

keep cool! **Workshop for cool Cities**

Press release _ April 2025

Parallel to the 19th International Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia, Salone Verde art & social club invites you to a “Workshop for cool Cities”. The local warming of cities due to climate change and intensified urbanization is widely discussed. At Salone Verde, we ask how to live with climate change, not how to stop it.

The exhibition addresses the overheating of cities and draws attention to local building traditions and inherited ecological knowledge. Through interdisciplinary collaboration, it proposes unconventional strategies for adapting to climate change.

With contributions from three German academic institutions: the University of Stuttgart (Architecture), HFT Stuttgart (Interior Architecture), and Deggendorf Institute of Technology (Light technics and media art) supported with works by the Berlin based artist Antje Schiffers, “keep cool!” brings together perspectives from architecture, design, engineering and art. Together, these academic and artistic voices shape the Salone Verde into a “workshop for cool cities”: a space for listening and for expanding or challenging our understanding of how we might live and build in a rapidly warming world.

How does one live with heat? How does one adapt to it? In Havana, Sergio, the director of the School of Product Design, says: “We have no solution for the heat. It’s not a technical problem, but a psychological one.” We fan the air toward ourselves and feel lighter on a stuffy day.

We can create comfortable living spaces using energy-intensive technologies — but these are part of the problem. Cultures that have accepted high temperatures for centuries have developed technologies that respond intelligently to these conditions. Their building techniques, materials, and forms contradict our conventional standards — and it is precisely through this contrast that they offer new perspectives on universal beauty.

Local building styles are masterpieces of adaptation to the conditions. They make use of natural resources and maintain a balance between humans and nature. Solar chimneys, wind towers, and earth channels are just some of the solutions developed by other cultures – and also by our own ancestors: “architecture without architects”. The era in which the so-called “developed industrial nations” explained the world to others is over. Today, these cultures share their stories — and we are here to listen.

Shadow casting and air movement are taken for granted in this context. At Salone Verde, we adapt both phenomena and develop them further through artistic means. Salone Verde becomes a “workshop for cool cities,” adopting a relaxed position within the wider debate. “keep cool!” is an exhibition with two intertwined narratives: “Flight into Shadow” and “Heat is a Psychological Problem”. The accompanying acoustic piece by Marc L. Vogler, composer and conductor from Cologne, creates an atmospheric layer between heat, cooling, and perception.

"Flight into Shadow"

There is a being that has outlasted forests, cities, and civilizations – an architect of renewal, ancient, constantly evolving and adapting. Mycelium, the silent connector of life beneath our feet, interlinks ecosystems and absorbs toxins. We cannot see it, we cannot smell it, we do not perceive it – and yet it is there, serving as the foundation for a new way of building.

"Flight into Shadow" identifies mycelium not merely as a natural building material, but as a mediator between nature and the built environment. Like floating clouds or murmuring swarms, these living structures form a sculptural canopy of shade – an organic response to the overheating of cities. Technology, art, and nature are interwoven, inviting us to discover surprising connections. Mycelium embodies a form of intelligence that we are only beginning to understand – a living network that learns, adapts, and connects, just as we exemplify this year in the Salone Verde. Technology, art, and nature call on us to listen closely to the wisdom that has always grown silently beneath our feet.

"Heat is a Psychological Problem"

We borrowed woven carpets and heavy blankets. They come from Mali and Anatolia, from Morocco and Uzbekistan — and for centuries, they could just as well have arrived in Venice via maritime trade. They all came to us by different routes, each one crafted by women whose names we do not know, but whose presence is embedded in every thread. These textiles bring us different visual traditions and embodied knowledge from regions where living with heat is part of everyday life. Now they hang from the beams of the roof structure, swaying slowly, lazily stirring the air — for in the heat, one should neither strive nor rush.

Overview

keep cool!

Workshop for cool Cities

Presented by:

Salone Verde art & social club

Venue:

Salone Verde, Santa Croce 2258, Calle della Regina, Venice

On view:

10 May – 23 November 2025

Wed-Mon 10:00-18:00

Curated by:

Salone Verde art & social club

Era Merkuri

Web-Development:

Matter Of, Stuttgart

Project Organization Venice:

Predieri & Varini Architetti

Venice Art Factory

Photography:

Jacopo La Forgia

“Flight into Shadow”

Institute of Building Construction, Building Technology and Design, IBK University of Stuttgart

HFT Stuttgart Interior Architecture

Deggendorf Institute of Technology

Protagonists: Prof. Martin Ostermann, Prof. Diane Ziegler, Prof. Sabine Wiesend, Eliza Biala (MycoLab Coordinator)

Collaborators: Mostafa Aboughaly, Melissa Acker, Jürgen Aldinger, Romano Bianchi, Piotr Baszynski, Christoph Bihlmaier, Holger Bitterberg, Elisabeth Bokesch, Stefan Küblböck, Willi Mauch, Franziska Rieder, Andreas Schedler, Prof. Stefan Scherbarth, Petr-Jiri Sebera, Simon Vogt, Lisa Werner

Students: Nada Aboussaid, Nadine Aderhold, Akshita Agarwal, Emel Aktas, Noha Alsayed Alatrsh, Alexandra Apousidou, Benan Ataulusoy, Laura Baier, Burak Bardakci, Nicole Baumgartner, Serhat Bayram, Dariia Brushnovska, Konrad Byron, Janset Canbek, Aslisah Canpolat, Irina Cozma, Judith David, Ferhan Hurşit Döner, Tim Döringer, Anna Fabia Delisi, Sara Elbal, Alina Engel, Alexander Fenyk, Claudius Gieringer, Hanna Hagenlocher, Miriam Haidn, Phyllis Ilmen, Feng Jiao, Nico Karl, Adrian Keilhauer, Emily Knöbel, Eda Koc, Ferhad Kokud, Louise Koppatsch, Emma Krämer, Biyu Li, Sophia Liener, Jannick Lippert, Noemi Lupascu, Julius Mäurer, Arthur Barbosa Martins, Julius Mayer, Linus Mayer, Kai Müller, Theresa Müller, Sara Musovic, Lucienne Mutschler, Paulina Neumann, Annabel Nüssle, Jorge Calvo Pacheco, David Paßberger, Julia Perez, Katharina Plankar, Julia Rauh, Julia Reichert, Malik Rojas, Sara Salamun, Sara Salkic, Wiona Schäfer, Jonathan Schill, Vivien Schilling, Pierre Schick, Urs Seel, Aline Selinski, Joy Shehata, Afra Tanıman, Emre Tasan, Julia Theinert, Vildan Timur, Amanda Toth, Moulshree Verma, Tomas Vesely, Florian Voh, Jesse Voigt, Tatjana Wagner, Luis Wörner, Malik Yalniz, Büsra Yonat, Yang Yu, Junzhe Zhao

“Heat is a Psychological Problem”

Protagonist: Antje Schiffers

Antje Schiffers uses artistic media as flexible tools for interaction and narration - painting and drawing as objects of barter trade for example, as mobile performative elements or for stage-like productions. As an ambassador and correspondent, as a company artist, as itinerant painter and expeditionary botanist, she immerses herself in different worlds and experiments with roles and methods. Her work is collaborative and offers space and a framework for polyphony, complexity and cooperation.

Collaborators: Claudia Kohlhoff, Finn Petersen, André Torka, Thomas Sprenger

Sounddesign

Marc L. Vogler

Marc L. Vogler (*1998) is a German composer, conductor and pianist. He is Award Winner of the German Composition Award Deutscher Musikwettbewerb 2022 as well as of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra (Opus One 2020). In the 2024-26 seasons, Vogler is working as Composer in Residence at Oper Dortmund.

Program Partners:

University of Stuttgart, HFT Stuttgart Interior Architecture, Deggendorf Institute of Technology

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ERCO JUNG

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