REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
(HOME AT ARSENALE)
A CURATED LIBRARY ADDRESSING THE NOTIONS OF HOME AND DWELLING

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Structures for dwelling have constructed the predominant part of our built environment and have fulfilled our most basic needs. Yet they should aim beyond securing mere survival to provide the conditions necessary for a meaningful life.

Definitions of home have been continuously questioned within diverse historical and cultural settings. Today’s information-driven society is characterized by accentuated and proliferating mobility, ranging from seeking permanent relocation to commuting. Thus, the notion of home has to be readdressed. What defines a home today, when many can be almost anywhere and connected to anything, at any time?

Our personal experience with moving home provoked the initial question: Is the home where the library is, or is the library where the home is?

A site-specific wooden structure becomes a library generating an abstract compact home that reflects the curators’ approach to architecture, emphasizing its social position and material manifestation where the user’s experience and participation remains the central objective.

Architects, artists, critics, and curators are invited as temporary one-day residents to inhabit (Home at Arsenale), to share their expertise "from their fronts" with their selection of books on the topics of home and dwelling to build the curated library for the collective benefit of exhibition visitors. Ultimately, the library-home will relocate to the Museum of Architecture and Design in Ljubljana, to be available for public use.

Aljida Becker, Tina Gregorič