



La Biennale di Venezia

Arte
Architettura
Cinema
Danza
Musica
Teatro
Archivio Storico

Social Guide

19th International
Architecture
Exhibition



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Ca' Giustinian, headquarters of La Biennale di Venezia

Photo by Jacopo Salvi

La Biennale di Venezia

Introduction

**This guide will help to lead you
into the world of La Biennale di Venezia
and to get to know all its activities.**

In the guide you will find information about:

- What La Biennale di Venezia is
- What you can see there
- What rules you must follow
- Where you can go
- Who can give you the information that can help you.

This is a long guide,
but you can read just the parts that interest you.
You can ask someone for help if you are unsure
or if there is a word or a sentence you don't understand.

La Biennale di Venezia

La Biennale di Venezia is a cultural institution that organizes exhibitions and festivals.

La Biennale di Venezia organizes:

- the Art Exhibition
- the Architecture Exhibition
- the Film Festival
- the Dance Festival
- the Theatre Festival
- the Music Festival



Photo by Jacopo Salvi
La Biennale di Venezia

You can see shows at the festivals.

For example you can see:

a ballet



a show



a concert.

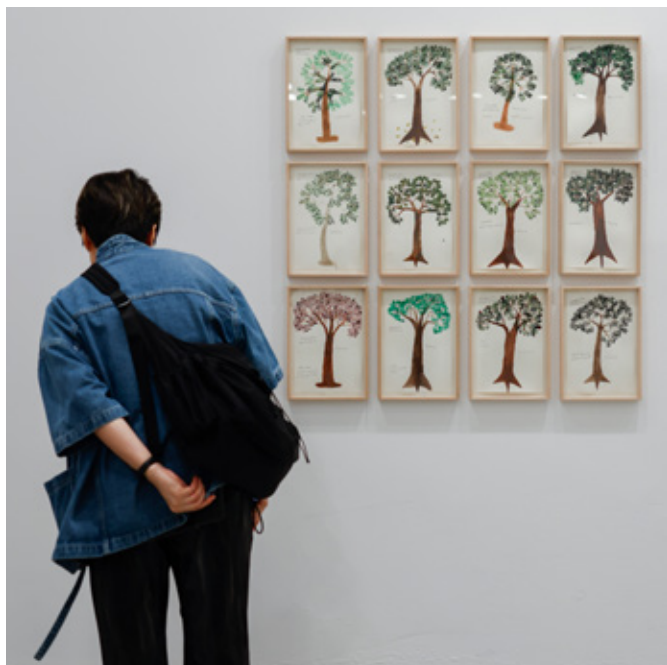


Photos by Andrea Avezzi
La Biennale di Venezia

At the Art Exhibition you can see artworks.

An artwork can be:

a drawing



a sculpture



a painting



a video

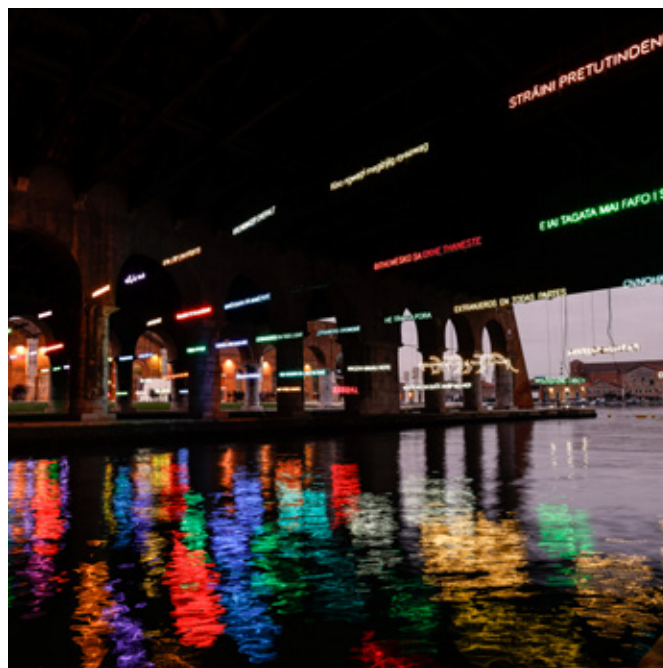


Photos by Jacopo Salvi
La Biennale di Venezia

a photograph



a light installation.



Photos by Jacopo Salvi
La Biennale di Venezia

People go to an exhibition
to learn new things,
to have fun,
to be with their friends.

The Architecture Exhibition

This year La Biennale organized the Architecture Exhibition.

At the Architecture Exhibition you will find projects designed by architects.



Austrian Pavilion, Giardini

Photo by Luca Chiandoni
La Biennale di Venezia

A project is for example the design of a house, of a building or of a city square.
In the project you can see ideas by architects.



Model

Photo by Luca Chiandoni
La Biennale di Venezia

**An architect designs buildings
and organizes how people
live in these spaces.**

This means that he can imagine
the shape of a house,
he can decide how many rooms it has,
how many floors it has, and what materials to use.

**If you need to fix up your house
and make it bigger,
you can ask an architect for help.**

The houses are built
exactly how the architect has drawn them.

An architect can design a public space,
which is a space that everyone can use,
where people can come and be together,
like for example a city square, a park,
a train station, a library.

**To design means to:
imagine something new,
invent something that didn't exist before.**

**At the Architecture Exhibition you will find
drawings, models
and videos.**



Model

Photo by Luca Chiandoni
La Biennale di Venezia

A **model** is a kind of sculpture.
A model can show the shape of a house,
of a building, or of a city.
A model can be a small copy
of a house, a city square, a city or even a garden.
When an architect wants to build a house
he first builds a small model of the house
and then builds the big house.

You can also find installations, sculptures, spaces.



Latvian Pavilion
Artiglierie, Arsenale
Photo by Luca Chiandoni
La Biennale di Venezia

An **installation** is a work of art that is made of different pieces or objects arranged in a space.



Qatar Pavilion, Giardini
Photo by Jacopo Salvi
La Biennale di Venezia

A **space** can be a room for example,
such as a bedroom, or even a bathroom.
A space can also be a cabin.

Some architects have built rooms
that we can go into, to understand how we feel in that space.
They have done that for us, to give us an experience with our body.

Some architects have worked with other people

to create their projects:

the architects have worked with artists,

the architects have worked with craftsmen,

the architects have worked with scientists.

This is because they believe that **architecture involves many different aspects of our lives:**

architecture involves how we live together,

it involves the environment and nature.



Revival of Ordinary Trees, Corderie, Arsenale

Photo by Jacopo Salvi

La Biennale di Venezia

The title of the Architecture Exhibition this year is “Intelligens. Natural. Artificial. Collective”.



Carlo Ratti

Photo by Andrea Avezzi
La Biennale di Venezia

The curator of the Exhibition is Carlo Ratti.

The curator is the person who is in charge of the Exhibition.

Carlo Ratti teaches at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and at the Politecnico di Milano.

He is the director of the Senseable City Lab and founding partner of the architecture and innovation studio CRA-Carlo Ratti Associati (Torino, New York City, Londra).

The curator is a very important person because he decides:

- the title of the Exhibition;
- the architects who participate in the Exhibition;
- the projects that are shown at the Exhibition.

This year there are more than 750 participants.



Kingdom of Bahrain Pavilion
Artiglierie, Arsenale

Photo by Luca Chiandoni
La Biennale di Venezia

Here are the main ideas of the Exhibition.

Architects have always thought about the climate.

We build to protect ourselves from the cold, heat, and rain.

We have always tried to build safe places to live.

For a long time, architects have tried to solve the problem
of heavy rains,

of hail,

of drought.

Architects have tried to design buildings that pollute less,
that is, buildings that dirty the environment less.

But this is no longer enough.



German Pavilion, Giardini
Photo by Luca Chiandoni
La Biennale di Venezia

Instead of just reducing damage,
we need to build strong and stable houses and buildings.
We must build homes that can protect us
from intense heat
from drought
from heavy rains
from hail.

**We need to think about a world where the climate has already changed
and build new homes for that world.**

The title of this year exhibition is
“Intelligens. Natural. Artificial. Collective.”



Am I a Strange Loop? (robot), Corderie, Arsenale
Photo by Luca Chiandoni
La Biennale di Venezia

The exhibition explains how different kinds of intelligence can work together:
the intelligence of nature, like that of insects, plants, and microbes;
artificial intelligence, like what’s in your phone or computer;
human intelligence.
These different forms of intelligence can collaborate
to find new ideas on how to build homes and cities.

The word ‘Intelligens’ was invented by the director.
He put together two different words:
the English word ‘intelligence’ and the Latin word ‘gens’.
‘Gens’, in Latin, means ‘people’, so ‘intelligens’ invites us to consider
the intelligence of all living beings, not just artificial intelligence.

The Venues of La Biennale

La Biennale di Venezia, as the name says, is in Venice.

To get there you might have to take a **train or a bus**.

To get there you might have to take a boat,
the boat that carries people is called a **vaporetto**.



Vaporetto

Photo by Jacopo Salvi
La Biennale di Venezia

To visit the Exhibitions and the Festivals of La Biennale di Venezia
you can buy a ticket on the Internet website:

<https://www.labiennale.org/en/architecture/2025/information#tickets>



You can download the ticket on your phone
in order to avoid printing and help the environment.

La Biennale di Venezia is located in **two main venues**.
The first one is called **Giardini** and it is the original location.



The second one is called **Arsenale**.



Photos by Luca Chiandoni
La Biennale di Venezia

With your ticket you can visit both venues,
even on different days.

With your ticket you can go
once into the venue of the Giardini,
and once into the venue of the Arsenale.

The Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia is very big.
It takes a long time to visit, at least one day.

La Biennale di Venezia organizes exhibitions that last a few months.
This is why every year you can see different artworks or projects.



Photo by Jacopo Salvi
La Biennale di Venezia



Catalogo attivo
La Biennale di Venezia

Inside the Giardini and the Arsenale

there are people who can help you.

You can ask these people questions
and you can ask for all the information you need.

You can recognize these people by the T-shirts
they wear that say 'ASK ME'.

You can ask these people for information about the works
and the projects on display in the Exhibition spaces.

You can also ask them where is:

- the bar
- the bookshop
- the exit
- the bathrooms

These people are glad to help you.

The Giardini Venue



Giardini entrance

Photo by Andrea Avezzi
La Biennale di Venezia

At the entrance to the Giardini of La Biennale you will find people wearing a badge. They are there to welcome and admit the people who want to see the Exhibition. You must show your ticket to these persons before going in.



Giardini Infopoint / Ticket Office

Photo by Luca Chiandoni
La Biennale di Venezia

If you were unable to buy your ticket
you can go to the Information Office
(Infopoint) where you will find help.



Photo by Jacopo Salvi
La Biennale di Venezia

**This venue is called Giardini
because it is inside a very large garden.**

A long time ago these gardens were part of the Napoleonic Gardens
because Napoleon was the one who created them.
Napoleon was an important French politician and general.

There were houses and churches here before.
The houses and churches were torn down
to make space for trees and plants.

**An architect named Giannantonio Selva
designed this garden.**

This means that he chose the plants, the trees, the flowers,
and laid out trails and pathways
to walk through the greenery.

In this garden there are
sycamore trees, ivy, honeyberry trees.

You can even find laurel bushes.

If you walk you can smell the aroma of the flowers
and the plants.



Photo by Jacopo Salvi
La Biennale di Venezia

Inside the Giardini you can start your visit.

Here you can:

- visit one or more National Pavilions
- take a walk along the paths in this garden
- sit on the benches and rest
- eat or drink something while sitting on the benches
- eat or drink something in the bars or in the pizzeria.



Photo by Luca Chiandoni
La Biennale di Venezia

When you walk into the pavilions

you have to be careful and follow these rules:

- you can take photos
- you can't eat or drink
- you can't sit on the floor
- you can't touch the artworks and the projects,
or you can touch the artworks and the projects
only if people give you permission to touch them.



The Netherlands Pavilion, Giardini

Photo by Luca Chiandoni
La Biennale di Venezia

The Central Pavilion



Central Pavilion, Giardini
Photo by Jacopo Salvi
La Biennale di Venezia

**The Central Pavilion is a big white pavilion,
it is the biggest pavilion of all.**

On the front of the pavilion is a sign saying 'la Biennale'
because in this pavilion you can visit
the Biennale Arte or the Biennale Architettura.

Every year the front of the pavilion can be a little different.
Sometimes the artists or the architects decide to change the front
by putting artworks or installations on it.

The Central Pavilion is closed for this edition because it is undergoing restoration.
This means that it is being renovated to make it as good as new.
However, you can find many outdoor installations throughout the Giardini,
that are part of the International Exhibition.

The National Pavilions

Inside this garden are the National Pavilions.

The pavilions were built to show the projects by architects and artworks from all around the world.

There are 29 National Pavilions at the Giardini.

The National Pavilions look like little houses.

Each pavilion carries the name of a country.

Inside each pavilion there is a small exhibition with projects and artworks that come from the Country named on the front of the building.



Finland Pavilion, Giardini
Photo by Luca Chiandoni
La Biennale di Venezia

**Inside each pavilion you can find
the projects by the architects,
that is what each architect has decided to build.**



United States Pavilion, Giardini
Foto Jacopo Salvi
La Biennale di Venezia

This one, for example, is the United States Pavilion.
Inside the United States Pavilion you can find
drawings and projects that come from the United States.

This one is the Austrian Pavilion.

Inside the Austrian Pavilion you can find drawings and projects that come from Austria.



Austrian Pavilion, Giardini

Photo by Jacopo Salvi
La Biennale di Venezia

All these pavilions were built at different times.

If you want, you can have fun discovering when they were built.

The New Giardini Bookshop



Giardini Bookshop
Photo by Luca Chiandoni
La Biennale di Venezia

When you finish your visit you can take a look around the Biennale Bookshop.

The **bookshop** is a store where you will find books and objects.

Here you can buy books and objects to remember your visit.

In the picture you can see the new Biennale Bookshop.

The Arsenale Venue



Arsenale entrance
Photo by Luca Chiandoni
La Biennale di Venezia

The second venue in which the Exhibitions of La Biennale di Venezia take place is the Arsenale.

It is a 15-minute walk to get from one venue to the other, for instance from Giardini to Arsenale or vice-versa.



Photo by Luca Chiandoni
La Biennale di Venezia

At the entrance of the Arsenale
you will find persons wearing a badge.
They are there to welcome and admit
the people who want to see the Exhibition.
You must show your ticket
to these persons before going in.



Arsenale Infopoint / Ticket Office

Photo by Luca Chiandoni
La Biennale di Venezia

If you were unable to buy your ticket
you can go to the Information Office
(Infopoint) where you will find help.



Bird's-eye view of the Arsenale
Photo by Andrea Avezzi
La Biennale di Venezia

The Arsenale di Venezia is a very old place.

The Arsenale in the past was a very important place for Venice.

Long ago, in this large area the Venetians used to build ships.

The Arsenale was a sort of large ship factory
and a lot of people worked there.

La Biennale has been using the Arsenale spaces since 1999.

After restoring them La Biennale opened the spaces to the public.

Here you can:

- visit the Exhibition spaces which are called Corderie and Artiglierie
- visit one or more National Participations
- rest on the chairs outdoors
- eat or drink something as you sit on the chairs
- eat or drink something in the bars or in the restaurant.



Alla Gru Cafe, Arsenale
Photo by Luca Chiandoni
La Biennale di Venezia

When you walk inside the rooms

you must be careful to follow these rules:

- you can take photographs
- you can't eat and drink
- you can't sit on the floor
- you can't touch the artworks and the projects
or you can touch the artworks and the projects
only if people give you permission to touch them.



Albania Pavilion
Artiglierie, Arsenale
Photo by Jacopo Salvi
La Biennale di Venezia



Terms and Conditions

Corderie, Arsenale

Photo by Luca Chiandoni

La Biennale di Venezia

In the Arsenale you can visit part of the Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale.

Inside the Arsenale you will find different buildings.

The first building you will see is called **Corderie**.

In 1980 the 1st International Architecture Exhibition was organized.

With the first Architecture Exhibition,

La Biennale began to use this space

to show the works of the artists and the projects by the architects.

This is where the Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia starts.

Every year the curator can decide to divide this space into a series of smaller spaces or leave it as it is. Here you see the empty space, without artworks or projects.

**In this big building divided by columns,
they made ropes for the ships.
The Italian word for ropes is ‘corde’.
That is why this building is called Corderie.**



Corderie, Arsenale
Photo by Andrea Avezzi
La Biennale di Venezia

After the Corderie you will find another big long building which is called **Artiglierie**.

The building is named Artiglierie because it used to be a warehouse and could hold weapons or gunpowder.

Weapons and munitions were produced and kept in these buildings.

Most of these buildings were built in the sixteenth century.



Artiglierie, Arsenale
Photo by Andrea Avezzi
La Biennale di Venezia



Sultanate of Oman Pavilion
Artiglierie, Arsenale
Photo by Jacopo Salvi
La Biennale di Venezia

The Artiglierie building is divided into different spaces, where you can find the projects by architects from different nations.

These spaces host the National Participations.

Here you can find small exhibitions with works from all over the world.



Turkish Pavilion
Sale d'Armi, Arsenale
Photo by Jacopo Salvi
La Biennale di Venezia

In front of the Artiglierie you will find the **Sale d'Armi**, which were used as a place to display weapons. This happened during the times of the Serenissima (as Venice once was called).

Today the Sale d'Armi host the National Participations and the Pavilion of Applied Arts.

**Inside the Arsenale there is a bar and restaurant.
The bar and restaurant is called Le Bombarde.**

Here you can sit at a table and eat or drink.
You can hear the sounds of the people eating and talking.

You can smell the coffee and the food.
You can find other places to eat
outside the Corderie and the Artiglierie.
You will find little bars
where you can drink, eat, rest and look at the view.



Le Bombarde Restaurant
La Biennale di Venezia



Arsenale Bookshop
La Biennale di Venezia

When you finish your visit you can take a look around the **Biennale Bookshop**.

The bookshop is a store where you will find books and objects.

Here you can buy books and objects to remember your visit.

If you want you can take a walk
outside the buildings.



Arsenale outdoors
Photo by Jacopo Salvi
La Biennale di Venezia

As you walk you will find:

an antique Crane from the 19th century

the Italian Pavilion



Photo by Jacopo Salvi
La Biennale di Venezia



Photo by Andrea Avezzi
La Biennale di Venezia

the Gaggiandre.



Photo by Andrea Avezzi
La Biennale di Venezia

Long ago, ships were repaired inside the Gaggiandre.

The ships could leave from here to sail into the sea.

It can be wonderful to walk through these spaces
and see these ancient buildings.

If you go beyond the Gaggiandre
you arrive at the **Giardino delle Vergini**,
a space open to the public even without a ticket.

This garden takes its name
from the monastery of Santa Maria Vergine,
which used to be there but was later demolished.

Also in this garden you can encounter the works of the artists of the Exhibition.



Deserta Ecofolie
Giardino delle Vergini
Photo by Luca Capuano
La Biennale di Venezia

At the end of the route you can exit crossing the **Ponte dei Pensieri**, a new bridge built in 2009.

Throught this bridge it is possible to enter and exit this location.



Ponte dei Pensieri
La Biennale di Venezia

In The City

Some of the National Participations are located outside the venues of Giardini and Arsenale.

If you walk around the city in fact, you will see this image.

It is called logo, and it is the symbol to recognize La Biennale di Venezia.



La Biennale di Venezia

Arte
Architettura
Cinema
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If you find this image it means that you are standing in front of a **National Participation**, a space where you can find works by artists that come from another country; or in front of a **Collateral Event**, another exhibition linked to the Biennale.

This means that you can enter and visit the exhibition.

In Venice you will also find **Ca' Giustinian**, a sixteenth-century building where the offices of La Biennale di Venezia are located.



Ca' Giustinian

Photo by Jacopo Salvi
La Biennale di Venezia

Visitor Services

If walking is difficult for you, you can use an electric car to get around the exhibition venues.

You can ask staff for the following (subject to availability):
strollers, walkers, wheelchairs.

It is possible to book special guided tours
for blind or visually impaired visitors.

It is possible to book special guided tours
for deaf visitors in Italian Sign Language (LIS).

You can write to **promozione@labiennale.org**



Electric car

Photo by Jacopo Salvi
La Biennale di Venezia



Giardini wardrobe
La Biennale di Venezia

At the Giardini, there is a place where you can store small objects (like small bags or jackets).

However, you cannot leave suitcases or large bags there..

There is a paid service to look after or walk your dog if you bring one.

But you need to book this service at least one day in advance.

Small or medium-sized dogs, on a leash, are only allowed in the green area of the Giardini and not in the Arsenale.

Dogs must be kept on a leash and must be supervised.

