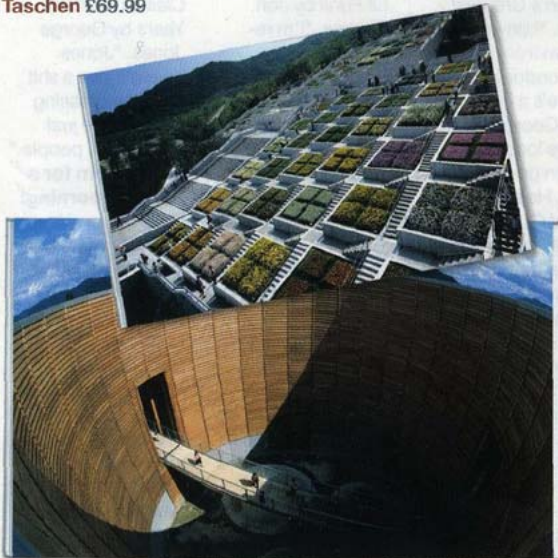


## Coffee table book of the month #2 Tadao Ando Complete Works

Taschen £69.99



Even in a field that prides itself on pushing boundaries, overwhelming the senses and designing vast works of art for people to live and work in, Japanese architect Tadao Ando stands out. Now aged 63, he is the only architect to have won the industry's four major awards and was described by design god Philippe Starck as "mystic in a country which is no longer mystic".

Ando's designs are commonly based around concrete, wood, water and light, often incorporate the environment around them and shun fads and gimmicks in favour of simple touches. So if you see a vast brutalist church in the middle of a Japanese lake with an huge crucifix cut out of the wall, a compartmentalised mountainside garden that looks like a giant bento box, or a spiralling circular library, it's probably Ando.

Brilliantly, Ando had no formal training, proving that cocking around at uni for seven years, as most architects have to do just to learn how to design an NCP, is a waste of time. As this lavish, illuminating book proves, you'd do better just growing some balls and trying it. Being a visionary genius obviously helps, but you never know till you try, eh?