



la Biennale di Venezia

15. Mostra
Internazionale
di Architettura
Eventi Collaterali

Shaping European Cities

Collateral event of the 15th International Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia

The European Commission and the Fundació Mies van der Rohe present the debate “**Shaping European Cities**. Urban confrontation, democracy and identity” and the **Young Talent Architecture Award (YTAA) Granting Ceremony**.

The event will take place on 28 October 2016 at the Teatro Piccolo Arsenale, starting at 14.00 and will be open to everybody who is interested in the profession, its multidisciplinary and in the dialogue between architects, policy makers, politicians and representatives of other sectors. It will culminate in the YTAA awards ceremony, three winners receiving the prize that strives to bring the academic and professional realms closer together.

The European Union strongly believes that architecture is one of the most powerful and at the same time one of the subtlest ways of building communities and integrating people in society.

In harmony with the topic of the Biennale Architettura 2016, European Commission and the Fundació Mies van der Rohe organise a debate on the theme “Shaping European Cities. Urban confrontation, democracy and identity”. The participants will discuss the role of architecture in fostering growth, social inclusion, democratic participation and – ultimately – individual and societal well-being for city residents.

The utility of public spaces in cities, urban regeneration in the context of cultural heritage, and the involvement of public administration, distinguish the European territory when seen from elsewhere. The challenge for contemporary architecture is not only creativity or conceptual, technical and constructional qualities: it is also the harmony with an urban environment made up of cultural heritage. The relationship between the contemporary “*geste architectural*” and the existing urban context may be conflictual, but also fruitful, especially when citizens are involved in the decision-making process, contributing to urban democracy. The key objective of the debate is bringing together concrete examples of these achievements, found in particular in recent prize-winning buildings, and understanding how they have been made possible and what difference they brought about for their communities.

“Shaping European Cities” will take into consideration a broad view of architecture – from the first steps of the profession to its maturation, its **multidisciplinarity** and the dialogue with **policy makers and other sectors**. It will highlight architect’s **education** in the discipline and the social, political and economic **context changes** which he or she needs to understand.

This approach to architecture is reinforced by the newly created Young Talent Architecture Award (YTAA) of the European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture – Mies van der Rohe Award, which brings under the spotlight the architects' education and their first steps into professional life. During the awards ceremony, three winners will receive the first ever YTAA, that strives to bring the academic and professional realms closer together.

Details of the event will be announced during the opening of the 15th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia, presenting the names of the architects, cultural activists, members of the European Parliament, members of the European Commission and other stakeholders that will participate in the debate.

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To find out more:

<http://www.miesarch.com>

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