

“My Detroit” Postcard Photo Contest Announced for 2016 Venice Biennale

October 14, 2015 – The University of Michigan curatorial team planning the U.S. Pavilion for the 2016 Venice Architecture Biennale today announced a postcard photo contest to showcase the visual breadth and beauty of Detroit. The contest, called “My Detroit,” seeks photographs that capture the essence of the city of Detroit to accompany “The Architectural Imagination,” the U.S. Pavilion exhibition that will focus on Detroit.

Photographers of all ages – amateurs and professionals, residents of Detroit and residents of the world – are invited to enter. The twenty winning photos in the My Detroit contest will be printed as postcards and distributed at the 2016 Biennale, representing Detroit to the world. Photos can include cityscapes, city scenes, street encounters, accidental revelations, buildings, architectural details, or personal reminiscences – any view of Detroit in the spirit of urban exploration and architectural invention inside the city limits.

Visitors to the pavilion, open May 28 – November 27, 2016, will be able to take one or more of the complimentary cards as mementos of the show. The postcard photos will also be published in the exhibition catalog and shared and credited on The Architectural Imagination website.

The competition begins October 14, 2015, and will accept submissions until 11:59 p.m., December 31, 2015. For entry requirements and more details, please see Contest Rules . To enter, participants should submit an entry form, along with their photograph, at www.thearchitecturalimagination.org/mydetroit. Entrants can submit up to five photographs, each on a separate entry form.

The winning photos will be selected in January 2016 by photographer Camilo José Vergara and Cynthia Davidson, co-curator of The Architectural Imagination.

Judges

Camilo José Vergara is a Chilean-born photographer and writer. He is best known for his sympathetic photographs of the evolving face of urban life. His works have been widely exhibited in solo exhibitions across the country and in a number of books and other publications. His current project is a book that documents his traveling exhibition “Detroit Is No Dry Bones.” Vergara was awarded a MacArthur Foundation grant in 2002 and the National Humanities Medal by President Obama in 2013.

Cynthia Davidson is co-curator of The Architectural Imagination, with Mónica Ponce de León, and executive director of the nonprofit Anyone Corporation, an architecture think tank in New York that produces conferences and conversations, as well as founding editor of the journal *Log* and the Writing Architecture Series books, published with MIT Press. In 2014 she received an Architecture Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters in recognition of her outstanding work in architecture publishing.

For more information about the selection process: www.thearchitecturalimagination.org/process

For more information about The Architectural Imagination: www.thearchitecturalimagination.org



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The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs supports and manages official U.S. participation at the Venice Architecture Biennale. The selection of "The Architectural Imagination" for the U.S. Pavilion in 2016 resulted from an open competition and the recommendations of the Federal Advisory Committee on International Exhibitions, convened by the National Endowment for the Arts.