

Visions & Voices: Zaha Hadid: Home

Created in conjunction with Zaha Hadid's lecture and discussion on 24 October 2014.

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Zaha Hadid



Credit: (Zaha Hadid): Steve Double
 Credit: (Heydar Aliyev Center): Hufton+Crow

About This Guide

This guide was originally created for **Visions and Voices**.

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Event

Zaha Hadid, a Visions & Voices event, is scheduled for **Friday, 24 October 2014** in Bovard Auditorium at **7 pm**.

Admission is free, but reservations required. RSVP at the links below beginning Friday, September 26, at 9 a.m.

USC Students, Staff and Faculty: To RSVP, [click here](#).

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General Public: To RSVP, [click here](#).

For event details, go to www.usc.edu/visionsandvoices.

Subject Guide



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Image Credit

Giuseppe Arcimboldo (Italian, ca. 1527-1593)

The Librarian (Wolfgang Lazius), ca. 1562

Oil on canvas. 97 x 71 cm (38 3/16 x 28 in.)

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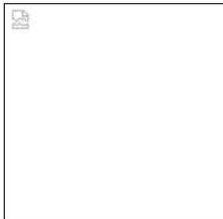
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Visions & Voices: Zaha Hadid: Biographical Information

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Photo



Biographical Information

Born 31 October 1950 in Baghdad, Iraq, Dame Zaha Hadid is an Iraqi-British architect "known for her radical deconstructivist designs. In 2004 she became the first woman to be awarded the [Pritzker Architecture Prize](#).

Hadid began her studies at the American University in Beirut, Lebanon, receiving a bachelor's degree in mathematics. In 1972 she traveled to London to study at the Architectural Association, a major centre of progressive architectural thought during the 1970s. There she met the architects Elia Zenghelis and Rem Koolhaas with whom she would collaborate as a partner at the Office of Metropolitan Architecture. Hadid established her own London-based firm in 1979.

In 1983 Hadid gained international recognition with her competition-winning entry for The Peak, a leisure and recreational centre in Hong Kong. This design, a "horizontal skyscraper" that moved at a dynamic diagonal down the hillside site, established her aesthetic: inspired by Kazimir Malevich and the Suprematists, her aggressive geometric designs are characterized by a sense of fragmentation, instability, and movement. This fragmented style led her to be grouped with architects known as "deconstructivists," a classification made popular by the 1988 landmark exhibition "Deconstructivist Architecture" held at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City.

Hadid's design for The Peak was never realized, nor were most of her other radical designs in the 1980s and early '90s, including the Kurfürstendamm (1986) in Berlin, the Düsseldorf Art and Media Centre (1992–93), and the Cardiff Bay Opera House (1994) in Wales. Hadid began to be known as a "paper architect," meaning her designs were too avant-garde to move beyond the sketch phase and actually be built. This impression of her was heightened when her beautifully rendered designs—often in the form of exquisitely detailed coloured paintings—were exhibited as works of art in major museums.

Hadid's first major built project was the Vitra Fire Station (1989–93) in Weil am Rhein, Germany. Composed of a series of sharply angled planes, the structure resembles a bird in flight. Her other built works from this period include a housing project for IBA Housing (1989–93) in Berlin, the Mind Zone exhibition space (1999) at the Millennium Dome in Greenwich, London, and the Land Formation One exhibition space (1997–99) in Weil am Rhein. In all these projects, Hadid further explored her interest in creating interconnecting spaces and a dynamic sculptural form of architecture.

Hadid solidified her reputation as an architect of built works in 2000, when work began on her design for a new Lois & Richard Rosenthal Center for Contemporary Art in Cincinnati, Ohio. The 85,000-square-foot (7,900-square-metre) centre, which opened in 2003, was the first American museum designed by a woman. Essentially a vertical series of cubes and voids, the museum is

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located in the middle of Cincinnati's downtown area. The side that faces the street has a translucent glass facade that invites passersby to look in on the workings of the museum and thereby contradicts the notion of the museum as an uninviting or remote space. The building's plan gently curves upward after the visitor enters the building; Hadid said she hoped this would create an "urban carpet" that welcomes people into the museum.

In 2010 Hadid's boldly imaginative design for the MAXXI museum of contemporary art and architecture in Rome earned her the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) **Stirling Prize** for the best building by a British architect completed in the past year. She won a second **Stirling Prize** the following year for a sleek structure she conceived for Evelyn Grace Academy, a secondary school in London. Hadid's fluid undulating design for the Heydar Aliyev Center, a cultural centre that opened in 2012 in Baku, Azerbaijan, won the **London Design Museum's Design of the Year in 2014**. She was the first woman to earn that award—which judges designs in architecture, furniture, fashion, graphics, product, and transportation—and the design was the first from the architecture category. Her other notable works include the London Aquatics Centre built for the 2012 Olympics and the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, which opened in 2012 at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan.

Hadid taught architecture at many places, including the Architectural Association, Harvard University, the University of Chicago, and Yale University. She also worked as a furniture designer, a designer of interior spaces such as restaurants, and a set designer, notably for the 2014 Los Angeles Philharmonic production of Mozart's *Così fan tutte*. In addition to the Pritzker Prize and the Stirling Prize, her numerous awards include the Japan Art Association's **Praemium Imperiale prize for architecture** (2009). Hadid was a member of the Encyclopædia Britannica Editorial Board of Advisors (2005–06). In 2012 she was made a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire (DBE)."

John Zukowsky, Ed.

Britannica Academic Edition

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1000 Museum Tower, Miami



Credit: Zaha Hadid Architects

Projects

Hadid's firm's official website is [Zaha Hadid Architects](#) which includes announcements, current projects, and an archive of works.

Her Facebook page is at <https://www.facebook.com/zaha.hadid>
e-architect, a British architecture website, has multiple pages on [Hadid and her firm's projects](#), including a recent interview, news, and images.

Award-winning projects:

Stirling Prize, 2010, [MAXXI](#), Rome (2010)

Stirling Prize, 2011, [Evelyn Grace Academy](#), London (2010)

London Design Museum's Design of the Year in 2014, [Heydar Aliyev Center](#), Baku, Afghanistan (2013)

U.S. Built Projects:

Her first built project in the U.S. was Cincinnati's [Lois & Richard Rosenthal Center for Contemporary Art](#), 1997-2003.

Michigan State University's [Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum](#), which opened in 2012, was her second U.S. building.

Currently under construction are two condominiums in Miami, [One Thousand Museum Tower](#) and New York City, [520 West 28th Street](#).

In May she designed the sets for the [Los Angeles Philharmonic's](#) production of [Mozart's *Così fan tutte*](#) (2014)

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Planet Architecture: Zaha Hadid. CD-ROM (2003)
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Bibliography--Books

Below is a selection of major works on Zaha Hadid, all of which are in the [Helen Topping Architecture & Fine Arts Library](#). Unless otherwise noted, all can be found in the AFA Bookstacks. For additional books look for NA1469.H33

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Individual Projects

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