



### Sharjah Architecture Triennial announces full list of participants for second edition



*Weaving a Home. ¼ scale tent prototype. Photo by Hussam Da'na. © Abeer Seikaly, 2020.*

A selection of 31 architects, studios and designers including **Olalekan Jeyifous**, **Asif Khan** and **DAAR – Sandi Hilal and Alessandro Petti** have been invited to participate in the Sharjah Architecture Triennial this autumn. Curated by Tosin Oshinowo and organised around the theme *The Beauty of Impermanence: An Architecture of Adaptability*, the Triennial runs from 11 November to 10 March 2024. For its second edition, Oshinowo and her curatorial advisory board have invited participants from 27 countries to explore the potential of innovative design solutions borne out of conditions of scarcity in the Global South, offering a multi-faceted and international response to the theme and its implications for the future of the discipline.

Responding to the curatorial concept from the perspective of Sharjah and the wider region, **RUÍNA** will attempt to restore a vantage point lost to the city due to new development. Their project will use an architectural language associated with the building process to demonstrate the intermediacy between construction and demolition. **Olalekan Jeyifous** will build on the discourse that surrounds Sharjah's ever-evolving sense of national identity, pursuing a world-building exercise that theorises an alternate retro-futurist timeline, emerging from the discovery of oil and the subsequent development boom in the emirate.

Offering a look at community-based design solutions from across the world, **Natura Futura** will respond to the curatorial theme in both the short-term and long-term. They will exhibit documentation of a floating housing community project in Ecuador's Babahoyo River, built over the course of the Triennial planning and production. **Hunnarshala Foundation with Aabhat, Aina and Sankalan** will narrate the work of the Hunnarshala Foundation, a



not-for-profit organisation based in Bhuj, Gujarat, that aspires towards sustainable habitats by empowering local communities and artisans.

Other projects will explore how material recycling, resource sharing and waste reuse can provide local, innovative and contextual solutions to conditions of scarcity. **Hive Earth Studio** will challenge the misconception that building with earth has its limits, presenting an intervention that asserts the sustainable and aesthetic qualities of an abundant material. **Sumaya Dabbagh** will examine the relationship between memory and materiality through an installation made from mud, celebrating the universal qualities of a material that conveys the cycle of life and death, growth and decay. **Thomas Egoumenides** will resist and critique the culture of waste by using materials constantly disregarded and discarded to create playful and poetic architectural scenarios. **BUZIGHALL** showcases its creative response to the impact of second-hand clothing on Uganda's textile industry, while highlighting Sharjah's role in this global supply chain.

Reflecting on the political undertones of Oshinowo's theme, **Formafantasma** will present three films that delve into the intersection between industry, governmental policies and ecological harm. Fibre-artist **Adrian Pepe** will examine the origins and evolution of shelter by juxtaposing modernity and tradition through a material lens, speculating on the historical and contemporary narratives that emerge when nomadic pastoralism meets industrial capitalism.

Contemplating the theme in relation to the growing climate crisis, **Asif Khan** will present a new iteration of their short film 'Kalpa', presenting a geological journey that visually expresses the consequences of extraction on our planet. **Collab: Henry Glogau & Aleksander Kongshaug** will respond to the pressing global concerns of desalination and air purification, forming spaces of learning and congregation that charts a climate-conscious path forward.

Exploring the impact of global mechanisation and 'progress' on traditional practices and styles, **Abeer Seikaly** will merge contemporary design practices with Bedouin tent making to recover the knowledge and intimacy lost in today's production. **Art and Culture Development Foundation of the Republic of Uzbekistan (ACDF)** will explore the multicultural typology of Tashkent's architectural heritage, rethinking the idea of modernism as a uniform, globally-orientated trend.

To coincide with the opening, a new publication *Field Notes: On Scarcity* will be launched reflecting on the various concepts explored and presented within the Triennial.

The full list of participants for the 2023 edition of the Sharjah Architecture Triennial: **51-1 Arquitectos** (Peru); **Abeer Seikaly** (Jordan); **Adrian Pepe** (Honduras/Lebanon); **Al Borde** (Ecuador); **Art and Culture Development Foundation of the Republic of Uzbekistan (ACDF)**; **Asif Khan** (UK); **Bubu Ogisi** (Nigeria); **BUZIGAHILL** (Uganda); **Cave\_bureau** (Kenya); **Collab: Henry Glogau & Aleksander Kongshaug** (Denmark/New Zealand); **DAAR - Sandi Hilal and Alessandro Petti** (Italy/Palestine/Sweden); **Dia Mrad** (Lebanon); **Formafantasma** (Italy/Netherlands); **Hive Earth Studio** (Ghana); **Hunnarshala Foundation with Aabhat, Aina and Sankalan** (India); **Limbo Accra** (Ghana); **Livingstone Mukasa and Omar Degan** (Uganda/Somalia); **Miriam Hillawi Abraham** (Ethiopia); **MOE+ Art Architecture (MOE+AA)** (Nigeria); **Natura Futura** (Ecuador); **Nifemi Marcus-Bello** (Nigeria); **Ola Uduku and Michael Collins** (Nigeria/UK); **Olalekan Jeyifous** (USA/Nigeria); **RUÍNA Architecture** (Brazil); **Sandra Poulson** (UK/Angola); **Sumaya Dabbagh** (Saudi Arabia/UAE); **Thao Nguyen Phan** (Vietnam); **Thomas Egoumenides** (France/Tunisia); **Wallmakers** (India); **Yara Sharif & Nasser Golzari** (Palestine/UK); and **Yussef Agbo-Ola** (UK and Brazil).



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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 renowned for her expansive residential and commercial spaces and insights into socially-responsive approaches to urbanism. Grounded in a deep respect for Yoruba culture and history and coming from a markedly African context, Oshinowo's designs embody a contemporary perspective on the next generation of African design and Afro-minimalism: a responsive reflection of the past, present, and future of architecture and design that prioritises sustainability, resilience, and poise. She is also the curator of the 2023 Sharjah Architecture Triennial.

As an architect, Oshinowo is best known as the founder and principal of cmDesign Atelier (cmD+A), established in 2012. Based in Lagos, the practice has undertaken a number of predominant civic projects, including the design of the Maryland Mall, as well as a wide range of residential projects, including luminous beach houses on the coast of the oceanside city. Her interest in architecture extends into a broader vision of urbanism and community as well; she recently completed a project with the United Nations Development Programme in Northeast Nigeria, building an entirely new community for a village displaced by Boko Haram.

Before 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. Returning to Lagos, she practised at James Cubitt Architects and led notable projects, including the master plan and corporate head office building for Nigeria LNG in Port Harcourt.

As a product designer, her work is primarily focused on the design of chairs; in 2017, she created Ilé-Ilà, which means House of Lines in her native Yoruba language. A luxury brand, Ilé-Ilà chairs are made to order, designed and handmade in Lagos and have been featured as a highlight of contemporary African furniture design in publications



around the world, including Harper's Bazaar Interiors April 2018, Elle Decor January 2020, and Grazia online June 2020.

Oshinowo's work also spans the conceptual sphere, with a strong interest in architectural history and socially-responsive approaches to architecture, design, and urbanism, underpinned by a passion for supporting African design and innovation. In 2020, she partnered with Lexus on conceptual design explorations for Design Miami/, and written prolifically on urbanism, afro modernism, design, and identity in publications including Expansions, a publication as part of the 2021 Venice Architecture Biennale and Omenka Online, a topic also explored in her TEDxPortHarcourt talk in November 2017. She also co-curated the second Lagos Biennial titled How to Build a Lagoon from a Bottle of Wine? in 2019.

Oshinowo is a registered Architect in the Federal Republic of Nigeria and a member of the Nigerian Institute of Architects as well as the Royal Institute of the British Architects, with a degree in Architectural from Kingston College in London, a Master's degree in Urban Design in Development from the Bartlett School of Architecture, a Diploma in Architecture from the Architecture Association London, and a Masters for Business in Architecture and Design from IE University, Madrid. She has won numerous awards, including the 3rd City People Real Estate Awards for Architect of the Year 2017 and the Lord's Achievers Awards for Creativity, in celebration of World Achievers Day 2019. She was among five finalists for the 2023 Diversity in Architecture Divia Awards.

### **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.

### **51-1 Arquitectos**

51-1 is an architecture studio from the Supersudaca collective based in Lima, Peru, led by Cesar Becerra, Fernando Puente Arnao and Manuel de Rivero. Since its founding in 2005, the studio has worked on dozens of projects and



received several major awards and recognitions, including four nominations to the Mies Crown Hall Americas Prize, and the first prize in the international competition for the extension of the Medellin Museum of Modern Art in Colombia, built in 2015 with great success. 51-1's work ranges from small spatial interventions, research, hospitality projects, housing, public buildings and urban design. They have built projects in Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, Russia and the UAE, where they have recently finished the Kalba Ice Factory cultural centre for Sharjah Art Foundation. 51-1 is often active in the academic world, lecturing and teaching studios in different events and universities. They have been chosen as curators of the II Architecture Biennial of Lima, to be held in October 2023.

### **Abeer Seikaly**

Abeer Seikaly is a Jordanian-Palestinian interdisciplinary artist, architect, designer and cultural producer. Her practice is deeply rooted in acts of memory: journaling, documenting, archiving and collecting. She views her practice as a social technology for cultural empowerment. Her recent works center on indigenous Bedouin knowledge and practices to recover the intimacy of handmaking, lost in today's production. She travels regularly to Jordan's Badia (desert) where she engages with Bedouin women's craftsmanship, including tent-making and textile weaving.

Abeer won the Lexus Design Award for her ongoing work *Weaving a Home*. She is the co-founder of Amman Design Week, and established "almamar", a cultural experience and residency program in Amman, Jordan. Yale University has awarded her an endowed professorship, and she was appointed as Louis I Kahn Visiting Assistant Professor at the Yale School of Architecture.

Her works have been exhibited at many institutions, including: Science Museum, London (2022); Darat Al Funun, Amman (2022); The Miyake Issey Foundation, Tokyo (2021); Espacio Fundación Telefónica, Madrid (2020); Museum of Applied Arts, Vienna (2018); Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (2017); and Museum of Modern Art, New York (2016). Her works are in the collections of Her Majesty Queen Rania of Jordan, Amman and the Barjeel Art Foundation, Sharjah.

### **Adrian Pepe**

Adrian is a Honduran-born fiber artist presently residing in Beirut, Lebanon. He graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts and a Master of Arts from the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) in the United States. Pepe's artistic practice is an ongoing investigation into process and material. Through his work, he interweaves nature and culture to enable an open discourse on materiality, our morphing cultural landscape and present condition. The result is in artifacts laden with artistry, perspiration, emotions, mythologies and symbolism; hybridized skins in the form of large-scale tapestries that summon themes of trans-corporeality, post-naturalism and biocentrism. This work awakens a dormant instinct of a more tangible understanding of nature, and an ancestral memory of simplicity in complexity.

### **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.

#### **Art and Culture Development Foundation of the Republic of Uzbekistan**

The Art and Culture Development Foundation (ACDF) under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan was founded in 2017 by the decree of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. It fosters international cooperation and promotes the culture of Uzbekistan on the international stage. Its aim is to showcase national heritage by initiating projects related to fine arts, architecture, literature, theater, music, craft, design and dance. The mission of the Foundation is to create an inclusive and accessible environment in the country's cultural institutions, contribute to the renovation of museums, and develop cultural patronage and professional training for the arts and culture sector.

Long-term projects include: the reconstruction of the State Museum of Art, Tashkent; the establishment of the Centre for Contemporary Arts, Restoration Centre, and French Cultural Centre in Tashkent; and the organization of exhibitions at the Louvre Museum and the Arab World Institute in Paris, and at the James Simon Gallery in Berlin. The Foundation is the commissioner of the first National pavilion of Uzbekistan at the Venice Biennale.

Gayane Umerova is the Chairperson of the Art and Culture Development Foundation under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and the Secretary-General of the National Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan for UNESCO. Umerova is responsible for protecting cultural heritage, museum collections, covering historical and cultural areas of Uzbekistan included in the World Heritage List. Umerova received a BA in Business Administration from the University of Westminster and an MA in Art Business from Sotheby's Institute of Art and the University of Manchester.

#### **Asif Khan**

Asif Khan founded his London-based practice in 2007, which designs buildings, landscapes, installations, exhibitions and objects. His work is concerned with sensory experience, craftsmanship, cultural exchange and the merging of



history with future worlds. His interests span sites of complex narratives, community empowerment and questions of identity.

He is currently working on the Barbican Art Centre Renewal; the new London Museum, opening 2026; Liverpool Canning Dock waterfront transformation with artist Theaster Gates; the Tselinny Centre for Contemporary Culture in Almaty; and a Museum of Islamic Manuscripts in Sharjah. He has recently commenced work on the Museum of the Incense Road in Al-Ula.

In 2020 he completed 6.5 linear kilometres of public realm design for Dubai Expo 2020, where his carbon-fibre Entry Portals received the Dezeen public award 2021 and nomination for the Aga Khan award for Architecture. He received the Grand Prix for Innovation (Cannes 2014) and Architect of the Year (German Design Council 2017).

His works have been exhibited at the Royal Academy of Arts, V&A Dundee, Milan Salone, Milan Triennale, Gwangju Design Biennale, the Design Museum, London Design Week, Tokyo Design Week, and currently at MAAT Lisbon. He has taught at the Royal College of Art and at Musashino Art University, Tokyo. Khan was awarded an MBE for Services to Architecture in 2017 and currently serves as Vice Chairman of the Design Museum in London.

#### **BUZIGAHILL**

BUZIGAHILL is a Kampala-based clothing brand that works between art, fashion and activism and redesigns second-hand clothes and redistributes them to the Global North, where they were originally discarded before being shipped to Uganda. The Creative Director is Bobby Kolade, who was born in Sudan in 1987 to Nigerian-German parents and grew up between Kampala and Lagos. He holds a masters in Fashion Design from the Academy of Arts Berlin Weissensee and has professional experience at Maison Margiela and Balenciaga in Paris.

#### **Bubu Ogisi**

Bubu Ogisi is a research-based fibre artist and Creative Director of the contemporary art brand IAMISIGO. Born in Lagos, Nigeria, and now living between Lagos, Accra, Abidjan and Nairobi, she studied Fashion at the prestigious École supérieure des arts et technique de la mode (ESMOD) in Paris, France.

By exaggerating texture, structure and space Ogisi is able to break and transform the rules and expectations of what textiles are into transient humanity. Her work primarily focuses on how fashion and textile can not only keep history alive but also pass on information for the future through preservation of techniques and expression through matter. By using the ultimate canvas, the human body, as a vehicle of communication via fibres, she is able to convey lost historical stories. She transforms these found “data” and applies them into garments and fibres as a form of silent protest to post and neo-colonialism, portrayed through textile art, space installations, visuals and film. Her work is 100% artisanal and handmade focusing on ancestral techniques, while incorporating waste and other unconventional fibres to create wearable artwork, showing the importance of preserving handmade processes and upcycling to fight against our planet's issues.

#### **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.

#### **Collab: Henry Glogau & Aleksander Kongshaug**

Henry Glogau (New Zealand) and Aleksander Kongshaug (Denmark) are architects based in Copenhagen, Denmark. During their studies at Royal Danish Academy, they specialized in Architecture within Extreme Environments, delving into the potential of design to tackle current and future global challenges.

Henry and Aleksander have developed a strong collaboration, founded on their shared passion and driven by a 'research by design' approach. They engage with the world through expeditions to diverse and extreme locations, allowing them to holistically explore the interconnected relationships between design, technology, people, and the environment. Notably, their work addresses resource scarcity and embraces low-tech and passive ideas. Their projects adopt an open-source and design-for-distribution approach, aiming to learn from local contexts and share globally. They strive to foster connections and collaborations across borders, encouraging people to engage in parallel environments. In addition to their collaborative work, Henry and Aleksander also work as architects at GXN, an innovation and research firm based in Copenhagen.

#### **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).

#### **Dia Mrad**

Dia Mrad (b. 1991) is a Lebanese visual artist residing in Beirut. Intersecting his training in Architecture (MARCH) with a documentary photographic approach, Mrad tracks shifts in the built environment to uncover hidden narratives of human activity embedded within the materiality of cities. Mrad believes architecture shapes our collective memory, storing and reflecting historical moments that influenced the development of our identity and its transience. By framing, isolating and decoding elements in the urban sphere, he identifies landmarks that encapsulate a place's political, ecological, economic and social dynamics, stimulating reflection on contemporary societal challenges. Already immersed in Beirut's social and urban landscape as an inhabitant and artist, Mrad's





work can be classified as an ‘ethnography at home’ that pushes us to think through objects. The artist’s practice focuses on the material urban landscape as a site of socio-political and economic phenomena.

### **Formafantasma**

Formafantasma is a research-based design studio investigating the ecological, historical, political and social forces shaping the discipline of design today. The studio was founded in 2009 by Andrea Trimarchi and Simone Farresin. The aim of the studio is to facilitate a deeper understanding of both our natural and built environments, and to propose transformative interventions through design and its material, technical, social and discursive possibilities. Working from their studio in Milan (Italy) and Rotterdam (The Netherlands), the practice embraces a broad spectrum of typologies and methods, from product design through spatial design, strategic planning and design consultancy. Whether designing to a client's brief or developing self-initiated projects, the studio applies the same rigorous attention to context, process and detail. As a result, Formafantasma's entire portfolio is characterised by a coherent visual language and meticulously researched outcomes. Trimarchi and Farresin are Heads of the GEO–Design Department at Design Academy in Eindhoven, where they explore the social, economic, territorial and geopolitical forces shaping design today.

### **Hunnarshala Foundation with Aabhat, Aina and Sankalan**

For over three decades, Sandeep Virmani has been living and working with indigenous communities in Kutch. An environmentalist at heart, he has trained as an architect and worked with communities all over India. He has set up two institutions: Hunnarshala Foundation which works on built habitats, and Sahjeevan, which has enabled marginalised communities to regenerate and conserve ecologies and reinvigorate their livelihoods, including conserving traditional water management systems, wildlife and crop seed conservation, pastoralism and organic farming. Sahjeevan has set up the Centre for Pastoralism that works through partners in eight states in India and hosts the ‘Living Lightly - Journeys with Pastoralists’ exhibition. Sandeep looks to painting, story-telling, yoga and the fascinating world of insects to fuel his forays at work.

### **Hive Earth Studio**

Hive Earth Studio is a multi-disciplinary space based in Accra, Ghana, led by Christian Kwame DeHeer. Hive Earth specialise in the use of locally sourced & eco-friendly materials for the use of construction, interior decor, art and design. The philosophy is to learn from our past and how our forefathers used eco-friendly materials from the earth, and our aim is to use that knowledge to continue to innovate and push boundaries with what can be achieved from Africa to share with the world.

At Hive Earth studio, earth is used to build and create multiple structures. As well as earth, a lot of research and development is carried out on other materials such as agro-waste. Hive Earth have designed and created earth tiles that use agro-waste products such as palm kernel fiber and shell to act as a binder and aggregate. Hive Earth is constantly looking for and researching into materials that are unconventional, sustainable and eco-friendly, as we believe that conventional materials in construction are becoming scarce. Hive Earth have worked with Austrian NGO Archifair to build an unstabilized rammed earth library, and with Adjaye associates to build a three-storey art gallery and a four-storey office block in Accra.



### **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.

### **Livingstone Mukasa and Omar Degan**

Livingstone Mukasa is an architect, artist, writer, editor and curator interested in the intersections between pan-African architectural history and cultural anthropology. With a career that has spanned architectural practice, real estate development, and sustainable development consulting, he is also a frequent guest critic, reviewer and lecturer, with engagements at various schools of architecture. His work investigates Africa-centered and African indigenous knowledge practices present in global contemporary architecture, as well as the multiple facets of architecture in Africa, and of Africa. A published writer, his articles have appeared in various international architectural magazines. He is co-author and co-editor of *Theorising Architecture in Sub-Saharan Africa* (DOM, 2021), and *Architectural Guide Sub-Saharan Africa* (DOM, 2021) - a seven-volume, 3000-page compendium of the architecture of all 49 countries south of the Sahara. He sits on the Advisory Board of the Architecture is Free Foundation, of which he is also a faculty member. He is a 2021 grantee of the Graham Foundation for the Advanced Studies for the Fine Arts, and 2022 grantee of the Joseph and Anni Albers Foundation.

Omar Degan is an architect, professor, writer and international speaker interested in architecture in fragile contexts and the intersections between cultural identity, heritage and communities. In 2017 he opened his architecture office in Mogadishu, Somalia, launching his firm DO Architecture Group, and in 2023 he co-founded the Fragility Lab, a research practice focused on fragile and emergency contexts. During his career, he collaborated in different capacities with governments, international institutions, and academia worldwide, including the United Nations and the European Union, supporting the process of designing better shelters for the most vulnerable communities. He is the author of the book *Mogadishu Through the Eyes of an Architect*, a publication that explores the lost heritage of the capital city of Somalia through the use of photography. In 2018 with his TEDx talk *Cultural identity and Architecture in Somalia*, he shared with the world the power of architecture in fragile contexts and the importance of cultural identity. In 2022, he became one of the Obama Africa Leaders, selected by the Obama Foundation for his work in Somalia. His work has been published internationally, from the BBC to the New York Times and many other architecture magazines and publications.

### **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.

#### **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.

#### **Natura Futura**

Natura Futura is a practice from Babahoyo, Ecuador, founded by José Fernando Gómez Marmolejo in 2015, that questions sensitive issues of architecture and Latin American cities. In their work, they consider it vitally important to work with contextual architecture, without forgetting the human context of these projects and understanding the emotional part of its inhabitants, their traditions and customs. The studio has been awarded at the Quito Pan-American Biennial and held an exhibition at the Architecture Festival in Bali, Indonesia and Valparaíso, Chile. Lately, the studio has been awarded three Quito Biennial awards in 2020, and Vienna's Brick Award in 2022.

#### **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.

### **Olalekan Jeyifous**

Olalekan Jeyifous (b.1977) is a Brooklyn-based artist widely recognized for his inventive design practice that explores the relationships between architecture, community and the environment. He holds a BArch from Cornell University and has showcased his artwork in esteemed venues such as the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Studio Museum in Harlem, the Vitra Design Museum in Rhein, Germany, and the Guggenheim in Bilbao, Spain.

In addition to an extensive exhibition history, Olalekan has spent over a decade creating large-scale installations for a variety of public spaces and was co-commissioned to design a monument for congresswoman Shirley Chisholm as part of the City of New York's "She Built NYC" initiative.

Olalekan has received numerous awards for his artistic practice, including a Fellowship from United States Artists. He has also been a Wilder Green Fellow at the MacDowell Colony and completed artist residencies at the Bellagio Center, supported by the Rockefeller Foundation, and the Drawing Center's Open Sessions program. Additionally, his artwork is in the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art’s Architecture and Design Department.

### **RUÍNA Architecture**

Julia Peres is an architect, urban planner and graphic artist who graduated from FAU Mackenzie in 2019 with her final graduation work entitled “Apropriações e Ocupações, About Occupied Voids: Essay for Housing”, winner of the award promoted by CAU/SP in the “Conjunto da Obra” category. In 2017, she was part of the team for the 11th São Paulo Architecture Biennial and in 2019, she worked with the Ecuadorian studio Al Borde with project development, works management, graphic production and the publication of *Las Tres Esperanzas*, in addition to coordinating and creating the installation *La Puta Carra Loca* at Marcha de las Putas 2019. In 2020, she worked on the design of the exhibition project *Estrutura Bruta*, winner of the PROAC public notice; a project that, through photography, shows the fetishism of phallogocentric representation in urban cities. In 2021, she was part of the FIO Technical Advisory team in projects for the improvement of occupied buildings, together with the MSTC (Movimento Sem Teto do Centro), from short-term interventions to the development of Illustrative Booklets as an information manual for training residents and maintenance of the building and its dwellings. In 2021 she founded RUÍNA Arquitetura, a studio focused on material reuse architecture.

Victoria Braga is a Brazilian architect and urbanist who graduated from FAU Mackenzie-UPM (Brazil, 2019) and studied also at the Facultad de Arquitectura, Urbanismo y Diseño of the Universidad de Buenos Aires (Argentina, 2018). She is a founding partner of the RUÍNA Arquitetura studio, where she develops projects in the areas of architecture and education. Her research involves material technology and constructive systems based on local reuse and recycling, and nomadic devices in architecture.

### **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 was 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).

### **Sumaya Dabbagh**

Sumaya Dabbagh is a Saudi architect educated in the UK. She founded Dabbagh Architects in 2008. Following an education at Bath University under the guidance of the late Peter Smithson and Sir Ted Happold, Dabbagh began her career in London and Paris in the 90s. Her return to the Gulf region was part of a quest to gain a deeper understanding of her own identity, a unique mix of influences and sensitivity towards both Western and Middle Eastern cultures.

Her curiosity to understand the impact of the tangible, built forms around us and the felt experience of architecture led her to write her RIBA Part II Dissertation research on a house that Carl Jung had built on Lake Zurich, Switzerland. She used the building as a vehicle to gain an understanding from a psychoanalytic perspective, about the relationship between our inner and outer worlds, the tangible and intangible aspects of our human experience.

Since setting up her practice, Sumaya has completed a number of significant projects that demonstrate her interest in the subtleties of notions of memory, identity and belonging. The Mleiha Archaeological Centre has been globally recognised as a significant example of a new emerging approach to architecture in the region. Her practice has since completed The Gargash Mosque, as well as the design of Al Ain Museum. Both are recent additions to her practice's renowned portfolio of sensitive, contextual designs.

Through her work in architecture and design in the Gulf region, Dabbagh's quest to bridge cultural and gender gaps continued. She was an instrumental part of the team who set up the RIBA Gulf chapter in 2009 and is passionate about bringing more awareness to the region on the value of good design. She served as the Chair of the RIBA Gulf Chapter from 2015-2019. Her contributions to date are recognized internationally. Among her numerous awards, she received nominations for The Aga Khan Award for the Mleiha and Gargash Mosque projects. She won the Principal of the Year Award at the Middle East Architects Awards and became a finalist at The Tamayouz Award for Women of Outstanding Achievements in 2019. Her work has been featured in a number of international publications, such as Phaidon's *Breaking Ground, Architecture by Women*.

### **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.

### **Thomas Egoumenides**

Thomas Egoumenides is a French architect and designer, based in Tunisia since 2015. In 2016, he co-founded the design studio Flaÿou with which he participated in the Design Weeks of Paris and Amman, among others. In recent years, he has adopted an approach based on the valorization and poetization of waste, useless, or unwanted materials; a “logic and social design” approach with the actors of the local community, its material and immaterial resources. In 2021, during an eight-month residency with the Association l’Art Rue and for the Dream City 2022 Art Festival, he created an ephemeral Design and Upcycling Laboratory entitled Rascal.

### **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.