



Culture

Architecture

Building

Pavilion of Albania
at the 19th International
Architecture Exhibition –
La Biennale di Venezia

Public program by
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Invitation
Elisabetta Terragni

Public Program
Podcast 3
Freedom

16:00
3rd of July
at Arsenale, Venice

Building Architecture Culture, the Albanian pavilion at the Venice Biennale highlights the reciprocal relationship between architecture and society. The discipline extends beyond practice to academia and the broader public sphere, where spatial ideas are shared, debated, and reflected upon. This third sphere ideally serves as the conscience of the profession. The Albanian pavilion and its public program act as a temporary version of this space, on display and discussing Albania's evolving architectural identity. These conversations will continue beyond the exhibition through a podcast, created in collaboration with Koozarch, ensuring that those unable to attend in Venice can also engage with these dialogues.



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Freedom

Freedom is a paradox. It is both an aspiration and a condition, something to be achieved yet always in negotiation. In Albania, freedom has been a radical shift, experienced as rupture rather than evolution. The collapse of the totalitarian regime in 1992 brought with it the euphoria of liberation but also the disorientation of unregulated change. Cities became sites of improvisation, where individuals reclaimed space in an urgent assertion of ownership. Public and private blurred, not by design but by necessity. What did freedom mean in those years? For many, it was the right to build without constraint, to shape space without restriction.

Three decades later, freedom continues to shape Albania's built environment in unexpected ways. It manifests in the absence of a rigid architectural canon, allowing for experimentation, but also in the vulnerabilities that come with deregulation. Unconstrained by strict planning policies, architecture in Albania operates at the intersection of ambition and risk, creativity and consequence. What happens when freedom extends beyond personal agency to define an entire profession? When the lack of limits generates not just opportunity but also responsibility?

In architecture, freedom is never absolute. It is always in dialogue with structure, with material, with context. How does one navigate a landscape where rules are still in flux? As the country moves forward, the question remains: What kind of freedom is truly needed? One that liberates the individual or one that sustains the collective?