## 1996 TERRAMITE TOC, AKA 'BUSTER'

GREG SNYDER

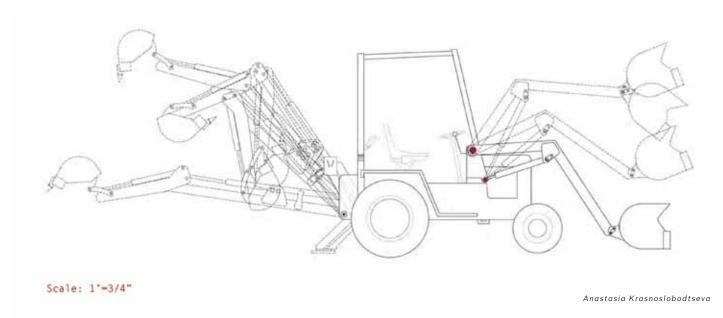


Buster demos the old house

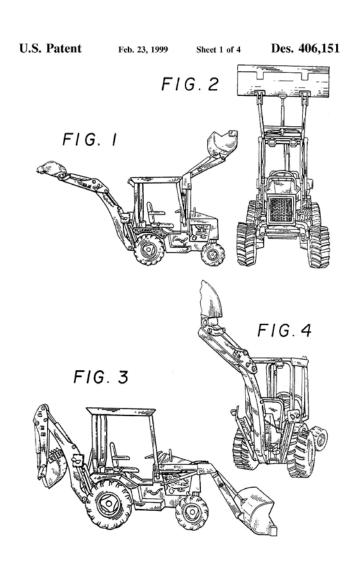
Casey Evelo

In the first lecture on soil and foundations I issue an invitation to students to consider the virtues of heavy equipment ownership. I offer a backstory of the experiences with my own small backhoe/loader as testimonial to the assortment of deeper understandings of being in the world facilitated through the possession and use of this tool. In the fifteen years that I have had Buster it has been used to clear land, remove trees, dig trenches, move large quantities of sand and gravel, tow trailers and tend burn piles.

If Levi-Strauss's *bricoleur* were to assemble a piece of heavy equipment this might be it: off-the-shelf hydraulic components and third-party interchangeable gas and diesel engines, *and* manufactured in West Virginia. It is functional and matter-of-fact, with opportunities for the amateur mechanic to savour repairs and maintenance, and the amateur aesthete to savour its reductive beauty and place among backhoe physiognomies.



Buster's kinetics



The Terramite Corporation Compact Loader Backhoe Patent patent application drawings



Terramite T5c logo



Buster digs a water line trench

Greg Snyde

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