

AFRICA.CONT

URBAN AFRICA

DAVID ADJAYE'S PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY

25 MAY - 31 JULY 2011
MUSEU DA CIDADE | PAVILHÃO PRETO



PRESS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

RUI PEREIRA | PHONE (+351) 912 967 667 ruiperreira@terraesplendida.com

INÉS FREITAS | PHONE (+351) 914 418 503 ines.freitas@terraesplendida.com

AFRICA.CONT

PHONE (+351) 218 170 828 africa.cont@gmail.com

WWW.AFRICACONT.ORG

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DAVID ADJAYE'S PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY

52 CAPITAL CITIES

NEW PATTERNS OF URBANISM OF THE AFRICAN CONTINENT

One of the leading architects of his generation, David Adjaye has stepped out of his regular line of work to photograph and document key African cities as part of an ongoing project to study housing and the patterns of urbanism in Africa. This collection of photographs is a personal quest to address the scant knowledge of the built environment of the African continent.

David Adjaye has photographed the salient features of Africa's key cities including suburban settlements, unofficial developments and townscapes.

The exhibition is introduced by a graphic presentation of the project. Large-scale political and geographical maps of Africa show the continent under different aspects: the languages, flags, terrains, population density, borders and the capital cities visited by David Adjaye. The small-scale photographs are then presented on a long wall, grouped according to the typology, the city and landscape, providing a comprehensive vision of each city, where civic, commercial, religious and residential buildings are present. Around 2000 photographs reveal the cities themselves and examine the buildings and places which have a special resonance with Adjaye's preoccupations as an architect. The entire project and the work dynamics will be presented as a series of vivid large-scale projections that submerge the room and act as a bridge for the diversity between architecture, culture and townscape. All this will be set against a backdrop of African beats specially composed for the exhibition by David's brother, Peter Adjaye.

Through the eyes of an architect, through the eyes of an African

Often regarded as a continent only defined by underdevelopment, poverty, war and tourism, through this exhibition David Adjaye presents Africa in a different light. This detailed survey will reveal a unique snapshot of life in Africa today, documenting the nature of urban life in a developing country, a unique geo-cultural survey profiling the African city in a global context.

Adjaye has captured the urban development of cities including Kigali, the capital of Rwanda, showing traces of its colonial past, Tripoli in Libya, very much invaded by the energy of the present, the informal settlements on the edges of new cities like Aduja, Nigeria, and the traces of apartheid still inscribed on Pretoria, South Africa.

Of Ghanaian descent but born in Tanzania, **David Adjaye** moved to London in 1979. Graduating from the Royal College of Art in 1993, Adjaye trained with David Chipperfield Architects and Eduardo Souto de Moura in Oporto. Winning the RIBA First Prize Bronze Medal in 1993 Adjaye set up his own practice, Adjaye Associates in 2000 and was nominated for a Stirling Prize in 2006 for his Whitechapel Idea Store. With a rich body of built work he was recently attributed the prestigious task of leading the FAB team, Freelon Adjaye Bond/Smith Group, responsible for the project of the new National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington DC, which will open in 2015.

A touring exhibition from the Design Museum, London
Credits: **All photography by David Adjaye**

MUSEU DA CIDADE [FREE ADMISSION]

Pavilhão Preto

Campo Grande, nº 245

OPENING: Tuesday to Sunday | 10am – 01pm / 02pm – 06pm

CLOSED ON BANK HOLIDAYS

Phone (+351) 217 513 200

GUIDED TOURS [BOOKING]

Phone (+351) 218 170 534

DPC.DGA@CM-LISBOA.PT

MORE INFORMATION

WWW.AFRICACONT.ORG



DAVID ADJAYE Biography

David Adjaye is now recognised as one of the leading architects of his generation. Having developed a reputation as an architect with an artist's sensibility and vision, an ingenious use of materials, bespoke design and an ability to sculpt and showcase light Adjaye's work has engendered high regard from both the architectural community and the wider public.

He established his studio, Adjaye Associates, in June 2000 and has since gone on to win a number of prestigious commissions. Projects have been diverse in scale, audience and geography; collaborations with artists including Chris Ofili and Olafur Eliasson, exhibition design, temporary pavilions and private homes both in the UK and U.S. More recently, major art centres and important public buildings across London, Oslo and Denver have demonstrated David's considered approach to understanding the needs of the inhabitants of each space and a respect for the integration of the buildings within their natural environment. These are ideas, which are based on the premise of quality of life of society in the cities.

David Adjaye understands his status as a role model for young people and lectures frequently. He was the Kenzo Tange Professor in Architecture at Harvard's Graduate School of Design in 2007 and taught at Princeton University in 2008. Previously a unit tutor at the Architectural Association, David was also a lecturer at the Royal College of Art where he received his MA in architecture in 1993. That same year he was awarded the RIBA First Prize Bronze Medal. Following this, he trained at David Chipperfield Architects and then Eduardo Souto de Moura Architects in Oporto. His Idea Stores in Crisp Street and Whitechapel won several prizes and in 2005 David Adjaye received a RIBA Building Award.

Adjaye's latest project was SKOLKOVO, the Moscow School of Management; it was concluded in 2010 and has achieved great recognition. David Adjaye now leads the FAB team, Freelon Adjaye Bond/Smith Group, responsible for the project of the new National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington DC, which will open in 2015.

In May 2005, Thames & Hudson published David's first book, 'David Adjaye Houses: Recycling, Reconfiguring, Rebuilding', which was distributed worldwide. In January 2006, the Whitechapel Gallery in London hosted the studio's first exhibition 'David Adjaye: Making Public Buildings', which was accompanied by a book of the same name. The exhibition then toured to the Netherlands Architecture Institute, Maastricht, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, SCAD Savannah and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver.

David has co-presented two television series of Dreamspaces for the BBC, a six-part series on contemporary architecture, and hosted two BBC radio programmes; the first featured an interview with Oscar Niemeyer and the second with Charles Correa. In June 2005 he presented the TV programme 'Building Africa: Architecture of a Continent'. Following on from this he pursued a personal project to document each of Africa's capital cities, culminating in the 2010 exhibition 'Urban Africa – A photographic journey by David Adjaye' presented for the first time at the Design Museum, London. The book followed in late 2010.

In June 2007, David was awarded an OBE for services to architecture. He received an honorary doctorate of the arts from the University of East London in November 2007.

www.adjaye.com

AFRICA.CONT

AFRICA.CONT is a joint project by the Lisbon City Council and the Portuguese Government for a centre of contemporary African culture in Lisbon. The project was conceived as a platform that aims at the development of different cultural events in different artistic expressions (cinema, theatre, dance, music, visual arts and others) between Europe, African countries and their Diaspora.

Since its creation in 2008 AFRICA.CONT has promoted a number of initiatives centred on African cultures. It has sought to contribute to the reflection about major topical African issues and to consider the presentation and fruition of contents, which can lead to a better understanding of the African way of life in contemporaneity.

In three years AFRICA.CONT has already summed an important series of events with African artists and authors, including Manthia Diawara and Lydie Diakhaté, Awam Amkpa, Salah Hassan and now David Adjaye, also responsible for the architectural project of the future AFRICA.CONT facilities at the Pombal Palacete and Tercenas do Marquês. This project envisages a direct approach to the city's everyday experience, a hint and reference to the way culture is lived in Africa.

EVENTS [2009-2011]

■ **URBAN AFRICA – DAVID ADJAYE'S PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY** Exhibition, Museu da Cidade – Pavilhão Preto [24 May – 31 July 2011]

■ **CINEMA AFRICANO – NOVAS FORMAS ESTÉTICAS E POLÍTICAS** Authors of the book: Manthia Diawara and Lydie Diakhaté, released at FNAC Chiado [12 March 2011]

■ **KRONOS QUARTET AND VICTOR GAMA – RIO CUNENE** Music show, Centro Cultural de Belém – Grande Auditório [21 November 2010]

■ **AFRICA: SEE YOU SEE ME** Photography exhibition commissioned by Awam Amkpa, Museu da Cidade – Pavilhão Preto [1 October – 19 December 2010]

■ **ENCONTRO AFRICA.CONT – OBJECTIVOS E MODELOS DE PROGRAMAÇÃO**, Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian [4 - 5 December 2009]

■ **AFRICA.CONT NAS TERCENAS DO MARQUÊS**, Palacete Pombal, Music show and public presentation of the future AFRICA.CONT facilities, with Kora Jazz Trio, Mulatu Astatke & The Heliocentrics, Ferro Gaita and dj RyKardo [26 September 2009]

■ **DVD MAKING OF: GUESTS | AFRICAN SCREENS – NOVOS CINEMAS DE ÁFRICA** Production Gandapinta Web Tv | **guests** Awam Amkpa, Balufu Bakupa-Kanyinda, Cheick Fantamady Camara, Claire Andrade Watkins, Dorothee Wenner, Jean-Pierre Bekolo, John Akomfrah, Moussa Sene Absa, Salah Hassan, Zézé Gamboa, António Tomás, François Belorgey, Jahman Anikulapo, Luís Correia, Manuela Ribeiro Sanches and Peter Stepan

■ **AFRICAN SCREENS – NOVOS CINEMAS DE ÁFRICA** Cinema. Program commissioned by Manthia Diawara and Lydie Diakhaté, Cinema São Jorge, [27 March – 17 May 2009]