

# Museum Architecture and Society 博物館建築的社會意義

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What does “museum” mean?

**Museum: original meaning of the word according to the Ancient Greek**

“Museum” originally refers to a temple of the Muses, the Greek goddesses who inspired the creation of the arts and literature.



Clio Thalia Erato Euterpe Polyhymnia Calliope Terpsichore Urania Melpomene

Image source: www.voice-365.com

**Museum: modern meaning of the word according to ICOM 國際博物館協會**



**Museum Definition**



The definition of a museum has evolved, in line with developments in society. Since its creation in 1946, ICOM updates this definition in accordance with the realities of the global museum community.

According to the ICOM Statutes, adopted during the 21st General Conference in Vienna, Austria, in 2007:

A museum is a non-profit, permanent institution in the service of society and its development, open to the public, which acquires, conserves, researches, communicates and exhibits the tangible and intangible heritage of humanity and its environment for the purposes of education, study and enjoyment.

This definition is a reference in the international community.

Image source: icom.museum

**Museum: proto-museum tradition in the West**

In Renaissance Europe, the term “cabinet of curiosities” 奇珍異寶藏寶室 was coined to refer to places where encyclopedic collections of novel or interesting objects were displayed – these were the prototype of today’s museums.



Image source: en.academic.ru

**Museum: proto-museum tradition in the West**

In 19th-century England and United States, curiosity shops (antique shops) and "freak shows" (exhibition of people with deformities or in unusual physical conditions) often labeled as "museums."

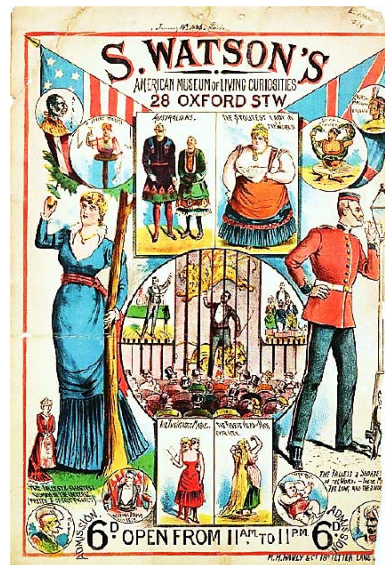


Image source: content.cdlib.org; www.chicagopostcardmuseum.org; scienceblogs.com

**Museum: proto-museum tradition in China**

There was no proto-museum tradition in Imperial China – precious possessions were traditionally kept out sight, and not displayed to strangers. The Chinese term for museum, *bowuguan* 博物館, meaning “a hall of a comprehensive collection of objects,” is probably derived from Japanese, and Japan adopted the museum tradition from the West.



Image source: unknown Internet source

**Should heritage buildings be revitalized as museums?**

博物館是歷史建築的最佳的活化用途嗎？

### TECHNICAL REQUIREMENT: Display and Storage Space 展覽與存儲空間

Does the place have sufficient space not only for the display, but also for the storage of collections, in accordance with the requirements of the accreditation organization?

Space required: 40% of the building for public collection space (display)  
20-30% for non-public collection space (storage and conservation)

Exhibition-storage ratio: 1 : 1 for large or national museums  
2.7 : 1 for medium or general museums  
4 : 1 for small or local museums

Source: Barry Lord, Gail Dexter Lord and Lindsay Martin (eds.) *Manual of Museum Planning*, 3rd ed. (Lanham, Maryland: AltaMira Press, 2012), section 7.1.)



Image source: www.brunnzeel.co.uk; www.constructor-storage.com

### TECHNICAL REQUIREMENT: Professional Standards & Guidelines 專業準則與指引

To achieve accreditation, does the operation meet professional standards and guidelines for museums, such as those laid down by ICOM?

ICOM's standards and guidelines supply models to museum professionals in order to facilitate the implementation of their good practices in terms of objects acquisition, personnel, conservation of art objects and museum specialism.


- Running a Museum: a practical handbook (2004)
- The CIDOC Conceptual Reference Model (CRM, 2001)
- Interpreting Musical Instruments in Museum Collections: Guidelines (1998)
- Guidelines for Costume (1998)
- Handbook of Standards Documenting African Collections (1996)
- International Core Data Standards for Ethnology/Ethnography (1996)
- International Guidelines for Museum Object Information: the CIDOC Information Categories (1995) 
- Recommendations for the Application of Accession Numbers (1995)
- Registration Step by Step: When an Object Enters the Museum (CIDOC Fact Sheet 1, 1993) 
- Labelling and Marking Objects (CIDOC Fact Sheet 2, 1993) 
- Guidelines for Disaster Preparedness in Museums (1993) 
- CIMENT: Uniform Procedures for Data Element Description in CIMCIM Database Systems (1991)
- Recommendations for Regulating the Access to Musical Instruments in Public Collections (1985)
- ICOM Guidelines for Loans (1974) 

Image source: icom.museum

**MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENT: Collection and Resources 藏品與資源**

Is it a museum with its own collection, or an exhibition venue displaying on-loan items?

A museum has to have its own **collection** (otherwise, it's an exhibition venue 展覽場地) as well as the **resources** to hire professional staff to carry out research and publication, as well curatorial, conservation and protection of the collection.



Image source: archaeologicalmuseum.jhu.edu

**MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENT: Environmental Control & Security 濕溫控制與保安系統**

Is the place able to meet the international museum standards for relative humidity and temperature control as well as security?

Collection Type: General museums, art galleries, libraries, and archives (all reading and retrieval rooms, rooms for storage of chemically stable collections, especially if mechanically medium to high vulnerability)

RH and temperature set points: historical annual average for permanent collections or 50% RH with the temperature between 15 and 25°C.

Source: David Grattan and Stefan Michalski, "Environmental Guidelines for Museum," article on the website of the Canadian Conservation Institute (2 March 2012) at: [www.cci-icc.gc.ca/caringfor-prendresoindes/articles/enviro/index-eng.aspx#ft1aa](http://www.cci-icc.gc.ca/caringfor-prendresoindes/articles/enviro/index-eng.aspx#ft1aa)



Image source: www.genetec.com; www.cci-icc.gc.ca

**MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENT: Accreditation 認證**

Will the place remain a self-styled "museum" or be able to become a accredited museum?

A museum, as an institute, has to meet the accreditation requirements of a national or an international museum accreditation organization, such as, Arts Council England, American Alliance of Museum, and the International Council of Museums (ICOM) 國際博物館協會, among others.



Image source: www.athelstanmuseum.org.uk; www.bris.ac.uk; learn.michenerartmuseum.org; shellmuseum.org

**FINANCIAL REQUIREMENT: Funding Sources 資金來源**

Does the place have stable funding sources to sustain the museum operation and development?

Unlike the model found in most of the world, where museums are largely supported by the national government, American museums keep their operations going by cobbling together a mosaic of funding sources, from government sources, from the private sector and, increasingly, from earned income [(mostly through renting out event and shop spaces) and investments].

Source: Ford W. Bell, "How are Museums Supported in the U.S.?", article on the website of the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of International Information Programs (published March 2012) at: [http://photos.state.gov/libraries/amgov/133183/english/P\\_You\\_Asked\\_How\\_Are\\_Museums\\_Supported\\_Financially.pdf](http://photos.state.gov/libraries/amgov/133183/english/P_You_Asked_How_Are_Museums_Supported_Financially.pdf)

Average Mix of Funding Sources for U.S. Museums (2009)



Government support (all levels)	Private (charitable) giving	Earned income	Investment income
24.4%	36.5%	27.6%	11.5%

Image source: photos.state.gov

**"The quickest way to bankruptcy is to set up a museum!"**

Dr. Joseph Ting, former Chief Curator of the Hong Kong Museum of History

**「想快啲破產，最好就係搞博物館！」**

前香港歷史博物館總館長丁新豹博士

## **1st-Generation Museum Architecture**

### **第一代的博物館建築**

**Palatial museum architecture:**  
**post-revolution palaces 革命後皇宮**

**Main trend period: since the late 18th century**



Image source: [www.aprayertoourfather.com](http://www.aprayertoourfather.com)



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Main trend period: since the late 18th century

### Ideology:

turning a palace – an exclusive place for the ruling elite – into a public museum – a "people's palace" – is a symbolic gesture of the **proletarian revolution** (無資產階級革命), an expression of the ideals of **Marxism** (馬克思主義) and **Communism** (共產主義).

### Post-revolution palace: Louvre Museum, France

Paris' **Louvre Museum** (1793) was originally the **Louvre Palace** that became the world's first truly public museum during the French Revolution (1789-1799).

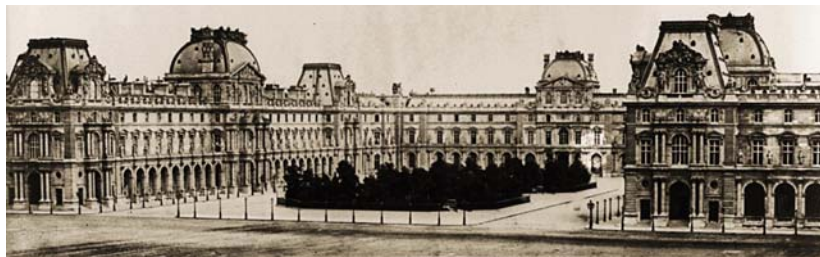


Image source: wikipedia, wikipedia

**Post-revolution palace: Palace Museum, China**

Beijing's **Palace Museum** (1925) was originally the **Forbidden City** palace compound; it became a public museum after the Chinese Republican Revolution (1911).



Image source: [www.talesofoldchina.com](http://www.talesofoldchina.com); [www.beijingrelocation.com](http://www.beijingrelocation.com)

**Post-revolution palace: Museum of the Revolution, Cuba**

Havana's **Presidential Palace** (1920) was originally the office and residence of Cuban presidents, it became the **Museum of the Revolution** after the Cuban Revolution (1959).



Image source: [wikipedia](http://wikipedia)

**Almost post-revolution palace: the Hong Kong Purple Lodge 紫廬 (didn't happen)**

**太陽報** 網頁 時事 財經 娛樂 體育 E+ SUN樂園 馬經 愛心基金 | 太陽報社論 財經論點 太一叮 華夏透視  
2007年11月28日 昔日談

時事 欲改「紫廬」招批評

**1851年落成 25任港督入住**  
欲改「紫廬」招批評  
28/11/2007

禮賓府在九七回歸前是香港總督的辦公室和官邸，當時稱為港督府。因港督已成歷史名詞，九九九年政府決定改名，並舉行命名比賽，但評審不滿意名稱，私下改名為「紫廬」，引起市民批評，最後政府只好易名為禮賓府至今。

建於一八五一年之香港禮賓府，屬於英喬治亞時代的建築，被列為法定古蹟，受到《古物及古蹟條例》保護。在殖民地年代，禮賓府不但是港督以及其家人的官邸，也是訪港皇室成員還有其他貴賓的居所。在歷任二十八位港督中，有二十五位曾以禮賓府為官邸和辦公室，包括末任港督彭定康。

九七回歸後，禮賓府成為特首及政府接待各界要人最重要的官方場所。董建華於九七年至〇五年出任特首後，並無遷入禮賓府，他留居於其半山寓所嘉慧園，但每逢舉辦官式活動或接待貴賓，仍以禮賓府為首選場地，特首曾蔭權則是首位入住該官邸和辦公的特區政府首長。市民要一睹禮賓府風采，可在每年兩次開放時入內參觀拍照。SBN



Image source: postcard.ish-lyon.cnrs.fr; www.discuss.com.hk; Lee Ho Yin

## 2nd-Generation Museum Architecture 第二代的博物館建築

Neo-classical museum architecture:  
mock palaces 仿宮殿 or temples 仿聖殿

Main trend period: the 19th to the early 20th century

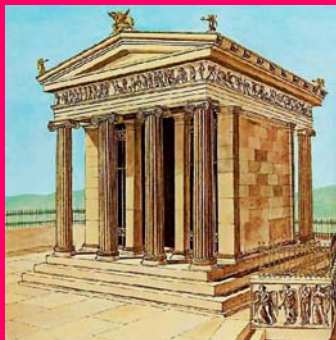


Image source: www.evere.co.uk

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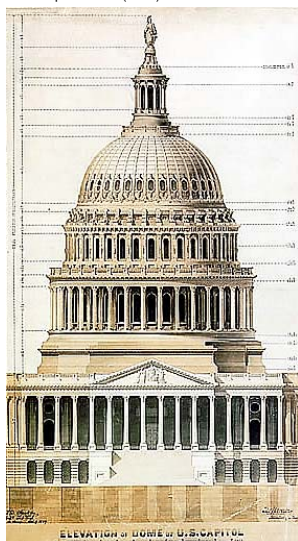
### Ideology:

the museum as "cultural palace" or "cultural temple" that projects superiority of one culture over another – an expression of **imperialism** (帝國主義) or **nationalism** (民族主義), depending on the nature of the museum.

### Neo-classical Architecture 新古典主義建築

Neo-classical architecture, or Neo-classicism in architecture, plays up the grandeur appearance of Classical architecture. It is inspired by the monumental public buildings of ancient Rome. It is an effective expression of state power and has often been used for this purpose.

US Capitol Dome (1866)



USSR's Zaryadye Administrative Building (1934)



Nazi Germany's Reich Chancellery (1939)



Image source: wikipedia; wikipedia; www.darkroastedblend.com

**The mock-palace museum: stylistic reference for the architecture**



Buckingham Palace (UK)



Forbidden City (China)



Brussels Royal Palace (Belgium)



Tokyo Imperial Palace (Japan)

Image source: www.around-london.com; www.globeimages.net; www.flickrriver.com; cepolina.com

**The mock palace: Tokyo National Museum, Japan**

**Tokyo National Museum** (1882) was built after the restoration of the emperor's political authority – obviously there was a dual nationalist and imperialist agenda. It was Japan's first public museum and one that houses art and archaeological collections.



Image source: wikipedia

**The mock palace: Kyoto National Museum, Japan**

**Kyoto National Museum** (1895) was built when Japan emerging as a dominant Asian power. The museum's palatial architecture probably helped in fostering nationalism and preparing for the projection of Japan's ambition in imperialism. It houses Japan's imperial family's and religious institutions' art treasures.



Image source: wikipedia

**The mock palace: National (formerly Raffles) Museum, Singapore**

The **National Museum of Singapore** (1887), formerly the Raffles Museum, was originally a museum of zoology and ethnography built by the British Colonial Government to project its imperial prowess. After Singapore's independence, it became a museum of Singapore's founding and independence history – a means of fostering national pride and identity for Singapore citizens.



Image source: www.nhb.gov.sg

**The mock palace: Royal Ontario Museum, Queen's Park Wing**

The **Royal Ontario Museum** (established 1912) shares similarities with Singapore's Raffles/National Museum in terms of its original institutional setup in a colonial territory of the British Empire as a museum with a collection of zoological specimens and cultural artefacts. The imperialistic undertone is projected in the monumental, palace-like architectural expression of the **Queen's Park Wing** (1933). The museum now carries a more nationalistic undertone by focusing on Canada's natural history and diverse ethnic cultures.

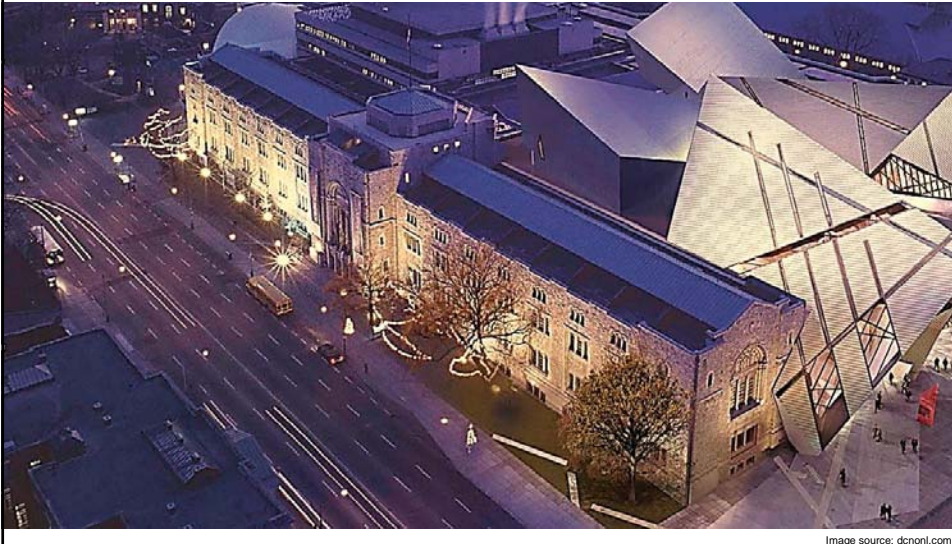


Image source: dcnoni.com

**The mock palace: National Museum of History 國立歷史博物館, Taiwan  
National Palace Museum 國立故宮博物院, Taiwan**

Built during the height of confrontation between the Communist Chinese Government on the Mainland and the Nationalist Chinese Government (Kuomintang) on the island of Taiwan, the **National Museum of History** (1960) and **National Palace Museum** (1965) in Taipei were designed to evoke nationalism sentiment among Taiwanese that the Kuomintang was the legitimate government of China.



Image source: National Museum of History on Facebook; www.qsl.net

### The mock-temple museum: stylistic reference for the architecture

Greek temple



Image source: wikipedia; karenshimsy.com

### The mock temple: Altes Museum, Germany

Berlin's **Altes Museum** (1830) was built at a time when Prussia was the dominant European power; it was established from the onset for public education in art and culture, and it houses the Prussian Royal family's art collection. The agenda of this museum was similar to those of the Kyoto National Museum.



Image source: gogermany.about.com



**The mock temple: British Museum, UK**

London's **British Museum** (1850) was expanded and rebuilt at the height of the British Empire. The architecture clearly project the Empire's imperial might. It houses collections of cultural artefacts taken from colonized and conquered places across the Empire.

**The mock temple: Philadelphia Museum of Art, USA**

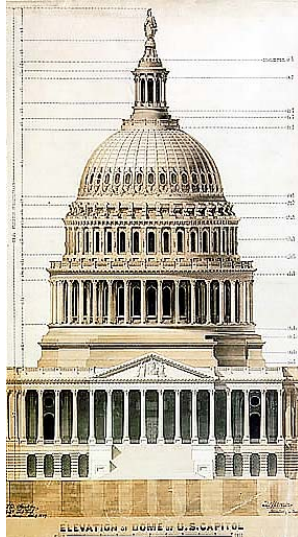
The **Philadelphia Museum of Art** (1928) is one of the biggest museums in the US, its houses collections of Western and Asian works of art from ancient to modern times. Its cultural imperialism agenda is more implicit than overt.



**Neo-classical Architecture 新古典主義建築**

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**Pseudo-classical Architecture! 仿古典主義建築**

Neo-classicism in architecture is often admired by people eager to project power and status. As such, it becomes a favourite of the *nouveau riche*, unsophisticated governments and commercial developers. 無品味暴發戶至愛!



Image source: mashable.com; www.nextnature.net

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Image source: www.ra-re.org; prafulla.ne; www.twylah.com

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Image source: Lee Ho Yin

Heritage buildings should become museums is a popular perception the grew out of the 1st- and 2nd-generation museum architecture.



Image source: Wikipedia; Lee Ho Yin; unknown Internet source

## 3rd-Generation Museum Architecture 第三代的博物館建築

**Modern museum architecture:  
bunkers 碉堡 or boxes  
(with an arrogant attitude 高傲態度 !)**

**Main trend period: from the 1950s to the 1970s**



Image source: www.architizer.com

## 3rd-Generation Museum Architecture 第三代的博物館建築

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### **Ideology:**

the museum internally as an underwhelming container for the display of precious artwork or artefacts, but externally a forbidding bunker to protect the cultural treasures from the **philistines** (庸俗的人) – an expression of **elitism** (精英主義).

### **Modern architecture 現代主義建築**

**Modern architecture, or Modernism in architecture**, is based on the principle of Functionalism, in which a building's aesthetics is derived from function and not decoration. This principle is summarized by the Modern architect's maxim, "**form follows function**." The resultant architecture often has an utilitarian appearance that is not easily appreciated or understood.



Image source: www.nysid.net; wikipedia; www.magic-cities.com; www.ananasamiami.com

**Modern architecture 現代主義建築**

Four architects whose works defined Modern architecture:

- Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959), American architect
- Ludwig Mies van der Rohe (1886-1969), German-American architect and the last Director of the original Bauhaus School of Design
- Le Corbusier (1887-1965), Swiss-French architect
- Louis Kahn (1901-1974), Estonian-American architect and Professor at the University of Pennsylvania



Two required textbooks on for architecture students:

*Towards a New Architecture (Vers Une Architecture)* by Le Corbusier, first published in French in 1923 and in English in 1927.

*Modern Architecture: A Critical History*, by Columbia University Professor of Architecture, Kenneth Frampton, first edition published in 1980 (now in fourth edition)

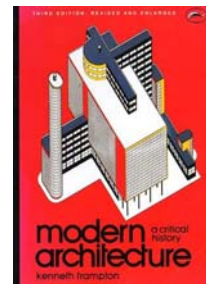
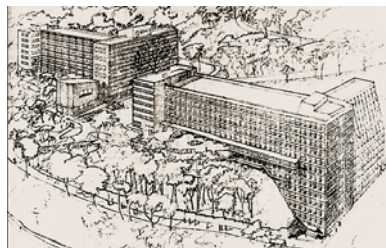
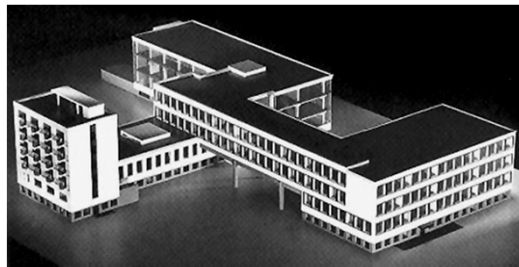


Image source: (architects) wikipedia; redingote.fr; finaleproject.wordpress.com; www.bdonline.co.uk; (book covers) yuezhang3.blogspot.com; www.amazon.com

**The original Modern architecture: Bauhaus School of Design, Germany**

Designed by German architect and the founding director of the Bauhaus school, Walter Gropius (1883-1969), the **Bauhaus School of Design** complex (1926) set the characteristics of Modern architecture up to the 1970s.



The old Central Government Offices, PWD architects, 1957-1959 (completed in 3 phrases)

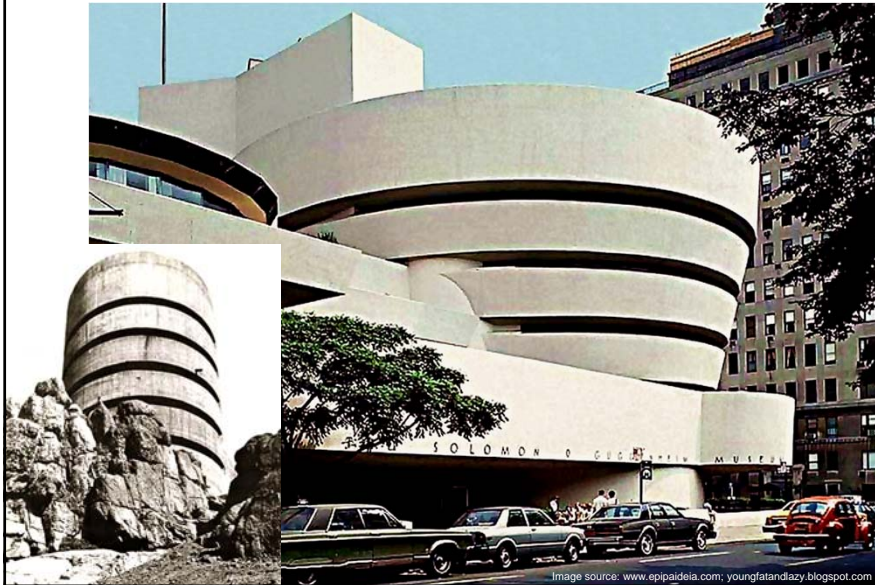


City Hall, Ron Phillips & Alan Fitch architects, 1962

Image source: TBD

**The bunker: Guggenheim Museum, USA**

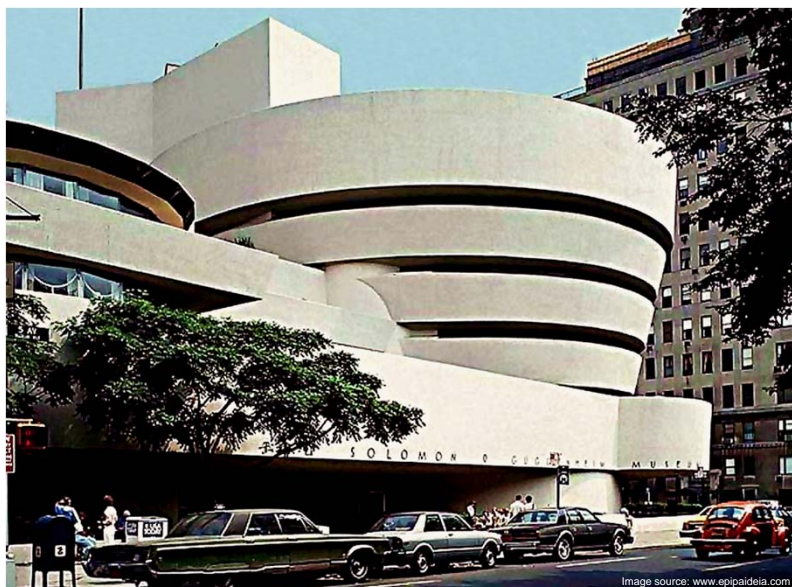
Designed by American architect Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959), New York City's **Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum** (1959) continues the "temple-style" museum design tradition and sniffs at its "mundane" neighbouring buildings.



**The bunker: Guggenheim Museum, USA**

"The nature of the building design is such as to seem more like a temple in a park on the avenue than like a mundane business or residential structure."

Frank Lloyd Wright, in *The Guggenheim Museum* (1960), p18.



**The bunker: Whitney Museum of American Art, USA**

Designed by Hungarian-American architect Marcel Breuer (1902-1981), New York City's **Whitney Museum of American Art** (1966) continues the "temple-style" museum design tradition and sniffs at its "aren't any good" neighbouring buildings.



Image source: thefanzine.com; www.greatspacestv.com; (bunker) www.lonesentry.com

**The bunker: Whitney Museum of American Art, USA**

"Maybe I built it to rebel against skyscrapers and brownstones. I didn't try to fit the building to its neighbours because the neighbourhood buildings aren't any good."

Marcel Breuer in "The New Whitney," *Newsweek*, 3 Oct. 1966, p98.

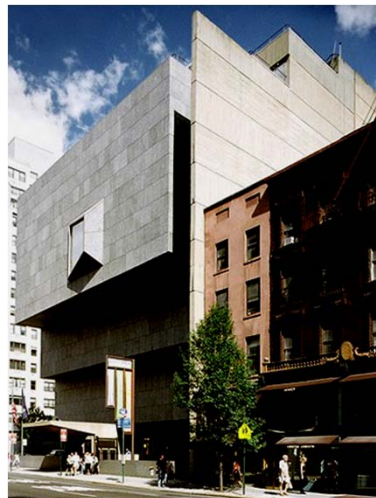


Image source: thefanzine.com; www.greatspacestv.com; (bunker) www.lonesentry.com



**The box: New National Gallery Berlin, Germany**

Designed by German-American architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe (1886-1969), Berlin's *Neue Nationalgalerie* (New National Gallery) (1968) is form-follow-function aesthetics at its most extreme – **Minimalism** 極簡主義.



**The box: New National Gallery Berlin, Germany**

"Less is more." 簡約見精華

Famous Mies van der Rohe quote



**The sarcophagus (variation of the box): Kimbell Art Museum, USA**

Designed by Estonian-American architect and professor Louis Kahn (1909-1974), Fort Worth's **Kimbell Art Museum** (1972) is elitism at its most extreme – the building seems to entomb its collection and shut people out.



**The sarcophagus (variation of the box): Kimbell Art Museum, USA**

"A great building must begin with the unmeasurable, must go through measurable means when it is being designed, and in the end must be unmeasurable."

One of the many "head-scratching" quotes by architect Louis Kahn



**Louis Kahn replicature!**



Museum London Ontario (1980),  
designed by Canadian architect Raymond Moriyama



Hong Kong Museum of History (1991),  
designed by the Hong Kong-based P&T Group

Image source: www.kimbellart.org; www.panoramio.com; Hong Kong Museum of History

**"Head-scratching" quotes of Louis Kahn 路易簡的「搨頭」寓言**



A great building must begin with the unmeasurable, must go through measurable means when it is being designed and in the end must be unmeasurable.

Architecture is the reaching out for the truth.

Consider the momentous event in architecture when the wall parted and the column became.

Every time a student walks past a really urgent, expressive piece of architecture that belongs to his college, it can help reassure him that he does have that mind, does have that soul.

You say to a brick, 'What do you want, brick?' And brick says to you, 'I like an arch.' And you say to brick, 'Look, I want one, too, but arches are expensive and I can use a concrete lintel.' And then you say: 'What do you think of that, brick?' Brick says: 'I like an arch.'

All material in nature, the mountains and the streams and the air and we, are made of Light which has been spent, and this crumpled mass called material casts a shadow, and the shadow belongs to Light.

Architecture appears for the first time when the sunlight hits a wall. The sunlight did not know what it was before it hit a wall.

The sun is. Thus the Universe. Did we need Bach? Bach is. Thus music is. Did we need Boullée? Did we need Ledoux? Boullée is. Ledoux is. Thus Architecture is.

**ARRRRGH!!!** 

Image source: shadowofthedarkside.deviantart.com

Louis Kahn, the international star

**BRILLIANT AND TOUCHING.**  
David Shields, THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

**"SPELLBINDING...  
A Citizen Kane-Like Meditation."**  
Robert Kahn, NEW YORK MAGAZINE

**"GRIPPING DRAMA  
AND SUSPENSE.  
There are Few Fictional Movies that  
can Hold a Candle to Mr. Kahn's  
Odyssey Through Time and Space!"**  
Andrew Sarris, NEW YORK OBSERVER

**"BRILLIANT!  
A Wonder of a Movie."**  
Herbert Marshburn, THE NEW YORK TIMES

**DVD SPECIAL  
FEATURES**

- Question and Answer with Director Nathaniel Kahn including extra scenes and rare historical footage of Louis Kahn
- Original Theatrical Trailer
- Scene Selections

**MY ARCHITECT  
A SON'S JOURNEY**

WINNER  
BEST DOCUMENTARY  
NOMINEE  
BEST FILM OF THE YEAR  
NEW YORK TIMES

ACADEMY AWARD NOMINEE  
BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

"ONE OF THE  
BEST FILMS  
OF THIS OR ANY YEAR!"  
—Laurie R King, NY TIMES

RAPTUROUS!  
ONE OF THE BEST FILMS OF THE YEAR!  
—Laurie R King, NY TIMES

REMARKABLE!  
POWERFUL!  
—Robert M. Young, WALL STREET JOURNAL

A MAN, HIS BUILDINGS, HIS SECRET LIVES.  
A FILM BY NATHANIEL KAHN

**MY ARCHITECT  
A SON'S JOURNEY**

USA. Running Time: 116 minutes. Color. In English.  
© 2003 Louis Kahn Films, Inc.  
© 2003 New Yorker Films, Inc. HBO

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Image source: www.alacolorado.org

Louis Kahn, the Hong Kong star

建築就是生活  
Architecture is about Living

The Life and Times of Louis i. Kahn 《路易簡的時代和生活》, a 2007 musical theatre with Kahn played by Hong Kong actor, director and screenwriter Kam Kwok-leung (甘國亮, born 1950).

Image source: db-db.com; www.designerhk.com; data.yule.sohu.com

**Bunker-style museum duplicature! 周圍都係碉堡式博物館建築!**

Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taipei (1983)

German bunker, Normandy (W.W.II)

China Science and Technology Museum, Beijing (1988)

Hong Kong Museum of Art, Hong Kong (1991)

Guangdong Museum of Art, Guangzhou (1997)

Image source: (clockwise from top left) guidepal.com; wikipedia; static.chinavisual.com; www.guangzhoutravelguide.com; www.uploadimage.cn; www.architizer.com

## 4th-Generation Museum Architecture 第四代的博物館建築

Postmodern museum architecture:  
pretty present boxes 靚靚禮品盒

Main trend period: the 1980s



Image source: www.turbosquid.com

## 4th-Generation Museum Architecture 第四代的博物館建築

Postmodern museum architecture:  
pretty present boxes 靚靚禮品盒

Main trend period: the 1980s

### Ideology:

the museum as a non-alienating, not-taking-itself-too-seriously place to reduce the perception of elitism – an expression of **populism** (民粹主義).

### Postmodern architecture 後現代主義建築

**Postmodern architecture, or Postmodernism in architecture**, was a 1980s reaction to the austere and abstract functional aesthetics of Modern architecture by taking on a populist approach in designing architecture that ordinary people can find it easier to appreciate and relate to. The architecture is characterized by the use of colours, playful shapes, metaphoric forms and tongue-in-cheek reinterpretation of Classical elements.



Image source: [www.archdaily.com](http://www.archdaily.com); [openbuildings.com](http://openbuildings.com); [www.achievement.org](http://www.achievement.org); [www.huntonbrady.com](http://www.huntonbrady.com); [www.greatbuildings.com](http://www.greatbuildings.com); [www.stcoletta.org](http://www.stcoletta.org); Francis Jonckheere at Flickr

**Postmodern architecture 後現代主義建築**

Postmodern architecture are characterized by the use of colours, playful shapes, symbolic forms and **tongue-in-cheek reinterpretation of Classical elements.**

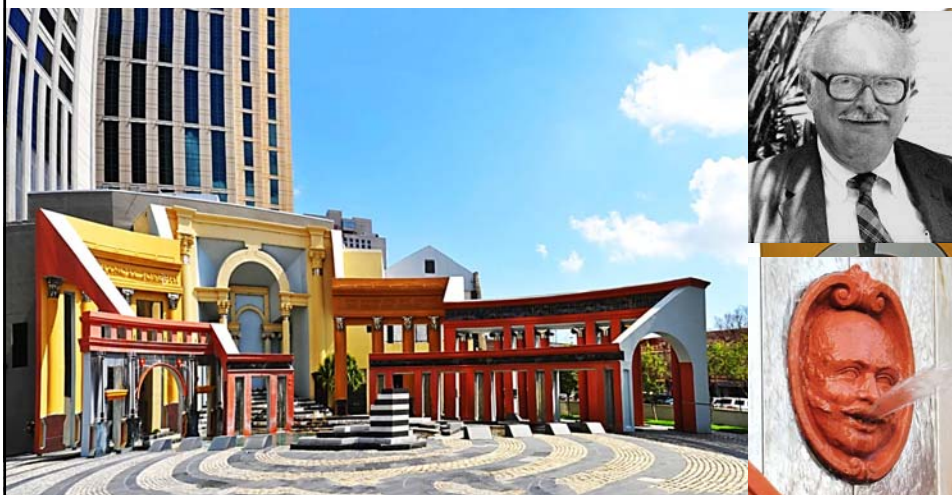


Team Disney The Michael D. Eisner Building, Burbank CA (1991), designed by US architect Michael Graves

Image source: wikipedia; www.speel.me.u; nabolo.over-blog.com; tagdigitalphotography.com

**Postmodern architecture 後現代主義建築**

Postmodern architecture are characterized by the use of colours, playful shapes, symbolic forms and **tongue-in-cheek reinterpretation of Classical elements.**



Piazza d'Italia, New Orleans, Louisiana (1978), designed by US architect Charles Moore

Image source: www.picstopin.com; arts.ucla.edu; adventuresinarchitecture.blogspot.com

**Postmodern architecture 後現代主義建築**

Four architects whose works defined Postmodern architecture:

- Robert Venturi (born 1925), American architect and Professor at Yale University
- Charles Moore (1925-1993), American architect and Professor at the University of Texas at Austin
- Aldo Rossi (1931-1997), Italian architect and Professor at ETH Zurich
- Michael Graves (born 1934), American architect and Professor Emeritus at Princeton University



Two books that laid the theoretical foundation of Postmodern architecture:

*Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture* by Robert Venturi, first published in 1966.

*Learning from Las Vegas* by Robert Venturi, Denise Scott Brown and Steven Izenour, first published in 1972.

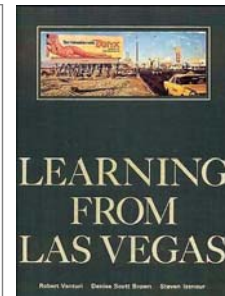
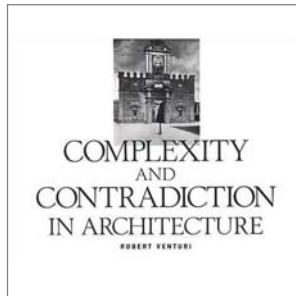


Image source: (architects) [www.vanityfair.com](http://www.vanityfair.com); [arts.ucla.edu](http://arts.ucla.edu); [www.designqj.com](http://www.designqj.com); [www.makefive.com](http://www.makefive.com); (book covers) [archiebooks.blogspot.com](http://archiebooks.blogspot.com); [gmoa.blogspot.com](http://gmoa.blogspot.com)

**Postmodern architecture 後現代主義建築**

US architect Prof. Michael Graves – "The prince of Postmodernism" (labelled by architectural critic Paul Gapp in an article published in the Chicago Tribune on 4 August 1985), the superstar architect during the Postmodern trend in architecture through the 1980s.



"Even though I was one of the originators of Postmodernism, I don't think in terms of style at all. I never have. I was simply trying to humanize Modernism. I was simply trying to find a way to make an architecture that didn't leave me cold."

Michael Graves, in Architect, the Magazine of the American Institute of Architects, 3 January 2011,

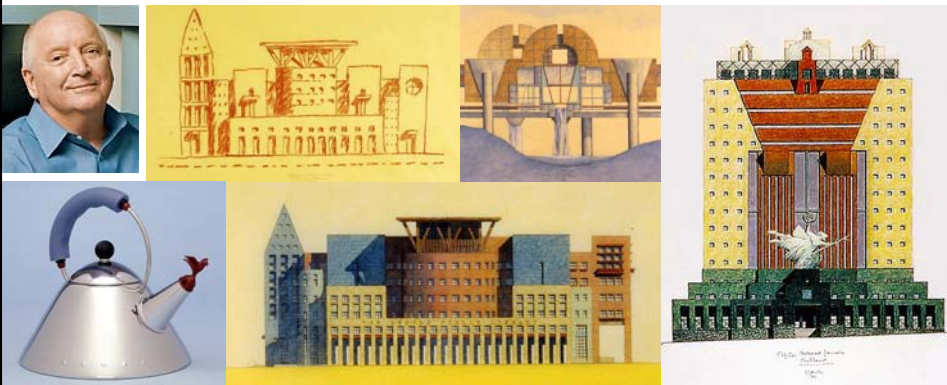


Image source: (portraits) [www.makefive.com](http://www.makefive.com); (drawings) Michael Graves & Associates; (kettle) [www.bustler.net](http://www.bustler.net)



### The original pretty present box architecture: Portland Building, USA

Designed by US architect Michael Graves (born 1934) of Michael Graves & Associates, the **Portland Municipal Services Building** (aka Portland Building) (1982) in Portland, Oregon, arguably ushered the global trend in Postmodern architecture that lasted through the 1980s. It is essentially a simple boxy building heavily decorated with colours and tongue-in-cheek re-interpretation of Classical architectural elements.

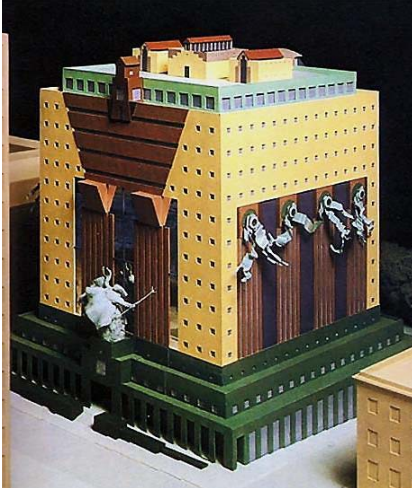


Image source: shuandjoe.com; architect.com

### The pretty present box: Proposed Addition to Whitney Museum, USA (unbuilt)

Designed by US architect Michael Graves (born 1934) of Michael Graves & Associates, the proposed **Addition to Whitney Museum, Scheme 1** (1985) is the epitome of the cute, tongue-in-cheek decorative style of Postmodern architecture.

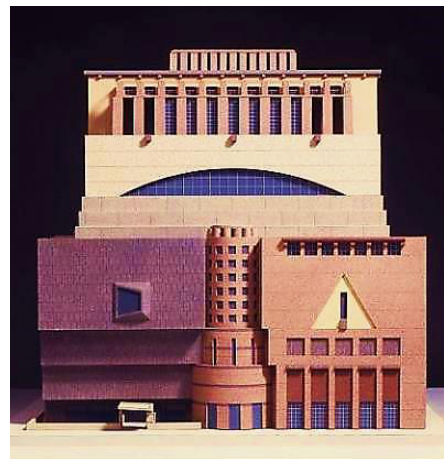
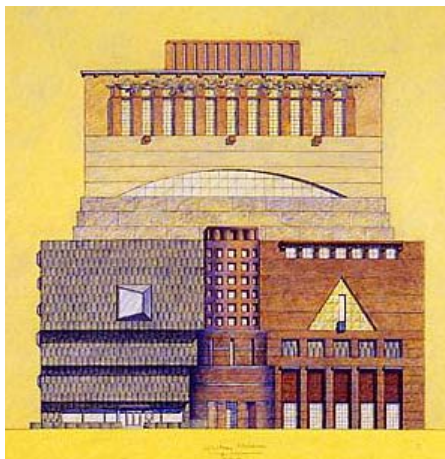


Image source: www.wttw.com; observer.com

### The pretty present box: Neue Staatsgalerie Stuttgart, Germany

Designed by British architect James Stirling (1926-1992) of Stirling Gowan Wilford Architects, **Neue Staatsgalerie Stuttgart** (New State Gallery Stuttgart) (1984) is populist architecture at its best – it has fun colours and a cute Classical appearance that brings back in a warm-and-fuzzy way the collective memory of what the city of Stuttgart was like before it was destroyed by aerial bombing during World War II.



Image source: Ken Lee at flickr: [www.kultur-online.net](http://www.kultur-online.net)

### The pretty present box: Neue Staatsgalerie Stuttgart, Germany

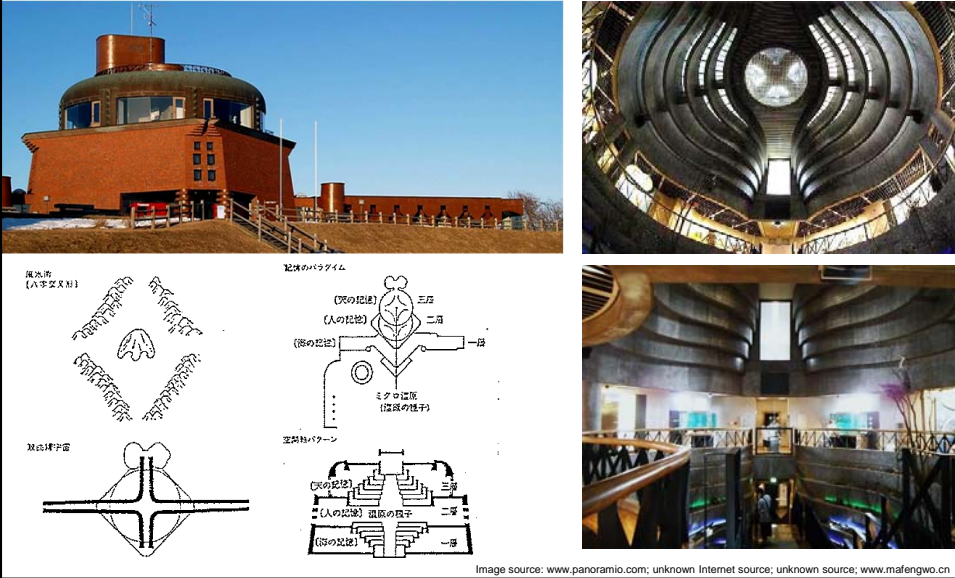
The architecture is sympathetic to the physical context by reducing the building mass to smaller “architectural landscape” elements. It is also sympathetic to the relationship between the site and its surrounding – the main roof of the complex is used as a series of open public spaces, and a pedestrian path runs through them from the top to the bottom of the sloping site.



Image source: Google Earth

**The memory box (variation): Kushiro Marsh Observatory, Japan**

Designed by Japanese architect Kiko Mozuna (毛綱毅曠 1941-2001), **Kushiro Marsh Observatory** 釧路市濕原展望台 (1984) is an observatory-cum-ecological museum. The architecture incorporates metaphoric forms relating to the myths and feng shui of the marshland.

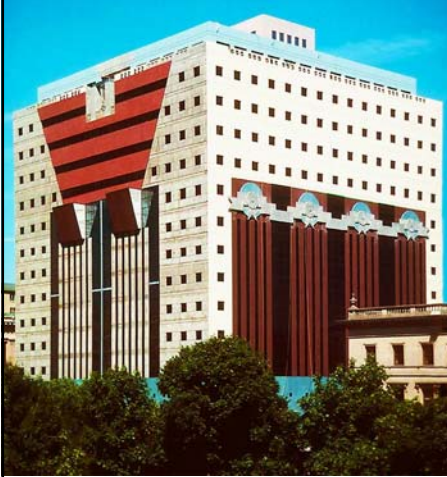


**The ultimate pretty present box museum: Guangdong Museum, China**

Designed by Rocco Yim (born 1952) of Rocco Design Architects Ltd., **Guangdong Museum** (廣東博物館) (2010) is a museum dedicated to Guangdong's history, art and culture. The architecture's Postmodern influence can be seen from the architect's statement (as stated on his architectural practice's website) that "it is an allegory to the impeccably and intricately sculpted antique Chinese artifacts of a lacquer box" (寶盒).



Postmodern copycature! 後現代抄襲主義建築!



Portland Municipal Services Building (1982),  
designed by US architect Michael Graves



Hong Kong Central Library (2001),  
designed by the HKSAR Architectural Services Department

Image source: TBD

## 5th-Generation Museum Architecture 第五代的博物館建築

**Deconstructivist museum architecture:  
disaster sites 災難現場**  
**Main trend period: from the 1990s to now**



Image source: www.irdchina.cn

## 5th-Generation Museum Architecture 第五代的博物館建築

**Deconstructivist museum architecture:  
disaster sites 災難現場**

**Main trend period: from the 1990s to now**

### **Ideology:**

the museum as a provocative challenge against established conventions and bourgeois sensibility (反建制、反平俗) – an expression of **anarchism** (無政府主義) and the aesthetics of the **post-apocalypse** (末世之後).

Image source: TBD

### **Deconstructivist architecture 解構主義建築**

**Deconstructivist architecture, or Deconstructivism in architecture**, rebels against the regularity of Modernism and superficiality of Post-modernism by fragmenting and distorting the built form to maximize its visual complexity. It is influenced by the **Punk Subculture** (龐克次文化) of the 1970s and early 1980s, **Complexity Theory** (複雜理論) that became popular in the 1990s, and **Deconstruction** theories of French philosopher Jacques Derrida (1930-2004).



Image source: (top three images) [www.coop-himmelblau.at](http://www.coop-himmelblau.at); (bottom three images) [www.gehyrtechnologies.com](http://www.gehyrtechnologies.com); <http://www.dezeen.com>; [www.guardian.co.uk](http://www.guardian.co.uk)

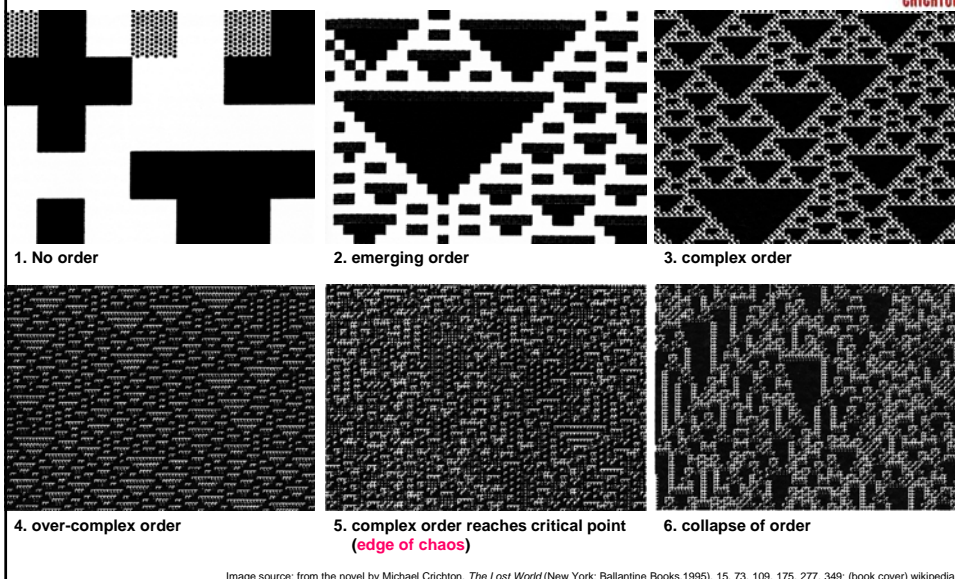
**Deconstructivist architecture 解構主義建築**

Influence: **Punk Subculture** (龐克次文化) of the 1970s and early 1980s – architecture taking on the punk aesthetics of anarchism and post-apocalypse.



**Deconstructivist architecture 解構主義建築**

Influence: Complexity theory 複雜理論, introduced to the popular culture by Michael Crichton in his novel *Jurassic Park* 侏羅紀公園 (1990) – architecture simulating maximal complexity at the unstable edge of chaos 仿倣不穩定秩序邊緣的超複雜建築設計.



## Deconstructivist architecture 解構主義建築

Influence: the linguistic concept of Deconstruction 解構主義 by French philosopher Jacques Derrida 德里達 (1930-2004).

德希達提出了一種他稱之為解構閱讀西方哲學的方法。大體來說，解構閱讀是一種揭露文本結構與其西方形上本質之間差異的文本分析方法。解構閱讀呈現出文本不能只是被解讀成單一作者在傳達一個明顯的訊息，而應該被解讀為在某個文化或世界觀中各種衝突的體現。一個被解構的文本會顯示出許多同時存在的各種觀點，而這些觀點通常會彼此衝突。將一個文本的解構閱讀與其傳統閱讀來相比較的話，也會顯示出這當中的許多觀點是被壓抑與忽視的。解構主義認為結構沒有中心，結構也不是固定不變的，結構由一系列的差別組成。由於差別在變化，結構也跟著變化，所以結構是不穩定和開放的。因此解構主義又被稱為後結構主義。德里達認為文本沒有固定的意義，作品的終極不變的意義是不存在的。(維琪百科)

喻也Q? 終極語言藝術也!

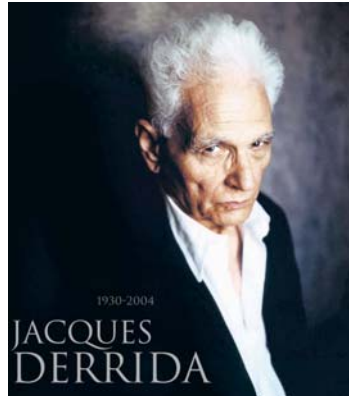


Image source: Wikipedia

## Deconstructivist architecture 解構主義建築

Four architects whose works defined Deconstructivist architecture:

- Frank Gehry (born 1928), Canadian-American architect and Professor at Columbia University
- Peter Eisenman (born 1932), American architect and Professor Emeritus at the Cooper Union School of Architecture
- Wolf Prix (born 1942), Austrian architect
- Daniel Libeskind (born 1946), Polish-American architect



The publication that gave the architecture its official name:

*Deconstructivist Architecture* by Philip Johnson and Mark Wigley, the companion publication of the 1988 MOMA exhibition of the same title.

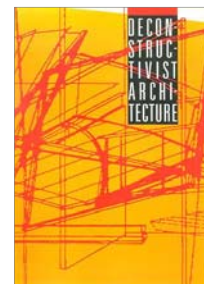


Image source: (architects) en.artintem.net; www.designbuild-network.com; www.kurienwissenschaftundkunst.at; fashionbeyondfashion.wordpress.com; (book cover) www.derringerbooks.com

### The disaster site: Jewish Museum Berlin, Germany

Designed by Polish-American architect Daniel Libeskind (born 1946), the **Jewish Museum Berlin** was a 1988 competition winner that was completed in 1999 as an empty museum, which drew over 350,000 visitors before it was filled and officially opened in 2001. **It looks a train wreck!**



Image source: [www.tumblr.com](http://www.tumblr.com); [www.thefewgoodmen.com](http://www.thefewgoodmen.com)

### The disaster site: Musée des Confluences, France

Designed by Austrian architect Wolf Prix (born 1942), the **Musée des Confluences** (expected completion in 2014) at Lyon is a museum of science and society, and a part of an ambitious urban regeneration project of an old industrial area. **It looks like a plane crash!**



Image source: [www.foimmo.fr](http://www.foimmo.fr); [www.skyscrapercity.com](http://www.skyscrapercity.com); [hdhut.blogspot.com](http://hdhut.blogspot.com)



**The disaster site: Royal Ontario Museum Extension, Canada**

Designed by American architect Daniel Libeskind (born 1946), the **Royal Ontario Museum Extension** (2007), now called the **Michael Lee-Chin Crystal**, was a rejuvenation project for the old museum and the city of Toronto. **It looks like an earthquake disaster!**



**The disaster site: Royal Ontario Museum Extension, Canada**

The unusual shape of the building makes it suitable for use in the sci-fi TV series *Fringe*, which is about strange science phenomena.

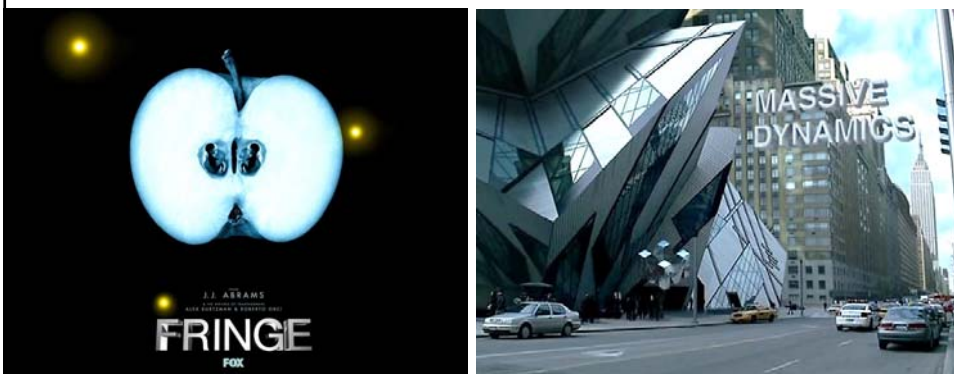


Image source: tv-facts.net; fringe.wikia.com

**The ultimate disaster site museum: Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, Spain**

Designed by Canadian-American architect Frank Gehry (born 1929), the **Guggenheim Museum Bilbao** (1997) is an **urban regeneration** project to rejuvenate the economically declining city of Bilbao. Although the museum has single-handedly revived the city's economy, people visit the museum because of the architecture rather than what it contains (and nobody seem to remember what the exhibition is).



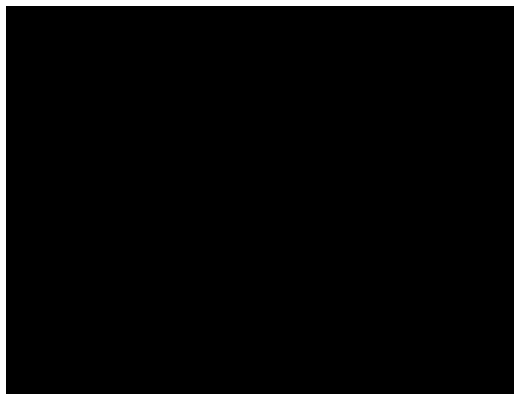
Image source: en.artintern.net; luminarynyc.wordpress.com

**Frank Gehry and Deconstructivist architecture in *The Simpsons***

It sums up, not inaccurately, the aesthetics of Deconstructivist architecture.



Opus Hong Kong 傲璇



Video source: <https://www.facebook.com/video/video.php?v=1703734826126>; image source: en.artintern.net

**Our own Deconstructivist architecture (not!): the "bamboo scaffolding" scheme for the Central Police Station Compound, Hong Kong**

Designed by the Swiss architectural office Herzog & de Meuron, the ambitious "bamboo scaffolding" scheme was announced 2007 but was abandoned due to public disapproval. It looks somewhat like a collapsing scaffolding 禾棚架.



Image source: Herzog & de Meuron / Hong Kong Jockey Club

**6th-Generation Museum Architecture**  
第六代的博物館建築

**Parametric museum architecture:**  
giant amoebas 巨型阿米巴變形蟲

**Main trend period: from the 2000s to now**



Image source: eol.org

## 6th-Generation Museum Architecture 第六代的博物館建築

**Parametric museum architecture:  
giant amoebas 巨型阿米巴變形蟲**

**Main trend period: from the 2000s to now**

### **Ideology:**

**Architecture of the digital age – architecture by advanced mathematics (particularly, topology 拓撲數學), and can only be designed with massive computing power.**

### **Parametric architecture 參數式建築: aesthetics by mathematics**


**Parametric architecture** is a trend that began around 2000 when affordable fast and powerful personal computers and easy to use design software became commonplace. This enables architects to design highly complex curvilinear building forms that can only be executed by 3D-modelling design software that uses **calculus** (微積分學) as the computing basis – such software was originally used in the aerospace industry.



Image source: Richard rj208 at flickr; openbuildings.com; www.designboom.com; www.constructionweekonline.com; www.skyscrapercity.com

**Parametric architecture 參數式建築: aesthetics by mathematics**

Influence: **Topology** 拓撲數學, the mathematical study of the continuity and connectivity of shapes and space (transformation of shapes and space without altering its quantitative nature). Topology's "continuous map" 連續映射 inspired Parametric Architecture's "continuous surface" 連續表面.



圖一 一杯咖啡經不斷拉扯、變形或收縮變為甜甜圈形式。這些被稱為連續變形，因為他們是同胚的或等價的。一個橡皮圈，在它的彈性限度內，任憑我們把它拉長、扭轉，只要不把它弄斷，那麼它永遠是一個圓圈。

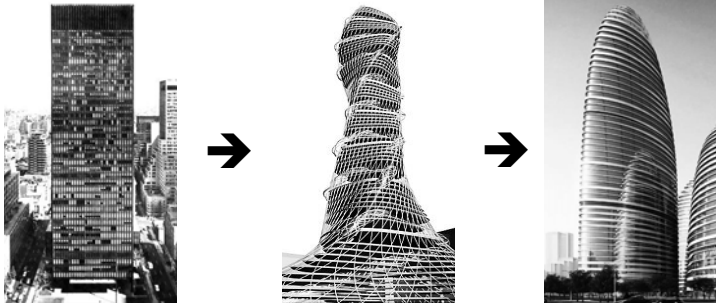


Image source: www.ntsec.gov.tw; blog.thirdphase.com; www.student.lth.se; www.yankodesign.com

**Parametric architecture 參數式建築: aesthetics by mathematics**

The one and only superstar architect whose works set the trend and the gold standard for parametric architecture:

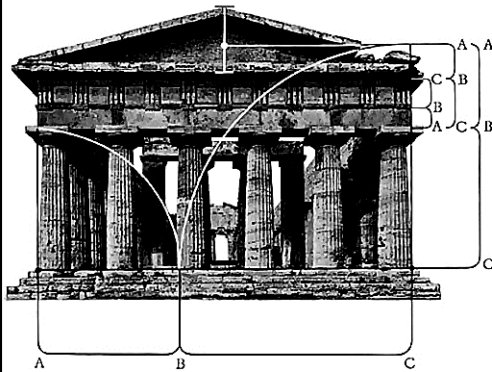
Dame Zaha Hadid 紮哈·哈迪德 女爵士 (born 1950), Iraqi-British architect



Image source: www.e-architect.co.uk

**Parametric architecture 參數式建築: aesthetics by mathematics**

Classical architecture: aesthetics by mathematical proportions



FRONT VIEW OF THE NEPTUNE TEMPLE IN PAESTUM  
A Greek temple in Doric style of the 6th century B.C.  
(The chiefstress of the gable shows the proportion of the golden mean.)

FRONTAL-ANSICHT DES NEPTUN-TEMPELS IN PAESTUM  
Griechischer Tempel im dorischen Stil aus dem 6. Jh. v. Chr.  
(Das Schweregewicht des Giebels weist das goldene Schnittverhältnis auf.)

STATUE OF DORYPHORUS (Spear bearer)  
Copy after the bronze original by Polyklet.  
(In classical times it was known as an unsurpassed representation of the perfect athletic body.)  
— National Museum, Naples —

STATUE DES DORYPHORUS (Speerträger)  
Kopie nach dem Bronze-Original von Polyklet.  
(War im Altertum als maßgebende Darstellung des durchgebildeten Körpers bekannt.)  
— Nationalmuseum Neapel —

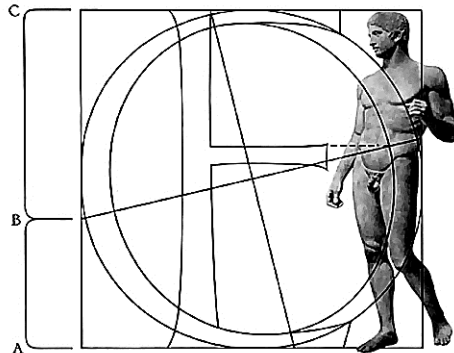


Image source: www.mlahanas.de

**Parametric architecture 參數式建築: aesthetics by mathematics**

Classical aesthetics: "golden" proportions found in nature (1: 1.618)

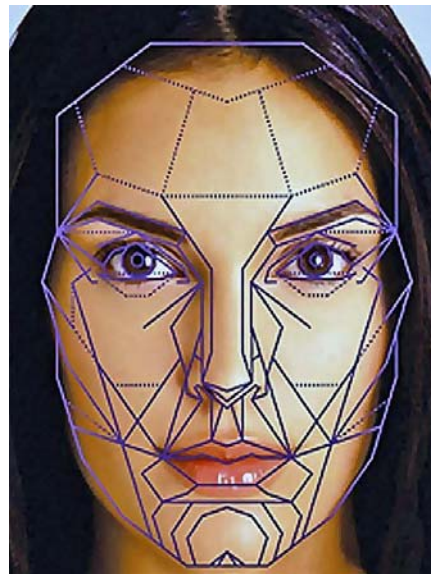
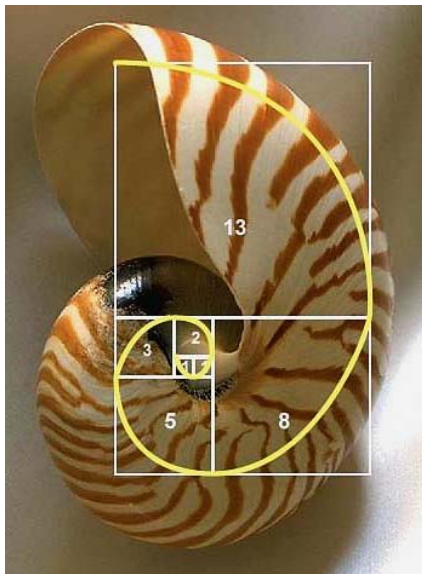


Image source: (shell) saurondor.blogspot.com; (mask) ylift.blogspot.com; (face) spisanie.to

**Parametric architecture 參數式建築: aesthetics by mathematics**

Renaissance aesthetics: geometry of the human proportion

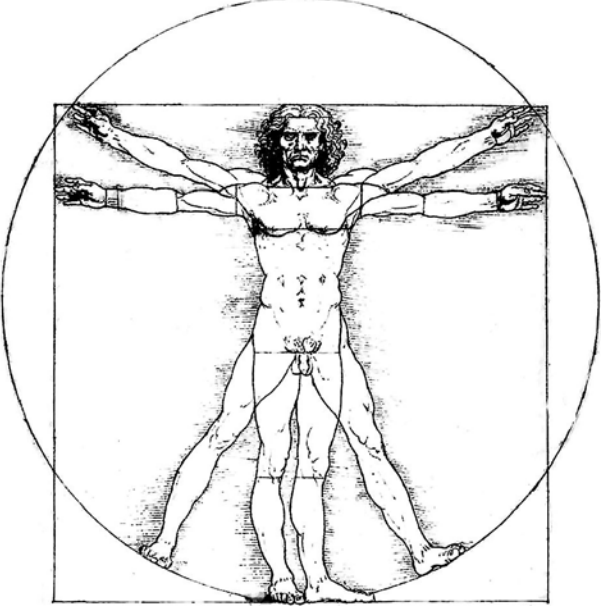


Image source: www.4dbios.com

**Parametric architecture 參數式建築: aesthetics by mathematics**

Parametric Design: complex geometry by calculus

Form	Equation
Cube	$a^3$
Rectangular box	$l \cdot w \cdot h$
Prism	$B \cdot h$
Cylinder	$\pi r^2 h$
Pyramid	$\frac{1}{3} B h$
Cone	$\frac{1}{3} \pi r^2 h$
Sphere	$\frac{4}{3} \pi r^3$
Ellipsoid	$\frac{4}{3} \pi abc$
<b>Calculus shape</b>	$\int A(h) dh$


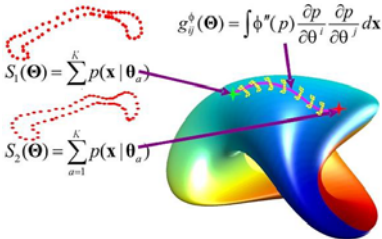



Image source: www.highhopes.com; research2.ft.edu

**Parametric architecture 參數式建築: aesthetics by mathematics**  
 Analogue computing and complex geometry

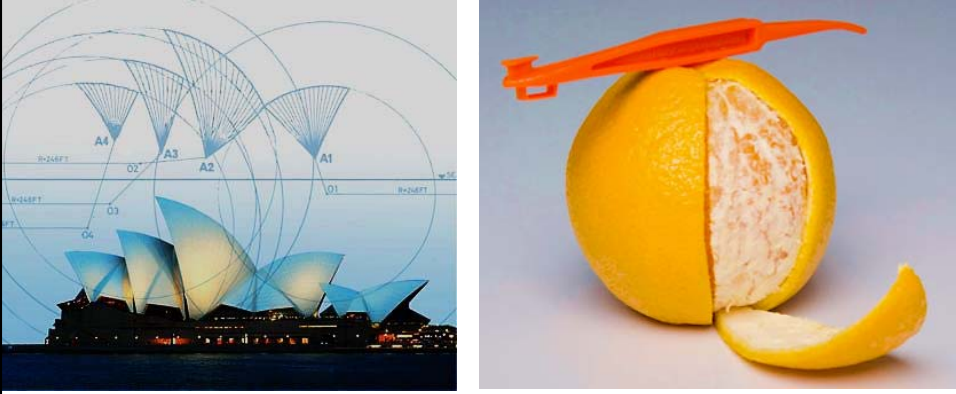
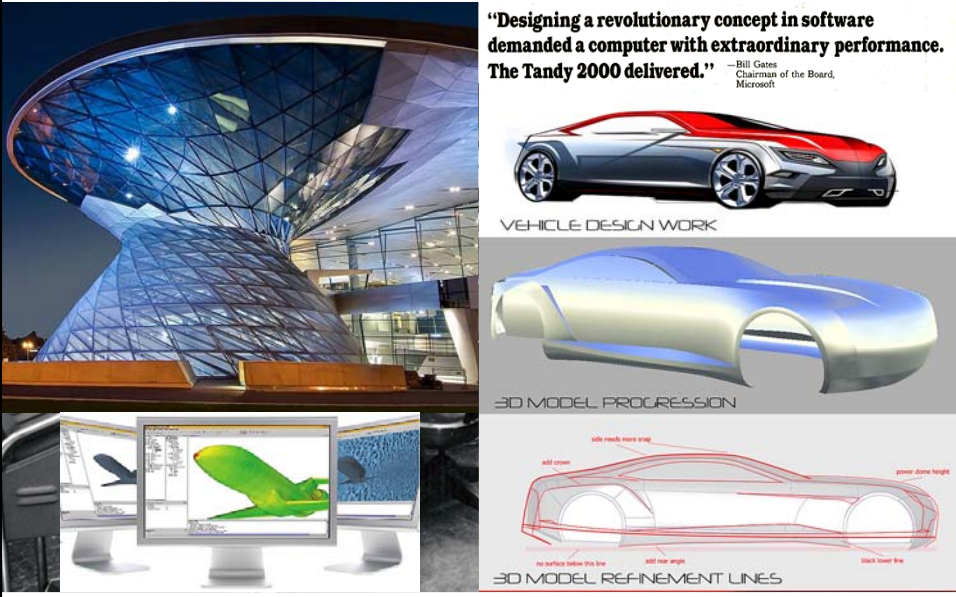


Image source: (Sydney Opera House) www.berfrois.com; (orange) www.lifeinreviews.com; (all others) unknown Internet sources;

**Parametric architecture 參數式建築: aesthetics by mathematics**  
 Digital computing and complex geometry



**“Designing a revolutionary concept in software demanded a computer with extraordinary performance. The Tandy 2000 delivered.”** — Bill Gates, Chairman of the Board, Microsoft.

VEHICLE DESIGN WORK

3D MODEL PROGRESSION

3D MODEL REFINEMENT LINES


Image source: (BMW Welt) www.theluxuryspot.com; (all others) unknown Internet sources



**Parametric architecture 參數式建築: aesthetics by mathematics**

Digital computing power and complex geometry

1980s computing power for animation



Post-2000 computing power for animation

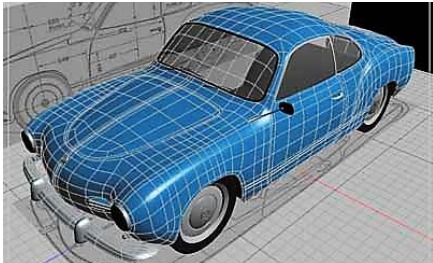
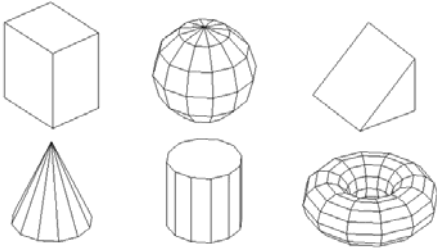



Image source: (top row) mondoweiss.net; finalfantasy-xiii.net; (bottom row) sketchmodeler.com; www.g4g.it

**Parametric architecture 參數式建築: aesthetics by mathematics**

Digital computing power and complex geometry


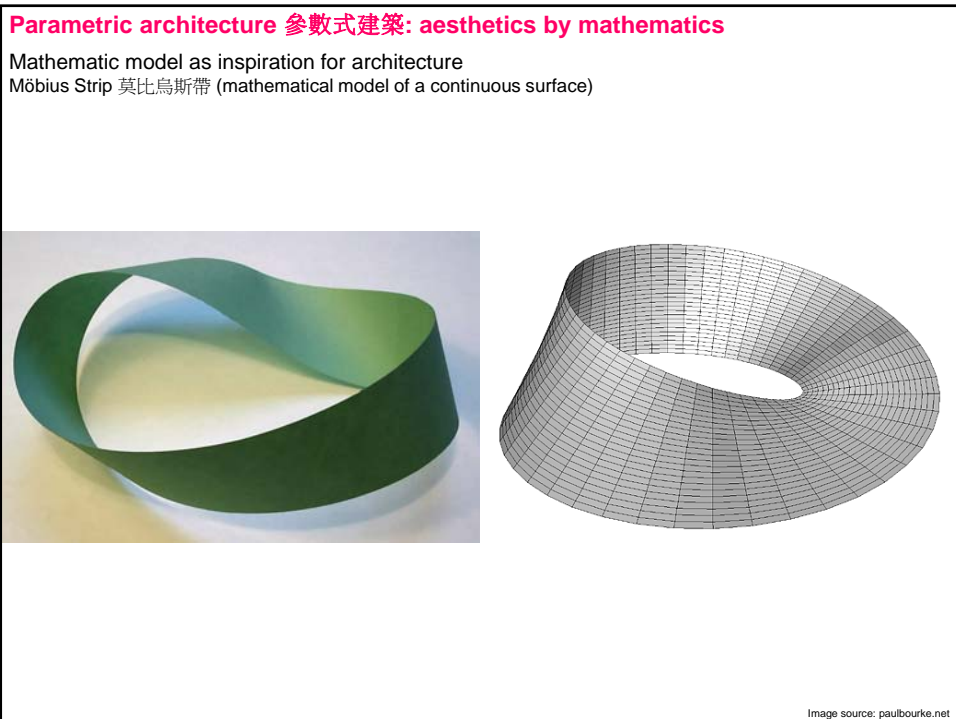
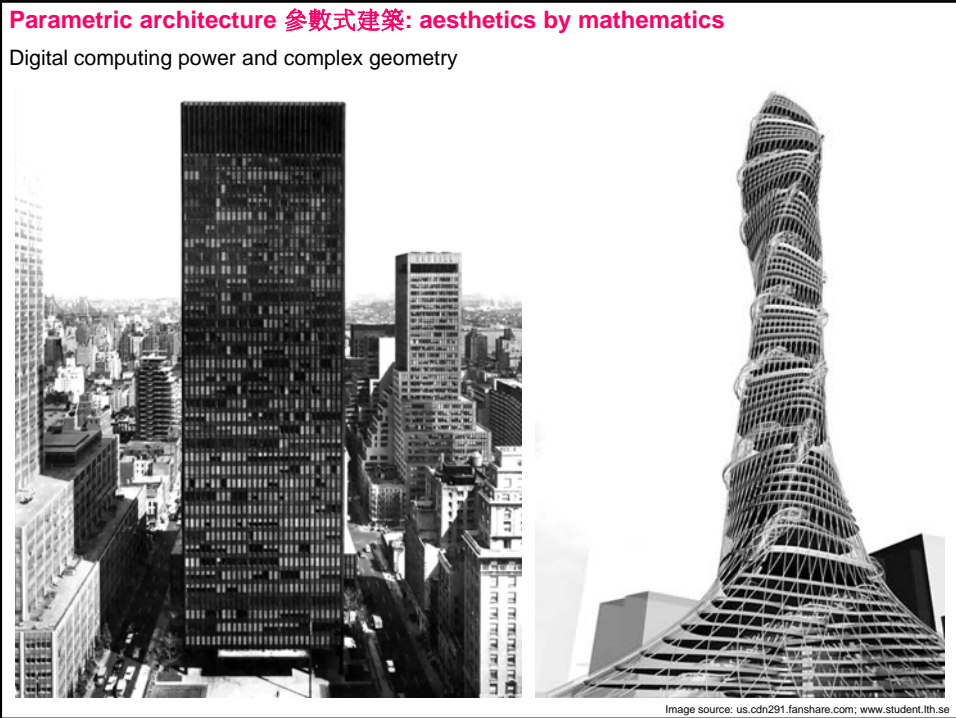


Image source: axsoris.com; airforcephotos.blogspot.com



**Parametric architecture 參數式建築: aesthetics by mathematics**

Mathematic model as inspiration for architecture  
Möbius Strip 莫比烏斯帶 (mathematical model of a continuous surface)

National Stadium, Beijing (by Herzog & de Meuron, completed 2008).

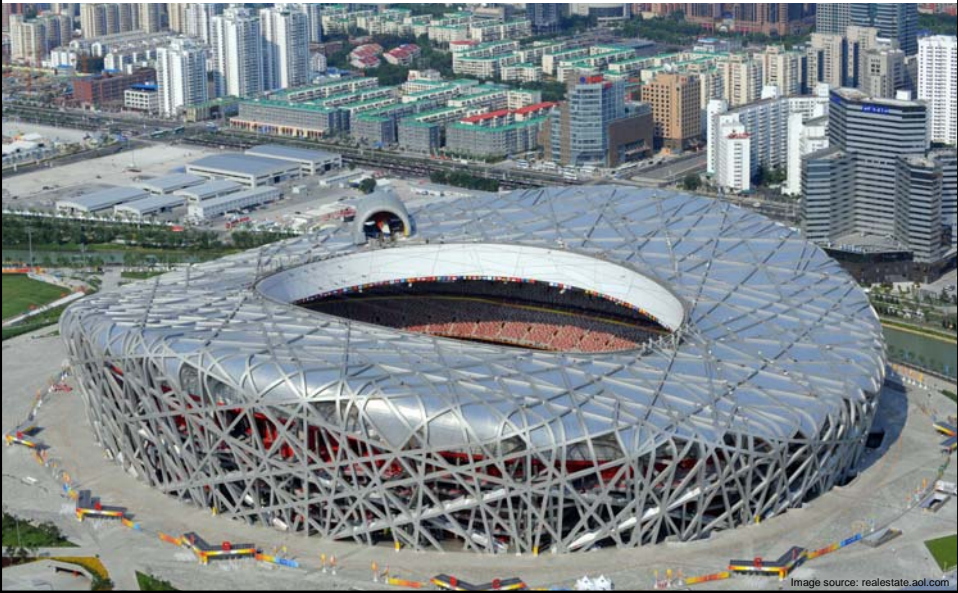


Image source: realestate.aol.com

**Parametric architecture 參數式建築: aesthetics by mathematics**

Mathematic model as inspiration for architecture  
Voronoi Cells / Diagram 沃羅諾伊組織 / 圖 (mathematical model of a cluster of soap bubbles in 3D or 2D)

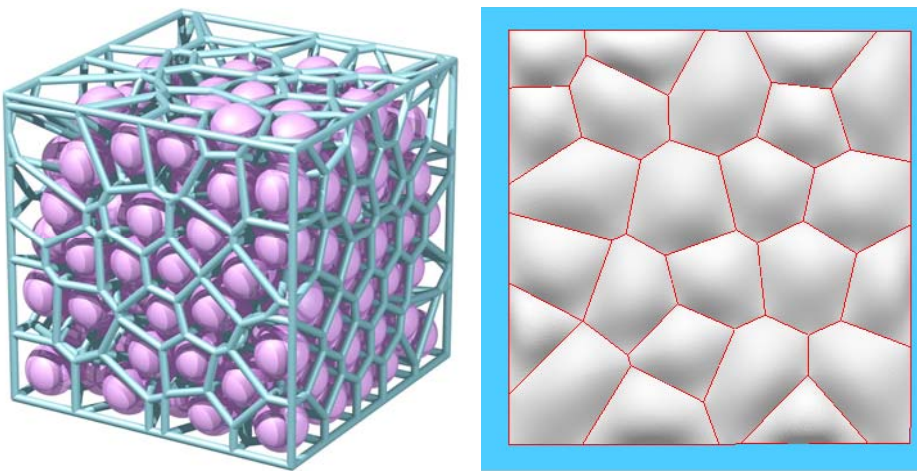


Image source: Wikipedia; www.grasshopper3d.com

### Parametric architecture 參數式建築: aesthetics by mathematics

Mathematic model as inspiration for architecture - Voronoi cells (mathematical model of soap bubbles)

Beijing National Aquatics Center, Beijing (by PTW Architects / Arup / CSCEC / CCDI, completed 2008).



### Parametric architecture 參數式建築: aesthetics by mathematics

**Parametric architecture** is a trend that began around 2000 when affordable fast and powerful personal computers and easy to use design software became commonplace. This enables architects to design highly complex curvilinear building forms that can only be executed by 3D-modelling design software that uses **calculus** (微積分學) as the computing basis – such software was originally used in the aerospace industry.

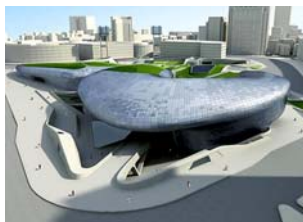


Image source: wikipedia; openbuildings.com; www.e-architect.co.uk; urbanlabglobalcities.blogspot.ru; kftravelguide.com

**The ultimate giant amoeba architecture: Czech National Library, Prague (unbuilt) 一篇嘢建築**

Designed by the world-renowned Czech architect Jan Kaplicky (1937-2009) of the former London-based, husband-and-wife architectural practice, Future Systems. The design won an international competition in 2007 and was commissioned to be built and scheduled for completion in 2011, but the couple divorced, the practice split and the Prague authorities cancelled the project in 2008.

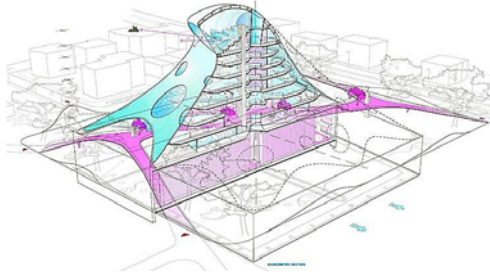


Image source: core.form-ula.com; www.e-architect.co.uk; monstersvsaliens.wikia.com; www.e-architect.co.uk

**The giant amoeba: Chanel Mobile Art, movable 一嚟嘢建築**

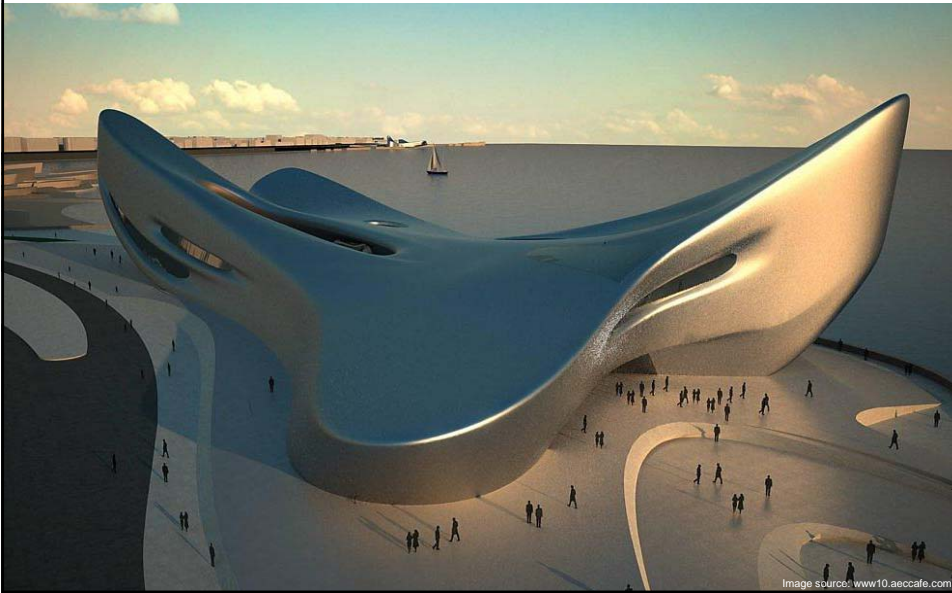
Designed by British architect Zaha Hadid (born 1950), **Chanel Mobile Art** (2008) was designed as an "unprecedented travelling exhibition container" that showcased art by contemporary artists inspired by Chanel's iconic handbag. In 2011, it was donated to the Arab World Institute in Paris.



Image source: buildingindonesia.biz; buildingindonesia.biz

**The giant amoeba: Regium Waterfront, Italy 一劈嘢建築**

Designed by British architect Zaha Hadid (born 1950), **Regium Waterfront** (performing art centre, to be completed in 2015) in Reggio Calabria is described by the architect as "drawing inspiration from the radial symmetry of the starfish."



**The giant amoeba: Ferrari World, United Arab Emirates 一大劈嘢建築**

British architectural practice Benoy's **Ferrari World Abu Dhabi** (2010) is an entire theme park (containing a Ferrari Museum) under one insanely huge mega-blob roof.



**The giant amoeba: Ferrari World, United Arab Emirates 一大劈嘢建築**

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**The giant amoeba: WKCD "Sky Canopy" scheme, Hong Kong 好大劈嘢建築**

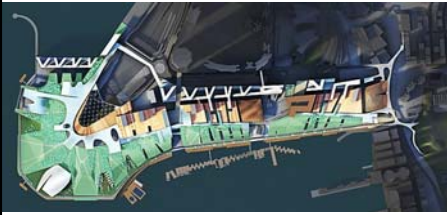
British architectural practice Foster + Partners' **West Kowloon Cultural District "Sky Canopy"** design is a cluster of museums under one stupendously huge mega-blob roof. It was a competition winner in 2002, but a political loser in 2004, because it was too much too soon for people to accept.



**Museum architecture – know where it's coming from, critique the design!**



**Foster + Partners' WKCD design:**  
Modern bunkers!



**Rocco Design Architects' WKCD design:**  
Deconstructivist wreckage!

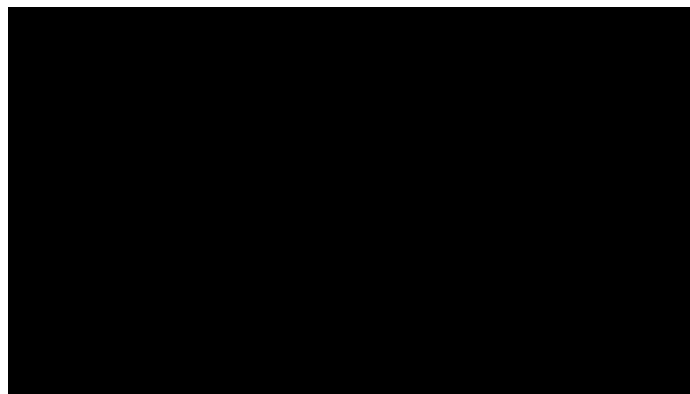


**OMA's WKCD design:**  
Postmodern populist slogans!

Image source: www.arcomai.it; www.arcomai.it; www.arcomai.it

**The giant amoeba: Changsha Meixihu Int'l Culture & Art Centre, China 好幾大劈嘢建築**

Designed by the British architectural Practice Zaha Hadid Architects, **Changsha Meixihu International Culture and Art Centre** (design first released in March 2013) is a project of eye-watering scale for a new civic node for the city of Changsha. The project includes a grand theatre, a multipurpose hall and a contemporary art museum.



Video source: www.youtube.com/watch?v=iTY2vOJEdo



Knockoff Zaha Hadid giant amoeba architecture! 山寨版紮哈 · 哈迪德建築



**THE REAL DEAL:**  
Zaha Hadid Architects' **Wangjing SOHO**, Beijing  
(completion in 2014)



**THE KNOCKOFF:**  
Local developer's **Meiqian 22nd Century**,  
Chongqing (completion in 2013 or 2014)

Image source: www.e-architect.co.uk; www.dezeen.com

Knockoff Zaha Hadid giant amoeba architecture! 山寨版紮哈 · 哈迪德建築

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**HOMES**

**China developer accused of copying architect Zaha Hadid's designs**

You've heard of fake designer bags and pirated DVDs, but imitation buildings reach a new level of rip-offs.

AFP RELAXNEWS  
MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 2013, 2:55 PM

A model of the Meiqian 22nd Century building in China's southwest Chongqing on January 3, 2012.

Already famed for fake designer bags and pirated DVDs, imitation in China may have reached new heights with a set of

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**Architecture**

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**Chongqing architect accused of copying Zaha Hadid's Beijing building**

Agence France-Presse in Beijing | Friday, 04 January, 2013, 9:17am

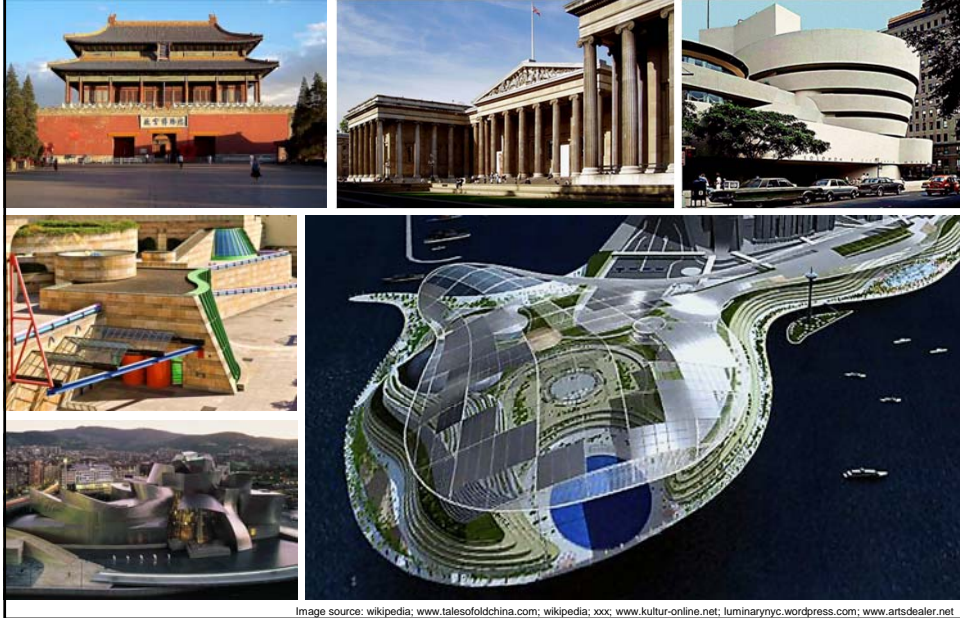
The Meiqian 22nd Century building planned for Chongqing (right), which shows strong resemblances to a model of Zaha Hadid's design for a shopping and office complex in Beijing (left). Photos: AFP

Already famed for fake designer bags and pirated DVDs, imitation in China may have reached new heights with a set of towers that strongly resemble ones designed by renowned architect Zaha Hadid.

A developer in Chongqing is putting up buildings that share the distinctive round contours and white stripes of a 39-floor shopping and office complex

Image source: Daily News; South China Morning Post

**Should heritage buildings be converted to museum?**  
博物館是歷史建築的最佳的活化用途嗎？



**Thank you!**