

# Helmut Jahn

## Quotes

*Thinking, People, Building, Architecture, America, Cities, Creativity, Chinese, Minors, Indirect, Taken, Goal, Vices, Feel Better, Use, Needs, Simple, Up To You, Firm, Smart*

I strive for an architecture from which nothing can be taken away.

~Helmut Jahn

A good engineer thinks in reverse and asks himself about the stylistic consequences of the components and systems he proposes.

~Helmut Jahn

Higher ceilings allow the use indirect lighting, which is much healthier and reduces glare.

~Helmut Jahn

Transparency is not the same as looking straight through a building: it's not just a physical idea, it's also an intellectual one.

~Helmut Jahn

The architecture profession has lost a lot of its integrity, especially in the USA. The general architect here has no scruples, no ambitions.

~Helmut Jahn

When I think of some of my earlier work, it really seems a fortunate coincidence that I succeeded.

~Helmut Jahn

A building is hard to judge. It takes many years to find out whether it works. It's not as simple as asking the people in the office whether they like it.

~Helmut Jahn

You'd never think of taking a cab if you had to walk a mile down Chicago's Michigan Avenue. But in a bad city you take a cab just to go around the corner.

~Helmut Jahn

Chinese buildings are like American buildings, with big footprints.

People don't care about daylight or fresh air.

~Helmut Jahn

Every building is a prototype. No two are alike.

~Helmut Jahn

Creativity has more to do with the elimination of the inessential than with inventing something new.

~Helmut Jahn

A city building, you experience when you walk; a suburban building, you experience when you drive.

~Helmut Jahn

Most architects say: I want to use this type of glass, even if it's too reflective or doesn't let enough light in. However, the use of a certain type of glass might change the comfort level.

~Helmut Jahn

I wanted to improve the suburban office building; to create a great urban space in a suburban environment with all that implies about interaction, collaboration and creativity.

~Helmut Jahn

We are creating a unique experience. It starts with how you see the building from a distance.

~Helmut Jahn

The American attitude towards efficiency and execution should always underlie architecture.

~Helmut Jahn

You don't know what the Chinese expect in the way of beauty. The presentation is just a farce. You come into a room filled with 50 people

and they don't talk to you. There's very little interaction.

~Helmut Jahn

For me, drawing generates thinking and vice versa.

~Helmut Jahn

America has always imported history.

~Helmut Jahn

We prefer synthetic rather than natural materials. Natural products are almost too valuable. Wood is much harder to produce than metal. And metal is recyclable, while wood isn't.

~Helmut Jahn

In Europe, architects consider themselves artists. They think they're special when they win a competition.

~Helmut Jahn

Sometimes I have to accept a job I don't really want. Hardly anybody comes up to you with a commission; it's all competitions these days.

~Helmut Jahn

German and English firms operate internationally, while French firms do not. The only place where they all have work is in China. Anybody can sell himself in China!

~Helmut Jahn

When I came to America in the '60s, it was the place to be. I wonder if I'd come here today.

~Helmut Jahn

Critics are entitled to have an opinion, but how can they judge how comfortable a building is? No critic is smart enough to judge how a building will perform over time.

~Helmut Jahn

I find if my body feels well and I exercise regularly, I think better, work better and feel better.

~Helmut Jahn

I've never looked at a suburban building as being a minor building and an urban building as being a major building.

~Helmut Jahn

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