

January 2025

Lina Ghotmeh — Architecture, Paris FR

01

# ARCHEOLOGY *of the* FUTURE

2024 HAS BEEN A YEAR OF INNOVATION, MILESTONES, AND RECOGNITION,  
REINFORCING OUR COMMITMENT TO PUSHING DESIGN BOUNDARIES.

Olga de Amaral  
Exhibition  
Paris, France

*"I have often questioned the meaning of art and the boundary between art and architecture, and I love finding these two aspects in Amaral's work."*

Lina Ghotmeh — Architecture designed the exhibition dedicated to Olga de Amaral at the Fondation Cartier for Contemporary Art, a significant event for both the artist and the institution. This exhibition is the final one to be held in the iconic building designed by Jean Nouvel before the Fondation relocates.

Ghotmeh's approach to the design was centered around the interplay between Amaral's works and Nouvel's architecture, enhancing



this relationship to evoke emotions and create a timeless atmosphere. Through the precise positioning of the artworks, Ghotmeh aimed to craft a narrative that reflected the artist's inspirations, using minimal elements to amplify the experience. Lina Ghotmeh was inspired by a visit to a slate quarry in the French Pyrenees, where she encountered massive black slates. Drawing

further inspiration from the landscapes of Colombia, she designed a landscape of slate stones in the main hall, creating a seamless connection between the interior, the garden, and Amaral's works. This design evoked the natural environment of Bogotá's Páramo de las Moyas, a place that profoundly influenced Amaral's creative vision.



↑ : Stone quarry in the Pyrenees © Lina Ghotmeh

In the second space, Ghotmeh created an ethereal atmosphere with Brumas, a floating, cloud-like installation that mirrored the surrounding garden landscape. The basement area was reimagined as a space of the unconscious, inspired by the spiral motifs found in Amaral's pieces and Ghotmeh's childhood memories. Here, Amaral's luminous works emerged, guiding visitors toward the final room, where the Estelas, reminiscent of Colombia's San Agustín archaeological park, invited meditation and contemplation.

↑↑ : Architecture and scenography views of the exhibition © Cyril Marcelliac



January 2025

Archeology of the Future

02

### Contemporary Art Museum

AIUla, Saudi Arabia

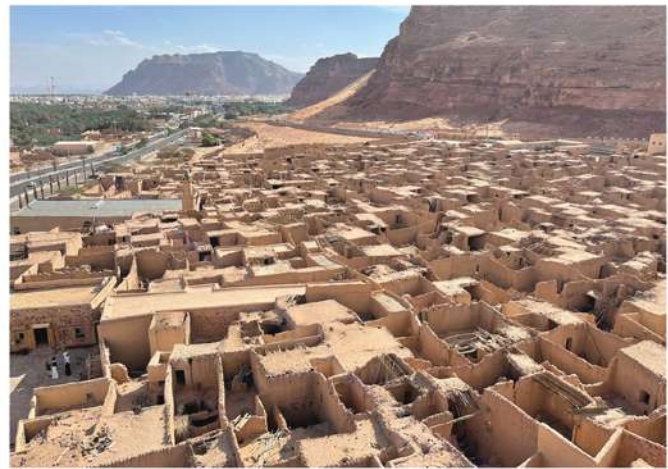
Lina Ghotmeh — Architecture is designing a major contemporary art museum in AIUla, Saudi Arabia, developed by the Royal Commission for AIUla (RCU).

The museum will showcase both regional and global contemporary art, with a focus on Arabia. Its core collection includes works by artists from regions bordering the Red Sea, the Arabian Sea, and the Eastern Mediterranean, presented in dialogue with their international contemporaries. The collection will evolve in partnership with these artists and will feature a dynamic program of commissioned works. As AIUla's primary art museum, it will contribute to the region's cultural legacy, creating opportunities for artists, designers, creatives, and curators.

An adjoining series of artist-designed gardens will deepen the connection between the museum and its surrounding landscape. Set within the distinctive AIUla oasis, among vegetable gardens, palm groves, mountain ranges,



and an ancient settlement, the museum will prioritize sensitive environmental design. It will serve as a catalyst for the environmental renewal and regeneration of the oasis. Structured as an archipelago of pavilion galleries, the museum will be interspersed with a mosaic of artist gardens. The balance between interior and exterior spaces will allow visitors to shape their own encounters with both the art and the natural landscape.

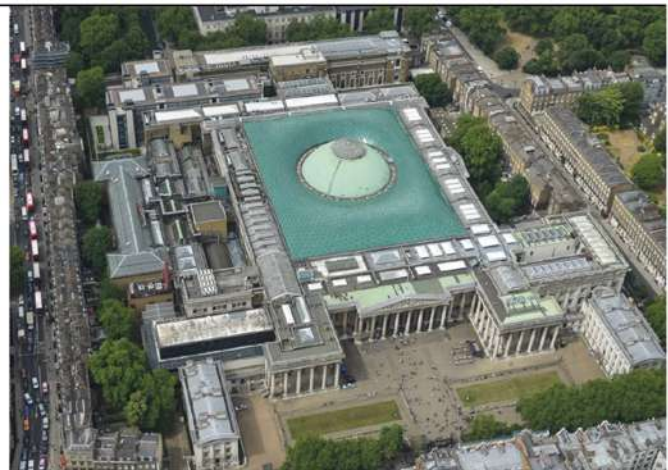


↑: Lina Ghotmeh visits AIUla on the site of the future Museum of Contemporary Art  
 →: View of the AIUla Oasis  
 © Lina Ghotmeh

### Shortlisted Western Range galleries at the British Museum, London, United-Kingdom. Results yet to be announced !

We are thrilled to be shortlisted as one of the five finalists in the prestigious international architecture competition for the renovation of the Western Range galleries at the British Museum. This ambitious project involves the reorganization of more than a third of the gallery space within this iconic "museum of the world" in London. Our team comprises the artist Ali Cherri, Plan A, Purcell, Holmes Studio, and Arup.

We are honored to be competing alongside four other distinguished firms: 6a architects in collaboration with Gitta Gschwendtner Studio, David Chipperfield Architects, Eric Parry Architects, Jamie Fobert Architects, and OMA. These firms were selected from a pool of over 60 international submissions.



As part of the second stage of the competition, models and images have been submitted for the redevelopment of the museum's western area, marking its largest building project since the 1820s. Each team's proposal is currently on display in the Round Reading Room of the Great Court. The goal is to improve storage for the collections and introduce new facilities to enhance the visitor experience, ensuring maximum accessibility for all audiences.

the British Museum, and includes distinguished members such as Yvonne Farrell, Tracey Emin, and Charlie Mayfield, among others.

plex requires substantial upgrades to meet modern performance standards while preserving its historic fabric.

The Western Range, located in the Smirke building on the museum's western side, represents one-third of the museum's gallery space, housing iconic collections like the Parthenon Sculptures and artifacts from Ancient Egypt and the Middle East.



The judging panel will be chaired by George Osborne, Chairman of

Comprising buildings from the 1850s, as well as later additions like Gallery 10 and 22, the com-

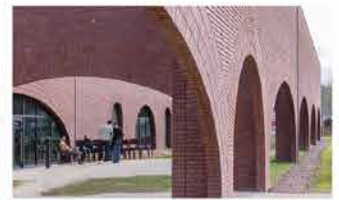
↑: Aerial view of the British Museum. Lina Ghotmeh — Architecture's Competition model.  
 ←: Rendering images of the submitted project  
 © Lina Ghotmeh Architecture, courtesy by The British Museum

# ATELIERS HERMÈS. 1<sup>ST</sup> LOW-CARBON, ENERGY POSITIVE BUILDING IN FRANCE.

Ateliers Hermès Leather workshop at the heart of Normandy, France.



"Actes Précis", Ateliers Hermès lives its life in Normandy. Nominated for the French Équerre d'Argent and recipient of the Opal Award, the bioclimatic design for the Hermès workshops holds high environmental ambitions. The project represents a "fusion between the object and the artisan, between the artisan and the space, between the space and the landscape." The building's passive design, low-carbon footprint, and use of renewable energies align with Hermès' environmental goals. It is one of the first industrial buildings in France to achieve the French E4C2 label, (an ambition Ghotmeh has maintained from the outset): attaining the highest energy (E) and carbon (C) levels. The Manufacture stands as a positive energy building with efficient operation that minimizes its carbon footprint.



Serpentine Pavilion London, United-Kingdom



*"The pavilion's undulating form mirrors the surrounding tree canopies"*



View of the Ateliers Hermès entrance  
Serpentine Pavilion 2023, London  
© Iwan Baan



Academic Harvard University Graduate School of Design

HARVARD UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF DESIGN



Lina Ghotmeh was appointed as the Kenzo Tange Professor Design Critic in Architecture at Harvard Graduate School of Design (GSD). In her studio, titled "Long Living Spolia," Ghotmeh explored stone construction using waste materials from quarries, examining both the perception of the material and its application in designing spaces for elderly living. The semester was inspired by the ancient practice of Spolia, integrating this concept into contemporary architecture.

Lina Ghotmeh giving a lecture at Harvard GSD  
© Zara Tzanev  
Serpentine Pavilion 2023, London, © courtesy Serpentine

Academics

Hermès  
Académie  
des Savoir-Faire

Lina Ghotmeh was honored to serve as pedagogical director for the group of Academicians selected to explore the theme of stone, both at the architectural and object scale, for the sixth edition of the Skills Academy.

Along the years, the Academy has brought together professionals for an eleven-month collaborative program focused on skilled practice and innovation. Throughout this program, Ghotmeh explored innovative approaches to working with materials, fostering collective intelligence among participants. In collaboration with the Fondation d'entreprise Hermès, a series of public lectures were hosted throughout the year, featuring experts such as historians, curators, craftsmen, architects, and industrialists. These lectures were complemented by masterclasses and site visits for the Academicians. The group also gathered in Saumur for a workshop orchestrated by Ghotmeh, where



*"Preserving manual craftsmanship in the construction process allows for the continuation of another process: that of the construction of knowledge."*



they worked with tuffeau stone to create a collective micro-landscape. The resulting installation is currently on display at the Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire, set within a landscape designed by Bas Smets.



Photos of this year's workshops on the theme of Stone © Tadzio

Paris Olympics 2024, "Village des Athlètes" Saint Denis, France

Our atelier is proud to have designed and delivered buildings for the athletes' village for the Olympic Games. Inspired by the movement and tools specific to athletes, our design celebrates rhythm, precision, and elegance, seamlessly integrating into the urban fabric.



Located in Seine-Saint-Denis, the project is part of a larger master plan led by Dominique Perrault, emphasizing flexibility and long-term adaptability.

*"Buildings feature wooden construction in line with our commitment to sustainable development."*

In line with our commitment to sustainable development, the buildings feature wooden construction, with wooden-frame façades. To ensure environmental responsibility, the use of exotic and boreal wood from outside the EU has been strictly prohibited. We have prioritized low-carbon and bio-based materials throughout the design. Where concrete was necessary, we utilized low-carbon



concrete with CEM III cement, which reduces CO2 emissions through its composition and characteristics.

Our atelier's vision blends functionality, sustainability, and a lasting contribution to the local community. This project was designed to evolve, with accommodations that transformed from housing for athletes to housing for the broader community.

↑ : Reference image for the façades (top left)  
 ← : Details of the façades of the various buildings  
 © Takuji Shimmura

## THE BAHRAIN PAVILION FOR WORLD EXPO 2025 IN OSAKA IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Bahrain Pavilion Osaka, Japan

Embanked by the seashore, the Kingdom of Bahrain Pavilion for the Osaka Expo 2025 invites visitors to embark on a journey of discovery into the anatomy of Dows, offering a captivating exploration of Bahrain's deep historical and vibrant contemporary connection to the sea.



The exhibition at the pavilion will explore how the sea is shaping the future of Bahrain. The Kingdom of Bahrain Pavilion for the Osaka Expo 2025 invites visitors on a journey to discover the anatomy of Dows, offering a captivating exploration of Bahrain's deep historical and contemporary connection to the sea. This journey instills a profound sense of optimism for the future, where tradition and innovation intertwine, and the wisdom of the past serves as a guiding light towards a sustainable and fulfilling future.

© Lina Ghotmeh — Architecture

Emphasis 100 Architects for 100 Houses, AIUla, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



Our atelier had the privilege of presenting its vision and creative process for a remarkable project of dwellings designed to immerse guests in the exceptional cultural and natural wonders of AIUla, while offering a profound connection with one of the world's most breathtaking landscapes.

Nature in AIUla is sacred. The landscape, shaped by successive geological layers, reflects the unique climate of this place, embodying the passage of time. Designing in AIUla requires a deep understanding of the site's climatic conditions. In such an awe-inspiring setting, we view architecture as a means to enhance and interpret the landscape, serving as a tool for understanding the territory.

© Lina Ghotmeh — Architecture

Be Open Massy Offices / Activities under construction.



This building is designed for logistics and occupies a strategic location within the new Atlantis district, at the entrance to Massy, France.

Intended as a landmark for the city, its residents, visitors, and motorway users, the building is conceived as part of the urban landscape. Spanning two levels, the upper floor appears to float and changes in height along the highway. Its levitating volume creates a façade that transforms as one moves, offering a dynamic dual appearance.



Facade view, principal entry and gardens. © Takuji Shimmura

Sculptural Work on the facade in projected pigmented concrete.  
© Takuji Shimmura

January 2025

Archeology of the Future

06

Lina Ghotmeh — Architecture wins the design for the Museum am Rothenbaum.

MARKK, Art Museum, Hambourg, Germany

We are delighted to begin the transformative journey of reimagining the MARKK Museum in Hamburg.

A symbol of the city's rich history as a hub of trade and culture, the museum houses a vast collection that spans the globe, showcasing diverse histories and legacies. Our vision for MARKK is to create a dynamic space that fosters workshops, creation, and collaboration, celebrating impermanence and the ever-changing nature of our world. This modernization will position MARKK as a vital cultural destination for both the community and visitors from afar.



↑: View of a gallery space and inner courtyard  
 ←: Axonometry of the building, View of a gallery space

Achievements and Recognition of 2024



2024 has been a remarkable year for Lina Ghotmeh — Architecture, with significant milestones in both design and recognition.

We're thrilled to have shared our sustainable and human-centered approach at prestigious conferences around the world. In 2024, we were honored with several awards, including the Great Arab Mind Award, the AD100 italye and Middle East list, and the OPAL Award for the Hermès Workshops project. Lina Ghotmeh one of the 50 Most Powerful Women in Architecture and Design by Dezeen and was ranked on the Swiss OOOM 100

list of the World's Most Inspiring People along with the star Taylor Swift, the human rights activist and nobel prize winner Narges Mohammadi and First lady Michelle Obama.

*"We view architecture as an ongoing exploration of traces and elements drawn from various disciplines, synthesized into meaningful space."*



Conference Worldwide



↑: Lord Norman Foster (left) and Lina Ghotmeh (top right) at the Sustainability Public Debates in Madrid at Lord Norman Foster Foundation  
 →: Lina Ghotmeh at the RIBA London event

*DOCUMENTARIES, DISPLAYS, RESIDENCES, CRAFTS...  
ART IN THE GATHERING*

**"Appartement Archives"** | Multidisciplinary Residence  
Paris, France

↳ Interior views of the residency space  
© Takuji Shimmura



Among the completed projects, we had the pleasure of delivering the residency space for multidisciplinary artists and creatives for the KADIST Foundation on Rue des Archives in Paris.

The building, Hôtel de Tallard, embodies the historical layering of the Marais district, an iconic area of Paris.

Through a redefined layout, we have restored the original double-height design, allowing natural light to flood the main room and fostering a welcoming atmosphere for creative pursuits. The introduction of expansive niches, evoking the Hôtel's original doors, enhances the space's verticality, while a flexible mezzanine provides room for various events.

This reimagined space aims to become a hub of creativity, inspiring artists, writers, and thinkers from diverse fields.

**PHI Contemporary** Art Museum, Montréal, Canada



PHI launched an international architectural competition for the design of PHI Contemporain, in which our atelier participated.

The site's layers of historical traces inspired the project, reflecting a dialogue between the past, present, and future. The design, like a palimpsest, reintroduces some of them into the plans for the new PHI Contemporary. This approach aims to honor the site's history while creating a dynamic space for the future.

↳ Exterior views of the main entrance  
© Lina Ghotmeh — Architecture



**Exhibition** Windows of Light, Dornbirn, Austria



The exhibition in Austria, centered around our book *Windows of Light*, commissioned by Zumtobel Group and published by Lars Muller, explores architecture through the interplay of light and space.



↳ Views of the Windows of Light Exhibition, © Arne Lewin Nagel

Publications



↑ : Savoir & Faire LA PIERRE, Fondation Hermès  
 ↓ : AV Proyectos / LXV Magazine  
 ◊ : Igloo Magazine / Arquitectura Viva



Juries & News Aga Khan, RIBA, IAA, Saint Gobain

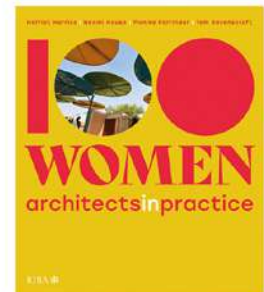


In 2024, Lina Ghotmeh was honored to receive the Great Arab Minds Award. This prestigious recognition symbolizes the highest form of appreciation, celebrating individuals whose work has played a significant role in shaping a better future for humanity. We wish to express our sincere gratitude and respect to His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum for his vision and recognition of global intellect and creativity.



His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, and Ruler of Dubai, presented the GAM Award in the Architecture and Design category to Architect Lina Ghotmeh.

We are grateful for his support of today's architectural and creative world actors. Congratulations to the 2023 GAM winners: Dr. Hani Najm, Saudi Cardiac Surgeon (Medicine), Prof. Fadel Adib, Lebanese Engineer and Academic (Engineering and Technology), Dr. Mohamed El-Erian, Egyptian-American Economist (Economics), Prof. Niveen Khashab, Lebanese Scientist and Academic (Natural Sciences).



↑ : 100 Women: Architects in Practice Riba Publishing

Windows of Light An Archeology of Light published by Lars Müller



2024 has been a year of literary and creative milestones for Lina Ghotmeh—Architecture. Our book *Windows of Light* commissioned by Zumtobel Group and published by Lars Müller celebrated architecture through light and space.

The book engages in a dialogue between light, architecture, and society, reflecting the themes that are always at the core of her work as an architect.

Lina Ghotmeh also touches on the pressing issue of light pollution, exploring its impact on ecosystems and the inequality of access to artificial light, especially in regions where it remains a privilege, not a right. Her reflections bring us back

to her childhood in Beirut, reminding us of the complex relationship between light and culture. Lina Ghotmeh emphasizes that her approach is grounded in the methodology of examining history and questioning established ideas.



À Table ! Book of the Serpentine Pavilion 2023

*"One needs to listen to a place, study its resources. Building with biosourced materials means extending life into architecture."*

"À Table !" is Published on the occasion of the Serpentine Pavilion 2023, designed by Lina Ghotmeh.

This book expands on the ideas that are central to the our practice. It includes a series of images, sketches and drawings from the research wall in our studio, alongside a selection of Lina Ghotmeh's watercolours, and features texts and visual interventions from various contributors across the fields of architecture, art, photography, fiction and an extensive interview with Hans Ulrich Obrist. Tracing Ghotmeh's roots and heritage, Bernard Comment delves into the lived experiences of the architect in Beirut and how this inspires her practice. Beatriz Colomina writes

about the connection between architecture and living organisms. David Zilber shares a recipe for palm wine, and discusses the connection between his practice of fermentation and spaces. Artist Ali Cherri contributes a piece of speculative fiction about a museum in Beirut, which echoes Ghotmeh's approach to space-making. Serpentine's chairman, Michael R. Bloomberg also shares a recipe – in this case for a great building. The security team at the Pavilion, including Wayne Fuller, Keiron Dickinson, Gomma Ali Maged, Tunde Dobozi, and Desider Pereira, share their insights on the principles of good architecture.

