

# **Deconstructivism**

505 Humanities

28.06.2022 Division C

26.07.2022 Division B

06.09.2022 Division A

Thakur School of Architecture and Planning



**Deconstructivism is a Postmodern architectural style characterized by the idea of fragmentation and the manipulation of a structure's surface**

It literally translates to the breaking down, or demolishing of a constructed structure, whether it being for structural reasons or just an act of rebellion. It is perhaps for this reason that many misunderstand the Deconstructivist movement.

**Buildings adopting the style are often formed of components that have been disassembled and reassembled in a new and unorthodox way, giving the impression of a chaotic design devoid of precise logic.**

**It attempts to move away from the conventions of modernism that can be viewed as 'constricting rules', such as the notions that 'form follows function', 'purity of form', and 'truth to materials'.**

**It does not follow “rules” or acquire specific aesthetics, nor is it a rebellion against a social dilemma. It is the unleashing of infinite possibilities of playing around with forms and volumes.**

**Semiotic analysis looks beyond the surface of the message, studying verbal signs as well as visual and auditory ones, thus revealing more deeply the underlying structures of meaning, and helping to understand which elements are responsible for creating corresponding effects.**

Deconstructivism in architecture was influenced by the deconstructivist theories of the French philosopher **Jacques Derrida**, who said that 'architecture is nothing but one of many ways of communication'.

It was also influenced by early-20th century constructivist architecture developed in Soviet Russia.

During the First World War, Russian avant-gardists, known as Russian Constructivists, broke the rules of classical architecture and composition and presented a series of drawings that defied the “geometric norms” at the time. Their critical point of view and experimentation with forms disturbed the traditional perception of architecture and opened people’s eyes to the endless possibilities of breaking architecture rules.



In parallel to the Russian Constructivist movement, the Modern Movement was paving its way. Perhaps it was the timing of both movements that forced people to blindly choose Modernism. The World War has just ended and people were desperate for the stability and refinement they so missed; Russian Constructivism didn't stand a chance. Ornamentation was stripped off, only to leave people with clean-cut, elegant yet naked functionality.

**Deconstructivism developed out of the postmodern style and first gained widespread attention in 1988 with an exhibition entitled 'Deconstructivist Architecture' in New York's Museum of Modern Art.**

# DECON- STRUC- TIVIST ARCHI- TECTURE

This exhibition is part of the

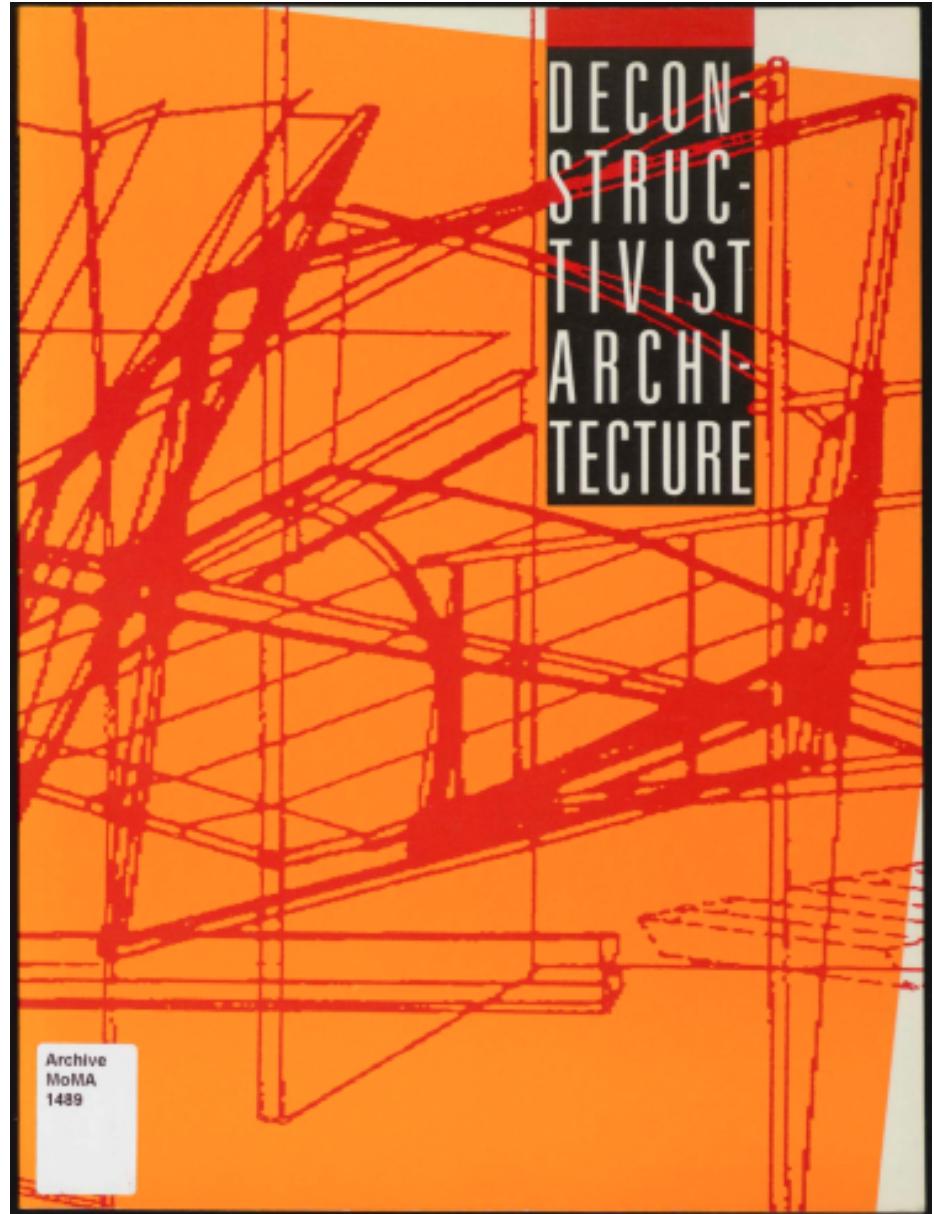
Gerald D. Hines Internati Architecture Program at

The Museum of Modern Art, New York





The exhibition featured the work of architects such as Frank Gehry, Rem Koolhaas and Zaha Hadid.



Following Derrida's theories and the "avant-gardist" approach of Russian Constructivism, architects began exploring spaces and volumes. The style was characterized by a loss of symmetry or continuity. It was architecture on steroids. Design rules were broken and "form follows function" was neglected, but somehow, the refinement and elegance of modernism remained. The structure's skin was manipulated and altered into unpredictable geometric forms, but the building's function was preserved.

**Where deconstructivism deviates from the postmodernist style in its **rejection of ornament as decoration**.**

Unrelated forms.

Abstract nature.

Smooth exterior surfaces.

Contrast of shapes and forms.

Large expanses of a single material (glass, metals, masonry, etc.).

Window frames often hidden in the walls.

Simple metal frame doors.

Exposed materials.

The rise in prominence of computer-aided design (CAD) in contemporary architecture was a key factor in the development of deconstructivism, as three-dimensional modeling enabled the intricate design of complicated and unorthodox shapes and spaces.

**One of the most prominent architects associated with the style is Frank Gehry, whose Santa Monica residence – the building for which he first received critical acclaim – is regarded as the prototypical deconstructivist building**

## **Key Figures:**

**Zaha Hadid**

**Peter Eisenman**

**Rem Koolhaas**

**Daniel Libeskind**

## **Notable Examples**

**CCTV Headquarters, Beijing.**

**Dancing House, Prague.**

**Imperial War Museum, Manchester.**

**Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao.**

**Jewish Museum, Berlin.**

**Walt Disney Concert Hall, Los Angeles.**









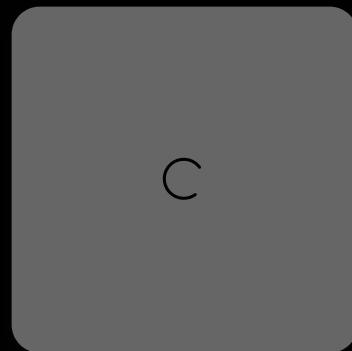
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c8OGJBuHztk>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9wzheHFmea8>

<https://www.moma.org/calendar/exhibitions/1813?>

<https://www.archdaily.com/67321/gehry-residence-frank-gehry>



Gehry Residence / Gehry Partners

www.archdaily.com

<https://coop-himmelblau.at/projects/musee-des-confluences/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pHlatz0bCUU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pAEd1uDOZJE>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wrzQ\\_Fw9rBk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wrzQ_Fw9rBk)



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## Assignment 2:

Prepare an Illustration explaining Art and Architecture for [Movement]  
i.e.

Post Modernism

Critical Regionalism

Deconstructivism

The illustration could be abstract or direct.

Text explaining/defining that [Movement]

A5 Submission. (Hand done or Digital / Use Both sides)

Reference: <https://federicocabina.com/>