

Presented by Zuecca Projects  
and Coldefy  
Curated by Alessandro Possati  
and Thomas Coldefy

Press Release



La Biennale di Venezia

17. Mostra  
Internazionale  
di Architettura

Eventi Collaterali

# TROPICALIA

Architecture,  
Materials,  
Innovative Systems

Collateral Event of the 17th International  
Architecture Exhibition  
- La Biennale di Venezia

From May 22<sup>nd</sup> to November 21<sup>st</sup> 2021

*“Cities are fast growing and changing, the quality of air is increasingly impacted as we experience the effects of climate change. The balance between hardscape and softscape becomes difficult to manage. Facts and figures are becoming a new source of anxiety, as data continually enters our lives unwillingly. In anthropology, the domus was a unique and unprecedented phenomenon, consisting of an ensemble of tilled fields, seed and grain stores, people, and domestic animals, all co-evolving with effects no one could possibly have foreseen. The exhibition TROPICALIA, situated in the phantasmatic city grid of Venice, questions the impact of manmade structures in our daily lives and opens a broader discussion on the impact and experience of the question “Where does architecture stand today?”*

– Thomas Coldefy

The not-for-profit organization **Zuecca Projects** and **Coldefy** are proud to present the exhibition **TROPICALIA – Architecture, Materials, Innovative Systems**, a **Collateral Event** of the **17<sup>th</sup> International Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia**. Emblematic research and documentation of **Tropicalia**, the **largest single-dome greenhouse on the planet**, designed by the architecture firm Coldefy, will be presented. The exhibition is curated by **Alessandro Possati**, director of Zuecca Projects, and **Arch. Thomas Coldefy**, principal of Coldefy. It will be hosted at Squero Castello (Salizada Streta 368, Castello 30122, Venice), from **May 22<sup>nd</sup> to November 21<sup>st</sup> 2021**.

The exhibition presents emblematic tropical fauna and flora, the architectural and engineering specificities of *Tropicalia* greenhouse, and its unique sustainable air treatment engineering.

Greenhouse *Tropicalia*'s visitors will be plunged into a tropical atmosphere, a unique and marvellous natural bubble under its crystal skin, with stunning coloured butterflies and fluttering hummingbirds waltzing from flower to flower. The show is sensual, exciting, idyllic and, above all, will soon be real. In 2024, the biggest greenhouse in the world will be constructed on the Côte d'Opale (France) to offer an immersive experience, discovering extraordinary fauna and flora, and understanding its fragile ecosystem.

*Tropicalia* proposes 20,000 m<sup>2</sup> of tropic covered by an innovative dome rising to 35 meters, a 26 degrees ventilated temperature, a luxuriant vegetation bathed by an exceptional light, a tropical forest adorned with the most beautiful orchids, birds, butterflies, fishes, reptiles gathered into a unique eco-system. *Tropicalia*'s architecture is completely integrated with its natural exterior environment. Unlike a “megastructure”, the building does not create a break with its environment but integrates it and welcomes its fauna and flora. Its dome has been conceived to answer several challenges:

- an optimal thermal isolation with the conception of a double dome,
- an energy self-sufficiency thanks to the *Terraotherm* innovation, all the heat produced by the greenhouse's effect will be recycled and stocked. The surplus energy will be exported via a heat network into buildings and surrounding businesses.

Illustrated by architectural model, drawings, sketches, videos and diverse working and presentation materials, the exhibition transmits an environmental and educational message: it shows how science can answer the question “How will we live together?”, the title of Biennale Architettura 2021 curated by Hashim Sarkis. The visitor will discover the engineering and architectural prowess and uniqueness of Tropicalia greenhouse, which has already received the **2018 Architizer A+Awards Jury and Public Choice Awards Winner**. As well, several sustainable and innovative systems and materials developed in the architecture projects by Coldefy, will illustrate and enrich the comprehension of Tropicalia's spirit and Coldefy's philosophy. During the exhibition period, the space will also host conferences with relevant figures of Architecture world, to investigate and discuss about the themes and challenges arisen by Tropicalia.

### Team

Maria Caterina Denora / Zuecca Projects  
– Project Coordinator  
Elisabeth Girot / Coldefy  
– Communications and Development Director,  
Project Coordinator  
Martin Mercier, Marianna Guarino,  
Jerica Puterle, Alissa James / Coldefy  
– Architects, Exhibition Designers  
Bruno Grassi / Coldefy  
– Installation Coordinator  
DE\_FORM  
– Graphic Design

### Location

Squero Castello, Salizada Streta 368,  
Castello 30122, Venice

### Opening period and hours

From May 22<sup>nd</sup> to November 21<sup>st</sup> 2021,  
10.00 am - 01.00 pm / 02.00 pm - 06.00 pm,  
closed on Monday  
Press Preview on May 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021

*For visits from Tuesday to Friday, reservation is not mandatory but highly recommended. Precedence to access will be given to visitors with a reservation. For visits on Saturday, Sunday and public holidays, reservation is mandatory at least by 12.00 pm of the prior day. Reserve your visit at [tropicalia@zueccaprojectspace.com](mailto:tropicalia@zueccaprojectspace.com)*

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### Supporters

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