



## 20<sup>th</sup> Venice Architecture Biennale - Lebanese Pavilion

May 8 to November 21, 2027

### Open Call for Concept Proposal

#### Proposals due on Monday June 29, 2026

Following the successful participation of Lebanon in previous editions of Venice Architecture Biennale (2018, 2020, and 2024), and seeking to build upon the previous experience and to open it as a competition to the wider professional public, the Ministry of Culture, in collaboration with the Lebanese Federation of Engineers and Architects, is launching an open call for proposals to curate the Lebanese Pavilion at the 20th International Architecture Exhibition at La Biennale di Venezia

This 20th edition of the Architecture Biennale, will run from May 8 to November 2027 under the general direction of Architects and educators Wang Shu and Lu Wenyu.

**Wang Shu** and **Lu Wenyu** have declared in their statement:

*“ In the current world, the rapid and multiple changes in architecture are more a phenomenon of appearance, the result of excessive conceptualization or marked commercialization. Conceptual experiments driven to extremes are often divorced from reality and over-commercialization tends to be merely popular and short-lived. This phenomenon changes rapidly in order to survive, breaking away from the connection with the real place. It will lead to the death of architecture.*

*Therefore, architecture becomes a kind of delusional expression about the future. For this reason, in the face of the real crisis of this world, insisting on a simple and true concept and method of architecture has a special value. We will strive to present this value and exploration with the greatest sincerity for a better reality and future.”*

For more information on the Biennale theme, please check: [www.labiennale.org](http://www.labiennale.org)

In line with the general theme, the organisers for the Lebanese Pavilion at the Venice Biennale 2027 welcome **Concept Proposals** from multidisciplinary curatorial teams that would address the following questions:

- How does the concept proposal address the theme of the Biennale in a creative and original way? What are its main components?
- How does the proposed concept relate to current issues and problematics and specifically how does it address present challenges facing Lebanese society to preserve the land and the memory of places, in the context of steadfastness in the face of aggression and the systematic destruction of the social fabric and erasure of the natural, architectural and urban environments
- Would the project solicit any cooperation with other major partners, either institutional, public or private; and if so, how would this cooperation take form?



## **Eligibility**

This call for concept proposals is open to all Architects, registered in the Order of Engineers and Architects in Beirut or Tripoli. Participating teams should be composed of a minimum of two members, including:

- A registered Architect in the OEA (Beirut or Tripoli)
- An academic, historian, or artist, preferably with experience in curating exhibitions

## **Format for Proposals**

Proposals should be submitted English, in a single PDF file containing the following (max. of 20 pages):

- A clear narrative that describes the theme and explains the conceptual framework of the proposed exhibition as well as the specifics of what the exhibition would consist of (max. 1,000 words)
- Preliminary/ schematic visual support material (renderings, photos, sketches, etc.) that illustrate the proposed concept (max 15 slides)
- List of projected activities that may accompany the exhibition, such as lectures, seminars, or visual projections
- Name of Project Director and list of other team members, with a one-page CV of each member, highlighting their experience in design, research and/or exhibition curation
- A detailed budget for the different components of the project including design and execution, production costs, additional equipment, publications, etc. The budget should include the fees that the selected team would require to carry on the project, including the fees for space rental, as well as all travel expenses and accommodation in Venice. A list of potential sponsors that the Team would recommend for support, and any potential sources of fundraising for the project.

## **Project Context:**

The Venice Biennale is, and has been, one of the most important cultural institutions in the world for over 120 years. The International Architecture Exhibition consists of a central exhibition with over 100 international participants, 60 national pavilions and collateral events throughout the city. It is a prestigious exhibition and international platform that engages critical conversations about contemporary architecture that attracts 300,000 visitors annually.

The exhibitions are typically composed of installations, models, photos, presentations of architectural projects, and/or documentary video projections. The exhibition should highlight in the best possible way architecture, urban design, and/or landscape design material that respond in a stimulating way to the general theme.

## **Role of the Selected Curatorial Team:**

The role of the selected curatorial Team will be to design, execute and implement the approved concept from the initial phases to the final phases, and to liaise with the authorities of the Venice Biennale during the course of implementation. The curatorial Team will also be in charge, in coordination with the Commissioner of the Lebanese Pavilion Mr Jad Tabet, appointed by the Minister of Culture, to maintain appropriate communication with the Biennale organizers for the duration of the event.



Specifically, the scope of work of the selected team will include:

- Design and production of the exhibition content
- Implementation of the project in Venice, including shipment of the material from and to Lebanon.
- Coordination with the Lebanese Ministry of Culture and the Biennale administration regarding the project implementation.

In addition, the curatorial team is responsible of overseeing the following tasks, either directly, or through the assistance of a specialized public relations firm. The estimated fees for this task should also be included in the budget as a separate item:

- Management of the pavilion during the whole period of the exhibition, and assigning one person in charge of public relations and communication.
- Preparation of communication materials, such as news releases, press kits, etc.
- Implementation of peripheral events: conferences, publications, catalogues

The selected team should keep the Lebanese Ministry of Culture informed at all stages of the progress of the project, and maintain a regular correspondence with all concerned entities during the course of implementation.

### **Selection Process**

A selection committee composed of experienced professionals selected for their expertise will assess the proposals. The selection committee is comprised of the following members:

- . **Hala Younes**, curator of the 2018 edition of Lebanese pavilion to the 16th Biennale di Architettura
- . **Hala Warde**, curator of the 2020 edition of Lebanese pavilion to the 17th Biennale di Architettura
- . **Collective for Architecture-Lebanon**, curator of the 2024 edition of Lebanese pavilion to the 19th Biennale di Architettura
- . **Elie Haddad**, Dean of the School of Architecture and Design, Lebanese American University
- . **Abdel Halim Jabr**, architect; urban design consultant, ALBA University of Balamand
- . Representative of the **Order of Engineers and Architects-Beirut**
- . Representative of the **Order of Engineers and Architects-Tripoli**.

Jad Tabet, Commissioner of the Lebanese Pavilion, appointed by the Minister of Culture, will participate in the selection committee without voting rights.

### **Criteria for Selection:**

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following weighted criteria:

#### Concept and Impact (60%)

- The ability of the proposal to respond to the general theme of the Biennale and to reflect present challenges facing the Lebanese society, as well as the potential of the proposed exhibition to capture the attention of a wide range of visitors.

#### Feasibility (40%)

- The team's demonstrated capacity and experience to undertake the proposed exhibition.



**Submission of Proposals:**

Printed proposals should be delivered to the Ministry of Culture, National Library Sanayeh, First floor before Monday June 29 from 9am to 12pm.

A soft copy should also be sent to Mr Jad Tabet at [jad.tabet@orange.fr](mailto:jad.tabet@orange.fr), also before 12pm on Monday June 29.

Incomplete or late proposals will not be assessed.

**Past Lebanese Participation in Venice Architecture Biennale**

**2018 The Place that Remains**

Curator: Hala Younes

**2020 A Roof for Silence**

Curator: Hala Warde

**2024 The Land Remembers**

Curator: Collective for Architecture- Lebanon



