

Working with the future. Life long design strategies.

Manja van de Worp
IABSE Future of design
21/09/2023

I am a structural engineer and Architect

And I love to design beautiful things

FAR (Michael Schöner), 2019
commissioned by Nina Yashar (Nilufar)
"SWIRL", 2019



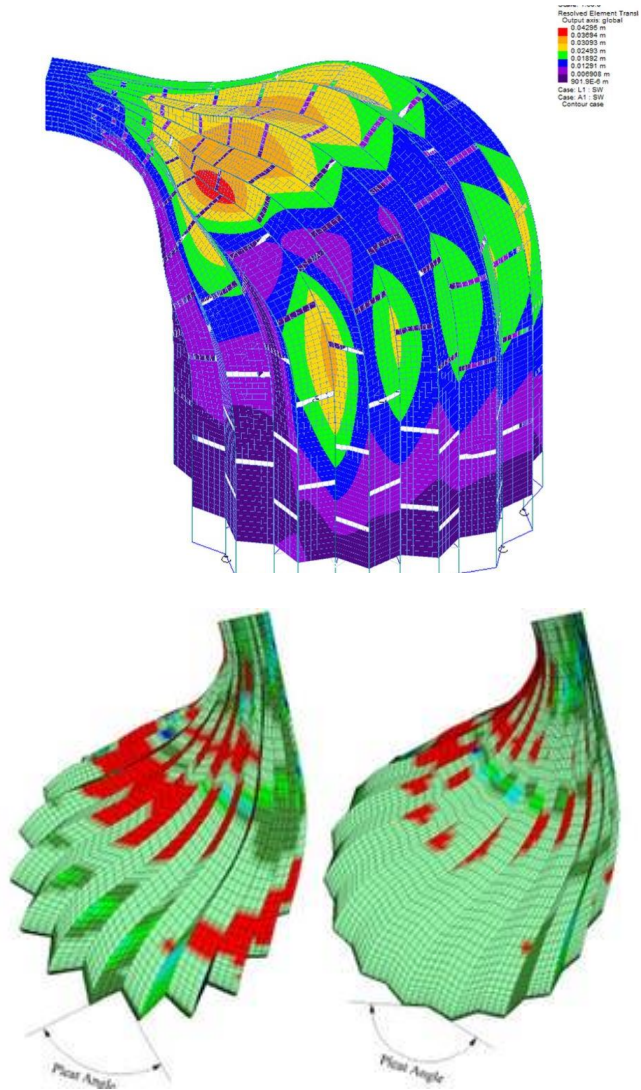
Not because their structural efficiency

Bombai Sapphire, UK
Heatherwick Studio
Manja @ Arup AT&R



or because they are the most pure

... but because of their
integration of geometry,
structure and fabrication



This is where the magic is !

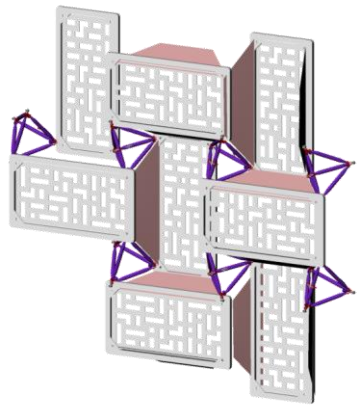
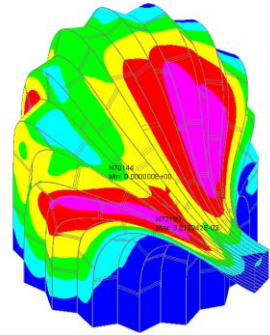
Arup Advanced Geometry Unit

D3PLOT: 0111S-729ptoTsS_in_3CP_2po
1: Max N72169 : 3.21325E-02, Min N70144 : 0.00000E+00

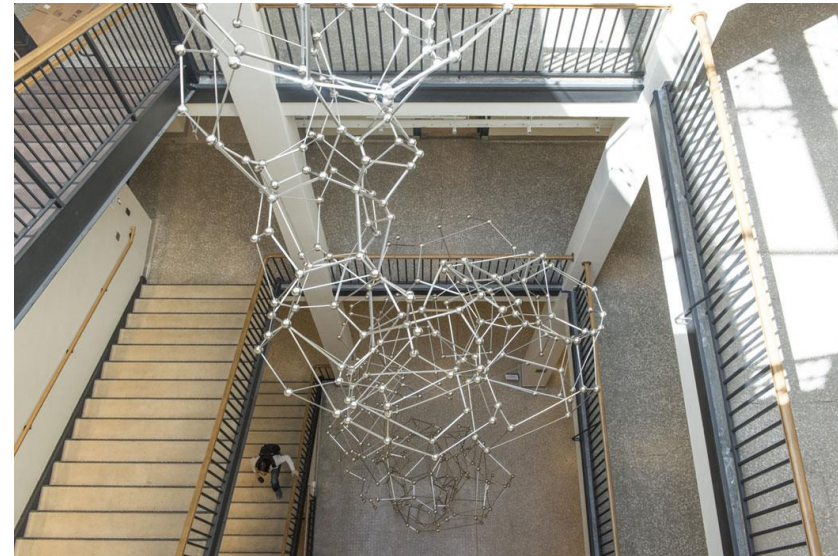
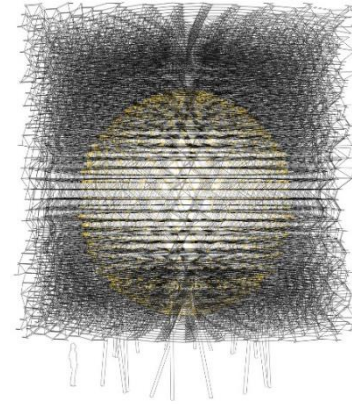
DISP_RESULTANT



Mode 3
Freq: 0.00000Hz



Collaborate (Simmonds Studio)



Structure Geometry Fabrication

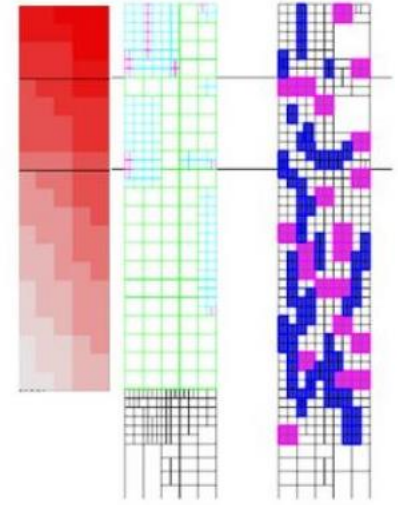
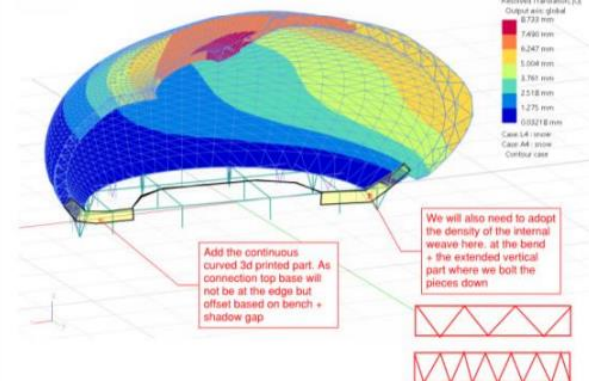
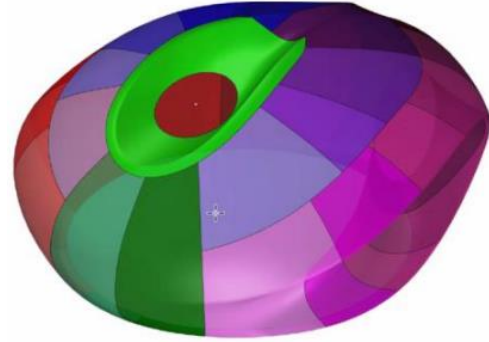


YIP Furniture

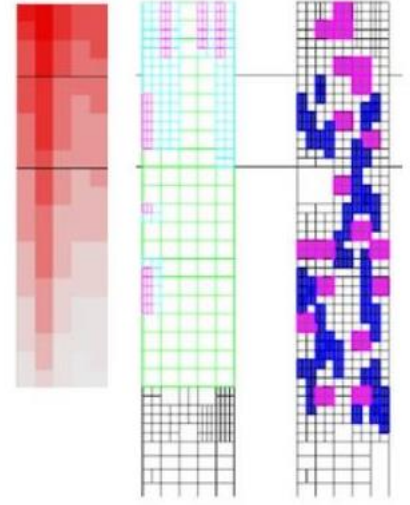


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Highrise towers



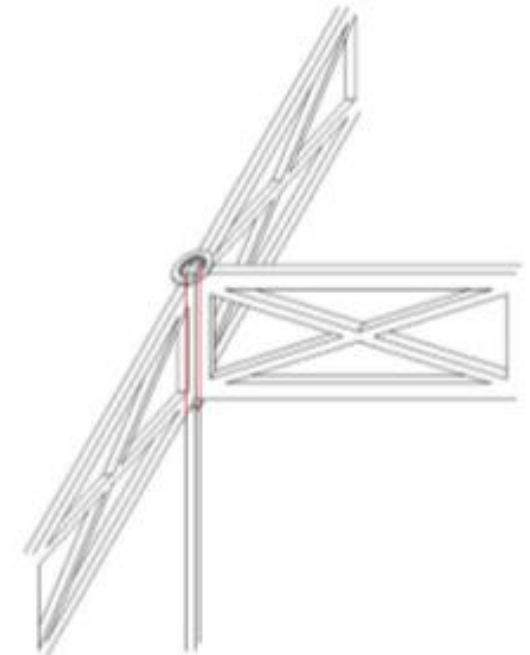
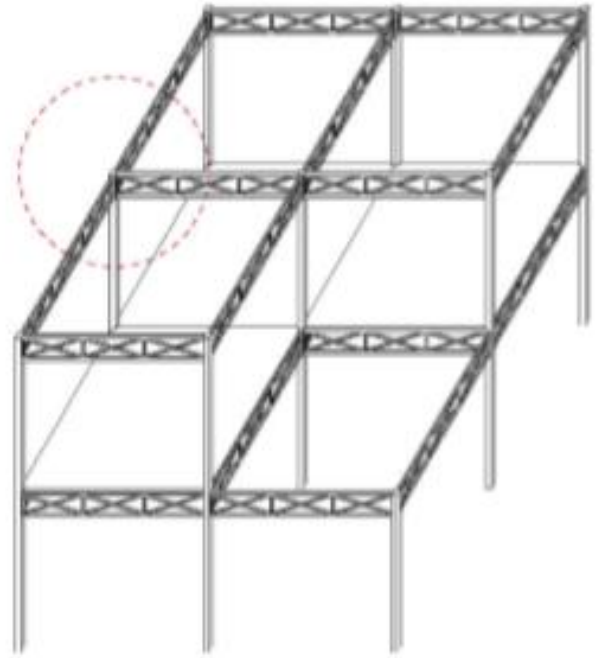
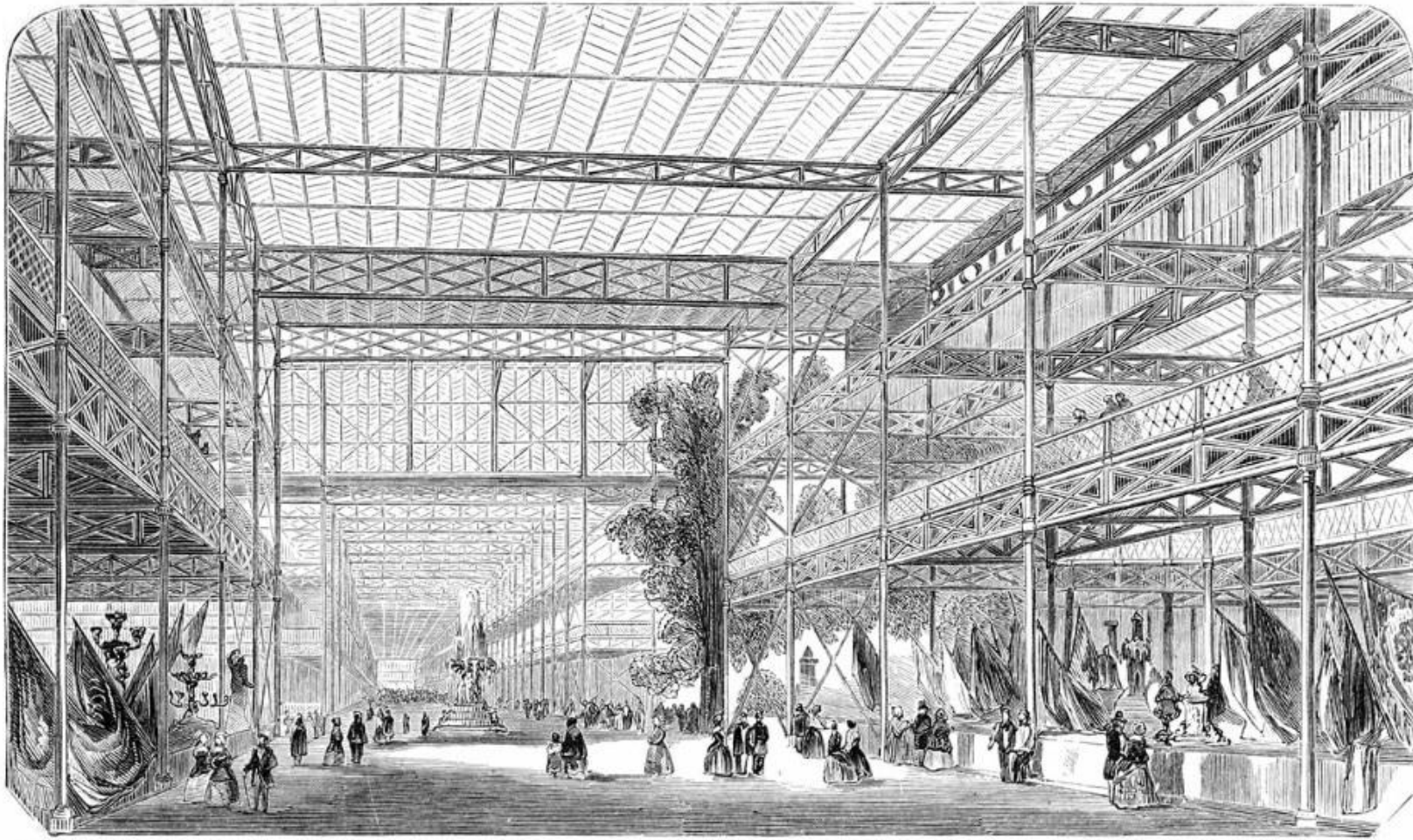
West Facade



East Facade

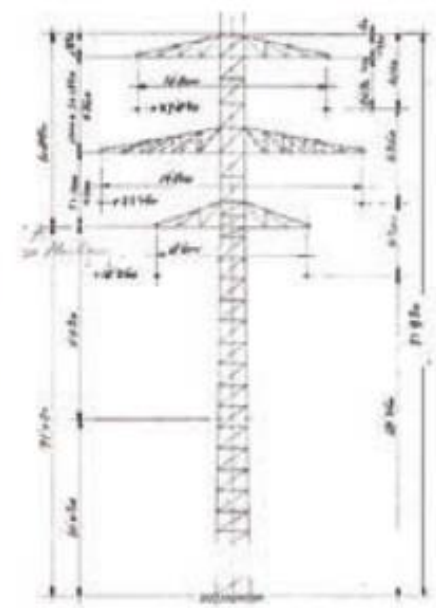
I pursue “Life long” design _____

Ensuring we build a better future

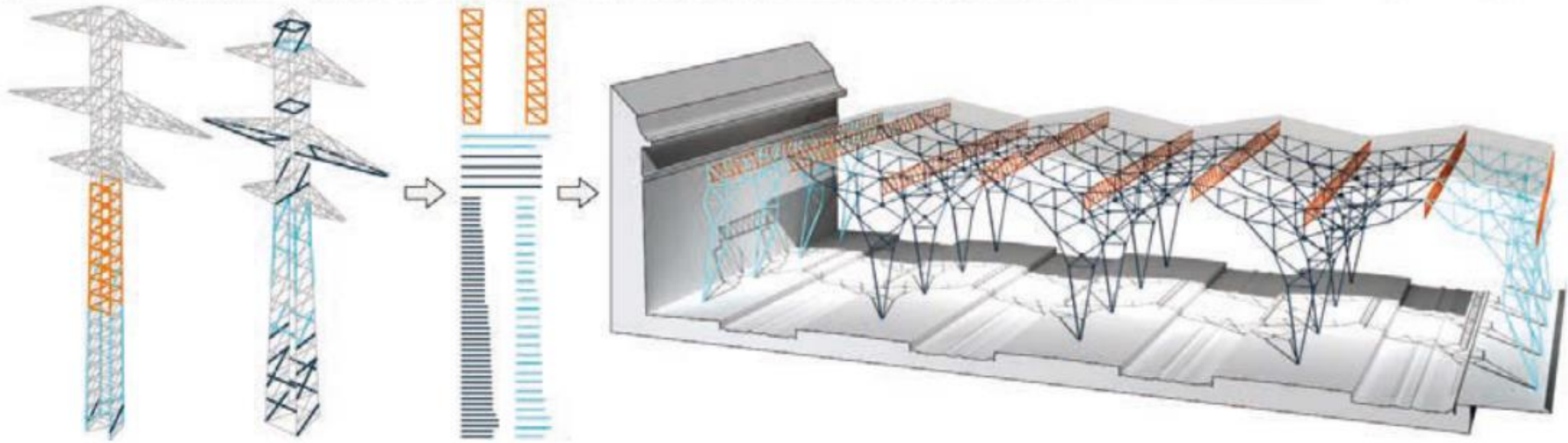


Designed for multiple states and location (Hyde park to sydenham)

Crystal Palace – Joseph Paxton



SWISSGRID



Schematic view of train station roof truss made of electric pylon parts, after layout optimisation

A strategy of Reuse was more common in the past than today



MD: Dry connections – and a smart system.

Laing O'Rourke



There can be a hierarchy
in it's parts.

The NEST zurich





"The concept of the NEST platform is as captivating as it is simple: to bring together research and industry in a **Living Lab**, and incorporate the feedback from the testers into the evolution of the prototype applications. The NEST accelerates the transfer of knowledge and technology in the field of climate and energy-optimized building technologies and represents an important milestone on the way to digital construction. »

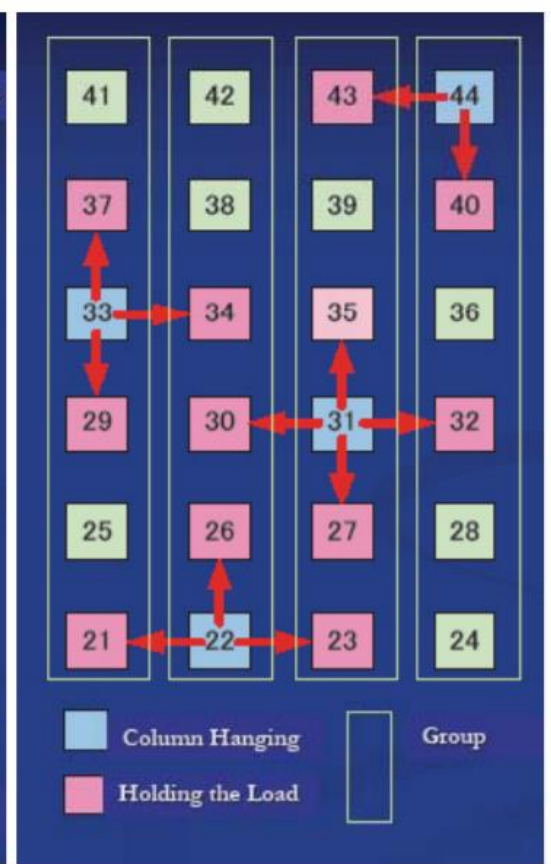
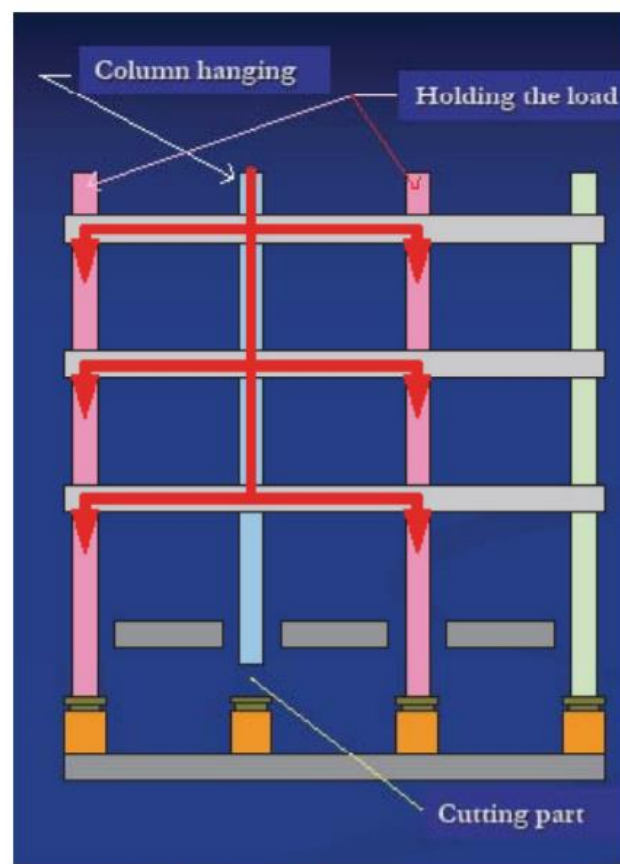


Figure 9. Cutting Columns © Kajima



What are the parts that we assemble, disassemble and are can be reused?

Kajima Corporation Buildings Demolition Method Japan 2013



The impact of weight, size and material
on reusability.

Ensamble studio – cyclopean house

Cyclopean House / Ensamble Studio

Courtesy of Ensamble Studio



12 / 43



Zoom image

| View original size



Save image



Pin it



Share

Open House / Ensamble Studio
City of En



image



Save image



Print





Off the shelf parts – all balanced structurally.

Ensamble studio – hemeroscopium house

All are examples of “life long” design, extending the life of structures

**In my work I
have been
mainly involved
with 2, 3 and 4**

The order of priority:

- 1) on-site reuse, i.e. keep parts in use in their original system (renovation, repurposing)**
- 2) repair, maintain or refurbish**
- 3) onsite component reuse, i.e. disassemble components from their system and reuse them in new systems**
- 4) Reprocess or recycle the material, or remanufacture the component.**

RUBENS STRUCTURES

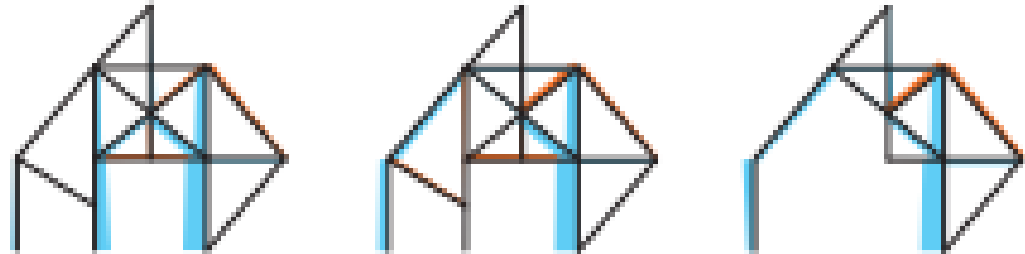
A Different Lightness Through Performance Adaptability

Between on-site reuse (1) and onsite component reuse (3)

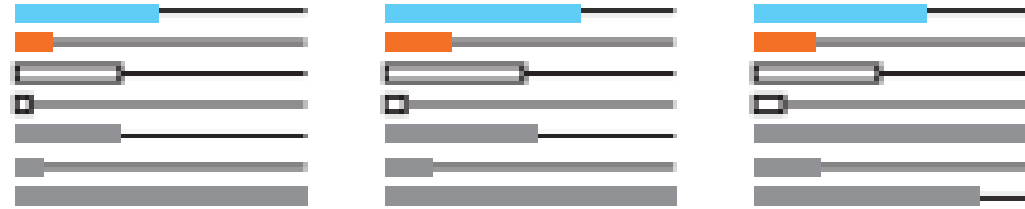
Series 1: Manipulate load path through support conditions

When the support condition is altered, the structure utilizes different elements to transfer the load.

When the internal elements which do not contribute to the structural performance are removed a free open space is created.



Max. Compression
Max. Tension
Utilization Max - Axial Force
Mean Utilization - Axial Force
Utilization Max All
Mean Utilization - All
Mass Increase

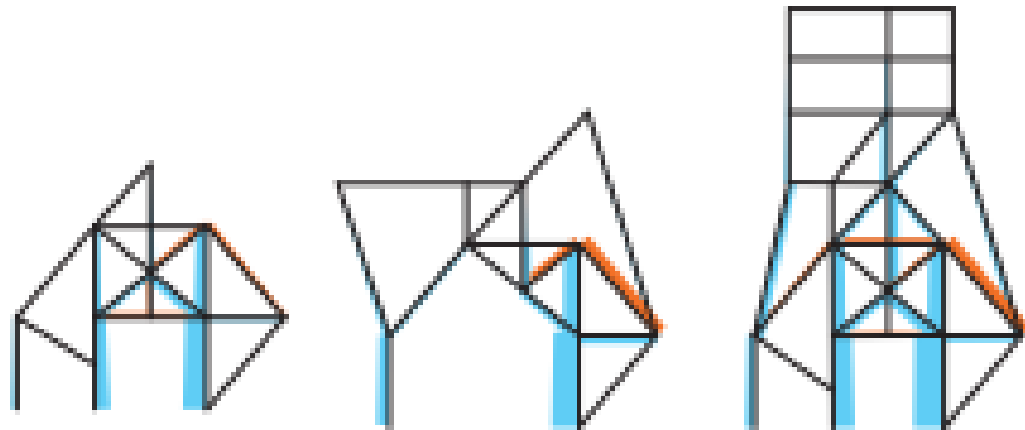


Keep elements the same, but use under utilised by changing loadpath

Series 2: Manipulate load path utilizing redundancy in element performance

When using a set elements it is additional structure permitting the structure to grow.

The material's expansion is based on the weight of load path which, based on the gravity sequence can be altered to control the material's growth.





Planned move of the building

onsite component reuse, (3)


AirBubble Playground / ecoLogicStudio

AirBubble Playground / ecoLogicStudio

© Maja Wirkus

Where
shall
we go
now?



 Zoom image

[View original size](#)

[Exterior Photography](#)

[Installations & Structures](#)

[Facade](#)

[Arch](#)

MINKA

AJGA

Tallweg Eng. NY USA

YIP

Develop structures like
product design [K.O.P.]

onsite component reuse, (3)





Reprocess or recycle the material, or remanufacture the component. (4)

**Recycled plastic +
move**

the structure will be hermetically closed for colder climates

**1. LIFE LONG – a new
approach to optimisation is
needed**

TAB

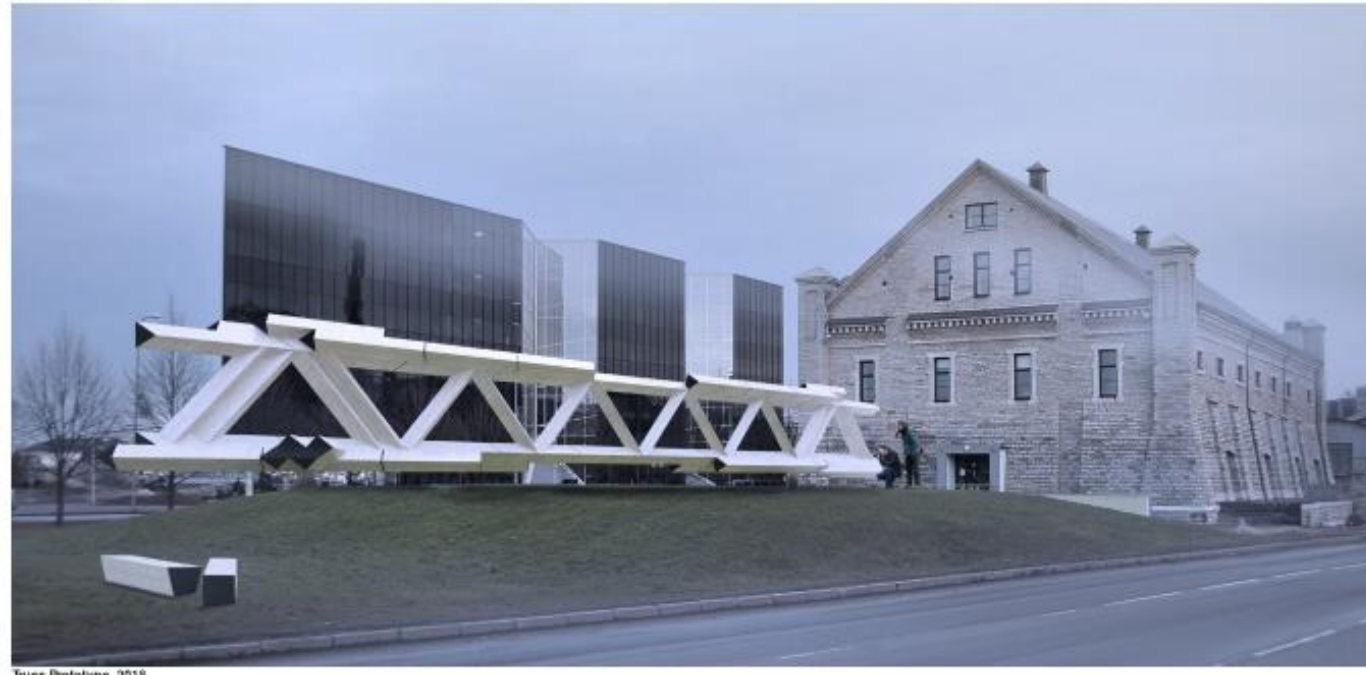
TALLINNA ARHITEKTUURIBIENNAAL
TALLINN ARCHITECTURE BIENNALE

Tallinn Architecture Biennale 2017: BioT.A.linn
Installation Programme Competition

BRIEF



House nr1, 2017



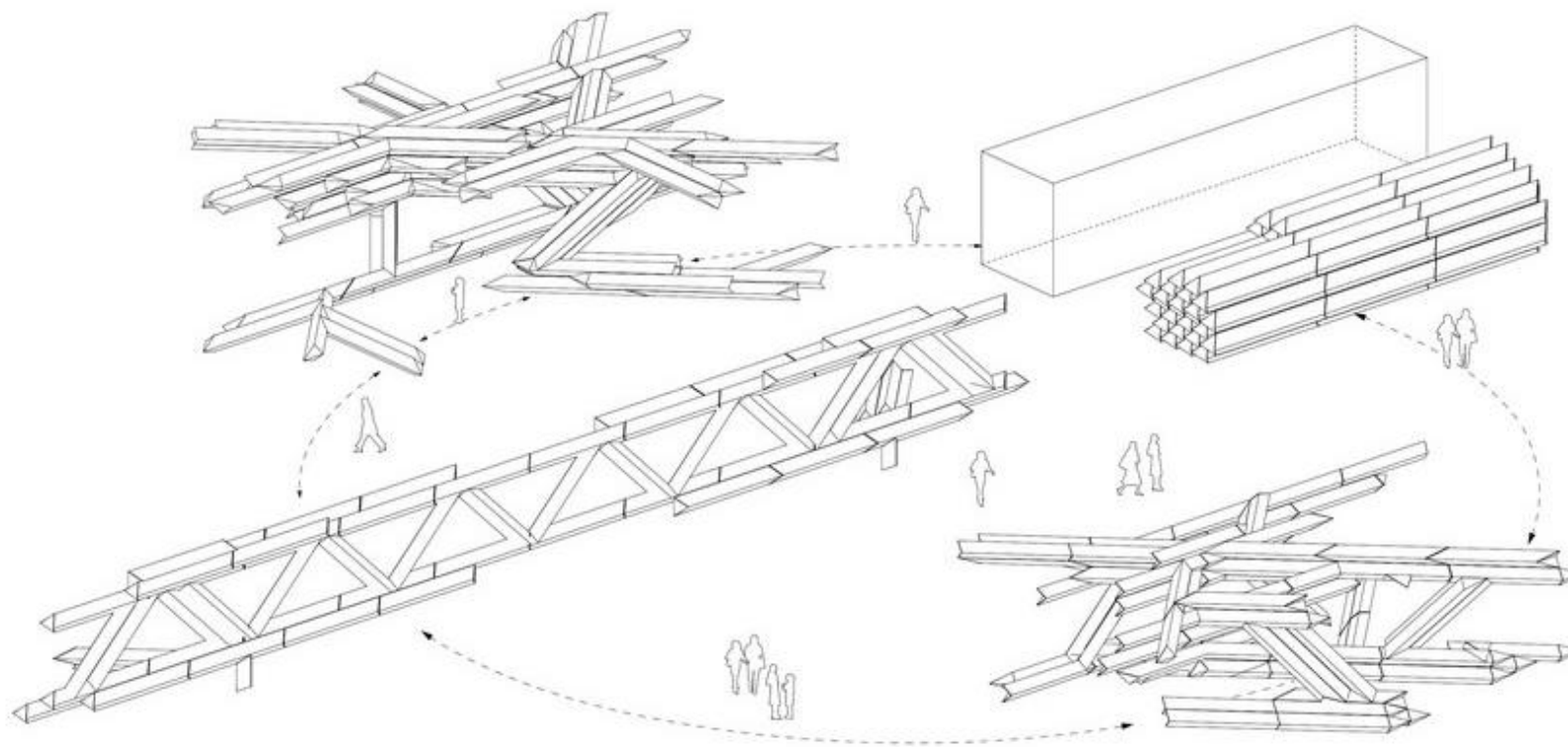
Trise Dordeluna 2018

Competition entry

Rubens structures


A different lightness through multiplicity of performance

**Dis- and re-assembly
= Future proof 2**



A different kind of lightness
[*Skinny vs. Rubens*]

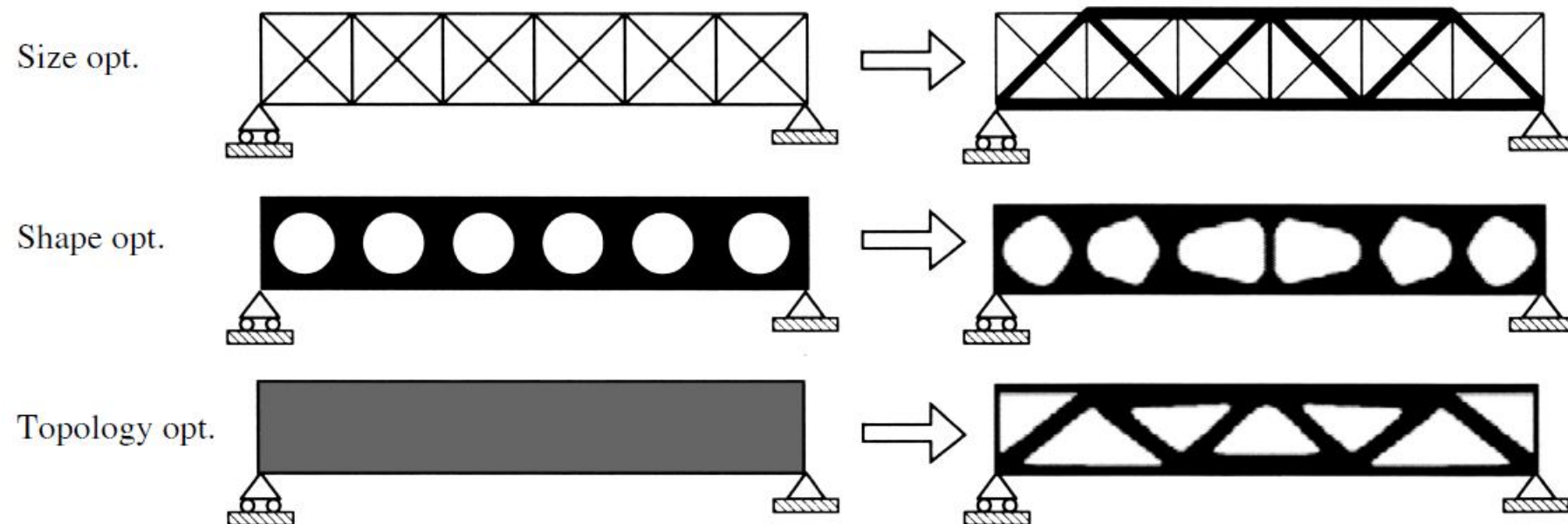
op·ti·mi·za·tion

/ˌɒptɪməˈzɑːʃən/ 

noun

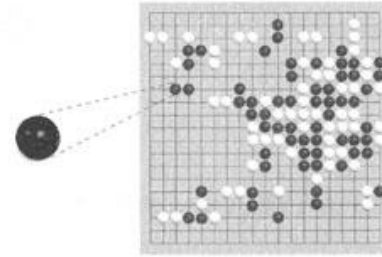
1. the action of making the best or most effective use of a situation or resource:
"companies interested in the optimization of the business"

Powered by Oxford Dictionaries

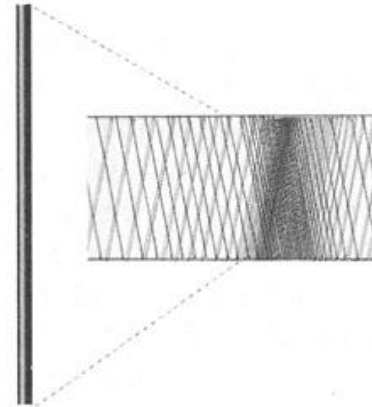
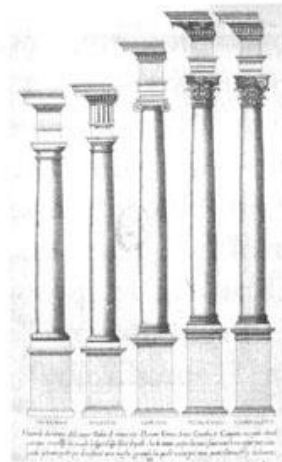


Difference in Kind

Difference in Degree



Kind / degree: Structurally a different way of thinking



**Chess/Orders:
Stable Meaning**

**Go/Meshwork:
Contextual Relationships**

**Ability to reuse
beyond initial scope**

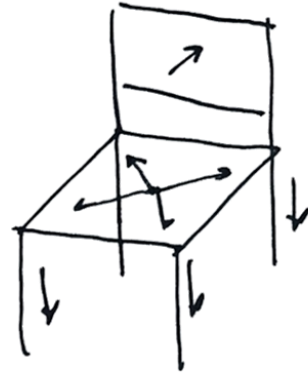


Chess: each element has specific performance in the whole



Go: Role defined by location and connection to neighbours

One element – one behaviour



A



B

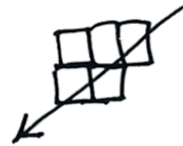
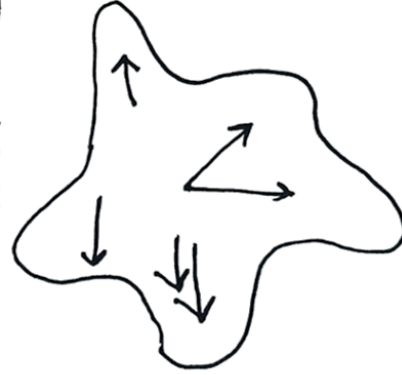


C

1 TYPE

1 PERFORMANCE

Discrete elements



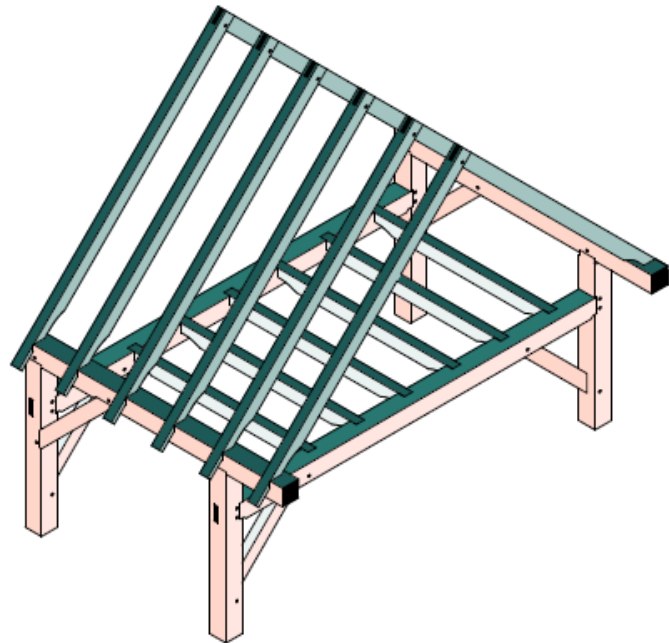
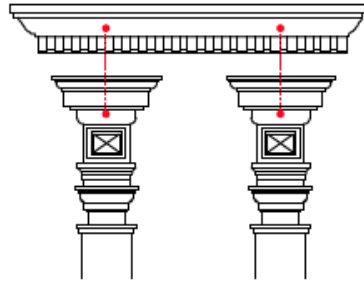
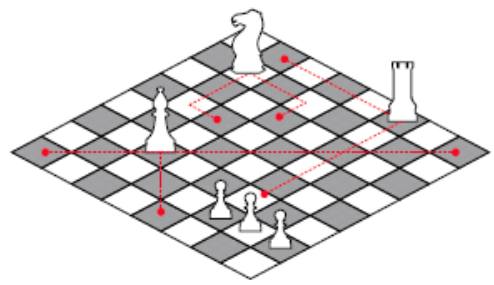
CLUSTER

+

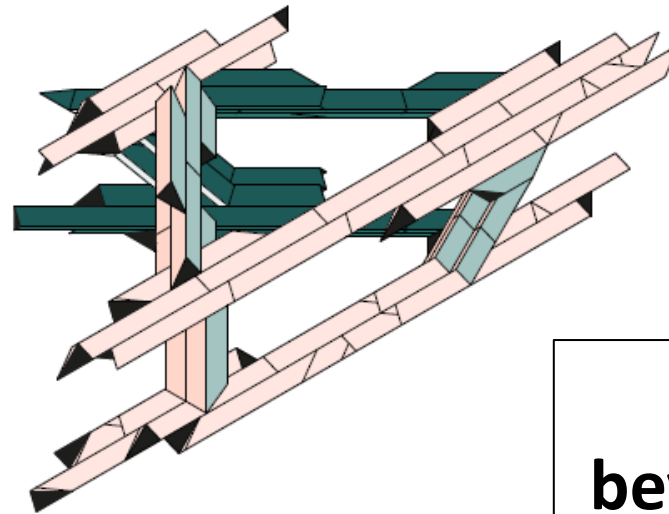
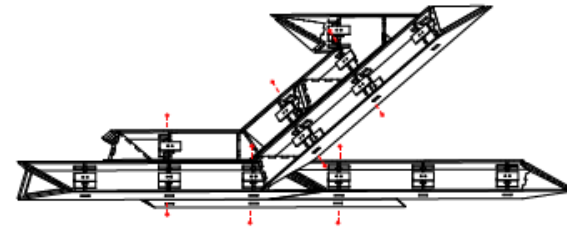
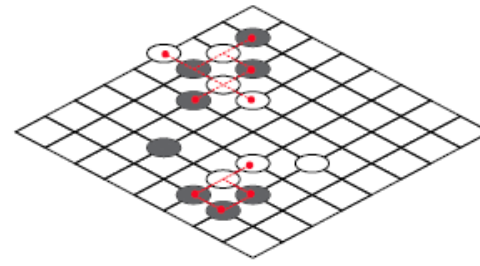
FORM

+

CONTROL POINT

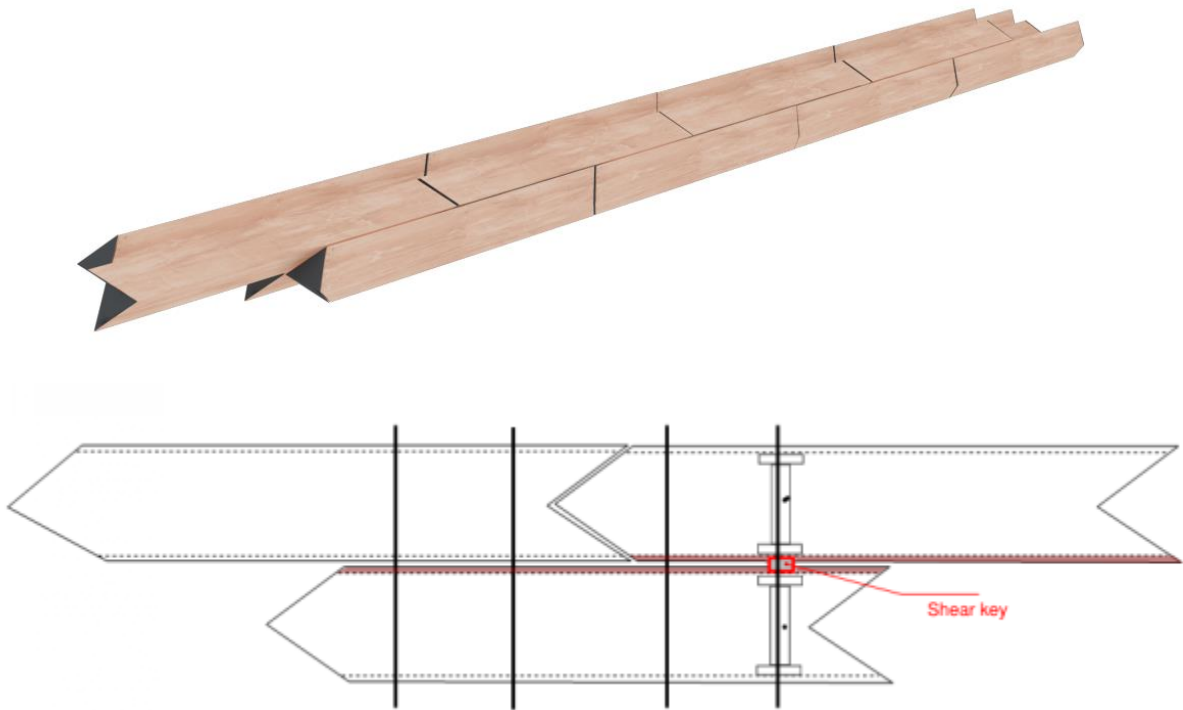


Chess: each element has specific performance in the whole



Go: Role defined by location and connection to neighbours

**DARE to reuse
beyond initial scope**



“beam” consisting out of small elements



Potential re-assembly off the same elements in anoter location as a big truss-like structure



Fig. 10 3D digital model + physical 1:1 of the knee part internal cross section

Max ~ 3 kNm bending in knee component

We can simplify this component as an I profile, see build-up in fig 10 and cross section capacity

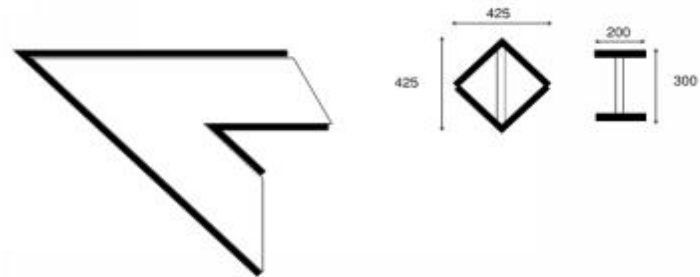
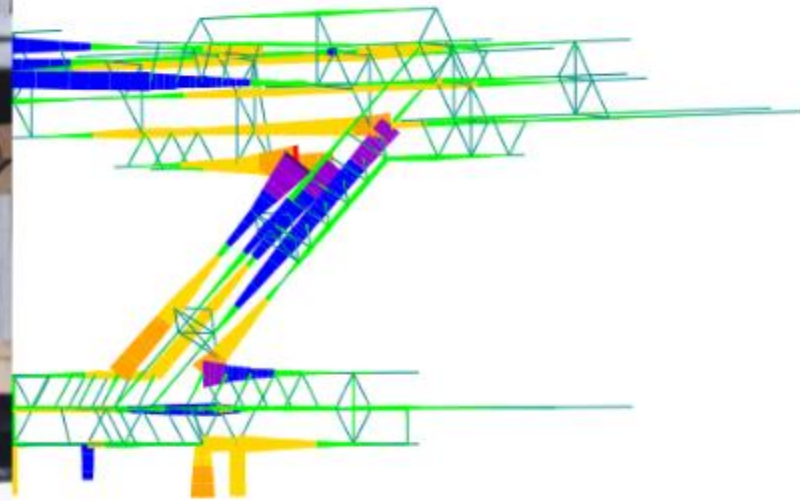
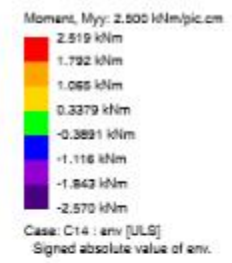


Fig. 11 Knee part in elevation & representative cross section



How do we analyse this?

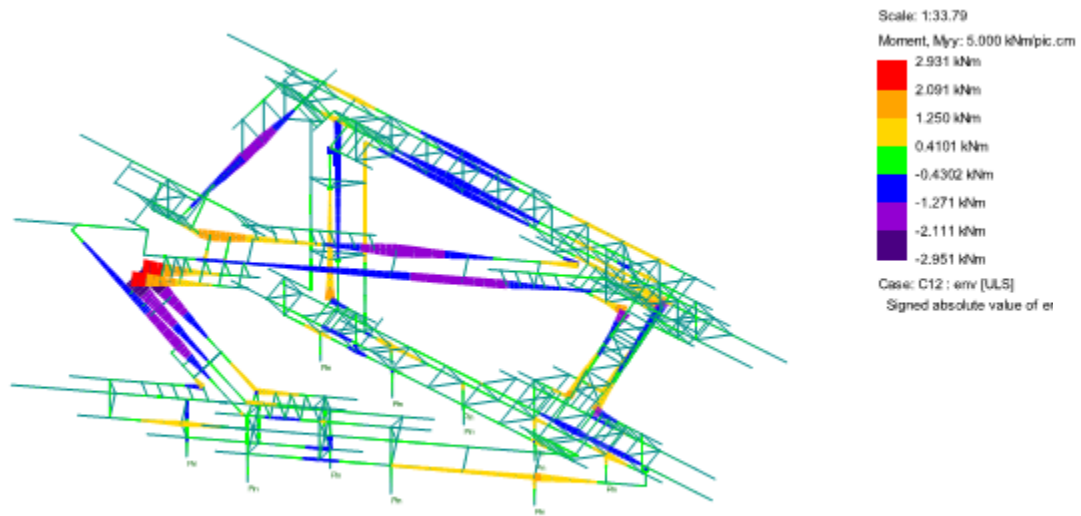


Fig. 6 Myy in main "beam elements"

4.2.1 Bending check staggered bolted beam Span 8 meters

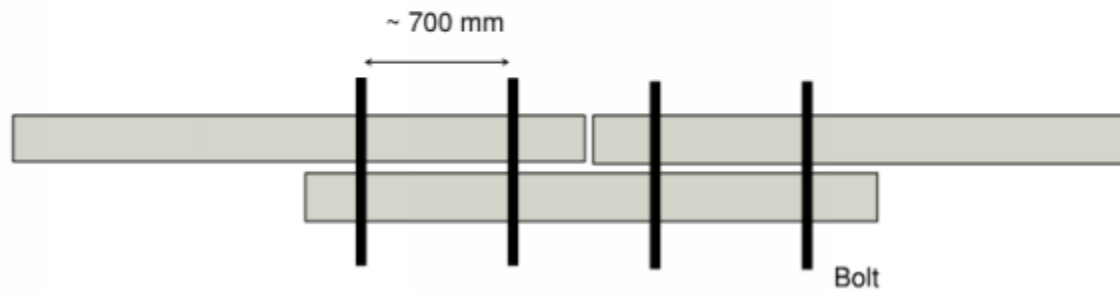
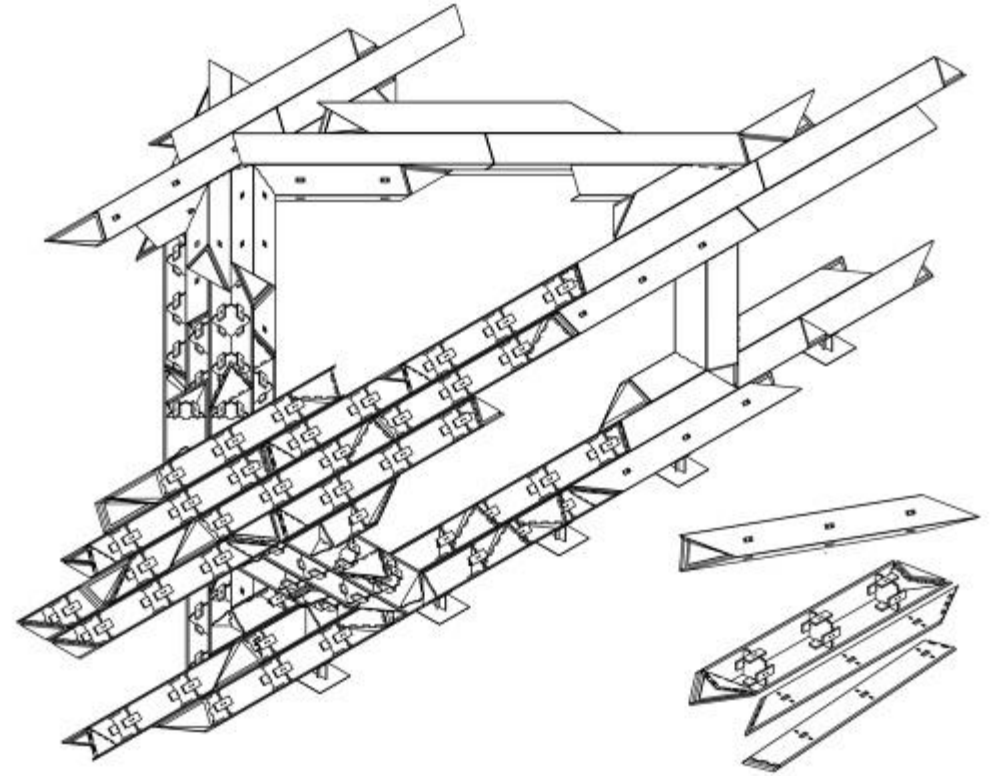
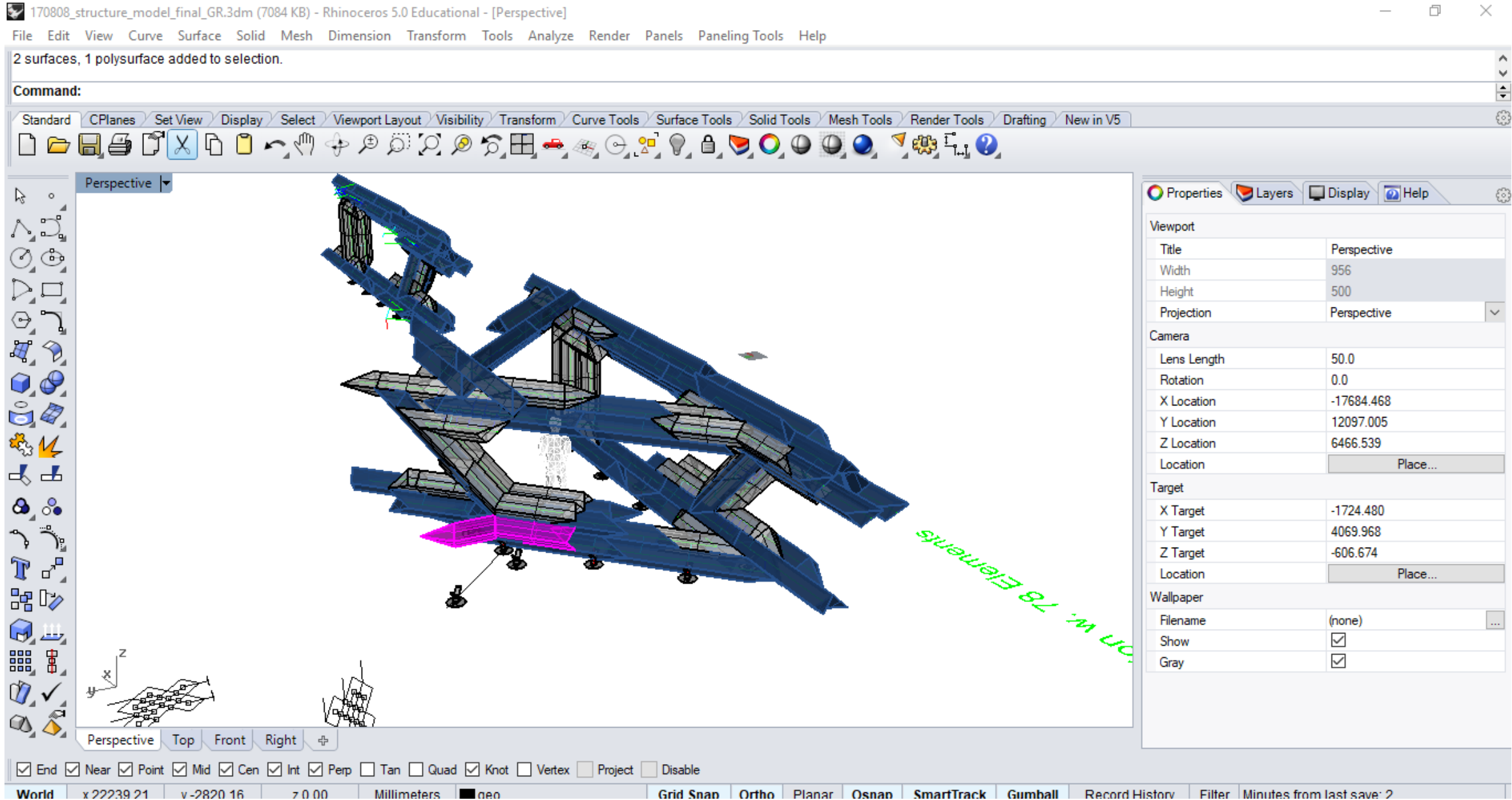


Fig. 7 Beam staggered configuration.



local performance _ to define a domain



When you change location – forces might change if stiffness changes
You don't design 1 element, but the nature of the clusters and global response

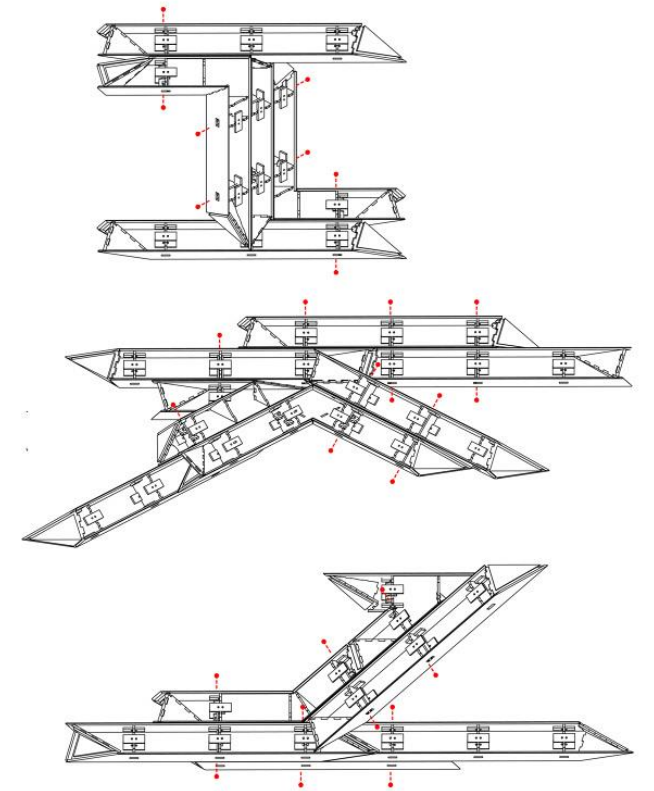
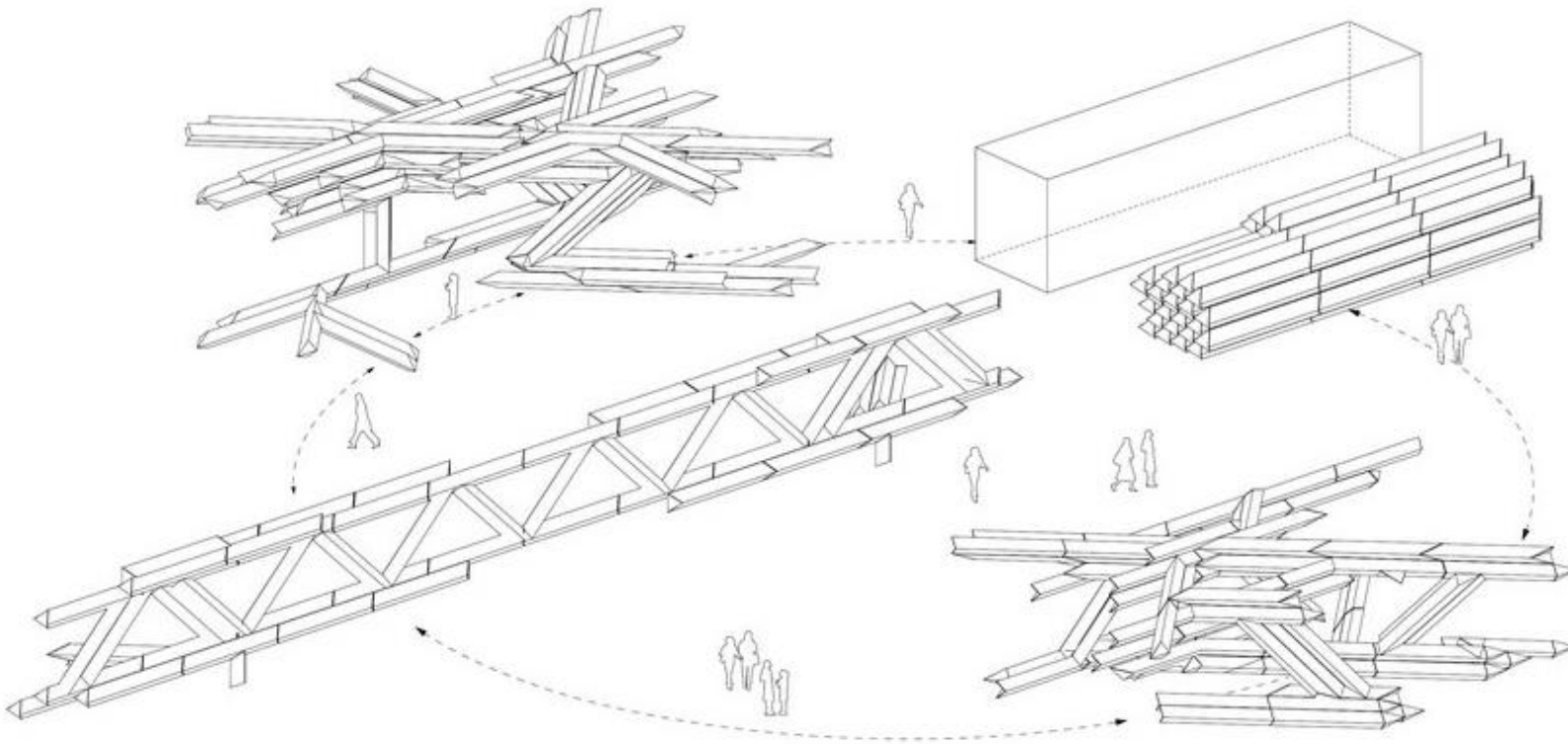


“Configuration 1”



**Are we ready for the next design =
configuration of elements?**

PARAMETRICALLY: LINK CLUSTERING OF ELEMENTS TO STRUCTURAL PERFORMANCE



**But it didn't stop
there:**



Royal academy of art London

AUAR

Automated Architecture

**AUAR (pronounced 'our') is
revolutionizing house building using
automation**

Lets change block and start - AUAR



Bristol – community centre UK

Openings in the plywood blocks ensured access to tighten the bolts.



400 mm
To spread load -
located at centre
↔

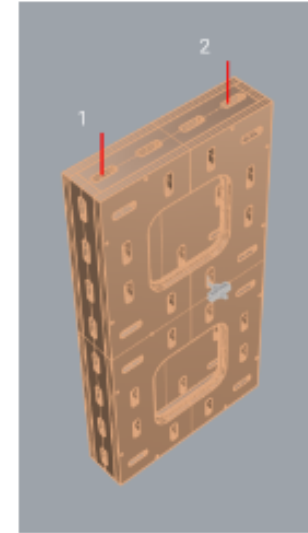


Only 2 connectors
Weight 1 block ~ 20 KG

Option A
2 panel span - 2 connection

with ~ 180 - 200 kg the single connected structure is assumed to fail.

As we want to increment the loading, this will be best to test



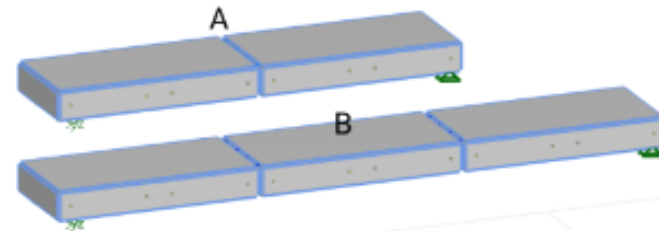
If we connect all 4 connection between the elements

We can resist for a 3 panel span - up to 300 kg
It depends how many people you have to load the structure.
It will take a little longer to test, but it will give us more data.

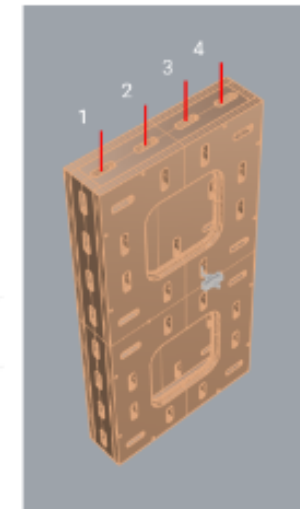
Option B - all 4 connections
3 panel span

Can take up to 300 kg estimated Easier perhaps to photograph and test the connections

But if you don't intend to make all 4 connections, I would test option A



Max 6.7 kN based on 150 depth (mollie test) - so this has been assumed the max tension here as well, yet I assume it to be less



AUAR uses robotics and automation to complete customizable prefab dwelling unit in Bristol



AUAR Ridley road –
block configuration and
block specification

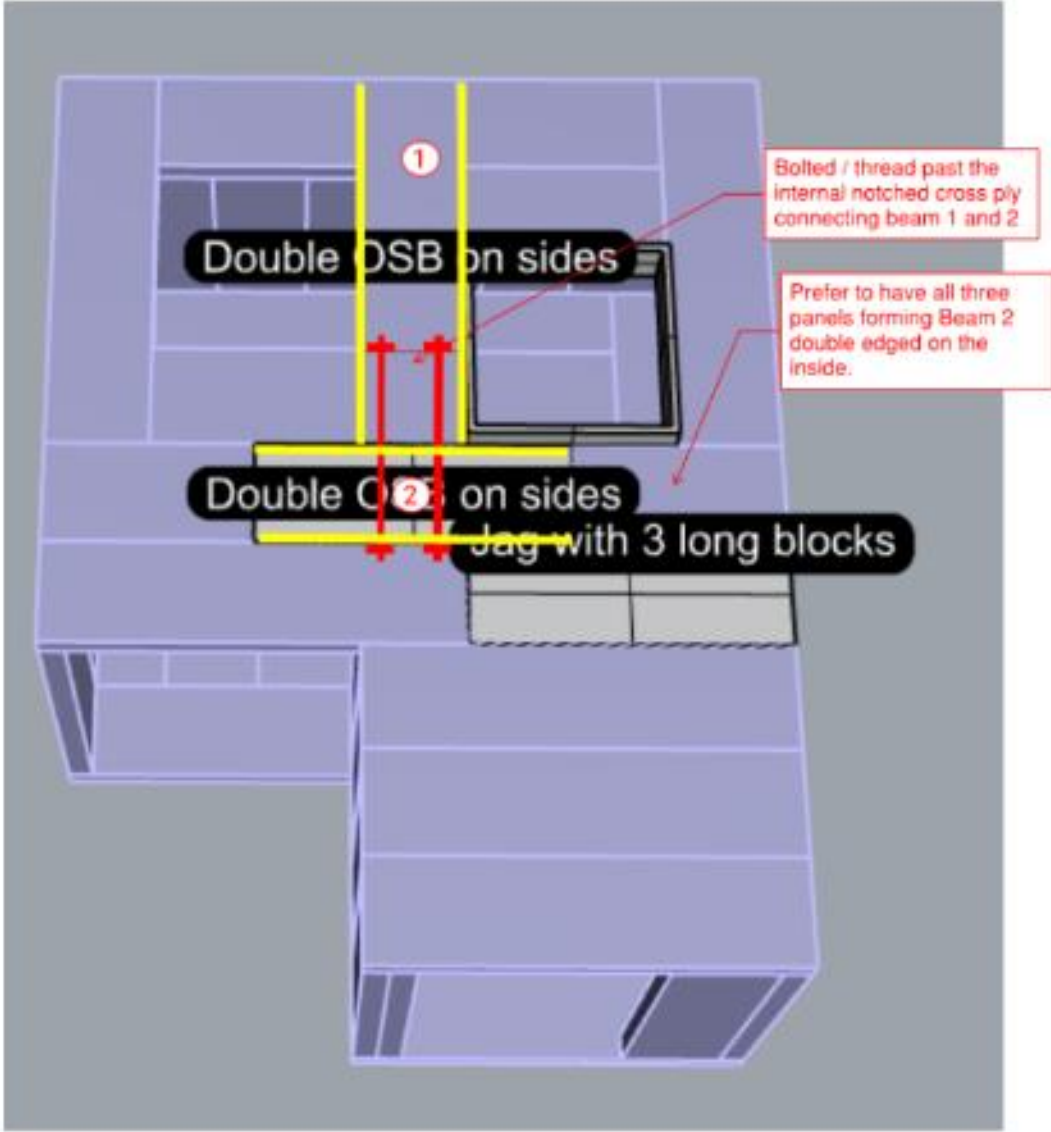
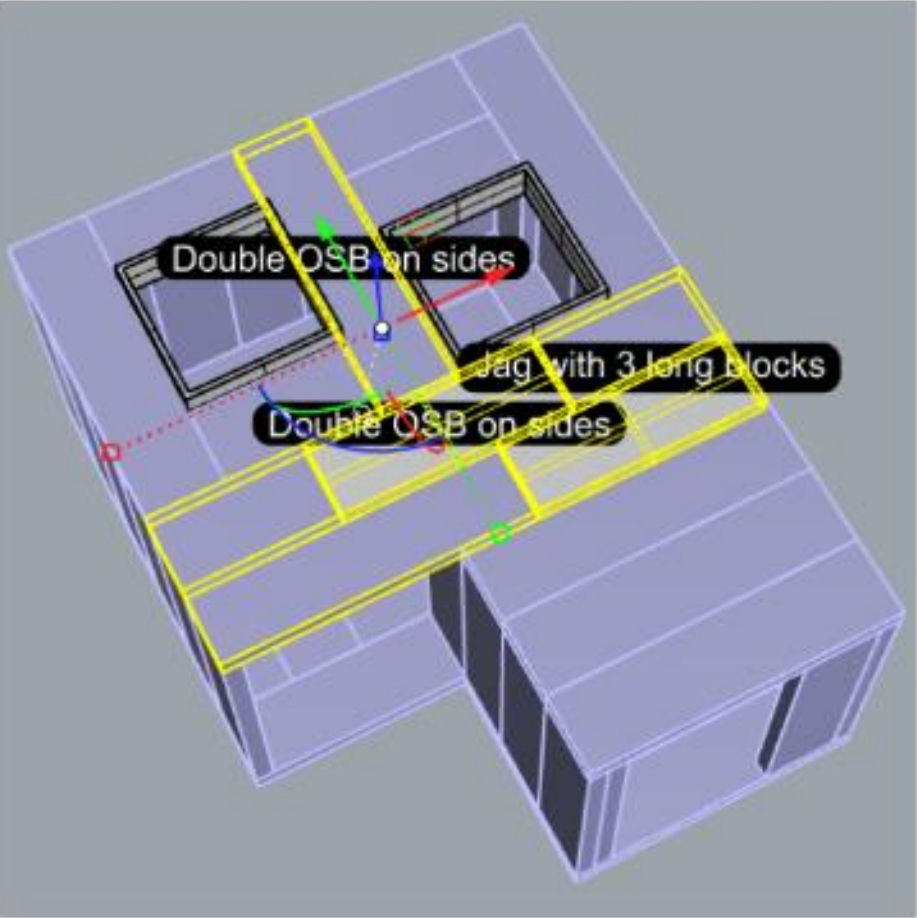
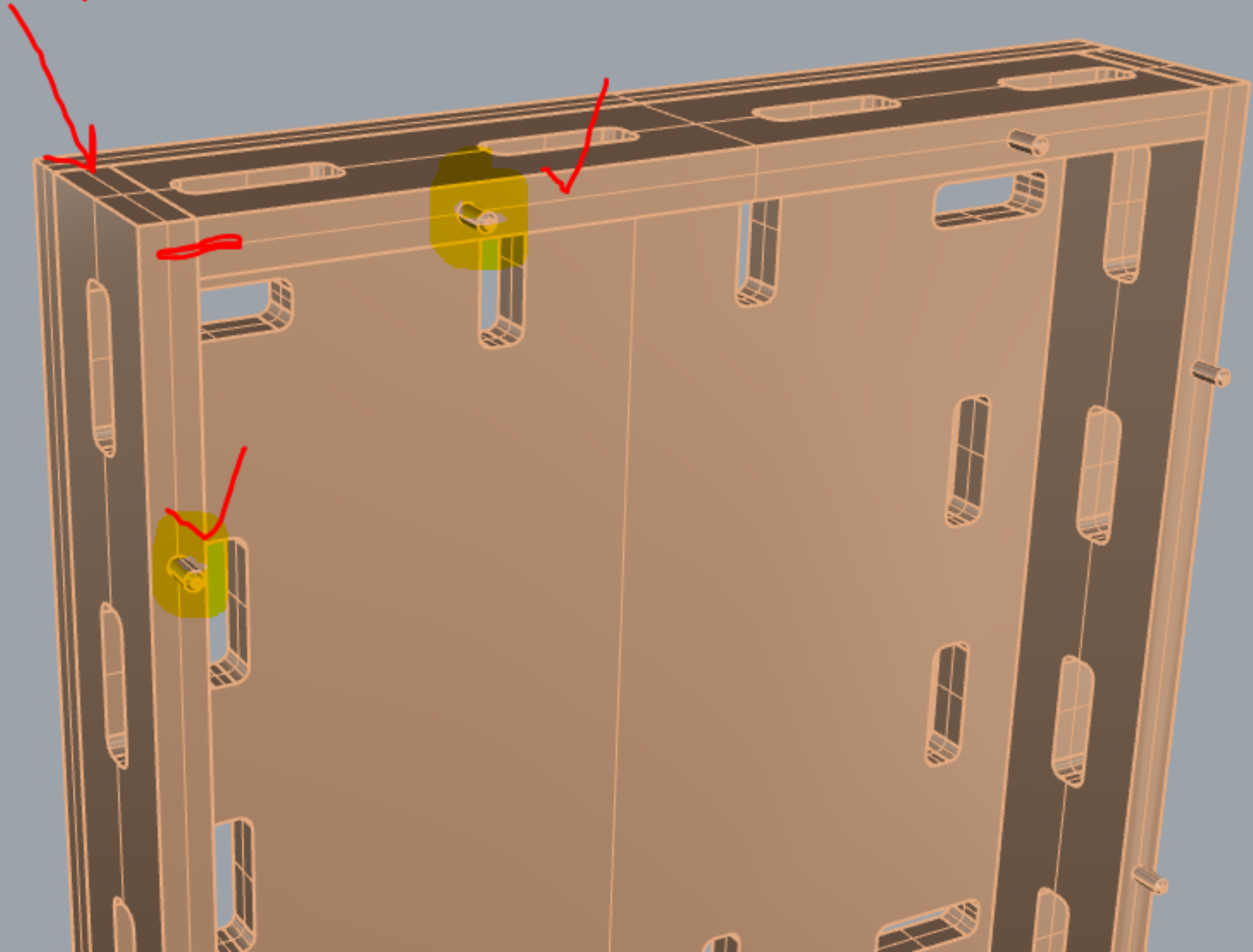


Fig. 1. Visual of design plus roof block configuration

No chord





<https://automatedarchitecture.io> ⋮

Automated Architecture Ltd

AUAR (pronounced 'our') is revolutionizing house building using automation · We are providing the world's first robotically assembled dwellings · We empower ...





AUAR at Somerset house – This bright land festival

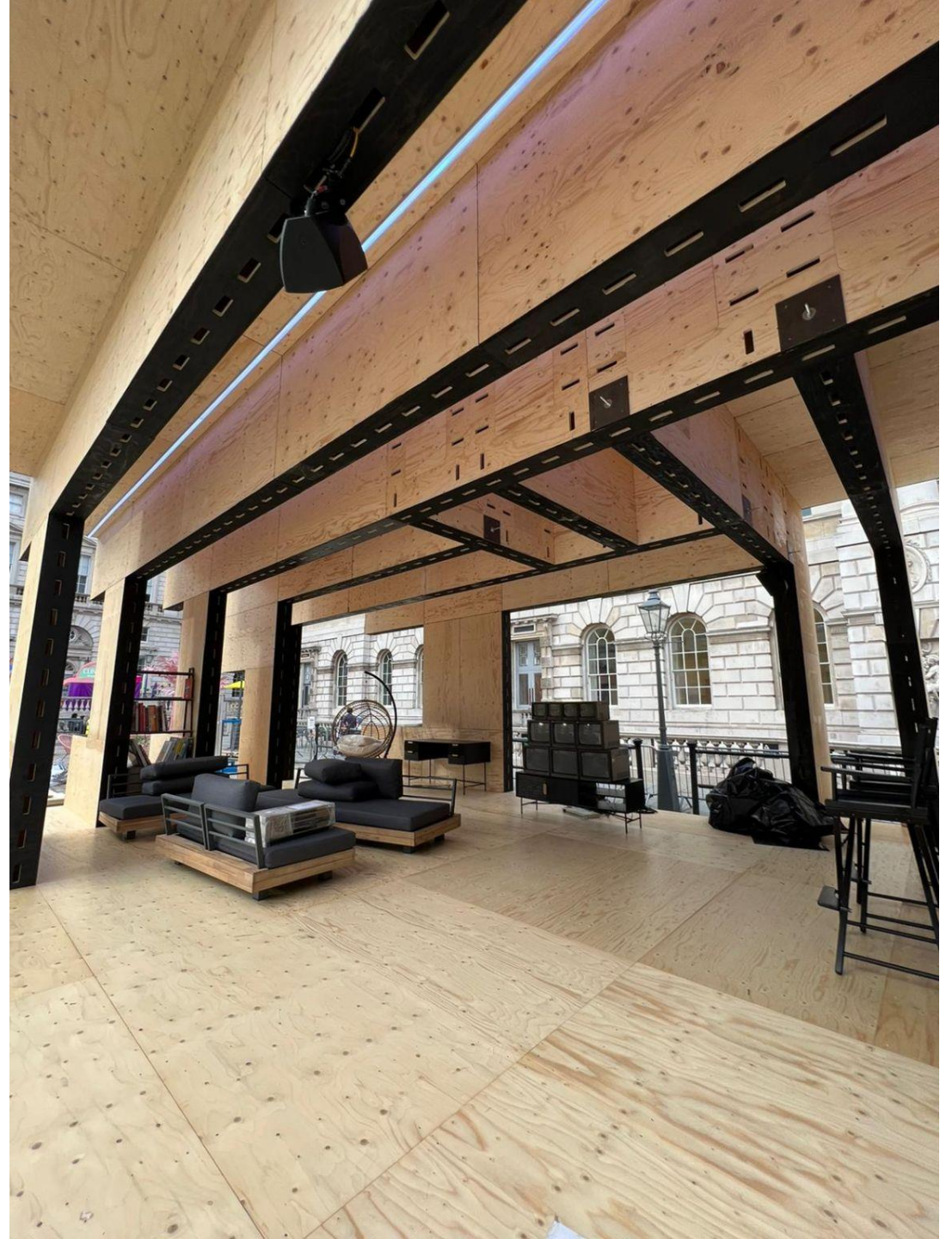


Fig. 9 Test 2 – support spanning beam Somerset House structure – THIS BRIGHT LAND



Fig. 10 Cable within block to provide tensile capacity at bottom of the beam

**Dis- and re-assembly
= Dry connections**





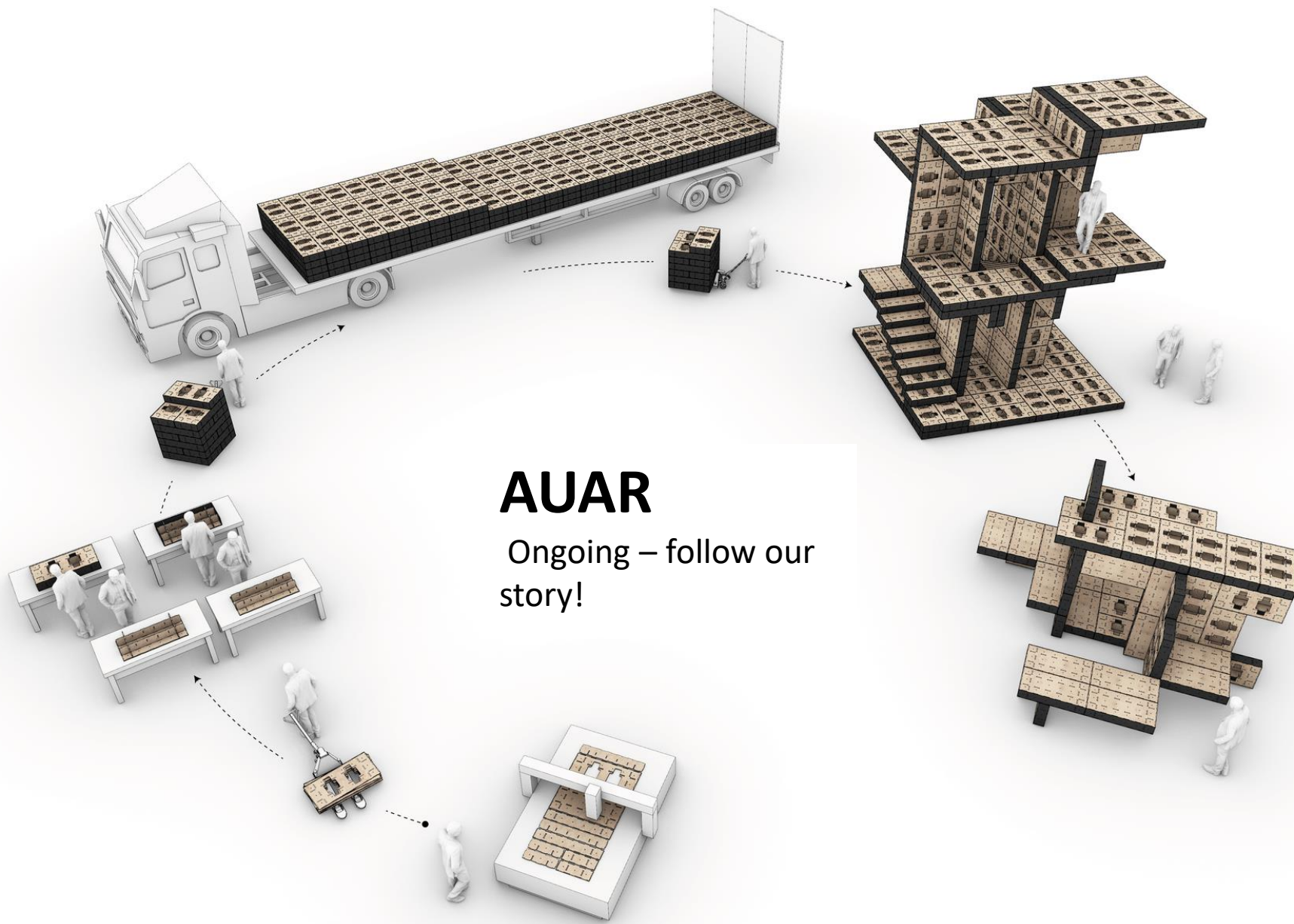
A Lego-like approach to building houses, showcased in Hackney, could be pivotal in helping to rethink how we address the global housing crisis.



AUAR House Block







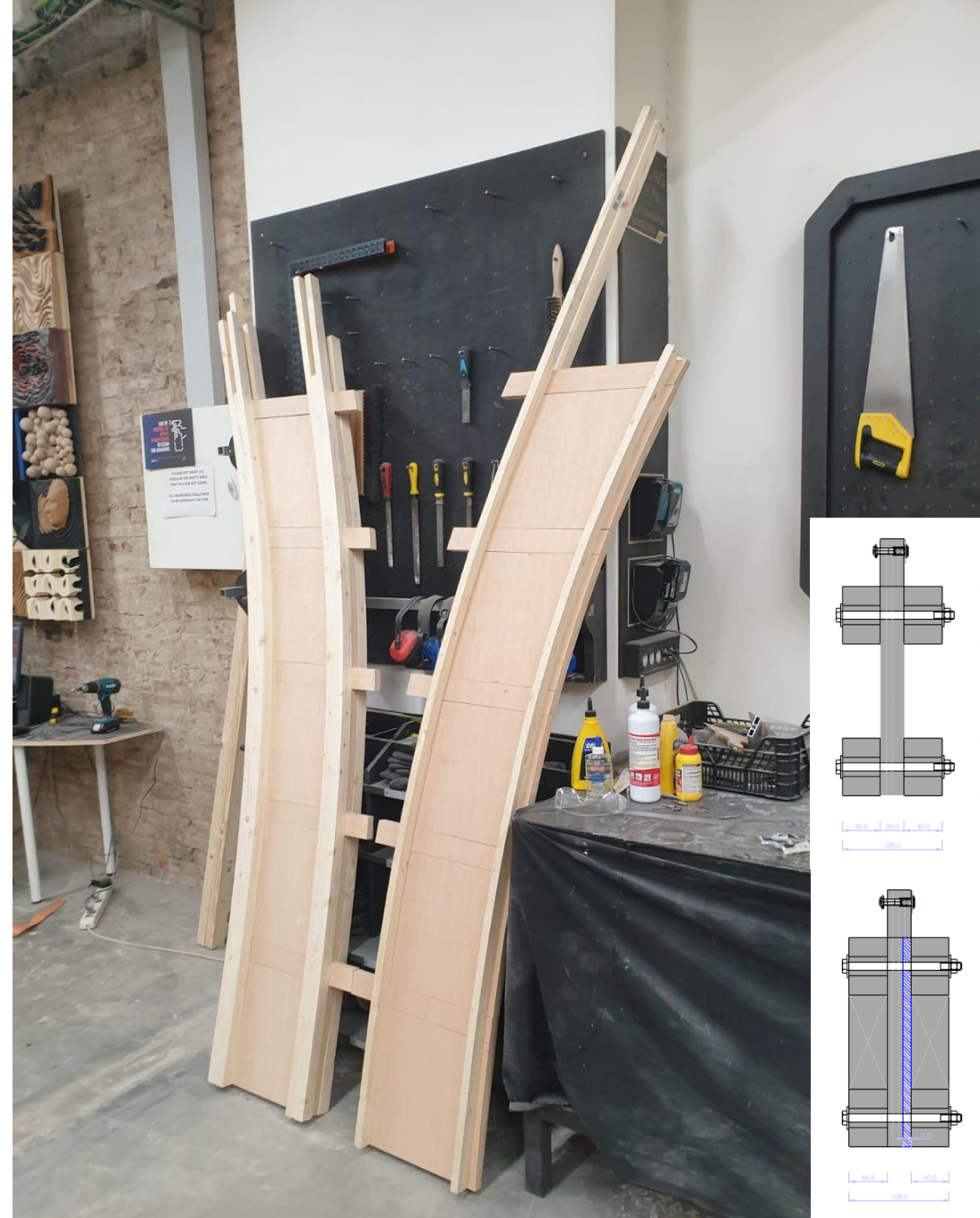
AUAR

Ongoing – follow our story!

2. LIFE LONG –

**exploring use + reuse of window
frames**

URBiNAT | Urban Innovative and Inclusive Nature
Nature-Based Solutions (NBS)
Greenhouse Sofia



Prototyping different ways of rib build-up. STR + FAB



Prototyping a rib using the recycled window frames



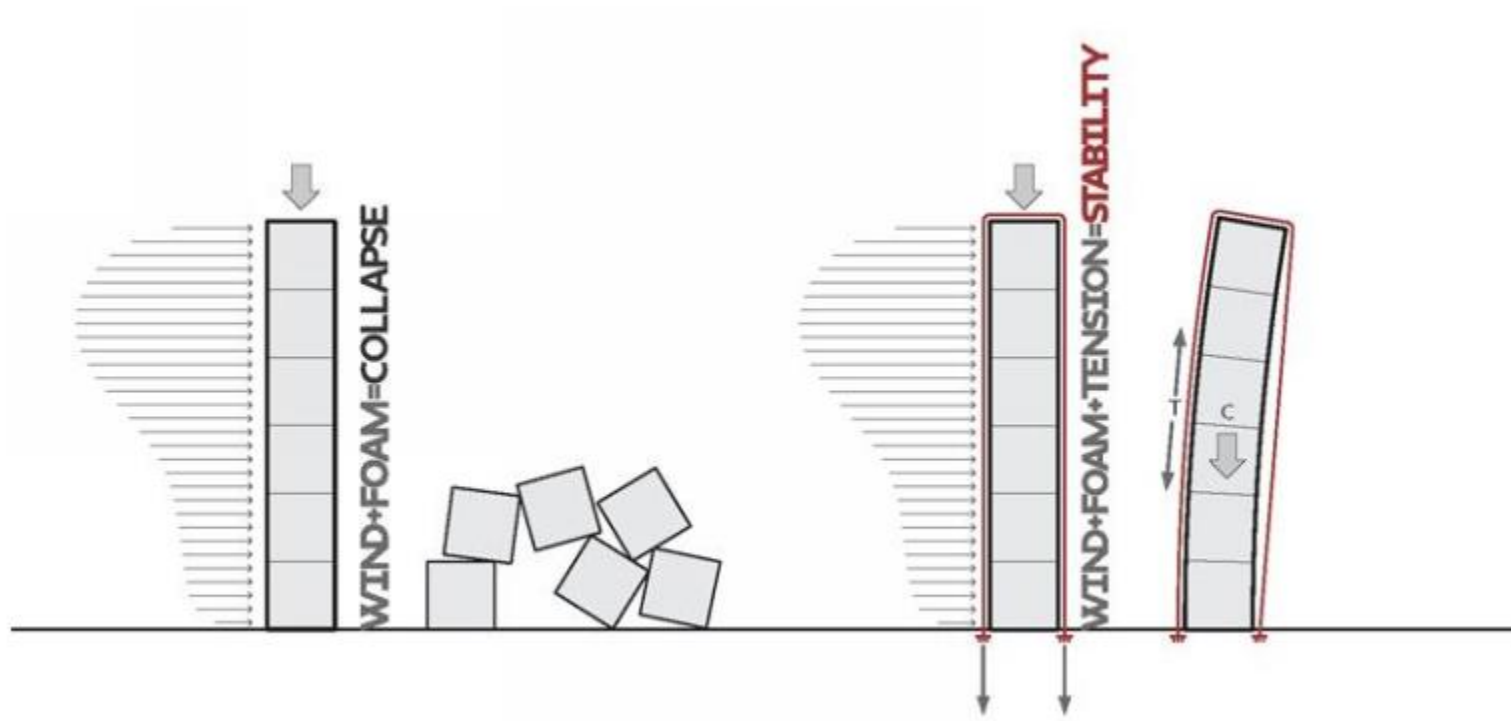
Bespoke timber I section + recycled window frame Just need a little more time!

3. LIFE LONG –

exploring the power of the cable



Matter Design – Periscope tower

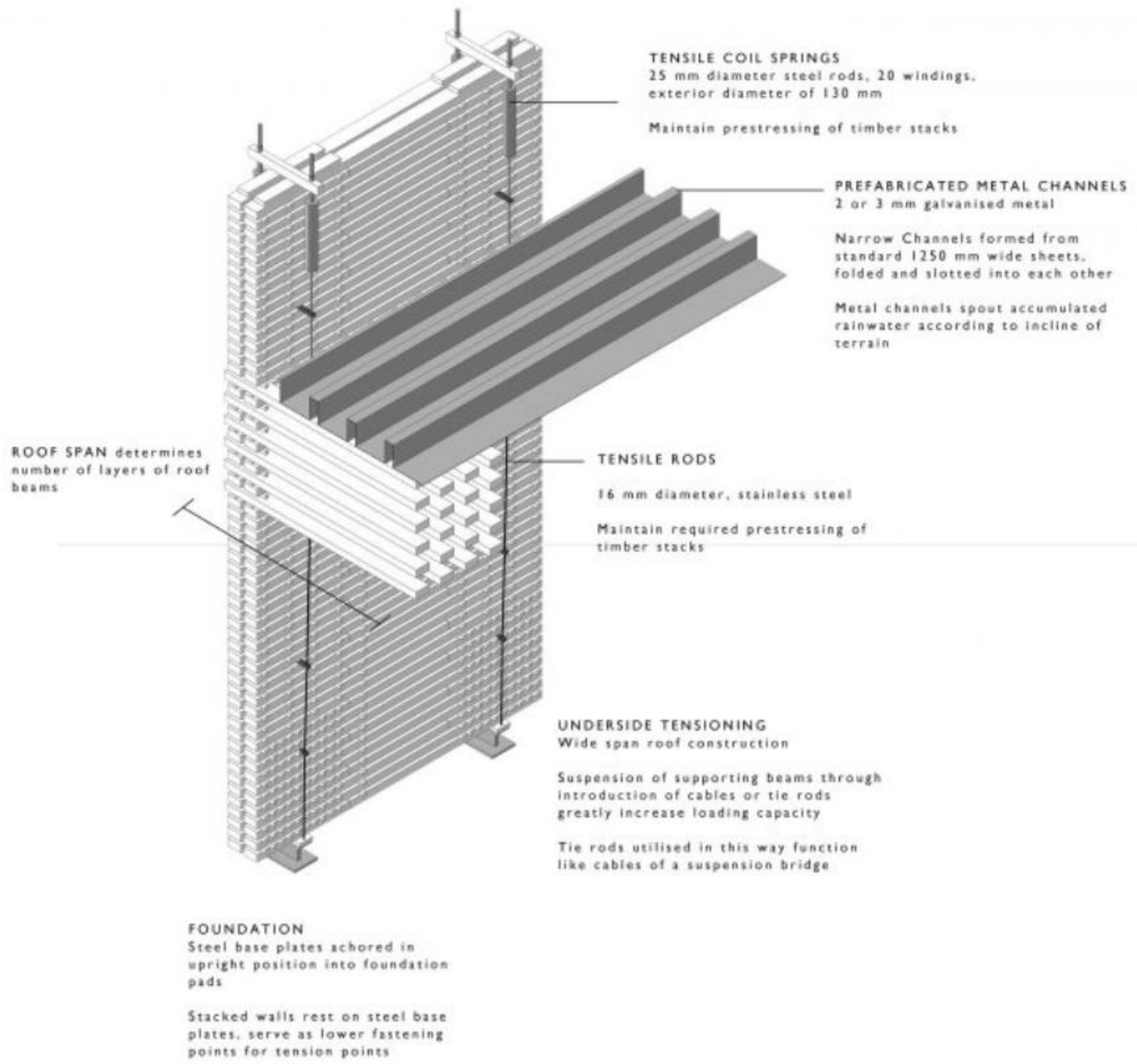


Structural cable principle



Peter Zumthor

ROOF SPAN determines number of layers of roof beams





Peckham – Franks Bar
Practice Architects





Overtreders W constructs hotel cabin from locally sourced materials secured with straps

Truss to XXX



Truss on 1 plane Working on tension connected by ratchet belts



1_ Notch



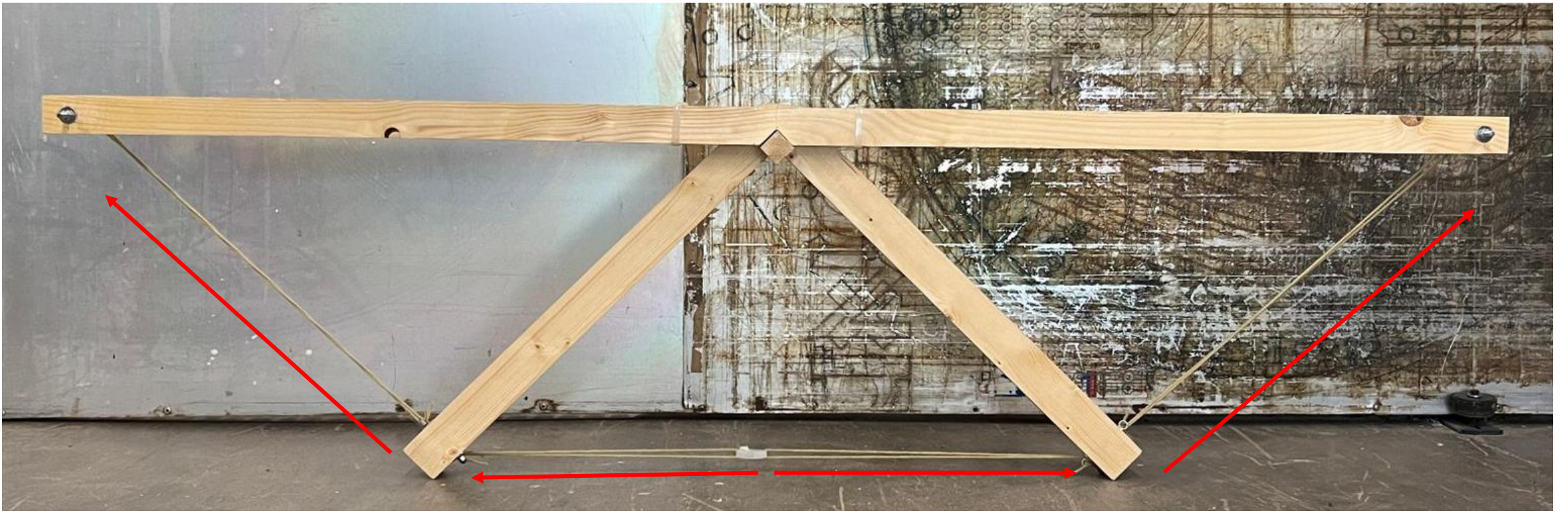
2_ Shear key



3_ Belt Tie



Packing straps, ratchet belts
v



Shear key



Zip tie



Metal threaded rod

Truss Timber+Bricks



Dowel functioning as a shear key

Ball bearings

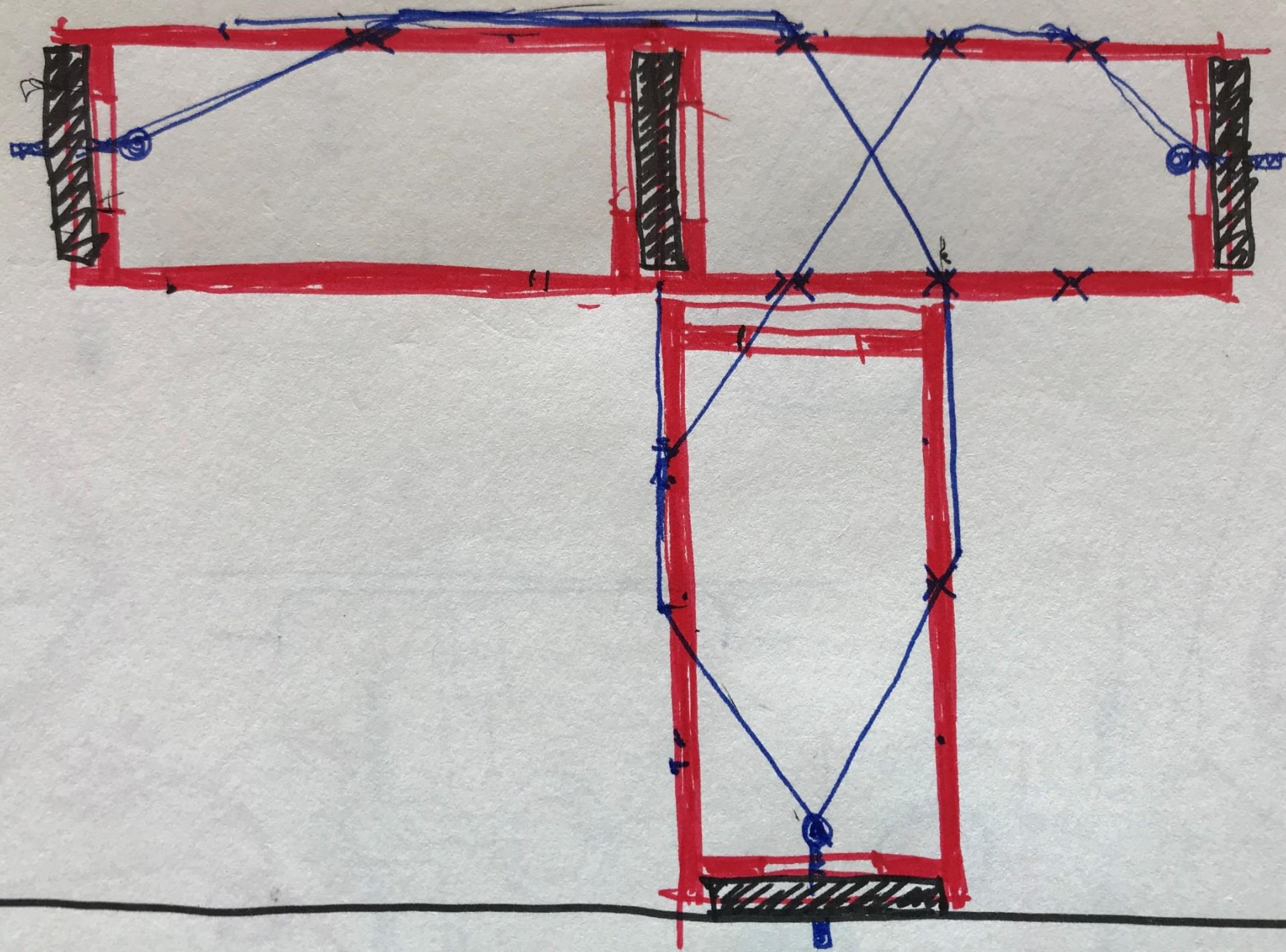


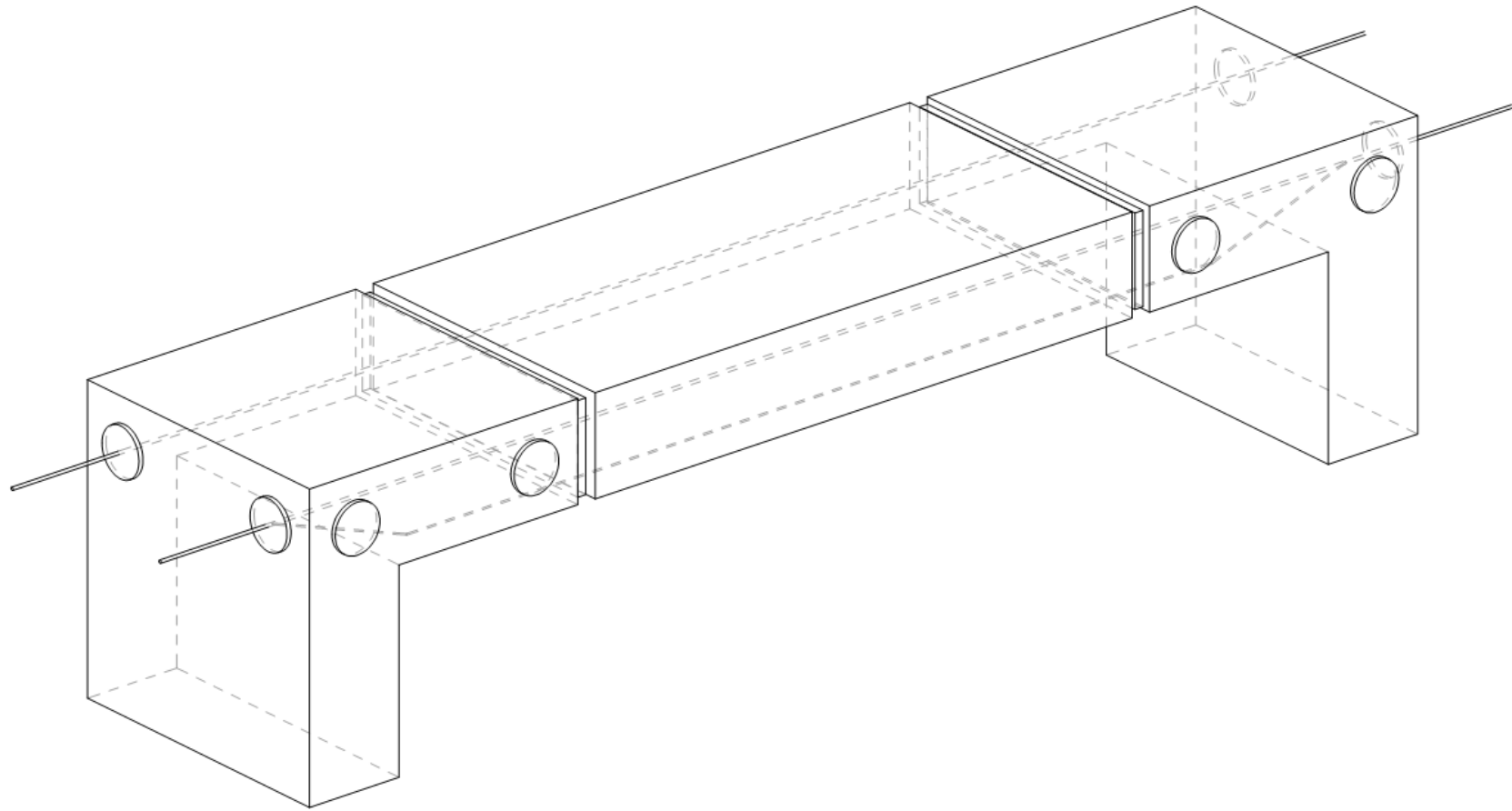
CONNECTION

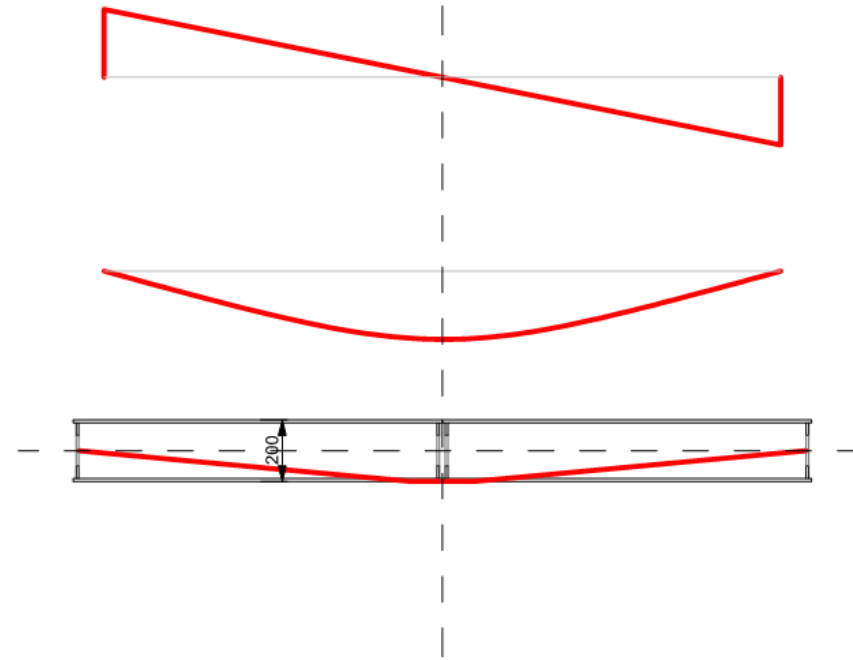
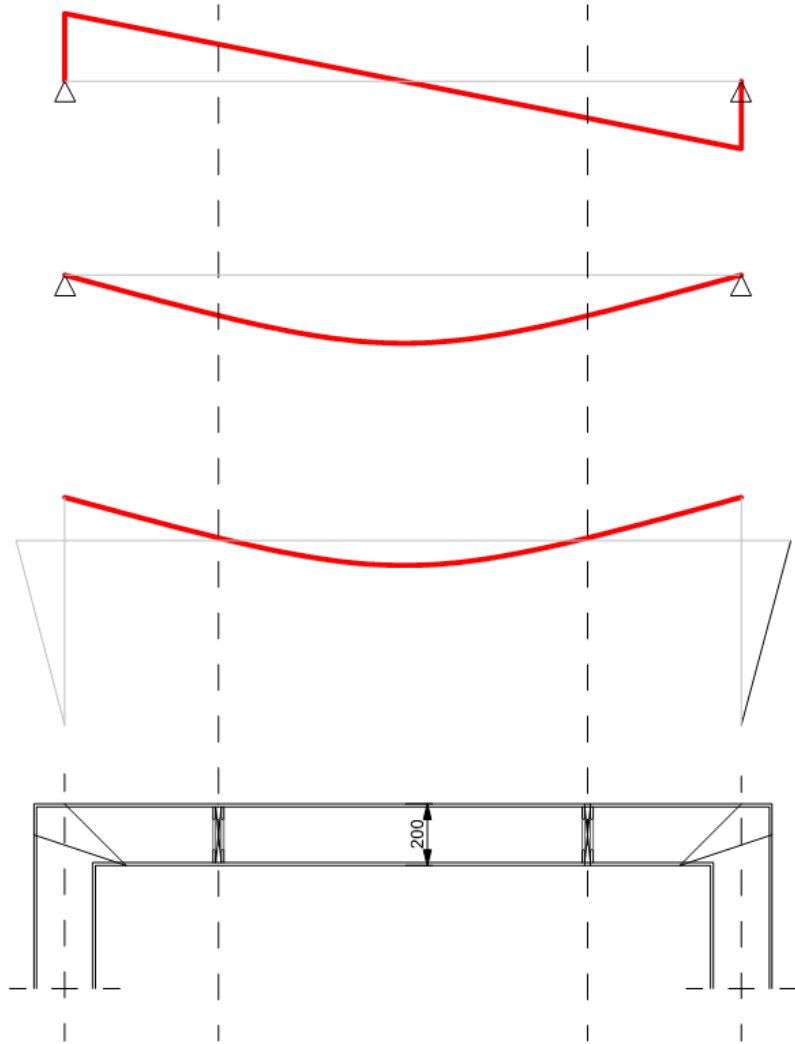
- Dry connections to be able to reuse
- Dry structural enhanced connections
- Learning from toys
- Hands on model making



Tom Westwood - Waught Thistleton

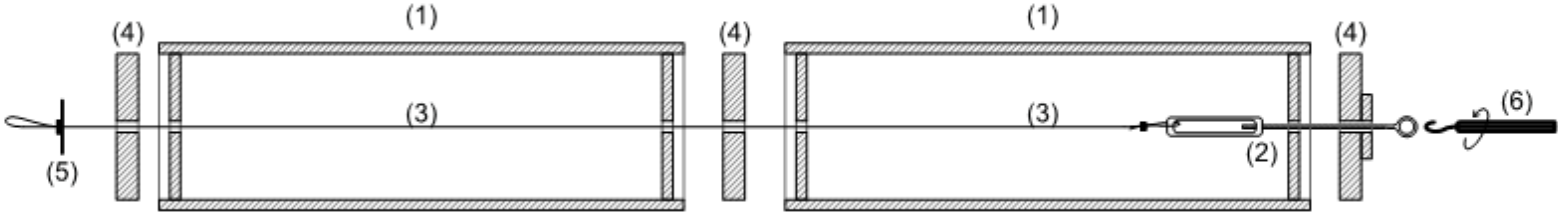






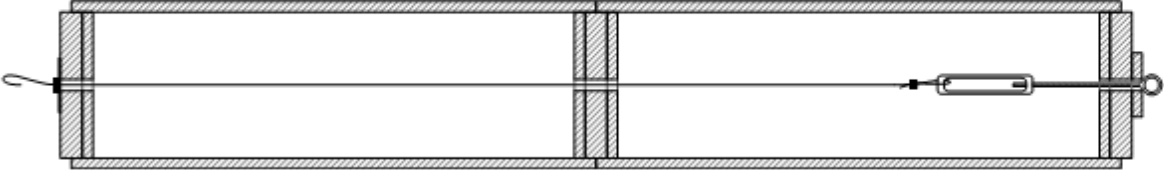
Structural diagram

TWO ELEMENTS
PRIOR TO TENSIONING



(1) CNC Cut plywood element, (2) Tension screw, (3) Tension cable, (4) Shear key, (5) Crimp, (6) Tensioning tool

TWO ELEMENTS
POST-TENSIONED











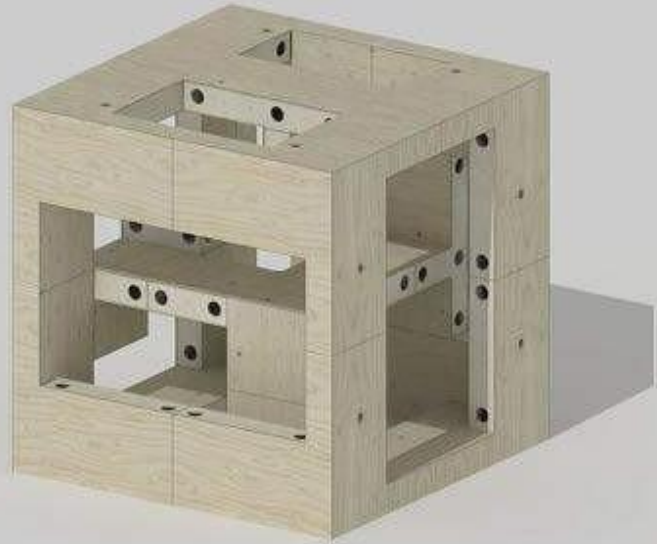
Thinktank.

10 days –
collaborative
thinking +
planting seed for
relevant
discussion about
flexible housing
system design

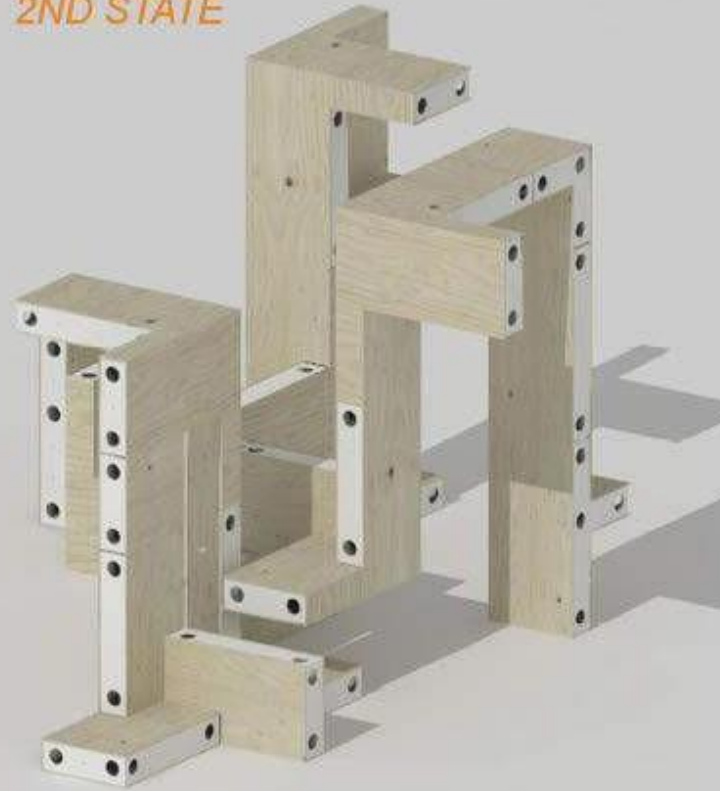


From London to Kopenhagen

1ST STATE



2ND STATE





Working with the future. Life long design strategies.

Manja van de Worp
IABSEE