



Jewish Museum Berlin

2013

Press Information

: Daniel Libeskind

is a renowned international figure in architectural practice and urban design. He is well-known for introducing a new critical discourse into architecture and for his multidisciplinary approach. His work includes major cultural and public institutions, commercial projects such as shopping centers and department stores, large-scale master planning projects, stage design, installations, and exhibitions.

Born in Poland in 1946, Daniel Libeskind became an American citizen in 1965. He studied music in Israel (on the America-Israel Cultural Foundation Scholarship) and New York, became a professional musician and later moved from music to architecture. He completed his architectural degree at the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in 1970 in New York City and a postgraduate degree in the History and Theory of Architecture at the School of Comparative Studies at the University of Essex in 1972.

His practice in architecture began with the building of the Jewish Museum Berlin, having won the Berlin Senate's design competition in 1989. The museum opened to great critical acclaim in September 2001. His museum for the city of Osnabrück, Germany, the Felix Nussbaum Museum, had opened in July 1998. In July 2002, the Imperial War Museum North in Manchester was opened. In February 2003, he won the competition and commission for the best-known building project worldwide – The World Trade Center Ground Zero Site in New York. In July 2004, the foundation was laid for this by then modified project. The Graduate Student Centre at the London Metropolitan University and the Danish Jewish Museum in Copenhagen also opened in 2004. The opening of the Maurice Wohl Center at the Bar-Ilan University in Tel Aviv followed in October 2005. His series of spectacular museum buildings continued with extensions to the Denver Art Museum (2006), the the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto (2007) and the Jewish Museum in San Francisco (2008). At the Jewish Museum

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Berlin, his design for the Glass Courtyard covering the courtyard of the old building was completed in September 2007. In 2008 the Westside Recreation Center in Bern opened its doors and in the fall of 2009 Daniel Libeskind inaugurated his first prototype of a prefabricate house in Datteln, Germany. The Military History Museum in Dresden which he redesigned was reopened in November 2011 after seven years of construction. From March 2010 to November 2012, Daniel Libeskind integrated the Jewish Museum Academy into the former central flower market hall. His design entitled "Zwischenräume" creates a striking visual counterpart to the Jewish Museum Berlin on the opposite side.

Daniel Libeskind is presently constructing many projects worldwide, such as the redesign of the historic Fiera Milano Fairgrounds in Milan, Italy, a new building complex in downtown Düsseldorf named "Kö-Bogen", and the "L Tower" high-rise development in Toronto. In addition to these, he has a series of further projects still in the planning stage such as the Archipelago 21, the master site plan for the Yongsan International Business District in Seoul, the Institute for Democracy & Conflict Resolution at the University of Essex, and Vitra, a residential tower in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Daniel Libeskind has taught and lectured at many universities around the world. He has held such positions as the Frank O. Gehry Chair at the University of Toronto, Canada, Professor at the Hochschule für Gestaltung in Karlsruhe, Germany, the Cret Chair at the University of Pennsylvania, and the Louis Kahn Chair at Yale University. Daniel Libeskind has received numerous awards, including the Hiroshima Art Prize, which is presented to artists whose work promotes peace, the German Architecture Prize for the Jewish Museum Berlin, and in 2000 the Goethe Medal. In May 2010, he was presented with the Buber Rosenzweig Medal in Augsburg and the American Institute of Architects awarded him the New York Medal of Honor in 2011 and the National Service Medal in 2012. Furthermore in 2012, he was bestowed the recognition of Academician of the International Academy of Architecture. Libeskind has received numerous honorary doctorates: Humboldt University of Berlin (1997); University of Essex (1999); University of Edinburgh and DePaul University, Chicago (2002); University of Toronto (2004); and the Pratt Institute, New York



(2010). In 2004, his highly regarded memoir "Breaking Ground" was published and has since been published in more than 90 countries. Monacelli Press published an extensive monograph on his work in November 2008 entitled "Counterpart: Daniel Libeskind in Conversation with Paul Goldberger."

His work has been exhibited extensively in major museums and galleries around the world and has been the subject of numerous international publications in many languages. His ideas have influenced a new generation of architects and those interested in the future development of cities and culture.

Daniel Libeskind is married to Nina Libeskind. They have three children (Lev, Noam and Rachel) and three grandchildren (Zohar, Boaz and Ori). The family lived in Berlin for thirteen years before moving to New York City in early 2003.

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