



PUBLIC CALL FOR THE SELECTION OF THE CURATORIAL-AUTHORIAL TEAM FOR THE NATIONAL PAVILION OF MONTENEGRO AT THE XX INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE EXHIBITION IN VENICE

I INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Spatial Planning, Urbanism and State Property of Montenegro (hereinafter: the Organizer) announces this Public Competition for the selection of a curatorial-authorial team to represent Montenegro at the XX International Architecture Exhibition in Venice – *Biennale Architettura 2027*.

The International Architecture Exhibition in Venice (*La Biennale di Venezia – Mostra Internazionale di Architettura*) is considered the most significant global forum for presenting contemporary trends, achievements, and research in architecture and spatial design. Participation in this event represents a unique opportunity for the continuous promotion of the Montenegrin architectural scene, cultural heritage, and national identity on the international stage.

At its session held on June 18, 2026, the Government of Montenegro adopted the Information on the Participation of Montenegro in the XX Architecture Biennale in Venice, appointed Mirjana Đurišić, General Director of the Directorate of the Chief State Architect, as the Commissioner of the presentation, and tasked the Ministry of Spatial Planning, Urbanism and State Property with conducting the procedure for selecting the curator and authorial team for the Montenegrin exhibition.

The XX Architecture Biennale in Venice will take place from May 8 to November 21, 2027.

The National Pavilion of Montenegro will be located in the ArteNova exhibition space at Campo San Lorenzo in Venice. Detailed information and graphic attachments of the space constitute an integral part of the competition documentation.

II THEME OF THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION

The curators of the XX Architecture Biennale in Venice, **Wang Shu** and **Lu Wenyu**, defined the overarching theme of the exhibition entitled:

"Do Architecture — For the Possibility of Coexistence Facing a Real Reality"

Elaborating on the concept, the curators state: "*All these questions point to one essential path: facing real reality and local practice, and directly “do architecture”, especially a kind of “do” that is grounded in bodily touch. It is precisely through this concrete act of “do” that things which seem impossible to bring together can gather in one place. This is the theme we propose for the Biennale Architettura 2027: Do Architecture —For the Possibility of Coexistence Facing a Real Reality.*"

A detailed description of the thematic framework can be downloaded via the link:

[Biennale Architettura 2027 | Do Architecture — For the Possibility of Coexistence Facing a Real Reality](#)

III ARTICULATION OF THE THEME WITHIN THE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK

The overarching Biennale theme, "*Do Architecture – For the Possibility of Coexistence Facing a Real Reality*", directs attention toward architecture as an active form of agency in the contemporary world and raises questions regarding its role and responsibility in relation to complex social, spatial, ecological, and technological circumstances.

In the Montenegrin context, this theme provides an opportunity to reexamine the ways architecture operates within a space of distinct natural, cultural, and historical values, which is simultaneously exposed to intensive development and transformation processes. The relationship between preservation and change, heritage and contemporary life, natural and built space, as well as local values and global processes, represents one of the most relevant issues in Montenegro's contemporary spatial development. In this sense, an interdisciplinary approach to research and project development is encouraged, based on connecting architectural, artistic, technological, and other relevant knowledge and methods.

A particularly significant context in this regard is represented by natural and cultural-historical areas under UNESCO protection. Their internationally recognized status, as well as the values upon which that status is founded, implies the need for preservation while simultaneously opening questions regarding their utilization, development, and transformation under the conditions of contemporary life. Protected spaces are not isolated from social, economic, and spatial processes; rather, they represent places where diverse needs, interests, and values directly intersect.

Accordingly, this Public Call establishes the relationship between architectural action and areas of natural and cultural heritage—with a special emphasis on UNESCO-protected areas—**as its national problem framework**.

This framework may open questions such as: what it means today to act through architecture in a space whose values are already recognized and protected; what relationship contemporary architecture can establish with the existing natural, cultural, and built context; in what ways the needs of protection, development, and everyday life can be balanced; and how Montenegro's specific experiences can contribute to the

broader international dialogue on the possibilities of coexistence prompted by the Biennale's theme.

These questions do not represent a predefined curatorial position nor do they dictate the expected response of proposed projects; rather, they establish a problem field within which the development of various critical, research, design, and spatial approaches is expected.

Candidates are expected to develop **their own curatorial-authorial conception of the National Presentation of Montenegro**, starting from the Biennale's overarching theme and the aforementioned national framework, by defining its theme and research position, title, methodological approach, content, and the manner of spatial and exhibition articulation.

The proposed concept must establish a clear relationship between the specificities of the Montenegrin context and the international thematic framework of the Biennale, while offering an authentic and well-argued authorial stance on the role of architecture in contemporary spatial challenges.

IV COMPETITION TASK

The curatorial-authorial team is expected to propose a concept and conceptual design for the exhibition that comprehensively responds to the given theme.

The concept of Montenegro's national presentation includes:

- Curatorial Concept: A clearly defined theme, hypothesis, or problem addressed by the project;
- Relationship to the Biennale Theme: An explanation of how the proposed project responds to the theme of the XX International Exhibition;
- Relationship to Montenegro: An explanation of why the selected project is relevant specifically to Montenegro and how it stems from its spatial, architectural, social, historical, or ecological context;
- Research Framework: Definition of locations, case studies, architectural objects, landscapes, materials, archives, actors, or other sources that will be the subject of research;
- Exhibition Concept: A clearly defined method of presenting the research to the public, including the selection of materials, media, and formats;
- Spatial-Architectural Concept: A conceptual design for organizing the exhibition within the ArteNova space, including the relationship to the existing space, visitor movement, spatial sequences, exhibits, and installation elements;
- Visitor Experience: An explanation of how the visitor enters the project, how they read it, and in what order or manner they become acquainted with its content.

The selected competition entry will serve as the basis for the further elaboration and final realization of the Montenegrin pavilion in Venice.

V SUBJECT, AIM, AND NATURE OF THE COMPETITION

The subject of the competition is the call for the selection of a curatorial-authorial team to represent Montenegro at the XX International Architecture Exhibition in Venice through a conceptual project.

The aim of the competition is the selection of the curatorial-authorial team that will represent Montenegro at the XX International Architecture Exhibition in Venice through a conceptual project.

In terms of its nature, the competition is general, public, single-stage, and non-anonymous.

Eligibility: All interested domestic and international experts, organized individually into curatorial-authorial teams that meet the conditions prescribed by this call, have the right to participate.

VI CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

Applications must be submitted by integrated curatorial-authorial teams that meet the following conditions:

- The curatorial-authorial team must consist of at least one curator and at least one author;
- The curatorial-authorial team may be interdisciplinary (architects, artists, designers, researchers);
- The curator may be an individual or a curatorial tandem;
- At least one member of the curatorial part of the team must have proven experience in projects of a similar scope, character, and significance (exhibition and curatorial practices in the field of architecture or contemporary art) and must be fluent in English;
- The lead of the authorial part of the team must be a graduated engineer of architecture, master engineer of architecture, or graduated architect;
- At least one member of the authorial part of the team must be fluent in English;
- At least one member of the curatorial-authorial team must hold citizenship of Montenegro and/or residency in Montenegro;
- Each individual may participate within only one curatorial-authorial team in this Competition;
- The applying curatorial-authorial team is obliged to designate one authorized representative of the team for legal and financial communication with the Organizer (whether it is a legal entity, natural person, or a group of natural persons). A

curatorial-authorial team consisting of natural persons is required to designate one team member in whose name the payment will be made (detailed information is provided in the attachment of the Call – Statement Form for Legal and Natural Persons);

- Team members regulate their mutual relations, copyright, distribution of fees, and responsibilities through a mutual agreement;
- By applying to the Public Call, it is deemed that the curatorial-authorial team accepts all its terms and conditions.

VII FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK AND BUDGET

The total available budget for the production and realization of Montenegro's national presentation amounts to:

100,000.00 EUR (NET).

The total budget of 100,000.00 EUR includes:

- Fees for the curator / curatorial part of the team during the entire duration of project preparation and realization;
- Fees for the author / authorial part of the team during the entire duration of project preparation and realization;
- Fees for researchers and professional associates, if applicable;
- Preparation of project-technical documentation, work of the authorial team, and engagement of professional associates/contractors for the creation of the exhibition installation;
- Materials and equipment constituting the installation;
- Transport of complete exhibition equipment and exhibits in both directions (Montenegro – Italy – Montenegro);
- Costs of installation, dismantling, construction works in the pavilion, and waste disposal;
- Travel expenses and accommodation for the authorial and production team during the installation, opening, and dismantling phases of the exhibition in Venice;
- Other direct costs necessary for the realization of the project.

The project budget does not include the following costs:

- Rental of the *ArteNova* exhibition space in Venice;
- Fees for duty staff, guarding, and regular maintenance of the pavilion during the Biennale;
- Printing of the official national catalog and major promotional materials;
- Organization of the official ceremonial opening of the pavilion;
- Costs of any accompanying promotional events in the pavilion;

- All applicable tax costs;
- The Commissioner's fee.

Mutual rights and obligations, as well as the conditions and methods of realizing business cooperation, will be subsequently regulated by a Business Cooperation Contract between the curatorial-authorial team and the Ministry.

VIII RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE CURATORIAL-AUTHORIAL TEAM

The selected curatorial-authorial team functions as a unified authorial entity fully responsible for the artistic, substantive, and technical quality of the Montenegrin presentation.

Obligations of the Curator / Curatorial Part of the Team

- Defining, developing, and final articulation of the curatorial-authorial concept of the National Presentation of Montenegro, starting from the overarching Biennale theme and the national problem framework established by the Public Call;
- Defining the authorial and research position, theme, and title of the National Presentation, as well as the manner in which the national context is interpreted and related to the overarching Biennale theme;
- Curatorial leadership and monitoring of the realization of the approved concept, including coordination of its substantive, spatial, and exhibition articulation to preserve the integrity of the authorial conception through all phases of realization;
- Cooperation with the Biennale (preparing and sending information to the organizers of the Biennale in Venice in cooperation with the Commissioner and the organizational-production team of the Ministry of Spatial Planning, Urbanism and State Property, in accordance with the Biennale regulations – preparing materials for the main Biennale catalog, obtaining necessary permits, and other tasks);
- Regular cooperation with the Commissioner and the organizational-production team of the Montenegrin presentation at the Biennale within the Ministry of Spatial Planning, Urbanism and State Property;
- Preparation and submission of materials for the official Biennale catalog and communication with organizers in Venice (in cooperation with the Commissioner);
- Editing the national catalog and other publications in cooperation with other editors (defining and approving publication content, design, printing, etc.);
- Participation in the public presentation and program (media campaign, preparation of the official website, press conferences, and expert guided tours through the exhibition, etc.);
- Attending media conferences in accordance with the plan of the Commissioner and the PR service of the Ministry of Spatial Planning, Urbanism and State Property;
- Coordinating the creation of promotional material aimed at a unified and recognizable visual identity of the Montenegrin pavilion;

- Coordinating expert, educational, or accompanying programs (panels, workshops) as part of the presentation;
- Coordinating official visits to the Montenegrin pavilion in cooperation with the Commissioner and the organizational-production team during the Biennale;
- Coordinating key activities related to the organization of the ceremonial opening of the pavilion;
- Coordinating presentation activities at the national and international levels;
- Communicating and coordinating all activities in the preparation process of the Montenegrin presentation at the Biennale in cooperation with the Commissioner and the organizational team;
- Other activities necessary for the realization of the project.

Obligations of the Author / Authorial Part of the Team

- Preparation of complete technical and execution documentation for the installation;
- Managing the production of exhibits and direct participation in the installation and dismantling of the exhibition in Venice;
- Coordination with contractors and producers;
- Development of visual identity and graphic design of materials in cooperation with the curator and the Commissioner;
- Adapting the project within given financial and spatial constraints;
- Participating in the design and visual communications accompanying the project and all corresponding formats of Montenegro's representation in Venice (media material, catalog, website, video projections, pavilion branding, etc.);
- Participating in the media campaign and promotional events related to Montenegro's appearance at the Biennale;
- Participating in and contributing to all additional formats proven necessary during the realization of the process that is the subject of the contract;
- Other activities necessary for the realization of the project.

The scope, deadlines, fees, rights, and responsibilities will be defined in the contract with the selected curatorial-authorial team.

IX CONTENT OF THE COMPETITION DOCUMENTATION (APPLICATION)

All documentation must be submitted in the form of two separate PDF documents within a single electronic submission:

DOCUMENT 1: Application and Legal Documentation (PDF)

1. Completed Statement Form for legal and natural persons containing data on all members of the curatorial-authorial team and the name of the authorized representative;

2. Cover Letter indicating the motivation for representing Montenegro at the 20th Architecture Biennale, along with an explanation of how the candidates' previous professional practice corresponds to the criteria of this call (up to 500 words);
3. Curatorial-authorial concept of the National Presentation of Montenegro at the 20th Architecture Biennale, which includes:
 - Proposed title and core curatorial-authorial thesis;
 - Articulation of the proposed concept's relationship to the overarching Biennale theme and the national problem framework of the Public Call;
 - Thematic and research framework of the presentation;
 - Proposed content and basic approach to its spatial and exhibition articulation.
4. Professional biographies (CVs) of all team members with relevant references;
5. Proof of Montenegrin citizenship or residency for at least one member of the curatorial-authorial team (photocopy of passport or ID card).

DOCUMENT 2: Competition Entry (PDF)

- **Format:** Single PDF document, A3 format (landscape), resolution 150 dpi, file size up to **100 MB**.
- **Content of the Entry:**
 - Title Page: Information regarding: Competition Organizer, competition title, title of the proposed solution, and names of the curatorial-authorial team;
 - Curatorial-Authorial Concept: Clear explanation of the core conceptual project; authorial interpretation of the Biennale theme in relation to the Montenegrin context;
 - Visitor Experience: Description of movement and perception of the exhibition;
 - Realization Plan: Basic schedule of key project phases;
 - Preliminary Budget: Allocation of the total budget up to 100,000.00 EUR net (curator's fee, author/authorial team fee, creation of the complete exhibition installation, etc.).

The narrative part of the project must contain a project description of up to 1200 words, with a clearly defined stance toward the theme and competition task, concisely and unambiguously describing the method of project realization and exhibition content.

- Graphic Part of the Project: Contains all technical drawings necessary for understanding the proposed installation in the pavilion, as well as attachments indicating the visual qualities of the installation, in a manner and technique corresponding to the authors of the proposed solution.
- The graphic part may contain, among other things: floor plans, sections, axonometric views, sketches, materialization, movement displays, gallery space usage scenarios with the installation, spatial sequences, visualizations, photomontages, and similar.

Only timely submitted entries that meet the competition conditions shall be subject to the jury evaluation procedure.

X EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR COMEPETITION ENTRIES

The jury will evaluate submitted entries according to the following criteria:

1. **Quality and Authenticity of the Concept:** Artistic and architectural value of the proposed response to the 20th Biennale theme;
2. **Rooting in the Local Context:** Grounding in the Montenegrin context and relationship to heritage;
3. **Spatial and Visual Quality of the Installation:** Clarity, originality, and experience of the exhibition space in the ArteNova pavilion;
4. **Feasibility and Technical Sustainability:** Realizability of the exhibition within given deadlines and technical-spatial conditions;
5. **Budget Rationality:** Detail and alignment of the financial plan with the 100,000.00 EUR (Net) limit.

XI JURY COMPOSITION

The competition jury for selecting the curatorial-authorial team to represent Montenegro at the XX Architecture Biennale in Venice consists of:

1. Mirjana Đurišić, Commissioner of Montenegro's presentation at the XX Architecture Biennale in Venice;
2. Dr. Miljana Zeković, Full Professor at the Department of Architecture and Urbanism, Faculty of Technical Sciences, University of Novi Sad;
3. Dr. Ivan Šuković, Visual Artist and co-author of the Montenegrin pavilion presentation at the XIX Architecture Biennale in Venice in 2025;
4. Ana Dobrašinović, M.Arch.;
5. Mina Novosel, M.Arch., member of the creative team for Montenegro's presentation at the XX Architecture Biennale.

XII COPYRIGHT

The curatorial-authorial team of the competition entry holds the copyright. Relations among co-authors within the curatorial-authorial team are regulated by mutual agreement. Every team member participating in this competition is deemed to agree that the Ministry of Spatial Planning, Urbanism and State Property of Montenegro, as the Organizer of this competition, may irrevocably and free of charge use the competition

entry and material for the purpose of promoting Montenegro's national exhibition in Venice in 2027, while acknowledging authorship to the authors of the competition solution.

XIII METHOD OF SUBMITTING COMPETITION ENTRIES

Competition documentation is submitted exclusively in electronic form.

Applications must be sent via email to:

bijenale.mne@gmail.com

Send exclusively a link for downloading the complete competition documentation uploaded to the *WeTransfer* platform. The email text must state the title of the entry and the names of the curatorial-authorial team members.

Costs of preparing and submitting the application are borne by the candidates.

XIV COMPETITION DEADLINES

- **October 13, 2026:** Publication of the Public Call on the official portal of the Ministry of Spatial Planning, Urbanism and State Property www.gov.me/mdup and on www.architecturalcompetitions.me;
- **October 19, 2026:** Deadline for submitting questions. Questions should be sent to: **bijenale.mne@gmail.com**;
- **October 23, 2026:** Publication of answers to received questions on the official portal of the Ministry <http://www.gov.me/mdup> and on www.architecturalcompetitions.me;
- **November 16, 2026, by 14:00h (CET):** Deadline for submitting competition entries;
- **November 23, 2026:** Deadline for the Jury to issue its Decision and announce the decision on the official portal of the Ministry <http://www.gov.me/mdup> and on www.architecturalcompetitions.me.

All other deadlines of importance for the elaboration and realization of the project will be defined in the Business Cooperation Contract between the Ministry and the selected national representative / curatorial-authorial team.

XV ATTACHMENTS TO THE COMPETITION DOCUMENTATION

As part of the competition material, the following attachments are available to participants on <http://www.gov.me/mdup> and on www.architecturalcompetitions.me.

1. Public Call for the Selection of the Curatorial- Authorial Team;
2. Textual and graphic description of the ArteNova exhibition space in Venice (PDF);
3. DWG file with the floor plan of the exhibition space;
4. Statement Form for legal entity and individual or a group of individuals.

XVI FINAL PROVISIONS

The results, Decision, and reasoning of the Competition Jury will be published on the official portal of the Ministry of Spatial Planning, Urbanism and State Property of Montenegro <http://www.gov.me/mdup> and on www.architecturalcompetitions.me.

Any disputes arising from this competition will be resolved amicably; if that is not possible, they will be resolved by the Court competent for the Competition Organizer.

Podgorica, 13 October 2026.