

Prof. Dr. h.c. mult. **Daniel Libeskind**, Studio Libeskind, USA

Daniel Libeskind is a prolific and key figure in contemporary architecture. Born in 1946 in Lotz in Poland, he is an architect, set designer, academic, and visiting professor who received his architectural degree at Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in 1970, and his postgraduate degree in history and theory of architecture at the School of Comparative Studies at the University of Essex in 1972.

Renowned for works that address questions of remembrance, history and public memory such as the Jewish Museum Berlin and Ground Zero competition, he founded Studio Libeskind with Nina Libeskind in 1989 and came to prominence with the competition for the Jewish Museum in Berlin which was opened in 2001. The iconic zinc-coated jagged form that traces lines of connection linking of major Jewish figures in Berlin creates a fractured Star of David symbolically revealing the vast vacuum left as a result of the Holocaust in German-Jewish history. Libeskind's other works which have been widely exhibited include the extension to the Denver Art Museum in the United States (2006); the Grand Canal Theatre in Dublin (2009); the Imperial War Museum North in Greater Manchester, England (1997–2001); the Michael Lee-Chin Crystal at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, Canada (2007); the Felix Nussbaum Haus in Osnabrück, Germany (1998), the Danish Jewish Museum in Copenhagen, Denmark (2003); and the Wohl Centre at the Bar-Ilan University in Ramat Gan, Israel (2005). In 2003 Libeskind received international acclaim for the winning competition entry for the Ground Zero Master Planning and Reconstruction of the World Trade Centre Site in Lower Manhattan. Through his entry entitled "Memory Foundations," Libeskind attempted to express the trauma of the event through the interrelationship between architectural forms and sites of commemoration. At the Military History Museum, Dresden (2009) his intervention was not a glorification of Germany's Bundeswehr but rather sought to interpret from the perspective of violence and its potential in oneself.

Libeskind is regarded as a significant figure in the evolution of phenomenology of architecture and associated with the group of architects and scholars that constellated around Joseph Rykwert and Dalibor Vesely in the 1970s at the University of Essex. In particular, it was Vesely, and the phenomenological and hermeneutic approach to architecture later developed in association with his colleague Peter Carl at the Department of Architecture at the University of Cambridge, that played a formative role. Libeskind's work, practice and thought traverses memory and architecture, and he was the first architect to win the Hiroshima Art Prize, awarded to artists whose work promotes international understanding and peace.