

# GUIDE TO THE AUSTRIAN PAVILION SET-UP, VENICE BIENNALE

---

## Table of Contents

1. GENERAL INFORMATIONS AND LIMITS FOR INTERVENTIONS ON THE HISTORICAL BUILDING
2. LOAD LIMITS
3. OUTDOOR AREAS
4. NEW CONSTRUCTIONS
5. ELECTRIC SYSTEM AND LIGHTING
6. PASSAGES AND DIMENSIONS
7. GENERAL RULES AND TIMELINE FROM THE BIENNALE

# 1. INFORMATIONS AND LIMITS FOR INTERVENTIONS ON THE HISTORICAL BUILDING

The Austrian Pavilion at Giardini della Biennale is a historical building protected by the Heritage Office of Venice.

According to its status all interventions changing the outside aspect of the building and all the internal modifications/structural changes to the original plan have to be submitted to the Heritage Office for approval. Please notice that this doesn't apply to the normal exhibition design i.e. drywalls etc. Only if the intervention inside interferes with the existing structure, walls, ceiling etc.

Listed below some general rules, please notice that any project can be submitted to the Biennale/Heritage Office for approval, but the guideline below is realistic concerning obtaining approval.

Some interventions are not allowed, such as:

- attaching and drilling into the facades
- drilling into the floor surface
- drilling into the roof surface
- structural modifications of the building (for obtaining permission to open the exhibition the biennale is requiring a written statement from the Austrian General Consulate in Milan, that no structural changes has been made to the pavilion)

Some interventions are allowed, such as:

- modifications of the vertical windows on the main halls, removing in order to create ventilation, replacing with panels or similar
- building up temporary partition walls in- and outside of the building
- fixing/drilling into the courtyard pavement (to be restored after take down) for normal fixings (in case of substructures, foundations etc. a specific project must be agreed with the engineer, and the pavement and its substructure to be restored after take down)
- building new structures in the courtyard

ANY INTERVENTION ON THE BUILDING HAS TO BE AGREED WITH BMUKK AND THE LOCAL ARCHITECT BEFORE IT'S SUBMITTED TO BIENNALE/AUTHORITIES FOR APPROVAL

## 2. LOAD LIMITS

- The load limit for the internal floor surface is 500 kg/m<sup>2</sup>.

- The load limit for the courtyard surface is 500 kg/m<sup>2</sup>. If this load capacity is too little for its project purpose, the existing new slabs can be removed, based on a verification and a certified project a higher load can be applied. This last situation is not recommendable since it implies the removal of the slabs and afterwards the repositioning with the risk of

damages to the slabs

- The load limit for the entrance platform surface is 500 kg/m<sup>2</sup>.
- The load limit for vertical structures/installations (partition walls etc.) inside the building is 300 kg/m<sup>2</sup>.
- The load limit for items hanged from the ceiling has to be checked and certified according to the project by an Italian engineer enlisted in the roll of Italian engineers (the project can be developed by foreign engineers as long as it's being vetted and certified locally!)
- For outdoor structures the wind load has to be considered for buildings in Venice which is high and has to be calculated according to the project. Even a relatively low structure could be calculated to resist a load of 1200kg/m<sup>2</sup> at its highest point, to give an idea! (the project can be developed by foreign engineers as long as it's being vetted and certified locally!)

### 3. OUTDOOR AREAS

- The green area inside the courtyard is part of the Austrian pavilion and can generally be part of the set-up without authorization from the Heritage Office if approved by the Biennale office
- The green area outside the pavilion belongs to the Municipality. Any intervention on that area must be submitted for approval to the Heritage Office as well as the park authorities.

### 4. NEW CONSTRUCTIONS

The courtyard and other parts of the pavilion can be used for new constructions related to the exhibition.

- Any new construction must be approved by the Biennale offices, the Heritage Office and other relevant authorities.
- The project must be sent to Venice according to the Biennale deadline, and must be calculated or approved by an Italian engineer as any other structural intervention which has no certification from the provider.

- Fireproof certificates must be submitted for any material used in the exhibition apart from actual artworks. Class 1 materials (fire retardant!) are requested for most materials i.e. fabric, furniture, plasterboards. Class 0 (fireproof!) is required when a Class 1 material needs a support structure, then the support structure must be Class 0

Example:

-a floor material needs an under construction like wooden boards for fixing in to, typically it's needed to fix podiums or other exhibition material. The floor material Class 1, rubber, carpet or else must be positioned directly to a material of Class 0, gypsum board, ceramic tiles or similar. Only below this material there can be a wooden structure/boards of Class 1, like plywood or else.

## 5. ELECTRIC SYSTEM AND LIGHTING

The existing electric system has a total power of 100 Kw. The approximate available amount for the exhibition is 90 Kw.

- Any addition to the existing electric system has to be certified by an Italian electrician.
- No certification is requested in case the electric devices are to be connected to the existing sockets without intervening with the existing fixed installation. Only the individual electrical/electronic components has to be EU approved.

## 6. PASSAGES AND DIMENSIONS

- Any modification to the existing passages must be approved the Biennale office and agreed with an architect enlisted in the Italian roll of architects.
- An average dimension of 120 cm is to be used for the main exhibition path and, according to Italian regulations on historical buildings, a minimum passage of 90 cm can be granted.

## 7. GENERAL RULES AND TIMELINE FROM THE BIENNALE

- Any intervention concerning engineer's calculations must be submitted within 30 days before the Biennale opening.
- All the certificates regarding the project structures and materials, the electric and electronic devices tech specs, must be submitted within 30 days before the Biennale opening.
- The Regulation for National Participations sent every year by the Biennale to the commissioner has to be respected in terms of deadlines and for any aspect concerning the exhibition.
- All works performed by Italian as well as foreign, Austrian, companies must answer to the Italian code regarding safety on the building site, hence each individual installation project must be verified to ensure its compability to the code and eventual need for the development of a specific safety plan as can be required by Italian law.