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P5 Presentation | Master Thesis Dissertation AR3B025 Building Technology Graduation Studio

Engineering Biocomposites

Circularity in Facade Cladding Systems with Complex Geometries

Samanwita Ghosh | 5577640 MSc Building Technology





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Circularity in Facade Cladding Systems with Complex Geometries

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TUDelft **BK**Bouwkunde



tes nplex Geometries



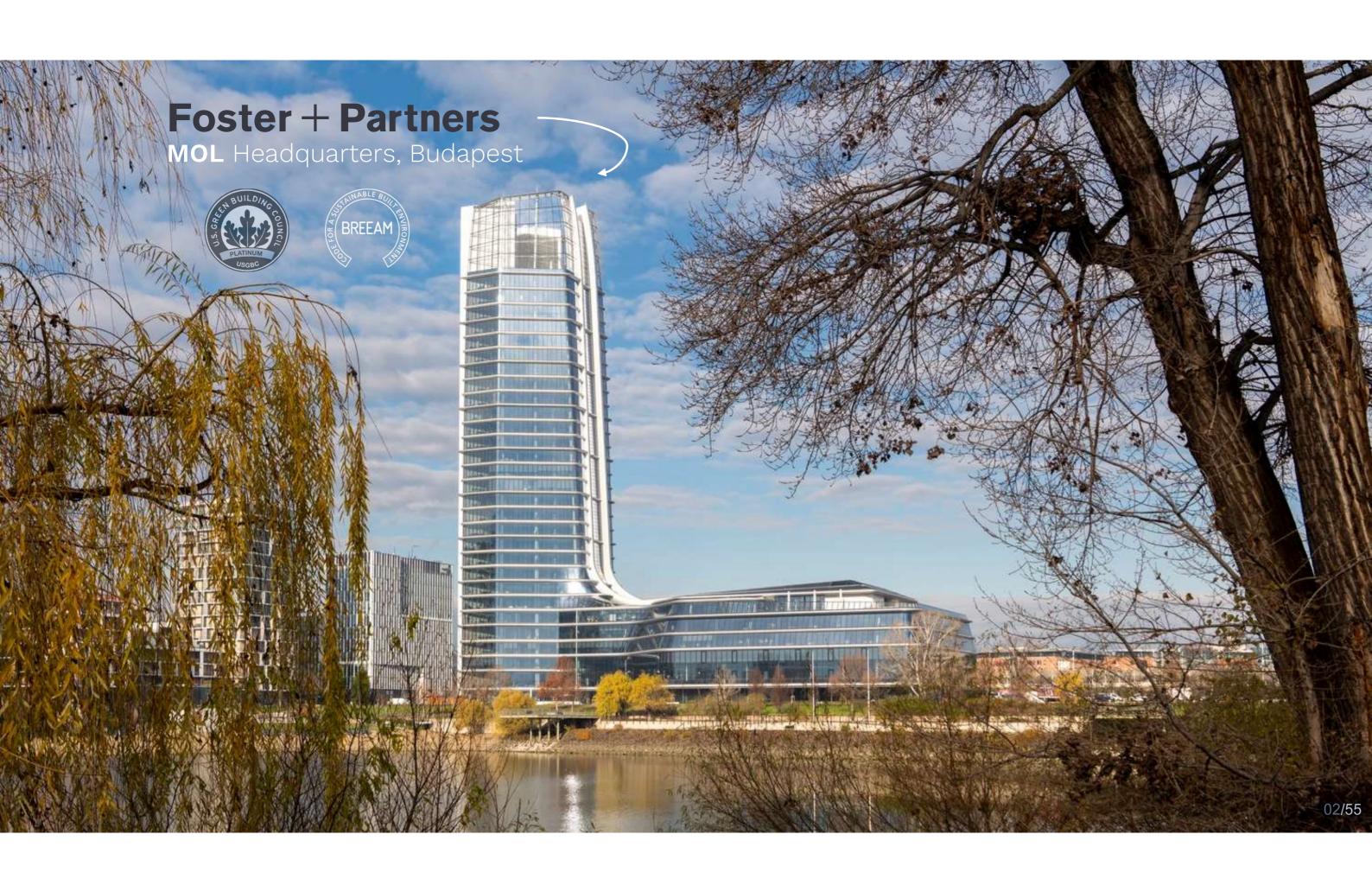
Engineering Biocomposites

Circularity in Facade Cladding Systems with Complex Geometries

Architectural Façade & Products Research Group Sustainable Architectural **Materials & Structures** Research Group

under the guidance of





66

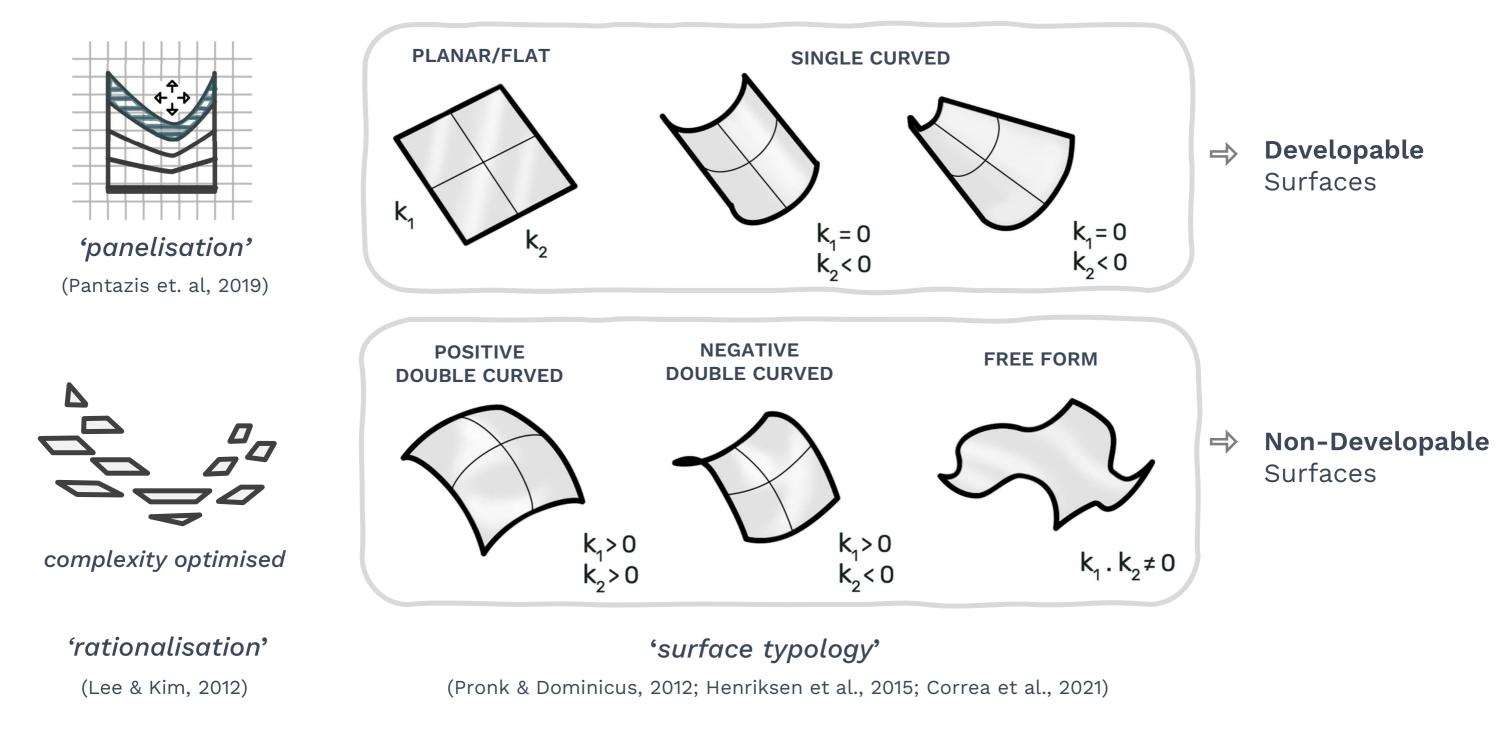
.... The complex & challenging form of the building is predominantly **constructed from** flat and easy-to-manufacture panels while keeping the curve only where they are truly needed.

> **Complex Geometry & Fabrication of MOL Facade** (Applied R+D Group Foster + Partners, 2022)

22



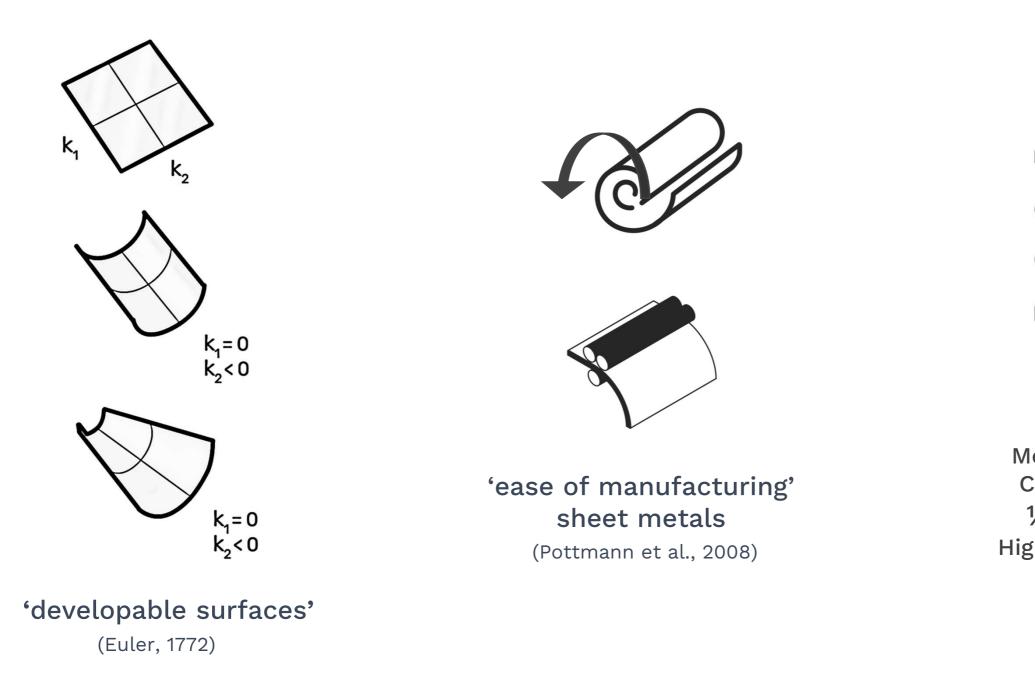
Convention



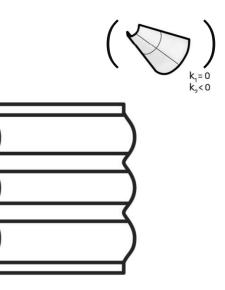
Illustrations: Own

Developables

The materials display developability, geometric ability to fold & transform flat without distortion



Icons: The Noun Project; Illustrations: Own

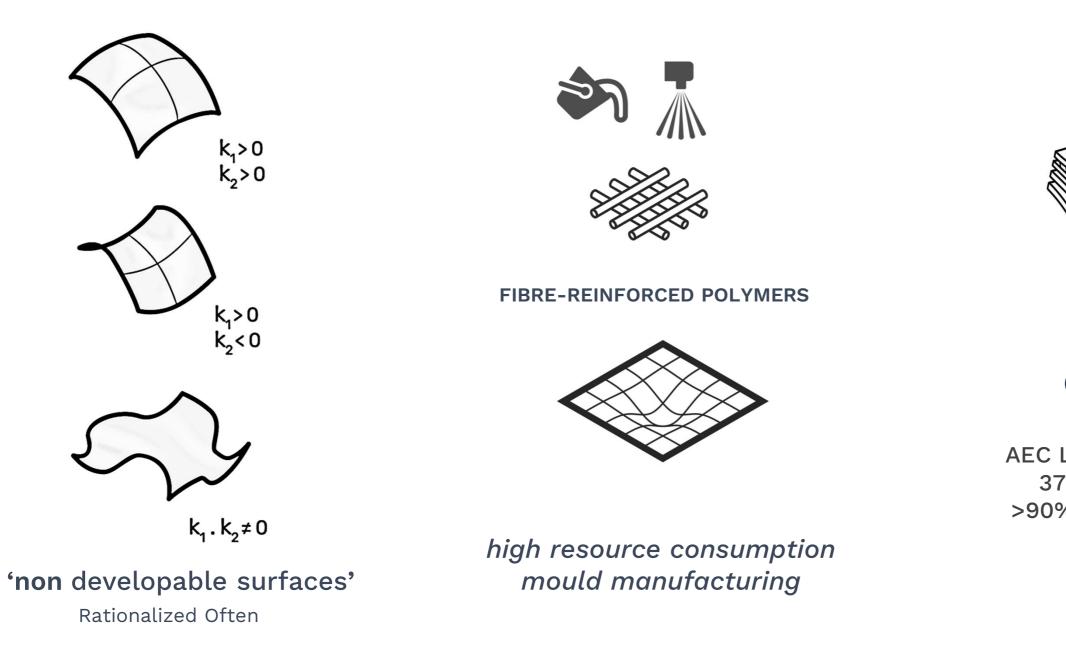


Aluminium

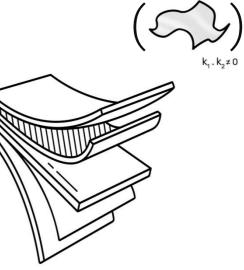
Most Favoured for Complex Profiles 1⁄3 Steel Weight High Reuse Potential

Non-Developables

The materials that can't be folded & transformed back without distortion



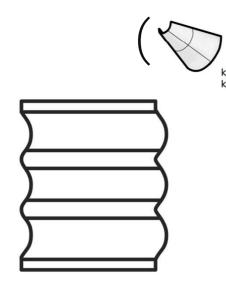
Icons: The Noun Project; Illustrations: Own

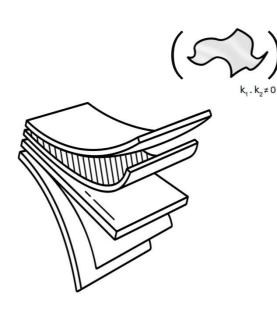


Glass-FRP

AEC Largest Consumer : 37% Market Share >90% of all FRP's were GFRP

Convention





Aluminium

1.1 Giga Tonnes CO2 (2021) + Electrical Consumption

(IEA, 2022)

sheet-formable high reuse potential developable material

GFRP

'2.5 T CO2/glass fibre ton' 1/3RD of Production is Waste (EuCia, 2022; Qureshi, 2022)

formwork dependent high production waste mouldable material

Need for Transitioning to a Circular Built Environment

Icons: The Noun Project; Illustrations: Own



Alternatives to **Conventional Materials**

WHAT IF THESE PANELS WERE LOWER IN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ?

'easy to manufacture'
'developable'
'low in CO₂ emissions'
'closed resource loops'

IS IT POSSIBLE?



Opportunity & Gaps



Natural Fibre Reinforced **Polymeric Composites**

Despite extensive academic studies

Competence in Mechanical Properties Low Eco-Impact, Local Production Carbon Sequestering, Renewable Origins Biodegradable



NFRP Façade Products

"do not exist yet"

(Fiore et al., 2015) (Mugahed Amran et al. 2018) (Vinay et al. 2022) (Qureshi, 2022)



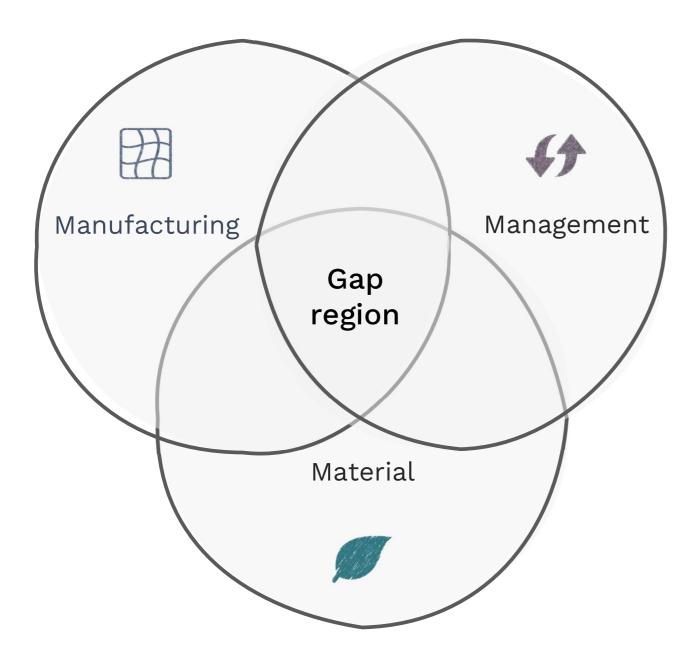
'developability in fibrous biocomposites'

"not proven yet"

(Tomas, 1996) (Chanda & Bhattacharyya, 2022)

Relevant Domains

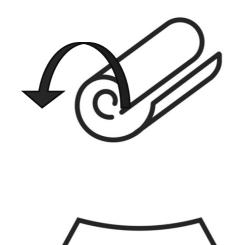
For circular façade product with NFRP, these domains need addressal

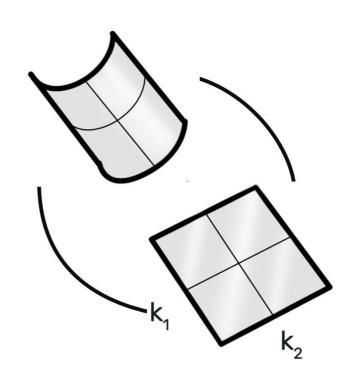




fully renewable origins ? viable for panel manufacturing ? suitable for multiple use cycles ? (Dahy, 2019) Addressing the Gap







'promote 100% biobased'

(Joustra & Bessai, 2021)

Redefining Conventional Façade Material Choices (H. Dahy, 2019)

'prove developability'

(Tomas, 1996)

Ability to Reshape without Distortion Intensifies product use

(Cramer, 2017)

MANUFACTURING

'product integrity > material integrity'



'preserve value'

(Joustra & Bessai, 2021)

(Joustra & Bessai, 2021)



MANAGEMENT

Research Question

66

How to engineer a fibre-reinforced biocomposite façade cladding panel for complex geometries?



Literature Review



System Design

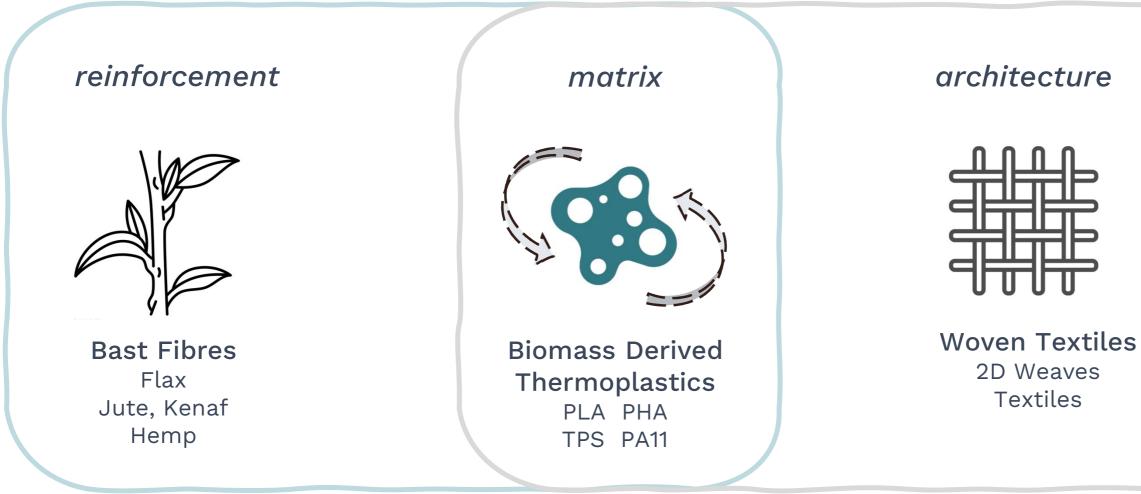
"



Iterative Analysis

Material Review

Natural Fibre Reinforced Composite Parameters for Cladding Applications

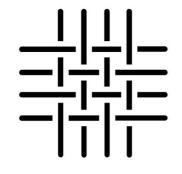


'100% biobased' Fully biomass derived feedstocks

thermoplastics allow reforming, unlike thermosets

'developability'

Selection + Sourcing

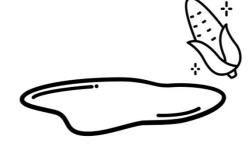


Flax (Natural Fibre)

'strongest natural fibre, local to EU'

343 -1500 MPa Tensile Strength (Linen)

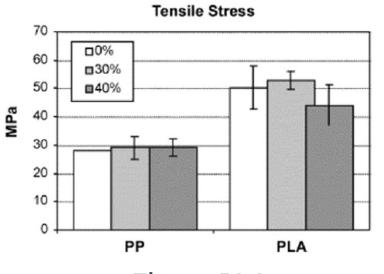
(Llyod, 1996; Mohanty et al., 2005)



PLA (Bioplastic)

'100% bio-sourced & biodegradable' Tg = 65-70 C, compatible with Flax Biobased Thermoplastic

(Morales et al. 2017; Dahy, 2019)



'PLA+flax 50% stronger than PP+flax' higher strength than petro-based Outperforms other combinations

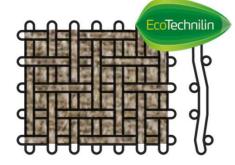
(Oksman et al., 2003; Manral et al. 2020)

Flax + PLA

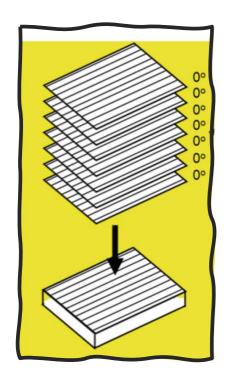
Configuration

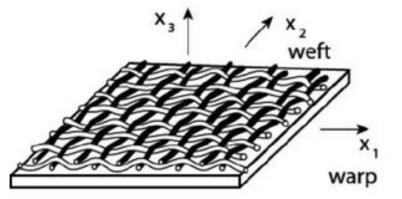
Consolidation

'Vacuum Assisted Resin Transfer Moulding'



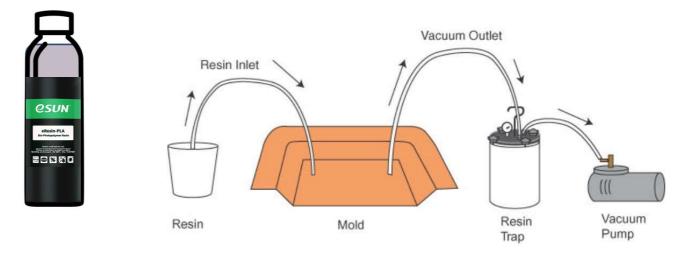
'2x2 Twill Weave Flax Fabric'
Warp Strength = Weft Strength
Pliable, High Drapability
High Impact Resistance





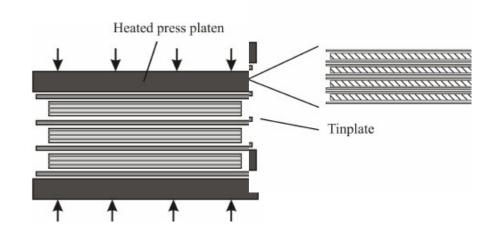
'Unidirectional Layup'

Twill Weave is Directionless (Kazmi et al., 2023)



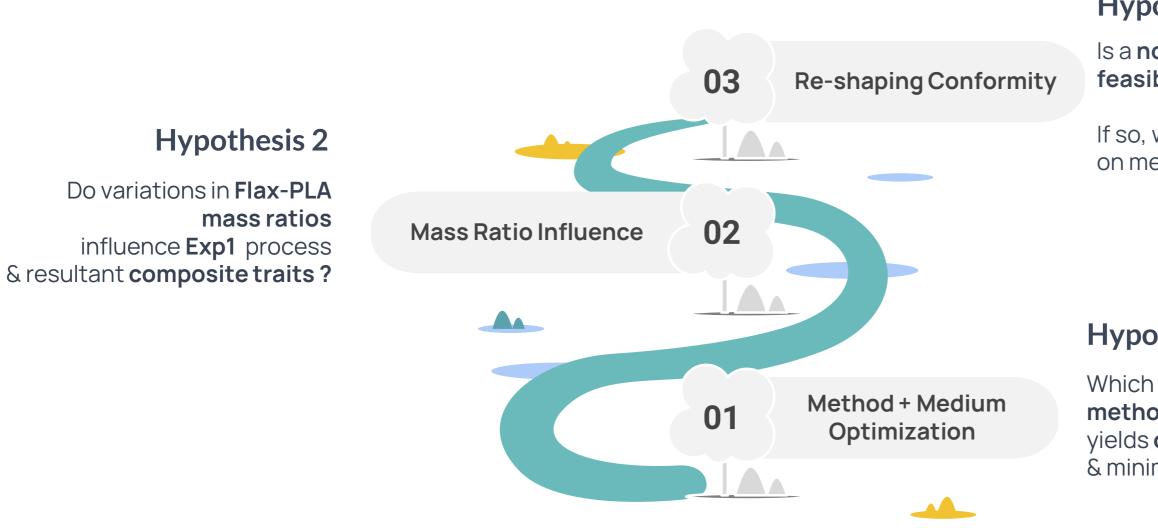
'Resin Film Infusion' & Hydraulic Hot Press





Design of Experiments

Experimental Road Map to System Design



Hypothesis 3

Is a **novel reshaping strategy feasible** for biocomposites?

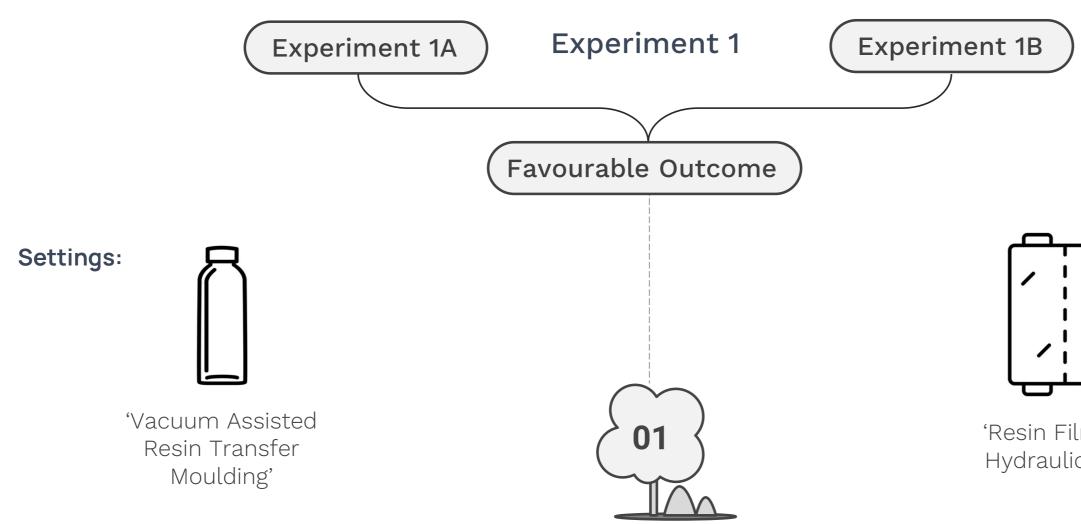
If so, what are the **impacts** on mechanical properties?

Hypothesis 1

method-medium combination yields **optimal** sheet **consolidation** & minimal resource consumption ?

Design of Experiment 1

Which method-medium combination is optimum?



Response Variables: Consolidation, Texture Quality, Time - Cost - Skill Required, Waste Generated, Viability for Sheet Material

Method + Medium Optimization



'Resin Film Infusion' Hydraulic Hot Press

Experiment 1A

Vacuum Assisted Resin Transfer with PLA Photopolymer Resin



Vacuum Bagging Essentials + Resin Infusion Kit

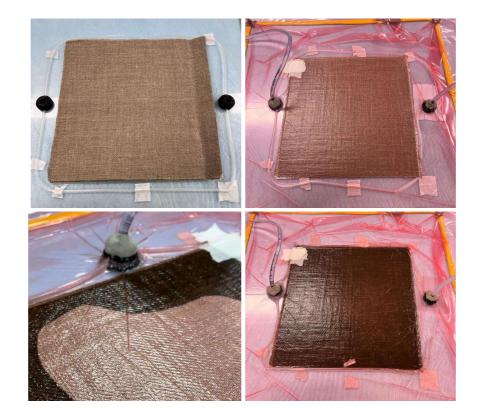


Technical Twill Flax Fabric

Bio-photopolymer Resin

setup

Previous Work at TU Delft (N. Merhi, 2022)



VARTM + UV Curing 24 hours 48 hours Time Required = **72+ Hours** Cost & Skill Required = **High**

procedure

Production at Think Lab, TU Delft (S. Ghosh, 2023) Consolidation = **Poor** Surface Quality = **Uncured** Waste Generated = **High Consumables**

Method + Medium Optimization



response variables

Experiment 1B

Resin Film Infusion with PLA Film



Fontjine Lab Press + PHI Hydraulic Press Steel Mould Plates + Silicone Rubber





Technical Twill Flax Fabric PL

PLA Film Resin

setup

Reviewed Literature (Morales et al., 2017; Kazmi et al., 2023)

onpsp



165 °C Heated Contact + 20 °C Cold Press 165 °C for 8 mins + 2.5 Tons 20 °C for 5 mins

procedure

Production at NPSP, Amsterdam Sloterdijk Under supervision of Willem Bottger Consolidation = Excellent Impregnation Surface Quality = Smooth, Cured Consumable = Zero Waste Generated

Method + Medium Optimization



Time Required = **15 Mins** Cost & Skill Required = **Low**

response variables

Experiment 1 Response

Which method-medium combination is optimum?

Factors & Settings 66 Direct comparison between 2 predetermined combinations

VARTM with Polyol Resin vs Hot Pressing with Film. * Constraint = Each PLA medium was specific to a technique

Under a high temperature - low pressure profile,

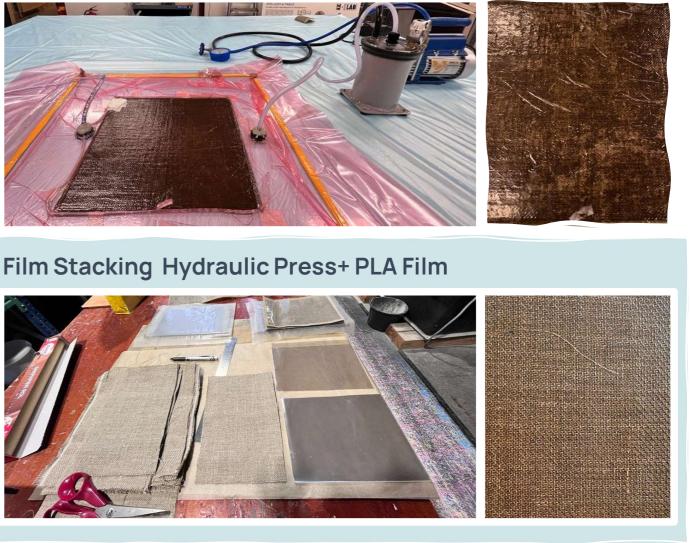
in < 15 minutes,

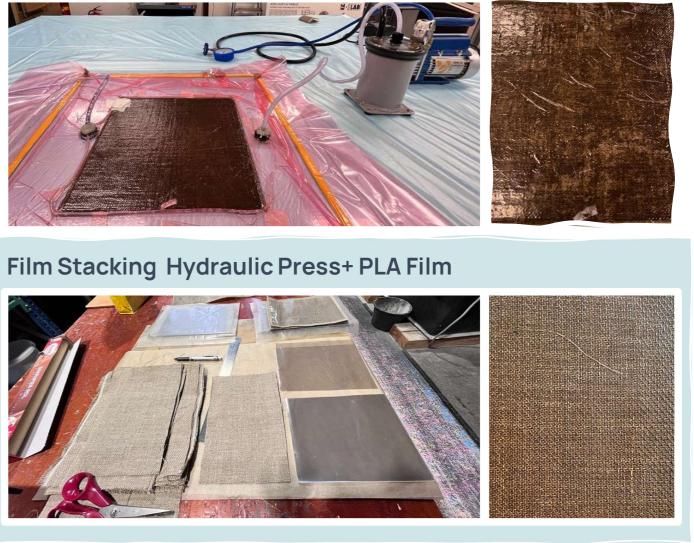
a stiff, bendable sheet

with 100% PLA fibre impregnation,

with zero waste and optimal texture and appearance.

VARTM + Polyol PLA Resin



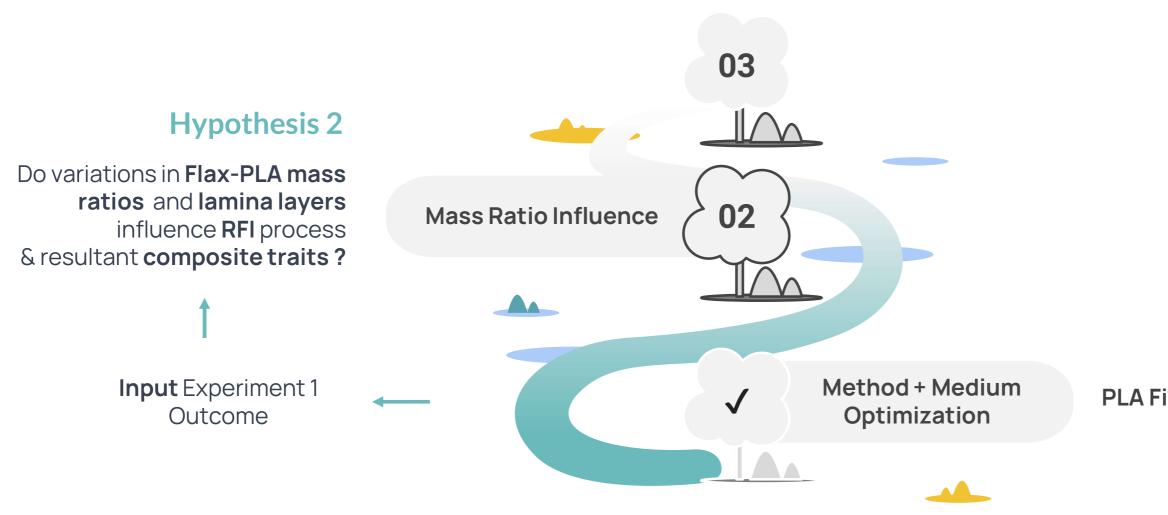


Resin Film Infusion with PLA Film was better in all aspects.

Method + Medium Optimization

Hypothesis 2

Varying Fibre-Polymer Mass Ratios & Flax Lamina



Mass Ratio Influence

PLA Film + Resin Film Infusion

Design of Experiment 2

Influence of the permutations in mass ratios and fibre lamina plies

6 Layer Flax, 60:40 Ratio

Settings

C 473	4 Lamina; 7 0 % Flax : 3 0 % PLA
C 673	6 Lamina; 7 0 % Flax : 3 0 % PLA
C 464	4 Lamina; 6 0 % Flax : 4 0 % PLA
C 664	6 Lamina; 6 0 % Flax : 4 0 % PLA

Mass Ratio + Lamina Count

4 Laver Flax, 70:30 Ratio

4 Layer Flax, 70:30 Ratio		4 Layer Flax, 60:40 Ratio		
	16 PLA		20 PLA	
=======	1 Flax	=======	1 Flax	
	8 PLA		16 PLA	
=======	1 Flax	=======	1 Flax	
	8 PLA		16 PLA	
=======	1 Flax	======	1 Flax	
	8 PLA		16 PLA	
======	1 Flax	=======	1 Flax	
	16 PLA		20 PLA	

6 Layer Flax, 70:30 Ratio

	21 PLA		20 PLA
======	1 Flax	=======	1 Flax
	8 PLA		18 PLA
======	1 Flax	======	1 Flax
	8 PLA		18 PLA
======	1 Flax	=======	1 Flax
	8 PLA		18 PLA
======	1 Flax	=======	1 Flax
	8 PLA		18 PLA
	1 Flax	======	1 Flax
	8 PLA		18 PLA
======	1 Flax	=======	1 Flax
	21 PLA		20 PLA

onpsp

Technical Twill F

Production at NPSP . 165.°C Heated Contact + 20 °C Cold Press Supervised by Willem Bottgeesin 164.00 40184494 2.5 Tons 20 °C for 5 (Salman et al., 2007; Kazmi et amig923)

Method + Medium

Mass Ratio Influence

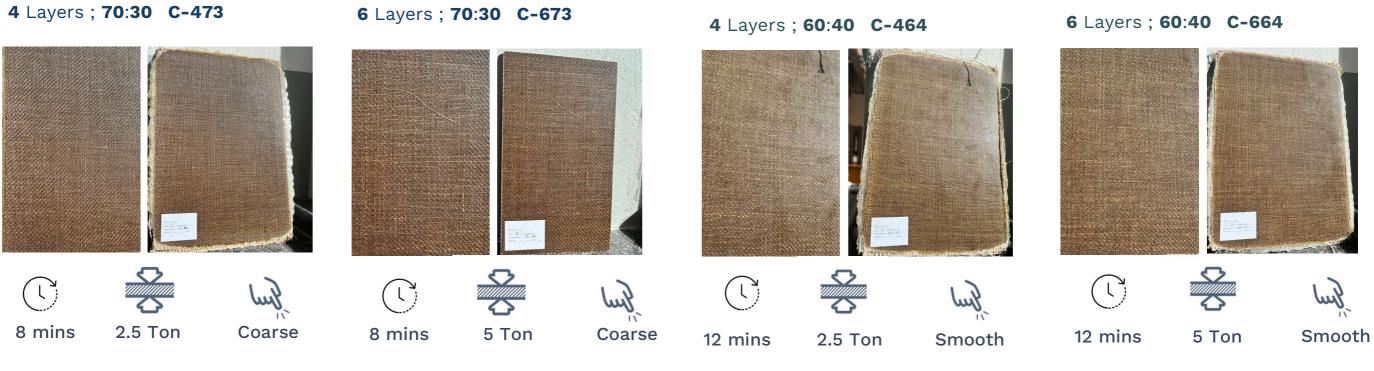


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Experiment 2

Responses

Observed Outcomes: Time-Temp-Pressure requirements for required for perfect consolidation, along with appearances & texture.



varying outcomes

Verified Literature (Morales et al., 2017; Kazmi et al., 2023)









Mass Ratio Influence

40% PLA



Specimen Preparation

Varying Fibre-Polymer Mass Ratios & Flax Lamina

+	corner 1	corner 2	corner 3	corner 4	Avg (mm)
473	2.02	2.01	2.00	2.01	2.01
673	3.05	3.08	3.00	3.03	3.04
464	2.60	2.80	2.80	3.00	2.80
664	4.60	4.50	4.60	4.30	4.47

Flexural Test Specimens According to ASTM Code D7264 Width of Specimen = 13 mm Test Span = 32 * Thickness Length of Specimen = 1.2 * Test Span

Tensile Test Specimens

According to ASTM Code D3039 Width of Specimen = 25 mm Length of Specimen = 250 mm

measurements

Per ASTM Codes



Experiment 1A



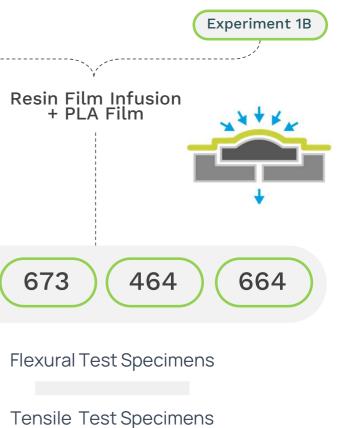
Composites

473

machining

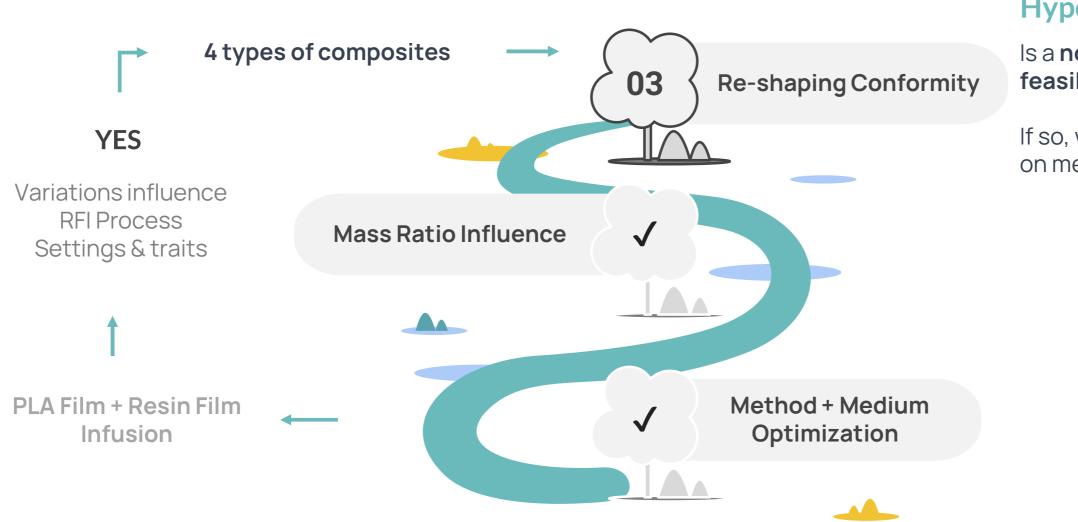
Under Supervision of Technician Chris at Wood Workshop, TU Delft

Mass Ratio Influence



4 Tensile Specimens Each 4 Flexural Specimens Each

Hypothesis 3



Reshaping Conformity

Hypothesis 3

Is a **novel reshaping strategy feasible** for biocomposites?

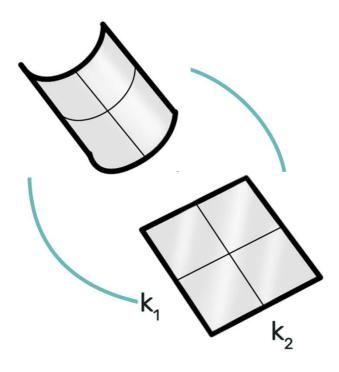
If so, what are the **impacts** on mechanical properties?

Design of Experiment 3

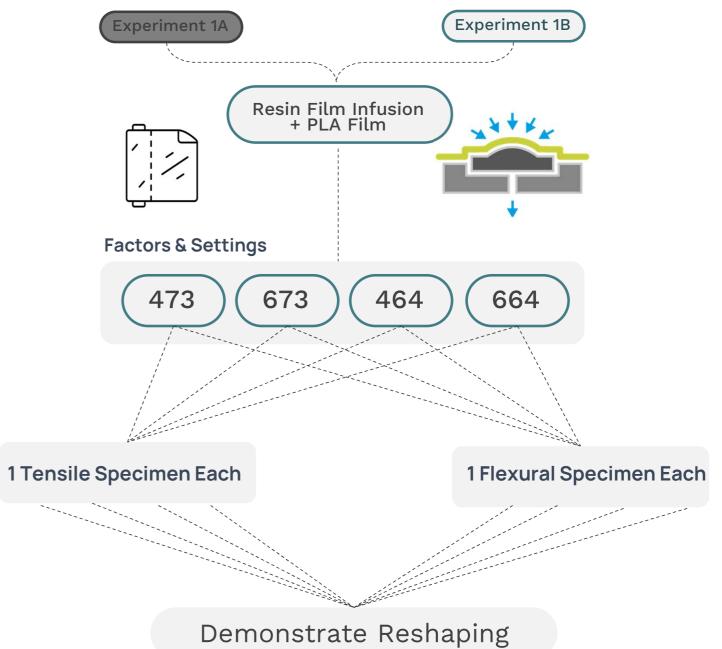
Hypothesis 3

Is it feasible to prove developability /reshaping in biocomposites?

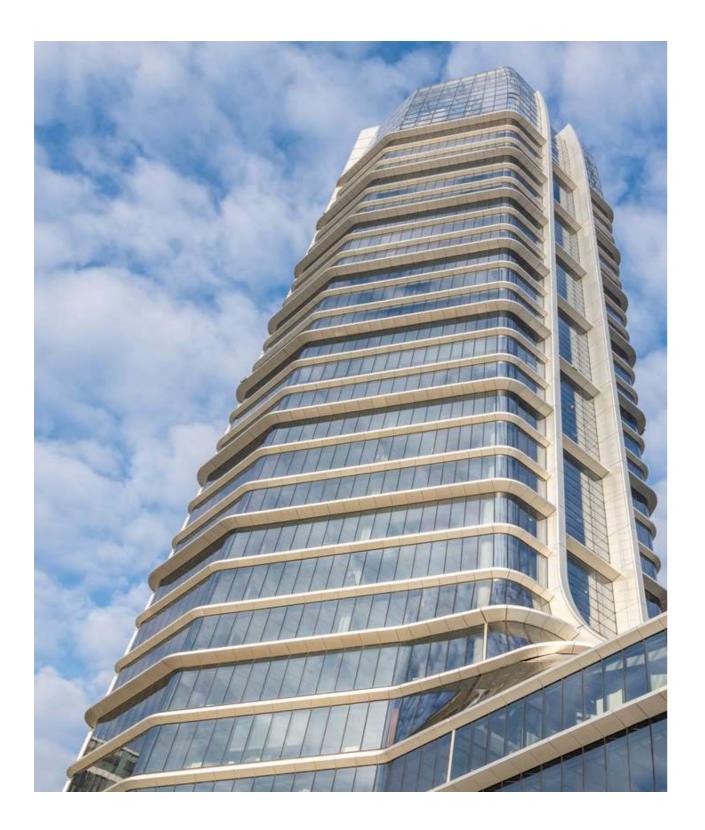
'Developability', the geometric ability to be formed by folding 2D plane & transforming it back without distortion.

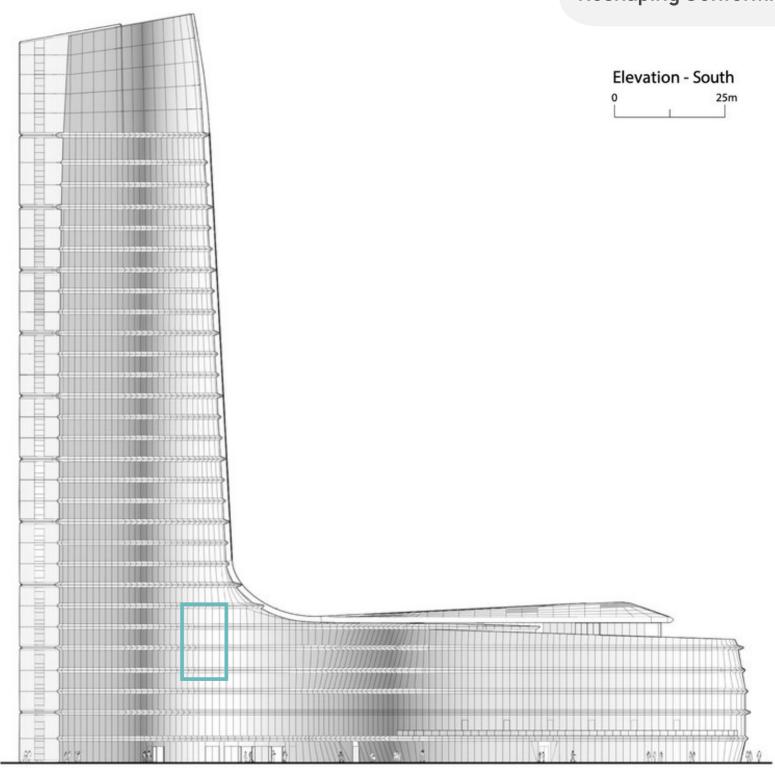


Novel Reshaping Strategy with 473, 673, 464, 664



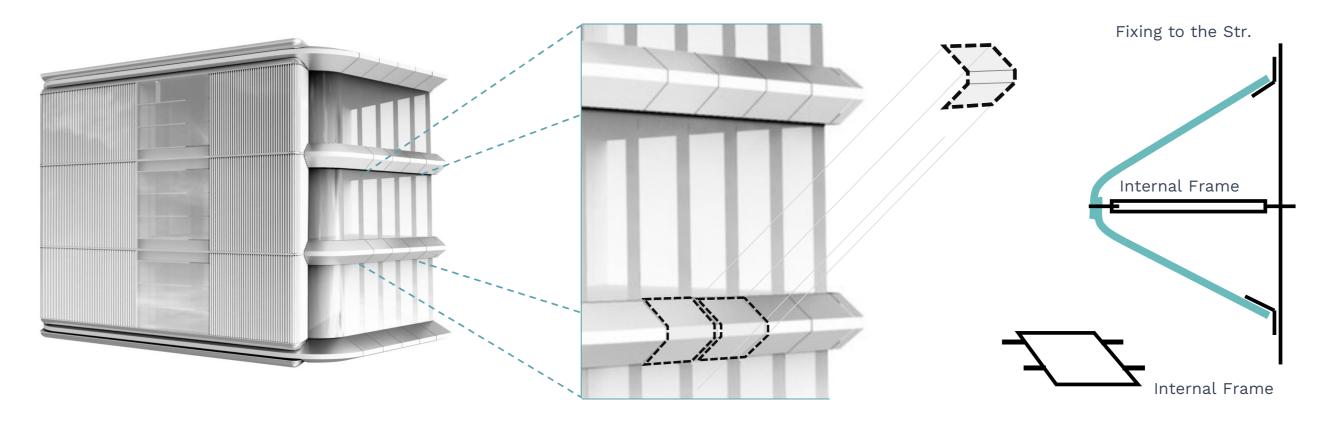
Reshaping Conformity





Reshaping Conformity

Case Geometry



MOL Campus Cladding Mock-up From Case Study Details - Scheldebouw

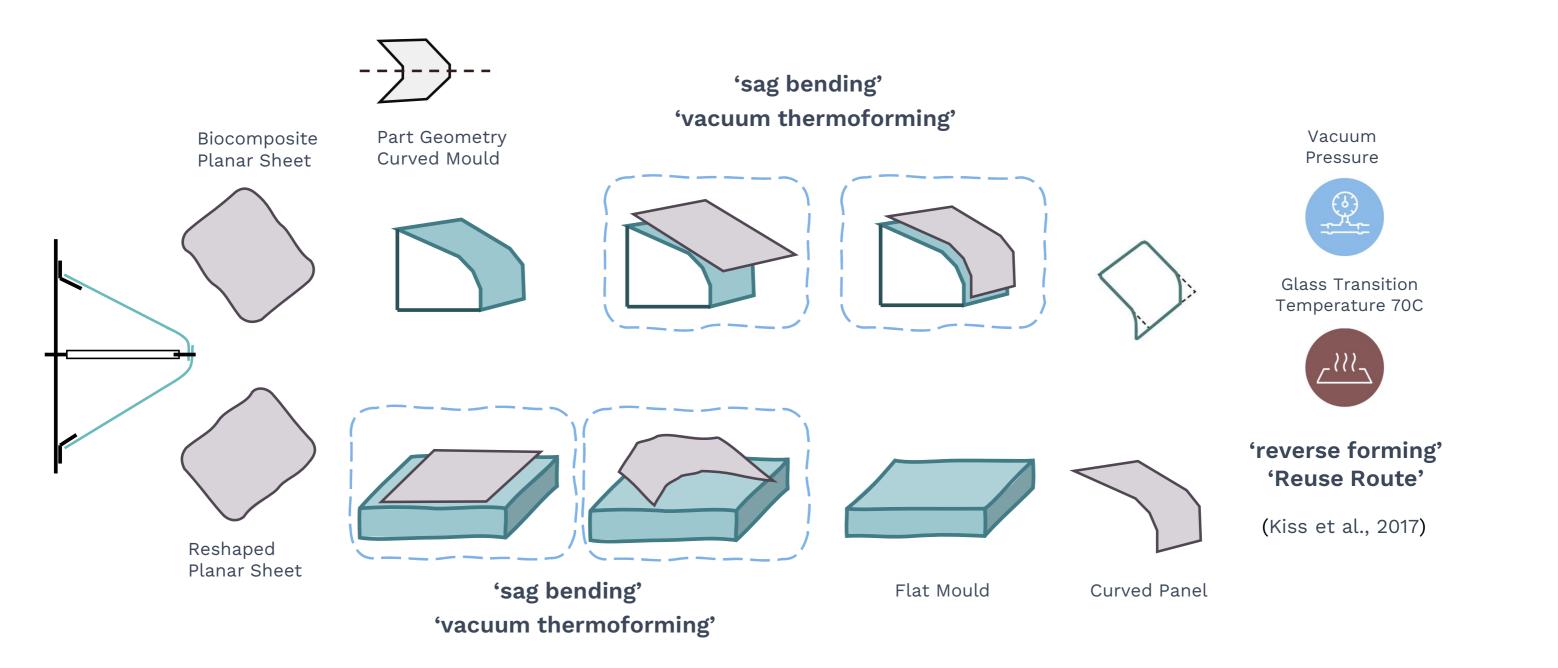
Part Geometry 'emulating'

Reshaping Conformity

'rethinking' With Flax-PLA Composite

current production lab limits 60x60cm press, panel in parts

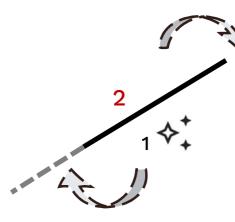
The Reverse Forming Strategy

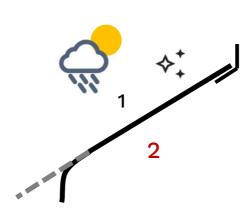


Reshaping Conformity

Reverse Forming in Practice



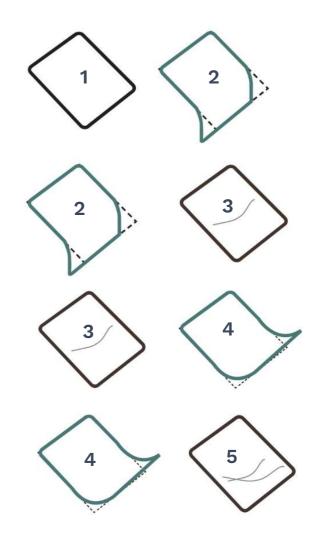




A) Original Flat Sheet is **Shaped as Profile**

B) **Profile** demounted; formed **back to Flat**

C) Protected Interior Facia has potential, so Panel reverse & curved for Reuse.



reserve strength of unexposed interior surface

can be leveraged

to extend the design life of the cladding panel.

Reshaping Conformity

Manufacture Curve & Install

Post Service Life, Demount & Flatten

Reverse – Curve

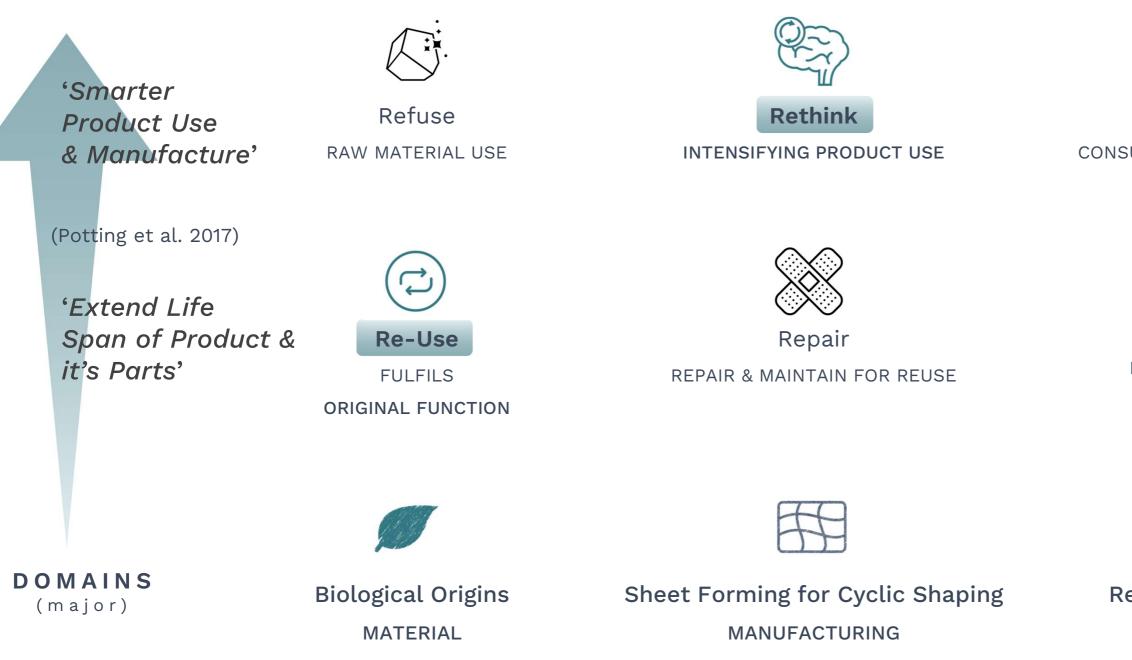
Install Again

Post Lifespan

Flatten for ... ()

Strategy Rank

Is it feasible to prove developability /reshaping in biocomposites?



Reshaping Conformity



CONSUMING LESSER RESOURCES



Refurbish RESTORE OLD PRODUCT



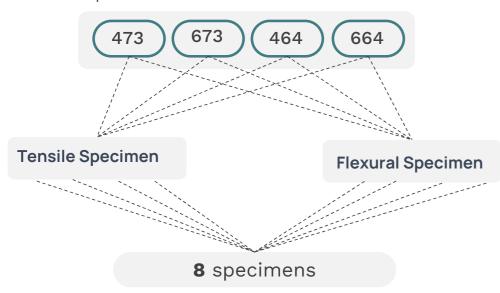
Repurpose - Remould

MANAGEMENT

Vacuum Thermoforming

Feasibility check of the Reshaping

Specimens



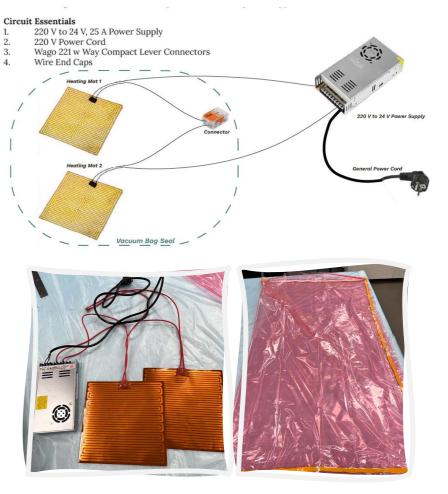
Reshaping Cycles applied to all **8** specimens

4 Tensile Specimens – 2 Shaping Cycles 4 Flexural Specimens – 2 Shaping Cycles

setup

kit of parts

Reshaping Conformity

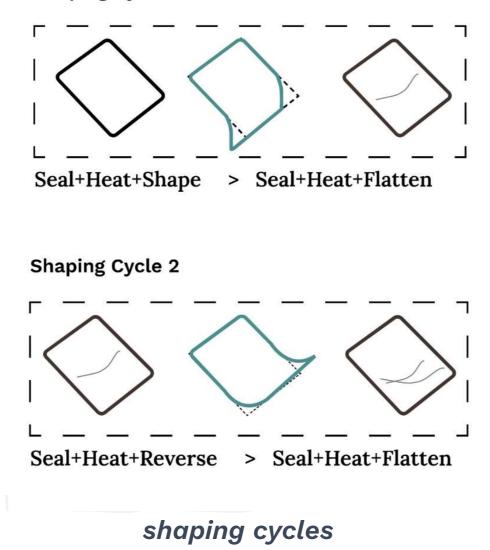


circuit & seal assembly

Reshaping Results

Mould Conformity = **High** Time Required = 1-3 mins to reach Tg Power Supply = 2A Vacuum, 20 A Mat

Shaping Cycle 1



Yes, vacuum thermoforming using heat-pads can reshape the FLAX PLA composite.

Platform 12 Y 10 A 12 Y 10 A 16 ating mat MDF mould Vacuum bag

vacuum thermoforming

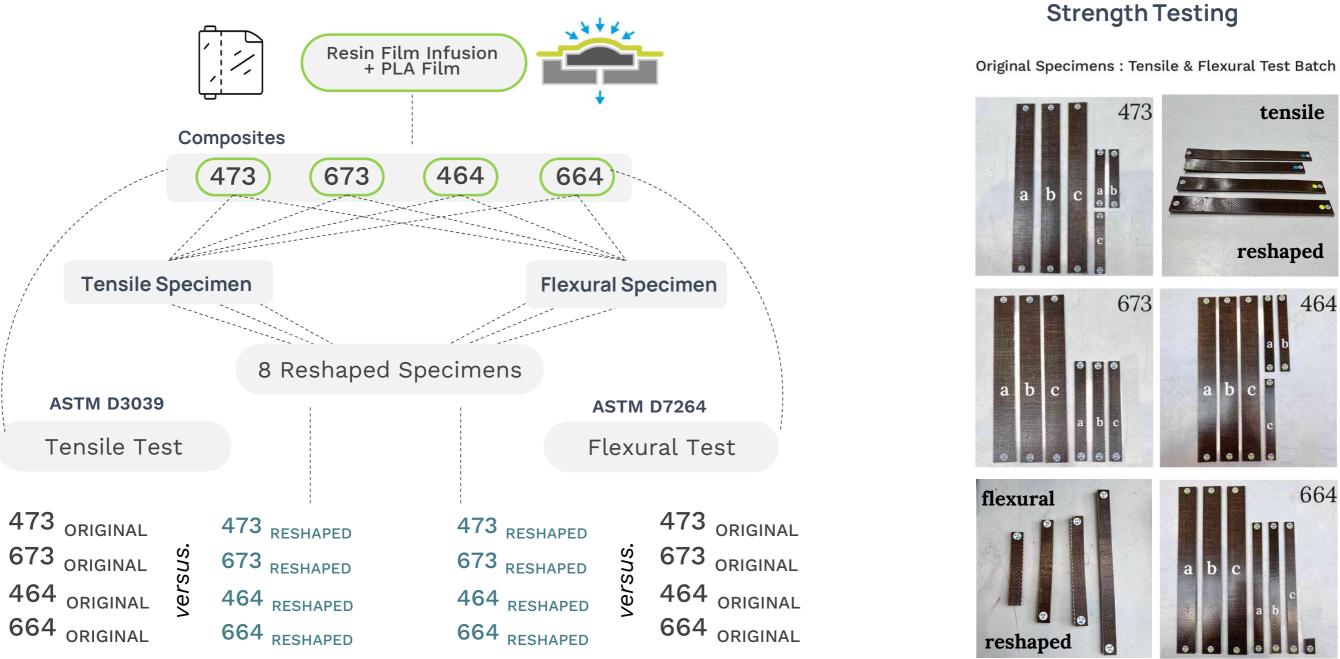
Reshaping Conformity



outcomes

Testing Program

Is there a difference in mechanical properties of the biocomposite before & after reshaping?



Testing Program

Responses Deflection between Original Specimens vs. Reshaped Specimens

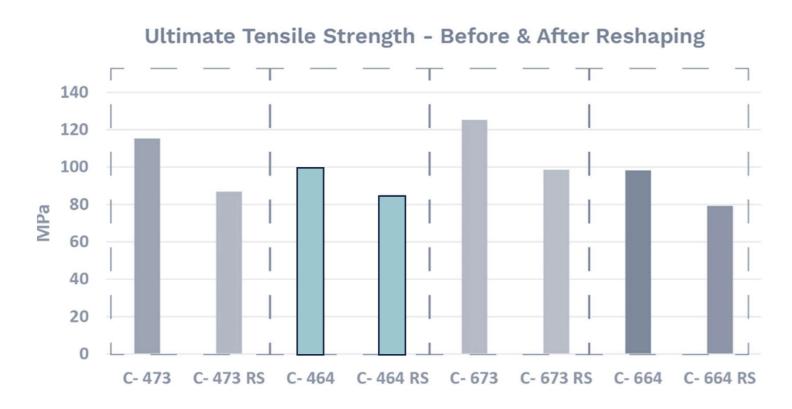


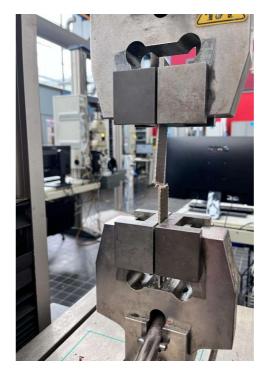
'test protocol'

tensile & flexural testing

outcomes

Result Trends





Reduction in % Less when

Maximum Flexural Strength - Before & After Reshaping 250 200 ва ¹⁵⁰ 100 50 0 C- 473 RS C- 664 C- 673 C-473 C-464 C- 673 RS C- 664 RS C-464 RS **Composite Types**



Increase is higher in 6 layer Lowest strain in 4 layers



Ult. Tensile Strength 15% to 25% due to Reshaping





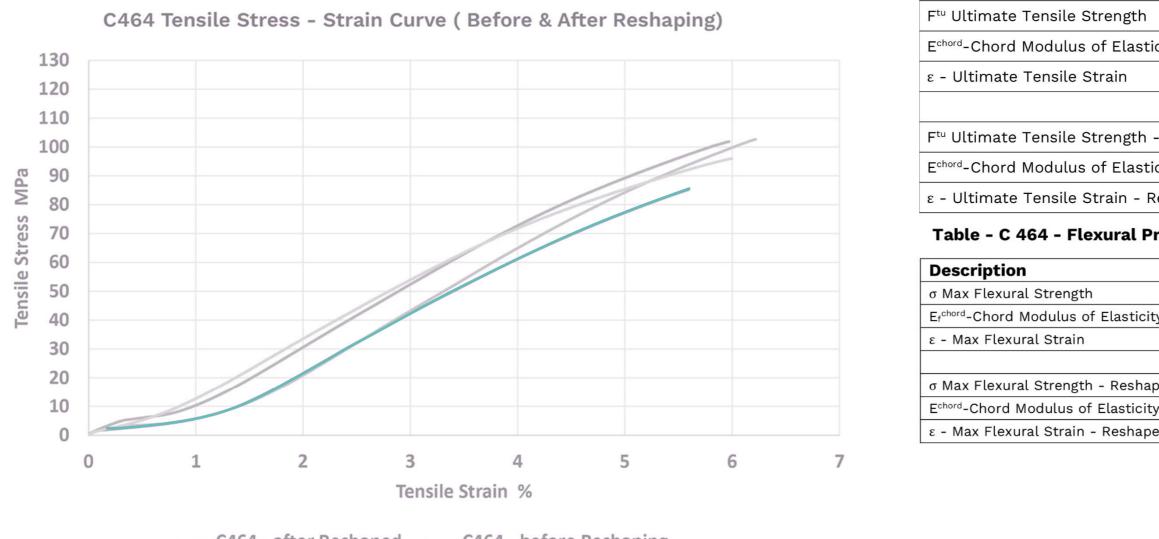
Lamina

4 Layers



Max Flexural Strain

C-464



C464 - after Reshaped
 C464 - before Reshaping
 C464 - before Reshaping

	Value	Unit
	100.071	МРа
icity	1.195	GPa
	6.050	%
- Reshaped	85.250	МРа
icity - Reshaped	1.254	GPa
Reshaped	5.593	%

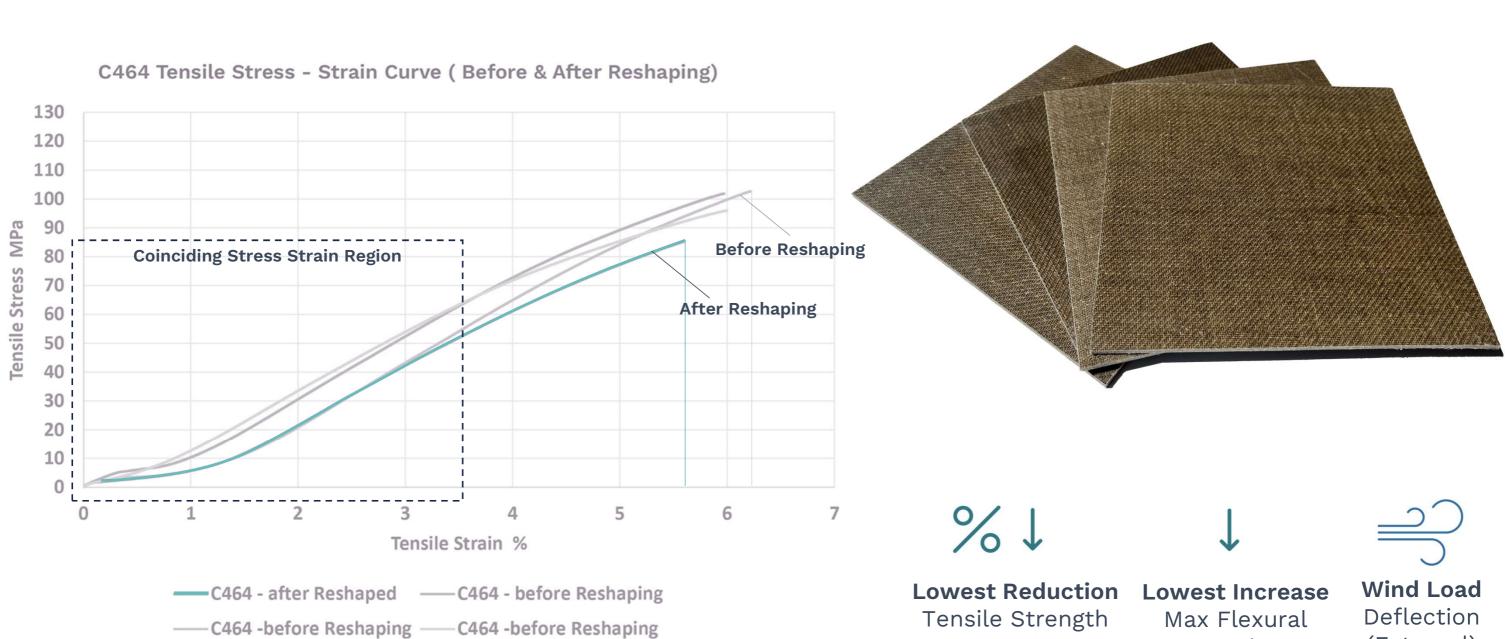
Table - C 464 - Ultimate Tensile Properties Before & After Reshaping

Description

Table - C 464 - Flexural Properties Before & After Reshaping

	Value	Unit
	165.027	MPa
ty	1.769	GPa
	2.539	%
ped	127.976	MPa
y - Reshaped	1.200	GPa
ed	2.843	%

C-464



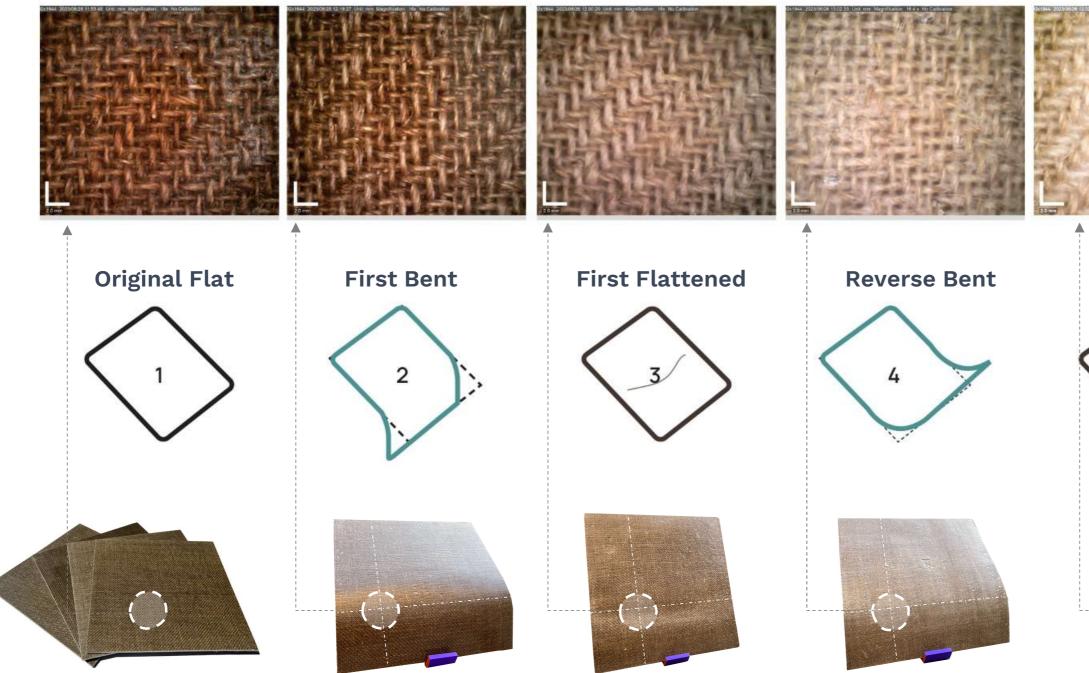
Max Flexural Strain

- 15%

(External)

Micrographs of C-464

Texture Unchanged for 60:40 ; Fade seen in 70:30





Twice Flattened



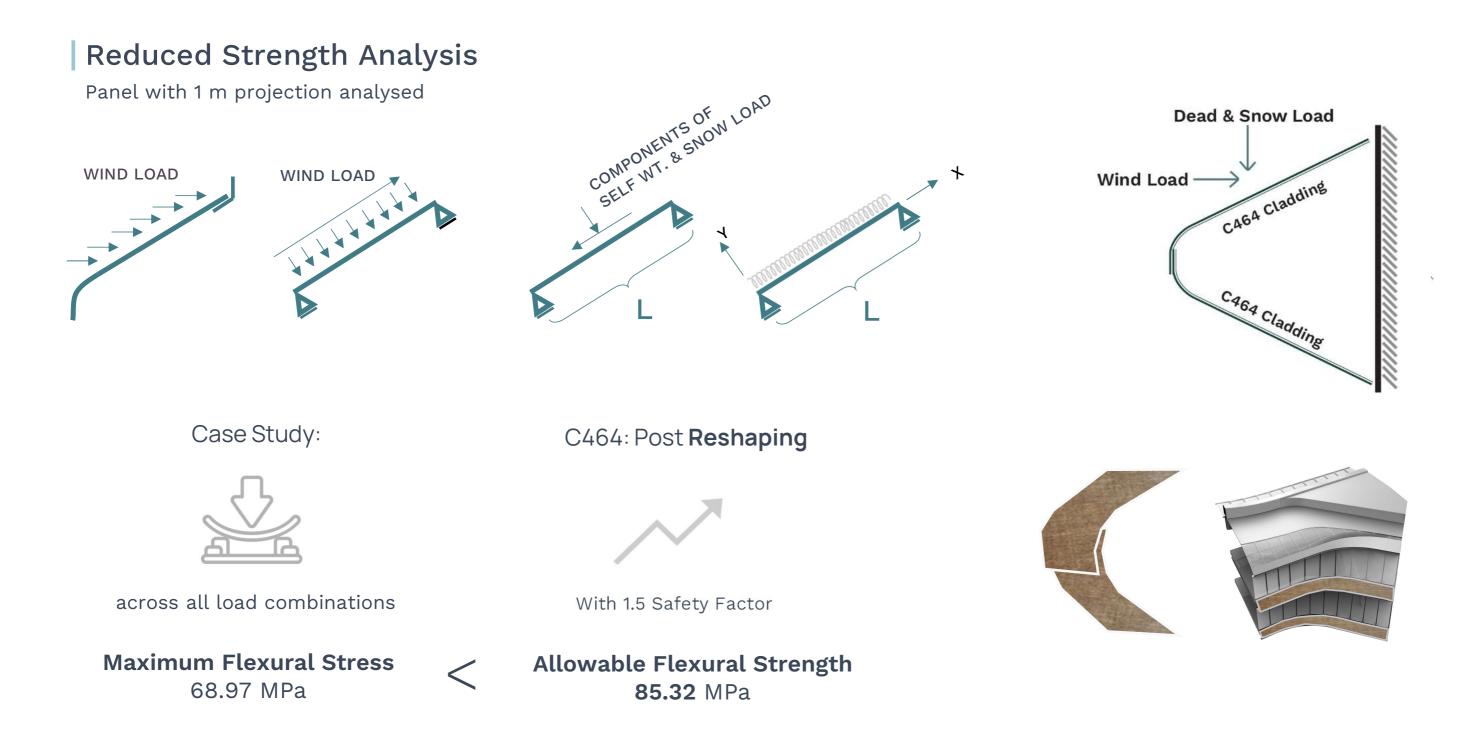






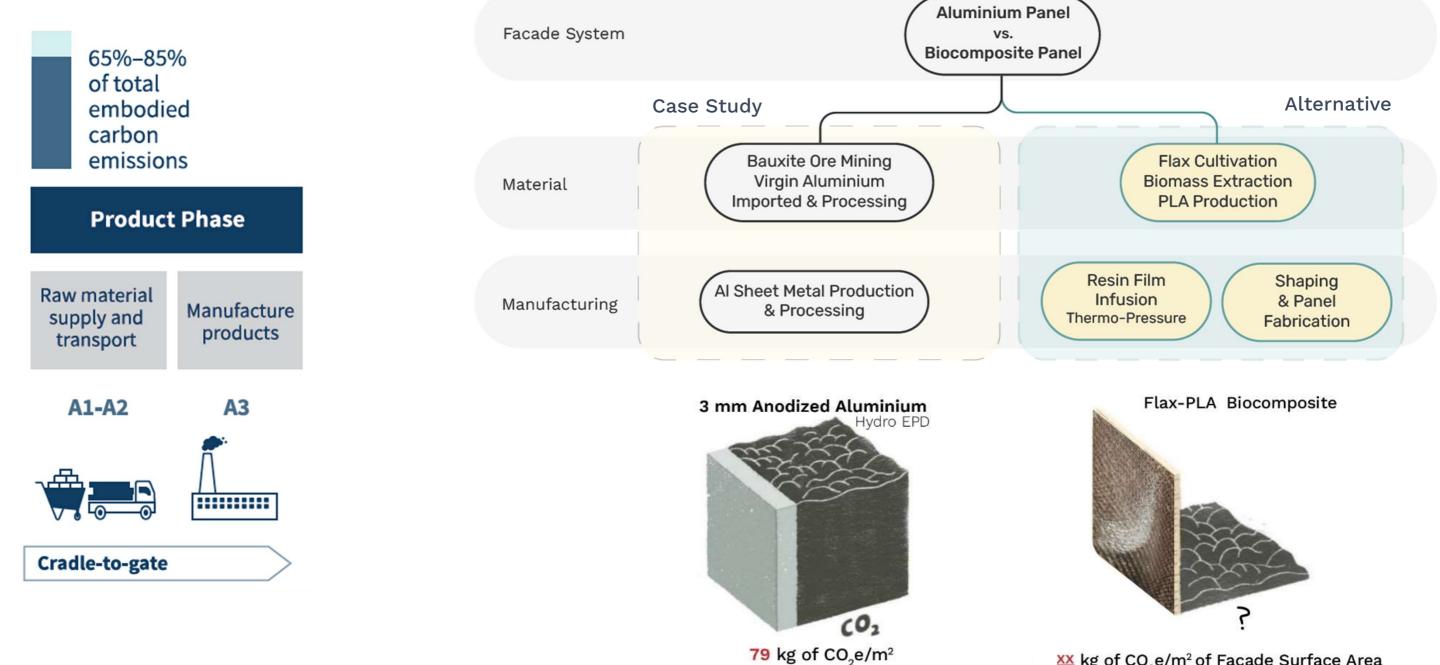
shaping cycles **16X** magnified

bent panels

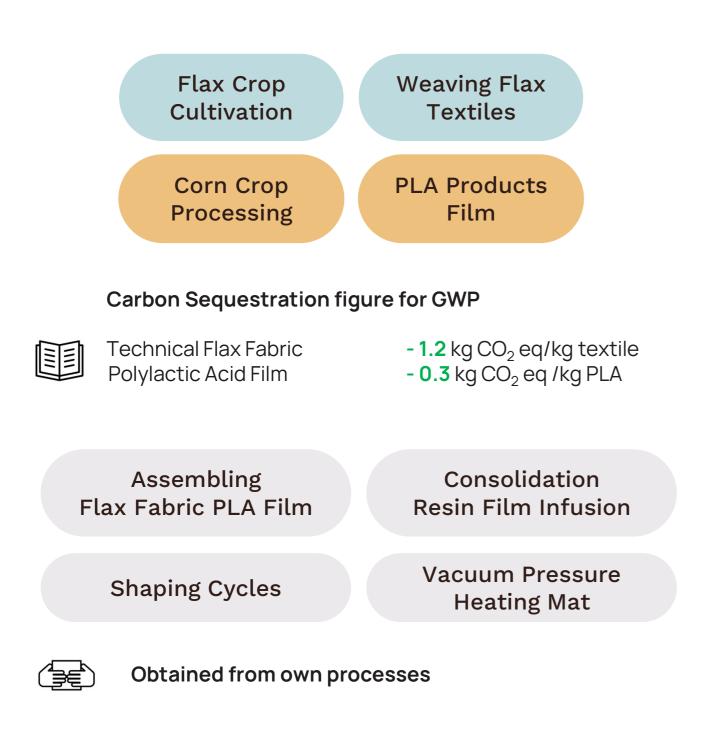


C464 maintains structural integrity within permissible limits & safety standards

Cradle-to-Gate Embodied Carbon

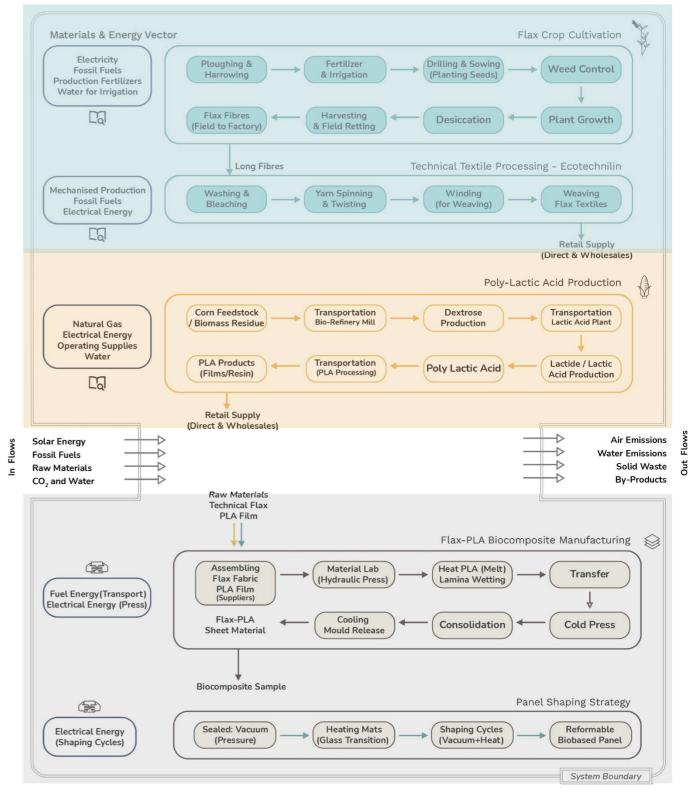


XX kg of CO₂e/m² of Facade Surface Area

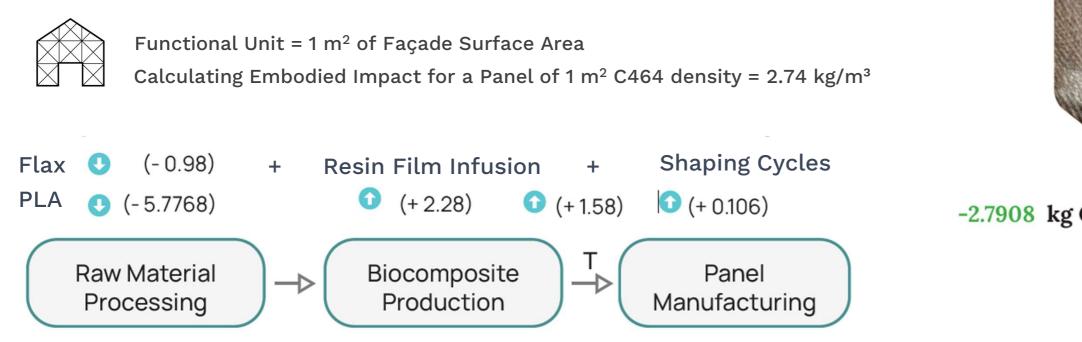


Inventory Flows Data + System Boundary

(ANSYS, Gonsalez-Garcia et al., 2010; Le Duigou et al., 2011; E.T.H. Vink et al., 2003; Le Duigou et al., 2012)



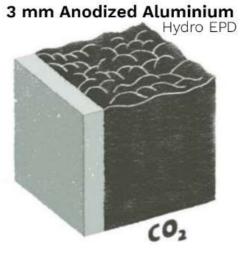
Cradle-to-Gate Embodied Carbon



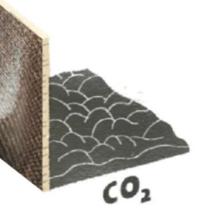
Transport

Calculating Embodied Impact for a Panel of 1 m² C464 density = 2712 kg/m³

3 mm Anodised Aluminium Sheet Metal (ISO 14025, EN 15804, Hydro EPD)



Environmental Product Declarations of Anodized Aluminium Sheets



-2.7908 kg $CO_2e/1 m^2$ of BioComposite

+ 79,0 kg $CO_2 e / 1 m^2$ of Al. Sheet

Gap Addressed





'100% biobased & carbon sequestering'

Consolidated Flax & PLA Film

Carbon Sequestering Fully Biosourced, Biodegradable

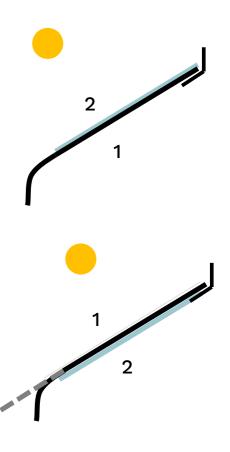
'proved developability'

Implemented Developable Surfaces In Fibrous BIO-Composites

(Chanda & Bhattacharyya, 2022)

'extended design life'

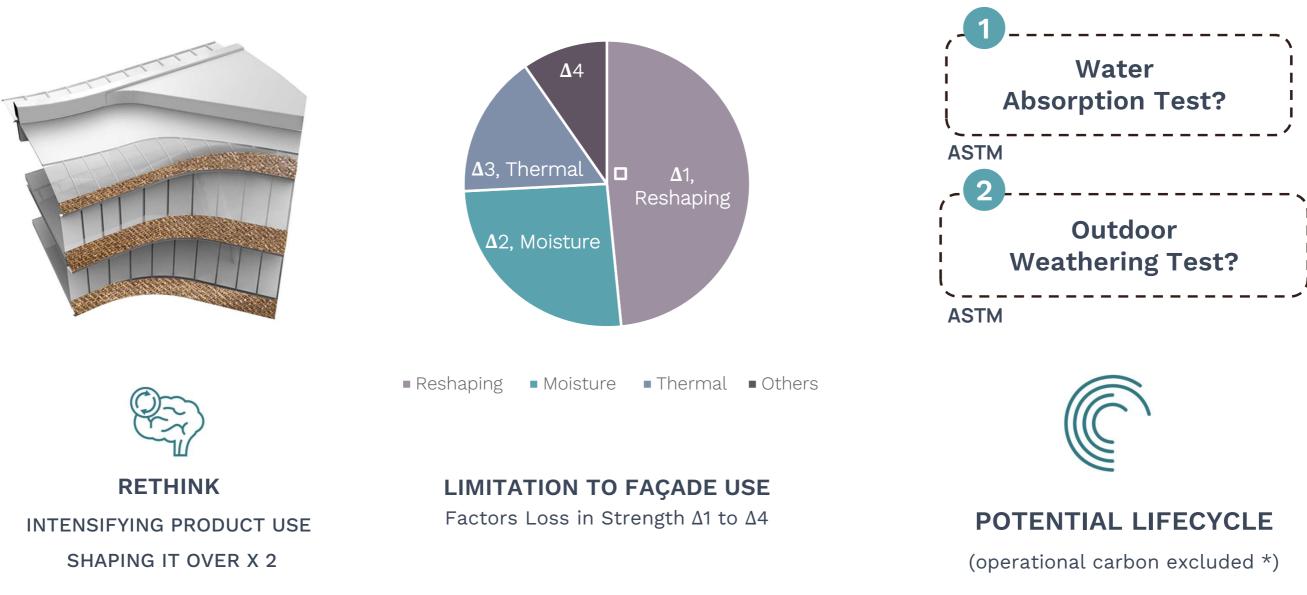
(Reshaping in Practice)



Reshaping Strategy leveraging reserve strength

Façade Ready?

Preliminary tests to assess viability as an outdoor material



TESTS FOR FAÇADE USE

TO DETERMINE DURABILITY

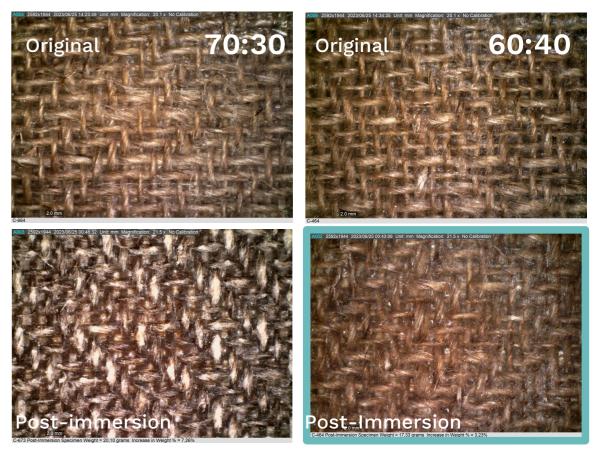
Water Absorption Tests + Results

Preliminary tests to assess viability as an outdoor material





Surface Frayed, +9.31%



protocol

Edges Conditioned with Water Sealant Adhesive Weighed after Edge Conditioning **ASTM D5229**

testing response

Test at Think Lab, TU Delft

72 hours

post-immersion analysis

C-464 - protected facia lowest weight gain (+3.23%)

Surface Intact, +3.23%

C-473

C-464

Outdoor Weathering Tests + Results

Preliminary tests to assess viability as an outdoor material

Surface Frayed, +1.12%



protocol

Placed in an Outdoor rack

ASTM D1435

testing – 4 weeks

Placed at +2,0 m south-east facing sill

Faculty of Architecture, TU Delft

post-immersion analysis

C-464 - protected facia lowest weight gain (+0.35%) Higher PLA Ratio Performed Better

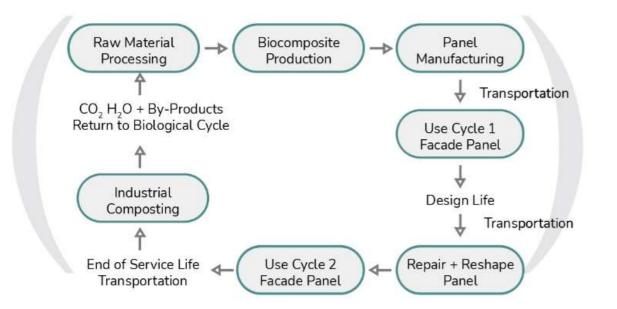
Surface Intact, +0.35%

C-473

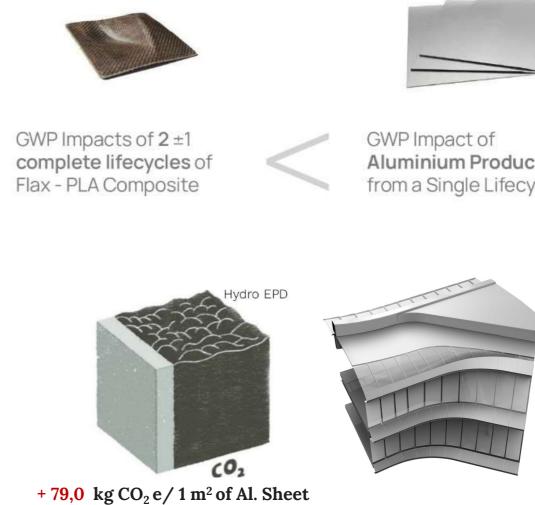
C-464

Lifecycle Estimate

(Stages A1-C4 Omitting Operational Energy B6-B7 Stages)

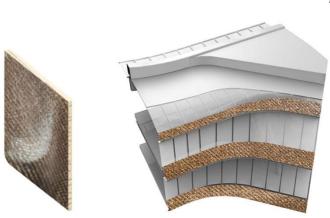


Conservative LCA Estimate = 5 Years / whole lifecycle



CO2

₩ 5 cycles



-2.7908 kg CO₂e/1 m² of BioComposite

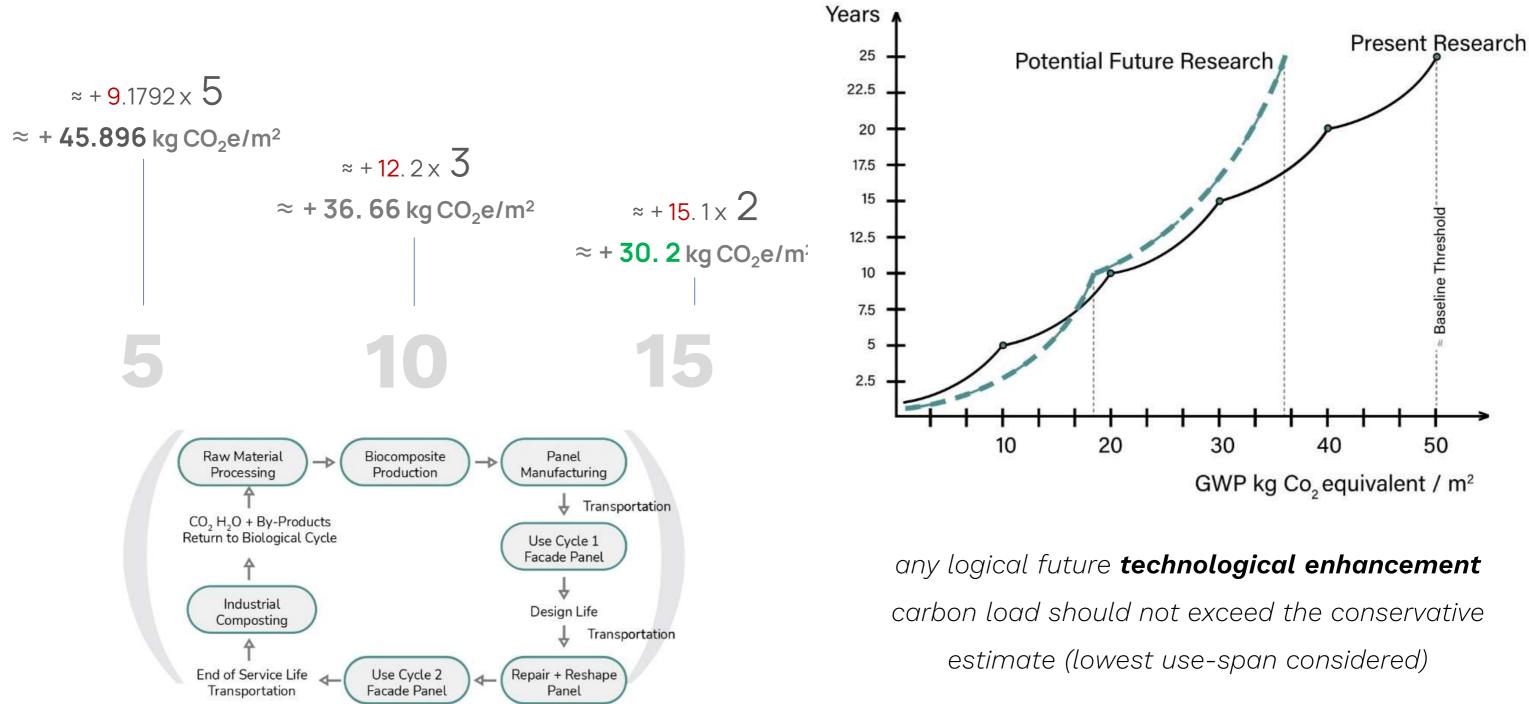
Façade Life
$$\approx$$
 + 9.1792 kg CO₂e/m² x **5** \approx + **45.896 kg CO₂e/m²**



Aluminium Production from a Single Lifecycle

= embodied + transport x $1 \approx + 80.6 \text{ kg CO}_2 \text{e/m}^2$

Lifespan Expectancy – Future Work



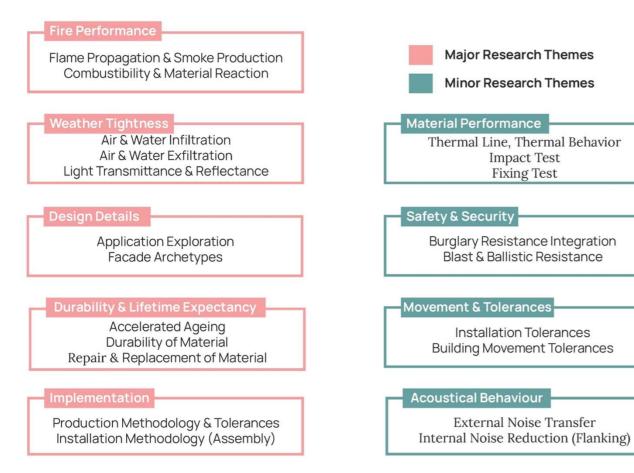
Pilot Studies !



Laboratory Research



Pavilions – Research Sites Live Environmental Behaviour





Real-Time Data

'Extend Life Span of Product & it's Parts'

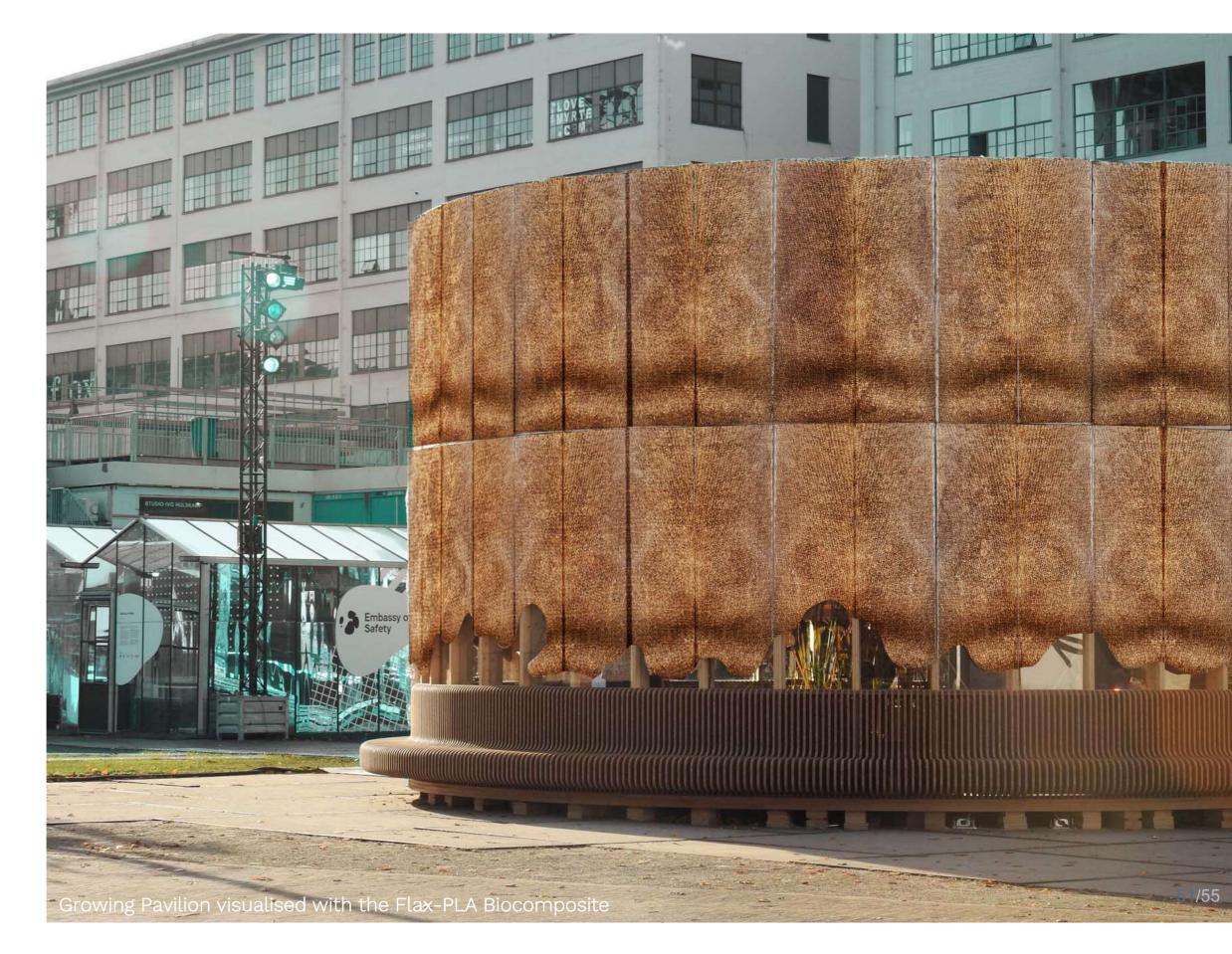
(Potting et al. 2017)



To Assess Re-Use FULFILS ORIGINAL FUNCTION



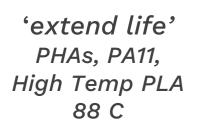
To Assess Repairability REPAIR & MAINTAIN FOR REUSE ORIGINAL FUNCTION



Scientific + Societal Reflections







reorder testing simulate real conditions

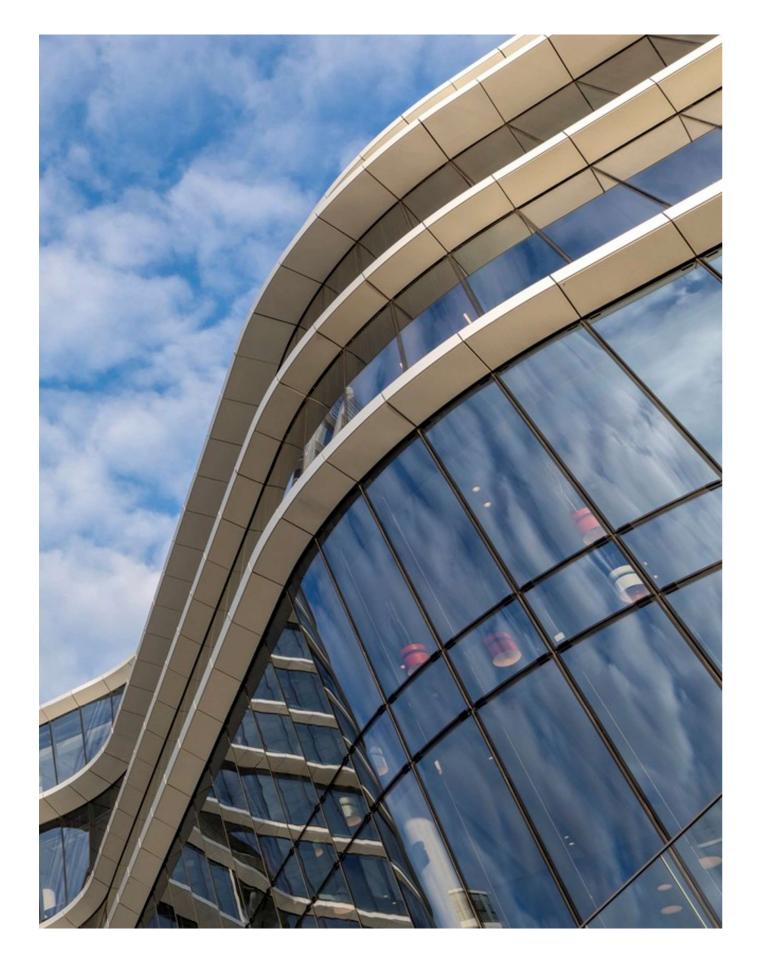


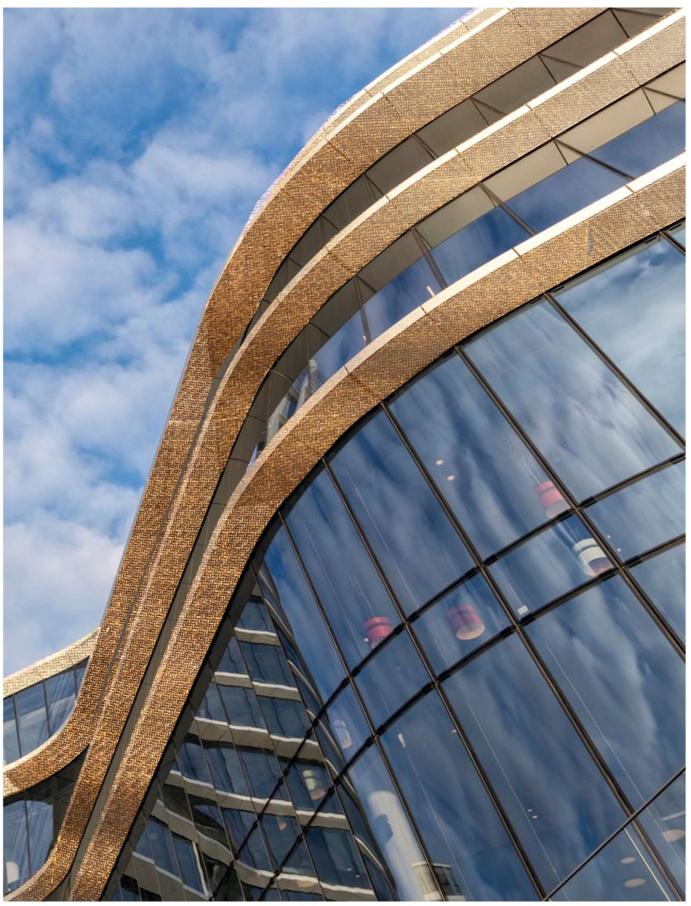
Adaptability geographic economic technological





'bast fibres' Jute, Kenaf, Нетр





Facilitated by:

Willem Bottger Mark Lepelaar

Special Thanks to:

Janneke Verkerk - Evers Hans Jansen

Delegate :

Ing. Peter De Jong

Guided by:

Dr Olga Ioannou Building Product Innovation

&

Dr Mauro Overend Structural Design & Mechanics



" engineering a **biobased & circular** alternative for **facade cladding** systems featuring complex geometries







"

Annex

