



MEDIA INFORMATION

Munich, 17 September 2026

AIR CONDITIONED: ARCHITECTURE BETWEEN COMFORT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

MEDIA CONFERENCE: 18 NOVEMBER 2026, 11.00 A.M.

OPENING: 18 NOVEMBER 2026, 7.00 P.M.

EXHIBITION DURATION: 19 NOVEMBER 2026 UNTIL 23 MAY 2027

The world is warming. Rising temperatures, heat waves occurring earlier each year, and prolonged periods of drought are making thermal stress one of the defining social challenges of the 21st century. Today, heating and cooling alone constitute almost 40% of all energy-related emissions globally. While heating has long dominated energy usage, the demand for cooling is expected to triple by 2050. There is no question that we need to protect ourselves from the heat. But, the situation requires us to fundamentally reconsider **how** we cool and **who** most urgently needs it.

When we cool our homes, offices, and buildings, we, in turn, heat up our world. Architecture has become deeply implicated in this paradox. Decades of design decisions employing expansive glass façades, minimal external shading, and spaces that trap heat have created a dependency on year-round climate control. Many of these buildings are chronically over-cooled, leaving occupants with little ability to intervene.

Yet comfort is neither a universal quantity nor is access to it universally guaranteed. Modern comfort standards have been shaped by a geopolitical imagination that has long privileged the moderate climates of Europe and North America as a normative baseline, marginalizing other thermal cultures and practices.

Air Conditioned critically explores five perspectives on thermal comfort and its profound influence on our culture and (built) environment. It asks how heat is transferred, and how thermal comfort is measured, produced, and distributed globally. Beneath seemingly ideal conditions, it reveals expansive, fragile, and increasingly complex systems designed to be invisible yet all-pervasive.

The exhibition is a platform that raises questions about thermal comfort, inviting all those living in and shaping the built environment to reflect on their experiences of heat and cold and to seek more socially just and resilient pathways for architecture that negotiate between human needs and ecological limits.

An exhibition by the TUM Chair of Building Technology and Climate Responsive Design (Thomas Auer) and the Architekturmuseum der TUM (Andres Lepik).

Curators: Cara Hähl-Pfeifer, Sebastian C. Koth

Research: Bilge Kobas, Sandra G. L. Persiani

Team: Alice Morgane Fleury, Rosa Ebert, Daniel Schlosser

Exhibition Design: optimist office (Munich, Zurich, Brussels)

Graphic Design: hla.studio (Leipzig)

Accompanying publication gathering voices from architecture and engineering, science and technology studies, sociology, and art: **'Air Conditioned: Architecture Between Comfort and Climate Change'** edited by Cara Hähl-Pfeifer, Sandra G. L. Persiani and Andres Lepik, published by Park Books, Zurich (German: ISBN 978-3-03860-497-6, English: ISBN 978-3-03860-498-3; 35 euros).



In cooperation with: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Nachhaltiges Bauen; Wissensstiftung; Wüstenrot Stiftung; PIN. Freunde der Pinakothek der Moderne e.V. und dem Kooperationspartner der Allianz, Freundeskreis Architekturmuseum TUM; Reflex Winkelmann GmbH

With additional support from: hZo GmbH; Kalthoff GmbH; KS Engineering GmbH on behalf of LAMILUX Heinrich Strunz GmbH; W.Söhngen GmbH; str.ucture GmbH

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR REVIEWS.

FURTHER INFORMATION

ARCHITEKTURMUSEUM DER TUM

Cara Hähl-Pfeifer M.A. | Architekturmuseum der TUM
at the Pinakothek der Moderne
Arcisstrasse 21 | 80333 Munich
T +49 (0)89 289 28342 | F +49 (0)89 289 28333
presse@architekturmuseum.de
www.architekturmuseum.de

PRESS DEPARTMENT PINAKOTHEKEN

Tine Nehler M.A. | Head of Press & Communications
Alte Pinakothek, Neue Pinakothek, Sammlung Schack and Branch Galleries
& Pinakothek der Moderne (Art | Prints & Drawings | Architecture | Design)
Bayerische Staatsgemäldesammlungen
Richard-Wagner-Strasse 1 | 80333 Munich
T +49 (0)162 2621301
presse@pinakothek.de
www.pinakothek-der-moderne.de/en/press

Anika Koller M.A.
Presse & Kommunikation | Press Department
Pinakothek der Moderne (Art | Prints & Drawings | Architecture | Design)
T +49 (0)162 1036263
presse@pinakothek.de
www.pinakothek-der-moderne.de/en/press

Information on data processing can be found at www.pinakothek.de/en/data-protection