

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Art and Architecture: The World's Most Spectacular Museums**

Hamburg, May 28, 2013 – That time-honored institution, the museum, is gradually being superseded. Increasingly, instead of old-fashioned exhibition rooms, it is gigantic event and experience locations that await the visitor. More often than not designed by star architects, many museums now count among the most impressive buildings of our time. As total works of art, it is not just the treasures within that fascinate, but also the breathtaking symbiosis of exhibits and architecture.

A selection of the world's most spectacular museums has now been compiled by a jury of building experts from Emporis ([www.emporis.com](http://www.emporis.com)), the international provider of building data. The list contains some of the most diverse museum buildings from all over the world – from the *Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum* in New York, opened in 1959, to the *Museum of Islamic Art* in Doha, Qatar.

Building Name	Year	City	Country	Architect
BMW World	2007	Munich	Germany	Coop Himmelb(l)au
Centre Georges Pompidou	1976	Paris	France	Renzo Piano; Richard Rogers
Centre Pompidou-Metz	2009	Metz	France	Shigeru Ban; Jean de Gastines
Experience Music Project	2000	Seattle	U.S.A.	Frank O. Gehry; LMN Architects
Guggenheim Bilbao	1997	Bilbao	Spain	Frank O. Gehry
Jewish Museum Berlin	1999	Berlin	Germany	Studio Daniel Libeskind
Kunsthau Graz	2003	Graz	Austria	Spacelab Cook-Fournier GmbH
Maritime Museum	2009	Lingang	China	gmp; SIAD
MAXXI	2009	Rom	Italy	Zaha Hadid Architects
Museo Soumaya	2011	Mexico City	Mexico	FR-EE, Fernando Romero EnterprisE
Museum of Islamic Art	2006	Doha	Qatar	Pei Cobb Freed & Partners
National Art Center, Tokyo	2007	Tokyo	Japan	Kishō Kurokawa; Nihon Sekkei Inc.
Oscar Niemeyer Museum	2002	Curitiba	Brazil	Oscar Niemeyer
Royal Ontario Museum	2007	Toronto	Canada	Studio Daniel Libeskind; B+H
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum	1959	New York	U.S.A.	Frank Lloyd Wright; SHCA

Source: [www.emporis.com](http://www.emporis.com)



The most prominent example is star architect Frank O. Gehry's *Guggenheim Bilbao*, a building that stands like no other for this new understanding of museum architecture. The shiny silver monumental sculpture was the principal reason for Bilbao's transformation from a small industrial city into a major international center of art, a transformation that has come to be known as the "Bilbao Effect". The building continues to this day to influence the architecture of many a 21st-century museum.

Museum design allows architects to play with a very wide range of architectural forms and styles. This can be seen for example in Daniel Libeskind's deconstructivist works such as the *Jewish Museum* in Berlin or the *Royal Ontario Museum* in Toronto. His asymmetrical structures of iridescent steel and glass, with sloping floors and walls without right-angles, attract the attention. That an empty architectural shell can draw crowds all by itself was demonstrated by the 350,000 visitors who came to marvel at the *Jewish Museum* even before it opened.

Extravagant structures have their price, however, and it is not uncommon for costs to reach into the hundreds of millions. Nevertheless, the wave of unique museum buildings is not about to ebb. In Lyon, for instance, work is proceeding on the planned completion in 2014 of the *Musée des Confluences*, a massive civic project designed by Coop Himmelb(l)au. The 190-meter-long structure, a combination of a giant crystal and a cloud, floats eight meters above the ground and will house a museum of science and society.



## **About Emporis**

Emporis is a leading database of information about building and construction projects, based in Germany. For over a decade Emporis has helped companies, organizations and individuals stay informed about the building industry. The Emporis Skyscraper Award is the world's most renowned prize for high-rise architecture.

## **Media Contact**

Maleen Diestel, Public Relations  
Emporis GmbH  
Arndtstrasse 25, 22085 Hamburg, Germany

+49 (0)40 6094 6494 3  
E-Mail: [press@emporis.com](mailto:press@emporis.com)  
Web: [www.emporis.com](http://www.emporis.com)