

# 2021 Laureate JALA MAKHZOUMI

## Media Release



At a virtual award's ceremony on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2021, within the opening ceremony of IFLA's World Congress 2020 taking place in George Town, Penang, Malaysia; IFLA President James Hayter announced Iraqi **Dr. Jala Makhzoumi** as the laureate of the 2021 Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe Award.

Jane Findlay president of the Landscape Institute (LI) in behalf of IFLA's president, bestowed the award to Dr. Jala in a pre-recorded event that took place in Birmingham, UK.



# Media Release 2021 Laureate

## Jala Makhzoumi receives the 2021 IFLA Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe Award

Inaugurated by IFLA in 2005, the Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe Award celebrates a living landscape architect whose “achievements and contributions have had a unique and lasting impact on the welfare of society and the environment and on the promotion of the profession of landscape architecture.” It is the highest honour IFLA can bestow on a landscape architect. The award is named after notable British landscape architect Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe, a founding president of IFLA, whose most well-known works included Cheddar Gorge and the Kennedy Memorial at Runnymede in the UK.

**Dr. Jala Makhzoumi** received the bachelor degree in architecture from the University of Baghdad, Iraq, a Master degree in Environmental Design at Yale University and Doctor in Landscape Architecture at Sheffield University. Jala is a prominent figure in Landscape Architecture in the Middle East.

Jala has developed her work of landscape architecture in different parts of the world, due to circumstances beyond choice, in different contexts and landscapes.

Jala’s expertise is in ecological landscape design and planning where she applies a holistic, developmental approach to mediate community needs with ecosystem health, biodiversity protection and landscape heritage conservation.

Her professional and academic expertise includes postwar recovery, energy efficient site planning and sustainable urban greening.



*Project. Rehabilitation of the Abu Ali River, Tripoli, Lebanon, 2005-06 (collaboration with URBI Planners). The landscape concept overcomes the rupture through a planted bridge-platform and by converting the Bortasi historic mosque into a stepped garden to open access to the river.*

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She has served as landscape planning consultant to the Damascus master plan 2030, Saida Urban Sustainable Development Strategy 2015, Baghdad Comprehensive City Development Plan 2030 and the conservation and revitalization of the historic holy towns of Kadhimia and Najaf.

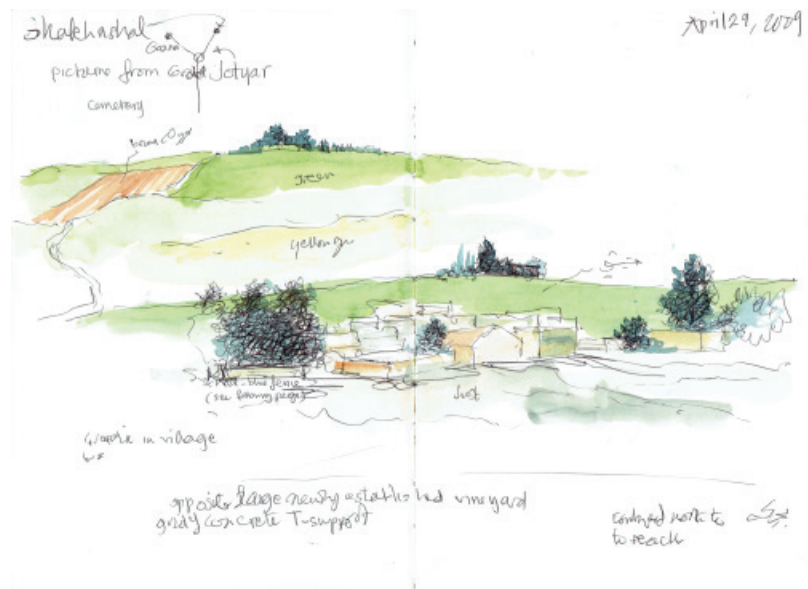
In 2013 Jala co-established UNIT44, a Lebanon based design and planning practice offering a wide range of services in architecture, landscape architecture, ecological planning and urban design.

In 2001 she co-founded the BS in Landscape Design and Ecosystem Management. She has many research publications and books in the field of landscape. In 2007 she co-founded the Cambridge Centre for Landscape and People in Cambridge. Jala serves on the editorial board of Landscape Research and the Journal for Marine and Island Culture.

Her publications include Ecological Landscape Design and Planning: the Mediterranean Context, co-author Pungetti (Spon, 1999) and The Right to Landscape, contesting landscape and human rights, co-editors Egoz and Pungetti (Ashgate, 2012) and Horizon 101 (Dar Qonboz, 2010) a reflective collection of paintings and prose on landscape and identity.

Jala became also an activist, being able to provide alternative visions and protect sensitive sites and communities threatened by real estate development in a region where rapid urbanization is drastically shaping the local environment.

Jala was the recipient of the first Tamayouz Women in Architecture and



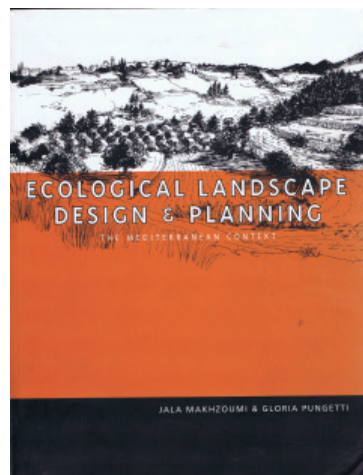
Project. Erbil Greenbelt, Iraq, 2008-10. (collaboration with Khatib and Alami Consultants). The holistic framework of ecological design was applied to reconceptualize the existing rural landscape into a multifunctional landscape that combines sustainable agriculture, nature conservation and recreation. Watercolors of Greenbelt site.

Construction Award in 2013.

Jala describes how she faces and has developed her career:

*I was determined early on in my career to hold-on equally to practice, research and teaching. In a region where the word 'landscape' is narrowly construed to imply scenery, landscape architecture, still an emerging profession, holding on to all three was necessity to progress the profession... In regions where the urgent need for economic and social betterment supersedes concern for environmental health, landscape architecture has the potential to address concerns for human and environmental well-being equally at the local, city and regional scale. Having practised, taught and published these ideas I would like to share a brief statement on my understanding of each:*

- Teaching is investment in the future generation of designers.
- Practice is my way of learning, of fulfilling my creativity as a designer.
- Research is sharing experiences and the challenges encountered as a professional.



Publication. Makhzoumi, Jala and Pungetti, Gloria (1999) Ecological Landscape Design and Planning.

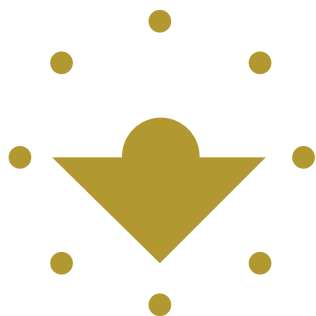


Tamayouz Excellence Award. Women in Architecture and Construction Award 2013.



Art: Horizon 101. watercolors of the Mediterranean, reflections, published by Dar Onboz, Beirut 2010.

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AWARD**



## Jury Citation

It is inspiring Jala's outstanding lifetime work of landscape architecture through difficult times, contexts and periods in conflict; finding the resilience to learn, work and teach. Her work is a legacy for the upcoming generations on breaking boundaries and keeping passion for her work.

Jala reaches out into the Mediterranean World, connects with social phenomena, and translates them into design implications through critical writing and creative experimentation.

Jala's dedication, creativity, and relentless effort positively impact the landscape profession in the region. Jala's texts, projects, and professional contributions have broken many borders in the Middle East and beyond.

She has been focused particularly on ensuring ecological and heritage conservation of rural areas and on advancing a landscape approach to recovery.

Jala Makhzoumi represents the best values of IFLA World community: her contributions to landscape architecture in an international conceptual and practical respect is outstanding, a unique trajectory and contribution to human welfare and the environment and the promotion of the profession of landscape architecture.

For these reasons the jury concluded to select Jala to be the Laureate of IFLA Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe Award 2021.

## Jury Members

**Diana Wiesner**

SAP, Colombia  
Jury Chair

**Fritz Auweck**

BAK, Germany  
Jury member of IFLA Europe

**Claudia Oñate**

ICHAP, Chile  
Jury member of IFLA Americas

**Behdad Alizadeh**

ISLAP, Iran  
Jury member of IFLA Middle East

**Yoshiki Mishima**

JLAU, Japan  
Jury member of IFLA Asia-Pacific

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**Mark Saint Pöl**

ILASA, South Africa  
Jury member of IFLA Africa

**Rahel Shawl**

Jury Guest for 2021

**IFLA Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe Award Secretariat**

**Gareth Doherty**

Director

**Reem Alissa**

Member

**Peter Zöch**

Member

**About the Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe Award**

The IFLA Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe Award is the highest honour that the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA) can bestow upon a landscape architect. The Award recognizes a living landscape architect whose lifetime achievements and contributions have had a unique and lasting impact on the welfare of society and the environment and on the promotion of the profession of landscape architecture. The award is bestowed annually on an academic, public or private practitioner whose work and achievements are respected internationally.

Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe (1910–1996), IFLA President of Honour, served IFLA as its founding President from 1948–1954. He was a trained architect, town planner, landscape architect and garden designer, but his prime interest was in landscape and garden design. Jellicoe was a founding member (1929) and then President of the Institute of Landscape Architects (now LI) and was knighted for services to landscape architecture in 1979. In 1994, he was given the Royal Horticultural Society's highest award, the Victoria Medal of Honour.

The International Federation of Landscape Architects officially represents the world body of landscape architects through its 77 member associations and 5 regions and in both governmental and non-governmental organizations.

IFLA's mission is to promote the landscape architecture profession within a collaborative partnership of the allied built-environment professions, demanding the highest standards of education, training, research and professional practice, and providing leadership and stewardship in all matters.



## Previous Laureates

**Kongjian Yu, 2020 Laureate**

China

**Kathryn Gustafson, 2019 Laureate**

USA

**Anne Whiston Spirn, 2018 Laureate**

USA

**Dirk Sijmons, 2017 Laureate**

The Netherlands

**Peter Latz, 2016 Laureate**

Germany

**Mario Schjetnan, 2015 Laureate**

Mexico

**Sun Xiao Xiang, 2014 Laureate**

China

**Gonçalo Ribeiro Telles, 2013 Laureate**

Portugal

**Mihály Mőcsényi, 2012 Laureate**

Hungary

**Cornelia Hahn Oberlander, 2011 Laureate**

Canada

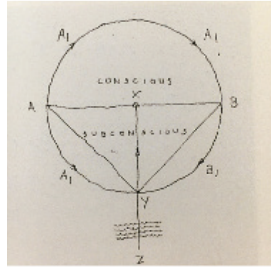
**Bernard Lassus, 2009 Laureate**

France

**Peter Walker, 2005 Laureate**

USA

## About the Medal



## SIR GEOFFREY JELlicOE AWARD



The IFLA Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe Award medal has a unique and unusual design based on Sir Geoffrey's hand-drawn diagram of the creative process.

The back of the medal is designed as a topography originating from one of Jellicoe's landscape projects.

The medal was designed by Why Not Smile (WNS), a multidisciplinary creative design consultancy based in New York.

## Contact

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