

BOOKNOOK

POSTMODERN DESIGN

COMPLETE:

Design, Furniture, Graphics, Architecture, Interiors

By **Judith Gura**

Thames & Hudson • \$95

Judith Gura tells the story of the masters of the postmodern design movement — from the fields of architecture, furniture, graphic design, textiles, product and industrial design. This comprehensive volume also includes an overview of rarely published notable postmodern homes and interiors and contemporary designs. Highly informed and accessible texts are illustrated with images that bring together classics and little-seen rarities, unusual objets d'art, and mass-produced items. With contributions by Hans Maier-Aichen, John Stuart Gordon, Johanna Grawunder, Sean Griffiths, Steven Heller, Arlene Hirst, R. Craig Miller, and Alexander Payne.

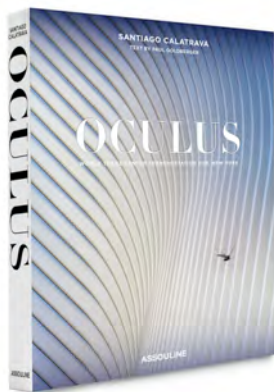


OCULUS: World Trade Center Transportation Hub, New York

By **Santiago Calatrava**
Assouline • \$85

Engineer/architect Santiago Calatrava is internationally recognized for the conception and masterful execution of structures akin to high art. This book gives an in-depth look at the incredible structure that is the World Trade Center Transportation Hub.

“Oculus” derived from some of Calatrava’s work as a painter and sculptor. With a foreword by Frank Stella and text by architect critic Paul Goldberg, the book gives voice to Calatrava’s most famous work — sure to be canonized as one of the most beautiful public buildings of the 21st century.

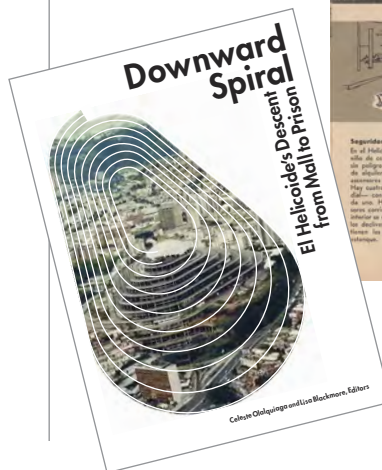


CREATING BIOPHILIC BUILDINGS

By **Amanda Sturgeon, FAIA**
Ecotone Publishing • \$39.95

Amanda Sturgeon, FAIA (CEO, International Living Future Institute), turns her award-winning eye for sustainable buildings toward biophilic design, an emerging discipline that creates spaces where people and nature can thrive together as an integrated whole. Her forthcoming book, “Creating Biophilic Buildings,” takes a case-study-style approach to this burgeoning field, to illuminate the holistic process of biophilic design and its attendant benefits.

Ms. Sturgeon brings over 15 years of design work and practical field experience to her writing, infusing her future-forward prose with the data, research, and deep thinking that will distinguish this book as a foundational work in this nascent field.



DOWNWARD SPIRAL
El Helicoides' Descent from Mall to Prison
By **Celeste Olalquiaga**
and **Lisa Blackmore**, Editors
Urban Research • \$50



To Helicoide and Back

Once anticipated as a huge, sprawling mall that would put its capital on the map of First World consumerism, this decaying building is now a prison.

“I was very struck by the building when I was growing up in Caracas, Venezuela,” says Celeste Olalquiaga, an independent scholar working with modern ruins. “It was this strange gigantic thing that nobody could account for.”

In fact, the spiraling Helicoide was built in the late 1950s, designed by the architect Romero Gutierrez, and envisioned as a shopping mall, where customers could drive along its 2.5 miles of covered ramps to visit the building’s 320 stores and boutiques. It is topped with a distinctive white geodesic dome. But this commerce mecca faltered just shy of completion and attempts to revive it for commercial purposes have failed. In the late 1970s it became a temporary refuge for almost 10,000 people when landslides devastated nearby communities and the homeless remained. Since 1985 it has been used as police headquarters and a prison.

“It has such a strange history because everything has failed except for the police and the homeless,” says Olalquiaga. The building is filled with contrasts: Slums surround the site, and it is the only spiral-shaped building in the world without an open interior (rather than have a large atrium, the structure surrounds a massive hill); instead of reflecting success, it highlights desperation and corruption. Certainly, the structure’s timeline reflects the political and economic upheavals of Venezuela: the boom and bust of oil, the fleeting attempts at democracy and coups that have given rise to brutal dictators.

Olalquiaga, who earned her doctorate in Latin American Cultural Studies from Columbia University and has lived in New York since the 1980s, felt a need to create something of permanence about the project. She co-edited the book “Downward Spiral: El Helicoides’ Descent from Mall to Prison” recently released by Urban Research. With contributions from artists, scholars and architects, this extensive endeavor delves into El Helicoide, ultimately revealing a correlation with other modern ruins.

“It’s an important part of our culture,” says Olalquiaga. “It’s quite relevant.”

—THERESA KEEGAN

