

DESIGN ENGAGEMENT

*Building the Team and
Managing the Design*

Randall Walter
Bensonwood

BRAD NILE, AIA
Andersen Construction

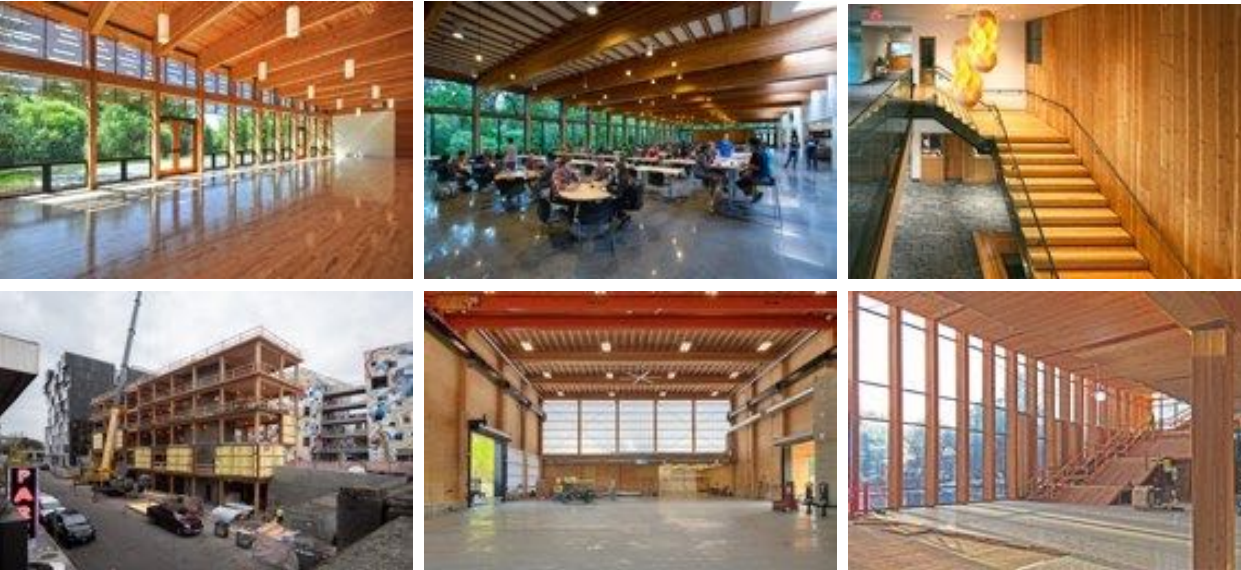
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Portland, OR



ANDERSEN CONSTRUCTION

PORTLAND, OR • SEATTLE, WA • BOISE, ID



BENSONWOOD

KEENE, NH





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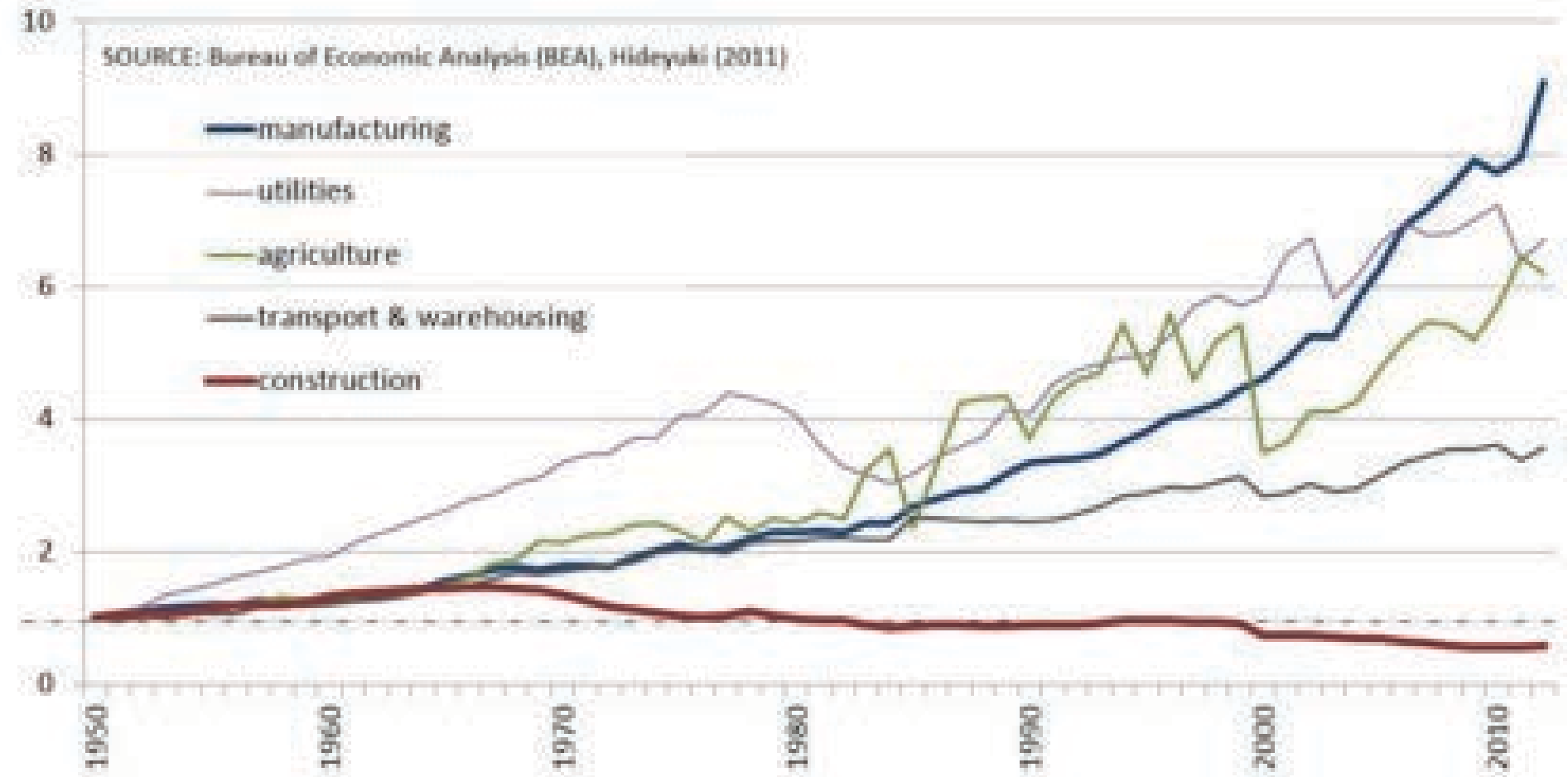
**Big breakthroughs
happen when what
is suddenly
possible meets
what is desperately
necessary.**

Thomas Friedman

*Bensonwood
Keene, NH*

Construction productivity 1950-2012

Real productivity (GDP value-add per employee) by industry in the US
Indexed; 1950 = 1.0





INDUSTRY CHALLENGES

What solutions can we adopt from other industries?

- What are the challenges?
- What are the solutions?

A Challenged History:

Built-in Inefficiency

- Weather-based delays and shutdowns
- Linear Process
- Raw materials to finished product under difficult conditions

Skill Degradation

- Extreme personnel turnover rates (20%-60%)
- Majority of workers have minimal education
- Lack of education, skills & attitude for new demands
- Minimal or zero requirements

Poor Quality

- Buildings are the most defective products consumers purchase.
- 15% - 80% serious defect rate
- Decades-long industry culture of accepted compromise



CHALLENGES:

Field Labor

- Availability
- Skill
- Cost
- Productivity

Construction Materials

- Cost
- Availability
- Sustainability



- 2014, Portland, OR
- Fully digitized concrete structure
- 100% prefab facade without the possibility of field verification

SOLUTIONS:

Fully “Digitized” Structure

- Model based survey & layout
- Subtrade Coordination
- Machine Files
- Off-site fabrication

Collaborative Delivery

- Design team buy-in
- Contractor buy-in
- Early trade partners
- All elements modeled
- Early and continuous planning

Other Industries Get It

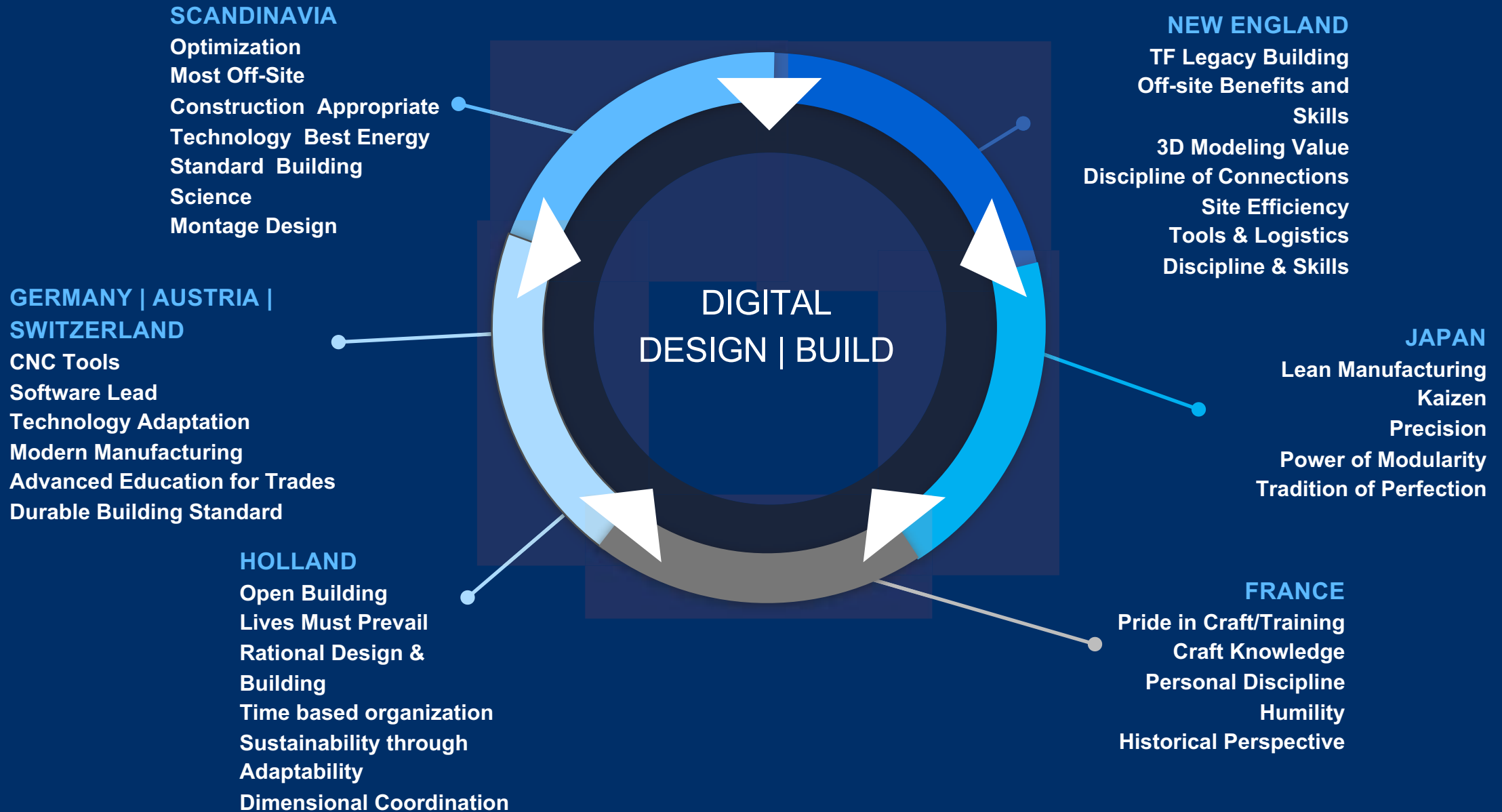


Cruise ship bathroom pod



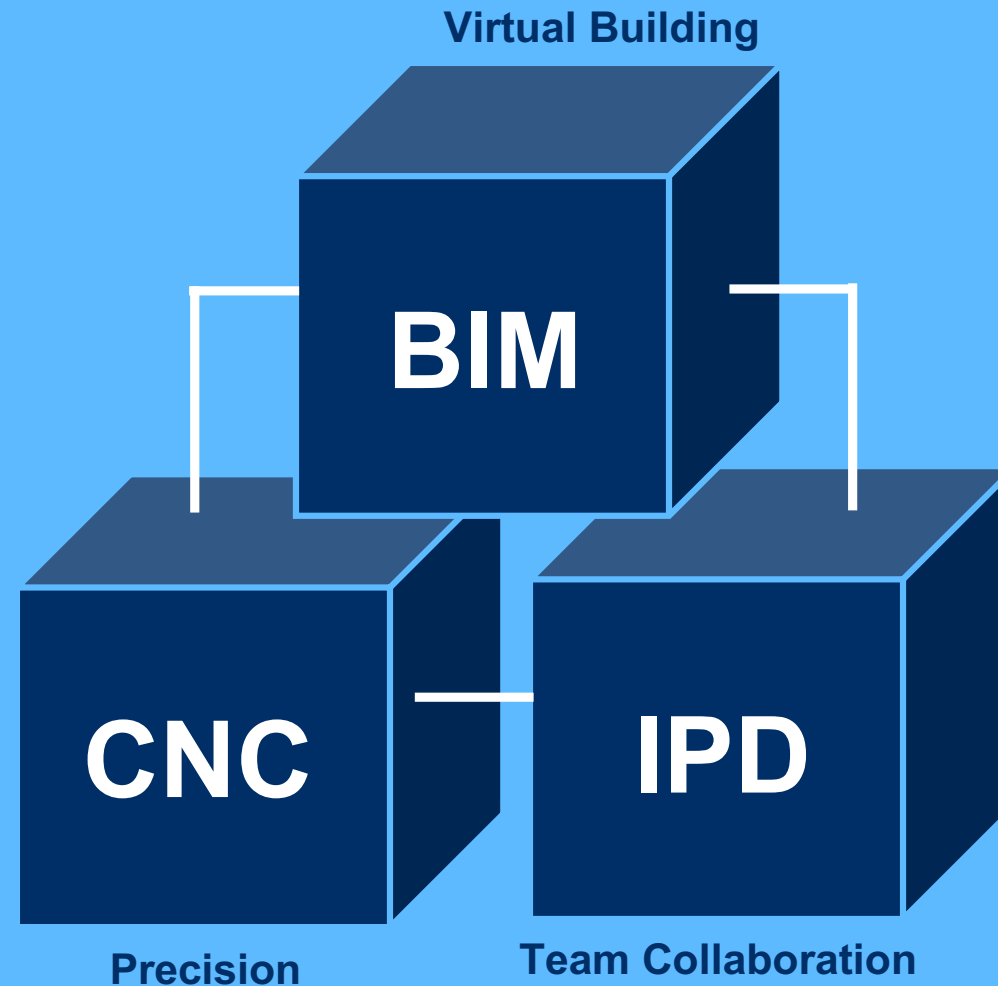
Subassemblies built in a controlled environment

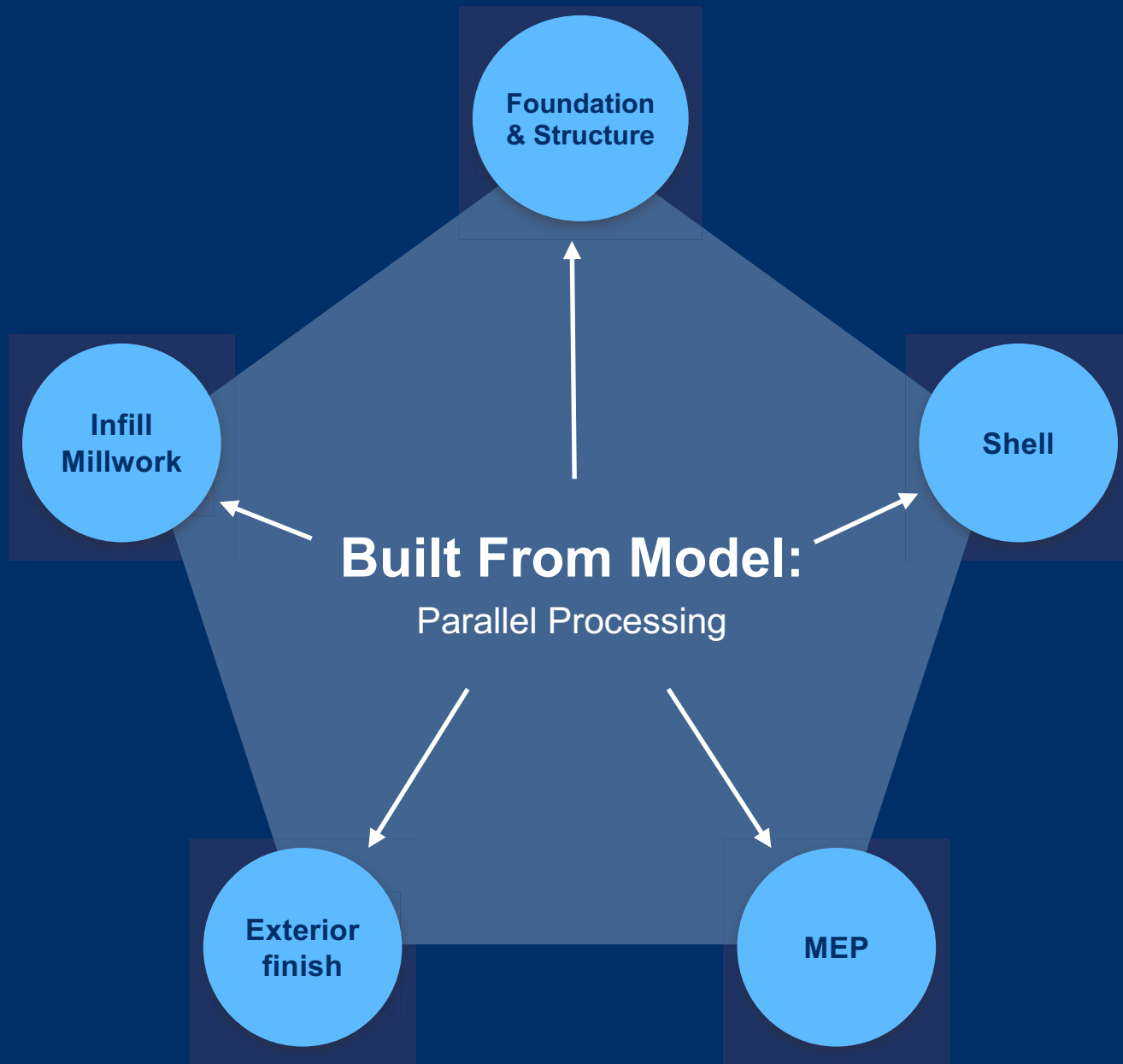
Learn From Everywhere



Intersection of Strategies

Design | Build | Deliver | Digital Fabrication | Offsite





VS

Site Process

1. **Layout from plans**
2. **Cut**
3. **Attach**
4. **Measure**
5. **Order**
6. **Wait**
7. **Install**
8. **Measure**
9. **Cut**
10. **Fit**
11. **Repeat...**

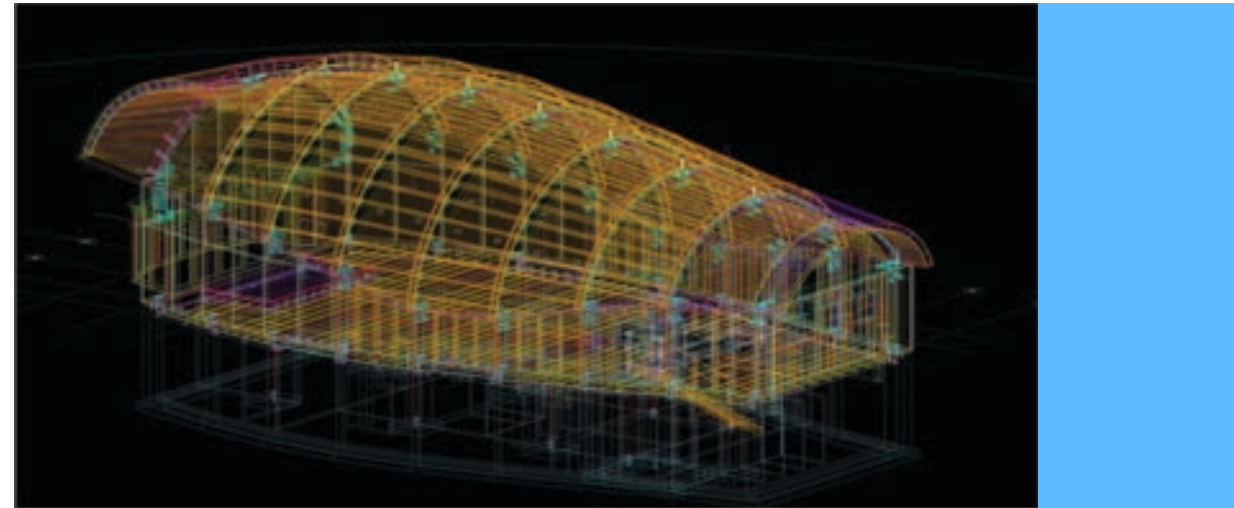
Everything Modeled

Plan, Deliver, and LEAD



THE POWER OF BIM

- Design = simulated building
- Automated PM information - costs, supply chain, shipping, etc.
- Automated cutting and shaping machine code



North Adams, MA
Bensonwood, Randall Walter, Architect



MADE IN THE SAME SHOP

**Models now drive woodworking tools and off-site fabrication -
from cheese boards, to shear walls, to facade panels.**

BIM to CNC

Our Tireless Workers



Bensonwood • Keene, NH



Bensonwood • Keene, NH

THE MODEL BECOMES THE BUILDING

- The shared work space for all contributors & team members
- First built in the model, and then assembled in the field
- Machine files are as close as we can get to 3D printing

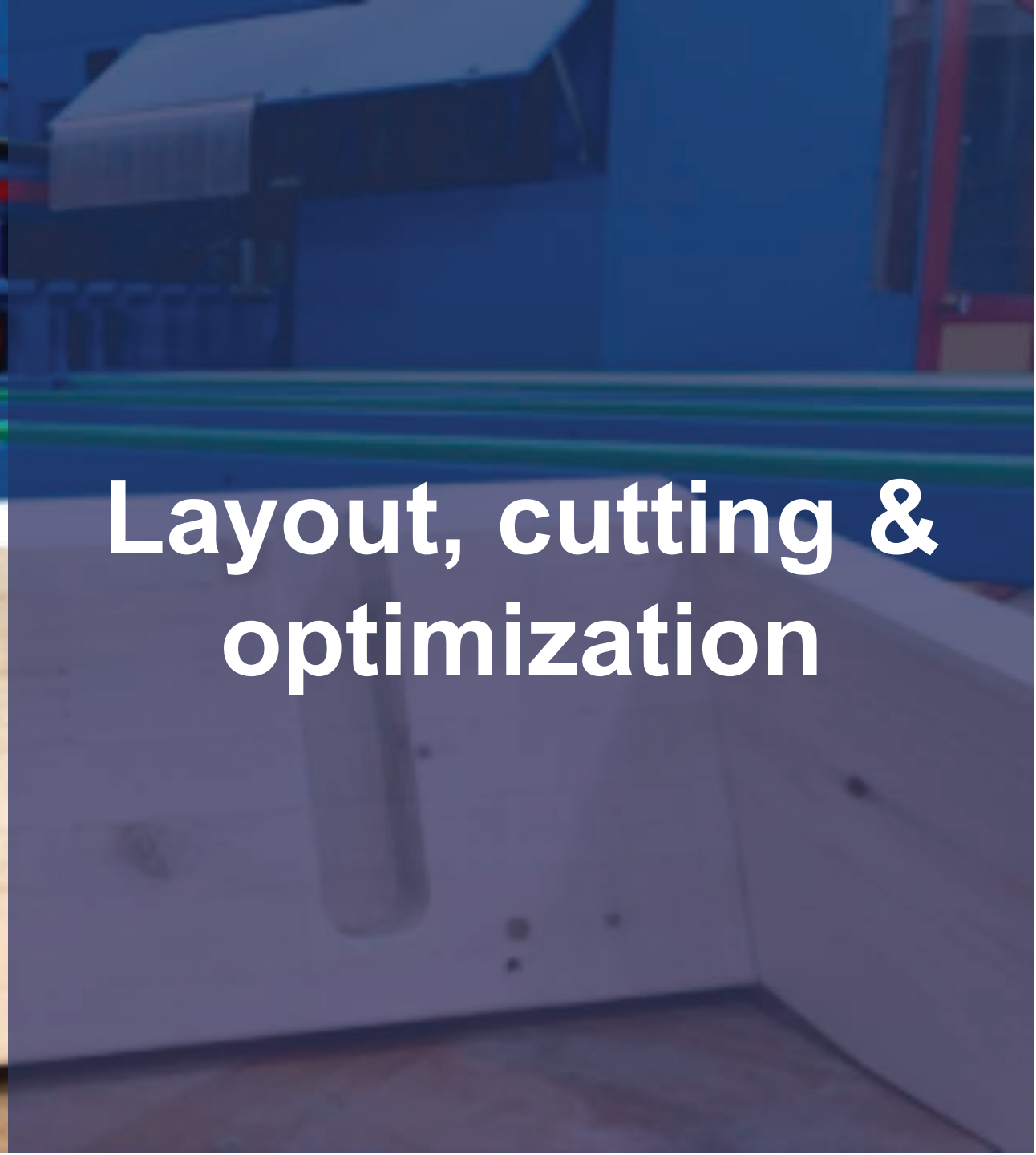


Model based timber designs - Northern Italy



*Bensonwood
Keene, NH*

Layout, cutting & optimization





Material Handling

Automated inventory management

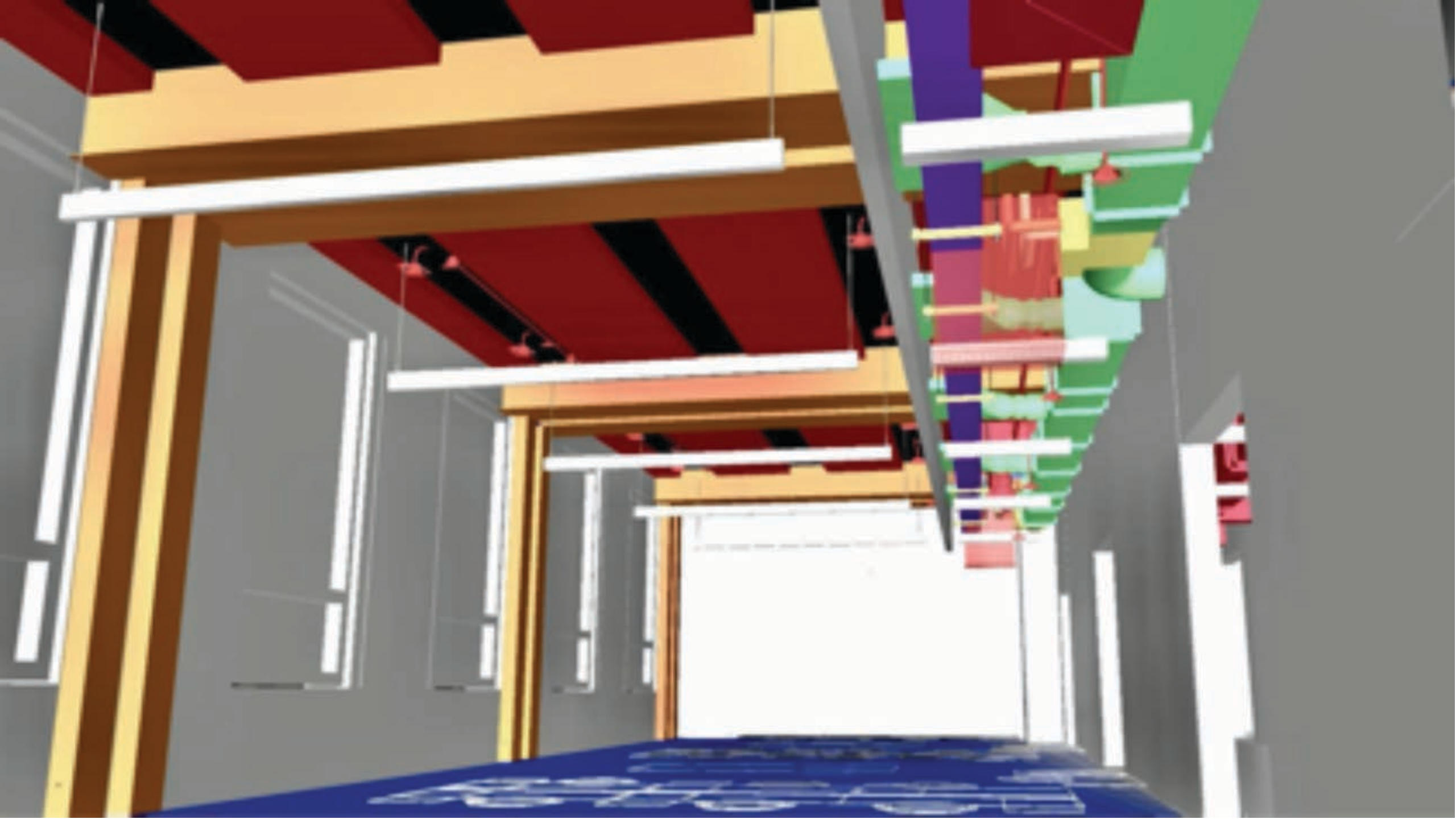
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Keene, NH



If part of the building, it **MUST** be included in the model.

- What is the source of the model?
- Interface surfaces
- Un-modeled elements lead to issues
- Components of light weight
- Appropriately timed coordination is the key
- Figure out the MEP strategy along with the structural frame

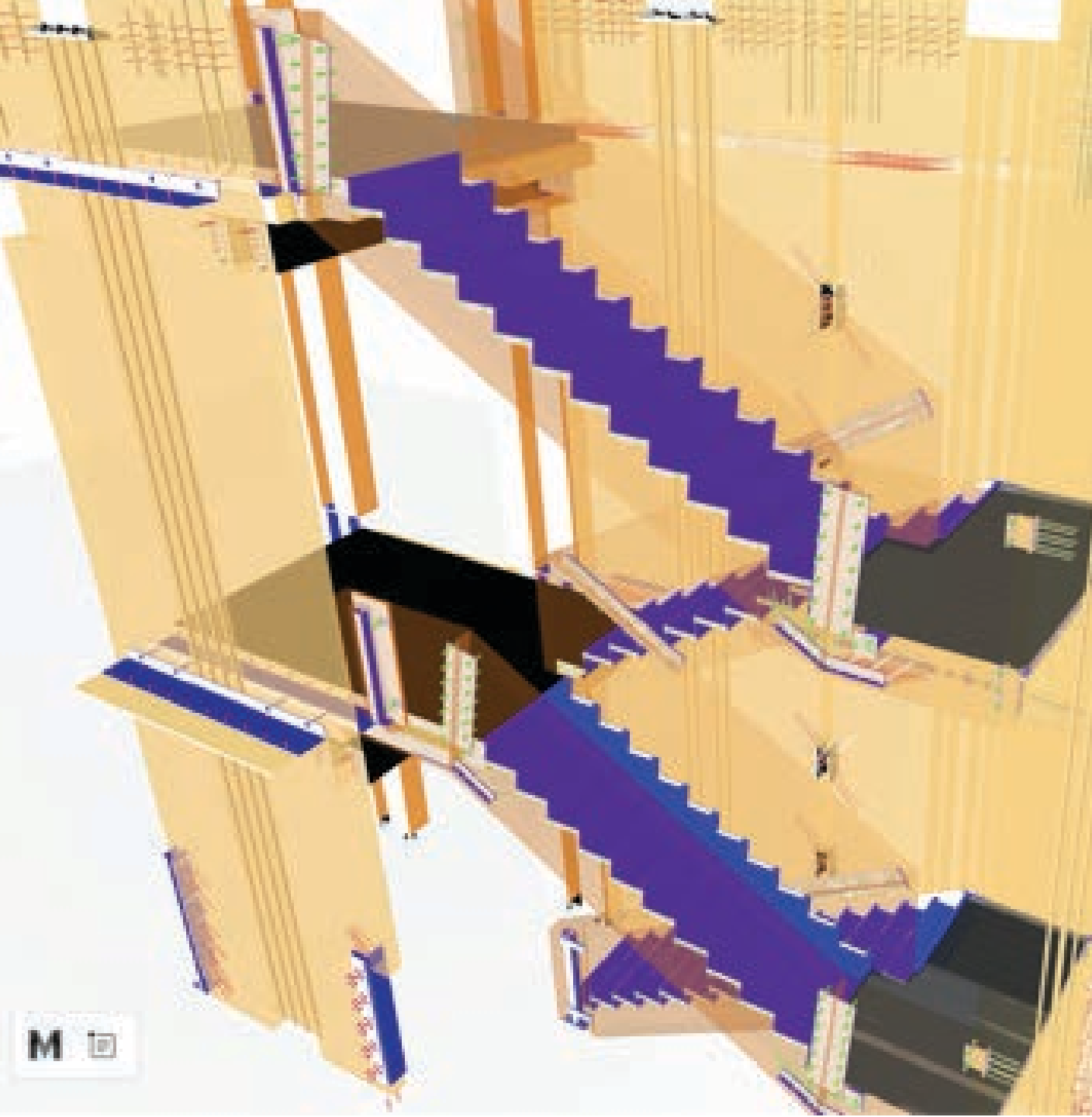








Oregon State University • Corvallis, OR



Oregon State University • Corvallis, OR

Engagement of Team for System Decisions

- Project Goals
- Code Constraints
 - Building Type
 - 1 or 2 hour frame?
 - Allowable Height
- Energy performance
- Carbon Sequestration
- Third party certifications
- Lateral system selection
 - Braced frames
 - Concrete cores
 - CLT shear walls
- All timber structure
- Composite structure
- Bay layout & beam orientation
- Preferred details
- Schedule

Case Studies & Examples

MEP routing designed WITH the framing layout design.



Utility gap and beam-free colonnade.



District Office, HACKER - Portland, OR



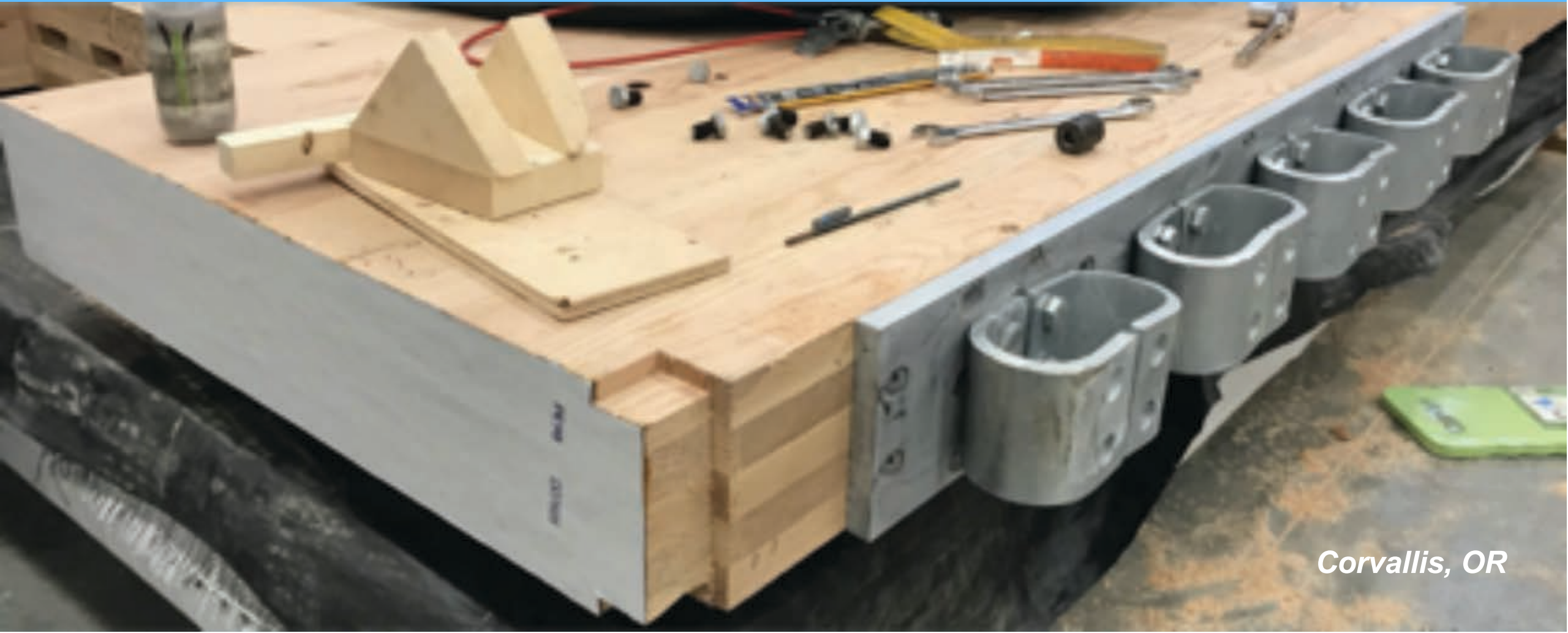
Portland, OR



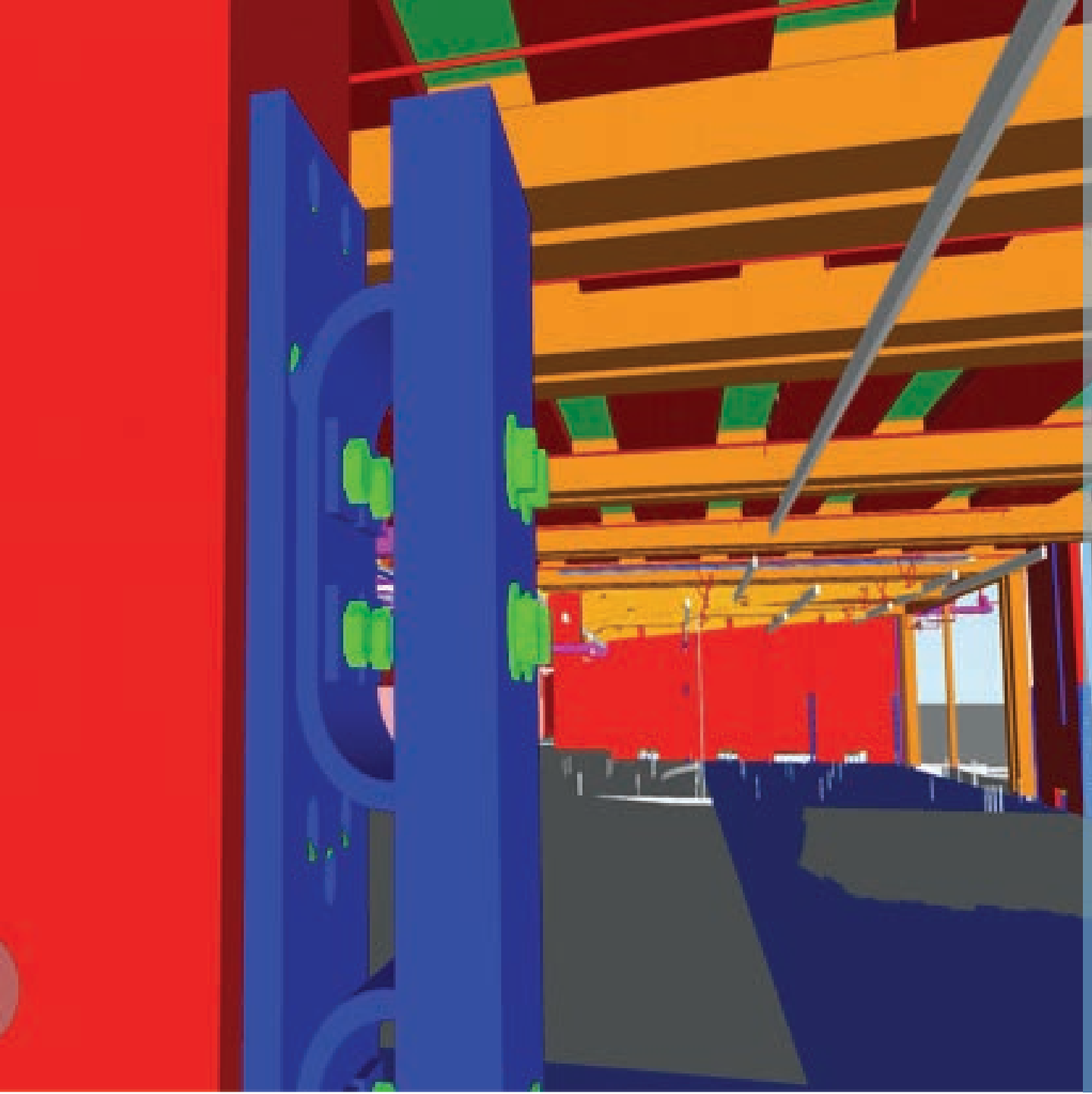
Case Studies & Examples

Rocking Shearwalls – Shop installation

Boundary Anchorage and Energy Dissipation System

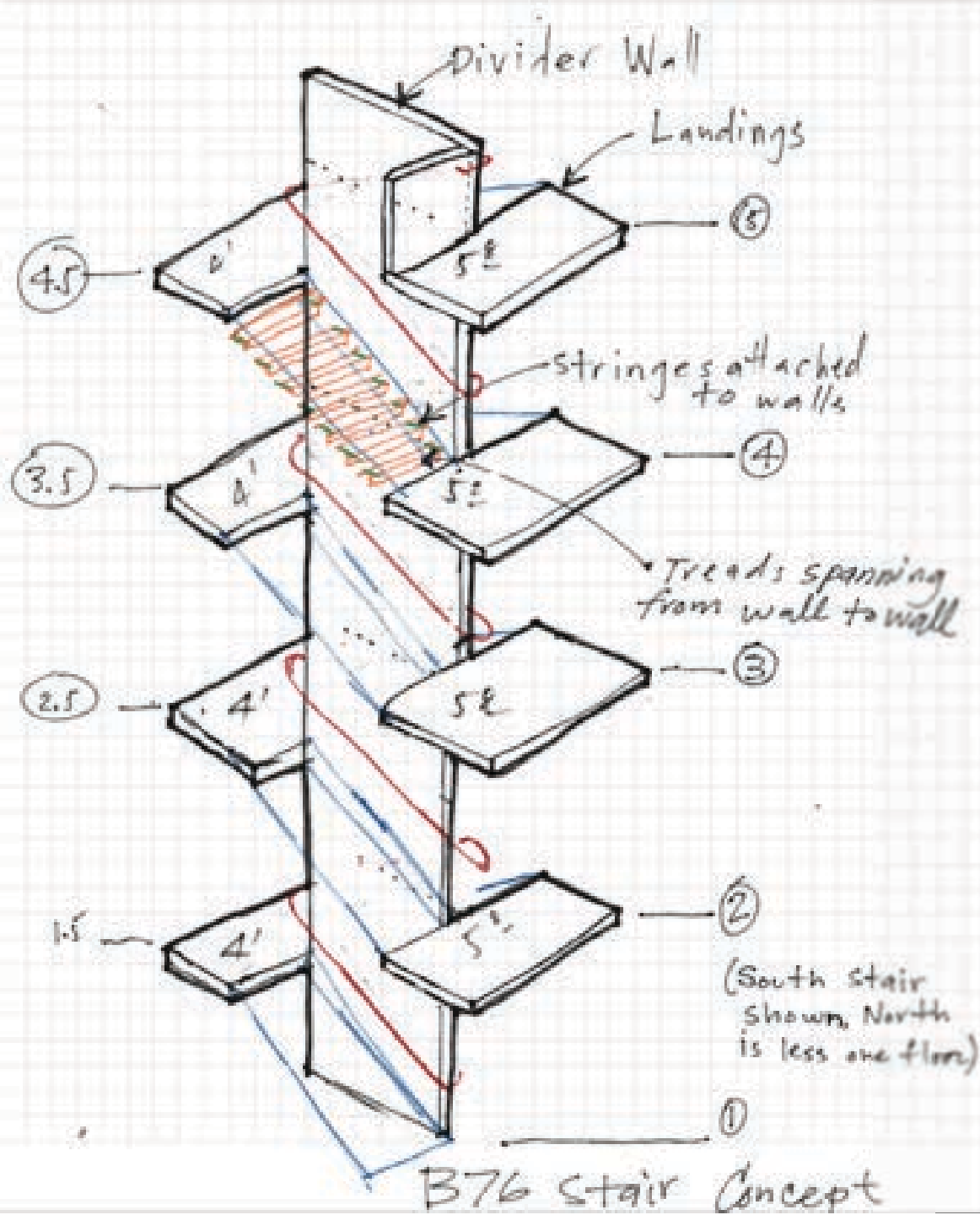


Corvallis, OR



Corvallis, OR



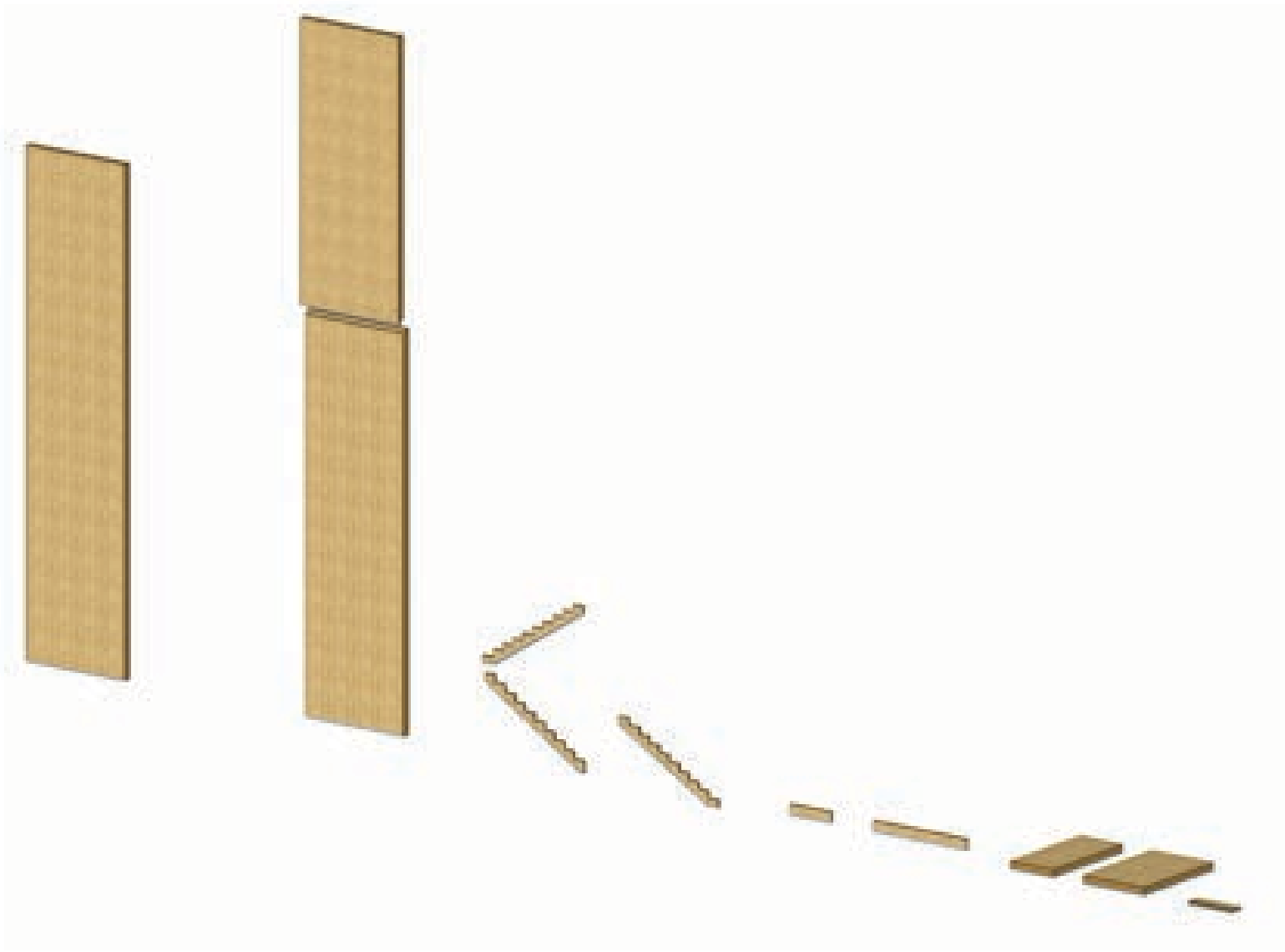


Case Studies & Examples

Design/Build Mass Plywood Stair

Portland, OR

1. BIG IDEA
2. Sketch
3. Model
4. Review
5. Correct
6. Final Review
7. Final Check
8. Prepare Machine Files
9. Fabricate
10. Install



Model snapshot of the machine files



All components factory cut...



***Feature Stair
HACKER
Portland, OR***



***Freres Plywood,
Lyons OR***

Prototype Development

- First-time Components
- Engineering Verification
- Machine and material limitations





Portland, OR

Prototype Development

Detailed mock from the final model

Objectives:

1. Validate connector fire protection.
2. Further the team understanding.
3. Fit and finish confirmation.

A large industrial workshop with a high ceiling and exposed wooden beams. In the foreground, a metal crane hook hangs from the ceiling. The background shows various wooden structures and machinery, including a large wooden frame that appears to be a mold or a large cabinet. The lighting is bright and even.

Bath & Mechanical Room Pods



*Bensonwood
Walpole, NH*

Bathroom Pods Montage

*Bensonwood
Walpole, NH*





***Cartridge
assembly***



On-Site

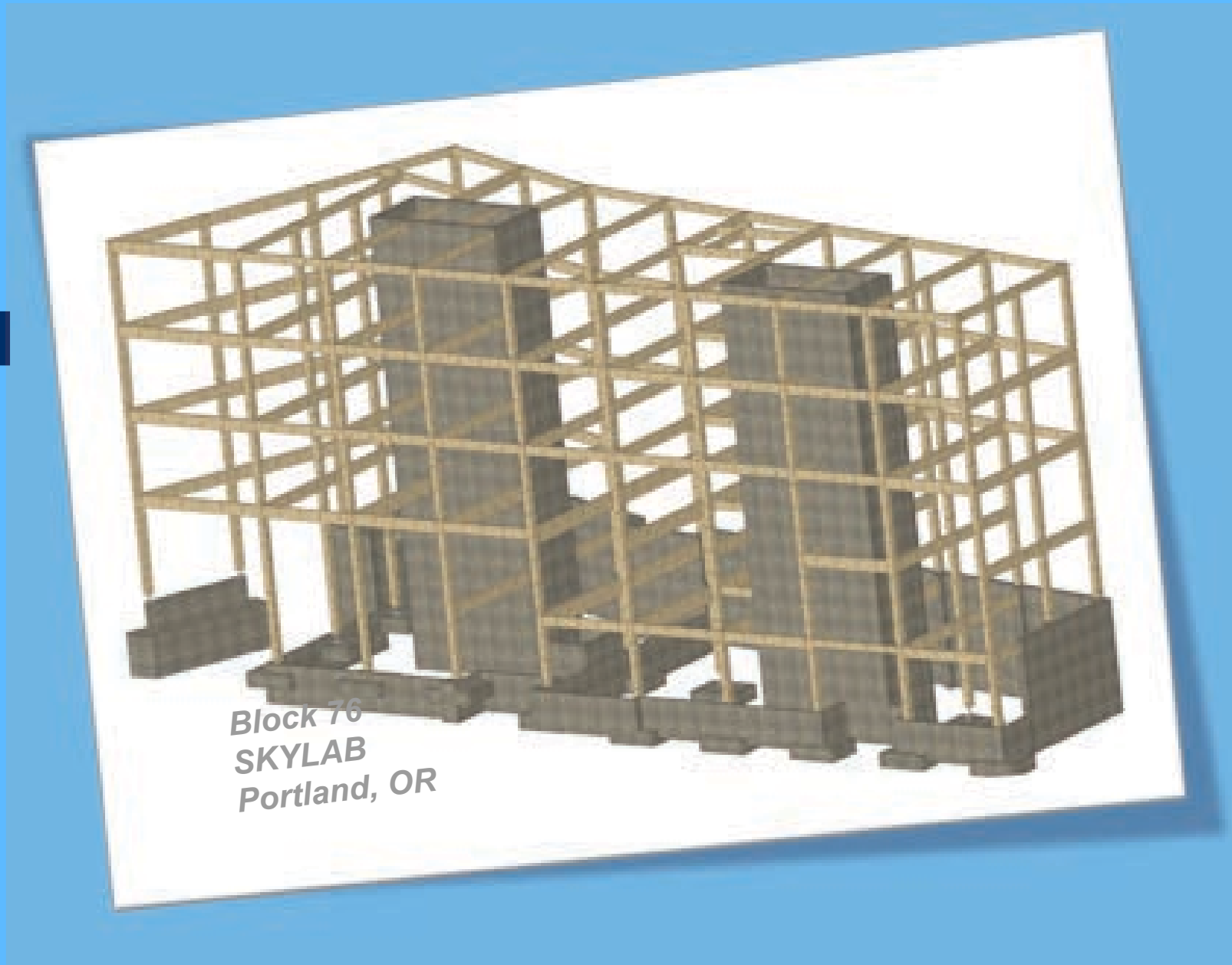


***Cartridge
Installation***

Bensonwood • Walpole, NH

An integrated design phase = EFFICIENT CONSTRUCTION

- Productivity
- Reduced site impact
- Less waste





Portland, OR



Portland, OR







Site Assembly

North Adams, MA





North Adams, MA



North Adams, MA



Early digital collaboration mean better decisions...

EXPOSED STRUCTURE STRATEGY

MECHANICAL SYSTEM SELECTION

SYSTEMS DISTRIBUTION STRATEGY

- Vertical risers
- Horizontal Distribution

CONSTRUCTABILITY

- Timber connection details
- Moisture Mitigation Planning

ASSIGNED SYSTEM PATHWAYS

- Sprinklers
- Vertical Electrical
- Horizontal Electrical
- Plumbing
- Fire alarm and electrical

Important Differences

ON-SITE

- Schedule allows for field changes
- Each step adjusts to previous dimension and (in)accuracy

VS

OFF-SITE

- Less design flexibility
- Accuracy is paramount - site portion affect install fit
- Cost may or may not be higher, however time=\$
- Anticipate need to protect installed finish materials
- Design the schedule and share extensively



Keene, NH

How to Get Started

NEED SITE SPACE

- Deliveries
- Boom truck or crane
- Evaluate Access

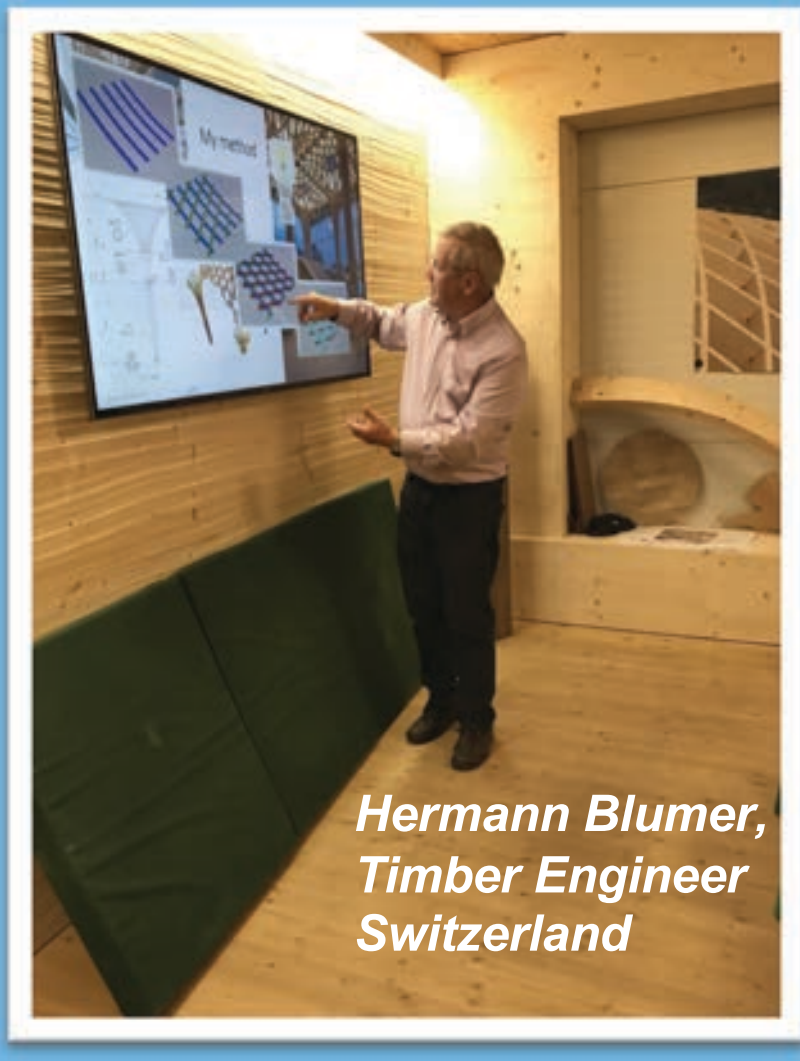
PARTNERS

- Build a team
- Decide where info will live

DECISION MAKING & COMMITMENT

- Get everything in model early
- Work the model
- Rely on model

Elsewhere: European Mass Timber



*Hermann Blumer,
Timber Engineer
Switzerland*



Models are an extension of their design and carpentry expertise.



Switzerland



**Swatch Omega - Shigeru Ban Architect
Blumer Lehmann - mass timber design, fabrication and installation**

Concluding Thoughts:

What is each mass timber project?

- A unique prototype...
- With design and execution as isolated activities...
- Where hard lessons are learned...
- And, poor choices cannot be corrected?

- OR -

An opportunity to deliver inspired design...

In a context of collaboration...

Where decisions are reviewed and optimized early, and often.

With the right combination of design and execution expertise.



Thank you for your participation.

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