

2025, July

EMILIO AMBASZ HAS BEEN INVITED TO THE 19th INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE EXHIBITION OF LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA, CURATED BY CARLO RATTI.



On display at the Corderie dell'Arsenale is the panel dedicated to the great Maestro.

Texts and photographs recount one of the architect's most emblematic works, the ACROS in Fukuoka, which marks its 30th anniversary. A majestic work that has become an example and model of inspiration for Green Architecture worldwide, it is also part of the excerpt projected in a loop from the film Green Over Gray: the film that explores his revolutionary philosophy of 'green over gray' through four iconic projects, analyzing the



relationship between nature, man, landscape, and environment. The video narration, enriched by the voice of Ambasz himself, intertwines with the testimonies of important figures from the world of design and culture, including Tadao Ando, Kengo Kuma, James Wines, Stefano Mancuso, and Fulvio Irace.

Recognized as a pioneer, father, poet, and prophet of green architecture (James Wines called him 'the Messiah' of this vision), Ambasz has created works that, from Japan to the USA, passing through Italy and many other countries, remain central to the debate on the poetics and discipline of design. Inspired by his personal philosophy summed up in the formula "Green over the grey"; his works have influenced some of the most famous names in contemporary architecture.

His works and his relentless search for a reconciliation between man and nature have earned Ambasz numerous awards and recognitions worldwide. Recently, Ambasz received the President's Award from the Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization Prize (CSU_UN) in New York and was one of the key figures in the recent exhibition at the MoMA (Museum of Modern Art in New York) titled Emerging Ecologies.

MoMA, like the Metropolitan Museum (NY), holds in its permanent collection the Vertebra chair (1975) – the world's first automatic ergonomic chair, developed with G. Piretti – which sparked a new industry for the entire sector (Compasso d'Oro



1981), along with other of his objects, testifying to his incredible productivity as an inventor.

At MoMA, Ambasz, as Curator of Design for the Department of Architecture and Design from 1969 to 1976, organized a series of groundbreaking exhibitions, including the iconic Italy: The New

Domestic Landscape (1972), bringing Italian design objects to global prominence.

He has had major solo exhibitions worldwide, from MoMA in New York (twice) to the Triennale in Milan (twice), the Reina Sofia in Madrid, Tokyo, Geneva, Bordeaux, Zurich, Chicago, Philadelphia, Mexico City, San Diego, and Saint Louis.

Honorary member of the American Institute of Architects and the Royal Institute of British Architects, Ambasz is a versatile intellectual, architect, designer, and extraordinarily prolific inventor (with 4 Compasso d'Oro awards and an impressive collection of global tributes), artist, storyteller, and curator.

He maintains strong ties with Italy, where he spends part of the year.

He has been featured at various International Architecture Exhibitions of La Biennale di Venezia (most recently in 2021 in the Italian Pavilion and in 1976, when he represented the USA). In 2014, he was named Commander of the "Stella al Merito della Repubblica Italiana" for his contributions to



Italian culture. Over time, Ambasz has received prestigious awards and

recognitions (including an Honorary Degree from the University of Bologna in 2021, the Sigillo delle Arti from the University of Urbino in 2021, the 4th Compasso d'Oro Career Award in 2021 from ADI, the IN/Architecture Career Award 2023 Veneto, and the National Career Award IN/Architecture 2023 – for the first time in its history, this award was given to a non-Italian).

In April 2025, featuring Kengo Kuma, Columbia University in NY started a Lecture series dedicated to him titled Architecture as Poetry. In 2025 again, the 50th anniversary of one of his most internationally renowned works, the Casa de Retiro Espiritual (Seville, Spain), a stunning and dreamlike evocation of the primordial notion of home, will be celebrated as one of the world's most renowned optical mirages.

At the Corderie dell'Arsenale, the panel dedicated to one of Ambasz's most emblematic works is on display: the ACROS Fukuoka Prefectural International Hall in Japan—a powerful 100,000 sqm building in the city center that gave back to the community the land on which it stands, giving life to a great architectural work in symbiosis with nature, which has become a widely shared example and model of inspiration worldwide.



On the screen, a 20-minute excerpt from the docufilm *Green Over Gray* is shown, produced by Muse Factory and directed by Francesca Molteni and Mattia Colombo.

The film—requested by film festivals around the world—tells the story of the Green Architecture revolution through four emblematic projects by Ambasz, from which his vision of architecture and his sense of responsibility toward nature, humanity, landscape, and the environment emerge.

Among the most notable testimonies are exclusive interviews with architects Tadao Ando, Kengo Kuma, Toyo Ito, James Wines, and Tase Michio; botanist Stefano Mancuso; Columbia University professor Barry Bergdoll; and Fulvio Irace, architectural historian and professor emeritus at the Politecnico di Milano (IT).

A summary of Emilio Ambasz's numerous international awards is available on his Wikipedia page.

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