



Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, Spain

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| Location in the City | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bilbao, Basque Country, Spain • on the Nervion River, one of Guggenheim Foundation Modern and Contemporary Art museums in Spain with exhibits by Spanish and international artists |
| History of Construction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Started: 1991: the Basque covered construction cost of \$89 mln. • Designed: Canadian-American architect Frank Gehry , encouraged to create something innovative • Opened by Juan Carlos I of Spain: 1997 - 5,000 residents attended light show concerts |
| Peculiarities of Design | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Style: Deconstructivism • Atrium nicknamed <i>The Flower</i> due to its shape organizing the center of the museum • The exterior curves catch the light, the interior is designed around a large, light-filled atrium with views of Bilbao's estuary and the hills of the Basque country • Perfectly integrated into the urban context, with its shapes of tone, glass and titanium on a 32,500-square-meter site along the river in the ancient industrial heart of the city. • Exhibition space: 19 galleries (10 with classical orthogonal plan, 9 are irregularly shaped). • The largest gallery: 30 meters wide and 130 meters long • Collection: large-scale, site-specific contemporary art with thematic exhibitions; traditional paintings and sculptures are a minority compared to installations and electronic forms which highlight Avant-garde art, 20th century abstraction, and non-objective art |
| Cultural Significance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inspired other structures of similar design across the globe • created a popular tourist attraction with numerous visitors (4 mln tourists generated €500 mln in 3 years) • visitors' money covered the building cost • was featured in the 1999 James Bond film <i>The World Is Not Enough</i> and the Tamil film <i>Sivaji</i> (2007) |