ohio
BMW Welt, Munich, Germany
House of Music, Aalborg, Denmark
National Art Museum, Beijing, China

REFERENCES

Gabrielle Mattingly (670456263)  ARCH 101 ITA FALL 2012
Kara Dudek (673328761)
BMW WELT

LOCATION: MUNICH, GERMANY

COMPLETION: 2007

BUILDING TYPE: Commercial

BUILDING TYPE + PROGRAM
The BMW Welt is a commercial building, used as the BMW Delivery Center. Upon its opening, it created about 200 jobs. There are around 250 vehicle deliveries per day. The BMW Welt shows a full range of BMW cars and motorcycles. The BMW Welt also contains shops containing BMW products, as well as a restaurant. There is also a meeting forum, which houses meeting rooms and a place to stage media events.

BUILDING DESIGN INTENTIONS
A major goal in the design of the system was to save energy. The large, open building is solar heated and naturally well ventilated. A natural air supply is generated by thermal currents, wind pressure, and turbulences when air accumulates in the area of the façade and roof projection.

BUILDING PLANS, SECTIONS, ADDITIONAL IMAGES

REFERENCES
<http://www.coop-himmelblau.at/>.
<http://www.archdaily.com/29664>
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