



Image credit: Phil Sharp

Deyan Sudjic and Alice Black to step down as Co-Directors of the Design Museum

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the Design Museum

After over a decade at the Design Museum helm, co-directors Deyan Sudjic OBE and Alice Black will step down from their leadership positions at the end of January 2020

[**Link to images**](#)

Having worked together for 12 years leading the transformation of the Design Museum, from a small specialist institution to an award-winning museum dedicated to contemporary design and architecture, relocated in a refurbished landmark from the 1960s, Deyan Sudjic and Alice Black will step down in January 2020 as co-directors of the Design Museum.

Deyan Sudjic and Alice Black made possible the museum's £82m move to its present home in Kensington, tripling its size and attracting more than 1.9 million visitors in the past three years. Under their leadership, the museum has seen annual visitors grow fivefold, from 120,000 to 600,000. Since 2006, the museum has staged more than 90 exhibitions and installations on contemporary design of all kinds from fashion to technology. Deyan and Alice grew the museum's international footprint increasing the number and scale of Design Museum exhibitions touring across Europe, Japan,

Korea and for the first time in China. In 2018, the Design Museum was named European Museum of the Year.

Deyan Sudjic will become Director Emeritus from January 2020 in recognition of his curatorial and creative leadership in successfully establishing the museum as the foremost institution of its kind. Appointed director in 2006, he conceived the strategy for a major expansion of the museum that would offer free admission for the first time, and include a permanent display giving a wide public an insight into the nature of design.

Deyan initiated the Designs of the Year Award in 2007, which has provided an annual exploration of the most significant new designs in the world and the Designers in Residence programme that every year supports emerging designers. Deyan Sudjic devised a series of ground-breaking exhibitions at the museum, including the first UK retrospective on the work of Zaha Hadid and in 2019, he curated Stanley Kubrick: The Exhibition, the most successful exhibition in the museum's history attracting 170,000 visitors.

Alice Black joined as deputy director in 2007 to lead the transformation of the institution and the project to move the museum to Kensington High Street. She was instrumental in professionalising the museum, developing innovative learning programmes and commercial funding streams, as well as winning major institutional funders and corporate partners including the Heritage Lottery Fund and Arts Council England. Alice oversaw the development of the exhibitions Azzedine Alaïa: The Couturier and Christian Louboutin: 20 years, achieving critical and box office success. In recognition of her significant contribution she was appointed co director when the museum reopened in its new building in 2016.

Lord Mandelson, Chairman of the Design Museum said:

'I thank Deyan and Alice for their extraordinary contribution to making the Design Museum the success it is today. Together with the board of trustees we wish them every success in their future endeavours.'

Terence Conran, Founder of the Design Museum said:

'Moving the Design Museum to Kensington is the most significant moment of my whole career in design because it allowed all my early dreams and ambitions to come true. We have created a world class museum with the size and scope for the serious promotion and celebration of design and architecture in this country. I am eternally grateful to Deyan and Alice for their outstanding work in leading and realising this vision and for the three successful years we have enjoyed in our museum's new iconic home. They have created the robust foundations that will ensure the Design Museum continues to promote the importance of design to our country for decades to come.'

Alice Black said:

'Having established the Design Museum in its new home, after record visitors this year, I am now ready for a new challenge.'

Deyan Sudjic said:

'We have shown that design can change the world, and that the Design

Museum has changed design. Now I want to see where design is going next.'

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Notes to Editor

PRESS ENQUIRIES:

Matteo Plachesi, Head of Communications and Marketing
the Design Museum, 224-238 Kensington High Street, London, W8 6AG
E: matteo.plachesi@designmuseum.org
T +44 (0)20 3862 5918 / M +44 (0)7801 355012

Alice Black

Having graduated from ESSEC Business School in France, Alice began her career in banking in New York. Her experience spans work in both national and independent museums and the public and private sectors. Formerly Head of Strategy and Planning at the Imperial War Museum and Curator of the Churchill Museum and Cabinet War Rooms, Alice has in-depth knowledge of museums' operational and strategic issues. In September 2007, Alice was appointed Deputy Director of the Design Museum. From 2008 to 2016, Alice led the museum's £82m capital redevelopment project to transform the former Commonwealth Institute in Kensington into the Design Museum's new home. Alice was appointed Director of the Design Museum in December 2016. In June 2017 Alice was appointed a Cultural Ambassador by Sadiq Kahn to the Mayor's Cultural Leadership Board.

Deyan Sudjic

Deyan's career has spanned journalism, teaching and writing. Deyan was director of Glasgow UK City of Architecture 1999 and in 2002 he was Director of the Venice Architecture Biennale. He was Editor of Domus Magazine from 2000 to 2004, and was Founding Editor of Blueprint Magazine from 1983 to 1996.

Deyan has published many books on design and architecture, including *The Edifice Complex* (Penguin, 2006), *The Language of Things* (Penguin, 2008), *Norman Foster: A Life in Architecture* (Orion, 2010), *Shiro Kuramata* (Phaidon, 2013), *B is for Bauhaus* (Penguin 2014) and *Ettore Sottsass, the Poetry of Things* (Phaidon 2015). His most recent book, *The Language of Cities*, was published by Penguin in October 2016. Deyan was made an OBE in 2000.

About the Design Museum

The Design Museum is the world's leading museum devoted to architecture and contemporary design. Its work encompasses all elements of design, including fashion, product and graphic design. Since it opened its doors in 1989 the museum has displayed everything from an AK-47 to high heels designed by Christian Louboutin. It has staged over 100 exhibitions, welcomed over five million visitors and showcased the work of some of the world's most celebrated designers and architects including Paul Smith, Zaha Hadid, Jonathan Ive, Miuccia Prada, Frank Gehry, Eileen Gray and Dieter Rams. On 24 November 2016, The Design Museum relocated to

Kensington, west London. Leading architectural designer John Pawson has converted the interior of a 1960s modernist building to create a new home for the Design Museum giving it three times more space in which to show a wider range of exhibitions and significantly extend its learning programme. designmuseum.org