



Modern Architecture A-Z

Edited by Laszlo Taschen (Taschen, \$140)

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This is the best collection of international architecture you've never seen, with buildings of such mindboggling virtuosity that you will wonder why they aren't all as famous as the Bilbao Guggenheim. The two-volume set (which comes in a slipcase) has all the Taschen trademarks: superb production values, photographic research which must have taken years, and a lack of the pretension that weighs down so many local art books. Sorry, no local architects – Europeans dominate, which, given their modernist traditions and the dazzling beauty and ingenuity of these designs, does not bother me a jot. A great gift for the visually curious. JN