

*Inauguration of the new building for the  
Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs*

Thursday, May 29, 2014 at 6:30pm

IFI Building/Green Oval

**Remarks by Architect Zaha Hadid:**

The Issam Fares Institute is defined by the many routes and connections within AUB. The design interweaves the pathways, links and views of the campus to create a forum for the exchange of ideas - a centre of interaction and dialogue - at the heart of the university.

The design establishes the institute as a crossroads; a three-dimensional intersection and space for the university's students, faculty, researchers and visitors to meet, connect, and engage with each other and the wider community.

Continuing Beirut's long tradition as a meeting point and gathering place, together with AUB's rich history as a place of learning and research, the IFI increases our knowledge through communication and discourse; connecting the many voices of the region and exploring possibilities. The Institute's work looks to the future and challenges us all, enriching our understanding of the Arab world by expanding research and broadening debate.

I congratulate H.E. Mr. Issam Fares and the Fares family for their remarkable vision and commitment. I would also like to thank all who worked to realize the project, particularly, former AUB President John Waterbury and the design jury, Chairman Philip Khoury and the AUB Board of Trustees, President Peter Dorman, IFI Director Rami Khouri, together with Robert Foster, Bassem Barhoumi, Alain Eid and the entire Facilities, Planning & Design Unit.

The IFI will be integral to the life of the university, welcoming the community inside via the pathways and routes that converge within, and creating new public spaces for interaction, dialogue and engagement.