New European Bauhaus presents Radical yet possible future space solutions

Collateral Event of the 18th International Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia

For the first time, the European Union will be present with a Collateral Event at the 18th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia. The New European Bauhaus (NEB) conference “Radical yet possible future space solutions” will take place on 25-26 May 2023 and will feature a number of high-level speakers from all around the globe including European Commission’s President Ursula von der Leyen, Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms Elisa Ferreira, Professor Annette Hafner, architects Rem Koolhaas, Shigeru Ban and Bjarke Ingels, social entrepreneur and activist Alexandra Mitsotaki, and many others. It is curated by innovation economist and digital expert Francesca Bria, physicist Hans Joachim Schellnhuber and curator Wael Al Awar.

The participants will reflect on radical, yet possible, human actions leading to a better use of space and resources. In particular, they will discuss new ways of living, and how to go beyond the conviction that the future of the humankind is bound to already existing solutions.

On the first day, following three masterclasses by architects, six groups of experts and students will join parallel discussions in the ‘Radical NEB Labs’, to work towards collective solutions for a sustainable future, understood as new ways of living, learning, designing, building, energy and material sourcing. On the second day, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen will kick off a series of interdisciplinary debates involving some of the most recognised architects of our time and international experts from several fields. Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms Elisa Ferreira will close the conference by pointing to opportunities to scale up New European Bauhaus approaches within EU spending programmes.

More details on the programme of the event

The first day will be entirely dedicated to the Activating of Collective Thinking, to share and gather information on specific topics from different points of view and better understand both the backgrounds of the speakers and the ones of the participants.

The day will start with a set of three parallel masterclasses run by the internationally renowned architects Shigeru Ban, Bjarke Ingels, and Rem Koolhaas. They will illustrate their visions for our future living spaces, focussing on radical, yet possible solutions to make them more beautiful, sustainable, and inclusive.
After the masterclasses, the event will continue with six selective workshops run in parallel, and they will be guided by some of the New European Bauhaus High-Level Round table (HLRT) Members. The workshop discussions will feed into projects of students, which will be developed during the year and presented in the NEB Festival 2024.

The second day will start with a speech of President Ursula von der Leyen. After the speech, the President will hold a dialogue with the Curator of the 18th International Architecture Exhibition Lesley Lokko.

The rest of the day will be dedicated to Creative Disputes based on the findings harvested during the workshops in three panel discussions. The objective of the panels will be to collect, discuss and develop the points emerged during the workshops, and to set up a solid base to continue the experimentation on similar subjects in the future.

Venues

The two-day Collateral Event is organized by the New European Bauhaus in cooperation with Università Iuav di Venezia (IUAV). All masterclasses and workshops on 25 May will be held in Ca’ Tron. The conference on 26 May, will be held in the Auditorium in Tolentini (capacity: 200 people).

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