

A woman perched on the top rung of a ladder is gazing enigmatically at the future; that's the header image chosen by Alejandro Aravena, director of the 15th Biennale of Architecture for the festival that opened its gates at the end of May in Venice. Compared to the image-symbol of last year's Biennale Arte as selected by the curator Okwui Enwezor –Paul Klee's 'Angelus Novus', with the symbolism ascribed to it by Walter Benjamin – could this year's approach be suggesting a more optimistic outlook for the future?

With Europe at a challenging juncture this year, Germany's participation in the Biennale is about the refugee-migrant issue and is called "Making Heimat" (the german word "heimat" homeland, comes from heim = home). It seeks precisely this optimistic outlook through solutions and practices for the optimum housing and assimilation of the large numbers of migrants who have been arriving in Germany over the last year [...]

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