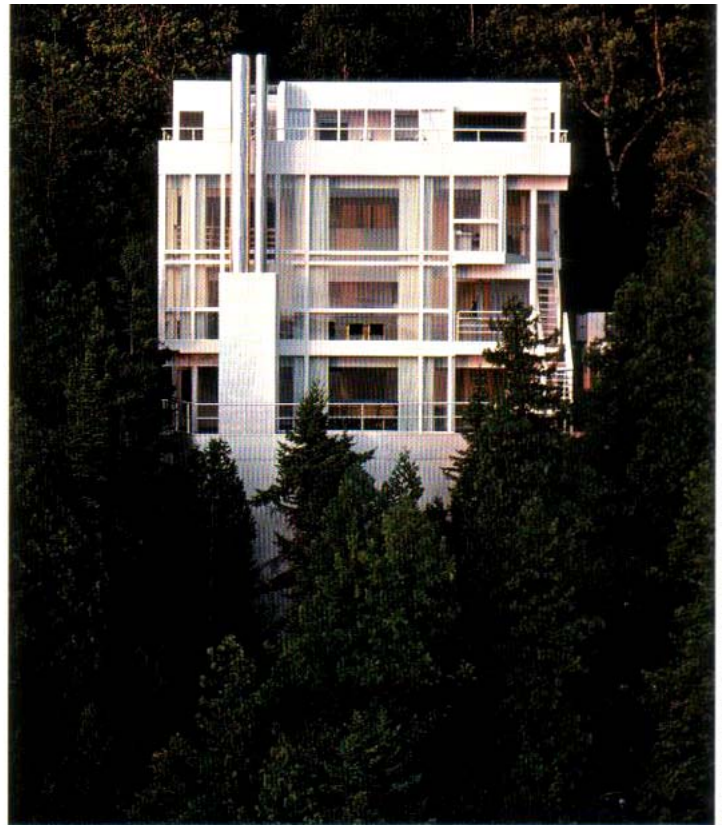


Meier, architect of light

— **Subject** Richard Meier had been creating remarkable architecture for nearly half a century, from the 1962 Lambert House to the three buildings on New York City's East River that in 2012 will house 1,600 apartments, two blocks from the UN. This impressive tome analyzes his most important projects. **Perspective** To appreciate Meier's work first-hand, you need to travel to the U.S. or Europe, as none of his buildings grace the Canadian landscape. The Getty Center, inaugurated in 1997 on a hill overlooking L.A., is this architect's trademark building. One of the high priests of modernism, he follows in the footsteps of Le Corbusier, Wright and Mies van der Rohe, whose influences are reflected in his work. Throughout his career—far from over, although he will be 74 on October 12—he has never deviated from his approach, emphasizing the primacy of the colour white and the rectangle, and the restrained use of a limited number of materials. This is evident from the projects presented in the book's more



Douglas House, Harbor Springs, Michigan Photo: Ezra Stoller/Esto

pesante à souhait. Ce volumineux volume retrace en trois langues (français, anglais, allemand) la carrière de cette figure centrale de l'architecture américaine contemporaine à travers 51 projets. Chacun s'étend sur plusieurs pages avec un paragraphe explicatif, des plans et de magnifiques photos, le tout remarquablement mis en pages par le designer Massimo Vignelli. **Les auteurs** L'architecte espagnol Alberto Campo Baeza s'essaie dans une présentation de ce qui le fascine dans l'œuvre, la démarche et la personnalité de Richard Meier, qu'il compare à «un nouvel Ulysse». Quant à Philip Jodidio, historien de l'art diplômé de l'université Harvard, il s'attarde en neuf pages sur ce qui influença et marqua la vie professionnelle de celui pour qui «le blanc est tout», puis il signe les mises en contexte de chaque projet présenté. On doit à Jodidio plusieurs monographies d'architectes de renom parues chez le même éditeur.

Richard Meier & Partners, Complete Works 1963–2008, Philip Jodidio, Taschen, 2008, 568 pages

than 500 pages and in the author's comments, which include this summing up of Meier's architecture: "Linking plan to volume, a rigorous system of grids, even more than the choice of white cladding, constitutes the signature element of a Richard Meier building." And for Meier, light is an essential element. **Format** This monograph, dedicated to the architect himself (winner of the 1984 Pritzker award), is notable for its impressive size (31 x 39 x 5 cm) and weight. In three languages (English, French and German), the voluminous book traces the career of this key figure in American architecture through 51 projects. Several pages are devoted to each project, with an explanatory paragraph, plans and magnificent photos, all beautifully laid out by designer Massimo Vignelli. **Authors** Spanish architect Alberto Campo Baeza ponders what he finds fascinating about Richard Meier's work, approach and personality, comparing him to a "new Ulysses." Harvard-trained art historian Philip Jodidio provides a commentary on each project as well as a nine-page essay on what influenced and marked the professional life of this architect for whom "white is everything." Jodidio is also the author of several monographs of renowned architects for the same publisher.