## New European Bauhaus presents *Radical yet possible future space solutions*

Collateral Event of the **18th International Architecture Exhibition**

**La Biennale di Venezia 2023**

**Curators:** Wael Al Awar, Francesca Bria, John Schellnhuber

**General concept of the conference:** Following the central theme of the Biennale Architettura 2023, "Laboratory of the Future", and in line with the mission of the New European Bauhaus, the conference has been designed as a radical, intellectual and practical laboratory of the future. The event will allow experts, students, and visitors to experiment, discover and design the future with the power of their minds.

Global issues such as climate change, resource scarcity, and shifting demographics threaten existential human needs. Still, they also drive individuals and whole societies into daring to explore new ways of living together. This conference will provide the space to reflect on radical yet possible human actions leading to better use of spaces and resources and explore non-existing but necessary human endeavours. Design and architecture will follow these innovative ways of thinking and reflect the technological and societal changes generated by human minds confronted with new challenges.

On the first day, six groups of experts and students will join parallel discussions in the "Radical NEB Labs" to work towards collective solutions for a sustainable, inclusive and beautiful future, understood as new ways of living, learning, designing, building, energy and material sourcing.

The Labs will think within the urgency and challenges of our age, focused on solutions from global and local perspectives, from social and individual point of views, drawing from and contributing to the values and principles of NEB.

On the second day, **Ursula von der Leyen**, President of the European Commission and initiator of the New European Bauhaus will kick off the interdisciplinary debates involving some of the greatest architects of our time and international experts from several fields. Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms **Elisa Ferreira** will close the NEB conference with a speech.

**Venues:** The two-day Collateral Event is organized by the New European Bauhaus in cooperation with Università Iuav di Venezia (IUAV). All masterclasses and workshops on 25 May will be held in Ca' Tron. The conference on 26 May, will be held in the Auditorium in Tolentini (capacity: 200 people).

# DAY 1, Thursday May 25<sup>th</sup>: *Activation of collective thinking*

[location: Ca'Tron - IUAV]

**15.00 - 15.15** Introduction by Francesca Bria

**15.15 - 16.15** Masterclasses (20min each), Shigeru Ban and Rem Koolhaas (content TBD with the speakers)

**16.15 - 16.30** Introduction to the topics of the workshops by John Schellnhuber

**16.30 - 18.00** Radical NEB Labs, 6 workshops running in parallel in different rooms

The Curators, Francesca Bria, John Schellnhuber and Wael Al Awar will be moving between all 6 workshops.


## Lab 1. Dealing with future human behaviour - How will we learn?
This Lab is related to the topic of the Panel 1: "*NEB as a catalyst of new mind-sets to support the goals of the Green Deal*" on the 26<sup>th</sup> of May

**Location:** Ca' Tron, room TBD

**Speakers:** lead - Michela Magas, Lorenza Baroncelli, Thiemo Heilbron, Markus Reymann, Michael Gorman, Eva Franch I Gilabert, Jacopo Galli

**Working group:** 20 students

**Concept:** Architecture and design are in a constant state of change and so is the learning and teaching. Especially now, (future) architects, designers and urbanists are facing a tsunami of new tasks related to disruptive challenges happening all at the same time. In addition, design is an applied science; therefore, the solutions to these challenges have to be tangible, feasible and appealing. Creation facing universal challenges can thrive only on the combination of formal and informal learning, theoretical and empirical knowledge and on swarm intelligence developed in a teamwork.

*How can we learn (and teach) to strengthen unfolding of new visions and approaches to the future living spaces?*

**Key concepts for the discussion:** education for climate; pedagogy of aesthetics; integration of informal and traditional knowledge; learning in maker spaces; collective intelligence; crosspollination between disciplines and discourses; lack as a catalyst of creativity; ...


## Lab 2. Dealing with future human behaviour - How will our needs and desires define the way we live and consume?
This Lab is related to the topic of the Panel 1: "*NEB as a catalyst of new mind-sets to support the goals of the Green Deal*" on the 26<sup>th</sup> of May

**Speakers:** lead - Alexandra Mitsotaki, Jose Luis de Vincente, Hilda Flavia Nakabuye, Clara Latini, Orla Murphy, Michela Pace

**Working group:** 20 students

**Concept:** One of the greatest challenges for decarbonisation of our economy is changing individual behaviours. Household consumption accounts for more than half of all carbon emissions. So changing the way we consume — and what we consume — is going to be critical to getting to net zero and beyond it. From a political point of view, it is much easier to make sure that the supplier of energy, for example, produces less carbon dioxide. What we realise, though, is that in all of these efforts of getting to net zero by 2050, the technical solutions will not be enough. We will need to change our consumer behaviour and decarbonise our desires. We need to look at new models of economy, sharing and sufficiency to find new sources of satisfaction to replace the quantity of things with the quality of experience.

*Could quality, beauty and sense of belonging be the answers to more satisfaction and decarbonisation of our lives?*

**Key concepts for the discussion:** basic needs versus desires; artificial generation of desires; growth without consume; satisfaction; sharing economy; decarbonisation of desires; taxation of desires; minimalism; flexibility

## Lab 3. Designing for possible futures - How will we build for resilience? (I.D.E.A. workshop)

This Lab is related to the topic of the Panel 2: "*Emergent architectures for climate justice and an inclusive digital future*" on the 26th of May

This Lab is co-organised by I.D.E.A.

**Speakers:** lead - Anette Hafner, Stefano Mancuso, Kunle Adyani, Wael Al Awar, Xu Tiantian, Sheela Patel, Elisa Zatta

**Working group:** 20 students

**Concept:** In its best form, architecture does not only build cities but also new perspectives, and hopes. A global building culture activated by a sense of social and environmental responsibility can transform the way we think about the future and show pathways for resilience. The New European Bauhaus offers a framework to co-shape and support this alternative building culture. What emerges when architects make use of techniques and materials at the crossroad between high-tech and low-tech, take inspiration from nature to incorporate mechanisms of adaptation and, often, accept not to build in favor of sharing and co-operation?

**Key concepts and questions for the discussion:**

- How do we design for and with nature? Promises of nature-based construction materials and techniques.

- Building for change and with uncertainty: architecture as a living organism, adaptive, temporary, movable.
- Building for a bleak future: what is to learn from dystopia? (models for resistance, solidarity)
- Should we still be building?
- What does a building culture that prioritizes the needs of living ecosystems actually look like? How does this approach alter the role of architects/project makers?

- Finding space: radical reinvention of the rural/urban divide

## Lab 4. Designing for possible futures - How will we design for/with machines?

This Lab is related to the topic of the Panel 2: "*Emergent architectures for climate justice and an inclusive digital future*" on the 26th of May

**Speakers:** lead - Prodomos Tsiavos, Aric Chen, Eszter Dàvida, Petr Skvaril, José Pedro Sousa, Francesco Bergamo

**Working group:** 20 students

**Concept:** The power of Artificial Intelligence, increasingly accessible, is forcing us to address fundamental questions of authorship and creativity. At the same time, AI and other fast-evolving digital technologies call on creative minds to consider the architectural significance and design potential of new infrastructures for the non-human world. Data centres, which account for 4% of worldwide greenhouse emissions, are rapidly transforming our built environment. Can we imagine a design with and for machines that embraces ambitions of sustainability, beauty, and inclusion? How can we shape the future digital society in a humanistic way? How can digital tools (digital twins, AI) support the creation of more equitable and inclusive spatial models?

**Key concepts and questions for the discussion**:

- Designing augmented reality: how can digital tools change the way we experience the built environment? Who designs the metaverse?
- In-between spaces, digital landscapes, architecture without humans
- How can design foster public interaction with—or the reclaiming of—data?
- How to share the space and energy between the humans and machines?

## Lab 5: Raising awareness of the Anthropocene - Venice at the forefront of the climate crisis

This Lab is related to the topic of the Panel 3: "*The global commons and climate change: Venice reporting from the front*" on the 26th of May

**Speakers**: lead - Giulia Foscari, Stephan Petermann, Hubert Trammer, Edgar Pieterse, Mattia Bertin

**Working group:** 20 students

**Concept:** The future of Venice is in great danger: the city could "disappear" before 2100, as a consequence of the rising levels of the sea, the impact of the intense traffic of boats, and the overwhelming pressure of tourism. The effects of climate change and human greed might be more visible here than elsewhere, but many other cities in the world are currently experiencing similar symptoms, especially the ones built at sea level, where frequent floods put at serious risks buildings and people.

In consideration of its fame and visibility, Venice could well represent the global fight against climate change, and this workshop will offer the stage to showcase and discuss tangible, but also radical solutions. The New European Bauhaus proposes a multi-level approach, trusting the potential of scaling and adapting local initiatives to other contexts and connecting different levels of governance, but how is it done concretely? How do we harness the power of examples,

and how can we connect people dealing with similar problems to maximize the chances of success?

**Key concepts and questions for the discussion:** the role of cultural initiatives in Venice, such as Biennale of Architecture/Art; Local solutions to global climate change issues: a g-local approach; sustainable tourism; depopulation vs overpopulation; accessibility rights & heritage; Transdisciplinary approach, Participation and Multi-level engagement

## Lab 6: Raising awareness of the Anthropocene – vulnerability and power of Beauty
This Lab is related to the topic of the Panel 3: *"The global commons and climate change: Venice reporting from the front"* on the 26th of May

**Speakers**: lead - Luther Quenum, Christoph de Jaeger, Benedetta Tagliabue, Gerfried Stocker, Pia Maier Schriever, Federica Rossi

**Working group:** 20 students

**Concept:** Art and culture have always played a crucial role in human evolution. They are vital parts of our everyday life, and they are able to appeal to our senses, our emotions through their inspiring, engaging approach (conceptually, physically, and emotionally). At the same time, art and culture have the power to make us reflect on our being and our past, present and future

"Beauty" is also what makes the NEB different from other similar projects, and it has the potential to deeply impact people's lives and, doing so, to transform the initiative into a real movement. But how? What are the crucial areas and where can we start to move the aesthetics debate decisively forward?

**Key concepts and questions for the discussion:** to activate, to connect, to integrate: the NEB vision for Beauty; the role of art & culture in the green transition; the critical/political leverage of artists; towards a "New European Style", locality vs universality

## DAY 2, Friday 26th May: *From collective thinking to creative disputes*

[location: Palazzo Tolentini - IUAV]

**11.00 - 11.05** Welcome by the Mayor of Venice, Luigi Brugnaro (TBC)

**11.05 - 11.10** Welcome by the rector of the university IUAV, Benno Albrecht

**11.10 – 11.30** Opening speech by the President Von der Leyen (15 min)

**11.30– 12.00** Dialogue between the President of the European Commission, Ursula Von der Leyen and the curator of the 18th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia 2023, Lesley Lokko.

**12.00 – 12.15** Introduction by the reporters of the Lab 1 and Lab 2, Eva Franch i Gilabert and Orla Murphy to the Panel 1

**12.15 – 13.00 Panel 1**

**Title:** **NEB as a catalyst of new mind-sets to support the goals of the Green Deal.**

**Concept:** The New European Bauhaus has brought aesthetic values in the policy discussion, as it wishes to leverage the power of art and culture to accelerate the green transition. But how will we do it concretely?

The New European Bauhaus aims at creating a new lifestyle that matches sustainability with good design, that needs less carbon and that is inclusive and affordable for all, while respecting the diversity that we have in Europe and beyond. Only two years after its launch, the NEB has become a catalyst for the European Green Deal transformation, ensuring sustainable innovation in arts and culture, social inclusion and participation. *How can we reinforce and reap fully the transformative potential of this initiative? How can we change the social, cultural and aesthetic paradigms to leap forward?*

**Speakers:** Orla Murphy, Michael Gorman, Clara Latini, Markus Reyman; facilitator: Jose Luis de Vicente

### [13.00 - 14.30 BREAK]

**14.30 - 14.45** Curators Speeches (3x5 min); Wael Al Awar, Francesca Bria, John Schellnhuber

**14.45 - 15.00** Introduction by the reporters of the Lab 3 and Lab 4, Sheela Patel and Jose Pedro Sousa to the Panel 2

**15.00 – 15.45 PANEL 2** (Co-organised by I.D.E.A.)

**Title: Emergent architectures for climate justice and an inclusive digital future.**

**Concept:** Adaptations to the climate and digital transitions are rapidly transforming landscapes across the world. The New European Bauhaus shows that this adaptation is not only necessary and possible, but can also be incredibly exciting. In highlighting the work of those who respond to this future-in-the-making with radical experimentations and ingenious solutions across sectors and disciplines, it gives us hope, perspectives, and a chance to learn from one another. Where can we take our living spaces and practices, from sharing economies to regenerative cities and virtual environments?

**Speakers:** Jose Pedro Sousa, Xu Tiantian, Gerfried Stocker, Aric Chen; facilitator: Sheela Patel

**15.45 – 16.00 Introduction** by the reporters of the Lab 5 and Lab 6, Giulia Foscari and Pia Maier Schriever to the Panel 3

**16.00 – 16.45 PANEL 3**

**Title: The global commons and climate change: Venice reporting from the front.**

**Concept:** Venice can become an important metaphor for today's challenges, if observed from the perspective of climate change, the environmental crisis, and human-animal relations in an age of rapid transformations. The centuries-old relationship of Venetians with water makes it a privileged observatory of the Anthropocene, and the local and global dimension in our fight against climate change and our challenge in the governance of planetary commons.

**Speakers:** Giulia Foscari, Edgar Peterse, Benno Albrecht, Carlo Barbante; facilitator: Pia Maier Schriever

**16.45 – 17.00** Conclusions by the curators, Wael Al Awar, Francesca Bria, John Schellnhuber

**17.00 – 17.15** Closing speech by Commissioners Elisa Ferreira

**17.30 – onwards:** Aperitivo