

SERPENTINE AND ZAHA HADID FOUNDATION ANNOUNCE A NEW COLLABORATION OF TALKS AND PROGRAMMING IN 2026

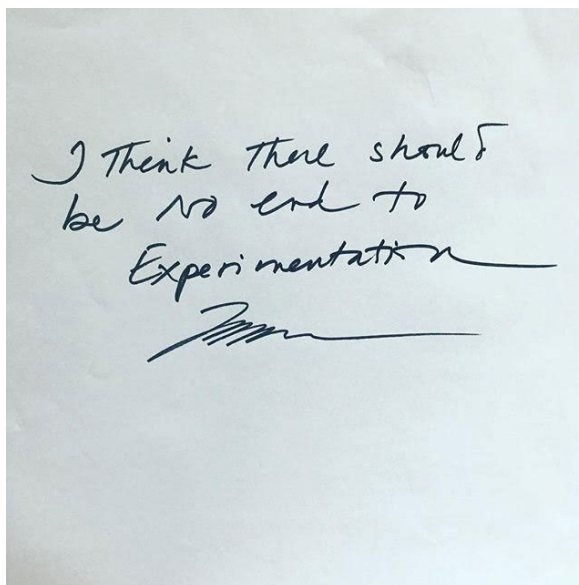
The collaboration will honour Zaha Hadid's legacy and coincide with the 25th Serpentine Pavilion, kickstarted by an event hosted with former Serpentine architects Lina Ghotmeh and Sumayya Vally.

At Serpentine South in Marina Tabassum's Pavilion, *A Capsule in Time*

Thursday 16th October at 8.45am - 11am

Lina Ghotmeh – Architect of the 2023 Serpentine Pavilion; Sumayya Vally – Architect of the 2021 Serpentine Pavilion *In conversation with:* Aric Chen – Director of the Zaha Hadid Foundation and Hans Ulrich Obrist – Artistic Director, Serpentine

Please RSVP to: press@serpentinegalleries.org



Images: Zaha Hadid © and Serpentine Pavilion 2000, Designed by Zaha Hadid, Photograph © 2000 Hélène Binet

Serpentine is delighted to announce a new collaboration with the Zaha Hadid Foundation to commemorate Zaha Hadid's legacy and mark the 25th Serpentine Pavilion.

Starting in 2026, a dedicated programme of panel discussions and talks on architecture will take place within the Serpentine Pavilion. The series will launch with a special conversation featuring former Serpentine Pavilion architects Lina Ghotmeh (2023) and Sumayya Vally (2021), in dialogue with Aric Chen and Hans Ulrich Obrist on Thursday 16th October 2025 from 8.45am to 11am with a prompt start at 9.30am.



The collaboration takes inspiration from Zaha Hadid's enduring ethos, "*There should be no end to experimentation.*" As the architect of the inaugural Serpentine Pavilion in 2000, Hadid's spirit of innovation has set the tone for what has since become one of the world's most influential architectural commissions. This approach continues to shape not only the Pavilion series, but also Serpentine's wider programme of exhibitions and live events.

This new series of talks aims to connect new and wider audiences with innovative architectural conversations. Bringing together leading architects, thinkers, and cultural practitioners, the series will foster transnational and transgenerational architectural dialogue, inviting former Pavilion architects to explore questions at the forefront of architecture today, reflecting on Zaha Hadid's career and the legacy of the Pavilion whilst looking ahead to the possibilities of the future.

Further details of the programme will be announced in early 2026.

Bettina Korek, CEO, and Hans Ulrich Obrist, Artistic Director of Serpentine, said: "We often quote Zaha Hadid's belief that there 'should be no end to experimentation.' Zaha's spirit remains a vital inspiration for our programme. As we mark 25 years of the Pavilion, we return to its origins while creating space for new ideas. We are grateful to Aric Chen and the Zaha Hadid Foundation for celebrating her enduring legacy with us. The collaboration launches with a Frieze Week panel, and we warmly thank Lina Ghotmeh and Sumayya Vally for joining this inaugural conversation."

Aric Chen, Director of the Zaha Hadid Foundation said: "Through her boundary-breaking life and work, Zaha changed the course of architecture, and her early and longstanding collaboration with the Serpentine played no small part in this. We're thrilled and honoured to start this collaboration with an institution she was so close to, and that so deeply shares her commitment to innovation and the public."

The groundbreaking commission, first launched in 2000 with Dame Zaha Hadid, has presented the first UK structures by some of the most significant names and emerging talent in international architecture.

2026 marks a decade since the passing of Zaha Hadid, who died in 2016 at the age of 65. At the time, there were more than 400 people working for Zaha Hadid Architects (ZHA), which had worked on 950 projects in over 44 countries.

The Serpentine Pavilions are realised with the support of technical advisors AECOM. In recent years it has grown into a highly anticipated showcase for emerging talents, from Sumayya Vally, Counterspace (South Africa), the youngest architect to be commissioned, and Frida Escobedo (Mexico), to Diébédo Francis Kéré (Burkina Faso) and Bjarke Ingels (Denmark). In 2022, *Black Chapel* was designed by Theaster Gates (US), in 2023 *À table* was designed by Lina Ghotmeh- Architecture (France and Lebanon), in 2024 *Archipelagic Void* was designed by Minsuk Cho, Mass Studies (South Korea) and in 2025 *A Capsule in Time* was designed by Marina Tabassum (Bangladesh).



Each year's commission responds to the unique location of the Pavilion, inviting audiences to experience the activated space through Serpentine's experimental, interdisciplinary, community and education programmes.

Marina Tabassum's Pavilion *A Capsule in Time* is on view at Serpentine South until 26th October 2025. Celebrated for her work that seeks to establish an architectural language that is contemporary while rooted and engaging with place, climate, context, culture and history, Marina Tabassum's design for this year's Pavilion resonates with Serpentine South and aims to prompt a dialogue between the permanent and the ephemeral nature of the commission.

The 2025 Pavilion is elongated in the north-south direction and features a central court that aligns with Serpentine South's bell tower. Inspired by the tradition of park-going and arched garden canopies that filter soft daylight through green foliage, the sculptural quality of the Pavilion is comprised of four wooden capsule forms with a translucent façade that diffuses and dapples light when infiltrating the space. Marking the first structure by Tabassum to be built entirely from wood, it also employs light as a way to enhance the qualities of the space.

Emphasising the sensory and spiritual possibilities of architecture through scale, geometry and the interplay of light and shadow, Tabassum's design also features a kinetic element where one of the capsule forms is able to move and connect, transforming the Pavilion into a new spatial configuration.

About Serpentine

Building new connections between artists and audiences, Serpentine presents pioneering contemporary art exhibitions and cultural events with a legacy that stretches back over half a century, from a wide range of emerging practitioners to the most internationally recognised artists, writers, scientists, thinkers, and cultural thought leaders of our time.

Based in London's Kensington Gardens, across two sites, Serpentine North and Serpentine South, Serpentine features a year-round, free programme of exhibitions, architectural showcases, education, live events and technological activations, in the park and beyond the gallery walls.

The Serpentine Pavilion is a yearly pioneering commission, which began in 2000 with Dame Zaha Hadid. It features the first UK structures by some of the biggest names in international architecture.

Public art has emerged as a central strand of Serpentine's programme. Major presentations include a collection of Eduardo Paolozzi's sculptures (1987), Anish Kapoor's *Turning the World Upside Down* (2010), Lee Ufan presented *Relatum – Stage* (2018-19), Christo and Jeanne-Claude's *London Mastaba* in the Serpentine Lake (2018), *I LOVE YOU EARTH* by Yoko Ono (2021), Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster *In remembrance of the coming alien (Alienor)*, (2022), Alexandra Daisy Ginsberg's *Pollinator Pathmaker* (2022 - 2023), Gerhard Richter's *STRIP-TOWER* (2023) and Yayoi Kusama's *Pumpkin* (2024).



Proud to maintain free access for all visitors, Serpentine reaches an exceptionally broad audience and maintains a profound connection with its local community.

About the Zaha Hadid Foundation

Established by Dame Zaha Hadid (1950-2016), the Zaha Hadid Foundation is an independent charitable organisation dedicated to the legacy of the boundary breaking architect and her commitment to perpetual experimentation across architecture and related disciplines.

In addition to maintaining and activating Hadid's archive, the foundation engages in current and future discourses by mounting public programs, supporting education and emerging voices, and partnering with a range of organisations from its base in London, at 10 Bowling Green Lane and Shad Thames, and around the world.

For further details, please contact

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