



Irénée Scalbert
**A Real Living
Contact with
the Things
Themselves**

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Things Themselves**

Essays on Architecture

Irénée Scalbert

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- This new book focuses on 'Features' - a selection of nine essays by renowned British architectural critic and scholar Irénée Scalbert, comprising detailed studies of major buildings and pieces that represent broader studies of historical movements and ideas

Contemporary architectural criticism tends to focus on the theories and concepts behind buildings. Yet there is much to be learned by venturing beyond the library walls to contemplate the real buildings – the things themselves. This urge for ‘real living contact’ is the impetus behind this new and exhilarating collection of essays by renowned British architectural critic and scholar Irénée Scalbert.

This new book selects nine essays written throughout Scalbert’s career from the early 1990s to the present. They comprise detailed studies of major buildings and pieces that represent broader studies of historical movements and ideas. All texts are based on direct experience, whether through quiet contemplation or candid interviews with architects, builders, or inhabitants. An architect by training, Scalbert writes with the purpose of illuminating the design efforts made and enriching the form of the architecture he describes, and his essays thus contribute to many key moments in the architectural history of the past three decades.

Scalbert’s incisive and boldly original criticism – together with a wealth of illustrations – make this a book an enlightening read for architects and architectural students or anyone with an appreciation of this important voice in architectural criticism.

Irénée Scalbert is an architectural critic and historian based in London and a visiting lecturer at the University of Limerick in Ireland.

