

# The Bentley CONNECTION Event



## Advancing BIM with Computational Design

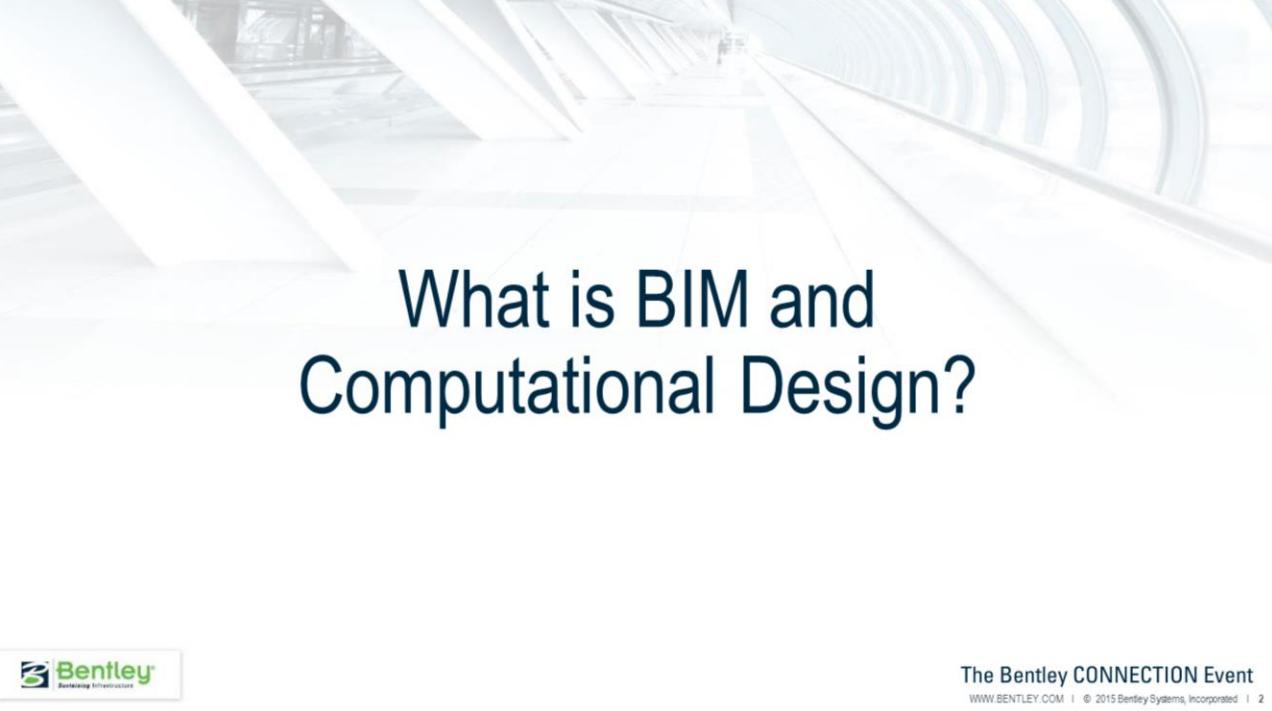
AECOsim Building Designer + GenerativeComponents

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Welcome to Advancing BIM with Computational Design. We'll be focusing on the integration between AECOsim Building Designer, Bentley's Multi-discipline BIM application, and GenerativeComponents, Bentley's computation design application.

I'm <Insert Name> , <Insert Title> at Bentley Systems.  
<Insert background (optional)>

In this session, we'll discover why AECOsim Building Designer is advancing BIM through greater integration with GenerativeComponents, Bentley's computational design software.



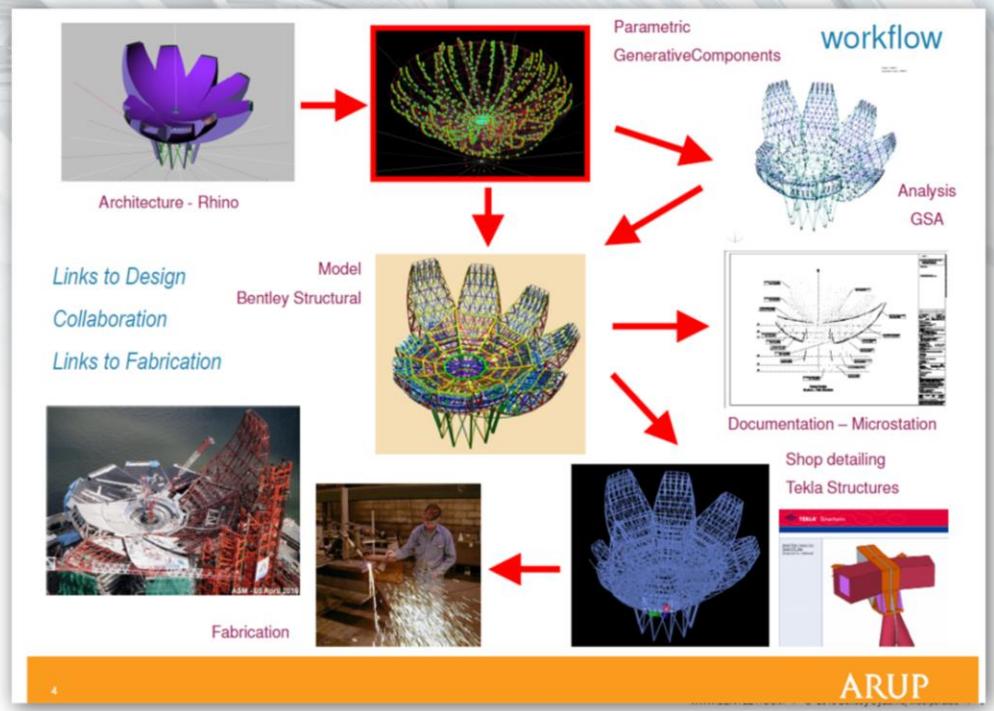
# What is BIM and Computational Design?



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- Let's start off with what BIM and Computational Design are defined as.
- A quick survey who has heard of BIM? Who has heard of Computational Design?
- Most importantly has anyone experience of using them together on a project?

# BIM is....

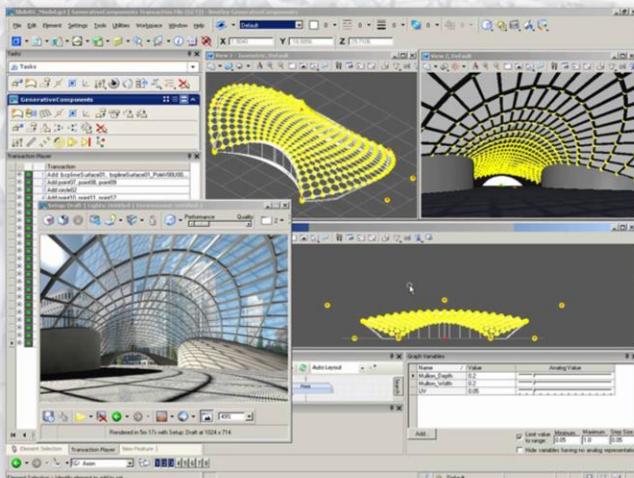


- Lets say **BIM is a process involving the generation and management of digital representations of physical and functional characteristics of places.**
- Its about **generating information, multiple sets of information**, because you need to find the correct set of conditions to satisfy your design ambitions.
- Its about **moving data from design to analysis and fabrication effectively**, to deliver the optimal solution. That could mean multiple tools each optimised and or dedicated to a purpose.
- The example above shows the Structure of the Science Museum in Singapore. Notice the wide variety of applications used for purpose, from differing vendors, to

produce results for each piece of the design and build.

- Generative Design was a small but integral piece of the design process. It took the form, and progressed the form from a concept, to something that contained BIM elements, which allowed for Analysis, Documentation, and Fabrication,

**Computational Design** is the discipline for developing and/or applying computational approaches to problems that originate in design...



Carnegie Mellon

So, what is Computational Design? Computational design can also be described in a number of ways:

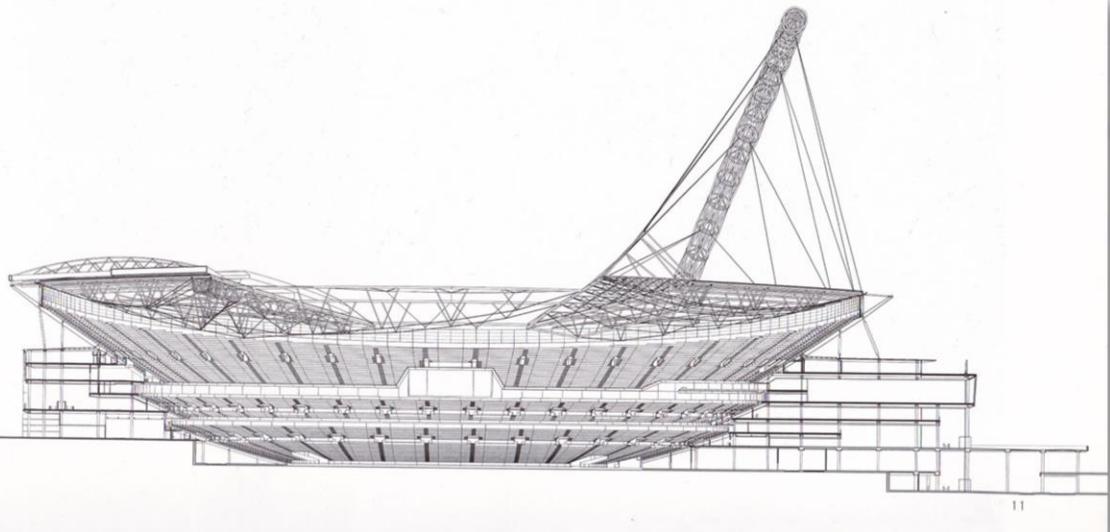
- “**A method in which the design is generated by a set of rules**, normally by using a computer program. Most computational design is based on parametric design and is a **fast efficient and effective method of exploring design possibilities.**”

Or you can see on the slide

- **Computational design is an approach that grew out of academia initially** but has over the last few years found an enthusiastic and appreciative audience in the professional world

- This movie shows the ability to **apply variation's to a design** and to visualise the results very quickly **allows the designer to make more informed decisions.**
- The decision inputs to be reduced to **the simplicity of a value slider.**
- **GC is based on relational and dependency models** – so it captures relationships between **parameters and objects.** When you change a design midway through...that **change will propagate throughout the model based on the relations and dependencies.** What normally would have taken you **several days to incorporate one change**, now you can do in a few hours. **Computational design automatically propagates changes** without the need to manually re-build the entire model. This reduces a lot of re-work for you since it **eliminates the need for one-off modeling.**

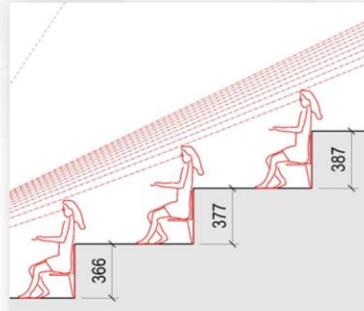
# Computational Design



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- Let's take one of the classic examples for Computational Design is the Stadium. **Firstly Seating bowls** follow a formula which produce a parabolic array in section. It allows for the spectators to see over the person in front.
- **Secondly we have non conventional geometric structure and architecture.** There is little repetition and the repetition there is tends to be on the component level, which changes direction around the stadium. Computational Design allows of a single instance of the component, to be replicated and explored throughout the design.

# Computational Design



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Building Infrastructure

## Spectator Sightlines

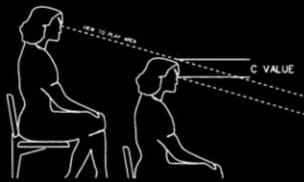


Figure 7.11 The term 'sightline' refers to a spectator's ability to see a critical point on the playing field over the head of the spectator below, and is measured by the 'C' value.

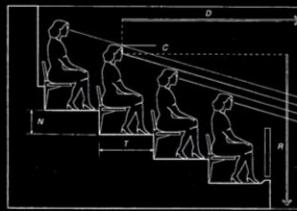


Figure 7.12 Viewing angle.  $D$  = distance to focus,  $C$  = 'C' value,  $T$  = tread width,  $N$  = riser height and  $R$  = riser height from focus.

$$N = \frac{(R + C) \times (D + T)}{D} - R_1$$

where:  
 $N$  = riser height;  
 $R$  = height between eye on 'point of focus' on the playing field;  
 $D$  = distance from eye to 'point of focus' on the playing field;  
 $C$  = 'C' value;<sup>1</sup>  
 $T$  = depth of seating row.

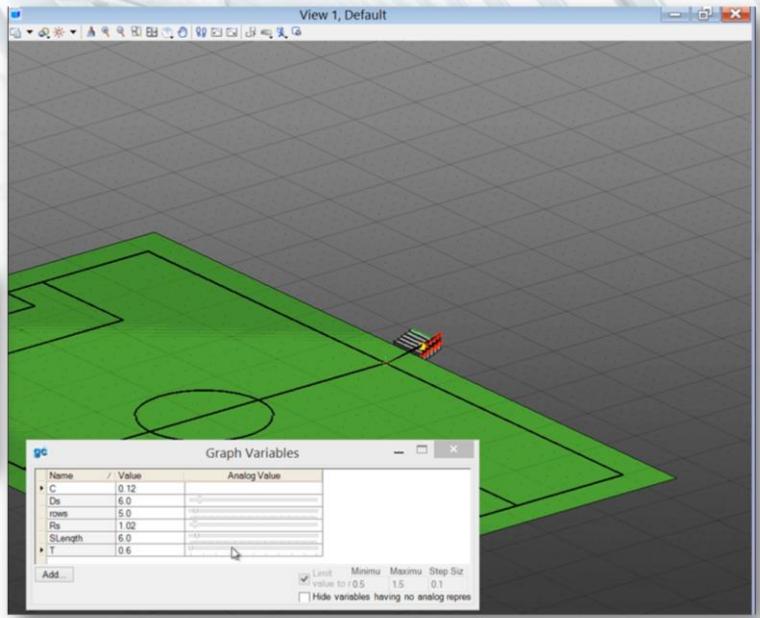
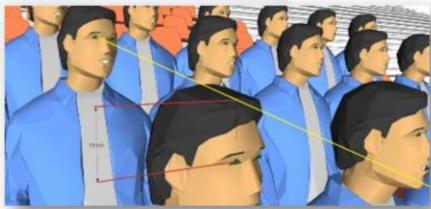
If we analyse a spectator position where  $R = 6.5$  m,  $D = 18$  m,  $T = 0.8$  m and we want a 'C' value of 120 mm, then the height of the riser must be:

$$\begin{aligned} N &= \frac{(6.5 + 0.012) \times (18 + 0.8)}{18} - 6.5 \\ N &= \frac{6.512 \times 18.8}{18} - 6.5 \\ N &= 6.8014 - 6.5 \\ N &= 0.3014 \text{ m.} \end{aligned}$$

<sup>1</sup> 'C' value = 150 mm spectators with hats  
120 mm reasonable viewing standard  
90 mm head tilted backwards  
60 mm between heads in front

- **Seating bowls are slightly parabolic in section.** It allows for the spectators to see over the person in front. A formula is used to calculate the height of one row to the next.
- **Using the formula above, the end result produces an "N" value and that "N" value is the height of one row to the next.** As you proceed up the rows, the "N" value increases to produce a parabolic curve allowing the spectators to see over the top of the people in front.

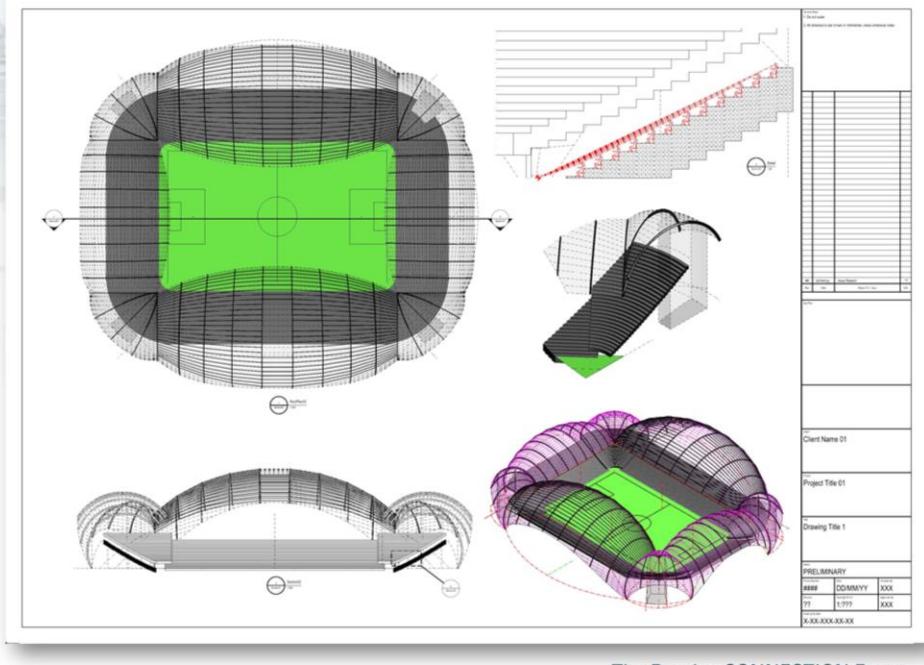
# Computational Design



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- Taking a computational approach **we can achieve a level of automations and flexibility** that allows the user more **time to explore and examine a greater number of options**. We can then link these explorations to outputs to further enhance productivity.
- **We've added that values as variables and included a slider bar** where the values can be dynamically adjusted. The result is a dynamically adjustable stadium, drawings and the script can be used over and over again.

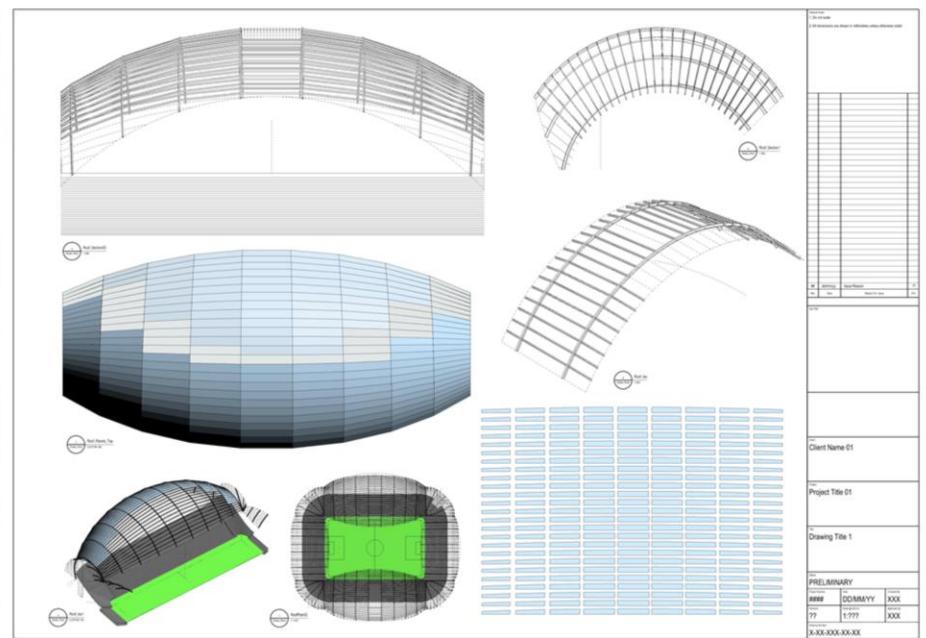
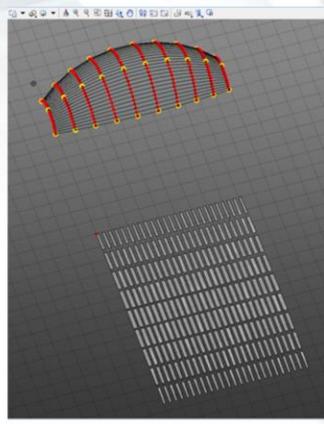
# Computational Design



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- In the Stadium Example the ability to change values quickly has allow the creation of the seating bowl with correct sightline parameters.
- **Using Dynamic Views, part of all Microstation based design applications** all the views to be placed on the sheet. **As the design changes in generative components, the drawings are automatically updated to suit.** A single change in Generative Components can mean a change on many drawings at once.

# Computational Design

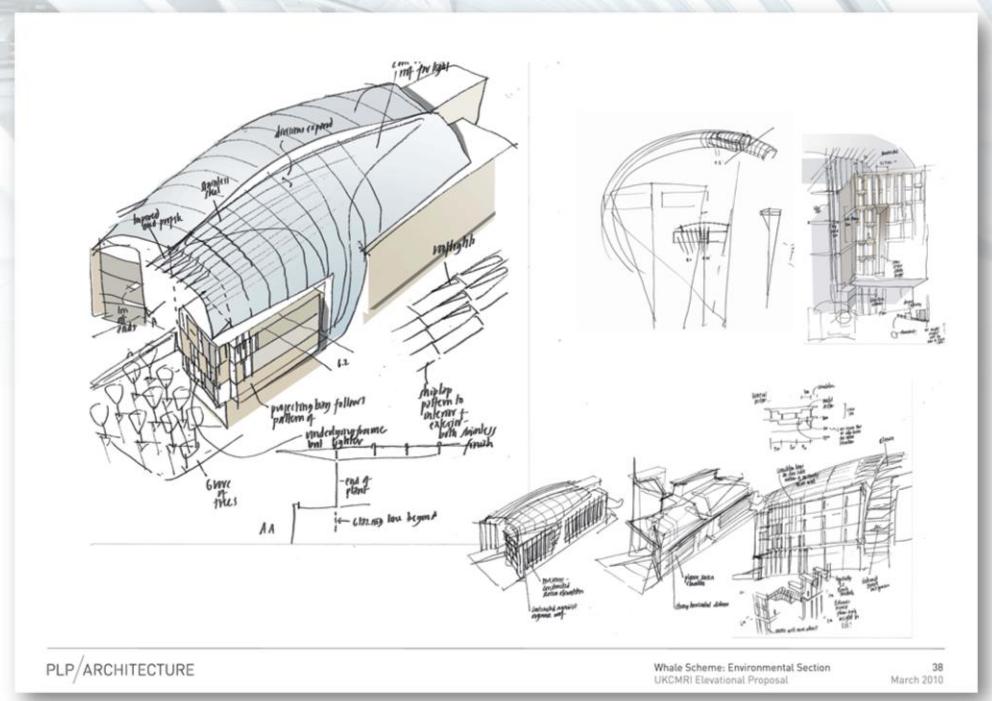


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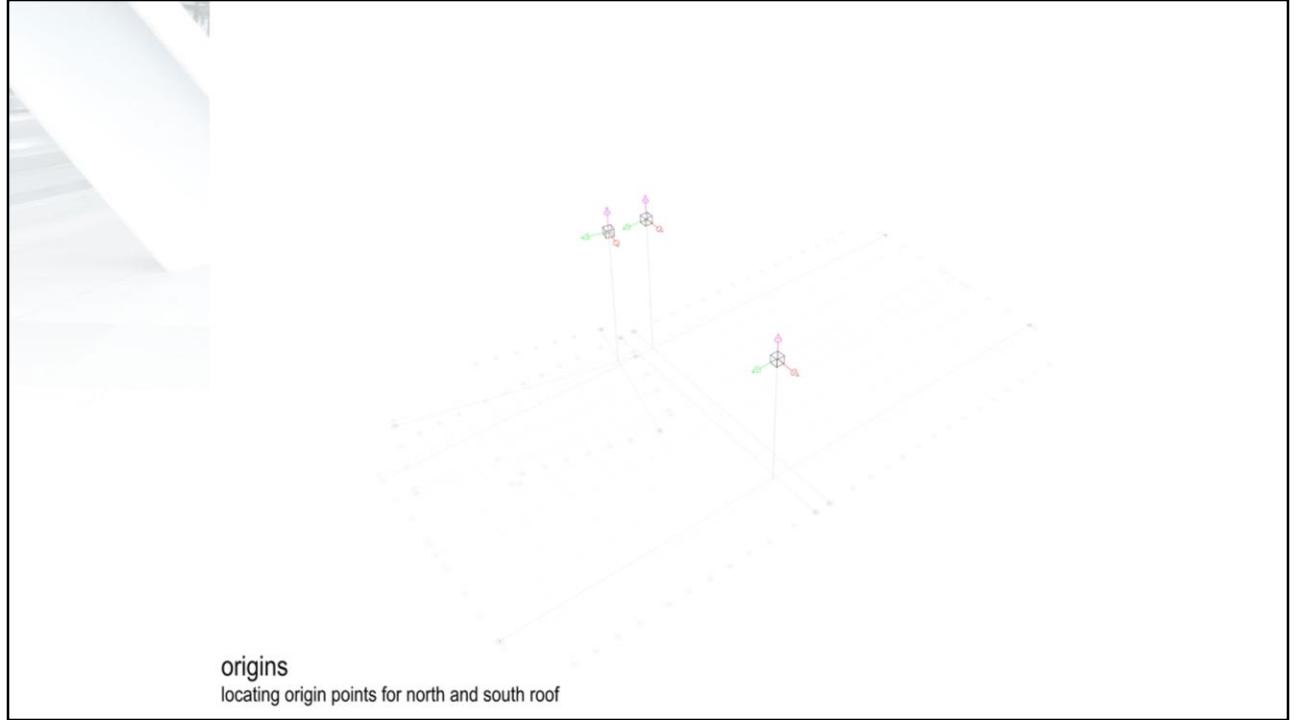
- **Secondly the rationalisation of the curved roof geometry is a key use of generative components.** Something that is almost impossible to achieve in a direct modelling process, is done quickly and easily using the tools in Generative Components.
- **The structural members and the panels are all by products of GC.**
- **Taking it further we can flatten the panels, which can be used in fabrication or model making.** As the form changes the panels re-build in both the model and in the flatten variety.

Francis  
Crick  
Institute  
London

PLP Architecture

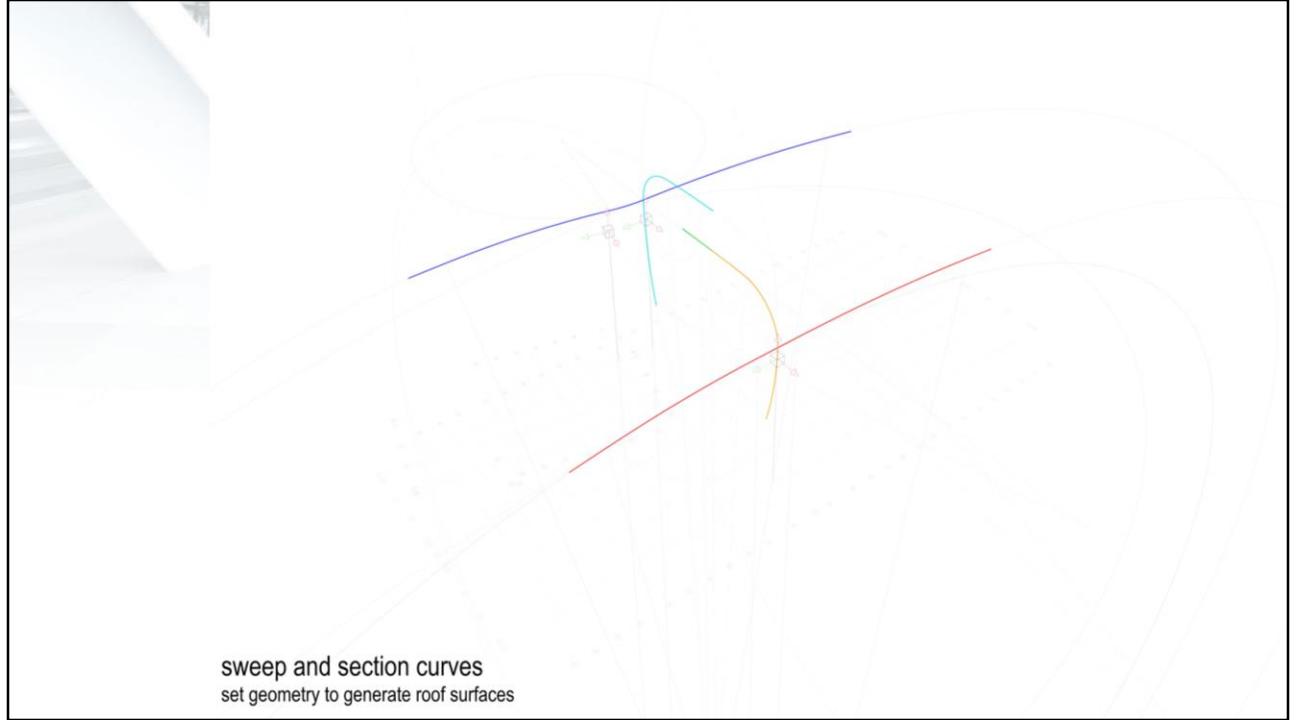


**Lets look at an example of where GC was used, The Francis Crick Institute in London, designed by PLP Architecture used GenerativeComponents to link the key aspects, controlling the design for the main building, to aspects that needed to control the roof structure.**



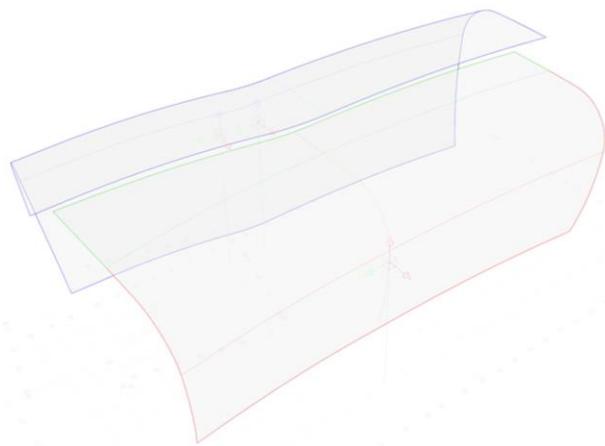
origins  
locating origin points for north and south roof

## Notes on Slide



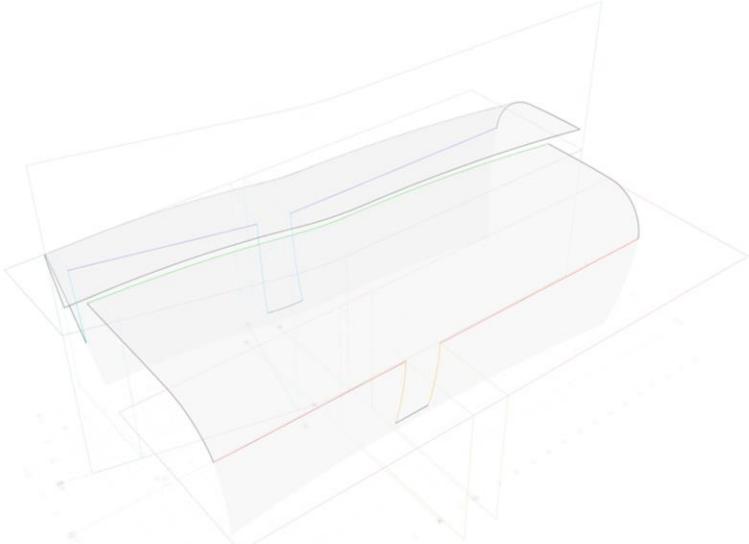
sweep and section curves  
set geometry to generate roof surfaces

## Notes on Slide



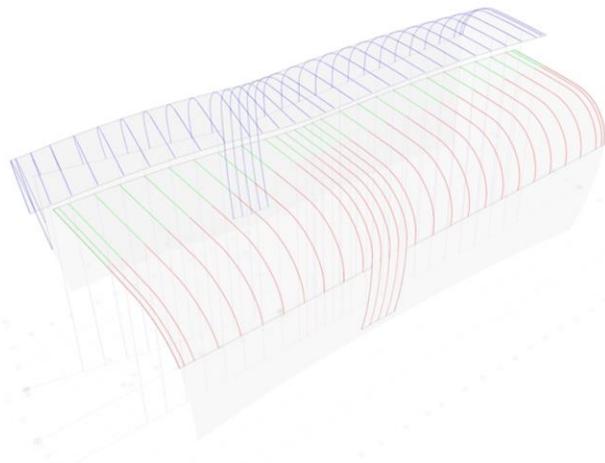
roof surfaces  
top of steel surface for north, south and atrium roof

## Notes on Slide



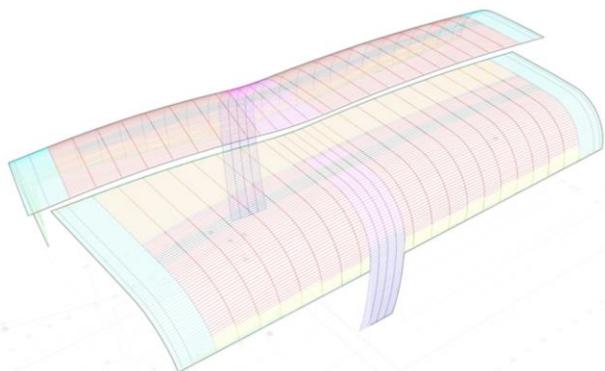
surface boundaries  
boundaries defined by planes

## Notes on Slide



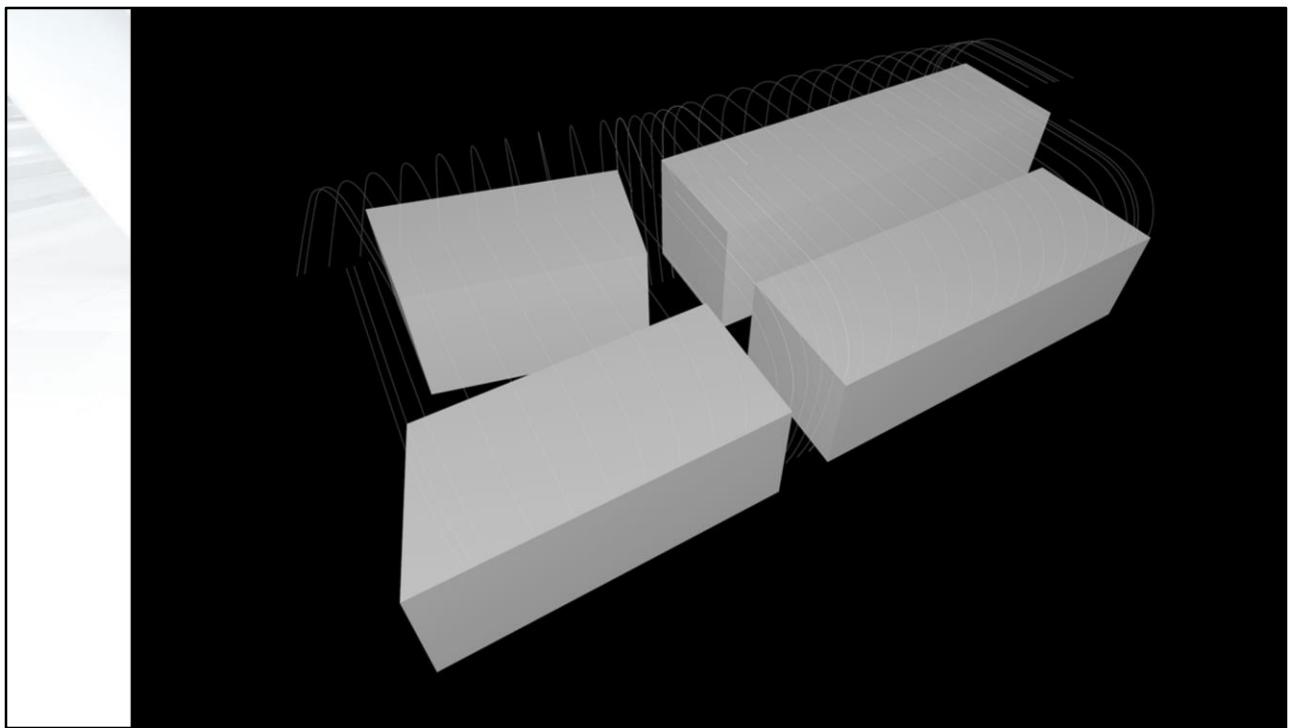
hoops  
centerlines for the roof structure

## Notes on Slide

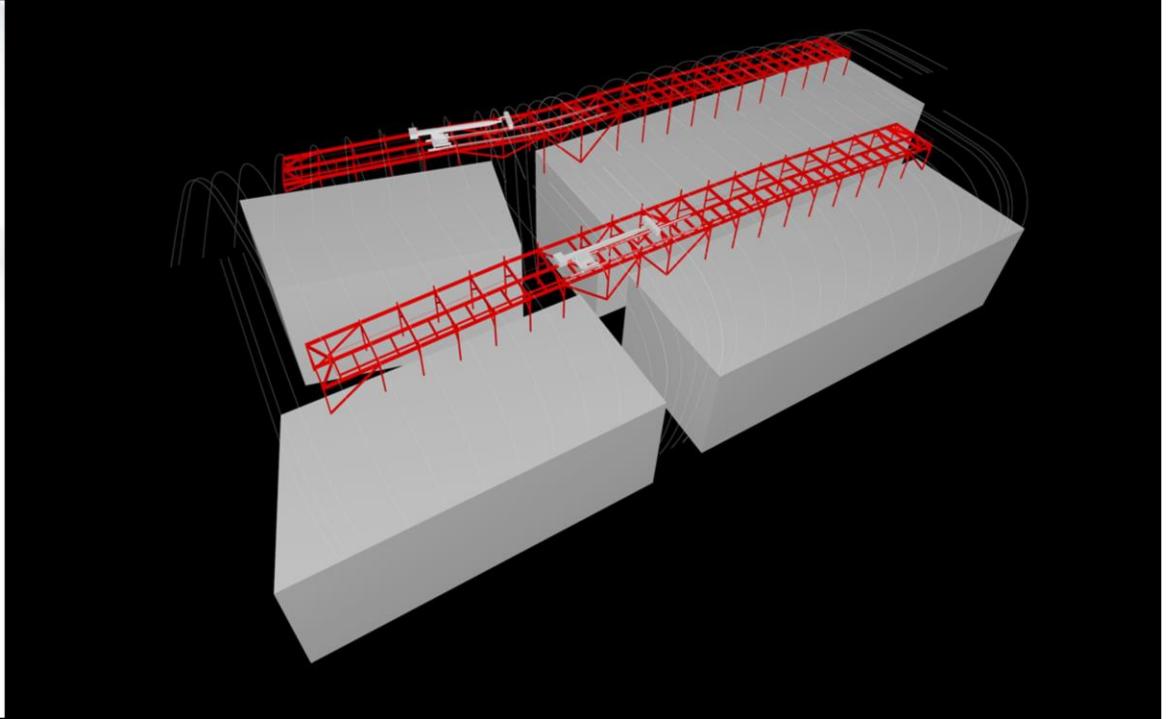


surface grid  
grid to define area and facade position

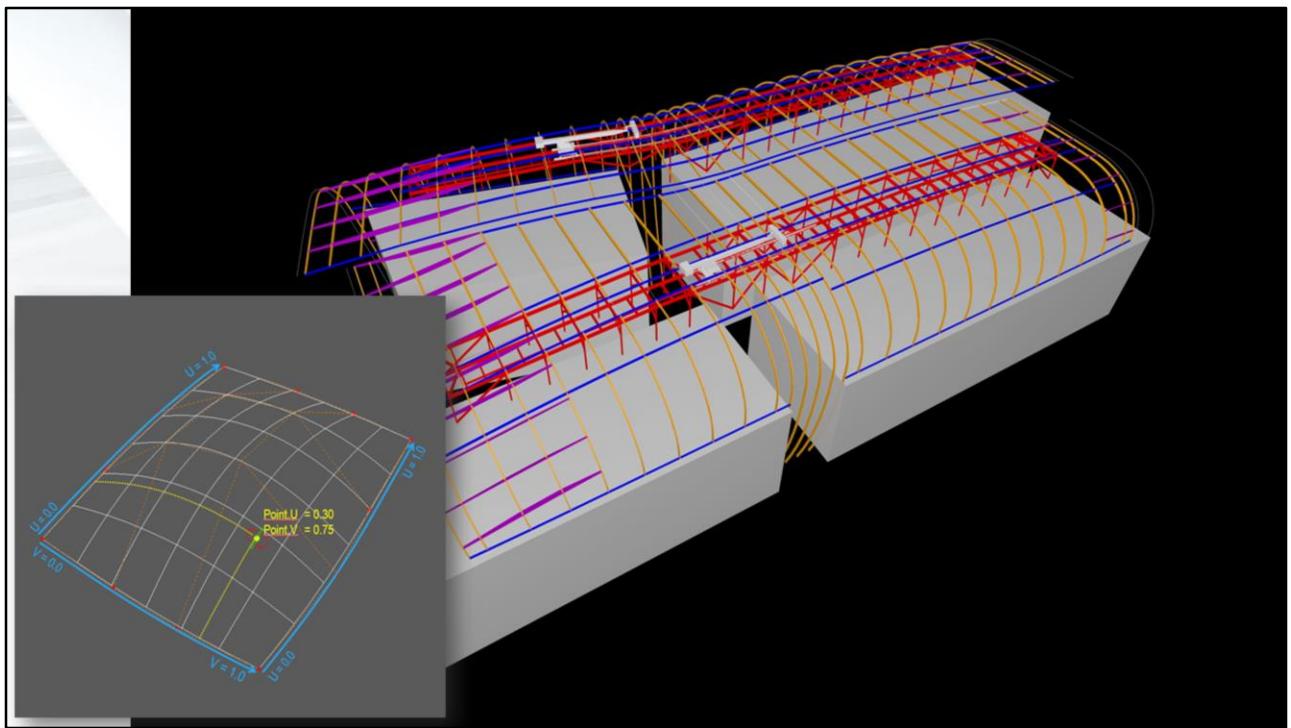
## Notes on Slide



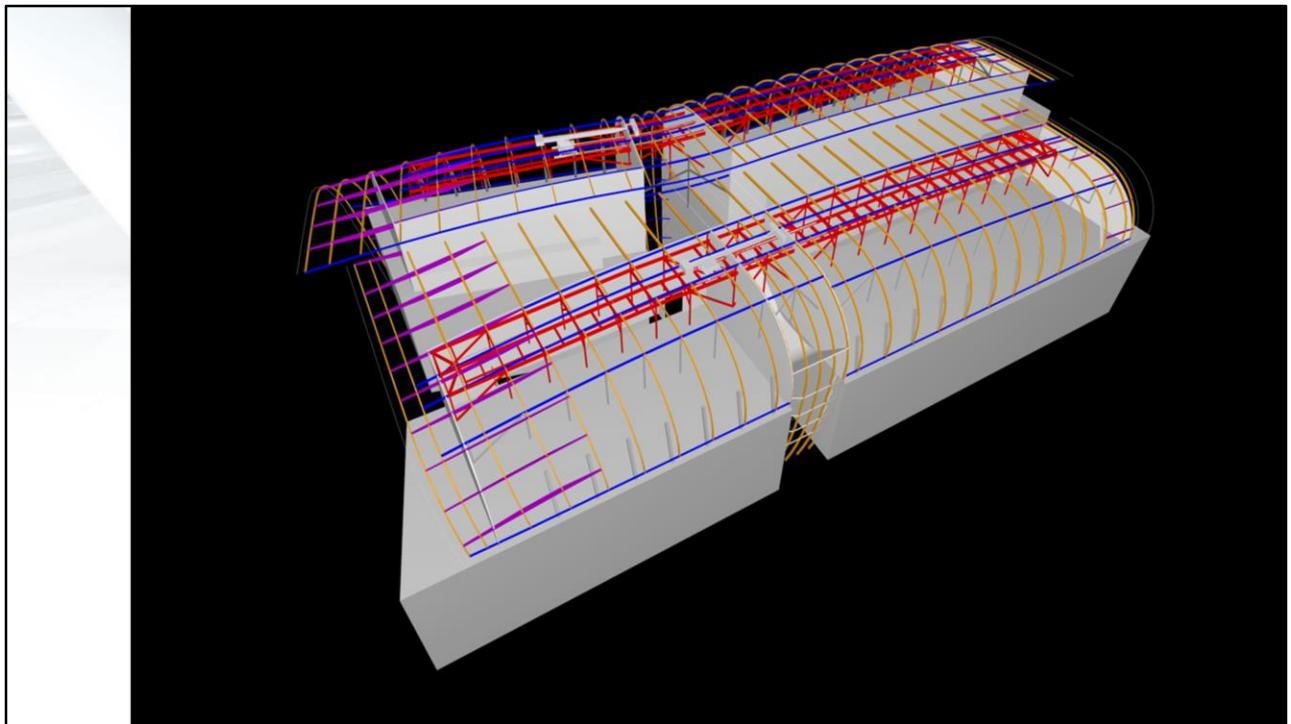
**Looking at the detail**, the main body of the building was zoned into 4 areas and linked to the roof.



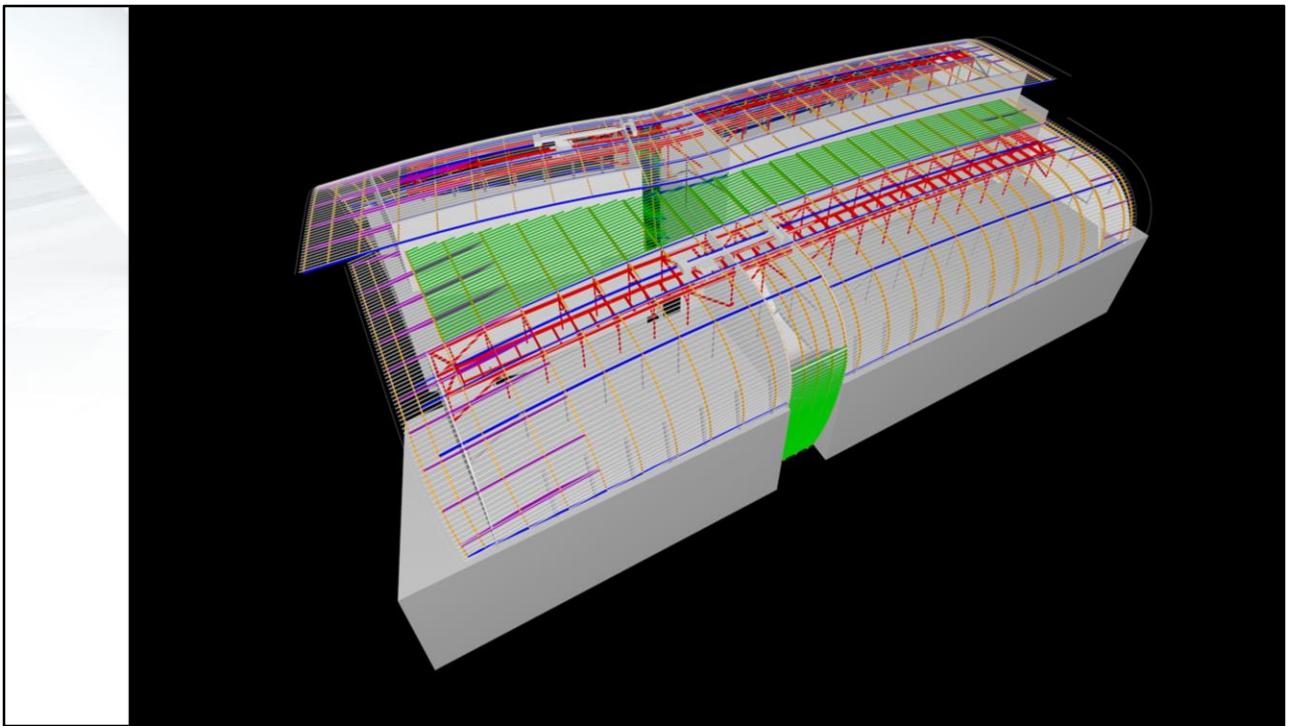
**The cleaning cradle structure** was a direct result of the roof geometry



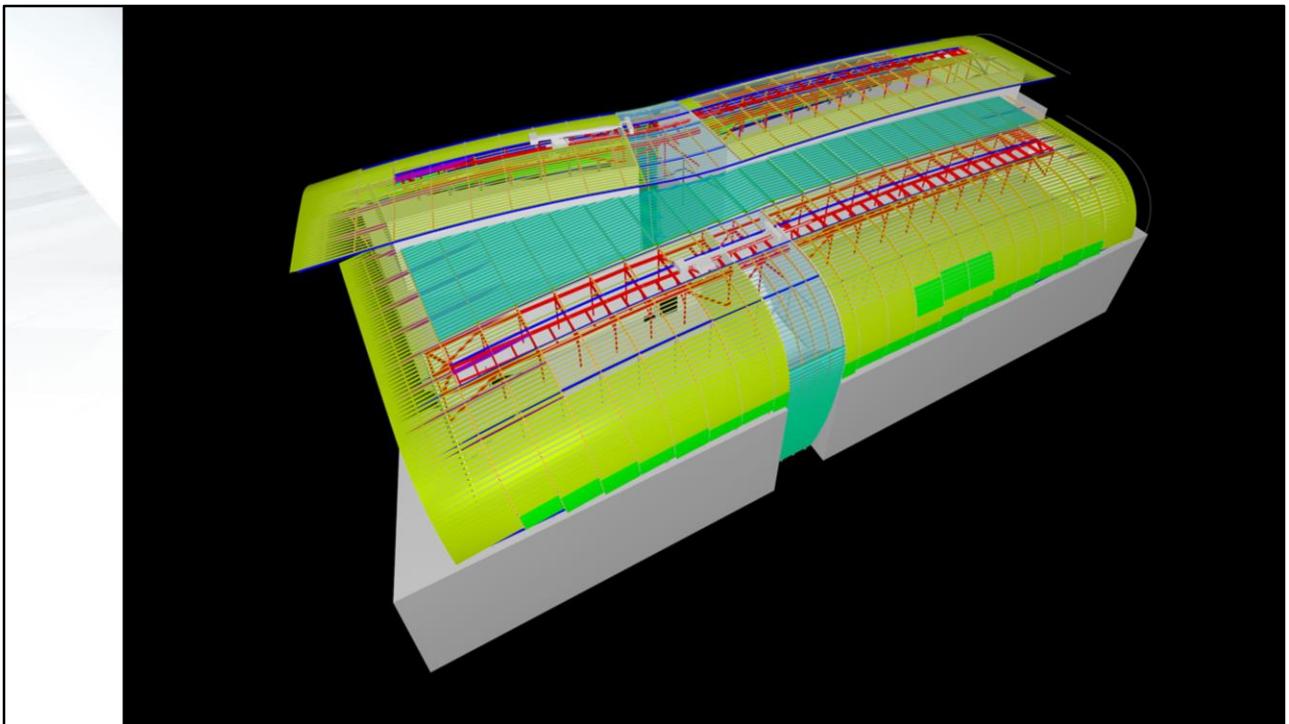
The structural members were then designed and fabricated to follow the roof at the UV and parameter.



The main internal walls were extruded to mean the curve of the roof

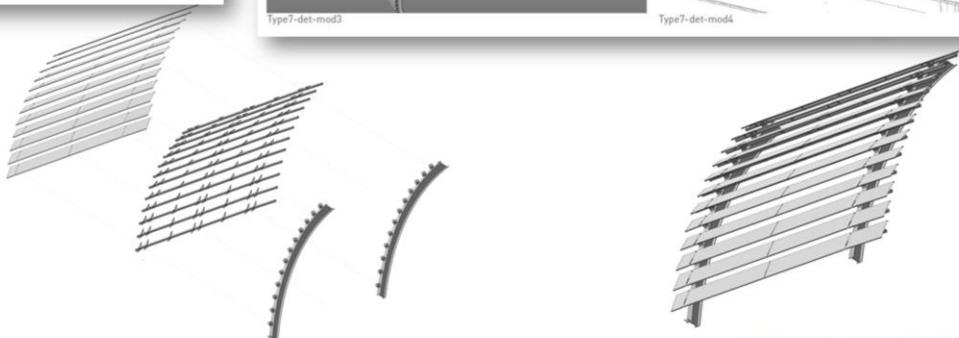
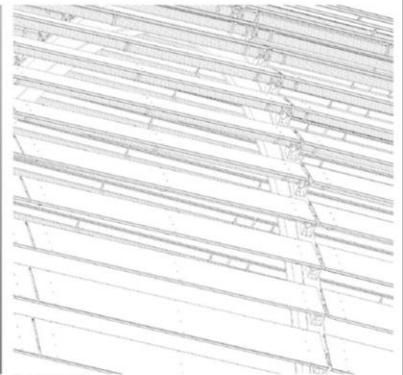
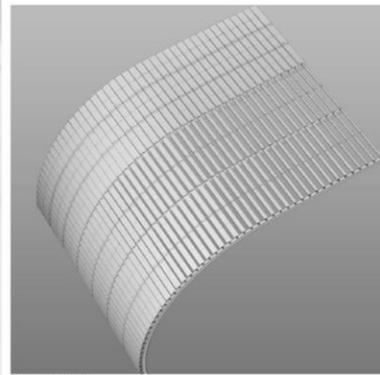
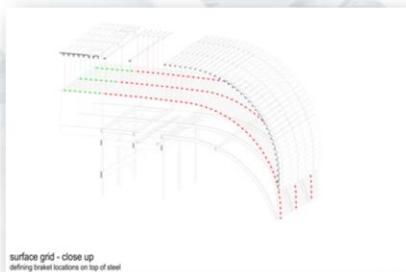


The panels of the roof were added to the geometry at the precise place of the overall roof form



..... And finally the lourves were added, which in themselves took on a new geomtrical direction while still sitting on the form.

## Roof Louvres

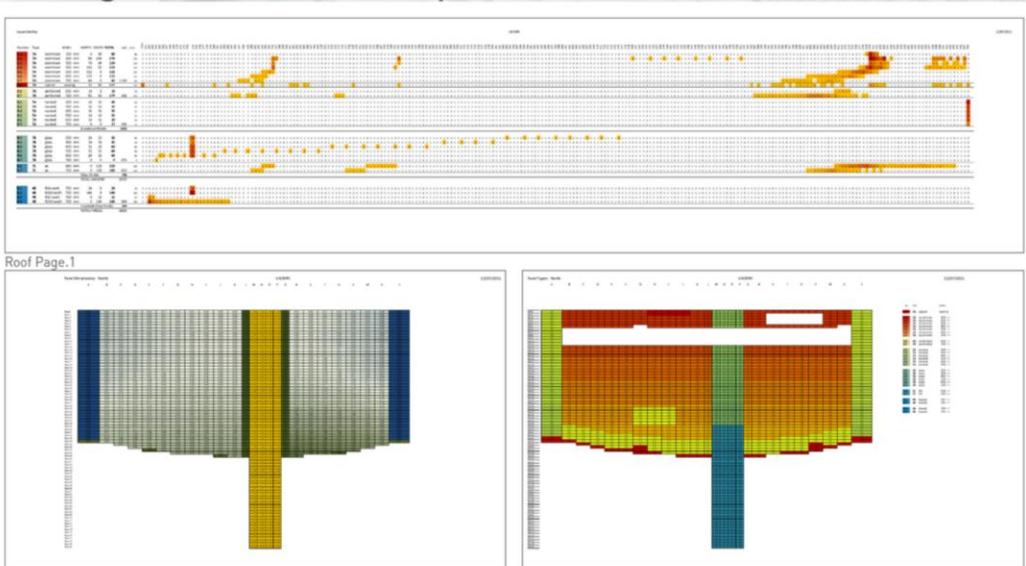


Event

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Then most importantly, the documentation for construction could occur rapidly and easily without best guessing the geometry

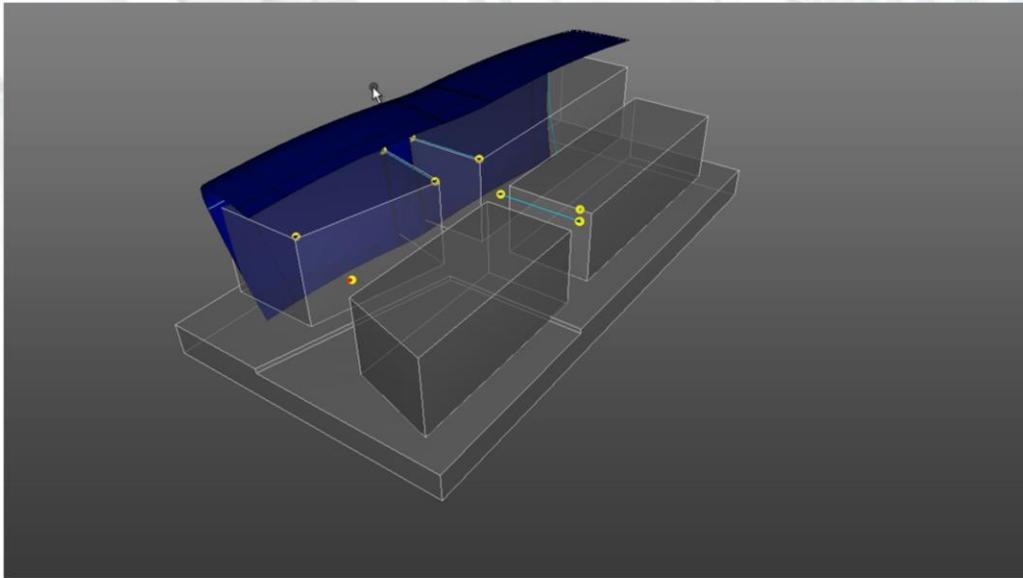
# Linking GenerativeComponents with Excel



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Linking the panel angles to excel we can get a good understanding of heat loads on the panels through certain times of the year

## The Francis Crick Institute: HOK – PLP Architecture



**<Play 5 minute video>**

**<Note: You might want to omit or edit this video down>**

Lets look at this in action

# The Francis Crick Institute: HOK – PLP Architecture

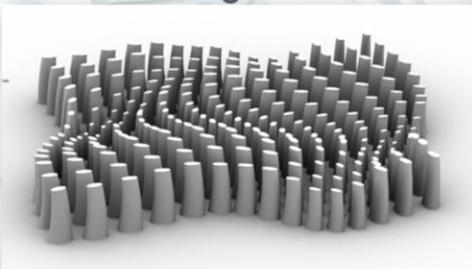


Bentley®  
Building Architecture

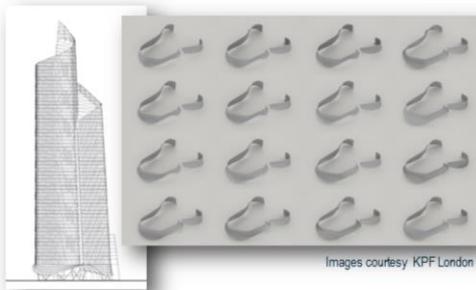
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As the images show, the roof whilst being challenge has a large effect on relatively standard design below it. **Both together required integration between standard building elements and computational design.**

## Application Range



static



population/field



<http://soshilcountry.org/info/pro-con.html>

kinetic



actu-architecture.com SOMA

single instance

GenerativeComponents is commonly used **across a range of design problems to help provide a viable solution.**

## Application Range



static

population/field

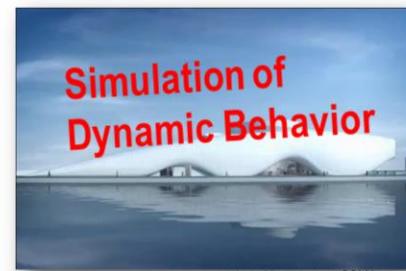


<http://soshilcountry.org/info/pro-con.html>

kinetic



single instance



actu-architecture.com SOMA

Just to summarise then GC is commonly used across a range of design problems to help provide a viable solution.

- Application range of parametric design:
- single instance to field
- static to kinetic
- Leveraging adaptable variation\*
- continuous differentiation \*

\* Source: Parametricism manifesto,  
Patrik Schumacher

# Advancing BIM with Computational Design



AECOsim Building Designer



GenerativeComponents



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- When we talk about advancing BIM with computational design, **one strategy is to strengthen the ties and interoperability between AECOsim Building Designer, Bentley's multi-discipline BIM software, and GenerativeComponents, Bentley's computational design software.**
- When you integrate these two applications together and marry BIM with computational design, you get a powerful tool that helps designers rapidly explore designs, respond to changes faster, model with design freedom, deliver information-rich deliverables, and much more.

**AECOsim Building Designer** is a single building information modeling application for multi-discipline teams. It enables architects and engineers to design, analyze, construct, document, and visualize buildings of any size, form, and complexity.



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- AECOsim Building Designer is our **multi-discipline BIM application** that provides a **complete set of tools** for architectural, structural, mechanical and electrical design.

**GenerativeComponents** design tool  
enabling automated change propagation for  
rapid design exploration and optioneering.



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- GenerativeComponents **enables designers to explore more possibilities**, in less time, create better designs and efficiently **create, manage and fabricate complex geometric relationships**. It is a great tool for exploring conceptual modeling and refining designs using “**what-if**” scenarios.

## Top 3 Advantages of Advancing BIM with Computational Design

- 1) Generate parametric designs with fully attributed BIM elements.
- 2) Rapid “Analysis” of various scenarios using BIM elements.
- 3) Collaborate on models simultaneously with integrated BIM workflows.



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### **When integrating ABD and GC, here are the top advantages:**

- 1) Generate parametric designs with fully attributed BIM elements.
- 2) Rapid “Analysis” of various scenarios using BIM elements.
- 3) Collaborate on models simultaneously with integrated BIM workflows.

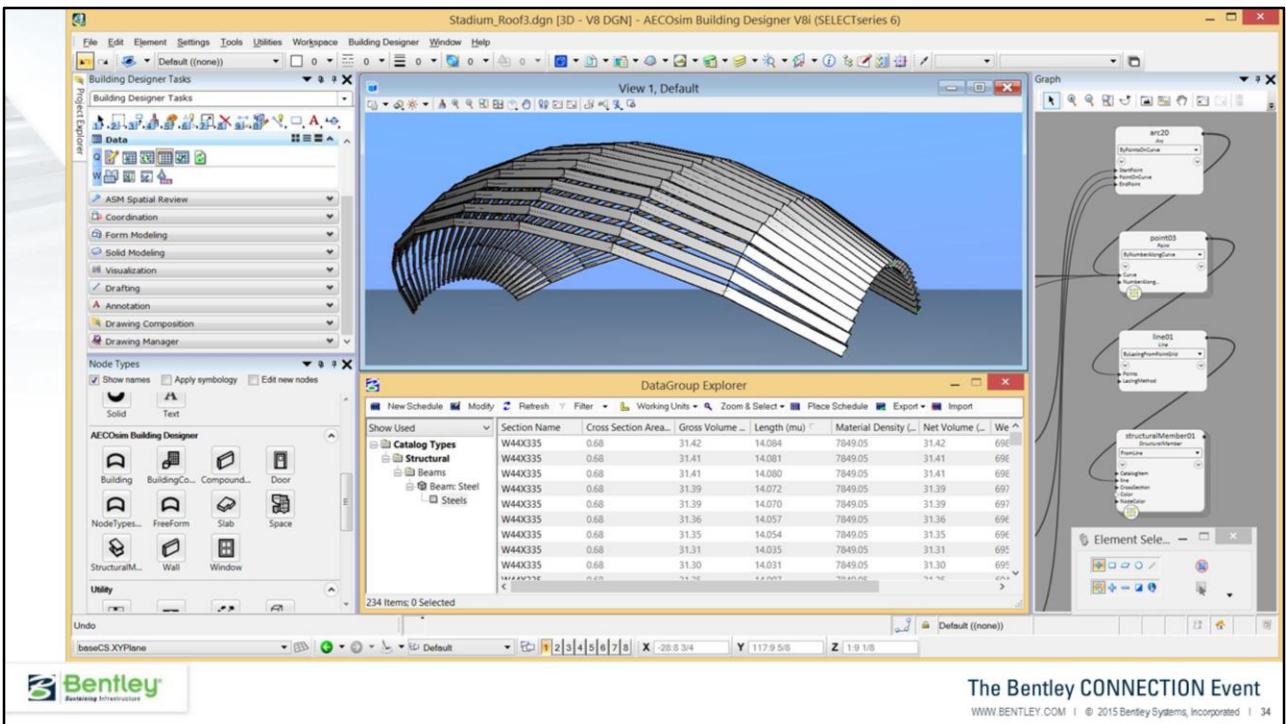
# 1

# Generate parametric designs with fully attributed BIM elements.

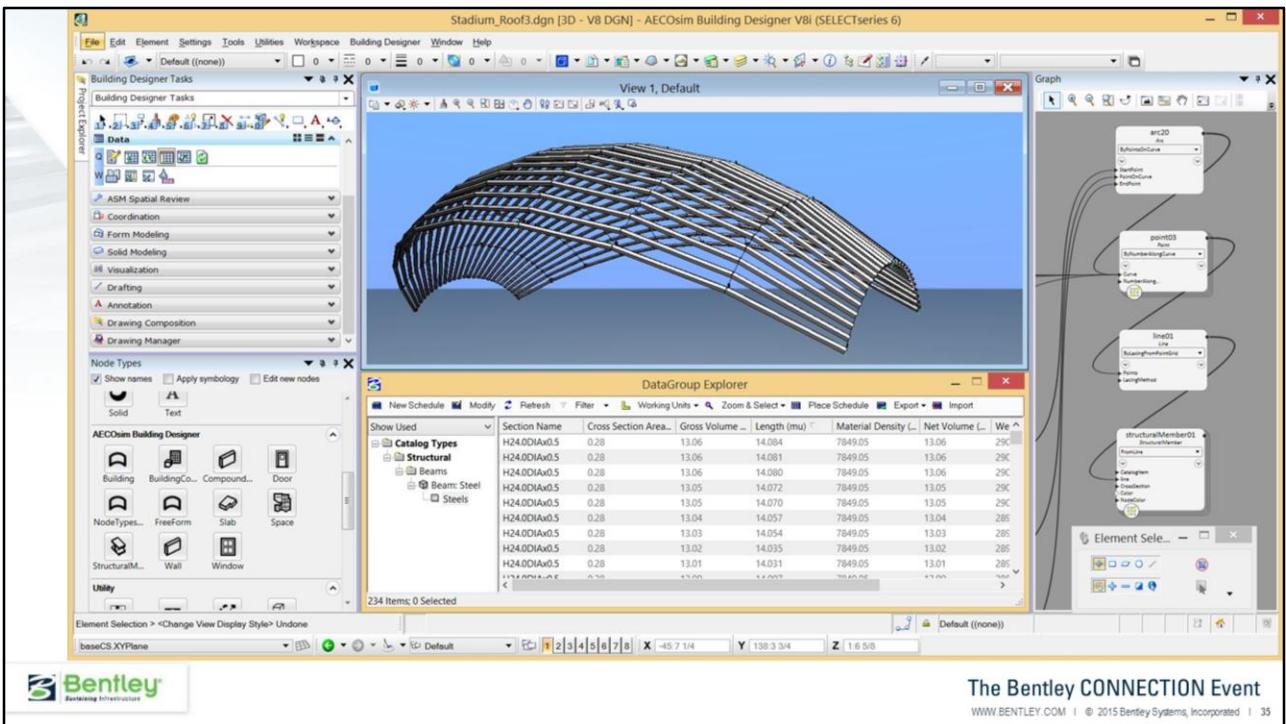


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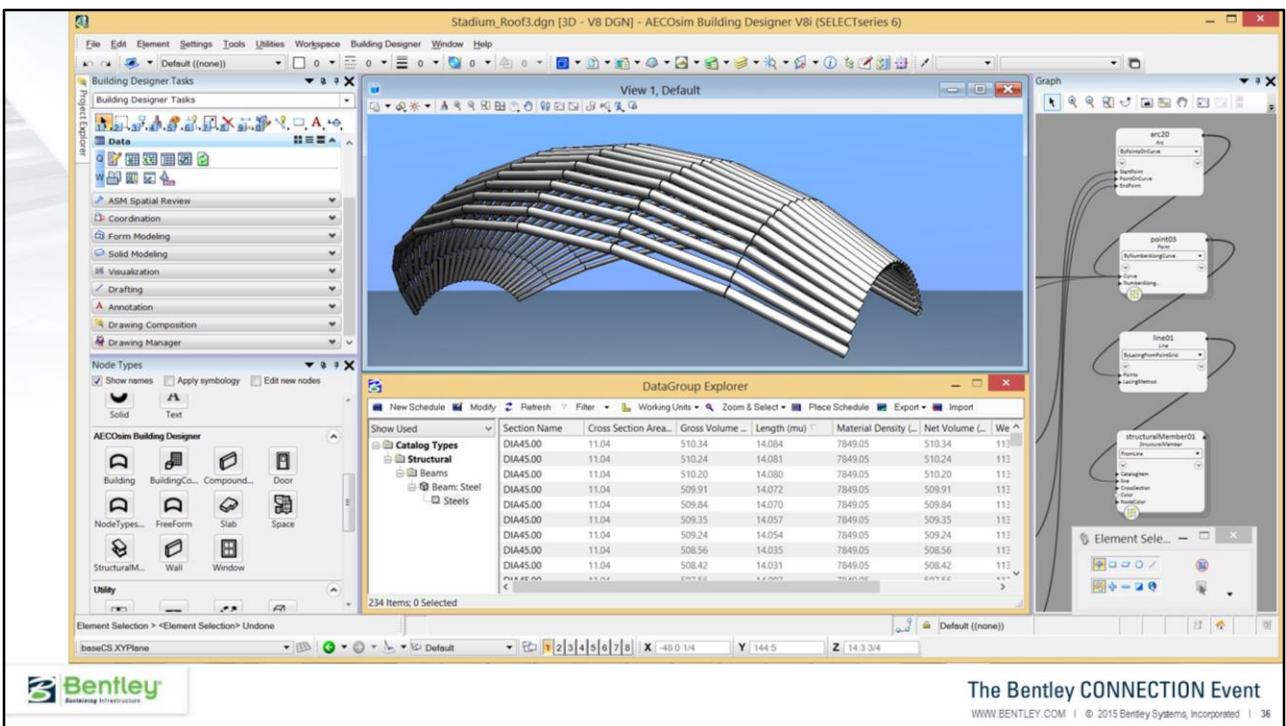
- **AECOsim + Generative Components will allow you to generate parametric designs and explore various scenarios while maintaining the information within models with fully attributed BIM elements.** So walls, doors, window, slabs, beams, columns, spaces, floors will all have GC features for placement and control. And once placed in the model, the objects behave just as if they were modelled manually with ABD.
- Having fully attributed BIM elements and parametric designs **allows you to make reliable, informed design decisions based upon complete information on building materials, assemblies, systems performance, and environmental conditions**



**ABD + GC maintains the AECOsim Task menus and Datagroup Explorer for information observation, editing and extraction, with the GC nodes and GC graph.**

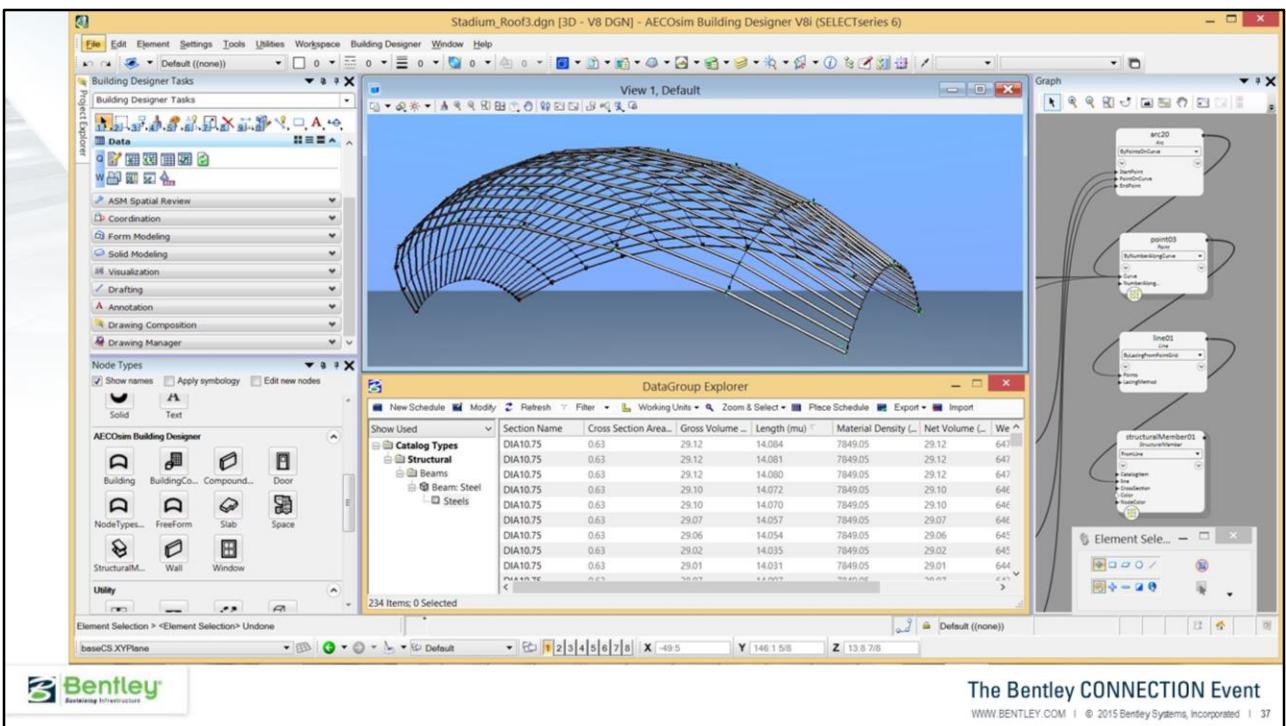


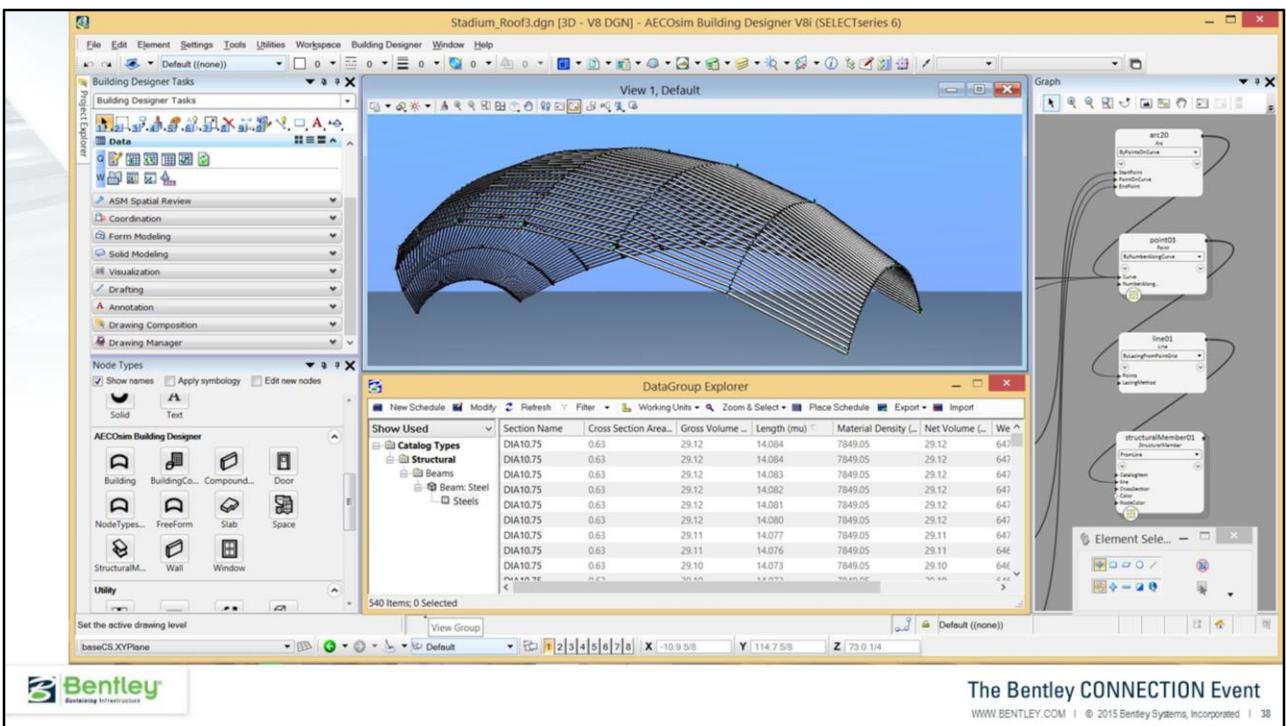
In much similar example we can elevate this technique a step further and introduce the ability for GC to drive “BIM ELEMENTS” such as Structural elements. Maintaining the flexibility of design exploration but the deriving the benefits of outputs such as quants and schedules,



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# 2

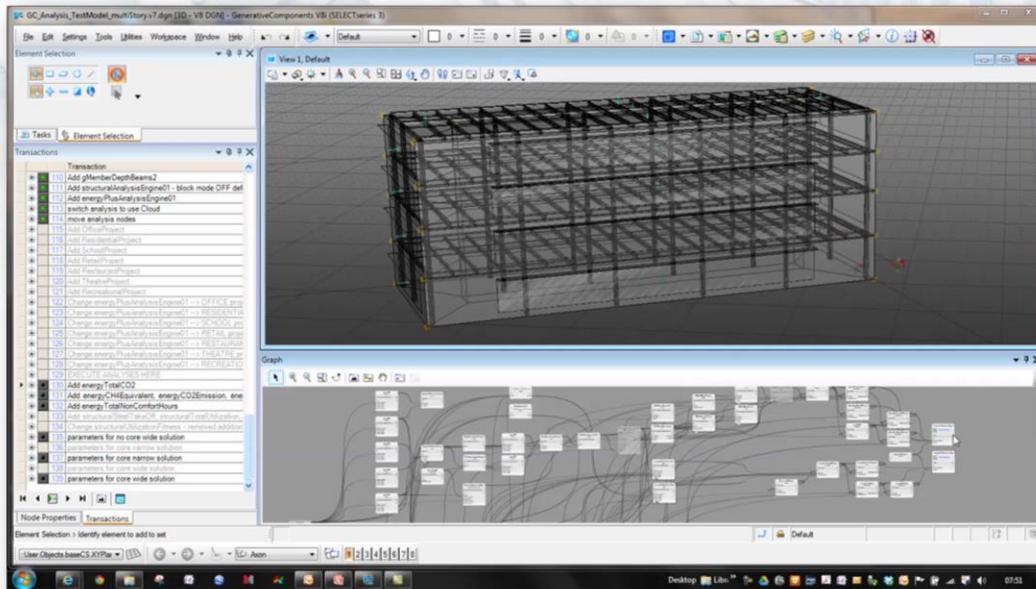
## Rapidly explore various scenarios using BIM elements .



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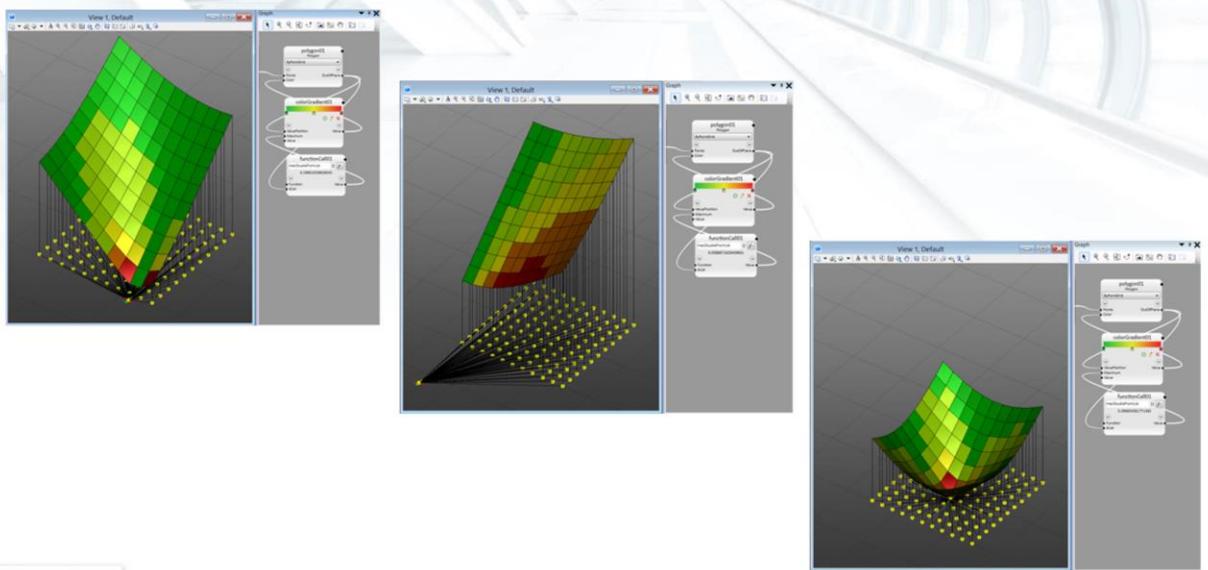
With GC, you can quickly make edits and changes to designs without creating multiple models. **This allows you to quickly and easily produce variations, using results generated for external forces**, of the model allowing for the exploration of a broad range of “what if” alternatives without manually building the detailed design model for each scenario.

# Scenarios and Optimisation



- In this movie we have both a structural model and an analytical space model. Both are driven by user defined parameters and variables.
- Which combination of those settings gives me the best answer to my problem.
- Do I have time to create and test each one?
- This is where scenario services built into our GC product allows the use of either the cloud, or local resources for computational power to test and examine various combinations to find THE optimal solution.
- The result can be email back or viewed and examined on screen

# Scenarios and Optimisation



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Here we are using color gradients to show which panels fall steeper out of a pre-defined plane. As we move the point the colors change, instantly visualising the results



# 3

## Collaborate on models simultaneously with integrated BIM workflows.



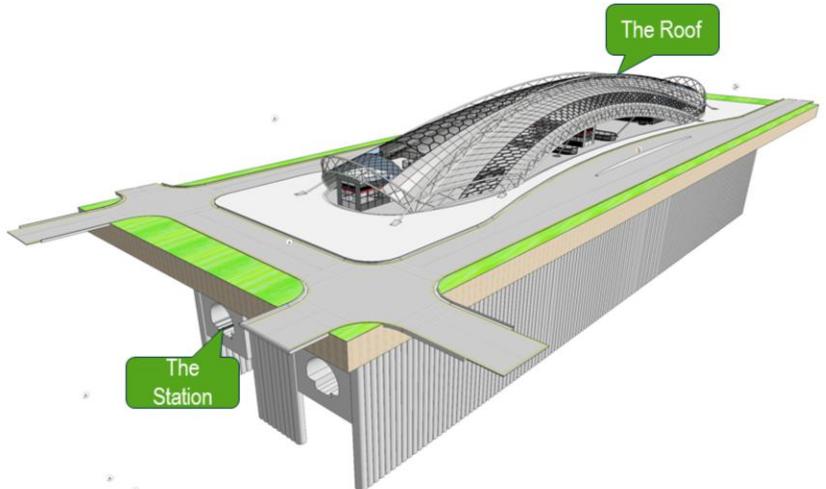
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But we never work in isolation. BIM is Team game with a Team centric goal. Leveraging the federated approach that all BIM solutions demand

### **You can collaborate on models simultaneously with integrated BIM workflows.**

The integration between ABD and GC establishes a robust connection between the two with the goal of supporting Bentley's BIM workflows parametrically. This is a differentiator as it enables you to create innovative parametric models that others can collaborate on. Additionally, with the design analysis and optimization in the cloud, we have a compelling design solution for AE firms.

# Underground Train Station



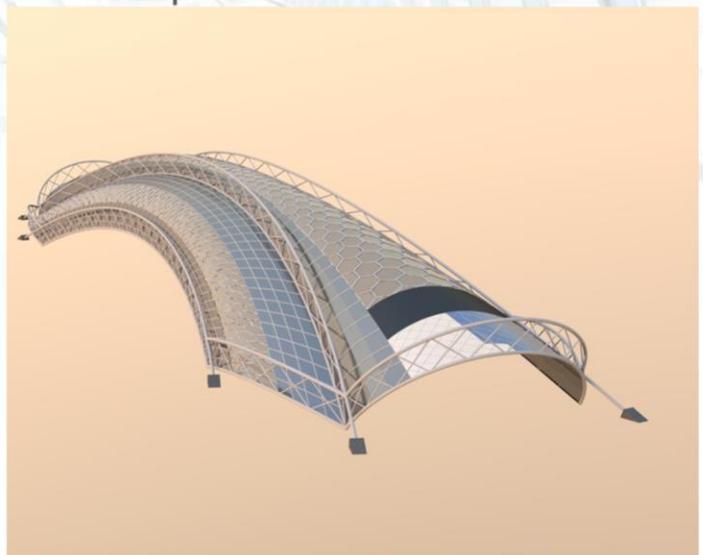
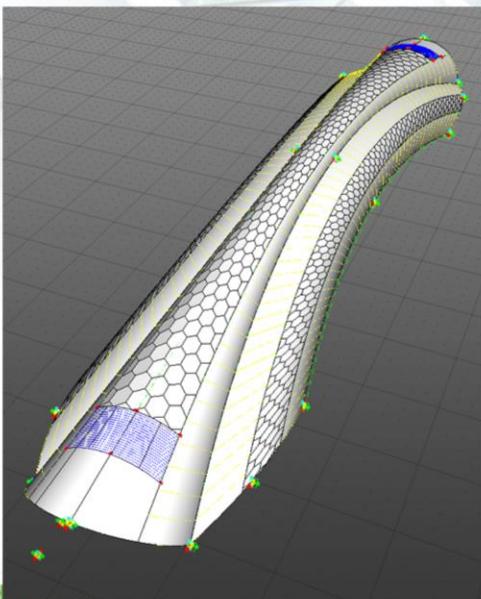
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This underground train station uses both GC and ABD. GC leverages its base file format , that of DGN which is common across the Bentley portfolio and the interoperability that the Bentley platform provides , to collaborate with other users in the team.

This model created in AECOsim Building Designer and Generative Components, takes the concept of an underground train station and includes Architectural, Structural, and Mechanical Design. Generative Components was used to drive the roof geometry. The model is used to drive drawing generation and the Generative Components model can then be used to drive geometrical setout and fabrication of the roof components. Generative Components was able to output setout co-ordinates of the roof geometry to Excel, but it does not assign this information to the geometry itself. An i-model

transform was used to combine the objects with the information generated to Excel.

## Roof Created with GenerativeComponents

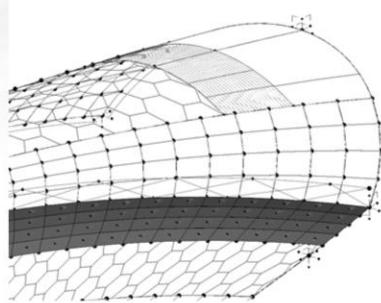


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There are 2 reasons for using Generative Components to create the roof.

1. The roof form, required tweaking and changing in order to get the geometry right.
2. Secondly the Structural Members and panels could be created far more accurately and efficiently but creating relationships between the geometry and the constructable elements.

# Panel Fabrication



2441077	User Objects.polyline[0][1][1]	Panel [1][1][1]	7.4386 Metres	7.4386 Metres	3.00956 Metres	1.0531 Metres	35717.85173737189... 1495487934861.547557.073888818
2441078	User Objects.polyline[0][1][2]	Panel [1][1][2]	7.0442 Metres	7.0442 Metres	0.7738 Metres	0.7738 Metres	-5101821.45311951... -26893.4606515823.153584.76273103
2441079	User Objects.polyline[0][1][3]	Panel [1][1][3]	7.1770 Metres	7.1770 Metres	0.8638 Metres	0.8638 Metres	-608407.07506713... -2598.0457034584.151364.314553120
2441080	User Objects.polyline[0][1][4]	Panel [1][1][4]	7.3086 Metres	7.3086 Metres	0.9538 Metres	0.9538 Metres	-623865.04050275... -1762.133873276.150591.842769318
2441081	User Objects.polyline[0][1][5]	Panel [1][1][5]	7.4402 Metres	7.4402 Metres	1.0438 Metres	1.0438 Metres	-640333.01585202... -1932.244873276.152101.844818815
2441082	User Objects.polyline[0][1][6]	Panel [1][1][6]	6.9453 Metres	6.9453 Metres	0.7143 Metres	0.7143 Metres	-575108.40057126... -73367.705787131.142064.911561505
2441083	User Objects.polyline[0][1][7]	Panel [1][1][7]	7.0778 Metres	7.0778 Metres	0.8036 Metres	0.8036 Metres	-903033.915230974... -1875.426897236.160487.790364607
2441084	User Objects.polyline[0][1][8]	Panel [1][1][8]	7.2104 Metres	7.2104 Metres	0.8936 Metres	0.8936 Metres	-601906.03232048... -1951.423387378.150175.247466672
2441085	User Objects.polyline[0][1][9]	Panel [1][1][9]	7.3430 Metres	7.3430 Metres	0.9835 Metres	0.9835 Metres	-648836.02322048... -1928.421387378.150175.247466679
2441086	User Objects.polyline[0][1][10]	Panel [1][1][10]	6.8473 Metres	6.8473 Metres	0.6525 Metres	0.6525 Metres	-55787.059205254... -15782.3560330593.160502.810736422
2441087	User Objects.polyline[0][1][11]	Panel [1][1][11]	6.9796 Metres	6.9796 Metres	0.7445 Metres	0.7445 Metres	-571781.65599392... -15293.30535794.167178.119503725
2441088	User Objects.polyline[0][1][12]	Panel [1][1][12]	7.1113 Metres	7.1113 Metres	0.8338 Metres	0.8338 Metres	-605916.02606287... -1929.359457913.150591.8443274.61300848
2441089	User Objects.polyline[0][1][13]	Panel [1][1][13]	7.2430 Metres	7.2430 Metres	0.9238 Metres	0.9238 Metres	-642886.01585202... -1909.359457913.150591.8443274.61300848
2441090	User Objects.polyline[0][1][14]	Panel [1][1][14]	6.7505 Metres	6.7505 Metres	0.5937 Metres	0.5937 Metres	-539342.055684281... -16438.3764115764.174603.264185607
2441091	User Objects.polyline[0][1][15]	Panel [1][1][15]	6.8823 Metres	6.8823 Metres	0.6866 Metres	0.6866 Metres	-55327.07209905... -11517.719843934.173675.482396054
2441092	User Objects.polyline[0][1][16]	Panel [1][1][16]	7.0138 Metres	7.0138 Metres	0.780956 Metres	0.7740 Metres	-56608.40021373... -987.3009340423.172087.960688235
2441093	User Objects.polyline[0][1][17]	Panel [1][1][17]	7.1454 Metres	7.1454 Metres	0.874956 Metres	0.8680 Metres	-58388.40021373... -987.3009340423.172087.960688235
2441094	User Objects.polyline[0][1][18]	Panel [1][1][18]	6.6544 Metres	6.6544 Metres	0.5602 Metres	0.5602 Metres	-521260.6559576... -1328.1670711398.180506.230307975
2441095	User Objects.polyline[0][1][19]	Panel [1][1][19]	6.7863 Metres	6.7863 Metres	0.679546 Metres	0.679546 Metres	-534614.0331515408... -412.0193273707.179898.009663383
2441096	User Objects.polyline[0][1][20]	Panel [1][1][20]	6.9177 Metres	6.9177 Metres	0.792656 Metres	0.7939 Metres	-547068.01514025... -2425.047259852.178613.34514191
2441097	User Objects.polyline[0][1][21]	Panel [1][1][21]	7.0500 Metres	7.0500 Metres	0.9835 Metres	0.9835 Metres	-580208.01514025... -2425.047259852.178613.34514191
2441098	User Objects.polyline[0][1][22]	Panel [1][1][22]	6.5559 Metres	6.5559 Metres	0.5556 Metres	0.5556 Metres	-50105.40251714... -10276.544727021.186025.20956354
2441099	User Objects.polyline[0][1][23]	Panel [1][1][23]	6.6915 Metres	6.6915 Metres	1.662856 Metres	0.5743 Metres	-515651.048105099... -4878.244972493.185844.149186703
2441100	User Objects.polyline[0][1][24]	Panel [1][1][24]	6.8229 Metres	6.8229 Metres	0.6508 Metres	0.6508 Metres	-528365.015074059... -2425.047259852.178613.34514191
2441101	User Objects.polyline[0][1][25]	Panel [1][1][25]	6.9543 Metres	6.9543 Metres	0.7408 Metres	0.7408 Metres	-545271.048105099... -781.387780273.184848.771803182
2441102	User Objects.polyline[0][1][26]	Panel [1][1][26]	6.4666 Metres	6.4666 Metres	1.590056 Metres	0.5573 Metres	-684023.046608247... -751.403606874.191136.40360435
2441103	User Objects.polyline[0][1][27]	Panel [1][1][27]	6.5981 Metres	6.5981 Metres	1.051456 Metres	0.5328 Metres	-97097.22778473... -1781.387780273.184848.771803182
2441104	User Objects.polyline[0][1][28]	Panel [1][1][28]	6.7295 Metres	6.7295 Metres	0.8046 Metres	0.8046 Metres	-508168.04700062... -2425.047259852.178613.34514191
2441105	User Objects.polyline[0][1][29]	Panel [1][1][29]	6.8610 Metres	6.8610 Metres	0.893556 Metres	0.893556 Metres	-528365.015074059... -2425.047259852.178613.34514191
2441106	User Objects.polyline[0][1][30]	Panel [1][1][30]	6.3754 Metres	6.3754 Metres	0.5577 Metres	0.5577 Metres	-466156.056647733... -4493.3548274883.190915.63730771
2441107	User Objects.polyline[0][1][31]	Panel [1][1][31]	6.5065 Metres	6.5065 Metres	1.640756 Metres	0.5237 Metres	-78020.056647733... -1537.8114303947.190710.471569409
2441108	User Objects.polyline[0][1][32]	Panel [1][1][32]	6.6378 Metres	6.6378 Metres	1.749556 Metres	0.5502 Metres	-489328.041059464.7317.9640014996.196442.20375388

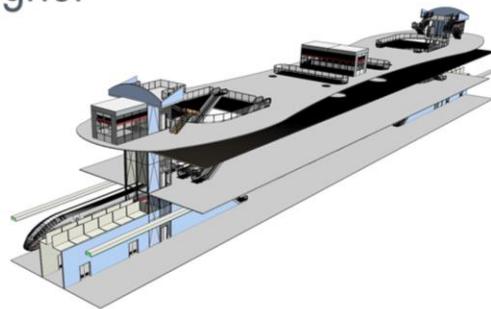


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The panels could then have the information on the display in a schedule for fabrications

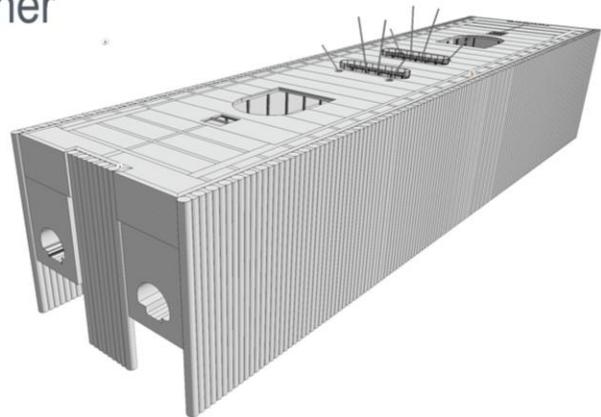
## Station Architecture Modeled with AECOsim Building Designer



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So we can take a project that has been federated into distinct models

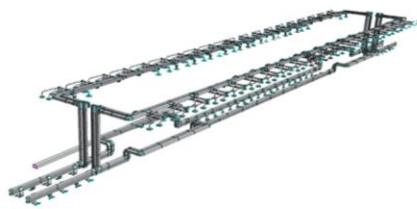
## Structural Modeled with AECOsim Building Designer



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And begin to assemble them together

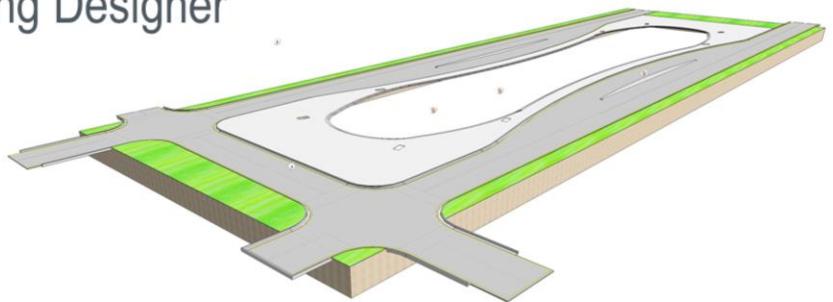
## Mechanical Modeled with AECOsim Building Designer



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And begin to assemble them together

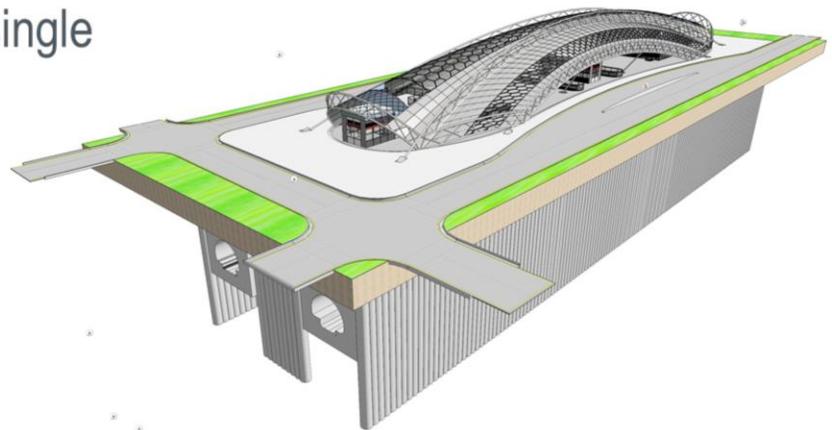
## Site Modeled with AECOsim Building Designer



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And begin to assemble them together

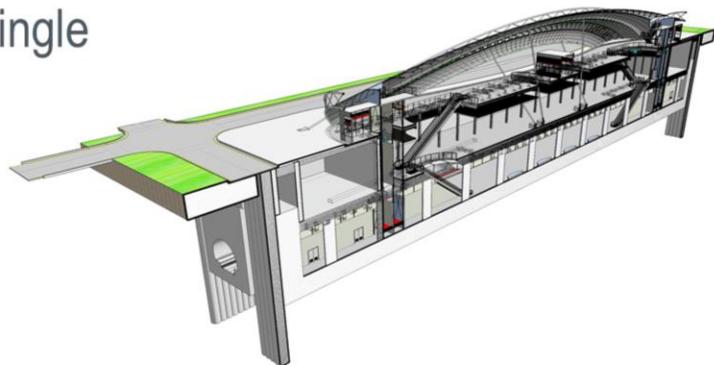
The entire federated model  
developed in a single  
application



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And begin to assemble them together

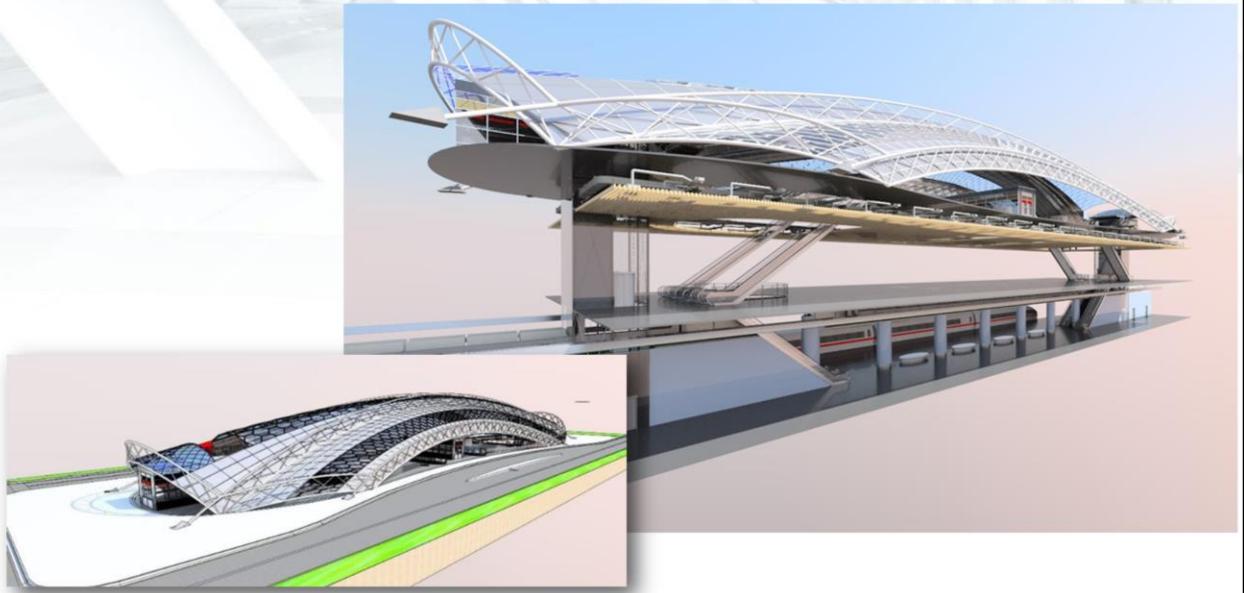
The entire federated model  
developed in a single  
application



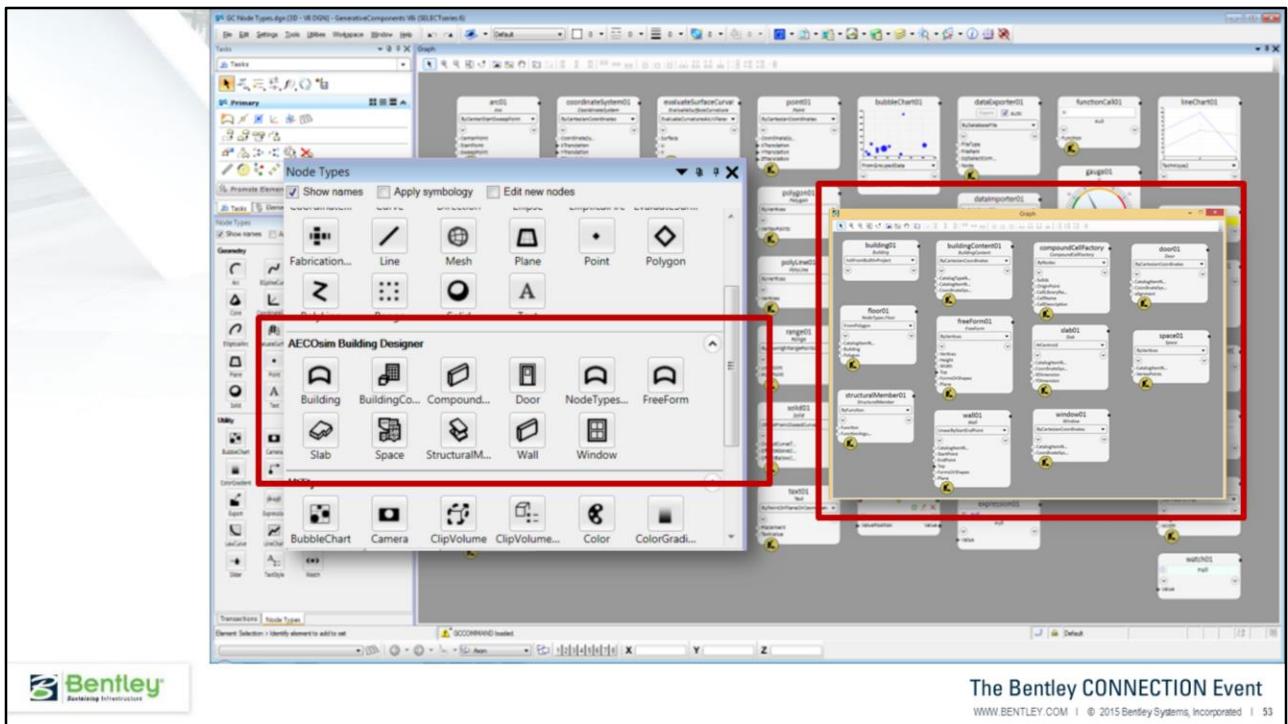
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And begin to assemble them together

A unified, information & computational modelling application



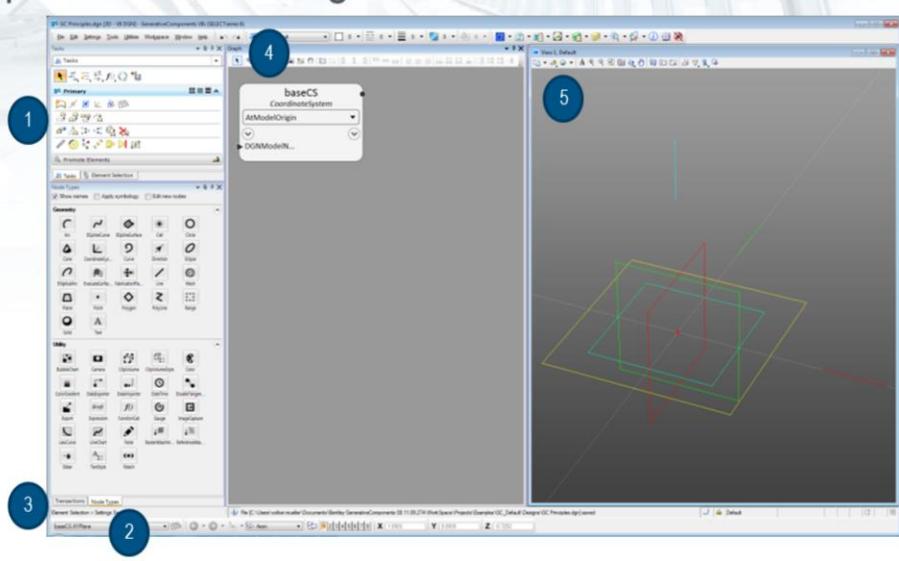
To generate an overview of the project for design coordination and project delivery purposes



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# Generative Components – Getting Started

1. Primary Tools
2. Node Types
3. Transaction
4. Graph
5. Modeling Window



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**Primary Tools** - Placing basic geometry and performing basic functions such as copy

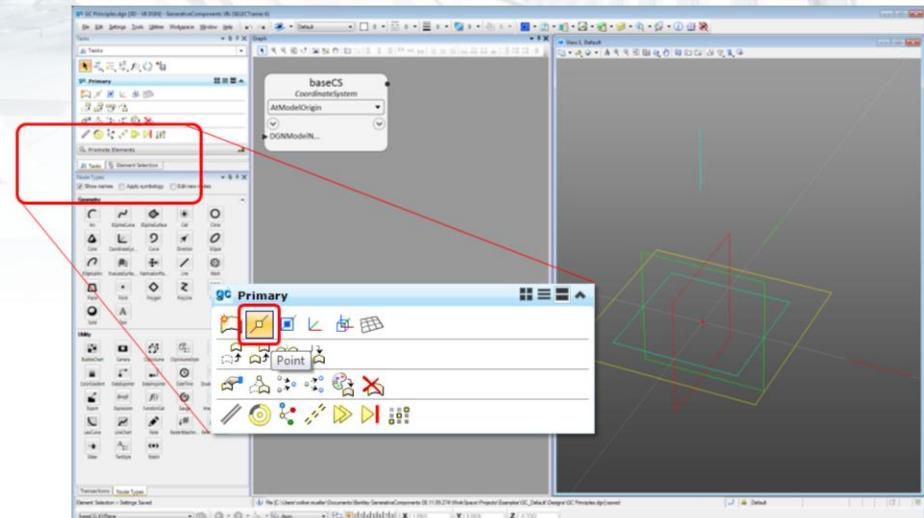
**Node** – A node is the method of placing an object or performing a function on an object

**Transactions** – provide a history of actions

**Graph** allow viewing of the geometry and relationships. Actions can be performed from the graph

The Modelling window is where the model is displayed

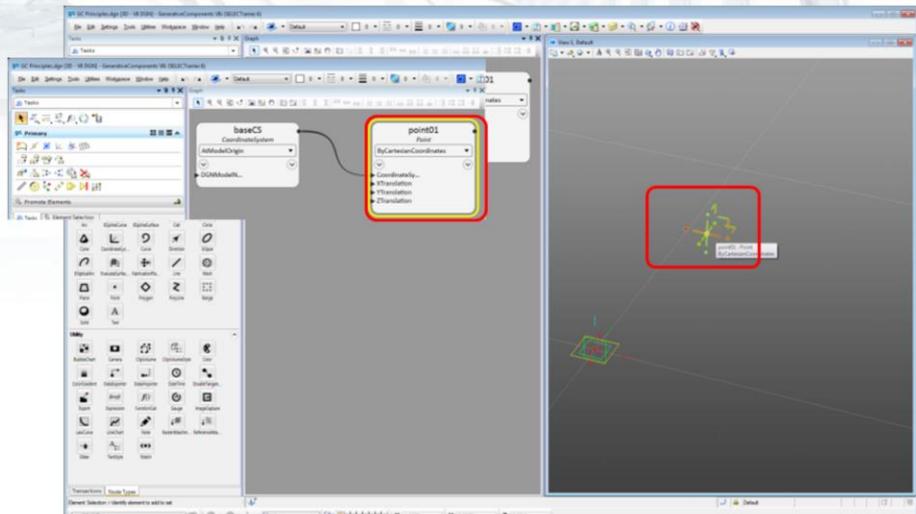
# Generative Components – Getting Started



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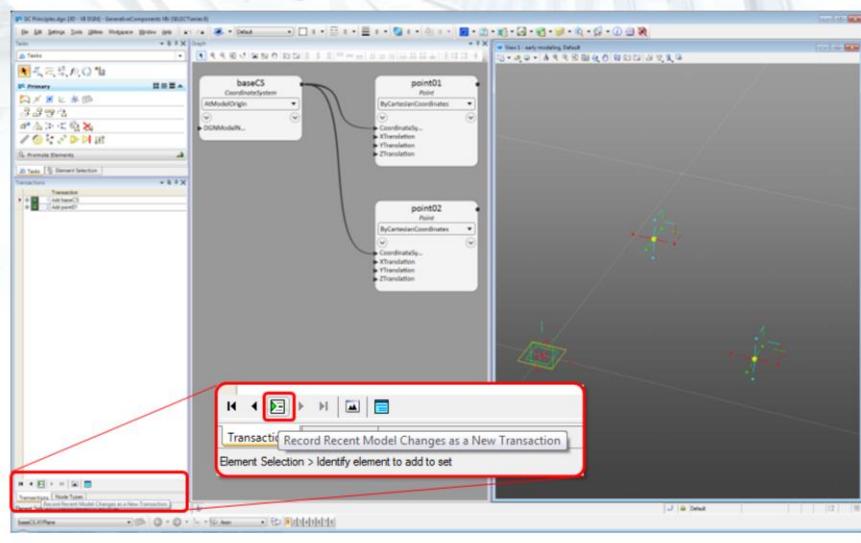
The primary tools allow quick access to basic functions. We often start here, placing our first point or using existing geometry we have modelled elsewhere to promote to a GC element

# Generative Components – Getting Started



Lets say we place a point. That point appears in our graph and in our model view. We can edit the point in both the model view and the graph

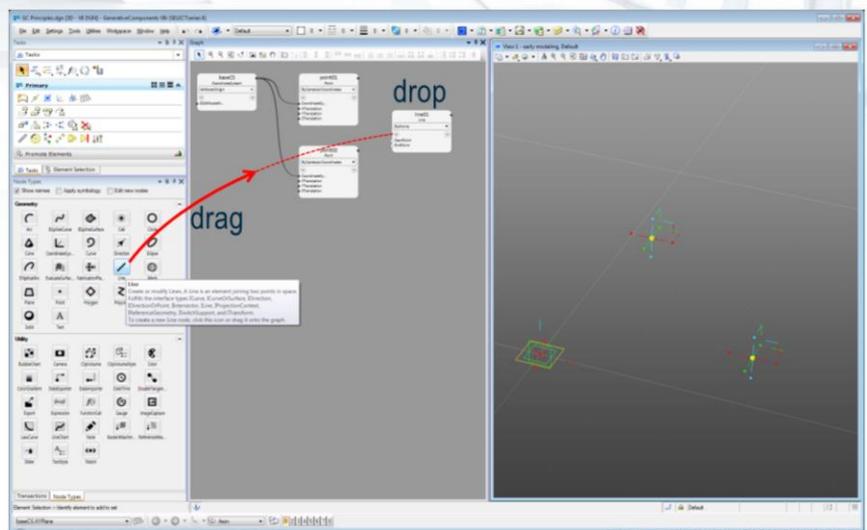
# Generative Components – Getting Started



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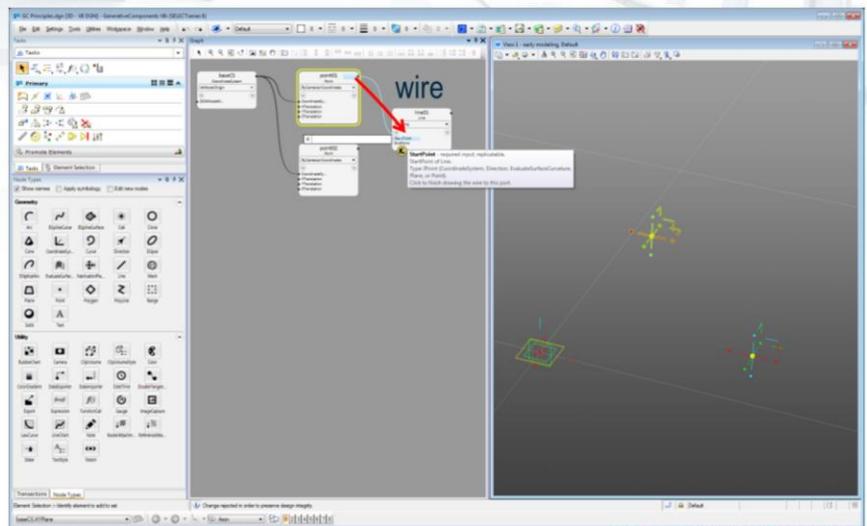
Transactions preserve history of model construction...or construct/edit model narrative

# Generative Components – Getting Started



"drag and drop" from Node Types palette into Graph.

# Generative Components – Getting Started

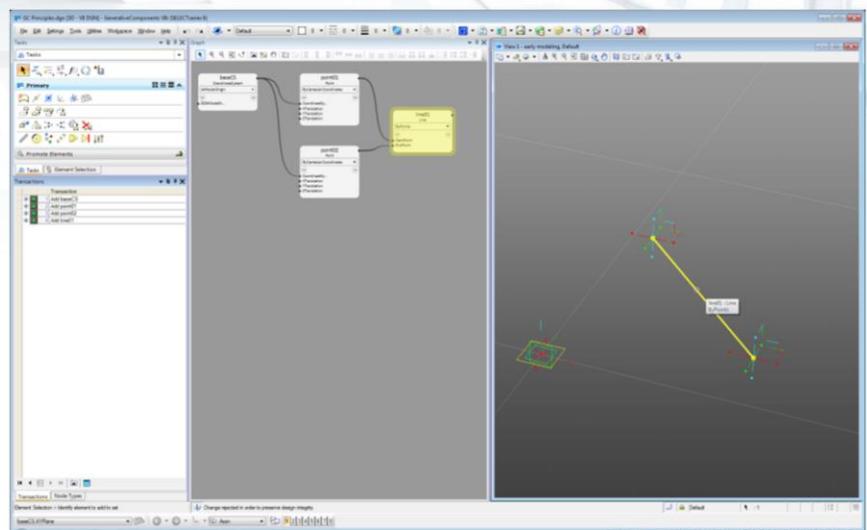


Bentley®  
Building Infrastructure

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We can wire outputs from “upstream” nodes or wire inputs to “downstream nodes”

# Generative Components – Getting Started



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node becomes valid when all required inputs have been provided.  
record transactions!

# Can I get AECOsim with GC BIM features now?

The screenshot shows a two-panel view of the Bentley BE Communities website. The left panel displays a sidebar with navigation links such as 'An Overview of GenerativeComponents', 'Add-ons', 'GenerativeComponents Solutions', 'Parametric Experimentation', 'Projects', 'Reference', 'SmartGeometry Conference', 'Support for GenerativeComponents', and 'Related' sections like 'Using Structural Modeler V8i with GenerativeComponents' and 'BIM Features for GenerativeComponents Extension to AECOsim Building Designer V8i (SELECTseries 3)'. The right panel shows the main content area with the title 'BIM Features for GenerativeComponents Extension to AECOsim Building Designer V8i (SELECTseries 3)' and an announcement message from the author. It includes a thumbnail image of a modern building, a download link, and a section titled 'New Features' with a bulleted list of benefits. At the bottom, there's an 'Installation' section with system requirements.

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We can wire outputs from “upstream” nodes or wire inputs to “downstream nodes”



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# User Showcase

**John Portman & Associates**  
Autonomous Region, China  
Yinchuan Greenland Center



Let's take a closer look at some users and how they've used AECOsim Building Designer and GenerativeComponents together.

You'll notice that both large and small firms are represented showing the breadth and depth of our products.

**John Portman & Associates**  
Autonomous Region, China  
Yinchuan Greenland Center



We're going to take a look at John Portman & Associates and their project, Yinchuan Greenland Center, located in Yinchuan, Ningxia Hui in China.

**AECOsim Building Designer +  
Generative Components**

**Completion Date:** July 2016

**Size:** Approximately 3,293,757 sf  
(306,000 sm)

**Building Height:** 984 ft (301 m)

**Scope:** Combined above-ground  
office, hotel, boutique retail space



**Scope:** This project is a mixed-use project. John Portman & Associates combined above-ground office, hotel and boutique retail spaces, with ample auto and bicycle parking below ground.

- The literal meaning of Yinchuan means “silver river.” So the towers are linked by a “silver river”- a podium building with a sinuous (curvy) form. The tower forms take inspiration from shapes found in the unique calligraphy of the Chinese Hui – a script that fuses Chinese and Arabic.
- When completed, expected in 2016, the towers will be the tallest in the Ningxia Hui region of China.

**Products:** The 3D BIM model created in [GenerativeComponents](#) and [AECOsim Building Designer](#) enabled the firm to meet the demanding design schedule by facilitating better design

decisions and fostering communication among teams.

**Challenge:**

- Practical design that integrates with the layout and urban space
- Draws inspiration from the Chinese Hui, culture
- Be contemporary sustainable development, under the precepts of ecosystem protection



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## Design Challenge

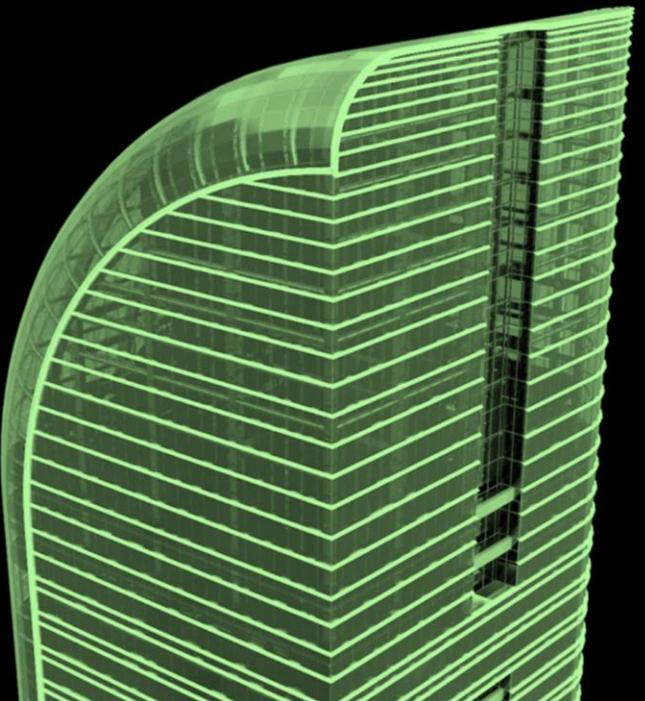
There were the unique design challenges that John Portman & Associates had to meet...and did so successfully.

- This specific design was chosen for its practicality as well as its skillful integration of the layout and urban space.
- As Yinchuan is the capital of the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, the project's design draws inspiration from the Chinese Hui, whose culture offers a unique blend of Islamic and Chinese influences.

## **Key aspects**

**GenerativeComponents+AECOsim**

- 1. Form shaping**
- 2. Integrated design**
- 3. Enclosure development**
- 4. Element development**
- 5. Spatial development**
- 6. Detail**
- 7. Interface with other software**
- 8. Client consultant contractor communication**



**GC and ABD were used for the following aspects of the project – from form shaping to client communication.**

## **Success**

Keep in mind these are all the benefits realized without GC and ABD being fully integrated. Now imagine the greater benefits now that they are. John Portman has seen the following by using GC and ABD:

**Increased Project Collaboration:** Collaboration, both internally and externally, was improved. People were able to see and share information as it was developed. The GC model and the 3D model were used to prepare architectural plans, elevations, sections, details and schedules. Because sections could be cut early in the design process, interferences between architecture and structure, or problems of clearances were detected early,

allowing the design to be refined at an early stage.

**Increased ROI:** John Portman & Associates brought their entire design team together early in the design process to coordinate efforts and to establish strategies for efficiency in construction, function, materials, water, energy, daylight and site usage to achieve the project goals. The result is what they consider to be a constructed aesthetic – an integration of design, structure and energy comfort systems as a complete system. First, the team was able to optimize the design of the enclosure and structural system with the use of GenerativeComponents. Secondly, the team was able to easily integrate complex geometry generated in GC with the data created in ABD.

**Reduced Time of Project Delivery:** GenerativeComponents made creating complex geometry relatively quick and easy thus allowing for more iterative design. What would have taken a considerable amount of time to build and modify in base 3D was quickly executed in GC. With the 3D model created in both GC and AECOsim, the architects were able to swiftly extract any 3D condition needed. Revisions requested were also quickly implemented. The architectural team was able to rapidly explore options, make revisions and come up with the optimal solution, all while staying on schedule.

**Reduced Cost of Project Delivery:** The 3D BIM model created with GC and in AECOsim ensured a fully coordinated design and enabled John Portman & Associates to meet the highly demanding and sensitive design schedule.

**Reduced Operation Costs:** The firm often must contract out for animations and renderings. On this project, the architects were able to do them in-house with AECOsim. The firm also typically contracts out for sun studies. Again, for this project, the architects were able to generate them internally and use them

to optimize the performance of the systems. Eliminating these outside expenses saved the firm out-of-pocket project costs.

**Reduced and Managed Risks:** The GC and BIM model facilitated better design decisions and fostered better communication between team members.

# User Showcase

**SimpsonHaugh (formely Ian Simpson Architects)**

London, United Kingdom  
One Blackfriars Road

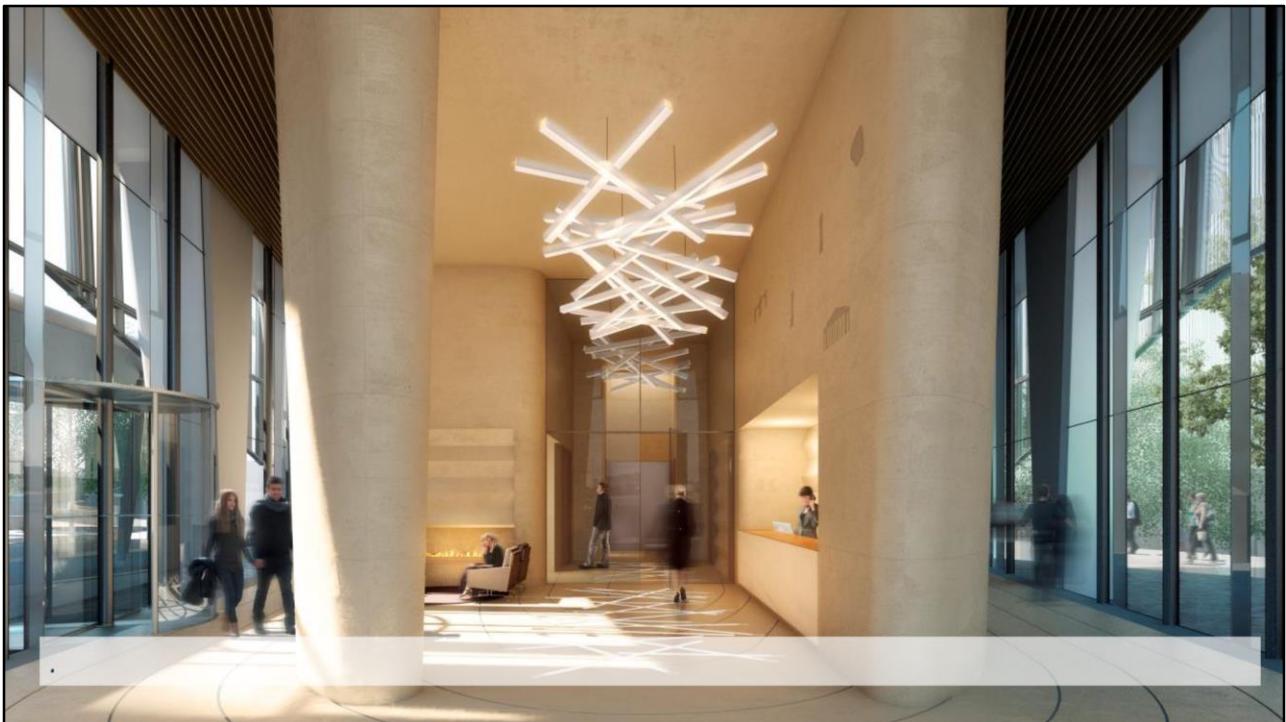


Now let's take a look at One Blackfriars Road by SimpsonHaugh, which was formerly known as Ian Simpson Architects.

SimpsonHaugh (formerly Ian Simpson Architects)  
One Blackfriars Road  
London, United Kingdom



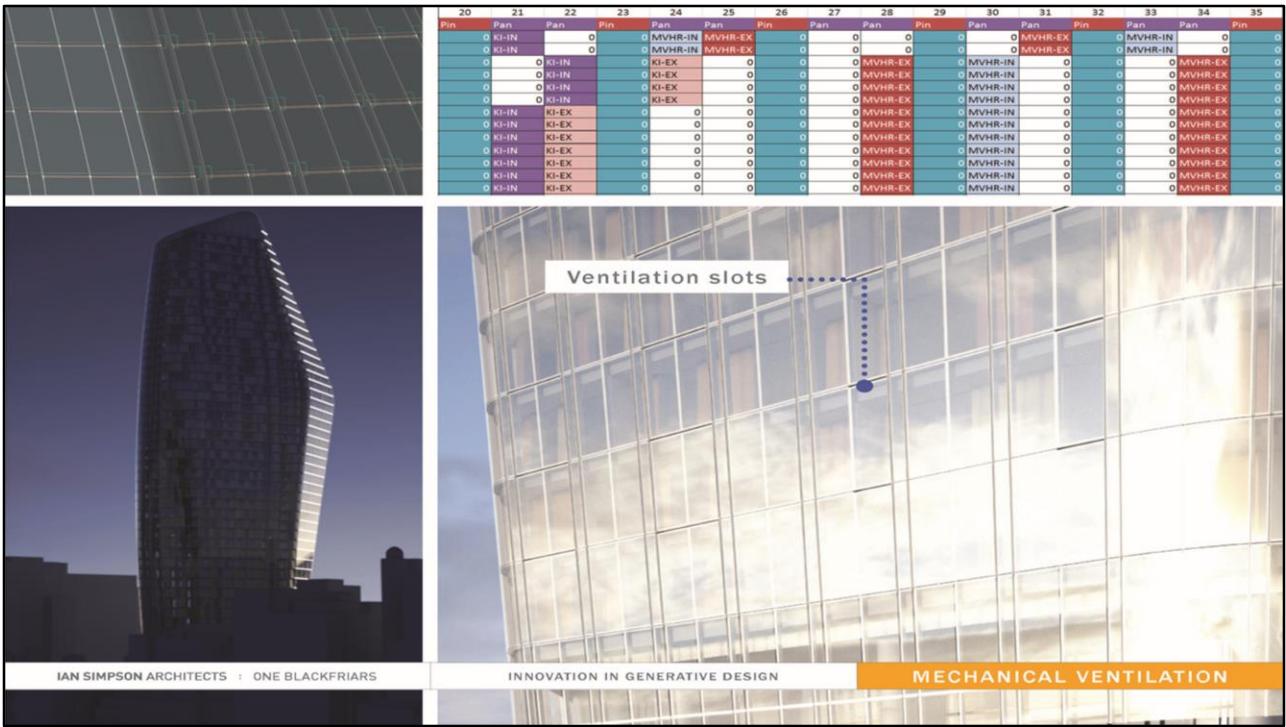
- Simpson Haugh designed the GBP 250 million signature skyscraper One Blackfriars
- They used GenerativeComponents, Bentley's parametric modeling software, to set out the curved geometry of the building form, and define the relationships between internal and external facades.



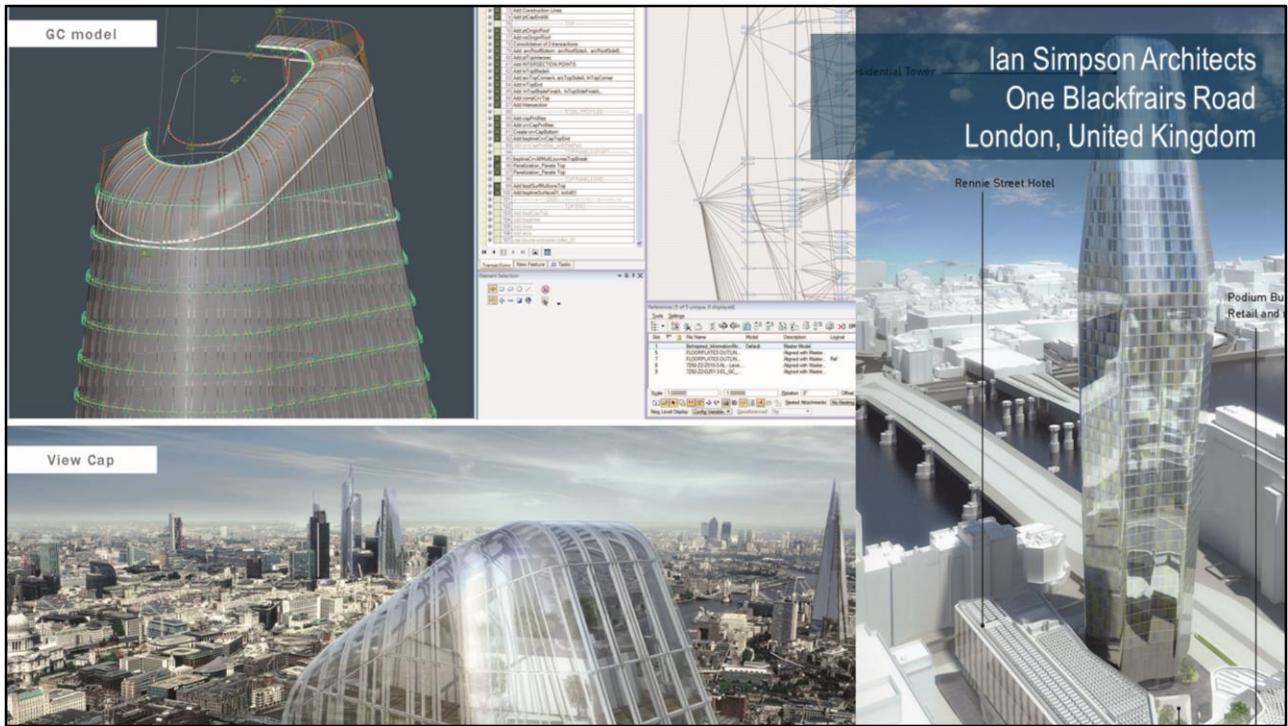
This image is the view of the residential lobby illustrating the intimate space at the base of the slender tower.

**The Project Objective for Blackfriars is as follows:**

- Design a mixed-use complex to anchor Blackfriars Bridge and grace the Southwark skyline.
- Maximize daylight and minimize solar reflection for neighboring properties. (so it had to be slender)
- Balance the tower's beautiful form with the program's contextual function.



- One of the many challenges on the tower was the mechanical ventilation through the external envelope
- It was crucial to keep its visual impact to a minimum
- The location and size went through many iterations so they needed to a design tool that is able to quickly respond to client requests and performance changes
- **First they used an Excel spread sheet as an INPUT to GC.** Everybody in the team could use it – even people on their team with less advanced scripting skills – to change the position of the ventilation slots.
- This enabled the team to quickly respond to client requests and performance



- Simspon Haugh said that GenerativeComponents proved to be beneficial in several ways: One is the way in which you can build the geometry -- making the design process very flexible and helping to describe very precisely the complexity of the building
- And the models where all coordinated in Bentley Architecture, **NOW AECOSIM BUILDING DESIGNER**, and exported to **SCHEDULES** and **DRAWINGS**

- Ability to describe and analyse the complex form of the tower and its panelisation.
- Ability to quantify all the panel characteristics in order to test them against industry criteria.
- Ability to study all conditions of a particular detail for example the transom and to rationalise this to a minimum number of variants.
- Ability to test ventilation results for all apartments by quickly varying the parameters
- Ability to quickly quantify overall proportions of solid to void for the whole building for the SAP calculations and Building Regulations/Part L testing.
- Ability to respond swiftly to client requests for information on areas or quantities of material.
- Ability to quickly transfer data within the design team in particular the structural engineer allowing for a highly interactive design development of the space planning and the structural grid.
- Ability to quickly study alternative design solutions for the "random" internal panelisation and colour gradation across the whole tower.
- ...



IAN SIMPSON ARCHITECTS : ONE BLACKFRIARS

INNOVATION IN GENERATIVE DESIGN

**CONCLUSION**

## ROI

- GenerativeComponents allowed SimspsonHaugh to fine tune the façade, reducing the number of panels and minimizing the number of double-curved panels.
- It took just two days instead of weeks to produce visuals for viewing angles from the apartments.

*"The team at Ian Simpson Architects delivered one of the most comprehensive documentation packages we have seen. Taking on board our advice, the façade was modelled, detailed and documented to clearly show the complexity of this unique building using the latest in parametric tools and BIM software. A truly outstanding job that will set a new benchmark in delivering complex facades." ,*

*Toby Clark, Arup Façades*



IAN SIMPSON ARCHITECTS : ONE BLACKFRIARS

INNOVATION IN GENERATIVE DESIGN

THANK YOU

- Though some were skeptical that One Blackfriars would be built, the ground-breaking ceremony in October 2013 marked the start of construction, which is expected to be completed by 2017.
- With a mix of residential, commercial, and retail properties, One Blackfriars represents a significant investment by the developer. The 50-storey tower is now being marketed worldwide.

## User Showcase - Snapshot



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Now here are just a few snapshots of projects.

Morphosis Architects  
Los Angeles, California, United States  
Emerson College Los Angeles



## 2014 Winner – Innovation in Building

- This mixed-use facility establishes Boston-based Emerson's identity in Los Angeles, California. Designed by Morphosis Architects to be a magnet for activity, it provides an iconic setting for premieres, events, and student showcases that draw the general public, students, and industry professionals.
- The new USD 85 million facility will also host workshops, lectures, and other events that engage the broader community.
- Bringing student housing, instructional facilities, and administrative offices to one location, ELA condenses the diversity of a college campus into an urban site. Fundamental to the ELA experience, student housing gives structure to the overall building. Housing up to 220 students,

the domestic zones frame a dynamic core dedicated to creativity, learning and social interaction. Composed of two slender towers bridges by a multi-use platform the 10 story square frames an outdoor “room”.

Wujin Council Offices  
LAB Architecture  
Changzhou, Jiangsu, China  
Studio with SIADR



## Top 3 Advantages of Advancing BIM with Computational Design

- 1) Generate parametric designs with fully attributed BIM elements.
- 2) Rapid “Analysis” of various scenarios using BIM elements.
- 3) Collaborate on models simultaneously with integrated BIM workflows.



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### **When integrating ABD and GC, here are the top advantages:**

- 1) Generate parametric designs with fully attributed BIM elements.
- 2) Rapid “Analysis” of various scenarios using BIM elements.
- 3) Collaborate on models simultaneously with integrated BIM workflows.

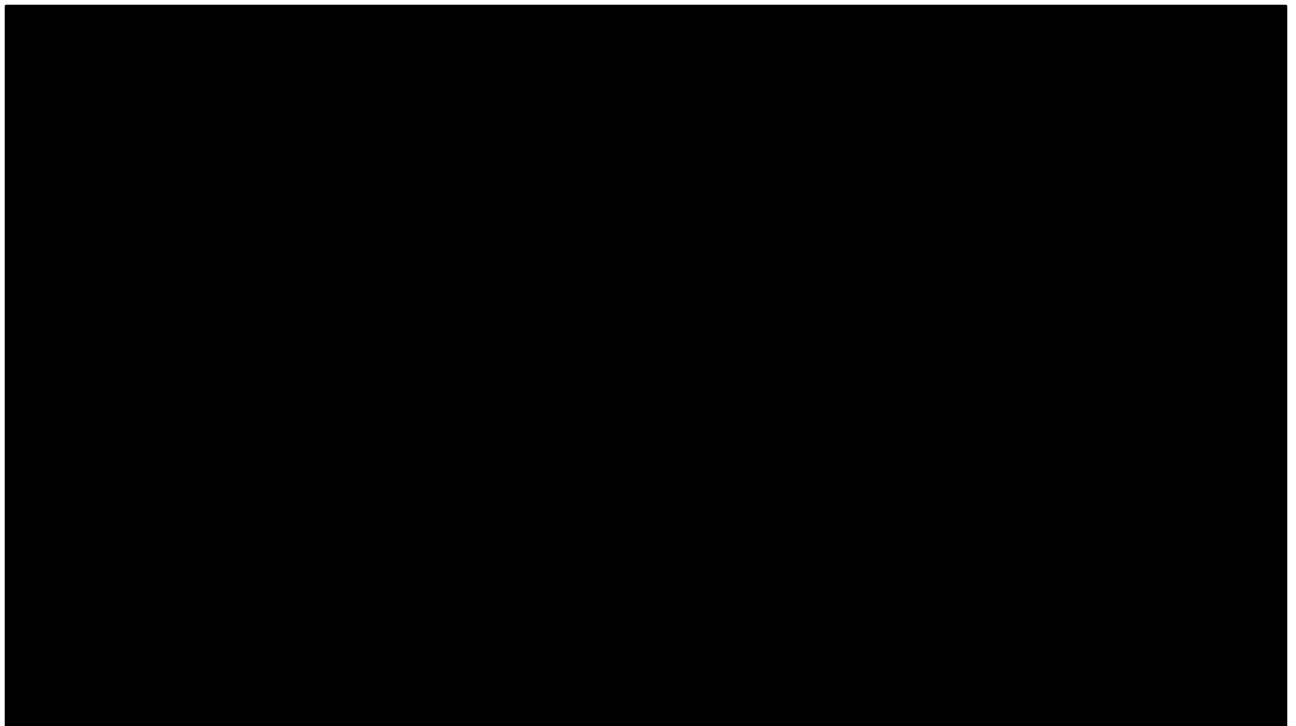
Thank You.

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Thank you for your time. If you want additional information on the projects covered here...you can find the Simpsonhaugh and John Portman projects on Bentley.com on our Be Inspired Project Portfolio. The Arup ferris wheel can be found with our other case studies on Bentley.com/abd (Bentley dot com back slash a-b-d)



<PLAY VIDEO that was produced by John Portman - Has audio but just music. >

This video was produced by John Portman that provides a great overview of the project.