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## 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.

Kuwait’s Pavilion at the  
15<sup>th</sup> International  
Architecture Exhibition of -  
La Biennale di Venezia

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](http://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](mailto:info@kuwaitpavilion2016.com)

**May 26—27, 2016**

Preview Days

**May 28—November 27, 2016**

15<sup>th</sup> International Architecture Exhibition –  
La Biennale di Venezia

# Between East & West: A Gulf



la Biennale di Venezia

15. Mostra  
Internazionale  
di Architettura

Partecipazioni Nazionali

## Commissioner

Zahra Ali Baba - National Council  
for Culture Arts and Letters / Kuwait  
(NCCAL)

## Curators

Hamed Bukhamseen, Ali Karimi

## Art Director / Graphic Designer

Fahad AlHunaif

## Publication Coordinator / Editor

Muneerah Alrabe

## Project Designers & Research Architects

Saphiya Abu Almaati, Shahab Albahar,  
Mai Albusairi, Nada Alqallaf, Rawan Alsaffar,  
Yousef Awaad Hussein

## Financial Team

Mohammed Al Ajmi,  
Mohammed Al Jameel

## Administrative Team

Abdullah Albeeshi (Head of team),  
Noora Al Musallam, Jaber Al Qallaf,  
Jassim Al Shamali.

[kuwaitpavilion2016.com](http://kuwaitpavilion2016.com)

