

la Biennale di Venezia

15. Mostra
Internazionale
di Architettura
Partecipazioni Nazionali

THE PHILIPPINE PAVILION

MUHON

Traces of an Adolescent City

Chairman Felipe M. de Leon, Jr.
National Commission for Culture and the Arts
Commissioner, The Philippine Pavilion

Secretary Jose Rene D. Almendras
Department of Foreign Affairs

Honorable Loren Legarda
Senator of the Republic of the Philippines

cordially invite you to the vernissage of

MUHON
Traces of an Adolescent City THE PHILIPPINE PAVILION

15th International Architecture Exhibition
Friday, 27 May 2016 at 16.00 h
Palazzo Mora, Strada Nuova,
3659, Venezia, Italy

RSVP on or before May 16, 2016 at:
rsvp@philarchvenicebiennale.net

Philippine Pavilion - Muhon: Traces of an Adolescent City

Muhon: Traces of an Adolescent City is the selected exhibit for the historic first participation of the Philippines at the International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia.

The Filipino word muhon, derived from the Spanish mojón and translated roughly as “monument” or “place-marker,” evokes contemplation through the primal act of marking a fixed point in both space and time. Symbolically, the construction of a muhon can be considered an act of affirming one’s existence. It conveys the idea of staking a claim in the universe. The exhibition is anchored in the concept that the built environment is a critical method of understanding one’s sense of and belonging to a place. It is a way of tracing a presence, standing a ground, abiding by a position.

The curatorial team composed of Sudarshan Khadka, Jr., Juan Paolo de la Cruz and Leandro Locsin, Jr. of Leandro V. Locsin Partners (LVLP), has invited six architects and three contemporary artists to start a conversation about the rapid creation and destruction of Metro Manila’s built heritage, and whether such conditions preclude the formation of the city’s cultural identity. Metro Manila, the country’s capital, arose from the ruins of an older colonial city virtually leveled by the Second World War. Growing at a frenetic pace since then, Metro Manila is conceived in its current context as an adolescent city - restless, awkward, and in many ways raging.

The nine participants selected buildings, structures, landmarks, boroughs, and urban landscapes. Evaluating their cultural merit and analyzing their potential within the national heritage, they created three sets of abstracted models built for each of the subjects corresponding to their original state, their current condition, and projected future.

The intent was to abstract these muhon or markers in order to explore the presence or absence of significant value. The three rooms of the Philippine Pavilion have been framed as -- (1) History, (2) Modernity and (3) Conjecture, and the three abstractions of each subject will be placed accordingly.

The participants are Eduardo Calma, Jorge Yulo, 8x8 Design Studio Co. (Mary Pearl Robles & Adrian Lorenzo Alfonso), C|S Design Consultancy (Anna Maria Sy-Lawrence, Charm Chua Cabredo, Regina Sofia Gonzalez, Luther Maynard Sim, Mervin Afan, Lea Celestial, Katrin Ann P. de Leon, Philip Mendoza, Raquel G. Orjalo, Karen Tillada), LIMA Architecture (Don Lino & Andro Magat) and Mañosa & Company, Inc. (Bambi Mañosa). The contemporary visual artists are Poklong Anading, Tad Ermitaño and Mark Salvatus.

The subject buildings and urban elements featured in the Pavilion are KM 0 in Luneta (Anading), the Pandacan Bridge (Ermitaño), Chinatown (Salvatus), the Philippine International Convention Center (Calma), the Mandarin Hotel (Yulo), the Magsaysay Center (8x8 Design Studio Co.), the Pasig River (C|S Design Consultancy), the Makati Stock Exchange (Lima Architecture), and the Coconut Palace (Mañosa & Co.).

The Philippine participation at the Venice International Architecture Exhibition is its historic first and is under the auspices of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) with support from the Office of Senator Loren Legarda. In 2015, the Philippines made its comeback to the Venice Art Biennale after a fifty-one year hiatus.

The Philippine Pavilion will hold its vernissage on May 27, 2016 and will run from May 28 to November 27, 2016.