

# christopher nolan

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Photo **Warner Bros.**

remixes  
reality



In *Inception*, director Christopher Nolan and his creative team deliver a science-fiction heist movie in which dreams are real. Leonardo DiCaprio portrays Dom Cobb, an extractor caught in the world of corporate espionage, who enters the dreams of others to obtain information. A CEO approaches Cobb with a more difficult request, that of inception, to plant an idea in a competitor's mind. An offer he can't refuse, as he is promised the return of his old life, lost following his wife's tragic death.

In order to execute the inception, we follow an ensemble into various layers of a person's dream world – folds of reality, which ultimately blur with physical reality. Dreams within dreams, where

space, time and physics are at the whim of the mind, where architecture becomes infinite within the finiteness of reality.

This recalls French philosopher Gilles Deleuze's writings on *le pli*; the fold, which set the theoretical tone for the 1990s' architectural avant-garde. A notion that, perhaps in homage, is literally visualized to stunning effect when the inception crew's architectural designer Adriane, played by Ellen Page, manipulates architecture within an early dream, incredibly folding entire city blocks of Paris on top of each other. The viewer is taken on a ride into an exciting world stripped of its gravitational rules and physics, full of unexpected spaces and dynamic

architecture that only the mind can create. It recalls the New City project: a collaborative case study by architect Greg Lynn, film designer Alex McDowell and creative director Peter Frankfurt. It establishes a redesign of our planet; an endless twisted megacity envisioned for the web.

*Inception* inspires us to imagine what could happen if virtuality is directly woven into the fabric of our tangible world. The advance of technology, from holography to dematerialized displays and nanotechnology capable of defining an ever folding architecture, suggests a future hybrid reality. A remixed reality!