

Cardinal José Tolentino de Mendonça

What will the Holy See Pavilion be? It will be a pavilion-parable. The title 'Opera Aperta' presents it as a building site, as an ongoing process in which everyone is invited to collaborate (architects, thinkers, inhabitants of the sestiere, associations, visitors to the Biennale...). While walls and architectural details of the building are being repaired, neighbourhood relations and intergenerational hospitality will also be repaired, simultaneously reconstructing physical space and social space. Our wish is that this pavilion-parable may give concrete expression, in the field of architecture, to the prophetic intuitions contained in the encyclical Laudato si' and become an active workshop of human and community intelligence, bringing together reason and affection, professionalism and conviviality, research and ordinary life.

Marina Otero Verzier, curator

Opera Aperta is a collaborative process involving an international team and local collectives together, claiming repair as a creative and radical practice that transcends architectural form to nourish communities, ecosystems and the fragile bonds between them. By revitalising an existing structure, we value its cracks and losses not as flaws to be hidden, but as openings to new possibilities. These thresholds invite us to reimagine the relationship between past and future, growth and decay, rupture and regeneration. Opera Aperta honours the layered histories embedded in this specific place while creating space for those who will come after us.

Giovanna Zabotti, curator

In a world in which fractures and divisions seem to amplify, Opera Aperta proposes itself as an act of "restoration" and community intelligence. For Venice and its inhabitants, residents and citizens from all over the world who visit and experience it, it represents an important occasion. This pavilion will not only be a physical space, but a meeting place where music becomes a universal language capable of uniting people across cultural barriers and answering the need for places to cultivate it. A place blindfolded for healing and with moments dedicated to silence where we can listen to each other's voices, reconnect and reflect on what unites us. Every 'repair' is an act of social justice, because it restores value to what has been neglected, offering a second chance not only to the buildings, but also to the people who inhabit them. For the historical-monumental part, 'repair' also means guaranteeing its future, transferring to new generations the artistic testimony, a cultural heritage that represents the foundation on which to build and nourish human knowledge. Laudato Si' invites us to take care of our common home, and in this context, architecture might become a bridge between hope and reconciliation.

Tatiana Bilbao Estudio

Our work always embraces multidisciplinary perspectives to amplify the impact and scope of each project. Opera Aperta exemplifies this approach: a collective enterprise that integrates research, design, community-led strategies and responsible construction. We could not be more honoured to lead this project, especially in such an inspiring group. The Venice Biennale is a fundamental platform for architectural conversation and practice, a space where new ideas take shape. We see this opportunity to position architecture as an act of care, to recognise the urgency of caring for the environment and communities in these uncertain times, and to instill in our profession - and the world at large - a renewed sense of purpose.

MAIO Architects

At MAIO we embrace the ever-evolving complexity of everyday life, advocating an architecture that is open, adaptive and responsive, rather than rigid or prescriptive. Our work explores spatial systems designed to evolve over time, promoting care, collaboration and interdependence between different individuals and communities. Over the years, we have experimented with community kitchens, home and work interiors, and public spaces-reinterpreting how architecture can be practiced and experienced. Opera Aperta takes this vision to its fullest expression, acting as an experimental workshop where new ways of living and relating to architecture take shape.

Michele Coppola, Executive Art, Culture and Historical Heritage Director - Intesa Sanpaolo, General Director of Gallerie d'Italia

The collaboration between Intesa Sanpaolo and the Dicastery for Culture and Education grows from a solid common vision, which recognises in art an extraordinary tool for addressing contemporary social challenges. In this logic, we are pleased to renew our support to the Pavilion of the Holy See at the Biennale 2025, which will propose a project for the regeneration of the spaces of Santa Maria Ausiliatrice to give life to an open place of sharing and creativity, also described in a catalogue to be published by Allemandi. Supporting with conviction this initiative, of profound artistic and human value, expresses the full awareness of the role that Italy's leading bank can play in the cultural and social growth of its country.

José Texeira, President DST Group

The partnership between the Dicastery for Culture and Education and DST Group for the 2025 Venice Architecture Biennale grows from a common understanding of the idea that architecture has a social and community restorative role in cities. There is an urgent need to understand the causes of the fragility of cities to repair their cracks. There is an urgent need for art, culture and architecture to intervene so that the city, its streets and houses do not



exclude the community that inhabits them. There is an urgent need for all those who live in the city's houses to have a dignified life, a good life. Architecture can help heal the wounds of cities.