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Air Conditioned

Architecture Between Comfort and Climate Change

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- First book ever on the topic of thermal comfort in the age of climate change
- Offers a wide range of insights and perspectives on the topic
- Demonstrates how a climate-responsive, culturally rooted architecture can reconcile human needs with ecological limits
- A rich source for architects, researchers, students, and policymakers
- Exhibition: Air Conditioned: Architecture between Comfort and Climate Change at the Architekturmuseum der TUM, Pinakothek der Moderne in Munich (November 19, 2026, to May 23, 2027)

Our high demands for indoor thermal comfort increasingly contribute to climate change. For centuries, heating has been the primary driver of energy consumption in Europe and North America. In the 21st century, with global warming an undeniable fact, cooling indoor spaces has gained key importance. Conventional energy-intensive cooling systems, however, do not respond to usage patterns or to people's individual sense of temperature and comfort, which is shaped by subjective, emotional, and cultural factors. The urgently needed shift in climate control for buildings demands we challenge common building practices: Who defines the standards for indoor thermal comfort? What costs are we willing to pay for our comfort? For whom do we provide comfort, and are we entitled to it?

From diverse perspectives and on various scales, ***Air Conditioned*** explores the intertwined roles of architecture, technology, culture, and human sensibility in a rapidly warming world. It examines social, technical, ecological, and global impacts of thermal comfort and ways to adapt for a more inclusive, climate-responsive, and resilient future. It is also a call to action to all of us: we must become more active and aware as users of our buildings!

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