

Anything Besides a Bed

Julius Bläser, 2023

Installation at the ZKM Pavilion



## Project Description

Anything Besides a Bed is a collection consisting of six objects that all deal with certain aspects of the bed. These aspects concern the bed's historical and archaeological background, sleep patterns, darkness and artificial light, reading and talking about beds, technological and digital environment as well as privacy and publicity.

Every individual object is conceived by observing, mixing, interchanging and combining its contexts. These being the research aspects as well as the contexts of being actual objects and pieces of furniture that are found around the bed. The objects don't just reflect their research but have their own purpose by being thought-provoking interventions in the way they look and are used.

## Parquet Chest



The Parquet Chest is a bedside chest made from oak parquet laid out in a herringbone pattern usually found in flooring. It's about the height of the bed and therefore the height of sleeping which historically was (and in some ways still is) strongly connected to wealth, power and status. Since there are many—among them ergonomic and also hygienic—reasons to not sleep on the floor, it brings the floor to the sleeper rather than the sleeper to the floor.

Parquet Chest



## Sleep Timer



The Sleep Timer, which is based on a restaurant kitchen timer, is an alarm clock that isn't set on a specific point in time but rather a length of time. Our sleep is usually determined by the question „When do we have to get up again?“ rather than „How long do we need or want to sleep?“. The idea is to go to bed a little more on time—since the alternative would be to actively „reduce the timer“ and therefore reduce the time of sleep.

## Street Light Lamp



The Street Light Lamp is about the easy availability of artificial light which is more or less taken for granted. In order to transfer this concept to the bedroom an out-of-use street light (previously lighting up a street in Karlsruhe) with a sodium-vapor lamp that is connected to an intricate socket, fuse and ignition panel gets a new glass hull that also works as a simple analogue focus shifter or dimmer.

Street Light Lamp



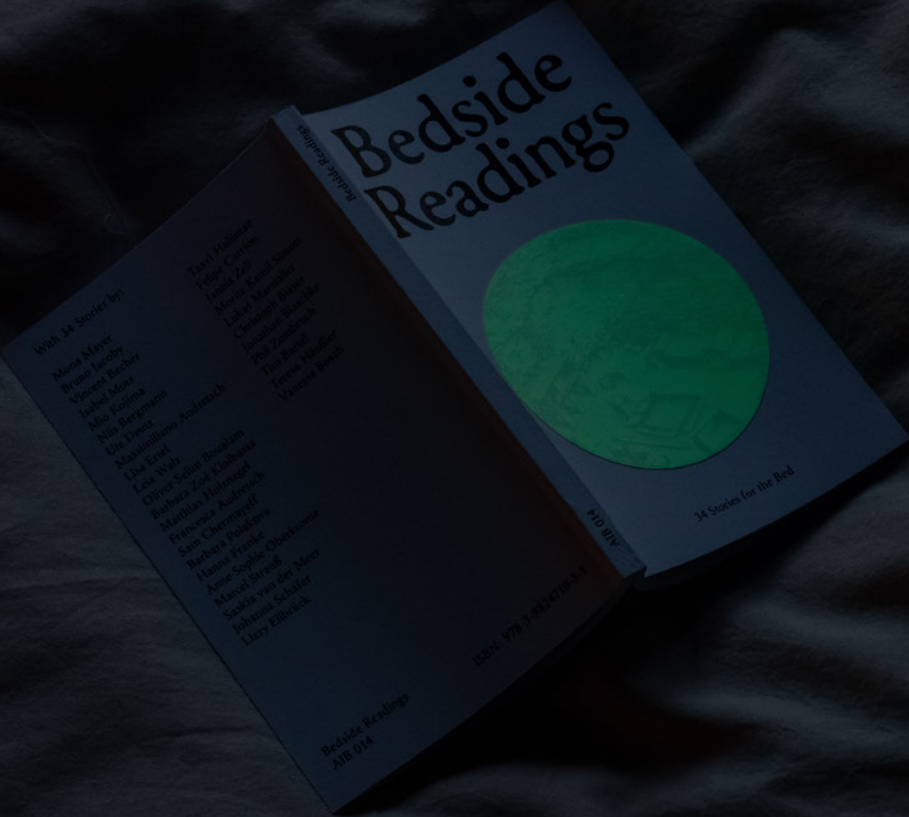


## Bedside Readings



The starting point for the publication Bedside Readings is the thought that the bed might be the most personal piece of furniture we have. Therefore everyone can say something about beds, especially about their own bed. The book was made together with Bruno Jacoby and Moritz Appich. It is a collection of 34 stories by 33 different authors which are all based on the same briefing: to write something that would be read while in bed.

Bedside Readings



## Mattress Multiplug



The Mattress Multiplug is a comfortable multi socket, especially made for the bed and bedroom. As electronic and digital devices are used in and around the bed quite a lot, it seems fitting to have a multi socket especially for this. At the same time it hints toward thinking about the bed as the ultimate place of unproductivity getting invaded and disturbed by the non-stop accessibility of media, entertainment and also work.

## Bedsread Curtain



The Bedsread Curtain deals with one very important part of the bed, the bedroom and sleeping: privacy and, opposed to it, publicity. It is a contemporary version of the four-poster canopy bed, a quilted hybrid object. It can be set up as a slightly translucent curtain-like screen next to the bed to provide some privacy to the sleeper and it also turns into a bedspread giving the bed as an object itself some protection.

Bedsread Curtain



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Photos by Oliver-Selim Boualam

hello@juliusblaeser.com  
jblaeser@hfg-karlsruhe.de