

# 5th Festival des Cabanes at Villa Medici

May 20 – September 28, 2026

Bridging the gap between architecture and landscape, the Villa Medici Festival des Cabanes presents six original architectural creations in the historical gardens, designed by international teams of architects and architecture students, together with a program of summer events.

BENTO ARCHITECTURE

ECAL/ECOLE CANTONALE D'ART DE LAUSANNE WITH MUTINA

FONDATION HUTTOPIA

NABA, NUOVA ACCADEMIA DI BELLE ARTI

PRÌA & VELIA

SALAZARSEQUEROMEDINA



# VILLA MEDICI

The Villa Medici Festival des Cabanes is being held for the fifth time from May 20 to September 28, 2026. Every summer since its inception, the festival has been transforming the historical gardens of the French Academy in Rome into a laboratory for architectural experimentation and practice. The latest edition presents **six cabanes** (cabins or huts) to visit in the gardens, a **pop-up bookshop** and a multidisciplinary **artistic program**.

The idea of the *cabane*, which gives the festival its name, is the starting point for a dialogue between architects, designers, artists, and thinkers on a range of concerns: how can we create non-invasive architectural forms? What sustainable housing solutions can we imagine to respond to the challenges facing our anthropogenic environments? Designed in wood, metal, or recycled materials, the *cabanes* are displayed in the gardens of Villa Medici inherited from the Renaissance.

The festival combines architectural innovation, contemporary creativity, and landscape enhancement in a heritage context. Visitors can stroll from one *cabane* to another, enjoy the gardens, discover the pop-up bookshop designed in partnership with **Librairie 7L** and the program of events accompanying the festival. At the heart of this program, on June 25, the **Nuit des Cabanes – Habiter Demain** event invites visitors to a grand celebration of summer, involving screenings, performances, workshops, debates, and concerts in the gardens, with numerous invited artists, architects, and scientists. The section devoted to Habiter Demain has been designed in partnership with **BNP Paribas**.



## 6 architectural creations



### *Il Duomo Invertito*

**Designed by Bento Architecture**

Bento Architecture (Brussels, Belgium) reinterprets the archetype of the Roman dome by subverting its codes: monumentality gives way to the lightness of a suspended wire structure. Made of wood and mycelium (fungal roots), the organic installation creates an

island of shade and coolness, questioning the persistence of architectural form and the fragility of living matter. Co-produced by the Centre Wallonie-Bruxelles in Paris, it will be presented there in 2027.



### ***Façade***

**Designed by ECAL/Ecole Cantonale d'Art de Lausanne with Mutina**

ECAL (Lausanne, Switzerland) has joined forces with Mutina (Modena, Italy), a company that specializes in creating ceramic tiles, to present a trompe-l'oeil project in which a single wall becomes architecture, transforming a fragment into a real space. Through a subtle use of motifs and colour variations, this installation interrogates the boundary between surface and depth, reality and illusion. The project was selected and supported by French designer Ronan Bouroullec.



### ***Creetopia***

**Designed by Fondation Huttoopia**

Fondation Huttoopia (Lyon, France) presents a prototype for a sustainable dwelling designed to cope with the extremely harsh climate of Canada's Far North. Inspired by the traditional skills of the Cree, the indigenous people of that region, the project combines high tech, contemporary design, and respect for ancestral practices.



### ***Reassembled Views***

**Designed by NABA, the Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti**

NABA, a prestigious school of art and design, with campuses in Milan and Rome, is developing a project that forms part of a reuse initiative by recycling materials from the 2025 festival, producing a series of seats and light structures scattered around the garden.



### ***Aquifer***

**Designed by PRÌA and VELIA**

The PRÌA (Saint-Laurent-la-Vernède, France) and VELIA (Rome, Italy) architecture studios have devised a project that combines travertine stone with terracotta vases to create a natural cooling system. Based on the principle of evaporation, this installation helps to lower the temperature in the garden of Villa Medici, thereby offering a model of "communal water management" to address climate issues in urban environments.



### ***Cabane 7L and Librairie 7L x Villa Medici***

**Designed by salazarsequeromedina**

The salazarsequeromedina studio (Madrid, Spain; Lima, Peru; New York, USA) is occupying two spaces at Villa Medici. On the one hand, it has designed *Cabane 7L*, a reading pavilion nestling in the heart of the gardens, which is inspired by Villa Medici's Room of Birds and offers visitors a place to pause for reading or contemplation. On the other, *Librairie 7L x Villa Médicis* presents a selection of books related to the themes of the Festival des Cabanes.

## **Alongside the festival**

### **Nuit des Cabanes – Habiter Demain**

**Thursday, June 25, 2026**

Nuit des Cabanes – Habiter Demain, a major summer event in the Villa Medici gardens, is a committed, festive, and artistic gathering that explores the poetic and convivial dimension of the *cabane* as a place of hospitality at the intersection of disciplines. The program includes visits, workshops, performances, readings, and concerts involving the artists in residence at Villa Medici as well as numerous guests. Habiter Demain is an event designed in partnership with BNP Paribas. The full program will be available soon on the [villamedici.it](https://villamedici.it) website.

## **Librairie 7L × Villa Medici**

**From May 21 to September 28, 2026**

Throughout the summer at Villa Medici, Librairie 7L, founded by Karl Lagerfeld, a partner of the Festival des Cabanes, offers a selection of art and humanities books that illuminate the links between architecture and nature. This year, the salazarsequeromedina architecture studio has been entrusted with designing the bookshop.

## **Call for projects for the 2027 Festival des Cabanes at Villa Medici**

**Until May 12, 2026**

Villa Medici has launched a call for architectural projects for the 6th Festival des Cabanes, to be held in 2027. The call is open to international architects, artists, designers, and landscape architects, with no age limit. The winning team will have a production budget of 20,000 euros. [See here for further details](#)



## **Partners**

Festival des Cabanes at Villa Medici 2026

**CHANEL**

**Librairie 7L**

**BNP Paribas Wealth Management**

Habiter Demain

**BNP Paribas**

**Transdev**

---

**The French Academy in Rome – Villa Medici is an institution of the French Ministry of Culture**

Photo credits: © Daniele Molajoli, Claudia Gori, Emilia de Leonardis

**PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

Académie de France à Rome – Villa Médicis  
Viale della Trinità dei Monti, 1  
00187 Rome, Italy  
+39 06 67611  
[www.villamedici.it](http://www.villamedici.it)

**PRESS CONTACTS**

France and international (outside Italy)

Agence Dezarts  
[agence@dezarts.fr](mailto:agence@dezarts.fr)  
Anaïs Fritsch  
+33 (0)6 62 09 43 63

Italy

Elisabetta Castiglioni  
+39 328 411 2014  
[info@elisabettacastiglioni.it](mailto:info@elisabettacastiglioni.it)