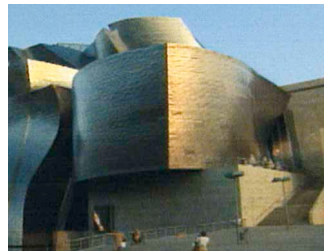


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Architecture 21

Modern architecture stands for the extraordinary and the extreme, the controversial and the pioneering, edifices that are worth preserving, that generate excitement – but also for buildings that no-one likes or understands. Modern architecture advocates better urban concepts and residential quality. Whether we are talking about futuristic museums, pulsating flagship stores, mega-airports or new forms of urban living, the architecture of the third millennium serves as a symbol, a model, and an ideal of a world that is constantly changing.

Architecture 21 goes travelling world-wide. It presents outstanding buildings, focusing on the architects who designed them and their particular approach.

01 Bodo Rasch – Architecture for Allah

Stuttgart architect Bodo Rasch has been a devout Moslem for more than 30 years. He is allowed to do something that is granted to hardly anyone else: Rasch designs large-scale buildings for the holy sites of Islam. He enhanced the mosque in Medina, equipping it with 27 convertible umbrellas in a mixture of high-tech and traditional Islamic art. In Mecca he erected a giant tent city made of Teflon for the annual influx of two million pilgrims.

02 A Roof for Berlin – The New Olympic Stadium

Built for the 1936 Summer Games, the Olympic Stadium in Berlin has undergone substantial conversion work. With a capacity of 80,000 spectators was the stage for soccer's World Cup final in 2006. The aim was to preserve the historic structure as far as possible. But only the exterior still resembles the old stadium. In the interior one of the most modern sports facilities in the world has been created. The unique stadium roof in particular has attracted world-wide acclaim.

03 Frank O. Gehry – The Wizard of Form

Hardly anyone has had as greater an impact on the modern architecture scene than Frank O. Gehry, the internationally renowned American architect who has received numerous awards. His museum in Bilbao was described by American architecture guru Philip Johnson as "the most important building of our age". Gehry's abstract language of form, together with the materials he uses, often make his architecture seem like sculptures.

04 Munich – Architecture of a Major City

Downtown Munich has had a face-lift. A new sports stadium, the Experience and Delivery Centre of automotive manufacturer BMW, the Pinakothek of Modern Art, office parks and high-rise blocks on the outskirts of town – never has Munich seen so much construction! This film presents highlights from leading architect's offices and, through spectacular aerial and ground-level footage, conveys the picture of a modern city.

05 Taipei 101 – The World's Tallest Building

The 508 metre high office tower soars up above the Taiwanese capital, Taipei, like a gigantic bamboo. With its jade-green glass façade the skyscraper was named for its location and the number of stories. To counter cyclones and earthquakes, a steel sphere weighing 660 tons ball and suspended from 16 steel cables, each as thick as a man's arm, has been installed between the 87th and 92nd floors. Energy from violent movement will be transferred from the building to the sphere.