



La Biennale di Venezia

17. Mostra
Internazionale
di Architettura

Partecipazioni Nazionali

Pavilion of the United States at the 17th International Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia Curator Bios

Paul Andersen Co-Curator

Paul Andersen is a Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Illinois Chicago and Co-Curator of the United States Pavilion at the 17th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia. Andersen has been a professor at the UIC School of Architecture since 2012 and previously taught at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design, Cornell University Department of Architecture, and the Universidad Torcuato Di Tella.

Andersen is the Director of Independent Architecture, a Denver-based office. Since the firm's inception in 2009, he has led projects that speculate on the roles that form, repetition, and pop culture play in architecture. Andersen shapes the office's agenda and practice, conducting design projects in professional and academic contexts. The firm's projects were awarded the following accolades: 2018 Progressive Architecture (P/A) Award for *Motherhouse*; 2016 American Architecture Prize, Honorable Mention, for *Summer Vault*, a joint project with Paul Preissner Architects; and several AIA awards, along with numerous other honors.

Andersen served as guest curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art Denver for *Energy Effects: Art and Artifacts from the Landscape of Glorious Excess* (2010). He has also worked with the Biennial of the Americas as a curator for *Draft Urbanism* (2013) and Co-Director of the *Denver House* program. In addition to Andersen's frequent lectures and panels, he authored several books, including *The Architecture of Patterns* and *The Monuments Power the Cars*, along with articles and essays on design.

Andersen earned a Master of Architecture from the University of California, Los Angeles and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Pennsylvania. While a student at UCLA in 2000, he participated in the United States Pavilion at the 7th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia. In 2015, he was the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Young Architect of the Year, AIA Denver. He was appointed as a Fulbright Specialist in Architecture in 2013.

Paul Preissner Commissioner and Co-Curator

Paul Preissner is Associate Professor at the University of Illinois Chicago School of Architecture and Co-Curator of the United States Pavilion at the 17th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia. He has taught at Columbia University GSAPP, Syracuse University School of Architecture, the University of Pennsylvania School of Design, the University of Nebraska School of Architecture, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Southern California Institute of Architecture.

Preissner is the Founding Principal of Paul Preissner Architects, based in Chicago. With experience in housing, civic buildings, furniture, installations, and architectural exhibitions, the award-winning studio takes an experimental and imaginative approach to create unique social spaces distinguished by formal juxtapositions and modest materials. The firm's project for *Ring of Hope* in Chicago received a 2019 Progressive Architecture (P/A) Award and *Summer Vault*, a joint project with Independent Architecture, won an Honorable Mention for the 2016 American Architecture Prize. The first book on his work, *Kind of Boring*, was published by ACTAR in November 2020.

Preissner's work leans on experience from architecture, academia, and art to produce projects that challenge normalcy and bring value to the mundane. His projects have been exhibited in the United States and abroad, including in the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, the Chicago Architecture Biennial, the Buenos Aires International Biennale of Architecture, and the Rotterdam Biennale, and are a part of the permanent collection of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Preissner received his Master of Architecture from Columbia University and a Bachelor of Science in Architecture from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. While a student at Columbia University in 2000, Preissner participated in the United States Pavilion at the 7th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia. Preissner has also contributed essays about architecture to various publications, including *Volume*, *CLOG*, *PLOT*, and *Newcity Magazine*, and is a regular lecturer, moderator, panelist, and critic on architecture. He is also Co-Director of the Biennial of the Americas' *Denver House* program.