THE NEW AUSTRALIAN PAVILION - FACT SHEET

Project Description: The new Australian Pavilion designed by leading Australian architecture firm Denton Corker Marshall is the first 21st-century pavilion to be built in Venice’s historic Giardini della Biennale. The design is a powerful architectural statement that serves as a contemporary counterpoint to the surrounding structures and signals a new moment for engagement with Australian art and architecture on the international stage.

The only pavilion to face the Rio dei Giardini canal, Denton Corker Marshall’s design invites visitors to enter via a ramp, which twists through the trees, before pausing on the open terrace overlooking the water. The building, a seemingly solid rectilinear block, takes on a changing character through operable panels that open and close, altering the visual impact both externally and internally as the exhibitions themselves change. This relationship between the pavilion and the natural environment celebrates Australia’s own close relationship to the land and fosters a unique environment in which to view art.

Location: Giardini della Biennale, Venice, Italy

Opening Date: 5 May 2015

Architect: Denton Corker Marshall, Melbourne, Australia

Space Breakdown: Total covered area: 380 square metres
Total gallery space: 240.5 square metres

Building Size: Height: variable 7.4 to 10.4 metres (2 floors)
Footprint: 329.7 square metres

Building Materials: The new pavilion is a two-level steel and concrete structure with a black granite exterior. The exhibition gallery on the first floor features polished concrete floors, five-metre-high plasterboard over plywood walls with an acoustic plasterboard ceiling.

Total Project Cost: $7.5 million (AUD)
Funding: The project has been funded through donations from over 80 private benefactors and a contribution of $1 million (AUD) from the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts. The private fundraising efforts have been led by Australian Commissioner for the 2013 and 2015 Venice Biennales, Simon Mordant AM, who pledged a family donation of $2 million (AUD) towards the project. Significant contributions have also been pledged by the Belgiorno-Nettis family, Allan Myers AO QC and Maria Myers AO, Andrew Cameron AM and Cathy Cameron, and the Nelson Meers Foundation, among others. The project has also attracted support from internationally recognised artists, including Cate Blanchett, Andrew Upton, Rachel Griffiths, and Andrew Taylor.

Leadership: The Australia Council for the Arts, the Australian Government’s arts funding and advisory body owns and manages the Australian Pavilion.

Project Team: Architect: Denton Corker Marshall, Melbourne, Australia

Design Team: FAREstudio, Rome, Italy
ARUP, Melbourne, Australia
STEAM, Padua, Italy

Project Manager: InTeA S.r.l.

General Contractor: Joint Venture Group of Companies: SICOP Costruzioni S.r.l., S.I.R.CO. S.r.l., FIEL S.p.a.