

**HANDLE
WITH CARE**



**6TH BIENNALE SVIZZERA DEL TERRITORIO
1/2/3 OCTOBER 2026**

CALL FOR ACTION

**ISTITUTO INTERNAZIONALE DI ARCHITETTURA
LUGANO I2A.CH**

CALL FOR ACTION	The 6 TH biennale svizzera del territorio, organised by Istituto Internazionale di Architettura in Lugano, is launching a call for action on the theme “handle with care”. The call is open to professionals of all ages and from all over the world.
HANDLE WITH CARE	Building, demolishing, building again... that is easy. But caring for things, making them last, keeping them alive, repairing them. That is a difficult task. You have to observe, listen, pay attention. Study, understand. Recognise what exists, even if it's fragile, even if it's not perfect. You need allies. It's a task for those who know from experience the consequences of destruction, who know the price of maintenance, who know a thing of beauty is a joy forever. If you can handle it, caring is power.
FORMAT	Proposals can be of many kinds, ranging from installations, constructed or transformative interventions, to performances, artistic works, or architectural visions. These are to be related to the theme of the biennale: actions that evoke, and question the responsibility of our professions and practices to observe, to maintain, and to act with care toward our living environment. Actions will be implemented within the magnificent grounds of Villa Saroli in Lugano or may extend beyond them, provided that city regulations are respected. A city representative will support this aspect. The proposals must be developed as physically reversible / their impact and contribution has the potential to be long lasting.
SUBMISSIONS WITHIN FEBRUARY 9TH 2026	Please fill out and submit the registration form, available at: biennale.i2a.ch/form , attaching a brief description of the action you wish to exhibit, an illustration or technical drawing, as well as the project title and a short presentation of the team. Please also provide a detailed budget for implementing and setting up the proposal. The maximum budget allocated to each action ranges between 5'000 and 7'000 CHF (depending on the number of selected proposals), including the honorary (other sources of funding resources may be proposed according to the project). To facilitate the selection process, describe the project on four A3 pages, as follows:
Questions? Please contact: biennesvizzeradelterritorio@i2a.ch	
PAGE 1	Title, team presentation
PAGE 2	Description (ca. 1'000 characters)
PAGE 3	Illustration or technical drawing
PAGE 4	Project's feasibility (state of the project, budget, schedule, etc.)
AWARD	Announcement of call winners will be sent within March 2026. All proposals will be exhibited during the biennale, with the agreement of the authors. The selected teams will have free accommodation and free access to all three days of the biennale. The actions will be set up in the park of Villa Saroli till the end of November 2026.
SITE DOCUMENTATION	biennale.i2a.ch/documentation
SELECTION COMMITTEE In alphabetical order	DAVID BARRAGÁN Architect co-founder of AI-Borde (Quito, Ecuador), winning studio of the BancaStato Swiss Architecture Award (2024) LAURA BRENNI Art historian and head of cultural development for the City of Lugano CATHERINE GAY Architect founder of GayMenzel (Monthey, Switzerland), visiting professor at EPFL MARC FROCHAUX Editor-in-chief TRACÉS, chair of the Call for Action selection committee of the 6 TH biennale svizzera del territorio KHENSANI JURCZOK-DE KLERK Architect founder of Matri-Archi(itecture)(Johannesburg, South Africa/Zürich, Switzerland), doctoral fellow gta at ETH Zürich ADRIEN MEUWLY Architect co-founder of Comte/Meuwly (Zürich-Geneva, Switzerland), professor of architecture and construction at ETH Zürich ANNA PUIGJANER Architect co-founder of MAIO (Barcelona, Spain), professor of architecture and care at ETH Zürich XU TIANIAN Architect founder of DnA Design and Architecture (Beijing, China), professor at Tsinghua University School of Architecture