

HANDBOOK LABOR

*Exhibit solutions toolkit**

LABOR is a multidisciplinary design and production laboratory operating across design, experimentation and visual culture.

LABOR focuses on **process reduction** and the development of practical tools, enabling projects to be conceived and realized with a high degree of autonomy.

Within a **sustainability-oriented** approach, the laboratory prioritizes material reuse, local resources and the adaptation of existing products and systems.

*A focus on systems, constraints and construction logics.
Artworks appear only as contextual elements within technical documentation.

Clients

Artists and institutions

Lukas Hoffmann

Armin Linke

Nora Mertes

Martina Pozzan

Centre national d'art et de culture Georges-Pompidou, Paris, FRA

Comune di Cheremule, Sassari, ITA

Galerie im Körnerpark - Fachbereich Kultur Neukölln, Berlin, DEU

IGFAE - Instituto Galego de Fisica de Atlas Enerxias, Santiago, ESP

Innsitu - BTV Stadtforum, Innsbruck, AUT

K.H.I. Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz, Florence, ITA

Museum Neukölln, Berlin, DEU

Saarländische Galerie - Europäisches Kunstforum E.V., Berlin, DEU

Areas of focus

Heritage preservation - A

<i>Context</i>	Protected historic buildings
<i>Strategy</i>	Non-invasive, reversible solutions
<i>Response</i>	Temporary supports that preserve both object and architecture

Reversibility - B

<i>Context</i>	Need of flexible solutions suitable for reconfiguration and reuse
<i>Strategy</i>	Simplified design of adaptable systems
<i>Response</i>	Systems designed to be undone and reshaped

No frame - C

<i>Context</i>	Image-centered exhibitions
<i>Strategy</i>	Minimal design
<i>Response</i>	Reduction of visual mediation

Free-standing - D

<i>Context</i>	Lack of load-bearing or fixable architectural supports
<i>Strategy</i>	Self-supporting systems operating independently from the environment
<i>Response</i>	Stability through geometry, mass distribution or counterweights

Infrastructure reuse - E

<i>Context</i>	Pre-existing technical or architectural systems
<i>Strategy</i>	Activation of the existing environment as an integral part of the exhibition system
<i>Response</i>	Reinterpretation of secondary infrastructures as load-bearing devices

Standardization - F

<i>Context</i>	Budget constraints, material accessibility
<i>Strategy</i>	Open-source design and self-production
<i>Response</i>	Reconfiguration of standard components available in consumer supply chain

Modularity and portability - G

<i>Context</i>	Reduced-staff installations requiring a straightforward, universal setup
<i>Strategy</i>	Design of pre-assembled systems
<i>Response</i>	Lightweight, modular, demountable and small dimension components

Unconventional contexts - H

<i>Context</i>	Non-exhibition spaces and hybrid environments
<i>Strategy</i>	Adaptation to existing spatial constraints
<i>Response</i>	Custom systems responding to irregular conditions

Floating - I

<i>Context</i>	Need for visual lightness and detachment
<i>Strategy</i>	Simplification and concealment of the load-bearing structures
<i>Response</i>	Load transfer managed through tension, compression, or hybrid systems

Space construction - L

<i>Context</i>	Exhibit elements operating at an architectural scale
<i>Strategy</i>	Structures that generate paths, thresholds, or rooms
<i>Response</i>	Objects conceived as spatial devices

References

18.20_022-001

<i>Context</i>	Film set in a natural landscape
<i>Typology</i>	Large-scale modular scenographic elements
<i>System</i>	Ground-based, tension-stabilized structures
<i>Purpose</i>	Hosting a performance
<i>Key aspects</i>	Portability, lightweight structures, temporary anchoring, environmental preservation

4.19_025-001/2/4

<i>Context</i>	Exhibition in an historic building with archival infrastructure
<i>Typology</i>	Adaptive hanging system
<i>System</i>	Compression and cantilever system
<i>Application</i>	Exhibiting framed artworks
<i>Key aspects</i>	Infrastructure reuse, floating display, precision adjustment, no wall intervention

4.19_024-001-01

<i>Context</i>	Archival/editorial exhibition
<i>Typology</i>	Minimal display for paper-based content
<i>System</i>	Inclined glass panels on light brackets
<i>Application</i>	Exhibiting works on paper
<i>Key aspects</i>	Material reduction, reversibility, image autonomy, visual lightness

4.19_024-002

<i>Context</i>	Exhibition in an historic church
<i>Typology</i>	Non invasive suspension system
<i>System</i>	Compression and tension-based system
<i>Application</i>	Exhibiting framed artworks
<i>Key aspects</i>	Non-invasive setup, floating effect, heritage preservation, adjustability

4.19_023-002

<i>Context</i>	Exhibition in a contemporary art gallery
<i>Typology</i>	Exhibition totems
<i>System</i>	Self-standing steel profiles frame
<i>Application</i>	Exhibiting images, objects, mixed media
<i>Key aspects</i>	Modularity, standardization, infrastructure-free, reconfigurability

4.19_023-001

<i>Context</i>	Museum exhibition
<i>Typology</i>	Image displays
<i>System</i>	Leaning elements, no wall fixing
<i>Application</i>	Exhibiting images on DiBond
<i>Key aspects</i>	Reversibility, preservation, no-frame, space construction

4.19_026-001

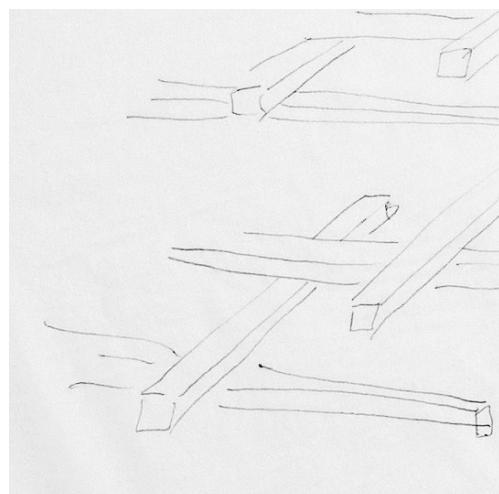
<i>Context</i>	Workspace
<i>Typology</i>	Wooden table structure
<i>System</i>	Self-supporting braced frame
<i>Application</i>	Versatile
<i>Key aspects</i>	Self-produced, adaptability, standardization, reversibility, reuse, rapid implementation

Atlas
cross reference table

Schematics



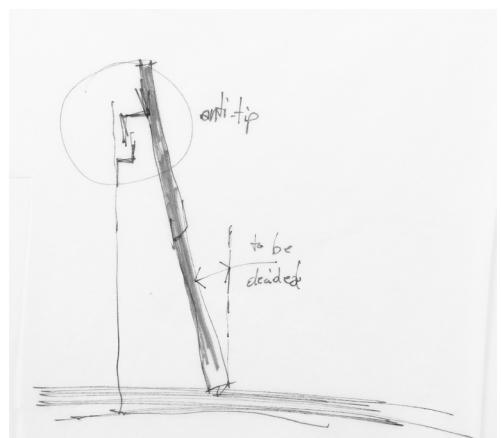
Keyed miter joint



Butt joint



Framework

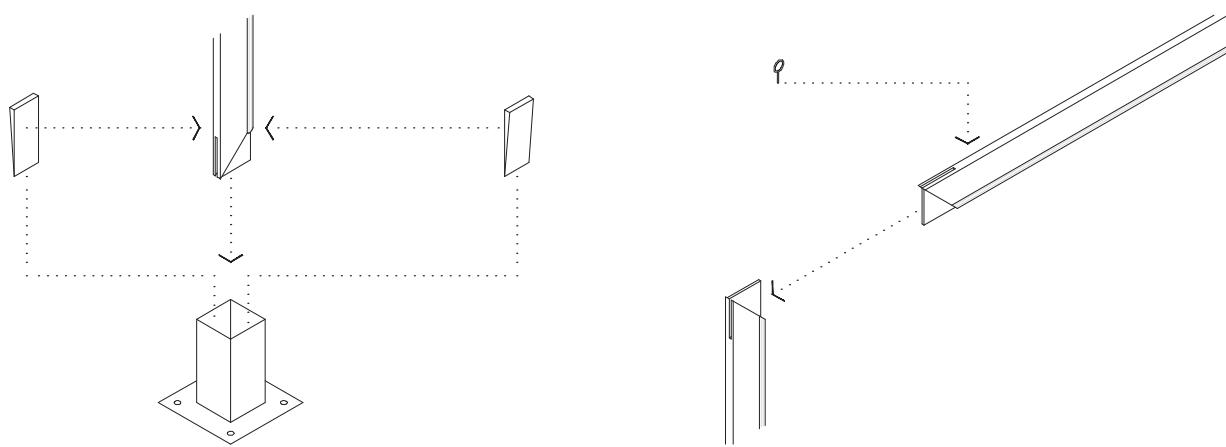


Anti-tip device

Large-scale spatial elements composed of **lightweight modular wooden portals**. Structures are assembled without hardware and stabilized through **non-invasive ground anchoring**. All components are designed for **manual transport and rapid deployment**. Despite their slenderness, the system ensures **structural stability in outdoor conditions**.

Object	Temporary scenography for a short movie
Folders	A, B, F, G, H, L
Context	Outdoor archaeological site, environmental restrictions, uneven ground
Requirement	Climate factors resistance, transportability and easy/fast assembly
Protection constraints	No drill on stones, no excavation on ground
Structural principle	Piers and architrave with tongue and groove joints
Ground contact strategy	Point support and slight pegs anchoring
Stability control	Nylon strings set, normal tension
Load transfer method	Gravity load
Materials	Pine wood, nylon, metal
Standard components used	Canvas frame profiles, nylon strings, metal post brackets
Availability of components	Very high
Assembly/disassembly process	Dry assembly with manual tools
Reversibility of the process	100%
Hosted performance	Dance
Support system	Vertical posts
Interface support/structure	Metal post brackets
Adjustment devices	Wooden wedges to adjust portal height and vertical
Supporting structure	Ground
Transport / Handling	Car roof / hand handling
Smallest divisible unit	0,9 to 3m lenght
Max. dimension	5 x 3m (biggest portal)
Notes	

Assembly



Installation view



Exhibition system **integrated** within
an **existing archival shelving**
infrastructure.

Custom interfaces transform secondary structures into **load-bearing**
supports for suspended works.

The system allows **fine adjustment**
during installation, ensuring
alignment and balance.

Additional elements create
controlled spatial distancing
between artworks and supports.

Object Adaptive hanging system for exhibition
Folders E, H, I

Context Historic building, former archive
Requirement Flexible shelving anchoring
Protection constraints No drill on walls/floor, no leaning on walls

Structural principle Through-bolt connection with threaded inserts and compression-lock
Ground contact strategy -
Stability control Self-stabilizing system
Load transfer method Friction and compression, bearing stress, clamping effect

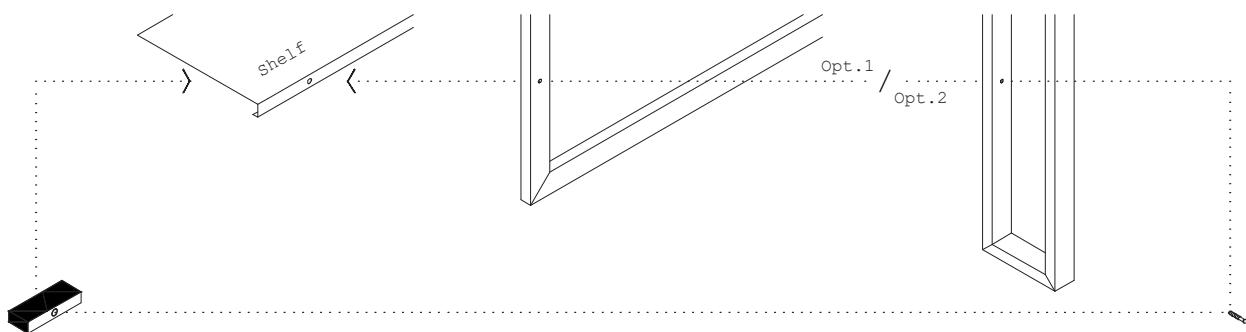
Materials Painted maple wood
Standard components used -
Availability of components High
Assembly/disassembly process Dry assembly with manual tools
Reversibility of the process 100%

Exhibited artwork Framed image
Frame support system Wooden back-frame
Interface support/structure Through-bolt assembly with internal threaded anchorage
(Clamping Connection System)
Adjustment devices Slotted hole
Supporting structure Metal shelves

Transport / Handling Cargo bike, car / hand handling
Smallest divisible unit 50 x 60cm, 50 x 15cm
Max. dimension -

Notes

Assembly



Installation views



Minimal display device designed to present archival material as **temporary, non-monumental objects.**

Printed sheets are held between glass surfaces supported by simple **wooden brackets.**

The absence of frames reinforces a **non-permanent exhibition logic.**

Elements rely on compression and gravity, ensuring **reversibility and ease of removal.**

Object Wooden structure display for paper artwork
Folders B, C, I

Context Exhibition

Requirement Minimal design without frame

Protection constraints Archival standards

Structural principle L-brackets, cantilever beam

Ground contact strategy -

Stability control L-brackets jointed with keyed miter

Load transfer method Tensile stress (upper connection), compressive stress (lower connection)

Materials Maple wood, glass AR70

Standard components used -

Availability of components High

Assembly/disassembly process Dry assembly with power tools

Reversibility of the process 100%

Exhibited artwork Works on paper

Paper support system Paper taped on glass sheet standing on L-brackets

Interface support/structure Brackets drilled on wall

Adjustment devices Slotted hole on brackets

Supporting structure Wall

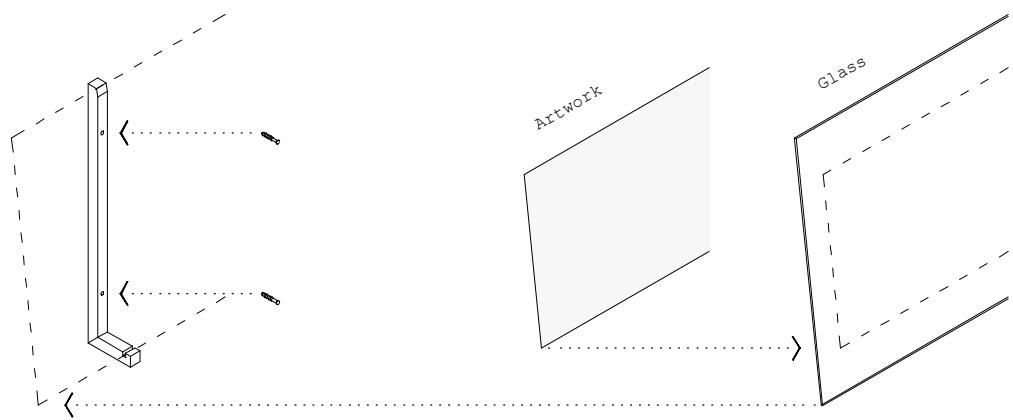
Transport / Handling Car / hand handling

Single element max. size 47 x 9cm, 69 x 46cm

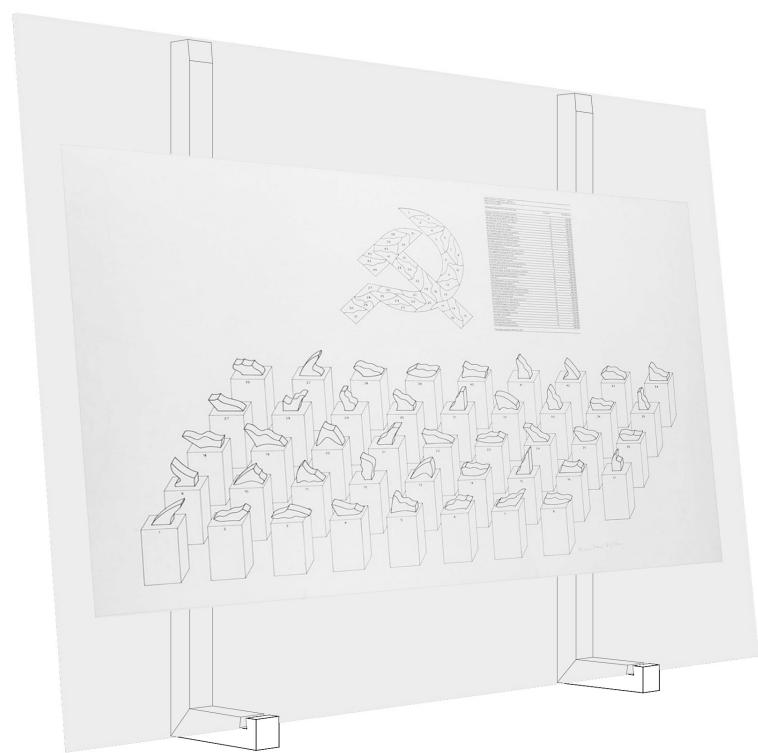
Max. dimension(assembled) 69 x 47 x 9cm

Notes

Assembly



Axonometric projection



Suspended display system developed for a **historic architectural context** with no physical alteration. Light wooden frames are secured using **tensioned straps**, distributing load without surface damage. Frames enable **free positioning** in space, including corners and vertical elements. The system creates the perception of **floating images** while preserving structural integrity.

Object Hanging system for frames
Folders A, B, H, I

Context Historic church
Requirement Non-invasive pillar anchoring
Protection constraints No drill, no glue on walls and pillars

Structural principle Tensioned ratchet band clamp
Ground contact strategy -
Stability control Tension control
Load transfer method Compressed (to the pillar) back-frame trough tensioned straps

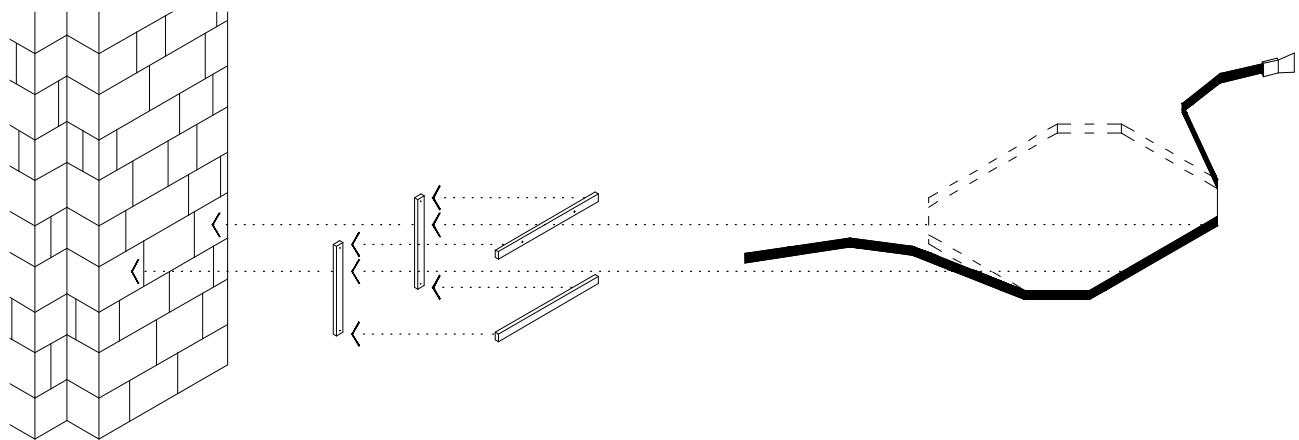
Materials Beech wood, polypropylene
Standard components used Endless ratchet straps
Availability of components Very high
Assembly/disassembly process Dry assembly with manual tools
Reversibility of the process 100%

Exhibited artwork Framed image
Frame support system Wooden back-frame
Interface support/structure Endless ratchet strap
Adjustment devices Built-in feature
Supporting structure Stone pillars

Transport / Handling Cargo bike, car / hand handling
Single element max. size 60 x 4cm, 20 x 20cm
Max. dimension(assembled) 50 x 60cm (back-frame)

Notes

Assembly



Installation view

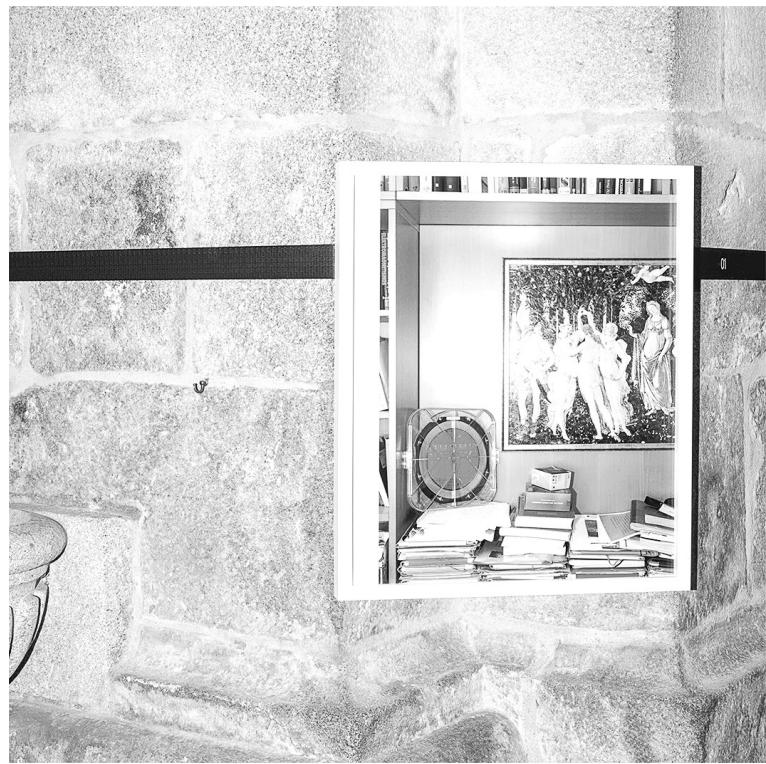


Photo: Armin Linke

Spatial support structures built from **standard drywall steel profiles**, left exposed and untreated. Elements function as **self-standing three-dimensional supports**, adaptable to multiple layouts. The system allows **direct intervention** on surfaces while remaining fully demountable. Components can be repositioned, reused, or reconfigured without fixed anchoring.

Object Modular spatial totems

Folders B, D, F, G, L

Context Exhibition space

Requirement Free-standing, modularity and portability, standardization

Protection constraints No drill on ground

Structural principle Self-supporting braced frame

Ground contact strategy Single/Dual linear support

Stability control Contact area configuration

Load transfer method Gravity load

Materials Galvanized steel, MDF

Standard components used Drywall Framing: U-Track, C-Stud

Availability of components Very high

Assembly/disassembly process Dry assembly with power tools

Reversibility of the process 100%

Exhibited artwork Variable (framed artworks, works on paper, etc)

Support system Totem

Structural connections Double-bolt interlocking joint with moment-resisting coupling

Adjustment devices -

Supporting structure Floor

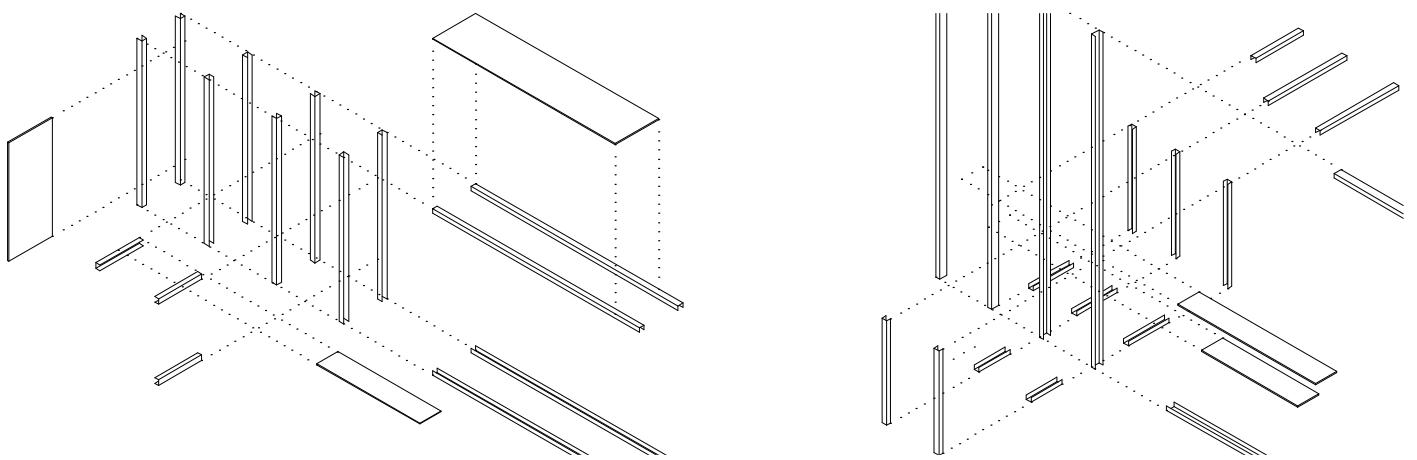
Transport / Handling L2-3 Van / hand handling

Single element max. size 1,5 to 3 m lenght

Max. dimension(assembled) 215 x 150 x 45m, 165 x 300 x 80m

Notes

Structural elements



Installation view



Photo: Martina Pozzan

Freestanding display system based on **inclined wooden panels** resting against existing walls. Images are inserted through **minimal lateral profiles**, allowing tool-free installation and replacement. No wall perforation is required, the system relies on **controlled leaning and gravity**. Museum-grade glazing ensures **museum conservation standards** while maintaining visual lightness.

Object Leaning display system
Folders B, C, I

Context Exhibition space
Requirement Unconstrained placement along the walls
Protection constraints -

Structural principle Gravity-based leaning panel
Ground contact strategy Linear support
Stability control Rear anti-tip bracket
Load transfer method Gravity load, lateral thrust

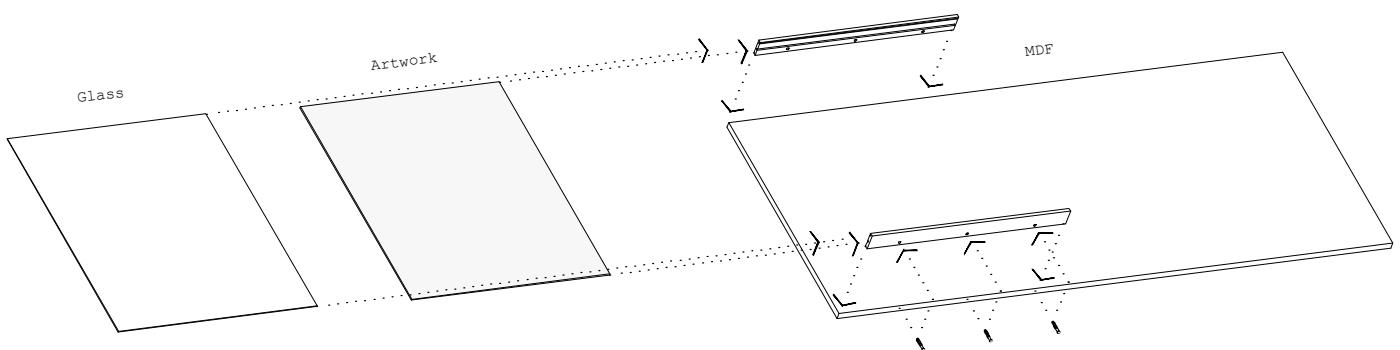
Materials MDF, maple wood, glass AR70
Standard components used -
Availability of components High
Assembly/disassembly process Dry assembly with power tools
Reversibility of the process 100%

Exhibited artwork Images mounted on DiBond
Image support system Side Support Rails for Dibond/glass with built-in end stops
Interface support/structure Rails screwed to the MDF panel
Adjustment devices -
Supporting structure Wall/floor

Transport / Handling L2 Van / hand handling
Single element max. size 140 x 25cm, 160 x 60cm
Max. dimension(assembled) 140 x 25 x 5cm, 160 x 60 x 5cm

Notes

Assembly



Installation view



A self-made workstation ready for use in **2 hours**, from the initial idea.

Self-supporting braced frame assembled from readily available timber profiles allows **non-prescriptive configurations** and supports **open-design and self-production**. The open assembly logic enables reinterpretation, reversibility, and reuse across different exhibition requirements and other spatial uses.

Object Wooden table structure
Folders B, D, F, G, I

Context Working/exhibition space
Requirement Flexibility, cost-effectiveness, self-producibility, reconfigurability
Protection constraints -

Structural principle Braced frame structure with butt joints
Ground contact strategy Static point load
Stability control Bracing
Load transfer method Gravity load

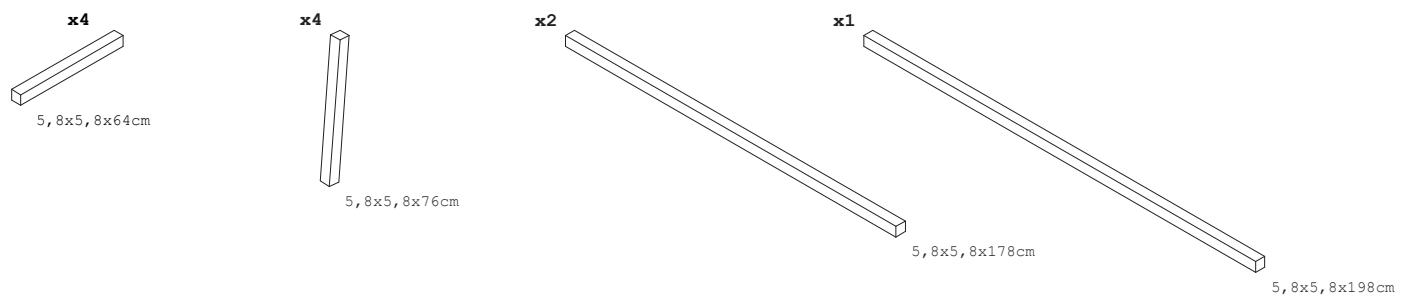
Materials Pine timber
Standard components used Wooden construction beams with standard profile
Availability of components Very high
Assembly/disassembly process Dry assembly with manual or power tools
Reversibility of the process 100%

Working surface Wooden board
Board support Wooden braced frame structure
Interface support/structure -
Adjustment devices -
Supporting structure Floor

Transport / Handling Car / hand handling
Single element max. size ca. 200cm lenght
Max. dimension(assembled) 178 x 71 x 78cm

Notes

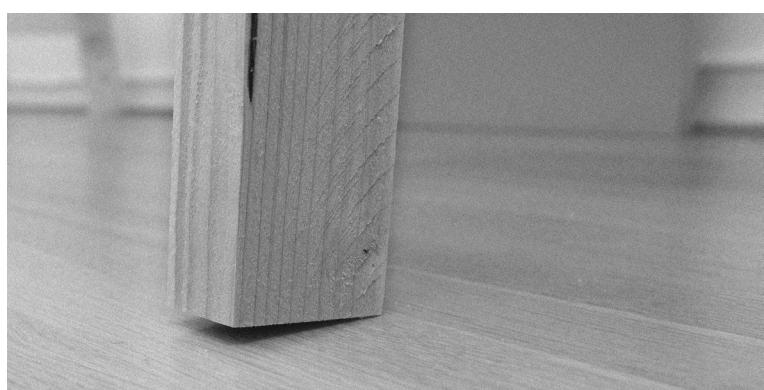
Schedule of components
Configuration#1 table 200x70



Structure



Corner bearing detail



Colophon

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Concept, design and production: LABOR

Texts and contents: LABOR

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References and context: the projects presented are derived from real applications developed in collaboration with cultural institutions, artists and independent spaces. References are intentionally anonymized to foreground constraints, structural logic and transferable principles, rather than specific events, authorship or commissions.

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