



*The garden of Monsieur and Madame Silly  
Coupigny, France (27)*



*The painting workshop  
Coupigny, France (27)*

### ***1/ Architecture, order, and non-architects***

*View of the horizon from the garden  
Coupigny, France (27)*



*Michel Foucault said that if one wishes to understand the law, then one must analyse prison. One must examine what the law excludes from itself. The first time I found myself in a position to construct, I felt confronted with what architecture excludes from itself. This construction was not in my own name. With my studies almost complete, I was working part time for an architect in Vernon (Atelier d'architecture Etienne Lemoine 27). I had managed to convince him to accept the project of a couple of art professors whose student I had been. This couple had constructed a remarkable living place through their artistic practice: a garden and buildings built from*



View of the bathroom from the garden  
Coupigny, France (27)

the history of art. *Their territory was in counterpoint to the teaching at the school of architecture: no plans, no companies, buildings constructed exclusively from recycled materials, no grounding in the history of architecture...* and yet, these buildings were endlessly fascinating and directly questioned the act of inhabiting the world.

When faced with this territory built outside of Architecture, certain questions became impossible to ignore. Here, architecture appeared to me as one system of producing buildings among others, it no longer belonged to architects. In addition, the practice of architects appeared regulated, governed by an internal logic of great permanence. As I could not pretend to have not myself inherited this architect's view on

Architecture, *the rationale for this first project lay in the attempt to embrace the intimate attraction of Architecture for order.*

Symmetry in plan and section, the ordering grid of a Durand, Miesian attention to detail were all to be sublimated. The idea was to add a tempietto of great systemic purity to this site of spontaneous, unpredictable, and iconoclastic architectures. A cube with 3-meter sides, screened with horizontal lines, sitting on four columns/pilotis. Two sliding glass panels formed a corner opening onto a perfectly flat horizon. The interior was laid out in straight lines of 150 x 150 mm tiles, and the milky-white fonts and basins were arranged at right angles, like the steles of a secular temple devoted to architecture.

View of the entry of the bathroom from the bedroom  
Coupigny, France (27)







*Stairs leading to the bathroom  
Coupigny, France (27)*



**0001 Extension of a house in  
Coupigny, France (27)**  
Cost of construction: 50,000 euros  
Net floor area: 9 m<sup>2</sup>  
Private client  
Architecture studio of Etienne Lemoine  
Vernon, France (27)  
Project manager: Xavier Wrona  
All-trades contractor: Bouquet SA  
Monsieur Laurent Desvignes  
Date of completion: December 2006  
Duration of construction: 9 months



*Delivery of the columns  
The drying foundation  
The installation of the columns  
Coupigny, France (27)*



*The shower  
Coupigny, France (27)*



*The shower siphon  
Coupigny, France (27)*

*View of the bedroom from the bathroom  
Coupigny, France (27)*



