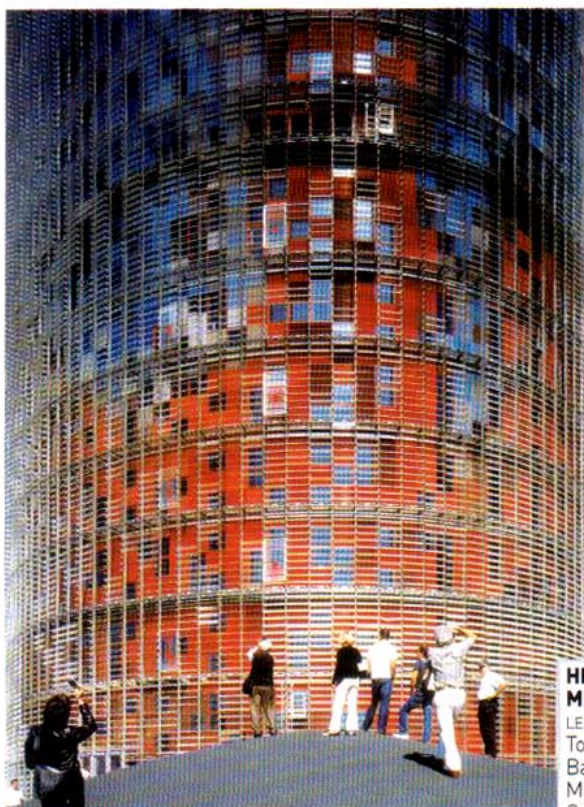
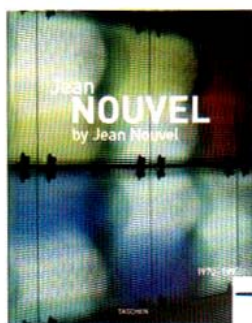


Architecture & Design

tall tales

A two-volume Jean Nouvel retrospective lives up to his work's epic proportions.



HIGH AND MIGHTY

LEFT: The Abgar Tower in Barcelona. BELOW: Minneapolis's Guthrie Theater.



BEST-LAID PLANS

LEFT TO RIGHT: Nouvel's prize-winning concept for Spain's port of Valencia; a model and street view for the proposed Tower Verre, which will include an extension of MoMA.



If you've ever wanted to peer deep into the mind of one of the world's leading architects, **Jean Nouvel by Jean Nouvel** (Taschen) would be a good place to start. Nouvel is both subject and designer of this limited edition, which is composed of two volumes in a translucent acrylic case, totaling almost 900 pages and priced at a sure-to-appreciate \$700. In a five-year-long collaboration with the writer Philip Jodidio, the architect handpicked the drawings, renderings, and photographs that he felt best represented his staggering body of work.

A cigar-smoking Frenchman forever dressed in black, 63-year-old Nouvel won the Pritzker Prize, architecture's highest honor, earlier this year. And no wonder—he's developed his own visual vocabulary of light, transparency, reflectivity, and color, at times grounding his buildings with bold, blocky volumes and at others allowing them to take flight with daring cantilevers. This pair of books presents all of his major projects, built and unbuilt, from 1970 to today, including early experimental houses, the breakthrough 1987 Arab World Institute in Paris, the Culture and Convention Center in Lucerne with its hovering roof, the muscular Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis, the

multicolored, thermos-like Agbar Tower in Barcelona, and the (hopefully) soon-to-be-realized 75-story skyscraping icicle beside the Museum of Modern Art, arguably the most exciting addition to Manhattan's skyline in decades. To make this hands-on, blockbuster publication even more personal, each copy (there are only 1,000) is numbered and signed by the man himself.

—TIM McKEOUGH

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