

BARTE VAN DER ZIJDEN

# FACILITATING SUSTAINABLE BUILDING DESIGNS

THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPUTATIONAL  
TOOL FOR EARLY-STAGE ASSESSMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF BUILDINGS

# STRUCTURE



Context and  
problem



Stakeholders

Current assessment  
method



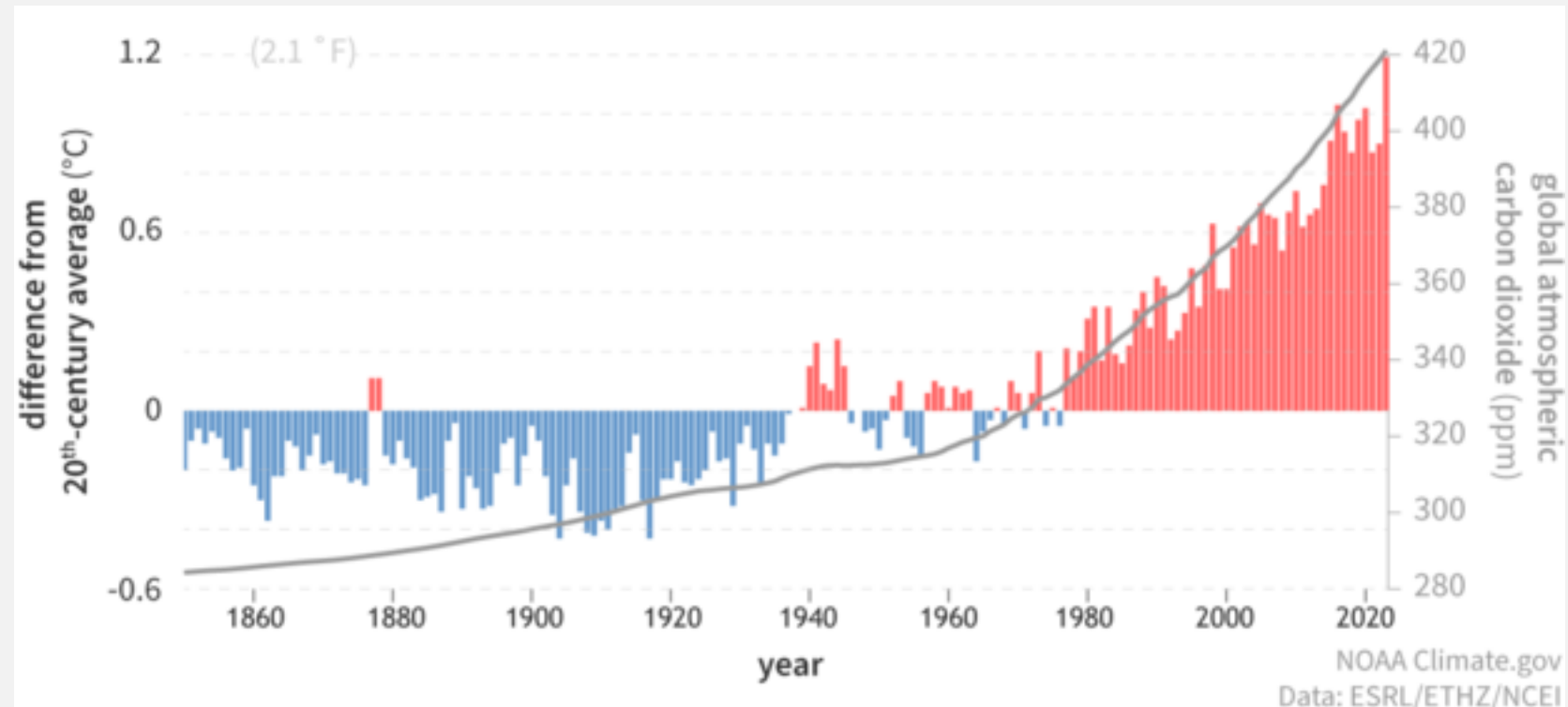
The tool



Development

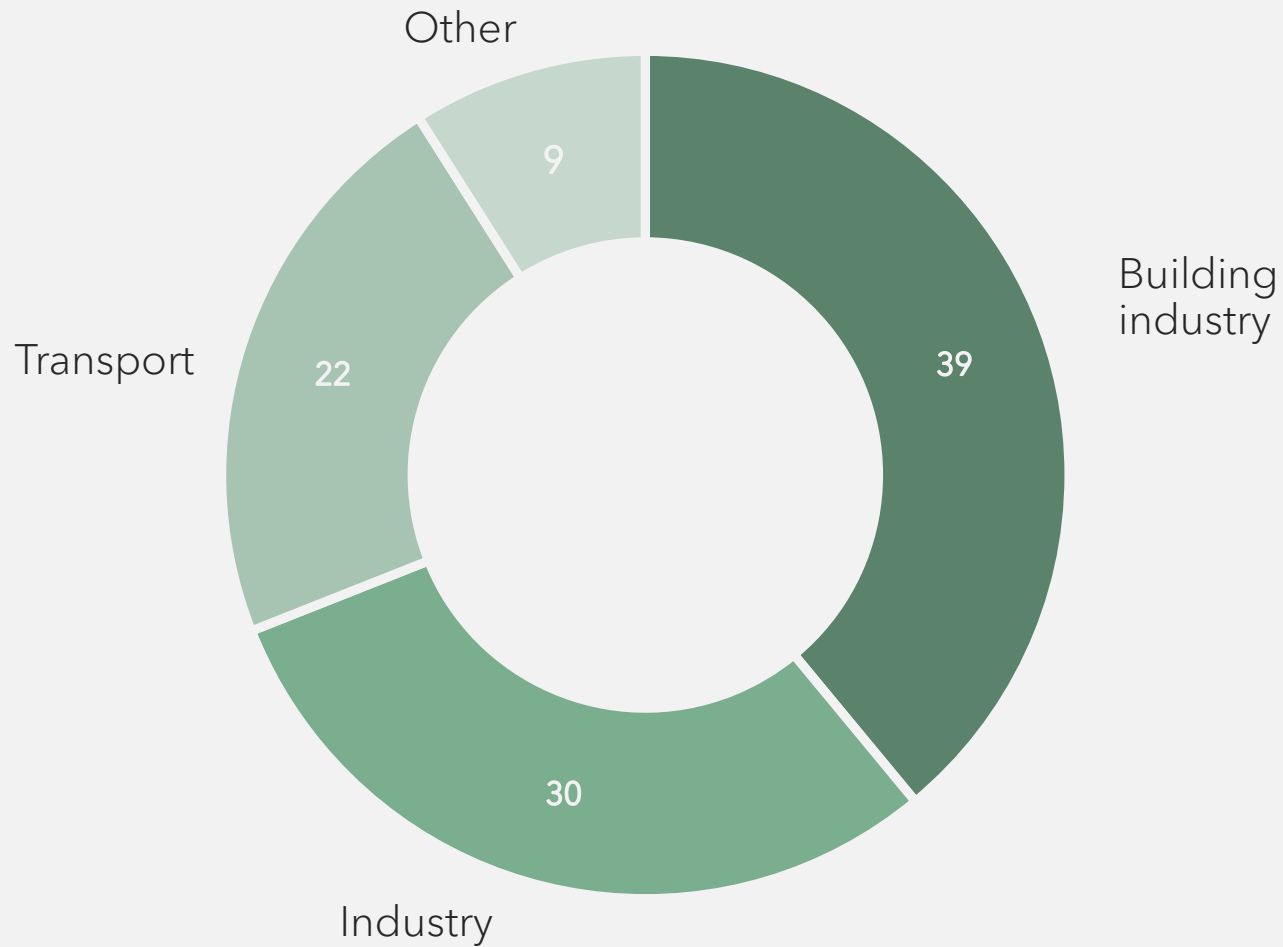
# EARTH'S TEMPERATURE

And related to carbon emissions



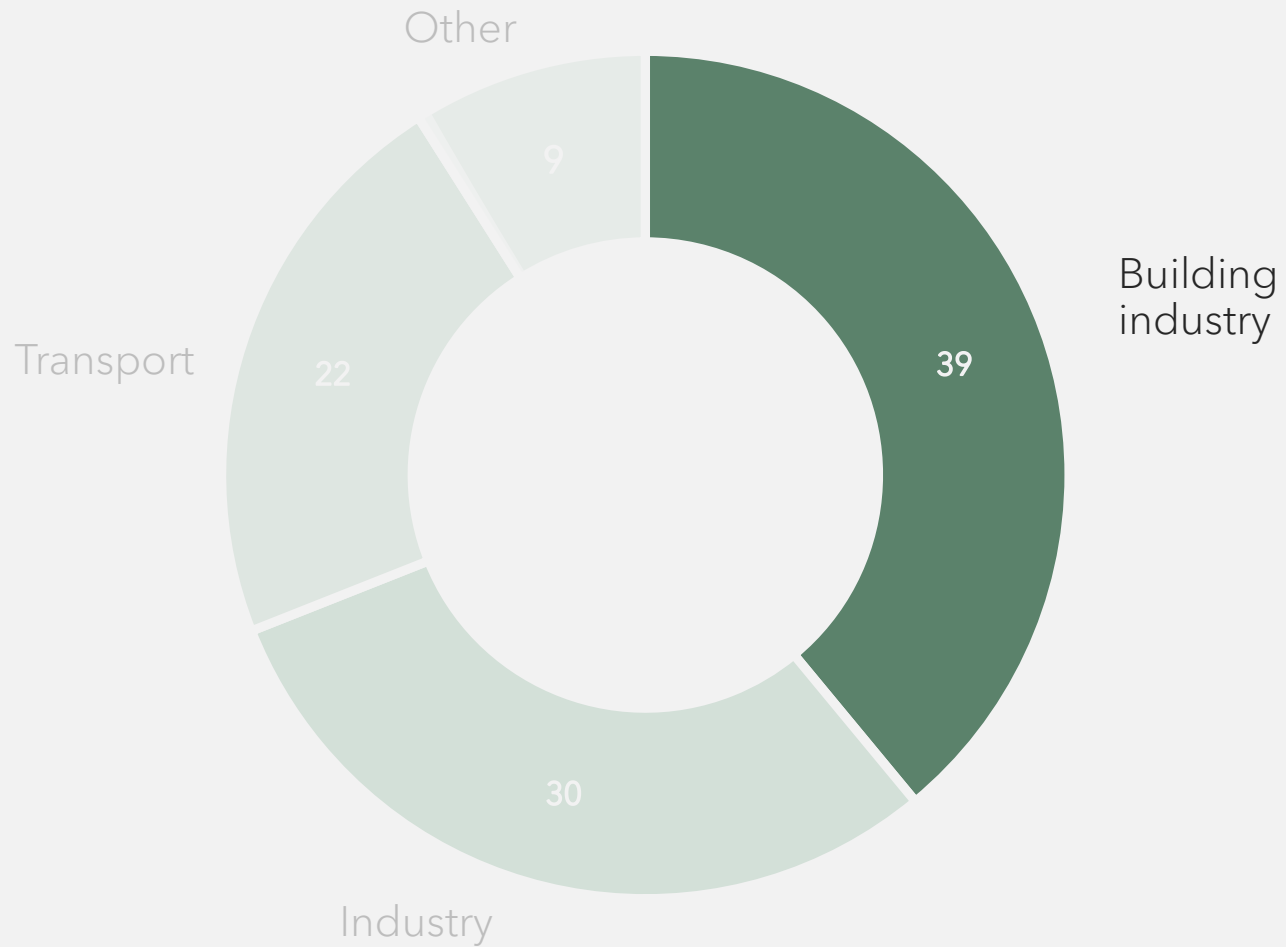
# CO<sub>2</sub> EMISSIONS

Per industry sector



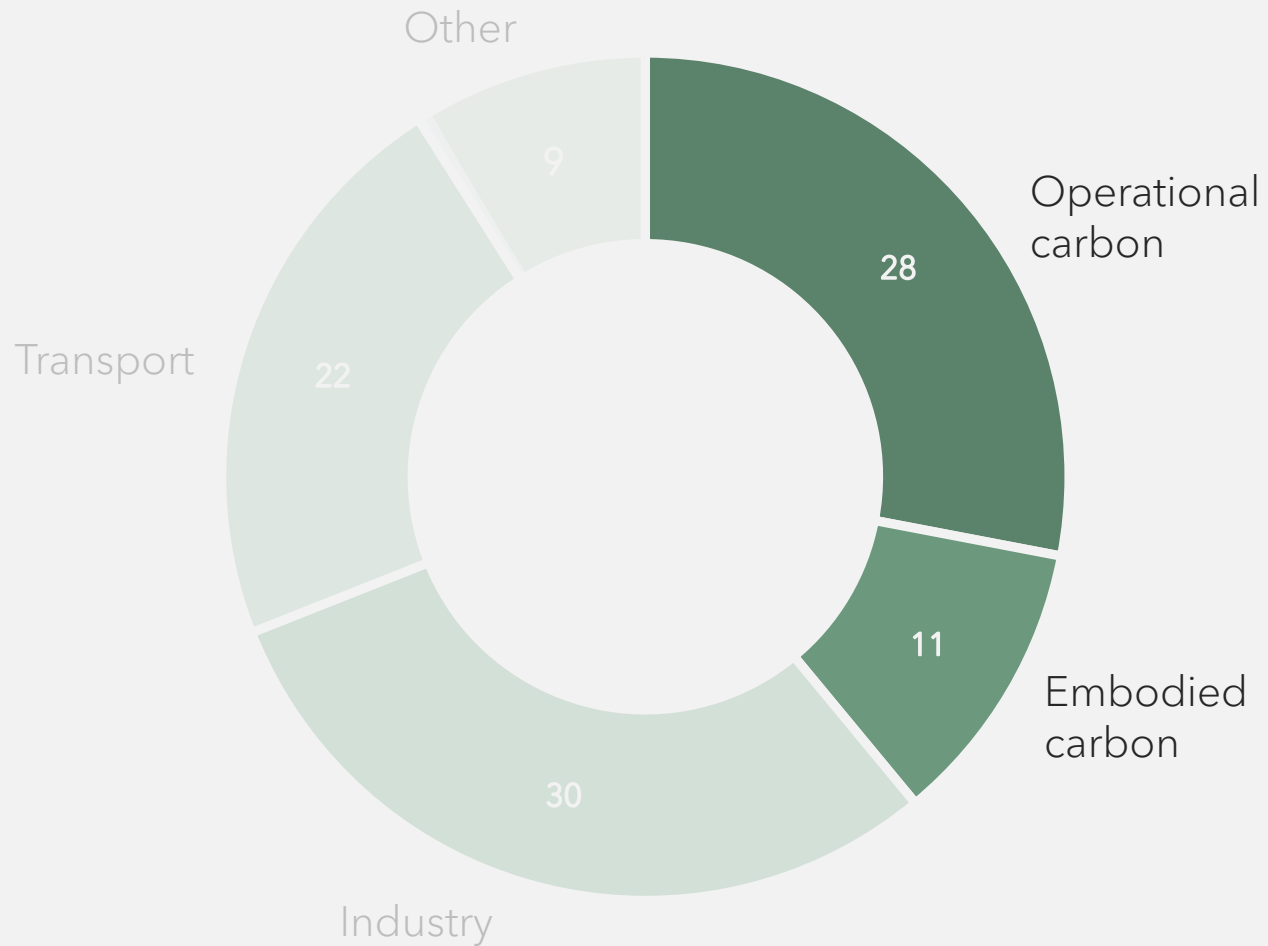
# CO<sub>2</sub> EMISSIONS

## Building sector



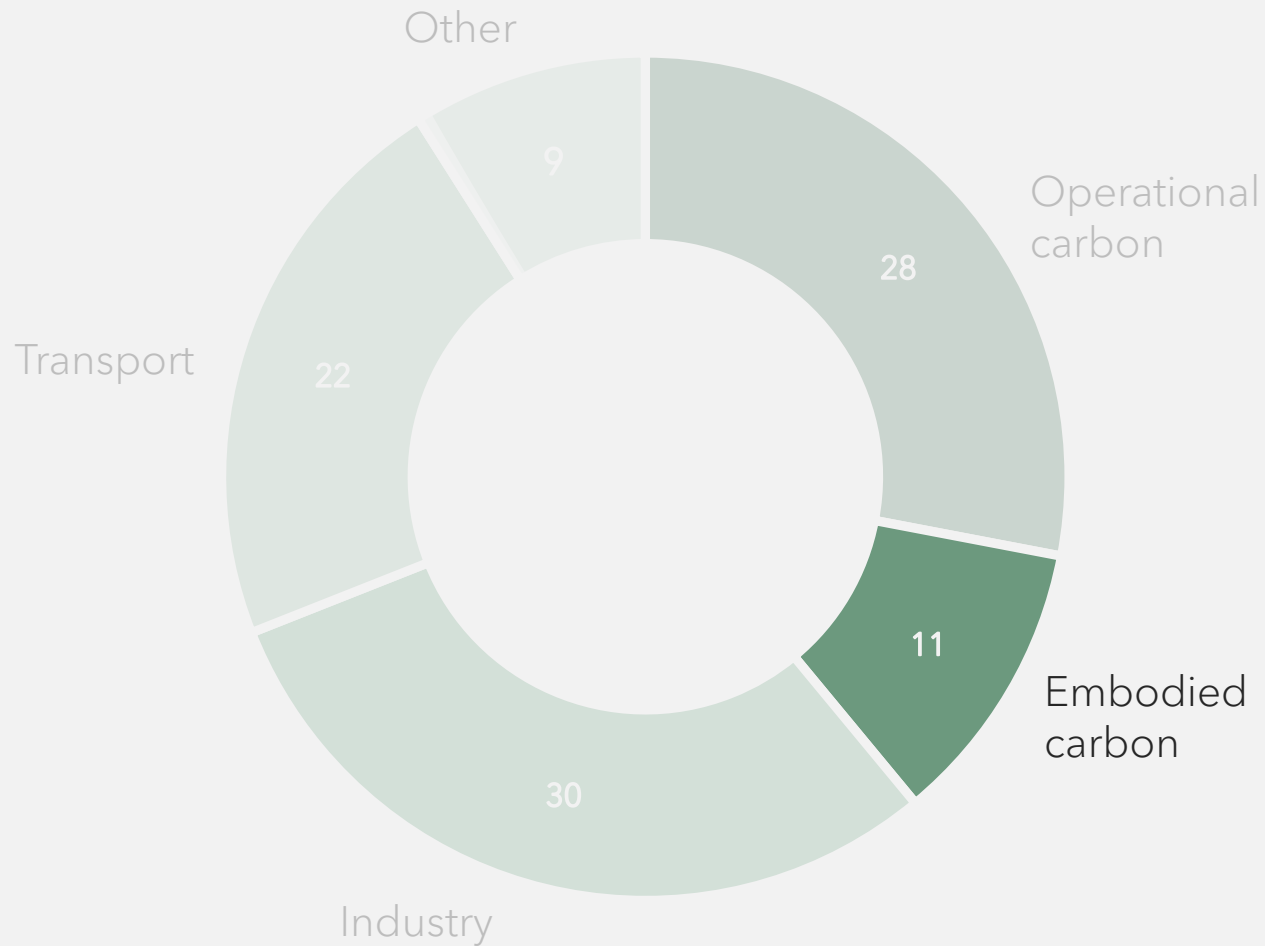
# CO<sub>2</sub> EMISSIONS

Embodied vs. operational carbon



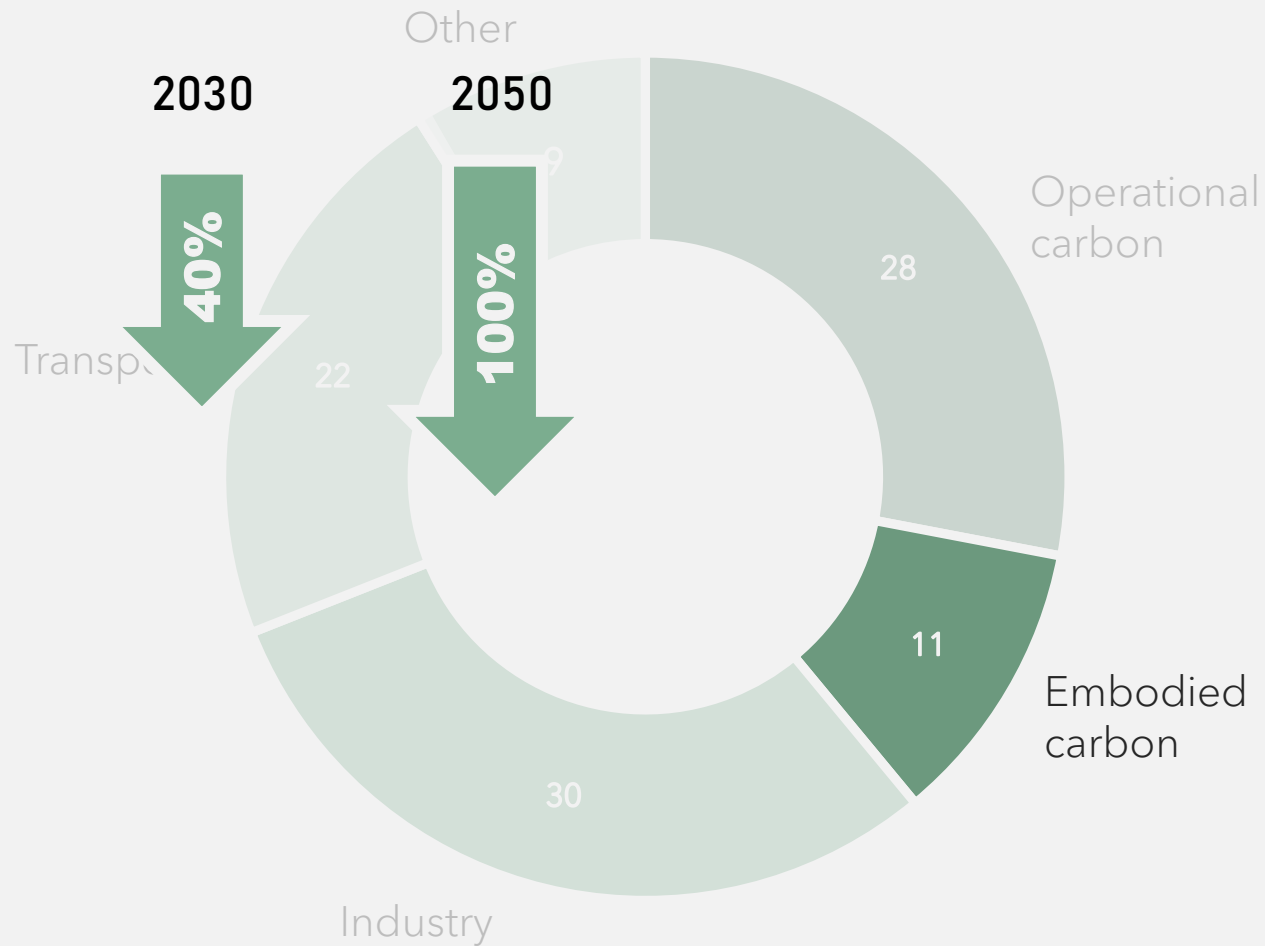
# CO<sub>2</sub> EMISSIONS

## Embodied carbon



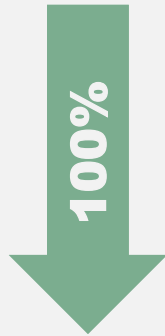
# CO<sub>2</sub> EMISSIONS

Reduction goals embodied carbon



# CALCULATION METHODOLOGY

Environmental impact buildings



# CALCULATION METHODOLOGY

Environmental impact buildings



=

Impact factor per  
material

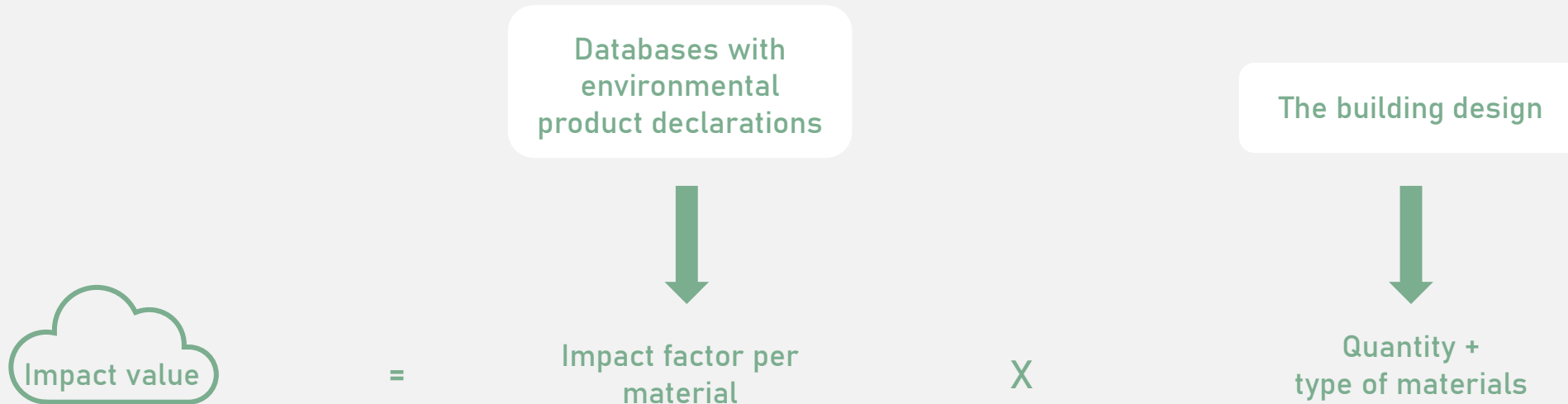
X

Quantity +  
type of materials



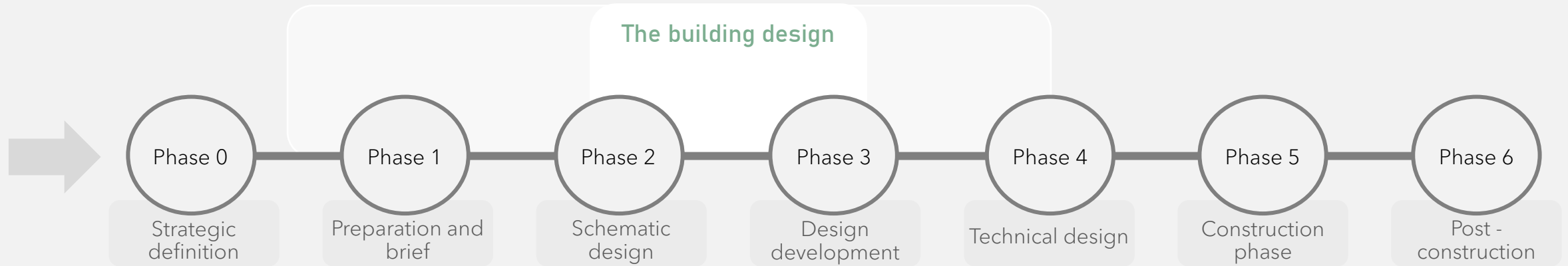
# CALCULATION METHODOLOGY

## Environmental impact buildings



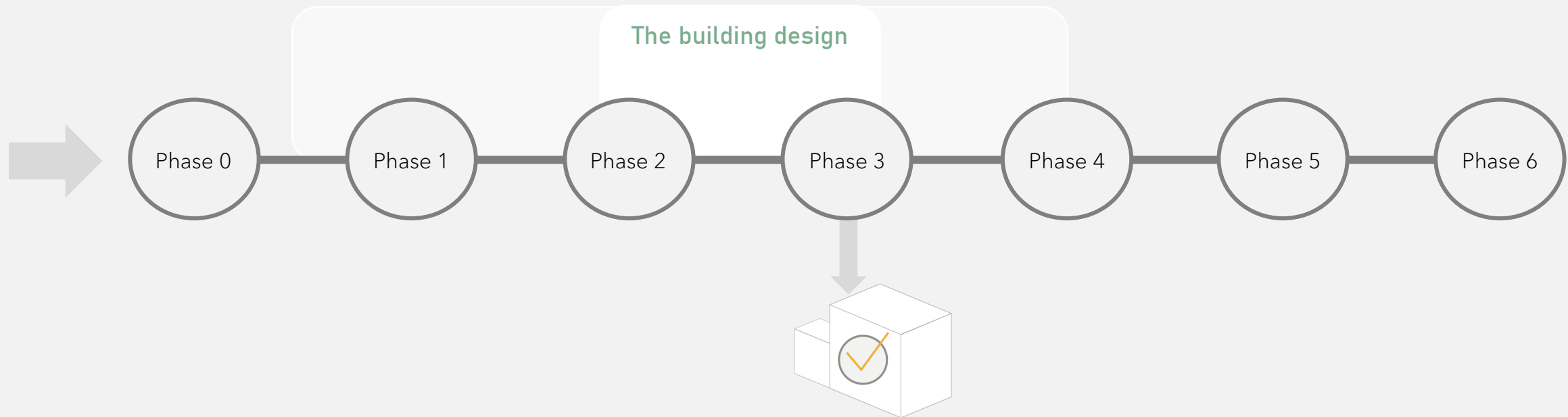
# PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

## Building design development



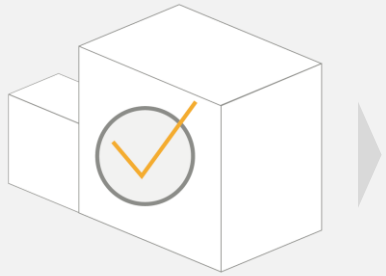
# PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

## Building design development



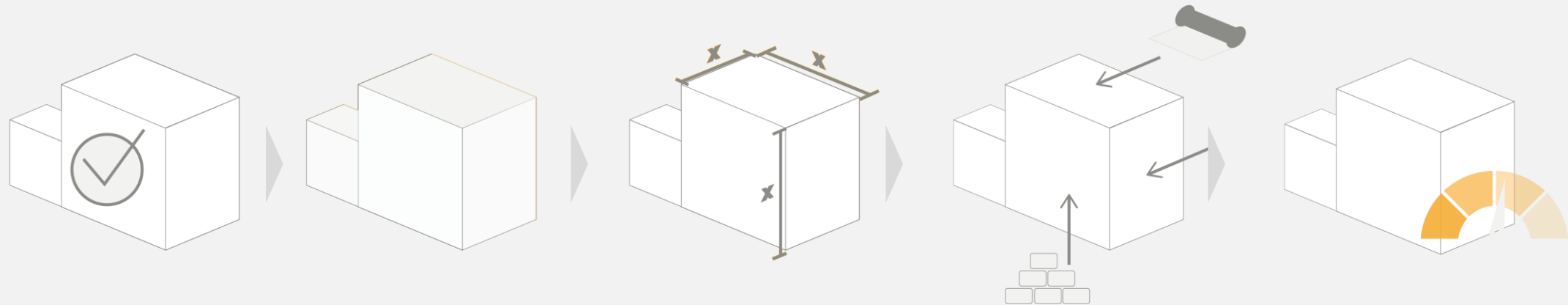
# IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Current method



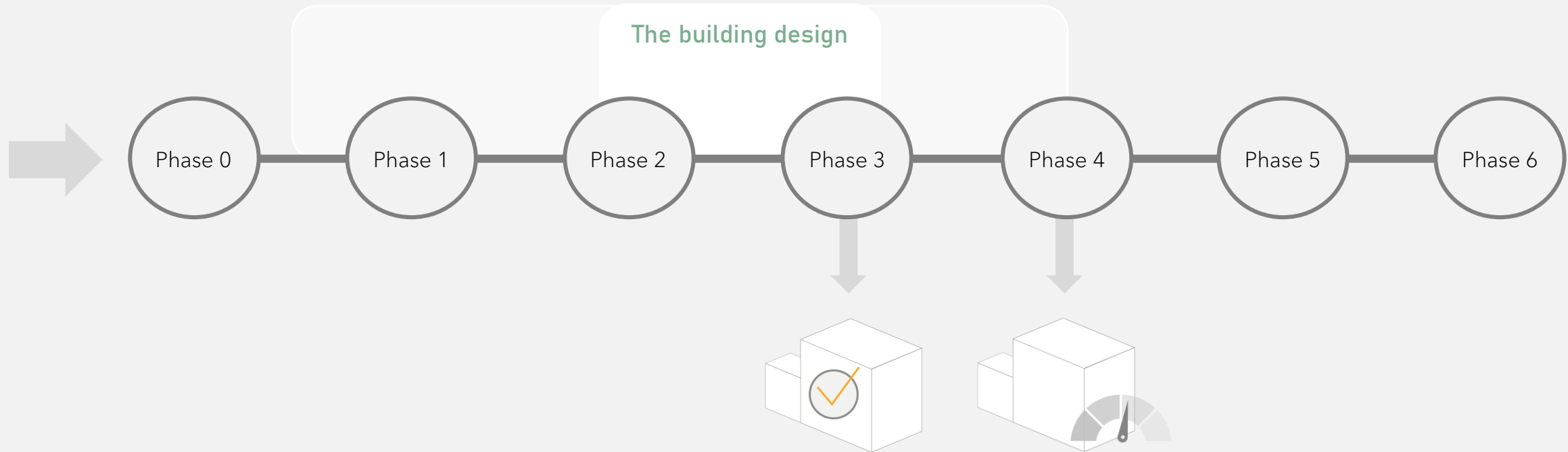
# IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Current method



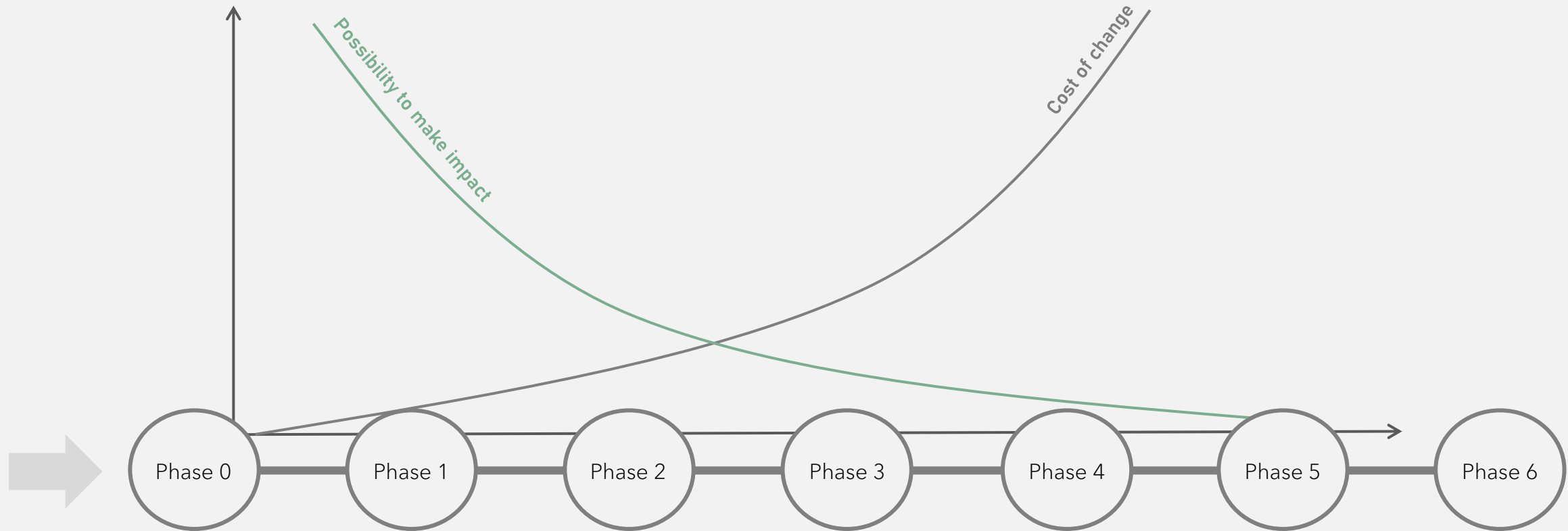
# IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Current process & design phases



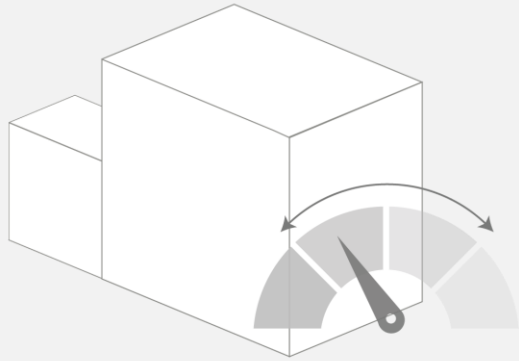
# IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Current process & possibility to make impact



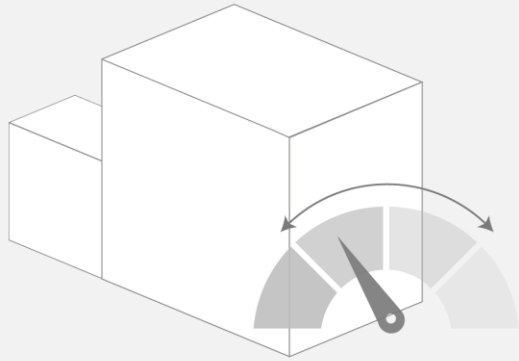
# CONTEXTUALIZING NEW DESIGNS

Whole-building environmental impact data



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Whole-building environmental impact data

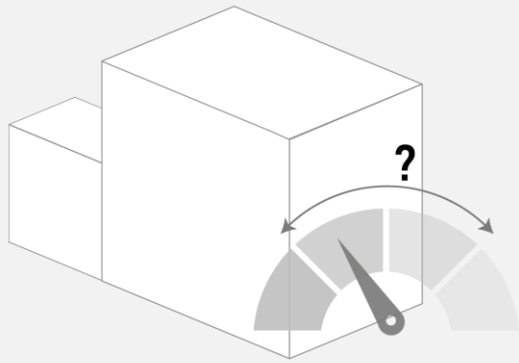


vs.



# CONTEXTUALIZING NEW DESIGNS

Whole-building environmental impact data



vs.



# CURRENT METHOD

Manual process | no integration | no context to compare



# THE RESEARCH

## Main question

*How can a computational tool support early-stage design decisions towards building designs with lower embodied environmental impact?*

# TOOL

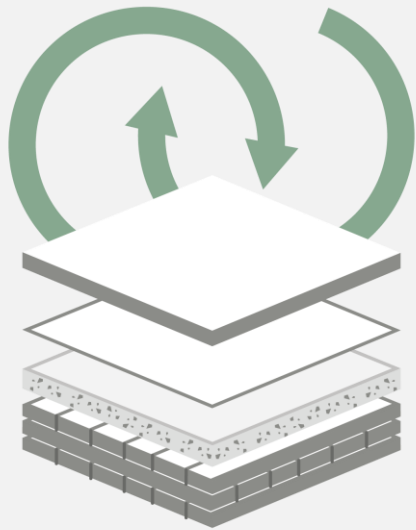
## Final product: Early-stage environmental impact assessment tool



# TOOL OBJECTIVE

To integrate environmental impact assessment in the design process

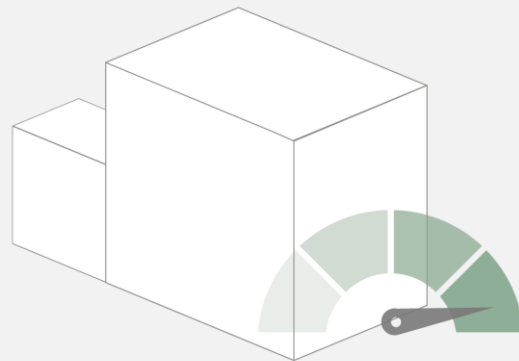
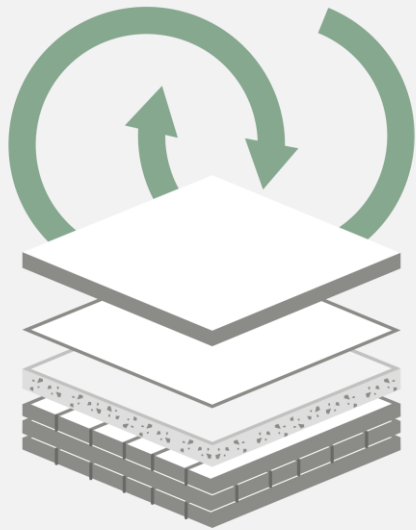
*More sustainable buildings door integration van assessment in the design process*



# TOOL OBJECTIVE

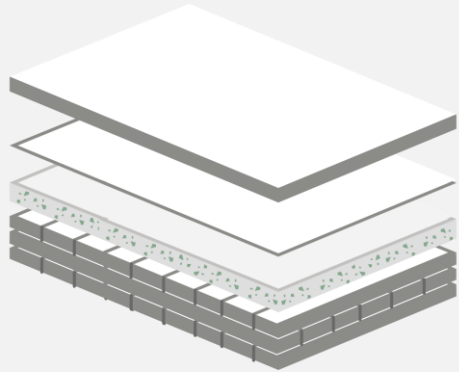
To integrate environmental impact assessment in the design process

*More sustainable buildings door integration van assessment in the design process*



# TOOL

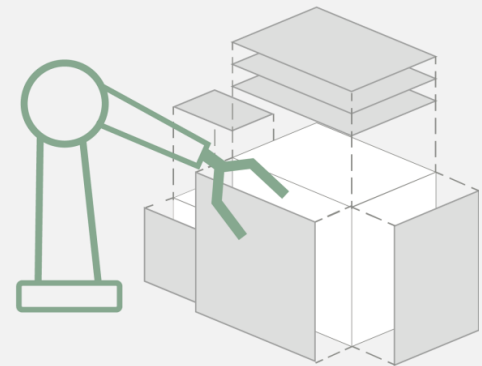
## Key innovations



1. Element  
assessment



2. Structured data  
saving

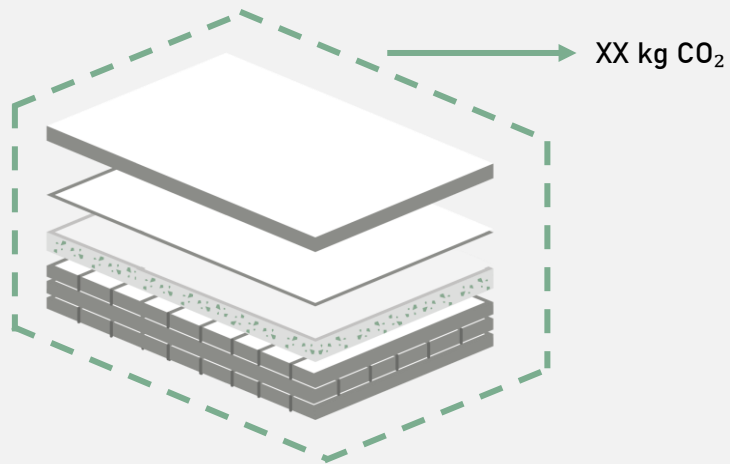


3. Automated building  
configuration

# 1. ELEMENT ASSESSMENT

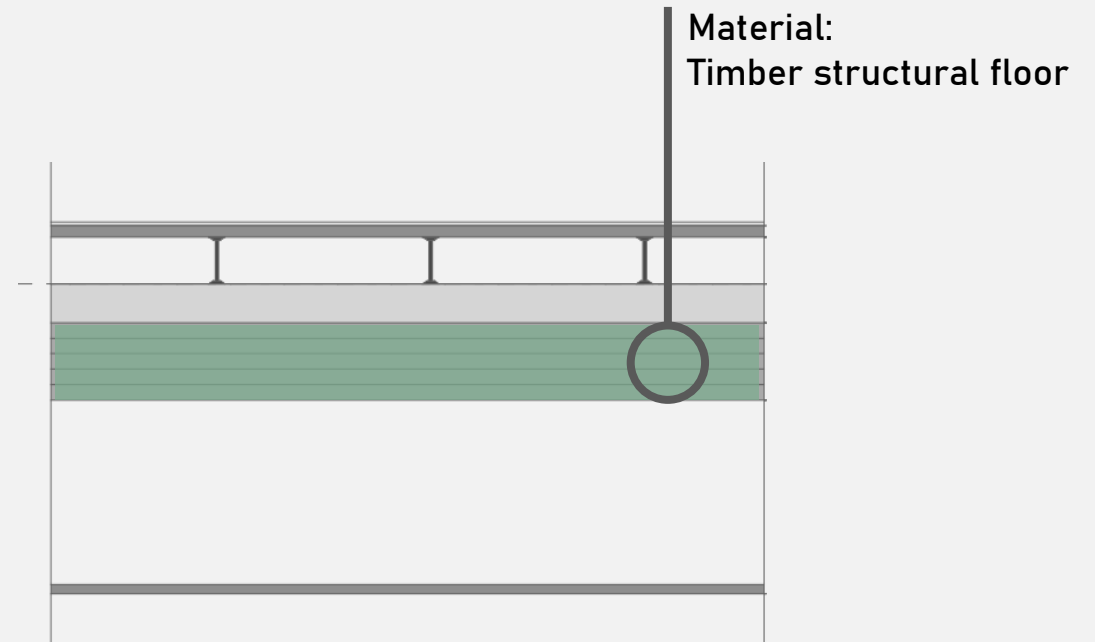
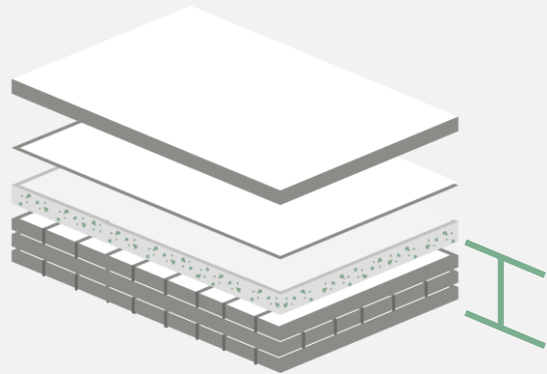
As opposed to individual materials

- **Assessment:** the calculation of environmental impact values
- **Element:** the complete build-up of materials of one building part



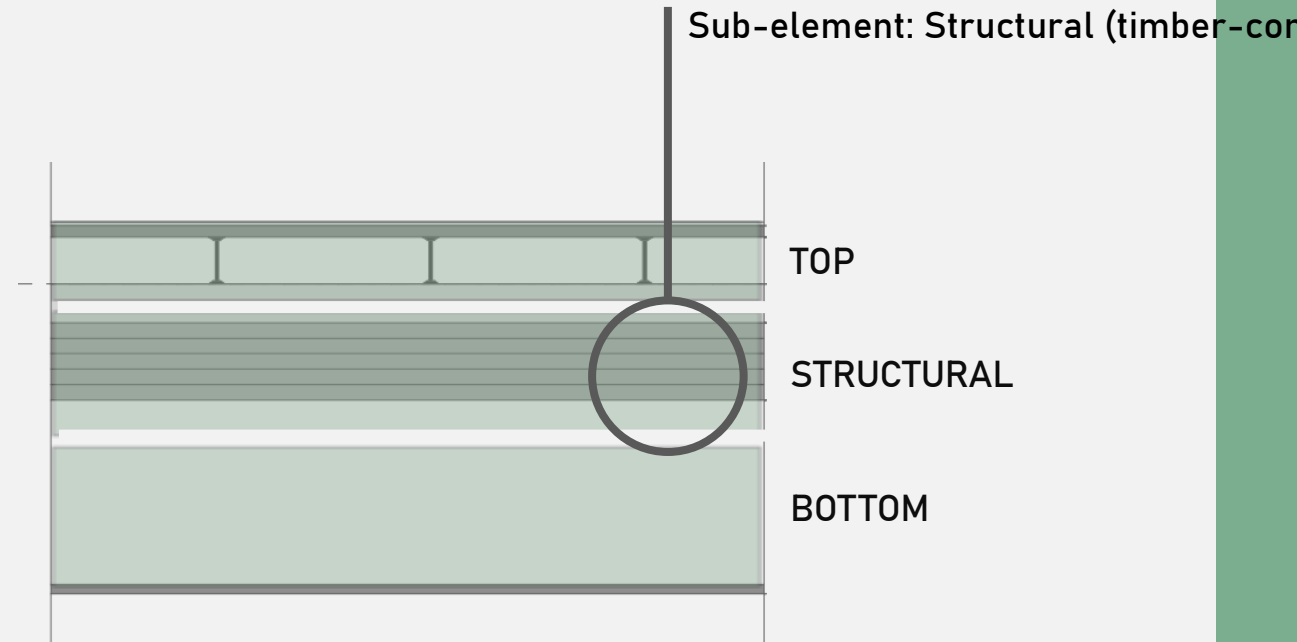
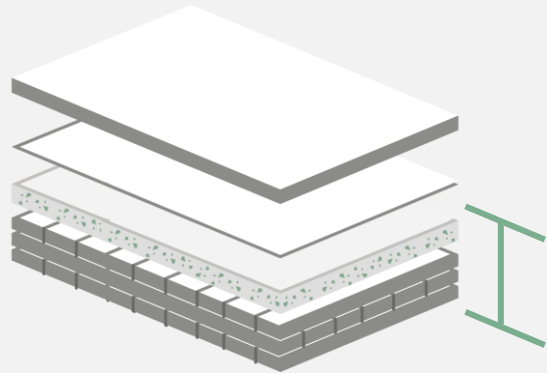
# 1. ELEMENT ASSESSMENT

Element > sub-elements



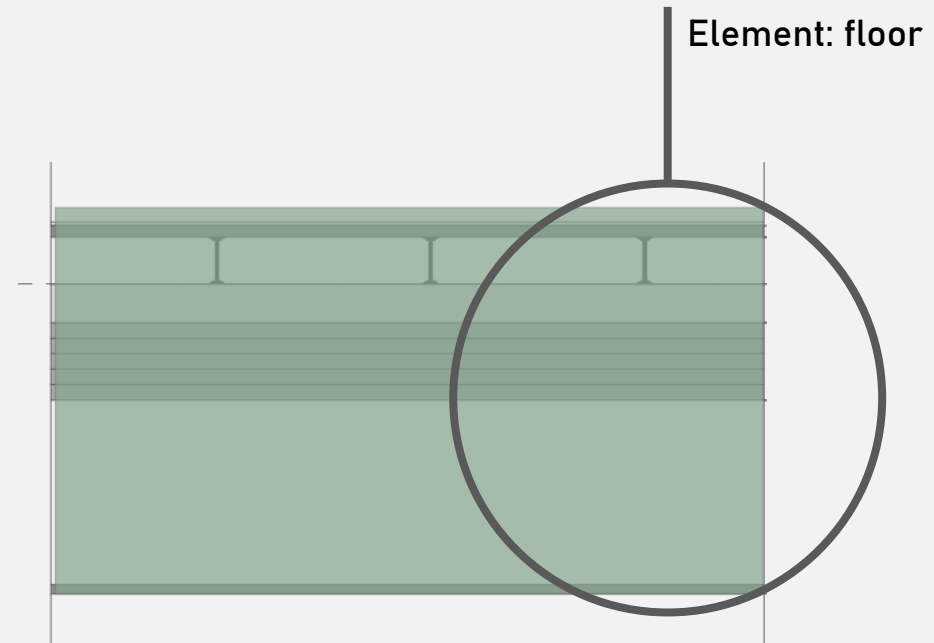
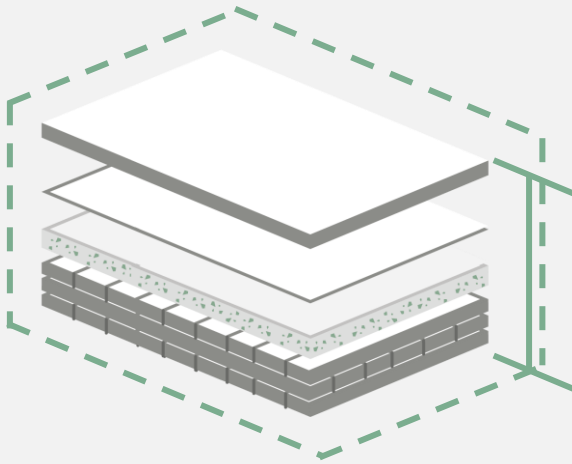
# 1. ELEMENT ASSESSMENT

Element > sub-elements



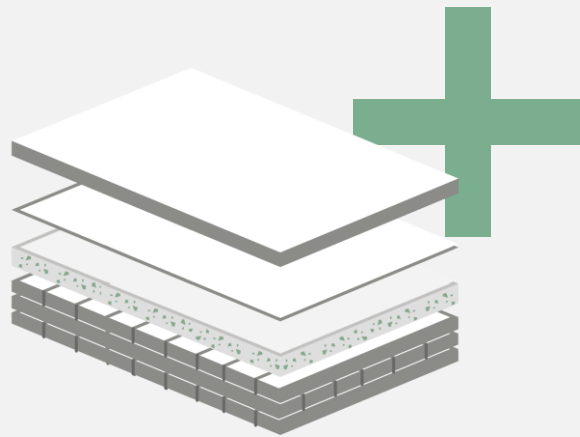
# 1. ELEMENT ASSESSMENT

Element = complete build-up of materials of one building part



# 1. ELEMENT ASSESSMENT

As opposed to individual materials



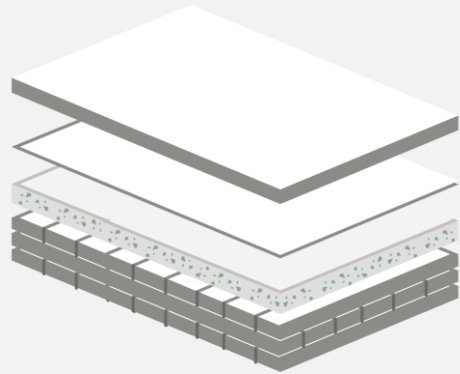
- Element:

- + Als je niet alle laagjes weet, kan je nog steeds assessment doen > early -stage maakt mogelijk
- + Efficiency and accuracy in calculations
- + Saving valid material combinations
- + Saving data for future projects
- + Including material connections

**Punten nog goed samenvatten**

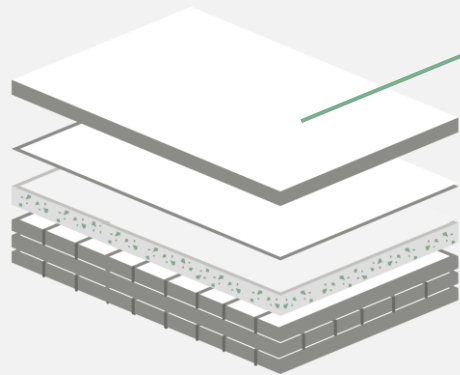
## 2. ELEMENT DATABASE

Problem: data loss



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Problem: data loss



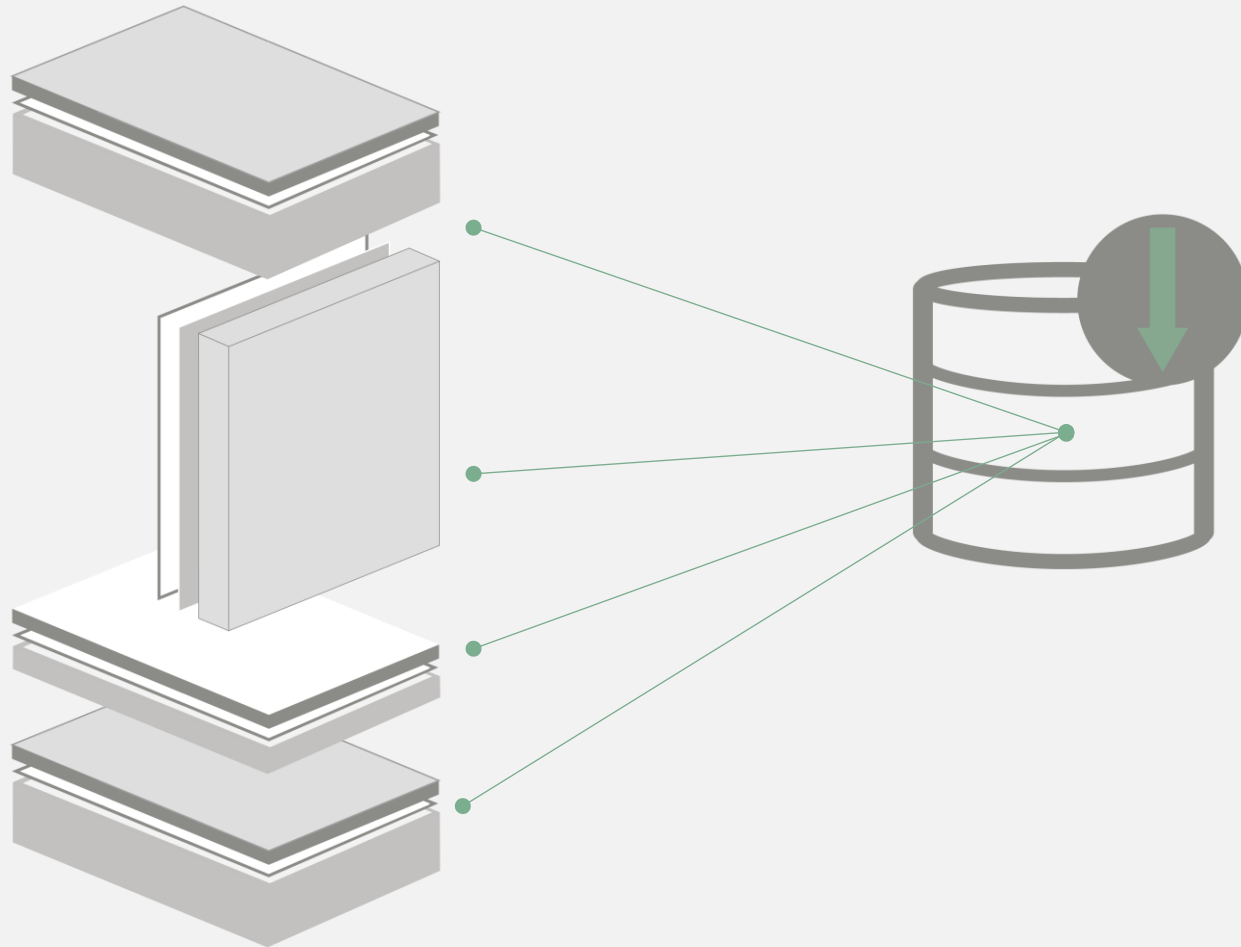
**Saved element data:**

- *Element ID*
- *Building part*
- *Structural system*
- *Sub-elements*
- *Material layers*
- *Environmental impact values*
- *Force system(s)*
- *Typical span*
- *Thickness*



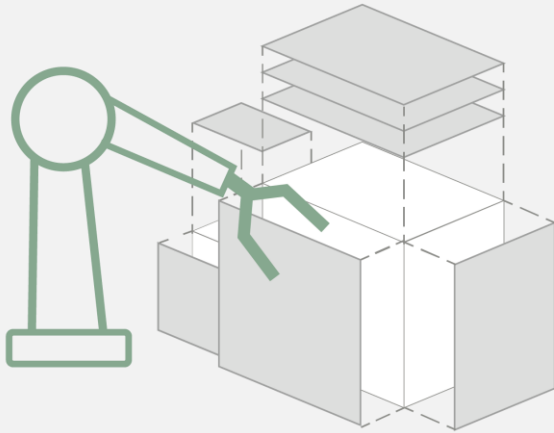
# 2. ELEMENT DATABASE

Database per building part



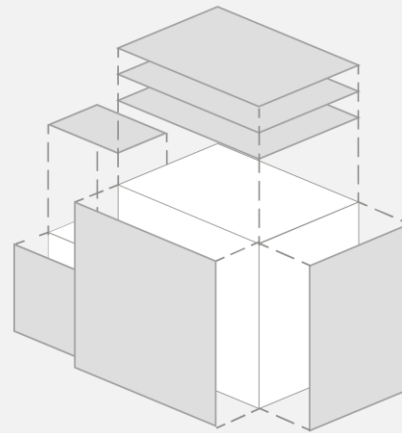
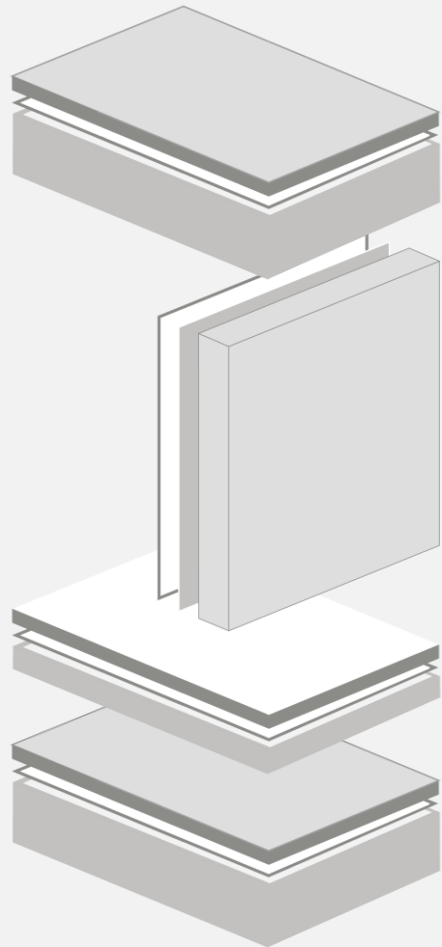
# 3. BUILDING CONFIGURATION

Automated process of composing a building



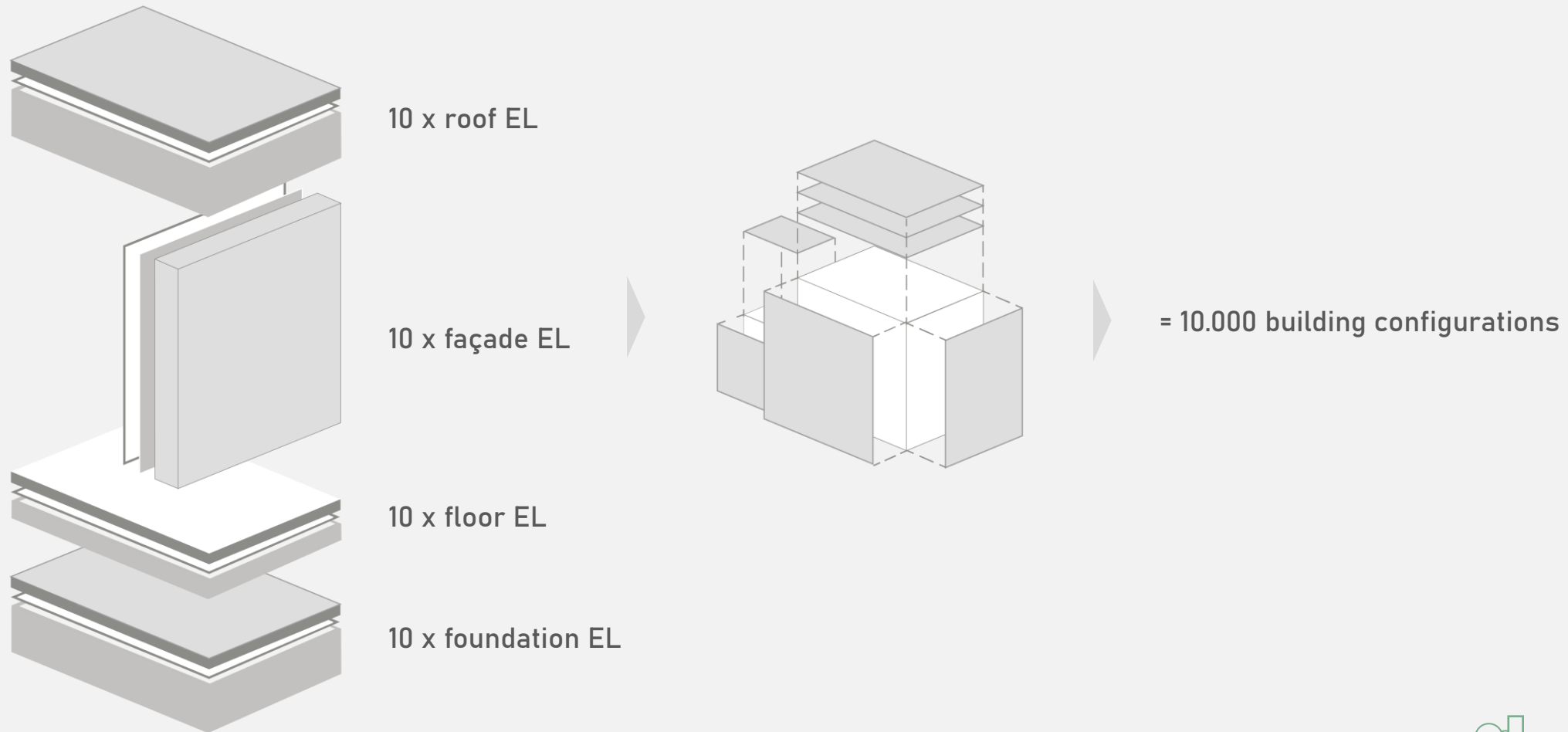
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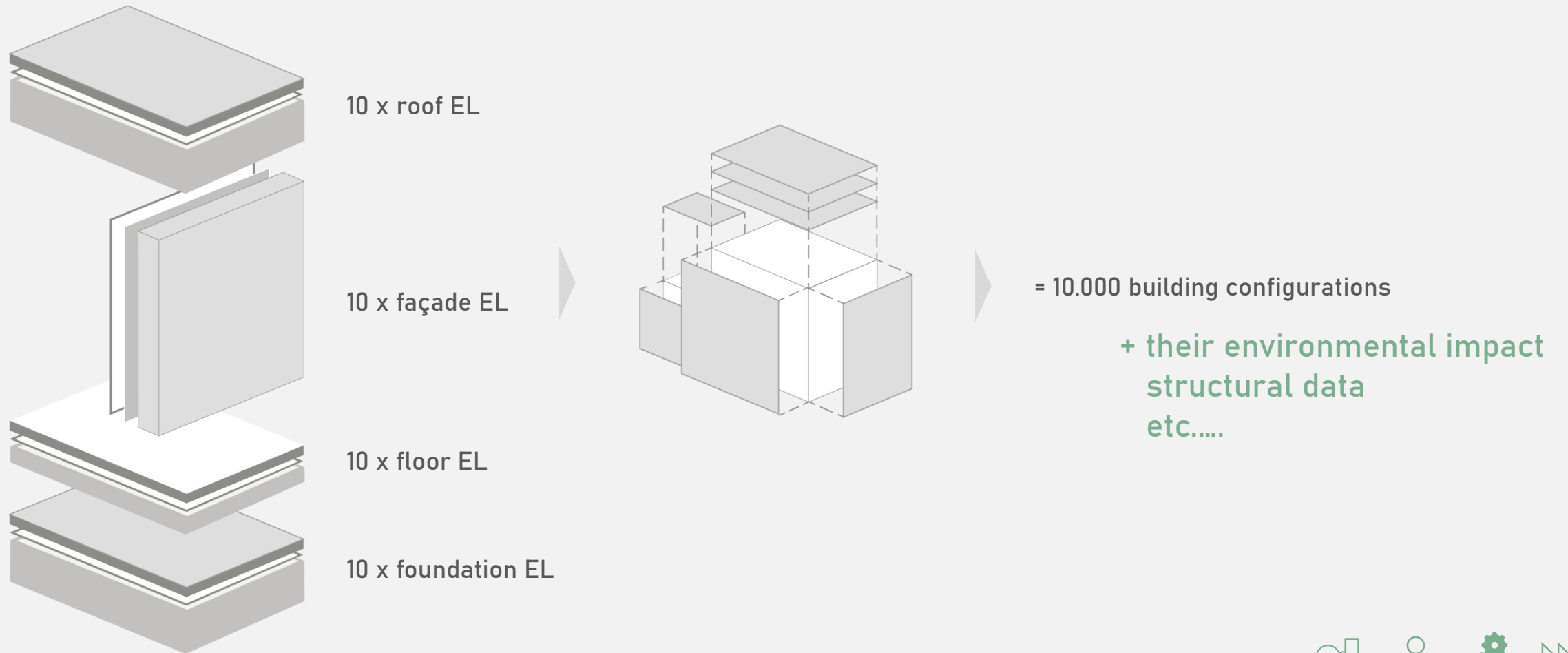
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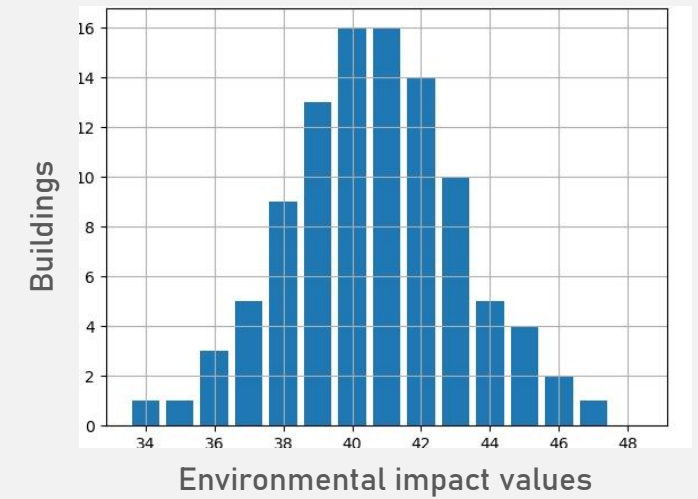
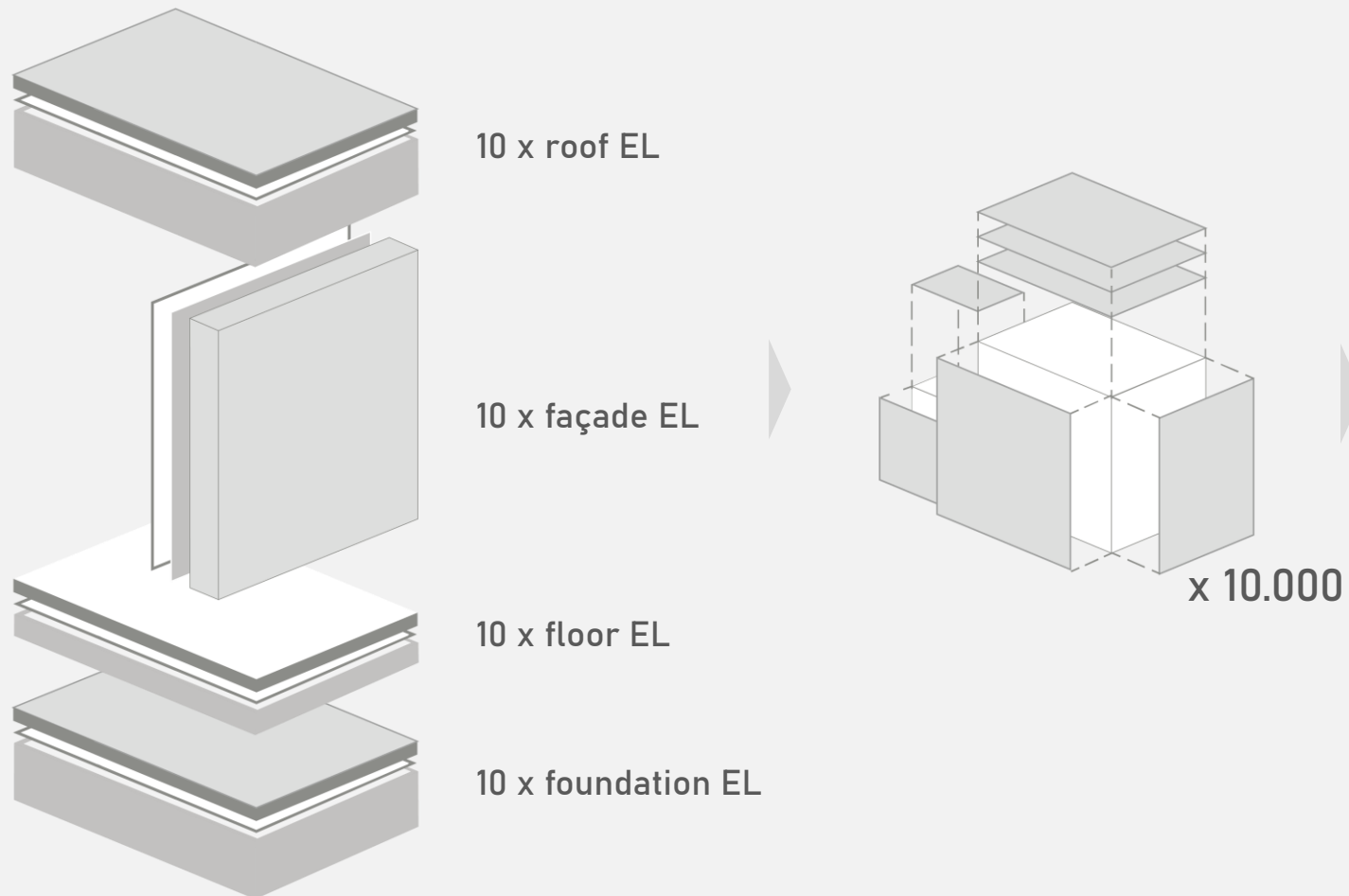
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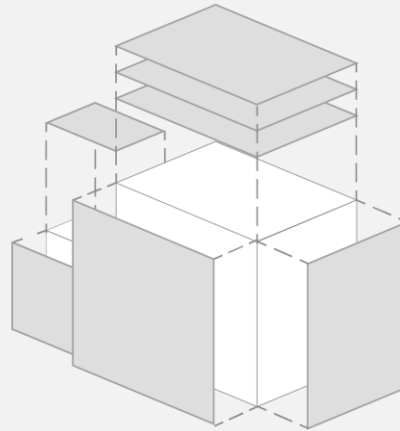
# 3. BUILDING CONFIGURATION

Automated process of composing a building



# 3. BUILDING CONFIGURATION

Benchmark dataset



= 10.000 building configurations

+ their environmental impact  
structural data  
etc.....

# RECAP NAAR VERGELIJKING OUD EN NIEUW

dd

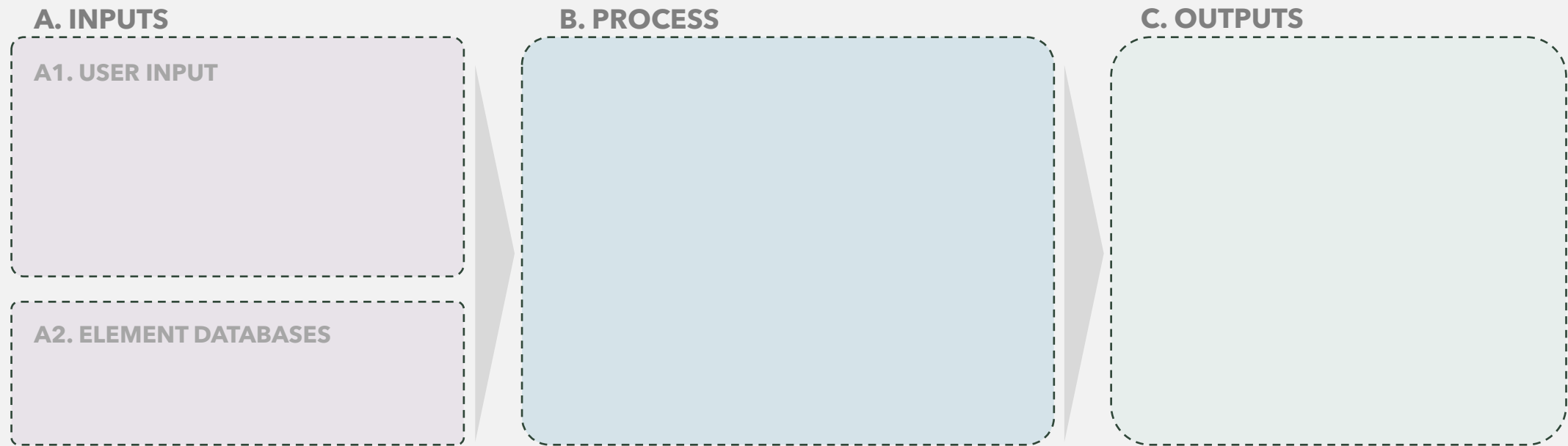
# TOOL MODULES

And dataflow



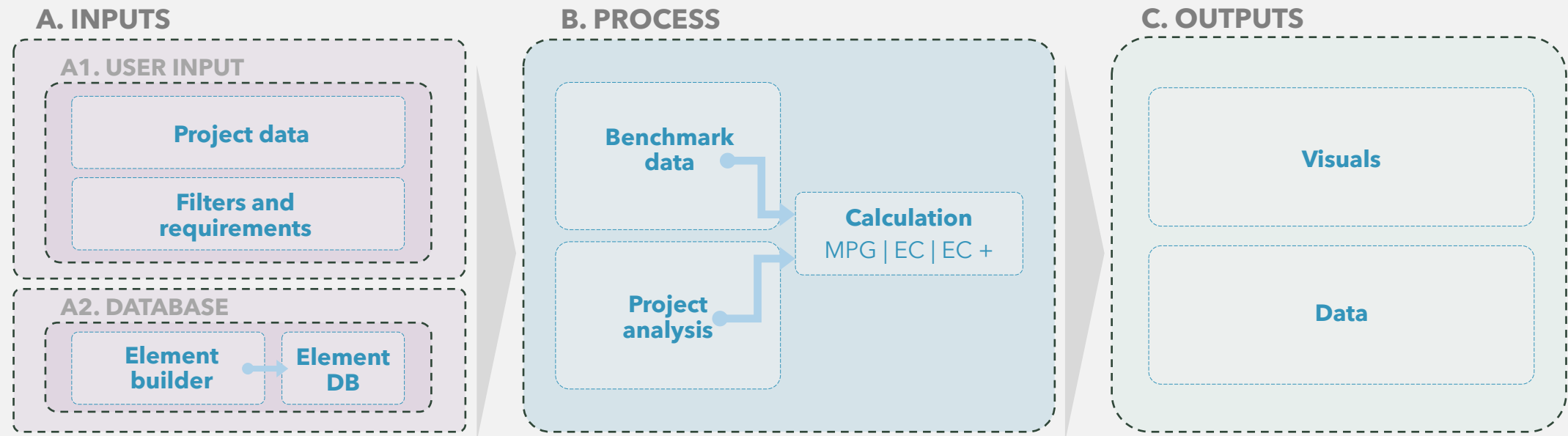
# TOOL MODULES

Supported by the database



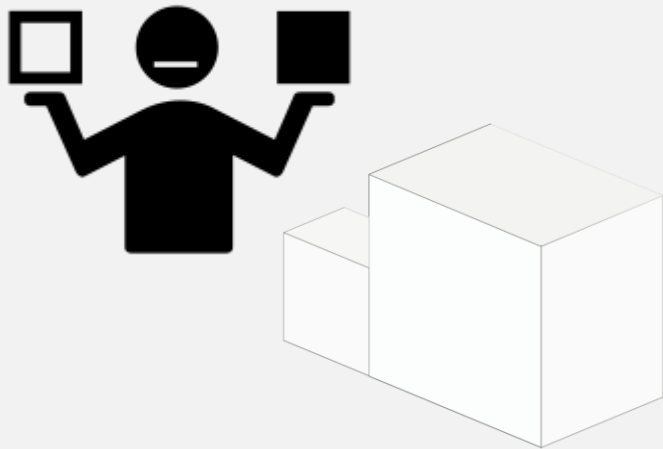
# TOOL MODULES

And sub-components



# EXAMPLE

New project in design phase 0



Known data:

Building floor area: 1750 m<sup>2</sup>

Building function: Office

Location XX >which is sand ground

Welke range aan EC kom ik te zitten?

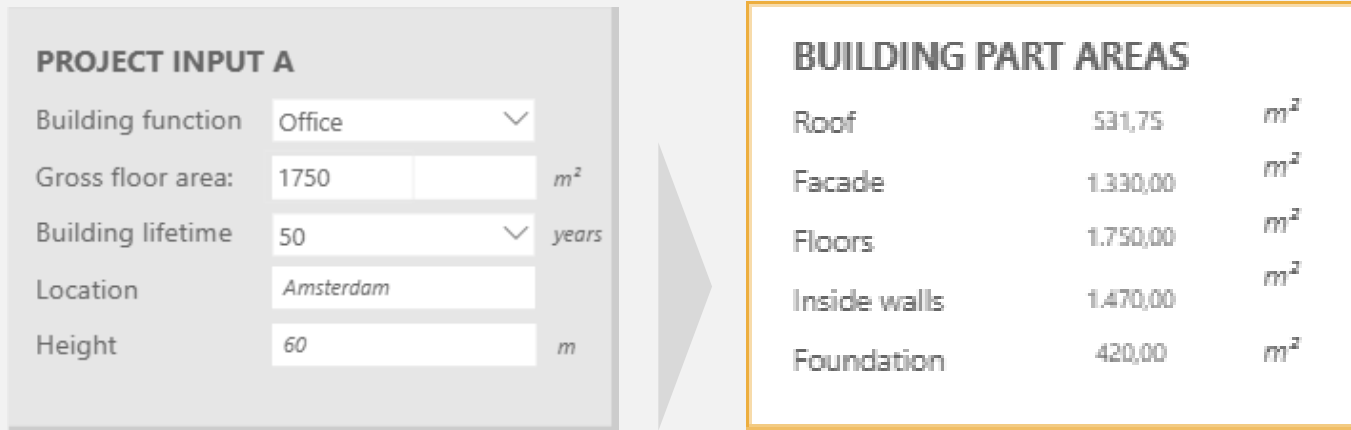
# INPUT

## User input – project data

PROJECT INPUT A	
Building function	Office <input type="text"/>
Gross floor area:	1750 <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> m <sup>2</sup>
Building lifetime	50 <input type="text"/> years
Location	Amsterdam <input type="text"/>

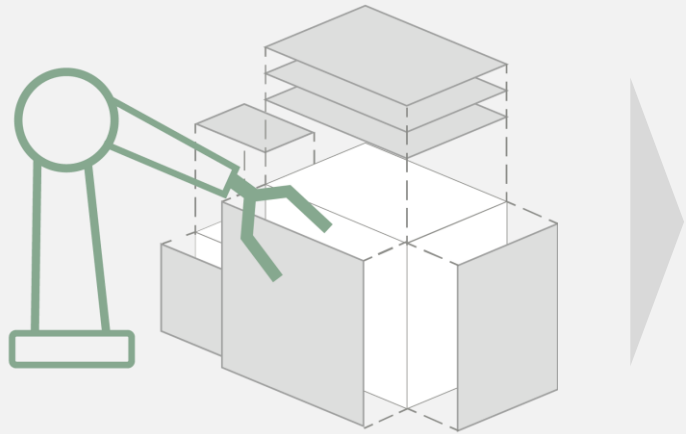
# INPUT

## User input – project data



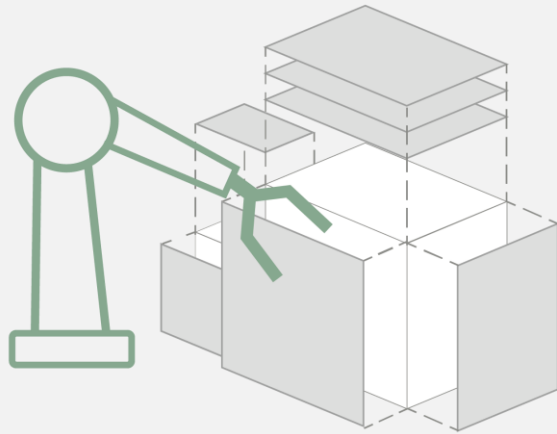
# PROCESS

Creating the benchmark dataset



# PROCESS

Complete benchmark dataset calculation



$$= \text{Impact factor per material} \times \text{Quantity + type of materials}$$



# PROCESS

Complete benchmark dataset calculation



# PROCESS

## Impact value calculation methodologies



1. MPG
2. EC
3. EC+

# PROCESS

## Impact value calculation methodologies



1. MPG -
2. EC
3. EC+

MilieuPrestatie gebouwen – according to Dutch building regulations [€]

# PROCESS

## Impact value calculation methodologies



1. MPG - MilieuPrestatie gebouwen - according to Dutch building regulations [€]
2. EC - Embodied carbon - according to Paris Proof [kg CO2]
3. EC+

# PROCESS

## Impact value calculation methodologies



1. MPG - MilieuPrestatie gebouwen - according to Dutch building regulations [€]
2. EC - Embodied carbon - according to Paris Proof [kg CO2]
3. EC+ - Embodied carbon - circularity factors integrated [kg CO2]

**MPG** = MilieuPrestatie gebouwen

**EC** = Embodied carbon values (according to Paris Proof)

**EC+** = Embodied carbon (circularity metrics included)

# PROCESS

EC+ calculation

1.

Carbon storage



2.

Replace cycle



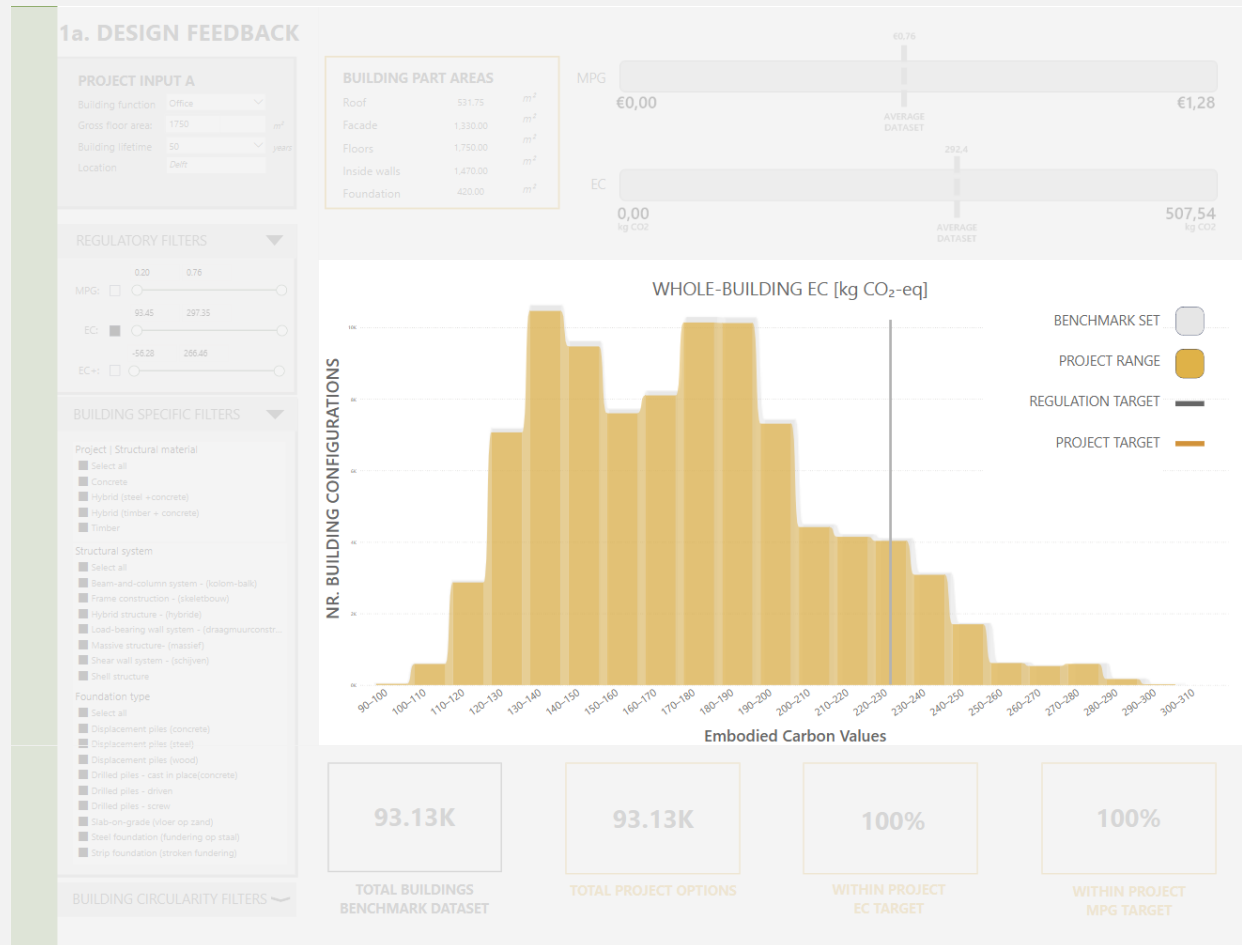
3.

Reuse e.o.l.  
'discount'



# OUTPUT

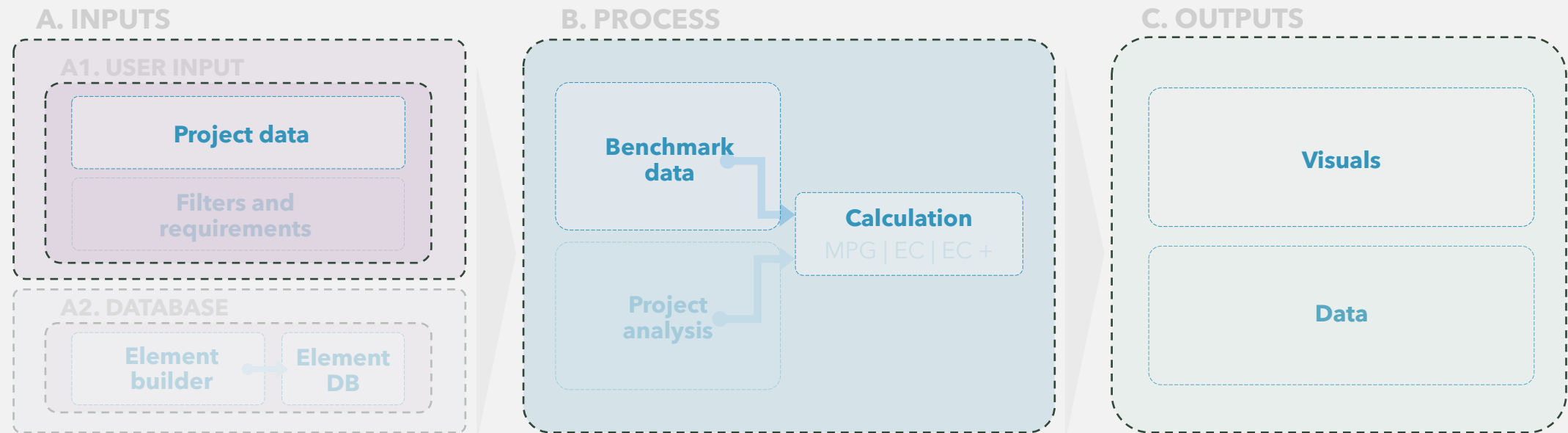
## Benchmark dataset



All possible building configurations  
+ environmental impact data

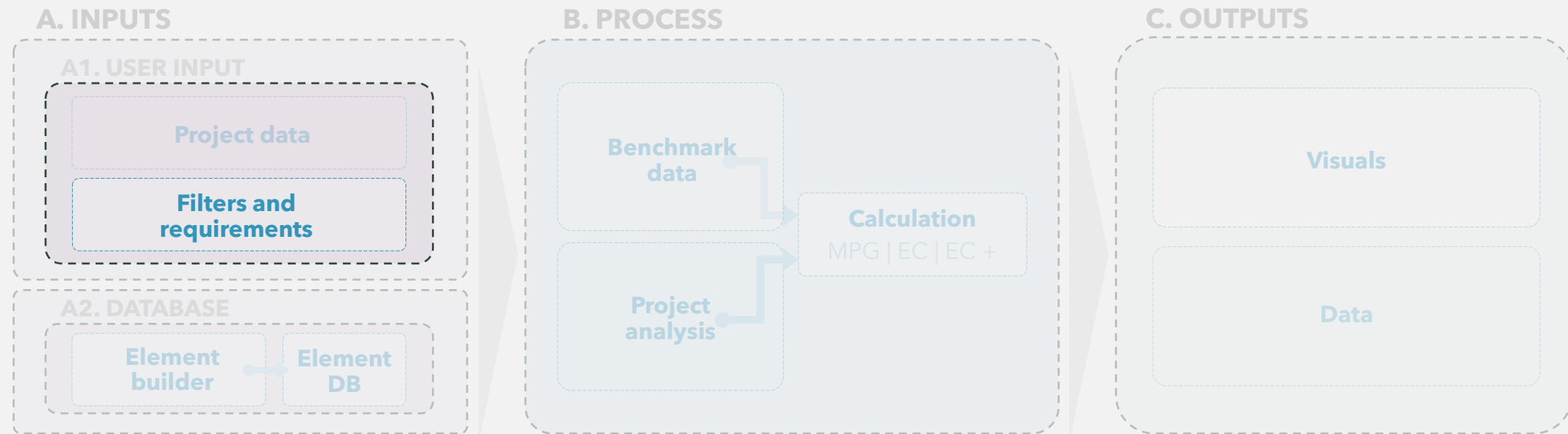
# TOOL MODULES

And sub-components



# TOOL MODULES

And sub-components



# INPUT

## Filters | Phase 1a

### General filters

REGULATORY FILTERS



VERIFICATION STATUS



### Building filters

BUILDING SPECIFIC FILTERS



Input



# INPUT

## Filters | Phase 1a

### General filters

REGULATORY FILTERS ▼

MPG:

EC:

EC+:

VERIFICATION STATUS ▼

Verified building elements

All elements

Verified building elements only

### Building filters

BUILDING SPECIFIC FILTERS ▼

BUILDING SPECIFIC FILTERS ▼

Input



# INPUT

## Filters | Phase 1a

### General filters

**REGULATORY FILTERS** ▼

MPG:

EC:

EC+:

**VERIFICATION STATUS** ▼

Verified building elements

All elements

Verified building elements only

### Building filters

**BUILDING SPECIFIC FILTERS** ▼

**Building height**

Select all

High-rise | 40 - 70 meters

Low-rise | 0 - 15 meters

Mid-rise | 15 - 40 meters

Tall buildings | 70 + meters

**Project | Structural material**

Select all

Concrete

Hybrid (steel + concrete)

Hybrid (timber + concrete)

Timber

### BUILDING SPECIFIC FILTERS

 ▼

Input



# INPUT

## Filters | Phase 1b

### General filters

#### REGULATORY FILTERS

MPG:

EC:

EC+:

#### VERIFICATION STATUS

Verified building elements

All elements

Verified building elements only

### Building filters

#### BUILDING SPECIFIC FILTERS

Building height

Select all

High-rise | 40 - 70 meters

Low-rise | 0 - 15 meters

Mid-rise | 15 - 40 meters

Tall buildings | 70 + meters

Project | Structural material

Select all

Concrete

Hybrid (steel + concrete)

Hybrid (timber + concrete)

Timber

#### BUILDING SPECIFIC FILTERS

##### Structural system

- Select all
- Beam-and-column system - (kolom-balk)
- Frame construction - (skeletbouw)
- Hybrid structure - (hybride)
- Load-bearing wall system - (draagmuurconstr...)
- Massive structure- (massief)
- Shear wall system - (schijven)
- Shell structure

##### Foundation type

- Select all
- Displacement piles (concrete)
- Displacement piles (steel)
- Displacement piles (wood)
- Drilled piles - cast in place(concrete)
- Drilled piles - driven
- Drilled piles - screw
- Slab-on-grade (vloer op zand)
- Steel foundation (fundering op staal)
- Strip foundation (stroken fundering)

# INP

## 1a. DESIGN FEEDBACK

**PROJECT INPUT A**

Building function: Office

Gross floor area: 1750 m<sup>2</sup>

Building lifetime: 50 years

Location: Delft

**REGULATORY FILTERS**

MPG: 0.20 - 0.76

EC: 93.45 - 186.56

EC+: 56.28 - 266.46

**BUILDING SPECIFIC FILTERS**

Project | Structural material

- Select all
- Concrete
- Hybrid (steel + concrete)
- Hybrid (timber + concrete)
- Timber

Structural system

- Select all
- Beam-and-column system - (kolom-balk)
- Frame construction - (skeletbouw)
- Hybrid structure - (hybride)
- Load-bearing wall system - (draagmuurconstr...)
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- Shell structure

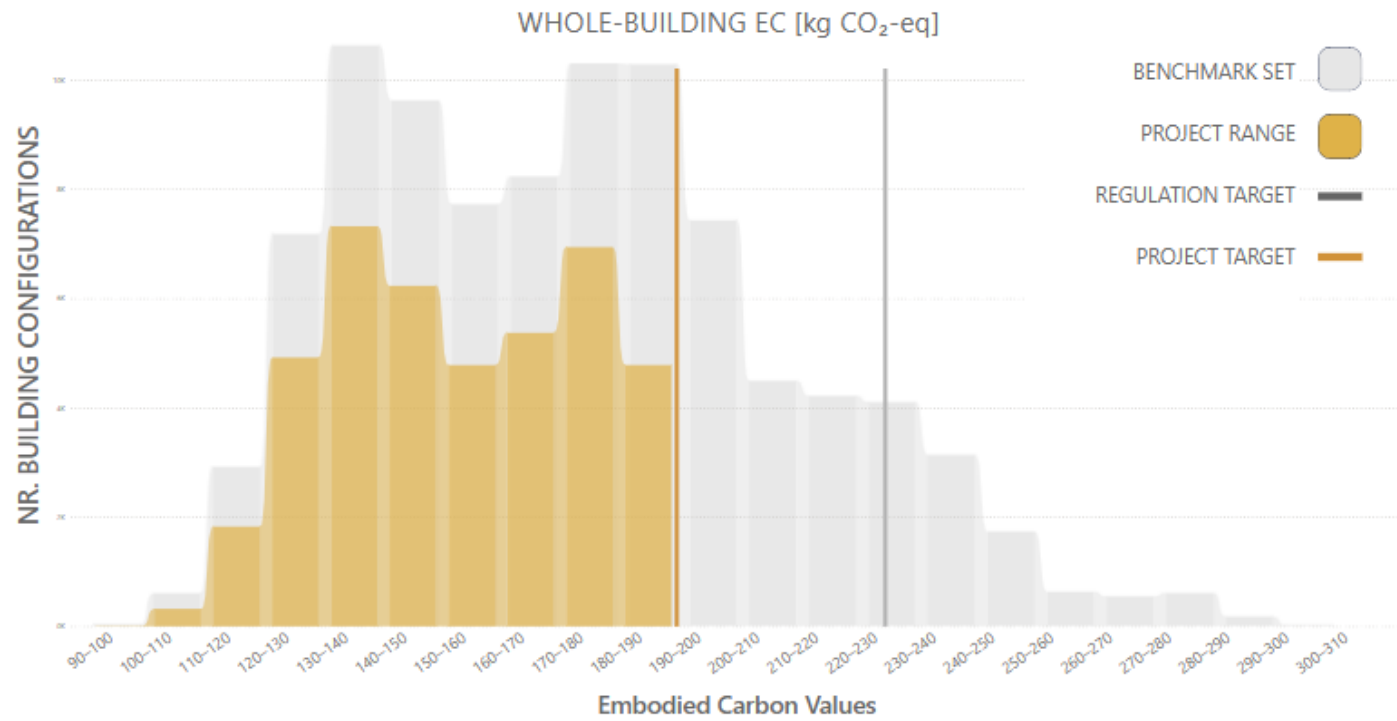
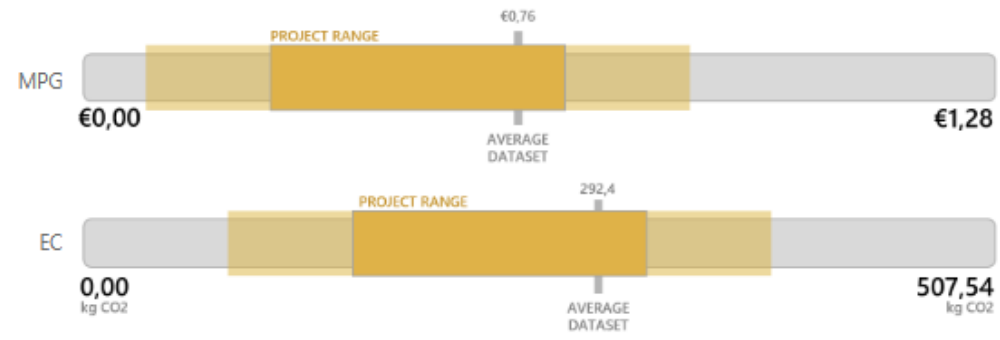
Foundation type

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- Displacement piles (concrete)
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- Slab-on-grade (vloer op zand)
- Steel foundation (fundering op staal)
- Strip foundation (stroken fundering)

**BUILDING CIRCULARITY FILTERS**

**BUILDING PART AREAS**

Roof	531.75	m <sup>2</sup>
Facade	1,330.00	m <sup>2</sup>
Floors	1,750.00	m <sup>2</sup>
Inside walls	1,470.00	m <sup>2</sup>
Foundation	420.00	m <sup>2</sup>



<b>93.13K</b>	<b>37.39K</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>100%</b>
TOTAL BUILDINGS BENCHMARK DATASET	TOTAL PROJECT OPTIONS	WITHIN PROJECT EC TARGET	WITHIN PROJECT MPG TARGET

# 1a. DESIGN FEEDBACK

## PROJECT INPUT A

Building function: All  
 Gross floor area: 0 m<sup>2</sup>  
 Building lifetime: All years  
 Location: Delft

## REGULATORY FILTERS

MPG: 0.20 - 0.76  
 EC: 93.45 - 297.35  
 EC+: -56.28 - 266.46

## BUILDING SPECIFIC FILTERS

### Project | Structural material

- Select all
- Concrete
- Hybrid (steel + concrete)
- Hybrid (timber + concrete)
- Timber

### Structural system

- Select all
- Beam-and-column system - (kolom-balk)
- Frame construction - (skeletbouw)
- Hybrid structure - (hybride)
- Load-bearing wall system - (draagmuurconstr...)
- Massive structure- (massief)
- Shear wall system - (schijven)
- Shell structure

### Foundation type

- Select all
- Displacement piles (concrete)
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- Drilled piles - screw
- Slab-on-grade (vloer op zand)
- Steel foundation (fundering op staal)
- Strip foundation (stroken fundering)

## BUILDING CIRCULARITY FILTERS

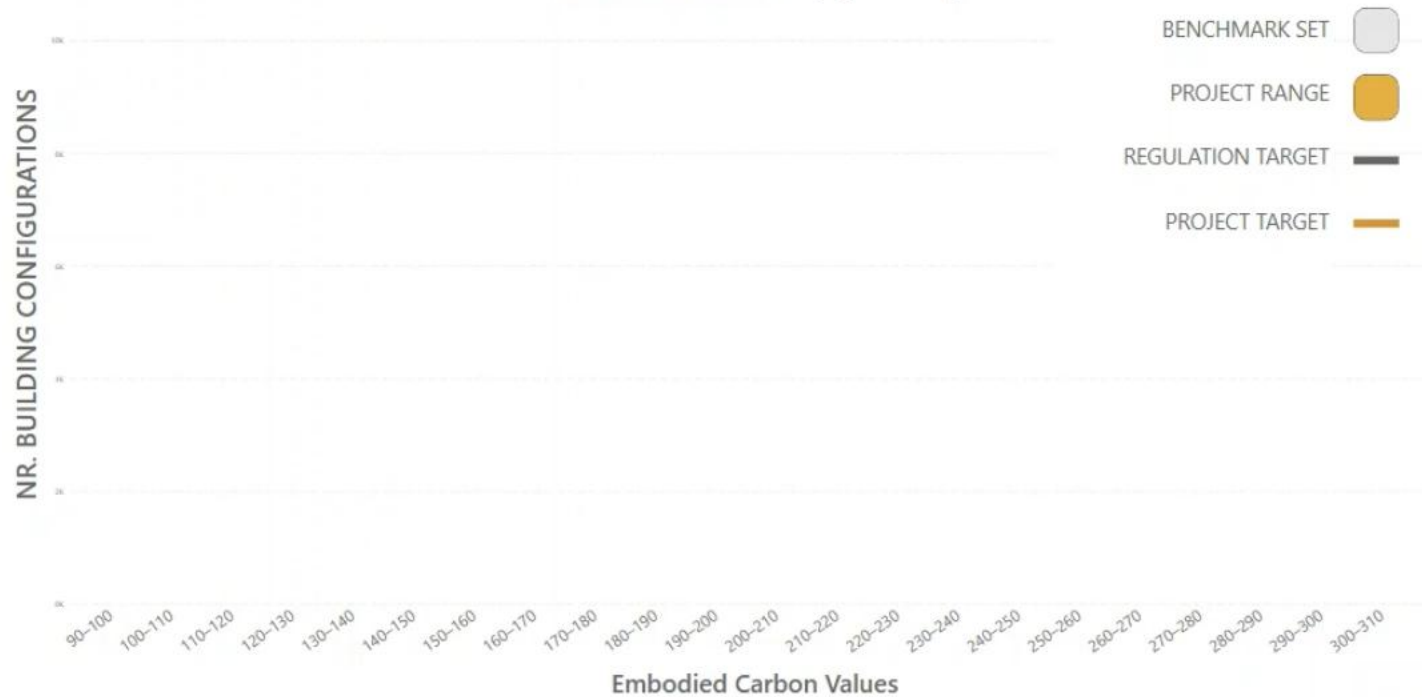
## BUILDING PART AREAS

Roof	0.00	m <sup>2</sup>
Facade	0.00	m <sup>2</sup>
Floors	0.00	m <sup>2</sup>
Inside walls	0.00	m <sup>2</sup>
Foundation	0.00	m <sup>2</sup>

MPG: €0,00 - €1,28

EC: 0,00 kg CO<sub>2</sub> - 507,54 kg CO<sub>2</sub>

## WHOLE-BUILDING EC [kg CO<sub>2</sub>-eq]



--K

TOTAL BUILDINGS  
BENCHMARK DATASET

--K

TOTAL PROJECT OPTIONS

100%

WITHIN PROJECT  
EC TARGET

100%

WITHIN PROJECT  
MPG TARGET

# INPUT

## 1a. DESIGN FEEDBACK

**PROJECT INPUT A**

Building function: Office

Gross floor area: 1750 m<sup>2</sup>

Building lifetime: 50 years

Location: Delft

**REGULATORY FILTERS**

MPG: 0.20 - 0.76

EC: 93.45 - 186.56

EC+: 56.28 - 266.46

**BUILDING SPECIFIC FILTERS**

**Project | Structural material**

- Select all
- Concrete
- Hybrid (steel + concrete)
- Hybrid (timber + concrete)
- Timber

**Structural system**

- Select all
- Beam-and-column system - (kolom-balk)
- Frame construction - (skeletbouw)
- Hybrid structure - (hybride)
- Load-bearing wall system - (draagmuurconstr...)
- Massive structure- (massief)
- Shear wall system - (schijven)
- Shell structure

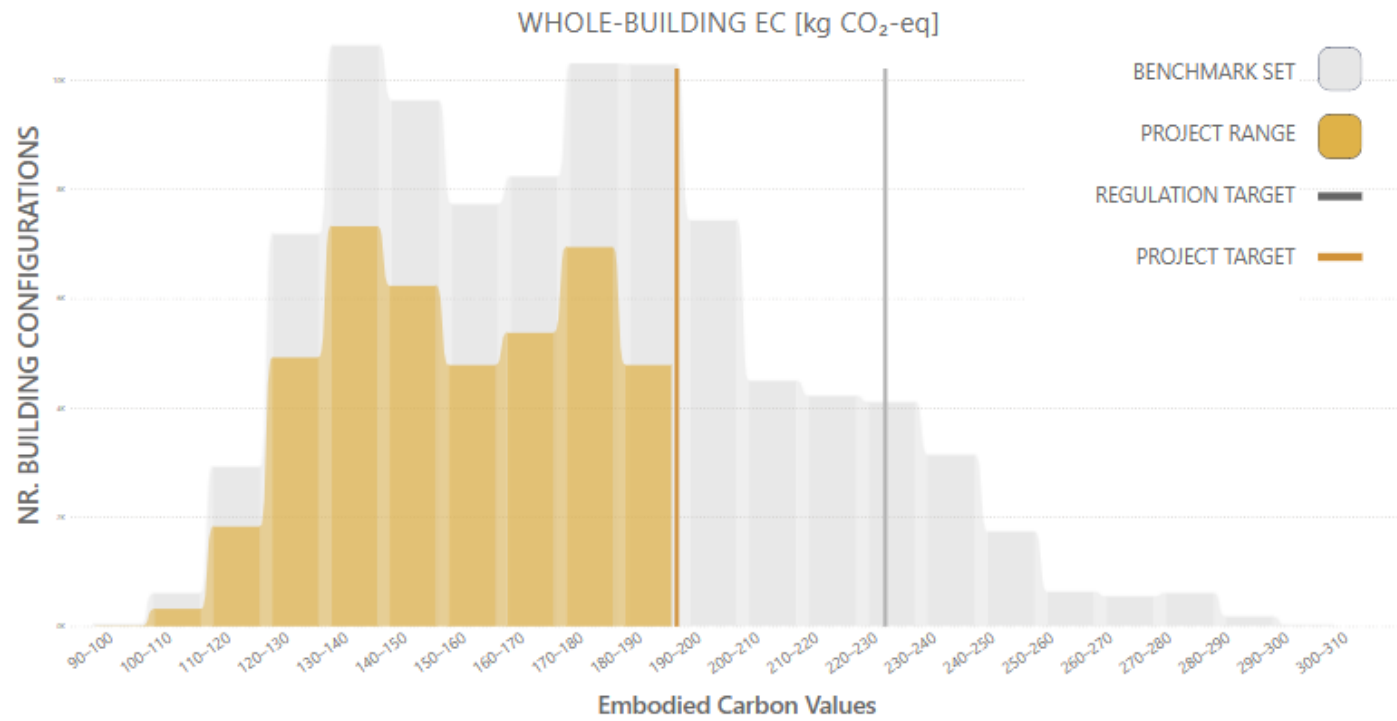
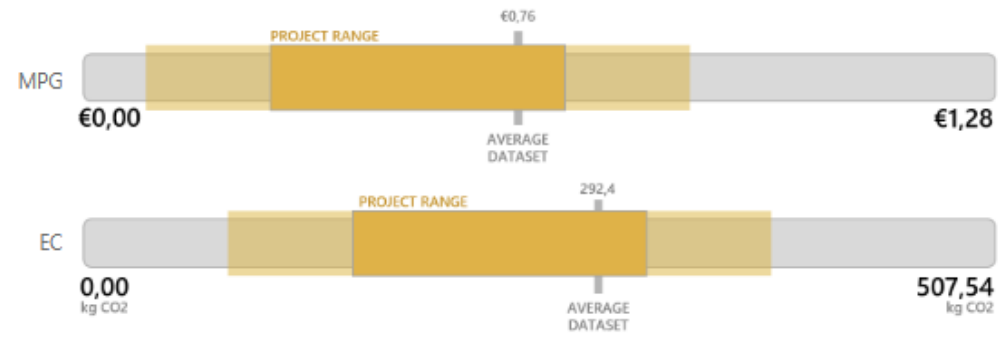
**Foundation type**

- Select all
- Displacement piles (concrete)
- Displacement piles (steel)
- Displacement piles (wood)
- Drilled piles - cast in place(concrete)
- Drilled piles - driven
- Drilled piles - screw
- Slab-on-grade (vloer op zand)
- Steel foundation (fundering op staal)
- Strip foundation (stroken fundering)

**BUILDING CIRCULARITY FILTERS**

**BUILDING PART AREAS**

Roof	531.75	m <sup>2</sup>
Facade	1,330.00	m <sup>2</sup>
Floors	1,750.00	m <sup>2</sup>
Inside walls	1,470.00	m <sup>2</sup>
Foundation	420.00	m <sup>2</sup>



<b>93.13K</b>	<b>37.39K</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>TOTAL BUILDINGS BENCHMARK DATASET</b>	<b>TOTAL PROJECT OPTIONS</b>	<b>WITHIN PROJECT EC TARGET</b>	<b>WITHIN PROJECT MPG TARGET</b>

# INPUT

## Filters | Phase 1b

### General filters


REGULATORY FILTERS 


VERIFICATION STATUS 


### Building filters


BUILDING SPECIFIC FILTERS 


### Element filters


ELEMENT FILTERS 

ROOF 

FAÇADE 

INTERIOR WALL 

FLOOR 

FOUNDATION 



# INPUT

## Filters | Phase 1b

### General filters


REGULATORY FILTERS 


VERIFICATION STATUS 


### Building filters


BUILDING SPECIFIC FILTERS 


### Element filters


ELEMENT FILTERS 


ROOF 

FAÇADE 

INTERIOR WALL 

FLOOR 

FOUNDATION 

FLOOR 

Floortype

- Select all
- Breedplaatvloer
- CLT\_vloer
- IHW\_vloer\_beton
- Kanaalplaatvloer
- Staalplaatbetonvloer
- TCC\_vloer
- TT\_plaatvloer

Top system

- Select all
- No\_top\_system
- Raised\_floors
- Screed
- Climate\_system\_above\_floor
- Finishing
- Other

Bottom system

- Select all
- Building\_services
- Lowered\_ceiling
- No\_bottom\_system

Circular requirements

- Select all
- Biobased
- Demountable
- Detachable
- Mono-material
- Recycle
- Reused

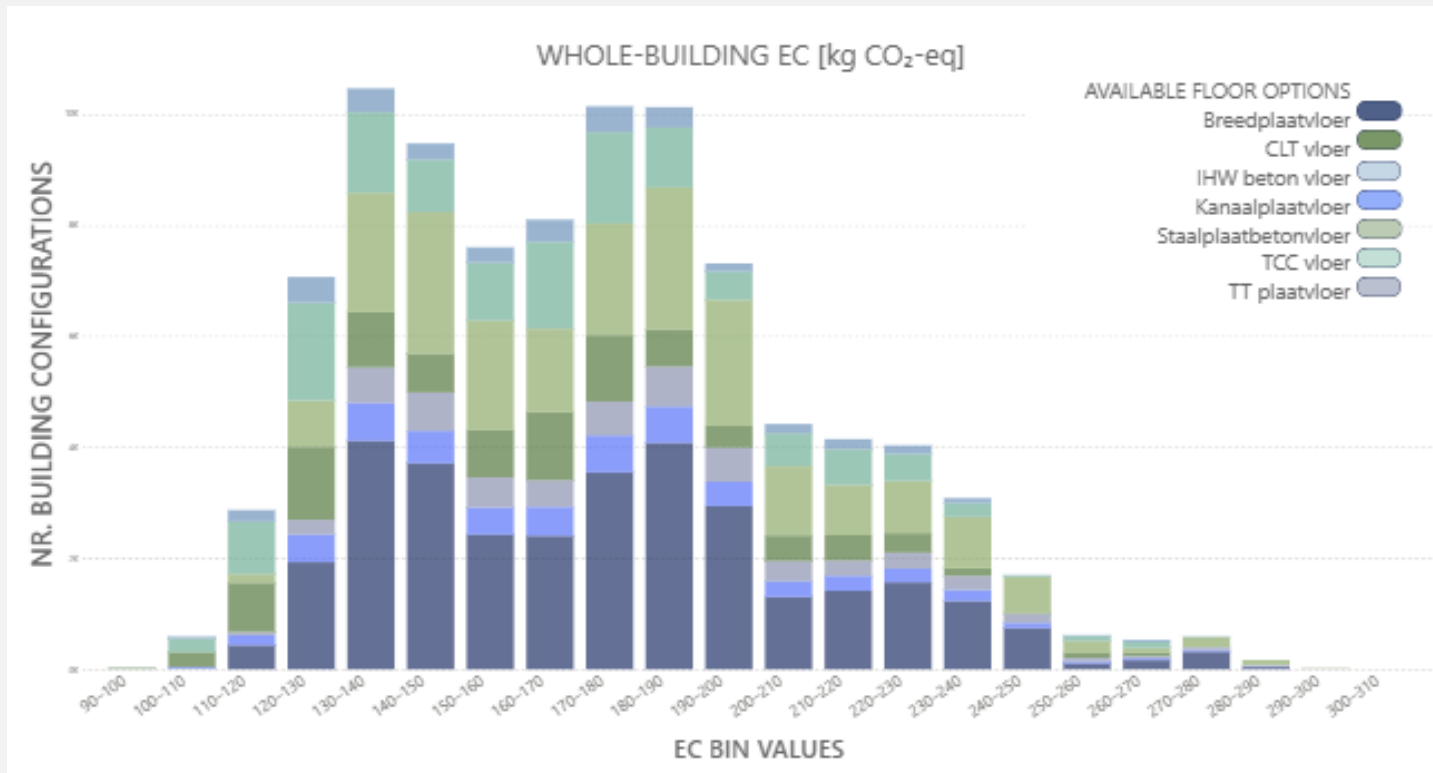
# PROCESS

## Project analysis



# PROJECT DATA

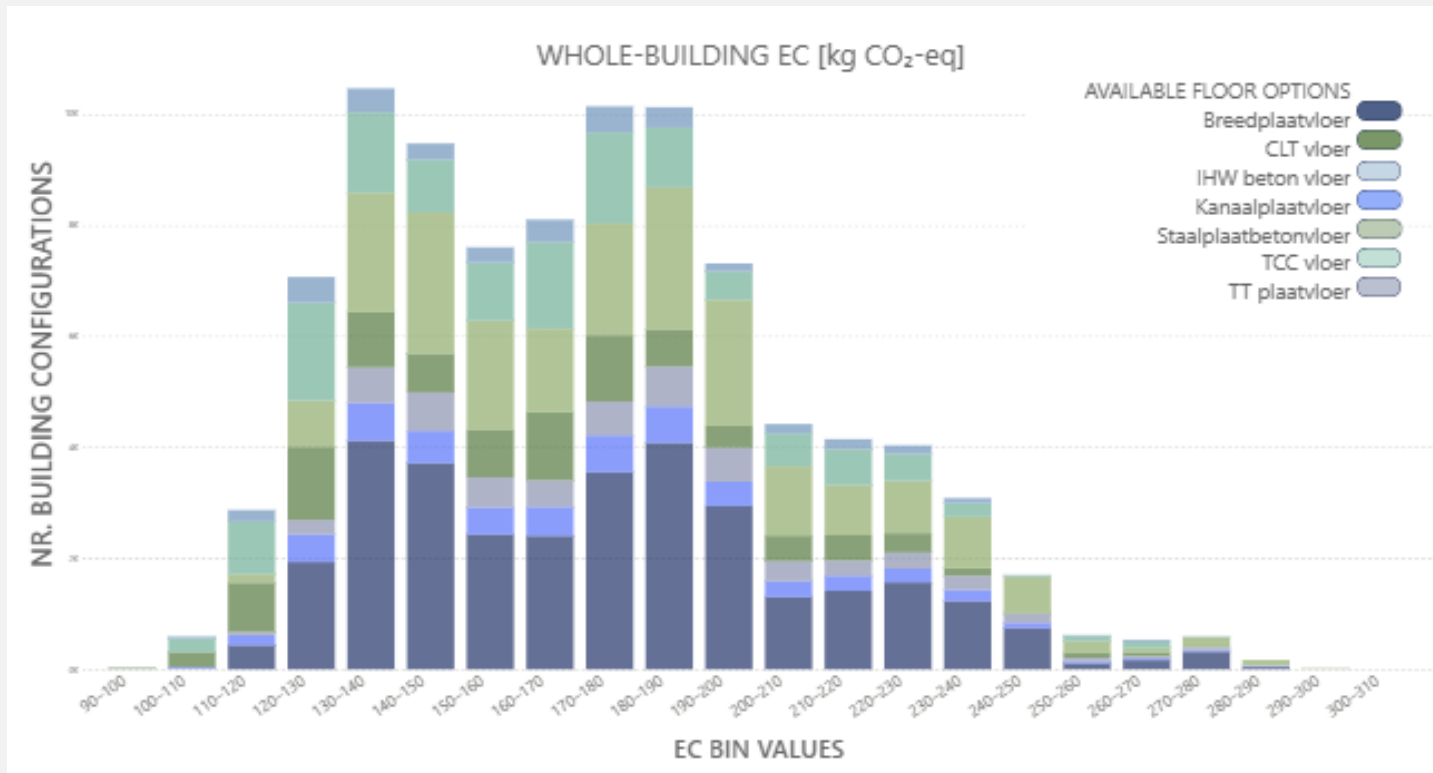
## Benchmark data



# B. PROCESS

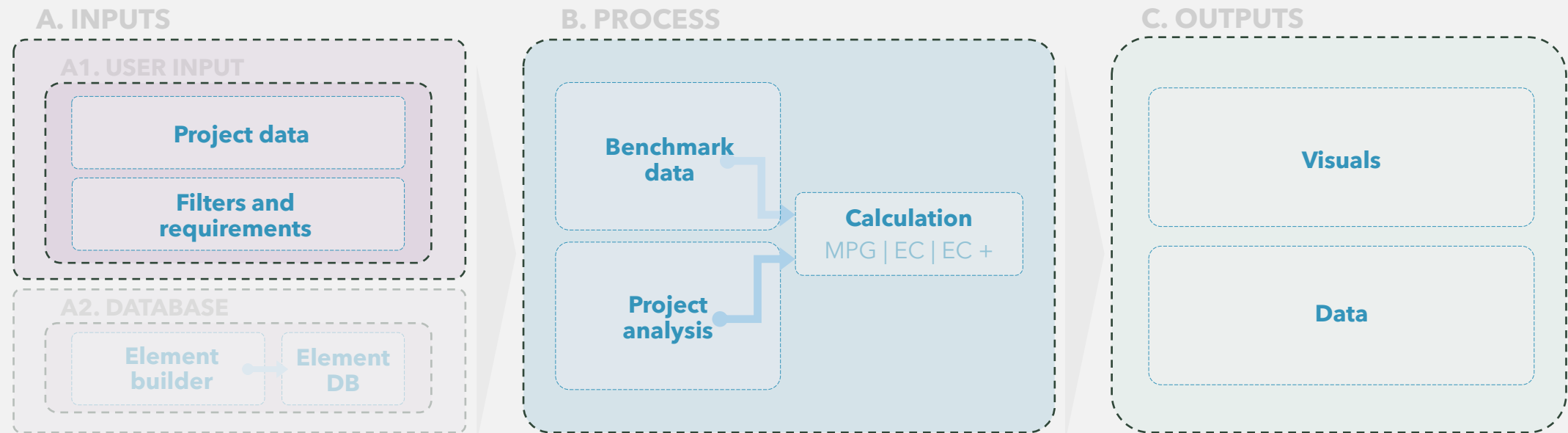
Benchmark data

Hier een soort concluderende slide om het voorbeeld af te sluiten



# TOOL MODULES

And sub-components



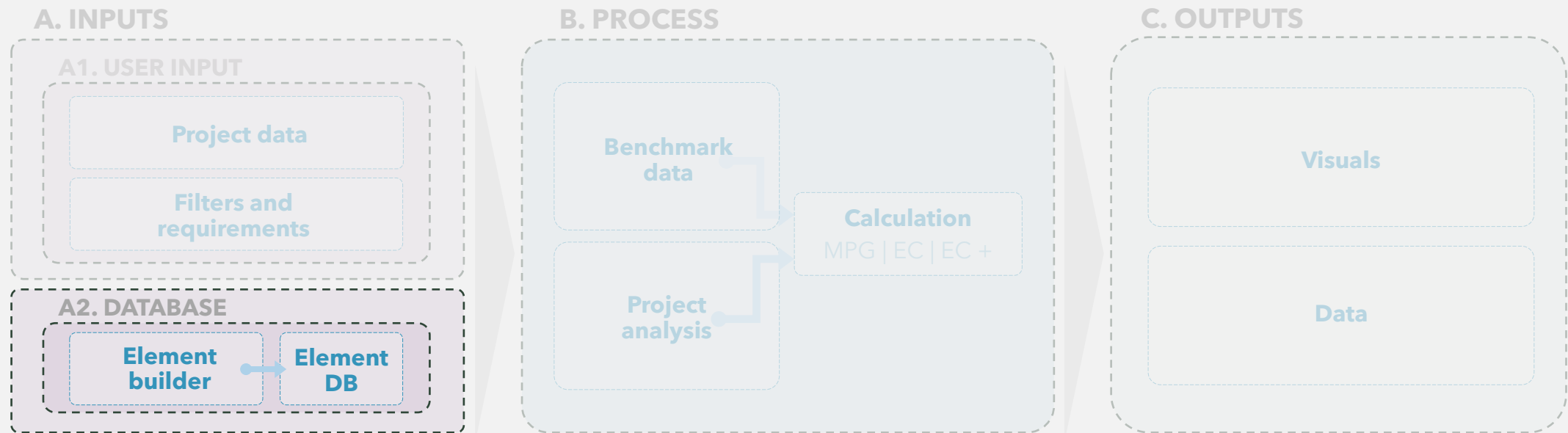
# VOORBEELD VIDEO

+ video



# TOOL MODULES

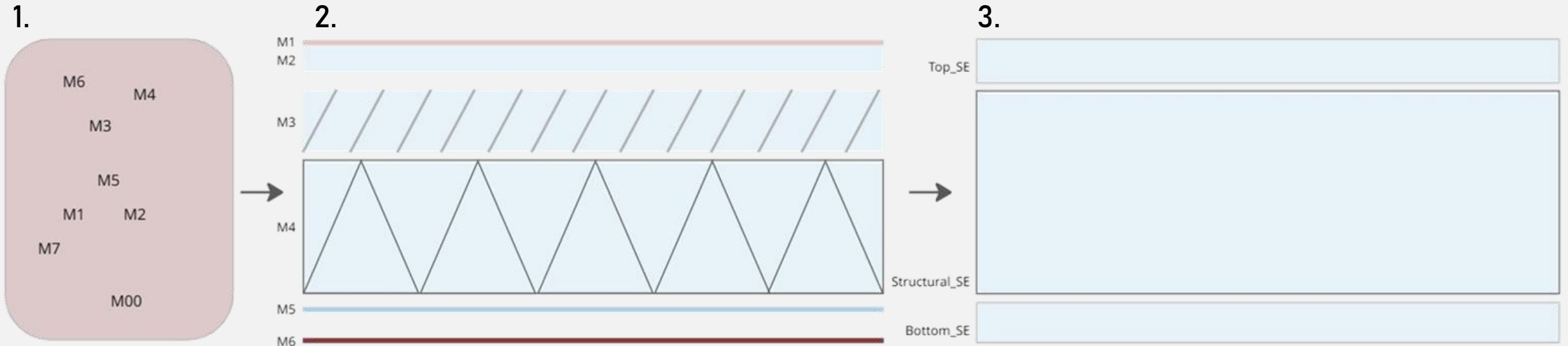
## Element builder



# DATABASE

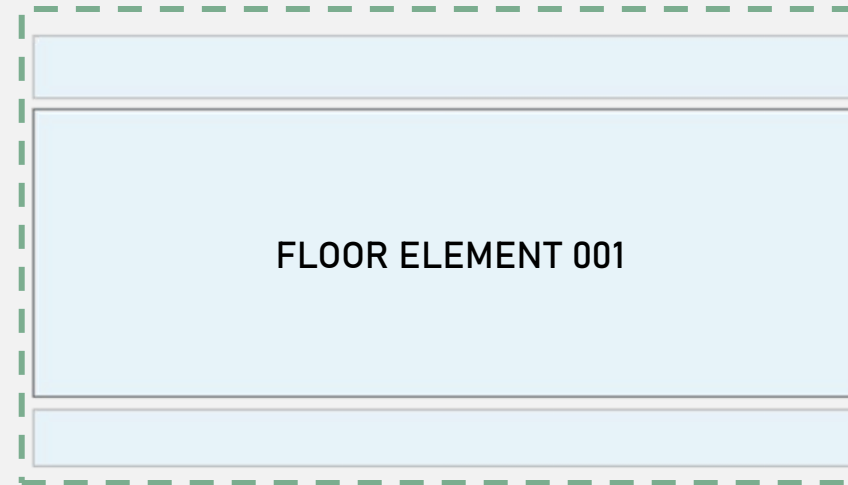
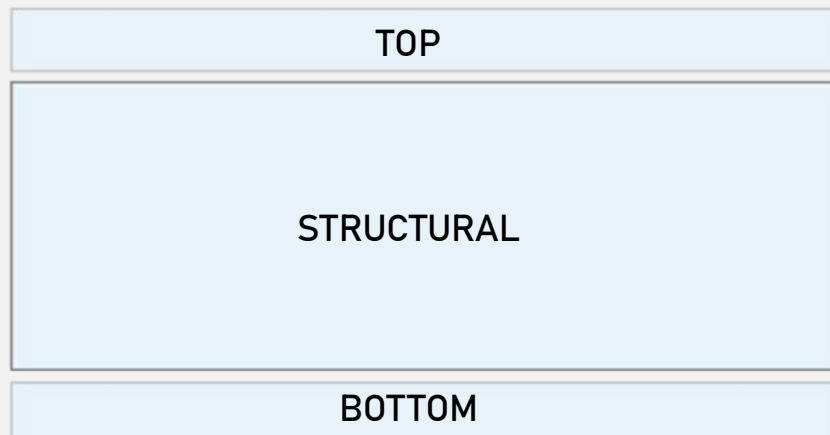
## Element builder – filling the database

1. Unstructured EPD database
2. Material database (Structured and normalized)
3. Sub-element database (Top, structure and bottom)



# DATABASE

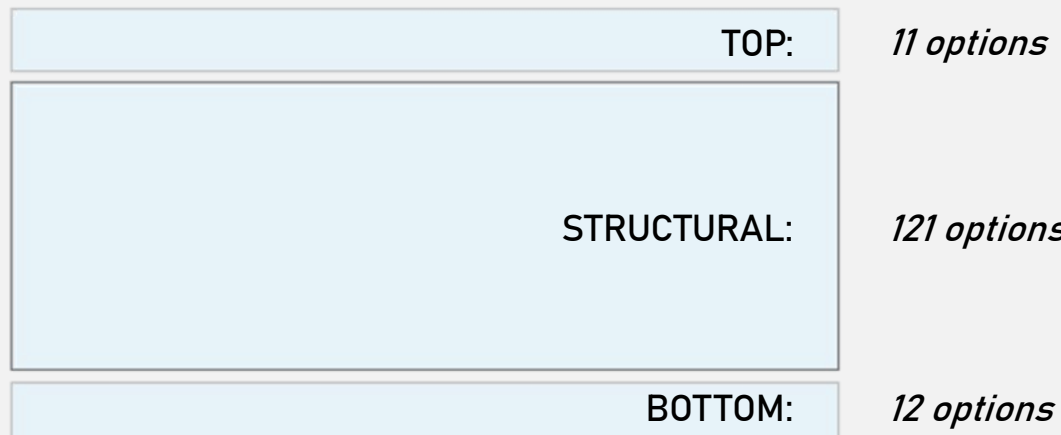
Element builder - filling the database



- Saved element data:**
- *ID*
  - *Building part*
  - *Structural system*
  - *Sub-elements*
  - *Material layers*
  - *Environmental impact values*
  - *Force system(s)*
  - *Typical span*
  - *Thickness*

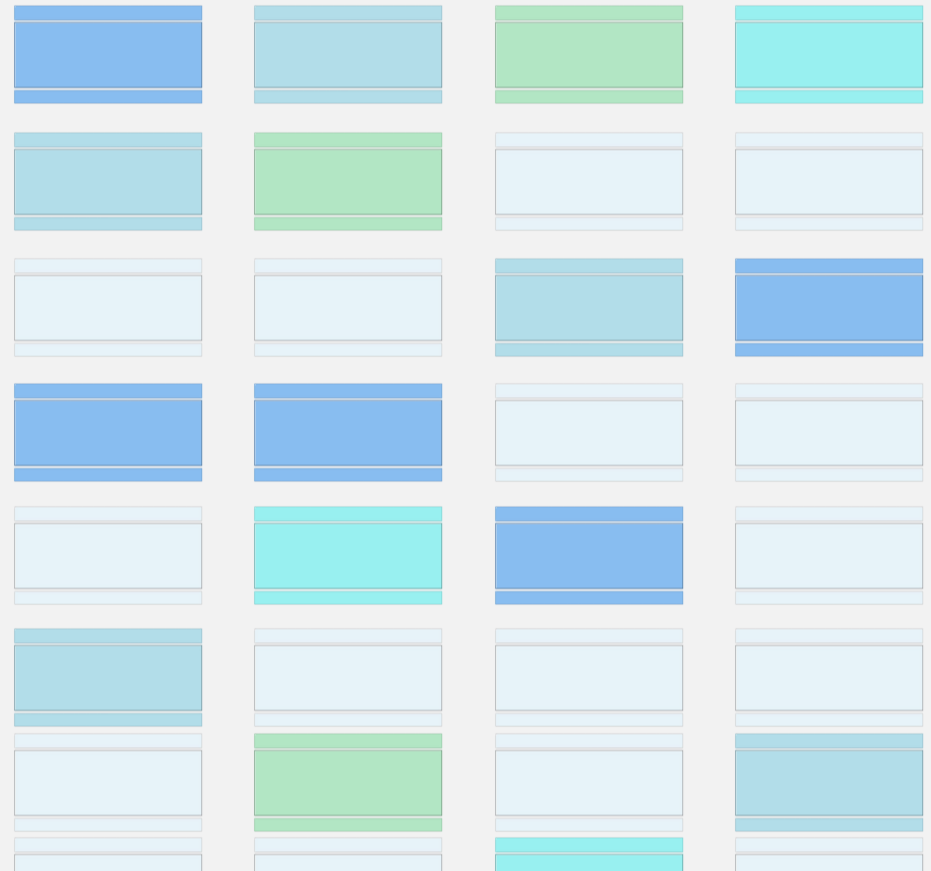
# DATABASE

Element builder - filling the database



=

15.972 floor element options (with current database size)



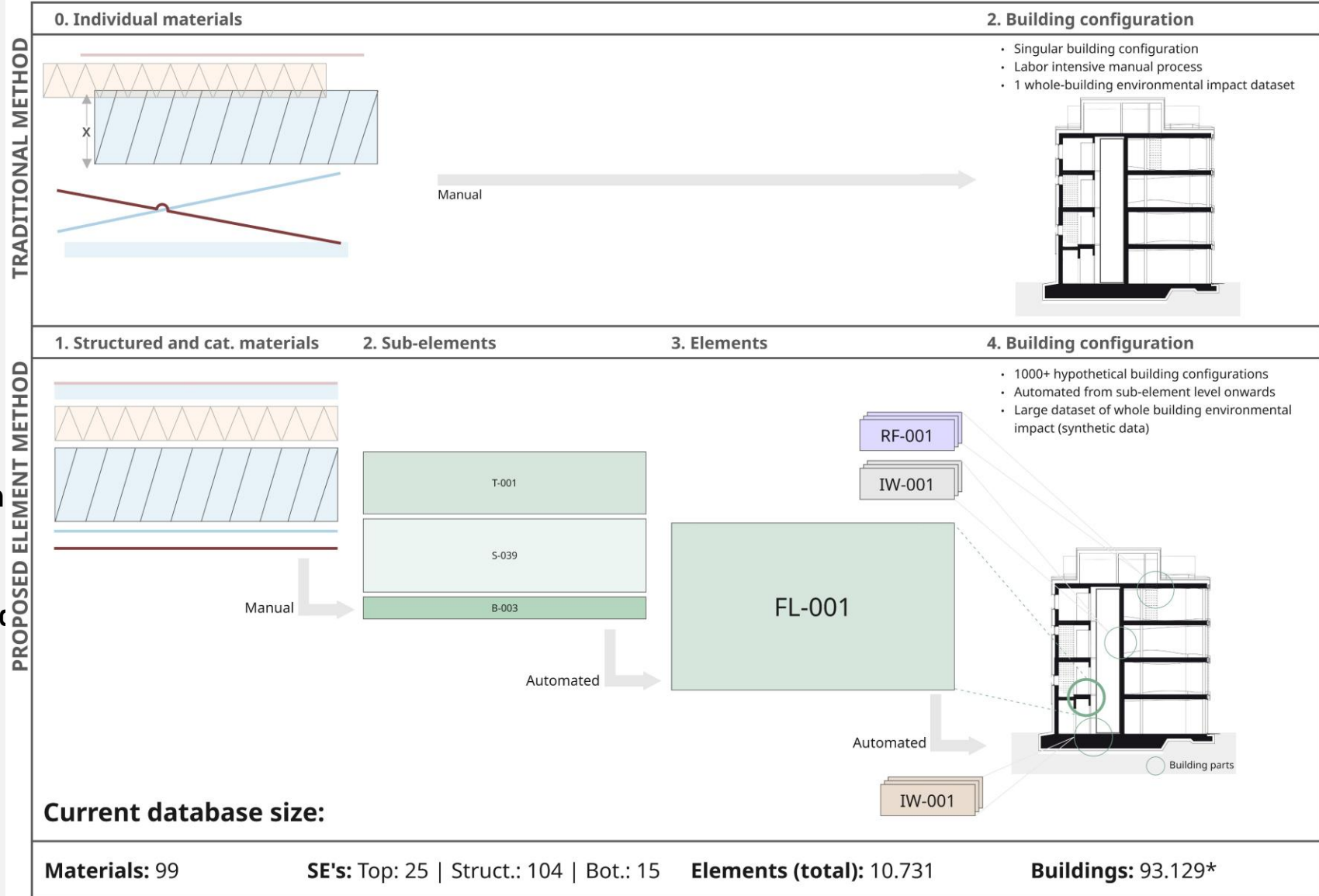
# COMPARE

Benchmark data

Presenteer hier 1 v 1

In about half an hour the options

Wood structure – hybrid



# BIJKOMENDE VOORDELEN

## Benchmark data

Leg hier uit dat door de enorme dataset je niet alleen maar UC 1 hebt, maar ook UC 2 en 3

# CONCLUDERENDE SLIDE

Benchmark data

Integratie en vereenvoudiging van berekening in design process>>  
Meer duurzame gebouwen

# DISCUSSION

TSubtitle

Wat wil je hier wel en niet zeggen?