

Prae Doc Univ. Ass. Dipl.-Ing. Elisabetta Maria Schmidlein
Researcher and Lecturer at TU Vienna, Institute of Architectural Design

Personal Information

Elisabetta Maria Schmidlein, born on March 5, 1986, in Fiesole (Florence), Italy, has been residing in Vienna since 2007. She holds dual Italian and German citizenship.

Professional Focus

Elisabetta specializes in earthen and low-tech architecture, resource-efficient design, and the practical application of natural building materials. Certified as a *Fachkraft Lehm* by Dachverband Lehm Germany in September 2022, she advocates for climate resilience through nature-sensitive architectural approaches. Her professional experience includes stone restoration and work on earth construction sites in own projects and with Lehm Ton Erde Martin Rauch in Austria and Hubert Heinrichs in Germany.

She conducts practical clay building workshops, demonstrating a unique combination of academic research and hands-on expertise. Her work emphasizes sustainable architectural solutions, using natural materials and low-tech approaches. Beyond her professional focus, she is actively engaged in educational outreach, including leading workshops and promoting architectural literacy in schools.

Current Projects

Elisabetta is currently pursuing independent projects at the intersection of art, design, and architecture. Her work involves developing earthen material mixtures and conducting material studies in Tuscany. In the project *from soil to structure* her ongoing research explores the geological diversity of clays and the construction culture of the region, drawing on her extensive practical experience with earthen materials.

Teaching Experience

At TU Vienna:

- **Water Trails Barcelona (S23):** Design Studio led by guest professor Carles Enrich, focusing on water management systems and urban structures.
- **Material Resonance (S23):** Hands-on workshop on local earthen materials and building components, held in Sekirn, Austria.
- **Bioregional Assembly: Material Resonance (S24):** Workshop in Salzkammergut exploring bioregional materials, including local earth, minerals, and organics.
- **Learning from Mediterranean Heritage (W24/W25):** Seminar exploring low-tech strategies in Mediterranean architecture, with a focus on materials and construction methods for climate-resilient solutions.

At High-Schools:

- **What is Architecture? (W22/S23):** Lecture and workshop introducing architectural principles with a focus on materiality.

Education

Elisabetta earned her Diploma in Architecture (*Dipl.-Ing.*) from TU Vienna in October 2017. Her diploma thesis was featured in an exhibition and nominated for Archdiploma. Her undergraduate and advanced studies at TU Vienna spanned from 2007 to 2017, including a summer session in Cagliari and a ceramics workshop at the University of Applied Arts Vienna.

After graduation, she worked in historical monument conservation and renovation with Jabornegg & Pálffy from January 2017 to October 2018.

Competitions and Exhibitions

- Participated in notable exhibitions such as **Archdiploma** and **Village Texture**.
- Winner of the **Creatives for Vienna** competition in June 2021, organized by the Vienna Business Agency, for her project *Hotel Resonance*, focused on socially sustainable urban development in Vienna.