



1. Calatrava: Complete Works 1979–2007

By Philip Jodidio

The story of Santiago Calatrava's architectural career begins with a small book by Le Corbusier, which enticed the young Spanish art student to change his field of study. The rest of the Calatrava story unfolds in a stunningly large book, which weighs in at 12.4 pounds and requires its own carrying case. Monographs are published with such regularity that the reader can be forgiven for disregarding the genre, which constantly struggles to be more than a vanity press. But there is a case to be made for a 530-plus-page record of works by the 55-year-old Spaniard. For one thing, it takes a really big page to convey the gargantuan scale of his engineering, whether it's a bridge or the intricate ribbing of an airy galleria. Watercolors and figural studies are surprisingly intimate and unheroic. The author seeks to make a case for Calatrava as "the Da Vinci of our time." Such an accolade carries a burden almost as heavy as this magnificent volume. The book offers much to inspire. It also demands a sturdy table. *Taschen*; \$125