



## Tosin Oshinowo appointed as curator of the 2nd Edition of the Sharjah Architecture Triennial



Tosin Oshinowo, Photo: Spark Creative

For immediate release March 3, 2022 – Sharjah Architecture Triennial announces the appointment of Lagos-based Nigerian architect Tosin Oshinowo as the curator of its second edition, opening in 2023. The Triennial is a platform for architecture and urbanism from West Asia to South Asia and the African continent. Oshinowo’s appointment builds on the strength and dialogue of the inaugural edition whilst broadening its scope as it continues developing a network, discourse and community. Renowned for her socially responsive approaches to architecture, design and urbanism, Oshinowo is the principal of cmDesign Atelier, the architecture studio she founded in 2012.

Trained in London, Oshinowo has worked across a number of prominent architectural civic and residential projects in Nigeria for over a decade. This includes a project currently underway with the United Nations Development Programme to build an entirely new community in northern Nigeria for a village displaced by Boko Haram.

Her perspective on design and architecture is grounded in a distinctly African context and a deep respect for her native Yoruba culture and history, adapted to the framework of international contemporary design. Oshinowo was a co-curator of the second Lagos Biennial (2019) and collaborated with Lexus on a conceptual design exploration for Design Miami (2020). The recipient of numerous awards, she has written widely on urbanism, afro modernism, design and identity for publications including *Expansions*, which was produced for the 2021 Venice Architecture Biennale.

Conscious of the societal and environmental impact of design, Oshinowo’s approach offers a more equitable vision for the future of the field. In doing so, her work shares in the mission of Sharjah Architecture Triennial to pursue a multi-disciplinary approach that fosters an understanding of the role – and potential – of architecture.



*'The theme of adaptability that is central to Oshinowo's curatorial proposal builds on the Sharjah Architecture Triennial commitment to addressing the challenging conditions we face not only in the Global South but around the world,' commented Hoor Al Qasimi, Director of the Sharjah Architecture Triennial. 'With a breadth of knowledge and experience from her work in an African context, Oshinowo brings to the second edition a decisive, and much needed, focus on socially responsive approaches to architecture and urbanism.'*

Tosin Oshinowo commented: *'I am honoured to be appointed as curator of the 2023 Sharjah Architecture Triennial, which provides a ground-breaking platform to celebrate the architecture and urbanism of the Global South. My approach is inspired by the history, traditions, and landscape of Sharjah and other cities across Africa, the Middle East, and Asia, exploring architecture and design solutions that are built from conditions of scarcity. I'm looking forward to working with my colleagues around the world to illuminate a pathway forward that reorients our global conversation on sustainable architecture, urbanism, and infrastructure.'*

Press Office:

Press Office, London:

Pelham Communications, T +44 (0) 20 8969 3959, @pelhamcomms

Laura Callendar: [laura@pelhamcommunications.com](mailto:laura@pelhamcommunications.com) and Rel Hayman: [rel@pelhamcommunications.com](mailto:rel@pelhamcommunications.com)

Press Office, Sharjah:

For English: [anum@sharjaharchitecture.org](mailto:anum@sharjaharchitecture.org) and For Arabic: [reem@sharjaharchitecture.org](mailto:reem@sharjaharchitecture.org)

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.

About 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.

#### About 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.