

# Forbes

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## 'Queen Of The Curve' Starchitect Zaha Hadid Passes Away at 65

By: Keith Flamer



*"Queen of the Curve," Zaha Hadid*

The world lost a giant today when Iraqi-British architect Zaha Hadid, CEO of Zaha Hadid Architects (the first woman to win the Pritzker Architecture Prize in 2004), died from a heart attack in Miami. She was 65 years old.

Nicknamed "Queen of the curve," the prolific architect was renowned for her dynamic neo-futuristic buildings, stadiums, museums, and industrial designs—distinguished by multi-perspective, sinuous forms and fragmented geometry. Among her famous works were London's 2012 Olympics Aquatic Center; BMW Central Building in Leipzig, Germany; Riverside Museum in Glasgow; and the current 2022 FIFA World Cup stadium in Qatar. One of her recent ventures was joining Revolution, a group of architects who design pre-crafted pavilions and homes (<http://revolutionprecrafted.com>). Hadid designed an ultra-modern outdoor Volu Dining Pavilion (a clam-inspired gazebo) with Patrik Schumacher.

Hadid was among the most celebrated architects of her time. She received the Sterling Prize in 2010 and 2011. She was honored as a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 2012. And in 2016, she became the first woman awarded, in her own right, with a Royal Institute of British Architects' Gold Medal.



*Hadid's outdoor Volu Dining Pavilion (a clam-inspired gazebo) with Patrik Schumacher for Revolution.*

She was born Zaha Mohammad Hadid in Baghdad, Iraq on Oct. 31, 1950, where Bauhaus and modernism profoundly influenced her youth. She studied mathematics at the American University of Beirut before moving to London in 1972 to study at the Architectural Association School. In 1979, she launched her own firm, Zaha Hadid Architects.

Hadid's sudden death reverberated around the world, particularly among her closest colleagues. Still stunned, her collaborators from Miami's One Thousand Museum project (in-progress ultra-luxury condos <http://1000museum.com>), issued a joint statement. Developers Louis Birdman, Gregg Covin and Kevin Venger, and partners Regalia Group and Todd Glaser stated:

“The world has just lost an amazing woman with unequalled talent. Our heartfelt condolences go to her family, friends and colleagues. We are extremely honored to have known and worked with Zaha and we will continue to honor her vision.”

Hadid frequently designed in curves but much of her work displayed sharp edges as well. At times, that was a metaphor for her professional career, as a woman excelling in a male-dominated profession. Her famous quote, “Men don't listen to me so I have to give them hell.” That she did, with sharp elbows. She was also controversial—her designs, her clients, her comments, her lawsuits (filed or threatened). Yet, her talents were overwhelmingly appreciated.

Hadid's global influence on modern architecture and young architects was undeniable. She was a fierce experimenter (on buildings, furniture, footwear, cars, etc.) and never failed to surprise. Like a powerful jet stream—you may not have seen her coming, but when you did, she'd knocked you off your feet.

“I have always been inspired by Zaha Hadid because of her neo-futuristic designs of infusing organic and modern shapes into world-class architecture,” said Philip Caggiano, a high-end designer of bespoke automotive-inspired furniture (<http://philipcaggiano.com>). “She was one of the greatest contemporary superstars of modern design.”

Her lasting legacy can be summed up by the high Pritzker praise:

“To honor a living architect... whose built work demonstrates a combination of those qualities of talent, vision, and commitment, which has produced consistent and significant contributions to humanity and the built environment through the art of architecture.”

She lives on through her work—and most people will continue to honor (and appreciate) her modern vision. But today, Hadid's untimely passing has thrown us one last curve.