



The Noble Architect Foundation

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Conversations with My Daughter **Daddy, do you know Frank Gehry?**

Unknown date and time – possibly 2008

T: Daddy, do you know Frank Gehry?

Dad: Sure!

T: You know him in person?

Dad: No! I know who Frank Gehry is; I never met him in person.

T: Do you ever want to meet him?

Dad: Not really!

T: Is he important?

Dad: Yes! He is important. Where did you hear about him?

T: On Arthur

(Arthur, the PBS Kids popular cartoon show)

Dad: We have a DVD about him. It's called: "Sketches of Frank Gehry." We can watch it together if you want.

T: I want to meet him.

Dad: We cannot meet every celebrity that ever lived.

T: He is a celebrity?

Dad: He is a celebrity architect.

T: What is a celebrity? He is like Hannah Montana?

Dad: A celebrity – is a person who is very popular. He is popular like Hannah Montana – yes!

T: Dad, Have you met any celebrity architects?

Dad: Yes I have. I worked for one of them – a long time ago – 15 or 16 years ago.

T: You did? So exciting!

Dad: It was Okay! We'd hardly ever see him. I liked his work. I still do. We visited one of his buildings during construction. Do remember in Winchester – the library in a historic park?

T: No I don't.

Dad: You don't! Remember the tour guide said you have to have a hard hat & I put your bike helmet on your head?

T: No I don't.

Dad: Do you remember walking in the park where there was a small pond near a neat garden with women in 19th century costumes?

T: No dad I don't remember. How old was I?

Dad: Three years...and maybe 2 or 3 months old!

T: I am a child – I have short attention span!

Dad: Says who?

T: You! Says you!

Dad: There is another building of him in DC that I worked on; we can go visit that building.

T: Can we go this weekend?

Dad: I guess!

T: Dad why is Gehry important?

Dad: He makes beautiful architecture that people like to visit. He makes unique architecture.

T: Why you don't want to meet him?

Dad: I said I did not - didn't I? Well, Gehry, the person is not important to me. It's his work that matters. I don't care about Frank Gehry as a person. We're not friends, we're not related. I don't know what kind of books he reads, I don't know anything about him. But I know he is very creative in creating architecture that is beautiful and very innovative. So I think he is important.

T: Like Hannah Montana!



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Dad: Like Hannah Montana? How?

T: Remember I told you that Hannah Montana was mean to Asian people and stereotyped Asians?

Dad: Yes I do remember our conversation. You wanted to boycott her; I told you that you have to decide if what she has done was so severe that in your opinion she is not worth listening to anymore or something like that...

T: Exactly, dad. That's what you said.

Dad: What did you decide? Did we ever talk about it again?

T: I was disappointed in her – very disappointed!

Dad: And?

T: I haven't watched her shows for a while now.

Dad: For that reason? You grounded her; huh?

T: That's not funny! And, I'm just too busy!

Dad: Busy is good; being busy keeps you interested. Let me tell you something about Hannah Montana; She is a singer – a dancer – an actress. Her personal feelings should not matter to us. If she were your sister, we had a lot of work ahead of us. But Hannah Montana – is that even her name?

T: Good point dad!

Dad: Look, honey; I admire you for objecting to racial profiling _ you know what that means?

Interrupts...

T: Yes I do!

Dad: But, you should make that decision on your own.

T: I did!

Dad: Okay. First you have to hear that yourself. Don't let anyone tell you how you should feel. Did you hear her making that comment about Asians?

T: No!

Dad: Well, looks like you have some research to do.

T: Dada?

Dad: Yes, dada?

T: Can we meet Frank Gehry?

Dad: Did you just change the subject?

T: Dada?

Dad: Yes you did! Well, he teaches at Yale; and Columbia. We can arrange an impromptu visit to New York or Connecticut and Meet him. Maybe I can ask him to interview with "The Noble Architect" Newsletter...

T: Can we really do that?

Dad: Let me work on that.

T: Dad, what is the name of the other celebrity architect you met?

Dad: Michael Graves. He is a well respected, well established modernist. You should know that Gehry has a lot of critics.

T: What are critics?

Dad: People who don't understand something and don't understand that they don't understand it.

T: Dad? Was that a riddle?
