

## «Salon Suisse»: The next 100 Years – Scenarios for an Alpine City State, Collateral Event of the 14th International Architecture Exhibition - la Biennale di Venezia

**Curators:** Hiromi Hosoya and Markus Schaefer

**Location:** Palazzo Trevisan degli Ulivi, Dorsoduro 810, Vaporetto stop: Zattere

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Complementing the exhibition at the Pavilion of Switzerland at the 14th International Architecture Exhibition – la Biennale di Venezia, the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia organizes a Collateral Event entitled «Salon Suisse». The «Salon Suisse», now in its third year, is a programme of talks and events offering a platform for exchange on contemporary architecture and thought in a relaxed atmosphere.

This year's «Salon Suisse» is curated by Zurich-based architects and urbanists Hiromi Hosoya and Markus Schaefer, founders of Hosoya Schaefer Architects, who have put together an ambitious programme of events focusing on questions around urban development in Switzerland and the increasing pressure of urbanization worldwide.

The events will be modelled after a Constitutional Assembly and serve as a thought experiment in critical urbanity. Projecting this Biennale's preoccupation with the last century into the future and using the historic arc of the Venetian city state as a backdrop, how can the next 100 years be envisioned in an increasingly urban and volatile world? What would a contemporary conception for Switzerland be in this context? If it had to be founded today, what would be its guiding principles, its business model and its social contract? And how could architecture and urban design support such an endeavour; to what extent do these disciplines need to be political?

To discuss these questions the curators invited thinkers, practitioners and activists to envision such a state and ultimately a physical environment inspired by but without the gritty detail of today's political reality.

The opening event takes place on June 7 at 11am as an «Inaugural Session» accompanied by a brunch. This initial hearing is meant to collect short statements from Swiss and international practitioners on possible «Scenarios for an Alpine City State» as a missive for the Salons to come.

The First Salon (4 to 6 September) «Design – The Nature of Cities» attempts to establish a shared understanding of cities and of the state of the contemporary urban system with the participation of urban geographer Edward D. Soja, science fiction writer Kim Stanley Robinson, complex systems scientist Didier Sornette or anthropologist and activist David Graeber amongst several others.

The Second Salon (9 to 11 October) «Build – The Reality of Cities» questions how urban ideas become reality. The discussion includes politicians, entrepreneurs and practitioners

such as Japanese architectural planner Yasuaki Onoda and the urban designers Jan Gehl, Marc Angéilil and Yoshiharu Tsukamoto among others.

The Third Salon (30 October to 1 November) «Use – The Culture of Cities» approaches the theme of how culture emerges within a city. The talks include author and co-founder of Neustart Schweiz Hans Widmer as well as Opendata.ch co-founder Hannes Gassert. Norihito Nakatani and Jiang Jun, contributors of the Japanese and Chinese pavilions respectively, will discuss their research on more traditional forms of collectives with among others Mark Leonard, Co-Founder and Director of the European Council on Foreign Relations, the first pan-European think-tank.

The «Final Assembly» is the closing event of the «Salon Suisse» 2014 (20 to 22 November). It will focus on summarizing and editing the results of the Salon in collaboration with writers and journalists such as Lukas Bärfuss or Finn Canonica who accompanied the entire series by recording and intervening.

For the duration of the series of events, the «Salon Suisse» is open three days a week, on Thursday to Saturday from 6.00pm to 10.00pm. For a detailed programme of the «Salon Suisse» please visit: [www.biennials.ch](http://www.biennials.ch).

As partner of the «Salon Suisse», Laufen Bathrooms AG is contributing to the events at the Palazzo Trevisan with the intention of participating in and encouraging an international dialogue in the fields of architecture and design.

Sponsors of the «Salon Suisse» weekends:

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## **Note to editors**

### **The curators, Hiromi Hosoya and Markus Schaefer**

The curators of the «Salon Suisse» 2014 are Hiromi Hosoya and Markus Schaefer who established Zurich-based Hosoya Schaefer Architects together in 2003. The office specializes in architecture, urban design and research.

Hiromi Hosoya studied architecture at the Rhode Island School of Design and at Harvard University Graduate School of Design. She worked for five years for Toyo Ito & Associates Architects in Tokyo until co-founding her own office with Markus Schaefer in 2003. She has taught interdisciplinary design studios at Cornell University in 2005 and 2006 and was a professor at the Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna, Austria from 2007 to 2012. She also taught an advanced design studio at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design.

Markus Schaefer has a Masters of Architecture from Harvard University Graduate School of Design as well as a Masters of Science in Neurobiology from the University of Zürich. From 1999 – 2003 Markus Schaefer worked for OMA in Rotterdam, the final two years as a director of AMO. He was a guest professor at the Berlage Institute in Rotterdam (2005 – 2006) and a professor at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna (2007 – 2009). He lectures and publishes regularly and is also co-founder and head of research at CityTrackerX AG, a privately-funded start-up aimed at understanding the dynamics of cities and urban regions.

### **The Palazzo Trevisan degli Ulivi in Venice**

The second floor of the Palazzo Trevisan degli Ulivi at Zattere in the heart of Venice's old town belongs to the Swiss Confederation and houses the offices of the Swiss Consulate. Initiated by Pro Helvetia, the «Salon Suisse» is held in the main room of the Palazzo as of 2012. Palazzo Trevisan degli Ulivi, Dorsoduro 810, is close to Campo S. Agnese. The nearest vaporetto stop is Zattere.