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SUMMER 2020

## DESIGN DIRECTORY

A room-by-room guide  
to domestic elevation

20 architects for 2020  
Creative uplift in Quito  
High-concept kitchens  
Big-thinking bathrooms



# 20

The Architects' Directory turns 20. Conceived in 2000 as our little black book of emerging architectural talent, this annual listing of promising practices has, over the years, spanned styles and continents. It has included photoshoots of nearly 150 of our 500-plus participants at iconic locations, such as the then-under construction Heathrow Terminal 5 by Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners, back in 2007, and the Neues Museum in Berlin, following its renovation by

David Chipperfield Architects, in 2009. The Architects' Directory has championed, as new arrivals, some of the now great practices, from 2020 Pritzker Prize winners Grafton Architects to humble Australian virtuoso Sean Godsell, and powerhouses such as MAD Architects, Vincent Van Duysen, Brian MacKay-Lyons, Deborah Berke and Claesson Koivisto Rune. Celebrate this year's talents on the next ten pages, and 20 years of architectural creativity at [Wallpaper.com](http://Wallpaper.com). ✨

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# 20

**Fem Architects  
The Netherlands**

Set up in 2019 by Femke van de Voort, Fem Architects is a boutique office based in Amsterdam that caught our eye for its clever, sustainably minded residential work. Row House, in the city's Klaprozenweg area, is one of its first built projects. In response to the site – a former brick factory – the architect created a fittingly utilitarian, robust, eco-friendly and affordable family home, featuring a façade clad in profiled Corten steel.

[femarchitects.nl](http://femarchitects.nl)



**DF\_DC  
Switzerland and UK**

With offices in Lugano and London and ongoing projects in the UK, Switzerland, Mexico, France, Italy and Mozambique, DF\_DC favours an interdisciplinary approach. Founders Dario Franchini and Diego Calderon recently completed a trapezoidal concrete villa in Tuscany, informed by its elongated, former-vineyard plot.

[df-dc.co.uk](http://df-dc.co.uk)





**Naso  
Mexico**

José Ignacio Vargas, who founded this practice in 2018, draws on experience gained at Ricardo Legorreta, Tatiana Bilbao, Max von Werz, Carlos Zedillo and Frama, as well as studies in both Mexico and the UK. His approach is multidisciplinary and research-based. His breakthrough project, Casa Martha, is a concrete and earth-block structure located in rural Mexico, and was created to replace an existing one on site that was damaged by an earthquake in 2017. Occupied by an elderly couple and their adult children, the house was conceived as an easy-to-access, simple building that allows for intergenerational living. The project was part of an initiative led by the organisation ReConstruir México. As well as practising, Vargas also teaches at the Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City. [naso.mx](http://naso.mx)



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**Nimtim Architects**  
**UK**

London-based Nimtim was founded in 2014 by architect Tim O'Callaghan and garden and landscape designer Nimi Attanayake. The pair's combined experience includes stints at Penoyre & Prasad, OMA, Hawkins\Brown and David Chipperfield Architects. Nimtim's Cork House project is a typical London Victorian terrace rear extension, done differently. It features unusual use of material – with cork outside as well as in – and a fun colour palette.  
[nimtim.co.uk](http://nimtim.co.uk)



**Malu de Miguel**  
**Spain**

Set up in Madrid only three years ago, Malu de Miguel's practice may be young, but the dynamic Spanish architect is a master at creating well-proportioned, tactile residences, using humble materials and plenty of natural light. Her portfolio includes a house in Menorca and this family home in Madrid suburb Boadilla del Monte. The latter combines brick, concrete, large openings, light wells and airy double-height spaces in a modest structure with a sense of spatial luxury that punches above its weight.  
[maludemiguel.com](http://maludemiguel.com)



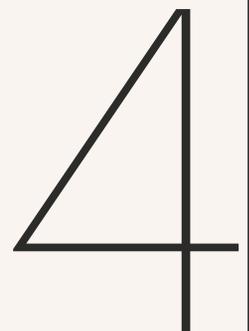
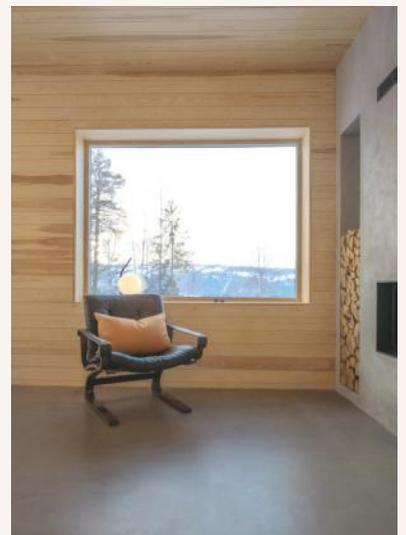
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**Sanden+Hodnekvam Arkitekter  
Norway**

John Sanden and Ingvild Hodnekvam's work perfectly represents that clean, nature-inspired, human-centric aesthetic that has come to characterise the best of Norway's architecture – yet with a fresh, contemporary twist that gives it a competitive edge. The pair launched their joint practice in 2014 and have since received commissions including houses of all scales and sizes. Their material choices vary, spanning wood, brick and concrete. Their latest project, House in Red Concrete, owes its distinctive hue to red iron oxide. Located in Lillehammer, the minimalist structure is an intergenerational home, a typical set-up in Norway, and the simple construction, with prefabricated elements, makes for an interior that is easily adaptable by the clients. [sandenhodnekvam.no](http://sandenhodnekvam.no)



**TW Ryan Architecture  
US**

Thomas Ryan worked at the New York studios of Richard Meier & Partners and Christoff Finio Architecture, before setting up on his own in 2013. His striking, clean geometries had already won him the Deborah J Norden Fund prize from The Architectural League of New York. His portfolio spans art-related and residential commissions and includes Three Chimney House, a family home in Virginia, in brick and wood with metal gabled roofs, inspired by the land it sits on. Ryan works between San Francisco and New York. [twryanarchitecture.com](http://twryanarchitecture.com)



**Surman Weston  
UK**

Established in 2014 and led by Tom Surman and Percy Weston, this London studio brings an individual approach to each project. 'We eschew house style,' say the two founders, who have worked together on a variety of interior redesigns, single-family houses, and small-scale residential, cultural, education and commercial work. Ditton Hill House is among the studio's latest completions. The new-build, 250 sq m detached home in Surrey gently references the suburban vernacular of its locale, complete with a pitched roof and archetypal house outline; yet it does so in a pared-back, contemporary way, blending mock-Tudor style and an industrial aesthetic. [surmanweston.com](http://surmanweston.com)



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**O'Neill Rose Architects**  
**US**

Devin O'Neill and Faith Rose founded their Brooklyn firm in 2012. Their Oculi townhouse, in New York, was designed around 'ideas of daylight, visual connection between inside and out, and the intersection between digital and handcrafted processes', they say. [oneillrosearchitects.com](http://oneillrosearchitects.com)



**Pool Leber Architekten**  
**Germany**

Eschewing the idea of a signature aesthetic style, Munich-based Pool Leber Architekten, set up in 2011 by Isabella Leber and Martin Pool, approaches every commission in a 'case-specific' way, which in turn influences the choice of techniques, materials, forms and structures. Villa U is one of the latest residential offerings in a smartly growing portfolio. Set in the countryside near Gräfelfing, outside Munich, it was conceived as a single, brick block, with large, distinctive openings facing the garden and a double-height space inside to add drama and a sense of scale. [poolleberarch.de](http://poolleberarch.de)



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## Case Design India

Samuel Barclay moved from the US to Mumbai in 2006, working with Studio Mumbai before founding Case Design, in 2013, with his wife Erica. They have projects in India, Europe, the Middle East and Africa, and a furniture line. 'We aspire to create things that are simple, beautiful, functional,' Samuel says. The Kizikula Guest Houses, in Zanzibar, use local coral limestone. [casedesign.in](http://casedesign.in)



## Tropical Space Vietnam

Working with the Southeast Asian typology of the shophouse (a house above a shop) and giving it a contemporary twist, Cuckoo House is a home for a family of four, situated above a coffee shop in Da Nang, Vietnam. It perfectly represents the approach of its creator, Ho Chi Minh City-based Tropical Space. The studio, founded in 2012 by Nguyen Hai Long and Tran Thi Ngu Ngon, responds to culture and climate in its designs, aiming to create spaces that reflect the users' needs. In Cuckoo House, three sculptural brick volumes, each housing different functional spaces, are placed atop a rectangular base. Open areas link the different wings, uniting indoors and outdoors and allowing the breeze to circulate and cool the interior during summer. [tropicalspaceil.com](http://tropicalspaceil.com)



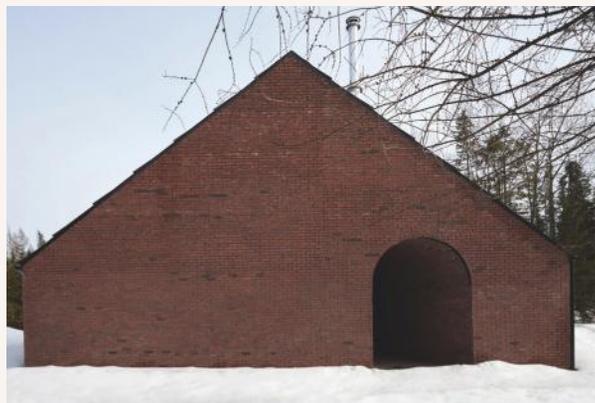
**Atelier Ordinaire  
France**

Architect Thomas Walter set up Atelier Ordinaire in 2014 and was joined by artist and costume designer Angèle Maillard in 2019. The team's designs focus on craftsmanship and clever use of quality materials. Their manifesto declares their aim 'to remain simple and sincere in every way'. The studio's house in the southern French community of Venelles reflects this approach, with immaculate joinery, clean lines and a delicately unassuming yet unmistakable modern form. [atelierordinaire.tumblr.com](http://atelierordinaire.tumblr.com)



**Atelier Barda  
Canada**

Graduates from the École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Toulouse in France, Cécile Combelle and Antonio Di Bacco set up Atelier Barda in Montreal in 2013. Their work, from new-builds to furniture design, is rooted in a personal, intuitive approach and rigorously researched solutions. Maison Gauthier in Mont-Tremblant, Quebec, displays their minimalist aesthetic and attention to detail. [atelierbarda.com](http://atelierbarda.com)

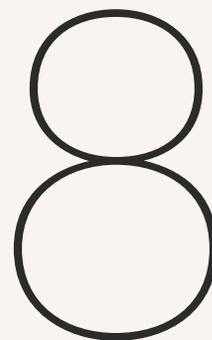


**Erika Nakagawa Office  
Japan**

Having established her office in Tokyo in 2014, Erika Nakagawa describes Momoyama House as her 'breakthrough project'. The retreat in Shizuoka Prefecture features a high, undulating concrete roof raised on pillars that creates a flowing interior, which opens towards the surrounding nature. Nakagawa has been invited to exhibit at Tokyo's Toto Gallery Ma space for architecture in 2021, by a selection committee including Tadao Ando. [erikanakagawa.com](http://erikanakagawa.com)



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**Lenschow & Pihlmann**  
**Denmark**

Ranging from student accommodation to private housing and Nordic cabins, the work of Lenschow & Pihlmann is subtly sophisticated in form and material, and rooted in Danish tradition. Established by Kim Lenschow Andersen and Søren Thirup Pihlmann in 2015, the firm is based in Copenhagen. Its newest single-family house, on Fanø island, was inspired by the area's longhouses (a Danish residential typology hailing back to Viking times) and features a distinctive, continuous, clay-tile roof. [lenschowpihlmann.dk](http://lenschowpihlmann.dk)



**Atelier Branco**  
**Brazil**

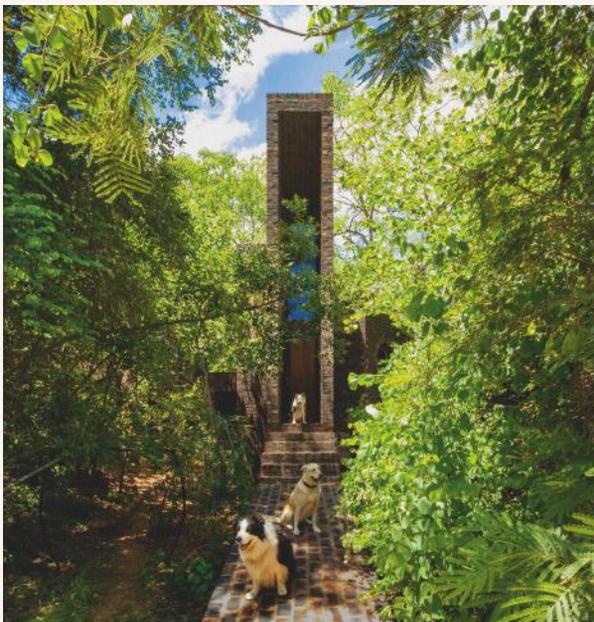
Graduates of Switzerland's Accademia Architettura Mendrisio, Italian Matteo Arnone and Spaniard Pep Pons moved to São Paulo to set up their studio in 2012. For its Casa Biblioteca, the firm won both the Gold Medal at the 2018 Triennale di Milano and, with the client, the 2019 Dedalo Minosse International Prize for Commissioning a Building – OCCAM Under 40. [atelierbranco.com](http://atelierbranco.com)

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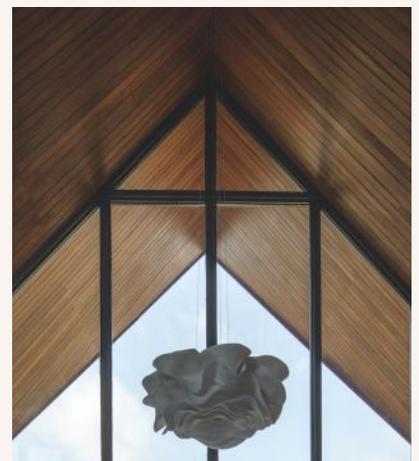
**Cera Stribley Architects  
Australia**

Dom Cerantonio and Chris Stribley set up this boutique architecture studio in Melbourne in 2014, and specialise in residential and commercial work. They consider Parkside House, a timber and brick holiday home, a key breakthrough project, while the sensitive renovation of a 1960s McGlashan Everist beach house in Sorrento, seen here, is among their latest completions.  
[cs-a.com.au](http://cs-a.com.au)



**Alexis Dornier  
Indonesia**

Germany-born Alexis Dornier is an alumnus of OMA and Rex in New York, who moved to Ubud, Bali, in 2013. His independent work grew rapidly from there, as he completed one striking residence after another, and today he has a mixture of residential and commercial projects under his belt. His one-bedroom River Studio in Pererenan embodies his approach, combining elements of tropical modernism and industrial architecture with formal innovation.  
[alexisdornier.com](http://alexisdornier.com)



**Frankie Pappas  
South Africa**

Established in 2019 by a group of like-minded architects and designers in Johannesburg, Frankie Pappas is a 'collection of brilliant young minds that do away with personal egotisms in order to better find remarkable solutions to fascinating problems', say the founders, who prefer to remain anonymous. Its residential projects include the sculptural brick volumes of House of the Big Arch, in Waterberg.  
[frankiepappas.com](http://frankiepappas.com)



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