

FAST COMPANY

999 reasons
BUZZFEED is No. 1

—
OMG?! **NETFLIX**
beats **AMAZON!**

—
Can you guess where
APPLE ranks?

—
Crazy numbers at **UBER**,
SNAPCHAT, **SOULCYCLE**

—
Yes, **TACO BELL!**
(Sorry, Chipotle)

Why **FACEBOOK**
scares everyone

—
Goodbye **GOOGLE**,
Hello **ALPHABET**

—
What the heck is
RIOT GAMES?

—
Badass obsessions:
AIRBNB, **FARFETCH**, **HUDL**

—
Can **SLACK** make you
love work?

THE WORLD'S 50 MOST INNOVATIVE COMPANIES

What This Guy
Knows Will Blow
Your Mind
BuzzFeed CEO
Jonah Peretti



POSTCOMPANY

The World's 50 Most Innovative Companies

30 • SANAA

For upping the ante on architectural biomimicry

SANAA's River building in New Canaan, Connecticut, embodies the architecture firm's emphasis on context and environment.





"The 20th century pursued industrial repetition and conflict with the environment. We think one of the major themes of the coming age will be an organic feel and harmony with the environment," says architect Kazuyo Sejima, who founded the Tokyo-based firm SANAA along with partner Ryue Nishizawa. With their

new River building—an 83,000-square-foot, 1,400-foot-long structure on a nature preserve in New Canaan, Connecticut—Sejima and Nishizawa have taken this contextual approach to an elegant new level.

Composed of glass-walled pavilions joined by a continuous, snaking roof, the low-slung structure is home to the Grace Community Church

and not-for-profit Grace Farms Foundation. Serving as both a gathering space for the public and a lens through which to view the preserve's meadows, trees, and rolling hills, it provides a model for how a building can relate to its environment. "Architecture can enter into a dialogue with its surroundings through a shape that matches the topography,

an organic feel, a sense of freedom and transparency," Sejima says.

Sejima and Nishizawa have been pursuing these themes since opening their firm in 1995, building a body of work that is refined, harmonious, and borderline obsessive when it comes to the "right" proportions. From the playfully stacked boxes of Manhattan's New Museum

to the undulating Rolex Learning Center in Switzerland, SANAA's structures are subtle regardless of their scale—and have inspired others to embrace this perspective. The firm recently won the high-profile commissions for the new National Gallery and Ludwig Museum in Budapest, Hungary, and the Art Gallery of New South Wales, in Sydney.



Photograph by Tobias Hutzler

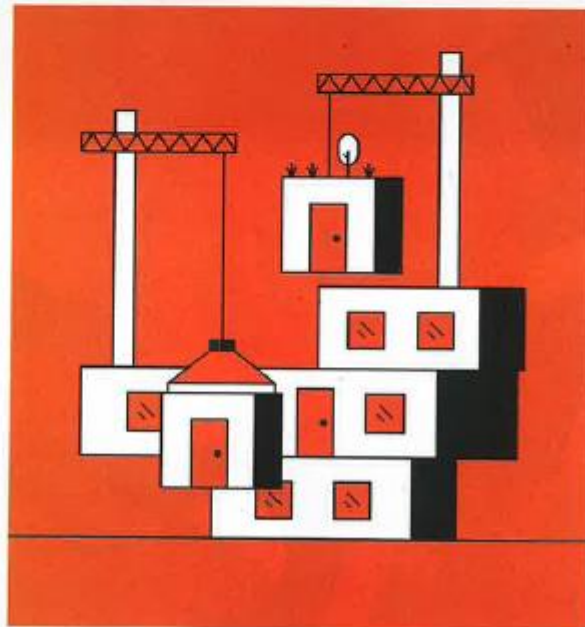
Most Innovative Companies by sector

Whether it's social media, space, sports, or style, here are the 10 fastest companies in the business world's most vibrant categories. Visit fastcompany.com/mic for more industries and details.

ARCHITECTURE

Structural design increasingly requires modularity and adaptability. The most compelling new buildings interact with their surroundings. OMA's Timmerhuis city hall in Rotterdam, Netherlands, resembles stacked blocks—a nice visual effect that also allows units to be added or removed over time. Archiblox's modular sustainable homes maximize sunlight. Other nature nurturers include SANAA's Grace Farms River Building and Ingenhoven's "Green Heart" high-rise, which will put a giant mountain amid Singapore's bustle.

1. **SANAA**
2. **OMA**
3. **Archiblox**
4. **Tengbom**
5. **Ingenhoven Architects**
6. **Assemble**
7. **Gerber Architektén**
8. **Kasita**
9. **Ateliers Jean Nouvel**
10. **Lake|Flato**



<http://www.fastcompany.com/most-innovative-companies/sectors/food>