

The Pritzker Architecture Prize

2015 Laureate
Frei Otto
Germany



Frei Otto

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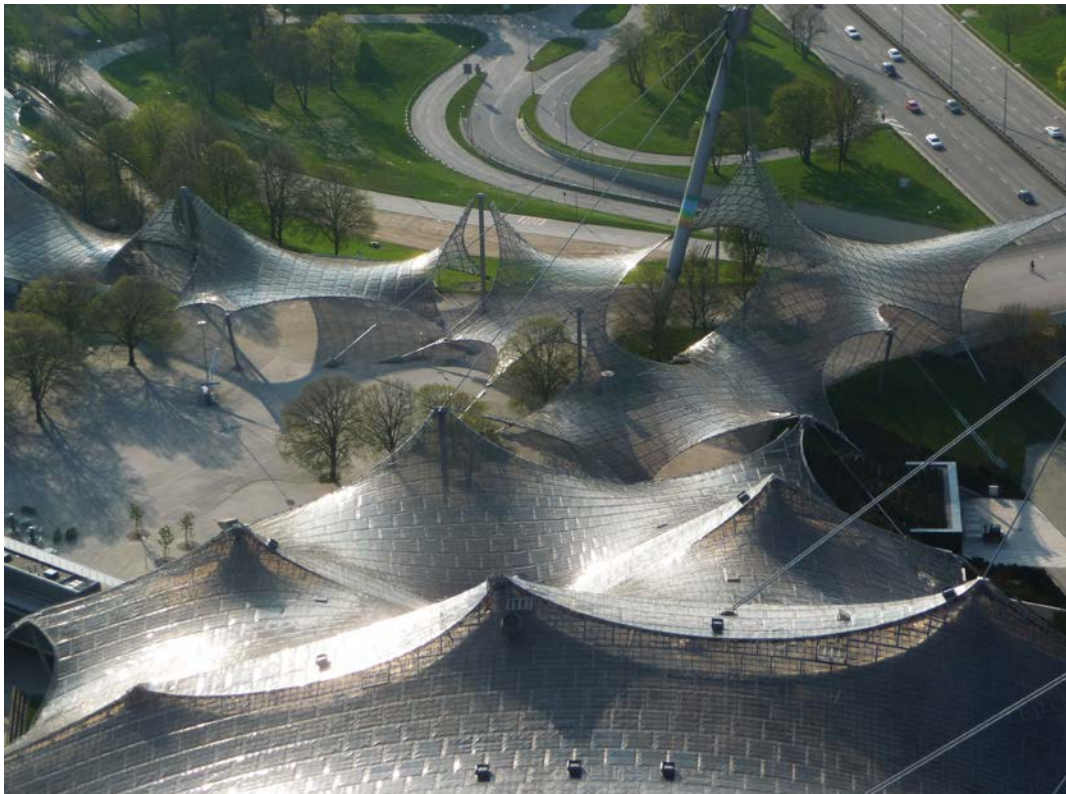
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**Roofing for
main sports
facilities in
the Munich
Olympic Park
for the 1972
Summer
Olympics
1968–1972**

Munich,
Germany

With Behnisch
+ Partner and
others



The roofs are an economical solution and float delicately above the stadium and landscape.

Photos © Atelier Frei Otto Warmbronn

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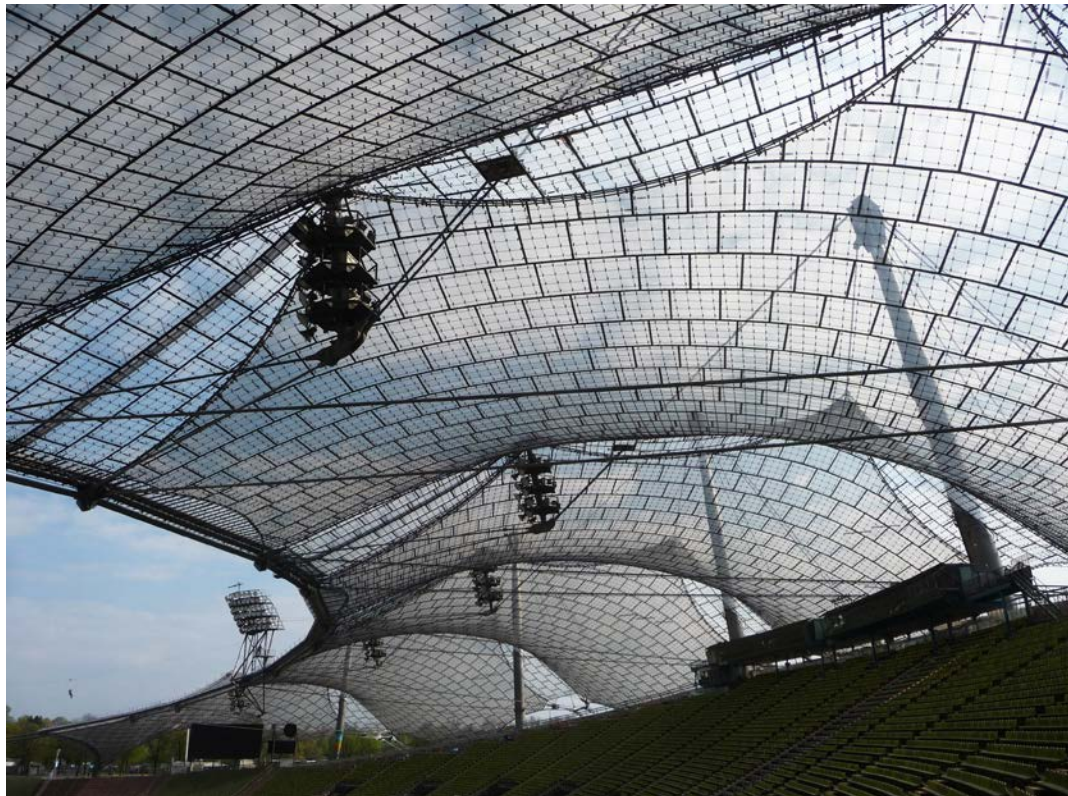


Photo © Atelier Frei Otto Warmbronn

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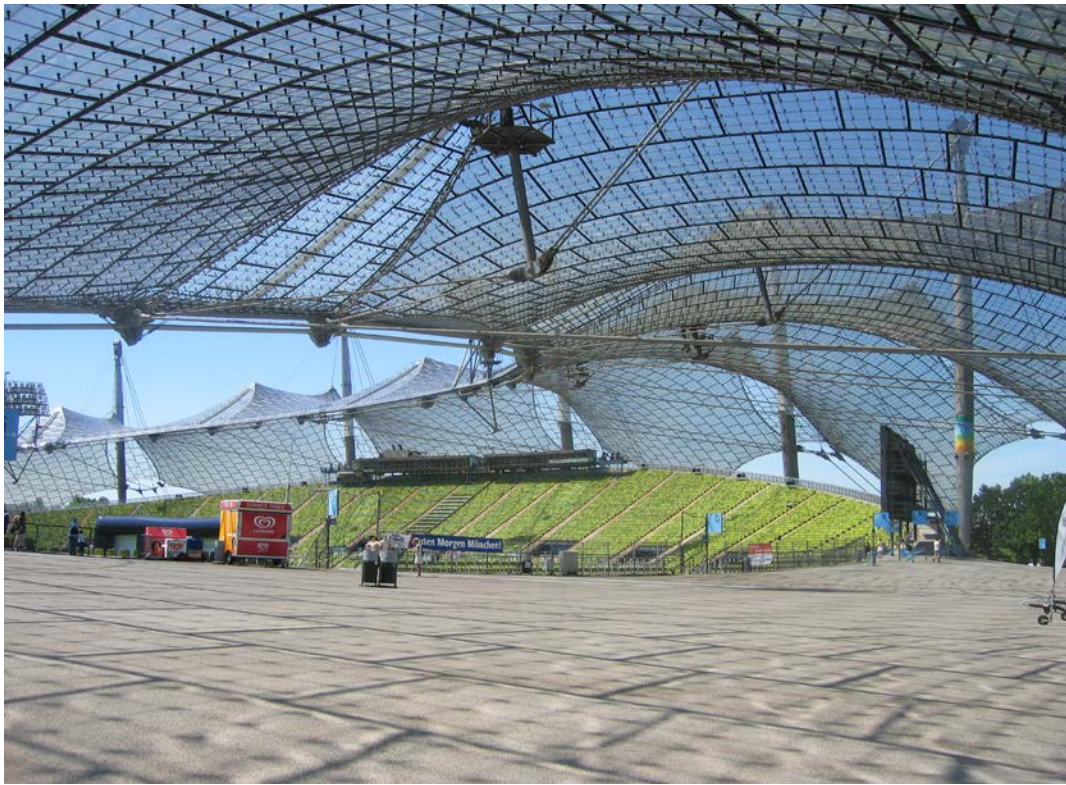


Photos © Atelier Frei Otto Warmbronn

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Photo © Atelier Frei Otto Warmbronn

**Roof for the
Multihalle
(multi-purpose
hall) in
Mannheim
1970–1975**

Mannheim,
Germany

Frei Otto with
Ove Arup &
partners, Ted
Happold, and
others



Multihalle (multi-purpose hall) with translucent roof covering allowing diffused light and some say a feeling of weightlessness inside.

Photos © Atelier Frei Otto Warmbronn

**Roof for the
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Installing the grid



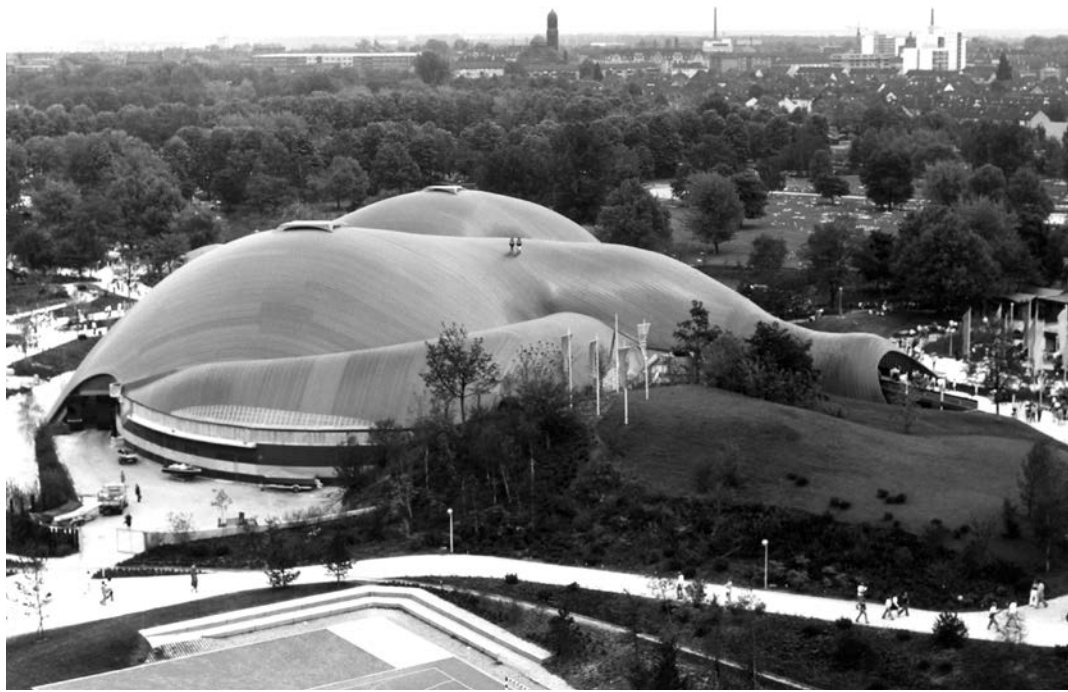
Inside and outside the gridded shell roof covering.

Photos © Atelier Frei Otto Warmbronn

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Photos © Atelier Frei Otto Warmbronn

**The 1967
International
and Universal
Exposition or
Expo 67
1967**

Montreal,
Canada



Photo © Atelier Frei Otto Warmbronn

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Photos © Atelier Frei Otto Warmbronn

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1967**

Montreal,
Canada



Photo © Burkhardt

**Japan Pavilion,
Expo 2000
Hannover
2000**

Hannover,
Germany

With Shigeru
Ban (2014
laureate of
the Pritzker
Architecture
Prize)



Grid shell



Photos by Hiroyuki Hirai

Frei Otto

Montreal,
Canada



Photo © von Schlaich

Frei Otto
2000

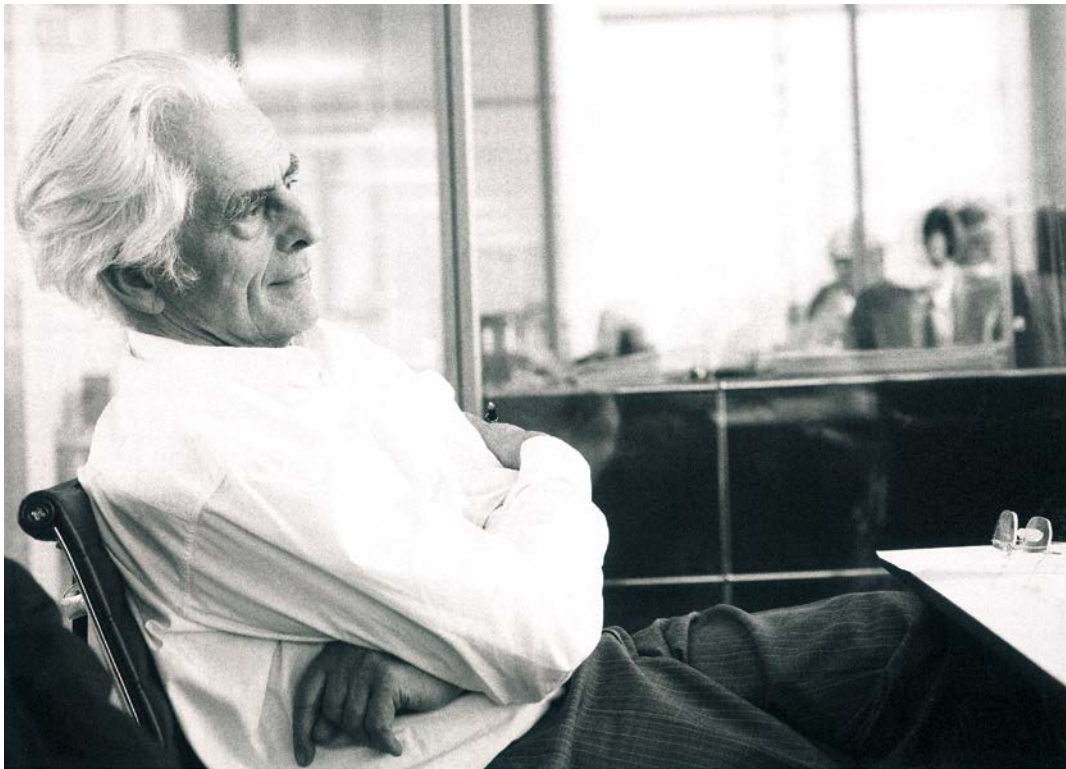


Photo © Ingenhoven und Partner Architekten, Düsseldorf

Frei Otto

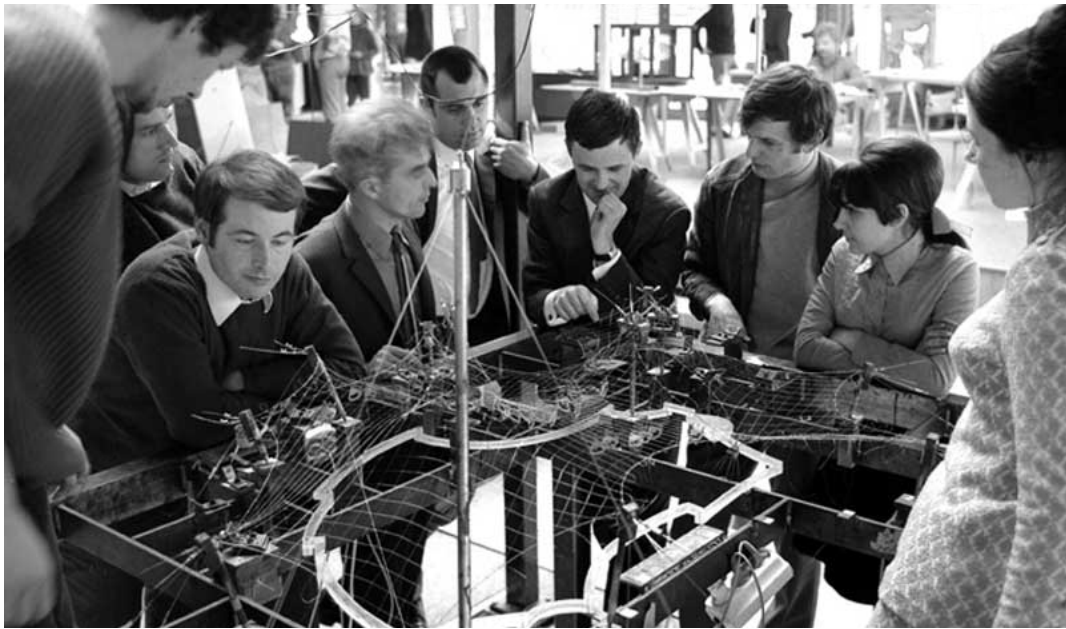


Photo © Atelier Frei Otto Warmbronn

**Institute for
Lightweight
Structures**
1967

University of
Stuttgart in
Vaihingen

With Bodo
Rasch and
others



Photo © Atelier Frei Otto Warmbronn

**Institute for
Lightweight
Structures,
interior**
1967

University of
Stuttgart in
Vaihingen

With Bodo
Rasch and
others



Photo © Atelier Frei Otto Warmbronn

**Bridge in the
Mechtenberg
Nature
Preserve**
2002

The Ruhr region,
Germany

With Christine
Otto-Kanstinger



Two bridges connect paths in a nature preserve in a former industrial region in the Ruhr. One bridge is 30 meters long, the other 150 meters long. Although the construction method of galvanized rods and nodes is fairly simple, Otto and his daughter Christine Otto-Kanstinger designed the bridges with compression bars and customized clamps and have the adjacent fans support each other. Some doubted that the innovative engineering of this project would succeed (as with the design for the roofs of the 1972 Olympic Stadium in Munich) and opinions from outside experts were required before the permits were granted. These bridges have been likened to Asian bamboo structures.

Photo © Atelier Frei Otto Warmbronn

**Diplomatic
Club**
1980

Riyadh,
Saudi Arabia

Design—OHO
(Otto, Happold,
Omrania)



Photos © Atelier Frei Otto Warmbronn

**Diplomatic
Club**
1980

Riyadh,
Saudi Arabia

Design—OHO
(Otto, Happold,
Omrania)



Showing the tent attached to the wall.

Photos © Atelier Frei Otto Warmbronn

**Diplomatic
Club
Heart Tent**
1980

Riyadh,
Saudi Arabia

Design—OHO
(Otto, Happold,
Omrania)



For the Heart Tent at the heart of the complex, Frei Otto's daughter, Bettina Otto, designed and painted colorful plants and flowers onto glass panes. Frei Otto and his team developed an innovative system to hold the glass panes, since textile pigments would have faded in the strong desert sun.

Photos © Atelier Frei Otto Warmbronn

**Aviary in the
Munich Zoo
at Hellabrunn**
1979-1980

Munich
(Hellabrunn),
Germany

With Buro
Happold and
others



The Munich aviary harmonizes beautifully with the nature around and inside of it. Almost invisible, it maintains the peacefulness of the site. Small birds can pass through the thin stainless steel mesh, larger birds stay within. Otto convinced his clients of his plan by stretching a nylon stocking over small poles.



Photos © Atelier Frei Otto Warmbronn

**Otto Residence
(with Rob Krier)**
1967

Warmbronn,
Germany,
near Stuttgart



A synthesis of home and nature, welcoming sun for natural energy. Otto calls it a kind of “grandmother of today’s passive and solar house design.”

Photos © Atelier Frei Otto Warmbronn

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Photo © Atelier Frei Otto Warmbronn

**Music Pavilion
at the Federal
Garden
Exhibition**
1955

Kassel,
Germany



Early example of textile (heavy cotton fabric) as a lightweight roof and one of the first “two-up, two-down” tents which are now so common.

Photo © Atelier Frei Otto Warmbronn

**Entrance Arch
at the Federal
Garden
Exhibition**
1957

Cologne,
Germany



**Dance Pavilion
at the Federal
Garden
Exhibition**
1957

Cologne,
Germany



"It was developed, not designed. It was white and transparent like a spider's web in the morning dew. We helped it to develop, but we didn't make it." — *Frei Otto remembering this project in 1976*
Early example of textile (cotton canvas) as a lightweight roof

Photos © Atelier Frei Otto Warmbronn

**Hall at the
International
Garden
Exhibition**
1963

Hamburg,
Germany



Heavy cotton fabric.

Photo © Atelier Frei Otto Warmbronn

**Large
Umbrellas at
the Federal
Garden
Exhibition
1971**

Cologne,
Germany



A continuous roof of large overlapping umbrellas.

Photo © Atelier Frei Otto Warmbronn

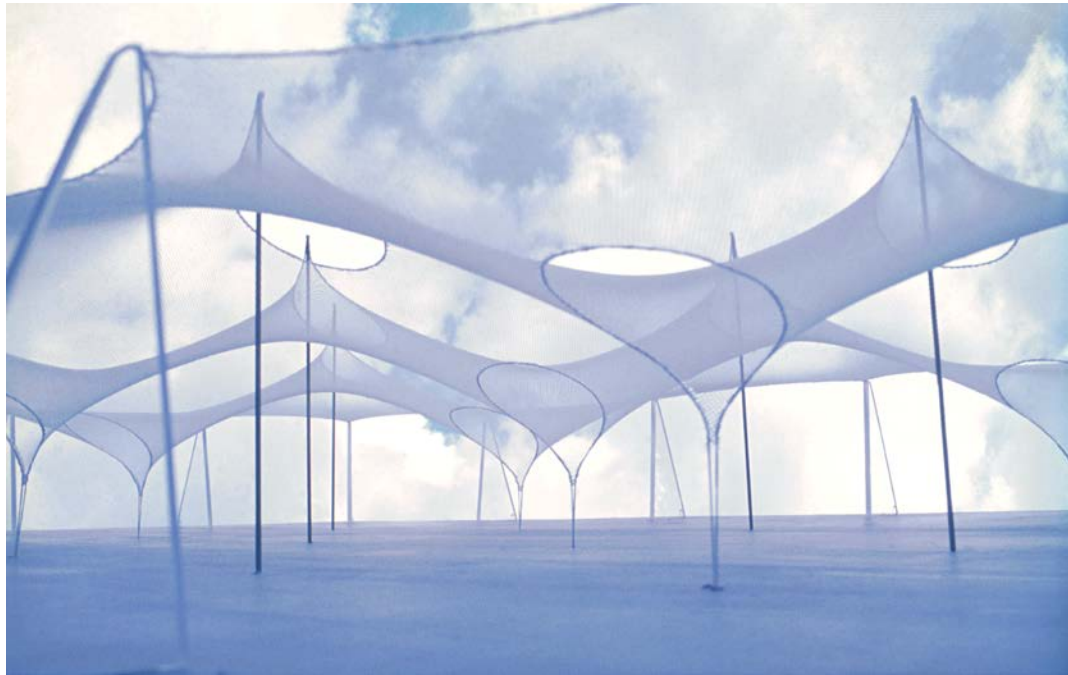
**Umbrellas for
Pink Floyd's
1977 concert
tour of the
United States
1977**



These umbrellas rose up from the stage floor and unfolded. The members of Pink Floyd who asked for these were former architecture students.

Photo © Atelier Frei Otto Warmbronn

**Form-finding
study for
the support
of textile
membranes
and rope nets**

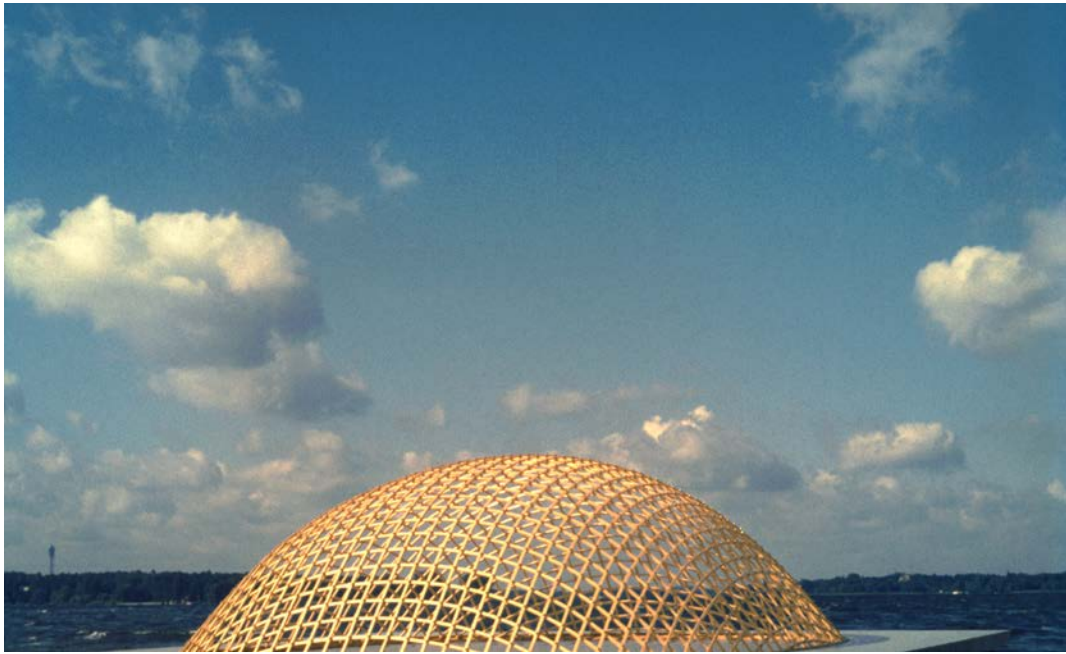


This gave Frei Otto and Rolf Gutbrod the design idea for the German pavilion at Expo 67.

Photo © Atelier Frei Otto Warmbronn

**Model for the
Lath Dome at
the German
Building
Exhibition**
1962

Essen,
Germany



Curved wooden grid.

Photo © Atelier Frei Otto Warmbronn

“City in the Arctic” model

With Kenzo Tange (1987 laureate of the Pritzker Architecture Prize), Ove Arup, Ted Happold and others



Unbuilt

Photo © Atelier Frei Otto Warmbronn

“Nature, what is that? — living, loving, laughing” Drawing 1984

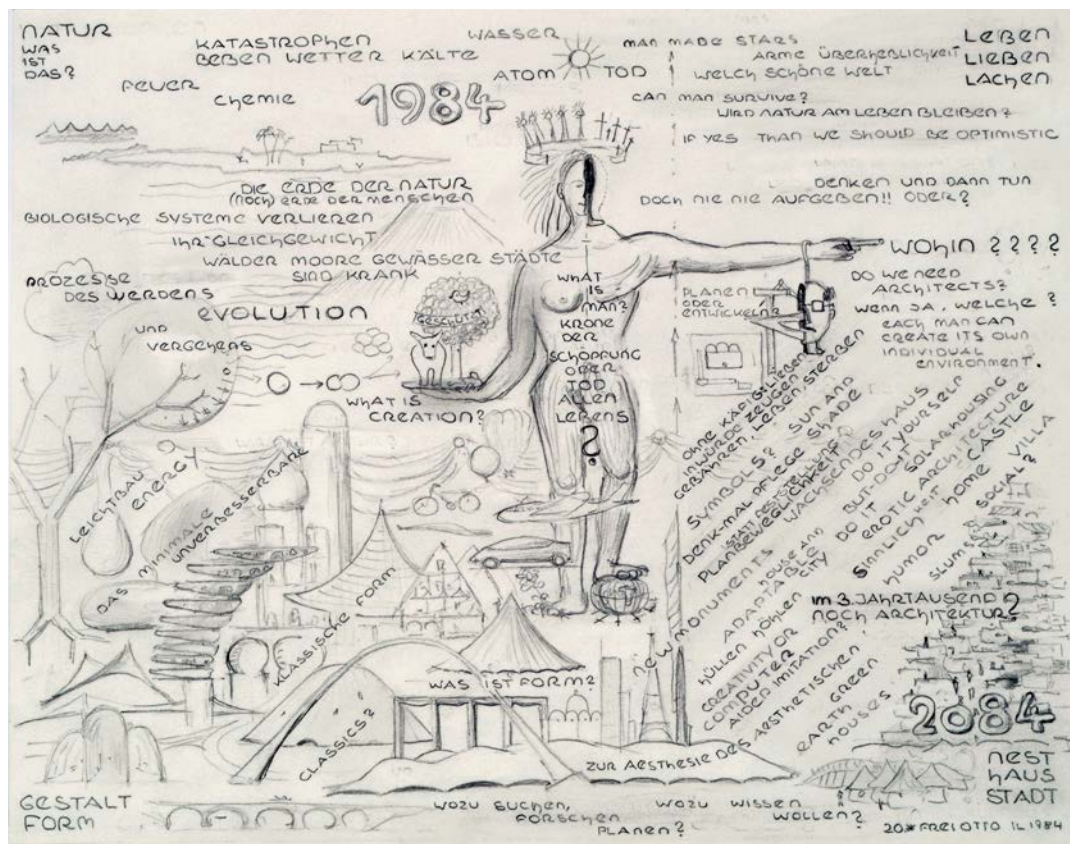


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