

## **Barbican Art Gallery**

### **Space of Encounter: The Architecture of Daniel Libeskind** **16 September 2004 – 23 January 2005**

**Space of Encounter** is the first survey exhibition in the UK of inspirational architect Daniel Libeskind since he rose to international stardom with the opening of the Jewish Museum Berlin five years ago. It is Barbican Art Gallery's first architecture exhibition and signals its ongoing commitment to presenting outstanding contributions to contemporary visual culture.

Libeskind has produced some of the most emotive architecture of our time. Steeped in narrative and metaphor, his architecture marks a distinct departure from the glossy high-tech aesthetics that have come to dominate many of our cities over the past decades. With their expressive forms and highly developed symbolism Libeskind's designs consistently stir civic debate extending the discussion around architecture beyond the close circle of select critics and academics into the wider public arena.

This exhibition explores Libeskind's unique architectural vision through a dynamic display of 16 key projects including his master plan for the rebuilding of the World Trade Center site, New York; Denver Art Museum; Imperial War Museum North, Manchester, the Jewish Museum Berlin and the proposed Spiral extension to the Victoria and Albert Museum, London. Previously unseen architectural models, drawings, plans and elevations are combined with film and slide projections in a dramatic exhibition design which was conceived in close collaboration with Studio Libeskind. Among the highlights of the exhibition is a specially commissioned 2 metre-high illuminated model of Libeskind's competition-winning entry for the Ground Zero site.

Over the past two decades Daniel Libeskind has established himself as one of the world's leading architects. Through his writings and teaching, as much as through his radical and often spectacular buildings, Libeskind has continuously expanded the boundaries of architecture, both in theory and practice.

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Born in post-war Poland in 1946, in the late 1950s Libeskind emigrated with his family first to Israel, then to the United States. His first passion was music and he was a virtuoso performer before studying architecture at the renowned Cooper Union in New York. For much of the first two decades of his professional career Libeskind concentrated on teaching, writing and drawing leading many to assume that he was more interested in architectural theory than in practice.

This changed in 1989 when Libeskind became the unexpected winner of a competition to design the Jewish Museum Berlin, his first major realised project. More than 500,000 people visited this extraordinary building empty when it first opened in 1999 without exhibitions.

Following the completion of other projects such as the Felix Nussbaum House, Osnabrück, Germany (1995-98) and Imperial War Museum North, Manchester (1997-2002), in 2003 Libeskind won THE international competition for the most significant architectural project of our time: the master plan for the Ground zero site in New York.

Recently completed projects include The Danish Jewish Museum in Copenhagen; Studio Weill, Mallorca and a Graduate Centre for London Metropolitan University on Holloway Road. Many other projects are currently in development or undergoing construction including an extension to the Denver Art Museum – Libeskind's first completed building in the US when it opens in 2006; The Maurice Wohl Convention Centre, Bar-Ilan, Israel; an extension to the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto; a new Dalí museum in Prague, A performing arts centre in Dublin and the Spiral extension to the Victoria & Albert Museum, London.

Completed and unrealised projects are shown side by side with those undergoing construction to underscore the consistency and uniqueness of Libeskind's architectural philosophy and to enable visitors to immerse themselves fully into the world of this exceptional architect.

### **Publication**

*Daniel Libeskind The Space of Encounter*, published by Thames and Hudson (2001) accompanies the exhibition. Price £23.00.

### **Exhibition Organisation**

**Space of Encounter: The Architecture of Daniel Libeskind** has been organised by Barbican Art Gallery, London and the Jewish Museum Berlin. The exhibition design has been conceived by Matthias Reese, Project Architect of the Jewish Museum Berlin, in close collaboration with Studio Libeskind. The London presentation of the exhibition has been curated by Achim Borchardt-Hume, Curator, Barbican Art Gallery. An international tour is planned for the exhibition.

With support from the Embassy of the United States of America, London.

### **Associated Events**

Daniel Libeskind will be reflecting on his architectural vision in a public talk on Thursday 16 September from 8pm. Tickets are £9 (concessions £7).

A series of Wednesday evening talks and events will be programmed throughout the duration of the exhibition. This will include a series of musical performances organised in association with the Jewish Music Institute, London

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**Film season – Daniel Libeskind and the Movies**

Tue 14 - Thur 23 Sept 2004

As an avid movie lover, Daniel Libeskind has curated a season of films for Barbican Cinema which have influenced and inspired him over the years. The programme opens with Alfred Hitchcock's sublime thriller *North By Northwest* (the first film that Libeskind saw as a boy when he arrived with his father as an immigrant in New York), and continues with some of the greatest landmarks in world cinema.

Daniel Libeskind will personally open this film season on Tuesday, 14 September 2004.

**Art Gallery opening times:**

**Daily 11am-8pm**

**Tuesday & Thursday 11am-6pm**

**Admission: Tickets: £8; £6 concessions**

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Public Information/advance tickets: 0845 1207550

**Media view/Conference with Daniel Libeskind**

**Tuesday 14 September, 11am-2pm**

**Media Information/interviews:**

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1 June 2004