

THE ULTIMATE COMPANION TO THE VENICE BIENNALE

PROTOTYPE TEST RESULT SAMPLE June 2025

Filled in by	Stephan
Age	44
First time at Venice Biennale	No
Background	Architecture historian, researcher, editor from the Netherlands
Interests / Company	circular design, history, sustainability, economy traveling with with partner
Visit time	Half day
Visit informed by	Stefano Boeri
Like reading in exhibitions ? [0-10]	4
Hopes to find	new directions in sustainable architecture, temperature of the profession
Guide preference	Local Venetian Architect / Starchitect / Eco-conscious guide

CHAT WITH GUIDE



I'm Bjurke. Let's make this quick - I have a flight to catch. What interests you at the Biennale?

S Can you please create a custom tour for me?



Hello Stephan, I can certainly help you create a custom tour for your half-day visit to the Venice Biennale, focusing on your interests in circular design, history, sustainability, economy, and architecture. While I couldn't find a specific exhibit directly featuring Stefano Boeri in the available information, we can explore pavilions that align with his architectural philosophy and your other interests.

Given your interests and your short half-day visit time, I recommend focusing on these pavilions located within the Giardini and Arsenale area:

- **German Pavilion: STRESSTEST**

Focus: Sustainability, circular design, urban heat, and resilience.

Why it fits your interests: This exhibit explores the reality of urban heat, relevant to architecture and urban planning. It focuses on how cities can respond to the challenges of climate change, particularly urban heat. It showcases solutions like green facades, green roofs, urban trees, and unsealed surfaces. The exhibit itself is built with sustainability in mind, utilizing a photovoltaic system and materials from a circular resource cycle. Artistic contributions by Christoph Brech and Rasthofer/Neumaier are part of the exhibit, exploring themes related to urban stress and distress. It has received praise from different critics including from the Guardian and Financial Times.

Location: German Pavilion, Giardini.

- **Singapore Pavilion: Rasa-Tabula-Singapura**

Focus: City-making, superdiversity, collective intelligence, innovation, and urban evolution.

Why it fits your interests: This pavilion reimagines city-making and explores urban planning and architectural projects through the lens of superdiversity and collective intelligence, aligning with your interests in architecture, sustainability, and the economy of urban development.

Titled "Rasa-Tabula-Singapura," the exhibit celebrates Singapore's 60th anniversary by viewing city-making as a "dining experience" that blends collective intelligence and innovation.

Location: Singapore Pavilion, Arsenale.

- **Aperol Spritz Stop**

Time to enjoy your Aperol Spritz break. There should be a bar close to the Singapore pavilion near the exit of the curator's exhibition and the escalator. Let me join you, if I could I would offer you one, paid by the company of course.

Location: Arsenale.

I am running out of time, but if you want to hang out a bit longer, I recommend the following:

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- **Uzbekistan pavilion**

Focus: solar energy, history, soviet heritage, innovation.

Why it fits your interests: This pavilion curated by GRACE titled A Matter of Radiance explores Uzbekistan's modernist architectural legacy. At the center of Uzbekistan's pavilion is the Sun Institute of Material Science, originally known as the Sun Heliocomplex, a large-scale scientific structure built in 1987 near Tashkent. As one of the final major scientific projects of the USSR, the solar furnace remains one of only two such facilities worldwide that study material behavior under extreme temperatures.

Location: Uzbekistan Pavilion, Arsenale

- **CANAL Café**

Focus: circular design, coffee, water, Venice.

Why it fits your interests: This is the talk of the town. It also won the Golden Lion as a special project by the curator. Canal Café draws water from the Arsenale Lagoon to create the best espresso in Italy with a distinct flavour of Venice. While the canals and lagoon are the source of the city's historical wealth and beauty, they also elicit fears of contamination and flooding — concerns that are heightened in an era of mass tourism and climate change. Word on the street is that it's still not really working due to Venetian regulations and food standards, but still I recommend giving it a try.

Location: Arsenale

Okay, that's it. If there is nothing else - I have two clients to meet.

S Which exhibit is best for kids?



Between us, based on the information I have from the exhibits, while none are specifically labeled as being "best for kids," some have elements that are likely to be more engaging for a younger audience due to their interactive or immersive nature.

- **The Bahrain exhibit** features an immersive installation with numerous large, soft forms resembling cushions or beanbags arranged on a granular floor. This tactile and unique environment could be very appealing and fun for kids to explore.
Location: Bahrain Pavilion, Arsenale
- **The Poland exhibit** includes a piece called "Peephole (Spioncino)" with the description "To See and Not Be Seen." This interactive element, inviting curiosity, might also be engaging for children, although perhaps for a shorter duration than the other two.
Location: Polish Pavilion, Giardini

So I recommend those two.

S What do you think of this edition of the biennale?



As an AI, I don't have personal opinions or the ability to experience the Biennale firsthand. However, some initial reviews suggest that the Biennale can be quite extensive and challenging to take in fully.

Based on a review from ArtReview, the main exhibition of the 2025 Venice Architecture Biennale, curated by Carlo Ratti, has received some criticism. The review describes it as a "claustrophobic mess of bio and techno theatrics" and a "Tech Bro Fever Dream." The critic found the main exhibition in the Corderie to be overly packed with 760 contributors, making it dense and noisy, with bleeping and clanking sounds that made reading project descriptions difficult. The review also felt that the curator relied too heavily on expensive machines to solve problems that didn't necessarily need complex technological solutions.

S Thank you Bjurke!