



**JEAN NOUVEL BY JEAN  
NOUVEL: COMPLETE  
WORKS 1970-2008**  
EDITED BY Philip Jodidio  
DESIGNED BY Jean Nouvel  
Taschen,  
898 pp., \$700

In the introduction, Jodidio writes of the recent Pritzker laureate: "At his best, he walks the fine line between a powerful gesture and functional design." Luckily, this career retrospective manages a similar feat. More than five years in the making, the limited-edition two-volume set comes in a Plexiglas case designed by Nouvel himself; supposedly, it is reminiscent of the translucent facades often seen on his buildings. (It *is* pretty cool.) But inside this "powerful gesture"—which will run you a mere \$700—is a cleanly designed monograph with lots of gorgeous color spreads of Nouvel's buildings, and little of the portentousness that often weighs down these massive books.