

Pavilion of the United States of America

at the 14th International Architecture Exhibition — la Biennale di Venezia

For Immediate Release. Venice, Italy. June 2014.

OfficeUS, the U.S. Presentation at the 14th International Architecture Exhibition — la Biennale di Venezia, explores the last 100 years of United States architectural production abroad and the ways in which the U.S. architecture office has exported architecture around the globe.

Curators Eva Franch i Gilabert, Ana Miljački and Ashley Schafer re-imagine the U.S. Pavilion as an active, global, experimental architecture office that researches, studies, and remakes projects from an onsite archive of 1,000 buildings and the 200 U.S. based architecture offices engaged in their construction. Collectively, the projects in the archive tell multiple, imbricated stories of U.S. firms, typologies, and technologies. The office consists of 8 architects selected from an international open call, visiting experts, and outpost offices distributed worldwide. Over the 25 weeks of the Biennale, OfficeUS will revisit the projects in the archive, their premises and conclusions, to construct an agenda for the future production of architecture.

Collectively designed by New York based architects Leong Leong, graphic designer Natasha Jen/ Pentagram and technology consultants at CASE, OfficeUS dwells on fundamental aspects of historical office corporate identity and design. The design features a wall of project binders housing architectural documentation of each project and disrupts the classical floorplan of the pavilion through a large, collective work-space that moves through each room — inverting interior and exterior — presenting a depth to collect and display historical materials and work produced by the partners working in the office. OfficeUS looks simultaneously backward and forward, rethinking both historical material and office protocols from the archive, while using the U.S. pavilion-based office, OfficeUS, to develop new work and as a portal to host discussions and workshops.

“Taking history as its foundational ground, we envision OfficeUS not just as an exhibition, but as the first headquarters for a new model of global architectural production. In these ways, OfficeUS is an anti-exhibition, it turns the pavilion from presentation to demonstration. We are setting a stage for the architects and visitors to address and respond to the most pressing architectural anxieties of the last one hundred years,” say curators Franch i Gilabert, Miljački and Schafer.

OfficeUS is commissioned by Storefront for Art and Architecture, on behalf of the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The project is developed in collaboration with PRAXIS journal and with students from MIT’s Department of Architecture and the Knowlton School at The Ohio State University. Partner Lars Müller is publishing four catalogs about the exhibition and media partner Architizer is host to a series of online articles exploring the many layers of OfficeUS.

About the U.S. Representation at the 14th International Architecture Exhibition

The U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs supports and manages official U.S. participation at the Biennale Architettura 2014. The selection of OfficeUS for the U.S. Pavilion in 2014 resulted from an open competition and followed the recommendation of the Federal Advisory Committee on International Exhibitions (FACIE), convened by the National Endowment for the Arts. U.S. representation at this global event ensures that the excellence, vitality, diversity, and innovation of architecture in the United States are effectively showcased abroad, and provides an opportunity to engage foreign audiences to increase mutual understanding.

About Storefront for Art and Architecture

Founded in 1982, Storefront for Art and Architecture is a nonprofit organization committed to the advancement of innovative positions in architecture, art and design. Storefront’s program of exhibitions, artists talks, film screenings, conferences and publications is intended to generate dialogue and collaboration across geographic, ideological and disciplinary boundaries. As a public forum for emerging voices, Storefront explores vital issues in art and architecture with the intent of increasing awareness of and interest in contemporary design.

For more information visit www.officeus.org or contact:

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About PRAXIS

Founded in 1999, PRAXIS: a journal of writing + building has established itself as a distinctive voice in international architectural culture. Emphasizing the interdependence of technology, design, theory, and history, the journal addresses contemporary design issues in both depth and breadth, promoting connections between diverse fields of architectural production. It has engendered an architectural discourse uniquely rooted in practice. PRAXIS has received numerous awards and honors, including an I.D. award, and was twice awarded the largest grant in design from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Participants

A. L. Aydelott and Associates, Acconci Studio, Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture, Adrian Wilson Associates, AECOM, Albert Kahn Associates, Antoine Predock Architect PC, Arquitectonica, Arthur B. Froehlich and Associates, Asymptote Architecture, ATOPIA, Ayres, York and Sawyer, Bassetti Architects, Benjamin Thompson Associates, Bernard Tschumi Architects, Bohlin Cywinski Jackson, Brown Daltas and Associates, Cambridge Seven Associates, Cannon Design, Carl Koch, Carlos Zapata Studio, Cass Gilbert, Center for Environmental Structure, CRSS Inc., Daniel, Mann, Johnson & Mendenhall, Davis Brody Bond, Delano and Aldrich, Diller Scofidio + Renfro, Donald Hatch and Associates, Duany Plater-Zyberk & Company, Eduardo Catalano, Edward Durell Stone and Associates, Edward Larrabee Barnes Associates, Eero Saarinen and Associates, Eisenman Architects, Ellerbe Becket, Epstein, Frank Lloyd Wright, FXFOWLE Architects, Gehry Partners, Gensler, George A. Fuller Company, Gluckman Mayner Architects, Goettsch Partners, Graham, Anderson, Probst & White, Gunnar Birkerts and Associates, Gwathmey Siegel Kaufman Architects, Harrison and Abramovitz, Harry Weese Associates, Hartman-Cox Architects, Hashim Sarkis Studios, Helmle and Corbett, Henry Killam Murphy, HKS, Inc., Hodgetts + Fung, HOK, Holabird and Root, Höweler + Yoon Architecture, Hugh Stubbins and Associates, I. M. Pei Architect, Integrus, JAHN, Jerde Partnership, John Hejduk, John Johansen, John Portman and Associates, John Russell Pope, Joseph Allen Stein and Associates, Kevin Roche John Dinkeloo and Associates, KieranTimberlake, KMW Architecture, Koetter Kim and Associates, Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates, KVA matx, L.E.F.T, Lathrop Douglass, LEESER Architecture, Leo A Daly, Leong Leong, LOT-EK, Louis I. Kahn, Louise Braverman, Architect, Machado and Silvetti Associates, MACK Architect(s), Marcel Breuer Associates, MASS Design Group, McKim, Mead & White, Michael Graves and Associates, Michael Maltzan Architecture, Mitchell/Giurgola Architects, Moore Ruble Yudell, Morphosis Architects, Morris Lapidus Associates, MOS Architects, NADAAA, NBBJ, NELSON H2L2, OBRA Architects, Office dA, ORG Organization For Permanent Modernity, over,under, Paul Rudolph, Paul Williams, Payette, Pei Cobb Freed & Partners Architects, Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects, Perkins + Will, Perkins, Fellows and Hamilton, Perry Dean Rogers | Partners Architects, Philip Johnson / Alan Ritchie Architects, Polshek Partnership, Populous, Preston Scott Cohen, Rafael Viñoly Architects, Ralph Lerner Architects, Ralph Rapson, Raymond & Rado, REX Architecture, Richard J. Neutra, Richard Meier and Partners Architects, Robert A.M. Stern Architects, Robert P. Madison International, ROMA Design Group, RoTo Architecture, RTKL, RUR Architecture PC, Safdie Architects, Santos Prescott and Associates, Sasaki Associates, Schultze and Weaver, Selldorf Architects, Sert, Jackson and Associates, Shepley Bulfinch, SHoP, Shreve, Lamb and Harmon, SITE, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, Slade Architecture, SmithGroupJJR, SO-IL, Sorg Architects, SsD, Stan Allen Architect, Steven Holl Architects, Studio Daniel Libeskind, Studio Hillier, Studio Shanghai, studio SUMO, STUDIOS Architecture, The Architects Collaborative, The Austin Company, The Eggers Group, The Leonard Parker Associates, The Office of Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, Thomas W. Lamb, Tigerman McCurry Architects, Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects, Toshiko Mori Architect, Town Planning Associates, USIA-Masey, Utile, Venturi, Scott Brown and Associates, Victor A. Lundy, Victor Gruen International, Vincent G. Kling, VJAA, Walker and Gillette, Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony, Warren and Wetmore, WEISS/MANFREDI Architecture/Landscape/Urbanism, William B. Tabler Architects, William E. Parsons, William L. Pereira and Associates, William Welles Bosworth, Wimberly Allison Tong & Goo, Wodiczko + Bonder, WORKac, Yamasaki and Associates, Zago Architecture, Zimmer Gunsul Frasca



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