The striped flags started with the idea of creating civic iconography as well as an identification system for the projects. M-A-D developed a semantic bar code that connotes the areas of improvement intended by the interventions. Participants were asked to assign percentages to the values (seen at top).

Faced with the challenge of installing an archive of 124 vastly disparate projects, Freecell created a lively system of banners suspended from an open scaffold, evoking a festival atmosphere. The banners may be pulled down for a closer look, triggering the movement of counterweights that are inscribed with suggested actions to solve urban problems.

Wending across the gallery floors is a timeline that narrates the history of city-making as well as key precedents in urban activism. M-A-D designed a timeline that alters in shape as it advances, reflecting the ideas of each dominant epoch. Today's urban interventions are reacting to specific conditions that have been decades, even centuries, in the making, informed by complex physical and cultural circumstances.

Interboro borrowed a standard-issue item from the city of Venice—the temporary, elevated sidewalks called passerelle that Venetians use to navigate Venice during acqua alta—to create an "outdoor living room" to host programs scheduled for the Biennale's three-month run. Veritas loaned the U.S. Pavilion the metal supports, and in exchange, the U.S. Pavilion fabricated new decks that conform to the city's design standards and will be donated to Venice when the Biennale ends. The courtyard, which Interboro calls Commonplace, features a conversation pit that is filled with foam cubes intended to be used for seating or playing. The pieces may be configured to accommodate a range of functions, from lectures to workshops to casual socializing. Our intention is to donate the cubes to a school when the Biennale concludes.

In a video installation by filmmaker Kelly Loudenberg, a cross section of exhibition participants share their hopes, dreams, and concerns for the future of the American city. Attuned to the fact that it is an election year in the U.S., participants were asked to speak as if they are running for office or advising their elected officials.