

# Virtuelle Bygningsmodeller og distribueret samarbejde.

## DIVERCITY projektet

Per Christiansson

Aalborg Universitet

<http://it.civil.auc.dk>

- Netværket for 3D GeoInformation -  
Netværksmøde om '3D byggeri'.  
Onsdag den 11 december 2002  
COWI A/S, Aalborg.



# CONTENT

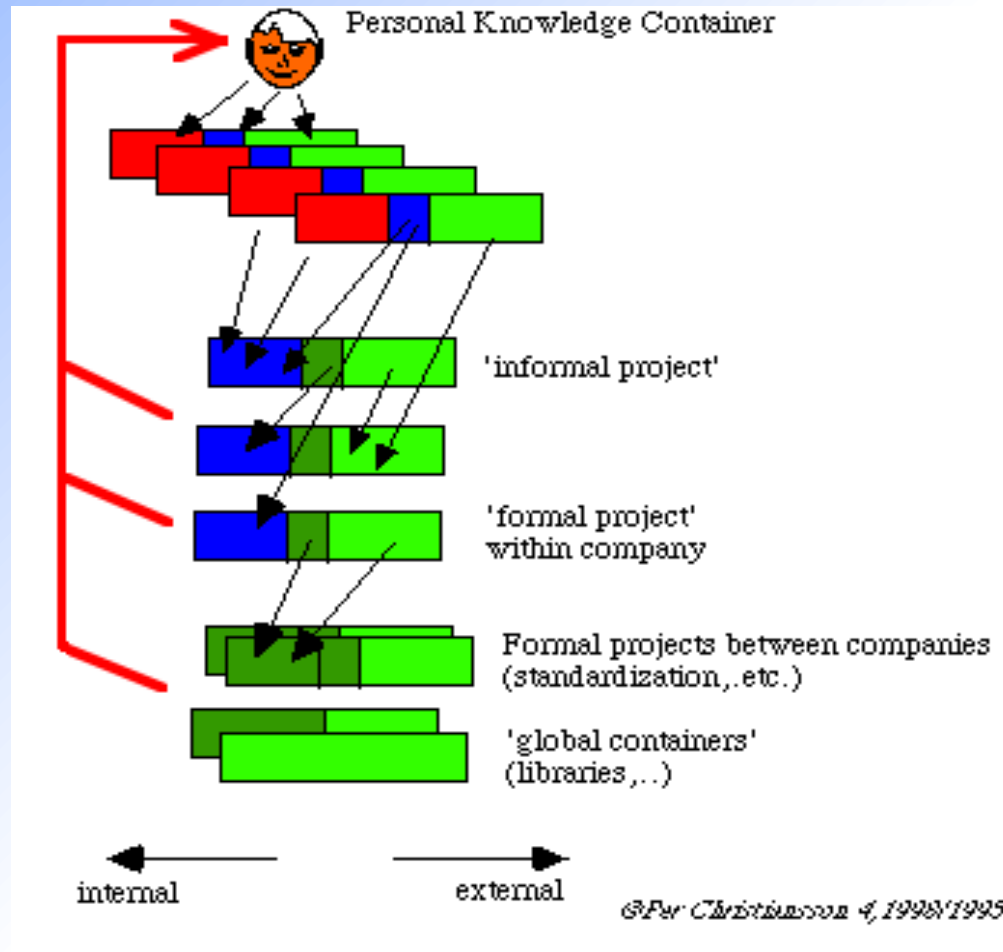
- SHIFTING PARADIGM
- IMPROVED MODELS (VB, Process)
- The DIVERCITY example



# **SHIFTING PARADIGM (takes time)**



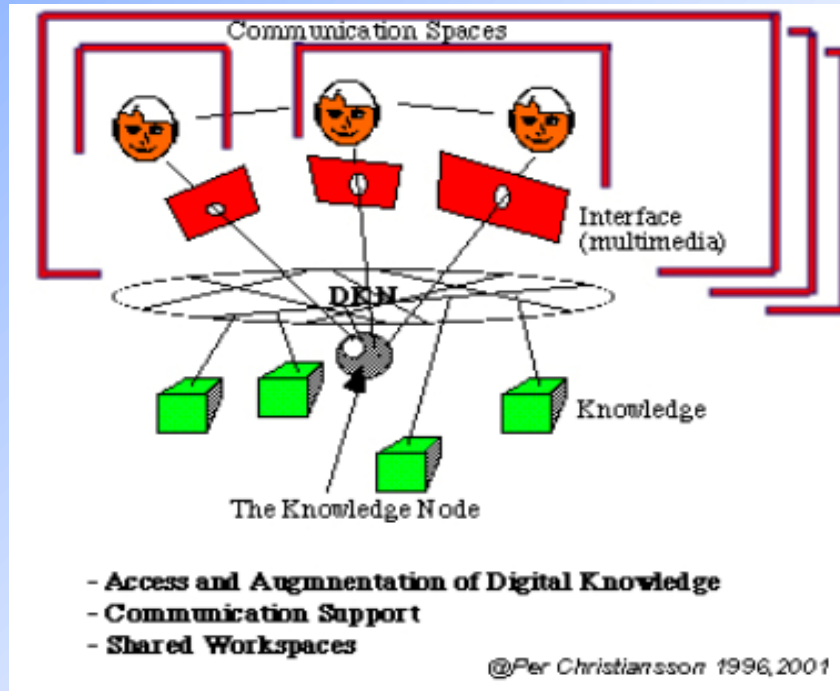
# Knowledge Communication



**Knowledge is communicated between knowledge containers covering different subjects and time domains**



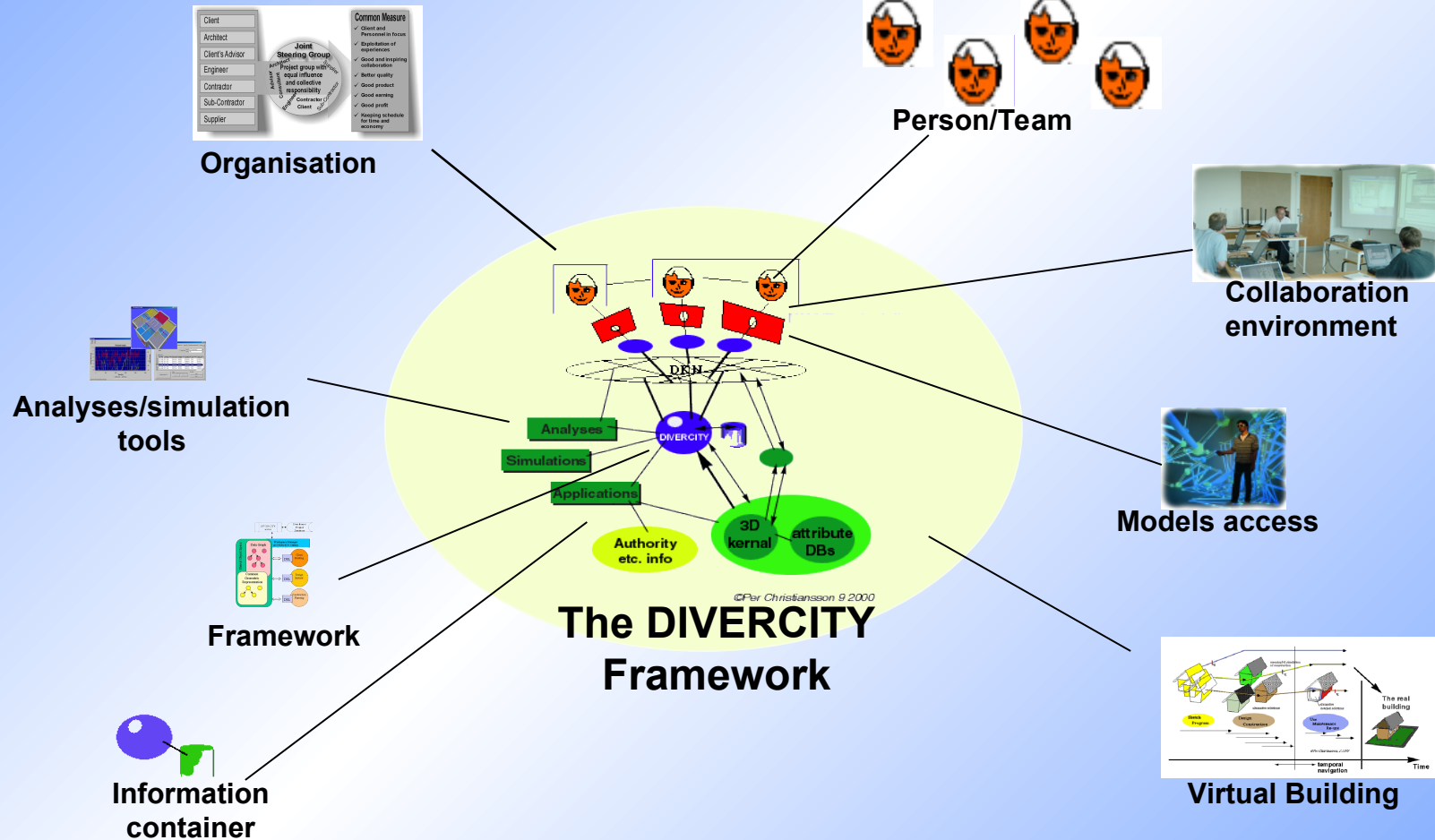
# The Knowledge Node Concept



- **Participants**; number of, type (persons, agents)
- **Collaboration subject/context & Form of interaction**; design, reviews, purchase, learning, brainstorm, negotiation, discussion,
- **Communication content** to support interaction; e.g. speech, sound, images, music, video, whisper, body language, 3D objects, control information;.....
- **Meeting spaces** and room definitions; physical, virtual, static, dynamic, mobile and combinations.
- **Collaboration artefacts**; communication channels, user applications, and information containers

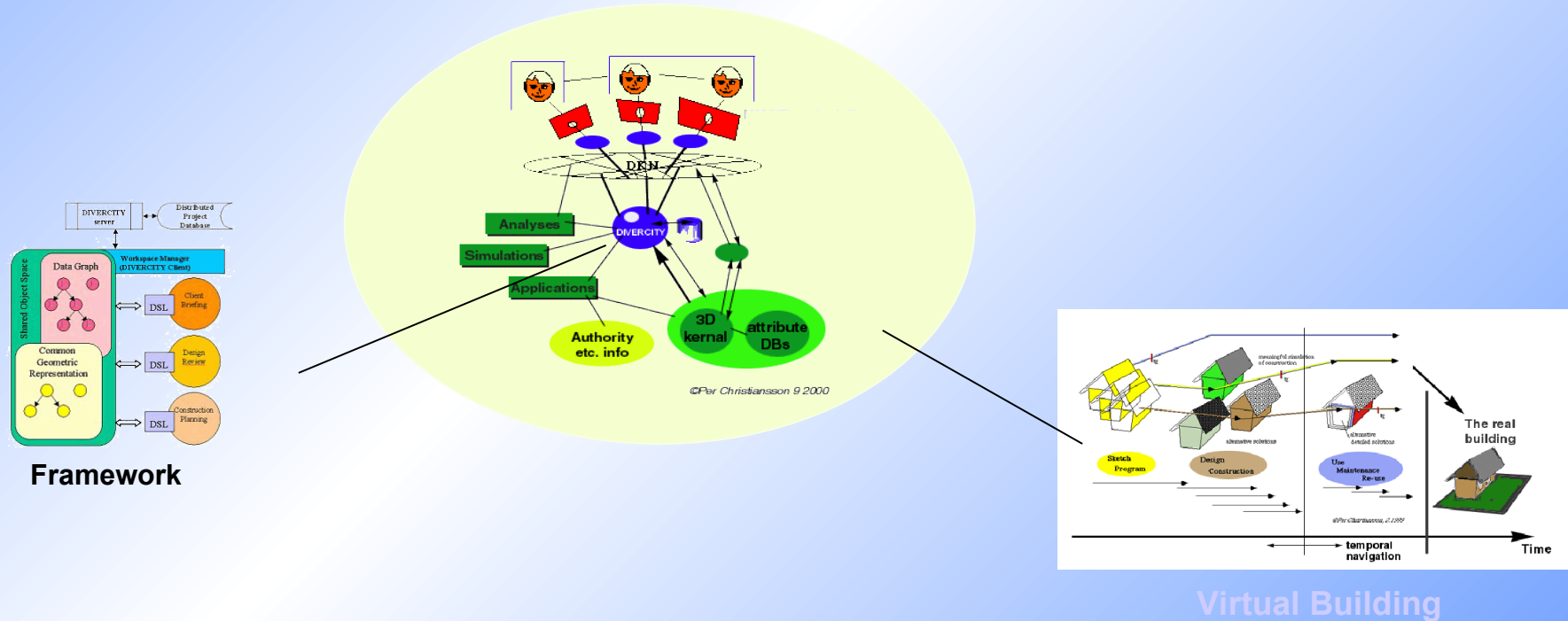


# BUILDING PROCESS CHANGE?



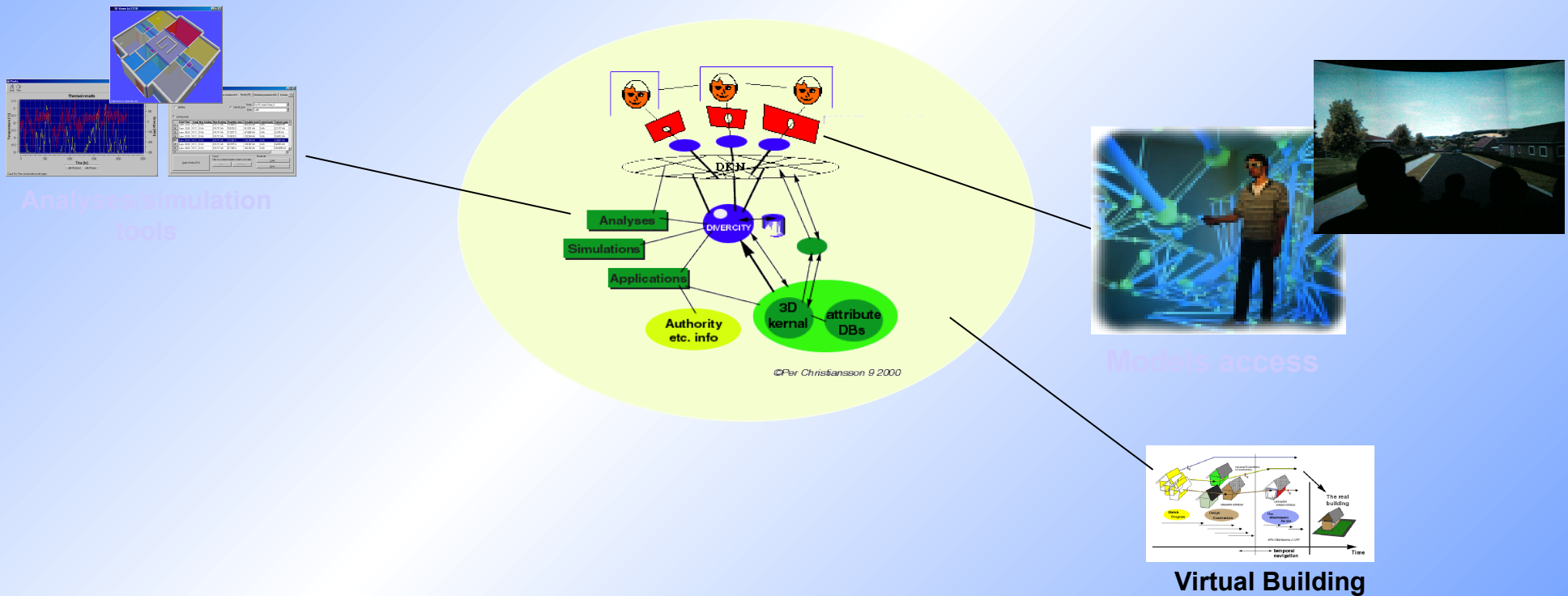
# Virtual Building

- **Virtual Building** environment. Product and process models with spatial *temporal* properties, partly redundant information, early decision support, ....



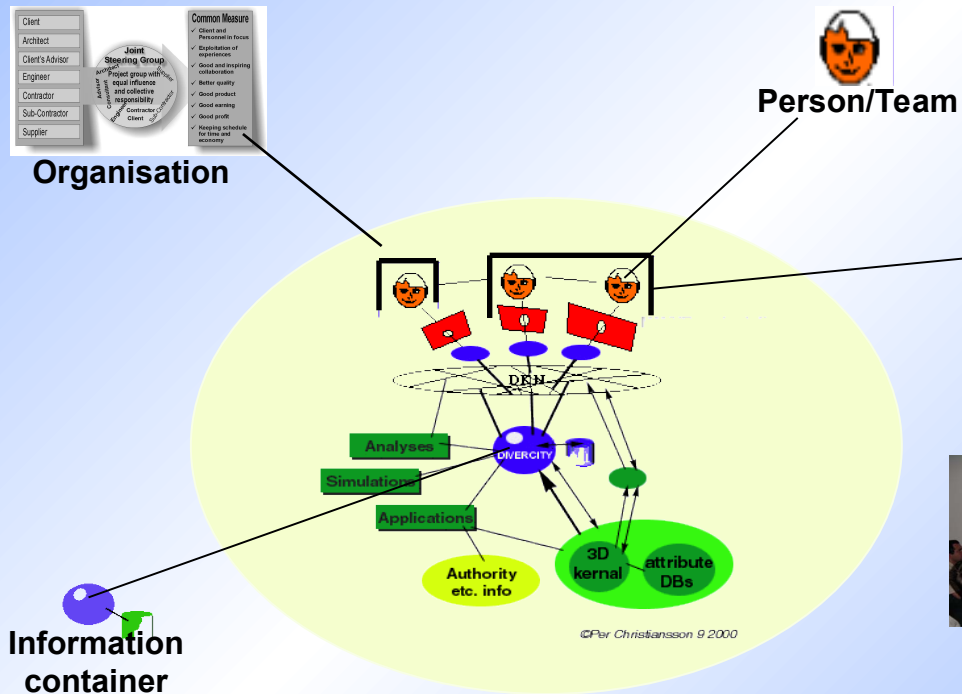
# Advanced Interface to Models

- Higher *realism* in interaction with underlying models (VR, simulation tools, adapted views, cost/accessibility,...)



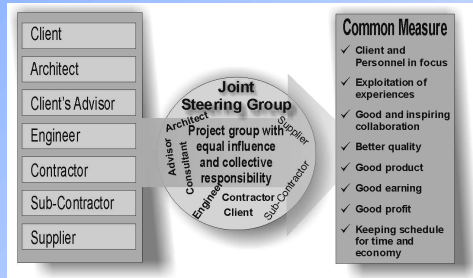


# New Workspace Properties

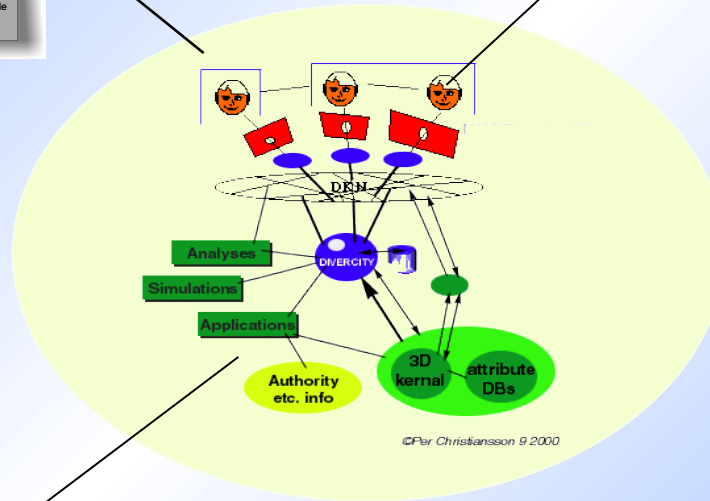


- Physical *workspaces* with new dimension ('virtual', augmented, immersive) and new collaboration tools.
- Advanced *administration tools* (artefacts) for secure distributed personal, team, and project information repositories

# Competence Collaboration



Organisation



Information container

- **Competence** collaboration in projects enabled (adopted communication, access to knowledge containers with experiences etc.)

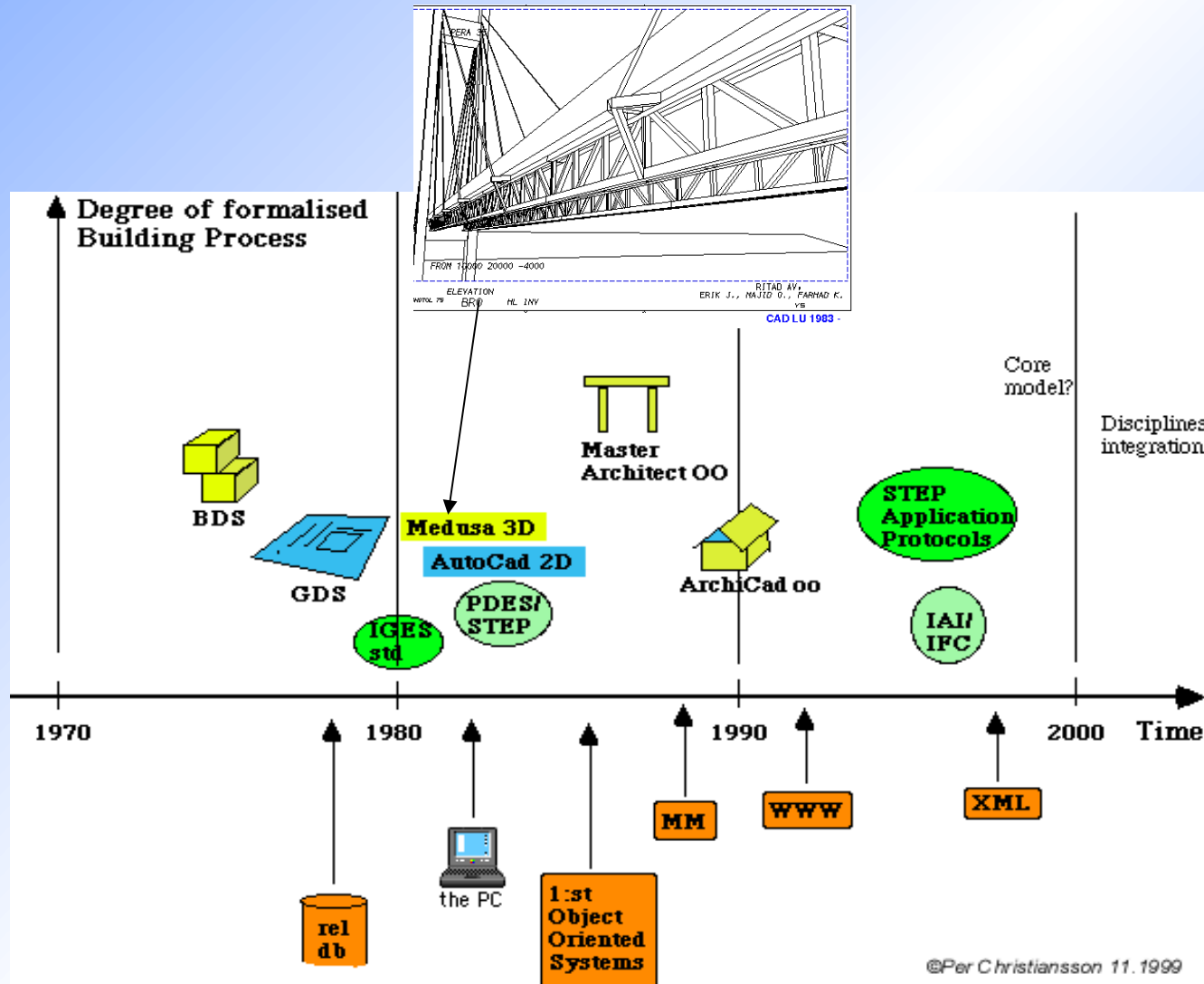


# PARADIGMSHIFT TAKES TIME

- Early 80s - how can we **invoice CAD**(rawing) work?  
(Clients saw the qualitative effects of studying alternative)
- Mid 80s - **3D** (affordable solid modelling tools) will now be commonly used!!  
(early design needs, parametric models and degrees of formalisation, level of detailing, drawing to model thinking,.... )
- Mid 80s - 4th generation 'db systems' and object orientation introduced.  
(organisational and work change, **formalisation** needs to integrate company functions
- Late 80s - large scale integration of **hypertext** information containers in **Internet**
- Late 90s - 1 Internet year = 5 ordinary years.  
(ICT **competence** needs increases, out-sourcing back lash)



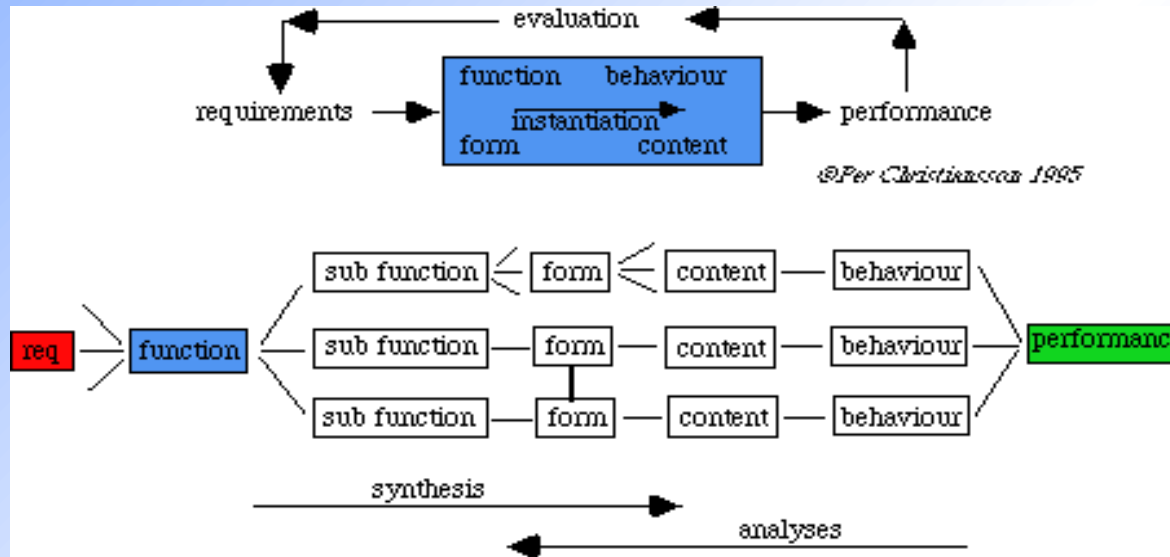
# Building Process Oscillations



# **IMPROVED VIRTUAL BUILDINGS and BUILDING PROCESS MODELS**



# From Product idea to use, re-use

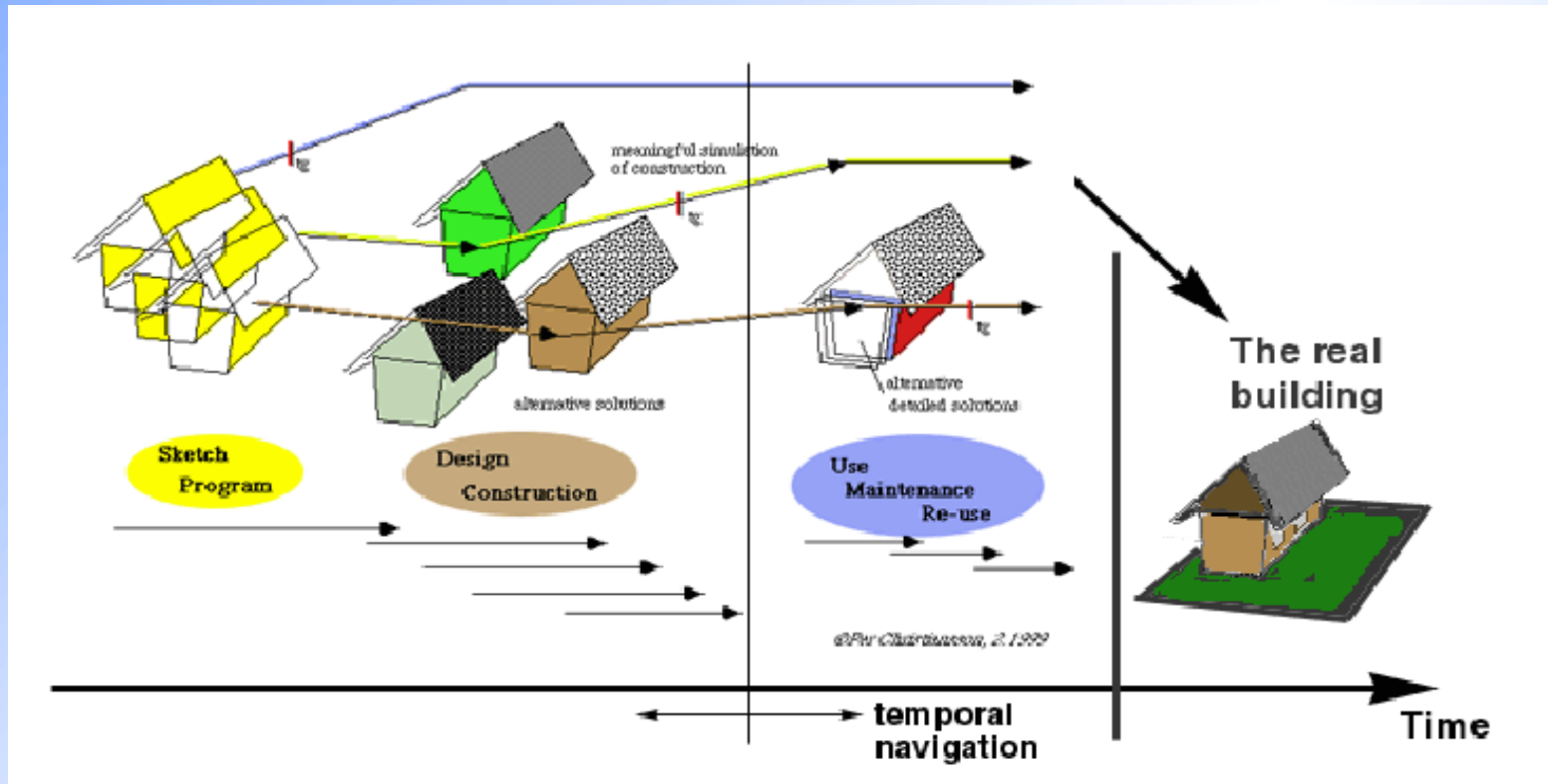


## Requirements are translated to functional requirements

- which in the design process leads to instantiated design parameters
- which leads to new functional requirements etc.
- Complex time dependent functional couplings will arise
- The same VB must also be able to support different design paradigms (creative, innovative or routine)



# The Virtual Building Model

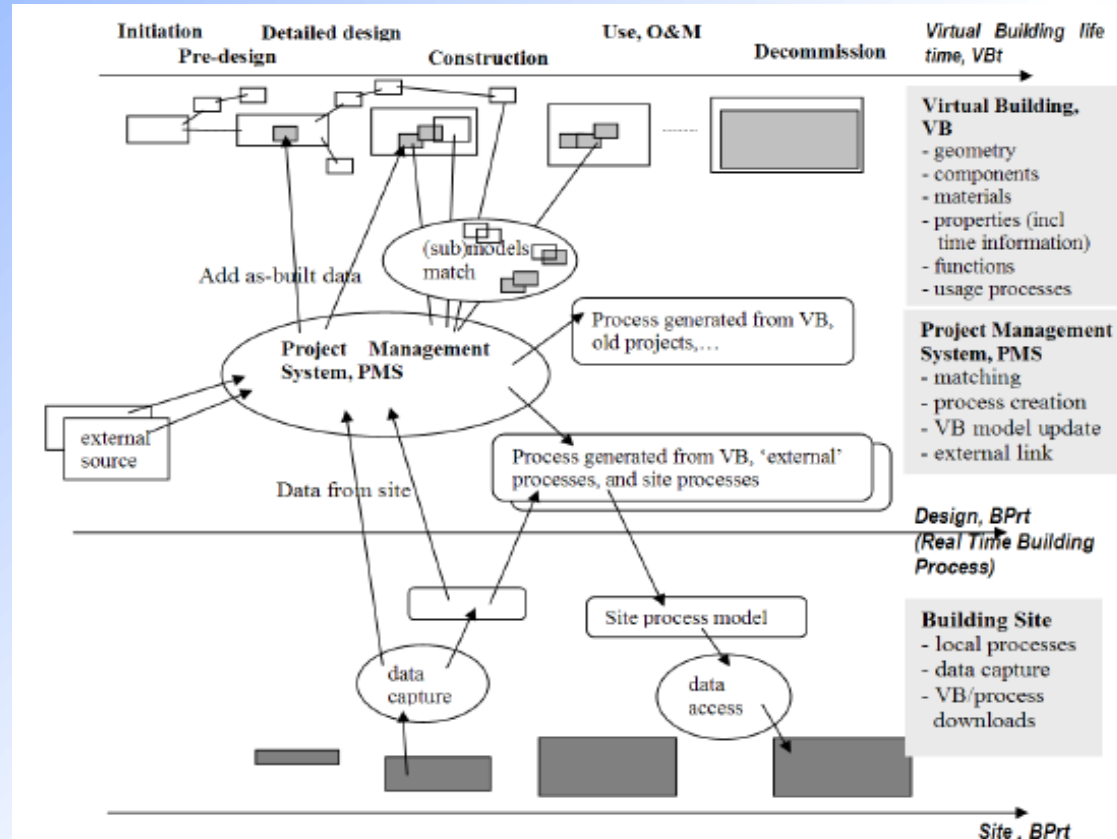


The virtual building contains all documentation of the building including drawings, models, documents etc. It will normally contain **redundant** information and **temporal** information describing **discipline models** and **sub models of the building** over time. **Tracks** of alternative solutions. **Two time lines** -real time during collaboration and time points in the life cycle of a design artefact.





# The PMS in context



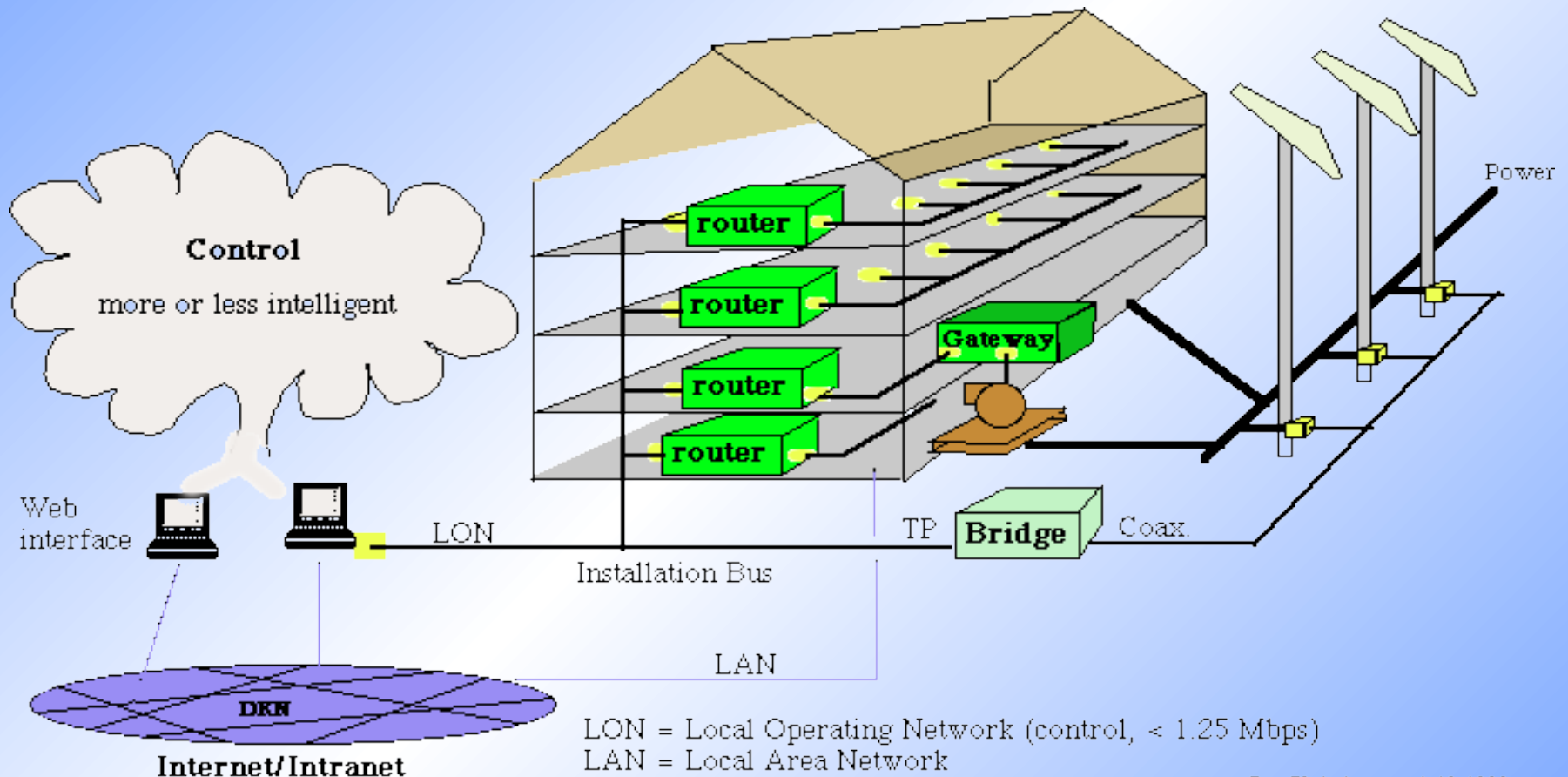
The Project Management System (PMS) will integrate Virtual Building models, Site Process models, and external information containers. It will also manage **matching and updating of the VB sub models** as well co-ordination with building site activities. **BPrt** = Building Process real time, **VBt** = Virtual Building time to describe time points in life of Virtual Building (sub)models.

(from Christiansson P., Dawood N. N., Svidt K, 2002, "Virtual Buildings (VB) and Tools to Manage Construction Process Operations".





# The Intelligent and Responsive Building

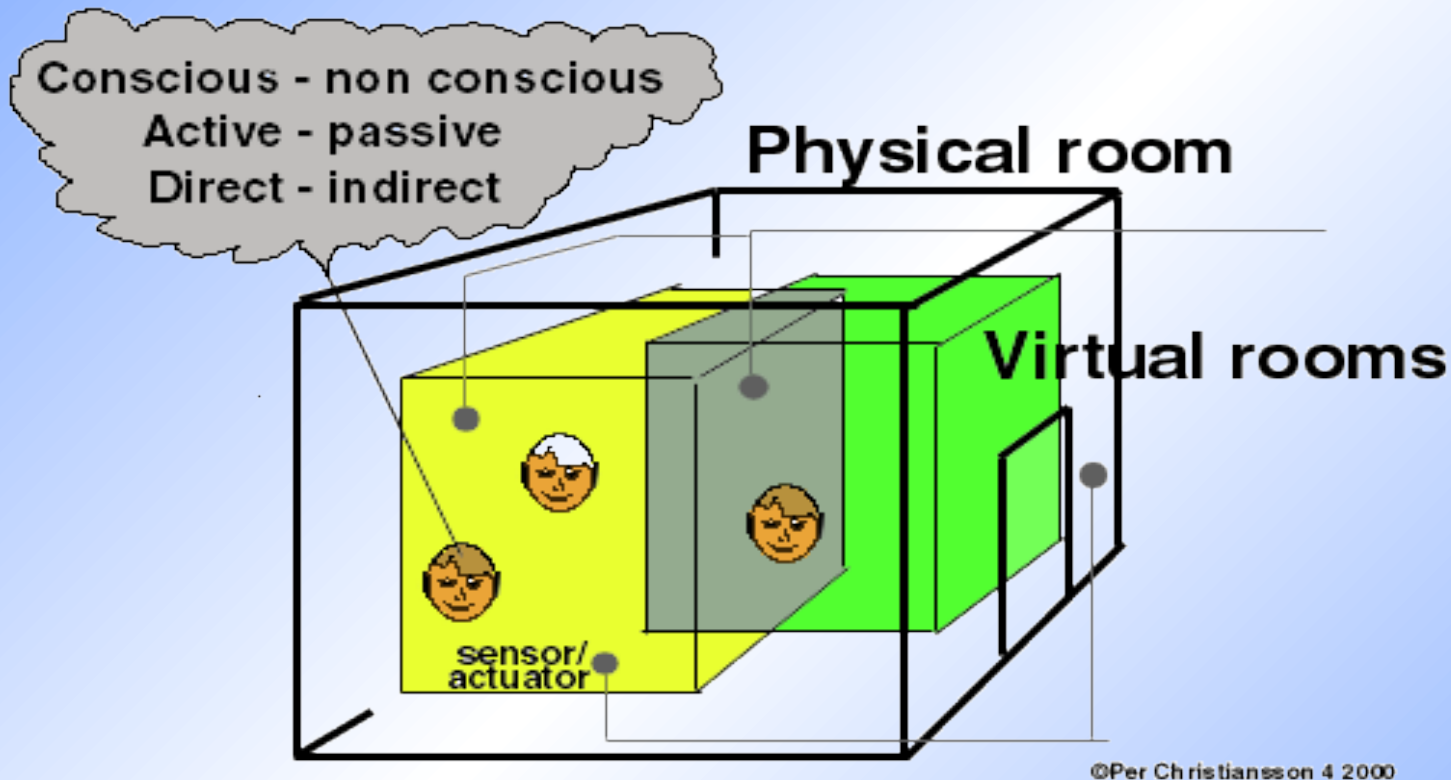


*Per Christiansson 1.12.1999*

**The building can also itself house ICT tools to support required functionalities/systems/processes**



# Virtual Rooms



- The IBI should be responsive to the user needs and easily be **re-programmable**.
- We may have to **define virtual rooms** to house different activities at different times and even occupying different spaces (for learning, creativity, virtual meetings, thinking, relaxation, sleeping, etc.) in the buildings.
- The building shall **support communication** in all respects also the communication directly involving it's users.

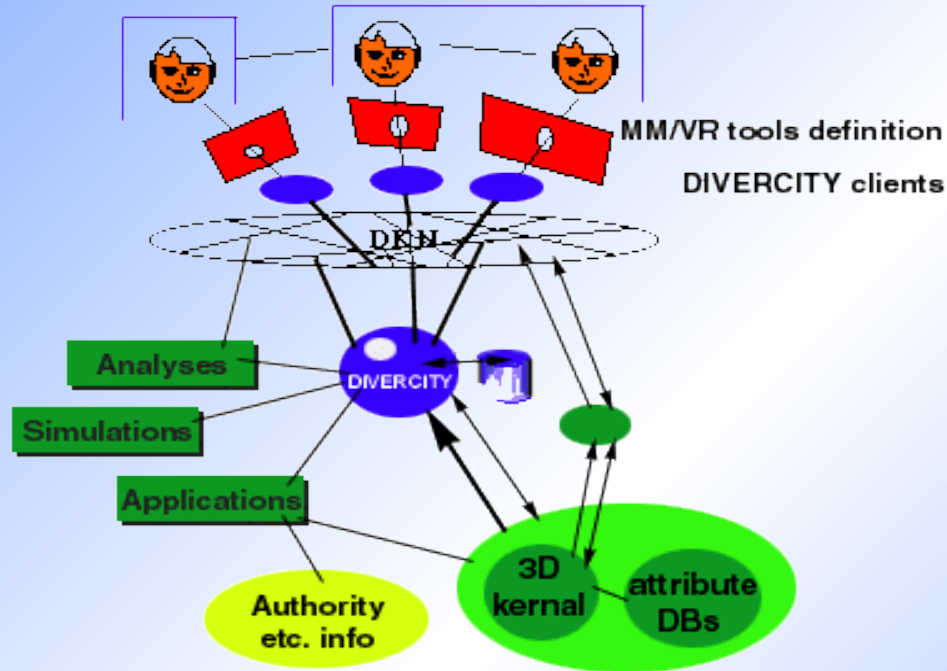
The physical form and functionality of the rooms will be more tightly related to the underlying IBI systems.



# DIVERCITY - Distributed Virtual Workspace for enhancing Communication within the Construction Industry

EU IST-1999-13365

<http://www.e-divercity.com/>



The objective of the project is to produce a **prototype virtual workspace** that will enable the three key phases (client briefing, design review, construction) to be visualized and manipulated, and to *produce a set of VR tools that aid the construction design and planning process.*

DIVERCITY supports

- communication between persons
- multiple building product/process information access
- building process activities

©Per Christiansson 9 2000



# PARTNERS

- **Distributed Virtual Workspace for enhancing Communication within the Construction Industry - DIVERCITY**

evata

SPIE

COWI

Consulting Engineers  
and Planners AS



**CSTB**  
*Le futur en construction*



**Construct I.T.**  
*For Business*  
enabling process change



# DIVERCITY project data

- - Shared cost RTD project - Key Action II.2.2
- (New Methods of Work / Workplace Design / Team Work)
- - Started in **March 2000** -  
Expected duration: **30 months**
- - Total cost: **4 M Euro** (app.) -  
Commission funding: **2 M Euro**
- - Consortium (10 partners - **5 countries**):
- - **Objective** : Design & Develop a Distributed Virtual Workspace adapted for the Construction Industry



Contstruct IT  
(Coordinator)

University of  
Salford



CSTB  
CS SI  
SPIE



Aalborg University  
COWI



CRS4



VTT  
EVATA

Developer

User

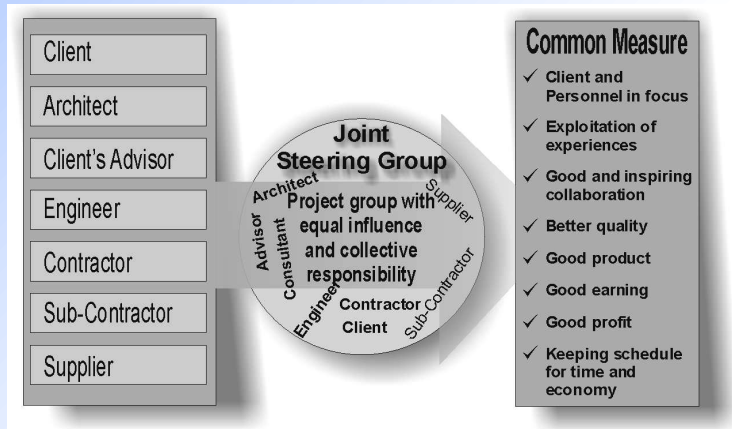
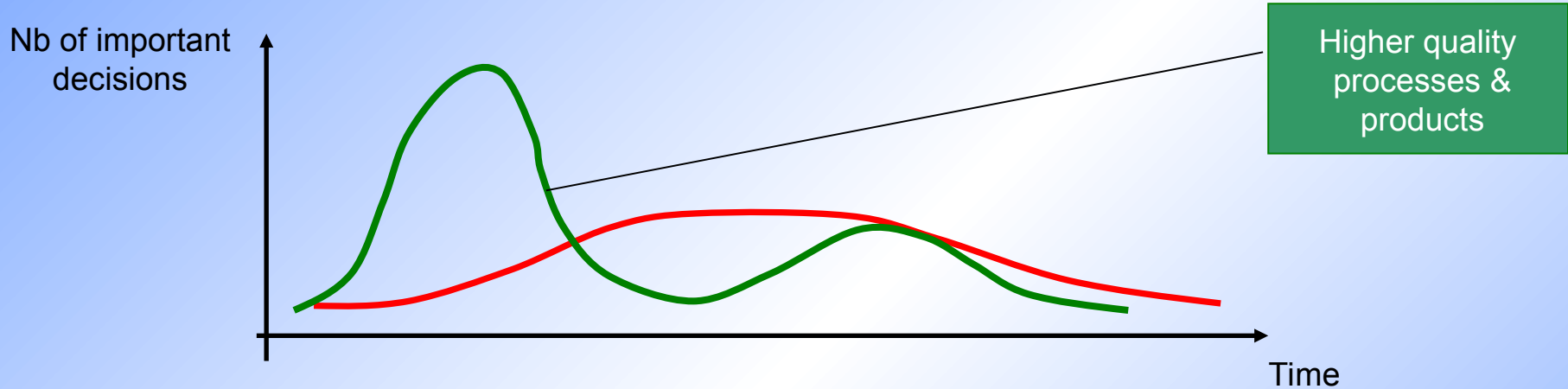




# DIVERCITY project infrastructure



# Changes in Process Organisation



Dramatic changes in procurement philosophies, as a result of the internet (partnering model). Partnering model showing the stakeholders joining a common project group with mutual goals (COWI A/S Denmark)



# Virtual Workspace Definition

- 'The **Virtual Workspace**, VW, is the new design room designed to fit new and existing design routines. VW may well be a mixed reality environment. The VW will host all design partners from project start with different access and visibility (for persons and groups) in space and time to the project, and will promote building up shared values in projects. The VW thus acts as a communication space with project information support in adapted appearances. VW gives access to general and specific IT-tools '

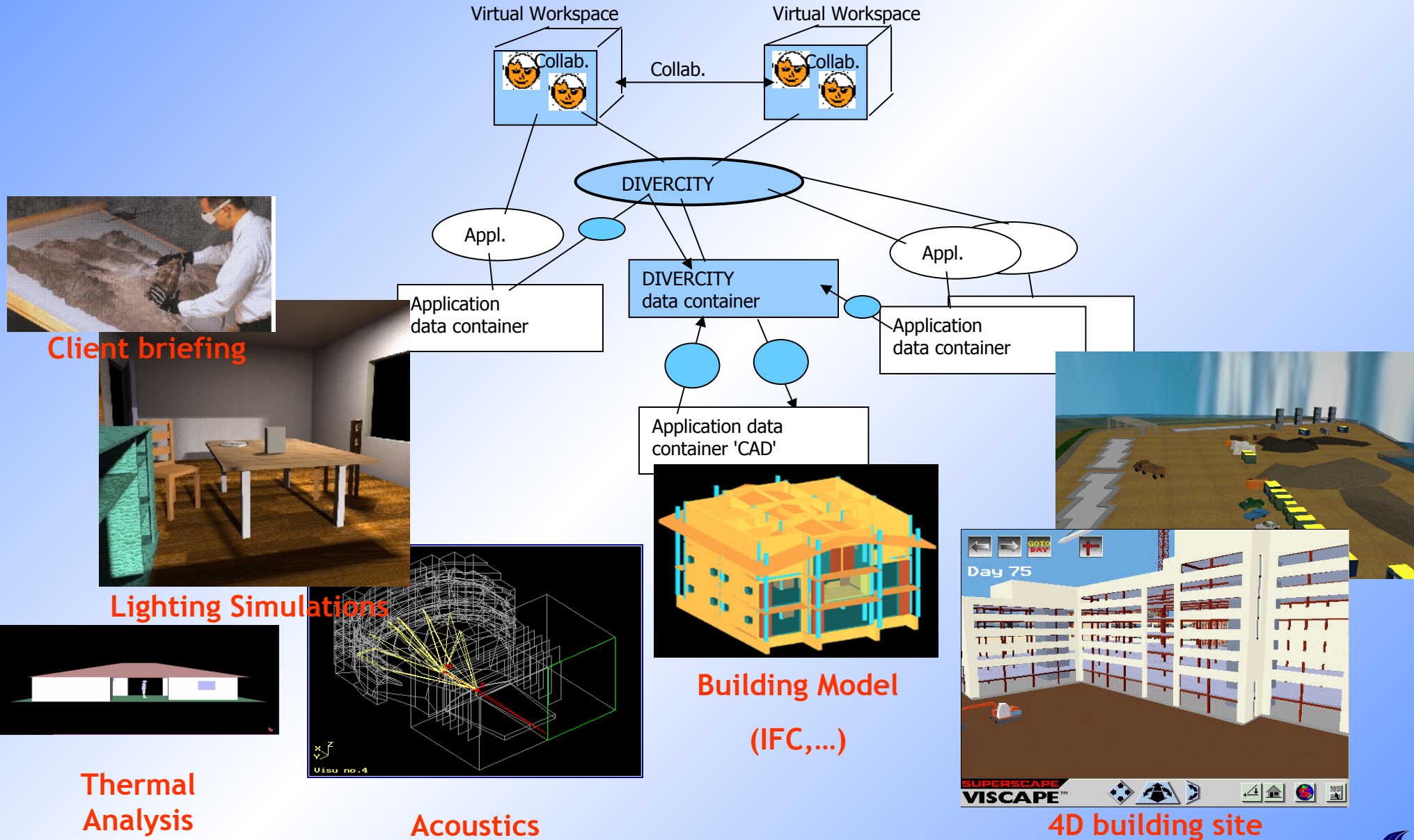




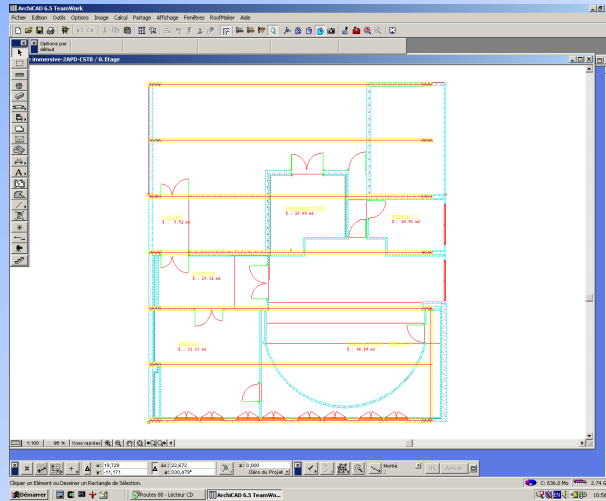
# DIVERCITY - Virtual Workspace



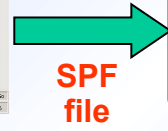
# DIVERCITY function, form, content, behaviour



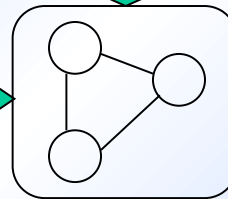
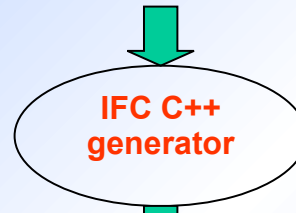
# Import Product of Model to Application



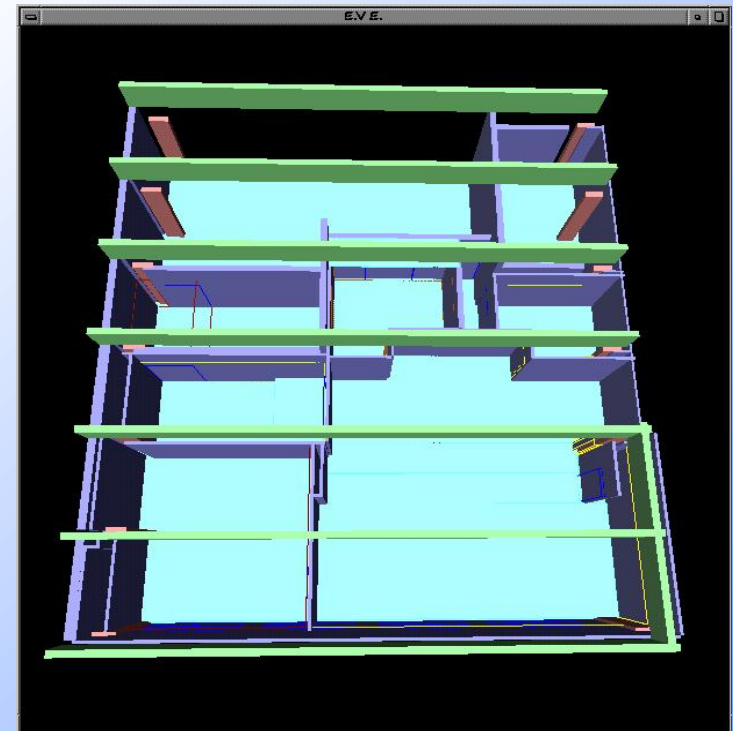
CAD-Tool (ArchiCad)



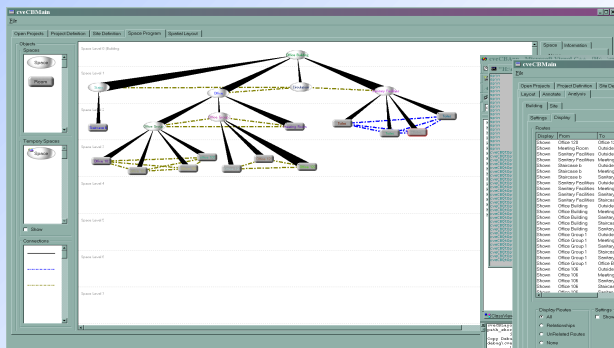
SPF  
file



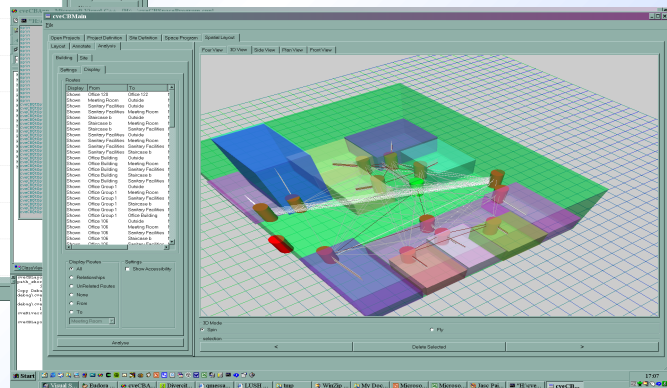
C++ classes



Diversity

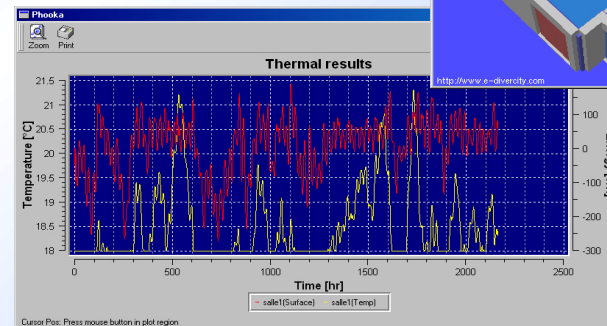
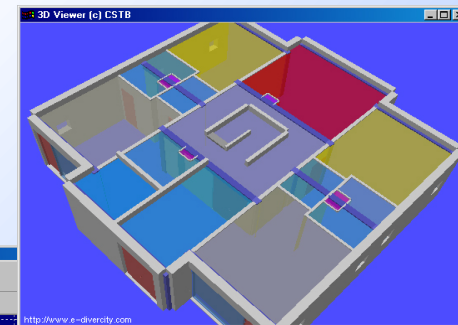
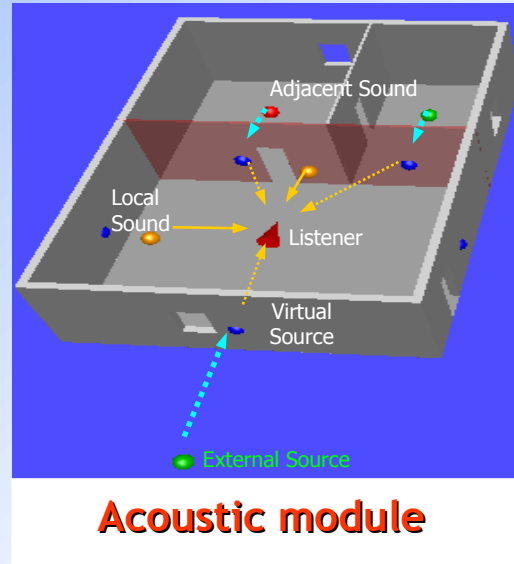


Client briefing PreCad





# DESIGN REVIEW APPLICATIONS (more PRODUCTS)



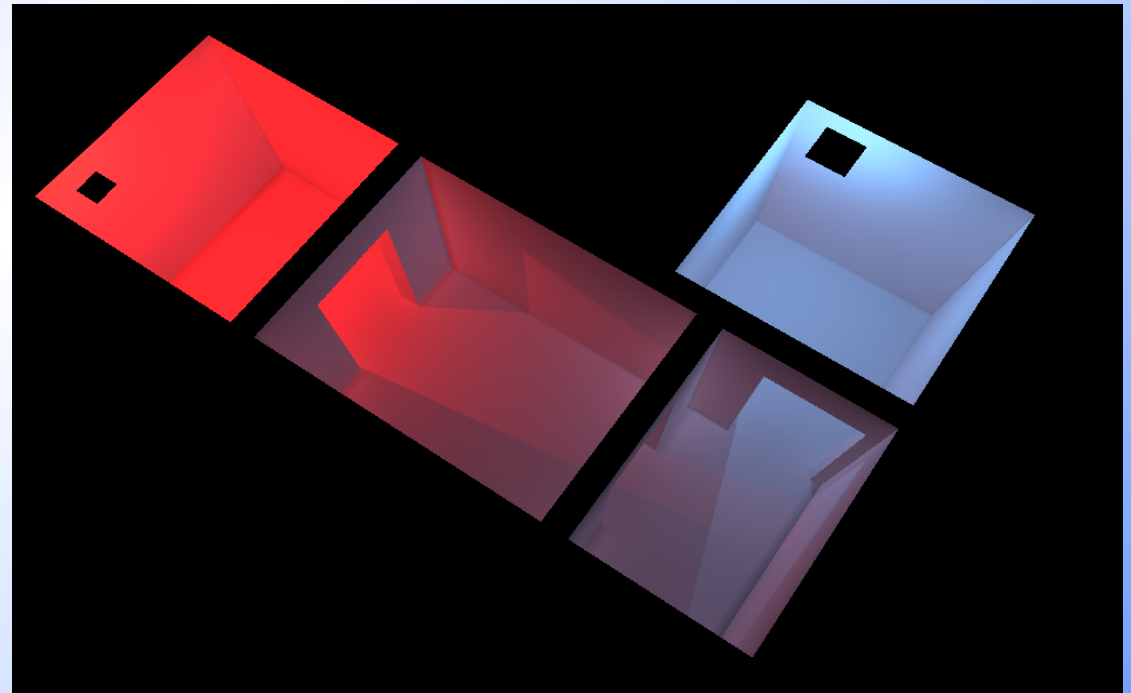
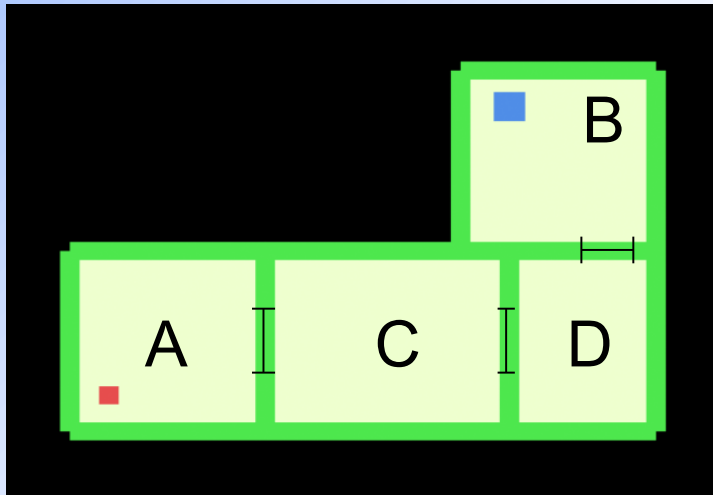
Date/Time	Temp	Max Cooling	Max Heating	Humidity ratios	Sensible loads	Latent loads	Surface gains
23 1 janv. 22:00	18 °C	0 kWh	274.717 kWh	73.3045 %	80.6153 kWh	0 kWh	19.0059 kWh
24 1 janv. 23:00	18 °C	0 kWh	274.717 kWh	78.5725 %	81.9731 kWh	0 kWh	22.1277 kWh
25 2 janv. 00:00	18 °C	0 kWh	274.717 kWh	77.2077 %	97.0965 kWh	0 kWh	22.079 kWh
26 2 janv. 01:00	18 °C	0 kWh	274.717 kWh	74.9016 %	125.504 kWh	0 kWh	19.4912 kWh
27 2 janv. 02:00	18 °C	0 kWh	274.717 kWh	72.1882 %	143.389 kWh	0 kWh	14.6607 kWh
28 2 janv. 03:00	18 °C	0 kWh	274.717 kWh	69.7875 %	149.907 kWh	0 kWh	8.48253 kWh
29 2 janv. 04:00	18 °C	0 kWh	274.717 kWh	67.7245 %	160.352 kWh	0 kWh	0.541895 kWh

**Thermal analysis module**



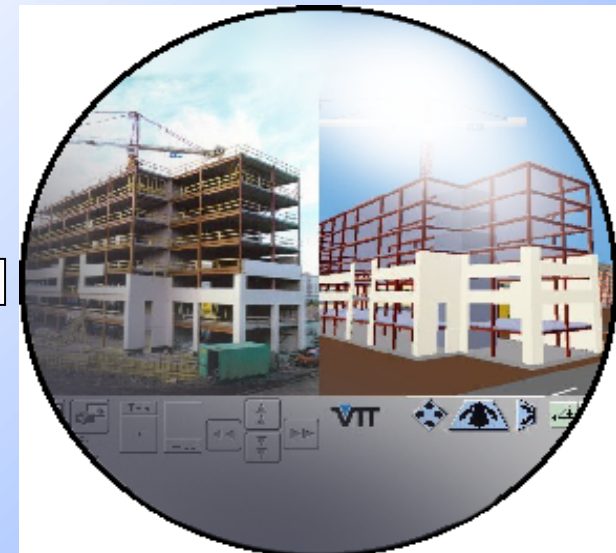
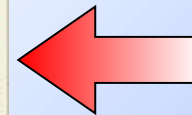
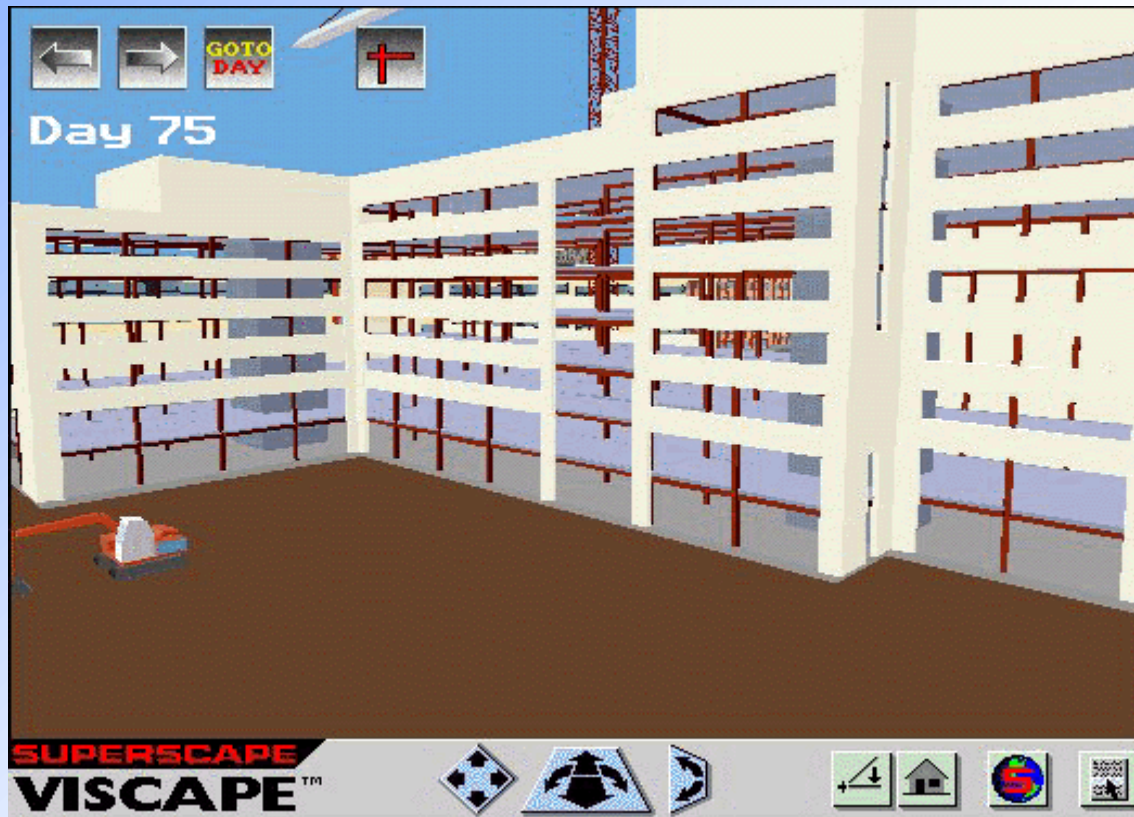
# DIVERCITY Design Review Lighting example

- - **Interactive Radiosity**
- - **Visibility Graph** subdivision associated with light transfer links
- - High shadows quality and optimised subdivision for **real-time exploration** (synchronous) (including object motion)



# DIVERCITY Construction Planning

- VR based tools to organise and optimise the Construction site in 4D (Space and Time)

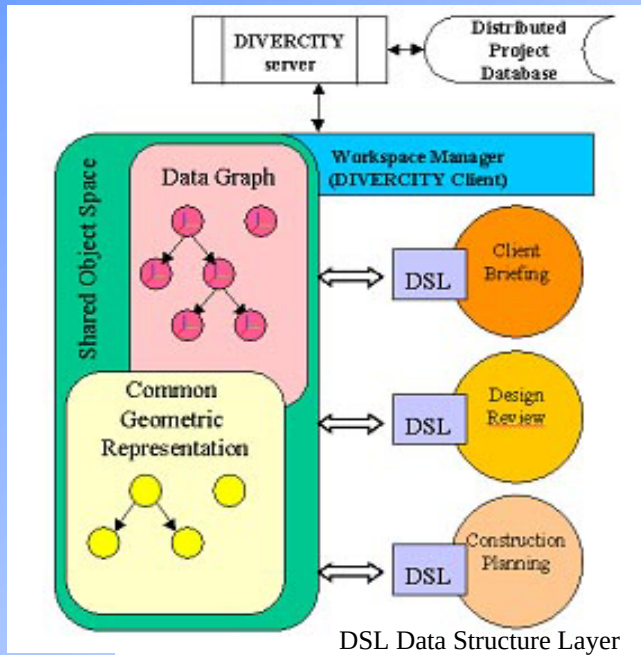


Project Model



# DIVERCITY Framework

Laurent da Daldo



## The Central eViper Server

**Source control** stores different versions and keeps an history of all that happens on a project

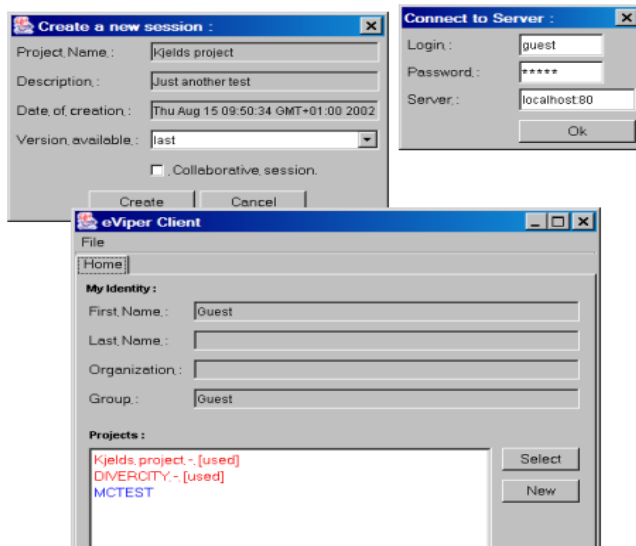
**User profiling** allows the server to identify people connected to, or trying to, connect to it and manage user access rights on projects.

**Security and integrity of information** is permanently controlled by the server.

**Messages management** is one of the most important feature of eViper. It controls information exchanged between users and manages priorities. Thanks to this feature, developers using eViper can build not only distributed but also collaborative applications. This is an open mechanism allowing any third party to use data controlled by the server (as long as they are authorised).

## The Distribution Manager

The distribution manager is the **client (user) side of the communication layer of DIVERCITY**. It can be *included* in an application (it in the case of Phooka, the DIVERCITY client application) or can be a *stand alone* application, controlling data exchange between the client and the central server. The distribution manager has been released in JAVA and C++ and it is platform-independent. In this way, developers will be able to work in their own environment. This interface provides all necessary entries to send and receive message from the server. It also provides a simple way to plug any third party application to the central server of eViper. (SOAP, Simple Object Access Protocol used).



E-viper client handles access to the workspaces and proj





# Industry Foundation Classes - IFC

<http://iaiweb.lbl.gov/>

[http://cig.bre.co.uk/iai\\_uk/](http://cig.bre.co.uk/iai_uk/)

<http://cic.vtt.fi/niai/>



## International Alliance for Interoperability (IAI)

An industry group created a series of prototype software applications that were demonstrated at the A/E/C Systems '95 show in Atlanta, Georgia.

With this successful public demonstration, the original twelve companies opened up participation in this effort in September 1995 to AEC/FM companies worldwide.

IFC2.x2 current version





# Contact



<http://it.civil.auc.dk>

**R&D and EDU collaboration within**

- **Building process and product models**
- **Meta classification**
- **Knowledge Management**
- **Collaboration and Virtual Reality**
- **Multimedia/User Environment design**
- **Collaborative work on specification and design of next generation systems (Industry/University)**



Lai Y-C, Christiansson P, Svidt K, 2002, "**IT in Collaborative Building Design (IT-CODE)**". First International Conference on Information Standardisation, Exchanges and Management in Construction - CISEMIC, eSM@RT. University of Salford, U.K from 22nd - 23rd November 2002. (9 pp)

Christiansson P., Da Dalto Laurent, Skjaerbaek J. O., Soubra S., Marache M., 2002, " **Virtual Environments for the AEC sector - The Diversity experience** ". ECPPM 2002 European Conference of Product and Process Modelling. eWork and eBusiness in AEC. 9-11 September 2002, Portoroz, Slovenia. (8 pp.)



Christiansson P., Dawood N. N., Svidt K, 2002, "**Virtual Buildings (VB) and Tools to Manage Construction Process Operations**". CIB W78 Conference on 'Distributing Knowledge In Building', Aarhus, Denmark. June 12-14, 2002. (8 pp.)

Christiansson, P, 2001, "**Capture of user requirements and structuring of collaborative VR environments**". AVR II & CONVR 2001. Conference on Applied Virtual Reality in Engineering & Construction Applications of Virtual Reality. (eds: O. Tullberg, N. Dawood, M. Connell. 201 pp.) Gothenburg October 4-5, 2001. (pp. 1-17). [Key note speech].

Christiansson P, Svidt K, Skjærbæk J O, Aaholm R, 2001, "**User requirements modelling in design of collaborative virtual reality design systems**". International Conference on Construction Information Technology. Mpumalanga, Soth Africa, 30 May - 1 June 2001. (pp. 40/1 - 40/12)

Christiansson P, 1998, " **Using Knowledge Nodes for Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining.**" *Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence 1454. Ian Smith (Ed.). Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg 1998.* ISBN: 3-540-64806-2 (pp. 48-59). "Artificial Intelligence in Structural Engineering. Information Technology for Design, Collaboration, Maintenance, and Monitoring."



Svidt K., Bjerg B., Dorf Nielsen T., 2001, "**Initial studies on Virtual Reality Visualization of 3D airflow in ventilated livestock buildings**". AVR II & CONVR 2001. Conference on Applied Virtual Reality in Engineering & Construction Applications of Virtual Reality. (eds: O. Tullberg, N. Dawood, M. Connell. 201 pp.) Gothenburg October 4-5, 2001. (pp. 176-181).

Christiansson P, 2001, "**Experiences from Using Internet Based Collaboration Tools**". 'Konference om Arkitekturforskning og IT'. Proceedings Conference on Architectural Research and Information Technology. Nordic Association for Architectural Research. Arkitektskolen i Aarhus 27.-29. april 2001. (pp. 103-112).

Christiansson P, 2000, "**Knowledge Representations and information Flow in the Intelligent Building**". 'Proceedings of the Eighth International Conference on Computing in Civil and Building Engineering. ICCCB-E-VIII 2000 (eds: Fruchter R, Pena-Mora F, Roddis K)', ISBN 0-7844-0513-1. American Society of Civil Engineers, Reston, Virginia, USA. (Stanford University, USA. August 14-17, 2000). (pp. 604-611).

Christiansson P, 1999, "**Properties of the Virtual Building**". 8th International Conference on Durability of Building Materials and Components. Information Technology in Construction. (ed. M. A. Lacasse, D. J. Vanier). NRC Research Press, Ottawa, 1999. ISBN: 0-660-17743-9. (pp. 2909-2919). (May 30 - June 3, 1999 Vancouver, Canada.)



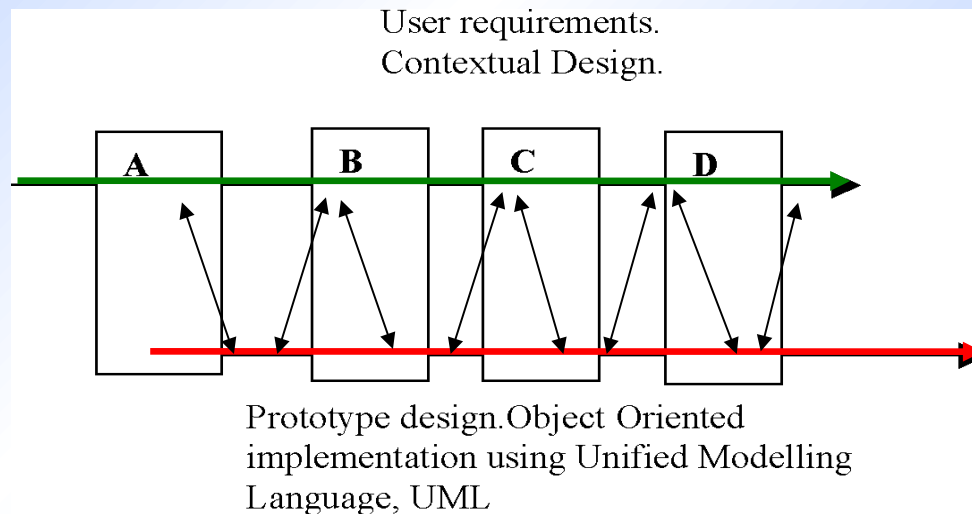
# END



# COLLABORATION IN PROJECT

- A) **user requirements capture**, user environment design and early prototyping;
- B) implementation of DIVERCITY and end user alpha test (done within the DIVERCITY consortium) of **basic functionality** of the DIVERCITY products (applications);
- C) continued implementation and end user beta tests/evaluations of basic functionality of **integrated framework** and DIVERCITY products;
- D) **final** end user evaluation of DIVERCITY, and prototype refinement.

We have methodology for efficient **user requirements capture**, **user environment modelling** and **system development**

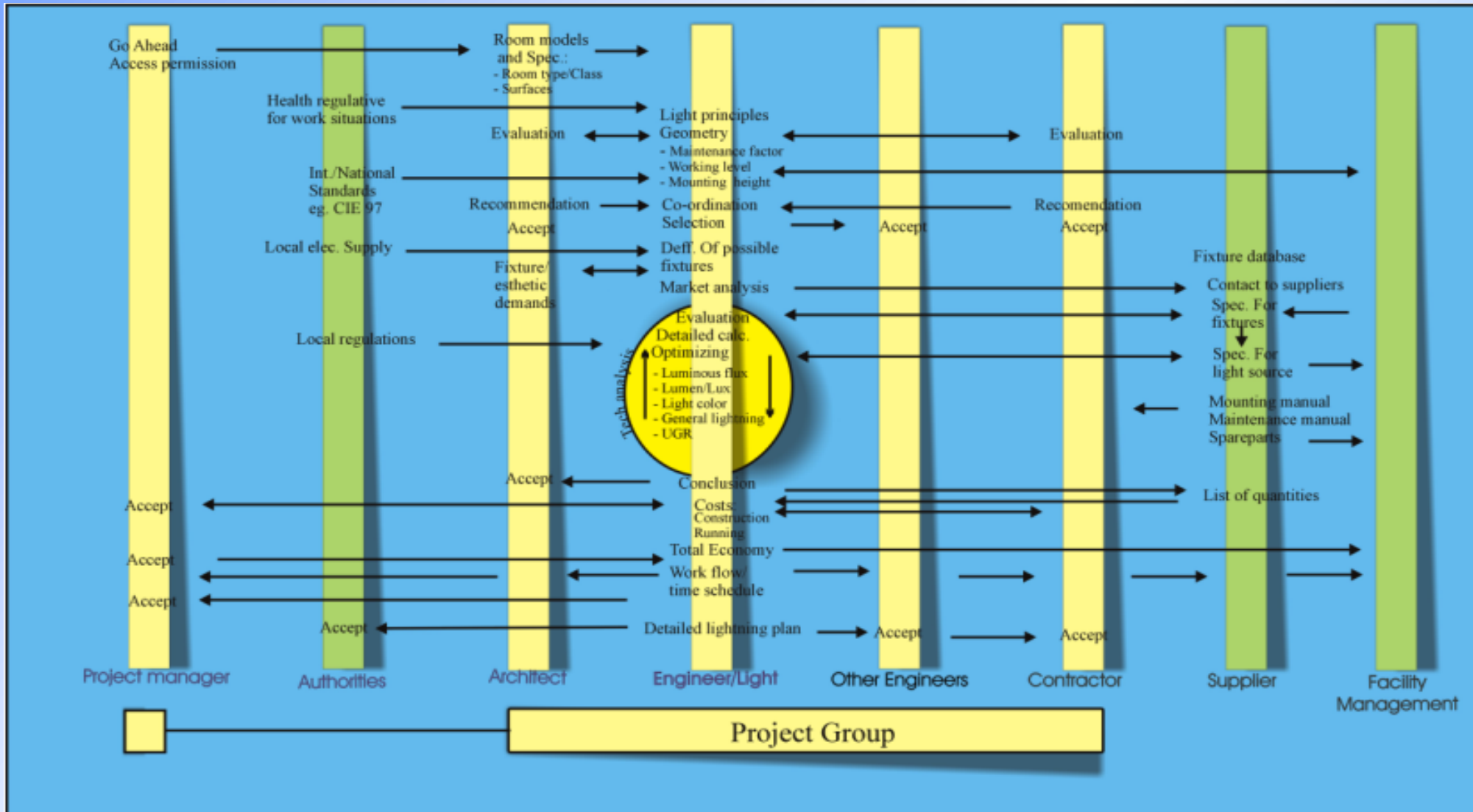


Socially very  
good  
environment





# Sequence Model. Contextual Design

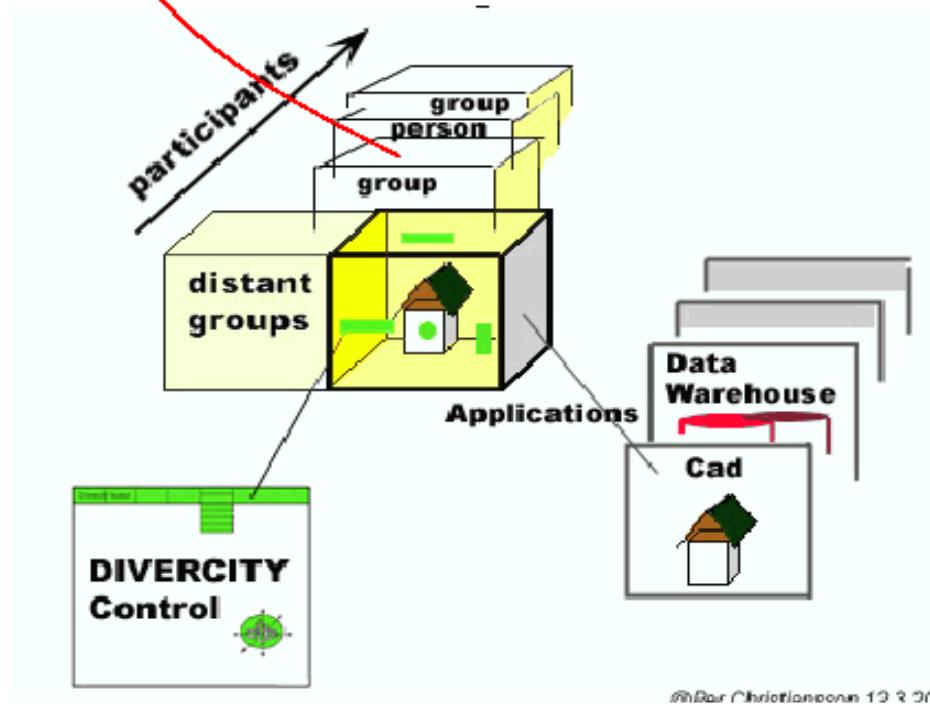




# Scene 6- Light Simulation

## •Page 1

- Enter workspace
- Load relevant parts of the model
- Lock relevant parts to avoid changes by other stakeholders



Form of interaction/communication
Internet/intranets/extranets Domain (spaces, persons,...) Content (text, video, 3Dmodels,...) Interaction form, context (consultation, search, negotiation, presentation, design, documentation, sketching, 'e-business')

Requirements
client external (regulations,...) supplier constraints LOADS

Stakeholders
Roles (functions) 'partners' participants in ... process manager ...
xxx xx person

Process
sub processes lighting design ...

Spaces
space list space state and content review 'conventional meeting room' design personal construction ...

Process Manager alert
err 10876

Build spaces
external access participants

Help
Explanations tutorials work models example contact process manager





# Scene 6- Light Simulation

## • Page 2

The main issues for the light engineer are to analyse the needs for light, the influence from outdoor light, the internal distribution of light and maintenance factors.

### Basic information retrieval

- Room and Building information, Geometry, surfaces, concealed light from outside (windows)
- Legal requirements and regulations (national and local)

### Analyse needs for light

- Check best practice and previous projects in the knowledge base
- Define light principles and get accept for these
- Import light components (fixtures and sources by types)
- Calculate
  - export data to external application
  - perform calculations
- Check regulations

### Light simulation

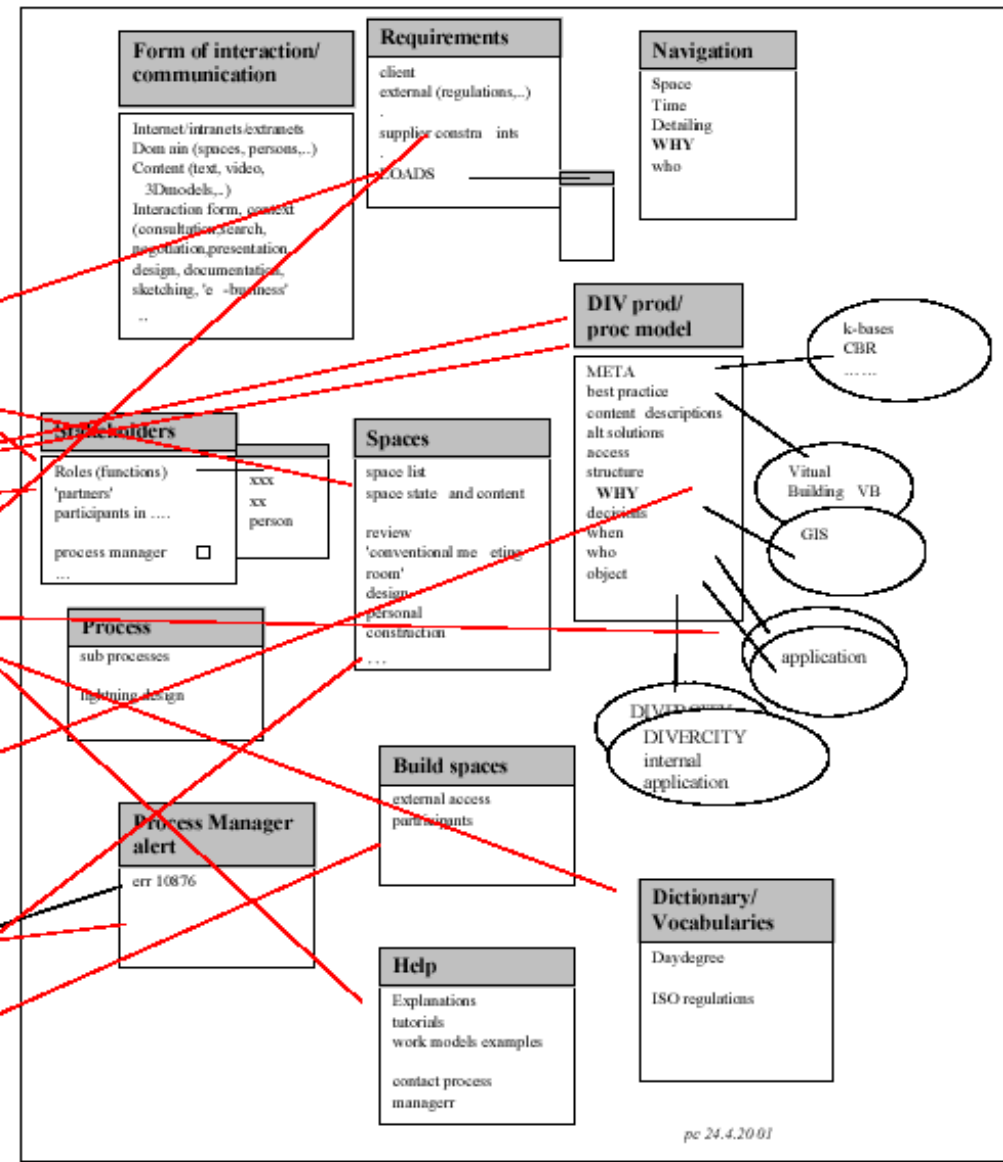
- Import light components (fixtures and sources by BRANDS)
- Light simulation based on distribution, intensity factor per room
- Modelling mounting heights, light sources, fixture design
- Simulation of light distribution between rooms
- Simulation of influence of light from outside

### Generate light model

- Mounting scheme
- Co-ordination with other design disciplines (thermal, acoustics...)
- Collision control

### Process output

- List of quantities
- List of possible suppliers
- Standard e-requisition and tender documentation
- Work plan co-ordinated with other disciplines
- QA/QC-plan
- Price and cost calculations



pc 24.4.2001



# Detailed Storyboard

The light engineer seeks information from external as well as from internal sources:

## Internal sources

- Experiences
- Best Practices
- Tacit knowledge from partners and colleagues
- Intranet
- Extranet

## External sources

- Internet
  - WEB-sites
  - Standards
- Physical documents, such as
  - Books and manuals
  - Law and regulation text

All selected and validated documents are time marked and stored with links and annotations.

The specific information is linked to the process line and locked. When information is changed, notifications are made to validate the alteration.

The Light engineer draws up principles for the light geometry based on physical conditions: use

**Form of interaction/communication**

Internet/intranets/extranets  
 Domain (spaces, persons,...)  
 Content (text, video, 3Dmodels,...)  
 Interaction form, context (consultation, search, negotiation, presentation, design, documentation, sketching, 'e-business')

**Dictionary/Vocabularies**

Degree days  
 ISO regulations  
 ...  
 ...

**Requirements**

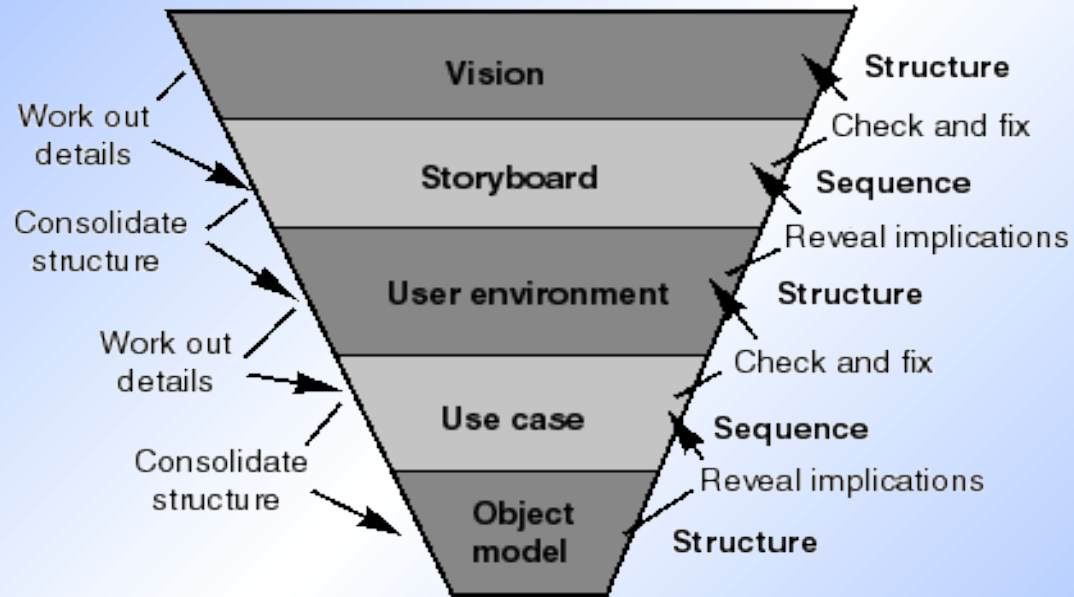
client  
 external (regulations,...)  
 ...  
 supplier constraints

**Spaces**

review  
 'conventional meeting room'  
 design  
 personal  
 construction



# Contextual Design. Structure and Sequence



After (Beyer & Holtzblatt, 1998) figure 14.6.

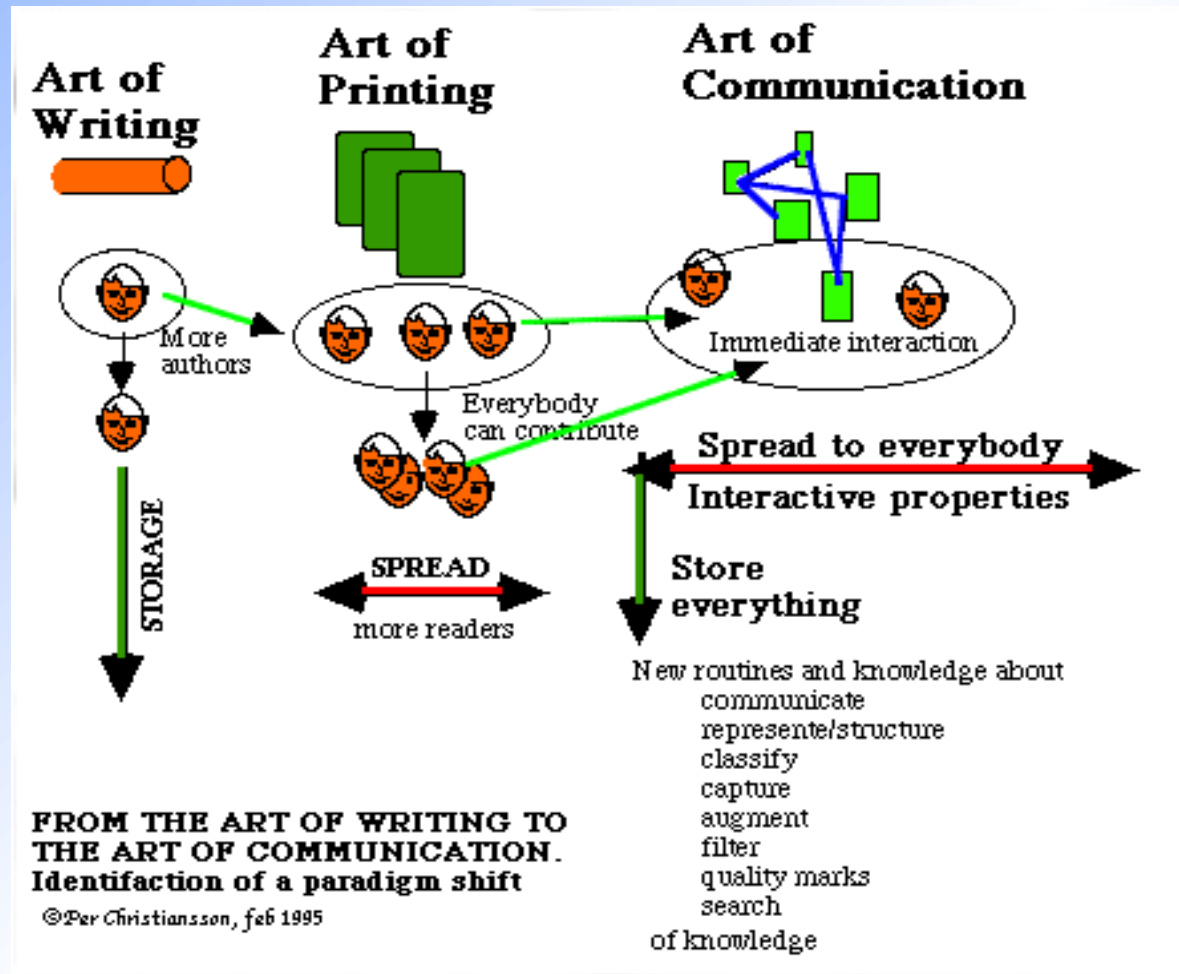
Per Christiansson 9 2000

Contextual design

UML based modelling



# Changing Paradigm



- Storage (representation) and Access (User Environment) media are separated

- .....



## Benefits

- Integrated products to use IFC standard
- Visualisation of technical solutions.
- Integration of multiple solutions in one distributed model.
- Presentation of complex solutions in a visual and comprehensible form.
- Improved mobility.
- Basic structure for future developments



# Success Criteria

- \* *User participation* in User Environments and systems development The *building community* must and will actively participate in the *design, try out*, and *implementation* of *new IT tools* to support high quality building products in a life cycle perspective.
- \* Design and try out of *new tools* for collaboration, communication and information handling.
- \* Increased knowledge transfer and *ICT competence. Knowledge communication* crucial (companies, schools, public services).
- \* Increase of *awareness* on fundamentals and methods for a beneficial change of building processes and organisation (knowledge exchange and management, demonstrations, implications, participatory design).
- \* Increased *international* project participation.
- \* Basic research, applied research and development activities are *all* required.
- \* Utilisation of changed *communication networks* on all levels.
- \* Utilisation of increased possibilities to build (low cost) *Virtual Worlds/rooms* and *Virtual Buildings* (with partly redundant knowledge representations, meta data, temporal and intelligent properties).
- \* *Client*, building product *users, and suppliers* with greater influences in the design process.

We are all involved in a continuous change process and **design of the future** together (with constant re-assessments).  
Great possibilities and time to do some creative, bold, and holistic conceptions at universities/industries.

