

Sebastian Förstel

PRODUCT DESIGN · ECO-DESIGN · MATERIAL & PROCESS

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LinkedIn · Portfolio

Trained carpenter pursuing two concurrent master's programmes — Design & Product Management and Eco-Design — with an Erasmus semester at Politecnico di Milano. I work where material craft, product design and sustainability methodology meet: from hands-on prototyping to life-cycle assessment, PCF analysis and AI-assisted automation of both.

THESIS & INDUSTRY PROJECTS

01

Circular value creation from post-consumer textiles

Master's thesis · University of Applied Sciences Salzburg
Design of **market-viable product systems** from low-value textile waste: design-for-recycling principles, system architecture and business plan within the EU circular-economy framework (ESPR, EPR); physical demonstrator.

2026
ongoing

Product carbon footprint of rail-interior components

Master's thesis, industry collaboration · UAS Wiener Neustadt
Component-level LCA (openLCA / ecoinvent) with hotspot identification and design-based reduction strategies for a rail-interior manufacturer.

2026
ongoing

LCA automation toolchain

Personal project
Automating openLCA modelling and reporting with **Python and AI-assisted workflows** (Claude Code) — from inventory building to calculation.

ongoing

EDUCATION

02

Design & Product Management, MA

University of Applied Sciences Salzburg, Campus Kuchl — strategic design management, materials & process selection, circular business models

2024 – 10/2026

Eco-Design, MSc

UAS Wiener Neustadt, Campus Wieselburg — LCA (ISO 14040), PCF/PEF, Social LCA, EU regulatory framework (Ecodesign/ESPR, REACH), bio-composites

2024 – 12/2026

Integrated Product Design — Erasmus exchange

Politecnico di Milano — product development studio, inclusive product design, trend forecasting & strategic innovation

09/2025 – 02/2026

Manual & Material Culture, BA

New Design University, St. Pölten — thesis on Charles & Ray Eames; practical project: ergonomic seating-measurement tool

2021 – 2024

Carpenter apprenticeship & academic secondary school

Werkschulheim (Evangelical Secondary School), Vienna — carpentry apprenticeship completed alongside the Matura

2015 – 2020

EXPERIENCE & WORKSHOPS

03

International Design Week Tbilisi — tableware design

Tbilisi State Academy of Arts (GE) · collaborative project with partners from GE, TR, CZ and DE

06/2025

Bentwood technology for children's mobility

Design workshop · Brno University of Technology (CZ)

03/2025

Paramedic — civilian service

Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund, Vienna

10/2020 – 04/2021

Internships — restoration & conservation

Kopp Conservation & Restoration, Vienna · three consecutive summers

2016 – 2018

LANGUAGES

German

native

Italian

native

English

C1

SKILLS

LCA & Sustainability

LCA (ISO 14040) · PCF / PEF · EPD · Social LCA · openLCA / ecoinvent · circular-economy frameworks · EU regulation (ESPR, REACH)

CAD & Prototyping

Rhino 7 · Fusion 360 · AutoCAD · FDM 3D printing · laser cutting · woodworking · material testing

Digital & AI

Python (openLCA automation) · Claude Code · AI-assisted research, reporting & workflow automation

Visual & Communication

InDesign · Illustrator · Photoshop · 3D visualisation & rendering · sketching & design drawing · concept pitching

QUALIFICATIONS

Driving licence B · sailing licence (inland waterways) · certified Emergency Medical Technician

ENGAGEMENT & INTERESTS

YUNA Austria — Young United Nations Association: foreign-policy events & discussions.

Design fairs (Salone del Mobile) · innovative & sustainable materials · AI development & tooling · architecture · sailing · skiing