

# Welcome to Biofabrique\* Vienna!

## A project by the Vienna Business Agency

\* French [bjofabrik] noun f “living production network”

Against the backdrop of climate change and the energy crisis, one thing has become evident: we must adopt a new approach to doing business. Resource equity, circularity, and social sustainability are no longer negotiable; in the future, they will determine competitiveness in the market.

How can local resources be utilized in a way that simultaneously strengthens the local ecological and social systems? This is where Biofabrique Vienna, a project by the Vienna Business Agency, comes in. Based on the bioregional design approach, a method is being developed to transform unused local resources into materials for architecture and design.

Here at Nordwestbahnhof, a temporary platform is emerging in a former ÖBB (Austrian Federal Railways) bus garage where the creative industries, research, and industry come together. Here, experimentation, development, and presentation take place: Through cross-disciplinary working methods, materials, products, and applications are created faster and more efficiently than in traditional development processes.

### **Bioregional Design:**

At the heart of this approach lies bioregional design: materials, production, and design are conceived using a region's own resources. The guiding principle is 'materials are heavy and should stay local; ideas are light and should travel'. While resources - from waste to infrastructure - are sourced locally, creative and scientific expertise can be drawn upon globally. This creates a knowledge pool in the field of material innovation and significantly shortens the development process for new materials.

### **A Living Network:**

The focus is on the work of designers and architects. They translate new materials into concrete applications - into products, spaces, and systems. In the early development phase, they create both functional and aesthetic solutions that pave the way for later industrial implementation. Design thus becomes the central element of material innovation. However, further development can only succeed through the collaboration of many stakeholders. Biofabrique Vienna connects the creative industries, the city, industry, and research. Only when design competence, scientific expertise, industrial production capabilities, and urban governance are considered together does an environment emerge in which new approaches can flourish.

### **A Place in Transition:**

At the same time, the project engages with the neighbourhoods in one of Vienna's largest urban development areas. A former industrial hall is not only being revitalized physically but is also becoming a place where existing urban resources are collectively tapped into.

The Vienna Business Agency invites you to discover this space for collaborative experimentation, development, and visualization, and to actively engage with the network.