

"Now Here There" at the 18th International Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia.

**Exploring Lost Inventions to Inspire the Future:
The Romanian Pavilion at the Biennale Architettura 2023**

Romanian Pavilion

18th International Architecture Exhibition — La Biennale di Venezia

The Romanian Pavilion at the 18th International Architecture Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia will present a space designed to generate dialogue, questions and answers translated into ideas for an inclusive and sustainable future, for society and the environment.

'Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed.'

Mahatma Gandhi

If we were wondering what the future will look like, we should look to the past. What does a sustainable and inclusive future mean? History shows us that we have had these answers sitting on the tray for a long time, but different reasons of society have rejected sustainable growth in favor of profit, convenience and greed.

The project entitled "Now, here, there", was chosen following a national competition, and the curatorial team consists of Emil Ivănescu, Simina Filat, Cătălin Berescu and Anca Păsărin. They also collaborate with a number of specialists and institutions, including the National Technical Museum in Bucharest and the Suceava Genetic Seed Bank.

The Romanian Pavilion is a generator of ideas, bringing to the fore the creation journey of innovations or inventions born only as a result of interdisciplinary collaboration. Ideas and objects become the ingredients of a dialogue about the future in which the visitor is welcomed to participate by exploring the space of the pavilion.

"The 'Now Here There' project represents an invitation to explore a possible future, in which past innovation and interdisciplinary collaboration play a key role in finding solutions to humanity's global problems. We wanted to create a space where visitors can interact with ideas and innovations in the field of architecture and beyond, and think about how we can build a greener, more sustainable, and equitable future for all. Together, we can create a future where everything matters, is connected, and is inclusive."

Curator, Phd. Architect Emil Ivănescu

The visitor interactively will explore 4 research areas: Romanian Technical Innovations and Inventions, Lateral Pedagogies, the Instant Garden / Genetic Seed Bank and the Co-Future Thinking Installation as an activator of ideas, all representing a way of education through research, innovation, and social activation, seen as new solutions to respond to a people- and context-centered future.

The pavilion explores Four research and interaction areas:

Forgotten Innovations: Are original technical artefacts exhibited in the pavilion: the world's first aerodynamic vehicle with wheels inside the body of the car, an electric vehicle from the beginning of the 20th century or concept-installations for tidal energy are just some of the artefacts. Somewhere in the forgotten past, these inventions and innovations were blocked for various political-economic reasons.

While today more than a billion people do not have access to drinking water, about 70 years ago a Romanian inventor, Henri Coandă, created a desalination plant meant to turn seawater into drinking water only using solar energy: in 12 hours, 1600 liters of drinking water were processed by means of an 8 sqm installation exposed to the sun. Unfortunately, the innovation stagnated in the functional prototype phase, being blocked for bureaucratic reasons.

The Instant Garden: Is an invitation to imagine architectural experiments intertwined with agricultural practice, in the context of the future food crisis. The genetic seed bank becomes the leitmotif of this experiment.

Lateral Pedagogies: Are contemporary case studies through which the practice of architecture expands the field through research, activation and education, offering inclusive solutions to a complex human environment. These case studies are just a few examples of a new design practice in Romania, which, depending on the context, develops new answers for particular situations.

Co-Future Thinking: Entering the pavilion, visitors are invited to a dialogue of ideas and a spatial brainstorming, completed with a receiver-installation in which visitors have the opportunity to share, at the end of the exhibition, an idea about the future, through a drawing or a few words.

Also, very important to mention is the fact that the pavilion will recycle 90% of its waste.

NOW HERE THERE makes a speech about a collaborative future, a future of dialogue that gives birth to innovation through ideas built together for an inclusive world, a world that belongs to everyone.

"There is only one world. We are all part of it, and we all have a right to it."

Achille Mbembe – Critique of Black Reason

NOW HERE THERE project will be presented in both exhibition spaces held by Romania in Venice: the Romanian Pavilion in Giardini di Castello and the New Gallery of the Romanian Institute of Culture and Humanistic Research in Palazzo Correr.

The 18th International Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia will take place in Venice from May 20 to November 26, with a preview on May 18th and 19th. There will be 64 national participations in the historic pavilions from Giardini, Arsenale and in the historical city centre of Venice.

About the Venice Biennale

The Venice Biennale is one of the most prestigious international cultural events dedicated to artistic expression in the fields of visual arts, architecture, music, theater, dance, and cinema. Each edition offers an eclectic mix of representative artistic projects from each participating country. Romania's participation in the Venice Biennale illustrates a cultural dialogue with the international contemporary art world, initiated more than 100 years ago when it first participated in this event.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:

Emil IVANESCU

Born in Curtea de Arges, Romania, in 1978

Lives and works in Bucharest, Romania

Emil IVĂNESCU is a Romanian architect and university lecturer at the University of Architecture and Urbanism Ion Mincu - Bucuresti. He is the President of the Romanian Order of Architects Bucharest Branch since 2018 to the present. In 2004, he graduated from the "Ion Mincu" University of Architecture and Urbanism. Since 2010, he has organized over 12 editions of the Bucharest Architecture Annual, one of the most prestigious architectural events in Romania. In 2011, he received a doctorate in architecture, with the thesis: "The post-organic body and the architecture of ambiguity". In 2012, he won the competition for the Romanian Pavilion at the Venice Architecture Biennale. In 2014, he won the competition for the ICR Pavilion at the Venice Architecture Biennale. He designed buildings belonging to various architecture programs. He initiated and created new cultural and professional programs for the architectural community in Romania.

Simina FILAT

Born in Tulcea, Romania, in 1988

Lives and works in Bucharest, Romania

Simina FILAT is part of the new wave of Romanian creators, who respond in time, through strategic solutions, using creative tools, to the complex challenges facing today's society. The results of her creative thinking meet the criteria of the assumed mission and create the premises of a sustainable future, by approaching a new way of perceiving reality as an integrative system: physical reality, virtual reality, augmented reality, communication technology and cultural elements.

Simina Filat is a product designer and member of the Union of Plastic Artists from Romania, the Design Bucharest branch since 2018, and a member of the board of directors of the branch since 2022. She graduated from the Academy of Economic Studies Bucharest with 2 majors: Economic Management - Bachelor 2010; Accounting, Audit and Management Informatics – Master 2012, and in 2017 she graduated from the National University of Arts Bucharest, Specialization Clothing Design - Bachelor.

Catalin BERESCU

Born in Bucuresti, Romania, in 1966

Lives and works in Bucharest, Romania

Cătălin Berescu (1966) is an architect that lives and works in Bucharest at the Romanian Academy. After a brief career in video gaming, contemporary arts and architectural publishing he turned to social issues and anthropological research. His main interest since early 2000s is in the area of extreme poverty for which, besides teaching and publishing, he designed various projects and was awarded the Urbanism Diploma of the Union of Romanian Architects in 2006 for a study on slums and ghettos. He is also an adobe architecture enthusiast and spends a lot of time on his roof garden.

Anca-Maria PĂȘĂRIN-FERREIRA-GARCIA DE ALMEIDA

Born in Bucuresti, Romania, in 1984

Lives and works in Bucharest, Romania

Born in Bucharest, Romania in 1984. Master of Science in Architecture in 2010, 10 Cum Laude, from Accademia di Architettura di Mendrisio, Switzerland, and Master in Sustainable Architecture at the University of Lisbon in 2012. After 3 years of work experience in Paris and Lisbon, lives and works in Bucharest. Founding partner at Architecture to Measure studio since 2015 where she focuses on projects regarding child-oriented interior design, single family housing and architecture public competitions. Teaching assistant at "Ion Mincu" University of Architecture and Urbanism in Bucharest since 2012 where she graduated the PhD program in 2017.

Credits:

Curators: Emil Ivănescu, Simina Filat

Commissioner: Attila Kim

Exhibitors: Emil Ivănescu, Simina Filat, Cătălin Berescu, Anca Maria Pășărin, National Technical Museum 'Prof. Eng. Dimitrie Leonida'

Collaborators: Plant Genetic Resources Bank 'Mihai Cristea'

Institutional Partners: Electrica Serv, Romanian Academy, Department for Emergency Situations - Ministry of Internal Affairs, National Museum of Contemporary Art, 'Ion Mincu' University of Architecture and Urbanism

Cultural Partners: 4Culture Association, Aiurart Contemporary Art Space, Hubs Association, Galateca Gallery

Strategic Partners: Unicredit Bank, Iulius Company, Dolo Trans Olimp, Romcim, Theta, Luther Real Estate - 'Fosta Fabrică'

Partners: Alumil, AIBIM, Greentek Lighting

Organisers: Ministry of Culture, Romanian Cultural Institute, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Architects Union of Romania

Exhibition Venues:

Romanian Pavilion, Giardini della Biennale, Sestiere Castello, 30122 Venice

New Gallery of the Romanian Institute for Culture and Humanistic Research

Campo Santa Fosca, Palazzo Correr, Cannaregio 2214, 30121 Venice

Exhibition dates : May 20 – November 26, 2023

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