

GUSTAVE EIFFEL

LA TOUR DE 300 MÈTRES



REPLICAS OF THE EIFFEL TOWER EXIST ALL OVER THE WORLD, BUT THE REAL THING STILL TOWERS ABOVE them all. At 300 meters high—75 stories—the creation is a soaring latticework of iron and open air. Built between 1887 and 1889, the tower was part of a temporary exposition marking the centennial of the French Revolution. The city of Paris planned to raze the monument after 20 years. But its maker, Gustave Eiffel, was determined to extend its life. In 1900, he issued a handsome, limited-edition volume—part celebration, part propaganda—exploring the tower's design and execution. He gave away the original 500 copies to gain support for preserving the structure but never sold any on the market. Now, an exact duplicate of Eiffel's original, oversize compilation is available for purchase (US\$125, Taschen; eight languages in print). *La Tour de 300 Mètres* features 53 double-page plates of drawings and 11 photographs of the construction. Mathematical calculations and a historical map of the Paris that was visible from the tower's summit complete this two-volume work that captures the care, skill, and sheer bravado behind the construction. The distinctive original publication may have paid off: When 20 years were up, the tower—to Gustave Eiffel's immense satisfaction—triumphantly remained. ■—Margaret Moore