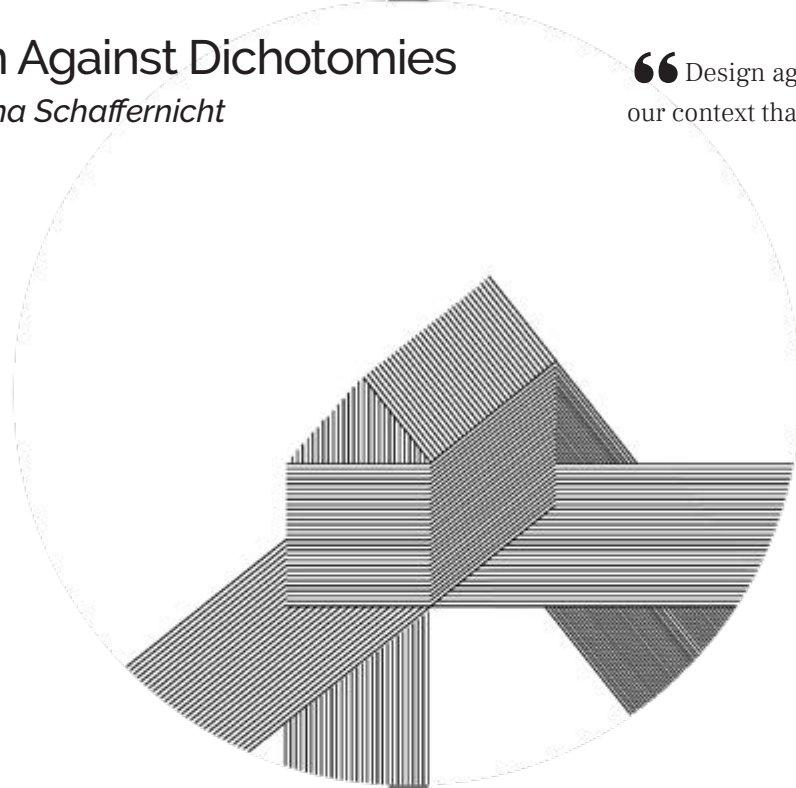# CAN YOU SEE?

Design Against Dichotomies
Magdalena Schaffernicht

66 Design against is a critical response to a pattern in our context that has not been questioned enough. 99
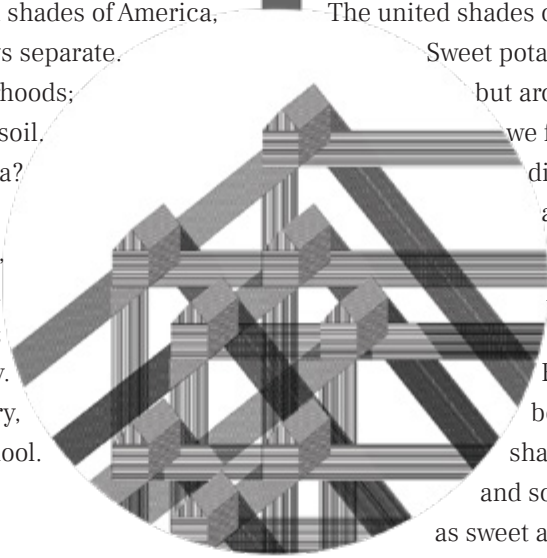
The United States of contradictions and extremes.
Where the most muscular and obese people live,
driving to run on a treadmill,
talk about freedom but not of choice.
The most disgusting richness,
the most unprotected poorness;
where modernism bloomed
replacing landscapes with streetscapes,
where satire reveals more truth than the news,
and fresh air was replaced with comfort.

The United States of contradictions and extremes.
Where you can find all different types of climate,
all different types of landscapes,
cities, cultures, people.
The most dreamed of country,
where the promise of opportunity
melts into my morning pancakes.
The truths held self-evident
in this country of many roads
is that they all lead to freedom
as we pursue happiness.

The united shades of America,
where every shade of skin stays separate.
Separate schools, culture, entertainment, neighbourhoods;
separate nations over a shared soil.
What the States of America?

The same socialist voter who elected a neoliberalist,
the same who exercises by watching the NBA.
Cookie cutter houses, cookie cutter wardrobe;
the jar gets tight holding so many.
The land of the most complex and shortest history,
the home of the free who gets shot for going to school.

The united shades of America.
Sweet potato, pumpkin pie;
but around the dining table
we forget why they told us we were so
different,
and from many, one.

A land created for creation,
a land created through migration.
Each brick a different shade,
bearing the roof that we all have to
share;
and so we sip a tea
as sweet as this land's people

Say, can you see
the United efforts to unite,
the resilience to survive.
Only in this diversity
could such nonsense get to be.

Say, can you see
the United efforts to unite,
the resiliency to survive.
Only in this diversity
could such unity get to be.