

Zaha Hadid – Fluidity & Design

The first exhibition in the Gulf by renowned architect Zaha Hadid

Shaikh Ebrahim bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Center for Culture and Research, Bahrain
15 March – 30 April 2010

17 February 2010 - For her inaugural exhibition in the Gulf, ***Zaha Hadid - Fluidity & Design***, the Pritzker Prize winning architect presents her practice's continued exploration and research towards a new architectural language of fluidity that encompasses all scales of design – a built manifesto informed by originality and innovation. Evolving from the demands of greater complexity and variety in contemporary society, this new language is driven by the latest advances in computational design processes and state-of-the-art fabrication technologies.

Zaha Hadid views the fields of urbanism, architecture and design as inherently interrelated, with the fluid sensibility of her design projects impacting our own perception of space. In a dialogue of complex curvilinear geometries - each design morphologically conceived and shaped further by typological, functional and ergonomic considerations - Hadid reinvents the balance between object and space – establishing a direct discourse with the Cartesian galleries of the Shaikh Ebrahim Center and presenting the unbounded possibilities of her formal repertoire.

Showcased in the Bin Matar House, one of the traditional Bahraini houses restored by the Shaikh Ebrahim Center, ***Zaha Hadid – Fluidity & Design*** reveals the spatial complexity of Hadid's visionary creations. The exhibition brings together a selection of works that articulate our immediate tactile environment, demonstrating Hadid's radical re-interpretation of the space we occupy. The works included within the exhibition range from jewellery to large-scale furniture pieces, each produced as unique or limited edition pieces, giving the visitor a true overview of the range of Zaha Hadid's design practice.

- Lotus, a large-scale concept that integrates furniture and architecture, designed for the 2008 Venice Architecture Biennale
- The Swash Cabinet, Gyre Chair and Serif Shelves of the Seamless Collection, designed for the British company Established & Sons
- The Crevasse Vases, a set of vases designed for the Italian company Alessi
- Select pieces from the Celeste and Glace Jewellery Collections, designed for Swarovski
- The Acrylic Z-bowl and a Tea & Coffee Set, designed for the Italian company Sawaya & Moroni

About Zaha Hadid Architects

Zaha Hadid, founding partner of Zaha Hadid Architects, was awarded the Pritzker Prize (considered to be the Nobel Prize of architecture) in 2004 and is internationally known for both her theoretical and academic work. Each of her dynamic and innovative projects builds on over thirty years of revolutionary experimentation and research in the interrelated fields of urbanism, architecture and design.

Working with senior office partner Patrik Schumacher, Hadid's interest is in the rigorous interface between architecture, landscape, and geology as the Practice integrates natural topography and human-made systems that lead to experimentation with cutting-edge technologies.

The MAXXI: National Museum of 21st Century Art in Rome, BMW Central Building in Leipzig and Phaeno Science Center in Wolfsburg, are excellent demonstrations of the practice's quest for complex, dynamic space. Previous seminal buildings, such as the Rosenthal Center for Contemporary Art in Cincinnati have also been hailed as architecture that transforms our vision of the future with new spatial concepts and bold, visionary forms.

Zaha Hadid Architects is a global leader in pioneering research and design investigation. Cutting-edge collaborations with corporations that lead their industries have advanced the practice's diversity and knowledge, whilst the implementation of state-of-the-art technologies have aided the realization of fluid, dynamic and therefore complex architectural structures.

Currently, the practice is working on a multitude of projects including; the Aquatics Centre for the London 2012 Olympic Games, High-Speed Train Stations in Naples and Durango, the CMA CGM Head Office tower in Marseille, Opera Houses in China and master-planning projects in Beijing, Bilbao, Istanbul, Singapore and the Middle East.

About the Shaikh Ebrahim bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Center for Culture and Research (Bahrain)

The Shaikh Ebrahim bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Center for Culture and Research was founded in 2002 as a forum for open debate and cultural exchange. Through its program of weekly lectures, the center has attracted world class artists, philosophers, poets and thinkers. Since 2002, the Shaikh Ebrahim Center has expanded through the restoration of additional traditional houses in Bahrain, including the Al Zayed House for Press Heritage (2003), the Mohammed Bin Faris Music House (2005), the Ibrahim Al Arrayed House of Poetry (2006), the IQRA Children's Library (2006), the Kurar House (2007), the information center (2008) and the new auditorium of the Shaikh Ebrahim Center (2008). The Bin Matar House opened its doors in February 2009 followed by the Coffee House, the Bu Kalaaf traditional coffee house and the Water Garden. For more information on the Shaikh Ebrahim Center and its activities, please visit www.shaikhebrahimcenter.org

About Memory of the Place - Bin Matar House (Bahrain)

The Bin Matar House is a restoration project undertaken by the Shaikh Ebrahim bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Center for Culture and Research as part of its ongoing effort to protect Bahrain's traditional architectural heritage. The restoration of the Bin Matar House was sponsored by Arcapita Bank. The Bin Matar House was built in 1905 and was used as the permanent majlis of Salman Hussein Bin Matar, one of Bahrain's the most prominent pearling merchants. The building was retained as a residence by the Bin Matar family until 2002. On the 9 February, 2009, the newly restored Bin Matar House opened its doors to the public to display the traditional Bahraini architecture of the building and pay homage to the memory of Salman Matar and his family. In addition to a permanent exhibition on the history of pearling in Bahrain and the Bin Matar family, the Bin Matar House houses a small collection of contemporary Bahraini art and features an ongoing program of temporary art exhibitions in its dedicated exhibition space.

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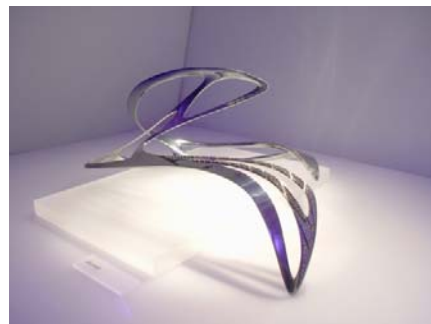
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Lotus, designed by Zaha Hadid for the 2008 Venice Architecture Biennale
Photograph by Luke Hayes



Swash Cabinet, part of the Seamless Collection,
designed by Zaha Hadid for Established & Sons
Photograph by Jack Coble



Celeste Necklace, Showpiece Jewellery designed by
Zaha Hadid for Swarovski Gem Couture
Photograph courtesy of Zaha Hadid Architects