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Building the revolution

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Building the Revolution

A collection of pre-crafted houses and pavilions, created by the world's best architects, designers and artists, forms Revolution. We look at this epic collection and its creators

esign Miami is one of the main focuses of the design calendar, so it was the perfect platform to launch a project that includes a space-age pavilion by Zaha Hadid and a Polynesian inspired precrafted home by Tom Dixon. Revolution was conceived by real estate guru Robbie Antonio, founder and president of the New York-based Antonio Development, and managing director of the Philippines-based Century Properties. Pre-crafted or pre-fabricated properties became a popular way to build after World War II in the United Kingdom and has long been a popular method of building in the Untied States. A series of panels and kits supplied for assembly on site, rather than individual designs, is a cost-effective way of building but the structures are usually thought of as dull and lifeless. This project seeks to change that by showcasing designs that although are still very liveable and practical for their environments, also challenge the monotony of these mass produced designs. Aiding Antonio in this project is an advisory committee made up of industry experts from a range of fields, including Hong Kong's own Adrian Chung, the executive vice-chairman and joint general manager of New World Development Co and founder of the K11 Art Foundation, as well as Dr Allan Zeman, chairman of the Lan Kwai Fong Group. "Hong Kong is a cultural centre for design innovation and an artistic community," says Antonio. "The city has built upon the legacy of its global business leaders and has expanded its reach to the art and design world, as evidenced by Art Basel Hong Kong."

The project itself was one year in planning and saw Antonio call on his long-standing relationships with a series of prominent architects as well as the expertise of design magazine Wallpaper* to help curate some of the homes and pavilions. At Design Miami, Revolution debuted with the pavilions by architects Zaha Hadid and Gluckman Tang, though to date there are 18 designers listed in the project. This is expected to reach around 40, with a new product or design announced each month through the website and newsletter. According to Antonio, the structures will continue to be showcased at various art, design and architecture fairs and festivals across the world, the next of which is the Salone del Mobile in Milan this April. With what is already a strong Hong Kong connection to this project, it's hoped that some of the work may make its way to our shores in 2016 as well.





Robbie Antonio

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Volu by Zaha Hadid and Patrik Schumacher

The Volu dining pavilion is the work of Pritzker prizewinning architect Zaha Hadid and her firm's director of architects, Patrik Schumacher. The geometric design, like many of Hadid's pieces, has more of a space-age feel to it. However, it also owes a lot to nature with both the roof of the pavilion and the furniture looking almost organic. The roof and the floor of the structure are joined at the rear in





REVOLUTION



Block by Tom Dixon

British product designer Tom Dixon has created another of the pre-crafted houses for the project. "I think coming from a product design background we can look at architecture in a completely different way," says Dixon in an interview for Revolution's website. Block is his take on a traditional portable housing form, where each cabin is a single container that can be joined with others to create different housing configurations. The interior is a hard wearing cork, creating what he describes as a natural backdrop for living. "We become designers of a system and the customer becomes the architect of their own requirement," he adds. The struts or supports for the structure are all adjustable, allowing the building to be placed on uneven terrain or cope with a range of different environments, much like traditional Polynesian houses built on stilts. The construction itself takes influences from traditional architecture with Eastern wood carpentry techniques translated into an industrial product, making it possible for anyone to quickly assemble the structure.



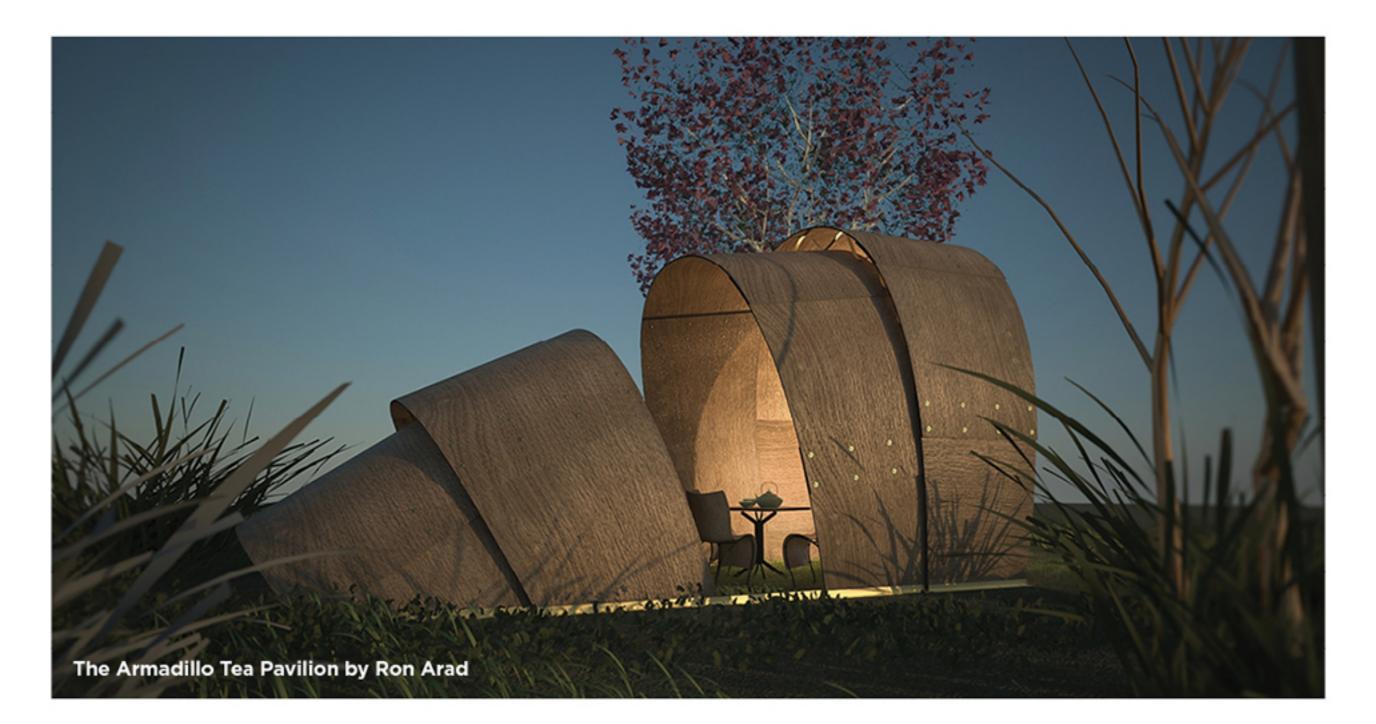


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The Eros Senses Pavilion by Kulapat Yantrasast



The Palloon Relaxation Pavilion by J Mayer H for *Wallpaper**

One of the pieces curated by *Wallpaper** magazine, the Palloon is the work of Berlin-based architects J Mayer H, headed by Jürgen Hermann Mayer. The design is a form of 3D lattice made from overlapping plastic beams, which allows some seclusion while still being able to see glimpses of the outside world. The indoor-outdoor space is conceived for a garden or an open space where people can relax without completely shutting themselves off from the environment. Covering an area of 25 square metres however, it does require a large space to put it in. J Mayer H also conceived one of the houses for the project. The Diago home is a flexible space with a cantilever roof supported by diagonal columns around the skeleton of the building. Available in one and two bedroom versions, its walls are entirely made of glass panels, though indoor and outdoor curtains and panels can be added to provide privacy and a change of lighting.





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Sou Fujimoto's Sphere Greenhouse and Infinity Ring





Infinity Ring by Sou Fujimoto

For his pavilion, Japanese architect Sou Fujimoto took inspiration from an infinity ring, a piece of jewellery that is rotated to align multiple rings. In this design, the structure takes the shape of a large ring with a six metre radius. This contains various spaces inside it and by rotating the entire structure different areas can be used, providing a range of size and scale in the seating options. "It's an integration of furniture, architecture and art pieces and a new challenge for a new lifestyle," says Fujimoto.

The Tokyo-based architect has also created the Sphere Greenhouse. Built from circles, this allows the owner to create their own living sphere made of plants, and spend time within the dome, surrounded by natural walls.

Revolution contains many interesting works that cover multiple uses, from the Instrumental Home, with interiors envisioned by musician Lenny Kravitz, to New York architects Gluckman Tang's Mobile Art Pavilion offering a compact exhibition space that's as stylish as the art work inside it. Due to the sheer scale of these pieces it's unlikely that they will all be united in a single physical show. However, their presence at various festivals and exhibitions across the world allows an insight into the thinking behind what is really a revolution in the way we view pre-fabricated properties.

