

GOLDSTEIN MUSEUM OF DESIGN

364 McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55108

<http://goldstein.design.umn.edu>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Smarter Living: 2,000-Watt Society

January 17 – March 1, 2012

HGA Gallery, Rapson Hall, Minneapolis Campus

In 2008, the citizens of Zurich approved a referendum to reduce energy consumption by each person from the current 6,500 watts to 2,000 watts by 2050. The exhibition illustrates the goal and the current status of the path to sustainable construction and demonstrates the diverse range of possible solutions. This exhibition gives architects, investors, and contractors the courage and desire to continue on this path and to invite them to accept the challenge of a 2,000-watt society.

Why a 2,000-Watt Society?

On global average, a person needs 17,500 kilowatt-hours a year, corresponding to a continuous requirement of 2,000 watts. In Switzerland, the figure is three times higher, i.e., 6,000 watts per person, and in the U.S. the figure is currently approximately 6 times higher at 12,000 watts. People in some Asian and African countries only need fractions of that amount. The vision of a 2,000-watt society enables a balance between industrialized and developing countries, thus making it possible for all people to enjoy a good standard of living.

Is a 2,000-Watt Society Feasible?

The 2,000-watt society is embodied in the City of Zurich's constitution as a guiding concept and mandate. The objective of this vision is that we handle our planet's limited resources with greater care and no longer live at the expense of future generations. The path toward the 2,000-watt society will affect many aspects of life. Today, buildings account for over 40 percent of energy consumption and CO2 emissions. That must change dramatically. What we plan today must still be in place fifty years from now.

The exhibition features 18 projects that illustrate different approaches to sustainable architecture with complex technical solutions and clever references to traditional construction methods in small and large projects, retrofitting old housing stock, and new urban developments. What is being done today needs to be part of the future. In Switzerland, "Green" is no longer an option, it's the law!



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This exhibition is sponsored in part by the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zürich

General Information

The Goldstein Museum of Design (GMD), part of the University of Minnesota's College of Design, supports teaching and research in design through exhibitions, publications, programs, and community partnerships. GMD celebrates diverse cultures through its collections and programs by promoting the appreciation and interpretation of design within social, cultural, aesthetic, and historic contexts.

Visitor Info

HGA Gallery is on the lobby of Rapson Hall, 89 Church, Minneapolis, MN 55455.

HGA Gallery Hours

Tuesday - Friday 9:00am-6:00pm

Saturday & Sunday 1:00pm-5:00pm

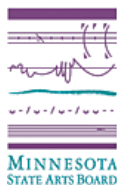
Closed all University holidays

Admission and Parking

Gallery admission is free. Parking is available in the Church Street Ramp at 80 Church Street SE at a rate of \$3.00 per hour up to a daily maximum of \$12.00. Sundays parking is free (except for special events). The Ramp and Rapson Hall are both handicapped accessible.

Public Transit

For bus information, call (612) 373-3333.



In addition to generous sponsorship for specific exhibitions, all GMD programming is made possible in part by a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature, a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and private funders.



This project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts



The Institute's mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas. The Institute works at the national level and in coordination with state and local organizations to sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge; enhance learning and innovation; and support professional development.

