

How to Automate Heating Design in Revit

Ben Roberts

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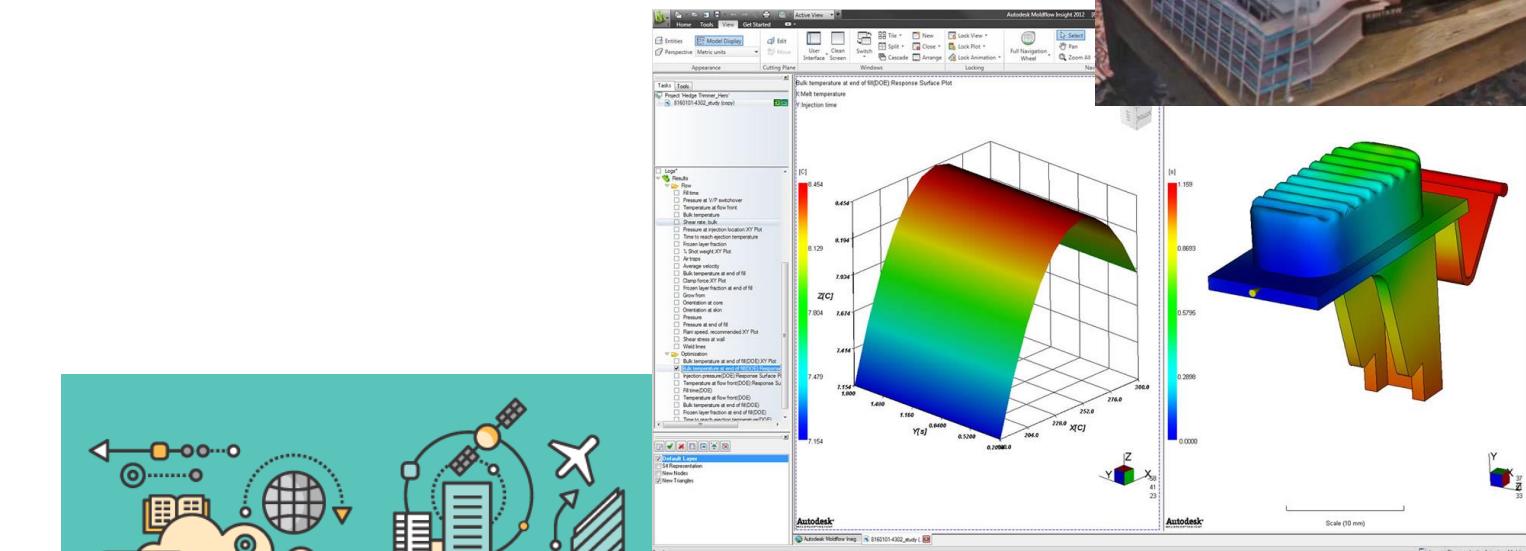
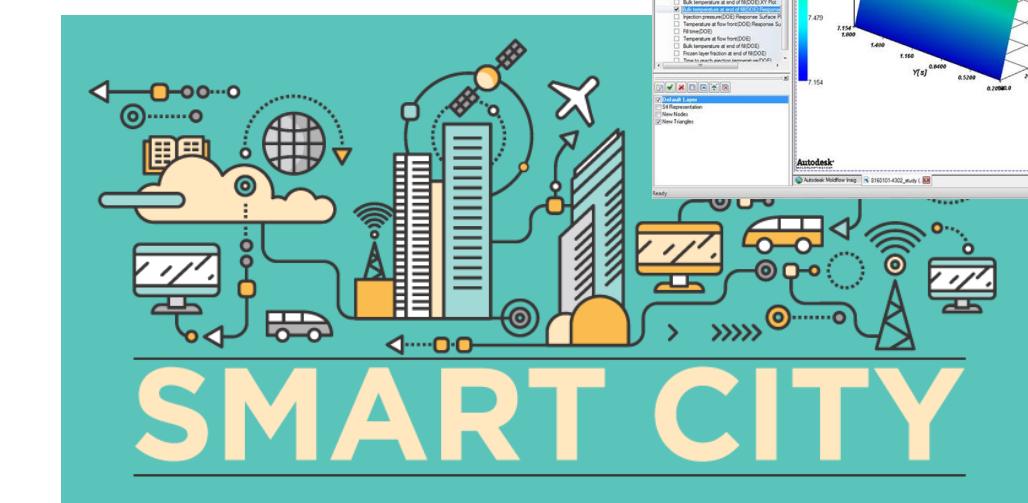
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PARIS MODERNE - LES MAMELLES - ENSEMBLE MASSENA

ultimate Vision

- Instant feedback on design decisions
- Optimise building models rather than testing them
- Spend less time on repetitive routine tasks...
- ...and more time designing



Class summary

Using the heating system design process as an example, I will show you some techniques for automating current methods and saving huge amounts of time.

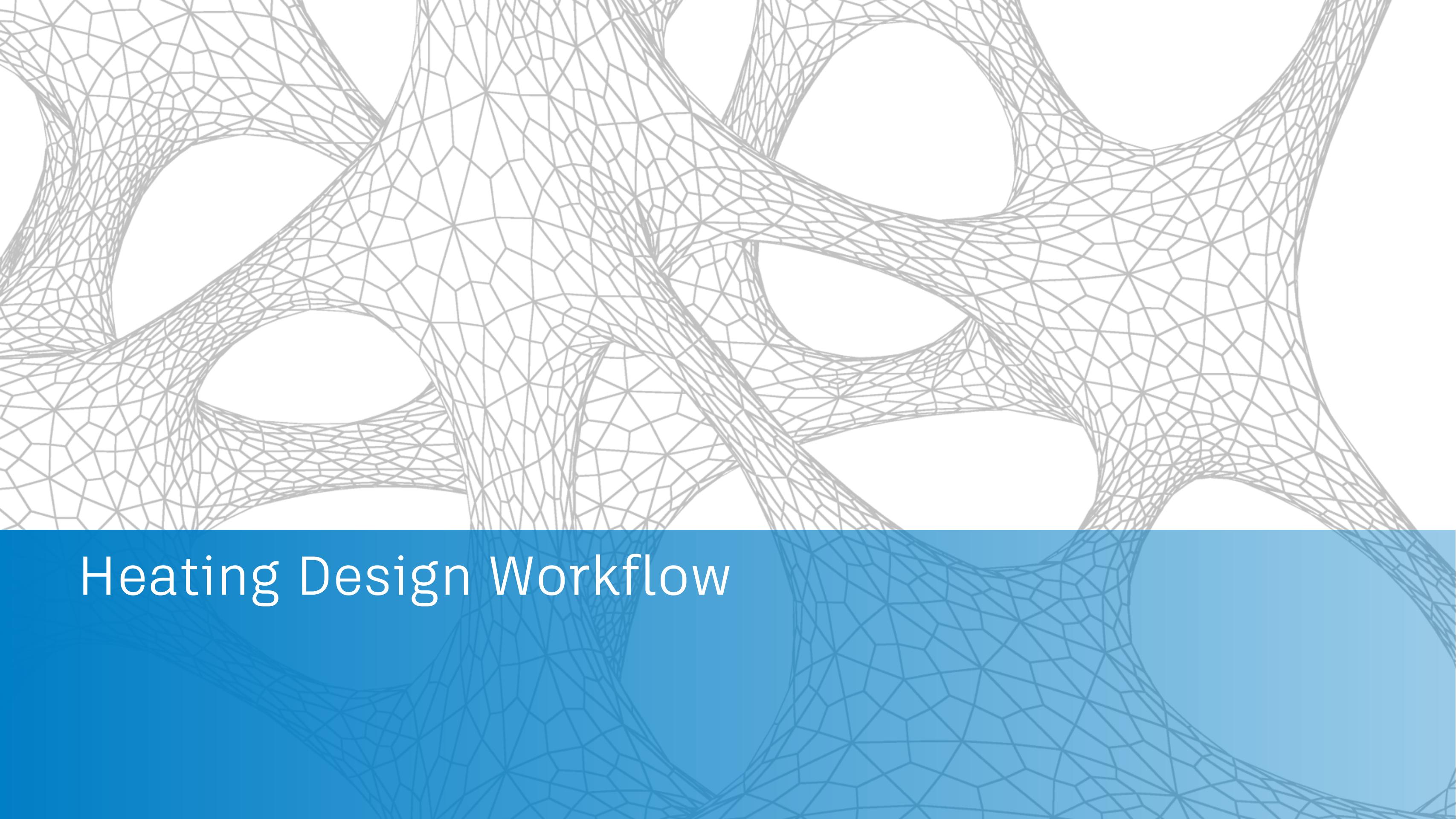
This includes:

- Core Revit functionality
- Dynamo
- Custom Add-ins

Key learning objectives

At the end of this class, you will be able to:

- Learn how to carry out mechanical calculations in Revit
- Get a good idea of how dynamo can help mechanical engineers
- See how Revit can be used at early design stages for significant time savings
- Learn tips and tricks to get the best out of Revit (old and new features)

The background features a complex, organic geometric pattern composed of numerous thin, light gray lines forming a mesh of triangles and irregular polygons. This pattern is set against a solid white background. A solid blue horizontal band runs across the middle of the image. The text is positioned on this blue band.

Heating Design Workflow

Heating Design Workflow - Overview

1. Spaces – Treatment Plans and Room Data Sheets



2. Space Heating Loads

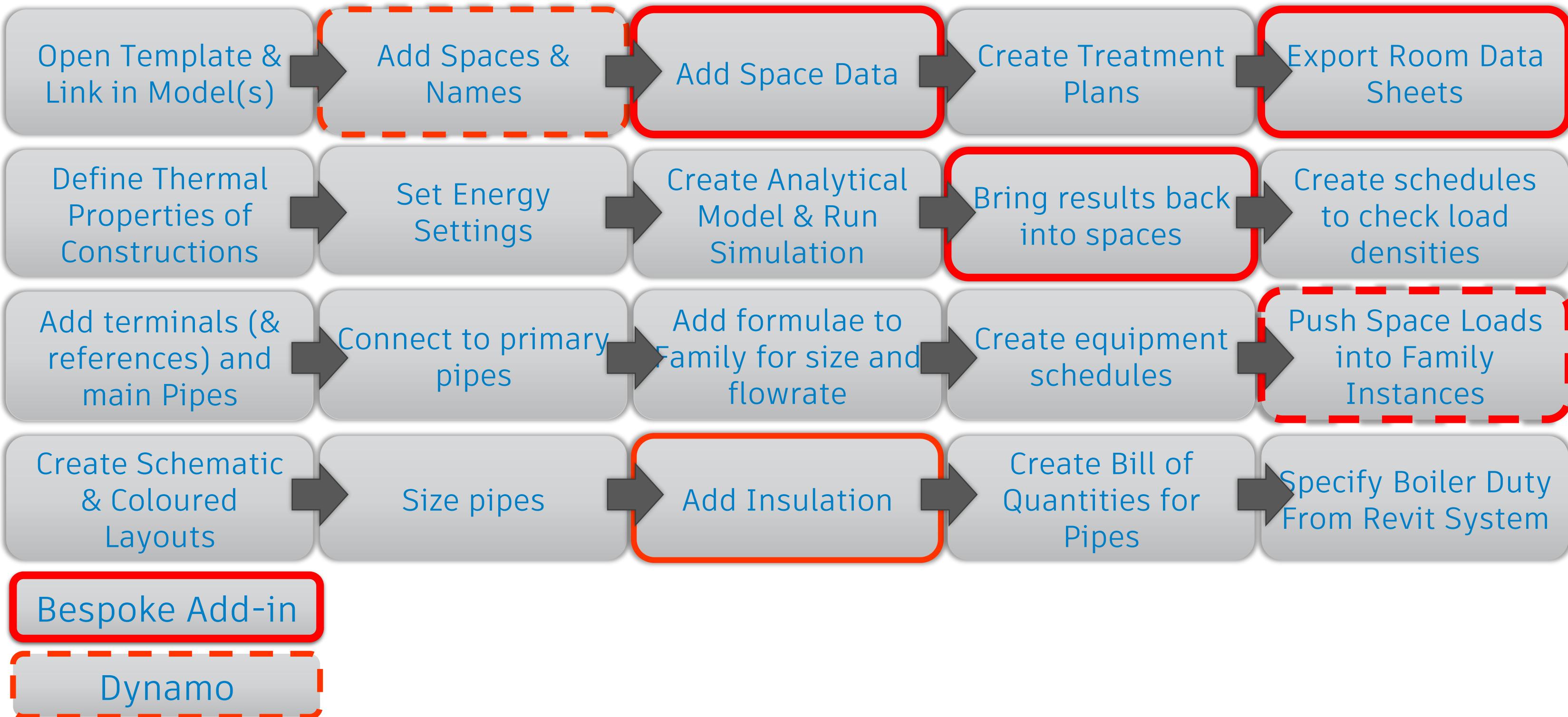


3. Terminals & Pipes



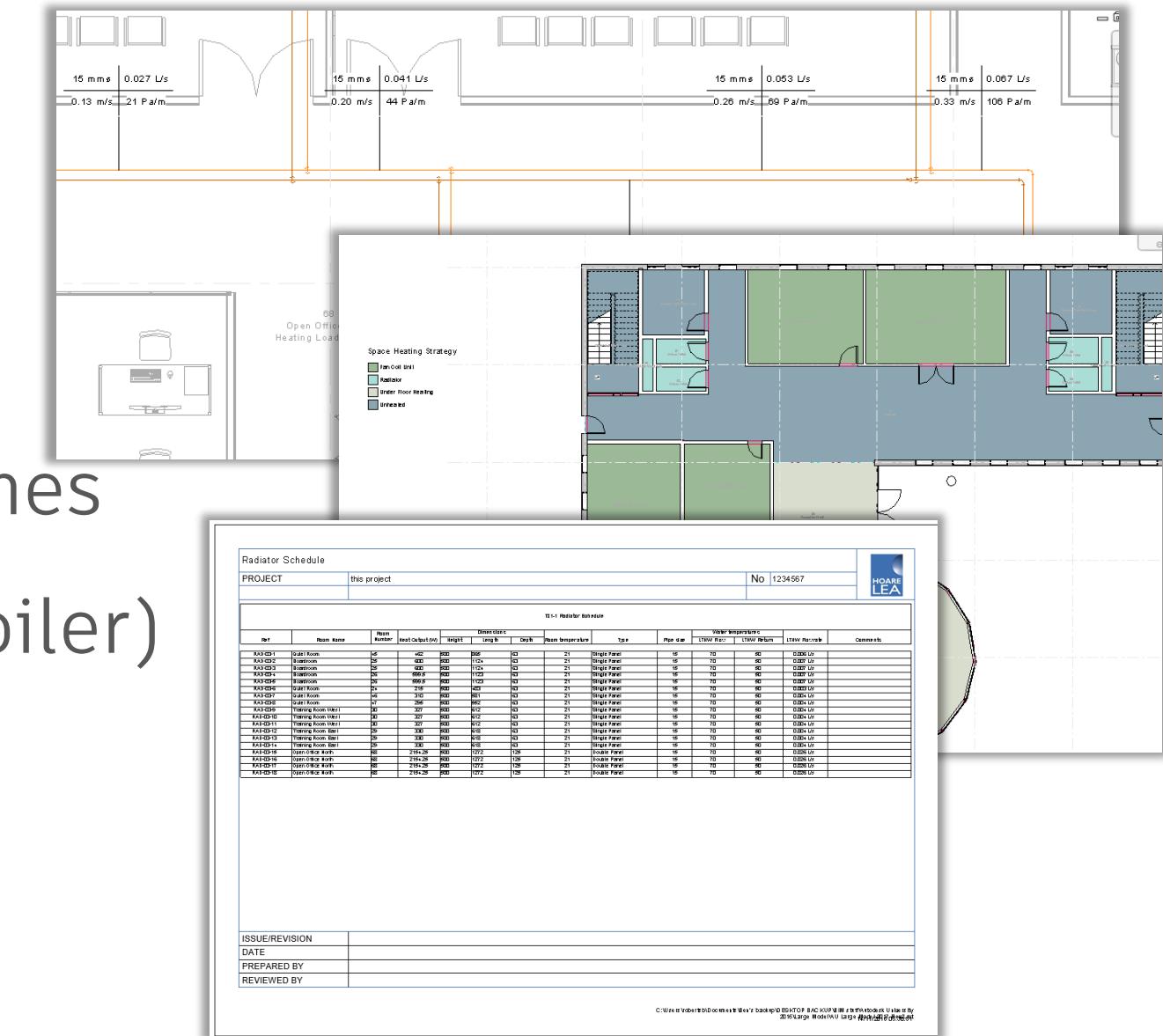
4. System Sizing

Heating Design Workflow – Overview



Heating Design Workflow - Outputs

- Model with equipment (with sizes & duties) and pipes (sized and insulated),
- Room Data Sheets
- Treatment Plans
- Pipework Layouts
- Pipework “Schematic Layouts” & Colour Schemes
- Equipment Schedules (radiators, pump and boiler)
- Bill of Quantities & Pipe Schedule

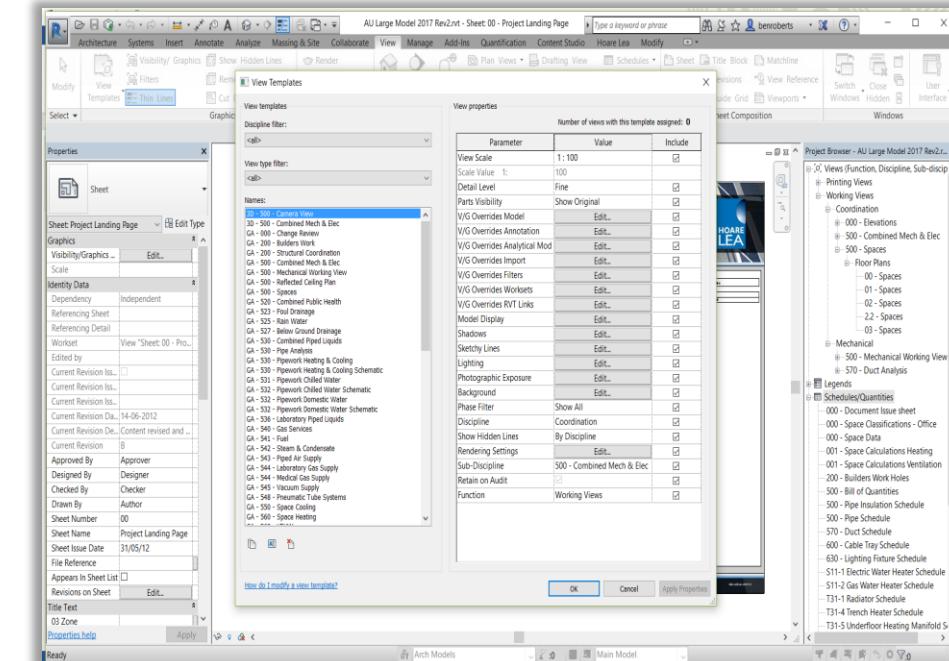
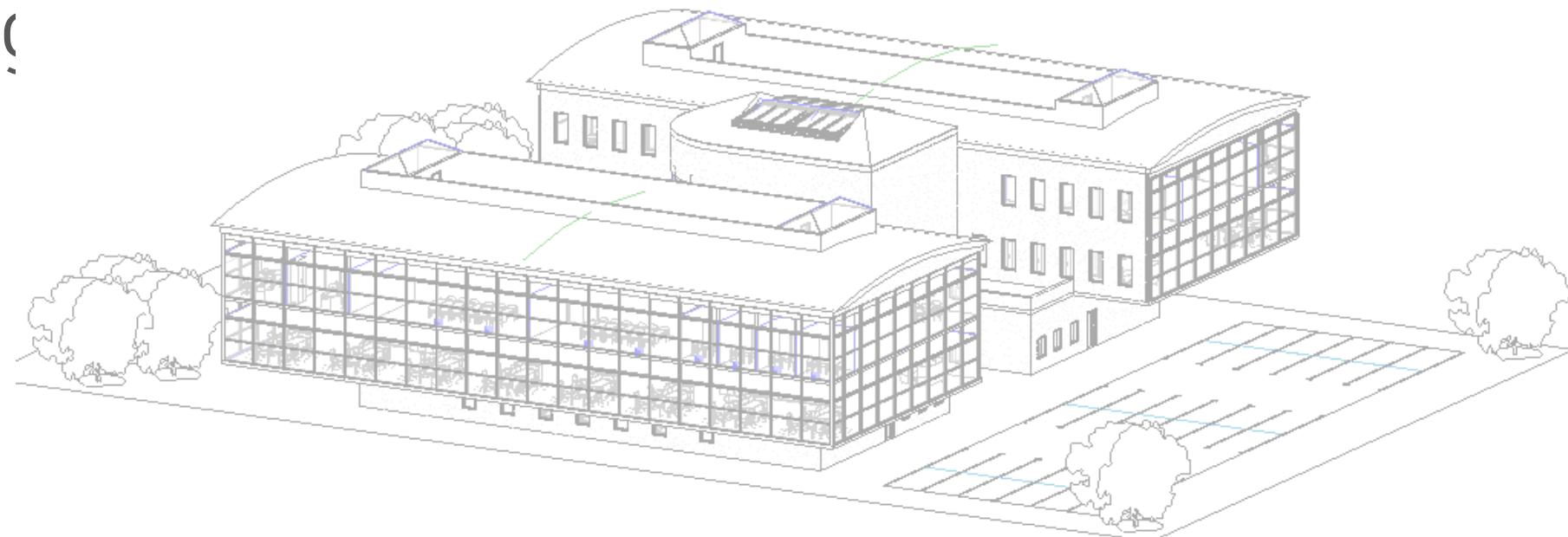


Part 1: Spaces

Heating Design Workflow – Part 1: Spaces

Preparation:

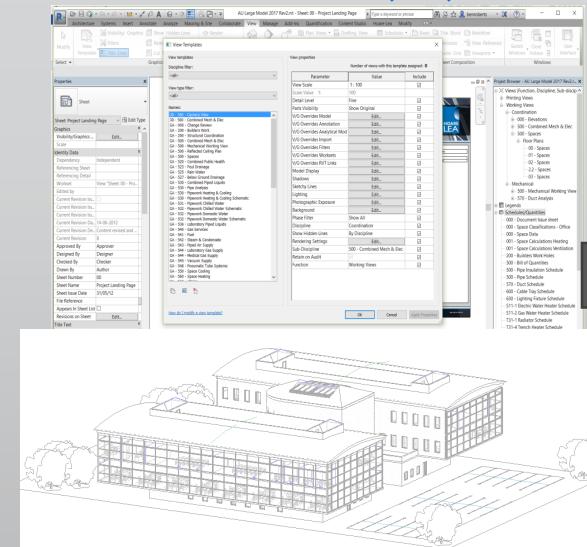
- Open new model from template
- Link in architectural model
- Acquire coordinates
- Set to room-bounding
- Align levels



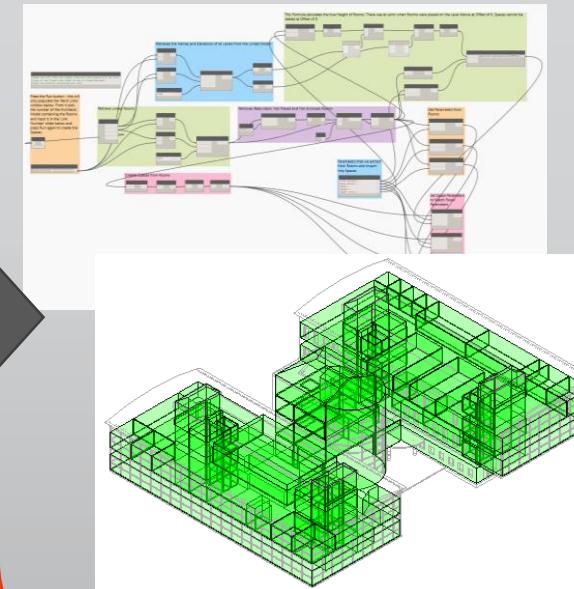
Heating Design Workflow – Part 1: Spaces

Spaces – Treatment Plans and Room Data Sheets

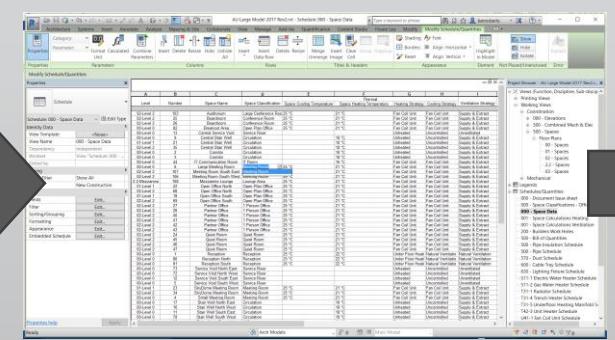
Open Template & Link in Model(s)



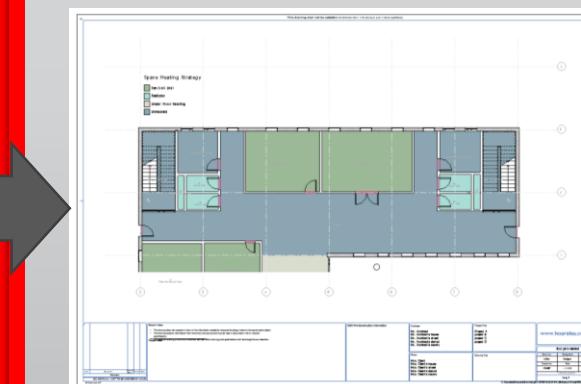
Add Spaces & Names



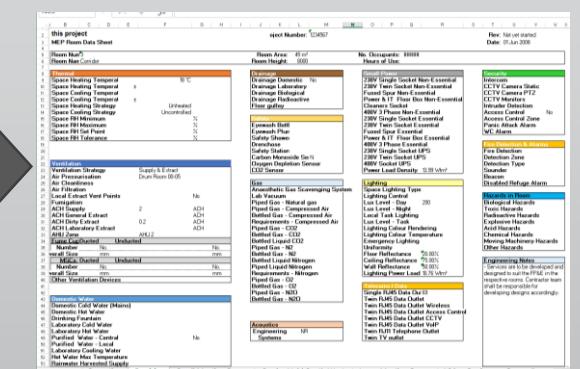
Add Space Data



Create Treatment Plans



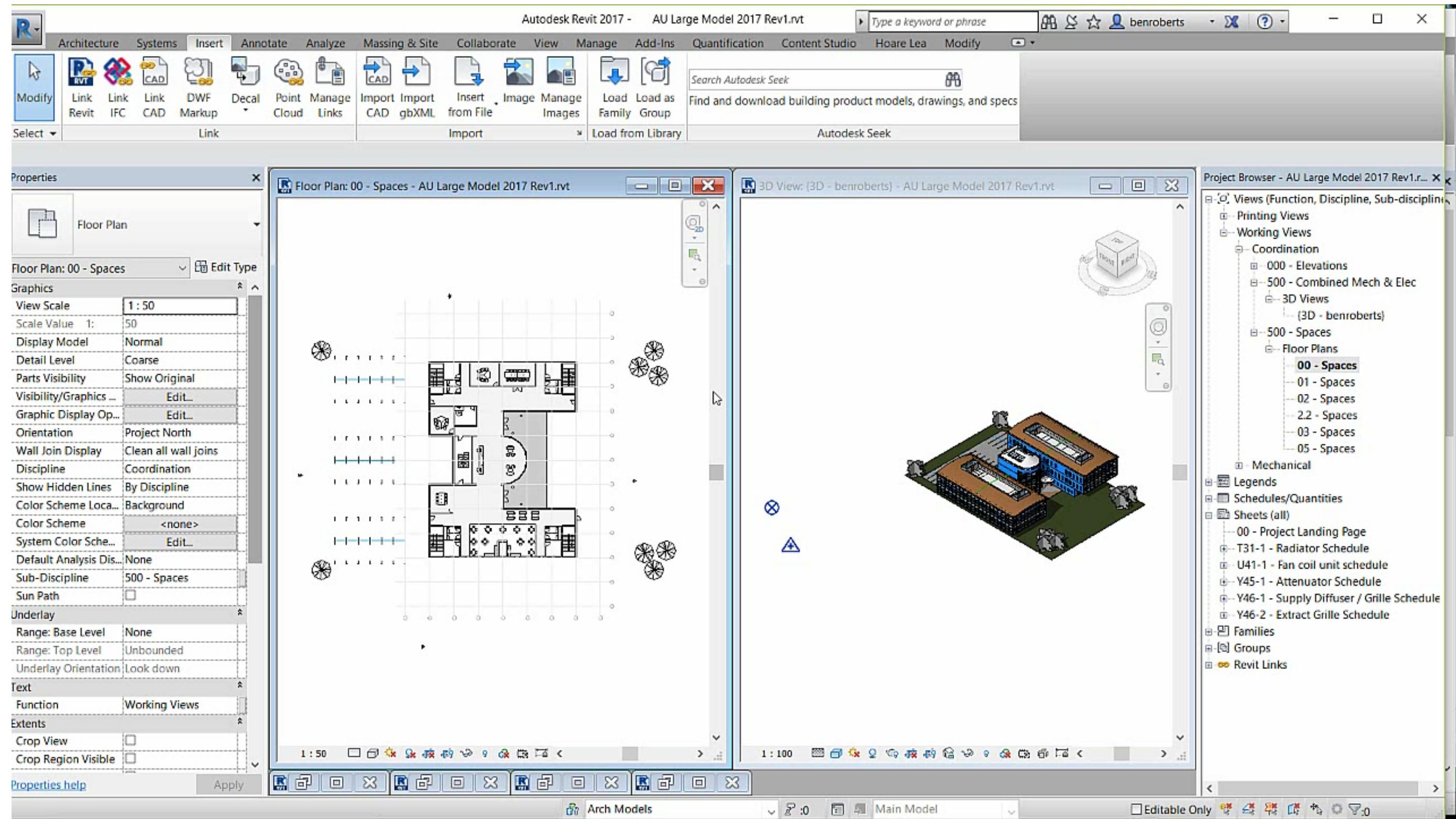
Export Room Data Sheets

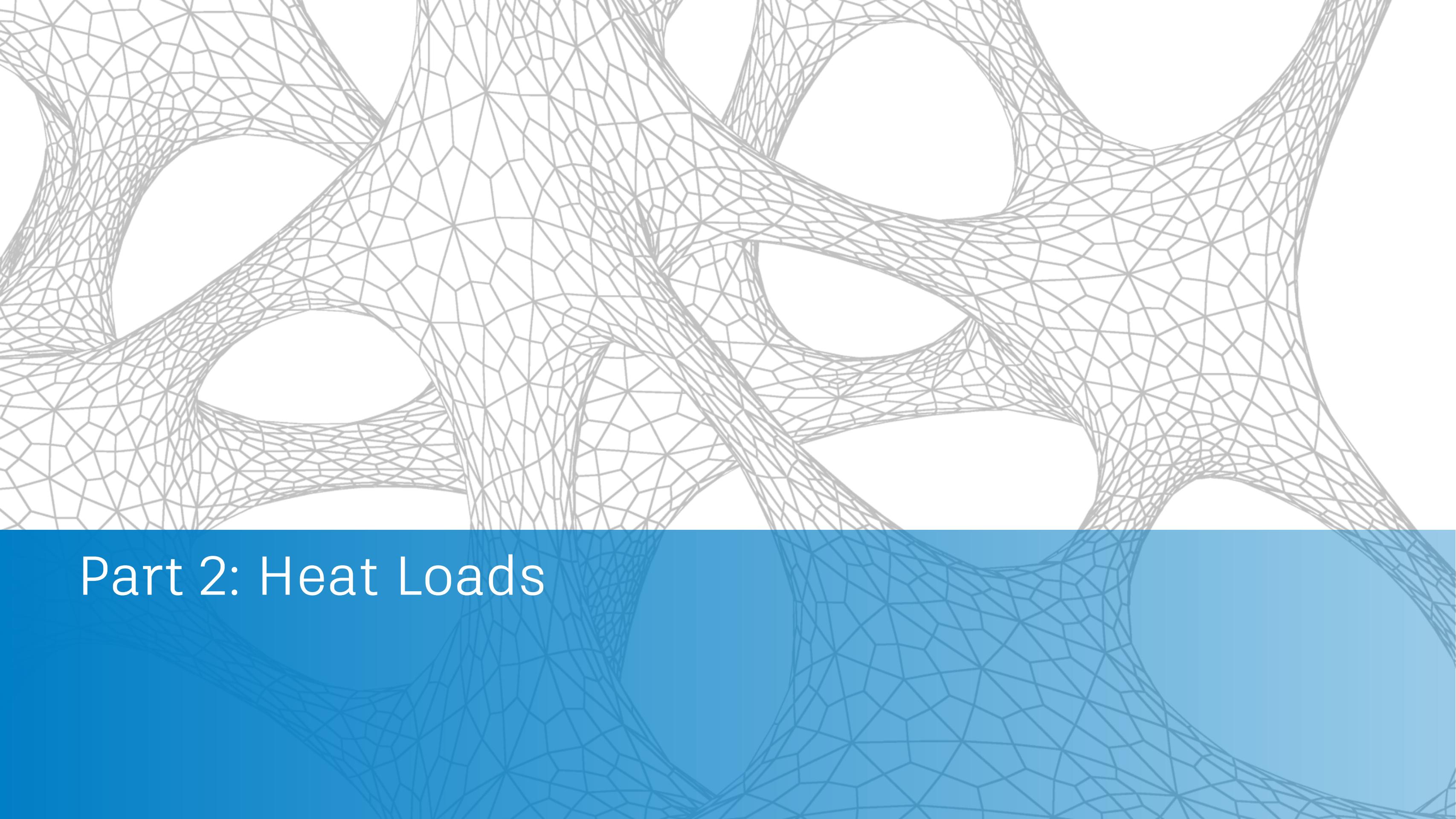


Bespoke Add-in

Dynamo

Heating Design Workflow – Part 1: Spaces



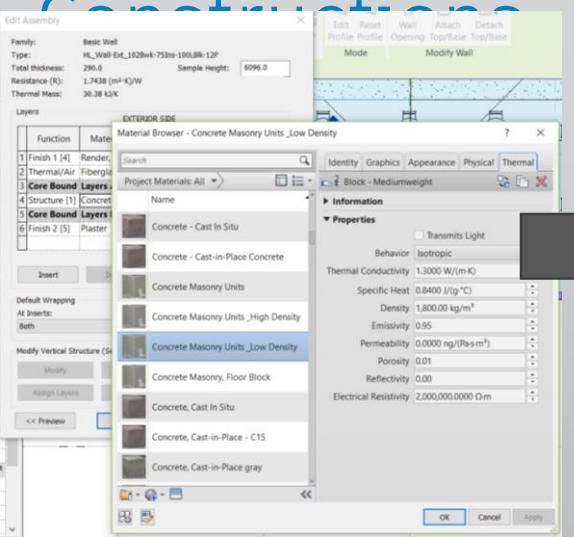
The background of the slide features a complex, organic geometric pattern composed of numerous thin, light-grey lines forming a mesh of triangles and irregular polygons. This pattern is set against a solid white background. A horizontal band of solid blue color runs across the middle of the slide, partially obscuring the geometric pattern. The text is positioned on this blue band.

Part 2: Heat Loads

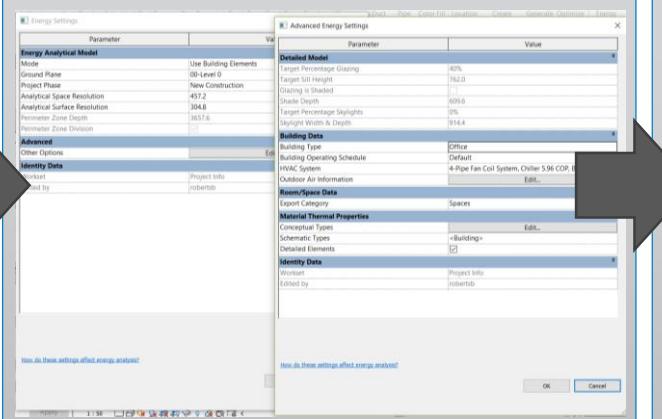
Heating Design Workflow – Part 2: Heating Loads

Heating Loads

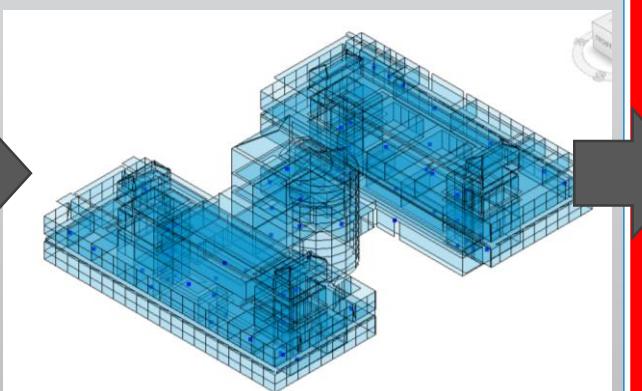
Define Thermal Properties of Constructions



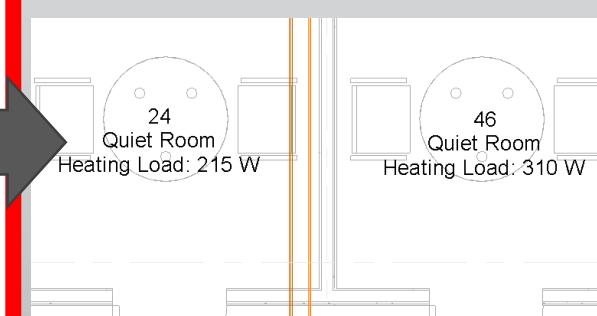
Set Energy Settings



Create Analytical Model & Run Simulation



Bring results back into spaces



Create schedules to check load densities

A	B	C	D	E	
Level	Number	Name	Area	Design Heating Load	Heat Load Per Area
2.2 Mezzanine	100	Mezzanine Lounge	2961 m ²	37.33 W/m ²	
	24	Quiet Room	7 m ²	215 W	31.99 W/m ²
	25	Boardroom	44 m ²	27.24 W/m ²	
	26	Boardroom	44 m ²	119.91 W	26.84 W/m ²
	27	Partner Office	18 m ²	521 W	28.91 W/m ²
	28	Partner Office	18 m ²	896 W	49.71 W/m ²
	29	Training Room East	49 m ²	992 W	20.04 W/m ²
	30	Training Room West	49 m ²	981 W	20.08 W/m ²
	31	Unisex Toilet	3 m ²	53 W	16.33 W/m ²
	32	SkyDome Quiet Room	53 m ²	1022 W	19.17 W/m ²
	33	Central Star Well	34 m ²	0 W	0.00 W/m ²
	34	Unisex Toilet	3 m ²	79 W	12.15 W/m ²
	35	Unisex Toilet	3 m ²	62 W	14.00 W/m ²
	36	Partner Office	18 m ²	18 W	1.00 W/m ²
	37	Partner Office	18 m ²	18 W	1.00 W/m ²
	38	Partner Office	18 m ²	902 W	50.95 W/m ²
	39	Quiet Room	7 m ²	462 W	71.81 W/m ²
	40	Quiet Room	7 m ²	311 W	44.43 W/m ²
	41	Unisex Toilet	3 m ²	49 W	15.12 W/m ²
	42	Unisex Toilet	3 m ²	42 W	13.33 W/m ²
	43	Unisex Toilet	3 m ²	47 W	14.57 W/m ²
	44	Unisex Toilet	3 m ²	48 W	14.92 W/m ²
	45	Unisex Toilet	3 m ²	52 W	14.89 W/m ²
	46	Unisex Toilet	3 m ²	50 W	15.57 W/m ²
	47	Unisex Toilet	7 m ²	296 W	41.34 W/m ²
	48	Unisex Toilet	3 m ²	49 W	15.12 W/m ²
	49	Unisex Toilet	3 m ²	42 W	13.33 W/m ²
	50	Unisex Toilet	3 m ²	47 W	14.57 W/m ²
	51	Unisex Toilet	3 m ²	48 W	14.92 W/m ²
	52	Unisex Toilet	3 m ²	52 W	14.89 W/m ²
	53	Unisex Toilet	3 m ²	50 W	15.57 W/m ²
	54	Open Office North	351 m ²	8617 W	24.52 W/m ²
	55	Open Office South	369 m ²	8442 W	22.99 W/m ²
	56	Auditorium	142 m ²	1274 W	8.99 W/m ²
	57	Meeting Room South East	16 m ²	659 W	4.12 W/m ²
	58	Meeting Room South West	16 m ²	371 W	23.14 W/m ²
	59	Open Office South	614 m ²	5407 W	15.33 W/m ²
	60	Open Office South	24 m ²	9 W	0.38 W/m ²
	61	Open Office North	613 m ²	11983 W	19.43 W/m ²
	62	SkyDome Meeting Room	60 m ²	426 W	7.06 W/m ²
	63	Unisex Toilet	3 m ²	18 W	6.00 W/m ²
	64	Unisex Toilet	3 m ²	27 W	8.41 W/m ²
	65	Unisex Toilet	3 m ²	20 W	6.20 W/m ²
	66	Unisex Toilet	3 m ²	27 W	8.47 W/m ²
	67	Unisex Toilet	3 m ²	19 W	5.88 W/m ²
	68	Unisex Toilet	3 m ²	29 W	9.01 W/m ²
	69	Unisex Toilet	3 m ²	23 W	7.67 W/m ²
	70	Unisex Toilet	3 m ²	32 W	9.97 W/m ²
	71	Corridor	134 m ²	869 W	6.45 W/m ²
	72	Corridor	45 m ²	120 W	2.67 W/m ²
	73	Condor	45 m ²	0 W	0.00 W/m ²

Bespoke Add-in

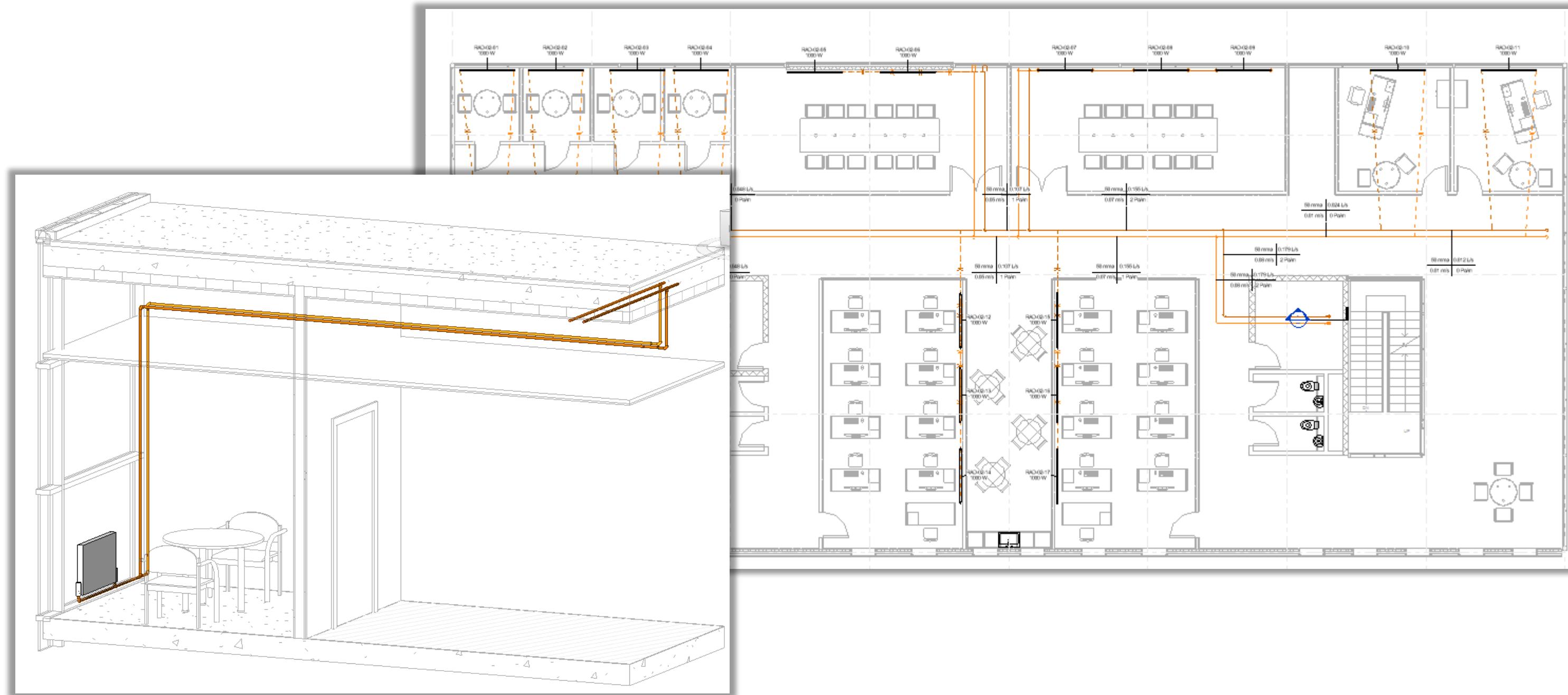
Dynamo

Heating Design Workflow – Part 2: Heating Loads

The screenshot shows the Revit interface for 'AU Large Model 2017 Rev1.rvt - Floor Plan: 00 - Spaces'. The ribbon menu is open with the 'Space' tab selected. The left side features the 'Properties' panel for 'Floor Plan' with settings like 'View Scale 1:50' and 'Discipline Coordination'. The main workspace displays a floor plan with rooms, ductwork, and pipes. The right side shows the 'Project Browser' with a tree view of the project structure, including '560 - Heating Strategy', '630 - Lighting Type', 'Mechanical', 'Working Views', 'Coordination', 'Elevations', 'Combined Mech & Elec', '3D Views', 'Sections (Building Section)', '500 - Spaces', '00 - Spaces', and '01 - Spaces' selected. The bottom status bar includes tabs for 'Arch Models' and 'Main Model'.

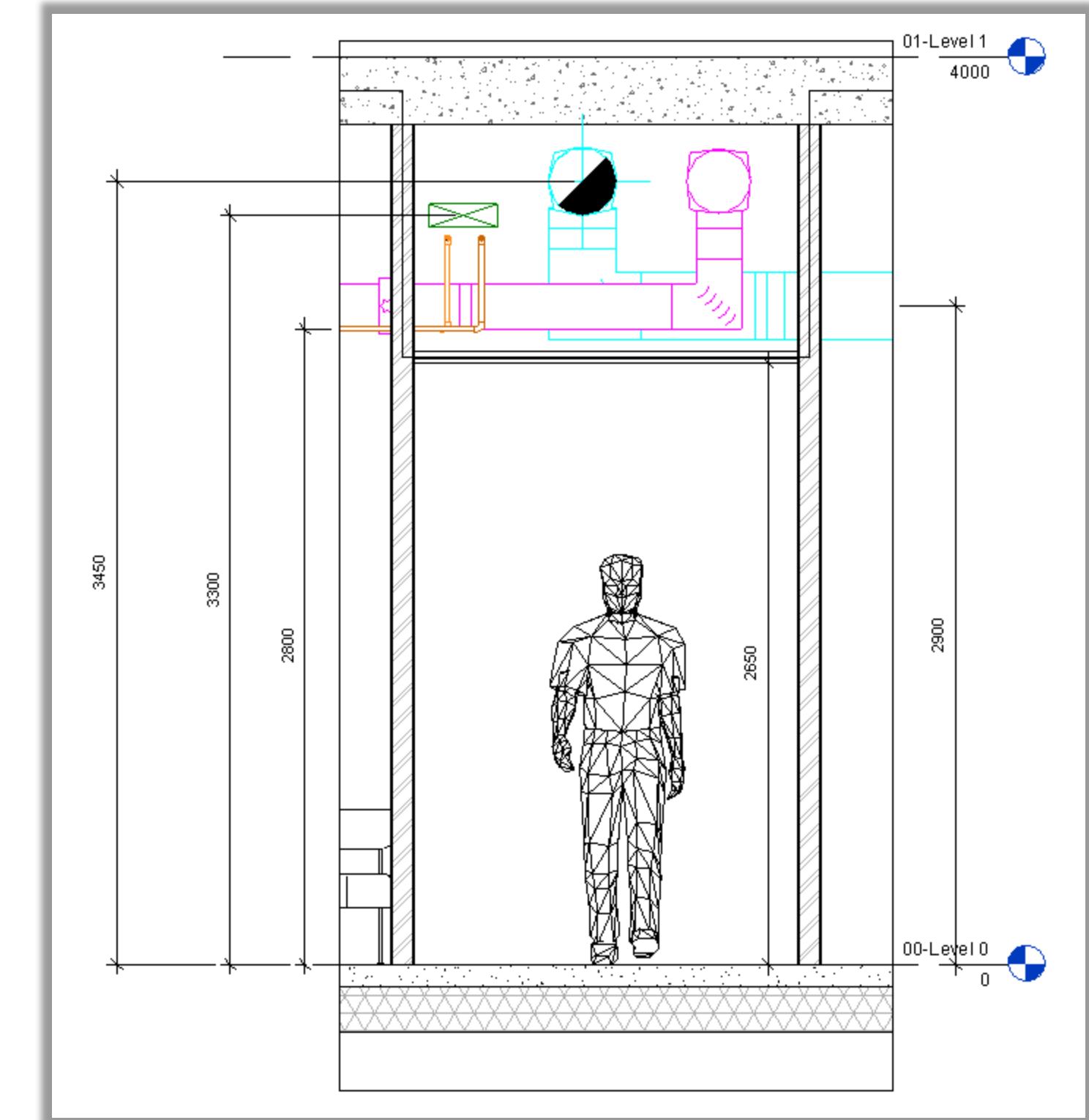
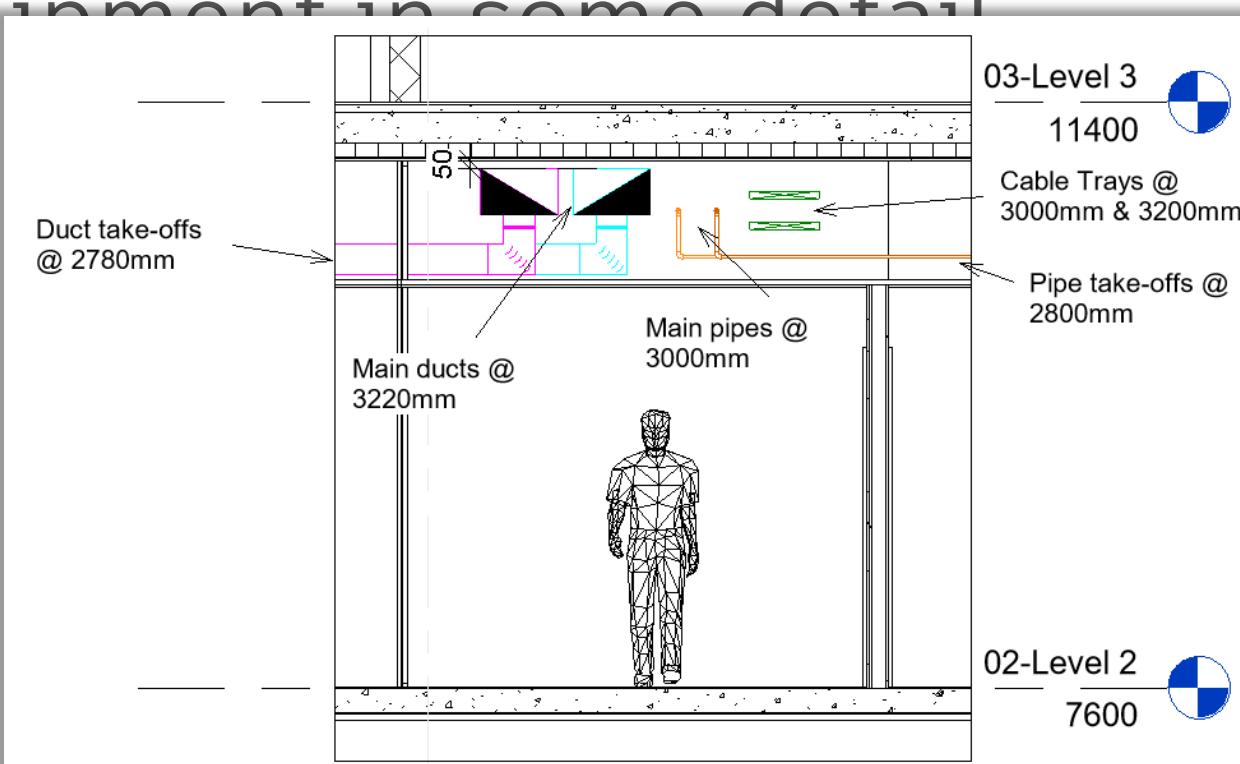
Part 3: Terminals & Pipes

Heating Design Workflow – Part 3: Terminals & Pipes



Heating Design Workflow – Part 3: Terminals & Pipes

- Plan coordination in advance
- Note offset heights for each service
- Do typical connections to equipment in some detail



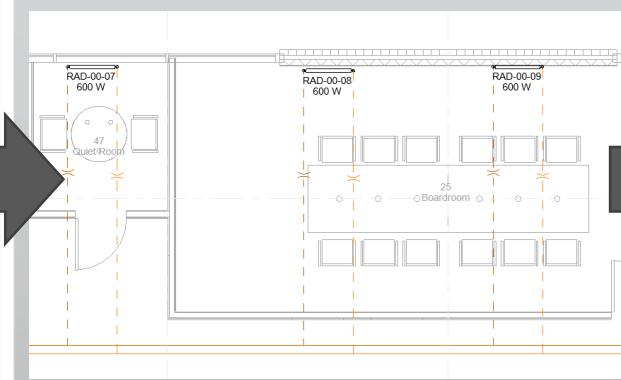
Heating Design Workflow – Part 3: Terminals & Pipes

Terminals & Pipes

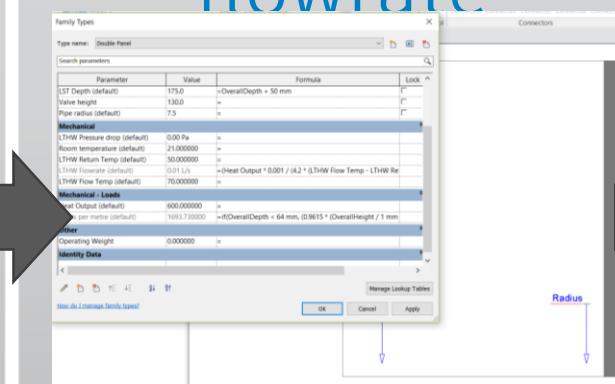
Add terminals (& references) and main Pipes



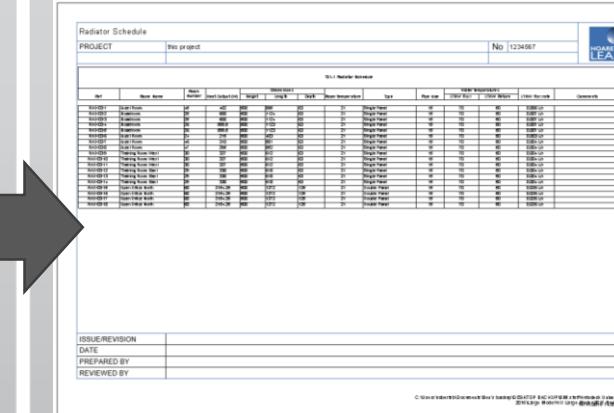
Connect to primary pipes – use analytical pipe



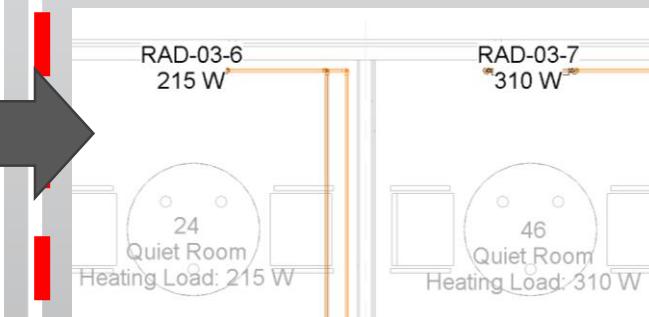
Add formulae to Family for size and flowrate



Create equipment schedules



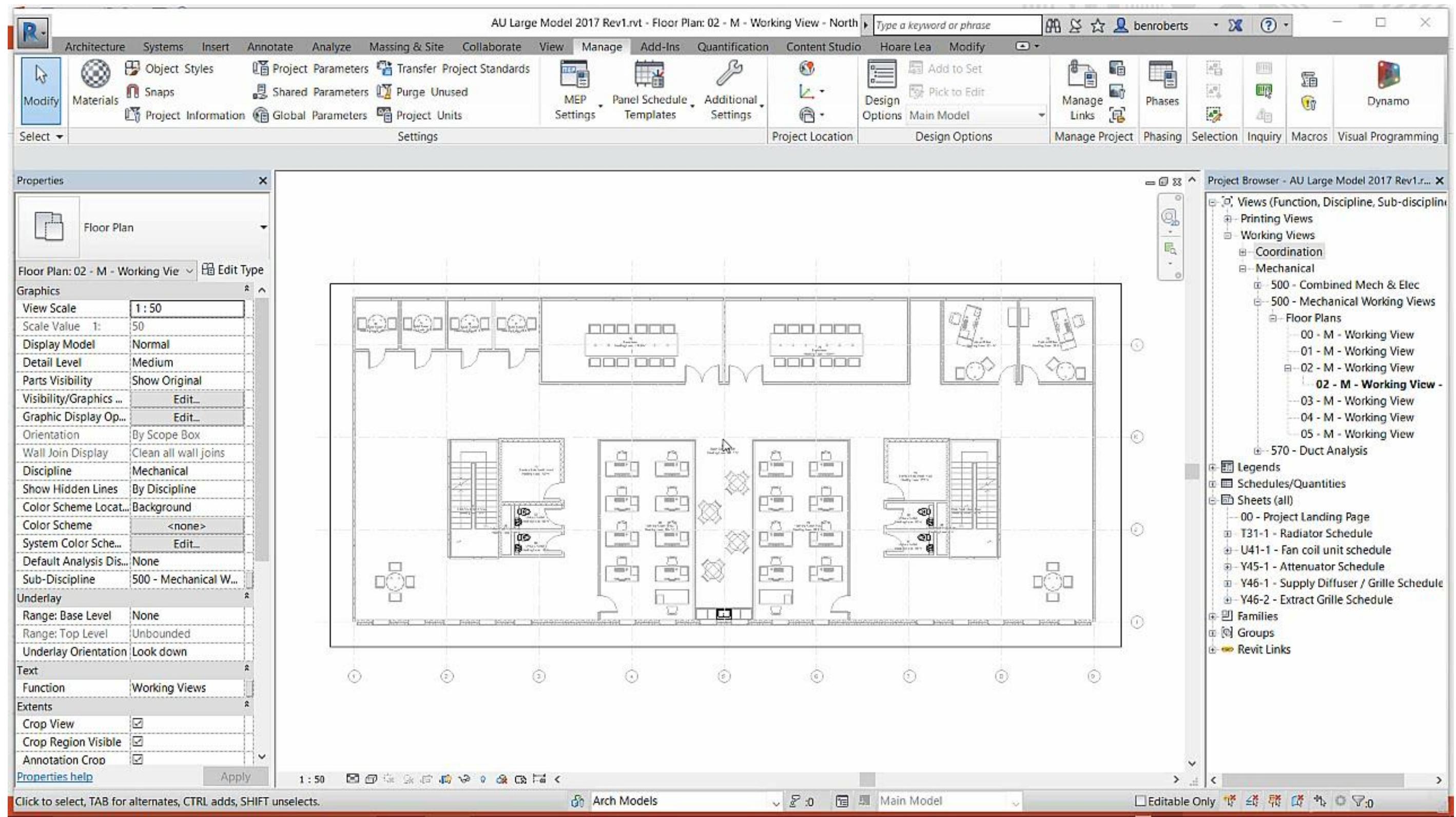
Push Space Loads into Family Instances



Bespoke Add-in

Dynamo

Heating Design Workflow – Part 3: Terminals & Pipes

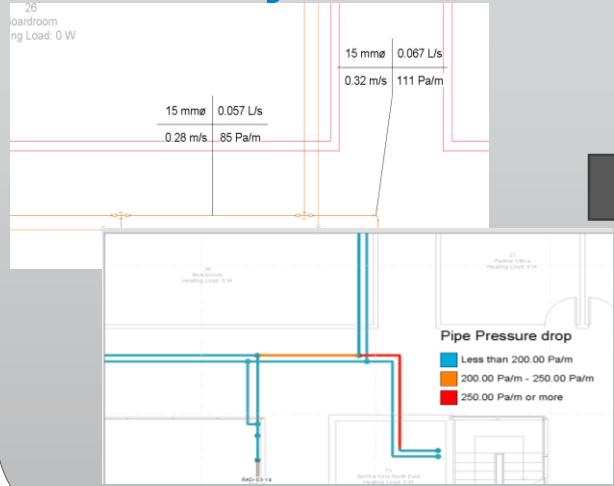


Part 4: System Sizing

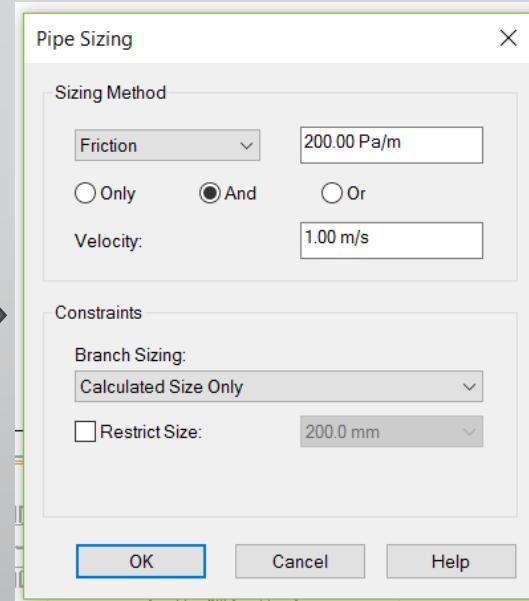
Heating Design Workflow – Part 4: System Sizing

System Sizing

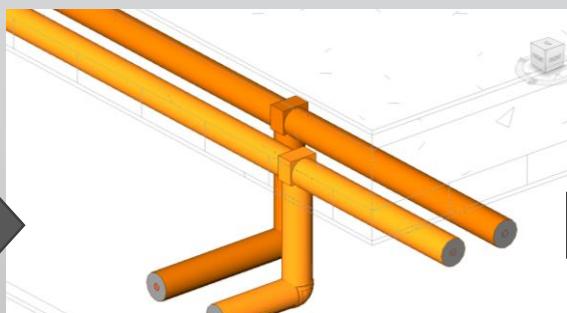
Create Schematic & Coloured Layouts



Size pipes



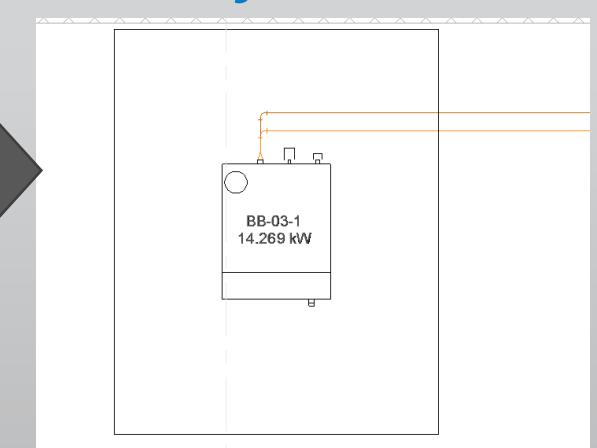
Add Insulation



Create Bill of Quantities for Pipes

<500 - Pipe Schedule>		
A	B	C
Material	Size	Length
Carbon Steel	15 mmø	260.743
Carbon Steel	20 mmø	43.708
Carbon Steel: 168		304.451
Copper	22 mmø	129.040
Copper	28 mmø	37.029
Copper: 48		166.069
Grand total: 216		470.520

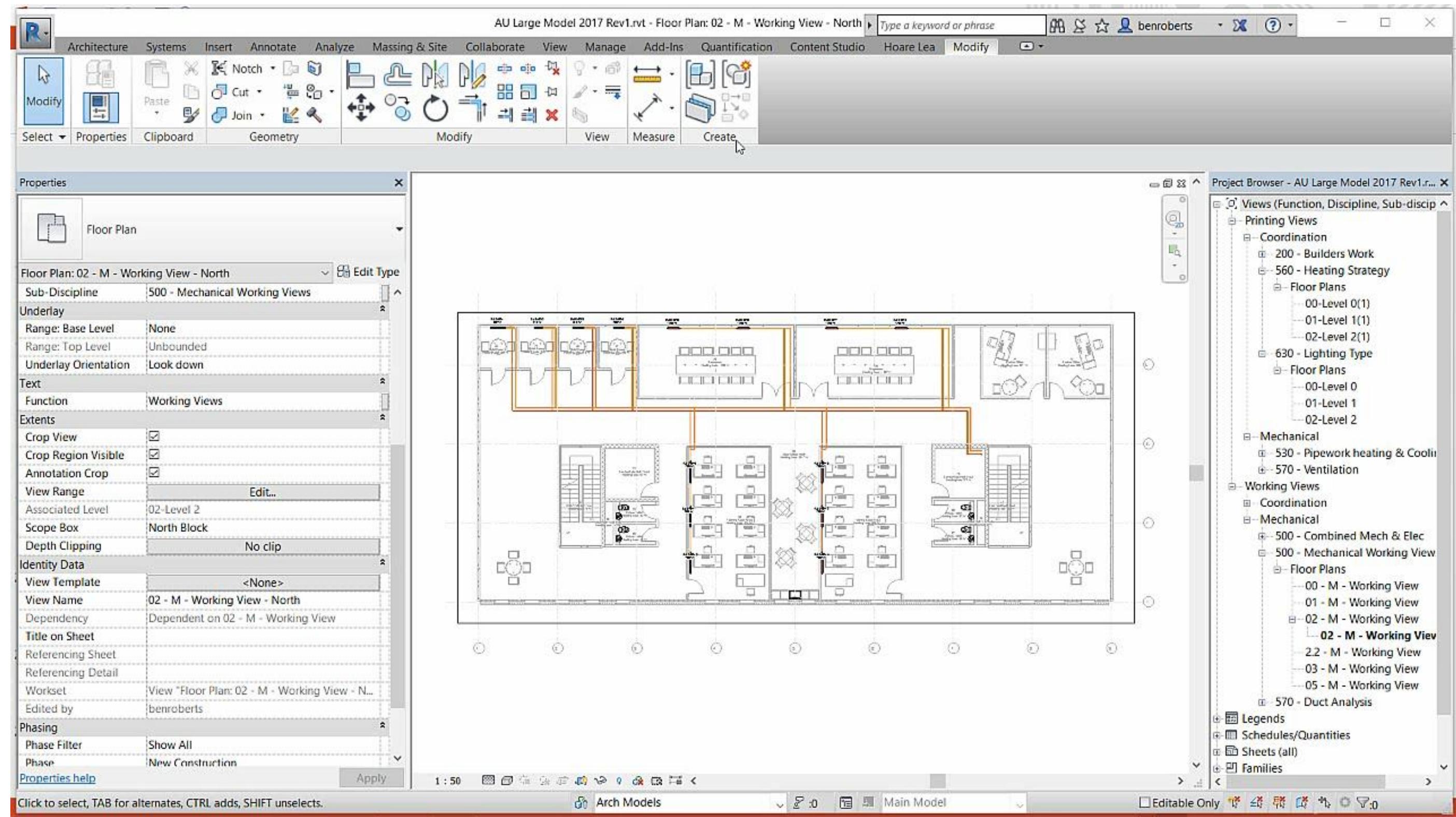
Specify Boiler Duty From Revit System



Bespoke Add-in

Dynamo

Heating Design Workflow – Part 4: System Sizing



Summary

Heating Design Workflow - Summary

1. Spaces – Treatment Plans and Room Data Sheets



2. Space Heating Loads



3. Terminals & Pipes



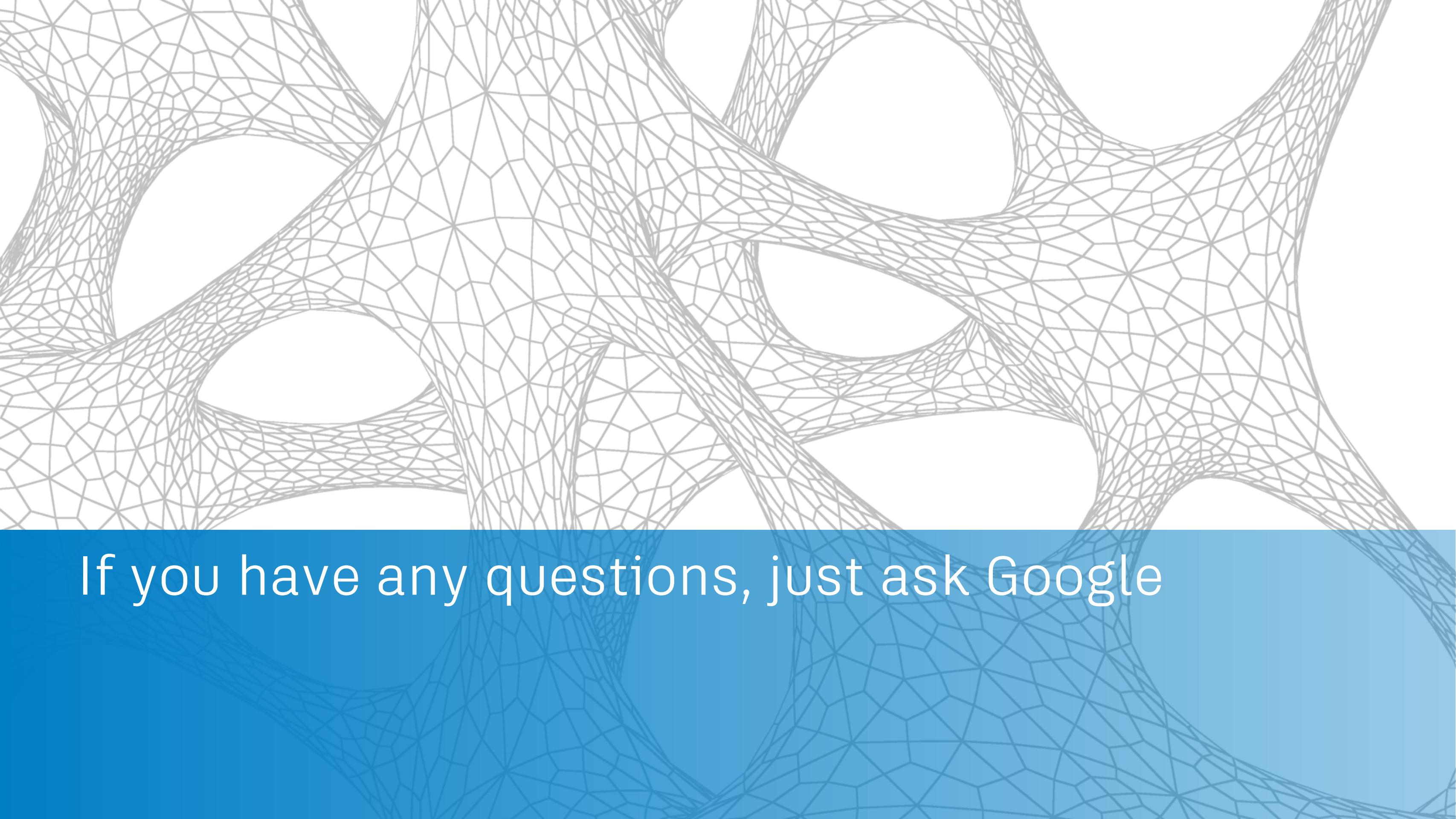
4. System Sizing

How Can We Optimise This Further?

- “New Model” interface: link in models, load families, apply standards, set up sheets, etc.
- “Generate spaces from rooms” feature inbuilt into Revit
- Use space classification (e.g. Uniclass / Omniclass) in rooms to automatically recognise space type
- Revit should include a “view & sheet manager” as standard. Or just don’t issue sheets...!?
- Automatically add equipment based on space data
- Improve auto-routing options
- Link space data into equipment in Revit
- Link system data into equipment in Revit
- Assign equipment to pipes without having to do final connections

Beta Testing Hydronic Piping with Autodesk

- Parallel pumps vs pumps in series
- Splitting systems into primary and secondary circuits
- Passing information between systems, spaces and elements
- Feedback on what is being developed for the next release

The background features a complex, organic geometric pattern composed of numerous thin, light gray lines forming a mesh of triangles and irregular polygons. This pattern is set against a solid white background. A solid blue rectangular area is overlaid on the bottom half of the image, extending from approximately y=630 to y=1000. The text is positioned within this blue area.

If you have any questions, just ask Google



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Main title can extend over one or two lines

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Title and content slide (1 column)

- First-level bullet style text is set in black, single spaced, Artifakt ElementOfc 36pt font.
 - Second-level bullet style text is set in black, single spaced, Artifakt ElementOfc 36pt font.
 - Third-level bullet style text is set in black, single spaced, Artifakt ElementOfc 36pt font.
 - Fourth-level bullet style text is set in black, single spaced, Artifakt ElementOfc 36pt font.

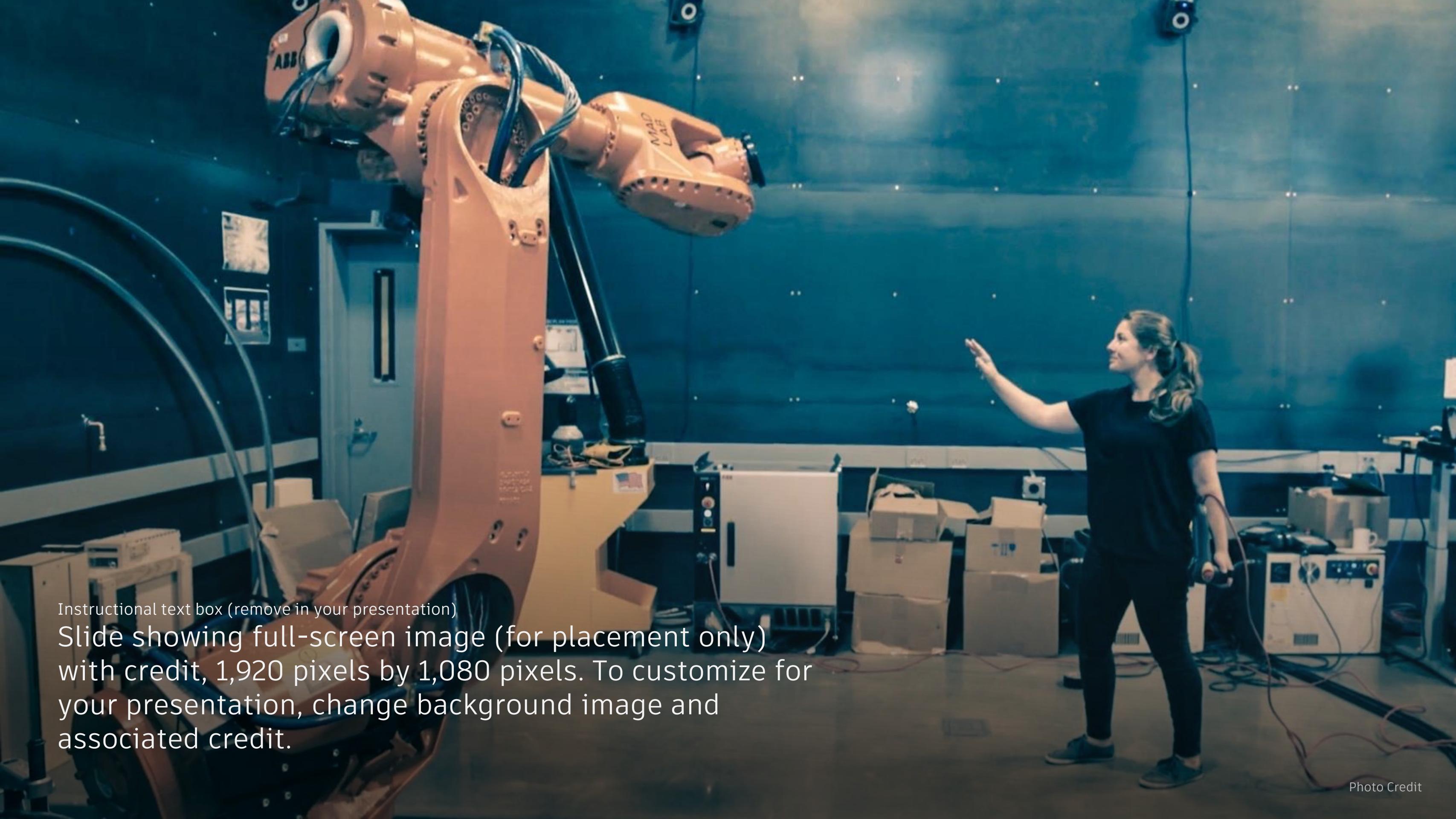
Title and content slide (2 column)

- First column text is set in black, single spaced, Artifakt Element0fc 36pt font.
- Second column bullet style text is set in black, single spaced, Artifakt Element0fc 36pt font.
- Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur.
- Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.

Title and content slide (2 column)

- First column text is set in black, single spaced, Artifakt Element0fc 36pt font.
- Or second column displays a photo, graphic, chart, or video
- Always be sure to include an image credit when applicable. The DAM is the source for this information.

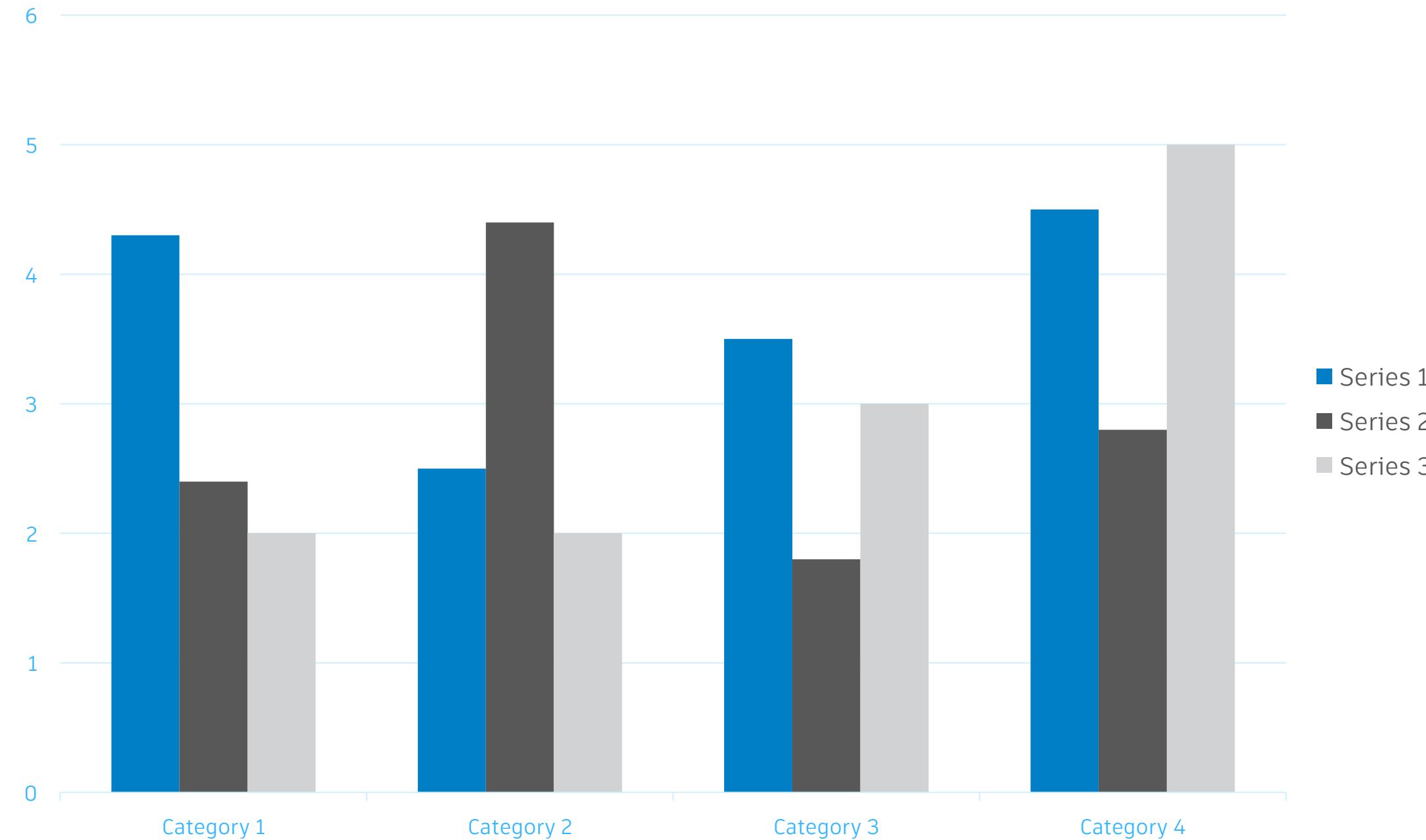




Instructional text box (remove in your presentation)

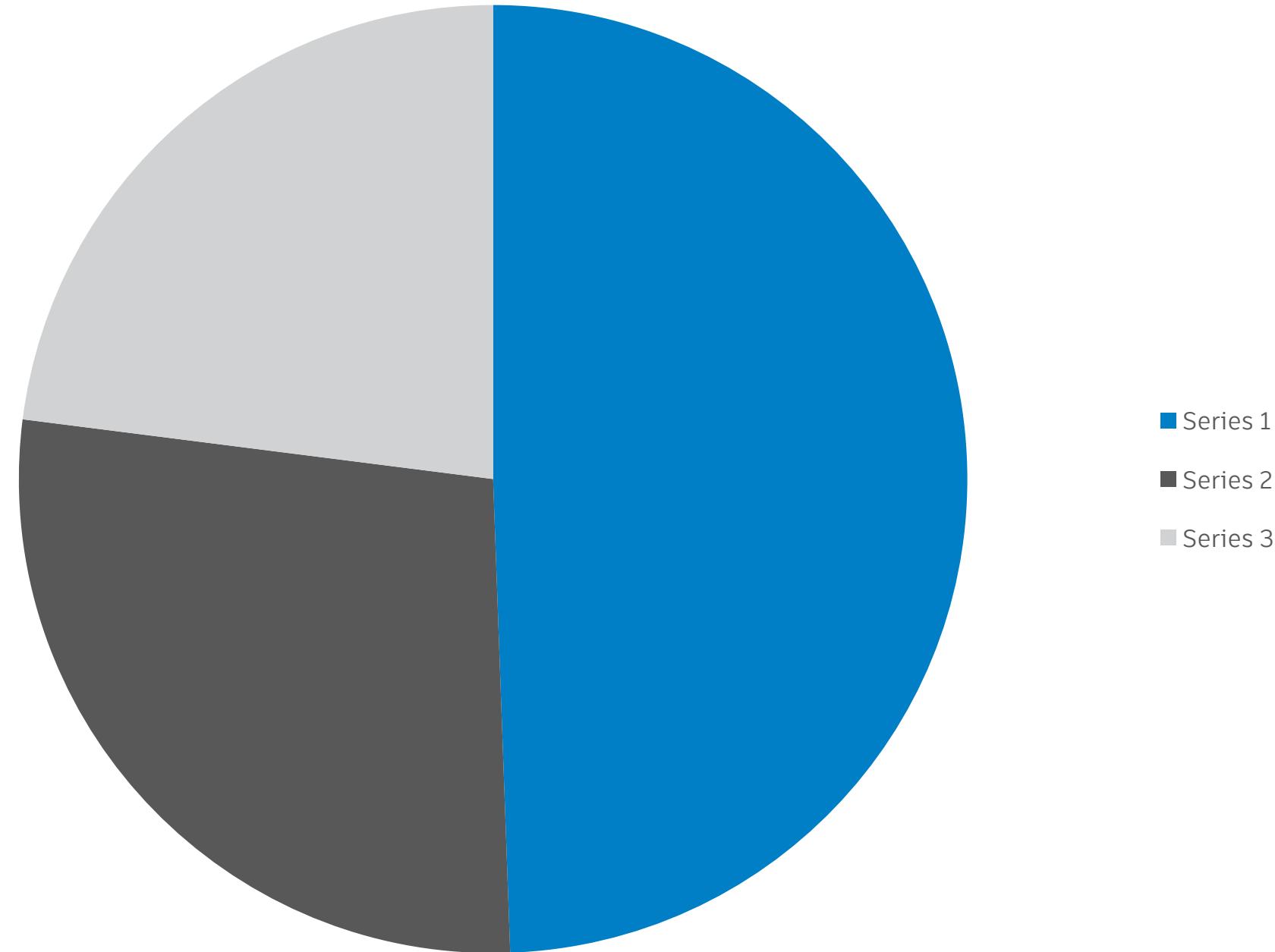
Slide showing full-screen image (for placement only)
with credit, 1,920 pixels by 1,080 pixels. To customize for
your presentation, change background image and
associated credit.

Bar charts



Charts and graphs are now a functioning part of the Autodesk University template.
Not liking the chart? Change it up in the Chart Design Type tab, click Reset if modules do not look correct.

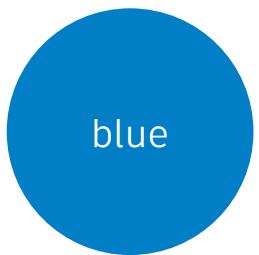
Pie charts



Charts and graphs are now a functioning part of the Autodesk University template.
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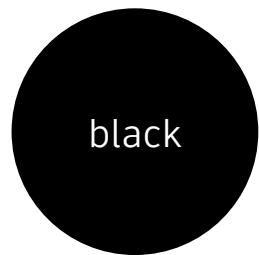
AU colors and slide layout

- The following colors unite and enrich the AU 2017 experience.



blue

R 0 G 126 B 198



black

R 0 G 0 B 0



white

R 255 G 255 B 255



dark
gray

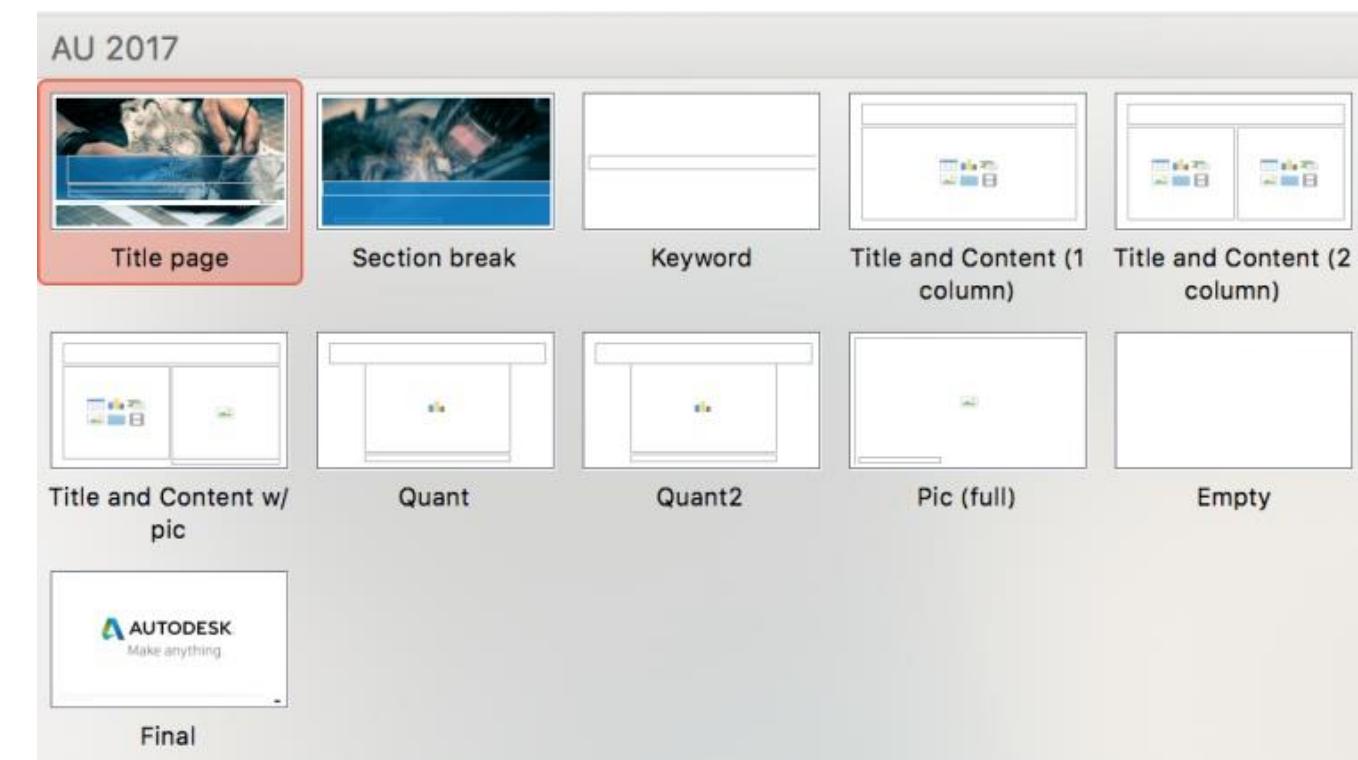
R 88 G 88 B 90



light
gray

R 209 G 210 B 212

- Access the slide layouts for this template on the Home tab under Slides/Layout.



Additional resources



For images and video content

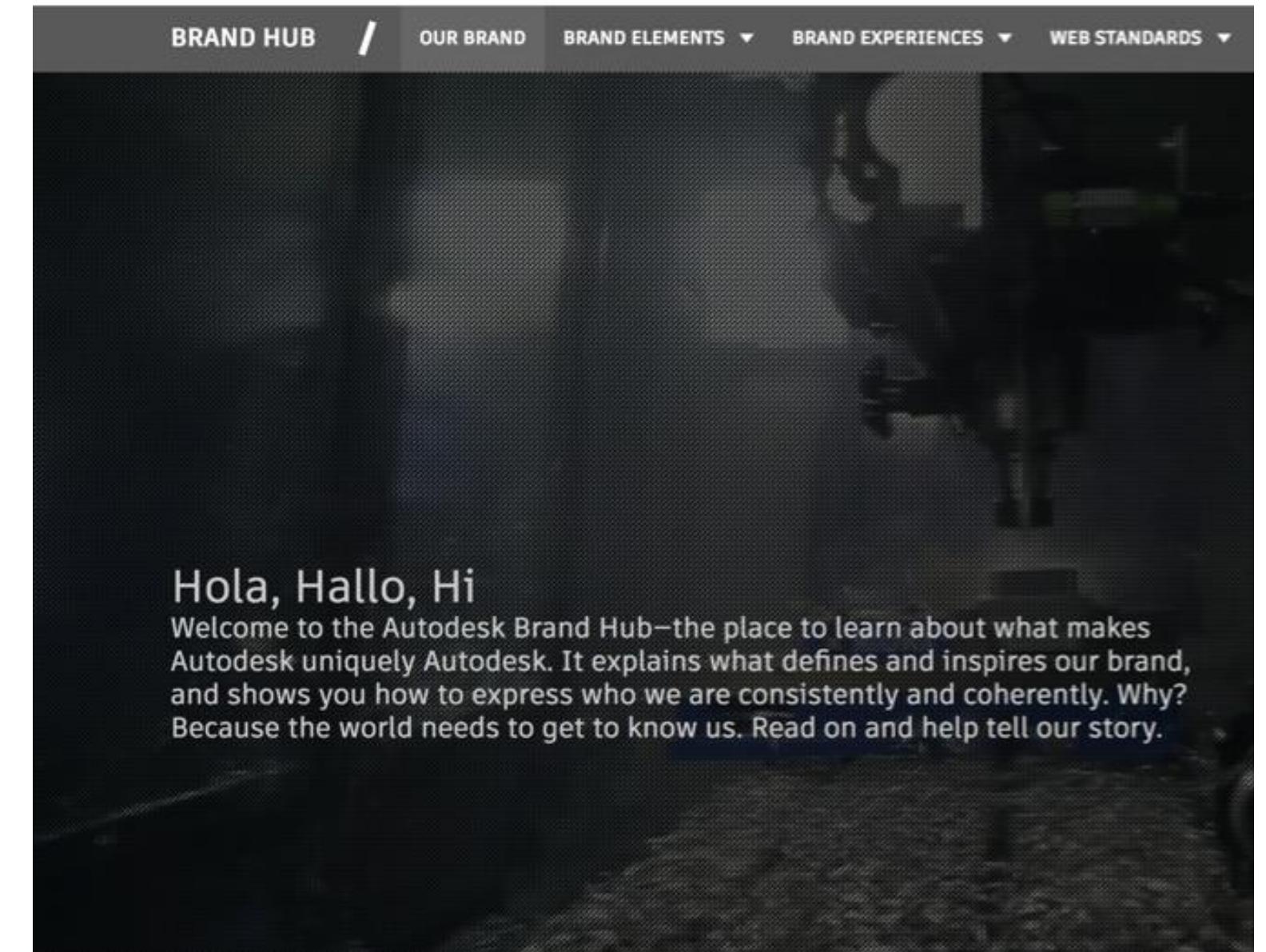
- [DAM](#)



For branding and editorial guidelines

- [Brand Hub](#)

Links are active in presentation mode



Class Handout

- Full walk-throughs
- Screenshots of everything
- Available now at AU online



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MEP20450

Efficient and Collaborative BIM workflows for Mechanical Engineers

Ben Roberts
Hoare Lea

Learning Objectives

- Understand how Revit can improve the workflows of a mechanical engineer
- Get inspiration for using Dynamo, add-ins and core Revit to automate your processes
- Put some helpful tips and tricks into practice to save loads of time
- Discuss how emerging technologies will change mechanical engineers' workflows

Description

In this session, we'll look at ideal workflows for using Revit software, and how to avoid key time-wasting traps, as discovered the hard way by an experienced Revit-using mechanical engineer. We'll examine opportunities for fundamental changes to overall workflow, as well as how to improve current methods. Emerging features such as Insight 360 software are shown as a great opportunity for engineers and architects to collaborate during initial design stages and to calculate heating and cooling loads. Using heating system design workflow as an example, we will look at ways to automate the process using core Revit features, Dynamo, and bespoke add-ins. We'll also give some specific technical tips and tricks to help engineers get the most out of their Revit software systems and spaces. This is a follow-up to the 2013 class on improving efficiency by using Revit MEP software for mechanical calculations.

Your AU Expert

Ben is a chartered mechanical engineer based in the UK, where he holds the position of BIM Delivery Leader for Hoare Lea, a role which involves pushing the boundaries of software tools and enabling teams to deliver projects as efficiently and effectively as possible. He specialises in using BIM models for design calculations, and has successfully improved Revit's design capability and rolled out calculation methods throughout Hoare Lea's 12 offices.

Ben is an active member of the CIBSE BIM steering group, the BSRIA BIM Network, and is involved in developing many industry standards for MEP BIM delivery. He has written articles for a variety of construction industry journals on the subject of BIM, and regularly presents and lectures on the subject around the world.

This is Ben's second class at AU, following 2013's "Beyond 3D: improving efficiency by using Revit MEP for mechanical calculations".

Me (Ben Roberts)

- 2007 – 2009: Mechanical Engineer
- 2009 – 2012: Senior mechanical engineer & BIM Champion
- 2012 – 2017: BIM Delivery Leader

