

# Generative Design for Increased Performance on Customized Construction Parts

Gert-Jan Ditsel

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Peter Champneys

|

Katerina Papadimitriou

BIM Manager

Technical Specialist

Designated Support Specialist

Dura Vermeer

Autodesk

Autodesk





# Gert Jan Ditsel

## Dura Vermeer – BIM Manager

I always want to help people! So that's what I do in my role at Dura Vermeer I help people to change from traditional to digital. My first 6 years at Dura Vermeer I helped people understand and work with BIM. Now we are mature enough to take next steps in digitalization. And that world and future looks very promising!





# Peter Champneys

## Autodesk – Technical Consultant

Peter is a technical consultant working out of the Autodesk technology center in Birmingham UK. He is a specialist in additive manufacturing and generative design, and works alongside Autodesk customers to help them implement emerging make technologies into their day to day workflows





# Katerina Papadimitriou

## Autodesk – Customer Success Specialist

Enthusiastic architect engineer, aiming to push forward fresh perspectives and creative approaches to projects, leveraging the past combined to the future! Aiming to push the investigation of assembling new languages of architecture to the realization. Always keeping an eye on innovation and how it can influence the construction future.



# Generative Design for Increased Performance on Customized Construction Parts

A partnership between



&



# Today's Line Up

## INDUSTRIALIZED CONSTRUCTION & GENERATIVE DESIGN IN PRACTICE

How could inspire your teams on using innovative technologies?

Would you apply GD on real applications by changing your workflows?

## THE CHRONICLE OF THE SPIDER

Steps to Success

Capture, Analyze, Iterate, Natural Selection,  
Manufacture, Test, Install, Monitor, Iterate

Lessons Learned

## DURA VERMEER & THE HOST OF THE SPIDER PROJECT

Company drives of innovation and objectives

The AFAS site leveraging BIM

## BUILDING ELEMENTS AS INTELLIGENT OBJECTS

From static to dynamic.

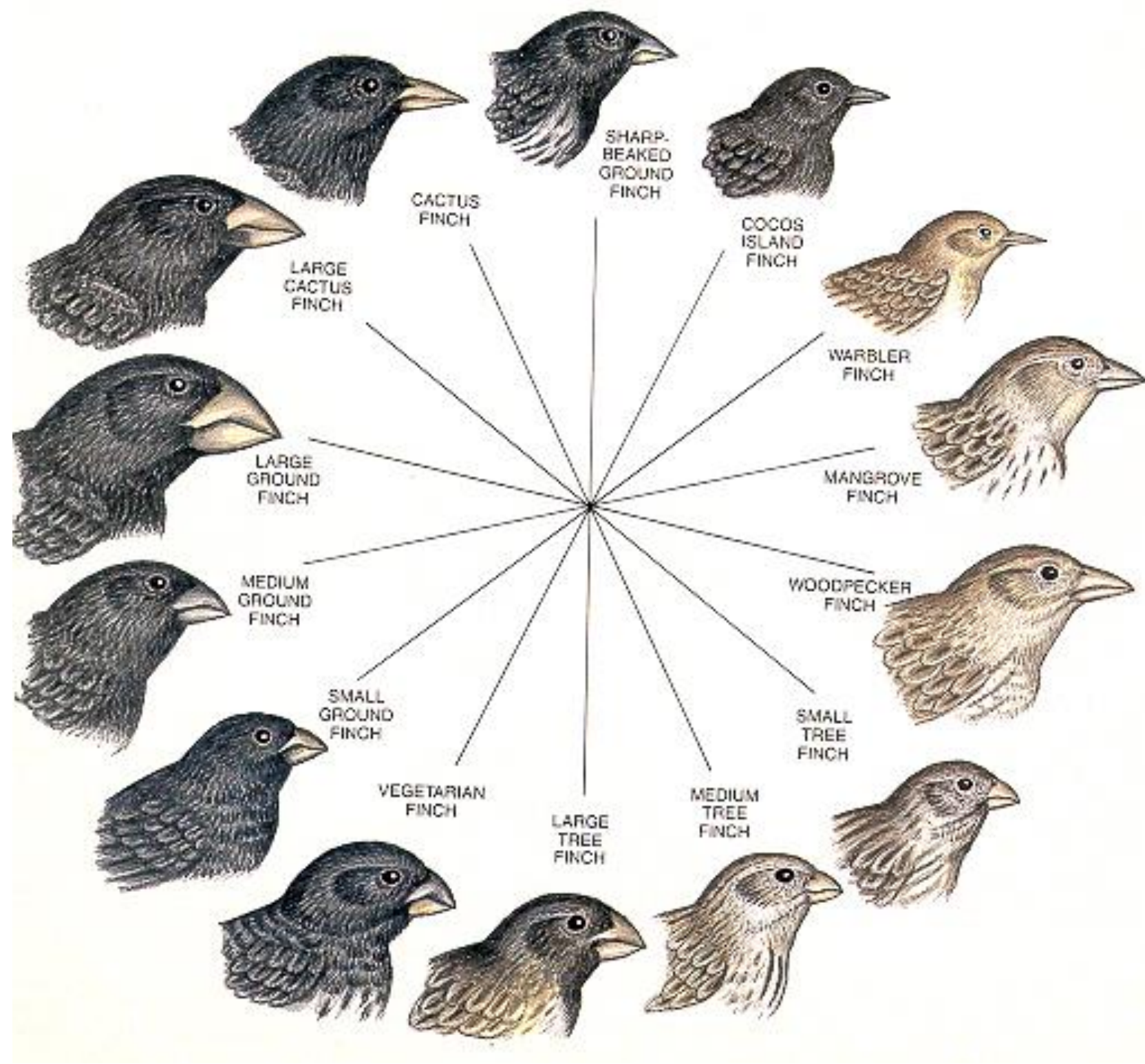
Sensors - creating intelligent objects



# Industrialized Construction & Generative Design in Practice

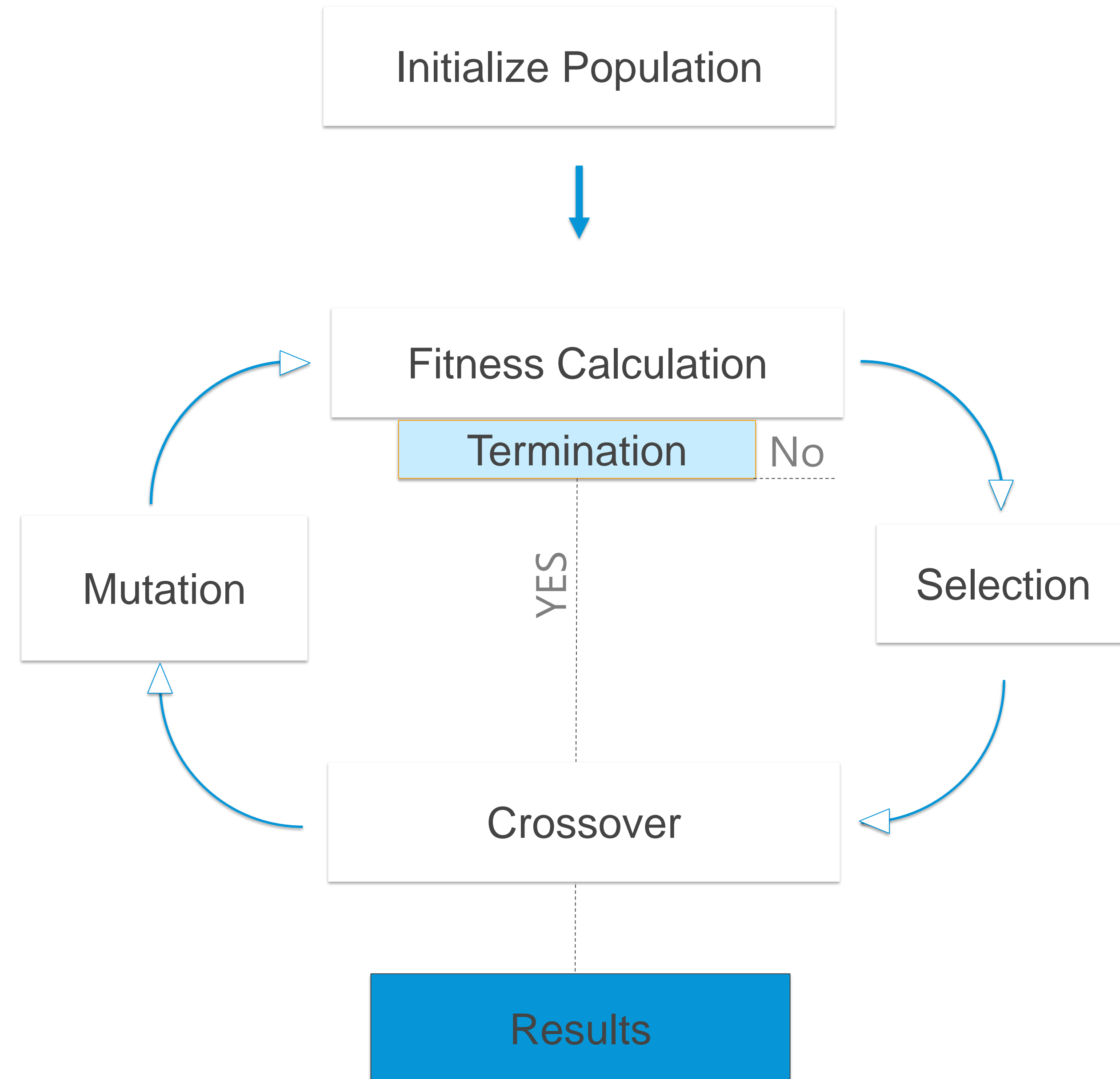




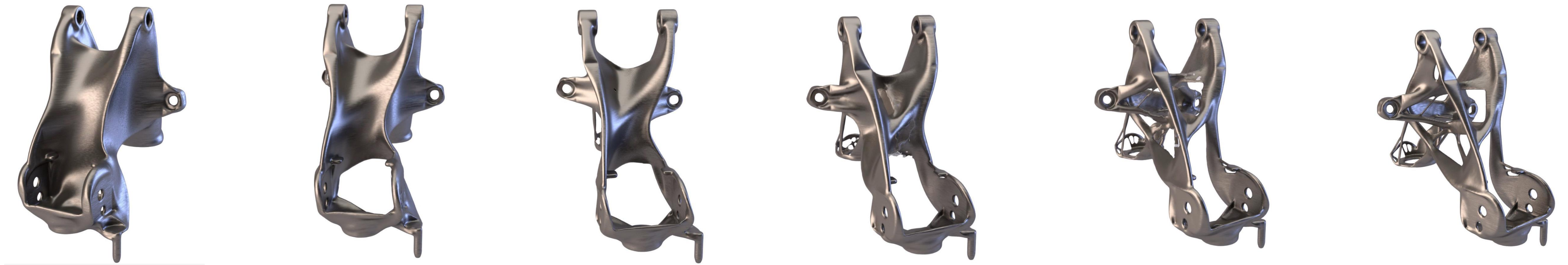


# Genetic Algorithms as in Nature

Evolution in nature generates solutions to problems in an optimized way. The techniques used are inheritance, mutation, selection and crossover.







## Genetic Algorithms as in Design

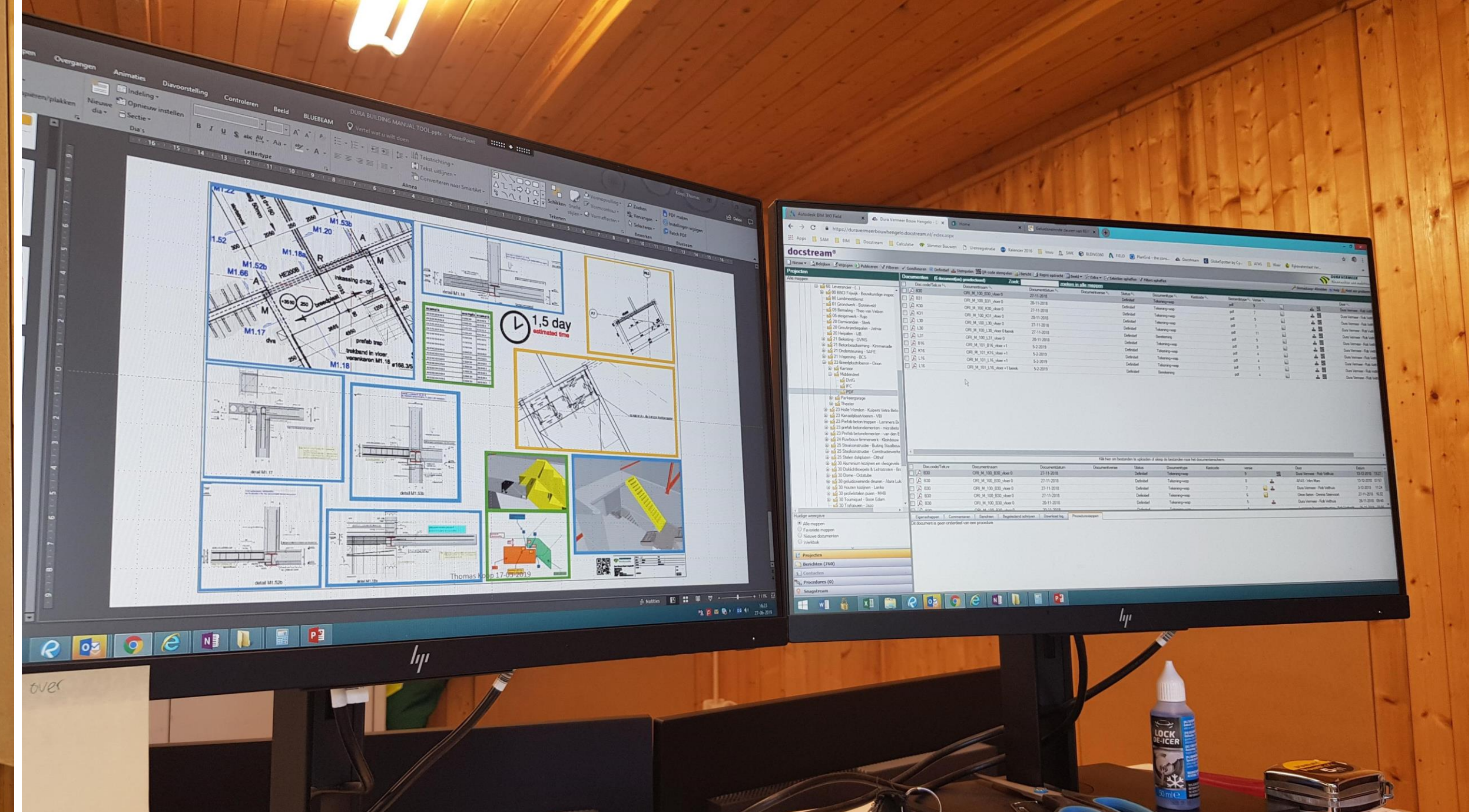
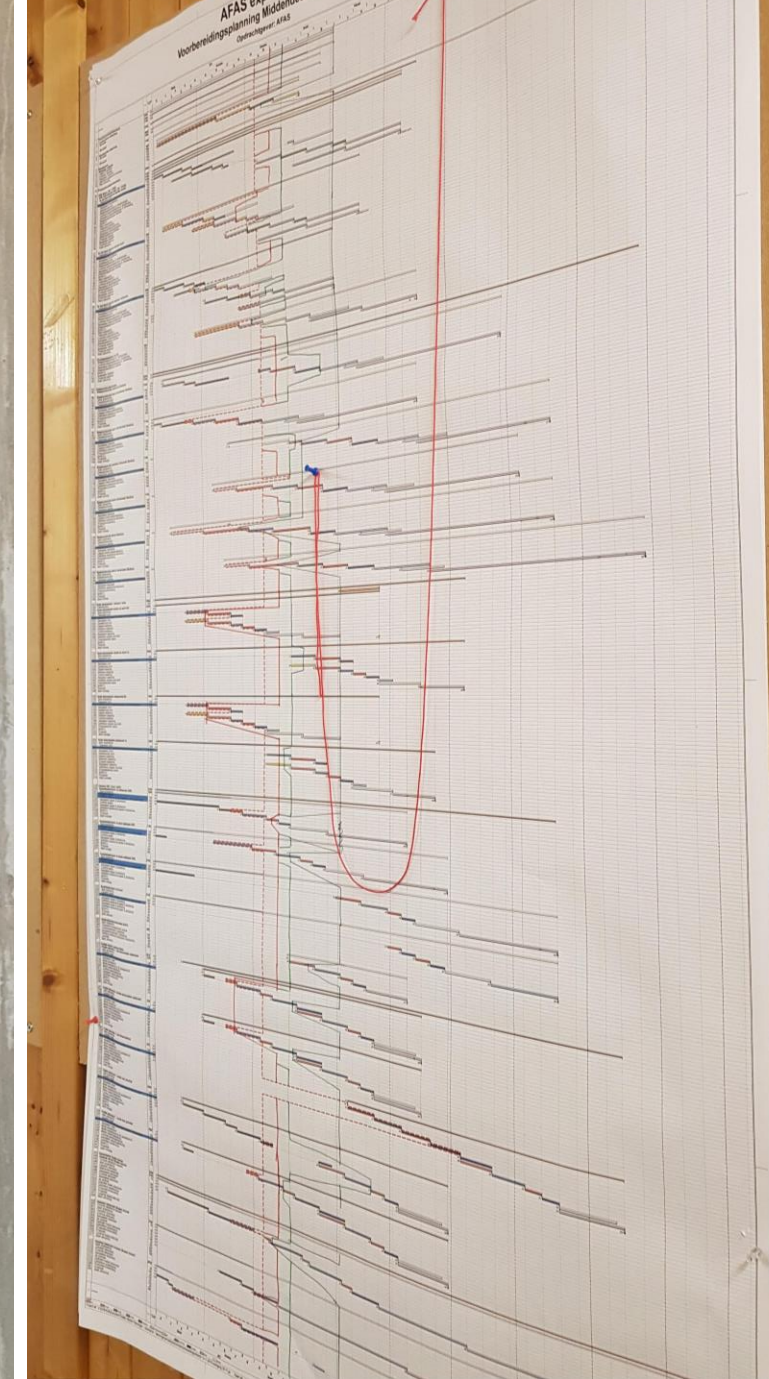
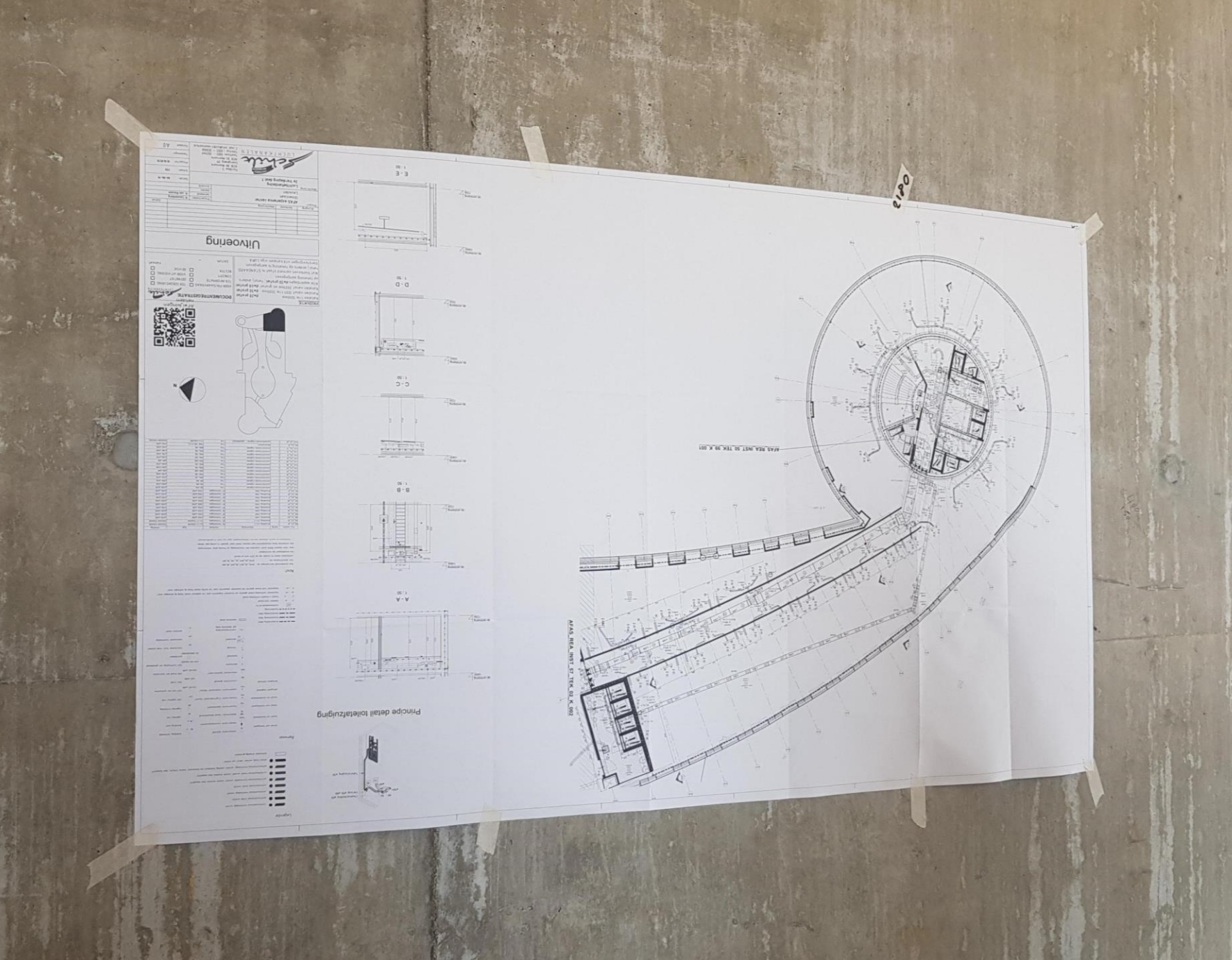
Generative Design is a goal-driven approach that uses automation to give designers and engineers better insights so they can make faster, more informed design decisions.



# Industrialized Construction







## Design & Construction then

Paper Manual

Drawings 2D

Axonometric Details

## Design and Construction now

Design 3D / Algorithms

Cloud Collaboration

Generative Design

Prefab elements



# Construction Principles & Increased Needs





The construction industry is evolving





# Robotic Toolbox - On site Production

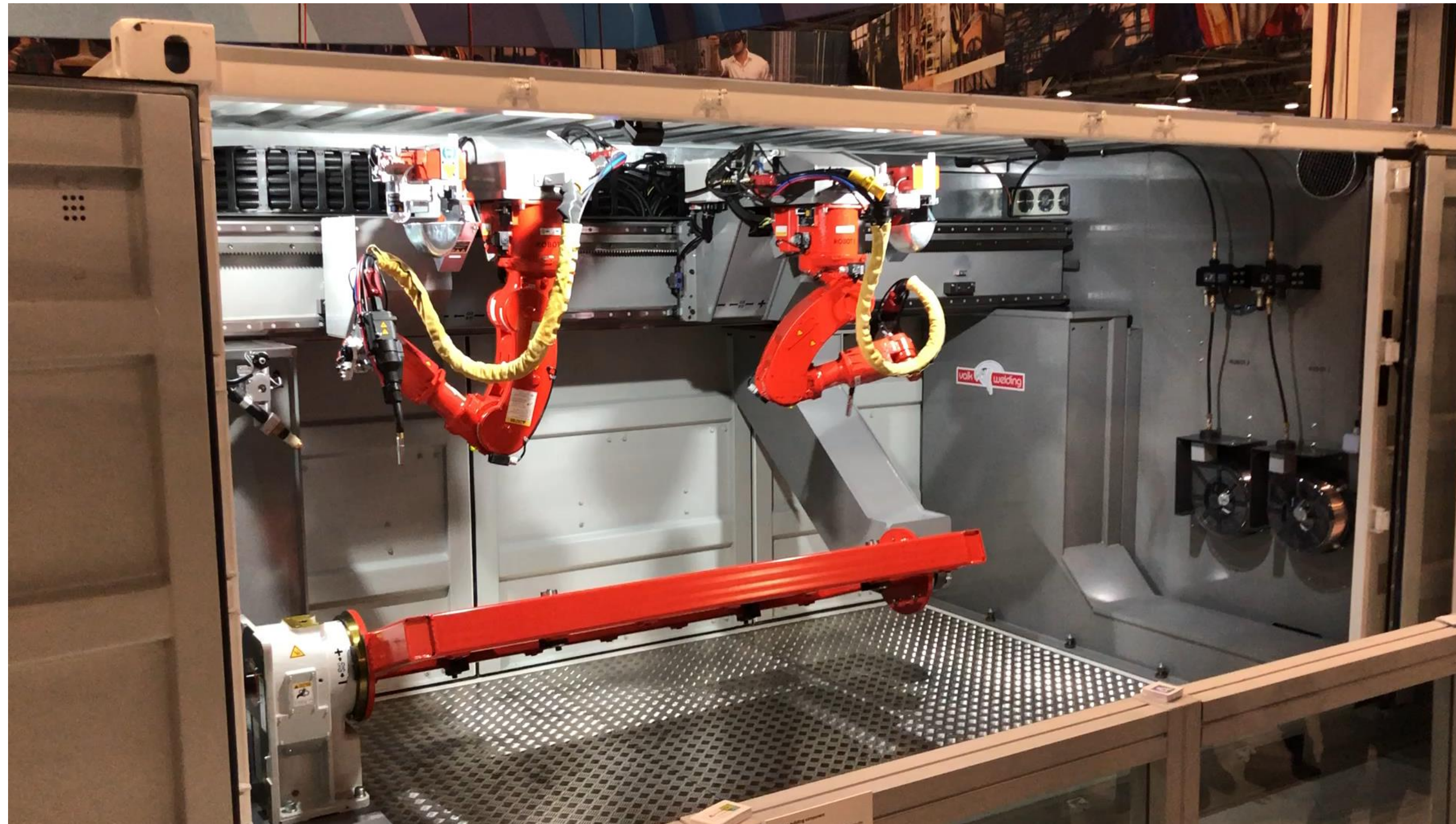


Case Study .: Robots in a Box. How does it feel having a tool box that can make anything?

Autodesk University Las Vegas 2018



# Robotic Toolbox - On site Production



Case Study .: Robots in a Box. How does it feel having a tool box that can make anything?

Autodesk University Las Vegas 2018



An aerial photograph of a long, multi-span cable-stayed bridge crossing a deep blue body of water. The bridge features several tall, white, A-frame pylons connected by numerous white stay cables. The bridge deck is yellow and carries several vehicles. In the background, there are green mountains and a small town on the shoreline. The word "Scalability" is overlaid in large white text in the center of the image.

# Scalability

Image caption goes here



An aerial photograph of a large, circular dome structure under construction. The dome's framework is composed of numerous blue-painted steel trusses that intersect to form a complex, spherical grid. The interior of the dome is filled with a dense network of wooden scaffolding and construction materials. The base of the dome is a wide, flat concrete area. On the right side of this base, there is a blue metal storage container. Various construction materials, including long wooden planks and bundles of steel rods, are scattered across the concrete floor. The scene is brightly lit, casting sharp shadows from the dome's structure onto the ground.

# Scalability

Image caption goes here





# Scalability

Image caption goes here





Scalability



“{...}we could have set up a unit to produce the pieces that failed in no time. Scanning, designing, producing and installing.”


Façade Engineer, Buro Happold



# Dura Vermeer as Incubator







**PEOPLE ARE MORE IMPORTANT  
THAN TECHNOLOGY**



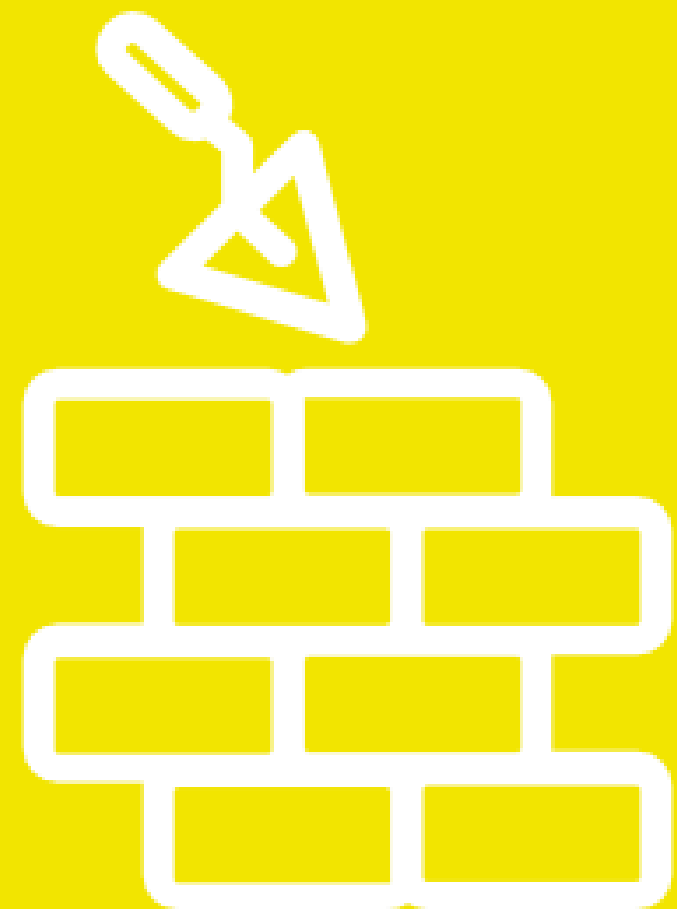








**TRADITIONAL**



**DIGITAL**



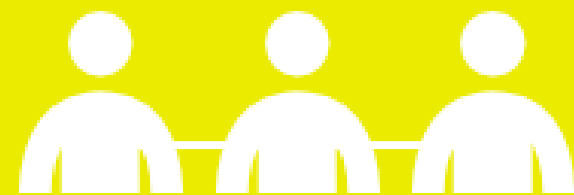






# HORIZONTALLY ORGANIZED FAMILY COMPANY

165 YEARS



# 2.700

EMPLOYEES



# 1,3 <sup>TURNOVER</sup> BILLION



Division Building and Real  
Estate

Division  
Infrastructure

Division Advice and Services





# **OUR MISSION**

**MADE BY OUR OWN PEOPLE**

**REALIZING AMBITIONS, BY  
LETTING IDEAS GROW, BASED ON  
INSPIRATION, RESPECT AND  
CONNECTION.**



The background image shows a construction site. On the left, a large yellow crane with a glass-enclosed operator's cab is visible. The cab has the word "Litronic" on it. A worker in a green jacket with "DURA VERMEER" on the back is seen from behind in the foreground. The crane's boom extends across the top of the frame. The sky is a pale, hazy blue. A semi-transparent dark green rectangular box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text.

# OUR VISION

CONTRIBUTE TO INNOVATIVE  
SOLUTIONS AND EXTREME  
PREDICTABILITY, WITH THE ONLY  
GOAL; TO DELIVER VALUE TO OUR  
CUSTOMERS





# AUTODESK & DURA VERMEER



***DURA VERMEER***







A construction worker is seen from behind, wearing a hard hat and a safety vest with 'DURA VERMEER' printed on the back. The worker is standing on a construction site, with an excavator visible in the background. The image has a teal overlay.

**LEARNING BY DOING**



1

**Autodesk**



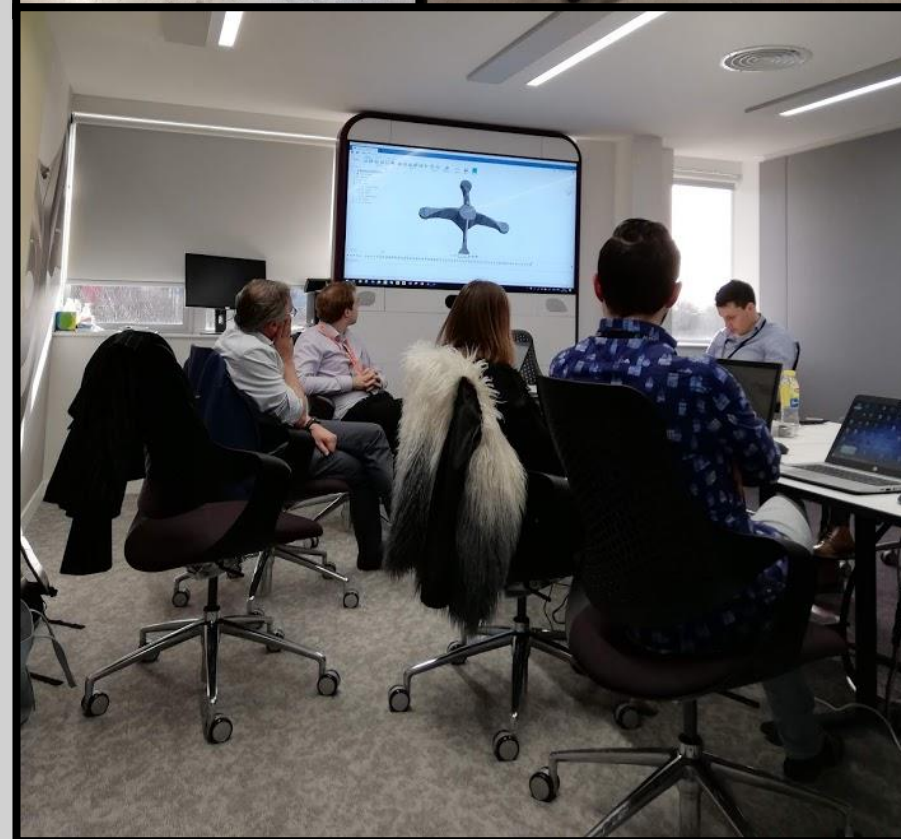
2

**Generative  
Design**



3

**Inspired  
Birmingham  
ATC**



4

**Reality  
AFAS**





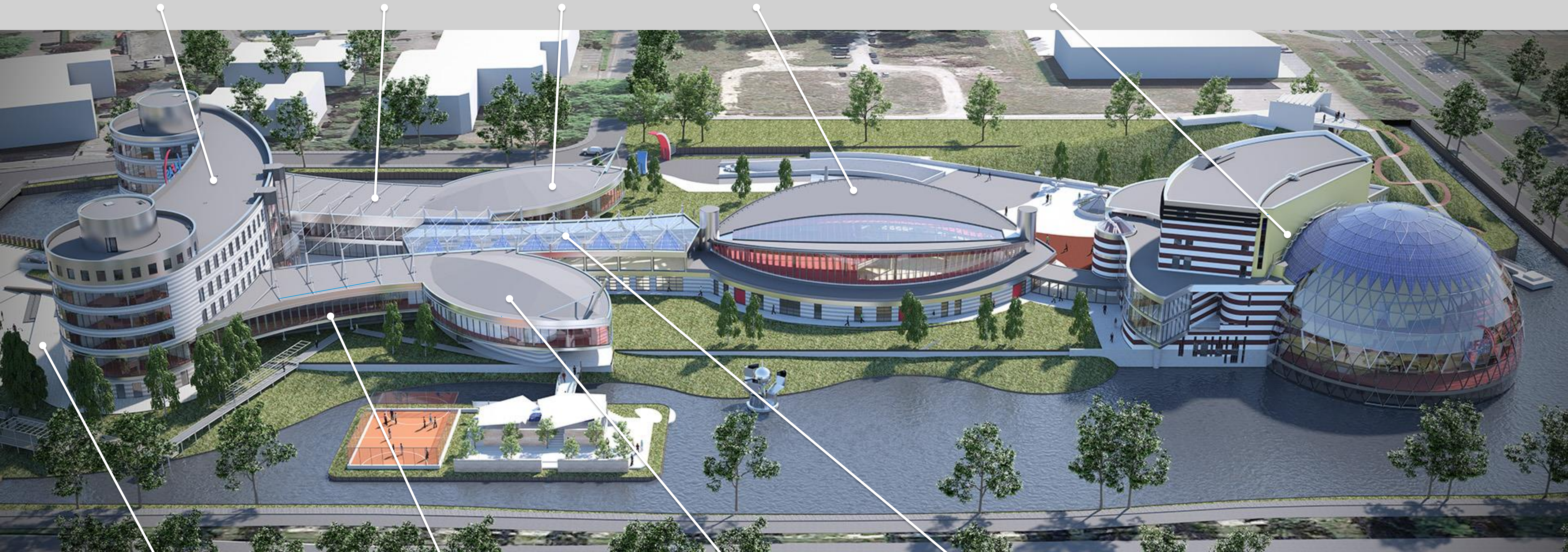
MAIN BUILDING

EDUCATION

STUDIO'S

RESTAURANT

THEATER & AUDITORIUM



PARKING DECK

DEMONSTRATION

SPORTS

ATRIUM

# AFAS EXPERIENCE CENTRE

## PROJECT INFO

44.000 M<sup>2</sup>

750 OFFICE WORKPLACES

820 THEATER SEATS

700 RESTAURANT PLACES

760 PARKINGSPACES





Ik kan vliegen









**DURA VERMEER**







































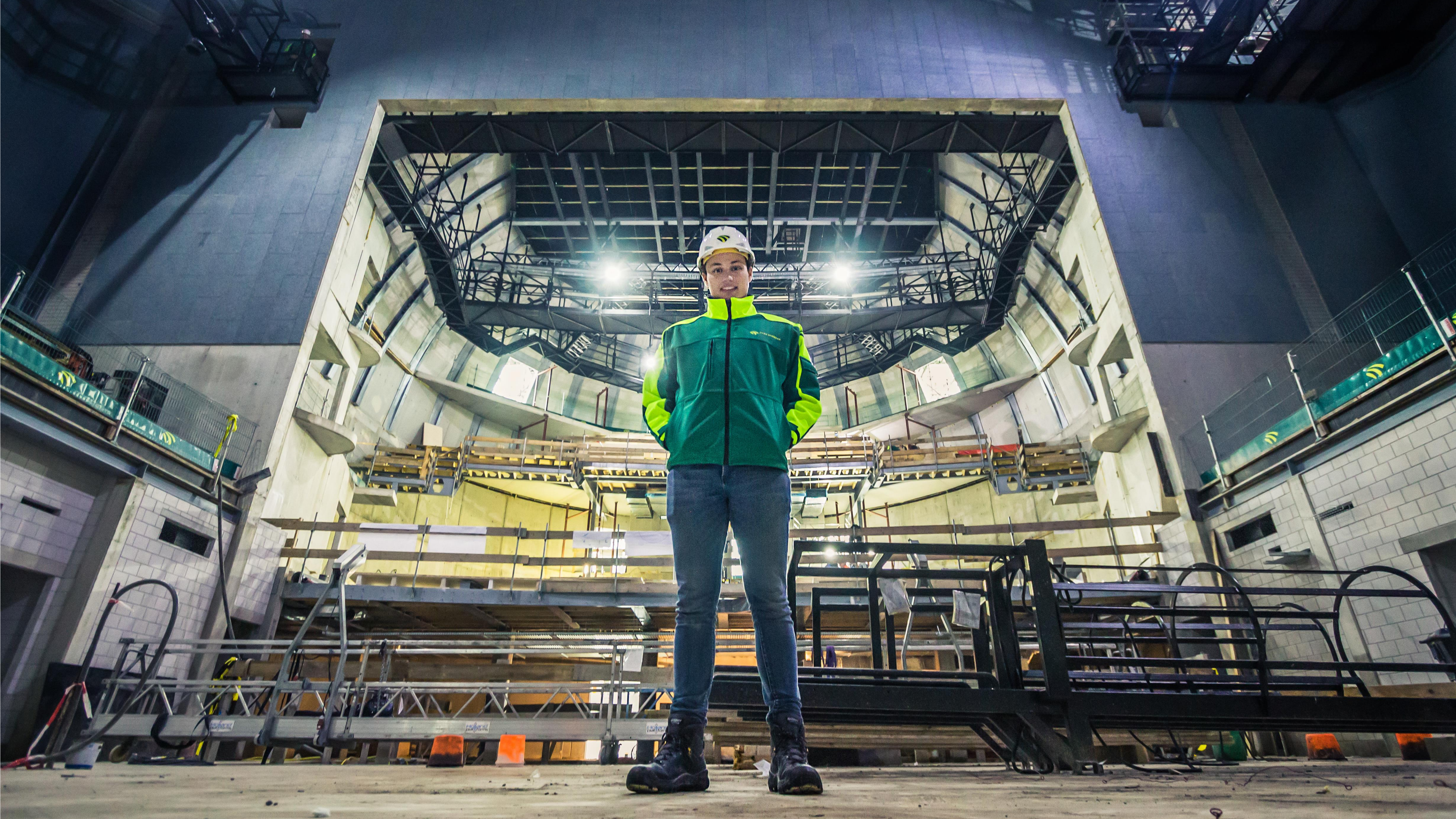






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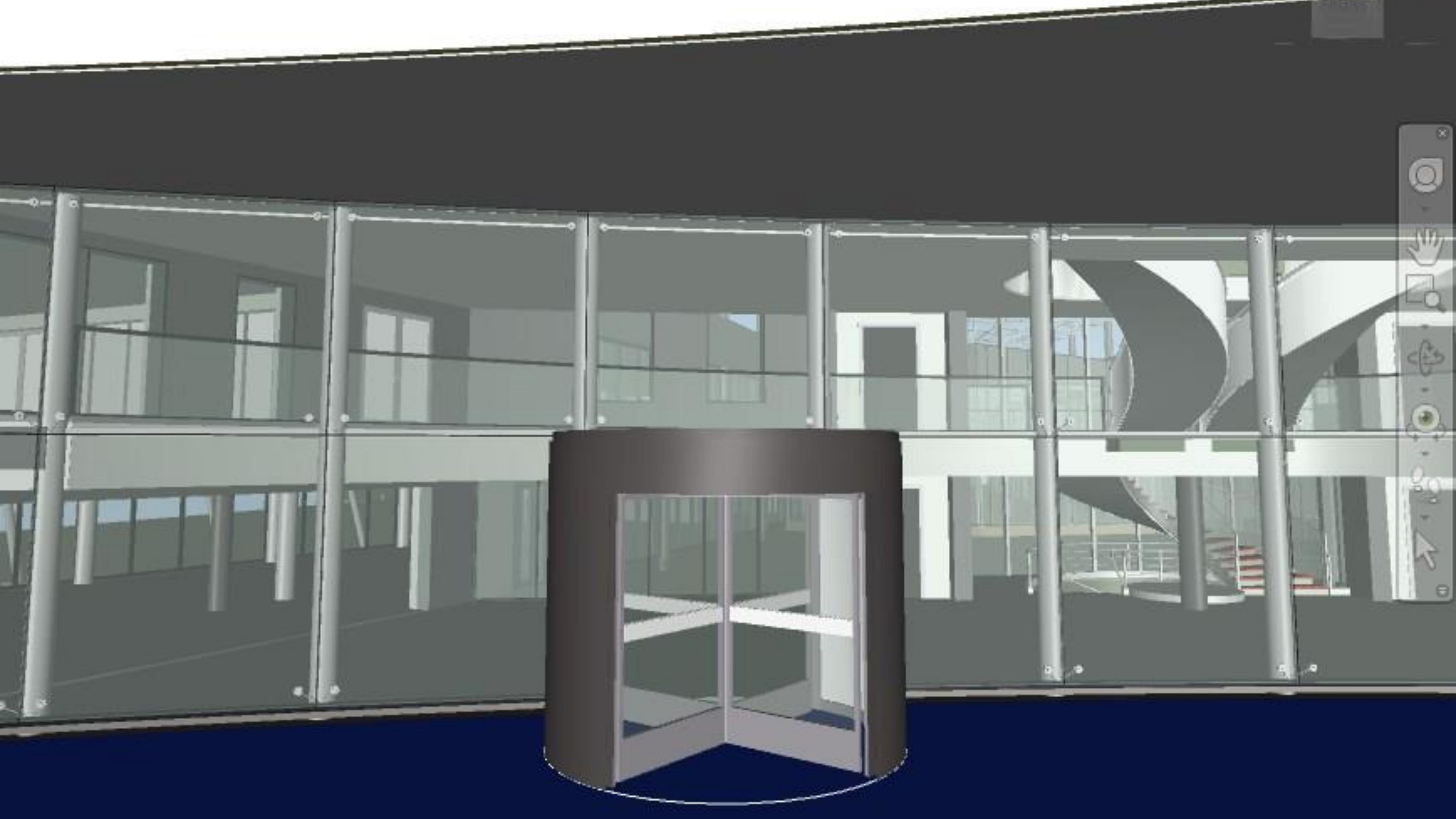




AFAS  
software

parkeren





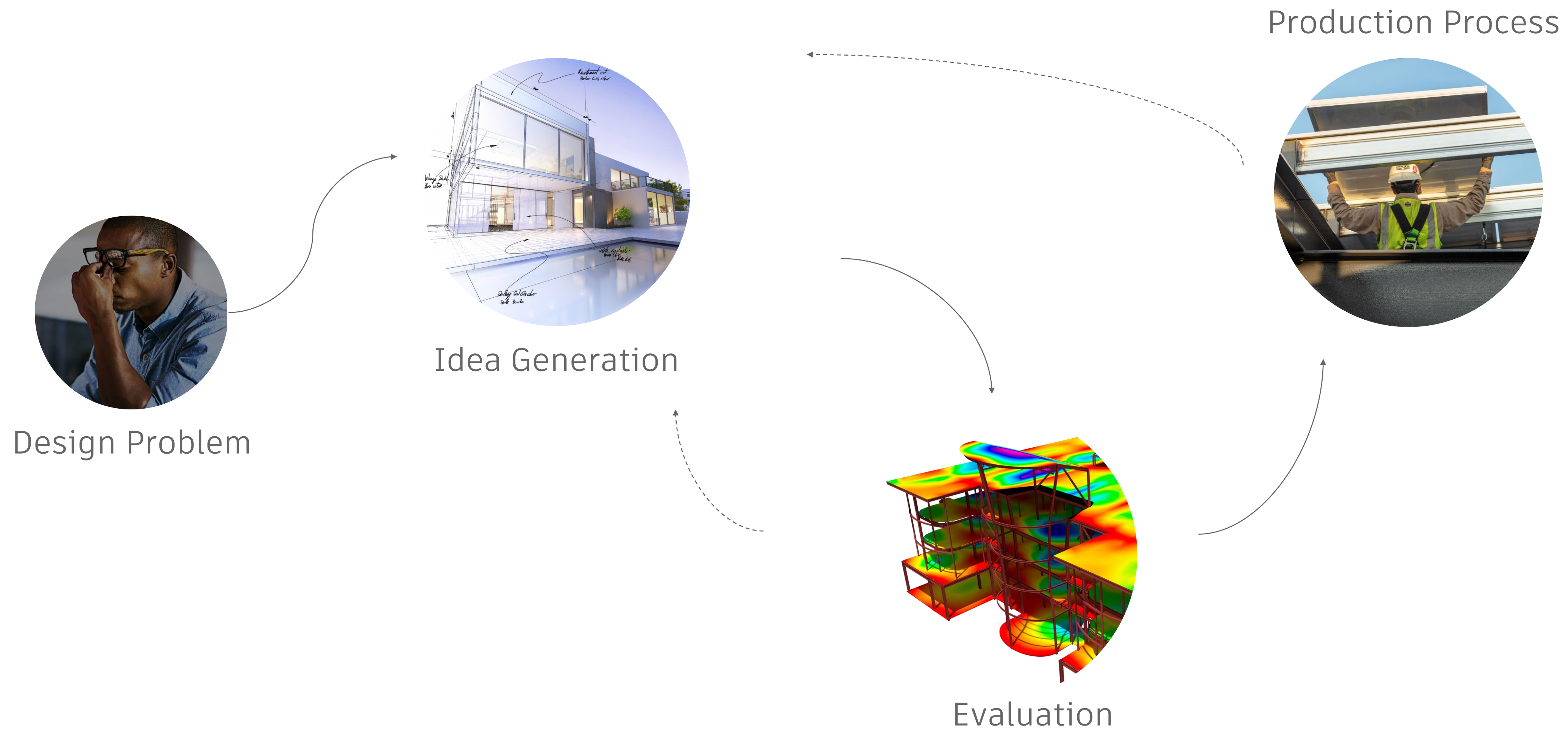


# Generative Design Workflow for Construction





# Traditional Design Approach



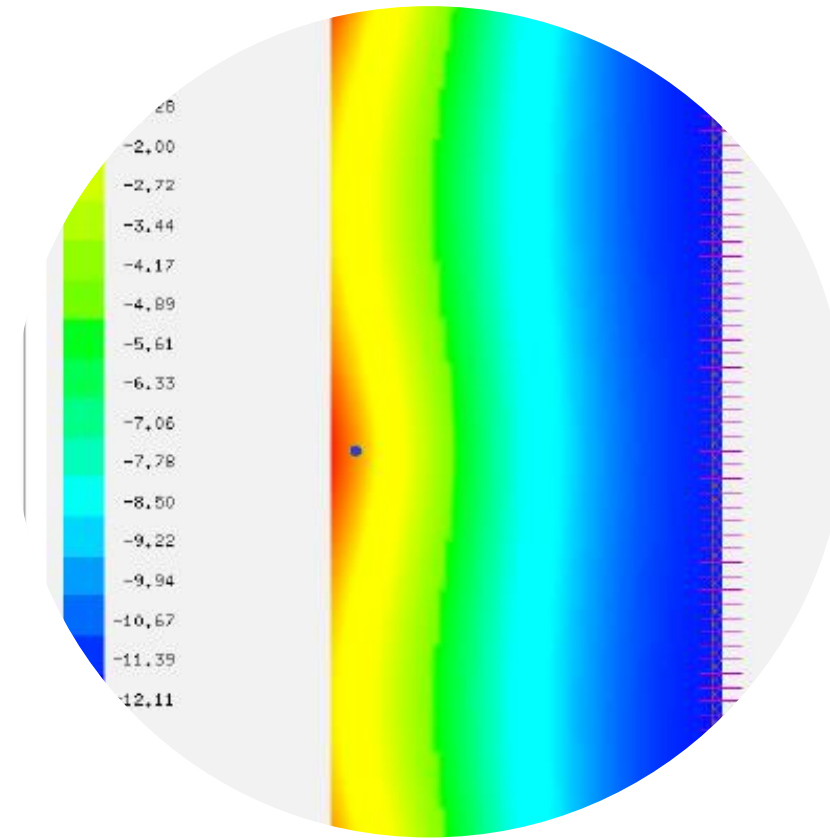


# Generative Design Workflow



Onsite Data

Scan data from the site captures the as built dimensions of the pillar attachment point. And allows high tolerances to be accounted for



Structural Analysis

Wind, snow and point loads are calculated for each location on the facade



Design for Production

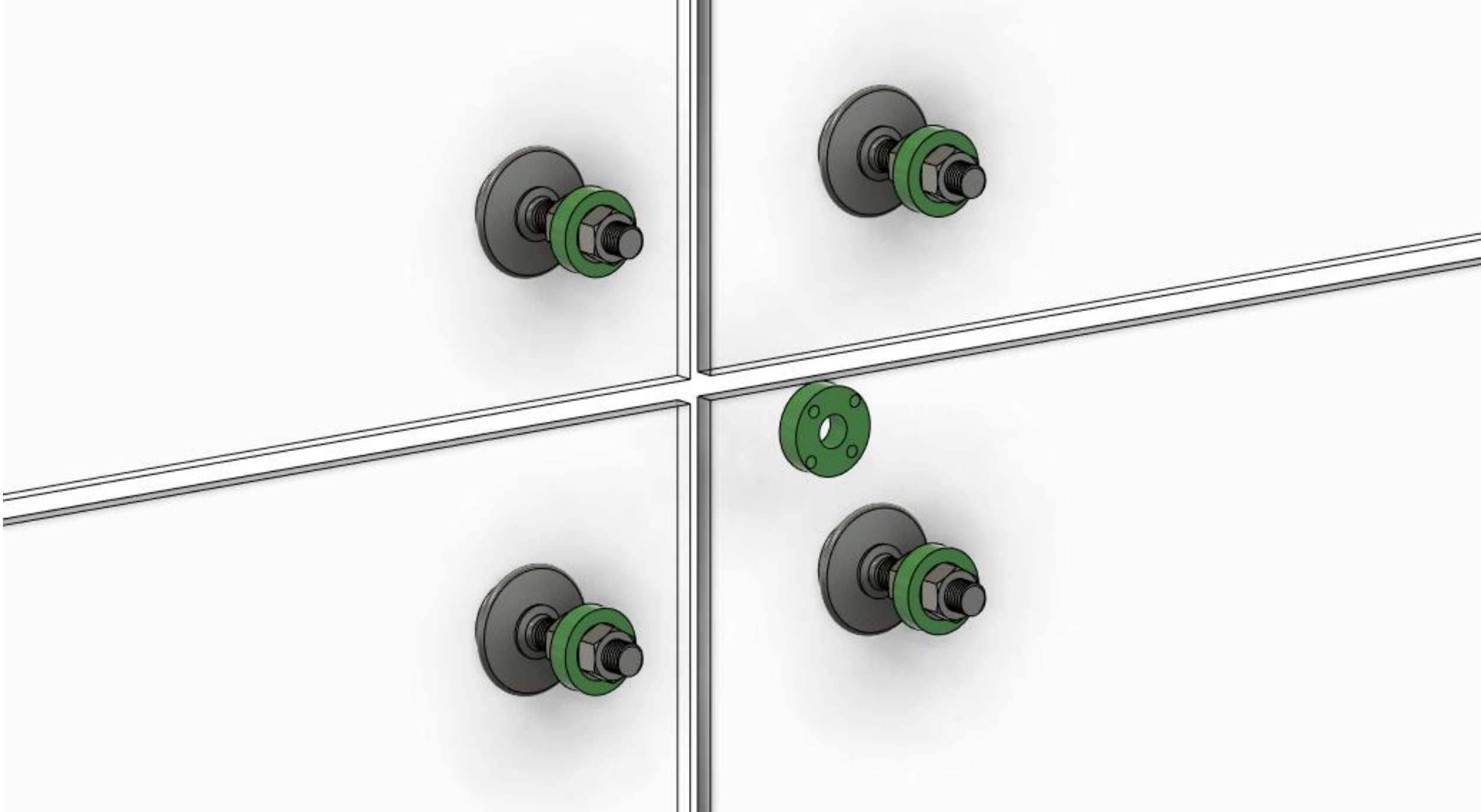
An understanding of what makes a good design for different on-site manufacturing processes is built into the algorithm



Generative Design

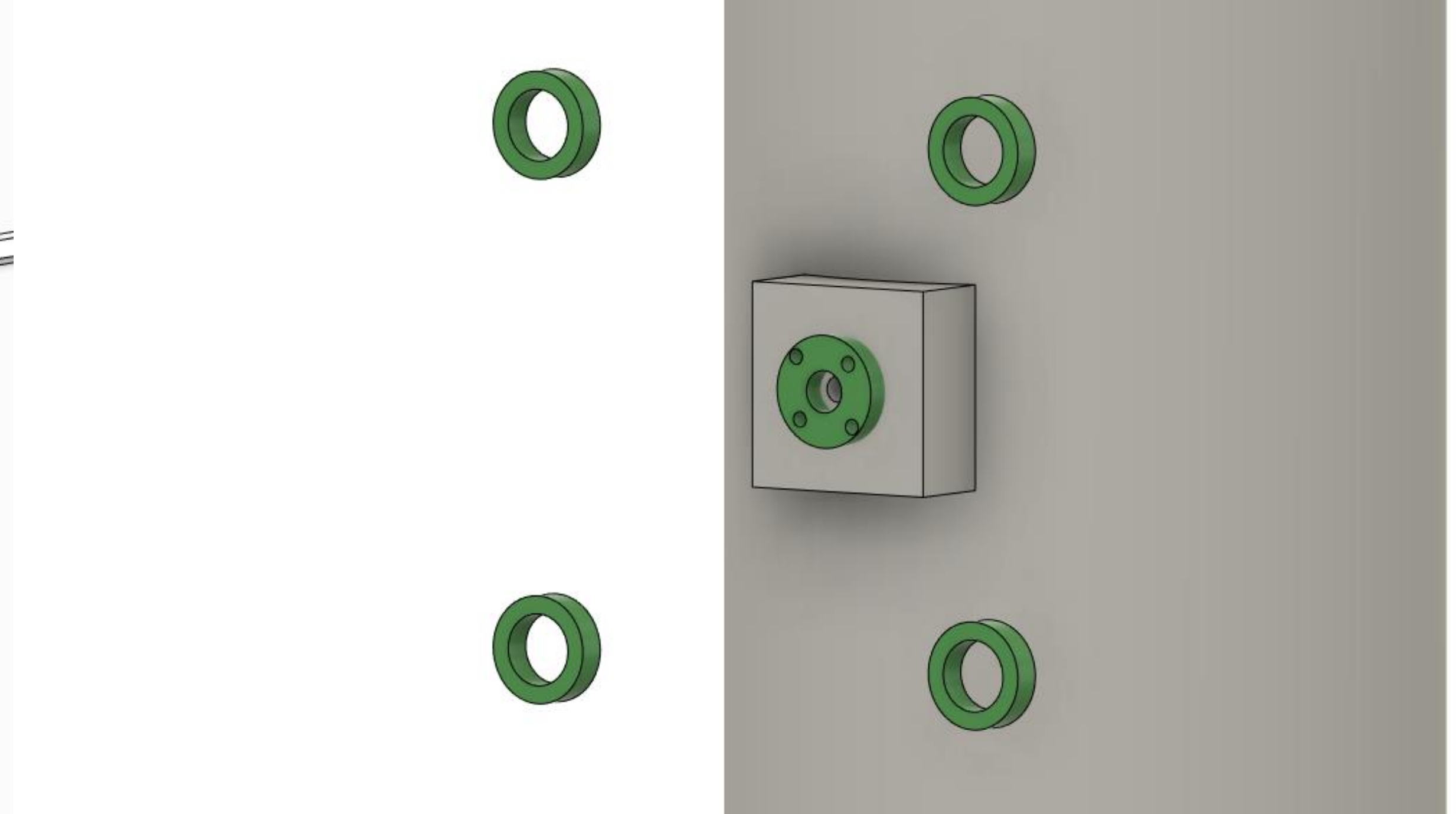
This information is sent to a generative design algorithm, which creates multiple design possibilities for us





## Fixation to Glass Panels

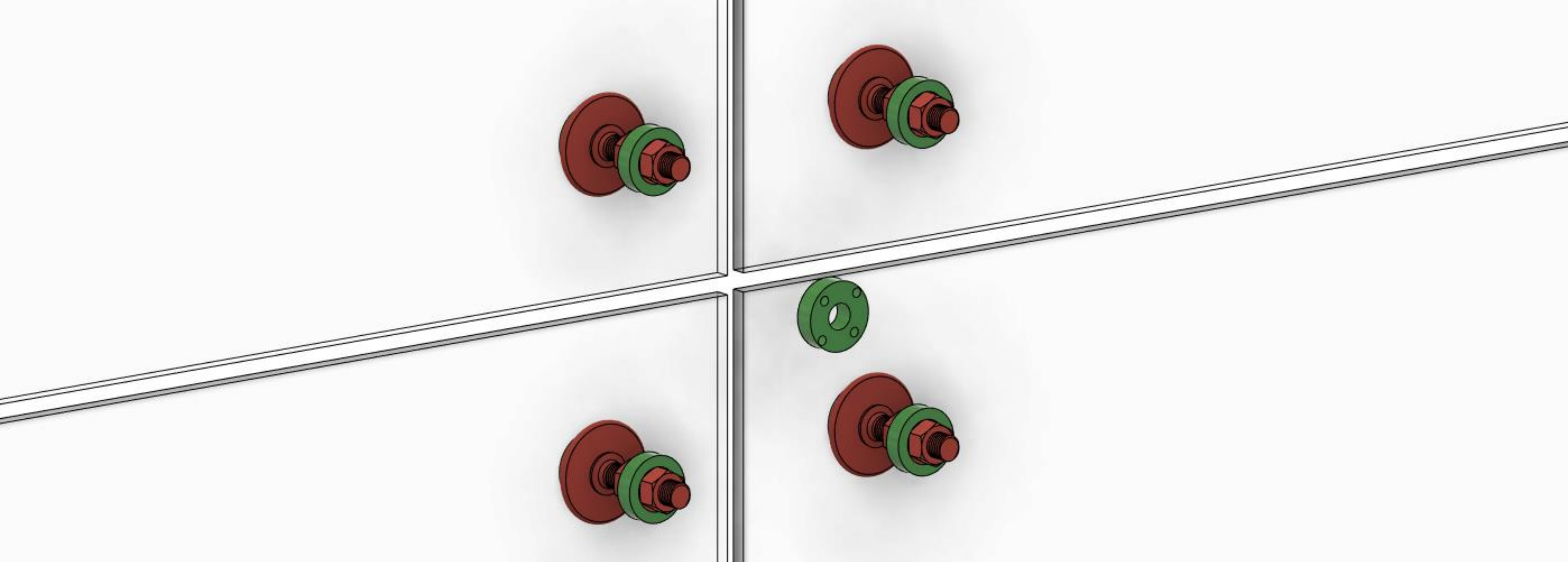
Fixation locations to the glass panels are taken from the onsite data. These let the algorithm know where to connect to the panels



## Fixation to Pillars

Geometry is also defined for the connection point to the central pillar.

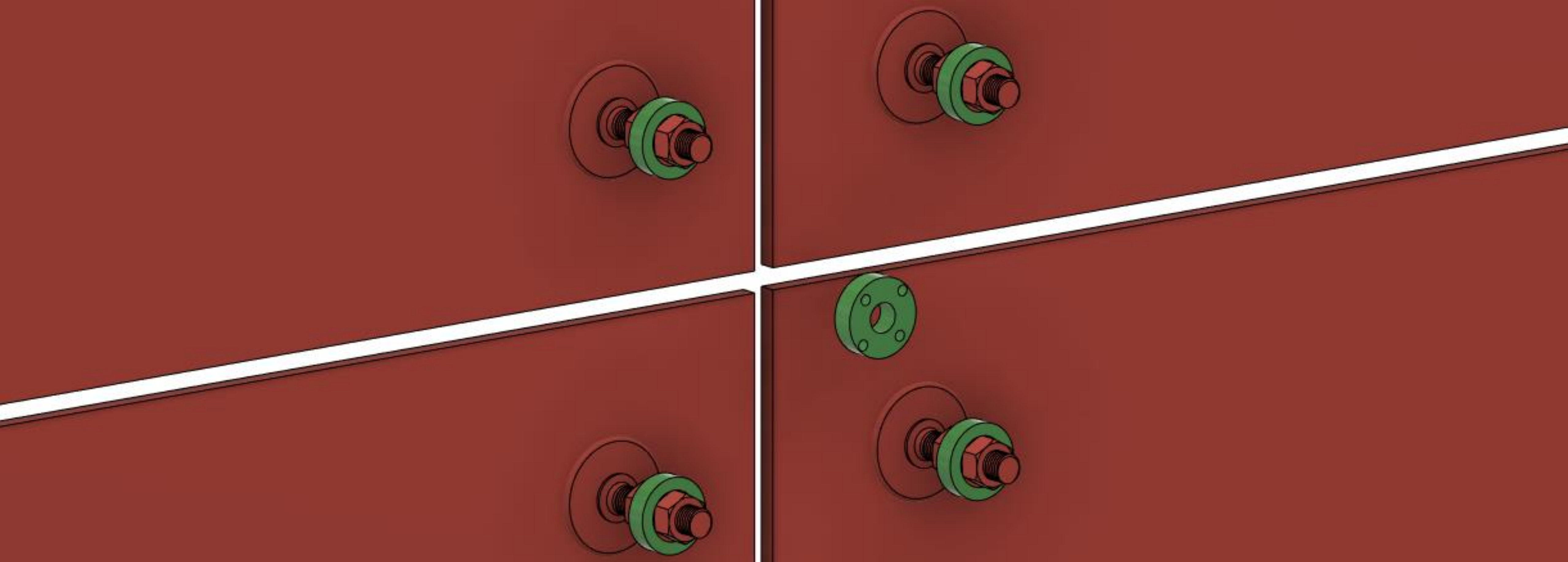




## Connector obstacles

An essential function of the fixture is that it should be easy to take the finished part on or off, and to install the component on-site. The fixture should also be easy to fasten onto the central pillar and the glass panels. Obstacle geometry is used, to ensure adequate room is left for bolted fasteners.





## Assembly obstacles

Obstacle geometry is also used to represent the wider assembly of the building. This is to ensure that the spider doesn't protrude into the rest of the façade assembly

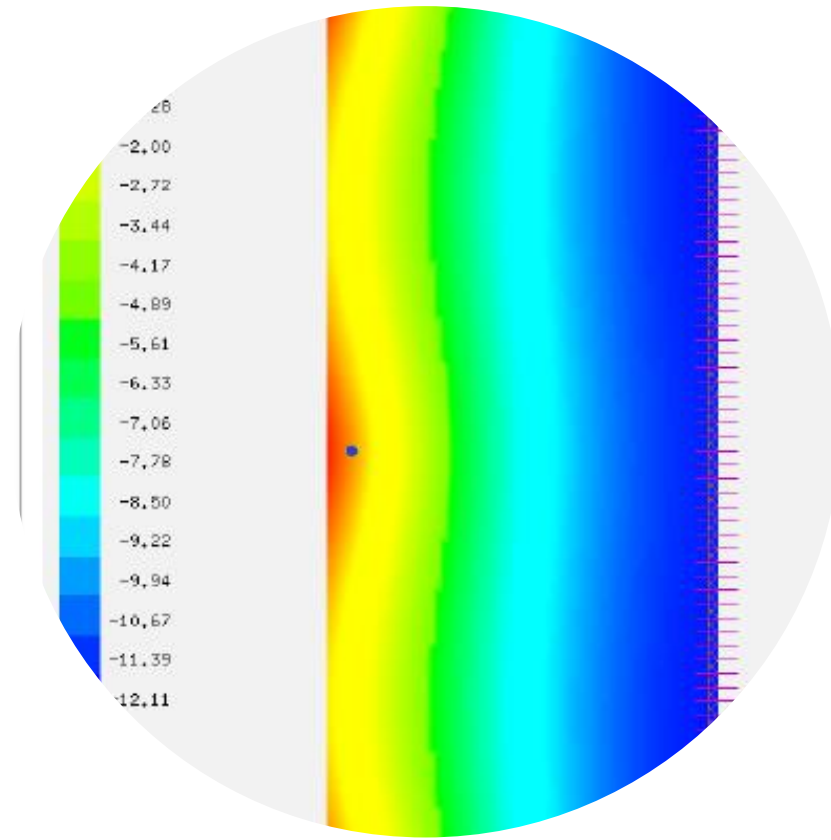


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Design for Production

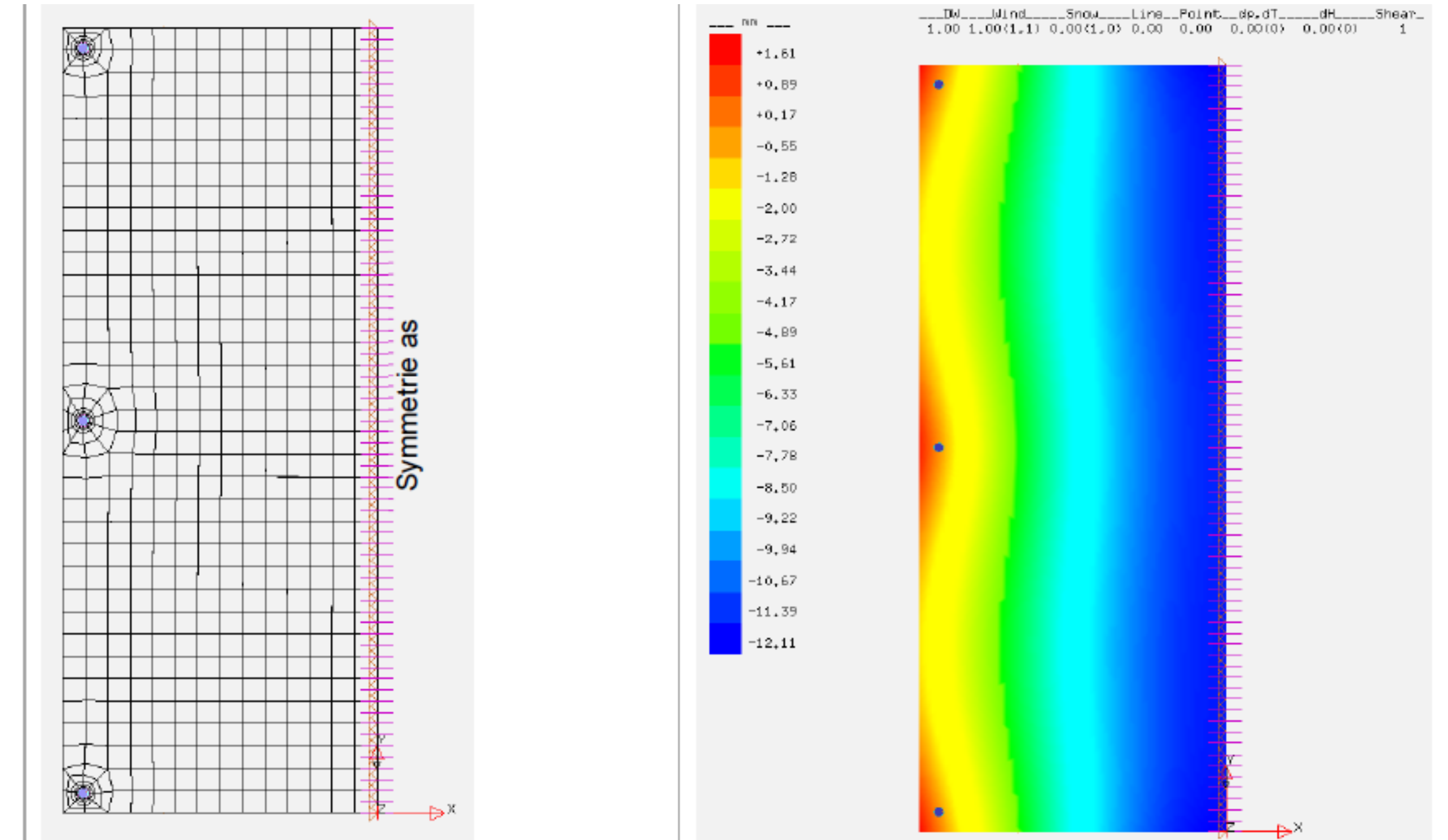
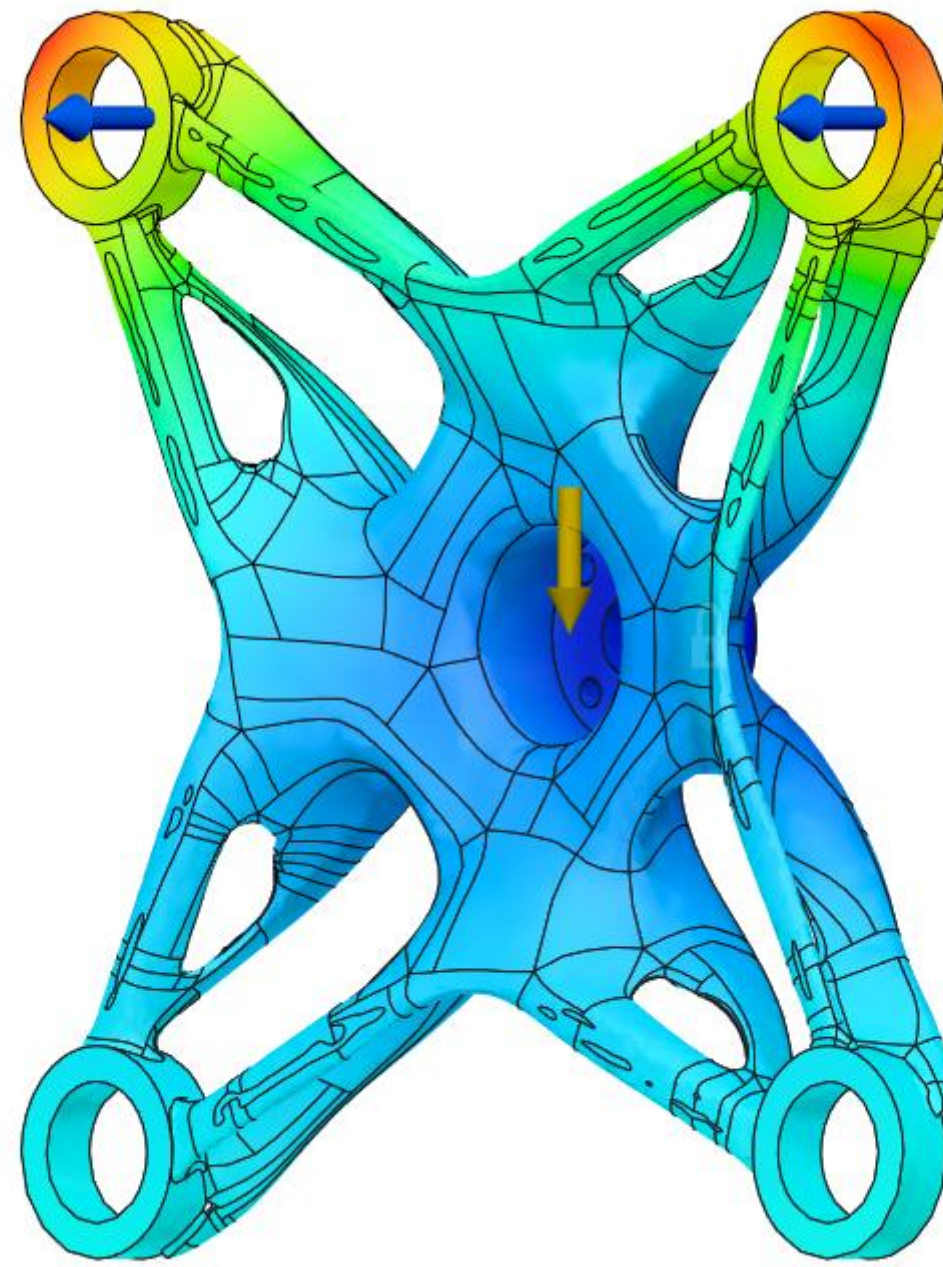
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Generative Design

This information is sent to a generative design algorithm, which creates multiple design possibilities for us





## Wind, Snow and Point Loads

The forces which act on the spider during it's lifetime are represented using load cases. This allows generative design to understand the environment of the component during use, and to create design outcomes which are optimized for this environment. In this instance, an objective of maximizing stiffness has been used to maximize the structural rigidity of the fixture

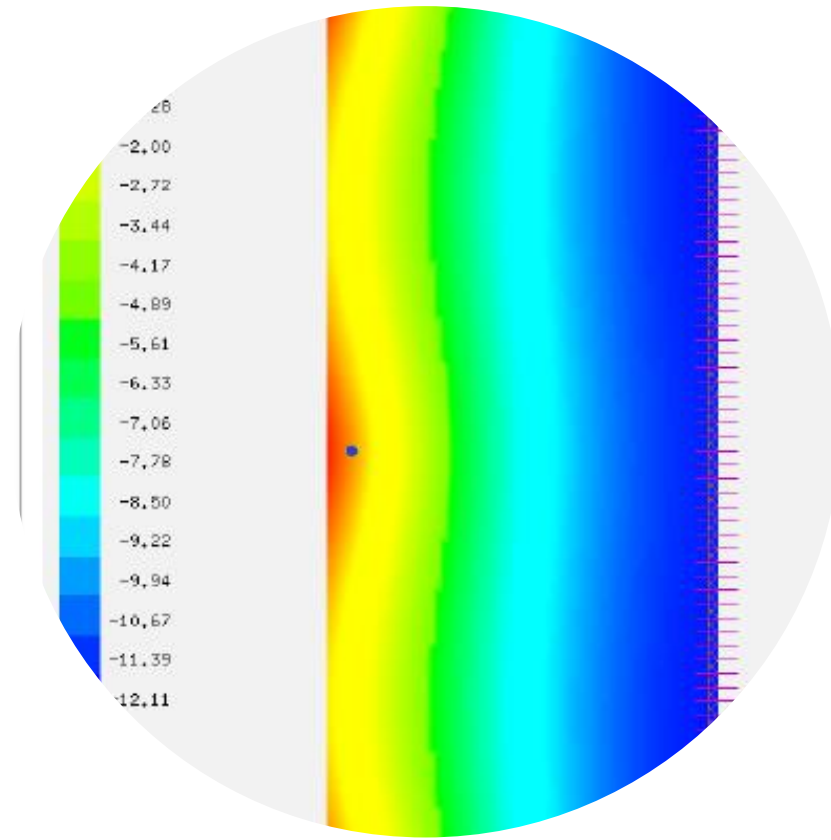


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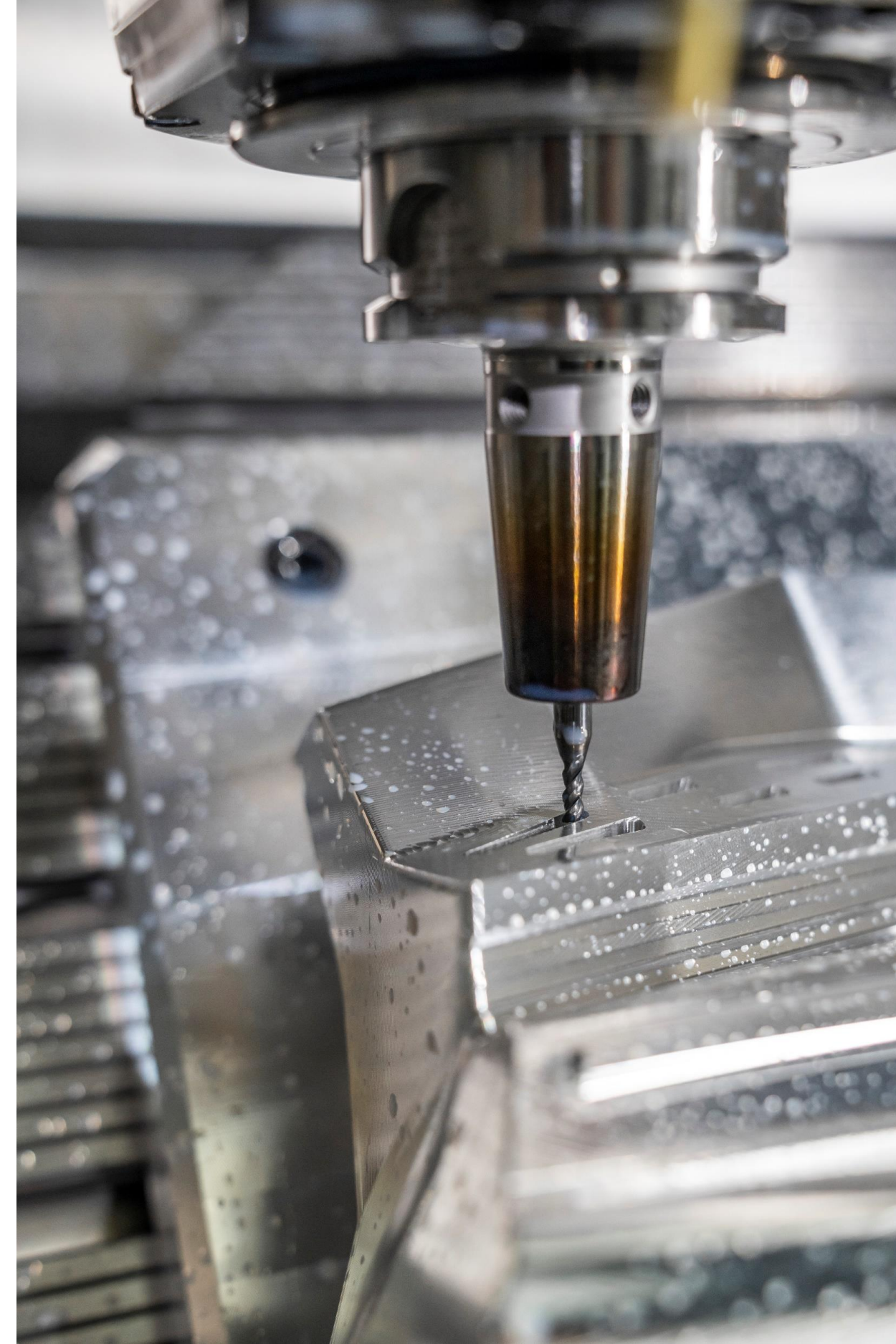
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# Manufacturing Methods

The manufacturing methods which are available to the designer can be selected as constraints. Each design outcome created, will have a unique manufacturing goal in mind, the parameters of which can be customized to the users liking.

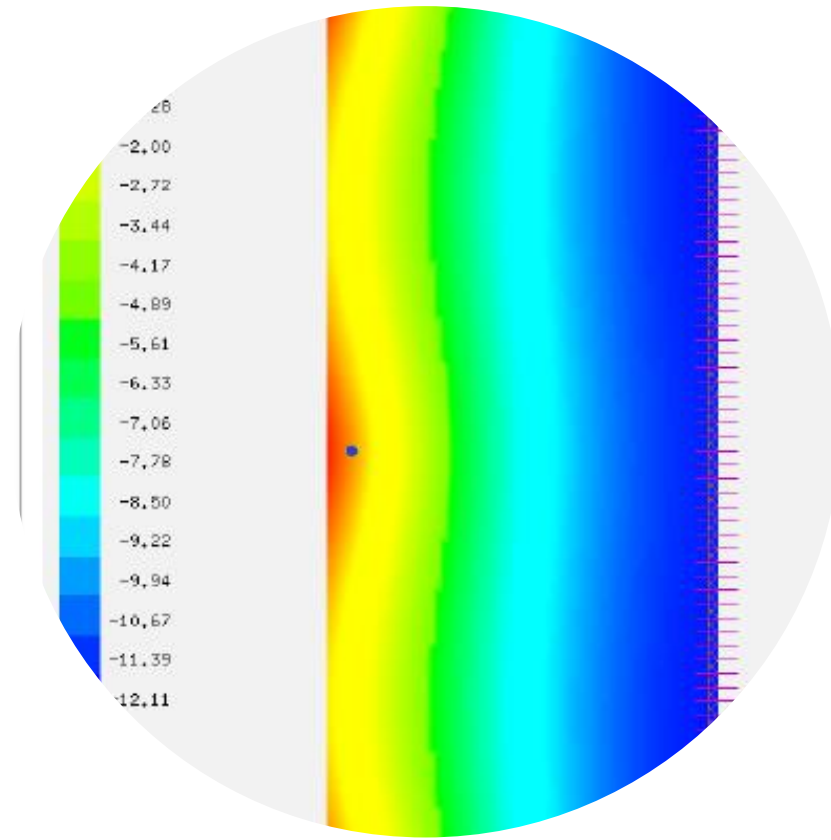


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# Generative Design Workflow



Design Problem

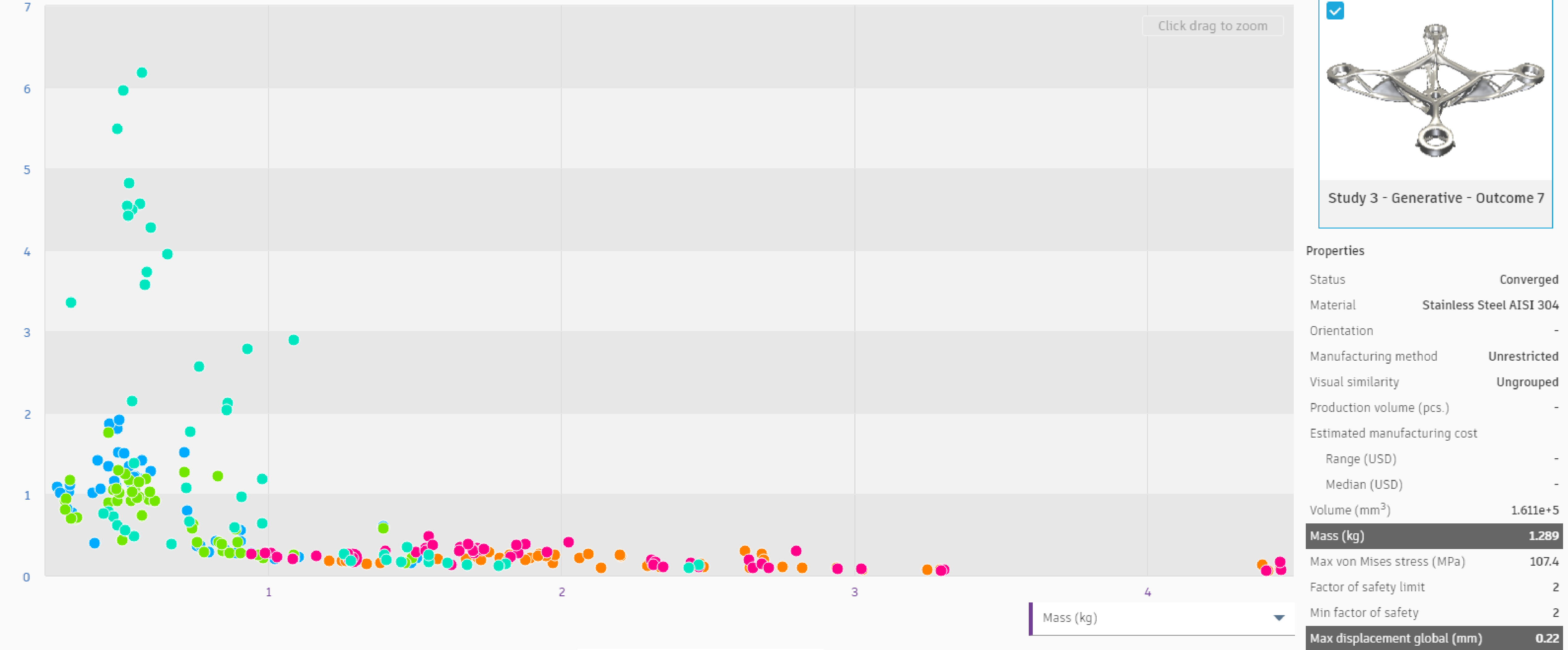


Generative  
Algorithm



Multiple  
outcomes

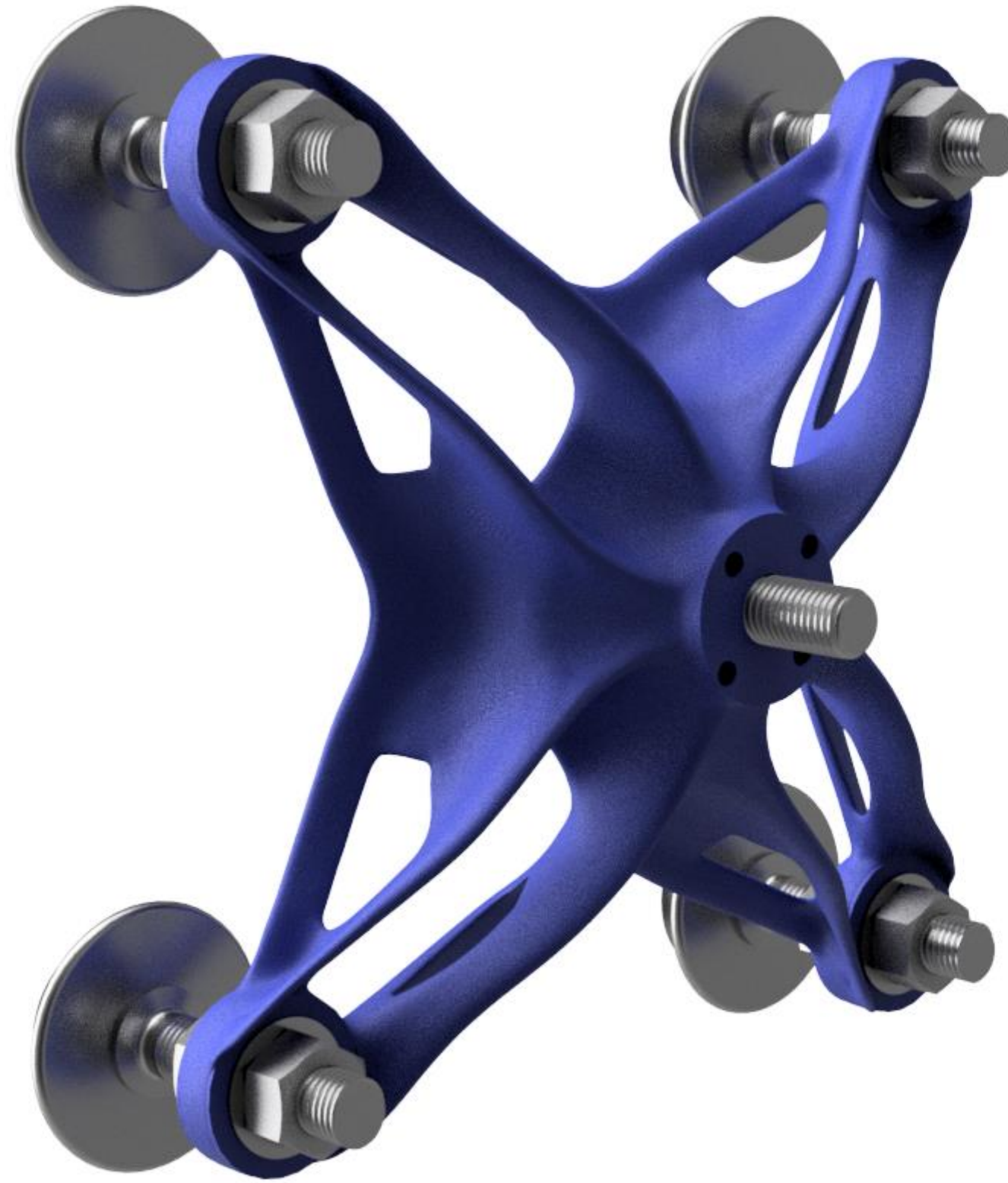




# Compare Outcomes

Once designs have been generated, the human engineer or designer can apply their knowledge and understanding of the design problem at hand, to compare the results against each other.





## Download best outcome

Each of the designs, in fact any iteration of any of the design outcomes, can be downloaded as a ready-to-make CAD model. This model will keep any information, such as material, associated with it; as well as the loading conditions used in the problem setup.









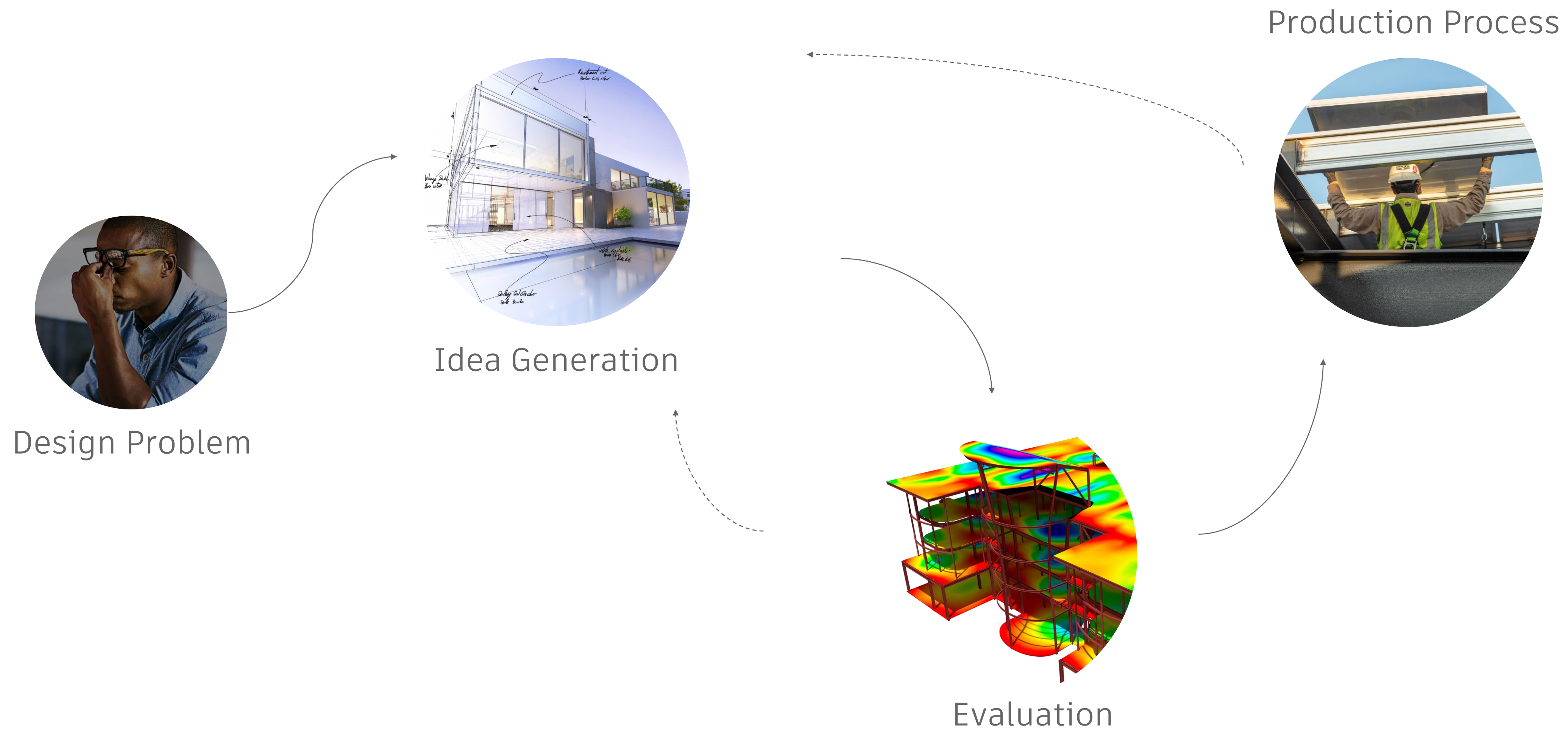


# Why Generative Design?



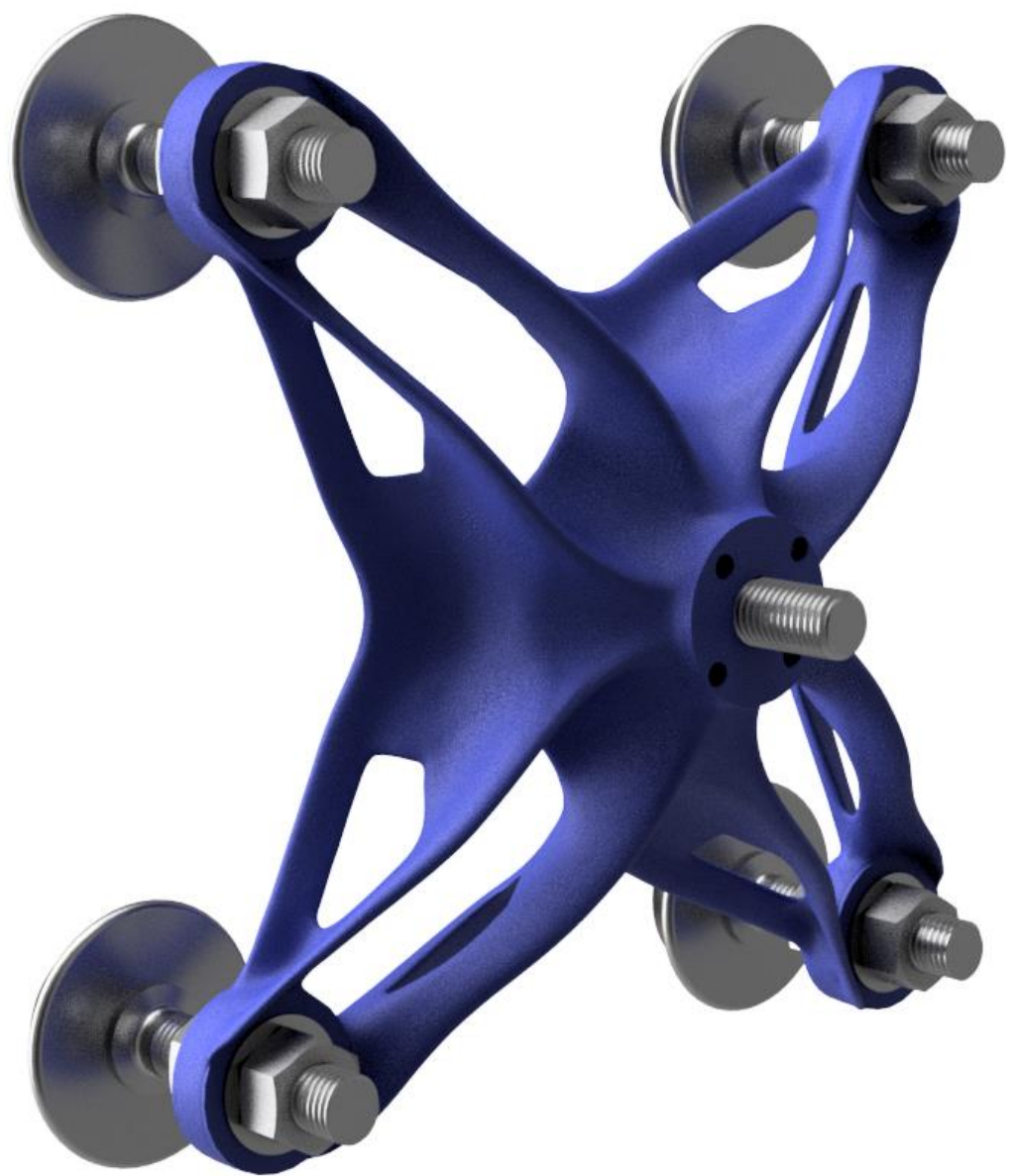
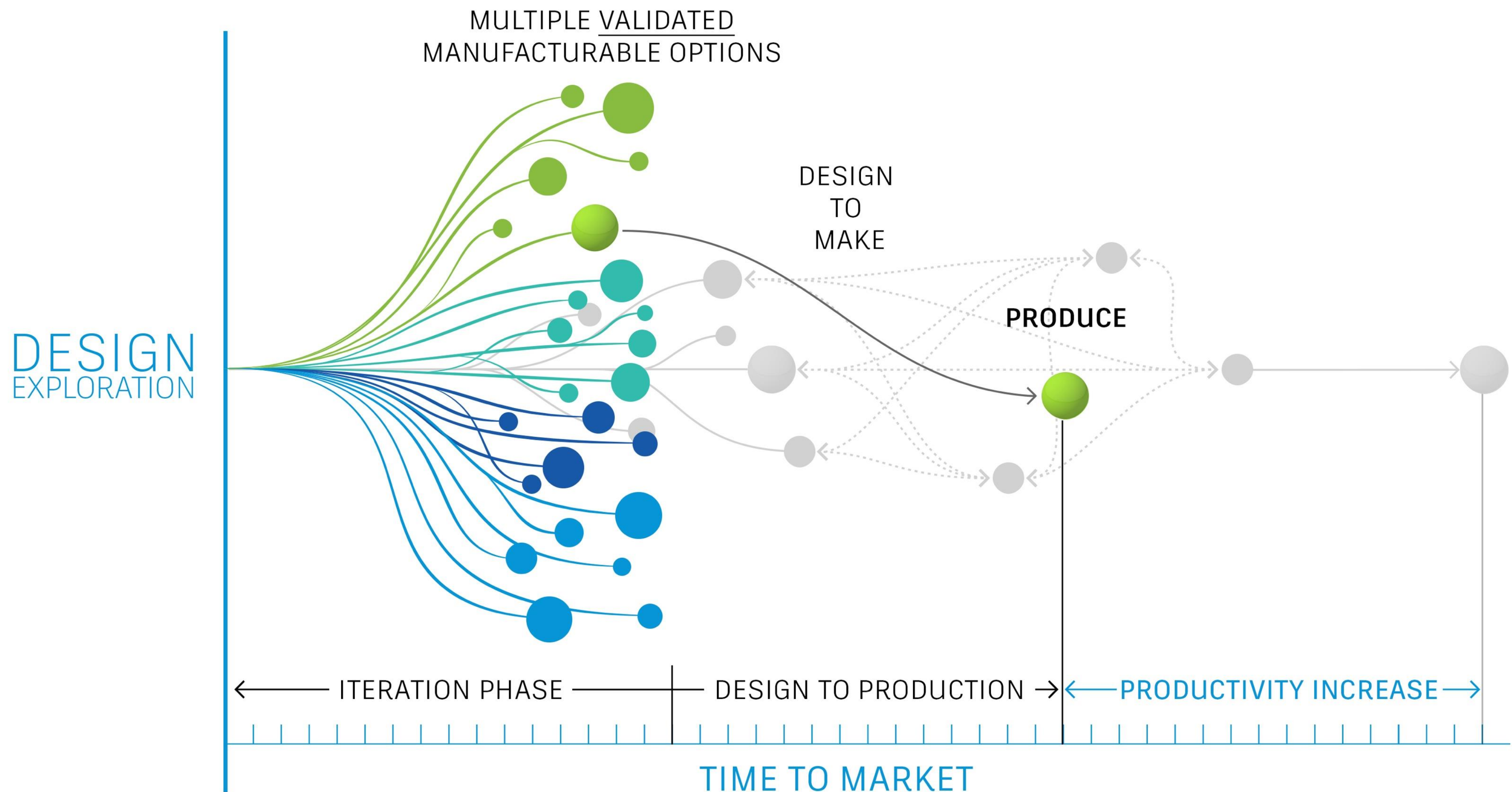


# Traditional Design Approach





# Generative Design Approach





# Why Generative Design

## ITERATE FASTER

By offloading our design process onto the cloud using an intelligent algorithm, we are able to design more effectively and move faster than we could using traditional design processes

## DATA DRIVEN DESIGN PROCESS

Moving more quickly allows us the freedom to design parts during the construction process using onsite data to create customized construction components which are designed with the true to life tolerances taken into account

## FOLLOW THE APPROACH OF NATURE

This approach allows us to more closely follow the same design process as we see in nature, where every object is perfectly suited to it's environment



# Building elements as intelligent objects





# Inhabitants : Sensors



In the horizon three the goal of this is to create a smart façade, a façade that can talk, that can give us information not only on the building occupancy but on its performance.



# Data collected

1

STRUCTURAL DATA

Structural behavior of the  
generatively design  
family of spiders

2

INHABITATION

Occupants behavior on  
the building

3

TEMPERATURES

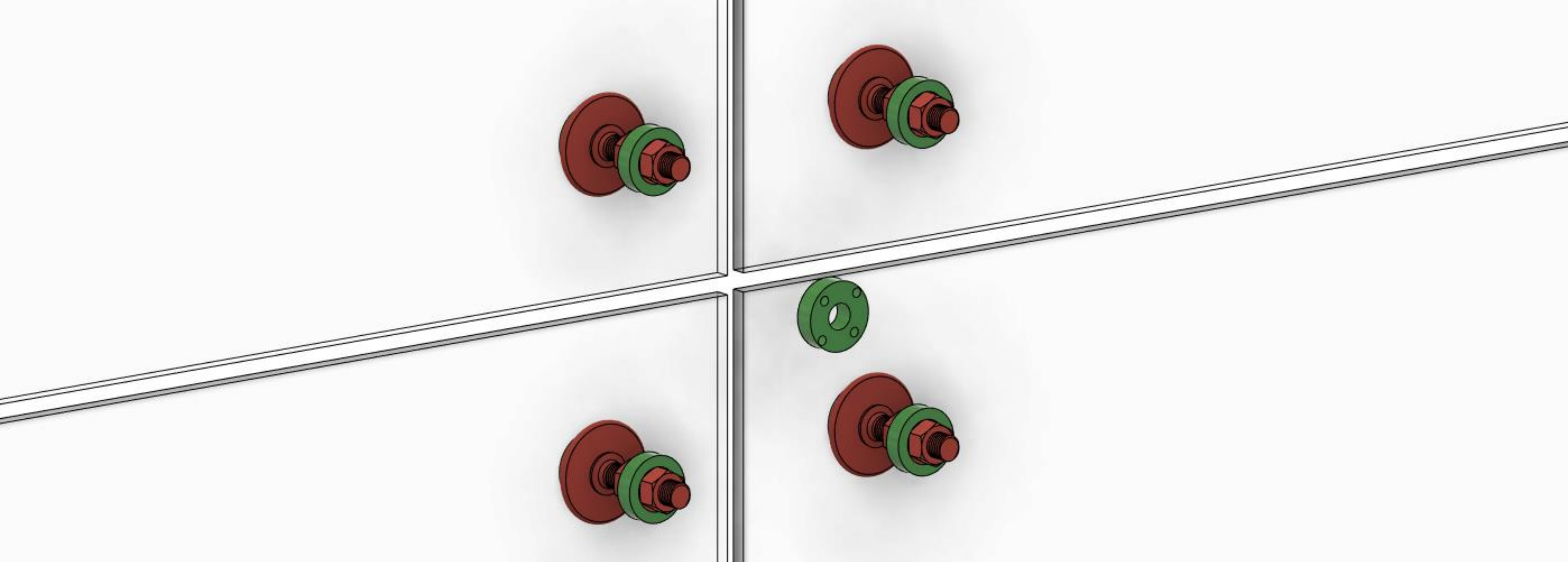
Weather conditions that  
affect the lifespan of a  
building.

4

FLEXIBLE DATA CAPTURE

You name it!



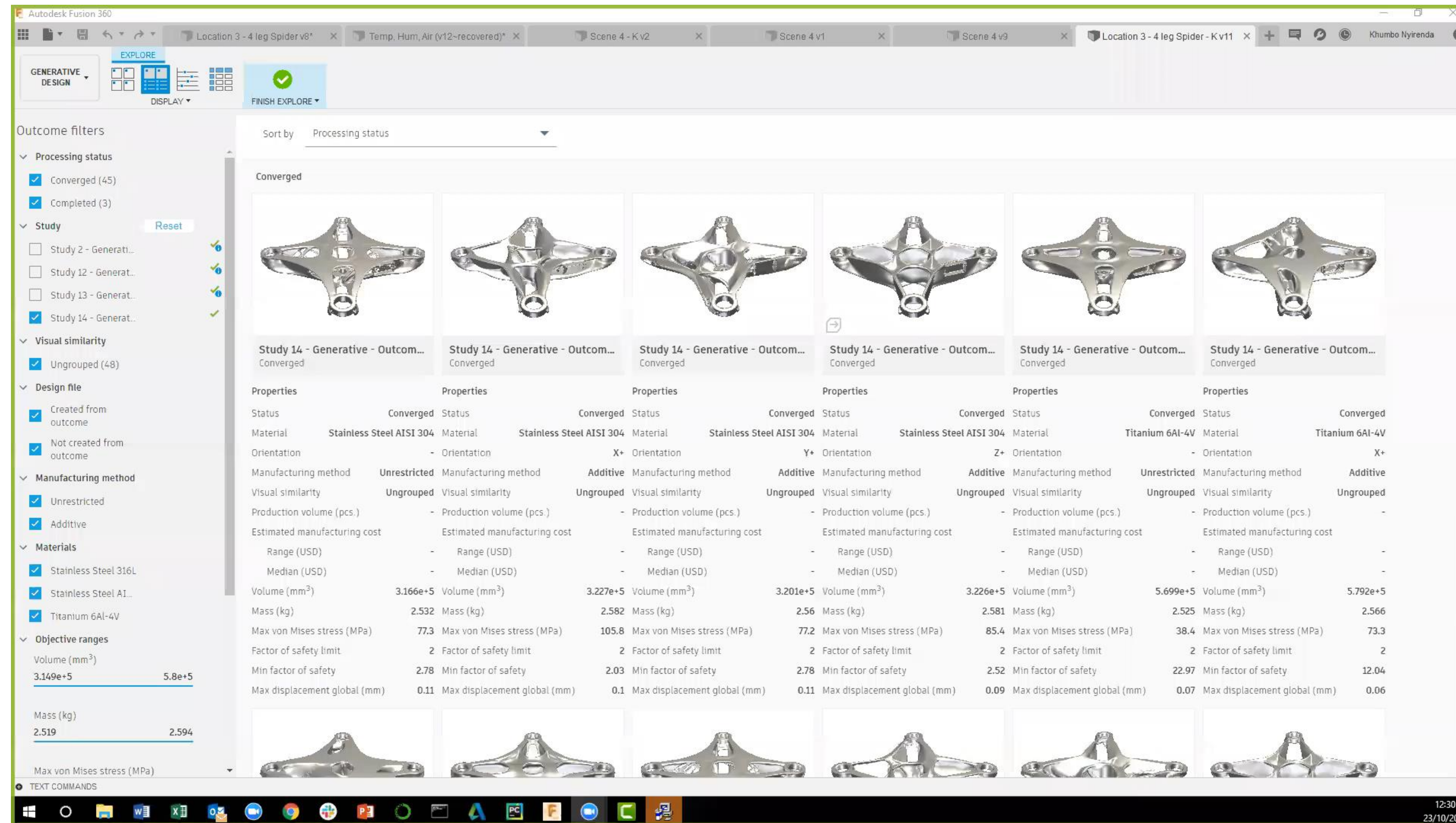


## Connector obstacles

An essential function of the fixture is that it should be easy to take the finished part off, and to install new stock material. The fixture should also be easy to fasten onto the bed of the machine. Obstacle geometry is used, to ensure adequate room is left for bolted fasteners

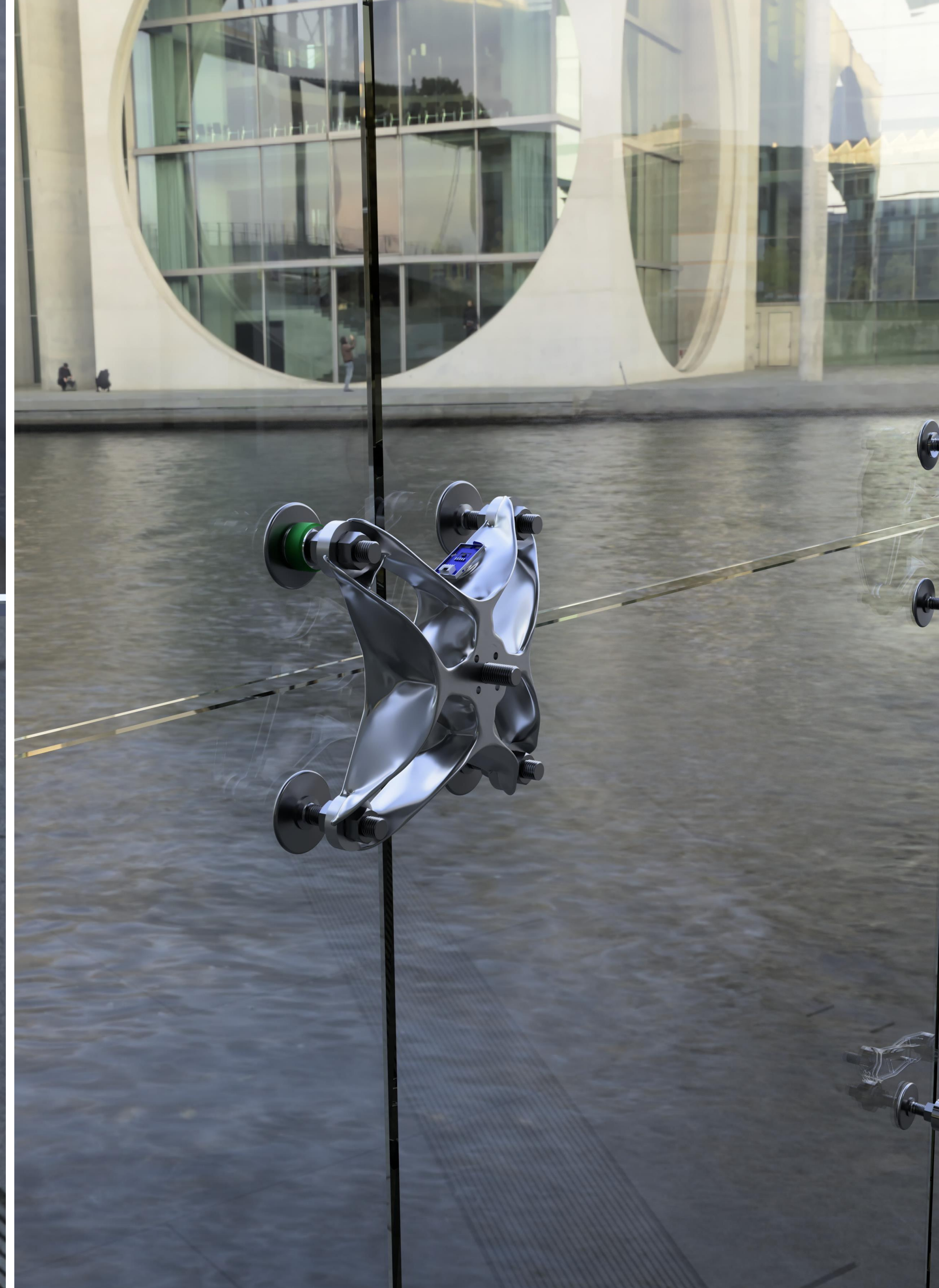


# Ease of altering an existing design



Options get generated according to the input you provide – Data, the rules you set – Constrains and the fitness criteria you prioritize.







# The Wrap up







# Three Horizon Journey

On Site Manufacturing

Generative Design

Data & Sensors







# Generative Design by Dura Vermeer The Spider Bracketry







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Ask anything







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