

Frank Gehry

Quotes

*People, Thinking, Art, Architecture, Artist, Cities, Stuff, Want, Looks, Mean,
Ideas, Play, Kids, Architect, Design, Way, Knows, World, Use, School*

Architecture should speak of its time and place, but yearn for timelessness.

~Frank Gehry

Your best work is your expression of yourself. Now, you may not be the greatest at it, but when you do it, you're the only expert.

~Frank Gehry

Time is just a blur for me. I don't know what - I don't even know where I am sometimes.

~Frank Gehry

I don't know why people hire architects and then tell them what to do.

~Frank Gehry

People ask me if I'm an artist or an architect. But I think they're the same.

~Frank Gehry

Your best work is your expression of yourself.

~Frank Gehry

In the end, the character of a civilization is encased in its structures.

~Frank Gehry

If you know where it's going, it's not worth doing.

~Frank Gehry

You can look anywhere and find inspiration.

~Frank Gehry

Not every person has the same kinds of talents, so you discover what yours are and work with them.

~Frank Gehry

Take what comes your way. Do the best with it. Be responsible as you can and something good will happen.

~Frank Gehry

You have to be optimistic. I still have doubts and conflicts, but the bottom line is, I believe in the future.

~Frank Gehry

I found the material that people hated the most and used the most. So, I was going and try and see if I could play with it sculpturally.

~Frank Gehry

The best advice I've received is to be yourself. The best artists do that.

~Frank Gehry

We don't see the banality, but we accept banality. We accept it as inevitable, and it's not.

~Frank Gehry

There is stuff I would have liked to have done. But there are no sour grapes.

~Frank Gehry

Each project, I suffer like I'm starting over again in life. There's a lot of healthy insecurity that fuels this stuff.

~Frank Gehry

Ninety percent of the buildings we live in and around aren't architecture. No, that's not right - 98 percent.

~Frank Gehry

We should celebrate variety rather than conformity and allow people to express themselves. That we don't is more of our denial.

~Frank Gehry

I love working. I don't know what the word vacation means.

~Frank Gehry

You've got to bumble forward into the unknown.

~Frank Gehry

Architecture and any art can transform a person, even save someone. It can for children - for anyone. It still does for me.

~Frank Gehry

We have always created - music, literature, art, dance. The art around us - or lack of it - may be a measure of how we're doing as individuals and as a civilization, so maybe we should be worried.

~Frank Gehry

Those who say only artists and architects can create are the ones who are elitist.

~Frank Gehry

The message I hope to have sent is just the example of being yourself. I tell this to my students: It's not about copying me or my logic systems. It's about allowing yourself to be yourself.

~Frank Gehry

The whole can be greater than the sum of it's parts, that we all have something to put in the pie to make it better, and that the collaborative interaction works.

~Frank Gehry

I didn't have any interest in doing rich people's homes. I still don't.

~Frank Gehry

One of my greatest influences is the Italian artist Gian Lorenzo Bernini.

~Frank Gehry

That's where you have to look for your inspiration. Don't separate the rest of your life - who you are, what you love - from your work.

~Frank Gehry

Man, there's another freedom out there, and it comes from somewhere else, and that somewhere else is the place I'm interested in.

~Frank Gehry

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~Frank Gehry

An architect is given a program, budget, place, and schedule. Sometimes the end product rises to art - or at least people call it that.

~Frank Gehry

You have freedom, so you have to make choices - and at the point when I make a choice, the building starts to look like a Frank Gehry building. It's a signature.

~Frank Gehry

Let the experience begin!

~Frank Gehry

Architecture has always been a very idealistic profession. It's about making the world a better place and it works over the generations because people go on vacation and they look for it.

~Frank Gehry

The fact is I'm an opportunist. I'll take materials around me, materials on my table, and work with them as I'm searching for an idea that works.

~Frank Gehry

There are a great many things about architecture that are hidden from

the untrained eye.

~Frank Gehry

When you agree to collaborate, you agree to jump off a cliff holding hands with everyone, hoping the resourcefulness of each will insure that you all land on your feet.

~Frank Gehry

Childhood play is nothing more than an expression of our individuality and preparation for human interaction.

~Frank Gehry

China is building cities for a 20 to 40 percent increase in population. India is quickly growing. The carbon footprints of that and other development around the world are overwhelming.

~Frank Gehry

I like the idea of collaboration - it pushes you. It's a richer experience.

~Frank Gehry

We're physiologically wired differently.

~Frank Gehry

You've got to like the people you work with.

~Frank Gehry

I promised a lot of people I'd slow down when I turned 80.

~Frank Gehry

As much as we pretend otherwise, we want what's comfortable, and we're afraid of the different. We're afraid of change.

~Frank Gehry

I'm a do-gooder liberal.

~Frank Gehry

I don't know whose box I'm in, and I don't really care.

~Frank Gehry

The idealism [in architecture] is in the formal arrangement, the relationship to the city, the use of materials that are available to me. That's where I say our powers are limited.

~Frank Gehry

Artists dismiss me as an architect, so I'm not in their box, and architects dismiss me as an artist, so I'm not in their box.

~Frank Gehry

I refuse to work unless I get paid, so I don't get a lot of work sometimes.

~Frank Gehry

Just because you are an architect and make decent buildings does not mean that you can suddenly become a set designer for one of the best avant-garde dancers in the world.

~Frank Gehry

There is a backlash against me and everyone who has done buildings that have movement and feeling.

~Frank Gehry

If I knew where I was going, I wouldn't do it. When I can predict or plan it, I don't do it.

~Frank Gehry

You have to build up a credibility before the support comes to you.

~Frank Gehry

When I was a kid, my father didn't really have much hope for me. He thought I was a dreamer; he didn't think I would amount to anything. My mother also.

~Frank Gehry

The back of Saint Peter's is one of the finest pieces of architecture I've ever seen.

~Frank Gehry

Cardboard is another material that's ubiquitous and everybody hates, yet when I made furniture with it everybody loved it.

~Frank Gehry

Your work may be great and not make its way into the big picture... like Van Gogh... so who's to say what's good and bad?

~Frank Gehry

I think my best skill as an architect is the achievement of hand-to-eye coordination. I am able to transfer a sketch into a model into the building.

~Frank Gehry

Childhood play is nothing more than an expression of our individuality and preparation for human interaction. Everybody's an artist. Unfortunately we don't treat them as such.

~Frank Gehry

I hate the word starchitect. Stuff like that comes from mean-spirited, untalented journalists. It's demeaning.

~Frank Gehry

I don't know how to overcome this perception that I'm extravagant.

~Frank Gehry

A new idea is obsolete in seconds, right? I just said it and now it's obsolete.

~Frank Gehry

There are people who design buildings that are not technically and financially good, and there are those who do. Two categories - simple.

~Frank Gehry

It's a metaphor for what we're being told: "Just stay in the box, kid, don't muddy the water." Parents say it to their kids. Teachers say it. Schools do. And so people become immune to the sameness.

~Frank Gehry

On certain projects, on big public projects, people definitely are interested in making them greener, but on smaller projects with tight budgets it can be harder.

~Frank Gehry

I'm going to design the container and interior spaces. You bring your own stuff to it and make it your own.

~Frank Gehry

Art is about people. I think the discussion about whether architecture is art or not is lamebrain.

~Frank Gehry

That's why you go into architecture - at least I did - to do things for people. I think most of us are idealists. You start out that way, anyway.

~Frank Gehry

We live and work in boxes. People don't even notice that.

~Frank Gehry

You can't ignore history; you can't escape it even if you want to. You

might as well know where you come from, and you might as well know that everything has been done in some shape or form.

~Frank Gehry

Bilbao opened in 1997. It was only ten years later that I was asked to do another museum. A lot of other people got work because of Bilbao.

~Frank Gehry

I work from the inside out.

~Frank Gehry

Generally people are more impressed with the services and the comfort issues than the design.

~Frank Gehry

My father always told me that I was going to be a failure - I think he was more talking about himself, but I didn't know it at the time.

~Frank Gehry

Erich Mendelsohn's drawings are expressive and beautiful. If he'd had the computers we have now, everything I've done he would have done before me. I would have had to figure out something else.

~Frank Gehry

In the Renaissance there wasn't a distinction. Bernini was an artist and he made architecture, and Michelangelo also did some great architecture.

~Frank Gehry

I don't think all buildings have to be iconic, but the history of the world has shown us that cultures build iconic buildings for their major public buildings.

~Frank Gehry

There is an order to our environment, a broader order.

~Frank Gehry

You see a lot of so-called architecture that part of the ego trip overpowers the functionality and the budget and all that stuff.

~Frank Gehry

Many people put a green button on their collar and feel good, just like a lot of people put an American flag on their lapels and feel patriotic. It's not enough. I'm not dismissing it.

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I used to sketch - that's the way I thought out loud. Then they made a book of my sketches, and I got self-conscious, so now I don't do it much.

~Frank Gehry

I'm of two minds about doing any interviews these days. It seems a lot of the world is out to play gotcha with me. I guess they always go after people these days. It's sport.

~Frank Gehry

If the room is friendly to a relationship between lecturer and audience, you feel everything - the tension, the appreciation. I think the audience feels it too.

~Frank Gehry

I'm inspired by a lot of stuff. I always was interested in sculpture and painting and music and literature and all those things. There's no one

thing.

~Frank Gehry

For me, every day is a new thing.

~Frank Gehry

Most of our cities built since the war are bland. They're modernist, they're cold, and now architects want to go back to that.

~Frank Gehry

Everybody's an artist. Unfortunately we don't treat them as such.

~Frank Gehry

Some people may say my curved panels look like sails. Well, I am a sailor, so I guess I probably do use that metaphor in my work - though not consciously.

~Frank Gehry

I would like to make a building as intellectually driven as it is sculptural and as positive as it would be acceptable to hope.

~Frank Gehry

The architect Borromini's Quattro Fontane, a little church in Rome, is one of the most beautiful rooms in history.

~Frank Gehry

It should begin much earlier with arts education in the American school system, which is sadly deficient.

~Frank Gehry

We deny our nature to build and create and then wonder why there is so much alienation and dissatisfaction.

~Frank Gehry

Generally in our world, whether in architecture or almost anywhere else, we devalue the artist, and schools at whatever level shut people down.

~Frank Gehry

Ultimately you can't repress individuality, even though you can try.

~Frank Gehry

I never said I was opposed to the LEED program or to green building - I'm not.

~Frank Gehry

I don't want to do architecture that's dry and dull.

~Frank Gehry

I don't make things with my hands, although I studied woodworking and made furniture.

~Frank Gehry

I can't just decide myself what's being built. Someone decides what they want, then I work for them.

~Frank Gehry

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