

Daniel Libeskind

Celebrated for his ability to infuse innovative design with a strong sense of memory and history, Daniel Libeskind has designed a multitude of structures, from museums and concert halls to convention centres and universities, including such iconic projects as the master plan for the World Trade Center in New York and the Jewish Museum in Berlin. More recently, the Canadian Jewish Congress awarded Libeskind the commission to create a memorial to the Jews of the MS St. Louis who were denied entrance to Canada in 1939. The artwork, entitled "Wheel of Conscience," was recently installed at the Pier 21 Museum.

"Libeskind's buildings are sculptural," says David B. Smith, NSCAD University President. "I was privileged to see his Jewish Museum in Berlin shortly after it was completed and before any artefacts were installed. The experience was at once haunting and powerful."

"Without question, the opportunity to host Daniel Libeskind – one of the most important architects working today – is a rare and valued privilege for our university, and I want to thank James Moy, our Vice President of Academic Affairs and Research, who was instrumental in bringing Mr. Libeskind to Halifax."

"The multidisciplinary nature of Libeskind's work complements NSCAD's own approach to visual arts education and, in many ways, taps into the essence of what makes our university unique," adds Sharon Blanchard, Director of the School of Extended Studies. "We're delighted to offer the broader community the chance to see and hear one of the most remarkable design minds of our time."

In conjunction with his NSCAD speaking engagement, Daniel Libeskind kindly consented to help design a third-year Advanced Jewellery Techniques class project. For the past number of weeks, students of Professor Tom Ferrero – himself an accomplished metalsmith artist – have been creating a series of salt and pepper shakers, based on the concept of "cities," which Libeskind will then critique during a three-hour class on February 10.

"Students develop their creative skills more intensely when pushed out of their comfort zone," says Pamela Ritchie, Professor of Jewellery Design and Metalsmithing. "Someone of Daniel Libeskind's stature will not only inspire but will challenge them to consider their work from alternative points of view."

"Libeskind has taught at more than 30 universities and his ideas have influenced generations of those interested in the development of culture, architectural practice and urban design" says Dr. Christine Holzer-Hunt, Dean of Undergraduate Studies "Daniel Libeskind's global stature combined with his creativity and artistic vision positions him perfectly to work with students in NSCAD University's flagship Jewellery and Metalsmithing program."