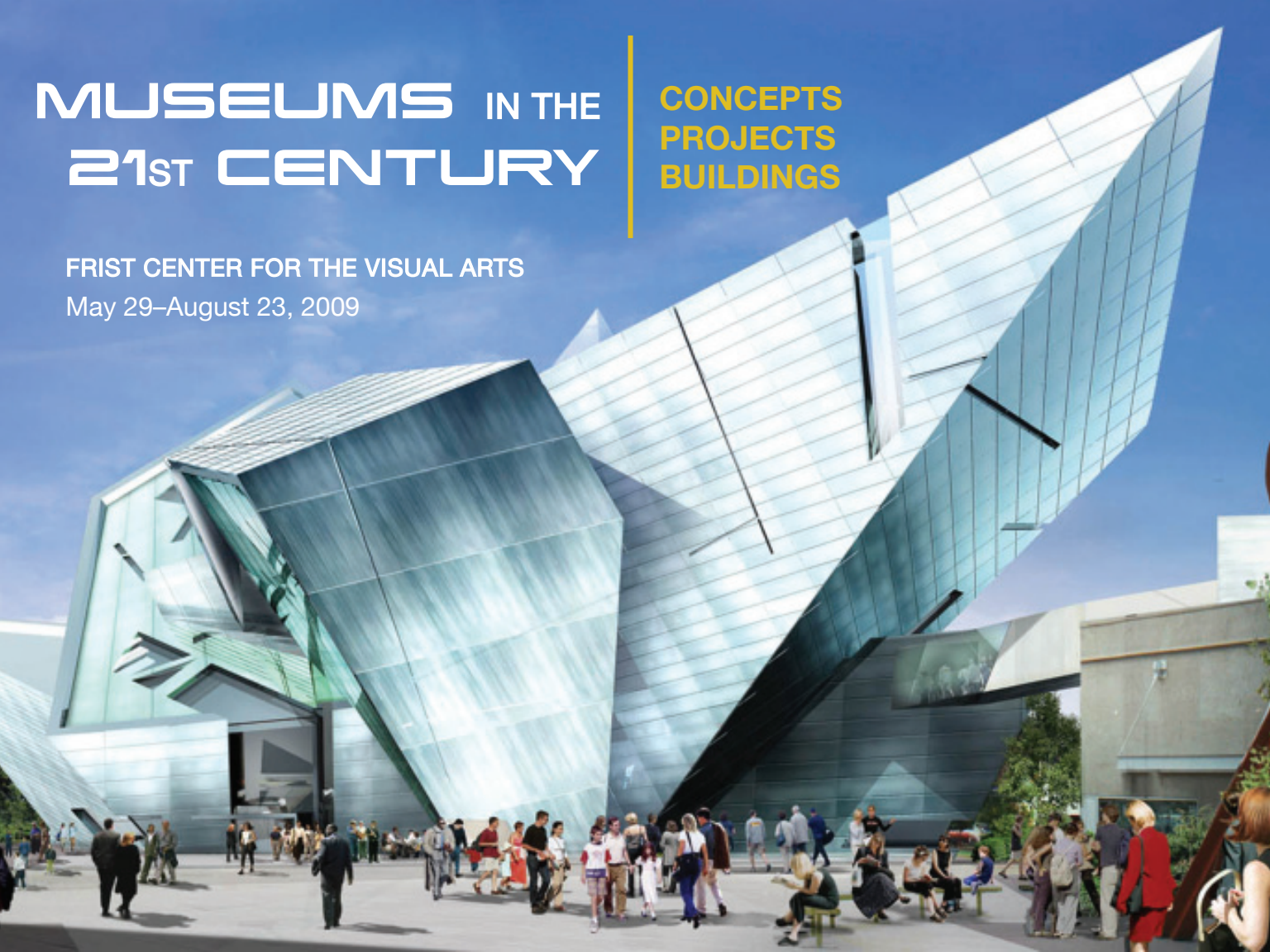


# MUSEUMS IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

CONCEPTS  
PROJECTS  
BUILDINGS

FRIST CENTER FOR THE VISUAL ARTS

May 29–August 23, 2009





We live in a golden age of museum architecture. Cities around the world are redefining themselves and the built environment by commissioning bold, highly unconventional architects to design spectacular buildings for both new and existing museums. Rising to the challenge, architects are integrating space, materials, and light in dynamic structures that are works of art in their own right.

*Museums in the 21st Century: Concepts, Projects, Buildings* is a survey of the latest museum architecture in North America, Europe, Asia, and Australia. Eighteen unique designs are represented by models, sketches, computer renderings, photographs, and animation—all of which provide fascinating insight into the creative processes of many of the world's major architectural firms. The buildings themselves are at various stages of development. Some have been completed and are already open to the public, some are in the process of being constructed, and some have not yet gotten off the ground—and may never come to fruition because of financial constraints.

Museums today capture our imagination through innovative architecture, but of course they must still create the proper conditions for the preservation and display of works of art. With an even greater public role than in the past, museums typically now house libraries, classrooms, theaters, shops, and cafés in addition to galleries. Most also have a sculpture garden or other kind of green space located outdoors.

Tensions can, and often do, emerge between the specialized needs of museums and the desire for architects to make an aesthetic statement. An extraordinary openness to the most radical configurations of form and materials, however, is what makes museums one of the most exciting building types of our times. Museums are where we go to encounter the very latest architectural trends, which in turn invite us to look at art and the world around us like never before.

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Cover: Studio Daniel Libeskind with Davis Partnership, P.C., a joint venture. Extension of the Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO, 2003–06. Rendering of Museum Extension from Northeast, 2001. © Studio Daniel Libeskind

This exhibition was conceptualized and coordinated by Art Centre Basel, Basel, Switzerland.

For more information about the museums featured in this exhibition please visit [www.fristcenter.org](http://www.fristcenter.org)

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