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The authors discussed their ideas at length, in numerous meetings. From the outset, they knew they wanted a new different plant, one that did not repeat what had already been said about Pre-Columbian architecture.

The book's theoretical groundwork is presented in the first three chapters. In chapter one, Antonio Toca and María Teresa Uriarte discuss what they consider to be the aesthetic qualities of architecture; in chapter two, they investigate the meanings that emerge from architecture's relation to people, its surroundings, and the cosmos; and in chapter three, they analyze Mesoamerican construction techniques. Jesús Galindo uses his expertise as an astronomer to illuminate ancient buildings' connections to celestial objects and the calendar, which reveal the Mesoamerican preoccupation with the measurement of time