

Produzione/La memoria dell'oggetto architettonico acquista una leggera corporeità nei nuovi oggetti di carta: veri e propri progetti di design sulle tracce di irripetibili modelli.

ARCHITETTURE DI CARTA

È questo il momento in cui l'architettura costruita sembra, per molti versi, lasciare il posto all'architettura disegnata; così così il progetto di architettura immette nuovi materiali nel paesaggio dell'immaginario evitando di riversare volumetrie cementizie sul paesaggio naturale. È anche il momento in cui il disegno fatto a mano riconquista autonomia come disegno dell'architettura: non più necessariamente disegno esecutivo, notazionale, che rimanda ad una futura realizzazione. Intanto il 'monumento' architettonico, talvolta al limite dello stato di conservazione o privato delle originali funzioni, veicolato in serie su supporti bidimensionali — la cartolina o la stampa turistica — è conosciuto e fruito per la sua immagine appiattita. Insomma, per vie diverse l'architettura torna alla bidimensionalità, o vi sembra costretta; e la percezione dell'architettura, realizzata o immaginata, perde di spessore. Un oggetto architettonico, disegnato e ricostruito in carta con la restituzione delle volumetrie: l'idea prende corpo dall'incontro tra Jesus Moctezuma, disegnatore messicano, e Lorenzo Berni, architetto, e viene raccolta dall'allora direttore di *Domus*, Alessandro Mendini. Il riferimento ad alcuni esempi stranieri di modellismo in carta è in parte ribaltato: questa serie, prima in Italia, di architetture in carta si propone come una sorta di bricolage colto, e l'accostamento editoriale a *Domus* non è casuale. *Domus Kit* diviene da subito un pretesto per rileggere criticamente le architetture classiche — e lo confermano i testi critici di Berni che corredano il materiale —, ma è una lettura che continua nel lavoro di montaggio e che consente di comprendere lo sviluppo dei volumi, di possedere gli spazi e l'articolazione delle parti. Si stabiliscono in questo modo percorsi nuovi che avvicinano progressivamente al nocciolo segreto dell'architettura che è l'aspetto più difficilmente trasmissibile dell'architettura raccontata. Ma sarebbe parziale pensare a ricostruzioni puramente didattiche. I problemi realizzativi e la natura seriale ne fanno un autonomo oggetto di design; con



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Giovanni Baule

PRODUCTION / The memory of certain architectural masterworks regains its physical sense of being through a series of paper models, which are true artifacts of design themselves, repeating the form of unrepentable buildings of the past.

PAPER ARCHITECTURE.

The tides of change have brought us to a curious juncture indeed, a moment in which architecture in its *constructed form* finds itself abdicating in favour of architecture in *draft form*. Architecture as Design is beginning to infuse the landscape of ideas with exciting new material, though without having to foul up the natural landscape with further concrete eyesores. At the same time, drafting by hand is claiming back its autonomy as *architectural drawing* in its own right, rather than merely a blueprint or preliminary stage of realization.

What is happening is that the memory of architectural 'monuments' (which are all too frequently either in almost total

disrepair or deprived of their original functions) is kept alive in two-dimensional form through picture postcards and other tourist prints. All knowledge of the original is being substituted by this flattened surrogate, exploited on all sides. The result is that architecture is gradually being channelled back to its 'original' two-dimensional draft form, and likewise, our perception of both imaginary and realized physical architecture is losing its depth.

This has given birth to a true *architectural object* in paper form, a scale model of an existing original construction. The idea was sparked off by a meeting between Mexican draftsman Jesus Moctezuma, and Italian architect Lorenzo Berni. The editor of the magazine *Domus* at the time, Alessandro Mendini, gladly took up the idea launched a kind of highbrow do-it-yourself kit, somewhat different from the usual hobby kit.

The series, dubbed *Domus kit*, was a good pretext for taking a critical look at a number of familiar examples of classical architecture, which is confirmed by Berni's text accompanying each kit, guiding the owner through a careful analysis of the architecture as he first unpacks and then pieces the various carefully planned sections of the kit together. This approach to architecture opens up a new awareness of the inner mechanisms of the design, which is perhaps the hardest thing of all to convey in a mere *description* of architectural form.

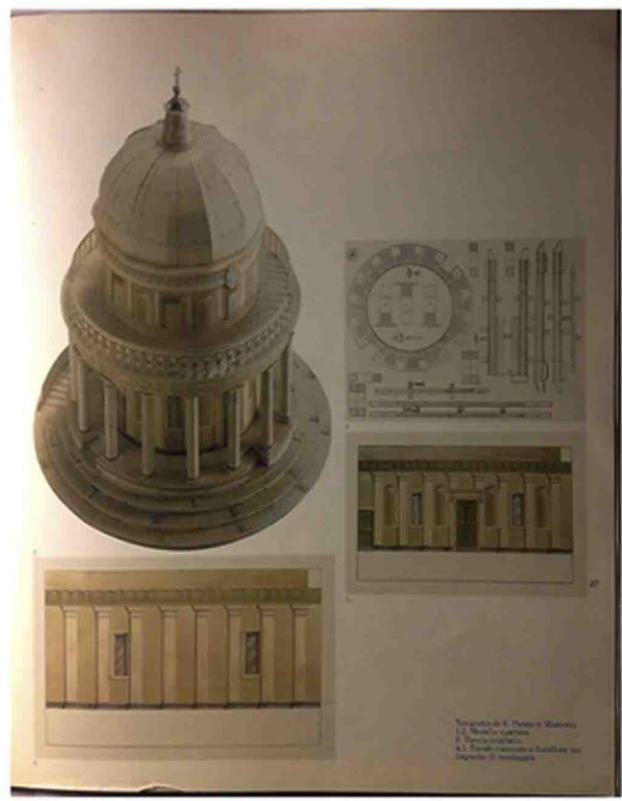
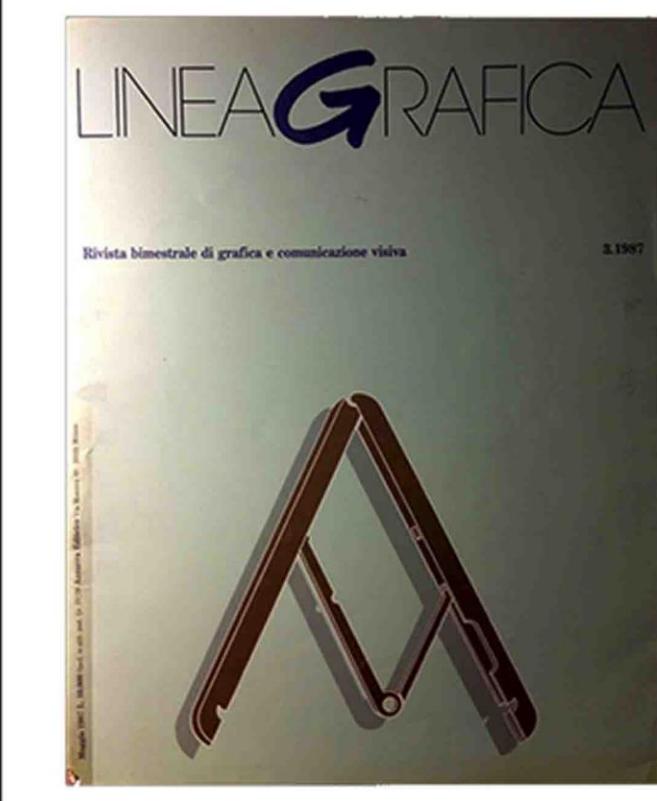
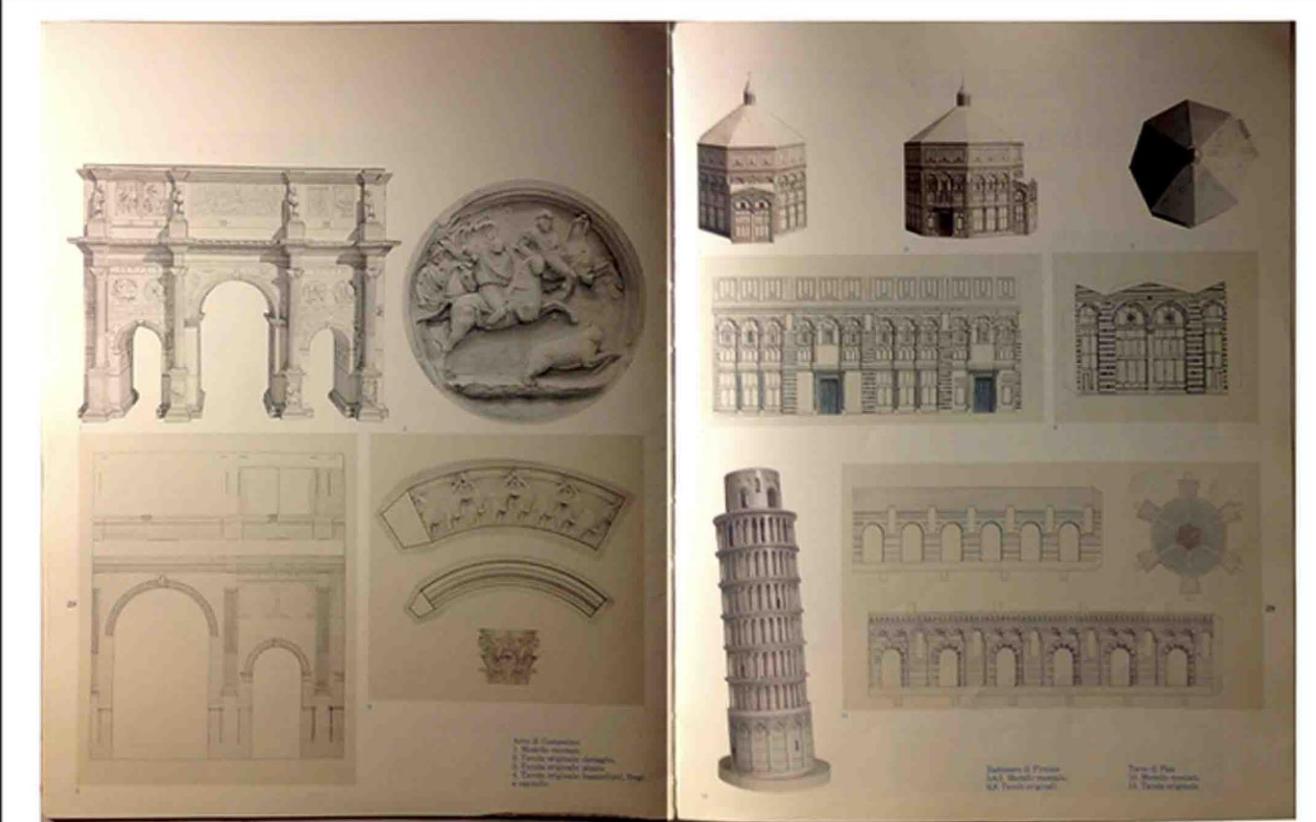
But it would be unfair to call these models

merely didactic tools. The work involved in drawing up and realizing the series itself establish each of the models as an autonomous object of design, each one with a unique construction technique to it, and distinct use. The architectural 'referent', i.e. the original structure tends to recede into the background, and the remaining visual allusions tend to conceal the new function the object has, including its new location in the domestic landscape.

In these examples of *paper architecture* the two sides to the design — volume and illustration — become complementary. The visual flair of Jesus Moctezuma (working in collaboration with Bianca Scarella) manages to make each *reduction* a remarkable synthesis of the whole, carefully adapting the construction method to suit average levels of manual ability.

The design for each model took an average of three to four months to draft and then develop. The first stage was to analyze existing survey material dating from the 16th Century together with data from the archives of the state fine arts institute. Photographic material was integrated to define the current state of the construction. A number of decisions have to be taken when translating this to the paper model, for example how much emphasis to give to the three-dimensional aspect of the model, and how much detail to use in illustrating the facades. The choice of scale for reducing the model and the division of the various volumes is worked out with a series of blanks.

So far *Domus* has issued kits of the following monuments — the Arch of Constantine, the Tower of Pisa, Palladio's Rotonda, The Tempio della Fortuna Virile, the Rialto Bridge, S. Peter's in Montorio, and the Baptistry in Florence. They are currently designing a model of the bell tower of S. Mark's, and S. Angelo's Castle in Rome. Through these kits, the mental image of these buildings recovers a sense of physical being, of substance. The new landscape that gradually emerges, although so far limited to monumental architecture, could well branch into other artifacts, and signals a unique form of design technique. The tens of thousands of copies that have been sold are a sign of the considerable interest that has been aroused, particularly abroad, and it is pleasing to think of all these reproductions taking up a specific space in some far-flung corner of the globe, in memory of an unrepeatable original design.



ARCHITETTURE DI CARTA DA COSTRUIRE
PAPER ARCHITECTURAL MODELS

KIT domus

design di Jesus Mocezuma



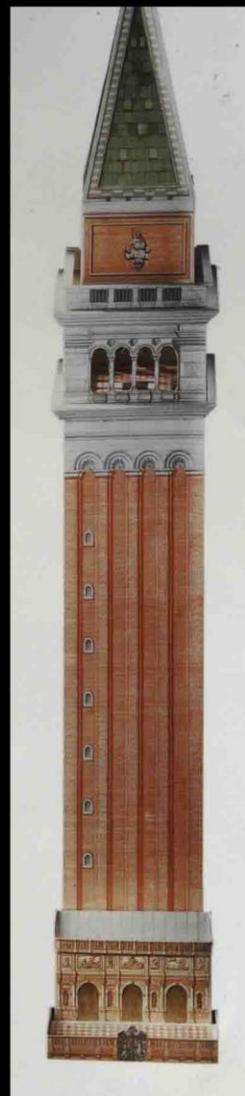
DOMUS KIT PAPER MODELLS

DESIGN AND ILLUSTRATIONS
JESUS MOCTEZUMA

EDITORIALE DOMUS
MILANO ITALIA



Maqueta de la Iglesia de San Marco Venezia J.M. Ed.Domus



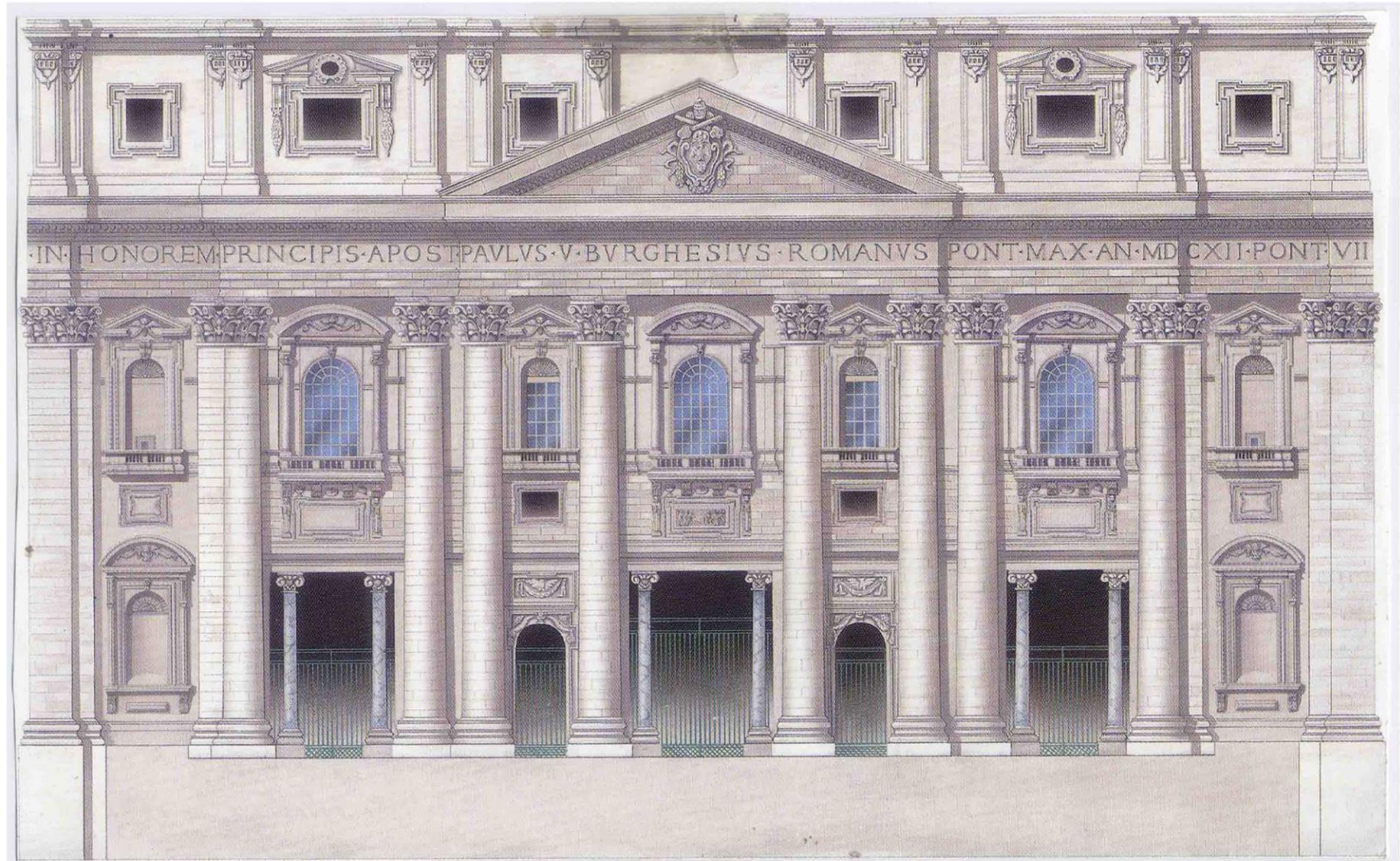
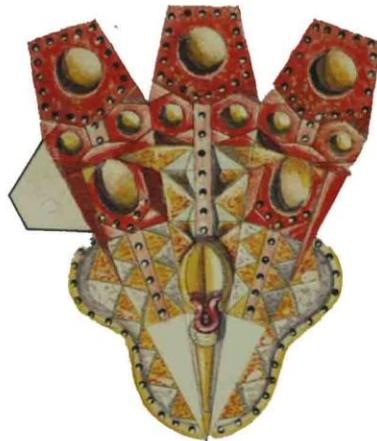
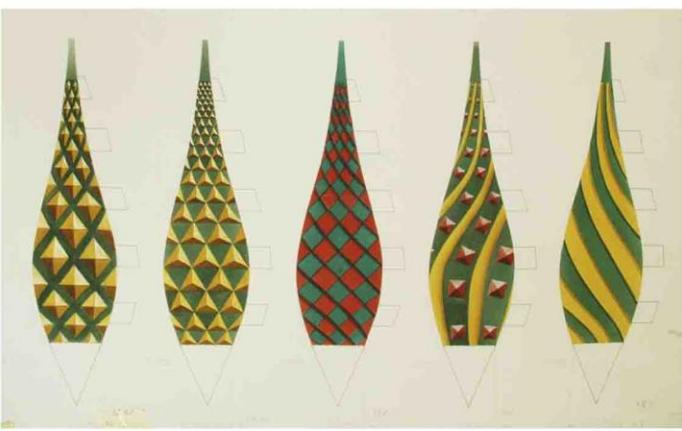


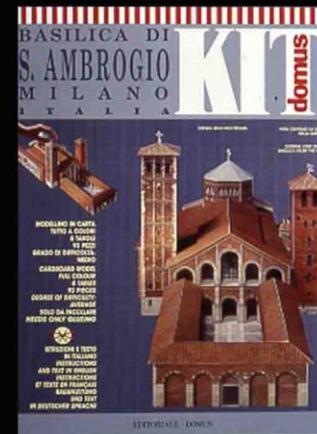
Ilustración realizada para el modelo de papel de la fachada de San Pedro en Roma Italia.







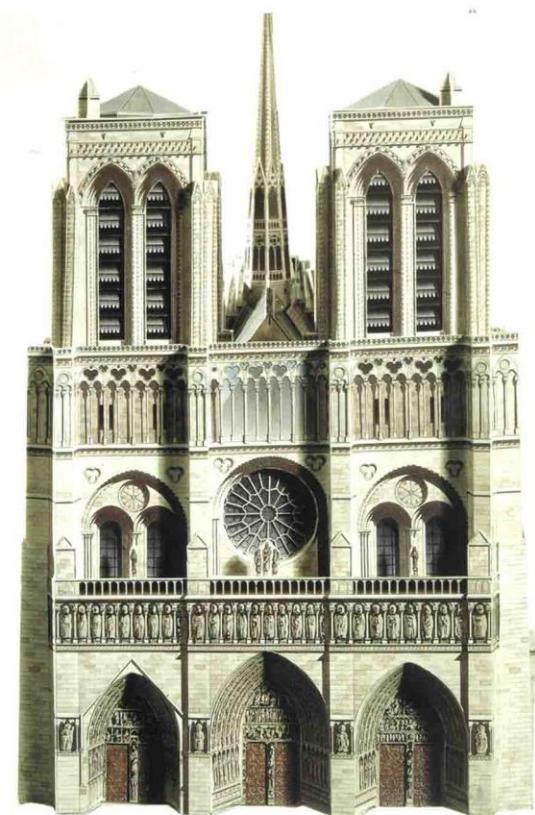
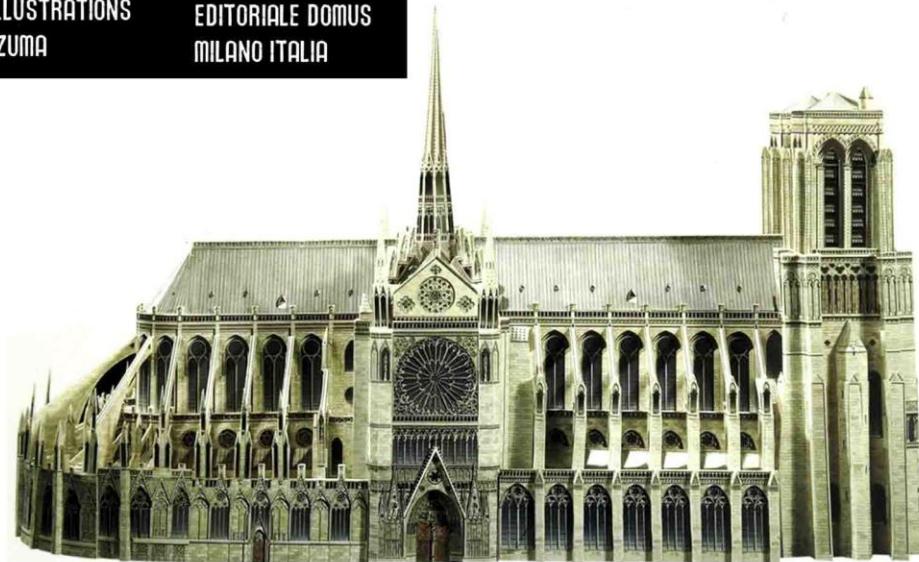
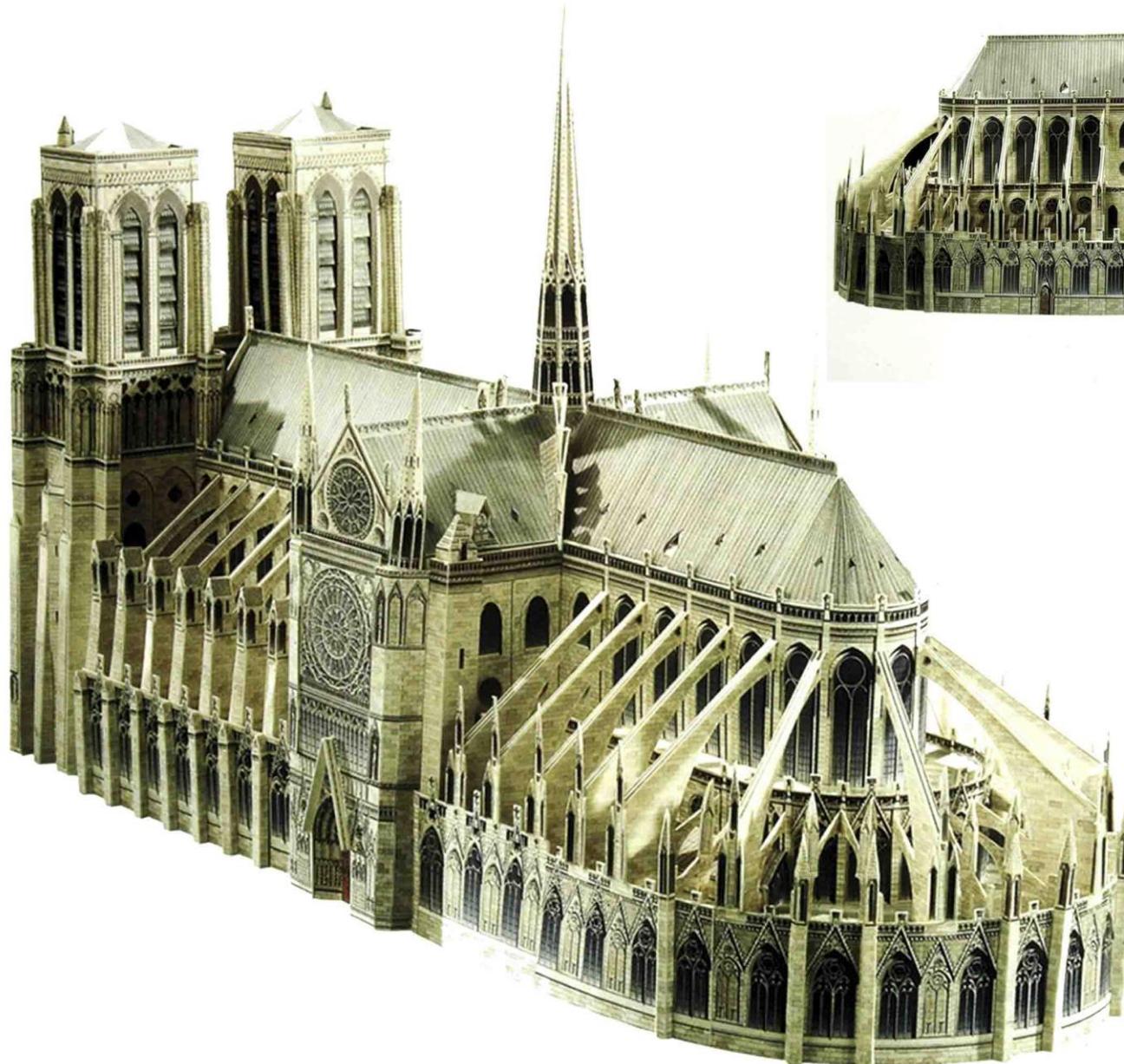
TEMPIO DELLA FORTUNA VIRILE



DOMUS KIT PAPER ARCHITECTURAL MODELS

DESIGN AND ILLUSTRATIONS
JESUS MOCTEZUMA

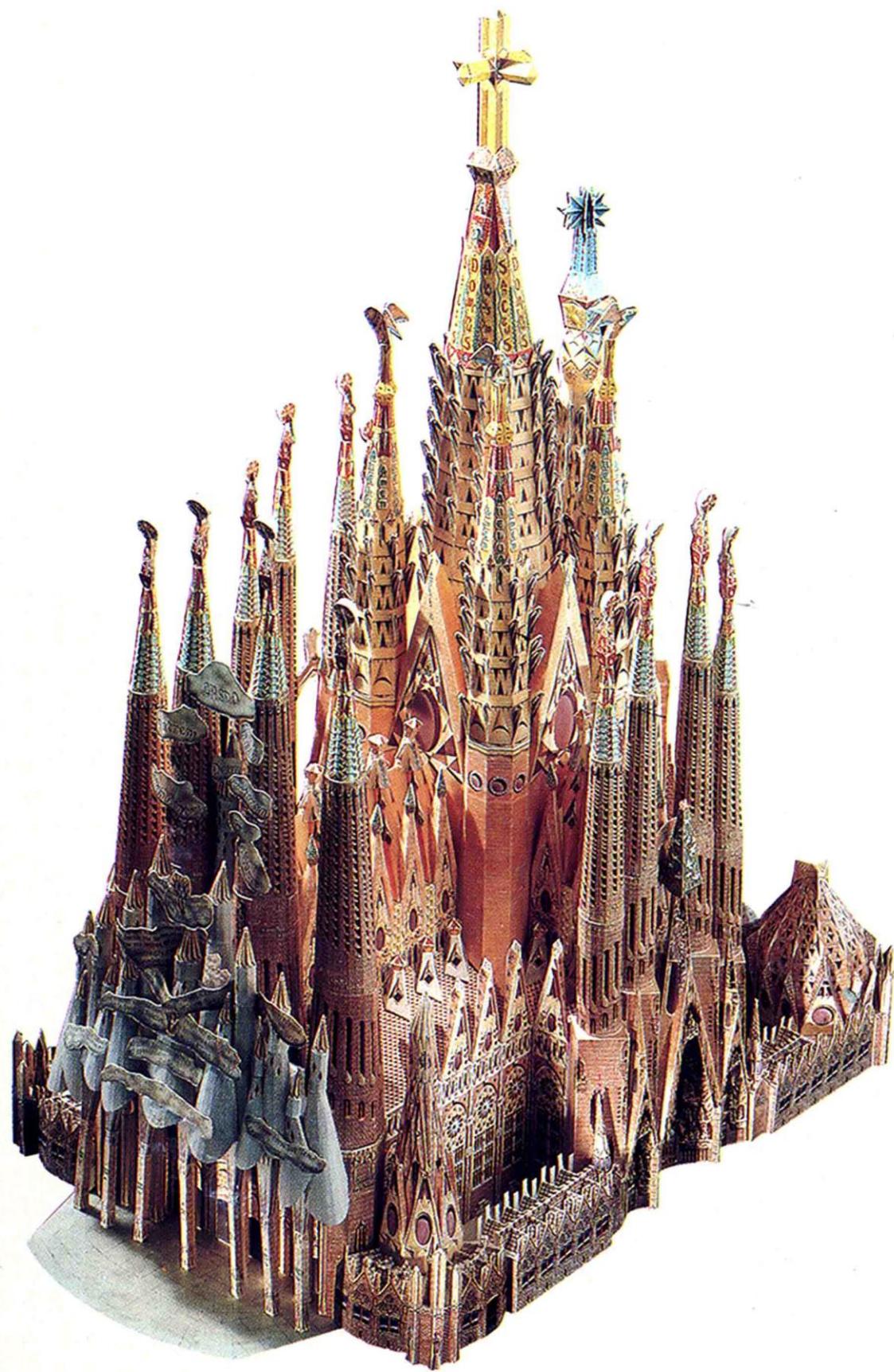
EDITORIALE DOMUS
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DOMUS KIT PAPER MODELLS

DESIGN AND ILLUSTRATIONS
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EDITORIALE DOMUS
MILANO ITALIA



Maqueta terminada de la Sagrada Familia ,Antonio Gaudi barcelona