“The world of cinema also fascinates me because of the way it works: to make a good film, many different factors have to combine and work together. A good story is not enough, you need a good director, good actors, a good cinematographer. You need a good soundtrack, and good editing can radically change the fate of a film. In this respect, it is similar to the work of constructing buildings, where architects, engineers, technicians and builders collaborate. In fact, in this job, the client immediately understood the need for different voices to agree on the project. Both disciplines, film and architecture, are a mixture of art and technology. The very name of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences reflects this coexistence and collaboration. In cinema, as in architecture, technology is not divorced from creativity. There is a constant tension between the technical work and the emotional result”.

With these words, Renzo Piano, in the exclusive interview contained in this volume, tells the story of the birth of the new Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, the most important cinema museum in the world. Born in the famous “Miracle Mile”, in the heart of Los Angeles, at the corner of Wilshire Boulevard and Fairfax Avenue. The museum preserves the 1939 former May Company department store and gives it new life with the spherical building, the 1000 seats David Geffen Theatre and the Dolby Family Terrace overlooking Hollywood.

The volume, edited and published by the Renzo Piano Foundation within the monographic series dedicated to the iconic projects created by Renzo Piano and the Renzo Piano Building Workshop, tells in images the entire path of the demolition and construction of the new museum. The story is told chronologically through drawings, unpublished sketches, models, prototypes, annotations and site photos. The book represents a travel notebook that accompanies the reader in every phase of that extraordinary adventure that is the profession of designing and constructing buildings.

The material used is largely unpublished and comes from the archives of the Renzo Piano Foundation.