

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST CREATIVE DIRECTOR(S) 2025 VENICE BIENNALE



19th International Architecture Exhibition,
La Biennale di Venezia

Prepared by
Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA)

Contact
venice.biennale@architecture.com.au

THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
ACKNOWLEDGES FIRST NATIONS PEOPLES
AS THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF
THE LANDS, WATERS, AND SKIES OF THE
CONTINENT NOW CALLED AUSTRALIA.

WE EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE TO THEIR
ELDERS AND KNOWLEDGE HOLDERS WHOSE
WISDOM, ACTIONS AND KNOWLEDGE HAVE
KEPT CULTURE ALIVE.

WE RECOGNISE FIRST NATIONS PEOPLES
AS THE FIRST ARCHITECTS AND BUILDERS.
WE APPRECIATE THEIR CONTINUING WORK
ON COUNTRY FROM PRE-INVASION TIMES
TO CONTEMPORARY FIRST NATIONS
ARCHITECTS, AND RESPECT THEIR RIGHTS
TO CONTINUE TO CARE FOR COUNTRY.

Front cover and back cover: 2023: Unsettling Queenstown | Creative
Directors Anthony Coupe, Julian Worrall, Emily Paech, Ali Gumillya
Baker, and Sarah Rhodes | Photographer: Tom Roe

Opposite: 2018: Repair | Creative Directors Mauro Baracco, Louise
Wright with Linda Tegg | Photographer: Rory Gardiner

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SUMMARY – KEY INFORMATION

EOI – 2025 VENICE BIENNALE

The Australian Institute of Architects invites Expressions of Interest for Creative Director(s) for the Australia Pavilion at the 19th International Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia 2025.

2025 THEME

Intelligens. Natural. Artificial. Collective.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Stage 1: EOIs submitted

Stage 2: Shortlisted candidates invited for interview

KEY EOI DATES

EOI Opens	Fri, 19 July 2024
EOI Closes	midnight Wed, 7 Aug 2024
Shortlisted applicants notified	Thurs, 15 Aug 2024
Shortlisted interviews	from Mon, 26 Aug 2024
Successful applicants notified	Wed, 18 Sept 2024

VENICE BIENNALE DATES

Vernissage	8–9 May 2025
Open to public	10 May – 23 Nov 2025

WHO DO WE WANT AS CREATIVE DIRECTOR(S)?

We are looking for an individual or partnership who, with their nominated team, can deliver an inspiring and bold Architecture Exhibition for Australia's contribution to the 2025 Venice Architecture Biennale opening in May.

BUDGET (AUD)

- Exhibition Budget: \$100,000 (ex GST)
- Honorarium: \$30,000 (ex GST)
- Travel Expenses: \$20,000 (ex GST) for flights, accommodation, and per diems
- Graphic Design Costs: \$10,000 (ex GST)

KEY CONTACT

Address all communication, including EOI application, to: venice.biennale@architecture.com.au



2020/21: Inbetween | Creative Directors Jefa Greenaway and Tristan Wong | Photographer: Aaron Puls

BACKGROUND

The Venice Architecture Biennale is the premier international architectural forum and provides an opportunity for Australian architecture to be presented on an international stage. The Australian Exhibition also provides a throughline to Australian audiences via further exhibitions or activities in 2026.

This year, the exhibition development is via two committees – a Venice Biennale Curatorial Committee and a Commissioners Circle. The Commissioners Circle will focus on advocacy, fundraising and support for the Curatorial Committee.

The 2025 Venice Biennale Curatorial Committee's vision is for an Australian Exhibition that tells a rich and engaging story, responding to this year's theme, showcases original ideas and demonstrates the depth of Australian architectural expertise to the world. They envision this also providing the opportunity to promote the value of architecture nationally via further exhibitions or activities in Australia in 2026.

The International Architecture Biennale is organised by La Biennale di Venezia, Società di Cultura, formed for the express purpose of planning and implementing all Venetian biennial exhibitions including those for visual arts, architecture and film. Approximately 85 countries including Australia, participate in the Venice Architecture and Art Biennale.

The Institute has facilitated Australia's representation at the International Architecture Biennale in Venice since 2005.



Australia Pavilion | Denton Corker Marshall | Photographer: John Gollings

2025 THEME

INTELLIGENS. NATURAL. ARTIFICIAL. COLLECTIVE

The title of the International Architecture Exhibition 2025 is **Intelligens. Natural. Artificial. Collective**.

Curated by the architect and engineer Carlo Ratti, the 19th International Architecture Exhibition will be about the built environment and the many disciplines that shape it. Architecture is at the centre – but not alone. It is part of an extended sphere that integrates art, engineering, biology, data science, social and political sciences, planetary systems sciences, and other disciplines – linking each and all of them to the materiality of urban space.

The title of the International Architecture Exhibition is usually announced both in English and in Italian. In 2025 it will be condensed into a single word for both languages via the common Latin precedent: intelligens. The title, Intelligens, is linked to the modern term ‘intelligence’, but it also evokes a wider set of associated meanings.

With the aim to reintroduce a degree of coordination and coherence with the theme of the main International Exhibition among the National Pavilions, Ratti encourages the participating countries to address the common prompt of “One place, one solution”, showcasing how local ingenuity can address our time’s existential challenge that can only be tackled in a cooperative manner, reflecting a multiplicity of approaches. “If every country brings one success to the table, together we can assemble a global kit for adapting to the future” Ratti said.

<https://www.labiennale.org/en/news/biennale-architettura-2025-title-intelligens-natural-artificial-collective>

THE AUSTRALIA PAVILION

The Australia Pavilion is one of only 29 national pavilions within the Biennale Gardens (Giardini della Biennale), all built at different periods.

The Pavilion was designed by Denton Corker Marshall and completed in 2015. The two-storey structure provides 330 square meters of exhibition space. The pavilion presents as a black granite box with flexible panels that can be opened or remain closed, as directed by exhibition needs. Further information including floor plans are included in the additional information section of this document.

2025 THEME



— THE PRESIDENT

PIETRANGELO BUTTAFUOCO

“An itinerary in the form of a mandate for the year 2025. In which every section is wilfully sealed with a question mark, the punctuation of possibilities and thus abode of the future. The answers to these questions will lay the foundations for the 19th International Architecture Exhibition”.



— THE CURATOR

CARLO RATTI

“The Exhibition will search for a path forward, proposing that intelligent solutions to pressing problems can take many forms. It will present a collection of design proposals and many other experiments, exploring a definition of “intelligence” as an ability to adapt to the environment with limited resources, knowledge, or power”.



The 19th International Architecture Exhibition will be held from Saturday 10 May to Sunday 23 November 2025 (pre-opening May 8 and 9), curated by the architect and engineer Carlo Ratti, who has commented: “To face a burning world, architecture must harness all the intelligence around us. I am honored and humbled to have the opportunity to curate the Biennale Architettura 2025”.

An architect and engineer by training, Carlo Ratti completed his PhD thesis as a Fulbright Scholar at MIT and now teaches at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and at the Politecnico di Milano. He is the director of the Senseable City Lab and a founding partner of the architecture and innovation office CRA - Carlo Ratti Associati (Torino, New York City, and London).

Explore the curatorial statement | <https://www.labiennale.org/en/news/biennale-architettura-2025-title-intelligens-natural-artificial-collective>

CREATIVE DIRECTOR(S)

OUR CREATIVE DIRECTOR(S) – WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

We are looking for an individual or partnership, who will lead their nominated team to create the Exhibition. Given the timeframe for delivery, while not essential, it is anticipated they may be building upon existing research or projects as a springboard to create a compelling, bold and theme-relevant Exhibition for Venice.

The Creative Director(s) role is solely focused on the curation of the Venice Exhibition and for exhibitions and activities in Australia in 2026, with the formal, social and operational aspects being the responsibility of the Institute management team and Creative Australia.

WHAT WE EXPECT FROM THE CREATIVE DIRECTOR(S)

- Creative Director(s) will manage the team and timely delivery of the project in collaboration with the production team
- Define and source all exhibition content in collaboration with the production team
- Produce detailed designs for the exhibition and work with the production team to build it
- Any proposal should be relevant to audiences for exhibitions and activities in Australia following the Venice Biennale, Examples may include, but are not limited to exhibition, digital assets, events, talks, articles and/or workshops.
- Produce all written material for the project and oversee Graphic Design
- All materials to be developed in close collaboration with the Institute including, but not limited to, exhibition text, catalogue essays, leaflets and digital collateral, public events programme and digital content.



Top: 2016: The Pool | Creative Directors: Aileen Sage Architects (Amelia Holliday and Isabelle Toland) with Michelle Tabet | Photographer: Brett Boardman

Right: 2010: Now and When | Creative Directors: John Gollings and Ivan Rijavec | Photographer: John Gollings



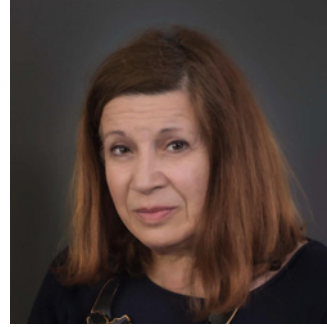
CURATORIAL COMMITTEE



Claire McCaughan,
Architect, Director, Custom
Mad and Cofounder of
Archival



Kate Goodwin Hon FRIBA,
Independent curator and
writer, Adjunct Professor,
(Architecture), University
of Sydney



Maggie Edmond AM LFRAIA,
Principal, Edmond and
Corrigan and Australian
Institute of Architects
2003 Gold Medal winner



Michael Jasper, Professor
of Architecture, University
of Canberra



Ivan Ling, Architect, Hogg
& Lamb and member of
the Emerging Architects
and Graduates Network
(EmAGN)



Jane Cassidy FRAIA,
National President, RAIA
and APAC Service Line
Leader, GHD Design



Cameron Bruhn Hon. FRAIA,
CEO, RAIA

2025 CURATORIAL COMMITTEE

The Curatorial Committee's role is to select Creative Director(s) and act as an advisory committee to support and guide the selected creative concept to realisation.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The Curatorial Committee will assess and shortlist submissions that engage with the following criteria:

Criteria	Details	Score
Merit, quality	Merit of the proposal to develop and deliver a Venice exhibit that will contribute to contemporary architectural thinking and practice both in Australia and Internationally. Alignment and/or critique of the theme.	/60
Experience	Experience, expertise and success in mediating, communicating and delivering exhibitions of architecture to diverse audiences; Demonstrated ability and skills relevant to the role	/20
Capacity, viability	Evidence of capacity to deliver projects of this type; – Experience in budget and time management; – Ambition and capacity to deliver national presentations in Australia in 2026.	/20

APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS

Applicants wishing to submit a proposal must meet the following requirements:

- Creative Director(s) must have relevant curatorial experience
- Applicants have a detailed knowledge of contemporary architecture in Australia and internationally.
- Experience of working with the media and stakeholders in the promotion of events and projects will be favourably regarded.
- At least one of the Creative Director(s) team must be a current financial member of the Institute.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

STAGE 1 REQUIREMENTS

Statement of Approach (2 x A4 page max (single-sided) 11-point font size):

- By nominating a working title, your proposal will describe in words and imagery the storyline of the Exhibition.
- Response to the 2025 theme.
- Reference may be made to previous research and projects that have foregrounded your conceptual idea.

Statement of Experience and Interest (1 x A4 page max (single-sided) 11-point font size):

- Outline your interest in curating the Australian Architecture Exhibition, including but not limited to, why you have pursued your conceptual idea.
- Outline the Creative Director(s) experience and skills relevant to delivering the exhibition. Reference may be made to project design, curation and management capability. Submissions should also demonstrate success in meeting tight timeframes within defined budgets.

Statement of Capacity (1 x A4 page max (single-sided) 11-point font size):

- Outline all creative team members for the proposal and their roles
- Nominate the Creative Director(s) contact person representing the team as the primary contact.

CV's (1 x A4 page per team member (single-sided) 11-point font size):

- For each team member, include a 1 page CV with short biography and include contact details

SUBMISSION FORMAT

Your proposal needs to be in single PDF format and a maximum of four A4 pages of proposal + single page CV's for each member of the creative team.

CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSIONS

Midnight AEST on Wednesday, 7 August 2024

Submissions should be emailed to venice.biennale@architecture.com.au

THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The Curatorial Committee will assess all submissions and shortlist a maximum of three submissions to progress to stage two. All submissions will be notified of their status at this time by the Institute.

- Shortlisted submissions who proceed to the second stage will be asked to present a developed proposal. An honorarium of \$1,000 will be paid to each shortlisted team that makes a conforming stage two submission.
- Stage two submissions will develop the exhibition proposal to adequately convey the theme, design principles, proposed exhibitors and physical form the exhibition will take in the Australia Pavilion.
- If the Curatorial Committee decline to make a recommendation based on the quality of the submissions at stage two, the Institute reserves the right to appoint suitable Creative Director(s) at their own discretion.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

STAGE 2 REQUIREMENTS

Provide the following to the Curatorial Committee:

- A presentation, detailing the exhibition proposal and themes
- Visualisations to adequately convey the proposal.

A submission outlining the concept and exhibition design (10 pages max) which includes the following:

- A proposed budget plan, outlining proposed costs
- A detailed operational project plan with key dates and deliverables and an approach to working with the production team.

Stage two applicants will be asked to expand on the exhibition concepts, including design principles for installation in the Australia Pavilion in Venice, showcasing how the proposal will take physical form while fitting within the available budget.

Stage 2 submissions should be emailed to venice.biennale@architecture.com.au

BUDGET INFORMATION

The budget for the 2025 Australia Pavilion has been provided to outline the exhibition costs committed to the Biennale event by the Australian Institute of Architects. The Institute will work closely with the successfully appointed Creative Director(s) to review and finalise the exhibition budget.

EXHIBITION BUDGET (ALL IN AUD)

A budget of \$100,000 (ex GST, where applicable) is budgeted for the Exhibition.

This budget is to include all equipment, materials, design and fabrication of the components required for the Exhibition – fully installed in Venice. This allowance must include exhibition multi-media, graphics and any publication, AV and projections, additional lighting, freight, deinstallation and applicable taxes.

This budget may be supplemented by sponsorship and philanthropy contributions.

HONORARIUM, FEES AND EXPENSES

- An honorarium of \$30,000 (excluding GST) will be paid to the Creative Director(s).
- A further \$20,000 (excluding GST) is available to the Creative Director(s) and their essential installation team, for any travel expenses to and from Venice. This is to include flights, accommodation and per diem allowances associated with the preparation and attendance of the exhibition.
- The amount dedicated to travel is to be managed by the Creative Director(s) at their own discretion.
- A further \$10,000 (excluding GST) budget is allocated for graphic design costs.

The Institute will operate and manage a separate, additional budget for the following:

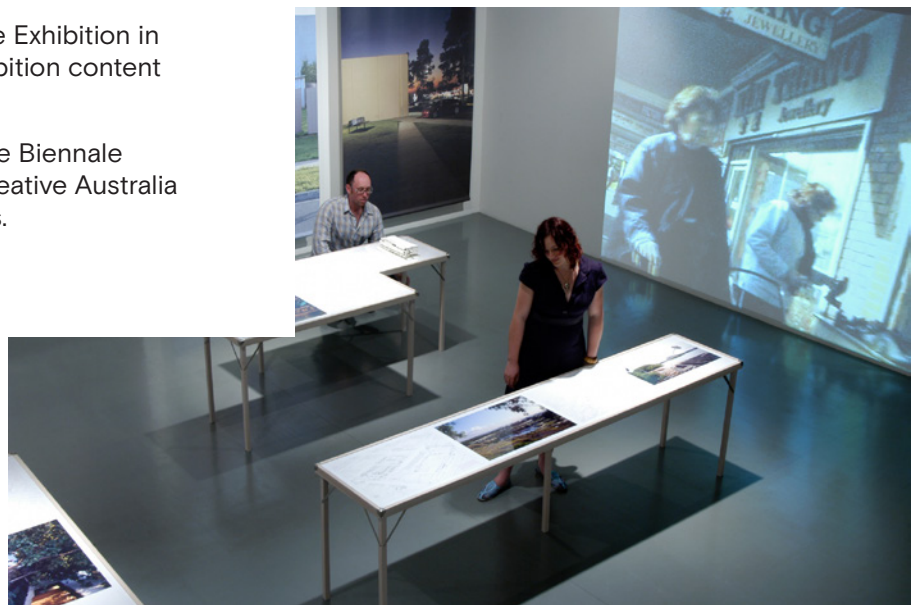
- Venetian-based Supervisor.
- Presentation of the exhibition in Australia in 2026.
- Creative Director(s) travel relating to media requirements/events and launches in Australia, as requested by the Institute team.
- Staffing the exhibition for the duration of exhibition – including accommodation and per diems for volunteers.
- Cleaning and general maintenance of the exhibition over the course of the six-month exhibition period.
- All events and associated event management.
- Photography of exhibition.
- Institute staff/project management/media consultants.
- Travel and accommodation of key Institute and Biennale committee stakeholders.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

WHAT WE PROVIDE

The Institute will be responsible for all project management and delivery of the Biennale, and in particular, for the following:

- Partnership with a production team for the execution of the Venice Biennale Australia Pavilion.
- Overall program management of the 2025 Venice Biennale to ensure event success.
- Manage all commercial and other agreements necessary for the Exhibition, including in relation to venues, products, exhibits, equipment, sponsorships and the like.
- Allocation of Vernissage tickets and management of delegate lists for all events.
- Coordination and management of all events.
- Coordination and management of media and public relations.
- Coordination and travel arrangements of Institute staff and volunteers.
- Provide the benefit of Institute advice, experience and information in support of the Exhibition.
- Market, promote, manage and ensure the provision of all administrative, financial and operational requirements for the Exhibition.
- Formally engage consultant(s) necessary for the exhibition, including the Graphic Design Provider nominated in the Creative Director(s) submission.
- Put in place insurance required for the Exhibition in relation to public liability risk and exhibition content property insurance.
- Managing relationships with the Venice Biennale Authority office, City of Venice and Creative Australia and other Federal Government bodies.



2006: Micro Macro | Creative Directors: Shane Murray and Nigel Bertram | Photographer: John Gollings

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

We understand that you may have additional questions related to your submission, which we are very happy to assist with.

For further information or clarification on any elements covered in this Expression of Interest, please contact venice.biennale@architecture.com.au

PREVIOUS EXHIBITIONS INCLUDE

2023: Unsettling Queenstown

Creative Directors Anthony Coupe, Julian Worrall, Emily Paech, Ali Gumillya Baker, and Sarah Rhodes

2020/21: Inbetween

Creative Directors Jefa Greenaway and Tristan Wong

2018: Repair

Creative Directors Mauro Baracco, Louise Wright with Linda Tegg

2016: The Pool

Creative Directors Amelia Holliday, Isabelle Toland (Aileen Sage) and Michelle Tabet

2014: Augmented Australia: 1914 - 2014

Creative Directors felix._Giles_ Anderson+Goad

2012: Formations

Creative Directors Anthony Burke, Gerard Reinmuth, with TOKO concept design

2010: NOW and WHEN

Creative Directors John Gollings and Ivan Rijavec

2008: ABUNDANT

Creative Directors Neil Durbach, Vince Frost, Wendy Lewin, Kerstin Thompson and Gary Warner

2006: Micro Macro City

Creative Directors Shane Murray and Nigel Bertram

VENUE

Since 1988 the Australia Council has owned and managed an Australia Pavilion exhibition building in Venice. The Council has provided the pavilion to the Australian Institute of Architects as part of their in-kind support for its involvement with the Venice Biennale. The Institute thanks Creative Australia for their generous and ongoing support.

Details of the pavilion exterior and internal spaces, as well as access are attached.

Proposals for the 2025 Architecture Biennale should consider the feasibility of installation into the pavilion within the specifications provided. Exhibition designs should work with the new pavilion to create an overall visitor experience. Key features of the building include:

EXTERIOR

- East Elevation - two operable panels, one opens along the horizontal axis to reveal fixed glazing (approx. 3.2m W x 2.8m H) into exhibition gallery. The other opens along vertical axis to reveal panel on which signage / artwork can be applied.
- West Elevation - one operable panel opens along vertical axis to reveal panel on which signage / artwork can be applied.

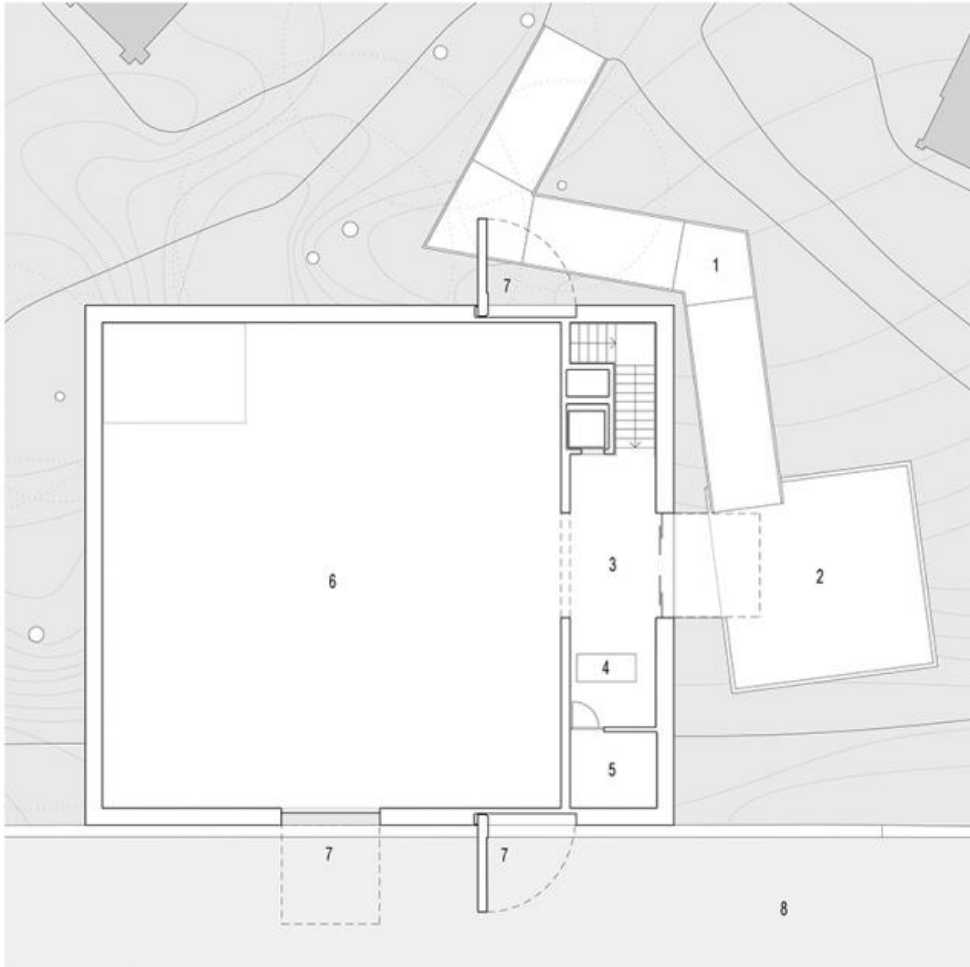
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

INTERIOR

- Ground Floor - consists of loading bay, storage, rubbish room, staff WC/shower, staff amenities and office.
- Loading access is from canal to ground floor loading area. Loading doors - 3.2m W x 3.0m H, ceiling height 3.0m. A two-deck elevating platform.
- (3.0m L x 2.6m W x 3.0H) is used to transfer works from ground floor to exhibition gallery.
- First Floor - consists of entry foyer (with reception desk including PA system) and the exhibition gallery.
- The gallery space is 240m² with a ceiling height of 5m.
- Walls - plasterboard over plywood, loading capacity 100kg/m² for 200kg per linear metre wall run.
- Floors - sealed polished concrete, loading capacity 740kg/m².
- Ceiling - perforated plasterboard with acoustic backing, five access hatches and six hanging points.
- Lighting System (work lights) - modular ceiling-recessed continuous luminaire along grid (3000K) with controllable dimmable DALI ballast.
- Lighting System (exhibition) - exhibition spots (3000K), combination of floods, washers and spots on ERCO Dali track.
- Power - Australian and European sockets located on skirting along walls and at regular points in ceiling along outer and inner grid. Floor points located under, accessed from cable trays located along the ceiling of the ground floor.
- Data - Ethernet points located on skirting along walls and at regular points in ceiling along outer and inner grid.



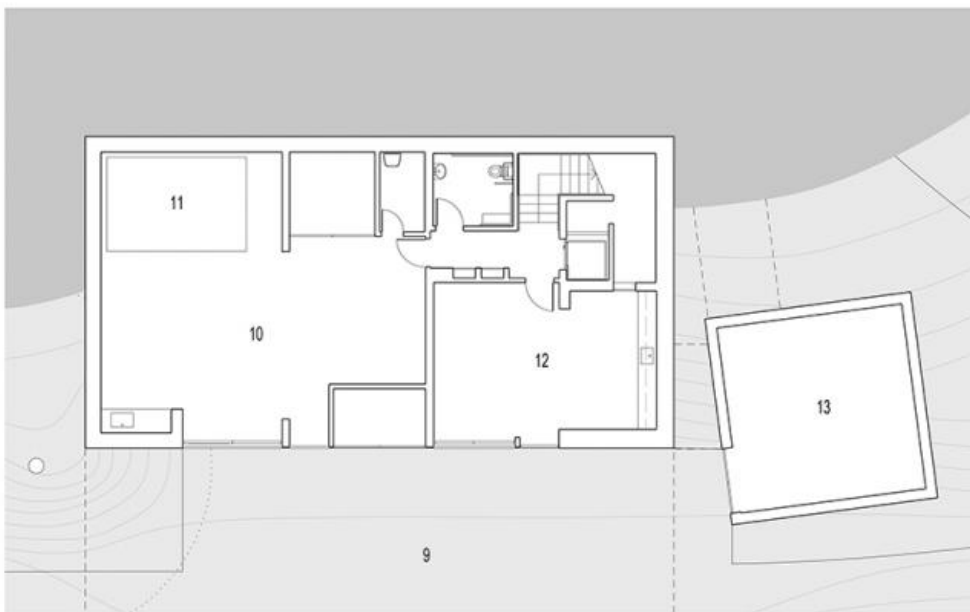
PAVILION DRAWINGS



- 1 ACCESS BRIDGE
- 2 PLATFORM
- 3 ENTRANCE
- 4 RECEPTION
- 5 CLOAK ROOM
- 6 EXHIBITION GALLERY
- 7 OPERABLE FAÇADE
- 8 CANAL
- 9 PATH
- 10 LOADING BAY
- 11 PLATFORM LIFT
- 12 OFFICE
- 13 PLANT ROOM

LEVEL 1 PLAN

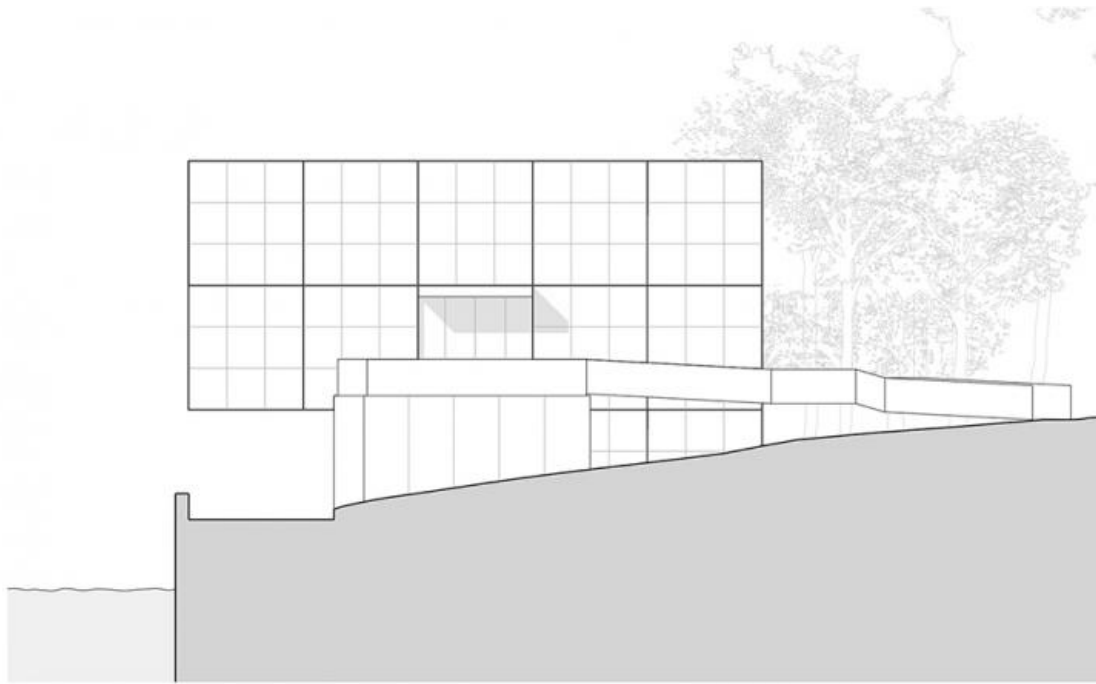
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GROUND PLAN

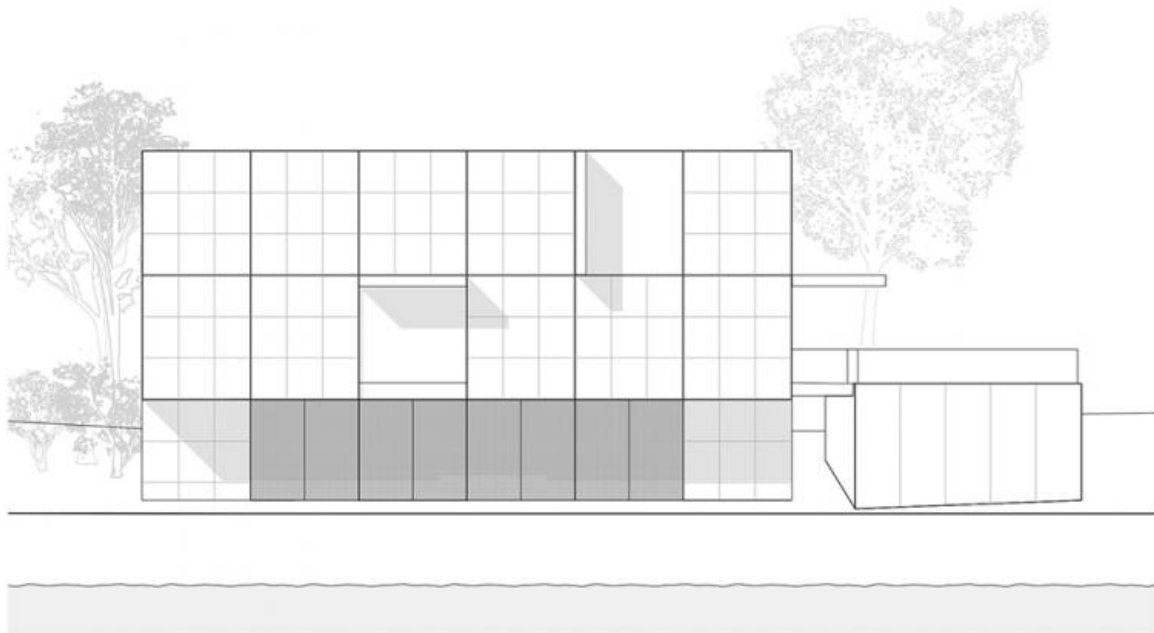
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PAVILION DRAWINGS



NORTH ELEVATION

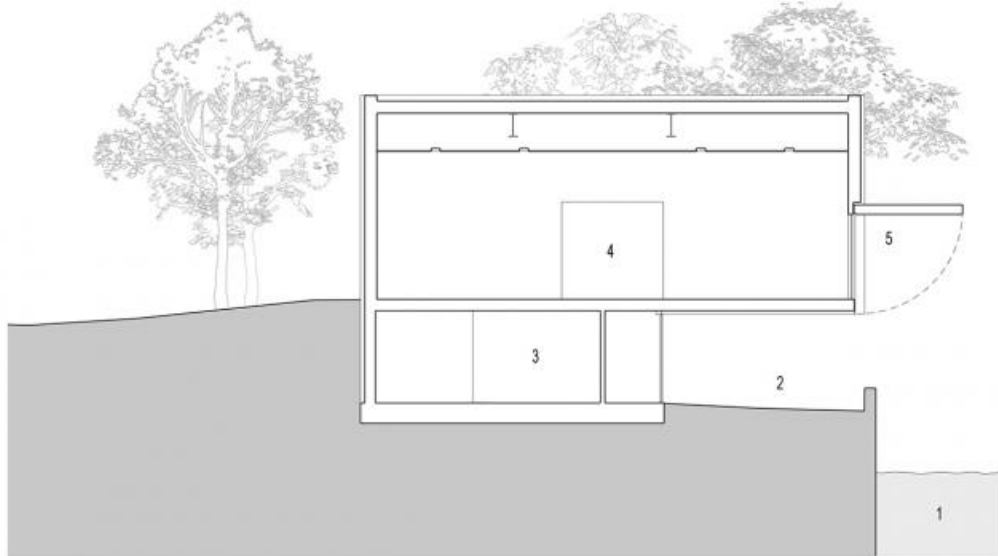
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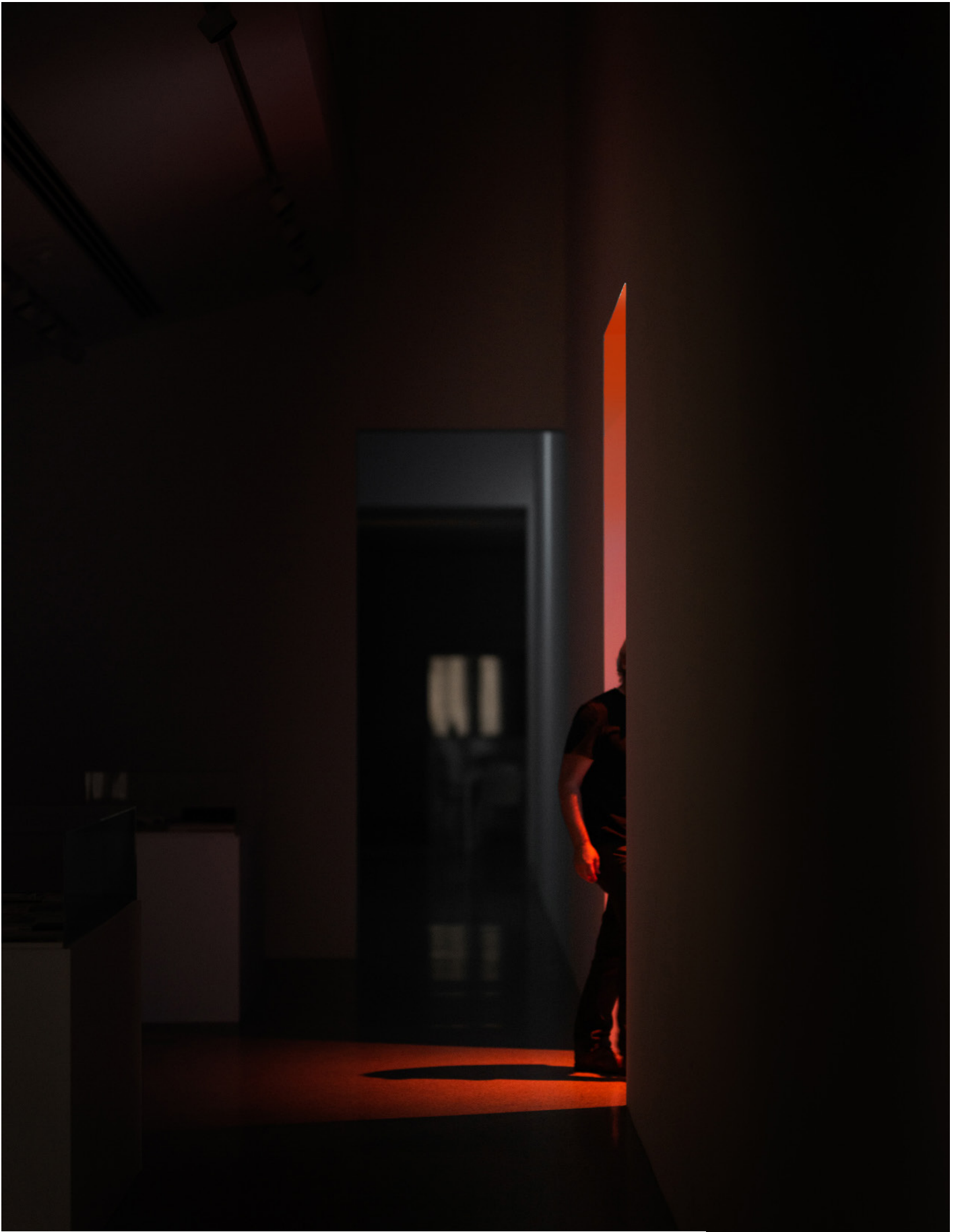


EAST ELEVATION

1:150 @ A3 0 1 2 5m

PAVILION DRAWINGS





2020/21: Inbetween | Creative Directors Jefa Greenaway and Tristan Wong | Photographer: Aaron Puls

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
CREATIVE DIRECTOR(S)
2025 VENICE BIENNALE

19th International Architecture Exhibition,
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