

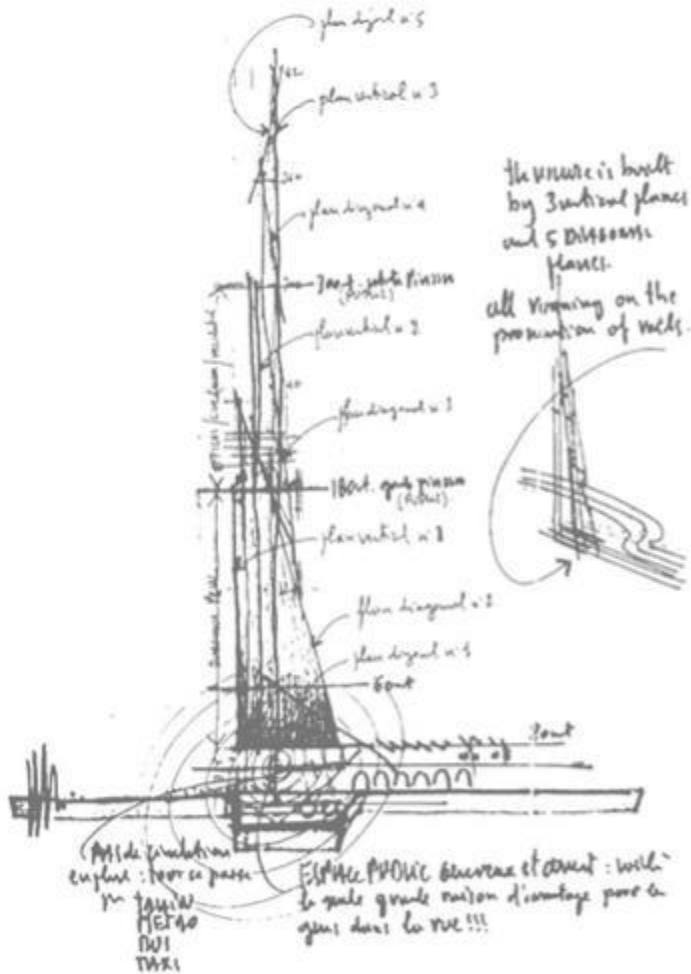
Inspiration, Aspiration or Perspiration

Iconic buildings at their best or worse

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The Shard, London by Renzo Piano, 2014

Definition of iconic:

“Iconic buildings are a definition of a city; a statement about its history, ambition or how it wants to be seen.”

“Iconic buildings can affect the way that we feel about a city, often giving residents a monument to be proud of.”

Ten iconic buildings:

1. The Giza Pyramids, Egypt, 2551-2490BC
2. The Colosseum, Rome, Italy, 70-80AD
3. Hagia Sophia, Istanbul, Turkey, 537AD
4. The Louvre, Paris, France, 1202-1750
5. Taj Mahal, Agra, India, 1648
6. Big Ben, London, United Kingdom, 1858
7. Eiffel Tower, Paris, France, 1887-89
8. Empire State Building, New York, USA, 1930-31
9. Sydney Opera House, Australia, 1959-73
10. The Burj Khalifa, Dubai, 1994

“I aim to create cultural buildings that people wanted to go to rather than *have to go to*.”

Chris Wilkinson: Exploring Boundaries speech
Critical Visions, 2008 RAIA National Conference

Wilkinson Eyre Architects



National Waterfront Museum,
Swansea, 2006



Mary Rose Museum, Portsmouth
2013

“Knowing that two years ago the sketches I was doodling with in an attempt to explain something complex to the owner, have come to fruition ...”

Jim Davis, WRA Architects
2015



“Carrie Bradshaw” at her front door



64 Perry Street, Manhattan's West Village by architect Robert Mook, 1866



Sham Castle, Bath, by Ralph Allen, 1762



Sham Castle, Bath, by Ralph Allen, 1762: aerial view



Trump Tower, New York City by Der Scutt of Poor, Swanke, Hayden & Connell, 1983



Trump Tower, New York City by Der Scutt of Poor, Swanke, Hayden & Connell, 1983: construction



The Shard, London by Renzo Piano, 2014



Site of the Shard (Southwark Towers, London by TP Bennett, 1975)

“You know, I hate tall buildings – they are arrogant, aggressive, like fortresses.”

Renzo Piano
Over lunch with Irvine Sellar
May 2000



London by Canaletto, 1746-1755 (The Royal Collection)



The Shard, London by Renzo Piano, 2014: construction



The Shard, London by Renzo Piano, 2014: laser show

“If Christopher Wren had access to glass and steel, do you not think he would have built something as tall as The Shard?”

Boris Johnson
Mayor of London
2012

**“The Shard has slashed the face of London
forever”**

Simon Jenkins
The Guardian, 3 July 2012



(l. to r.)

The Cheesegrater, 122 Leadenhall Street by Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners, 2014

The Gherkin, 30 St Mary Axe, London by Foster + Partners, 2004

The Walkie-Talkie, 20 Fenchurch Street by Rafael Viñoly, 2015



Burj Khalifa, Dubai, UAE by Skidmore, Owings and Merrill (SOM), 2010



Burj Khalifa, Dubai, UAE by Skidmore, Owings and Merrill (SOM), 2010



The Flatiron Building, Manhattan, US by Daniel Burnham, 1902



The Flatiron Building, Manhattan, US by Daniel Burnham, 1902



The Flatiron Building, Manhattan, US by Daniel Burnham, 1902:
construction

**“The Flatiron Building has an awkwardness
[which is] entirely undisguised”**

Montgomery Schuyler comment
Editorial, Architectural Record
1902

**“I found myself agape, admiring a sky-scraper
the prow of the Flat-iron Building”**

H. G. Wells

The Future in America: A Search After Realities
1906



Longaberger Home Office, Newark, Ohio by NBBJ, 1997



The Piano House, Shannan, China by Hefei University of Technology, 2007



Elrod House, California, US by John Lautner, 1968



James Bond (Sean Connery) entering the pool at Elrod House, California, US by John Lautner, 1968 ("Diamonds are Forever")



Janet Street-Porter house, Clerkenwell, London by Piers Gough of CZWG, 1987 (CZWG)

“Going to other people’s houses was so predictable. The typical English style etc. I didn’t want that in my house”

Janet Street-Porter, comment
Building Sights, Series 2: 3
BBC2 documentary, 1991



Janet Street-Porter house, Clerkenwell, London by Piers Gough of CZWG, 1987 (CZWG)



A House for Essex by FAT architecture / Grayson Perry, 2014

<http://www.living-architecture.co.uk>



A House for Essex by FAT architecture / Grayson Perry, 2014



A House for Essex by FAT architecture / Grayson Perry, 2014



Sydney Opera House by Jørn Utzon, 1973



Sydney Opera House by Jørn Utzon, 1973

**“Utzon made a building well ahead of its time,
far ahead of available technology, and he
persevered through extraordinarily malicious
publicity and negative criticism to build a
building that changed the image of an entire
country”**

Frank Gehry, comment
Dedication of the Utzon Room, Sydney Opera House
October 2004



Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh by Enric Miralles, 2004



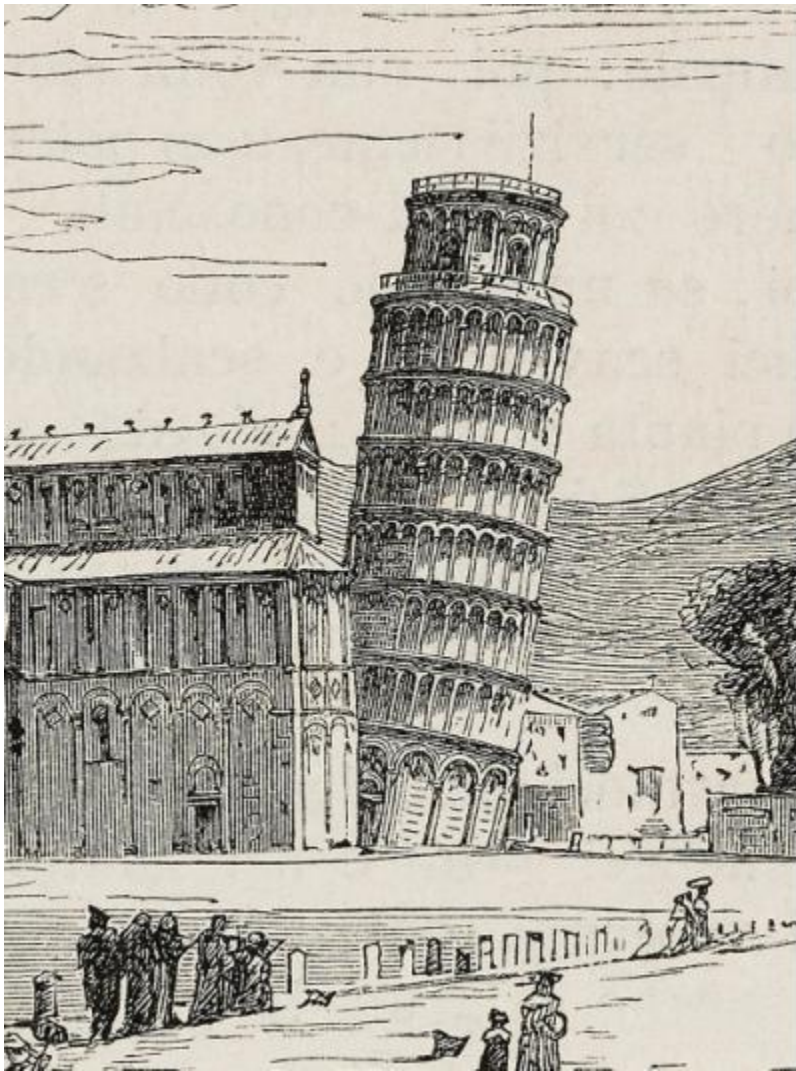
Sagrada Família, Barcelona by Antoni Gaudí, unfinished



Horse Guards, London by John Vardy, 1755



Leaning Tower of Pisa, 12th century



Leaning Tower of Pisa, 12th century



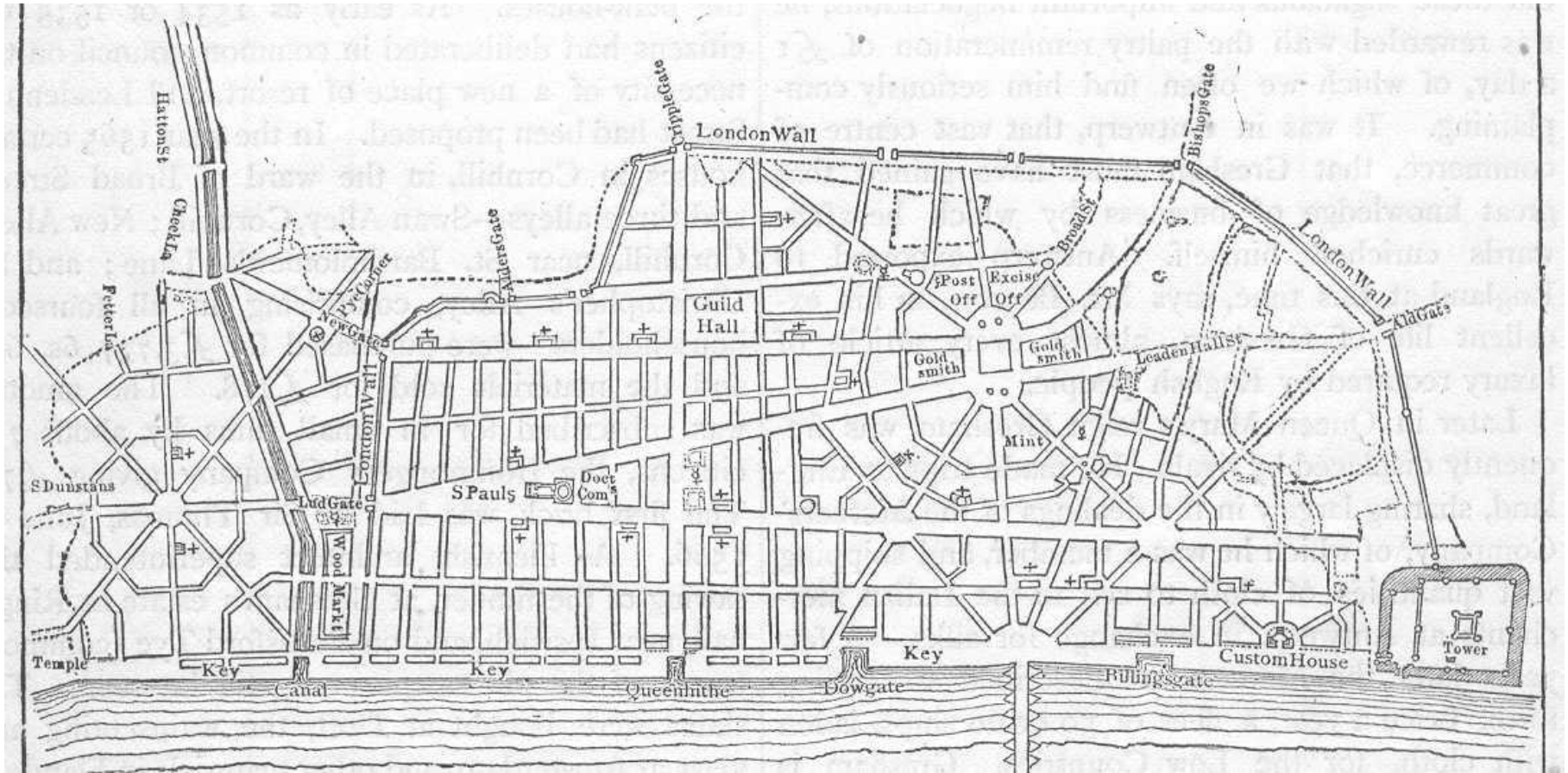
St Paul's Cathedral, London by Christopher Wren, 1711-20s

“It made me weep to see it ... a horrid noise the flames made, and the cracking of houses at their ruin”

Samuel Pepys, diarist
September 1666

“... not only to see the foundations laid, but the buildings finished, of a much more beautiful city than is at this time consumed.”

Proclamation issued by King Charles II
to prohibit the rebuilding of Houses after the great Fire of London
without conforming to the general Regulations therein premised
13 September 1669



Christopher Wren's plans for London, after the Great Fire of 1666



Ogilby and Morgan's map of London, 1676



St Paul's Cathedral, London by Christopher Wren, 1711-20s



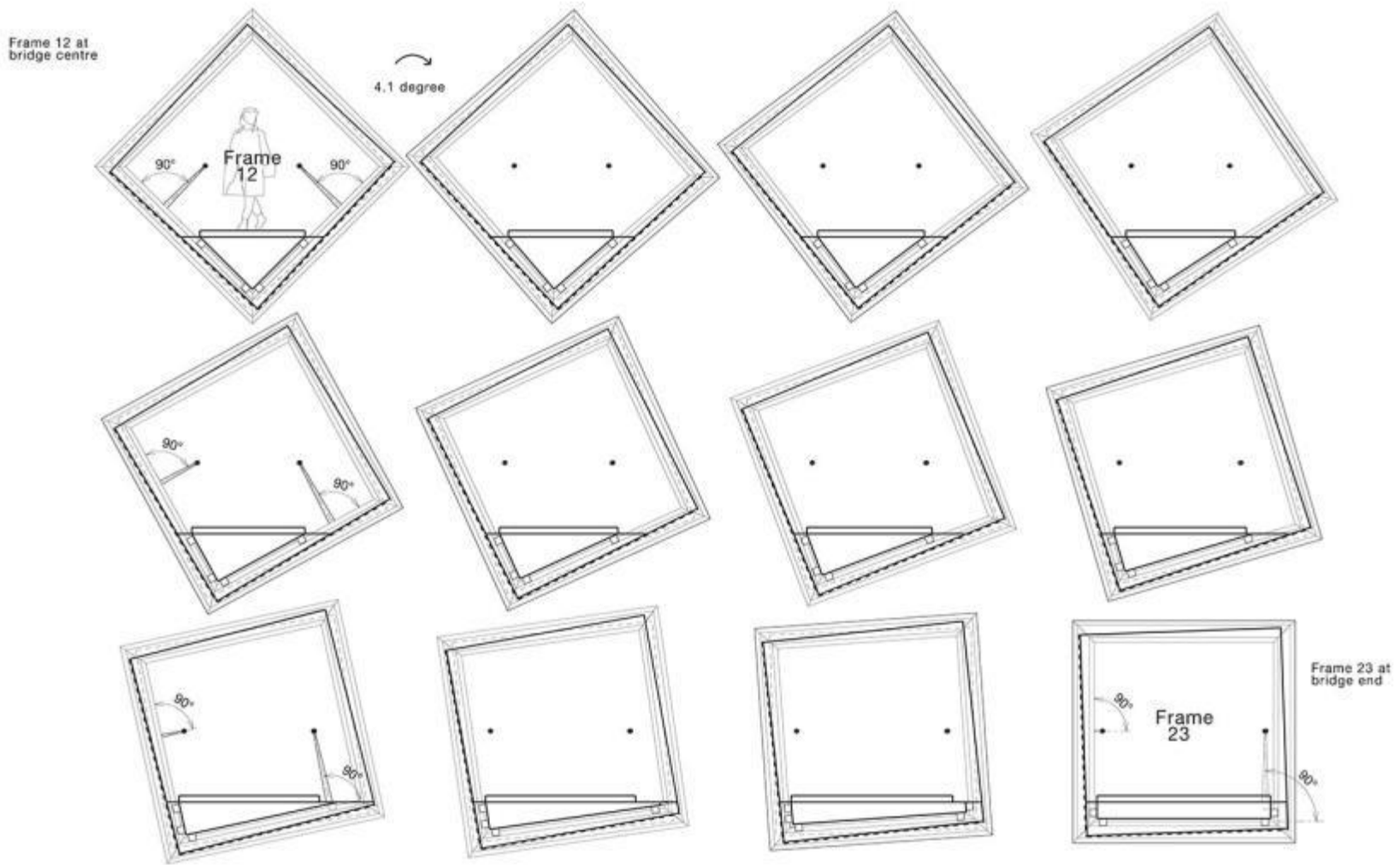
St Paul's Cathedral, London during the Blitz



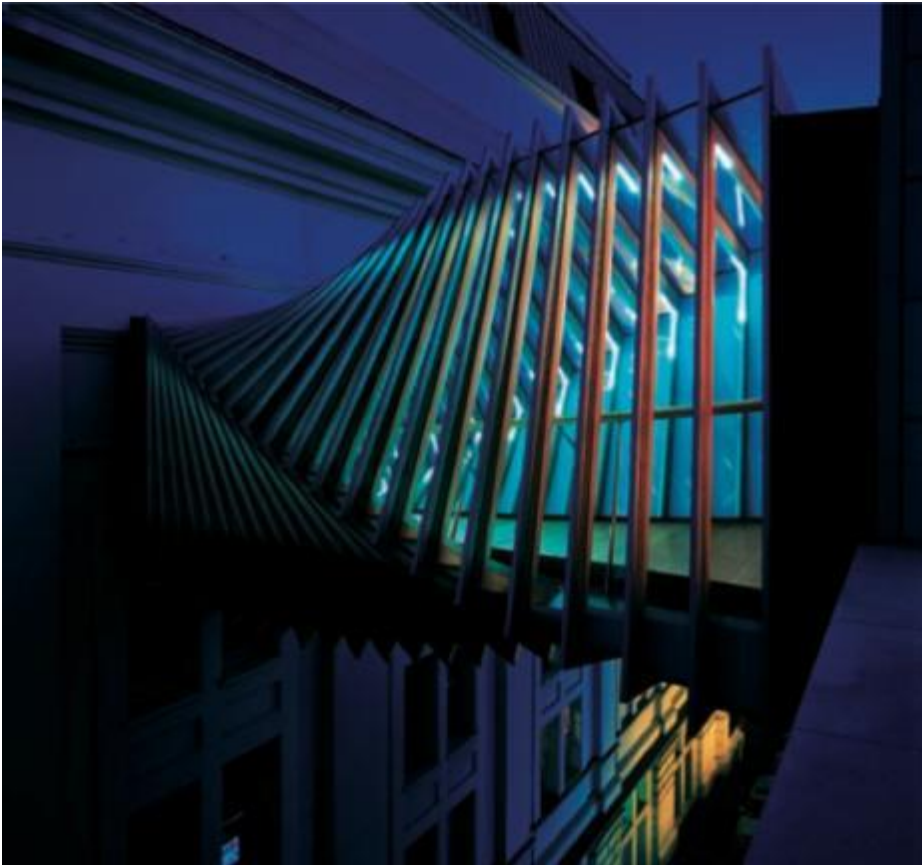
Bridge of Aspiration, Floral Street, London by Wilkinson Eyre Architects, 2003



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