

The electrification of the factory, or *The flexible layout of work(s)*

*Tilo Amhoff*

This paper explores the consequences of electrification for the organisation and layout of the production process in the AEG turbine factory. It will look at the series of journal articles by its first director Oskar Lasche in which he explains the operational and economic characteristics of electric power transmission, as well as its influence, 'on the layout of the buildings, the arrangement of the workshops and the design of the work processes.' According to him the electric single motor drive enabled machines to be autonomous from the systems of mechanical power transmission and to become mobile on the shop floor. As a consequence more abstract ordering principles such as the 'sequence of work' or the 'route of manufacture' became possible and necessary. This paper argues, then, that the electric drive opened up the continuing attempts to find together the ideal layout for the factory production plan and the factory floor plan.

Biography:

Tilo Amhoff (T.Amhoff@brighton.ac.uk) is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Brighton as well as a teaching fellow and PhD candidate at the Bartlett School of Architecture (UCL). His research investigates plans for various entities, such as the factory, the city, and the economy. He is a founder member of Netzwerk Architekturwissenschaft