



Keiichi Tahara: Architecture Fin-de-Siècle

Riichi Miyake

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Floral buildings

Art Nouveau marvels across Europe

At the turn of the 20th century, architecture took an imaginative leap. As new construction materials and technologies met such far-flung stimuli as the Far East, Nirvana, and the unleashed unconscious of Freudian psychoanalysis, buildings by the likes of **Gaudí, Horta, Hoffmann, Loos, and Mackintosh** instilled structure with the sinuous lines of nature, surfaces with a fairy tale shimmer, and spaces with an ethereal wash of light or shadowy, mysterious hush.

In this dramatic portfolio, architectural photographer **Keiichi Tahara travels across Europe to present the finest examples of this Art Nouveau architecture.** From the glamorous facade of the Grand Hotel Europa to the elaborate sweep of a staircase or the perfect poise of a single chandelier, Tahara captures the **intricate details as much as the holistic spatial effects of these ambitious, marvelous structures.** With an eye attuned to the style's organic detailing, he surveys its **floral patterns, vine-like balustrades, and the soft, hollow interiors** that seem to summon us into some primordial place.

Drenched in sunshine or draped in dramatic shadows, Tahara's pictures excel in evoking not only the **unrivalled aura of these buildings** but also the **particular, fin-de-siècle spirit of their age**, caught on the axel of a century, and characterized by reflection and yearning, as much as technological, philosophical, and political advance. Texts by Riichi Miyake accompany Tahara's pictures to describe the buildings' floor plans, designs, and the broader context of their dreamlike environments.

Text in English, French, and German

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