

***CLOSED!***

Project "Closed!"

*Statement*

Openness is deceptive.  
Institutionally imposed lack of structure, innate incoherency and hollow falsity make an inflammable collage of contemporary russian architectural and broader cultural scene. Sheer incompetence walks hand in hand with ambition. Profane simulation is at place. Chronic repetition of errors is positively implied.  
Yet again we find ourselves in Zugzwang position.  
No longer we subdue.

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*Proposal*

We move ourselves away from solving non-architectural issues with architectural tools.  
We move ourselves away from displaying conventionally irrelevant architecture.  
We move ourselves away from being restrained by walls and borders.  
We move ourselves away from the architectural petting zoo.  
We do not design, do not plan and do not plot.

We let it loose.  
We call for actions and reactions.  
We advocate for informality as a method.  
We propose an open call within the open call.  
We are concrete to declare ambiguity as the act of ultimate liberation.

Back to 1340, Sansedoni contract plot.  
We address non-architectural problems of existence and coexistence equipped with mere words and a diagram of *facciata*, the information sign to be installed in front of the pavilion, thus replanting those problems into the field of architecture. Everything behind the *facciata* is the good time that we share. Thereby the proposal is 'designed' and presented in sansedonian manner - in writing.

How will we live together? But what does the formal side of architecture have to do with living? Why do we even talk about architecture when there are basic vital human needs unresolved? Schusev pavilion being a hostage of the open call has nothing to do with the question of coexistence. Neither it has any relevance to contemporary russian architectural discourse, whether it may even exist.  
Thus, we deal with the pavilion first and effectively take it out of the equation, put the padlock on, liberate it from poor conjuncture.  
Rather than speculate upon the possible physical reconstruction of the pavilion, we extend beyond its very "skin and bones". We propose to extrapolate the subject matter from Venice to elsewhere by creating a network both physical and virtual, a platform for the "voices" to be heard. From May the 21st till 29th of November we envisage an extensive informal cultural programme both in Venice and beyond that has more to do with architecture and contemporary Russia than the russian pavilion.

A report which clearly outlines proposals regarding the architectural project and the exhibition approach

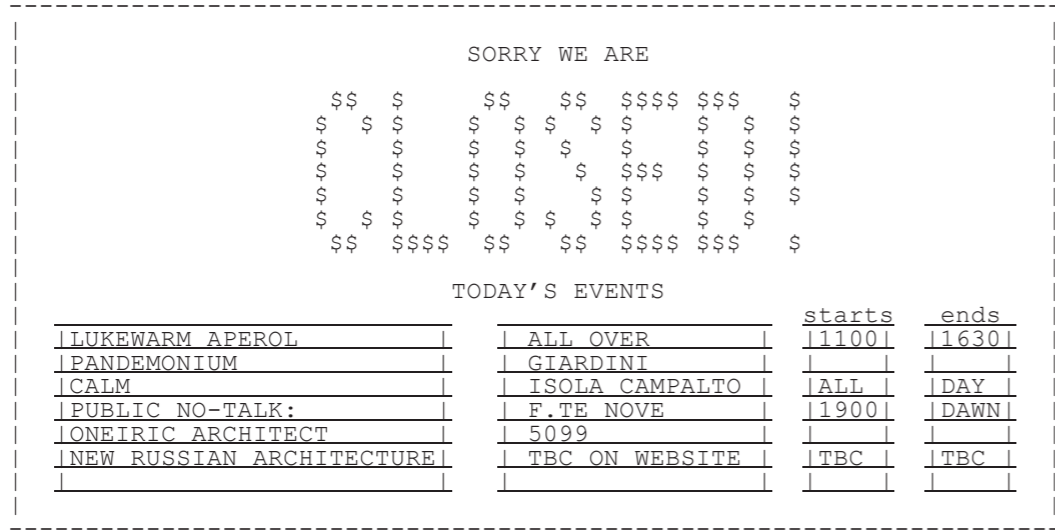


Diagram A. Information sign layout example. To be installed in front of the Russian pavilion. Approximate size of the sign: 7 ft. by 14 ft.



Diagram 1. Russian pavilion before May 21st

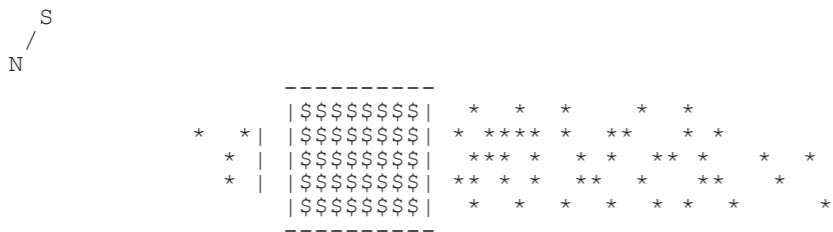


Diagram 2. Russian pavilion during May 21st-23rd  
 \$ - pavilion inaccessible from the outside (architecture)  
 \* - people having a good time (institution)

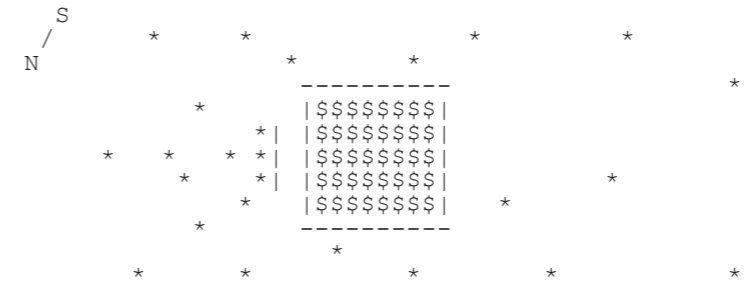


Diagram 3. Russian pavilion from May the 24th until November the 28th  
 \$ - pavilion inaccessible from the outside (architecture)  
 \* - people having a good time (institution)

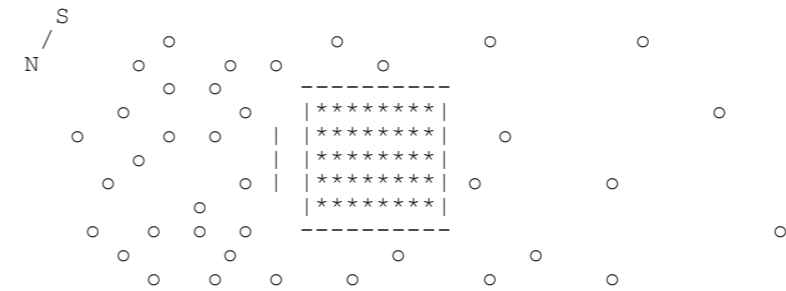


Diagram 4. Russian pavilion on November the 29th  
 \* - exceptional people in the pavilion (institution + architecture)  
 o - all other people having a good time outside

Mikheil Mikadze  
MA architect, founding partner at XOPA  
architecture bureau, former visiting lecturer  
at MARCH School and module leader  
at BHSAD.

Oyat Shukurov  
MA architect, partner at XOPA architecture  
bureau, former visiting lecturer at  
MARCH School and BHSAD.

Anastasia Belinskaya  
MA architect, Lucky charm at XOPA architecture  
bureau, Lead architect at MEGANOM

Team composition

Project "Closed!"  
Event programme

Preliminary actions to be taken:

1. We buy a nice padlock to lock the pavilion gate
2. We hire mourners for triumphal closing
3. We take all of the open call submissions and print the newspaper to be distributed in Venice and elsewhere
4. We offer our colleagues to partake in open call within the "Closed!" project and to improvise throughout

Artefacts:

1. Padlock
2. "Sorry, we are closed!" information sign
3. "Moeche fritte" wrapping newspaper with open call submissions

Dates: May 21-23

Title: "Biennale opens, pavilion closes"

Event description: 3-day long triumphal closing gala, involves lion & unicorn gate ceremonial lock up and celebration in the backyard.

Dates: May 24-31

Title: "Day with an architect"

Event description: Week long set of specific individual activities each led by prominent russian architect, involves bird-watching, prosecco drinking and casual procrastination.

Dates: June 1 - July 31

Title: "Sorry, we are still closed!"

Event description: Launch of a one month long performative workshop, results to be realised in various parts of Venetian isles throughout July, involves site-specific theatrical and poetic manifestations.

Dates: August 1-31

Title: "Sorry, we are still closed, but may we help you?"

Event description: Launch of a one month long competition between young russian architects to envisage an alternative image of russian pavilion whether it was to be built this year, results to be exhibited at GES-2 in October.

Dates: September 1-30

Title: "Sorry, we are still closed, somehow!"

Event description: Back to Venice, exploring beauty and impromptu happenings throughout the city.

Dates: October 1-31

Title: "Sorry, we are not open yet, but you may visit us at GES-2"

Event description: "Russian pavilion 2.0" exhibition

Date: November 29.

Title: "Biennale closes, pavilion opens"

Event description: Triumphal lock breaking followed by traditional vodka-infused farewell party, involves a blissful hangover the next day.

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Indicative cost report<sup>\*/\*\*</sup>

	number	flights	accommodation
Established russian architects	10	1500/person	2500/person
Young russian architects	20	350/person	1250/person
(Open call participants included)			
21/05 to 31/05		22000 eur	50000 eur
Information sign			1500 eur
Russian pavilion 2.0 exhibition		assembly	14000 eur
		architects honorarium	3000 eur
		food for the closing and opening ceremonies	6000 eur
		supplements for theatrical and poetic manifestations	3500 eur
		TOTAL	100000 eur

\* Drinks, furniture, crockery, glassware, silverware, etc. to be kindly supplied by generous sponsors.

\*\* 600 000 euros distribution of the construction budget to be calculated by the pool of local colleagues based on their proposal.