



PRESS RELEASE

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Intelligent Venice: The Oldest City of the Future Special Project of the Venice Sustainability Foundation (VSF) for the Biennale Architettura 2025

Curators: Benno Albrecht (IUAV University of Venice), Renato Brunetta (VSF and CNEL), Pierpaolo Campostrini (CORILA), Paolo Costa (C+3C Systems and Strategies).

**Tesa dell'Isolotto, Darsena Grande dell'Arsenale, Venice
May 10 – November 23, 2025**

Venice, City of the Future: A Millennial Intelligence for the Biennale Architettura 2025

"**Intelligent Venice: The Oldest City of the Future**" is the **Special Project of the Venice Sustainability Foundation (VSF)** created for the **Biennale Architettura 2025 (May 10 – November 23, 2025)**, under an agreement signed between La Biennale di Venezia and VSF. The exhibition will be held at the **Tesa dell'Isolotto, Darsena Grande of the Arsenale**, curated by **Benno Albrecht** (Università Iuav di Venezia), **Renato Brunetta** (VSF and CNEL), **Pierpaolo Campostrini** (CORILA), and **Paolo Costa** (C+3C Systems and Strategies).

A living laboratory of innovation and adaptation, Venice is the complex result of multiple intelligences. The exhibition narrates an **extraordinary millennia-old project**, a history of medieval inventions and contemporary technologies, interventions in nature and human settlement, and survival and resilience strategies through which the city has, for centuries, succeeded in thriving in a hostile environment, through the constant exercise of intelligence.

This is an unprecedented exhibition: for the first time, at the Biennale Architettura, an entire exhibition is dedicated to the **millennia-old project of which Venice is the result, and of which we, today, are part** as aware witnesses and responsible actors.

The "**Intelligent Venice**" exhibition occupies the Tesa dell'Isolotto, located on the Darsena Grande of the Arsenale. It is the only surviving building of eighteen 14th-century boatyards, demolished in 1880. The installation covers an area of 500 square meters and is designed with a series of apses, vertical panels, and a central spine represented by a long table. It includes over 5,000 archive images, over 1,000 historical maps from the most authoritative databases, over three hours of video projections, and five interactive multimedia panels.

Inside the pavilion, an architectural basilica interior with wooden trusses, **five "Apses of Intelligences"** offer an immersive journey into the history and management of the lagoon and the city: "Millenary Time", "Regulated Lagoon", "Anthropized Nature", "Venice of the People", "Urban Form" will allow the public to explore the "intelligent" evolution of the city and its lagoon – which, for a long time, acted as its walls – along with the inventions and strategies developed for its use, and for the protection and enhancement of its cultural heritage, through immersive projections and interactive multimedia stations, offering an experience that combines science, technology, and visual storytelling.

The **Venetian Abacus** table, which extends 30 meters along the central axis of the Tesa, is dedicated to **Ingenuities** and represents the objects, tools, mechanisms, and technologies with which Venetians turned an uninhabitable place into one of the most important testimonies of global urban history.

The "**Actors of Today and Tomorrow**" section animates the connecting walls between the Apses of Intelligences. It presents visions and projects of various public and private actors operating in the city.

As the President of the Biennale Pietrangelo Buttafuoco stated, "This year's Biennale Architettura 2025 is also the autobiography of Venice", "**Intelligent Venice is the biography of a living city**, in continuous regeneration, capable of inspiring the future, for itself and the entire world," said the President of VSF, Renato Brunetta.

Entities and institutions working to preserve and design the future of Venice and its lagoon have contributed to building this vision:

Almaviva, Assicurazioni Generali, Autorità di Sistema Portuale del Mare Adriatico Settentrionale - Porti di Venezia e Chioggia, Autorità per la Laguna di Venezia, Comune di Venezia, Conservatorio di Musica Benedetto Marcello di Venezia, Consorzio Venezia Nuova, CORILA – Consorzio per il Coordinamento delle Ricerche inerenti al sistema lagunare di Venezia, Enfinity Global, Eni, Ferrovie dello Stato Italiane, Fincantieri, Fondazione Diabete Ricerca onlus, Mare Technopark, Microsoft, Istituto di Scienze Marine del Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (ISMAR-CNR), Procuratoria di San Marco, Regione del Veneto, TIM, Università Ca' Foscari Venezia, Università Iuav di Venezia, Venice International University.

Alilaguna, Camera di Commercio Venezia Rovigo, and Fondazione di Venezia also support the initiative.

Curators: Benno Albrecht (Università Iuav di Venezia), Renato Brunetta (VSF e CNEL), Pierpaolo Campostrini (CORILA), Paolo Costa (C+3C Sistemi e Strategie).

Scientific coordination: Pierpaolo Campostrini.

Organizers and collaborators: Alessandro Costa, Jacopo Galli, Marco Marino, Tania Schiavon, Eleonora Pagan, Emilia Siffredi Duranti, Alessandra Aureli, Alessandro De Sanctis, Alessandro Spezzamonte.

Exhibition design: Benno Albrecht, Jacopo Galli, Marco Marino, con Nicolò Genovese, Marco Turcato, Pietro Zandonella Maiucco.

Visual identity: Stefano Mandato.

Video content of the Apses "Millenary Time", "Regulated Lagoon" and "Anthropized Nature": Carmelo Marabello, Luka Bagnoli, Elisa La Boria.

Immersive installation "Urban form" realized with the contribution of: VIU – Venice International University.

Venice Sustainability Foundation (VSF)

Founded on March 14, 2022, under the patronage of the Italian Government, VSF works to create a new model of sustainability for Venice and its metropolitan area that allows for the stable recreation of the residential, work, and tourism experience that has made these places unique for centuries. The foundation comprises a diverse partnership of regional and local territorial entities, major Venetian cultural and academic institutions, and a group of large companies interested in the sustainable development of the Venetian area.

Founding members of VSF include: Regione del Veneto, Comune di Venezia, Università Ca' Foscari Venezia, Università Iuav di Venezia, Accademia di Belle Arti Venezia, Conservatorio di Musica Benedetto Marcello Venezia, Fondazione Giorgio Cini, Assicurazioni Generali, Boston Consulting Group, Confindustria Veneto, Enel Italia, Eni, Snam. Co-founding members of VSF include: Alilaguna, Al maviva, Autorità di Sistema Portuale del Mare Adriatico Settentrionale - Porti di Venezia e Chioggia, Avl Italia, Concessioni Autostradali Venete, Camera di Commercio Venezia Rovigo, Cassa Depositi e Prestiti, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Eagle Pictures, Edison, Enfinity Global, Ferrovie dello Stato Italiane, Fincantieri, Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo, Fondazione di Venezia, Fondazione Diabete Ricerca onlus, Gruppo Autostrade per l'Italia, Infinityhub, Invitalia, Microsoft, Poste Italiane, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Sanlorenzo, Società Italiana per le Condotte d'Acqua 1880, Terna, TIM, Umana, Unicredit, Unioncamere, Venice International University.

The Foundation is chaired by Renato Brunetta, with Vice Presidents Luca Zaia, President of the Veneto Regional Government, and Luigi Brugnaro, Mayor of Venice.

La Biennale di Venezia

La Biennale di Venezia was founded in 1895 and is considered one of the world's most renowned and prestigious cultural institutions. At the forefront of research and dissemination of new contemporary artistic trends, La Biennale di Venezia organizes exhibitions, performances, research activities, and training in all its sectors – Art (1895), Architecture (1980), Cinema (1932), Dance (1999), Theater (1934), Music (1930). The history of La Biennale di Venezia is documented in the Historical Archive at the headquarters in Marghera and the Central Pavilion in the Giardini (Library). Since 1998, the International Art Exhibition and the International Architecture Exhibition have adopted a new organizational structure with new guidelines. In recent years, La Biennale has promoted new educational activities, such as the college, conferences, and symposia at its Ca' Giustinian headquarters.

For more information:

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