



Architecture

Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum®
New York City, New York



Frank Lloyd Wright

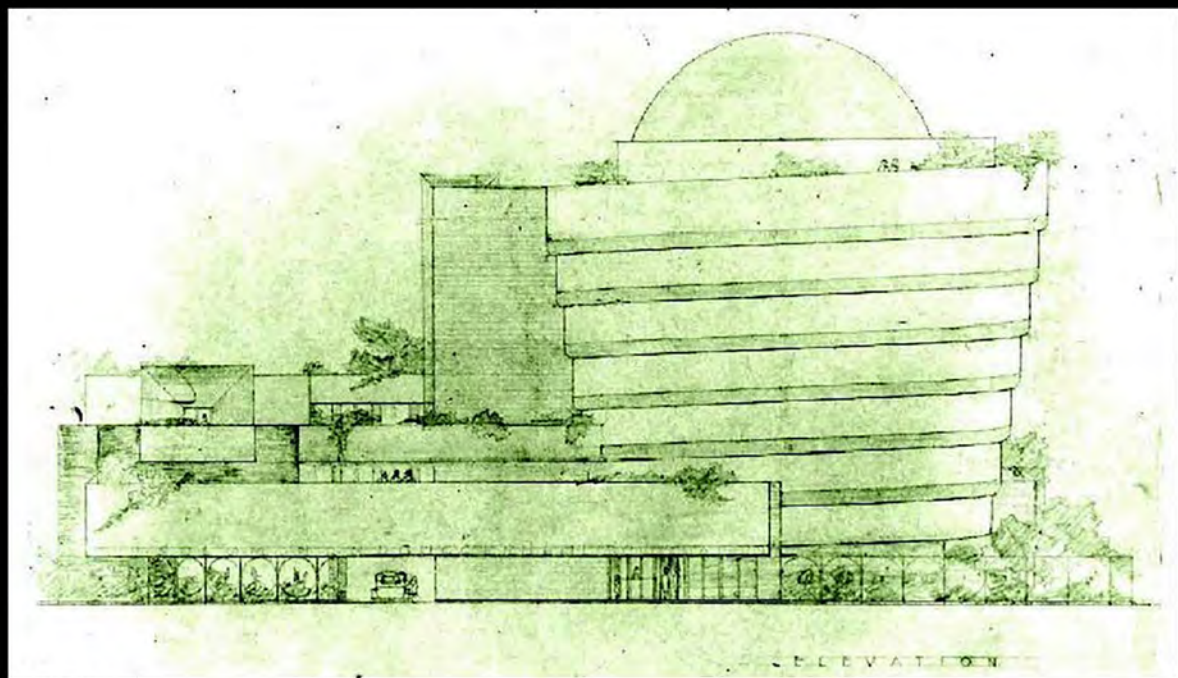
Frank Lloyd Wright, 1867–1959, is recognized world-wide as one of the greatest architects of the 20th century. His work heralded a new thinking in architecture, using innovations in design and engineering made possible by newly developed technology and materials.

No other American architect's work endures, or remains as endearing, as that of Frank Lloyd Wright. His was a unique style rooted in nature, that he called "organic architecture", emphasizing the harmonious relationship between a building and its landscape. It changed how we came to view our buildings, towns, and the land around us.



Photo: OBMA © F.L. Wright Fdn.

Frank Lloyd Wright



History of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum®

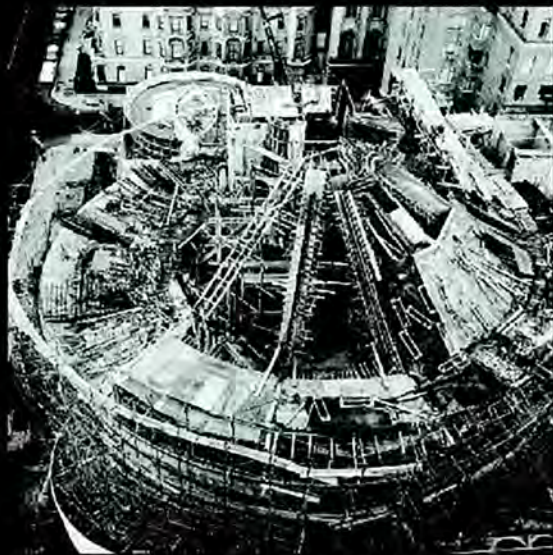
"The commission for the museum building first came to Wright in 1943 from Hilla Rebay. The Baroness von Rebay was the curator of the 'non-objective' painting collection she had encouraged Solomon R. Guggenheim to purchase. Solomon R. Guggenheim desired an architectural environment in which to present these new works that would be as revolutionary as the paintings in his collection themselves.^[3]"

"Guggenheim was always supportive of Wright, but his death in 1949, just six years after the project was begun, dealt a severe blow to the plans. It took thirteen years of patient struggle on the part of Wright to finally see his building start in construction, and even through the construction stages – from 1956 to his death in 1959, six months before the museum opened – the struggle waged on. During the sixteen years that this commission dragged on, it was to prove to be the most difficult and the most time-consuming of all Wright's work.^[4]"

"The building that stands in New York today is very different from those early studies of 1944. The general concept of the building – one continuous ramp – remains, but with the acquisition of more parcels of property on the site and with the change of the program of the museum itself, different architectural solutions were required along the way. Seven complete sets of working drawings were prepared and finally, on August 16, 1955, ground was broken and construction began.^[5]"

"When the corner at 88th Street was acquired in 1951, the spiral ramp was shifted back to the south. After this last shift was made, Wright, in response to the changing administrative requirements of the museum, suggested the construction of a tall building behind the museum for a historical gallery, staff offices, workrooms, and storage. Rising behind the museum would be an eleven-story structure. It was this 1951 design by Wright that served as precedent for the 1992 addition of a "backdrop" building behind the museum.^[6]"

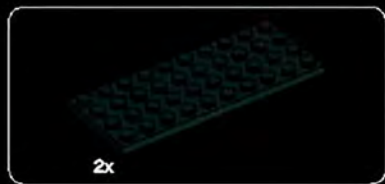
Facts from the Project



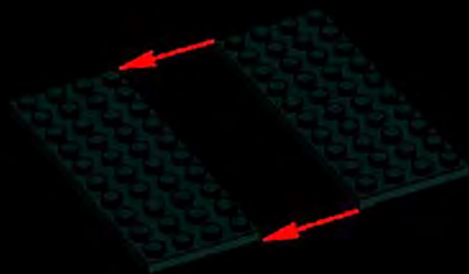
Construction of the main rotunda, ca. 1953. Photograph by Willem H. Short
© The Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation, New York

"The whole building, cast in concrete, is more like an egg shell – in form a great simplicity rather than like a crisscross structure. The light concrete flesh is rendered strong enough everywhere to do its work by embedded filaments of steel – either separate or in mesh. The structural calculations are thus those of the cantilever and continuity, rather than the post and beam. The net result of such construction is a greater repose, the atmosphere of the quiet unbroken wave: no meeting of the eye with abrupt changes of form.^[2]"

Architect:	Frank Lloyd Wright
Classification:	Art Museum
Year:	1943-1959
Construction Type:	Reinforced Poured Concrete
Height:	92 feet
Square Feet:	51,000 square feet of gallery space



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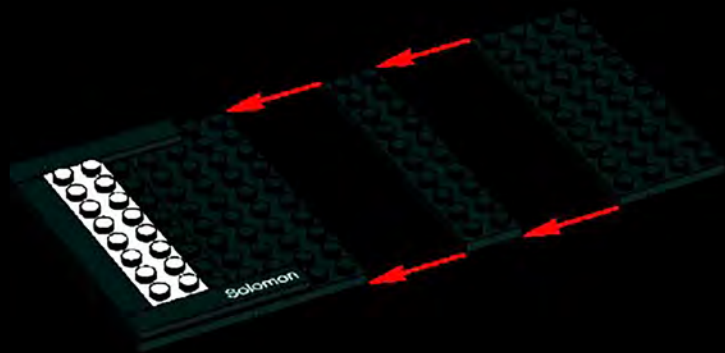


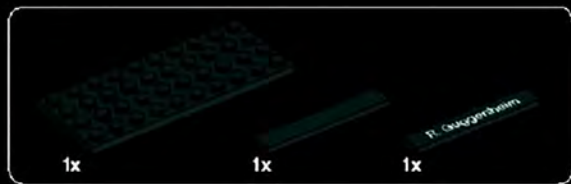
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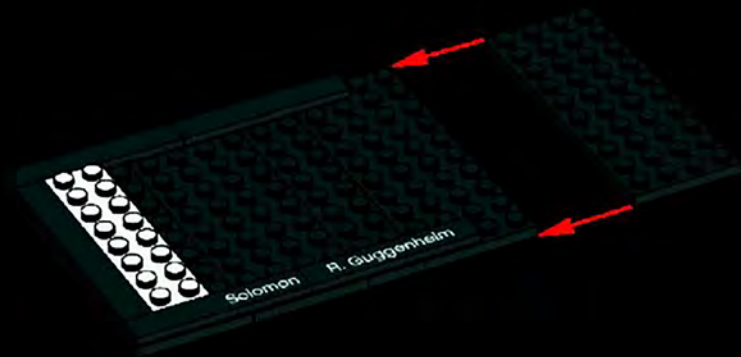


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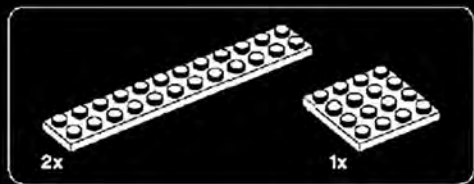
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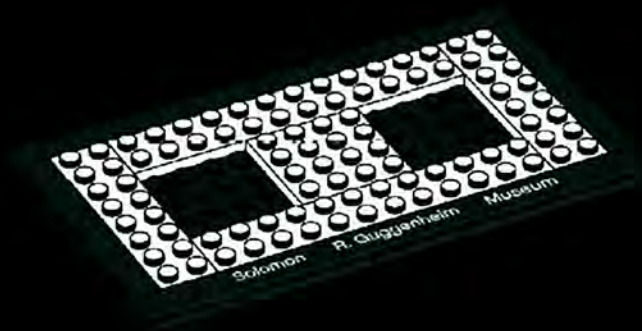


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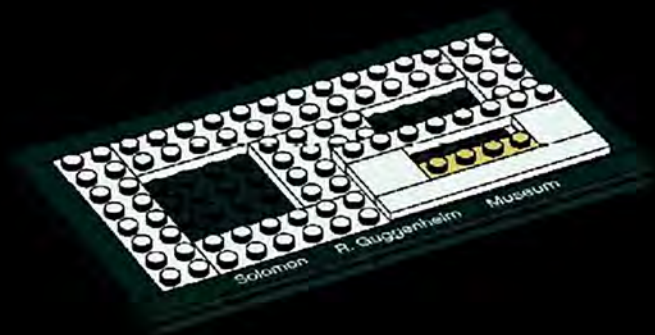


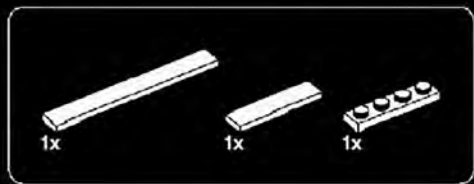
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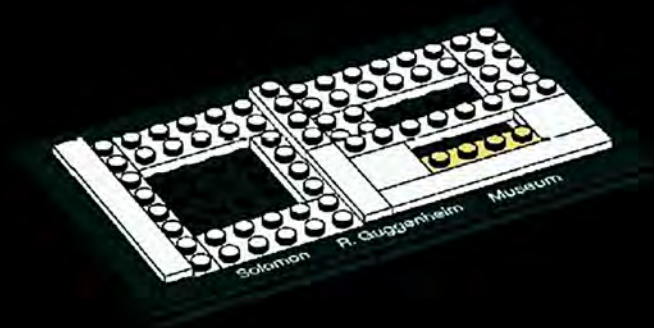


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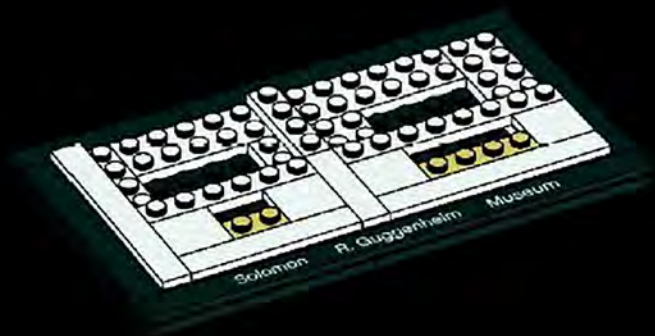


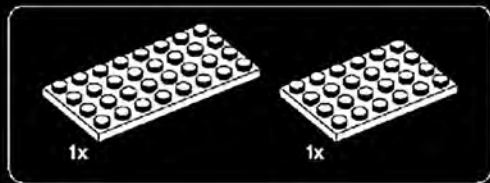
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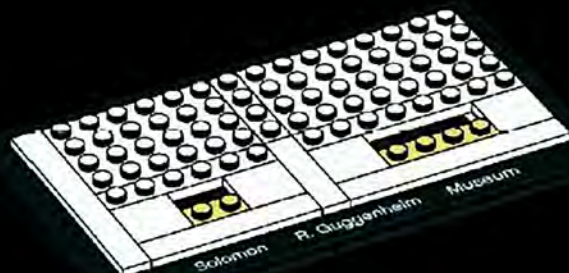


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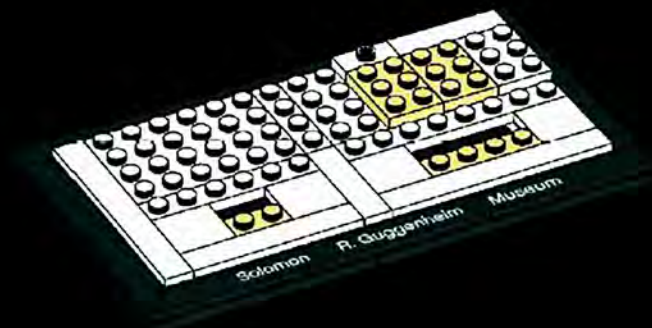


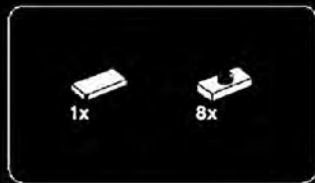
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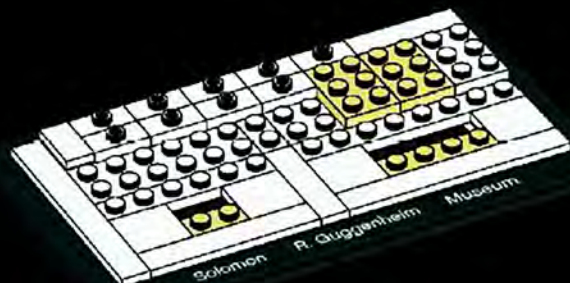


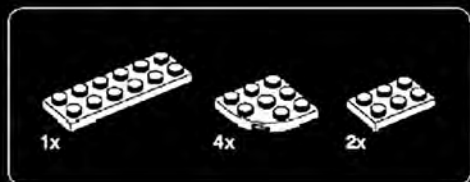
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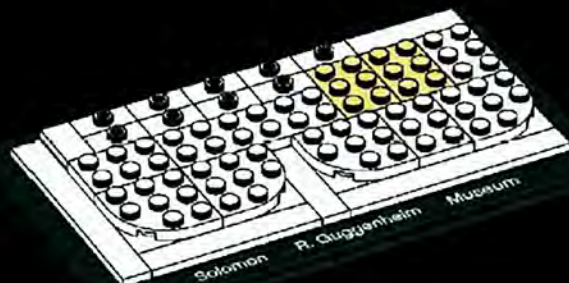


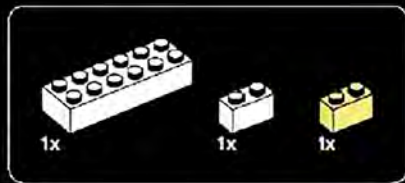
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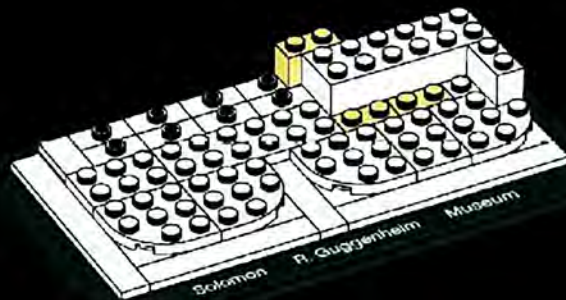


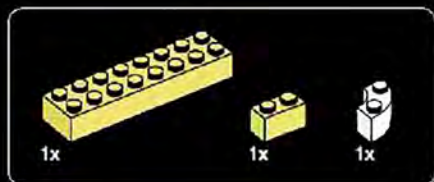
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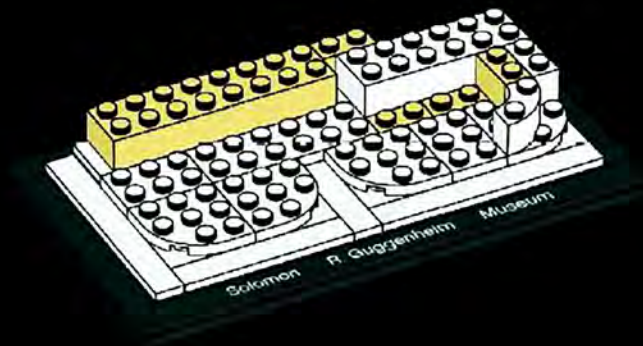


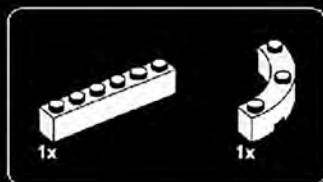
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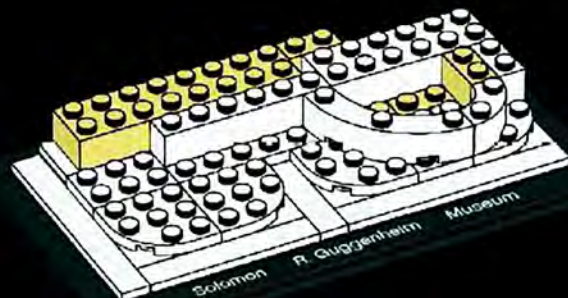


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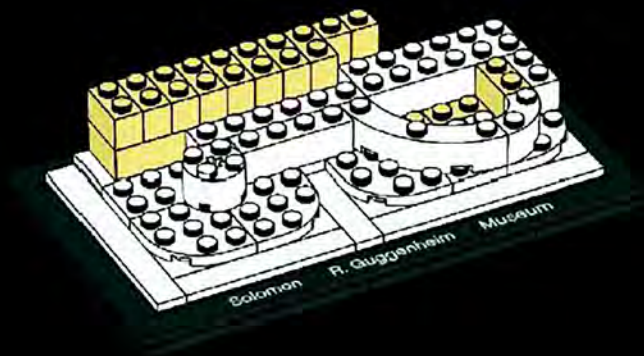


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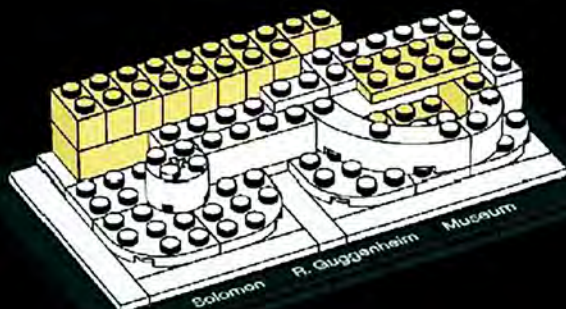


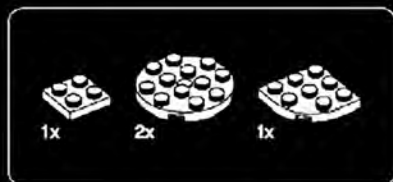
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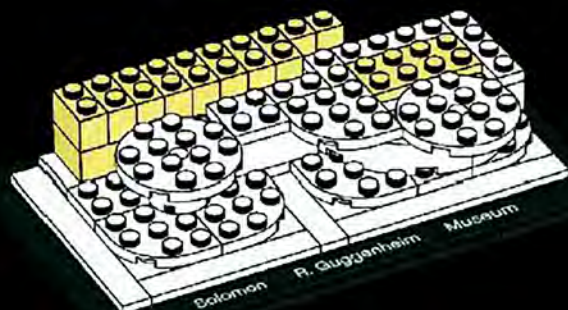


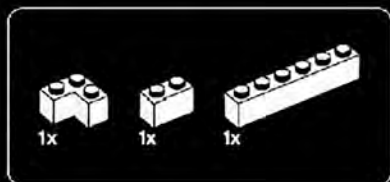
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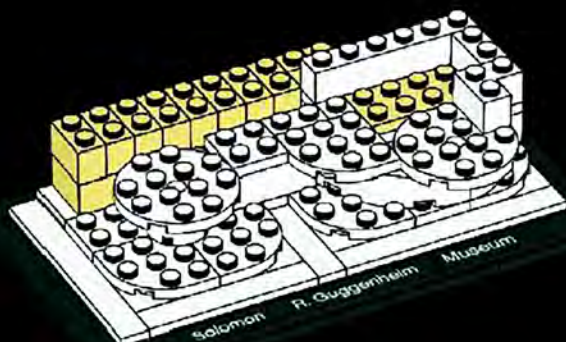


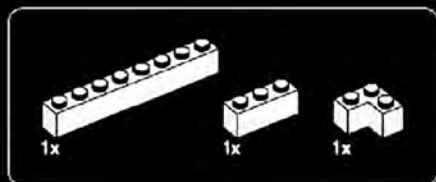
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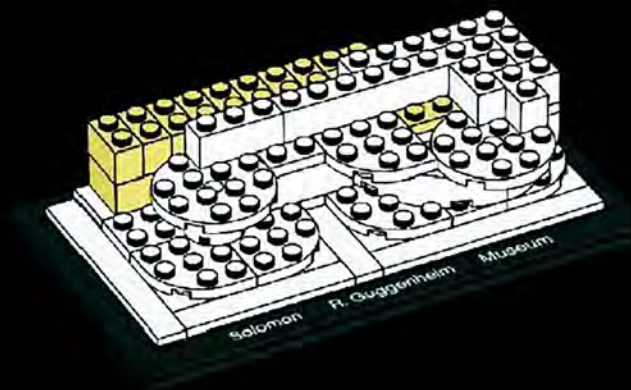


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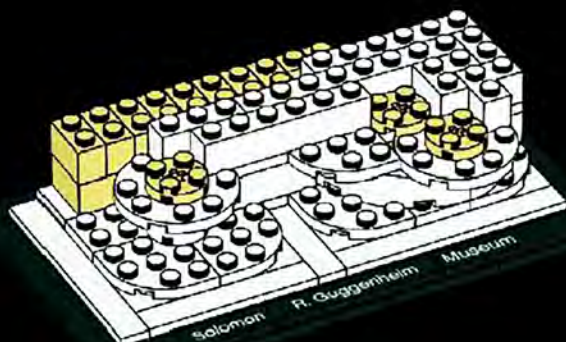


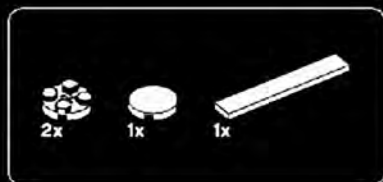
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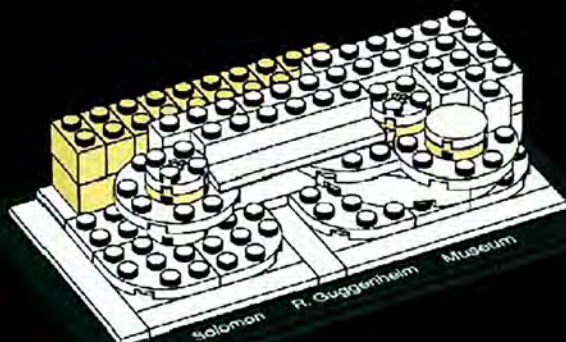


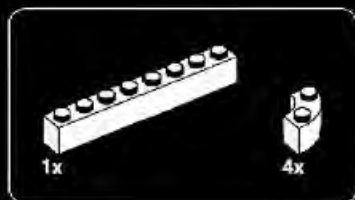
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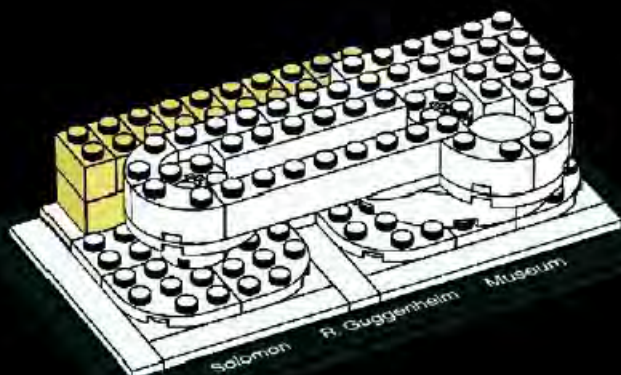


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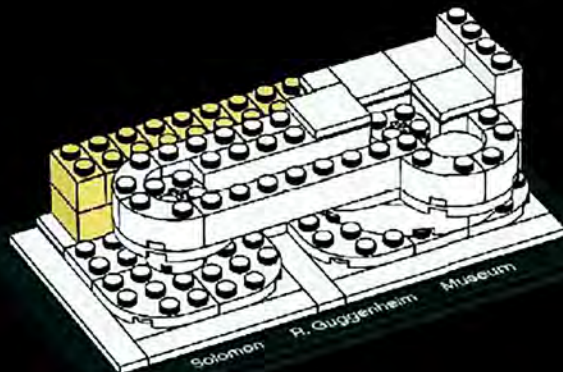


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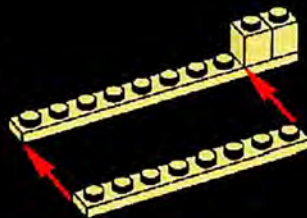


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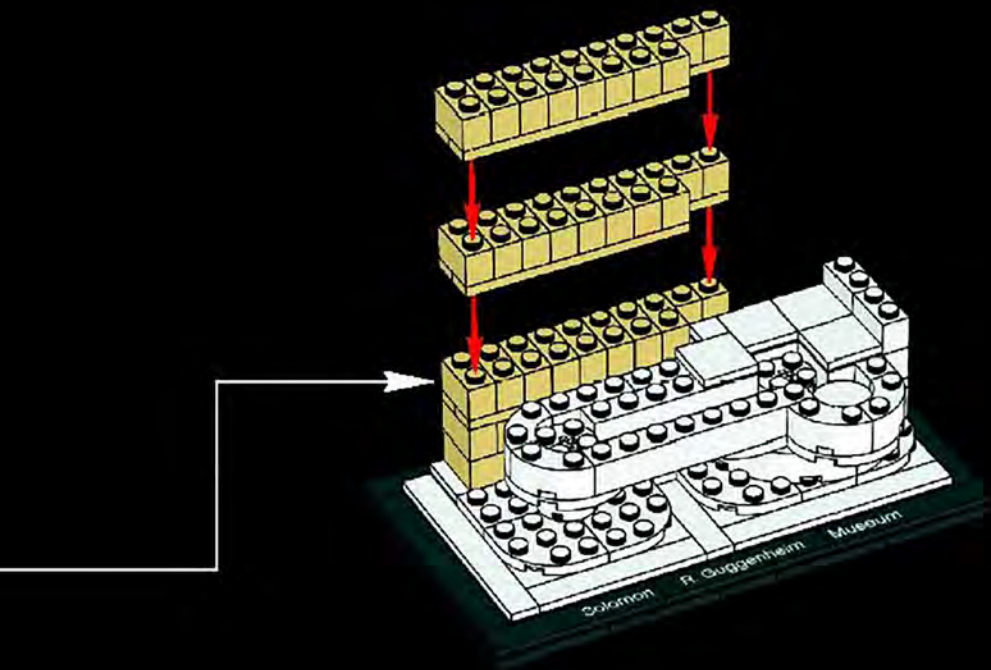
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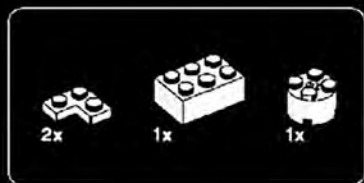


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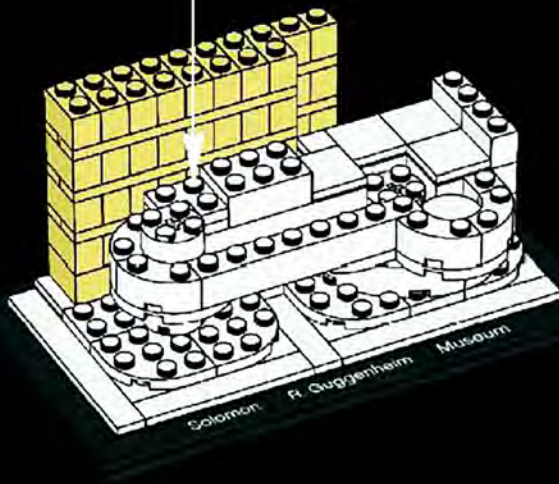


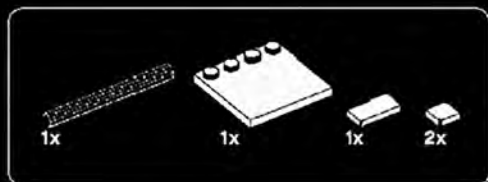
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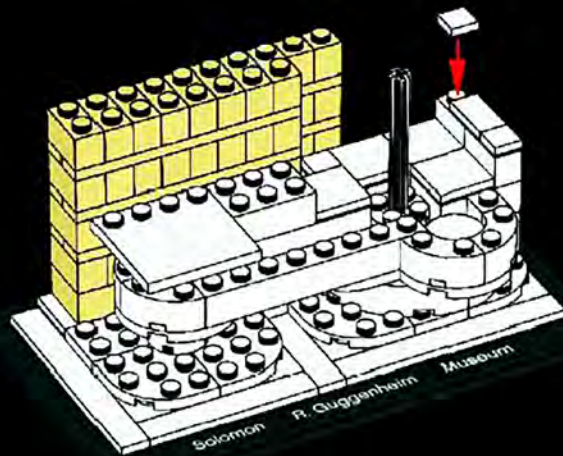


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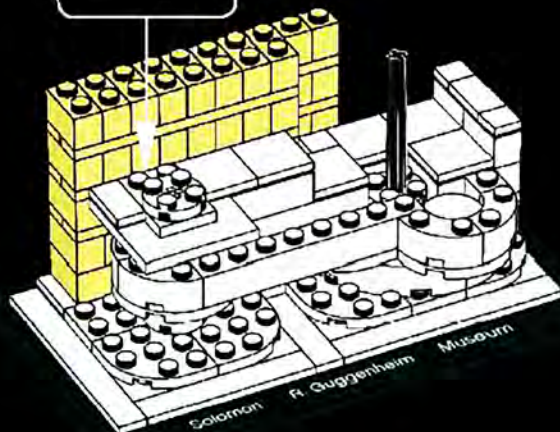
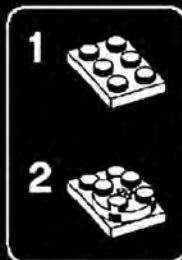


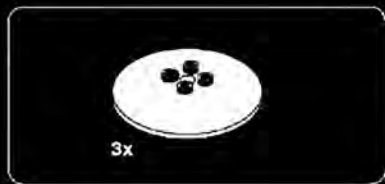
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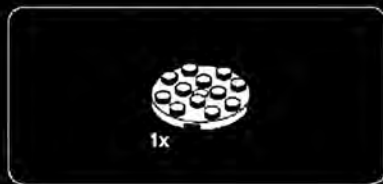


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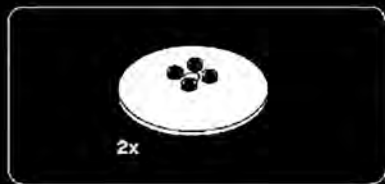


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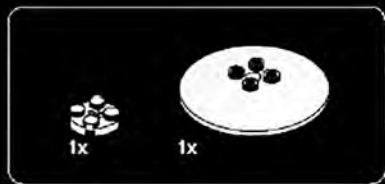
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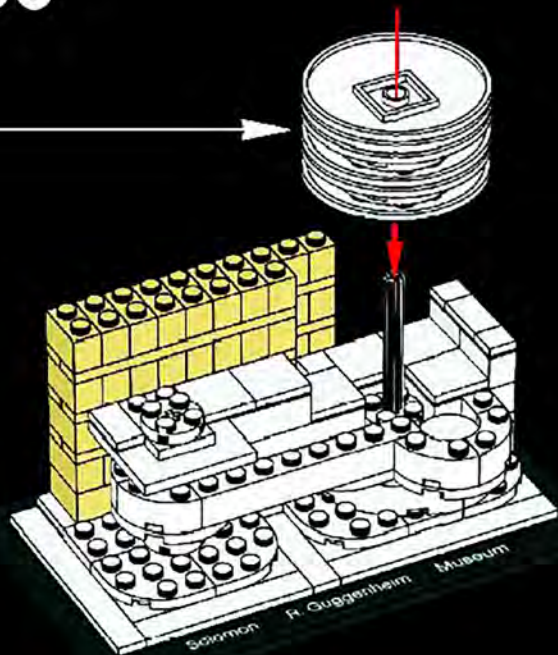
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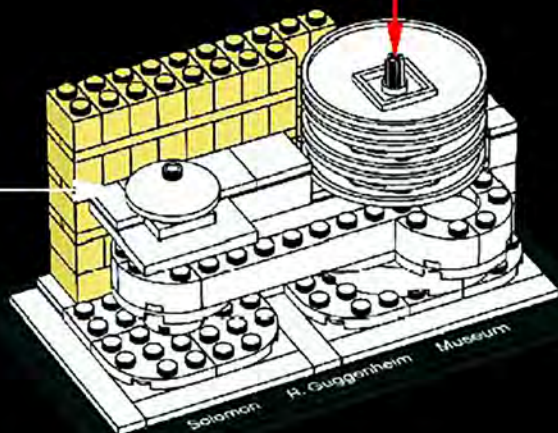


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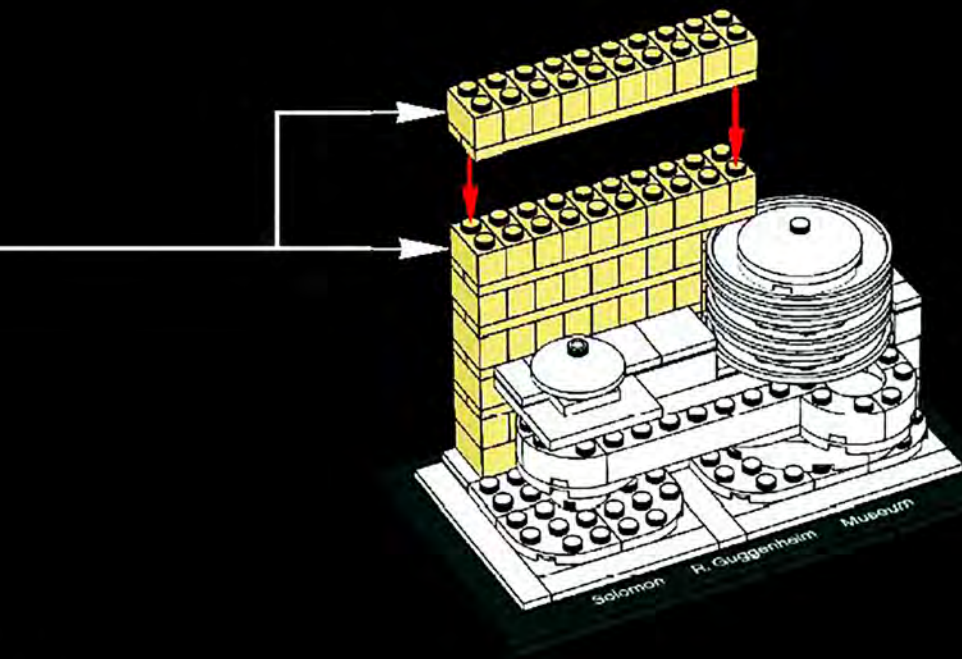
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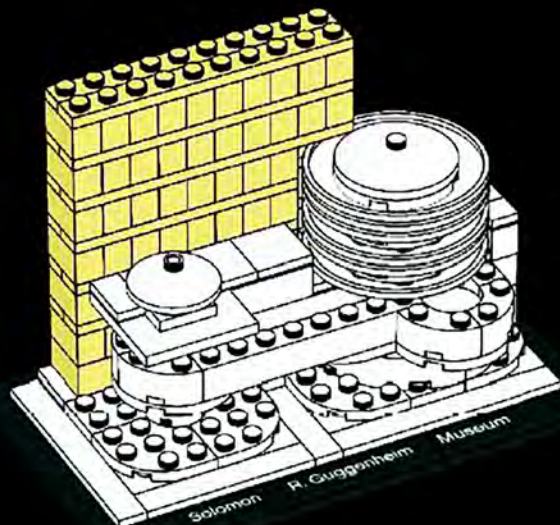


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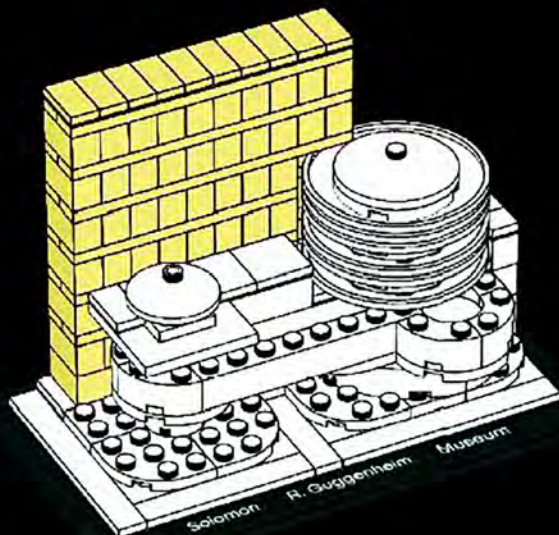
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10x

34



The Architect's Thoughts about the Building

"A museum should be one extended well-proportioned floor space from bottom to top – going around and up and down, throughout. The eye encounters no abrupt change but is gently led as if at the edge of the shore watching an unbreaking wave. No stops anywhere and such screened divisions of the space gloriously lit within from above as would deal appropriately with every group of paintings or individual painting as you want them classified."¹



Interior view of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York. Photograph by Robert E. Mates © The Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation, New York.



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A Word from the Artist

As an Architectural Artist, my desire is to capture the essence of a particular landmark into its pure sculptural form, especially at this small scale. I first and foremost do not view my models as literal replicas, but rather my own artistic interpretations, harnessing the essence of these landmarks through the use of LEGO® bricks as a medium. The LEGO brick is not initially thought of as a material typically used in creating art or used as an artist's medium. I quickly discovered the LEGO brick was lending itself as naturally to my applications as paint to a painter or metal to a blacksmith. As I explore how to capture these buildings with the basic shapes of the bricks, I find the possibilities and challenges they offer almost magical.

This model embraces three creative techniques. The first of these is using the natural joints between a series of bricks as a subtle way of indicating geometric details. The second is the playful ways the curved bricks interact with each other really capture the forms essence that gives this museum its distinctive architectural style.

Last, the iconic upside down truncated spiral gallery was recreated by clever use of illusion. Here I employed a visual technique making the "cone" seem top heavy by using three disks, then two and then finally one. Since the discs share the same size diameter, making them seem heavy aloft was the necessary trick to fool your eyes into creating the tapering effect through your subconscious imagination. This effect is very subtle, but nonetheless there and effective.




– Adam Reed Tucker

LEGO® Architecture: Bringing two worlds together

The LEGO® Group and Adam Reed Tucker are excited to bring you LEGO Architecture, a new line of LEGO building sets that celebrates world-renowned architects, who continue to inspire the builders of tomorrow. Whether young and eager to learn or simply young at heart and intrigued by these modern day marvels, we hope the Architecture series inspires builders of all ages by celebrating the past, present and future of architecture through the LEGO brick. Through incredible products and exciting events, the Architecture series promotes awareness of the fascinating worlds of architecture, engineering and construction.

The launch of the LEGO Architecture series begins with a celebration of Frank Lloyd Wright, and one of the most famous buildings in the world, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York City.

We hope to inspire future architects around the world with the LEGO brick as a medium. Enjoy this experience!



Visit www.LEGO.com/architecture or www.Brickstructures.com for more information



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54x
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References

Page 3:

- [1] *Frank Lloyd Wright in "Letter to Countess von Rebay, Guggenheim's collection curator", 1944*
- [2] *Bruce Brooks Pfeiffer in "Frank Lloyd Wright Masterworks", pg. 2*

Pages 4-5:

- [3] *Bruce Brooks Pfeiffer in "Frank Lloyd Wright Masterworks", pg. 207*
- [4] *Bruce Brooks Pfeiffer in "Frank Lloyd Wright Masterworks", pg. 209*
- [5] *Bruce Brooks Pfeiffer in "Frank Lloyd Wright Masterworks", pg. 209*
- [6] *Bruce Brooks Pfeiffer in "The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum", pg. 29*

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