

New York
by Gehry

architect

“I’ve always been fascinated with folds. All artists through the ages have spent time on the fold. Michelangelo had stacks of drawings of fabric. At 8 Spruce, we’re using Bernini’s folds to inspire the façade. I look for ways to express feeling in a building without using historic decoration.”

Frank Gehry

As varied as the cultural contexts in which he builds, Gehry’s muses include the natural environment, clients, colleagues and artists from a variety of eras and disciplines. When seeking inspiration Gehry has spoken of turning to classic art, and, especially, to paintings, which he has said are ephemeral, open to interpretation and filled with ideas. However, for New York by Gehry, he was initially particularly inspired by Michelangelo’s drawings of fabric, which suggested the design of a very curvaceous, voluptuous façade. Later, in an early morning epiphany, Gehry recalled the work of 17th century Italian artist Gian Lorenzo Bernini and the design took a new direction.

Gehry’s fascination with Bernini dates back to 1960 when he first saw Bernini’s masterful sculpture, the Ecstasy of Saint Teresa, in the Cornaro Chapel in Santa Maria della Vittoria. This sculpture, which he now visits on annual trips to Rome, features Bernini’s signature sharp, elongated folds of flowing fabric. The morning after his epiphany, Gehry went to a young designer in his office and asked her if she knew the difference between “Michelangelo curves and Bernini curves.” She said that she did, and within a matter of hours she delivered the sketch that led to the first model of New York by Gehry.

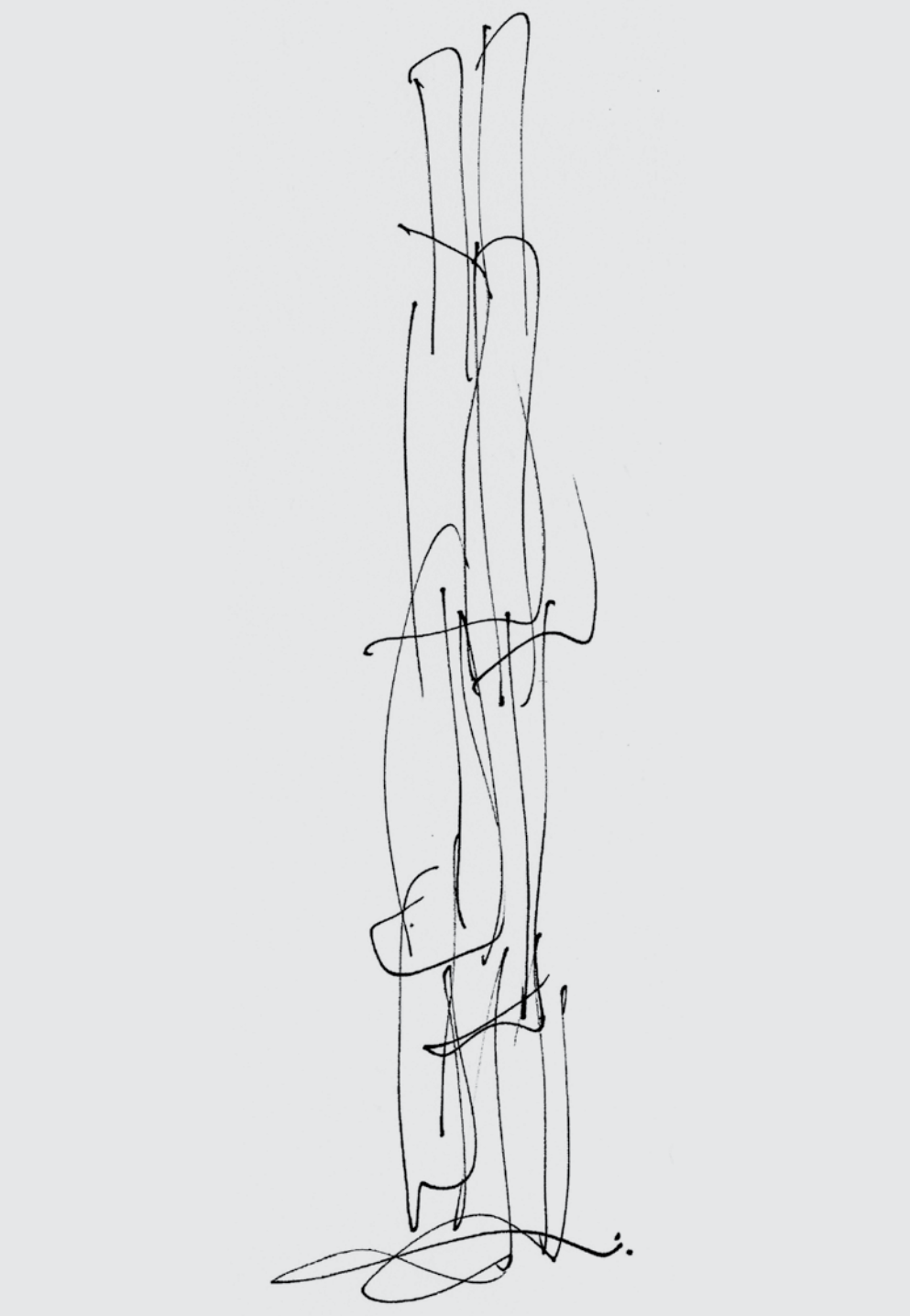
The 65 study models of New York by Gehry are physical documentation of Gehry’s design process. Building a 3-dimensional digital model of the building allowed Gehry to refine and adapt the articulated folds of Bernini’s distinctive sculpture to the discipline of architecture and facilitated the design and construction of this architectural icon.

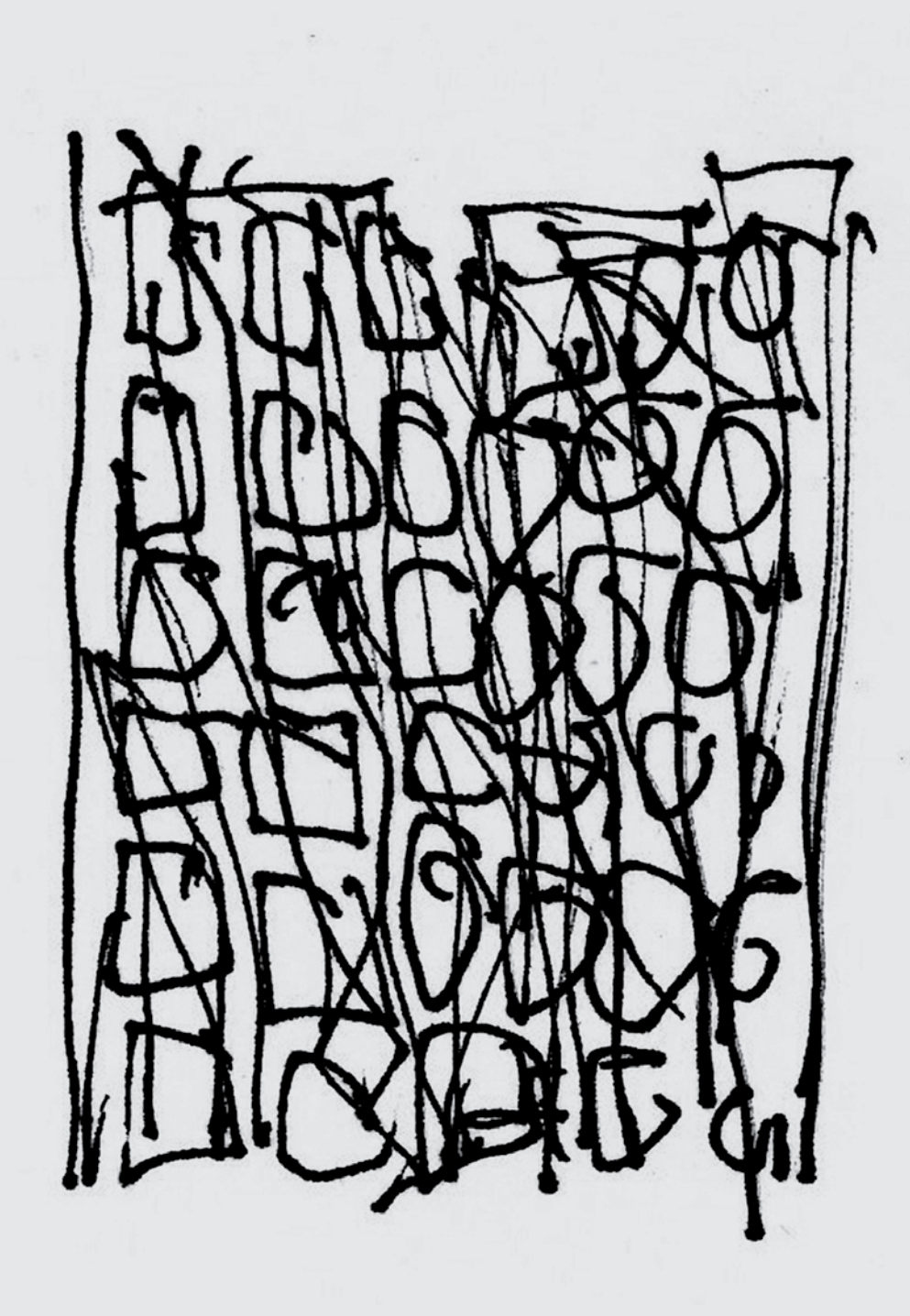
In the words of New York Times Architecture Critic Nicolai Ouroussoff, New York by Gehry is “the finest skyscraper to rise in New York since Eero Saarinen’s CBS building went up 46 years ago ... 8 Spruce Street seems to crystallize a particular moment in cultural history, in this case the turning point from the modern to the digital age.” Here Gehry has incorporated the essential elements of the classic Manhattan high-rise – tall and slender with setbacks – while at the same time bringing entirely new energy to the form. A transformative addition to an already iconic skyline, New York by Gehry lives easily with the classical shapes and proportions of Manhattan while conveying drama and movement that is completely innovative in the realm of residential architecture.



Bernini, Ecstasy of Saint Teresa

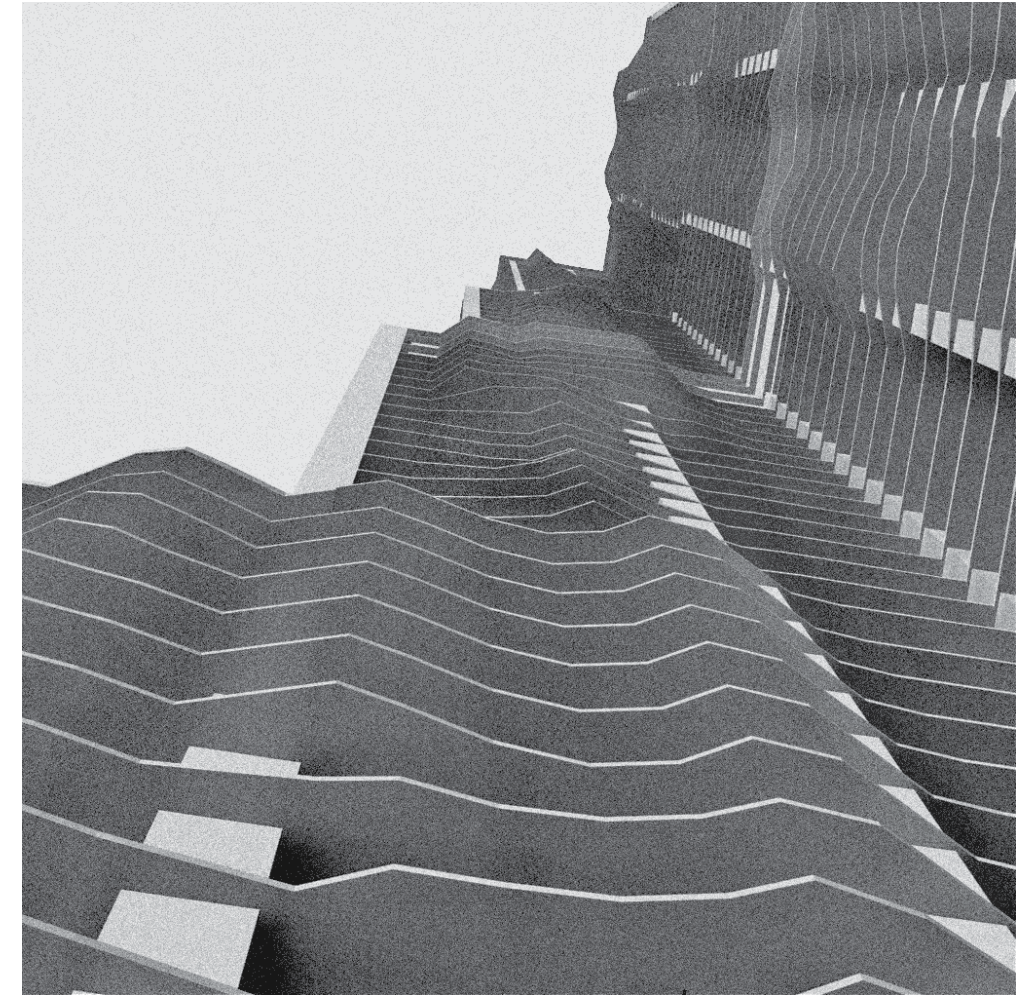


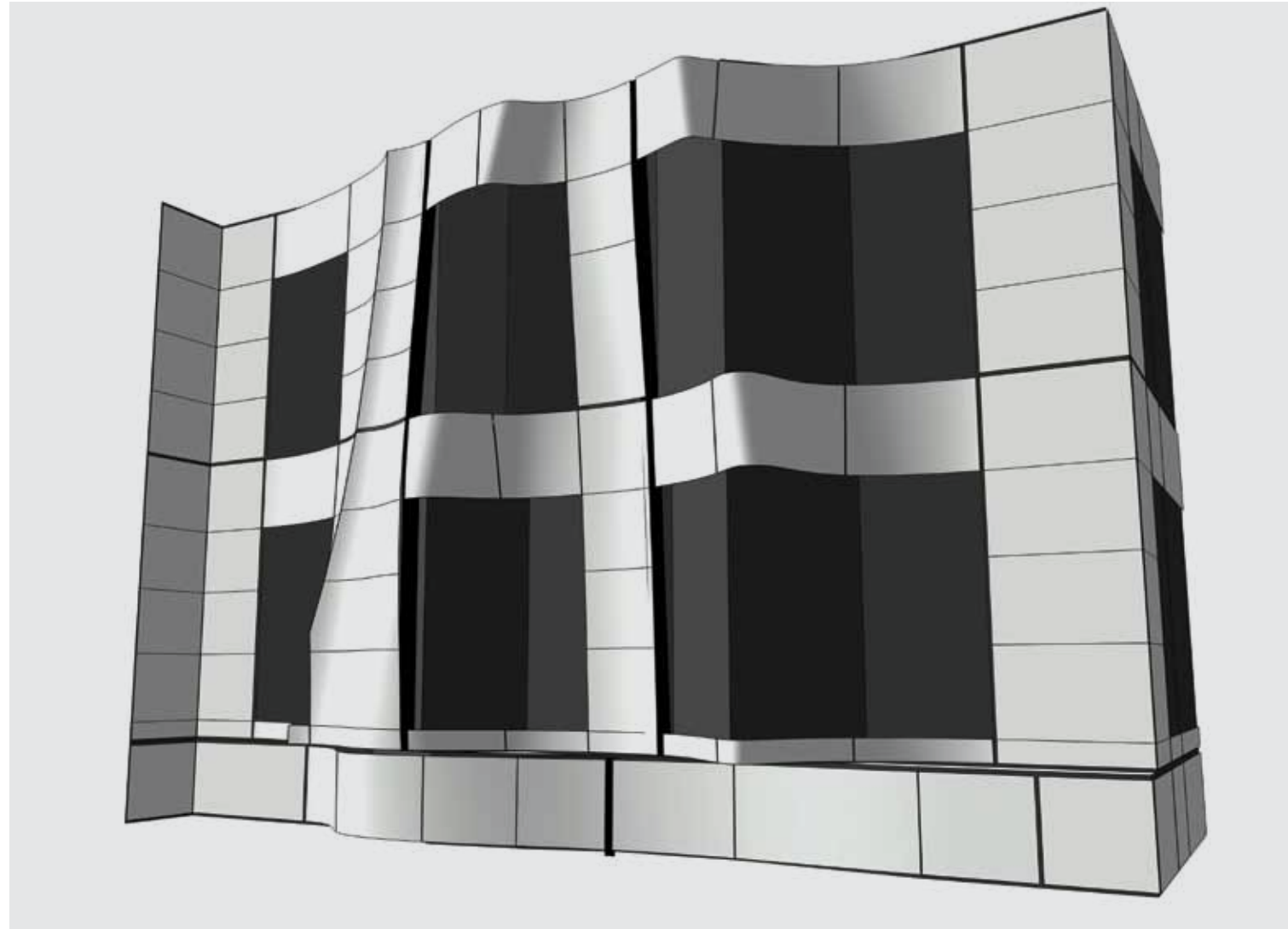


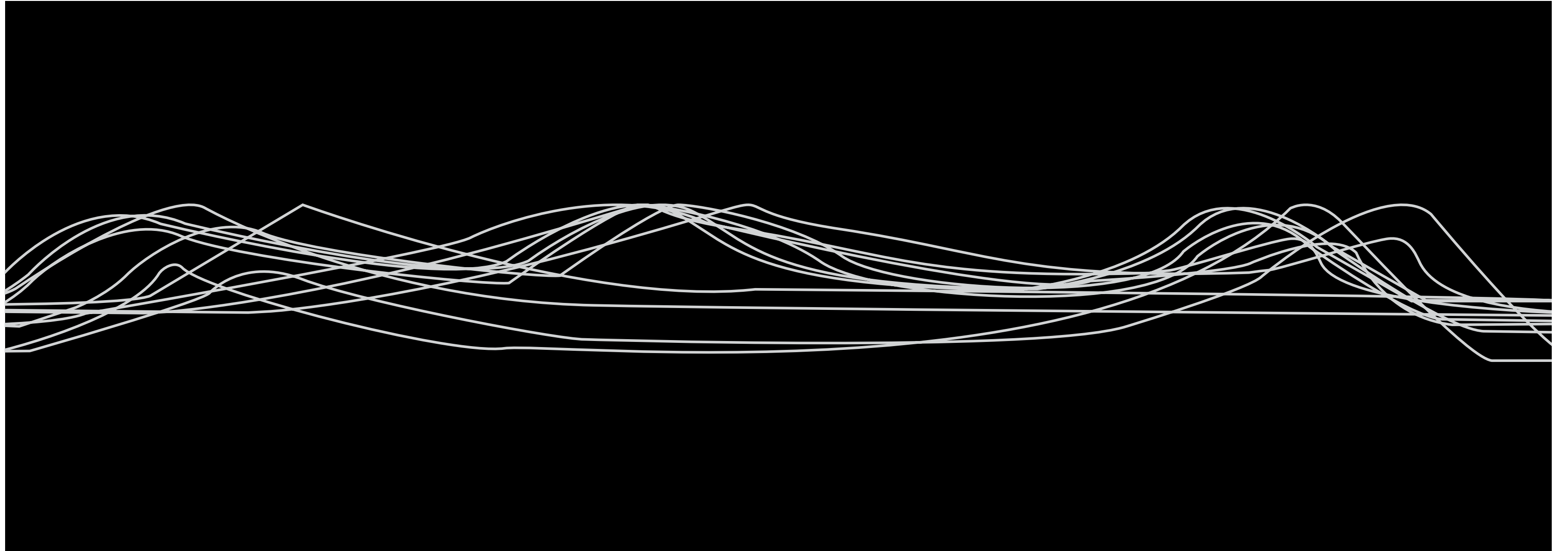






















Eight Spruce Street
New York, NY 10038
212.877.2220
NewYorkbyGehry.com

photography;
7 by Getty Images
11, 13, 15-21 by Gehry Partners
9, 22-33 by dbox
design by dbox

