



Sharjah Architecture Triennial reveals dates and first participants for 2023 edition,
The Beauty of Impermanence: An Architecture of Adaptability



Image: Al Borde - Las Tres Esperanzas 004 - RGB ©JAG Studio

The President of Sharjah Architecture Triennial (SAT), Hoor Al Qasimi, and the Curator of the second edition, Tosin Oshinowo, today announce the dates and first participants for *The Beauty of Impermanence: An Architecture of Adaptability*, which runs from 11 November 2023 to 10 March 2024. The Triennial title refers to how issues of scarcity in the Global South have created a culture of re-use, re-appropriation, innovation, collaboration and adaptation.

Triennial curator Oshinowo, alongside her curatorial advisory board, has selected participants who will reflect on the theme and how innovative design solutions can reorient global conversations to create a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable future. Participants will include **Al Borde**, **Cave_bureau**, **DAAR – Sandi Hilal and Alessandro Petti**, **Ola Uduku & Michael Collins**, **Limbo Accra**, **Miriam Hillawi Abraham**, **MOE+ Art Architecture (MOE+AA)**, **Nifemi Marcus-Bello**, **Sandra Poulson**, **Thao Nguyen Phan**, **Wallmakers**, **Yara Sharif & Nasser Golzari** and **Yussef Agbo-Ola**. Their works will span public installations and collaborative projects that examine these ideas within the cultural and historic context of Sharjah.

Contemplating Sharjah as a place defined by fast change and civic transience, Ghanaian spatial design studio **Limbo Accra** will present a public art and architecture installation that responds to the present stasis of an incomplete mall. **DAAR – Sandi Hilal and Alessandro Petti** will present an experimental preservation project that deals with the paradox of permanent temporariness.



Focusing on the relationship between materials, context and landscape, an installation by Angolan artist **Sandra Poulson** will analyse the ever-present dust in Luanda to reflect on the city's economic, social and cultural framework. **Ola Uduku & Michael Collins** will present works by British-Nigerian architect Alan Vaughan-Richards (1925-1989) and review his environmentally-conscious explorations that would make up the canon of West African Tropical Modernism.

The effect of climate change on Sharjah's biodiversity is central to projects such as a fabric-based temple by London/Amazon-based architect **Yussef Agbo-Ola** that will honour non-human life and endangered species from the region. Elsewhere, Lagos-based practice **MOE+ Art Architecture (MOE+AA)** will be embedded in Sharjah's industrial environment – creating a moment of ecological pause that will act as a counterpoint to the man-made, mechanised landscapes that have become ubiquitous across the Emirates.

Other participants will contemplate the architectural history of the region in relation to its natural landscape. Nairobi-based architects **Cave_bureau** will expand their long-term research program of the Anthropocene Museum by occupying a disused slaughterhouse, projecting the geometries of a Neolithic cave to allude to the shared meanings between these two geologies of varying impermanence.

Inventive material explorations will be undertaken by the Indian practice **Wallmakers**, who will present a naturally-sculpted pavilion that looks to reimagine the possibilities of building with sand.

Demonstrating the geographical breadth of the Triennial, and the international implications of its inquiries, a film by **Thao Nguyen Phan** will highlight the past and present violence and destruction that occurs in the Mekong Delta, interspersed with footage from Sharjah.

Reflecting on the Triennial's themes of re-appropriation and re-use, **Nifemi Marcus-Bello** will present an adaptable pavilion crafted using local weaving techniques that will house the studio's explorations of indigenous contemporary design solutions emerging out of Lagos. Likewise, Architects **Yara Sharif & Nasser Golzari** will assemble discarded, disparate components in a challenge to the commodification of resources and consumers.

Multi-disciplinary Ethiopian designer **Miriam Hillawi Abraham** will present The Museum of Artifice, a life-sized facsimile of a Lalibela church façade set in Sharjah's old Al Jubail Vegetable Market.

Finally, reinforcing the edition's emphasis on contextuality, Ecuadorian studio **Al Borde** will envision a shaded space that directly engages with the outdoor architecture of Al Qasimiyah School, utilising sustainable, locally-sourced materials that are in abundance.

A full list of participants and programming details for Sharjah Architecture Triennial 2023 will be announced later this year.

In tandem with international editions of the Triennial, SAT's year-round programming engages diverse audiences in a collective conversation on architecture at local, city, and regional levels. Curated by George Arbid, an upcoming exhibition **A Journey into Architecture Archives: Beirut, Cairo, Rabat** opens on 13 May and highlights three institutions in the Arab world that hold and preserve architecture archives, shedding light on the rich history and contributions of architects to modern architecture.



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Notes to Editors

About Sharjah Architecture Triennial:

Founded in 2018 by Khalid Al Qasimi, Sharjah Architecture Triennial (SAT) is a platform for architecture and urbanism in a region that extends from West Asia to South Asia and the African continent. Physically anchored in Sharjah and the United Arab Emirates, SAT aims to engage diverse audiences and stakeholders in a collective conversation on architecture at the neighbourhood, city, and regional levels. Institutional research and programming support on-going critical reflection through exhibitions, publications, and public programmes in tandem with its international editions. SAT is committed to pursuing a multi-disciplinary approach that fosters an understanding of the broader role of architecture, including its relation to social and environmental issues.

Tosin Oshinowo

Tosin Oshinowo is a Lagos-based Nigerian architect and designer. The founder and principal of cmDesign Atelier (cmD+A), which she established in 2012, Oshinowo has worked on a number of civic, commercial and residential projects throughout Nigeria. She is renowned for her insights into socially responsive approaches to architecture, design and urbanism.

Oshinowo's key designs include a project with the United Nations Development Programme to build an entirely new community in northern Nigeria for a village displaced by Boko Haram, and the Maryland Mall in Lagos. Her work spans into the conceptual sphere, demonstrating a strong interest in architectural history while embodying a contemporary perspective on the next generation of African design, innovation, and afro-minimalism. She partnered with Lexus on conceptual design explorations for Design Miami/ 2020 and co-curated the second Lagos Biennial in 2019.

Oshinowo is a registered Architect in the Federal Republic of Nigeria and a member of the Royal Institute of the British Architects. Prior to founding cmD+A, she worked in the offices of Skidmore Owings & Merrill in London and the Office of Metropolitan Architecture Rotterdam, where she was part of the team that designed the 4th Mainland Bridge proposal in 2008. Upon returning to Lagos, she practised at James Cubitt Architects and led on notable projects, including the corporate head office building for Nigeria LNG in Port Harcourt. She has a BSc in Architecture from Kingston University, London; a MA in Urban Design in Development from the Bartlett School of Architecture, London; and a Diploma in Architecture from the Architecture Association London.



Hoor Al Qasimi

Hoor Al Qasimi is the President, Director and Curator of Sharjah Art Foundation which she established in 2009 as a catalyst and advocate for the arts in Sharjah, UAE, as well as regionally and internationally. With a passion for supporting experimentation and innovation in the arts, Al Qasimi has continuously expanded the scope of the Foundation over its 10-year history to include major exhibitions that have toured internationally; artist and curator residencies in visual art, film and music; commissions and production grants for emerging artists; and a wide range of educational programming in Sharjah for both children and adults. In 2003, Al Qasimi co-curated Sharjah Biennial 6 and has since continued as Biennial Director.

Under Al Qasimi's leadership, the Sharjah Biennial has become an internationally recognised platform for contemporary artists, curators and cultural producers. Her leadership in the field led to her election as President of the International Biennial Association (IBA) in 2017, an appointment that transferred IBA's headquarters to Sharjah. Complementing her role at the Foundation, Al Qasimi also serves as the President of The Africa Institute and Chair of the Board for the Sharjah Architecture Triennial, which inaugurated its first edition in November 2019. Al Qasimi served as curator of the second Lahore Biennale, which opened in January 2020 across the city of Lahore, Pakistan.

Al Qasimi serves on the Board of Directors for Kunst-Werke Berlin e. V. in Germany and Ashkal Alwan in Beirut, Lebanon. She is the Chair of the Advisory Board for the College of Fine Arts and Design at the University of Sharjah and is a member of the advisory boards for Khoj International Artists' Association, New Delhi, India and Darat al Funun, Amman, Jordan.

Al Borde

Al Borde (2007) is an architecture firm based in Quito, Ecuador, formed by David Barragán, Pascual Gangotena, Marialuisa Borja and Esteban Benavides. The four partners graduated at School of Architecture, Design and Arts of the Catholic University of Ecuador.

Al Borde's work promotes local development, social innovation and sustainability in its projects, and its practice has been widely recognised. It was the Donghia Designer-in-Residence 2021-2022 by the Environmental Design Department at Otis College of Art and Design in Los Angeles. Al Borde was nominated to the Swiss Architectural Award 2020, selected in 100+ Best Architecture Firms 2019 by Domus magazine and shortlisted for the Design of the Year 2015 at the Design Museum in London. It was also awarded the Holcim Award Acknowledgment Latin America 2014; the Global Award for Sustainable Architecture 2013 in Paris; the Schelling Architecture Prize 2012 in Germany; and the Medal of Cultural Recognition of Ecuador 2012.

Al Borde has been featured at several emblematic exhibitions such as Seoul Biennale of Architecture and Urbanism 2021 – Crossroads; the Venice Architecture Biennial 2016 - Reporting from the Front; the Chicago Architecture Biennial 2015 - The State of the Art; Réenchanter le Monde in 2014 at Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine in Paris; and Think Global–Built Social! Architectures for a Better World in 2014 at the Architekturzentrum Wien.

Its work has been widespread in many publications and different formats, including the monograph *Less is All* (2020) and *Las Tres Esperanzas* (2020). In 2017, it co-produced the documentary film *Do More with Less*. Currently, Al Borde is working on a docu-series that explores the cultural, historical, environmental, social, economic, geographic, and political relationships where its projects are immersed.



Cave_bureau

Cave_bureau is a Nairobi-based bureau of architects and researchers charting explorations into architecture and urbanism within nature. Their work addresses and works to decode both anthropological and geological contexts of the postcolonial African city, explored through drawing, storytelling, construction, and the curation of performative events of resistance. The bureau is driven to develop systems and structures that improve the human condition, without negatively impacting the natural environment and social fabric of communities. By conducting playful and intensive research studies into caves around the world, they aim to navigate a return to the limitless curiosity of our early ancestors while confronting the challenges of contemporary rural and urban living.

DAAR – Sandi Hilal and Alessandro Petti

DAAR – Sandi Hilal and Alessandro Petti was founded in 2007 with the aim to gather architects, artists, activists, urbanists, filmmakers, and curators to work collectively on the subjects of politics and architecture. In their artistic research practice, art exhibitions are both sites of display and sites of action that spill over into other contexts: built architectural structures, the shaping of critical learning environments, interventions that challenge dominant collective narratives, the production of new political imaginations, the formation of civic spaces and the re-definition of concepts. Their latest publication, *Permanent Temporariness* (art and theory, Stockholm 2019), is a book, a catalogue, and an archive that accounts for fifteen years of research, experimentation. DAAR has participated in the Venice Biennale (2003, 2008, 2009, 2013, 2015, 2021), Berlin Biennale (2022) the Istanbul Biennial (2009), Home Works Beirut (2010), the São Paulo Biennial (2014), the Asian Art Biennial (2015), the Marrakesh Biennial (2016), Qalandia International (2016). Recent major retrospective exhibitions about their work were inaugurated at New York University Abu Dhabi Art Gallery (2018), and at the Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven (2019), Mosaic Room in London (2022), and La Loge in Brussels (2023).

Limbo Accra

Limbo Accra is a collaborative spatial design practice founded in 2018 by Dominique Petit-Frere and Emil Grip, to work on architectural and urban design projects and public art installations. Much of their work emerges from research, interdisciplinary engagement, and experimentation with the aesthetics and cultural significance of unfinished, decaying concrete structures in West African cities. Limbo Accra is influenced with ideas towards inclusivity, otherness and future, and often works with other creative disciplines in the formation of innovative and intuitive approaches to interesting design opportunities.

Miriam Hillawi Abraham

Miriam Hillawi Abraham is a multi-disciplinary designer from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. With a background in Architecture, she works with digital media and spatial design to interrogate equitable futurism and intersect. She holds an MFA in Interaction Design from the California College of the Arts and a BArch in Architecture from the Glasgow School of Art. She has worked as a game design instructor at Bay Area Video Coalition's youth program for over three years. She is now a Mellon researcher for the Canadian Centre for Architecture's Digital Now multidisciplinary project, a 2020 fellow of Gray Area's Zachary Watson Education Fund, and a Graham Foundation 2020 grantee.



MOE+ Art Architecture (MOE+AA)

MOE+ Art Architecture (MOE+AA) was established in 2014 and is an architecture, design and artistic production practice born out of a merger between MOE Limited and O+O - a former Lagos/London-based practice. They provide and cultivate an environment and centre that enhances the standard and possibilities for the quality and value of design on the continent through a collaborative human and environmentally sensitive practice, one that embraces local solutions and aspirations.

Creative Director of MOE+AA, Papa Omotayo, is an award-winning, filmmaker, architect, designer, and writer, and film. His work strongly focuses on exploring the nature of culture and the context within contemporary Nigerian and the extended African condition, locally and globally.

Michael Collins and Ola Uduku

Michael was born and grew up in Belfast, Northern Ireland, and studied at Edinburgh College of Art, ETSAB Barcelona, The University of Edinburgh and latterly the University of Cambridge. Michael is an architect, certified Passivehaus specialist and founder of MCA, an award-winning practice based in London. Michael is a lecturer at the Bartlett School of Architecture, and course co-lead of the emergent cities MSC at ESALA. Michael is a trustee of Letchworth Garden City and chairs the city urban design and placemaking group. He is a Phd candidate at The University of Cambridge.

Ola Uduku is Head of Liverpool School of Architecture. Prior to that she was Research Professor in Architecture at Manchester School of Architecture, (2017 – 2021). From 2011- 2017 she was the Reader in Architecture, and Dean for Africa, at Edinburgh University. Her research specialisms are modern architecture in West Africa, the history of educational architecture in Africa, and contemporary issues related to social infrastructure provision for minority communities in the 'West' and 'South'. She is an advocate of equity in all its forms in the workplace, particularly in the Architectural profession. She promotes the Documentation and recording of Modernist Buildings and Landscapes, (Docomomo) Africa, and President of the African Studies Association UK.

Nifemi Marcus-Bello

Nifemi Marcus-Bello is a designer based in Lagos, Nigeria. Known for his community-led, ethnographic-conscious design approach, his strengths lie in the exploitation of materials to pursue new forms and typologies, allowing him to create truly unique products, forms and experiences, while leaning on a keen interest in manufacturing, production availability, habits and history. In 2022, Nifemi was awarded the Hublot LVMH Design Prize and in 2021, the "Life Enhancer of the Year" award by Wallpaper* Magazine. Nifemi graduated from the University of Leeds with a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Product Design, receiving the "Potential for Social Change" award from the University.

Sandra Poulson

Sandra Poulson is an Angolan artist based between London and Luanda. Her work discusses the political, cultural, and socio-economic landscape of Angola to analyse the relationship between history, oral tradition, and global political structures. She is the recipient of the MullenLowe NOVA Award and the Central Saint Martins Dean's Award (2020). Her work has been exhibited internationally, most recently at the Lagos Biennial (2019) and Bloomberg New Contemporaries at the South London Gallery (2021), ARCO Madrid (2021) and V.O Curations, London (2022). She



has been commissioned to show at the British Pavilion at the 18th International Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia (2023), and at Bold Tendencies in London (2023)

Thao Nguyen Phan

Trained as a painter, Thao Nguyen Phan is a multimedia artist whose practice encompasses video, painting and installation. Drawing from literature, philosophy and daily life, Phan observes ambiguous issues in social conventions and history. Phan exhibits internationally, with solo and group exhibitions including Tate St Ives (2022), Venice Art Biennale (2022), Chisenhale Gallery (London, 2020); WIELS (Brussels, 2020), Rockbund Art Museum (Shanghai, 2019); Lyon Biennale (Lyon, 2019); Sharjah Biennial (Sharjah Art Foundation, 2019); Dhaka Art Summit (2018); Factory Contemporary Art Centre (Ho Chi Minh City, 2017); Nha San Collective (Hanoi, 2017); and Bétonsalon (Paris, 2016), among others. She was shortlisted for the 2019 Hugo Boss Asia Art Award. In addition to her work as a multimedia artist, she is co-founder of the collective Art Labor, which explores cross disciplinary practices and develops art projects that benefit the local community. Thao Nguyen Phan is expanding her “theatrical fields”, including what she calls performance gesture and moving images. Phan is a 2016-2017 Rolex Protégée, mentored by internationally acclaimed, New York-based, performance and video artist, Joan Jonas.

Wallmakers

Vinu Daniel completed his B. Arch in 2005 from The College of Engineering, Trivandrum, following which he worked with Auroville Earth Institute for the UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) Post-Tsunami construction. On returning from Pondicherry in 2007 he started 'Wallmakers' which was christened thus by others, as the first project was just a compound wall. Many eye-openers in the course of his practice prompted him to resolve to devote his energies towards the cause of sustainable and cost-effective architecture.

Yara Sharif & Nasser Golzari

Yara Sharif is a practicing architect and academic with an interest in design as a means to rethink contested landscape, with a new take on architectural practice. She sheds a light on ‘forgotten’ communities, while also interrogating the relationship between politics and architecture.

Her work runs parallel between her practice NG Architects, London and the design studio at the University of Westminster. She co-founded Palestine Regeneration Team (PART), a design-led research group that aims through speculative and live projects to search for creative and responsive spatial possibilities in fragmented landscape.

Yara’s research and design projects intersect to disrupt colonial power with its supremacy and hierarchy of knowledge production. Instead, she calls for an alternative narrative and expression in architectural practice that is inclusive for all.

The book *Architecture of Resistance*, as well as the collaborative work with PART on re-imagining spatial possibilities in Palestine, have won the RIBA President’s Award for Research, in 2013 and 2016. Alongside Golzari, Yara has co-curated a number of exhibitions including Secrets of a Digital Garden as part of Chicago Architecture Biennial in 2019 and Berlinale in 2020 in collaboration with Riwaq.



Nasser Golzari is an Architect and an academic with an interest in inclusive cities and affordable technologies. Nasser is the founder and principal of GOLZARI (NG) Architects, London. He is also the co-founder of the research by design group PART, working on speculative and live projects in Europe and the Middle East.

Golzari calls for an alternative architecture practices that challenge the Western dominant approach. He is inspired by the daily rituals, narratives and passive environmental practices of the global south. He aims through research, design and pedagogical practice to reclaim and celebrate what he calls 'the invisible other'.

Driven by his research interests on cultural identity, social architecture and European Modernism, he edited the Architectural Magazine A3 Times and A3 Forum. He curated several related exhibitions in the UK, Europe and the US. Golzari has published widely on participatory design and on learning from the South. Nasser's work and projects with the private and public sector were shortlisted and won a number of awards including RIBA President's Award for research, Agha Khan Award, Civic Trust Award, and Holcim Award for Sustainable Construction.

Yussef Agbo-Ola

Yussef Agbo-Ola, founder of Olaniyi Studio, is an architect and artist living between London and the Amazon Forest. Born in rural Virginia in a multi-heritage Nigerian, African-American, and Cherokee household, his work reflects hybrid identities and relationships to different landscapes, ecologies, and cultural rituals. Agbo-Ola's multidisciplinary architectural and artistic practice is focused on interpreting natural energy systems, through interactive experiments that explore the connections between an array of sensory environments, from the biological and anthropological, to the perceptual and microscopic. His aim is to use diverse multidisciplinary research methods and design components, to reinterpret local knowledge and its environmental importance cross-culturally. His research outcomes manifest through architectural temples, photographic journalism, material alchemy, interactive performance, experimental sound design, and conceptual writing.

Agbo-Ola holds a Masters in Fine Art from the University of the Arts London, and a Masters in Architecture from the Royal College of Art. He has led art and architectural commissions for the United Nations, Institute of Contemporary Art (London), Serpentine Gallery London, TEDx East End, BBC Arts, Venice Architectural Biennials, Palais de Tokyo, Arts Catalyst, and Lexus Automotive Innovation Centre Japan, among others. Agbo-Ola is an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Architecture at Columbia GSAPP where he directs an experimental design studio within the Advanced Architectural Design program.