

january february march



National Pavilion of Georgia
Tbilisi Architecture Biennial

The 18th International Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia
MAY 20 — NOV 26, 2023



La Biennale di Venezia

18. Mostra
Internazionale
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Curated by
Tbilisi Architecture Biennial
Founded in 2017, a platform unifying local and international professionals organizes exhibitions, installations, workshops, symposiums, and activities around the critical, timely issues of focus every two years. In 2022 the Tbilisi Architecture Biennial held its third edition, discussing the subject of temporality in urban and social contexts.

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Exploring the relationship between the flow of time and energy, the project symbolically focuses on reservoirs, their creation, and their impact on ecological, urban, and demographic shifts in the age of rapid political transformations and climate change; Natural energy, as a primal life force, and human methods of its consumption, distribution, and preservation – energy politics; temporality or permanence of such politics within the shared, historical reality.

By 1985, the first unit of Zhinvali hydroelectric power station was launched in Georgia, Dusheti region, between the Alevi, Gudamakari, and Kartli ridges. The 11.5 km² plant is still substantial in generating electricity and Tbilisi's water supply; however, due to its development, the village of Zhinvali was flooded completely, forcing the entire local population to migrate; Today, the local ecosystem of Aragvi river is nonexistent. While walking around these areas, one steps on a seemingly endless carpet of black sludge, stumbling across the ancient remains and artifacts time after time along with samples of mutilated stone or wood. The water has covered the settlements of the Eneolithic age and significant examples of cultur-

al heritage; the Jvarpatiosani church - among them - built in the XII century, is submerged under water for several months, reappearing during the rest of the year after the water dries up. Apart from climate and seasonal influences, the entire area is flooded and drained according to the water consumption of Tbilisi – peaking in January, February, and March, when the capital city uses more water.

How temporary is our footprint on the environment? Can water determine order? What type of flows do we speak of when we mention the flows of energy, migration, time, and the outflow of the landscape itself? What are the costs of disrupting an order or creating a new one? To what extent can the spatial-political development of humans bring changes in nature and society and vice versa? What physical and conceptual forms fade or remain with such transformations? Natural creations, their memory, history, and artifacts that signify their past life, are they permanent? What will be the vestige of defining such places, and, above all - considering global and local contexts into consideration – what is their future?

Room 1
Publication

In this research-based book, the curatorial team and authors of the articles highlight the importance of water as a common resource for the inhabitants of Georgia and revise the history of the mentioned country and its hydrology. The book showcases the different systems of the recent past that have been exploiting countries' resources by building water reservoirs and large hydroelectric stations. Collaborating with experts of various fields, their analyses and personal experiences, this book intends to demonstrate the historical reality of our country by observing the river flows. The texts of scientists and researchers make the most critical questions heard and discuss the historical, political, geographical, environmental, economic, ethical and social aspects of the exploitation of hydro resources. The publication aims to envision the futures simultaneously created by the intersection of technological progress, climate change, political will and traditional society.

The above mentioned book can be purchased at the exhibition desk. Please address the supervisor.

Room 2
Installation - 'january february march'

Inspired by the artifacts discovered during the field research, the project attempts to reconstruct the spatial memory of Zhinvali dam area through primitive archetypes – a city, a house, a church...The intersection of living and lifeless landscapes - formed around the dried-up rivers - metaphorically connects to a sunken abstract form composed of sedimented sludge material. The river sludge is blended into rectangular building blocks, covering almost the entire exhibition space. The arrangement of these blocks will culminate into the room center, shaping the interior of the basilica – a negative image of the church – emptiness as a mass, interpreting the Jvarpatiosani insides.

Video Installations

Room 3
Film - 'january february march'

Meditations on the research field: The water levels rise and fall around the Jvarpatiosani church (XII century) submerged in water by Zhinvali hydropower dam (1985); and Tsalka Church (circa XI century) sunken by the Tsalka Reservoir (1946).

Room 4
Film - 'The Edge'

Meditations on the research field: uninterrupted aerial shot (2022- 2023) following the division line between the landscape degraded by water, and the land unspoiled by it: nature dead and alive.

Room 5
Film - 'Maradis'

Observations of day-to-day life in Rioni Valley following the grassroots movement against the Namakhvani HPP cascade and the imminent flooding of the entire Lechkhumi region. By Mariam Elene Gomelauri and Giorgi Kolbaia.

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#JanuaryFebruaryMarch #GeorgianPavilion2023

Supporters and sponsors: The project is supported by The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth of Georgia, Tbilisi City Hall, TBC Concept, ALL-P Group, ALL-P Metal, Creative Europe, Adjara Group, PolyForm.Lab



AN ATLAS OF COMMUNION

PLACES OF COLLECTIVE PRODUCTION

A travelling exhibition by the ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen) in collaboration with ARCH+

The project questions prevailing social and political structures and searches for new forms of collective, yet pluralistic, governance, and aims to recapture and redefine the open and emancipatory space of „us“ as a concept.

After Berlin, Pittsburgh, Montevideo and Buenos Aires, the next presentation will be in Tbilisi in autumn 2024 in collaboration with the Tbilisi Architecture Biennial.

Curatorial team: Anh-Linh Ngo, Mirko Gatti, Christian Hiller, Max Kaldenhoff, Christine Rüb (ARCH+), Elke aus dem Moore (ifa), Stefan Gruber (CMU)

Research partners: School of Architecture, Carnegie Mellon University Pittsburgh and TU Berlin, Institute of Architecture, Prof. Rainer Hehl

Graphic design: Heimann + Schwantes
Exhibition design: Stadelmann & Wössner Architekten

ifa Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen
ARCH+
Research partner: Carnegie Mellon University TU Berlin

Il Giardino Bianco Art Space, Via Giuseppe Garibaldi 1814, Venice
Exhibition dates: 20 May -26 November, 2023
Inauguration: 19 May, 5 p.m. – 10 p.m.



Working hours:
Preview: 18-19 May, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.
from 20 May to 25 September 11:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.
from 26 September to 26 November 10:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Closed on Tuesdays

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