



New European Bauhaus presents *Radical yet possible future space solution*

Collateral Event of the 18th International Architecture Exhibition

La Biennale di Venezia

Curators: Wael Al Awar, Francesca Bria, John Schellnhuber

General concept of the conference: Following the central theme of the Biennale Architettura 2023, “Laboratory of the Future”, and in line with the mission of the New European Bauhaus, the conference has been designed as a radical, intellectual and practical laboratory of the future. The event will allow experts, students, and visitors to experiment, discover and design the future with the power of their minds.

Global issues such as climate change, resource scarcity, and shifting demographics threaten existential human needs. Still, they also drive individuals and whole societies into daring to explore new ways of living together. This conference will provide the space to reflect on radical yet possible human actions leading to better use of spaces and resources and explore non-existing but necessary human endeavours. Design and architecture will follow these innovative ways of thinking and reflect the technological and societal changes generated by human minds confronted with new challenges.

On the first day, six groups of experts and students will join parallel discussions in the “Radical NEB Labs” to work towards collective solutions for a sustainable, inclusive and beautiful future, understood as new ways of living, learning, designing, building, energy and material sourcing.

The Labs will think within the urgency and challenges of our age, focused on solutions from global and local perspectives, from social and individual point of views, drawing from and contributing to the values and principles of NEB.

On the second day, **Ursula von der Leyen**, President of the European Commission and initiator of the New European Bauhaus will kick off the interdisciplinary debates involving some of the greatest architects of our time and international experts from several fields. Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms **Elisa Ferreira** will close the NEB conference with a speech.

DAY 1, Thursday May 25th: *Activation of collective thinking*

[location: Ca’Tron - IUAV]

15.00 - 15.15 Introduction by Francesca Bria

15.15 - 16.55 Two Masterclasses (20 min each): Shigeru Ban and Anna Heringer

16.55 - 16.15 Wael Al Awar in conversation with Shigeru Ban, Anna Heringer and the audience

16.15 - 16.30 Introduction to the topics of the workshops by John Schellnhuber

16.35 - 19.00 Radical NEB Labs, 6 workshops running in parallel in different rooms

Lab 1. Dealing with future human behaviour - How will we learn?

This Lab is related to the topic of the Panel 1: *“NEB as a catalyst of new mind-sets to support the goals of the Green Deal”* on the 26th of May

Location: Ca’ Tron, room TBD

Speakers: lead - Michela Magas; Thiemo Heilbron, Michael John Gorman, Jacopo Galli; reporter: Eva Franch I Gilabert

Working group: 20 students

Concept: Architecture and design are in a constant state of change and so is the learning and teaching. Especially now, (future) architects, designers and urbanists are facing a tsunami of new tasks related to disruptive challenges happening all at the same time. In addition, design is an applied science; therefore, the solutions to these challenges have to be tangible, feasible and appealing. Creation facing universal challenges can thrive only on the combination of formal and informal learning, theoretical and empirical knowledge and on swarm intelligence developed in a teamwork. *How can we learn (and teach) to strengthen unfolding of new visions and approaches to the future living spaces?*

Lab 2. Dealing with future human behaviour - How will our needs, desires and values define the way we live and consume?

This Lab is related to the topic of the Panel 1: *“NEB as a catalyst of new mind-sets to support the goals of the Green Deal”* on the 26th of May

Location: Ca’ Tron, room TBD

Speakers: lead - Alexandra Mitsotaki; José Luis de Vicente, Hilda Flavia Nakabuye, Clara Latini, Michela Pace; reporter: Orla Murphy

Working group: 20 students

Concept: One of the greatest challenges for decarbonisation of our economy is changing individual behaviours. Household consumption accounts for more than half of all carbon emissions. So changing the way we consume — and what we consume — is going to be critical to getting to net zero and beyond it. From a political point of view, it is much easier to make sure that the supplier of energy, for example, produces less carbon dioxide. What we realise, though, is that in all of these efforts of getting to net zero by 2050, the technical solutions will not be enough. We will need to change our consumer behaviour and decarbonise our desires. We need to look at new models of economy, sharing and sufficiency to find new sources of satisfaction to replace the quantity of things with the quality of experience. *Could quality, beauty and sense of belonging be the answers to more satisfaction and decarbonisation of our lives?*

Lab 3. Designing for possible futures - How will we build for resilience?

(I.D.E.A. workshop)

This Lab is related to the topic of the Panel 2: *“Emergent architectures for climate justice and an inclusive digital future”* on the 26th of May

This Lab is co-organised by I.D.E.A.

Location: Ca' Tron, room TBD

Speakers: lead - Annette Hafner; Gaia Danese, Wael Al Awar, Xu Tiantian, Elisa Zatta; reporter: Sheela Patel,

Working group: 20 students

Concept: In its best form, architecture does not only build cities but also new perspectives, and hopes. A global building culture activated by a sense of social and environmental responsibility can transform the way we think about the future and show pathways for resilience. The New European Bauhaus offers a framework to co-shape and support this alternative building culture. *What does emerge when architects make use of techniques and materials at the crossroad between high-tech and low-tech, take inspiration from nature to incorporate mechanisms of adaptation and, often, accept not to build in favor of sharing and co-operation?*

Lab 4. Designing for possible futures - How will we design for/with machines?

This Lab is related to the topic of the Panel 2: *“Emergent architectures for climate justice and an inclusive digital future”* on the 26th of May

Location: Ca' Tron, room TBD

Speakers: lead - Eszter Dàvida; Aric Chen, Prodromos Tsiavos, Petr Skvaril, Francesco Bergamo; reporter: José Pedro Sousa

Working group: 20 students

Concept: The power of Artificial Intelligence, increasingly accessible, is forcing us to address fundamental questions of authorship and creativity. At the same time, AI and other fast-evolving digital technologies call on creative minds to consider the architectural significance and design potential of new infrastructures for the non-human world. Data centres, which account for 4% of worldwide greenhouse emissions, are rapidly transforming our built environment. *Can we imagine a design with and for machines that embraces ambitions of sustainability, beauty, and inclusion? How can we shape the future digital society in a humanistic way? How can digital tools (digital twins, AI) support the creation of more equitable and inclusive spatial models?*

Lab 5: Raising awareness of the Anthropocene - Venice at the forefront of the climate crisis

This Lab is related to the topic of the Panel 3: *“The global commons and climate change: Venice reporting from the front”* on the 26th of May

Location: Ca' Tron, room TBD

Speakers: lead - Giulia Foscari, Markus Reymann, Hubert Trammer, Stephan Petermann, Mattia Bertin; reporter: Edgar Pieterse

Working group: 20 students

Concept: La Serenissima has a unique position on the world stage, but despite its perceived exceptionalism it faces the same risks as the Marshall Island, Tuvalu, New York city and other coastal sites that are threatened by the rising sea levels induced by anthropogenic climate change. Our Global Commons act upon all coastlines of the planet, yet neither are they represented at climate summits such as COP, nor have we developed a governance model that facilitates the consolidation, sharing and use of scientific data. The ambition of Lab 5 of the New European Bauhaus, is to mobilise the mediatic power of Venice and write – 60 years after the launch of the “Venice Charter” which regulated the conservation of the built environment – “The

Venice Charter for our Global Commons”. Article One will explore the possibility of establishing dedicated transnational Data Centres and Data Spaces for our Global Commons.

The New European Bauhaus proposes a multi-level approach, trusting the potential of scaling and adapting local initiatives to other contexts and connecting different levels of governance, but how is it done concretely? How do we harness the power of examples, and how can we connect people dealing with similar problems to maximize the chances of success?

Lab 6: Raising awareness of the Anthropocene – vulnerability and power of Beauty

This Lab is related to the topic of the Panel 3: *“The global commons and climate change: Venice reporting from the front”* on the 26th of May

Location: Ca’ Tron, room TBD

Speakers: lead - Luther Quenum; Christoph de Jaeger, Gerfried Stocker, Federica Rossi; (online: Benedetta Tagliabue); reporter: Pia Maier Schriever

Working group: 20 students

Concept: Art and culture have always played a crucial role in human evolution. They are vital parts of our everyday life, and they are able to appeal to our senses, our emotions through their inspiring, engaging approach (conceptually, physically, and emotionally). At the same time, art and culture have the power to make us reflect on our being and our past, present and future

“Beauty” is also what makes the NEB different from other similar projects, and it has the potential to deeply impact people’s lives and, doing so, to transform the initiative into a real movement. But how? *What are the crucial areas and where can we start to move the aesthetics debate decisively forward?*

DAY 2, Friday 26th May: From collective thinking to creative disputes

[location: Palazzo Tolentini - IUAV]

11.00 - 11.05 Welcome by the Mayor of Venice, Luigi Brugnaro

11.05 - 11.10 Welcome by the rector of the university IUAV, Benno Albrecht

11.10 – 11.30 Opening speech by the President Von der Leyen

11.30– 12.00 Dialogue between the President of the European Commission, Ursula Von der Leyen and Professor Lesley Lokko, the Curator of the 18th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia 2023,

12.00 – 13.00 Panel 1

Title: **NEB as a catalyst of new mind-sets to support the goals of the Green Deal.**

Concept: The New European Bauhaus has brought aesthetic values in the policy discussion, as it wishes to leverage the power of art and culture to accelerate the green transition. But how will we do it concretely?

The New European Bauhaus aims at creating a new lifestyle that matches sustainability with good design, that needs less carbon and that is inclusive and affordable for all, while respecting the diversity that we have in Europe and beyond. Only two years after its launch, the NEB has become

a catalyst for the European Green Deal transformation, ensuring sustainable innovation in arts and culture, social inclusion and participation. *How can we reinforce and reap fully the transformative potential of this initiative? How can we change the social, cultural and aesthetic paradigms to leap forward?*

Introduction by the reporters of the Lab 1 and Lab 2, Eva Franch i Gilabert and Orla Murphy

Speakers: José Luis de Vicente, Michael John Gorman, Clara Latini, Markus Reymann; facilitator: Michela Magas

13.00 - 14.30 Lunch break

14.30 - 14.45 Curators Speeches: Wael Al Awar, Francesca Bria, John Schellnhuber

14.45 – 15.45 PANEL 2 (Co-organised by I.D.E.A.)

Title: [Emergent architectures for climate justice and an inclusive digital future.](#)

Concept: Adaptations to the climate and digital transitions are rapidly transforming landscapes across the world. The New European Bauhaus shows that this adaptation is not only necessary and possible, but can also be incredibly exciting. In highlighting the work of those who respond to this future-in-the-making with radical experimentations and ingenious solutions across sectors and disciplines, it gives us hope, perspectives, and a chance to learn from one another. *Where can we take our living spaces and practices, from sharing economies to regenerative cities and virtual environments?*

Introduction by the reporters of the Lab 3 and Lab 4, Sheela Patel and José Pedro Sousa

Speakers: José Pedro Sousa, Xu Tiantian, Gerfried Stocker, Aric Chen; facilitator: Sheela Patel

15.45 – 16.45 PANEL 3

Title: [The global commons and climate change: Venice reporting from the front.](#)

Concept: Venice can become an important metaphor for today's challenges, if observed from the perspective of climate change, the environmental crisis, and human-animal relations in an age of rapid transformations. The centuries-old relationship of Venetians with water makes it a privileged observatory of the Anthropocene, and the local and global dimension in our fight against climate change and our challenge in the governance of planetary commons.

Introduction by the reporters of the Lab 5 and Lab 6, Edgar Pieterse and Pia Maier Schriever

Speakers: Giulia Foscari, Edgar Pieterse, Benno Albrecht, Carlo Barbante; facilitator: Pia Maier Schriever

16.45 – 17.00 Conclusions by the curators: Wael Al Awar, Francesca Bria, John Schellnhuber

17.00 – 17.15 Closing speech by Commissioner Elisa Ferreira

17.30 – onwards: Aperitivo