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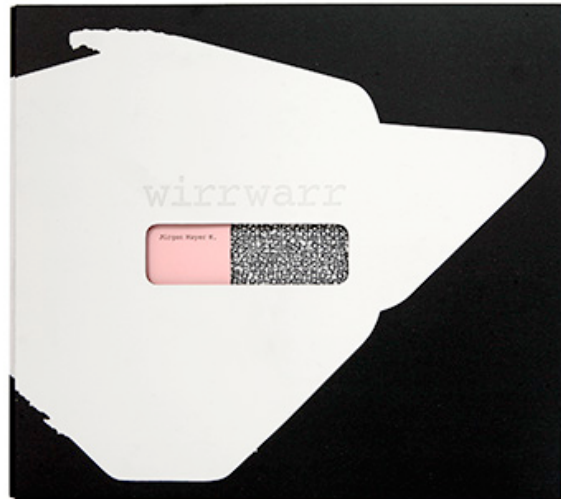
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**ARCHITECT JÜRGEN MAYER H.'S COLLECTION OF
ENIGMATIC ENCRYPTED SECURITY ENVELOPES ON DISPLAY AT ART INSTITUTE**

Pages from the *Wirrwarr* Book Featured in Exhibition

On View October 15, 2011, through January 22, 2012

Bold and visionary Berlin-based architect **Jürgen Mayer H.**—founder of Jürgen Mayer H. Architects and winner of the 2010 Audi Urban Future Award—is an avid collector of encryption patterns such as security codes, personal identification numbers, and pattern-lined envelopes. After more than a decade of amassing these items, Mayer H. not only has incorporated the codes and patterns into his many works from public buildings to wallpaper but he has also recently published a limited-



edition book entitled *Wirrwarr* (Hatje Cantz Verlag). In ***Jürgen Mayer H.'s Wirrwarr***, on view at the Art Institute of Chicago **October 15, 2011, through January 22, 2012** in the museum's **Architectural Drawings Gallery 24**, select prints from this large-format volume will be on display. The exhibition presents images of more than 100 data sheets—a record of ubiquitous yet underexamined objects in our increasingly coded landscape.

Jürgen Mayer H. was born in Stuttgart, Germany in 1965 and studied at Stuttgart University, Cooper Union, and Princeton University. He started his practice in 1996 and has pursued a

career that is fiercely interdisciplinary, exploring the intersections of architecture, design, technology, and communications. Mayer H. has taught at Princeton, Harvard, Columbia, University of the Arts Berlin, Kunsthochschule Berlin, the Architectural Association in London, and the University of Toronto.

The images on display in *Wirrwarr*—meaning “chaos” or “jumble” in German—are fascinating in their intricacy and intimacy. The complex and beautiful patterns, which include paisley-like flourishes, elegant geometry, and indecipherable symbols, line the interiors of seemingly bland and anonymous envelopes. Designed to obscure personal information such as government-issued identification numbers, checks, medical results, report cards, and confidential business documents, the patterns, intriguing in themselves, illuminate the importance of identity protection in a coded world.

Jürgen Mayer H.’s rich and varied works draw inspiration from the enigmatic envelope patterns and their mixture of confidentiality and transparency, inside and outside, and private and public. Mayer H.’s plaza-sized Metropol Parasol in Seville, Spain—a flowing, mushroom-like parasol—as well as the dynamic Hasselt Court of Justice in Hasselt, Belgium, are designs informed by the computer-generated security motifs. Mayer H.’s design for the Hasselt Court of Justice deftly combines the openness of a public building with the private space needed to make occupants feel comfortable.

Wirrwarr explores the visual noise of privacy through eye-catching yet mundane designs of encrypted envelopes. Complex and ubiquitous, everyday and unique, the *Wirrwarr* collection demonstrates the chaotic interactions of a society pulsing with information and images both prosaic and profound.

Jürgen Mayer H.’s Wirrwarr is generously supported by the Architecture & Design Society of the Art Institute of Chicago. Generous support is also provided by the Exhibitions Trust: Goldman Sachs, Kenneth and Anne Griffin, Thomas and Margot Pritzker, the Earl and Brenda Shapiro Foundation, Donna and Howard Stone, and Melinda and Paul Sullivan. The exhibition is organized by the Art Institute of Chicago and curated by Zoë Ryan, Chair and John H. Bryan Curator of Architecture and Design.

IMAGE: Jürgen Mayer H. Cover for *Wirrwarr*, 2011. Image courtesy of the artist.

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MUSEUM HOURS

10:30 am–5:00 pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

10:30 am–8:00 pm Thursday

10:30 am–5:00 pm Saturday, Sunday

Museum free to Illinois residents on first and second Wednesdays of every month.

Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

ADMISSION

Adults \$18.00 Includes all special exhibitions

Children 14 and over, students, and seniors \$12.00 Includes all special exhibitions

Chicago residents receive a \$2.00 discount with proof of residency

Children under 14 always free

Members always free

City of Chicago residents with Chicago Public Library cards can borrow a "Museum Passport" card from any library branch for free general admission to the nine members of Museums in the Park, including the Art Institute of Chicago.