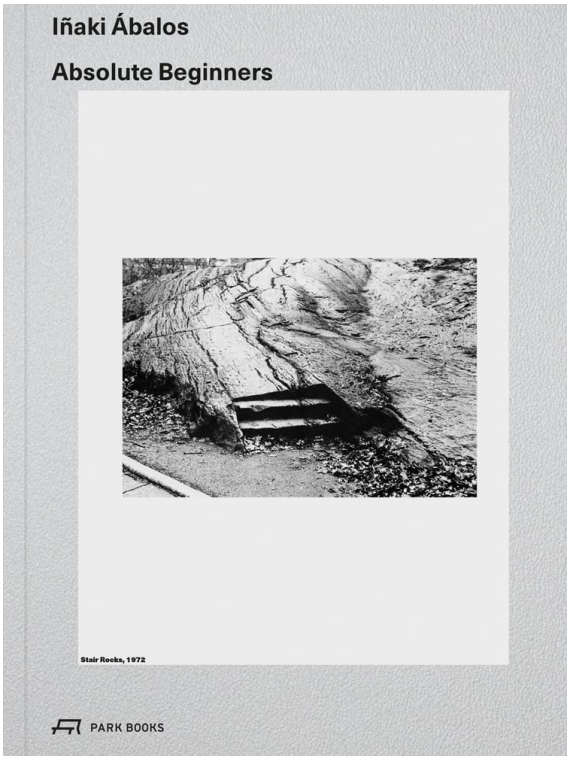
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Absolute Beginners

Iñaki Ábalos

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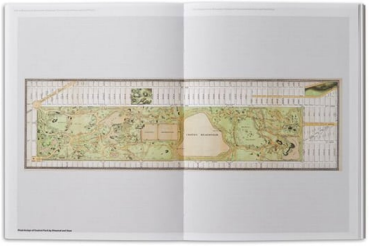
- Iñaki Ábalos presents the quintessence of his thinking about architecture and the future of his trade
- A highly enriching essay about forms of innovation in architecture
- Iñaki Ábalos is one of the great intellectuals among architects and among the most distinguished contributors to international architecture discourse

In his new book ***Absolute Beginners***, acclaimed Spanish architect Iñaki Ábalos explores forms of innovation in architecture. Drawing on diverse materials elaborated during the 20 years since the publication of his best-known book, *The Good Life*, Ábalos examines questions centred on how and why architectural creation — at least the kind that arouses the greatest cultural interest — is strongly linked to philosophical thought, especially to the essay and the aphorism. He guides us to an understanding why innovation — as happens in philosophy — is inextricably linked to a reflection on the past and to the emergence of new ways of appropriating old problems.

Absolute Beginners is a single essay written with effort and passion, made for the pure pleasure of composing a new and complex work and understanding the source materials as necessary fragments, while remaining open to adjustments, changes, and bridges between them. Ábalos organises his materials like a piece of music into a cohesive composition, to the delight and insight of his readers.

Iñaki Ábalos is founding principal of Ábalos+Sentkiewicz Architects with offices in Boston, Madrid, and Shanghai. He has also been a Professor of Architectural Design and director of the Laboratorio de Técnicas y Paisajes Contemporáneos (LTPC) at the Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura de Madrid (ETSAM) since 2002, and Professor-in-Residence at Harvard Graduate School of Design since 2012.







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