Thinking Outside the Box:
Re-Defining Museum Experiences

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As Sharp As It Gets

With his explosive addition to the Denver Art Museum, Daniel Libeskind makes his point.

the U.S. in a while, the first to compare in complexity, daring and brave-new-world beauty to the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles that Frank Gehry set loose three years ago. If anyone doubts that Libeskind’s ideas are a route to a powerful new model of space and form—and there are people who still think of his work as eccentric grandstanding—this is a building to change minds.

At 146,000 sq. ft., his addition is not much smaller than the museum’s original...
Space Matters
Experiences Matter
Experiences Matter
• SATISFYING EXPERIENCE TYPES for MUSEUM VISITORS
  – Object Experiences
    – Seeing the "real thing"
  – Cognitive Experiences
    – Enriching my understanding
  – Introspective Experiences
    – Feeling a sense of connectedness
  – Social Experiences
    – Spending time with family,
    – friends, other people

Smithsonian Institution Office of Visitor Research
• EXPERIENCES OFTEN LEFT OUT in museums
  – Life experiences
  – Opinions
  – Imagination
  – Fantasies

(from Silverman, et al)
FREE
HAWAI'I
Hawaii does not belong to the U.S.A.

March 1985 - Flew 20 hours from Knoxville, Tennessee, to Christchurch, New Zealand with friends.
- Rental tiny red Honda. It started raining.
- Drove red Honda south east to coast. Rain.
- Kept driving. Rain.
- Three nights, three days, rain.
- Arrived at Milford Sound on Southern Alps.
- Met Uwe, newly ordained Lutheran minister from Germany. He rode with us to trailhead.
- Spent night at trailhead, visited bar. Two Kiwis wanted to fight Uwe. Still not sure why.
- Rain that night.
- Hiked next day + two following days. Rain.
- Arrived in Milford Sound on third day. Rain.
- Spent four more days driving red Honda in rain.
- Saw many sheep, green grass. Flew home.
- Got married next year, divorced for years later, moved abroad.

By Ron King, October 8, 2020
Happy birthday, John Lennon.

Memories of the South Pacific.
The West is my first adult home. I don't know anyone here, so I spend a lot of time looking at the mountains. I can hear my heart beat all the time but, you know, with those big skies and icy peaks, I don't feel lonely. I've only been here two months. It's like moving in with a stranger you're desperately in love with.
"A good building begins its life when it's finished being built, because the audience really makes it live in their own way."

Daniel Libeskind
“It made me stop. Get into something I wouldn’t have stopped for.”
What about the Building?
Main Street