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| Artist | Zaha Hadid |
| Title | Aquatic Centre |
| Date | 2011 |
| Materials | Steel, Timber-Clad, Aluminium, Glass & Concreate  |
| Size | 45 metres high, 160 metres long, and 80 metres wide. The wave-like roof is stated to be (1,040 m2) |
| Genre | Architecture (public) |
| Style | Modernism |
| Location | Olympic Park, London |

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| Composition | Undulating roof rests on 3 points and has a cantilevered façade giving the appearance it floats in areas. The modern building features a curtain wall, connecting natural light into the arena where there can be multiple pools found.  |
| Colour & texture | The sleek & streamline building uses modern building materials such as concrete, glass & aluminium, these provide a metallic yet light appearance to the building’s exterior. |
| Light & tone | The cantilevered facades cast contoured shadows upon areas of the building, this emphasises the sense of flow around the building’s exterior. On the interior, the main pool is lit by the curtain wall on either side of the space whilst the training pool has a series of regular tile like ceiling lights that run the course of the room.  |
| Line  | Lyrical and curvaceous lines that link to the sweeping movement of waves in water (reflecting the buildings function/identity). These lines are juxtaposed by the structured and linear pool with its lane markings.  |

**Influence from technological factors:**

Uninterrupted, column free view of the swimming arena, possible through the use of three supports around the building, sharing the weight of the structure.

Minimized energy efficiencies: high levels of insulation, low-velocity [ventilation](https://www.arch2o.com/tag/ventilation/) systems with efficient heat recovery & water-based heating systems with variable speed pumps. Mechanical systems have adaptable controls & the building is connected to the district heating system.

**Influence from political factors:** *use to oppose*

Whilst the government & LOCOG set out the design brief, funded & overlooked the buildings development, there was no direct influence from current political climate.

**Influence from cultural/social factors:**

Temporary seating available for 17,500 people around the main pool = accommodate Olympic spectators with permanent seating of 2,800 = shows adaptability of building

Expectation to have a positive environmental effect = 50% of aluminium roof is made up of recycled content as well as the use of low flow fittings and recycled water results in 32% less potable (drinking) water compared to other pools

Designed to reflect riverside landscape of Olympic Park whilst the legacy of building important as it was designed to be used by the public after the Olympics

**Critical text quote:**

Hadid *– “*‘sea-life creature”

Moore *– “her style seems to be about dynamism & weightless modernity”*

*”*

**Stylistic comment and artistic influence:**

Linking the building to water and the ocean, with inspiration from waves and sea creatures such as a stingray.

Design influence from Alexander Campbell’s Dollon Baths and Tange’s Gymnasium from Tokyo Olympics ‘64

**Use or development of materials, techniques & processes:**

Steel & aluminium roof with double curvature parabolic arches. Curvature echoes in the diving boards and stairway as well as fenestration over the training pool. Use of precast-concrete with exposed concrete finish (the floor terracing was also precast). The aluminium roof covering has a steel structure weighing 3,200 tonnes. The ceiling was built with 30,000 sections of Red Louro timber.



