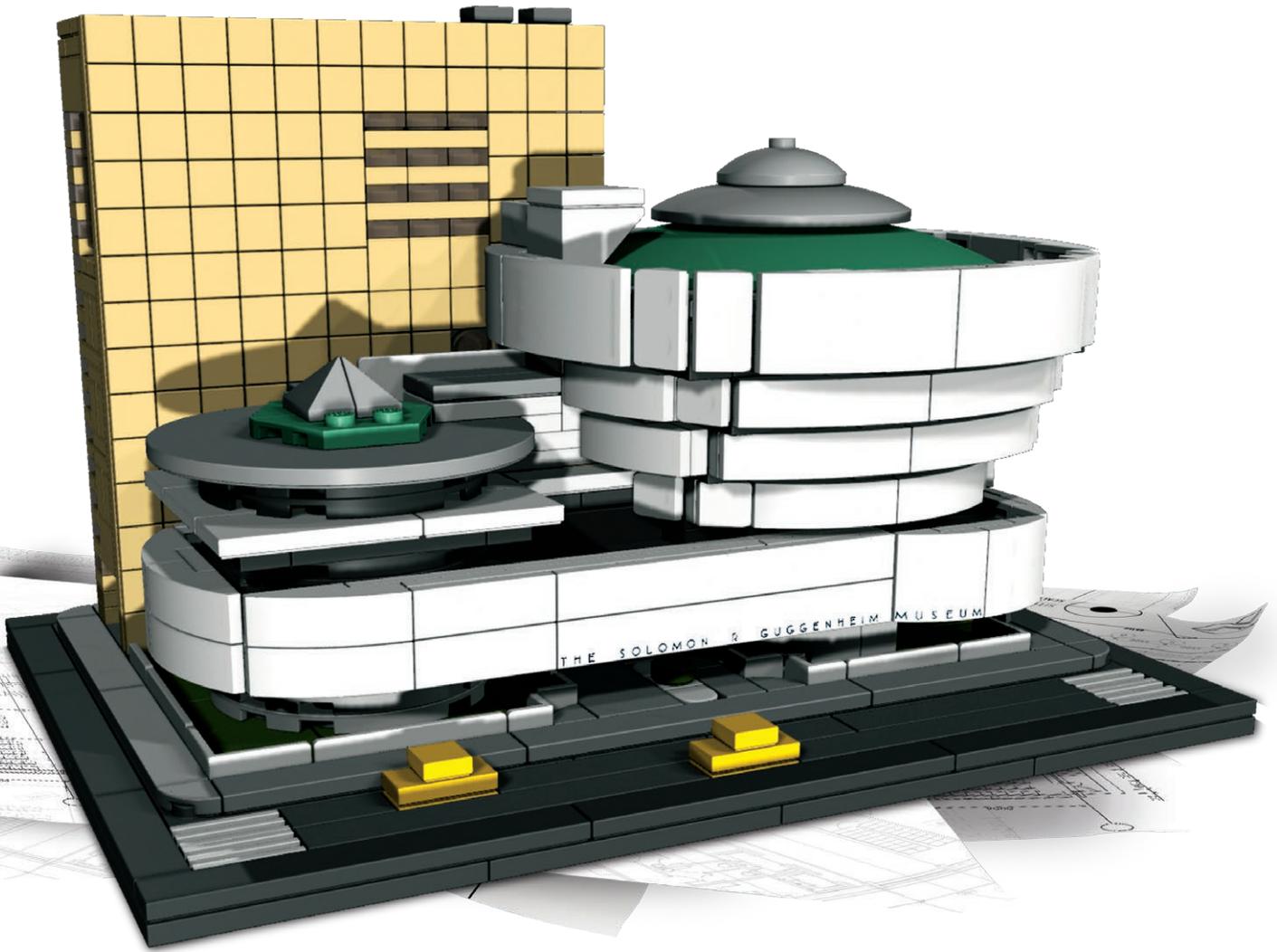




# Architecture

## Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum®

New York City, USA





## Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum

Widely regarded as an exceptional icon of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum launched the great age of museum architecture and proved that a collection's physical home could be as crucial a part of the museum experience as the work itself.

*[ "An idea is salvation  
by imagination" ]*

Frank Lloyd Wright

# The Story of an Iconic Building

In June 1943, Hilla Rebay, the art advisor to Solomon R. Guggenheim, asked Frank Lloyd Wright to design a new building to house Guggenheim's four-year-old Museum of Non-Objective Painting.

The project would evolve into a complex struggle pitting the architect against his clients, city officials, the art world and public opinion. It would take over 15 years, 700 sketches and seven complete sets of working drawings before Wright's vision would be realized and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum would open its doors for the first time in 1959. By then both Guggenheim and Wright had died.

The location of the Guggenheim Museum, on Fifth Avenue between 88<sup>th</sup> and 89<sup>th</sup> Streets, is not accidental. Its proximity to Central Park was key; as close to nature as one can get in New York, the park affords relief from the noise and congestion of the city.

Nature not only provided the museum with a respite from New York's distractions, but also lent it inspiration. The Guggenheim Museum is an embodiment of Frank Lloyd Wright's attempts to utilize organic forms in architecture.

But even as it embraces nature, Wright's design also expresses his unique take on modernist architecture's rigid geometry. The building is a symphony of triangles, ovals, arcs, circles and squares.

Wright dispensed with the conventional approach to museum design, which led visitors through a series of interconnected rooms. Instead, he whisked people to the top of the building via elevator and led them downward at a leisurely pace on the gentle slope of a continuous ramp. The open rotunda afforded viewers the unique possibility of seeing several bays of work on different levels simultaneously.

The building itself has often been called the most important piece of art in the Guggenheim collection.





## The Story Continues

When the museum opened to an enthusiastic public on October 21, 1959, just six months after Frank Lloyd Wright's death, the relationship between the breathtaking architecture of the building and the art it was built to display inspired both controversy and debate. One critic wrote that the museum "turned out to be the most beautiful building in America... never for a minute dominating the pictures being shown," while another insisted that the structure was "less a museum than a monument to Frank Lloyd Wright."

Wright had originally suggested the construction of a tall building behind the museum itself to house its administration and provide the perfect backdrop to his structure, but it would be 1992 before this was finally achieved.

Today the Guggenheim collection has grown substantially and is now shared with sister museums around the world. The New York museum, however, remains the spiritual home of the collection and receives over one million visitors every year.



# About the Architect

Arguably America's greatest architect and among the world's most gifted, Frank Lloyd Wright was also a man of boundless energy. In a career that spanned over 74 years, he designed more than 900 works – including houses, offices, churches, schools, libraries, bridges, museums and many other building types. Of that total, over 500 resulted in completed works. Today, over 400 of these buildings still remain.

Wright's creative mind was not only confined to architecture. He also designed furniture, fabrics, art glass, lamps, dinnerware, silver, linens and graphic arts. In addition, he was a prolific writer, an educator and a philosopher. He authored twenty books and countless articles, and lectured throughout the United States as well as in Europe.

Wright was born in 1867 in the rural farming town of Richland Center, Wisconsin, just two years after the American Civil War ended, and passed away at the age of 91 in 1959. While there is evidence of Wright attending both high school and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, there is no record of him graduating from either. In 1887 Wright moved to Chicago and by the early 1890s he was already head draftsman at the architectural firm of Adler & Sullivan.

Wright was recognized as a brilliant architect by his peers and continues to be revered today. No other architecture took greater advantage of setting and environment. No other architect glorified the sense of "shelter" as did Frank Lloyd Wright. As he famously stated: "A building is not just a place to be. It is a way to be."

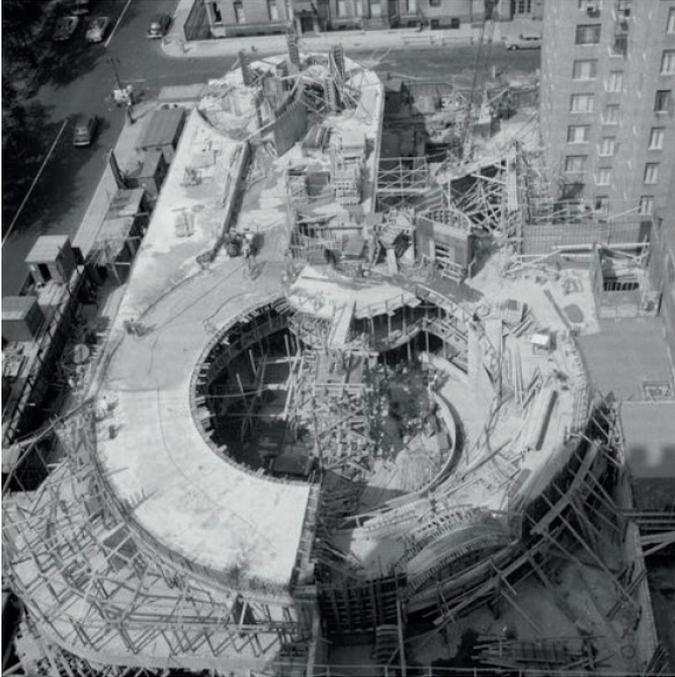


©The Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation, New York

# Facts

Architect: ..... Frank Lloyd Wright  
 Classification: ..... Art Museum  
 Location: ..... New York City, New York, USA  
 Architectural Style: ..... Modern Movement

Height: ..... 92 ft. (28 m)  
 Materials: ..... Aluminum, Steel, Concrete  
 and Glass  
 Year: ..... 1943-1959



©The Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation, New York

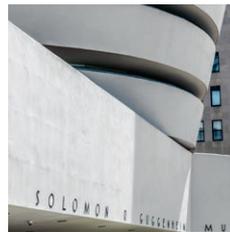


©The Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation, New York

# Facts and Statements



Frank Lloyd Wright insisted on designing every detail in the Guggenheim Museum, right down to the chairs and elevators.



The Guggenheim building is made of 700 tons (635,000 kg) of steel and 7,000 cubic feet (198.2 cubic meters) of poured concrete.



The seal on the floor of the Guggenheim entrance says, "Let each man exercise the art he knows"  
 – Aristophanes 422 B.C.



A walk up the Guggenheim ramp from the ground floor to the dome is 1,416 feet (431.5 m) long.



Frank Lloyd Wright originally wanted to call the Guggenheim the "Archeseum," which means, "to see from the highest."



It took \$3 million to build the Guggenheim Museum between 1943-1959. The restoration of the exterior from 2005 to 2008 cost \$2 million.

©The Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation, New York

©The Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation, New York

# LEGO® Architecture – then and now

There has always been a natural connection between the LEGO® brick and the world of architecture. Fans who build with LEGO elements instinctively develop an interest in the form and function of the structures they create. At the same time, many architects have discovered that LEGO bricks are the perfect way of physically expressing their creative ideas.

This connection was confirmed in the early 1960s with the launch of the LEGO 'Scale Model' line. It matched the spirit of the age where modern architects were redefining how houses look and people were taking an active interest in the design of their new homes. These sets were designed to be different from the normal, brightly colored LEGO boxes; they also included a book on architecture as a source of inspiration.

Decades later, architect and LEGO fan Adam Reed Tucker revived the idea of expressing architecture using LEGO bricks, and in partnership with the LEGO Group launched the

LEGO Architecture line that we know today. His first models, and the original sets in the current LEGO Architecture series, were interpretations of famous skyscrapers from his hometown of Chicago. Since then LEGO Architecture has developed and evolved, first with well-known buildings from other cities in the United States, and now with iconic structures from Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

The introduction of our LEGO Architecture Studio set echoes the ambitions of the earlier LEGO 'Scale Model' line and widens the potential of the LEGO Architecture series. Now you can enjoy building and learning about specific landmark buildings, or create exciting architectural models from your own fantasy. An inspiring 270-page book, featuring a number of renowned architects from around the world, guides you through the principles of architecture and encourages you in your own creative building.



21050  
LEGO Architecture Studio

## References

### Text credits:

[www.guggenheim.org](http://www.guggenheim.org)

### Photo credits:

[www.shutterstock.com](http://www.shutterstock.com)

©The Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation, New York

### For further information please visit:

[www.guggenheim.org](http://www.guggenheim.org)

### Customer Service

[www.lego.com/service](http://www.lego.com/service) or dial



00800 5346 5555 :

1-800-422-5346 :



LEGO and the LEGO logo are trademarks of the/son des marques de commerce du/son marcas registradas de LEGO Group. ©2017 The LEGO Group.

®/TM/© 2017, Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation. All Rights Reserved. The name and the interior oculus and exterior rotunda views of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum are trademarks of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation. Used with permission.