

Vienna's

Sustainable contributions
made by urban planning for
the benefit of all citizens

by people

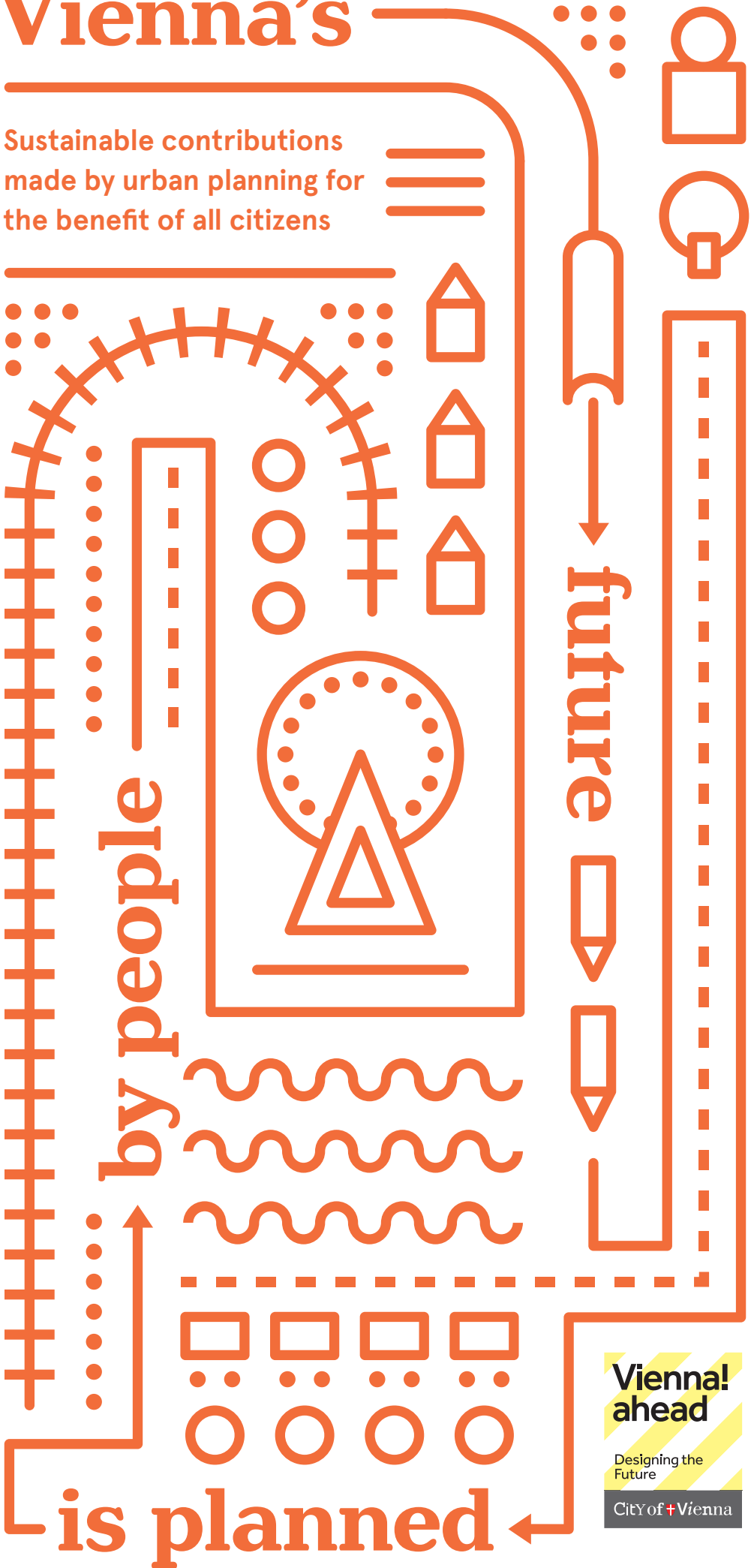
is planned

future

Vienna!
ahead

Designing the
Future

CityOf+Vienna





Understanding for the diversity of lifestyles

Vienna is facing great challenges: the city is growing, and so does its demand for dwellings, workplaces, green and open spaces as well as for modern mobility. We see these challenges as an opportunity to further enhance Vienna's liveability through a wide variety of measures.

Behind the numerous concepts, strategies and projects of Vienna's urban planning departments, there are people – staff members for whom the city's future is a deep-felt concern and who discharge their duties with great passion. In offering concrete examples of the manifold areas of urban development, this brochure therefore does not focus on urban planning projects but rather on the people who make them possible. Urban development is not an exclusively technical task.

It calls for social competence, awareness of trends in society, a sound business sense, environmental consciousness, a feeling for the bigger picture and understanding for the great diversity of lifestyles in a city. Selected portraits of people engaged in this task will help you to learn more about the work of urban planning and development in Vienna.

And if you have further questions, the last page of this brochure contains all important addresses, details and contact information. I would be delighted if this publication had managed to foster your interest in Vienna's urban development activities and the people behind it.

Maria Vassilakou,
Deputy Mayor, Executive City Councillor for Urban Planning, Traffic & Transport, Climate Protection, Energy and Citizen Participation



Laying the foundations for the metropolis of tomorrow

Urban development and urban planning have an influence on our everyday life environment and hence strongly impact both the quality of living and the prosperity of our city.

For this purpose, urban development and urban planning take a close look at the system that is the city in order to be able to reinvent it, day after day, together with citizens, business circles and researchers. This brochure presents some of the people working in the manifold fields of urban planning who strive, through expertise, commitment and joy in their work, to safeguard Vienna's standing as a prospering and dynamic city. Obviously, this cannot be done merely from the office but often requires direct, on-site involvement in a dialogue with experts and citizens.

The tasks of Vienna's urban development departments are much more varied than can be shown in this brief publication: they range from interregional co-operation on key planning issues with neighbouring federal provinces and countries to the protection of valuable green and open spaces, from the drafting of strategic visions and superordinate concepts to varied information and communication activities, all with a keen eye on such interdisciplinary areas as gender mainstreaming or diversity. In this, special attention is paid to optimised co-operation between all planning divisions as well as with other municipal departments in order to meet our objective: laying the foundations for tomorrow's Vienna, so that future generations will continue to enjoy the same high quality of living.

Thomas Madreiter,
Director of Urban Planning

Who are they?

Vienna's

Vienna is growing and rejuvenating itself. Soon it will be Austria's federal province with the youngest population. Urban development and urban planning play a decisive role in reconciling this future-oriented dynamism with the citizens' desire for high quality of living. Already today, Vienna occupies a top position regarding metropolitan quality of living on a worldwide scale and is considered one of the smartest among "smart cities".

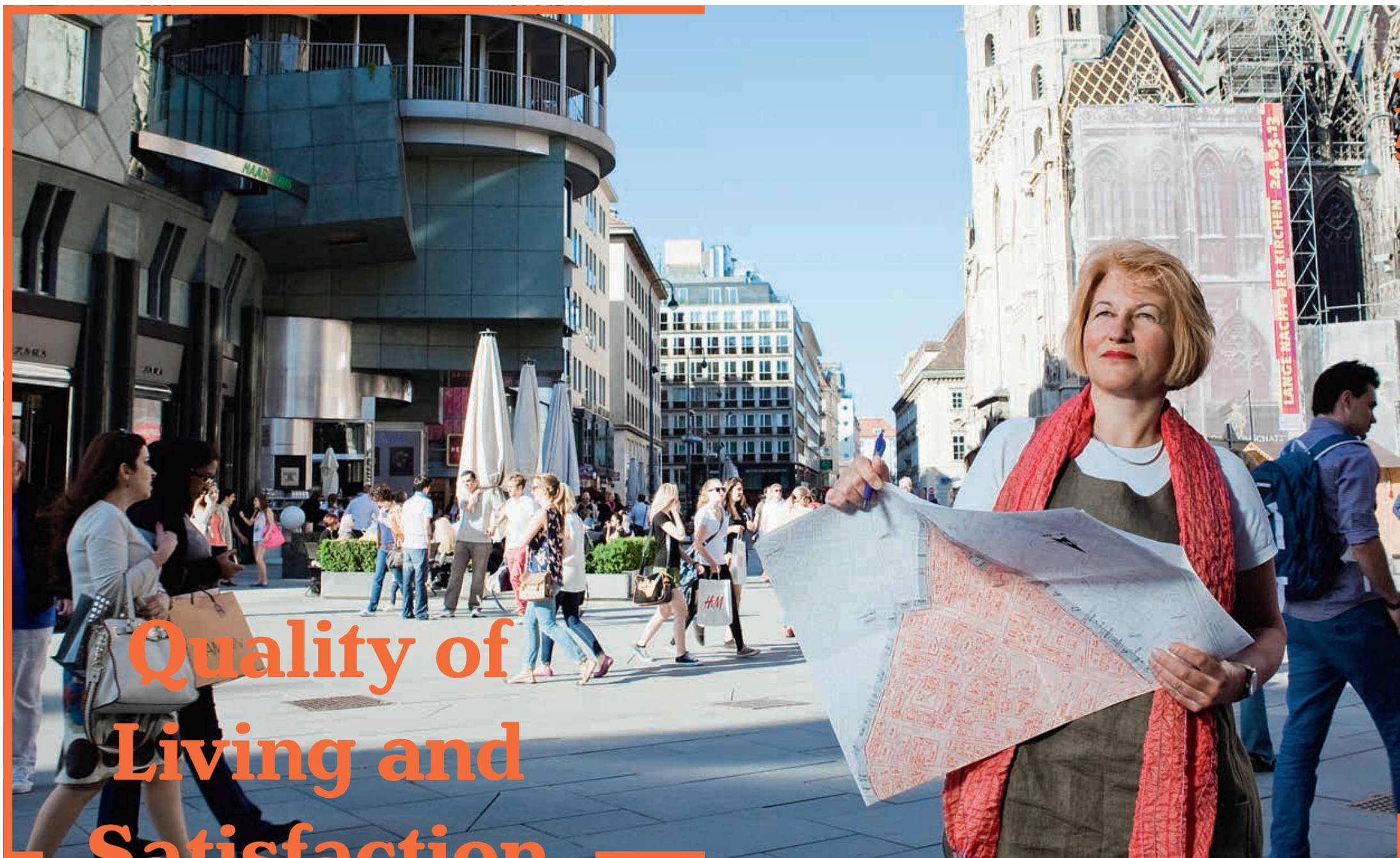
The staff of Vienna's urban planning departments have contributed significantly towards this goal. It will remain their task to find human-scale solutions for the upcoming challenges.

Thus "Vienna's future is planned by people" means working steadily towards a successful future for all inhabitants of the city.

is planned by people

The dynamic development of metropolitan Vienna aims to preserve and further improve the city's attractive quality of living for the benefit of its citizens.

future



Quality of Living and Satisfaction

Gerlinde Stich works for Municipal Department 21, District Planning and Land Use, where her area of competence includes some of the most central parts of the city (1st and 8th municipal districts)

The plan I am holding looks almost like a tourist map. However, on my map, every detail must be accurate for every line or letter entails legal consequences – they show where construction is permitted and what types of construction are possible. Even the tiniest deviation from the map would change the proportions of a planned project and lead to errors in its implementation.

This basic instrument of legal planning is called a “land use and development plan”. In its precisely charted “boxes”, which stand for individual blocks, I can recognise every building, passage and turn in a road. It is indeed fascinating to observe how the cityscape of Vienna is developing over time in accordance with these plans. The plans drafts are created by Muni-

pal Department 21, for which I have been working for the past twelve years. People are at the centre of my work, and sensitivity is often called for to reconcile different interests, so that the needs of the population as well as those of the metropolis will be served equally well. Citizens are able to codetermine and have a say already in an early phase of many construction projects. Organising and mediating such citizen participation procedures is likewise among our tasks – a recent example is the citizen participation procedure for the redesign of Schwedenplatz square. The 1st municipal district is largely comprised of the World Heritage site “Historic Centre of Vienna”. This is a very special field of work for me. After all, priority must



Citizens are able to codetermine and have a say already in the planning phase of many construction projects

not only be given to the preservation of the historic building stock but also to the creation of lively urban spaces where people like to live and work, study, relax and enjoy cultural offerings.

Yet the remit of our department includes many other tasks as well.

For example, we also monitor urban design competitions for larger construction ventures and urban development zones or submit expert opinions on current projects for loft conversions and add-ons.

In my planning work, the two things closest to my heart are quality of living and the satisfaction of Vienna’s citizens – goals I embrace wholeheartedly and do my best to attain. ●



Planning for Sustainable Development

Georgine Zabrana works for the Chief Executive Office of the City of Vienna – Executive Group for Construction and Technology, Planning Group, where she is in charge of urban development projects

“Open-minded thinking – future-oriented steering” is the motto of the Executive Group for Construction and Technology. Here you see me in VIERTEL ZWEI, which is part of the target area “Donauraum Leopoldstadt – Prater” in Vienna’s 2nd municipal district. At the moment, two co-operative planning procedures – one around the velodrome and one in the Krieau zone – are underway here. The results will underpin the land use and development plan for this part of Vienna. The 13 target areas defined in the 2005 Urban Development Plan present very diverse development strategies and can be roughly divided into three groups: already fully developed inner-city zones that are to be upgraded by improving existing structures and public space; former railway



The most important aspects lie in putting yourself into the position of others and in identifying solutions to resolve conflicts of interests

properties that, surrounded by historically evolved neighbourhoods, are now to be built up as well; and new urban development zones, such as aspern Vienna’s Urban Lakeside, that will further enlarge the Austrian capital.

In addition to steering and co-ordinating these target areas, another task of the Planning Group lies in defining instruments, sequences and processes for urban development projects of varying dimensions – one might call this a “toolbox” for Vienna’s urban planners. We co-ordinate activities and developments within the Executive Group for Construction and Technology of the City of Vienna und serve as a hub for internal and external co-operation activities with other administrative bodies, politicians, the business community

and scientists. We initiate new developments, provide impulses and co-ordinate the various departments and divisions to make sure that both citizens and local enterprises will have access to the required resources whenever and wherever they need them. Often, too, highly divergent interests may clash – one example might be those of investors vis-à-vis those of the general population. In such situations, we must develop the best possible solutions in order to advance innovative projects for the benefit of the community.

I find the strength and energy I need for my work both in rowing on the Old Danube and in music. For orchestra rehearsals in the evening, I use the bicycle to take me and my violin to the nearby Musikverein or Konzerthaus. ●

An Ecological Model District

“In der Wiesen”, a part of Vienna’s 23rd municipal district Liesing, is famous for its market gardens. In the context of the “Target Area Liesing” project, it is to be transformed, together with the industrial zone of Liesing and the centre of the Atzgersdorf neighbourhood, into an ecological “smart-city” model quarter. These three district sections differ immensely. For this reason, plans must absolutely take account of local characteristics to maintain their unique identity. The “Target Area Liesing” project addresses all challenges of urban planning and design, i.e. housing, ecology and economy. The long-term objectives of our work are to reduce CO₂ emissions to zero by 2050, to decrease energy and resource use, and to attain full energy coverage from renewable

sources. At the same time, the quality of living in dwellings, at workplaces and in leisure zones is to be significantly improved. For this purpose, we are planning a large housing-cum-urban gardening project for “In der Wiesen”: subsidised flats will be combined with areas that can be cultivated by residents planting their own vegetables. This can be done by means of raised vegetable patches, in loggias attached to flats, on roof terraces, in greenhouses or in the surrounding open areas. Vienna’s biggest industrial zone is located in Liesing. Local enterprises offer close to 7,000 workplaces. Our plans provide for sustainable development of this business location. Liesing is to remain an industrial and commercial hub while also scoring



“Standpunkt Liesing” could become the site of a “triple smart” concept: smart infrastructure, smart spaces and smart social design, which means innovative solutions for technology, spatial design and communication

as an attractive residential area. In this context, a major challenge is posed by the central core of Atzgersdorf. This is to be transformed into a lively urban structure that preserves the current mix of residential and commercial uses. Vienna is considered a model city of innovation. The Liesing target area could become the site of a “triple smart” concept: smart infrastructure, smart spaces and smart social design, which means innovative solutions for technology, spatial design and communication – another milestone along Vienna’s trajectory towards becoming a “smart city”. These benefits should be accessible for all – as they are for me, who lives in a green urban area and hence enjoys spending the weekend right here in Vienna. ●

Volkmar Klaus Pamer works for Municipal Department 21, District Planning and Land Use, where he is in charge of the 12th, 13th and 23rd municipal districts and also co-ordinates the “Standpunkt Liesing” location management project

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Public Transport on the Fast Track

Beatrix Rauscher works for Municipal Department 18, Urban Development and Planning, in the “Transport Planning and Mobility Strategies” division, and specialises in Underground planning

The Vienna Underground is the citizens’ favourite means of transport. More and more people switch to this fast and reliable means of mass transit. The Vienna Underground network is constantly enlarged and also extends to new urban expansion zones. Ensuring sustainable mobility in a growing metropolis is one of the tasks of our department: we design transport planning concepts and lay the ground for tomorrow’s mobility. Our work is guided by the Transport Master Plan for Vienna, which is developed roughly every ten years and defines key transport policy goals. In this document, we prioritise environmentally friendly mobility: public transport, walking and cycling.

Now in its fourth enlargement phase, the Vienna Underground network is currently



Even if the trend to forgo car ownership is more and more widespread in Vienna, efforts to ensure city-friendly mobility remain a key issue for the future

being extended, which confronts us, the planners, with the question of whether any further network enlargement is actually viable. Many planning issues of this kind are easier to address when accompanied by an exchange of experience with other cities, e.g. with Munich regarding the Underground network extension or with Strasbourg for the upgrading of the tram network. France is a pioneer in this field: our plans for the tram network focus mostly on technical aspects, while the French include the surrounding zones into their designs as well. Even if the trend to forgo car ownership is more and more widespread in Vienna, efforts to ensure city-friendly mobility remain a key issue, as many people from the environs of the Austrian capital still commute to Vienna by car. Thus it is essen-

tial to inform the population about alternative mobility options, such as car sharing, and to promote awareness of a car-free lifestyle.

I have been working for Municipal Department 18 for the past fifteen years. My three kids, too, have taught me a lot with regard to public transport. Attractive access routes, benches, lifts and ultra-low floor trams are elements of all our plans. Of course, children have their own way of looking at things. We adults try to eliminate obstacles and want to ensure that footpaths are smooth. Kids, in their turn, are upset if there are no puddles anymore to wade in after rainfalls. My daughter complained about the disappearance of a dip in the road surface along our way to the Underground stop – the hole had been repaired. ●



Relaxing in Public Space

Reinhard Wolfbeiser works for Municipal Department 19, Architecture and Urban Design, in the “Public Space Design” section, where he is in charge of the 2nd, 9th, 20th, 21st and 22nd municipal districts

No object that is part of public space – be it kiosks, outdoor zones of cafés and restaurants or advertisement carriers – is there just by chance. Even the number and design of sales stands outside Vienna’s Underground stops are evaluated by our department regarding their aesthetic standards. Public space offers room for social contacts as well as atmospheric quality and an opportunity to rest and relax on our everyday trips, thus reflecting the vibrancy and uniqueness of a city. However, people will linger only if they feel at ease. For this reason, public space must be planned with the same care as buildings. Our planning work is supported by social space analyses, citizen participation procedures and evaluations. In designing

such spaces, many aspects beside user-friendliness must be taken into account, e.g. aesthetic appeal, flexibility and robustness over time. The demands vary and are obviously dependent on the location within the municipal territory. Our department is essentially in charge of organising design competitions, commissioning plans and developing expert opinions for approval procedures. Therefore design concepts for public space must establish a solid balance between universally accessible and usable open spaces and commercial interests. Much-coveted sites such as the redesigned and upgraded Praterstern attract more and more enterprising individuals since public space in these locations is significantly cheaper to rent than conventional shop



Vienna’s population growth makes the early planning of new public spaces a crucial task

premises. However, the needs of the population are always given priority in project planning and implementation. In fact, it would be impossible to merely pay heed to individual interests. Thus a balance between individual requests and public concerns must be struck. Vienna’s population growth makes the early planning of new public spaces a crucial task of our department. Between 2001 and 2010, green spaces were created, trees planted and additional pedestrian areas introduced in the context of the “50 Sites Programme”. On this basis, further concrete projects will be implemented in coming years. ●

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Rainer Hauswirth works for Municipal Department 18, Urban Development and Planning, as a specialist in the "Urban Research and Spatial Analysis" division

Open and Highly Integrative

Gründerzeit neighbourhoods such as Yppenplatz with the Brunnenmarkt open-air market in Vienna's 16th municipal district Ottakring are currently living a period of transformation and valorisation.

People who move here are looking for urban life in public space, affordable rents and a colourful, multifaceted living environment.

Numerous cultural initiatives, too, have located to Ottakring, creating an entirely novel dynamic in the process.

The Gründerzeit quarters along the western Gürtel, the Favoriten areas closest to the city centre (10th municipal district) and the Karmeliterviertel neighbourhood in the 2nd municipal district as well as the zone around Wallensteinplatz in the 20th municipal district were socially disadvantaged



We urban researchers analyse the quality of living and look at citizens' satisfaction with their housing situation and other local facilities

for a long time. They mainly offered cheap standard flats that were predominantly inhabited by weaker social strata.

In recent years, a wind of change has set in. Dwellings were rehabilitated in the context of the "gentle urban renewal" strategy. Gradually, this upgrading of the housing stock has begun to attract new denizens, such as students and white-collar workers. As urban researchers, we observe these processes and analyse aspects such as quality of living, citizens' satisfaction with the housing situation and other local facilities as well as development trends of specific neighbourhoods as compared to others.

Our observations comprise the evaluation of data and statistics, studies and fundamental research. This enables us to analyse

and communicate an overview of the urban structure and of its spatial and social developments. All this is essential for future planning projects.

Personally, I take great interest in the development of Gründerzeit areas such as the Volkertviertel and Alliiertenviertel neighbourhoods.

The reason for this is not only my growing up in such a Gründerzeit building in the 2nd municipal district, but also the fact that I as a native Viennese like the way in which my city is becoming more and more diverse and colourful.

Vienna has become an open, highly integrative metropolis where no population group is exclusively relegated to the urban periphery. This, too, makes the city attractive. ●

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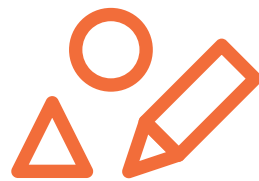


Schools for Our Future

Anita Vrabec is a specialist working for Municipal Department 19, Architecture and Urban Design, in the “Public Infrastructure Planning” section, where she focuses on project planning for schools

The two primary school buildings you see behind me are located in Mannagettgasse 1 in the 19th municipal district and offer a good example of part of my department’s remit, i.e. planning public schools, kindergartens, offices and other institutions of the City of Vienna.

The school building to the right was designed by Heinrich von Ferstel and is under monument protection. For the past year, this primary school had been offering whole-day care for pupils but lacked suitable modern facilities and spaces in keeping with contemporary education standards. Our task lay in finding a solution. By rehabilitating the old building and adding the annexe to the left side of the photo, the small school was considerably enlarged. But this is only one of over 240



The multifunctional campus concept, which combines kindergarten, school and leisure activities, enjoys increasing popularity

primary and secondary schools of the City of Vienna for which measures to preserve the building stock and increase safety – by e.g. improving fire protection – are being implemented in the context of the “School Rehabilitation Package 2008-2017”. The City of Vienna is committed to preserving and rehabilitating existing school buildings. At the same time, new schools are being planned and built as well. Among these construction projects, the multifunctional campus type that combines kindergarten, school and leisure activities enjoys increasing popularity. The City of Vienna aims for a balanced distribution of projects to reflect the demographic trends of the individual municipal districts. Detailed space schedules ensure that schools and kindergartens present the same facilities

and appointments overall. These construction projects are handled by our team. Most construction projects for new buildings are preceded by competitions, e.g. for the current Attemsgasse campus project in the 22nd municipal district or the vocational college in Embelgasse in the 5th municipal district. Monitoring this planning work is also part of our remit.

My family is originally from Croatia; I have been living in Austria since the age of 17. After studying architecture, I participated in urban renewal commissions. My work on behalf of the school planning division of Municipal Department 19 enables me to get to know Vienna even better. I travel all across the city and greatly appreciate that any location can be reached easily even without a car. ●



Farsighted Planning

Otto Frey works for the Chief Executive Office of the City of Vienna – Executive Group for Construction and Technology, Planning Group, where he handles the co-ordination and steering of urban development strategies for Vienna

From the **bahnorama tower** at the construction site for Vienna's new Main Station, I can overlook large parts of the city. Alongside key major projects, the attention of the Executive Group for Construction and Technology is focused on the whole city and its development. We make sure that urban development mechanisms function smoothly. In the past, the role of the city administration was a somewhat "prescriptive" one – today, urban planning is viewed as a process that closely involves the population as well as many other actors. One of the main tasks of the Planning Group as the division administering the urban planning sector lies in steering, co-ordinating and optimising the work of the individual planning departments, which must be constantly



We urban planners codetermine the frame conditions that ensure high quality of living for citizens and a favourable development of the urban economy

fine-tuned due to new knowledge or novel frame conditions at the national and EU levels. Another task is to address the future of urban development. This is done centrally on the basis of the Urban Development Plan (STEP), which is currently being revised by Municipal Department 18. Our job lies in steering and co-ordinating: we prepare strategic contributions, adjust the plan and monitor its implementation. Due to the input of politics, administration, many private actors and its population, Vienna is the world capital of high quality of living. Yet quality of living is also closely tied to favourable conditions for the economy and sustainable investments. STEP creates the framework required for this purpose. Many questions of urban development – such as traffic and transport – can only

be dealt with by involving the surrounding regions. Thus regional development co-operation with Lower Austria and Burgenland is an important strategic aspect, as is national and international collaboration with other cities, city networks and institutions, in order to make the best possible use of innovations for Vienna today as well as tomorrow.

I have visited many other cities. What I treasure about Vienna is above all its balanced mix of urban structures and green zones as well as its rich cultural roster. For many years, I have been living in the 7th municipal district near the Gürtel boulevard. Today, this neighbourhood has residents of many nationalities, who own small shops, market stalls and restaurants. They make Vienna even more attractive. ●



Digital Planning for the City

Sandra Kieser works for Municipal Department 41, Surveyors, in the “Multi-purpose Map, Geodata” section with a focus on aerial photograph evaluation; she evaluates the data of the Multi-purpose Map

I am not watching “The Hobbit – An Unexpected Journey” in 3D with these funny glasses – rather, I am looking at an aerial photograph model combined with the data of the Multi-purpose Map (MZK), the digital city map of Vienna.

The MZK is based on two data sources: aerial photograph evaluation for the internal parts of urban blocks and terrestrial surveying for streetscapes.

My specialty is the evaluation of aerial photographs. Current aerial photos help me to revise the MZK by checking if anything has changed since the last version. I then add new buildings, fences, lawn edgings, light poles, trees and other objects and delete old, no longer existing content from the MZK.

All data are evaluated three-dimensionally. This is truly fascinating work. It calls for a lot of concentration and precision because the MZK is the most important planning basis of the City of Vienna and hence continuously updated.

Starting from the data stock generated by the MZK, our department creates other comprehensive databases for Vienna, such as the digital terrain model, the block model and the 3D city model.

The MZK provides the basis for the land use and development plan and the city map search function of the wien.at website that is used by many Viennese citizens.

Evaluating aerial photographs is a strain on the eyes. Therefore I am always delighted when I get an opportunity to provide



As the digital city map, the “Multi-purpose Map” is continuously updated. It serves as the fundamental planning tool for Vienna, e.g. for the land use and development plan

personal or phone advice to people turning to us for information.

The department also maintains a collection of all aerial photographs used by us to evaluate the MZK and, before that, for the old city map.

The oldest aerial photos date back to 1938. It is therefore quite easy to establish the natural or architectural status of a location at a given time: one scan of our aerial photograph collection suffices.

Apart from a period of maternity leave – my son is now three years old –, I have been working for Municipal Department 41 – Surveyors since 2001.

It’s nice to know that the comprehensive data furnished by us are useful for urban planning and development. ●



Being a Part of Vienna's Growth

Dominik Kuzmits is a surveying technician for Municipal Department 41, Surveyors, where he works for the "Surveying for Legal Matters" section

One of the most important instruments of my work is a surveying device called the tachymeter, which serves to measure directions and distances. The new tachymeters function fully automatically at the touch of a key.

In all civil engineering projects, the surveyors are the first and last people at the construction site because no building can be properly erected without correct surveying.

At the outset of every construction project, the surveyors deliver the planning basics necessary for the planning and project phase and make sure that all relevant building regulations and land law provisions are complied with.

Before and during the actual construction phase, we contribute to correct project



**We surveyors
contribute to the safety
of public institutions,
construction sites
and property
boundaries**

execution by means of setting-out works and control measurements. And after completion of the construction phase, we survey the new building for documentation purposes.

At the moment, we are engaged in building reference and deformation measurements for the extension of the Vienna Underground lines U1 and U2 and provide surveying-relating assistance at the Vienna Main Station construction site.

However, we are also active on behalf of Vienna outside the city itself, since we monitor the Vienna Spring Water Mains by means of settlement measurements in areas prone to landslides.

Another task of our department lies in legally ascertaining and defining the boundaries of properties owned by the City

of Vienna. We conduct or assist in partition proceedings and boundary surveys. The documentation of provincial and district boundaries and the drawing-up of easement and compensation plans complement our remit in the field of land law-related surveying.

My job is quite varied, since it comprises terrain surveying, office work, the handling of some very valuable old documents as well as direct contacts with citizens.

Another aspect I like about my work is that I am "in the thick of things" and thus can witness the continued growth of Vienna. It really makes me proud to say that I have contributed to this or that project.

For me, Vienna is a city that offers everything you need for a good life. ●

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