

Biofabrique Vienna: Wiener Baustoffe / Vienna Building Materials

A project by the Vienna Business Agency

The first edition of Biofabrique Vienna took place in 2024 during a 100-day pilot phase as part of the Vienna Climate Biennale at the Nordwestbahnhof site. It marks the beginning of a comprehensive, efficient research and development process focused on bioregional materials for architecture and design. The project was developed in close cooperation with Atelier LUMA of the LUMA Foundation and the Vienna University of Technology, specifically the departments of Architecture and Design as well as Wood Construction and Design in Urban Areas.

In this early phase, the foundation for bioregional practice was laid: The teams analyzed unused local resources, experimented with material combinations, and developed initial approaches for new building materials. The resulting prototypes, including bricks, panels, ceramic mixtures, and glazes, served as inspiration for the second and third editions of Biofabrique Vienna.

A key factor in the project's success was the strong network involving industry, urban infrastructure, and creative expertise. Wiener Linien, Wienerberger, Bäckerei Ströck, and many other companies played a central role as resource providers and industry partners: from mineral waste such as construction site excavated material or carbocalc from sugar production to organic byproducts of food production, such as spent grain and flour waste.

Over the course of the project, the network has continued to expand. Companies, experts, scientists, and creatives have transformed Biofabrique Vienna into a vibrant, collaborative space for production and knowledge. The Vienna-based studio dreiSt. put the new materials to their first practical use and designed the "Biofabrique Canteen" – a modular spatial system that served as a modern coffeehouse at the festival headquarters during Vienna Design Week 2024. The flexible seating and tables are currently in use at the DOCKS in the third district, built by ARE.

Think locally, research collaboratively, design circularly: This shared practice is the starting point for a development that is consistently carried forward in the subsequent Biofabrique Vienna editions "Wiener Fliese" and "Wiener Farben".