



Acclaimed British Architect to Speak at FIU

David Adjaye: Public Engagement and Private Retreat

Miami- (March 1, 2008) - Internationally acclaimed British architect **David Adjaye will speak on Friday, March 14, at 8:00 p.m.** as part of The Frost Art Museum's Steven & Dorothea Green Critics' Lecture Series. The lecture will be held in the Green Library, GL 100 on the University Park Campus of Florida International University, 11200 SW 8th Street, Miami. **The event is free and open to the public.**

Adjaye will discuss the creative process that has made him one of the most sought-after architects of his generation in the UK, and brought him international recognition. His ingenious use of materials and ability to sculpt and showcase light have attracted both critical success and admiration from the public. Adjaye built his reputation in London's East End, designing houses and studios in this older, gentrifying area, for artists and celebrities including Ewan McGregor and Juergen Teller.

Known for his use of light in creating spaces that blur the lines between art and architecture, he has said that he works "more like an artist than an architect."

Last year, Adjaye celebrated what he has described as the pinnacle of his career thus far with the opening of the Museum of Contemporary Art/Denver, his first major public building in the United States. The museum is recognized by the Leadership in Energy and Environment Design (Leed) as one of the country's first "green" art museums, because of Adjaye's use of recycled materials and energy efficient systems. Four major Adjaye projects opened in Britain last year as well, including the Institute for International Visual Arts.

Adjaye, who was born in Tanzania, has been dubbed a "starchitect," by the press, because of his impressive rise to the top of the architectural heap, where he continues to produce celebrated work. He began humbly enough, opening a small practice in 1994. In 2000, he opened Adjaye Associates, and now has offices in New York and Berlin as well as in London. In June 2001, Adjaye Associates beat several high-profile firms to win the Idea Store competition to design and interpret a radical rethinking of the purpose and role of a library, particularly in culturally diverse communities.

Page two – David Adjaye

The concept and name Idea Store was pioneered by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, and Adjaye's design was selected for an exhibition that highlighted 100 projects that are changing the world at the VIII Venice Biennale of Architecture 2002. It was featured again in the Venice Biennale of Architecture in 2004 and was short-listed for the Stirling Prize in 2006.

Adjaye's practice is currently working on a new market hall in Wakefield, Yorkshire, a 300-unit housing development in Birmingham, the design of the Moscow School of Management, Skolkovo, as well as further projects in the United States, Southeast Asia and Africa.

Adjaye's work was featured in "Gritty Brits: New London Architecture," an exhibition last year at Pittsburg's Carnegie Museum of Art. In September 2006, Phaidon published "David Adjaye: Making Public Buildings", which included the Denver museum, and the book, "Houses" by David Adjaye was published in 2005. He has co-presented two television series of "*Dreamspaces*" for the BBC, a six-part series on contemporary architecture and in June 2005, he presented the television program, "*Building Africa: Architecture of a Continent*". He is currently archiving photographs of architecture in each of Africa's capital cities, for an upcoming book and exhibition.

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