



**PORTRAITS OF THE NEW ARCHITECTURE** It's been said that every artist's work is an exercise in self reflection. In *Portraits of the New Architecture*, well-known photographer Richard Schulman takes this notion a step further and attempts to create a more nuanced depiction of 50 prominent architects by juxtaposing their portraits with their buildings. The book is not just a celebration of architecture, but also of the unique faces behind the facades.

Schulman, whose work has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Vanity Fair* and other publications, clearly notes the relevance of his subjects. The photographer says he finds contemporary architecture to be more expressive and challenging to the psyche than ever before, and ultimately "not only an integral part of popular culture, but perhaps our greatest recognizable art form."

As expected, the rise of public architecture also elevated its creators into celebrated cultural figures. Yet, in his introduction to the book, accomplished author, architecture critic for *The New Yorker*, and dean of Parsons School of Design, Paul Goldberger finds, "Schulman presents the architect as celebrity, but he does not kowtow to this phenomenon." Not an easy feat, considering today's high-profile structures increasingly are as intellectually and emotionally engaging as they are personality-driven: Frank Gehry's name is perhaps as recognized as his iconic Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain, and Daniel Libeskind's spectacled face has become as ubiquitous as his design for the Freedom Tower at Ground Zero.

While somewhat mannered, Schulman's portraits resist the urge to fawn over these (mostly) men and instead focus on their subtleties. Colorful visual effects as well as the body

