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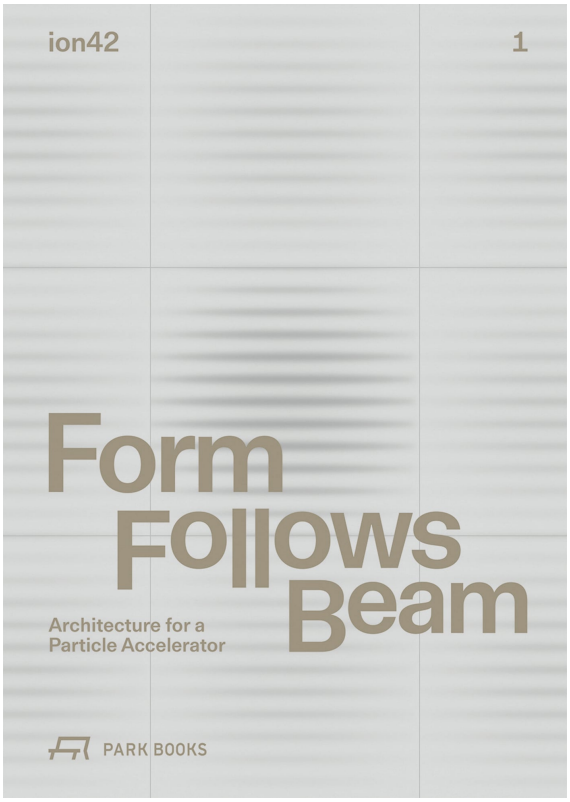

Form Follows Beam

Architecture for a Particle Accelerator

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ISBN	9783038604525
Publisher	Park Books
Binding	Paperback / softback
Territory	World excluding Austria, France, Germany, Switzerland, Puerto Rico, United States, Canada, and Japan
Size	310 mm x 230 mm
Pages	288 Pages
Illustrations	227 color, 43 b&w
Price	£45.00

- Documents the design and construction of the FAIR accelerator facility near Darmstadt, Germany, one of the world's most complex structures for cutting-edge research
- FAIR enables research into matter and states that do not occur naturally on Earth
- Offers insights into the work of architects and engineers on a task beyond routines and usual rules and regulations
- Highlights the relevance of architectural thinking on the example of a highly complex project largely determined by technical requirements
- Illustrates the interplay of cutting-edge research and the architecture housing it

The Facility for Antiproton and Ion Research (FAIR) near Darmstadt, Germany, has been under construction since 2012. One of the world's most complex structures for cutting-edge research, it features a ring accelerator with a circumference of 1.1 km (0.68 miles) and 14 adjoining research buildings with laboratories, workshops, cooling systems, energy supply, and a high-performance computing center. FAIR will supply matter of unprecedented density and temperature, and accelerate particles to nearly the speed of light, enabling vital research into matter and states that do not occur naturally on Earth. The architecture of this mega-project was designed by ion42, a joint venture between German architecture firms DGI Bauwerk (Berlin) and Schneider+schumacher (Frankfurt am Main).

Form Follows Beam provides deep insights into the genesis and execution of this extraordinary architectural task, lavishly illustrated with photographs, plans, drawings, and diagrams. In conversation, architects and engineers speak about the evolution the FAIR's shape and why careful architectural and landscape design is essential even for a facility so strongly determined by technical requirements. Supplementary essays explain what is being researched in FAIR, and what makes Darmstadt its ideal location.

Florian Heilmeyer is a Berlin-based author, editor, critic, and curator in the fields of architecture and urbanism. **Christian Holl** is an author, publicist, curator, and managing director of BDA Hessen. He is co-editor of German online architecture magazine*marlowes*. **Steffen Knöll** and **Johannes Hucht** and are communication, type, and book designers. They both work with Studio Tillack Knöll in Stuttgart.

Publish date 11th Oct 2027