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Modern architecture A-Z, ed. by Laszlo Taschen; texts by Katja Gazez et al. Taschen, 2010. 2v index ISBN 3836521326, \$60.00; ISBN 9783836521321, \$60.00

Taschen is a publisher recognized for the quality of its books. Certainly this two-volume quarto is a heavy, beautiful artifact. Its principal contribution: dozens of color photographs, many full page, which are well chosen and well produced. The form of the text suggests that it is only a supplement to the images. The gray sans serif 11-point type is elegant but hard to read. An introductory two-page essay by Peter Gössel defines "modern architecture" broadly and conventionally, emphasizing its beginnings in industrialization but offering no suggestion about its end. Some 600 brief entries, alphabetically arranged from Aalto to Peter Zumthor, are provided for a rather canonical selection of the best-known architects—with few exceptions, all European and American—ranging from the end of the 19th century to the present. Most are one or two pages long. Frank Lloyd Wright is predictably allotted six. A very few entries, such as "Art Deco," "Neoclassicism," and "Futurism," treat movements or styles. The book lacks a bibliography and features not a single building plan. The value of this publication beyond its monumentality is unclear. More information on every one of the entries is readily available on the Internet. **Summing Up:** Optional. ★ General readers.—*A. J. Wharton, Duke University*