

LISTENING ACTIVITY

1/3

GREAT LIVES - DAME ZAHA HADID

1  Listen to the audio and complete the text. Choose the word/s from the basket below.

- Citizen • drawings • abandoned • exhibitions
- successful • architects • environment • building
- politician • studied

Zaha was a British **1**, an Arab, a Sunni Muslim and an Iraqi, born and brought up in Baghdad. She was born on 31 October 1950 into a rich family. Her father was a **2** and her mother was an artist and she grew up in a loving and safe home. Baghdad was a multicultural and stimulating **3** Zaha went to boarding schools in England and Switzerland. She studied Maths at the American University of Beirut. Then in 1972 she travelled to London and **4** at the Architectural Association.

In 1980 she opened her studio Zaha Hadid Architects ZHA . Her style was avant-garde from the beginning. She did lots of quick **5**, often more than a hundred. She said that while working she felt like a pianist playing a piece of music all day, making sure it was perfect.

For many years the most famous **6** in the world congratulated her on her work, but people called her 'the paper architect'. Her designs were too complicated to be built. Zaha was passionate about geometry and strange Russian paintings and her designs were beautiful artworks, often exhibited in important museums. Despite the disappointments, Zaha never gave up. She knew she could become **7** one day.

Her first **8** was The Fire Station (1994). The German furniture company Vitra had a major fire in 1981 and they wanted a fire station. The building was small, but it showed people the unusual shapes that Zaha loved. Her luck changed in the first ten years of this century. Sixteen years after Cardiff **9** her project, the Chinese built it. People love the Guangzhou Opera House.

Zaha created buildings in Azerbaijan and South Korea, a stadium for the World Cup in Qatar, a tower in Marseille and MAXXI, a contemporary art museum in Rome. The Art Museum took over ten years to finish, because it's a very large building with two museums, an auditorium, café and galleries for temporary **10**

(from Chapter 4)



LISTENING ACTIVITY

2/3

2 Circle the correct word in italics to complete the sentence.

1. Zaha Hadid was born in *London/Baghdad*.
2. Zaha's family was *poor/rich*.
3. Zaha studied Maths in *Switzerland/Beirut*.
4. Some people called her the '*modern*'/'*paper*' architect.
5. Her first building was the Guangzhou *Opera House/The Fire Station*.
6. Her style was always very *simple/avant-garde*.
7. The MAXXI in Rome took *less than/more than* ten years to build.

