ARCHITECTURE OF MUSEUMS
The mood to feel history

Nana Meparishvili
A museum is a non-profit, permanent institution in the service of society and its development, open to the public, which acquires, conserves, researches, communicates and exhibits the tangible and intangible heritage of humanity and its environment for the purposes of education, study and enjoyment.
Athenian Treasure Chamber
after 490 BC (rebuilt in 1906); Delphi

Studiolo of Grand Duke Fransesco I. de Medici
1570-72; Florence, Palazzo Vecchio
Uffizi Gallery
1581, Florence

Cabinet of Curiosities of Ferrante Imperato
1599, Naples
Old Ashmolean Museum
1683, Oxford, England

Luxembourg Palace
Paris, France
(Collections were exhibited here in 1750)
The Louvre
1793, Paris, France

British Museum
1759, London, UK
British Museum (the Great Court) designed by Norman Foster (2000)
The Museo del Prado
1810. Madrid, Spain
(Opened for visitors in 1819)

Dulwich Art Gallery
1811–14; London, UK
1824– National Gallery in London
(The new wing was added in 1869)

Thorvaldens Museum
1839-48, Copenhagen, Denmark
Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge
1837-47,
(Specially built for the museum founded in 1816)

The Hermitage Museum
1852, St. Petersburg, Russia
(founded in 1764, opened for public in 1852)
Victoria and Albert Museum
1851, London, UK

The University Museum
1854–60, Oxford, UK
The National Gallery of Scotland, 1850–54, Edinburgh. Scotland

State Historical Museum 1875, Moscow, Russia
Museum of Islamic Art
1899–1903, Cairo

The Egyptian Museum
1898–1902, Cairo, Egypt
Peale Museum
1813-14. Baltimore, USA

Old Patent Office Building
1836, Washington, DC
(now – Smithsonian American Art Museum and National Portrait Gallery building)
American Museum of natural History
1869, New York, NY, USA

Metropolitan Museum of Art
1870, New York, NY, USA
The Art Institute of Chicago
1879, USA

Museum of Fine Arts
1909, Boston, MA, USA
Smithsonian building
1847, Washington, DC, USA
(Architect James Renwick)
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum
1943–1959, New York, USA
(Architect F. L. Wright)

Centre Georges Pompidou
1971-77, Paris, France
(Architects Renzo Piano & Philip Rogers)
Museum of Modern Art (MOMA)
1939, New York, US

Hirshhorn Museum
1974, Washington, D.C.
Kimbell Art Museum
1969–1972, Texas, USA

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art
1992–1995, California, USA
Guggenheim Museum
1993–1997, Bilbao, Spain
(Architect - Frank Gehry)

Tate Modern
2000, London, UK
(Architects: Herzog & de Meuron)
Whitney Museum of American Art
1966, NY, USA
(architect Marcel Breuer)

Whitney Museum of American Art
2010-15, NY, USA
(architect: Renzo Piano)
Milwaukee Art Museum (architect Santiago Calatrava)
2001, USA
Weisman Art Museum, Minneapolis, 1993, architect: Frank Gehry

Museum of Middle East Modern Art, Dubai, UAE, 2008, UN Studio
The Akron Art Museum, 2004, Coop Himmelb(l)au
National Museum of Underwater Archaeology
Cartagena, Spain, 2010

Foundation Louis Vuitton
2014, by Frank Gehry
Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati
2003 (architect Zaha Hadid)
MAXXI (Museum of Contemporary Art)
2010, Rome, Italy
Museum Architecture today –

- Architecture of the building or building in the service of art?

The Museum Architecture is the mixed art, which combines visual art and utilitarian functions.
## What is museum building today

<table>
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<th><strong>New City Landmarks</strong></th>
<th>These museums are the symbols of the world's cities, just as the Eiffel Tower for Paris.</th>
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<tbody>
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<td><strong>New Urban Catalyst</strong></td>
<td>As they are multi-functional public buildings, museums recently became driving forces of the city's economic development.</td>
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<td><strong>New Destinations</strong></td>
<td>In some cases, the architecture and the location works together so effectively that the desire of exploring museum artifacts is just the reason to visit the museum</td>
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<td><strong>New Multi-Urban Centers</strong></td>
<td>In order to meet the requirements of the society and establish coordinative centers of urban society, urban development plans are integrated with the different functions of the city and represents one complex, where the cultural points of interest have the leading position.</td>
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<td><strong>New Spaces for Artists</strong></td>
<td>Special exhibitions are very popular today. Various forms of modern art and suitably organized exhibition space, interpretation is very important.</td>
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<td><strong>New Urban Reintegration</strong></td>
<td>When the city strives to preserve the historical buildings and the museums are also trying to integrate in city urban net, then old, existing buildings are adapted to new requirements (For instance - Tate Modern (architects – J. Herzog and P. de Meuron), Museum d'Orsay in Paris, which is located in the old railway station building)</td>
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Railway station
1900, Paris, France
Museum d'Orsay in Paris, which is located in the old railway station building)
Categories of modern museums:

- New museums with permanent collections
- New museums as exhibition halls
- New expansions to the museums

Why expansions are so frequent?

- **New Mission**
  Many museums have reviewed their relationship with visitors and made changes to their objectives or outlined a new mission. A new building or expansion is a good way of gaining an understanding of a new mission.

- **Aging Facilities**
  Outdated infrastructure (roof leaks, electrical and sanitary systems, heating and conditioning systems etc). Restorations of the historical buildings

- **Sponsorship**
  Financing the construction of museums becomes more popular. Philanthropists make donations, while funds provide support to public platform.

- **Growing Collections**
  Many museums move their collections to new, off-site facilities for the storage and research purposes.

- **Educational Spaces**
  Government and leaders of foundations are active supporters of the museum's educational value, which leads to the need for additional space.

- **Visitors Demands**
  Visitors are pushing museums to destroy the old paradigms of planning.
The Louvre Pyramid
1989, Paris, France
(architect I. M. Pei)
Hamilton Building - a new expansion to Denver Art Museum
2006, architect: Daniel Libeskind
Extension of Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
2004, Boston, MA, USA
(architect Renzo Piano)
Harvard Art Museums’ expansion
In 2008, Cambridge, USA (architect Renzo Piano)
Museum of Fine Arts
Boston, USA
(Foster & Partners)
Panama Biomuseo
2014, Frank Gehry

MMM Corones
2015, Zaha Hadid
National 9/11 Memorial Museum
(architects: Michael Arad of Handel Architects, Peter Walker and Partners, Davis Brody Bond, Snohetta)
2014, New York, NY
National Museum of Arts
Porsche Museum, Stuttgart, Germany

Museum of Image and Sound
(Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)
2010, Diller Scofidio + Renfro
Salvador Dalí Museum
2011, St. Petersburg, Florida
San Francisco SF MoMA expansion
2009, Adjaye Associates; Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Foster + Partners & Snohetta

The Museum of Tomorrow
Rio de Janeiro
2015, Santiago Calatrava
The National Museum of African American History and Culture
Washington, DC, USA
2016, Freelon Group; Adjaye Associates; Davis Brody Bond
Each person gets his personal experience from a museum while visiting it.

Components of Functional Brief:

- Characteristics of land plots, its availability, and safety requirements;
- Scheme of entrances and exits;
- Schemes of possible movements of visitors, employees, suppliers of various products, etc.;
- Scheme of replacement of collections, products, other items, trash, etc.;
- Scheme of all storages of the building - according to zoning;
- Description of storages and their functions - according to zoning;
- Systems required for the operation of the building and their requirements;
- Requirements related to zones;
- Detailed functional requirements for each of the storages of the building;
- Requirements of persons with special needs (children and wheelchair users) etc.
MOOD

What affects our mood while visit a museum?

• Location and accessibility
• Exterior/image of the building
• Interior/planning

Museum Island Berlin

Kunsthal in Rotterdam
“Neutral white spaces kill works of art just as much as hyperactive spaces...”
Renzo Piano

4 main zones of museum space
(G.Ellis Burcaw 1997)

- **Zones available to public, where collections are not displayed** (hall, conference rooms, shops and restaurants)

- **Zones available to public, where collections are displayed** (exhibition halls)

- **Zone to which public has no access, though it contains collections** (additional storage space, restoration - conservation laboratories, guard rooms and other spaces where exhibits are kept)

- **Zone to which public has no access and it does not contain collections** (maintenance facilities).
New Entrance of Van Gogh Museum’
2015, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
(Hans van Heeswijk Architects)
Exhibition Space
Open storages in the Lunder Conservation Center
Washington DC, USA
Public Space in the New Wing of The Metropolitan Museum of Art (MET)
New York, NY, USA
Thank You!

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WORKSHOP
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