

Strade Novissime

Biennale di Venezia, September 22-23, 2023

With the participation of

Andrea Bagnato, Nina Bassoli, Leonardo Caffo, Formafantasma, Fosbury Architecture //// Massimo Bricocoli, Pierre Alain Croset, Andrea Di Franco, Luca Fabris, José Maria Garcia Fuentes, Gennaro Postiglione, Alessandro Rocca, Ilaria Valente, Leonardo Zuccaro Marchi (Politecnico di Milano) //// Pippo Ciorra (Università di Camerino) //// Giovanni Corbellini (Politecnico di Torino) //// Roberto Gigliotti (Università di Bolzano) //// Mario Lupano, Valerio Paolo Mosco (IUAV Università di Venezia).

And with the AUID PhD Candidates

Francesco Airoidi, Fuat Arabaci, Giulia Azzini, Filippo Balma, Beatrice Basile, Milica Božić (CBA PhD Program, Dastu), Dorde Bulajic, Thomas Cabai, Nicola Campri, Oljer Cardenas Niño, Raffaella Cavallaro, Tianqin Chen, Nicolò Chierichetti, Jiarui Cui, Silvia Di Mauro, Duccio Fantoni, Marianna Frangipane, Yiling Fu, Yi Guo (Università di Camerino), Xiao Hu, Abdallah Jreij (UPDP PhD Program, Dastu), Salome Katamadze (UPDP PhD Program, Dastu), Claudia Mainardi, Margherita Marri, Davide Montanari, Francesca Monteleone, Silvia Mundula, Liliane Nizzola (CBA PhD Program, Dastu), Mariana Pereira Guimarães, Yuwei Ren, Andrea Renucci, Kevin Santus, Sara Anna Sapone, Arianna Scaioli, Likun Shen, Hao Wang, Qianqian Yang, Yuhan Zhou.

The program is based at the Italian Pavilion at the 18. International Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia, curated by Fosbury Architecture and promoted by the Directorate-General for Contemporary Creativity of the Ministry of Culture.

Over the past forty-three years, the eighteen Architecture Exhibitions of the Venice Biennale have set up the most complete scenarios for understanding directions, contradictions and reflections on the theories and practices of contemporary architectural design. As the title of the current exhibition declares, there have been various representations of "Laboratory of the Future" useful above all for understanding the present state of architectural culture. Hashim Sarkis, curator of the 2021 edition, declared that "We need a new spatial contract. In the context of widening political divides and growing economic inequalities, we call on architects to imagine spaces in which we can generously live *together*."

The curator of the 2023 edition, Lesley Lokko, argues that "Architects have a unique opportunity to put forward ambitious and creative ideas that help us imagine a more equitable and optimistic future in common." Optimism, attention to social problems, the will to go beyond the boundaries of the discipline become the new normal, outlining a framework in which the good (and, if not very young, then repentant) architect is called to understand, intervene and, possibly, remedy the many problems that afflict humans, cities and, more generally, our mistreated planet. The keywords of Lokko's approach have become such strong and shared convictions that there is no longer even the

need to mention them: sustainability, inclusion, equity, are effectively summarized by Lesley Lokko in the eco-political objectives "Decolonization, decarbonization".

These are the epochal challenges that curators mercilessly load on the shoulders of architects, weakened and guilty by decades of grandeur based on the brazen glorification of starry architecture and clearly besieged by scientists and preachers happy to submit a discipline they do not understand to the indisputable laws of goodness and prompt alignment with the choices of fair and supportive politics. The problem posed by the last two Biennials, different but similar in their political commitment, is a serious challenge that cannot be settled with irony or with a *rappel à l'ordre* to which only the most conservative fringes would respond. It is necessary to understand, discuss, compare, and elaborate open positions, opportunities for dialogue, putting the discipline in crisis (which meanwhile has always been in crisis by definition) and looking for the very new ways that lead us, once again, to the heart of the design, research, architecture.

For these reasons, Fosbury Architecture and the AUID PhD program propose a discussion on the "**Strade novissime**" (the newest roads) of architectural research starting from the questions raised by the research activity in architectural design. Considering the solicitations that come from the XVIII architecture exhibition, AUID invites architects, researchers, and teachers to an open discussion on what the objectives, methods, forms of research are today, in a seminar discussion aimed at everyone, professionals, PhD students, master students.

This visiting workshop is the result of the cooperation between the AUID Phd Program and Fosbury Architecture, a collective made up of young architects who curate the Italian Pavilion. Some of the Fosbury components are pursuing a PhD track at AUID and other institutions, and they are engaged in research and in disseminating and sharing a militant and experimental approach to architectural and urban design.

(Alessandro Rocca – Head of the AUID PhD Program)

Spaziale. Everyone belongs to everyone else

Italian Pavilion at the 18. International Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia, curated by Fosbury Architecture and promoted by the Directorate-General for Contemporary Creativity of the Ministry of Culture.

The new millennium, which began with the cultural crisis of the West triggered by September 11, 2001, has continued with the 2007-2008 economic crisis, the pandemic crisis of the past few years, the energy and geopolitical crisis of today, and the ecological crisis of tomorrow.

The scarcity of resources in a context of permanent crisis is not only an opportunity but also the only direction in which it makes sense to practice. In our view, there is a generation that has already accepted the challenge and is trying every day to develop antibodies to disillusionment. Spaziale invites these practitioners to recognize themselves as a “movement” at the 18th International Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia.

The title refers to an expanded notion of the discipline that sees the built artifact not as an ultimate goal but as one of the possible tools for intervening in the fabric of relationships between people and places underlying every project. Nine practices were invited to collaborate with nine advisors – from other fields of creativity – in nine Italian territories representative of conditions of fragility or transformation, with the support of as many local interlocutors already involved in collaborative projects with these practices and advisors. Each intervention represents a chapter in an incomplete agenda of urgent research themes for the national context and for architecture: open questions, traceable to the scenario of transition – not only ecological – that we are facing in these years. Acknowledging that the role of curators includes a necessarily ethical dimension, we have decided to use this opportunity to trigger actions beyond the event’s six-month duration. To extend the temporal horizon and convert resource consumption into an investment, the exhibition has been divided into three moments. The first was “Spaziale presenta:” the observatory that monitored the activation of the site-specific interventions. The second is “Spaziale: Everyone belongs to everyone else:” embodying, in the Tese delle Vergini, the formal and theoretical synthesis of processes triggered elsewhere. The third is “Spaziale:” an archive that will document local activities, the official public program at the Teatrino di Palazzo Grassi, and then become a permanent platform. In parallel with the program’s expansion, the decision was made to undertake a contraction of the exhibition installation and a transfer of resources.

For the first time, and thanks to the support of the Directorate-General of Contemporary Creativity of the Ministry of culture, the exhibition plays an active role in the production of pioneering projects, allowing us to say that, in Venice, the Italian Pavilion may be shrinking, but it is expanding throughout the country. The exhibition combines the nine projects in a unified narrative that compares images of local experiences, showcasing their places and actors, with the installations devised by the practitioners ideally arranged along a route that re-proposes a stylized outline of the Italian peninsula. We hope this collective and shared dimension of design will be the beginning of a widespread laboratory that endeavors to strengthen the sense of global community in which we find ourselves operating; aware that individual actions always involve social reactions – because we are all inextricably interconnected – and in the hope that the future will be a space in which “Everyone belongs to everyone else.”

Schedule

September 22, 2023 _ 11.00–16.00

Giardini della Biennale, Arsenale

Visiting Workshop

By AUID

Collective visit to the XVIII architecture exhibition of the Venice Biennale with professors, PhD candidates and architecture students. Meeting point at the ticket office of the Arsenale, 10h45.

September 22, 2023 _ 18.00–20.00

Teatrino di Palazzo Grassi, Campo San Samuele, 3231, Venezia

Italian Pavilion

Public Program

Mondo Novo. Ecologies

<https://spaziale2023.it/eventi/buildings-2>

By Fosbury Architecture

Mondo Novo is the Public Program curated by Fosbury Architecture to reflect on the crucial issues facing architecture today. The guests attempt to delineate possible lateral trajectories for the practice, together with the curators and the leading designers and advisors of the Italian Pavilion “Spaziale. Everyone belongs to everyone else” presented at the 18th International Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia, promoted by the Directorate-General for Contemporary Creativity of the Ministry of Culture. The third appointment of *Mondo Novo* is entitled “Ecologies.” In collaboration with Palazzo Grassi — Punta della Dogana and with the support of Bottega Veneta.

Panel 1.

18:00 – 18:30

videos | **Possibility of an Island**

The Possibility of an Island, by Architectural Association Visiting School, is a reflection on Venice ecologies explored using the closed ecosystem of the Falconara island to address urgent contemporary issues.

Panel 2.

18:00 – 18:30

Ecologies - Faced with the decline of anthropocentrism and in preparation for the challenge for the survival of the human species, the need emerges to reconfirm the spatial contract between man and nature, in the perspective of future climate change. What are the tools that architecture can use today to read the phenomenon, evaluate its impact, and propose new models?

Formafantasma is a research-based design studio investigating the ecological, historical, political, and social forces shaping the discipline of design today. The studio has been founded in 2009 by Italians Andrea Trimarchi and Simone Farresin.

Andrea Bagnato is an architect and researcher. His practice moves between writing, editing, and curating. Under the long-term project *Terra Infecta*, it looks at epidemiological histories to untangle current eco-political conflicts.

Leonardo Caffo (1988) is a philosopher, writer, and curator whose work focuses on applied and theoretical topics related to the study of "human animals", post humanity, art, contemporary architecture, and identity.

September 23, 2023 _ 11.00–12.30
Italian Pavilion, Tese delle Vergini, Arsenale
Spaziale. Everyone belongs to everyone else
By Fosbury Architecture

11.00–11.30 | Italian pavilion visit (a few participants will be there too to present their own installations).

11.30–12.30 | Open discussion moderated by Davide Tommaso Ferrando with the participation of Nina Bassoli, architecture curator at La Triennale and adjunct professor at Politecnico di Milano, and Roberto Gigliotti, associate professor of Interior and Exhibit Design at the Faculty of Design and Art in Bolzano, member of the AUID Board. The debate will reflect on cultural production across practice, cultural institutions, and academia. More specifically, it will reflect on an exhibition's role and how the curatorial practice is situated at the crossroads between these three domains.

12.30–13.00 | Questions and answers.

September 23, 2023 _ 14.30–17.30
Padiglione Italia, Tese delle Vergini, Arsenale
Strade novissime
By AUID

A debate on the aims, methods, and forms of research in architecture; an open discussion with researchers, professionals, PhD students, master students.