



„Act of Building: Practicing Transformation“ will explore the bioregional resource clay and its potential as a building material in the context of social housing in Vienna. The design studio marks the third phase of a two-year research project at the Institute of Architectural Design, TU Wien, in partnership with Wienerberger and Wiener Linien, led by BC architects & studies & materials from Brussels.

*BC is a hybrid practice, designing and undertaking „acts of building“ towards systemic change in the construction sector. We act for bioregional, regenerative, low-tech, circular, beautiful and inclusive design and materials. We work with our minds and our hands, undertaking activities such as community organization, architectural practice, material production, contracting, teaching, prototyping. We aim to impact positively on people's ideas and planet. We aim to act on behalf of the generations after us. We aim to give back to society. We aim to change our building culture towards inclusiveness, sustainability.*

Approximately 3,000 tons of clay are excavated daily at Vienna's subway construction sites and, under current regulations, are almost entirely transported to landfills and declared as waste. While Vienna's building culture in the past was always closely linked to clay as a regional resource, most new buildings still rely primarily on concrete, steel, and styrofoam. The aim of the project is to change this current practice and work towards a bioregional building culture again rooted in the material and social context of our city.

“Practicing Transformation” builds upon the insights of the 2025 “Prototyping Vienna” research, which dealt with the ecosystem of excavation and clay in Vienna and crystallized into five 1:1 geo- and bio-based material applications. The focus of this year shifts toward the development of an integrated 1:1 prototype implemented within a real spatial context, based on the investigation of a specific existing social housing development from the post-war period that is in urgent need of renovation and transformation. A central pillar of this semester is the reinterpretation of architecture from a climatic point of view, understanding it as a primary mediator between the human body and the environment. We will investigate how to move beyond standard mechanical solutions and how material intelligence can serve as an active climatic agent. By combining climatic design strategies with the use of natural resources, we will explore how specific material properties can induce physical reactions that actively shape comfort, perception, and the quality of life within existing spaces. The studio emphasizes the necessity of transformation within building culture, explored in its broadest sense, including shifts in design processes, material thinking, organizational structures, modes of working, and pedagogical models. The term “practicing” highlights that transformation is not merely conceptual but an active, experiential process in which hands-on experimentation is non-negotiable.

# Act of Building: Practicing Transformation

BC architects &  
studies & materials

Thomas Amann  
Prof. Tina Gregoric

Integratives Entwerfen Master/ Bachelor  
253.O85/253.O86 • 15 ECTS • Ss2026  
Regular meetings • Thu 09:00-18:00  
Workshop 1 • Thu 12.- Sat 14.3. 09:00-18:00  
Workshop 2 • Thu 23.- Sat 25.4. 09:00-18:00  
Workshop 3 • Mon 8.- Mon 15.6. 09:00-18:00  
Final presentation/ Exhibition • Tue 16.6.

Institut für  
Architektur und Entwerfen  
Gebäudelehre und  
Entwerfen

Partner:

 Wienerberger

 WIENER LINIEN

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