



Australian  
Institute of  
Architects

# 18th International Architecture Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia

—  
**Call for 2023  
Creative Directors**

Prepared by the Australian  
Institute of Architects 2022

Photographer: Rory Gardiner





# 18TH VENICE ARCHITECTURE BIENNALE 2023.

**The Australian Institute of Architects (the Institute) invites Expressions of Interest for the role of Creative Director for the Australian exhibition at the 18th Venice Architecture Biennale 2023.**

The Biennale is one of the oldest and most prestigious international exhibitions of architecture, showcasing leaders in contemporary design and architecture from around the world. The Biennale is a unique opportunity to reach non-traditional and underserved audiences. The Institute, through its Venice Biennale Committee, aims to engage these audiences in Venice and through local outreach activities associated with the exhibition.

The Venice Biennale Committee's vision is to cement Australian representation internationally and nationally by showcasing the highest standards of Australian architecture and architectural innovation.

The Committee aims to develop exhibitions that showcase Australian architectural thinking, culture and design, and that tell a rich and engaging story about architecture and the Australian built environment to an international audience. The successful Creative Directors will both speculate and analyse our culture and the 2023 theme.

Our participation in the Venice Biennale sets the example for Australian design achievement. The successful team will be on the world stage of architecture and culture and expected to be an exemplar for the Australian architectural profession.

**The Biennale is to be held on the following key dates:**

- Vernissage - 18 - 19 May 2023
- Open to Public - 20 May - 26 November 2023



# 1.0 BACKGROUND

The International Architecture Biennale is a bi-annual architecture and art festival organised by La Biennale di Venezia, Società di Cultura, formed for the express purpose of planning and implementing all Venetian biennial exhibitions including those for visual arts, architecture and film. Typically, at least 85 countries including Australia, participate in the Venice Architecture and Art Biennale.

The Institute has facilitated Australia's representation at the Venice Architecture Biennale since 2005. Our commitment has been substantial and ongoing with successful exhibitions at the last seven Biennales.

## **2006: Micro Macro City**

Creative Directors Shane Murray and Nigel Bertram

## **2008: ABUNDANT**

Creative Directors Neil Durbach, Vince Frost, Wendy Lewin, Kerstin Thompson and Gary Warner

## **2010: NOW and WHEN**

Creative Directors John Gollings and Ivan Rijavec

## **2012: Formations**

Creative Directors Anthony Burke, Gerard Reinmuth, with TOKO concept design

## **2014: Augmented Australia: 1914 – 2014**

Creative Directors felix.\_Giles\_  
Anderson+Goad

## **2016: The Pool**

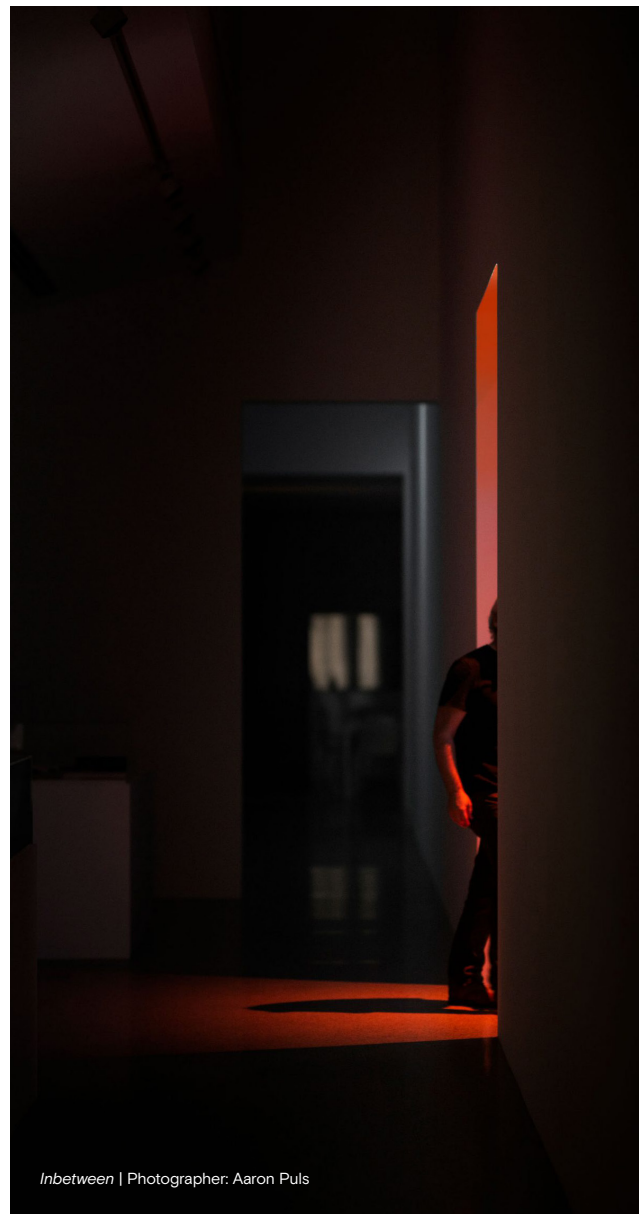
Creative Directors Amelia Holliday, Isabelle Toland (Aileen Sage) and Michelle Tabet

## **2018: Repair**

Creative Directors Mauro Baracco, Louise Wright with Linda Tegg

## **2020/21: Inbetween**

Creative Directors Jefa Greenway and Tristan Wong



*Inbetween* | Photographer: Aaron Puls



# 1.0 BACKGROUND CONT.

## 2021: INBETWEEN

Creative Directors Tristan Wong and Jefa Greenway

The Venice Architectural Biennale includes a range of exhibitions and related activities. These include a major exhibition (curated by the International Biennale Director) in the Arsenale, the National Pavilion exhibitions (selected by the individual participating countries) in the Giardini, thematic exhibitions and an umbrella program throughout Venice.

The profile of the event is growing rapidly and in 2018, the exhibition saw the highest visitation figures on record, with over 200,000 people visiting the Australian Pavilion. Thousands of the world's most influential architects, designers, urban planners and critics visit the Biennale. Australia's exhibition at the Biennale historically generates significant media coverage both domestically and internationally.



Inbetween | Photographer: SJB



## 2.0 2023 THEME

The President of La Biennale di Venezia, Roberto Cicutto, and the Curator of the 18th International Architecture Exhibition, Lesley Lokko announced on 30 May 2022 the title and theme of the Biennale Architettura 2023 is, **The Laboratory of the Future.**

Lesley Lokko, said that La Biennale di Venezia itself is itself a kind of laboratory of the future, a time and space in which speculations about the [architectural] discipline's relevance to this world — and the world to come — take place.



Lesley Lokko – Curator for the 18th International Architecture Exhibition to be held in 2023. Courtesy of Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture.

She said “we envisage our exhibition as a kind of workshop, a laboratory where architects and practitioners across an expanded field of creative disciplines draw out examples from their contemporary practices that chart a path for the audience — participants and visitors alike — to weave through, imagining for themselves what the future can hold.

She went onto say that “hope [for a more modern, diverse, equitable and inclusive society] is a powerful currency. To be hopeful is to be human. But, hope can also be a seductive and persuasive image .. a mirage. So, something more than representation is needed, and architects historically are key players in translating images into reality.”

For added context around this year's theme, it's worth noting that Lesley Lokko (Ghana/Scotland) is the founder and director of the African Futures Institute, established in Accra, Ghana, in 2020 as a postgraduate school of architecture and public events platform. In 2015 she founded the Graduate School of Architecture at the University of Johannesburg.

In explaining the theme, Lesley said last night that “there is one place on this planet where all these questions of equity, diversity, inclusivity, race, hope and fear converge and coalesce. Africa. At an anthropological level, we are all African. And what happens in Africa happens to us all. Africa is the laboratory of the future. Africa is the world's fastest urbanising continent, such rapid and largely unplanned growth generally being at the expense of local environment and ecosystems, placing the continent at the coal face of climate change, health care (in so far as the impact of pandemic is concerned), civil rights and racial equity.”

## 3.0 THE AUSTRALIA PAVILION

The Australian Pavilion is one of only 29 national pavilions within the Biennale Gardens (Giardini della Biennale), all built at different periods by various countries. The Pavilion is owned by the Australia Council for the Arts, who provide it to the Institute for the period of the Architecture Biennale.

The Pavilion was designed by Denton Corker Marshall and completed in 2015. The two-storey structure provides 330 square meters of exhibition space. The pavilion presents as a black granite box with flexible panels that can be opened or remain closed, as directed by exhibition needs. Further information including floor plans are included in the additional information section of this document.

## 4.0 THE ROLE OF THE CREATIVE DIRECTORS

The Creative Director's role is solely focused on the curation of the Exhibition, with the formal, social and operational aspects being the responsibility of the Institute management team.

The exhibition is required to reflect the overall 2023 Venice Biennale theme and showcases Australian architectural thinking, culture and design, communicating a rich and engaging story about architecture and the Australian built environment to an international audience.

It should represent and explore the place and experience of architecture in the Australian community in an international context. The exhibition showcases Australian architecture to the world, connecting our profession to an international audience.

Arguably, the most memorable exhibits from past Biennales have demonstrated common attributes, including an exceptionally clear and potent idea, an ability to engage with different levels of audience commitment (both time and intellectual investment), and a directness of communication style.

For 2023, the Venice Biennale Committee seeks a powerful idea that reveals what is particular, but also prescient, about Australian architecture. A successful concept will be captivating, thought-provoking and inspirational. Consideration should also be given to the curated exhibition's journey post-Venice and its adaptability to tour nationally across Australia once the exhibition closes in Venice.

## 5.0 SELECTION CRITERIA

The Selection Panel will assess and shortlist submissions that engage with the following key criteria:

- The ambition, innovation, quality, readiness and appropriateness of the proposal to represent Australia internationally and nationally
- The relevance and compatibility of the proposal to the overall theme of the Biennale
- The relevance to contemporary architectural practice and the development of architecture culture, ideas, challenges, concerns and practices in Australia
- Experience, expertise and success in mediating, communicating and delivering exhibitions of architecture to diverse audiences
- Experience in management of relevant projects
- Experience in budget management
- Organisational capacity and resources
- Availability to meet time and travel commitments
- Reporting and editorial skills for documentation and dissemination
- Ambition and capacity to deliver national presentations in Australia in 2023/2024.

## APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS

Applicants wishing to submit an application must meet the following requirements:

- The team must include a Curator with relevant curatorial expertise. The Curator may be one of the Creative Directors or on the creative team.
- It is desirable that the team has experience in communicating architecture to the public through exhibitions.
- Experience of working with the media and stakeholders in promotion of events and projects will be favourably regarded.
- At least 50% of the creative director team must be registered architects and current financial members of the Institute.



Photographer: Stephen Variday

## 6.0 SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

### STAGE 1 REQUIREMENTS

Submissions will present an exhibition theme, idea and concept, as well the capability and skills of the Creative Directors.

- A maximum five A4 pages (single-sided), 11-point font size submission is required as described below. The submission is to include the following:

#### **Concept Proposal (3 pages max):**

- Outline the concept proposal (including any diagrams, graphics, imagery), responding to each of the selection criteria.
- Nominate a 'working title' concept name.

#### **Nominated Creative Team (1 page max):**

- Outline the creative team members including Creative Director/s and any other proposed team members.
- For each team member, provide their current position, employment and contact details (telephone, email and postal address). No CVs or biographies are required at this stage.
- Nominate the Creative Director contact person representing the team as the primary contact.
- Nominate the names of the Creative Directors, noting that the Institute may publish shortlisted entries using the names provided.

#### **Statement of Experience and Capability (1 page max):**

- Outline the Creative Directors' experience and skills relevant to delivering the exhibition. Reference may be made to project design, curation and management capability. Submissions should also demonstrate success in meeting tight timeframes within defined budgets.

**At this stage, the Institute DOES NOT require or expect to see artistic impressions, models, scale drawings or detailed proposals.**

#### **SUBMISSION FORMAT**

Your submission needs to be in PDF format, maximum of five A4 pages.

#### **CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSIONS**

5.00pm AEST on Friday, 15 July 2022

**Submissions shall be emailed to [venice.biennale@architecture.com.au](mailto:venice.biennale@architecture.com.au)**



## 7.0 THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The Selection Panel will assess all submissions and shortlist a maximum of three submissions to progress to stage two. All submissions will be notified of their status at this time by the Institute.

- Shortlisted submissions who proceed to the second stage will be asked to present a developed concept proposal. An honorarium of \$1,000 will be paid to each shortlisted team who makes a conforming stage two submission.
- Stage two submissions will develop the exhibition concept to adequately convey the theme, design principles, proposed exhibitors and physical form the exhibition will take in the Australian Pavilion.
- The cost of domestic travel and accommodation will be reimbursed (if applicable) for up to two people per team, to allow the shortlisted submissions to deliver their presentation in person to the Selection Panel, dependent on where the majority of Panel participants are located.
- At the completion of stage two, the Selection Panel will recommend the successful team for consideration by the Venice Biennale Committee, who reserve the final decision on the appointment of the Creative Directors.
- If the Selection Panel decline to make a recommendation based on the quality of the submissions at stage two, the Venice Biennale Committee reserves the right to appoint a suitable Creative Director at their own discretion.



2018 Australian Pavilion Opening Party  
Photographer: Rory Gardiner



## STAGE 2 REQUIREMENTS

The submission for the stage two will require you to provide the following to the Selection Panel:

- An in-person PowerPoint presentation, detailing the exhibition concept and themes
- Visualisations to adequately convey the concept.

A submission outlining the concept and exhibition design (10 pages max) which includes the following:

- A proposed budget plan, outlining proposed costs
- A detailed operational project plan with key dates and deliverables.
- Biographies of Creative Directors.

**Stage two applicants will be asked to expand on the exhibition concepts, including design principles for installation in the Australian Pavilion in Venice, showcasing how the concept will take physical form, while fitting within the available budget.**

Submissions shall be emailed to [venice.biennale@architecture.com.au](mailto:venice.biennale@architecture.com.au)





## 8.0 BUDGET INFORMATION

The budget for the 2023 Australian exhibition has been provided to outline the exhibition costs committed to the Biennale event by the Australian Institute of Architects. The Institute will work closely with the successfully appointed Creative Directors to review and finalise the exhibition budget.

### 8.1 EXHIBITION BUDGET (ALL IN AUD)

A budget of \$100,000 (ex GST, where applicable) is budgeted for the Exhibition.

This budget is to include all equipment, materials, design and fabrication of the components required for the Exhibition – fully installed in Venice. This allowance must include exhibition multi-media, AV and projections, additional lighting, freight, deinstallation and applicable taxes.

### 8.2 HONORARIUM, FEES AND EXPENSES

- An honorarium of \$30,000 (excluding GST) will be paid to the Creative Directors.
- A further \$20,000 (excluding GST) is available to the Creative Directors and their essential installation team, for any travel expenses to and from Venice. This is to include flights, accommodation and per diem allowances associated with the preparation of the exhibition and for the Biennale set-up and attendance.
- The amount dedicated to travel is to be managed by the Creative Directors at their own discretion.
- A further \$10,000 (excluding GST) budget is allocated for graphic design costs.

The Institute will operate and manage a separate, additional budget for the following:

- Venetian-based Supervisor
- Supporting the exhibition in Australia (after Venice) and related costs
- Creative Director travel relating to media requirements/events and launches in Australia, as requested by the Institute team
- Staffing the exhibition for the duration of exhibition – including accommodation and per diems for volunteers
- Cleaning and general maintenance of the exhibition over the course of the six-month exhibition period
- All events and associated event management
- Photography of exhibition
- Institute staff/project management/media consultants
- Travel and accommodation of key Institute and Biennale committee stakeholders.

## 9.0 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

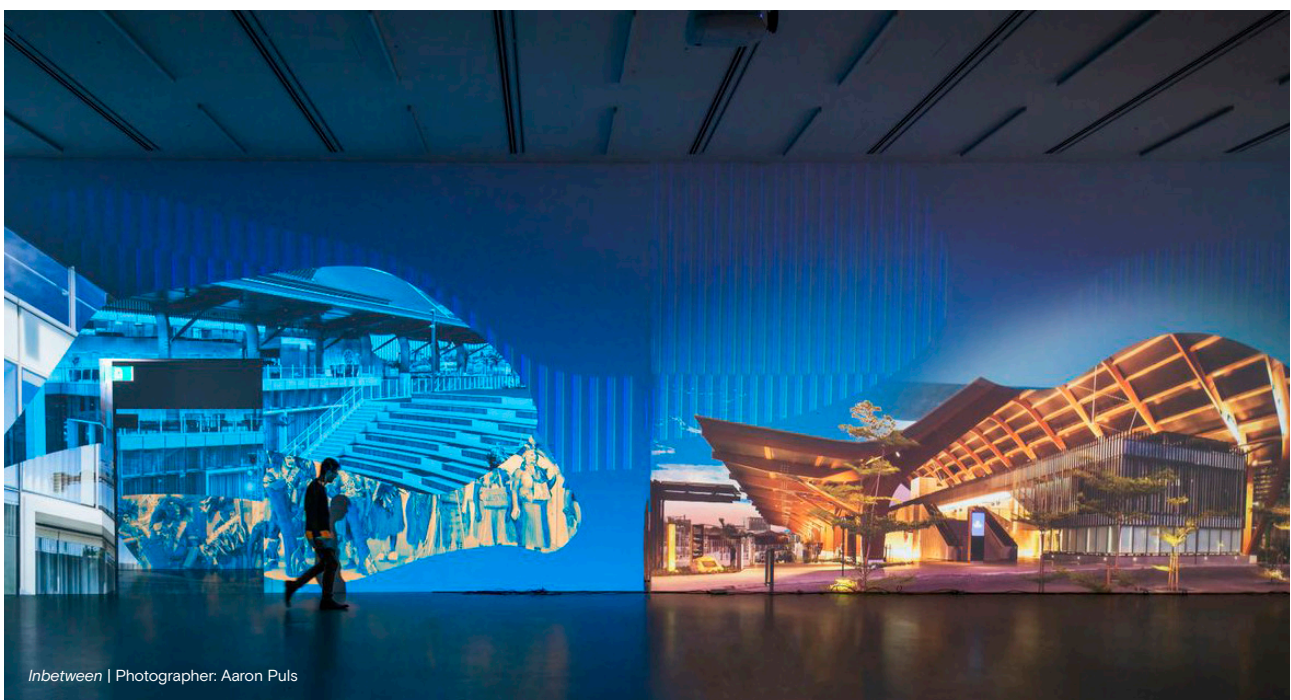
It's critical that the roles and responsibilities of the Creative Directors and the Institute are clearly defined to ensure the Biennale operates effectively within both operational and financial constraints.

### 9.1 CREATIVE DIRECTOR ROLES

**It is the role of the Creative Directors to undertake the following:**

- Agree to and abide by the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Institute and the Creative Directors
- Focus on the concept, theme, design and documentation of the exhibition design
- Agree with the Institute a Plan consisting of the Exhibition Theme, the Timeline and the Exhibitor's Budget within the constraints of the Exhibition
- Manage the Exhibition Budget, providing accurate and regular financial reporting to the Institute and VBC to ensure the Biennale operates within agreed financial parameters
- Oversight and control of the Pavilion installation
- Undertake the role of Creative Directors in good faith, subject to agreed provisions and time constraints.
- Attend functions associated with the event and meetings with potential sponsors in Venice and Australia.

Refer to the Institute's Creative Director Memorandum of Understanding for further detail. For a copy of the MOU, contact [Venice.Biennale@architecture.com.au](mailto:Venice.Biennale@architecture.com.au)



*Inbetween* | Photographer: Aaron Puls



## 9.2 THE INSTITUTE'S ROLE

The Institute will be responsible for all project management and delivery of the Biennale, and in particular, for the following:

- Overall program management of the 2023 Venice Biennale to ensure event success
- Manage all commercial and other agreements necessary for the Exhibition, including in relation to venues, products, exhibits, equipment, sponsorships and the like
- Allocation of Vernissage tickets and management of delegate lists for all events
- Coordination and management of all events
- Coordination and management of media and public relations
- Coordination and travel arrangements of Institute staff and volunteers
- Provide the benefit of Institute advice, experience and information in support of the Exhibition
- Market, promote, manage and ensure provision of all administrative, financial and operational requirements for the Exhibition
- Establish the Institute's Venice Biennale Committee and provide support to meetings of the Committee, providing the benefit of a dedicated Institute resource to guide and support the development and running of the Biennale
- Formally engage consultant(s) necessary for the exhibition, including the Graphic Design Provider nominated in the Creative Director's submission
- Put in place insurance required for the Exhibition in relation to public liability risk and exhibition content property insurance
- Managing relationships with the Venice Biennale Authority office, City of Venice and Australia Council for the Arts and other Federal Government bodies.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

We understand that you may have additional questions related to your submission, which we are very happy to assist with.

For further information or clarification on any elements covered in this Expression of Interest, please contact [venice.biennale@architecture.com.au](mailto:venice.biennale@architecture.com.au)

# 10.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

## VENUE

Since 1988 the Australia Council has owned and managed an Australian Pavilion exhibition building in Venice. The Council has provided the pavilion to the Australian Institute of Architects as part of their in-kind support for its involvement with the Venice Biennale. The Institute thanks the Australia Council for their generous and ongoing support.

Details of the pavilion exterior and internal spaces, as well as access are attached. Concepts for the 2023 Architecture Biennale should consider the feasibility of installation into the pavilion within the specifications provided. Exhibition designs should work with the new pavilion to create an overall visitor experience. Key features of the building include:

## EXTERIOR

East Elevation – two operable panels, one opens along the horizontal axis to reveal fixed glazing (approx. 3.2m W x 2.8m H) into exhibition gallery. The other opens along vertical axis to reveal panel on which signage / artwork can be applied.

West Elevation – one operable panel opens along vertical axis to reveal panel on which signage / artwork can be applied.

## INTERIOR

Ground Floor – consists of loading bay, storage, rubbish room, staff WC/shower, staff amenities and office.

Loading access is from canal to ground floor loading area. Loading doors – 3.2m W x 3.0m H, ceiling height 3.0m. A two-deck elevating platform

(3.0m L x 2.6m W x 3.0H) is used to transfer works from ground floor to exhibition gallery.

First Floor – consists of entry foyer (with reception desk including PA system) and the exhibition gallery.

The gallery space is 240m<sup>2</sup> with a ceiling height of 5m.

Walls – plasterboard over plywood, loading capacity 100kg/m<sup>2</sup> for 200kg per linear metre wall run.

Floors – sealed polished concrete, loading capacity 740kg/m<sup>2</sup>

Ceiling – perforated plasterboard with acoustic backing, five access hatches and six hanging points.

Lighting System (work lights) – modular ceiling-recessed continuous luminaire along grid (3000K) with controllable dimmable DALI ballast.

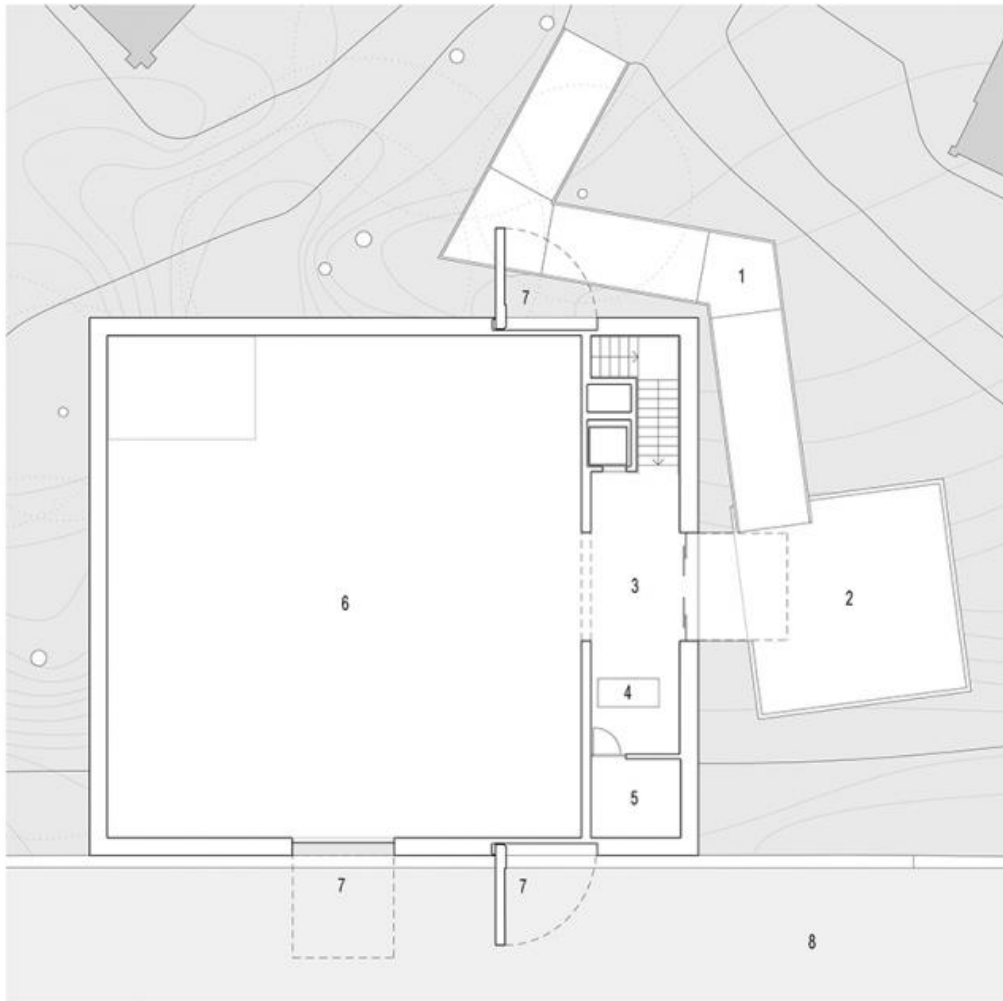
Lighting System (exhibition) – exhibition spots (3000K), combination of floods, washers and spots on ERCO Dali track.

Power – Australian and European sockets located on skirting along walls and at regular points in ceiling along outer and inner grid. Floor points located under, accessed from cable trays located along the ceiling of the ground floor.

Data – Ethernet points located on skirting along walls and at regular points in ceiling along outer and inner grid.



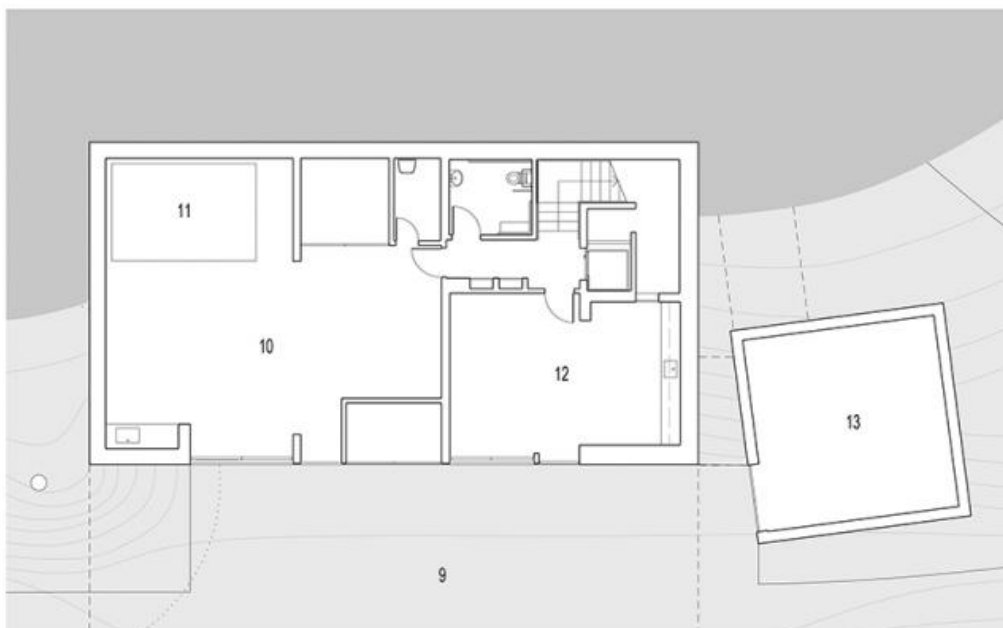
# 10.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION



LEVEL 1 PLAN

1:150 @ A3 0 1 2 5m

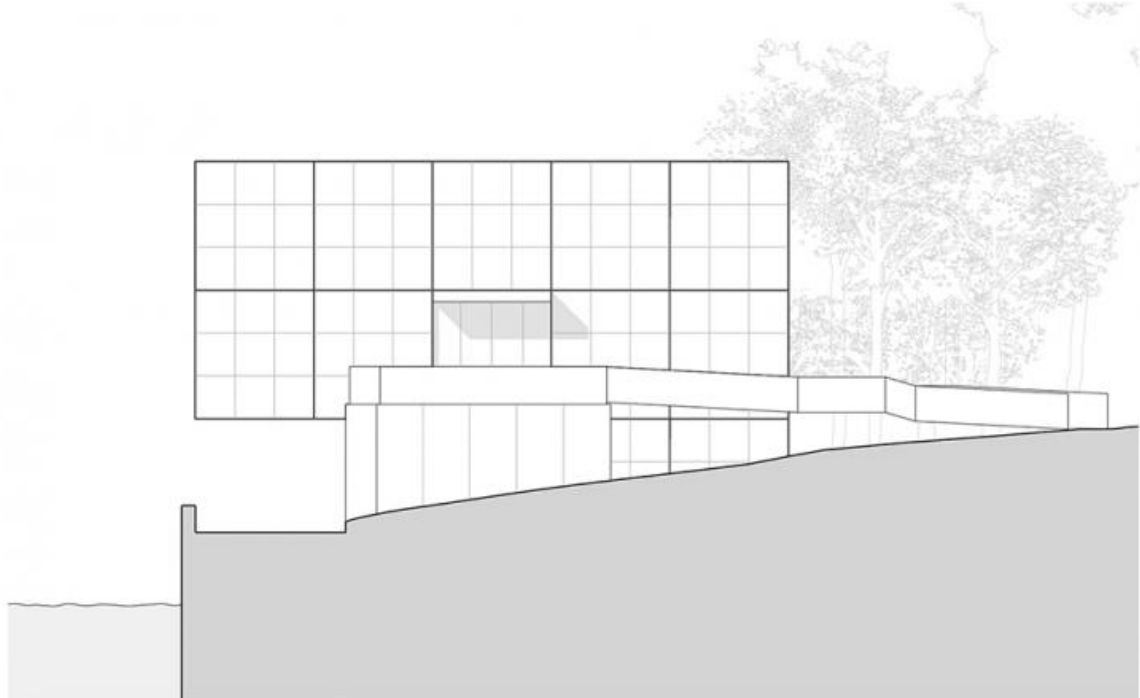
- 1 ACCESS BRIDGE
- 2 PLATFORM
- 3 ENTRANCE
- 4 RECEPTION
- 5 CLOAK ROOM
- 6 EXHIBITION GALLERY
- 7 OPERABLE FAÇADE
- 8 CANAL
- 9 PATH
- 10 LOADING BAY
- 11 PLATFORM LIFT
- 12 OFFICE
- 13 PLANT ROOM



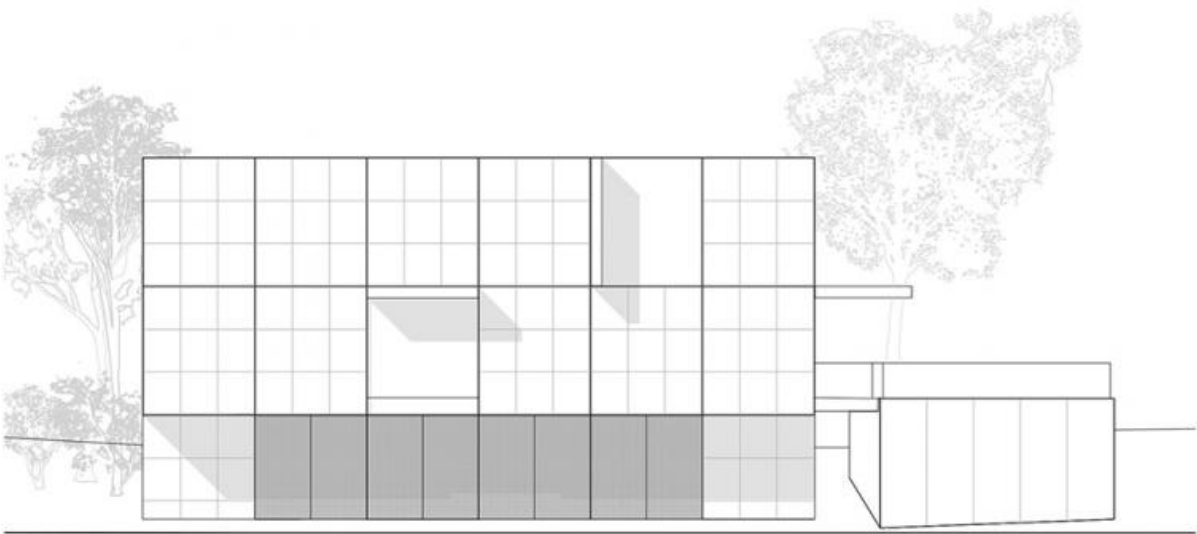
GROUND PLAN

1:150 @ A3 0 1 2 5m

# 10.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION



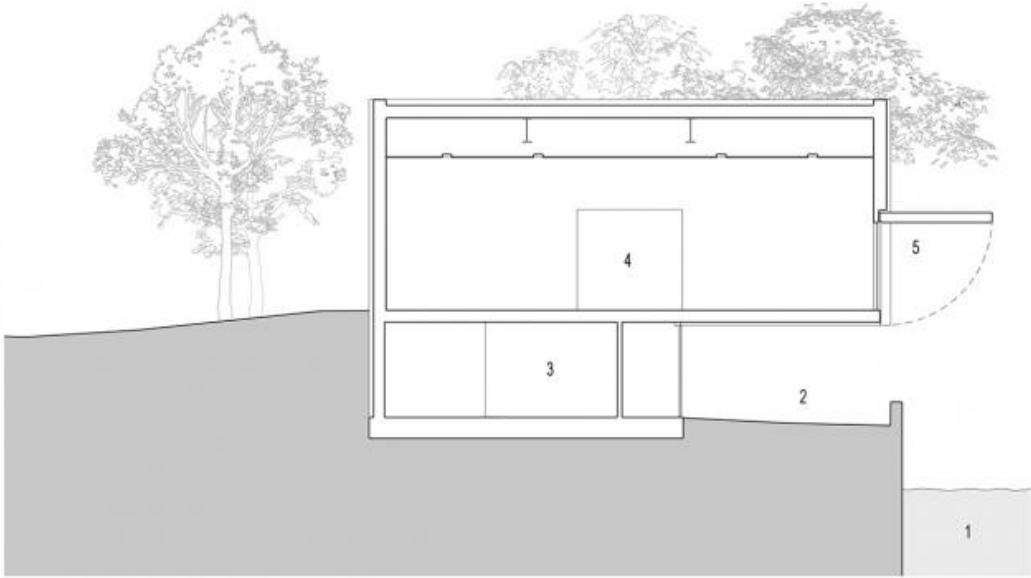
NORTH ELEVATION  
1:150 @ A3 0 1 2 5m



EAST ELEVATION  
1:150 @ A3 0 1 2 5m



# 10.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION



SECTION WEST-EAST  
1:150 @ A3 0 1 2 5m

- 1 CANAL
- 2 PATH
- 3 LOADING BAY
- 4 GALLERY
- 5 OPERABLE FAÇADE PANEL



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