# Prouvez Prouvé!

**Module at the Postgraduate-Course CAAD 2003/04
Chair of CAAD, Faculty of Architecture, ETH Zürich**

**Supervision:**
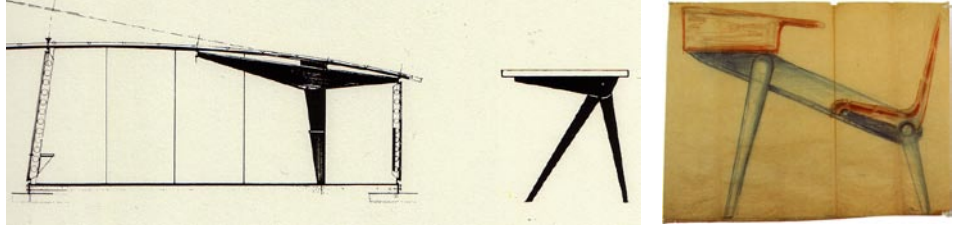Markus Braach
Susanne Schumacher
Oskar Zieta

**Workshops and Talks:**
Dr. Andrea Gleiniger
Prof. Peter Sulzer

**Students:**
Christian Dürr
If Ebnöther
Jörg Grabfelder
Jae Hwan Jung
Alexandre Kapellos
Irene Logara
Michelangelo Ribaudo
Hanne Sommer
Agnieszka Sowa
Detlef Wingerath
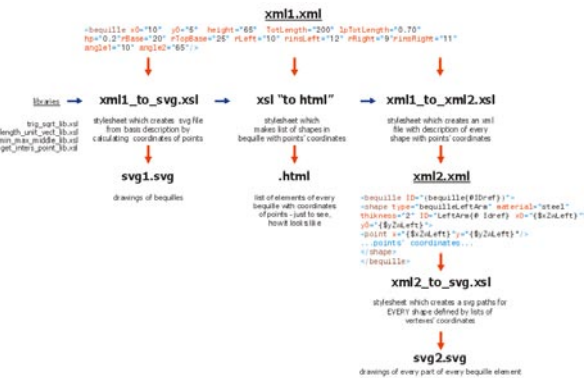Thomas Wirsing
Li-Hsuen Yeh



*Drawings by Jean Prouvé*

The French architect and engineer Jean Prouvé (1901-84) is one of the pioneers of prefabrication. He experimented with moulded metal sheets and tubes as well in furniture design as in archtectural contexts such as school buildings, pavilions and sheds. Prouvé regards his designs as dynamic processes which were to be developed in the context of latest technological innovations and manufacturing methods.

Aim of this module was to analyse the ideas of Prouvé from the point of contemporary view, to catalog its most important elemtents and functions und to transform them in an computerbased description language. Based on this data the students developed ideas for an "nouveau Prouvé" and produced them with the lasercutter.
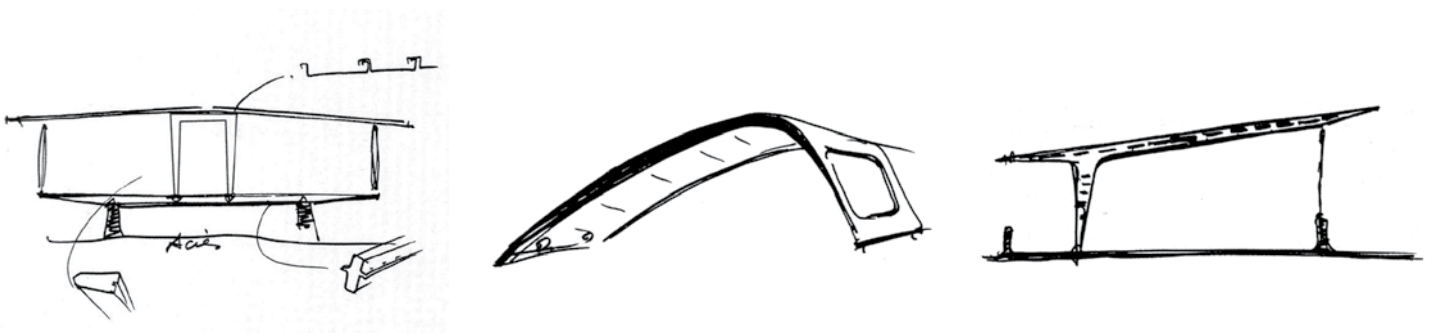
**ETH**
Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich

**caad** DARCH
Prof. Dr. Ludger Hovestadt
Computer Aided Architectural Design

wiki.arch.ethz.ch/twiki/bin/view/
Archinf/ProuvezProuve

**Procedure:**



## Static Principles by Jean Prouvé:


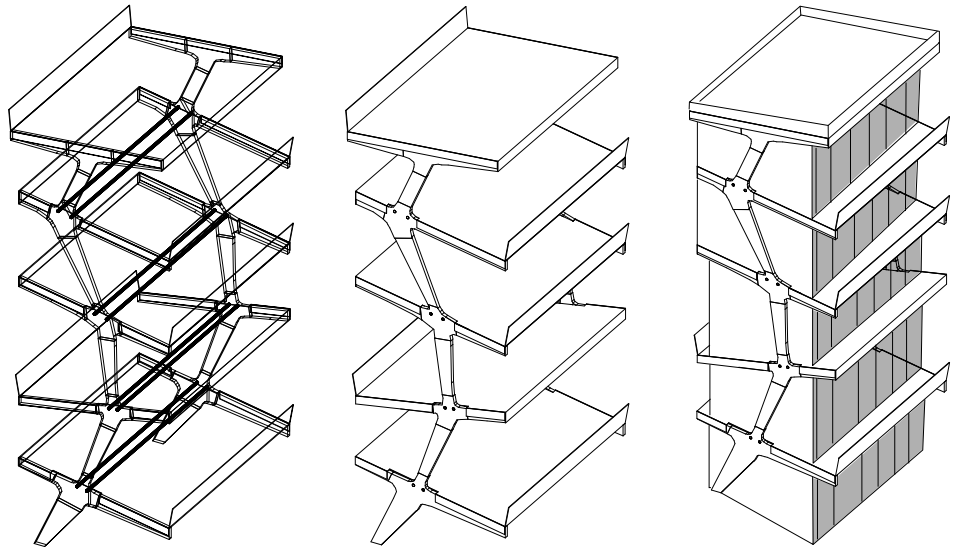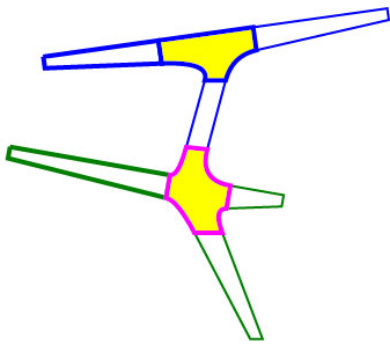
## Developed Principles by students:

*Constructions by Jean Prouvé*

**The module consisted of the following steps:**

**1. Choice** – Choosing objects for analysis: Furniture (chairs and tables) and architecture (pavilion and shed)

**2. Structure** – Determining and structuring of Prouvé's constructions according to architectonical functions: bearing, loading, connecting and cladding with specific regard to Prouvé's ambigious definitions (hybrids and abnormals)

**3. Technology** – Learning XML (eXtensible Markup Language), XSLT (eXtensible Stylesheet Language Transformation) and SVG (Scalable Vector Graphics)

**4. Dynamic Catalogue** – Creation of a catalogue with Prouvé's elements, transforming the historical analysis' structure into a dynamic catalogue (using SVG)

**5. Configurator** – Design tool, combining and transforming the catalogue's elements to generate new variations of Prouvé (using XSLT)

**6. Production** – Printing some example of an variated Prouvé construction on the lasercutter in Technopark



*An example:*
*The analysed static principle (above) and its application as a shelf or as a multi-story building (right).*
*Below: Parts of a shelf, lasercutted metal sheet*