



In occasion on the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Andrea Palladio's birth (1508-2008)  
Collateral Event of the 11<sup>th</sup> International Architecture Exhibition  
La Biennale di Venezia

**Andrea Palladio and Contemporary Architects  
Zaha Hadid and Patrik Schumacher**

Villa Foscari La Malcontenta (14th September - 23rd November 2008)

Villa Foscari La Malcontenta was designed in 1555 by Andrea Palladio, arguably one the most relevant architect of the Renaissance, as a manifesto to demonstrate the perfection of his architectural theory to the Serenissima Republic of Venice.

To celebrate the 500th anniversary of Andrea Palladio's birth (1508-2008), *La Malcontenta* invited Zaha Hadid Architects to design and build two installations within Villa Foscari La Malcontenta, to initiate a dialogue between Contemporary Architects and Palladio breaching five centuries of architectural discourse.

For this event, curated by architect Giulia Foscari, Zaha Hadid and Patrik Schumacher explored the generative potential of the harmonic proportional system introduced by Palladio in Villa La Malcontenta. The frequency curves generated by translating the linear proportions of the Villa into their musical meaning, are progressively transformed by ZHA to define "Aura", a genotypic elementary form that contains in its DNA the whole Palladian set of rules.

The final configuration of "Aura-L" and "Aura-S" is informed by the proportions of the two rooms chosen as sites in the *piano nobile* of Villa Foscari La Malcontenta (the room of "Prometheus stealing fire from the Gods" and the symmetrical room of "Aurora's Chariot pulled by the Hours").

Within the void of these two rooms, that stand on the Brenta river since five centuries, "Aura-L" and "Aura-S" are thus generated as spatial morphologies that reflect the structure of this void, the skeleton of this ethereal space.

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**Venue:** Villa Foscari La Malcontenta

**Organizers:** La Malcontenta: [www.lamalcontenta.com](http://www.lamalcontenta.com)

**Curator:** Giulia Foscari, Architect

**Exhibitors:** Zaha Hadid and Patrik Schumacher

**Design Team:** Mariagrazia Lanza and Fulvio Wirz

**Installation details:** "AURA": Ed. 1/1; (6x3x2.5)m; Lacquered fiberglass with embedded steel frame

**Manufacturing::** Idee & Design GmbH, The Artfactory: [www.idee-design.at](http://www.idee-design.at)

**Lighting:** Zumtobel Illuminazione s.r.l.: [www.zumbtobel.it](http://www.zumbtobel.it)

**Opening dates**

Private Opening: 10<sup>th</sup> September 2008 – evening

Preview: 12th September 2008 – 4.30 to 9.00 pm

Open: 14th September to 23rd November 2008

**Opening Hours**

Sat. & Sun. 9.00 to 18.00 - Tue. 9.00 to 12.00 - Tue. pm to Friday booking required - Mon. closed.

**For further information**

Villa Foscari La Malcontenta: [www.lamalcontenta.com](http://www.lamalcontenta.com)

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