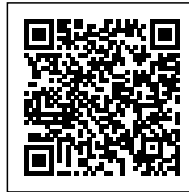




## FELIX CANDELA: ARCHITECTURE BY TRIAL AND ERROR

*Posted on July 15, 2025 by xavigonzalez*



**Categories:** [Alexander Eisenschmidt](#) | [Visionary Cities Project](#), [Audio&visual](#), [Contributors](#), [Densities](#), [expanding design practices](#), [Formats](#), [No Density](#), [Talk](#), [Technology and fabrication](#), [Topics](#)

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Felix Candela: Architecture by Trial and Error

<https://urbannext.net/felix-candela-architecture-by-trial-and-error/>

In this first clip of a four-part conversation, Alexander Eisenschmidt discusses his monograph *Felix Candela, From Mexico City to Chicago*, published by Actar Publishers, uncovering the architect's pioneering role in modern architecture. He highlights the elegant complexity of Candela's thin-shell concrete structures—forms that defy scale, hierarchy, and expectation. Through techniques that turned straight timber into doubly curved surfaces, Candela democratized spatial experimentation and transformed the construction site into a space of research. Eisenschmidt reflects on Candela's polymathic practice—oscillating between architect, engineer, and contractor—not for acclaim but to further an insatiable curiosity about form and material. This video also invites a critical reflection: what has contemporary architecture lost in its shift away from such hands-on, structural speculation?

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