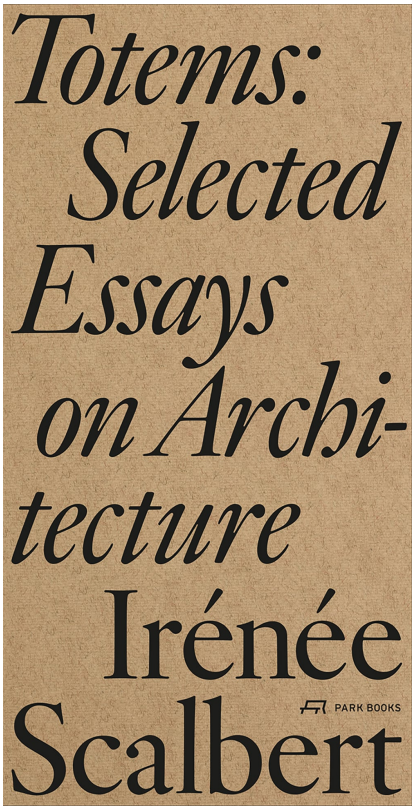
TITLE INFORMATION
Tel: +44 (0) 1394 389950
Email: uksales@accartbooks.com
Web: https://www.accartbooks.com/uk



Totems

Selected Essays on Architecture

Irénée Scalbert

ISBN	9783038604624
Publisher	Park Books
Binding	Paperback / softback
Territory	World excluding Austria, France, Germany, Switzerland, Puerto Rico, United States, Canada, and Japan
Size	225 mm x 115 mm
Pages	184 Pages
Illustrations	27 color, 18 b&w
Price	£25.00

- New collection of essays by French-British architectural historian and critic Irénée Scalbert
- Reflects nearly three decades of critical engagement with architecture and its cultural contexts
- Irénée Scalbert engages with questions of urbanism, nature, and meaning in contemporary architecture through a speculative and at times personal lens

Totems and Other Essays brings together 14 texts by architect, historian, and critic Irénée Scalbert. Written between 1998 and 2025, they reflect nearly three decades of critical engagement with architecture and its cultural contexts. Ranging in length and register—from concise meditations to extended analytical essays—the collection captures the evolution of Scalbert's thinking as a critic, teacher, and participant in architectural discourse.
Organised thematically into sections on buildings, cities, lectures, and theory, ***Totems and Other Essays*** traces a loosely autobiographical arc.

Earlier pieces echo Scalbert's formative years in London during a period of architectural ferment marked by the work of James Stirling, Norman Foster, and Richard Rogers, as well as his close association with a generation of contemporaries including Tony Fretton, Adam Caruso and Peter St John, and Tom Emerson and Stephanie Macdonald (6a architects). Later texts expand outward, both geographically and conceptually, as Scalbert brings a speculative and at times personal lens to questions of urbanism, nature, and meaning in contemporary architecture. The book culminates in *Lives of a Critic*, a postscript that offers candid thoughts on the vocation of architectural criticism in the 21st century.

Irénée Scalbert is a French-born architect, historian, and critic based in London. His work critically examines post war European architecture and its intersections with landscape, ornament, and social meaning.







Published 17th Mar 2026