

DESPLIEGUES Y ENSAMBLES

UNFOLDINGS AND ASSEMBLAGES

15. Muestra Internacional de
Arquitectura de la Bienal de Venecia

15. International Architecture
Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia

Mexico at the 15. International Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia

Unfoldings and Assemblages

ENG

1. PRESS RELEASE

The Pavilion of Mexico presents works of architecture assembled from fragments, modules, connections, stories, tactics, technologies and strategies of construction. It privileges experiences with the ability to translate, adapt or multiply, rather than presenting complete works, products or closed systems. It responds to questions concerning the social role of architects and architecture.

An open call received 286 proposals from 26 of the nation's 32 states, narrowed down to 31 entries by a Technical Committee. Each shares the characteristics of design beyond architecture, self-construction and community involvement. The exhibition retraces the past and present of architecture through a narrative of the history of social action in Mexico. The structuring theme of the exhibition is based on historic self-construction manuals that filter architectural knowledge and have contributed to shifting the discipline's focus from the isolated works of individuals to processes designed to transfer and apply skills and know-how. By empowering communities to define the form of their surroundings, these tools are tied to strategies adopted to design and build communities. The manuals also foster the distribution of knowledge and favor self-determination.

The selected proposals demonstrate how the contributions made by architects could acquire a greater impact, moving beyond the walls of a building to establish solutions and favor the free determination of communities. While architecture is always immersed in social processes and inscribed within a multidisciplinary approach, the true potential of the profession is realized only through collaboration.

Based on this principle, Mexico's participation has brought together a multidisciplinary group of architects, anthropologists, historians, designers, museographers and photographers to integrate the sum of assemblages and unfoldings. The result of the collaboration with each of the participants is that the contents of the proposals constitute the most relevant part of the exhibition.

The exhibition layout is based on the repetition of large structural modules: they cross the space, insinuating themselves between the existing steel columns. A modular roof protects the exhibition space, creating a controlled area that facilitates the diverse possible reading of its contents. The ceiling is treated with a honeycomb structure, realised in flexible wood panels, symbolically unifying the Pavilion. The rigidity of the structure is obtained through the bending of the wood panels, which add stability and resistance.

This solid structure made of flexible elements functions as a metaphor of the adaptability and resilience required by the participatory projects on display, whose final aim is to utilize architecture as a tool for the simultaneous construction of a community and its buildings. The proposals are presented on translucent panels and in audio-visual formats. In the competition brief the Technical Committee already announced the creation of a digital platform for the presentation of the selected proposals, together with a further 87 proposals dealing with the themes of the exhibition. Finally, special coverage of the Mexico Pavilion can be found at ArchDaily Mexico: <http://www.archdaily.mx/mx/tag/mexico-en-bienal-de-venecia-2016>.

2. Press Images

1. Unidad Habitacional Xacalli, 2016. Participant: Taller de Vivienda de la UAM. Photographer: Onnis Luque.
2. Armando Casas, 2015. Participant's: Roberto Rodríguez, Ximena Davis. Photographer: Pamela Daryl Hernández Magaña.
3. A trabajar, 2016. Participant: CANO | VERA Arquitectura. Photographer: Archivo CANO | VERA Arquitectura.
4. Centro Micro-regional de tecnologías sustentables, 2013. Participant: Arquitectura Práctica UNAM. Photographer: Archivo Arquitectura Práctica UNAM
5. Unidad Habitacional Coahuatlán, 2016. Participant: Taller de Vivienda de la UAM. Photographer: Onnis Luque.
6. Unidad Habitacional Cananea, El Molino Iztapalapa, 2016. Participant: CENVI. Photographer: Mark Alor Powell.
7. Casa de Bambú en Tepetzintan, 2015. Participant: Centro Bambú. Photographer: Onnis Luque
8. Cooperación Comunitaria, 2015. Participant: Isadora Hastings. Photographer: Archivo Cooperación Comunitaria.
9. La Granja Fronteriza, 2012. Participant: ToroLab. Photographer: Archivo ToroLab
10. Mujeres de Arcilla, 1999. Participant: Arquitectos Artesanos. Photographer: Marcela Taboada.
11. San Antonio Tierras Blancas, 2004. Participant: Valeria Prieto. Photographer: Valeria Prieto

3. Abstract

Unfoldings: Transformations that connect buildings to other times and places. Mexico's participation features architectures assembled from fragments, modules, relations, stories, tactics, technologies, and construction strategies. The pavilion emphasizes experiences that can be translated, adapted, and multiplied rather than complete works, products, or closed systems. The design lay down the foundations on existing bodies of knowledge and, by putting the pieces together, start answering questions on the social role of architects and architecture. *Assemblages: Open-ended sums of materials, affects, actors, intentions and effects.*

4. Exhibitors List

The full list of participants was selected by a national open call competition and includes representatives of 26 states of the country. The diversity shows different aspects of social and participatory architecture in Mexico.

Commissioner

María Margarita Segarra Lagunes holds a PhD in history and conservation of art and architecture (Roma Tre University) and she is a researcher with the Dipartimento di Architettura (Roma Tre University), where she teaches courses in architectural heritage restoration.

Curator

Pablo Landa Ruiloba earned his PhD in anthropology from Princeton University in 2015, where he is currently postdoctoral research associate. He lives and works between Monterrey and New York, focusing his work in the relationship among politics, social relations and architectural representations.

Advisory Board

María Cristina García Cepeda; Xavier Guzmán; Dolores Martínez; Ernesto Alva; Francisco Serrano; Javier Sánchez; Juan José Kochen

Design

TUUX

Museography

Juan Garibay; David Osnaya

Production

We Exhibit

Media

ArchDaily México | Vanessa Vielma (vvielma@archdaily.com), Daniela Cruz (daniela.cruz@archdaily.com)

Technical Support

José de Jesús Alvarado; Teresita Ramírez; Luis Gil; Josué Flores; Karla Téllez; Mario Niveo; Rolando Girodengo; Juan Carlos de la Garza; Daniel Jiménez; Laura Nieto

Exhibitors

CAVI; Arquitectura Vernácula y Patrimonio; CAPA Lab; CENVI; SCI-Arc; Comunidad Vivex; Centro Bambú; Taller de Vivienda UAM; Cano Vera; ROOTStudio; Colectivo Nerivela; Cooperación Comunitaria; Yo Construyo CEMEX; Arquitectura Práctica Taller Max Cetto UNAM; Arquitectos Artesanos; CAMINA por mejores ciudades; TAAC; Covachita; TUUX; COM:PLOT; LABmx; Lavalle + Peniche; Onnis Luque Fotografía; COPEVI, Hábitat Participativo; Livia Radwanski Fotografía; Hola Vecino; TOA; Comité Ciudadano y Vecinal Colonia Guerrero; Departamento de Arquitectura; Amorphica; ToroLab; “El hogar al revés”; “Hacer Ciudad”; “El patio de mi casa”; Grupo de Apoyo Técnico Solidario; Hagerman Diseños; Armando casas, Mi Valedor.