

Buildings & Sculptors

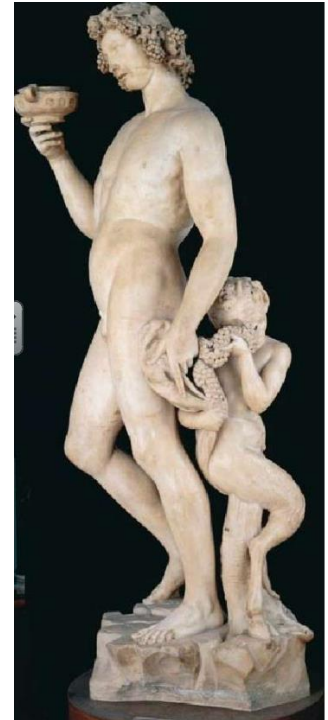
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Sculptors

Michelangelo (1475 - 1564)

A Florentine "Renaissance man" also known for architecture (the dome of St. Peter's Basilica), painting (*The Last Judgment* and the Sistine Chapel ceiling), poetry, and military engineering. His sculpted masterpieces include [*David*](#), a [*Pietà*](#), [*Bacchus*](#), and a number of pieces for the tomb of Pope Julius II (including [*Dying Slave*](#) and [*Moses*](#)). He preferred to work in Carraran marble.



Auguste Rodin (1840 - 1917)

A French sculptor known for stormy relationships with "the establishment" of the *École des Beaux-Arts* [ay-kohl day boh-zar] and his mistress, fellow artist Camille Claudel. His works include [*The Age of Bronze*](#), [*Honoré de Balzac*](#), [*The Burghers of Calais*](#), and a massive pair of doors for the Museum of Decorative Arts (the [*Gates of Hell*](#)) inspired by Dante's *Inferno*. That latter work included his most famous piece, [*The Thinker*](#).



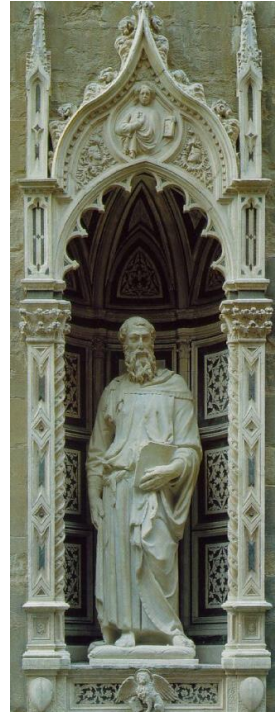
Gian Lorenzo Bernini (1598 - 1680)

A Roman who, with the rarely asked-about Francesco Borromini, defined the Baroque movement in sculpture. Bernini is principally known for his freestanding works including [David](#) and [The Ecstasy of St. Theresa](#). Bernini's *David* differs from that of Michelangelo in that the hero is shown "in motion," having twisted his body to sling the rock. Bernini is also known for his massive fountains in Rome including the [Triton](#) and the [Fountain of the Four Rivers](#).



Donatello (1386 - 1466)

A Florentine sculptor who helped define Renaissance sculpture as distinct from that of the Gothic period. He is known for [St. Mark](#) and [St. George](#) in the Or San Michele [OR SAHN mee-KAY-lay] (a Florentine church), the bald [Zuccone](#) (which means "pumpkin-head," though it depicts the prophet Habbakuk), and the first equestrian statue to be cast since Roman times, the [Gattamelata](#) in Padua. He is also known for mastering the low relief form of [schacciato](#).



Lorenzo Ghiberti (1378 - 1455)

A Florentine sculptor and goldsmith who taught both Donatello and Filippo Brunelleschi. He is best known for two pairs of bronze doors on the Florence Baptistery (associated with the [Duomo](#), or Florentine Cathedral). He produced a [single, low-relief panel](#) to win a 1401 competition (defeating Brunelleschi) for the commission to design the 28 panels for the [north doors](#). After that, he was given another commission to design ten panels for the [east doors](#). This latter work, by far his most famous, was dubbed the "Gates of Paradise" by Michelangelo.



Gutzon Borglum (1867 - 1941)

An American known for crafting [Mount Rushmore](#) in the Black Hills of South Dakota. He is also known for [The Mares of Diomedes](#) and an unfinished (and later replaced) tribute to Confederate heroes on *Stone Mountain* in Georgia.



Phidias (c. 480 BC - c. 430 BC)

An Athenian considered the greatest of all Classical sculptors. He created the chryselephantine (gold and ivory) Statue of Zeus at Olympia (one of the Wonders of the Ancient World, now lost) and the statue of Athena in the Parthenon (now lost). He was supported by money from the Delian League (that is, the Athenian Empire) run by his friend Pericles; he was later ruined by charges of corruption generally considered to be part of a political campaign against Pericles.

Constantin Brancusi (1876 - 1957)

A Romanian sculptor who was a major figure in Modernism. He is best known for [*The Kiss*](#) (not to be confused with the Rodin work or the Klimt painting), [*Sleeping Muse*](#), and [*Bird in Space*](#). He's also the center of anecdote in which U.S. customs taxed his works as "industrial products" since they refused to recognize them as art.



Daniel Chester French (1850 - 1931)

An American who created [The Minute Man](#) for Concord, Massachusetts and [Standing Lincoln](#) for the Nebraska state capitol, but who is best known for the [seated statue in the Lincoln Memorial](#).



Frédéric-Auguste Bartholdi (1834-1904)

A French sculptor primarily known as the creator of *Liberty Enlightening the World*, better known as the Statue of Liberty. He also executed [*The Lion of Belfort*](#) and a [statue of the Marquis de Lafayette](#) in New York's Union Square.



20th Century Paintings

[Guernica](#), by [Pablo Picasso](#).



Guernica was a Basque town bombed by the Germans during the Spanish Civil War in April 1937. Picasso had already been commissioned to paint a mural for the Spanish Pavilion at the World's Fair, and he completed his massive, black, white, and grey anti-war mural by early June 1937. Picasso's Cubist approach to portraying the figures adds to the sense of destruction and chaos. *Guernica* was in the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) in New York until 1981, when it was returned to the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia in Spain.

Nude Descending a Staircase, No. 2, by Marcel Duchamp.

First painted in 1912, *Nude Descending a Staircase* created a sensation when shown at the 1913 Armory Show in New York, where one critic referred to it as “an explosion in a shingle factory.” Painted in various shades of brown, *Nude Descending a Staircase* portrays a nude woman in a series of broken planes, capturing motion down several steps in a single image. The painting reflects a Cubist sense of division of space, and its portrait of motion echoes the work of the Futurists.



The Persistence of Memory, by Salvador Dalí.

First shown in 1931, *The Persistence of Memory* is probably the most famous of surrealist paintings. The landscape of the scene echoes Port Lligat, Dalí's home. The ants, flies, clocks, and the Port Lligat landscape are motifs in many other Dalí paintings, and the *trompe l'oeil* depiction of figures is typical of his works. It currently belongs to MOMA; its 1951 companion piece, *The Disintegration of the Persistence of Memory*, hangs at the Salvador Dalí Museum in St. Petersburg, Florida



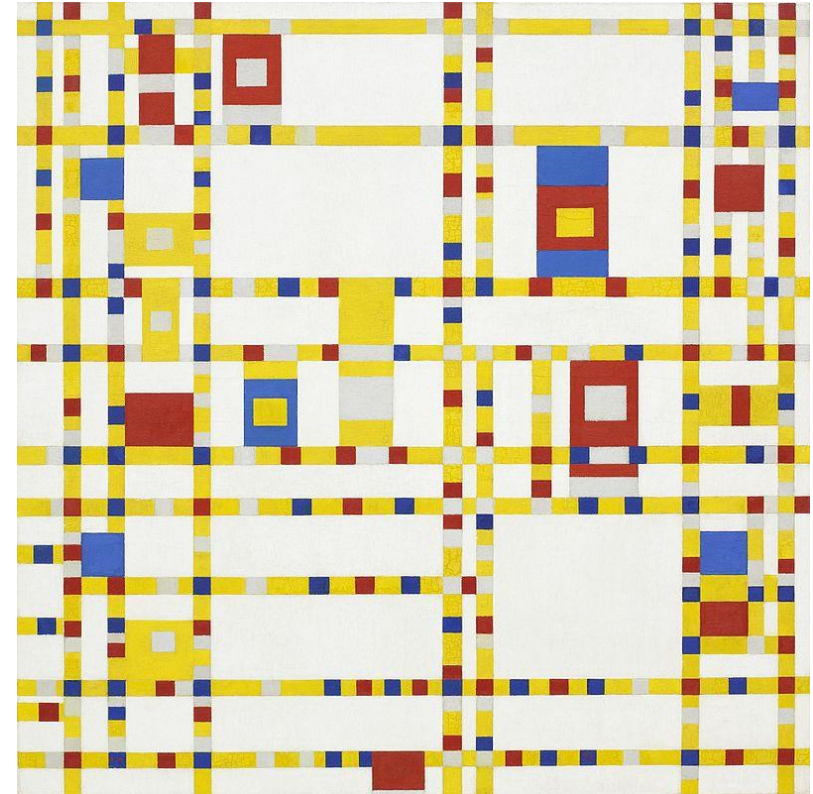
Les Femmes d'Alger (O. J. R. Version O), by Pablo Picasso.

This painting depicts five women in a brothel. However, the images of the women are partly broken into disjointed, angular facets. The degree of broken-ness is rather mild compared to later Cubist works, but it was revolutionary in 1907. The rather phallic fruit arrangement in the foreground reflects the influence of Cezanne's "flattening of the canvas." The two central figures face the viewer, while the other three have primitive masks as faces, reflecting another of Picasso's influences. It is currently housed at the MOMA.



Broadway Boogie Woogie, by Piet Mondrian.

While *Les Femmes d'Alger* and other Cubist paintings represent an extension of Paul Cézanne's division-of-space approach to the canvas, Mondrian's De Stijl works are a still further abstraction, such that the canvas is often divided up into rectangular "tile patterns," as in *Composition with Red, Yellow, and Blue*. The painting simultaneously echoes the bright lights of a marquee, resembles a pattern of streets as seen from above, and creates a feeling of vitality and vibrancy, not unlike the music itself. This work can also be found at the MOMA.



Campbell's Soup Can, by Andy Warhol.

Pop Art parodies (or perhaps reflects) a world in which celebrities, brand names, and media images have replaced the sacred; Warhol's series of *Campbell's Soup* paintings may be the best illustration of this. Like the object itself, the paintings were often done by the mass-produceable form of serigraphy (silk screening). Also like the subject, the Warhol soup can painting existed in many varieties, with different types of Campbell's Soup or numbers of cans; painting 32 or 100 or 200 identical cans further emphasized the aspect of mass production aspect in the work. The same approach underlies Warhol's familiar series of prints of Marilyn Monroe, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, and other pop culture figures.



Nighthawks, by Edward Hopper.

As is often the case with his works, Hopper uses a realistic approach (including such details as the fluorescent light of the diner, the coffee pots, and the Phillies cigar sign atop the diner) to convey a sense of a loneliness and isolation, even going so far as to depict the corner store without a door connecting to the larger world. Hopper's wife Jo served as the model for the woman at the bar. *Nighthawks* is housed at the Art Institute of Chicago.



I and the Village, by Marc Chagall.

Painted in 1911, *I and the Village* is among Chagall's earliest surviving paintings. It is a dreamlike scene that includes many motifs common to Chagall, notably the lamb and peasant life. In addition to the two giant faces—a green face on the right and a lamb's head on the left—other images include a milkmaid, a reaper, an upside-down peasant woman, a church, and a series of houses, some of them upside-down. *I and the Village* is currently housed at MOMA.



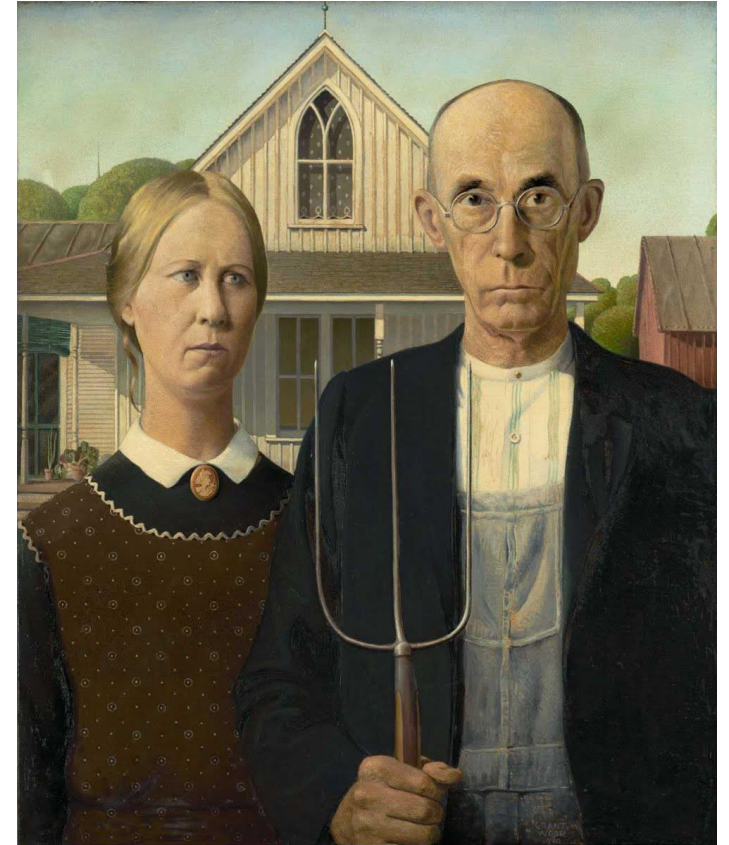
Christina's World, by Andrew Wyeth.

The Christina of the title is Christina Olson, who lived near the Wyeths' summer home in Cushing, Maine. In the 1948 painting, Christina lays in the cornfield wearing a pink dress, facing away from the viewer, her body partly twisted and hair blowing slightly in the wind. In the far distance is a three-story farmhouse with dual chimneys and two dormers, along with two sheds to its right. A distant barn is near the top middle of the painting. One notable aspect is the subtle pattern of sunlight, which strikes the farmhouse obliquely from the right, shines in the wheel tracks in the upper right, and casts very realistic-looking shadows on Christina's dress. The Olson house was the subject of many Andrew Wyeth paintings for 30 years, and it was named to the National Register of Historic Places for its place in *Christina's World*.



American Gothic, by Grant Wood.

Wood painted his most famous work after a visit to Eldon, Iowa, when he saw a Carpenter Gothic style house with a distinctive Gothic window in its gable. Upon returning to his studio, he used his sister Nan and his dentist, Dr. Byron McKeeby, as the models for the two figures. The pitchfork and the clothing were more typical of 19th-century farmers than contemporary ones. *American Gothic* is among the most familiar regionalist paintings, and it is said to be the most parodied of all paintings. It hangs at the Art Institute of Chicago, where it was submitted for a competition by Wood upon its completion in 1930 (Wood won a bronze medal and a \$300 prize).



Art Museums

Louvre [looov]

Perhaps the world's most famous museum, the Musée du Louvre is located on the right bank of the Seine River in the heart of Paris. Housed in the Louvre Palace, which was a royal residence until 1682, the Louvre was permanently opened to the public as a museum by the French Revolutionary government in 1793. During renovations carried out in the 1980s, a controversial steel-and-glass pyramid designed by I. M. Pei was installed at its entrance. Works housed within the Sully, Richelieu, and Denon Wings of the Louvre include ancient Greek sculptures such as the [*Winged Victory of Samothrace*](#) and the [*Venus de Milo*](#), Leonardo da Vinci's [*Mona Lisa*](#), and Eugène Delacroix's [*Liberty Leading the People*](#).

Museo del Prado [moo-SAY-oh del PRAH-doh]

In 1785, Spanish King Charles III commissioned a building to house a natural history museum, but his grandson Ferdinand VII completed the Prado as an art museum in 1819. Deriving its name from the Spanish for "meadow," the Prado's holdings include not only what is universally regarded as the best collection of Spanish paintings, but also a number of works from Flemish masters, such as Diego Velázquez's [*Las Meninas*](#), Francisco Goya's [*The Third of May, 1808*](#), and Hieronymus Bosch's [*The Garden of Earthly Delights*](#).

Uffizi Gallery

Located in Florence, Italy, the Uffizi Gallery was originally designed by Giorgio Vasari to serve as offices for the Florentine magistrates under Cosimo de Medici--hence the name *uffizi*, meaning "offices". After Cosimo I died in 1574, the new grand duke, Francis I, commissioned the conversion of its top floor into a gallery. Its outstanding Renaissance holdings include [*The Birth of Venus*](#) and [*La Primavera*](#), both by Sandro Botticelli, and Titian's [*Venus of Urbino*](#).

Rijksmuseum ["Rike's museum"]

Located in Amsterdam, this is the national museum of The Netherlands. Currently housed in a Gothic Revival building designed by P. J. H. Cuypers and completed in 1885, its most distinguished works include Rembrandt's [*Night Watch*](#), Franz Hals's [*The Merry Drinker*](#), and Jan Vermeer's [*The Kitchen Maid*](#).

Hermitage

Founded in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1764 by Catherine the Great, its buildings include the Winter Palace, which was once the residence of Russia's tsars. Its most famous pieces include Rembrandt's *The Return of the Prodigal Son* and Henri Matisse's *Red Room*.

Tate

Originally known as the National Gallery of British Art when opened in 1897, it was renamed for its benefactor, sugar tycoon Sir Henry Tate. The original Tate Gallery has been renamed [Tate Britain](#), and there are now three additional branches: [Tate Modern](#) in London, [Tate Liverpool](#), and [Tate St. Ives](#) in Cornwall. The Tate awards the Turner Prize, a highly publicized award for British artists, and its collection includes [Whaam!](#) by Roy Lichtenstein and many works by J. M. W. Turner.

Guggenheim

The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum is located in Manhattan's Upper East Side. Founded as "The Museum of Non-Objective Painting," in 1959 it moved into its current home, a Frank Lloyd Wright building that features a spiral ramp connecting the exhibition areas. Focusing on modern art, its holdings include the world's largest collection of paintings by [Wassily Kandinsky](#).

The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Located on the edge of Central Park and colloquially known as "the Met," its main building on Fifth Avenue was designed by Richard Morris Hunt. Its collection includes El Greco's [*View of Toledo*](#), Jacques-Louis David's [*The Death of Socrates*](#), and John Singer Sargent's [*Madame X*](#).

Museum of Modern Art

Better known as "MoMA" and situated in Manhattan, it has been connected with the Rockefeller family since its founding in 1929. Its collection includes Vincent van Gogh's [*The Starry Night*](#), Pablo Picasso's [*Les Femmes d'Alger \(O. J. R. M.\)*](#), Salvador Dalí's [*The Persistence of Memory*](#), and Piet Mondrian's [*Broadway Boogie Woogie*](#).

The Art Institute of Chicago

Located on the western edge of Grant Park in Chicago, the main building of the Art Institute was built for the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition and features two lion statues at its entrance. It has an outstanding collection of French Impressionist and American works such as Georges Seurat's [*A Sunday on La Grande Jatte-1884*](#), Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec's [*At the Moulin Rouge*](#), Grant Wood's [*American Gothic*](#), and Edward Hopper's [*Nighthawks*](#).

Guggenheim Museum Bilbao [bil-BAH-oh]

The Guggenheim Bilbao opened in 1997 and is, like its sister institution in New York, less famous for its collection than its building, a Frank Gehry design that seems to be an abstract sculpture all its own. Richard Serra's [*The Matter of Time*](#) is permanently installed here.

National Gallery

The in Trafalgar Square in London houses a synoptic collection of pre-1900 paintings assembled by government purchase and donation. It is home to British masterpieces including [John Constable's *The Haywain*](#) and both [Rain, Steam and Speed](#) and [~The Fighting Temeraire](#) by [J.M.W. Turner](#). The museum also boasts several major highlights of European painting, from arguably [the best known](#) of [van Gogh's *Sunflowers*](#) series to exemplar Baroque works like [Caravaggio's *Supper at Emmaus*](#), [The Judgment of Paris](#) by [Rubens](#), and the [Rokeby Venus](#) of [Velázquez](#). Major works of the Italian and north European Renaissance are also represented, including [van Eyck's *The Arnolfini Wedding*](#), [Hans Holbein's *The Ambassadors*](#), [Titian's *Bacchus and Ariadne*](#), [Raphael's *Portrait of Pope Julius II*](#), and the later of [Leonardo's two versions of *Madonna of the Rocks*](#).

Architects

Frank Lloyd Wright (1867 - 1959)

Wright's life and works are staples of quiz tournaments. Born in Wisconsin, he worked under Louis Sullivan before founding a Chicago practice. His early homes, like the Robie House at the University of Chicago, are in the "Prairie" style: horizontal orientation and low roofs. His "organic architecture" tries to harmonize with its inhabitants and site: Examples include the Kaufmann House (also known as Fallingwater) in Pennsylvania; the Johnson Wax Museum in Racine, Wisconsin; and Taliesin West, his Arizona home and studio. (The original Taliesin, in Wisconsin, burned down in 1914). Other notable Wright works are the Guggenheim Museum in New York City, the Larkin Building in Buffalo, the Unity Temple in Oak Park, and the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo, one of few buildings to survive a 1923 earthquake.

Walter Gropius (1883 - 1969)

Though Gropius also designed the Fagus Factory (Alfeld, Germany) and the Pan American Building (New York City), he is better known for founding the Bauhaus. Beginning in Weimer in 1919 and moving to a Gropius-designed facility in Dessau in 1925, the Bauhaus school emphasized functionalism, the application of modern methods and materials, and the synthesis of technology and art. Its faculty included artists Paul Klee, Wassily Kandinsky, and Josef Albers. Gropius would later head Harvard's architecture department from 1938-52, shifting its focus to incorporate modern design and construction techniques

Ludwig Mies van der Rohe (1886 - 1969)

The leading architect of the International Style of skyscraper design, he (like Gropius) worked in the office of Peter Behrens. He directed the Bauhaus from 1930-33, shutting it down before the Nazis could do so. His works include the Barcelona Pavilion for the 1929 International Exposition; the Lake Shore Drive Apartments in Chicago; the New National Gallery in Berlin; and the Seagram Building in New York, which he co-designed with Philip Johnson. The phrase "less is more" is associated with Mies, whose glass-covered steel structures influenced the design of office buildings in nearly every major city in the U.S.

I(eoh) M(ing) Pei (1917 - Present)

Pei is among the most famous living architects. Born in China, he emigrated to the U.S. in 1935. Though he has also designed moderate-income housing, Pei is best known for large-scale projects. His works include the Mile High Center in Denver, the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, the John Hancock Building in Boston, the East Wing of the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., the Fragrant Hill Hotel in Beijing, and the recent Miho Museum of Art in Shiga, Japan. He may be best known for two fairly recent works: the glass pyramid erected outside the Louvre in 1989, and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio, completed in 1995.

Sir Christopher Wren (1632 - 1723)

When fire destroyed much of London in 1666, Wren was an Oxford astronomy professor who had designed his first building just four years earlier. Charles II named him the King's Surveyor of Works in 1669, and he was involved in rebuilding more than 50 London churches in the next half-century, including Saint Paul's Cathedral. An inscription near his tomb in Saint Paul's declares, "Reader, if you seek a monument, look around you."

Le Corbusier (born Charles-Eduoard Jeanneret) (1887 - 1965)

Possibly more influential even than Wright, he wrote the 1923 book *Towards a New Architecture*, standard reading in architectural theory courses. One famous Corbusian quote is: "A house is a machine for living in." His floor plans were influenced by Cubist principles of division of space, and the Villa Savoye (Poissy, France) is his best-known early work. He wrote of the "Radiant City" begun anew, a completely planned city with skyscrapers for residents. Applications of his approach to government buildings (such as in Brasilia or in Chandigarh, India), however, largely failed, as did many urban renewal projects produced on the same ideological foundation. Nonetheless, he influenced every other 20th-century figure on this list.

Louis Sullivan (1856 - 1924)

Sullivan did not design the first skyscraper but did become a vocal champion of skyscrapers as reflections of the modern age. Though most associated with Chicago, his best-known work is the 1891 Wainwright Building in St. Louis. His partnership with Dankmar Adler produced over 100 buildings. Later works, such as the Babson, Bennett, and Bradley Houses, reflect an organic architecture distinct from that of Wright. Sullivan's dictum that "form should follow function" strongly influenced modern architecture; his writings helped break the profession from classical restraints.

Filippo Brunelleschi (1377 - 1446)

A friend of Donatello, Brunelleschi was a skilled sculptor and goldsmith whose 1401 competition with Lorenzo Ghiberti for the commission of the bronze doors of the Florence Baptistery is a frequent question topic (Ghiberti got the chief commission). As an architect, he is mainly known for the extraordinary octagonally-based dome of the Santa Maria del Fiore (also known as the Florence Cathedral), which dominates the Florentine skyline. The task required an innovative supporting framework and occupied much of his career (as described in detail in Vasari's *Lives of the Artists*). Other projects include the Spedale degli Innocenti (a hospital), the Old Sacristy at San Lorenzo, and the Pazzi Chapel in the Cloisters of Santa Croce, all from 1421 to 1430

Frank Gehry (1929 - Present)

Winner of the 1989 Pritzker Prize, Gehry is best-known today for large-scale compositions like the Experience Music Project in Seattle, the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, and the recent, controversial Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain. (Bilbao natives describe the latter as "the artichoke," given its layers of abstract titanium structures.) Gehry often uses uncommon materials such as plywood and limestone; his designs range from Kobe's Fishdance Restaurant, shaped like a giant fish, to the soft-sculpture look of the so-called "Fred and Ginger" buildings in Prague. He also designs furniture: The Easy Edges line is made of laminated cardboard; the Gehry Collection consists of chairs named for hockey terms (e.g. Cross Check and Power Play). As of 2002, active projects included a new wing for the Corcoran Gallery and the SoHo Branch of the Guggenheim.

Andrea Palladio (1508 - 1580)

Born Andrea di Pietro della Gondola, Palladio designed villas in or near Venice, including the Villa Rotonda and Villa Barbaro. He integrated Greco-Roman ideas of hierarchy, proportion, and order with contemporary Renaissance styles. His *Four Books on Architecture* from 1570 relates his theoretical principles. Among architects heavily influenced by Palladio were Inigo Jones and Thomas Jefferson.

Eero Saarinen (1910 - 1961)

The son of architect Eliel Saarinen, Eero was born in Finland but spent most of his life in the U.S. and died in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He designed many buildings on the campuses of MIT and Yale, as well as Dulles International Airport and the TWA terminal at Kennedy Airport. Saarinen may be best known for designing the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, though he died before it was completed. Many of his works are characterized by elegant, sweeping forms, such as the Kresge Auditorium at MIT.

Antonio Gaudi y Cornet (1852 - 1926)

Gaudi created many extraordinary buildings in Barcelona in the early 20th century. His Art Nouveau-inspired works include the Casa Mila and Casa Batllo apartments, known from their undulating facades, and several works for patron Eusebi Guell. He spent 40 years working on the Expiatory Church of the Holy Family (also known as La Sagrada Familia); although its spindle-like towers are in place, the building remains unfinished, and Gaudi's models for it were destroyed in the Spanish Civil War. He was also fond of using hyperbolic paraboloids in his work.