

**Architecture Now! 4 – 100 inspirational interiors**  
by Philip Jodidio, photography by and published by Taschen  
with 575 pages and soft cover, at R409.95 ISBN 3-8228-3989-2

This is the fourth volume of the obviously successful and popular *Architecture Now!* series. As its title suggests this book is a snapshot of recently completed or soon to be realised projects around the globe, although the fact that not a single African project is featured in this volume is a bit disappointing. The wide selection of works displayed, provide an overview of the many different modes of design and approaches to architecture that are currently being practised worldwide.

The majority of works presented, challenge ideas of lifestyle and programmatic organisation but still follow a more traditional approach to building. However there are a number of works that demonstrate how new construction technologies and materials are providing new design opportunities and then there are works by designers who, using the latest software technology, are pushing the boundaries and challenging any predetermined ideas of what architecture is and can do.

Works of more than 70 architects/architectural firms, designers and artists are showcased in this volume. The inclusion of artists and designers, who have their origins in fields other than architecture, demonstrates the current trend, whereby designers are crossing over into each other's 'territories', leading to original and interesting work. Of the designers featured it is refreshing to see that, although their works displayed are exemplary, only a handful of 'star' architects are included, thus allowing a large group of relatively unknown, up and coming designers to be given the opportunity to exhibit their work.

The book is organised alphabetically according to designer, making it an easy book to refer back to. A biography of each designer/firm is provided which gives the reader further insight into the work and approach to design adopted.

Projects are well documented in photographs but drawings are quite scarce. Descriptions of the projects are quite short (probably due to the fact the text is written in German and French too) and although the actual projects are explained well, the designers' ideas or concepts, in general, are not. So if you, like me, feel a bit frustrated by this and want to fully understand the works, fortunately all the contact details of the designers are listed with the majority of them having websites. This allows one to investigate either the designer or the project in more detail on the web.

*Architecture Now! Volume 4* is on par with its predecessors and is valuable as a reference book, providing the reader with a glance of contemporary architecture as it stands at present and an insight into the latest design methodologies and their resultant forms that are bound to manifest themselves in the not too distant future.

**Rob Serman**

