

## **Michael Prachensky** **architect, painter, graphic artist, designer, contrarian, inventor and visionary**

Born on 16 March 1944 in the final stage of WW II in Holzgau, Austria, Prachensky represents the third generation of the well known family of architects, painters, visionaries, inventors, designers, graphic artists, photographers, and filmmakers. He grew up with his mother, spent his youth in Innsbruck at the foundry pits of Grassmayr Bell Foundry, completed early studies at technical school Lehranstalt for Architecture/ Construction in 1962. At the ateliers of grandfather Theodor, brother-in-law Franz Baumann, uncle Wilhelm Nicolaus, father Hubert, and Markus Prachensky, he imbibed the heady atmosphere and head-turning talents of his elder family members with enthusiasm. He then studied architecture at Stuttgart Technical University (under Prof. Otto Frey, Rolf Gutbrod and Horst Linde) followed by construction-planning studies. After taking his degree, he was full-time collaborator and partner of father Hubert until 1990, where he introduced Stuttgart's Bauhaus inspirations into numerous ventures and later was able to draw upon anthroposophic philosophy and incorporate it in ongoing projects. Innumerable plans were turned to reality, e.g. Convention Centre Innsbruck, pedestrian zone Seefeld (Tirol's first), Sport and Convention Centre Seefeld (Europe's very 1st revolutionary swimming complex), Roman Baths at Bad Kleinkirchheim, Casino Velden (first casineum hall), Silvetta Centre in Ischgl, supplementary master plans for Innsbruck Technical University and Karachi Technical University.

In 1990, he set up his own independent offices and implemented a number of well known projects and buildings, e.g. revitalized the historic Imperial Palace of Innsbruck (Gothic Cavern), the Rote-Haus in Innsbruck, the Power-Plobb in Zirl, self-supporting brick-vaulting "Saunarium" at Sports and Convention Centre Seefeld, Inn River Traffic Zirl-Wattens, Leisure Park Innaun, Crystal Palace at Swarovski's Crystal Worlds pond, Euregio Alpenpark Karwendel (crossing national borders), tunnel breakthrough of the Kalkkögel, the UFO (at 2258 meters altitude on Patscherkofel) and Adventure Thermal Baths in Igls including connecting the downhill Coaster Run to the Innsbruck-Brenner motorway exit Zensenhof. A characteristic feature of his personality and cherished activity is developing and realizing visionary projects. Particularly in the field of renewable energy, he has already made his mark, and is still years ahead of his time. He attained international celebrity through the TV film "Suction cannister letter chutes through the Alps" and the Reinhold Messner film "Traffic Over the Alps" and "Save Venice: Save the Mediterranean" as contributions to projects addressing global climate change. In 2006, atop the Gibraltar dam engineered to regulate precisely the sea level of the Mediterranean he proposed an educational 'New Atlantis' with visitors center, offices and residences. The tenor of his message was simple and clear: Final wake-up call, the colonial powers of old Europe should reinvest the profits gained to finance new projects.

Through these films he attracted the notice of investors and experimental physicists, who inquired whether he, as a contrarian thinker, would be interested in participating in special research projects. In the nano-field of Fulleren Composites, he encountered a novel zone of battery research for the high-performance nano-brick storage battery and surface refinements of metals, ceramics, glass, carbon and cellulose. He envisions a Silicon Valley of the Alps to strengthen and refine the European economy, out of which he is certain a new, popular and affordable "nano-brick house" of the future would develop. Currently practicing architect workshops would reinvent themselves, construction and ground-surface guidelines would enter a brand new era. The time of fashionable "isms" would finally be over.

Unlike his cousin Markus (who interprets archaic forms of the temple, e.g. base, pillars, architraves, capitals in his red paintings) Michael's researches concentrate on depicting a plasma oven collision of exploding rays: 2 physical objects, 2 quantum particles. "Prachensky red" - pure energy hue - is the upshot.

"Grant each era its science, each science its art, each art its freedom," his fundamental leading light, is enmeshed with cross-disciplinary interaction with social sciences, natural science and art. Since 2007 he has artistically painted his research results in this scientific field: exhibitions such as the Secret of the Ark of the Covenant, Energy Resources, Implosion, Mitochondria Cell Factories, climaxing in the Nano-Brick were the result. New exhibitions in Innsbruck, Brussels and Vienna are currently in planning.

His three sons, Alexander (graphic artist, painter, marketing), Andreas (architect, designer) and Mathias (photographer, filmmaker) carry on the family tradition into the fourth generation. The signature of each and every Prachensky is recognizable in sketches, designs, outlines, architecture, graphic art and paintings. The family bequest has been funneled into the Archives of Construction Art at Innsbruck University (Adambräu) and is ongoingly supplemented.

[www.prachensky.com](http://www.prachensky.com) [michael@prachensky.com](mailto:michael@prachensky.com) [http://www.prachensky.com/michael/kunst\\_art/](http://www.prachensky.com/michael/kunst_art/)