

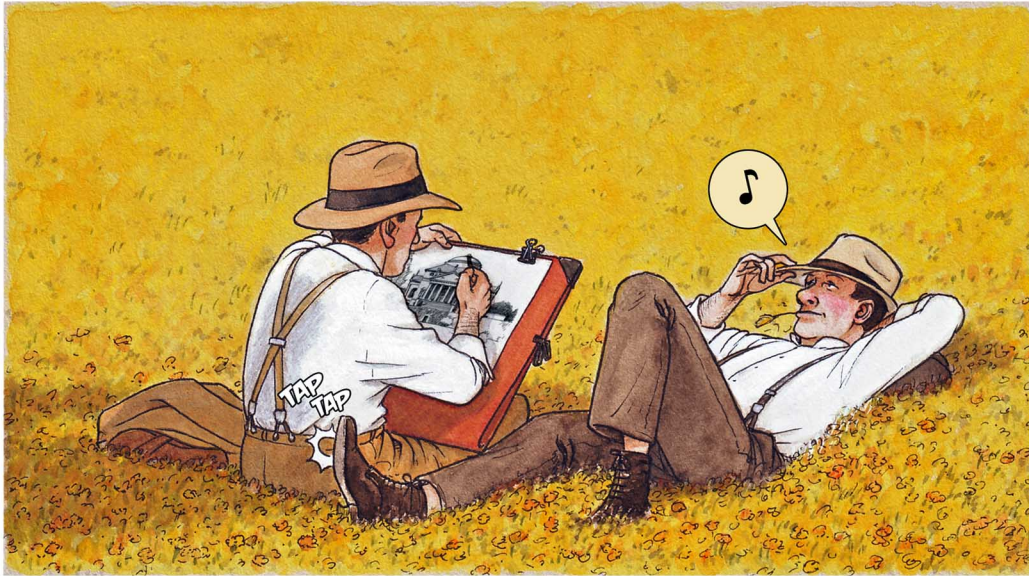
# MIES

HISTORICAL

SOCIAL

BIOGRAPHICAL

LIGHTS AND SHADOWS OF THE FATHER OF THE MODERN ARCHITECTURE.  
Prologue by **Lord Norman Foster.**



During a flight to West Berlin, on the way to the foundation stone ceremony of the National Gallery, famous architect Mies van der Rohe talks about and takes stock of his precarious life with his grandson, Dirk Lohan, also an architect. They reminisce periods of upheaval in the twentieth century, projects, clients, business partners, adversaries, friends and lovers...

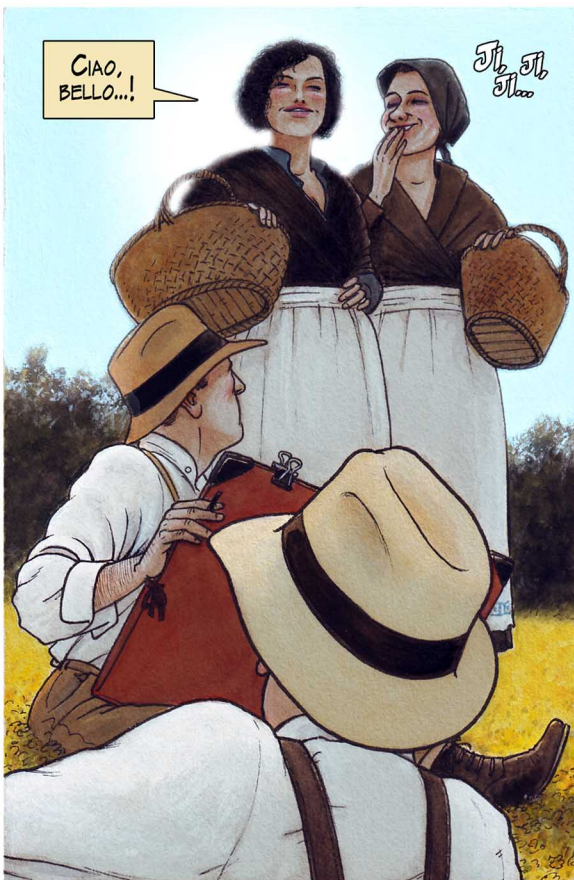
In short, a life marked by an ambition to build. But above all else, there are piercing memories of one thing that Mies has always kept a secret and cannot forget.

- **2019 is the 50th anniversary of Mies Van der Rohe death.**

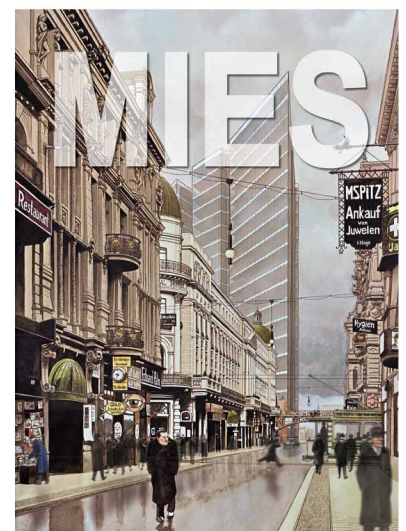
- **Considered the best architect of the XX century, his private life was far from exemplary.**

- **Director of the Bauhaus school until its closure under pressure from the Nazi regime.**

- **His career ambition took him to support Hitler and to abandon his friends and family.**



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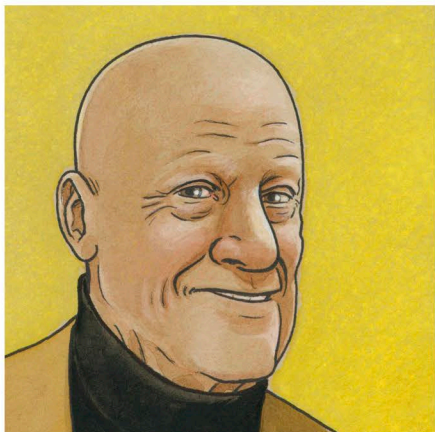


**Agustín Ferrer Casas**

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## PROLOGUE BY NORMAN FOSTER

Mies van der Rohe is one of a few architects of the twentieth century who has helped shape the architecture of the present and arguably that of the future.

Reputably the autor of “less is more”, he was the ultimate “minimalist” decades before that descriptive word was invented.

I write this in New York where his bronze clad Seagram building of 1958 on Park Avenue is one of the most beautiful towers ever created –a true design classic.

As a student at Yale University I remember making a pilgrimage to Chicago, the birthplace of the skyscraper, and whilst there I visited the studio of Mies van der Rohe. The great master was travelling but his assistants showed us the many study models that preceded the final design for Seagram. It was a reminder that the apparent simplicity of his creation was deceptive and rooted in a long drawn out quest for perfection. That same poetic distillation is apparent at any scale –from his Barcelona Pavillon to the iconic chair of the same name.

The stories behind these projects and more, including insights into his career as a teacher as well as practicing architect, are elegantly and wittingly portrayed in this excellent comic format by the illustrator and writer Agustín Ferrer Casas.

*Mies van der Rohe es uno de los pocos arquitectos del siglo XX que ha contribuido a dar forma a la arquitectura del presente y, posiblemente, a la del futuro.*

*Conocido como el autor de “menos es más”, fue máximo exponente del término “minimalista” décadas antes de que se inventara esa palabra.*

*Escribo estas líneas desde Nueva York, donde su edificio Seagram de 1958, revestido de bronce, en Park Avenue, es una de las torres más bellas jamás creadas –un auténtico clásico del diseño.*

*Como estudiante de la Universidad de Yale, recuerdo haber hecho una peregrinación a Chicago, la cuna del rascacielos, y allí visité el despacho de Mies van der Rohe. El gran maestro se encontraba de viaje, pero sus asistentes nos mostraron las numerosas maquetas de estudio que precedieron al diseño final del Seagram. Fue un recordatorio de que la aparente simplicidad de su creación era engañosa y estaba enraizada en una larga búsqueda de la perfección. Esa misma destilación poética es evidente a cualquier escala –desde su Pabellón de Barcelona hasta la emblemática silla del mismo nombre.*

*Las historias detrás de estos y otros proyectos, incluyendo los entresijos de su carrera como profesor y su trabajo como arquitecto, son elegante e ingeniosamente retratadas en este excelente cómic por el ilustrador y escritor Agustín Ferrer Casas.*