

Trailblazing architect of our time

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- a Zaha Hadid, a hugely important figure in the world of modern architecture, was the first woman to win the prestigious Pritzker Prize.
- b Born in Baghdad, Iraq, in 1950, Hadid came to London as a student in 1972. The city became her home, and where she established her design practice.
- c Having first graduated in mathematics from the University of Beirut, she moved to London to study architecture. Completing her degree in 1977, she worked in architectural practices in Rotterdam and London.
- d However, it wasn't until 1994 that her career really took off. She won a competition to design Cardiff Bay Opera House, but her design was considered too modern and daring for the town. It was never built.
- e Her first major achievement was the Centre for Contemporary Art in Cincinnati in 2003. She went on to design buildings all over the world, including an Opera House in Dubai and the Aquatics Centre for the 2012 Olympics in London.
- f Zaha Hadid designed many exciting and extraordinary buildings. However, in 2016, at the height of her fame, while working on the One Thousand Museum in Miami, USA, she died suddenly of a heart attack. She was 65. The Museum was finally completed in 2018. Sadly, another incomplete project was the Central Bank of Iraq, the *first* for her native country, commissioned by the Iraqi government in 2010. Zaha Hadid will be remembered as one of the most influential modern architects.

