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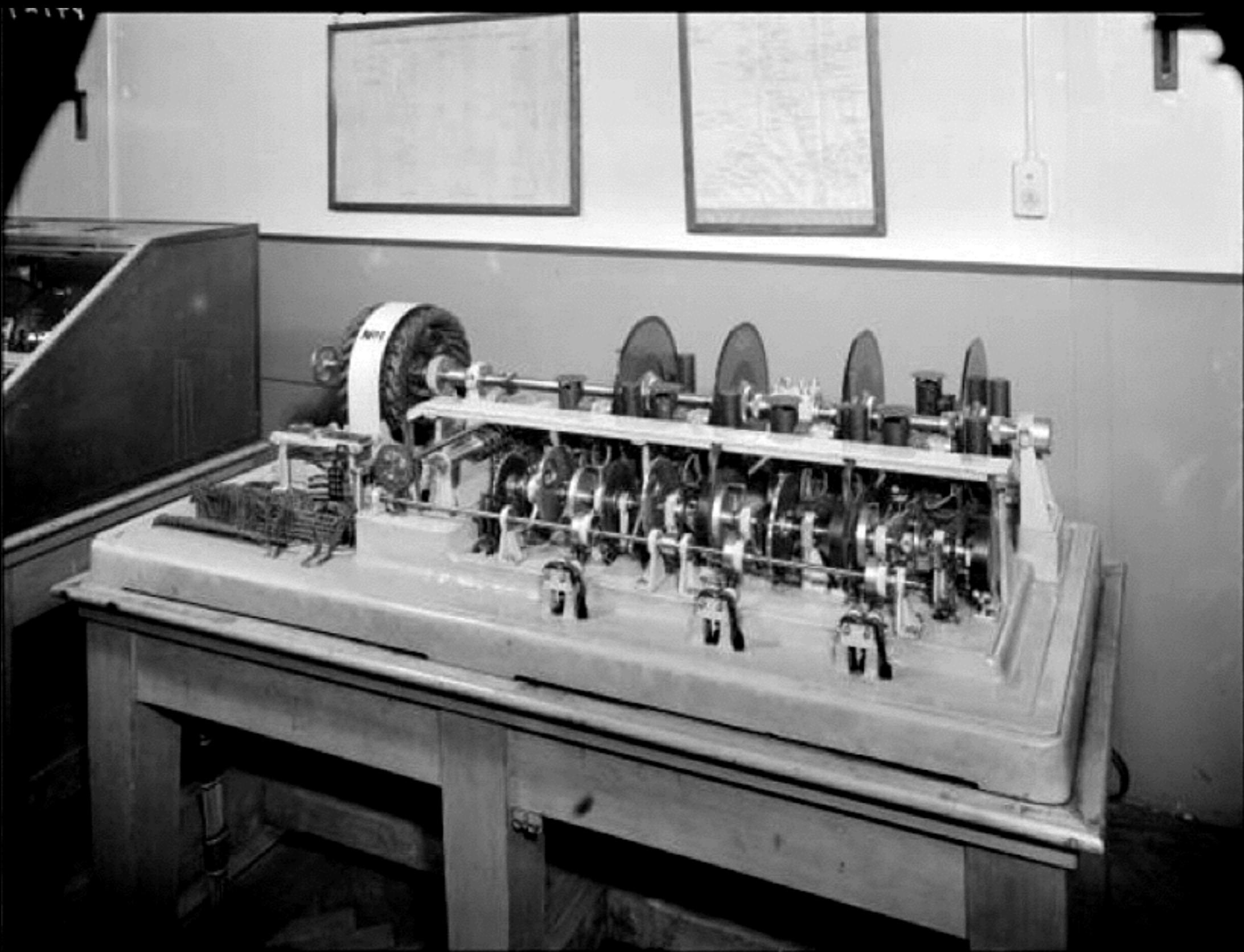
















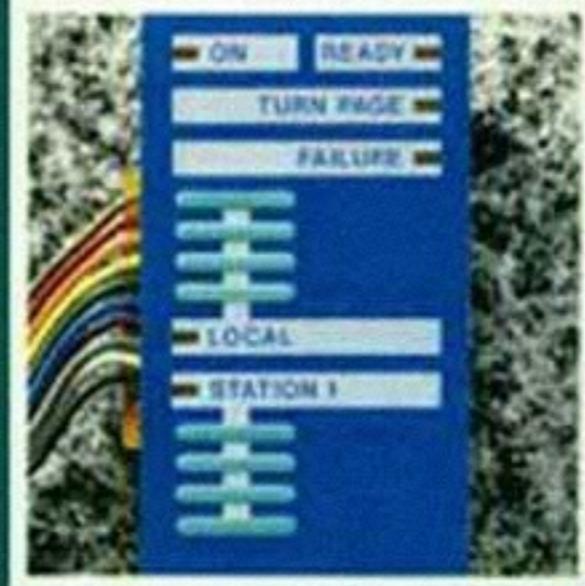


FROM PROJECT TO PRODUCT

GIANNI BARBACETTO

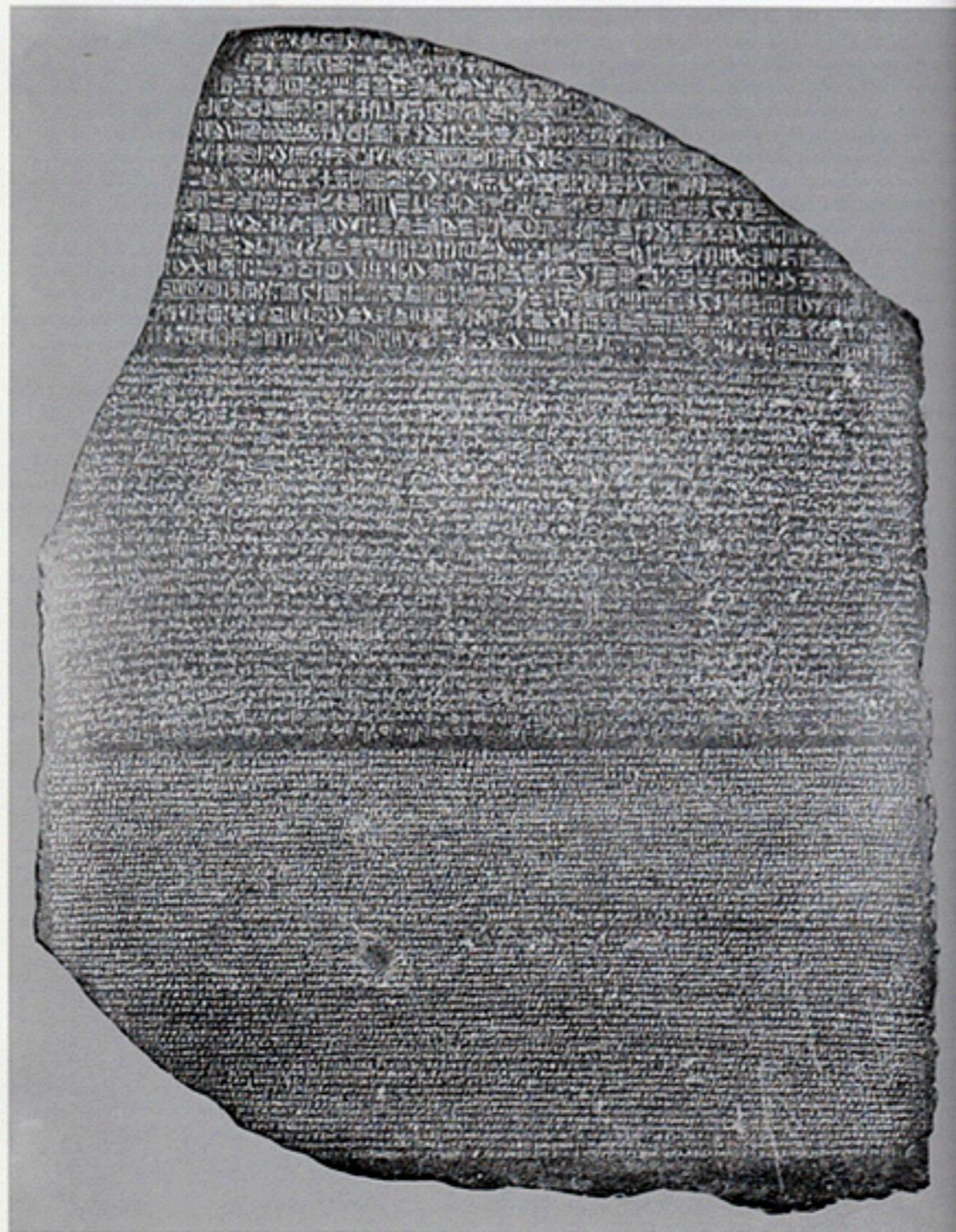
DESIGN INTERFACE

HOW MAN AND MACHINE
COMMUNICATE.
OLIVETTI DESIGN RESEARCH
BY KING & MIRANDA



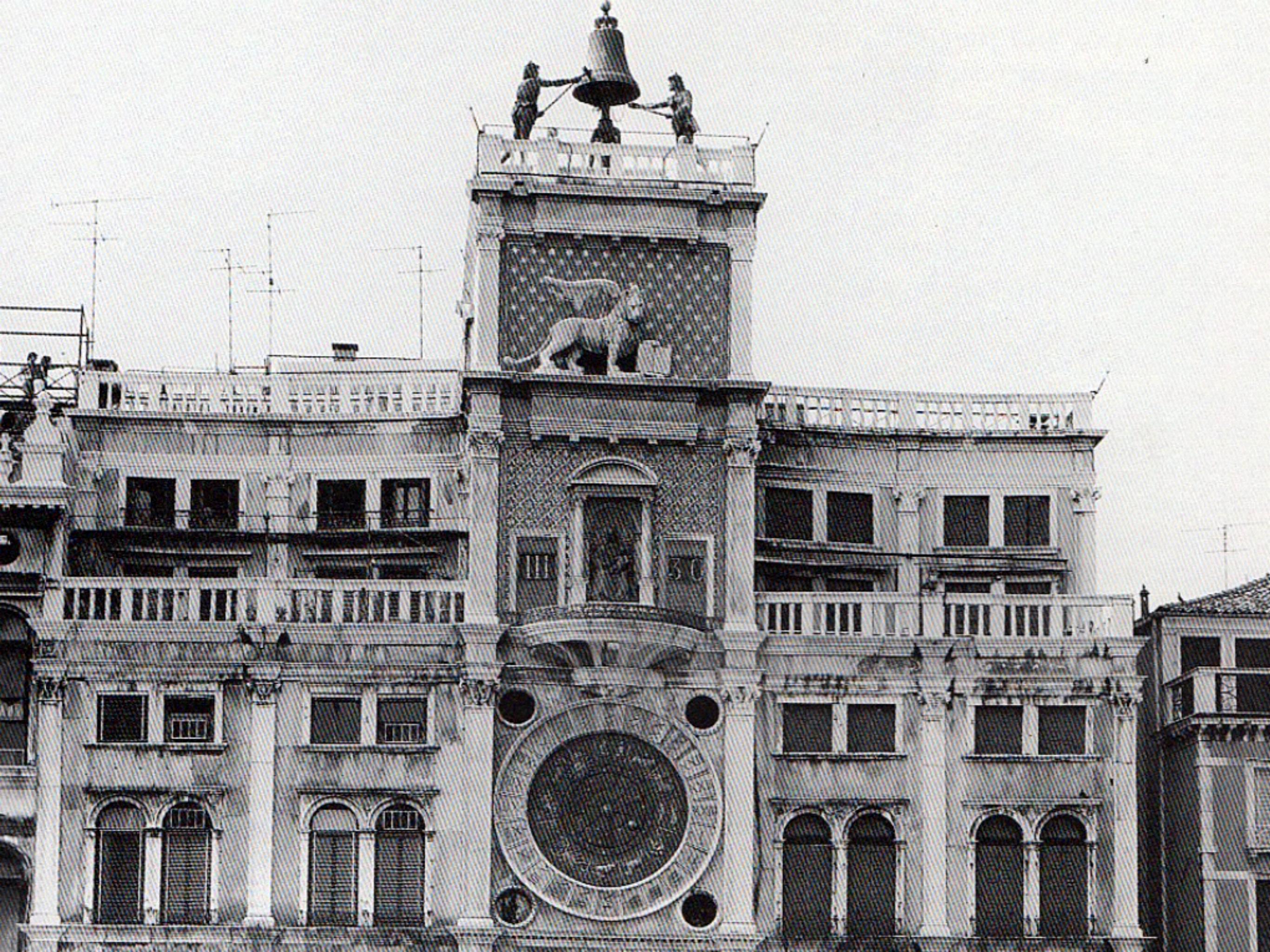
ARCADIA EDIZIONI

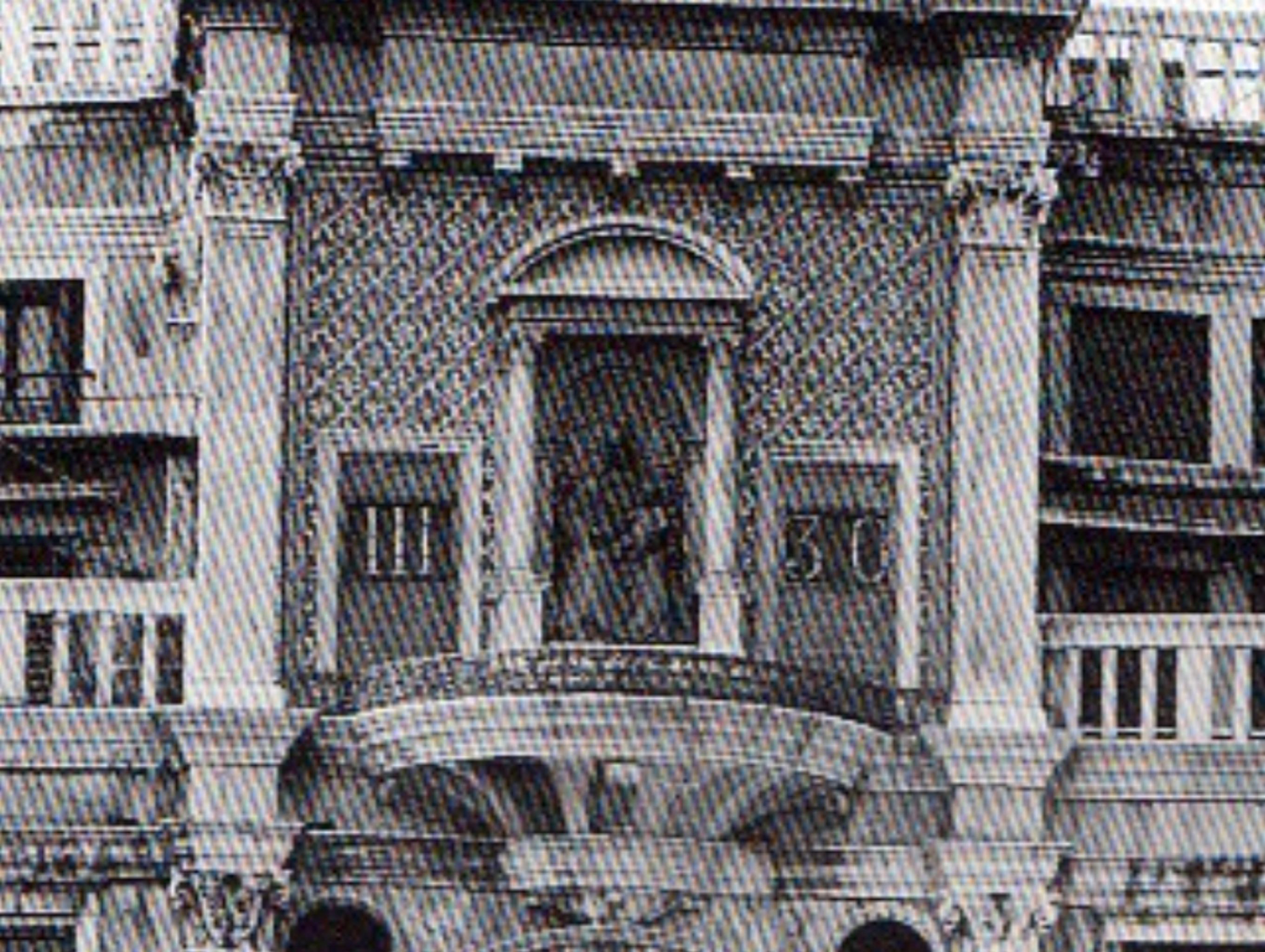
The Rosetta Stone (British Museum, London)



The Clocktower in St. Mark's Square in Venice. With public display of clocks on city towers, the first "machines" made available to the populace at large, the relationship of men with time began to change. "Cyclical," lunar, and seasonal time was replaced by an image of linear, progressive, and cumulative time.









The letters of the alphabet as interface between man and machine.
The ease and pleasure with which one reads improve the relationship
with the user.

Left, the Olivetti dot matrix font designed by King and Miranda in
1972.

Right, several images that document the development of Olivetti
writing systems (from a panel of the exhibition *Design Process*).



— we have not yet attained direct voice control, but a series of tools and systems (from the mouse and the joystick to the magnetic tablet and touch screen) reduce to a minimum the necessity of using codes to communicate with the machine. Now we enter more directly into contact through the use of software that is already programmed to act as a simplifying filter between the "naiveté" of the user and the complexity of the machine.

The "Macintosh case" provides a perfect example of this; the small computer produced by Apple presented itself to the user as an immediately accessible tool, with its procedures illustrated by simple drawings that appeared on the screen — while the mouse permitted the substitution of initials and coded procedures with simple hand movements that pushed the cursor across the screen; a little cartoon computer smiled when operations were performed correctly or displayed its unhappiness when an operation was botched; a small wrist-watch advised the user to be patient while an operation was underway; and a trashbasket stood ready to gather data that was no longer useful, and so on. Here the design itself shifted from hard to soft, and became the design of graphic means of direct communication between the machine and the user. This is a field that is destined to grow with extreme rapidity — every interactive machine (from automatic tellers all the way to new appliances) will be able in the future to have a graphic screen for immediate dialogue with the user. The touch screen has even, in part, unified the input (tactile) and output (visual) apparatus — the screen, for certain operations indicated by video, substitutes the keyboard; the pressure of a

finger on the point indicated is sufficient to obtain the operation desired.

The screen is, at any rate, along with printing terminals, an essential element of interface — between the operator and his results. Clarity of letters and words — a primary need of the user — almost always means that letters, numbers, and symbols are translated into *points* which can be easily reproduced on video screens, displays, printers; Perry King in 1972 designed the Olivetti dot-matrix font for OCR applications, later adopted by the ECMA (European Computer Manufacturers' Association). Clarity of communication also means the possibility of communicating in one's own language with the computer, even when that means using non-Latin alphabets. Olivetti has equipped its typewriters and other systems with Cyrillic, Arabic, Greek, and Japanese (Katakana) alphabets but also with Korean, Hindi, Singhalese, Burmese, Nepalese, Thai, and Cree characters, designed at Ivrea by Arturo Rolfo.³²

In office machines, "interface ergonomics" is imposed — more than by an intention to improve the conditions of human labor — by the necessity to organize office work and by the desire to increase productivity and efficiency. Other elements of the interface between man and machine — given the multifarious nature of the latter — cannot be grouped under these headings and are designed according to other criteria. They are: the driver's seat, an eminently public interface, which allow man to control his car while travelling, and the group of interfaces, all domestic and private, represented by the controls of household objects, commonly grouped under the class of appliances.

Interface Design

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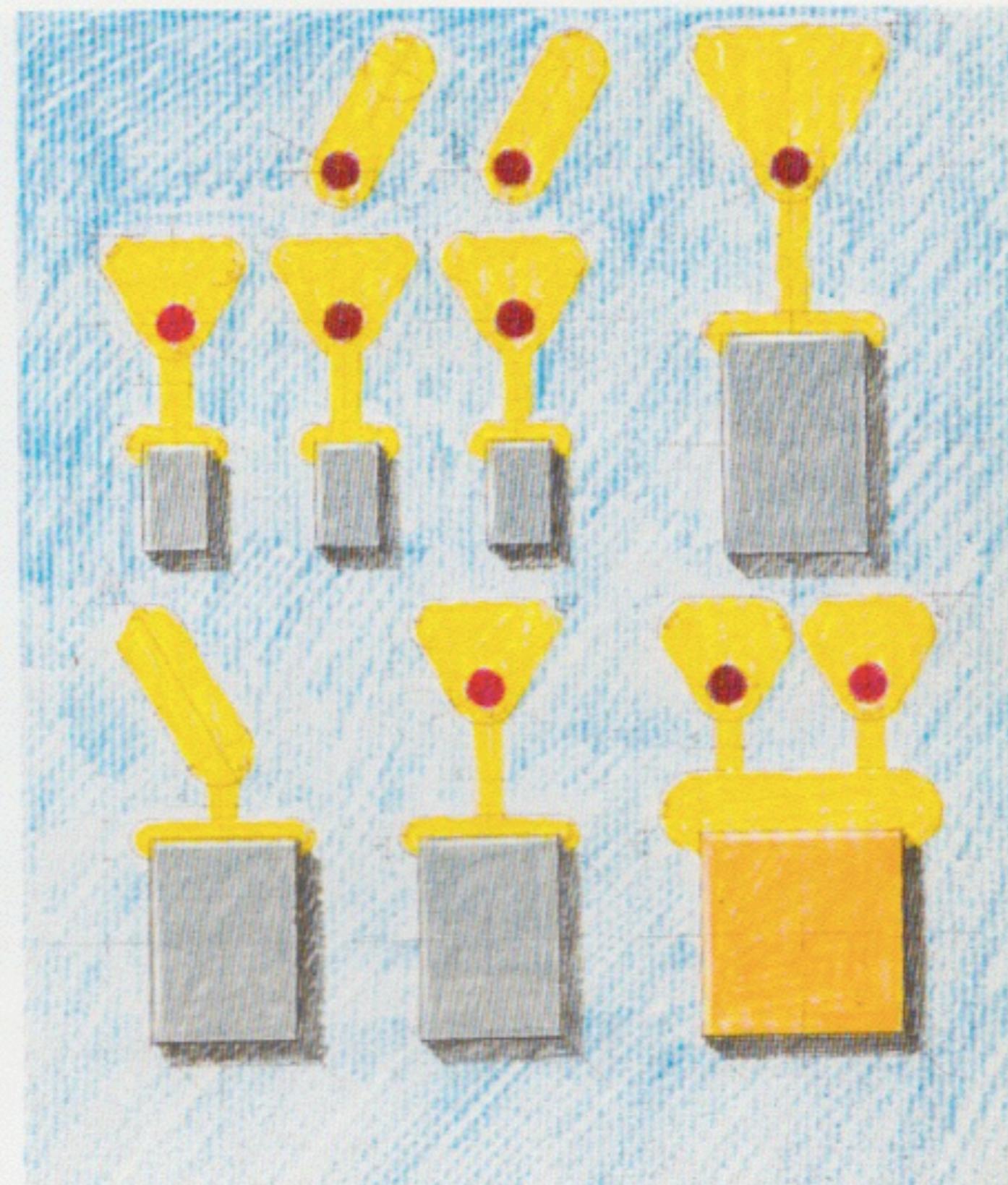
control keyboards: for all form to the sensitive part that allows access, to communication with Granda prepared them specifically for Olivetti by connecting a "interface" between the sensitive zone in which the operator and his assistant Santiago Miranda had of the electronic

elements can be dis-

communicates from the operator, through a visual message regarding the given operation; this is

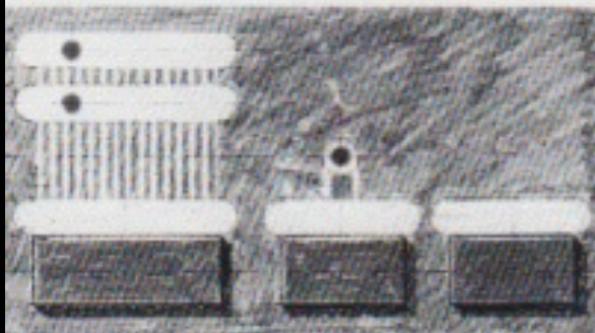
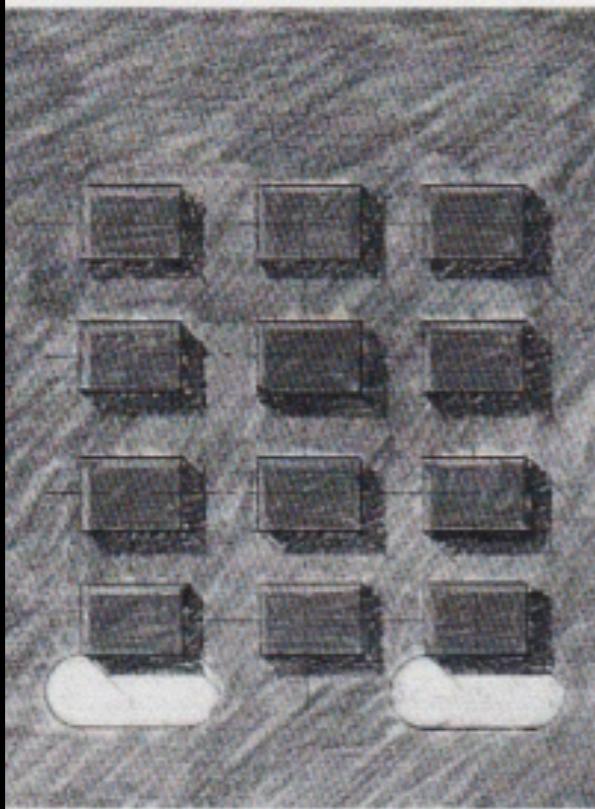
, which permits communication toward the machine, which accompanies the target zone.

Sketch of the keyboard for the TLM 320 telecopier.



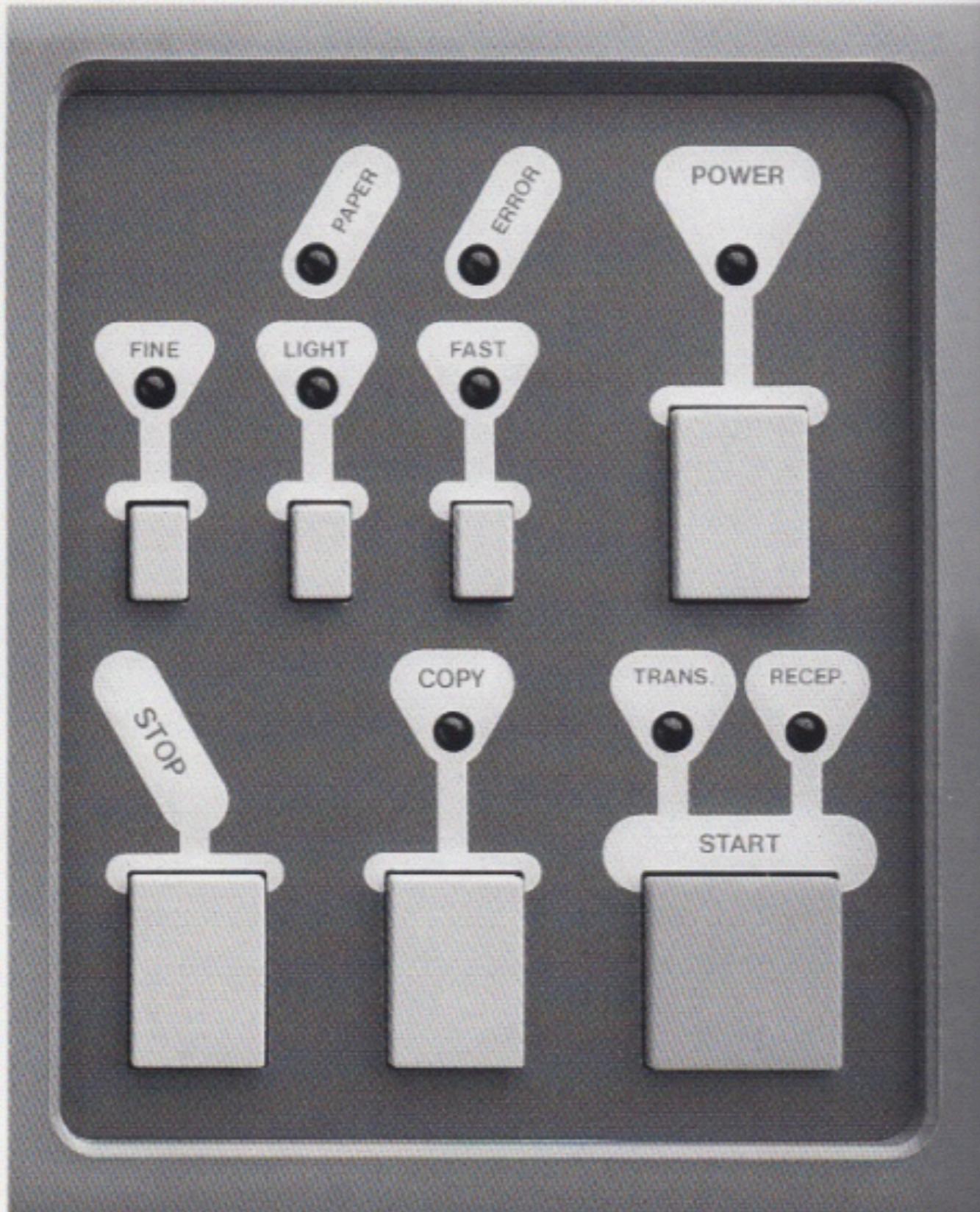
fication (legends, symbols, leds ...) of the task which

d for the TLM 332 telecopier



huge heavy magical machine, was controlled by a combination of bridge-objects: it stopped the gears, the operation a mechanism of electronic circuits, the key little hammers of a series of human fingers. The preeminence of

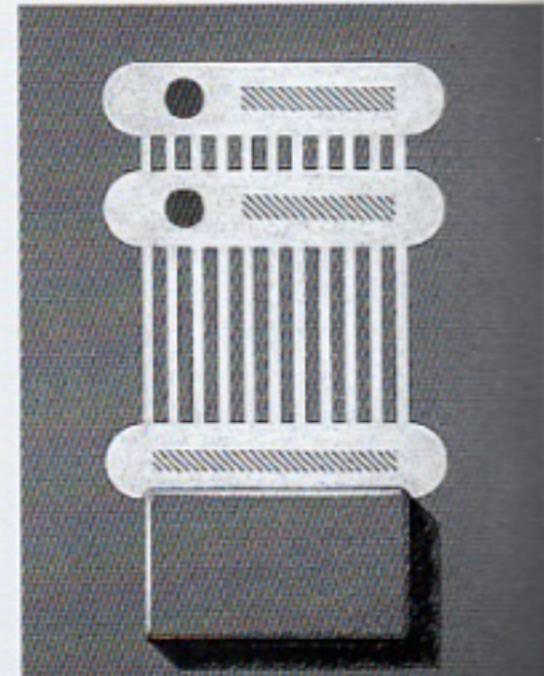
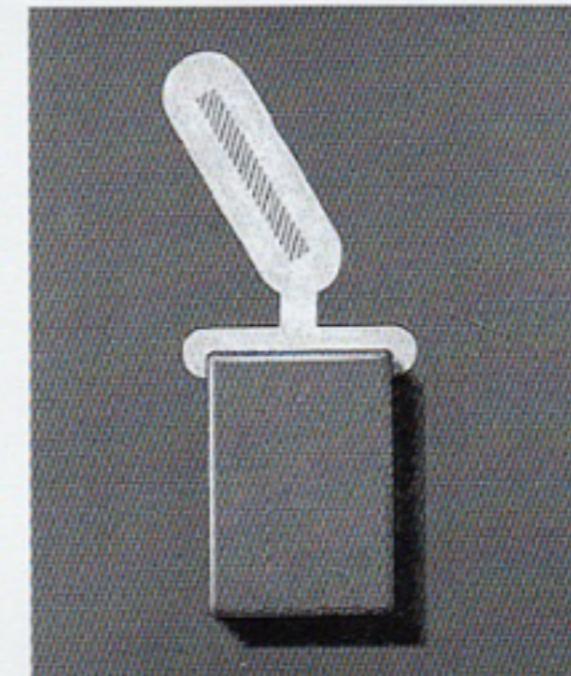
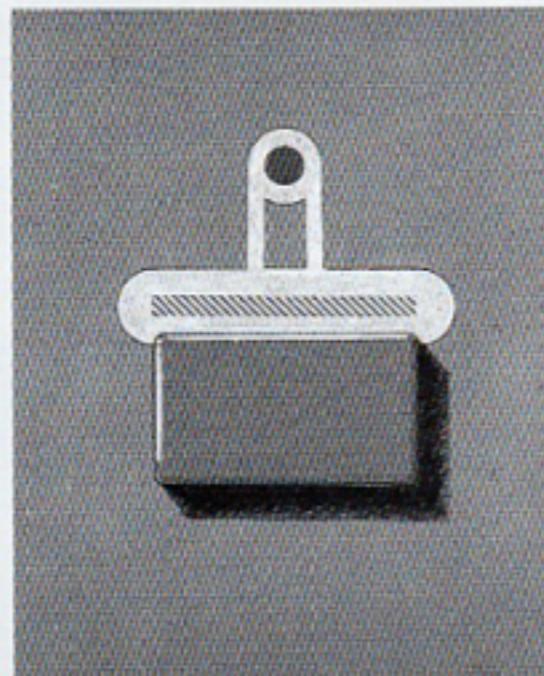
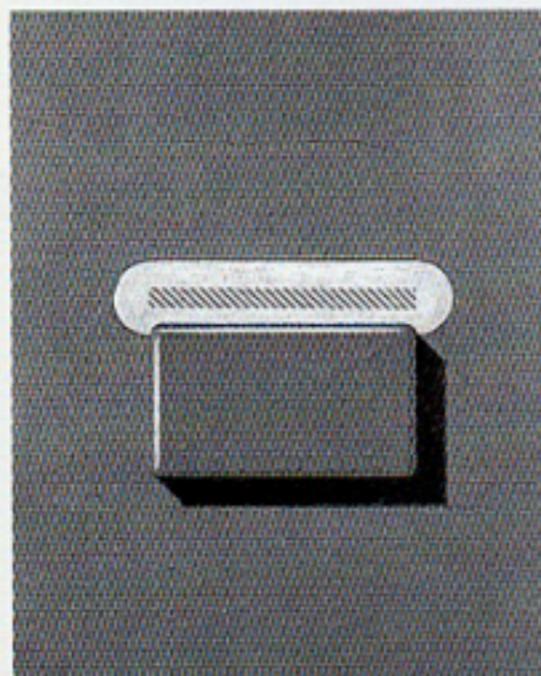
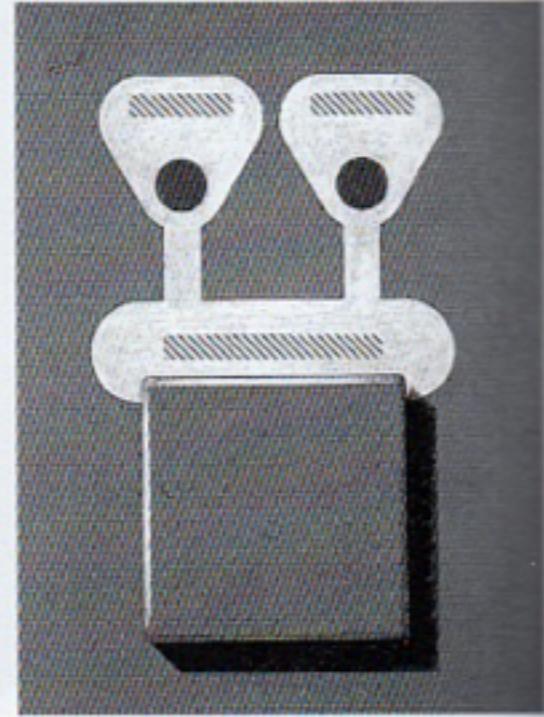
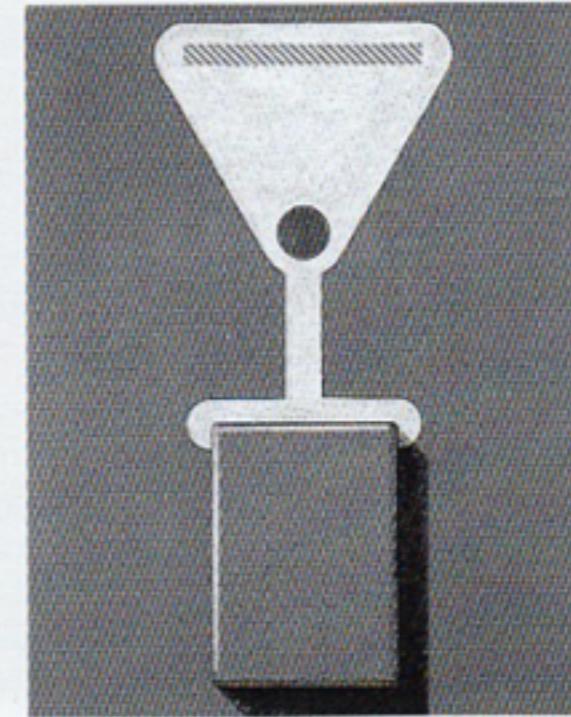
The rubber membrane keyboard for the TLM 320. The shapes, their arrangement, and the colors create the hierarchic recomposition of information.



no more than use and process, at first, elements that derive from our experience of the past — even

Signs and Messages

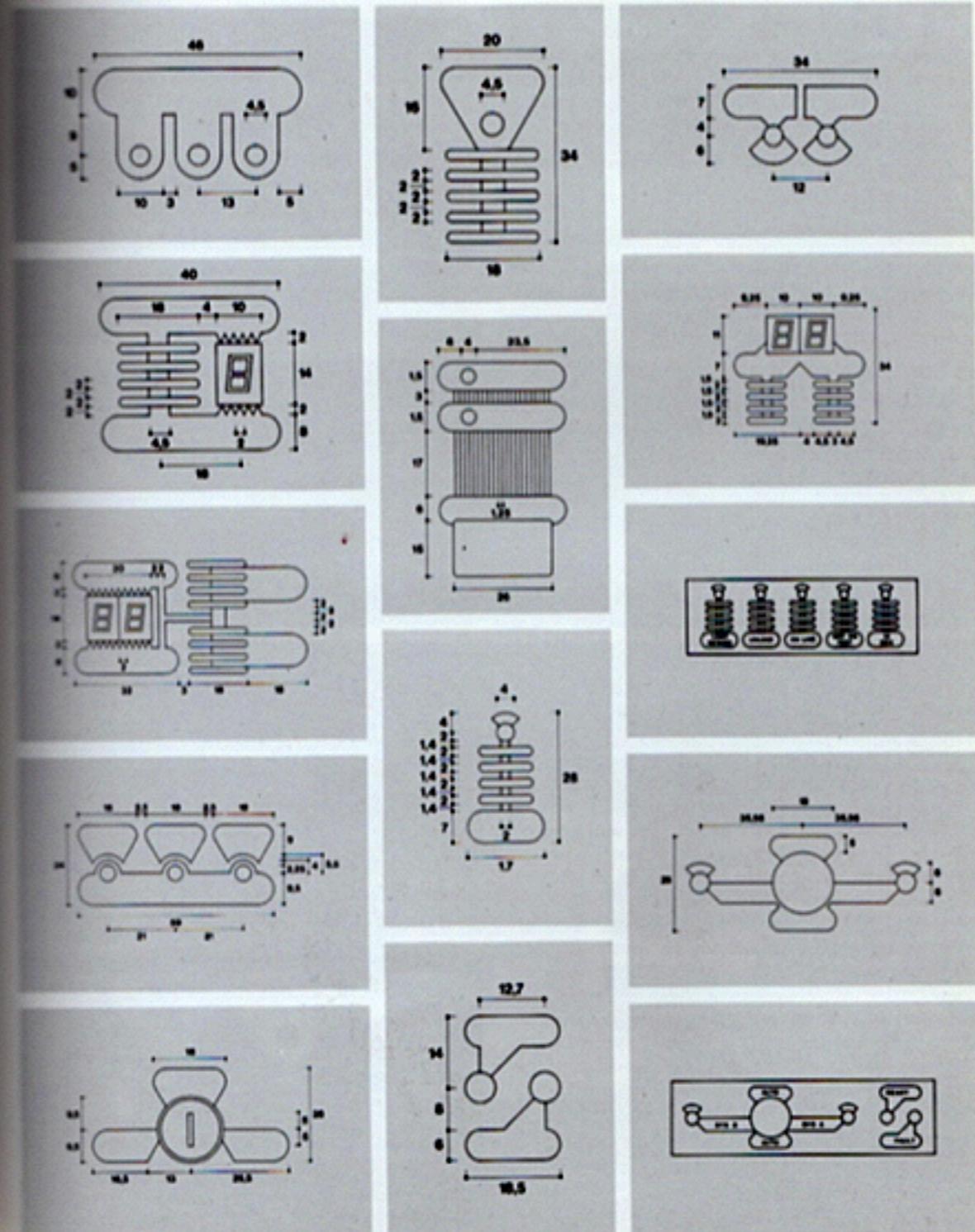
Studies for various types of three-dimensional, sensitive, simple- and double-function keys, with displays and leds, etc.



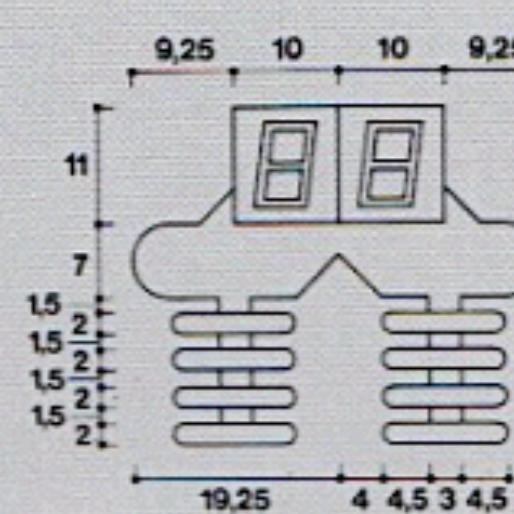
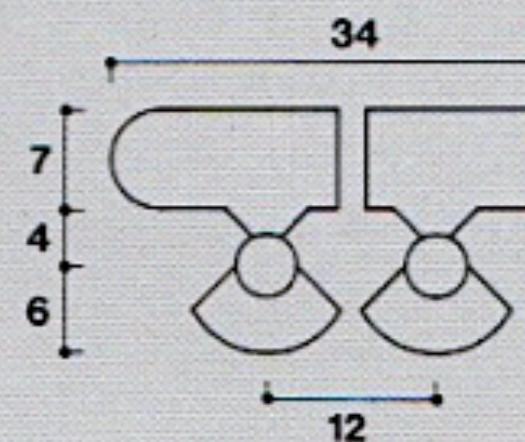
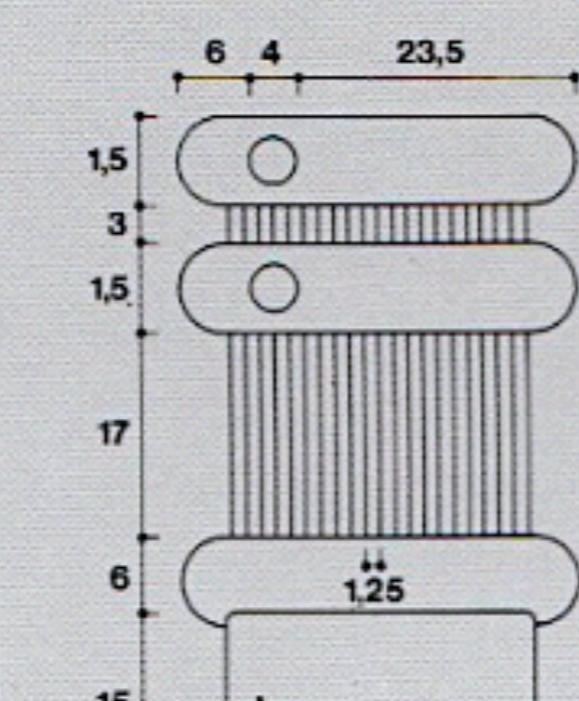
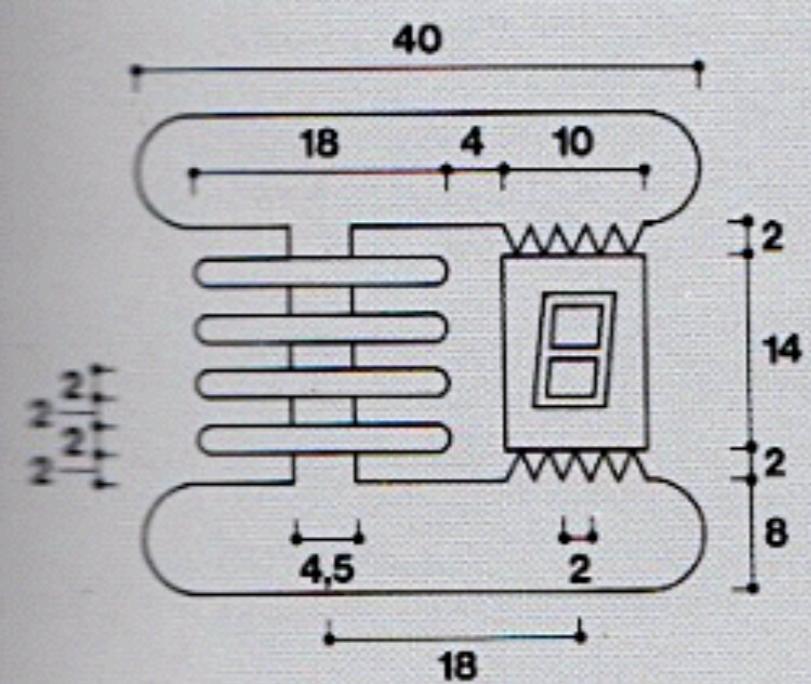
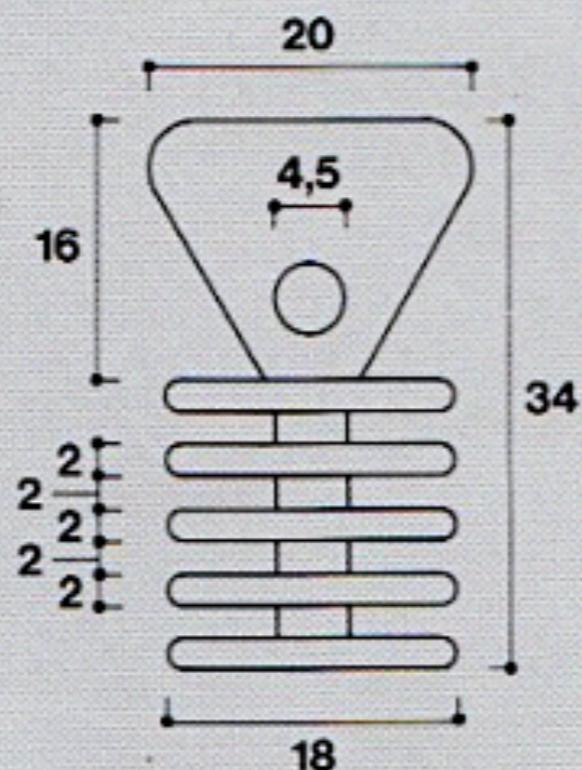
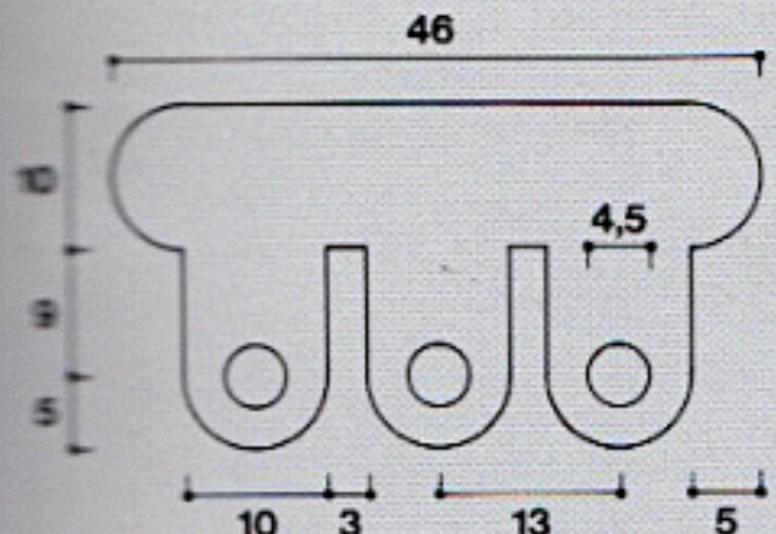
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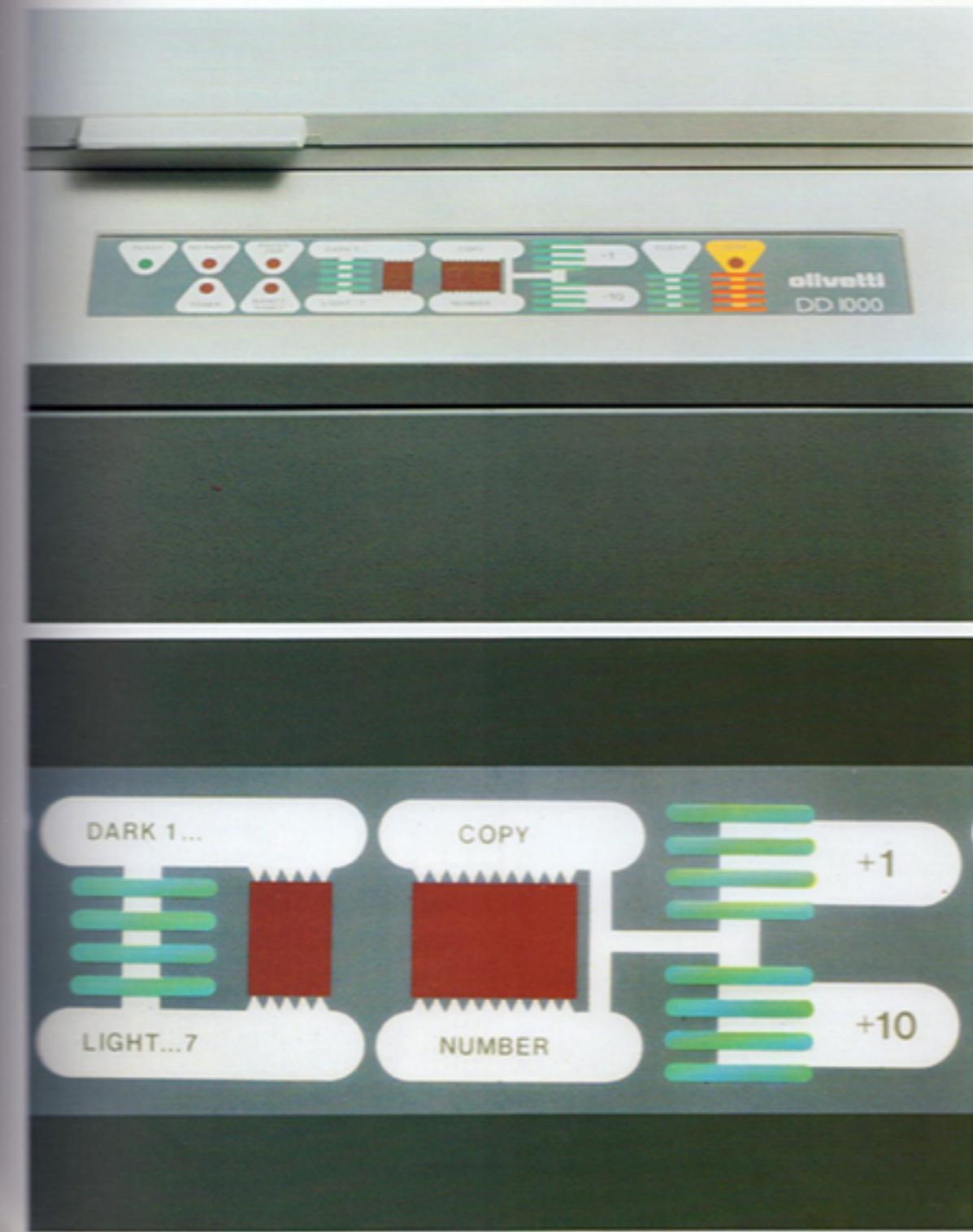
Drawings of the constituent elements of the keyboards. Just like in an alphabet of new characters, despite the smallness, each element is designed in great detail.



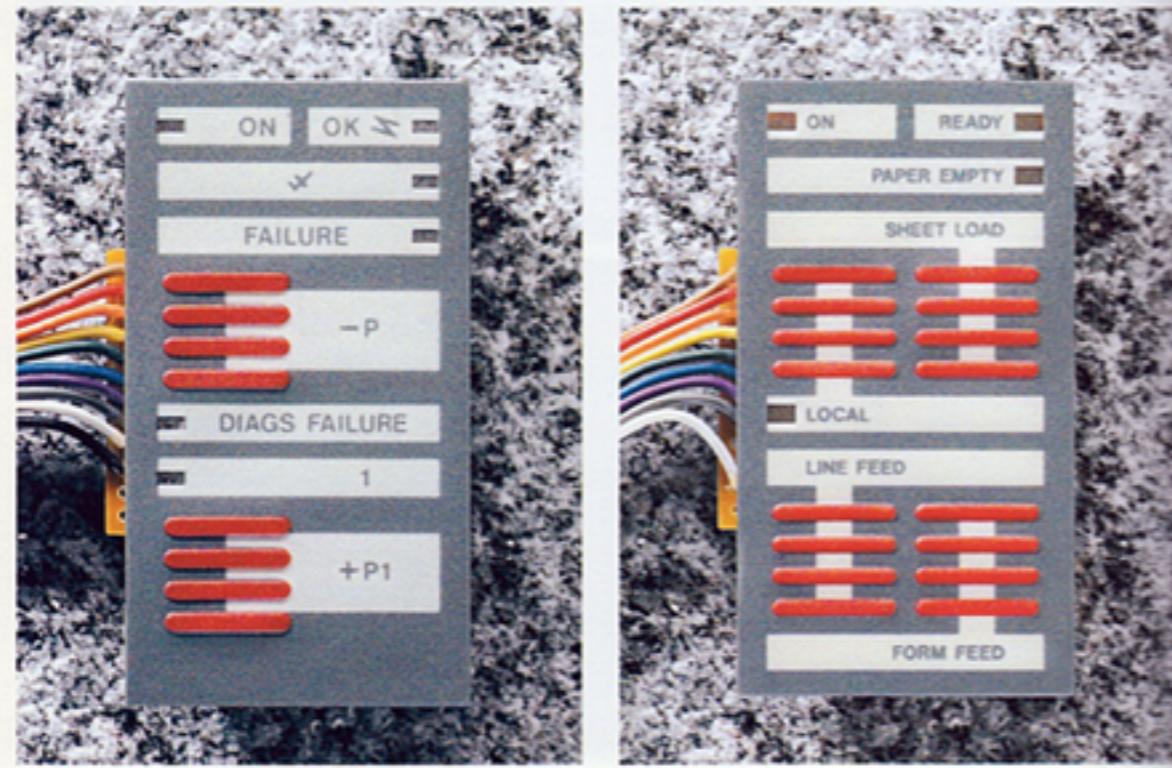
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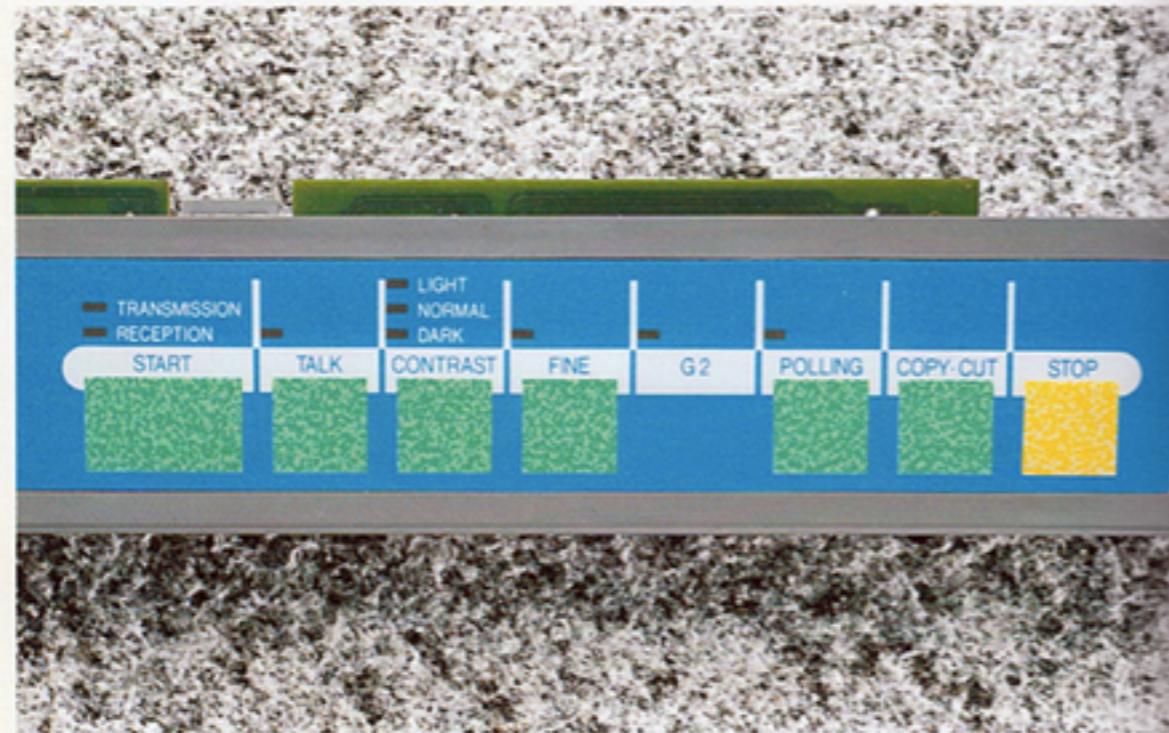
*The keyboard of the DD 1000 laser photocopier/printer.
Below, the information island formed by a "sequential" key to
increase or diminish the brightness, and by two quantity keys (one for
units and one for tens of units) which allow the user to set the number
of copies desired.*



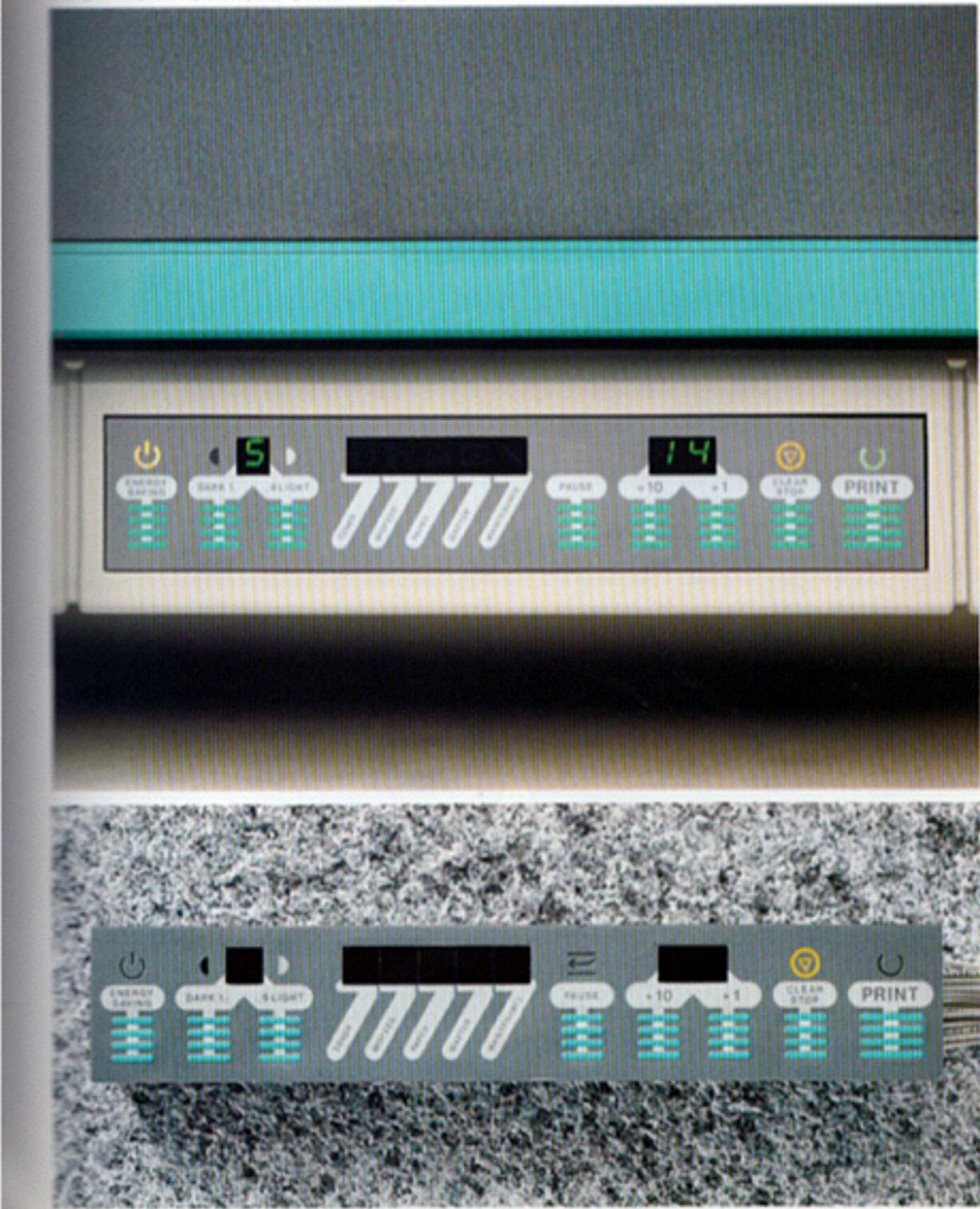
In the latest generation of printers the size of the keyboards has shrunk yet further, thus stimulating new research into materials with which to construct them, and into the methods for manufacturing relief and tactile feedback.



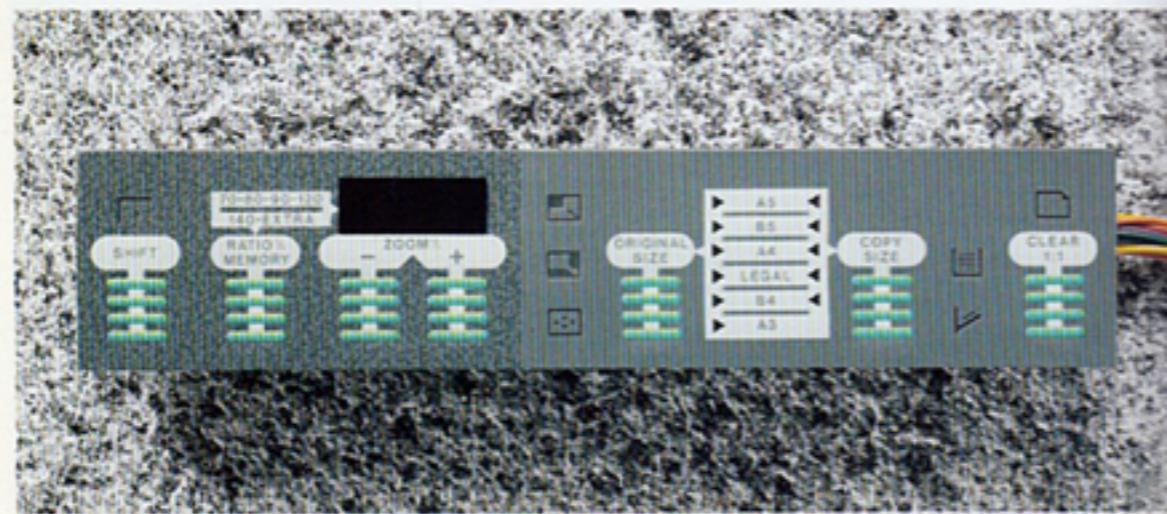
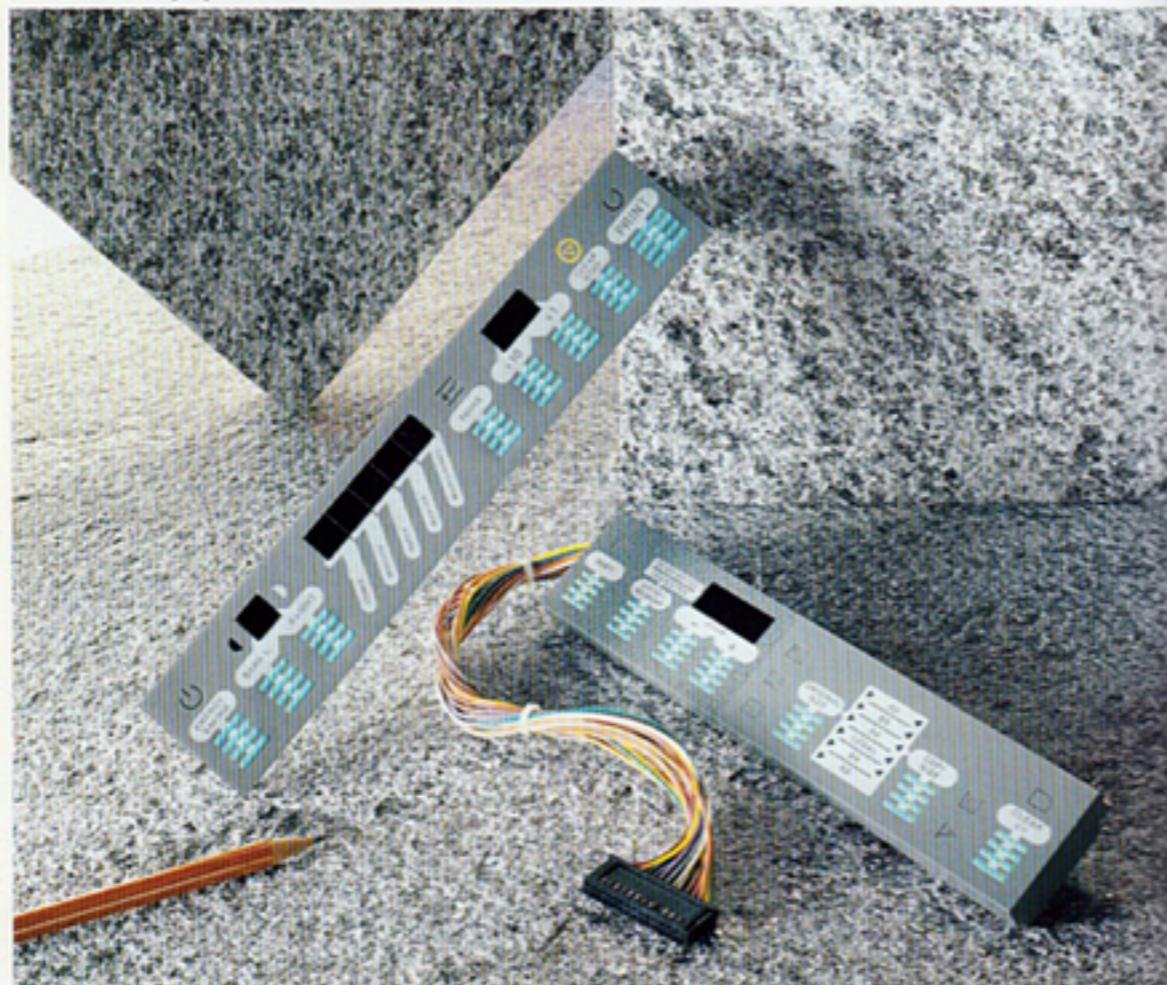
The TLM 340 telecopier and, above, a detail of the function zone of its console.



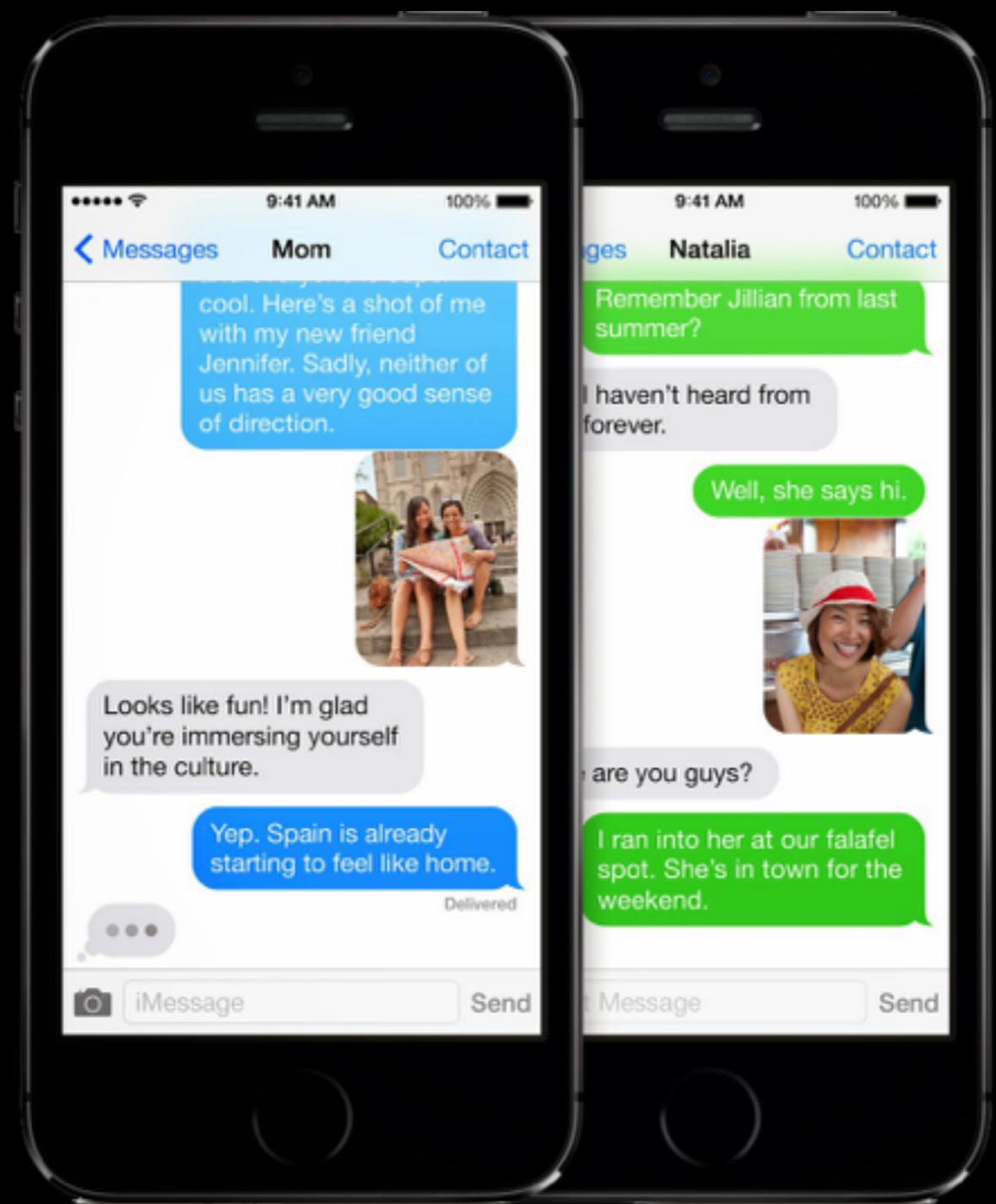
The keyboard of the Copia 900 photocopier and the diagnostic zone.



*The principal keyboard and the subsidiary keyboard of the Copia II50 photocopier.
Below, the subsidiary keyboard.*







Bloomberg Businessweek

SPECIAL DOUBLE ISSUE June 15 – June 26, 2015 | bloomberg.com



```
import datetime

class Issue():
    """TODO write docs here"""
    def __init__(self, **kwargs):
        # TODO: Validate input
        self.__dict__.update(kwargs)

    def publish(self):
        return ('This is the {0.pubdate:%B %d, %Y} issue of {0.title}. ' +
               'It is {0.pages:,} pages long, and ' +
               'costs ${0.price:.5}. ' +
               'It is about {0.subject}.').format(self)

if __name__ == '__main__':
    bbw = Issue(title='Bloomberg Businessweek',
                price=5.99,
                # That price is only USD;
                # TODO figure out international pricing/currencies
                pages=112,
                pubdate=datetime.datetime(2015, 6, 15),
                subject="code")
    print(bbw.publish())
```

If You Can't Read That, You'd Better Read This
Code: An Essay p.13

Let's Begin

A computer is a clock with benefits. They all work the same, doing second-grade math, one step at a time: Tick, take a number and put it in box one. Tick, take another number, put it in box two. Tick, *operate* (an operation might be addition or subtraction) on those two numbers and put the resulting number in box one. Tick, check if the result is zero, and if it is, go to some other box and follow a new set of instructions.

You, using a pen and paper, can do anything a computer can; you just can't do those things billions of times per second. And those billions of tiny operations add up. They can cause a phone to boop, elevate an elevator, or redirect a missile. That raw speed makes it possible to pull off not one but multiple sleights of hand, card tricks on top of card tricks. Take a bunch of pulses of light reflected from an optical disc, apply some math to unsqueeze them, and copy the resulting pile of expanded impulses into some memory cells—then read from those cells to paint light on the screen. Millions of pulses, 60 times a second. That's how you make the rubes believe they're watching a movie. •

Apple has always made computers; Microsoft used to make only software (and occasional accessory hardware, such as mice and keyboards), but now it's in the hardware business, with Xbox game consoles, Surface tablets, and Lumia phones. Facebook assembles its own computers for its massive data centers.

So many things are computers, • or will be. That includes watches, cameras, air conditioners, cash registers, toilets, toys, airplanes, and movie projectors. Samsung makes computers that look like TVs, and Tesla makes computers with wheels and engines. Some things that aren't yet computers—dental floss, flashlights—will fall eventually.

When you batch process a thousand images in Photoshop or sum numbers in Excel, you're programming, at least a little. When you use computers too much—which is to say a typical amount—they start to change you. I've had Photoshop dreams,

Visio dreams, spreadsheet dreams, and Web browser dreams. The dreamscape becomes fluid and can be sorted and restructured. I've had programming dreams where I move text around the screen.

You can make computers do wonderful things, but you need to understand their limits. They're not all-powerful, not conscious in the least. They're fast, but some parts—the processor, the RAM—are faster than others—like the hard drive or the network connection. Making them seem infinite takes a great deal of work from a lot of programmers and a lot of marketers.

The turn-of-last-century British artist William Morris once said you can't have art without resistance in the materials. The computer and its multifarious peripherals are the materials. The code is the art.

How Do You Type An "A"?

Consider what happens when you strike a key on your keyboard. Say a lowercase "a." The keyboard is waiting for you to press a key, or release one; it's constantly scanning to see what keys are pressed down. Hitting the key sends a scancode.

Just as the keyboard is waiting for a key to be pressed, the computer is waiting for a signal from the keyboard. When one comes down the pike, the computer interprets it and passes it farther into its own interior. "Here's what the keyboard just received—do with this what you will."

It's simple now, right? The computer just goes to some table, figures out that the signal corresponds to the letter "a," and puts it on screen. Of course not—too easy. Computers are machines. They don't know what a screen or an "a" are. To put the "a" on the screen, your computer has to pull the image of the "a" out of its memory as part of a font, an "a" made up of lines and circles. It has to take these lines and circles and render them in a little box of pixels in the part of its memory that manages the screen. So far we have at least three representations of one letter: the signal from the keyboard; the version in memory; ►

• We're all
rubes now.
—John
Lennon
in his
last interview

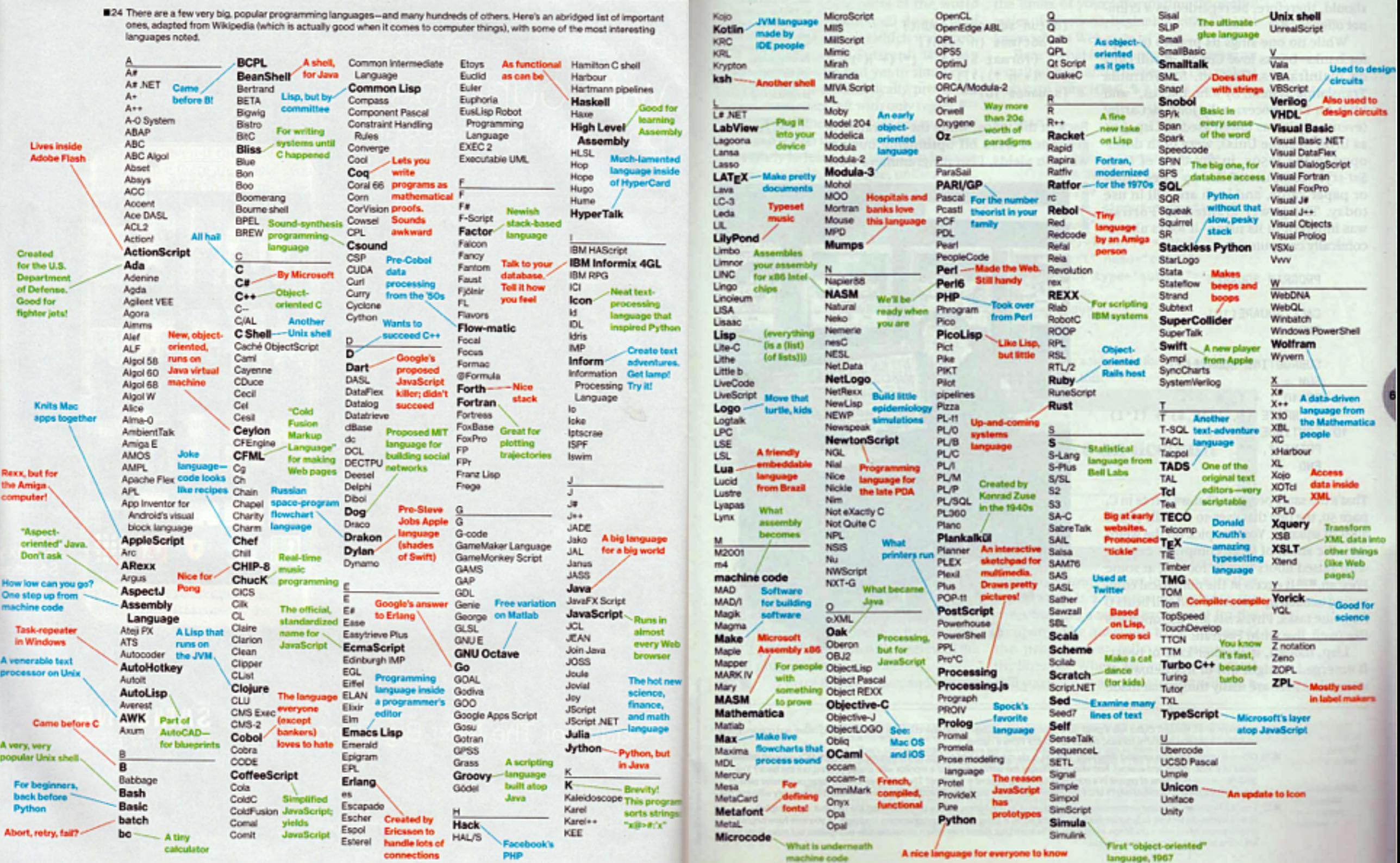
- Which of the following is a computer?
 a. Mugs
 b. Cars
 c. Thermostats
 d. Stereos
 e. ATMs
 f. Cameras
 g. Dinner forks
 h. Tennis rackets
 i. Toilets
 j. All of the above

What Is Code?

²⁴ Cobol, for example, a legendary and much-hated, extremely verbose language that was intimately linked to the “year 2000” problem. As computer

Why Are There So Many Languages?

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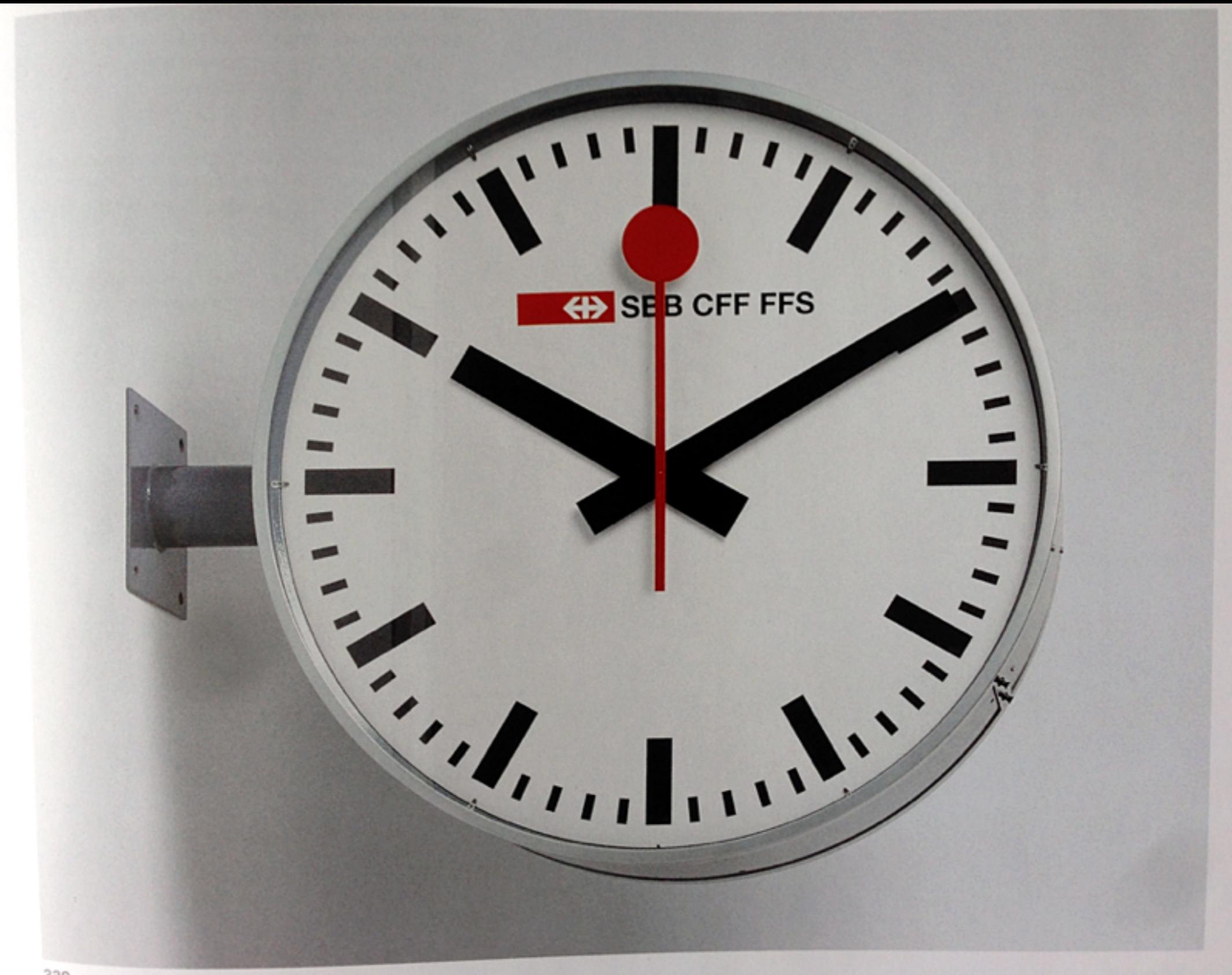


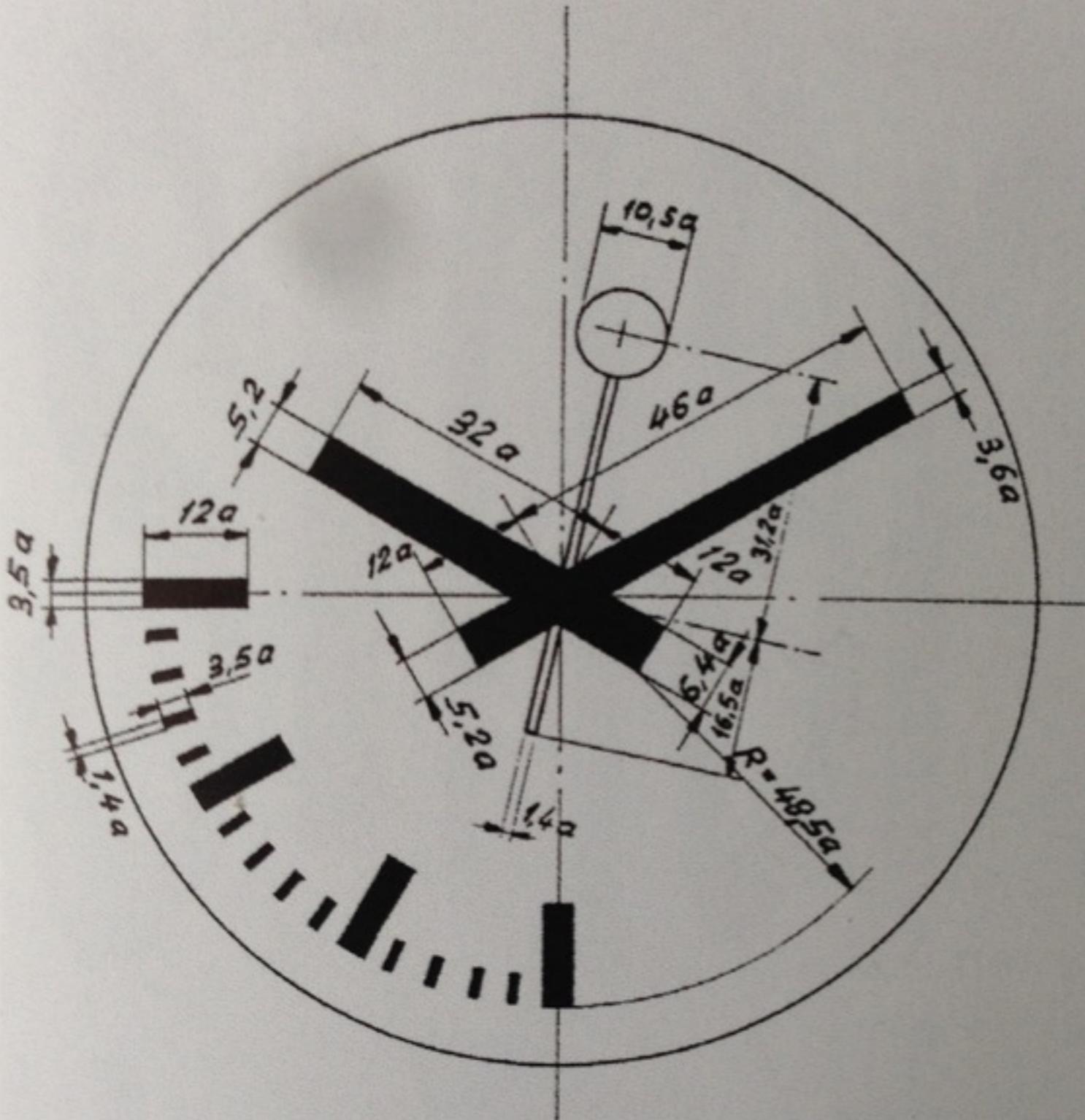




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