Richard Meier was born in Newark, New Jersey and received his architectural training at Cornell where he took his degree in 1957. He worked briefly at the firm of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, then for MARCEL BREUER for three years before starting his own firm in 1963.

His practice has included major civic commissions in the United States, Europe, and Asia, including courthouses and city halls, museums, corporate headquarters, and housing and private residences. Among his best-known projects are The Getty Center in Los Angeles; the Jubilee Church in Rome, Italy; the High Museum of Art in Atlanta; Perry and Charles Street Condominiums in New York City; the Canal+ Television Headquarters in Paris; and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Barcelona.

Meier has been recognized as one of the most influential architects of his generation. In 1984, he was awarded the Pritzker Prize for Architecture. In 1989, Meier received the Royal Gold Medal from the Royal Institute of British Architects and, three years later, the French Government honored him as a Commander of Arts and Letters. In 1995, he was elected Fellow to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 1997, he received the AIA Gold Medal, the highest award given by the American Institute of Architects, and, in that same year, the Praemium Imperiale from the Japanese government in recognition of his lifetime achievement in the arts.

He is currently working on his first monograph about his sculptures, collages, drawings and paintings with graphic designer Massimo Vignelli.