

## Exhibition Press Release

### **An Atlas of Fabrication / Barkow Leibinger, Berlin**

27 February – 27 March 2009

AA Gallery

**Private view** Thursday 26 February 2009 6.30pm

Open to the public from Friday 27 February to Friday 27 March 2009

**Opening times** Monday to Friday 10.00am–7.00pm; Saturday 10.00am–3.00pm

**Lecture** Wednesday 18 March 2009 6.00pm AA Lecture Hall

Frank Barkow with artist Thomas Demand, Michael Meredith, Professor of Architecture at Harvard University and architects Gramazio + Kohler.

*An Atlas of Fabrication* is an exhibition and catalogue celebrating Barkow Leibinger's commitment to the material research that informs their buildings and teaching. Former AA Unit Masters in the late 90s, Frank Barkow and Regine Leibinger's fascination with machine-tool fabrication began academically but now resonates in all ongoing building projects within the practice. Fabrication components do not simply accessorise construction but contribute to essential structural and cladding systems.

The intention of the exhibition is to show an area of production within the practice that ranges from the experimental and speculative to work that specifically contributes to building projects. A parallel goal is to demonstrate how the work favours a material architecture, a conviction that architectural ideas and materials are inextricably intertwined. Put another way, architecture is a physical substance, and the point of conceptualisation is to figure out how to treat that material. It is a methodology that embraces the factory and manufacturing processes, where a dialogue is established with the industries that make the machines and the people who operate them. This knowledge informs the work and frees it from the standard building catalogue.

The collective, non-hierarchical and fragmentary nature of the exhibition represents the work as it exists in their Berlin studios (haphazard and ever present). Descriptive action-verbs group the work in categories, and include laser-cutting (flat and rotational), inflating, casting, bending, punching, stacking and welding. The exhibition aims to locate this research in relationship to a range of current projects including their Arsenale exhibition for the Venice Biennale, their contribution to the Swiss Architecture Museum, Basel, *Re-sampling Ornament* and recent buildings including the Trutec Building, Seoul, and the Gatehouse and Canteen for Trumpf, Stuttgart.

Press images are available from Vanessa Norwood  
vanessa@aaschool.ac.uk or 020 7887 4031