

Serpentine Gallery

Teachers' Resources

Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2010 Designed by Jean Nouvel 10 July- 17 October 2010



Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2010
Designed by Jean Nouvel
© Ateliers Jean Nouvel
Photograph: Philippe Ruault

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Serpentine Gallery Architecture Programme

Each year, the Serpentine commissions an internationally renowned architect to create a pavilion for its lawn. The ongoing series, now entering its tenth year, is the world's first and most ambitious architectural programme of its kind and creates a distinctive, temporary landmark for London. The project also offers a rare opportunity for acclaimed architects to create an experimental structure in the UK.

Jean Nouvel – Architect and Pavilion

This year is the Serpentine Gallery's 40th Anniversary and the Gallery Pavilion is designed by world-renowned French architect Jean Nouvel and will be the architect's first completed building in the UK. Nouvel studied at the Ecole nationale supérieure des beaux-arts in Paris. From 1967 to 1970, he worked as an assistant and then as project manager to the acclaimed architects Claude Parent and Paul Virilio. Nouvel has headed his own architectural practice since 1970. In 1994 he established Ateliers Jean Nouvel, which is now one of the largest architectural practices in France with offices worldwide. Ateliers Jean Nouvel specialises in the fields of architecture, urban design, landscape design, industrial design and interior design. Nouvel's body of work is unparalleled in its innovation and range. His approach is characterised by a conceptual rigour, rather than by an overarching aesthetic.

These notes are designed to support your visit to the Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2010, designed by Jean Nouvel. They include including planning prior to your visit and suggestions for discussion and activities back at school when you return. They are aimed for key stage 3+4 but include activities that can relate to all key stages, enabling you to develop them to suit your needs and inspire discussion and practical work.

Past Projects



Jean Nouvel
Agbar Tower, Barcelona, 1999-2005
© Jean Nouvel
Photograph: Philippe Ruault



Jean Nouvel
40 Mercer Street, New York, 2001-07
© Jean Nouvel
Photograph: Philippe Ruault

Past Pavilions

Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2009

by Kazuyo Sejima & Ryue Nishizawa of SANAA

12 July – 18 October 2009



Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2009

Designed by Kazuyo Sejima + Ryue Nishizawa / SANAA

© 2009 Kazuyo Sejima + Ryue Nishizawa / SANAA

Photograph: Iwan Baan

The Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2009 was designed by Kazuyo Sejima and Ryue Nishizawa of leading Japanese architecture practice SANAA. It is sponsored by NetJets Europe. Describing their structure the architects say: 'The Pavilion is floating aluminium, drifting freely between the trees like smoke. The reflective canopy undulates across the site, expanding the park and sky. Its appearance changes according to the weather, allowing it to melt into the surroundings. It works as a field of activity with no walls, allowing uninterrupted view across the park and encouraging access from all sides. It is a sheltered extension of the park where people can read, relax and enjoy lovely summer days.'

Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2008
by Frank Gehry
20 July – 19 October 2008



Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2008
Designed by Frank Gehry
© 2008 Gehry Partners LLP
Photograph: Iwan Baan

The Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2008 was the first built project in England by legendary architect Frank Gehry. The spectacular structure – designed and engineered in collaboration with Arup – was anchored by four massive steel columns and was comprised of large timber planks and a complex network of overlapping glass planes that created a dramatic, multi-dimensional space. Gehry and his team took inspiration for this year's Pavilion from a fascinating variety of sources including the elaborate wooden catapults designed by Leonardo da Vinci as well as the striped walls of summer beach huts. Part-amphitheatre, part-promenade, these seemingly random elements make a transformative place for reflection and relaxation by day, and discussion and performance by night.

Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2007
by Olafur Eliasson and Kjetil Thorsen
24 August – 5 November 2007



Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2007
by Olafur Eliasson and Kjetil Thorsen
© Olafur Eliasson and Kjetil Thorsen
Photograph © 2007 Luke Hayes

The Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2007 was designed by the internationally acclaimed artist Olafur Eliasson and the award-winning Norwegian architect Kjetil Thorsen, of the architectural practice Snøhetta. This timber-clad structure resembles a spinning top and brings a dramatic vertical dimension to the traditional single-level pavilion. A wide spiralling ramp makes two complete turns, allowing visitors to ascend from the Gallery lawn to the highest point for views across Kensington Gardens as well as a bird's eye view of the chamber below.

Lilas:

An installation by Zaha Hadid Architects

12 July – 21 July 2007



Serpentine Gallery commission by Zaha Hadid Architects, 2007

© Zaha Hadid Architects

Photograph © Luke Hayes

Pritzker Prize-winning architect Zaha Hadid and Patrik Schumacher, Partner at Zaha Hadid Architect's designed a temporary installation on the occasion of the Gallery's world-renowned fundraiser The Summer Party, which took place on 11 July. It was sited on the lawn next to the Gallery where it remained for a period of one week.

The installation consisted of three identical fabric structures or parasols arrayed around a central point. Each parasol developed sculpturally from a small articulated base to a large cantilevered diamond shape. Taking inspiration from complex natural geometries such as flower petals and leaves the three parasols overlapped to create the installation's main conceptual feature: complex symmetry, interweaving all-the-while without touching, allowing air, light and sound to travel through narrow gaps in a state that is both open and likewise tending toward closure.

Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2006
by Rem Koolhaas and Cecil Balmond, with Arup



Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2006 © John Offenbach

The Serpentine Pavilion 2006 was co-designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Rem Koolhaas and innovative structural designer Cecil Balmond. The centrepiece of the design was a spectacular ovoid-shaped inflatable canopy that floated above the Gallery's lawn. Made from translucent material, the canopy was raised into the air or lowered to cover the amphitheatre below according to the weather. A frieze designed by Thomas Demand marked the first collaboration between an artist and the designers of the Pavilion.

Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2005
by Alvaro Siza and Eduardo Souto de Moura
with Cecil Balmond – Arup



Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2005
Designed by Alvaro Siza and Eduardo Souto de Moura
with Cecil Balmond – Arup
Photo © 2007 Richard Bryant/arcaid.co.uk

In designing the Pavilion, Siza sought to ‘guarantee that the new building – while presenting a totally different architecture – established a “dialogue” with the Neo-classical house’. The result was a structure that mirrored the domestic scale of the Serpentine and articulated the landscape between the two buildings. The Pavilion was based on a simple rectangular grid, which was distorted to create a dynamic curvaceous form. It comprised interlocking timber beams, a material that accentuated the relationship between the Pavilion and surrounding Park.

Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2003 by Oscar Niemeyer



Sponsored by Eurex
Integrated Design by Arup
Advisors: Stanhope

The Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2003 was both simple and innovative. Built in steel, aluminium, concrete and glass, its ruby-red ramp contrasted with the surprise of a partly submerged auditorium, affording views across the park. It also housed specially conceived wall drawings by Niemeyer. The Pavilion conformed to Niemeyer's principle that every project must be capable of summary in a simple 'sketch' and that once the support structure is finished the architecture should be more or less complete.

Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2002 by Toyo Ito with Arup

The Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2002 appeared to be an extremely complex random pattern that proved, upon careful examination, to derive from an algorithm of a cube that expanded as it rotated. The numerous triangles and trapezoids formed by this system of intersecting lines were clad to be either transparent or translucent, giving a sense of infinitely repeated motion.



Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2002
Designed by Toyo Ito with Arup
Photo © 2007 Deborah Bullen

Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2001
by Daniel Libeskind
with Arup



Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2001
Designed by Daniel Libeskind
with Arup
Photo © 2007 H  l  ne Binet

With references to an origami figure, Eighteen Turns was a different kind of temporary structure. Highlighting the beauty of the Gardens and their connection to the Gallery, Eighteen Turns was created from sheer metallic planes assembled in a dynamic sequence. Clad in aluminium panels creating brilliant reflections of light, the structure revealed an entirely new perspective of the greenery of the park and the brick building of the Gallery. Eighteen Turns was a special place of discovery, intimacy and gathering.

**Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2000
by Zaha Hadid**



Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2000
Designed by Zaha Hadid
Photo ©

Zaha Hadid's structure radically reinvented the accepted idea of a tent or a marquee. It took the form of a triangulated roof structure spanning an impressive internal space of 600sq metres by using a steel primary structure. A folding form of angular flat planes extending to the ground gave an illusion of solidity while at the same time creating a variety of internal spaces.

Jean Nouvel

Themes, ideas and questions to explore in the gallery and classroom are split into the three following sections

1. Observations and encounters

2. Form and colour

3. Design and Function

1. Observations and encounters

Discussions and activities

These questions can be used to consider the impact that architecture has on our environment and the ways in which it makes us feel.

- Ask your group to give you one-word responses to the Pavilion, encourage them not to repeat words. Create a list of the words and discuss them.
- How would you describe the Pavilion to someone who has never seen it? As a group can you reduce it to only five words?
- This Pavilion is designed to contrast and compliment the natural landscape. Collect images of architecture, look at bold buildings that stand out and compare them to ones that are camouflaged with their surroundings.
- Look at how people are responding to the Pavilion. Imagine you could change one aspect of the space, such as colour, material, furniture and games. How people would interact differently if you made these changes?
- Think about the location of the pavilion, are people more likely to relax and play because it is in the park? Discuss how people would engage if it were in a different space, such as a shopping centre, on a busy street or by the sea.

Keywords

Observe – experience – describe – outside – inside landscape – space – feature – design – location – movement – form – purpose- colour – materials – movement –performance – audience – interrupt – interact – participate - adapt –environment- public- private

Cross-curricular links

Art and Design – English Literature and Language – Creative and Media Diploma – Design Technology – Citizenship

2. Form and colour



Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2010
Designed by Jean Nouvel
© Ateliers Jean Nouvel
Photograph: John Offenbach

The design for the 2010 Pavilion is a contrast of lightweight materials and dramatic metal cantilevered structures. The entire design is rendered in a vivid red that, in a play of opposites, contrasts with the green of its park setting. In London, the colour reflects the iconic British images of traditional telephone boxes, post boxes and London buses.

The building consists of bold geometric forms, large retractable awnings and a sloped freestanding wall that stands 12m above the lawn. Striking glass, polycarbonate and fabric structures create a versatile system of interior and exterior spaces, while the flexible auditorium will accommodate the Serpentine Gallery Park Nights and Marathon and the changing summer weather.

Discussions and activities

- Brainstorm the colour red in different contexts, such as architecture, art, design and fashion. Create a spider diagram as a group, attach words, images and photos, are there links and associations between the uses of red?
- Do this for other colours and explore how specific colours trigger different emotions and associations

- What do you think inspired Jean Nouvel? Create mood boards and present your ideas to a panel of judges, you can either pretend to be Nouvel or you can create your own new building proposal.
- Look at the red of the building for 30 seconds and then look at the greens of the surrounding trees. Are they brighter or duller than they originally were? Why do you think this is? Stare at a piece of red card for 60 seconds and then quickly look at a blank piece of white paper. You should see a green shadow cast on the blank page. What shadow would you see if you look at a piece of yellow card?
- Using Goethe's colour wheel look at other sets of complementary colours such as blue and orange, purple and yellow and design your own imaginary buildings in contrasting spaces. Perhaps an orange castle in the blue sky or and purple palace on the yellow sun.

Keywords

red- green- natural - manmade - complementary colour - opposites - landscape - harmony - blend - visual - experience

Cross-curricular links

Art and Design – Creative and Media Diploma – ICT – Design Technology – Science- History of art- Philosophy and Religion - Drama



Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2010
 Designed by Jean Nouvel
 © Ateliers Jean Nouvel
 Photograph: Philippe Ruault

3. Design and Function

Discussions and activities

- Explore the tensions between the natural and the artificial, the organic and the manmade and how they affect everyday life.
- Many schools are being improved and rebuilt. In your view what makes an exciting and practical place to learn? Create a new design for your school.
- Do you think the games add extra interest to the Pavilion? Look at work by artists such as Carsten Höller and Rirkrit Tiravanija that encourages audience participation. Design interactive artworks in the classroom and see how people react, do they join in or not?
- Create your own games. You can use existing games as a starting point and alter them or even subvert them. For example going up snakes and falling down ladders. Or swapping paper scissors stone for 3 other things, such as war peace love, what beats what and why? Is it possible to invent a game with no rules?
- Compare how different sorts of games are adapted to fit different environments. For example active games and sports are played outside while table-top games are played inside. Table tennis originates from a dinner party game, where guests would use the crockery and wine corks to score points across the dining table.

Keywords

Architecture – Urban– function – habitat – regeneration – sustainability – landscape – journeys – place – viewpoints – purpose – location – accessibility – local – international – space – interior- exterior- outdoors- parks- games- domestic- play- experimentation

Cross-curricular links

Art and Design – English Language – Creative and Media Diploma – ICT – Design Technology – Citizenship – Mathematics – Geography- History of art

Thank you to by Laetitia Weinstock for her input on the Teachers' notes during her week of work experience with the gallery

Planning a Visit to the Serpentine Gallery

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Transport

The nearest tube stations are South Kensington (1.25 km walk), Knightsbridge (1.25 km walk) or Lancaster Gate (1 km walk)
Bus routes 9, 10, 52, 452, 94 and 148 stop near the Gallery

Group Visit Guidelines

To make your visit as enjoyable as possible, please read the following:

Before your Visit:

- Adult supervision of students under 16 is required at all times, including in the shop. An adult student ratio of 1:5 for under 5's, 1:10 for 5 - 11 year olds, 1:15 for 11 - 16 year olds and 1:20 for 16 - 18 year olds is required.
- We recommend a preliminary planning visit, as for some exhibitions there may be works that you consider unsuitable for your group.

During your Visit:

- Teachers/group leaders and accompanying adults are responsible for their group's behaviour whilst at the Serpentine Gallery.
- Please make sure your group is aware of the following Gallery guidelines:
 - No running
 - No touching
 - No leaning against walls or plinths
 - No shouting
 - No photography
- Many contemporary artworks are fragile and damage easily. Please make sure that your group understands that this is why they are not allowed to touch the art.
- Lecturing: If your group is larger than 30 please split them into smaller groups in the exhibition space and do not lecture in rooms where talks are already in progress.
- Drawing: If you would like to do some drawing please check with the gallery what materials you will be able to use in the exhibition

Education and Family Events

Education is at the core of the Serpentine Gallery's activities. Through practical, artist led workshops and discussion, talks, events and projects the Education Programme offers a diverse range of innovative ways to engage with modern and contemporary art and architecture for all ages.

Please refer to the Serpentine Gallery Bulletin or www.serpentinegallery.org for information on events and activities taking place as part of the Education Programme during the *Richard Prince: Continuation* exhibition.



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Further Resources and links:

Architecture Centre Network www.architecturecentre.net

Fundamental Architecture Inclusion www.fundamental.uk.net

The Architecture Crew www.architecturecrew.org

Open House www.openhouse.org.uk

ARC www.arc-online.co.uk

The Architecture Centre www.architecturecentre.co.uk

The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York



























www.guggenheim.org/new_york_index.shtml

Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao www.guggenheim-bilbao.es

Our entire Teachers' Notes are also available to download free at www.serpentinegallery.org:

Wolfgang Tillmans 26 June—19 September 2010
Nairy Baghramian and Phyllida Barlow 8 May- 13 June
Richard Hamilton: Modern Moral Matters 3 March 2010 – 25 April 2010
Design Real 26 November 2009 – 7 February 2010
Gustav Metzger: Decades 1959 – 2009, 29 September – 8 November 2009
Jeff Koons: Popeye Series, 2 July – 13 September 2009
Luke Fowler, 7 May – 14 June 2009
Rebecca Warren, 10 March – 19 April 2009
Indian Highway, 10 December 2008 – 22 February 2009
Gerhard Richter, 23 September – 23 November 2008
Richard Prince: Continuation, 26 June – 7 September 2008
Maria Lassnig, 25 April – 8 June 2008
Derek Jarman: Brutal Beauty, 23 February – 13 April 2008
Anthony McCall, 30 November 2007 – 3 February 2008
Matthew Barney, 20 September – 11 November 2007
Hreinn Fridfinnsson, 17 July – 2 September 2007
Paul Chan: The 7 Lights, 15 May – 1 July 2007
Allora & Calzadilla, 17 – 29 April 2007
Karen Kilimnik, 20 February 9 April 2007
In the darkest hour there may be light, works from Damien Hirst's murderme collection, 25 November 2006 – 28 January 2007
Runa Islam, 25 October – 5 November 2006
China Power Station: Part 1, 8 October – 5 November 2006
Uncertain States of America, 9 September – 15 October 2006
Thomas Demand, 6 June – 20 August 2006
Ellsworth Kelly, 18 March – 21 May 2006
Elmgreen & Dragset, 26 January – 26 February 2006
Ilya and Emilia Kabakov, 19 October 2005 – 8 January 2006
Oliver Payne & Nick Relph, 6 September – 2 October 2005
Rirkrit Tiravanija, 5 July – 21 August 2005
Andreas Slominski, 26 April – 12 June 2005
Tomoko Takahashi, 22 February – 10 April 2005
Monika Sosnowska, 5 December 2004 – 16 January 2005
Glenn Brown, 14 September – 7 November 2004
Gabriel Orozco, 1 July - 30 August 2004
Cy Twombly, 17 April – 13 June 2004
State of Play, 3 February – 28 March 2004
Hiroshi Sugimoto, 18 November 2003 – 18 January 2004
John Currin, 9 September – 2 November 2003
Cindy Sherman, 3 June – 25 August 2003
Takahashi Murakami, 12 November 2002 – 26 January 2003
Kutlug Ataman, 11 February – 9 March 2003

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