

**Vivarium @ Accademia di Brera**

18-23 April, 2023

Curated by Giulio Ceppi

Promoted by **Materially** in collaboration with **TotalTool**, Vivarium explores the theme of bio-based materials, posing them as fundamental ingredients to the discovery and progress of Design for the new generations. It does so through a series of initiatives that go beyond the days of Design Week and expand outside the walls of the Brera Academy of Fine Arts, where it is mainly located.

The exhibition will occupy a space overlooking the Cortile della Pesa, constituting the heart of a narrative journey in which nature will be presented as an extraordinary teacher of wisdom and wonder, as well as a fundamental tool in fulfilling a promise of a truly sustainable future.

During the Design Week, Vivarium will exhibit for the first time in Milan a range of **bio-based materials** derived from the research carried out by the **Silk Lab** - Tufts University, Boston, and by the **Dumo Lab** - Weitzman School of Design, University of Pennsylvania. Alongside them, Vivarium will present a meticulous selection of materials produced by artists, start-ups and established companies, which will offer a taste of the many uses of bio-based materials, in terms of application and industry nowadays.

The set-up, designed by Giulio Ceppi, will mainly host materials, but also prototypes and experimental products. A collection that will introduce research and materials that are fundamental in the creation of **new learning tools**, and innovative educational approaches aimed for children, and young designers of a very near future, organized in four macro-categories.

In light of this commitment, the following phases of the Vivarium project will develop through workshops and masterclasses for the students of the Academy, coordinated by Materially, between March and June 2023, in collaboration with **companies** which are deeply **aware of the role played by materials** in the responsible definition of the designed and built environment.

Furthermore, Materially, in collaboration with **Reggio Children**, will carry out a workshop taking place at BAM - Biblioteca degli Alberi Milano, on Sunday 2 April, from 10 am to 5 pm. As every first Sunday of the month, BAM offers educational and creative workshops open and free for citizens, aimed at disseminating environmental sustainability practices. In fact, the workshop will focus on bio-based materials, a vehicle for cognitive explorations and ingredients of creative artifacts.

During the Design Week, Vivarium will offer insights into materials, processes, research, and applications, drawing directly from the experience of the protagonists of the field. The talks will involve educators, researchers, entrepreneurs, and designers and will be directed to the students of the various departments of the Brera Academy of Fine Arts, as well as to those who will follow via streaming.

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