FLY TO BRATISLAVA (VIENNA) FROM 17 DESTINATIONS, INCLUDING ALGHERO | ALICANTE | BARCELONA (GIRONA) | BIRMINGHAM | BRUSSELS (CHARLEROI) | DUBLIN | EDINBURGH | GENOA | GIRONA | LIVERPOOL | MILAN | MUNICH | ROME (FLORENCE) | SICILY | SOLLIEVO
When fashion stylist Lucie Lamster-Thury moved to Vienna from her native New York in 2004, it took her a while to truly discover its fashion scene. “There is no equivalent of Fifth Avenue here, and I really had my doubts about finding a fashion scene at all,” she tells me when I meet her at Vienna’s Phil (10–12 Gumpendorferstrasse, tel: +43 (0)1 581 0489, www.phil.info), a café/bookshop/library/record store.

But that was then. Today, Lamster-Thury runs a shopping tour of the city for international visitors (www.shoppingwithlucie.com), and says she discovered what the locals already knew – that there is a stellar home-grown fashion scene centred around the city’s 7th district.

“A new shop is opening practically every month in the 7th,” she says. “It’s grown perhaps four times in size over just a few years, and there is a lot of amazing work.” Among the notable shops are Anita Steinwidder’s store Glanz & Gloria (77 Schottenfeldgasse, tel: +43 (0)650 400 6091, www.glanzundgloria.at), known for edgy collections that use damaged factory materials; and Gina Drewes (5 Lindengasse, tel: +43 (0)699 1751 0510, www.ginadrewes.com). Drewes’ work is a mixture of wearable prêt-à-porter and surreal haute couture.

One of the driving forces working to get Viennese designers like these more global attention is an organisation called Unit F.