Between East & West A Gulf
The Kuwaiti National Council for Culture, Arts, and Letters (NCCAL) is excited to announce its third national participation at the 15th International Architecture Exhibition — La Biennale di Venezia. The pavilion titled ‘Between East and West: A Gulf’ looks past Kuwait’s borders to the contested hydrography of the Arabian/Persian Gulf and proposes a new master-plan for the region. In an area of physical, religious, and political division, the Kuwaiti pavilion tells the story of the Gulf’s islands and the possibilities they hold for a joint territorial project.

The pavilion, located in the Arsenale, will feature a catalog of over three hundred islands in the Gulf elaborating on their histories and character. In addition to this compilation, the pavilion will feature design proposals for a selection of these islands - made from young and established architectural practices in the region - aimed at how a masterplan could be implemented across these contested waters.

The third in a series of architecture pavilions which explores the national in Kuwait, this chapter considers the country’s role in the region as part of a larger conversation towards peace and cooperation. An unprecedented initiative for a national participation from the Gulf, the subject of this year’s exhibition was chosen by the NCCAL for its aim to initiate a conversation amongst the countries that border this body of water, and to imagine a collective project to unify the region.
Exhibited design contributions from—

AGi Architects
Behemoth Press with Matteo Mannini Architects
Design Earth
ESAS Architects
Fortuné Penniman in collaboration with Studio Bound
PAD10
X - Architects

The exhibition has been commissioned by Zahra Ali Baba of the NCCAL (National Council for Culture Arts and Letters – Kuwait). The curators are Hamed Bukhamseen from Kuwait and Ali Karimi from Bahrain.

Accompanying the pavilion is a research publication both in English and in Arabic which will be made available within the exhibition space on the opening date.

For more detailed information about the curators, participants, or the pavilion, please visit: www.kuwaitpavilion2016.com

The NCCAL
Established in 1973 by Amiri Decree, the Council seeks to preserve and promote the arts throughout the country, and aims to cultivate a productive environment for artists. Today, the duties of the organization vary from maintaining museums, public libraries, and cultural centers, to organizing excavations, renovating pre-oil structures, arranging annual cultural festivals, hosting readings and lectures, and representing Kuwait at cultural events abroad. The NCCAL also awards prizes each year for outstanding individuals in the fields of art, art criticism, literature, drama, film, music, translation, and the social sciences.

For press inquiries contact—info@kuwaitpavilion2016.com

May 26—27, 2016
Preview Days

May 28—November 27, 2016
15th International Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia
Between East & West: A Gulf

Commissioner
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