

TRANSKRIPT | Zwischen Donau, Wohnbau und Migration: Ein Rundgang durch die Brigittenau (#126 Eugene Quinn)

Bella Kitzwögerer: In the Technikum podcast, we don't just talk about technology, we actually live it. Join us to discover how science, technology and innovation are shaping our future. Welcome to another episode of the University of Applied Sciences Technikum Wien podcast. Today we're joining our exchange students on a walking tour through Vienna's twentieth district, organized by the international office led by urban explorer Eugene Quinn. Follow along.

Eugene Quinn: Welcome, everybody. Good to see you all. My name is Eugene. I come originally from London and we've got folks here... I'm just going to try and remember it: Switzerland, China, Denmark, Taiwan. Don't tell me... Czech Republic, Austria, Austria. I don't know where you're from, actually.

Student: Is it the first time doing the tour this year, or is it...

Eugene Quinn: No, it's the fourth time.

Student: It's the fourth time. Okay. I'm from Kyrgyzstan.

Eugene Quinn: Kyrgyzstan. Perfect. Thank you. Argentina. Austria. You two are Austrians? Okay, so my parents are Irish, but I come from London. When I first arrived in Vienna eighteen years ago this month, I loved to walk. It is my passion. I was unemployed at the beginning, not sure what to do. I decided I would explore the whole city. Sometimes I would bring some friends along for the adventure. Now I make alternative walking tours where the Viennese residents walk around Vienna. Normally when you see a group of people walking together, you think they're tourists—and they are tourists, in fact. But why do we only walk around other people's cities in a group and not through our own? So that's our project today. Hello, welcome. Do you want to join us for the tour? Which country are you from?

Student: I'm from Austria.

Eugene Quinn: From Austria? Great. Thanks. So Brigittenau is a less explored district of Vienna. I think it's a beautiful thing to have a sense of place and belonging in a digital age. Many people don't really belong anywhere. They don't care about where they are. They go through airports and shopping centers that look the same all over the world. But today we're going to look at some buildings which tell you immediately that you are here in the twentieth district of Vienna. Brigitta was a Swedish princess and she was a pilgrim across Europe, and she's now a saint. This is the only place in the whole world that is named for Holy Brigitta, Saint Brigitta. There is a chapel from the seventeenth century, a Baroque chapel in the north of the district. But actually today we're going to explore the southern side.

This neighborhood is complex, so in the springtime we made two tours just for Brigittenau, because there is so much to explore. Today we're going to explore the south side. The closer you get to Leopoldstadt, the second district, the richer this district gets and the more hipster it becomes because the rents are still fairly low here. Which means there's space for artists, for alternative cafes, for theatre makers... it will eventually become a bit more bourgeois here. It's already happening, but right now it's still inside Vienna, understood to be a working class, migrant rich

neighborhood. There's not so many famous things here in Brigittenau, but that's exactly why we're going to explore it, because every street is interesting if you hear the stories and meet the people. Welcome. Are you also from Taiwan? Excellent. Great. We have an international worldwide group here. Four continents, I think. This is an open session. So I look forward to your comments, your thoughts, your reflections, your provocations. If you'd like to know anything more about this neighborhood, then we can explore those together.

Student: Please can you explain what a pilgrim is ?

Eugene Quinn: A pilgrim is somebody who is... they are wanderers. But to holy things. They are motivated by religion. Thanks for asking that question. Brigitta went in the thirteenth century, and she had eight children. She traveled across Europe, first to Rome because of the Pope and then off to Constantinople and to Jerusalem. Very unusual for a woman to do that. And she had visions on the way. Vienna is historically a very Catholic place these days, much less so. The fastest growing religion now in Vienna is Islam, because of the different waves of migration—the young Turkish, Syrian, Afghan people, Bosnian as well. We're going to walk a little bit. We'll walk first to the MA 35. What an important organization. I've got a secret door for us. Hey. What's happening outside here?

Student 2: Well, they built up this emergency exit. And now they needed to... I don't know, how do you call it, but when you build something, you need to rebuild another area, like an entire lung.

Eugene Quinn: To have greenery, to make it more green.

Student 2: Green? Exactly. But I'm not sure, because actually it was quite green already. I'm not sure what they're doing.

Eugene Quinn: We are lucky to have such a crisp autumn day, obviously. October was very rainy and grey in Vienna, and this is perfect walking weather with all the leaves just starting to fall and some sunshine. I should say that we are recording a podcast today which will be broadcast soon, so I'm very happy to have our colleagues along who will be celebrating this walk. If you want to say anything, please say it into my microphone so that we can record you.

I live about thirty minutes from here on foot, in Leopoldstadt. But my son comes to school here in Brigittenau so not so far away from where he lives. This is a district which votes for the Social Democratic Party. For basically one hundred years, we've had the same government in Vienna, and there is a lot of conflict between Austria and Vienna. They're not the same place at all. It's important to understand the difference that this is a radical, avant garde, liberal city in a deeply conservative country, and that doesn't lead to easy times. So there's a lot of conflict over budget. Many people in the rest of Austria see Vienna as a place which is arrogant, which takes up too much energy and money. Too much of the media is based here. It is a very big city for a small country. Two million people in Vienna, only nine million in all of Austria. It's not always good, the dialogue between the capital city.

We see this phenomenon all over the world that people in big cities are much better educated, they're more ambitious, and they're much more comfortable with difference, with change, with queer or feminism or migration. And then people out in the countryside are terrified of all of these things. They don't feel comfortable in big cities. But I'm an urban person. I like having two million people in one space. Vienna is the fifth largest city in the European Union, but it also has this village quality. It's very calm and quiet and green. And there's lots of escape inside the city. It's possible not to leave the city, but to be in wilderness, which is a beautiful thing.

The crossing here, you see, the rainbow crossing, is about inclusion and public space being welcoming everybody. It is painted in the rainbow colors, which come from San Francisco in nineteen sixty eight. So the beginnings of the gay liberation movement. And this here is *Platz der Kinderrechte*. Children's Human Rights Square, the first one in Europe. Vienna has a big focus on human rights. You probably know that the United Nations is based here, which is a beautiful thing. Only four cities in the whole world host the United Nations: Nairobi in Kenya, New York City in the United States, Geneva in Switzerland, and then Vienna. There are five thousand diplomats working in Vienna, and we're experiencing multiple crises at the moment around the world. So it's beautiful to have people who are working on solving those. The Sustainable Development Goals, this cool graphic of the seventeen aims that we have for development that was designed in Vienna by a Swiss graphic artist—most Viennese don't know that, but we really should.

Here are the rights of children, and you'll find this poster in every school in Vienna. The rights of children are different. It's written in German. If you don't speak German, the rights of children are different to human rights generally. They have the right to make their own decisions, to not be bullied, to get enough food, to eat right, to education, to a safe place to sleep, and generally to make their own decisions, which unfortunately, many children still are unable to do. Their life is guided all the time by other people. But here we have rights for children. By the way, you are allowed to vote in Austria at sixteen years old. There are only seven countries in the whole world that allow sixteen year olds to vote. I think it's a very healthy thing because there was a big debate if sixteen year olds really have enough experience in life. But we know that at sixteen you're allowed to get married, to have sex, to drink alcohol, to pay tax. So of course you should be able to vote as well when you're able to live life independently. People said, well, maybe sixteen year olds don't have enough experience or education to make their own decisions. But look at how sixty year old people vote. It's catastrophic how old people vote. Generally, they're the people who vote for Trump, for Brexit, for Erdogan, also for the FPÖ here in Austria. It's a very sad square, I'm sorry to say. It doesn't reflect the rights of children. It needs a bit more imagination and play. There's not a single child here. But at least the symbolic act is there.

You see the number twenty here. You're probably familiar with this idea that Vienna is divided into twenty three districts. That number shows you that you are in Brigittenau, the twentieth district. I find it a bit strange. If you ask somebody in London, my hometown, where do you come from? People will say, "I live in the East End, West End." Nobody in Vienna ever says, "I live in East Vienna or North Vienna." It's not a thing. If you ask somebody in London, where do you live? They'll say, "I live in Chelsea or Soho or Greenwich." You ask a Viennese, they'll say, "I live in the twelfth, or the twenty first." It's very sad to reduce your city to postal codes. It's cold and bureaucratic, but that's how the Viennese live. I'm trying to persuade them that we should use names, especially for districts in Vienna are named after women. And you lose that if you say "the twentieth" instead of Brigittenau. So please use the names of your district and not the numbers. Also there are eight districts in Vienna which end with the letters I, N, G. So Simmering, Meidling, Hietzing, Penzing, Ottakring, Währing, Döbling, Liesing. ING means village in Bavarian, Middle German. So you also lose some geography if you don't use the names of your neighborhood. Please do that. Inside each district in Vienna, there are also so-called *Grätzl*, which is a very local neighborhood, much smaller, like a little hood, often connected with the local church. That creates a sense of belonging and identity.

Briefly, Austria has eight neighboring countries. It's a beautiful thing to have so many neighbors. I come from Britain. We got one neighbor, Ireland, and we're busy closing that with Brexit. Our one neighbor is being shut off—or we're getting shut off from them. The United States has two neighbors, and we've got eight. To the north, Czech Republic, in Germany; to the west,

Liechtenstein and Switzerland; to the south, Italy, Slovenia; and then in the east, Hungary and Slovakia. Lots of choices here. And Vienna is now the most networked rail city in the whole world. You can reach more places from Vienna than anywhere else. The ÖBB, the state railway company, has been buying up a lot of the night trains across Europe, so you can now go to sleep in Vienna, wake up in Bucharest, or in Rome, or in Warsaw or Hamburg or Zurich. I love that romance of having a night train with a diner car where you can go and meet your fellow passengers, have a beer, sing some songs.

Let's have a brief look at the MA 35. We're standing here on Dresdner Strasse, named for the German city of Dresden, and there are many German place names here. From German cities we have Leipziger Strasse, Sachsenplatz, Hannovermarkt and even Donaueschingenstrasse. These are all named because there were big storage areas here. The Nordwestbahnhof, the railway station that used to connect us with Germany, ended here, so a lot of goods would be brought in from Germany. Sausages, beer, fish from the North Sea. And it was stored in big halls, big warehouses here, just next to the railway station. So that explains why we're on Dresdner Strasse. It doesn't lead towards Dresden, but this is the MA 35. They are so unpopular in Vienna, they don't even have a sign outside their office. A lot of people are very angry with them. Maybe some of you have visited if you want to work here as a migrant; you've got to come here to register to get a working visa. They could not be more unhelpful. As a department, Vienna is a very well-run city. I'm very happy to say that we have an enormous bureaucracy. Seventy-seven thousand people work for the city of Vienna. It's a very well-organized city, except for this department. And we have lots of jobs empty in Austria at the moment, particularly in tourism, caring for old people, cleaning... the kinds of jobs that migrants generally do. And these people could not make it more difficult for us to actually get visas to work here.

Forty percent of adults in Vienna were not born in Austria. Like most of you. And that's a very high number to have forty percent migrants. It does present some challenges, but it also gives lots of opportunities because it means the city is growing. Migrants are responsible for almost all the babies that are born in Vienna now. Globally, the percent of people who are immigrants who live outside the country they were born in is just 3.6%. More than 96% of people live in the country they were born in. Only ten percent of people own a passport in the whole world. Only eleven percent have ever been in an airplane. So we are the freaks. Less than four percent of people have actually left our home country. So congratulations on making that. A lot of people dream of it, but they don't do it. They're not dynamic enough to actually make that leap. It's not easy to move countries, to say goodbye to your language and your friends. But it brings an energy into the city. Just like America was born of immigration, emigration. So, not the best Vienna department.

By the way, this building is very controversial. This Lego building there that you see up in the sky. If you're a Vienna architect, you sit down and think, which gray should we use for our next building? More than ninety percent of the buildings in Vienna are gray, and when they build a colorful building, the Viennese hate it. They go, "that's not architecture," they think it's like some children's game. But actually it's much more interesting than the buildings around it, right? I mean, how do you find your way home if you live in this kind of stuff here? This is social housing. We're going to talk a lot about social housing and this being a successful socialist city. Let's go and have a look at Adolf Hitler's home now. Does anybody have any questions, comments?

Student: You mentioned that there's likenames within the districts.

Eugene Quinn: I don't know that, I'm afraid. We have to ask a local if we find one. Hitler would have known. Maybe.

Adolf Hitler lived in this house for more than two years, and he was an Austrian citizen. He grew up near to the German frontier in Upper Austria. But he came to Vienna as a very young man. He was not a very successful young man. He was homeless for quite a lot of his time, which is why he ended up in this rather institutional looking building. There was lots of homelessness here in Brigittenau as a very poor district. This is a district with almost no history because it was underwater for much of the eighteenth and nineteenth century. It is new land that we are standing on. Therefore, because it didn't have so much history, there was room for lots of people to live quite close to each other. Hitler came to Vienna because he wanted like you to be a student at the Akademie der Bildenden Künste—an academy of fine art in Vienna. His focus was on little postcards, quite kitsch landscape pictures. He wasn't very successful. The university twice said no to him. They wouldn't let him study there because his art just wasn't good enough. He understood this to be anti-Semitism. Many of the teachers at the University of Art were Jews, but most were not. And he was a paranoid young man. While he was in Vienna, he learnt his anti-Semitism from the mayor of Vienna. Vienna has a long tradition of anti-Semitism, and Hitler was busy thinking about anti-elite thinking, which obviously we see now with Trump and Bolsonaro and Brexit. He demonized, he tried to isolate the Jews as rich people and said, look, we shouldn't allow this. We should take all these buildings back, all of these companies back and make them Austrian again. This made him very popular. The mayor of Vienna at the time, Karl Lueger, and Hitler was watching even as a young man.

Hitler wasn't very successful. Because they said no twice to Hitler, the University of Fine Arts feels a bit guilty for the Second World War. They think if only we'd said yes to this young loser, he would have gone for plan A, being a kitsch postcard painter instead of plan B. History is full of these "what if" questions. How would it have been different if someone had got a place at university? We can't tell if there still would have been a second World War. But Hitler was quite powerful, quite a good speaker, quite influential. He spent six years in Vienna. There is no sign up on the building saying that. In fact, Vienna is a city which... people all over the world are fascinated with Second World War. Unfortunately, in Britain, the History Channel is often called the Hitler Channel because it's about the panzer divisions or Stalingrad or heroes of liberation. Those tourists who are fascinated with Second World War go right now to Poland, to Auschwitz, or to Germany. There is no single museum about the Second World War in Vienna. And that's embarrassing. You can explore Mozart here. You can't really explore the Second World War. It's a missed opportunity also commercially because tourists are fascinated with that. You can go to Mauthausen, which is one of the most brutal Nazi camps. It's about an hour and a half by train. It is public now, almost all Austrian children go to explore that, to understand it.

But still, the most popular political party in Austria now is the Freedom Party. For the first time last September, Austrians voted... The biggest political party now is the Freedom Party. They were created just eight years after Second World War by Ex-nazis as a Democratic Nazi party. Somebody's not reading the history books if they think we should try that again. It didn't end very well with the Second World War. But we now think racist politicians have the answers, which is not true. So, no sign up there says that Hitler lived here. He also lived in Gumpendorferstrasse, in the sixth district, Mariahilf, and also in Meidling.

Now we're going to go look at some high quality social housing. Let's move forward a bit. There is a crisis of housing all over the world right now. It's become much more expensive. Building materials, labor costs, land is getting more expensive. And people are also living different lifestyles. Before, people used to live much more communally. Now you have a lot of divorce and you have a lot of elderly like pensioners who live on their own. This is not sustainable, that so many people don't really want to live with strangers or with other people. Because obviously each person then

has to cook their own food and heat their own home and light it instead of having shared facilities. It's a worldwide trend. But Vienna has interesting solutions. This is a city where one in four people—a quarter of Viennese—live in social housing. Social housing means the government owns your property and the rent is generally very low. Energy costs have gone up in the last few years after the Ukraine war, after the end of the pandemic.

In Vienna, the conditions after the First World War were catastrophic. This was a very poor city with the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. There was simply not very much food in this city, because historically, our food in Vienna was grown in Hungary and Slovakia, and these were not part of the empire anymore. They were foreign countries, not very sympathetic to Austria. You had a lot of people who had been damaged or destroyed by the war. Post-traumatic stress. There were a lot of men missing limbs, and eleven percent of Viennese women were forced into sex work to survive. That was their job because they just couldn't find any other work. A really horrible choice for so many women to have to make. And this was the tuberculosis capital of Europe. The air quality was very low. We had this phenomenon of *Bettgeher*. This was that there was so little housing. A *Bettgeher* was somebody who didn't have their own flat, didn't have their own room, didn't even have their own bed. Six hours a day, you rented space in a bed, but three other people across twenty four hours would sleep in your bed. So you can imagine the health conditions. A room full of beds, quite difficult to sleep with lots of other people, lots of illnesses in the room as well, and deep poverty.

So Vienna, in May nineteen nineteen, was the first city in the whole world to democratically elect a socialist government. The Russian Soviet revolution was November nineteen seventeen; May nineteen nineteen, democratically elected government of socialism. And it was quite adventurous, quite utopian. Their project to give dignity to ordinary people, to give them a healthy life, enough food, education, culture, mobility, jobs and social housing was central to that. In many other European cities there is a stigma. It's embarrassing socially to live in social housing. There's none of that here. Many rich people in Vienna live in social housing, and only the richest twenty percent of residents of this city are not allowed to live in social housing. So it is completely normal for quite wealthy people to live here. You get balconies, you get good views, you get lots of green space. There's culture provided. The Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, one of the most famous orchestras in the world, play a series of concerts in the summer for free in the courtyards of these *Gemeindebauten* (social housing projects). They are all over the city. They're not just in the poor part, like in Paris or in London. They are really in the richest neighborhoods and the first district. Also in Döbling, the fanciest district, we have the longest residential building in Europe. The city of Vienna wanted that every district would vote for the socialist government, so they put lots of poor people in rich neighborhoods. Quite good strategy. It works until now. It's not dangerous to walk into social housing like it would be in Los Angeles or in London. Everybody is welcome inside there, and it is what socialism looks like in reality.

Other examples of living in a socialist city: The public transport costs one euro per day. It's even less for students, and it's free for children up to six years old before they go to school. It's a world class service. It works very well. Also you have free childcare. Kindergarten is free right from nine months old. You can put your baby into care. That means that not just women can return to work, but both parents don't have to spend so much time looking after their child. They can actually do the job that they are supposed to do, and somebody else can professionally look after your kid. It's a reflection of this being a feminist city, about social justice, that women should be able to make their own choices. Also the university here is free for residents. That's a beautiful thing to have free education. The Viennese care a lot about having lots of letters before their name and after their name.

Let's go inside the Hof. The court. I love maps. I think it's very important to get the bigger picture. There's a real danger if you're just looking at the next one hundred meters on your phone, of not understanding the full picture. The first thing that you notice about Vienna is the water. We are on the river Danube. This is the second river in Europe. Only the Volga River in Russia is longer. And that is the reason we are here, because the Romans who created Vienna, there was a small fortress here called Vindobona. The Celts were here before that, coming out of Hungary and Serbia. But this was the first proper building on this site. The Romans were obsessed with good water. We know that water is life and Rome is built on beautiful sweet water. Vienna also. You might have noticed last year before the Olympic Games in Paris, that the mayor of Paris went for a swim in the Seine to show that the athletes would not die if they went for a swim. But some of them did get quite sick afterwards, even though she didn't. Everybody can go swimming in the Danube, and they do regularly. It's interesting. The Viennese do not go on the water. Almost nobody takes boat rides in Vienna for mobility, but they love to swim in the river. It's a shame. Everybody loves going on boats. But the Viennese don't do that.

Before the Danube was regulated to this straight line through the city in the eighteen seventies, the river used to go all through the city. It was quite chaotic. This was all basically little islands. Quite a difficult place to live. Brigittenau wasn't proper land. This is reclaimed land. We have artificially taken it back from the Danube. In the nineteenth century, they moved the river to this straight line through the city. Which is not how rivers want to flow. They don't usually go in straight lines, but it does in Vienna, which means that the Donaukanal, the Danube Canal, is not an important part of the river anymore.

This is the famous Ringstrasse, the ring Boulevard, one of the most prestigious streets in Europe. This is the Gürtel, so-called Belt Road, which separates the first nine very densely populated districts from the more spread out districts. You can see that Brigittenau itself is really quite densely populated as well. Not so many parks as you get in Floridsdorf. We even now have a national park in Vienna, which is something very unusual. The Lobau in Donaustadt, across the river. There's not many bridges over the Danube, which means that Floridsdorf and Donaustadt are economically much less developed and were quite disconnected from the city. In fact, they weren't part of Vienna until the twentieth century. Here's the United Nations. Because the International Atomic Energy Agency is based here in Vienna, The Economist magazine believes there are eight thousand five hundred spies working in Vienna, more than any other city in the whole world. There is no punishment for spying in here unless you spy on Austria. And who's going to spy on Austria? It's not that important. So because the Atomic Energy Agency is here, the Pakistanis, the Indians need to be here. The North Koreans, the Israelis, the Russians, the Americans, the British. They're all trying to break each other's computer codes. Spying is much less fun than it was in James Bond's days. It's not much parties and fast cars and gin and tonic these days. It's more digital sabotage.

The beltway around the first nine districts is not really a belt because it only goes through half of the city. It goes from here, just across the river from Brigittenau, around to Sankt Marx. They never finished building this belt, but somehow it's a psychological barrier. This is Schönbrunn, the summer residence of the Habsburgs. Leopoldstadt and Brigittenau were the same district of Vienna until nineteen hundred, so it was only separated off in the twentieth century, which is really quite late. The main railway station is here and the Stephansplatz is here. This is a very central district, but it doesn't have that feeling of being so much... there's not tourists here. It's fairly easy to get into the city, but it's not the fastest way to get in, and therefore it has a slightly not isolated quality, but it's calm and quite quiet.

The richest people live in northwest Vienna, and the poorest people live in the southeast. That is true in almost every European city. Anybody know why the rich people live northwest? Because of the fresh air. Our weather comes from the northwest. If you fly from London to New York, it takes one hour longer than if you fly from New York to London, because you're flying against the flow of the weather around the world. So that means you have fresh air here coming in from the Vienna woods, from the countryside. Historically, before the whole toilet system was built, it didn't smell too good down here. That's only one hundred and fifty years ago, but also because the city was heated with wood and with coal. So there was lots of dust in the air. A lot of smog and fog. That's the reason why so much of the infrastructure in Vienna is downwind of the city center. You have the airport down here, a big oil refinery from OMV, power generation, the waste disposal department, gas station, a big farming area for cucumbers. Sixty percent of the cucumbers sold in Austria are grown in Vienna. Normally, a capital city imports food. We export it. In London you can buy Vienna cucumbers.

And also this is the central cemetery of Vienna. We are two million people now living in Vienna. There are three million dead people in this space. It's bigger than the first district. Because Vienna is a socialist city that doesn't believe in God, they closed lots of small churches with small graveyards of minority religions and moved them all together. So it's absolutely fascinating to go and look at how Buddhists remember their dead, how Serbian Orthodox, Christians, Jews, Muslims remember their dead. You can look at it all. The Viennese are very melancholy people. They're fascinated with death and decay and the dark side. So people go dating here, they have picnics, there are concerts here. The Viennese are quite comfortable with the dark side.

Student: To be fair, it's a very nice area.

Eugene Quinn: It is. It's like a park, basically.

Student: Yeah, I would recommend.

Eugene Quinn: Also to look at how you want to be remembered. It's an interesting question. How to die better. What do you want to write on your gravestone? The Italians love to have photos. I think that's a great idea because that's how you want to be remembered.

Student 3: I will be there soon.

Eugene Quinn: Really? You're planning on dying soon? Let's see. You can see the social housing is very calm. It is designed for safety for children because of the balconies you can see around here. That meant the parents could look down and see their children playing. They didn't have to be with the kids. So it's green space. It's safe space. There's a playground and it's good for your soul to have lots of trees. In many cities, they would have built dense housing. Here, there wouldn't be any space between the buildings. But Vienna never sold any of this. They protected the rights of ordinary people to have just as good a life as everybody else.

Now we go to the shopping center. The autumn is very late this year, so it's the fourth of November today. Usually the trees would not have leaves on at this time of year, but it was delayed. We had quite a wet autumn and a fairly hot summer, so it's unusual to see so many trees with leaves on and especially green leaves. Vienna will be one of the cities most affected in Europe by climate change, which is quite problematic, especially these urban heat islands. The city gets very, very hot. I come from London, and in London we often don't have a winter or a summer. It's just kind of blur through the whole year. We don't have four seasons, and it's a beautiful thing to be here in Vienna and to have this contrast between summer and winter. Two years ago, me and my son, we

were able to walk on the river Danube, on the Donau. It was frozen solid. There were even a couple of naughty Serb boys driving their car on the Danube River, which is not officially allowed by the city of Vienna. And then in summer, it's really very hot here. Those of you who are new in town, we had two days this summer where it was thirty eight degrees centigrade in the center of Vienna. So it's quite a challenge for architecture to be cool in summer and warm in winter. Most Vienna houses are a bit more focused on staying cool in summer than warm in winter. We have high ceilings, which is not so practical in the winter because you've got to heat the rest of the room first.

There's an interesting debate about whether the Austrians, especially the Viennese, really speak German or not. When films that are filmed here in Vienna play in northern Germany, in Hanover or in Hamburg, where they speak German properly, like High German, they need to have subtitles at the bottom to understand what we are talking about in Vienna. So that's a funny detail. It's dialect here. It's not official German.

Welcome to the river Danube. This is the boundary of Brigittenau. *Au* means like a plain. A kind of flat land. So we have Lobau, Brigittenau. The water is beautiful, and it's a great luxury to have, it gives people inspiration and hope. But historically, the river was something very threatening. You did not want to live beside the river. You might notice that, generally speaking, there isn't much development next to the river Danube. The people were not excited to live here. It was the poorest place to live because the river would flood all the time. It's only since about maybe forty years that people like to live beside water. It used to be dirty, and didn't smell very good. There are, in fact, quite a few rats live along here. And quite a few rabbits as well. You can see some wildlife coming into the city. And of course, lots of pigeons and dogs are the most popular animal. London, my city, is a cat city. The Londoners love to live with cats and the Viennese are much more into dogs. I'm interested in the psychology of this, because you probably know that if you own a dog, it will... It's very enthusiastic and it'll do what you say. If you throw a stick, a dog will bring it back to you. If you throw a stick in front of a cat, the cat will go, "why are you throwing a stick?" They're not interested in pleasing you. The Viennese want more respectful pets, whereas we in London want to have this manipulative relationship with our *Haustier*.

Student: Depends on how much land there is in your country.

Eugene Quinn: Are you more of a dog or a cat boy? You're a dog person, right? Culturally, they mean different things. Dogs in different cultures. Some people don't want to live close, they are considered something wild and threatening. I think in much of the Middle East, for example.

The river is the reason that we're here. Water is life. The Danube connects nine modern countries. It flows from the Black Forest to the Black Sea. From Germany to Romania, Moldova, Ukraine. It becomes a delta at the other end. This Danube island is an artificial island created in the nineteen eighties to slow down the flow of the river. So it's an engineering project. It's not like a tourist park which we think of it now. And nobody lives there, which means you can be really quite loud over there. And it's also where the Viennese go to get naked. This is the second most popular naturist city in the whole world, and it's quite a shock for us Anglos to go over there and see thousands of people butt naked. Networking, having a picnic, dancing, playing volleyball, all the most dignified things. It's a beautiful thing in a way that the Viennese are so comfortable to be naked in front of each other, especially in the city of Freud and of all this bourgeois angst that actually they're very comfortable letting it all hang out. Let's just say it's not always a parade of the most beautiful people.

If you say Brigittenau to many Viennese, they've probably been here the last time because this is one of the most popular shopping centers in the city, and they have big facilities for children to

have parties. There is a Flip Lab, a huge trampoline area which is not just for kids. Adults enjoy that as well. There's also a monkey park. So particularly if your kid's birthday is in the winter, this is the place to have maximum noise and chaos without wrecking your own home. On the last tour that we made in May, we went up to the roof of this building. To the ceiling. But unfortunately, the marketing manager is sick this week, so we can't go up there. Next year, we will do it again. Sorry about that. The Viennese do come to this shopping center. I'm not a great fan of shopping centers myself, but it is quite well known in the rest of the city. It's called Millennium City, which is a bit dated now. We're almost twenty six years into the new millennium, but in Vienna we have many shopping centers named after old things like Columbus shopping center, and he didn't bring good things to Latin America. And we have Lugner City. He's a dead embarrassing celebrity. I'm glad you don't know him.

There are eighty seven thousand people living in Brigittenau. It's led by a woman. It will be a fast growing district once the Nordwestbahnhof is developed. The former railway storage area is now being turned into eighteen thousand homes. So there will be a lot more people living in this neighborhood once that's finished. Not just homes, but schools. Park, kindergarten, leisure center, hospital. They're building infrastructure because Vienna is a fast growing city and it's good to be in a fast growing city.

Was anybody shocked by anything when they first arrived in Vienna? Things that you really didn't expect. I was surprised by the opening hours. Not in a good way. Coming from London, it's like living in a village on a Sunday. You can't buy anything. I was quite surprised that smoking is still kind of cool here. A lot of young people, the number of smokers is going up every year, which is a bit strange. I was a bit surprised by the bureaucracy. But in a good way. I was surprised by the beauty. If you come here from London that things work here, the infrastructure is well made. It's a city that cares about those little details of carpentry, good woodwork. People care that everything works here, and they kind of don't in London, really. In London, you pay a lot more money for a lot less good accommodation than you get here.

Student: Opening hours. What do you mean by that?

Eugene Quinn: I mean that it's quite difficult to buy things after eight o'clock at night and Sundays and Saturday afternoon on the main shopping streets. The supermarkets are open. Not much else is open even on a Friday. London is a seven days a week city. You can do things every day and Vienna is a 4.5 days a week city. If you call people on a Friday afternoon, good luck to you. They're not there. Thirty eight percent of the Viennese leave the city every weekend. Just as Berlin or London are coming alive to have a party and be social and to get together, go to the football, go to the pub... Vienna goes to sleep on a Friday afternoon. Even a lot of young people, they might be born in Vienna, but their soul is somewhere in the countryside. They love adventure, sport, nature, silence. Mountains and the countryside around Vienna is incredibly beautiful and that's a big draw out of the city in the end.

Student: I was walking around here recently, and I noticed those two boats over there.

Eugene Quinn: Yes. Three boats. That's actually a ship school. Sorry. I'll mention it. Thanks for reminding me. So we just had a question about those three ships that you can see stuck together over there in the water. That is a high school, an academic high school. So the city thought, well, as you can see, there's not a single boat moving on the river today. The Viennese don't really use this. If you go to the Rhine River in Germany, you'll see lots and lots of boats. In Vienna we don't really go on the river. Because there's so much space in the Danube, the city said, "hey, why don't we build a school, just take some old ships and put them together." It's kind of cool to reimagine

public space in that way. Maybe it's a bit spooky if you're learning French and your boat's moving. Your French teacher's a bit woozy.

Just a little further down this street, there is a *Beisl*. *Beisl* is an important word. It's a Yiddish word. The original language of the Central European Jews, a mix of Polish and German. A *Beisl* means "at home" in Yiddish and in Hebrew. You can feel the Jewish influence. Before Second World War, ten percent of the population of Vienna was Jewish. A lot of them were here in Brigittenau because we're not so far away from Leopoldstadt, which is the historic ghetto where the Jews were locked in at nighttime. The Jews were at the heart of a lot of the intellectual hunger and dynamism of Vienna. A lot of the creativity, architecture, music. Strauss was Jewish. Gustav Mahler was Jewish. Hedy Lamarr, who invented a prototype of Bluetooth, was a Viennese Jew, and she was the highest paid Hollywood actress for two years in a row. She was judged the most beautiful woman in the world. But she also invented Bluetooth, which is quite impressive. Nobody knows that there is a Hedy Lamarr prize now for the best female tech and digital researcher every year in Austria. Sigmund Freud, of course, was Jewish. Stefan Zweig, who wrote *The Grand Hotel Budapest*. Wittgenstein, a big philosopher, was a Viennese Jew. We lost our creative class in many ways with the Holocaust.

Viennese food is interesting because there are hundreds of restaurants in Vienna with exactly the same menu as each other. In most cities there's loads of hipster places trying to do something experimental. Not in Vienna, they've all got the same menu. If it ain't broke, why fix it? The Viennese are not so much into trends in food. They're quite loyal. Viennese food is some of the least Instagrammable in the whole world. It's really quite ugly. You've got dead pig. You've got some *Knödel* which is like yesterday's bread smashed into a ball, some brown sauce on top, and maybe a bit of cabbage if there's any green area. But it feels good in your tummy and you can buy a two course lunch in many guesthouses, many *Beisl* for seven euros ninety, eight euros fifty, which is a very inclusive democratic price. And it's local food, slow food.

I saw recently an alcohol map of Europe which was showing what's the most famous kind of alcohol in each country. In Northwest Europe, from Czech Republic up to Norway, Ireland, it's beer all the way. In the southern lands from Portugal right across to Turkey, it's wine. And then in the eastern countries, it's strong, pure spirit. Slivovitz, Rakia, vodka, schnapps. Vienna is at the fault point where all these three cultures come together. We've got great wine, pretty good apricot brandy and beautiful beer from being close to Czech Republic and Bavaria. So it's good to have choices. Who can name an Austrian company? Red Bull. Exactly. So all tins of Red Bull worldwide are produced in Vorarlberg. I think the company is a bit more famous now for dangerous sports than it is for these stinky drinks that you have in nightclubs. But it's interesting to have these two quite contrasting industries inside the same office in Salzburg. Also Glock. Twenty one percent of guns sold in the United States are produced in Lower Austria. And you also have some quite big banks. Erste Bank. Raiffeisen. And the Austrian Federal Railway ÖBB, it's quite visible across Europe because of these night trains. And then Swarovski is well known. The crystals firm in Tyrol.

We're going to walk west now and have a look at the abandoned railway station. What was the temperature in Argentina when you left?

Student 3 (Argentina): It was quite cold for November. Fourteen, fifteen. It should be up to twenty.

Eugene Quinn: Strange.

Student 3: The wind has been not cold but long. Not extreme temperatures.

Eugene Quinn: It's a big city.

Student 3: Quite mild. So the average in Argentina, in Buenos Aires... We have four seasons too, well-defined. Now we should be in the mid twenties. This is a normal temperature in November. You said that in London you have a seven by twenty four open things. But I remember that British things are quite closed.

Eugene Quinn: Well the pubs used to.

Student 3: Even if you go to Australia, things are quite closed.

Eugene Quinn: I've never been to Australia, but Britain is a more capitalist place, it's focused on making money and so people will open when they want to open. Whereas here it's not a Catholic thing here that the shops are closed on Sunday. It's a socialist idea of the rights of workers.

Student 3: This was the case in Argentina forty years ago. But now everything is open. Every day. Because they want to make money. Most of the shops need to survive, not to make money. The worker's rights are lower and lower.

Eugene Quinn: Well, yeah. Your new leader. He doesn't believe in that. Does he.

Student 3: When you were mentioning about Hitler being a failure? I was trembling because this guy is the same thing. He was ejected from every place he was working on, or trying to study, and now he's president.

Eugene Quinn: But I was surprised at the elections last week that people had a clear choice there because they can see what he's doing to the country. It's going to get a lot worse next year.

Student 3: I think people understood that there was nothing in front of him. They were threatened by Trump: "I won't help you if you win." It was a very complicated thing.

Eugene Quinn: You can't rely on Donald Trump, though, to be your savior. He changes his mind every day.

Student 3: But the thing is that he has nothing. He won the election because he has nobody to beat.

Eugene Quinn: Corrupt politicians in every direction.

Student 3: So actually, he won against nobody. It's easy. And people were scared because everybody was standing in the week before the election, everybody in the press or in the media were telling, "oh, on Monday there will be a disaster. Everything will explode." So if you are told this all day during five days before the election, what are you going to do?

Eugene Quinn: So the media is supporting him?

Student 3: Yeah. Because I mean, the concentrated media. Conservative. Monopoly basically. But also if you read the week before The Economist, the Financial Times, the Wall Street Journal, everybody was telling the economic plan will crash etc. on Monday. Everybody the same people. So they are not credible anymore because the same Economy, Financial Times, Wall Street Journal were telling "no but this will work now."

Eugene Quinn: It's crazy. I don't think economists were saying that. They don't believe in what he's doing because it's not socially sustainable. You need to bring the people with you, and it's too brutal. You know, and it's not very good for your economy if you rely on bailouts because he's not making the cuts in every direction. He's just helping his friends at the same time.

Student 3: Most public services are cut.

Eugene Quinn: Pensions, education.

Student 3: National Cancer Institute, everything. Hospitals. It's a terrible, terrible thing.

Eugene Quinn: It happened in Britain as well forty years ago with Margaret Thatcher.

Student 3: How can you believe that someone can be elected having declared that his idol was Margaret Thatcher? Can people vote for him in Argentina?

Eugene Quinn: It's a shame.

Student 3: He wants us to know "she did what she had to do." Can you believe that? And people voted for him.

Eugene Quinn: Some of the changes were not so bad that she made, but most of them were bad. Britain did need to change, but obviously you need to find that balance. To liberalise your economy is sometimes good if...

Student 3: But it says that she's a war criminal.

Eugene Quinn: Well, yes, that's a separate thing. It is strange for him.

Student 3: I mean, by the sinking of the Belgrano. That was a war crime. From an [Argentinian] point of view, you cannot vote for someone who says that that was okay.

Eugene Quinn: Yes. It's an interesting choice for an Argentine leader. It's kind of perverse.

Student 3: Exactly. But that means when people are desperate, they can vote anything. Anyone.

Eugene Quinn: There's one Liberal government now, one left wing government in the European Union from twenty seven countries, and that's in Spain. And that will collapse soon because it's a bad government.

Student 3: It's putting pressure on him.

Eugene Quinn: He's brought in a lot of corrupt people. I don't think his wife is corrupt, but a lot of the people around him are embarrassing. And it's a very shaky coalition.

Student 3: But the people from the Popular Party are also corrupt.

Eugene Quinn: Sure. Deeply corrupt.

Student 3: You are a right wing movement all around the world is completely dangerous, in my opinion.

Eugene Quinn: Populism. You know, it's not just a bunch of crazy people.

Student 3: No, this is Boris Johnson.

Eugene Quinn: He's making a lot of money. There is a career after being a prime minister because of all your networks and connections. And he's kind of a clown. So people like to have him as a speaker at their conference to motivate people. He is funny. But I don't want comedy politicians. They've got serious things to deal with. And clowns don't have solutions.

Student 3: When our president went into power, everybody was saying, oh, he's a funny guy, etc. and I said, yes. Zelensky was a clown and he put Ukraine into a war.

Eugene Quinn: That's right.

Student 3: Now with these four or five multi millionaire people in the world running the world for them...

Eugene Quinn: I'm not quite there yet. I don't think we're having four people running the world.

Student 3: But I mean this is Jeff Bezos.

Eugene Quinn: I know who you're talking about, but I think the world is a bit more complex than that. No, but I mean, you've got the Chinese.

Student 3: But for example, where has the free press in the US gone? I mean, they disappeared. It's in the hands of the Washington Post. Went from discovering the Watergate thing into being run by Jeff Bezos. Censored as a journalist.

Eugene Quinn: Well, the New York Times is still a very good newspaper. NPR is good. I think those late night comedians in America, they're very influential. And the Oscars is still a very liberal space. There's still room for criticism in America, but it is turning into a dictatorship very quickly. I don't think Trump's going to accept losing any elections.

Student 3: Exactly. Scott Bannon and Steve Bannon. He said the other day he's going to run for a third term president even if he can't.

Eugene Quinn: I can believe it.

Student 3: He said even if he can't. If he can't, how can he do this?

Eugene Quinn: Well, Trump doesn't care about the rules. He doesn't follow them. He is above the law.

Student 3: Exactly. But if you think that from just spying the Democratic Party...

Student 2: We're stuck in the traffic light as well.

Eugene Quinn: Oh, really? Sorry. I should have checked. We're distracted here. Thanks for running. We're almost there. This is the Nordwestbahnhof. Have you been there before? It's a very interesting place. It's a beautiful place.

Student 4: So there was one coming and the other two. We have a girl who has trouble walking.

Eugene Quinn: Yes. It's great that she's come. What's the balance of gender at your university?

Student 4: Seventy thirty.

Eugene Quinn: Right?

Student 2: Yeah. As a technical university. But the thing is, we have the four faculties and the life science engineering, for example. The ratio changes.

Eugene Quinn: Yes. I mean, Vienna is a biotech world center now, right? It's a serious player. Have you seen any of the campaigns that they are running in America to attract academics?

Student 2: I saw the University of Vienna. They did a great job.

Eugene Quinn: It should be coordinated. I think there should be one campaign.

Student 2: I think there is a ministry.

Eugene Quinn: I don't think so.

Student 2: Well, maybe then it's a decision of the university itself.

Eugene Quinn: That's okay. But it could be more focused. The campaign.

Student 2: That's true. There would be a lot of potential there.

Eugene Quinn: Some of the universities would have to start teaching in English. It's just a challenge.

Student 3: What was it? Sixty five, sixty eight. When Nixon and the Watergate thing. So they were paying.

Eugene Quinn: Seventy two, I think.

Student 3: Seventy two. Okay. So this makes a government fund... This thing that today would be considered stupid. And Trump has been re-elected after trying to take over the Congress. This is crazy.

Eugene Quinn: We are post logic, post facts. The people take their news from Signal, from Discord. They don't take it from truth based organizations and you lose then the consensus, the sense of education. Education is so contested now in America, they are disputing more and more Bible classes and less biology classes, history classes, rewriting the history books of America to make it more patriotic. That's not how you get smart people.

Student: Absolutely not.

Student 3: I mean, the land of the free.

Eugene Quinn: It was though. It really was. I love America, I love jazz, I love blues, I love soul, I love black dance. I love the street style and that kind of optimism of America in the middle of the twentieth century that people just tried things out. It was an optimistic country.

Student 3: Most of the innovation outside China come from the US, not from Europe.

Eugene Quinn: That's because they attract the best talent from India. France. Argentina. Britain. Of course. Although Trump's stopping that as well.

Student 3: Most researchers I was talking to yesterday don't want to go for conferences in the US because many of them have been fired, put back on the plane.

Eugene Quinn: Because they posted one time, one thing on X. I mean, that's like the Nazis. Thought police.

Student 3: I think it was a free land of opportunities and all that. But now...

Eugene Quinn: It's a land of small thinking racists.

So this is the railway station. Have you been here? No. It's a special place. This is Brigittenau. Welcome to the Nordwestbahnhof. In future Nordwestbahnviertel, North West railway station. Not just the connection with Germany for passengers. By the way, the Jews were to some extent sent away on trains from here. So it has a very dark history. But this was also the storage area. And it is remarkable to think about so many spaces in Vienna, which were former transport hubs, which are now big development areas in the future. The trend in architecture, certainly in Europe, will be away from destroying buildings and instead adapting them. Moving away from "we don't need so many offices anymore." After the pandemic, people work more freely, at least a lot of knowledge workers do. And so maybe in the future we will adapt buildings from factories into living or education or hospitals or things that people still use. There was lots of storage here for trains. And it is abandoned now for more than twenty years. And it's a romantic space. It's a lost place for experiments now. So the technical university students use it for different things. You can be quite loud here. There aren't so many residents, but there are exhibitions inside these halls, and there's meetings of urbanists and ideas. There's a photo exhibition inside this old hall, the ticket hall of what used to be here, showing you all the different ways that the space has been used. It's usually empty, but they had a big ecological exhibition here. And so they pulled up some of the concrete and put in trees just to make it less hot in summer.

Student: Why was it abandoned in the first place?

Eugene Quinn: So we don't usually... logistics are not now in cities. They're on the edge of the cities, not in the middle. So this is in demand and it's been centralized. And obviously it's automated as well. You don't need so many people. If you go to modern ports where they switch containers from boats onto trains, there's almost no people involved. Now there's chips that tell you what's inside each container. So it doesn't need to be where the labor is anymore because it's automated. There is a loss of a romance there, but they're going to keep some of the buildings here and some of the wildlife. But I'll just take you through to the back because it really is wild over there.

Student: What was used to be here? Lake? That's why there are fish.

Eugene Quinn: No, it was the river Danube. So there was fishing going on here and then fish farming a bit later. By the way, "508," if you see this written on houses, the graffiti... that means that it is Syrian gang territory. There are different groups who have fights. Sometimes in Brigittenau, the Chechens and the Syrians. It's a youth kind of macho thing. It's not particularly important, but it's

about drug dealing to some extent in each neighborhood. The "313" and the "508," that's the Chechens.

Films have been made here because it has this romance. There's lots of sky here, and in a lot of Vienna you just don't see very much sky because you've got lots of buildings close to each other. It's quite exciting to have all this big blue sky here. You can see top security here as well. You can just walk through here. All these buildings will be destroyed in the next few weeks, and you can hear they're destroying it right now. In its place will come a new city neighborhood. Like I say, it's good to be in an expanding city. There are a few people who work here. There are parties here. And there was a big graffiti festival here. So there's lots of street art on the buildings. Across there, the tall buildings on the other side are already the Nordbahnhof. So the North railway station. That's a big urban development area that's finished, whereas this one is just starting. And also Aspern. Way out at the end of the U2 line in Donaustadt, that was the airport of Vienna until the nineteen sixties. So it was abandoned after the Cold War, but that also was empty space. And they've used the runway and all of the infrastructure there to build a whole new smart city development. If you want to visit the future, go have a look at Aspern. That is how we will live in the future. It's quite an interesting utopian experimental space.

We'll continue. Now we're heading towards the street market. Hannovermarkt.

Student: I went to the end of the U2 like a month ago. On your recommendation. It's quite nice there, but I expected it to be a bit bigger.

Eugene Quinn: It's not finished.

Student: Like walkable cities. It's quite nice.

Eugene Quinn: The people who live there are very proud of it and enjoy living there. That's a very important thing that people believe in it as an experimental space. The Viennese are quite grumpy people. They're not particularly full of joy, which is a challenge for me as a happy person to be dealing with all of this negativity.

Student: I once went on a tour in my city in Brno. From the description of the tour, I also thought it would be some abandoned stations and developed areas. But the tour guide was a botanist, and he made stops every five minutes, and he showed the plants there. What's edible? What's notable? So I did not learn much about history, just plants, but also we went to an abandoned rail station and he was showing us that some plants catch on trains and travel through the rails.

Eugene Quinn: Yeah. You know how fish move from one lake to the next? So birds go to swim to drink water. And the eggs from the fish are in the water, and so they get carried to the next lake. It's Darwin, right? It's very clever. Because otherwise you think, well, how do fish get into a lake? I know the main railway station in Brno because the student agency, the RegioJet bus stops just beside the railway station.

Student: So I plan to move it and rebuild it for thirty years now. The bus station or the railway? Both. It's a kilometer away. To make space for high speed tracks. But it's finally kind of moving. It seems that the construction will start soon.

Eugene Quinn: It's quite expensive to build high speed tracks, because you need straight lines and there's always developments in cities.

Student: Finally, we got one train that can move up to two hundred kilometres, right? But it's between Prague and the fifth largest city. It's only on a short part of the track. Twenty kilometers.

Eugene Quinn: So it's an experimental thing?

Student: It's finally starting to move. There are plans.

Eugene Quinn: I went to a week long conference in Banska Bystrica in Slovakia, and it took a long time by train. It's very romantic. I'm not a person who needs to go fast. In fact, I quite like travelling slowly. I don't fly in airplanes. And I'm actually... I've been invited to Cairo in Egypt, and the people who invited me to do a week long seminar, they didn't know that I don't fly. Well, they've told me actually that because it used to be that you could travel on cargo ships. I mean, cruises are expensive and not very ecological. They're about as bad as airplanes. But it used to be before the pandemic that you could book a pretty rough space in a cargo ship, because, of course, the Suez Canal is one of the main travel routes. But after the pandemic, there's too much security fears. So you cannot easily travel by cargo ship. So I'm going to take two buses to get to Istanbul and then to Damascus in Syria, and then a bus to Amman in Jordan, and then across into Egypt. It's a five day bus journey. I know, I know. I'm sure things will go wrong, but I'm not sure what. We have the right of way on these crossings. The Viennese will stop for you.

Student (Kyrgyzstan): I come from a village, so I'm not that used to cars.

Eugene Quinn: No. I've never had a driving licence.

Student: I'm sorry. What's your name again?

Eugene Quinn: My name is Eugene. It's like Yevgeny, if you know it in Russian.

Student: Where did you know? I know Russian?

Eugene Quinn: I know a bit about the Soviet Union. Oh, forgive me. I know you're not in the Soviet Union, but what do I know? Kyrgyzstan.

Student: Where were you in my country?

Eugene Quinn: No, I haven't been in your country. I'm sorry. I took the train from Moscow to Vladivostok. And we went into Mongolia.

This has a green colored number plate. The letters are not in black. They're in green. If you have a green number plate, it means your car is not hybrid. It's pure electric. There's a lot of tricks being played now where people buy a hybrid car and never switch on the electric side because they just want the... it looks good socially. But if you have a green number plate in Vienna, you can park anywhere you like for free. There's no parking restrictions at all. And so they've gamified it. They want to encourage more people to own electric cars, which of course produce a lot less pollution. And if your car ends in the letters T, it's a taxi. So that gives women security late at night to know that, in an age of Uber, you're never quite sure... So that's a good way. It's registered with the authorities that that's a real taxi because it's got the letters XT. At the end you'll see various different institutions. The city of Vienna official cars are MA at the end. The post is Bundespost. The army has Bundesheer. You do get some clues from cars who's driving inside them. And then you see WD which is the diplomatic plates. So they also don't pay any fines. That's driving diplomats around the city.

That building at the end of the street, it's actually in Alsergrund, the ninth district. But this is where your rubbish is burnt. It's an incinerator and it's quite psychedelic, quite colorful. There are lots of trees on the bottom of it, and they generate heating and hot water for fifteen thousand Vienna homes, district heating from this place. So a lot of trucks go in there. In most cities, an incinerator, a place where you burn rubbish is hidden away. It's considered quite dirty. But the only thing coming out of the chimney here is water. So there is no pollution produced, just a lot of heating for us. So even if burning rubbish is not ideal, still, we do recycle more and more all the time including plastic. Soft plastic is reused here. Recycled? It's not. Don't put it in the waste, please.

To Vladivostok. We went to Yekaterinburg and Kazan and for three days we visited nowhere because Siberia is big and empty. We went to Lake Baikal and we went to Mongolia for one day.

Student: So you were just, like, whole Asian country, let's say.

Eugene Quinn: Russia is so big, I don't know, it doesn't really make sense for it to be so big. It's got nine time zones. Now they have fewer.

Student: You mean about Alaska that they sold it to Americans?

Eugene Quinn: No, they have so many time zones. Just. It is so big, and it's not practical for... there's so many different language groups, different identities inside Russia. It's a very badly run country, of course, these days, I'm sorry to say. Kyrgyzstan is close to China, right? It's over the far side. And it has problems with its neighbors. I remember sometimes there's disputes and it's an unusual shape. I think it's like a long and thin. It's not a round country. I've been reading about the Uyghurs recently. Uyghurs are this persecuted minority in China, which is a scandal, really. Human rights scandal. Genocide. But no, I don't know if I'll be visiting anytime soon, so I'm sorry.

Student: You shouldn't say sorry. That's all right. It's your choice. Every everybody has a choice where he wants to live. So you shouldn't say sorry.

Eugene Quinn: I don't fly in aeroplanes, so it takes me a long time to get from one place to another.

Student: Why? If it's not so personal?

Eugene Quinn: It's an ecological decision.

Student: Okay.

Eugene Quinn: Let's go down here. So you might have overheard the conversation. I will be traveling to Cairo in Egypt with no airplanes in January.

Student (Kyrgyzstan): So you're a pilgrim?

Eugene Quinn: No.

Student: You're a wanderer.

Eugene Quinn: I wonder.

Student: That's right.

Eugene Quinn: Thank you for remembering my word.

Student: No, I know this word, pilgrim. I heard it from my mother, but I remember. I ask you what this is, and she explained.

Eugene Quinn: Interesting.

Student: And you gave me to remember it, right? But I forgot what it means. I know that it's wandering something. Something to wander.

Eugene Quinn: Do you have the word pilgrim in your language?

Student: No.

Eugene Quinn: Okay.

Student: We have more like nomads. We are nomads, and we have always the same. Let's say we don't have a work program. We have nomads for that.

Eugene Quinn: But movement, I like movement.

Student: Yeah, but because of... it's so much. Depends on the context.

Eugene Quinn: Because before there was tourism, there was pilgrims. You know, they used to bring a lot of money to Rome and to Constantinople and to Jerusalem, and people would build their church as tall as possible so that people could see it from a long way. To be close to God. So how come your mother speaks so good English? Where did she learn it?

Student: My mother.

Eugene Quinn: I thought you said your mother told you, Pilgrim. The word pilgrim. Where did she learn?

Student: Oh, because English... also in my country. She went to the university and now it is more popular, almost every fourth or fifth and knows English.

Eugene Quinn: Here you can sense the silence of Vienna. It is a dramatic thing that this city sounds so quiet. And the Viennese love their silence. I'm a Londoner. I come from a big city. I like the hustle and flow of people and life and joy and music. And Vienna is the capital of music. And you hear almost no music here in Vienna. Have you noticed that it doesn't come out of cars or bars or apartments, or just the kids on the street playing with music on their telephones, like you might expect? We immigrants in Vienna are much louder than the Viennese are, which leads to some social tension. Immigrants are usually younger than the Autochtone, than the Viennese. We come from loud countries, and we continue to be loud here. The three biggest immigrant groups in Vienna: number one, the Serbs, fairly loud people, I would say. Former Yugoslavia. The second biggest group is the Germans, not especially loud. And the third largest group are the Syrians. They've just overtaken the Turkish as the third biggest group here. Pretty loud. The Syrians like we British. And there is a loudness map of Europe where you can see where the loud places and the quiet places. The further north you go, the quieter it gets. Generally, Spain is the loudest country in Europe. But that's partly to do with the weather and partly to do with the spirit of the people, the joy and freedom and sociability, especially in Catholic countries.

Up until the nineteen nineties, one percent of the budget of any public building had to be spent on art, and therefore you can see there's some art on the grey building across the road there, just to the left of the door. And that will be history making, which is an interesting idea to communicate belonging and identity and the history of a sense of place for each building. I just want to show you. So this is called *Volkshochschule*—adult education mostly. And then *Haus der Begegnung*, which means the house of meeting, of engagement, of being social. So it's an interesting way to brand education as something also about networking and meeting new people. You can see you can learn to speak here Japanese, Bulgarian, Korean or Afrikaans. The language of the Dutch white settlers in South Africa. We know that the richest man in the world is an African, Elon Musk. And it's interesting to think that people are learning inside this house right now. Languages which you might not imagine are so practical, like Japanese. Maybe it is practical, who knows? Lots of German classes as well. It's a big challenge here because many of the kids go to school, they start primary school without having spoken very much German at home. And in the summer holidays, many of them speak no German at all and then come back and have to start speaking this language again. So it's not that easy.

Bella Kitzwögerer: Thank you, Quinn, for the exciting tour through the twentieth district.