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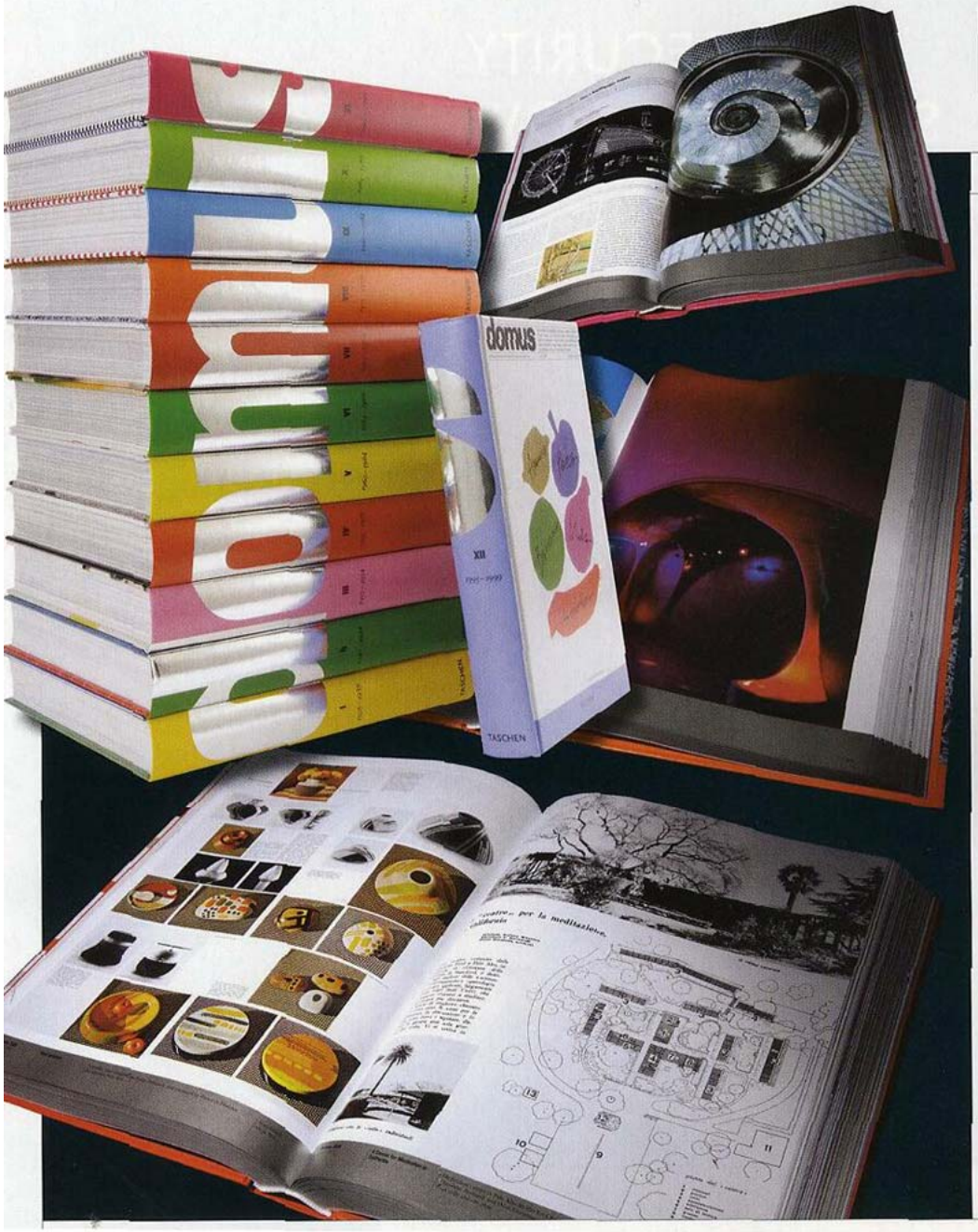
BOOKS

We review the latest design reads for you



↓BOOK OF THE MONTH

DOMUS 1928-1999: THE VERY BEST FROM THE SEMINAL ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN JOURNAL

EDITORS: Charlotte and Peter Fiell
PRICE: £350
PUBLISHER: Taschen
ISBN: 3-82283-027-5

For the past 75 years, *Domus* has been widely accepted as the world's most influential design journal, celebrating and championing the often radical movements within the worlds of photography, architecture, illustration and graphic design. The journal's history is steeped in *the kind of classic design cool that its name has* become so entwined within. Founded in 1928 by the Milanese architect Gio Ponti, *Domus*'s central agenda has always been as an insightful exploration of cutting-edge trends.

What makes this collection so comprehensive, though, is the breadth of movements *Domus has chronicled* within its lifetime: articles on Art Deco, Modern Movement, Functionalism, Postwar, Pop, Post-Modernism and Late Modern are all exquisitely discussed, illustrated and executed in *Domus*'s classic magazine layout.

Let's be honest, though, the price and the bulk of this collection (it ships in two huge cases and weighs as much as a baby elephant), marks it out for the fanatic only. But that's not to say it's not accessible. In fact, it remains one of the most complete and approachable design collections we've seen, with each volume clearly labelled, sub-divided by year, and very easy to navigate.

Within its pages are a collection of specially commissioned introductory texts that not only outline the history of the magazine but also describe what was happening in design and architecture during each of the covered eras. These have been put together mainly by the journal's past editors – who include Mario Bellini, Luigi Spinelli and Deyan Sudjic – and are themselves wonderful introductions to the 'classic' side of modern design.

To many, this *Domus* collection could be both prohibitively expensive and space consuming. But that doesn't make it any less desirable.