 Cities, architecture and society... 

10th International Architecture Exhibition
The Fondazione La Biennale di Venezia has dedicated the theme of the 10th International Architecture Exhibition to Cities, global urbanization, and to the architecture that can determine the cities’ governance and transformations, the deep changes and the development of a harmonious social fabric. For the first time Venice’s Exhibition focuses its attention on the tangible concerns arising in contemporary society, investigating models of interaction between cities, architecture and inhabitants – just when more than half of the world’s populace lives in cities, when only a century ago only 10% of the planet’s inhabitants dwelled in urban areas. What is more, according to the United Nations, by 2050 this number could increase up to 75%, with millions living in megalopolises and in highly urbanized areas. At the end of the Exhibition, the Biennale will publish an Agenda for XXI Century Cities, a tool dedicated to those who establish or take part in the management of cities and the complex systems that regulate rhythms and advancements in urban areas.

This year the Exhibition brings together a complex combination consisting of Exhibitions (Cities, architecture and society) curated by Richard Burdett, and Sensi Contemporanei, split into 2 side-projects: Cities of Stone, curated by Claudio d’Amato and City-Port, curated by Rinio Bruttomesso, the latter on exhibit in Palermo from the middle of October), an exhibition in the first Italian Pavilion of the Biennale’s recent history (curated by Franco Purini), workshops, meetings, conferences and educational activities (with famous international architects and eminent experts, who will explore the various themes threaded throughout the Exhibition). The closing ceremony will be held on 8th November with the Golden Lion Awards and the presentation of the Agenda for XXI Century Cities.

Cities, architecture and society, the exhibition curated by Richard Burdett, focuses on the key factors currently faced by large-scale metropolitan: migration, but also the uncertainties tied to development, from the evolution of mobility to the research of a sustainable growth, will be addressed at the exhibition. The 300 metres of the Corderie dell’Arsenale host 16 great cities from four continents: Shanghai, Mumbai and Tokyo in Asia; Caracas, Mexico City, Bogotá, São Paulo, Los Angeles and New York in America; Johannesburg, Cairo and Istanbul in Africa and the
**Mediterranean area; European cities such as London, Barcelona, Berlin and Milan-Turin.** Renzo Piano’s project for the requalification of Genoa’s harbour is presented as a significant model in the Italian urbanistic scenario. The exhibition displays architectural and urban projects that influence the lifestyle, work and metropolitan environment of these conurbations, in addition to how these cities have changed from a social, economic and cultural standpoint. The event, designed by Aldo Cibic and Luigi Marchetti - Cibic&Partners, with the art direction and graphic project by Fragile, is a journey through the urban and civic realities. Satellite images, aerial photographs and morphological maps illustrate the heterogeneity and the complexity of man’s imprint.

The **Padiglione Italia** at the Giardini hosts some innovative projects for the cities of the future, fruit of the research of **13 international institutes** - Berlage Institute, ETH Studio Basel - Contemporary City Institute, SENSEable City Laboratory of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Schrumpfende Städte - Shrinking Cities, The Architecture Foundation and MoMA, The Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA/AMO), The Royal College of Art from London, The University of Texas at Austin, Universidad Iberoamericana, Istituto Universitario Architettura Venezia (IUAV), Urban Design Research Institute (UDRI). Both contemporary and historical images and documents regarding urban planning are displayed by specialised editorial sectors such as **C - Photo Magazine** and **domus**.

The Biennale di Venezia has emblematically chosen to open this edition of the Exhibition by inviting **Mayors and representatives** of some of the most populated cities of the world to a workshop (on 6th September), to discuss the transformations and the future role of the metropolitan areas with leading international specialists. The meeting, curated by **Guido Martinotti**, is the first of a series of events and activities which complement the exhibitions of the 10th International Architecture Exhibition.

For the first time the Biennale has organised a series of **conversations and encounters** with the visitors, called to meet some of the most prominent international architects (including Renzo Piano, Richard Rogers, Norman Foster, Massimiliano Fuksas, Zaha Hadid, Rem Koolhaas, Jacques Herzog and Paolo Portoghesi). These encounters took place during the vernissage on the 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th September).

A workshop will be dedicated to **sustainable mobility in Meta-cities** (8 and 9 November, during the Mo.Ve. Mobility Venice International Forum). A conference organised by Leonardo Fiori and promoted by Inarcassa will focus on **Professional issues in planning the new European scenario** on the 20th October.

**Learning from Cities**, an international design workshop coordinated by Francesco Garofalo, introduces **23 Italian and foreign schools of architecture** who have been invited to discuss the main issues of the Exhibition, and display their works at the Padiglione Italia from the 9 to 19 November 2006.
For the first time the Regione Veneto takes part in the Exhibition with a dedicated exhibition space at the Padiglione Italia, called Towards the third Veneto (Verso il terzo Veneto).

This year, the 11 collateral events will be complemented by 3 partner initiatives in the spaces of the Arsenale:
- the exhibition Cities within the city. Build today the Milan of the future, by Risanamento S.p.A. in the Fonderie;
- the exhibition Metrò-Polis by Benedetto Gravagnuolo and Alessandro Mendini, organized by the Campania Region and the Comune di Napoli with the Ente Autonomo Volturno and the M. N. Metropolitana of Naples at the Artiglierie;
- the project of the New Chinese City Tong Li, by Mi Qiu and the Italian team led by Francesco Morena, at Sala Marceglia.

In addition to 49 international participants, both in individual national pavilions and with locations scattered throughout the city centre, this edition of the Biennale also hosts Italy for the first time in the new Italian Pavilion in the Tese delle Vergini at the Arsenale with the exhibition La Città Nuova. Italia-y-2026. Invito a Vema curated by Franco Purini. The first Italian pavilion in the Biennale’s recent history illustrates and narrates a new city: a foundation city, but also an ideal, innovative, utopian city – as in the “utopia of reality” by Ernesto Nathan Rogers – located near the great European rail junctions between Lisbon-Kiev, Berlin-Palermo and Verona and Mantua. VEMA, is the name, has been designed by twenty architects, or groups of architects, from thirty to forty years of age, who have explored various issues including housing, work places, the body, art, infrastructures, media, green areas, free time and energy.

After an experience in the southern regions between 2003 and 2005, Sensi Contemporanei is the promoter of two sections of the 10th International Architecture Exhibition: Cities of Stone in Venice, (curated by Claudio D’Amato Guerrieri) and City - Port in Palermo (curated by Rinio Bruttomesso). The two exhibitions, which explore two aspects of the City theme from the distinctive perspective of South Italian cities (in one case considering the prospect of restoring the landscape, in the other reflecting on the relationship between cities on the sea and their harbours), are sponsored by the Ministry of Economic Development - DPS, the Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities - DARC and by the Fondazione La Biennale di Venezia.

Cities of Stone, curated by Claudio D’Amato Guerrieri, with the participation of the Regione Puglia at the Artiglierie dell'Arsenale, includes three exhibition sections - The Other Modernity. The Mediterranean City in the Twentieth Century, Stereotomic Architecture. Building with Stone Today, and Project South – and an international conference in November.

City - Port, curated by Rinio Bruttomesso, with the participation of the Regione Siciliana (with the City of Palermo and Palermo’s Harbour
Authorities) will include **four exhibitions** that will be held in **Palermo** from 15 October to 14 January 2007: **City – Port. Maps for New Urban Routes** at Palazzo Forcella de Seta, **City – Port. The Great South and City – Port. Palermo, Mediterraneum** at S. Erasmo, the **Portus Architecture Prize** at the Galleria Expa and an international conference in December.

The twin presentation of the two exhibitions in Venice and in Palermo – the partition of the International Architecture Exhibition in two different **Italian cities is an absolute landmark in the Biennale’s history** – places at the centre of international debates the **national theme of the development of South Italy** (the exhibitions see the active participation not only of the Regione Siciliana and of the Regione Puglia, but also of the other regions of southern Italy). In this way, **Sensi Contemporanei** takes up the challenge of an extremely innovative project that annuls geographical distances not only metaphorically (in the twin locations set in Venice and Palermo), but also enhances the local milieu it describes.

On the whole, the 10th International Architecture Exhibition presents, through the “constellation” of exhibitions that forms it, a **general overview of over 130 cities from all over the world**, which represent an authentic “photograph” of the urban situation and of the architectural works in the world today.

The **Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement** has been announced by the board of the Biennale di Venezia and was awarded to **Richard Rogers** (Florence, 1933) on Sunday 10 September, during the official opening ceremony of the 10th Exhibition at the Giardini della Biennale. The official **prize-giving ceremony** will take place on the 8th November at the Teatro Malibran, at the conclusion and not in the course of the Exhibition (another novelty of the 10th Exhibition). The International Jury will award the following **official prizes** and **Golden Lions**: for the best National Participation, for the best City, for the best Urban project and a Special award for the best School of Architecture. The Juries of the two sections will award two **new prizes**: the Stone Lion (Leone di Pietra) and the Portus Architecture Award (Premio di Architettura Portus) for the best performance in Venice and in Palermo respectively. The jury of the New Italian Pavilion will award two **prizes**: to the best Young Designer and to the best Recent publication.

The **catalogue of Cities, architecture and society** is in two volumes: one monograph dedicated to the International Exhibition and one which documents the Countries, the collateral events, the workshops and the special projects) and the two volumes dedicated to the two sections **Cities of Stone** and **City – Port**, are published by **Marsilio**.

The 10th Exhibition has the support of the **main partners** Risanamento S.p.A., Inarcassa, Italcementi and of **partners illycaffè, Targetti, Aci**.