

URTZI GRAU, CRISTINA GOBERNA (FAKE INDUSTRIES ARCHITECTURAL AGONISM)

1936, Prolog

2012 | The Neufert Variations, 0047 Gallery, Oslo

Some architectural documents have the capacity of unveiling cultural symptoms. The book that defines European architectural standards, *Neufert*, is one of them. First published in Germany in 1936, it best exemplifies the project of optimization and standardization of bodies, and eventually life itself that soon shifted the history of Europe.

1936, Prolog investigates the corrections, changes and amendments to the different introductions of *Neufert*, from the first edition to the most recent 14th Spanish edition from 1995. It focus specifically on the seemingly objective language of these pieces avoids any ideological evaluation of the project in hands. Rather, the prologs list the committees, institutions and experts validating the scientific nature of its contents, but fail to contextualize *Neufert's* standardization project, alluding instead to the corrections that healed the obsolescence of the original text.

Its value has been attested to by its inclusion in the exhibition *The Neufert Variations* curated by Martin Braathen for the 0047 Gallery in Oslo in 2012.

1936, Prolog
by FAKE INDUSTRIES ARCHITECTURAL AGONISM

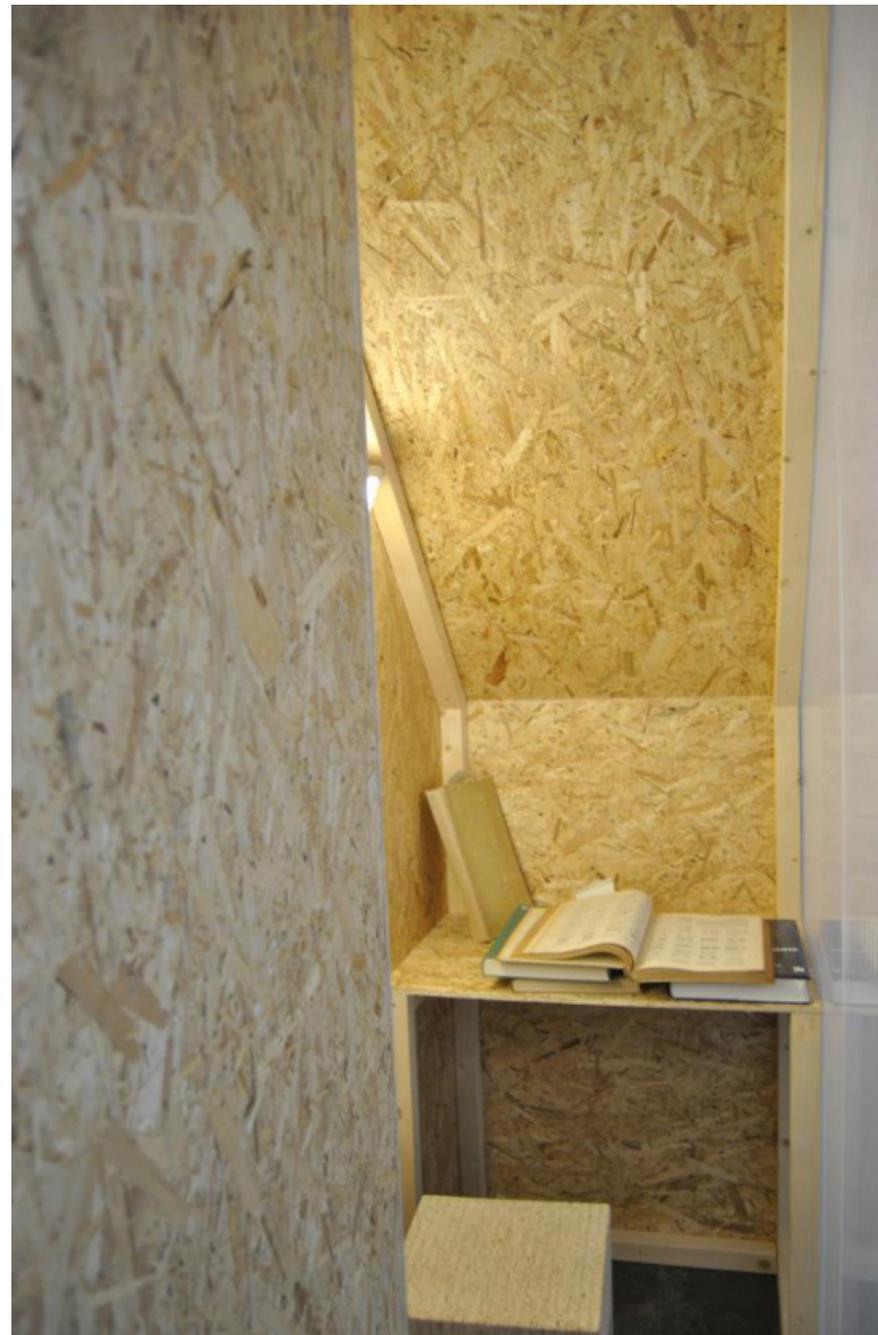
URTZI GRAU
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Exhibition view



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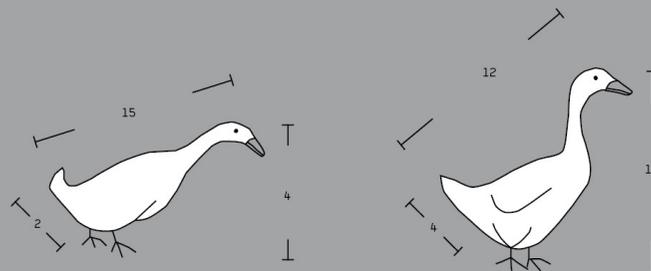
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Exhibition poster

neufertvariasjonene

Kurator: Martin Braathen

26. oktober - 25. november



Verk av:

Markus Degerman, Eriksen Skajaa Arkitekter, Ghilardi Hellsten Architects, Toril Johannessen, Powerhouse Architects, Superunion Architects, Bernard Tschumi, Måns Wrangé / OMBUD

Bidrag av:

Atelier Oslo, Barkow Leibinger Architekten, Brendeland & Kristoffersen Arkitekter, Ensemble Studio, Jan Carlsen, Fake Industries Architectural Agonism, Carl-Viggo Hølmekvakk, JAJA Architects, Markus Miessen, Dag Nilsen, Point Supreme Architects, Rintala Eggertsson Architects, SFOSL Architects, TYIN Tegnestue, Urban Rabbe Architects

0047

The Neufert Variations

OCTOBER 26 - NOVEMBER 25, 2012
Opening reception: Friday, October 26th 7pm



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standardization. Neufert was first published in Germany in 1936 and has since been released in numerous languages and updates. As a comprehensive architectural reference book, Neufert contains an enormous amount of functional and dimensional diagrams; how much space do you need for a handshake, what is the turning radius on semi-trailer, how do you organize a cemetery most effectively, and how to arrange two guest beds based on the relationship between the sleepers.

But Neufert also contains a large amount of meta information, such as a crash courses in architectural history and the psychology of perception, the art of holding a pencil properly, and instructions in negotiating contracts. In other

words, Neufert could be seen as a complete guide to the world of the functionalist architect; avoiding design, only abstract diagrams focused on distilled functions. The book fits perfectly to the modernist ideology of creating the building inside and out, tailored around the function. Having spread successfully across the globe – it can probably be found in a majority of architects' offices in the western world – it has nonetheless always been a source of criticism; its simplifications of man, its connection to Albert Speer, its scientific approach to the world. Nevertheless, it has been standing strong, both loved and hated, until today – when it is pushed aside in favour of increasingly specialized building legislation, digital databases, and new design paradigms.

The exhibition "The Neufert Variations" circles around Neufert, not biographically, but rather as a phenomenon within architecture culture. Through commissioned and historical works by architects and artists, we speculate around the book's world of ideas, its history and creative potential. Topics include architects' passionate love-hate relationship with rules and norms, the compromise as a negotiation between utopia and reality, as well as Neufert's esoteric and fictional sides.

Works by / Verk av:

Markus Degerman

Eriksen Skajaa Arkitekter

Ghilardi Hellsten Architects

Toril Johannessen

Powerhouse Company

Superunion Architects

Bernard Tschumi

Måns Wrangé / OMBUD

Contributions by / Bidrag av:

Atelier Oslo, Barkow Leibinger Architekten, Brendeland & Kristoffersen Arkitekter, Ensemble Studio, Jan Carlsen, Fake Industries, Architectural Agonism, Carl-Viggo Hølmebakk, JAJA Architects, Markus Miessen, MMW Arkitekter, Dag Nilsen, Point Supreme Architects, Rintala Eggertson Architects, SFOSL Architects, TYIN Tegnestue and Urban Rabbe Architects.

Video Weeks

Come Into The Open
2006

Momentum 2006 -
Domestic Affairs

Industry!

All Together Now

Dugnad

Amanita Verosa

Salong

2005

Industry Revisited

Berliner Kunstsalon

B-sides

1/32 and Bloody Eclectic
Punk.

Architecture.Technology.

What about next Friday,

Mr Crusoe?

Reveries of Endlessness

Non Lo So

2004

Intuitive Navigation

Mifa

Pz!

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Supporting Evidence

The Neufert Variations, 0047
Gallery,

[http://www.0047.org/exhibitions/
view/67](http://www.0047.org/exhibitions/view/67)