

# I. M. Pei

## Quotes

*Years, Design, Clients, Artist, Opportunity, Architecture, Country, Past, Eye, Want, Thinking, Islamic, Taken, Art, New York, Two, Roots, Wings, Kids, Bricks*

Architecture is the very mirror of life. You only have to cast your eyes on buildings to feel the presence of the past, the spirit of a place; they are the reflection of society.

~I. M. Pei

I believe that architecture is a pragmatic art. To become art it must be built on a foundation of necessity.

~I. M. Pei

Success is a collection of problems solved.

~I. M. Pei

Life is architecture and architecture is the mirror of life.

~I. M. Pei

It is not an individual act, architecture. You have to consider your client. Only out of that can you produce great architecture. You cannot work in the abstract

~I. M. Pei

Stop worrying about missed opportunities and start looking for new ones.

~I. M. Pei

I want to bring out the best in a community and contribute something of permanent value.

~I. M. Pei

Design is something you have to put your hand to.

~I. M. Pei

Great artists need great clients.

~I. M. Pei

You cannot defend your design without knowing what you're designing for.

~I. M. Pei

Let's do it right. This is for the ages.

~I. M. Pei

Be the best, not necessarily the original.

~I. M. Pei

I didn't want to think about a project that I couldn't finish. That's a kind of temptation. One has to realize one's limitations. Why kid yourself?

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~I. M. Pei

I haven't taken any new projects in the past years - I told myself, if I cannot live long enough to finish it, I don't want it.

~I. M. Pei

I cannot work and listen to Wagner at the same time, nor Mahler, nor Beethoven's late quartets. I enjoy listening to Chopin's piano music when I work.

~I. M. Pei

At home, I have a wife, fortunately, and my children are all grown, and I have many grandchildren. I spend weekends with my grandchildren; I adore them.

~I. M. Pei

For Kips Bay, I had a wonderful client, William Zeckendorf, who was willing to gamble with me on using concrete and not brick for a high-rise apartment building. That was very innovative at the time.

~I. M. Pei

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