

GLOSSARY

framework: *quadro*
healing: *curativo*
redevelopment: *ricostruzione*
not to mention: *per non parlare*
peak: *vetta*
spire: *guglia*

MORE ABOUT...

Daniel Libeskind has designed major cultural, commercial and residential projects around the world. He is particularly interested in the future development of cities and culture.

The Jewish Museum in Berlin, Germany, was completed in 1999. It was Libeskind's first major international success. The building was based on a radical zigzag design.

Another example of his work is the Grand Canal Theatre project in Dublin, a 2,000 seat theatre in the cultural docklands area of the city. According to Libeskind 'Dublin is a city resurrected over the last 10 years... It has been transformed from an ancient city to one that is vibrant - it's youthful, it's exciting, it's dynamic... and that's what architecture can do for a city. Cultural institutions will just add to that incredible atmosphere.'

✶ When writing the date as numbers, **British and American English** differs. In British English we say the date in this order: day-month-year (25-12-2012). The American form of writing the date uses: month-day-year (12-25-2012). So for example, 4-8-1995 is 4th August, 1995 in Britain, but in the USA it is April 8th, 1995. Despite these differences, the date 9/11 is instantly understood in the UK. However, on the BBC 'September the 11th' is generally used in preference to 9/11. Other date formats include the ISO 8601 standard. This international standard aims to provide an unambiguous method of representing dates. Date values are organised from the most to the least significant (year, month, day), for example 2012-08-24.

Rebuilding Ground Zero: Daniel Libeskind's project

After the terrorist attack on the Twin Towers on 11 September 2001, the citizens of New York took some time to decide the best way to rebuild the World Trade Centre site. A competition organised by the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation was announced to develop a master plan, and was won by the Polish-American architect, Daniel Libeskind.



Unlike usual procedure, this time it was not just a panel of experts who chose the winner, but also the normal man on the street and more significantly, the relatives of the victims of 9/11*, so that everyone would feel actively involved in the reconstruction of ground zero. Libeskind did not have an easy task ahead of him as the destruction of the Twin Towers had had a devastating effect on many people. Here architecture would have to take on a new dimension, a healing effect. His WTC (World Trade Center) master plan provides the conceptual framework and technical foundations for the complex redevelopment of ground zero. It defines the location of all elements of the project within the site and sets standards on building height and size, as well as the use of space between one construction and the other. The framework for infrastructures, transport and sustainability standards for the site, not to mention the site's security strategy, are also an important part of the plan. In addition, the master plan takes into account the relationship between the site and the surrounding city and neighbourhoods. One of the focal points of the project is the Freedom Tower which Libeskind hopes will represent a spiritual peak for the city and restore its hope and optimism despite the tragedy suffered. It will be a 104 storey-high skyscraper and is being built in the northwest corner of the world trade centre site. It is now known as the 'One World Trade Center' or simply 1WTC and should be completed by 2013 when it will be the tallest building in the western hemisphere with its spire reaching 1,776 feet, a reminder of when America gained its independence.



<http://daniel-libeskind.com/projects/ground-zero-master-plan>

READING COMPREHENSION

1 **PET** Read the text and decide if the statements below are true (T) or false (F).

- 1 The choice of master plan for the ground zero redevelopment was left solely to the public.
- 2 In his plan, Libeskind had to take into account the emotional turmoil connected to this area.
- 3 From the master plan you can see where buildings will be constructed.
- 4 According to the master plan, buildings can be as high and as big as people want.
- 5 The redevelopment has been planned to fit in well with the existing environment.
- 6 The 1WTC is another construction similar to the Freedom Tower.

T	F
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

VOCABULARY

2 Find the synonyms of the following words in the text.

- 1 process _____
- 2 committee _____
- 3 assignment _____
- 4 specifications _____
- 5 high-rise building _____
- 6 home rule _____

INTERNET RESEARCH – WRITING

3 Read the following Libeskind quotation then do some research on his works, and choose one which, in your opinion, expresses this idea of optimism. Then write a brief description of it referring to its shape, colour and the materials used. You may also wish to include the following information.

- Location
- Construction date
- Building reasons
- Use



‘I believe that optimism is what drives architecture forward. It’s the only profession where you have to believe in the future. You can be a general, a politician, an economist who is depressed, a musician in a minor key, a painter in dark colours. But architecture is that complete ecstasy that the future can be better. And it is that belief that I think drives society.’

Daniel Libeskind



<http://daniellibeskind.com>