

David Adjaye



http://archpaper.com/uploads/image/detail_adjaye.jpg

- Birth name Dar es Salaam
- Born in Tanzania
- One of Great Britain's most influential black architect
- Notable projects:

Elektra House ([East London](#) 2000)

McGregor House St. John's Wood ([London](#) 2001)

Dirty House ([London](#) 2002)

Idea Store Crisp Street ([London](#) 2004)

Idea Store Whitechapel ([London](#) 2005)

Nobel Peace Centre (Oslo 2005)

Bernie Grants Art Centre ([London](#) 2007)

Museum of Contemporary Art (Denver 2007)

Rivington Place ([London](#) 2007)

Stephen Lawrence Centre ([London](#) 2007)

The Sunken House ([North London](#) 2007)

Moscow School of Management (Skolkovo, Moscow 2010)

Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture
(Washington D.C., Current)

<http://www.adjaye.com/>

Elektra House



http://t3.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcSAm-tapTldWAIBAoQNzlsuzZ-KUAXstgwvwn-PJwUm07Q_pRQfdi

http://www.danda.be/gallery/elektra_house/837_normal.jpg

PROS:

Designed for two artists and their two children

Became a finalist in the 2002 architecture award in Britain

Renovated shoe factory in East London's Whitechapel area

Revitalizing a neighborhood in Eastside of London

Controlled views and allows sunlight into the house

“Inside, the house is configured to present carefully framed views of the world, shutting out the mundane houses opposite, letting in the sky, and sunlight.” And, “Adjaye has broken all the rules about what houses are meant to be like, but he has made a simple London street in a bleak area, a magical place to live.”

Writer for the London's Observer - Deyan Sudjic

Elektra House



http://www.mimoa.eu/images/6814_1.jpg

CONS:

Built Cheaply

Phenolic resin-treated plywood (typically used for casting concrete)

As with most ground-breaking architecture, it's not in context with the surrounding neighborhood

Once a crime ridden area where Jack the Ripper haunted the streets. (maintained the reputation for being a bad part of the city)

Nearly full glass windows in back of the house allows only views to the sky

two rooms share a window that face a blank wall

No garden

Very small rooms

<http://www.mimoa.eu/projects/United%20Kingdom/London/Elektra%20House>

McGregor House



http://www.fastcompany.com/pics/multisite_files/pics/imagecache/slideshowlarge/slideshows/02_0.jpg

PROS:

Renovated existing house

Created indoor - outdoor space (connection to the garden)

Natural lighting throughout

Some natural materials

Fixed and moving panels to create new temporary spaces within the house

McGregor House



http://www.fastcompany.com/pics/multisite_files/pics/imagecache/slideshowlarge/slideshows/05_0.jpg

CONS:

Invasive to an existing preserved house

Steel was used to clear the interior of the house of bearing points

Dirty House



<http://www.dirtyhouse.net/david.jpg>



http://static.dezeen.com/uploads/2012/03/dezeen_Dirty-House-by-David-Adjaye_2.jpg

PROS:

Renovated timber factory/furniture warehouse into a house in the east end of London

Existing window openings were retained

Existing masonry was retained

“Aesthetics of Recycling”

Ornamentation from grime

Dirty House



<http://reinerdejong.files.wordpress.com/2010/08/dirtyhouse.jpg>

CONS:

Gutted the entire inside of the structure

Kept materials not well suited for it's environment (a lot of upkeep)

Imported high end materials like marble and granite

Idea Store (Crisp Street)



http://farm4.staticflickr.com/3402/5786191833_5398c7e428_z.jpg

PROS:

Materials: glass, metal, rubber, wood

A lot of natural daylight (transparent)

Playful, bright and cheery

Idea Store (Crisp Street)



http://farm4.static.flickr.com/3109/2337943573_193c639aac.jpg

CONS:

Used non-recycled materials

Used a lot of specialty artificial strip lighting

Idea Store (Whitechapel)



http://www.bbc.co.uk/london/content/images/2006/08/25/idea_whitechapel_416x300.jpg

PROS:

Aware of context (glass reflects surrounding buildings)

Views from cafe on top floor (circulation is indoor - outdoor to bring people in and through the structure)

Playful, bright and cheery

References stiped awnings of the old market stalls by use of the green and blue glass

Idea Store (Whitechapel)



http://www.mimoa.eu/images/2405_1.jpg



http://www.e-architect.co.uk/london/idea_store_whitechapel.htm

CONS:

Although aware of context through use of reflection; it is pretentious

Split reactions from the public (not a traditional library)

Encourages other types of architecture to mimic this building and not understand the reason it was created

“One of the escalators was chopped, leaving a staircase little more generous than a fire escape as the principal means of circulation”
Ellis Woodman, bdonline.co.uk

Nobel Peace Centre (Oslo)



http://blog.sfmoma.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/SFMOMA_Architects_04_Adjaye_Nobel_PeaceWeb.jpg

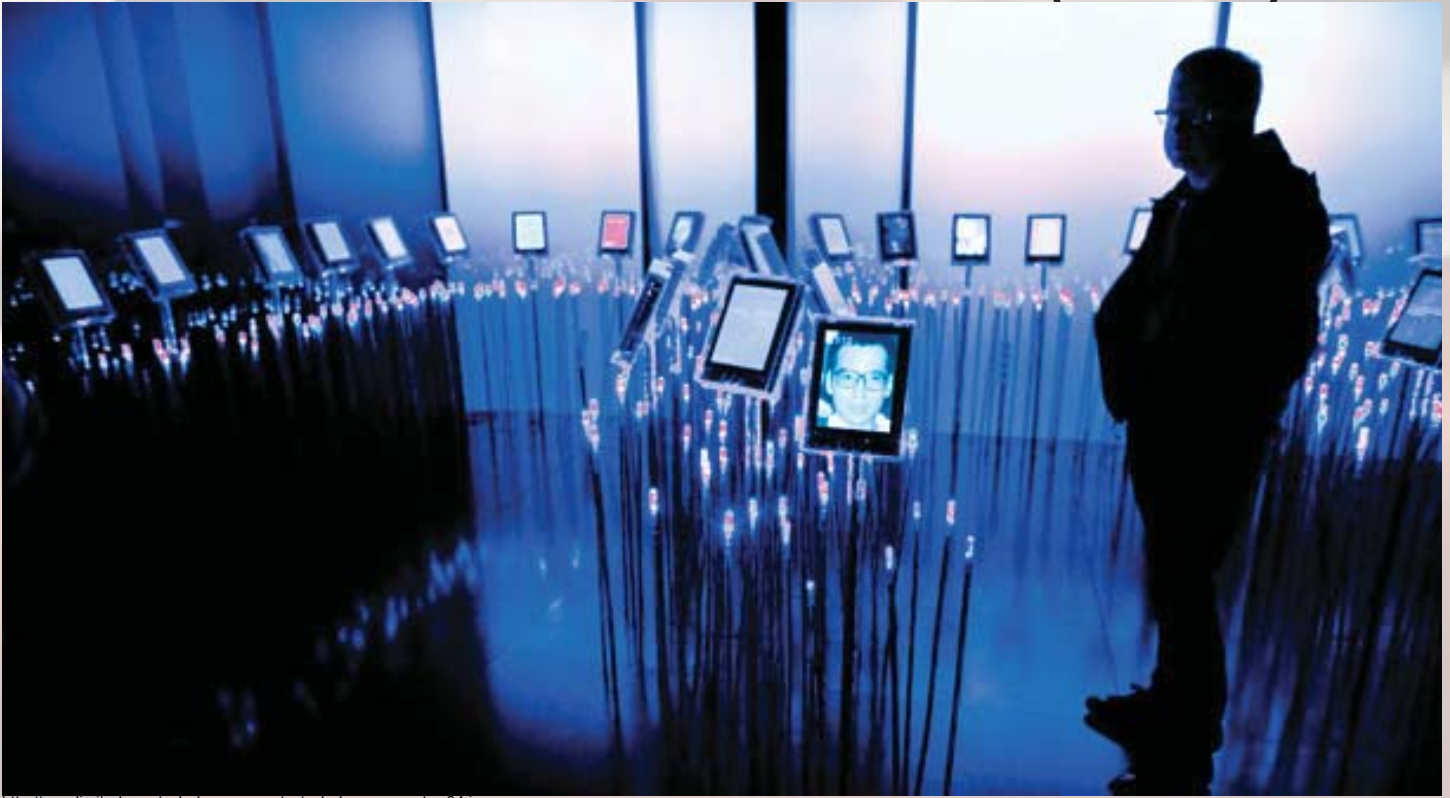
PROS:

Refurbished 16,000 sq ft train station

Commission would not allow major changes to the landmark structure

Home to the world's Nobel Peace Prize awards

Nobel Peace Centre (Oslo)



<http://sosolimited.com/nobel-peace-center/nobel-peace-center-04.jpg>

CONS:

Very little architecture was created in re-use of the space

Adjaye likens himself to a “systems-manager” because of the lack of creativity he was giving

technology in the building is incredible but sustainable...?

Bernie Grants Art Centre



http://www.building.co.uk/pictures/641x350fitpad%5B237%5D/0/2/4/1461024_Bernie_grant_1_final__9DE55.jpg

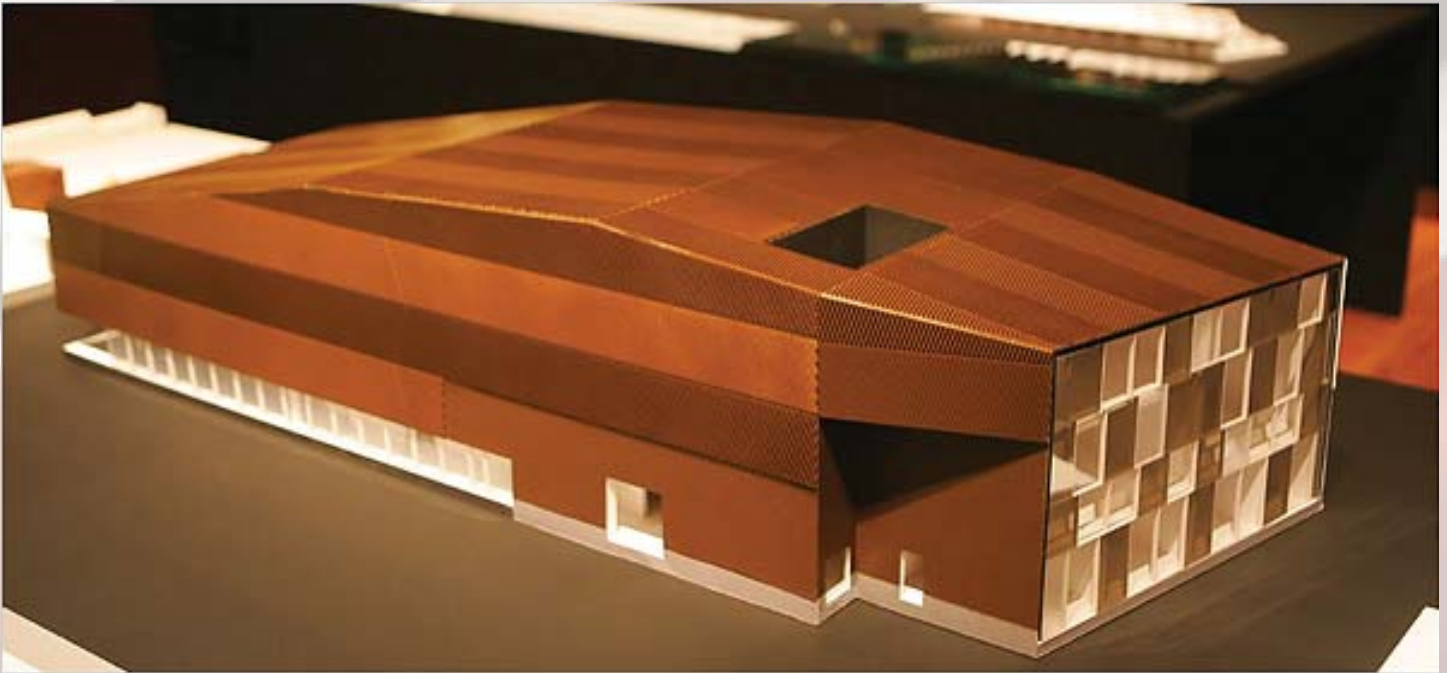
PROS:

The 3,700sq m complex, which aims to help expand the participation of black and minority ethnic communities in performing and production roles in the arts, media and broadcasting

Salvages few elements that were of the previous time period such as the Victorian bathhouse and retains its original chimney, houses the administrative facilities

Home to the world's Nobel Peace Prize awards

Bernie Grants Art Centre



<http://graphics8.nytimes.com/images/2007/07/31/arts/adjayespan.jpg>

CONS:

Invasive of the previous structure

According to other sources, Adjaye would level the entire structure and start from scratch like he originally wanted to do in Oslo

Materials: high end imported such as purple heart and various slates used throughout

Museum of Contemporary Art



<http://ad009cdnb.archdaily.net/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/1331000148-mca-exterior-day-8by-ed-reeve.jpg>

PROS:

Over 25,000 sq ft of exhibition, education and lecture spaces with a book shop and roof garden for outdoor art

Won competition in 2004 beating six other firms

Simple material palette of concrete, glass and monpan

Recycled construction content

“Architecture is to support the space and not define it”
Cydney Payton, Director of the museum

Leed certified Gold

Museum of Contemporary Art



http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_NjNaVK75Wp8/RlsIVYkVbzI/AAAAAAAAA4/snjk6S2QBf8/s400/adjaye1.jpg

CONS:



Rivington Place (Shoreditch)



<http://ad009cdnb.archdaily.net/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/1330930795-main-image-rivington-by-lyndon-douglas-528x393.jpg>



<http://ad009cdnb.archdaily.net/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/1330930981-adjaye-associates--rp-corner-dusk-1000x785.jpg>

PROS:

The 1,445 sq m building is the first publicly funded gallery since the Haywood Gallery opened in 1968

Simple material palette of concrete, glass and steel

Designed to meet requirements of two organizations both of which promote the advancement of photographers and artists of diverse backgrounds

Intended to update the architectural language of the surrounding buildings

Rivington Place (Shoreditch)



http://www.architecture.com/Images/RIBATrust/Awards/RIBAAwards/2008/London/LO31-RivingtonPlace%28c%29EdReeve_530x408.gif

<http://ad009cdnb.archdaily.net/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/1330930937-adjaye-associates--rivingtonplace-27-1000x666.jpg>

CONS:

Complete demolition of the previous structure

Trying to update the surrounding area through architecture may have been too lofty a goal

Art lacks diversity the structure initially was designed for

“To his critics, Adjaye was a man in a hurry, prepared to run roughshod over the best interests of his clients in pursuit of a startling architectural effect. That antagonism was undoubtedly compounded by his readiness to appear on camera and, one fears, by his ethnicity too.” Ellis Woodman, [bdonline.co.uk](http://www.bdonline.co.uk)

Stephen Lawrence Centre



http://static.guim.co.uk/sys-images/Arts/Arts_/Pictures/2007/09/24/stephen372.jpg



http://i202.photobucket.com/albums/aa278/1t3xl/Stephen_Lawrence_Furnace.jpg

PROS:

Dedicated to Stephen Lawrence, a black architecture student murdered in 1993

Built to honor Lawrence's dream of creating a place in his community in South London for troubled youth

Natural lighting

A strong sense of place

Stephen Lawrence Centre



<http://static.urbarama.com/photos/medium/1289.jpg>

http://farm6.staticflickr.com/5062/5894669811_561714c8a8.jpg

CONS:

Disregards materiality (metal, glass, concrete, rubber, polycarbonate)

Was an old pumping station next to a canal. It was completely demolished and scraped (no reuse of the structure)

The Sunken House



<http://www.dwell.com/sites/default/files/styles/large/public/sunken-house-exterior-street-view.jpg?itok=-jFhbismS>



<https://encrypted-tbn1.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcRc4IMYeLf98ACLCvqs88JZARinBB-S2EpiGtbeSKodVYs4T7xG>

PROS:

Solid timber prefabricated private residence of a photographer

Good natural lighting front and back

Controlled views

The Sunken House



<http://i886.photobucket.com/albums/ac64/ozo-ni/atsukojoe%20muesli/DavidAdjayeSunkenHouseEdsShed-3.jpg>



<http://i886.photobucket.com/albums/ac64/ozo-ni/atsukojoe%20muesli/DavidAdjayeSunkenHouseEdsShed-4.jpg>

CONS:

Imported timber

Excavated site and exported dirt

Sterile inside

Moscow School of Management



<http://ad009cdnb.archdaily.net/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/1330996501-mainimage-skolkovo-002-528x359.jpg>

PROS:

“Due to its peripheral location and susceptibility to harshly cold winters, the School functions as an independent community. The main elements of the building are assembled as a single entity in which a range of facilities are internally connected and made accessible without going outside.” ArchDaily article

Moscow School of Management



<http://ad009cdnb.archdaily.net/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/1330996834-skolkovo-026-528x351.jpg>

<http://ad009cdnb.archdaily.net/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/1330996921-skolkovo-027-528x351.jpg>

CONS:

“In Russia, a business school flouts the traditional buildings-around-a-green campus organization in favor of a more winter-friendly megastructure.” Asad Syrkett

Smithsonian NMAAHC



<http://assets.inhabitat.com/wp-content/blogs.dir/1/files/2012/02/Smithsonian-NMAAHC-David-Adjaye-9.jpg>

PROS:

“At its best, architecture is the physical manifestation of a culture’s highest ideals. The National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC)—the institution and the building—embodies the African American spirit. Majestic yet exuberant. Dignified yet triumphant. Of the African Diaspora yet distinctly African American. The NMAAHC will be a building worthy of the museum’s vision—and its prominent place on the National Mall.”

Freelon Adjaye Bond/SmithGroup

Smithsonian NMAAHC



http://nmaahcdesign.si.edu/media/firm_freelon/full_01.jpg

CONS:

Bronze covering the entire facade of the building

No mention of recycled materials

Wakefield Market Hall



<http://ad009cdnb.archdaily.net/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/1330929501-mainimage-night-market-2-528x353.jpg>

PROS:

Close to main attractions (walkable)

Very close to downtown

Wakefield Market Hall



http://www.adjaye.com/data/projects/public_buildings/wakefield_market_hall/wakefield_rear_1rt.jpg

CONS:

Building is highly controversial to the public

Demolition of 100 year old market

no attention to site, place or context

Townspeople have called for the removal of the fairly new structure

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