

SERPENTINE GALLERIES AND WF CENTRAL OPEN THE INAUGURAL SERPENTINE PAVILION BEIJING

**JIAKUN Architects have designed first Serpentine
Pavilion co-commissioned and built outside the UK
30 May to 31 December 2018**



The Serpentine Galleries (London) and WF CENTRAL (Beijing) have launched their major international collaboration: a new temporary architecture Pavilion, designed by JIAKUN Architects, at the WF CENTRAL development in Beijing.

Modelled on the Serpentine's annual Pavilion commission in London's Royal Park of Kensington Gardens, the inaugural Serpentine Pavilion Beijing opened to the public on 30 May at WF CENTRAL on Wangfujing in Beijing's Dongcheng District. Located just 600m away from the historic Forbidden City, this bustling area has been home to cultural and commercial activities since the middle of the Ming Dynasty. The Serpentine Pavilion Beijing is a public space for cultural activities, events and social encounters at the very heart of WF CENTRAL, with a programme of cultural activities programmed across five Pavilion Weekends over the summer.

The eminent Chinese practice JIAKUN Architects, led by architect Liu Jiakun, has responded to the brief of designing a world-class temporary Pavilion that takes into consideration both the historic and social context of Beijing and the 17-year

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history of the Serpentine Pavilion commission. Initiated in 2000, the London scheme has showcased renowned architects from Zaha Hadid to Rem Koolhaas.

With a focus on society, community and a respect for local context and vernacular craftsmanship, Liu Jiakun aims to address contemporary architectural issues with a sense of realism, an approach inspired by folk wisdom. His vision remains open to China's many traditions and his projects shed light on the reciprocal relation between Chinese public life and urban cultural space.

JIAKUN Architects' Serpentine Pavilion Beijing takes inspiration from Confucianism with an architecture that is a physical representation of the traditional pursuit of *Junzi*. The design is characterised by the figure of the Archer, in the form of a curved cantilever beam that incorporates the forces of elasticity through cables stretched between steel plates. Although modern architecture in Beijing has developed a series of powerful techniques to fight the external forces of fierce winds and unpredictable earthquakes, the Pavilion's integral structure aims – like the Tai Chi Master – to conquer the harshness of those forces with softness.

A selection committee of eight chose JIAKUN Architects' design, including Hans Ulrich Obrist, artistic director, and Yana Peel, CEO, of the Serpentine Galleries; architect Sir David Adjaye, trustee of the Serpentine Galleries; David Glover, CEO of Intelligent Engineering and technical advisor to the Serpentine Pavilion Commission; Raymond Chow and James Robinson, executive directors of Hongkong Land; artist Wang Jianwei; and Philip Dodd, director of Made in China.

This exciting collaboration marks the first Pavilion co-commissioned and built by the Serpentine outside the UK. Previous Serpentine Pavilions have enjoyed a life after – and outside – London: Zaha Hadid's 2000 Pavilion has relocated to Cornwall, UK; Toyo Ito's structure is in the grounds of Le Beauvallon in Sainte-Maxime, France; Sou Fujimoto's Pavilion is on show in Tirana, Albania, courtesy of the LUMA Foundation; and Smiljan Radić's Pavilion is at Hauser & Wirth, Somerset, UK. Francis Kéré's 2017 Pavilion is moving to Ilham Gallery in Malaysia.

The Serpentine Pavilion Beijing is in place at WF CENTRAL from 30 May to 11 November and represents a unique cultural association between the Serpentine Galleries and WF CENTRAL, founded on a shared passion for architecture and design. It also provides the architectural backdrop to the Serpentine Pavilion Beijing programme. At the core of this programme will be a wide range of art, cultural and lifestyle activities programmed within and around the structure.

Activities include five monthly Pavilion Weekends featuring two themed thought-leadership talks in the Inspiration Talk Series, and a wide range of community events focused on the family, including well-being and creativity workshops, lawn parties, children's disco classes, digital performances and specially curated outdoor art-cinema evenings. The Inspiration Talk Series brings together celebrated architects and artists with thought-leaders across a wide spectrum of industries, debating topics including the role of art and culture in urban renewal, innovation and social inclusion.

The Pavilion Weekends take place on 2-3 June, 7-8 July, 4-5 August, 8-9 September, 27-28 October.

PAVILION WEEKENDS PROGRAMME

Light Installation
The Pavilion
Daily, 8-10pm

Artist Wu Jiehui and UFO studios have designed a site-specific light show for the Serpentine Pavilion Beijing that will be on view every evening from 8 to 10pm.

Wellbeing Workshops

The Pavilion

Saturday and Sunday, 10am-12 noon

In conjunction with PURE Yoga, these morning workshops focus on wellbeing of the body and mind, including yoga, meditation, music and dance. Free to all, the workshops invite the public to connect to art while pursuing personal wellbeing.

Weekend Lawn Parties

The Lawn

Saturday and Sunday, 1-5pm

On the lawn of The Green, adjacent to the Pavilion, a weekend celebration of outdoor fun featuring music, food and beverage pop-up experiences from restaurants and outlets at WF CENTRAL. A delightful way to enjoy the Pavilion over the summer.

Creativity Workshops

The Pavilion

Saturday and Sunday, 2-5pm

A series of workshops and playgrounds designed for parents and their children, encouraging them to explore their creative side through play and making.

Outdoor Kids' Discos

The Pavilion

Saturday and Sunday, 2-5pm

A fun and relaxing workshop for families to connect with art and the beautiful outdoors through rhythm and movement. Dance courses provided by instructors from international studio Sunshine Studios.

Outdoor Cinema

The Pavilion

Saturday and Sunday, 8-10pm

A series of films screened in the Pavilion at the end of each Pavilion Weekend day. The first Pavilion Weekend, presented with Nulanpa Cinema 怒澜电影院, showcased silent films made in the 1920s and 30s – a golden era in Chinese cinematic history – accompanied by contemporary musical styles of Chinese musicians. The second Pavilion Weekend will present a selection of VR films including the documentary 'Sanctuaries of Silence' (USA, 8 min), 'Notes on Blindness' (France, 7 min), 'Dispatch' (USA, 28 min), and 'Beethoven's Fifth' (USA/UK, 10 min).

Weekend 'Inspiration Talk' and 'The Future Of...' series

An ongoing thematic series throughout the Pavilion Weekends programme presenting thought-leadership talks and panel discussions. On Saturdays and Sundays respectively, each panel will focus on a different theme and bring together leading professionals from the arts, fashion and sciences.

2-3 JUNE 2018

Inspiration Talk: The Role of Creativity in Urban Regeneration

Participants: **Iwan Baan** (architectural photographer), **Aric Chen** (Lead Curator, Design and Architecture, M+ Museum), **Meng Yan** (Co-founder, URBANUS Architecture), **Sunny Li** (Director, Luxelakes A4 Art Museum), **Maurice Li** (Serpentine Pavilion Beijing Programme Producer)

The Future Of: Art and Technology

Participants: **Hu Jieming** (Dean, School of Visual & Digital Media Arts, Fudan University), **Lu Yang** (artist), **Dr. Zhao-Yuan Ma** (Professor of Physics at Chinese Academy of Sciences), **Qin Hui** (scholar, retired professor, Department of History, Tsinghua University), **aajiao** (artist), **Chen Junhui** (artist and curator)

7-8 JULY 2018**Inspiration Talk: Urban Lifestyle – Quality of a Place**

Participants: **Coleen Chinnery** (artist, curator and musician), **Sun Dayong** (co-founder, PENDA Architecture), **Li Lin** (Professor, CAFA School of Urban Design)

The Future Of: Storytelling

Participants: **Yu Hong** (artist), **Che Lin** (curator, VR module of Beijing International Film Festival), **Cao Dan** (curator, director, Media Veteran)

4-5 AUGUST 2018**Inspiration Talk: Cities of the Future**

Participants: **Wang Hui** (co-founder of URBANUS), **Wang Nan** (Professor of Architecture, Tsinghua University), **Liu Chuang** (artist), **Jennifer Wen Ma** (artist).

The Future Of: Design and Objects

Participants: **Wang Xu** (editor-in-chief, AD China), **Nabuqi** (artist), **Pan Jingzi** (Creative Director, DEFRONT)

8-9 SEPTEMBER 2018**Inspiration Talk: Creativity in Public Spaces**

Participants: **Leung Man To** (author and critic), **Wang Shu** (architect), **Zhan Wang** (artist)

The Future Of: Creative Technology

Participants: **Feng Mengbo** (artist), **Wu Jiehui** (artist), **Wang Xia** (researcher, Tsingdata Big Data Industries Association)

27-28 OCTOBER 2018**Creativity, Culture & City: Moving Through the Cityscape****The Future Of: Fashioned Identity****Musicity at the Serpentine Pavilion Beijing 2018**

This year, with the support of the British Council, the Musicity project will be in China for the first time, coming to Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen. The project theme is 'Urban Regeneration'. From June to August this year, 21 'regenerated' buildings (seven in each city) were visited by four British musicians (including Nick Luscombe) and ten Chinese musicians. Inspired by these buildings and their locations, a piece of music has been created for each one. The Serpentine Pavilion Beijing and WF Central will host AI+, an electronic music group. The members of the group have been making and performing electronic music for many years. They are developing a project to leverage two AI (artificial intelligence) tech leaders: IBM and Microsoft with their cutting-edge AI technologies to compose, arrange, write lyrics for, and sing the song, which will then be performed by a human group using classic vintage synthesizers - this is where machine and human crossover and digital and analog crossover. Members: Dr. Alan Ip, Ray Kong,

Yanlo Chow. When the pavilion leaves the site, the music will remain. [More information.](#)

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About JIAKUN Architects

JIAKUN Architects was founded by Liu Jiakun in 1999. Since then, JIAKUN Architects has organised and participated in numerous international collaborations and exhibitions. As a multidisciplinary office, JIAKUN Architects works with clients from across the globe, specialising not only in architectural design, but also large-scale planning, urban design, landscape, interior and product design, and installation art.

Liu Jiakun has exhibited at the 15th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia, the 56th International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia and many other international exhibitions. His work has featured in architectural magazines including A+U, AV, Area, MADE IN CHINA and Architectural Review. He has been longlisted for domestic and international architectural awards - the Honor Prize of the 7th ARCASIA, Chinese Architecture & Art Prize 2003, Far East Award in Architecture and Architectural Design Award from Architectural Society of China, WAN Civic Award 2017. Liu Jiakun has lectured at MIT, the Royal Academy of Arts, London, Palais de Chaillot in Paris, the Bauhaus in Dessau and many leading Chinese universities.

Serpentine Galleries

The Serpentine Galleries bridges two sites and multiple worlds in London's Royal Park of Kensington Gardens, seeking to inspire the widest audiences with the ideas of our time by championing the possibilities of art and architecture. Since opening in 1970, the Serpentine has presented pioneering exhibitions, live and public programmes, education projects and digital commissions from both emerging practitioners and the world's most recognised artists and architects, including its annual architecture commission, the Serpentine Pavilion.

The Serpentine Pavilion Commission

The Serpentine Pavilion, conceived in 2000, is a watchword for architectural experimentation, presenting the first UK project of some of the world's greatest architects. Each pavilion is sited on the Serpentine Gallery's lawn for four months and the immediacy of the commission – taking a maximum of six months from invitation to completion – makes it a unique model worldwide. The pavilion was named the most visited architectural and design exhibition in the world in 2016.

The commissioned architects to date are Kéré Architecture, 2017; Bjarke Ingels Group (BIG), 2016 alongside four commissioned Summer Houses designed by Asif Khan, Barkow Leibinger, Yona Friedman, and Kunlé Adeyemi; selgascano, 2015;

Smiljan Radić, 2014; Sou Fujimoto, 2013; Herzog & Meuron and Ai Weiwei, 2012; Peter Zumthor, 2011; Jean Nouvel, 2010; SANAA, 2009; Frank Gehry, 2008; Olafur Eliasson and Kjetil Thorsen (Snøhetta), 2007; Rem Koolhaas and Cecil Balmond with Arup, 2006; Álvaro Siza and Eduardo Souto de Moura with Cecil Balmond and Arup, 2005; MVRDV with Arup, 2004 (unrealised); Oscar Niemeyer, 2003; Toyo Ito and Cecil Balmond with Arup, 2002; Daniel Libeskind with Arup, 2001 and Zaha Hadid, 2000.

About Hongkong Land

Hongkong Land is a leading property investment, management and development group. Founded in 1889, Hongkong Land's business is built on excellence, integrity and partnership. The Group owns and manages almost 800,000 sq m of prime office and luxury retail property in key Asian cities, principally in Hong Kong and Singapore. Its Hong Kong Central portfolio represents some 450,000 sq m. of prime property.

It has a further 165,000 sq m. of office space in Singapore mainly held through joint ventures, and a 50% interest in a leading office complex in Central Jakarta. The Group also has a number of residential and mixed-use projects under development in cities across Greater China and Southeast Asia. In Singapore, its subsidiary, MCL Land, is a well-established residential developer. Hongkong Land is a member of the Jardine Matheson Group.

About WF CENTRAL

WF CENTRAL is Hongkong Land's leading premium lifestyle retail centre in China at the commercial and political heart of the capital city, with the design and scale to both respect and revitalise the historic fabric of the Wangfujing area. Occupying a prime site of approximately 21,000 sq m on Wangfujing Street in Dongcheng District, Beijing, WF CENTRAL is bringing the community a total of 150,000 sq m. gross floor area – including a 74-room Mandarin Oriental hotel. The property will also offer 50,000 sq m. of retail space. Bringing together an unparalleled range of luxury, fashion and lifestyle, wellness, world-class gastronomy and art and culture experiences, WF CENTRAL is set to offer a new Beijing lifestyle experience with the opportunity to find inspiration, enjoy culture and a new global perspective.

SERPENTINE PAVILION BEIJING DESIGNED BY JIAKUN ARCHITECTS

CO-PRESENTED BY

SERPE  **NTINE**
GALLERIES



TECHNICAL ADVISORS

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SERPENTINE GALLERIES WOULD LIKE TO THANK

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