

DfMA Forum 2019 | 1-2 October 2019  
Providence, Rhode Island

## **DfMA in Building Design and Production: Uses and Abuses**

**Ivana Kuzmanovska**

PhD Researcher at the Future Building Initiative  
ivana.kuzmanovska@monash.edu

and

**Prof. Mathew Aitchison**

Director of the Future Building Initiative  
mathew.aitchison@monash.edu

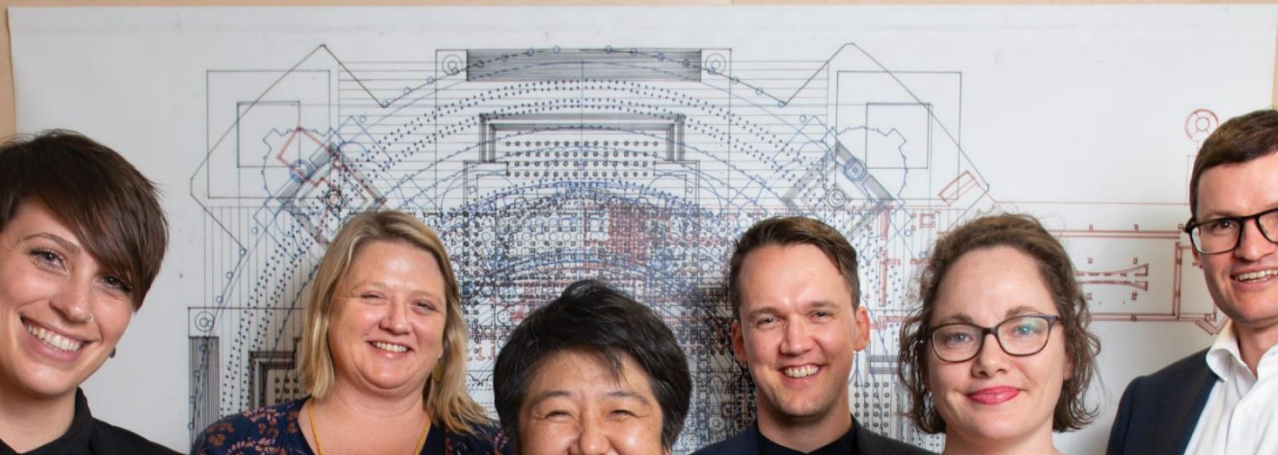


- 01 Future Building Initiative - Who are we?
- 02 The construction context
- 03 DfMA definitions across the industries
- 04 Literature review
- 05 Why DfMA is not completely appropriate for building design and production
- 06 Towards an augmented DfMA

Who are we?

01

DFMA19 | 1-2 October 2019



FBI Lab

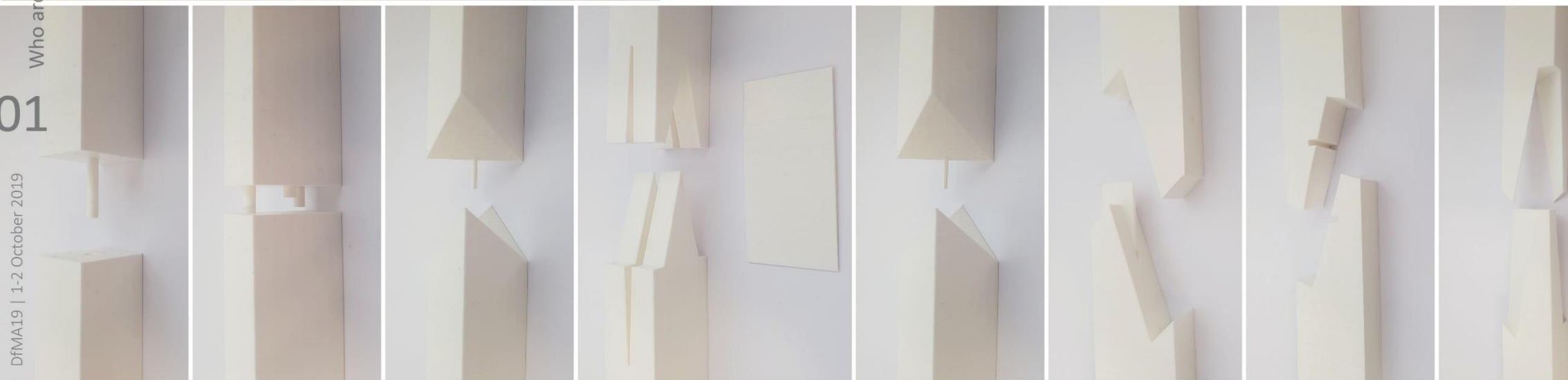
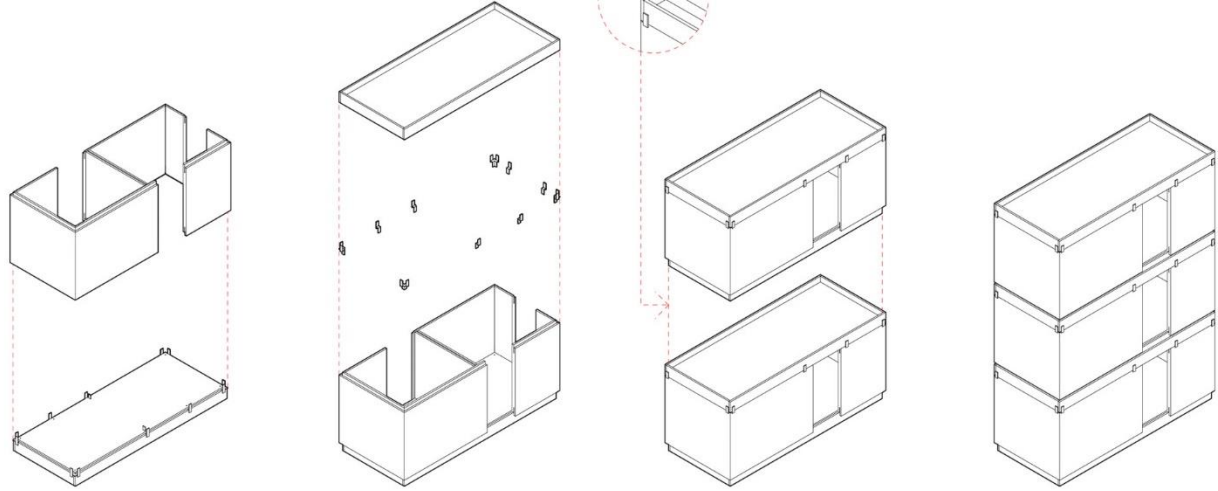


Who are we?

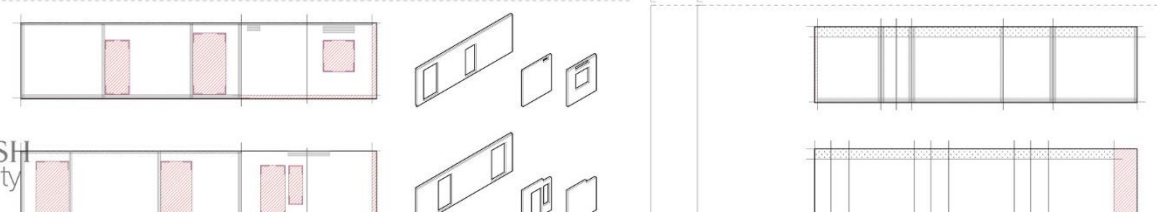
01

DFMA19 | 1-2 October 2019

## applied research with industry partners Lendlease + DesignMake



Who are we?  
01  
DFMA19 | 1-2 October 2019



design research methodology

26<sup>th</sup> JUNE | TUESDAY



27<sup>th</sup> JUNE | WEDNESDAY



28<sup>th</sup> JUNE | THURSDAY



29<sup>th</sup> JUNE | FRIDAY



2<sup>nd</sup> JULY | MONDAY



3<sup>rd</sup> JULY | TUESDAY



4<sup>th</sup> JULY | WEDNESDAY



5<sup>th</sup> JULY | THURSDAY



6<sup>th</sup> JULY | FRIDAY



9<sup>th</sup> JULY | MONDAY



10<sup>th</sup> JULY | TUESDAY



11<sup>th</sup> JULY | WEDNESDAY



building production time-lapse analysis

Who are we?

01

DFMA19 | 1-2 October 2019





The construction context

02

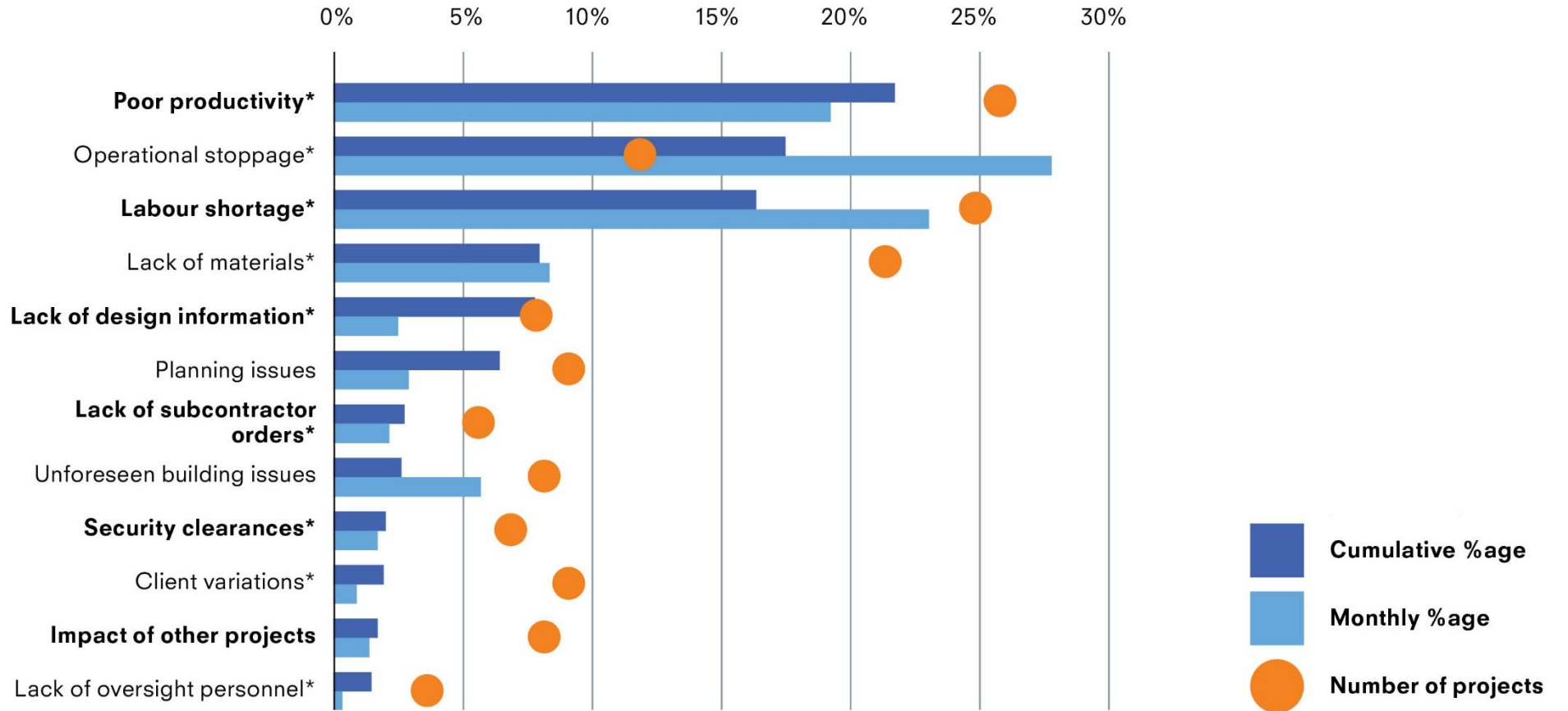
DFMA19 | 1-2 October 2019

realities of construction





state of the industry



## reasons for project delays causing additional cost

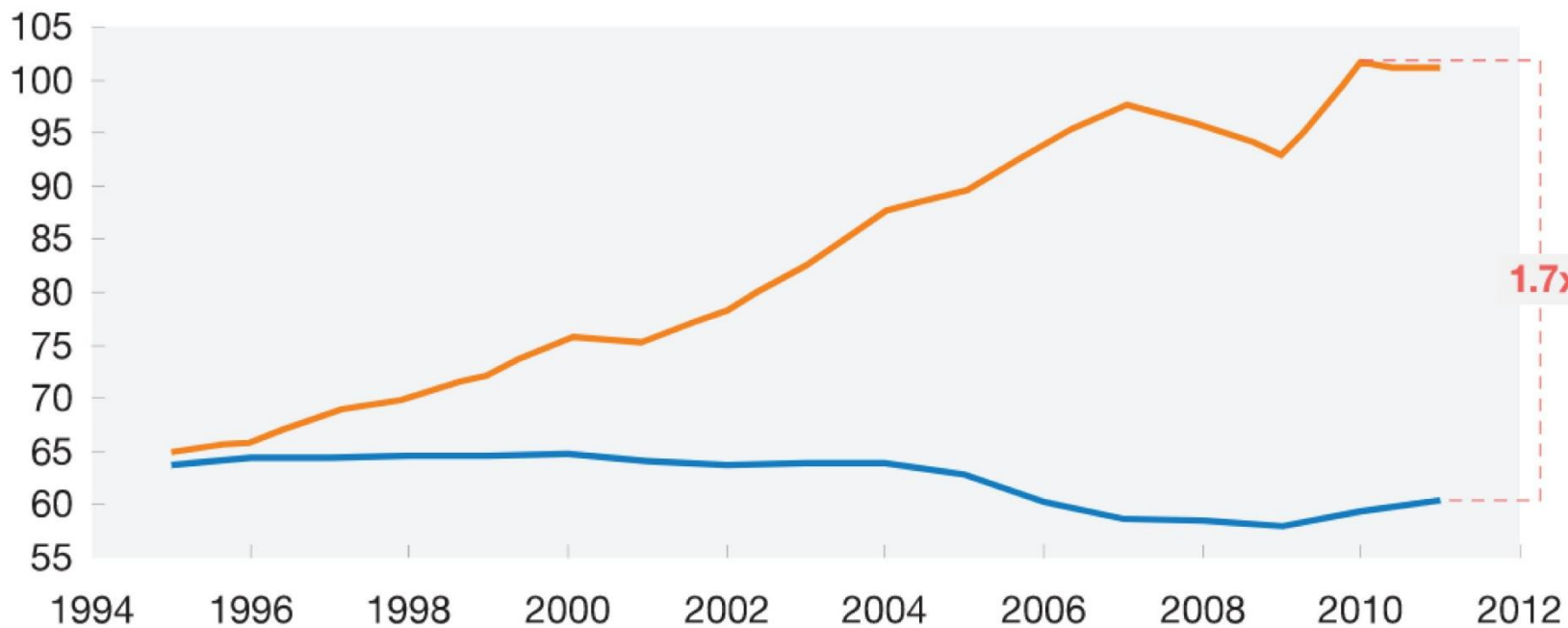
SOURCE | *Delivery Platforms for Government Assets Creating a marketplace for manufactured spaces.* (Bryden Wood Technology Limited: 2017), 8-9.

## Overview of productivity improvement over time

Productivity (value added per worker), real, \$ 2005

— Manufacturing  
— Construction

\$ thousand per worker



1.7x

productivity comparison

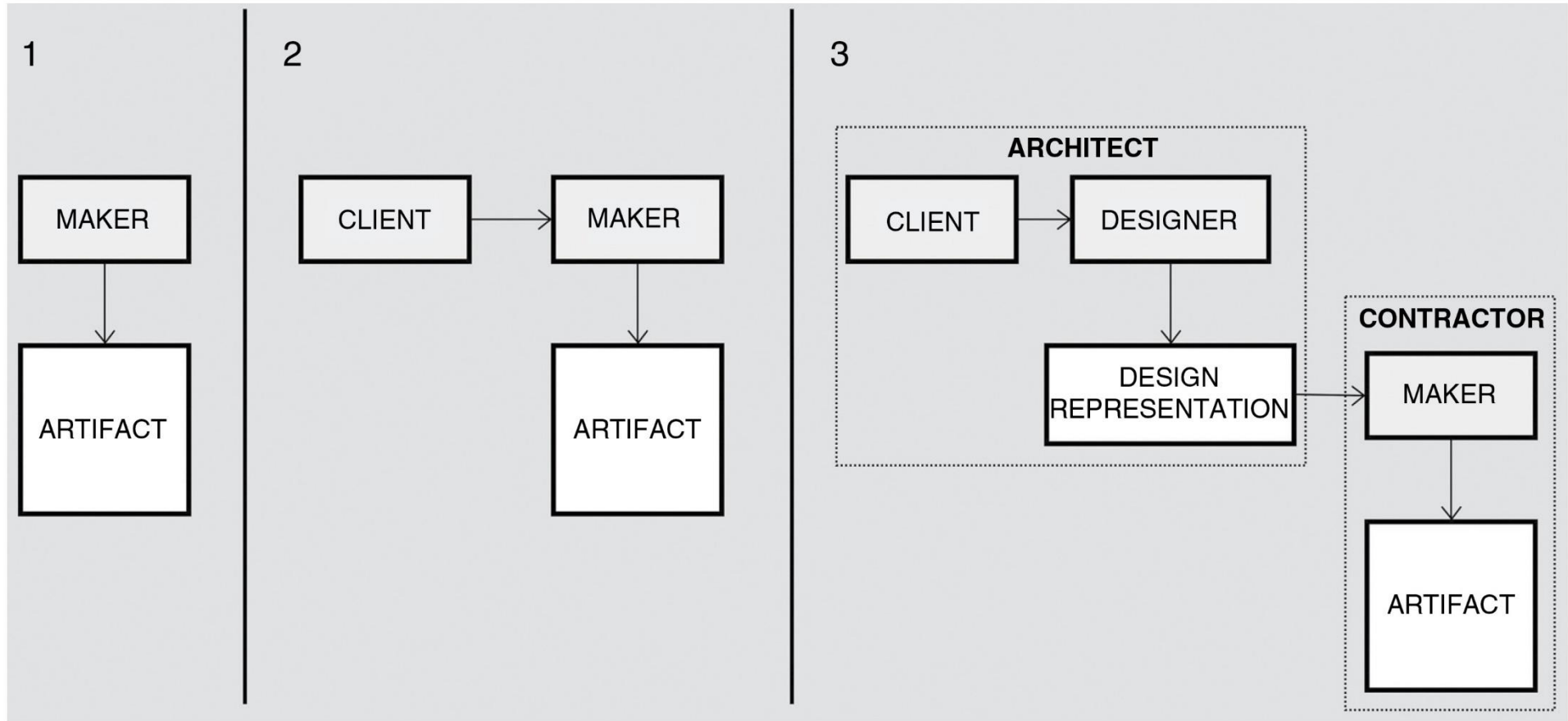
SOURCE | Chart by McKinsey & Company, as found in Sriram Changali, Azam Mohammad, and Mark van Nieuwland, "The Construction Productivity Imperative", 2015, <https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/capital-projects-and-infrastructure/our-insights/the-construction-productivity-imperative>



*industrialised construction*



and yet...



## fragmentation of specialist knowledge

SOURCE | Eduardo Lyon, "Emergence and convergence of knowledge in building production: Knowledge-based design and digital manufacturing" in *Distributed Intelligence in Design*, ed. Tuba Kocatürk and Benachir Medjdoub (Blackwell Publishing Ltd., 2011), 93, Figure 6.14.

Design for Manufacture + Assembly

Using the full power of DFMA for single projects

The construction of

DFMA AND OFFSITE MANUFACTURING

ENGINEERING EXPERTISE  
BUILDING CONSTRUCTION  
INFRASTRUCTURE CONSTRUCTION  
DFMA AND OFFSITE MANUFACTURING  
SPECIALIST BUSINESSES

The challenges facing construction are well documented. The combination of more demanding clients and stakeholders, deteriorating quality of traditional build techniques and increasing skills shortages mean the industry has reached a critical crossroad.

With a call for a step change in productivity and build quality, offsite and modular techniques offer the most realistic solution to this problem. The ideas behind this approach have existed for many years, however the entrenched self-interest and short-termism that characterises construction has stifled its wide-spread application. As the industry exemplar, Laing O'Rourke is making the necessary investments to create real critical mass in the delivery of pre-assembly and modular solutions.

**DESIGN FOR MANUFACTURE AND ASSEMBLY (DFMA)**

Through our innovative Design for Manufacture and Assembly (DFMA) methodology we are leading a step-change in the increased productivity of the construction process, tangible quality improvements and the associated reduction in true costs.

As a result more client organisations than ever before are recognising the need for innovative building techniques that are safer, cleaner and more efficient, and which minimise disruption, guarantee quality and

DfMA19 | 1-2 October 2019

DfMA - Supporting Your Design Decisions

Design for Manufacture and Assembly (DFMA) is used as the foundation for concurrent engineering processes to simplify and fully optimise the structure wherever possible, to reduce manufacturing and assembly costs and to quantify improvements.

**MONASH University**

to ensure that DFMA is integrated at every opportunity during the design and development path.

| Date       | Category      | Article Author |
|------------|---------------|----------------|
| 17/01/2018 | Our Expertise | Andrew Goodwin |

**About the Author**

Andy has been Managing Director of B&K Structures since 2017. He previously occupied the role of Commercial Director and has been with the business since 2003.

MOTT MACDONALD

DFMA can reduce material waste to landfill

Home / 2015 / DFMA - The key to a more efficient industry?

**DfMA - One of the keys to unlocking a more efficient industry** *Mark Enzer*

If truly embraced across the infrastructure industry, design for manufacture and assembly (DFMA) could bring a step change in efficiency and waste reduction

DFMA uses BIM technology to design assets and components that are manufactured in factory conditions and transported to site for safe assembly. The industrial nature of DFMA brings production line efficiencies to construction, reducing waste not only in raw materials, but in human resources, time, cost and carbon too.

## DfMA in the manufacturing context:

A “*systematic procedure*”<sup>1</sup> or “*discipline*” whereby products are designed so as to be as easy and cost effective to produce as possible.”<sup>2</sup>

1 K.L Edwards, “Towards more strategic product design for manufacture and assembly: priorities for concurrent engineering”, *Materials and Design* 23 (2002), 651.

2 Robert Bogue, “Design for manufacture and assembly: background, capabilities and applications”, *Assembly Automation* 32, No.1 (2012): 112.



**MANUAL HANDLING-ESTIMATED TIMES (s)**

Key:  One hand

|  | Parts are easy to grasp and manipulate        |                    |                 |            |            | Parts present handling difficulties (1) |                    |                 |            |            |      |      |
|--|---|--------------------|-----------------|------------|------------|---|--------------------|-----------------|------------|------------|------|------|
|  | Thickness >2 mm                               |                    | Thickness ≤2 mm |            |            | Thickness >2 mm                         |                    | Thickness ≤2 mm |            |            |      |      |
|  | Size >15 mm                                   | 6 mm ≤ size ≤15 mm | Size <6 mm      | Size >6 mm | Size ≤6 mm | Size >15 mm                             | 6 mm ≤ size ≤15 mm | Size <6 mm      | Size >6 mm | Size ≤6 mm |      |      |
| Parts can be grasped and manipulated by one hand without the aid of grasping tools | $(\alpha + \beta) < 360^\circ$                | 0                  | 1.13            | 1.43       | 1.88       | 1.69                                    | 2.18               | 1.84            | 2.17       | 2.65       | 2.45 | 2.98 |
|  | $360^\circ \leq (\alpha + \beta) < 540^\circ$ | 1                  | 1.5             | 1.8        | 2.25       | 2.06                                    | 2.55               | 2.25            | 2.57       | 3.06       | 3    | 3.38 |
|  | $540^\circ \leq (\alpha + \beta) < 720^\circ$ | 2                  | 1.8             | 2.1        | 2.55       | 2.36                                    | 2.85               | 2.57            | 2.9        | 3.38       | 3.18 | 3.7  |
|  | $(\alpha + \beta) = 720^\circ$                | 3                  | 1.95            | 2.25       | 2.7        | 2.51                                    | 3                  | 2.73            | 3.06       | 3.55       | 3.34 | 4    |

Key:  One hand with grasping aids

|  | Parts need tweezers for grasping and manipulation      |                    |   |                    |                    |  |                    |   |                    |                    |   |    |
|--|--|--------------------|---|--------------------|--------------------|--|--------------------|---|--------------------|--------------------|---|----|
|  | Parts can be manipulated without optical magnification |                    |   |                    |                    | Parts require optical magnification for manipulation |                    |   |                    |                    |   |    |
|  | Parts are easy to grasp and manipulate                 |                    | Parts present handling difficulties (1) |                    |                    | Parts are easy to grasp and manipulate               |                    | Parts present handling difficulties (1) |                    |                    |   |    |
|  | Thickness >0.25 mm                                     | Thickness ≤0.25 mm | Thickness >0.25 mm                      | Thickness ≤0.25 mm | Thickness >0.25 mm | Thickness ≤0.25 mm                                   | Thickness >0.25 mm | Thickness ≤0.25 mm                      | Thickness >0.25 mm | Thickness ≤0.25 mm |   |    |
| Parts can be grasped and manipulated by one hand but only with the use of grasping tools | $\alpha \leq 180^\circ$                                | 4                  | 3.6                                     | 6.85               | 4.35               | 7.6  | 5.6                | 8.35                                    | 6.35               | 8.6                | 7 | 7  |
|  | $\beta = 360^\circ$                                    | 5                  | 4                                       | 7.25               | 4.75               | 8  | 6                  | 8.75                                    | 6.75               | 9                  | 8 | 8  |
|  | $\alpha \leq \beta \leq 180^\circ$                     | 6                  | 4.8                                     | 8.05               | 5.55               | 8.8  | 6.8                | 9.55                                    | 7.55               | 9.8                | 8 | 9  |
|  | $\beta = 360^\circ$                                    | 7                  | 5.1                                     | 8.35               | 5.85               | 9.1  | 7.1                | 9.55                                    | 7.85               | 10.1               | 9 | 10 |

Key:  Two hands for manipulation

|   | Parts present no additional handling difficulties   |                    |                      |            |            | Parts present additional handling difficulties (e.g. sticky, delicate, slippery, etc.) (1) |                    |                      |            |            |   |
|---|---|--------------------|----------------------|------------|------------|--|--------------------|----------------------|------------|------------|---|
|   | $\alpha \leq 180^\circ$   |                    | $\alpha = 360^\circ$ |            |            | $\alpha \leq 180^\circ$  |                    | $\alpha = 360^\circ$ |            |            |   |
|   | Size >15 mm   | 6 mm ≤ size ≤15 mm | Size <6 mm           | Size >6 mm | Size ≤6 mm | Size >15 mm  | 6 mm ≤ size ≤15 mm | Size <6 mm           | Size >6 mm | Size ≤6 mm |   |
|   | Parts severely nest or tangle or are flexible but can be grasped and lifted by one hand (with the use of grasping tools if necessary) (2) | 0                  | 1                    | 2          | 3          | 4  | 5                  | 6                    | 7          | 8          | 9 |
| 8 |   | 4.1                | 4.5                  | 5.1        | 5.6        | 6.75   | 5                  | 5.25                 | 5.85       | 6.35       | 7 |

Key:  Two hands or assistance required for large size

|  | Parts can be handled by one person without mechanical assistance |                      |   |                      |  |                      |   |                      | Parts severely nest or tangle or are flexible (2) | Two persons or mechanical assistance required for parts manipulation |   |
|--|--|----------------------|---|----------------------|--|----------------------|---|----------------------|---|--|---|
|  | Parts do not severely nest or tangle and are not flexible        |                      |   |                      |  |                      |   |                      |   |  |   |
|  | Part weight < 10 lb  |                      |   |                      | Parts are heavy (>10 lb)               |                      |   |                      |   |  |   |
|  | Parts are easy to grasp and manipulate                           |                      | Parts present other handling difficulties (1) |                      | Parts are easy to grasp and manipulate |                      | Parts present other handling difficulties (1) |                      |   |  |   |
|  | $\alpha \leq 180^\circ$  | $\alpha = 360^\circ$ | $\alpha \leq 180^\circ$                       | $\alpha = 360^\circ$ | $\alpha \leq 180^\circ$                | $\alpha = 360^\circ$ | $\alpha \leq 180^\circ$                       | $\alpha = 360^\circ$ |   |  |   |
| Two hands, two persons or mechanical assistance required for grasping and transporting parts | 0  | 1                    | 2   | 3                    | 4                                      | 5                    | 6   | 7                    | 8   | 9  |   |
|  | 9  | 2                    | 3   | 2                    | 3                                      | 3                    | 4   | 4                    | 5   | 7  | 9 |

**MANUAL INSERTION-ESTIMATED TIMES (s)**

Key:  Part added but not secured

|   | After assembly no holding down required to maintain orientation and location (3) |                             |   |                             | Holding down required during subsequent processes to maintain orientation at location (3) |                             |   |                             |      |
|---|--|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|------|
|   | Easy to align and position during assembly (4)                                   |                             | Not easy to align or position during assembly |                             | Easy to align and position during assembly (4)  |                             | Not easy to align or position during assembly |                             |      |
|   | No resistance to insertion   | Resistance to insertion (5) | No resistance to insertion                    | Resistance to insertion (5) | No resistance to insertion  | Resistance to insertion (5) | No resistance to insertion                    | Resistance to insertion (5) |      |
|   | Part and associated tool (including hands) can easily reach the desired location | 0                           | 1   | 2                           | 3   | 6                           | 7   | 8                           | 9    |
| 0   |  | 1.5                         | 2.5   | 2.5                         | 3.5   | 5.5                         | 6.5   | 6.5                         | 7.5  |
| 1   |  | 4                           | 5   | 5                           | 6   | 8                           | 9   | 9                           | 10   |
| Part and associated tool (including hands) cannot easily reach the desired location | 2  | 5.5                         | 6.5   | 6.5                         | 7.5   | 9.5                         | 10.5  | 10.5                        | 11.5 |

Key:  Part secured immediately

|   | No screwing operation or plastic deformation immediately after insertion (snap/press fits, circlips, spire nuts, etc.) |  | Plastic deformation immediately after insertion |                             |   |                             | Screw tightening immediately after insertion                |                             |      |     |      |
|---|--|--|---|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|------|-----|------|
|   | Easy to align and position with no resistance to insertion (4)   | Not easy to align or position during assembly and/or resistance to insertion (5) | Plastic bending or torsion                      |                             | Riveting or similar operation                 |                             | Screw tightening immediately after insertion                |                             |      |     |      |
|   | Easy to align and position during assembly (4)   | Not easy to align or position during assembly                                    | Not easy to align or position during assembly   |                             | Not easy to align or position during assembly |                             | Easy to align and position with no torsional resistance (4) |                             |      |     |      |
|   | No resistance to insertion   | Resistance to insertion (5)  | No resistance to insertion                      | Resistance to insertion (5) | No resistance to insertion                    | Resistance to insertion (5) | No resistance to insertion                                  | Resistance to insertion (5) |      |     |      |
| Addition of any part (1) where neither the part itself nor any other part is finally secured immediately              | 0  | 1  | 2   | 3                           | 4   | 5                           | 6   | 7                           | 8    | 9   |      |
|   | 3  | 2  | 5   | 4                           | 5   | 6                           | 7   | 8                           | 9    | 6   | 8    |
|   | 4  | 4.5  | 7.5   | 6.5                         | 7.5   | 8.5                         | 9.5   | 10.5                        | 11.5 | 8.5 | 10.5 |
| Part and associated tool (including hands) cannot easily reach desired location or tool cannot reach desired location | 5  | 6  | 9   | 8                           | 9   | 10                          | 11  | 12                          | 13   | 10  | 12   |

Key:  Separate operation

|   | Mechanical fastening processes (part(s) already in place but not secured immediately after insertion) |                                     |  | Non-mechanical fastening processes (part(s) already in place but not secured immediately after insertion) |    |  | Non-fastening processes  |    |   |   |    |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|--|---|----|--|--|----|---|---|----|
|   | None or localized plastic deformation   |                                     | Bulk plastic deformation (large proportion of part is plastically deformed during fastening) | Metallurgical processes   |    |  | Other processes  |    |   |   |    |
|   | Riveting or similar processes   | Screw tightening or other processes |  | Additional material required  |    | Chemical processes (e.g. adhesive bonding, etc.) | Manipulation of parts (e.g. orienting, fitting or adjustment of part(s), etc.) |    | Other processes (e.g. liquid insertion, etc.) |   |    |
|   |   |                                     | Soldering processes  | Weld/brazing processes  |    |  |  |    |   |   |    |
| Assembly processes where all solid parts are in place | 0   | 1                                   | 2  | 3   | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8   | 8 |    |
|   | 9   | 4                                   | 7  | 5   | 12 | 7  | 8  | 12 | 12  | 9 | 12 |

## DfMA in the building design and production disciplines:

“DfMA is *an approach* which allows designers to maximise value for clients, maintain control over the delivery of their designs and facilitate the adoption of emerging methods, materials and technologies in construction best practice.”<sup>1</sup>

“*The DfMA approach* redefines the traditional phases of project delivery. This means agreeing and locking down the design phase much earlier to allow the manufacturing, assembly, testing and commissioning phases to be compressed and run in parallel, rather than in one long linear sequence.”<sup>2</sup>

“DfMA [...] is *a system* that takes the process of off-site manufacture one step further by identifying the most cost-effective material early in a structure’s design, to speed construction and reduce costs.”<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Delivery Platforms for Government Assets Creating a marketplace for manufactured spaces*. (Bryden Wood Technology Limited: 2017), 24.

<sup>2</sup> Colin Banks et al., “Enhancing High-Rise Residential Construction through Design for Manufacture and Assembly—a UK Case Study,” *Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers-Management, Procurement and Law* 171, no. 4 (2018). 165.

<sup>3</sup> *Precast Concrete: optimising DfMA and lean construction in civil construction*, 2017

<http://www.roadsonline.com.au/precast-concrete-optimising-dfma-and-lean-construction-in-civil-construction/>

**Table 3** Design for Manufacturing and Assembly Technologies (DfMA)  
– N Value

| DESIGN FOR MANUFACTURING AND ASSEMBLY TECHNOLOGIES (DFMA) |  | UNIT OF COVERAGE      | N VALUE                               |       |
|---|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|-------|
|   |  |                       | PERCENTAGE OF COVERAGE <sup>(1)</sup> |       |
|   |  |                       | ≥ 65% TO < 80%                        | ≥ 80% |
| <b>A1. First Class</b>                                    |  |                       |                                       |       |
| <b>Fully Integrated System</b>                            |  |                       |                                       |       |
| A1.1  | Prefabricated Prefinished Volumetric Construction (PPVC) <sup>(2)</sup><br>{The PPVC system has to be accepted by the Building Innovation Panel (BIP) and accredited under the PPVC Manufacturer Accreditation Scheme} | area                  | 8.00                                  | 10.00 |
| A1.2  | Prefabricated Prefinished Volumetric Construction (PPVC) meeting requirements stipulated under Sections 5.1 and 5.2  | area                  | 6.00                                  | 7.00  |
| <b>A2. 2<sup>nd</sup> Class (Upper)</b>                   |  |                       |                                       |       |
| <b>Fully Integrated Sub-assemblies</b>                    |  |                       |                                       |       |
| A2.1  | Mass Engineered Timber (e.g. Cross Laminated Timber, CLT)  | area <sup>(3)</sup>   | 6.00                                  | 7.00  |
| A2.2  | Prefabricated Volumetric Construction (PVC)  | area                  | 5.00                                  | 6.00  |
| A2.3  | Structural steel with innovative connections <sup>(4)</sup>  | area                  | 5.00                                  | 6.00  |
| A2.4  | Steel-Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing (MEP) floor system   | area                  | 5.00                                  | 6.00  |
| A2.5  | Prefinished wall with MEP services   | length                | 1.00                                  | 2.00  |
| A2.6  | Prefinished ceiling with MEP services  | area                  | 1.00                                  | 2.00  |
| A2.7  | Prefabricated MEP modules integrated with work platform/catwalk  | no.                   | 3.00                                  | 5.00  |
|   | Prefabricated bathroom units (PBUs) pre-assembled off-site, complete with finishes, sanitary ware, concealed   | REPETITION OF LAYOUTS |                                       |       |

**Table 3** Design for Manufacturing and Assembly Technologies (DFMA)  
– N Value (continued)

| DESIGN FOR MANUFACTURING AND ASSEMBLY TECHNOLOGIES (DFMA) |  |
|---|--|
| <b>A4. 3<sup>rd</sup> Class</b>                           |  |
| <b>Prefabricated Components</b>                           |  |
| A4.1  | Integrated precast components comprising at least 2 elements (e.g. multi-tier column/wall, double bay façade wall)     |
| A4.2  | Precast external wall with cast-in windows   |
| A4.3  | Mechanical connection for precast column/precast wall (horizontal joints)  |
| A4.4  | Mechanical connection for precast beam joints  |
| A4.5  | Mechanical connection for precast wall (vertical joints)   |
| A4.6  | Prefabricated wall/facade with onsite dry applied finishes   |
| A4.7  | Prefabricated slab with onsite dry applied finishes  |
| A4.8  | Prefabricated ceiling with onsite dry applied finishes   |
| A4.9  | Prefabricated and pre-insulated duct for air-conditioning system <sup>(5)</sup><br><b>(Mandatory for all projects)</b> |
| A4.10   | Flexible sprinkler dropper <sup>(5)</sup>  |
| A4.11   | Flexible water pipes <sup>(5)</sup>  |
| A4.12   | Common M&E bracket (at least 3 M&E services) <sup>(5)</sup>  |

DfMA “technologies”

1

SIMPLIFICATION

## DEFINE PRODUCT CONCEPT

2

MORE ECONOMIC MATERIALS AND PROCESSES

## APPLY DFA.

### REDUCE PART COUNT AND PART TYPES

- a. Is the part needed? Apply the three fundamental criteria.
- b. Eliminate separate fasteners by using integral locking features.
- c. Eliminate parts that act as conduits on connections.
- d. Design multi-functional parts by exploiting manufacturing processes.
- e. Do not focus on piece part producibility at the early stage of design.
- f. Eliminate any product features which do not add value to the customer.

### DESIGN PARTS FOR EASY HANDLING

- g. Maximise part symmetry or design parts to be obviously asymmetrical.
- h. Provide features to prevent jamming or nesting when stored in bulk.
- i. Avoid features that can tangle.
- j. Avoid parts that are slippery, delicate, flexible, very small or very large.

### EASY INSERTION AND FASTENING

- k. Standardise parts, processes and methods across all models and lines.
- l. Design for progressive assembly about one axis. Assemble from above!
- m. Design parts to be self locating and self aligning.
- n. Use chamfers and tolerances to avoid jamming.
- o. Avoid the need to hold parts down.
- p. Minimise reorientations during assembly.
- q. Minimise adjustments.
- r. Use kinematic design principles.
- s. Do not restrict access for assembly operations.

3

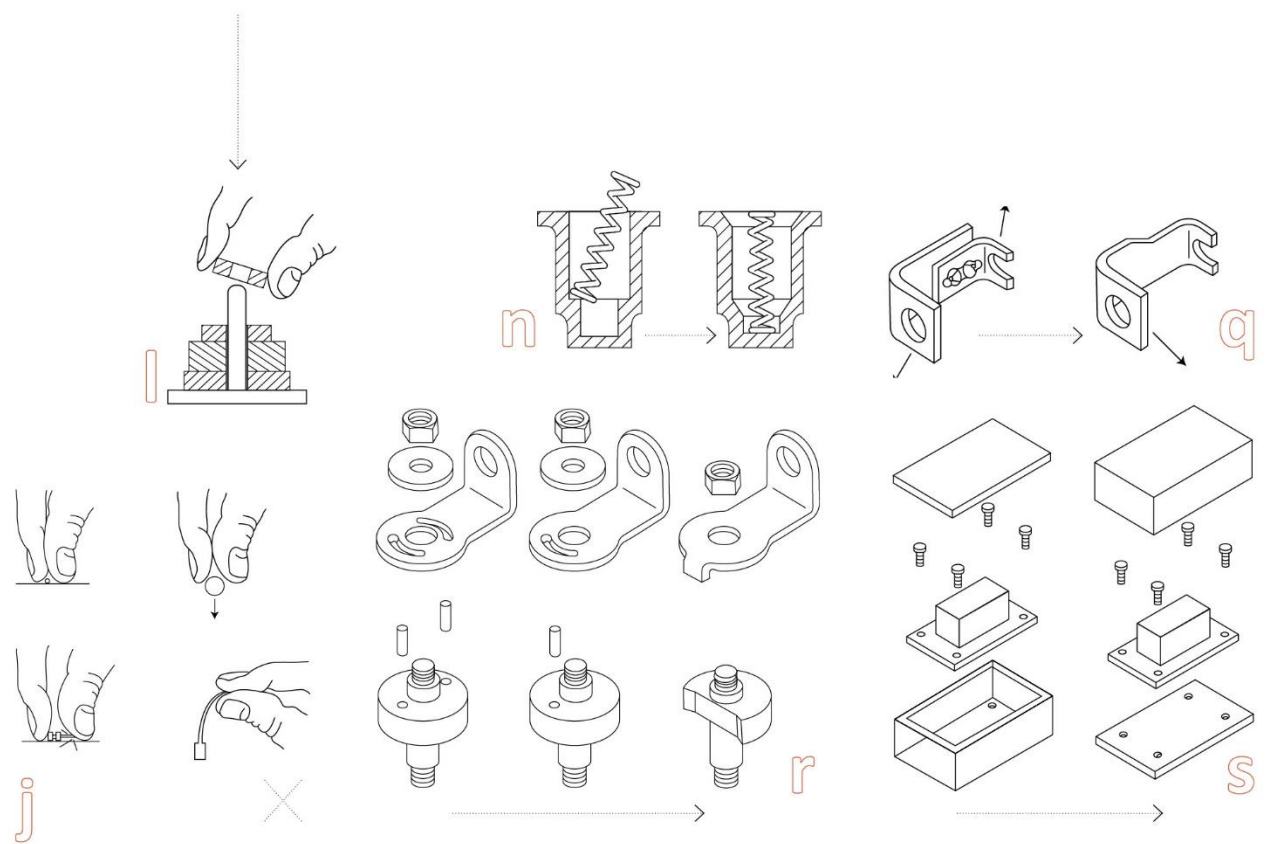
EACH FABRICATION PROCESS HAS ITS OWN GUIDELINES

## SELECT MATERIALS + EARLY DFM COST ESTIMATES.

4

MATERIALS AND PROCESSES

## APPLY DFM



# Boothroyd + Dewhurst guidelines

## Buildability's lack of success partly due to:

- / a lack of shared understanding of best practice in construction
- / lack of manuals on material, component or process data for qualified comparisons between the alternatives
- / lack of metrics for comparative evaluation and lack of collaboration between manufacturing, assembly and plant companies.

26 Scopus articles refer specifically to DfMA in construction,  
9 were published since 2018.

# Three primary objectives of research in the literature:

# Three primary objectives of research in the literature:

**01** Identifying and obtaining relevant production information to inform design decisions.  
(often looking to existing work on buildability)

*/ Method for identifying, collating + organising relevant constructability information  
(Fox, Marsh + Cockerham, 2002)*

*/ Design for Construcion by examining waste in precedent projects  
(Gerth et al., 2013)*

*/ Liang O'Rourke's confidential DfMA operative model  
(Banks et al. 2018)*



# Three primary objectives of research in the literature:

01 Identifying and obtaining relevant production information to inform design decisions.  
(often looking to existing work on buildability)

02 Developing methodologies for applying production knowledge in the design process.

03

*/ Discipline specific framework for digital design  
(Lyon, 2011)*

*/ DfMCMA using BIM and block-chain platforms  
(Kremer, 2018)*

*/ Framework for capturing constructability knowledge so that it is useful for design  
(Fischer + Tatum 1994)*

# Three primary objectives of research in the literature:

01 Identifying and obtaining relevant production information to inform design decisions.  
(often looking to existing work on buildability)

02 Developing methodologies for applying production knowledge in the design process.

03

03 Investigating optimisation techniques.

*/ Optimisation method based on relevant parameters  
(Giuda et al., 2019)*

*/ Axiomatic Design*







Why DfMA is not entirely appropriate

site introduces variability.

SOURCE | 1933 topographic map of Moss Vale, New South Wales, prepared by Australian Section Imperial General Staff, from the NSW State Library online collection, BIB ID 7011868, <https://catalogue.nla.gov.au/Record/7011868>

DFMA19 | 1-2 October 2019

Why DfMA is not entirely appropriate



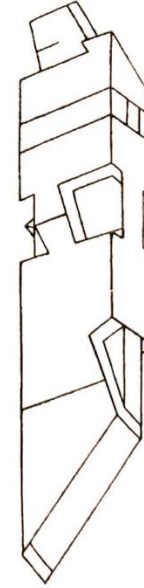
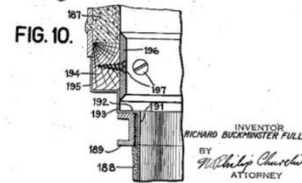
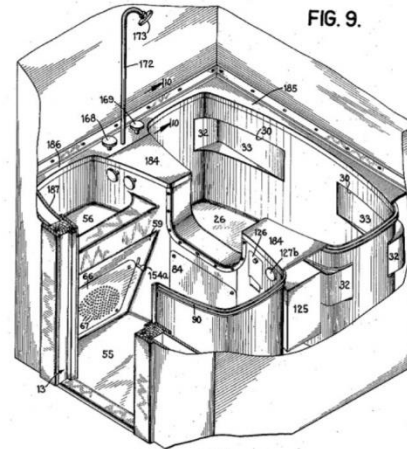
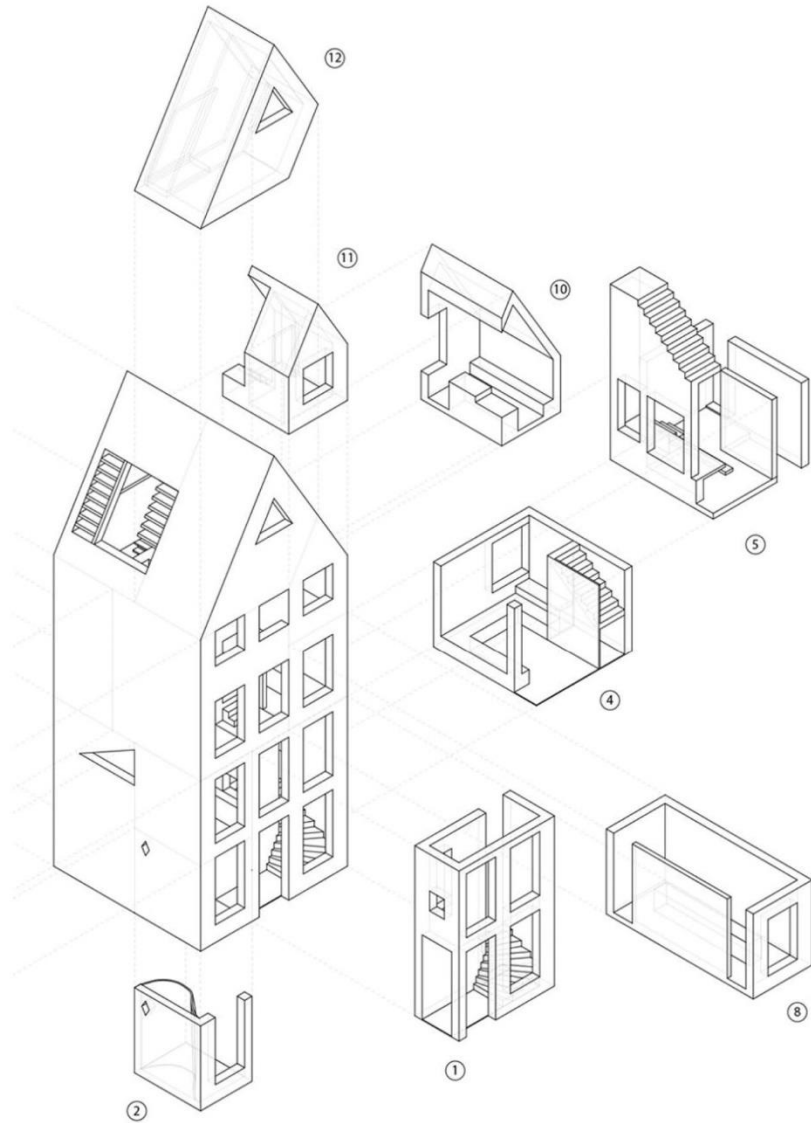
factory



site



DfMA19 | 1-2 October 2019

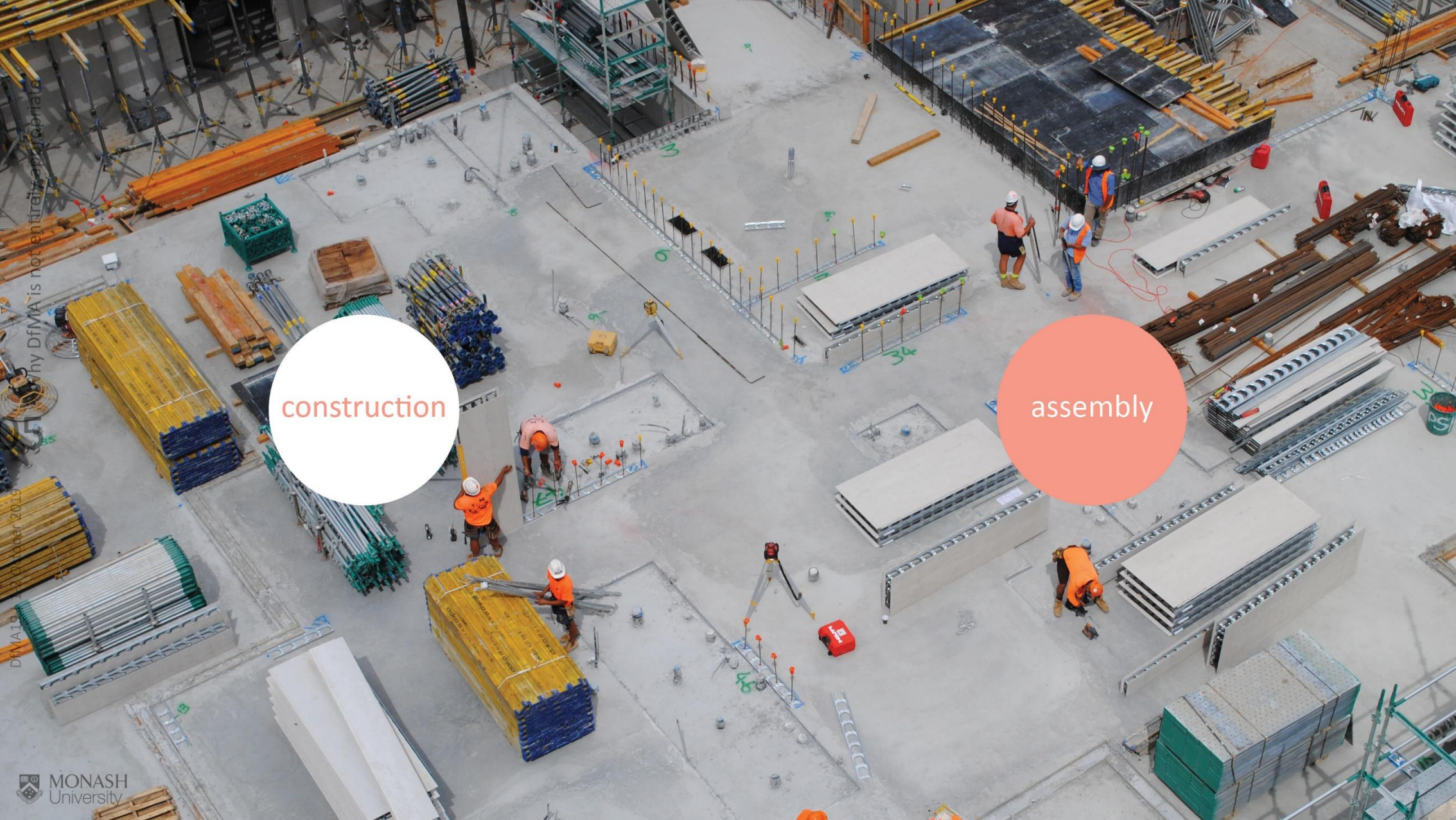


## modules limited by transportability

LEFT | 3D Print Canal House and Urban Cabin by DUS Architects, images from <http://3dprintcanalhouse.com>

MID | Buckminster Fuller's 1938 patent for a modular bathroom made of 4 pieces of pressed metal sheet.

RIGHT | Illustration from the Ying Tso Fa Shi, reproduced in Utzon by Richard Weston



construction

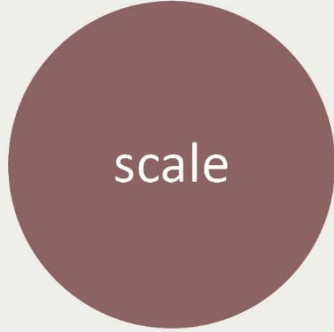
assembly

Why DfMA is not entirely appropriate  
DfMA19  
10 October 2019

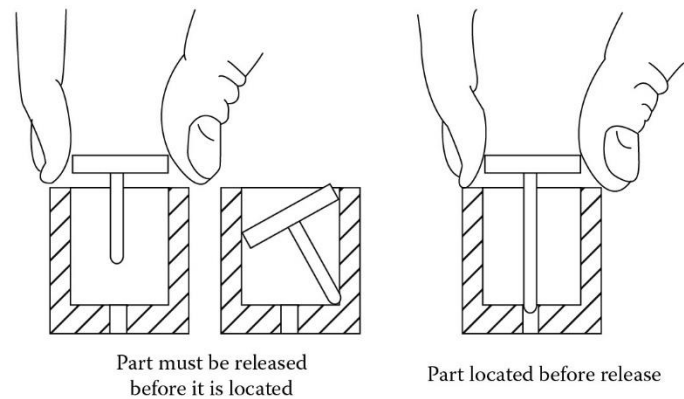




- / Factory x Site
- / Variability
- / Construction x Assembly



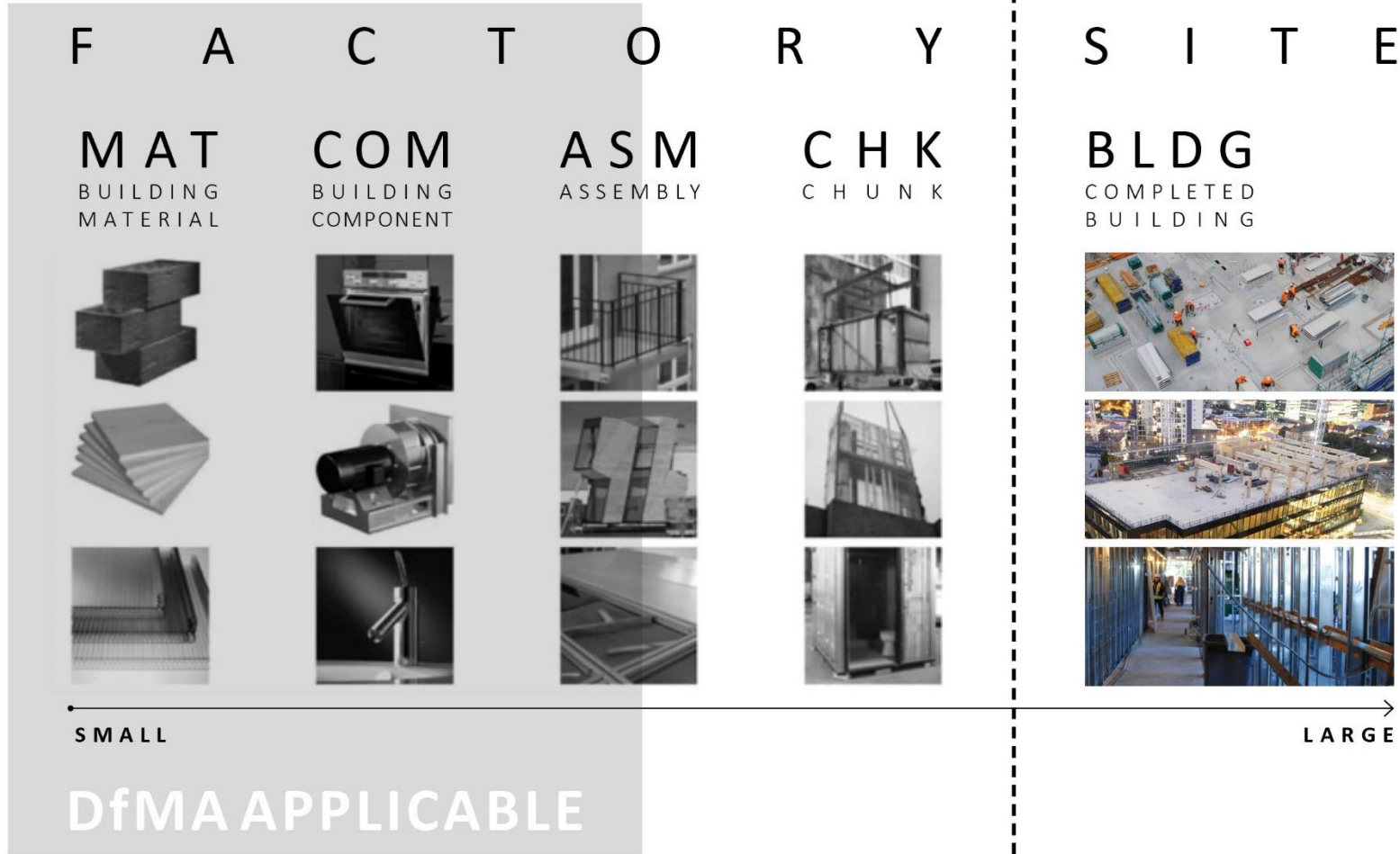
- / Factory x Site
- / Variability
- / Construction x  
Assembly



**FIGURE 3.10**  
Design to aid insertion.

buildings are large.

“Obviously, one database of assembly times cannot be accurate for all situations.”



SOURCE | Diagram adapted from Kasper Sanchez Vibaek, "System Structures: A Theory of Industrialised Architecture", in Ryan E. Smith and John D. Quale, *Off-site Architecture, Constructing the Future* (Routledge, 2017), 30.



crane lifting and assembly



Why DfMA is not entirely appropriate

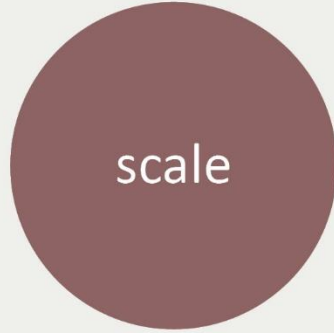
05

DfMA19 | 12 October 2019

approaches to tolerance management



- / Factory x Site
- / Variability
- / Construction x Assembly

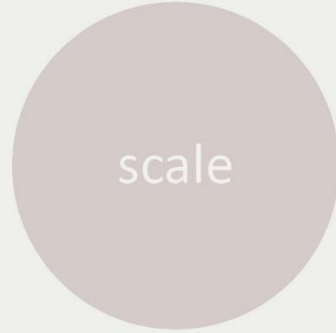


- / Assembly strategy
- / Lifting logistics
- / Instal logistics
- / Tolerance





- / Factory x Site
- / Variability
- / Construction x  
Assembly



- / Assembly strategy
- / Lifting logistics
- / Instal logistics
- / Tolerance





ergonomics + safety

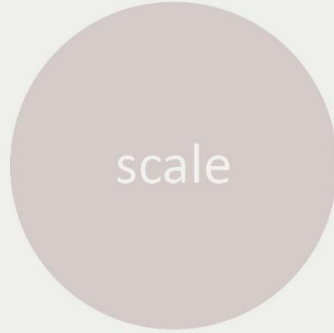


delight!

SOURCE | Door handle design by PKdM, image by Rafael Pinho,  
found at <https://divisare.com/projects/347093-pkdm-rafael-pinho-pkdm-office>



- / Factory x Site
- / Variability
- / Construction x  
Assembly



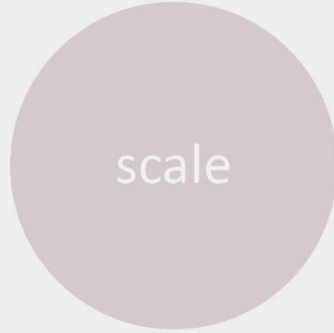
- / Assembly strategy
- / Lifting logistics
- / Instal logistics
- / Tolerance



- / Beyond cost + time?
- / Safety
- / Quality



- / Factory x Site
- / Variability
- / Construction x  
Assembly



- / Assembly strategy
- / Lifting logistics
- / Instal logistics
- / Tolerance



- / Beyond cost + time?
- / Safety
- / Quality



DfMA refers to the *“detailing of the materials, shapes and tolerance of the individual parts of a product”* rather than the aesthetic decisions that are made in the conceptual design phase; *“the external shape of a car, or the colour, texture and shape of the casing of a can opener.”*



RIBA Plan of Work 2013



## RIBA Plan of Work **Designing for Manufacture and Assembly** overlay

[www.offsiteschool.com/DfMA](http://www.offsiteschool.com/DfMA)

This Overlay to the RIBA Plan of Work 2013 includes additional task bars to support Designing for Manufacture and Assembly. It should be used in conjunction with the RIBA Plan of Work 2013: [www.ribaplanofwork.com](http://www.ribaplanofwork.com)

|  | 0   | 1   | 2   | 3  | 4   | 5  | 6  | 7  |
|--|---|---|---|--|---|--|--|--|
| Stages                                     |   |   |   |  |   |  |  |  |
| Tasks                                      |   |   |   |  |   |  |  |  |
| Core Objectives from the RIBA Plan of Work | Identify client's <b>Business Case</b> and <b>Strategic Brief</b> and other core project requirements.  | Develop <b>Project Objectives</b> , including <b>Quality Objectives</b> and <b>Project Outcomes</b> , <b>Sustainability Aspirations</b> , <b>Project Budget</b> , other parameters or constraints and develop <b>Initial Project Brief</b> . Undertake <b>Feasibility Studies</b> and review of <b>Site Information</b> .   | Prepare <b>Concept Design</b> , including outline proposals for structural design, building services systems, outline specifications and preliminary <b>Cost Information</b> along with relevant <b>Project Strategies</b> in accordance with the <b>Design Programme</b> . Agree alterations to brief and issue <b>Final Project Brief</b> .   | Prepare <b>Developed Design</b> , including coordinated and updated proposals for structural design, building services systems, outline specifications, <b>Cost Information</b> and <b>Project Strategies</b> in accordance with the <b>Design Programme</b> .   | Prepare <b>Technical Design</b> in accordance with the <b>Design Responsibility Matrix</b> and <b>Project Strategies</b> to include all architectural, structural and building services information, specialist subcontractor design and specifications, in accordance with the <b>Design Programme</b> .   | Offsite manufacturing and onsite <b>Construction</b> in accordance with the <b>Construction Programme</b> and resolution of <b>Design Queries</b> from site as they arise.   | Handover of building and conclusion of the <b>Building Contract</b> .  | Undertake <b>In Use</b> services in accordance with <b>Schedule of Services</b> .  |
| DfMA Strategy                              | <p>Consider opportunities for applying DfMA across portfolios or programmes of projects.</p> <p>Consider how DfMA might impact on the <b>Business Case</b> or <b>Strategic Brief</b>.</p> <p>Consider whole life issues in the <b>Strategic Brief</b> including options for reuse or repurposing and recycling of components at the end of the building's life.</p> <p>Consider <b>Research and Development</b> that might assist <b>Feasibility Studies</b> or the <b>Concept Design</b> including intellectual property issues.</p> | <p>Initiate DfMA thinking and incorporate client requirements into the <b>Initial Project Brief</b>. This should include high-level targets for the extent of DfMA adoption and time/cost/waste savings against traditional benchmarks.</p> <p>Consider opportunities for 'repeatability', site/logistical constraints, <b>Research and Development</b> and early input required from specialist subcontractors.</p> <p>Consider best practice DfMA exemplars for comparable projects.</p> <p>Test the feasibility of high-level DfMA objectives included in the <b>Initial Project Brief</b> using the <b>Site Information</b> and <b>Feasibility Studies</b>.</p> | <p>Test initial <b>Concept Design</b> options against the DfMA aspirations set out in the <b>Initial Project Brief</b>. Identify opportunities for the greatest impact and initiate any <b>Research and Development</b> required to integrate DfMA into the <b>Concept Design</b>.</p> <p>Prepare the <b>Construction Strategy</b> considering high-level DfMA benefits including safety, productivity, quality and sustainability, considering topics such as eliminating scaffolding, wet or hot works, the delivery methodology and the suitability of proposed systems.</p> <p>Consider DfMA aspects in <b>Risk Assessments</b> and the <b>Health and Safety</b> and <b>Maintenance and Operational Strategies</b>.</p> <p>Ensure that the <b>Cost Information</b> takes account of the DfMA methodologies set out in the <b>Construction Strategy</b>.</p> | <p>Update the <b>Construction Strategy</b> taking into account DfMA opportunities appropriate to the <b>Developed Design</b> and coordination activities. Prepare a schedule of DfMA components and consider national (or other) standards appropriate for DfMA.</p> <p>Consider buildability, including how the erection sequence, fabrication or manufacturing techniques and tolerances impact on interfaces.</p> <p>Update <b>Risk Assessments</b> and the <b>Health and Safety</b> and <b>Maintenance and Operational Strategies</b> taking into account DfMA considerations.</p> | <p>Develop the DfMA components more accurately considering the implications of the possible methods of manufacturing or fabrication. Develop the interfaces and specifications including structural, water/moisture/vapour penetration and acoustic issues.</p> <p>Update the <b>Construction Strategy</b> considering the lifting, handling and transportation strategy for each component and sub-assembly.</p> <p>Consider manufacturing and assembly risks in the updated <b>Risk Assessment</b> and <b>Health and Safety Strategy</b>.</p> <p>Develop a commissioning plan optimising the use of factory acceptance testing.</p> | <p>Update the <b>Construction Strategy</b>, including a logistics plan that ensures the right materials, plant and operatives are deployed in the right place at the right time.</p> <p>Commission the building progressively and capture <b>'As-Constructed'</b> Information.</p> <p>Consider how DfMA impacts the <b>Construction Programme</b>.</p> | <p>Consider how to capture commissioning and <b>'As-Constructed'</b> information in a manner that will assist the <b>In Use</b> stage including the potential disassembly of the building.</p> | <p>Consider any <b>Feedback</b> during the <b>In Use</b> stage necessary to inform future projects.</p> <p>Monitor the performance of standardised components including maintenance and replacement and provide <b>Feedback</b>.</p> <p>Monitor disassembly or potential reuse of materials during demolition at the end of the stage and provide <b>Feedback</b>.</p> |
| Suggested BIM Tasks for DfMA               | <p>Analyse data from the existing building to identify key metrics for success.</p> <p>Gather cost and programme data from previous projects to set benchmarks.</p> <p>Consider establishing a BIM object</p>   | <p>Use BIM for the preparation of <b>Feasibility Studies</b> including data-rich 'placeholder' objects with limited geometry to assist in the preparation of <b>Cost Information</b>. Use BIM to test and optimise the <b>Initial Project Brief</b>.</p> <p>Include the Level of Development</p>  | <p>Develop the BIM model and components to the Level of Development set out in the <b>Design Responsibility Matrix</b>. Validate the model against the client's information requirements.</p> <p>Consider DfMA tolerances in the development of the BIM model.</p>  | <p>Progress the BIM model and components to next Level of Development as set out in the <b>Design Responsibility Matrix</b>. Validate the model against the client's information requirements.</p> <p>Use digital technologies as part of coordination exercises.</p>  | <p>Progress the BIM model and components to next Level of Development as set out in the <b>Design Responsibility Matrix</b>. Validate the model against the client's information requirements.</p> <p>Use 4D technologies to test and rehearse the sequencing set out in</p>  | <p>Use BIM to train site operatives.</p> <p>Use digital technologies to track each step of the manufacturing, packing, logistics and delivery process.</p> <p>Consider recording the complete history and location of every</p>  | <p>Ensure any relevant documentation relating to DfMA components is linked to BIM components for <b>Feedback</b>, including lessons learned and potential repurposing.</p>                     | <p>Consider configuration management techniques to maintain an up-to-date record (BIM model) of the building.</p>  |



RIBA Plan of Work 2013



## RIBA Plan of Work Designing for Manufacture and Assembly overlay

This Overlay to the RIBA Plan of Work 2013 includes additional task bars to support Designing for Manufacture and Assembly. It should be used in conjunction with the RIBA Plan of Work 2013: [www.ribaplanofwork.com](http://www.ribaplanofwork.com)

[www.offsiteschool.com/DfMA](http://www.offsiteschool.com/DfMA)

|   | Stages  |   |   |  |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| Tasks   | 0   | 1   | 2   | 3  | 4   | 5   | 6  | 7  |
|   | Strategic Definition  | Preparation and Brief   | Concept Design  | Developed Design   | Technical Design  | Construction  | Handover and Close Out   | In Use   |
| <b>Core Objectives from the RIBA Plan of Work</b> | Identify client's <b>Business Case</b> and <b>Strategic Brief</b> and other core project requirements.  | Develop <b>Project Objectives</b> , including <b>Quality Objectives</b> and <b>Project Outcomes</b> , <b>Sustainability Aspirations</b> , <b>Project Budget</b> , other parameters or constraints and develop <b>Initial Project Brief</b> . Undertake <b>Feasibility Studies</b> and review of <b>Site Information</b> .   | Prepare <b>Concept Design</b> , including outline proposals for structural design, building services systems, outline specifications and preliminary <b>Cost Information</b> along with relevant <b>Project Strategies</b> in accordance with the <b>Design Programme</b> . Agree alterations to brief and issue <b>Final Project Brief</b> .   | Prepare <b>Developed Design</b> , including coordinated and updated proposals for structural design, building services systems, outline specifications, <b>Cost Information</b> and <b>Project Strategies</b> in accordance with the <b>Design Programme</b> .   | Prepare <b>Technical Design</b> in accordance with the <b>Design Responsibility Matrix</b> and <b>Project Strategies</b> to include all architectural, structural and building services information, specialist subcontractor design and specifications, in accordance with the <b>Design Programme</b> .   | Offsite manufacturing and onsite <b>Construction</b> in accordance with the <b>Construction Programme</b> and resolution of <b>Design Queries</b> from site as they arise.  | Handover of building and conclusion of the <b>Building Contract</b> .  | Undertake <b>In Use</b> services in accordance with <b>Schedule of Services</b> .  |
| <b>DfMA Strategy</b>                              | <p>Consider opportunities for applying DIMA across portfolios or programmes of projects.</p> <p>Consider how DIMA might impact on the <b>Business Case</b> or <b>Strategic Brief</b>.</p> <p>Consider whole life issues in the <b>Strategic Brief</b> including options for reuse or repurposing and recycling of components at the end of the building's life.</p> <p>Consider <b>Research and Development</b> that might assist <b>Feasibility Studies</b> or the <b>Concept Design</b> including intellectual property issues.</p> | <p>Initiate DIMA thinking and incorporate client requirements into the <b>Initial Project Brief</b>. This should include high-level targets for the extent of DIMA adoption and time/cost/waste savings against traditional benchmarks.</p> <p>Consider opportunities for 'repeatability': site/logistical constraints, <b>Research and Development</b> and early input required from specialist subcontractors.</p> <p>Consider best practice DIMA exemplars for comparable projects.</p> <p>Test the feasibility of high-level DIMA objectives included in the <b>Initial Project Brief</b> using the <b>Site Information</b> and <b>Feasibility Studies</b>.</p> | <p>Test initial <b>Concept Design</b> options against the DIMA aspirations set out in the <b>Initial Project Brief</b>. Identify opportunities for the greatest impact and initiate any <b>Research and Development</b> required to integrate DIMA into the <b>Concept Design</b>.</p> <p>Prepare the <b>Construction Strategy</b> considering high-level DIMA benefits including safety, productivity, quality and sustainability, considering topics such as eliminating scaffolding, wet or hot works, the delivery methodology and the suitability of proposed systems.</p> <p>Consider DIMA aspects in <b>Risk Assessments</b> and the <b>Health and Safety</b> and <b>Maintenance and Operational Strategies</b>.</p> <p>Ensure that the <b>Cost Information</b> takes account of the DIMA methodologies set out in the <b>Construction Strategy</b>.</p> | <p>Update the <b>Construction Strategy</b> taking into account DIMA opportunities appropriate to the <b>Developed Design</b> and coordination activities. Prepare a schedule of DIMA components and consider national (or other) standards appropriate for DfMA.</p> <p>Consider buildability, including how the erection sequence, fabrication or manufacturing techniques and tolerances impact on interfaces.</p> <p>Update <b>Risk Assessments</b> and the <b>Health and Safety</b> and <b>Maintenance and Operational Strategies</b> taking into account DIMA considerations.</p> | <p>Develop the DIMA components more accurately considering the implications of the possible methods of manufacturing or fabrication. Develop the interfaces and specifications including structural, water/moisture/vapour penetration and acoustic issues.</p> <p>Update the <b>Construction Strategy</b> considering the lifting, handling and transportation strategy for each component and sub-assembly.</p> <p>Consider manufacturing and assembly risks in the updated <b>Risk Assessment</b> and <b>Health and Safety Strategy</b>.</p> <p>Develop a commissioning plan optimising the use of factory acceptance testing.</p> | <p>Update the <b>Construction Strategy</b>, including a logistics plan that ensures the right materials, plant and operatives are deployed in the right place at the right time.</p> <p>Commission the building progressively and capture 'As-Constructed' Information.</p> <p>Consider how DIMA impacts the <b>Construction Programme</b>.</p> | <p>Consider how to capture commissioning and 'As-Constructed' information in a manner that will assist the <b>In Use</b> stage including the potential disassembly of the building.</p> <p>Consider any <b>Feedback</b> during the <b>In Use</b> stage necessary to inform future projects.</p> <p>Monitor the performance of standardised components including maintenance and replacement and provide <b>Feedback</b>.</p> <p>Monitor disassembly or potential reuse of materials during demolition at the end of the stage and provide <b>Feedback</b>.</p> | <p>Consider any <b>Feedback</b> during the <b>In Use</b> stage necessary to inform future projects.</p> <p>Monitor the performance of standardised components including maintenance and replacement and provide <b>Feedback</b>.</p> <p>Monitor disassembly or potential reuse of materials during demolition at the end of the stage and provide <b>Feedback</b>.</p> |
| <b>Suggested BIM Tasks for DfMA</b>               | <p>Analyse data from the existing building to identify key metrics for success.</p> <p>Gather cost and programme data from previous projects to set benchmarks.</p> <p>Consider establishing a BIM object</p>   | <p>Use BIM for the preparation of <b>Feasibility Studies</b> including data-rich 'placeholder' objects with limited geometry to assist in the preparation of <b>Cost Information</b>. Use BIM to test and optimise the <b>Initial Project Brief</b>.</p> <p>Include the Level of Development</p>  | <p>Develop the BIM model and components to the Level of Development set out in the <b>Design Responsibility Matrix</b>. Validate the model against the client's information requirements.</p> <p>Consider DIMA tolerances in the development of the BIM model.</p>  | <p>Progress the BIM model and components to next Level of Development as set out in the <b>Design Responsibility Matrix</b>. Validate the model against the client's information requirements.</p> <p>Use digital technologies as part of coordination exercises.</p>  | <p>Progress the BIM model and components to next Level of Development as set out in the <b>Design Responsibility Matrix</b>. Validate the model against the client's information requirements.</p> <p>Use 4D technologies to test and rehearse the sequencing set out in</p>  | <p>Use BIM to train site operatives.</p> <p>Use digital technologies to track each step of the manufacturing, packing, logistics and delivery process.</p> <p>Consider recording the complete history and location of every</p>   | <p>Ensure any relevant documentation relating to DIMA components is linked to BIM components for <b>Feedback</b>, including lessons learned and potential repurposing.</p>   | <p>Consider configuration management techniques to maintain an up-to-date record (BIM model) of the building.</p>  |



Noise / Uncertainty / Patterns / Insights

Clarity / Focus

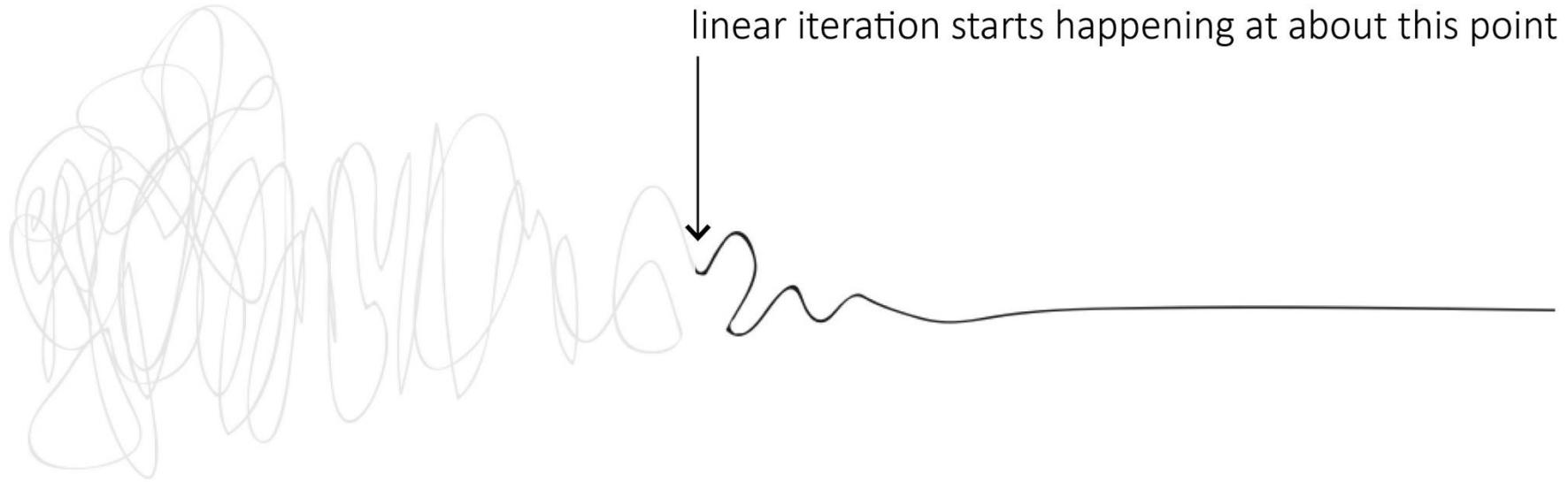


“designerly” vs. scientific approach

SOURCE | Daniel Newman’s “Design Squiggle” found at <https://thedesignsquiggle.com/>

Noise / Uncertainty / Patterns / Insights

Clarity / Focus

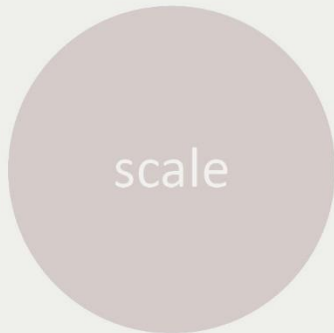


“designerly” vs. scientific approach

SOURCE | Daniel Newman’s “Design Squiggle” found at <https://thedesquiggle.com/>



- / Factory x Site
- / Variability
- / Construction x Assembly



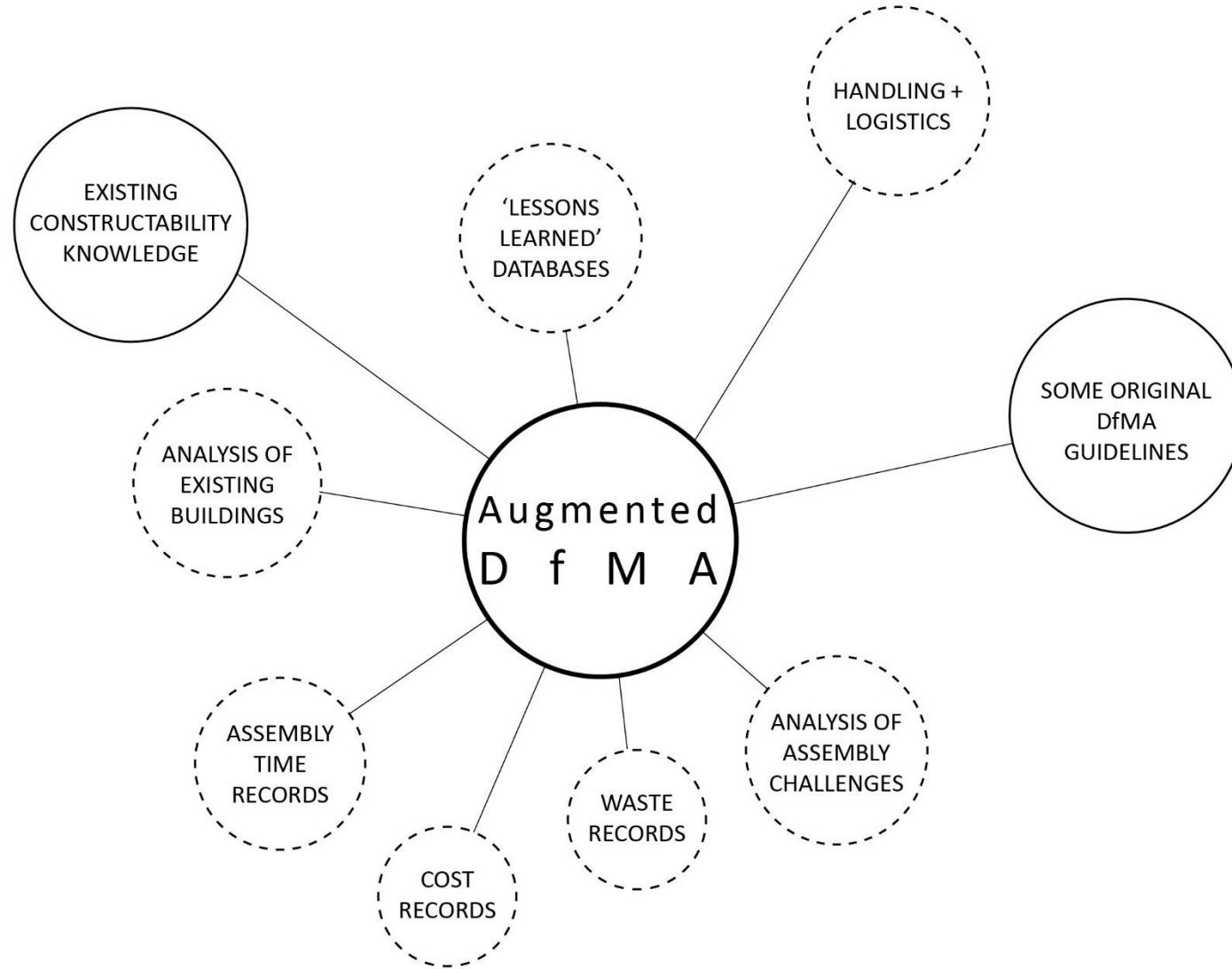
- / Assembly strategy
- / Lifting logistics
- / Instal logistics
- / Tolerance

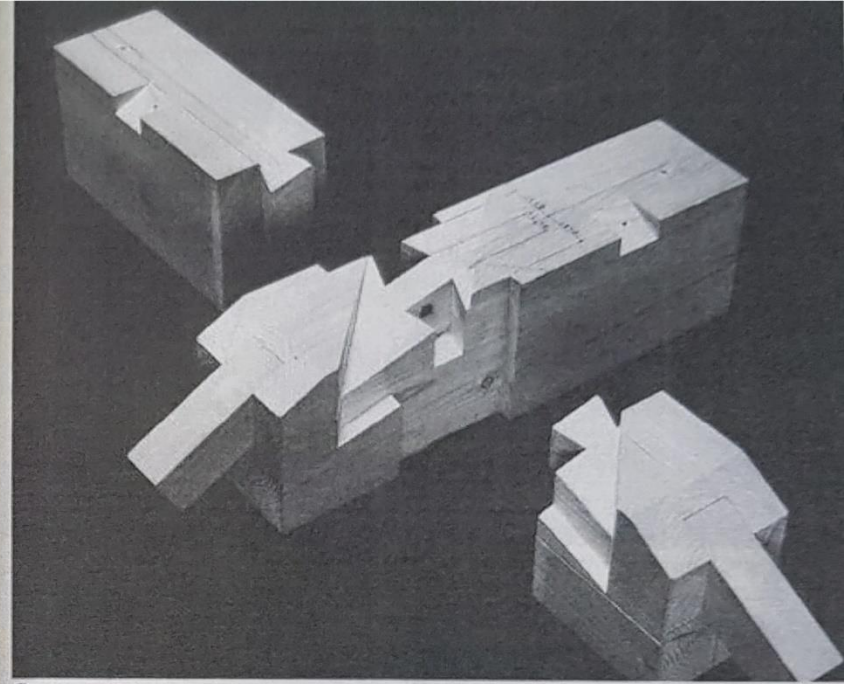
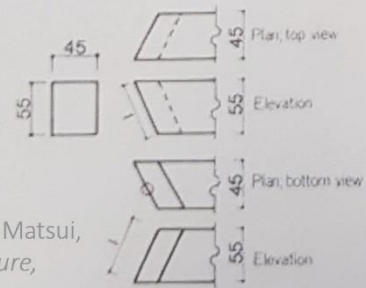
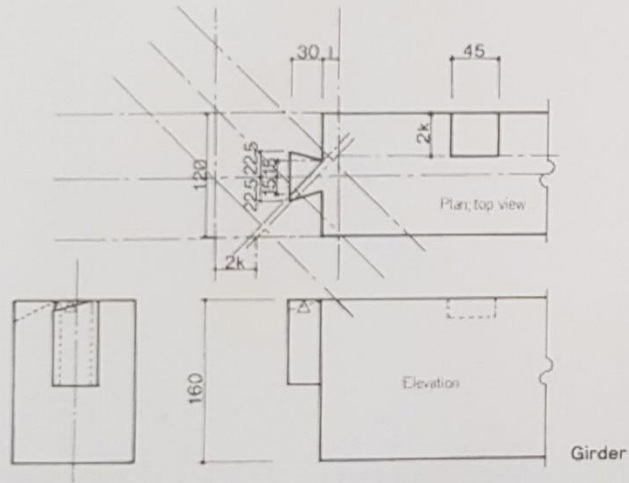
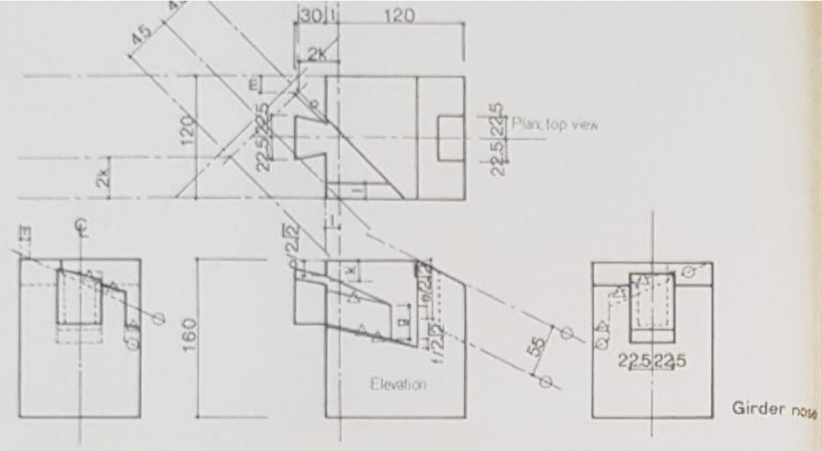


- / Beyond cost + time?
- / Safety
- / Quality

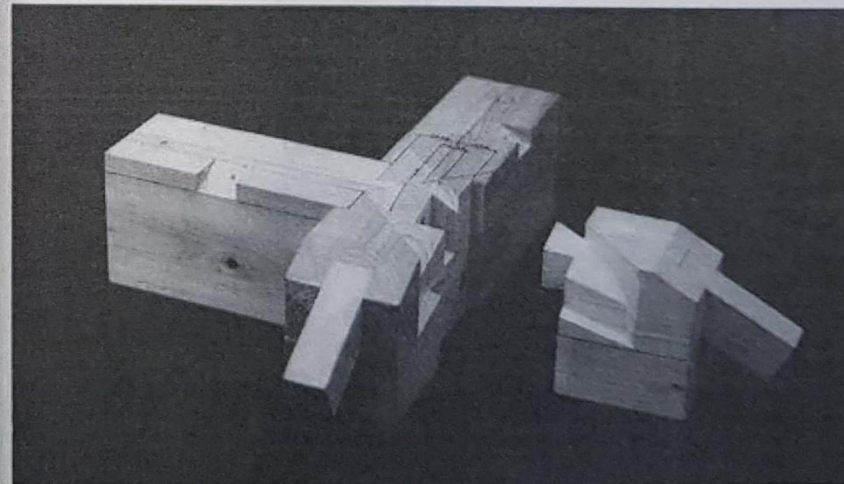


- / Stages of design
- / Scientific vs Designerly
- / Attitudes towards optimisation





① Arrangement of girders A and B and of the girder nose



② Girder B is inserted into girder A (housed dovetail).

SOURCE | Torashichi Sumiyoshi and Gengo Matsui,  
*Wood Joints in Classical Japanese Architecture*,  
(Kajima Institute Publishing, 1989), 92-93.



thank you.

[ivana.kuzmanovska@monash.edu](mailto:ivana.kuzmanovska@monash.edu)

<https://www.monash.edu/mada/research/labs/future-building-initiative>