

Tosin Oshinowo

Professional
Resume



Tosin Oshinowo

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Masters in Business for Architecture and Design (**MBArch**)
IE University Madrid - 2021

AA Postgraduate Diploma (**AADipl**),
Architecture Association London - 2007

Masters of Science Urban Design in Development (**MSc**)
Development Planning Unit at The Bartlett
University College London - 2003

Bachelors in Architecture (**BSc**)
Kingston University London - 2001

Personal Profile

Tosin Oshinowo is a Lagos-based Nigerian architect and designer renowned for her expansive residential and commercial spaces and insights into socially-responsive approaches to urbanism. Much of her work - from conceptual projects to civic master plans - prioritises a vision of architecture and design that is bigger than creating objects and spaces, but extends to underscore a more equitable and expansive vision of our shared future. Deriving inspiration from Yoruba traditions and the international language of architecture and design, Oshinowo explores pathways for the future from a distinctly African perspective that prioritises equity, sustainability, and respect for nature and history while creating a new, more contemporary language of design.

As an architect, Oshinowo is best known as the founder and principal of Oshinowo Studio (formerly cmDesign Atelier), formed in 2013. Based in Lagos, the practice has undertaken a number of predominantly civic projects, including the design of the Maryland Mall, as well as a wide range of residential projects, including light-filled beach houses on the coast of the oceanside city. Her interest in architecture extends into a broader vision of urbanism and community; she recently completed a project with the United Nations Development Programme in Northeast Nigeria, building an entirely new community for a village displaced by Boko Haram.



Oshinowo's work also spans the conceptual sphere, with a strong interest in architectural history and socially responsive approaches to architecture, design and urbanism, underpinned by a passion for supporting African design and innovation. In 2020, she partnered with Lexus on conceptual design explorations for Design Miami, and she has written prolifically on urbanism, African modernism, design and identity in publications including Expansions, a publication for the 2021 Venice Architecture Biennale and an essay for the 2023 Venice Architecture Biennale catalogue. Her writing is also included in Omenka Online, and she also explored this topic in her TEDxPortHarcourt talk in November 2017. In 2019, she co-curated the second Lagos Biennial titled How to Build a Lagoon from a Bottle of Wine? And was the curator for the 2023 Sharjah Architecture Triennial titled The Beauty of Impermanence: An Architecture of Adpatability.

In Nigeria, She won the 3rd City People Real Estate Awards for Architect of the Year 2017 and the Lord's Achievers Awards for Creativity in celebration of World Achievers Day 2019. Globally, she was among five finalists for the 2023 Diversity in Architecture Divia Awards and was included in AD100 creatives list for the Middle East.

Professional Experience

2013 - present

Oshinowo Studio

Founder and Principal at Oshinowo Studio a collaborative boutique architectural studio, with architects and project managers. The studio's designs are characterized by a minimal, clean aesthetic and a sensitivity to materiality, as well as environmental and societal impact. Working across residential and civic architecture, the practice has carried out some notable landmark projects in Lagos and other parts of Nigeria.

Notable projects:

Rehousing settlement in Northern Nigeria UNDP

B&M Gates Foundation Office Abuja

Adidas Flagship Lagos

Maryland Mall

Iconic Home - virtual home for AD

2021 - 2024

Sharjah Architecture Triennial 2022

Curator for the second Sharjah Architecture Triennial, titled The Beauty of Impermanence; an Architecture of Adaptability, which looked at the under celebrated designs and innovations that occur in the Global South due to conditions of scarcity. The exhibition included works from 29 participants from 26 countries as well as the curation of the public programme and the conceptual publication, Field notes on Scarcity in support of the Triennial as well as the exhibition catalogue, which will be released in 2025.

2017 - present

Ilé Ilà

Founder of Ilé Ilà (translated "House of Lines" in Yoruba) in pursuit of the celebration of Yoruba culture. It is a made-to-order, direct-to-consumer luxury furniture brand designed and hand-made in Lagos, Nigeria, unifying an elegant contemporary structural profile with upholstery that is reflective of the rich history and nuance of textile design in Africa.

2020

Lexus International for Design Miami

Commissioned by Lexus International and in response to the COVID-19 global pandemic, Oshinowo designed a series of conceptual masks inspired by Africa using cultural identity, technology and mindful of the continent's diverse, layered socio-economic contexts.

2018 - 2019

Lagos Biennial

One of three co-curators for the 2019 Lagos Biennial titled, 'How To Build a Lagoon with Just a Bottle of Wine?' brought together artworks and architectural projects by 44 individuals and collectives working in various mediums. The exhibition took the city of Lagos as its epicentre and point of departure for a broader investigation of how contemporary artists, designers, and other creatives are responding to the challenges of today.

2009 - 2012

James Cubitt Architecture

Design Architect working on various projects as a lead from design inception to supervision of construction works, while liaising between clients and contractors. Assisted in developing the company's media presence and setting up an archive system and electronic server for the firm.

Notable projects:

Nigeria LNG Head office Masterplan,
Port Harcourt

Nigeria LNG RA Masterplan Upgrade,
Bonny Island

2007-2008

Office of Metropolitan Architecture

Junior Architect working on projects from concept through to schematic design and detailed design on projects in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. The nature of the work was team based and involved taking responsibility for design and the team's organisation programme.

Notable projects:

Lagos Fourth Mainland Bridge, Lagos

Mercati Generali center, Rome

Al Faisaliah Towers, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia



Public Speaking

Architecture as Built Criticism Shanghai
Tongi University
Presentation
October 2023

Monocle Quality of Life Conference Munich
Panel Discussion
September 2023

Afropolitan Architecture Venice
London Metropolitan University
Panel Discussion
May 2023

The World Around Conference New York
Presentation
April 2023

Aga Khan Lecture Boston
GSD Harvard University
Presentation
April 2023

Conflux Conference Vitural
Keynote Presentation
December 2022

Practicing Freedom Workshop Lagos
Goethe Institu
Workshop
November 2022

Africa Institute London
Keynote discussion
November 2022

TEDx Portharcourt
Presentation
November 2018

Judging

AZ Awards
Architecture Jury 2024

Architizer
Architecture Jury 2024

Holcim Awards 2023
Africa Middle East

London Design Biennial 2023
Jury

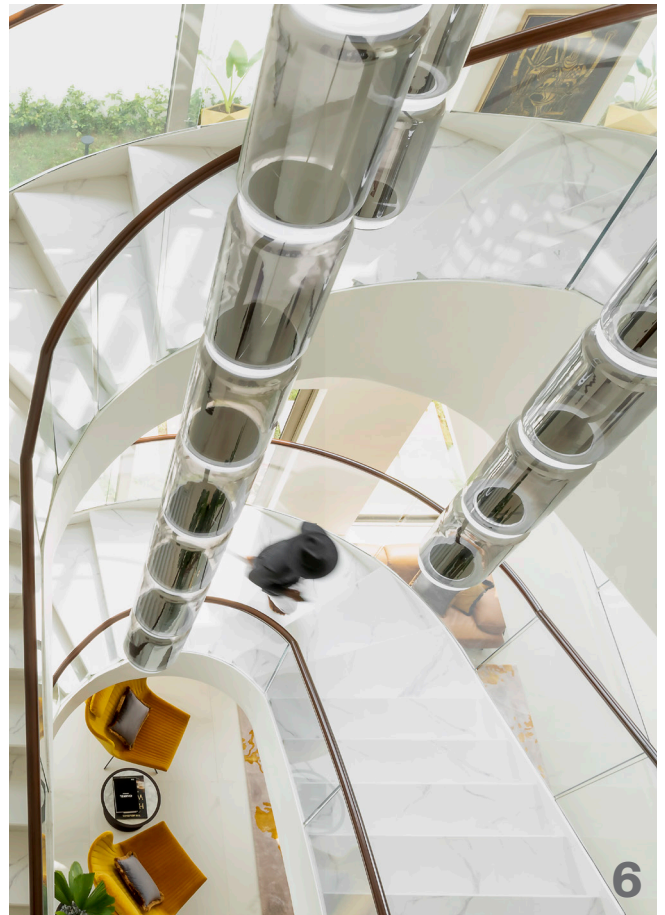
Identity Magazine UAE 2023
Architecture Jury

Young Architects Competition 2023
Home After Crisis
Jury

Dezeen Awards 2022
Architecture Jury

Mentorship

Swaroski Foundation 2021 - to date
Mentor



Selected Writing

Field Notes on Scarcity

A pathway Forward - essay

The Laboratory of the Future

Venice Biennial 2023 Exhibition catalogue

Conditions of Scarcity - essay

Havard Design Magazine F/W 23

Do you see this emerging model changing the space of curatorial practice in design and is so how ? - Contributor

Expansions: responses to how we live

Venice Biennial 2021 publication

Shaping site and forming community: Reflections on the second Lagos Biennial of Contemporary Art - essay

The Monocle Companion: Fifty essays for a Brighter Future

What architects can learn from lagos - essay

Recognition

AD100 Middle East 2024
Creative

100 Women 2023
Architects in Practice RIBA

Divia Award 2023
Shortlisted

100 Women Lagos State Governor 2022
International Woman's Day recognition

Lords Achievers Award 2019
Creative category

City People Awards 2017
Architect of the Year



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6. Lantern House, Lagos
7. Sharjah Architecture Triennial Opening
8. IDP camp Maiduguri
9. Àdùnní: Ilé Ilà
10. Adidas Flagship Lagos