

## Resource and support guide: New designers

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We've been working to improve the diversity of designers in section 3.3.3: '[The work of others](#)'. With help from organisations such as The V&A, The Design Museum, Part W Collective, Higher Education Partners and a fantastic panel of teachers, we've improved our specification to include a wider variety of names in this section. The list now includes the following designers:

- Joe Casely-Hayford
- Rei Kawakubo
- Pierre Davis
- David Adjaye
- Yinka Ilori
- Zaha Hadid
- Elsie Owusu
- Karim Rashid
- Kusheda Mensah
- Aljoud Lootah
- Morag Myerscough
- The Singh Twins

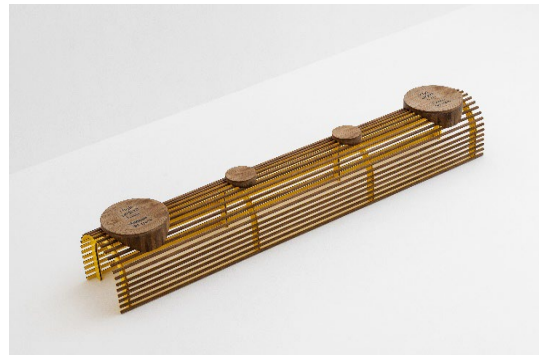
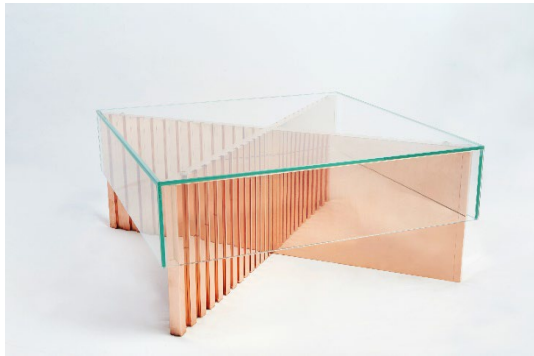
We're working hard to make sure our qualifications represent the diversity of knowledge and human experience we value – as well as reflecting all the different communities of teachers and students we serve. The designers we've chosen represent a wide range of different people and challenge some of the gender stereotypes related to different areas of the subject.

Students have to study two designers from the specification, so we hope these additions will give you greater choice when designing your students' curriculum. We haven't removed any names from the original list, and you can still use the existing names if you prefer, but we'd encourage you to also consider the new names when planning what to teach.

This resource and support guide has been created to give you a starting point for each designer. It includes:

- Pictures of the designer's work
- Brief background information
- Resources for teachers
- Resources for students

**Name of designer:** Aljoud Lootah



**Background information:**

Aljoud Lootah is an Emirati product designer. Lootah first trained as a graphic designer before moving to create three-dimensional objects, balancing form, function and aesthetics in a single product. She aims to create work that not only looks nice, but is functional and comfortable. Her work transforms traditional stories from the UAE in her contemporary designs. Each product pays homage to her Emirati culture, which is expressed through colours and patterns. Her work utilises raw materials such as marble, wood, camel hide, textiles and porcelain. Lootah’s work has exhibited across the world from Australia to London.

**Further research for teachers:**

- Visit: [Aljoud Lootah](#) website
- Read: [Woman Made: Aljoud Lootah](#) article with Phaidon (5 minutes)
- Watch: [Dubai Design Week](#) interview with Aljoud Lootah (1 minute)
- Instagram: [Aljoud Lootah](#)

**Resources for the classroom:**

- Watch: [Dubai Design Week](#) showcase of Aljoud Lootah work (1 minute)
- Read: [An interview](#) with the creative designer Aljoud Lootah (4 minutes)

**Name of designer:** Elsie Owusu



**Background information:**

Elsie Owusu is a credited architect who is the founding member of the Society of Black Architects. She is on the board for The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) council. She has designed buildings and spaces within the UK and in her hometown of Accra, in Ghana. Owusu's values are to make buildings and urban design that serves all people and communities. Her designs often feature the traditional 'kente' pattern and colours, reflecting her heritage.

**Further research for teachers:**

- Visit: [Elsie Owusu website](#) and take a look at the designs
- Read: An interview '[Above the glass ceiling is a concrete ceiling](#)' (15 minutes)
- Watch: TED talk [Architecture: Why Diversity Matters](#) on YouTube (19 minutes)
- Instagram: [Elsie Owusu](#)

**Resources for the classroom:**

- Read: Learn more about Elsie Owusa here [RIBA Profile](#)
- Watch: [Leading woman in Design](#) with Design council (4 minutes)

**Name of designer:** Karim Rashid



**Background information:**

Karim Rashid is an Egyptian American industrial designer. His works range from furniture and lighting, to packaging and surface design, and even luxury goods. His style is futuristic with a striking palette of clashing bold/pastel colours. His work also incorporates unconventional patterns described as ‘sensual minimalism’ or ‘bobjects’. His work is intended to be provocative and to make you consider how you are living. He aims to embrace new technology to and push boundaries in order to shape our future. When designing the escalators in Naples, Rashid considered how little time people would spend on them and how he might have an impact on those walking through this space. Making an arresting impact to the end user is important to his work. Rashid has been recognised for many design awards, his most prolific award in 2020 is the American Prize for Design.

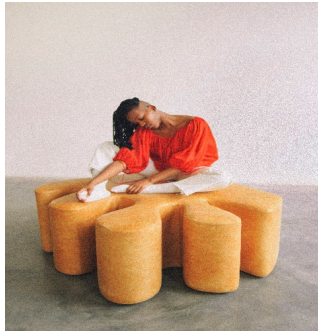
**Further research for teachers:**

- Visit: [Karim Rashid website](#) and take a look at the designer
- Read: An interview with [Karim Rashid by Be Concept](#) (15 minutes)
- Watch: [Get to know Karim Rashid](#) here (9 minutes)
- Instagram: [Karim Rashid](#)

**Resources for the classroom:**

- Read: About [Karim Rashid](#)
- Watch: [Designer Karim Rashid’s Vibrant Apartment in NYC](#) (4 minutes)

**Name of designer:** Kusheda Mensah



**Background information:**

Kusheda Mensah is a British born Ghanaian designer based in London. She graduated from UAL, London College of Communication and is now based in her studio in Peckham, South London. Her work expresses how furniture can be 'idyllic, yet fun and functional'. She's well known for the use of sustainable materials. Her most famous work is the 'modular' series of furniture designed for Dwell, where each piece is designed with an interlocking system which she says represents the closeness shared between humans.

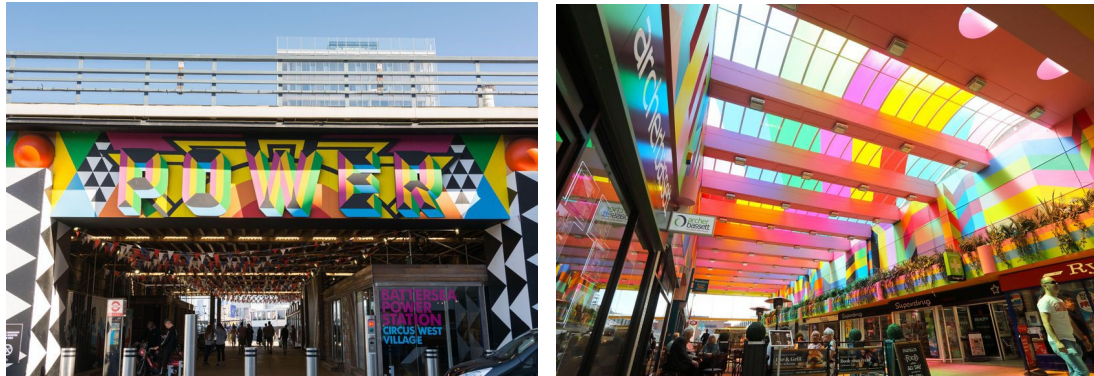
**Further research for teachers:**

- Visit: [Modular by Mensah](#) website
- Read: An interview where Kusheda Mensah discussing [Sustainable Furniture](#) (5 minutes)
- Watch: Kusheda Mensah explain her [modular pieces](#) (2 minutes)
- Instagram: [Kusheda Mensah](#)

**Resources for the classroom:**

- Watch: Kusheda Mensah explain her [modular pieces](#) (2 minutes)
- Read: About Kusheda Mensah take on ['Work, Motherhood and What's next'](#) (5 minutes)

**Name of designer:** Morag Myerscough



**Background information:**

Morag Myerscough is a London based designer who is inspired by the bold colours and shapes from the ever changing city landscape. Her mantra is 'make happy those who are near and those who are far will come'. She transforms public spaces to make them an inviting and engaging experience for all so that they feel a sense of joy and belonging. Her work has featured globally from Melbourne to Mexico City. In 2020 Myerscough was awarded the Honorary Fellow Royal Institute of British Architects.

**Further research for teachers:**

- Visit: [Morag Myerscough website](#)
- Read: An interview with [DesignBoom](#) (10 minutes)
- Watch: A keynotes presented by [Design Indaba](#) (25 minutes)
- Instagram: [Morag Myerscough](#)

**Resources for the classroom:**

- Watch: [In Profile with Morag Myerscough](#) presented by the British Council Arts (6 minutes)
- Read: An article which showcases the [City of Culture 2021 – Coventry](#).(5 minutes)

Name of designer: The Singh Twins



### Background information:

The Singh Twins MBE are twin sisters Amrit and Rabindra, they are known for their elaborate contemporary paintings that represent their dual identity as British Asians (Punjabi). They take inspiration from traditional Indian miniature painting techniques. Their work has a traditional style whilst also reflecting modern day politics, society and cultural themes. Their work has been exhibited around the world from New Delhi India to Liverpool. In 2020 they featured on Grayson's Art Club show on Channel 4.

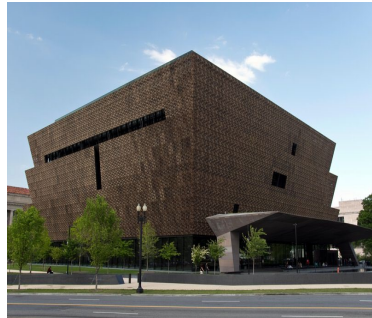
### Further research for teachers:

- Visit: [The Singh Twins website](#)
- Read: [A Guardian interview](#) with the Singh Twins (15mins)
- Watch: The Singh Twins acceptance speech for a [Doctors of Fine Art](#) (14 minutes)
- Watch: An interview with [The Royal Collection Trust](#) at the Queens Gallery (58 minutes)
- Instagram: [The Singh Twins](#)
- Explore: [The National Portrait Gallery](#)

### Resources for the classroom:

- Watch : The Singh Twins discuss the [Impact of the Empire](#) (4 minutes)
- Read: A look at the painting from [National Museum Liverpool](#) (4 minutes)

**Name of designer:** Sir David Adjaye



### **Background information**

Sir David Adjaye OBE RA (b.1966) is a Ghanaian British architect. He is known for his maverick approach to designing both public and private buildings. Adjaye is a socially responsible architect. He takes a democratic approach to design creating culturally responsive and sensitive buildings. Notable projects include; [Lost House](#) in London, UK and the [Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture](#) in Washington DC, USA. He was knighted in 2017 for his services to architecture and in 2021 he received the Royal Gold Medal in recognition of a lifetimes work. He is the first African recipient of the medal and one of the youngest to ever receive the medal.

### **Further research for teachers:**

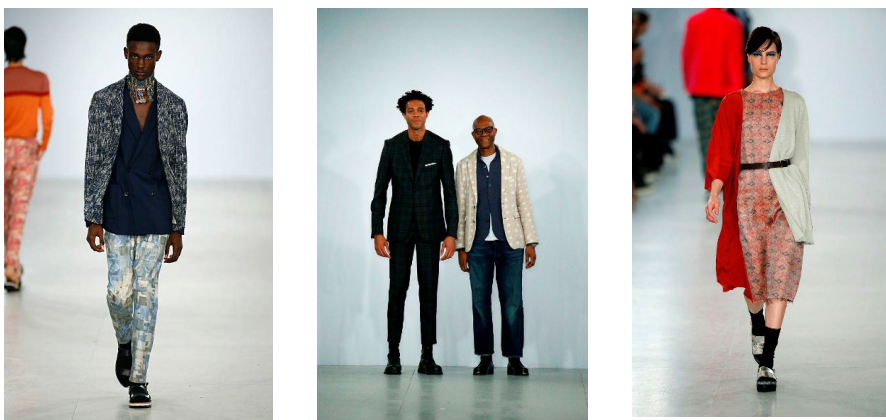
- Visit: Sir [David Adjaye's website](#) and take a look at the designs
- Read: an [interview with Sir David Adjaye on design boom](#) (15 minutes read)
- Watch: [David Adjaye discuss Place, Identity and Transformation](#) on YouTube (50 minutes)
- Instagram: [David Adjaye](#)

### **Resources for the classroom:**

- Read: an [Interview with Sir David Adjaye](#) Guardian newspaper (15 minutes)
- Watch: a [conversation between Sir David Adjaye and Stella McCartney](#) The Design Museum on YouTube (35 minutes)



**Name of designer:** Joe Casely-Hayford OBE



### Background information

Joe Casely-Hayford OBE (b. 24<sup>th</sup> May 1956 – d. 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2019) was an internationally recognised British fashion designer. He started his self-titled fashion label Joe Casely-Hayford in the 1980's. A Savile Row trained tailor, he pioneered casual tailoring with his own take on the concept of deconstructed suiting. For example, jackets with cut seams revealing patterned fabric underneath, shirts which buttoned backwards and shirts with triple collars. He began his namesake labels in 1984 with an industry debut that consisted of a collection constructed from World War II tents. He was an early adopter of repurposing, upcycling and deconstruction. Across four decades he shaped an aesthetic that broke boundaries between establishment and punk, formal structure and fluidity. His intention was to represent London on the world stage. In 2009 his son Charlie joined as a co-designer, simply called Casely-Hayford. Today, Charlie continues to offer bespoke tailoring and cutting edge streetwear, influenced by the diversity of a modern London City and his father's archive of designs.

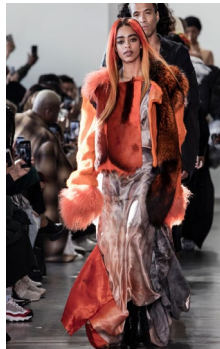
### Further research for teachers:

- Visit: [Casely-Hayford's website](#) and take a look at the designs
- Read: a [tribute to Casely-Hayford on the Vice website](#) (15 minutes)
- Watch: [an interview with Joe and Charlie Casely-Hayford](#) on YouTube (2 minutes)
- Follow: [Casely Hayford London](#) on Instagram
- Read: an [obituary to Joe Casely-Hayford](#) Financial Times

### Resources for the classroom:

- Read: a [tribute to Joe Casely-Hayford](#) Evening Standard website (7 minutes)
- Explore: the [collections of Joe Casely-Hayford](#) Vogue (clickable links to various articles)

**Name of designer:** Pierre Davis



### **Background information**

Pierre 'Pia' Davis founded the fashion house No Sesso in Los Angeles in 2015. No Sesso means 'No sex/gender' in Italian. The high fashion brand challenges the conventions of traditional fashion, art, culture and design. The result of these challenges is an inclusive, community powered high fashion brand that empowers people of all colours, shapes and identities through their style and clothing. No Sesso is famed for its bold use of colour and pattern and for their exquisitely detailed hand embroideries.

### **Further research for teachers:**

- Visit: the [No Sesso Website](#) and take a look at Pierre Davis's work
- Read: [about Pierre Davis and her vision for No Sesso](#) (7 minutes)
- Watch: [a film about Pierre Davis](#) on YouTube (5 minutes)
- Instagram: [No Sesso](#)

### **Resources for the classroom**

- Visit: the [No Sesso Vogue Runway page](#) to see the latest collections
- Visit: the [Women's Wear Daily Runway page](#) to see the latest collections

**Name of designer:** Rei Kawakubo



### **Background information**

Rei Kawakubo (b. 1942) is the Japanese founder and creative director of Comme des Garçons and Dover Street Market. She is one of fashion's most influential creatives, known for her avant-garde clothing and approach to design. Her high concept collections and catwalk shows are famously closer to performance art pieces than fashion presentations. In 2017 the Met Museum curated an exhibition of her designs called: Art of the In-Between in recognition of her contribution to design. In 2019 she was awarded the Isamu Noguchi Award, in recognition of her innovative artistic contribution of bridging Eastern and Western cultures. She is the first fashion designer to receive the prize.

### **Further research for teachers:**

- Visit: the [Comme des Garçons website](#) and take a look Rei Kawakubo's work
- Read: an [interview with Rei Kawakubo for Dezeen](#) (10 minutes)
- Watch: the S/S 2016 [Comme des Garçons Menswear fashion show](#) on YouTube (9 minutes)
- Instagram: [Comme des Garçons](#)

### **Resources for the classroom:**

- Visit: the [Met Museum website to learn about the Rei Kawakubo exhibition: Art of the In-Between](#)
- Visit: the [Vogue runway Comme des Garçons page](#) to see the latest collections
- Read: a [Vogue Interview with Rei Kawakubo](#) (12 minutes)
- Watch: the [Met museums series of films about the Rei Kawakubo exhibition: Art of the In-Between](#) (5 minutes)

Name of designer: Yinka Ilori



### Background information

Yinka Ilori is a British Nigerian multi-disciplinary artist and designer whose bold and colourful work is inspired by traditional Nigerian stories. His first designs were pieces of furniture that he upcycled with bright colours and fabrics, inspired by his British Nigerian heritage. Ilori believes that art and design should be inclusive and accessible and have a positive impact on society. It is this belief which leads Ilori to create joyful and often humorous, spaces for communities and audiences of all ages to participate, interact and engage with.

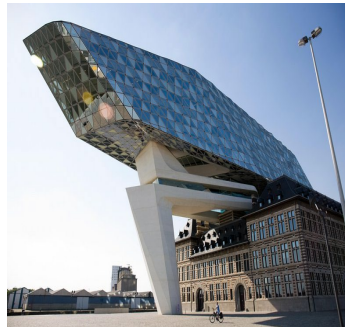
### Further research for teachers:

- Visit: [Yinka Ilori's website](#) and take a look at the designs
- Read: an [interview with Yinka Ilori on Dezeen](#) (12 minutes)
- Watch: a [V&A film about Yinka Ilori's exhibition: Listening to Joy](#) YouTube (5 minutes)
- Instagram: [Yinka Ilori](#)

### Resources for the classroom:

- Read: about [Yinka Ilori's new studio](#) (7 minutes)

**Name of designer:** Zaha Hadid



### **Background information**

Dame Zaha Hadid DBE RA (b. 31 October 1950 – d. 31 March 2016) was a British Iraqi architect, artist and designer. Growing up in Baghdad, a city full of thinkers, scientists and artists, Zaha dreamed of being an architect. She fought hard as a woman in a man's world and a person of colour in a White field. She is known for creating ambitiously engineered projects. Her designs are often futuristic in style, incorporating gravity defying curves and sharp angles. Each project transformed understanding about what could be achieved with concrete, steel and glass. Her work includes both public and private buildings. Notable projects include; [Heydar Aliyev Centre, in Baku](#), [The Aquatic Centre, London](#) and [Port House, Antwerp, Belgium](#). In 2004 Hadid received the Pritzker Architecture Prize, she was the first woman to be awarded this prize. She has received the Stirling Prize twice, in 2010 and 2011. In 2012 she was made Dame for her services to architecture. In 2016 she became the first woman to be individually awarded the Royal gold medal from the Royal Institute of British architects.

### **Further research for teachers:**

- Visit: [Zaha Hadid's website](#) and take a look at her work
- Read: [Zaha Hadid's Obituary in the Guardian](#) (14 minutes)
- Watch: an [Interview with Zaha Hadid](#) on YouTube (50 minutes)
- Follow: [Zaha Hadid Architects](#) on Instagram

### **Resources for the classroom**

- Visit: the [Design Museum's website](#) to learn more about Zaha Hadid
- Watch: the [Zaha Hadid, Who Dares Wins](#) documentary (44 minutes)

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