

Sacramento Book Review



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London 2000+: New Architecture

By Sam Lubell

The Monacelli Press, \$50.00, 208 pages

London has been a leading world financial center for a very long time, but, in the last decade or so, it has also become a center for innovative architecture. *London 2000+* was written by Sam Lubell, a noted architectural journalist, and highlights 28 new projects that have been completed since the year 2000. The leading project, and perhaps most controversial, was Sir Norman Foster's Swiss Re building, commonly called "The Gherkin" after the pickle it resembles (one of the nicer terms, considering the phallic nature of the building.)



The projects covered in *London 2000+* don't just concentrate on the skyscraper. There is an addition to the London Metropolitan University, Herzog & de Meuron's Laban Dance Center, a library with outdoor space for the neighborhood, and elevated footbridges in the heart of downtown London. While only an overview of the many architectural projects—renovations and new construction—there is good variety. From skyline-dominating to neighborhood renovating, London's new architecture is a good look at the nature of city planing, and the probable direction that other cities will be going in years to come.