

Greening the Concrete Jungle - Why Structural Engineers Hold the Keys

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China State Construction International Medical Industry Development Co., Ltd.

2023-12-05 Hong Kong



1. Background

2. Material – Structure – Project

3. The Ecosystem

1. Background

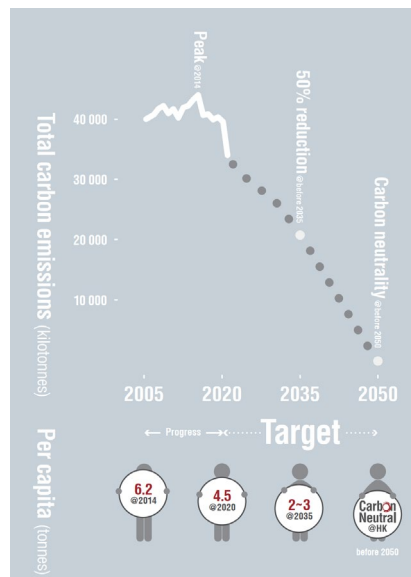
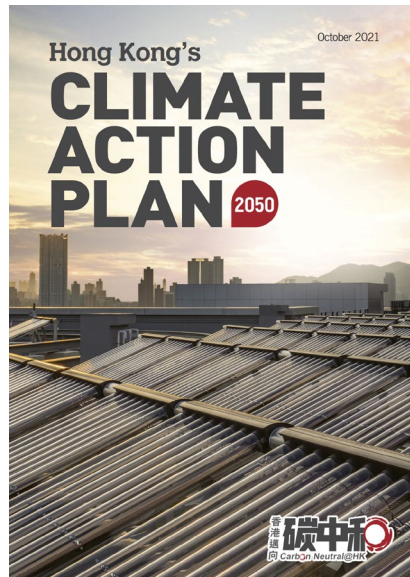


Extreme Weather
is becoming
The New Normal

Roadmap to Carbon Neutrality

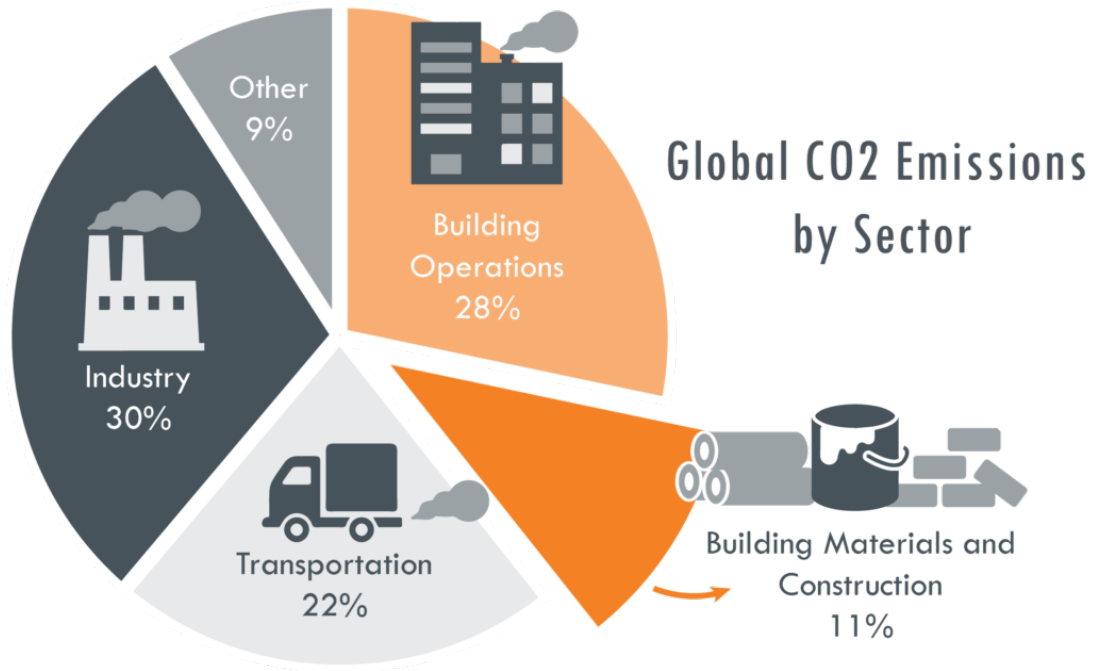


“30/60”
National “Dual Carbon”
Strategic Plan



Climate Action Plan 2050

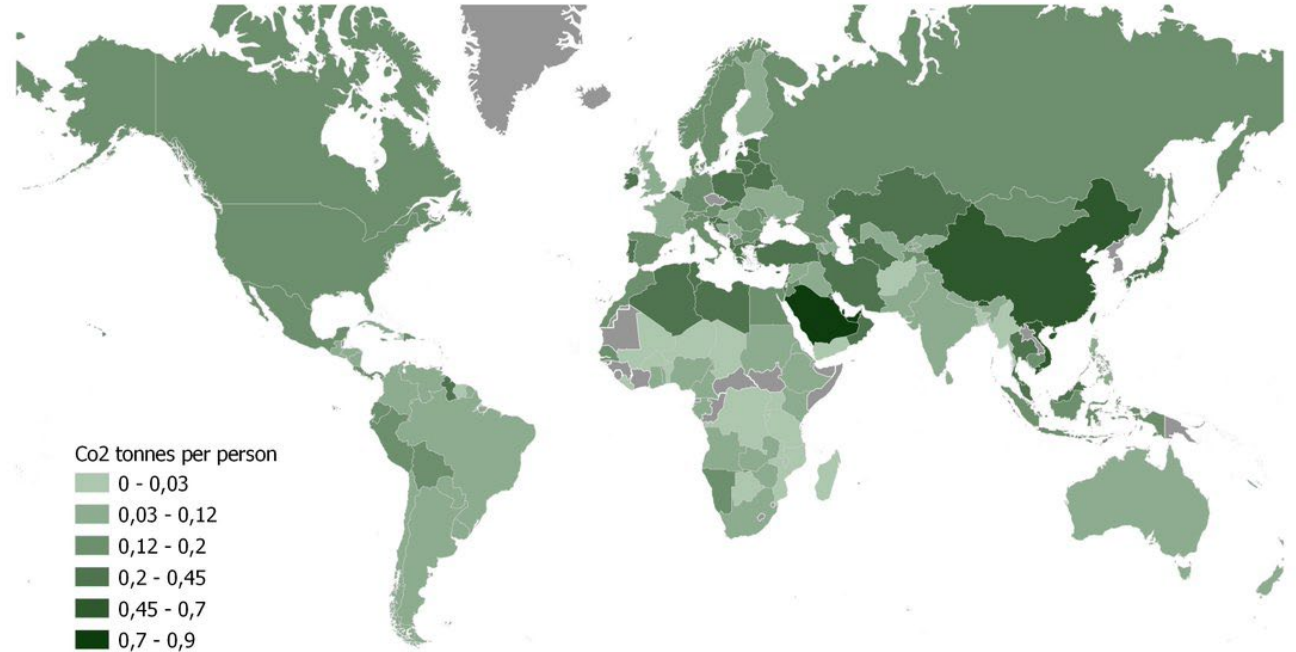
- Zero-carbon Emission
- Liveable City
- Sustainable Development



The carbon emissions from building operations and construction activities account for **39%** of the total global carbon emissions.

Cement is the source of about 8 % of the world's Co2 emissions

Annual production-based emissions of carbon dioxide (CO2) from cement, measured in tonnes per person.



Alternatives in construction: concrete debris, ashcrete, geopolymers, graphene-infused concrete, fiber cement, bamboo, root veggies, ferrock, mycelium, straw bales, recycled plastic, rammed earth, hempcrete, timbercrete, blast furnace slag, micro silica, silica fumes, fibrous concrete, papercrete, timber, clay, recycling

Data source: <https://github.com/owid/co2-data>

2. Material – Structure – Project

The Formula

Embodied Carbon (kgCO₂e) ↓

=

↓ **Material Quantity** (kg) x **Carbon Factor** (kgCO₂e/kg) ↓

The Holistic Approach

I. Material-level

- Mechanical Properties
- Durability
- Carbon coefficient
- Local market availability



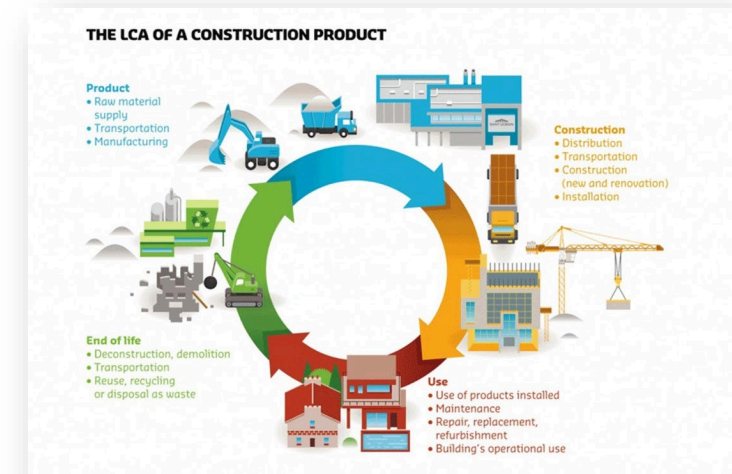
II. Structure-level

- Structural Efficiency
- Construction Cost
- Structural System/Element/Connection
- Design Contingency
- Structural optimization

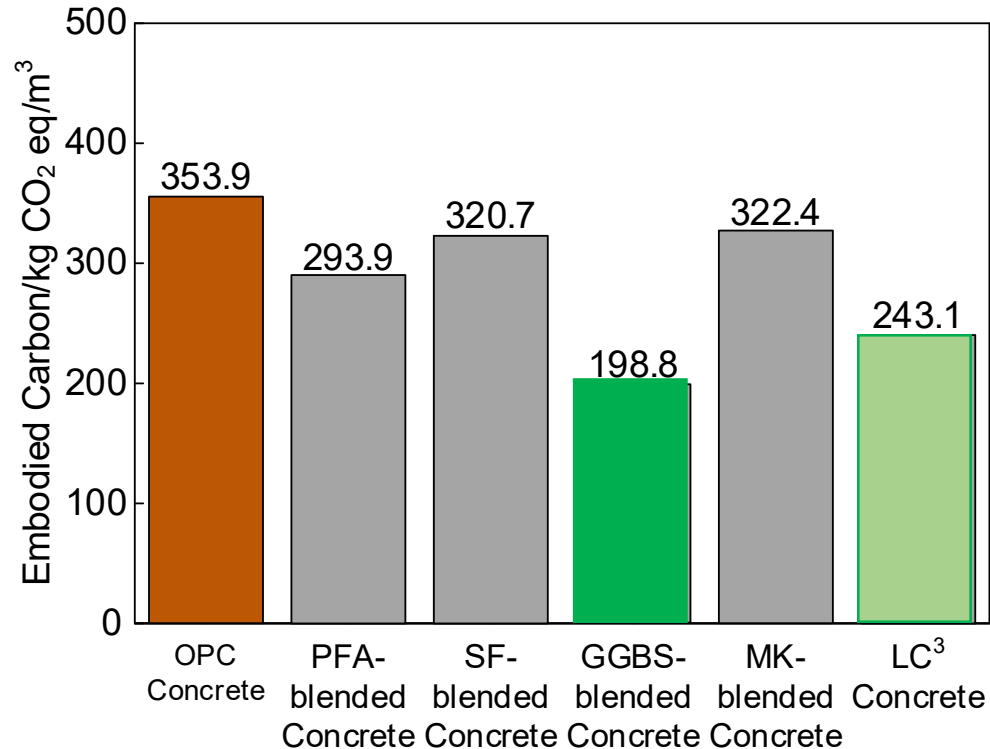


III. Project-level

- Multi-disciplinary Collaboration
- Life-cycle Analysis
- Performance of Durability and Sustainability
- Smart Construction
- Construction Digitalization
- Green and low-carbon Development



The Comparisons



SCM Type	Replacement Level	Carbon Reduction
PFA	25%	17.0%
SF	10%	9.4%
GGBS	50%	43.8%
MK	10%	8.9%
LC ³	50%	31.3%

SCM: Supplementary Cementitious Material
 LC³: Limestone Calcined Clay Cement
 MK: Metakaolin
 GGBS: Ground Granulated Blast-furnace Slag
 SF: Silica Fume
 PFA: Pulverized Fly Ash

SCMs are promising in reducing embodied carbon of RC by replacing ordinary Portland cement (OPC)



中國建築
CHINA STATE CONSTRUCTION

GGBS Concrete in the Projects Worldwide



Blavatnik School of Government
Oxford, UK (Completion:2016)
GGBS ratio= 40%



Gatwick Airport Station
London, UK (Completion: 2023)
GGBS ratio= 70%



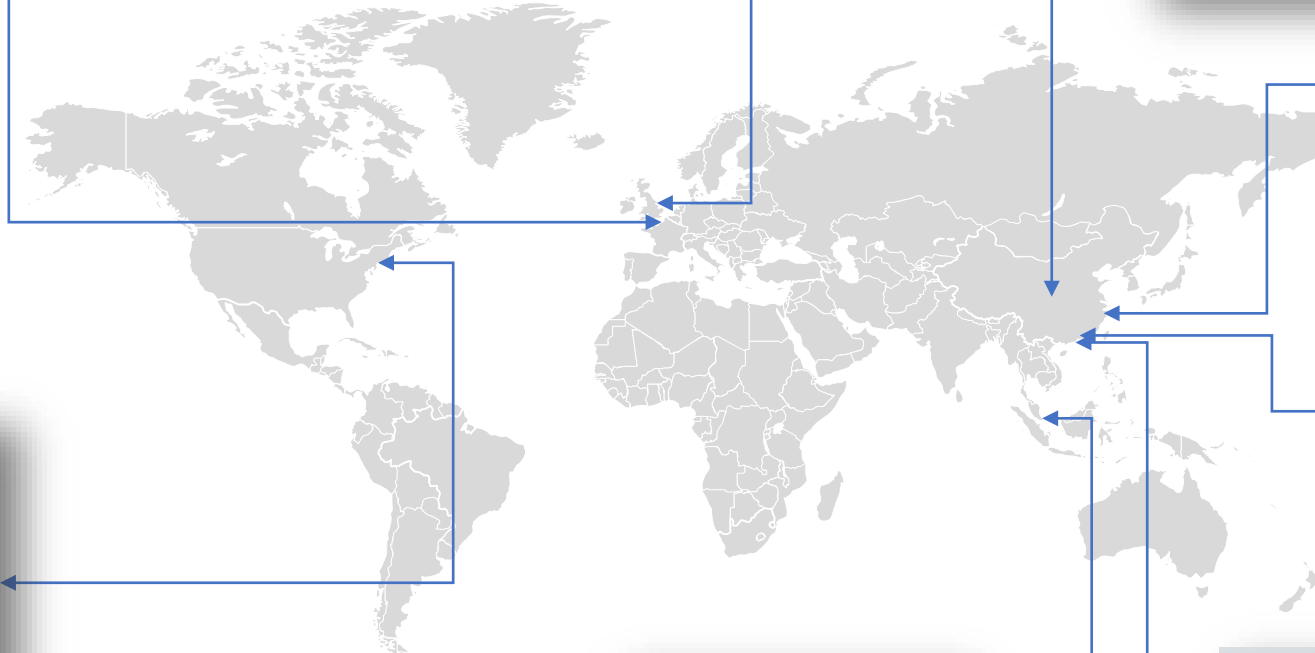
Hekla Tower
Paris, France (Completion:2022)
GGBS ratio= 50%



One World Trade Center
New York, US
(Completion: 2014)
GGBS ratio= 40%



Central Park Tower
New York, US
(Completion:2020)
GGBS ratio= 30-70%



Three Gorges Dam
Yichang, China
(Completion:2012)
GGBS ratio= 40%



Hangzhou Bay Bridge
Hangzhou, China (Completion:2007)
GGBS ratio= 40%



Great China International Exchange Square
Shenzhen, China (Completion:2005)
GGBS ratio= 35%



Tuas Undersea Cable Tunnel,
Singapore (Completion:1998)
GGBS ratio= 70%



Stonecutters Bridge
Hong Kong, China
(Completion:2009)
GGBS ratio= 60-70%



Tsing Ma Bridge
Hong Kong, China
(Completion:1997)
GGBS ratio= 65%

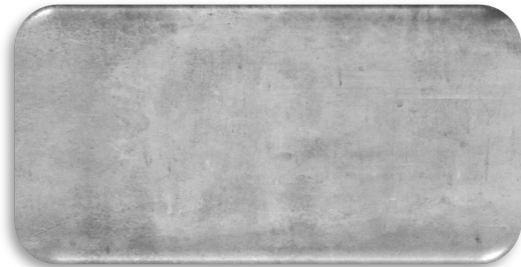
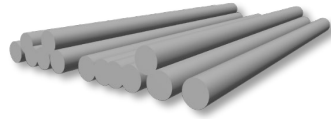
Comparison of Standards of GGBS Concrete

Regions	Standard	GGBS Ratio (OPC Replacement Level)
Hong Kong SAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Code of Practice for Structural Use of Concrete 2013 (2020 Edition) 	35-75%
Mainland China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GB/T 18046-2017 Ground Granulated Blast Furnace Slag Used for Cement, Mortar and Concrete; GB 175-2007 Common Portland Cement 	20-70%
UK, Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BS EN 15167-1/2:2006 Ground Granulated Blast Furnace Slag for Use in Concrete, Mortar and Grout; BS 8500-1:2015+A2:2019 Concrete – Complementary British Standard to BS EN 206 	20-80%
US	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASTM C989/C989M-22 Standard Specification for Slag Cement for Use in Concrete and Mortars ; ASTM C595/C595M-23 Standard Specification for Blended Hydraulic Cements 	30-70% (Depending on application)
Japan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JIS A 6206:1997 Ground Granulated Blast Furnace Slag for Concrete; Recommendation for Construction of Concrete Containing Ground Granulated Blast Furnace Slag as an Admixture (JSCE) 	30-70%

*In 2005, SCCT endorsed BS 6699 as the standard for GGBS in Hong Kong. BS 6699 was later superseded by EN 15167-1/2

Wider Adoption of Low Carbon Material

Basalt FRP bar
+
OPC blended with SCM
(GGBS/PFA/LC³)
Concrete

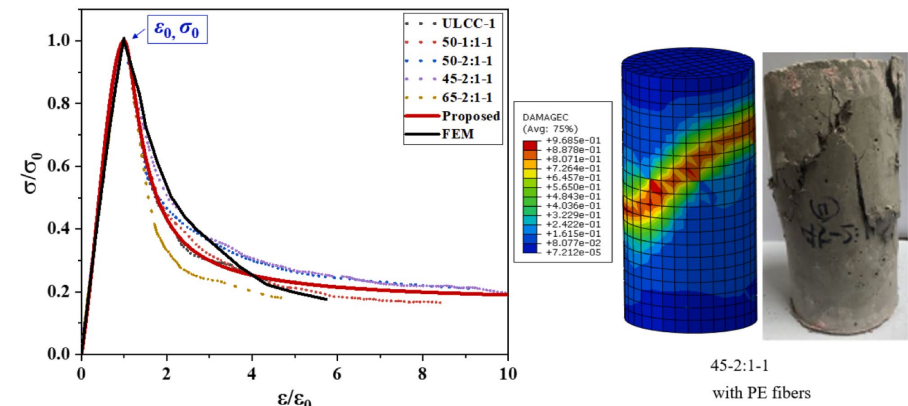


Recycled
Aggregates

Seawater
Sea Sand

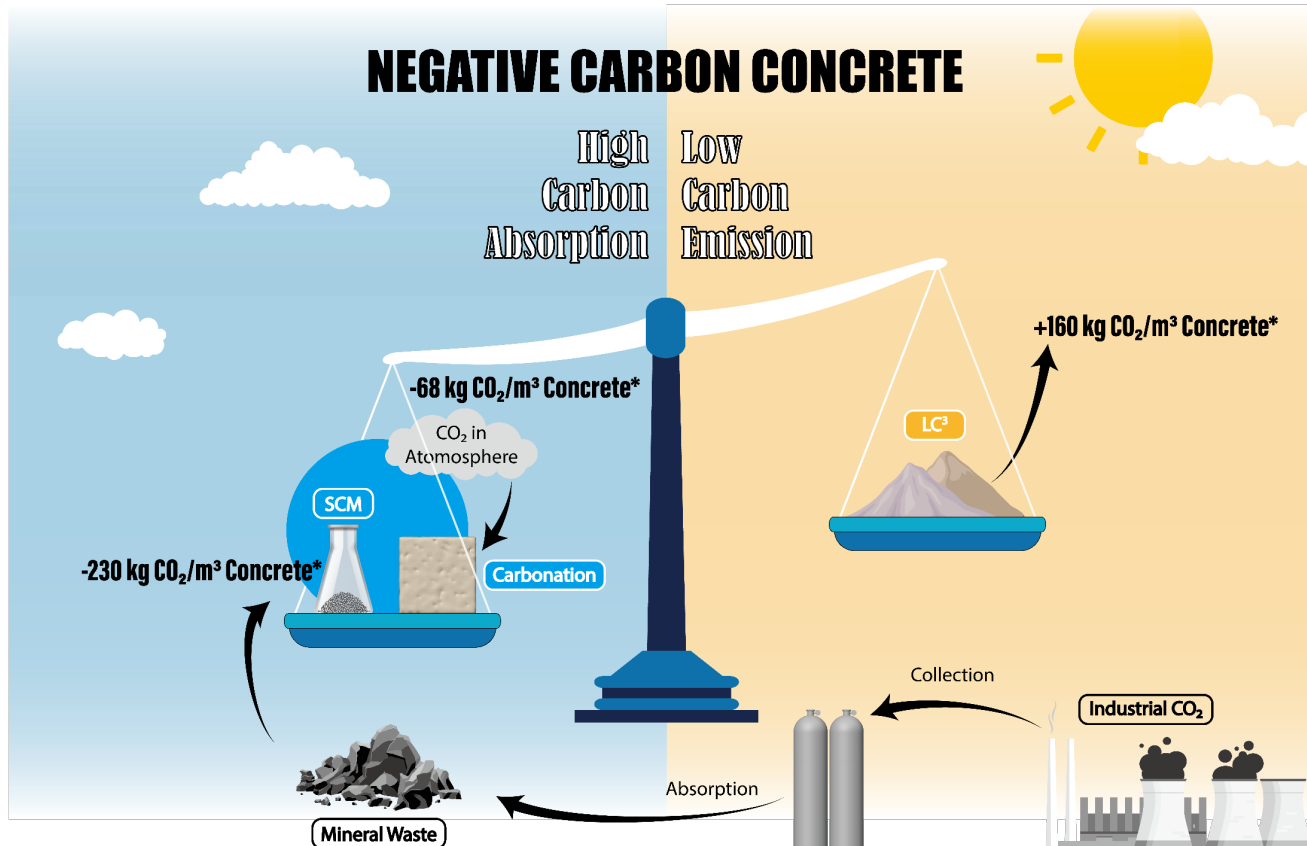
Ji, X.-L., Chen, L.-J., Liang, K., Pan, W., & Su, R.-KL. (2023). A review on FRP bars and supplementary cementitious materials for the next generation of sustainable and durable construction materials. *Construction & Building Materials*, 383, 131403-.

Ultra-lightweight Concrete LC3



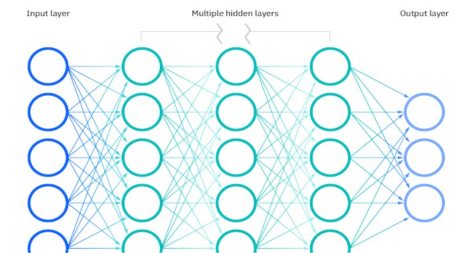
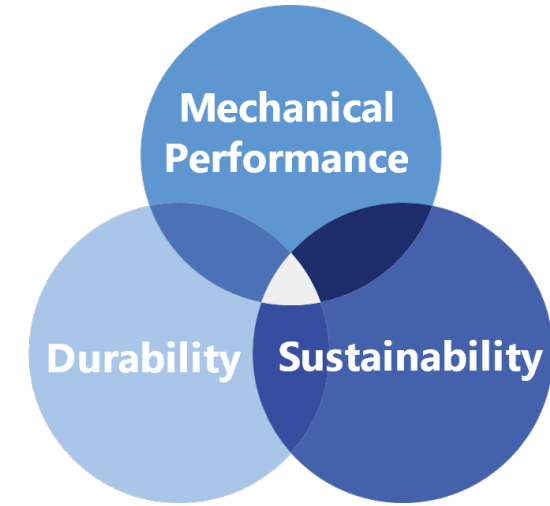
Liang, T.-T, Chen, L.-J, Huang, Z.-Y, Zhong, Y., & Zhang, Y. (2023). Ultra-lightweight low-carbon LC3 cement composites: Uniaxial mechanical behaviour and constitutive models. *Construction & Building Materials*, 404, 133173-.

Next Generation of Negative Carbon Concrete



Xinlin JI, Lijie CHEN, Ying ZHONG, Yi ZHANG, Jiayi LI, Wei PAN, Ray Kai-Leung SU, "Negative Carbon Concrete For Achieving Next Generation Of Sustainable And Durable Modular Integrated Construction (MiC): A Review", 2023 Creative Construction Conference, Keszthely, Lake Balaton, Hungary, 20 to 23 June 2023.

Pillai, Radhakrishna G., et al. "Service life and life cycle assessment of reinforced concrete systems with limestone calcined clay cement (LC3)." *Cement and Concrete Research* 118 (2019): 111-119.

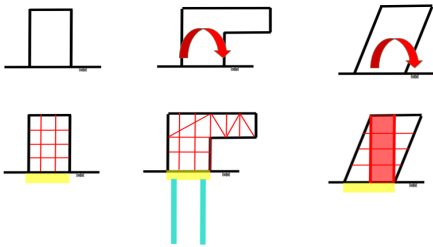
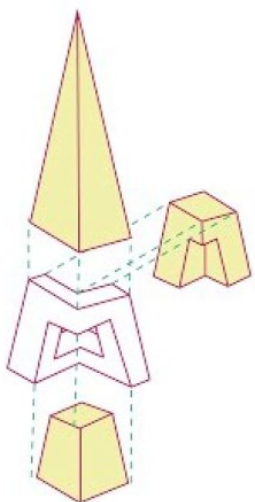


Improved annual sustainability with longer service life

Lijie CHEN, Xinlin JI, Jiayi LI, Ray Kai-Leung SU, "Integrated concrete mix design with sustainability, cost and durability based on artificial intelligence", 2023 Creative Construction Conference, Keszthely, Lake Balaton, Hungary, 20 to 23 June 2023.

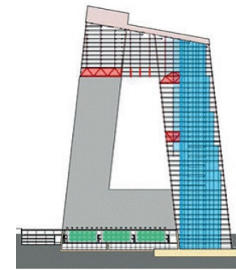
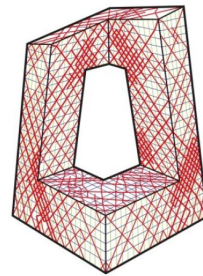
Structural Morphology

- Static Performance
- Wind-resistant Performance
- Seismic-resistant Performance
- Global Stability



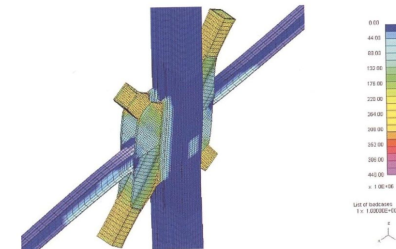
Structural System

- Structural Efficiency
- Design Intent
- Construction Cost
- Functionality
- Load Path

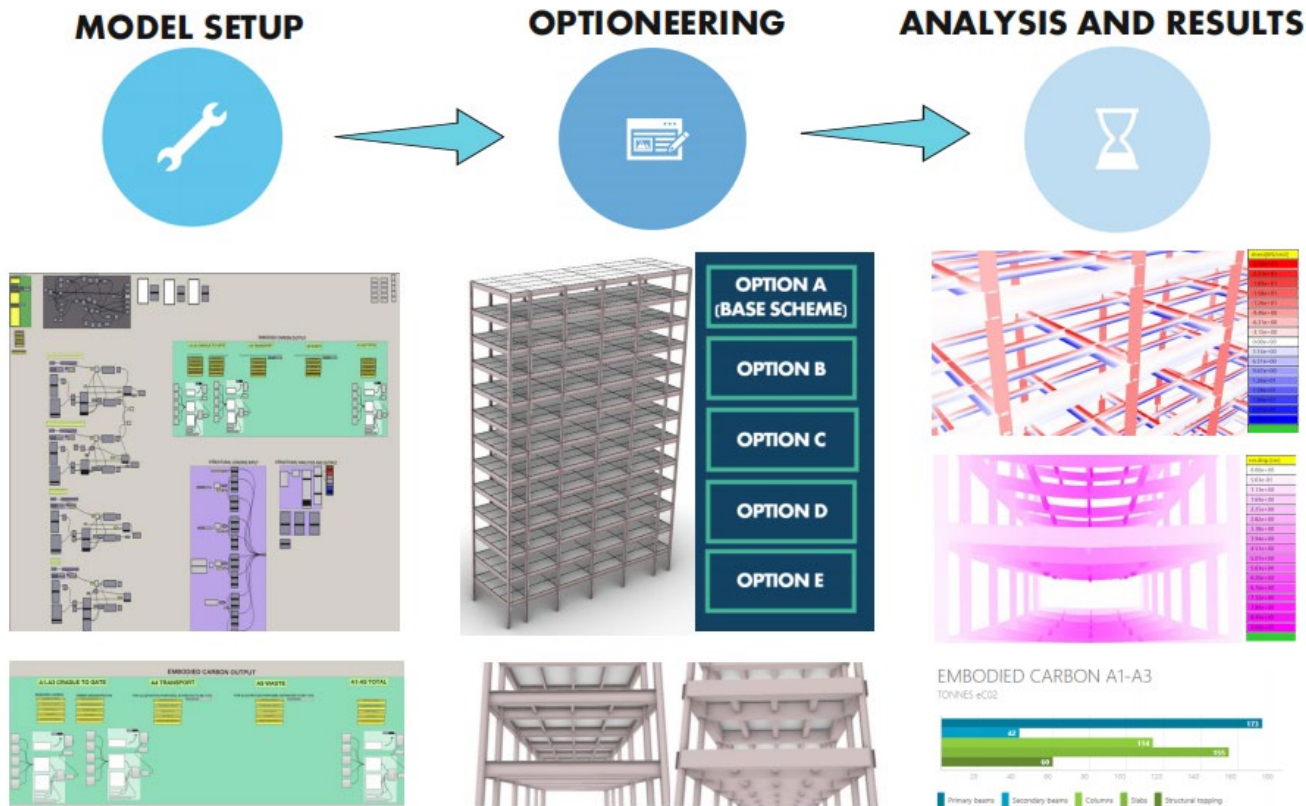


Structural Components

- Structural Element/Connection
- Design Contingency
- Constructability & Buildability
- Construction Cost



Parametric Modelling & Design



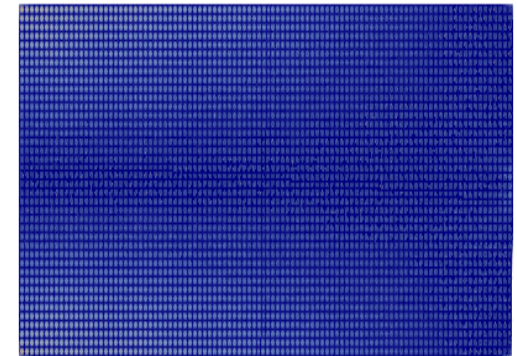
Parametric design:
Design Response = f (Design Intent)

Integrated Design Platform

- **Interaction** between Architecture and Structure
- **Parameter-based** interactive design pattern
- **Real-time** performance evaluation of the scheme
- **Dynamic** challenges of design schemes

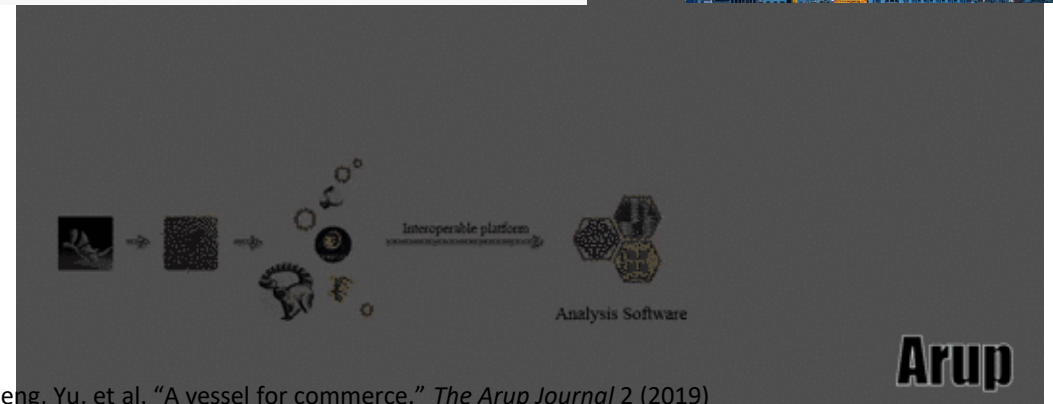
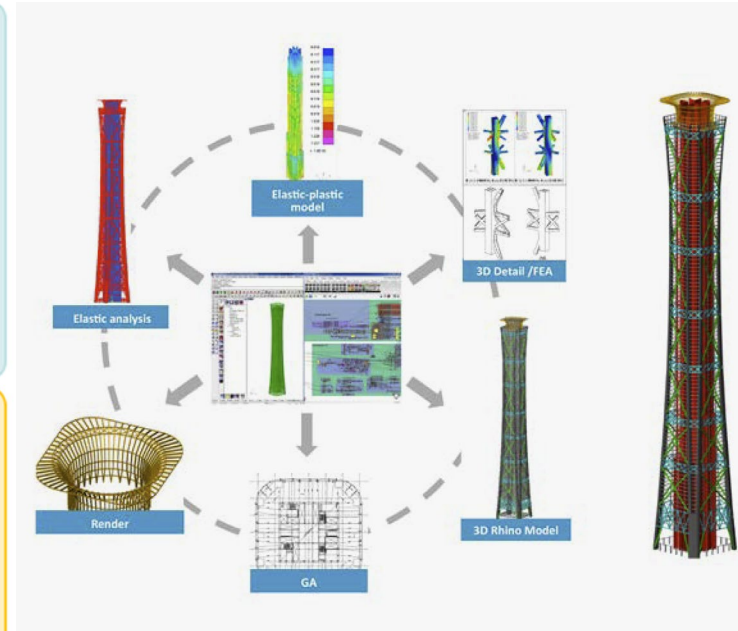
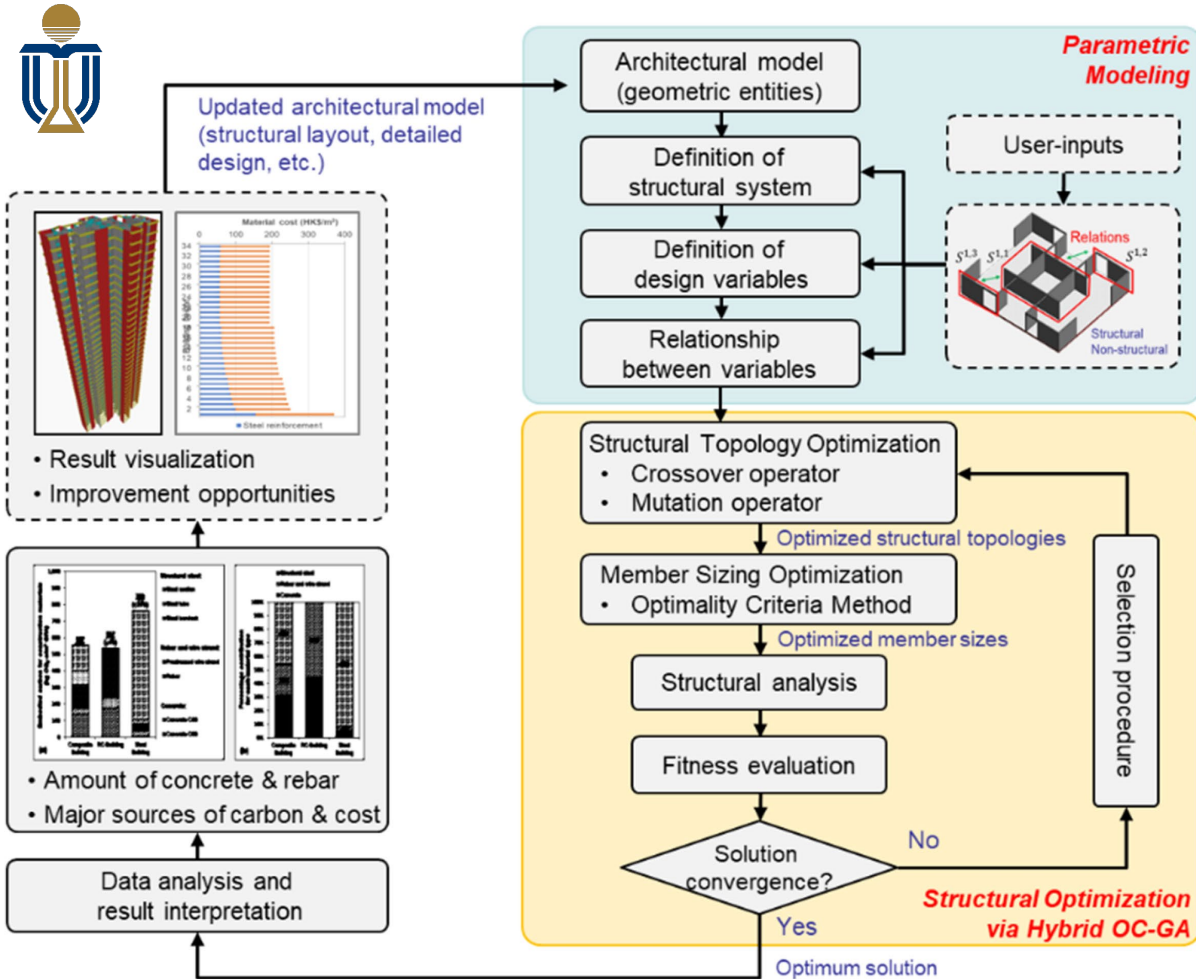
To generate more **Insightful**
 and **Faster Engineering**
 Solutions for **Decision-making!!**

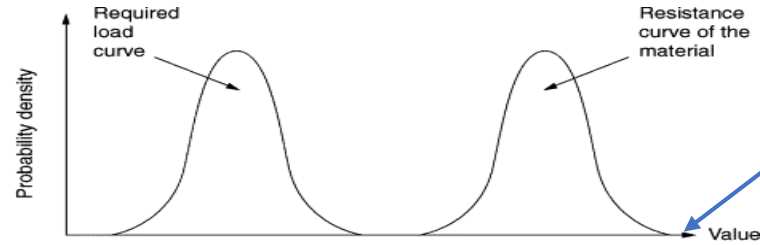
Topology Optimization



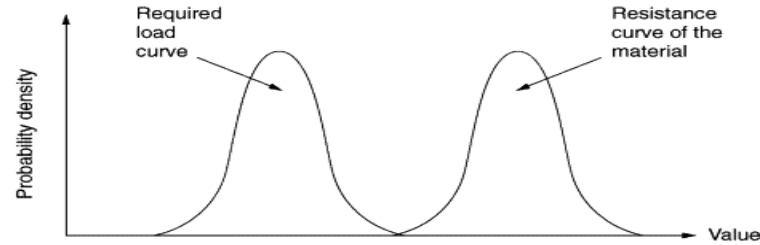
Less Material
More Design

Systematic Structural Optimization

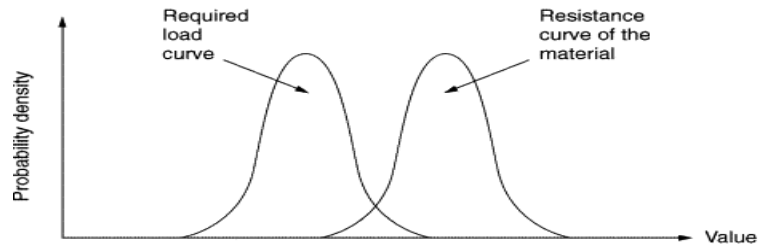




(a)



(b)



(c)

Higher embodied carbon footprint,
Higher climate risk

Being Conservative in the structural design is NOT the solution to deal with climate emergency



Design for Low Carbon / Net Zero



Design for Safety

Methodology

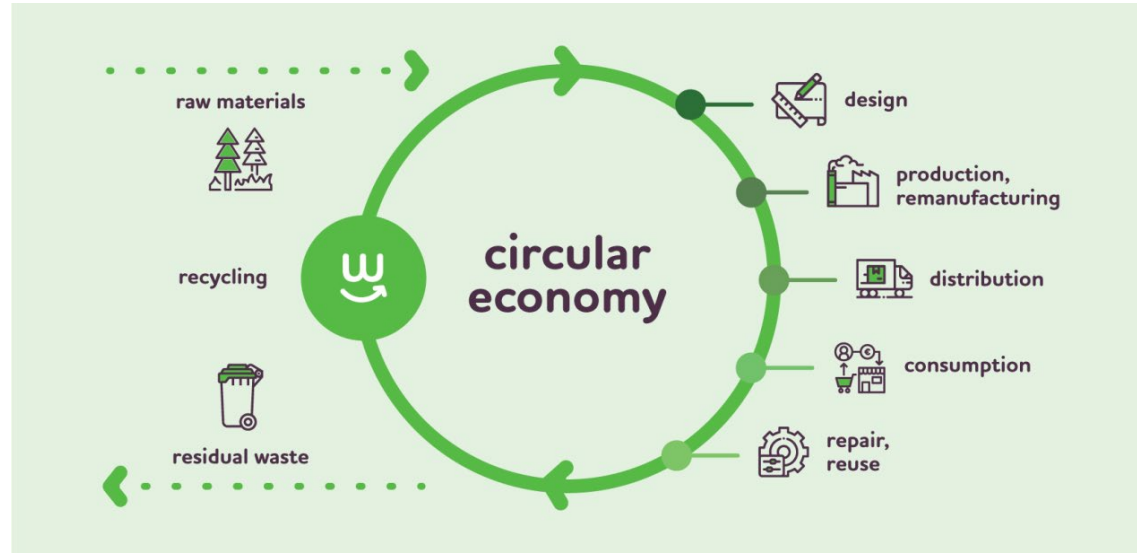
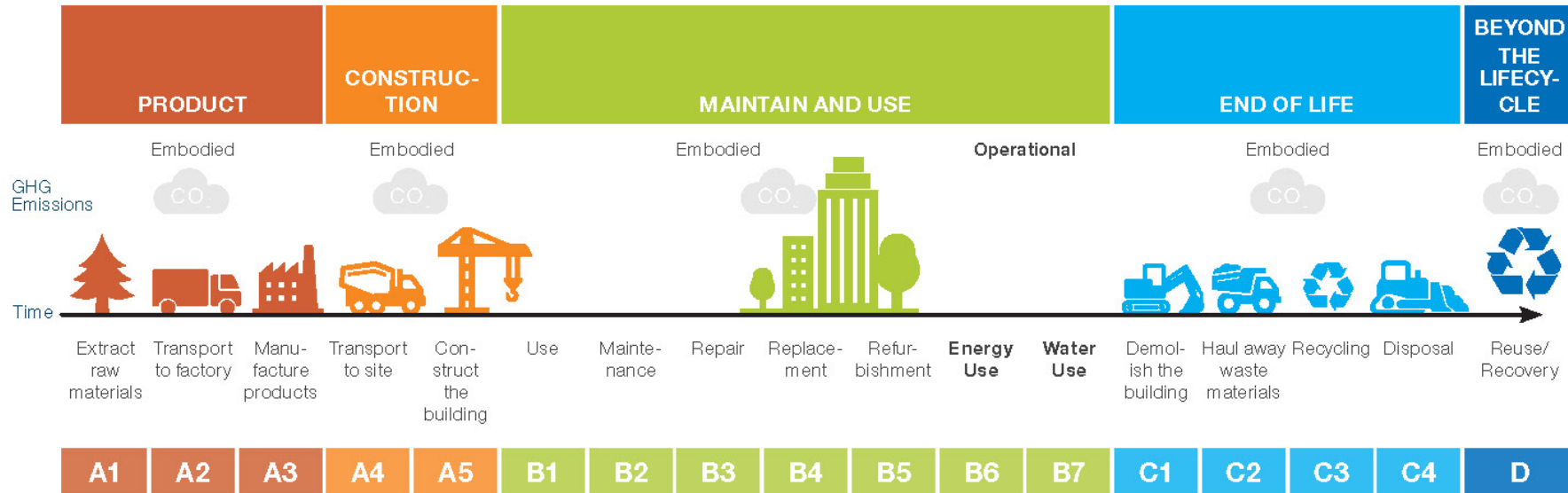


FIGURE 1: LIFECYCLE STAGES

Data source: BS EN 15978:2011

STAGE



MODULE

© New Buildings Institute

The **Circular Economy** offers a compelling vision for a sustainable Future.

Decarbonizing the built environment by addressing **whole life carbon**

High-productivity Smart and Green Construction

Industrialized Construction

- DfMA Approach
- MiC, MiMEP, etc.



Construction Digitalization

- BIM-based Techniques
- Smart Construction



Low-carbon and Green Construction

- Green Building and Construction
- Net Zero Ready Building



Conceptual Framework of Design and Construction for Low Carbon

I. Architectural Geometry



II. Structural Geometry



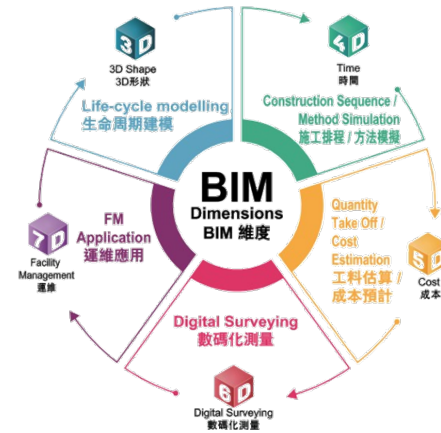
III. Structural Analysis



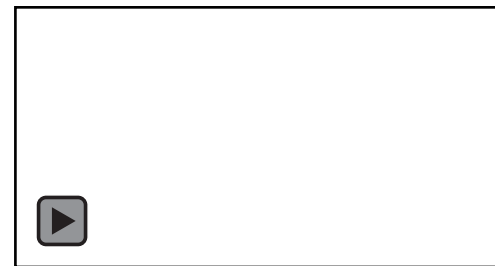
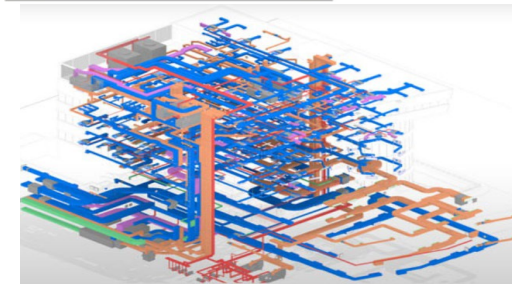
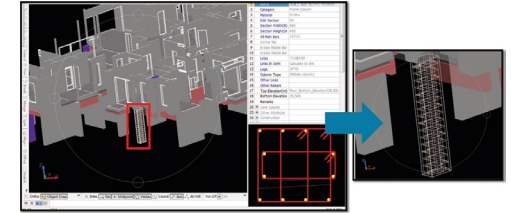
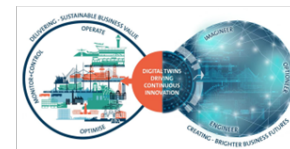
IV. Embodied Carbon Assessment



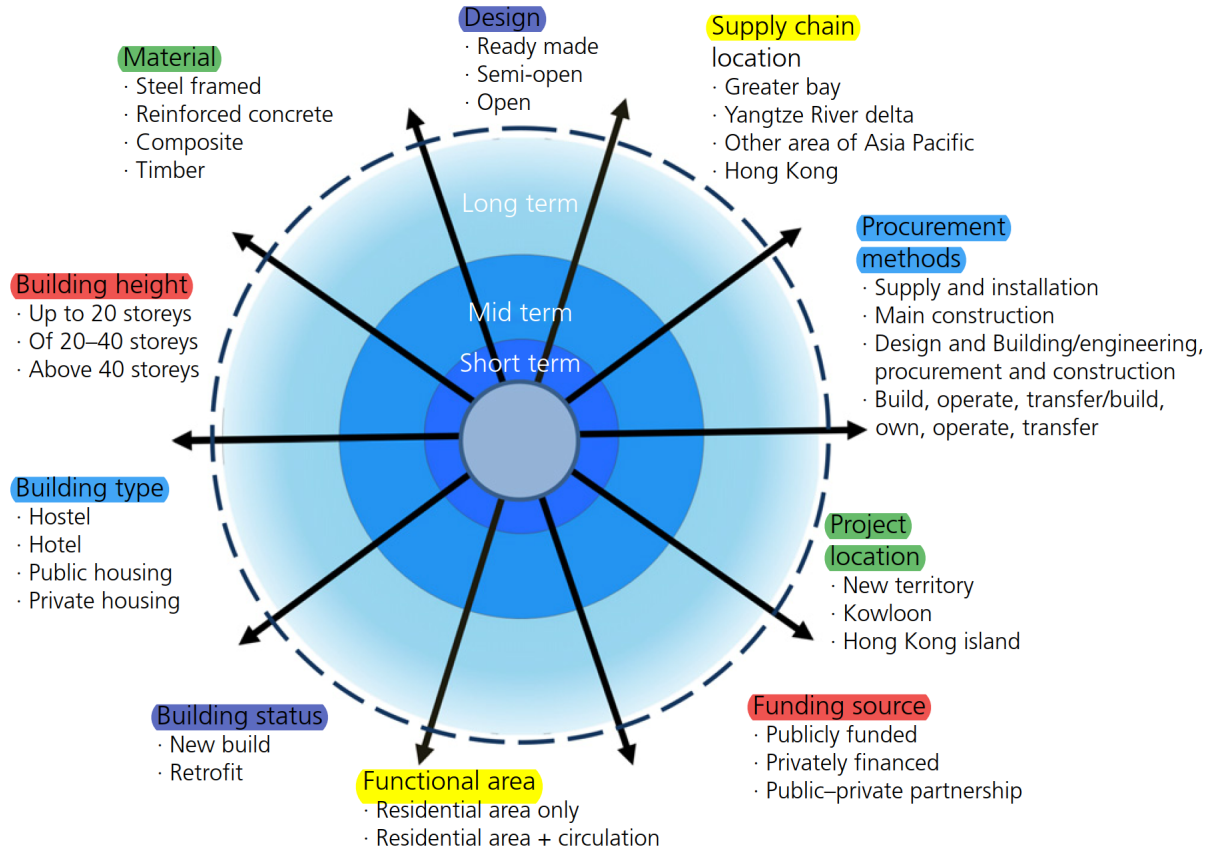
V. Documentation & Drawings, BIM+



VI. Digital Management Platform



Systematic Framework of MiC Design, Construction and Development

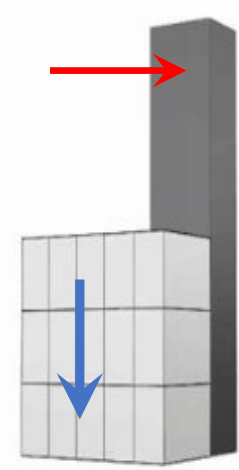


The design, construction, and development of MiC require **Systematic Thinking** that covers the entire supply chain of construction industry.

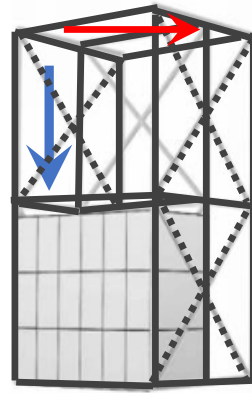
A systems framework of MiC adoption scenarios in Hong Kong

Pan, Wei, and Chi Keung Hon. "Briefing: Modular Integrated Construction for High-Rise Buildings." *Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers. Municipal engineer* 173.2 (2020): 64-68. Web.

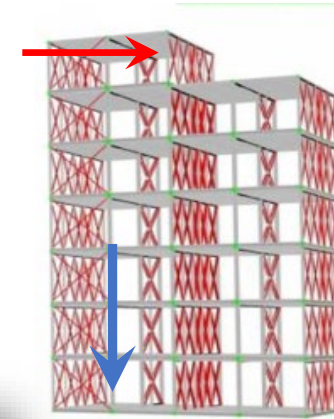
Better Synergy with MiC Structure



1. Independent System
MiC (Vertical Stability System only)



2. External System
MiC (Non-structural)

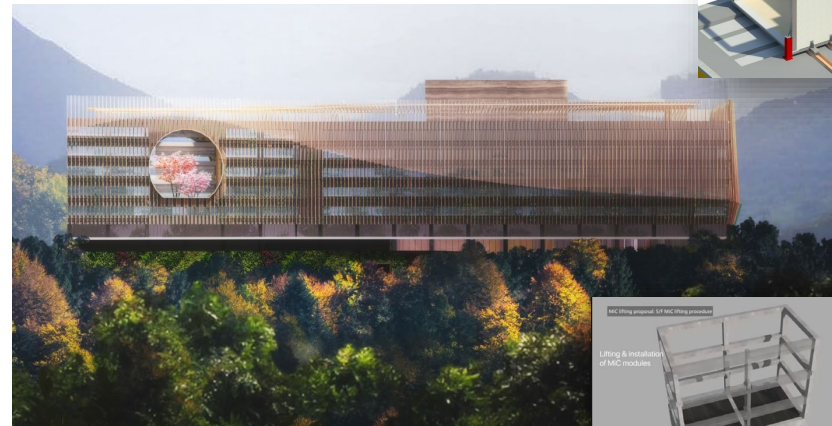


3. Combined System
MiC (contribute to both Vertical and Lateral Stability System)



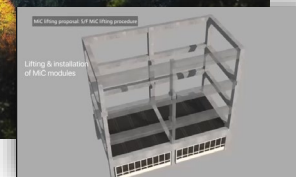
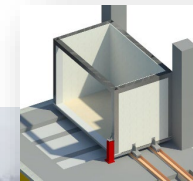
HKU Student Residence at Wong Chuk Hang

(Source: HKU)



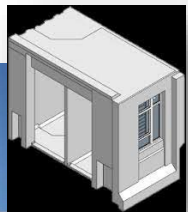
Chinese Medicine Hospital (CMH) and Government Chinese Medicines Testing Institute (GCMTI)

(Source: ArchSD)



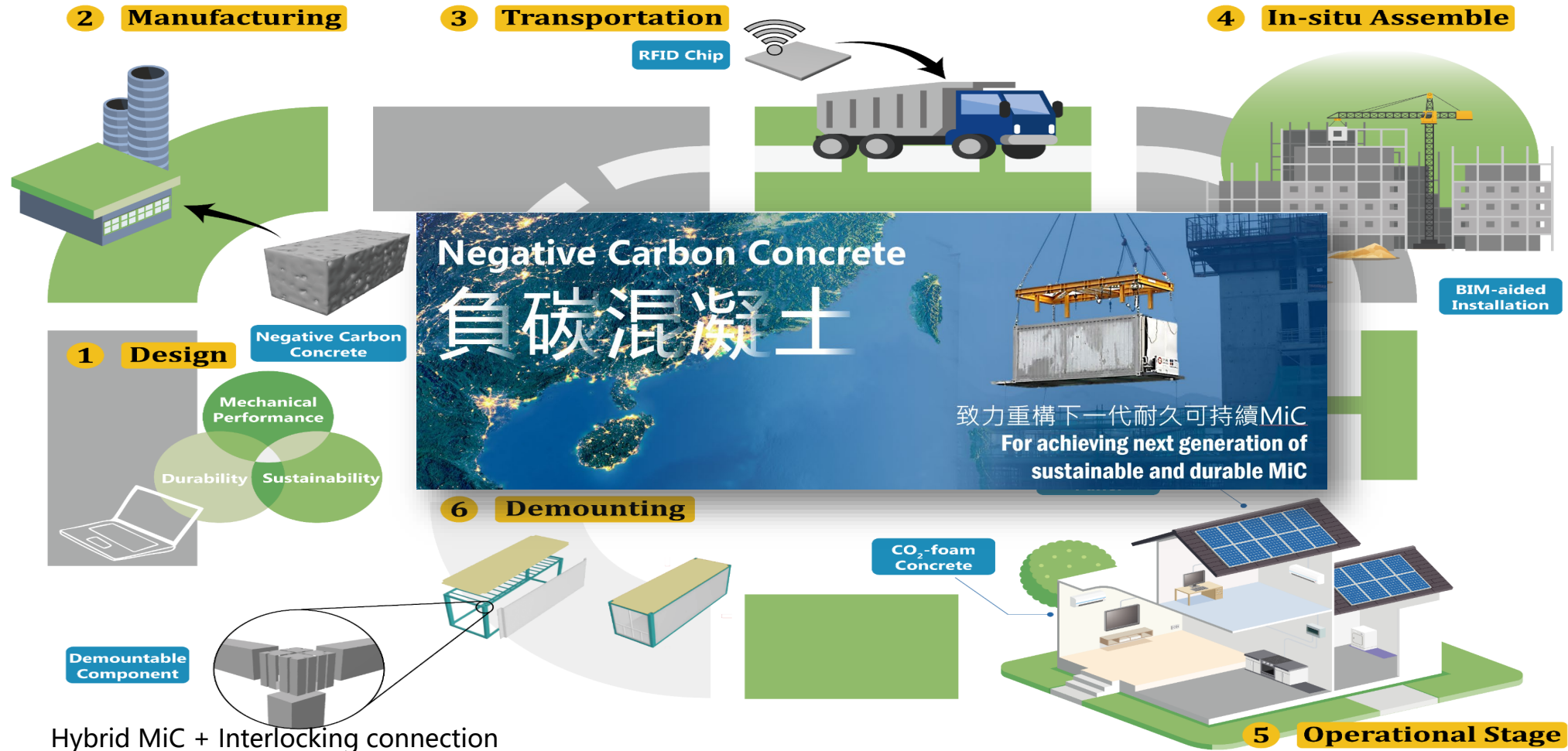
Public Housing Development at Tung Chung Area 99

(Source: Housing Authority)





Next Generation of Sustainable and Durable MiC



Xinlin Ji, Lijie CHEN, Ying ZHONG, Yi ZHANG, Jiayi LI, Wei PAN, Ray Kai-Leung SU, "Negative Carbon Concrete For Achieving Next Generation Of Sustainable And Durable Modular Integrated Construction (MiC): A Review", 2023 Creative Construction Conference, Keszthely, Lake Balaton, Hungary, 20 to 23 June 2023.

DBO Organic Resources Recovery Centre Phase 2 (O•PARK2)

The **1st** engineering project in China to announce a **carbon neutrality** commitment during the construction stage



O·PARK2 Carbon Neutral Cloud Platform

Moving towards Carbon Neutrality



O•PARK2 Low-carbon Materials



Recycled Reinforcement



In supply chain management, using 100% recycled steel bars, reduces carbon potential by **67%***.

In concrete, using Ground Granulated Blastfurnace Slag (GGBS) to replace 60% of cement, reduces carbon potential by **53%***.



Low-carbon Concrete



CCUS Techniques

Developing Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage (CCUS) technology, using CO₂ captured from energy companies to produce low-carbon concrete blocks, achieves efficient sequestration and utilization of CO₂, reducing carbon potential by **78%***.

* For Information Only



O·PARK2 Low-carbon Design



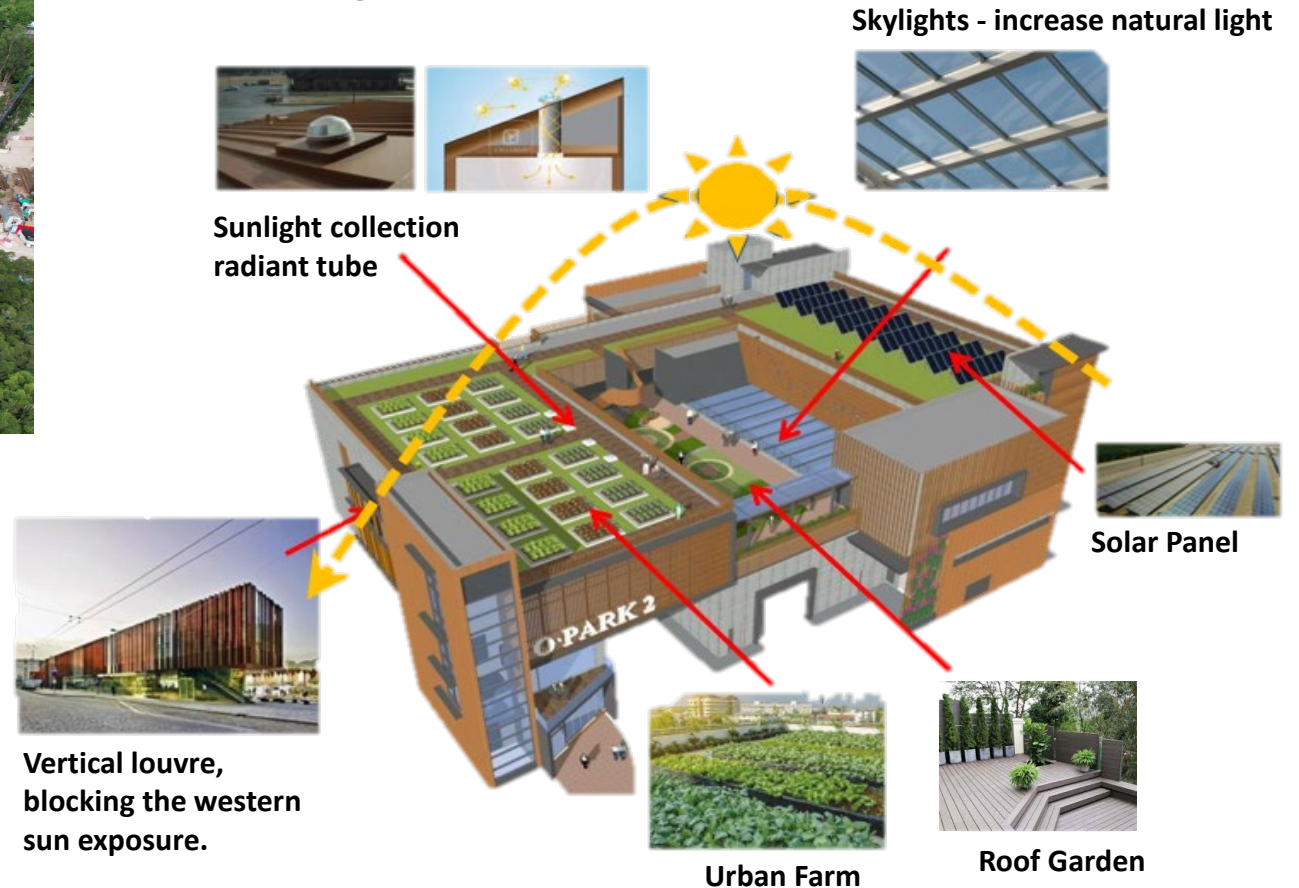
Structural Optimization

Reducing concrete usage by **7.8%***, reduces carbon emissions by approximately 1,000 tons of CO₂ equivalent.

* For Information Only

Passive Design

Embrace nature, make full use of natural light and natural wind.





O·PARK2 Smart Construction & Construction Site Electrification





Eco-friendly Projects



A person is standing in the center of a large, arched concrete structure, looking out at a landscape. The structure has a high, vaulted ceiling and a concrete floor. The landscape outside is hazy and green, suggesting a mountainous or forested area. The lighting is dramatic, with strong shadows cast across the floor and walls.

Integrated Design

Smart Construction

Lower Carbon

Higher Performance

WHAT NEXT?



3. The Ecosystem



Embedding the principles of **Circular Economy**, **Resilient Infrastructure**, and **ESG** into the core of our development strategies.





Incentives for Green Finance

Strengthening regulatory frameworks for ESG

Promoting Carbon Footprint Assessment and Labeling within the Region

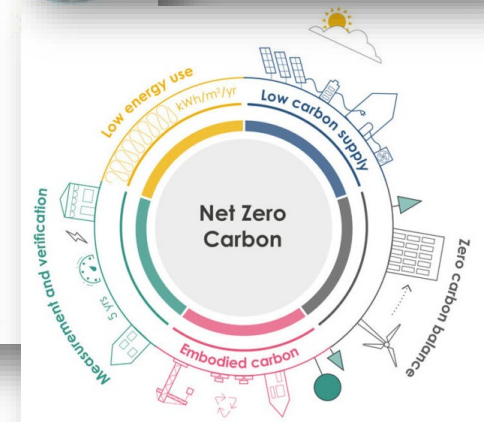
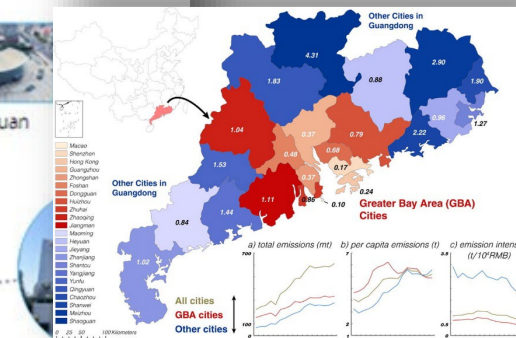


**Cross-boundary
Government-
Academia-Industry
Collaboration
Competitive
Supply Chain
Transport and
Logistics
Expanding
Talent Pool**

“Science and technology constitute a primary productive force”



Digital Transformation
Smart Construction
Robotics and Automation
New materials
AI, IoT



To create and synergize **GBA Carbon-relevant Standards.**



**Attracting,
Developing and
Retaining
Younger Generations
in the
Construction Industry.**



Leveraging Hong Kong's Strengths, to Shape a **Sustainable Future** of the Greater Bay Area Together.



Change the **Mindset**
Adopt the **Holistic Approach**
Build the **Ecosystem**

Thank You!

Ir Jacky ZHONG MHKIE, RPE(STL), MIStructE, CEng, CCBM, 1RSE-PRC(GBA), MIET

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China State Construction International Medical Industry Development Co., Ltd.

2023-12-05 Hong Kong



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