# TIM TETZNER
IF THE EYES CAN'T TOUCH
(Blurred Modernism)

22 August – 11 November 2018

Open by request:
scharaun@scharaun.de or 0177-3867804

For *If the Eyes Can't Touch (Blurred Modernism)*, Tim Tetzner took as his point of departure 32 images of modernist buildings that have been blurred in Google Street View on the basis of privacy and property rights. While concealing the architecture from public view, the blur also acts as a digital appendage, altering each building's form and expanding it into a new entity, something inscrutable and uncanny. Paul Virilio has declared Google's map service as the end of the world, but in this more distanced view, modernism's central themes of transparency and reduction of ornament are transposed into an immersive present.
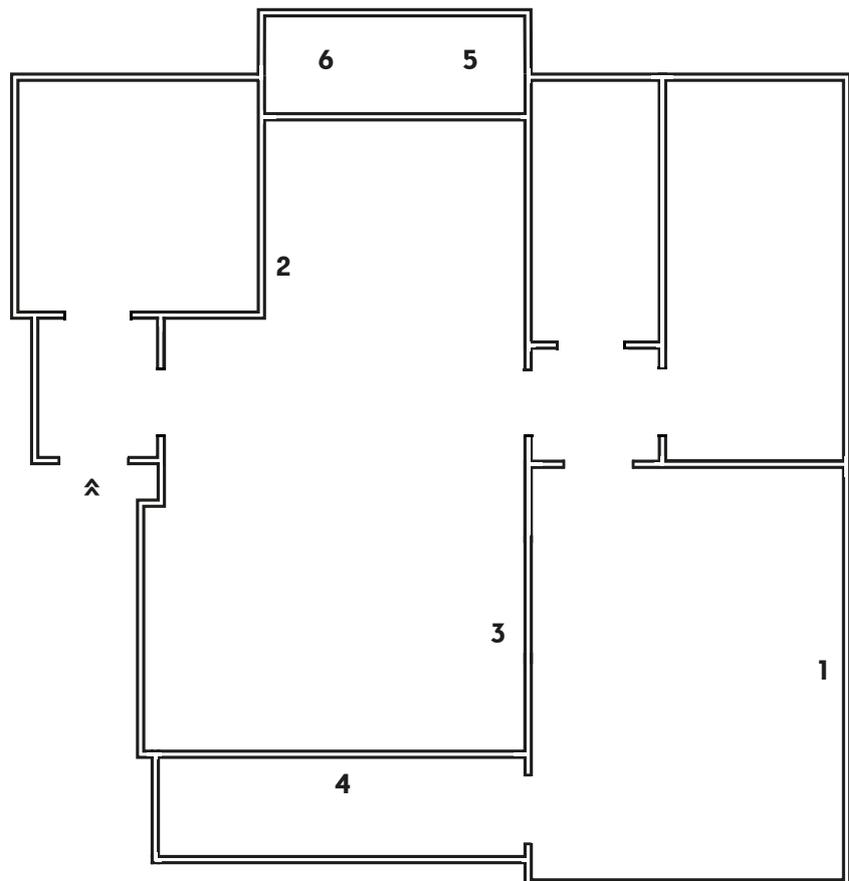
For work descriptions
please see other page

1) *Metalogue about Blurring*
Text work, CAD plot, dimensions 450 x 283 cm

Fictitious conversation between a representative of Google, an unnamed landlord, a blur, a hypothetical member of the public, an algorithm and the American architect/artist Elizabeth Diller. The Metalogue attempts to bring together various perspectives on the phenomena of the blur, and to discuss the links between the blur and the realms of the political, the aesthetic and the architectural. (Please note: all statements made by Elizabeth Diller are fictitious and are not based on any actual correspondence with her.)

2) *32 Google Street View screenshots of blurred-out Modernist architecture* (archive)
Screenshots, slideshow, computer

Over a period of three years I searched through Google Street View for blurred-out Modernist architecture. In my research I focused on the period between 1920 and 1933 and on architects associated with the Modernist movement. This search resulted in 80+ examples of blurred-out Modernist architecture ranging from private villas to the reformist architecture of Neues Bauen and Modernist housing estates in Berlin. From this archive of material, I selected 32 images for a slideshow.

3) *Institutional Blur, Beyond Ownership* (ongoing)
Photo print, dimensions 118,9 x 84,1 cm

Institutional Blur, Beyond Ownership is a series of photographs in the style of Google Street Views blur application. A selection of buildings from the archive were re-photographed in their present state, mimicking the original perspective of the Street View camera, and then post-processed with a blur emulating the feel of the Google pixelation technique.

Upper frame: 1) Langer Jammer – Goebelstrasse 15 – Berlin-Siemensstadt – Architect: Otto Bartnig – 1930 2) Siedlung Schillerpark – Bristolstrasse 14 – Berlin-Wedding – Architects: Bruno Taut & Franz Hoffmann – 1924-1925 3) Weisse Stadt / Schweizer Viertel – Romanshorner Weg 58/60 – Berlin-Reinickendorf – Architect: Bruno Ahrens – 1929-1931
Lower frame: 1) Wohnstadt Carl Legien – Küselstrasse 11 – Berlin-Prenzlauer Berg – Architects: Bruno Taut + Franz Hillinger – 1928-1930 2) Ringsiedlung Siemensstadt – Geisslerpfad 9 – Berlin-Siemensstadt – Architect: Fred Forbát – 1931 3) Panzerkreuzer – Jungfernheideweg 7 – Berlin-Siemensstadt – Architect: Hans Scharoun – 1930

4) *Dispute on Opacity (WG/LF)*
Spatial intervention, window, frosted privacy window film

Spatial intervention referencing an incident in the early days of the Bauhaus. In 1926, when Lyonel Feininger moved into the Meisterhaus designed for him by Walter Gropius, Feininger saw his privacy being threatened due to the house's large plate-glass window. Without consulting Gropius, Feininger replaced the bottom part of the window with opaque glass resulting in a serious dispute between Gropius and Feininger (in: Susanne Merkle in *Mythos der Moderne – Die Geschichte des Bauhauses,* Bayerischer Rundfunk2, First transmission: 05.05.2008)

5) *Distinctions Blur, Steering Differentiates*
Cabinet, smoke machine, screen

One of the most significant details in the Hans Scharoun apartment is the built-in conservatory. For the period of the exhibition this cabinet-like construction is constantly fogged, resulting in a blurred outside vision. Diller & Scofidios 'architecture for atmosphere' can be seen as a reference point here, and specifically the eponymous *Blur Building* they constructed for Expo 2002 at Yverdon-les-Bains, Lake Neuchâtel, Switzerland.

6) *Google Street View advertisement*
Magazine, Der Spiegel #33, 16.08.2010.

Google announced the launch of Google Street View in Germany in mid 2010. The company was caught off guard by a wave of public dissent it hadn't previously experienced in other countries. Google decided to run an awareness campaign and placed adverts in Germany's influential weekly news magazines Der Spiegel, Stern and Focus over a period of some weeks. The campaign was followed by a heated public debate about privacy rights resulting in Google having to blur about 2% of all buildings on Street View Germany.