CARINTHIA

Friesach, Carinthia's oldest town, is without doubt a total work of art that is extremely well worth seeing. In the High Middle Ages, the town achieved a European dimension as a religious and cultural centre. It is rare to find such a harmony between the topic and its venue, and Friesach is the ideal location for the Carinthian Provincial Exhibition 2001.

Both the town itself and the surrounding "Hemma Region" contain countless historically unique architectural monuments, embedded in an idyllic and unspoiled landscape that invites the visitor to stay a while. The centre of the Provincial Exhibition is formed by the Fürstenhof and the Granary, which have both been thoroughly renovated.

In the Fürstenhof, the venue for an art and cultural history exhibition showing the many facades of the European "Town in the Middle Ages," 12 rooms have been adapted to present 400 original exhibits from the centres of medieval Europe. The Granary will present attractive and experience-focused productions by the artist Hans Hoffer, the aim of which is to stimulate the visitor's imagination. Overall, the visitor will experience an informative, exciting and very personal exhibition.

The exhibition site is a homogenous and enclosed ensemble. The Ceremonial Square is surrounded by the two monumental buildings, the Fürstenhof and the Granary, the latter being integrated into the town wall, which forms the boundary of the site to the north and east.

Fundamentally, the historical building substance has remained untouched, and the only constructional elements that have been added are a glass-roofed connecting corridor across the Ceremonial Square and, as "crowning" conclusion, a stairway up to the battlements of the town wall.

The link between the Fürstenhof and the Granary is in the form of a filigree steel structure bordering the square along the existing courtyard wall. Its clear and simple language enables the new architectural element to fit well into the historical building substance, acting as a functional connecting link. Architecture team: Arch. DI Herbert Douschan, St. Veit and Arch. Mag. Josef Klingbacher, Völkermarkt, under the overall artistic direction of Univ. Prof. Arch. DI Manfred Kovatsch, Munich.
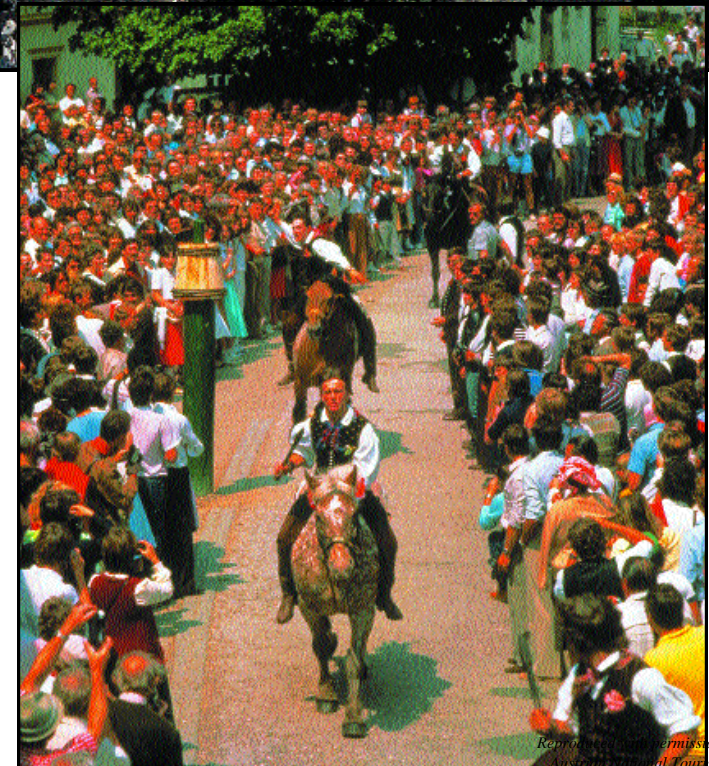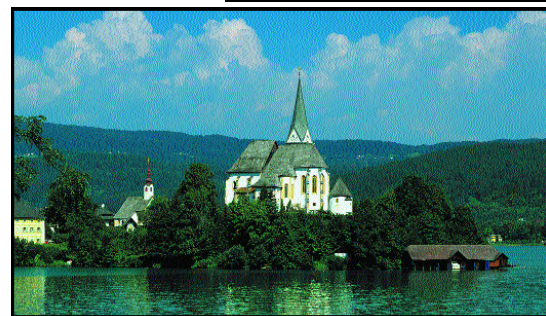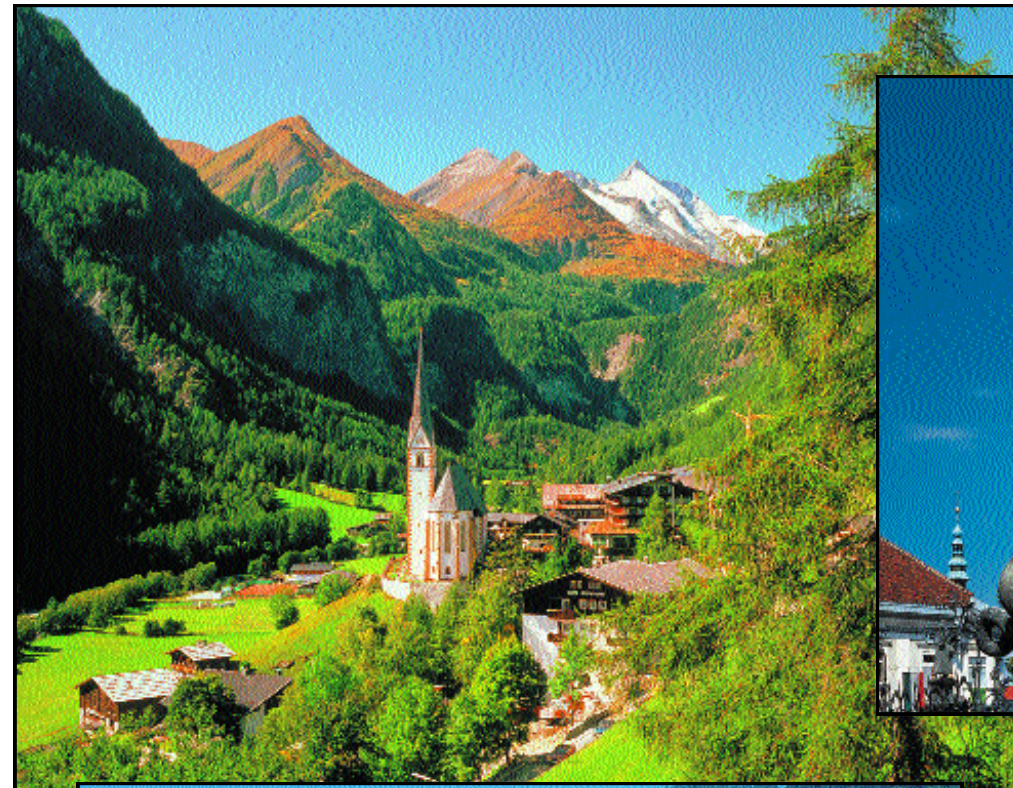
FACTS ABOUT CARINTHIA

Carinthia is one of 9 independent federal states of Austria.

Friesach is the oldest town in Carinthia.

Ethnic groups: Croatians, Slovaks, Slovenians, Czechs, Hungarians.

Languages: 98% speak German

Religion: Catholic, Protestant