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3/22/23  
History of Interiors II  
Research Paper Outline

### I. Introduction

- Zaha Hadid's contributions to architecture cannot be understated. Taking inspiration from the Suprematists of the 1920s, she revolutionized modern architecture with daring angles, dynamic curves and compositions that split space.
- Part of the Deconstructivist movement, Hadid designed her buildings to create the illusion of structural obscurity, often with swooping bends or jutting shards.



Zaha Hadid, Courtesy of CNN

### II. Biography

- Born October 31, 1950 in Baghdad Iraq (*Britannica*)
- Attended the American University in Beirut to study mathematics (*Pritzker Biography*)
- Moved to London to study architecture at the Architectural Association and studied under Rem Koolhaas, a recipient of the Pritzker Prize (*Pritzker Biography*)
- Graduated in 1977 (*Pritzker Biography*)
- Upon graduating began working at the Office of Metropolitan Architecture (OMA) (*Pritzker Biography*)
- Taught at the Architectural Association after graduating (*Pritzker Biography*)
- Began her own practice Zaha Hadid Architects in 1979 (*Zaha Hadid Architects*)
- Died March 31, 2016 in Miami, Florida unexpectedly from a heart attack (*Britannica*)

### III. Architect's inspiration

- Used her paintings to flesh out her designs

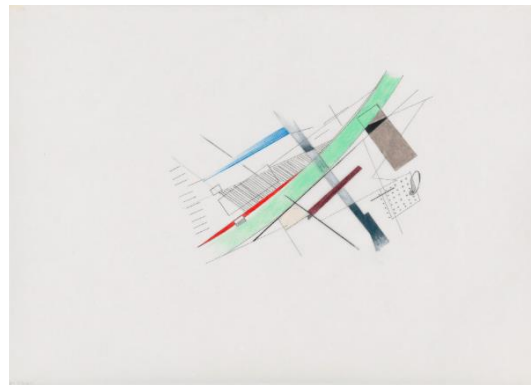


Peak Project, Hong Kong, China, Hadid 1991 (*Moma*)

- Hadid was inspired by Kazimir Malevich, a Russian abstract artist that pioneered the Suprematism movement in the 19th century (*Giovannini*)
  - Suprematism: characterized by geometric shapes in a pure form (triangles, rectangles, circles) arranged on a surface (*Tate*)
  - Used pure forms but put them on an axis or at angles, which produced asymmetrical or skewed compositions
  - Suprematism was one of the major movements of modern art (*Tate*)
  - See the similarities below:



Dynamic Suprematism, Malevich 1915 (*Tate*)



Parc de la Villette Project sketches, Hadid 1982-83 (*MoMA*)

- She was the first to design buildings in the Suprematist style (*Giovannani*)
  - Didn't use the T-square or rulers like her architect peers, but instead painted and sculpted her models
  - Created dynamic designs that took the two-dimensional Suprematist style and gave it another dimension

#### IV. Design philosophy

- Futuristic, curves, sharp angles
- Concrete, steel

- Hadid was part of the Deconstructivist Movement
  - Deconstructivism: challenges the pure form or traditional architecture using squares, circles, triangles in a structured order (*Johnson*)
  - Flaws are integral to the structure (*Johnson*)
  - A reaction to the old International Style (*Johnson*)
  - Traditionally, architecture is stable and harmonious, with little tension or strife. Deconstructivism is meant to challenge that - maintain the structural integrity, but create disorder and tension (*Johnson*)
  - Other Deconstructivists: Frank Gehry, Daniel Libeskind (2003 plan for reconstruction of the World Trade Center), Rem Koolhaas, Peter Eisenman (Berlin Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe), Coop Himmelblau, Bernard Tschumi
- Influenced by Russian avant garde artists like Kazimir Malevich, Vladimir Tatlin and El Lissitzky (*Johnson*)
  - Part of the Suprematist movement in the early 20th century
  - Broke the classic rules of composition with little balance, hierarchy or unity
  - Overlapping geometric shapes

V. Body of work



- Vitra Fire Station
  - Weil am Rhein, Germany
  - 1990-1993
  - Vitra: an avant garde furniture company
  - Brought Supremacist art to architecture
  - Forceful lines amidst nature and hills surrounding (*Giovannini*)
  - Explosion of geometry that creates suspense (*Monchaux*)
  - Appears to have multiple perspectives that don't converge into one point
  - Made of cast concrete and glass (*Monchaux*)
  - One of her most famous buildings, but it was early in her career



- Antwerp Port Authority head office
  - Antwerp, Belgium
  - Built 2009-2016
  - Only government building she built (*Lewis*)
  - Adaptive reuse
  - Built on top of the existing structure of an old fire station (*Lewis*) that the city no longer needed
  - New extension almost doubled the square meters (6,600 square meters in the existing fire house, 6,200 square meters in the extension) (*Zaha Hadid Architects*)
  - Consolidated the port's 500 employees into one building (*Zaha Hadid Architects*)

#### VI. Influences on the field of architecture

- Part of a group of groundbreaking Deconstructivist architects that ushered in a new era of architecture
  - Included: Frank Gehry, Daniel Libeskind (2003 plan for reconstruction of the World Trade Center), Rem Koolhaas, Peter Eisenman (Berlin Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe), Coop Himmelblau, Bernard Tschumi
  - Was the only female architect of the bunch
- Influenced more women to pursue a career in architecture
  - *"She's the Queen of the Curve, she's the Queen of the Straight Line, she's the Queen of Everything. She is the Queen of Architecture. Her ethos and methodologies of architecture are still inspiring generations to come."* - Tariq Khayyat -- head of the Middle East region for Zaha Hadid Architects (*Lewis*)

#### VII. Hadid's influence on me

- A powerful, groundbreaking female in a male-dominated field, obviously
- Antwerp Port Authority is particularly inspiring to me

- Often as interior designers we have to work within a pre-existing structure.
- Rather than demolishing the existing fire station, she juxtaposed it with her signature style with sharp angles, steel and concrete.
- She imagined the decrepit fire station into something extraordinary.
- This limitless thinking challenges me to think outside of the norm.

#### VIII. Summary

- Although Hadid's life was cut short at the age of 65, her legacy remains as a pioneer in the Deconstructivist movement and a decisive leader in architecture.
- Drawing inspiration from the avant-garde Russian Suprematists in the 1920's, Hadid transformed architecture as we know it, creating silhouettes that will influence architecture for generations.

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Keywords:

Dynamic  
Distort  
Shards  
Floating  
Sharp  
Fluid  
Floating  
Juxtapose