



# KEPING BAMBU



WWW . ARCH . HKU . HK

Research

# BUILDING SIMPLEXITY LAB

BSL.HKU.HK

Founder & Director

Application



WWW.L-E-A-D.PRO



How can XR help with:

# BUILDING SIMPLEXITY

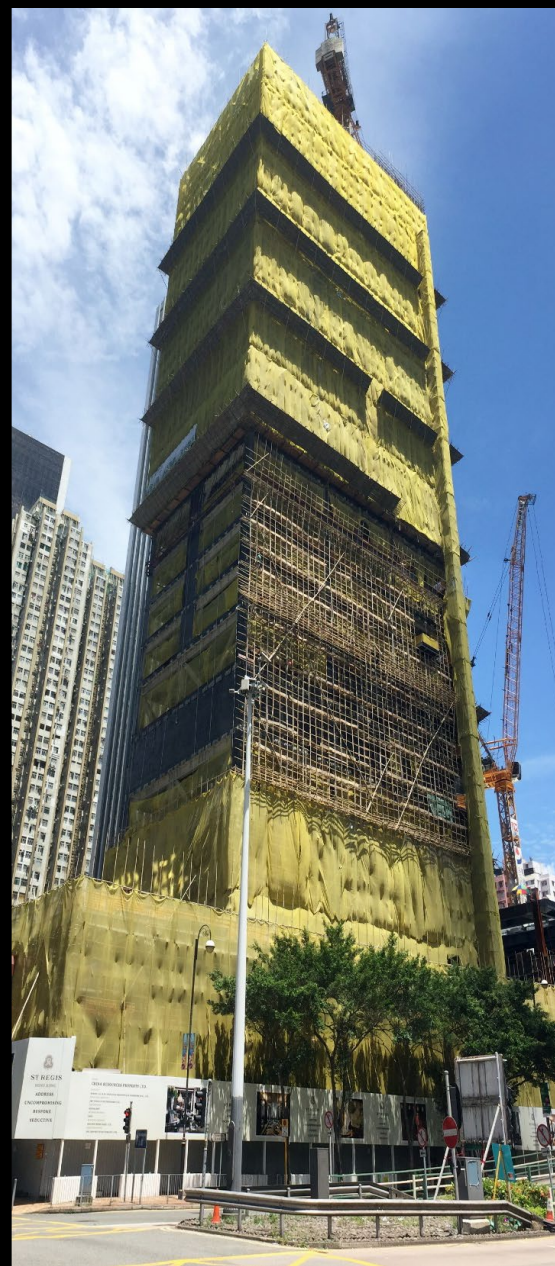
**OVERCOMES CONSTRUCTION COMPLEXITIES** associated with digital designs through the **SIMPLEST OF MEANS**, using digital design tools as weapons of choice to root the work in a **HUMAN-CENTRED CONSTRUCTION REALITY**.

for Bamboo Architecture



## ZCB BAMBOO PAVILION

Kowloon Bay, Hong Kong, 2015













鴻鼎八座 請勿隨地吐痰

105

12

15

113

17

Hong Kong

## Tradition of grand bamboo theatres may disappear, architect warns

The skills of the craftsmen who assemble the structures must be preserved, an architect says



Vivienne Chow

[+ myNEWS](#)

Published: 12:00am, 15 Jan, 2013

[Why you can trust SCMP](#)



The Bamboo Theatre at the West Kowloon Cultural District slowly takes shape. The festival begins at the end of the month and runs until February 16. Photo: Edward Wong

## Time for HK to ban bamboo scaffolding: engineer

2024-02-21 HKT 16:33

[Recommend](#) 8

Share this story [f](#) [X](#)



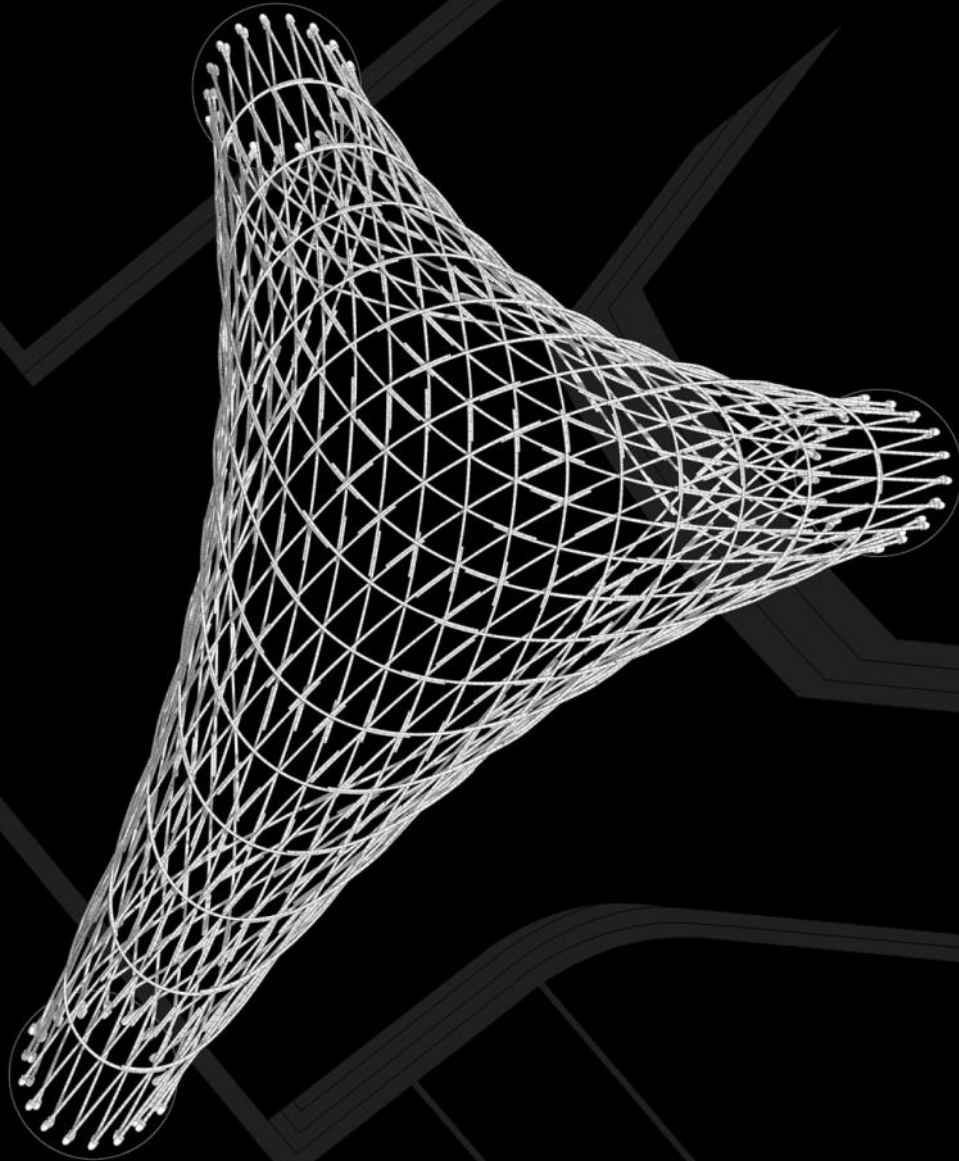
Hong Kong should ban the use of bamboo scaffolding in light of this week's deadly collapse, the chairman of a Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE) safety panel said on Wednesday.

## CLIENT BRIEF

- Host public events
- Showcase bamboo potential
- Promote sustainability



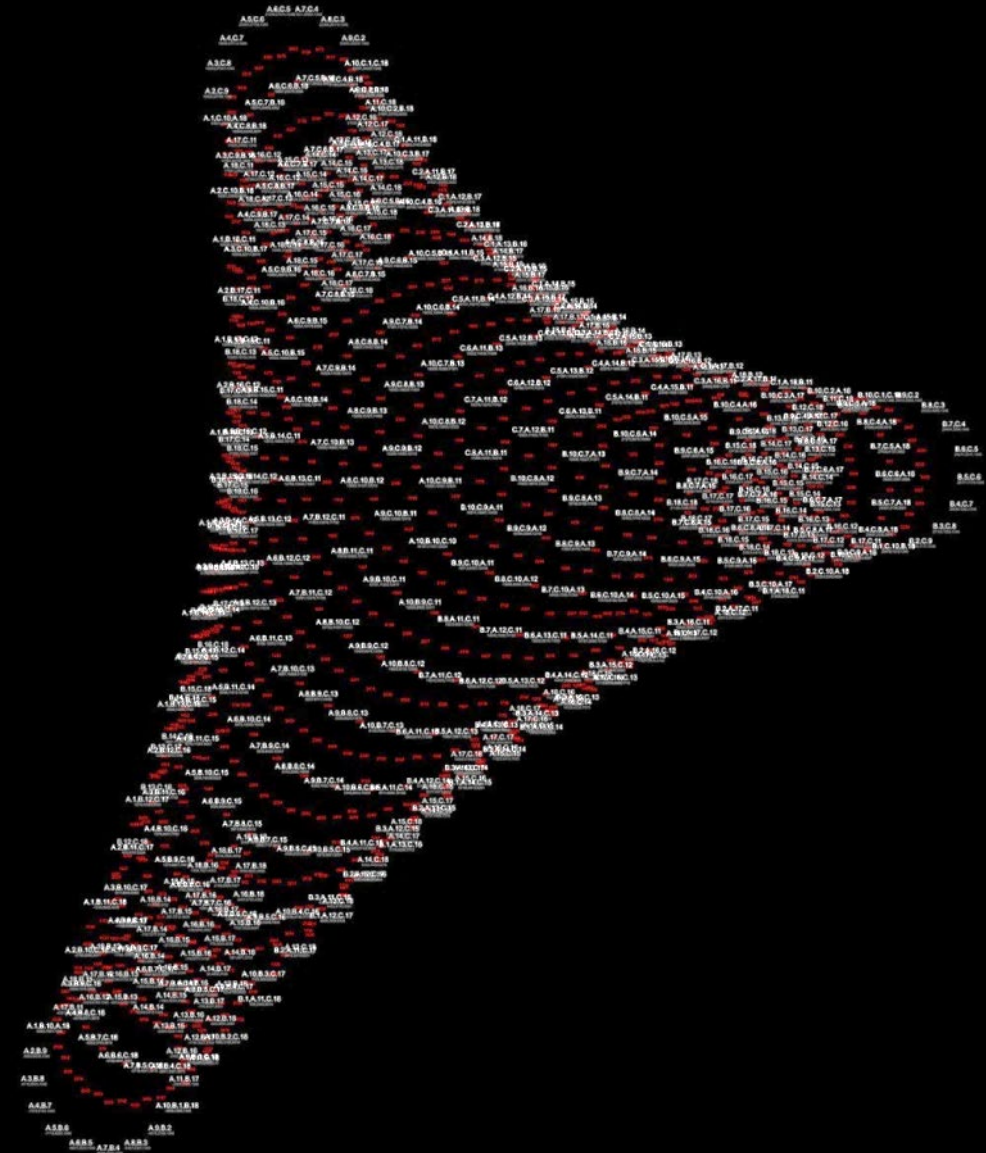
# Bamboo Substructure



Total #: 473 poles used  
Total Length: 2956m  
Pole  $\phi$ : base: 12-15cm, top: 8-12cm  
Pole length:  $\approx$  7.2m  
Total weight: 6,350kg (7,100kg in wet state)

# Bamboo Substructure

## Annotation

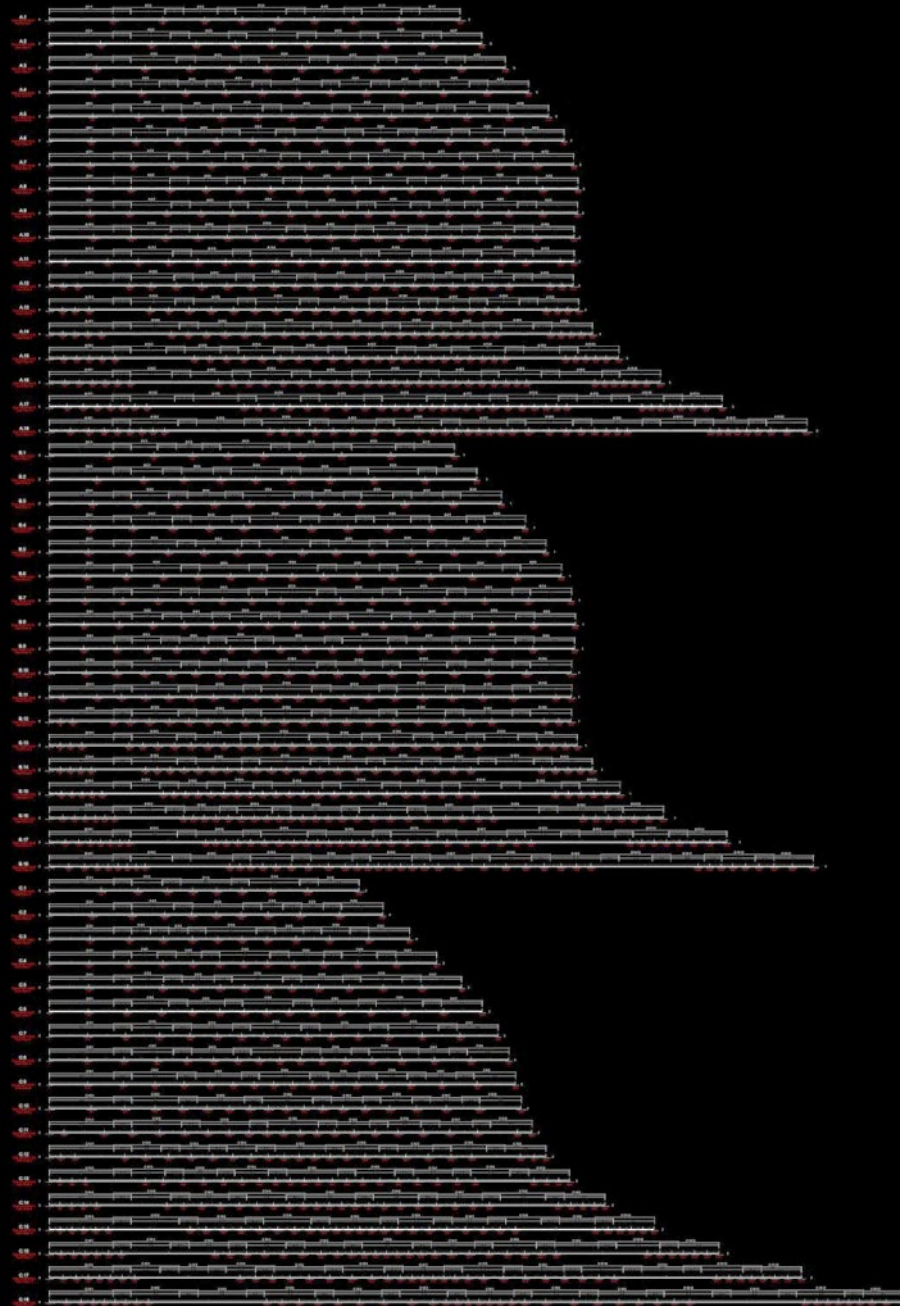


Ties: galvanized metal wire  
# intersections: 1107  
# overlaps: 365 (3 ties per overlap)  
total # ties: 3321



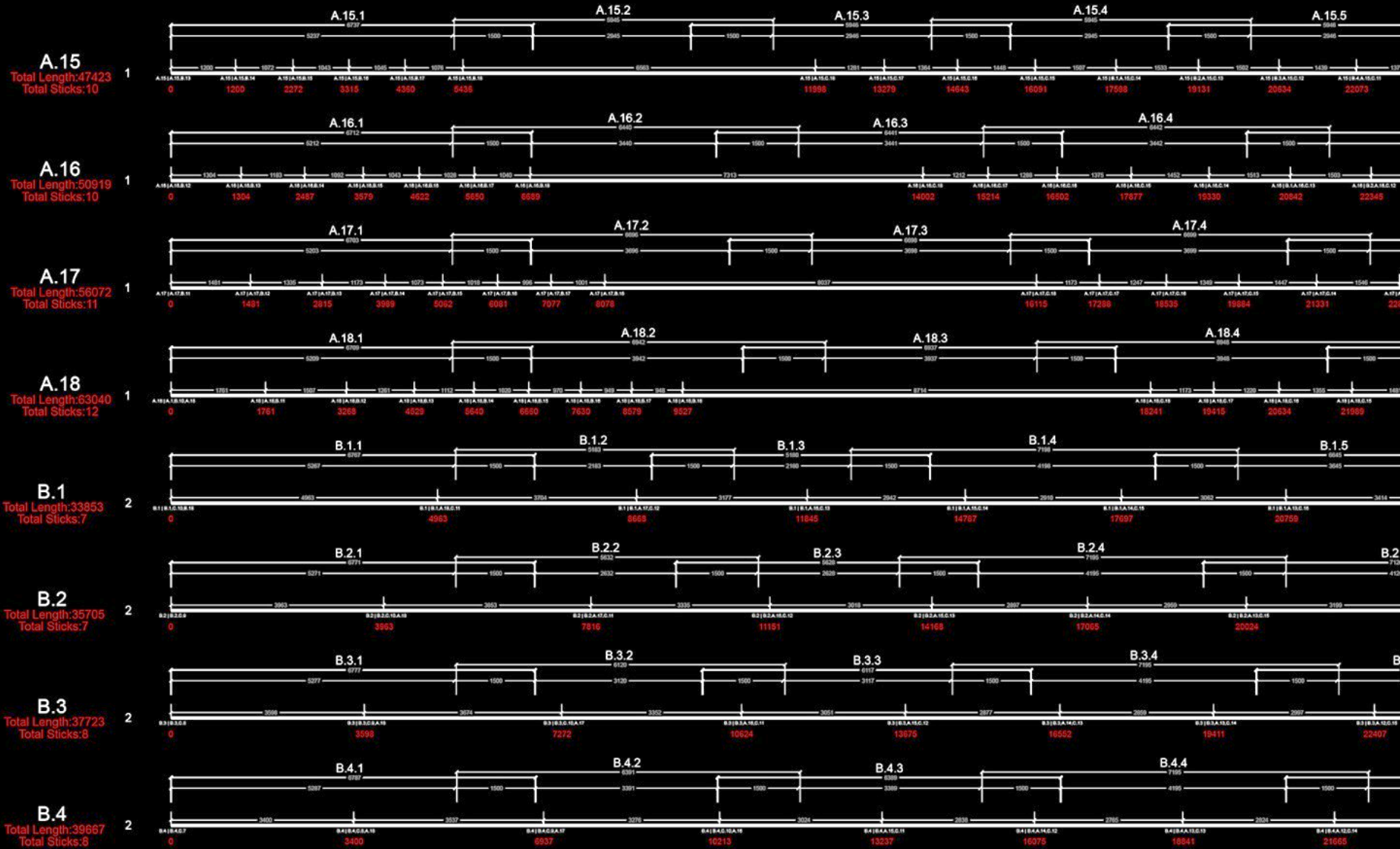
# Bamboo Substructure

Annotation



# Bamboo Substructure

## Annotation





# Bamboo

Annotation



# Bamboo Substructure

Annotation



# Bamboo Substructure

Annotation



# Pole Installation

1<sup>st</sup> pole installation



# Interconnection Ties

Installation in Segments





# Interconnection Ties

Installation in Segments



# Bamboo Structure

Completed



# Membrane

Installation Attempt 2



# Membrane

Fixing to Substructure



# Events

CUHK Opening Reception



**WORLD  
ARCHITECTURE  
FESTIVAL**  
Small Project  
of the Year

**G-MARK**  
Tokyo, Japan  
**GOOD DESIGN**  
BEST 100

**2016 GOLDEN  
PIN DESIGN AWARD**  
Taiwan Design Centre  
Spatial Design

**HONG KONG  
DESIGN AWARDS**  
Pop up, Display,  
Exhibit & Set Design  
**GOLD AWARD**

**ARCHITIZER**  
Architecture  
+ Wood  
**JURY WINNER**

**ARCHITIZER**  
Architecture  
+ Engineering  
**POPULAR CHOICE**

**ARCHITIZER**  
Architecture  
+ Sustainability  
**FINALIST**

**ARCHITIZER**  
Cultural: Pavilions  
**SPECIAL MENTION**

**A&D TROPHY  
AWARD**  
Architecture & Design  
Green or Sustainable  
**BEST OF**

**INTERNATIONAL  
PROPERTY AWARDS**  
☆☆☆☆☆  
**BEST LEASURE**

**GREEN BUILDING  
AWARDS AWARD**  
Research and Planning  
**MERIT AWARD**

**SUCCESSFUL  
DESIGN AWARDS**  
SPACE category  
**MOST SUCCESSFUL  
DESIGN AWARD**

**DESIGN FOR  
ASIA AWARDS**  
Hong Kong  
Design Centre  
**SILVER AWARD**

**HKDA GLOBAL  
DESIGN AWARDS**  
Hospitality &  
Entertainment Space  
**GOLD AWARD**

**HKDA GLOBAL  
DESIGN AWARDS**  
Hospitality &  
Entertainment Space  
**JUDGES' CHOICE**

**HKDA GLOBAL  
DESIGN AWARDS**  
Hospitality &  
Entertainment Space  
**HONG KONG BEST**



**HoloLens 2**

Microsoft



## Mixed-reality driven remote teaching and learning





## iPhone 12 Pro

LiDAR Scanner added for "Instant AR" & Depth Mapping



Hidden Side™  
LEGO®

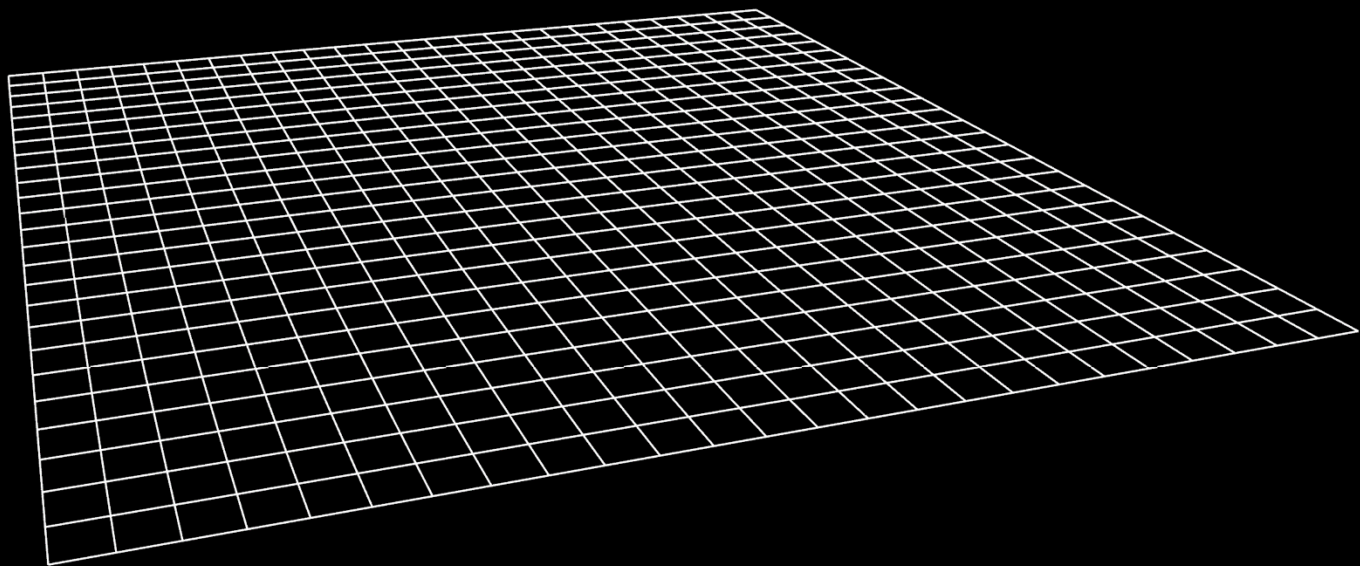


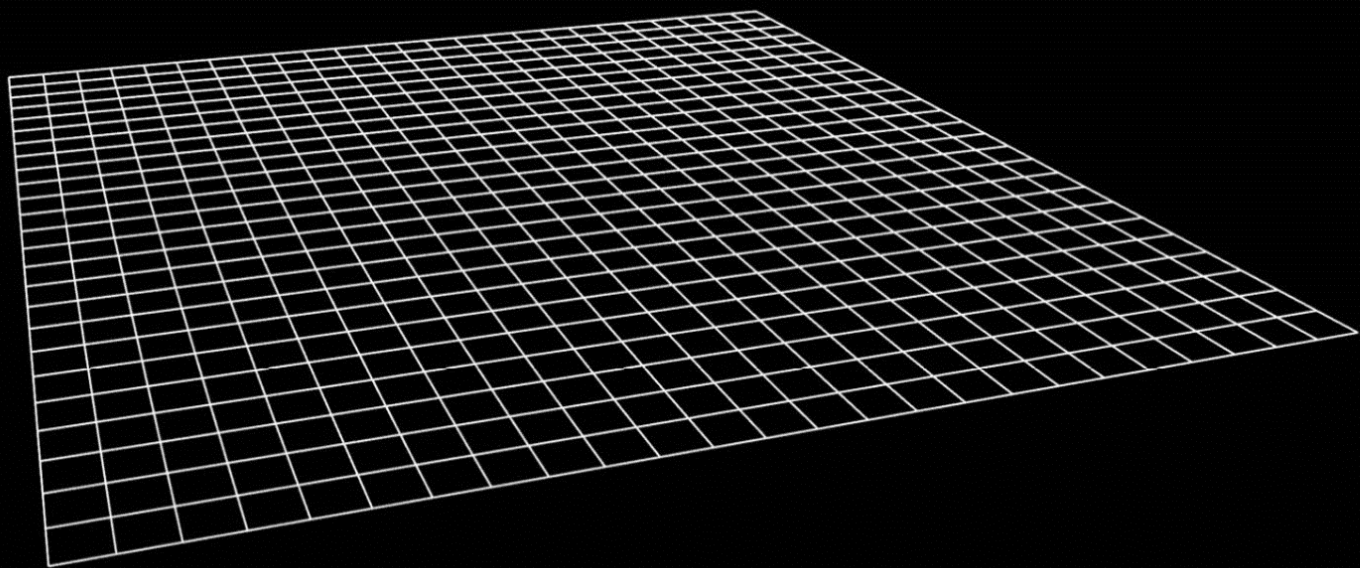
**IKEA Place**  
For iOS11 devices

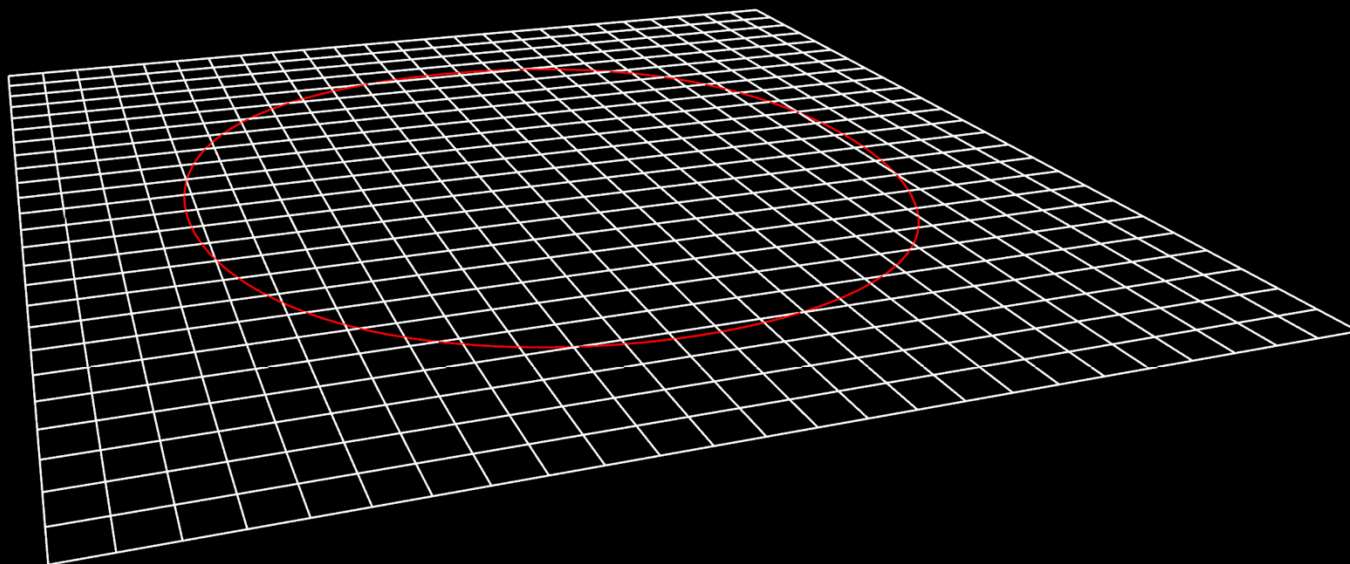


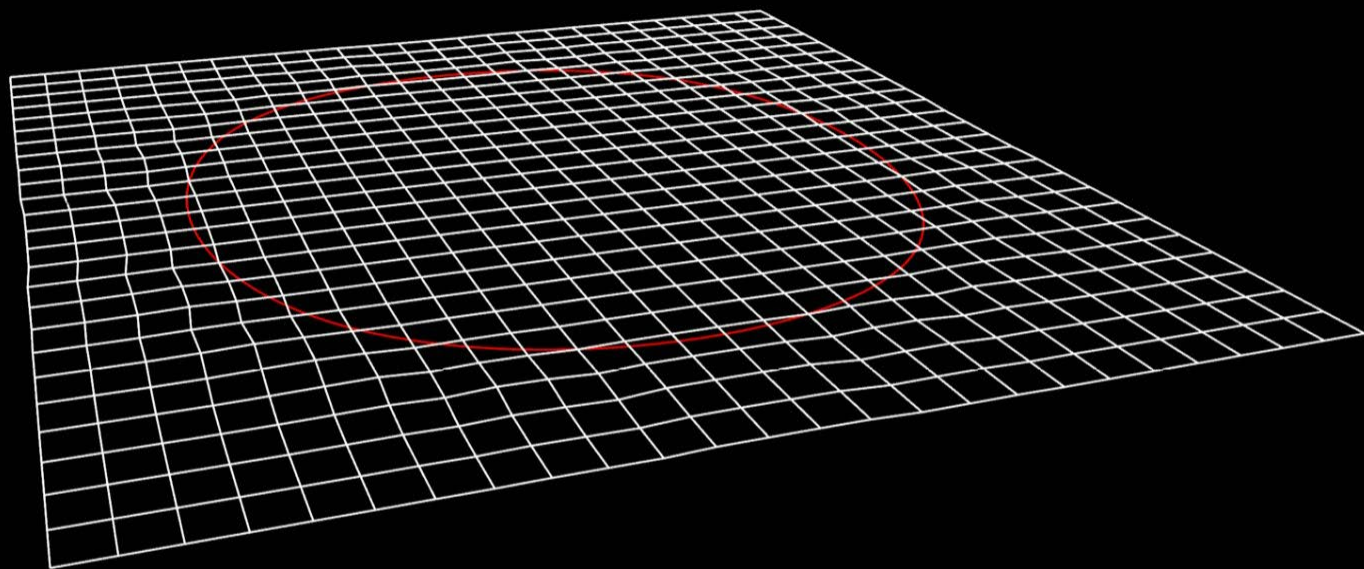
**Frei Otto**  
1925 - 2015



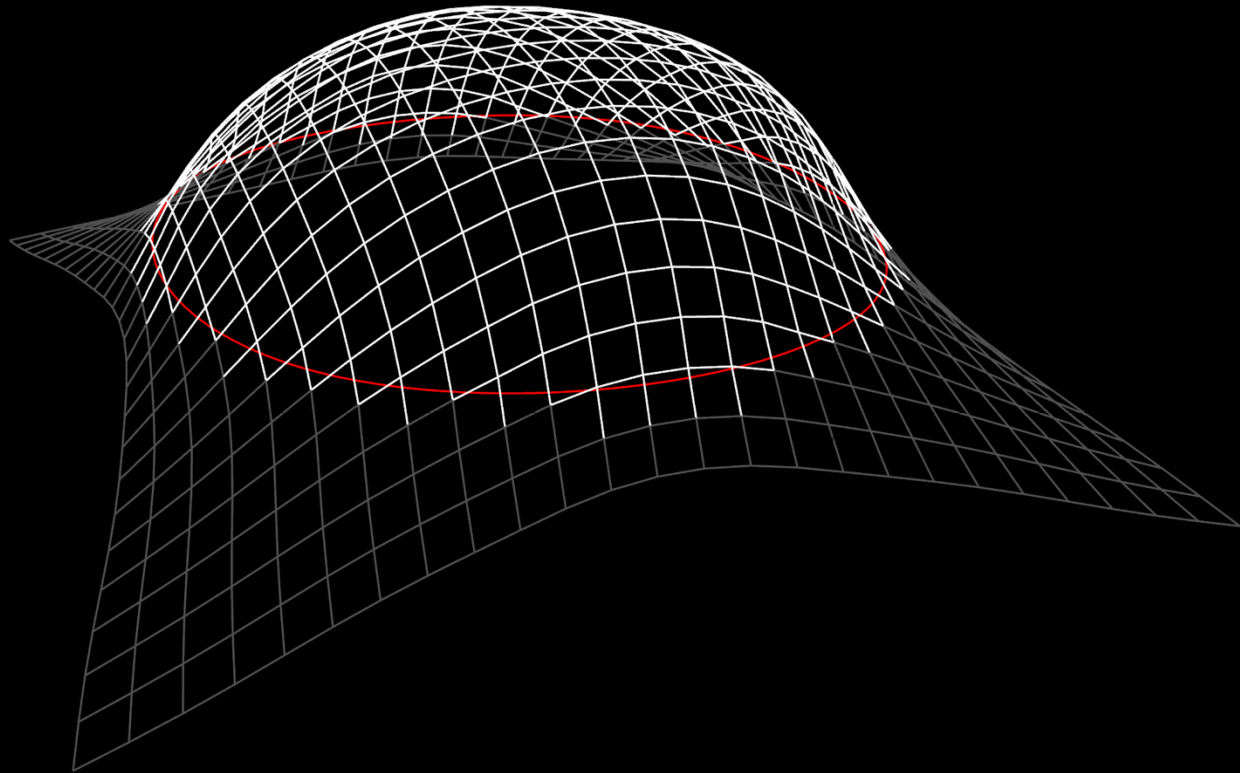






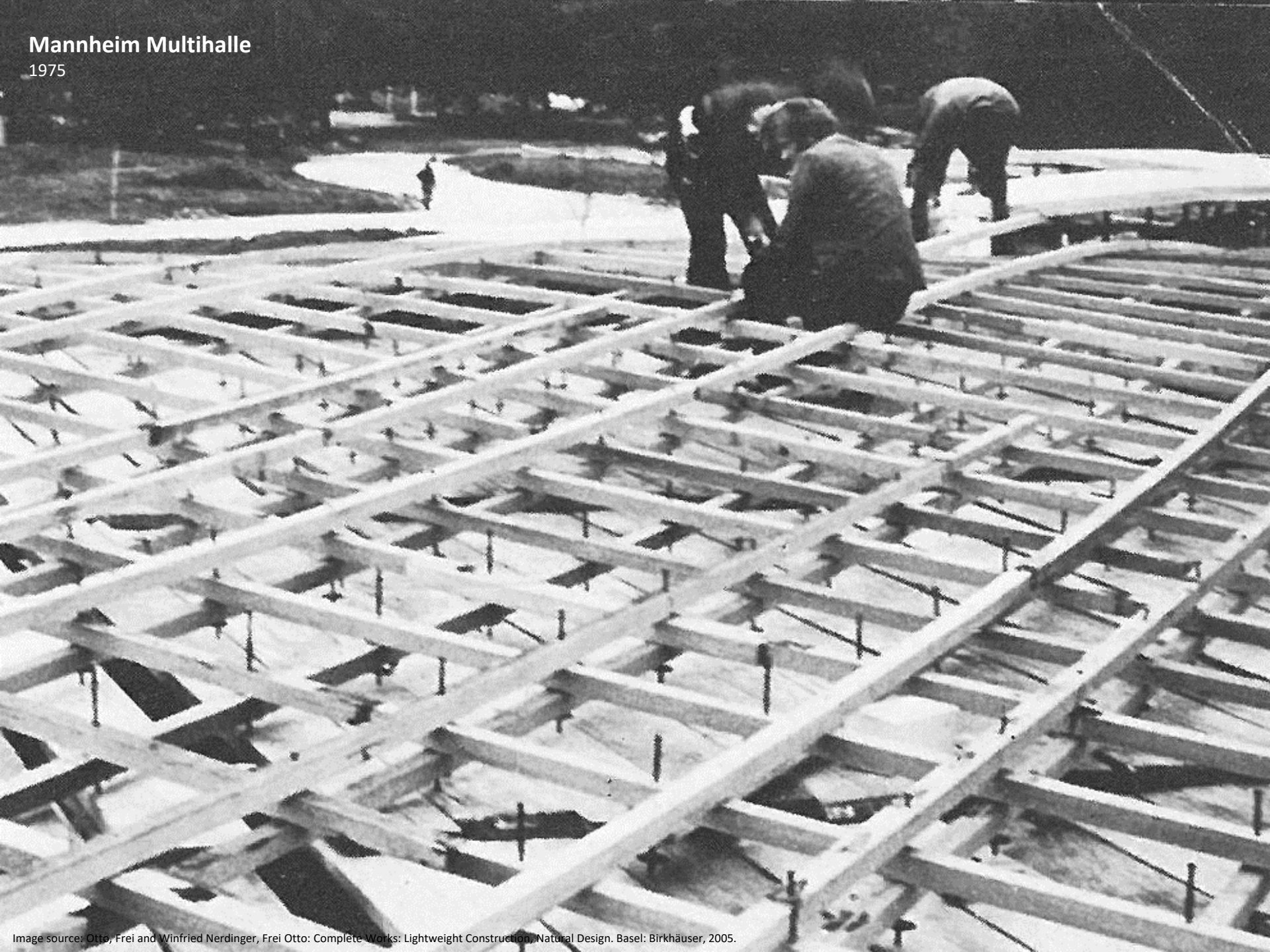






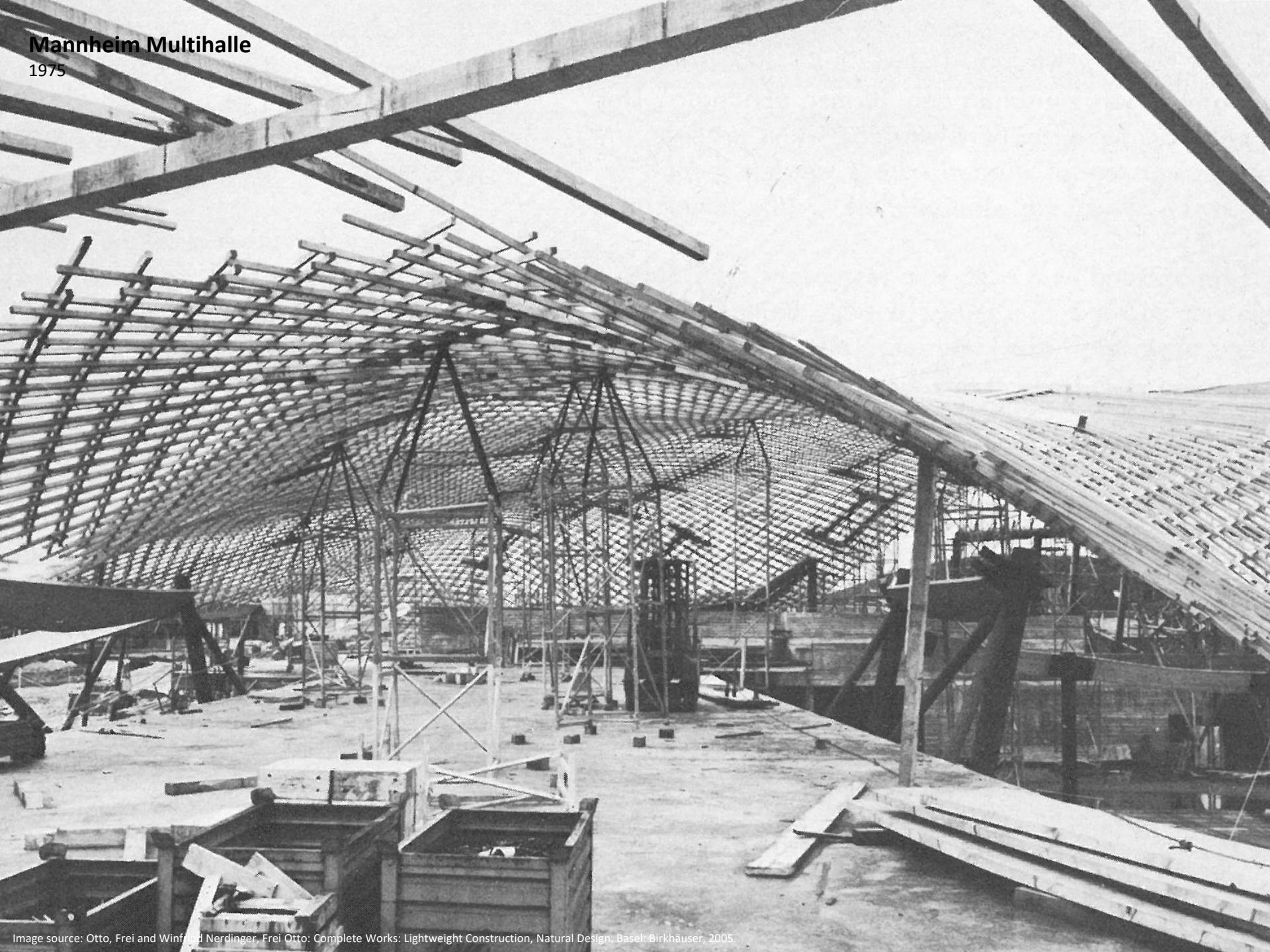
# Mannheim Multihalle

1975



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1975



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1975



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1975



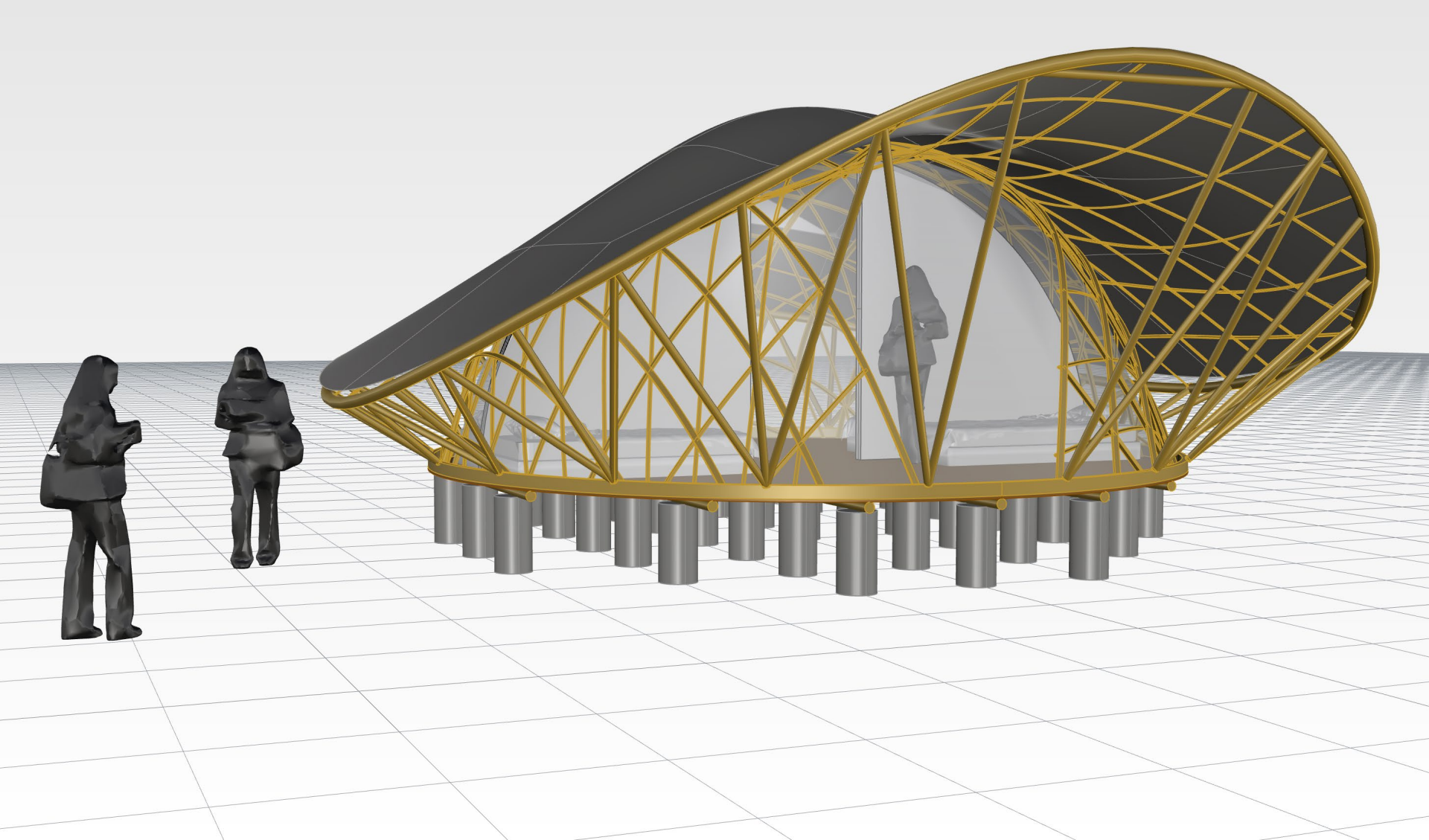


# BAMBOO U

11 Day Build & Design Course  
on-site in Bali, Indonesia  
March 2023

[www.bamboou.com](http://www.bamboou.com)



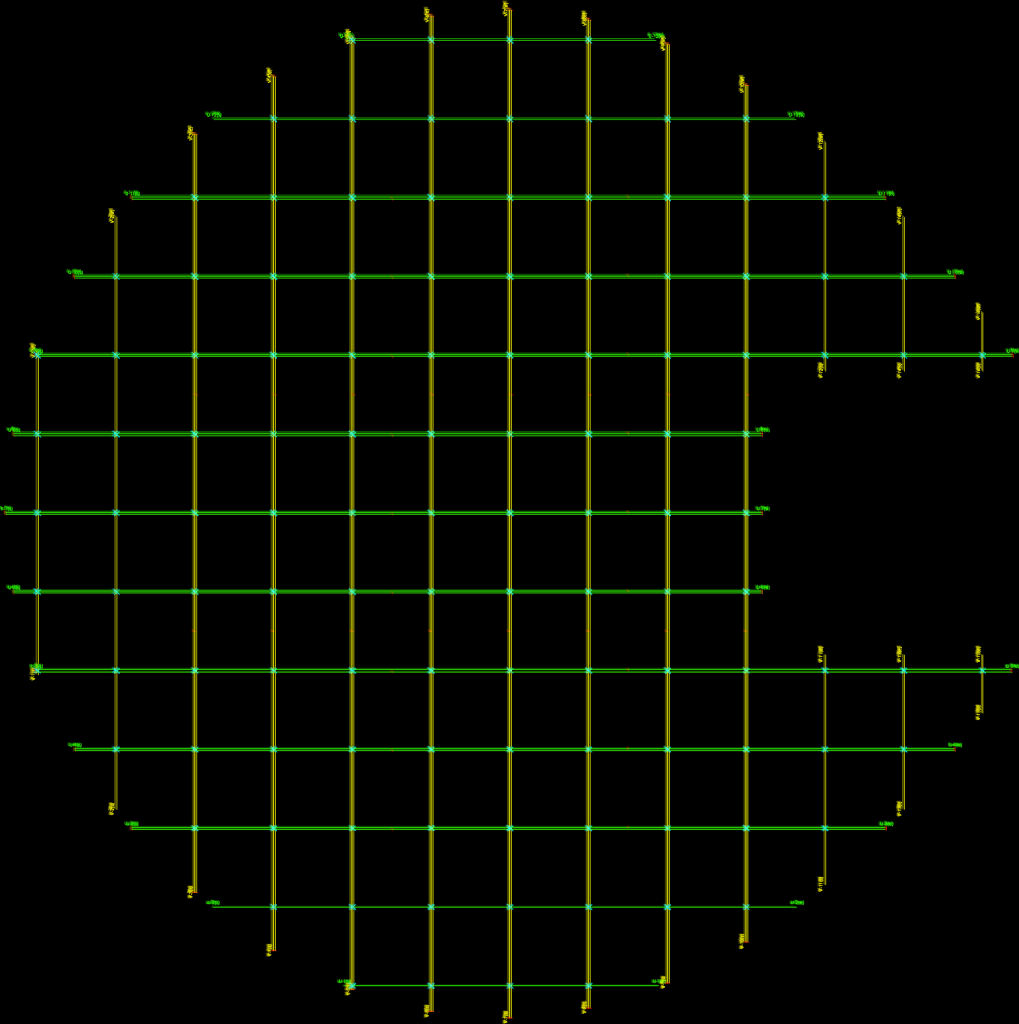




# KEPITING BAMBU

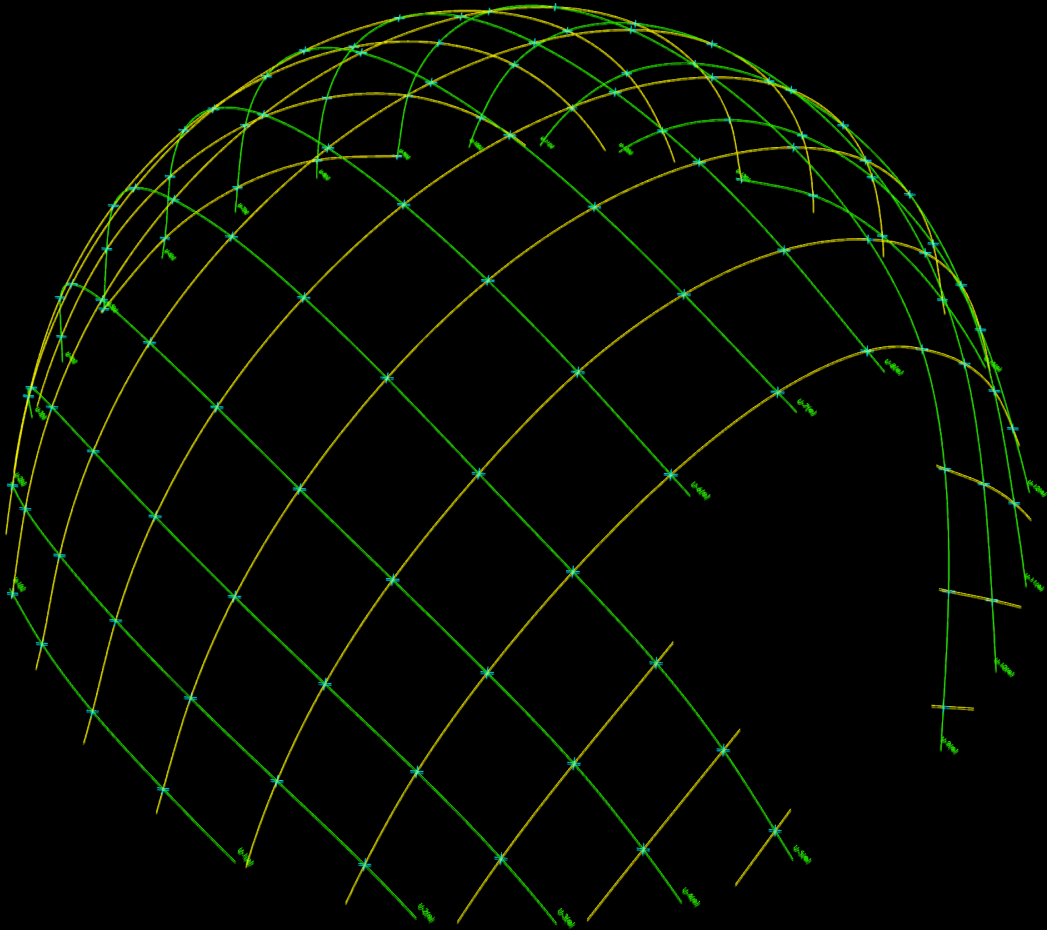
Construction sequence

x2



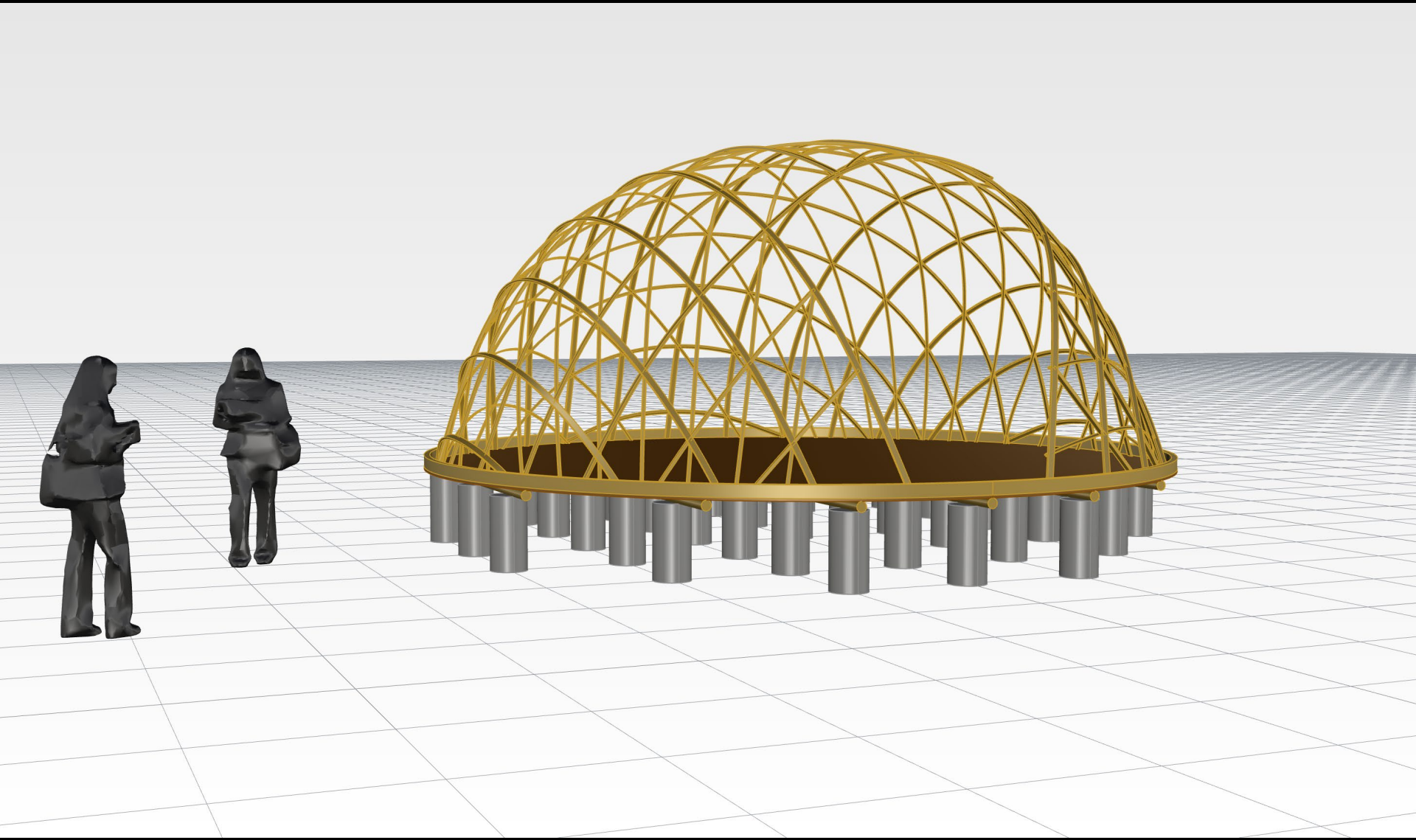
**KEPITING BAMBU**

Construction sequence



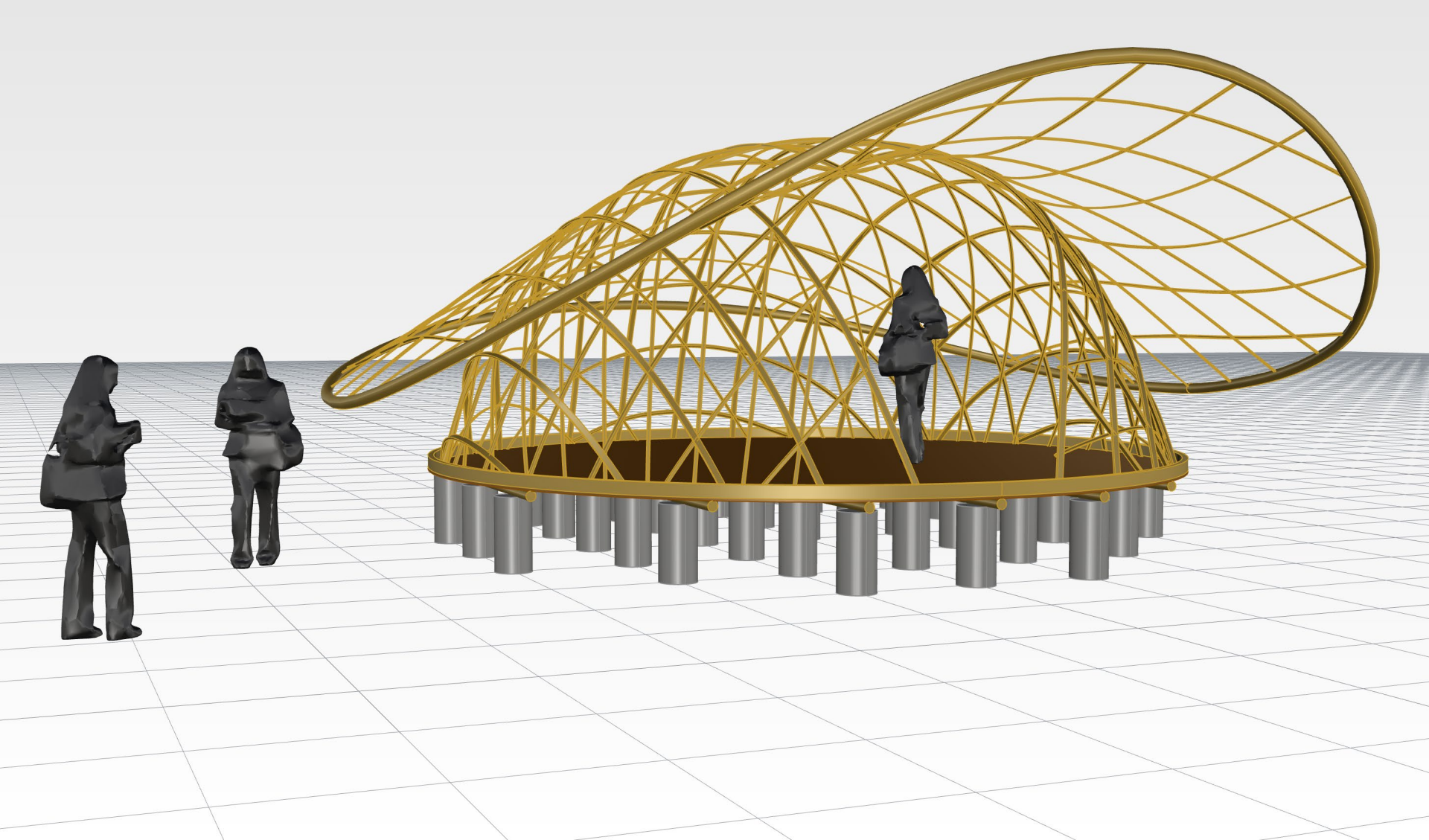
**KEPITING BAMBU**

Construction sequence



**KEPITING BAMBU**

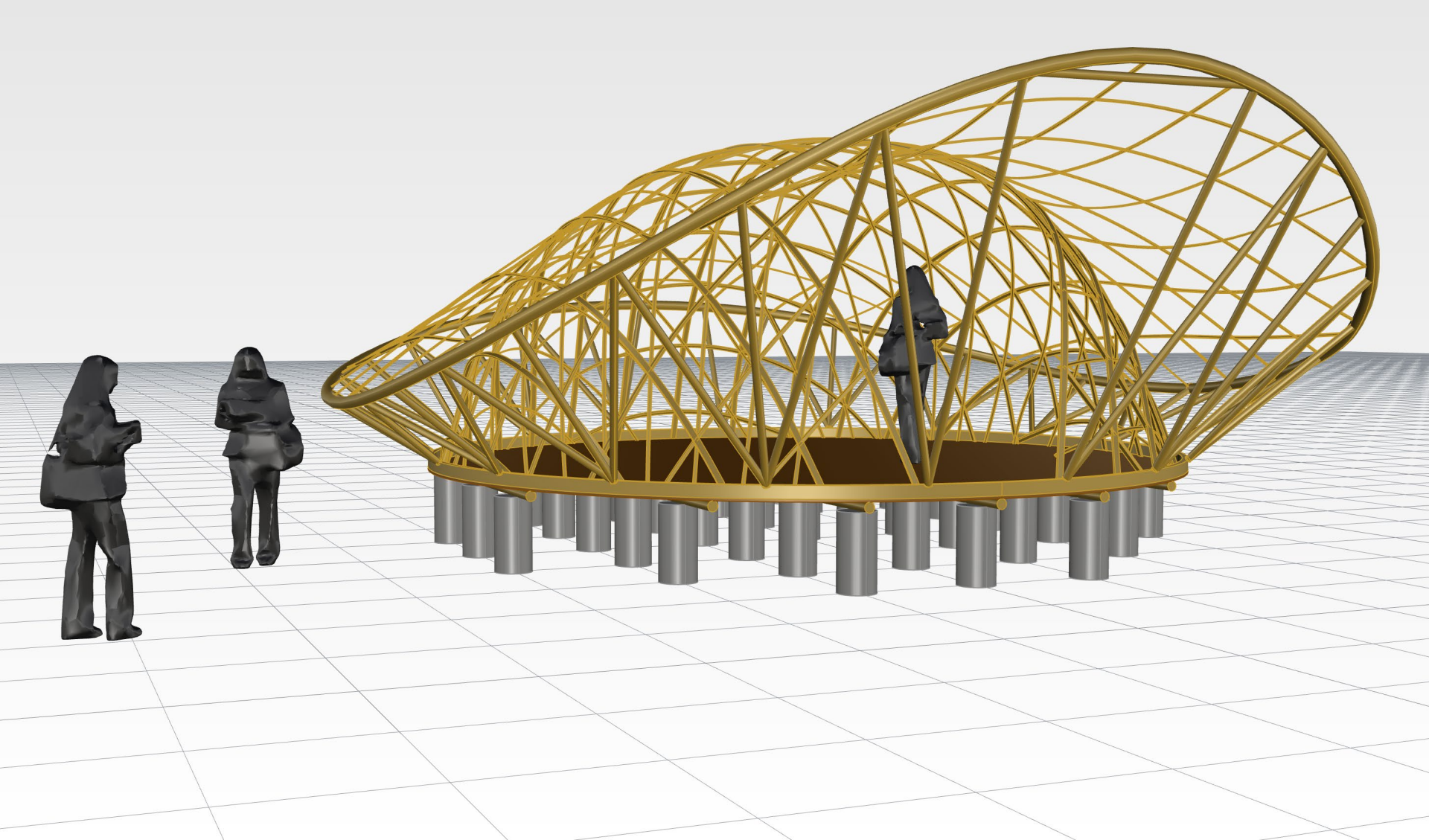
Construction sequence



# KEPITING BAMBU

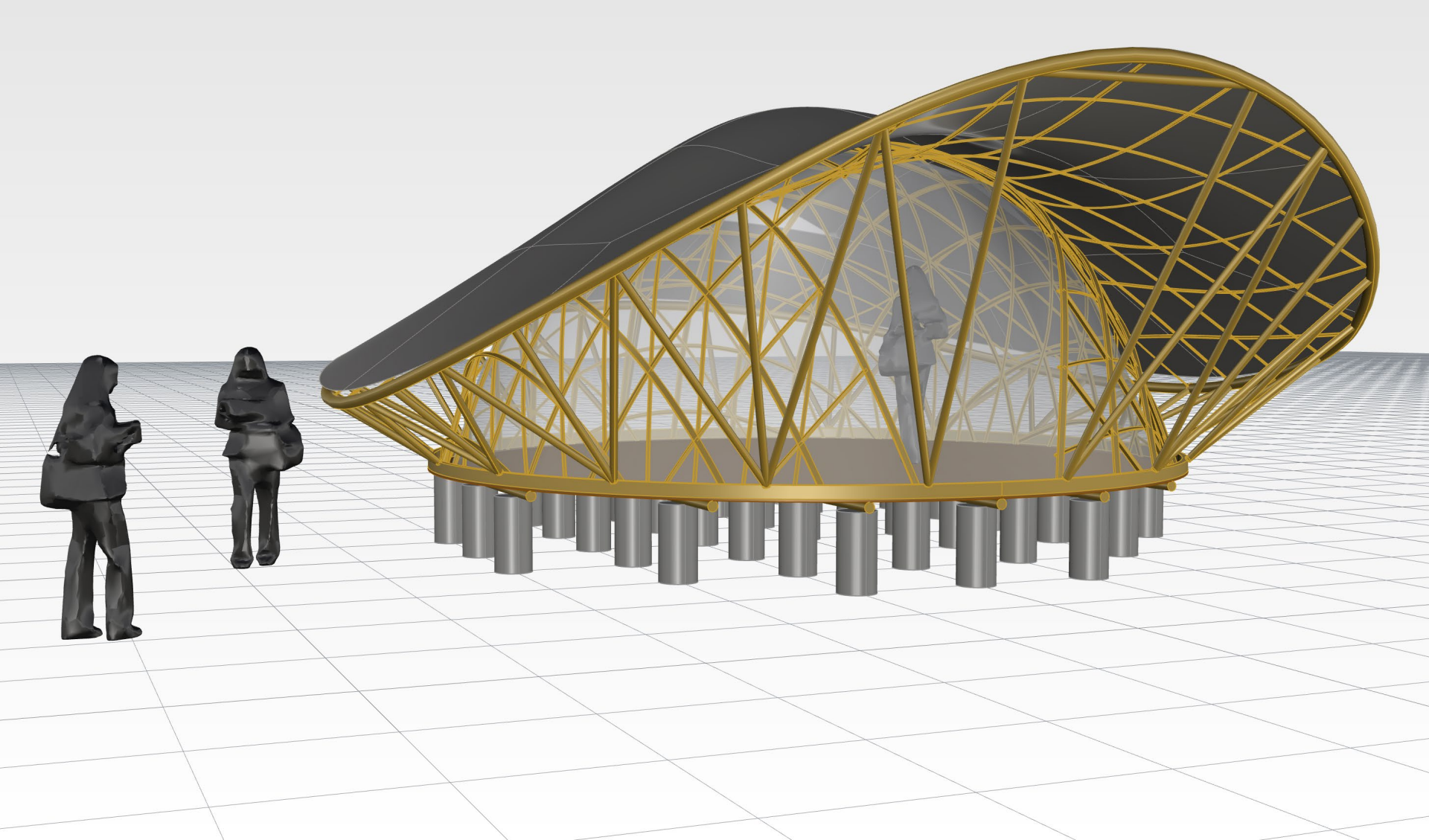
Construction sequence

x2



**KEPITING BAMBU**

Construction sequence



**KEPITING BAMBU**

Site condition



# KEPITING BAMBU

Onsite client briefing



Elora Hardy (IBUKU)



Orin Hardy (Bamboo U)



**KEEPING BAMBU**  
Onsite client briefing



**KEPITING BAMBU**

Onsite position and orientation check



# KEPITING BAMBU

Foundation set-out



**KEPITING BAMBU**  
Foundation



# KEPITING BAMBU

Bottom ring beam



# KEPITING BAMBU

Participant's using

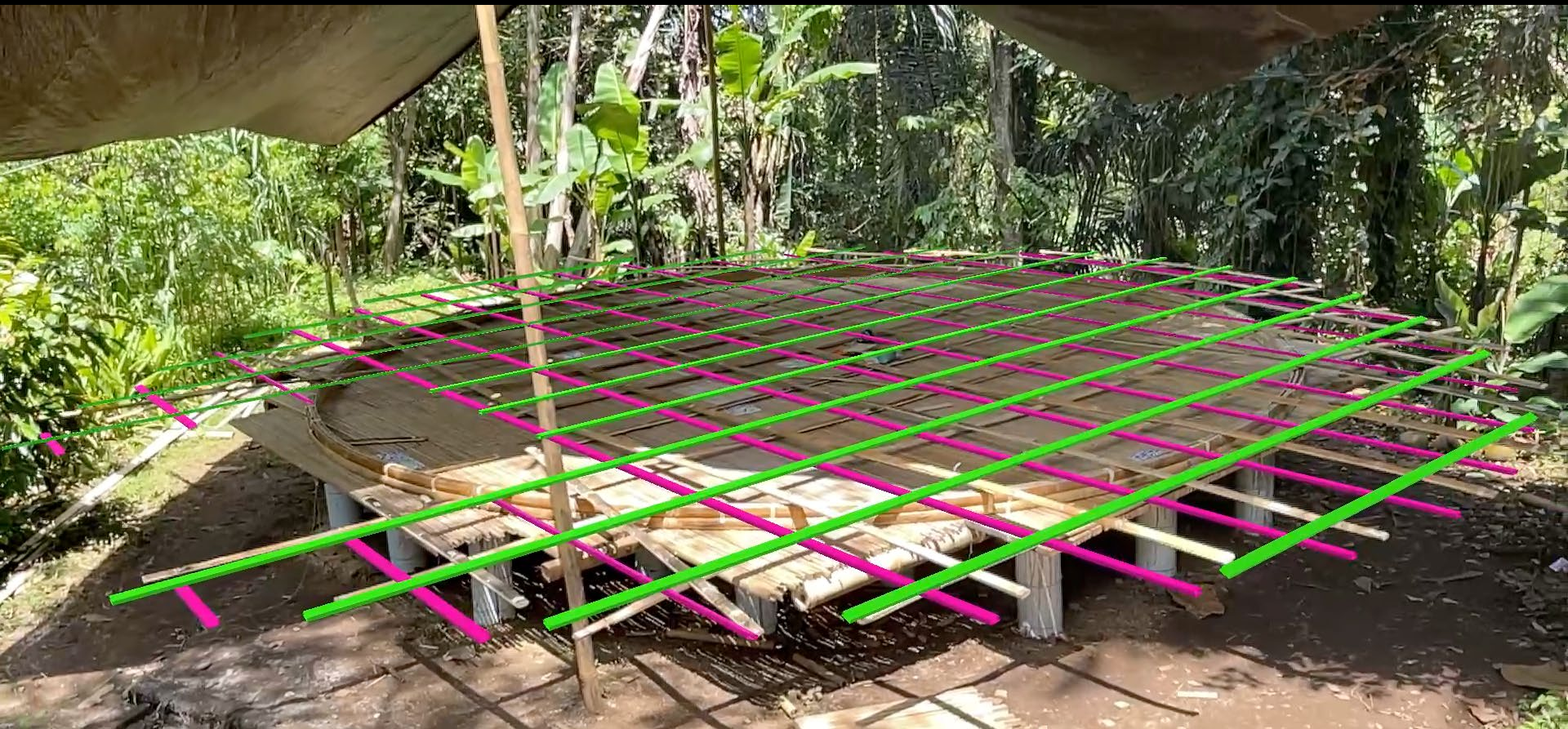


**KEPITING BAMBU**  
Main grid fabrication



**KEPITING BAMBU**

Main grid popping-up (simulation)





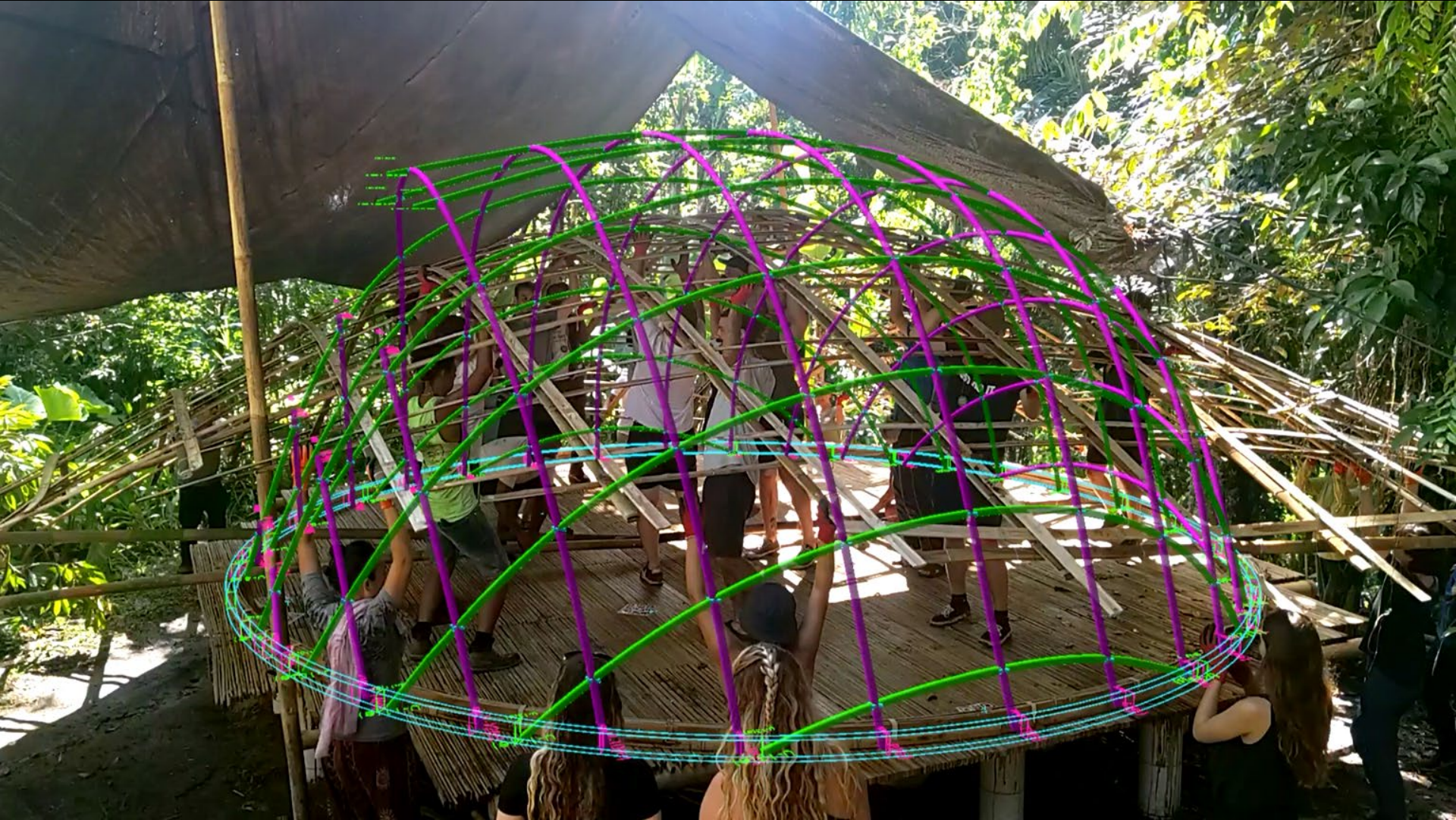
# KEPITING BAMBU

Main grid popping-up



# KEPITING BAMBU

Main grid popping-up



# KEPITING BAMBU

Main grid fixing



**KEPITING BAMBU**

Top grid installation



**KEPITING BAMBU**

Lidi bundle installation



**KEPITING BAMBU**

Lidi bundle installation



**KEPITING BAMBU**

Lidi bundle support marking



**KEPITING BAMBU**

Lidi bundle support marking





# KEPING BAMBU

Workshop end



**KEPITING BAMBU**  
Workshop end

















TO BE CONTINUED...

BAMBOO U

AUGUST 2023



**BAMBOO U HALL**

4 March 2024



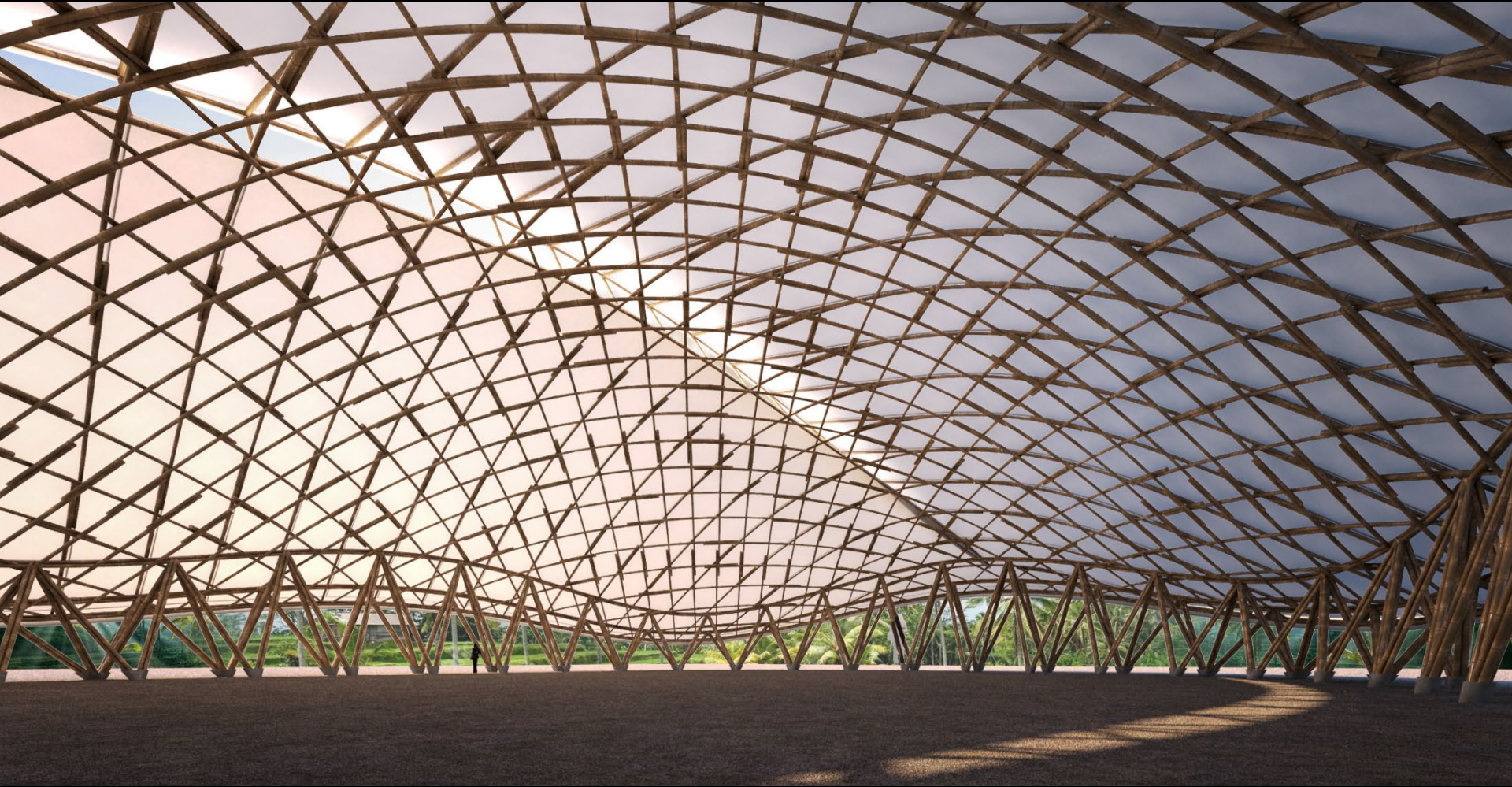
# BALI BAMBOO HALL

Indonesia, 2024 (tbd.)



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Indonesia, 2024 (tbd.)



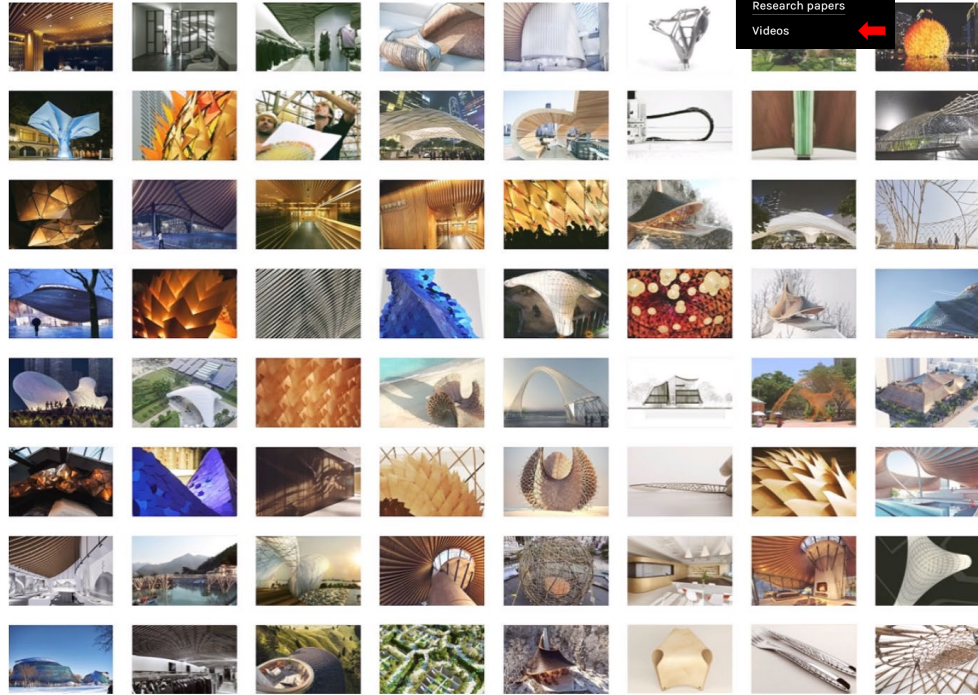
# BALI BAMBOO HALL

Indonesia, 2024 (tbd.)

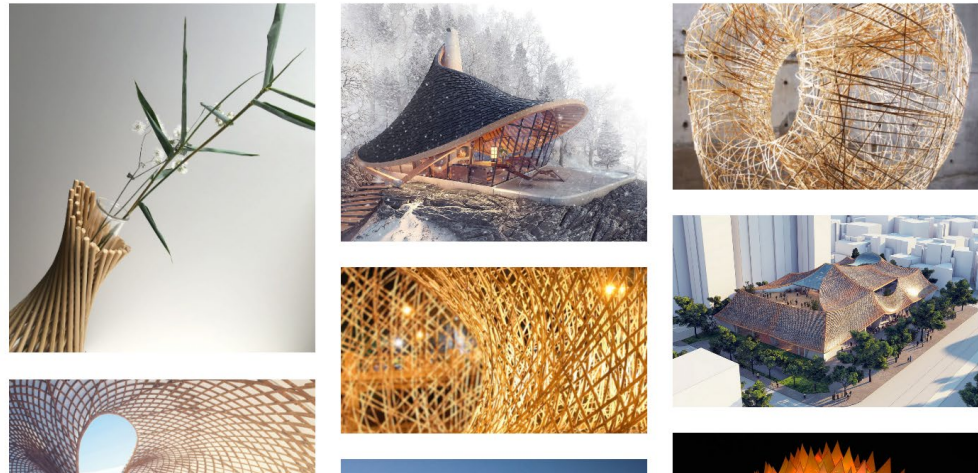




- Features
- Research papers
- Videos



Highlights



## PUBLICATIONS

### 2023

- Architectural Education With Virtual Reality...
- Catenary Wooden Roof Structures...
- Resonance-In-Sight: Fabrication Of ...

### 2022

- Entering Hyper-Reality: "Resonance-In...

### 2021

- Creating Parametric Design...
- Expanding Bending-Active Bamboo...
- Secret Whispers & Transmogrifications...

### 2020

- AR-Based Collaboration...
- Augmenting Craft With Mixed Reality...
- Designing With Uncertainty...

### 2019

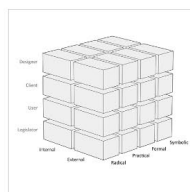
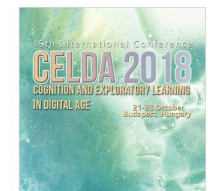
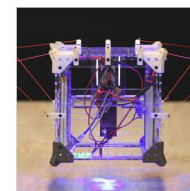
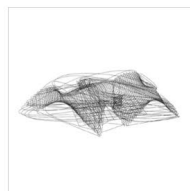
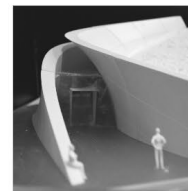
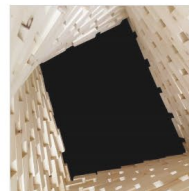
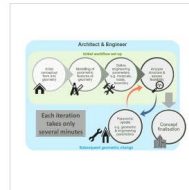
- 'Peer Critique' In Debate: A Pedagogical...
- Automation Complexity – Brick By...
- Design Practice Complexity In The...
- Simplifying Catenary Wood Structures
- Simplifying Doubly Curved Concrete...

### 2018

- Architect's Feasible Design Solution...
- Bending Bamboo Rules: Beyond Century...
- Beyond Architecture: How Computation ...
- Building Collaborative Creativity...
- Building Simplicity: The 'More Or Less'...
- Choreographed Architecture – Body...
- CU-Brick Cable-Driven Robot For...
- Inflatable Architecture Production With...
- Interaction Between Parametric...

### 2017

- Building Simplicity: The 'More Or Less'...





**1. INTRODUCTION****2. MAIN DESIGN TOOLS****2.1. BENDING CURVES**

- 01. Single Curve
- 02. Curve Network
- 03. Surface Curve Network

**2.2. POP-UP GRIDSHELLS**

- 01. Pop-Up Grid
- 02. Pop Up Grid: Diagonals
- 03. Pop Up Grid: Diagonals + Ties

**2.3. SINGULARITIES**

- 01. Singularities
- 02. Singularities: Joining Curves
- 03. Singularities: Kangaroo 2
- 04. Singularities + Mesh
- 05. Singularities: Distort

**3. ANALYSIS TOOLS****3.1. CURVATURE**

- 01. Curvature Analysis
- 02. Fingerprint Tool

**3.2. STRUCTURAL PERFORMANCE**

- 01. Structural Evaluation: Karamba3D
- 02. Pop-Up Grid: Struct. Eval. (Prep)
- 03. Singularities: Struct. Eval. (Prep) (1)
- 04. Singularities: Struct. Eval. (Prep) (2)

**4. VISUALISATION TOOLS****5. FABRICATION TOOLS****6. TAXONOMY****7. EXAMPLES****7.1 BUILT PROTOTYPES**

- 01. ZCB Bamboo Pavilion
- 02. TOROO
- 03. Belas Bambu

**7.2 CONCEPT DESIGNS**

- 01. Rural Construction Studio

# BENDING-ACTIVE BAMBOO SHELL STRUCTURES:

## Methods And Guidelines For Best Architectural Design Practice

This research was supported by a grant from the Research Grants Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region China: Project No. 14604618. Principal Investigator: Dr Kristof Crolla; Research Assistants: Garvin Goepel, Julien Klisz.

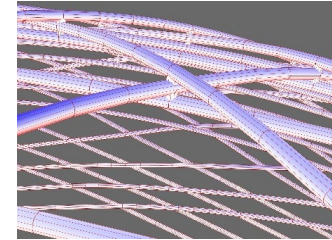


### 1. Background

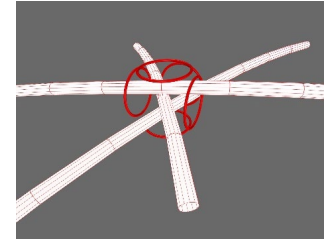
A combination of vernacular bamboo craftsmanship and digital design technology enables radically unique and spatially versatile architectural solutions rooted in local culture and sustainable building practices. This research project builds on

## DOME Model Geometry Setup

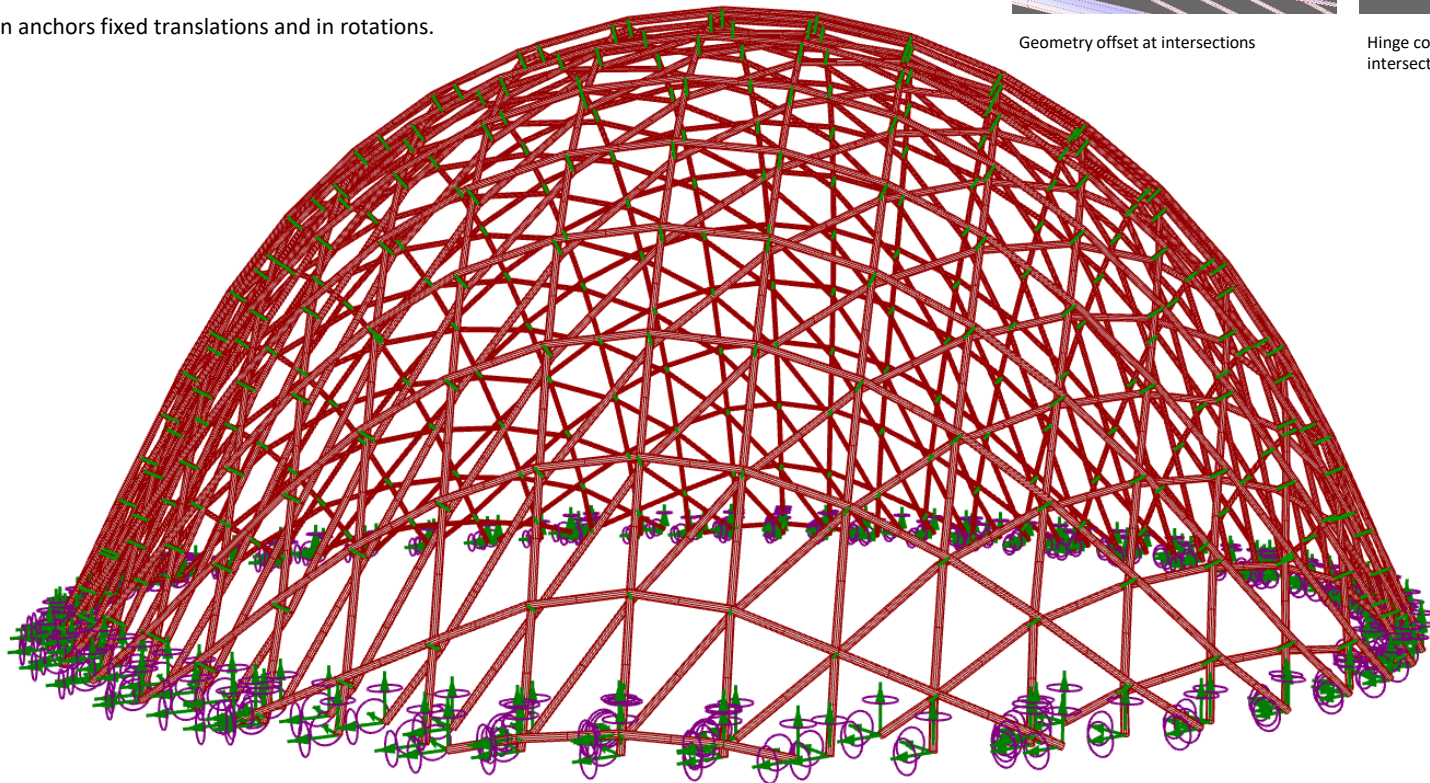
- Interconnected bamboo culms were abstracted to a total of 69 continuous curves, split into 988 lines
- At crossings, intersecting lines were offset and given a freely-rotating hinged connection.
- Foundation anchors fixed translations and in rotations.



Geometry offset at intersections

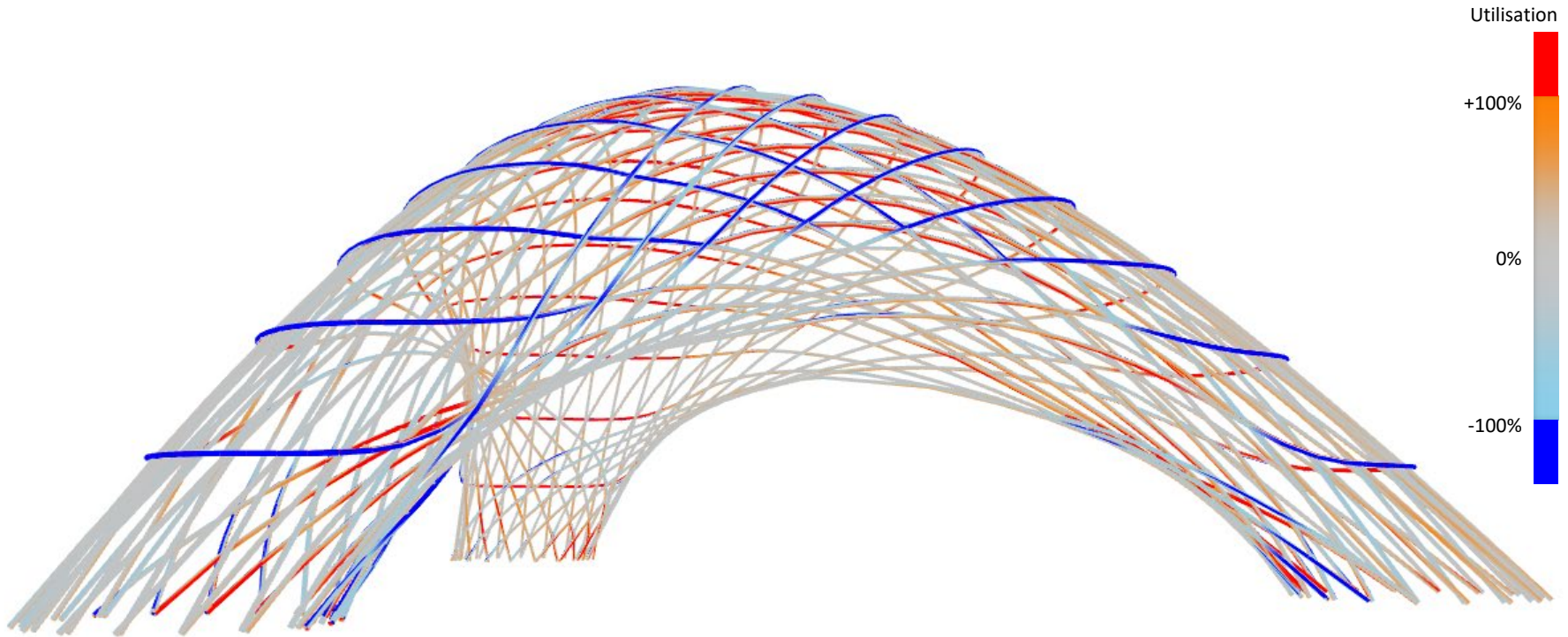


Hinge connections at intersections

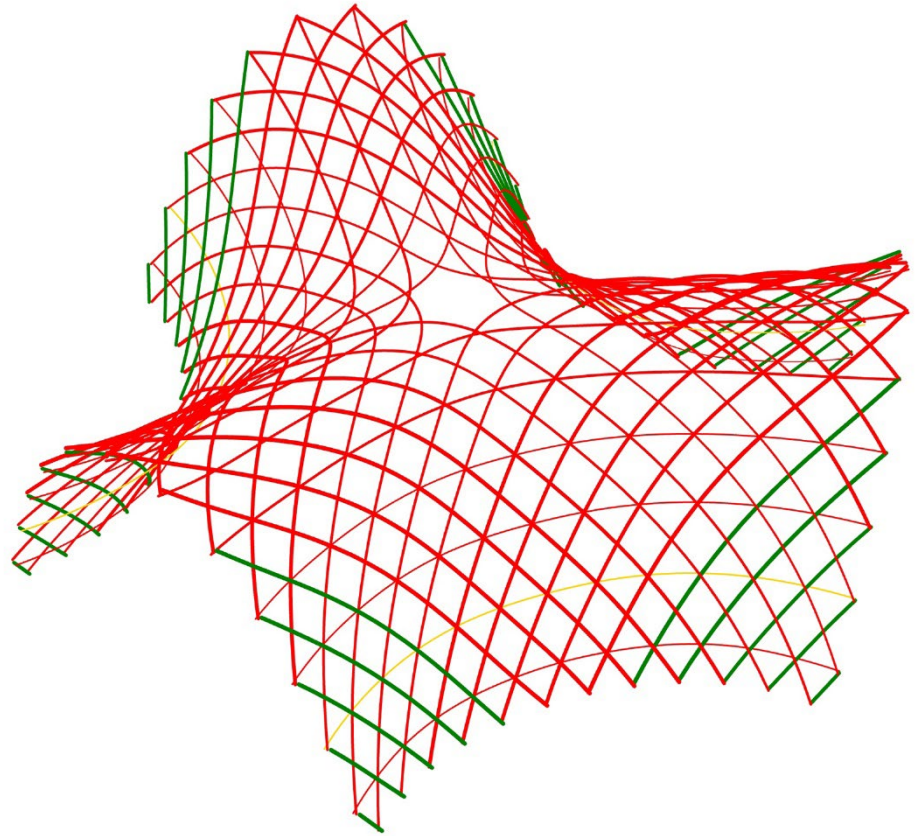
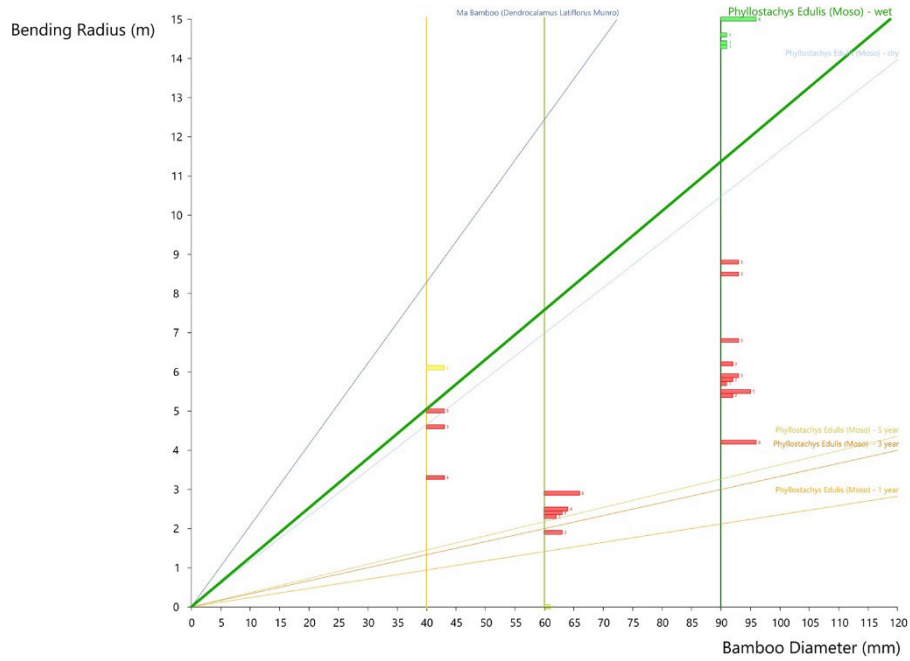


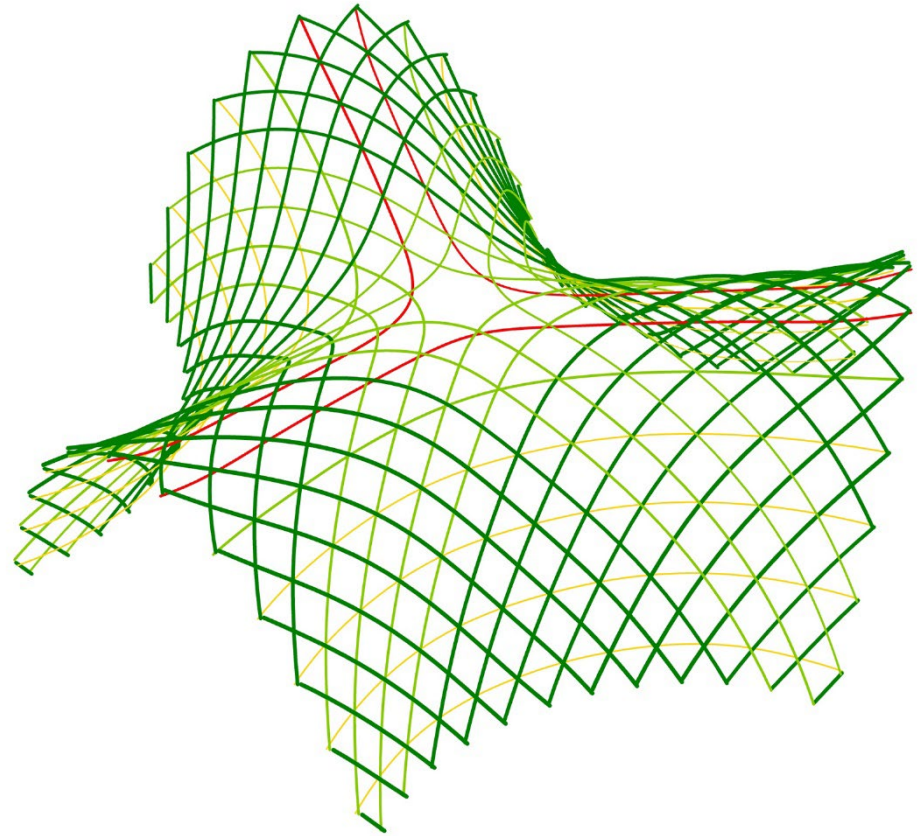
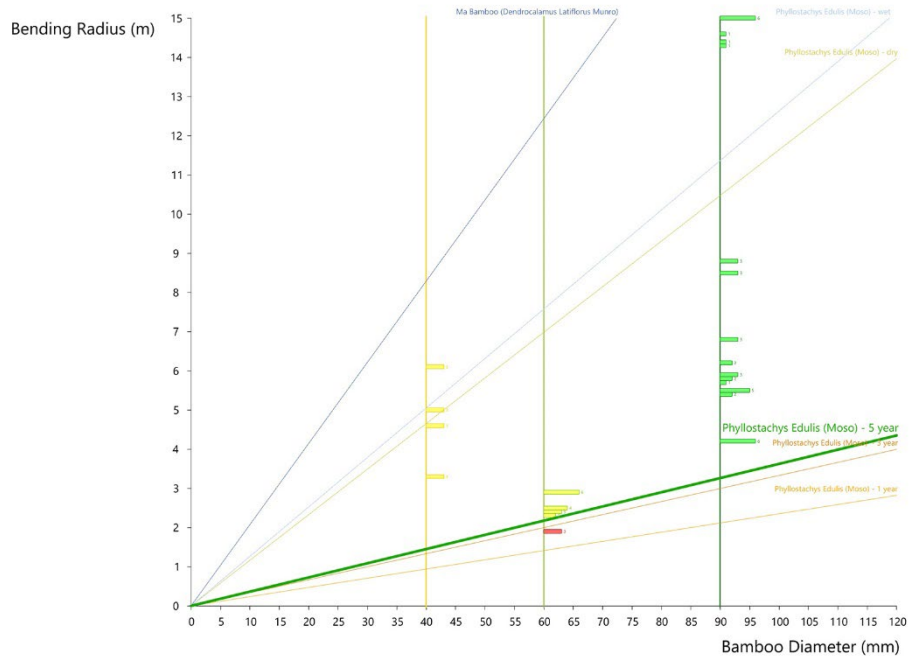
Karamba Evaluation

E.g. Material stress in load case 3 (SW+ Western wind + Initial Strain)



[-462.7% - 454.7%]







>120,000 visits from >7,500 unique users  
from 129 different countries

>115,000 exercise file downloads

As recent technological evolutions are radically reshaping all aspects of architectural design, it is essential for future generations to gain a critical understanding of latest new modes of operation.

This online learning platform, developed by the Building Simplicity Lab (BSL) and colleagues from Department of Architecture, coherently centralises and coordinates relevant tutorials on digital design tools & techniques for architecture and the built environment. Lessons can be easily searched and queried by students and incorporated into flipped-classroom teaching by instructors across and beyond our faculty.

As our 'digital design toolbox' expands, knowledge retention throughout generations of students becomes challenging. Available time to focus on specialised or advanced applications is limited. This database aims to become an essential online learning platform to allow students to navigate and meaningfully engage with the rapidly increasing volume and diversity of digital material and technology that they need in design, production, and management processes. This website strives to facilitate the integration of computation and digital learning across faculties and will become an invaluable long-term industry-focused resource both for students and graduates.

The index for now largely centres on the 3D NURBS modelling software platform Rhinoceros and its procedural modeller Grasshopper – a powerful procedural design tool that allows you to create through algorithmic design processes, that is widely used in the architecture and design fields, and that can greatly enhance digital literacy and design capabilities. The website contains over 130 exercises, many with pre-recorded video tutorials, with more to come in the near future, covering a range of topics from the basics of grasshopper to more advanced techniques and plugins. This growing list already includes topics like 1) Geometry, 2) Recursive scripting, 3) Particle systems & agent-based design, 4) Evolutionary solvers, 5) Workflow & fabrication, 6) Visualisation & rendering, 7) Physics simulation & structural analysis, 8) Energy & building simulation, 9) Extended reality, 10) Coding, Etc.

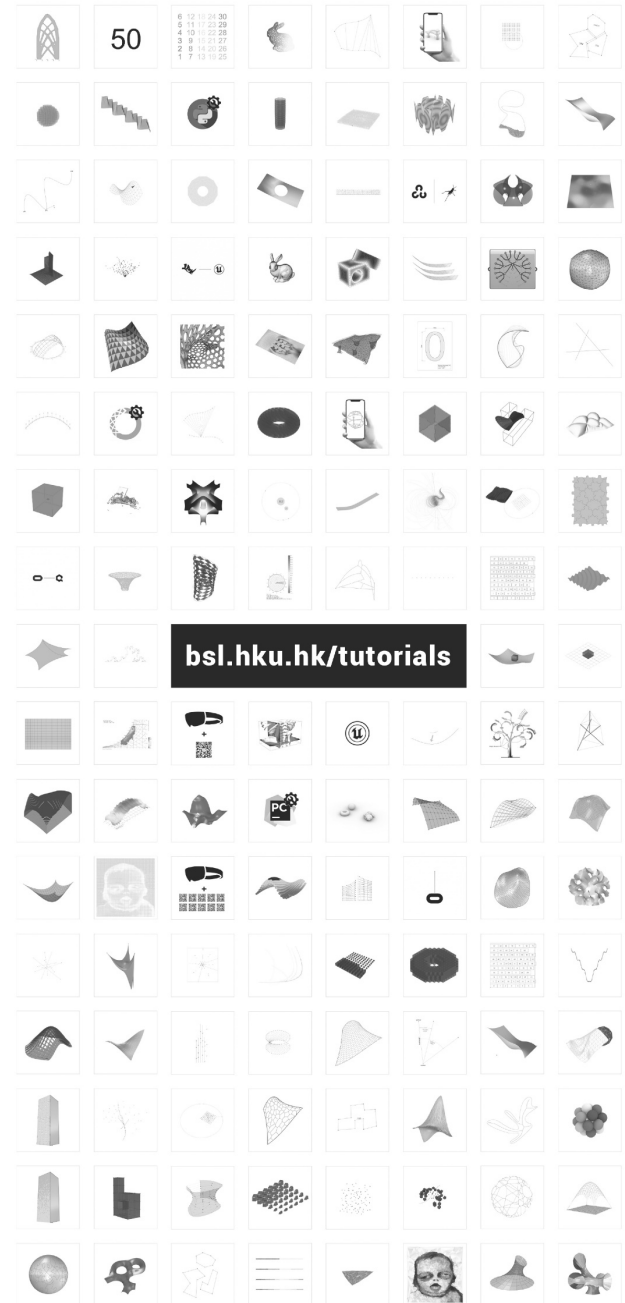
We encourage all students to take advantage of this resource and explore the many possibilities that grasshopper has to offer. It is our hope that this tutorial website will help increase agency in the design studio and give you the tools to create truly unique and innovative designs.

Enjoy!

March 2023

Principal Investigator:  
**Dr Kristof Crolla**

Co-Investigators:  
**Dr Eike Schling, Ms Lidia Ratoi, Mr Haotian Zhang, Mr Nikolas Ettel, Dr Kaicong Wu**



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. PREFACE

01. Geometry Concepts

1.2. BASIC COMPONENTS

- 01. Data Matching
- 02. Data Index
- 03. Data Index 2
- 04. Split
- 05. Shift
- 06. Sort
- 07. Sort and Subset
- 08. Dispatch
- 09. Sort and Cull
- 10. Distance Logic
- 11. Complex Expressions
- 12. Mathematical Surfaces (1)
- 13. Mathematical Surfaces (2)
- 14. Data Paths- Introduction
- 15. Data Paths
- 16. Path Mapper

1.3. CONCEPTUAL EXERCISES

- 01. Surface Panelisation
- 02. Surface Population
- 03. Non-Uniform Surface Subdivision
- 04. Colour Gradient
- 05. Surface Grid Mapping
- 06. Voronoi Mapping
- 07. Percentage-based Randomness
- 08. Randomness Gradient
- 09. Data Snapping
- 10. Panel Spreader
- 11. Mesh Coloration
- 12. Mesh Coloration by Proximity
- 13. Mesh Coloration by Proximity (PCD)
- 14. Medial Axis

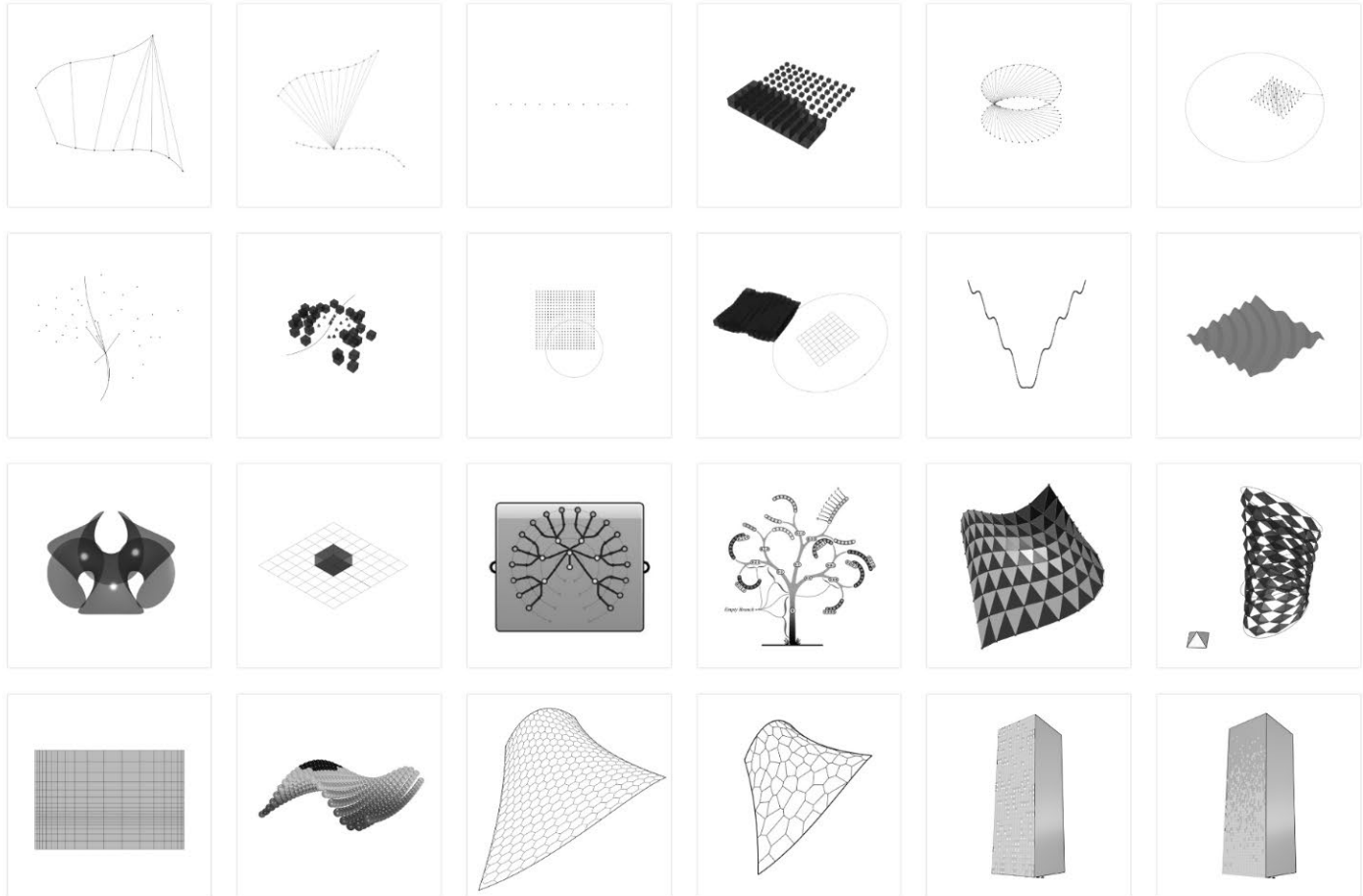
2. GEOMETRY

2.1. WEAVERBIRD

CONTENT:

- > 10 Main topics
- > 175 Exercises
- > 50 Video tutorials

SHOW ALL 01. INTRODUCTION 02. GEOMETRY 03. RECURSIVE SCRIPTING 04. PARTICLE SYSTEMS AND AGENT-BASED DESIGN 05. EVOLUTIONARY SOLVERS 06. WORKFLOW & FABRICATION 07. VISUALISATION & RENDERING 08. PHYSICS SIMULATION & STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS 09. ENERGY & BUILDING SIMULATION 10. EXTENDED REALITY 11. CODING



## 1. INTRODUCTION

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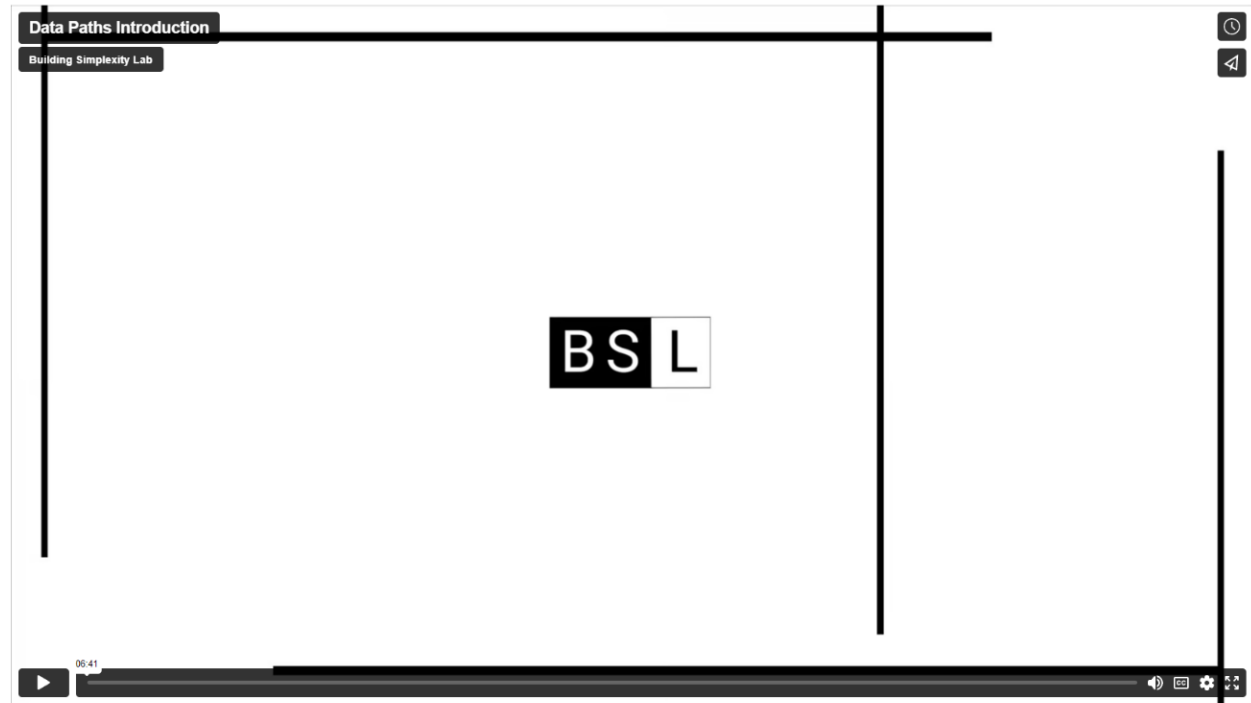
## 2. GEOMETRY

### 2.1. WEAVERBIRD

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- > 10 Main topics
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## 1.2.14. DATA PATHS INTRODUCTION



52 total views, 1 views today

Date published: August 9, 2022

### DESCRIPTION

This exercise introduces the importance of data paths: the "addresses" or access paths where specific geometric data is stored and accessed from.

### PROCEDURE

1. Create two surfaces and add them both into one button: a list shows two items in one branch address. 2. Explode all items from the list: a list connecting to the "edge" output shows two branches with 4 items, the four edges of the surfaces.
3. Flip matrix: by flipping the matrix instead of having 2 branches with 4 items, we create 4 branches with two items: the first two edges, the second two edges, the third two edges and the fourth two edges.
4. The loft command lofts all the edges within one branch of the data tree.

### SOFTWARE

Rhino  
Grasshopper

### PLUGINS

-

### COURSE FILES

Data\_Paths\_Introduction.zip  
984.15 KB | 3 downloads



- 26. Tension Membrane from Developable S
- 27. Fixed Boundary Bending Structure
- 28. Inflatable with Tension Wire
- 29. Sphere Packing
- 30. Curly Kale
- 31. Growing Curve on Surface
- 32. Planar Quads
- 8.2. KIWI!3D**
- 01. Linear Analysis
- 02. Non-Linear Analysis
- 03. Form Finding
- 8.4. AMEBA**
- 01. 2D Topology Optimisation
- 02. 3D Topology Optimisation

## 9. ENERGY & BUILDING SIMULATION

- 9.1. LADYBUG**
- 01. Sunpath and sunlight hour analysis
- 02. Wind rose
- 03. Psychometric Chart
- 04. Solar Temperature Adjustor
- 05. 3D Chart
- 9.2. GH WIND**
- 01. Wind Flow Analysis

## 10. EXTENDED REALITY

- 10.1. FOLOGRAM**
- 01. Display Geometry
- 02. Fabricating in AR
- 03. HoloLens And Image Tracking
- 04. Accurate Positioning With Twinbuild
- 10.2. INTRODUCTION TO VR**
- 01. Rhino to Unreal Bridge: Installation
- 02. Oculus app to Quixel
- 03. Introduction to Unreal basics
- 04. Enabling VR-PC link headset

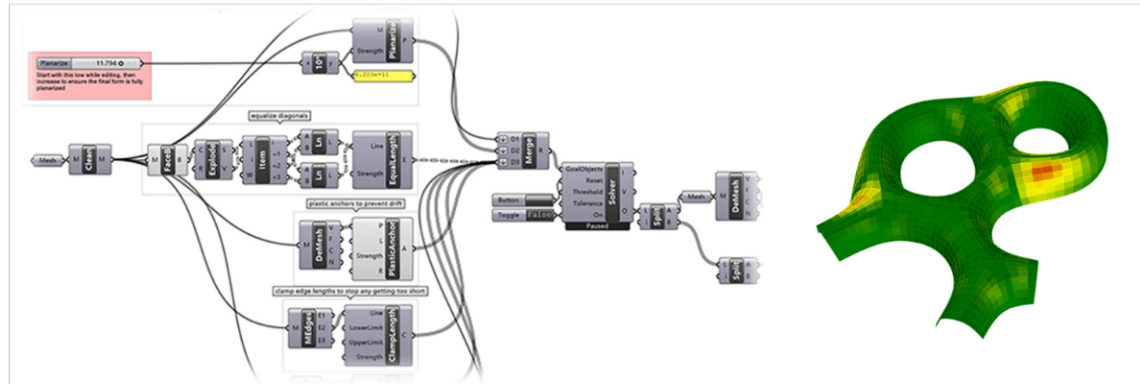
## 11. CODING

### 11.2. CONFIGURATIONS

#### CONTENT:

- > 10 Main topics
- > 175 Exercises
- > 50 Video tutorials

### 8.1.32. PLANAR QUADS



45 total views, 1 views today

Date published: August 27, 2022

#### DESCRIPTION

This powerful exercise allows you to plastically modify a given mesh, and then smoothen and convert it into a mesh made from fully planar quad.

#### PROCEDURE

- 1.Flattens each of the quads in a mesh.
- 2.Equalises the diagonal length of each of the quads.
- 3.Plastic anchor to prevent drift.
- 4.ClampLength keeps the distance between 2 points between given bounds but applies no force when the distance is within these limits.
- 5.Uniform Laplacian smoothing rounds any sharp features of a mesh.

This exercise is using Grasshopper version 1.0.0007

References: Daniel Piker, Kangaroo Physics (by Daniel Piker), <https://www.food4rhino.com/app/kangaroo-physics>. Accessed August 6, 2020



#### SOFTWARE

Rhino  
Grasshopper

#### PLUGINS

Kangaroo 2

#### COURSE FILES

Planar\_Quads.zip  
464.55 KB | 25 downloads

Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) have emerged as pivotal tools, fundamentally altering the way architects conceptualise, visualise, and bring designs to life. Extended Reality (XR) technology both complements and revolutionises our toolbox, marking a significant paradigm shift and redefining the boundaries of architecture design conception and implementation.

This fall, the Building Simplicity Lab (BSL) launches a series of online XR-specific tutorials on the BSL tutorial website. Their instructional framework is tailor-made for architectural design with a specific focus on customising AR/VR capabilities. Along with the existing available database of Grasshopper tutorials, this integration of XR tutorials forms a vital online learning platform that seamlessly covers architectural design processes, from conception to visualisation and construction. Students can search, access, and engage with the exercises, which can easily be integrated into a flipped classroom teaching courses by colleagues both within and outside the faculty and university.

The tutorials comprehensively cover a range of specific and practical XR tools and techniques, ensuring participants gain a holistic understanding of this dynamic field. The content is divided into both an Augmented Reality and a Virtual Reality section. Tutorials commence with the technical tools used to create AR and VR content, leading users through a meticulous step-by-step workflow to craft immersive AR and VR environments. The scope of the AR and VR sections extends beyond mere software and device explanations, encompassing various applications from architectural design to construction. The design and sequence of the entire tutorial offer considerable flexibility; users can selectively explore specific chapters based on their content preferences. Tutorials can be used like a reference book, accessible either comprehensively or via segmented choices. The index focusses on hardware that is available in the Lab for general use, such as the Microsoft HoloLens 2 and Meta's Oculus Quest 2, and on the most powerful common XR software platforms, including Unity, Unreal Engine, Fologram, Twinbuild, Twinmotion, Blender and Gravity Sketch.

We encourage all students to leverage this resource and delve into the multitude of possibilities that Extended Reality offers.

Enjoy!

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Co-Investigators:  
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THANK YOU!

Keep in touch!



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