



BOOK

SANTIAGO CALATRAVA uncommon vision

There's a constant battle between architects and engineers in the process of designing buildings — the former dreams up a concept, and the latter has to figure out how to make it a reality, even if the vision challenges the basic principles of physics. This conflict goes a long way toward explaining why Santiago Calatrava is so damned good.

The award-winning Spaniard combines architectural visions with flawless engineering skills to bring his ideas to life. Central to Calatrava's work are two elements: the curve, which is omnipresent in creations like the Bridge of Europe in Orleans and the interlocking tresses of BCE Place in Toronto,

and his obsession with the human eye. In *Calatrava: Complete Works 1979–2007* — an exquisite retrospective of his work to date (Taschen) — the eye shows up in preliminary sketches and is spotted in many of his finished projects, like bridges and domed doe-eyed roofs surrounded by interlocking lash-like beams. Next year Calatrava will be introducing yet another unique design via a spiraling high-rise apartment building at the new World Trade Center transport hub in New York — a project that reveals his dual personality: Artist obsessed with certain elements and ideas, and engineer in love with order and repetition. **AMY WESTERVELT**