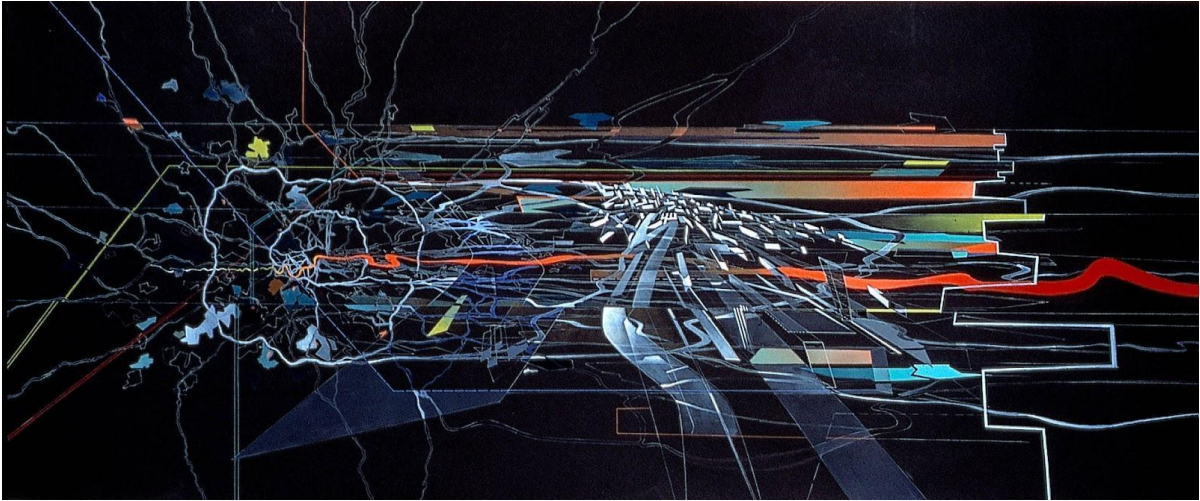


ZAHA HADID: REIMAGINING LONDON



Zaha Hadid with Zaha Hadid Architects, London 2066, Vogue Magazine (UK), 1991 © Zaha Hadid Foundation

The inaugural exhibition to be held at the Zaha Hadid Foundation, *Zaha Hadid: Reimagining London*, opens to the public on Wednesday 8 June at the site of the globally renowned architect's former office in Clerkenwell. This exhibition delves into the collections and archives of the Foundation. Uncovering rare and unseen works, including personal sketchbooks, from over forty years of practice, the exhibition reveals Hadid's radical reinventions of London.

Hadid was one of the most influential architects of the past century. She was the first woman to be awarded the Pritzker Architecture Prize and the first and only solo woman to be awarded the Royal Gold Medal for architecture. Born in Baghdad, Iraq, Hadid emigrated to London in 1972 to study at the Architectural Association (AA) and lived and worked in the city for the rest of her life. Despite the phenomenal range and scale of building projects that Zaha Hadid Architects has realized across the globe from the 1990s, relatively few projects came to fruition in the city she adopted as home in her lifetime. And yet from her student years, Hadid was profoundly inspired by London's complex cityscape. This exhibition assembles her visions for London for the first time.

From the outset, with her student diploma project, *Malevich's Tektonik* (1976–77), a drive for architectural experimentation propelled her throughout her career. Hadid drew together influences from twentieth-century Russian Suprematism and the early architectural avant-garde, with design methods at the forefront of contemporary technological innovation. Her designs both slice through and layer on top of London's dense urban fabric. The new and the old coexist in dynamic equilibrium.

Hadid's visions for London are expressed through a wide variety of media. Paintings, drawings, collages, and models reveal her distinctive thought process and innovative

design methods, shown in projects ranging from utopian imaginings to competition entries and finished buildings. For Hadid, London was all about 'potentials'. Her bridges are suspended across the Thames like spaceships and skyscrapers are plunged underground. Anchoring this exhibition is *London 2066* (1991), a large-scale painting envisioning London 75 years into the future. In this painting, Hadid proposes a radical rethinking of the city: the centre of London is stretched eastwards and its arteries flow in new directions. This expansion of the metropolis eastwards is realized in the iconic *London Aquatics Centre*, built for the 2012 Olympic Games.

Zaha Hadid: Reimagining London is curated by the students from the Courtauld Institute of Art's MA programme *Curating the Art Museum*, and organized in collaboration with the Zaha Hadid Foundation. The Foundation's Director, Professor Paul Greenhalgh says: 'our aim is to facilitate the work of architects, designers, artists, scholars, and the general public alike, in order to advance knowledge across the creative sector. This exhibition by the Courtauld's MA Curating students is the first in a series of creative collaborations with educational partners.'

The exhibition will be accompanied by a programme of live events, including a late evening opening in conjunction with the London Festival of Architecture, an In Conversation with renowned British architect Nigel Coates, and a panel discussion on the intersection between architecture and gender.

Zaha Hadid: Reimagining London

8 June – 2 July 2022

Zaha Hadid Foundation, 10 Bowling Green Lane, London, EC1R 0BQ

Opening Hours: Tuesday–Saturday, 11am–5.30pm

Free admission

Public events programme:

Friday Night Late Opening – 10 June, 6–8pm

'On the Edge': is the role of women changing in architecture? Panel Discussion – 16 June, 6–8pm

In Conversation with Nigel Coates – 30 June, 7–9pm

For more information, please contact: courtauldmaexhibition2022@gmail.com

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