MuirMcNeil


010 Font designers be like here's grotesk grotesk a lovely grotesk that sort of like all the other grotesks.'
${ }^{020}$ This is MuirMcNeil Sans Sans, a neue grotesk, neo-grotesque, sans serif.
${ }^{040}$ It is likely that a greater number of serifless typefaces have been produced in the early twenty-first century than any other contemporary type style. It is also probable that a greater number of sans serifs have been published in the past two decades than in the entire half millennium that precedes them.
${ }^{060}$ In developing these new sans serif faces, some designers have attempted to achieve a sense of transparency or neutrality by reanimating protean historical forms such as Akzidenz-Grotesk, Monotype Grotesque or Franklin Gothic; compounding, systematising and streamlining their diverse geometries into highly competent but often somewhat sanitised tools for digital communication.
${ }^{080}$ Other designers
have taken a contrary
approach, seeking to
infuse the vigorous
linearity of the sans
serif style with the
warmth of humanistic
and calligraphic traces.
Such designs often reappropriate the quirks of nineteenth century grotesques and gothics, accentuating them in
order to effect an illusion
of authentic character
that is founded on
nostalgia or sentimental whimsicality.
${ }^{100}$ Sans Sans follows neither of these tendencies. While it acknowledges that communications can never be neutral, transparent or objective but must always be located, mediated and directed, it also avoids any identification with the pious conservatism of overtly retrospective humanist designs.
${ }^{120}$ Sans Sans is the initial outcome of a project that MuirMcNeil has been developing intermittently over several years. The project’s primary objective was to distil the latin alphabet into an organic system of archetypal components, not as an end in itself, but for subsequent use as the subject of a series of experiments investigating various rudimentary functions of typographic form such as legibility, symmetry, emphasis, rhythm and frequency.
${ }^{140}$ A starting point rather than a final conclusion, Sans Sans was developed as a live specimen - a typographic genotype with potential for analysis, dissection, deformation and reformation into new visual organisms.
${ }^{160}$ The design of Sans Sans has a minimalist attitude, with every contour, stroke and curve honed to its most natural shape in order to render each individual glyph in the leanest, smoothest possible form.
${ }^{180}$ Sans Sans has been drawn on a heartline that is imprinted with the DNA of a number of seminal sans serif typefaces from the latter half of the twentieth century, refined late modern styles that are often referred to as 'neogrotesques'. While the skeletal framework of Sans Sans owes much to Folio and Univers, traces of DIN 1451, Unica, Berthold Imago and Frutiger are also discernible underneath its skin.

## Sans Sans

Folio
Univers
DIN 1451
Unica
Imago
Frutiger
${ }^{200}$ It is commonplace nowadays for typefaces to be published as massive superfamilies, often extending over multiple axes such as weight, width, height, optical size, alternates etc., and ranging across numerous language systems. The growth of these complex multipurpose collections has not necessarily been driven by the practical needs of end users. It can be attributed largely to the desire of their designers to demonstrate their prodigious skills.

It is also partly accountable to advances in the type design software technologies that facilitate their manufacture, and partly to the inexorable vagaries of fashion.

Sans Sans is an economical, versatile type system intended as a more straighttalking alternative. Like its mid-century modern antecedents, it has been conceived as a plainly unequivocal design, drawn in upright and italic styles, each in 13 matching weights.

011 Thin Italic
021 UItra Light Italic
031 Extra Light Italic
041 Light Italic
061 Book Italic
081 Regular Italic
101 Italic
121 Medium Italic
141 Semi Bold Italic
161 Bold Italic
181 Extra Bold Italic
201 Black Italic
221 Fat Italic

## 220 reans ticeth, sans cyas, sans taste, sans everything.?

Soppt

Historical diverse
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> NATURAL SIMPLEST PROTEAN REFINED LATE MODERN SKELETAL


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