

I.M. Pei

By: Cameron Sprenger



Overview

I.M. Pei (Ieoh Ming Pei) was a Chinese-American architect born in Guangzhou China in 1917. He later moved to Shanghai where his interest in architecture began.

He moved to the United States in 1935 to study architecture at the University of Pennsylvania, but later transferred to MIT where he won .

Awarded the winner of the Pritzker prize in 1983.

"Ieoh Ming Pei has this century some of its most beautiful interior spaces and exterior forms. Yet the significance of his work goes far beyond that. His concern has always been the surroundings in which his buildings rise."



Mesa Laboratory of the National Center for Atmospheric Research

Commissioned in 1961, this was his first project outside of urban work. It was the foundational, break-out design that kicked off his career.

The complex is designed in modern movement architecture and consist of three 5 story buildings.

I.M. Pei wanted to incorporate the building into the natural beauty of the location. Mixed sandstone into the concrete and used a bush-hammered technique



Louvre Pyramid

Commissioned in 1983 by the French President to serve as a new entrance to the museum.

Same proportions as the Great Pyramid in Giza to serve as a reminder of the Egyptian antique collection inside.

Sparked a lot of controversy what it was first announced due to the contrast between the modern and Renaissance styles.



Louvre Pyramid

Larger underground entrance and lobby help to dissipate the large crowds.

Inverted pyramid was completed in 1995 as part of the second phase of the Louvre renovation.

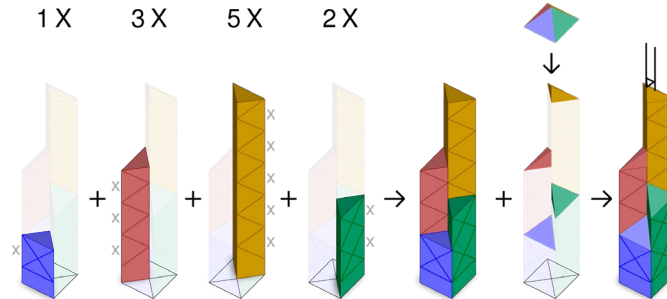


Bank of China, Hong Kong

This is the only building to bypass the convention of consulting with feng shui masters on matters of design prior to construction.

The geometry is meant to look like bamboo leaves which are the Chinese symbol for prosperity and livelihood.

Sometimes called the "vertical knife" or meat cleaver due to its sharp edges.



Many other notable works

National Gallery East Building Washington, DC 1978

John F. Kennedy Library Boston, Massachusetts 1979

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Cleveland, Ohio 1995.



Legacy

Passed away in 2019 at the age of 102 in New York

I.M. Pei was one of the most visionary modern architects of the 20th century because of his powerful use of bold geometry and incorporation with natural beauty.

Using the prize money from winning the Pritzker prize, he set up a scholarship for Chinese Architects to study in the US.

"I.M. Pei taught all of us about the beauty of geometry and material authenticity in architecture." John Koga

