

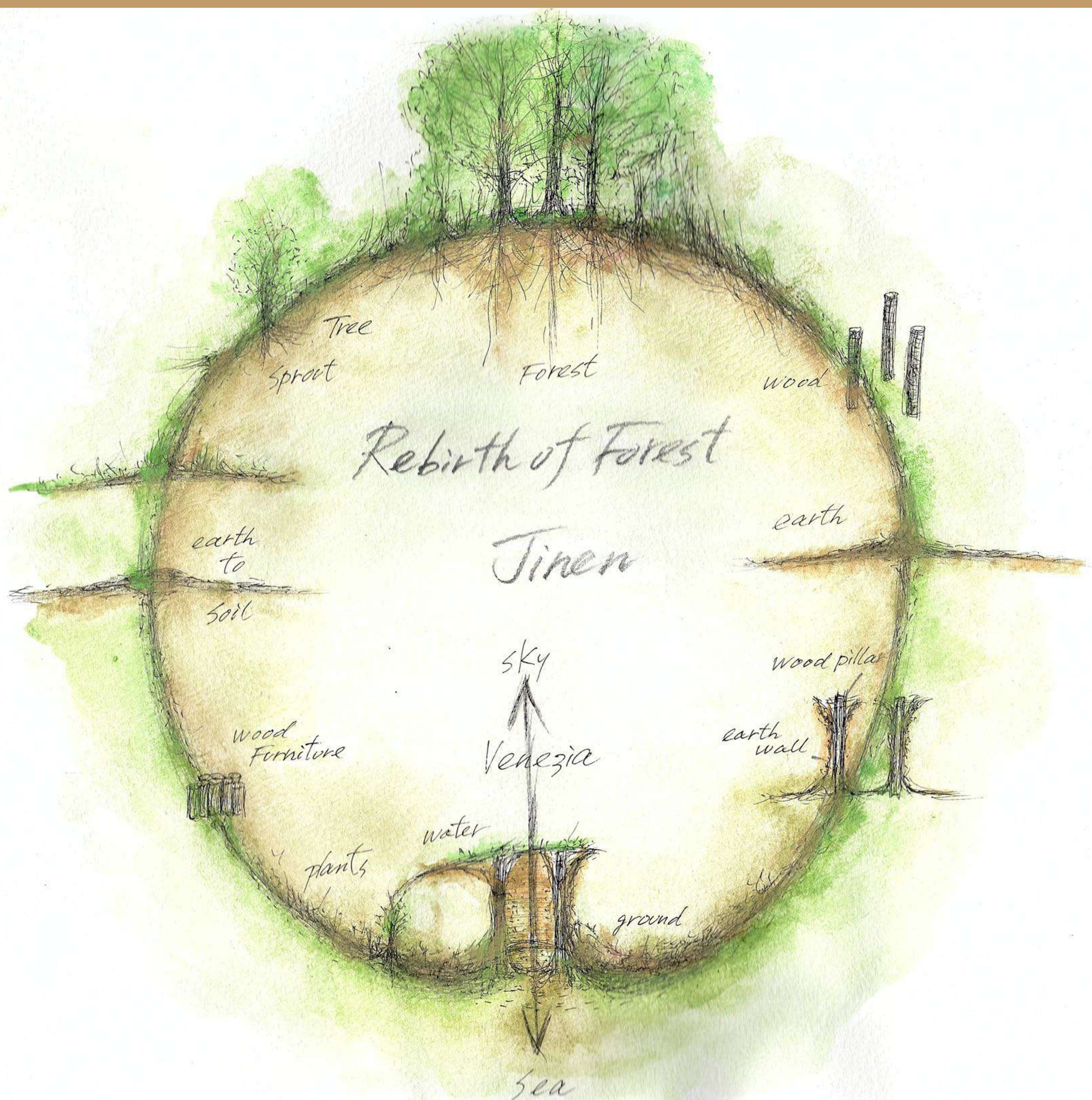
# TIME SPACE EXISTENCE

Venice Biennale 2021

PALAZZO MORA - ECC ITALIA

## TONO MIRAI

### Regenerative Forest - 自然 JINEN



2020.10.31

*Towards a decarbonized society to regenerate the earth,  
we propose a "circular architecture" in raw earth as a  
solution to several global problems.*





LOCATION

# European Cultural Centre

## 2021 in Venice

The ECC - European Cultural Center is a non-profit organization based in the Netherlands. It is an international network of cultural platforms committed to promoting culture through international exchanges. Its network of associations and partners (educational, cultural, governmental and non-governmental institutions such as museums, foundations and many other private entities) is constantly expanding.

## ARCHITECTURE EXHIBITION

## "TIME SPACE EXISTENCE"

**PERIOD:** May 22, 2021 - November 21, 2021

**VENUE:** Palazzo Bembo, Palazzo Mora, Giardini della Marinaressa

**LOCATION:** Venice, Italy

**WEBSITES:** <https://ecc-italy.eu/exhibitions/upcoming>

Palazzo Mora is located between the church of San Felice and the Rio di Noale, in the Cannaregio district. It was built in the 16th century, and later purchased by the Mora family in 1716. The piano nobile (main floor) shows some frescoes attributed to Tiepolo and painted between 1720 and 1770. The exhibitions take place on the two main floors, mezzanine (middle-floor), third floor and entrance garden . Given the palace's location on the busy Strada Nuova and its size and space, Palazzo Mora benefits from a large number of visitors.

### Exhibition Location:

“Regenerative Forest - 自然 JINEN”

by TONO MIRAI

### ECC EXHIBITION VENUES IN VENICE

- ① Palazzo Bembo
- ② Palazzo Mora
- ③ Palazzo Michiel
- ④ Marinaressa Gardens



ECC-Italia is based in Venice and is a consolidated branch of the largest European Cultural Center.

Focusing on a wide range of themes in the fields of art, architecture and design, it is responsible for and engaged in the creation of dynamic exhibition spaces that foster an exchange of different ideas and cultures.

Its goal is to create a dialogue around the developments of current architectural theories.

The "Personal Structures" contemporary art exhibitions alternate every year with the "Time Space Existence" architecture exhibition. The exhibitions organized by ECC-Italia are set up in three Venetian palaces and two gardens, each one characterized by its own atmosphere and curatorial guidelines. The venues include Palazzo Mora, Palazzo Bembo, Palazzo Michiel and the Giardini della Marinaressa. In 2019 they welcomed around 600,000 visitors.

### PALAZZO MORA TERRACE SPACE





# Regenerative Forest - 自然 JINEN

JINEN is an oriental concept which means “occurring naturally by itself”. Tono Mirai will anthropi- cally create a JINEN forest in Venice.



***“JINEN is something spontaneous, natural, which creates itself”. In Japan it indicates a unique vision of life that leaves the course of nature as free as it is, or perceives its movement and follows it. ”***

***“Japan-ness in Architecture”  
by Arata Isozaki***

## Regenerative Forest - JINEN

For the city of Venice, Tono Mirai translated the complex concept of JINEN (“occurring naturally by itself”) into an installation in raw earth, stimulating thoughts on a lifestyle in perfect harmony with nature that unites the origins not only of Japanese culture, but of every human civilization. The work will be the translation of a circular process starting from the study of the inhabitants, construction traditions and local materials, and then proceeding towards constant regeneration by welcoming the changes in the environment in which it is located. Its deinstallation itself will be the beginning of a regenerative process, allowing to reuse the material used to make new creations.

## Architecture as a "living body" that returns to the environment

In ancient Japan, the return to the earth of organisms and architectures was not perceived as an end, but as the beginning of a new cycle of life. In building construction in particular, the rapid de- terioration of the structures, linked to the exceptional humidity of the local climate and the fre- quent earthquakes, has led to the use of natural materials such as earth and wood and the use of periodic reconstructions to make the buildings more suitable to change. This practice takes the name of tokowaka ("always beautiful and young through continuous regeneration") and has also made it possible to pass on traditional construction techniques and knowledge over time, always keeping them current. The noblest example of this practice is the Ise Shrine, which has been peri- odically rebuilt for more than 1000 years.

In his twenty years of professional career, Tono Mirai has gone beyond the formality of organicist architecture, proposing instead an organic architecture, conceived as a living organism, part of a circular generative cycle that is born from the earth and returns to it thanks to the practice of to- kowaka. His works are made using the land and wood of the place, and with the involvement of the people who live there. His architecture is made of breathing organic cells, animated by the light and heat of the sun, by the energy of the wind, water, soil and air, and possesses a vitality capable of infusing comfort and well-being to the human spirit. His construction practice embo- dies a continuous movement, a cycle that includes the degradation of structures and their dispo- sal. Just like a living organism, these buildings depend on the earth, reflect and adapt to their sur- roundings, grow, change and regenerate. Tono Mirai's works are part of the continuous renewal cycle of nature and give new energy to the territory and to people.



## Use of land and local wood to shape the flow of energy



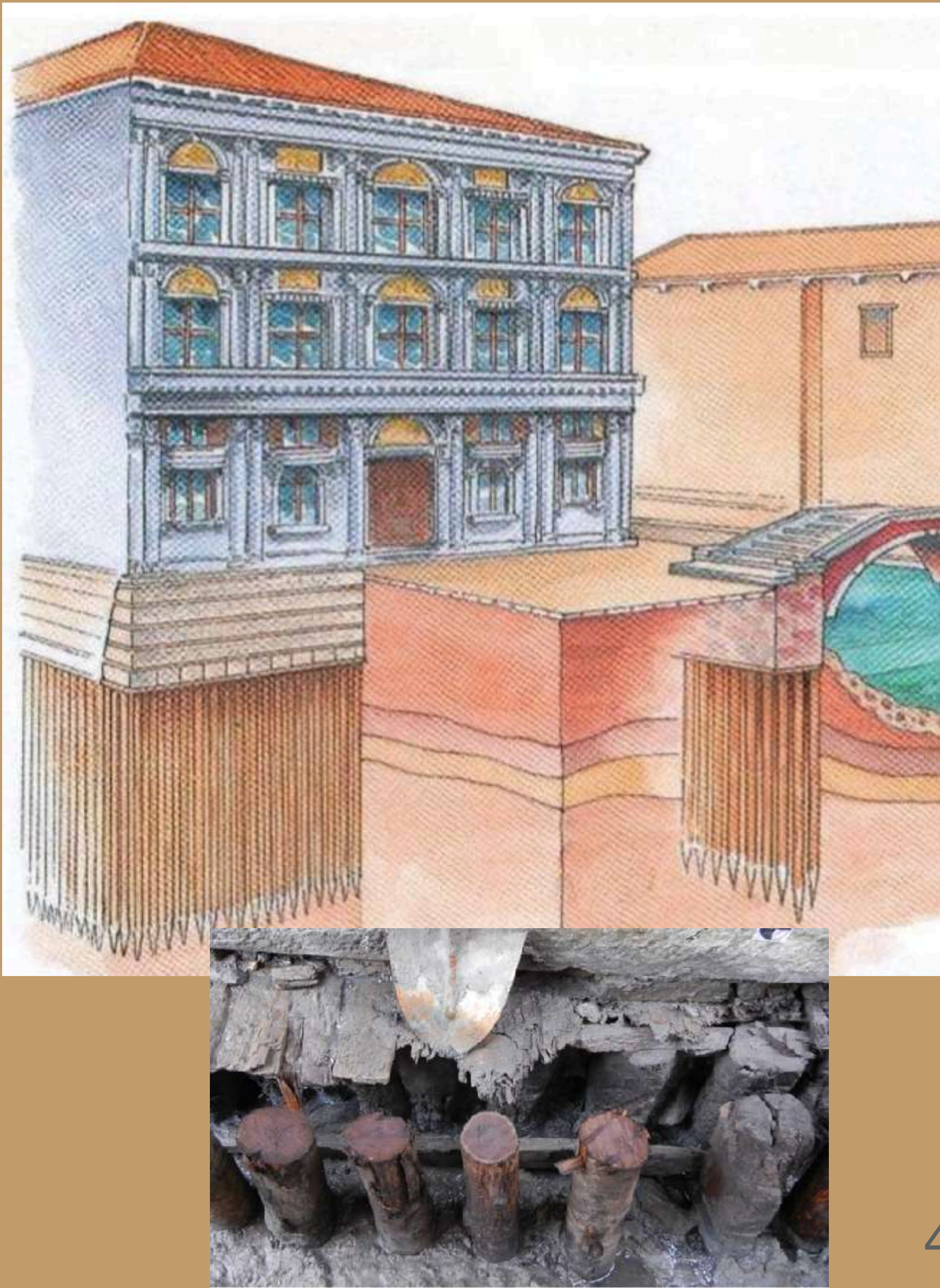
To make the most of the gifts we receive from nature and develop a spirit of familiarity and respect for the environment, it is necessary to develop an intimate knowledge of the earth and its climate. Only after acquiring this knowledge and this sensitivity with a careful look at the details human kind will be able to take care of it, rather than exploit and destroy it. The concept of JINEN (“oc- curring naturally by itself”) carried forward by Tono's work does not imply an abandonment of na- ture to itself, but rather promotes a symbiotic relationship between natural materials and the work of human beings, in which the two take care of each other and enhance each other. Tono's archi- tecture wants to express precisely this symbiosis between human kind and nature.

Tono Mirai’s works gives value to both the local soil and the local wood in order to preserve the woodland and to give to his works’ structures a unique color and texture, specific to that territory. Their characteristic rounded and wavy shapes create a soft and enveloping space and are the re- sult of the use of traditional Japanese plastering techniques, which make good use of the quali- ties of clay to create structures that are not just a piece of design, but a comfortable environment for people.

In addition to the JINEN approach, Tono's works stand out for their ability to translate the invisible power of nature enclosed in the earth into a fresh and refined design. Listening to the site and its history, its cultural and social conditions, the characteristics of the soil and the genius loci, Tono works with materials, construction techniques and local residents, creating an architecture capa- ble of infusing great energy. For Tono, following the genius loci means following the natural life cycle of the earth. However, despite being so tied to nature and traditional practices, his architec- ture is always original and modern, and it is this balance between tradition and innovation that makes it unique.

## Visualization of the construction process of the city of Venice

Venice is a lagoon city, built on sediments transported from the continent by the force of the flu- vial currents, waves and winds of the Adriatic Sea. A large number of trunks stuck into the ground were used as the foundation for the buildings, to the point of being able to say that, if it could be turned upside down, Venice would resemble a forest. Today the city faces many problems such as population runoff to the mainland, floods, salt damage, land subsidence, air and water pollu- tion and building degradation. Tono Mirai's project aims to regenerate this place through the use of technology. The architect will consult with the genius loci of Venice, its history, its origins and its environmental criticality by creating a "JINEN Regenerative Forest" on one of the terraces of Palazzo Mora, headquarters of the ECC.

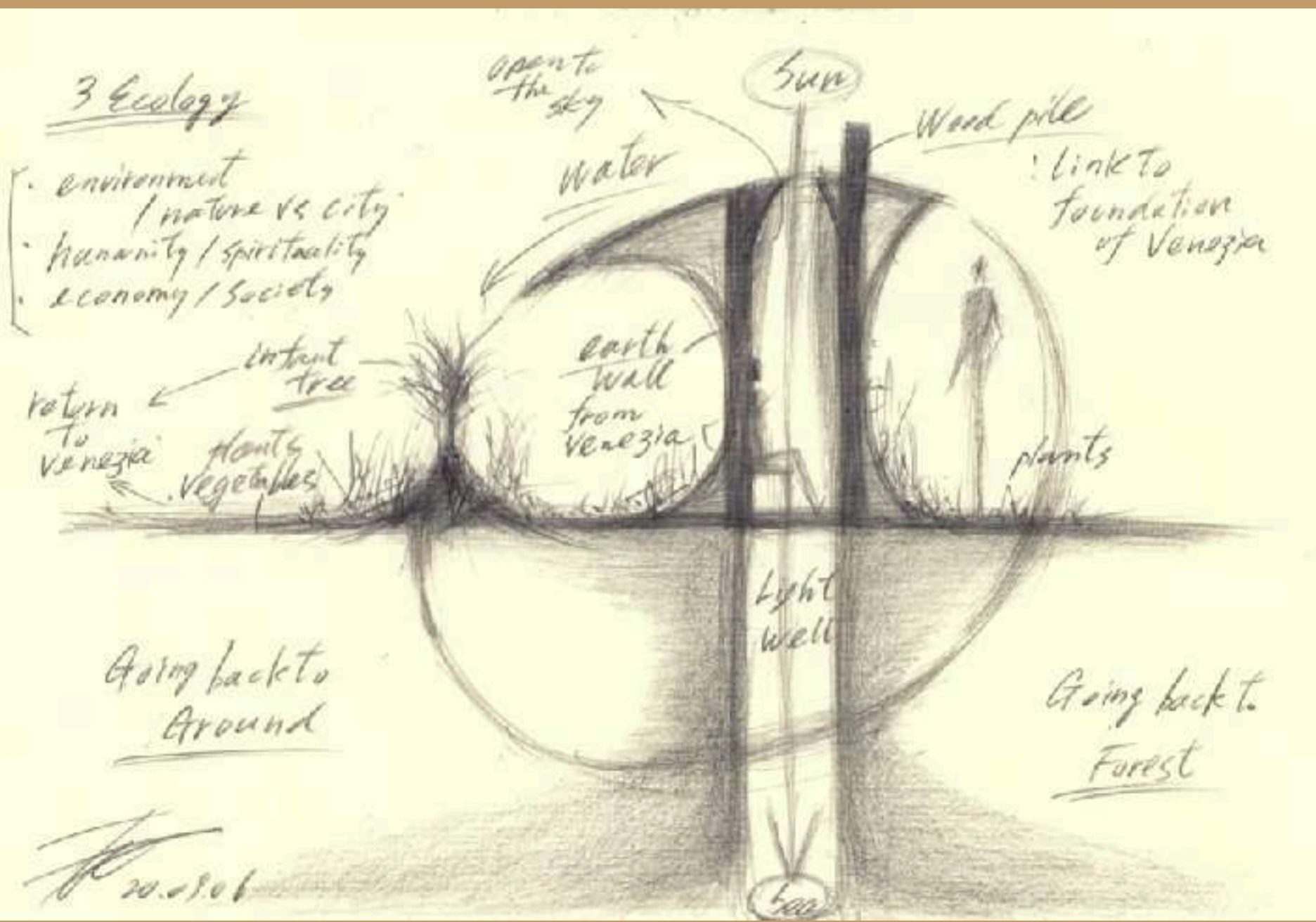
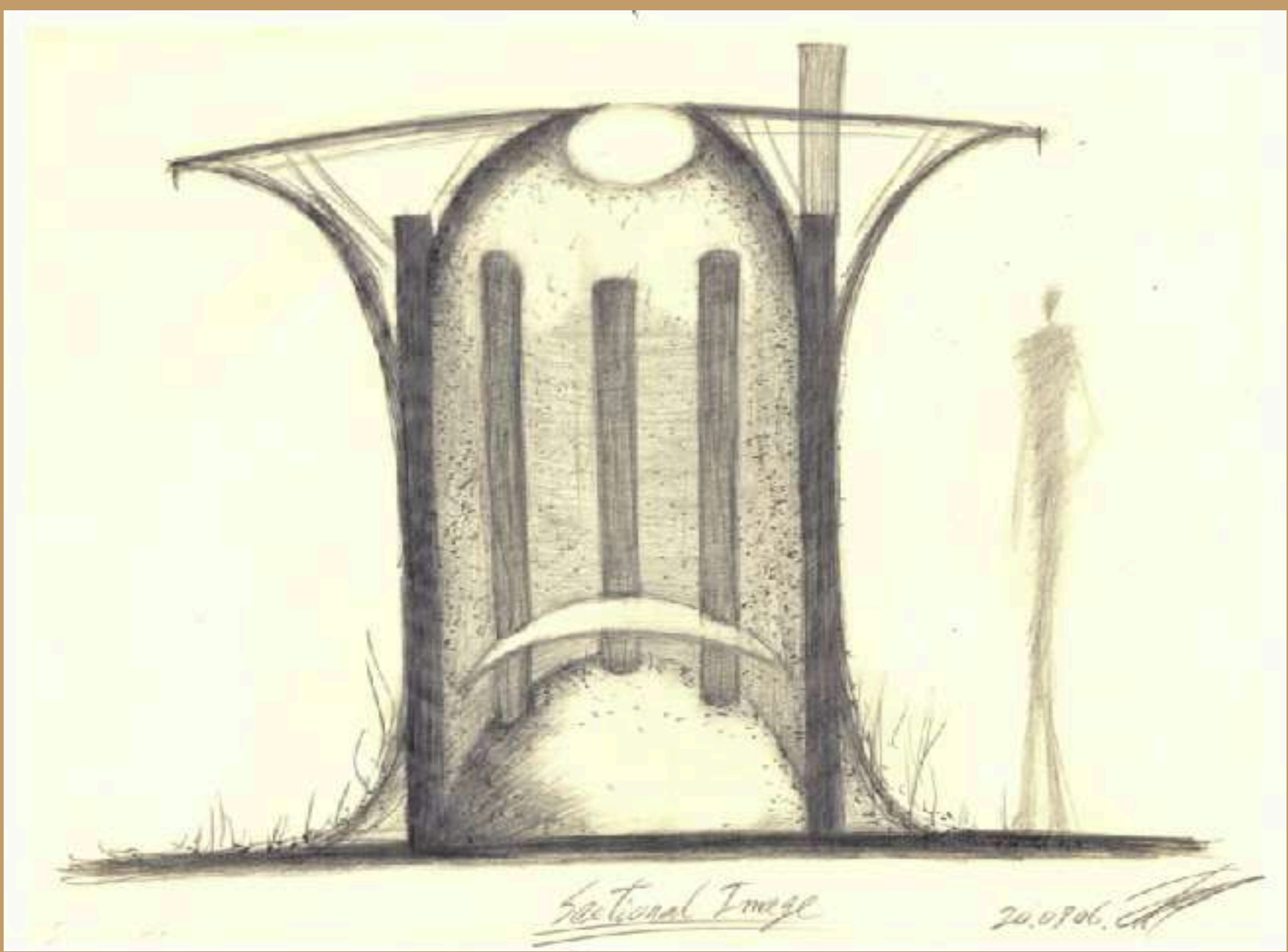




# WORK CONCEPT

## The structure and the circular architecture

Symbolically using the larch wood poles that support the city of Venice, Tono Mirai will create an installation of earth and wood to reproduce in a smaller scale the ecosystem of the original forest. Using traditional Japanese plastering techniques, seven trunks will be arranged in a circle, and surrounded on the outside with thin branches of willow and bamboo which will then be covered with earth. The roof will consist of a copper plate covered with earth, which will blur the boundaries between the forest and the architecture according to the concept of JINEN. The masonry will be completed with bushes of shrubs that over time will grow to recreate a small forest.



Inside the structure there will be a bench from which visitors, one at a time, will be able to look towards the city and admire the light coming down from an opening on the roof. The work will have the appearance of a "well of light" that connects the sky and the earth, the history and future of Venice. The curved surface of the roof will allow the rain to flow towards the ground to wet the shrubs: in this way the gifts of nature will be recirculated back to the ground to contribute to the growth of the forest.

At the end of the exhibition, the installation will be disassembled and all the materials used will find a new life in Venice in a new regeneration cycle. The logs will be reused as new material by Japanese sakan artisan plasterers and Italian designers. The land will be returned to the soil, improved thanks to a traditional Japanese wood charcoal technique and to the innovative Biochar technique, which exploits the pyrolysis of biomass and which is increasingly used as a mean to promote crop growth and purify polluted water. In this way Tono will create an experimental and innovative project to improve the quality of the land, which is the main material of his works, and will contribute with it to the growth cycle of plants. In an historical moment in which the need to take measures against global warming is becoming increasingly pressing, Tono aims to contribute to the spread of a circular earth architecture for a decarbonized society. It is not just a matter of returning to the origins, but of building a future in which human kind and nature can coexist, regenerate and reinvent themselves in a new way.

## “JINOWA - Root & Circle to Earth” Project

If the world and every single region in it were able to recognize the value of nature and respect its gifts, if they could therefore act according to the concept of JINEN, then economic disparities, environmental problems and inequalities in education across the planet could consequently disappear. “JINOWA - Root & Circle to Earth” - is a cooperative that offers various innovative platforms and projects to learn, communicate and realize local, circular and symbiotic with nature communities.



Today, nature is being destroyed all over the world and waste that cannot be disposed of in the environment is a problem that afflicts all of humanity. In parallel to the exhibition, a program of workshops and symposia will take place to discuss topics such as the earth, food and the circular economy, which will promote the circulation of the gifts of nature for the benefit of local communities according to the tokowaka philosophy. Together we will develop proposals to reduce the environmental impact of buildings and to solve the global problems caused by the im-

balance between human kind and nature. Through the earth we will strive to build a decarbonized society in accordance with the goals set by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).



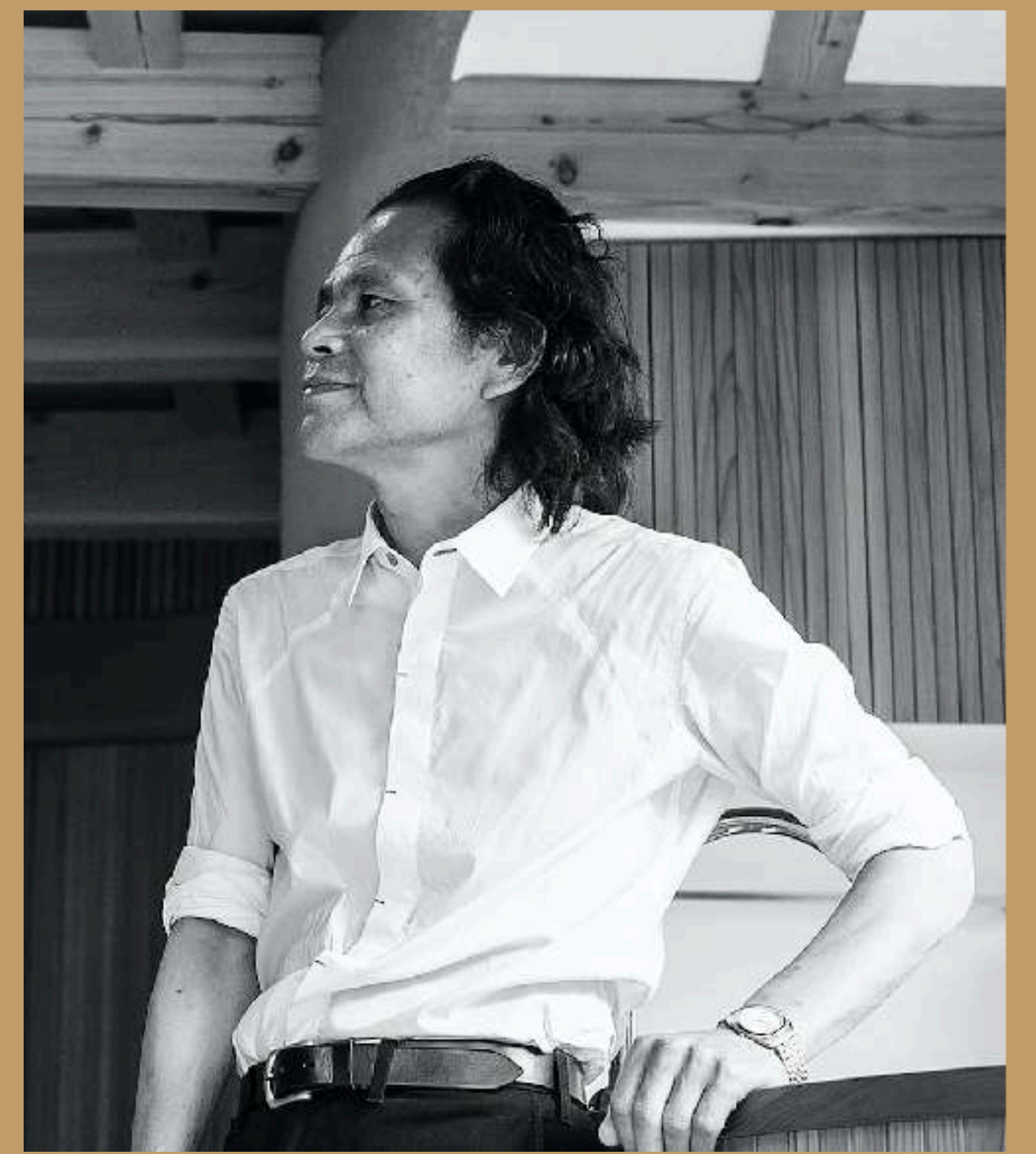
# TONO MIRAI

## Earth to Earth

Tono Mirai is an architect who creates contemporary architecture by using traditional material 'earth'.

His characteristic organic form is made from the vibrant energy in the space that give a human relief and vitality.

He won many prizes in Japan and internationally for sustainability through the use of local and natural materials and the modern use of traditional techniques.



### ●PROFILE

1962 Nato in città di Sendai, Giappone

1986 Laureato presso il Dipartimento di architettura della Waseda University di Tokyo. BA

1988 Corso di Master presso il Dipartimento di architettura della Waseda University di Tokyo. MA 1988-1992

Lavoro presso lo studio architettura

1995 Fondato il suo studio Tono Mirai architects

2008- 2018 Docente presso il Dipartimento di architettura del Maebashi Institute of Technology.

### ●AWARDS

2020 Best Contemporary Private Home Design Project 2020/ Build Architectural Award <Shell House>

Wood Architecture Award 2020/ Architectural Institute of Japan <Shell House>

2019 A+Award Jury winner/ Architizer <Shell House>

Grand Prize for the residence of Nagano Architectural association <Shell House>

2018 Special Prize for the residence of Cental region Wood Design Award <Shell House>

2016 TERRA AWARD Prize for Honorable mention/ International contemporary Earth architecture Award <Kanda SU>

Recommend Prize of Activity/ Japan Institute of Architecture Kanto Branch <Shell House>

2013 Prize for architectural plaster work/ Japan shikkui association <Yako Tsubomi Nursery School>

2011 1st PRIZE new traditional wooden House Prize, Japan / Monodukuri University <Future House>

Recommended Design Prize/ Association for Children's Environment

<Yako Tsubomi Nursery School>

Prize for architectural plaster work / Japan shikkui association <Eco Cabin>

2006 Special PRIZE/ Ecological Art Award of Japan <Kanda SU>

More info: <https://www.tonomirai.com>





## SPONSORSHIP

For those companies which share our philosophy, various sponsorship opportunities are available. It is possible to participate in the supply of raw materials and the creation of educational workshops; make a donation to support the regenerative project etc.

The sponsorship of our project is particularly suitable for individuals, companies and institutes linked and interested in green business, the circular economy, the SDGs and environmental regeneration.

If interested, please contact our representative Yukari Tanaka ([yukari@jinowa.org](mailto:yukari@jinowa.org)).

## Main Sponsor TOHO LEO

Living Environment Organization  
<https://www.toho-leo.co.jp>  
NI-WA  
Creative Green Platform  
<https://ni-wa.co.jp/concept/>



## Other Sponsors

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## Collaboration

University Ca' Foscari of Venice Dept. of Environmental Sciences, Informatics and Statistics | GREEN WISE ITALY SRL | GLIDER | KTH Royal Institute of Technology Department of Fibre and Polymer Technology Division of Biocomposites Wallenberg Wood Science Center | Rossella Siani Architect | Stefan Pollak Architetto



Università  
Ca' Foscari  
Venezia

GREEN WISE



GLIDER



*Project's Supervisore*  
JINOWA ~Root and Circle to Earth~ by GEN Japan Co.,LTD  
Tono Mirai architects Italian Office <https://www.tonomirai.com/?lang=it>  
Web Page for JINEN <http://rootandcircle.com/JINEN>

*The first online broadcast in the world of the "Jotoshiki" (roof laying ceremony) in Venice connected with the city of Tsuruoka, prefecture of Yamagata.*



Tono Mirai JINEN  
Roof laying ceremony  
with the Dewa Sanzan Shrine

Following the Japanese tradition of erecting buildings to show respect for the spirit of the earth and power in nature and to wish for the success and good outcome of the construction, the ceremonies for the beginning and the completion of the construction of the JINEN work have been organized.

The first "Jichinsai" ceremony was held on April 17th. The second "Jotoshiki" ceremony for the completion of the works will be held in Venice in collaboration with the Dewa Sanzan Shrine in Yamagata Prefecture, a sacred place located on the top of a mountain, highly worshipped in the East together with the Shrine of Ise.

The creation of the JINEN forest is the result of a strong desire for regeneration of the entire environment, accompanied by a sincere prayer for peace on earth. We will therefore be glad to have many people from all over the world participate to this ritual ceremony.

- Saturday 15 May 2021 9:00 ~ 10:00 CEST (GMT + 2h)
- Consecutive interpretation in English and Italian
- Free event
- Registration through eventbrite ([https://jotosai\\_jinen.eventbrite.it](https://jotosai_jinen.eventbrite.it))

## PROJECT TEAM



Curator of architectural  
realisation  
Antonio Salvatore



Communication  
Yukari Tanaka

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