

Fondazione Renzo Piano

Monographs



Fondazione Renzo Piano

Emergency · Children's Hospital · Entebbe, Uganda

Fondazione Renzo Piano

PONTE GENOVA SAN GIORGIO

Fondazione Renzo Piano

Centro Botín, Santander

Fondazione Renzo Piano

Centre Pompidou



Fondazione Renzo Piano

Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center

Fondazione Renzo Piano

Whitney Museum of American Art

Fondazione Renzo Piano

Ronchamp Monastery

Fondazione Renzo Piano

The Shard

Fondazione Renzo Piano

California Academy of Sciences

Fondazione Renzo Piano

Centre Culturel Jean-Marie Tjibaou

Fondazione Renzo Piano

Fondation Beyeler

Fondazione Renzo Piano

The Menil Collection

A book a year. Because it takes a year to construct a building (on paper).

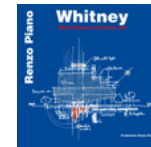
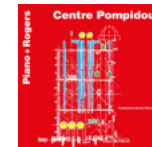
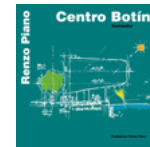
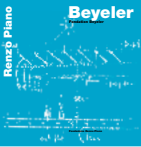
Since 2007, every twelve months, the Renzo Piano Foundation has published a monograph devoted to the most iconic projects worldwide by the Renzo Piano Building Workshop, in more than 50 years' work.

The history of the buildings is followed by an account of the day of the meeting with the client and then the opening to the public, through the story of each phase: the site inspection and the first sketch, the project and its variants, teamwork, the search for solutions and materials, experimentation and prototypes, difficulties and challenges, adventures on the construction site, and finally the handover of the building to the public and the city.

This long account recounted in images ends with a text by Renzo Piano, who personally reconstructs the history of each project. Each volume is enriched by the testimony of those who took part in the project and marked its destiny: they may be RPBW partners or engineers, or even anthropologists, scientists, botanists, landscape architects and curators.

The portrait of a building consists of many voices, in every case different.

All the material we use comes from the research and cataloguing work of the Renzo Piano Foundation's archives: you will find unpublished sketches and drawings, design options and details that will never be published elsewhere, photos of the team at work and each phase of construction work.

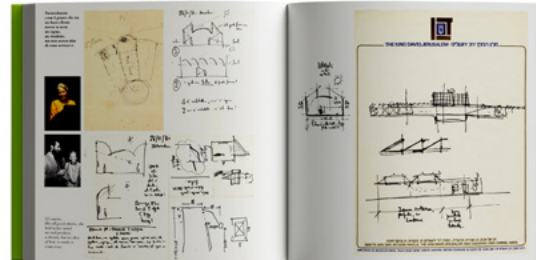


MENIL THE MENIL COLLECTION

"This idea of light was the poetic key to the project. It is so imperfect, so changeable, especially in Texas where the blue sky is often suddenly swept by the wind and the weather changes".

1987, Houston, Texas. The project that marked the "return to architecture" after the Centre Pompidou. The extraordinary encounter with the client, Dominique de Menil, who wanted a building "big inside and small outside" in which to exhibit over 10,000 pieces of primitive and modern art. The rotation of the works and the "Treasure House". The theme of natural light and the idea of the village museum. Experimentation as a fundamental tool of the creative process. A unifying thread, that of experimentation and natural light, that would accompany RPBW's work in many future projects.

81 drawings including 50 sketches of Renzo Piano;
20 models; 30 photos of the construction site and
75 photos of the completed project
ISBN
978-88-6264-000-8 Italian/English

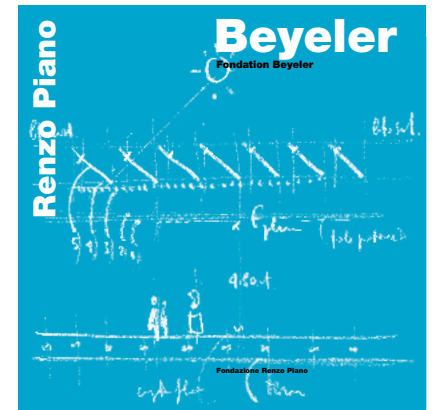


BEYELER FONDATION BEYELER

"I still remember very clearly the morning Ernst Beyeler came and we showed him a prototype of the roof, very large and carefully made, very accurate. It had all the screens for light, for the sun... and when he saw it he suddenly realized that it was a bit like a sculpture. It had its own texture, it had its vibe, it had its own proportions".

1997, Basel, Switzerland. Again a museum, this time surrounded by greenery, and again a great client: the collector Ernst Beyeler. The evolution of the theme of natural light from above. A lightweight glass roof selects and filters natural light, redistributing it in the exhibition spaces. Designing and verifying: the history of prototypes. A space made up of compressions and expansions, horizontal and inclined planes, calm and tension. A place of "luxe, calme et volupté" as Beyeler wanted his museum to be.

71 drawings including 39 sketches of Renzo Piano;
21 models; 35 photos of the construction site and
56 photos of the completed project
ISBN
978-88-6264-001-5 Italian/English
978-88-6264-002-2 French/German



NOUMÉA

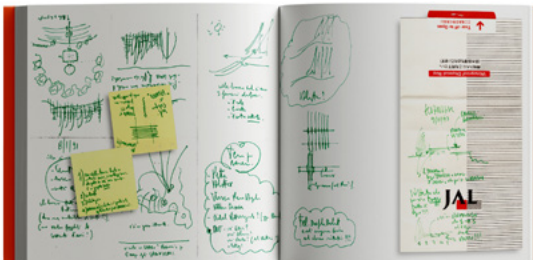
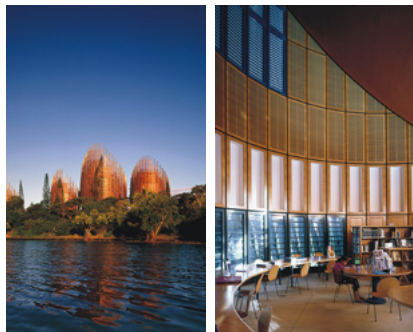
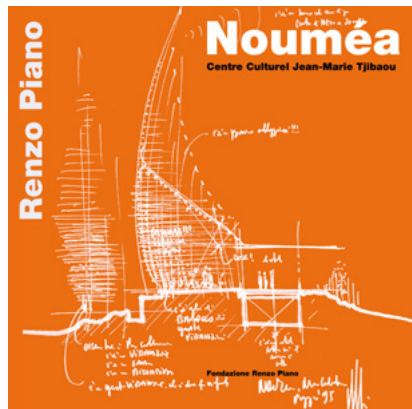
CENTRE CULTUREL JEAN-MARIE TJIBAOU

"The spark was the discovery of this extraordinary and enchanted place, with its twofold identity: active on the one hand and contemplative on the other. The project began with a number of things that belonged to completely different worlds: climate and wind, the tides, the history of the place and its heritage, anthropology, habits and customs, technology, and the use of wood".

1998, Nouméa, New Caledonia. The discovery of a new world: the human and professional adventure of designing in the antipodes. Working between architecture and anthropology. A Cultural Center to celebrate Kanak culture, its traditions, language, crafts, consisting of 10 different buildings with different functions: exhibition spaces, a conference room, library, spaces for music, dance, sculpture and painting. A true village. The exploitation of ventilation and the difficult research to express the Pacific tradition in a modern language. The lengthy research into materials.

110 drawings including 47 sketches of Renzo Piano;
28 models; 54 photos of the construction site and
76 photos of the completed project
ISBN

978-88-6264-003-9 Italian/English
978-88-6264-004-6 French/English



SAN FRANCISCO

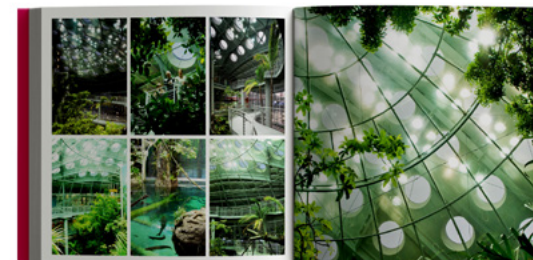
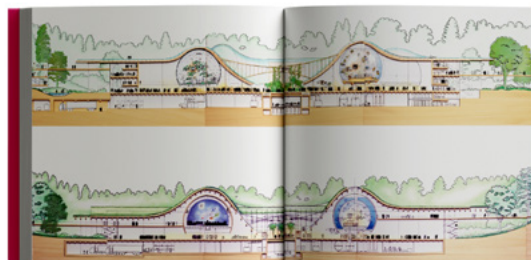
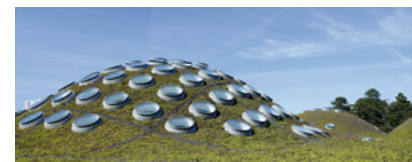
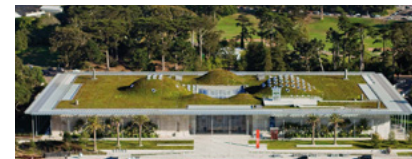
CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

"Walking on the roof I realized that the new museum, however it was built, would have to soar above the park. Then the sketch developed that eventually became somehow the symbol of this project. It is a kind of diagram in which I drew the roof at the height of the existing one, with curves going up and down".

2008, San Francisco, California. A museum to celebrate the beauty and fragility of the Earth, through the natural sciences. The relationship with scientists and researchers. Constructing in the heart of the Golden Gate Park "a gentle machine" to explore the relation between building and nature. The construction of a green roof of over 18,000 square meters covered by a living carpet of plants that do not need irrigation. Collaboration with botanists. The first great institution that won LEED Platinum certification.

119 drawings including 59 sketches of Renzo Piano;
46 models; 56 photos of the construction site and
65 photos of the completed project
ISBN

978-88-6264-005-3 Italian/English



THE SHARD

LONDON BRIDGE QUARTER

"A wonderful building site. The pieces were assembled at a height of 300 meters, with gusts of wind reaching 70/80 kilometers per hour. The team was made up of mountaineers. I saw them walking about perfectly kitted out with climbing equipment. They climbed 70 floors on foot to train: they were the only ones who didn't use the elevators on site. Everything happened: we even captured of an urban fox that had climbed to the 72nd story and lived up there for weeks, more than 280 meters above the ground. It was an extraordinary experience, full of happy moments".

2012, London, Great Britain. The dream of building Europe's tallest skyscraper in the heart of London. This gave rise to the Shard, a small vertical city 310 meters high that tapers as it rises to the top. The adventure of the Public Inquiry: designing with the city and its inhabitants. The theme of public transport: 48 parking spaces for 8,000 people. For the first time the top-down technique was used in the construction of such a tall building. Adventures on the building site with 1,500 people of 60 different nationalities.

127 drawings including 37 sketches of Renzo Piano;
35 models; 141 photos of the construction site and
71 photos of the completed project
ISBN
978-88-6264-014-5 Italian/English



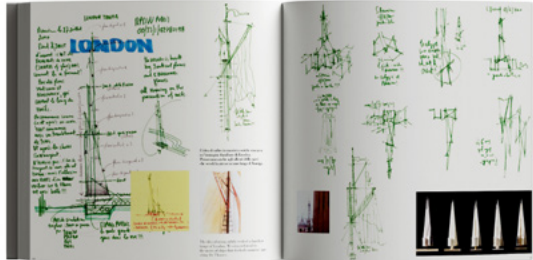
RONCHAMP

RONCHAMP MONASTERY

"Our relationship with the nuns of Ronchamp continues. And if it is true that we remain attached to every building we have built, here the relationship is very close. It's almost our home because militancy and difficulties, suffering and yearning, battles and complicity forge deep relationships. They transform projects into adventures and travel companions; they remain close for a long time."

2011, Ronchamp, France. The comparison with the masters: designing alongside Le Corbusier's masterpiece. A small monastery for 12 Poor Clare nuns immersed in the silence and seclusion of the wood. A place that interprets their motto: "silence, joy and prayer". Work starting from the minimum size: the nuns' cells each measuring 2.70 m per side. Underground construction and exposed concrete.

93 drawings including 28 sketches of Renzo Piano;
29 models; 112 photos of the construction site and
61 photos of the completed project
ISBN
978-88-6264-007-7 Italian/English
978-88-6264-008-4 French/English



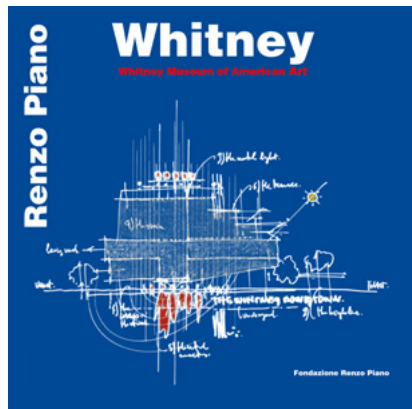
WHITNEY

WHITNEY MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART

"The form of this museum responds to a series of needs. It is designed by the force of necessity, by geographical limits, by functional and economic ones. But the Whitney is also designed by the strength of desires. The two combine. There are different dimensions that are of a social and poetic character, and ensure there are no automatisms in architecture. No one asked us to design a building raised off the ground, but it was clear that this was the right way to connect it with the rest of the city".

2015, New York, USA. Another museum dedicated to contemporary American art, with 21,000 works by 3,000 artists. The complicated story of a building that "returned home" by traversing New York to land up in the old industrial Meatpacking district. A "vessel" of 19,500 square meters, weighing 28,000 tons, raised off the ground. The dialogue with the city and the Hudson River. Adventures on the construction site: the arrival of Hurricane Sandy that changed the project.

96 drawings including 42 sketches of Renzo Piano;
36 models; 156 photos of the construction site and
62 photos of the completed project
ISBN
978-88-6264-009-1 Italian/English



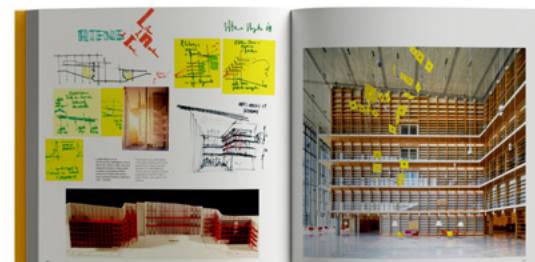
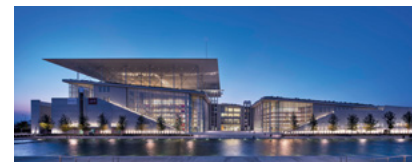
ATENE

STAVROS NIARCHOS FOUNDATION CULTURAL CENTER

"Kallithea", the name of this district, in Greek means "beautiful view", but in reality the beautiful view has long since disappeared. The city and the sea were separated by a highway. By climbing to the top of a building not far away, reaching a height of thirty meters, we found that the view still existed, above the buildings. From the terrace of the hospital terrace where we climbed, we understood that the city could be rediscovered".

2016, Athens, Greece. The redevelopment of a semi-abandoned site, the former home of the racecourse, which finds its natural connection with the rest of the city and the sea. A National Library to house some 750,000 volumes, an Opera House and a large public park in the area of Falero, the ancient port of Athens. A project that grows out of the topography: the hill is raised to accommodate the buildings and make space for greenery. In this way a park of 166,000 square meters is born, with 30,500 trees and 35,000 shrubs. Adventures on the building site: construction of a one-hectare canopy in ferrocement.

139 drawings including 61 sketches of Renzo Piano;
46 models; 190 photos of the construction site and
100 photos of the completed project
ISBN
978-88-6264-012-1 Italian/English
978-88-6264-013-8 Greek/English



CENTRE POMPIDOU

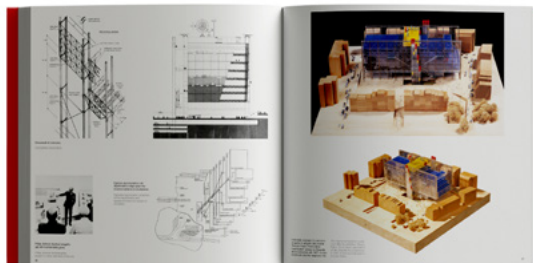
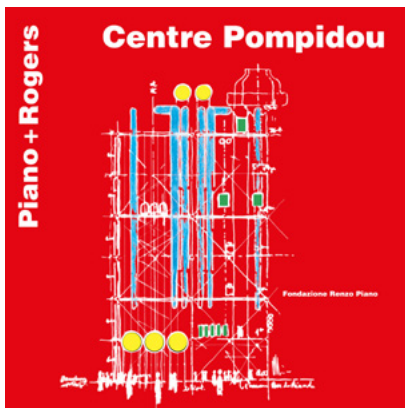
"The phone rang. At the other end a voice in French informed me we were 'lauréats'. In those days my French was still little better than schoolboy level. I thought the person was asking whether Richard and I had degrees in architecture. They had to repeat the statement for several minutes, then I finally realized we had won the competition. At that point I collapsed into my chair and called Richard in London".

1977, Paris, France. The story of a building that marked the fate and friendship of two men, Renzo Piano and Richard Rogers, who recount it themselves in this book. London in the 1960s, their professional and human encounter, winning the competition and the construction of a building that would change their life forever. A special volume, released to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Centre Pompidou, which contains all the unpublished material of the project: the thirty short-listed projects, all the original competition documents, the working drawings made on site, each phase of construction, the museum as it was then, and how we can imagine it for the future.

124 drawings including 7 sketches of Renzo Piano;
14 models; 56 photos of the construction site and
96 photos of the completed project
ISBN

978-88-6264-016-9 Italian/English

978-88-6264-017-6 French/English



CENTRO BOTÍN SANTANDER

"Emilio Botín loved fishing, and I loved sailing. For years, both of us had practiced two skills that united us: the exercise of waiting and patient observation of the sea. This project owes a lot to the long moments spent watching the sun shimmering on the sea. That radiance that is profoundly part of the imagination of those born and raised by the sea."

2017, Santander, Spain. The Centro Botín, a space for art, culture and education, thrusting into the bay of Santander, restores to the city the extensive dockland area of the Albareda wharf, previously used as a parking lot. A strategic area, overlooking the sea, close to the historic center and enhanced by the ancient Jardines de Pereda. Hemmed in between the park and the sea, and aligned with the public market, the new Centro Botín rests half on the ground with the other half suspended over the water. How to raise a 5,000-ton building off the ground. The work on light and its reflections: the choice of ceramics.

138 drawings including 33 sketches of Renzo Piano;
47 models; 40 photos of the construction site and
70 photos of the completed project
ISBN

978-88-6264-018-3 Italian/English



IL PONTE

PONTE GENOVA SAN GIORGIO

"A bridge cannot collapse, it just doesn't have the right to. Because when it collapses it never does it once but twice, three times. It collapses because it causes innocent victims, hundreds of people who have to leave their homes, disruptions. It collapses because it splits the city in two, and finally it collapses in the imagination. No human work is eternal. Nothing lasts forever if it is not loved, looked after and cared for with attention. The new bridge must live for a long time, the same times as the valley it spans and the river. They belong together".

2020, Genoa, Italy. This project was simple yet complex, because it grew out of a tragedy: the collapse of the Morandi Bridge on August 14, 2018. Two years later, the new Genoa San Giorgio Bridge was completed. A bridge in the city, crossing the valley at a height of 50 meters and resting firmly on the ground at intervals of 50 meters. The idea of a white ship, made up of 18 steel spans, supported by concrete piles. And above all, the story of a construction site open 7 days a week, with a thousand men practicing 38 different professions. A construction site that became a place of solidarity and belonging.

110 drawings including 56 sketches of Renzo Piano;
20 models; 120 photos of the construction site and
30 photos of the completed project
ISBN

978-88-6264-020-6 Italian/English



EMERGENCY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

L'OSPEDALE DEI BAMBINI, ENTEBBE, UGANDA

"When I met Gino Strada to talk about the project, he first said to me: 'I want to make a scandalous beautiful hospital!'. We immediately got in tune, because I have always thought that ethics and aesthetics are two sides of the same coin. This hospital will be a model of medical excellence, environmental sustainability, energy self-sufficiency and harmonious distribution of space. We want to use the resources of the Earth, the water and the sun, the best achievements of modernity. The real ones".

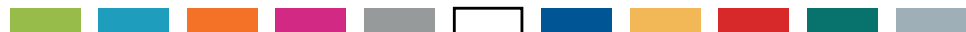
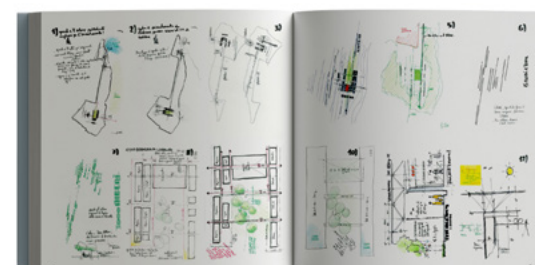
2021, Entebbe, Uganda. A 9,700 m² pediatric surgery center with 3 operating rooms and 72 wards beds. The meeting with Gino Strada and the birth of a friendship.

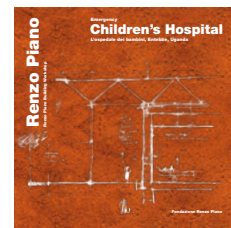
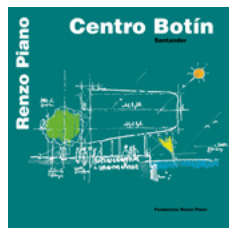
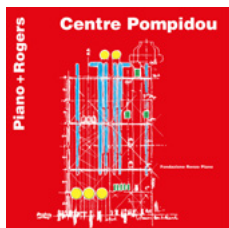
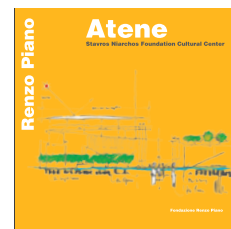
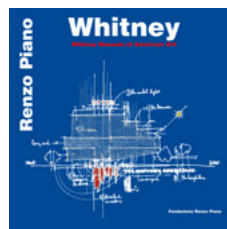
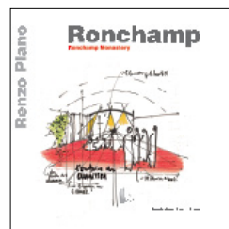
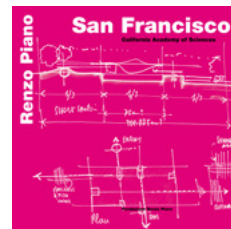
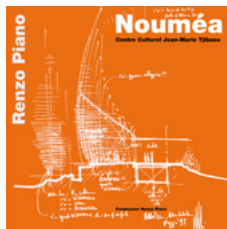
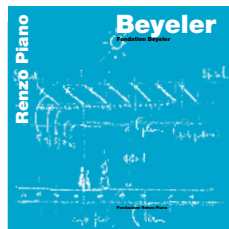
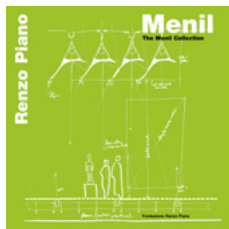
A great experiment in circular economy: the walls are built with the ancient pisé technique, using the excavated earth of the construction site, the roof houses a system of 2,500 photovoltaic panels, about 3,000 m² of surface, which cover a third of the hospital's overall needs. The idea of excellence as a form of resistance.






118 drawings including 51 sketches by Renzo Piano; 12 models; 57 construction site photos and 33 photos of the completed project.

ISBN

978-88-6264-024-4 Italian/English





 Via P. P. Rubens 30 A, 16158 Genova, Italy
 Tel 010.2364379
 email contact@fondazionerenzopiano.org
 website www.fondazionerenzopiano.org
 instagram [fondazionerenzopiano](https://www.instagram.com/fondazionerenzopiano)

FONDAZIONE
 RENZO
 PIANO