

STUDIO BRUTHER
ECONOMY AND EXCESS
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BORDERLINE(S) INVESTIGATION #1
LIGHTNESS

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Travelling lightly means leaving with the bare minimum, arriving safely and discreetly in an unknown place and then keeping eyes wide open to carefully modulate daily life to this new environment. Lightweight construction is inspired by this traveler's ethics. Setting up only as little as possible, landing safely and discreetly on a unfamiliar site, and then keeping eyes wide open to carefully modulate projects to this new environment. We are well aware that, by its very nature, architecture does not escape gravity, but it is possible to restrict the meaning of the term. There is no obligation on us to make our architecture "weighty" in the solemn sense. On the contrary, it can only be satisfied with a few traces, firm enough to define a place, a space, a use, while leaving as many free appropriations and possible transformations. Lightness is not an ideal, but rather a form of accessible politeness. It means considering the material from an economic point of view, and thus paying tribute to its efficiency. It is a direct and pragmatic approach to implementation, without frills and in the full expressiveness of constructive modes. But by dint of lightness, would this architecture "more vague and more soluble in the air, with nothing in it that weighs or poses" (to use Paul Verlaine's words in *Art Poétique*) go so far as to take the risk of evaporation, even pure and simple disappearance? On the contrary, it is the human scale that will bring this architecture back "down to earth". In fact, lightweight construction is above all not to forget how the combined sciences of space and construction can offer mental "extensions" to our body envelop.