



Jimmie Durham
Between the furniture

p.102 ff

Between the Furniture and the Building
(Between a Rock and a Hard Place)
 Publisher of the bookshop Walter König
 Cologne, 1999

(...) The other reason I'm telling about my work in Pori is to introduce the work of a German architect named Thilo Folkerts. His specialty is landscapes in cities. He has a moveable rock garden that is a mound of gravel (of a mass equalling about four normal human bodies, , guess). It does not really look like rocks, nor yet sand, but more fluid than either. Thilo places this mound wherever seems suitable to him and when he has time shapes and textures it with a rake, after the fashion of Japanese rock gardens. It can change shape and mood in minutes. He has a collection of sand piles and rock piles. But just the fotos of them, as he discovers them on his perambulations through Berlin. His „favorite sand piles“, he calls them. These are often crowded or „leaning“ next to the wall of a building; sometimes, also, on the curb of a street, spilling onto the sidewalk and into the street. No boundaries, no shape, but undeniable, and accidentally charming non-objects. I love the work, but I also like that he perceives it as a garden and not (or not necessarily) art. Oh, I wish I had thought of these gravel mounds! But I would want to bring the gravel pile specifically into art, into the „art spaces“. If I made a large pile of very clean, and aesthetically pleasing gravel stones that partially covered the reception desk and chair, or the catalogues table of a museum, wouldn't that look good? And the small stones would be inadvertently scattered by clumsy feet. One stone might come to rest next to Mario Merz's igloo, one might go PING! against some giant steel sculpture and lie there awaiting its next collaborative move. Having written the word „collaborative“, I see there may be a possibility that Thilo would do a collaborative work with me. Or I could maybe rent one of his gardens. I might at the same time try making some anti- Thilo Folkerts. Suppose I mixed the gravel with cement and poured it into a mound partially covering the reception desk and table? I could call it „Thilo's Petrified Garden“. (...)