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## Places

### Title

The Loyola Forum -- Frank Gehry

### Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/3x6336fx>

### Journal

Places, 5(1)

### ISSN

0731-0455

### Author

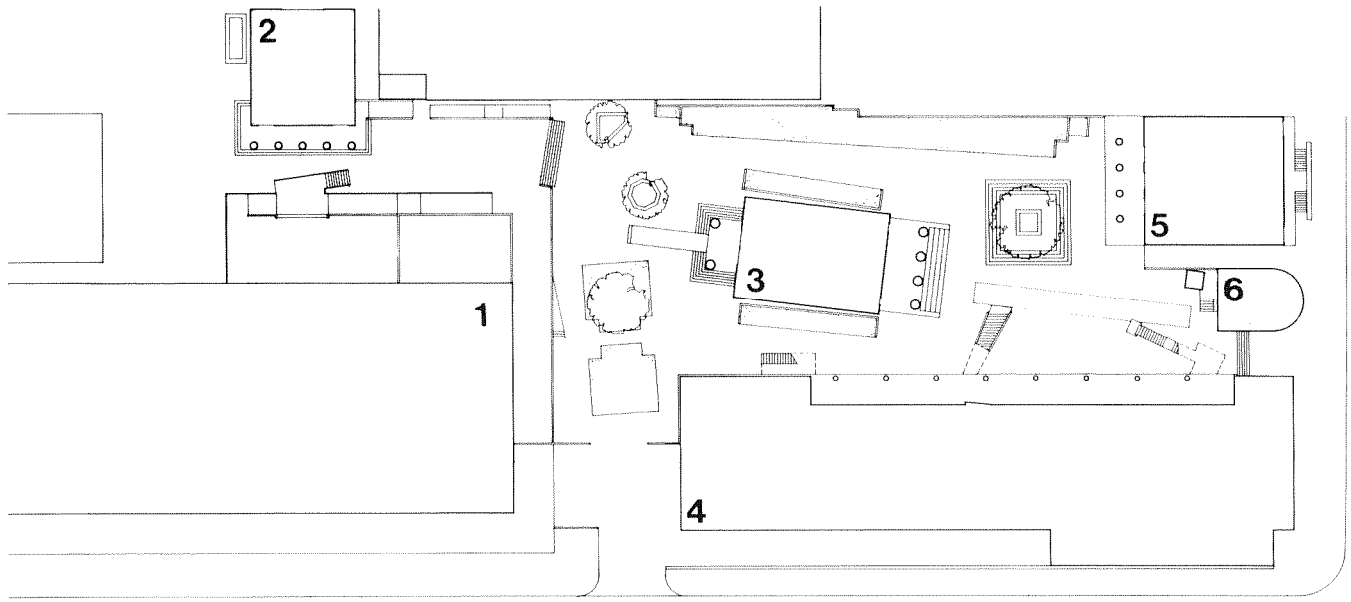
Author, No

### Publication Date

1988-04-01

Peer reviewed

# The Loyola Forum— Frank Gehry



**SITE PLAN**



**I Loyola Law School, site plan.** 1, Library; 2, North Instructional Hall; 3, Morrisfield Hall; 4, Burns Building; 5, South Instructional Hall; 6, Chapel.

British law, Roman law, precedent. The Roman Forum entered into Frank Gehry's thinking about the Loyola Law School in the midst of his discussions with the faculty and students of the school. They wanted the new buildings for the school to serve as a symbolic center for study of the law. Their present buildings and their location did not.

While visiting the Roman Forum on the way back from a trip to Damascus, Gehry had been moved by its experiential power. Seen in the light of his charge to make a place that would support the symbolic importance that Loyola sought, the architectural forms of the Forum aroused a new curiosity. Much of the power of the Forum seemed to derive from its deconstructed state, from the fallen fragments and dislocated parts. Sketching brought Gehry into the problem. It revealed the power of forms that could be read in multiple ways, independently and as segments of a larger whole.

In the Loyola project, for instance, the tall, free-standing, cylindrical columns are arranged to produce different readings as you approach them in different ways; aspects of a pediment when seen frontally, independent cylinders as presences to pass among when approached from the side. For Gehry, the elements then become discrete pieces, as in the Morandi still-life paintings that he admires. Dislocating elements such as the stairs from their accustomed, internalized position brings them forth for attention as elements in their own right. At the same time, these angled paths create varied orientations for outlook and prompt fresh perceptions of the objects and buildings disposed about the site.

The adjustments and emphases that Gehry makes at Loyola extract from the Forum not the romance of ruins or the false authority of classical detail but the liveliness and evocative power of placement and the force of clear, purposeful forms, sized for people to move among.

*From a conversation between Frank Gehry and Donlyn Lyndon.*



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**2 Loyola Law School, Los Angeles.**

Photograph by Michael Moran



**3 Loyola Law School, Los Angeles.**

Photograph by Michael Moran

**4 Loyola Law School, Los Angeles.**

Photograph by Michael Moran

**5 Loyola Law School, Los Angeles.**

Photograph by Frank Gehry Associates



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