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Frank Gehry

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How is it like if you are in the town where all the buildings look similar; all houses have the same pattern and all buildings look alike? Fortunately, there is no such a kind of this town. Architecture has long been playing very significant role to humanity since the beginning of time. Form and function are two key elements for architecture. Mostly, people believe the buildings should be formed in the way that corresponds to the function. The form that has meaningless function is wasting of resource.¹ This idea makes those creations look pretty similar. Frank Gehry, one of the most famous architects who look over this notion, has created many fascinating pieces of work and has important contribution to our world.

Frank Owen Gehry or widely known as Frank Gehry, a Canadian American architect, was born on 28th February 1929 in Canada. He was raised up in the Jewish family and also his love of art grew up there. At the age of 18, he moved to California to study the college and continued his bachelor's degree in architecture and master's degree in planning city.²

He has designed many wonderful works from a small piece of work such as wristwatch to a mega project such as Guggenheim Museum Bilbao in Spain. Due to many successful works, he was awarded the Pritzker Prize, in which Pritzker Prize is

¹ Wikipedia contributors. "Form follows function." *Wikipedia The Free Encyclopedia*. 12Feb. 2012. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Form_follows_function>

² Wikipedia contributors. "Personal life." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 12 Feb. 2012. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_Gehry>

as honorary as Nobel Prize for the architect.³ Obviously, most of his works share the common characteristic; they are all made in the form of fish.⁴ As a fish scale that has a polish figure, this might be the reason that most of his works are de-constructivism. De-constructivism is the idea of displacing, moving, or dislocating the component of the building in order to receive the newer and better work, which lead to disfigurement or distortion from original work, which is a challenge or violation of the original architecture's rule.⁵ The deconstruction in Frank Gehry's works is the concern with the weirdness or distortion of the building's structure and the selection of glass or titanium, which is capable of being polished, as a main material for his building. With these features, when the light shines into the building, it represents the spark as same as the fish scale does.

Much of Frank Gehry's works have changed the way people think about architecture. He believes that there is a link between art and architecture.⁶ Much of his works have a very complicated structure's design that is nearly impossible to construct. In artwork, in order to gain a well acceptance, the artists should create art or piece of work that is different to differ themselves from others. In contrast, in architectural work, people prefer the work that has certain form.⁷ Along with de-constructivism work that requires the huge amount of resources that most people see it is not necessary or functionless, this makes his work somewhat controversial because deconstruction seems to be surreal as it represents the dreamlike work that is not practical and goes against the original rule of architecture that the form of

³ Karem Templer. "Frank Gehry." *Salon*. 12 Feb. 2012. <<http://www.salon.com/1999/10/05/gehry/>>

⁴ Wikipedia contributors. "Fish and furniture." *Wikipedia The Free Encyclopedia*. 12Feb. 2012. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_Gehry>

⁵ Wikipedia contributors. "Deconstructivism." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 12 Feb. 2012. <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deconstructivism>>

⁶ Guggenheim contributor. "Bilbao." *guggenheim*. 12 Feb. 2012. <<http://www.guggenheim.org/bilbao>>

⁷ Who2 contributors. "Frank Gehry Biography." *Who2Biographies*. 12 Feb. 2012. <<http://www.who2.com/bio/frank-gehry>>

building should be meaningful to the function.⁸ However, we cannot judge artwork. It just depends on individual opinion; some arts are either liked or disliked, because it depends on how each person perceives it. The time might be the best tool for judging. One day the work that people see worthless might be extremely valuable. For example, Vincent van Gogh, his works are widely known and accepted nowadays, even if, during his lifetime, his works were worth not more than a piece of paper.

Titanium-covered Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain, established on 18 October 1997, is one of his most successful works. Guggenheim Museum is a crucial proof of his success. It shows his style of designing the most obvious as this work is exactly what de-constructivism is. With the museum's figure that derives its from the ship's, the building is structured in distorted curve and entirely covered by titanium.⁹ The building also gives us more than what we see, for example, more deeply, when the light shines to the surface of titanium, the reflection of light gives out the audiences the different feeling in the different time of the day. Guggenheim Museum has a very complicated structure's design that, at first, his design seems to be impossible for construction work. To deal with the difficulty in construction, new software is necessary to be developed. Frank Gehry and his team have developed the software especially for the Guggenheim Museum.¹⁰ This software allows many complicated structures to be possible and makes a lot of designers and architects are more determined to create the new style of work.¹¹

⁸ Wikipedia contributors. "Architectural style." *Wikipedia The Free Encyclopedia*. 12 Feb. 2012. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_Gehry>

⁹ Archinomy contributor. "The Guggenheim, Bilbao, Spain (1997)." *Archinomy* 12 Feb. 2012 <<http://www.archinomy.com/case-studies/1931/frank-owen-gehry>>

¹⁰ Archinomy contributor. "Development Of Style and Deconstructivism." *Archinomy*. 12 Feb. 2012 <<http://www.archinomy.com/case-studies/1931/frank-owen-gehry>>

¹¹ Artinfo contributor. "Inside the Masterpiece: Frank Gehry's Guggenheim Museum BilBao." *Artinfo*. 12 Feb. 2012. <<http://blogs.artinfo.com/secrethistoryofart/2011/02/11/inside-the-masterpiece-frank-gehrys-guggenheim-museum-bilbao/>>

Guggenheim Museum does not only prove the man the great success in his career but it also proves that the form can be any luxurious or exotic and still catches up with the function. It is true that Guggenheim Museum requires the huge amount of sources and money but it is not always the waste of functionless source.¹² Every piece of work has the meaning behind itself. The structure that happens to appear randomly distorted can be represented the number of floor of the building. Using titanium as a main material is surely expensive but the whole titanium can be the symbol of unity. Moreover, to build up the giant museum, the designer has to think of how his creation can be harmonious in that surrounding. The ship-liked museum that is surrounded by water is the perfect unity of surrounding nearby. Moreover, Guggenheim Museum is established in the purpose of art exhibition and Frank Gehry has done the great job. With this weird but splendid figure of Guggenheim Museum, it is implying us that this building must be concerned with the art as well.

In Conclusion, Frank Gehry is one of the most important architects. Guggenheim Museum Bilbao is one of his masterpiece works. Guggenheim Museum is de-constructivism style that has complicated and distorted structure's design. It does not only prove him the great success, but also the new way people think about art and architecture. Moreover, the development in software for his work leads us to another important pace in development in architectural technology. The success in his work would definitely be the crucial beginning for many ideas of architecture in the future.

¹² Dr. Gerry Coulter. "Form, Function, and Context: Frank Gehry." *Euroartmagazine.com*. 12 Feb. 2012. <<http://www.euroartmagazine.com/new/?page=1&content=232#wtr>>