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**PRO HELVETIA
SWISS PAVILION**

TWO-PHASE COMPETITION ON A SELECTIVE PROCEDURE BASIS

17th INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE EXHIBITION – LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA, 2020

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A. Introduction

Just as the city itself draws large crowds on account of its character and cultural heritage, the Venice Biennale also attracts the public by virtue of its prestige and specific context. Offering as it does the possibility of opening up a debate on architecture through an international exhibition, the Architecture Biennale has become an attractive event in the architectural world since its creation.

Pro Helvetia has been closely involved with cultural developments in Switzerland since 1939. Mandated by the Swiss Confederation, it promotes artistic creation in Switzerland, contributes to cultural exchange at home, promotes the dissemination of Swiss culture abroad and fosters cultural outreach. From 2012, Pro Helvetia has assumed responsibility for the Swiss Pavilion at the Venice Biennales, which are among the most important international platforms for contemporary art and architecture. Previously, this responsibility was borne by the Federal Office of Culture.

Pro Helvetia promotes Swiss art and culture while keeping in mind variety and ensuring quality. As per the Arts and Culture Promotion Act and its message on culture, one of the responsibilities includes the Swiss contribution to the art and architecture biennials in Venice. Pro Helvetia would like to invite architects, researchers, critics and other active followers of architecture to participate in a two-phase selective procedure competition for the Swiss Pavilion at the 2020 Biennale.

Submissions should present an exhibition concept based on a theme pertinent to contemporary architectural discourse. All submissions must have a specific connection to Swiss architectural discourse. Due to the timeline, the Swiss theme selected will be independent of that of the Biennale of 2020, which is as yet unknown.

The competition is open to persons who either hold Swiss nationality or reside permanently in Switzerland. The competition is based on a two-phase selective process. The budget provided by Pro Helvetia is CHF 280,000 and must be respected.

The exhibition will take place in the Swiss Pavilion located in the «Giardini Della Biennale» in Venice. It will remain open for the duration of the Architecture Biennale, from May to November 2020. The precise dates will be announced by Biennale organisers one year prior to opening.

For more than a century, the Venice Biennale has been one of the most prestigious exhibitions worldwide. Ever since its foundation in 1895, it has been at the avant-garde, promoting new artistic trends and organising international events in contemporary arts. The Architecture Biennale first took place in 1980.

The Swiss Pavilion in Venice, situated directly at the main entrance to the «Giardini Pubblici», was created by the architect Bruno Giacometti in 1951/52 and is in the possession of the Swiss Confederation. The design is based on the original and functional division of a space for sculpture, graphic design and painting. As per its legal mandate, Pro Helvetia has been responsible for organising Swiss contributions to both the art and architecture Biennales in the Swiss Pavilion.

B. Regulations

Organiser

Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia.

Address of Project Head and organiser

Team Swiss participation Venice Biennale, Visual Arts, Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia, Hirschengraben 22, CH-8024 Zurich. Email: swisspavilion20@prohelvetia.ch

Type of competition and objective

Project design and realisation of the Swiss Pavilion for the Venice Architecture Biennale of 2020. This is a selective procedure competition conducted in two phases.

Participation

By entering the competition, the jury and the participants confirm their acceptance of current regulations and procedures.

The competition is open to people holding Swiss nationality or residing permanently in Switzerland, who are active in the field of architecture or in domains related to architecture. The interdisciplinary teams are comprised of architects or persons active in fields related to architecture and of a curator or persons working in the field of artistic outreach, with experience in the development, organisation and production of exhibitions. The Swiss aspect or a connection with Switzerland is the basic prerequisite for the make-up of the team. Whatever the composition of the team, it must designate a leader.

Replies to questions

Questions can be sent to swisspavilion20@prohelvetia.ch until Sunday, 8 July 2018 at midnight (CET). Replies to all questions will be published in PDF form on Friday, 13 July 2018 from 12pm (CET) on myprohelvetia.ch, and will be visible to all participants.

Composition of the jury

President: Céline Guibat, architect EPFL sia, Zurich, Sion

Professional members: Anna Hohler (Lic. Phil. 1, Lausanne)
Venera Konrad (architecture curator, Vorarlberg)
Lukas Meyer (architect ETH, FAS, Bellinzona)
Rob Wilson (architecture editor, the architects' journal, London UK)

Specialist advice:

The jury reserves the right to ask questions of specialist advisors and additional consultants if necessary.

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Deadlines and due dates

Call for applications	Monday, 18 June 2018
Questions	Sunday, 8 July 2018, until midnight by e-mail to: swisspavilion20@prohelvetia.ch
Replies will be visible to all participants	Friday, 13 July 2018, from 12pm (CET) will be published via PDF on myprohelvetia.ch
First round: Delivery of pre-qualification	Sunday, 16 September 2018 online until midnight
Information to teams selected	Thursday, 1 November 2018
Public announcement of the first-round results	Friday, 2 November 2018 online on biennials.ch
Presentation to jury of selected projects and feedback from jury	Friday – Saturday, 16 – 17 November 2018
Second round: Presentation of project to jury	Friday – Saturday, 18 – 19 January 2019
Nomination of the project selected for the Swiss Pavilion	March 2019
Publication of all the projects of the first and second rounds on the portal biennials.ch	During April 2019
Development and production of the project with Pro Helvetia	March 2019 to April 2020
Opening of the Swiss Pavilion	During May 2020

Documents issued

The following documents are available on the platform myprohelvetia.ch

- Regulations and specifications of the competition
- Plan of the Giardini Pubblici
- Vector DWG plan and PDF of the Swiss Pavilion
- Documentation of the Swiss Pavilion
- Orthophoto of the site
- Photos of the site

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Documents to be delivered

First round: Preselection

A concise and expressive presentation of the theme, the concept of the exhibition, the composition and qualifications of the team. The dossier must be presented in PDF form, a maximum of two A3 landscape format pages, containing the following information:

- The working title of the exhibition
- An explanatory text on the theme and the concept of the exhibition (max. 500 words), inclusive a short summary of few sentences resuming the idea in english
- An illustration (sketch, drawing, collage, etc.) showing the potential of the concept for transposition into a quality exhibition in the Swiss Pavilion
- Team composition and short biography of each person
- If possible references from achievements

Second round: Development of 5 to 7 preselected projects

- Development of the exhibition concept
- A maximum of 4 × A1 horizontals as presentation aids
- 1 × A4 document containing a synthesis of the project development
- Models are welcome
- Presentation with visual aid is possible

Assessment criteria

Clarity, contemporary pertinence of the theme chosen.

Visual potential of the exhibition concept.

Potential of the theme chosen in curatorial and spatial terms.

Capacity of the team to reflect, in a clear and innovative manner, a contemporary architectural issue.

Representation of the Swiss scene and its present architectural reality.

Integration of the concept in the architecture of the Swiss Pavilion.

Communication, legibility and capacity to address a wide international audience.

Compliance with the budget of 280,000 CHF, including fees, production, visual support and communication.

Prizes

A lump sum of 2,000 CHF will be offered to teams preselected for the second round to cover all expenses incurred.

Communication

Once the final decision by Pro Helvetia has been made following the jury's recommendation all participants will be informed about the result in writing. The submissions selected for the second round may be exhibited in a yet-to-be-decided public venue. All of the project submissions of the first and second phases will be accessible online at biennials.ch from the opening of the Biennale 2020.

Continuation of the study

The team selected must work in collaboration with the Pro Helvetia team, which will assist it with the management and production of the exhibition.

Place

The place of jurisdiction is in Zurich.

Language

The official languages of the competition are the national languages, German, French and Italian.

C. Specifications

Submissions will develop an exhibition concept based on a theme pertinent to contemporary architectural discourse. However, whilst the choice of theme is free, submissions must demonstrate a specific connection to Swiss architectural discourse. The selected Swiss theme will be independent from that of the 2020 Biennale, as the latter's has not yet been defined.

The Swiss Pavilion in Venice is the perimeter for the competition. The exterior amenities are limited to the grounds of the Swiss Pavilion. The implementation and execution of the project will be carried out in collaboration with Pro Helvetia.

The budget of the undertaking is limited to a total amount of CHF 280,000, which forms an integral part of the project specifications. The budget includes fees, the cost of implementation and all the visual support and catalogues necessary for the execution of the project. If necessary, this amount can be increased through sponsorship, etc., on the initiative of individual participants. All the funding strategy should be presented clearly in the second round.