

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 Extenstion of a house in
Coupigny, France (27)
Cost of construction: 50,000 euros
Net floor area: 9 m2
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)



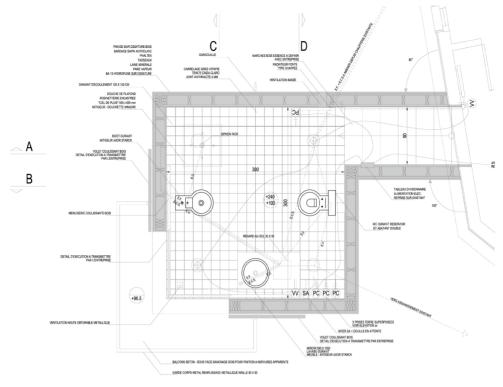
The shower Coupigny, France (27)



The shower siphon Coupigny, France (27)

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





Plan of the bathroom Coupigny, France (27)

Night view of the bathroom - Photography credit: Stephane Thidet Coupigny, France (27)

