

Designing a SOA Modular Housing Factory

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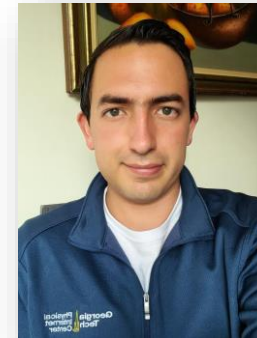
**Sevda
Babalou**



**Zeynab
Bahrami-Bidoni**



**Bao
Wencang**



**Miguel
Campos**



**Yulian
Zeng**



**Mingze
Li**

The Need

WASHINGTON, DC

NLIHC released today its annual report

[The Gap: A Shortage of Affordable Homes](#)

National shortage of 7 million
affordable and available rental homes
for extremely low-income renters

those with incomes at or below the poverty
level or 30% of area median income (AMI)

The US is in need of roughly
[3.8 million](#) to [5.5 million](#) housing units.

Building more homes for
low- and moderate-income families
and first-time homebuyers,
and equipping these families
with reliable and affordable financing tools
so they can compete to buy these homes,
is essential if we're to solve the nation's
affordable homeownership crisis.

[Opinion: How we can solve the nation's
affordable housing crisis - CNN](#)

Modular Construction as a Strategy

1900s

Augustine Taylor, a builder in Chicago, devised the balloon-frame method, enabling walls to be built offsite, then transported to the intended construction site, for speedy assembly.

The Rise of Catalog Homes
Between 1908 and 1914, more than 500,000 prefabricated homes were sold straight to consumers. More than two-thirds of construction methods still exist throughout the world.

[A Brief History of Modular Construction](#)

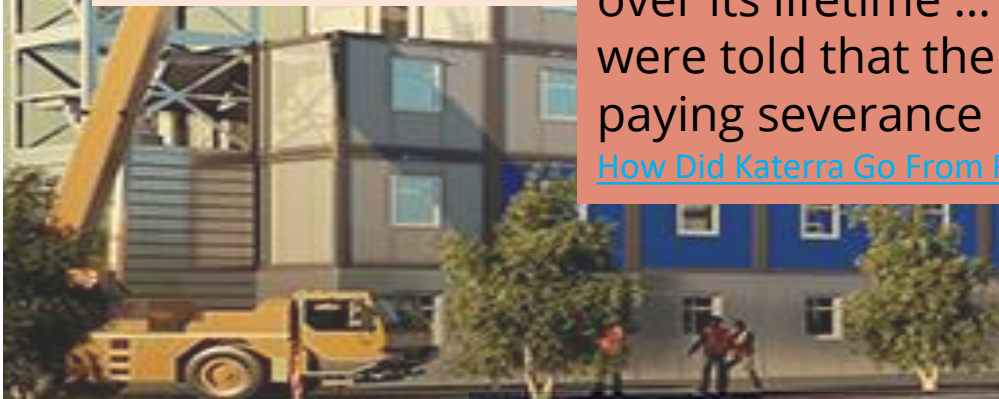
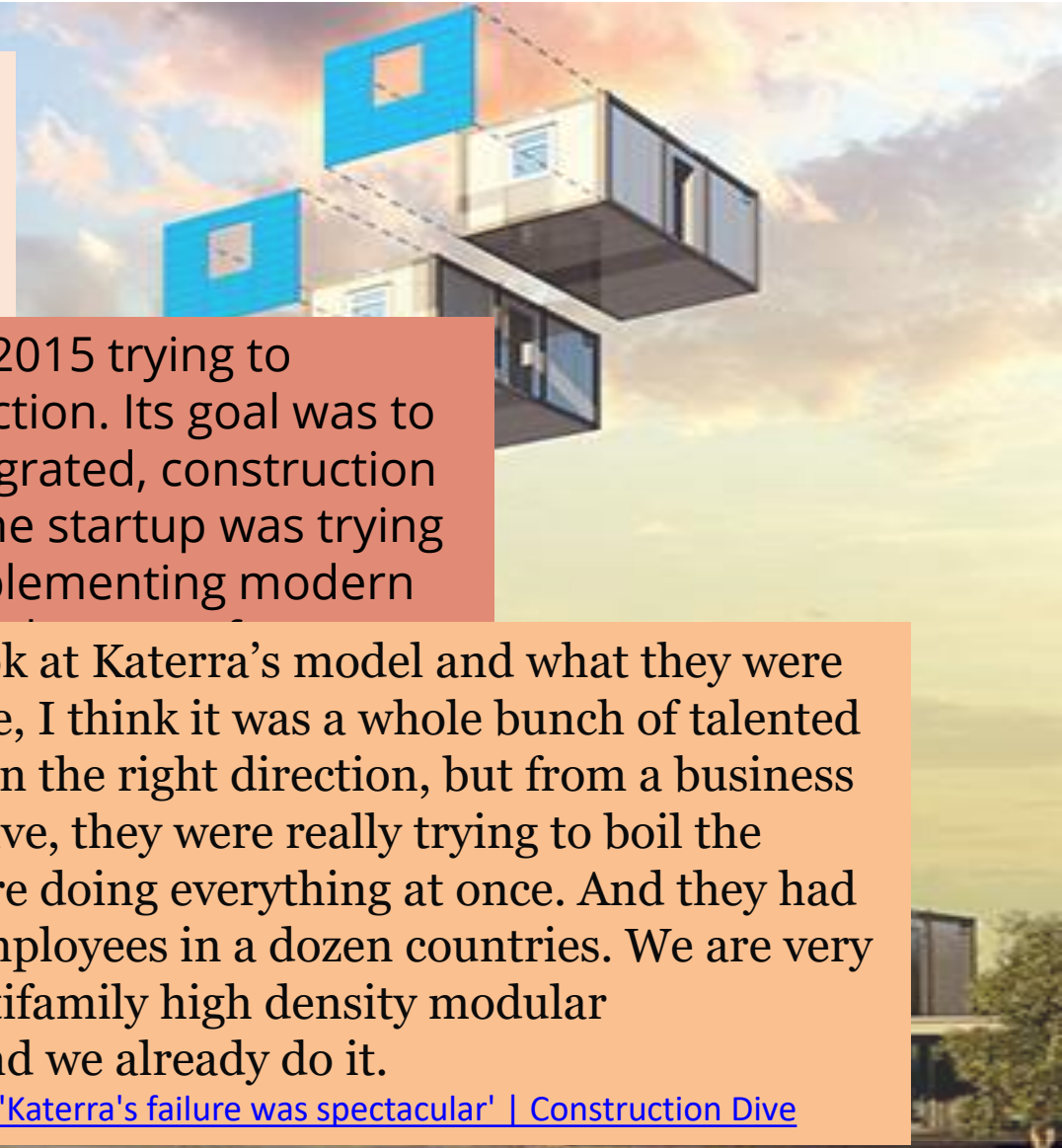
Katerra was a startup founded in 2015 trying to become the Salesforce of construction. Its goal was to be a one-stop-shop, vertically integrated, construction project management company. The startup was trying to disrupt its \$12T industry by implementing modern

tech that was supporting construction projects over its lifetime ... we were told that the paying severance

[How Did Katerra Go From I](#)

So, when we look at Katerra's model and what they were trying to achieve, I think it was a whole bunch of talented people moving in the right direction, but from a business model perspective, they were really trying to boil the ocean. They were doing everything at once. And they had thousands of employees in a dozen countries. We are very focused on multifamily high density modular construction, and we already do it.

[Modular builder CEO: 'Katerra's failure was spectacular' | Construction Dive](#)



Partners In a Transformative Endeavor



<https://mitekmodular.com/>

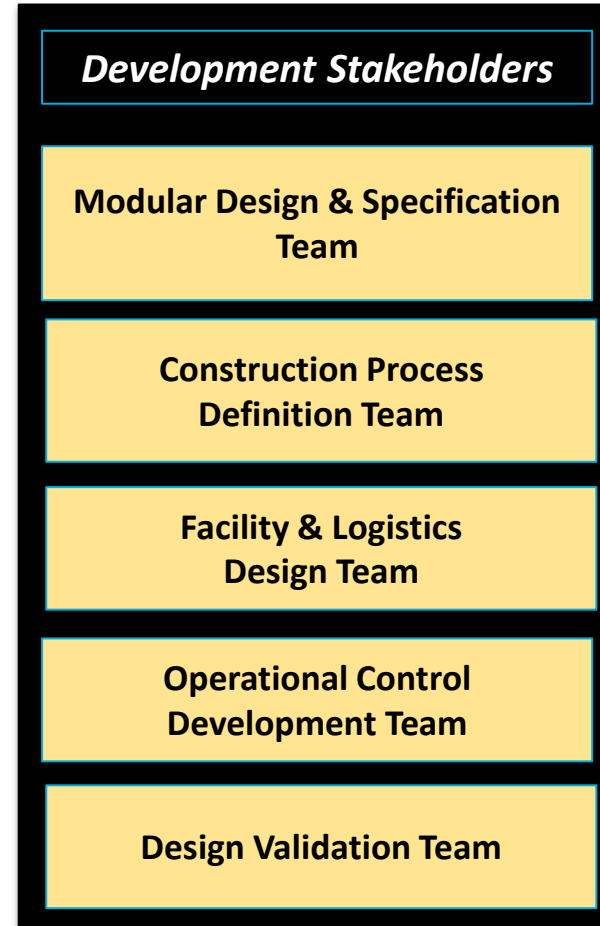
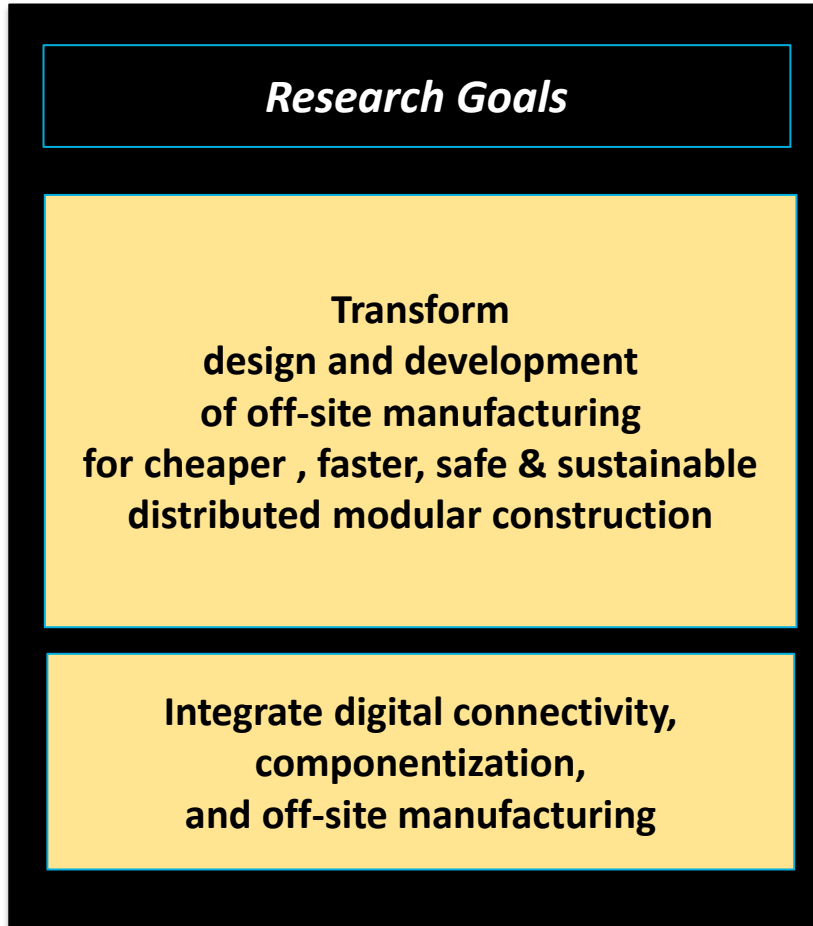
Our Role

Focus on logistics
From the receipt
of construction materials
to the delivery of modules
to the erection site

**Develop appropriate
production facilities design processes**
including all aspects of logistics.

Validate designs through
high-fidelity discrete event simulations
and virtual reality visualizations.

Systems Engineering Approach



Product

Process

Resources

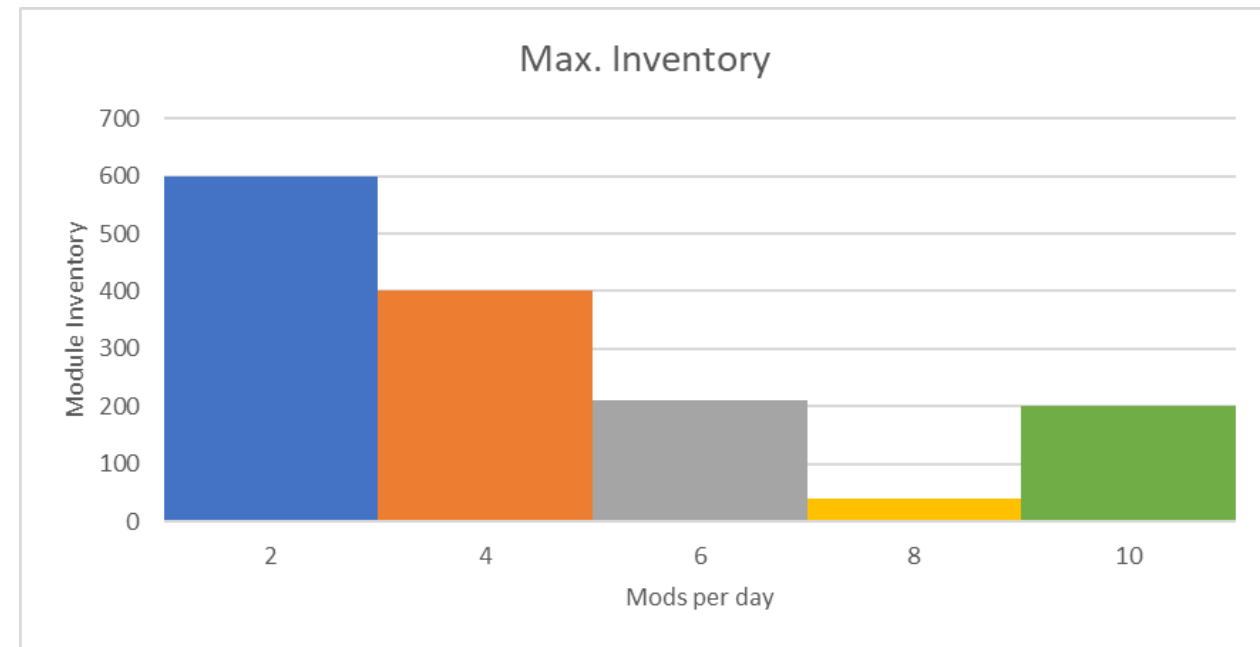
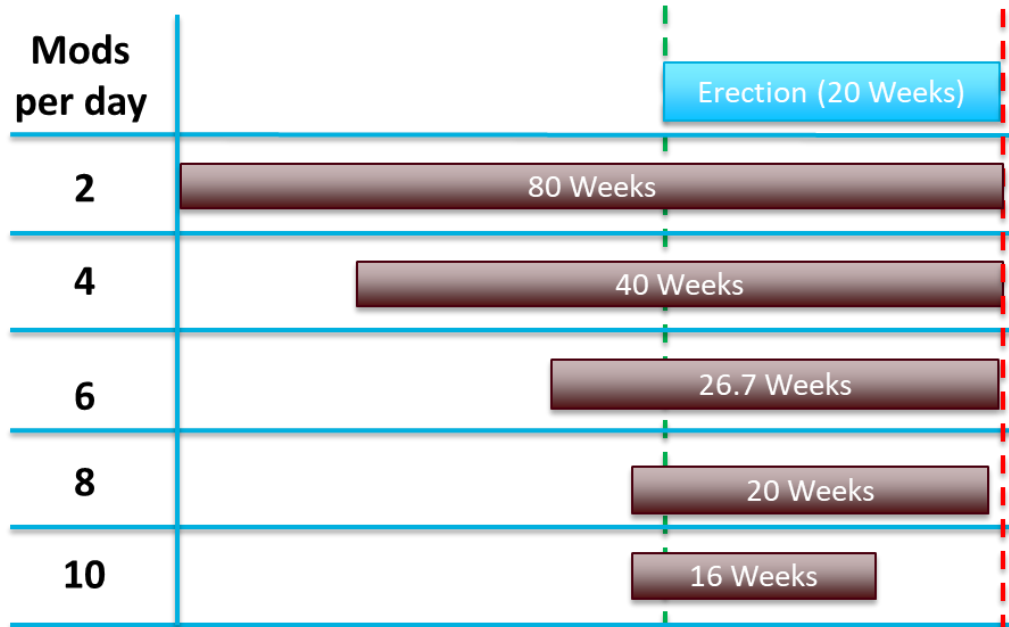
Operations Management

System Validation

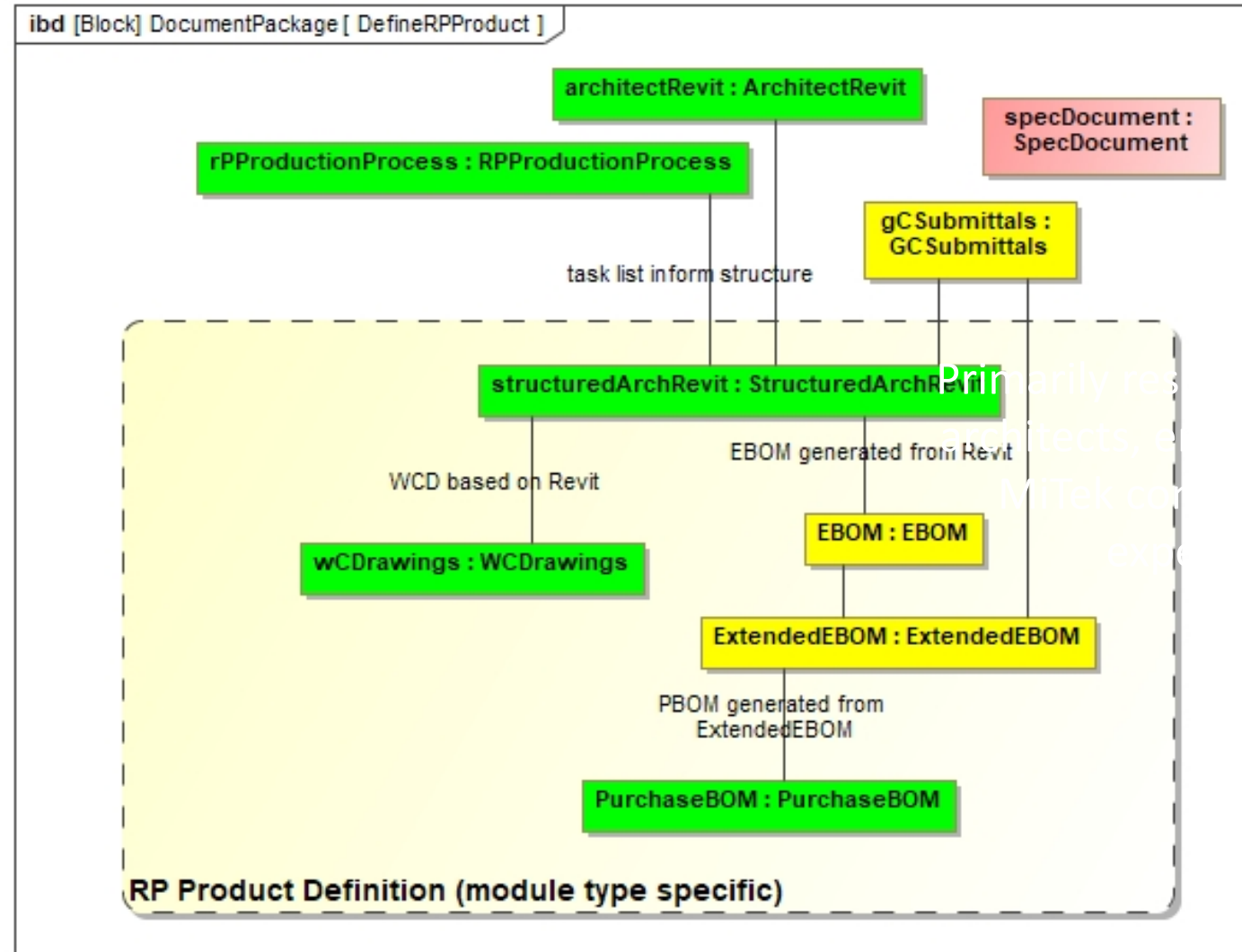
Takt Time Driven Production and Inventory

Item	Value	Units
Total project size	800	modules
Time before erecting (weeks)	12	weeks
Time for erection (weeks)	20	weeks
PUP Workdays	5	Days
Hours per work day	8	Hours
Erection work days	7	Days

Modules a day	Time before erecting (weeks)	Production time (weeks)	Takt Time	Max. Mod Inventory at Erection Start
2	60	80	4	600
4	20	40	2	400
6	7	26.7	1.3	210
8	1	20	1	40
10	1	16	0.8	200

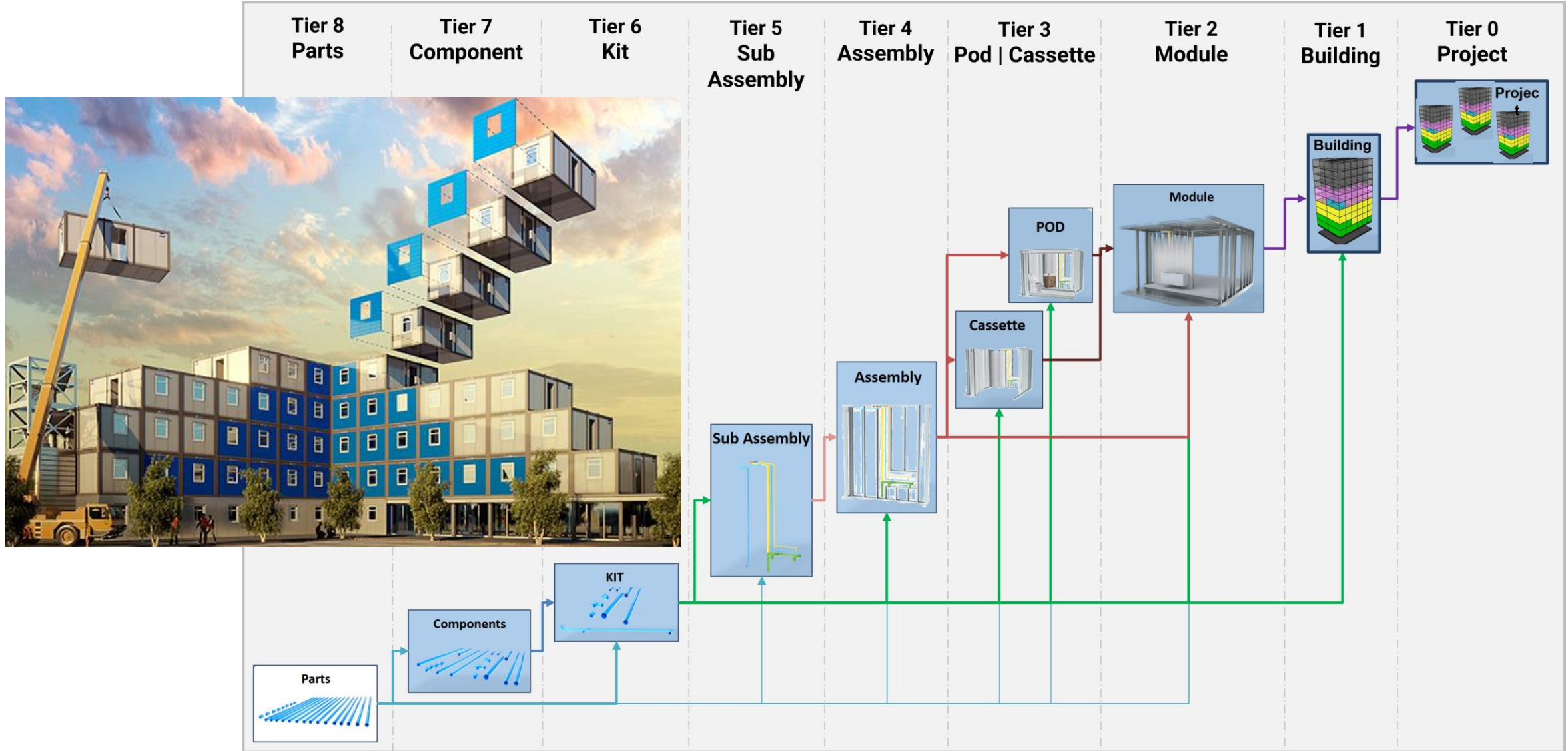


Defining the Product

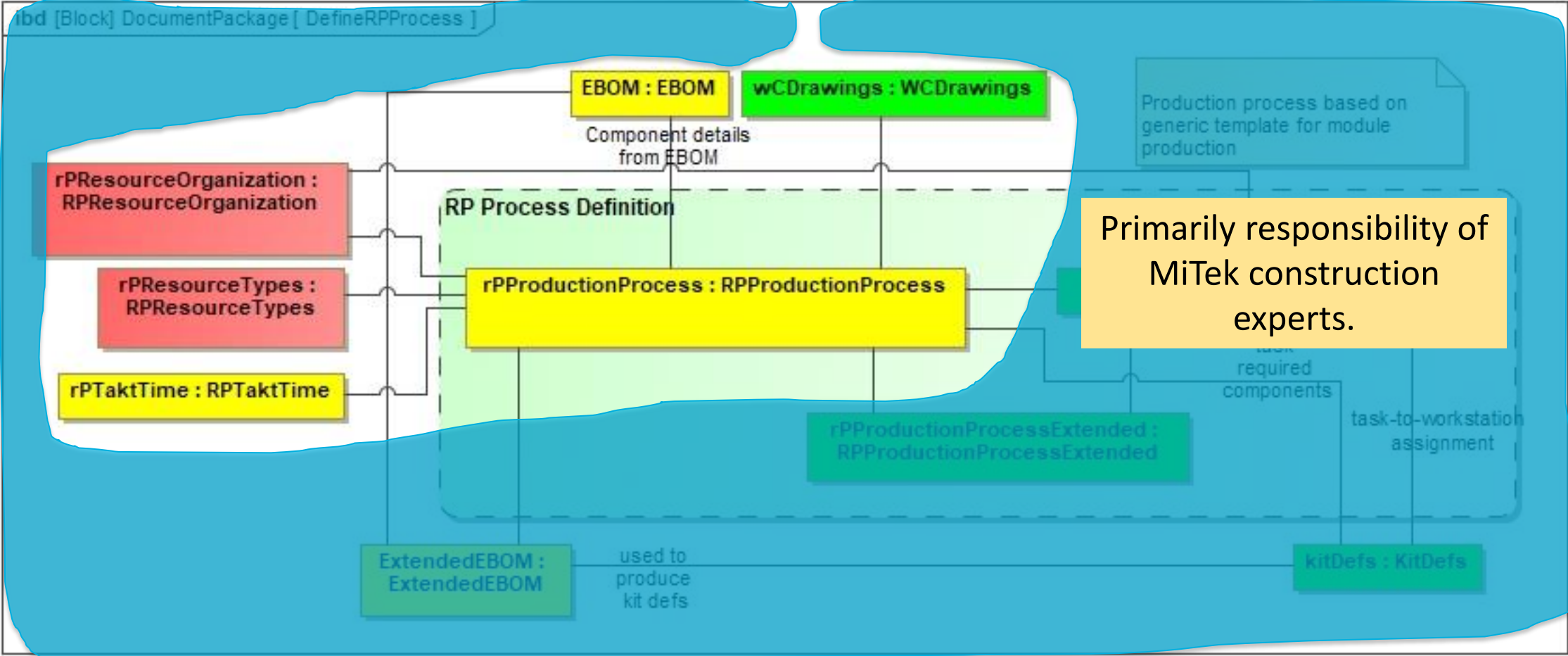


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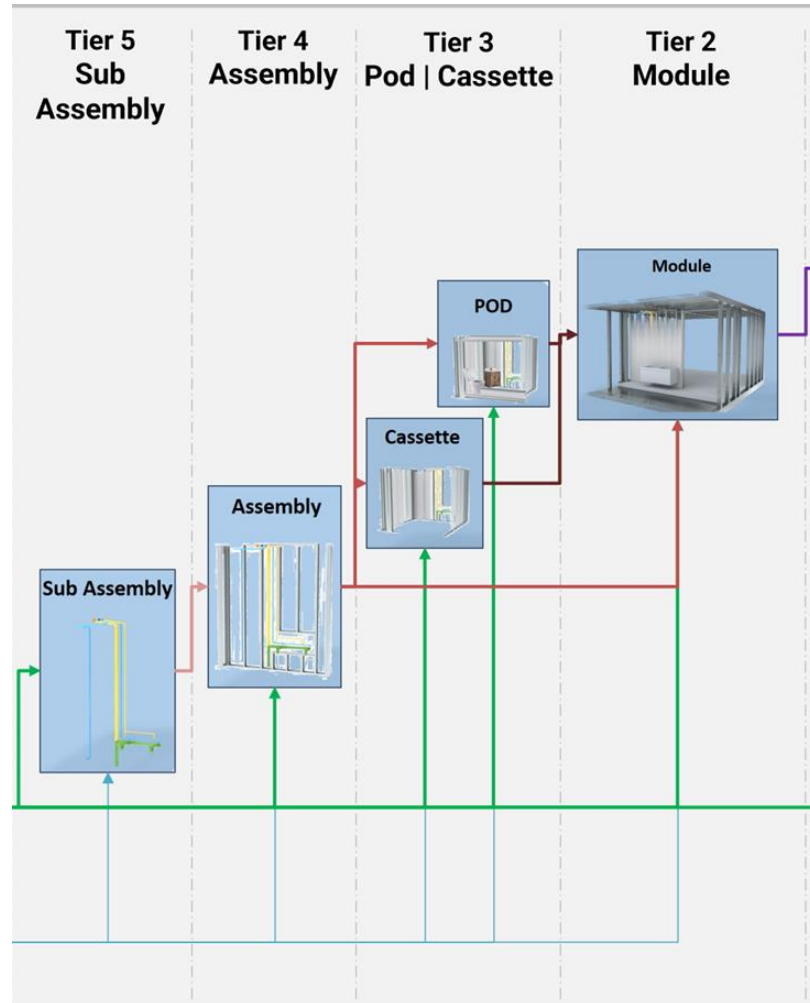
Tiered Product Model



Defining the Basic Construction Processes



Factory Functional Requirements



Functional requirements correspond to product structure and include:

- Preassembly center
- Floors center
- Mateline walls center
- Interior partitions center
- Subceilings center
- Ceilings center
- Volumetric assembly center
- Finishing center

POD example:
a “wet” portion of a Module

Logical Organization

- **How many workstations in each center?**
 - Allocate tasks from construction process to workstations to conform to takt time and “balance” workload at workstations
- **Required information**
 - Extended Bill of Materials - EBOM
 - Construction process:
 - tasks with precedence relationships , trade assignment, & tooling requirements

Rapid Plant Capacity Model



1st set of tasks are done in 1st station,
 2nd set of tasks are done in 2nd station,
 ...
 After 1 takt time, all modules move to next station

Product Model

Process model

Tasks to assemble products and their relationship

Demand model

Throughput: 1 module per hour

Organization model

Moving assembly line + Fixed stations;
 Product-centric organization

Resource Model

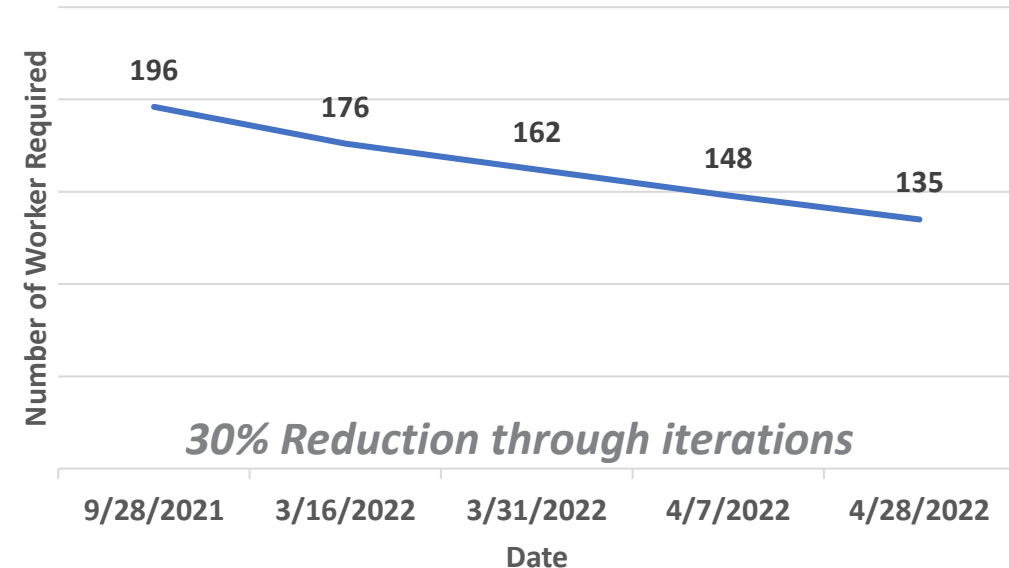
- Line Balancing
 - How many stations (equipment)?
- Labor Scheduling
 - How many workers?
 - What's the schedule of workers?

Input data from MiTek

Assumptions

Work Product

Evolution of Total Workers Required



Inter-Station Worker Movement

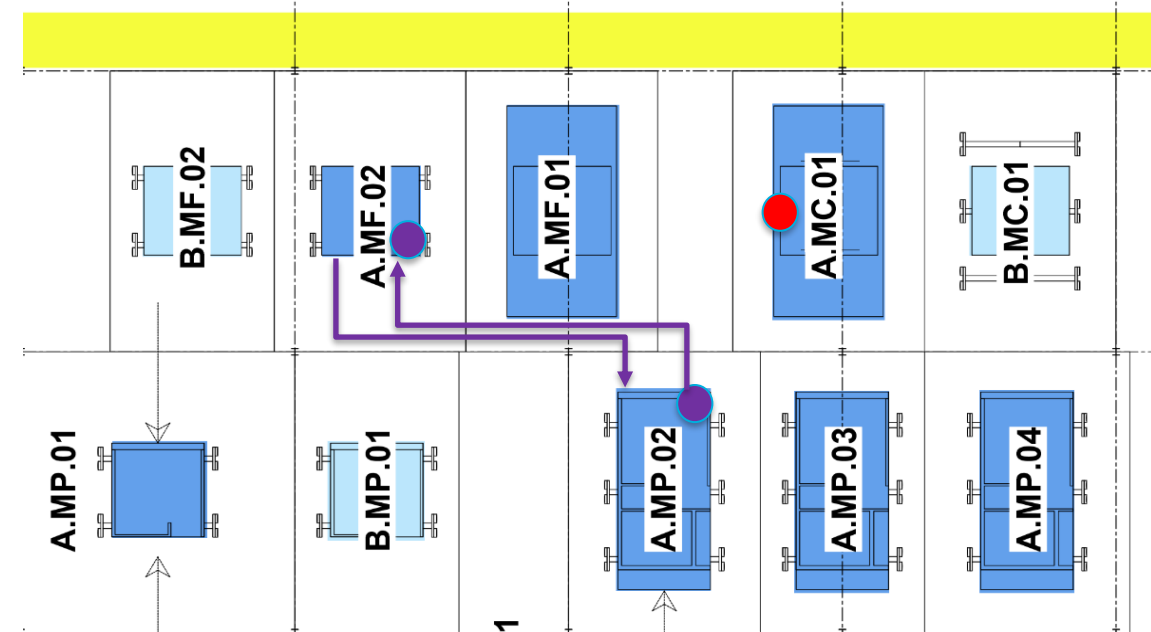


Worker's movement among 3 stations within 1 takt time

Why allow workers to move:

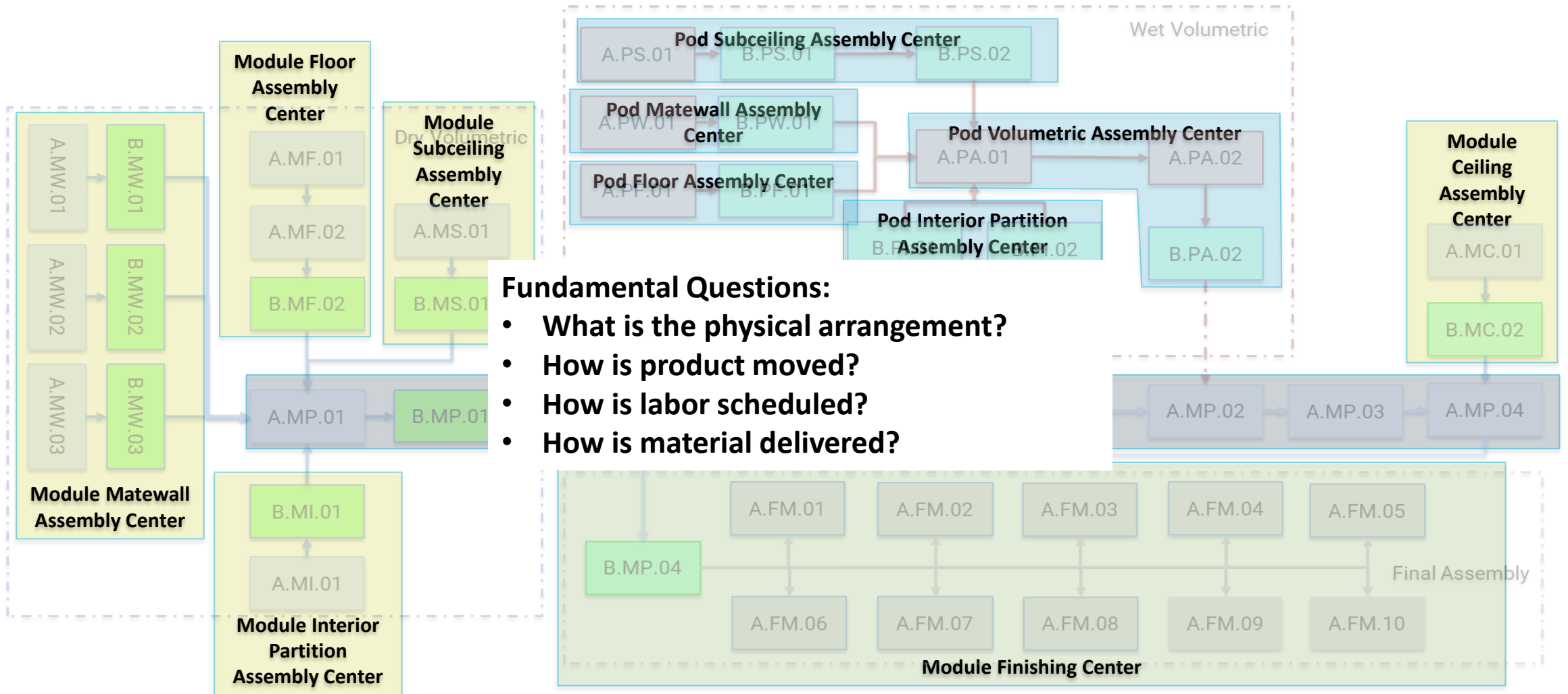
1. Allowing some workers to move \neq Forcing all workers to move
2. Some teams can stay at same station all the time
3. Fewer workers required, better utilization:
276 (static) vs 135 (moving)
4. Except for inspectors and supervisors, workers can work up to 3 stations

Large-scale discrete optimization solved using Gurobi™



- Team 14 (frame carpenter) stays at station A.MC.01 (ceiling)
- Team 10 (frame carpenter) works at station A.MP.02 (connecting subceiling) for 20min, then go to A.MF.02 (setting up floor), then return

Logical-to-Physical Model



Fundamental Questions:

- What is the physical arrangement?
- How is product moved?
- How is labor scheduled?
- How is material delivered?

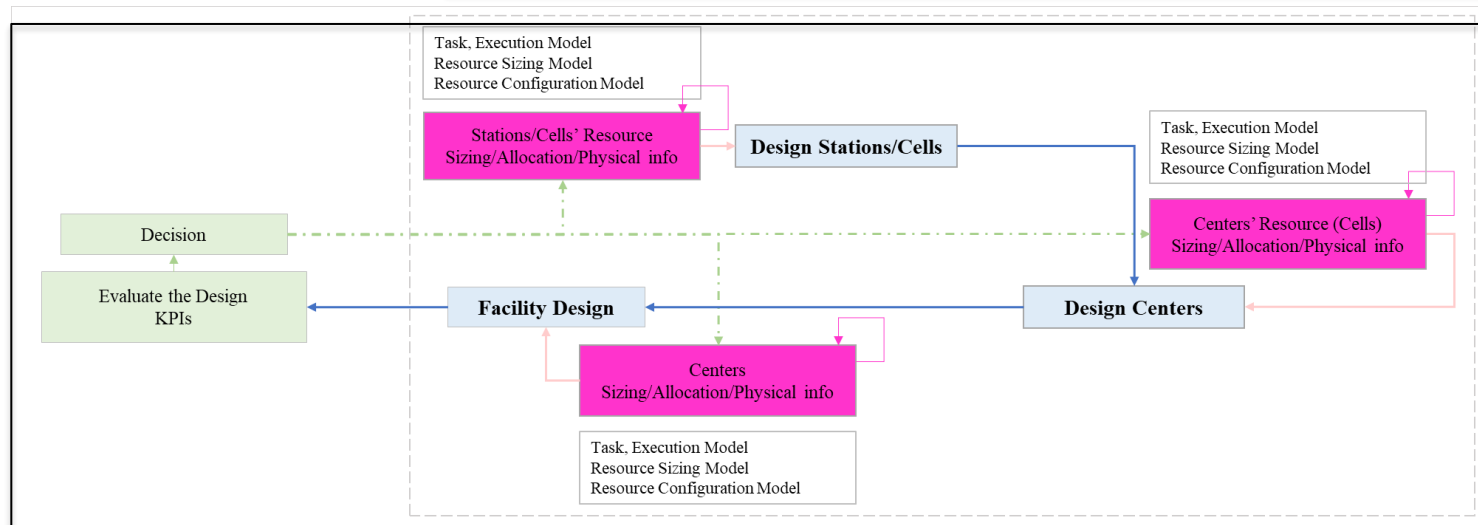
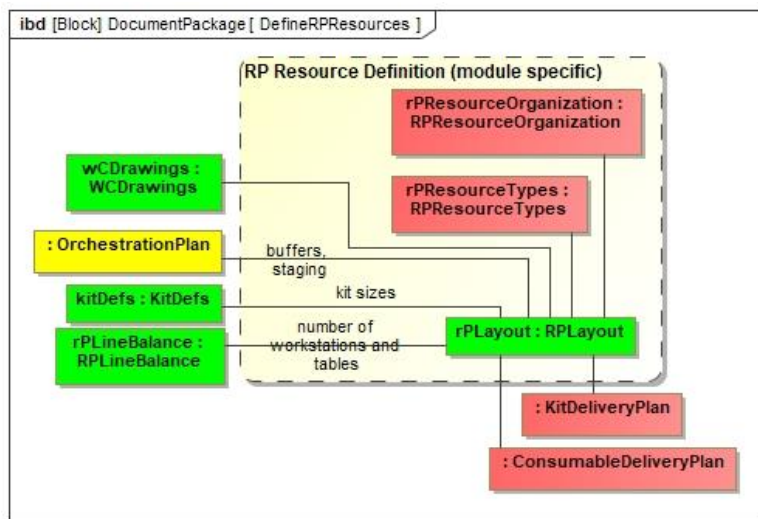
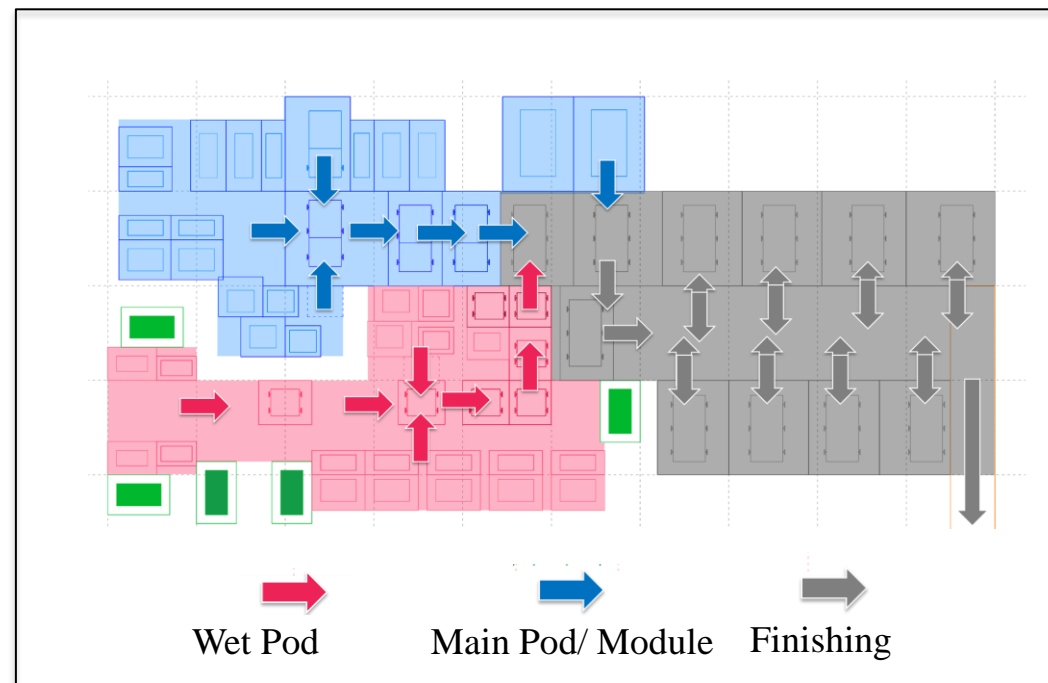
Modular Layout Design of Factory

Goals:

- **Transform** MiTek's original facility design
- Emphasis on the benefit of **modularity** and **mobility**
- **Flexibility** and **adaptability** of the layouts to the different number of machines and stations with minimal efforts to relocation and redesign.
- **Grid-based** layouts using predefined space blocks.
- Proof-of-Concept and evaluate in the Simulation Model.

Approach

- Standard-Size Modular Stations/Resources using WCD, Product model, & Resource Type
- Resource configuration using the Proximity Model
- Resource sizing using Line Balancing/Orchestration Plan



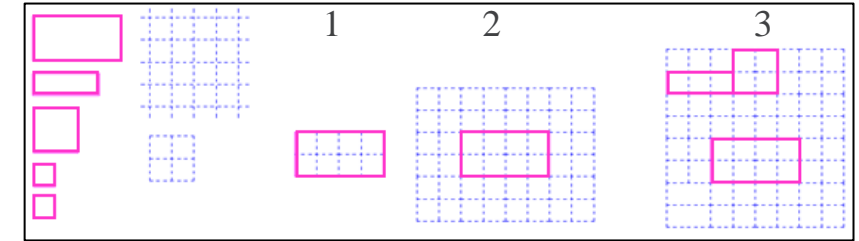
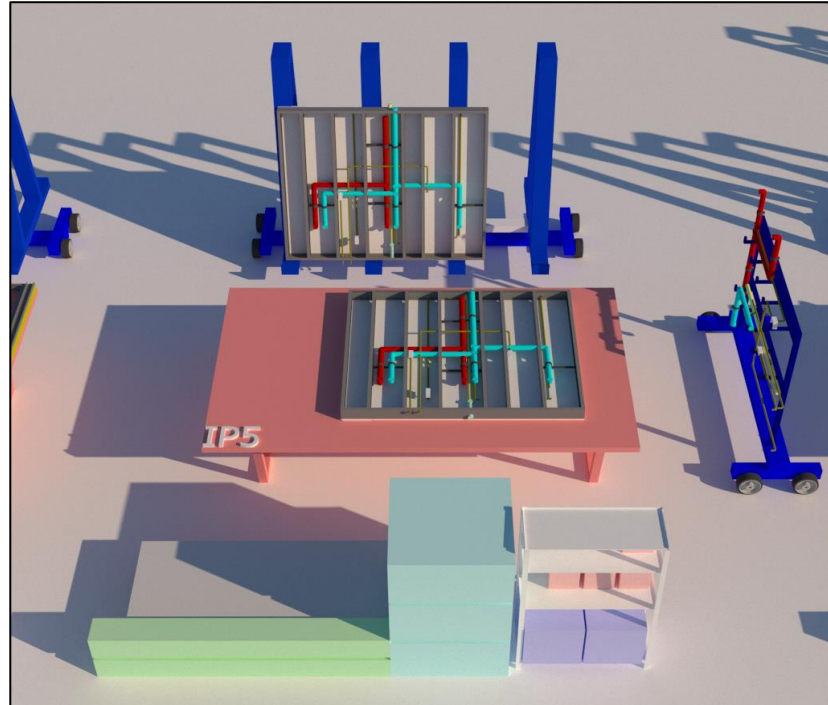
Factory Workstation/Center Design

Approach

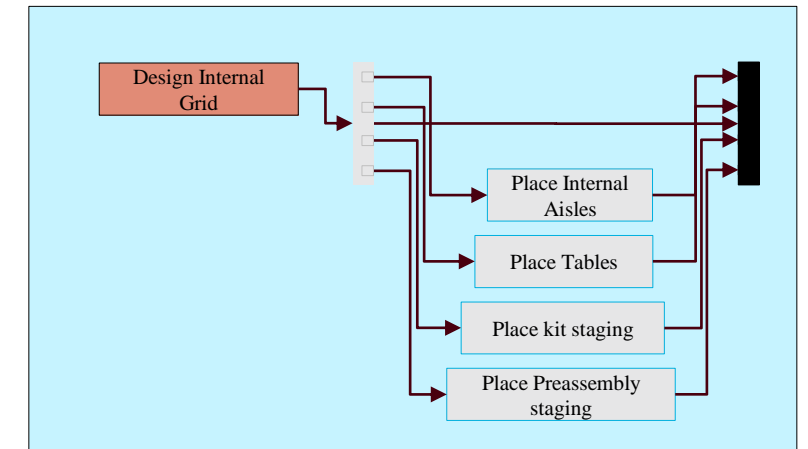
- Grid-based design
- Resource Sizing
- Resource Type
- Resource configuration

Modular Resources

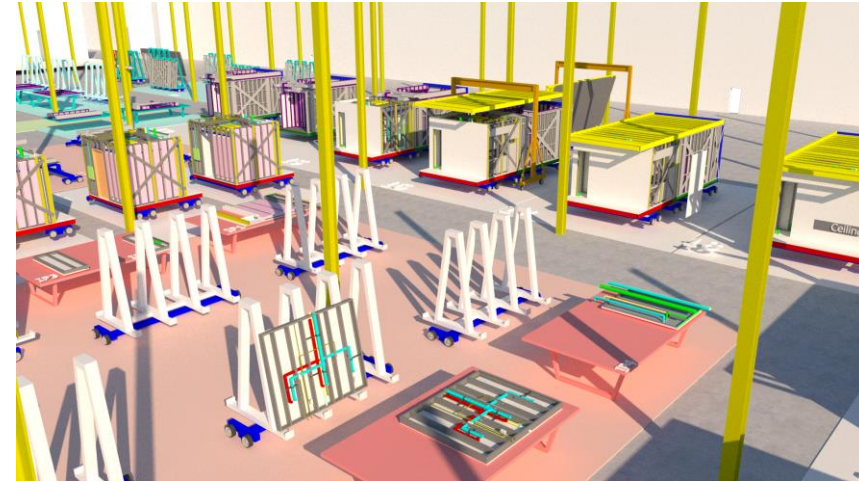
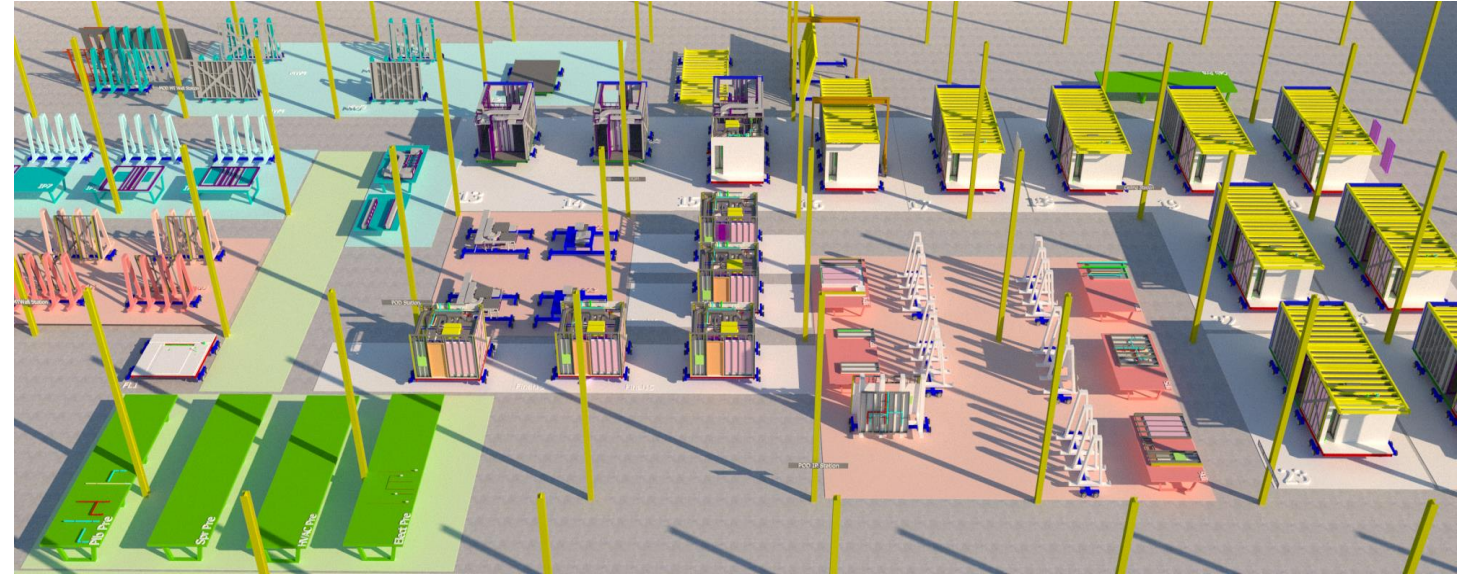
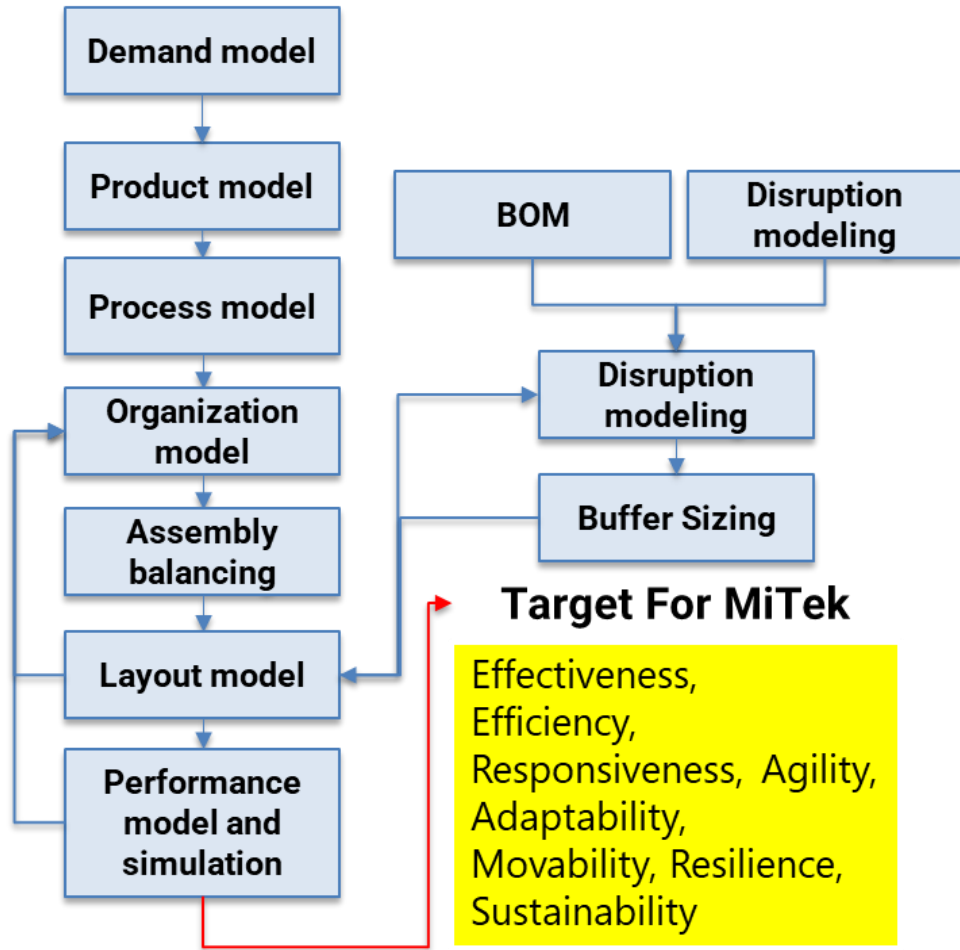
- Table
- Kit rack
- Subassembly rack
- Workers



On the grid, in the right location



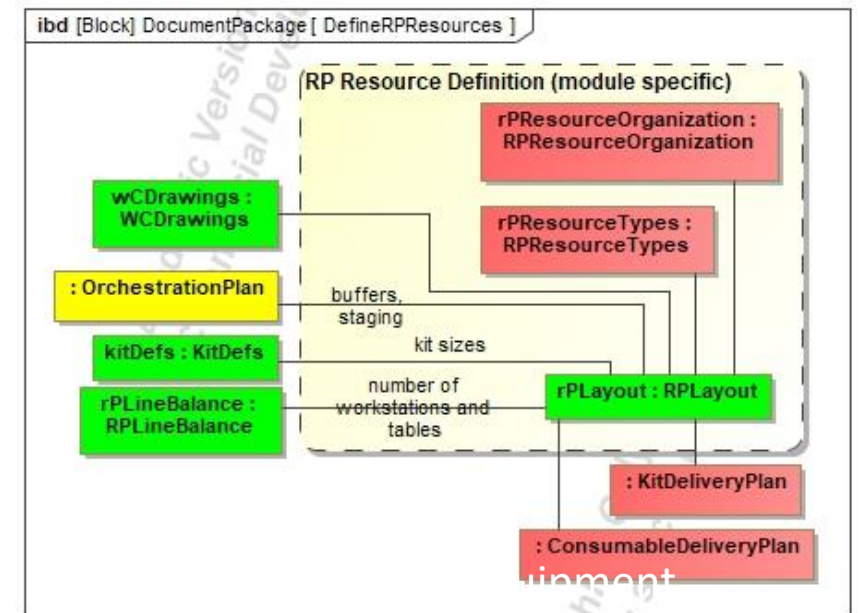
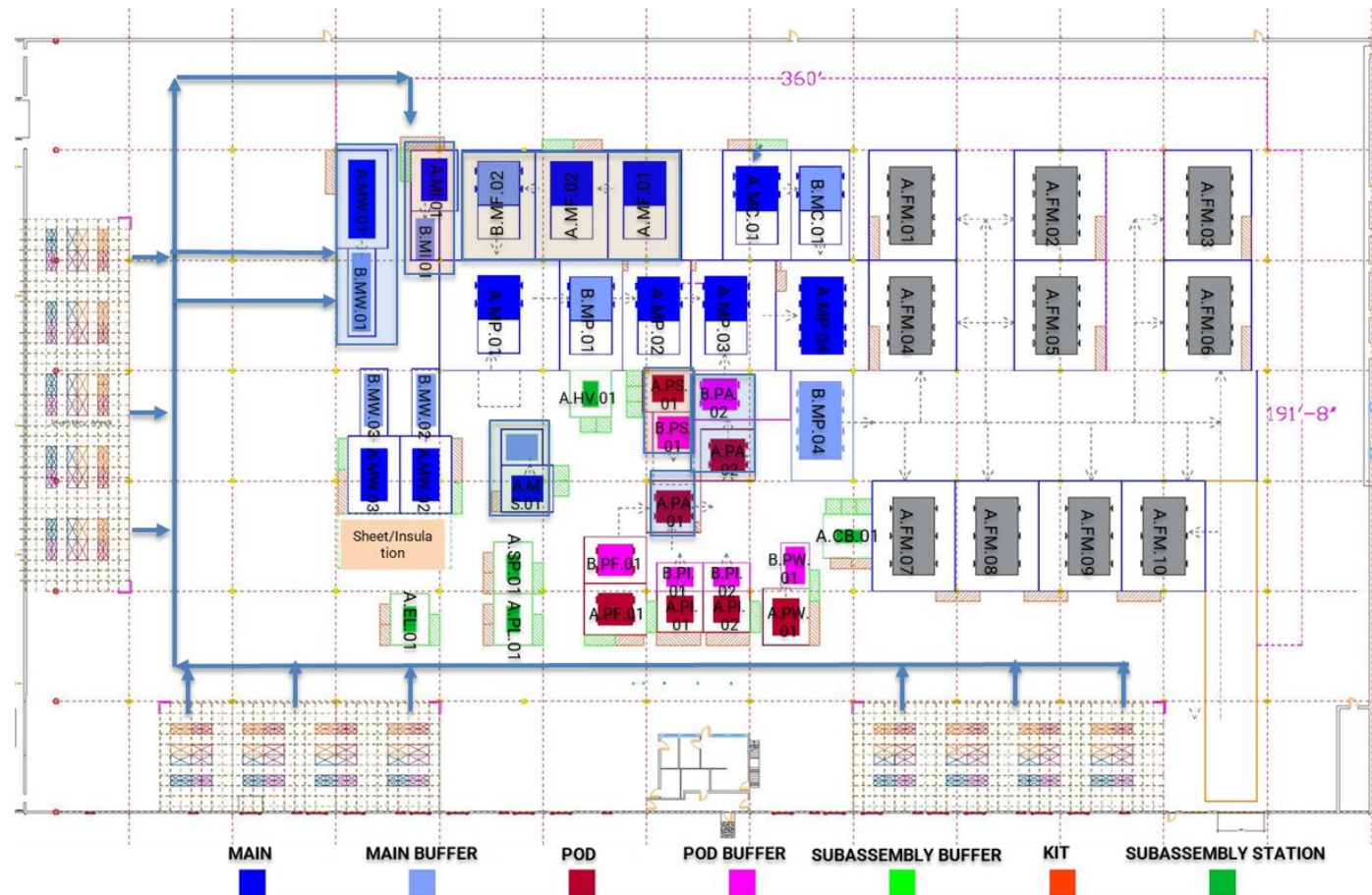
Factory Design Visualization



Factory Logistics Processes

Purpose:

Generate tasks for the movement of products and materials.
Storage, retrieval and delivery



Simulation-Based Factory Design Validation

Purpose:

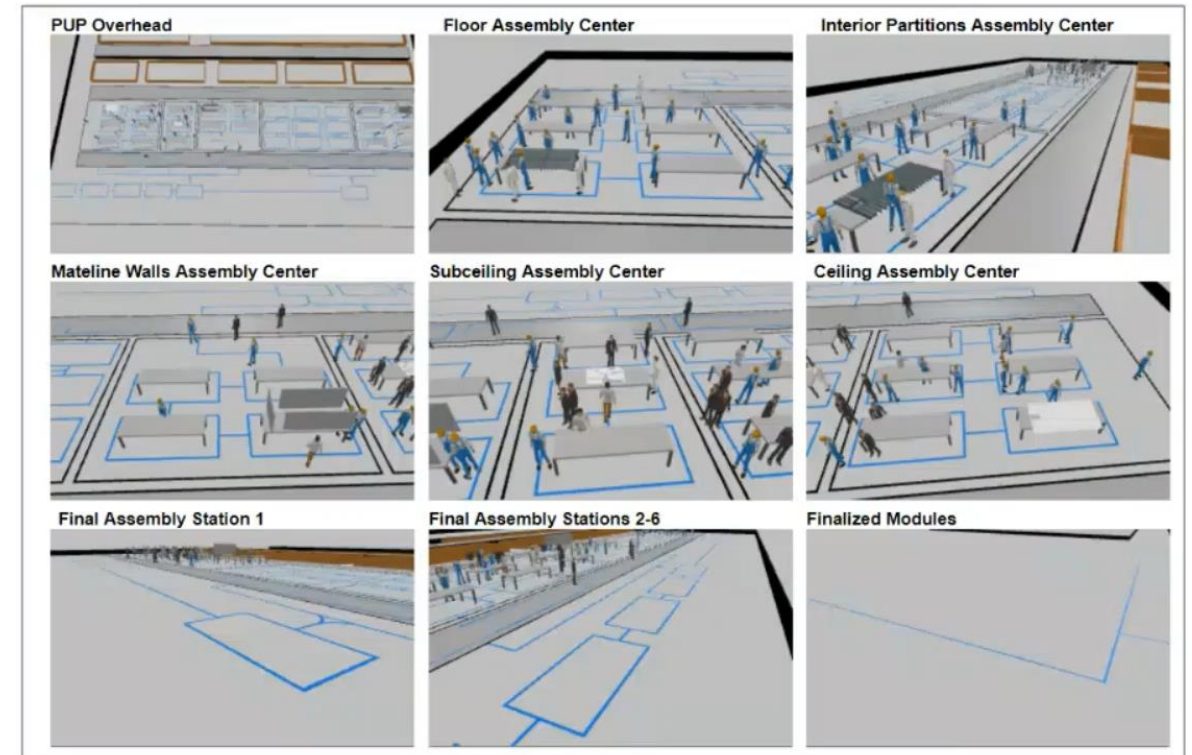
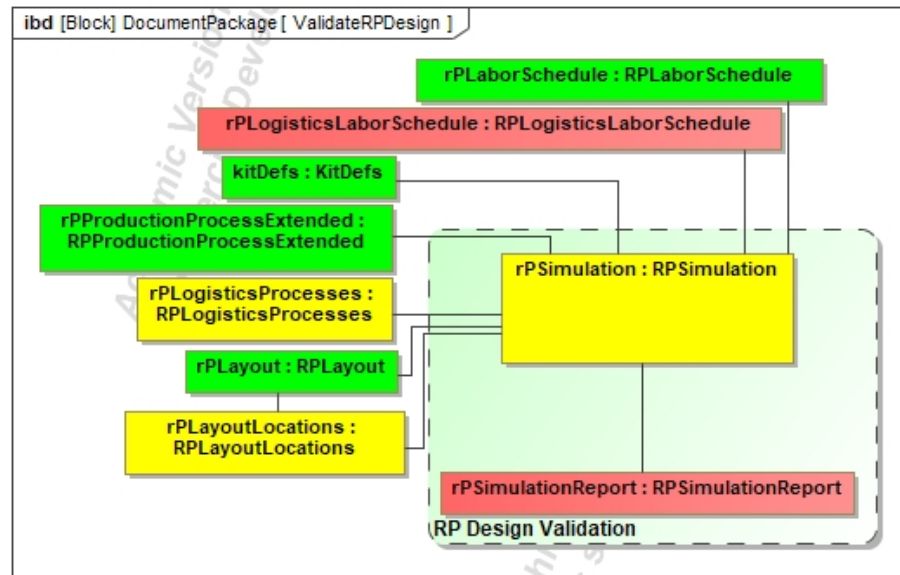
Assess the proposed system operation through simulation for identifying potential issues, improving the system design and operations and enabling real implementation.

The validation allows informed data-based decision making and tracks KPIs for predicting system's performance.

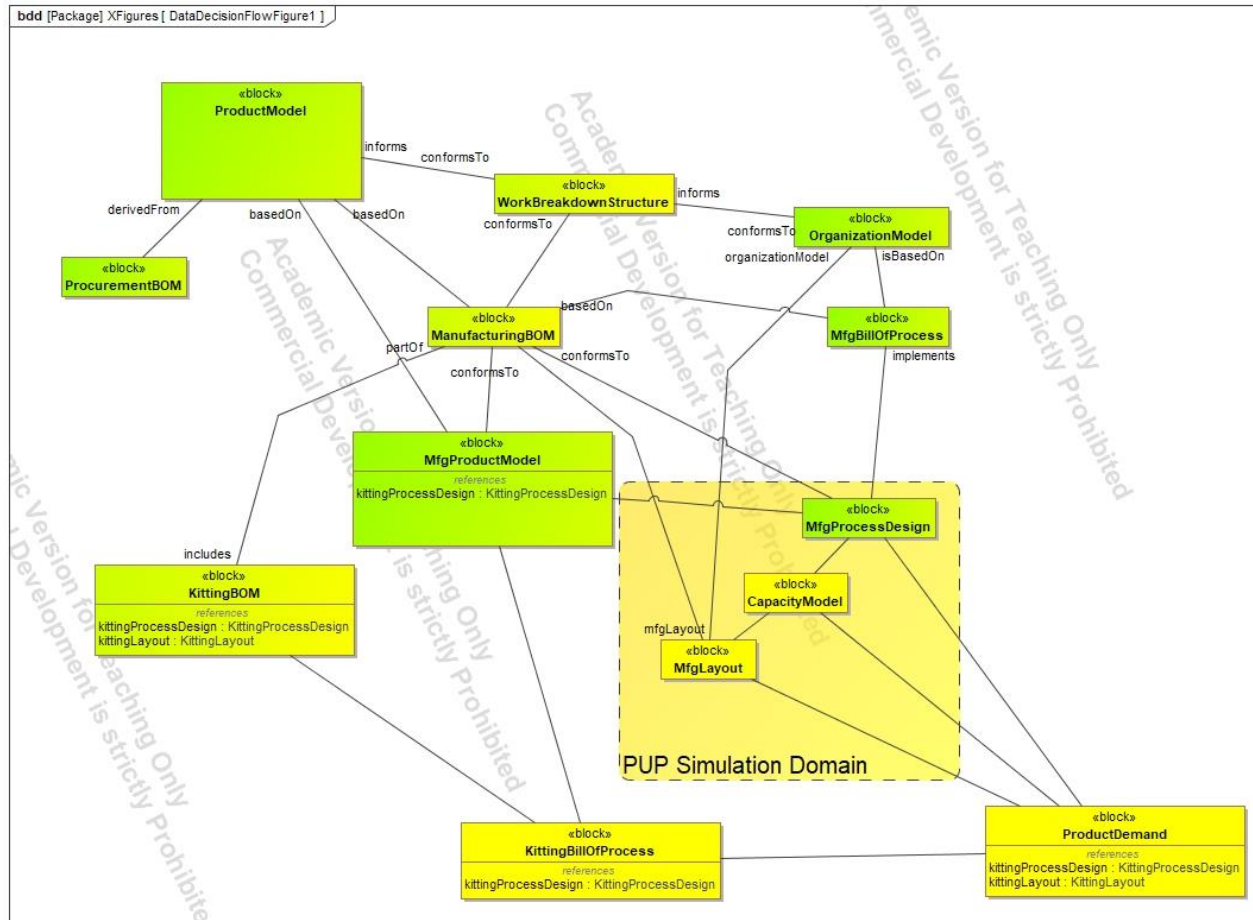
Information Required:

Production Process, Logistics Process, Labor Schedule, Layout, Kit Definition, Production Program

High fidelity modelling



Design Process Integration



There are a lot of moving parts to this initiative

We are aware and collaborating to address the need to identify, document, and standardize all the key data sources and computational processes, including version control

Phase II objective includes to largely automate the exchange of data and information between the various modeling tools developed to support design decision-making



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