

# UTOPICS

## It's about time!

Plants took centre stage at the Design Campus this year, featuring prominently in the main exhibition "Plant Fever," numerous Lab projects, including "Beyond the Garden," the Summer School's "The School of Phyto-centred Design," and a recent intervention exhibition at the Vienna Design Week titled "Room for Change." Amidst the vibrant green aesthetics, the development of new natural materials, the use of plant colours and fibres in objects and clothing, and the fusion of ancient and contemporary craft techniques, there was a recurring theme underpinning it all: time.

I had a conversation with Laura Druet, one half of d-o-t-s, who curated the exhibition Plant Fever, led the Summer School, managed the Lab project Beyond the Garden, and curated the intervention at Vienna Design Week. We discussed the Summer School's outcomes and their enduring, multi-year collaboration with the Design Campus. What became apparent from our conversation was that beyond learning about the materiality, aesthetics, and natural properties of plants, we were truly delving into the realms of time, process, creativity, and care.

Laura shared insights from two Summer School tutors to illustrate how their encounters with plants transformed their perspectives on contemporary design:

"One thing I have learned from agriculture, rather than design, is the idea of selflessness: acts of generosity—in an ever-increasing world of immediacy, where you want rewards to be felt immediately—that go beyond your human life span." – Fernando Laposse

"Rye is steeped in history. In Europe, it was a very versatile crop. Used to feed people and animals, to nourish the soil but also for clothing, for shelter... I realized that I love growing it, taking care of it, drying it. Like the idea of working with something that is alive." – Emma Bruschi

Over two nine-day terms and four workshops, participants explored how patience, care, understanding of long-term cultivation, and the transformative power of creativity come together to foster connections and inspire change. Like plants, creative projects necessitate nurturing, waiting, and dedication, all while recognizing that the fruits of our labour may not manifest immediately.

This highlights the urgent need for a mindset shift in a world that's moving faster than ever. In the face of major long-term challenges without quick fixes, embracing long-term thinking in this "Age of Immediacy" symbolizes a pivotal paradigm shift. It counters a world consumed by instant gratification and short-term perspectives, where society fixates on immediate results and rapid technological advancements. Emphasizing the importance of contemplating the consequences of our actions over extended periods becomes even more crucial, particularly in areas like design, sustainability, innovation, and societal well-being. It urges a shift in mindset and a commitment to nurturing a sense of responsibility for the legacy we leave behind in a world increasingly accustomed to the "here and now."

We, at the Design Campus, stand by it!

Thomas, Aline & Team Design Campus

-- Thomas A. Geisler

Design Campus and Kunstgewerbemuseum Director

-- Aline Lara Rezende, Editor and

Design Campus Chief Knowledge and Impact Officer

DESIGN ↗  
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Exhibition View Paper Alive at Kunstgewerbemuseum (c) matteralmatters, Victoria Gentsch

## [MUSEUM] Paper Alive!

Last days to experience 'PAPER ALIVE!' - Paper Art International" exhibition - An artistic journey where 82 global artists breathe new life into the versatile medium of paper. From intricate installations to captivating textiles and more, discover how paper defies expectations and transforms into living, responsive art. Join us at Schloss Pillnitz's Wasserpalais **till October 31, 2023**, and immerse yourself in a sensory exploration of paper's timeless connections and inspirations.

The exhibition is presented by the Museum of Decorative Arts / Design Campus in cooperation with the International Association of Hand Papermakers and Paper Artists (IAPMA e.V.), on the occasion of their 27th Congress in Dresden.

Where: Schloss Pillnitz, Wasserpalais

Last Chance: Tuesday 31/10/2023 from 10am to 5pm

COME VISIT



Room for Change at Vienna Design Week Headquarter (c) VDW, Hanna Fasching

## **[NETWORK] Showcase: Summer School 2023's Remarkable Outcomes!**

Prepare to be dazzled as we proudly unveil the concrete and inspiring fruits of the Phyto-centred Design School's workshops. Feast your eyes on captivating photos showcasing the ingenious projects meticulously crafted during our Summer School workshops. Explore the projects that took centre stage at the "Room for Change" exhibition during the Vienna Design Week. The creativity, innovation, and dedication of our talented participants have truly shone, and now it's your chance to bask in their brilliance.

**CHECK IT OUT!**



Peacepaper Project (c) SKD, Foto: Tilmann Finner

## [MUSEUM] That's a wrap - Season Closing Soon

As the vibrant leaves fall and the days grow shorter, we're reaching the end of a spectacular museum season. The Kunstgewerbemuseum closes its doors during wintertime, although it continues with activities either online or in cooperation with other institutions. But there's still time for you to embark on one last design adventure! Whether you're a history enthusiast, a paper aficionado, or simply looking for a day of plant exploration, don't miss the chance to dive in the captivating exhibits, inspiring stories, and timeless treasures that our museum has to offer.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



Exhibition View Plant Fever 2023 (c) Olly Cruise

## [MUSEUM] Plant Fever 2024: An Exciting Continuation!

Great news! We are thrilled to share that the enchanting *Plant Fever* exhibition is set to continue its awe-inspiring journey next year. Just as nature gracefully transforms through seasons, the exhibition will embark on a period of hibernation and renewal. When it reawakens for the next season, you can anticipate a delightful evolution – some elements will gracefully fade away, while fresh additions will bloom. Notably, the brilliant outcomes of this year's Summer School will be seamlessly woven into the exhibition's tapestry.

**STAY TUNED!**

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