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- Biennale Architettura 2020: How will we live together?



BIENNALE ARCHITETTURA 2020: HOW WILL WE LIVE TOGETHER?

The 17th International Architecture Exhibition will take place from May 23rd to November 29th, 2020 (pre-opening May 21st and 22nd).

The President of La Biennale di Venezia, Paolo Baratta, together with the curator of the 17th International Architecture Exhibition, Hashim Sarkis, met the press today at Ca' Giustinian in Venice to launch the 17th International Architecture Exhibition, which will take place from May 23rd to November 29th, 2020 (pre-opening May 21st and 22nd) at the Giardini and the Arsenale, as well as around other venues in Venice.

HASHIM SARKIS

Hashim Sarkis titled the 17th International Architecture Exhibition **How will we live together?** and explained his decision as follows:

“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*: *together* as human beings who, despite our increasing individuality, yearn to connect with one another and with other species across digital and real space; *together* as new households looking for more diverse and dignified spaces for inhabitation; *together* as emerging communities that demand equity, inclusion and spatial identity; *together* across political borders to imagine new geographies of association; and *together* as a planet facing crises that require global action for us to continue living at all.

The architects invited to participate in Biennale Architettura 2020 are encouraged to engage other professions and constituencies—artists, builders, and craftspeople, but also politicians, journalists, social

scientists, and everyday citizens. **In effect, Biennale Architettura 2020 asserts the overlooked role of the architect as both cordial convener and custodian of the spatial contract.**

In parallel, Biennale Architettura 2020 also maintains that it is in its material, spatial, and cultural specificity that architecture inspires the ways we live together. In that respect, we ask the participants to highlight those aspects of the main theme that are uniquely architectural.

The curators of the national participations are called upon to address one or more of the sub-themes of the Exhibition. The need for more inclusive social housing and equipment or for more connective urban and territorial tissue remains as pressing in emerging economies as in advanced ones.

The year 2020 has often been referred to as a milestone on the path to a better future. Many nations and cities have devised a 'Vision 2020.' **The year is upon us. We look to the collective architectural imagination to meet this momentous occasion with creativity and courage."**

PAOLO BARATTA

President **Paolo Baratta** stated:

"The Biennale Architettura 2018 has brought our attention on free space, an essential element of our living that has been omitted in so many recent developments. With Hashim Sarkis we will try to expand our horizon to all the issues raised by our living together. Living together means first and foremost awareness of potential crises and old and new problems that do not get appropriate solutions, nor often appropriate attention, in the spontaneous development of our economies and societies and that require enhanced attention and an extensive and courageous planning capacity.

The changes under way, and those expected, all require to be seriously taken into consideration, as do the ensuing necessities and the so far inadequate responses; they also ask for new energies to face them, awareness of conflicts and obstacles, but also some enlightenment coming from projects under way offering suggestions and proposals and therefore recognisable as positive examples.

A significant dualism is emerging in the world. The divide between present housing conditions and the conditions we advocate is qualitatively different in the different parts of the earth. In a large area of the planet the living space issue is still to be considered in its traditional and elementary components (spaces to take refuge, to live in, to guarantee adequate housing conditions, public spaces). Other parts of the world are going through new phases of development in which the conditions for production, labour organisation and exchanges, the organisation of society, communities and households are changing, or have already changed, moving towards realities that are different, sometimes dramatically different, from those for which the recent territorial, urban and building developments had been designed and realised.

We expect from Hashim Sarkis' research and from the individual participating countries a number of examples that besides informing us on the different realities and the current trends and conflicts, **can let**
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us imagine a world at work to face those issues, and in particular a world of architecture committed to thinking, imagining and realising new solutions.

Being aware that in different parts of the world we are developing this new consciousness and are working for these new projects is in itself part of a different “living together” for which La Biennale offers itself as the ideal place.”

NATIONAL PARTICIPATIONS AND COLLATERAL EVENTS

As usual, the **17th International Architecture Exhibition** will also present the **National Participations** with their own exhibitions in the Pavilions at the Giardini and the Arsenale, as well as around the historic city centre of Venice.

This edition will also include selected **Collateral Events**, presented by international institutions, which will organise their exhibitions and initiatives in Venice concurrently with the 17th Exhibition.