



# Aire

## The River and its Double

**Georges Descombes**  
**Julien Descombes**  
**Corinne Van Cauwenberghe**  
**Vincent Corrent**  
**Francois Gerber**

<b>ISBN</b>	9783038600817
<b>Publisher</b>	Park Books
<b>Binding</b>	Hardback
<b>Territory</b>	World excluding Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Puerto Rico, United States, Canada, and Japan
<b>Size</b>	240 mm x 180 mm
<b>Pages</b>	340 Pages
<b>Illustrations</b>	60 color, 216 b&w
<b>Price</b>	£45.00

- Documents a seminal and internationally recognised re-naturalisation project for a river in Switzerland
- Explains various aspects of the applied method of topographical imagination
- Texts contributed by international expert authors

South of Geneva, Switzerland, the River Aire runs across a plain that for centuries has been agricultural land. From the late 19th century, the waterway has been embanked for flood protection, also causing the gradual loss of habitat for a large variety of plants and animals. In 2001, decisions were taken to re-naturalise the river. Yet rather than to merely reconstruct its former natural bed, Superpositions, the association of firms commissioned with the project, applied 'topographic imagination', a method termed by American landscape designer Elissa Rosenberg. It combines the embanked channel with a newly designed pasture landscape. The channel indicates a work in progress and serves as a reference line that makes 'before' and 'after' traceable.

This new book documents this much recognised, award-winning re-naturalisation project with drawings, images of construction work and of the new waterway. Essays and comments by international contributors Jean-Marc Besse, Lorette Coen, Georges Descombes, G. Mathias Kondolf, Elissa Rosenberg, Gilles A. Tiberghien, and Marc Treib demonstrate how the restored River Aire has been upgraded to become again a characteristic feature of this landscape on the fringe of the city.

Text in English, French and German.

**Georges Descombes** is an architect and landscape designer, and a professor of architecture at University of Geneva. He has also taught as a visiting professor at Amsterdam's Berlage Institut, Harvard Graduate School of Design, and at University of Virginia in Charlottesville. **Julien Descombes** is an architect and landscape designer and co-founder of Atelier Descombes Rampini in Geneva. **Corinne Van Cauwenberghe** is a civil engineer and a director with B+C Engineers in Geneva. **Vincent Correnti** is a civil engineer and head of underground and road construction with ZS Ingénieurs civils in Geneva. **François Gerber** works as an environmental engineer with BIOTEC Biologie appliquée in Delémont, Switzerland.

