

# Japan Pavilion at the 20th International Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia MONSOON COMMONALITY

**Chie Konno named curator, with "Monsoon Asia" as her theme**

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The Japan Foundation will organize the Japan Pavilion exhibition at the 20th International Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia, to be held in Venice, Italy, from May 8 to November 21, 2027. We are pleased to announce that the outline of the exhibition has now been finalized.

■ Japan Pavilion at the 20th International Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia:  
Overview

Title: MONSOON COMMONALITY

Organizer/Commissioner: The Japan Foundation

Curator: Chie Konno (Architect and Representative Director, t e c o )

Participating Artists: Huang Sheng-Yuan (Principal Architect, Fieldoffice Architects)

Shui Yanfei (Principal Architect, Yanfei Architects)

Shunri Nishizawa (Architect, NISHIZAWAARCHITECTS; Associate Professor, The University of Shiga Prefecture)

Environmental Editor: Kentaro Suga (Environmental Editor and Architect, Arup; Specially Appointed Associate Professor, Kyoto Institute of Technology)

(Names listed without honorifics.)



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**■ Overview of the 20th International Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia**

Dates: Saturday, May 8 – Sunday, November 21, 2027

Venue: Giardini della Biennale, Arsenale Exhibition Spaces, and various other locations throughout Venice

Directors general: Wang Shu and Lu Wenyu

Overall theme: Do Architecture — For the Possibility of Coexistence Facing a Real Reality

Official website: <https://www.labiennale.org/en>

**■ Chie Konno**

Architect and Representative Director, t e c o

Born in Sagami-hara, Kanagawa Prefecture, in 1981. Graduated from Tokyo Institute of Technology in 2005. Studied at ETH Zurich as a scholarship student in 2005–06. Completed her doctoral program at the Tokyo Institute of Technology Graduate School in 2011, earning a Ph.D. in Engineering. Founded KONNO in 2011, followed by t e c o in 2015. Served as a Specially Appointed Professor at Kyoto Institute of Technology from 2021 to 2026 and a visiting faculty member at ETH Zurich in 2024, among other positions.



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Her work spans architectural design for residential, welfare, and public facilities, extending to community research, urban planning, and art installations, with an ongoing pursuit of creating environments that transcend existing systems and institutional boundaries.

Notable works include *Kasugadai Center Center* (recipient of the Architectural Institute of Japan Award (Works) in 2023, among others); venue design for the Japan Pavilion Exhibition at the 20th International Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia 2016, *en: art of nexus* (participated as t e c o ; the exhibition received a Special Mention); and *Koyo Loggia House* (recipient of the Tokyo Society of Architects & Building Engineers Housing Architecture Award, Gold Prize in 2013, among others).

Notable publications include *Loggia: Semi-Outdoor Spaces Around the World — Places for Leisure and Gathering* (Gakugei Shuppansha, 2025).

Official Website: <https://teco.studio/>

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## ■ Curator's Statement

Imagining environments where all people are welcomed with openness and generosity.

We are amid a quiet transformation — liberated from the logic of modernity, shifting from the urban to the peripheral, from mechanical control to the intelligence of nature, from a Western logic to the Eastern logic within which we live ourselves. This transformation offers an opportunity to redefine the way we live, and it begins with the experience of inhabiting a place: looking closely, listening carefully. When we turn our gaze toward the wisdom of living rooted in climate and landscape, we may come to recognize that we are part of society and part of nature.

We live in Monsoon Asia.

This region is shaped by seasonal winds: in summer, moist winds blow from the sea to the land, bringing with them the hot and humid rainy season, while in winter, dry winds blow from the land to the sea, ushering in the dry season. Although rainfall is abundant, the terrain is often steep, and water resources per capita are scarcer than in Western Europe. Under these conditions, systems of mutual aid have been built around the storage, use, and circulation of water, with rice cultivation at their foundation. Rather than resisting natural disasters such as floods, communities have shaped the regional landscape by embracing and adapting to them with resilience.

I would like to call the practices cultivated in this climate and landscape the commonality of Monsoon Asia.

From the claiming of territory within the terrain, the handling of water, food culture, and rhythm, to a view of life and death that sees existence as part of a greater cycle — these are relationships forged through collective efforts to endure and inhabit a particular environment, and they represent the accumulated art of shaping environments that have been repeated and embedded within communities over time. By turning our attention to Monsoon Asia, a region that shares these climatic and landscape characteristics, we can begin to see experimental approaches to making contemporary life. Even without being geographically contiguous, we are connected somewhere through the shared experience of climate and landscape.

Building a place where we can live together.

I wish to reflect on the commonalities rooted in climate and landscape together with our neighbors, and to present that experience at the Japan Pavilion of the La Biennale di Venezia. The building of such a place extends beyond Monsoon Asia — it points to the possibility of architecture through which we can find common ground and live together, looking toward the future.

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## ■ Huang Sheng-Yuan

Principal Architect, Fieldoffice Architects

Born in Taipei City in 1963, Huang Sheng-Yuan received his B.Arch. from Tunghai University and his M.Arch. from Yale University.

He settled in Yilan in 1993, where he gradually developed Fieldoffice Architects.

In 2015, he presented the exhibition *Living in Place*.

In 2018, he and Fieldoffice Architects represented at the Taiwan Pavilion, at 16th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia with *Living with Sky, Water and Mountain: Making Places in Yilan*.

In 2021, he was invited to exhibit at the 17th Venice Biennale.

In 2026, he was invited to publish *Gently Walking Back to the Surface of the Earth*, which proposes an architectural way of thinking that returns to land, climate, bodily perception, and everyday life, and reflects on how to cultivate a humble and attentive relationship with the environment, with people, with time, and even with the stars.

Official Website: <http://www.fieldoffice-architects.com/>



Photo: Fieldoffice Architects

## ■ Shui Yanfei

Principal Architect, Yanfei Architects

Born in Chongqing in 1981. Widely recognized as one of the leading independent architects of China's post-1980s generation. In 2012, he founded Yanfei Architects, and has since continued a practice that explores new ways of collaboration with society against the backdrop of China's rapid social transformation.

Through a wide range of activities, including community research, experimental installations, community collaboration, and on-site construction, he pursues the creation of architecture that opens new possibilities within everyday life. His work has received numerous awards, including the American Institute of Architects

Shanghai Honor Award in 2018, the same year he was invited to participate

in the International Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia. In 2023, he received the Exploration Award for Young Architects at the Architecture China Award. In 2024, he held a solo exhibition, *Focusing the Familiar*, in Shanghai. In 2025, he received the Kojima Kazuhiro Prize (Japan), which honors outstanding emerging independent architects.

Official Website: <https://www.yanfeiarchitects.com/>



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## ■ Shunri Nishizawa

Architect, NISHIZAWAARCHITECTS; Associate Professor, The University of Shiga Prefecture

Born in Chiba Prefecture in 1980. Graduated from the Department of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering, the University of Tokyo in 2003, and completed his graduate studies at the same university in 2005. Worked at Tadao Ando Architect & Associates from 2005 to 2009. After contributing to numerous projects as a partner at Vo Trong Nghia Architects from 2009 to 2011, and at Sanuki+Nishizawa architects from 2011 to 2015, he founded NISHIZAWAARCHITECTS in Ho Chi Minh City in 2015. His work encompasses not only affluent urban clients but also the research

and design of living spaces for people who embrace nature in their daily lives, including stilt houses along the Mekong River. Since 2023, he has served as Associate Professor in the School of Environmental Science at the University of Shiga Prefecture. His laboratory researches not only conventional buildings but also the spatial qualities and commonalities of structures in which the countless actors around Lake Biwa — people, fish, birds, insects, plants, microorganisms, sand, clay, light, water, wind, and more — form ecological connections.

Official Website: <https://tezzonishizawa.com/>



## ■ Kentaro Suga

Environmental Editor, Arup; Specially Appointed Professor, Kyoto Institute of Technology

Born in Machida, Tokyo, in 1977. Graduated from the Department of Architecture, School of Science and Engineering, Waseda University in 2001, and completed his master's degree in architecture at the Graduate School of Engineering, the University of Tokyo in 2003. After working at Kume Sekkei, he joined Arup in 2009, where he currently serves as Sustainability Leader. Since 2021, he has held the position of Specially Appointed Associate Professor at Kyoto Institute of Technology.

Through both research and practice, he pursues passive design approaches that avoid excessive reliance on mechanical systems, as well as comfortable and pleasant spatial environments unconstrained by conventional methods and value systems.

Notable works include the Mori Ogai Memorial Museum (BCS Prize, 2014), Myoenji Ossuary (Japan Institute of Architects Environmental Architecture Award, 2016; Excellence Award, Environmental and Equipment Design Award, 2018), Tokyo Aquatics Centre, Ishinomaki City Complex Cultural Facility, the Japan Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai, and the Jellyfish Pavilion at Expo 2025 Osaka.

My Portal – researchmap: [https://researchmap.jp/kentaro\\_suga](https://researchmap.jp/kentaro_suga)

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■ Selection Process for the Curator of the Japan Pavilion at the 20th International Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia

The curator nomination competition for the Japan Pavilion at the 20th International Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia involved a rigorous selection process conducted by a six-member Architectural Exhibition Advisory Committee appointed by the Japan Foundation. Based on a candidate list compiled by 29 nominators from Japan and abroad, seven candidates were selected by the Advisory Committee and invited to submit proposals. Five of the candidates submitted proposals, and following the final round of deliberations, Chie Konno was selected as curator.

■ About La Biennale di Venezia

La Biennale di Venezia is an international festival held across various locations throughout the city of Venice, Italy. Since the first art exhibition was held in 1895, it has accumulated a history of more than 130 years. In recent years, international exhibitions centered on the visual arts have been held around the world, and La Biennale di Venezia stands as the most prominent among them and the model from which all others have drawn inspiration. The word "biennale" is Italian for "every two years," and the fact that many similar international exhibitions have adopted the name "biennale" or "triennale" (every three years) is widely attributed to the influence of La Biennale di Venezia. The event currently features five components: the International Art Exhibition, the International Architecture Exhibition, the Festival of Contemporary Music, the Film Festival, and the Theatre Festival. The architecture exhibition in particular draws worldwide attention as a venue that provides an overview of contemporary architectural trends.

Japan made its debut as an official participant in 1952, and following the completion of the Japan Pavilion in 1956, has continued to participate in every edition since. From 1976 onward, the Japan Foundation has organized the Japan Pavilion exhibition, as it continues to do today.

The Japan Pavilion has received the Golden Lion Award (Best National Participation) on two occasions: at the 1996 Architecture Exhibition, for *Fractures* (Commissioner: Arata Isozaki; Participating Artists: Osamu Ishiyama, Yoshiaki Miyamoto, and Ryuji Miyamoto), and for *Architecture. Possible here? Home-for-All* (Commissioner: Toyo Ito; Participating Artists: Kumiko Inui, Sou Fujimoto, Akihisa Hirata, and Naoya Hatakeyama).

For information on past exhibitions at the Japan Pavilion, please visit the official Japan Pavilion website.

<https://venezia-biennale-japan.jp/>

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**■ About the Commissioner**

The Japan Foundation, which has served as the organizer and commissioner of the Japan Pavilion at La Biennale di Venezia since 1976, is Japan's only institution dedicated to carrying out comprehensive international cultural exchange programs throughout the world. Established in 1972 as a special legal entity under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it became an independent administrative agency on October 1, 2003. With 26 locations in 25 countries, the Japan Foundation operates under the mission of "cultivating friendships and ties between Japan and the world," creating opportunities for people-to-people exchanges through various projects and information services to deepen mutual understanding between the people of Japan and other countries. In 2022, to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Japan's official participation in La Biennale di Venezia, the Japan Foundation published *La Biennale di Venezia and Japan* (Heibonsha).

Japan Foundation Official Website: <https://www.jpjf.go.jp/>

**■ Press Images**

For image requests, please contact our press representatives, Ms. Kumakura and Mr. Fukushima, at [press@jpjf.go.jp](mailto:press@jpjf.go.jp).

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## ■ Exhibition Concept Image



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Kasugadai Center Center ©morinakayasuki



SUNNY LOGGIA HOUSE ©chiekonno

## ■ Reference Works by Huang Sheng-Yuan



Luodong Cultural Working House  
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Jin-Mei Parasitic Pedestrian Pathway across Yilan River  
© Fieldoffice Architects

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