

For Immediate Release



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AUB Pays Tribute to Zaha Hadid

The American University of Beirut (AUB) along with friends and family members got together to pay tribute to Dame Zaha Hadid during the opening ceremony of an exhibition at AUB's Issam Fares Institute.

The exhibition is organized by the AUB University Libraries, in coordination with the Arab Center for Architecture and will remain on display till May 13, showcasing books published by and about the Architect, maps of the IFI building and photos of its inauguration, family belongings, sketches and prototypes designed by Hadid, in addition to a projection of the ceremony of the Honorary Doctorate received at AUB in 2006.

Speaking at the event, AUB Interim Provost Dr. Muhamad Harajli applauded Zaha Hadid's achievements and genius and emphasized on her significant relationship with AUB, first as a student and then as a designer of an outstanding building contributing to AUB's role as a connector and catalyst for change and creativity.

AUB professor of Architecture and Design George Arbid, described Hadid as an "off- road architect who goes to places never visited before". He briefed the

audience about his encounter with her at AUB in 2003, where she fascinated him as a single minded free thinker, risk taker, challenging and creative architect who places art and creativity above all.

Leyla Sayed Hussein, an AUB student majoring in architecture, read a passage in which she describes the way she discovered Zaha Hadid through Jafet Library's collection, describing Hadid as "building the impossible".

Nelida Nassar, Hadid's friend, talked about her as a loyal and supportive friend, elaborating on Hadid's interest and activism in empowering women, especially in the Arab world, whereas Rana Hadid, Zaha's niece spoke about Zaha the persona and the charisma.

Mariette Atallah, Head of Collection Development at AUB Libraries and curator of the Exhibit thanked all AUB units which contributed in organizing the event. She detailed the exhibit's categories that reflected on the creativity of Hadid through her many endeavors.

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For more information please contact:

Simon Kachar
Director of News and Media Relations
Mobile: 03427024 Office: 01374374 Ext: 2676
Email: sk158@aub.edu.lb
Note to Editors

About AUB

Founded in 1866, the American University of Beirut bases its educational philosophy, standards, and practices on the American liberal arts model of higher education. A teaching-centered research university, AUB has more than 700 full-time faculty members and a student body of about 8,500 students. AUB currently offers more than 130 programs leading to bachelor's, master's, MD, and PhD degrees. It provides medical education and training to students from throughout the region at its Medical Center that includes a full-service 420-bed hospital.

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