



Climate Wunderkammer (20 May – 26 November 2023)
Collateral Event of the 18th International Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia

Location: Palazzo Badoer, Calle de la Laca, 2468, 30125 Venezia VE, Italy.

Climate change and the accompanying ecological degradation is creating a world unknown to current generations of humans, which requires a mindset of resilience and hope if we are to navigate the challenges ahead. Designers are faced with three challenges. The first is to find ways to address the immediate challenges of specific, predictable disasters; the second is a more proactive adaptation of the built environment through measures such as diversity and adaptability to as yet unknown challenges; and the third, more profound challenge, is to transform our ways of being and doing so that we can create a better world from the ashes of the old. These three challenges inform the themes around which we structured this project.

Our installation, 'Climate Wunderkammer', aims to immerse ourselves in a multi-sensory experience of climate change impact while sharing practical solutions to address and adapt to it. It exhibits a collection of narratives from our planet through drawings, videos and voice recordings, a Wunderkammer of messages in bottles to open and discover. In each story depicting the threat and impact of climate change, we present tentative answers to adapt or address the new condition to inspire places undergoing similar climate trends in the future. We believe that the climate has no borders and that no one can solve this global issue alone on a local scale. This archive of narratives will generate the seed for setting up a global platform for sharing knowledge and mutual learning, especially learning from the most fragile places undergoing the impact of climate change.

In addition to an installation, the Climate Wunderkammer offers the 'Climate Roundtables' and the 'Atlas of Hope' Conference during the Biennale. The roundtables are hybrid dialogues led by the involved institutions in which various participants share and reflect on narratives and practices of response, adaptation and transformation. The conference offers a platform for sharing knowledge between invited academics, practitioners and students from all over the world to collaborate on developing narratives of hope through devising possible actions and solutions.

The Climate Wunderkammer is a project promoted by RWTH Aachen University, Politecnico di Milano (PoliMi), Università di Venezia (IUAV), Delft University of Technology, Chalmers University of Technology, Alexandria University, German Jordanian University, University of Pretoria, Singapore University of Technology and Design, and International Union of Architects.

Curators are Christa Reicher and Ceren Sezer (RWTH), Eugenio Morello (PoliMi) and Francesco Musco (IUAV). PLAM Creative Studio took care of the graphic, installation and experience design. Francesco Ulian contributed to the motion design. The digital archive is the work of Bige Tunçer and Tan Zhi Sheng. Participants include (in alphabetical order) Mohamed Assem, Cem Ataman, Monica Billger, Carlo Federico dall'Omo, Andy van den Dobbelsesteen, Jan Hugo, Israa H. Mahmoud, Vittorio Negretto, Daniele Santucci, Maram Tawil, Liane Thuvander, International Union of Architects and students.