



COMUNICATO STAMPA

ALPI and the Asplund Pavilion for “*Vatican Chapels*” at the 16th International Architecture Exhibition of the Venice Biennale

For the 16th International Architecture Exhibition of the Venice Biennale (26 May – 25 November 2018), **ALPI** has built the **Asplund Pavilion inside the “*Vatican Chapels*” Pavilion of the Holy See**, at Fondazione Cini, on the island of San Giorgio Maggiore.

The **project for the Holy See** coordinated by Francesco Dal Co takes its cue from the **precise model** of the “**Woodland Chapel**” built in 1920 by the famous architect **Gunnar Asplund** at the Woodland Cemetery in Stockholm, as a “*place of orientation, encounter, meditation and salutation.*” The **exhibition itinerary** is a circuit of **ten chapels** designed by ten architects, invited to think about the theme of the chapel as defined by the Swedish architect.

In the making of this project, **ALPI** has produced the **Asplund Pavilion** placed at the start of the circuit, designed by the architects **Francesco Magnani and Traudy Pelzel**, conceived as a **prelude to the exhibition itinerary** and embodying the **essence of the entire project**.

The **basic idea of “*Vatican Chapels*”** is outlined inside the building that hosts **an exhibition of drawings by Gunnar Asplund** for the “Woodland Chapel,” accompanied by documents and models that fully illustrate the theme of the project and its construction.

The original chapel is also narrated **by the architecture of the Pavilion itself**, inspired by the **vocabulary of traditional Scandinavian constructions in wood**, such as the *Stavkirken*, reinterpreted in a contemporary way.

The volumes, styles and materials typical of these historic buildings rely on the importance of **the material quality and richness of surfaces**, investigated as **essential factors in architecture** within the theme of the Venice Architecture Biennale.

For this important project **ALPI** has developed an experimental material, starting with the **woods of the Xilo 2.0 collection** used to cover all the surfaces of the work of architecture. The exteriors of the building are entirely composed of **9000 shingles** featuring the Xilo 2.0 Planked Grey wood pattern, to respond to the structural and aesthetic criteria specified by the architects.

The project again bears witness to the **fertile synergy between ALPI and the world of design**, which has always been an earmark of the company and its products, thanks to incessant technological innovation, a refined culture of craftsmanship and the extensive range of products, capable of offering not only a vast and constantly growing catalogue, but also **custom creations at the service of the world of design**.

Vatican Chapels
Pavilion of the Holy See
16th International Architecture Exhibition of the Venice Biennale
26 May – 25 November
Opening 24-25 May