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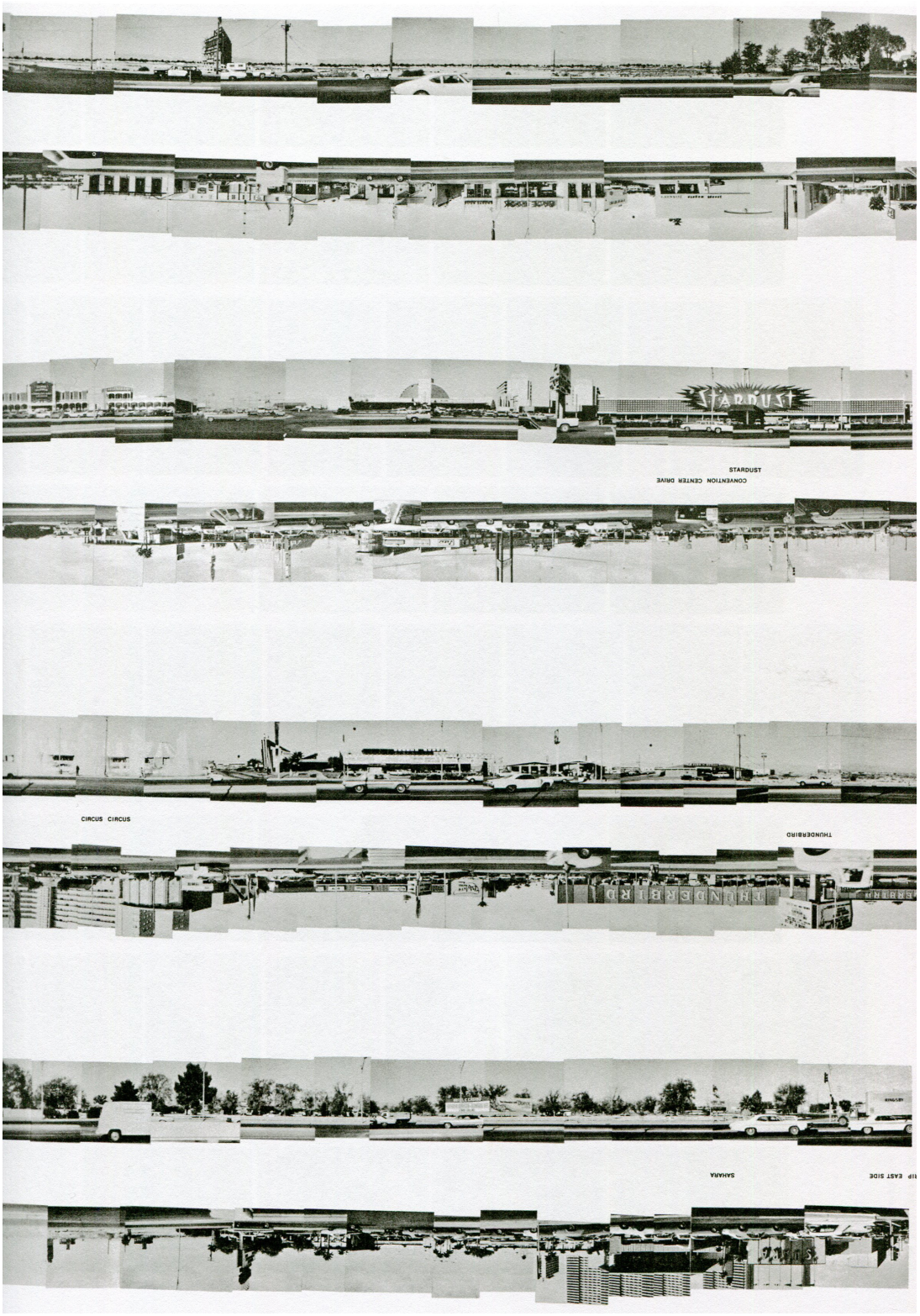
Prof Rainer Hehl

Master Studio
Deviant Architectures

Nullübung



Ed Ruscha, Every Building on the Sunset Strip, 1966

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Urban Thresholds

The 'Nullübung' for the Master Studio 'Deviant Architectures' is based on a fragment of the streetscape of Turmstrassse in Berlin, which serves as the backdrop for specific urban interventions that combine living and commercial/non-profit activities. Instead of following the development logic of existing block divisions, the project proposals should question existing typologies and regulations in order to introduce more spatial variety in regard of the relationship between public and private. The interventions are therefore aiming at the stimulation of activities that are situated at the threshold between inside and outside.
According to urban sociologist Hans Bahrdt urbanity is defined by the polar dichonomy between 'Stilisierung', between exposure to public life and various manifestations of otherness on one side and the retreat of each individual subjectivity on the other. The more this dichotomy is articulated, the more we experience urbanity (in contrast to the blurred situation between public and private as it appears in more rural conditions).
How can we formulate this relationship between exposure and retreat in spatial terms? How can we conceive interfaces allowing multiple identities to coexist along the stretch of a streetscape?
Through the development of specific programmatic scenarios and user profiles the design of thresholds is serving for the formation of cultural diversity and enhanced urbanity.

Assignment

- Development of a user-profile corresponding to the given templates of specific urban building types (sources: Pet Architecture, Made in Tokyo)

- Design of a multi-use dwelling unit composed of a living area of minimum 30sqm and additional spaces for commercial services and/or non-profit program.

- Presentation of the project proposal in a 1/50 scale model inserted within the given mock-up of the street facade (materials of free choice) and an axonometric drawing showing the spatial and programmatic concept.

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Hand-out

Tuesday Apr 10th — 3pm Halle7

– Exercise sheet including examples
– Selection of reference buildings
– Template for the axonometric drawing

Hand-in and Presentation

Friday Apr 13th — 10am-1pm Halle7

Please note that the studio space for model making will be closed on Thursday at 5pm.

Requirements

– Model scale 1:50 (materials of free choice)
– A3 sheet with axonometric drawing of the intervention (based on the given template)

Criteria

– Consistency of the transfer and concept idea
– Originality and clarity of architectural and spacial qualities
– Aesthetic qualities and formal articulation of the street front

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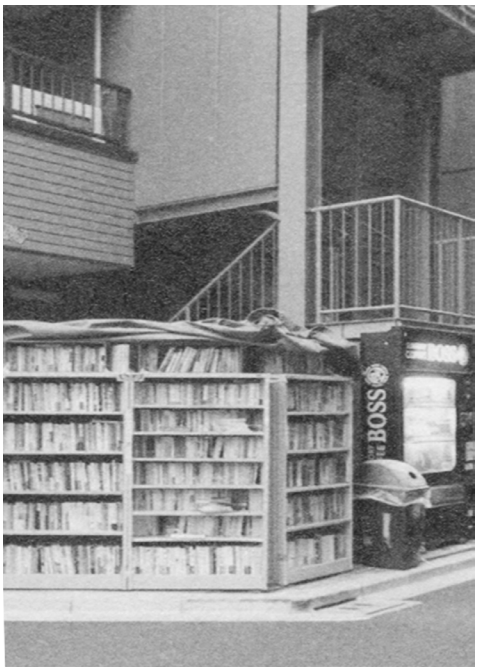
Examples



Kumiko Inui, Research on Small Spaces

Kumiko Inui, House M

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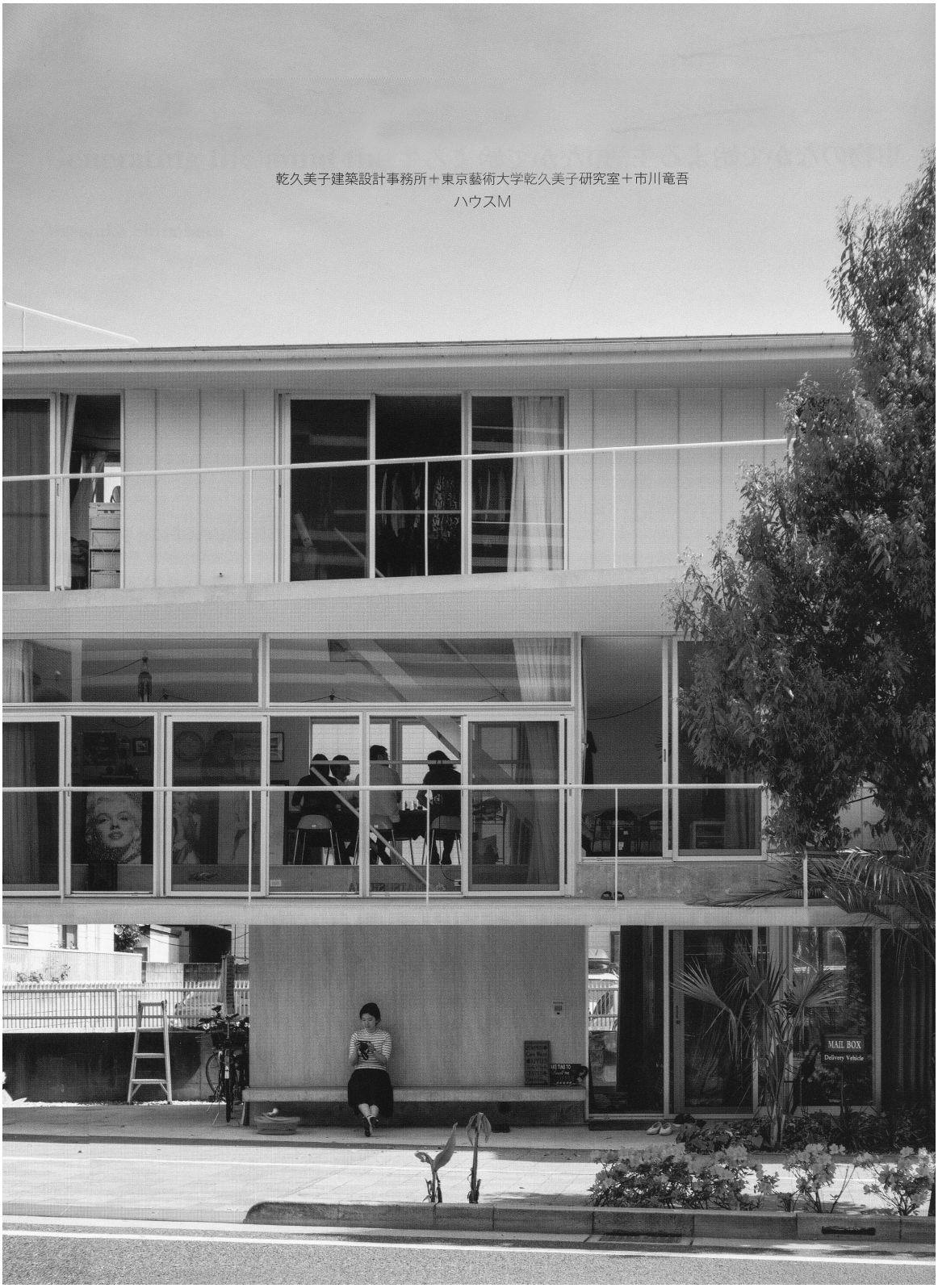
Examples



Kumiko Inui, House M

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Examples

Storefront for Art and Architecture, New York

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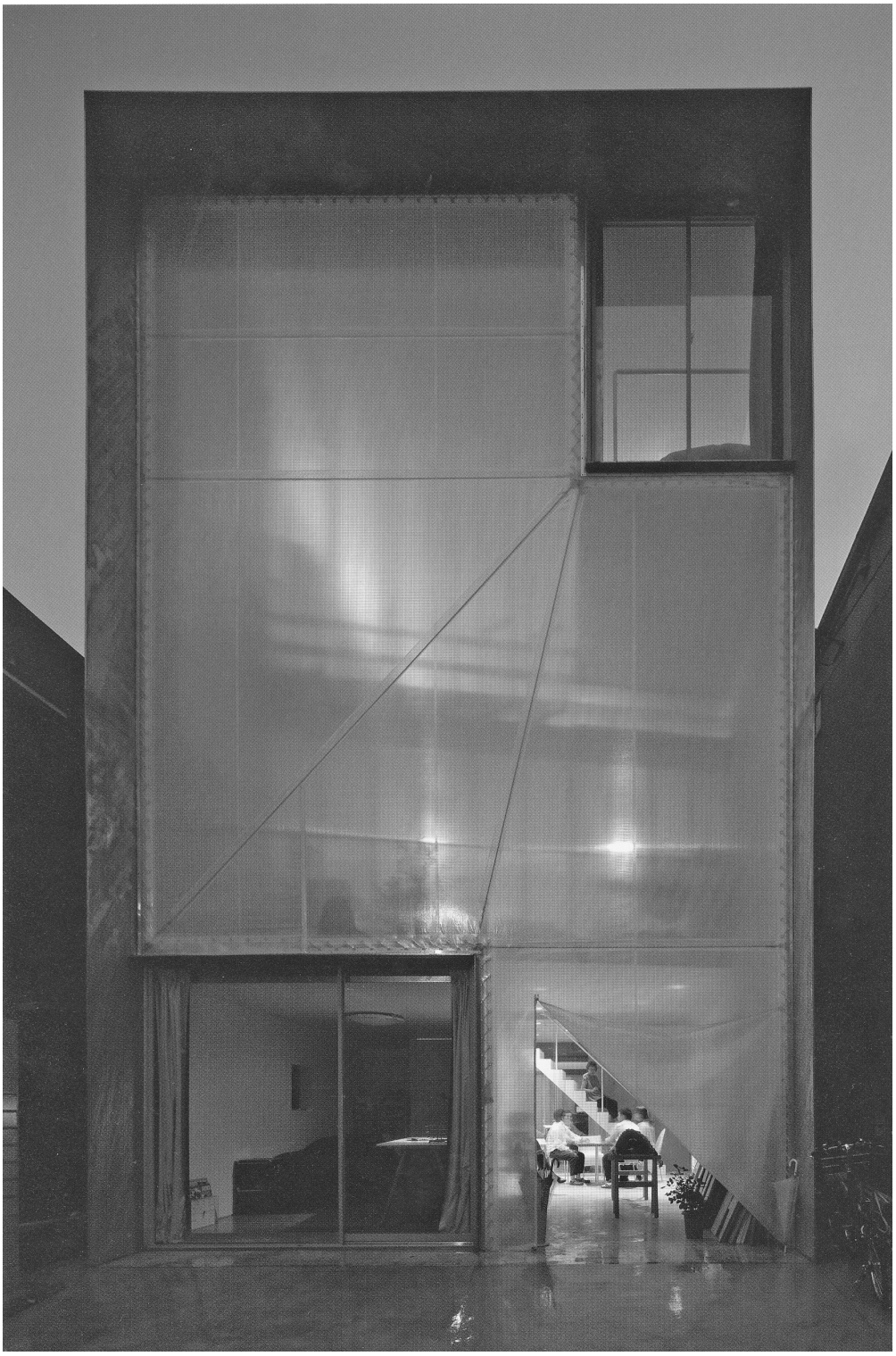
Examples



SHAREyaraicho, A Studio

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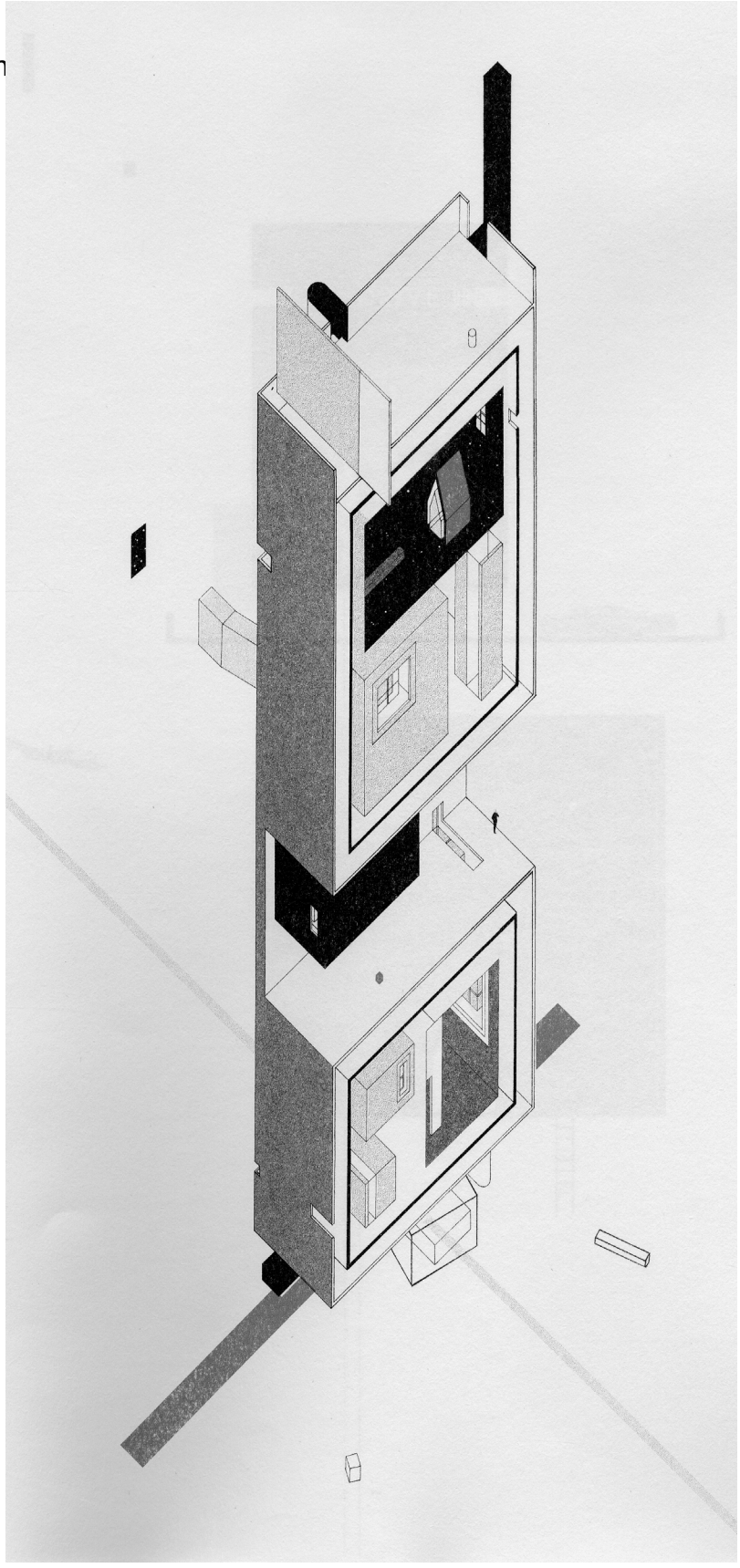
Examples Axonom



One man‘s bilboard, Bruna Canepa

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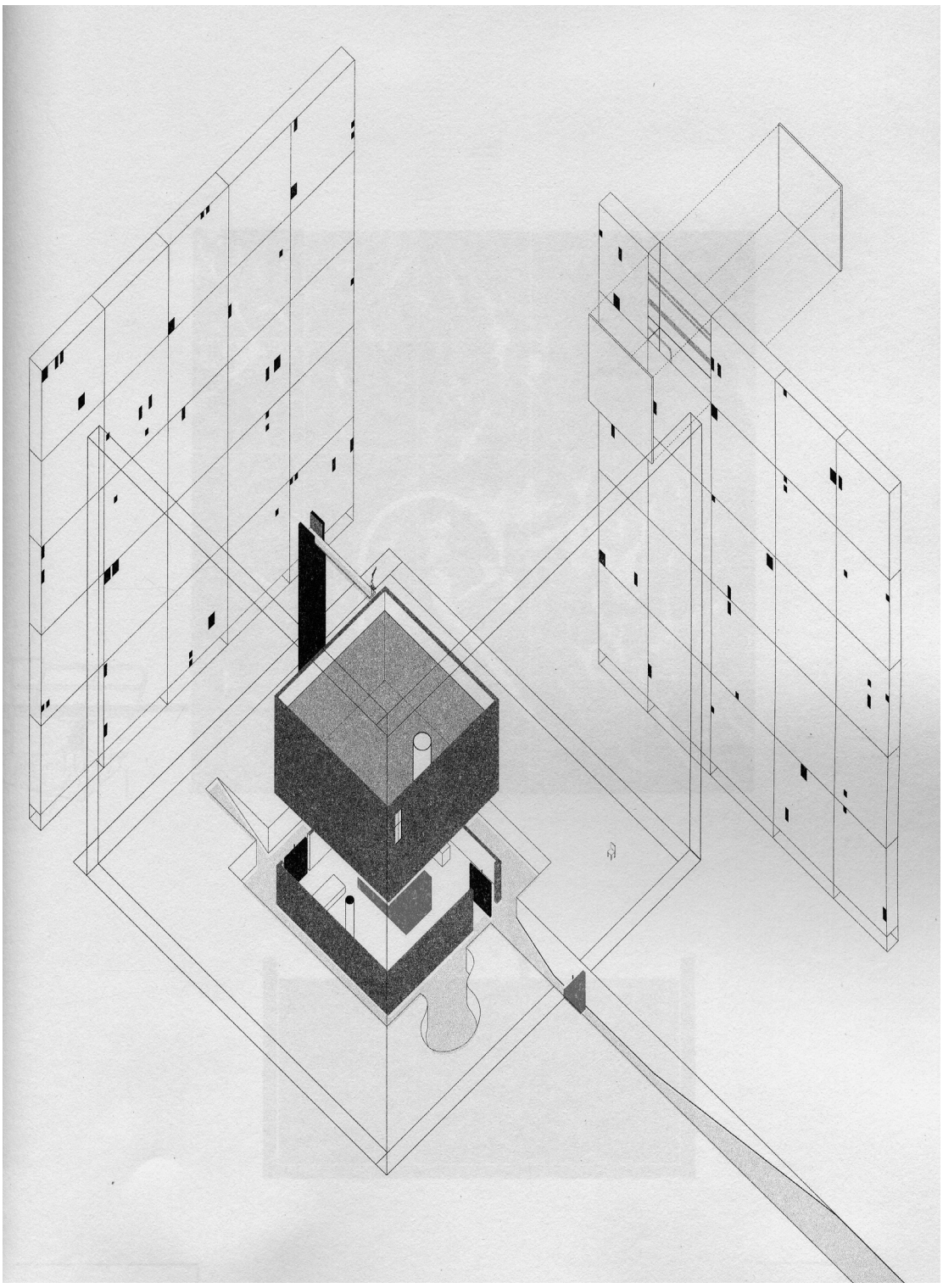
Examples Axonometry



Bilboard House, Bruna Canepa

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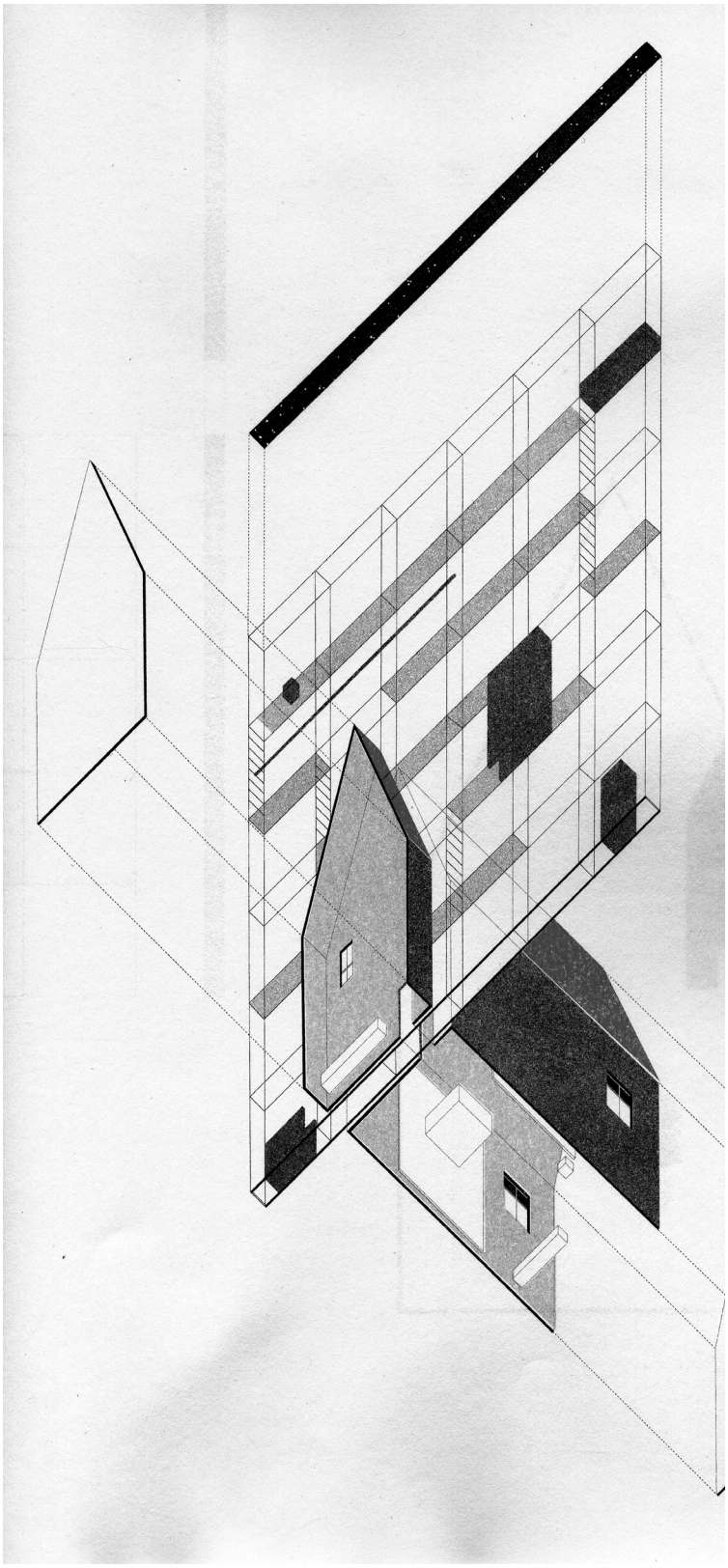
Examples Axonometry



Bruna Canepa

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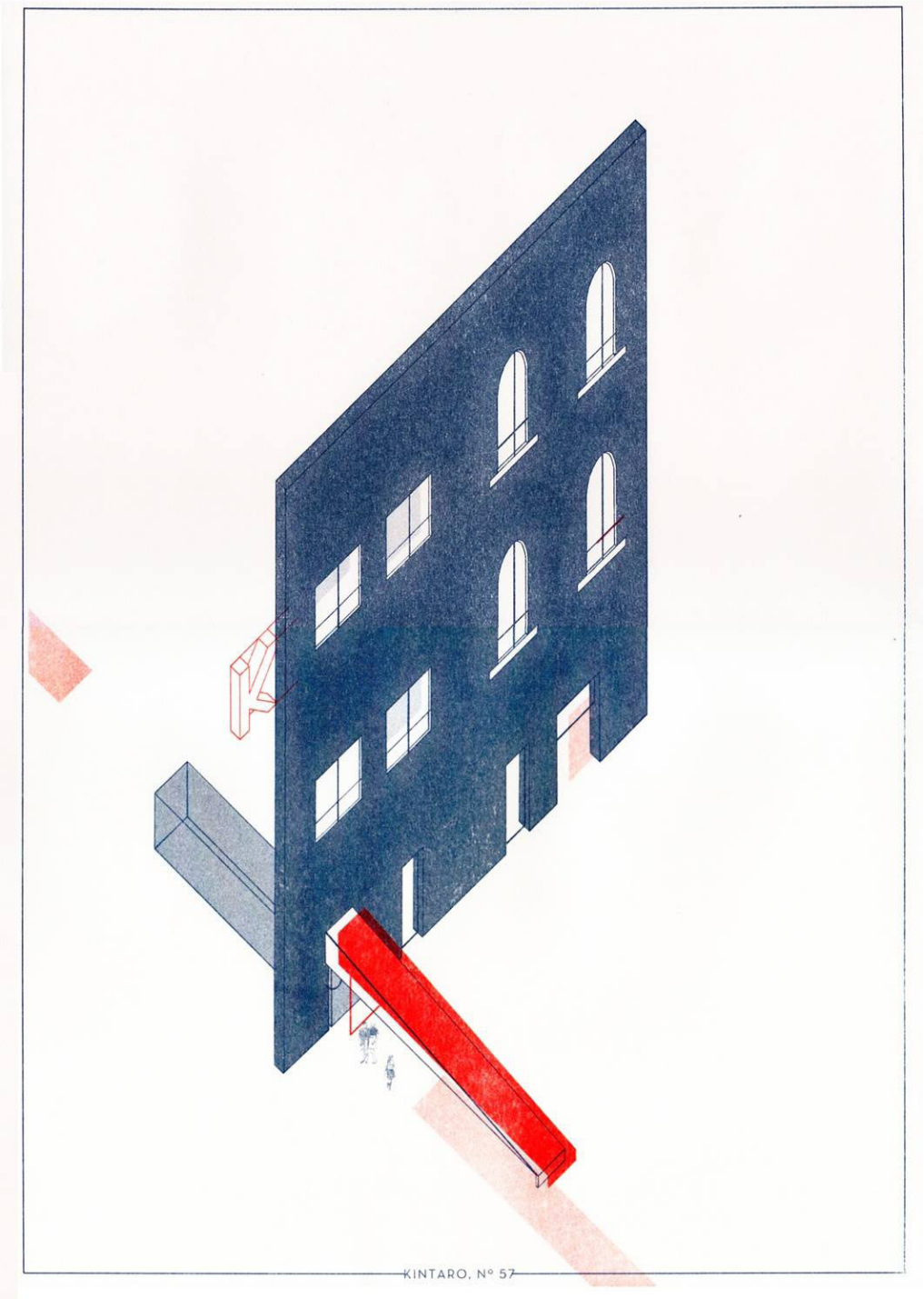
Examples Axonometry



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Handbook OF PERMIT-FREE BUILDING IN BERLIN

Matthias Spielvogel

"Property and the right of inheritance shall be guaranteed. Their content and limits shall be defined by the laws." —According to Article 14 of the Basic Law for the Federal Republic of Germany, i.e. the German constitution, the right to property is fundamental. In principle, the property guarantee grants free reign over property. Thus, a builder in Germany who holds property in the form of real estate is entitled to build upon, alter, and make use of this property. The freedom to build, i.e. the *right* to build, is therefore fundamentally guaranteed.

Yet according to the second half of Article 14(1), the freedom to build is only a potential freedom—the article straightaway imposes broad limitations on this freedom by stipulating that it is accountable to pertinent laws. Provisions of the public law, in the form of planning permissions and building codes, are entitled to regulate the use of property as much as necessary to ensure that the built environment and urban space develop in an orderly fashion.

Following up on the legal limitations, Article 14(2) addresses the fact that property is tied to social responsibility. Property entails obligations, to the public good and to the community's rules. In principle, any construction, alteration, or change of use is forbidden until your plans have received express authorization (as the maxim goes: prohibited unless approved). In the end, what remains of the right to property and the associated freedom to build is the *right to approval*, so long as your building plans are permissible and in conformity with building codes.

Today, you could argue with justification that the freedom to build is a withered, perhaps even lifeless principle, significant only as a historical remnant existing on paper and in legal treatises. Starting out as a fundamental principle, it has developed over the decades into an empty truism held in check by social concerns, planning, and law—something that in the real practice of building only counts as a limited freedom to build. But this isn't true of a few specific construction projects that are established in regional building codes. These projects don't require any permission—they are "permit free," so to speak. They may be carried out without the usual bureaucratic authorization process. They aren't constrained by any procedural obligations; they can be created on one's own terms and by one's own authority. In a certain sense, they amount to a check on the limitation of our freedom to build.

Yet many builders lack knowledge and expertise on this subject. They spend most of their time tackling questions of construction and design, rather than grappling with the ramifications of having a fundamental right to build freely. The same goes for the statutes that address permit-free building. Even within the fields of architecture and law, there is scarcely anything written about these statutes—to say nothing of the fact that for laypeople, faced with the daunting heaps of provisions and laws, it's nearly impossible to distinguish between, comprehend, and ultimately make use of these rules.

A major step toward harnessing this potential freedom to build, and ensuring that it has an impact that is visible and tangible, is to make permit-free building accessible to the public in a practical fashion. Permit-free projects, when encountered in the form of building code statutes, are a subject that is incomprehensible, complicated, and overly complex for the layperson who might want to build something. To become accessible, these rules must first be refashioned into a manual that is clear, comprehensible, and oriented toward the actual practice of building.

A digestible handbook of permit-free building for non-lawyers could lay a foundation for people to discover the possibilities of procedural freedom, and to put these lessons to widespread and creative use. The idea is exciting, almost tantalizing—to dream up a permit-free project one evening, and begin building it come the next morning.

By their nature, permit-free projects are limited to a select number of comparatively small-scale and modest undertakings. But the opportunity to build in a way that's autonomous and self-empowered, paying no heed to quantity and quality, amounts to real freedom to build. This small sample of possible projects gives an idea of what you can accomplish right away, on your own terms, without any bureaucratic hassle:

- Single-story buildings with a gross floor area (GFA) of up to 10 square meters
- Garages and covered parking spaces with an average wall height of up to 3 meters per wall and a GFA of up to 30 square meters
- Protective shelters for hikers that are accessible to everyone and not intended for occupancy
- Terrace canopies with a surface area of up to 30 square meters and a depth of up to 3 meters
- Stationary containers or vessels with a gross volume of up to 50 cubic meters and a height of up to 3 meters
- Water basins with a volume of up to 100 cubic meters
- Private traffic structures, including bridges and culverts, with a clearance of up to 5 meters, and tunnels with a diameter of up to 3 meters
- Jumping ramps, diving platforms, and slides up to 10 meters high
- Windows and doors as well as their intended openings
- Other insignificant structures or insignificant parts of structures, such as canopied entryways to buildings, awnings, roller blinds, terraces, road vehicle scales, arbors, hunting stands, wild animal feeders, bee-hive stands, courtyard driveways, and carpet racks.

Even permit-free projects can't be realized on a whim. But it's worth testing whether a permit-free garage might be used as a living room, whether a container might function as lodging, or whether permit-free structures—each 10 square meters large—could be added up until you've built the necessary amount of habitable space for a certain number of residents. It would be interesting to see what unique dimensions, what individual forms could be developed for each kind of building project—and also to see how far this procedural freedom could be stretched using different strategies, combinations, additions, subtractions, creative appropriations, and so forth, without drawing the ire of building authorities. There's no doubt that we could open up entirely unheard-of vistas if builders could only perceive the freedom from procedure that certain projects offer, and take matters into their own hands.

The promise that rings through this list of permit-free projects—the promise of having a toolkit at hand, filled with the widest variety of instruments, allowing you to build autonomously, individually—sounds something like a call to adventure, an invitation to build more freely.

This essay and the projects that follow excerpted from Matthias Spielvogel, Handbuch Verfahrensfreie Bauvorhaben in Berlin, *edited by Arno Brandlhuber and Silvan Linden / akademie c/o Architektur und Stadtforschung, AdBK Nürnberg, Disko 17, Nürnberg, 2011.*

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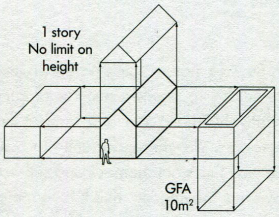
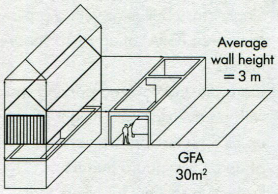
License to Build

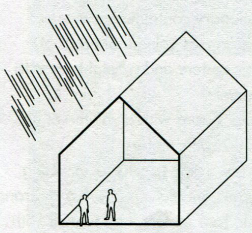
§ 62(1)1a
Single-story buildings with a gross floor area of up to 10 sq m and subordinate buildings like kiosks, vending carts, and toilets in public thoroughfares:
Such buildings must form a usable building unit that is independent of other built structures. They must also feature their own access and circulation. The building must be closed at the top, but not necessarily on every side. Such buildings must be adequate to shelter their users.



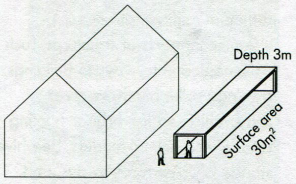
§ 62(1)1b
Private garages, covered parking spaces, and their storage areas, with an average wall height of up to 3 m per wall and a gross floor area of up to 30 sq m:
Such garages differ in pure parking spaces in that they must meet the standards of a building (as per the definition of a building in the full text of Section 62(1)1a). In doing so, they may be built as either independent buildings or connected to other buildings. They can also be built underground and feature multiple stories.



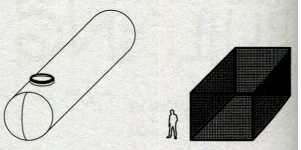
§ 62(1)1f
Protective shelters for hikers that are accessible to everyone and not intended for occupancy:
Protective shelters are buildings meant to provide shelter or a place of rest for hikers or travelers in the event of bad weather. Such shelters must have a roof and be enclosed on all sides. They are not intended for permanent occupancy and are not required to meet any health standards (e.g., ceiling heights of 2.5 meters, ventilation, lighting).



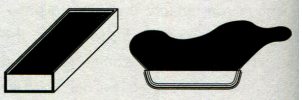
§ 62(1)1g
Terrace canopies with a surface area of up to 30 sq m and a depth of up to 3 m:
Terraces are understood as insignificant structures or insignificant parts of structures, and are classified as permit-free projects because of their minimal potential for danger. Such terrace canopies may be attached to built structures or designed as a standalone and independent structure.



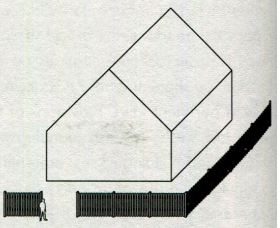
§ 62(1)5a
Stationary containers with a gross volume of up to 50 cubic meters and a height of up to 3 m:
Containers are standard building products that meet product-safety guidelines. Such containers must be *stationary*, meaning they must be structurally and mechanically connected to the ground. So long as this connection is stable to a certain degree, the project then qualifies as a built structure if it's connected to other existing structures.



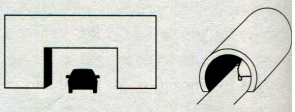
§ 62(1)5d
Water basins with a volume of up to 100 cubic meters:
Water basins are included within the scope of Point 5, *containers*. In this context, it can be assumed that such structures are meant as water collectors and reservoirs.



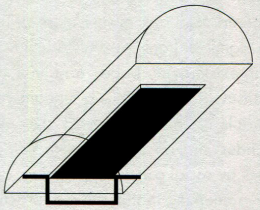
§ 62(1)6a
Walls, including retaining walls and enclosures, with a height of up to 2 m:
Retaining walls are built structures that support other structures on slopes by stabilizing parts of a property positioned higher up. As long as they are independent of a construction project that requires approval, they may be built permit-free. Enclosures are structures that protect properties from unauthorized entry. Furthermore, they can protect against disturbances like noise, wind, and dirt from the streets.



§ 62(1)7
Private traffic structures, including bridges and culverts, with a clearance of up to 5 m, and tunnels with a diameter of up to 3 m:
Private traffic structures are understood as structures like private streets, access roads, courtyard areas, and interior frontage roads, including built structures like bridges, culverts, and tunnels, that help vehicles negotiate obstacles.



§ 62(1)9a
Swimming pools with a volume of up to 100 cubic meters, plus an associated inflatable canopy:
Swimming pools are built structures that are suited for swimming and bathing. No stipulations dictate what materials to use nor what kind of pool to build. Inflatable canopies must employ no supports and be inflated using air pressure. The pool volume corresponds to the maximum volume of water basins (see above).



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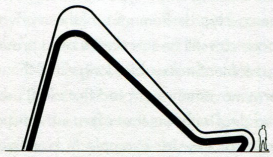
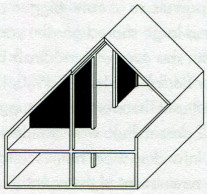
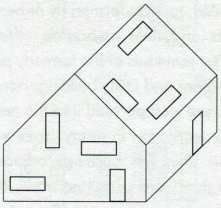
§ 62(1)9b
Jumping ramps, diving platforms, and slides up to 10 m high:
Such structures are built for play or sport. As a rule, they consist of a vertical element for accessing the structure, in addition to the actual ramp, slide, springboard, etc.



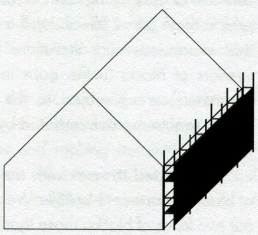
§ 62(1)10a
Nonstructural and non-buttressing building elements in built structures:
In structural engineering terms, the structure designates a building's overall structural system, comprising the load-bearing elements that are essential for its stability. A building's nonstructural elements, like lightweight partition walls (drywall), are not part of the load-bearing structure and can be altered without compromising the structural system or overall stability.



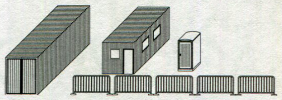
§ 62(1)10c
Windows and doors as well as their intended openings:
The guidelines for windows and doors are specified in Section 37 of the Berlin Building Code: according to Paragraph (1), it must be possible to clean windows safely. Larger glass surfaces or glass doors must, according to Paragraph (2), be recognizable as such and may not pose a danger to anyone. In apartments with elevators, according to Paragraph (3), *entry doors* must feature a minimum clearance of 90 cm for reasons of accessibility. For ventilation of fumes from basements, Paragraph (4) stipulates that at least one open-air vent must be provided if the basement features no windows. If a window is foreseen as a secondary emergency escape, Paragraph (5) stipulates that it must be a minimum of 90 cm wide and 120 cm high.



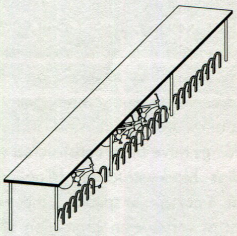
§ 62(1)11a
Advertising displays on scaffolding and construction fencing:
According to Section 10 of the Berlin Building Code, advertising displays are stationary installations that direct attention to commercial establishments or businesses and make announcements or claims.
To qualify as outdoor advertising, the structure must be visible from publically trafficked space. *Advertising on scaffolding and fencing* is exempt from Sections 9(2) and 10(2) of the Berlin Building Code, which govern architectural review to avoid aesthetic offenses. The lifespan of the advertising installation depends on the progress of the construction site in question and terminates with the end of construction.



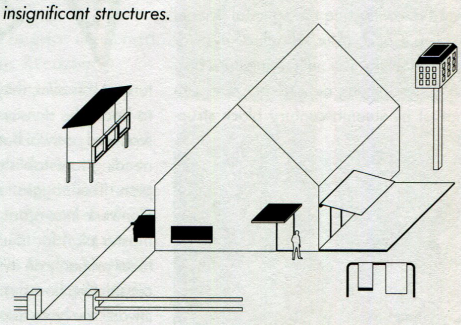
§ 62(1)12a
Construction site facilities including all storage rooms, protective canopies, accommodations not intended as housing, and construction site offices:
According to Section 11 of the Berlin Building Code, construction sites should feature such facilities as necessary to protect those working on the construction site from danger and risk. The statute defines a **construction site facility** as all those buildings, devices, and machines that are necessary to ensure an orderly conduct of the construction process.
As long as the facilities are only meant for short-term occupancy, one can ignore legal building requirements like walls, roofs, etc.



§ 62(1)14a
Bicycle parking structures with a floor area of up to 30 sq m:
A private bicycle-parking project can be carried out permit-free without having to demonstrate "need." The requirement, however, that bicycle-parking structures cannot function as buildings must be observed.



§ 62(1)14e
Other insignificant structures or insignificant parts of structures, such as canopied entryways to buildings, awnings, roller blinds, terraces, road vehicle scales, arbors, hunting stands, wild animal feeders, bee-hive stands, courtyard driveways, and carpet racks:
The construction projects listed here are meant as orientation, and to help develop a feeling for the scope and scale encompassed by the term *insignificant structures*.



All Illustrations by Matthias Spielvogel