

## Closed Industrialisation and the 'Taskscape' of Jean Prouvé

Kevin Donovan

Open industrialization – what is that? Competitions for façade panels, windows, doors? No one knows what to do with these...one cannot make architecture with a detached element.

Jean Prouvé

The predominant conceptualisation of industrialized building in *interbellum* France promoted the composition, not of form and space, but of buildings using pre-determined, repetitive, low-cost, and interchangeable elements. Architect Marcel Lods described this 'open industrialisation' thus: 'Houses are not made in factories; elements which allow architectural composition are.' Jean Prouvé, a self-styled *homme d'usine* rather than *Beaux-Arts* architect, was not bound by this concept of composition. Instead he made pre-fabricated buildings by machining entire assemblies to constitute a coherent whole, seeking to displace Lods' model with what he called 'closed industrialisation'.

This paper proposes to re-imagine the peculiar working world of Prouvé, particularly his collaborations with Lods, as a kind of 'taskscape', to use Tim Ingold's term, whose agents (human and non-human), converge upon the industrialised work in its assembly.

### Biography:

Kevin Donovan, architect and lecturer, holds a Centennial PhD Scholarship at UCD Architecture, where he is researching cultures of making in writing and architecture in mid-century France under Professor Hugh Campbell. Forthcoming book chapters in *Food and Architecture: At table* (Berg, 2015) and *Infra Éireann – Making Ireland Modern 1914 – 2014* (Ashgate, 2014).