



## COMPETITION FOR THE SELECTION OF AN EXHIBITION PROPOSAL TO REPRESENT MONTENEGRO AT THE 19th INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE EXHIBITION IN VENICE (BIENNALE ARCHITETTURA)

### I INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Spatial Planning, Urbanism, and State Property of Montenegro (Organiser) announces the Competition for the Selection of an Exhibition Proposal to Represent Montenegro at the 19th International Architecture Exhibition in Venice – Biennale Architettura (hereinafter referred to as the Architecture Biennale).

The Architecture Biennale (*Mostra Internazionale di Architettura – Biennale Architettura*) is the leading global exhibition in the field of architecture, which establishes the current conditions, defines issues, explores possibilities, and outlines perspectives in the development of the profession. This year's edition of the Biennale is scheduled to take place from 10 May to 23 November in Venice (<https://www.labiennale.org/en/architecture/2025>).

On the occasion of its participation in this year's Architecture Biennale, Montenegro will open a national pavilion in the ArteNova gallery space, located at Campo San Lorenzo in Venice. More detailed information about the space is available in the appendix of this announcement.

### II THEME OF THE EXHIBITION

In his official statement, Carlo Ratti, the curator of the 19th International Architecture Exhibition in Venice, introduced the theme **Intelligens. Natural. Artificial. Collective** as an open system of continuous dialogic planes, which, through their intersecting symbiosis, aim to highlight a range of possible solutions to the ever-growing repressive crises of contemporary cities and the correlating aspects of the environment.

By insisting on the word *intelligens* as a term that unites languages (Italian, English, Latin), Ratti simultaneously expands the framework for interpretative meanings and emphasises the contemplation of new forms of hybrid intelligence, which he believes can offer a way out of the crisis of the contemporary city. In further defining the thematic framework, he increasingly deconstructs rather than restricts it, highlighting what we have understood and accepted for decades – that architecture as a monodiscipline cannot save the world. Instead, its position is within a multidisciplinary union of influential forces that shape the built environment and determine the quality of the materiality of the urban world. Ratti further sees the participants of his exhibition as specific agents whose actions, after experiencing the simulation of discovered natural processes, will move in an entirely new direction, thereby changing the DNA of the processes of consideration, contemplation, planning, and designing cities.

On the other hand, and unlike most of his predecessors, Ratti, through the thematization of the upcoming exhibition, dictates the approach for participating countries – providing clear instructions as to what is expected of them. Like no curator before him, he explicitly calls for the

presentation of case studies, according to the "**One place, one solution**" prompt, expecting that the spectrum of presentations of specific local narratives and the natural symbioses between humanity and nature, will enable a new understanding and direct global application, as well as new hybrid methods of introducing innovations into the built environment.

### III ARTICULATION OF THE THEME WITHIN THE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK

The concept of Montenegro's national presentation at the upcoming Architecture Biennale will bear the title: **TERRAM INTELLIGERE**, while any potential subtitle, if necessary, will be formulated later, based on the selected project that will represent Montenegro at the exhibition.

**TERRAM INTELLIGERE**, which translates directly into Italian as *Comprendere la terra*, into English as *To Understand the Land*, and into the languages of our region as *Razumjeti zemlju*, places emphasis on "land" – the fantastic natural formations of Montenegro – and on the infinitive verb "to understand," which actively calls for imaginative and subtler approaches, more detailed interpretations, and new narratives from the dialogue between humanity and the land.

Montenegro's national presentation will focus on one or more phenomena recognised within the territory of Montenegro, which primarily relate to some of the points outlined in the given framework, with particular attention to the question: *How can we recognise existing or establish new approaches to complete natural systems, so that our role is not merely exploitative or passive?*

### IV COMPETITION TASK AND THEME

The authors/author teams of competition entries are expected to submit their work in the form of a concept design, with appropriate technical drawings and visualisations, along with a textual explanation that defines and elaborates the concept of the project, and a response to the question of how the proposed solution aligns with the thematic framework of Montenegro's national presentation.

In accordance with Ratti's instruction to seek local solutions that could address global environmental crisis issues, the competition requests responses to one of the provided points related to the understanding of the land and humanity's relationship with the land, through cases from Montenegro, including:

- Examples of the dichotomy between the natural and the artificial;
- Examples of a unique natural phenomenon and humanity's relationship with it;
- Examples of a circular landscape, recognising the mechanism of survival and establishing a dialogue with it;
- The natural system and human traces within it – complexity and analysis of the lifestyles of individuals and communities closely connected to the land;
- Hard natural spaces of transformation – liminal spaces;
- Examples of abandoned remnants of architectural heritage in specific natural environments;
- Nature and natural mechanisms as saviours from the contemporary urban crisis.

The jury will, after a detailed review of all submitted entries that meet the requirements of the call, select one solution for further development and final implementation in Venice.

## **V SUBJECT, AIM, AND NATURE OF THE COMPETITION**

The subject of the competition is the call for the selection of an exhibition proposal to represent Montenegro at the 19<sup>th</sup> International Architecture Exhibition in Venice.

The aim of the competition is the selection of an exhibition proposal to represent Montenegro at the 19<sup>th</sup> International Architecture Exhibition in Venice.

In terms of its nature, the competition is both general and invitation-based, single-stage, and non-anonymous.

The following authors and author teams have been invited to participate in the competition for the selection of an exhibition proposal to represent Montenegro at the 19<sup>th</sup> International Architecture Exhibition in Venice:

- Marko Brajović;
- Dijana Vučinić;
- Ivan Šuković;
- Marko Stjepčević;
- Branislav Redžić and Milica Tasić.

In addition to the invited participants, the competition is open to all interested authors and teams who meet the competition requirements. All submitted entries will be treated equally in the evaluation process.

## **VI CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE COMPETITION**

By submitting a proposal, participants accept all the terms and conditions of the competition. Meeting the competition requirements is the prerequisite for the further evaluation of the submitted proposal. The conditions for participation in the competition are as follows:

- Individuals or teams are eligible to participate in the competition;
  - Each individual (whether part of a team or not) may submit only one proposal;
  - Participating teams must be composed of professionals from different disciplines, with at least one architect;
  - Participating teams must have at least one team member with Montenegrin citizenship;
  - If the participant is an individual, they must be an architect with Montenegrin citizenship;
  - The contract for the realisation of the project with the selected national representative at the Architecture Biennale, as well as all legal and formal matters related to Montenegro's participation in the Architecture Biennale, will be conducted through legal or natural persons, depending on whether the competition participant is a legal person, natural person, or a group of natural persons. Authorial teams consisting of natural persons are required to appoint one member to whom the payment will be made (detailed information is provided in the appendix of the Call – Statement Form for individuals and legal entities).
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A budget of 80,000 EUR is allocated for the realisation of the national pavilion, the total cost of developing the selected project, as well as all exhibitor and pavilion production expenses.

## **VII CONTENT AND SUBMISSION OF THE COMPETITION ENTRY**

The content of the competition entry, in the form of a proposal for the competition task, must be prepared as a single PDF document, A3 format, with a resolution of 150 dpi, a maximum of 10 (ten) pages and a maximum size of 100 (one hundred) MB. The proposal should include:

- A title page with information about: the competition organiser, the competition name, the title of the proposed solution, and the name(s) of the author/authorial team of the proposal;
- Brief biographies and relevant references of the author/authorial team, with a clear indication of the team's responsible representative;
- Proof of citizenship of the author or one of the authorial team members;
- A graphic and narrative presentation of the project concept, realisation plan, and a well-developed budget.

The narrative part of the project should include a project description of up to 1200 words, with a clearly defined standpoint on the theme and competition task, as well as a concise and unambiguous description of the method of the project's implementation and the exhibition content.

The graphic part of the project includes all technical drawings necessary for understanding the proposed exhibition in the pavilion, as well as graphic materials that show the visual qualities of the display, in a manner and technique defined by the authors of the proposed solution.

Competition entries must be submitted by email to: [bijenale2025@hotmail.com](mailto:bijenale2025@hotmail.com), exclusively as a link generated through the Wetransfer platform, where the file has been uploaded. The email body should include the name of the team submitting the entry along with the link for downloading the work.

**The final deadline for submitting the proposal is 10 February 2025, at 14h (CET).**

The jury will only evaluate timely submitted works that meet the competition requirements.

## **VIII CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION AND SELECTION OF PROPOSED SOLUTIONS**

The criteria for evaluating the submitted proposals that meet the competition requirements are as follows:

- Quality of the proposed solution by the authors;
- Quality of the response to the theme defined by the competition task;
- Originality in selecting the spatial phenomenon developed in the solution;
- Creativity in the approach to the development of the selected spatial phenomenon;
- Clarity and readability of the concept of the proposed solution;
- Quality of the overall presentation;

- Rationality of the proposed solution;
- Rationality and comprehensiveness of the budget of the proposed solution, and its alignment with the overall budgetary framework.

## **IX JURY**

The jury of the competition for the selection of an exhibition proposal to represent Montenegro at this year's Architecture Biennale comprises:

1. **Mirjana Đurišić**, Commissioner of Montenegro's participation at the Architecture Biennale;
2. **Dr Miljana Zeković**, Curator of Montenegro's participation at the Architecture Biennale;
3. **Dr Veljko Radulović**, Professor at the Faculty of Architecture in Podgorica, University of Montenegro;
4. **Tamara Marović**, M.Arch., member of the creative team representing Montenegro at the Architecture Biennale;
5. **Maja Radonjić**, M.Arch., member of the creative team representing Montenegro at the Architecture Biennale.

## **X COPYRIGHT**

The author/authorial team of the competition proposal holds the copyright. Relations between co-authors within the authorial team are governed by mutual agreement. Every authorial team participating in this competition will be deemed to have given the Ministry of Spatial Planning, Urbanism, and State Property of Montenegro as the organiser of this competition an irrevocable, royalty-free license to use the competition work and materials for the promotion of Montenegro's national exhibition in Venice 2025, with proper attribution to the authors of the competition proposal.

## **XI REALISATION OF THE SELECTED PROPOSAL**

The selected exhibition proposal will serve as the basis for further development of the display representing Montenegro at the upcoming Architecture Biennale.

The allocated financial resources for the development and refinement of the project, as well as for the realisation and production of the display in Venice, amount to the aforementioned 80,000.00 EUR. As part of the competition entry, the authors will provide a detailed project budget, which, within this given amount, covers the following:

- Costs of project development and preparation of materials comprising the content of the display (all fees for authors and collaborators, contractors and supervisors, all materials used in the display);
- Costs of realising the exhibition in Venice (all transportation in both directions Montenegro - Italy), all equipment for the display, costs of production, installation, assembly, and disassembly, waste removal and other related expenses;

- All costs related to the transportation of exhibitors to and from Venice for the purpose of setting up the display in the Montenegro pavilion (assembly and disassembly), as well as for attendance at the pavilion's opening;
- Costs of accommodation for exhibitors and the production team in Venice during the realisation of the display in the Montenegro pavilion (assembly and disassembly), as well as for attendance at the pavilion's opening.

This budget does not cover the following expenses:

- Rental cost of the pavilion in Venice;
- Security and duty costs in the pavilion;
- Costs of producing the catalogue and other promotional materials;
- Costs of the official opening of the pavilion in Venice;
- Costs of any potential promotional events held in the pavilion;
- Costs of the curator and commissioner of the participation.

## **XII RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE AUTHOR OF THE SELECTED PROPOSAL**

The rights and obligations of the author of the competition entry selected to represent Montenegro at the 19<sup>th</sup> International Architecture Exhibition will be regulated in detail through the Project Realisation Contract with the responsible Ministry. Communication between the competition Organiser and, later, the pavilion in Venice will take place exclusively through a single contact person appointed by the authorial team for this purpose. The National Representative is obligated to adhere to the budget and timelines defined in the contract and to comply with all terms of the Contract signed with the Organiser. Additionally, the National Representative is required, during the development and refinement of the project after the competition, to fulfil the following:

- Maintain continuous communication with the exhibition curator and consider the advice and opinions of both the curator and the commissioner;
- Prepare all necessary technical documentation related to the project;
- Oversee and participate in the realisation of the display in the pavilion in Venice (assembly and disassembly of the display);
- Participate in the creation of design and visual communications that will accompany the project and all related formats of Montenegro's representation in Venice (media materials, catalogue, website, video projections, pavilion branding, etc.).
- Participate in the media campaign and promotional events related to Montenegro's representation at the Biennale;
- Engage in and contribute to any additional formats deemed necessary during the implementation of the process outlined in the Contract.

### **XIII COMPETITION DEADLINES**

- **21.01.2025** - Competition announcement on the official website of the Ministry of Spatial Planning, Urbanism, and State Property.
- **24.01.2024** – Deadline to submit questions;
- **27.01.2024** – Replies to the questions of participants published on the official website of the Ministry;
- **10.02.2025** – Deadline to submit competition proposals (14h CET);
- **14.02.2025** – Deadline for the Jury's decision and notification of the decision.

All other deadlines important for the development and realisation of the project will be defined in the Project Realisation Contract between the Ministry and the selected national representative.

### **XIV APPENDICES**

- Information about the exhibition space (PDF format);
- DWG file containing the layout of the exhibition space;
- Statement form for individuals and legal entities.

***Note:** The existing wall, shown in the photographs, which currently divides the gallery space into two segments, can be removed or retained, depending on the solution proposed within the competition.*

### **XV FINAL PROVISIONS**

The results, the final Report of the Competition Jury, and the explanation of the jury's decision will be published on the official website of the Ministry of Spatial Planning, Urbanism, and State Property of Montenegro.

Any disputes arising from this competition will be resolved amicably, and if that is not possible, they will be settled by the court with jurisdiction over the competition Organiser.

In Podgorica, 21 January 2025.