



National Pavilion UAE issues open call for proposals to curate 2023 International Architecture Exhibition at the Venice Biennale

*Architects, designers, artists, historians or researchers are invited to submit a concept for an exhibition exploring an element of the UAE's architectural landscape by **31 October 2021**.*

10 August 2021, United Arab Emirates: The National Pavilion UAE has issued an open call for proposals to curate the UAE's exhibition for the 18th International Architecture Exhibition at the Venice Biennale, which will run between May and November 2023.

Curators and curatorial teams – architects, designers, artists, historians or researchers with experience working in the UAE or MENASA region – are invited to submit a concept proposal for an exhibition that will explore an intriguing aspect of the UAE's architecture or built environment that contributes to the understanding of and discourse around architectural practice locally, regionally and internationally.

“The curatorship of the National Pavilion UAE's 2023 exhibition presents an opportunity to share an untold story of UAE through the lens of architects at the forefront of international contemporary discourse and culture. In creating a platform for ideas, the National Pavilion UAE remains committed to furthering global conversations about urbanism, architecture and living in the modern world. We encourage all interested professionals to apply and join us in making a lasting contribution to this global dialogue.” said **Angela Migally, Executive Director, Salama bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation**, commissioner of the National Pavilion UAE.

Laila Binbrek, Co-ordinating Director of the National Pavilion UAE, said: “We are delighted to be announcing our second open-call for the National Pavilion UAE at the Venice Biennale in 2023. For this round we continue to seek out diverse perspectives and new voices and we encourage applicants to explore creative, and collaborative ways to reflect the UAE's contemporary discourse in a globally relevant way.”

Concept proposals should present the exhibition theme through a clear narrative that contextualizes the idea within the local, regional and global industry discussions as well as previous National Pavilion UAE exhibitions.

UAE citizens, residents of the UAE and international applicants who can demonstrate local expertise, experience and understanding are all eligible to apply, individually or as teams.



Applications will close at midnight UAE time (GMT+4) on **31 October 2021**. Selected finalists will be invited to present a full proposal for the second round of the process. Full details and submission guidelines are available on the National Pavilion UAE website (www.nationalpavilionuae.org/open-call/).

The National Pavilion UAE is commissioned by the Salama bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation and supported by the Ministry of Culture and Youth. The current exhibition, *Wetland*, which marks the pavilion's 10th participation at the biennale, highlights the possibilities of how salt and mineral compounds found in the UAE's Sabkha (salt flats) is inspiring the development of renewable building materials. The exhibition was curated by Wael Al Awar, Principal Architect and founding partner of waiwai, an award-winning multidisciplinary architecture, landscape, graphic and urban design studio, and architect Kenichi Teramoto who was a founding partner of waiwai and recently founded the Office of Teramoto in Japan.

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Notes to Editors:

National Pavilion UAE – La Biennale di Venezia

The National Pavilion UAE – La Biennale di Venezia curates untold stories about the UAE's arts and architecture through its participation at the Venice Biennale, and provides a high-profile platform for curatorial concepts that address critical international conversations from a distinctive local perspective.

For each annual edition of the Biennale, one of the world's most significant and rigorous cultural platforms, the National Pavilion UAE appoints and works with curators, artists and contributors to conceive, research and develop an exhibition and accompanying publication that advance and preserve understanding of the UAE's cultural landscape.

Since 2009, its exhibitions have explored the nation's cultural evolution from 20th century experimental artists to the diverse contemporary scene. In 2019, the National Pavilion UAE presented an acclaimed installation exploring geographic and psychological displacement from filmmaker Nujoom Alghanem. Meanwhile in 2021, architects and curators Wael Al Awar and Kenichi Teramoto have been presenting research into an innovative sustainable cement alternative inspired from salt minerals found in the UAE's Sabkha heritage sites. In the coming year, the National Pavilion



UAE's exhibition will showcase works by ground-breaking painter, sculptor and land artist Mohamed Ahmed Ibrahim at the 2022 edition of la Biennale di Venezia (Venice Biennale).

In parallel with its exhibitions in Venice, the National Pavilion UAE engages with communities in the UAE to support the growth of the local cultural and creative industries, through public programming and professional opportunities. Alongside an extensive pool of artists, curators, researchers and partners who have contributed to its exhibitions over the years, the UAE's Venice Internship program has provided training and hands-on experience to more than 200 interns, many of whom are now working successfully in cultural fields.

The National Pavilion UAE is an independent non-profit organisation, commissioned by the Salama bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation and supported by the UAE Ministry of Culture and Youth.

Commissioner: The Salama bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation

The Salama bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation (SHF) is a private not-for-profit foundation committed to the cultivation of a more creative, connected and thriving UAE community. Based in Abu Dhabi, SHF oversees a diverse portfolio of not-for-profit programs and initiatives spanning the arts, culture, heritage, human development and early childhood development in the UAE and internationally. Underpinning SHF's activities is a common ambition to invest in the knowledge and capabilities of the UAE people in order to support them to unlock their full potential.

Supporter: Ministry of Culture and Youth

The Ministry of Culture and Youth works to enrich the cultural ecosystem in the UAE through initiatives and policies that stimulate the development of the cultural and creative industries and its contribution to the country's GDP, developing new legislation and policies that promote integrated media growth in the country and creating avenues for the youth to invest their capabilities in the aforementioned fields.

The Ministry of Culture and Youth is responsible for empowering and engaging the youth in the UAE by enhancing their leadership skills, involving them in decision-making process and programs, and giving them opportunities to contribute to the creative development of the country.

