

# The End of the Night

Friday, November 18, 2011 / 7 PM / Ars Electronica Center

Saturday, November 19, 2011 / 7:45 AM-4:30 PM / afo architekturforum  
oberösterreich

(Linz, November 14, 2011) In the nighttime sky above our cities, the natural radiance of heavenly bodies is increasing being drowned out by the pervasive glow of artificial lighting. "City beautification" is the programmatic concept behind what often turns out to be the utterly excessive illumination of urban spaces. Now this may well cast a positive light on dazzling architecture and put bright smiles on the faces of retailers and tourism industry managers, but this shiny coin has a dark side too—both ecologically and economically. There has long been scientific proof that the absence of nighttime darkness has a negative impact on the ecosystem, endangers numerous nocturnal species and impairs the health of human beings. That this euphoria-inducing brilliance also blots out the star-studded heavens at night is another upshot of light pollution, though one that has not received much attention until now.

## The End of the Night

This symposium is focusing on many different aspects of light pollution. Participants will cite numerous concrete examples in calling for sensible, moderate use of artificial lighting. "The End of the Night" is designed for lighting technicians, architects and architectural students, as well as all those who employ artificial lighting as a design medium in public spaces or are interested in this issue. Attendance is free of charge. "The End of the Night" symposium is being produced jointly by the Ars Electronica Center and afo architekturforum oberösterreich under the auspices of Linz Mayor Franz Dobusch. Initiator and curator of this event is Dietmar Hager, physician and astrophotographer.

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