

Press Release

## JUNYA ISHIGAMI TO DESIGN SERPENTINE PAVILION 2019

21 June – 6 October 2019

Sponsored by Goldman Sachs

Press images at [serpentinegalleries.org/press](https://serpentinegalleries.org/press)



*"A stone creates a landscape, and a landscape usually sits outside of a building. I wanted to create this landscape that exists outside, inside the building itself."* Junya Ishigami

The Japanese architect Junya Ishigami, celebrated for his experimental structures that interpret traditional architectural conventions and reflect natural phenomena, has been selected to design the Serpentine Pavilion 2019.

Ishigami's design takes inspiration from roofs, the most common architectural feature used around the world. The design of the 2019 Serpentine Pavilion is made by arranging slates to create a single canopy roof that appears to emerge from the ground of the surrounding Park. Within, the interior of the Pavilion is an enclosed cave-like space, a refuge for contemplation. For Ishigami, the Pavilion articulates his 'free space' philosophy in which he seeks harmony between man-made structures and those that already exist in nature.

**Serpentine Gallery**

Kensington Gardens  
London W2 3XA

**Serpentine Sackler Gallery**

West Carriage Drive  
Kensington Gardens  
London W2 2AR

T +44 (0)20 7402 6075  
W [serpentinegalleries.org](https://serpentinegalleries.org)

Describing his design, **Ishigami said:** 'My design for the Pavilion plays with our perspectives of the built environment against the backdrop of a natural landscape, emphasising a natural and organic feel as though it had grown out of the lawn, resembling a hill made out of rocks. This is an attempt to supplement traditional architecture with modern methodologies and concepts, to create in this place an expanse of scenery like never seen before. Possessing the weighty presence of slate roofs seen around the world, and simultaneously appearing so light it could blow away in the breeze, the cluster of scattered rock levitates, like a billowing piece of fabric.'

Junya Ishigami (b. 1974) worked as an architect at SANAA before founding the prize-winning Junya Ishigami + Associates in 2004. Winner of the Golden Lion award at the Venice Biennale of Architecture in 2010, he was the subject of a major and critically acclaimed solo exhibition at the Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain in 2018 that is traveling to the Power Station of art in Shanghai later this year. He is known for designs with dream-like qualities that incorporate the natural world, such as landscapes, forests and clouds, in an architectural practice that places humankind as part of nature.

He is the nineteenth architect to accept the invitation to design a temporary Pavilion on the Serpentine Gallery's lawn in Kensington Gardens. This pioneering commission, which began in 2000 with Zaha Hadid, has presented the first UK structures by some of the biggest names in international architecture. In recent years it has grown into a highly-anticipated showcase for emerging talent, from Frida Escobedo of Mexico to Francis Kéré of Burkina Faso and Bjarke Ingels of Denmark, whose 2016 Pavilion was the most visited architectural and design exhibition in the world.

Serpentine Galleries Artistic Director Hans Ulrich Obrist and former CEO Yana Peel selected this year's architect with advisors Sir David Adjaye OBE, Richard Rogers and David Glover alongside Julie Burnell (Head of Construction and Buildings, Serpentine Galleries) and Amira Gad (Curator, Exhibitions and Architecture, Serpentine Galleries).

The Serpentine Pavilion 2019 is supported by Goldman Sachs for the fifth year.

**Serpentine Galleries Artistic Director Hans Ulrich Obrist said:** 'Junya Ishigami's Serpentine Pavilion – a gravity-defying structure informed by the natural world – succeeds in inspiring the imagination of what is possible in architecture. The Pavilion and its accompanying programme will be central to the Serpentine's General Ecology strand – an ongoing investigation into complex systems, interspecies landscapes and the environment. Alongside this year's Pavilion, we are thrilled to simultaneously launch Serpentine Augmented Architecture, with Google Arts & Culture, where the winning submission by Jakob Kudsk Steensen, *The Deep Listener*, from July 11<sup>th</sup> will be on display. Both projects bring to life a brilliant conjunction of experiments in technology and creative vision. We hope all visitors, of all ages will enjoy the spaces as we continue in our mission to bring art and architecture to the widest audiences.'

**Richard Gnodde, CEO of Goldman Sachs International, said:** 'Goldman Sachs is delighted to be partnering with the Serpentine Galleries for the fifth year running and we look forward to seeing Junya Ishigami's fascinating Pavilion come to life in Kensington Gardens this summer. 2019 marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our firm and we are very proud to continue our long-

standing commitment to innovation and creativity through this exceptional project in the heart of London.'

### **Summer at the Serpentine**

The Serpentine Pavilion 2019 will once again be a platform for **COS x Serpentine Park Nights**, the Serpentine's annual programme of experimental and interdisciplinary evenings that takes place on selected Fridays.

Practitioners in the fields of art, architecture, music, film, theory and dance have been commissioned to create new, site-specific works in response to Ishigami's design, offering unique ways of experiencing architecture and performance. **Recipes for Change** on selected lunchtimes, invites community groups, artists, activists, writers and architects to form connections through food inspired by the ideas behind the Pavilion design. The **Architecture Family Pack and Programme**, sponsored by COS, will give children and their families the chance to explore the Serpentine Pavilion from playful and original perspectives.

This year, alongside the Pavilion, the Serpentine presents Jakob Kudsk Steensen's *The Deep Listener*, an augmented reality installation that immerses visitors within the complex ecosystems that circulate around the Serpentine Galleries park setting. Kudsk Steensen was selected from over 350 entrants as the first Serpentine **Augmented Architecture** commission, a global open call for new forms of architecture in the field of advanced technologies. Serpentine Augmented Architecture in collaboration with Google Arts Culture and Sir David Adjaye OBE. [augmentedarchitecture.org](http://augmentedarchitecture.org)

**Image Credit:** Serpentine Pavilion 2019 Designed by Junya Ishigami, Serpentine Gallery, London (21 June – 6 October 2019), © Junya Ishigami + Associates, Photography © 2019 Norbert Tukaj

### **For press information please contact:**

Rose Dempsey [rosed@serpentinegalleries.org](mailto:rosed@serpentinegalleries.org), +44 (0)20 7298 1520

V Martin, [v@serpentinegalleries.org](mailto:v@serpentinegalleries.org), +44 (0)20 7298 1519

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Serpentine Sackler Gallery, West Carriage Drive, Kensington Gardens, London W2 2AR

### **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

**Serpentine Pavilion 2019** designed by Junya Ishigami + Associates

Technical Advisor: David Glover

Engineering and all technical services: AECOM

Creative Services: Stage One

Goldman Sachs is headline sponsor of the Serpentine Pavilion 2019

**Junya Ishigami** (b. 1974) founded his prize-winning architectural firm, Junya Ishigami + Associates, in 2004. The studio's design philosophy explores pushing the boundaries of what is possible in architecture, by challenging existing architectural methodologies and proposing alternatives. Projects have ranged from the Kanagawa Institute of Technology's KAIT Workshop in 2007; a kindergarten with cloud-shaped walls in Atsugi, which was also a presentation at the Venice Architecture Biennale and won the Golden Lion in 2010; and last year's exhibition at the Fondation Cartier in Paris titled 'Freeing Architecture.' The studio is currently working on a university multi-purpose plaza, *Chapel of Valley*, a worship space to be built in Rizhao, China; the redevelopment of the Russian Polytechnic Museum in Moscow; the Park Groot

Vijversburg Project in the Netherlands; and residential projects in Dali, China. In 2014, Ishigami was appointed as the Kenzo Tange Design Critic at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. He also teaches internationally, currently at Columbia University.

### **Goldman Sachs**

The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. is a leading global investment banking, securities and investment management firm that provides a wide range of financial services to a substantial and diversified client base that includes corporations, financial institutions, governments and individuals. Founded in 1869, the firm is based in New York and it maintains offices in all major financial centres around the world.

### **David Glover**

David Glover brings a unique continuity and design expertise to the Serpentine Pavilion programme. Having worked on 14 of the past 17 Pavilions, Glover has a singular understanding of how to drive the Serpentine's brief to deliver exciting structures within six months of commission. Glover is key to the continued success of the programme, helping steer the entire team to bring creative, artful resolutions by promoting the use of innovative materials, detailing and construction techniques that push the boundaries of architecture.

### **AECOM**

AECOM is built to deliver a better world. It designs, builds, finances and operates infrastructure assets for governments, businesses and organisations in more than 150 countries. As a fully integrated firm, it connects knowledge and experience across its global network of experts to help clients solve their most complex challenges. From high-performance buildings and infrastructure, to resilient communities and environments, to stable and secure nations, its work is transformative, differentiated and vital. See how it delivers what others can only imagine at [aecom.com](http://aecom.com) and @AECOM.

### **Stage One to Fabrication & Build**

Stage One are makers. Based in Yorkshire, their high-profile creative portfolio includes architectural pavilions, event environments, TV sets and stage engineering. This is the 11th year that Stage One have been commissioned to fabricate and construct the Serpentine Pavilion. Other notable projects include Wolfgang Buttress's Hive, now at Kew Gardens, and Thomas Heatherwick's iconic 2012 Olympic cauldron. More information on the company and recent projects is presented at [stageone.co.uk](http://stageone.co.uk)

### **Serpentine Pavilion History**

Serpentine Pavilion architects to date are: Frida Escobedo, 2018; Francis Kéré, 2017; Bjarke Ingels Group (BIG), 2016; selgascano, 2015; Smiljan Radić, 2014; Sou Fujimoto, 2013; Herzog & de Meuron and Ai Weiwei, 2012; Peter Zumthor, 2011; Jean Nouvel, 2010; Kazuyo Sejima and Ryue Nishizawa, SANAA, 2009; Frank Gehry, 2008; Olafur Eliasson and Kjetil Thorsen, 2007; Rem Koolhaas and Cecil Balmond, with Arup, 2006; Álvaro Siza and Eduardo Souto de Moura with Cecil Balmond, Arup, 2005; MVRDV with Arup, 2004 (un-realised); Oscar Niemeyer, 2003; Toyo Ito and Cecil Balmond – with Arup, 2002; Daniel Libeskind with Arup, 2001; and Zaha Hadid, who designed the inaugural Pavilion in 2000. Serpentine Summer Houses 2016 architects are: Kunlé Adeyemi – NLÉ, Barkow Leibinger, Yona Friedman and Asif Khan.

Serpentine Pavilion Beijing designed by Liu Jiakun and co-commissioned with

Hongkong Land was open to the public from 30 May to 31 December 2018.

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