

“Let’s talk about Venice...”

Festival of Architecture

Garage Talks Competition

In the wake of NZIA’s decision not to participate in the 2018 architecture biennale, “Let’s talk about Venice” is an ideas competition to promote speculative thinking.

Entry format

Two pages A4 landscape format one page image and one page text 800 words maximum - 2Mb max file size for entries.

Entries close

9 September 2018
Email entries to:
garagetalkswellington@gmail.com

Winner announced

14 September 2018 at Garage Talk “Lets talk about Venice”. Prizes awarded at jury discretion.

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As a condition of entry participants acknowledge the organizer is entitled to make use of the entries in publication.

Brief

Respond to the [Freespace Manifesto...](#)

Freespace Manifesto:

With the theme of Freespace, the Biennale Architettura 2018 will present for public scrutiny examples, proposals, elements – built or unbuilt – of work that exemplifies essential qualities of architecture which include the modulation, richness and materiality of surface; the orchestration and sequencing of movement, revealing the embodied power and beauty of architecture. The exhibition will have a spatial, physical presence of a scale and quality, which will impact on the visitor, communicating architecture’s complex spatial nature. The exhibition invites emotional and intellectual engagement of the many who come to the Biennale in order to understand architecture more fully, to stimulate discussion on core architectural values and to celebrate architecture’s proven and enduring contribution to humanity.

When Jørn Utzon thinks about a concrete and tiled seat at the entrance of Can Lis, Majorca, it is moulded perfectly to the human body for comfort and pleasure. Spatially, it is a ‘word’ of greeting, of welcome. Angelo Mangiarotti ‘says’ the same thing at the entrance to 24 Via Quadronno, Milan where a gently sloping path, with a seat at the entrance threshold ‘holds’ you and welcomes you home from the city. Lina Bo Bardi raised the museum of modern art in Sao Paolo in order to make a ‘belvedere’ for the citizens to overlook the city. The Medici Palace in Florence represents power and wealth but the stone seat which forms part of the solid façade almost turns the building inside out.

The solid wall becomes the enclosing wall of the public space. What is solid seems outward looking and generous. We believe that everyone has the right to benefit from architecture. The role of architecture is to give shelter

to our bodies and to lift our spirits. A beautiful wall forming a street edge gives pleasure to the passer-by, even if they never go inside. So too does a glimpse into a courtyard through an archway; or a place to lean against in the shade or a recess which offers protection from the wind and rain.

We are interested in going beyond the visual, emphasizing the role of architecture in the choreography of daily life. We see the earth as Client. This brings with it long-lasting responsibilities. Architecture is the play of light, sun, shade, moon, air, wind, gravity in ways that reveal the mysteries of the world. All of these resources are free. It is examples of generosity and thoughtfulness in architecture throughout the world that will be celebrated in the 16th International Architecture Exhibition.

We believe these qualities sustain the fundamental capacity of architecture to nurture and support meaningful contact between people and place. We focus our attention on these qualities because we consider that intrinsic to them are optimism and continuity. Architecture that embodies these qualities and does so with generosity and a desire for exchange is what we call Freespace. We invite all participants and every national pavilion to bring to Venice their Freespace, so together we may reveal the diversity, specificity and continuity in architecture based on people, place, time, history, to sustain the culture and relevance of architecture on this dynamic planet.

“A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in”
– Greek proverb

