Staffing for the Australian Pavilion at the 13th Venice Architecture Biennale (2012)

The Venice Biennale International Architecture Exhibition is arguably the most important event on the International contemporary architecture calendar. Thousands of the world’s most influential architects, designers, urban planners, developers and critics visit the Biennale, with considerable discussion and commentary in the architectural press and general media as a direct result. The Australian Institute of Architects is committed to a substantial Australian presence this year, and ongoing in 2014 and 2016. The Australian exhibition will showcase Australian architecture to the international architecture and design community.

The 2010 Venice Architecture Biennale involved exhibitions and events from 53 countries over 78 days, showcasing an array of architectural ideas to over 170,000 attendees. The Australian Pavilion had a record number of over 93,000 visitors, an increase of 60% in 2008 and 140% in 2006. Australia’s international reputation is growing.

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document has been designed to provide information to parties interested in volunteering their time to assist in Venice. Please be advised expressions of interest close at 5:00 pm (AEST) on Wednesday 11th April 2012. The following pages outline the requirements of staffing, and background information on the Australian Pavilion and the 13th Venice Architecture Biennale (2012).

STAFFING DETAILS

The Institute is seeking expressions of interest from people wishing to volunteer their time by staffing the Australian Pavilion for some period of time between 17th August and 1st December 2012.

Ideally the Institute would like to split this large length of time into ten-day blocks, with a roster including two scheduled days off for volunteers. We are seeking two/three staff members per block.

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Responsible for the opening and closing of the Pavilion
- Greeting and overseeing visitors to the Pavilion
- Selling merchandise and catalogues
- Providing updates to Institute project management staff on a range of topics
- Staff are required to be on-time and present for all periods they have been contracted
- Staff are not permitted to leave the pavilion un-attended
- Staff are required to be polite, helpful and promote the Institute (and Australia) in a positive manner
- When applicable, assisting with the installation and de-installation of the exhibition
COORDINATOR ROLES

In addition to appointing volunteer staff to fulfill the above roles, the Institute appoints volunteer coordinators. This is a role of higher responsibility and a longer duration (approximately three – four weeks). This role includes managing other volunteers to ensure they adhere to work and accommodation guidelines, reporting to the Institute and the Australian Pavilion Manager on a regular basis, and making sure the Australian Pavilion is represented professionally.

Anyone considering the coordinator role will need to speak fluent Italian and should have ample credentials to satisfy the Institute of their ability to act as a Coordinator in Venice. The Coordinator role receives the same benefits as volunteer staff (identified below).

The online entry form has a box which one can tick, if they so wish to be considered for this role.

BENEFITS

The Institute will provide the following:

- Access to accommodation in Venice, through a pre-organised apartment (cost will be covered by the Institute). There may be an expectation that a bedroom will be shared (2 x single beds) by two volunteers. It is also worth noting that accommodation is only extended to those appointed volunteers and unfortunately not to friends or family of those volunteers.

- Per diem allowances paid for the duration of $50 AUD per day. This will be deposited into a nominated Australian bank account.

The Institute has limited funding, and will not be in a position to offer flight reimbursement or other costs.
EXPRESSİON OF INTEREST REQUIREMENTS

Expressions of interest are sought from Institute members, non members, student architects, and design students.

Please complete the online form, found at http://www.architecture.com.au/volunteers/

After successfully submitting your information via the online form, an acknowledgement email will be sent. If you do not receive an acknowledgement, it is possible your information was not successfully transmitted and we would ask that you contact the Institute (details below) should this be the case.

This online form asks you for the following information (please have these ready prior to starting your online application).

- Contact name, address, phone number and email address
- Full Curriculum Vitae (prefer the CV to include details of two referees but this is not mandatory) – maximum file size 4MB
- Availability
- Why you would like to be involved in this project (150 word limit)
- Why and how you are suited to the role (150 word limit)
- Any additional details that you think relevant, such as
  - Can you speak Italian?
  - If you do speak fluent Italian, do you wish to be considered for the Volunteer Coordinator Role?
  - Institute Member number
  - T-shirt size (these will be provided to wear whilst on-duty)

SELECTION PROCESS

All expressions of interest need to be received by 5:00 pm (AEST) on Wednesday 11th April 2012. You will be notified if you have been successful by the end of May, if not sooner. Telephone interviews may be conducted.

CONTACT

Any enquiries regarding the submission of expressions of interest should be directed to:

Sophie Seck or Mel Gill
Australian Institute of Architects

PO Box 3373
Manuka ACT 2603

Tel: 02 6121 2000
Fax: 02 6121 2001
Email: formations@architecture.com.au
Background information on the Venice Architecture Biennale

13TH INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE EXHIBITION

Curator: David Chipperfield
Theme: ‘Common Ground’
Dates: Vernissage*:
Monday 27 August 2012
Tuesday 28 August 2012
Open to Public:
29 August 2012 – 25 November 2012
(closed Mondays except September 3rd and November 19th)
Location: Venice, Italy
Venues: Arensale, Corderie, Giardini, Padiglione Italia
Attendees: The 2010 Venice Biennale attracted 170 000 + attendees across 70 + days. Over 300 Australian Architects are expected to attend the 2012 Venice Architecture Biennale, with similar attendance rates to that experienced in 2010.

Audience/visitors: The attendees at the Biennale are senior executives and lead designers from the world’s top firms. They include decision makers from the leading corporate networks, highest profile design offices and emerging talents. The prestige of the event means that it attracts the leaders from the profession. The audience for the Biennale is the cream of international professionals.
AUSTRALIAN ARCHITECTURE AND THE BIENNALE

Australia’s presence at this event is imperative in growing Australia’s international reputation for quality architecture. Australia’s recent architectural and design achievements are worth celebrating as significant contributions to our international stature and national pride. This, along with the fact that Australia is now recognised as one of the world’s top eight countries for progressive architecture, provides a solid foundation for international recognition and trade opportunities.

Prior to the Institute’s involvement in 2006, Australia’s presence at the Venice Architecture Biennale had in the past been limited to individual organisations and lacked the crucial funding required to ensure the success of the event. The Institute is committed to Australia’s involvement in this imperative event, forming a committee dedicated to oversee Australia’s presence at the 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014 and 2016 Biennales.

The Institute has secured the use of the Australian Pavilion in Venice, for which it gratefully acknowledges the help and support given by the Australia Council for the Arts. This beautifully designed pavilion will provide the ideal location for Australia to showcase its talent, design, and products.

It is anticipated that this will be the last Architectural exhibition staged in this Pavilion, as the current Australian Pavilion is expected to be re-built in 2014.

VENICE BIENNALE COMMITTEE

The Australian Institute of Architects created the Venice Biennale Committee to facilitate the re-establishment of an Australian exhibition at the Architectural Biennale in Venice. The committee saw through successful Exhibitions in 2006, 2008 and 2010, and aims to exceed expectations this year.

Members of the 2011/2012 Venice Committee are:

- Prof Geoffrey London – Chair
- David Karotkin
- Prof Annabelle Pegrum
- Paul Berkemeier
- Brian Zulaikha
- Karl Fender
- Shelley Penn
- Ross Clark

Mrs Janet Holmes à Court AC continues her role as the Australian Commissioner for the 2012 Venice Architecture Biennale.
CREATIVE DIRECTORS 2012

Anthony Burke and Gerard Reinmuth, working in close collaboration with TOKO Concept Design, will head the creative team for the Australian Pavilion at the 13th Venice International Architecture Biennale.

The team will present ‘Formations: New Practices in Australian Architecture’ “an exhibition aims to provoke debate about the changing role of architects and the ‘formations’ in which they practice.

Formations will showcase Australian architectural practices that are challenging conventional perceptions and definitions of what it is to be an architect and the possibilities for the profession to make significant contributions to new domains of work through innovative ‘practice formations’. The exhibition participates in the current global discussion about the evolution and future of practice, placing Australia’s most forward-thinking architects at the heart of this conversation.

A total of 27 submissions were received for the role of Creative Director, with five proposals shortlisted in a rigorous selection process ahead of the announcement of Anthony Burke and Gerard Reinmuth, working with TOKO Concept Design, as the winning team.

AUSTRALIAN EXHIBITION FORMAT

The Australian Pavilion will be transformed into a “soft landscape of connections and possibilities”, featuring a series of installations or ‘formations’ responding to the light-filled pavilion interior.

The exhibition will feature a select group of Australia’s most innovative architecture practices working in non-traditional ways and domains - bringing their skills and expertise to areas as diverse as robotic fabrication, government policy, and indigenous housing.

These ‘practice formations’ are:

• Healthabitat (Paul Pholeros, Stephan Rainow, Paul Torzillo)
• supermanoeuvre (Dave Pigram, Iain Maxwell, Chris Duffield)
• Richard Goodwin Pty Ltd (Richard Goodwin)
• 2112 Ai (100YR City) (Tom Kovac, Fleur Watson)
• The Architects Radio Show (Stuart Harrison, Simon Knott, Christine Phillips, Rory Hyde)
• Archrival (Claire McCaughan, Lucy Humphrey).

Focusing on actual projects and their impact, the pavilion will be a “space of engagement” in which viewers can interact and “participate in architectural conversation at close quarters”.
By exploring the design methodologies, configurations and output of the six selected groups, *Formations* intends to stimulate compelling discourse about the future of the profession and alternate forms of architectural practice both in Australia and internationally.

Complementing this, will be a series of “flash formations” - free informal and intimate public events around Venice during the Vernissage, “allowing viewers to get up close and personal with some of Australia’s most innovative architectural practices and commentators and their work”.

Describing the exhibition, Gerard said: “By exploring innovative practice types and their design output, the exhibition will provoke discussion around issues of the future of the profession and the kind of problems architects are becoming involved with.”

**MORE INFORMATION**


