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Iván González Viso / José Rosas Vera

## **Architectural Guide Caracas**

Little is known about Caracas, the capital of Venezuela which has been beset with a host of problems, chief amongst which are protests spilling into public spaces and violent political unrest. The deep-seated division of society into poor and wealthy is just as commonplace a feature as the grandiose buildings bequeathed by modernity.

Caracas is primarily a city of contrasts which is reflected within the contours of the country itself: although the oil reserves in Venezuela are the largest in the world, more than 75 per cent of its population live below the poverty level. The Architectural Guide Caracas thus illustrates the complexity of a Latin American city founded in 1567 which, however, forges a coherent identity with the Ávila mountain range and the coastline, where different scales, geographies, architectural styles and natural and urban landscapes converge. This title outlines the city's history with reference to its most striking architecture dating from approximately 1600 up to the present day, including the Ciudad Universitaria de Caracas which was designed single-handedly by the architect Carlos Raúl Villanueva between 1940 and 1960.

Architecture and urban spaces found in ten zones throughout Caracas are delineated, as well as those concepts propounded by architects and urban planning experts – such as Jose Rosas, Federico Vegas and María Isabel Peña – regarding future initiatives that could transform and enhance the city. The major exhibition charting Latin American Architecture since 1945 at the Museum of Modern Art in New York led to a focus being placed on Latin America among architects, although knowledge about Caracas and Venezuela continues to be low.

With volumes on Mexico, Chile, Havana (in German) and Brazil already in print, DOM publishers is expanding the Architectural Guide series by covering an additional destination in the Latin American region.



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The Architectural Guides by DOM publishers are handy travel companions for readers interested in architecture and culture. Projects are carefully selected and researched to make each individual book a ready work of reference, while background information and attractive design inspire armchair travellers to imaginary journeys. In 2014, the series was awarded with the "Iconic Award" by the German Design Council, and in 2016 with the "German Design Award Special". Further information: [www.dom-publishers.com](http://www.dom-publishers.com)