

## **HANDBOOK LABOR**

*Exhibit solutions toolkit<sup>1</sup>*

**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.

<sup>1</sup> A focus on systems, constraints and construction logics.  
Artworks appear only as contextual elements within technical documentation.

**Clients**

*Artists and institutions*

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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**

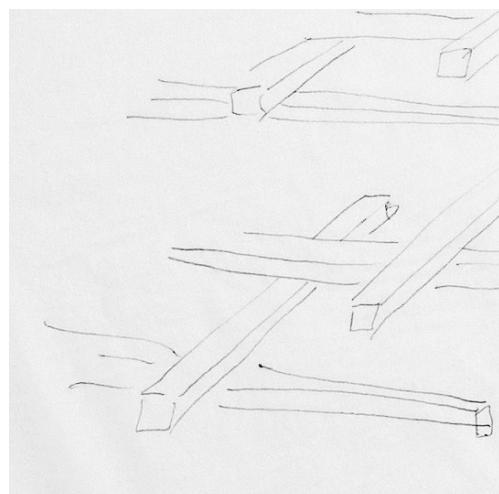
<i>Context</i>	Workspace
<i>Typology</i>	Wooden table structure
<i>System</i>	Self-supporting braced frame
<i>Application</i>	Versatile
<i>Key aspects</i>	Self-produced, adaptability, standardization, reversibility, reuse, rapid implementation

**Atlas**  
*cross reference table*

Schematics



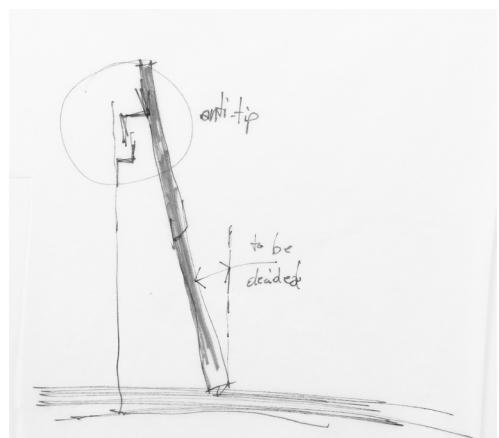
Keyed miter joint



Butt joint



Framework

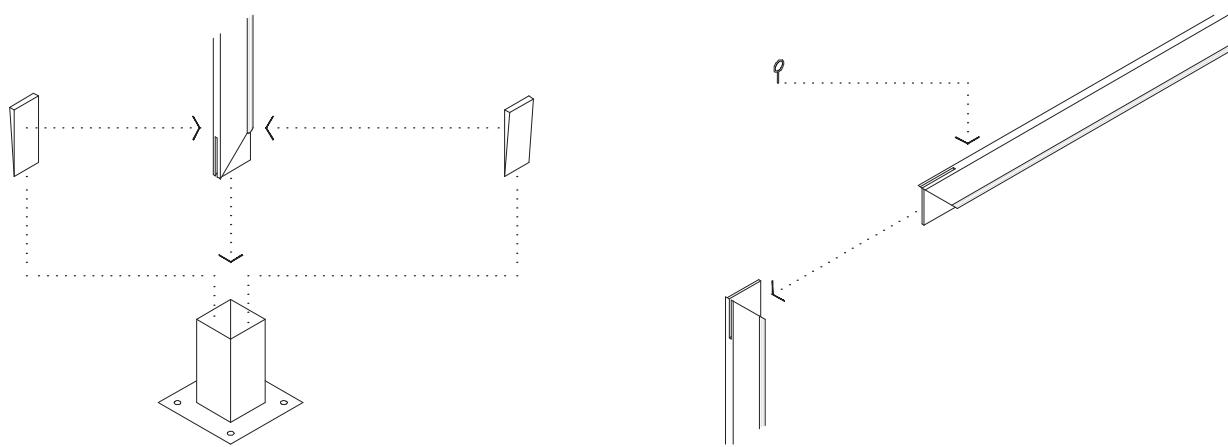


Anti-tip device

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**.

<b>Object</b>	Temporary scenography for a short movie
Folders	A, B, F, G, H, L
<b>Context</b>	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
<b>Structural principle</b>	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
<b>Materials</b>	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
<b>Support system</b>	Vertical posts
Interface support/structure	Metal post brackets
Adjustment devices	Wooden wedges to adjust portal height and vertical
Supporting structure	Ground
<b>Transport / Handling</b>	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

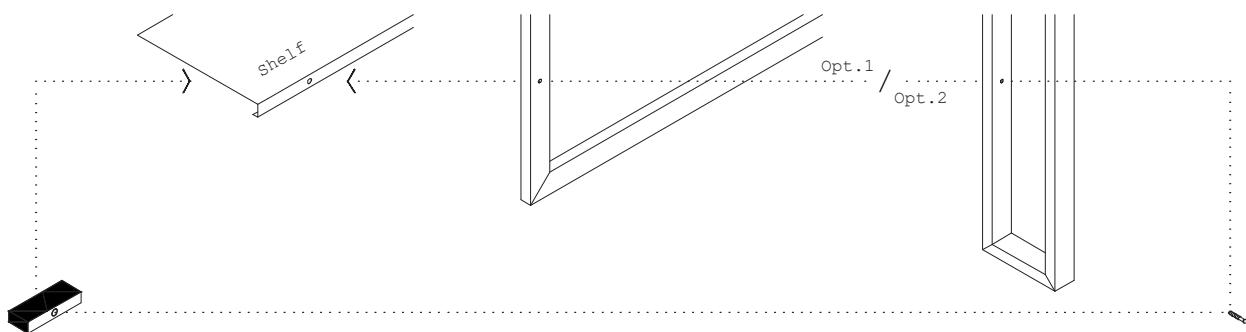
**Materials** Painted maple wood  
Standard components used -  
Availability of components High  
Assembly/disassembly process Dry assembly with manual tools  
Reversibility of the process 100%

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

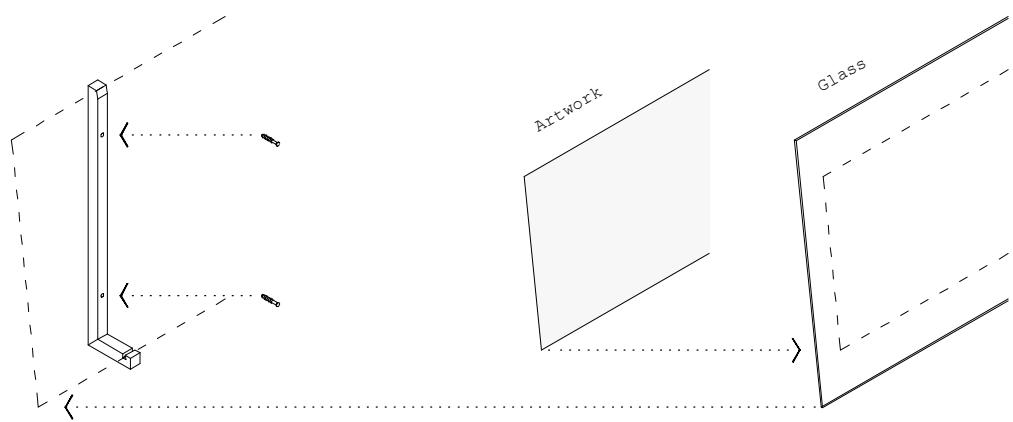
**Transport / Handling** Car / hand handling

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

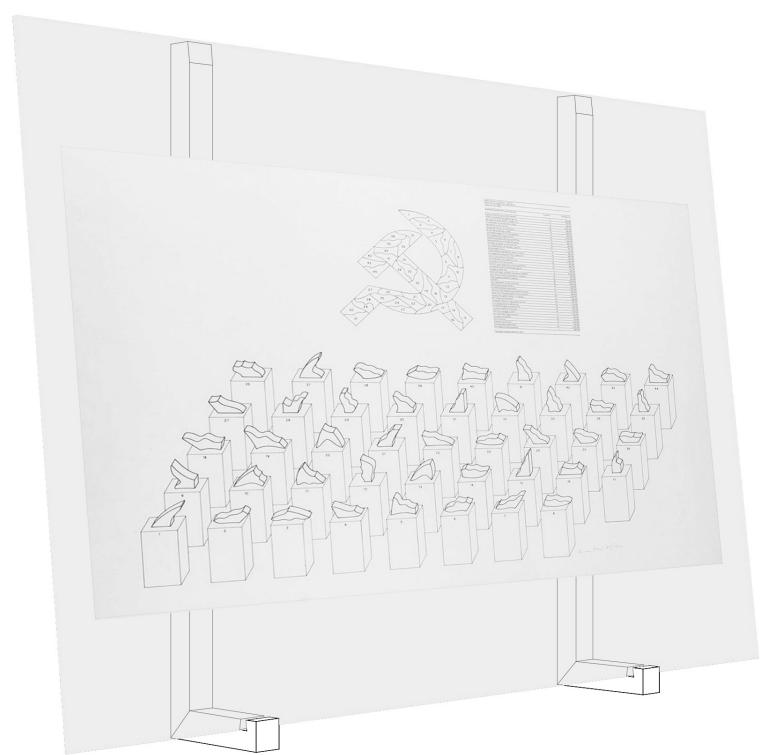
Max. dimension (assembled) 69 x 47 x 9cm

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

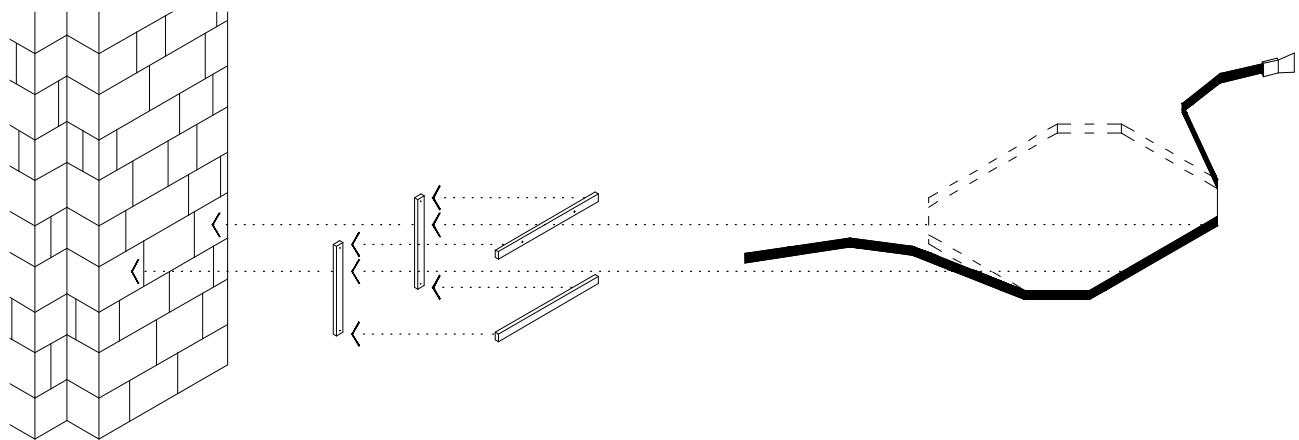
**Materials** Beech wood, polypropylene  
**Standard components used** Endless ratchet straps  
**Availability of components** Very high  
**Assembly/disassembly process** Dry assembly with manual tools  
**Reversibility of the process** 100%

**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

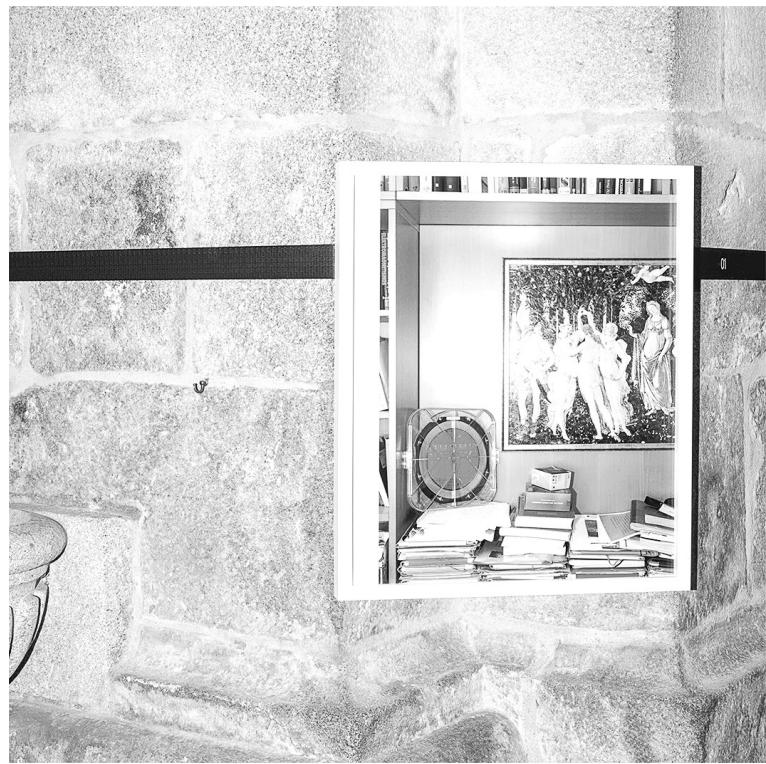
**Transport / Handling** Cargo bike, car / hand handling  
**Single element max. size** 60 x 4cm, 20 x 20cm  
**Max. dimension(assembled)** 50 x 60cm (back-frame)

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

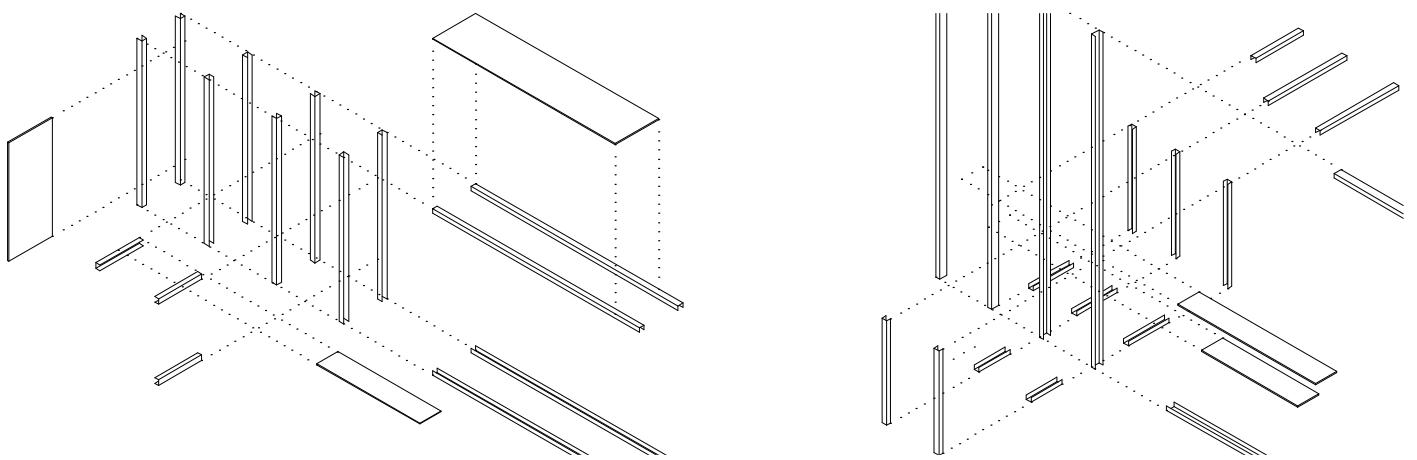
**Transport / Handling** L2-3 Van / hand handling

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

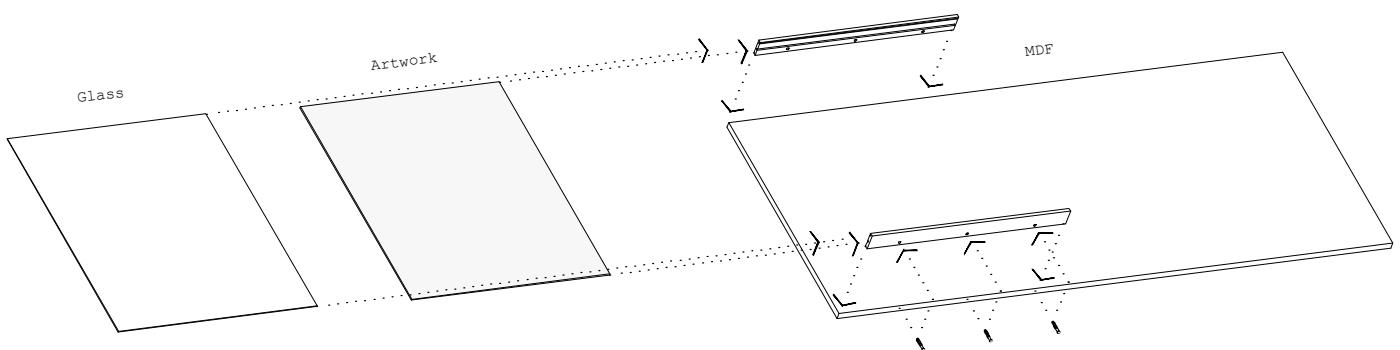
**Materials** MDF, maple wood, glass AR70  
**Standard components used** -  
**Availability of components** High  
**Assembly/disassembly process** Dry assembly with power tools  
**Reversibility of the process** 100%

**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*



<sup>3</sup> Based on an original design by Martha Schwindling

**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

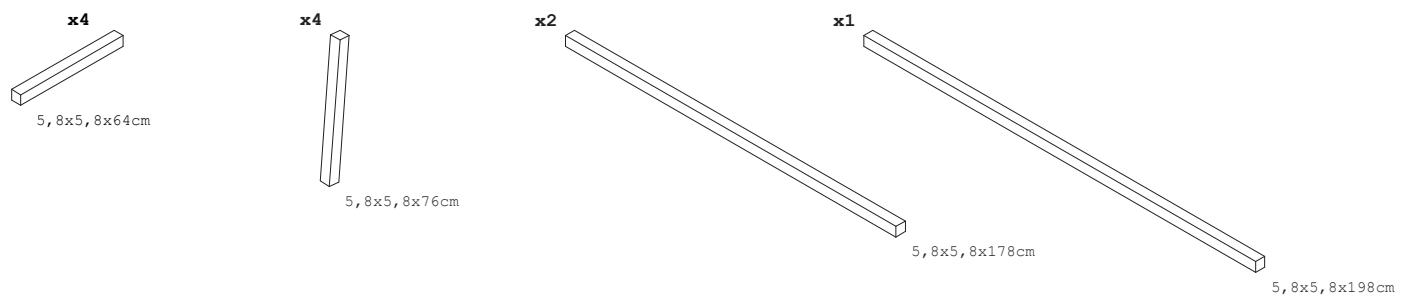
**Materials** Pine timber  
Standard components used Wooden construction beams with standard profile  
Availability of components Very high  
Assembly/disassembly process Dry assembly with manual or power tools  
Reversibility of the process 100%

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

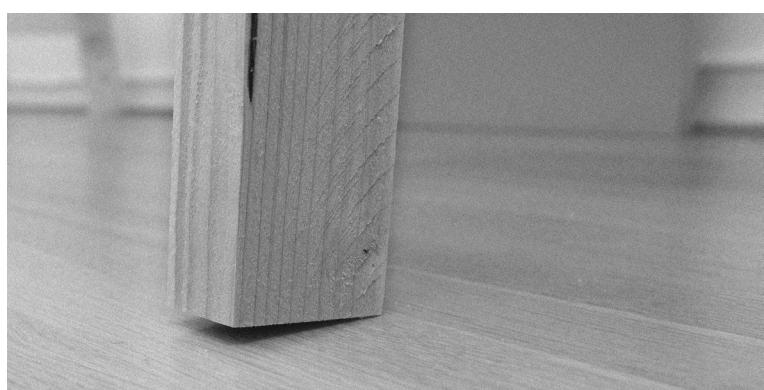
*Schedule of components*  
Configuration#1 table 200x70



*Structure*



*Corner bearing detail*



## **Colophon**

HANDBOOK LABOR — Exhibit solution toolkit  
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LABOR is a project developed in collaboration between Martina Pozzan and Alberto Stievanin

Concept, design and production: LABOR

Texts and contents: LABOR

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**Open, edit, rearrange.**