

## Zaha Hadid in Italy

23 June 2017 – 14 January 2018

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Rome, 22 June 2017. Considered to be one of the most influential and visionary architects of our time, Zaha Hadid redefined the architecture of the 21st century and captured the imagination of the entire world. A year after her sudden death, from **23 June 2017 to 14 January 2018** MAXXI is hosting **Zaha Hadid in Italy**, an exhibition curated by the director of MAXXI Architettura Margherita Guccione and Woody Yao, associate director at Zaha Hadid Design.

**Zaha Hadid in Italy**, organized in collaboration with Zaha Hadid Design, Zaha Hadid Architects and the Zaha Hadid Foundation, main partner Eni, intends to highlight the architect's intensive and enduring relationship with the country.

**Giovanna Melandri**, President of Fondazione MAXXI says: "This exhibition devoted to Zaha Hadid, a creative and innovative woman of great strength and courage, is a tribute to her work and her style, an exploration of the mark she has left in Italy. It is also the most authentic way that MAXXI, "her" creature, could choose to commemorate an extraordinary friend and woman, an eclectic genius who we miss greatly and with whom we subtly converse every day, together with our artists, curators and visitors."

**Margherita Guccione** also says: "*Zaha Hadid's Italy* is an exploration of the thinking of the talented designer of MAXXI who took such a great interest in the artistic and architectural traditions in our country. The dynamic splendours of the Roman Baroque, the kaleidoscopic visions of Italian Futurism, the experimental research of Luigi Moretti and Pier Luigi Nervi are just a few of the declared references for her designs."

Installed in the spaces of Gallery 5 with its extensive glazing overlooking the museum piazza, the exhibition explores Hadid's work through the rich and complex representational media she employed during the course of her career: from pictorial and conceptual **sketches** to three-dimensional **models**, from **virtual renderings** to **interdisciplinary studies**, together with **objects**, **videos** and **photographs** revealing her constant pioneering and investigative design research.

**The exhibition installation** by Zaha Hadid Design, which has been responsible for the design of all the studio's exhibitions in recent years, was inspired by the architect's sketches for MAXXI, a three-dimensional version of the fluid lines imagined for the museum that in adapting to the curves and the slopes of the architecture present the various materials organized in diverse areas.

An important section of the exhibition is devoted to the **Italian projects** including the *Terminal Marittimo* in Salerno that with its organic oyster-like structure establishes a new link between the city and the sea; the *Messner Mountain Museum* at Plan de Coronas that is set into the heart of the mountain and which opens up new views; the extraordinary Torre Generali for *City Life* in Milan that with its vertiginous vertical torsion constructs a new urban horizon; the *Stazione dell'alta velocità* at Afragola and MAXXI itself, the fluid forms of which traverse an entire city block: more than just a museum, a public urban space.

**Woody Yao** writes that MAXXI "was fundamental to our development as a studio." The building, the first to be constructed by Hadid in Italy, won the Stirling Prize in 2010 and is "testament to a genius that reminds us that anything is possible if we have the courage to challenge the prevalent rules and methodologies."

Ample space has been devoted to Zaha's relationship with **design** and the *made in Italy* phenomenon with which she established repeated creative and productive contacts. When she was designing objects and furnishings Zaha remained first and foremost an architect: Her objects occupy space in the manner of true architecture. From the sofas for B&B and Cassina to the chairs, the benches and the tables for Sawaya & Moroni; from the vases and the centrepieces for Alessi to the modular bookshelves for Magis, with incursions into the worlds of high-end jewellery with the *B.zero1* ring and fashion with the exclusive bag designed for a

Fendi charity event, her constant experimentation is presented through drawings, videos, prototypes and objects that recount a process that could be scaled up from the very small even to the monumental.

A **video wall** presenting the various designs, a suspended structure traversing the exhibition and carrying the **photos of Helene Binet** who has portrayed almost all of Hadid's architecture and number of large **paintings** such as *Malevich's Tektonic* (2015) and *Metropolis* (2014) revealing her interest in Russian Constructivism complete the installation.

Finally, a section documents Studio Hadid's research (ZH CoDe) into interdisciplinary and innovative parametric design with the use of advanced digital technologies.

**Zaha Hadid in Italy** is accompanied by a catalogue in Italian and English published by Quodlibet curated by **Pippo Ciorra** and **Margherita Guccione**, with critical texts by among others **Deyan Sudjic**, **Richard Burdett**, **Maurizio Gentile**, **Luca Molinari**, **Stefano Boeri**, **Domitilla Dardi** and **Patrik Shumacher**, a section devoted to the photographs of **Helene Binet** and files dedicated to Hadid's Italian projects.

The **press kit and images of the exhibition** can be downloaded from the Reserved Area of the Fondazione MAXXI's website at <http://www.maxxi.art/en/area-stampa/> by typing in the password **areariservatamaxxi**

### MAXXI – National Museum of XXI Century Arts

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