



The traditional material wood has a bright future – and fascination

Keynote by Katharina Lehmann

Wood Policy and Innovation Workshop
Brussels, 7 Nov 2024



Katharina Lehmann

has headed the leading Swiss timber construction and timber industry company Blumer Lehmann, headquartered in Gossau SG and with locations in Germany, Austria and Luxembourg, since 1996. Born in 1972, Katharina Lehmann studied business administration at the University of St. Gallen HSG. She is CEO and Delegate of the Board of Directors of the fifth-generation family business, which will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2025.

With her companies, Katharina Lehmann is active along the entire Swiss timber value chain - from the sawmill to the production of sawn timber, the utilisation of waste wood for heat and electricity and the use of wood in construction. Traditional craftsmanship is combined with state-of-the-art technology and innovative production methods. One of Blumer Lehmann's specialities is modular or free-form buildings, which are often created in collaboration with renowned architects in Switzerland and abroad.

In addition to managing Blumer Lehmann, Katharina Lehmann is committed to the sustainable management of tropical forests and sits on various boards of directors of construction-related companies. As President of the Swiss Wood Sink Association, she is also committed to recognising the CO2-reducing effect of wood production and use and is involved in various committees for construction and digitalisation processes and business-friendly framework conditions.



Faszination Holz

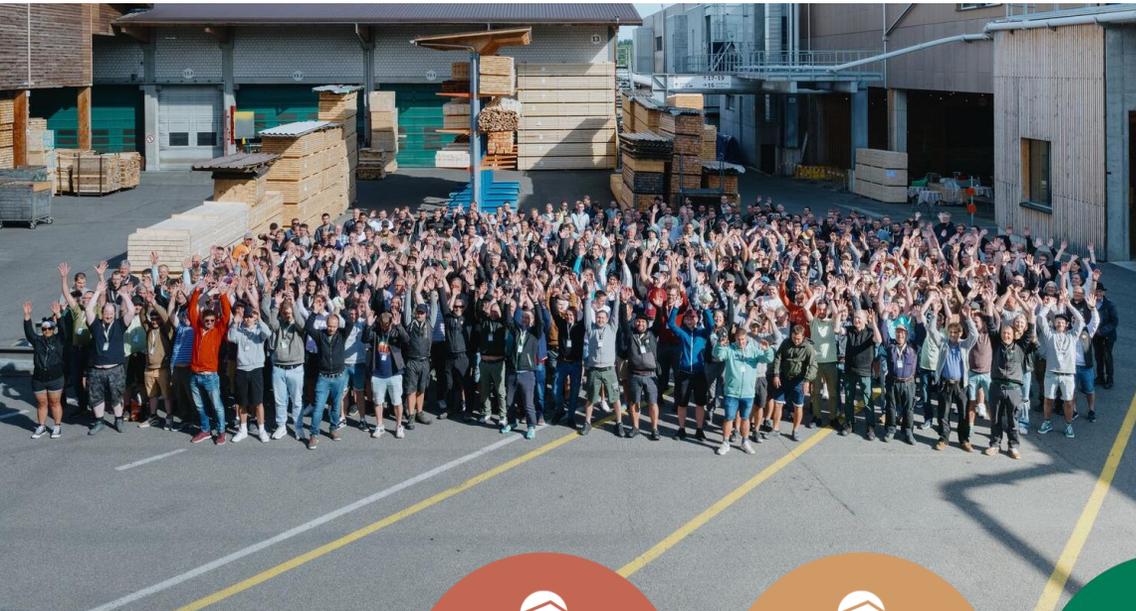
↳ blumer-lehmann.com



Blumer
Lehmann



We are Blumer Lehmann – since 1875



Neugierig
offen für Neues
transparent
konstruktiv
reflektiert



Unternehmerisch
kompetent
zukunftsgerichtet
innovativ
nutzenorientiert



Menschlich
wertschätzend
respektvoll
vertrauend
verbunden
familiär
authentisch



Ambitioniert
fasziniert
zielgerichtet
motiviert
leidenschaftlich



Bewusst
verantwortungsbewusst
eigenverantwortlich
verlässlich
sozial



Ab 2026

Steinau a.d. Straße (DE)

Produktion Holz- und Modulbau

Großenlüder (DE)

Produktion Holz- und Modulbau

Grafschaft (DE)

Verkauf | Planung
Holz- und Modulbau

Grevenmacher (LU)

Verkauf | Planung
Holz- und Modulbau

Bad Rappenau (DE)

Service | Unterhalt Silotechnik

Klosterlechfeld (DE)

Verkauf | Produktion
Silo- und Soletechnik

Gossau (CH)

Hauptsitz

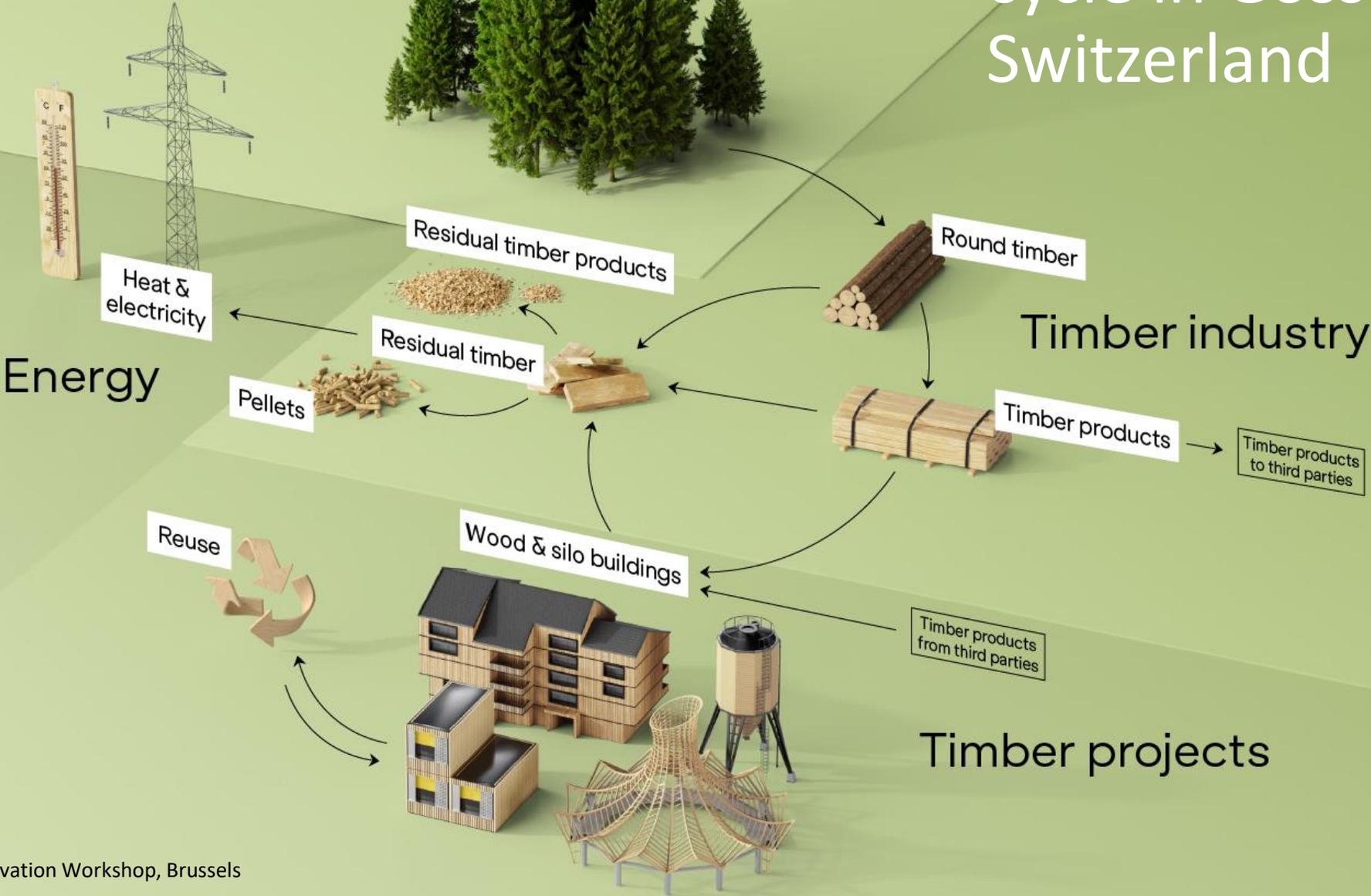
Gland (CH)

Verkauf
Holz- und Modulbau

Alberschwende (AT)

oa.sys: Verkauf | Planung und
Produktion | Holzbau

Our wooden life cycle in Gossau, Switzerland



Timber constructions – an important part of a sustainable development of the construction industry



yesterday



today



tomorrow



2000

2024

Timber constructions – an important part of a sustainable development of the construction industry



- Products
- Process
- People
- Innovation
- Information | Building codes & standards

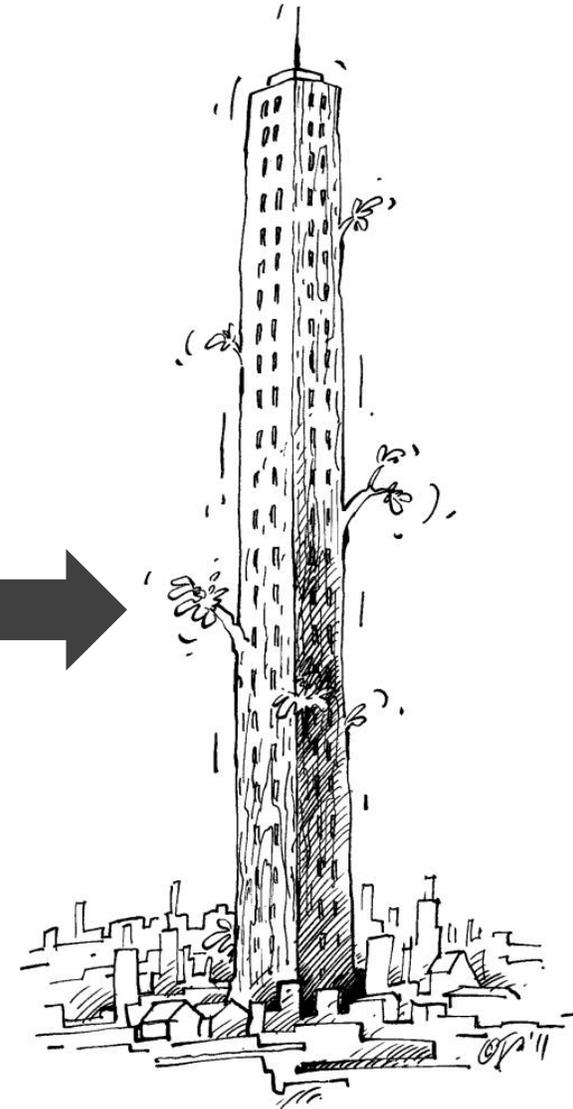


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Wood products as lever to decarbonise the built environment

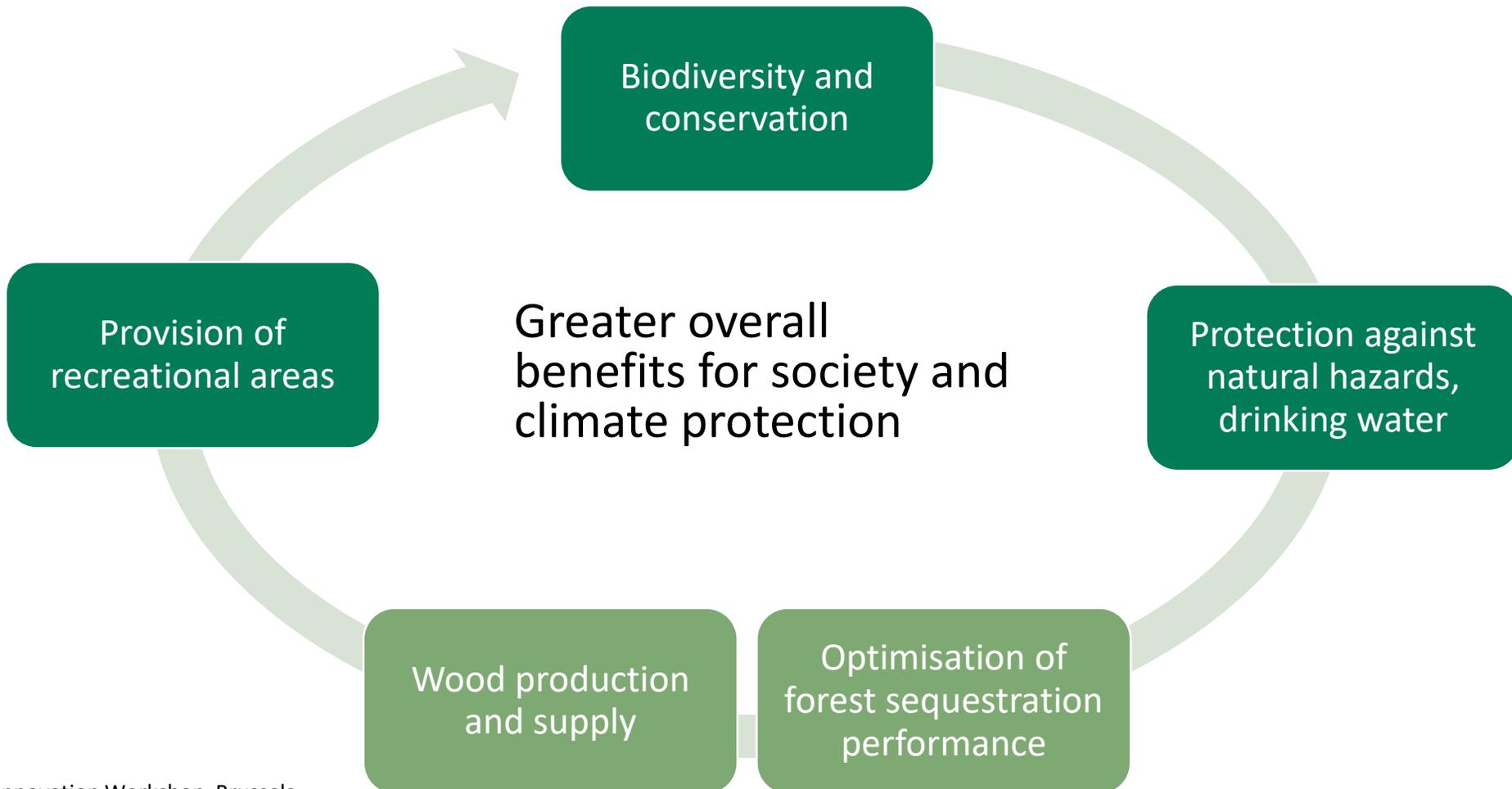
serial and modular construction



Wood products as lever to
decarbonise the built environment

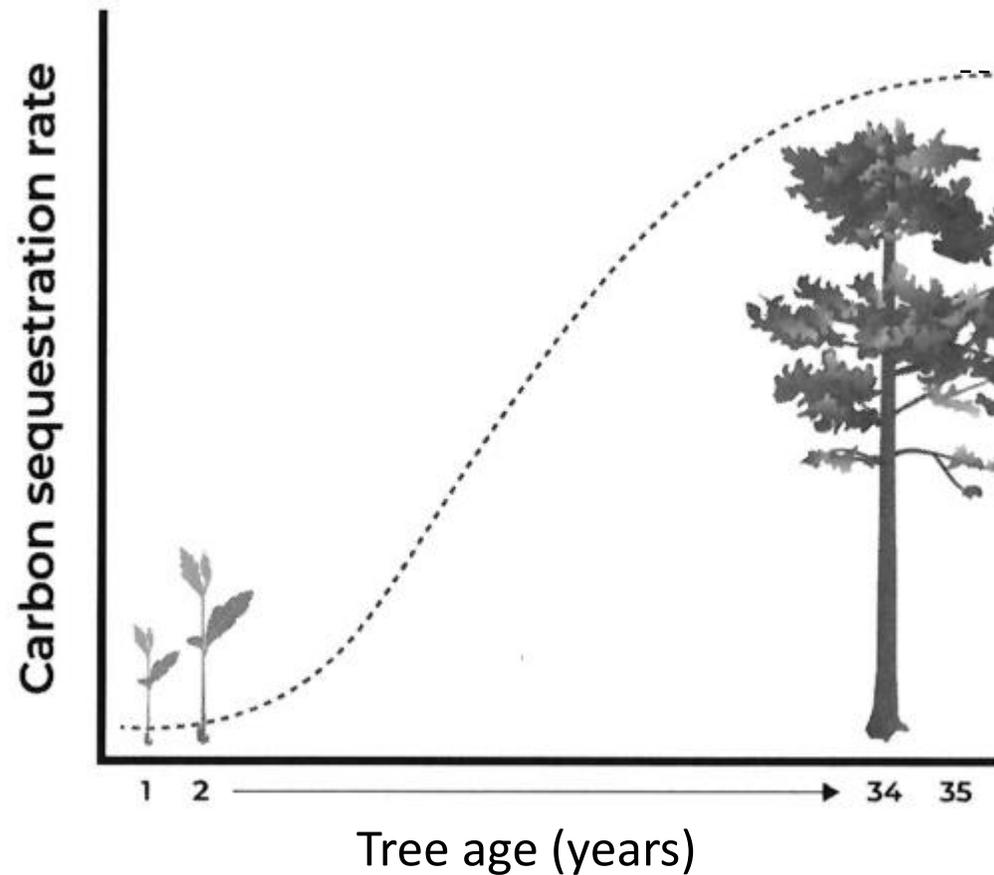
⇒ Sustainable wood-based value chain

Only a managed forest can deliver its full sustainable performance!





Sustainable forest management today

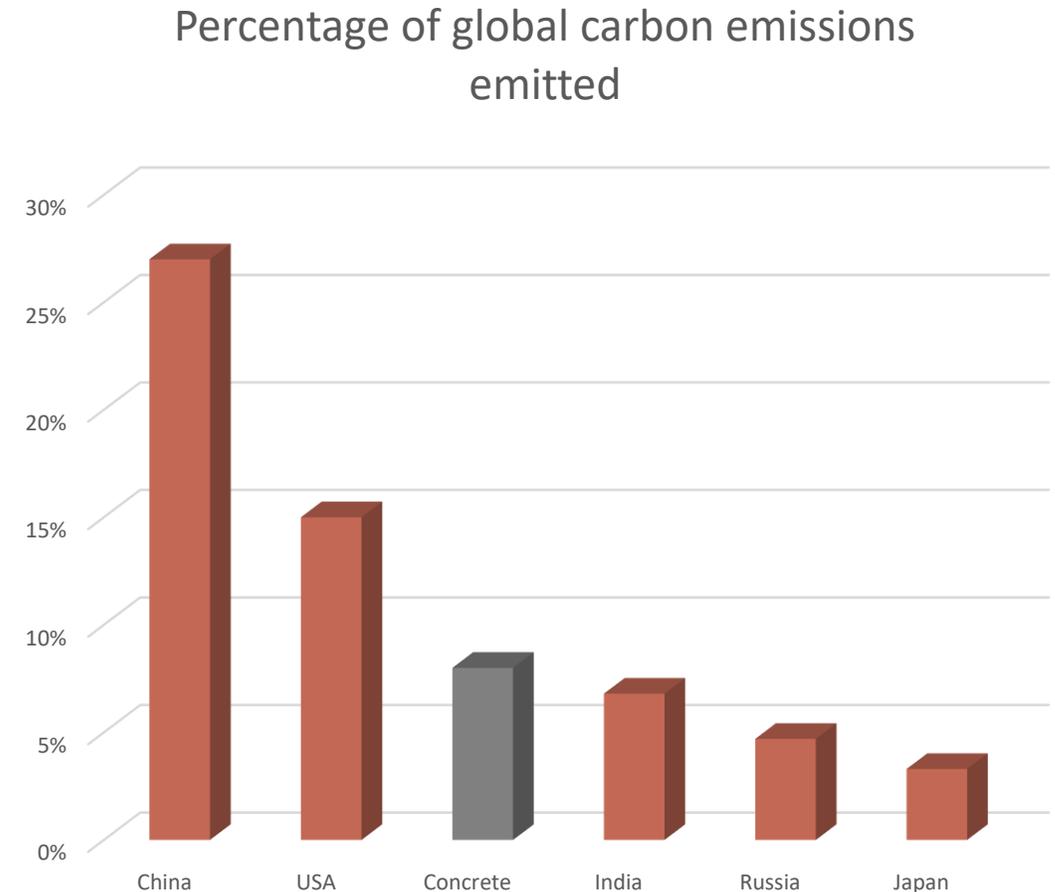


Decreasing sequestration capacities
=> Forests as «full vacuum cleaner bag»



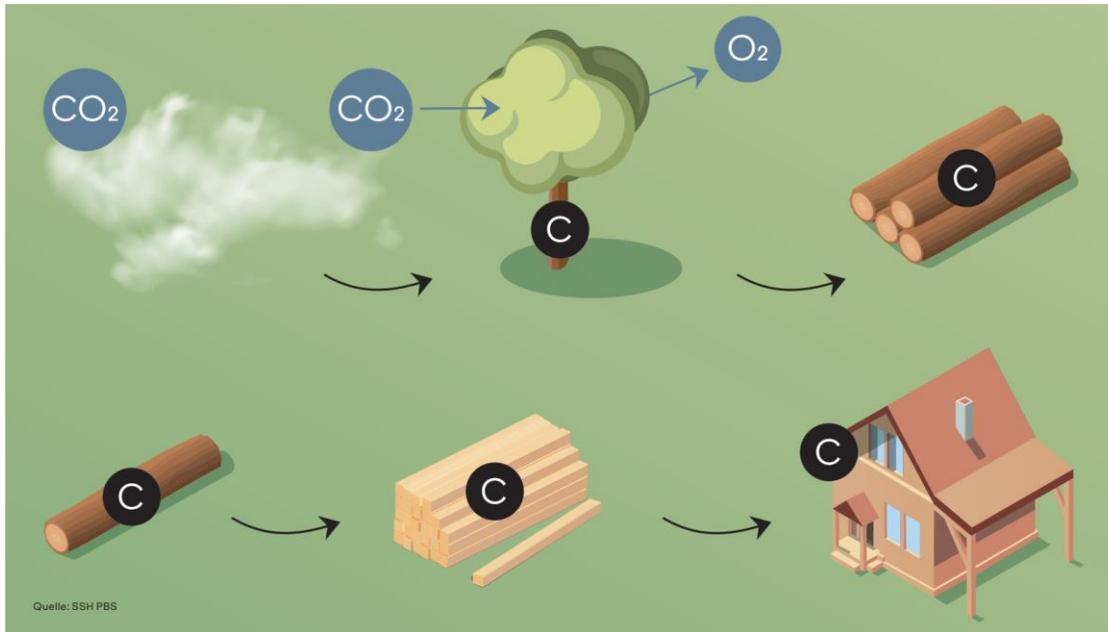
Wood supply as key factor

- Optimisation of forest sequestration performance
- Increase of forest “fitness” (climate resistance)
- **long-life wood products – long-term CO₂ storage.**
- Substitution of fossil energy, heating fuels, insulation
- Substitution of building materials with high CO₂ emissions
- Climate positive buildings (as a vision!)





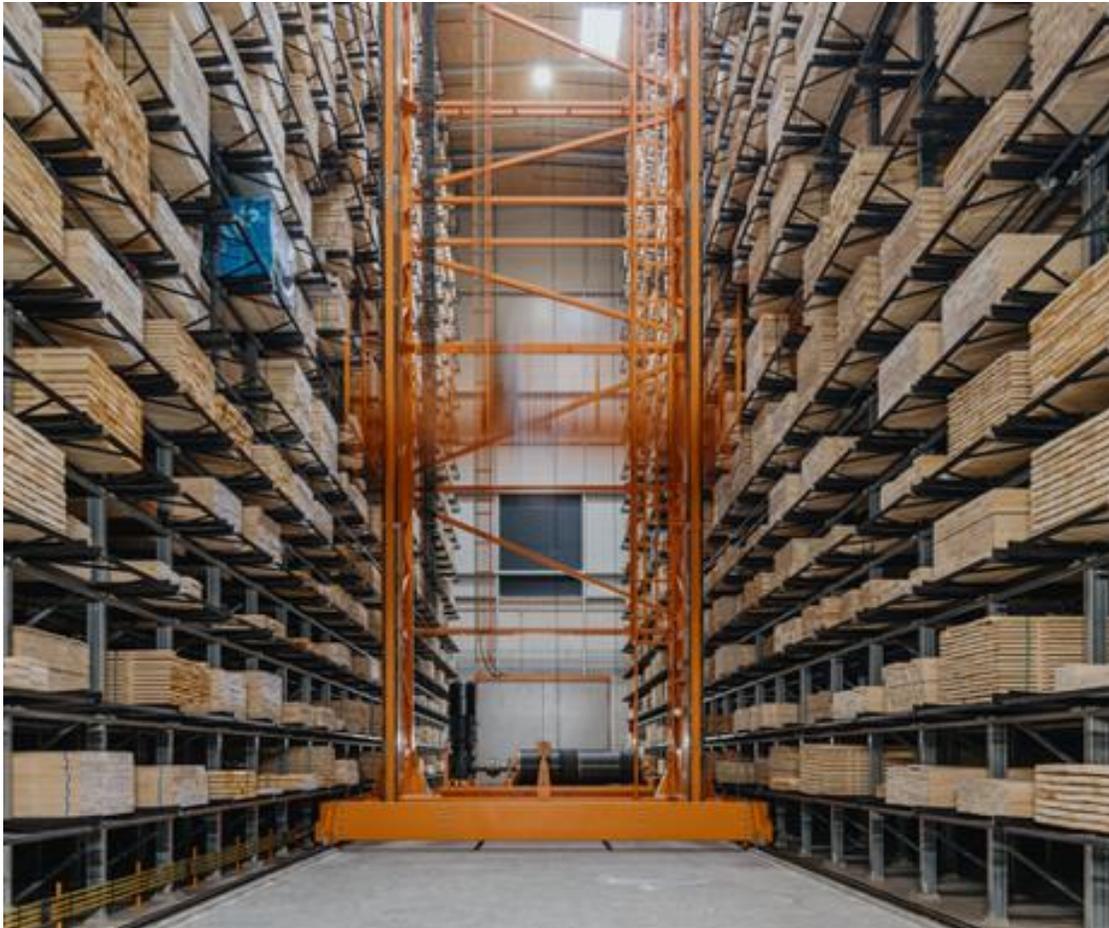
Circular economy \leftrightarrow CO₂



1st priority **STORAGE EXTENSION:**
Increasing the inflow of **long-life**
wood products into the system

2nd priority **STORAGE PROLONGING:**
=> re-use concepts

Timber Industry: transformation to long lasting timber products



- Semi-finished products
- For construction industry: mainly spruce/fir
- Reliable, industrialised
- Compliant with regulations and standards
- Long life cycle
- Circular/demountable
- Today not (yet/everywhere) necessary: dematerialised

Timber construction today:

«Freeform» ----- «Standard»



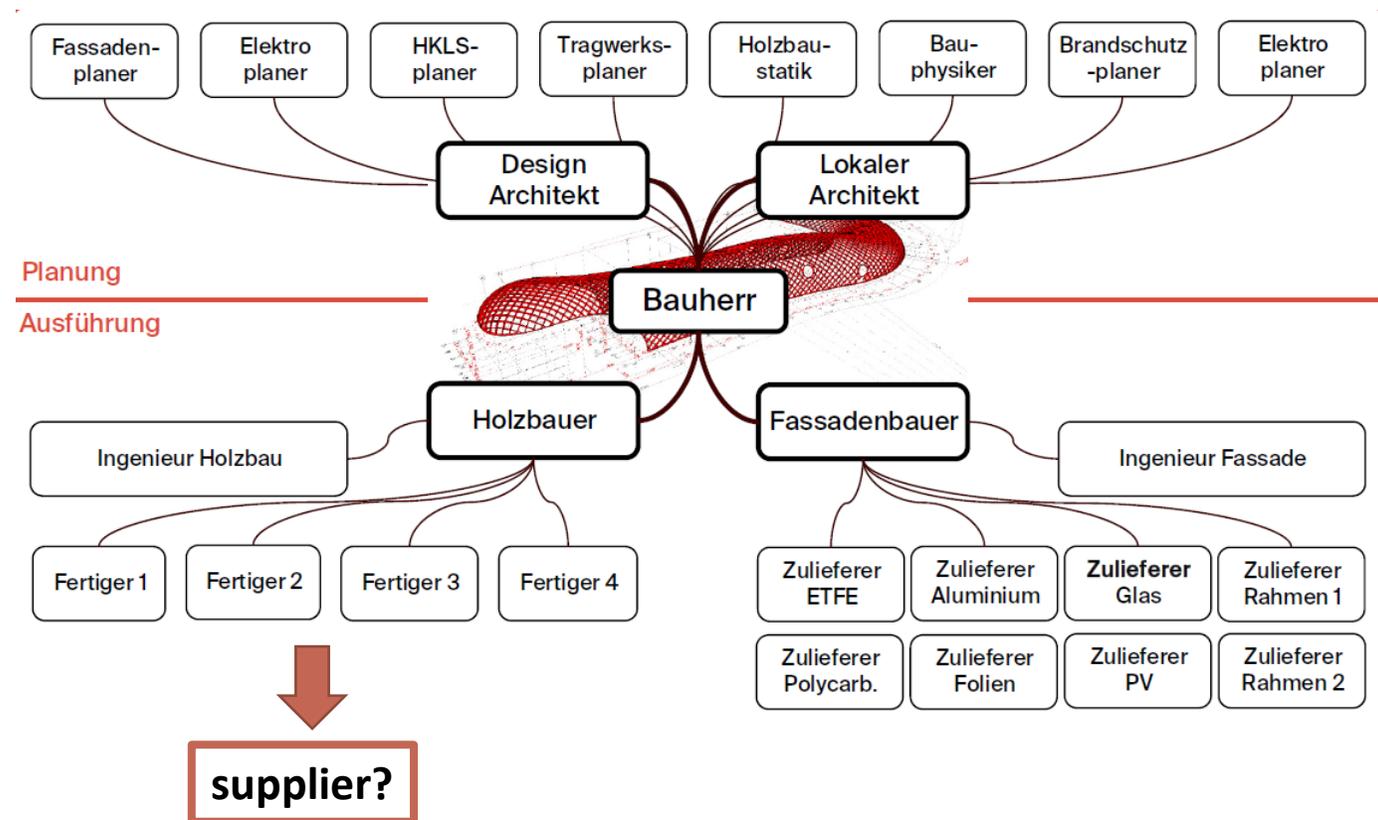
Free Form constructions



Integrated processes Design | Engineering | Execution



- => interplay of disciplines
- => process-based work
- => reliable responsibilities

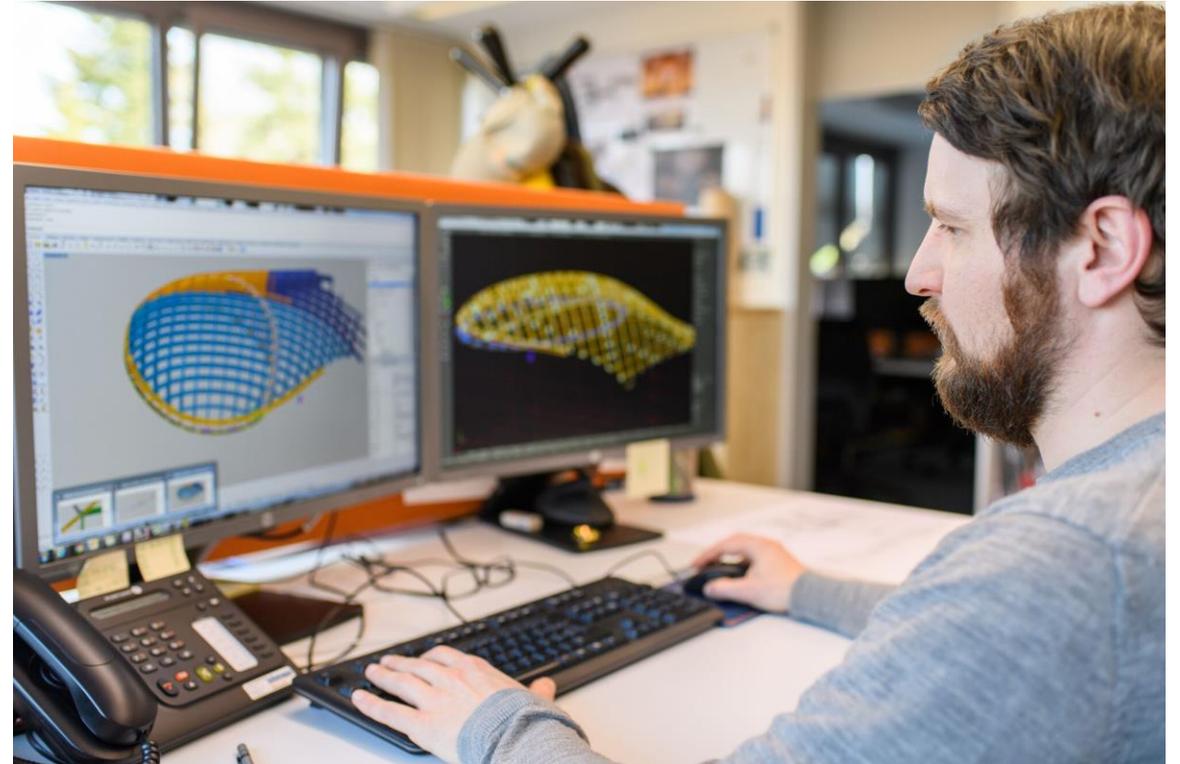




The process of timber construction

Planning and production | design-build

- IT-supported/ Data-based
- New roles, tasks, interfaces
- Collaborative and no longer sequential
- Computational design in combination with material/machine data
- Industrial production and automated assembling









South-Korea



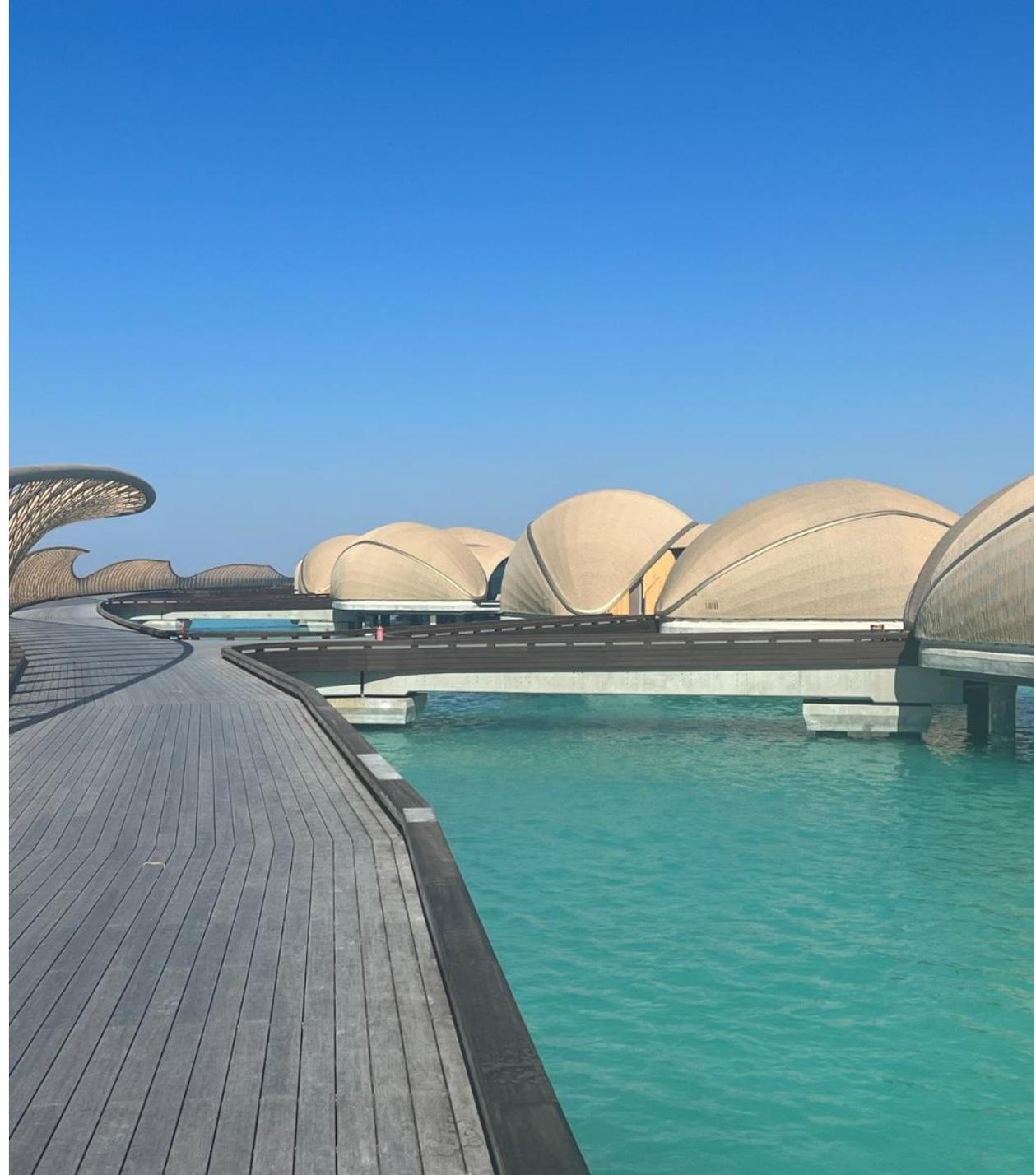
Saudi-Arabia













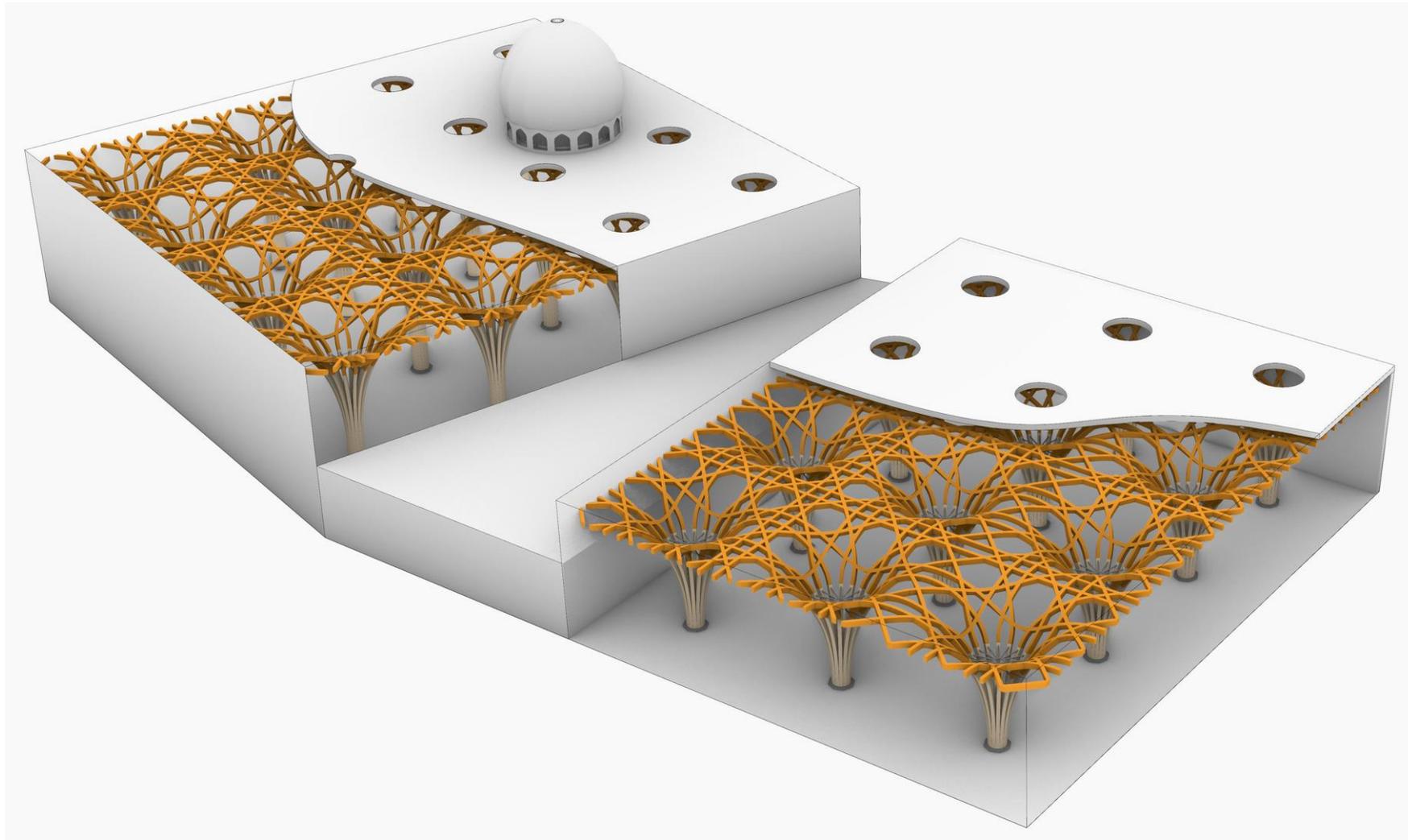
WISDOM
↓





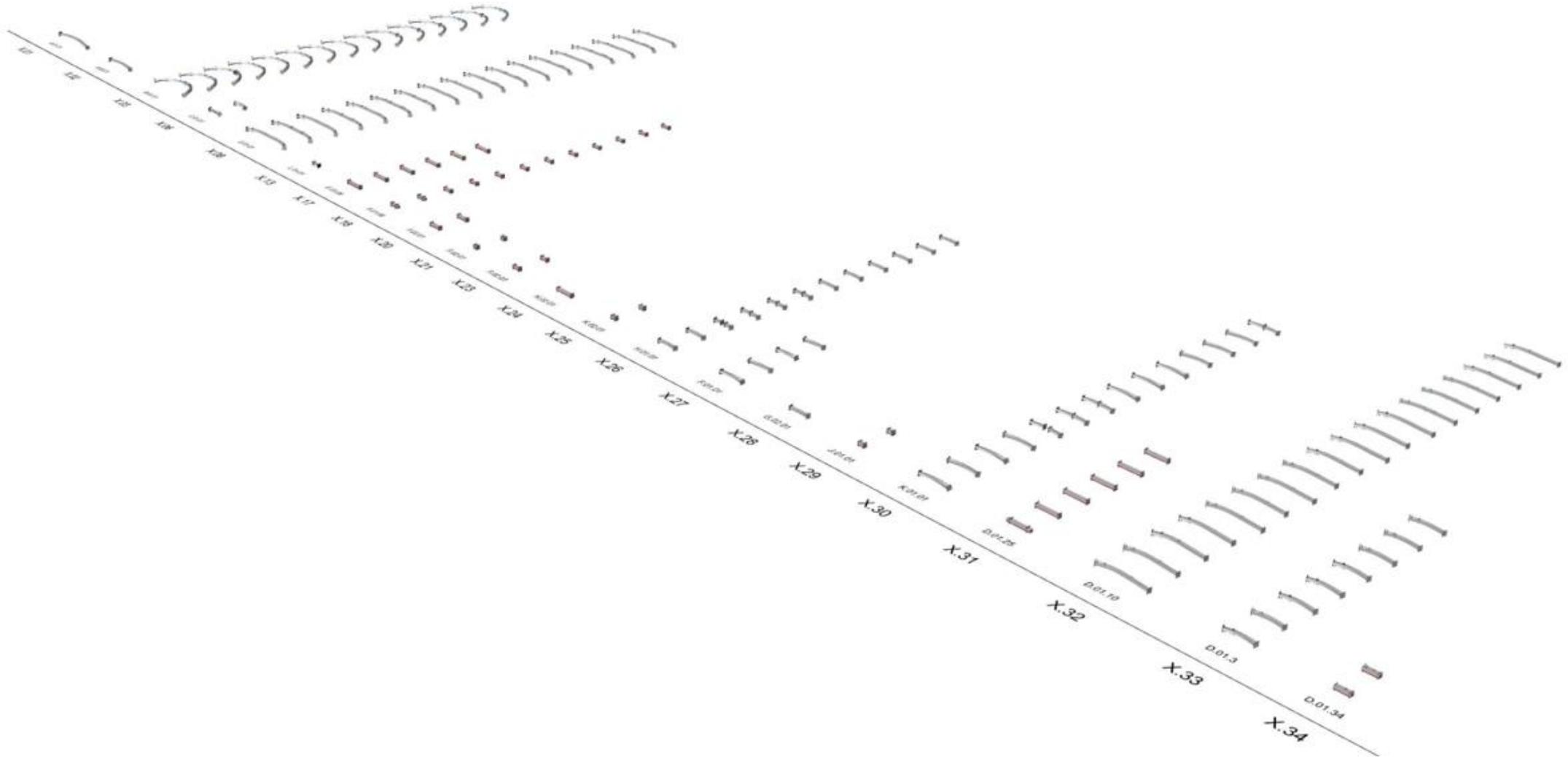


300 free formed beams, described in the model

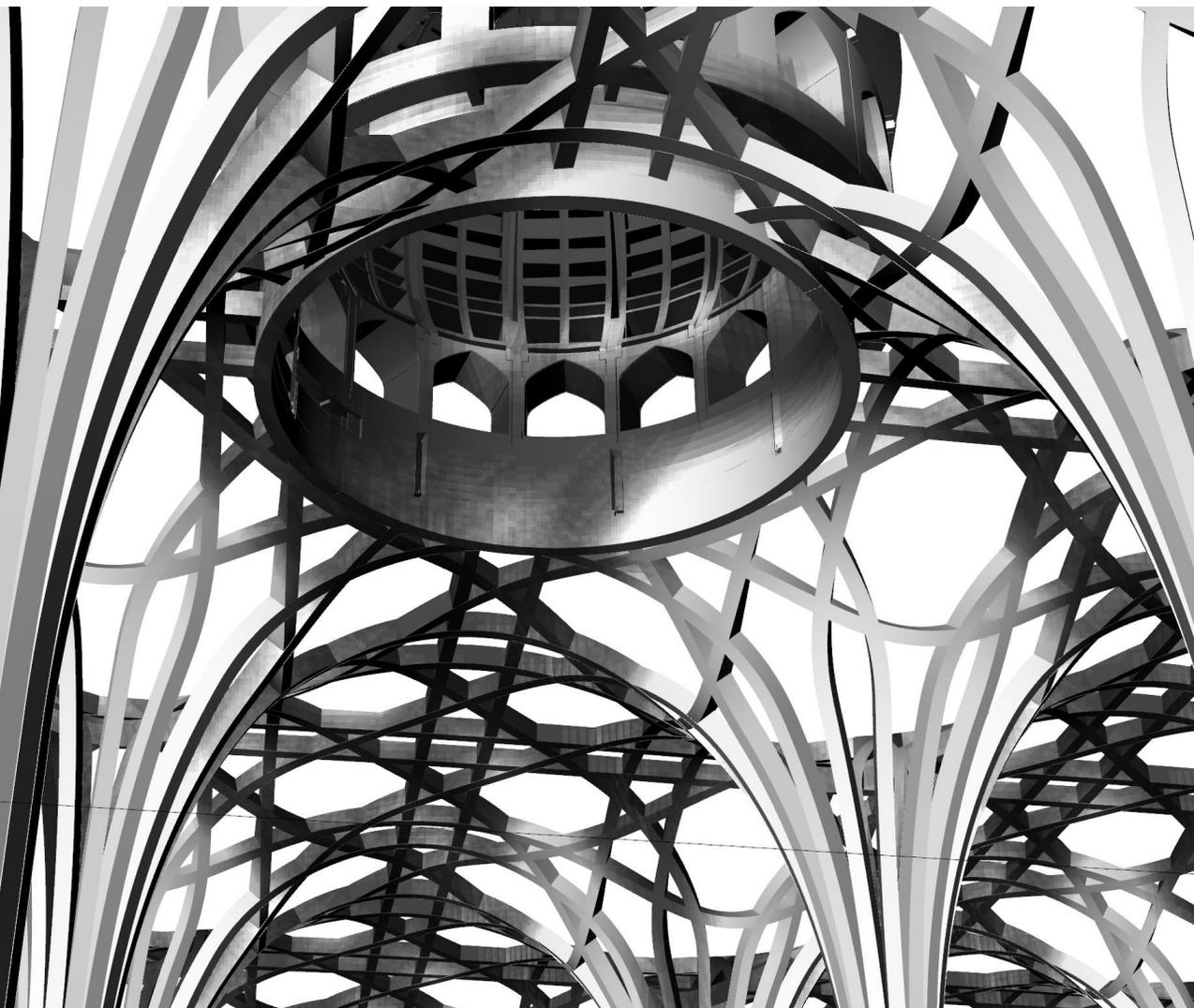




300 beams – some of them are the same

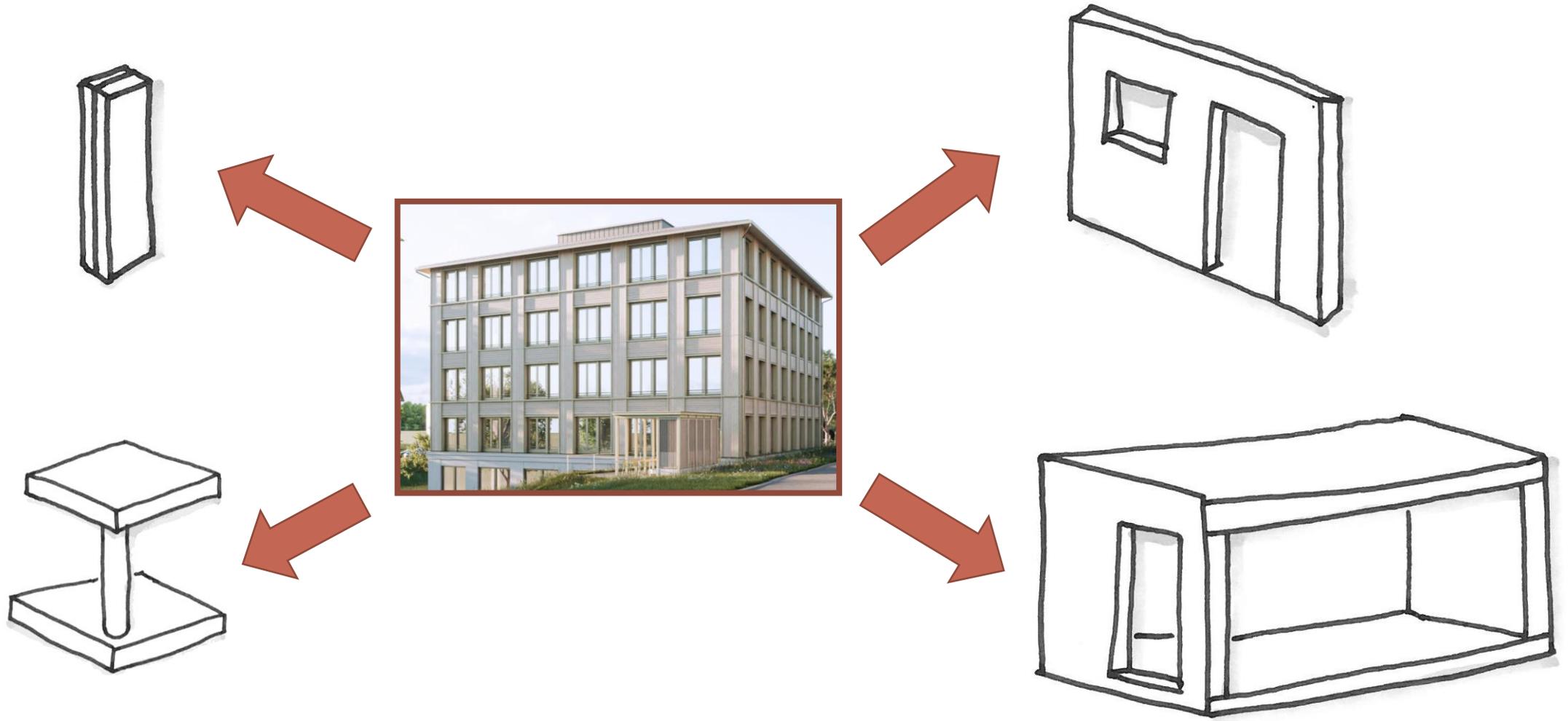


Design-Build





Timber constructions are prefabricated





Conversion, extension, renovation





Residential buildings



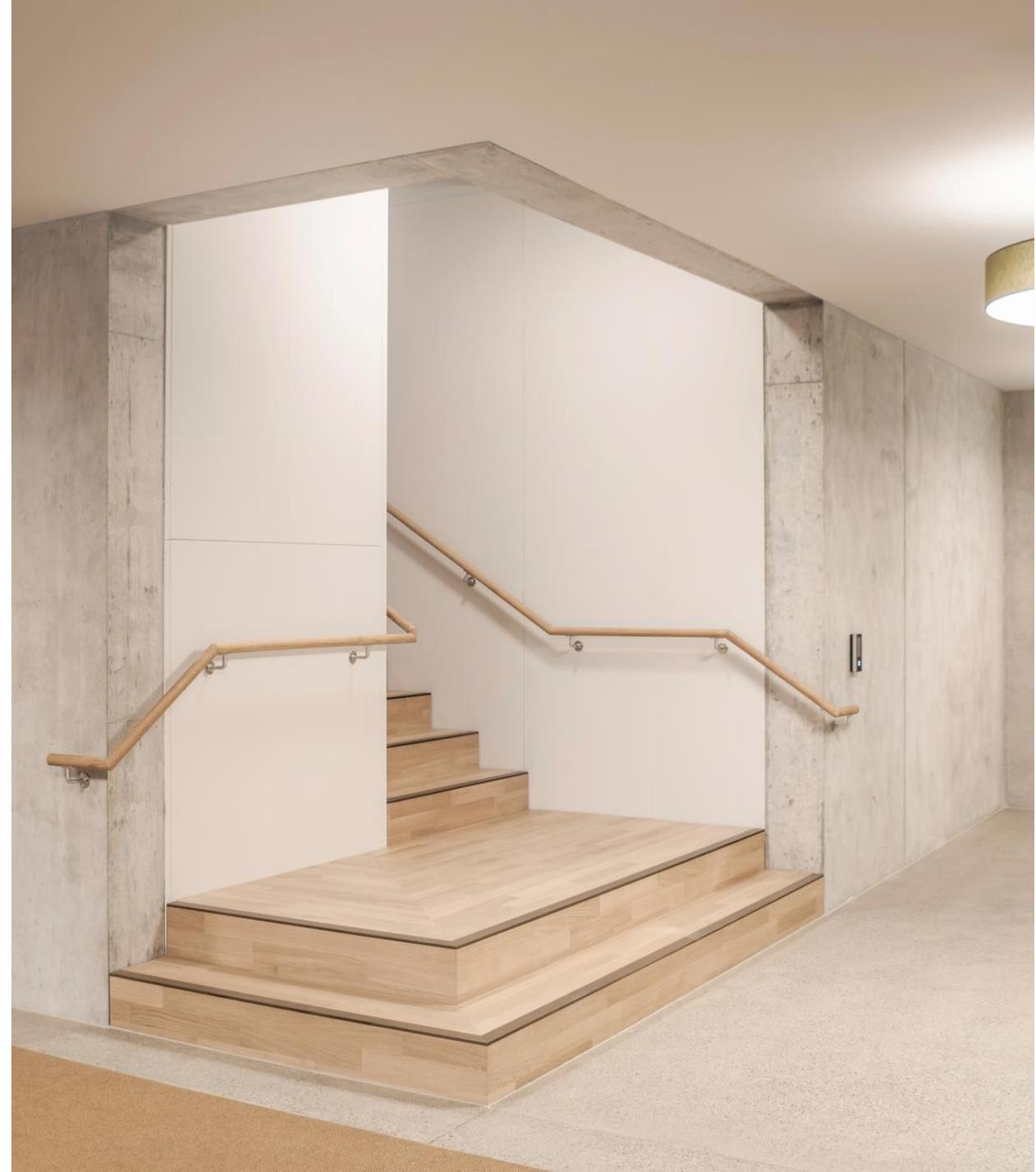


Public buildings



Health care buildings







Office buildings



Office buildings

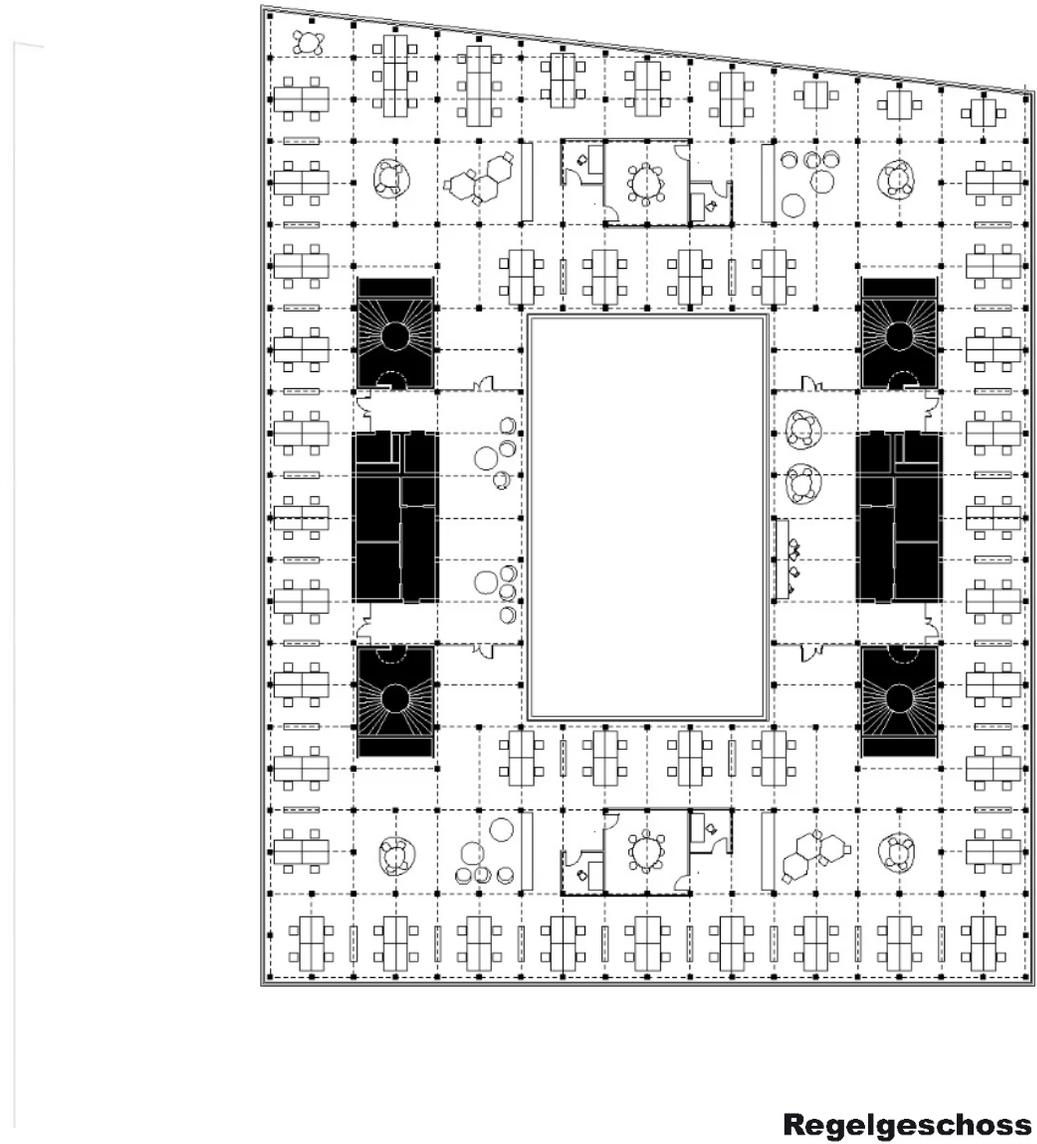
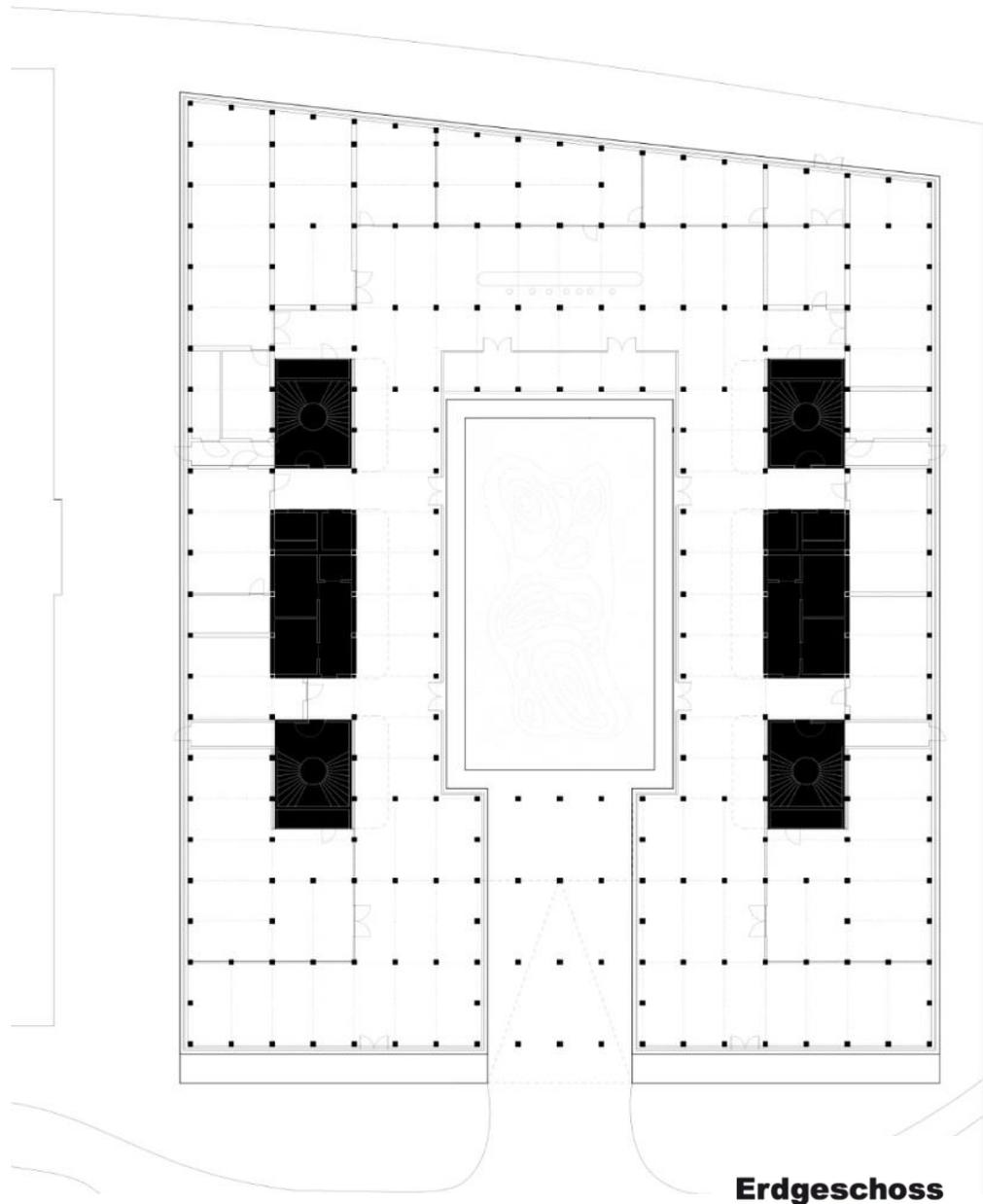




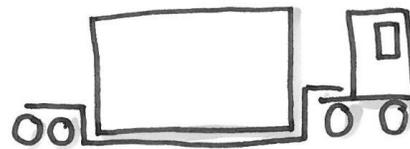
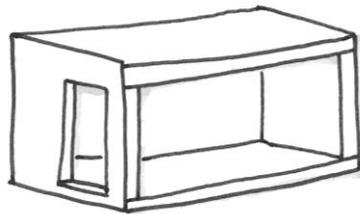
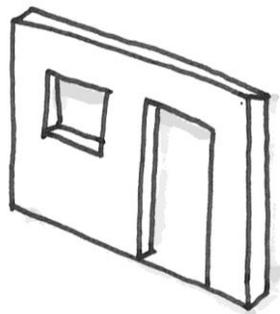
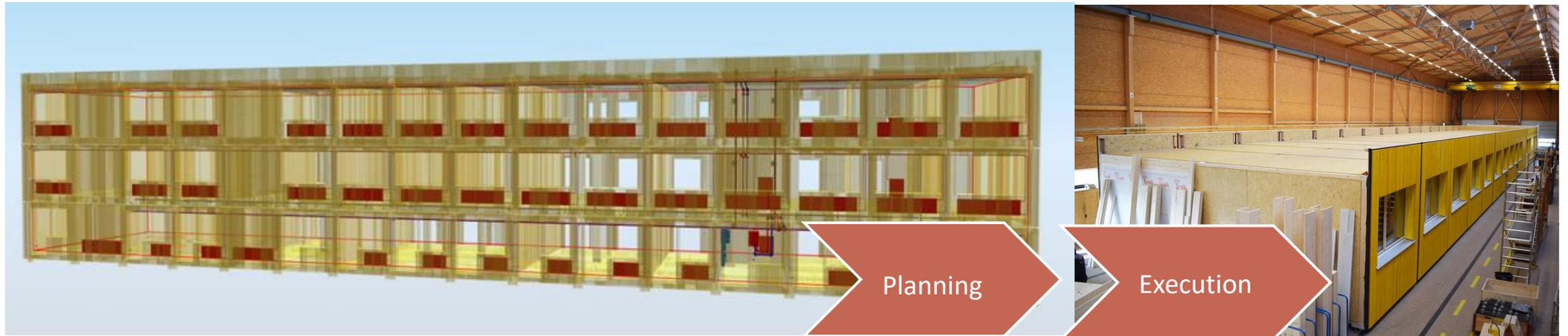








Maximise pre-fabrication to minimise construction work onsite



Modular buildings



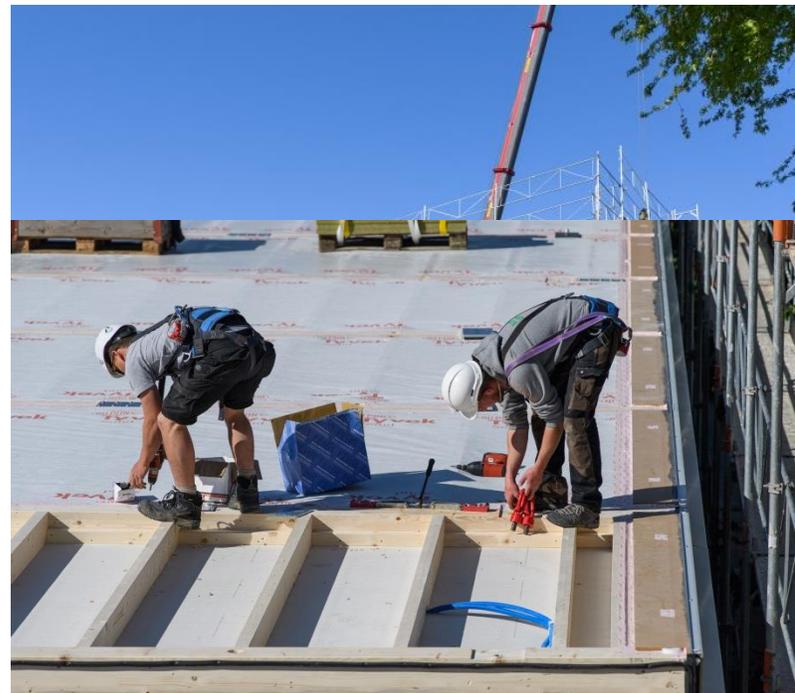






EG 1.09

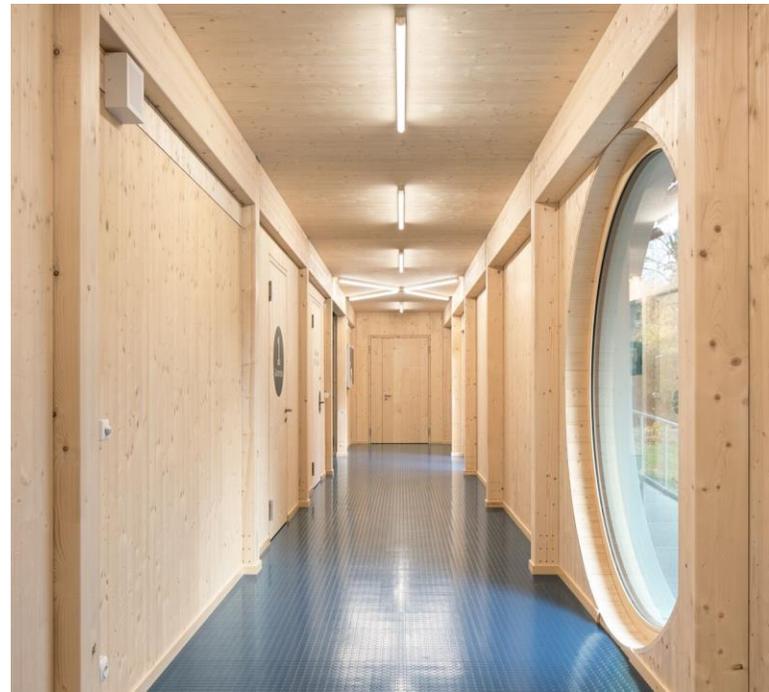






Example: Dresden Seidnitz Primary School







Concepts for the urban environment





Modular buildings are in vogue – earlier

- Mostly educational buildings
- defined room concepts
- Relocation possible
- Assembly during school holiday
- Flexibly expandable
- Precise scheduling and cost planning
- Financing models
- Flexible "ordering" or framework agreements
- Shorter project implementation time in public procurement





Modular buildings are in vogue – today

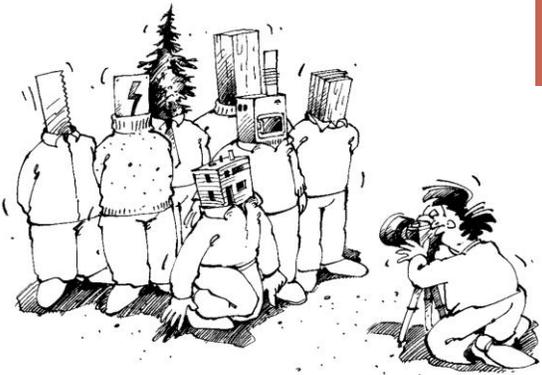
- Various use cases (care, hospitality, office, residential buildings – including micro-apartments, etc.)
- Often permanently planned buildings
- Minimise time onsite or temporary use of locations
- Increasing project volumes
- Reusability – circularity
- Precise scheduling and cost planning/procurement processes
- Scaling? => shorter project implementation times in the private construction industry?
- **Who has an interest in these changes?**



Timber constructions – an important part of a sustainable development of the construction industry



- Products
- Process
- People
- Innovation
- Information | Building codes & standards

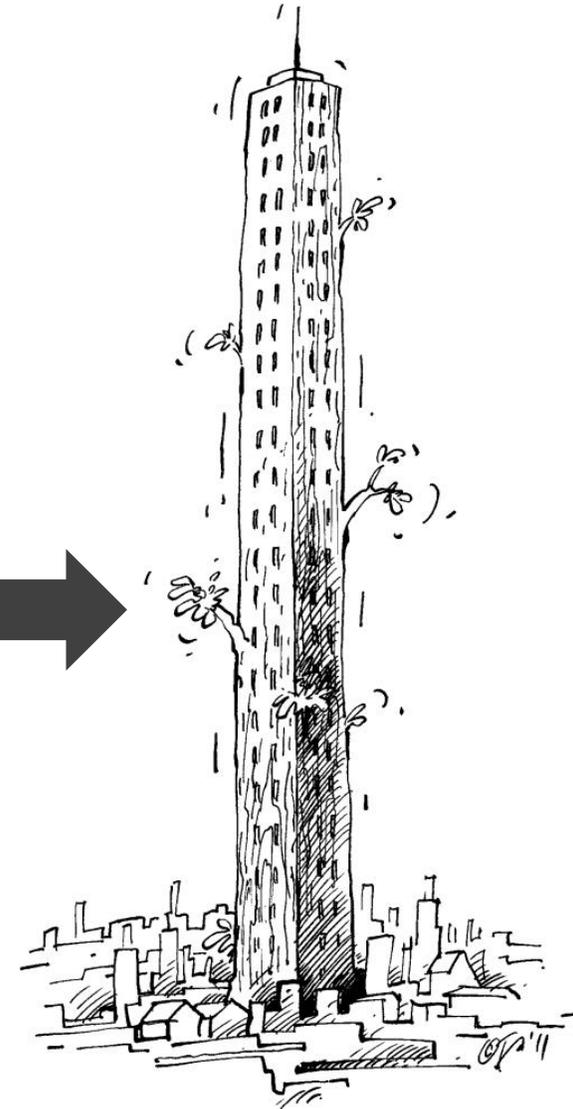


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Wood products as lever to decarbonise the built environment

serial and modular construction





Responsibility for | Investments in:



Key Factors: P's

- Sustainable and long lasting products => projects
- Efficient and optimized processes (planning & production)
- Qualified and motivated people
=>Advanced, modern and interdisciplinary education



Responsibility and attention for:



- Wood friendly building standards, codes and norms
- Innovation/ R&D
- Integrated value chain approach with long-life-cycle timber products
- Collaboration, trust and partnership
- Ensuring the availability of wood resources



Wood has a bright future!



If we use wood wisely and sustainably it will be a great contribution to climate-neutral constructions.

There is a lot to do in or for the entire wood value chain.



Thank you!

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