Frank Gehry



Figure. 1 Frank Gehry (By Michael Childers 2016)

As a design student I am drawn to things that are both made practical but are also very unique. To achieve this you need to have an understanding of the community you will be designing in and how it will benefit society. I have chosen Frank Gehry because he can create amazing mega structures that are practical but also extremely unique.

Frank Owen Gehry was born Ephraim Owen Goldberg in Toronto, canada. When he was a teenager he moved with his family to los angeles and later became a U.S citizen. His father changed the family name to Gehry when the family moved countries. Later, his first wife suggested he should change his first name.

Frank Gehry is known for making extremely large structures that look out of this world, with incredible warps and bends in the faces of buildings, which almost look like they are defying gravity. Through the countless works he has produced such as the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao and the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, he has completely changed the way designers think and inspired many new designers to think outside the box.

The Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao is, in my opinion, one of Gehry's most famous creations. Its dynamic internal spaces and incredible exterior cover in titanium have raised it to the status of being an architectural icon. Constantly bringing tourists from all over the world and reviving the city of Bilbao. The creative architecture of the museum breaks the boundaries between sculpture and architecture, creating a place not just to display but to also become a piece of art in itself.

"Architecture should speak of its time and place, but yearn for timelessness."

Although Gehry's designs are groundbreaking, everything comes with its critics. Some argue that his designs, often characterised as extraordinary, don'talways harmonise well with the surrounding environment, causing differences and tension in an urban environment. Other concerns have been raised about the environmental impact Gehry's buildings are doing to the planet, more accurately, how much energy Gehry's buildings use and what materials are used in the construction. In the future, I think Gehry and other designers should focus more on making their designs more eco-friendly and involving the community into future projects, so they benefit both the people and the planet.

I believe that Gehry is inspired by postmodernism with the bright colours he uses in his design. With these bright colours and the combination of reflective materials, really creates the postmodern look Gehry is known for producing.

Frank's ability to take unusual, everyday materials and turn them into something amazing is what has inspired modern day architects today. Whilst he still uses the transformative principles of modern architectural design, he breaks away from this style by taking a much more experimental approach, which in turn makes his buildings much more exciting and easily recognisable if you know what you are looking for. His capability of creating unique and different aesthetic works has led to his buildings becoming an iconic symbol in the architectural world and becoming attractions of themselves.

Figure. 2 Stata Center at MIT (By Zayn Shah 2022)



Figure. 3 Walt disney Concert Hall (By Dustin Downing 2018)





Figure. 4 The Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao (By Naotake Murayama 2017)



Figure. 5 Frank Gehry Tower, Manhattan
(By Manolo Franco 2015)

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