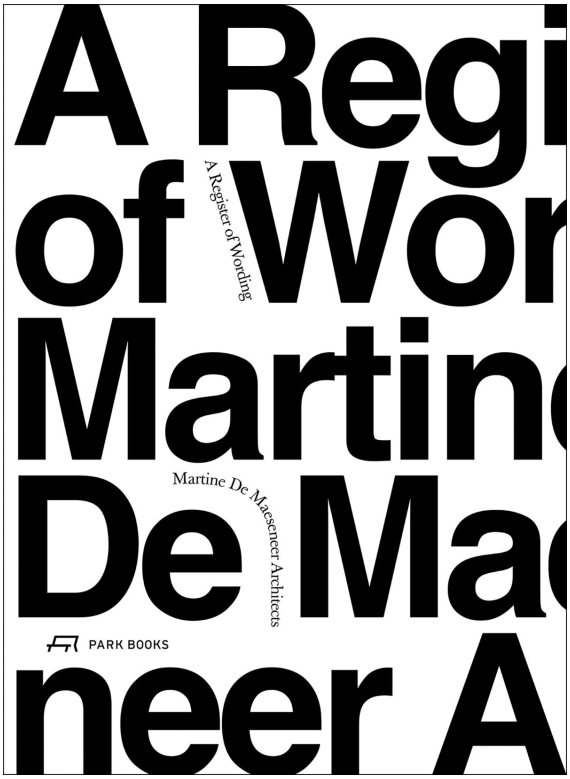
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# A Register of Wording

## Martine De Maeseneer Architects

## Martine de Maeseneer

## Dirk Van den Brande

## Edited by Jayne Kelley

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| **ISBN** | 9783038604372 |
| **Publisher** | Park Books |
| **Binding** | Hardback |
| **Territory** | World excluding Austria, France, Germany, Switzerland, Puerto Rico, United States, Canada, and Japan |
| **Size** | 260 mm x 190 mm |
| **Pages** | 304 Pages |
| **Illustrations** | 300 color |
| **Price** | £35.00 |

- First book by Brussels-based firm MDMA, offering a collection of new and previously published texts from more than three decades
- Evidences the intellectual trajectory of a practice for which writing is crucial and its deep engagement with an unusual range of philosophical references
- Offers a rich and unexpected variety of images from artistic, popular, and architectural sources
- First of a set of two books, second of which will present MDMA's design work

Martine De Maeseneer and Dirk Van den Brande, principals of Brussels-based practice ***Martine De Maeseneer Architects*** (MDMA), are "not compulsive builders." From the outset in 1988, they have advanced an architecture self-consciously embedded in text, oscillating between theorisation and realisation. In their award-winning built and conceptual work, MDMA's interest is in spatial organisations that initiate nonlinear stories and shift identities.

The first of two intended volumes—the second one to present MDMA's design work— ***A Register of Wording*** assembles the practice's text-based production to show how writing establishes a fertile—if unstable—ground for design. The book is more than a representation of words: it unfolds thinking expansively, across pages and decades, meandering yet distinctively committed to the search for a wide field of motives and plots for architecture.

It offers previously published essays conjuring the energy of the 1990s and early 2000s alongside unpublished explorations that extend, recast, and complexify earlier lines of thinking. Departing from an early analysis of existing buildings, MDMA's texts become more autonomous over time, invoking an unexpected array of visual, creative, and philosophical references. Sources are sampled, interrogated, circled around, juxtaposed, elided, played with. Pieces developed as lectures seize the theme, time, and place of the invitation to provide a distinctive perspective, without shying away from provocation.

**Martine De Maeseneer** is principal of Brussels-based firm Martine De Maeseneer Architects (MDMA), which she founded in the late 1980s, and a professor of architecture and design in the Faculty of Architecture at KU Luewen. **Dirk Van den Brande** is a principal with MDMA Martine De Maeseneer Architects in Brussels. **Jayne Kelley** is an editor and writer based in Chicago and a clinical assistant professor in the School of Architecture at the University of Illinois Chicago, where she directs the Architecture and Design Open Archive.

Publish date 10th May 2027