

## LIVE PROGRAMME

### SATURDAY TALKS

28 June 2025, 12pm

Chris Bayley, Exhibitions Curator, leads a tour of the Serpentine Pavilion 2025

9 August 2025, 12pm

Kit Gurnos, Assistant Exhibitions Curator, leads a tour of the Serpentine Pavilion 2025

27 September 2025, 12pm

Chris Bayley, Exhibitions Curator, leads a tour of the Serpentine Pavilion 2025

BSL interpretation is available upon prior request for all our Saturday Talks.

### PARK NIGHTS

*Park Nights* is Serpentine's experimental, interdisciplinary live platform sited within the Pavilion. This year the series features new commissions and offers a space for practitioners to engage audiences once more. *Park Nights 2025* reimagines what it means to come together, witness and share thought through live performance. The programme will take place on select evenings throughout June to October.

## WHAT'S ON IN OUR GALLERIES

### GIUSEPPE PENONE: THOUGHTS IN THE ROOTS

3 April – 7 September 2025

Serpentine South and Kensington Gardens

*Thoughts in the Roots* brings together works from 1969 to the present, illustrating Penone's enduring fascination with the interplay between organic and artistic processes.

### ARPITA SINGH: REMEMBERING

20 March – 27 July 2025

Serpentine North

*Remembering* is the first solo institutional exhibition of Arpita Singh outside India, featuring six decades of painting centring on her emotional and psychological state, drawing from Bengali folk art and Indian stories, and interwoven with experiences of social upheaval and global conflict.

### PAVILION FAMILY DAY

19 July 2025, 11am – 3pm

Enjoy free hands-on activities and creative workshops throughout the day. Bring a picnic to enjoy on the Serpentine Lawn.

For the full programme, tickets and further details, please visit [serpentinegalleries.org](https://serpentinegalleries.org)

6 JUNE – 26 OCTOBER 2025

# SERPENTINE PAVILION 2025 A CAPSULE IN TIME DESIGNED BY MARINA TABASSUM ARCHITECTS



## DISCOVER MORE ABOUT THE SERPENTINE PAVILION 2025 WITH OUR FREE DIGITAL GUIDE



Join the free Serpentine Public Wi-Fi and scan the QR code to hear the architect's introduction to the Serpentine Pavilion 2025.



Serpentine is a charity and we need your help more than ever to continue our work. Please donate today to help keep our programmes free and open to all.

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SERPENTINE



### PAVILION COMMISSION

Since 2000, Serpentine has commissioned internationally renowned and emerging architects to create their first completed structure in England. The aim of the Pavilion commission is to select architects who consistently extend the boundaries of contemporary architectural practice and to introduce these practitioners to wider audiences. We invite the architects to design a Pavilion that can be used as a meeting space and café by day and a forum for learning, debate and entertainment at night. This year's selection was made by Bettina Korek, CEO; Hans Ulrich Obrist, Artistic Director; Julie Burnell, Director of Construction and Special Projects; Chris Bayley, Exhibitions Curator; Natalia Grabowska, Curator at Large and Site-specific Projects; and Alexa Chow, Assistant Exhibitions Curator, together with advisors Sou Fujimoto and David Glover.

The inaugural Pavilion was designed by Dame Zaha Hadid, who conceived the commissioning programme with former Serpentine Director Dame Julia Peyton-Jones in 2000. Previous Pavilions were designed by: Minsuk Cho, Mass Studies (2024); Lina Ghotmeh – Architecture (2023); Theaster Gates (2022); Sumayya Vally, Counterspace (2021); Junya Ishigami + Associates (2019); Frida Escobedo (2018); Kéré Architecture (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, unrealised); Oscar Niemeyer (2003); Toyo Ito and Cecil Balmond with Arup (2002); and Daniel Libeskind with Arup (2001).

The Pavilion is realised through sponsorship, in-kind support and its subsequent sale.

SERPENTINE PAVILION 2025 IS MADE POSSIBLE BY

Goldman  
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Major support



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## SERPENTINE PAVILION 2025 *A CAPSULE IN TIME*

Designed by Marina Tabassum Architects

Celebrated for establishing an architectural language that is both contemporary and deeply connected to a specific place, climate, context, culture and history, Marina Tabassum and her Dhaka-based firm have completed a wide range of architectural projects that are socially, politically and ecologically engaged. Their work, grounded in deep research and close collaboration with communities they serve, spans housing, community centres and refugee camps to mosques and museums. Beyond her built work in the city of Dhaka and across Bangladesh, Tabassum's studio also leads research into environmental degradation in Bangladesh – a country confronting the direct impacts of climate change.

For centuries, architects have grappled with the relationship between architecture and time. Titled *A Capsule in Time*, the Pavilion reflects on this enduring theme, evoking a meaningful dialogue between the permanent and ephemeral nature of the Serpentine Pavilion commission. The structure draws inspiration from the dynamic Bengal Delta – a vast terrain located in the Indian subcontinent where land and water are in constant flux. In this region, architecture is also ephemeral or adaptable to the extremities of weather. The Pavilion, populated by visitors over five months before disassembled, mirrors this impermanence. Once no longer sited on Serpentine South's lawn, it continues to exist in the virtual realm and the collective memory of those who experienced it. In Tabassum's words, 'architecture becomes memories of lived spaces'.

Positioned along the north-south axis of the park, *A Capsule in Time* features an elongated capsule-like form with a central court

that aligns with Serpentine South's bell tower. Inspired by summer park-going and arched garden canopies of Kensington Gardens that filter soft daylight through green foliage, the structure is comprised of four wooden sculptural forms with a translucent façade that diffuses and dapples light as it enters the space. A kinetic element allows one capsule form to move, transforming the space into a new configuration.

Emphasising the sensory and spiritual possibilities of architecture through scale, materiality and the interplay of light and shadow, Tabassum's design draws on the history and architectural tradition of Shamiyana tents or awnings of South Asia. Similarly kinetic in their function, these structures are made of fabric supported by bamboo poles and are commonly erected for outdoor gatherings and celebrations. The architect's first structure built entirely from wood, the Pavilion is designed around a semi-mature Ginkgo tree, bringing the park inside with great sensitivity and poetics. Its openness invites visitors to gather, converse and engage with a dynamic programme of events.

In an era defined by information overload and growing censorship, Tabassum envisions the Pavilion as a shared, versatile space for connection, learning, dialogue and knowledge exchange. Within, visitors can browse a collection of books celebrating Bengali literature, poetry, ecology, politics and culture, selected by Tabassum and her studio. Once dismantled, the Pavilion's afterlife is imagined as a library.

### CATALOGUE

To accompany the Serpentine Pavilion 2025, Serpentine and Verlag der Buchhandlung Walther und Franz König, Köln, will publish a catalogue on Marina Tabassum, available from July 2025. Designed by Wolfe Hall, it brings together new and insightful contributions from Shumon Basar; Rana Begum; Deborah Berke; Perween Hasan; Naeem Mohaiemen; and Thomas de Monchaux. Alongside these contributions, it features drawings from Tabassum's sketchbook; a photo essay by Iwan Baan; a conversation with David Chipperfield; and an in-depth interview with Hans Ulrich Obrist.

Hardcover, 184 pages  
Illustrated in colour throughout  
£28

### LIMITED EDITION

To accompany the Serpentine Pavilion 2025, Marina Tabassum has produced a special limited edition three-plate colour etching.

Available in the shop or online: [shop.serpentinegalleries.org](https://shop.serpentinegalleries.org)

Above:  
Serpentine Pavilion 2025 *A Capsule in Time*, designed by Marina Tabassum, Marina Tabassum Architects (MTA). Design render, interior view. Photo: © Marina Tabassum Architects (MTA). Courtesy Serpentine.

Reverse (both):  
Serpentine Pavilion 2025 *A Capsule in Time*, designed by Marina Tabassum, Marina Tabassum Architects (MTA). Design render, exterior view. Photo: © Marina Tabassum Architects (MTA). Courtesy Serpentine.