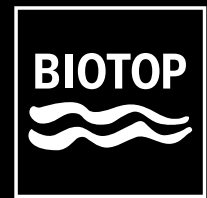


BIOTOP MOURNS ITS FOUNDER PETER PETRICH



waves of enthusiasm
since 1985

Peter Petrich, founder and CEO of **Biotop Landschaftsgestaltung GmbH**, died on 3 March 2021 as the result of a serious illness. Over the course of 35 years, the natural pool pioneer and passionate environmentalist built up an ecologically oriented business that became an economically successful enterprise. Today, Biotop is the world's market leader in natural pools and swimming ponds and has completed over 7,000 facilities together with its 90 international partners. "Peter saw through his vision and realised the goal he dreamed of when he founded Biotop," says Petrich's wife Christina Ostermayer-Petrich, who will be taking over the biological pool trailblazer's lifework as owner of the two companies Biotop and Teich & Pool.

From a simple idea to award-winning Swimming Ponds

Born in Vienna in 1961, Peter Petrich graduated from the Federal Horticultural Academy in Schönbrunn, Vienna. He founded Biotop Landschaftsgestaltung GmbH in 1985. The idea of the swimming pond as an ecological alternative to chlorinated pools secured Biotop a Conservation Award and the Austrian Conservation Prize as well as the Lower Austrian "Energy Globe". In 1996, Petrich graduated from the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences in Vienna with a master's degree in Landscape Architecture and Landscape Planning. His master's thesis dealt with the topic of water quality in artificially constructed swimming ponds. Petrich shared his expertise in numerous lectures given in Austria and abroad on the topic of water in the garden. He also co-authored the book "Der Schwimmteich" (The Swimming Pond) published by Callwey Verlag in 2006.

35 years of competence

Under Petrich's competent leadership, Biotop continued its path of constant development. The company soon added public facilities to its portfolio and began to attract new partners in countries around the world. In the year 2000, Biotop constructed its 1,000th Swimming Pond. In 2004, Petrich presented the PhosTec filter, a ground-breaking innovation. The Curved Sieve Skimmer followed in 2007. In 2010, Biotop brought to market the Converter chamber allowing conventional chlorine pools to be retrofitted into natural pools. By 2015, the biological pool specialist had built around 5,000 facilities worldwide and developed the Combi-Box, an innovation that significantly simplified the construction of natural pools. "Peter revolutionised the market for swimming ponds and eco-pools and made his company the world market leader with his firm commitment to sustainability and protecting the environment," says Christina Ostermayer-Petrich.

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