

## 9 Stunning, Next-Gen Airport Designs Cleared for Takeoff



Few of us will have the chance to visit an office designed by a world-class architect; an even smaller group will enjoy the luxury of living in a home designed by one. But for the price of a coach ticket, we can visit amazing spaces crafted by top designers, and enjoy their work while eating a slightly stale Cinnabon.



Airports, especially those in big cities, expose an architect's work to millions of people every year and are highly sought-after assignments. New projects are awarded through competitions that can span years; once granted, they may take decades to be fully completed.



The latest airport award to be given will be happening in London. The British capital is facing an aviation crisis and mayor Boris Johnson has called on Zaha Hadid, winner of the 2004 Pritzker Prize, to help solve it.

London's Heathrow Airport is an icon of air travel, but one that is ill equipped to handle the 300 million people who are expected to pass through its gates by 2030. Expanding the existing airport would require significant parts of the city to be razed, so Johnson has recruited some of the finest architects in England to propose entirely new facilities to be built on the banks of the Thames.

"This work is essential to deliver the most integrated transport solutions for London and the UK," writes Hadid in an e-mail. "It will enable London to maintain its position as one of the world's most important economic, commercial and cultural centres; outlining the city's future growth and development which has always been founded on global connectivity."

Hadid is a natural fit for this type of project. Her buildings, be they skyscrapers or parking garages, are typically composed of broad swoops and sinuous curves that often appear ready to take flight. Her design for the airport expansion in Zagreb, Croatia, (shown above) utilizes "a series of flow lines, set in a tapestry-like configuration" to give it a feel that combines traditional designs with futuristic elements.

The final determination, however, is still being made, and the award won't be granted until 2015 - don't be surprised to see a stunning new design proposals take shape over the months and years to come. Meanwhile, here are eight other world-class airport projects, underway now, that will help push the field of airport architecture to new heights.

<http://www.wired.com/design/2013/02/airport-architecture/>