

OPEN CALL FOR PROPOSALS
SINGAPORE PAVILION
20th International Architecture Exhibition
La Biennale di Venezia 2027

Co-Commissioners: Urban Redevelopment Authority and DesignSingapore Council
Organiser: Singapore Art Museum

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. As Co-Commissioners, the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) and DesignSingapore Council (Dsg) invite compelling and innovative curatorial proposals for the Singapore Pavilion at the 20th International Architecture Exhibition at La Biennale di Venezia, running from May to November 2027.
- 1.2. Under the [curatorial direction of Wang Shu and Lu Wenyu](#), the 2027 Biennale will focus on grounded architectural approaches centred on materiality, local participation, craftsmanship, and lived experiences.

2. ABOUT THE SINGAPORE PAVILION

- 2.1. Since 2004, the upcoming 2027 edition will be [Singapore's tenth participation](#) in the Venice Architecture Biennale. Providing a unique platform for architectural inquiry, it is an opportunity to introduce our nation's experience with rapid transformation, innovative approaches to tropical urbanism, and integration of heritage with development, offering rich material for investigating fundamental questions about architecture's role in society.
- 2.2. We seek to have the Singapore Pavilion as a laboratory for exploring broader architectural questions that resonate globally. Our unique position as a tropical city-state with a complex relationship between tradition and modernity, provides for an ideal context of an authentic, place-based investigation that aligns with the theme of the Biennale's Directors.

3. WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

- 3.1. We seek proposals that present a clear, compelling idea that can be developed into a thought-provoking and exploratory exhibition - one that positions itself as an architectural inquiry, expanding beyond a conventional showcase of completed works.
- 3.2. While responding to the Biennale's curatorial direction, your proposal should demonstrate how Singapore's unique approach to vernacular modernism, adaptive reuse and contextual design contributes to global architectural discourse.
- 3.3. The Singapore Pavilion exhibition should present an inspiring and impactful narrative built around a strong conceptual idea that:
 - a. **Poses a fundamental architectural inquiry** rooted in Singapore's tropical context, explored through rigorous investigation rather than display;
 - b. **Investigates, not displays** - creating an exploratory experience that challenges visitors to think differently about architecture;
 - c. **Demonstrates authentic architectural practice** through critical examination over promotional presentation;
 - d. **Explores the relationship between memory and innovation** in Singapore's urban transformation as a lens for broader architectural understanding;
 - e. **Engages with craftsmanship and construction processes** as subjects of investigation, not as objects of display;

- f. **Reach diverse audiences** through physical and digital means, whether through on-site installations or digital exhibits; and
 - g. **Considers sustainability** in exhibition practices and material use.
- 3.4. **We do not seek** trade-show formats, promotional exhibitions celebrating Singapore's achievements, or display-oriented presentations of completed works.
- 3.5. **We do seek** a compelling architectural hypothesis explored in depth, through thought-provoking, interactive and/or immersive installations and investigative methodologies that reveal new insights.

4. ELIGIBILITY

- 4.1. **Lead Applicant:** Shall be Singapore-based applicant with good understanding of, and with strong connection to, the Singapore architectural landscape.
- 4.2. **Curatorial Team Composition:**
Multi-disciplinary team composition is encouraged: team members may include, but are not limited to, architects, artists, curators, urban planners, designers, researchers, educators and relevant practitioners.
- 4.3. **Experience**
- a. Demonstrated experience in exhibition development, curation, architectural research, and/or critical practice, with preference for those with experience in conceptual exhibitions, architectural inquiry, and/or thought-provoking installations.
 - b. Applicants without direct curatorial experience are welcome to apply but must clearly outline their approach to addressing curatorial aspects through collaboration with partners, or other strategic methodologies.

5. SELECTION CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated based on:

- i. **Conceptual Strength**
 - a. Clarity of a compelling architectural idea
 - b. Depth of the proposed inquiry and its potential to provoke new thinking about architecture's role in society
 - c. Alignment with the Biennale Director's curatorial direction
 - d. Originality of the investigative approach and methodology
- ii. **Investigative Approach and Impact**
 - a. Quality of the exploratory methodology and innovation in presentation methods that support inquiry over display
 - b. Potential to generate meaningful dialogue, critical reflection, and challenge conventional architectural thinking
 - c. Demonstration of how Singapore serves as a laboratory for broader architectural questions
- iii. **Feasibility of Implementation**
 - a. Team's capacity to deliver a thought-provoking, investigative exhibition
 - b. Realistic approach to developing the conceptual idea into an engaging installation
 - c. Consideration for ease of (re)assembly / dismantling for transport and freight

6. TIMELINE

Phase	Date	Activity
Stage 1		
Open	22 May – 17 July 2026	Open Call period
Briefing	16 17 June	Briefing to registered applicants
Submission	17 July 2026, by 4pm	Deadline for Submission
Review	18 July - 30 July	Evaluation & Shortlisting
Presentation	31 July	Presentation by shortlisted teams
Stage 2		
Development	1 August – 27 August	Development period (shortlisted teams)
Presentation	28 August	Final presentation to Evaluation Committee
Implementation Stage		
Development	September – December	Design Development & Commissioning Meetings
Production	January – March 2027	Production and Shipping (if any)
Installation	April	Installation in Venice
Exhibition	8 May – 21 November 2027	Opening of Venice Architecture Biennale 2027

Timeline above is indicative and subject to changes.

7. EXHIBITION VENUE

The Singapore Pavilion is located in the Sale D'Armi A building (upper level) of the Arsenale exhibition grounds in Venice, Italy. Venue-related details are provided in **Annex A**. The Arsenale's industrial heritage and monumental scale offer unique spatial opportunities for architectural installations. Applicants could consider the spatial opportunities when developing their exhibition concepts.

8. APPLICATION PROCESS

i. Stage 1: Concept Proposals

Open Call : 22 May 2026

Submission: 17 July 2026, by 4pm(Singapore date and time)

Submit the following documents as a single PDF (maximum 5 pages, 5MB):

a. A Compelling Idea

- Clear articulation of the central architectural question / inquiry
- Explanation of why this idea is significant and worth investigating
- Connection to the Biennale's curatorial theme
- How Singapore serves as the laboratory for exploring this idea

b. Investigative Methodology

- Approach to exploring and developing the central idea against Singapore's architectural context, including proposed methods of inquiry and investigation
- How the exhibition will function as an exploratory experience over a showcase, and what discoveries or insights the investigation might reveal in connection with the tropical vernacular and/or adaptive reuse approaches.

c. Exhibition Concept

- How the investigative process will be translated into a thought-provoking installation
- Visitor experience that encourages critical thinking and exploration, and proposed presentation methods that support inquiry and dialogue
- How the exhibition may challenge existing assumptions

d. Team and Approach

- i. Team composition and relevant experience in conceptual or investigative work
- ii. Motivation for pursuing this particular architectural inquiry
- iii. Previous experience with thought-provoking or exploratory projects

e. **Sponsorship and Partnership Intent**

- i. Please indicate any potential sponsorship/partnership opportunities envisioned
- ii. Types of sponsorship that would enhance the proposal (material sponsorships, equipment partnerships for technology/digital installations/interactive elements, programming collaborations and/or financial sponsorships)
- iii. Alignment with investigative approach - how such partnerships would support and enhance the proposed inquiry
- iv. Preliminary discussions - any initial conversations or expressions of interest from potential sponsors or partners
- v. While not mandatory, identifying potential sponsors or partners demonstrates the broader appeal and feasibility of the concept, and helps the Co-Commissioners understand the potential and resource requirements.

ii. **Stage 2: Detailed Investigation Plan**

Notification of shortlisted submissions by mid-July 2026

Development Period: 1 – 27 August 2026

Presentation: 28 August 2026

- a. Shortlisted teams will receive a development support of S\$2,000
- b. Detailed plan and methodology
- c. Preliminary findings or insights from initial research
- d. Exhibition design that supports the investigative concept
- e. Material strategy that aligns with the architectural inquiry
- f. Approximate 30-minute presentation demonstrating the depth and potential of the investigation
- g. Q&A session with panel focusing on conceptual rigour and investigative approach

9. EVALUATION COMMITTEE

The committee comprises of agency and industry design professionals from architecture, curation, research, and cultural sectors:

Co-Chairs

Ar. Yap Lay Bee – Co-Commissioner, Urban Redevelopment Authority

Dawn Lim – Co-Commissioner, DesignSingapore Council

Members

Ar. Khoo Peng Beng – Immediate Past Curator, Head (Architecture & Sustainable Design, SUTD)

Shabbir Hussien Mustafa – Chief Curator, Singapore Art Museum

Ar. Tiah Nan Chyuan – President, Singapore Institute of Architects

10. BUDGET AND SUPPORT

10.1. **Curatorial and Design Fee:**

- a. Disbursed through the Organiser in tranches upon milestone completion. Refer to **Schedule 1**.
- b. Covers curatorial concept development, research, investigation, and exhibition design.
- c. Additional funding for contributors/collaborators invited by the curatorial team may be available, subject to approval.

10.2. **Exhibition Construction:**

- a. To ensure economic feasibility of proposals
- b. Encompasses physical production, materials, fabrication, and installation by Venetian contractor

10.3. **Organiser's Support:** SAM will oversee and manage:

- a. Administrative and logistical coordination
- b. Shipping arrangements and customs clearance
- c. Exhibition setup, maintenance, and teardown in Venice
- d. Liaison with La Biennale di Venezia technical teams
- e. On-site support throughout the exhibition period
- f. Financial administration including fee disbursement and travel-related expenses

More details will be shared during the briefing.

11. **SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

Register for briefing & download package at <https://go.gov.sg/2027-sg-pavilion-vb-registration>

Submit proposals at <https://go.gov.sg/2027-sg-pavilion-venicebiennale>

FAQ (Circular dated 22 May 2026) at <https://www.ura.gov.sg/Corporate/Guidelines/Circulars/dc26-05>

Requirements:

- 11.1. Single PDF document of maximum 5 pages (of A3 size). All text must be in English.
- 11.2. File naming: 2027SGP-VAB_[Proposal Name]_[Name of Lead Applicant].pdf
- 11.3. Maximum file size: 7MB
- 11.4. Include contact details for lead applicant

12. **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

The Co-Commissioners reserve the right to not select any proposal if none meet the required standards. Submissions will not be returned. Stage 2 development fees will be paid upon completion of detailed proposals.

12.1. Intellectual Property (IP):

- a. The curatorial team undertakes that all content supplied to, and all IP used or introduced in the course of performing its obligations under the contract do not infringe any rights or interests of any third party in IP. Prompt notice shall be given in writing of any claim of infringement of such rights or interests made by any third party.
- b. All rights, title to or interest in, all Foreground IP created by the curatorial team shall vest in the curatorial team. Nothing shall affect any person's right to own or licence Background IP.
- c. The curatorial team grants to the Licensee and its agents, free of any additional charge:
 - i. an irrevocable, worldwide, perpetual, non-exclusive licence to use, modify, and reproduce all Foreground IP (including all future Foreground IP) in connection with the use, reproduction, modification, adaptation, integration or development (the "Permitted Uses") of the proposal; and
 - ii. grants to the Licensee/Authority and its agents, free of any additional charge, a worldwide, perpetual, non-exclusive licence, to use all Background IP owned by or licensed to the curatorial team, in connection with the Permitted Uses.
- d. "Background IP" means IP in or in connection with the proposal, which is created prior to or independently of the Contract. "Foreground IP" means IP (including future IP) which results from or is generated pursuant to or for the purpose of the project. "Licensee" means the Urban Redevelopment Authority and DesignSingapore Council.
- e. The IP clauses shall survive the termination or expiry of the project.

- 12.2. The selected curatorial team will enter into a formal agreement with Organiser, SAM.

- 12.3. Financial arrangements shall be administered through SAM. Curatorial and design fees will be disbursed in tranches based on agreed milestones and deliverables.
- 12.4. The curatorial team shall work with the Organiser to ensure economic feasibility of their proposal within budget.
- 12.5. Logistical arrangements will be managed by SAM as the Organiser.

13. CONTACT AND ENQUIRIES

For questions regarding this open call, please contact:

Email: Jeffrey_ANG@ura.gov.sg

Subject line: "Enquiry - Singapore Pavilion Venice Architecture Biennale 2027"

Enquiry Deadline: 2 weeks before submission date

All questions and responses will be published on <https://singaporepavilion.sg/2027-open-call>

14. ABOUT THE CO-COMMISSIONERS & ORGANISER

14.1. CO-COMMISSIONERS

- a. **Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA)**



The Urban Redevelopment Authority is Singapore's land use planning and conservation agency. Our mission is "to make Singapore a great city to live, work and play". We strive to create an endearing home and a vibrant city through long-term planning and innovation, in partnership with the community.

We have transformed Singapore into one of the most liveable cities in Asia through judicious land use planning and good urban design. Adopting a long-term and comprehensive planning approach, we formulate strategic plans such as the Long-Term Plan and the Master Plan to guide the physical development of Singapore in a sustainable manner. Developed to support economic growth, our plans and policies are focused on achieving a quality living environment for Singapore.

We take on a multi-faceted role to turn plans and visions into reality. As the main government land sales agent, we attract and channel private capital investments to develop sites that support planning, economic and social objectives. Through our regulatory function, we ensure that development works are aligned with our plans. As the conservation authority, we have an internationally recognised conservation programme, and have successfully conserved not just single buildings, but entire districts. We also partner the community to enliven our public spaces to create a car-lite, people-friendly and liveable city for all to enjoy.

In shaping a distinctive city, we promote architecture and urban design excellence, and innovate to build a resilient city of opportunity that fulfils the aspirations of our people.

Visit www.ura.gov.sg for more information.

b. **DesignSingapore Council (Dsg)**



The DesignSingapore Council's (Dsg's) envisions Singapore as a liveable, loveable, and limitless city by design. As the national agency for design, our mission is to develop the design sector to be globally competitive, champion the sector, help Singapore use design for innovation and growth, and make life better in this UNESCO Creative City of Design. Dsg is a subsidiary of the Singapore Economic Development Board.

Our work focuses on deepening and broadening the practice and adoption of design in organisations, in communities, and in everyday life. We cultivate and celebrate Singapore design that resonates, expands what's possible and builds on our city's distinctive strengths as a global design hub.

Singapore was designated a UNESCO Creative City of Design in December 2015. The designation supports Singapore's development of a creative culture and ecosystem that integrates design and creativity with everyday life. It also expands Singapore's opportunity to collaborate with cities from the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN). The City of Design Office is sited with Dsg, which coordinates and implements programmes that respond to UCCN's mission.

designsingapore.org

14.2. **ORGANISER**

Singapore Art Museum (SAM)



Singapore Art Museum opened in 1996 as the first art museum in Singapore. Also known as SAM, we present contemporary art from a Southeast Asian perspective for artists, art lovers and the art curious in multiple venues across the island, including a new venue in the historic port area of Tanjong Pagar.

SAM is building one of the world's most important public collections of Southeast Asian contemporary art, with the aim of connecting the art and the artists to the public and future generations through exhibitions and programmes. SAM is working towards a humane and sustainable future by committing to responsible practices within its processes.

To find out more, visit www.singaporeartmuseum.sg

SCHEDULE 1

Payment Milestone Schedule – Curatorial Fee

Singapore Pavilion, Venice Architecture Biennale 2027

S/N	Milestone	Report Submission	Percentage of Fee
1	Upon approval of the developed Theme, Concept and Exhibition Design.	Yes	20%
2	Upon approval of the Detailed Design and Final Exhibition Design.		60%
3	Upon completion and launch of the exhibition in Venice.		20%
	TOTAL		100%

Note: All payments are subject to satisfactory completion of milestones, to be endorsed by URA.

Curatorial Team Scope:

- Design development and exhibition layout, with prototyping (if applicable).
- Monthly progress presentations to the Co-Commissioners, Organiser and identified subject matter experts (if any) towards implementation of the pavilion.
- Work closely with SAM's appointed Venetian contractor to maintain design intent while addressing implementation matters.
- Production oversight and coordination, with on-site presence during Venice installation.
- Return exhibition setup with minimal adaptation (if required) for the Singapore venue.
- Final project documentation and reporting.

Payment Terms:

- Payment shall be subject to completion of the relevant milestone
- Curatorial team must provide sufficient supporting documents and reports as required.

Required Documentation:

- Milestone 1: Curatorial theme and concept, exhibition design, production timeline
- Milestone 2: Finalised detailed design and exhibition layout, graphic/publication/collateral design
- Milestone 3: Venice installation and launch completion report
- Milestone 4: Singapore return exhibition installation and launch report