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Speculative Practice  
in Architectural Education  
Edited by Troy Schaum

 PARK BOOKS

## Totalization

### Speculative Practice in Architectural Education

Edited by Troy Schaum

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- Offers insights into Rice Architecture's innovative teaching methods
- Rice Architecture collaborates for the Totalization Studios with renowned firms such as Heintges Kreysler Associates, Büro Happold and Arcora Silman Associates

Architecture is the quintessential generalist pursuit, requiring practical knowledge of geometry, technology, politics, history, culture, and economics, as well as an understanding how these disparate pieces fit together within the context of architectural practice. In short, an architect's expertise lies in big picture constructs, or totalization. The latest in the Rice Architecture series, *Totalization* shows the Rice School of Architecture's Totalization Studios at the forefront of teaching students to leverage the breadth of architectural practice toward in-depth speculative design work. Can a building's exterior be made of plastic? What is the twenty-first-century equivalent of the nineteenth-century steel frame? Can taking parts from a building for use elsewhere extend the building's useful life? Exploring these and other questions in cooperation with four studios – three in Houston, one in Paris – the work collected here challenges conventions around structures; facades; materials; and the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing aspects of building design and construction. The ultimate aim of the Totalization Studios is to eliminate the distinction between speculation and practice in students' final projects. The Totalization Studios represent one of the most innovative and robust architectural programs – a source of inspiration for many other programs worldwide – and this book offers welcome insights into its teaching methods through featured projects. With essays by Troy Schaum, Nat Oppenheimer, Mark Malekshahi, Doug Oliver and Will Cannady, Andrew Colopy, Mark Wamble, Oualalou + Choi and John Casabarian; a discussion with Nat Oppenheimer, interviews with Troy Schaum and Robert Heintges, and a conversation with Linna Choi and Tarik Oualalou. Afterword by Sarah Whiting.

**Troy Schaum** is an architect and Assistant Professor at Rice School of Architecture. He is also a founding partner in the New York City and Houston-based practice SCHAUM/SHIEH.