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## **Pavilion of the United States at the 17<sup>th</sup> International Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia Commissioning Institution Backgrounder**

### **About the University of Illinois Chicago and the College of Architecture, Design, and the Arts**

As the only public research university in the Chicago area, the **University of Illinois Chicago (UIC)** is committed to providing first-class education as a public good through a rare combination of research excellence and access to higher education. UIC offers 86 undergraduate and 177 graduate academic degree programs across 16 colleges to more than 33,000 students, who are among the most demographically diverse in the United States. Over 33% of undergraduates are first generation college students, and 54% receive federal Pell grants awarded to students with exceptional financial need. UIC is also ranked among the top Research 1 universities, with Annual Research Expenditures over \$400 million in 2020.

As the home of the arts and design at UIC, the **College of Architecture, Design, and the Arts (CADA)** is one of the most dynamic learning and research environments in the United States. Across its 70-year history, CADA has evolved to become a leader among academic programs in architecture, art, art history, design, museum studies, music, and theatre. CADA leverages its location in Chicago, a global destination for the arts and design, through in-situ learning, practice, and relationships with significant cultural institutions, including the Art Institute of Chicago, Steppenwolf Theatre, the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts, and the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago. CADA offers 16 undergraduate degree programs and 9 graduate degree programs, including a Master of Architecture, that provide specialized disciplinary education in the arts and design within the broader context of liberal arts courses offered by UIC. Notable CADA faculty include actor Yassen Payenkov, filmmakers Deborah Stratman and Jennifer Reeder, graphic designer Philip Burton, art historian Hannah Higgins, architectural theorist Robert E. Somol, and architect Sam Jacob, among many others.

UIC was selected as the commissioning institution for the Pavilion of the United States at the 17th International Architecture Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia. With faculty members and co-curators Paul Andersen and Paul Preissner, UIC is presenting *AMERICAN FRAMING*, an exhibition that explores wood-framed construction in American architecture.