**17th Venice Architecture Biennale / Lebanese Pavilion**  
May 23 to November 29, 2020

**Open Call for Concept Proposal**  
Proposals due on October 4, 2019

Following the successful participation of Lebanon in the Venice Biennale of 2018, sponsored by the Ministry of Culture and the Federation of Lebanese Engineers and Architects, the Ministry of Culture, seeking to build upon the previous experience and to open it as a competition to the wider professional public, has appointed an Organizing Committee for the Lebanese Pavilion at the 17th edition of the Venice Biennale 2020.

This 17th edition of the Biennale, under the general direction of Hashim Sarkis, will be on the theme “How will we live together?”

**Hashim Sarkis** explained the concept as follows:

> “We need a new spatial contract. In the context of widening political divides and growing economic inequalities, we call on architects to imagine spaces in which we can generously live together: together as human beings who, despite our increasing individuality, yearn to connect with one another and with other species across digital and real space; together as new households looking for more diverse and dignified spaces for inhabitation; together as emerging communities that demand equity, inclusion and spatial identity; together across political borders to imagine new geographies of association; and together as a planet facing crises that require global action for us to continue living at all.

The architects invited to participate in Biennale Architettura 2020 are encouraged to engage other professions and constituencies—artists, builders, and craftspeople, but also politicians, journalists, social scientists, and everyday citizens. In effect, Biennale Architettura 2020 asserts the overlooked role of the architect as both cordial convener and custodian of the spatial contract.

In parallel, Biennale Architettura 2020 also maintains that it is in its material, spatial, and cultural specificity that architecture inspires the ways we live together. In that respect, we ask the participants to highlight those aspects of the main theme that are uniquely architectural.

The curators of the national participations are called upon to address one or more of the sub-themes of the Exhibition. The need for more inclusive social housing and equipment or for more connective urban and territorial tissue remains as pressing in emerging economies as in advanced ones.

In line with the general theme, the Organizing Committee for the Lebanese Pavilion at the Venice Biennale 2020 welcomes **Concept Proposals** from multidisciplinary curatorial teams that would address the following questions:

- How does the concept proposal address the theme of the Biennale in a creative and original way? What are its main components?
- How does the proposed concept relate to current issues and problematics and specifically how does it address or highlight the socio-political, urban and environmental challenges in Lebanon?
- Would the project solicit any cooperation with other major partners, either institutional, public or private; and if so, how would this cooperation take form?

**Eligibility**

This call for concept proposals is open to all architects and engineers, registered in the Order of Engineers & Architects, Beirut or Tripoli. Participating Teams should be composed of a minimum of two members, composed of at least:

- One registered architect or engineer in the OEA (Beirut or Tripoli)
- One academic, historian, or artist [preferably with experience in curating exhibitions, and not necessarily a registered architect/engineer.

**Format for Proposals**

Proposals should be submitted English, in a single PDF file containing the following (max. of 20 pages):

- A clear narrative that describes the theme and explains the conceptual framework of the proposed exhibition (max. 1,000 words), as well as the specifics of what the exhibition would consist of.
- Preliminary/ schematic visual support material (renderings, photos, sketches, etc.) that would illustrate the proposed concept.
- List of projected activities that may accompany the exhibition, such as lectures, seminars, or visual projections
- Projected dissemination of the event, in the form of catalogs, brochures, or visual materials.
- Name of project director and list of other team members, with one-page CV of each member, highlighting their experience in design, research and/or exhibition curation.
- A detailed budget for the different components of the project including design and execution, production costs, additional equipment, publications, etc. The budget should include the fees that the selected team would require to carry on the project as well as all travel expenses and accommodation in Venice. The budget should not include the fees for space rental, which range around 80 000 Euro.
- A list of potential sponsors that the Team would recommend for support, and any potential sources of fundraising for the project.
Project Context:
As in the previous edition of 2018, the Lebanese participation will take place in the Arsenal building, within an open space of approximately 70 m². The exhibitions are typically composed of installations, models, photos, presentations of architectural projects, and/or documentary video projections. The exhibition should highlight in the best possible way architecture, urban design, and/or landscape design material that respond in a stimulating way to the general theme.

Role of the Selected Curatorial Team:
The role of the selected curator will be to design, execute and implement the approved concept from the initial phases to the final phases, and to liaise with the authorities of the Venice Biennale during the course of implementation. The curator will also be in charge, in coordination with the Federation of Lebanese Engineers and Architects, to maintain appropriate communication with the Biennale organizers for the duration of the event.

Specifically, the scope of work of the selected team will include:
- Design and production of the exhibition content
- Implementation of the project in Venice, including shipment of the material from and to Lebanon.
- Coordination with the Federation of Lebanese Engineers and Architects and the Biennale administration regarding the project implementation.

In addition, the curatorial team is responsible of overseeing the following tasks, either directly, or through the assistance of a specialized public relations firm. The estimated fees for this task should also be included in the budget as a separate item:
- Management of the pavilion during the whole period of the exhibition, and assigning one person in charge of public relations and communication.
- Preparation of communication materials, such as news releases, press kits, etc.
- Implementation of peripheral events: conferences, publications, catalogues

Finally, the selected team will be legally responsible to finalize the project as approved by the Federation of Lebanese Engineers and Architects. The selected team should keep the Federation of Lebanese Engineers and Architects informed at all stages of the progress of the project, and maintain a regular correspondence with all concerned entities during the course of implementation.

Project Financing:
The Federation of Lebanese Engineers and Architects, as delegated by the Ministry of Culture, is the ultimate authority in charge of financing the project, through sponsorships. However, the competitors may also propose alternative sources of funding that they can manage to secure or assist in reaching out to.

Selection Process
The ‘Organizing Committee’ will be in charge of selecting the winning proposal, and following up with the selected team to develop the final version of the project, until it received official approval from the Federation of Lebanese Engineers and Architects.

The winning proposal will be selected based on the following criteria:
- The originality of the proposed concept and its appropriateness to the Biennale 2020 theme.
- The profile of the candidates, their experience in similar projects.
- The financial feasibility of the proposal and its potential to solicit institutional and corporate sponsors.
- The ability of the team to manage a complex international event, from design to execution, including travel to Venice for implementation.
**Submission of Proposals:**
Proposals should be sent by email to the Secretariat of the Order of Engineers and Architects-Beirut to this address, with the title ‘Biennale 2020 Proposal’ in the subject line: carlanasr@oea.org.lb

**Deadline:** Friday October 4, 2019 - 2 PM. No proposals will be accepted after this date.

**Questions:**
Interested participants can send their questions or request supplementary information by email to the same address not later than September 15, 2019.

**Competition Winner:**
The selected proposal will be announced by October 15, 2019. The winning team will be invited to work out a fully developed exhibition proposal by December 15, 2019. Project Implementation will take place in Venice starting April 1, 2020. The Federation of Lebanese Engineers and Architects will have the sole authority to overview the implementation of the proposal, in line with the approved proposal.