

La Biennale di Venezia
19th International Architecture Exhibition
Intelligens. Natural. Artificial. Collective.
a cura di Carlo Ratti



Venice as a Living Lab

With the Central Pavilion undergoing restoration throughout 2025, the 19th International Architecture Exhibition expands into the outdoor spaces of the Giardini and the Arsenale venues and in various locations throughout the city, turning Venice into a *Living Lab*.

Venice itself, one of the cities on the planet under the greatest threat from climate change, will serve as the backdrop for a new type of Exhibition, in which installations, prototypes and experiments will involve multidisciplinary teams of architects, scientists and businesses through natural, artificial and collective intelligences, offering innovative solutions for urgent problems at the local and global levels.

The outdoor spaces of the Giardini

A fake layered façade tells the story and the evolution of the curatorial process behind Biennale Architettura: **Constructing La Biennale** is the project built in front of the Central Pavilion, fruit of the collaboration between Northeastern University and the Department of Architecture and Design of the Politecnico di Torino (DAD).

The **Manameh Pavilion** reinterprets the traditional *manameh*, a raised platform conceived to mitigate thermal discomfort, transforming it into an architectural response to contemporary climate challenges. Designed by Rashid Bin Shabib, Ahmed Bin Shabib, Amna Abulhoul, Vladimir Yavachev, Yusaku Imamura and Jonathan Shannon.

Transspecies Kitchen is a performance in which the acts of eating and digesting are understood as collective political actions that restore their nature as ecosystems to our identities as bodies. The work, made out of recycled materials, invites us to reflect on our relationship with the environment and with other species, through a process of shared fermentation and digestion. By Andrés Jaque / Office for Political Innovation and Natalie Schrauwen.

Production Potential: The Future of Vacant Buildings by Versostudio, Arsenalia, Field States and **Post Office Pod: Working from Everywhere**, coordinated by CRA – Carlo Ratti Associati (Coordinator) with the collaboration of Recchi Engineering, Richard Florida, Marialena Nikolopoulou, Rohan Silva and Anna Maria Scaravella, redesign workspaces to satisfy the new requirements of *smart working*, to foster social interaction, our connection to the environment and general wellbeing.

Map of Glass presents a scale model of Venice, understood here as a complex of artificial and natural systems. Located symbolically in the *Vasche*, an ‘underwater garden’ next to the Austrian Pavilion, the work explores the city as a construction shaped by human ingenuity and by the natural environment, using recycled glass and organic cement to reflect on the fragility and complexity of its urban fabric. By Barkow Leibinger and capattistaubach.

VOLUME presents **Bursting Bubbles**, a project to reflect on the challenge of experiencing the content of festival and biennials, proposing *souvenirs*, an accessible mass tool, as a solution.

The Tide amplifies the voices of young people, often excluded from the debate about climate change, but fated to suffer its consequences. Equipped with interactive installations in the Giardini and the Arsenale, like monitoring buoys, the project collects and visualises young people’s visions using artificial intelligence. Just as buoys monitor environmental changes, these installations “listen” and make the contributions visible in real time. By Marco Bressan, Mat Travizano, Jose Aguirre, Andrés Ortiz, Ivan Raskovsky, Joaquin Bressan and Albert Martinez.

Outside the perimeter of the Exhibition at the Giardini stands the newly-constructed **La Libreria**, which transforms the Biennale bookshop (traditionally housed inside the Central Pavilion which is being renovated this year) into an embodiment of the various identities of the city of Venice. *La Libreria*, which is composed of a series of lightweight tensile structures, is designed to be moveable to connect with the world and become a symbol of literacy and culture in motion. The project is by the architectural firm Diller Scofidio + Renfro, with Diane von Furstenberg, Schlaich Bergermann Partner and Transsolar.

Voice of Commons is the project created at the Ticket Office built by Carlo Scarpa in 1952 at the entrance to the Giardini, which will become a radio station for the entire duration of the Exhibition, broadcasting conversations with young militants and experts in science and geopolitics from 195 different countries. The voices will open a democratic discussion of environmental criticalities and sustainable futures to launch a message in defence of collective resources. By Giulia Foscari, UNA/UNLESS.

The outdoor spaces of the Arsenale

Canal Cafè is a bar-workshop which, through a hybrid system of natural-artificial purification, transforms the salt water of the Venetian canals into espresso coffee. By Diller Scofidio + Renfro, Natural Systems Utilities, SODAI, in collaboration with Aaron Betsky and chef Davide Oldani.

Gateways to Venice’s Waterways proposes new models of sustainable mobility in Venice, a structure inspired by the fluid and adaptable forms of nature, equipped with an electric motor that enables silent and harmonious movement, respectful of environmental morphology. By the Norman Foster Foundation and Porsche with Miguel Kreisler of BAU + Empty and Christopher Hornzee-Jones of Aerotrope.

Song of the Cricket at the Gaggiandre presents modular floating islands for the reproduction of crickets, with the aim of reintroducing a species that was once populous in the Venetian lagoon but was believed to be extinct until it recently reappeared. The chirping of the crickets, a bioindicator of

ecosystem health, will be broadcast in sound gardens on the translocation sites and other locations in Venice. By the University of Melbourne.

Lithic Chords – Corda Litica is a monumental installation that echoes the internal mechanics of a string instrument, revealing a flexibility that is unheard of in a heavy and immovable material such as stone, serving as both a space of interaction and a resonant instrument in the encounter between tension and vibration. By Cristina Morbi (Maetherea) and composers Andrea Granitzio (Fondazione Sciola) and Francesco Bianchini.

Urban Heat Chronicles is a project that deals with urban heat by implementing simple low-cost solutions, inspired by the communal and Venetian tradition of laundry clotheslines. Through participatory workshops, the work proposes to transform Venetian streets into places of social and environmental connection. By Emma Greer (C40 Cities), Azra Aksamija (MIT Future Heritage Lab), Elisabetta Bianchessi (T12 Lab), Alberto Wolfgango Amedeo D'Asaro (QuasiQuasi) e Anna Doneda (Project for People).

Solar Cooker is a solar concentrator developed in Uzbekistan in the 1980s, assembled with the purpose of creating a large kiln for research into sustainability, agricultural and industrial production. A part of the educational platform titled *Solar Kitchen*, the object seeks to adapt the solar concentrators, originally used for military purposes, to prepare food. By Studio GRACE.

At the Giardino delle Vergini

Wireframe of Life reflects on prolonged evacuation. Through the construction of two temporary living units, the project explores collective and community ingenuity in the context of uncertainty and the challenges of being a refugee. Presented by the non-profit organization Better Shelter.

Fratelli Tutti is an installation that aspires to be a gathering place and open space, becoming a sanctuary for contemplation inspired by Pope Francesco's Encyclical. By studio Matteo Thun & Partners.

Deserta Ecofolie: A prototype for minimum dwelling in the Acatama Desert and beyond is a minimal eco-technical self-measuring living unit to be built in the most extreme scenario of the Atacama Desert. By Pedro Ignacio Alonso and Pamela Prado.

A House for the Price of a Car proposes industrialisation as a response to the need for the democratic production of housing. Using a prefabricated home as a model, the application of automobile engineering makes it possible to address the urgency of imagining a house for the price of a car. By Philippe Starck.

The projects located outside the traditional spaces of the Exhibition, in the city of Venice

Archive and the City: Serendipity between Memory and Urban Space is a project on display in the Portego of Ca' Giustinian (headquarters of La Biennale di Venezia), which invites visitors to consider the parallelism between archival practices and urban planning, viewing the archive as a tool not only

for conservation but for dynamic storytelling as well. By Studio FM Milano, DensityDesign Lab, Luigi Farrauto, Jon Kleinberg, Achille Varzi, Marco Santambrogio, with the Historical Archive of the Contemporary Arts of La Biennale di Venezia (ASAC).

Magherissima is the Special Project realised by La Biennale in the Polveriera Austriaca at Forte Marghera, which presents a model for the transformation and deindustrialisation of the industrial area of Marghera on the Venetian lagoon, proposing the creation of a lively and sustainable new district, better suited for collective living. Designed by The Architectural Association, Nigel Coates Studio with Guan Lee (Grymsdyke Farm), John Maybury, Michael Keverne and Jan Bunge.

Gran Caffè Quadri readapts the outdoor terraces of its historic venue on Saint Mark's Square to highlight the multicultural history of the island and its current role as a global cultural centre. By Teresa Sapey + Partners and Aaron Betsky.

Roma è una Cometa is the project installed at Ca' Tron which observes the Distretto del Contemporaneo in Rome from space, discerning the shape of a comet in its morphology. The study reconsiders the *smart city* model as it is applied to Rome through a more equitable and sustainable social and participatory approach. By Umberto Vattani, Giampaolo Nuvolati, Maria Margarita Segarra Lagunes, Cristiana Collu and Giuseppe D'Acunto.

The Perimeter of Architecture: Amidst the Elements is a project hosted inside the **Book Pavilion** designed by **James Stirling** at the Giardini della Biennale. The installation consists of a selection of historical books and a series of blue paper models that create a dialogue between the categories of books and of buildings, exploring their elementary material dynamics. By Sylvia Lavin, Emanuel Admassu and Jen Wood, AD – WO, Erin Besler, Besler & Sons, Rachaporn Choochuey, all(zone), DESIGN EARTH, First Office, Michael Meredith and Hilary Sample, MOS, DK Osseo-Asare, A/P Practice.