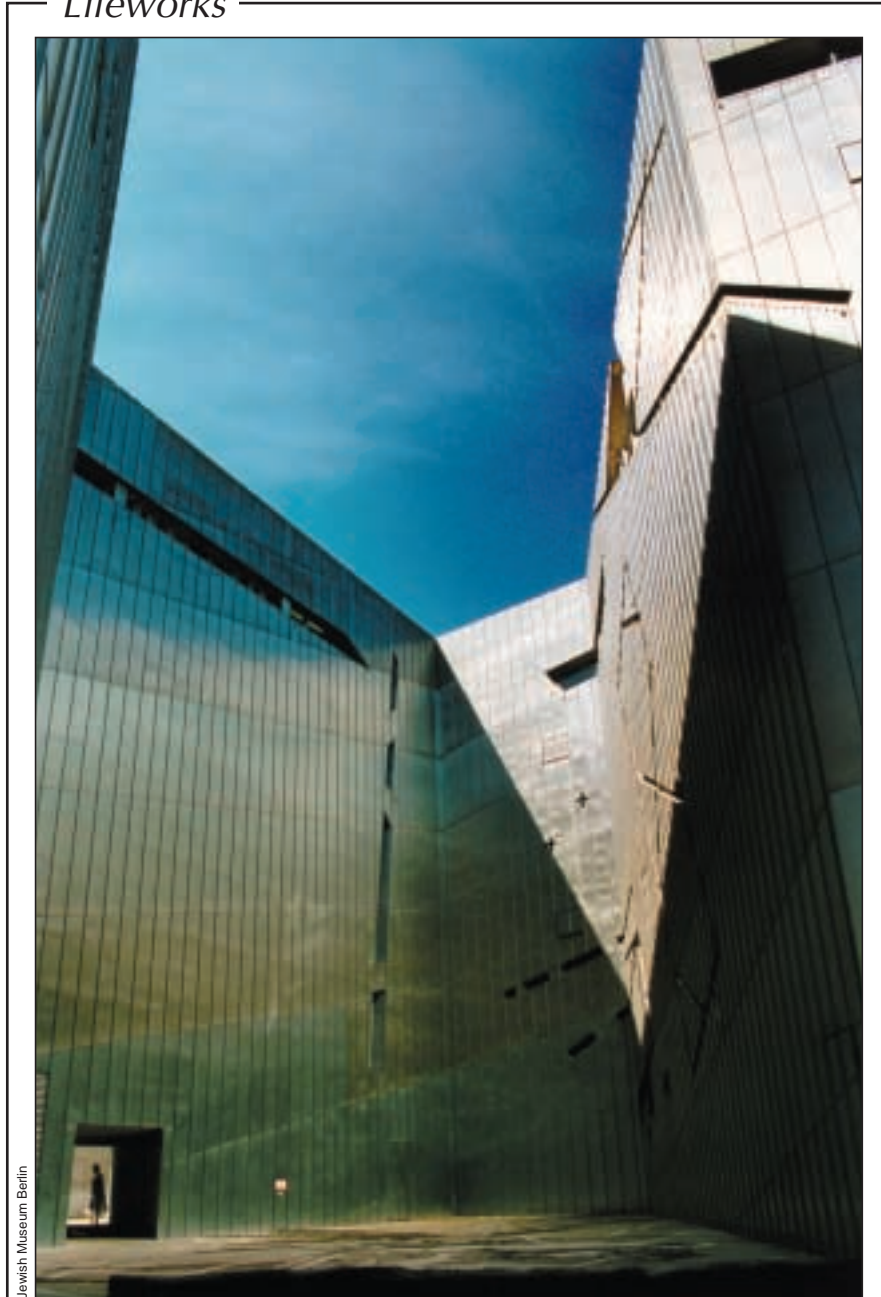


*Lifeworks*



Jewish Museum Berlin

The building of the new Jewish Museum in Berlin, designed in 1989 by Polish-born architect Daniel Libeskind, attracted over 150 000 visitors even before the museum's exhibits were ready for public display. Clad in a titanium-zinc alloy and connected by subterranean axes, its complex, disorienting structure is partly based on a pattern made by connecting the dots on a map of Jewish settlement in Berlin. Although the museum represents two millennia of Jewish history, its empty spaces, maze-like passages and bare concrete Holocaust tower speak most eloquently of 20th-century events. "Few buildings have evoked the unspeakable with as much clarity," wrote the *Los Angeles Times* when the building was completed in 1999. Such are the complications of history that the museum's long-awaited official opening in September 2001 was delayed for a few days out of respect for the victims of the terrorist attacks on the United States. — CMAJ