



Australia's Opera House under construction in 1965.

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Structures pays tribute to the most awe-inspiring feats of human creation. Here from every continent are the superlative achievements of architecture and engineering: the largest, longest, highest, most massive and most ambitious structures ever made by human hands. From the Great Wall of China to the Forbidden City, from the Vatican Palace to the Crystal Palace, from the Statue of Liberty and Mount Rushmore to the Panama Canal and the Trans-Siberian Railway, they bear witness to the visionaries who stretched the limits of imagination to conceive them and the builders who bent the laws of nature to construct them.

In Structures, readers intrigued by the way things work will find fascinating accounts of the way they are built. The origins, design and construction of each of 43 structures are recounted in entertaining and informative text and illuminated with a wealth of photographs, working diagrams, cutaway drawings and etchings that bring the work to life. Here is the fairytale palace of the richest man in the world: the Sultan of Brunei's \$350 million house containing 1,778 rooms, a banquet hall that seats 4,000, a garage for 800 cars (including the Sultan's dozens of Rolls-Royces), 564 chandeliers, 44 staircases, 4 thrones (2 extra to accommodate any visiting royal couple that might drop in) and a total floor area of 50 acres. And here too are tunnels blasted through impenetrable mountains, telescopes built for use in outer space, as well as canals and railway systems that changed the course of history. From the bizarre to the noble, from the ancient to the modern, these creations stand as unsurpassed examples of the ingenuity and muscle required to transform a vision into miraculous reality.

Structures, then, is both an anatomy and a celebration of the man-made wonders of the world. Above all, it demonstrates the triumphant alliance of human technology and human spirit.

-from the publisher