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Frank Gehry

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From scratches to the world's most distinctive buildings, from an immigrant to the world's most well-known architect. These statements could not be referred to anyone else rather than Frank Gehry. Dancing House in Prague, Walt Disney Concert Hall in California, Guggenheim Museum in Spain and Abu Dhabi, MIT Stata Complex in Massachusetts, etc, these all have resulted from the his creativity¹. The unusual-looking and styles of these buildings have earned him countless Architecture Prizes¹. Due to his distinctive ideas and ingenuity in designing buildings, he is said to be the greatest architect of our time¹. The major component that has earned Frank Gehry the worldwide fame and how he has changed the world is how his works opened up the world to the whole new perspectives; building houses and buildings isn't just about the squares and triangles but can be constructed to meet anyone's imagination even if it seems like impossible.

He was originally named Frank Owen Goldberg where he was called in Toronto, Canada. However, after he migrated to Southern California in 1947 at the age of eighteen with his family, his father decided to change their family name from 'Goldberg' to 'Gehry.' Through the teenage years, Frank Gehry had the opportunity to experience in the architecture field and has been appealed to the world of art ². He

¹ "Frank Gehry." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_Gehry>.

² "Frank Gehry Biography." Washington D.C.: 2010. Web. 13 Sep 2012. <<http://www.achievement.org/autodoc/page/geh0bio-1>>.

was so inspired that his hard work earned him a scholarship in The University of Southern California and graduated with a degree in architecture in 1954. He enrolled in Harvard School of Design which he chose to study city planning but didn't finish the degree. With his ambition, he started working in Los Angeles for a short period of time and then decided to move to Paris. When he returned to Los Angeles in 1962, he decided to start his own firm which is known as Gehry Partners, LLP today. Frank is a restless man who always seeks for fresh and original ideas to bring together his own ideas for his art piece.

The first work of Frank Gehry that has captured the nation's attention for being unconventional and innovative is not his first architectural work but his very first line of furniture, known as 'Easy Edges'. The inspiration that got him to be designing furniture at the first place is because when he was little, his father owned a furniture company. To Frank, the charm of designing furniture is the little amount of time it can take to make furniture when comparing to designing a building; furniture can be created at an instant³. Certainly, his furniture line is not common, the desks and chairs are made of sixty layers of corrugated cardboards which are attached together with hidden screws. The four series of furniture that has been launched in this line contained side chair, wiggle side chair, dining table, and low table set. Not only did the material that attracted the nation's eyes but also its unusual dimensions of each series of the furniture. His creativity and uniqueness have been expressed not only through the materials and the unusual-looking dimensions of his furniture but also the concept of this furniture line which stresses on the lightweight, structural

³ "Frank O. Gehry & Associates." Web. 13 Sep 2012. <<http://www.arcspace.com/calif/build/bentwood.html>>.

strength, and the engineering adroitness in constructing the furniture³. He introduced to the world the idea that furniture doesn't always have to be heavy, made out of solid wood, and be rectangular but can be made to suit everyone's ideal furniture; light-weighted and sturdy.

The earliest architectural work of Frank Gehry which has won him Pritzker Architecture Prize in 1989⁴ is his own house in Santa Monica, The Gehry Residence. The Gehry Residence was the very first building that Frank Gehry has imprinted the architectural style of Deconstructivism. The reconstructions took place in 1977 to 1978 before Gehry and his wife moved into the house. He came up with the idea of striking up the ordinary by wanting to illustrate the relationship of the contrasting concepts between incomplete and intact, finished and crude, modern and traditional.⁴” Therefore, the original house was kept intact and the new house was built around the existed house. Gehry wouldn't make it anywhere near the contemporary; the new house was created using the most ordinary yet fascinating and creative materials such as corrugated aluminum metal siding, plywood, glass and chain-linking fencing⁵. The joints and wood studs were exposed in some areas of the house creating a distinctive idea of housing style. Moreover, Gehry built the new house without covering every parts of the old house to create an abstraction between the idea of old and new. Gehry has depicted the idea that architecture doesn't have to compose of a single style but can be composited and bring out a distinctive style according to people's ideas.

⁴ Perez , Adelyn . "Gehry Residence / Frank Gehry" 05 Jul 2010. *ArchDaily*. Accessed 15 Sep 2012. <<http://www.archdaily.com/67321>>

⁵ Wikipedia contributors. "Gehry Residence." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gehry_Residence>.

Another world-shocking architecture of Frank Gehry which surpasses every building style in the area is Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, California. With its elegance-looking and dimensions and its massive 3.6-acre space⁶; this concert hall is said to be granted the most intimidating music experience for every audience in the auditorium⁶. With the ample space of the auditorium, the audience would therefore be able to experience the power and the spirits of the orchestra being performed. The exterior of the Concert Hall was built with stainless steel curves with unparallel shapes which expresses the architecture style of Deconstructivism which was also shown in the earlier works of Gehry⁶. The dimensions and shapes of the concert hall were said to be looking like a blooming flower to a sailing ship⁷. The interior of the auditorium was thoroughly designed so that every seat is unique from one another and no private boxes were constructed⁸. What is meant by the uniqueness of the seat is that every audience in the same auditorium would experience the same orchestra yet at a different and unique perspective; visually and aurally. Frank Gehry has made Walt Disney Concert Hall the most unexceptional concert hall because he turned every ordinary concert hall's cons into The Walt Disney Concert Hall's strengths. Through the hall he has built, he has informed to the world that every seat in a concert hall can be equally valuable not just the front seats; every audience can obtain a world-class experience no matter where they are seated in the Walt Disney Concert Hall.

⁶ "About Walt Disney Concert Hall." Los Angeles: Los Angeles Philharmonic Association, Print. <<http://www.laphil.com/philpedia/about-walt-disney-concert-hall>>.

⁷ "Gehr'ys Disney Concert Hall." 2003. Web. 15 Sep 2012. <http://www.architectureweek.com/2003/1217/design_1-1.html>.

⁸ "Gehr'ys Disney Concert Hall." 2003. Web. 15 Sep 2012. <http://www.architectureweek.com/2003/1217/design_1-2.html>.

“Coins have two sides.” There is always another side to every story, people often stick with what they are used to; the routine and the ordinary. People’s ideas derived from what they think is suitable according to their judgments and environment. On the other hand, people neglected to consider the other way around; being different might make them or the society better off. What makes Frank Gehry famous is him choosing to be different and away from the ordinary; imposes on the idea of composition and distinctive. Being the presenter of Deconstructivism buildings, Frank Gehry has persuaded the world that being extraordinary and unique isn’t wrong; people can make dreams come true. Frank Gehry has shown to the world that imaginations can be turned to reality no matter how massive they are.