



Inspired Architecture

Architecture offers plenty of room for innovation and experimentation. Over the years, architects have looked at everyday objects to provide the inspiration for their designs. These objects- some found in nature, some man-made, spark off the imagination unlike anything found in books or manuals.

In this calendar- the sixth in our series of annual themed desk calendars, Sharon presents INSPIRED ARCHITECTURE. We hope this makes you pause for a moment and think about how even an everyday object can provide inspiration for something beautiful and efficient.

We thank you for your enthusiastic response to our earlier calendars and are as always, keen to have your suggestions and feedback. If you have enjoyed this calendar and would like us to send it to one or more of your friends or colleagues, please send their names, contact addresses and phone numbers to vk@sharonply.com before Jan 31, 2009.

2009

Calendar Refill

Happy New Year 2009

We are pleased to send you the refill for the Sharon wooden desktop calendar which was sent to you earlier. This is the 6th in our series of the themed calendars and is on "Inspired Architecture". We hope you like them as much as we liked putting them together.



We will be happy to receive your feedback or suggestions on future calendar themes at vk@sharonply.com or you can write to us at
M/s. Century Plyboards (I) Limited,
No. 12, Sriraman Srinivasan Road, Chennai 600 018

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Walt Disney Concert Hall, Los Angeles (U.S.A) by Frank Gehry



The 293,000-sq.foot Concert Hall features a wavy, steel exterior designed to look like a ship with its sail at full mast. Gehry wanted to create the feeling of travelling on a ceremonial barge listening to music. It has a 2265 seat auditorium with natural lighting in which the audience surrounds the orchestra. The curved wooden ceiling is meant to evoke the feeling of billowing sails. While the architecture evoked polarized opinions, the acoustics of the concert hall have been widely praised. It was launched in 1987 but was completed only in 2003, at an estimated cost of \$274 million.

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The Beehive, Culver city (U.S.A) by Eric Owen Moss



This structure, called the Beehive, was designed by Eric Owen Moss to improve the public image of an office building that was surrounded on three sides by existing warehouses on a crowded street. A two-storey wooden structure was demolished and a new structure was built to replace it. The front portion of this building (its facade) was shaped to resemble a beehive. The ground floor of the structure is the main entrance to the building and also houses the reception area.

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National centre for performing arts, Beijing (China) by Paul Andreu

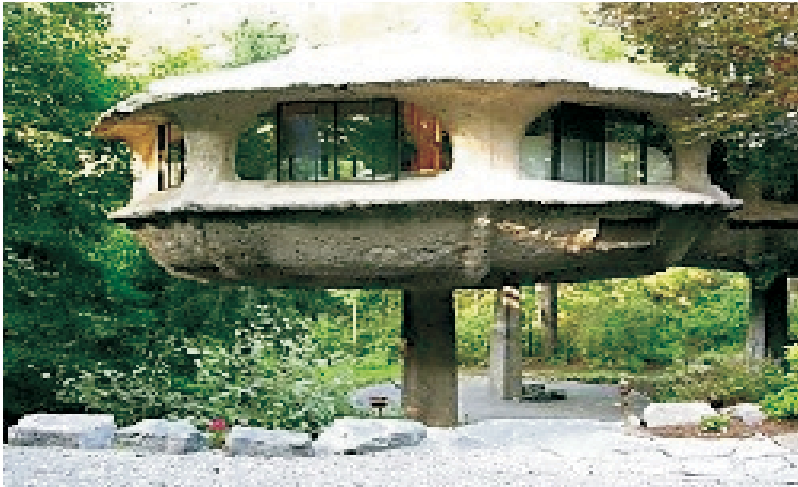


The complex is colloquially described as "The Egg" as it resembles an egg floating in water. The exterior of the theatre is a titanium accented glass dome that is completely surrounded by a man-made lake. The Centre includes three performance spaces. Guests arrive in the building after walking through a hallway that goes underneath the lake. The total cost of construction for the Centre was more than \$330 million and was inaugurated in December 2007.



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Pod House, New York (U.S.A) by James H Johnson



Built in 1970, this house is known as Pod house or Mushroom House because of the obvious resemblance to mushrooms. However it was actually designed to resemble a flower known as "Queen Anne's Lace". Each room of this house is a pod on top of a "stalk", so the whole structure looks like a group of mushrooms with interconnecting walkways. Each pod weighs 80 tons and rests on stalks ranging from 14 to 20 feet in height. Its contemporary design earned it a designation as a National Historic Landmark in 1989.

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Parco della Musica, Rome (Italy) by Renzo Piano



The Parco Della Musica is a large public music complex in Rome, built in the area where the 1960 Olympic Games were held. It is composed of 3 giant bug-like halls with lead roofs. These structures have been given names like beetles, scarabs and turtles. During construction, excavations uncovered a villa and an oil press dating from the 6thBC. The facility was redesigned to include a small museum to house the artefacts that were discovered. It was finally inaugurated on December 22, 2002.

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Piano house, Anhui province (China) by Unknown architect



This piano shaped house was built in Anhui Province in China. The main house is located inside the piano, which has long rows of windows on either side. This black "Grand piano" has black and white "Keys" on one side and a large glass violin on the other side, which houses the escalator. The architect built a transparent violin so as to not detract attention from the piano. The house was built in an effort to draw attention to the developing locality in which it was built.



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Toilet house, Suweon (South Korea) by Sim Jae Duck



This toilet shaped house was built by Sim Jae-Duck, a South Korean lawmaker, who is also a member of the World Toilet Association. It has a symbolic opening in the roof. Mr Jae-Duck, nicknamed "Mr. Toilet", built the house in the hope of highlighting the global need for better sanitation. The two-storey house features two bedrooms, two guestrooms and three deluxe toilets. The house is named Haewoojae, meaning, "place to solve one's worries" and is being rented out for just \$50,000 a day!!

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The basket building, Newark (U.S.A) by Longaberger basket company



Dave Longaberger, who founded The Longaberger Basket Company, built his head office to resemble one of his products- a picnic basket. However, this replica is 160 times larger and is 192 feet long and 126 feet wide. It contains an inner atrium that soars up to a glass ceiling, through which you can see the basket handles that come together over the roof. The new office was opened for use in 1997.



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La Torre Telefonica, Santiago (Chile) by Telefonica Company

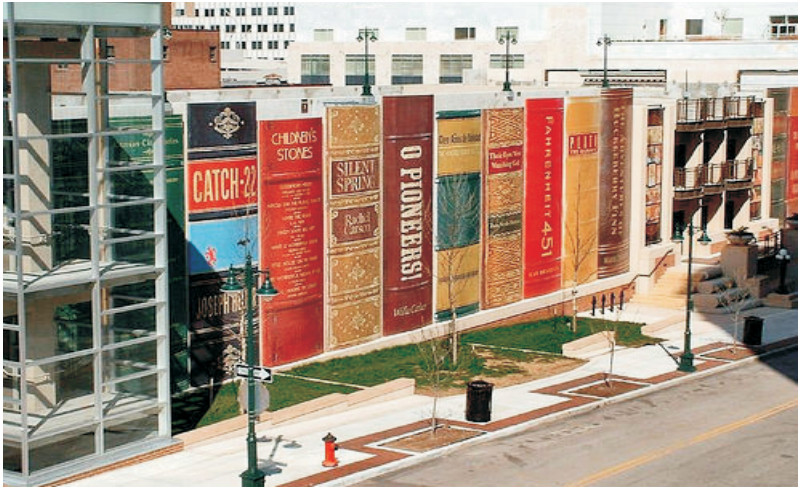


This cell phone shaped building, was built in 1996 by the tele-communications company Telefonica as a way to promote itself. A popular landmark in Santiago, it has a glass façade and is interspaced with angular beams. It also has a couple of structures on top of it, which resemble the antennae of a cell phone. The bottom floor of the building houses a museum. Standing at a height of about 130 meters, this is one of the tallest buildings not only in Santiago, but also in Chile.



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Public library, Kansas city (U.S.A) by DST realty



When the Kansas City Public library was shifted to a new location in 2005, it was decided that the library's parking garage would get a new façade- that of giant book bindings. Local residents were asked to nominate influential books that represented the city and humungous versions of the winning nominations were then used as the exterior of the library car park. This building won the 2006 International Sign Contest award.

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Shoe House, Pennsylvania (U.S.A) by Colonel Mahlon M Haines

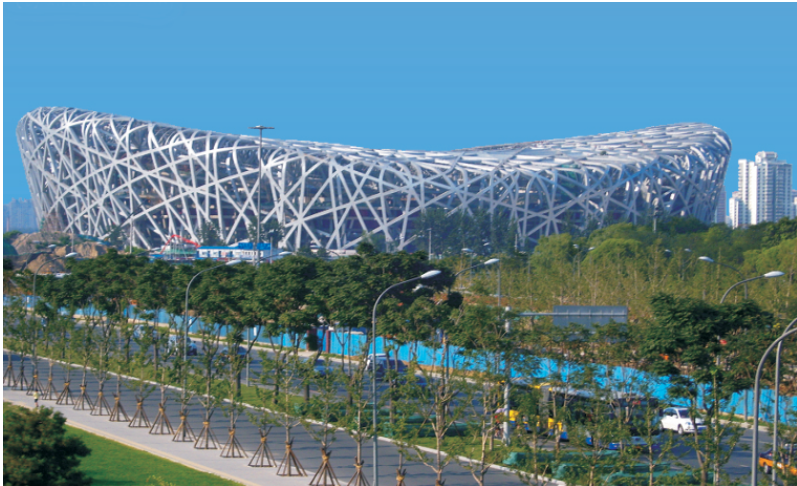


The Shoe House was built for advertising purposes in 1949. Haines, who owned over forty shoe stores, handed an architect an old work boot, and told him to build a house shaped like it. The 25 foot tall, 48 foot long work boot was constructed near a highway, where drivers could see the giant advertisement for his stores. The house and yard are filled with shoe memorabilia- a shoe mailbox, boot-decorated fence, boot-shaped doghouse and a stained glass shoe decoration on every window.



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National Stadium, Beijing (China) by Herzog and de Meuron



Also called Bird's nest stadium, this was a joint venture by the Swiss firm Herzog and de Meuron, China Architecture Design & Research Group and others. The design for the stadium implemented steel beams in order to hide supports for a retractable roof, giving the stadium the appearance of a "Bird's nest". Ironically, the retractable roof was later removed from the design. The stadium was built for the 2008 Summer Olympics and was constructed at a cost of \$423 million.