

**V–A–C Foundation presents: *Non-Extractive Architecture***

An exhibition, research residency and conference series curated by Joseph Grima/Space Caviar at V–A–C Zattere, Venice

V–A–C Foundation is excited to announce that the architect and curator Joseph Grima, working with design research studio *Space Caviar*, will curate a year-long project in its Venice location of Palazzo delle Zattere examining the material, social, economic and environmental implications of architecture as a practice in the 21st century. Featuring a residency programme, an exhibition, a series of public conferences and events, research labs, a design studio and materials workshop, *Non-Extractive Architecture* will transform V–A–C Zattere into a live research platform focused on rethinking the balance between the built and natural environments, the role of technology and politics in achieving such a balance, and the responsibility of the architect as an agent of transformation.

Coinciding with the 17th International Architecture Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia, the project sets out to examine — and redefine — the public's expectations of the architect and architects' expectations of themselves. What if architecture was understood first and foremost as a form of husbandry of the natural and built environment? What if architects dealt primarily not with form but with integration, circularity, materiality and community? What if the materials needed to construct the buildings we inhabit were sourced locally rather than mined half a world away? *Non-Extractive Architecture* will engage individuals within and outside the field of architecture to create an open platform through which the current role of architecture can be debated, and new paths can be defined to leverage its potential as a positive force in shaping the future of the landscape, both urban and rural.

The project will be articulated through several parallel initiatives that will simultaneously activate V–A–C Zattere on multiple levels, turning the entire Palazzo into a living laboratory for a new understanding of architecture and environmental design. These parallel strands of research, residences, public programmes, publishing and broadcasting initiatives will intertwine and overlap throughout the year, alternating levels of intensity. Outcomes of this process will continuously be exhibited, turning the venue into a ever-changing exhibition space to distribute the research findings and to advocate the principles investigated. Members of the public will be able to witness these transformations and participate in the open debates. The year's work will culminate in the publication of a free online archive and practice manual.

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**Non-Extractive  
Architecture**

21 March 2020 —  
31 January 2021

V-A-C Zattere  
Dorsoduro 1401,  
30123 Venice

Info/questions:

**Helen Weaver**

[helen.weaver@v-a-c.ru](mailto:helen.weaver@v-a-c.ru)  
+44 (0)7772 159219

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## Notes to Editors

### V–A–C Foundation

V–A–C produces new culture together with artists and audiences alike. It is a platform for open discussion aimed at redefining the contemporary landscape. Working with local communities, V–A–C promotes its exhibition, publishing, performative and learning pro-grammes beyond all disciplinary boundaries and thus constantly resets the coordinates for dialogue within a new global geography. This methodology is employed in all V–A–C initiatives, taking place in its Venetian space, through international, cross-institutional partnerships and in its future home for arts and culture in Moscow, GES-2.

GES-2 is V–A–C's new major cultural venue for the city of Moscow, housed in an historic power station. Designed by Renzo Piano Building Workshop, GES-2 opens to the public in September 2020.

V–A–C Zattere is the Foundation's Venetian headquarters launched in spring 2017. This renovated building, situated on Zattere overlooking the Canale della Giudecca, can accommodate exhibitions, events and residencies. Originally dating back to the mid 1800s, the building's interior was renovated at different times from the 1950s to the 1990s. The Foundation commissioned local architect Alessandro Pedron of apml architetti to carry out the more recent renovation project, transforming Palazzo delle Zattere into a new centre for contemporary culture for the city of Venice. The entire space covers 2000 m<sup>2</sup> over four levels, half of which is exhibition space.

### Joseph Grima

Joseph Grima is an architect and curator based in Milan, Italy. He is the Creative Director of Design Academy Eindhoven and Chief Curator of Design at Triennale di Milano, and is also co-founder (together with Tamar Shafir) of Space Caviar, an architecture and research practice operating at the intersection of design, technology, critical theory and the public realm.

Grima was previously the editor-in-chief of Domus magazine and director of Storefront for Art and Architecture, an independent gallery in New York City. In 2014 he was appointed co-curator of the first Chicago Architecture Biennial, and in 2012 he co-directed the first Istanbul Design Biennial. He was also the artistic director of Matera European Capital of Culture 2019.

He has taught and lectured widely at universities in Europe, Asia and America, including Strelka Institute of Media, Architecture and Design in Moscow, and has served on numerous international juries, including the jury of the Venice Architecture Biennale in 2010 directed by Kazuyo Sejima.

### Space Caviar

Space Caviar is an architecture and research studio operating at the intersection of design, technology, politics and the public realm. Founded in 2013 by Joseph Grima and Tamar Shafir, the office uses built work, exhibitions, publishing, writing and film to investigate and document contemporary modes of habitation and the spatialisation of social and political practice.

Space Caviar's work has been shown at the Venice Architecture Biennale, the Victoria and Albert Museum, Biennale Interieur, Vitra Design Museum and Nilufar Gallery, among others.



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