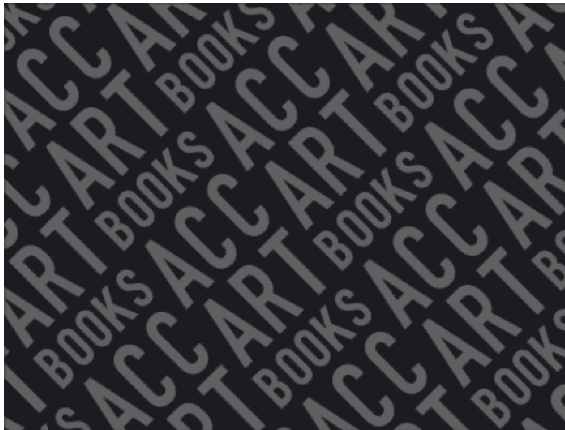




Alaïa

The Architecture of Fashion

Contributions by **Olivier Saillard**

Contributions by **Kaat Debo**

Contributions by **Erdal Pinarci**

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- Explores the creative world of Azzedine Alaïa, one of fashion's most influential couturiers and collectors.
- Features iconic designers admired by Alaïa, including Madeleine Vionnet, Cristóbal Balenciaga, Christian Dior, Jean Paul Gaultier, and Thierry Mugler.
- A unique glimpse into the archives of Azzedine Alaïa
- Features Alaïa's own creations, work process, and collection of historic master couture designs on display at MoMu Antwerp.
- Organized in collaboration with the Fondation Azzedine Alaïa, complementing a simultaneous Paris exhibition on his signature cutting techniques.

A virtuoso couturier, Azzedine Alaïa loved to study closely the techniques of the great masters of the past in a quest for knowledge that never opposed him to them, but incited him to surpass himself. A discerning collector, he focused his efforts on putting together collections that reflected this passion, one that combines the art of cutting, pattern making, and creativity. Of all the couturiers and designers, he admired, those whose architectural designs for dresses, jackets, and coats most vividly came to life always held his attention. In a family that included Madeleine Vionnet, Jeanne Lanvin, Cristóbal Balenciaga, Charles James, Adrian, Claire McCardell, Madame Grès, Jacques Fath, Christian Dior, Comme des Garçons, Jean Paul Gaultier, and Thierry Mugler, Azzedine Alaïa wrote his own history of fashion, one governed by the sovereignty of lines and the craft of cutting. Other names and other labels, some of which have since been forgotten, equally caught his observant eye. In the clothes he kept of them, a single guiding principle underlay his choices. Whether simple or, on the contrary, elaborate to form a complex harmony, the creations found their way into his collection through their skilled application of techniques. Pattern drawings and tacking stitches that transform the outlines of a dress into celestial fabric form the vocabulary that Alaïa manipulated with such expertise. He also collected them as illustrations of a discipline he liked to situate between the Academy of Sciences and sartorial poetics.

With contributions by renowned fashion voices including **Olivier Saillard**, **Kaat Debo**, **Erdal Pinarci** (Alaïa's head pattern maker), Romy Cockx, and Kim Verkens. **Olivier Saillard** (b. 1967, Pontarlier) is one of France's leading fashion historians and curators and was head of fashion at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs in Paris. Saillard has curated exhibitions at the Musée de la Mode in Paris and Marseille, the Musée Bordelle, and the Victoria & Albert Museum in London.