The Norman Foster Foundation announces the publication of the first volume of the Norman Foster Sketchbooks series. Edited by Jorge Sainz, the publication aims to offer a broad selection of the content of Norman Foster’s sketchbooks, held in the Foundation’s Archive.

This new publication appears after the release in 2020 of Norman Foster Sketchbooks 1975-2020, which compiles a selection of Norman Foster’s graphic production taken from his collection of notebooks. Norman Foster Sketchbooks Volume I 1975-1980 will commence a systematic publication by way of catalogue raisonné, consisting of drawings organised according to time period, with the first encompassing 1975 to 1980. The start date, 1975, marks the beginning of the initial sketchbooks saved by the Foundation’s Archive, and the closing year, 1980, represents the last decade of Foster Associates, widely known for the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank (HSBC), one of the most prominent works of the practice.

The information featured in this publication has been organised in sections, first according to architectural projects and, second, regularly-occurring topics in Foster’s sketchbooks, including mental maps, furniture and vehicles.

In summary, this first volume of this series will significantly contribute to the enrichment of Norman Foster’s legacy, reflecting not only his practice as an architect, but his personality as an individual and the multiple facets of his forma mentis.
Jorge Sainz (Madrid, 1955) is a Senior Lecturer in Architectural Composition at the Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura (ETSAM), Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (UPM), where he has headed the Architectural Composition Department (2012-2020) and teaches the subjects ‘An Introduction to Architecture’ and ‘Degree Diploma Project’. He holds a Ph.D. in Architecture and works as editor and translator. He is the author of El dibujo de arquitectura: teoría e historia de un lenguaje gráfico (Nerea, 1990; Reverté, 2005) and Infografía y arquitectura: dibujo y proyecto asistidos por ordenador (Nerea, 1992; co-authored with Fernando Valderrama), as well as the chapter ‘Twentieth-century Architecture and Urban Planning’, included in volume 4 of Historia del Arte, edited by Juan Antonio Ramírez (Alianza, 1997 and 2018). From 1988 to 1999 he worked on the editorial staff of the magazines AV Monografías and Arquitectura Viva. Since 2004 he has been the editor of the book series Estudios Universitarios de Arquitectura, Manuales Universitarios de Edificación and Documentos de Composición Arquitectónica, published by Editorial Reverté. Among his numerous translations into Spanish there are books by authors as influential as Alan Colquhoun, William Curtis, Renato De Fusco, Kenneth Frampton, Sigfried Giedion, Moiséi Guínzburg, Rem Koolhaas, Christian Norberg-Schulz, Luciano Patetta, Paolo Portoghesi and Anthony Vidler.

Norman Foster (Manchester, 1935) is the founder and executive chairman of Foster + Partners, a global studio for architecture, urbanism and design, rooted in sustainability. He was born in Manchester, and after graduating in Architecture and City Planning from Manchester University in 1961, he won a Henry Fellowship to Yale University, where he was a fellow of Jonathan Edwards College and gained a Master’s Degree in Architecture. In 1967, he established Foster Associates in London with his late wife Wendy. Over five decades the practice has evolved and been responsible for a strikingly wide range of work, from urban masterplans, public infrastructure, airports, civic and cultural buildings, offices and workplaces to private houses and furniture design. Major projects include Beijing Airport, Millau Viaduct in France, 30 St Mary Axe (also known as the Gherkin) and the Great Court at the British Museum in London, the Hearst Headquarters tower in New York, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. His current projects within the practice include, Apple Park in California, Bloomberg’s European Headquarters in London, the Comcast Tower in Philadelphia, 425 Park Avenue in New York, the New International Airport in Mexico City, an aviary at the ZSL London Zoo, and the Norton Museum of Art in Florida. He is president of the Norman Foster Foundation, based in Madrid with a global reach, promoting interdisciplinary thinking and research to help new generations of architects, designers and urbanists anticipate the future. He became the 21st Pritzker Architecture Prize Laureate in 1999 and was awarded the Praemium Imperiale Award for Architecture in Tokyo in 2002. In 2009, he became the 29th laureate of the prestigious Prince of Asturias award for the Arts and was awarded the Knight Commander’s Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany. He was appointed by the Queen to the Order of Merit in 1997 and in 1999 was honoured with a Life Peerage in the Queen’s Birthday Honours List, as Lord Foster of Thames Bank.

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