

CHAPTER IV - THE LAST YEARS IN GERMANY; 1929 to 1934

4.1 Stauch's working circumstance

In 1929 he had accepted an offer by the SWA Farming and Trust Company (Herbert, 1975, p 150 and Neues Bauen in den Kolonien, 1935) for the design of various farm and office buildings in the Windhoek district and had spent some months on this project. At this time he was still a student, under Forbat, at the Itten Schule. On his return, on December 14th 1929 he married the twenty-year-old Karin Fritz Dolborn,⁽¹⁾ and moved to a new flat nearer the centre of Berlin. Marianne went to live with her future husband's parents until, in 1930, she married and left with her husband to live in South West Africa.⁽²⁾

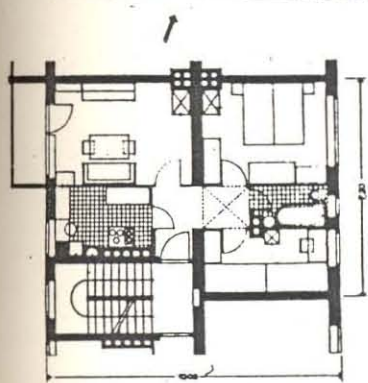
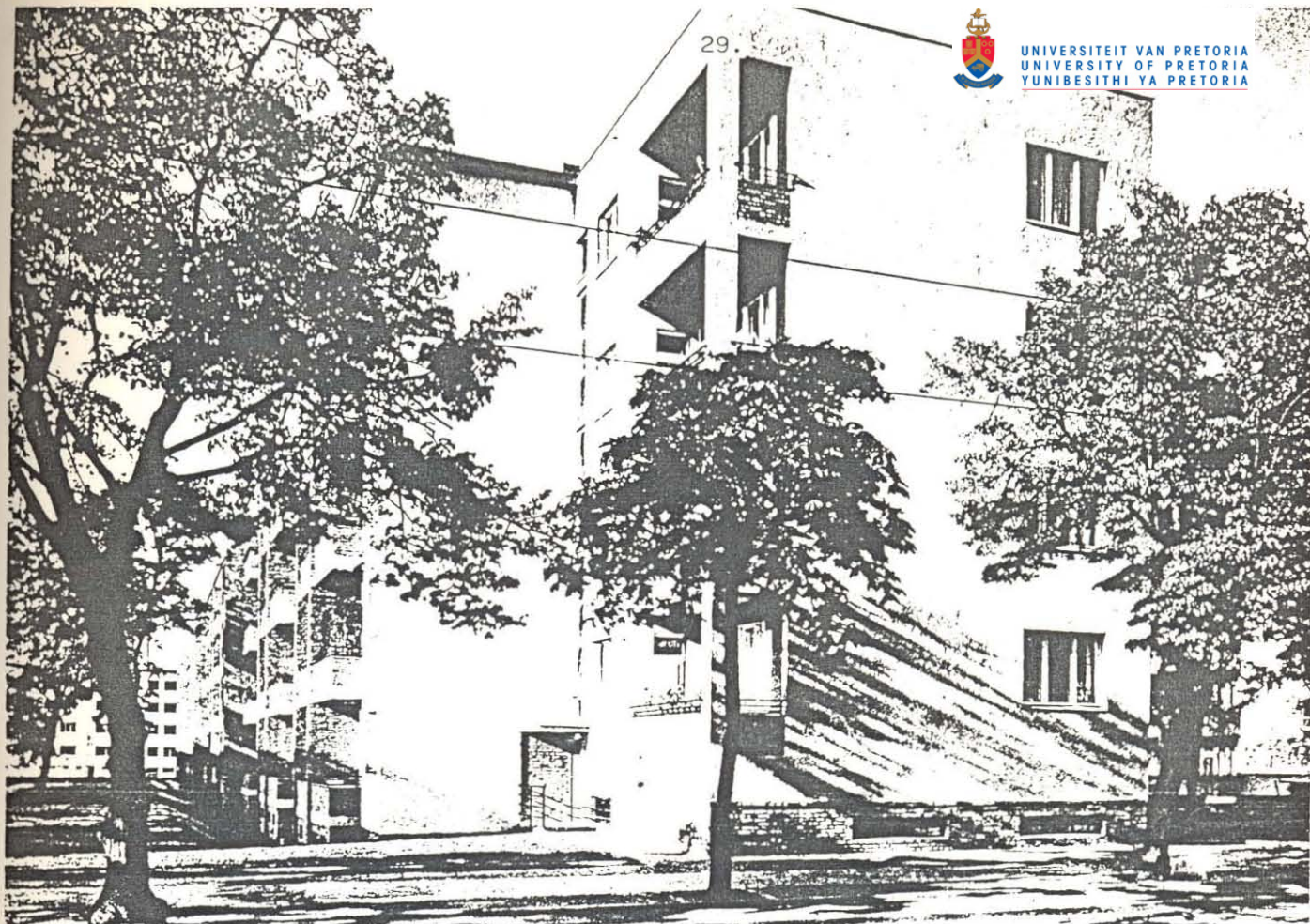
For Stauch it must have been an anxious time in many ways. To augment his income he took on whatever architectural work he could find. Itten was aware of the predicament of his talented student and would push work his way wherever possible.⁽³⁾

Karin had a strong and dominant personality and Hellmut leaned heavily on her during the early years of their marriage, for she provided him with the security which he needed at that time.⁽⁴⁾ Their daughter, Adi Karin Margot, was born on 19th February 1930, bringing the 19 year-old father yet further responsibility.⁽⁵⁾

Fred Forbat, who had been Stauch's teacher at the Itten Schule, engaged Hellmut in the same month in which Adi was born, and during this time he worked on the plans of garden cities in Berlin-Siemenstadt and Spandau-Haselhorst, as well as on a large scheme for a town hall and on various bungalows and villas.⁽⁶⁾ (fig. 17)

Forbat also was engaged in theoretical studies of housing and his young assistant gained invaluable and comprehensive knowledge in this specialised subject, as well as practical insight gained from the detailing which was expected of him.⁽⁷⁾

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1. Marriage certificate in Stauch Vorster archives.
 2. Krafft, Mrs Marianne, Sister of H.W.E. Stauch, 1984 - interview.
 3. Ibid
 4. Ibid
 5. Birth certificate in Stauch Vorster archives.
 6. Letter of reference from Fred Forbat (1932.01.19) in Stauch Vorster archives.
 7. Drawings of Stauch from this period, in the possession of Mrs. Tosca Vorster. See also fig. 17.

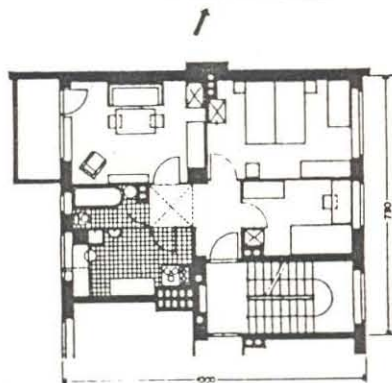


Grundrißtyp mit 57 m² Wohnfläche in den Zellen 2, 4, 6, 8

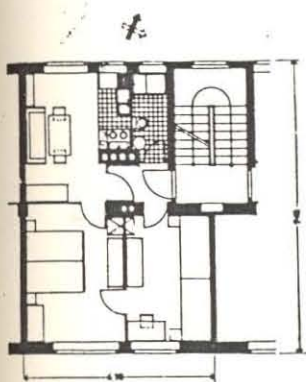


Maßstab 1:250

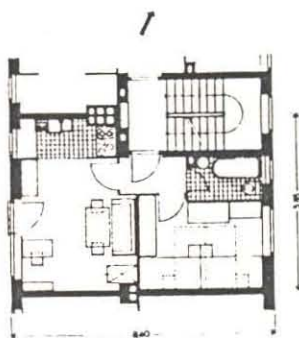
Grundrißtyp mit rd. 48 m² Wohnfläche in den Zellen 3, 5, 7, 9



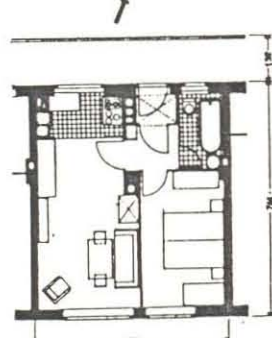
Grundrißtyp mit 68 m² Wohnfläche in den Zellen 3, 5, 7, 9



Grundrißtyp mit 45 m² Wohnfläche in den Zellen 11 bis 15



Grundrißtyp mit 37 m² Wohnfläche in den Zellen 16, 17



Grundrißtyp mit 40 m² Wohnfläche im Laubenganghaus Zeile 18

FIG. 17 Housing at Spandau Haselhorst - a project on which Stauch worked as an assistant to Forbat. The planning is similar to some of his later work, indicating either Forbat's later influence or an early strong involvement by Stauch.

When Forbat's office closed down in December 1931, he gave Stauch a glowing testimonial emphasizing his systematic and responsible approach and his natural talent for the Arts. These sentiments were exactly and even more enthusiastically echoed by his next employer, Wilhelm Peters, where he worked from February 1932 to January 1934, who added in a letter dated 1934.02.03 that Stauch had gained practical experience as a clerk-of-works during the two years with this firm, where he also carried out further work on industrialised housing systems (Das Ideale Eigenheim, 193-).

During these years he also assisted Walter Gropius and Marcel Breuer with work on some housing schemes.⁽⁸⁾ But he was not content to remain an employee and during 1934 practised as an architect for his own account. He also worked - "in association with professor Gustaf Hassenpflug (subsequently director of Kunstgewerbeschule Hamburg - Lerchenfeld)" but no detail of this association is available.⁽⁹⁾ He was interested in industrialised building and became involved as "consulting architect" for a firm of contractors interested in the prefabrication of economical houses.⁽¹⁰⁾ (figs. 18 to 21). And he carried out a number of furniture studies, both for clients as such and as a basis for design. (figs. 22 to 27).

4.2

Divorce

While he found personal security in his work, the stresses of marriage proved too great and he and Karin were divorced. Karin remarried and she and her new husband, by the name of Zimmerman, together with Adi, left Germany for Brazil, where they settled. Stauch was not to see his daughter until she visited him in Pretoria many years later, a stunning, blue-eyed, fair-haired teenager.⁽¹¹⁾

4.3

The Olympia Jolle

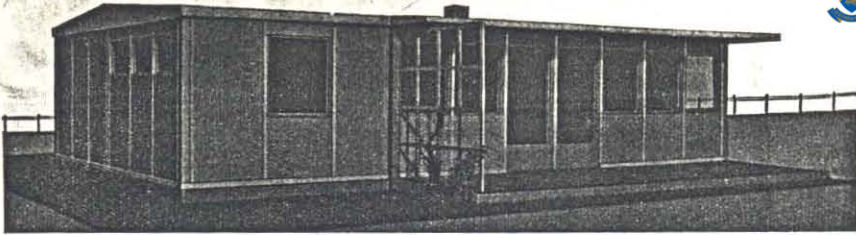
Early in 1933 two major German sailing organisations, the "Segler -

8. Stauch's statement to the Institute of South African Architects (1942.08.11)

9. Credo (April 1971) and as also indicated by the headings of drawings carried out at this time where the title "Architekt Hellmut Stauch" appears.

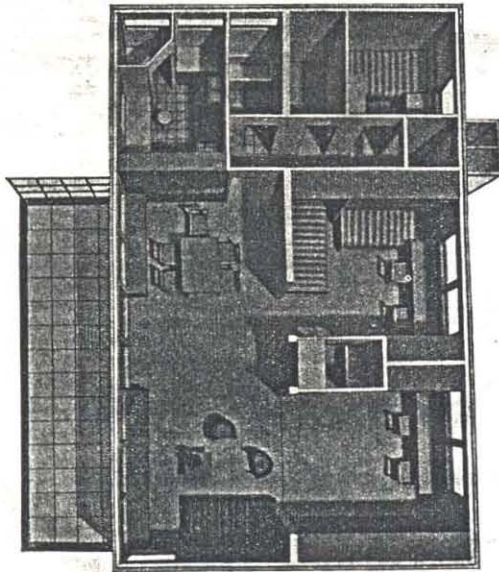
10. Stauch's letter to the Institute of South African Architects (1942.08.11)

11. Vorster, Mrs Tosca, Step-daughter of H.W.E. Stauch, 1984 - interview.



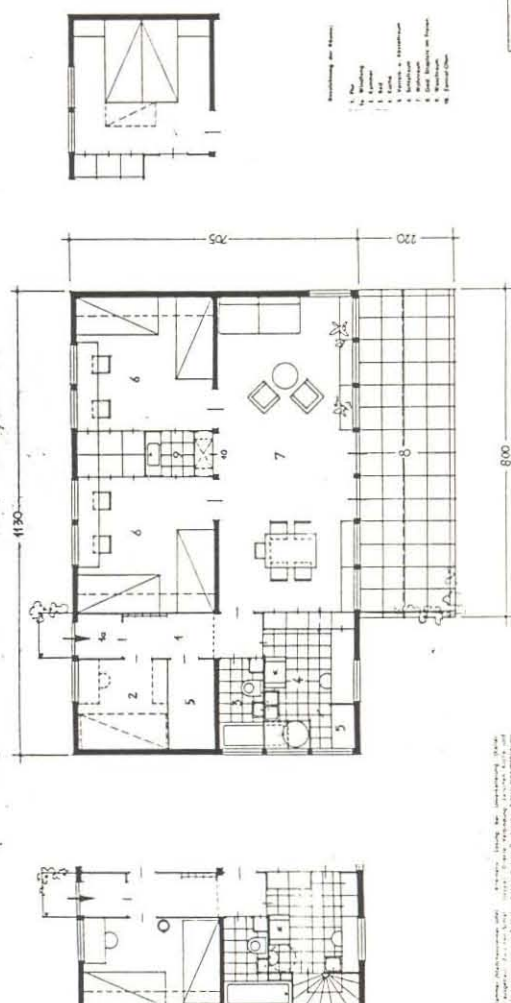
DAS IDEALE EIGENHEIM

ARCHITEKT
HELLMUT STAUCH



PETERS BAU-G.M.B.H., BLN.-WILME
Rheingau 4814 u. 4

TYP 5/3



- Bestimmung der Räume:
- 1. Bad
 - 2. Küche
 - 3. Hall
 - 4. Wohnraum
 - 5. Schlafzimmer
 - 6. Arbeitszimmer
 - 7. Esszimmer
 - 8. Sanitär-Anlage
 - 9. Treppenhaus
 - 10. Terrasse

VERBODEN TOEGANG TOEGANG

NO. 1	NO. 2	NO. 3	NO. 4
NO. 5	NO. 6	NO. 7	NO. 8
NO. 9	NO. 10	NO. 11	NO. 12

ARCHITECT HELLMUT STAUCH
REINHOLDENSTRASSE 100, 1000 BERLIN

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FIG. 18 Modular housing for Peters Bau, 1933/34. This approach to modular "core" housing probably arose through the economic circumstances of the time. It is an approach which Stauch did not abandon and is today just as valid as when it was designed.

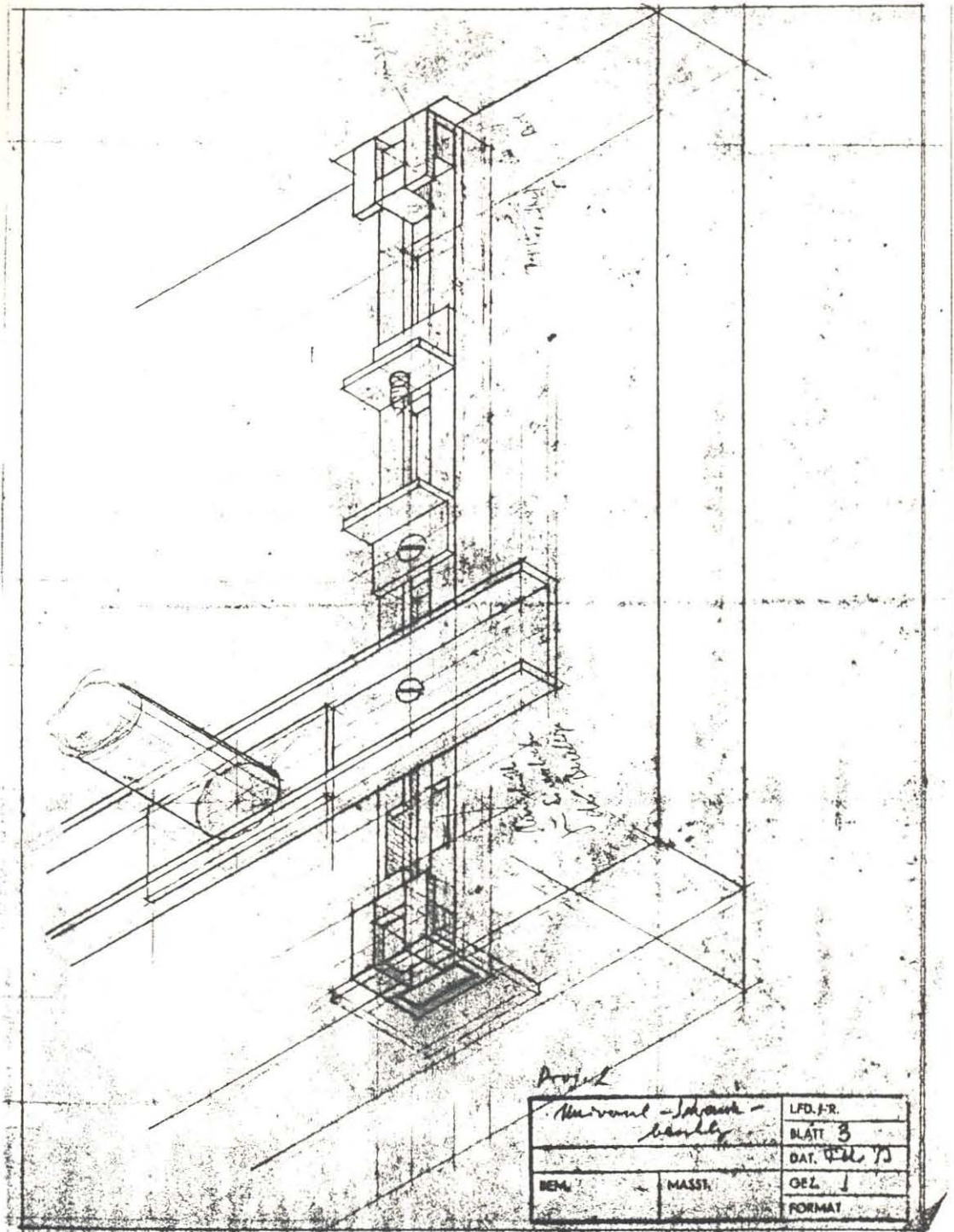


FIG. 19 Structural details for industrialised building type. The provision of what are virtually shop drawings appears to be a consequence of the relatively undeveloped state of this form of building at the time.

Proj. 2

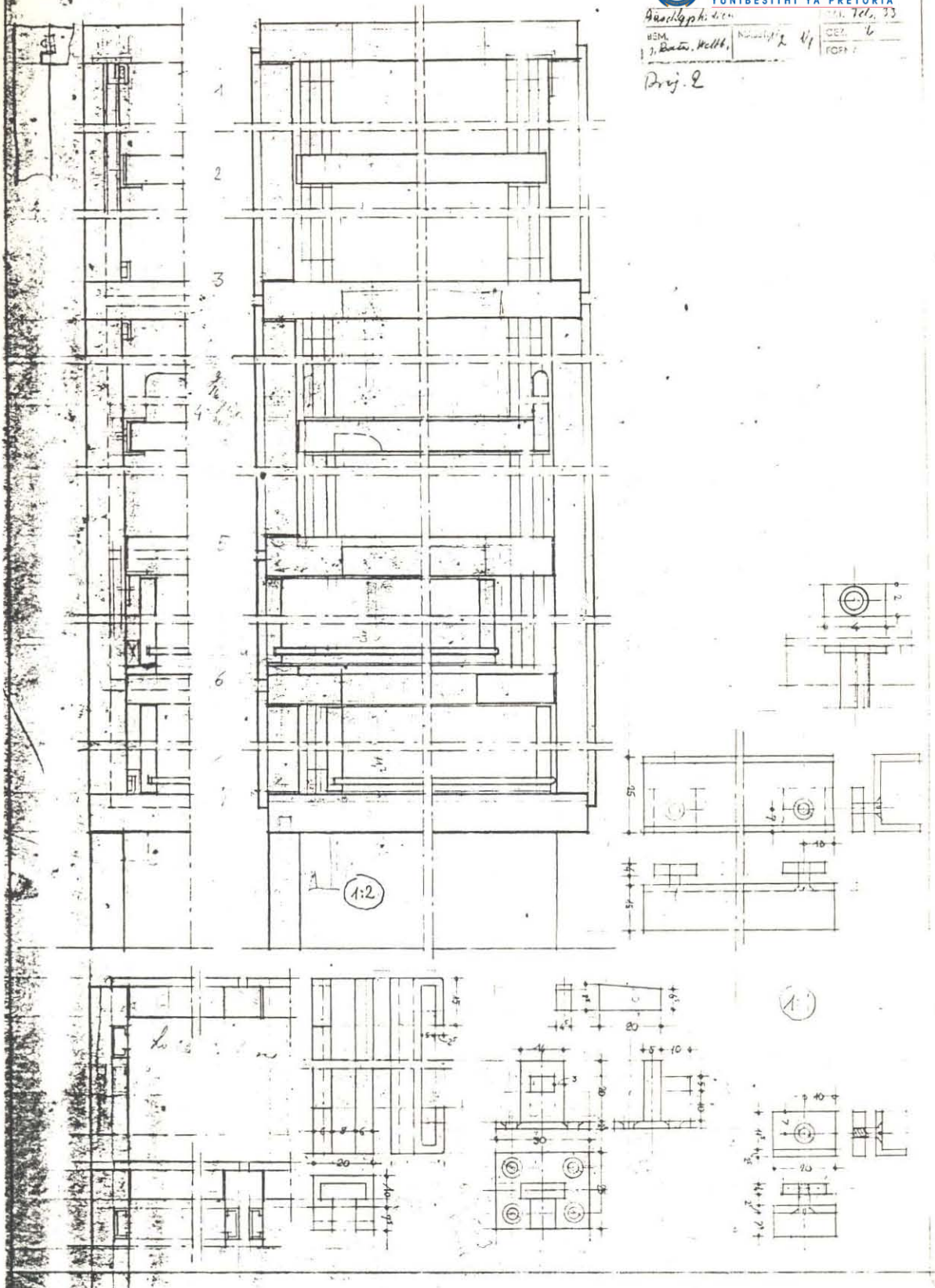
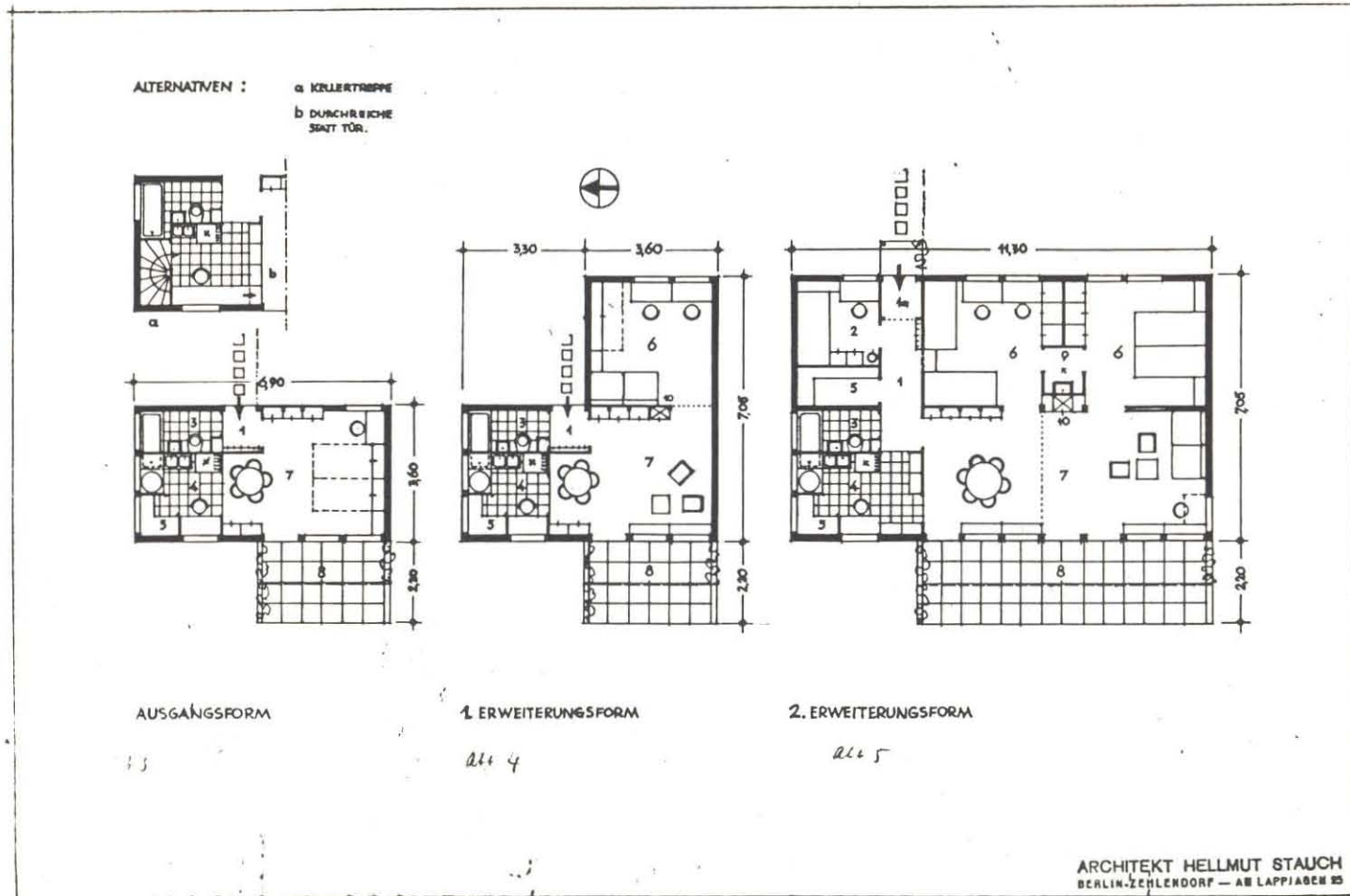


FIG. 20 Additional structural details, apparently for the same project as in fig. 19.

FIG. 21 "Core" housing developed by Stauch in 1932 (see note with fig.18)



WACHSENDES HAUS (Reinmannplatz am)		LFD. NR.
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BEM. 27 Aug.	MASST. 1:100	DAT. 30.5.32
		GEZ. H. Stauch
		FORMAT

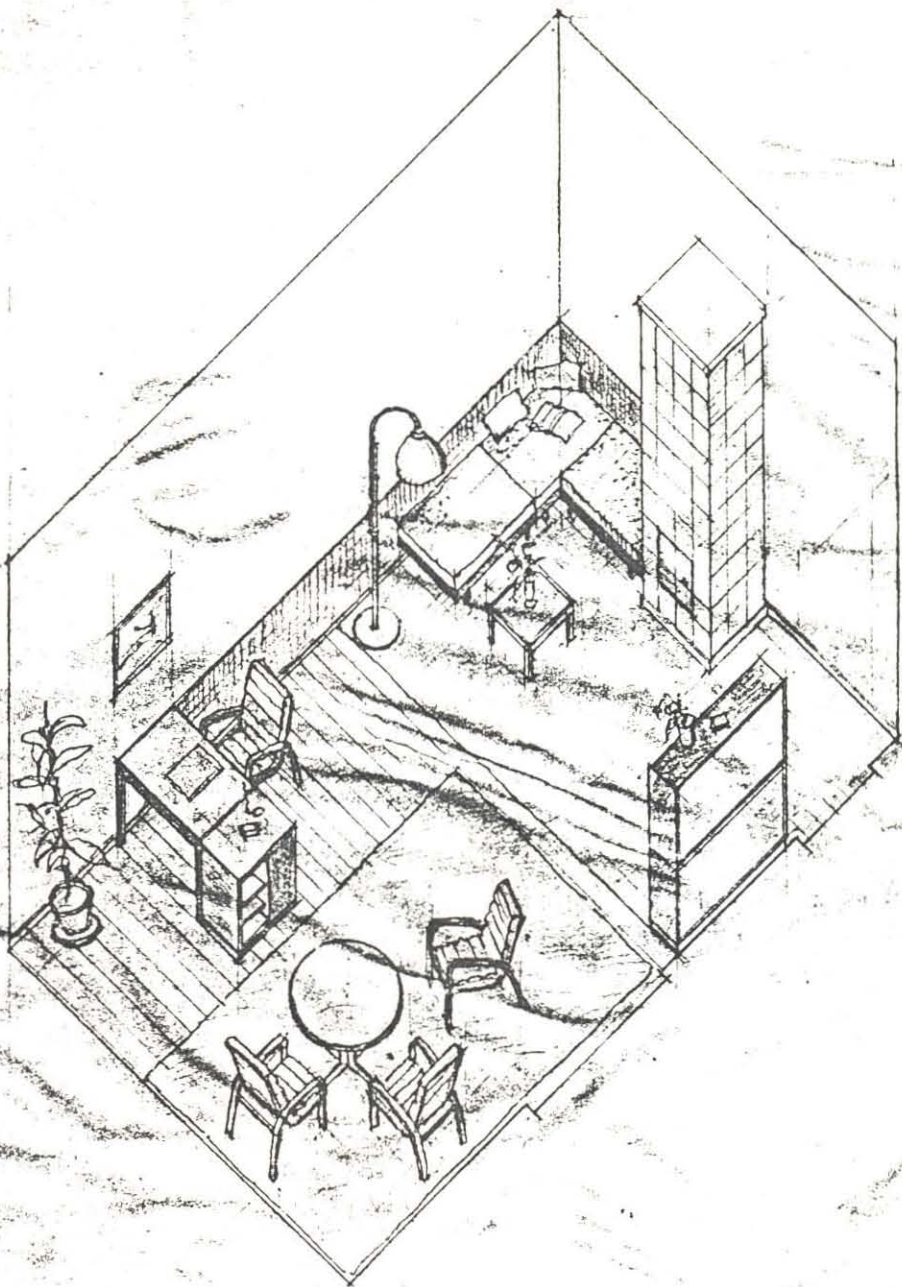
Sonsalla
 Wohnzimmer

 ARCHITEKT
 HELLMUT STAUCH

FIG. 22 Room design for Sonsalla. There is no background giving the circumstance of the room designs done by Stauch, of which there are several, at this time but it might be a result of financial constraints and accommodation shortages prevalent in Germany at the time.

ZIMMER FRAU TEICHS 1:50

Teelwagen

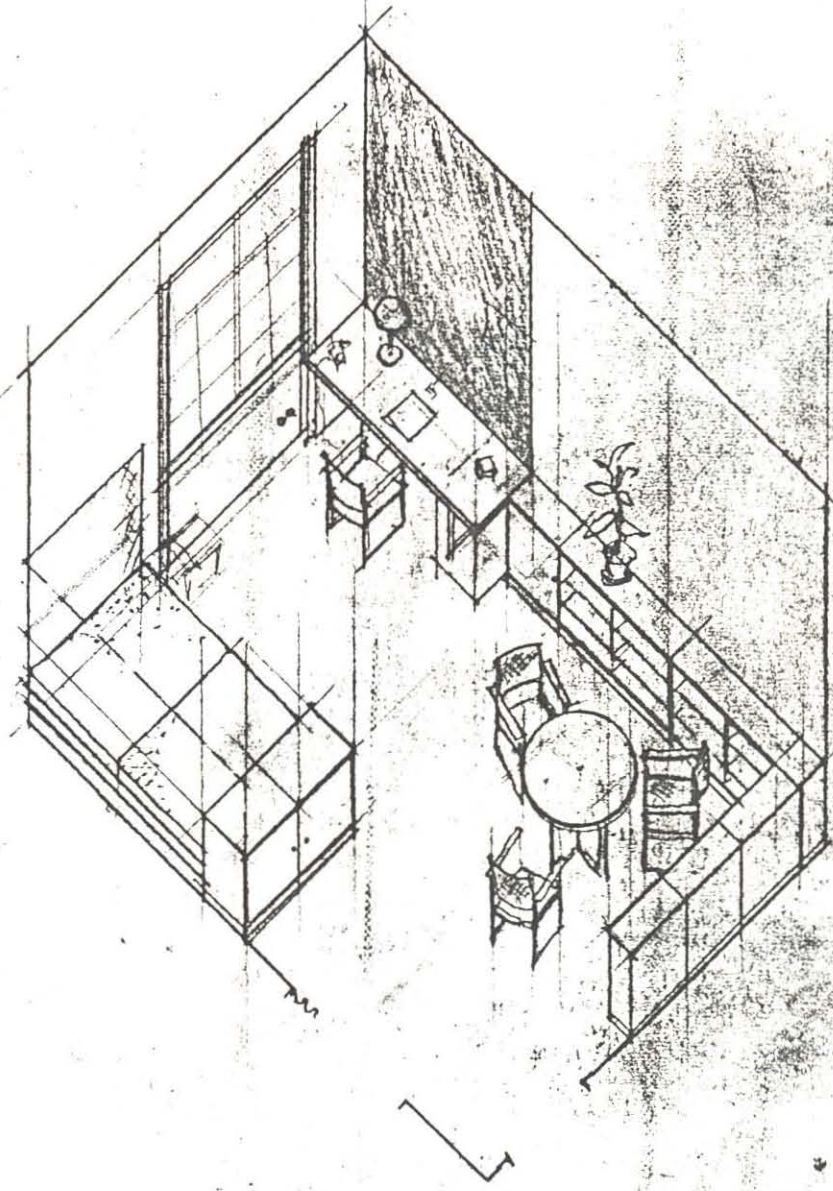
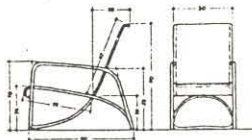
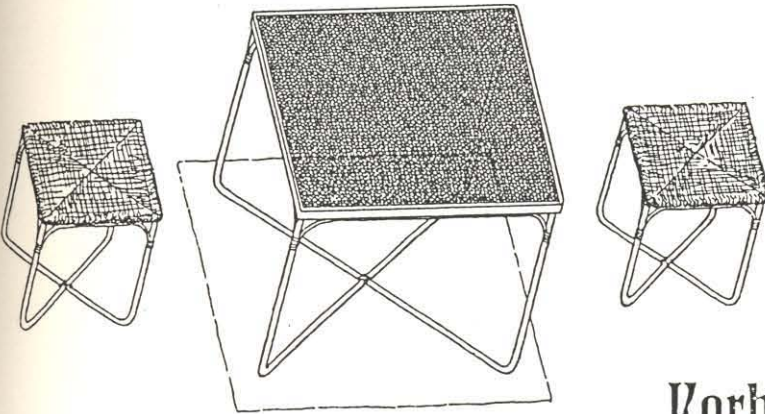
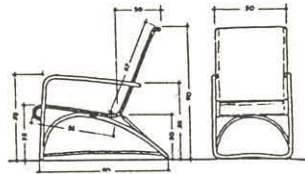
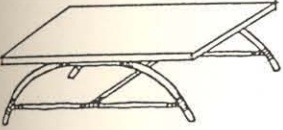
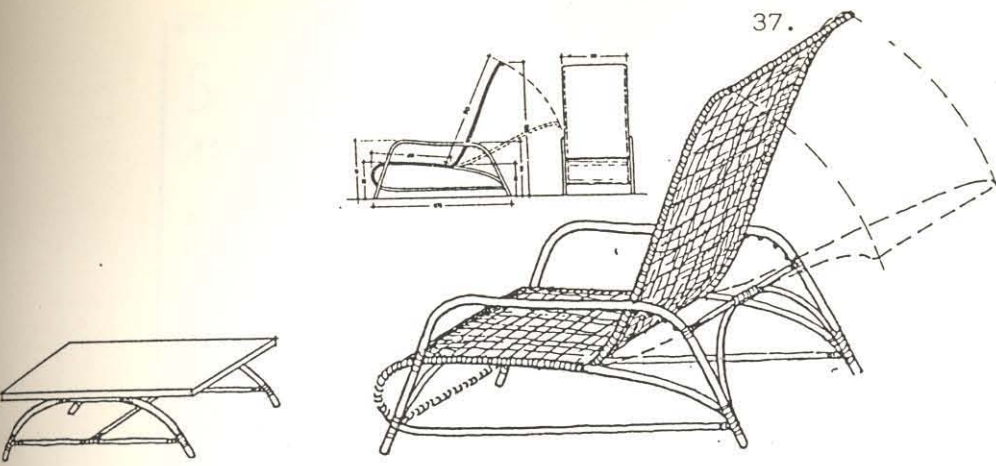


FIG. 23 Room design for Frau Teichs. This is one of the layouts mentioned in the comment on fig. 22.

37.



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48. Jahrgang

Eberswalde, 1. Februar 1933

Nr. 3

Architekt Hellmüt Stauch, Berlin

Moderne Korbmöbel

FIG. 24 Furniture designs for construction in cane. These designs were published in successive issues of the above magazine. Stauch's interest in furniture continued for many years, judging by the number of drawings, sketches, models and articles by him virtually throughout his working life.

Schreibtischsessel

1:5

ARCHITEKT
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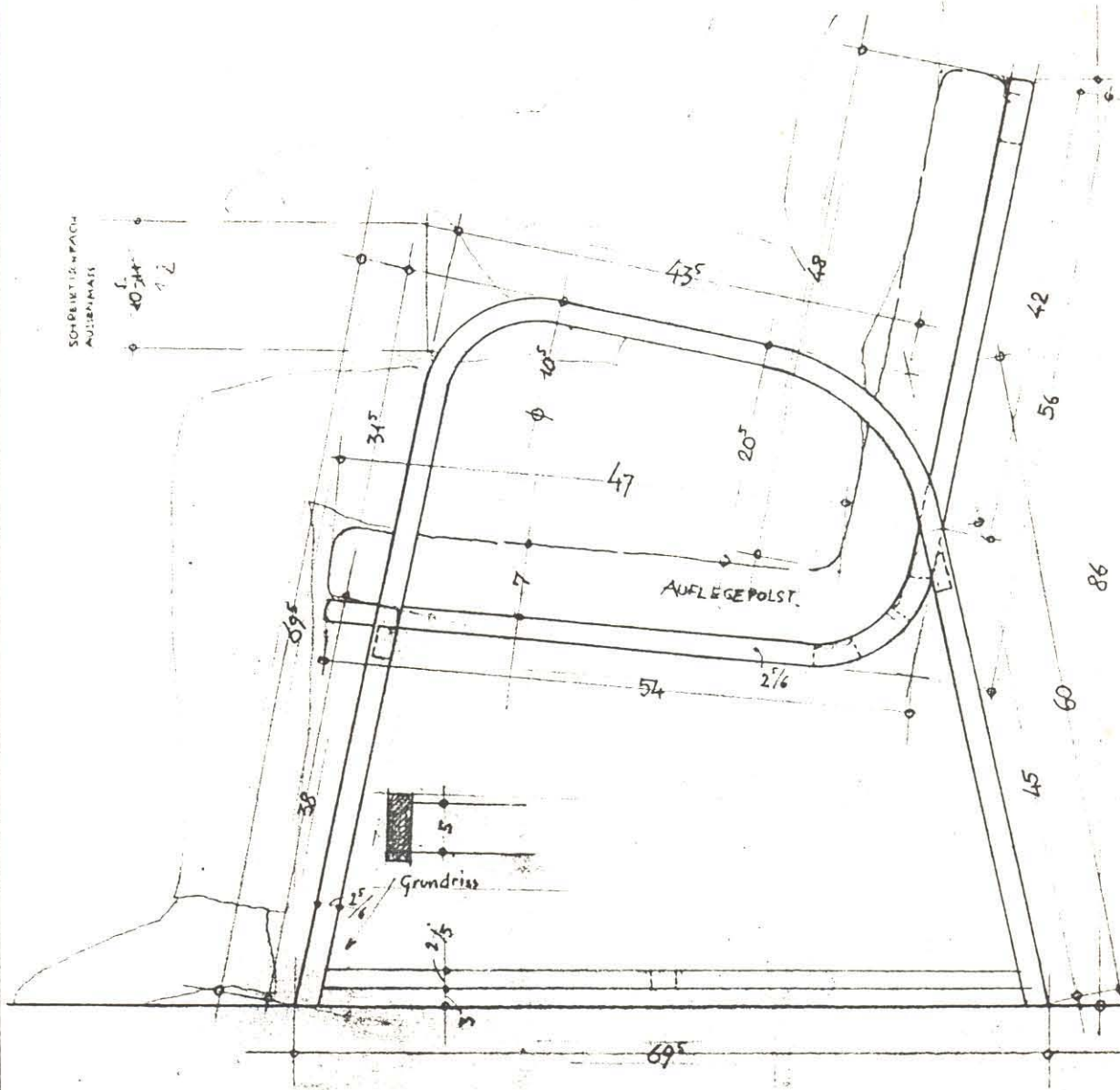


FIG. 25 Furniture design for a work chair in tubular steel construction. Both this and that illustrated in fig. 24 are unusual in their choice of materials, for in most of his later designs Stauch elected to use wood, with or without other materials such as upholstered cushions or leather thonging.

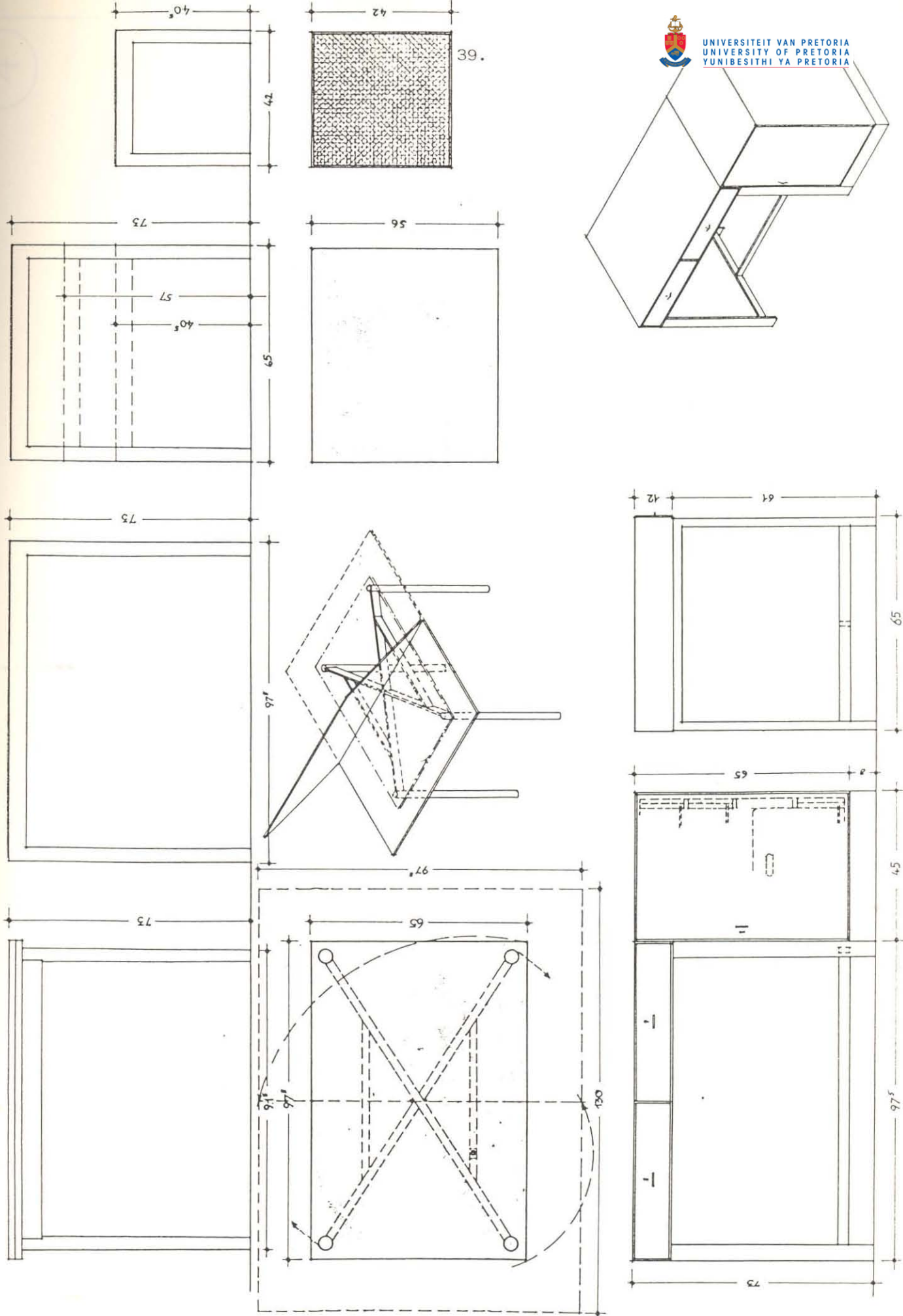
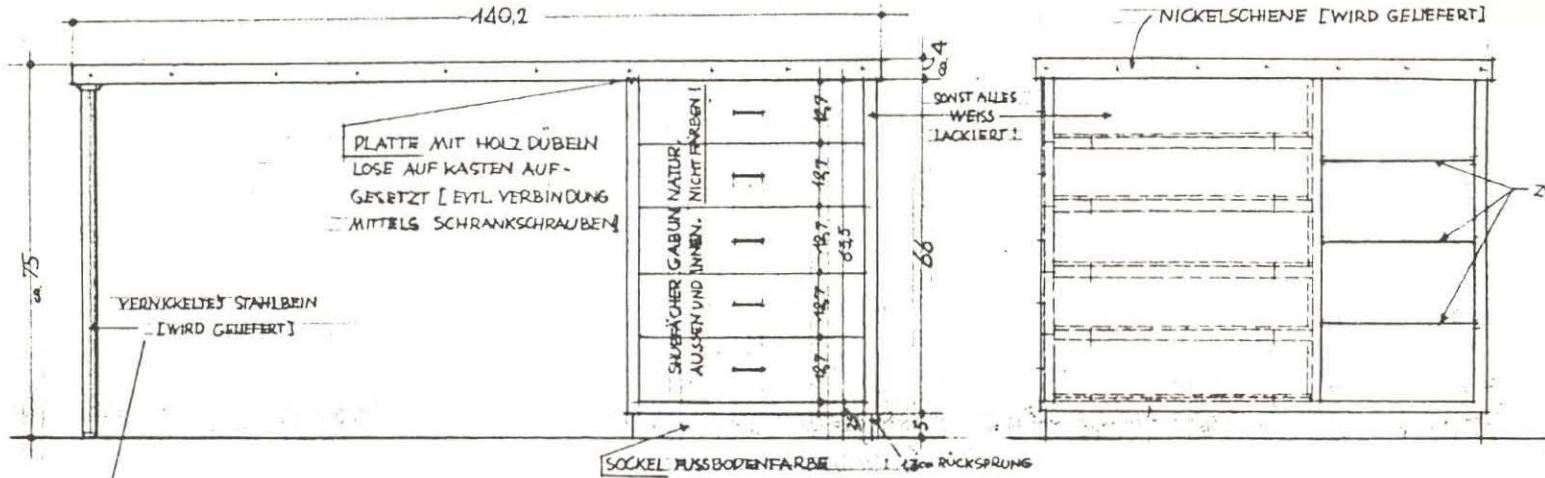
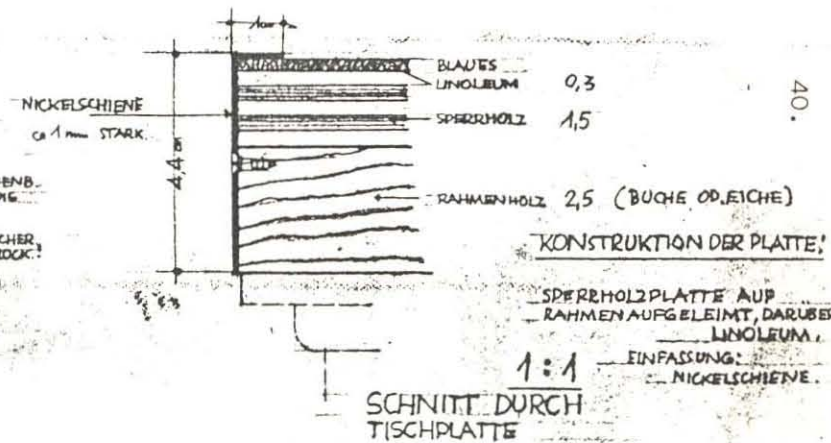
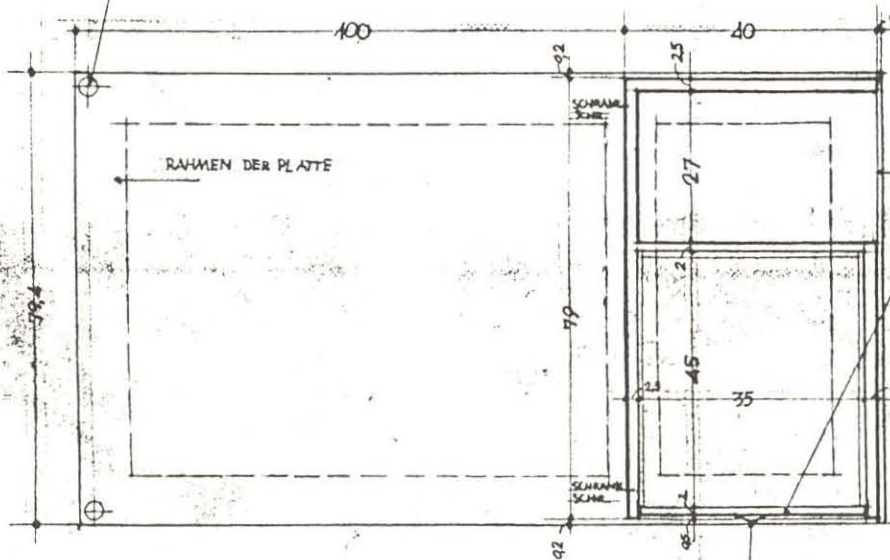


FIG. 26 Design for an adjustable table and desk in timber, as part of a modular series of furniture.

SÄMTLICHE SCHUBKÄSTEN VERSCHLIESSBAR!



- KONSTRUKTION DES KASTENS:**
- ① GANZ AUS SPERRHOLZ
 - ODER ② DÜNNES SPERRHOLZ AUF RAHMEN AUFGELEIMT, TEILS EINSEITIG, TEILS BEIDERSÄITIG. [SIEHE GRUNDRISS]



DIE KRÄFTIG GEZEICHNETEN SEITEN SIND GLATT ZU ARBEITEN!

DIE GENAUEN MASSE DER FERTIGEN PLATTE SIND SOFORT MITZUTEILEN ZWECHE BESTELLUNG DER SCHIENE!

ARCHITEKT HELLMUT STAUCH
BERLIN-ZEHLENDORF — AM LAPPJAGEN 25

MÖBEL DR. BEHRENDT
SCHREIBTISCH

M.	NR 17	DAT 3.11.31	GR 4
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FIG. 27 Design for desk for Dr. Behrendt, in timber with linoleum writing surface.

Verband" and the "Segler Bund" combined and decided that a new Olympic class single-handed sailing dinghy was needed for use in the 1936 Olympics at Kiel, and that this should be a development based on the single-hander used at Los Angeles in 1932. With his appetite whetted by a brief trial of an Olympic-type boat at Wannsee, Stauch embarked on the design of a suitable boat, in competition with the designs of Brandt, Drewitz and Rutsch. The designs were evaluated and tested and his design accepted and built (Die Jacht, 1984.03.28) (fig. 28).

He was at this time a keen and competitive sailor, and was selected by the "Reichsportführer" as a member of the team of experienced sailors testing and developing the Olympia-jolle (Die Jacht, 1984.03.28). This was a feather in the cap of the young architect; but he had not bargained on the fact that he would be expected to join the Hitler Youth movement and to take part in activities other than sailing. ⁽¹²⁾

4.4

The decision to leave Germany

Stauch was a person of character and determination. He had overcome much of his insecurity and he knew without doubt that while he wanted to sail, he had no desire to march. ⁽¹³⁾ The unease of the early 30's was around him. South Africa beckoned promisingly. He had stayed in touch with his family in South West Africa and was interested in designing for its severe climatic conditions.

(Herbert, 1975, p 151) states that Stauch came to South Africa via Windhoek in 1934, but this does not tally with the facts as stated by his family. ⁽¹⁴⁾ Dr. Gilbert Herbert stated in an interview in 1985 that he used, in the research for his book, the method of tape-recording and transcribing all interviews. He therefore is certain that what Stauch told him was correctly reported, but added that he had found many inaccuracies in facts given by architects about themselves, and felt that it was not impossible that Stauch had made the same type of misstatement. ⁽¹⁵⁾ An article written by him and apparently published in an

12. Ibid

13. Ibid

14. In interviews during 1984, Mrs Marianne Kraftt, Mrs Tosca Vorster, Mr Robin Vorster and Mrs Pulli Thoms state that Stauch consistently spoke of his arrival in Cape Town with "two bob in his pocket", and also of his inability to continue to Windhoek.

15. Herbert, Dr. Gilbert, Prof. of Architecture at the Technion - Israel Institute of Technology; 1985 - interview.

Olympia-Jolle

Länge: 5 m
 Breite: 1,5 m
 Segelfläche:
 10 m²
 Take-
 lungshöhe:
 höchstens
 6,5 m
 geringster
 Freibord:
 mindestens
 0,4 m
 Tiefgang mit
 Schwert:
 höchstens
 1 m
 Gesamtge-
 wicht: 230 kg
 Baumaterial:
 Mahagoni
 Bauweise:
 Rundspant-
 boot, karweel
 gebaut



FIG. 28 The Olympia Jolle. The basic specification of this sailing dinghy, and a photograph of Stauch, taken at the time when he was sailing at Wannsee in preparation for the 1936 Olympic Games. These photographs were published in an article on the current status of the dinghy, in Die Jacht, October 1984.

architectural magazine, headed "Neues Bauen in den Kolonien" von Architekt Hellmut Stauch : January 1935 highlights his interest in simple industrial modular "core" housing, which approach was at the time in advance of that of his contemporaries in South Africa.

He weighed up his options, made his decisions, and left Germany. He travelled light, leaving in Germany all his personal papers and property, perhaps because he had no firm intention of staying permanently, or perhaps because of other constraints. The young woman who drove him to the station at the start of his journey spoke of Hellmut riffling through a "pack of playing cards" of passports, selecting a Swiss passport and using that for his exit from Germany.⁽¹⁶⁾

Alternatively, it was possible that he did not wish those with whom he was in contact to know that he might move permanently to South Africa.⁽¹⁷⁾

Typically, he had not contacted nor asked for assistance from his family, but he did intend to join them in Windhoek. This intention was thwarted by lack of money, for he reached Cape Town with completely depleted resources.⁽¹⁸⁾

Staying briefly with friends of his family, who lived there, he met a young visitor who brought news of work available in Pretoria. This was enough to send him northwards in a hurry, where he was to join Aubrey Nunn in practice. He would not see his family in South West Africa until he was once more on his feet and could go to them with a story of success, rather than a request for help.⁽¹⁹⁾

16. Letter from Galerie Gerda Bassenge to Joachim Alexander dated 21 January 1985.

17. Vorster, Mrs Tosca, Step-daughter of H.W.E. Stauch, 1985 - interview.

18. Ibid

19. Ibid and Krafft, Mrs Marianne, Sister of H.W.E. Stauch, 1984 - interview