



INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR THE SELECTION OF STUDIES AND PROJECTS OF BOATS

Innovative Projects and Sustainable Technical Solutions
in Yachting and Small Cruise Ships

For the seventh edition of the Venice Boat Show, the Fondazione Musei Civici di Venezia is planning a call for entries focused on the Academy Lab section, which brings together the best academic research proposals in the nautical field.

The main Italian and international universities offering courses in nautical design will be involved in the initiative.

For each university, the Scientific Committee will select the worthiest projects (for a total of 15 projects), which will then be exhibited in the conventional space dedicated to the Fondazione Musei Civici di Venezia in the Arsenale. The universities will develop a theme around which the students' proposals will be based, to be submitted by March 2026 for selection.

The focus of the call for proposals is innovation in the field of nautical and naval design, focusing on projects capable of proposing and sharing new visions for the future of navigation.

For the students who are selected, the Fondazione will organise travel and accommodation as well as the printing of the projects.

The prizes for the best projects will be made of Murano artistic glass by students from the ISS "Abate Zanetti" in Murano.

To enrich the 7th edition of the MUVE Yacht Projects, prototypes of several boats (also created in expert university environments) will be on display; these will not be included in the competitive participation of the call for entries, but will enter into the context of dialogue and visibility of the MUVE spaces.

1. The project

The Venice Boat Show, a long-standing event dedicated to the nautical world, this year will be held from 27 May to 31 May 2026. It sees the involvement of local, national and international players, with a main focus on the Venice Arsenale and elsewhere dotted throughout the town.

The project plans to reserve spaces within the Arsenale to be dedicated to professional designers or students, single or associated figures who can present studies and projects for boats of any kind and material.

The objective is to allow the subjects selected by a committee of experts appointed by the Mayor of Venice, to display the product of their creativity in dedicated areas within the Boat Show.

2. Committee of Promoters

With the purpose of promoting the invitation to participate, a Committee of Promoters is appointed by the Mayor of Venice and comprises eminent personalities representative of the civil and military public institutions, academic and economic bodies, professional and trade organisations as well as those representing local, regional, national and international associations and voluntary groups.

The Fondazione Musei Civici di Venezia, jointly with the City of Venice and Vela spa (hereinafter "the Promoters"), will promote the initiative in collaboration with the main institutions and public bodies of the city.

3. Scientific Committee

A Scientific Committee composed of leading figures in the world of design, industry and academia will select the projects submitted. The composition of the Scientific Committee will be evaluated by the Board of Directors of the Fondazione Musei Civici di Venezia upon the recommendation of the Scientific Director of the MUVE Yacht Projects, Carlo Nuvolari – Duodo.

4. To whom it is addressed

The call for applications is open to students or recent graduates affiliated with the invited universities.

5. Purpose of the exhibition

Muve Yacht Projects aims to collect and promote innovative projects in the field of nautical and marine design, able to suggest and share new visions for the future of navigation.

Proposals may, for example, concern propulsion and sustainable energy systems, advanced hulls and hydrodynamic solutions, interior design geared towards comfort and resource savings, the digitisation and automation of on-board systems, the use of innovative and recyclable materials, new models of nautical mobility and shared services, the integration between boats and smart port infrastructure, and even issues of safety, accessibility and design versatility.

Projects may be concerned with one or more aspects of the following design areas:

- General design (interior layout and exterior design);
- Interior design;
- Technical aspects (hull shapes, propulsion, systems, etc.).

Studies and projects completed or not completed in the last five years may be submitted, including those already submitted to design competitions or published in trade and non-trade magazines, the ownership of which must be declared at the time of application.

Once selected, the projects will be displayed to the public through a video presentation of the work and graphic material printed on display panels.

The specifications for the project presentation video are as follows: file including explanatory texts, images, slideshows, renderings... duration between 1 min. 30 sec. and 2 min in FullHD 1920 x 1200 format .mp4.

The specifications for printing the project will be communicated to participants once the project selection phase has been completed.

6. Exhibition venue

The exhibition space allocated to each participant within the Venice Arsenale will have a modular size and shape to be defined. In this space, participants will display graphic and video media in accordance with technical specifications that will be communicated to the selected designers, with the coordination and supervision of the Fondazione Musei Civici di Venezia.

The exhibition will be held from 27 May to 31 May 2026 and may be extended for a longer period.

7. Procedure

Participation is free of charge and can be individual or in groups.

To participate in the competition, candidates from the universities participating in the initiative must register by completing the online registration form in its entirety, attaching the required documentation by 1 March 2026.

Once the registration deadline has passed, the proposals submitted will be reviewed by the Scientific Committee, which will select the five best projects from each of the participating universities.

All selected projects will be communicated to the designated representatives by 30/03/2026. Selected candidates must then confirm their participation within seven days of being notified of their selection.

8. Registration

Interested parties must register on the www.visitmuve.it portal by midnight on 1 March 2026. Here they must:

- complete the application form online in its entirety;
- attach a multi-page PDF file (maximum 15 pages in A4 format, which must be named with the name of the applicant or, in the case of a group, with the names of the participants) containing: the project in the form of sketches, technical drawings, photographs, renderings, any links to videos, etc.;
- attach an explanatory text of the project highlighting its characteristics in terms of sustainability (environmental, economic and social) not exceeding 2,500 characters, in Italian or English (including spaces), to be sent in PDF format.

All the attached documents must show the name and surname of the designer or the designers constituting the project group and must not exceed an overall maximum size of 25 Mb (25 MegaBytes).

The presentation of the documents necessary to take part in the competition may be in electronic format only. Any documents in paper form will not be taken into consideration. Sending the participation form and files of the project implies the full and tacit acceptance of the competition in every aspect by the participants.

By submitting the application form and files representing the project, participants fully and tacitly accept all terms and conditions of the call for applications.

The Promoters shall not be held responsible for any malfunctions, technical difficulties or failure to receive the material. In order to avoid overloading the system, participants are encouraged to carry out the registration and uploading procedures of their project at a prudently early date before the deadline and to report any technical difficulties via e-mail.

9. Selection

The selection phase will be based on the material sent by the participants at the time of registration.

The names of the selected projects will be communicated directly to the interested parties by 30 March 2026.

The opinion of the Scientific Committee is final and may not be questioned; any possibility of appeal is therefore excluded. The Promoters reserve the right to extend the deadlines of the competition, if need arises, and communicate these to all participants with adequate notice. All members will be notified concerning the phases of the project and any modifications that might be brought to the present announcement.

The projects deemed most deserving for each participating university will be eligible for reimbursement of travel and accommodation expenses for two people for two nights during the award ceremony.

Adhesion to and participation in the project implies the unconditional acceptance of all the articles of the present announcement.

The Promoters of the competition will have the right to make a final decision on any aspect not specified in this announcement.

10. Use of materials

By submitting material in response to the call for entries, each participant authorises the Promoters to reproduce, distribute, display, create derivative works, use (accompanied by the name of the author or authors) all or part of the materials and data submitted, as part of the selection process, in publications and catalogues relating to the initiative, during the promotion of the Venice Boat Show, in any media and during related public events, without additional compensation, as well as to grant the rights to reproduce the works free of charge. Furthermore, each participant authorises the possible publication of their work in a catalogue and on the websites of the Promoters, without compensation.

Those who submit the projects shall allow all materials (texts, images and videos) to be freely adapted according to the communication needs of the various media used, releasing the promoters and Promoters of any responsibility for any violation of the rights of third parties.

11. Responsibility

By registering for the competition and offering one's project as candidate, the competitor (whether a single individual or a group) declares:

- to be the author of the project and the holder of all the rights over the same and every part thereof;
- that the project and its parts do not violate any rights of third parties;
- that the project and the supports used do not violate any criminal law.

Projects that do not comply with the invitation to compete will be excluded from the competition. The promoters decline all responsibility with regard to the works submitted by participants and any possible copyright violations.

The data compiled by the person submitting the application are to be considered fully usable in the form in which they were uploaded, according to the needs of communication determined by the Promoters in all publications relating to the selected objects.

The compilers of the application form assume all responsibility for the truthfulness and correctness of the data transmitted, without prejudice to the fact that any and all costs necessary for any subsequent correction of such data will remain the sole responsibility of the parties concerned.

If the candidates should effect a correction or elimination of published data on the basis of proven third-party claims, any costs shall remain the sole responsibility of those who had incorrectly provided such data to the Promoters.

Ownership of the products, systems, services, studies or research included in the application is certified by the applicant. The Promoters specify that they do not undertake any kind of verification in relation to what has been declared.

Any violation of the rights of third parties, patents, trademarks or other rights therefore remains the sole responsibility of the applicants, who undertake as of now to indemnify and hold harmless the promoters and Promoters from any claim, request, responsibility, and in general from any and all rights or claims of third parties.

The responsibility for the contents sent is to be attributed to the authors of the contents themselves. The Promoters reserve the right not to publish images the content of which includes any pornography, violence or racial intolerance; which is detrimental to the privacy of others or to the image and reputation of third parties or laws; which is vulgar, racist, classist or otherwise reprehensible; which is such as to cause harm, in any way, to minors.

12. Data processing

The personal data of the participants shall be processed by the Fondazione Musei Civici di Venezia and may be communicated to the Municipality of Venice and to other partners of the event for the necessary instrumental activities associated with the invitation to participate (organisation of the competition, communication, publication and dissemination of the projects and of the names of the winners) without prejudice to the dispositions set out in articles 15 and following of EU Regulation 2016/679.

