

EXPO 2025 OSAKA: TWENTY STRIKING PAVILIONS

Renaissance gardens, traditional fishing boats and desert villages inspire the architecture of these striking pavilions at Expo 2025 Osaka.

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The Netherlands Pavilion at Expo 2025 Osaka – ©Plomp.

Architecture. Kengo Kuma, Norman Foster, Shigeru Ban, Carlo Ratti, Lina Ghotmeh, and others have designed striking pavilions for **Expo 2025 Osaka**. The international exhibition opens its doors on April 13 and will host 150 countries. Despite global instability and climate change, the challenging overarching theme, *Designing Future Society For Our Lives*, encourages sharing knowledge, culture, and technology. Check out these twenty pavilions we are looking forward to exploring.

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Japan Pavilion



Courtesy of Nendo.

The ***Japanese Pavilion***, designed by **Nikken Sekkei** and **Nendo** founder **Oki Sato**, poetically explores the interconnectedness of all lives—humans, societies, as well as animals, and plants (because “*we are not alone*”)—as part of one singular cycle with no beginning nor end. Made from cross-laminated timber, the pavilion consists of a large circular arrangement of wooden planks that allows visitors to see interior and exterior spaces, representing the transitions between various states of life.

Uzbekistan Pavilion

COUNTRY

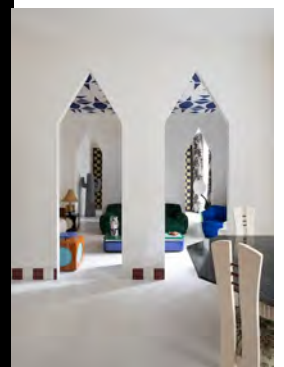
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Photo by ATELIER BRÜCKNER.

Named *Garden of Knowledge*, the **Uzbek Pavilion** by German studio **ATELIER BRÜCKNER** symbolises a new era for the Central Asian country's transition to a green economy through renewable energy projects, green transportation and energy-efficient housing. The triangular structure, a nod to Uzbek traditional amulets, features a moving platform for a 360° experience and a terrace with a timber forest with a dynamic interplay of light and shadow.

The Netherlands Pavilion

hundreds of events in historic courtyards, hidden gardens, forgotten factories, and stunning palazzos. Check our ongoing report.

Expo 2025 Osaka



On April 13, Expo 2025 Osaka will open its doors on Yumeshima, an artificial island in Osaka Bay, Japan. Discover Sou Fujimoto's masterplan and some of the best national pavilions designed by



©Plomp.

A rising sun glows behind a rippled, water-like, ethereal façade of lamellas. Themed *A New Dawn* and designed by Amsterdam-based studio **RAU Architects**, the 100% circular **Dutch Pavilion** invites you to discover new, innovative solutions in energy transition. It also doubles as a material depot: each element is identified and catalogued to become available again after the Expo.

Portugal Pavilion

Kengo Kuma, Norman Foster, Shigeru Ban, Carlo Ratti, Lina Ghotmeh, and more.

Venice Biennale, a preview!



"Intelligens. Natural. Artificial. Collective." is the title and the main theme of the 2025 Venice Architecture Biennale, curated by Carlo Ratti. How does architecture act as a catalyst for adaptation and transformation in the face of current social issues and climate change?



© AICEP, E.P.E.

The Ocean as a medium for dialogue. This is the concept behind the **Portuguese Pavilion** designed by **Kengo Kuma & Associates**. Its facade features an intricate and gently fluctuating interplay of suspended ropes and recycled nets, evoking the fluid motion of waves. Inside, the pavilion offers a unique and interactive multimedia experience that invites visitors to explore the ocean as a life-giving resource.

Italy Pavilion

Liu Jiakun wins the 2025 Pritzker Architecture Prize



"First you need to be a person, then an architect," believes Liu Jiakun, the recipient of the 2025 Pritzker Architecture Prize, the Nobel equivalent for architecture. We round up eight seminal projects, highlighting the Chinese architect's ethos.

Madrid Design

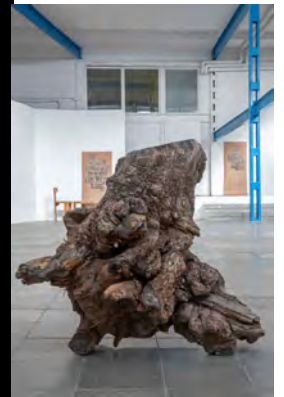


Visual by MCA.

Mario Cucinella Architects has imagined the **Italian Pavilion** as a warehouse of the country's know-how. Inspired by the visionary Renaissance's vision for the *Ideal City*, the pavilion welcomes visitors with an open portico with giant columns, offering a view into a large atrium and framing the architecture of the internal visitor route. Inside, they will be fully immersed in the colours of the Renaissance paintings, the proportions of the urban spaces, and the verdant geometry of its Italian garden on the roof.

Saudi Arabia Pavilion

Festival 2025



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© Foster + Partners.

Foster + Partners' Saudi Pavilion immerses visitors in a market-like experience. The design is inspired by the traditional Arabian mudbrick architecture of villages and towns across the country. During the hottest months, winds flow through its streets, cooling the pavilion's organic angular volumes. At its core, a planted courtyard creates a calming oasis.

Qatar Pavilion

'Making the Invisible Visible' exhibition in Milan

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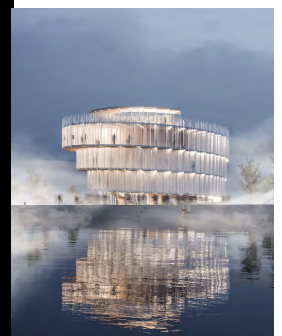
Courtesy of Kengo Kuma & Associates.

The **Qatari Pavilion**, designed by **Kengo Kuma & Associates** in collaboration with **Qatar Museums**, draws inspiration from traditional *dhow* boat construction techniques and Japan's wood joinery heritage while highlighting the two countries' connection to the sea. The structure consists of a complex timber sculpture covered in a veil of white fabric.

Bahrain Pavilion

'Prison Times' design project examines time and space within penitentiaries

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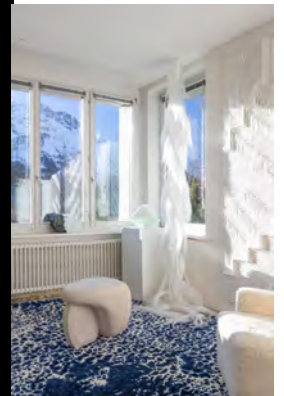
©Lina Ghotmeh Architecture.

For the **Bahrain Pavilion**, London-based architect **Lina Ghotmeh** drew inspiration from traditional *dhow* boats, reinterpreting millennial boat-building techniques that showcase the country's rich craftsmanship and manufacturing heritage.

Czechia Pavilion

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Design



Courtesy of the Office of the Czech Commissioner General.

Inspired by the eastern European country's vitality and creativity, **Apropros Architects** has designed a spiralling pavilion made of cross-laminated timber panels and covered with artistic Bohemian Crystal. Visitors are invited to a journey through Czechia's heritage; a gentle ramp and exhibition culminate with a spacious viewing terrace with a restaurant and bar. Here, Visitors can walk down through a vertical auditorium hosting artistic performances.

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United States Pavilion



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New Orleans-based studio **Trahan Architects** has imagined the **USA Pavilion** as an expansive plaza framed by panoramic LED screens depicting dynamic images of iconic American urban and natural landscapes. The pavilion will also feature exhibitions that explore sustainability, space exploration, education, and entrepreneurship. The two wedge-shaped structures, outfitted with large LED screens along their length, form a communal area at the centre. Above visitors' heads, a suspended translucent cube interacts with these two structures as people walk by underneath.

Austria Pavilion



© BWM Designers & Architects.

At the **Austrian Pavilion** by **BWM Architects**, music becomes a metaphor for the harmony between humanity, nature, and technology. Its facade features a spiralling wooden sculpture resembling a musical staff, a nod to the country's classical music heritage. The experience culminates with the *Cathedral of the Future*, where visitors can shape AI-driven audiovisual shows.

Switzerland Pavilion



Courtesy of the pavilion.

The **Swiss Pavilion** blends elements of nature and culture, symbolising Switzerland's commitment to ecological responsibility and its spirit of innovation. Designed by **Manuel Herz Architects**, it features a cluster of four interconnected spheres constructed from a lightweight, recyclable ETFE pneumatic membrane supported by a steel frame. Locally grown plants adorn each bubble, contributing to carbon offset initiatives.

Indonesia Pavilion



Courtesy of the pavilion.

In the world's largest archipelago, the presence of boats is as old as human presence. From here, the **Indonesian Pavilion** is shaped like a stylised ship's hull rising high as a symbol of the country's optimism, forward-thinking and sustainability-driven approach. The pavilion invites visitors aboard for a journey through luxurious nature, biodiversity, crafts and innovative technology.

Philippines Pavilion



Image by Carlo Calma Consultancy, Inc.

Titled *Woven*, the **Philippines Pavilion** explores human and natural interconnectedness by elevating traditional weaving into an architectural scale. Designed by **Carlo Calma Consultancy**, it is constructed with over 1,000 rattan threads and features 212 handwoven panels. As a tribute to the country's indigenous culture, over 200 woven textiles provide a vibrant touch of colour to the pavilion's earthy-hued façade.

Germany Pavilion

© MIR, LAVA.

Designed by **LAVA (Laboratory for Visionary Architecture)**, the garden-like **German Pavilion** explores the impact that architecture and urban development can have on sustainability and circularity. Two clusters of cylindrical structures made with reusable or recyclable materials provide space for the exhibition and catering areas. A freely accessible green park invites visitors to

linger and explore beyond the exhibition.

Australia Pavilion

Design by Buchan Holdings Pty Ltd, Render by FloorSlicer.

Chase the Sun is the theme of the **Australian Pavilion**, designed by global architecture firm **Buchan** in collaboration with Indigenous cultural advisors. Its curving shape was inspired by eucalyptus *gumnut* fruits. The pavilion showcases the country's diversity and resilience, incorporating Indigenous perspectives and emphasising connections to land and water.

France Pavilion

Courtesy of the pavilion.

Conceived like a stage where the natural and artificial worlds encounter, the **French Pavilion** is designed by **Coldefy** in collaboration with **CRA-Carlo Ratti Associati**. Its façade is enveloped by floor-to-ceiling draperies, whose slow movements recall water swaying in the wind. A curvy access ramp, clad in reflective pinkish copper, creates a play of warm glints, emerging from the middle of the façade. The *Miraculous Garden*, part of the permanent exhibition, is located at the rear of the building.

Corporate Pavilions

Ocean Dome Pavilion – Image by Zeri Group.

Numerous companies will also feature their own pavilions. **Shigeru Ban's *Ocean Dome* for Zeri Group** raises awareness of the ocean's sustainable use. Built from paper tubes, bamboo, and carbon-fibre-reinforced plastic, the pavilion has a sinuous shape with a large domed central pavilion flanked by two smaller domes.

Pasona Group Pavilion – Photo by Pasona Group.

Astro Boy will guide visitors to the **Pasona Group Pavilion**, designed by Japanese architect **Satoshi Itasaka** and inspired by coiled fossil shells. **Mitsubishi Disho Design** created a demountable pavilion hovering just above the ground.

Mitsubishi Pavilion – ©Mitsubishiexpo 2025.

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