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MAK DAY 2007 DEBUTS NEW EXHIBITION & PUBLICATIONS

Free Public Day Features Panels on Victor Burgin's *The Little House* & New Translations of Noted 19th-Century Theorist, Gottfried Semper

(West Hollywood) MAK Day, the MAK Center for Art & Architecture, Los Angeles at the Schindler House's annual free public day, focuses this year on a new exhibition by artist Victor Burgin, *The Little House*, as well as a pair of scholarly panels. Scheduled for Saturday, November 10, 2007 from 2 p.m.-7:30 p.m., programs include a panel on Burgin's work and an opening reception, as well as a panel on two recently translated books by the influential 19th century German architect and theorist, Gottfried Semper.

Gottfried Semper (1803-1879) led a colorful and exciting life as an architect, educator, theorist and political revolutionary. Based primarily in Dresden, his most prominent buildings favored the Renaissance Revival style. Forced into exile following an unsuccessful 1849 uprising, he found political asylum in London, where he was one of the key organizers of the Great Exhibition of 1851. Following a stay in Zurich, he worked in Vienna, where, with Karl von Hasenauer, he designed several civic monuments, including the Burgtheater and the Kunsthistorisches and Naturhistorisches Museums. Called back to Dresden in 1871, he designed an opera house that has come to be known by his name, Semper Opera House.

Today, Semper is remembered more for his writings than for his built works. Responding to the aesthetic crisis brought on by the industrial revolution, his landmark studies forever changed the interpretative context for aesthetics, architecture and art history. Style, Semper believed, should be governed by historical function, cultural affinities, creative free will and the innate properties of each medium. In many of his arguments, Semper prefigures Modernism, and he is



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known to have influenced prominent architects such as Otto Wagner and Rudolf Schindler.

Presented jointly with the Getty Research Institute, the 4:00 p.m. Gottfried Semper panel will focus on two recent English translations of the architect's works: the monumental, two-volume *Style in the Technical and Tectonic Arts; Or, Practical Aesthetics* (1860-1863), brought out by the Getty Research Institute in 2004; and, *The Ideal Museum, Practical Art in Metals and Hard Materials*, published by MAK Vienna this year. The original manuscript of this work was donated to the MAK by Semper in 1867 and is now published in book form for the first time. Both publications offer richly illustrated surveys of the technical arts and their practitioners juxtaposed with Semper's theoretical positions. Panelists who will discuss Gottfried Semper and his seminal works include Peter Noever, CEO and Artistic Director, MAK Vienna; Kathrin Pokorny-Nagel, Head of the MAK Library and Works on Paper Room and organizer of the publication project; Joshua Prince-Ramus, Architect and Principal of REX, New York, and Barry Bergdoll, Chief Curator, Department of Architecture and Design at the Museum of Modern Art, New York.

MAK Day begins with a panel on Victor Burgin's *The Little House*, a conceptual artwork that sets audio excerpts from an 18th century libertine novella within the rooms and grounds of the Schindler House. Jean Francois de Bastide's novella, "La Petite Maison" (1758) interweaves a seduction story with a guide to interior decoration. Burgin's work creates art from the tensions and similarities between the Rococo setting of the novella, and Schindler's Modernist masterwork. Victor Burgin will be joined in a panel discussion of his work by Anthony Vidler, architectural historian and Dean, School of Architecture, Cooper Union; Leslie Dick, novelist and Co-Director of the CalArts Program in Art; and Leo Braudy, University Professor and Bing Professor of English at the University of Southern California and well-known author of studies on celebrity, masculinity, and Hollywood. An opening reception will follow from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

MAK Day is an annual free public day presented by the MAK Center for Art & Architecture, Los Angeles at the Schindler House. It is located at 835 N. Kings Road in West Hollywood. Public hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. On November 10, MAK Day 2007, there will be no admission charge. 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. For further information, the public may contact www.MAKcenter.org or call (323) 651-1510.

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