



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO TO OPEN FIRST COMPREHENSIVE MUSEUM SURVEY OF
DAVID ADJAYE, INTERNATIONAL INNOVATOR IN ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN**

***Making Place: The Architecture of David Adjaye Offers a Dynamic Installation to Explore
His Work's Distinct Approach, Influential Visual Language, and Global Significance***

CHICAGO—The Art Institute announces the installation of a thought provoking mid-career survey of work by critically acclaimed architect **David Adjaye**, opening **September 19, 2015**, and running until **January 3, 2016**, in the only North American venue for this globally focused exhibition.

Making Place: The Architecture of David

Adjaye explores the architect's transformation of complex ideas into approachable and innovative structures that respond to local and global systems of culture, economics, and technology. Born in Tanzania in 1966, and raised in Ghana, the Middle East, and England, Adjaye works from offices in London, New York, Berlin, and Accra. With projects worldwide, his practice defies cultural categories and geopolitical borders.



Exhibition co-curator, and Art Institute John H. Bryan Chair and Curator of Architecture and Design Zoë Ryan gives context to the exhibition's vision: "This isn't about sealing David's career with a retrospective exhibition, but rather highlighting a critical moment to consider the possibilities of where David's practice is headed. My hope is that the exhibition will promote a much richer understanding of an architect committed to

creating projects of social and cultural significance and meaning."

Rather than advance a signature architectural style, Adjaye's structures address local concerns and conditions through an understanding of historical context and a flexible application of global modernism. Often set in cities struggling with diversity and difference, his public buildings provide spaces to foster connections and explore how neighborhoods evolve and how new communities emerge. Adjaye challenges conventions—drawing references from beyond the Western canon—to better contextualize his projects and reflect the diverse urban identities and multicultural experiences that shape them. These ideas are expressed in important recent projects, such as the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) in Washington, DC, a building that faces a complex history head on, bringing together references from across Africa and America in a visually and physically evocative design.



With the generous corporate sponsorship of Allstate Insurance Company, the exhibition—comprising furniture, housing, public buildings, and master plans—fills the first-floor Abbott Galleries and the second-floor Architecture and Design galleries in the Art Institute's Modern Wing with drawings, sketches, models, and building mock-ups. A specially commissioned film featuring Adjaye's collaborators, an international

roster of influential art world figures, brings his projects alive and makes clear the important role that Adjaye plays in contemporary architecture today. In a special collaboration with the Art Institute, David Adjaye will also provide personal commentary on select works of African Art from the permanent collection, shared with visitors through new object labels that reflect his interests and inspirations.

Making Place: The Architecture of David Adjaye is accompanied by a richly illustrated catalogue with in-depth essays by David Adjaye, Zoë Ryan, Okwui Enwezor, Peter Allison, Andrea Phillips, and Mabel O. Wilson. Titled *David Adjaye: Form, Heft, Material*, and underwritten through the generosity of Nancy Carrington Crown and A. Steven Crown, the catalog is published by the Art Institute and Haus der Kunst and distributed worldwide by Yale University Press.

RELATED EVENTS

Opening Celebration for *Making Place: The Architecture of David Adjaye*

September 18, 2015

6:00PM–10:00PM

Modern Wing and Terzo Piano

Tickets required, and available for purchase on the Art Institute's website:

<http://www.artic.edu/event/opening-celebration-david-adjaye-0>

Douglas Druick, President and Eloise W. Martin Director, with David Adjaye, will host a celebration of the opening of *Making Place: The Architecture of David Adjaye* at this exclusive event featuring performances from globally renowned DJ Kiss to benefit the Leadership Advisory Committee.

Allstate Insurance Company is a supporting Corporate Sponsor.

Opening Reception and Lecture: David Adjaye in Conversation with Zoë Ryan, John H. Bryan Chair and Curator of Architecture and Design

September 16, 2015

6:00PM–9:00PM

Fullerton Hall

Reservations Required

Presented by the Architecture & Design Society.

Panel Discussion: *The Art of Architecture: David Adjaye's Collaborations with Artists*

September 19, 2015

3:00PM–4:30PM

Fullerton Hall

Reservations Required

Hear from Studio Museum director Thelma Golden, artists Lorna Simpson and Theaster Gates, and architect David Adjaye, on the collaborations and commissions for homes and studio that are so vital to Adjaye's practice. Exhibition curators Zoë Ryan, John H. Bryan Chair and Curator of Architecture and Design, and Okwui Enwezor, Director of Haus der Kunst, Munich, moderate.

Presented by the Department of Museum Education, and the Architecture & Design Society.

Materials Inside and Out

Opens September 26, 2015

Ryan Education Center

Materials Inside and Out invites museum visitors of all ages to discover how architects use building materials, like wood, fabric, ceramic tiles, laminates, paint, stone, and plastics to create form and atmosphere. In the Ryan Education Center Experimental Gallery, visitors can handle material samples, make sketches, and arrange them to create a "mood board," just as professional architects like David Adjaye and members of his team do in their studio.

Family Festival: Making Place

September 26, 2015

Drop in: 10:30AM–3:00PM

Explore and play on a special day with a focus on architecture, design thinking, and place-making. Visit the exhibition *Making Place: The Architecture of David Adjaye* on your own and enjoy a variety of art activities in the Ryan Education Center, including the Little Studio for ages 3-5, and collaborative art-making projects for all ages. Hear the performance duo "In the Spirit" tell stories of growth and change in communities over time.

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RELATED EVENTS

The Gathering - Call and Response: Activating Public Space

October 1, 2015

6:00PM

Griffin Court

The Gathering is a new series that invites Chicago's civic and cultural leaders to a public conversation about art and its connection to our city. Using the lens of David Adjaye's architectural ideas featured in *Making Place: The Architecture of David Adjaye*, the first program explores how public spaces can engage 21st-century citizens.

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Tween Workshop: Design Time

October 3, 2015

11:00AM–2:00PM

Registration Required

Work with a teaching artist as you explore the exhibition *Making Place: The Architecture of David Adjaye* with other tweens, share your ideas on architecture and design, and design a place to address the concerns of the whole community.

What's at Stake?: Designing Global Cities

November 6, 2015

6:00PM–8:00PM

Fullerton Hall

An international group of architects, urban theorists, and planners discuss the possibilities and challenges of designing adaptive, responsive buildings and structures that contribute to the well-being of citizens in 21st century cities. Featuring **David Adjaye**, Columbia University scholar **Mabel O. Wilson**, president of Chicago's Metropolitan Planning Council, **MarySue Barrett**, Superpool architect **Selva Gürdoğan**, and other influential figures in architecture and design. *Presented by the Department of Museum Education, and the Architecture & Design Society.*

Family Workshop: Material Matters

November 7, 2015

11:00AM–12:30PM or 2:00PM–3:30PM

Ages 6–12

Registration Required

Explore the exhibition *Making Place: The Architecture of David Adjaye* and consider the forms and materials used to create architecture and the built environment. Then, design a mixed-media model of a special place you would like to create for your neighborhood.

Teen Workshop: David Adjaye

November 14, 2015

11:00AM–4:00PM

Registration Required

In Teen Workshops, 15–18 teen participants from around Chicagoland spend the day at the Art Institute getting to know other teens, exploring *Making Place: The Architecture of David Adjaye*, and working with a teaching artist in the studio to create their own works of art.

Images:

David Adjaye. ©Ed Reeve, courtesy of Adjaye Associates.

David Adjaye. *Francis A. Gregory Neighborhood Library*, Washington, DC, 2012. ©Jeff Sauers, courtesy of Adjaye Associates.

Adjaye Associates. *Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture*, Washington, DC, current. Courtesy of Adjaye Associates.

David Adjaye. *Moscow School of Management*, Skolkovo, Russia, 2010. ©Ed Reeve, courtesy of Adjaye Associates.

Sponsors:

Making Place: The Architecture of David Adjaye is organized by Haus der Kunst, Munich, and the Art Institute of Chicago.

Major funding has been generously provided by Nancy Carrington Crown and A. Steven Crown and Barbara Bluhm-Kaul and Don Kaul.

The Auxiliary Board of the Art Institute of Chicago is the Lead Affiliate Sponsor.

Allstate Insurance Company is a supporting Corporate Sponsor.



The exhibition catalogue, *David Adjaye: Form, Heft, Material*, has been underwritten by Nancy Carrington Crown and A. Steven Crown.

Additional support for the exhibition has been provided by the Fellows and Benefactors of the Architecture and Design Department, the Architecture & Design Society, the Leadership Advisory Committee, Cheryl and Eric McKissack, the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts, and Linda Johnson Rice.

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MUSEUM HOURS
Daily: 10:30–5:00
Thursdays until 8:00

Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's days
Children under 14 always free
Members always free

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