

# SOFTENING THE HABITATS

SUSTAINABLE INNOVATION IN MINIMAL MASS STRUCTURES AND LIGHTWEIGHT ARCHITECTURES

In line with the general theme of the 6th TensiNet Symposium, “*Softening the Habitats: Sustainable Innovation in Minimal Mass Structures and Lightweight Architectures*”, the exhibition will focus on the change tensile architecture is undergoing. IN.TENSION weighs in the future of lightweight structures in the context of the environmental crisis, with the intention of making advancements in the field well-known and widespread in the building construction practice. The exhibition aims at presenting cutting-edge projects, techniques and materials that have recently been implemented in the field of tensile architecture and have the potential of changing the construction and the lifespan of membrane structures for a more sustainable built environment.

The IN.TENSION exhibition will be held at the Politecnico di Milano during June 2019 and it will display a selection of inspiring projects that will be selected from a call for exhibiting, to which we invite you to participate according to the guidelines below. For any further questions or inquiries, please contact [tensinet2019exhibition@polimi.it](mailto:tensinet2019exhibition@polimi.it).

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The TS2019 Exhibition Committee,

Milan, 10 October 2018

## 1. Exhibiting modes

There are two exhibiting modes, one for posters and one for prototypes.

**The posters** are aimed at showcasing already completed tensile projects, or otherwise on the way to completion, having a relatively large scale, that implies they can only be displayed through drawings, renders or photos of the project. These posters will be integrated with the IN.TENSION installation, that will revolve around the theme of tensile sustainable structures and will be assembled in selected covered exhibiting spaces within the Politecnico di Milano (PoliMi). The installation and posters will be open to visitors from the 3rd to the 15th of June 2019, providing prolonged exposure and visibility to the projects on display.

There will be 3 spaces for the poster exhibition with different degrees of visibility:

### 1. **Main pavilion and symposium entrance**

- 75 m<sup>2</sup>

- very high visibility

- located in a pedestrian area that is a point of access to PoliMi and integrated in the urban pathways

- the lounge-like space will be organised in booths, which give more freedom to the companies/firms to choose what content to display, such as brochures, catalogues, business cards, materials

### 2. **Exhibition space Guido Nardi**

- 250 m<sup>2</sup>

- medium-high visibility

- large exhibiting room located inside the building of the Architecture Faculty at PoliMi

- the space will be organised by the INTENSION installation using lightweight materials and it will also display the selected posters from the call for exhibiting, which means that the companies/firms/academics will have to comply with the material requests and poster guidelines provided by the curator of the exhibition

- for the companies/firms that will provide the material for the installation, their logo will be displayed on the material

### 3. **Exhibition hall**

- 45 m<sup>2</sup>

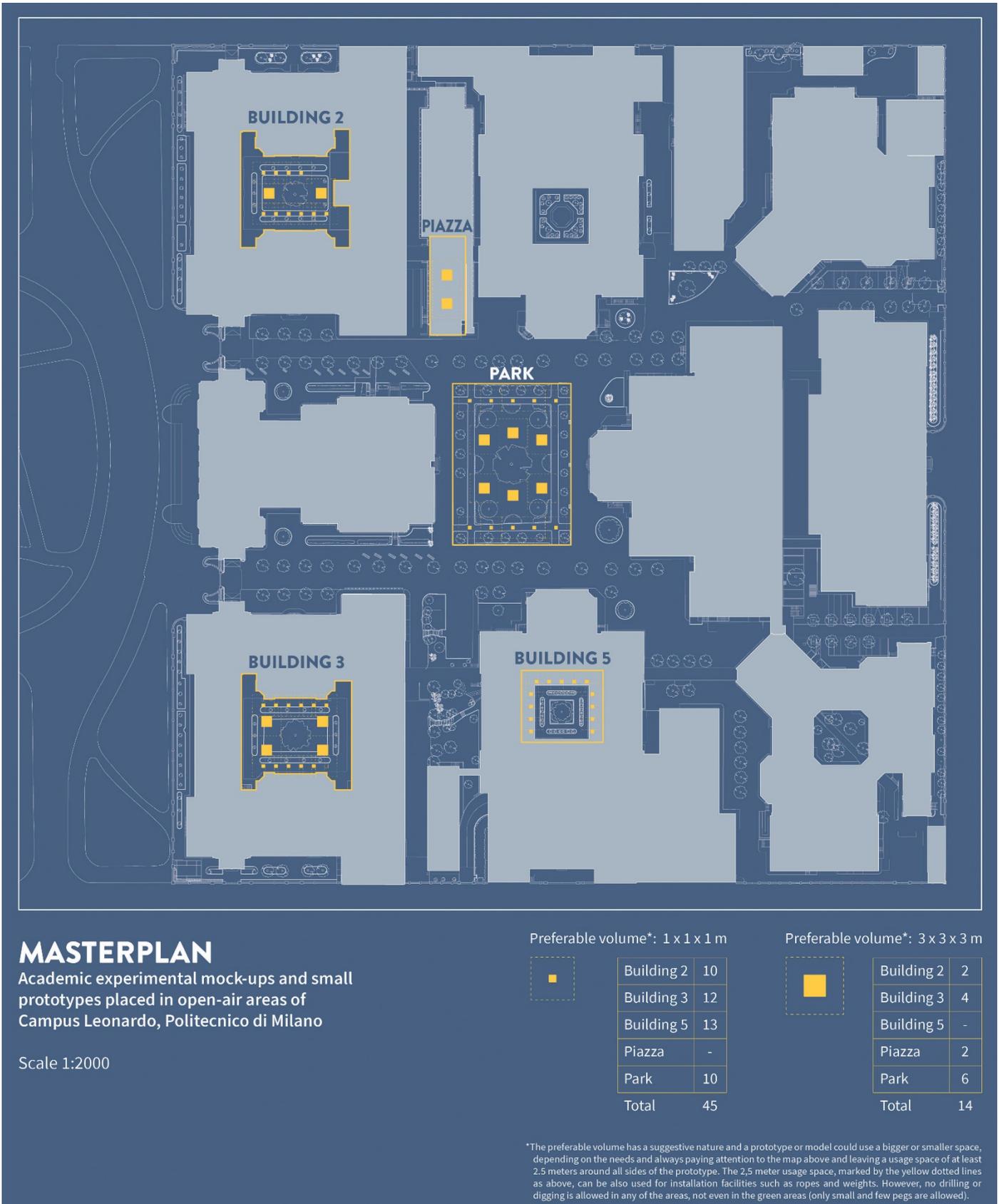
- medium visibility

- long corridor connected to the end of the exhibition space Guido Nardi, in which a simpler installation will take place and smaller posters selected from the call will be shown

- for the companies that will provide the material for the installation, their logo will be displayed on the material.

**The prototypes**, on the other hand, are aimed at showcasing experimental tensile projects having a relatively medium or small scale. They can either be scaled models of from 1:10 to 1:2, or 1:1 mock-ups but the latter is preferred, even if it is a partial model of the real structure. These prototypes will be distributed in the green open-air areas of PoliMi according to their size. The prototypes will be installed and dismantled by their authors within two days prior and after the conference, and will be on display

for the whole duration of the conference, from the 3rd to the 5th of June 2019. Thus, authors are kindly reminded to consider the transport and handling time on site of the prototype components beforehand. The available areas for the prototypes and their suggested sizes are shown in the map below.



## 2. Who can participate

A wide range of professionals can apply to the call for exhibition, but the exhibition mode chosen from the two options offered in section 1. has to be specified clearly. Firms, companies, producers, engineers, architects, designers, researchers and academics are gladly invited to take part in the call.

We are especially looking forward to receiving your application if:

- You have developed an architectural project in the last 5 years using membranes that was built using a technique that pushed the boundaries of what practice thought to be possible
- You have found a solution to a complex structural or environmental requirement regarding a tensile construction, that you think is going to be implemented more and more in the future
- You customised a material to be especially suited to a specific application
- You designed or reinvented a material from scratch with the intention of achieving a more sustainable alternative to the conventional
- You have participated in an interdisciplinary team (different partners coming from a variety of fields of expertise) that has resulted in a particularly innovative project or that has defined new modes of collaboration or exchange between the design and the construction/actuation of the final project

## 3. How to participate

**The call for posters** will require you to submit by email a poster in A2 format of maximum 15 MBs, containing at least the following elements:

- One render or photo of the tensile construction you already built or that you are still building
- One significant detail drawing of the innovative or sustainable element or part within your project; if the element is a custom-made material, you can submit a general section, perspective view or axonometry
- A short text of 300 words on why your project complies with the theme of the IN.TENSION exhibition, in which you must specify the year of completion (or start of construction if it is still not fully built) of the project, the stakeholders that were involved in the project and the main materials that were used

The poster must be sent to [tensinet2019exhibition@polimi.it](mailto:tensinet2019exhibition@polimi.it) with the subject EXHB\_TS2019\_POSTER for your final submission. Please do not use this specific subject line for any inquiries, questions or other purposes. In your final submission email, you must specify the name of your firm/practice/company or institution/department and optionally give a person of reference with their respective contact information, if different from the email sender. You will receive an application number within 24 hours of your submission, which should be conserved as your receipt, as well as used in case you have any questions regarding your application. After the selection process, you will be asked to provide a higher resolution of the material in a zip file and in few cases to add extra drawings.

**The call for prototypes** will require you to submit by email a poster in A2 format of maximum 15 MBs, containing at least the following elements:

- One 3D view of your prototype (render/photo/axonometry/perspective/concept drawing)

- One plan view with clear principal dimensions specified in meters (sketches also accepted)
- A short text of 300 words on why your prototype complies with the theme of the INTENSION exhibition, in which you must specify the year of the project concept development, all the authors that contributed to the project and the main materials that were used

You can optionally also send sketches/final drawings of sections, elevations or assembly drawings, with the latter being highly recommended. The poster must be sent to [tensinet2019exhibition@polimi.it](mailto:tensinet2019exhibition@polimi.it) with the subject EXHB\_TS2019\_PROTOTYPE for your final submission. Please do not use this specific subject line for any inquiries, questions or other purposes. In your final submission email, you must specify the name of your firm/practice/company or institution/department and optionally give a person of reference with their respective contact information, if different from the email sender. You will receive an application number within 24 hours of your submission, which should be conserved as your receipt, as well as used in case you have any questions regarding your application. After the selection process, you will be informed of how much time you will have to assemble your prototype and you will be asked to reconfirm your availability.

## 4. Deadlines

24th September – launch of Call for Exhibiting

15th November – deadline for Call for Posters

10th January – communication of the selected Posters

31st January – deadline for Call for Prototypes

15th March – communication of the selected Prototypes

## 5. Selection criteria

The jury will pay attention to the following criteria for the selection of your **project**:

- The year in which the project was completed or started, which is preferred to be in the last 5 years
- The innovation factor of the design proposal, structural principle, technique or material
- The emphasis on the sustainability agenda, both locally and globally
- The coherent use of lightness and tensile action in all the components of the project
- The novelty of the construction method
- The interdisciplinarity of the design solution and the team that produced it

The jury will pay attention to the following criteria for the selection of your **prototype**:

- The year in which the project was designed, which is preferred to be in the last 5 years
- Considerations on the assembly time and transportation of the components
- Correct dimensioning of the prototype, while keeping the map in mind
- The innovation factor of the design proposal, structural principle, technique or material
- The novelty of the construction and assembly method

## 6. Categories of exhibitors

If you decide to be a sponsor, you will be granted a spot in the exhibition (which means you will not need to apply for the call). There is a differentiation between sponsors, TensiNet partners and members in the visibility they will get throughout the exhibition, which is explained below while referring to the spaces for the poster exhibition stated in section 1.

The different categories of participants will be organised in the exhibition as follows:

- **TensiNet Partners that are Platinum/Gold sponsors:** Large booth in the main entrance pavilion and an opportunity to showcase materials/projects in the exhibition space G.Nardi;
- **TensiNet Partners that are Silver/Copper sponsors:** Small booth in the main entrance pavilion and an opportunity to showcase materials/projects in the exhibition space G.Nardi;
  
- **TensiNet Members that are Platinum/Gold sponsors:** G. Nardi space - Large exhibiting area and an opportunity to showcase textile materials through our installation;
- **TensiNet Members that are Silver/Copper sponsors:** G. Nardi space - Small exhibiting area and an opportunity to showcase textile materials through our installation;
  
- **Non-TensiNet Platinum/Gold sponsors:** G. Nardi space - Small exhibiting area and an opportunity to showcase textile materials through our installation;
- **Non-TensiNet Silver/Copper sponsors:** Exhibition hall - Project poster and an opportunity to showcase textile materials in the corridor installation;
  
- **TensiNet Partners that win the call:** G. Nardi space - Small exhibiting area and an opportunity to showcase textile materials through our installation;
- **TensiNet Members that win the call:** Exhibition hall - Project poster and an opportunity to showcase textile materials in the corridor installation;
- **Non-TensiNet winners of the call:** Exhibition hall - Project poster.

You will also be given the opportunity of providing material for the installation depending on the nature of your firm/company, especially if you are a producer of membranes for tensile constructions, in order to showcase your material selection in an unconventional way.

## 7. Fees

The participation fee in case you are selected for the exhibition is €300, which will be paid upon selection.

Only sponsors are automatically exempted from paying the fee.