Frank O. Gehry
Architect (1929–)

Frank Gehry was born in Toronto, Canada, and after high school moved to California. He got a job driving a delivery truck, and studied at Los Angeles City College, eventually graduating from USC’s School of Architecture in 1954. He studied city planning at the Harvard School of Design for a year, leaving before completing the program. In 1952, still known as Frank Goldberg, he married Anita Snyder, who he claims was the one who told him to change his name, which he did, to Frank Gehry. In 1966, he divorced Snyder. In 1975, he married Berta Isabel Aguilera, his current wife. He has two daughters from his first marriage, and two sons from his second marriage.

His buildings, including his private residence, have become tourist attractions. His best-known works include the titanium-covered Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Basque Country, the Walt Disney Concert Hall in downtown Los Angeles, the Experience Music Project in Seattle, the Weisman Art Museum in Minneapolis, the Dancing House in Prague, Czech Republic and the delightful Marta Museum in Herford, Germany.

Gehry was elected to the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) in 1974, and he has received many awards, including the Pritzker Prize for Architecture. He is a Distinguished Professor of Architecture at Columbia University and also teaches at the Yale School of Architecture. In 1982 and 1989, he held the Charlotte Davenport Professorship in Architecture at Yale, and, in 1984, he held the Eliot Noyes Chair at Harvard.