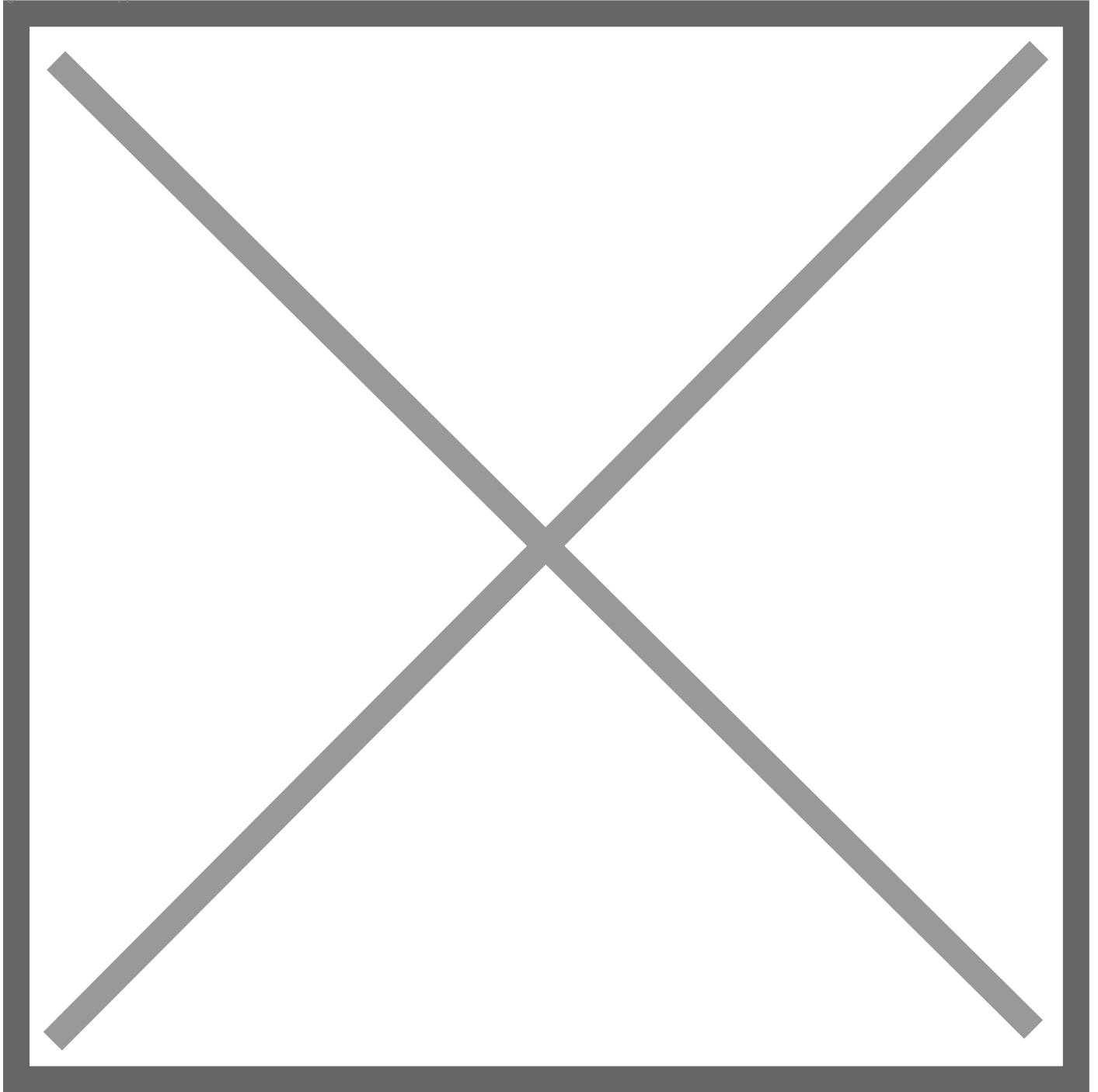


**LEXUS UNVEILS ‘ON/’ AT DESIGN MIAMI/  
2021: A VISION FOR AN ELECTRIFIED,  
CARBON-NEUTRAL AND HUMAN-CENTERED  
FUTURE BY GERMANE BARNES AND THE  
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI**

November 30, 2021



**PLANO, Texas (Nov. 30, 2021)** – Today, Lexus unveiled ‘ON/’ at Design Miami/, presenting a vision by Germane Barnes and his team at the University of Miami that is inspired by the power and potential of Lexus’s LF-Z Electrified Concept car, which introduces new electrification principles to the brand’s ethos. The immersive installation embodies the human-centered, future-oriented approach to design and craftsmanship that the automotive brand and Barnes share, its title alluding to an on/off switch as a vision of a carbon-neutral future powered by electric technology. ‘ON/’ creates an environment that is designed to engage viewers of all ages, providing an experience that is both visually dynamic and interactive while offering an inviting space to recharge and reflect.

The installation is centered around a precisely-to-scale, three-dimensional sculptural rendition of the LF-Z Electrified Concept car rendered in steel and illuminated with embedded LED lighting; the frame of the car glows and is suspended just above the ground, a vision of a more sustainable future coming into focus. Two swings anchor the display, each suspended within illuminated arches in a nod to the classical architecture that is both foundational to the design of civic infrastructure and central to the University of Miami's curriculum, alluding to a gateway between our present and the possibilities of the future. This arch is echoed in furniture with embedded LED lighting designed by Barnes and his team specifically for the installation, providing discrete areas for rest, repose and recharging — reflecting the brand's commitment to the principle of *omotenashi* (exceptional hospitality).

The entire installation is unified by a unique lighting scheme, designed to enable engagement from users around the world via an interactive virtual model unveiled online alongside the physical display. Participants are invited to create their own lighting designs for the display, altering the color of various features including the walls, car, swings and furniture. Barnes and his team will select a series of the user-generated designs to showcase onsite, spotlighting the creative vision of entries from around the world.

“As a global brand with commitment to the Japanese design principles of *takumi* (expert craftsmanship) and *omotenashi* (exceptional hospitality) and a mission to build towards a carbon-neutral future, Lexus embodies elements that are essential markers of high-quality design for today, while also echoing my personal values. Designing for a future that is collaborative, sustainable, equitable and prioritizes the unique experiences of individuals is both a driving force of my practice and my work with students here at the University of Miami. As Design Miami/ opens, we're excited to see how the public engages with the installation, both in-person and online, and makes our vision for the future their own,” commented Germane Barnes, assistant professor at the University of Miami School of Architecture.

This concept reflects a commitment to next-generation design and was developed by Germane Barnes, principal architect at Studio Barnes, assistant professor at the University of Miami School of Architecture and director of the CHIL Lab, in close coordination with his team at the University and Studio. The core project team included students Isabella Adelsohn, Mahlia Jenkins and Andrea Martinez of the School of Architecture at the University of Miami, along with Indrit Alushani, lecturer and RAD Lab manager, and Rodolphe el-Khoury, dean of the University of Miami School of Architecture.

“We're thrilled to bring this incredible project from Germane Barnes and the University of Miami to Design Miami/ in our fourth year of partnership with the fair,” commented Brian Bolain, Lexus' global head of marketing. “As we look towards next generation design, this project has given us a chance to highlight Lexus' commitment to electrification while working closely with the students at UMiami who are incredibly talented and truly represent the future of design and innovation.”

Returning as automotive partner for its fourth year at Design Miami/, Lexus will present another installment of its long standing Lexus Art & Innovation series with “Whitewall” from November 30-December 1. Speakers include Dror Benshetrit, Harry Nuriev, Thomas Coldefy, Sarah Meyhoas, Gretchen Andrew, Refik Anadol, Lee Quinones, Yves Béhar, Cathy Leff, Rudy el-Khoury, Brian Bolain and Kevin Hunter; alongside moderators Tamara Warren, Alessandro Possati, Katy Donoghue and Laurent Moïsi, to name a few, in addition to Germane Barnes who will participate on the panels “Fertile Ground: Shaping the Next Generation of Designs” on Tuesday November 30 at 4:30 p.m. and “Electrification and Beyond: How Tech is Shaping What Comes Next” on Wednesday December 1 at 11:30 a.m. Design Miami/ runs from December 1 through December 5 online and in-person at the Miami Beach Convention Center.

The press kit includes a documentary behind the scenes, high-res photography, CGI video, which can be accessed [here](#).

## **THE DESIGN TEAM**

Indrit Alushani, Lecturer and Manager of the RAD Lab at the University of Miami School of Architecture

Isabella Adelsohn, 3rd year student at the University of Miami School of Architecture

Mahlia Jenkins, 4th year student at the University of Miami School of Architecture

Andrea Martinez, 3rd year student at the University of Miami School of Architecture

Rodolphe el-Khoury, Dean of the University of Miami School of Architecture

Donnie Navarro-Garcia, Architectural Designer and Lecturer at the University of Miami School of Architecture

Ana Maria Regalado, Associate Dean, Student Development Programs at the University of Miami School of Architecture