

# Serpentine Gallery

## Teachers' Resources

### Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2011 Hortus Conclusus Designed by Peter Zumthor 1 July- 16 October 2011



Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2011  
Designed by Peter Zumthor  
© Peter Zumthor  
Photograph: Walter Herfst

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## **Serpentine Gallery Architecture Programme**

Since 2000 the Serpentine has commissioned an internationally renowned architect to create a pavilion for its lawn. The ongoing series is the world's only 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.

### **Peter Zumthor, Piet Oudolf – Pavilion design and garden**

The Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2011 is designed by world-renowned Swiss architect Peter Zumthor. This year's Pavilion is the 11th commission in the Gallery's annual series. It is the architect's first completed building in the UK and includes a specially created garden by the influential Dutch designer Piet Oudolf.

At the heart of Peter Zumthor's Pavilion is a garden that the architect hopes will inspire visitors to become observers. Zumthor says his design 'aims to help its audience take the time to relax, to observe and then, perhaps, start to talk again - maybe not.' The building acts as a stage, a backdrop for the interior garden of flowers and light. Through blackness and shadow one enters the building from the lawn and begins the transition into the central garden, a place abstracted from the world of noise and traffic and the smells of London – an interior space within which to sit, to walk, to observe the flowers.

These notes are designed to compliment your visit to the Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2011: *Hortus Conclusus*, designed by Peter Zumthor. They include planning prior to your visit and suggestions for discussion and classroom activities. They are principally aimed at key stages 2-4, however they also include activities that can be related to all ages, enabling you to develop them to suit your needs and inspire discussion and practical work.

### **Themes, ideas and questions to explore**

Themes, ideas and questions to explore in the Serpentine Pavilion 2011, *Hortus Conclusus* exhibition designed by Peter Zumthor, include discussions and activities both in the gallery and classroom.

- 1. Observation and contemplation**
- 2. Materials, colours and form**
- 3. Plants and imaginary botany**

#### **1. Observation and contemplation**

### **Discussions and activities**

- 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 describe it to only five words?

- The components of the Pavilion have been carefully chosen. Look for different materials, colours and shapes in the pavilion, and describe what kind of feelings they evoke.
- Discuss where you would put the Pavilion, and imagine how people would engage with it in a different location.

**Keywords:**

**observe – experience – interrupt – interact – participate – adapt – relax – talk – describe – physical – body – emotional – outside – inside landscape – space – feature – design – location – purpose – audience – environment – public – private**



Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 201  
 Designed by Peter Zumthor  
 © Peter Zumthor  
 Photograph: Walter Herfst

## **2. Materials, colours and form**

### **Discussions and activities**

- Discuss the connotations of the materials and colours.
- Before entering the building, ask your group what they think there is inside.
- What do you think about what has inspired Peter Zumthor. Create mood boards and present your ideas for a Pavilion to a panel of judges.
- Look up the sky from the inside the Pavilion. What colours and shapes can you see?

**Keywords**

**black – green – natural – manmade – dark – bright – heavy – light – opposites – landscape – harmony – surface – materials visual – contrast – shelter – crop – space – blue- metal-hessian- gravel**

### 3. Plants and imaginary botany



Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2011  
Designed by Peter Zumthor  
© Peter Zumthor  
Photograph: Walter Herfst

#### Discussions and activities

- Look, listen, feel and smell the Pavilion.
- List the colours and the shapes of the plants. Design your own garden.
- What are gardens used for?
- Many of the plants have interesting names. Can you guess what they will look like from their names and descriptions?

Acontium wilsonii 'Barkers'  
Digitalis ferruginea 'Gigantea'  
Iris sibirica 'Perry's Blue'  
Liriope muscari 'Big Blue'  
Rodgersia pinnata 'Superba'  
Selinum wallichianum  
Tricyrtis formosana  
Hyssop Skullcap  
Milk Parsley  
Toad Lilly  
Tufted Hair Grass

#### Keywords:

**nature – botany – gardening – smell – scent – senses – imagination – organism – movements – structure – proportion – human – animals – mythology – heaven**

#### Cross-curricular links:

**Art and Design - Creative and Media Diploma - Design Technology – Architecture – Science – Biology – Botany – Social – History – Anthropology – Geography - English Literature and Language - Philosophy**

## Further Resources and links:

### Books:

Sensations, A Time travel through garden history, Birkhauser, Nadine Olonetzky, 2007  
Natural Garden Style Gardening by Nature, Noel Kingsbury, Merrell, 2009  
Seeing Zumthor, Scheidegge, 2009  
Peter Zumthor, Thinking Architecture, Birkhauser, 2010  
Peter Zumthor, Atmospheres, Birkhauser, 2006  
Das Haus, GTA Darch, 2010  
Zumthor – Spirit of Nature wood architecture Award, Wood in culture association, 2006  
Piet Oudolf, Landscapes in landscapes, Thames and Hudson, 2010  
Dream Carpets for the natural garden, Henk Gerritsen and Piet Oudolf, 2000  
Peter Zumthor Therme Vals, by Peter Zumthor, Sigrid Hauser, Helene Binet,  
Peter Zumthor: Atmospheres: Architectural Environments – Surrounding objects, Birkhauser Architecture, 2006

### Internet:

Peter Zumthor Projects [www.archicentral.com/tag/peter-zumthor/](http://www.archicentral.com/tag/peter-zumthor/)  
Kunsthau Bregenz (English) [www.kunsthau-bregenz.at/ehtml/ewelcome00.htm](http://www.kunsthau-bregenz.at/ehtml/ewelcome00.htm)  
Architecture Centre Network [www.architecturecentre.net](http://www.architecturecentre.net)  
Fundamental Architecture Inclusion [www.fundamental.uk.net](http://www.fundamental.uk.net)  
The Architecture Crew [www.architecturecrew.org](http://www.architecturecrew.org)  
ARC [www.arc-online.co.uk](http://www.arc-online.co.uk)



Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2011  
Designed by Peter Zumthor  
© Peter Zumthor  
Photograph: Walter Herfst

## Peter Zumthor Past Projects



Peter Zumthor  
*Therme Vals*  
Switzerland, 1996  
© Hélène Binet



Peter Zumthor  
Bruder Klaus Field Chapel, Wachendorf, Germany 2007  
© Hélène Binet

## Piet Oudolf Past Projects



Piet Oudolf  
Gräflicher Park, Bad Driburg Germany 2008  
© Piet Oudolf

## Past Pavilions

### **Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2010** by Jean Nouvel 10 July – 17 October 2010



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

The Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2010, the 10th in the Gallery's annual architecture series, was designed by Jean Nouvel. The design 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.

### **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. The reflective canopy undulates across the site. 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.

### **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 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.

### **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.

***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.

**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. 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. It comprised interlocking timber beams, a material that accentuated the relationship between the Pavilion and surrounding Park.

**Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2003**  
by Oscar Niemeyer



Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2003  
Designed 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. 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



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

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 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.

## **Planning a Visit to the Serpentine Gallery**

### **Contact Details**

Joceline Howe  
Education Curator  
Serpentine Gallery  
Kensington Gardens  
London W2 3XA  
Tel 020 7298 1516  
Email [jocelineh@serpentinegallery.org](mailto:jocelineh@serpentinegallery.org)

General Enquiries  
Tel 020 7402 6075  
Fax 0207402 4103  
[www.serpentinegallery.org](http://www.serpentinegallery.org)

## **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](http://www.serpentinegallery.org) for information on events and activities taking place as part of the Education Programme during the Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2011, *Hortus Conclusus*, designed by Peter Zumthor.

Our entire Teachers' Notes are also available to download free at [www.serpentinegallery.org](http://www.serpentinegallery.org):

Mark Lecky, 19 May-26 June 2011  
Nancy Spero, 3 March-2 May 2011  
Marcus Coates, 3 March-2 May 2011  
Philippe Parreno, 25 November 2010-13 February 2011  
Klara Lidén, 7 October-7 November 2010  
Anish Kapoor, 28 September-13 March 2011  
Jean Nouvel Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2010, 10 July-17 October 2010  
Wolfgang Tillmans 26 June-19 September 2010  
Nairy Baghramian and Phyllida Barlow, 8 May-13 June 2010  
Richard Hamilton: Modern Moral Matters, 3 March-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, 26 June-7 September 2008  
Maria Lassnig, 25 April-8 June 2008  
Derek Jarman, 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, 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

# Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2011 Designed by Peter Zumthor

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