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 Institutu in Florenz, Florence, ITA

Museum Neukölln, Berlin, DEU

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

Areas of focus

Heritage preservation - A

Context Protected historic buildings

Strategy Non-invasive, reversible solutions

Response Temporary supports that preserve both object and architecture

Reversibility - B

Context Need of flexible solutions suitable for reconfiguration and reuse

Strategy Simplified design of adaptable systems

Response Systems designed to be undone and reshaped

No frame - C

Context Image-centered exhibitions

Strategy Mininal design

Response Reduction of visual mediation

Free-standing - D

Context Lack of load-bearing or fixable architectural supports

Strategy Self-supporting systems operating independently from the environment

Response Stability through geometry, mass distribution or counterweights

Infrastructure reuse - E

Context Pre-existing technical or architectural systems

Strategy Activation of the existing environment as an integral part of the exhibition system

Response Reinterpretation of secondary infrastructures as load-bearing devices

Standardization - F

Context Budget constraints, material accessibility

Strategy Open-source design and self-production

Response Reconfiguration of standard components available in consumer supply chain

Modularity and portability - G

Context Reduced-staff installations requiring a straightforward, universal setup

Strategy Design of pre-assembled systems

Response Lightweight, modular, demountable and small dimension components

Unconventional contexts - H

Context Non-exhibition spaces and hybrid environments

Strategy Adaptation to existing spatial constraints

Response Custom systems responding to irregular conditions

Floating - I

Context Need for visual lightness and detachment

Strategy Simplification and concealment of the load-bearing structures

Response Load transfer managed through tension, compression, or hybrid systems

Space construction - L

Context Exhibit elements operating at an architectural scale

Strategy Structures that generate paths, thresholds, or rooms

Response Objects conceived as spatial devices

References

18.20_022-001

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

4.19_025-001/2/4

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

4.19_024-001-01

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

4.19_024-002

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

4.19_023-002

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

4.19_023-001

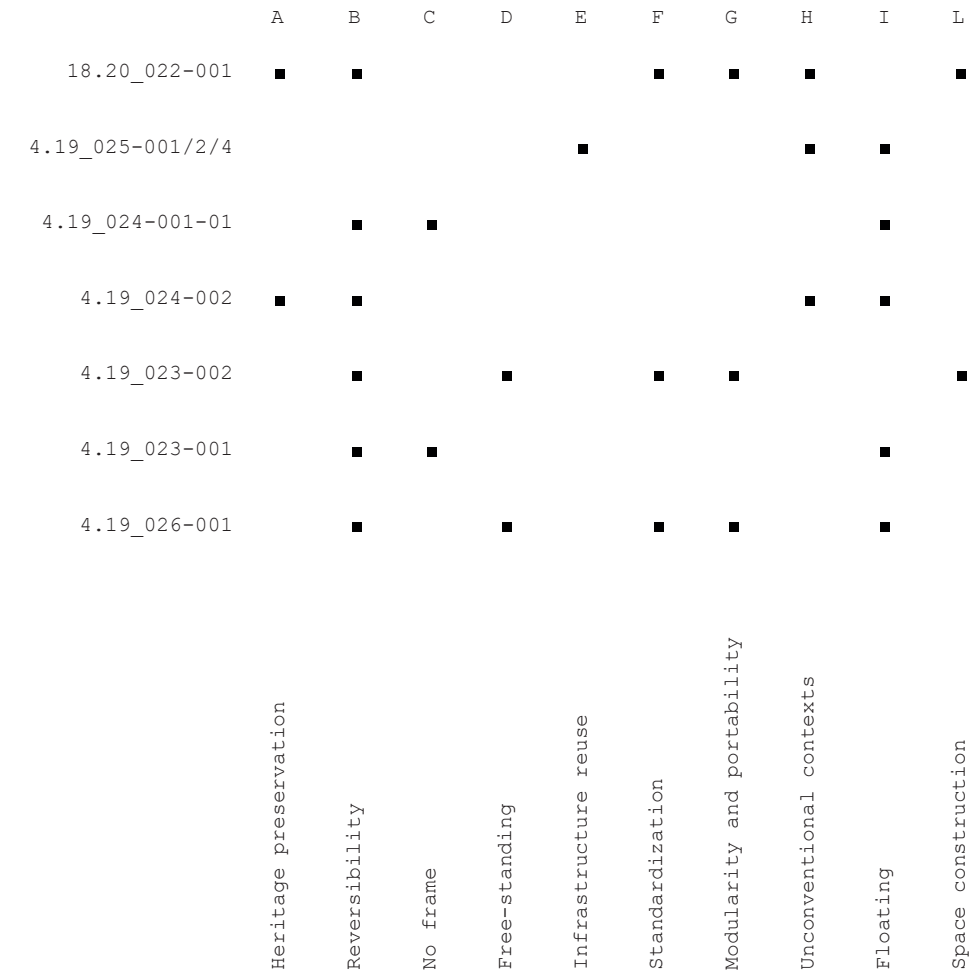
Context	Museum exhibition
Typology	Image displays
System	Leaning elements, no wall fixing
Application	Exhibiting images on DiBond
Key aspects	Reversibility, preservation, no-frame, space construction

4.19_026-001

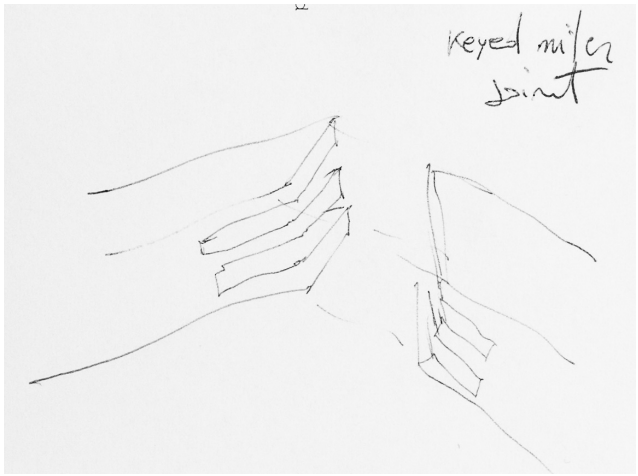
Context	Workspace
Typology	Wooden table structure
System	Self-supporting braced frame
Application	Versatile
Key aspects	Self-produced, adaptability, standardization, reversibility, reuse, rapid implementation

Atlas

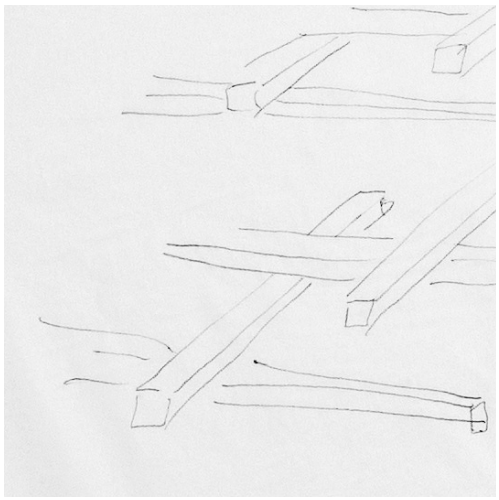
cross reference table



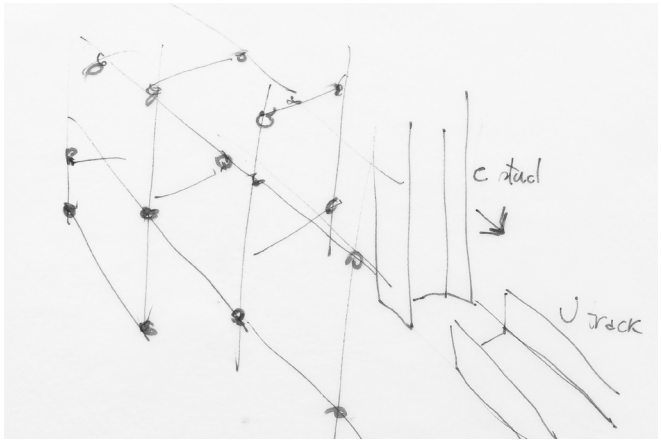
Schematics



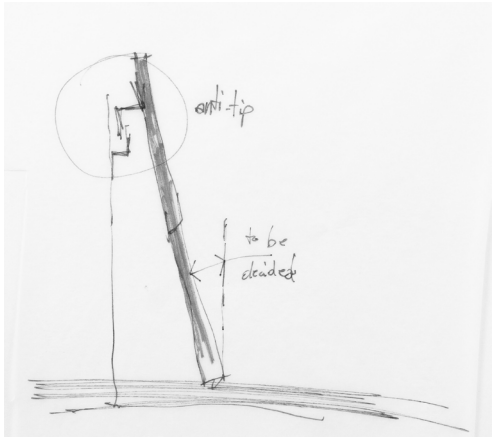
Keyed miter joint



Butt joint



Framework



Anti-tip device

18.20_022-001

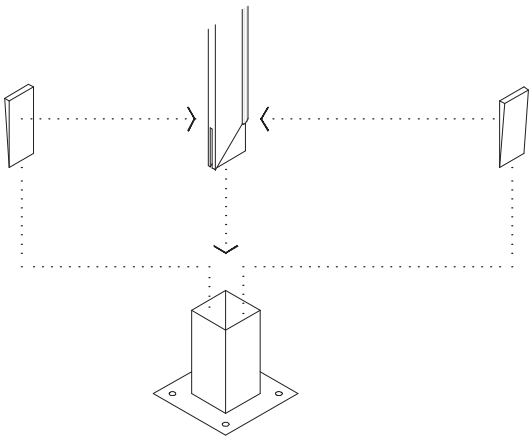
Cantando Danzavamo

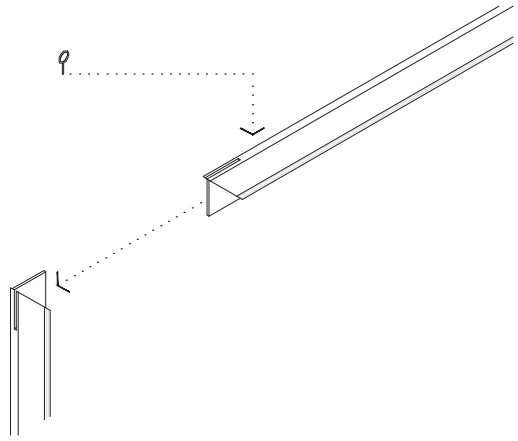
Large-scale spatial elements composed of **lightweight modular wooden portals.** Structures are assembled without hardware and stabilized through **non-invasive ground anchoring.** All components are designed for **manual transport and rapid deployment.** Despite their slenderness, the system ensures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

4.19_025-001/2/4

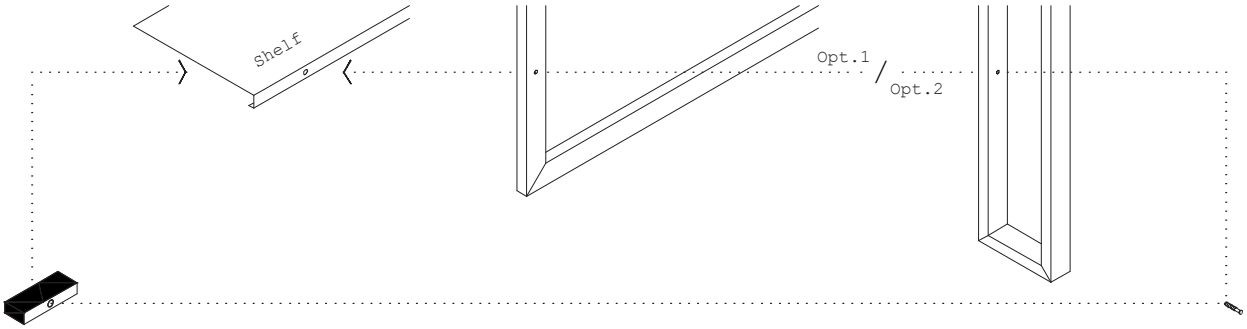
KHI - The city as archive

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.

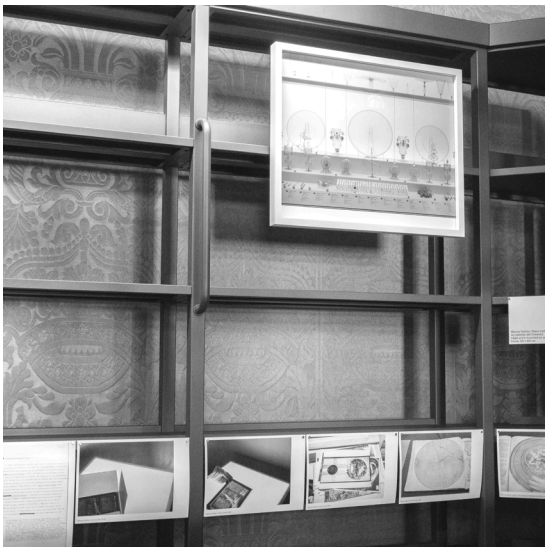
Object	Adaptive hanging system for exhibition
Folders	E, H, I
Context	Historic building, former archive
Requirement	Flexible shelving anchoring
Protection constraints	No drill on walls/floor, no leaning on walls
Structural principle	Through-bolt connection with threaded inserts and compression-lock
Ground 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



4.19_024-001-01

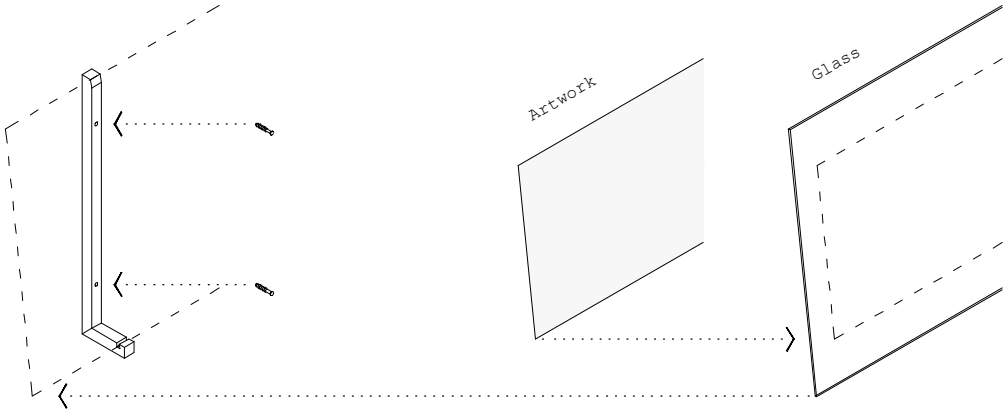
Untitled_1

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.**

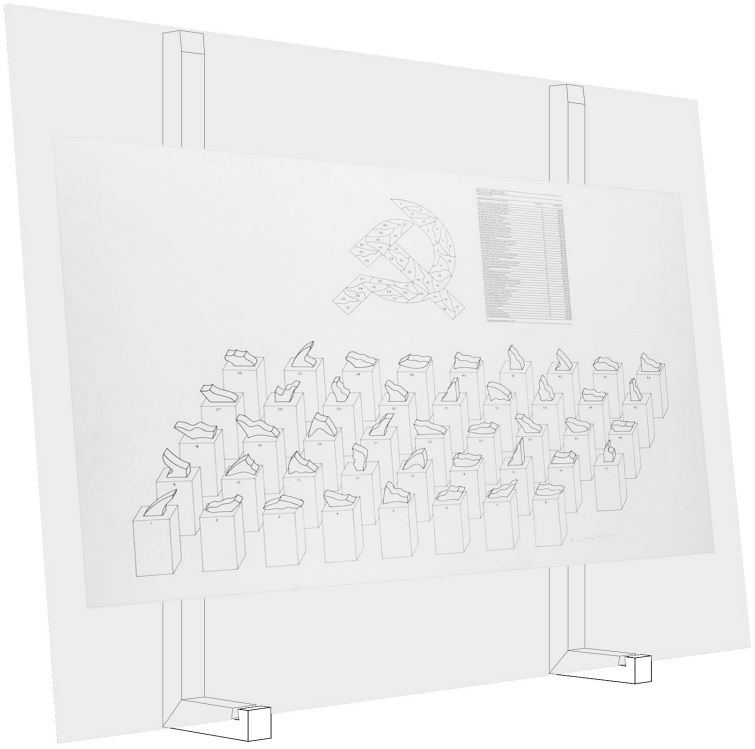
Object	Wooden structure display for paper artwork
Folders	B, C, I
Context	Exhibition
Requirement	Minimal design without frame
Protection constraints	Archival standards
Structural principle	L-brackets, cantilever beam
Ground contact strategy	-
Stability control	L-brackets jointed with keyed miter
Load 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



4.19_024-002

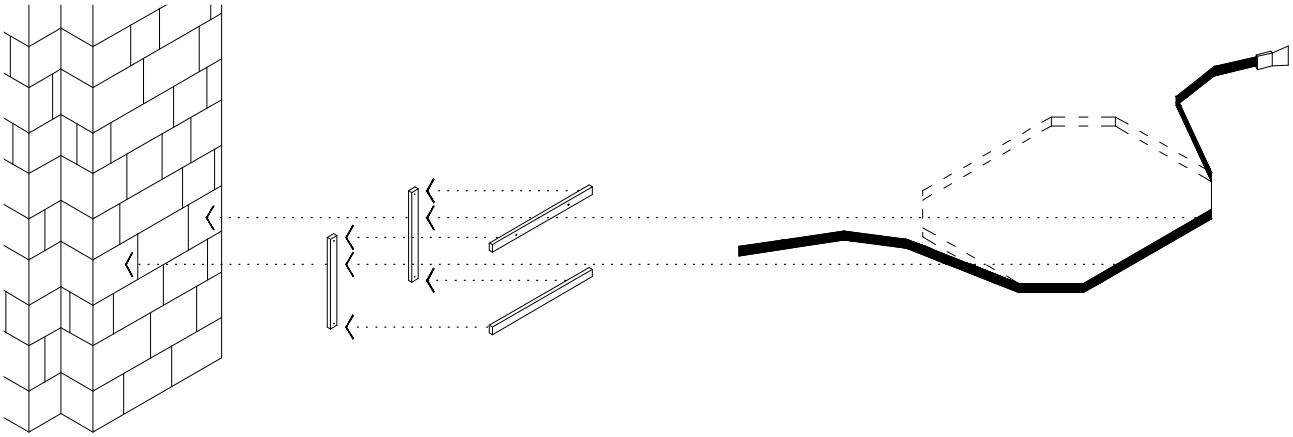
Instruments of vision

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

4.19_023-002

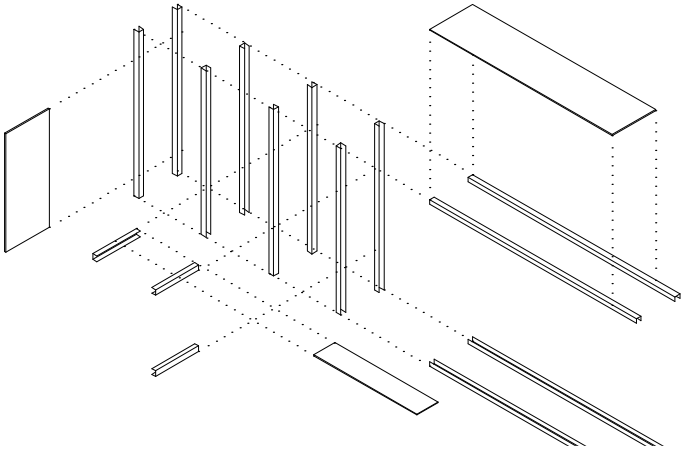
Greifen und Loslassen

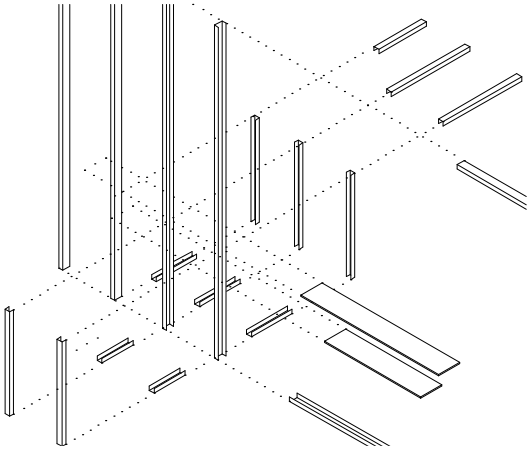
Spatial support structures built from **standard drywall steel profiles**, left exposed and untreated. Elements function as **self-standing three-dimensional supports**, adaptable to multiple layouts. The system allows **direct intervention** on surfaces while remaining fully demountable. Components 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

4.19_023-001*

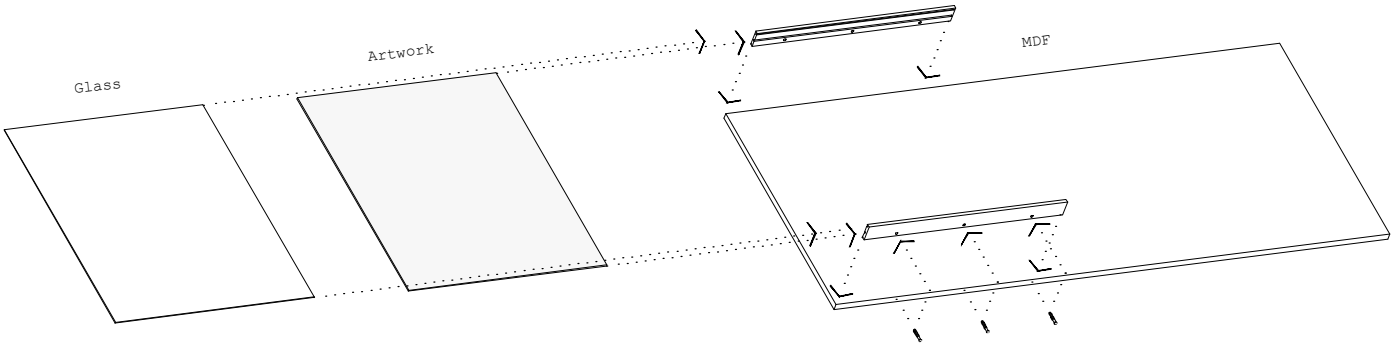
Quantum conditions

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	

**Executed and produced by LABOR, based on the design by Martha Schwindling*

Assembly



Installation view

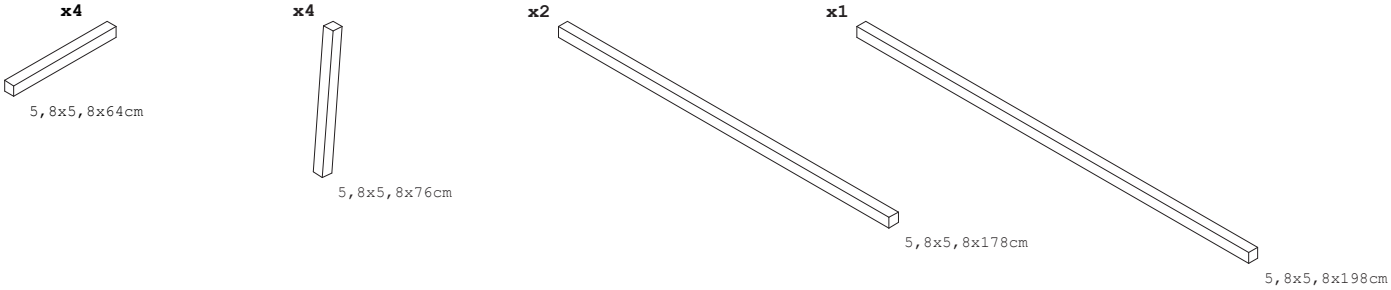
4.19_026-001

Capretta

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.

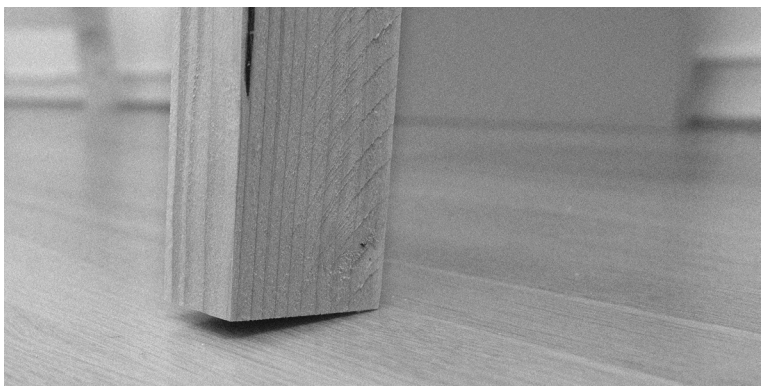
Object	Wooden table structure
Folders	B, D, F, G, I
Context	Working/exhibition space
Requirement	Flexibility, cost-effectiveness, self-producibility, reconfigurability
Protection constraints	-
Structural principle	Braced frame structure with butt joints
Ground contact strategy	Static point load
Stability 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

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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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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Laboratorio di
progettazione e produzione
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L A B O R

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Open, edit, rearrange.