

V-A-C FOUNDATION PRESENTS LAGUNA VIVA, A NEW INSTALLATION DEVELOPED BY ASSEMBLE AND WE ARE HERE VENICE, AT PALAZZO DELLE ZATTERE

V-A-C Foundation presents
Laguna Viva, a new installation
developed by Assemble and
We Are Here Venice, at Palazzo delle
Zattere

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Palazzo delle Zattere,
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Laguna Viva [Living Lagoon] is the first stage of a long-term strategy to enable Palazzo delle Zattere to engage with the complexities of everyday life in Venice.

V-A-C Foundation commissioned London based collective Assemble, who work across the fields of architecture, design and art, to develop a long-term project for the garden and indoor area where the Foundation's new bar and restaurant, sudest 1401, is located. Assemble's aim was to create an environment that would both explore and actively involve the city and they immediately turned to the organisation We Are Here Venice to work with them on the project. We Are Here Venice is an independent organisation that addresses Venice's challenges as a living city through research and collaboration with the local authorities as well as public and private institutions connected to the city.

The new, free to access, permanent outdoor installation will enhance the ongoing conversation about the intimate and mutually dependent relationship between Venice and its context. The typical lagoon salt marsh habitat is arranged according to botanical associations and functional morphology and housed in two large tanks, which at the end of the year will be covered in individual tiles taking the project into its final stage.

The 12,000 tiles produced for the V-A-C project are currently being presented by Assemble at the 16th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia and will remain in situ until the end of the year. The work, entitled 'The Factory Floor', is located in the Central Pavilion at the Giardini. At its conclusion, the tiles will be relocated to Palazzo delle Zattere to create a tiled landscape that will run from the canal into the Palazzo. Inspired by the generosity and richness of Venetian floors, the tiles were made using an adapted version of 19th Century British encaustic tile-making techniques, introducing a moment of chance into the processes to make every tile different. The tiles were developed and made by Granby Workshop, a small ceramics factory in Liverpool founded by Assemble in 2014.

The Lagoon tanks build on the successful experiment by Jane da Mosto with muf architecture / art for the British Pavilion at the 12th Architecture Biennale. The installation will be accessible to visitors to the foundation, artists and local residents. These microcosms of the lagoon will be offered as a resource for research and teaching on ecological resilience and the natural systems that underpin the survival of the city.

As with all V-A-C initiatives, access to Laguna Viva will be free of charge and open to everyone, every day of the week from 8am to 11pm.

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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 programmes 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.

Palazzo delle Zattere is V-A-C Foundation's Venetian headquarters launched in spring 2017. This newly 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 sq metres over four levels, half of which is exhibition space.

V-A-C Foundation supports as donor the 16th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia.

ASSEMBLE

Assemble is a multi-disciplinary collective working across architecture, design and art. Founded in 2010 to undertake a single self-built project, Assemble has since delivered a diverse and award-winning body of work, whilst retaining a democratic and co-operative working method that enables built, social and research-based work at a variety of scales, both making things and making things happen.

assemblestudio.co.uk

WE ARE HERE VENICE

We are here Venice is an independent non-profit organisation that addresses Venice's challenges as a living city by strengthening connections between the best available information and stakeholders. The group collaborates with universities, businesses, cultural institutions and public authorities to deliver projects and recommendations based on rigorous research to bring about real changes according to social, economic, physical and ecological indicators. The city and the lagoon are considered inseparable elements of a single system, highlighting the importance of negotiations between the natural environment and human intervention and Venice's potential as a laboratory for new approaches to urban sustainability. The work of WAHV is mainly supported by the local community and international donors.

weareherevenice.org

ASSEMBLE

