Serpentine Pavilions 2000 – 2015

Each summer the Serpentine invites an internationally renowned architect to create their first built structure in England. The immediacy of the process – a maximum of six months from invitation to completion – provides a unique model for commissioning architecture. The selection of the architects, chosen for consistently extending the boundaries of architecture practice, is led by the Serpentine's core curatorial thinking, introducing contemporary artists and architects to a wider audience. The brief is to design a 300 square metre Pavilion that is used as a café by day and a forum for learning, debate and entertainment at night. There is no budget for the project: it is realised through sponsorship, in-kind support and the sale of the Pavilion.







Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2015 Designed by selgascano

Award-winning Spanish architects selgascano designed an amorphous, polygonal structure consisting of panels of a translucent, multicoloured polymer (ETFE) woven through and wrapped like webbing. Visitors could enter and exit at a number of different points, or pass through a 'secret corridor' between the outer and inner layer of the structure and into a brilliant, stained glass-effect interior.

Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2014 Designed by Smiljan Radić

Chilean architect Smiljan Radić designed the fourteenth Serpentine Pavilion, a semitranslucent, cylindrical structure that resembled a shell. It was inspired by the follies that were popular between the late sixteenth and early nineteenth century.

Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2013 Designed by Sou Fujimoto

Sou Fujimoto's white steel pole Pavilion in an intricate latticework pattern seemed to rise up out of the ground like a shimmering matrix. The Pavilion was intended as a free-flowing social space that Fujimoto described as "a transparent terrain". Visitors called it 'The Cloud'.



Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2012 Designed by Herzog & de Meuron and Ai Weiwei

The 12th Pavilion took visitors beneath the lawn to explore the hidden history of its previous Pavilions. Eleven columns characterising each past Pavilion and a twelfth column representing the current structure supported a floating platform roof.



Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2011 Designed by Peter Zumthor

At the heart of Peter Zumthor's Pavilion was a garden he hoped would inspire visitors to become observers. Zumthor said his design aimed, "to help its audience take the time to relax, to observe and then, perhaps, start to talk again."



Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2010 Designed by Jean Nouvel

Jean Nouvel's Pavilion design was a vivid redreminiscent of a London double decker bus that contrasted with the green of the park. It was made from bold geometric forms, large retractable awnings and a sloped freestanding wall.



Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2009 Designed by Kazuyo Sejima and Ryue Nishizawa of SANAA

Kazuyo Sejima and Ryue Nishizawa's stunning Pavilion saw a reflective metal roof sitting atop a series of delicate columns. They said of it, "The Pavilion is floating aluminium, drifting freely between the trees like smoke."



Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2008 Designed by Frank Gehry

Frank Gehry took inspiration from Leonardo de Vinci for his Pavilion. The structure was composed of large timber planks and a complex network of overlapping glass planes that created a dramatic, multidimensional space designed for performances.



Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2007 Designed by Olafur Eliasson and Kjetil Thorsen

Serpentine Gallery's 2007 Pavilion resembled a spinning top. A wide spiralling ramp made two complete turns, rising from the gallery's lawn to the seating area and continued upwards, to reach the highest point in a view across Kensington Gardens.



Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2006 Rem Koolhaas with Cecil Balmond – Arup

The centrepiece of Rem Koolhaas and Cecil Balmond's design was a spectacular oval-shaped inflatable canopy. Made from translucent material, it was illuminated at night. The canopy was raised into the air or lowered to cover the amphitheatre below according to the weather.



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

The 2005 Pavilion architects sought to establish a dialogue with the Serpentine building. The result was a structure that mirrored the domestic scale of the gallery and reflected the landscape between the two buildings.



Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2003 Designed by Oscar Niemeyer

Built in steel, aluminium, concrete and glass, Oscar Niemeyer's Pavilion's ruby-red ramp contrasted with the surprise of a partly submerged auditorium. The clean silhouette conformed to Niemeyer's principle that every project must be capable of summary in a simple 'sketch'.



Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2002 Designed by Toyo Ito with Arup

Toyo Ito and Cecil Balmond's Pavilion was based on an algorithm designed by Balmond. "Although fun to look at, this structure was rooted in complex geometry...the Pavilion had no façade and no hidden structural frame behind it... what you saw was 100% pure structure, its holistic beauty like that of a crystal or a snowflake," he said.



Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2001 Designed by Daniel Libeskind with Arup

Daniel Libeskind's striking design for the Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2001, entitled Eighteen Turns, was created from sheer metallic planes assembled in a dynamic sequence.



Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2000 Designed by Zaha Hadid

Zaha Hadid's design was the inaugural Pavilion in the Serpentine's series. The 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.