

BUILDING OUR DIGITAL COMMUNITIES CONFERENCE

2023

# Delivering Net Zero BIM Enabled Carbon Assessment

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Embodied Carbon

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BIM enabled Carbon Assessment

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Case Studies

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Automation and AI

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Towards 2030

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How can we  
reduce carbon  
emissions in  
early design?





## OPPORTUNITIES

- 01 Efficient modelling strategies
- 02 Material Data Management
- 03 Making informed data driven design decisions





# Climate **Emergency**



**Your Business**

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**Your Work**

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**Your Influence**

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TOTAL AVOIDED

1445 tCO<sub>2</sub>e-

Upfront excluding Biogenic and Module D of retained structure



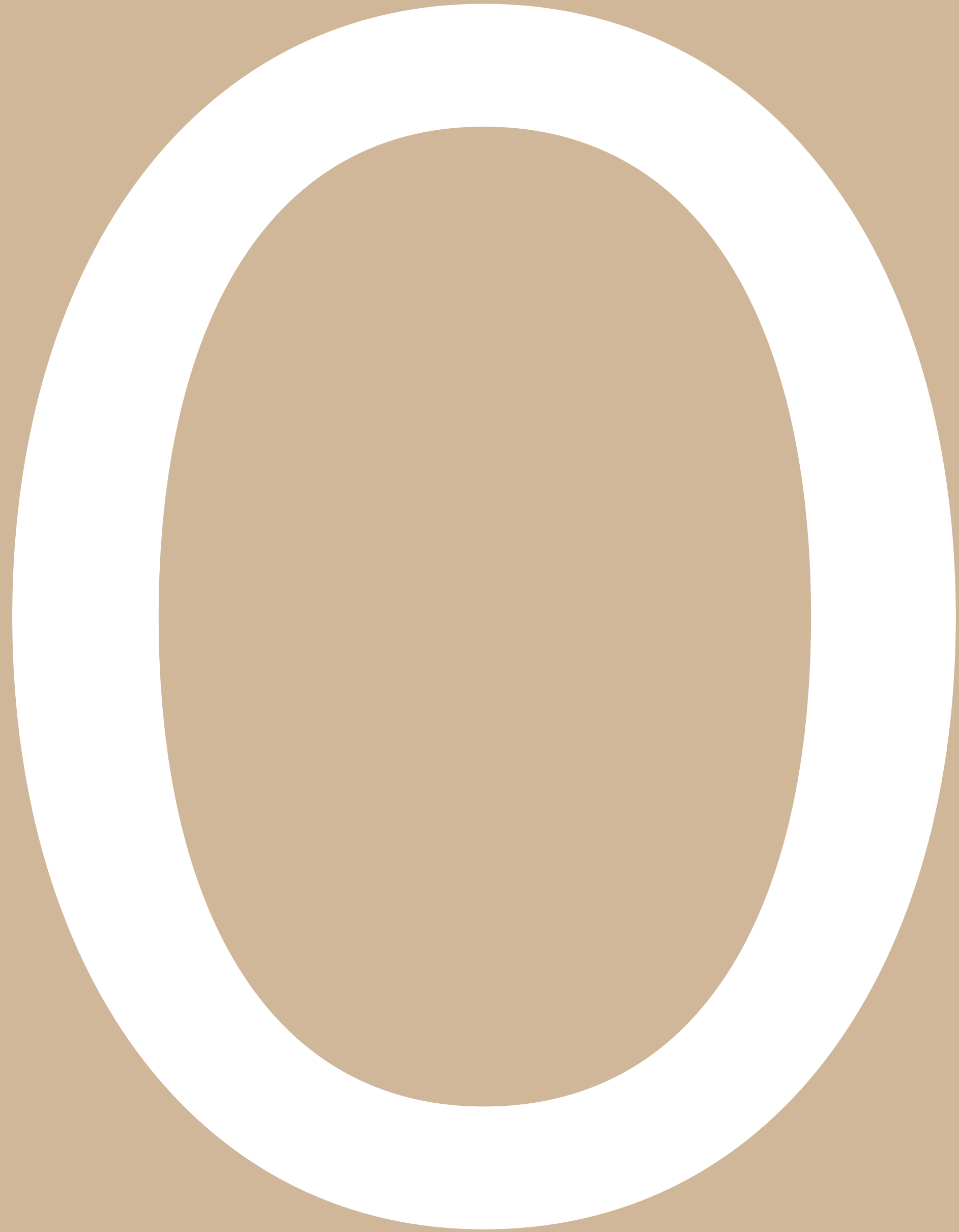
avoided\* 1445 tCO<sub>2</sub>e-

\*estimate based on the embodied carbon it would take to replace the retained structure









Join us on  
the path to  
zero

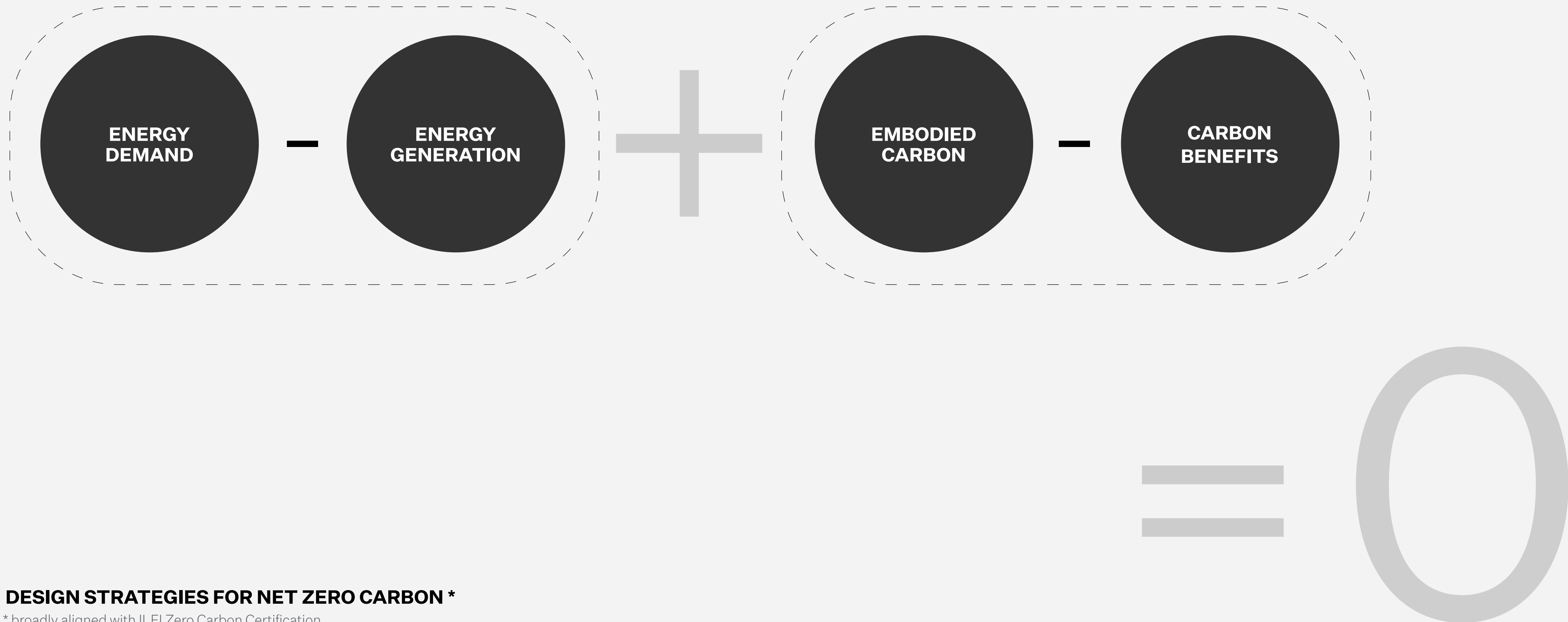


**CARBON 101**

# Embodied Carbon in Design



# Zero Carbon



**DESIGN STRATEGIES FOR NET ZERO CARBON \***

\* broadly aligned with ILFI Zero Carbon Certification



# ‘Carbon’

**Greenhouse Gas (GHG)** are any gas that absorbs heat in the atmosphere such as **Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)** and **Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>)**.

The impact of GHGs is **Global Warming Potential (GWP)** which is measured in **Carbon Dioxide equivalent** gas (CO<sub>2</sub>e-) measured through a Life Cycle Assessment (LCA).

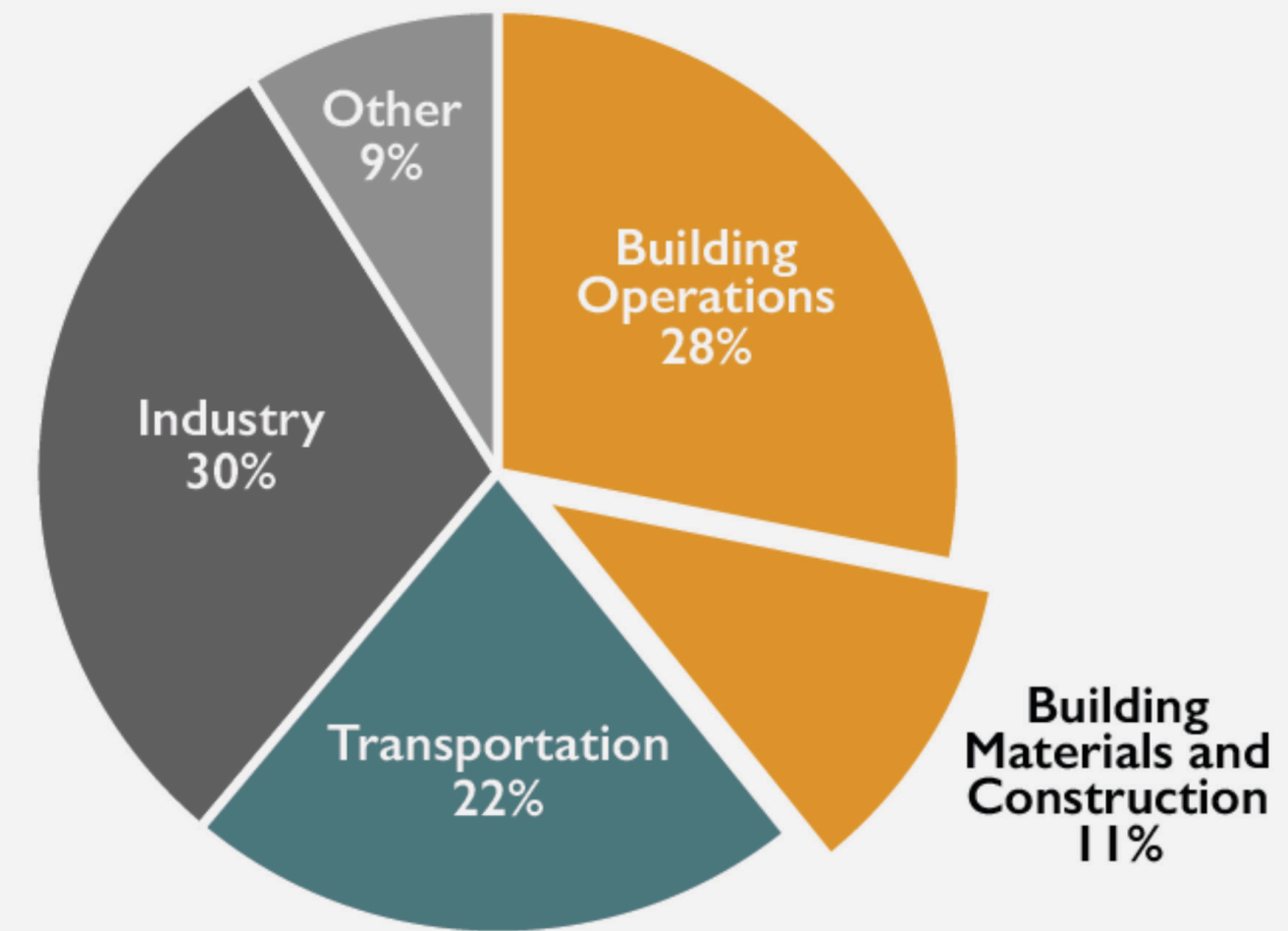




# Impact of Buildings Globally

**39%**  
of global  
greenhouse gas  
emissions from  
buildings

Global CO<sub>2</sub> Emission by Sector



**Embodied Carbon**

The emissions from manufacturing, transportation, and installation of building materials.

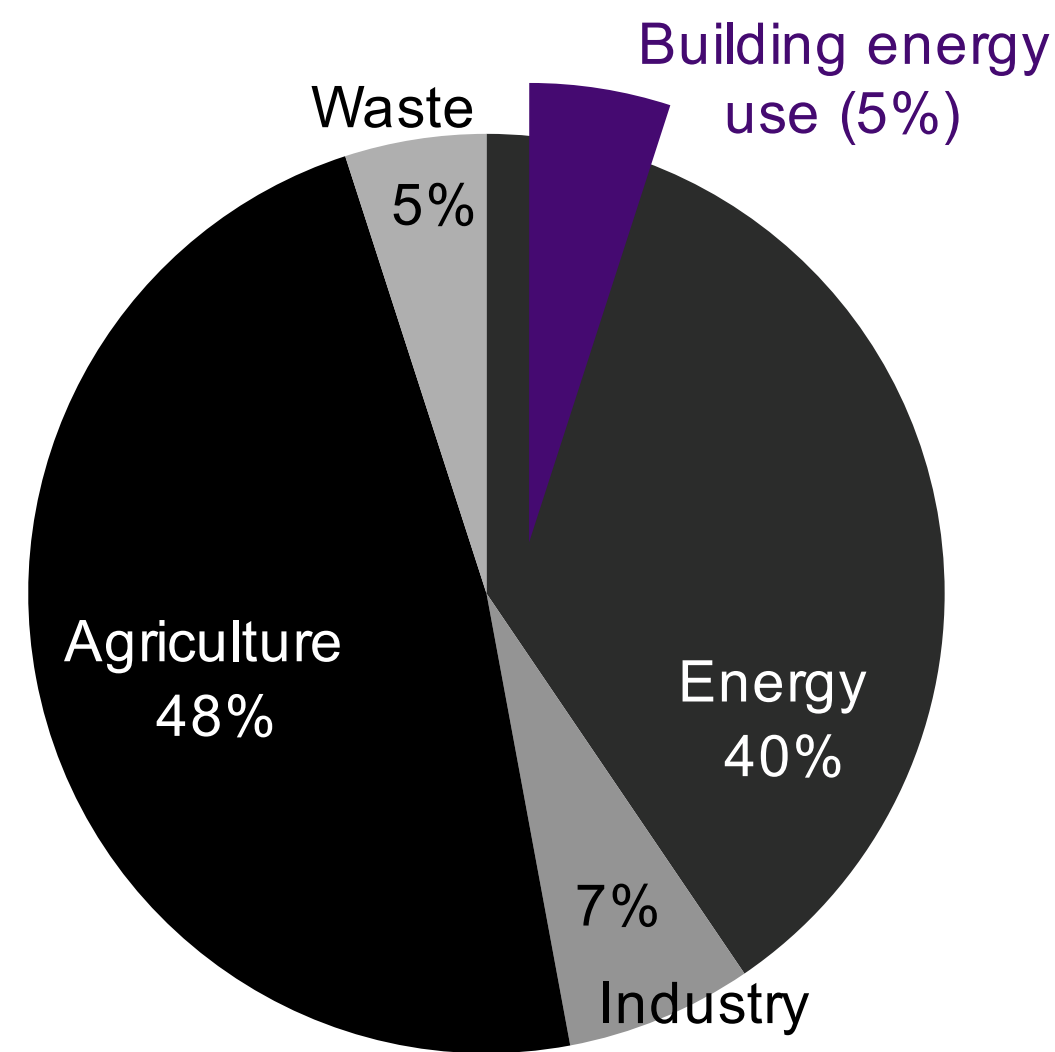
**Operational Carbon**

The emissions from a building's energy consumption.



# Impact of Buildings in New Zealand

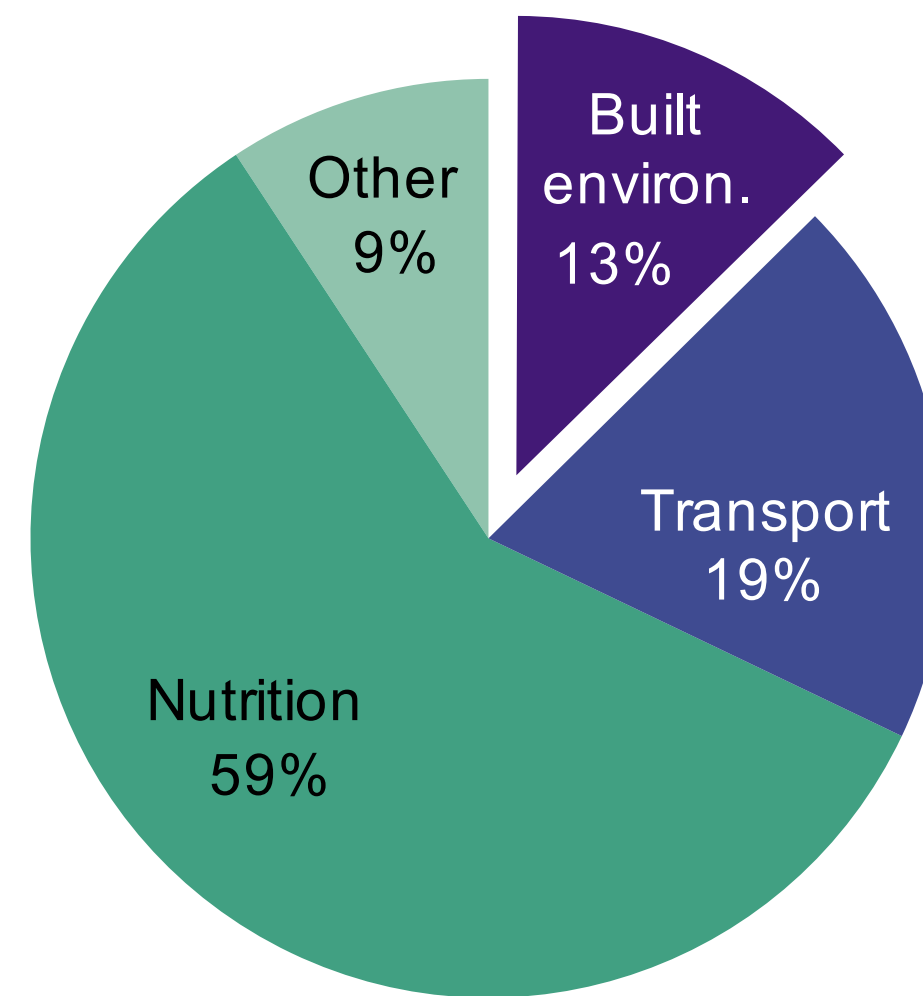
(a) Production perspective



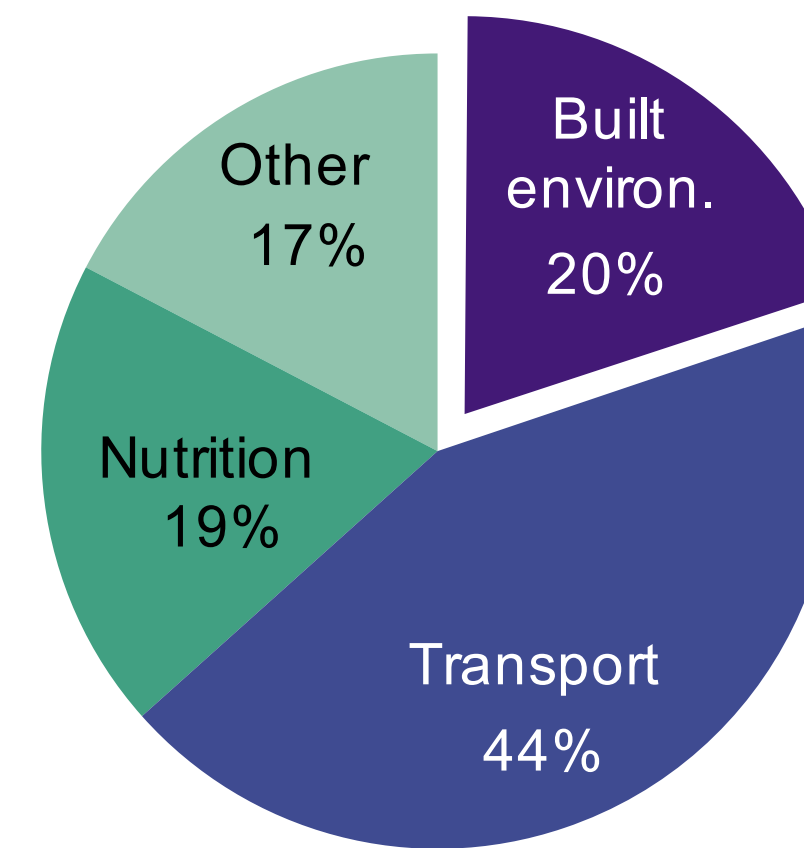
80 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e  
National total

17 t CO<sub>2</sub>e  
Per person

(b) Consumption perspective excluding international trade



(c) Consumption perspective including international trade



60 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e  
National total

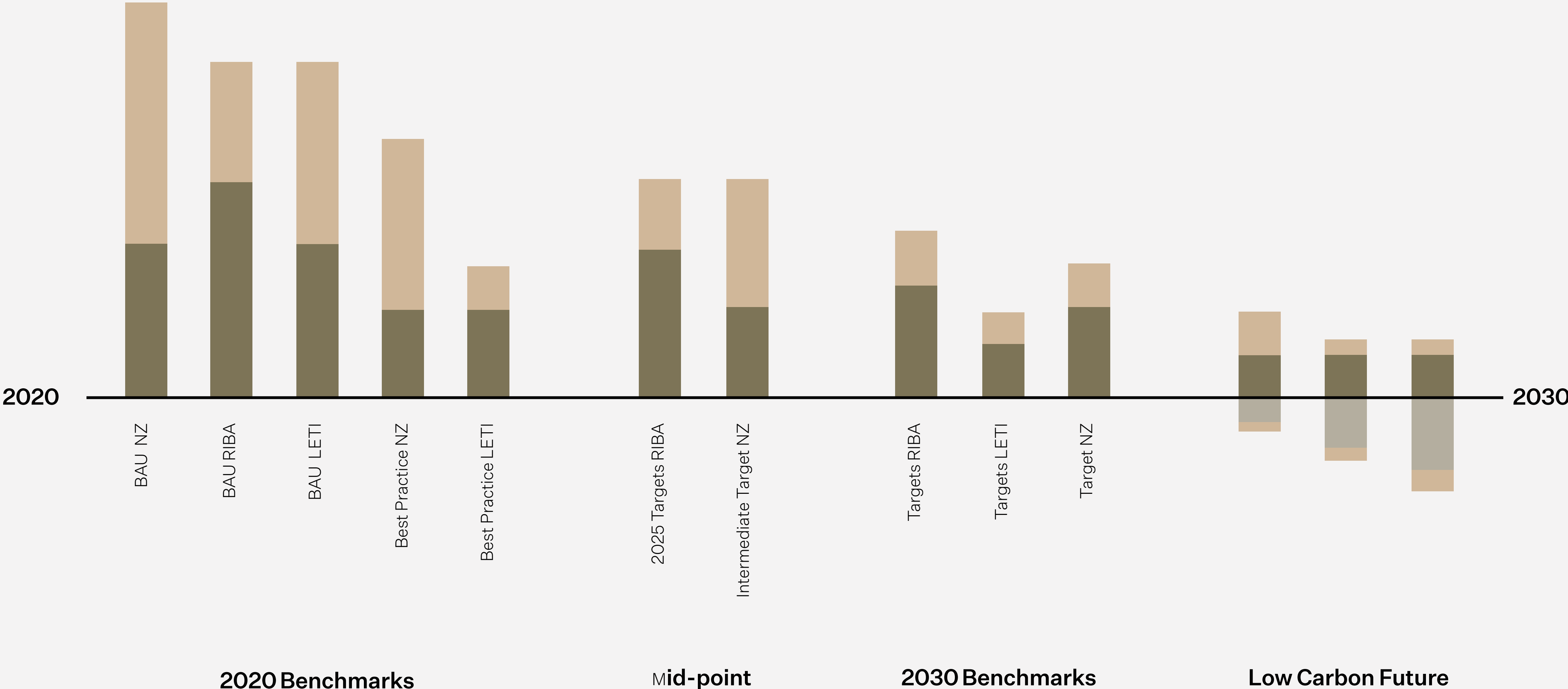
13 t CO<sub>2</sub>e  
Per person

www.thinkstep-anz.com

Source: Link to Thinkstep Report- [https://www.nzgbc.org.nz/Attachment?Action=Download&Attachment\\_id=2453](https://www.nzgbc.org.nz/Attachment?Action=Download&Attachment_id=2453)



# Embodied and Operational Carbon





CASE STUDY

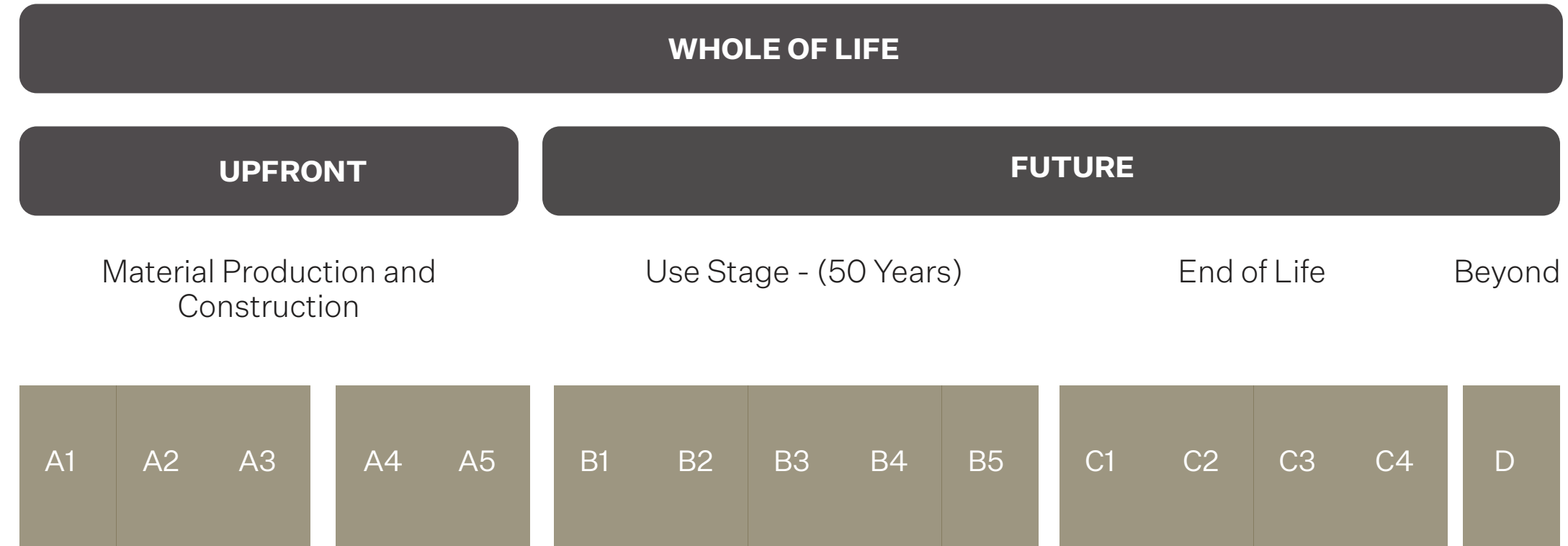
# Flowers Site 6





# Scope

## LIFE CYCLE SCOPE

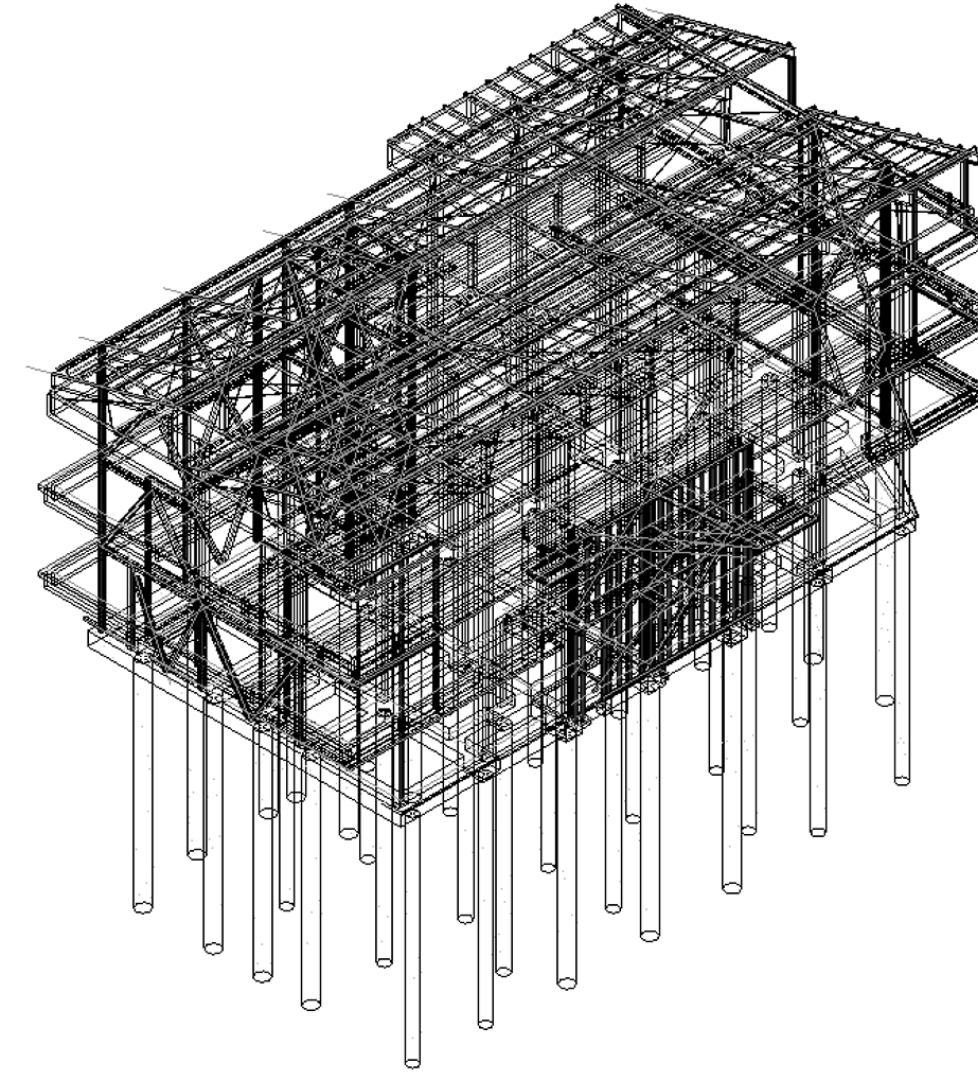


## BUILDING ELEMENT SCOPE

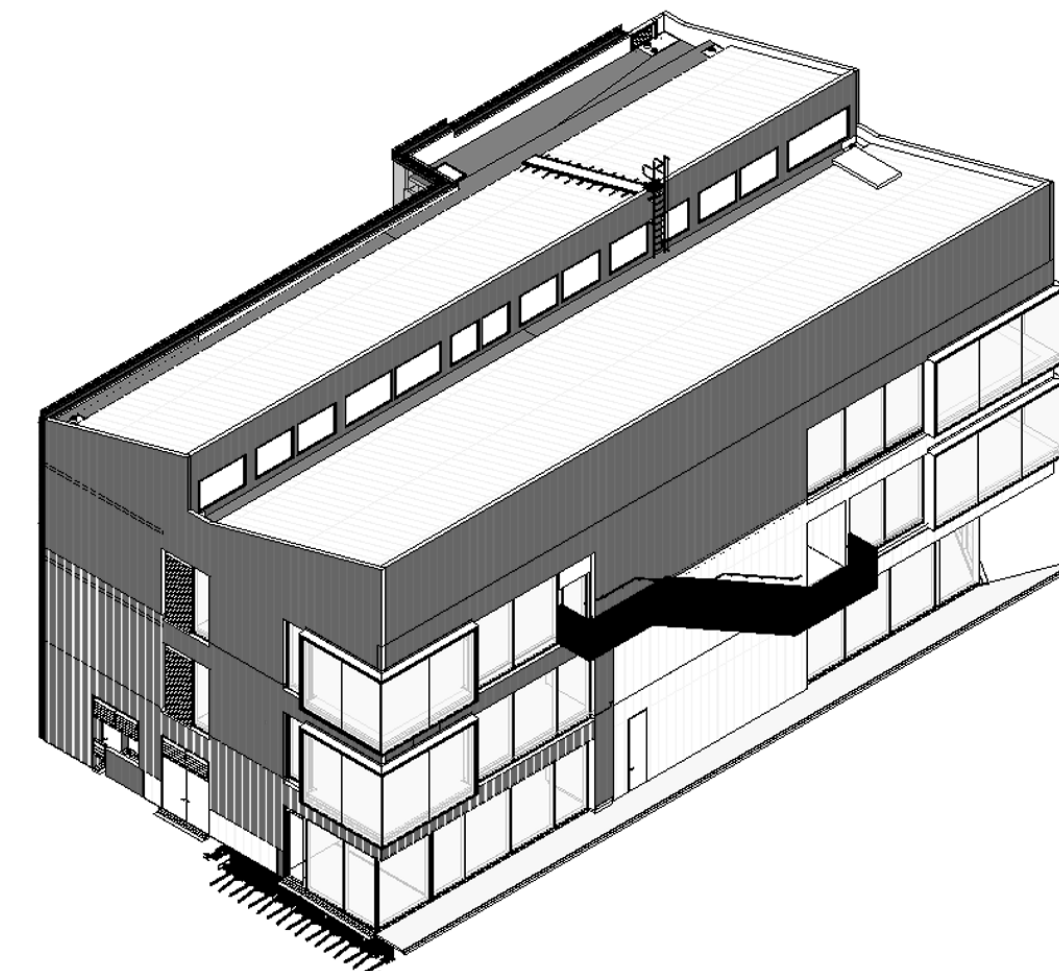


- Included In Scope
- Excluded in Scope

## STRUCTURAL SCOPE

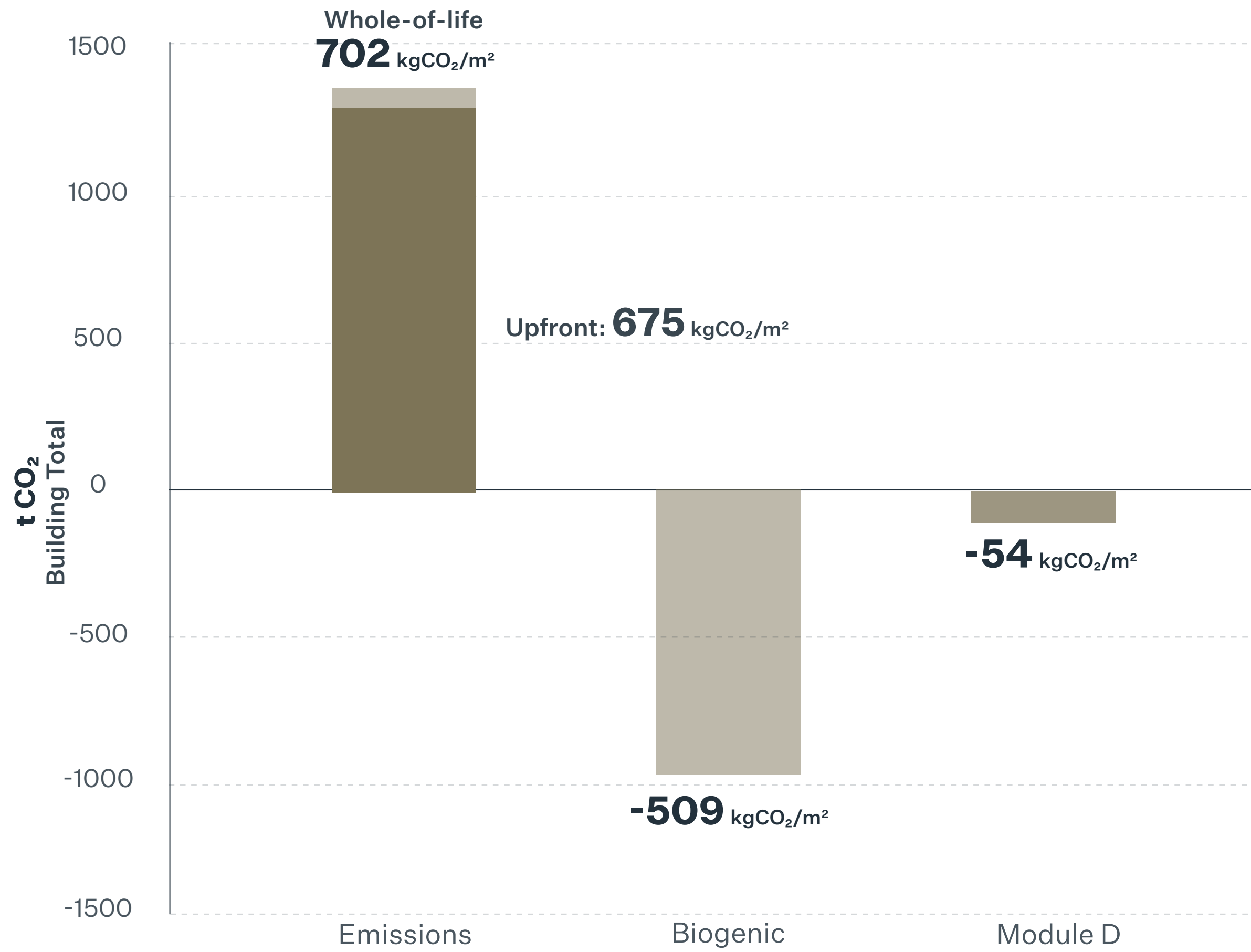


## ARCHITECTURAL SCOPE





# Results

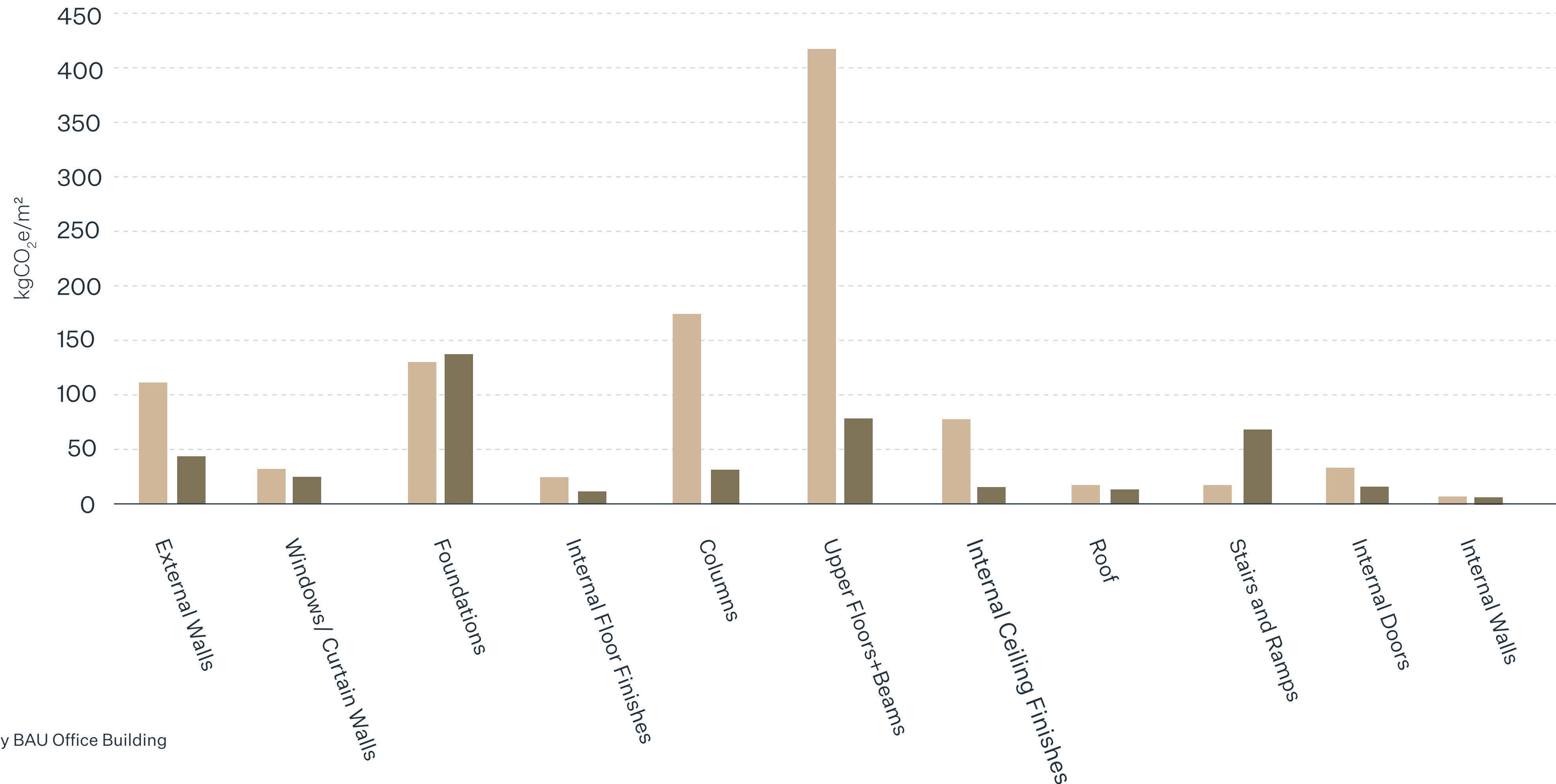


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# Comparison of Carbon Intensity



● 8 Storey BAU Office Building  
● Flowers Site 6



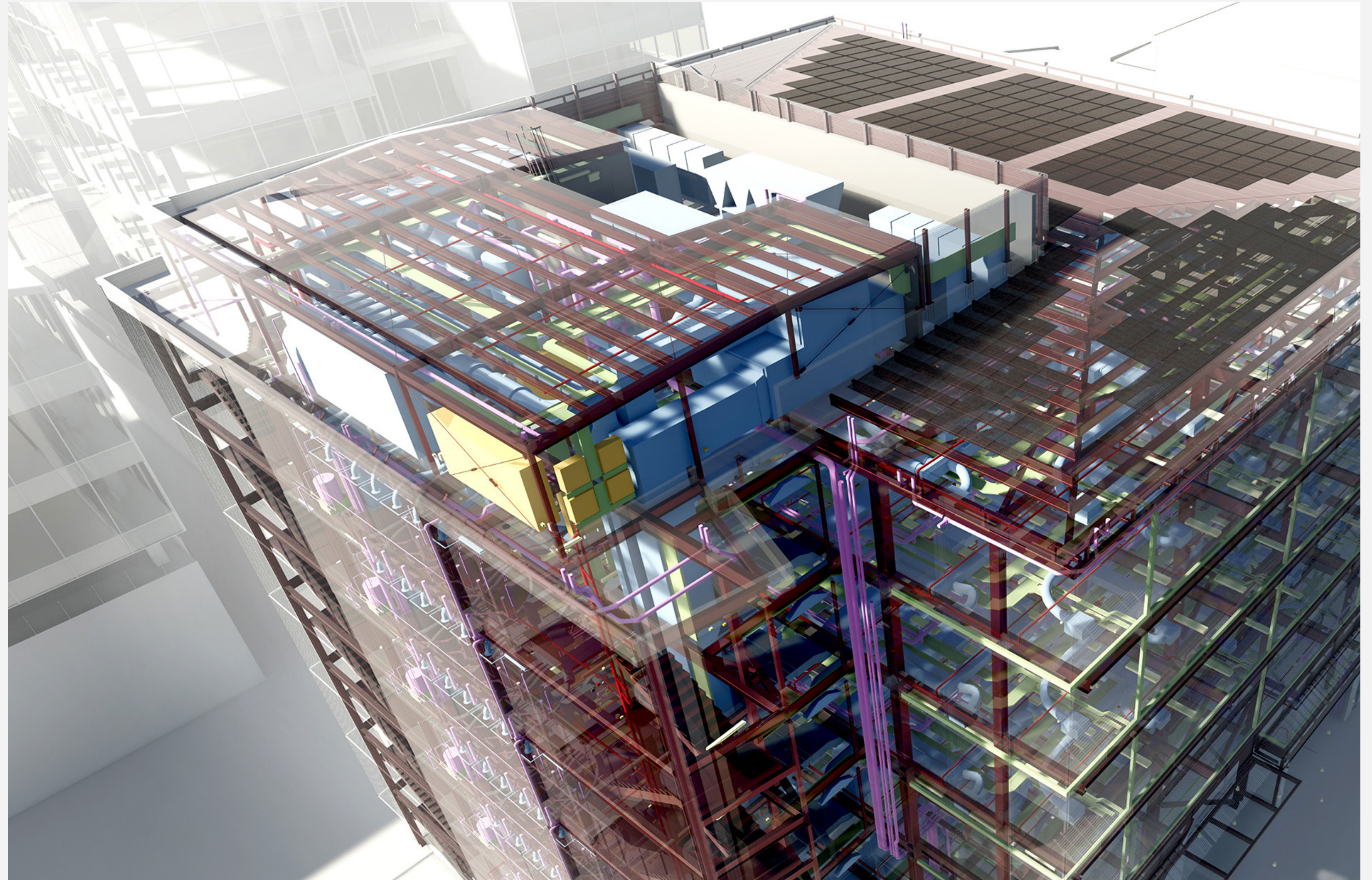
**CARBON**

# BIM enabled carbon assessment



# Expectation v Reality

"Expected experience"





# Expectation v Reality

How do I access insights to inform decisions when they are being made?



# Building Information Model

What you measure impacts how you manage your team.

What is the **building element scope** I am looking to measure?

What is the **building's life cycle scope** I am looking to understand?

|                              |                             |   |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| PRIMARY MATERIAL ASSEMBLIES  | Foundation                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retaining Walls</li> <li>• Footings</li> </ul>   |
|                              | Structure                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slabs</li> <li>• Framing</li> <li>• Reinforcement</li> </ul>   |
|                              | Enclosure                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cladding</li> <li>• Insulation</li> <li>• Fenestration</li> <li>• Roofing</li> </ul>                   |
| INTERIOR MATERIAL ASSEMBLIES | Finishes                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ceiling</li> <li>• Wall</li> <li>• Floor</li> <li>• Partitions</li> </ul>                              |
|                              | Partitions                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Framing</li> <li>• Insulation</li> <li>• Fenestration</li> </ul>                                       |
| OPTIONAL MATERIAL ASSEMBLIES | <i>Interior Furnishings</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Furniture</i></li> <li>• <i>Fixtures</i></li> <li>• <i>Equipment</i></li> </ul>                     |
|                              | <i>Building Systems</i>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Electrical</i></li> <li>• <i>Mechanical</i></li> <li>• <i>Plumbing + Fire Protection</i></li> </ul> |
|                              | <i>Site Work</i>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Excavation</i></li> <li>• <i>External Paving</i></li> </ul>   |

IFLI Zero Carbon Certification Building Elements

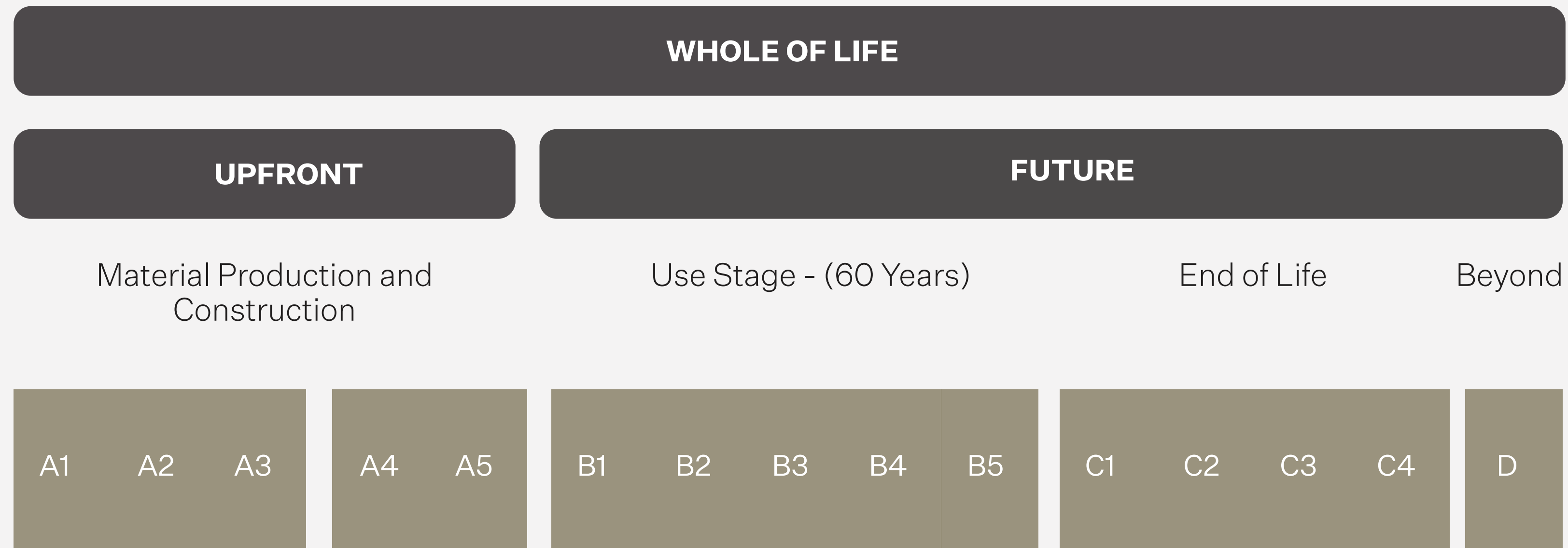


# Building Scope - MBIE methodology

| Building System                          | Mandatory: must be included in the assessment   | Voluntary: may be reported independently within the assessment  |
|--|---|---|
| <b>Ground Work</b>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Substructure/foundations</li> <li>• Earth retaining structures</li> <li>• Basements</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vegetation</li> <li>• Hard landscaping</li> <li>• Ancillary buildings</li> <li>• External services, including drainage</li> </ul>                    |
| <b>Structure</b>                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ground floor structure</li> <li>• Upper floor(s) structure</li> <li>• Load bearing systems: gravity and lateral structural frames and walls</li> <li>• Roof structure</li> </ul>                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporary works (form work, scaffold etc.) used during construction that are not reused</li> <li>• Stairs</li> <li>• Lifts and escalators</li> </ul> |
| <b>External Envelope</b>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cladding/façade primary elements (weather exposed layer, structural support system)</li> <li>• External wall insulation</li> <li>• Roof covering and insulation</li> <li>• External windows and doors</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cladding/façade secondary elements (seals, brackets etc.)</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Non- structural internal elements</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-loadbearing walls</li> <li>• Internal doors</li> <li>• Floor and wall finishes</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ceilings</li> <li>• Fixtures, fittings and furniture</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Building Services</b>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HVAC4 equipment</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water, drainage, electrical services</li> <li>• Other building systems such as fire and security systems</li> </ul>                                  |



# Consistent Lifecycle Scope - LCA terms





# Building **Information** Model

## Product Specific Database Examples

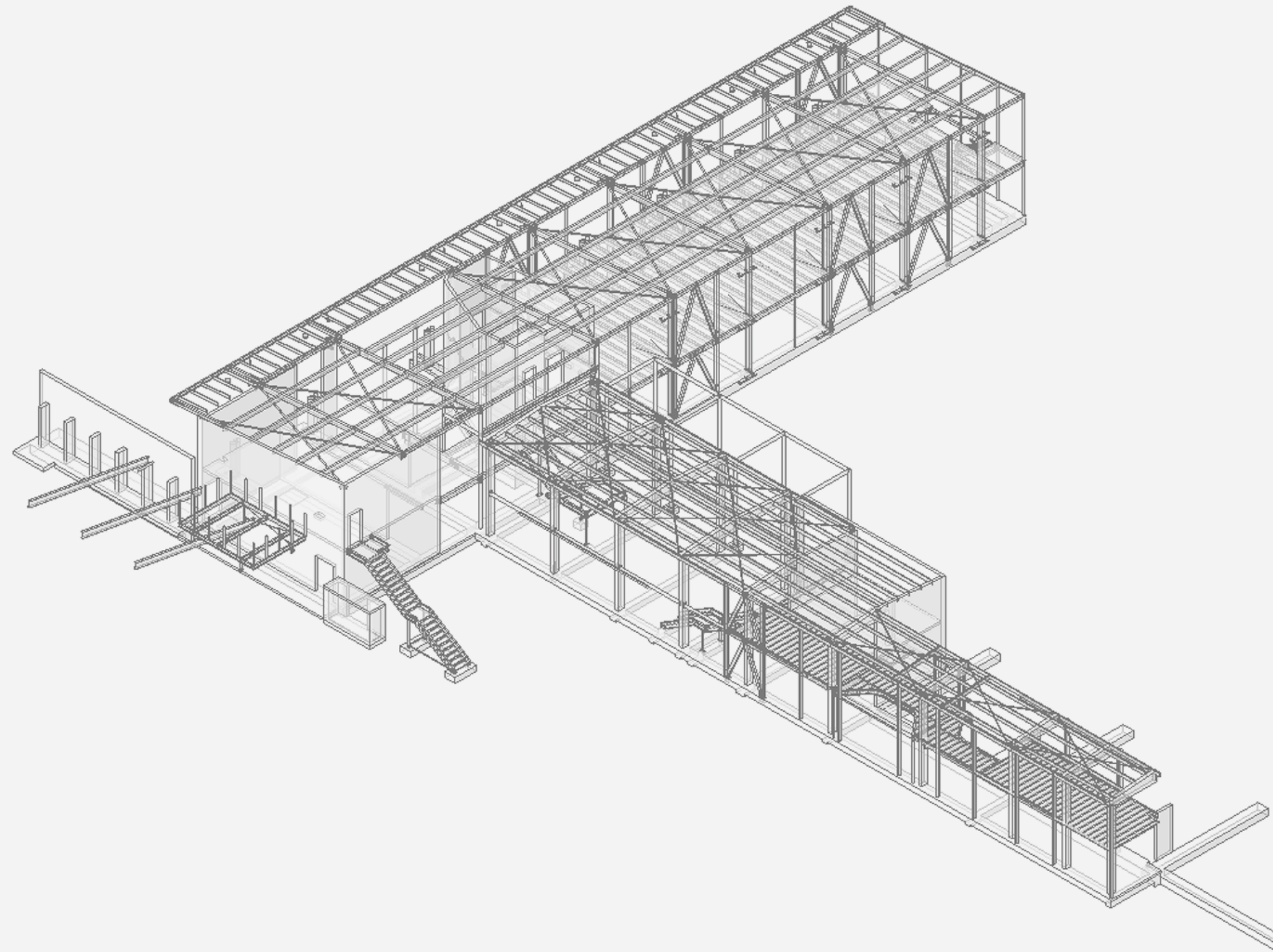


## Generic Database Examples





# Building Information **Model**



## MODELLING STRATEGIES

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### 01 Volume based approach

Model to a level of detail where the volume is an appropriate quantity

---

### 02 Area based approach

Using area planes to represent quantities of multiple materials

---

### 03 Length based approach

Model lines to represent more detailed elements for example, structure



# Early Design Workflow

1

## Simplify

Model efficiently using  
an area and length  
based approach

2

## Measure

Utilise product specific  
where possible &  
input generic data  
consistently

3

## Test

Swap out materials or  
remodel to identify a  
reduction pathway



**CASE STUDIES**

# Head Start on Low Carbon Design



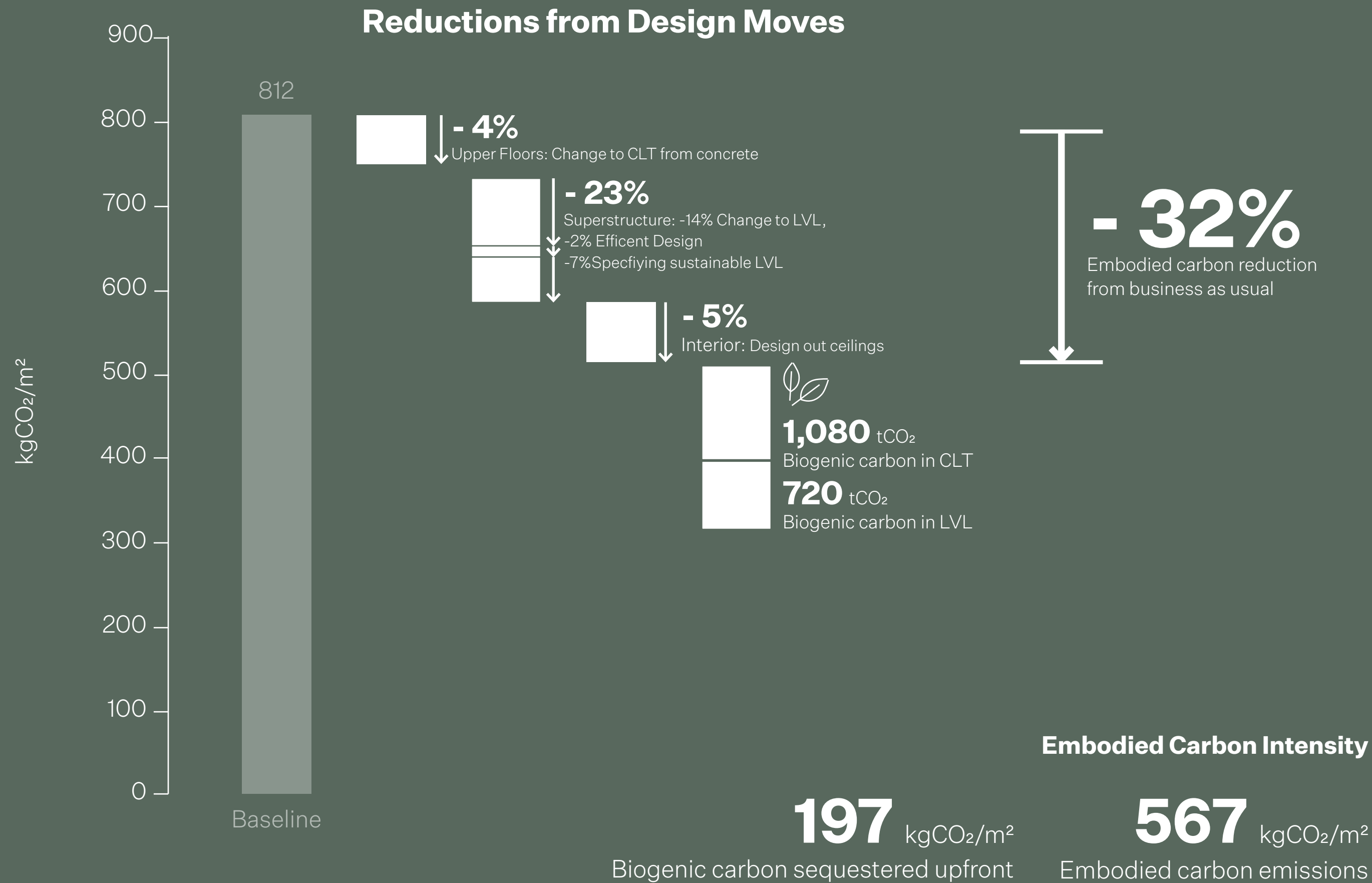


# Embodied Carbon in Concept Design

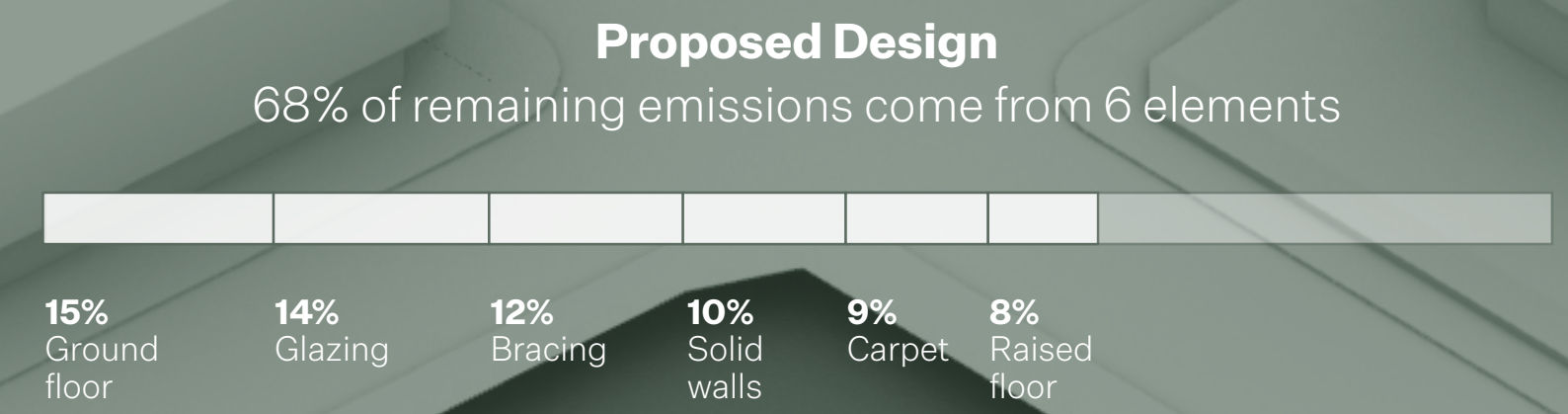
**LCA Scope:** Whole of life assessment over a 50 year service life

**Building Element Scope:** Superstructure (beams, columns, ground and upper floors), Envelope (roof, & facade), Interior (carpet, ceilings, stairs). Substructure (foundations) were excluded from the assessment.

**Baseline:** Was calculated off the same design parameters using business as usual material specifications



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# Embodied Carbon in Bulk & Massing

**LCA Scope:** Whole of life assessment over a 60 year service life

**Building Element Scope:** Superstructure (beams, columns, ground and upper floors), Envelope (roof, & facade), Substructure (foundations). Interior (carpet, ceilings, stairs) were excluded from the assessment.

**Baseline:** Latrobe was used as a reference building to make allowances for unknown quantities

**1A**

**707**  
kgCO<sub>2</sub>/m<sup>2</sup>

**5,658 tCO<sub>2</sub>**  
total whole of life emissions

**0.185 kgCO<sub>2</sub>**  
per visit

**1.3 km**  
per visit

**Best Performance**

**2C**

**736**  
kgCO<sub>2</sub>/m<sup>2</sup>

**5,888 tCO<sub>2</sub>**  
total whole of life emissions

**.191 kgCO<sub>2</sub>**  
per visit

**1.3 km**  
per visit

**3A**

**659**  
kgCO<sub>2</sub>/m<sup>2</sup>

**6,193 tCO<sub>2</sub>**  
total whole of life emissions

**0.198 kgCO<sub>2</sub>**  
per visit

**1.4 km**  
per visit

**4A**

**729**  
kgCO<sub>2</sub>/m<sup>2</sup>

**6,199 tCO<sub>2</sub>**  
total whole of life emissions

**0.198 kgCO<sub>2</sub>**  
per visit

**1.4 km**  
per visit

**2A**

**676**  
kgCO<sub>2</sub>/m<sup>2</sup>

**6,897 tCO<sub>2</sub>**  
total whole of life emissions

**0.214 kgCO<sub>2</sub>**  
per visit

**1.5 km**  
per visit

**Selected Design**





# Bulk & Massing - Baseline Performance

**731,390 tCO<sub>2</sub>**  
Operational Carbon Emissions over 60 years

**71,705 kgCO<sub>2</sub>/m<sup>2</sup>**

Operational Carbon Building Intensity

**984 kgCO<sub>2</sub>/m<sup>2</sup>**

Embodied Carbon Building Intensity

**105.7 km**

Distance traveled by 1 person in a car per visit

**528.5 km**

Distance traveled by a 5 person family per visit



**CASE STUDIES**

# Data Informed Design



# Taita College



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# Carbon hotspot identification



| Category               | Option 1 | Option 2 | Option 3 | Option 4 | Option 5 |
|------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Foundations            | 30%      | 40%      | 66%      | 66%      | 67%      |
| Ground Floor           | 45%      | 44%      | 11%      | 19%      | 12%      |
| Load Bearing Structure | 14%      | 1%       | 2%       | 6%       | 8%       |
| Roof Structure         | 7%       | 5%       | 15%      | 3%       | 6%       |
| Cladding/Facade        | 4%       | 9%       | 5%       | 5%       | 6%       |

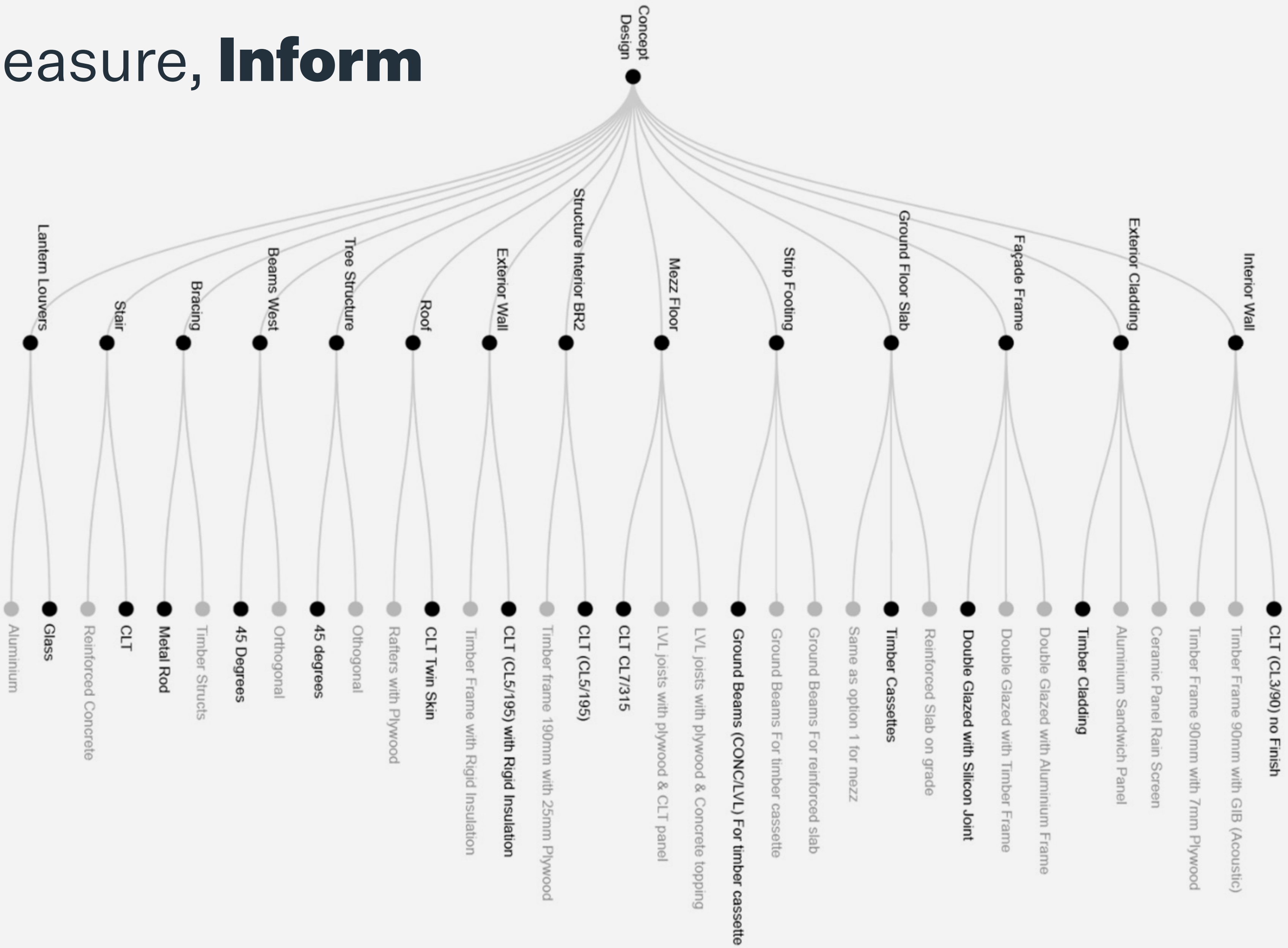


zero carbon  
certification





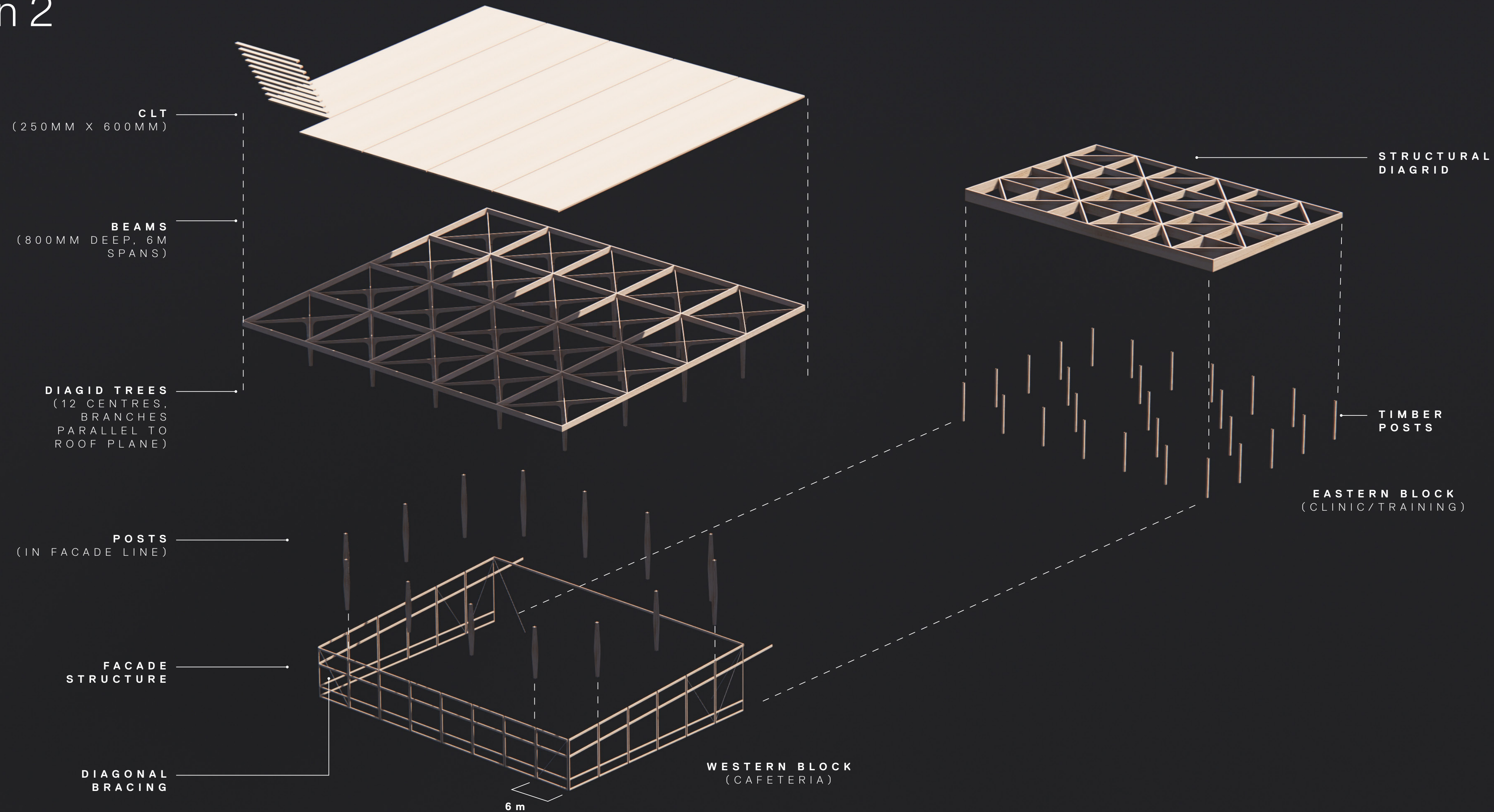
# Test, Measure, **Inform**





# Building Parts

## Option 2



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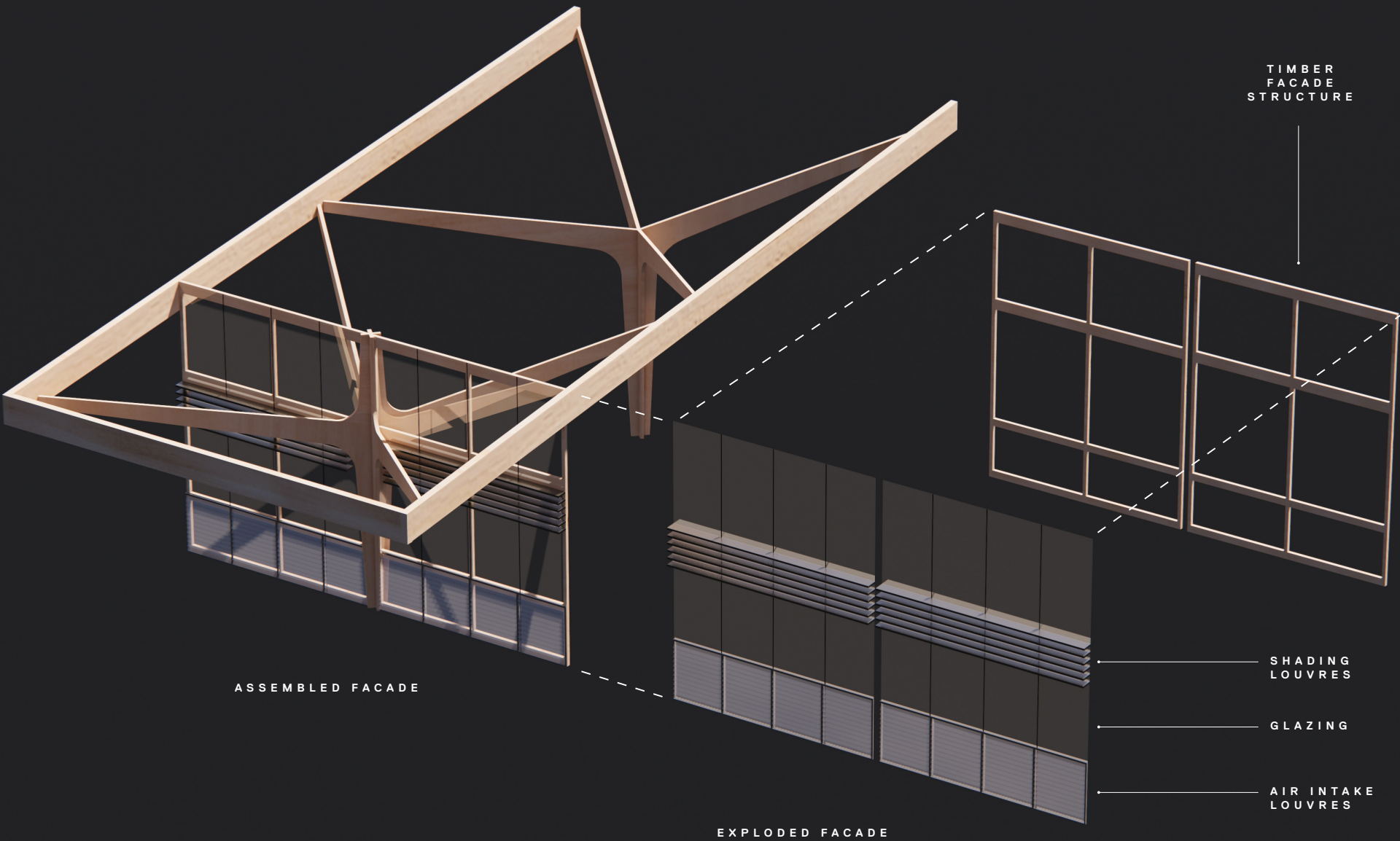
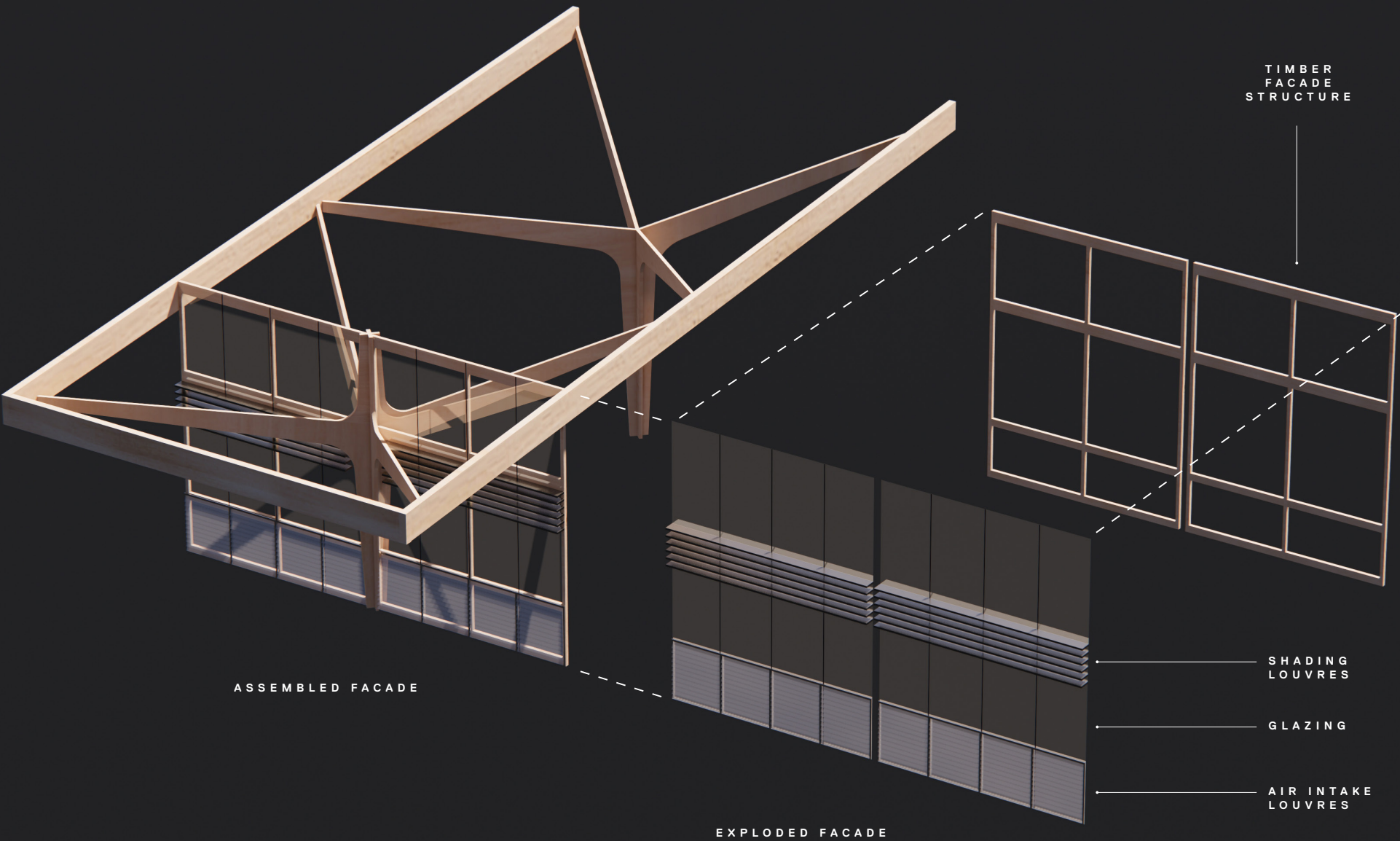
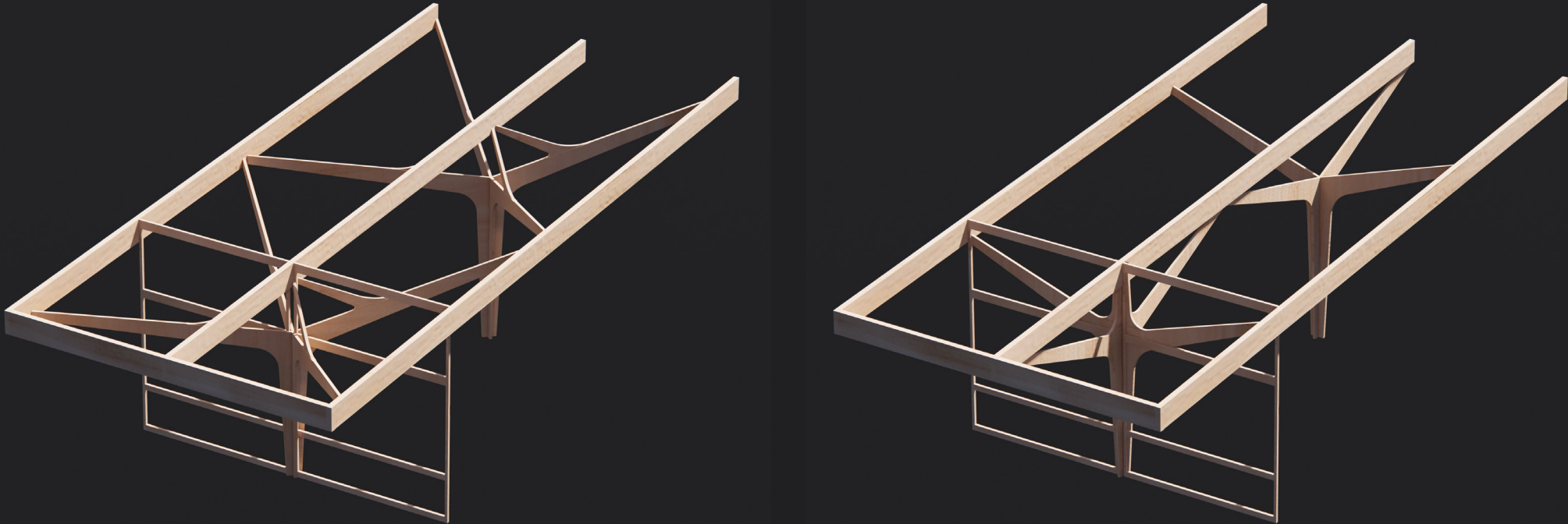
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# Facades

## Flexible and modular construction

The facades and their sub-structure are designed to be modular and flexible with optimised module dimensions. Within it is a framework of apertures that can be filled to respond to the requirements of shading or maximising views and connectivity. The lower portion of the facades accommodate operable louvres to enable natural ventilation at the perimeter whilst the high-level apertures are predominantly glazed to optimise natural day-lighting.



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**RESEARCH FILLING GAPS**

# Facade Study



Facade Type Four

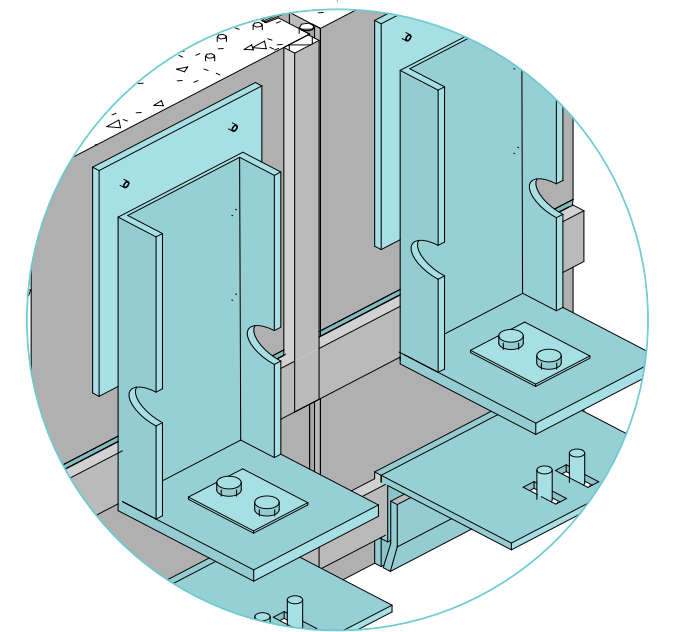
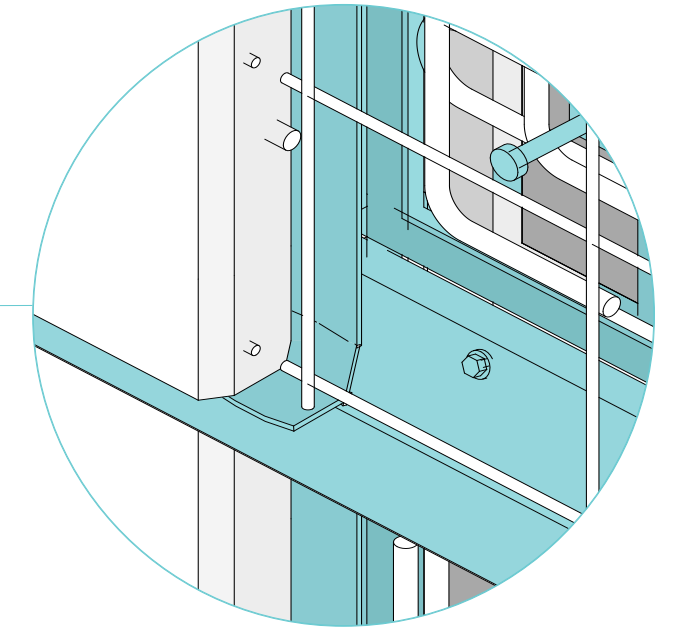
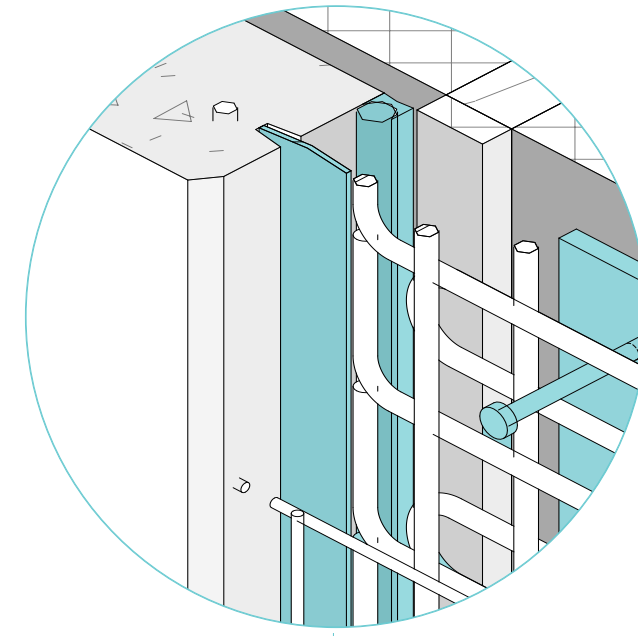
# Precast Concrete Panels

# 04

Highlighted elements exceed MBIE's mandatory scope for an embodied carbon assessment.

# 186<sub>gCO<sub>2</sub>/m<sup>2</sup></sub>

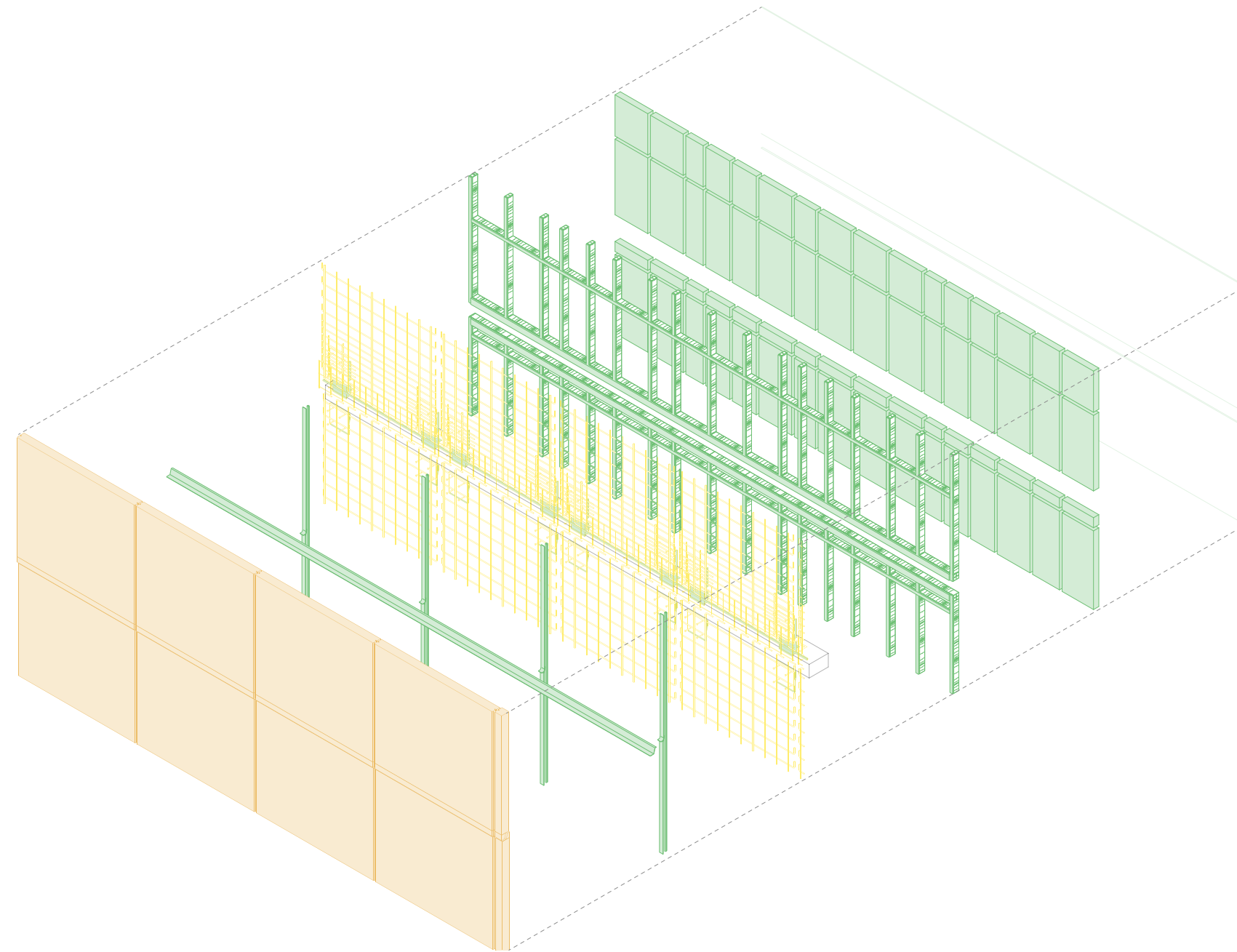
Total upfront (A1-A3) embodied carbon per square metre of facade.





# Precast Concrete Panels

Areas of high carbon intensity



Precast Concrete Panels (FT4)  
Total Embodied Carbon Emissions of Facade Components per Sample Area



**4th**  
Place in carbon intensity within studied facades

**186**  
GWP per square metre (kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/m<sup>2</sup>)

The total sample area of facade (28.7m<sup>2</sup>) measured at 5343 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e of upfront (A1-A3) embodied carbon.

**125**  
MBIE mandatory GWP (kgCO<sub>2</sub>e)

The 'primary elements' (mandatory MBIE scope) within this facade system accounted for 67% of the total GWP.

**61**  
MBIE voluntary GWP (kgCO<sub>2</sub>e)

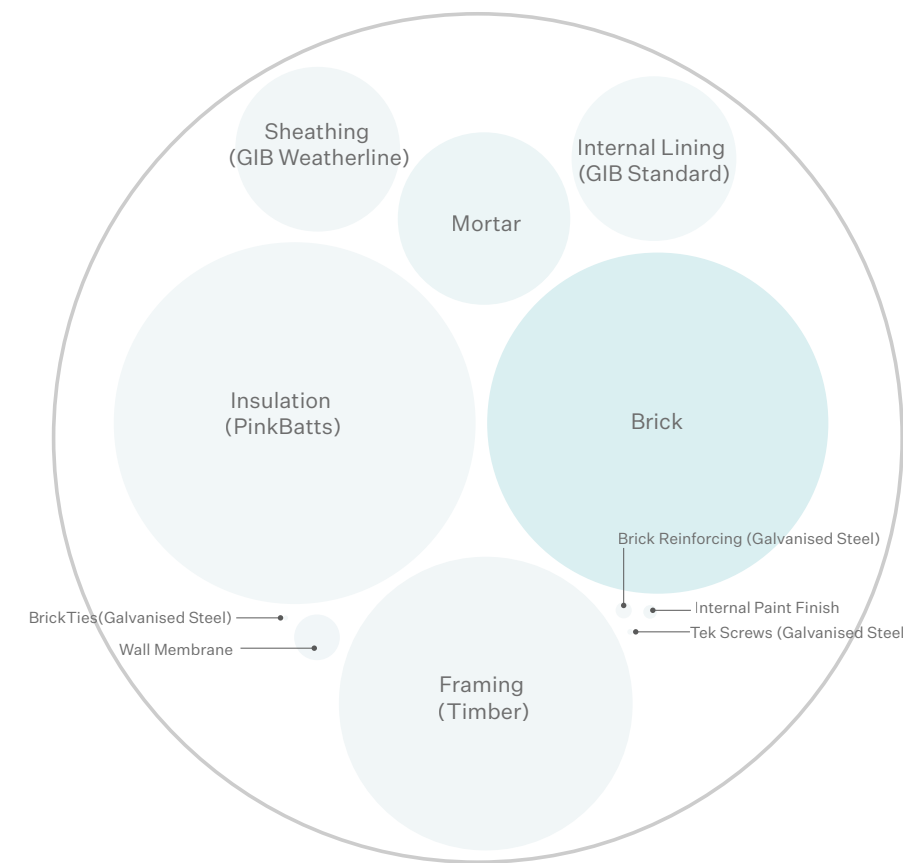
The 'secondary elements' (voluntary MBIE scope) within this facade system accounted for 33% of the total GWP.



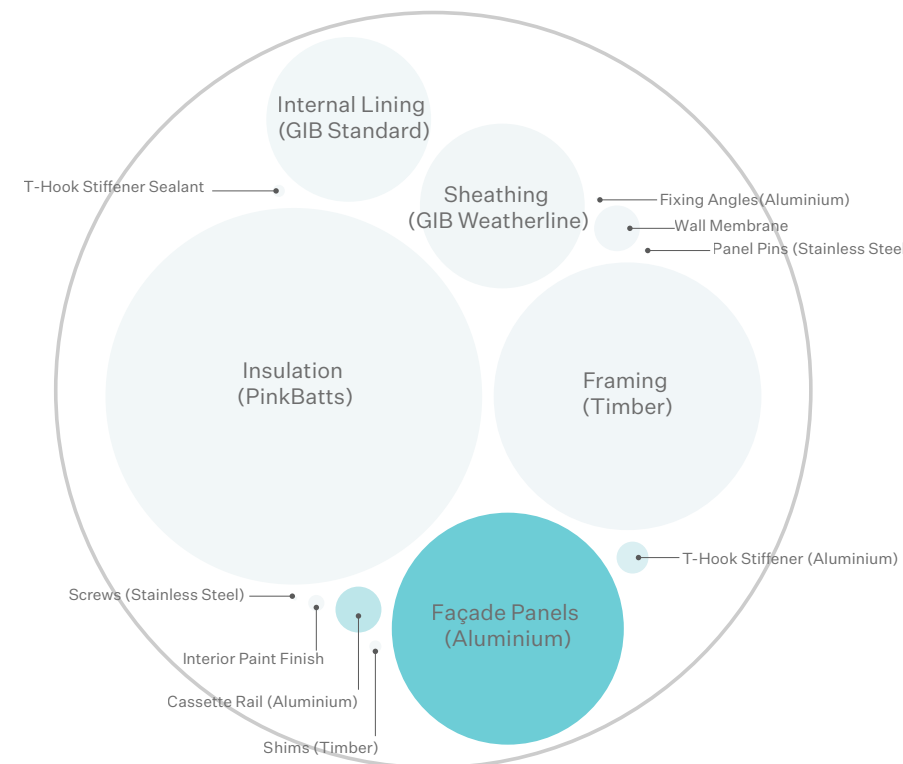
# Measure What Matters

## Cut-off Criteria

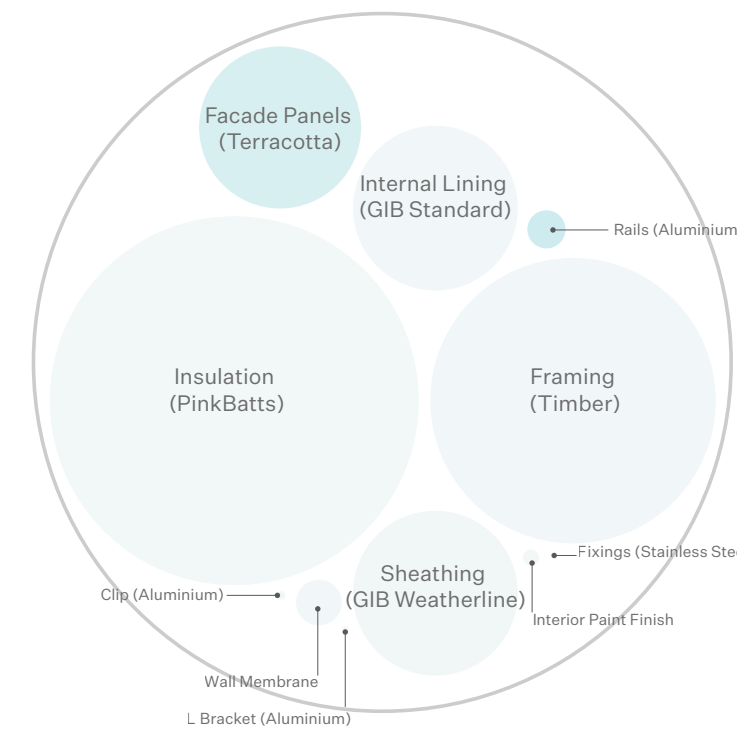
Brick Rainscreen (FT1)



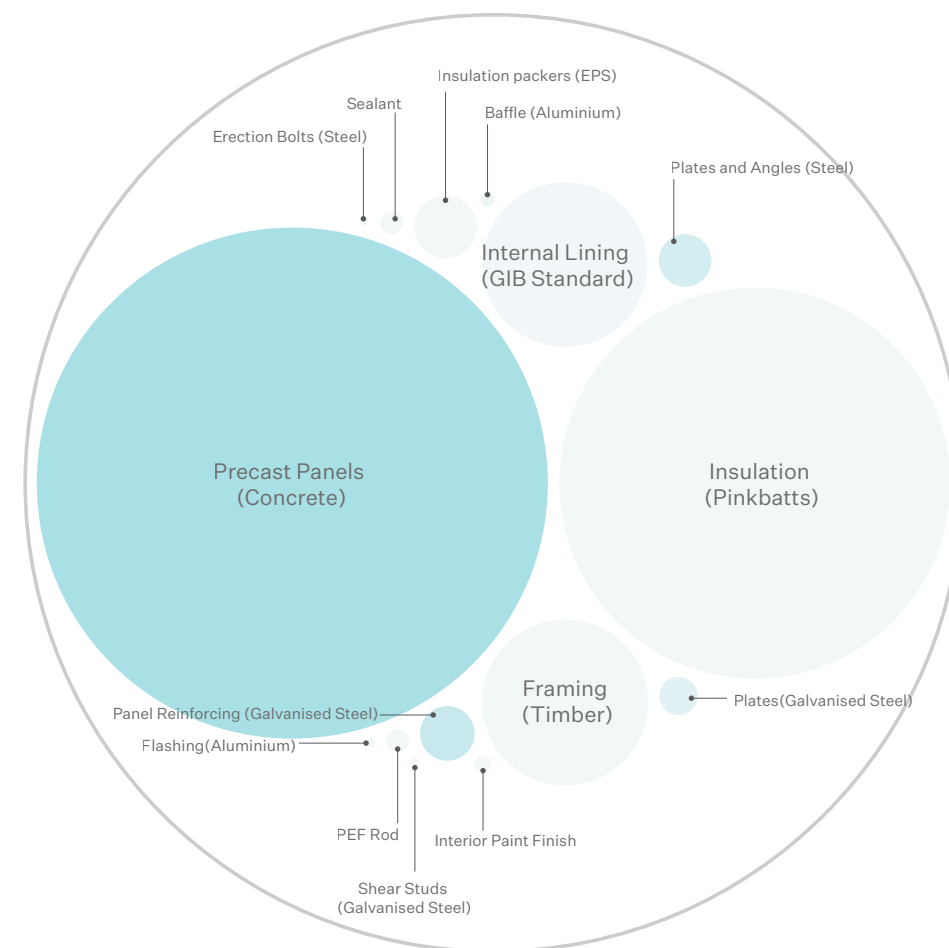
Aluminium Rainscreen (FT2)



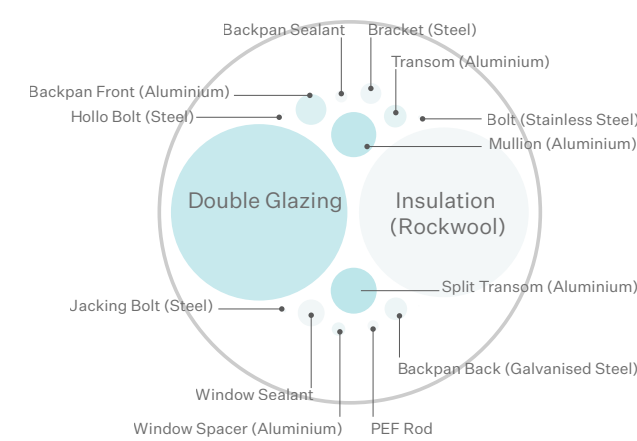
Terracotta Rainscreen (FT3)



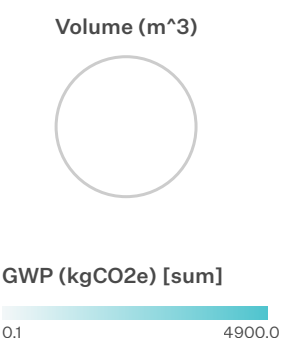
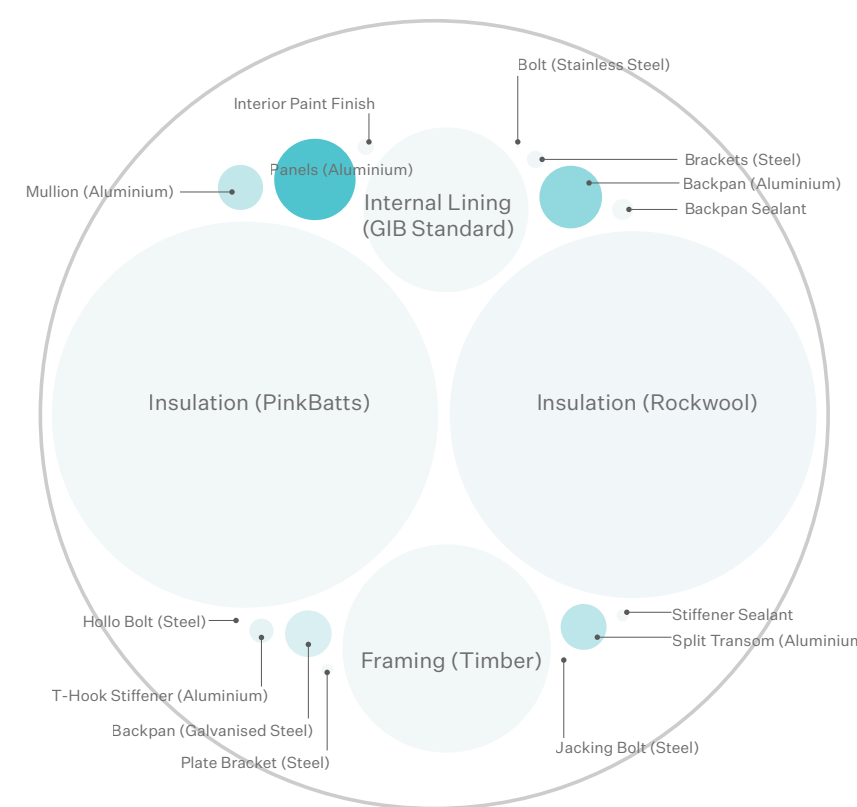
Precast Concrete Panels (FT4)



Glazed Curtainwall (FT5)



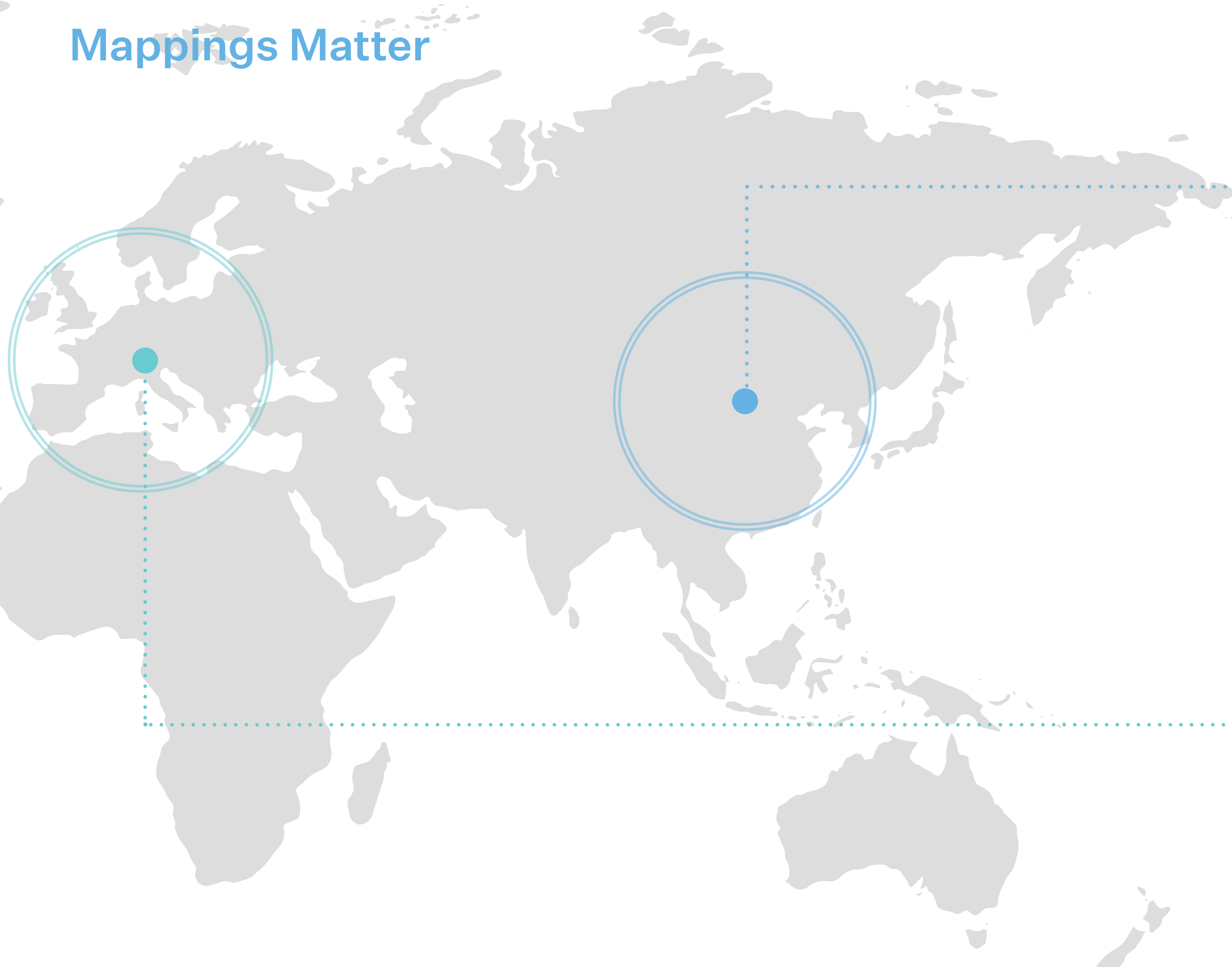
Aluminium Curtainwall (FT6)



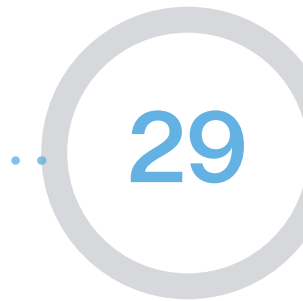
Components with smaller volumes don't always have a smaller carbon impact.



# Mappings Matter



Generic aluminium data from **China**



Upfront Carbon (kgCO<sub>2</sub>e)

|                               |          |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| <b>A1-A3</b><br>Product Stage | 26.00 kg |
| <b>A4</b><br>Transportation   | 0.02 kg  |
| <b>A5</b><br>Construction     | 2.00 kg  |

Generic aluminium data from **Europe**



Upfront Carbon (kgCO<sub>2</sub>e)

|                               |         |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| <b>A1-A3</b><br>Product Stage | 8.60 kg |
| <b>A4</b><br>Transportation   | 0.02 kg |
| <b>A5</b><br>Construction     | 0.65 kg |

Carbon impact of aluminium sourced from two of NZ's common supplier locations

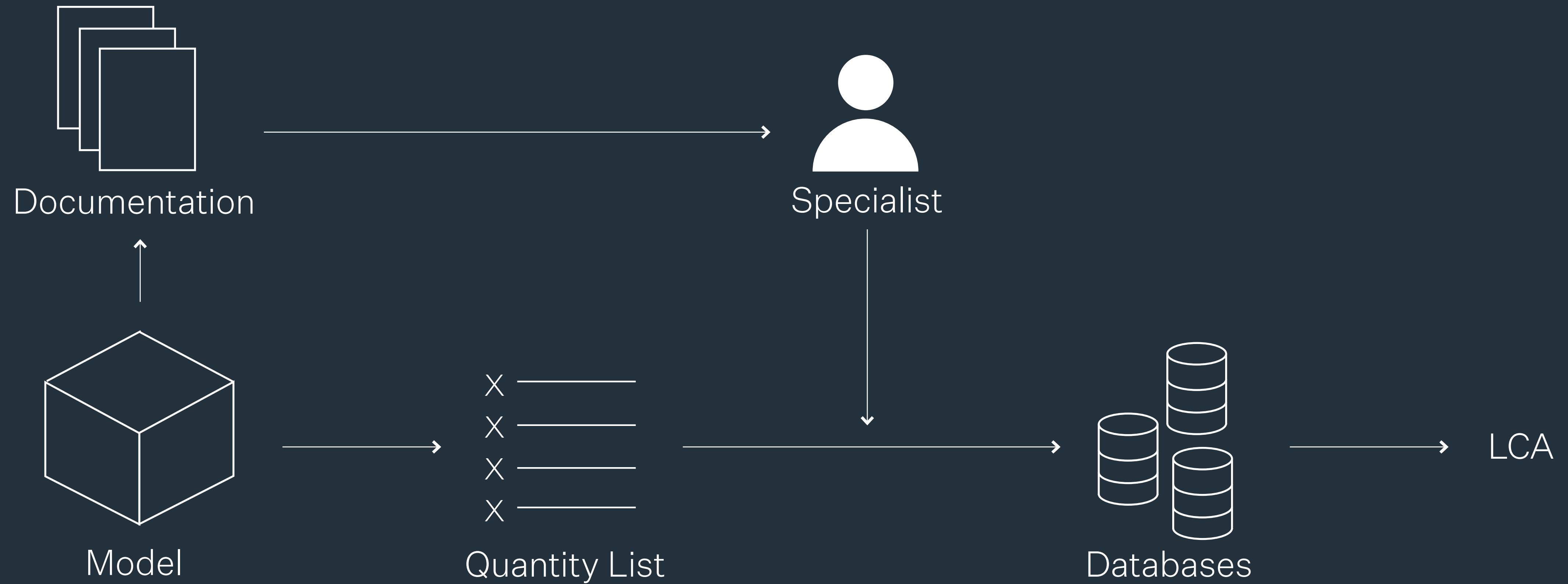


**ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY**

# Automation & AI

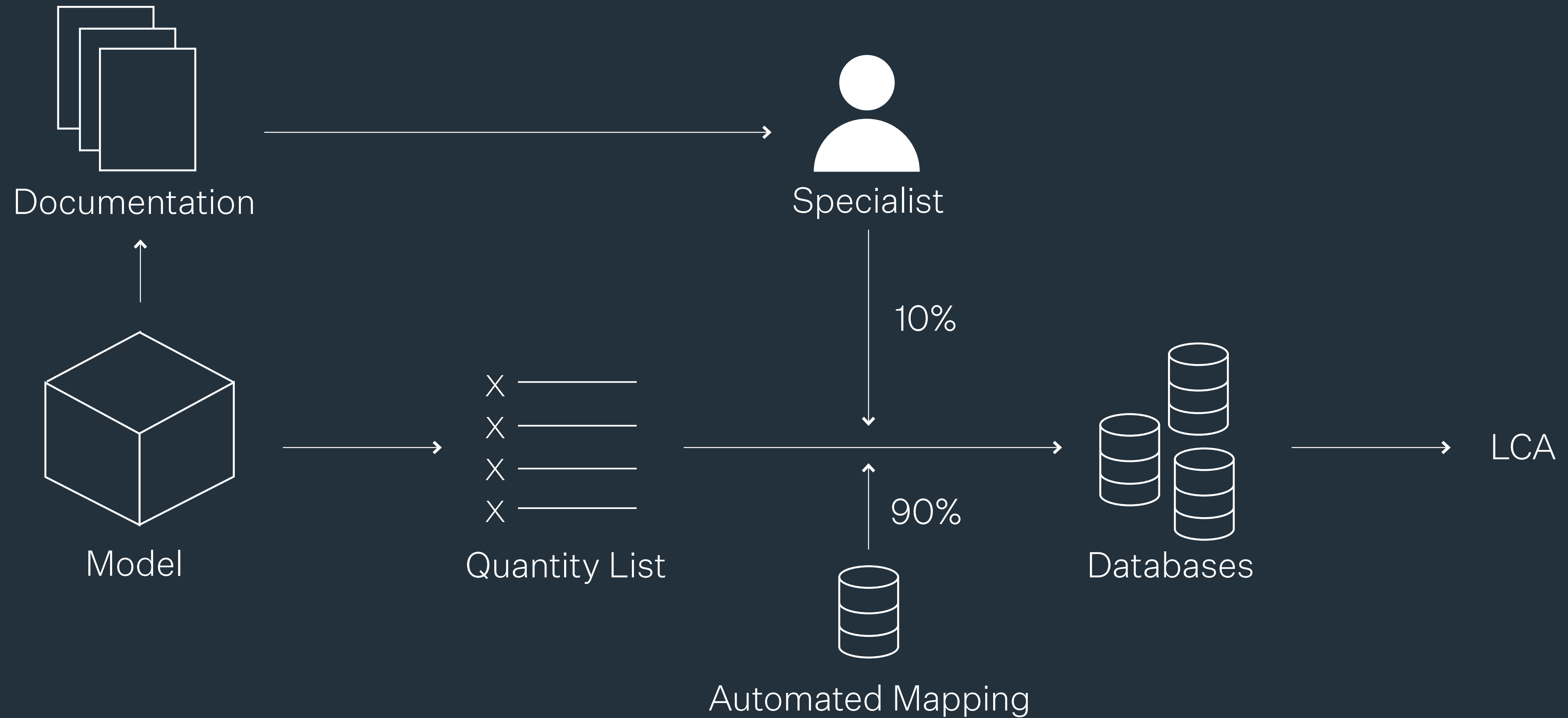


# Current LCA Workflow



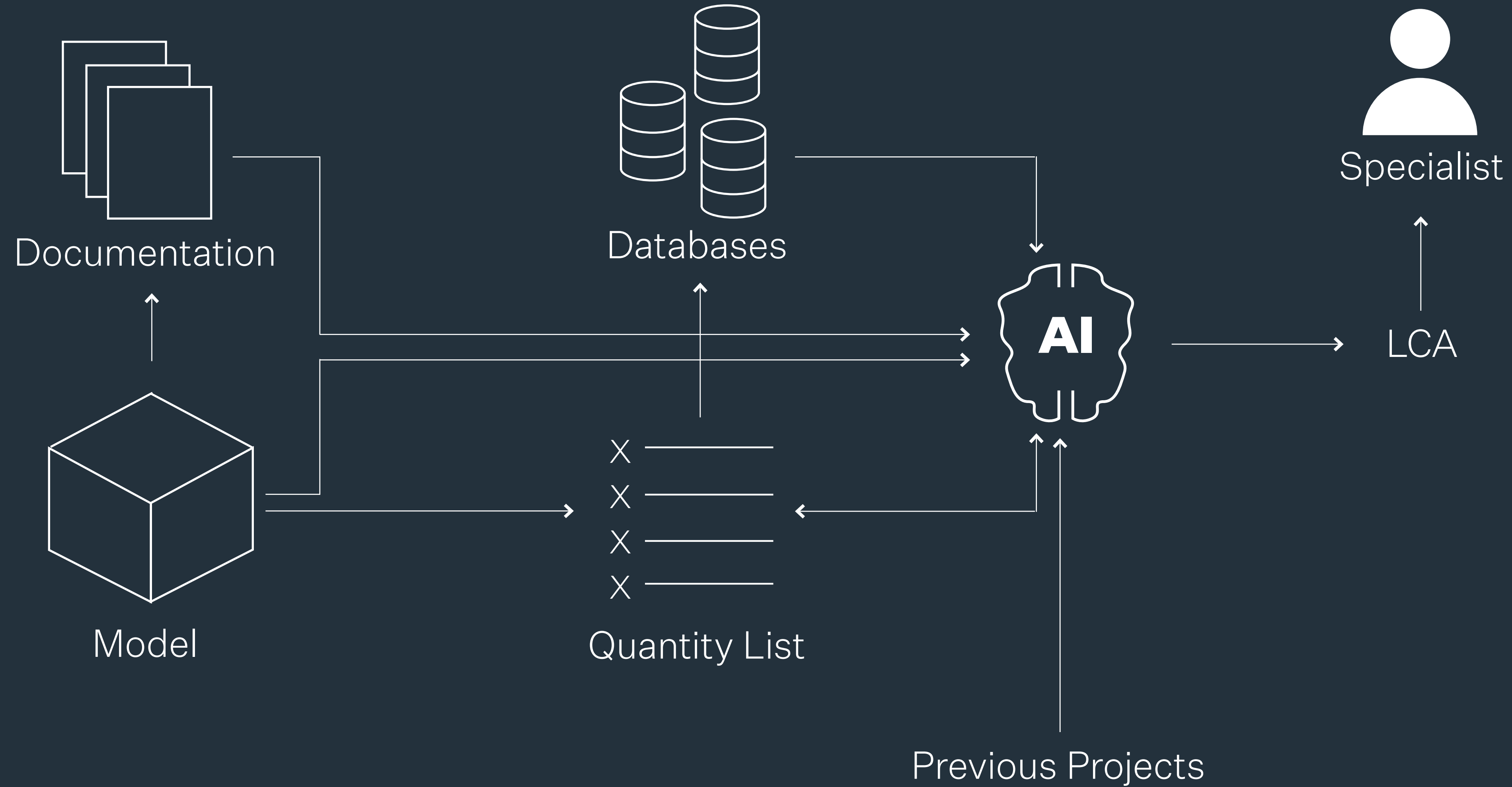


# Semi-Automated LCA Workflow





# AI Driven LCA Workflow





# Towards 2030



# Embodied Carbon

---

**from**

---

good vs bad materials

---

---

**to**

---

resourcefulness

---



# Technology

---

**from**

---

auditing a detailed  
design

---

---

**to**

---

informing an active  
design

---



11500

6 years 117 days



1,337 tCO<sub>2</sub>/s

1,604,400 tCO<sub>2</sub>



he waka eke noa



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