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Tectonic Indexicality and Architectural Semiosis

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This work is downloaded from Delft University of Technology. For technical reasons the number of authors shown on this cover page is limited to a maximum of 10. The design process employs "Index" as the generator of architectural shapes.

Sampling Berlin

with Ansis Sinke Immanuel Tashiro Michael P. L. Ramwell Bob de Rijk

Through the production of an index model we try to find and propose new approaches toward the conception of architectural cofiguration and design. The indexical process turns away from simple programmatic and contextual observations. It approaches architectural design as creating semiosis and an enclosed signification system that explores formal potentials inherent in detecting and signifying contextual affordances.

The index model consists of a specific material that requires appropriate tooling and fabrication techniques. We chose to use a 500mm x 500mm steel sheet as the indexical substrate. The declaration of certain rules was necessary to be able to translate the date from previous diagrams and table language to material processing. The set of actions on our metal sheet were cutting, bending, folding and twisting according to the data of the urban sampling.





The resulting index model is the metal sheet which underwent transformation and thereby informs the design process and formalities.

Indexical Notations of Urban Network in Berlin



Construction of Index Model

Tectonic-Indexical Approach to Architectural Design Sang Lee, PhD RA University Docent 1 Faculty of Architecture and Built Environment TU Delft Netherlands







Completed Index Model















Semantic Elements from Index Modeal

Instantiation of Semantic Elements from Continuous Shape

Instantiated Shapes on Site