

# Frank Gehry: Era, Philosophy, Style

Frank Owen Gehry was born Ephraim Goldberg but says that his first wife later suggested he should change his name. Gehry was born in Toronto Canada on 28 February 1929 and moved to Los Angeles when he was 17.

Gehry studied architecture at the University of Southern California driving a delivery truck to earn money during this time. He graduated in 1954 and continues to work as an architect to the present day. He worked for three architecture firms before founding his own firm in 1962 when he was 33. He did a variety of work from designing apartments, shops and offices. The era of his work is from 1954 to now.



Frank Gehry

Gehry's philosophy can be found in his own statement: "I approach each building as a sculptural object, a spatial container, a space with light and air, a response to context and appropriateness of feeling and spirit. To this container, this sculpture, the user brings his baggage, his program, and interacts with it to accommodate his needs. If he can't do that, I've failed."

Another notable part of Gehry's philosophy is taking a client's budget seriously. Usually complex and innovative designs like Gehry's go over budget e.g. the Sydney Opera House over ran its budget by 1400%. But Gehry's design of the Guggenheim Bilbao for example, was constructed on time and within Budget.

Famous Buildings by Frank Gehry include:

- 1979 and 1987: Gehry House (Gehry's private residence) in Santa Monica, California
- 1983: Weisman Art Museum at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis
- 1995: Fred and Ginger (currently Dancing House), Prague, Czech Republic
- 1997: Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain
- 1999: Maggie's Centre in Dundee, Scotland
- 2001: Fisher Center for the Performing Arts at Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York
- 2004: Massachusetts Institute of Technology Stata Complex, Cambridge, Massachusetts
- 1989-2004: Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, California
- 2004: Jay Pritzker Music Pavilion in Chicago, Illinois
- 2005: MARTa Museum in Herford, Germany
- 2007: IAC Building in New York City



Exterior and Interior views of Frank Gehry's first Deconstructivist house design - his private residence in Santa Monica first built in 1979



Gehry's work is also consistent with a movement of the same era called the California "funk" art movement in the 1960s and early 1970s, which featured the use of inexpensive found objects and non-traditional media such as clay to make serious art. Using unorthodox materials like corrugated metal and chain link, Gehry creates unexpected, twisted forms that break conventions of building design. His work has been called radical, playful, organic, and sensual.

Much of Gehry's work falls within the style of Deconstructivism. Deconstructivism, or Deconstruction, is an approach to building design that attempts to view architecture in bits and pieces. The basic elements of architecture are dismantled. Deconstructivist buildings may seem to have no visual logic. They may appear to be made up of unrelated, disharmonious abstract forms. An example of this can be seen in the images of Gehry's own house.

Deconstructivism also known as DeCon Architecture, is often referred to as post-structuralist in nature because it goes beyond current types of structural definition. DeCon Architecture moves away from Modernist architecture style because DeCon structures do not reflect the belief that form follows function. Modernist architecture emphasizes function. It attempts to provide for specific needs rather than imitate nature.

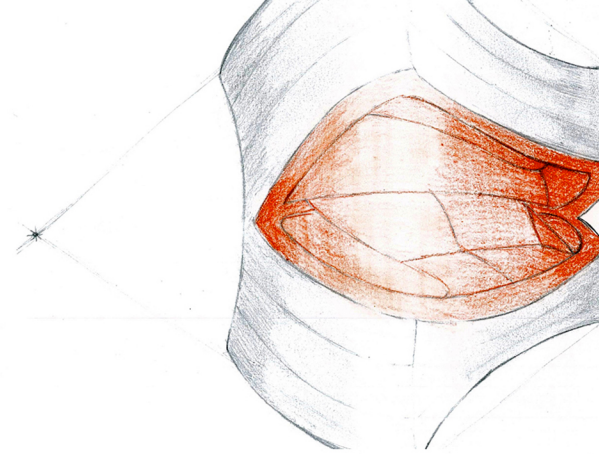
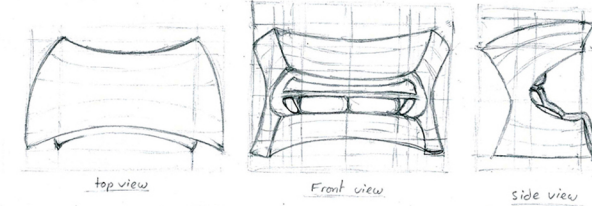
Sometimes Gehry is said to be part of the "Los Angeles School of Architecture" but this is not generally agreed because of the lack of a unifying philosophy or theory that the group follow.



Fred and Ginger (currently Dancing House), Prague, Czech Republic

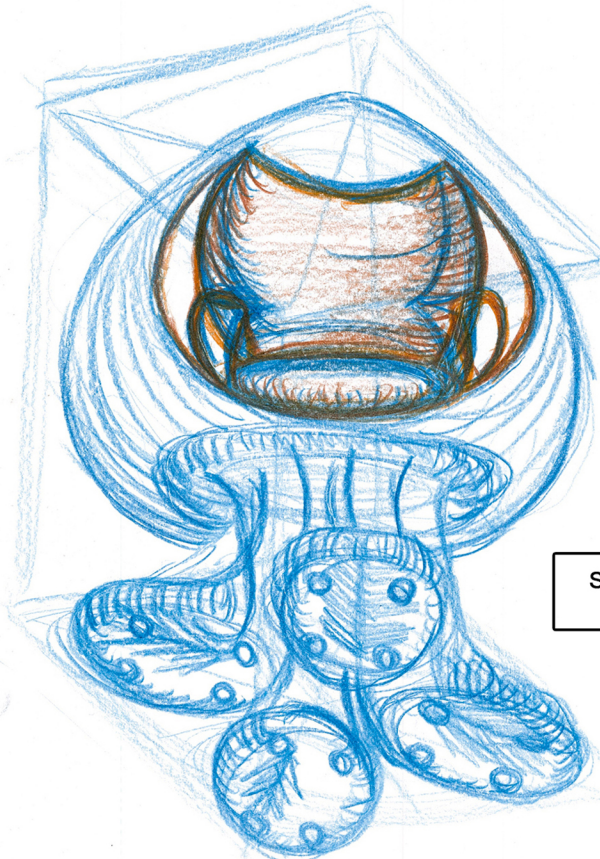
## Project One

Two-Point Perspective rendered



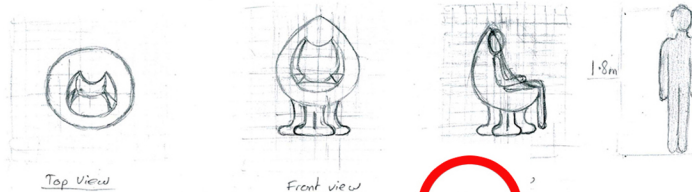
Frank

This couch was influenced by Frank Gehry's Walt Disney concert hall, which was built in the style of Deconstructivism. The couch has a roof which over lops the two seats. The roof is hollowed to allow for head room. The roof slopes upwards so as not to obscure the person's view. The interior of the couch is lined with soft red fabric which the cushions are also made from making sure its is a comfortable place to sit. The back of the couch continues all the way to the roof because it has been hollowed out and has a very gentle slope for relaxation. The exterior of the couch is covered in curved shiny metal panels which are designed to catch the light. This gives the couch a harmonious look as the light dances around the room. The size and proportion of the base and roof are made so it is a sturdy and balanced. Although the joint between the roof and the base is thin it is secured by a bolt so it is completely safe and not going to endanger anyone who sits on it.



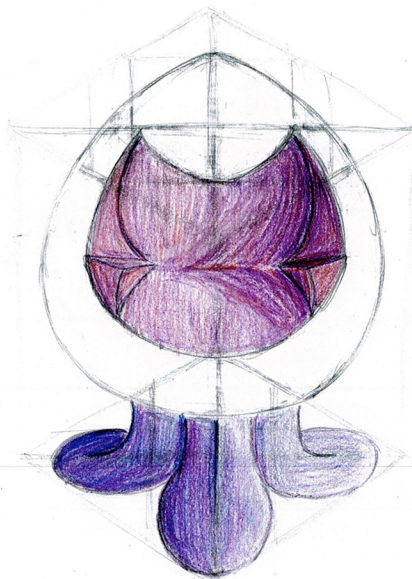
Student 1 Low Excellence  
page 1

I isometric rendered



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This chair was influenced by Frank Gehry in many ways, it was influenced by his love of fish and his style of architecture. This chair is a deconstruction of a fish egg. The legs are designed to resemble under developed fins, these are made from blue-purple perspex. The red-purple cushions are shape like fish scales. These two perspectives are used to make it seem as if it is a part of the developing fish. The arm rests either side of the cushions are on a inclining outwards this adds comfort. The cushions and arm rests are hidden inside the egg shaped dome made from white perspex. This is meant to resemble the fish's egg casing. The chair is light weight and easy to move. The inside of the dome is soft and comfortable. The colours and the angles of the base and back make the chair very relaxing. Although all four legs are joined as one the flatter out at the bottom, balancing the whole structure.



Frank Gehry Architects Chair Concept #4 by Lu2