



AQUA PROJECT: THE AQUARIUM SECTOR TAKES CENTRE STAGE

Following the success of its first edition as part of Zoomark International 2017, the **Aqua Project** is set to return. The event designed to shine a spotlight on the world of aquaria directly involves companies from that sector, which having responded very positively to the initiative, will be attending again this year to present their latest innovations.

This year the target is to “think outside the box” by demonstrating the great versatility of aquaria equipped with the most modern technology to give life to new, unusual versions that are surprisingly simple and visually impressive in an architectural context.

The heart of the **Aqua Project** is the large central area inside Pavilion 29, one of the Bologna Exhibition Centre’s new structures that were inaugurated in the autumn of 2018, in which there will be some tanks of exceptional size as well as a pond and the exhibitors’ aquaria recreating some particular habitats as well as some different and stimulating suggestions.

Though true that in recent decades we have become used to seeing freshwater tropical aquaria rich in vegetation and populated by unusual fish originating from the rivers of Central and South America or from remote regions of East Asia, one spectacular aquarium measuring 2 metres by 2 metres will demonstrate how it is possible to reconcile the needs of goldfish with those of aquatic plants. The large dimensions and the special characteristics of the tank enable also its extension into an ornamental pond that is fascinating to observe from rather an unusual angle. Pebbles, sand, water features, lilies, papyrus and aquatic plants will find their ideal location as natural decorations within this 2 metre aquarium that captures the gaze of every visitor.

A trio of aquaria, each measuring 1 metre by 1 metre, constructed in a single display form the tribute by the Aqua Project’s aquascapers to an emblematic figure who has revolutionised the concept of the natural aquarium and the passion for nature: Takashi Amano. The contents are located both in and out of the water, with rocks and pieces of wood that emerge and submerge from the thick vegetation of the flourishing tropical plants.

The convention programme for Zoomark International completes the focus on the aquarium sector by proposing two interesting in-depth appointments: on 6 May the Convention “REMEDIALIFE AND SUSTAINABILITY IN FISHKEEPING AND AQUARIA”; and on 7 May the seminar “AQUARIA IN THE ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT: PROBLEMS, SOLUTIONS AND BEST PRACTICES” organised in collaboration with the magazine *Abitare* on the topic of “Architecture and Aquaria”. The meeting will illustrate some international case studies as well as the problems and solutions linked to fitting an aquarium into an architectural context. There will be a guided tour of the Aqua Project Area at the end of the seminar.

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