

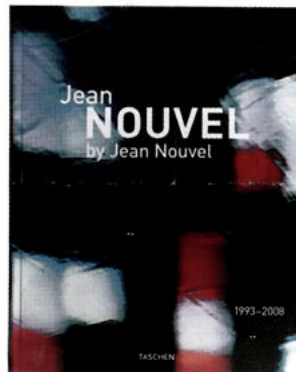


## 5 REASONS TO READ...

# Jean Nouvel

**1** Taschen has cornered the market in specialist, limited-edition art publications and this double-volume book comes in a translucent Plexiglas box that echoes the style of Jean Nouvel's buildings. There will only be 1,000 issued, each numbered and signed by the French star architect.

**2** Nouvel has just been awarded the 2008 Pritzker Prize, so this is the right time for a retrospective of his work, which is regarded as arguably among the most original of recent times. He spent five years working with author Philip Jodidio on the book, which includes hundreds of photographs of Nouvel designs alongside essays on his career and a manifesto by the man himself.



**3** Projects covered in the book include early successes like the Tokyo Opera (1986) and more recent achievements such as the sinuous Quai Branly Museum in Paris (2006). Each one is covered with impressive photography and an exploration of the ideas behind the design.

**4** The graphic design and photography were created by Nouvel himself, as were the printed dust jackets and striated plastic case, which reflect his love of layered contrasting pattern. Far from being a mere tribute to a designer, this book is one of his own works in miniature.

**5** Use the book's release as an excuse to visit Taschen's debut London store at 12 Duke of York Square, SW3. Positioned next to the new Saatchi Gallery (see p38), it boasts a striking interior by Philippe Starck. *Read Jean Nouvel by Jean Nouvel: Complete Works 1970-2008 (Taschen, £400; www.taschen.com)*