

The Taschen "Contemporary Architecture by Country" series by Philip Jodidio (all 192 pages, \$24.95) surveys recent modern architecture that can offer experiences as extraordinary as the cathedrals and historic sites that make up the typical traveler's itinerary. Since great contemporary design rarely grows out of a vacuum, featured projects are often cited in up-and-coming communities where the social milieu is as interesting as the individual works of architecture. A tiny restaurant by LTL Architects in **ARCHITECTURE IN THE UNITED STATES** is in Manhattan's edgy Hell's Kitchen neighborhood where trendy cafés, bars, and clubs are opening every day, whereas Eric Owen Moss's exuberant Beehive building is a pioneering effort in LA's emerging Culver City area.

The Netherlands may be known for wooden shoes and wind mills, but it is also the source of some of the most inventive architecture being done today. Architects like Rem Koolhaas and Wiel Arets combine prodigious imagination, a humanistic spirit, and technical savvy that are a continuation of the Dutch tradition rendered in modern materials and forms. Europeans are more secure

in their history than Americans. **ARCHITECTURE IN THE NETHERLANDS**, along with **ARCHITECTURE IN FRANCE** and **ARCHITECTURE IN THE U.K.**, showcases uncompromisingly modern buildings within historic centers that rely on sensitivity to scale and craftsmanship rather than Disneyland historicism to stitch new and old together. Each book includes a map (unfortunately crude) and text (suitably terse) that guide the reader, or visitor, through each building's history and important features.