



la Biennale di Venezia

15. Mostra
Internazionale
di Architettura

Biennale Architettura 2016
Participating Countries
Collateral Events

**"SALON SUISSE": "WAKE UP! A PATH TOWARDS
BETTER ARCHITECTURE"**

Promoter

Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia

Curator (Salonnière)

Leila el-Wakil

Assistant

Isabelle Griffiths

Collaborator in Venice

Tobia Pagani

With the support of

Laufen Bathrooms; Hochparterre; wb form

Websites

www.prohelvetia.ch

www.biennials.ch

Participants

Ammar Abo Bakr; David Adjaye; AJAR (Association des Jeunes Auteurs Romands); Fr. Maximous El Antony; Mahnaz Ashrafi; Ellen Baxter; Bill Bouldin; Mariana Correia; Salma Samar Damluji; Samuel Dématraz; Emmet (Embodied Metaphors); Rodrigo Fernandez; Dominique Fleury; Daniel Grataloup; Ahmad Hamid; Anna Heringer; Manuel Herz; Paul Humbert; Martin Rauch; Cyril Veillon; Simón Vélez; Peter Vetsch; Laura Viganò; Laurent de Wurstenberger

The Salon Suisse is one of Switzerland's official contributions to the 15th International Architecture Exhibition. A series of talks and events provides an opportunity to question architecture in a stimulating atmosphere.

The 2016 Salon Suisse is curated by architect and art historian Leila el-Wakil, a professor at Geneva University. Her program focuses on questions dealing with heritage and tradition, sustainability, and equity and ethics in pursuing happiness with *glocal* architecture.

The twofold aim of the Salon Suisse is to discuss and reevaluate fundamental ideas resulting from a balanced conception of modernity, and to participate in setting these as adapted guidelines for architecture in the twenty-first century. Since the first oil crisis in 1973, research, teaching, and experiments to develop forms of *slow architecture* have been numerous. But these pioneering experiments were very much marginalized. Now, thanks to the global diffusion of these ideas via the internet, one can observe an empowerment of architecture by its users. The Salon Suisse offers a space for reflection on topics such as tradition and modernity, reuse and recycling, the priority of human beings and human needs, "Small is beautiful," and the *Existenzminimum* for all, at a time of greed for some.

Swiss and foreign architects, engineers, researchers, craftspeople, filmmakers, and artists are invited to share their knowledge and experiences around the theme of "a better architecture for tomorrow." Liechtenstein is a special guest of the Salon Suisse during the opening of the Biennale with *New Schools of Thought*.



Left: Earth house by Peter Vetsch in Lättenstrasse, Dietikon (Switzerland). © Stefan Wittwer
Right: Storage of compressed soil blocks manufactured by Terrabloc. © Laurent de Wurstemberger