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**MAK CENTER RESIDENTS OFFER “FINAL PROJECTS” EXHIBITION
AT MACKEY APARTMENTS**

(West Hollywood) Since 1996, the MAK Center for Art & Architecture at the Schindler House has offered the Artists and Architects in Residence program, hosting early career professionals from around the world for a six-month live/work opportunity. Based at the R.M. Schindler-designed Mackey Apartments in the mid-Wilshire district, Group XXIX is approaching the end of the residency period and will present a Final Projects exhibition opening Friday, March 12 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. and continuing through Sunday, March 14, 2010. Tobias Klauser, Stephan Lugbauer, Edmnd Ming-Yip Kwong, and Marusa Sagadin have each developed final projects influenced by an appealing interlacing of their ongoing work, their experience of Los Angeles and the Mackey Apartments, and a surprisingly diverse set of responses to the work of R.M.Schindler.

Soon after arriving in Los Angeles, **Tobias Klauser** noted the prevalence of garage sales and yard sales, a phenomenon unknown in Switzerland, his home. In Southern California, garage sales proliferated in the 1980s: an outcome of the recession and the collapse of the real-estate market. It is now commonplace on Saturdays and Sundays to discover front yards cluttered with items for sale. Margaret Crawford, urban design theorist at the Harvard Graduate School of Design, describes the temporarily activated lawn in front of the single-family house as the merging of public space and intimate privacy, "... as the garage sale turns the house inside out, displaying the interior on the exterior."

For his installation at the Mackey Apartments, Klauser will duplicate the built-in furniture of his resident apartment, designed by architect Rudolph Schindler, creating 1:1 free-standing models of the mostly built-in furniture. The work is a study on private space turned public in suburban conditions, and a personal homage to Schindler.

Stephan Lugbauer presents a multi-layered performance and video project that transforms the Mackey Apartments from merely the setting or stage for events into the main character. The project has two parts taking place simultaneously, "The Grand Mackey Apartment House Guided Tour" and "A Giant Flashback." In the first part, two actors will play tour guides and run tours every 15 minutes, explaining the building and its history. A cameraman and sound engineer will accompany them. The "tour" ends when the tour guides reach the penthouse via the terrace. There, visitors will be guided to the upper level of the penthouse to observe the second part of



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the performance below.

In "A Giant Flashback," the lower level is transformed into a film set for an actors casting call. A casting director will sit in the office space and audition real Los Angeles actors as others wait outside in line. The audition is for the Mackey "movie," with multiple scripts that intermix material taken from biographies of former scholar/residents, as well as the recollections of popular TV-series/movies, artist talks and books. This multiple layering—the chaotic accumulation of events and information—is the project's central theme.

Edmund Ming-Yip Kwong looks upon the designs of Rudolf Schindler as a model for low-cost, recession-proof building. Just as the Schindler frame became a means to build inexpensively during the Depression, Kwong has developed a lightweight, low-cost bent plywood framing system for use in the construction of portable temporary spaces. These spaces can be used in a variety of public assembly applications, including as gallery/exhibition spaces, for formal presentations, or as informal gathering/party spaces.

Bent plywood has been utilized by a mere handful of designers, most notably Alvar Aalto and Charles and Ray Eames, but until now, the application of this material has remained in furniture scale. Since the creative potential of this material is still largely unexplored, Kwong will demonstrate a progression of research interests and fabrication strategies that link wood construction with parametric thinking. His frame design can be assembled in 24 hours and disassembled in 12 hours and uses common materials that can be quickly and economically put together by a craftsperson of average ability. Using projections, samples and large-scale models, Kwong's final project presents a variety of uses for bent plywood, and demonstrates its easy portability.

Marusa Sagadin's *"Everybody says Hi to Hans because Hans says Hi to everybody"* is an extension of her fascination with the growth of American cities. Characterized by urban theorist Edward Soja as the "quintessential postmodern metropolis," Los Angeles as subject is a fitting addition to Sagadin's ongoing work dealing with post-modernity in the form of urban development and speculative investment. Her works extract fragments of the cityscape as examples of visual and aural urban cacophony. For this project, Sagadin focuses on the Sign Spinner, a person who is usually found standing along thoroughfares, using juggling, acrobatics and breakdancing to draw attention to advertising signs.

Sagadin hired a sign spinner and ordered three signs from a local company. In contrast to common ads, her signs advertise opinions about urban space, economy and life style. With simple, rhyming sentences, Sagadin mimics the slang often heard in the lyrics of pop, rap and rock music. A video of the sign spinners will be at the entrance to the installation, projected on the back of an object, an ornamental fragment. Inside, the audience can move between other objects: benches and tubes to which drawings are affixed.



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Final Projects will be on view at the Mackey Apartments from Friday evening, March 12 through Sunday, March 14, 2010. There will be a free public opening from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. on March 12. Saturday and Sunday hours are Noon to 6:00 p.m. and admission is free. The Mackey Apartments are located at 1137 S. Cochran in the mid-Wilshire district. For further information, the public may visit www.makcenter.org or call (323) 651-1510.

About the MAK Center for Art and Architecture

Unique in its role as an historic site and exhibition space, the MAK Center for Art and Architecture develops local, national, and international projects exploring the intersection of contemporary art and architecture. The MAK Center seeks out and supports projects and ideas that test disciplinary boundaries. Acting as a “think tank” for current issues, the Center encourages exploration of practical or theoretical aspects in art and architecture by engaging the Center’s spaces and histories. The Center is currently expanding into urban space, engaging the city as site for artistic interventions.

The MAK Center was established in 1994 as an alliance between the MAK Vienna (Austrian Museum of Applied Art) and Friends of the Schindler House (FOSH) in West Hollywood. The MAK Center is housed in the Modernist landmark R.M. Schindler House (1921–22) in West Hollywood, which it uses as a primary presentation space. In addition, the MAK Center maintains and occupies two other Schindler-designed buildings, the Mackey Apartments (1939) and the Fitzpatrick-Leland House (1936).

The MAK Center’s programming includes exhibitions, lectures, symposia, performances, music series, publication projects, and new work commissions, frequently developed in conjunction with guest curators, artists and architects. Programming is responsive to shifts in discussion and practice within the arts and architecture. Through interactive dialogue, the MAK Center serves as a vehicle through which ideas are continuously tested and considered by a fluent and engaged audience.

The MAK Center for Art & Architecture is located at the Schindler House, 835 N. Kings Road in West Hollywood. Public hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Regular admission is \$7/\$17 with the guide book, *Schindler By MAK*; students and seniors, \$6/\$16 with book; free for Friends of the Schindler House and on Fridays, 4 to 6 p.m. Parking is available at the public structure at the northeast corner of Kings Road and Santa Monica Boulevard.

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