

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

9 ESSAYS

## THE EXPLICABLE PHENOMENON OF RICARDO BOFILL

By Oscar Tusquets Blanca

13

## TOWARDS A MANIFESTO ON FREEDOM

By Douglas Murphy

25

## THE LAST DREAMERS OF MODERNITY

By Nacho Alegre

186

## DREAMS AND MANIFESTOS: AN ARCHITECTURAL VISION

By Tom Morris

PROJECTS 34



## BACH 28 APARTMENT BUILDING

1963 Barcelona/Spain

Faced with a small plot in an already built-up environment, Bofill turns the whole block on its axis to maximize light and ventilation.

42



## BACH 4 APARTMENT BUILDING

1965 Barcelona/Spain

While providing two quite distinct mixed-use programs on the inside, this seven-story apartment block presents itself as a single, unified entity.

50



## NICARAGUA APARTMENT BUILDING

1965 Barcelona/Spain

An apartment block in Barcelona epitomizes Bofill's skill when faced with limitations that might easily phase a lesser architect.

56



## KAFKA'S CASTLE

1968 Barcelona/Spain

Resembling a mass of spiraling, tumbling blocks, the Kafka's Castle apartment building can be described as a mathematical expression of vertical growth, pure and simple.

62



## GAUDI DISTRICT

1970 Reus/Spain

Bofill's first major suburban housing project was an ambitious scheme that sought to create an inner-city environment with the appeal of village life.

72



## XANADÙ

1971 Alicante/Spain

Sitting atop a craggy rock face on Spain's Costa Blanca, the Xanadù apartments are Bofill's answer to modern vacation living.

82



## MERITXELL SANCTUARY

1974 Meritxell/Andorra

A black slate sanctuary nestles on an Andorran mountainside, a case study in the relationship between architecture and nature, and the perfect setting for meditation and withdrawal.

90



## 77 WEST WACKER DRIVE

1992 Chicago/United States

With his first commission to design a skyscraper in the United States, Bofill sought to capture the essence of early speculative North American designs.

94



## ARSENAL AUDITORIUM

1989 Metz/France

This renovation of a nineteenth-century military warehouse allowed for a fresh take on architecture as stage setting, with a bold and original use of space.

102



## LES ARCADES & LES TEMPLES DU LAC

1982 & 1986 St.-Quentin-En-Yvelines/France

In a scheme that architectural critics have dubbed a "Versailles for the masses," Bofill draws on classical themes to create low-cost housing in France.