

Deconstructivism

Architecture

A 1988 exhibition label for work that broke the box, and what it was reacting to.

The label from the Museum of Modern Art's 1988 exhibition, curated by Philip Johnson and Mark Wigley, for work that treated instability and conflict as legitimate architectural subjects.

MOMA EXHIBITION
1988

BILBAO OPENED
1997

- Seven practices shown, including Gehry, Hadid and Eisenman.
- Against postmodernism's return to historical quotation.
- Also against modernism's promise of resolved order.
- Debt to Russian Constructivism of the 1920s.
- Tschumi, Parc de la Villette, Paris, from 1982.
- Gehry, Guggenheim Bilbao, 1997, made it mainstream.

LOOK FOR IT

Bilbao's success produced the 'Bilbao effect' argument: that one building can rebrand a city. Evidence for that is mixed.

The complex geometry became buildable at scale largely through digital modelling borrowed from aerospace software.