



La Biennale di Venezia

18. Mostra
Internazionale
di Architettura

Partecipazioni Nazionali

**(Sweating Assets)
National Pavilion of the Kingdom of Bahrain
at the 18th International Architecture Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia**

The Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities is pleased to announce the Kingdom of Bahrain's National participation at the 18th International Architecture Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia. The pavilion titled "Sweating Assets", is commissioned by His Excellency Sheikh Khalifa Bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, President of the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities. The curatorial team comprises architects Latifa Alkhayat and Maryam Aljomairi.

The pavilion, located in Arsenale (Artiglierie) explores the unique climatic conditions of extreme heat and humidity alongside current demands for comfort in Bahrain. The exhibition traverses scales—from the domestic to the territorial—highlighting the position of cooling infrastructure in relation to a wider ecosystem. *Sweating Assets* is an adaptive means of resource management, that entails working with existing systems to their best capacities rather than starting anew. It considers our built environments, infrastructure, and relationships as a complex, resource-rich, man-made landscape subject to cannibalization. By no means encouraging wasteful usage of cooling systems, the possibilities (rather than solutions) made through their necessary consumption are uncovered. In Bahrain's intense conditions of high heat and humidity, air conditioning produces proportionally high condensate. Utilizing this unintended byproduct of anthropogenic activity, loose ends are tied, redirecting water to other parts within the larger ecology.

The exhibition's microenvironment is a choreography of temperature, humidity, and condensation. It conveys the omnipresent conditions and experiences of life on the island. Supplementing the import of the climate is a call for the collection and rerouting of the incidental condensate reserves towards wetlands and agricultural regions in need of replenishment. A landscape sits adjacent to a cold condensing volume, demonstrating the dichotomy of industrial systems against transient ecological grounds.

This volume is an emblem of the constantly cooled and condensing living enclosures. As Venice's thick air comes into contact with the volume, at dew point temperature, water constantly releases across its surface. Coatings, channels, and grooves control condensation patterns along with the movement of water. From the surface, water is collected and led to

'deposits' on an earthen landscape. The deposits each represent regions scaled based on quantitative analysis of the cooling they consume and subsequent condensate they produce.

The publication "Sweating Assets: On Climate Conditioning and Ecology" complements the exhibition by providing numerical analysis and qualitative speculations and writings. A nationwide audit studies cooling infrastructure, its environmental implications, and offerings in the form of water.

More information on the website: www.sweatingassets.bh

Or contact: bahrainpavilion@culture.gov.bh

Social media: [@Culturebah](https://www.instagram.com/Culturebah)

Inauguration:

Thursday, 18th May, 2023, 12:00 pm
Arsenale, Venezia

About the curators:

Maryam Aljomairi (b.1995) is a multidisciplinary architect and doctoral candidate at Harvard University. Her research spans across scales—from nano to macro—lying at the intersection of technology, material programming, and computational fabrication. She holds an MS in Design & Computation from MIT, a BArch from the American University of Sharjah, and has practiced between New York, Bahrain, and Dubai.

Latifa Alkhatat (b.1996) holds a Master of Architecture from MIT. While speculating on future material practices, she explores their technical potential and maintains a sensitivity towards cultural reception and ecological impact. As an architectural researcher and practitioner, she has experience in Manama, London, and Cambridge. She received her degree in Architecture from the University of Bath in 2018.