

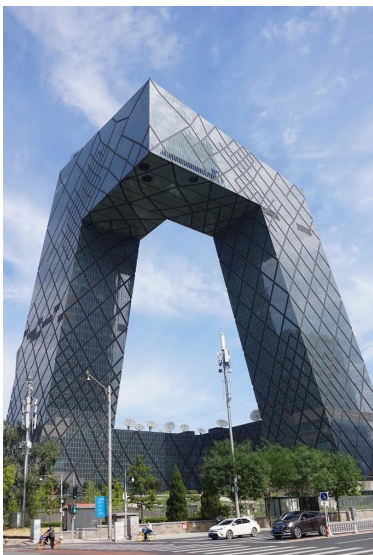
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### *An Architectural Pioneer*

Zaha Hadid was a British architect, interior designer, jewelry, footwear and bag designer. She is most known for her deconstructivist architectural designs. The buildings she designed are like no other and each of them have a unique style.

Zaha Hadid was born on October 31, 1950 in Baghdad, Iraq. Her father was a wealthy politician and industrialist and her mother was an artist. During her childhood, Zaha Hadid was a frequent traveler. Being able to visit different places as a child cultivated her interest and passion for architecture. She stated, "My father made sure I went to every important building and museum in each city we visited. We'd go to new cities to learn about architecture ... I think that's what inspired my love of buildings" ( TheArtStory.org).

Hadid began studying mathematics at the American University in Beirut, Lebanon earning a bachelor's degree. She then moved to London in 1972 to continue her studies at the Architectural Association. During the 1970s, the Architectural Association was a prominent center of architectural thought. At the Architectural Association, Hadid studied under fellow architects Rem Koolhaas, Elia Zenghelis, and Bernard Tschumi. Zenghelis is known for his influence on the Extension of the Dutch House of Parliament in the Hague. Koolhaas is known for designing CCTV headquarters(see below) in Beijing, China. Hadid went on to partner with



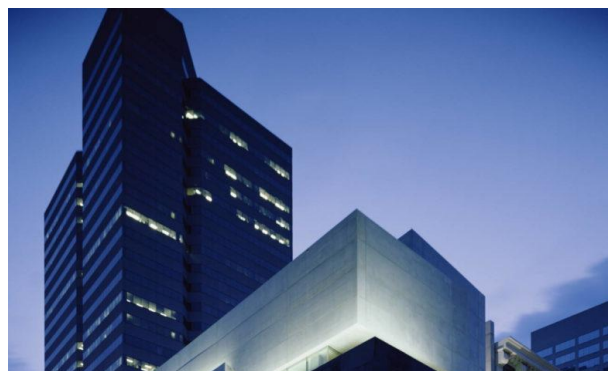
Zanghelis and Koolhaas at their architecture firm, The Office of Metropolitan Architecture, before leaving to establish her own firm, Zaha Hadid Architects, in 1979. Four years later, Hadid became known after her entry for The Peak, a recreational center located in Hong Kong. The

design she submitted was inspired by Kazimir Malevich and the Suprematists. According to <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/kazimir-malevich-1561>, “Malevich was a Russian avant-garde artist and art theorist, whose pioneering work and writing had a profound influence on the development of abstract art in the 20th century. His concept of Suprematism sought to develop a form of expression that moved as far as possible from the world of natural forms (objectivity) and subject matter in order to access “the supremacy of pure feeling” and spirituality.” The Suprematist movement focused on the application of elementary geometric forms such as the square, the cross, and the circle. Suprematists also explored the idea of non-Euclidean geometry; that being a practice that “defied logic” by giving the illusion of fixed geometric forms floating or moving in space according to <https://www.theartstory.org/movement/suprematism/>. The Suprematist influence can be seen in most of Zaha Hadid’s structures.

Even though her entry was not realized, Hadid became known as the “paper architect” because her designs were viewed as too advanced to move beyond the blueprint phase and be built. Her designs also led her to be considered a pioneer for the deconstructivist movement. Deconstructivism is a movement of architecture that features buildings constructed with an absence of symmetry, and continuity. In 1993, Zaha Hadid had her first major project built which was the Vitra Fire Station in Germany( see below). Seven years later in 2000, Hadid made



history when she designed the Lois and Richard Rosenthal Center for Contemporary Art becoming the first woman ever to design an American Museum. (see photo below)



A decade later, Hadid earned the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Stirling Prize for the best building by a British architect completed in the past year for her unique design for the MAXXI museum of contemporary art and architecture in Rome, Italy.



## *Citations*

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