



ORIGINALLY BUILT IN 1546 BY PIRRE LESCOT WHAT WE NOW KNOW TODAY TO BE "THE LOUVRE" WAS AT THAT TIME THE ROYAL PALACE OF FRANCE. IT WAS NOT UNTIL THE LATE 1800'S WHEN FRANCE BECAME IN NEED OF A WORLD CLASS ART GALLERY THAT THE ROYAL PALACE WAS CONVERTED TO SUCH A STRUCTURE. ABOUT A CENTURY LATER "THE LOUVRE" BECAME KNOWN AS THEE MOST PRESTIGIOUS MUSEUM IN THE WORLD. IT WAS ALSO ABOUT THAT TIME THAT "THE LOUVRE" WAS DRAWING IN SO MANY TOURIST THAT IT NEEDED A FACE-LIFT AND ADDITION.

IN 1988 "THE LOUVRE" COMMISSIONED I. M. PEI TO DO THE NEW ADDITION TO THE ICONIC STRUCTURE. THERE WERE MANY CHALLENGES TO THE HISTORIC BUILDING AND SITE, THE FIRST BEING THE INTEGRITY OF THE ROYAL PALACE, WHICH STOOD FOR A SYMBOL OF THE FRENCH MONARCHY AND THUS FRENCH POWER. THE OTHER CHALLENGE TO THIS BUILDING WAS TO MAINTAIN CONNECTION TO THE REST OF THE CITY, THROUGH THE AVENUE DES CHAMPS-ELYSEES, WHICH IS APART OF PARIS'S FAMOUS AXIAL GRID SYSTEMS. I. M. PEI DID AN INCREDIBLE JOB MEETING THESE CHALLENGES BY CREATING A GLASS PYRAMID THAT DIRECTLY TIES TO THE LUXOR OBELISK, WHICH SITS ON THE AVENUE DES CHAMPS-ELYSEES, THUS OBTAINING THAT AXIONIAL CONNECTION. THE GLASS PYRAMID ALSO WORKED EXTREMELY WELL IN REGARDS TO NOT OVERPOWRERING THE PALACE.

# MUSEE DU LOUVRE

