

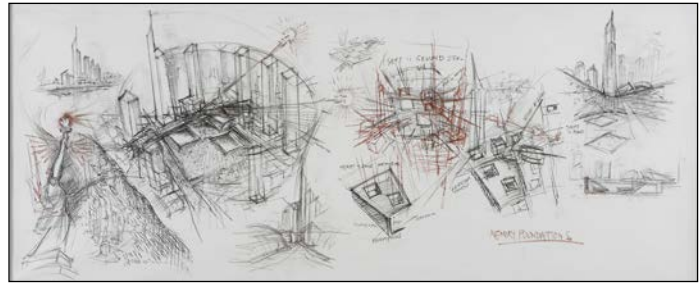
STUDIO DANIEL LIBESKIND

## DANIEL LIBESKIND

### MASTER PLANNER, WORLD TRADE CENTER SITE

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In February, 2003, architect Daniel Libeskind was named Master Planner of the World Trade Center site after winning a competition that attracted some of the world's most talented and well known architects. Ironically Libeskind's Jewish Museum Berlin, a decade in the making, opened on September 11, 2001, only to close temporarily once news of the terrorist attacks became known.



*Early sketch of master plan for World Trade Center site. © Daniel Libeskind.*

#### WHAT IS A MASTER PLAN?

*"[A master plan is] a vision of how to build not one building or two buildings, but an entire neighborhood ... of how to shape a site – not just verbally, not just in statistics and heights of buildings, but in terms of the spirit, the message, of all of the buildings ... all of the streets, all of the public spaces ... The master plan is what brings unity to all the different complexities that the site incorporates."* – Daniel Libeskind

An essential part of any development project, the master plan serves as both its conceptual basis and its technical foundation. The plan defines the spirit of the approach and organizes the site's various elements, emphasizing the human experience and the public realm throughout. The plan determines each building's size, height and location; the structures' proximity and relationship to one another; the site's infrastructure, transportation, sustainability standards and security strategy; and the relationship between the site and the surrounding areas.

#### WORLD TRADE CENTER MASTER PLAN: ORGANIZING PRINCIPLES

In developing a vision for the World Trade Center site Daniel Libeskind was guided by three organizing principles:

- **Prominence of the 9/11 Memorial.** Occupying nearly half of the 16-acre site, the new 9/11 Memorial achieves the goals set forth in the master plan, i.e. that the memorial be the philosophical and pivotal centerpiece of the site, and that it incorporate the chasms left by the towers' collapse; the bearing, or slurry, wall, which remained intact and kept the Hudson River within its banks; and falling water, to provide a soothing barrier against the city's clamor.
- **Restoration of the Manhattan Skyline.** When construction is finished a ring of office towers will define a dramatic New York skyline. At 1776 feet the tallest tower, 1 WTC, will be a reminder of the country's most memorable date before 9/11 and one that represents freedom to all Americans\*.
- **Connecting the Site to the City.** As the master plan envisioned, the World Trade Center site will be a mixed-use area fully integrated into the vibrancy and activity of the surrounding neighborhoods. Fulton and Greenwich Streets already bisect the property, linking Tribeca and the Financial District. Soon an extraordinary transportation hub, retail outlets, an arts center and public spaces will complete the renewal and encourage 24/7 use of the site.

MORE

\*The Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776.

## INSPIRATION BEHIND THE MASTER PLAN

Daniel Libeskind's master plan for the World Trade Center site began as a napkin sketch made after he and his wife and business partner, Nina, descended into the 70-foot chasm created by the twin towers' absence. "[T]he lower we descended into the deep hole," the architect wrote in *Breaking Ground*, his 2004 memoir, "the more intensely we could feel the violence and the hatred that brought down the buildings ... [B]ut we could [also] feel other powerful forces present: freedom, hope, faith, the human energy that continues to grip the site."

Libeskind was also inspired by his personal history. "I arrived by ship in New York as a teenager, an immigrant," he wrote in *Memory Foundations*, his master plan proposal, "and like millions of others before me, my first sight was the Statue of Liberty and the amazing skyline of Manhattan. I have never forgotten that sight or what it stands for. This is what this project is all about."

## STUDIO DANIEL LIBESKIND

### HISTORY

Daniel Libeskind, B.Arch. M.A. BDA AIA, established his architectural studio in Berlin, Germany, in 1989. Upon winning the World Trade Center master plan competition in February, 2003, he moved the studio's headquarters to New York City. The office is now headquartered two blocks south of the World Trade Center site.

### PHILOSOPHY

Daniel Libeskind's commitment to expanding the scope of architecture reflects his profound interest and involvement in philosophy, art, literature and music. Fundamental to Libeskind's philosophy is the notion that buildings are crafted with perceptible human energy and address the cultural context in which they are built.

### PROJECTS

Studio Daniel Libeskind's projects include major cultural and commercial institutions, convention centers, universities, hotels, shopping centers and residential properties. At any given time the studio handles more than 40 commissions around the world. Project locations include Abu Dhabi, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Hong Kong, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

### OFFICES

*Headquarters:* 2 Rector Street, New York City  
*European Offices:* Zürich, Switzerland; Milan, Italy

### UPCOMING OPENINGS

**MUSEUM OF MILITARY HISTORY**  
*Dresden, Germany*  
**Opens: 14-Oct-11**



**RUN RUN SHAW CREATIVE MEDIA CENTRE**  
*City University*  
*Hong Kong*  
**Opens: 28-Oct-11**



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