



UNIVERSITY OF  
ARKANSAS

Fay Jones School  
of Architecture + Design

modus  
studio  
architecture  
+ prototyping

OXFORD AMERICAN

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The University of Arkansas Fay Jones School of Architecture + Design and modus studio, in partnership with the OXFORD AMERICAN journal, present an exhibition:

## **A SOUTH FORTY: Contemporary Architecture and Design in the American South**

The European Cultural Center (ECC) / Palazzo Mora, collateral to the 2021 Venice Architecture Biennale  
Venice, Italy, May 22 - November 21, 2021

Press Opening: May 20, 2021

Further information and publication images available on request.

[www.asouthforty.org](http://www.asouthforty.org)



**VENICE, ITALY** - As part of the “TIME SPACE EXISTENCE” exhibition for the 2021 Venice Architecture Biennale, The European Cultural Center will present **A SOUTH FORTY: Contemporary Architecture and Design in the American South** at Palazzo Mora. **A SOUTH FORTY** is organized by the Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design, University of Arkansas, together with modus studio of Fayetteville, Arkansas, and the OXFORD AMERICAN Journal, and highlights the work of nearly forty practices. The exhibition is installed in the Great Hall facing the canal and will be open from May 22nd through November 21st, 2021, with a press preview on May 20th.



**Exhibition Summary:** The Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design, University of Arkansas, working with modus studio of Fayetteville, Arkansas, has worked to organize and curate an exhibition devoted to the vibrant, distinctive contemporary architecture and design practices of the American South. The exhibition is installed to coincide with the 2021 Venice Architecture Biennale, in a collateral venue, the Palazzo Mora of the European Cultural Center.

In partnership with the highly regarded literary journal OXFORD AMERICAN, **A SOUTH FORTY** will also be featured in the annual summer issue of the journal, one focused on the idea of “place” in culture of the American South. The exhibition takes its cues from the critically successful and popularly appealing annual OXFORD AMERICAN issue highlighting the music of the American South and proposes that architecture and design (the built environment) is as reflective and definitive of the culture and values of society as the forms of music that animate that society.

Modern architectural history in the regional context of the American South is conventionally framed by singular figures, from Paul Rudolph and the Sarasota School of Florida to Fay Jones and Bruce Goff in the Ozarks and Oklahoma, or stereotypical typologies and appearances. In counterpoint, **A SOUTH FORTY** aims to provide an overview of the current vitality of contemporary architecture and design in the American South, through both illustrated profiles of buildings and practices, and statements of principles and observations by those in practice in the region.

The contemporary “story” centers on the development of architecture and design in the American South over the last generation (from 1990 forward) as the region undergoes rapid economic and population growth, withstands and recovers from multiple natural disasters, and discovers a more complex and diverse identity amidst the historical societal traditions and conventions. Such a mapping of the American South in these terms opens new and essential territories for work in architecture – more positive, empowering, engaged, sensitive and aware work altogether.

The mapping of **A SOUTH FORTY** geographically is organized along the armature of US Highway 40, running west from the North Carolina Atlantic seacoast through the southeastern states to an inflection point in Oklahoma. Approximately forty participating practices in the exhibition are drawn from the larger southeastern region along this latitude.

The “story” of **A SOUTH FORTY** is also one of place-based design, attentive to the necessities of climate, materials, labor, and purpose, but also attentive to overlooked or undervalued typologies, constituencies, and locales. While there is the surge of new urban centers and suburban peripheries as conditions to address in the region, there also is a new appreciation for the smaller communities and rural or even wilderness landscapes as productive sites for distinctive work. As well, while design excellence has been achieved by many practices at the residential scale, the greater emphasis in the exhibition is to be seen at the public scale, in the civic realm, through the accomplishment of buildings and projects of strength, durability, and value for the communities in which they are situated.

The exhibition implicitly proposes that the path towards that better “place” of the region leads through both recognition of a common inheritance embedded in the landscape of the American South, and a reconciliation with that physical, cultural, and phenomenal landscape. There is much work accomplished, but much still to be done, and as a project, **A SOUTH FORTY** is just beginning, and still becoming.

**A SOUTH FORTY: Contemporary Architecture and Design in the American South** features the work of: Alterstudio Architecture ; archimania; ARCHITECTUREFIRM; Dake Wells Architecture; de leon & primmer architecture workshop; DEMX Architecture; Duvall Decker; Ecological Design Group; El Dorado / KSU Design + Make Studio; emerymcclure architecture; EskewDumezRipple; Evoke Studio Architecture; Frank Harmon Architect; Fultz & Singh Architects; Helix Architecture + Design; Hobgood Architects; Ray Huff Architect; Hufft; in situ studio; Katherine Hogan Architects; Marlon Blackwell Architects; modus studio; Office of Jonathan Tate; patterhn ives; Pendulum Studio; Polk Stanley Wilcox; Rural Studio, Auburn University; Sanders Pace Architecture; SILO AR+D; Somewhere Studio; The Raleigh Architecture Company; unabridged Architecture; University of Arkansas Community Design Center; University of Arkansas Urban Design Build Studio; Vines Architecture; and W.G. Clark Architect.



**About the Fay Jones School of Architecture + Design:** The Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design at the University of Arkansas houses professional design programs of architecture, landscape architecture and interior design together with liberal studies programs. All of these programs combine studio design education with innovative teaching in history, theory, technology and urban design. A broad range of course offerings equips graduates with the knowledge and critical agility required to meet the challenges of designing for a changing world. Their training prepares students with critical frameworks for design thinking that also equip them to assume leadership roles in the profession and in their communities. The DesignIntelligence 2019 School Rankings Survey listed the school among the most hired from architecture, landscape architecture and interior design schools, ranking 10th, 14th and eighth, respectively, as well as 28th among most admired architecture schools.

**About the University of Arkansas:** The University of Arkansas provides an internationally competitive education for undergraduate and graduate students in more than 200 academic programs. The university contributes new knowledge, economic development, basic and applied research, and creative activity while also providing service to academic and professional disciplines. The Carnegie Foundation classifies the University of Arkansas among fewer than 3% of colleges and universities in America that have the highest level of research activity. U.S. News & World Report ranks the U of A among its top American public research universities. Founded in 1871, the University of Arkansas comprises 10 colleges and schools and maintains a low student-to-faculty ratio that promotes personal attention and close mentoring.

**About modus studio:** modus studio is a progressive design collective based in Fayetteville, Arkansas. They have contributed a broad range of influential, sustainable, and place-making projects to the built realm since their inception in 2008. Together with their companion fabrication lab, modus shop, their firm bridges the profession with architectural, graphic, prototyping, and fabrication work. Craft in the hand of design and making is at the core of modus studio's design vocabulary, used to create architectures founded in a 'think, make, do' process. Their projects have won numerous national, regional, and local awards for design and sustainability. In 2018, the modus team was given the Architectural League of New York's Emerging Voices Award, and in 2019, Architect Magazine listed modus among the top 50 design firms in the country.

**About the OXFORD AMERICAN Journal:** The Oxford American is an American quarterly literary magazine dedicated to featuring the very best in American Southern writing while documenting the complexity and vitality of the American South.

**About the European Cultural Centre:** The ECC is a cultural organization founded by the Dutch artist Rene Rietmeyer and originates back to 2002 and is now a dynamic organization which establishes cultural centres worldwide and is devoted to generate cultural exchange by organizing international art and architecture exhibitions, symposia and a wide range of cultural projects, not only with Europeans but together with people from all around the world. The ECC provides the conditions to invite and promote artistic and creative practices - and a direct interaction with a multitude of intellectual and cultural art forms [visual arts, dance, performance, theatre, music, literature, architecture, etc.].

# TIME

# SPACE

EXHIBITION TITLE: **TIME SPACE EXISTENCE**

VENUES: Palazzo Bembo, Palazzo Mora, Giardini della Marinaressa

LOCATION: Venice, Italy

PROMOTER: European Cultural Centre

CURATORIAL TEAM: Benedetta Bianchi, Bianca Bonaldi, Rachele De Stefano, Hady El Hajj, Bérénice Freytag, Yuki Gómez Asami, Ilaria Marcatelli, Vittoria Mastrolilli, Lucia Pedrana, Martina Rodella, Valeria Romagnini, Suzanne van der Borg, Elena Volpato, Katerina Zachou

OPENING PERIOD: 22 May - 21 November, 2021

OPENINGS: 20 - 21 May, 2021

WEBSITES: [ecc-italy.eu](http://ecc-italy.eu) | [europanculturalcentre.eu](http://europanculturalcentre.eu)

The European Cultural Centre presents the fifth edition of the extensive biennial architecture exhibition with the title TIME SPACE EXISTENCE. The exhibition will open in parallel with Biennale Architettura on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, and it will run until November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021 at Palazzo Bembo, Palazzo Mora and Giardini della Marinaressa, with press previews and opening events in each location on May 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.

## TIME SPACE EXISTENCE 2021

An international group of 212 architects, artists, academics, and creative professionals from over 51 countries are invited to investigate our relationship with space and time, re-envisioning new ways of living and rethinking architecture through a larger lens. The exhibits range from conceptual works, models, videos, drawings, sculptures, photographs to site specific installations.

Reflecting on the issues of our time, participants asked themselves what they can do to improve the quality of our life sustainably, with climate change, migration, water, and rapid urbanization, being the major challenges. This year's edition features projects that focus on water urbanism, green and resilient cities, development of new and natural materials, construction systems and methods.

Some exhibits draw attention to the role of architecture in raising people's awareness of others' living conditions and access to resources, by focusing on solutions for displaced communities, discriminated groups and minorities.

Moreover, the Covid-19 crisis highlights the urgent need of a holistic approach for re-thinking and redesigning our relationship with our surroundings, with each other and with all living organisms.

Practitioners are forced to reconsider public and private space and develop new products for our wellbeing. Experimental proposals suggest new ways of living and invite us to reflect upon our existence that is re-defined by a contemporary perception of time and interaction in both virtual and physical spaces.

Although the present sets unprecedented challenges, architects, artists and designers are proposing alternatives which infuse optimism and motivate the future generations. By bringing together stories and voices from all corners of the world, and making them accessible to the wider public, TIME SPACE EXISTENCE hopes to be a place for reflections and a source of inspiration for change.

# EXISTENCE



### OPENING HOURS:

Palazzo Bembo & Palazzo Mora:  
10.00<sup>AM</sup> – 6.00<sup>PM</sup> open daily,  
closed on Tuesday, free entry

Giardini della Marinaressa:  
10.00<sup>AM</sup> – 6.00<sup>PM</sup>  
open daily, free entry

### OPENINGS:

Press Preview (upon request):  
20 - 21 May, 2021  
10.00<sup>AM</sup> - 4.00<sup>PM</sup>

Opening Events:  
20 - 21 May, 2021  
5.00<sup>PM</sup> - 8.00<sup>PM</sup>

### INFORMATION:

For more info. and material  
contact our Press Office:  
Tel. +39 3498446514  
[press@ecc-italy.eu](mailto:press@ecc-italy.eu)  
[Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#) | [LinkedIn](#)  
#eccitaly #TimeSpaceExistence

# SPACE

# EXISTENCE

## TIME SPACE EXISTENCE - INTERVIEW SERIES

The program is complemented by the TIME SPACE EXISTENCE - Interview Series - a special collection of videos featuring masters in architecture. Ricardo Bofill, Balkrishna Doshi, Bjarke Ingels, Odile Decq, Toshiko Mori, and many others explore the fundamental topics of time, space and existence through their personal and professional perspectives.

## ECC INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIONS 2021

### **YOUNG TALENT ARCHITECTURE AWARD MIES VAN DER ROHE FOUNDATION:**

The European Cultural Centre is honored to be a partner in Venice of the program Young Talent Architecture Award (YTAA). YTAA as part of the European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture – Mies van der Rohe Award, is organized by the Fundació Mies van der Rohe with the support of the Creative Europe programme of the European Union. It is organized in partnership with the European Association for Architectural Education (EAAE) and the Architects' Council of Europe (ACE-CAE) and World Architects as a founding partner.

The YTAA exhibition will open on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 at the European Cultural Centre, in our historical venue of Palazzo Mora in Venice. The exhibition as Collateral Event of the 17<sup>th</sup> International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia, will run until November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021. The European Cultural Centre will host the award ceremony and the debate titled "Learning together" in the framework of La Biennale di Architettura 2021, in which occasion the publication of the result of the YTAA 2020 will be launched.

### **MAPPING FESTIVITIES NATIONAL PAVILION OF PAKISTAN:**

The European Cultural Centre is pleased to renew the collaboration and host at Palazzo Mora the National Pavilion of Pakistan. The exhibition titled "Mapping Festivities" is organized and promoted by the Pakistan Council of Architects and Town Planners and Kalim A.Siddiqui. The National Pavilion of Pakistan explores social and cultural infrastructures of weddings as typologies for urban «performance».

Curator: Sara M. Anwar

Participants: Sara M. Anwar, Madeeha Yasin, Merchant, Farhan Anwar, Shama Dossa

# TIME



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