



Biofabrique Vienna: Adaptive Reuse

Prof. Tina Gregoric
Gordon Selbach
Jakob Travník

Biofabrique Vienna is a pilot project of the Vienna Business Agency and Atelier LUMA, a programme of LUMA Arles, in partnership with TU Wien.

Integ. Entwerfen ● 253.L40/L41 ● 15 ECTS ● Ss2024
Kick-Off ● Mon 4.3. 14:00-16:00 ● GBL Office
Site Visit Nordwestbahnhalle ● Fri 1.3. 9:00-11:00
Regular meetings ● Fri 14:00-20:00
Course will be held in English and German

Institut für
Architektur und Entwerfen
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Biofabrique Vienna is a pilot project of the Vienna Business Agency and Atelier LUMA, a programme of LUMA Arles, in partnership with TU Wien. Based on its methodology of the bioregional approach; finding, connecting, implementing and sharing – the Biofabrique operates as a network as well as a knowledge and production platform that processes raw and repurposed materials which are tailored to each bioregion's resources and needs. Bioregional design practices give us a framework for asking useful questions: what resources are available and how can we use them in a way that makes local environmental and social systems stronger? By building alliances within Viennese industry, academia and creative professionals, Biofabrique Vienna aims to strengthen the bioregion itself.

The design studio will act as a principal partner of Biofabrique Vienna and help demonstrate its first public participatory test phase in 2024 as part of major cultural events like the Klima Biennale and the Vienna Design Week.

Today's extractive material practices demand a paradigm shift in the resource consumption within the construction industry. Our built environment must now be regarded as a resource and strategies of adaptive reuse and alternative material production processes perceived as a viable architectural approach. Transitioning towards circular building practices commands 'new' values, characterised by the use of local material waste streams paired with a circular understanding of material sourcing, processing, assembly and disassembly in the context of the territories they ultimately depend on.

„Adaptive Reuse“ will focus on the prototypical development of ‚Biofabrique Vienna‘ at the ‚Nordwestbahnhalle‘, one of the largest buildings located on the ‚Nordwestbahnhof Areal‘ in the 20th district of Vienna. Built in 1970's, the building has primarily served as a bus repair facility. After its suspension, it has been used for temporary programming by numerous community-oriented associations. Today, the area is one of the largest housing developments in Vienna, which includes the demolition of all existing buildings on site. The situation thus presents an opportunity to showcase the importance of preserving existing buildings and propose meaningful solutions for its further use as a bioregional knowledge and production platform.

Ranging from systematic research tasks – analysing existing building components, bioregional waste streams, adaptive reuse best practices – to 1:1 material prototypes, the course will aim to propose a holistic architectural, material and programmatic strategy for the future use of the ‚Nordwestbahnhalle‘. All outputs will ultimately contribute to the formulation of an operational model for a ‚Biofabrique Vienna‘ in the future.

A project by:



Für die
Stadt Wien

A T E L I E R
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Principal Partner:

