

International Student Seminar
SE057.007 3 ECTS September 2024



Traces of Japan in Austrian Art and Architecture

Unveiling Connections: Exploring Japanese Influence in 20th Century and Contemporary Austrian Art and Culture

This workshop hosted by JASEC | TU Wien is tailored to participants from Japanese partner universities and is open to students from various disciplines.

Duration: 2 weeks, Sept. 13 - Sept. 27

Contents: Lectures, field trips, group tasks



About

This workshop is tailored to students from selected Japanese Partner Universities, but we invite also local TU Wien students to join this course from September 13 until September 27, 2024.

During the workshop, we will discuss and analyse the Japanese influence on Austrian Art and Architecture with a focus on 20th century art (Jugendstil) but also the impact of contemporary subcultures.

The seminar is hosted by the Japan Austria Science Exchange Center (JASEC) at TU Wien. JASEC is responsible for the coordination of the scientific and academic exchange between all faculties of TU Wien and Japanese partner institutions.

Introduction

Vienna, the enchanting capital of Austria, is renowned for its rich history, stunning architecture, and vibrant cultural scene. From ancient civilizations to contemporary societies, art and culture have served as powerful mediums for fostering understanding, dialogue, and cooperation between diverse communities. Local art and culture have continuously drawn inspiration from a myriad of sources, shaping their unique identity through a rich tapestry of influences.



Vienna is seen as one of the world's most important cultural hotspots. Its first settlement as a Roman military camp dates back to 100 A.D. From that time Vienna has always been a melting pot of different cultures in the center of Europe. Even today, 50% of the population has an intercultural background which creates a colourful and vibrant cultural scene.



Workshop Structure and Key Facts

The workshop will be structured in lectures, guided field trips, site visits and group tasks. With your group you will go on hunt through Vienna's urban fabric and cultural sites in the search for traces of Japanese influence on local art, architecture and culture.

However, we will also visit popular sites and places in and around Vienna to give a good understanding of the city, its rich history and culture.

Program fees: Tuition fee is waived for Partner Universities.

Travelling costs to Vienna, accommodation fee, living costs must be paid by students. Entrance fees for museums and other sites also have to be paid by the students.

Please calculate a budget of EUR 50,- per day + accommodation fee. It will be your responsibility to book your accommodation according to your needs. Vienna provides a broad range of accommodations – from AirBnB to 5* hotels.

(See also list of [TU Wien partner hotels](#) with discounts)

Requirements: We accept undergraduate and graduate students from TU Wien's Partner Universities.

We expect:

- good English communication skills
- a large interest in culture, history and art
- teamworking spirit
- self reliance and responsibility

Participants will explore many parts of the city on their own. Therefore, all participants must have the confidence to travel and get-along in a foreign country on their own.

We will treat all students as adults which means that there is no 24/7 assistance.

Our staff will accompany the participants on joint field trips but will not be responsible for the students during free times, weekends etc.

Registration: We ask each partner university to send us a list with nominated students who want to participate in program.

As soon we know the total number of participants we will adapt the preliminary schedule accordingly.



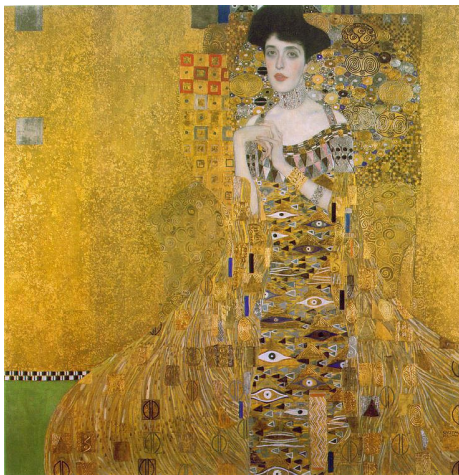
Japanese influence in the past

The World's Fair of 1873 held in Vienna marked a significant moment in the history of Austrian art, as it provided a platform for the introduction of Japanese aesthetics and culture to the European continent. This event catalysed a profound exchange of ideas and artistic influences between Japan and Austria, leaving an indelible mark on the Austrian art scene.

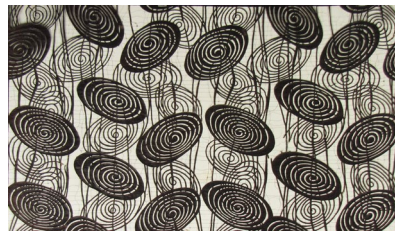
One of the most notable aspects of Japanese influence on Austrian art was the phenomenon known as Japonism. This artistic movement, which emerged in the late 19th century, was characterized by a fascination with Japanese art and culture among European artists. Austrian artists, captivated by the elegance and simplicity of Japanese woodblock prints, ceramics, and textiles, began to incorporate elements of Japanese aesthetics into their own work.

One prominent example of Japanese influence on Austrian art is evident in the Viennese Secession movement, which emerged in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Led by artists such as Gustav Klimt, Josef Hoffmann, and Koloman Moser, the Secessionists sought to break away from academic traditions and embrace a more modern, avant-garde approach to art. Influenced by Japanese principles of asymmetry, symbolism, and decorative patterning, Secessionist artists developed a distinctive style characterized by ornamental motifs, flowing lines, and vibrant colours.

Furthermore, the Japanese influence extended beyond the realm of visual art to other aspects of Austrian culture, including architecture, design, and fashion. The concept of Gesamtkunstwerk, or total work of art, championed by Austrian architect Otto Wagner and others, drew inspiration from Japanese notions of holistic design and harmony between form and function.



Klimt: Adele Bloch-Bauer I (1907)



Japanese Katagami and lacquerware



Klimt: Erfüllung (1905/1909)

Moreover, the Vienna Workshop (Wiener Werkstätte), founded in 1903 by Josef Hoffmann and Koloman Moser, embodied the spirit of collaboration and craftsmanship that was reminiscent of Japanese artisanal traditions. The Workshop produced a wide range of exquisite objects, including furniture, ceramics, and textiles, characterized by their refined simplicity and attention to detail.



Japanese influence today

Japanese pop culture has undeniably made a significant impact on Europe, captivating audiences with its colourful characters, compelling narratives, and innovative aesthetics. From anime and manga to video games and cosplay, Japanese pop culture has become a global phenomenon, captivating audiences across continents. In Europe, this cultural wave has sparked a fervent enthusiasm among fans and influenced various aspects of society, from entertainment and fashion to art and technology.

Anime and manga have gained widespread popularity in Europe, attracting devoted fans of all ages. The intricate storytelling, diverse characters, and visually stunning animation techniques have captivated European audiences, transcending cultural boundaries. Popular anime series such as "Naruto," "Dragon Ball," and "One Piece" have amassed large followings and inspired countless fan creations, including fan art, fan fiction, and cosplay events.



Cosplayers at the AniNite Convention in Vienna

Cosplay has gained popularity in Europe, with enthusiasts participating in conventions, competitions, and gatherings across the continent. Furthermore, Japanese pop culture has influenced European fashion, art, and design, with Japanese street fashion trends such as Lolita, Harajuku, and Gyarū gaining traction among European youth. The avant-garde aesthetics and experimental styles of Japanese fashion have inspired European designers, photographers, and artists, contributing to a vibrant fusion of cultural influences in the European creative scene.

In addition to its cultural impact, Japanese pop culture has also played a role in shaping technological innovation in Europe, particularly in the fields of animation, gaming, and digital media. European companies have collaborated with Japanese counterparts, sharing expertise and resources to develop cutting-edge technologies and entertainment experiences that push the boundaries of creativity and innovation.



Preliminary Schedule

Weekend 13.9. – 15.9.

Arrival Please book a flight with arrival in Vienna on this weekend. We would recommend to arrive already Friday or Saturday in order to overcome the jet-lag before we start the official program on Monday

Day 1, Mon (16.9.)

- 10:00AM Lectures
- Vienna's historic development
 - Survival Vienna (Basics on daily life in Vienna, how to get around etc.)
- 12:00PM Lunch Break
- 13:00PM Guided City Tour of the city center (in Japanese language)
- 16:00PM Welcome Party

Day 2, Tue (17.9.)

- 10:00AM Lectures
- Vienna World Fair 1873 and the Beginning of Japonism in Vienna
 - Introduction to the Workshop Task
- 12:00PM Lunch Break
- Afternoon Site Visits / Group Tasks in Vienna (Focus on Japanese Influence on historic art)

Day 3, Wed (18.9.)

- 10:00AM Lectures
- Typologies and Philosophies of Gardens (comparing Austria and Japan)
 - An Introduction to Austrian wine culture
- 12:00PM Lunch Break
- Afternoon Site Visits / Group Tasks in Vienna (Focus on gardens and parks)



Day 10, Wed (25.9.)

- 10:00AM Field Trip to United Nations Building
- 12:00PM Lunch Break
- Afternoon Site Visits / Group Tasks in Vienna (Follow your task for the final presentation)

Day 11, Thu (26.9.)

- 10:00AM Field Trip to the Wien Museum which showcases Vienna's historic development
- 12:00PM Lunch Break
- Afternoon Site Visits / Group Tasks in Vienna (Follow your task for the final presentation)

Day 12, Fri (27.9.)

- 10:00AM Preparation of Final Presentation
- 14:00PM Final Presentation
- 17:00PM Farewell Dinner

Weekend 28.9. – 29.9.

- Departure Please book a flight which departs Vienna on that weekend

Attention:

For now this is a preliminary program only to enable the recruiting of interested participants. Of course we will add much more information within the next months (details on planned field trips, arrival guides, etc.)

Contact:

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