



PAVILION OF AZERBAIJAN
at the 19th International Architecture Exhibition
– La Biennale di Venezia

Equilibrium

Patterns of Azerbaijan
10 May – 23 November 2025



For its inaugural participation in the 19th International Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia, the Republic of Azerbaijan presents the exhibition titled **Equilibrium. Patterns of Azerbaijan**. The Pavilion is jointly organized by the **Heydar Aliyev Foundation** and the **Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan**, supported by the **Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Republic of Italy**. It will be open to the public from 10 May to 23 November 2025 at the exhibition venue Castello 2127/A, near the **Arsenale**.

The exhibition, curated by **Nigar Gardashkhanova**, takes inspiration from the theme *Intelligens. Natural. Artificial. Collective*, proposed by Carlo Ratti, Curator of the 19th International Architecture Exhibition. It advocates for innovative design practices in response to the growing climate crisis. The main projects to be exhibited by the Pavilion of Azerbaijan follow the notion of **"Regenerate. Innovate. Preserve."** Commissioned by **Rashad Aslanov**, the Pavilion features contributions from the **Azerbaijan Development Company (ADEC)**, **Simmetrico Architettura** and **Adalat Mammadov**.

The curator of the exhibition explains: "Focusing on **regenerating** a new green lifestyle through **innovating**, while **preserving** cultural heritage, each work underscores the importance of solidarity and trust among gens (people) as vital drivers for the effectiveness of any form of intelligence."

Fitting with the approach, the Pavilion highlights a selection of projects under each theme that emphasise how traditional values, combined with modern,

Venue; Arsenale, Campo della Tana, Castello 2127/A – 30122 Venice
Preview: from Thursday 8 May to Friday 9 May 2025



19. Mostra
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Repubblica dell'Azerbaijan

sustainable practices, can create a harmonious balance between the past and the future, promoting a greener, more connected world for everyone.

Azerbaijan Development Company (ADEC), under the **"regenerate"** theme, exhibits the **Baku White City Project** — an ambitious urban redevelopment initiative transforming the heavily industrialized and environmentally degraded **"Black City,"** once the heart of Azerbaijan's oil industry, into a modern and sustainable district. As part of the project, ADEC is also showcasing the **Baku White City Bridge**, a symbolic structure representing connection, transformation, and progress, highlighting the district's transition from an industrial past to a sustainable future through collective effort.

Simmetrico Architettura, under the **"innovate"** theme, is displaying their design for **Victory Park**, a monumental project in Baku that blends modern architecture with cultural heritage. The park stands as a symbol of national pride, reflecting the strength and solidarity of the Azerbaijani people. Through this project, Simmetrico Architettura demonstrates how innovative design can honour history, foster collective strength, and create sustainable, meaningful spaces for the future, while emphasising the power of unity in the face of hardships.

Adalat Mammadov, under the **"preserve"** theme, is highlighting his design for **Zangilan Mosque**, a monumental restoration project that blends traditional Karabakh architectural elements with modern design. The mosque symbolises the fusion of past and present, preserving religious heritage while reflecting the community's resilience and determination. Through this project, he demonstrates how architecture can restore cultural landmarks and strengthen communal bonds while respecting the natural beauty of the surrounding landscape.

As part of the Pavilion's cultural narrative, a dedicated area honours the legacy of **Ajami Nakhchivani**, the visionary founder of the Nakhchivan School of Architecture, whose influence shaped medieval Azerbaijani and broader Middle Eastern architecture. This tribute coincides with the celebration of his 900th anniversary under UNESCO's jubilee programme.

COMMISSIONER

Ambassador Rashad Aslanov has served as the Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Republic of Italy since 2022. He plays a key role in strengthening Azerbaijan-Italy relations and promoting Azerbaijani culture and interests in Italy.

CURATOR

Nigar Gardashkhanova (Baku, 1983), a project manager and art expert at the Heydar Aliyev Center, designed by Iraqi British architect Zaha Hadid, has been leading artistic design projects and exhibition installations in Baku, various regions of Azerbaijan, and abroad since 2013. She has overseen large-scale projects in collaboration with renowned national and international sculptors and artists, including Lorenzo Quinn, Dotun Popoola, and others. Since 2016, she has played a key role in coordinating and executing sculpture, painting, stained glass, carpet, photography, and video installation projects at the Heydar Aliyev Center. Additionally, she has been involved in curating historical exhibitions that explore various periods of Azerbaijan's history.

EXHIBITORS

Azerbaijan Development Company (ADEC) plays a key role in urban development and infrastructure projects, with a strong focus on sustainability. Notably, it leads the Baku White City Project, one of the Caucasus's largest developments, featuring 120,000 residential and commercial units, 240,000 workplaces, and cultural spaces. Prioritizing green spaces, it also hosts the COP29 Azerbaijan Operating Company, reinforcing ADEC's commitment to sustainability.

Simmetrico, founded in 2007 by Daniele Zambelli, specializes in Expo pavilions, museums, exhibitions, and architectural projects, seamlessly integrating diverse disciplines from concept to completion. It established Simmetrico Cultura (2017) for cultural initiatives and Simmetrico Architettura (2019) for urban spaces dedicated to art and culture. The company operates in Milan, Dubai, and Riyadh.

Adalat Mammadov (Barda, 1959) graduated in architecture from the Azerbaijan University of Architecture and Construction. Since 1980, he has held key roles, including chief architect at the "Azerbarpa" Research and Design Institute. His works span mosques, museums, and restoration projects, notably the House Museum of Uzeyir Hajibeyli, Heydar Mosque, Shamakhi Mosque, Taza Pir Mosque, Zangilan Mosque, and many others. He has also led major conservation efforts, including the Shah Abbas Caravanserai and Imamzadeh Complex. Recognized for his contributions to historical preservation, he holds UNESCO and ICOMOS certificates and was named Honoured Architect of Azerbaijan in 2018.

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**Arsenale, Campo della Tana, Castello 2127/A
– 30122 Venezia**

Commissioner

Ambassador Rashad Aslanov

Curator

Nigar Gardashkhanova

Exhibitors

Azerbaijan Development Company (ADEC)

Simmetrico Architettura

Adalat Mammadov

Organizers

Heydar Aliyev Foundation

Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan

to the Republic of Italy

Coordinator

Carlotta Scarpa, CS Art Management

Press Office

CASADOROFUNGHER Comunicazione

Press Contacts

CASADOROFUNGHER Comunicazione

www.casadorofungher.com

Elena Casadoro Kopp: +39 334 8602488

elena@casadorofungher.com

Laura Cocciolillo: +39 373 7234651

press@casadorofungher.com

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WEBSITE

