



1. 2023 London Design Medal
2. 2022 Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE)
3. 2022 CTBUH 'Fazlur R Khan' Lifetime Achievement Medal
4. Ambassador for the UK Design Council
5. Design Advocate for the Mayor of London
6. Fellow, Royal Academy of Engineering (RAE)
7. Fellow, Institution of Structural Engineers (IStructE)
8. Fellow, Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE)
9. Honorary Fellow, Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)
10. Fellow, Royal Society of Arts (RSA)

Prof Hanif Kara

BSc(Hons) FRAE FISTructE FICE HonFRIBA Hon RIBA FRSA
Co-founder and Director of AKT II

Hanif contributes 40+ years' experience in the delivery and strategic leadership of design. He grew up in Uganda, arriving in the UK as a refugee in the 1970s, and in 2022 was awarded the Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for his services to architecture, engineering and education: a rare recognition of three distinct disciplines.

Hanif is a co-founder and design director of the international design-engineering practice AKT II. The company has been operating for 25+ years, and today unites 300+ people who are together working across 50+ countries; Hanif has driven the firm's pioneering 'design-led' ethos. The practice's service to both the art and science of design has so far been recognised with 400+ design awards, which includes four RIBA Stirling Prize wins (in 2000, 2012, 2018 and 2021) - the UK's highest architectural honour.

In parallel, Hanif has taught widely. He's currently a professor-in-practice for architectural technology with the Harvard University's Graduate School of Design (the Harvard GSD), and a visiting professor for the UK's vocation-focussed Engineering & Design Institute (TEDI), having previously taught with London's Architectural Association School of Architecture (the AA) as well as for several further avant-garde design schools throughout mainland Europe. He's also currently a patron of the international architecture school The African Futures Institute (AFI).

Hanif furthermore serves regularly as an advisor and sounding-board member for numerous architectural, governmental and industry organisations worldwide. He was notably the first structural engineer to be appointed to the UK Design Council's Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE - which he's continued to serve in various advisory and design-review roles), as well as the first to be appointed to the RIBA's Stirling Prize Jury, President's Medal Jury and Honours Committee, and also the first to be appointed to the global Aga Khan Award for Architecture (AKAA) Master Jury and Steering Committee.

At a national level within the UK, he's currently on the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) Design Task Force as well as the HS2 design-review panel, and he's previously been on the design roundtable for Network Rail. In London specifically, he's been an appointed Design Advocate for the Mayor of London's office while his wider industry appointments have ranged from think-tanks such as New London Architecture (the NLA), and local authorities such as

the London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, to development bodies such as the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC).

Finally, Hanif also serves routinely as a public communicator and speaker for international media endeavours. He's recently been a judge for the global Dezeen Awards, having also previously contributed expertise to the UK's Building Awards (organised by Building Magazine), the British Construction Industry Awards, and the awards programmes of both the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) and the Architects' Journal (the AJ), as well as for the global trade show MIPIM. He's also served for many years on Building Magazine's editorial board.

Hanif's insight into design, and particularly on the theme of 'interdisciplinarity', is meanwhile widely published throughout numerous books, magazines, media outlets and trade journals.

Selected experience

1. Central Bank of Iraq, Baghdad (under construction)

A flagship new tower development, on the banks of the River Tigris, to symbolise the nation's rebuilding

2. Bloomberg European Headquarters, London (2012)

A city-block-sized commercial headquarters that also activates the entire streetscape with public amenities - receiving the 2018 RIBA Stirling Prize

3. Sheikh Zayed Museum, Abu Dhabi (under construction)

A multifunctional cultural facility within a giant, landscaped dome that's topped with five iconic steel 'wings' - symbolising the late leader's love of falconry

4. New Street Station, Birmingham, UK (2015)

This project transforms a live regional railway station with a dramatic new amenity concourse as well as a complex-curved, mirrored facade

5. One Park Drive, London (2022)

A cylindrical 200-metre residential tower that's delivered partly on reclaimed land, as part of the expansion of London's world-famous Canary Wharf district

6. Qasr Al Muwaiji, UAE (2010)

A fully glazed visitor centre, within a historic fort, that provides access to the castellar birthplace of Sheikh Khalifa: emir of Abu Dhabi



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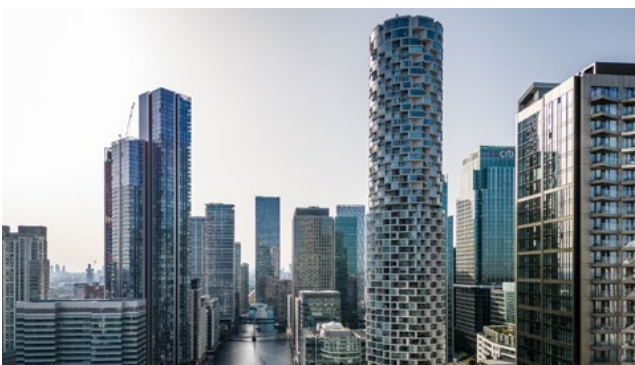
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7. **Broad Art Museum, East Lansing, Michigan (2012):** A new contemporary art museum, with an outdoor sculpture garden, for the existing campus of Michigan State University
8. **Heydar Aliyev Centre, Baku, Azerbaijan (2012):** An iconic public cultural centre, with a highly distinctive 'parametric' architecture, that's now considered to be the late Dame Zaha Hadid's magnum opus
9. **Turner Contemporary, Margate (2011):** An iconic art gallery able to withstand the vagaries of British coastal weather
10. **Olympic Energy Centres, London (2012):** Two permanent 'combined

cooling, heating and power' (CCHP) energy centres which were delivered as part of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games

11. **Google Mountain View, California (2022):** A new masterplanned campus - for Google - that features a novel 'grid-net' canopy typology, with a radically reconfigurable programme underneath

12. **Masdar Institute for Science and Technology, Abu Dhabi (2010):** A masterplanned 'science city', which serves as a living prototype for many of the carbon-mitigation technologies that the institute is developing
13. **Henderson Waves Bridge, Singapore (2008):** A 280-metre pedestrian bridge with a complex curvature that connects between two hillsides, as a prominent infrastructural landmark for the region



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Appointments

Architectural appointments include

- **Zaha Hadid Foundation**
Trustee (2022-ongoing)
- **Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN)**
Mumbai New Hospital Institution
Steering committee member
(2022-ongoing)
- **Cyfarthfa Foundation, Wales**
Board member (2021-ongoing)
- **Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), Portugal**
Alvaro Siza Vieira architecture
evaluation panel member (2021)
- **Glasgow School of Art, Scotland**
Macintosh Building reconstruction
steering committee (2021)
- **African Futures Institute (AFI)**
Board of patrons (2021-ongoing)
- **National Centers of Competence
in Research, at the University of
Zurich (NCCR Zurich)**
Scientific panel member (2021)
Juror (2021)
- **Royal Institute of British
Architects (RIBA)**
Honours Committee member (2021)
Stirling Prize juror - first structural
engineer to be appointed (2011)
President's Medal judge (2009)
- **Aga Khan Award for Architecture**
Advisor (2021)
Steering committee member (2015,
2019, 2021)
Project reviewer (2007, 2010, 2013)
Master Jury member (2004)
- **Architecture Foundation, London**
Trustee board member (2010-2019)
- **Aga Khan University's Graduate
School of Architecture and Human
Settlement (GSAHS)**
Thinking Group panel member (2017-
2019)
- **Institute for Advanced
Architecture of Catalonia**
Scientific advisory panel member
(2007-2010)

Industry appointments include

- **National Infrastructure
Commission (NIC)**
Trustee (2022-ongoing)
- **Mayor of London Design Advocate
(2022-ongoing)**
Design for London advisory group
member (2007-2008)
- **Design Council: Commission
for Architecture and the Built
Environment (CABE)**
Ambassador (2021)
Design review panelist (2011-ongoing)
Commissioner - first ever structural
engineer to be appointed (2008-2011)
- **Design Council**
Assorted advisory roles (2021)
Built Environment Expert
(2013-ongoing)
- **Network Rail**
Buildings and architecture policy
roundtable for Control Period 7, with
the UK Design Council (2021)
- **New London Architecture**
Sounding Board member (2020-2021)
- **CEMEX**
Climate Action Panel member (2021)
Juror (2021)
- **HS2**
Legacy Learning judge (2020)
Design panel (2015-ongoing)
- **London Borough of Kensington
and Chelsea**
Quality review panel (until 2024)
- **Old Oak and Park Royal
Development Corporation (OPDC)**
Review group member (2018-2023)
- **Design South East**
Review panel member (2016-ongoing)
- **British Council for Offices (BCO)**
Technical Affairs Committee
(2008-ongoing)
National awards judging panel (2012-
2015)
- **Urban Design London**
Design Surgeon and advisor (2010)

Media appointments include

- **Dezeen**
Global annual Dezeen Awards
judge (2021)
Redesign the World competition
judge (2021)
- **Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE)**
Good Design report launch panel
(2021)
- **Rye Harbour Discovery Centre**
Climate Art panellist (2021)
- **Penang South Island' International
Masterplan Competition**
Juror (2020)
- **Architects' Journal**
Student Prize judge (2018)
- **British Construction Industry
Awards**
Judge (2010-2013, and 2015-2017)
- **Centre for the Study of the Built
Environment (CSBE), with Omrania
& Associates**
Student Award for Architectural
Design judge (2011, 2017)
- **MIPIM**
Architecture for Tomorrow judge
(2016)
- **UK Women in Architecture**
Awards judge (2014-2016)
- **Building Awards**
Judge (2010-2013)
- **Building Magazine**
Editorial board member (2007-2009,
and 2012-ongoing)
- **Royal Society of Arts**
Design Directions judge, for the
Resourceful Architect category (2010)
- **World Architecture Festival (WAF)**
Super Jury (2010)
Judge (2008-2009)
- **Cloudscap.es Awards**
Judge (2010)
- **Roses Design Awards**
Judge (2009)

Academia

Long-term academic appointments include

Harvard University's Graduate School of Design (Harvard GSD), Massachusetts

- Professor-in-practice for architectural technology (2012-ongoing)
- Visiting Pierce Anderson Lecturer in Creative Engineering (2008-2012)
- Richard Rogers Fellowship award judge (2017-2019)
- Faculty board member for the Education Executive Division
- Research advisor for the Gulf Encyclopedia for Sustainable Urbanism
- Co-author for seminar course with MIT

Architectural Association (AA), London

- Teacher for various programmes (2002-2008)
- Co-tutor (2000-2004)
- External examiner (2003-2007)

TEDI University, UK

- Professor (2020-ongoing)

Umeå University, Sweden

- Co-developer for the architectural technology course (yearly, 2009-ongoing)

Kungliga Tekniska Högskolan (KTH) Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm

- Visiting professor of architectural technology (2007-2012)
- Unit teacher (2010)

Catalonia Institute for Advanced Architecture, Barcelona

- Visiting tutor (2007)

International lectures and symposiums include

- University of Virginia: 'Binding disciplinary distinctions' (2023)
- University of Applied Arts Vienna: 'Circular economy' (2023)
- University of Toronto, with Toronto Friends of the Visual Arts: 'Architecture in dialogue: virtual exhibition on the Aga Khan Award for Architecture' (2021)

- University of Applied Arts Vienna (Angewandte): professorship hearing 'Eloquence and consequences' (2021)
- Syracuse University: 'Navigating the muddiness of design engineering' (2021)
- Kennesaw State University: 'Mediation through engineering design' (2021)
- Harvard Graduate School of Design (Harvard GSD), Massachusetts: open-house faculty presentation for admissions (2021)
- Oskar von Miller Forum, Munich: 'After engineering + Design engineering' (2021)
- National Centers of Competence in Research, at the University of Zurich (NCCR Zurich): 'Thickness of impact' (2021)
- Harvard GSD: 'Not magic' and 'Behind + Within' (2021)
- Harvard GSD: core-one workshop presentation with Studio Sean Canty (2021)
- London School of Economics (LSE): lecture on design and engineering (2021)
- Harvard GSD: 'Notional tower brief' (2020)
- Design Indaba, Cape Town: 'Sibling identities: architect and engineer' (2020)
- Harvard GSD: 'Four tower metrics' (2020)
- University of Pennsylvania (UPENN): 'Disciplinary appropriation' (2020)
- University of Texas, Austin: 'Material organisation: in practice and process' (2020)
- Deborah Burke Partners, New York: 'Mass-timber DE-mystified' (2020)
- Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE), London: 'What is good design' (2020)
- Institution of Structural Engineers (IStructE), London: 'From practice to teaching and learning' (2020)
- Melbourne School of Design, Australia: 'MSD at home: commons of practice, research and building' (2020)
- Harvard GSD: alumni presentation (2020)
- APT: '10 thoughts on competitions' (2020)
- BRAC University, Dhaka: 'Encounters in engineering design' (2020)

- Laminate Symposium: 'Arkansas sharing table: CLT Blank', with Jennifer Bonner (2020)
- The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art, New York: 'Design engineering' (2018)
- The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art, New York: 'The engineering of empathy' (2012)

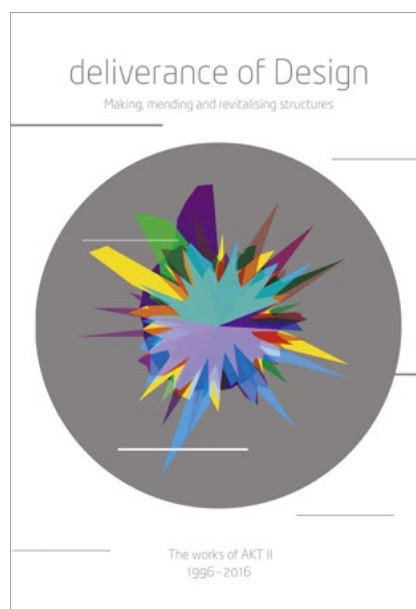
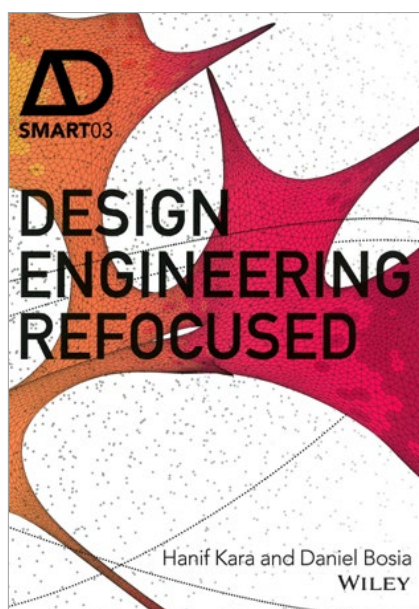
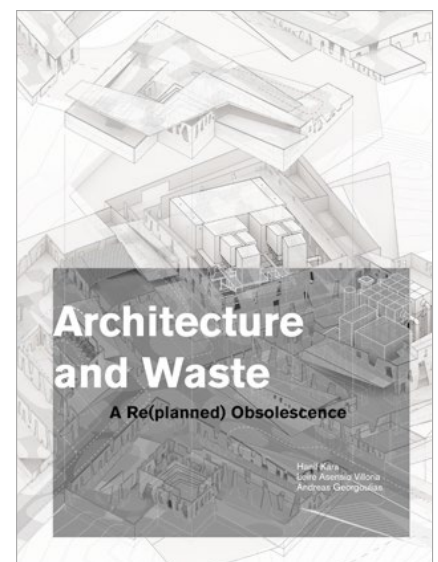
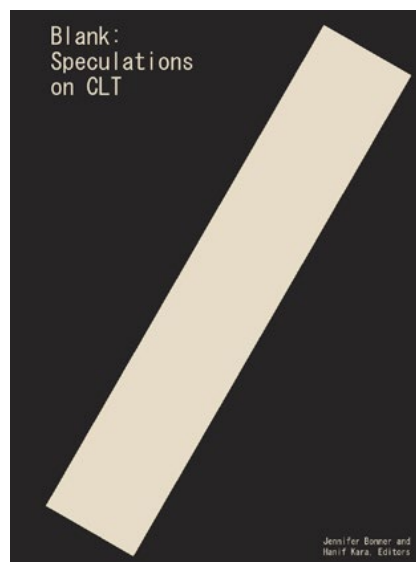
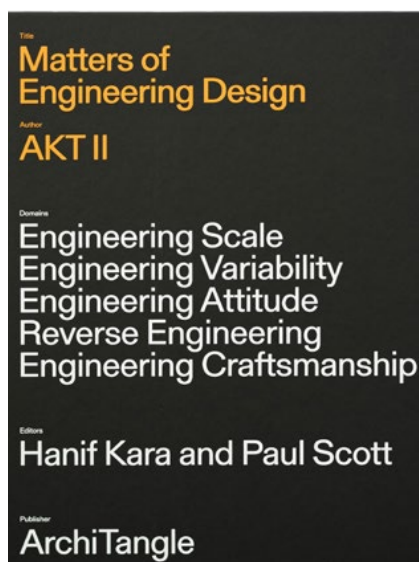
Interviews include

- ArchDaily: interview with David Basulto (2022)
- Institute of Civil Engineers (ICE), London: 'Good design report' (2021)
- Kennesaw State University, with The Ismaili Centres USA: 'Kara in conversation with Akins' (2021)
- Blessdarch: 'Hanif Kara on his engineering practice and working with Zaha Hadid, Bjarke Ingels and Norman Foster' (2021)
- National Infrastructure Commission (NIC), UK: 'Young Professionals panel: NIC women in engineering' (2021)
- Japan Broadcasting Company (NHK): media interview on the Miami Surfside building collapse (2021)
- UrbanNext: 'Building technology series, part one: the ecologies of the facade' (2021)
- New London Architecture (NLA) and New London Quarterly (NLQ), with David Taylor: 'Five minutes with Hanif Kara' (2021)
- Architecture Foundation, London: 'Afterpart' (2021)
- Parametric Architecture: 'Hanif Kara in conversation with Hamid Hassanzadeh' (2020)
- Archimakers: 'Teatime Q&A with Hanif Kara' (2020)
- National Infrastructure Commission (NIC), UK: 'Promoting the design principles: video case studies' (2020)
- Aga Khan Garden: 'The architecture of pluralism' (2020)
- Royal College of Art (RCA), London: Prize interview (2020)
- Your Future Your Ambition (YFYA): interview (2020)
- Worshipful Company of Chartered Architects (WCCA): 'Architects Company' (2020)

Publications and exhibitions

Books include

- **Matters of Engineering Design**
Hanif Kara and Paul Scott
ArchiTangle (2022)
- **Blank: Speculations on CLT**
Hanif Kara and Jennifer Bonner
AR+D Publishing (2021)
- **Architecture and Waste: A (Re)Planned Obsolescence**
Hanif Kara and Leire Asensio-Villoria
Actar (2017)
- **Design Engineering Refocused**
Hanif Kara and Daniel Bosia
Wiley (2016)
- **Deliverance of Design: The Works of AKT II 1996-2016**
Hanif Kara and Paul Scott
AKT II (2013)
- **Interdisciplinary Design: New Lessons from Architecture and Engineering**
Hanif Kara and Andreas Georgoulas
Actar, and Harvard University Press (2012)



Contributions to books and other publications include

- **Marina Tabassum - Architecture: My Journey**
Edited by Cristina Steingraber
ArchiTangle (2023)
- **AHMM: Constructing a Practice**
Edited by Neil Spiller
AD Architectural Design, and Wiley (2021)
- **Article 'How can a building just collapse?'**
Opinion by Hanif Kara
CNN (2021)
- **Architecture in Dialogue: Aga Khan Award for Architecture**
Edited by Andres Lepik
ArchiTangle (2019)
- **Architecture and Pluralism: Aga Khan Award for Architecture**
Edited by Mohsen Mostafavi
Lars Müller (2016)
- **'Placeness and Well-Being, Through the Lens of Infrastructure', published as part of 'Architecture is Life: Aga Khan Award for Architecture'**
Edited by Mohsen Mostafavi
Lars Müller (2013)
- **My Kind of Town - Istanbul**
RIBA Journal 2013)
- **Conversation with Akihisa Hirata and Hanif Kara: Tangling**
Architecture Foundation Exhibition Programme (2012)
- **Conversation with Hanif Kara and Ciro Najle**
Plot (2012)
- **The New Structuralism Edited by Rivka Oxman and Robert Oxman**
AD Architectural Design, and Wiley (2010)
- **The Diagrams of Architecture: AD Reader**
Edited by Mark Garcia
AD Architectural Design, and Wiley (2010)
- **Workplaces: The Transformation of Places of Production:**
Industrialization and the Built Environment in the Islamic world
Edited by Mohammad Al-Asad
Istanbul Bilgi Universitesi, and Aga Khan Award for Architecture (2010)
- **'After - Fragmentation of Processes and Products: Fordist Lessons for the Built Environment in the Developing World', published as part of 'Implicate, Explicate: Aga Khan Award for Architecture'**
Edited by Mohsen Mostafavi
Lars Müller (2010)
- **Architectural Association London: Agendas No. 8**
Edited by Yusuke Obuchi and Alan Dempsey
AA Publications (2010)
- **The Diagrams of Architecture, AD Reader: Applied Diagrams**
Edited by Mark Garcia
AD Architectural Design (2010)
- **Workplaces: The Transformation of Places of Production: An Engineer's Perspective**
Edited by Mohammad Al-Asad
Bilgi University Press (2010)
- **Architectural Association London, Agendas No. 8: Nine Problems in the Form of the Pavilion**
Edited by Yusuke Obuchi and Alan Dempsey
AA Publications (2010)
- **Technical & Practice - AKT's role in Heatherwick Studio's Shanghai Expo pavilion**
Architects' Journal (2010)
- **On Design Engineering: Hanif Kara and Michael Kubo in Conversation**
Edited by Caroline Ellerby, with guest editors Rivka Oxman and Robert Oxman
- **The New Structuralism: Design, Engineering, and Architectural Technologies, AD Reader (2010)**
- **The Patterns of Architecture**
Edited by Mark Garcia
AD Architectural Design, and Wiley (2009)
- **Architectural Design: Patterns of Architecture, Volume 79, Issue 6: Reductive Engineering Patterns - An Interview with Hanif Kara**
Hanif Kara and Mark Garcia
AD Architectural Design (2009)
- **Red Eye Rewards - Hanif Kara**
RIBA Journal (2009)
- **Expand your Mind - Hanif Kara**
RIBA Journal (2009)
- **BCO Guide to Specification - Design of Offices**
British Council for Offices (BCO) (2009)
- **'Tools and Weapons ... Engineers Take', as part of 'Emerging Possibilities of Testing and Simulation Methods and Techniques in Contemporary Construction Teaching'**
European Association for Architectural Education (EAAE), Greece (2008)
- **Architectural Technology as a Project**
Prepared for the Institute for Art and Architecture, of the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna (2007)
- **Design and Construction of the Phaeno Science Centre, Wolfsburg**
The Structural Engineer (2007)
- **Architecture and Polyphony: Building in the Islamic World Today**
Edited by Phillipa Baker
Thames & Hudson (2004)
- **'Cults of Collaboration', published as part of 'Architecture and Polyphony: Building in the Islamic World Today: Aga Khan Award for Architecture**
Edited by Phillipa Baker
Thames & Hudson (2004)

Exhibitions include

- **'Love & Money', for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the British Council, in Taipei (2007)**
Lecture, presentation and interview
- **'AKT at Work', Architectural Association, London (2009)**
Presentation
- **'The structural engineering of a metaphor', Harvard University Graduate School of Design (Harvard GSD) (2010)**
Curation and presentation