

For Immediate Release

The Norman Foster Foundation Team and Porsche present 'Gateway to Venice's Waterway' at the Biennale Architettura 2025



Venice, 8 May 2025

For the Norman Foster Foundation Team and Porsche, the Biennale Architettura 2025 marks the beginning of a new creative collaboration, in which product design and architecture collide to explore the future of mobility.

The collaborative endeavour—announced last February as part of the *The Art of Dreams* initiative—brings together architect Norman Foster and the Norman Foster Foundation Team alongside designers from Porsche to investigate every aspect of mobility—from individual vehicles to infrastructure expanding on the motif of dreams and the theme of the Biennale Architettura 2025 (*Intelligens. Natural. Artificial. Collective*).

The result is an architectural structure, titled *Gateway to Venice's Waterway*—an innovative transportation hub that serves as an exploration into future mobility in Venice and beyond.

'Dreams were interpreted as aspirations brought to life through design', says Norman Foster, President, Norman Foster Foundation. 'In the context of the Biennale Architettura 2025, dreams inspired the reimagining of Venice's transportation infrastructure, bridging heritage and innovation. In architecture, it became a challenge to create a structure that not only functions as a transportation hub, but also resonates emotionally with its users. The biomorphic design reflects the dreamlike interplay of form, function and sustainability.'

Gateway to Venice's Waterway—a 37-metre-long, animal-like structure, evocative of Venice's historic network of bridges—is a physical manifestation of the intersection between design and architecture. The design and construction of the outer structure is derived from lightweight technology found in racing cars such as the Porsche 917, which combines a solid aluminium structure (chassis) with a kinetic surface inspired by Porsche's Kubus pattern.

Both a functional gateway and bridge, the hub actively connects with new electric modes of transportation both on water and land. These include water bikes (Schiller bikes) and motorboats with electric propulsion (Frauscher x Porsche 850 Phantom Air boats, utilising an adaptation of the Porsche Macan engine) which will be operating as carbon-free mobility solutions during the opening week of the Biennale Architettura 2025. By the vitrines, further demonstrations of alternative urban mobility solutions by students from Porsche Style and Studio F.A. Porsche Zell am See will be on display.

'Porsche is and remains a brand that is characterised by a highly demanding field of tension between tradition and innovation', says Michael Mauer, Vice President Style, Porsche. 'This means that we as a design team are constantly dealing with the question of how we can strategically shape the future of our brand in terms of identity and authenticity. The exchange with Lord Norman Foster and his team is a very valuable source of inspiration. This look beyond the confines of pure vehicle design provides us with important impulses for the consistent, but also future-oriented direction.'



The first Biennale Architettura to be entirely circular and no-waste, this sustainable precedent underscores the entirety of the collaboration where *Gateway*—from every element in design to implementation, has been carefully created to contemporary sustainability principles.

'This project encouraged a reimagining of the design philosophy to integrate circular economy principles and car manufacture know-how', explains Norman Foster. 'Local materials were incorporated to honour the site's heritage while reducing the environmental footprint. The collaboration with Porsche enabled us to push boundaries to design with practical, scalable solutions tailored to Venice's challenges and opportunities.'

Gateway further responds to the immediate transportation challenges in Venice and beyond, designed to migrate and evolve to new locations, in anticipation of the changing demands of global urban mobility. A bridge between heritage and innovation, *Gateway* embodies the dream of lasting and scalable impact and function, ensuring inclusivity for individuals of all ages and abilities.

The beginning of a new joint venture, *Gateway* also opens conversations beyond architecture, where we will see the Norman Foster Foundation and Porsche extend their collaboration, delving into the topic of the future of automobile mobility. Joint sketches outlining a vision for the future of individual mobility will be on display, serving as the cornerstone for the continuation of the partnership.

The preview of *Gateway* at The Arsenale took place on the 8 May, alongside a series of events at the Palazzo Pisani Moretta. The installation will be open to the public from 10 May for the duration of the Biennale Architettura 2025.

The team leading *The Art of Dreams* includes the Norman Foster Foundation Team, alongside with Christopher Hornzee-Jones, Aerotrope; Miguel Kreisler, BAU; Michael Mauer, Porsche; Ragnar Schulte, Porsche.

The 19th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia titled *Intelligens. Natural. Artificial. Collective*, curated by Carlo Ratti, is open to the public from 10 May to 23 November 2025.

Additional Quotes

'Dreaming evokes a sense of limitless possibilities and the courage to envision what does not yet exist. It is about imagining bold solutions to seemingly insurmountable challenges. In this project, dreaming meant envisioning a Venice where historic preservation and advanced mobility coexist, creating a blueprint for urban innovation that respects the past while embracing the future'—Norman Foster, President, Norman Foster Foundation

'The collaboration between the Norman Foster Foundation Team and Porsche shared values of innovation, sustainability and design excellence. Porsche's The Art of Dreams provided the perfect platform to merge the worlds of advanced mobility and visionary architecture. The focus was on creating a holistic, impactful solution that celebrates Venice's character while addressing its pressing urban mobility challenges'—Norman Foster, President, Norman Foster Foundation



Norman Foster Foundation

Founded in London in 1999, and headquartered in Madrid since 2017, the Norman Foster Foundation promotes interdisciplinary thinking and research to help new generations anticipate the future. Central to its work is Norman Foster's enduring philosophy that architecture, infrastructure and urbanism directly impact the quality of our lives as new cities are created and existing ones evolve. Since its launch, the Foundation's educational programmes—comprising workshops, forums and fellowships—have encouraged new thinking and research to help future civic leaders prepare for the challenges they will face, based on data rather than fashion. Those programmes and principles led to the creation of the Norman Foster Institute which launched its first Master's Course on Sustainable Cities in January 2024.

The Foundation is also home to the Norman Foster Archive and part of his Library, which provide a window into the larger narrative and history of our built environment through the work of Norman Foster and other prominent architects. The Archive is an open online resource and contributes to exhibitions worldwide. The education programmes and research teams are supported by the Foundation's in-house architectural team. The work of the Foundation is shared with a wider audience through the books and reports created by the Norman Foster Foundation publications team.

The Norman Foster Foundation is the recipient of various awards and was recognised as a Centre of Excellence by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in 2021. The Foundation is headquartered in Madrid and operates globally.

For more information please contact press@normanfosterfoundation.org, visit www.normanfosterfoundation.org or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Vimeo.

Porsche and 'The Art of Dreams'

Porsche AG has its headquarters in Stuttgart-Zuffenhausen. The sports car manufacturer is one of the most valuable luxury brands in the world. The company sees itself as a pioneer of sustainable mobility. The strong corporate culture is based on passion, pioneering spirit, sportsmanship and family cohesion. 'The Art of Dreams' was first presented in October 2021 in Paris at the Palais Galliera with the installation 'Remember Your Dreams' by Cyril Lancelin. For each edition, Porsche invites an artist or collective to create an installation on the theme of dreams. 'The Art of Dreams' is part of important art platforms, including: Singapore Art Week, Milan Design Week, Art Basel Miami, the Design Parade Hyères festival and Frieze Seoul. Previous collaborations with artists include: Ruby Barber, Chris Labrooy, Numen/For Use, Thomas Trum, Capsule Global, Audrey Large, Théophile Blandet, Ezra Miller, Kwang Ho Lee and Nice-workshop.

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