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Exhibition will showcase superstar architect **First exhibition in two decades devoted to Frank Gehry's drawings**

Feb 6/06

by Michah Rynor

In the world of architecture, there are few stars who shine as brightly as Toronto-born Frank Gehry. The upcoming show at U of T, which will complement a related show running concurrently at the **Art Gallery of Ontario**, will show why such acclaim is warranted.

Frank's Drawings: Eight Museums by Gehry, running from Feb. 18 to June 17 at the U of T Art Centre, will be the first exhibition in two decades devoted exclusively to his drawings. It will include 49 original pen-on-paper works depicting eight museum projects designed by him including the redesign of the Art Gallery of Ontario, the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, the Museum of Tolerance in Jerusalem, the Museum of Biodiversity in Panama City and, of course, his signature piece, the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain.

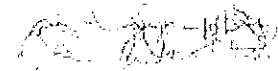


Image: Art Gallery of Ontario,
Gehry Partners LLP

"This is a rare opportunity to see Frank Gehry's mind and hand at work," said exhibition curator Larry Richards, former dean of the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design, "and to see some of the spontaneous, generating drawings that have led to his astonishing architecture."

Born in Toronto in 1929, Gehry is the design principal of Frank O. Gehry & Associates. He won the Pritzker Architectural Prize "for significant contributions to humanity and the built environment through the art of architecture" in 1989, a Gold Medal from the Royal Architects Institute of Canada in 1998 and the United States' National Endowment of the Arts award the same year. Based in Los Angeles and educated at both Harvard and the University of Southern California, he was made a companion of the Order of Canada in 2002. Gehry has lectured at U of T and received an honorary degree from the university in 1998.

Renowned architect Daniel Libeskind, currently working on the redesign of the Royal Ontario Museum, became the first person to hold U of T's Frank Gehry International Visiting Chair in Architectural Design at the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design in 2003.

"A lot of people still tend to think of architecture as glorified engineering and aren't aware that great architecture is driven by deep artistic impulses," Richards stated. "Frank Gehry is, in the best sense, an artist-architect. This exhibition reveals his visual thinking, his deep artistry."

The world of architecture, he added, is very much driven now by computers and digital processes. "But most great architects, like Frank, still depend on sketching by hand to move their ideas from mind to paper. In this exhibition we can see the embryonic stages of a Gehry building when ideas about space and shape are still emerging. Perhaps more important, the exhibition proves to me that hand drawing is still hugely important in the conceptual stage and in the communication of an idea for a building."

The exhibition will even include some of Gehry's sketchbooks from the late 70s and early 80s and a collection of thumbnail sketches never exhibited before. As well, a three-dimensional

