

VARDİYA

16. Uluslararası
Mimarlık Sergisi
Venedik Bienali
Türkiye Pavyonu

16th International
Architecture Exhibition
La Biennale di Venezia
Pavilion of Turkey

26/05 – 25/11/2018
Sale d'Armi, Arsenale

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la Biennale di Venezia

16. Mostra
Internazionale
di Architettura

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**THE PAVILION OF TURKEY TRANSFORMS INTO
A STAGING GROUND FOR CRITICAL DIALOGUE AND
CULTURAL EXCHANGE ACROSS BORDERS
AT THE 16TH INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE
EXHIBITION OF LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA**

Curated by Kerem Piker and coordinated by Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts (İKSVA), the Pavilion of Turkey will present Vardiya¹ at the 16th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia, taking place from May 26th to November 25th 2018. Co-sponsored by Schüco Turkey and VitrA, the Pavilion of Turkey is located at Sale d'Armi, Arsenale.

Responding to the Biennale Architettura 2018 theme of *Freespace*, **Vardiya** is a programme of public events that will transform the Pavilion of Turkey into a staging ground for creative encounter, collaborative production and cultural exchange across borders.

122 international architecture students from 16 countries will visit the Pavilion of Turkey in weekly 'shifts' as active producers of the evolving exhibition content. They will participate in workshops, engage in roundtable discussions and hear keynote lectures driven by guest scholars, designers and architects.

The project started with an open call to architecture students around the world, generating 452 responses to the question: **"Why does the biennial exist? What does the biennial do? For whom does the biennial exist?"**.

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¹Shift: "Vardiya" in Turkish: noun (va'rđiya) | in Italian, "guardia"

The programme will begin with multi-media installations, through which visitors will be informed about forthcoming activities and workshop themes. Throughout the **twenty-five weeks** of La Biennale, the Pavilion of Turkey will host **13 workshops**, focusing on a variety of topics; around **50 digital meetings** with participants from a range of disciplines; and 6 lectures by keynote speakers, including an international roster of leading architects. All of the workshops, digital meetings and lectures will be open to visitors during biennale opening hours.

More than just an exhibition space, the Pavilion of Turkey is conceived as a meeting place. Vardiya proposes a spatial organization that is at once scattered, inclusive, and open to change and transformation.

Vardiya aims to stimulate an ongoing critical dialogue among students, academics, professionals and the public about the role of the biennial. Emphasising the power of creative collaborations on an international scale, the curatorial programme reimagines biennials as platforms that create new networks and forms of communication, encourage inclusivity and promote interaction between cultures.

In addition to creating a space for all parties to benefit from this opportunity of interplay, the Pavilion of Turkey hopes to incorporate individual and collective experiments from young creative minds into the locus of contemporary architectural discourse.

Curator Kerem Piker explained: *"Architecture is a field that is constantly expanding, transforming and renewing itself. As such, there is a need for environments where architectural knowledge is reproduced, shared and discussed, and the voices of new participants are heard. As the International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia is one of the most important informal learning arenas in architecture, we prefer to describe the Pavilion of Turkey as a space for meeting, encounter and production rather than merely an exhibition space... We see this project and the preparation process as an opportunity to rethink what a biennial does, for whom, and why it exists in our time."*

Vardiya is curated by **Kerem Piker**. The associate curators are **Cansu Cürgen, Yelta Köm, Nizam Onur Sönmez, Yağız Söylev and Erdem Tüzün**.

Vardiya Workshops, Lectures and Digital Meetings

Vardiya project consists of **13 workshops**, each lasting one week and run by invited professionals and student groups. The first workshop will begin on Sunday 27 May after the public opening on Saturday 26 May and will focus on the theme of the Media. Taking place every other week, the workshops will be based on the following topics: **The Venice Times; Future of Childhood; Film Space as Free Space: Making a B-Horror Movie Fragment; Architecture as Critical Media; Taking Scarpa for a Walk; (N)everland; Obituary Island; Of Journeys; Venice: Surface, Geometry, Texture, Colour; The Vast Minority; Redrawing Venice; Treasure Hunt and Retrospective.**

Each workshop will culminate with a keynote lecture, starting with **award-winning architect Emre Arolat** on **Sunday 27 May**, followed by leading architecture and design figures such as: architect **Eva Franch Gilabert**, architect **Juhani Pallasmaa**, design critic and curator of the 4th Istanbul Design Biennial **Jan Boelen** and media artist and designer **Refik Anadol**.

Around **50 digital meetings** will be broadcast online from the Pavilion of Turkey. Based on a variety of different themes, each session will start with a 15 minute discussion on: 'Why does the biennial exist? What does the biennial do? For whom does the biennial exist?' Speakers will bring diverse perspectives from a range of backgrounds, including architect **Bernard Khoury**, academic and architect **Andrew Kovacs**, architect **Han Tümertekin** and architecture editor and critic **Cynthia Davidson**.

Keynote lectures and digital meetings will be broadcast online on Vardiya's Youtube channel **Vardiya Online** and blog: **vardiyaxpress.com**.

Vardiya Book

A set of four books have been published to accompany the project **Vardiya**, titled: **Idea, Open Call, Conversations** and **Pavilion**. The books are edited by **Cansu Cürgen, Kerem Piker** and **Nizam Onur Sönmez** and feature texts by the curatorial team, workshop coordinators, and other collaborators. The Vardiya book will be available in a bilingual format - English and Turkish - at the opening of the 16th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia and will then be distributed by **Yapı Kredi Publications** in selected bookstores.

The book and the exhibition's visual identity are designed by **ONAGÖRE - Okay Karadayılar and Ali Taptık**. The exhibition design of *Vardiya* is by **KPM - Kerem Piker Mimarlık, Architectural Studio**, and video content is by **SARRAF GALEYAN MEKANİK - Can Tanyeli**.

Supporters of the Pavilion of Turkey

The Pavilion of Turkey's exhibition is coordinated by **İKSV (Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts)** and realised through the co-sponsorship of **Schüco Turkey** and **VitrA**, with the lighting support of **TEPTA Lighting**, the contribution of the **Ministry of Culture and Tourism** and under the auspices of the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey**. The Pavilion of Turkey opened at the 14th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia in 2014 for the first time, upon a 20-year allotment of the Arsenale with İKSV's initiation and the contribution of 21 supporters.

The Selection Committee for the Pavilion of Turkey at the 16th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia

The Selection Committee chose Vardiya from a number of open call applications following a rigorous evaluation process. The Committee's members are: Prof. Dr. Sibel Bozdoğan, Levent Çalıköğlü, Prof. Dr. Arzu Erdem, Prof. Dr. Murat Güvenç, Yeşim Hatırlı, Prof. Dr. Suha Özkan and Prof. Dr. Uğur Tanyeli.

Notes to Editors

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Youtube
channel: <https://www.youtube.com/c/VardiyaOnline>

For high resolution images:

<http://www.iksvphoto.com/#/folder/90664g>

For videos:

<https://bit.ly/2rHcdhA>

<https://files.secureserver.net/0fx9xMkLR4QR1U>

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Biographies of the Curatorial Team

KEREM PİKER, curator

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Lives and works in Istanbul. Kerem Piker was born in Ankara in 1978. He received his BArch degree in Architecture in 2001 at Istanbul Technical University and his MSC in Arch degree in 2004 at TU Delft. In 2010, He was selected as one of best 40 architects in Europe under the age of 40 by Chicago Atheneum. In 2011 Kerem Piker founded KPM-Kerem Piker Mimarlık, Architectural Studio. KPM was awarded in several architectural competitions. In 2016, Akyazı Cultural Center designed by KPM received the best project prize in the 15th National Architecture Awards. Since 1998, Kerem Piker has taught in architectural schools as a visiting lecturer and juror, including İstanbul Technical University, Yıldız Technical University, Gebze Institute of Technology, Bilgi University and Abdullah Gül University.

CANSU CÜRGEN, associate curator

curgen.com

Architect and academician, lives and works in Istanbul. She teaches in Istanbul Bilgi University and pursues her PhD studies in Istanbul Technical University. She interests in daily life studies, standards, open design practices and architectural debates on regulating principles.

YELTA KÖM, associate curator

yeltakom.info

Lives and works in Berlin. Born in 1986 in Istanbul, Turkey. He practices in various ways intersection between art, architecture and research. He is graduated from Städelschule Architecture Class. His interest areas include commoning practices, landforms, technology, critical spatial practices.

NİZAM ONUR SÖNMEZ, associate curator

akademi.itu.edu.tr/sonmezon

Architect and academician. He lives in Istanbul, Turkey and works at Istanbul Technical University. He is also a member of the "off-center". His research topics include artificial intelligence for design, utopian / visionary / narrative architectures, and personal identity.

YAĞIZ SÖYLEV, associate curator

yagizsoylev.com

Architect, lives and works in Rotterdam and Istanbul. He received his BArch degree at Istanbul Technical University in 2014. He works at TU Delft while continuing his graduate studies. His research interests include communing practices and open design strategies.

ERDEM TÜZÜN, associate curator

erdemtuzun.com

Architect. He lives in New York and works with Eisenman Architects. He is a co-founder of Architecture for All. He received his BArch degree at Istanbul Technical University and MS Arch degree at Pratt Institute. He was given the National Architecture Award in Turkey in 2016 with his "The Giant Machine" project.