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Practices of ordering in architectural work

When you enter a modern workplace, practically any modern workplace, you will see, all over the place, all kinds of artifacts that carry inscriptions. They of course serve an infinite variety of purposes and appear in a bewildering multiplicity of shapes and forms. Anyway, a large class of such inscribed artifacts have in common that they have been specifically devised so as to help actors in coordinating their activities. They are an integral part of elaborate and specialized coordinative practices. Indeed, what we observe are coordinative practices that involve a web of artifacts, notations, nomenclatures, standard formats, validation procedures, schemes of temporal, spatial, conceptual, etc. ordering, and so on. At the seminar, I will talk about the specialized practices of ordering observed in an architectural office (in fieldwork done by my colleague Ina Wagner) and will supplement by observations from studies in engineering and manufacturing.

Ina Wagner and I have presented our findings in a joint paper: Kjeld Schmidt and Ina Wagner: 'Ordering systems: Coordinative practices and artifacts in architectural design and planning', *Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW): The Journal of Collaborative Computing*. vol. 13, no. 5-6, 2004, pp. 349-408.