



A new entrance for The Danish Jewish Museum

Daniel Libeskind Returns to the Danish Jewish Museum to create a New Addition to the 2003 Design

The Danish Jewish Museum is expanding with a new entrance design by the world renowned, Polish-American architect Daniel Libeskind, who also designed the museum's interior with its striking expression. The new entrance will rise from the existing space in front of the museum situated in the Royal Library Garden in the heart of Copenhagen, Denmark. It will create a better and much more visible entrance to the museum. Adding to this it is in many ways the completion of his edifice, which was started with the foundation of the museum in 2004.

Even though the Danish museums re-opened in April, The Danish Jewish Museum stayed closed. The museum was in the process of taking down the existing exhibitions, as preparation for the building of the new entrance to the museum. The Museum is situated in The Royal Library's old buildings with entrances from the Library Garden. The brick vaults forming the ceiling over Daniels Libeskind's wooden interior, originate all the way back to the Danish King Christian 4. (1577-1648). To protect the museum objects from dust caused by the building process, they are now temporarily in storage and given the necessary preservatory attention.

"Of course, it felt a bit strange to pack down the museum when everyone else was opening up. But it has been a long and exciting process to get to this phase of actually building." Says the Museum Director Janus Møller Jensen. "It is so exiting that we now have started the build."

The new entrance will both secure better access to the museum but will also add to the emotional experience of the museum. The existing architecture, by Libeskind, is based in the story about the flight and rescue of the Danish Jews in October 1943. As such the architecture tells a strong story. It is a visual and physical experience with tilted angels in both the floor and the walls.

The concept of the new entrance is an extension of the museum's design language of intersecting planes, one of which forms the sloped floor of the existing entrance plaza. The new design adds a vertical dimension with two obliquely inclined walls that intersect to shape the entrance space, preparing the visitor for the experience of the museum itself. The floor and both walls are made of the same light gray granite stone.

The new entrance will give more visibility to the museum within the Library Gardens. It will be a new attraction in the heart of Copenhagen in the unique historical frame set by the Royal Library Garden.

As such the new entrances signals a new era for the museum working towards making Danish Jewish History more visible, accessible, and relevant today. In connection with the work done on the entrance, the museum has worked on a new strategy and is now working on entirely new exhibitions and experiences in the existing unique architecture. In this way the new entrance initiates a new time for the museum and for the story telling around Danish Jewish History. The building is expected to finish along side the first special exhibition in February 2022. This also marks the 400 centenarians for the arrival of Jews to Denmark.

Quick Facts:

Daniel Libeskind was born in Poland in 1946 and became a US citizen in 1965. He is behind a number of world-renowned buildings including the comprehensive master plan for Ground Zero in New York in 2003, which includes 1 World Trade Center and 9/11 Memorial. The Danish Jewish Museum opened in 2004 and has since 2011 been a state-recognized cultural history museum that aims to disseminate 400 years of Danish Jewish history.