

Roskilde University

Material Meanings in contemporary performance and design

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Publication date: 2012

Document Version Early version, also known as pre-print

Citation for published version (APA):

Samson, K. (2012). *Material Meanings in contemporary performance and design*. Paper presented at Material Meanings, Kent, United Kingdom. http://www.kent.ac.uk/english/materialmeanings/index.html

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Download date: 17. May. 2025





Design and architecture as a performative agencies in the city...

PERFORMATIVE AESTHETICS IN URBAN SPACE



What can urban design learn from performance?

MATERIAL MEANINGS IN RECENT URBAN DESIGN AND PERFORMANCE

- * can urban design learn from performance art and how performance produce material meanings in city?
- * A contemporary approach
- * Through 3 cases I will suggest that we witness a new materialism in urban design.
- * Shares similarities in the materialism of for instance, Russian constructivism, dada, futurism, situationist International and Fluxus.

Is it avantgarde?

Contemporary artists and designers prefer a pragmatic self-understanding and a-historical approach to acts in public space. So will I...

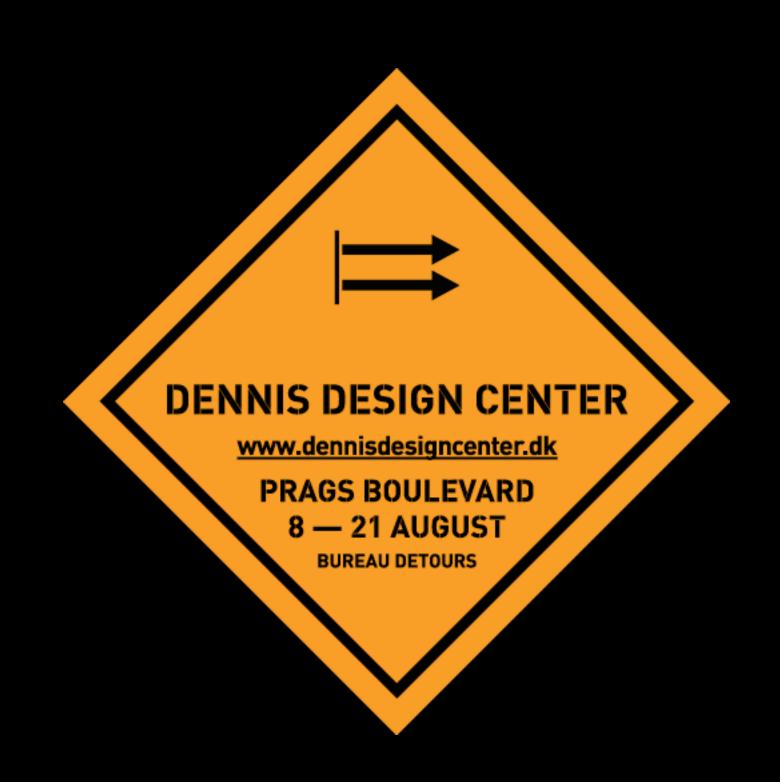
MATERIAL MEANINGS IN RECENT URBAN DESIGN AND PERFORMANCE



Tyler Ashley's dance performance at the Highline during Performa



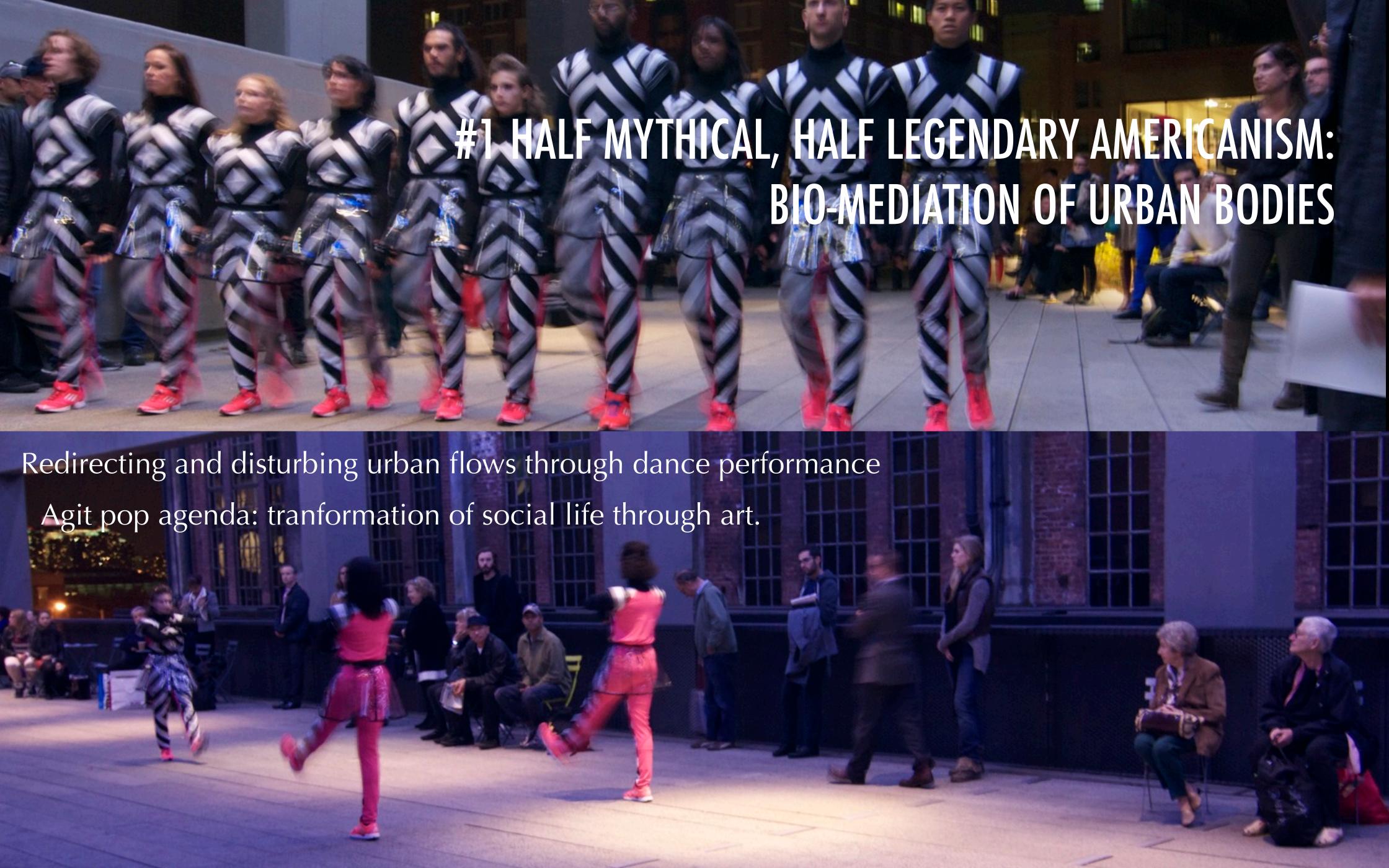
Theaster Gates
Hugenottenhaus
in Kassel during
dOKUMENTA



Büro Detours performance workshop Dennis Design Center during Metropolis Biennal.



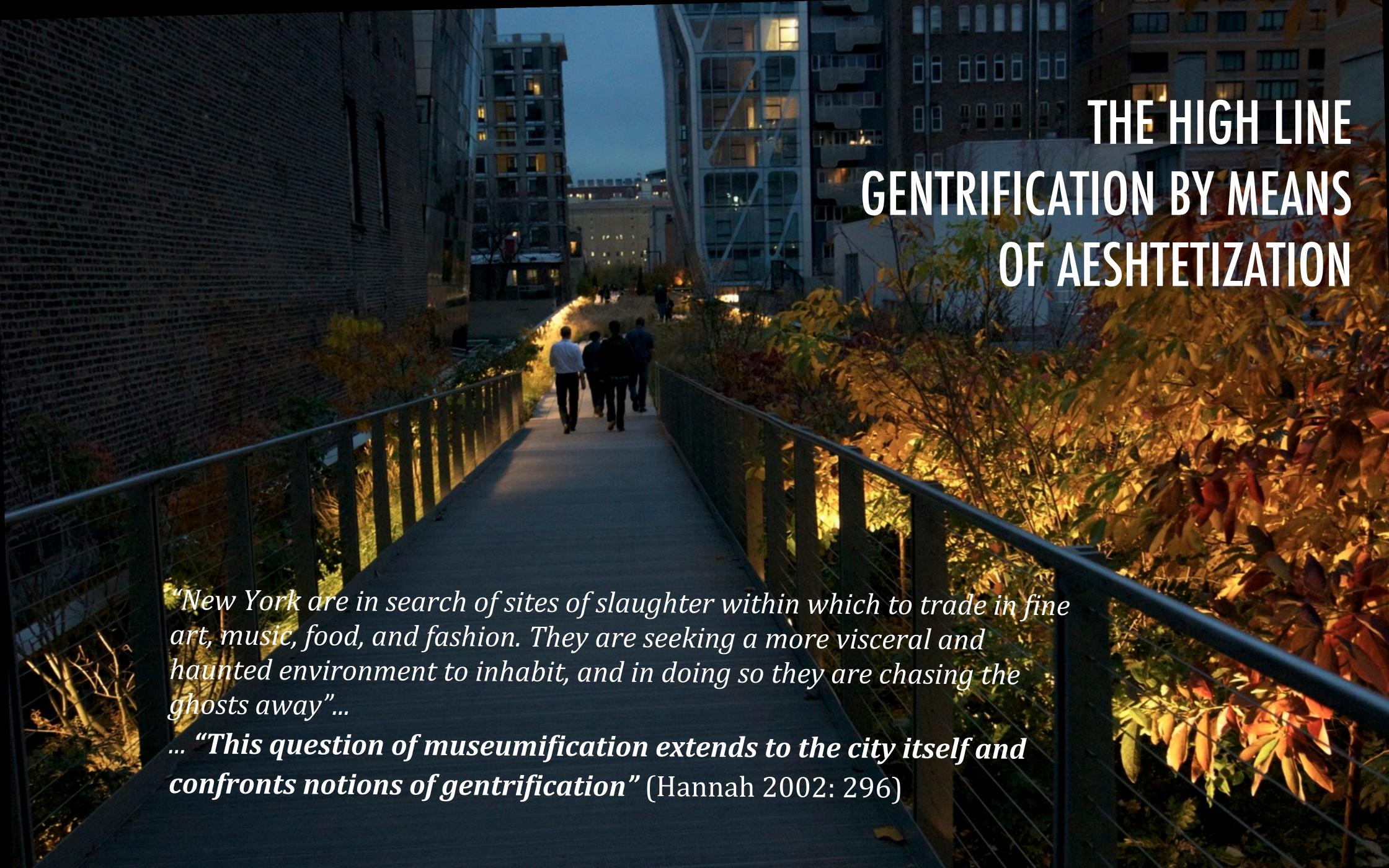
















#1 HALF MYTHICAL, HALF LEGENDARY AMERICANISM: BIO-MEDIATION OF URBAN BODIES

The performance recomposes socio-cultural meanings and matters, for instance site consumption at the High Line.

The performance recomposes urban life, our socio-cultural behaviour and practices.

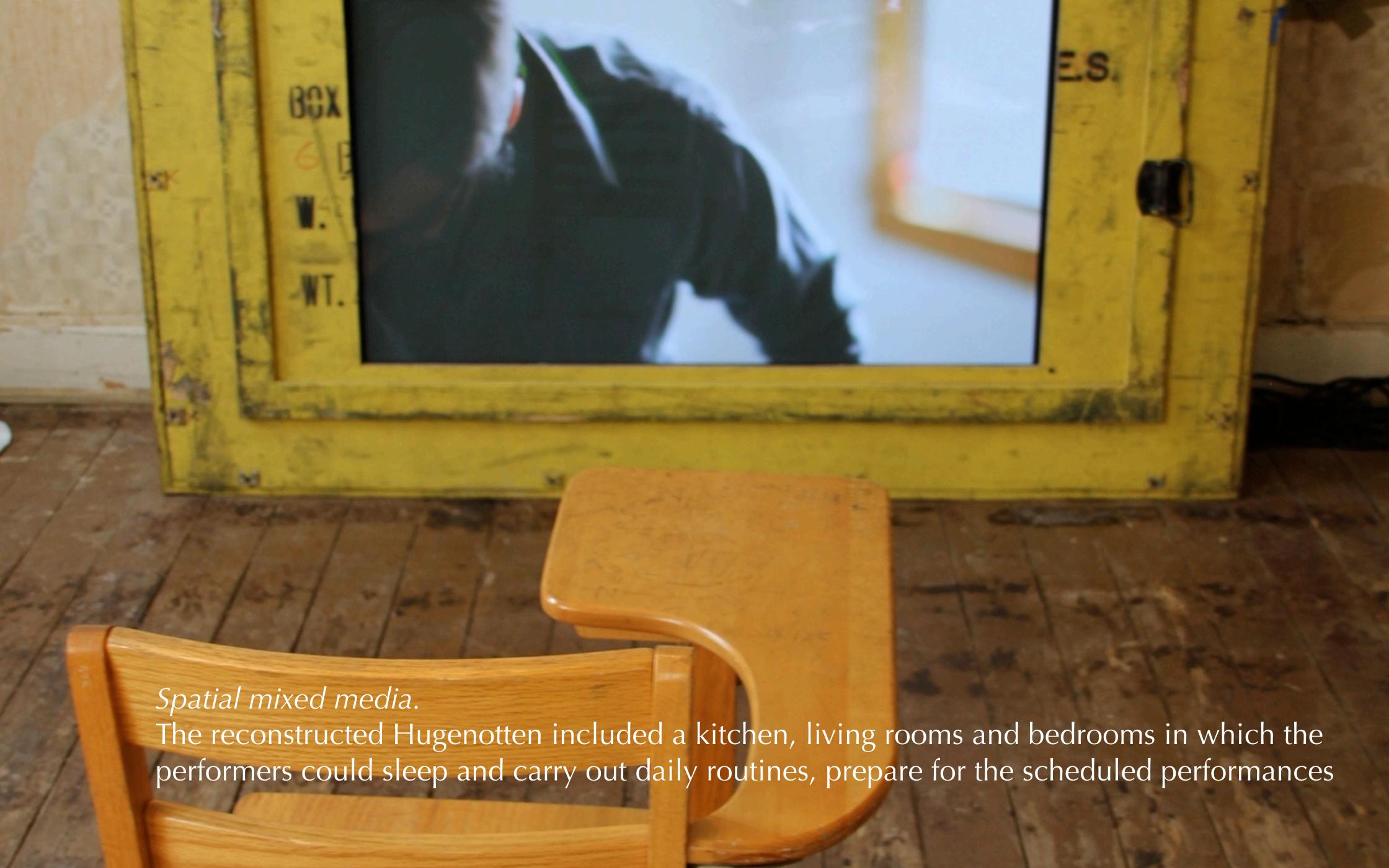
SITUTATIONISM



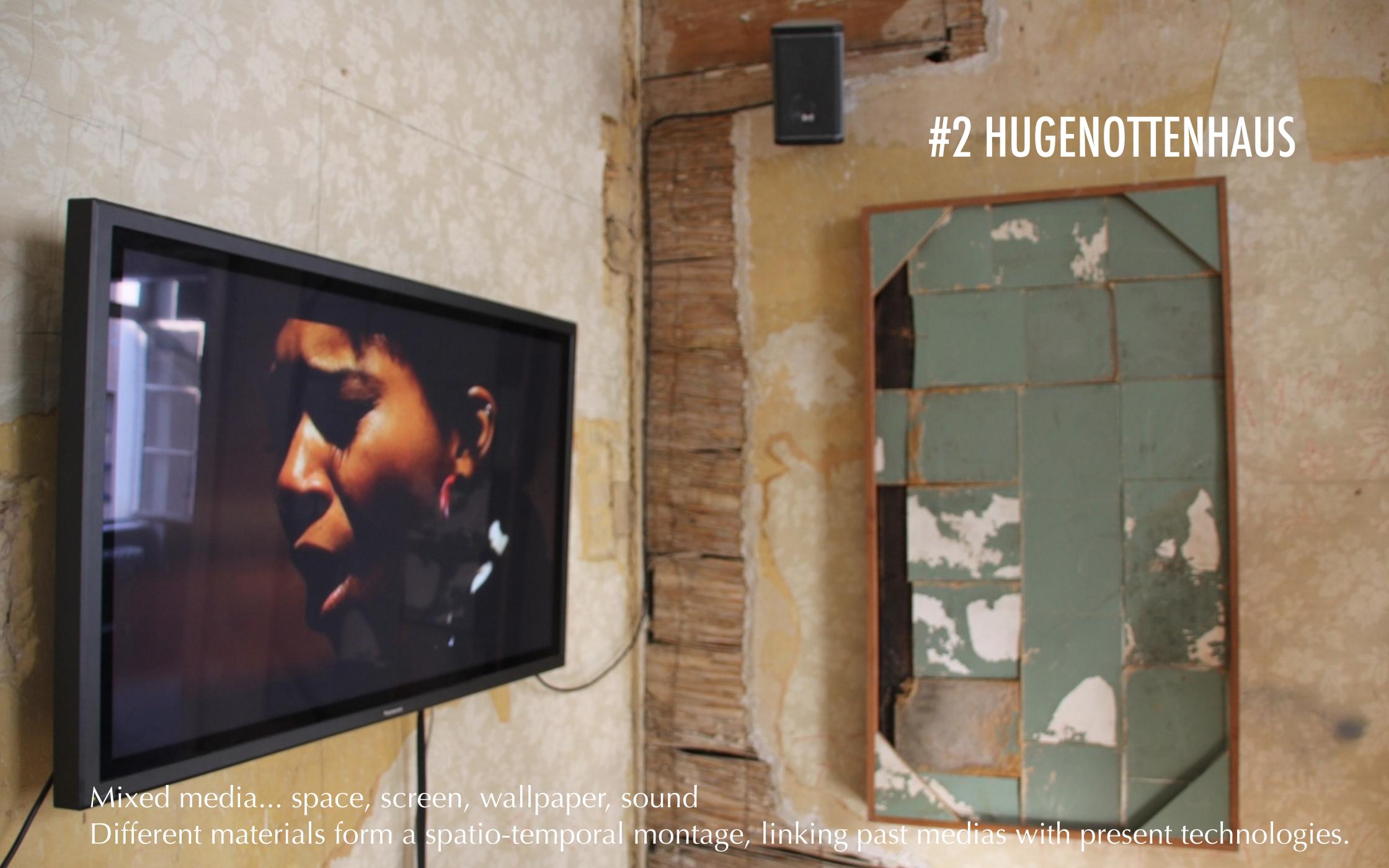
We must develop a methodical intervention based on the complex factors of two components in perpetual interaction, the material environment of life and the comportments which it gives rise to and which radically transform it. Guy Debord "Construction of Situations" 1957

Urban performance, a way to construction and reestablish situations in the functional and neo-liberal city?











#2 HUGENOTTENHAUS

Every day performances
The house is a 'walk-in' collage

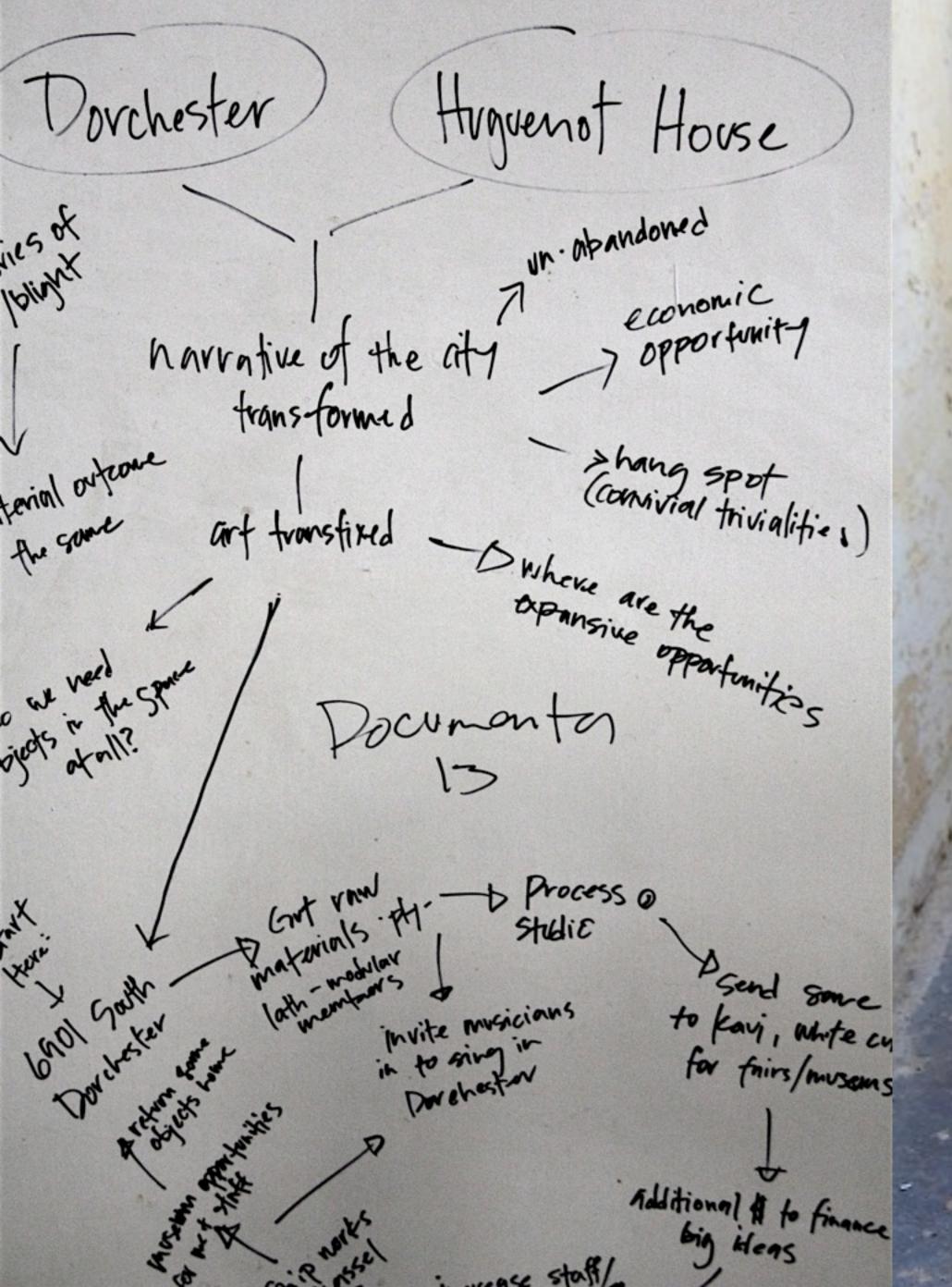
Performers live in the house and perform every day tasks.

Bedrooms are both bedrooms and installation art.

The reconstructed Hugenotten includes a kitchen, living rooms and bedrooms in which the performers prepare for the scheduled performances.





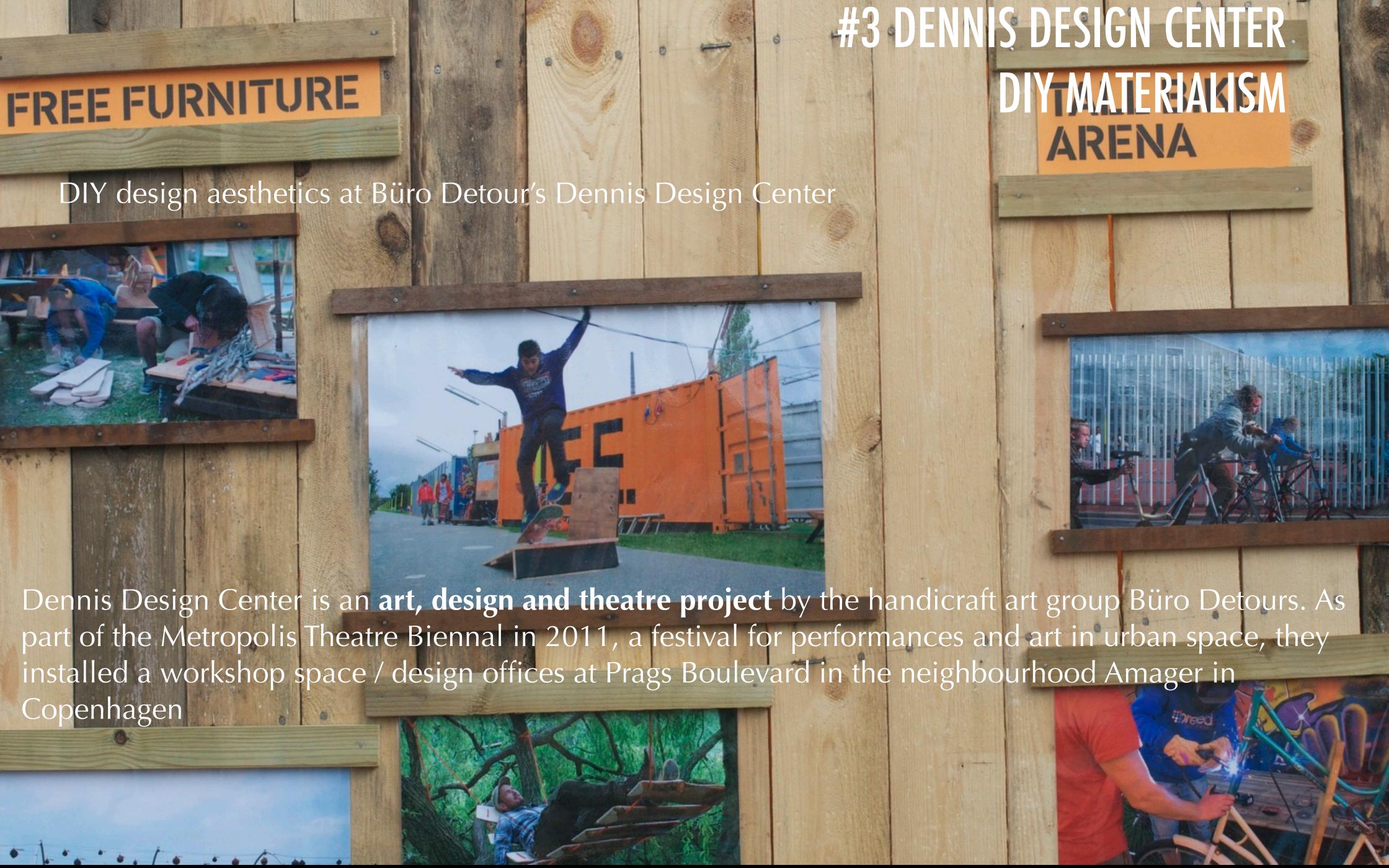




#2 HUGENOTTENHAUS PERFORMANCE AS URBAN REGENERATION

*Art and performances become transformative catalyst for the city (Kassel)

*Urban blight transformed into art through spatial montage. The material outcome is the same.











#3 DENNIS DESIGN CENTER DIY MATERIALISM

- * Engagement with and staging of materialitites are more important than the formal expression.
- * The creative act.
- * "meaning is in the use"
- * Unfolding of designs and DIY materialism in time... process aesthetics.
- * Opens up for participatory design and the death of the author/designer/artist.

Manifesto:

2. To affect, or bring to a certain state, by subjecting to, or treating with, a flux. "Fluxed into another world." South.

3. Med. To cause a discharge from, as in purging.

flux (fluks), n. [OF., fr. L. fluxus, fr. fluere, fluxum, to flow. See FLUENT; cf. FLUSH, n. (of cards).]

a A flowing or fluid discharge from the bowels or other part; esp., an excessive and morbid discharge; as, the bloody flux, or dysentery. b The matter thus discharged.

Purge the world of bourgeois sickness, "intellectual", professional & commercialized culture, PURGE the world of dead art, imitation, artificial art, abstract art, illusionistic art, mathematical art, —
PURGE THE WORLD OF "EUROPANISM"!

2. Act of flowing: a continuous moving on or passing by, as of a flowing stream; a continuing succession of changes.

3. A stream; copious flow; flood; outflow.

4. The setting in of the tide toward the shore. Cf. REFLUX.

5. State of being liquid through heat; fusion. Rare.

PROMOTE A REVOLUTIONARY FLOOD AND TIDE IN ART, Promote living art, anti-art, promote NON ART REALITY to be fully grasped by all peoples, not only critics, dilettantes and professionals.

7. Chem. & Metal. a Any substance or mixture used to promote fusion, esp. the fusion of metals or minerals. Common metallurgical fluxes are silica and silicates (acidic), lime and lime-tone chasic, and fluorite (neutral). b Any substance applied to surfaces to be joined by soldering or welding, just prior to or during the operation, to clean and free them from oxide, thus promoting their union, as room free them from oxide, thus promoting their union, as room

FUSE the cadres of cultural, social & political revolutionaries into united front & action.

#3 DENNIS DESIGN CENTER DIY MATERIALISM

Non-art reality to be grasped by all peoples



MATERIAL MEANINGS 1. PERFORMING COUNTER MOVEMENTS

- * Performs in places of consumption (The High Line, Kassel Exhibition platforms)
- * Performs against and with urban planning and economical growth
- * Performs within cultural mainsstream Dennis Design, Fitness work outs).
- * Performs through the biomediation of bodies and people: children from the neighbourhood (DDC, visitors at the High Line)

MATERIAL MEANINGS 2 RECOMPOSITION OF URBAN MATERIALITY

- * The work of art reassembles found materials, objects and fabrics (Hugenotten Haus)
- * Recomposes socio-cultural relations in the city by inviting people to participate in the work of art (Hugentotten Haus, Dennis Design Center).
- * *Participation* is the preferred tactics for changing exitisting urban materiality (reassembling socio-material relations in the city)

MATERIAL MEANINGS 3 SOCIAL REFORMATION

- *Changing social habits through the art work (Half Myhical, Half Legendary..., Dennis Design Center)
- * Not against mass culture but uses mass culture as the out set for transformation (Half Mythical..., Dennis Design Center)
- *Changing planning practices proposing performance art and DIY urbanism

MATERIAL MEANINGS 4 GESAMTKUNSTWERK

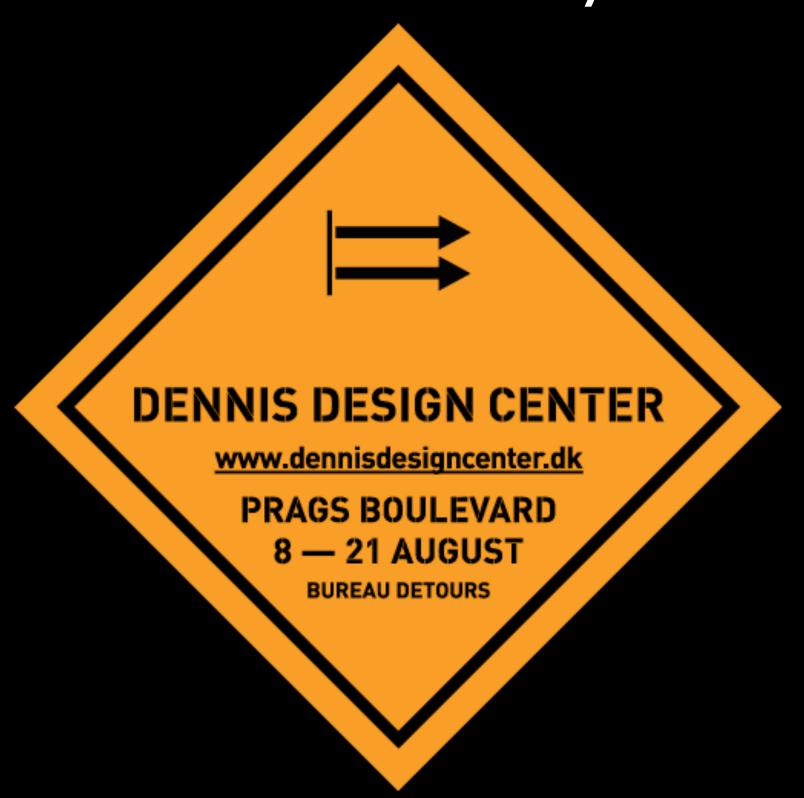
- * Integrated drama
- * Performance is everywhere: in everyday acts, in the design and in the use (Hugnottenhaus).
- * No borders between the performer on stage and participant (DDC, Hugenottenhaus)
- * Art integrates all art forms in one house / Hugenottenhaus.
- * The performance directly intervenes in every day life and socio-spatial meanings.

MATERIAL MEANINGS 5 ART AND URBAN LIFE

- *no distinction between performer, participant and viewer.
- * upheaval of art ,design and every day acts
- *all performances take place in real time urban life.
- *show real time performance, live performance and the creation of situations in urban life.



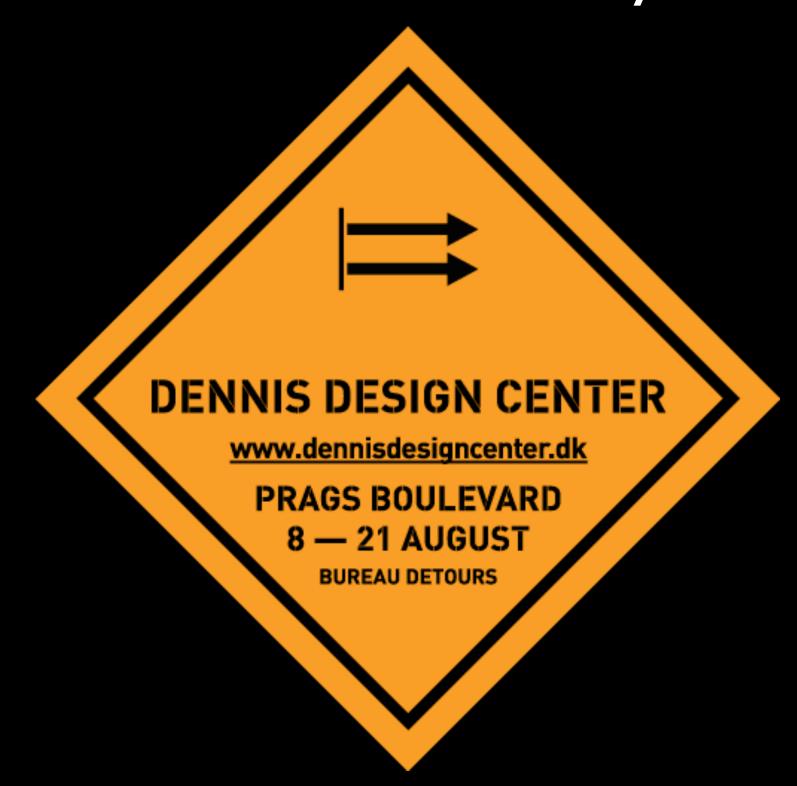




What can urban design learn from performance?



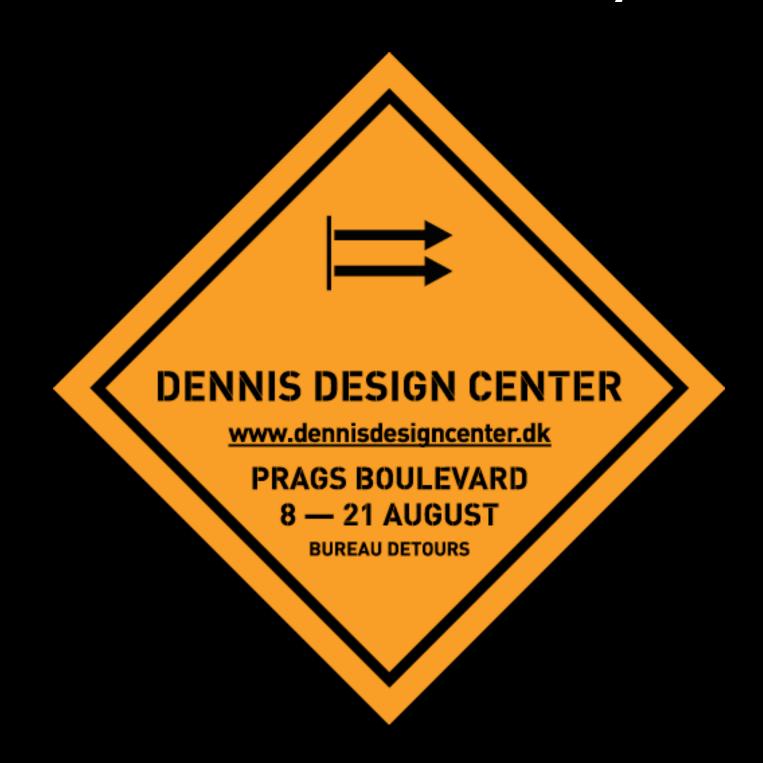




To sum up, the three performances bridge performance art, every day life and urban design in a thought provoking way...







Material meanings are here to be understood as *agencies* not directed towards the formal and aesthetical place (site specific performance as mentioned by Miwon Kwon) Instead they perform directly into urban matter thus trasnforming existing material meanings in the city.